

WAA design renovation of the Antwerp Tower in Antwerp

(For Release) The Antwerp Tower renovation has been designed by Wiel Arets Architects; it will extend the tower up to 100 m; utilize its preexisting structure, repurpose its program, to mostly apartments; finished by a closed cavity façade system.

Typology

Housing, Hotel,
Office, Restaurant,
Retail

Location

De Keyserlei 5
Antwerp, Belgium

Size

59.800 m²

Date of design

2014-2016

Start of construction

2017

Date of completion

2019

Project team

Wiel Arets, Joris van
den Hoogen, Jos
Beekhijzen, Jochem
Homminga

Collaborators

Jelle Homburg, Laura
Fiset, Irene Ank,
Rogier Franssen, Al-
icja Pawlak, Bram van
Grinsven

Client

Matexi Projects N.V.

Consultants

Arcade Concept
Engineering, CES
Building Engineering,
D2S International,
FPC Risk

In collaboration with

ELD Architects



Situated on a corner site, adjacent to the Flemish Opera, the Antwerp Tower is an existing building that will be repurposed to hybrid-programmed residential tower, reusing the existing building's structure, and shape. The Antwerp Tower is the third tallest building in Antwerp. Currently 87 m tall, and expected to be 100m when completed, the building will eventually total 59.800 m².

There are dining, and wellness areas in the first level of the tower—with a sprawling plinth-rooftop terrace abutting the side façade of the adjacent opera. The building, which originally housed offices and retail, was constructed in the early 1970's, and is defined by its diamond-shaped floorplan. Its redesign will see the diamond-shaped footprint of the tower atop the plinth extended beyond its current dimensions, maximizing living space for future residents. In order to create living units largely free of columns, the original structure is to be partly replaced by an alternating structural system of load bearing walls and columns. Each floor contains 6 to 14 units, each with its own loggia. Units range in size, from 40-120 m², with penthouses up to 240 m², located on upper floors. A façade system of polished concrete components—with a slightly golden hue—will compose the building's new facade; they are enormous in scale, up to 9 m wide, and will minimize visual patterning on the facade, when seen from afar or at street-level. The same material extends to the building's entrance lobby and the internal walls and ceilings of each loggia. Together with seamless windows in the units' living spaces, and glass balustrades that front each loggia, the components' scale balances with adjacent opera house's abundant ornament. At ground level, retail is situated on the tower's southern façade, along a pedestrian-only shopping street, while the main entrance for residents and visitors to the restaurant, offices, and wellness areas, is along the western façade, next to the opera's main entrance. The lobby, within the plinth, is lit by natural daylight, by way of a void that extends through and up to the roof terrace above. Centrally located a mere 300 m from the city's central train station, the redesigned Antwerp Tower will impart a 24-hour energy within this highly trafficked section of the city, while simultaneously creating a live-work-play destination—for residents and visitors alike.

About WAA

Wiel Arets Architects (WAA) is a globally active architecture and design firm, whose work extends to education and publishing, with studios located in the Netherlands, Germany, and Switzerland. Comprised of an international team of architects, designers, thinkers, and administrators, the firm is currently involved in large number of projects throughout Europe, North America, Asia, and Africa. Its architecture and design emerges from research and a balance of hybrid-programming solutions, which adapt to and anticipate future contextual change.

For hi-res images, and/or interviews please contact:
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