



PRESS INFORMATION

WHAT THE NEW AMSTERDAM MUSEUM WILL LOOK LIKE.

DESIGN OF THE NEW AMSTERDAM MUSEUM

RENOVATION WILL TRANSFORM HISTORIC MONUMENT INTO THE CITY MUSEUM OF THE FUTURE



© Neutelings Riedijk Architects, sketch of the Stadshal and exhibition hall forming the heart of the museum complex on Kalverstraat

4 February 2021 - Preparations for the renovation of the Amsterdam Museum are in full swing. At the end of last year, the city council approved the investment in the renovation. After lengthy preparations, the designs were formally submitted to the Spatial Quality Committee yesterday.

"We're extremely happy with what we have here, and can now finally share the plans with the rest of the city and the Netherlands," says the museum's director, Judikje Kiers.

This is a joint project by the city, which owns the building, and the Amsterdam Museum, which rents it. The renovation is intended to turn the existing historic monument into a future-proof city museum. The new museum will be a public-friendly

place where visitors and residents can get to know Amsterdam, and closely connected to the neighbourhood and the city as a whole. The changes will be most noticeable in the building itself.

"The renovation is an important investment in the future of the city," says Amsterdam's alderperson for culture Touria Meliani. "It will be accessible, with enough space for the collection and for events aimed at visitors and residents. It will tell all the many stories of our super-diverse city, including that of the centuries-old monumental building in which it's located."

The museum has been housed in the former civic orphanage on Kalverstraat since 1975. Its rich history and city-centre location make it the ideal place for the Amsterdam Museum. To ensure that its ambitions can be realised for generations to come, improvements are urgently needed in terms of space, accessibility, visibility, and sustainability.

There will be large, well equipped multipurpose rooms with more space for the collection, temporary presentations, debate, and education. There will also be a clearly defined route guiding visitors through all parts of the building, including the historical 'Gewelf' (vault beneath the museum), which is not currently accessible to the public, and the 'Regentenkamer' (Regents Room) of the orphanage. The route will have an obvious beginning, middle and end. The entire museum will be accessible to visitors with physical disabilities, and will make much better use of daylight and climate.

The new building, designed by Neutelings Riedijk Architects, is expected to open in 2025, to mark the city's 750th anniversary.

The story of Amsterdam in one building

Over the centuries, the building has grown and changed to accommodate the needs of its residents: the nuns of the convent of St. Lucy, the orphans of the city orphanage, and visitors to the Amsterdam Museum. Today it tells the [stories of Amsterdam](#), apparent in features such as the gates and courtyards, and the facades designed by Jacob van Campen, all of which will be retained in the new design.

Perfectly located, but outdated

The former 'Burgerweeshuis' (city orphanage) is the ideal location for the museum, but it was never built as a museum, and its limitations prevent twenty-first-century visitors from appreciating it to the full. Its differences in level make it poorly accessible for people with physical disabilities, and the limited space renders it impossible to display the whole collection. Many large-scale masterpieces are now housed in other places, such as at Hermitage Amsterdam, or remain in storage. The museum also requires substantial modernisation in terms of daylight, climate, and sustainability. All of this work must respect the building's importance as a historic monument, and be based on consultation with experts, local residents, and other interest groups.

Open to the city

The new museum will be more recognisable and accessible to all visitors. The ground floor facing the courtyards and the Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal will accommodate public areas such as a restaurant, an auditorium, and education facilities. The windows and doors, which are now often shuttered, will be opened again. The museum will present a more inviting face to the city, and enliven the courtyards and street.

Reinforcing the historical structure of the houses and courtyards

The design is based on a thorough analysis of the building's history. Like a number of other similar institutions in Amsterdam, it was built as a series of houses surrounding courtyards

and accessed by a gate, like a village within a city. This structure is still recognisable today, and will be preserved and reinforced by the new design. The new main entrance will be in the middle of the complex, so that all visitors enter through one of the gates and discover the courtyards before entering the building. The new additions will be fully integrated into the historical structure, with pitched roofs to blend in with the existing ones.

A new heart for the Amsterdam Museum

The Stadshal, the new public entrance hall, will form the heart of the museum. This double-height space, with its grand staircase, will house visitor facilities such as a cloakroom, toilets, shop, café, information desk, and ticket office. As in the current museum, the Stadshal will be freely accessible to the public without a ticket. It will also provide access to the oldest part of the building, the “Gewelf” (underground vault), and will serve as the start and finish of the route through the new museum.

Space for the collection

The Amsterdam Museum manages the city's collection of around 100,000 very diverse objects of all shapes and sizes and every period of the city's history, ranging range from arts and crafts to everyday utensils.

