



BICYCLEPARK IN UTRECHT: CYCLING AS A KEY INGREDIENT FOR A SUSTAINABLE CITY

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Historically, the Dutch have always been fervent cyclists. This enthusiasm is now growing even more, as cycling is being discovered as a key ingredient in the sustainable city. New bicycle typologies such as the introduction of the so-called e-bike are helping to amplify this shift in mass transportation. More and more public transport hubs will be complemented with extensive and user-friendly amenities for cyclists, as increasing amounts of people begin to favor the combination of cycling and public transportation over car use.



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The three-story bicycle parking garage is situated underneath the square. It was designed with three aims in mind: convenience, speed and safety. In order to achieve this in a facility of this scale, cyclists are able to pedal all the way up to their parking slot. Additional facilities such as a cycle repair shop, a cycle rental outlet and several floor managers meet users' every need. Stairwells and tunnels create direct connections to the elevated square, the main terminal building and the platforms. To ensure good orientation and plenty of daylight, the stairwells are located inside atria covered by glass roofs. Large windows in the outer walls provide users with views toward the platforms and the bus terminal.



The bicycle parking lot uses durable materials such as concrete, steel and chemically treated wood. In combination, these raw materials create an atmosphere in the building that still feels warm and pleasant. Three concrete columns supporting the giant canopy extend all the way down into the parking area. These trumpet-shaped elements have a diameter of 5 meters at floor level, falling to 1.2 m at the top, and each one is cast as a single element. The building is more than just infrastructure. It adds an exciting and surprising architectural dimension to the city. Cycling through the garage has become a unique experience: not just another part of everyday life in the city, but almost an attraction in its own right.

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