

**Valkhof Museum, Nijmegen**

The woods of Kelfkensbos are bounded by built development, trees and a historic town rampart. Building the museum partly above and partly below ground level gets the most out of the existing difference in height and consolidates the relationship with the surrounding area. The old ramparts are kept in sight by means of a see-through glass slab which chops the square into a city plaza and an enclosed museum square cum sculpture garden. Entrance, museum shop, museum café, exhibition area and the circulation system are all clearly visible. Stairs and lifts lead from the open ground floor to the inward-looking library and offices above, and to the workshops and spaces for exhibitions, storage and education below. A wide diversity of spaces prevails with each function having its own architectural container. The offices look out over the park, the reading room over the river Waal and the café over the square (Valkhof). The glass facades of the café make the connection with the museum garden whose ground plane is the translucent walk-all-over roof of the exhibition space.

**Client**

City of Nijmegen

**Architect**

Bentham Crouwel Architecten

**Start design**

1995