

## **DE KROOK LIBRARY – The essence**

De Krook Library is a place for everyone who wants to read, learn and live. Just like the city and the building that houses it, the new library and its network want to connect people in an open, modern and wise manner.

The library's purpose has always been to help people understand the world better. Today, access to information no longer is a problem for most people, but finding good and high-quality information definitely still is. By displaying its rich collection actively, tailored to its visitors and partners, De Krook Library not only wishes to help give meaning to modern society in a contemporary way, but also to stimulate participation in it. Together with its network, De Krook Library connects with what the Ghent citizen, in all his diversity, has on his mind and what he is looking for. In this vein, De Krook Library with its many partners aspires to be a leader in library activity in the Dutch-speaking area, on a free basis and therefore still accessible to all.

De Krook Library and its subsidiaries are still public libraries, but use technology to improve and diversify what they have to offer: an app to choose from their collections, to reserve or renew an item; digital files on relevant and current topics; an online recommendation tool for greater reading pleasure, tailored to personal reading behaviour. De Krook Library does not perceive digitalisation as a threat, on the contrary: as an opportunity for the future.

Other than that, the library itself provides room for activities, creativity and cooperation. A venue for debate and reflection, inspiration and research, discovery and meeting, deepening and widening. The library opens its doors to all ages and walks of life, offering study and work spaces, reading and storytelling corners, exhibition spaces, workshops and fab labs, a reading foyer and an experience staircase, 6 floors filled with books, CDs, DVDs, newspapers and magazines. As the future generation, children and young people receive special attention.

The Krook Library is a place where every visitor can find himself in an oasis of tranquillity, but also meet people and share experiences. Knowledge and talents are being developed, means for interaction offered and digital divides eliminated. The presence of and synergy with partners such as imec and Ghent University help the library to achieve this ambition and to involve library visitors actively in research and urban policy.

**De Krook Library comes forward as a new cultural centre in the Ghent area, in a spirit of timeless modernity and connection. A place to read, to learn and to live. Al place to simply be.**