



Monday 24 October 2005, 16.00-18.00, Walking Tour A

This tour leads along examples of the early Amsterdam School, mostly social housing for the working class, dating from the early twenties. It includes a visit of the Berlage Lyceum.

If the weather is bad, you can choose to go to the school directly by public transport: take the metro to Amstel Station and take tram 12 in the direction of Sloterdijk and get off at Waalstraat. Walk down the Waalstraat to Amstelkade and cross the bridge for pedestrians.



Introduction

Around 1900 there was a great need for housing for the growing population of Amsterdam. The city had 270.000 inhabitants in 1870 and 680.000 in 1920. The Housing Act of 1901 imposed strict rules on the quality of popular housing. Housing corporations aimed to provide good housing for reasonable prices for their members. The architects benefited from generous municipal subsidies and were able to build elaborate complexes. Brick was the primary building material, and it was used in ever more intricate designs and patterns. Everything was sacrificed to the external aspect. The 'sculpting' of the facades often led to strangely shaped rooms inside. Architects tried

to give collective architecture an individual character by variations in the building volumes, such as corners, receding walls and little squares. Decorative ironwork, sculpture and even the typography of house numbers were in the same expressionist style.

There was certainly an educational aspect to these designs: churches or pubs were not built. Windows were small and often set rather high in the walls, so that the workers and their families would not lean out of the windows. The design of the apartments should encourage them to sit round the table and educate themselves by reading and studying. This explains the attention of the architects for school buildings. The Amsterdam School was a short lived style and lasted from ca. 1915 to 1930. After that, the drying up of subsidies and the economic crisis of 1929 led to a more sober style, but the influence of the Amsterdam School was felt until World War II, and even after that.

Route

Leave the Philip Kohnstammhuis by the revolving door and go left. Leave the complex by the entrance for cars.

Turn right into the 1e Boerhavestraat and walk as far as the river Amstel.

Go left along Weesperzijde and cross the river at the first bridge.

Across the river, go left along Amsteldijk. At a certain point, you see that the late 19th century architecture in neo styles makes way for buildings in the style of the Amsterdam School.

After ca. 600 metres from the bridge, turn right into Smaragdstraat. The housing blocks on your right have been built between 1920 and 1925 for 'Algemeene Woningbouwvereniging' (General Housing Corporation) between 1920 and 1925. The yellow and green window frames are part of the original design. Architect Van Epen designed each block in the quarter with different details.

Walk along the Smaragdstraat as far as the circular bath house. The construction of this public bath house was necessary because many of the apartments, although modern for their time, did not have a bath or shower.

Turn left into Diamantstraat.

Turn right into Jozef Israelskade.

After ca. 600 metres you find the twin buildings of Berlage Lyceum on your right hand, flanking the entrance into Pieter Lodewijk Takstraat. Both buildings were designed by A.J. Westerman in 1924. The Berlage Lyceum was the first school in Amsterdam to offer a bilingual programme in English.
www.berlage.esprit-sg.nl

After your visit of the school, continue along Pieter Lodewijk Takstraat. The blocks left and right were built in 1921-1922 by Michel de Klerk, probably the most gifted architect from the Amsterdam School. He died at the age of 39 in 1923. Pieter Lodewijk Takstraat ends at the junction with Burgemeester Tellegenstraat, where you see the monument for Burgemeester Tellegen, mayor of Amsterdam between 1915 and 1921. This was the period when the housing blocks in this area were built. At both corners of Pieter Lodewijk

Takstraat and Burgemeester Tellegenstraat you find spectacular tower like structures, that prominently display the name of the housing corporation 'De Dageraad' (The dawn).

Go left and follow Burgemeester Tellegenstraat. Here, you see some examples of the use of rooftiles on vertical sections of the buildings, typical for the Amsterdam School.

Turn left into Willem Passtoorsstraat.

The facades on the right hand side of Willem Passtoorsstraat are very simple. The original character has been completely lost by the recently installed, maintenance free plastic window frames. Satellite dishes are allowed here, whereas 'The Dageraad', on the other side of the street does not allow this.

