Architecture in the Netherlands

*15 - 20 minutes*

(2) Hello everybody, as you may know me, Martin and Bram are all from the Netherlands. And therefore I will tell you a little bit about architecture in our small country.

But before I will tell some stuff about architecture, I would like to tell a little bit about the country itself. This will make you understand the Dutch Architecture even more. After that I will tell you a little bit about our planning culture, important architecture and a possible future.

(3) The Netherlands is a country in the European Union. The country is 240 times smaller than China and has around 17 million citizens, it is though 17th largest economy in the world.

(4) Even though it is already a small country, about 20 % of the country lies under the sea level.. This is because we started with dry-pumping land in the late 1600’s , because of the advantages it could bring decades later.

(5) The current architecture in the Netherlands can actually not be separated from the history of our country. Many styles and buildings have come to life because of problems in the demographics in the Netherlands. And even now that is the case.

(6)& (7) Water & Nederland

Because it is a swamp delta, the water had a great influence on our culture and architecture. For example as use as a defense meganism in the late. Here is the city of Groningen, and here a picture of Naarden, where it is still really visible.

(8) But we also used it for transport resulting in Rotterdam as the biggest port of the western world.

(9) The Netherlands are a swamp delta, which means that people can’t find much natural stone in our country. But there is enough clay and therefor bricks are used in the Netherlands for centuries. So the buildings that will be talked about in this presentation are built from bricks.

Typical Dutch Planning History

Amsterdam Canals + eigenschappen

(10) One of the more historic plans are the canals of Amsterdam. Amsterdam is one of the biggest cities in the Netherlands, with around 800000 citizens. The canals were the successful outcome of city planning.

(11) In the early 17th century, with immigration rising, a plan was created to house all these people in an efficient way.

(12) These canals were created begin the 17th century and were finished in 1625, and were used for transport and defense of the city. Right now almost all of these canals are still in shape and mainly used for recreation.

(13) The canal sides houses around 1505 monumental buildings which and to this day are part of the UNESCO world heritage list.

(14) These buildings are very shallow, deep and high and most of time placed higher because of dangerous floods. These houses were built in the 1600’s and most of the time have a packing and cellar area.

(15) In time the buildings were changed a lot, so there are many different architectural styles recognizable in one building. Like the bellfacade, stairfacade, neckfacade and others. As you can see on the pictures the buildings are made of bricks as I told before.

Polders

(16) Another early city planning project which made the Netherlands as it is today are the so called polders. A polder is an area of water which will be surrounded by a dyke and then the water will be pumped out, creating a new area which can be used for construction or agriculture. Since the Netherlands is a very tiny country this could come in handy.

(17) At the moment there are around 4000 polders in the Netherlands which is half of all of Europe’s polders.

(18) A lot of these polders were also created in the so called golden age, a time when the Netherlands was doing very well, around 1600 -1700. These polders have a significant

influence on the Dutch Architecture and planning because of the combination of water and living, which can also be seen at the Amsterdam Canals.

(19) But also because these polders are completely clear ground without any obstacles. So we were extremely free to shape new cities and infrastructure.

Typical Dutch Architecture Styles

Amsterdam School

(20) The Netherlands have known a lot of different architectural styles but one specific is the Amsterdam School. This style can be considered as Modern Architecture. A few properties of this style include the use of bricks and a lot of decorations. This style was mainly used in social residences and school buildings. The projects could be huge and massive, but still have something humane.

(21) One of the examples of the Amsterdam School is the building ‘the ship’ designed by Michel de Klerk in 1914.

The Schip

The ship is a residential project which got the name the ship because of its looks. The Ship was designed as a ‘workers palace’. Because never before there was this much attention to a worker’s house. De Klerk did this because he thought that the workers should get higher on the social ladder.

(24) The rooms of the workers are a lot bigger than the usual size, and de Klerk also designed the whole interior together with the furniture. The way architecture and sculpture are combined in this building makes it one of the most important buildings of the Amsterdam School style. There was also a post-office in the building. The original interior is still in place and can be seen here.

(25) De Klerk designed a lot of horizontal waves in the façade, which created uniformity in comparison with the buildings surrounding the ship. This had the intention to show the Socialistic Ideals. But because of these many details, the building got quite expensive, which caused habitants of the buildings be more rich people instead of workers.

(26) There are a lot of sculptures to be found on the façade, together with the already flexible façade.

The Rietveld Schröderhuis

(28) The next building is a little bit more famous which would become a villa for the Schröder widow.. It is the Rietveld SchroderHouse.

The Rietveld Schröderhuis in Utrecht is an icon of De Stijl movement. A Modernist Group which Rietveld joined in 1915. The Style was part of the modern architecture, and very minimalistic.

(29) & (30) They used a lot of orthogonal elements, and only the primary colors and black grey and white.

(31) Rietveld also designed the whole interior together with the furniture for this building. She wanted the house to become completely loose from reality once you entered the top floor. This can be seen in the plans and the details. The building is highly flexible, with walls which can be taken away and cause a totally different house.

(34) Rietveld also created an disappearing corner which would only strengthen the unreality of the building.

The modern style together with the uniqueness caused the building to become a UNESCO world heritage.

The Hilversum Townhall

(35) The last building I will talk about is the Hilversum Townhall, designed by Dudok. This townhall doesn’t belong to a certain style, but more to Dudok’s personal style.

(36) The main idea is the combination of different boxes which are a-symmetrical placed upon each other. The construction is made of concrete and steel, but the outer layers is again made of bricks.

(37) & (38) The different offsets create an exciting horizontal façade. Which image is reinforced by the vertical tower.

(41) Also in this building the architect designed the interior. He choose different floors for different rooms, based on the function of that room. Dudok also designed the furniture in the building.

The Bijlmermeer

(42) One of the more modern plannings in the Netherlands is the Bijlmermeer in 1966. A project to house 100000 people, it was build to be succesfull but due to a number of factors the whole project failed. Even in a housing shortage in the Netherlands, 1 in 4 bijlmerhouses was unoccupied.

(43) This caused to drop the price and got the project into a downwards spiral, attracting a lot of crime and poor people.

(44) In 1992 the Government decided to renovate the whole area, as you can see on these pictures. And this renovation is still going on as we speak. Giving the area a better function and decriminalizing as a whole.

Dutch Architecture in the future

Sustainability

(45) – (48) We are trying to reach different goals on the subject of sustainability in the Netherlands by 2020. We will try to change the current real estate into 30 percent more sustainable houses. This applies to 2.5 million houses. At least 75 percent of the current houses in the Netherlands will face change in more sustainable energy-use, better isolation, more efficient systems and the use of more sustainable energy.

For new build houses the government wants the buildings to use half as much energy in 2015 than the buildings do now.

International

(50) OMA, MVRDV, IBA

De Stijl

De Molens – Polders

De toekomst

Planning in the Netherlands

Architecture in the Netherlands

Present

- Planning Culture

- Norms & Europe

- Change in style and quality

Future

- Sustainability

- population aging

- Cities growing together

- Space for recreation – living - productivity