

Neude Library

Look around

Neude Library

With floor plan

de Bibliotheek



Utrecht

Neude, the place to be

The former post office on Neude square is one of Utrecht's most iconic buildings and a nationally listed landmark. In the old days, post office customers only ever got to see the vast central hall. The rest of the building was staff-only. Since the opening of the new library, the whole building is open to the public. It's both a haven and a hotspot for Utrechters and visitors from all over to call their own. The new library occupies a location with a rich history. From 1397 to 1647 it was home to the nuns of St Cecilia's. Later, it was the site of the Dutch Mint. Little wonder that archaeological research has found all sorts of coins and other objects. Excavations even turned up a coin people used to make daily purchases around 1750. The present building dates from 1924 and was designed by Joseph Crowel in the Amsterdam School style.



Joseph Crowel



Old post office

The building has many notable features. On the exterior these include the animal head spouts perched high above the front façade. The large, high-ceilinged hall is the heart of the building. Along the walls are bluestone statues several metres tall representing the world's continents, designed by Hendrik van den Eijnde. Van den Eijnde also designed the glazed bricks in the shape of alighting carrier pigeons. These artistic touches earned the building the nickname of 'Temple for Post and Telegraphy'.





telephone exchange, international traffic department, 1935

Resistance heroes

In the stairwell is a plaque commemorating two heroes of the Dutch WWII Resistance. Mr Heukels and Mr Lans were postal workers who laid an illegal telephone network during the German occupation.

Finds

Archaeological research has led to the discovery of various coins and other currency, and even a medieval die. Some of these objects can be seen in a display case next to the Utrecht collection on level 2.



1 cm



2 cm



Crouwel also designed the large clock in the hall and the coat of arms of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, a must in all Dutch government buildings. Both were made by Royal Delft.



On the level 2 is a carved relief of St Martin, patron saint of the city of Utrecht. It was made by Albert Termote in 1936.



Also on level 2 is an artwork titled Broese 1843-1943 by Toon van Ham, donated by the Broese bookshop. In 1951 Van Ham gave this metres-tall glass painting to his good friend Mr Leeflang, Broese's owner at the time.

Neighbours

The library shares the former post office with Broese Boekverkopers, Albert Heijn, Bever, Amac and Søstrene Grene.

Bike shed

In the basement is a bike shed with space for 720 bikes. Parking here is free for the first 24 hours. Tip: check out the photo exhibition about the old post office in the basement.



Oldest library in the Netherlands



Plaque from 1939 commemorating Mr van Beresteyn upon serving 25 years as president of the Central Association of Public Reading Rooms.

On 8 January 1892, Utrecht's Public Reading Room opened its doors in the Concordia building on Loeff Berchmakerstraat no. 12, a side street of the Neude. That makes Utrecht's public library the oldest in the Netherlands. Dordrecht and Utrecht long vied for this title, both cities claiming their public library to be the first. Utrecht won. One of its founders was H.A. van Beuningen, whose family also supported the library's relocation to the Neude 128 years later.



Children in the library around 1923

New library



Roy van Maarseveen

Roy van Maarseveen is an architect with ZECC and was responsible for the new library's design and layout. We asked him some questions.

The old post office is a national listed monument. Was it difficult to integrate certain elements into the new library?

'The original building was the reference point for everything we did. To those who don't know it, this building can feel like a maze. We took care to design good routing, oriented around the Main Hall and surrounding passages. Wherever you are in the building, you can always see the Main Hall.'

What's not to be missed?

'Apart from the cathedral, this is probably one of Utrecht's best-known landmarks. Marvel at the Main Hall and take the escalators or original stairway up to the top floor. From there, you can look out over the surrounding rooftops and city. It's magnificent.'

If you could spend a night at the library with anyone, who would it be?

'With Joseph Crouwel, the architect who came up with the plan for the post office in 1924. I'd love to hear his thoughts and the stories he could tell about the building. And of course I'm curious to know what he'd think of it now!'

Art in the library

Neude Library is also a space for contemporary art. As well as temporary exhibitions, it has five works on permanent display. These are works by artists who live in Utrecht, both budding and established talents from within and beyond the Netherlands, including Jan Willem Deiman, Frank Halmans, Daan Paans and Jop Vissers Vorstenbosch.

Lion-Man

Daan Paans

The hybrid lion-man appears in all eras and cultures. Paans (b. 1985) used the earliest known image from southern Germany as his model. He took pictures of the spot where it was found, created a new 3D version and gathered pictures of other lion-people in a book. His intention is to make us think.

