The International Criminal Court

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is a permanent international organisation, based in The Hague, with currently 110 States Parties.

The International Criminal Court (ICC), governed by the Rome Statute, is the first permanent, treaty based, international criminal court established to help end impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community.

Permanent premises

At present, the ICC is housed in interim premises, provided by the host State free of charge until mid 2012.

The ICC is a permanent judicial institution and as such requires functional permanent premises to enable the Court to discharge its duties effectively and to reflect the significance of the Court in the fight against impunity.

In December 2007, the Assembly of States Parties decided that the ICC should be provided with newly built permanent premises. With regard to this, it agreed to establish an Oversight Committee to provide strategic oversight to the project, a Project Board to provide a co-operative and consultative structure for the overall management, and a Project Director’s Office to ensure that the permanent premises are built on time, within cost and to specifications and quality.

The host State organised and financed the architectural design competition and will make the construction site available free of charge. In addition, the host State has provided a loan to finance the construction.

New building characteristics

Total gross floor area 46,000 sq m (495,140 sq foot) to include three courtrooms; 1,200 workplaces and 600 on-site parking spaces.

Possibility for future extension to four courtrooms, 1,500 workplaces and 750 parking spaces.
schmidt hammer lassen design characteristics

Architectural jury opinion:

• Sculptural composition of square buildings, which will make an impressive and interesting architectural gesture and a great contribution to the city with an attractive integration into landscape.
• The chosen typology shows up the different areas of the Prosecutor, the Judges, the Registrar and the courtrooms; the proposed façade material puts all the blocks together in a very special and bright way.
• The design provides an optimised functional organisation and urban integration.

Main characteristics of the design:

• Courtroom tower located at the centre of the design.
• Roof terrace on top of the courtroom tower.
• Office buildings built on a common basis.
• Public area on the ground floor with gardens and pond.
• Common area for staff at first floor.
• Ground floor is lowered to create more transparency.
• Landscape is ingeniously used for security.
• Transparent building.

A compact building with a small footprint, minimising land use and returning the landscape to the city; the sky and horizon become an integrated part of the architectural composition.

Sustainable building: low energy, green roofs, water management, ecological corridor, careful landscaping.

Innovative materials, namely composite materials, will be used on most of the facades, suitable for the climate and conditions of the dunes and sustainable.

The architectural idea is to continue the parterre gardens, making the courtroom tower rise up as a green element.

A public plaza at the corner of Van Alkemadelaan and Oude Waalsdorperweg is proposed as a natural way of approaching the building. From the public plaza the main entrance will lead staff and visitors to the main building.

Staff Parking will be located underground, at the south-west of the building, with pedestrian access to the public plaza, thereby providing fast and easy access to the main entrance.

The perimeter security concept offers both a high level of security and an unobstructed view to the ICC building. The surrounding landscape is designed to support the security level of the building and in addition it offers beautiful scenery.

Time line

Selection process:

• Phase 2 - Modification and award: November 2008 - November 2009.

Design phases from now until mid 2012:

• Construction ready in 2015.
• Costs: competition budget €92 million.