



Multilevel car park Mercatorplein

Amsterdam | The Netherlands
Realised by: Brakel Atmos, the Netherlands

“The Brakel fire safety plan was open, transparent and complete.”
Cor Bruyns, project manager with WHR installation consultants

Renovation resulting in: a fire safe, sustainable and comfortable environment

Task: provide fire protection for the existing multilevel car park using a complete, sustainable solution

The Mercatorplein in Amsterdam was subject to intensive renovation. All buildings above ground we reverted to the original style of the architect Berlage. The work below ground involved the multilevel car park. This car park was built in 1998 when fire safety regulations for this sector were non-existent in the Netherlands. Adapting to the current fire safety standards was therefore an important requirement for this project. However, any fire safety solution needed to be not only sustainable but also viable.



Solution: complete sustainable concept with SHEV system, detection and compartmentation

• SHEV system

Brakel created a certified system for smoke and heat extraction which enables people to escape in safety in the event of a fire. A Eura louvred ventilator has been installed which can be automatically opened or closed as required. New ventilator grills have been installed in the shaft of the car park. These grills are responsible for the air supply. Brakel manufactured these grills to match the original design.

• Fire detection

Part of the system involves CO/LPG detection, which uses sensor cable detection. For two reasons: sensor cable detection is virtually maintenance-free which can make a massive difference to running costs.

• Compartmentation

It was necessary to prevent smoke travelling from one parking level to another in the event of fire. Brakel advised the use of compartmentation by incorporating a mobile smoke screen between the two parking levels. Under normal conditions this screen would remain out of sight. It could never become an obstacle for people wishing to park a car.

• Sustainable: energy-efficient, silent

Brakel advised that the number of jet fans should be reduced: from 6 to 4 per level. The ventilators no longer operate continuously, but only when needed. The result: a saving on energy costs and a reduction in noise levels. Above all, it's a more comfortable place: the new car park is a pleasant place to be.

"The people at Brakel stand behind everything they do."

Result

Cor Bruyns is satisfied: "Out of all the people we approached, Brakel offered the most comprehensive fire safety solution. From demolition right through to the wiring: nothing was overlooked. Furthermore the cooperation shown by the people at Brakel was outstanding. Any instructions were clear and concise, and their expertise and experience was evident throughout the entire process."

Success factors

- Expertise and experience in the fire safety sector.
- Basis: complete fire safety solution while still considering the running costs.
- Good communication with the project management.
- Combination of functional requirements and sustainability.
- Fire safety results in comfort for the user.



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