(Ground floor)



Photo: Anna van Kooij

House of books

Frank Halmans

Dutch poet Jan Jacob Slauerhoff's line 'In my books alone can I dwell' was Halmans' (b. 1963) inspiration for this gigantic house of books. Standing 4.4 metres tall, it's both a playhouse with bookshelves for walls, lined with hanging books, as well as a cosy spot to read.

(Level 1)



Photo: Anna van Kooij



Platform for Miffy

Halmans also created the platform for the Miffy statue. His inspiration was a picture of *St Jerome in his study* painted by Antonello da Messina in 1460.

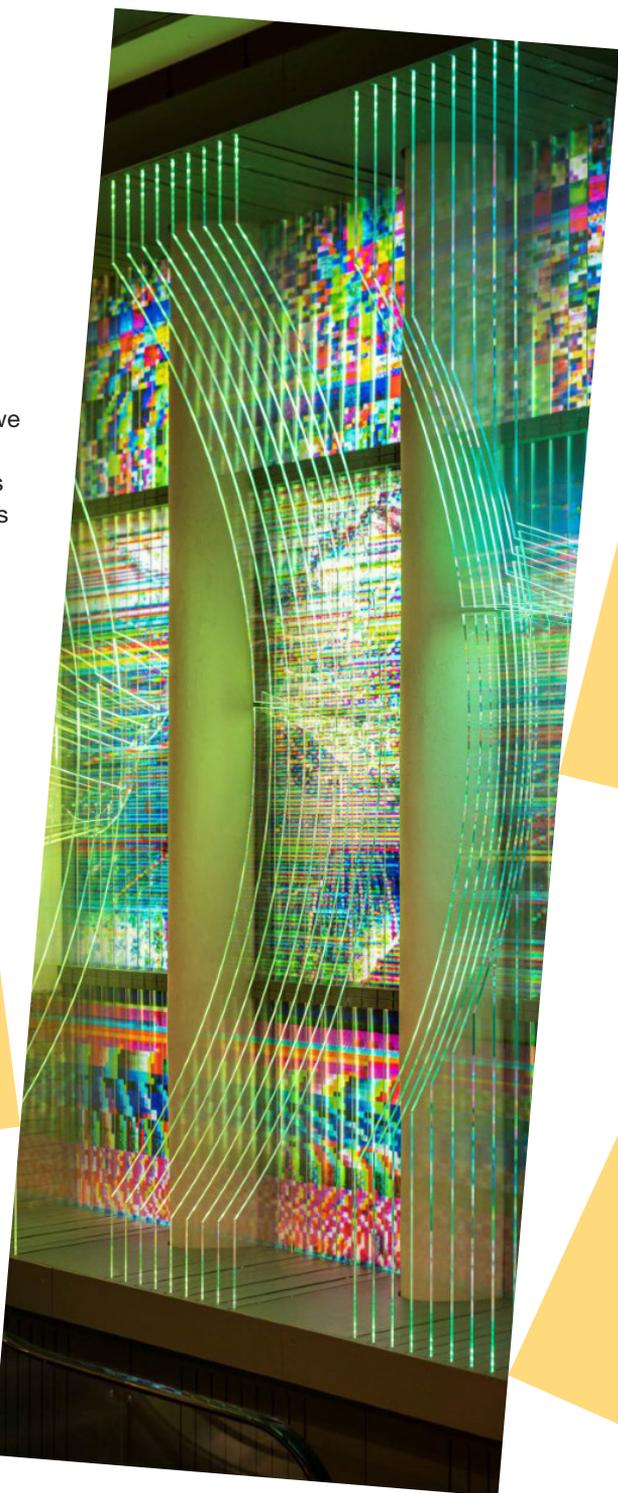
(Level 1)

Monument to digital failure

Jop Vissers Vorstenbosch

The rays of LED light constantly shift through the blinds and layers of painted Plexiglas that make up this five by five metre light sculpture. With it, Vissers Vorstenbosch (b. 1986) questions how we treat information from the digital world. And how we find focus and new insights amid all the static. Tip: take a look at this artwork from outside and after dark. *(Ground floor)*

Photo: Han Ernest



What we hear when we read

Jan Willem Deiman

These two hundred hanging objects are inspired by the Phoenician alphabet. The signs and symbols' long vertical lines emphasise the building's height. The alphabet is of course inextricable from language. Deiman (b. 1986) invites you to discover what these shapes mean. (*Multiple levels and ground floor stairwell*)



Photo: Anna van Kooij



Photo: Anna van Kooij

Art for kids

Standing proud in the children's section is Utrecht's own world-famous Miffy. The jacket was designed by picture-book illustrator Charlotte Dematons.



