

Walking in The Hague

NINE CENTURIES OF HAGUE ARCHITECTURE

A walking tour along historic and modern buildings in The Hague

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Welcome to The Hague. For over 400 years now, the city has been the seat of the Dutch government. Since 1981, it is a royal city again and a city of peace and justice. The Hague is more than 750 years old and has, over the last century-and-a-half, developed into a large urban conglomerate, with a great deal of activity, cultural facilities and first-rate shops. From a town of 75,000 inhabitants in 1850, The Hague has grown into the third largest city of the Netherlands with almost 500,000 inhabitants. Owing to this late but explosive growth, The Hague has very striking architecture from the 19th and 20th century.

The Hague Convention and Visitors Bureau has created an interesting walk especially for lovers of architecture. You begin this walk of about two-and-a-half hours on Hofweg, indicated on the map by a 🏠. We advise you to follow the route on the map. Of course, you can always take a break during your walk for a visit to a museum or a nice cup of coffee.

The old city centre, bordered by the canals excavated by order of Prince Maurits at the beginning of the 17th century, began to develop further after 1850. New shop premises and government offices emerged in richly decorated neo styles that hark back to the architecture of earlier centuries; this style of different hybrids that occurred are referred to with the Greek term eclecticism. Around 1895, the revolutionary Jugendstil or Art Nouveau appeared, an architectural style that departed radically from the examples from the past. Characteristic are the decorations that are often derived from nature.

From 1900, the well-known architect H.P. Berlage (1856-1934) made his mark on the city. His brick buildings are sober in character; the decorations have been made subordinate to the architecture. After Berlage, the architects of De Stijl and the New Realism strove for taut and functional architecture. After the Second World War, a wave of state office construction hit the city, producing its share of unremarkable architecture.

In the eighties and nineties, interest in architecture increased strongly and led to new developments of high quality, such as the new city hall at Spui. This striking white building forms the core of the new centre area that covers a broad zone between Central Station and Spui. In contemporary architecture, we can roughly distinguish between two main schools: Neomodernism and Postmodernism. The first school is a continuation of the functionalist, taut movement in architecture that began before the Second World War. The second one is characterised by playful forms and warm colours.

Descriptions of buildings along the route are in black text

Descriptions of other points of interest along the route are in this colour

🏠 Descriptions of the route are in red text

🏛️ National monument

26 House number

You start this walk at Hofweg and cross the street in the direction of Binnenhof. Pause here, to see the Buitenhof and Prison Gate as well as the Gallery Prince Willem V on your left. In the Middle Ages, this was the front court of the Earl's Castle, connected by narrow streets with 'Die Haghe' village.

1 Prison Gate 33

One of the oldest buildings of The Hague is the Prison Gate, dating back to the 14th century and extended in the 15th century. In the Middle Ages, the Prison Gate was an outer gate of the Earl's Castle to the Binnenhof and from approximately 1420 onwards, subsequent earls used it as a prison. The Court of Holland later used the gate for the same purpose. From 1828, the prison was no longer used and since 1882, the complex is a national museum for instruments of torture and punishment. In 1923, the road past the Prison Gate was built. Before that time there were houses between the gate and the Hofvijver.

Behind the Prison Gate, on Plaats, stands the statue of Johan de Witt. In 1672, the Grand Pensionary was murdered on this spot together with his brother Cornelis. The statue was erected in 1918.

2 Gallery Prince Willem V 35

Built: 1773-1774

Architect: W. Schonck

Stadholder Prince Willem V allowed the public to look at his collection of paintings in this building. In the French period, the whole collection was moved to Paris. When it was returned to The Hague, it was sent to the Mauritshuis. The current gallery displays a faithful reconstruction of the original collection and gives an impression of the way a collection was exhibited in the 18th century. In fact this was the first museum of the Netherlands.

Beside the Hofvijver, you can see the equestrian statue of King Willem II, also called the Hero of Waterloo because of his actions during the campaigns against Napoleon. It is a replica of the original, which was unveiled in 1884 in the city of Luxembourg. To the right of the gate stands the monument commemorating the statesman Willem Drees. The red mark on the ground is a symbol for socialism.

 You now pass Stadhouderspoort and enter the Binnenhof.

Only the stadholder and his retinue were allowed to use this gate in the 17th and 18th century, except on 1 May when the general public were also

allowed to enter the Binnenhof through the gate and dance around the maypole.

3 Fountain

Architect: P.J.H. Cuypers

The Neo-Gothic fountain, consisting of an ashlar basin and a wrought-iron construction with gargoyles, was donated by prominent The Hague residents as a token of their appreciation for the restoration of the Binnenhof complex, which was started in 1879. The gilded statue topping the fountain represents Count Willem II, who was later crowned Catholic King in Aachen. In 2008, the fountain was completely restored.

The oldest parts of the medieval Earl's Castle, the Knights' Hall and the Roll Building situated behind it, are from the 13th century. In the course of the next centuries, alterations were carried out and extensions added to the Binnenhof. As early as in the 15th century, this was the seat of the government of the regional administration. In 1585, the Binnenhof became the seat of the States General of the Republic of the Seven United Netherlands.

4 Knights' Hall 8

On the Binnenhof stands the former castle of the Earls of Holland, built in the 13th and 14th century. The Large Hall, which has been called Knights' Hall since the 19th century, dates from the second part of the 13th century and is the largest gothic building in Europe not built as a church. The famous wooden cladding was demolished in 1861, but replaced by an exact copy less than four decades later. Beneath the Knights' Hall (no. 8^a) to the right of the hall, the Binnenhof Visitor Centre is housed in one of the medieval cellars. Here, the history of the Binnenhof is displayed and guided tours are given throughout the year.