Some works, such as the seventeenth-century group portraits, are too large to display in the current building. The design therefore provides for five new rooms, created by building additions in three places, like new houses in the historical structure, but invisible from the courtyards. These will enable the old rooms to retain their historical character, so the route through the museum will be an alternation of old and new, and there will be plenty of space to tell the stories of the city's past, present and future.

Logical route

There will be a continuous, one-way, and fully accessible route through the building, making it easier to navigate and historical areas such as the orphanage boardroom easier to find. The first floor circles the girls' courtyard, and the Great Hall above the ‘Stadshal’ (the public entrance hall) will be the highlight of the route, showing the masterpieces of the collection to their full advantage. Before concluding their visit with the presentations around the boys' courtyard, visitors can go outside to the rooftop area, providing a view of the city that is the main subject of the museum.



©Photo of the model by Neutelings Riedijk Architecten

A sustainable monument

Using an existing building is more sustainable than building a new one, and preserving this national monument is also an essential part of the assignment. The old parts of the building will be restored in collaboration with TPAHG Architects, and the whole museum will incorporate state-of-the-art sustainable technology, including underground thermal energy storage and solar panels. Low-energy plant will be used, and rainwater stored to irrigate the courtyards.

The landscaping around the viewpoint will contribute to water storage and heat regulation. Materials will be chosen with the emphasis on sustainability: the new structures will be made largely of wood and cross-laminated timber, and the interior finishes will use recycled materials where possible. The design aims to achieve a BREEAM in-use certification rating of “excellent”

Collection will remain on display during the renovation

The planning application process has already begun. The Kalverstraat location will close in March 2022, but the collection will be on display in the Amsterdam Museum wing of Hermitage Amsterdam and elsewhere, and we will continue to hold temporary presentations and other public activities with our partners at various locations in the city.

The new museum in figures

BETTER USE OF SPACE

The building will be more efficient. The proportion accessible to the public will grow from 41 to 57 percent. This will be achieved partly by clustering spaces, and partly by making different use of existing ones.

MORE SPACIOUS

The museum area will increase from 2,400 to 2,900 square metres. Of this, 1,200 square metres will consist of large or extra-large rooms. The wall surface will be increased by 75% so that more large works can be hung.

MORE FLEXIBLE

The new museum will have a wide variety of high-quality multifunctional rooms, with excellent logistics and other facilities.

About the Amsterdam Museum

The Amsterdam Museum manages the city's collection of around 100,000 very diverse objects of all shapes and sizes and from every period of history, ranging from arts and crafts to everyday utensils, and from photographs to fragile medieval art. Since its opening in 1975, the museum has adopted a highly progressive approach, organizing activities and exhibitions in close consultation with the people of Amsterdam and on a very wide range of subjects. We combine historical and modern objects and stories with the creativity and critical eye of contemporary artists.

About Neutelings Riedijk Architects

Neutelings Riedijk Architects is a leading Dutch firm with an extensive oeuvre of mainly public buildings, such as the Naturalis Biodiversity Center in Leiden, the Rozet cultural centre in Arnhem, and Deventer's city hall. The firm has extensive experience with complex projects in an often delicate urban context, and has created many hugely popular buildings.
www.neutelings-riedijk.com

Note to editors

For more information about this project, contact Janine Fluyt at pr@amsterdammuseum.nl or 06 2000 7234. A media kit, including explanatory videos and images, can be found at www.hetnieuweamsterdammuseum.nl of www.amsterdammuseum.nl.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Amsterdam Museum

General

Facilities	Museum, meeting room, storage area, studio, workshops, auditorium, education areas, hospitality office
Gross floor area	Approximately 10,500 square metres
Location	Kalverstraat 92/Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal 359 Amsterdam
Client	City of Amsterdam + Amsterdam Museum
Design process began	October 2017
Construction begins	Mid 2022
Completion	Late 2025

Design team

Architect	Neutelings Riedijk Architecten, Rotterdam
Designers	Michiel Riedijk, Annette van Baren, Kenny Tang, Julia Söffing, Joost Hartevelde, Aleksandra Gwardiak, Engy Khaled, Jelle Homburg, Frank Venhorst
Architectural design	ABT
Manufacturer	Pieters Bouwtechniek
Installation advisor	Deerns Nederland
Building physics advisor	Deerns Nederland
Restoration architect	TPAHG Architects
Interior design (general public areas)	TBA Neutelings Riedijk Architects
Cost advisors	Bremen Bouwadviseurs/BBN-advisors
Acoustics	Deerns Nederland
Fire safety	Deerns Nederland

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