To read a book is to discover new worlds. Especially when it's a book from our Do-Box.



Just for kids, Piet Hein Eek designed the 'Hé Joh!' – a massive bean bag that's perfect for reading in.



Relive bygone days in the telephone district. Grab a receiver for a musical or poetic encounter.



At the mini post office is a card-rack: take a free postcard and send it.



Take a tour

What are those lions doing at the entrance? Who made the stained glass window? During this 50-minute guided tour, you'll learn all about the one-time post office, now library. Go back in time, admire beautiful artworks old and new, discover the collection and find the best spots to sit, read and work.

More info: bibliotheekutrecht.nl/rondleidingen

Take a virtual tour

At biebneude.nl you can discover all the secrets of the building, the artists and the collection. Plus lots of films and photos.

biebneude.nl



Hire a space

Whether you're organising a meeting, brainstorming session, company drinks, conference, film premier, book launch, lecture, reception or other function, the library has the perfect space. Choose from our cinema, theatre, one of the conference rooms or lounge. Complete your event with private or buffet dining on Neude square. Interested?

Email zaalverhuur@bibliotheekutrecht.nl

or visit: zaalverhuurbibliotheekutrecht.nl



Always something on

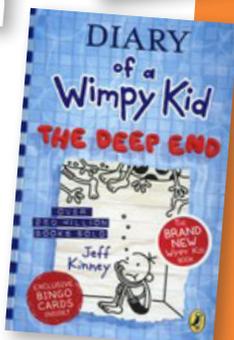
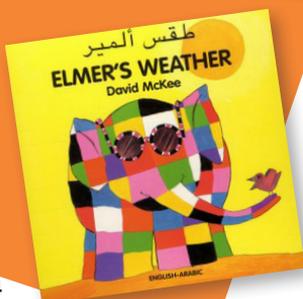
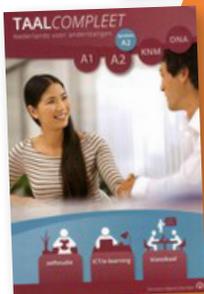
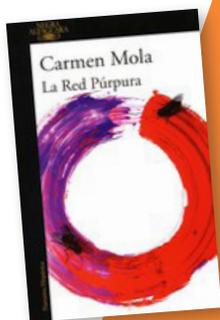
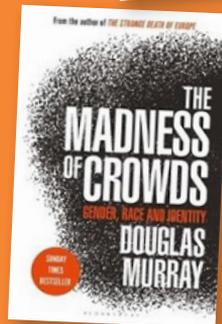
Neude Library is one of the 13 branches of the Utrecht Library. Everyone is welcome to come read, borrow, learn and meet. We have spaces to work, convene, study and relax. We also host lots of activities each month. From films to theatre, from experiments in the Lab to making music and crafting in the Studio, and from language cafés to senior mornings. Member or not, you're always welcome.



The collection

We have:

- books in English, Germany, Spanish, French, Turkish and Arabic. For adults and children.
- books to learn the Dutch language.
- subscriptions to all domestic and international newspapers and magazines.
- last but not least: many e-books.



Library members enjoy more

The library has memberships to suit everyone. Here's what you get:

- borrow and return at all libraries in Utrecht
- borrow books, e-books and DVDs for free
- renew online for free
- free or discounted internet access
- free or discounted access to 5,000 library activities yearly

See: bibliotheekutrecht.nl/abbonementen

For the current calendar of activities, see: bibliotheekutrecht.nl/agenda



Thanks

Neude Library is made possible with support from the following funds and partners.

Gemeente Utrecht, provincie Utrecht, a.s.r. real estate, K.F. Hein Fonds, Stichting Elise Mathilde Fonds, Oranje Fonds, VSBfonds, ASN Foundation, Van Baaren Stichting, Stichting Het Boellaardfonds, BPD Cultuurfonds, Stichting Dialoog, Fentener van Vlissingen Fonds, J.E. Jurriaanse Stichting, M.A.O.C. Gravin van Bylandt Stichting, Mondriaan Fonds, Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds, Rabobank Utrecht e.o. Stichting Stokroos, Stichting Zabawas.

