Mecanoo wanted a building that wouldn’t compete with van den Broek and Bakema’s imposing concrete lecture theater. By burrowing the library partially into the ground and making the roof a grassy covered space, the building blends in with and is an extension of the outside. From the theater, one can almost imagine a hill outside amongst the trees. The facade of glass not only allows the users view outside but also lets passersbys see what’s going on at the library.
In the elevations, it is evident that the building mimics a wave shape, sloping from nothing to about four stories. The cone shape in the center is a dominant piece, with brings in light to the central space while acting as a reading room. From the interior, the triangular piece seems to float in the air via the glass encompassing it and from above. One does not get to see all the way to the sky unless one is inside this interior triangular space.
Analysis

From the exterior, this library is meant to be seen as students and staff leave the theater and lecture halls as seen in the picture on the left. This large grass covered hill almost masks the glass facade and gives just a small hint at where the stair entrance is at. As one walks in, you encounter a large four story space, but the reading room and stairs bring the large scale back to the person's scale. Various use of material is seen throughout with wood, concrete, and canvas.
Jennifer Lew
Arch 502
Kim Coleman

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Diagrams

Analysis

Diagrams above show

1. hierarchy, 2. books/storage, 3. openings,
4. public/private, 5. circulation, 6. grass roof