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Henk Jonkers research focusses on the development of bio-adapted building materials. These are materials that contain, or stimulate growth of, living organisms resulting in increased functional performance and decreased environmental impact. Examples are bacteria-based self-healing concrete and moss-receptive concrete. Further research focus is on implementation of nature in the built environment with the aim to increase wellbeing of humans, quality of nature, and climate resistance of built structures. Development of circular building methods and strategies aiming to decrease use of finite raw materials and emission of harmful substances as well as biodegradation mechanisms of building materials are also part of the research portfolio.