Neude Library

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3512 AE Utrecht
Tel. 030 - 286 18 00

Openings hours

Mon - Sat: 09.00 - 21.00
Sun: 10.00 - 18.00

de Bibliotheek Utrecht

Postbus 80
3500 AB Utrecht

Customer service

klantenservice@
bibliotheekutrecht.nl

Website

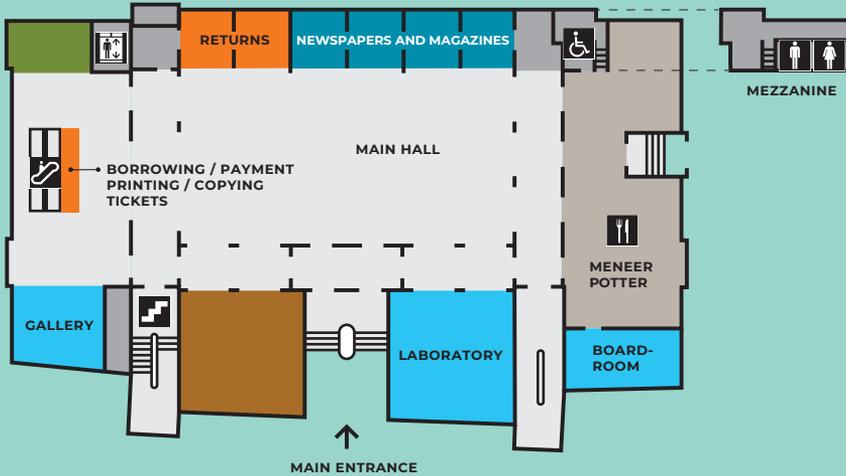
www.bibliotheekutrecht.nl

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(Mon - Fri, 10.00 - 17.00)

Collection and facilities

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BOARDROOM
RETURNS
MAIN HALL

LABORATORY
MENEER POTTER
Café

TOILETS
GALLERY
EXIT

■ Food & beverage

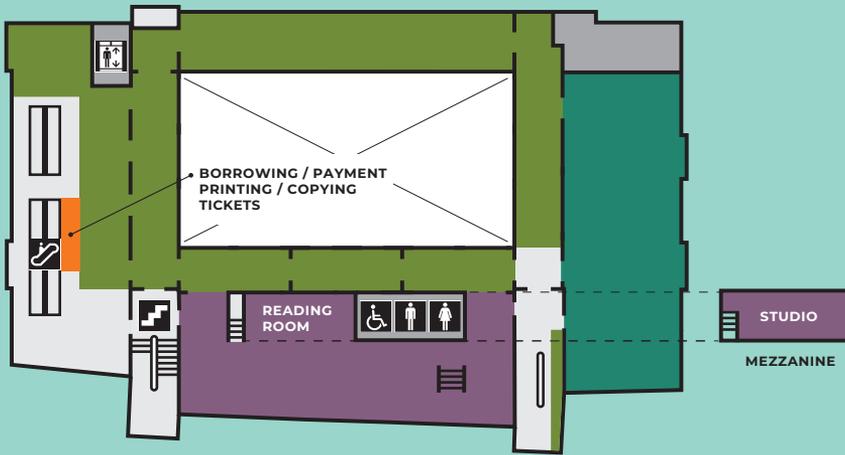
■ Travel
Countries
The Netherlands
Travel
Continents

■ Newspapers & magazines
PressReader
Sprinters

Categorie

	LEVEL		LEVEL		LEVEL
Foreign languages	3	Kids 0-8 years	1	Love & life	1
Sheet music	3	Kids 8-12 years	1	Literature & culture	2
Food & beverage	0	Look & listen	2	Action & adventure	2
Knowledge & society	3	Travel	0	Youth 12+	3

