



SUSTAINABLE HOUSING

FOR
RAIL CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
SWIETELSKY



Swietelsky has grown considerably in recent years. And that growth will continue in the coming years. The workforce of (currently) more than 160 employees will double in the next three years. And hybrid working is becoming more and more the norm. Partly because of this, housing questions arose. CFO Edwin Huisman picked them up together with Linda Jorissen (office manager Swietelsky) and Quadrant4. He and Eric de Vetten (director and co-owner of Quadrant4) tell us how they went about this project.



Edwin: "Our most important needs when it came to our new housing? 1. Being able to hold good consultations, because we really are a projects company. 2. Binding young people to our company; we therefore wanted open, flexible, and non-standard solutions. We did want to maintain the atmosphere of our current company. And we also wanted a bigger involvement of the environment in our building.

A business broker advised me to talk to Quadrant4. I did and it worked out well."

Two options

Eric: "We concluded that there were two options. Turning the existing Swietelsky warehouse into office and meeting spaces. Or expand by realizing an extension against the current building. We chose the first option. The warehouse has been moved to the other side of the street."

Edwin: "We also looked for the right theme. Transparency, a connection to the current trends, sustainability and above all, no barriers. They don't fit in with a flat organization like ours. Keeping our wishes in mind, Quadrant4 developed a proposal. A work café where we can all enjoy lunch, but which is also a central meeting place throughout the day. There is a carpet with track elements, 'train-related' consultation corners and designated areas for project consultations."

Supervision from start to finish

Eric: "We supervised the entire process. From the first idea, through the design in Virtual Reality up to and including the supervision of the implementation. We took care of the architectural design, the installation concept, and the interior. Only the garden was done by another party."

Edwin: "I think it's great that we have opted for materials

and furniture that are either related to Swietelsky or to sustainability. We now have chairs made from old hemp plants. PET bottle lamps. And table bases made from recycled aluminum. We have retained the industrial character of the building and added light, individuality, and atmosphere."

Attractive work café

Edwin: "Most colleagues are purely positive. They really feel spoiled with the new place. The only thing which will always take some getting used to is that you don't have a fixed workplace (anymore). We see that employees fall back on this quite often. Turns out that we are still creatures of habit."

Eric: "When we started the project, there was hardly any or no lunch together. Now there is an attractive work café where colleagues like to meet for lunch. But also to discuss work. I am happy with how well it turned out."

Teamwork

"Linda and I pulled the cart from Swietelsky. And Eric, Victor Verdonshot, Roy Roxs and Nienke van Thuijl from Quadrant4. Together we make a good team. It helps that the corporate atmosphere within Quadrant4 is similar to ours. We combine the typical Brabant conviviality and openness with professionalism. That people-oriented and transparent mindset is now very much reflected in our building."

Eric: "We are indeed somewhat of a similar company. Technology and project driven. Which is why we quickly and fully understood what is happening within Swietelsky. Of course, that is very helpful if you want to make the most suitable design."

Replacing over 200 meters of track within one hour on average. Not many companies are able to pull that off. Rail construction company Swietelsky is. The Oisterwijk company, part of the Austrian parent company, is an active player in the field of heavy rail (train tracks) and light rail (metro, trams, industry) in the Benelux.

The heavy machinery the company developed for the construction of rails is extremely advanced. Therefore, for these machines, Swietelsky uses engineers who will also operate the machines. Swietelsky only has employees who lead and direct the projects. For the executive work, Swietelsky uses external companies.

