



SOLVAY CAMPUS CREATIVE CONNECTIONS

COLLABORATION / INNOVATION / IDENTITY / WELL-BEING

INNOVATIONS IN CHEMISTRY AND ADVANCED MATERIALS

TRANSFORMING SOLVAY

Since the beginning of the 21st century, the pace of change in the world has accelerated dramatically as new materials and technologies shift the way society operates. For Solvay, these advances in science and technology have driven the recent radical transformation of its business portfolio.

Always at the cutting edge of science, Solvay has adapted throughout its 155-year history, but it stepped up the pace of change between 2012 and 2018. Strategic transactions (around 50, including acquisitions of companies, complementary technologies and divestments) have shifted the Group's focus from traditional, high-volume products towards high-growth, high-value advanced materials and specialty chemicals, tailored to the needs of specific markets and customers.

This transformation is guided by a clear vision for Solvay and its role in society.

SOLVAY'S VISION

Innovating, working together, acting sustainably for society, being open and connected with the world - this is the spirit guiding the transformation of Solvay and the reinvention of the 22-hectare site which has housed many of its activities since 1953. VISION

The site at Neder-over-Heembeek, north of Brussels, is aging - some of the buildings are around 60 years old. The roughly 1,000 Solvay employees who work there are spread across more than 20 buildings, hampering collaboration and interaction.

Solvay's ambition is to bring its employees together in one modern building and to turn the site into a buzzing campus that showcases the new Solvay and expresses the Group's humanist vision of science, fosters innovation, attracts talent and makes its people proud.

The site will be dedicated to high-technology innovations in chemistry and advanced materials. From there, Solvay's mission is to grow its own Research & Innovation (R&I) activities, as well as those with its partners, creating solutions for a rapidly advancing society, today and tomorrow.

HOW THE ARCHITECT RESPONDED TO SOLVAY'S VISION

SELECTING THE ARCHITECT

To bring Solvay's vision to life, architects were invited to take part in an international competition. Twenty-four architectural practices were pre-selected in mid-2017, subsequently narrowed down to a shortlist of five teams, comprising architects, engineering companies, landscape specialists, sustainability experts and more. Solvay's employees, including its youngest professionals, had the chance to consider the shortlisted entries, before a jury selected the winning consortium:

- > Schmidt Hammer Lassen, a Danish-based architecture firm.
- > Modulo, a Belgian-based architect office.
- > VK Architects & Engineers, a Belgian firm.

WHY SCHMIDT HAMMER LASSEN?

Schmidt Hammer Lassen's winning proposal will see the renewal of Solvay's campus into a dynamic space that promotes open cooperation and co-creation between internal and external stakeholders.

The centerpiece is the new main Solvay building, which will comprise the Group's headquarters, business units, laboratories and related R&I workshops. This open, light-filled and welcoming structure will bring Solvay employees together in a single building with labs and offices next to one another, facilitating communication and innovation.

Meanwhile, the south-east part of the campus will include a zone to host third-party enterprises, start-ups, research centers and universities.

Here are just a few of the key reasons Solvay chose this team:

- > Its vision for a vibrant green area, with the new Solvay headquarters at its heart.
- > Its highly sustainable credentials in meeting the requirements for BREEAM certification (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method).
- > Workspaces and common areas designed to stimulate easier communication and collaboration, facilitating Solvay's new way of working and flexibility.
- > Easier innovation, with two levels of the main building dedicated to R&I.
- > A space that promotes well-being and work-life balance.

ONE COMPANY ONE CAMPUS ONE BUILDING

WHAT THE ARCHITECT SAYS

Schmidt Hammer Lassen describes its vision for the new Solvay campus:

"From the moment we started, sustainability and resilience were two key drivers in our design of the new Solvay headquarters. The repositioning of the Group, together with the well-being of the employees, was a central priority. In the earliest stages, it became clear that one compact structure with one common entrance into the large atrium would allow everyone to share the unique experience of the building. Solvay's dedication to sustainable solutions is evident throughout our design of the zero carbon footprint, near zero energy building and green campus. We translated Solvay's desire for a welcoming, innovative, sustainable headquarters that would make a bold statement and reflect its core values into a single vision: One company. One campus. One building."

HIGHLIGHTS

Arriving at the new green campus, employees and visitors will feel the new spirit of the place. Green spaces and the large plaza will guide them to the glazed, open and inviting main entrance lobby, flanked by the café and Solvay Experience Center. Inside the building, an impressive atrium will allow employees to gather, work and relax in an area bathed in natural light. From laboratories to workshops, meeting center to offices, the visual connections throughout the complex will work in synergy and harmony. Informal workspaces, such as the large social staircase that lines the atrium, and the peaceful green patio, will welcome new ways of working, communicating and collaborating.

The first two floors house the laboratories and workshops, while the offices occupy the upper floors. In between, the meeting center allows employees to welcome visitors and customers while benefiting from the campus' green views through large 360° terraces.

The building makes a dynamic impression thanks to the shift in levels and the terraces. The open, transparent design will act as a lighthouse on the campus.

ABOUT SCHMIDT HAMMER LASSEN

With more than 30 years of experience, Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects – now part of Perkins+Will – is one of Scandinavia's most recognized and award-winning architectural practices, with over 100 national and international awards.

For more information, visit www.shl.dk.