1



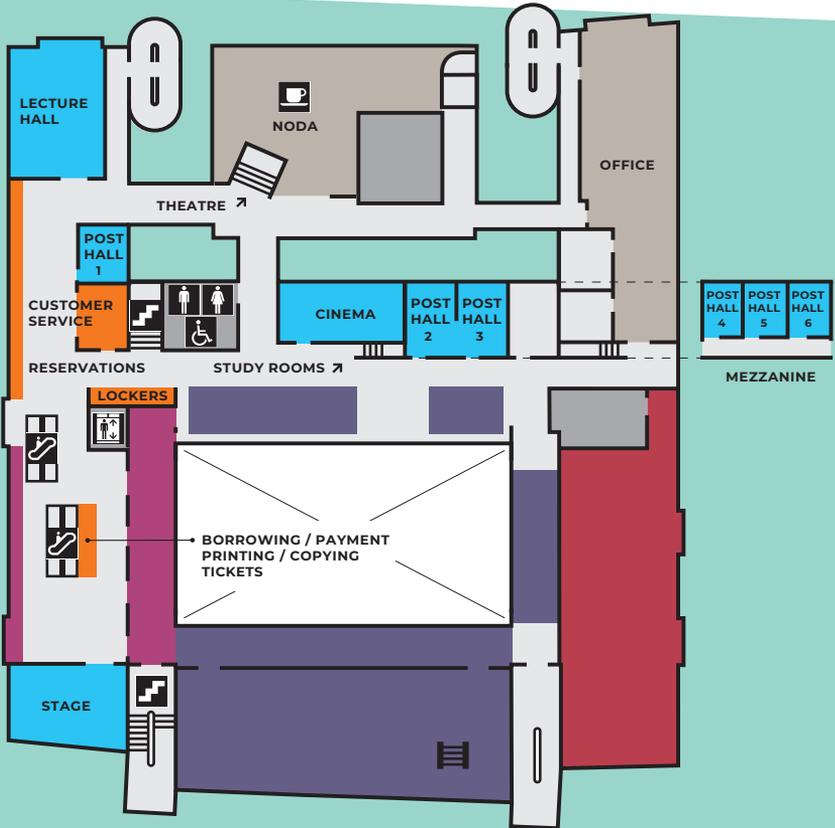
STUDIO
READ TO ME ROOM
TOILETS

- Kids 0-8**
- Foreign languages
- Book start
- Look & listen
- Learning to read
- Reading together
- Read to me
- Knowledge & information

- Kids 8-12**
- Sheet music
- Look & listen
- Foreign language reading
- Easy reading
- Knowledge & information
- Foreign languages independent reading

- Liefde & leven**
- Philosophy & self-help
- Health
- Historical novels
- Home & garden
- Domestic animals
- Nature & wildlife
- Parenting & education
- Psychology
- Religion
- Romance
- Spirituality
- Regional & family fiction

2



LECTURE HALL
CINEMA
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CUSTOMER SERVICE

 **NODA Eatery & Deli**
STAGE
POST HALLS
RESERVATIONS

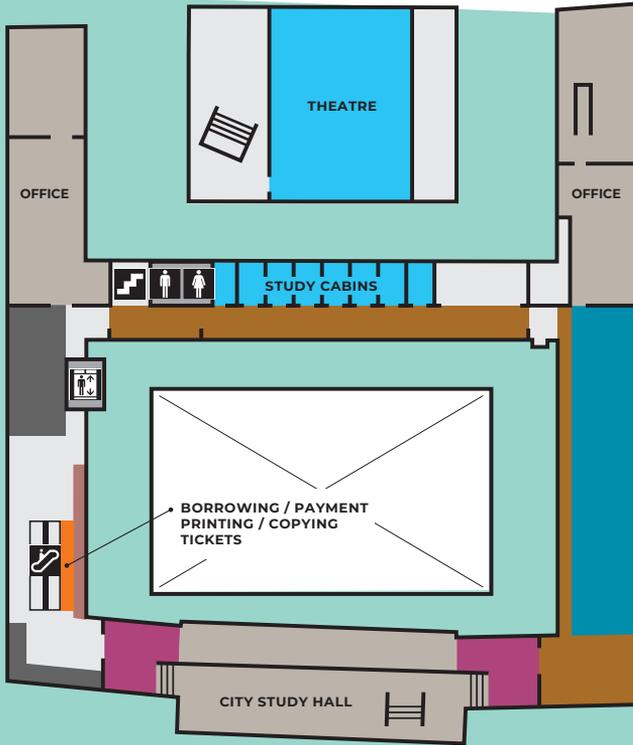
THEATRE
TOILETS

- **Look & listen**
- DVDs – feature films
- DVDs – music
- DVDs – non-fiction
- Documentaries
- Graphic novels
- Read & write
- Audio books
- Comics
- Music
- Music web

- **Action & adventure**
- Computers
- Detective & thrillers
- Suspense & horror
- Management
- War & resistance
- Labour & employment
- Science fiction & fantasy
- Sports, games & hobbies
- Transportation

- **Literature & culture**
- Fine art
- History
- History of nations & peoples
- Dutch history
- Large print
- Nations & peoples
- Literature
- Music, theatre & film
- Poetry
- Myths & fairy tales
- Language & literary studies
- Utrecht region

3



OFFICE
CITY STUDY HALL
STUDY CABINS 3.1 - 3.8
TOILETS

- **Youth 12+**
 Foreign languages
 Look & listen
 School reading
 Reading for fun
 Easy reading

- **Knowledge & society**
 Economics & law
 Encyclopaedias &
 communication
 Politics & society
 Science & technology

- **Foreign languages**
 Foreign languages
 English
- **Look & listen**
 Sheet music

August 2021

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explore

and meet

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Utrecht