



### **Louis Kooken (1867-1940)**

Born in Weert in 1867, Louis comes from a cabinetmaker family and he grew up in Eindhoven. During the construction of Paters church, which was commissioned by the Augustinian fathers by the architects P.J. Bekkers and J. Hegener from the Pierre Cuypers school, designed in neo-gothic style, he was the supervisor. When the church was almost completed in 1897-1898, he founded the architectural firm Kooken and shortly thereafter was appointed municipal architect of Eindhoven. In that capacity he designs the Water Tower (1903), the Waag Building (1907) and the Gas Factory (1911-1912). Together with ir. Joseph Cuypers he made the first General Expansion Plan for Eindhoven in 1918 to supervise the annexation in 1920.

He has long been one of the few members of the Society for the Promotion of Architecture and the Association of Dutch Architects in the South. In 1915 he becomes a member of Genootschap Architectura en Amicitia. Louis Kooken works as an architect on a wide area. He designs residential and retail properties: De Olifant (1898), De Gaper (1908); factory buildings for Redelé (1899), Philips, Mignot & De Block and Schellens; dairies: NCB Veghel (1914), Hoogeloon, Oerle and Sint-Oedenrode (1916) and Middelbeers (1917); churches: Nijnsel (1911), tower Petruskerk Woensel (1912-13), Gerardus Majella together with Frans Wolters (1925) and Middelbeers (1925-27); rectories: Catharina Church (1910), Borkel and Schaft (1923); monasteries: Hemelrijk (1920); patronage buildings: Catholic Life (1900); schools: Canisiusschool (1928); residential complexes: Griendsveen (1899-1904), Philipsdorp (1910-1917), Leostraat (1917), St. Joseph Tongelre (1920) and carries out restorations: Petrus Bandenkerk Hilvarenbeek (1927-29).

His buildings are built in the tradition of brick construction but pragmatic as he is, he seeks compromises inspired by the demands of his time. In addition, he was active in examination and beauty committees and in social matters as a city councilor, member of the church and arbestuur (committee that took care of the poor) of St. Catharina, regent of the Binnenziekenhuis, board member of the Bouwkunde Vakken and co-founder of the Museum Kempenland.