

Bookstore Selexyz Dominicanen, Maastricht, The Netherlands

After having previously designed two bookstores in The Hague and Almere, a third store was realised in Maastricht. The location, a former Dominican Church, asked for a different approach and confronted the architects with many difficult challenges.

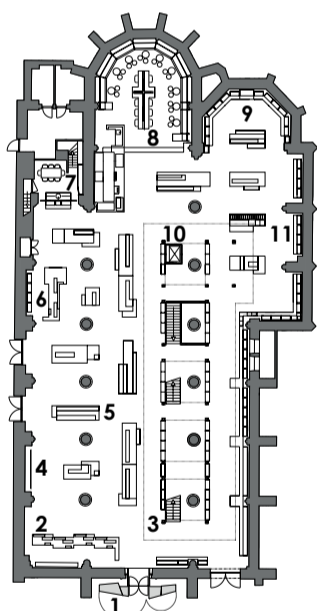
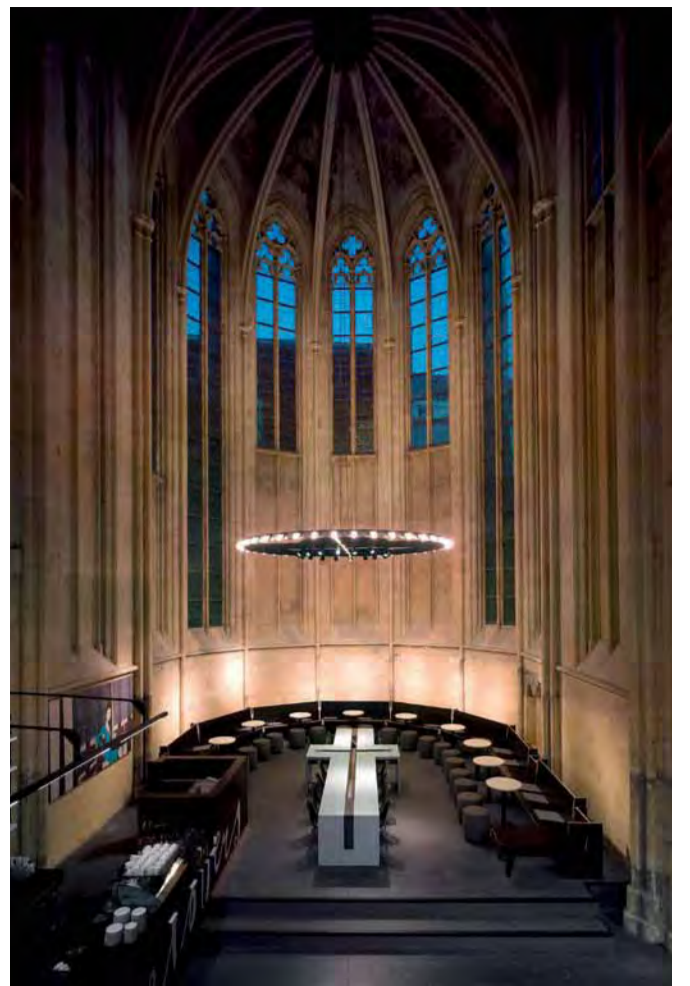
A total of 1.200 m2 shopping space was required in only an available area of 750 m2 floor space. The client's idea was to bridge the area, which was rejected by the architects as it would deny the quality of the church. Instead, they wanted to emphasize the building's spatial qualities, its height and exceptional architecture.

The solution was found in a multi-level, monumental, black, walk-in bookcase situated asymmetrically in the church. By doing so the left hand side of the church remained empty, showing its complete height and giving a clear view through the entire store. On the other side visitors are invited to the upper levels of the 'book-building' allowing them to experience the church from different heights and view the historical murals from close-by.

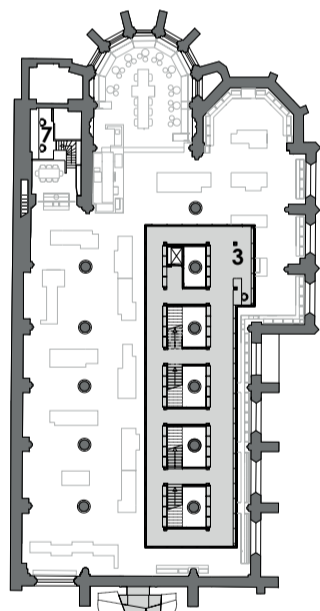
The project won the Dutch 2007 Lenvelt de Architect Interior Design Award and was recently announced by the Guardian newspaper "probably the most beautiful bookstore in the world".

