

WATERWEG WONEN

**ZENBER** looks at the  
metropolis for inspiration  
in designing the new  
headquarters for a  
housing association





CHAPTER NAME



The use of blue and orange continues through to the loose furniture chosen for the workspaces.

### An iconic orange bridge serves as a metaphorical and literal connecting gesture

**VLAARDINGEN** – Form and colour play a large role in the design of the new headquarters for Waterweg Wonen, a social housing corporation based in the Netherlands' South Holland province. Amsterdam-based studio Zenber Architecten brought the firm's two former offices together in one inspiring and innovative work environment. Thanks to the architects' clever spatial design, the company's 80 employees enjoy increased flexibility and opportunities for collaboration in the new space.

At the heart of the project, an iconic orange bridge sweeps through the core space, serving as a metaphor for 'connection' and – in a more literal sense – creating a link between two otherwise separate sections of the office. The bridge runs along the glazed walls that separate the two sections, rising from the reception area and crossing the building's double-height interior passage. According to the designers, 'it connects the various work areas and departments, enabling and encouraging cooperation.'

Volumes in the abstracted shape of a house are numerous throughout the design, a recurring theme used for decoration, as well as the practical provision of private workspaces, lockers, and acoustic elements. The 3000 m<sup>2</sup> headquarters feature a reception hall, central meeting area, open-plan workspaces, project rooms, technical workshops, a restaurant and a showroom.



**House-shaped volumes provide decorative and practical elements**



1 The abstraction of the house shape also features in the reception, whose scale and materiality provides a warm welcome to staff and guests.

2 'On the office floors, the archetypal home form returns to decorative and simultaneously functional sound-damping wall elements,' the architects say.