Go left into Thérèse Schwarzestraat, which leads to Thérèse Schwarzeplein. On the left you see a number of housing blocks that have been inspired by the English cottage-style, also by Michel de Klerk.

Go right into Poggenbeekstraat. The architecture here is much simpler and dates from the early thirties.

Go left into Mesdagstraat.

Go right and walk along Jozef Israelskade, along the side of the Okura Hotel.

Turn right into Ferdinand Bolstraat. You can take tram 25 here in the direction of Central Station.

If you want to continue with walking tour B: from Ferdinand Bolstraat, turn left at Cornelis Troostplein



Monday 24 October 2005, 16.00-18.00, Walking Tour B

This tour leads along examples of the late Amsterdam School, mostly houses and apartments for the middle classes from the late twenties and early thirties. It includes a visit of Het Amsterdams Lyceum.

If the weather is bad, you can choose to go to the school directly by public transport: take tram 3 to Zoutkeetsgracht and get off at the stop Museumplein. Change to tram 16 in the direction of Gustav Mahlerlaan and get off at stop Valeriusplein.



Introduction

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volumes, such as corners, receding walls and little squares. Decorative ironwork, sculpture and even the typography of house numbers were in the same expressionist style.

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Route

Leave the Philip Kohnstammhuis by the revolving door and go left. Leave the complex by the entrance for cars.

Go left and immediately right and follow the busy Wibautstraat for 100 metres. Take tram 3 in the direction of Zoutkeetsgracht. The tram crosses the river Amstel and follows Ceintuurbaan, a wide 19th century boulevard.

Leave tram 3 at the stop Ferdinand Bolstraat. Follow Ferdinand Bolstraat to the south (walking away from the construction site). Turn right into Cornelis Troostplein and right again into Cornelis Trooststraat.

Cornelis Trooststraat is a border: the buildings on the right hand side of the street have been built in the traditional style from around 1900; those on the left are in the style of the Amsterdam School.

At the end of Cornelis Trooststraat go left at Ruysdaelkade.

Cross the bridge and note the sculptures and the fine ironwork of the railings.

After the bridge go right.

Go left into Gerard Terborgstraat.

Go left into Cornelis Van der Lindenstraat.

Go right into Harmoniehof ('Harmony court') and walk to the end. Harmoniehof was designed by J.C. van Epen for Housing Corporation 'De Samenwerking' (The Co-operation) and built between 1920 and 1923. Most of the apartment blocks in the vicinity are still owned by this corporation, that originally aimed to provide affordable housing for civil servants and other middle class groups. This is exceptional, since most housing corporations concentrated on social housing for workers.

Go left and follow Joh. M. Coenenstraat. The housing blocks along this street were built in 1922-1923 by J.F. Staal.

Turn right before the bridge and follow the Reinier Vinkeleskade. You pass the Fons Vitae Lyceum, founded in 1914. The building dates from 1924. The houses along the

Reinier Vinkeleskade were built by architects that had been influenced by the Amsterdam School. The apartments were privately owned, not by housing corporations.

Turn right into Cornelis Schuytstraat.

Go left into J.J. Viottastraat.

Cross the Emmastraat/Willem Witsenstraat and continue along the water, the Jan van Goyenkade. Because of the luxurious villa's across the water, this part of Amsterdam is nicknamed 'the gold coast'.

After 500 metres, the building over the underpass for bicycles on your right hand side is Het Amsterdams Lyceum, your destination. Entrance is in the underpass.

The school was founded in 1917 and is housed in the present building by architect H.A. Baanders since 1920. The school now has ca. 1.000 pupils. It has taken the unusual step of gradually closing down its department for Senior General Secondary Education, so that only the department for University Preparatory Education remains. An extensive renovation of the building was carried out in 2002, when a new wing in the style of the original building was added.

www.amsterdamslyceum.nl

On the other side of Het Amsterdams Lyceum, at Valeriusplein, you can take tram 16 in the direction of Central Station.