GREEN ROOF / GEOMETRICAL GARDEN The new green roof above the workshop building is a fundamental element of the campus, offering unobstructed views of the surroundings. Large sunken gardens and skylights allow the workshop areas underneath to have natural daylight and access to the outside.

ESPLANADE / WELCOMING PLAZA

The Esplanade is an "urban carpet" welcoming visitors to the new HQ premises. In contrast with the softer, smoother landscape areas on the campus, the Esplanade is designed with a more formal and urban character. It features planters with benches, solitary trees and small reflective pools, weaving the green areas with the hard surfaces in a calm but welcoming way.





THE YARD / OPEN-AIR AMPHITHEATER

The south-oriented open-air amphitheatre in the Yard is on the north side of the campus and connects the HQ with the restaurant. Careful attention has been given to protect the existing trees when shaping this space and also to take advantage of the sloping landscape.



THE VALLEY / OLD WATER STREAM

On the west side of the entrance area, the existing park will be revitalized. This area will be home to a dedicated forest atmosphere, reintroducing the 18th century water stream linked to the Senne. It will amplify the natural rainwater ponds to boost biodiversity while also creating microclimates.







TECHNICAL SPACE

The upper level of the building is dedicated to the technical rooms. The roofs will be covered with PV cells, as well as the cladding surface of this floor.

The new HQ will offer unobstructed 360° views of the surroundings. The four upper floors will be visible from the entire site and will be a warm inviting beacon in the campus. The workspace concept, with wooden cladded interior, and large terraces will encourage a more informal way of working, a plus for the well-being of the

The Meeting Center, which is directly connected to the new Geometrical Garden, is located on the third floor. The Meeting Center will be the interface that links all departments, thereby boosting knowledge-sharing.

LABORATORIES / WORKSHOPS

The Laboratories and workshops on the lower levels will function as a shared center for the entire R&I community.

This open and inviting floor will showcase Solvay's vision, ambition and achievements to employees and visitors.

Works on the site are expected to begin by mid 2019 and to end by 2021.

AMBITIOUS CULTURAL AND SUSTAINABLE OBJECTIVES

NEW WAYS OF WORKING

Solvay's customers, in cutting-edge markets like aerospace, automotive and smart devices, require technological innovation delivered as quickly as possible, with top-tier talent and personalized service. To remain at the forefront of innovation and serve its customers best, Solvay must be agile and adaptable.

Since 2017, employees across Solvay have been involved in a project focused on making Solvay faster, with simpler, fewer processes and shorter lines of communication. This will free up and encourage employees to think externally and spend more time with clients to co-create solutions.

The main building will allow this culture to thrive. This is not a typical office, but a fluid, collaborative space where teams and partners can co-create and interact. State-of-the-art digital applications will increase employees' working comfort and productivity.

Importantly, the new set-up will create a true Solvay R&I community. Currently scattered across the Solvay site, R&I teams can work together in a shared center, open to visitors.

CARBON NEUTRAL

Solvay has ambitious sustainable development objectives, with action plans to optimize energy efficiency, consumption of raw materials and water use. Solvay is committed to minimizing its industrial waste and the impact of its manufacturing processes on air, water and soil quality.

The new smart building will be carbon neutral, using geothermal energy, solar cells (the building has enough photovoltaic cells to cover 1.5 football fields) and natural ventilation to warm or cool the building. Rainwater will be harvested and re-used as much as possible. Extensive digital applications will contribute to the building's smart use of energy.

The campus will promote Solvay's environmental and social values, and capitalize on the site's environmental advantages, with vegetal terraces and a green roof, designed as a geometrical garden. The urban spaces will be surrounded by three green parks. The architects plan to reintroduce an 18th-century water stream, where wildlife and biodiversity will flourish.

Solvay aspires for the site to be BREEAM certified as "Excellent".





SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH & INNOVATION

The new building and its R&I Center will be a showcase for Solvay innovation, while the campus will facilitate internal and external approaches to R&I.

In this configuration, the Material Science Application Center, expected to open in 2020, will have pride of place and reflect its strategic importance to Solvay, and customer needs. Leading Solvay's research into thermoplastic composite materials, the center will embody its transformation from supplier of raw materials into a supplier of leading-edge lightweighting or metal replacement materials.

The center will stimulate collaboration between Solvay's internal experts and customers on digital modelling and prototyping of parts through 3D printing for example, virtual engineering, advanced mechanical testing and validation of new composite and specialty polymers materials.

It will also house an incubator unit, a brand new concept at Solvay, designed to maximise the impact of projects with high-growth potential.

Other features of Solvay's internal approach to R&I will include three new specialist units:

- > Analysis Group, focused on the science of materials and the environment, use of polymers and corrosion.
- > Polymers Group acting in the area of high barrier polymers, notably used in packaging of food and medicine.

> Product Development Group acting in the areas of new materials, water and gas treatment and the production and application of hydrogen peroxide. RESEARCH

OPEN INNOVATION

True innovation also needs to look outwards, thriving through collaboration. To this end, Solvay is forging closer connections with external research and innovation partners, including start-ups, research centers and universities. The ambition is to become the heart of an R&I ecosystem in the Benelux countries.

To foster this spirit of open collaboration, Solvay teams will run workshops to allow visitors and partners to get hands-on with the Group's R&I experts, and offer tours to show some of the latest products and services developed by Solvay.

In addition, a flexible and modular Art-Tech Lab will offer information to external partners and start-ups, highlighting Solvay's R&I know-how through visualizations of creations in progress and presentation of finished products.



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