The Learning & Innovation Center (LIC)
Background

- ULB and VUB are sister universities
- The ULB was founded in 1834 (French speaking)
- After the creation of the language border in Belgium in 1963 all ULB faculties offered courses in Dutch
- The VUB became independent in 1970 with full programs in Dutch. The VUB library started from scratch after the split.
- However, both universities continue to share the same values and work together to develop synergies and joint projects.
Current libraries

The ULB library consists currently of more than 7 libraries located for the most part on campus Solbosch: Humanities, Science and Technology, Law, Architecture, Medical…

The VUB library consists of two libraries:
- the Central Library (Main Campus in Etterbeek)
- the Medical Library (Health Campus in Jette)
The first plans for a joint Library & Learning Center were made in 2008.

During that phase the scope was to create a new building for the Central Library of the VUB with a joint Sciences and Engineering library located on the border between the two universities of the campus Pleinlaan.
Origins (2/2)

• 2010 sketch

Niveau 5  VUB faculteiten RC & ES
Niveau 4  VUB faculteiten LW, PE & LK
Niveau 3  ULB Sciences & Techniques / VUB faculteiten WE & IR
Niveau 2  Accueil & administration / Onthaal & administratie
Niveau 1  Réserve / Magazijnen
Niveau 0  Réserve / Magazijnen

35 meter
• A Learning and Innovation Center (LIC) for VUB & ULB located on the border of both campuses of the Campus Pleinlaan in Etterbeek
• Providing an environment with leading edge learning & teaching technology, functionality and facilities
• The LIC contains a joint library for the Sciences and Applied Sciences
Current scope (2/2)

Symbol of collaboration between the 2 universities

Architectural landmark

Benchmark for sustainability
The ambition / focus

- A joint building to share knowledge in a fast changing technological environment
- A smart building with highly advanced equipment and inspiring rooms
- A new learning experience for students and researchers
- Compliant with the highest sustainability criteria
- Embedded in an open and accessible public environment
Integration on the Pleinlaan Campus
Connecting both universities

- Joint landmark located on the university border: building bridges
- A roundabout in front of the building that connects the ULB with the VUB and the VUB with the ULB
- A walkway through the building F to the VUB esplanade
The building

- 33 MIO investment: 21 MIO for the building and 11.5 MIO for the smart functionalities, equipment, technology, environment, utilities
- Federal funding for almost 90% of the 21 MIO via BELIRIS
- 8000m² with 7 functional floors
- Seating for approx. 1000 visitors
- Construction work started in 2022 and the opening is planned for 2025
Outside impressions (1/2)
Outside impressions (2/2)
Outside (dd 20/03/24)
Outside (dd 20/03/24)
Inside impressions
Mood boards (2/2)
Joint Library

- Joint library is located on 3 floors of the LIC: -1, 0 and +1
- Focus on digital content
- Access to the digital content will be covered in the LIC via each university’s own network for their own collection: Wi-Fi access (ULB > ULB network & VUB > VUB network based upon login)
- Limited printed material in reading rooms (not loanable), most of the collection in the stacks via high density mobile shelving (compactus) in the basement (available via stack requests)
- Library as a third place
- Silent zones
- Training & information literacy
Technology

- Collaboration rooms
- Microsoft Teams classrooms
- Hybrid meeting rooms
- Promotion room
- Auditorium
- VR / Immersive room
- Recording studios
- Digital signage and wayfinding
- Remote management
• Images and photos from Beliris - Boco Studio (s1, s11, s14, s15, s18-s20) and me (s16-s17)
• Information from slides of Annick Faveere (s8 & s13), Serge Gilen (s22), Paul De Knop (s7) and Patrick Vanouplines (s6)