Merkx + Girod architects - Amsterdam - The Netherlands - www.merkx-girod.nl

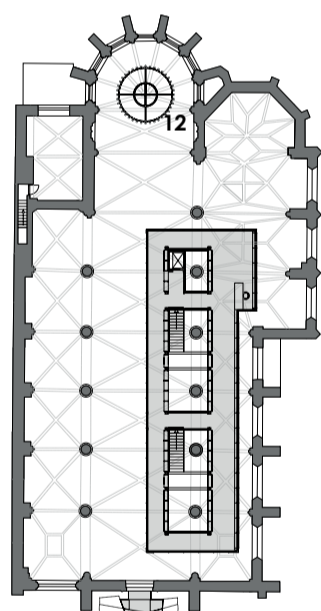




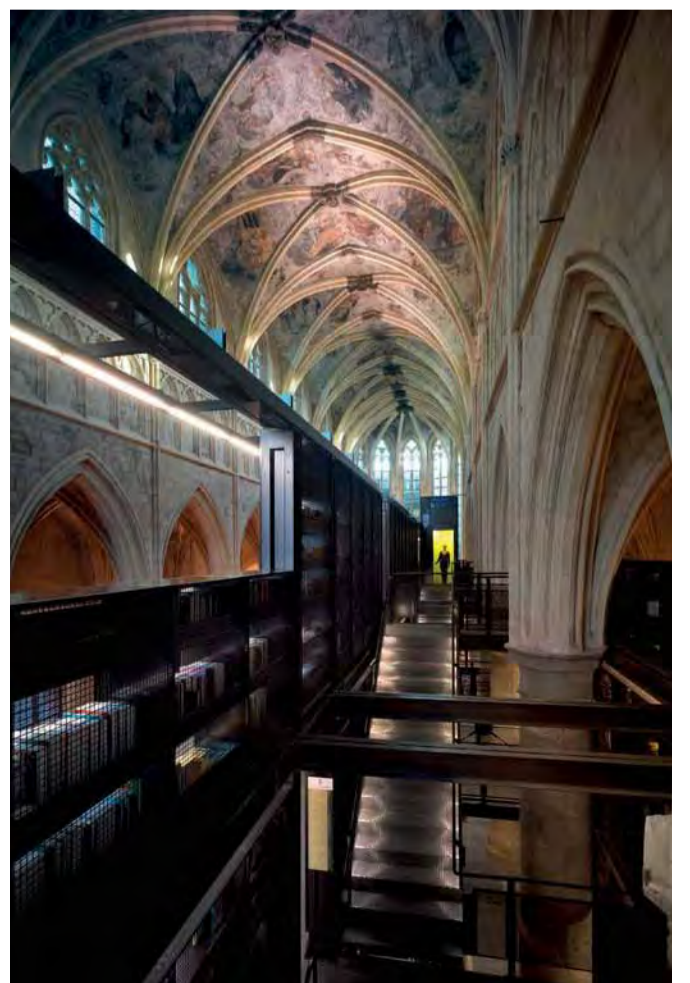
ground floor



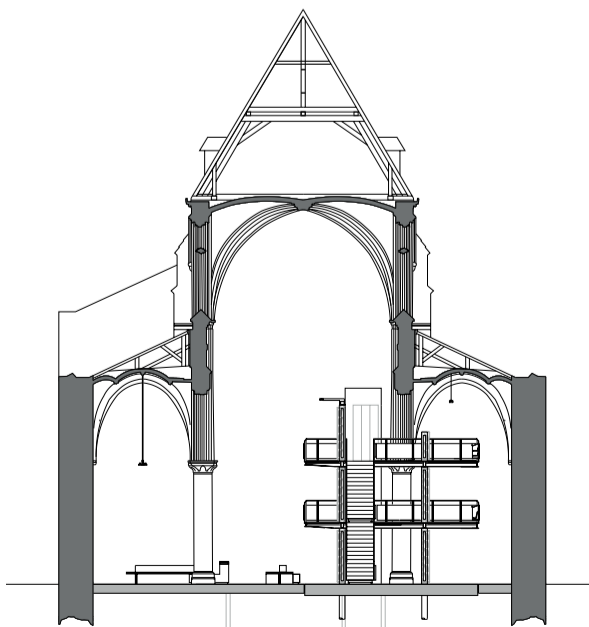
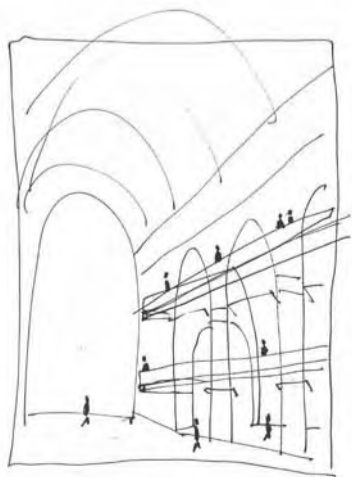
first floor



second floor



- 01 main entrance
- 02 cash register
- 03 'bookbuilding'
- 04 historical mural
- 05 display furniture
- 06 information desk
- 07 office/canteen
- 08 CoffeeLovers cafe
- 09 children's corner
- 10 elevator
- 11 wall displays
- 12 chandelier



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