

Hengelo

city hall Hengelo, 2020, Hengelo, the Netherlands
LED strips, stepper motors, aluminium / steel. 3 x 1,70 x 3 m.

In search of the soul of Hengelo, that is what Peter Vink did when the municipality of Hengelo gave him a commission to make an artwork in the new city hall. The aim was to create a place to meet where the inhabitants of Hengelo should be able to identify with the place where they live.

Vink came up with the idea to make the artwork in the atrium, a place where he believed there was still room for an intervention and where it would be visible for everyone. To make the Hengelo story his own, he started to investigate the city and read books about the history and stories told by the inhabitants of Hengelo.

Soon the idea came to tell this story with light, driven by motors that refer to the history of the city mechanical and electric engineering industry.

Ultimately, the artwork has become a technical tour de force: no less than 736 coloured LED light lines controlled by just as many motors form a building on itself. The light sculpture hangs on 3 meters height and is attached with steel cables to steel beams painted in industrial green that refer to "iron city Hengelo". These beams are mounted at a height of 15 meters in the atrium and are designed by EGM architects.

By playing with the positions and colours of the light lines, Vink has created 74 compositions that together tell the story of Hengelo. For example, Vink has incorporated elements from historical industrial companies such as Stork, Hazemeijer and Holland Signaal into the artwork, but also the half-timbered houses, nature and works of art by the painter Theo Wolvenkamp. These are just a few examples of the pictures in the artwork. The compositions change randomly between 15 - 40 seconds and can be seen daily between 6 a.m. and 12 p.m. [Click here for video.](#)