Behind the Knights' Hall is the Roll Building, the Lairesse Wing and the Roll Hall, which was used as a court room by the Hof van Holland. This hall owes its name to the rolls on which the judges' verdicts were written and stored. The Lairesse Wing is named after the paintings of G. de Lairesse dating from 1688, in the former council room.

5 Former Lower House of the States General 1a

Built: 1777-1793

Architect: F.L. Gunckel

On your right you see the former hall of the Lower House of the States General. This hall, built as a ballroom, is part of the new palace wing. Stadholder Willem V had it built in Louis XVI style. It is the only building on the Binnenhof that is not made of brick.

6 Upper House 21 23

Built: 1562 and 1657

Architect: P. Post

To the left stands the building of the Upper House of the States General. In the baroque interior with painted wooden cove ceiling, the original States of Holland assembled. The wings of this part of the Binnenhof have vaulted galleries in the Dutch renaissance style of the first half of the 17th century.

On your left you see the Binnenhof wing along the Hofvijver, which houses, among others, the Ministry of General Affairs (no. 18-19). This section in Neo-Renaissance style dates in large part from 1913, but some sections are older, such as the Trèves Hall in Louis XIV style (**Built:** 1697. **Architect:** D. Marot).

You leave the Binnenhof via the Grenadierspoort built in 1634. After passing the gate you'll see the octagonal 15th century tower on the corner of the Hofvijver on your left. Throughout the years, this small tower has housed the office of the Prime Minister as it does today. It is always given the name of the seated Prime Minister.

7 Mauritshuis 29

Built: 1633-1644

Architects: J. van Campen and P. Post

The Mauritshuis is one of the first and finest examples of Dutch classical baroque. This style of architecture is characterised by pilasters positioned along the entire length of the façade and pediments decorated with sculptures. The Mauritshuis was built for Johan Maurits van Nassau, governor of Netherlands-Brazil. After the fire in 1704, the Mauritshuis was given 18th century interiors and in 1822, it became the home for the Royal Picture Gallery. During the restoration in 1982-1987, the library and stores were housed beneath the forecourt. Artist G. Lataster has painted modern works on the ceiling of the upper hall, which, in their play of colours, evoke associations with ceiling paintings of the 18th century.



Plein

In the centre of the pine-tree bordered Plein, beneath which a car park is located, stands the bronze statue of stadholder Prince Willem I, made by sculptor L. Royer in 1848. In former days, the Plein operated as a vegetable garden of the Court. The Plein is surrounded by a number of striking buildings.



8 New or Literary De Witte Society 14 24

The right section of the De Witte Society was built in 1870 by architect C. Outhoorn. The central section and the left wing were designed in the same style by J. Mutters in 1899. The section on Korte Vijverberg dates from 1930. The oldest section contains rich interiors in Neo-Renaissance style and Art Nouveau.

9 Annex of Lower House 14 23

Built: 1737-1741

Architect: I. de Moucheron

This building houses an annex of the Lower House since 2004. The building, in Louis XIV style, displays the coat of arms of Amsterdam above the central part. It was built as a lodging for the

delegates of Amsterdam to the States of Holland. In the 19th century, members of the Royal Family lived here. From 1854-1912, it was home to the State Archives. It subsequently housed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs until 1984.

10 Former Ministry of Colonies 14 1

Built: 1859-1861

Architect: W.N. Rose

This plastered and painted block-shaped building is the first ministry designed in this way. It displays the Eclectic style characteristic of Rose, in which cast iron, popular at the time, was used. At the moment, it houses the offices of the representatives of the Dutch Labour Party.

11 Lower House of the States General 14 2

Built: 1988-1992

Architect: P.I. de Bruijn

The façade of the new complex stands on the Plein and is largely situated between the old buildings on the Binnenhof and the buildings situated on Lange Poten.

12 Former Ministry of Justice 14 2a 2b

Built: 1876-1883

Architect: C.H. Peters

The building of the former Ministry of Justice has been preserved in perfect condition. It is based on the early renaissance style that C.H. Cuypers, among others, propagated for government buildings. The special appeal of this building refers to the fact that the Council of Ministers assembled here each week.

13 Ministry of Defence 14 4

Built: 1739-1746

Architect: A. Moens

The sober sandstone façade of this building displays the coat of arms of Rotterdam above the right part. The coat of arms refers to the original purpose of the building, namely as lodgings for the delegates of Rotterdam to the States of Holland. The left part of the building dates from 1902.

👉 You now enter Korte Poten.

14 Hofstad Pharmacy 7a

Built: 1909

Architect: W.B. Liefland

On your right, you see Hofstad Pharmacy with a beautifully preserved shop interior in Art Nouveau style. The furnishings and decorations have not changed since pharmacist Manning had his shop rebuilt at the beginning of the 20th century in the style of the times.

15 Mercantile House

Built: 1920

Architect: A.J. Kropholler

On the corner of Korte Poten/Bleijenburg stand high and narrow corner premises built partly in Berlage style and partly in the style of traditional Dutch architecture. It was once a mercantile house. On the façade, you can still see the plaque of the purveyor to the royal household.

👉 You walk straight along Herengracht until you reach the bridge.

On the bridge, you see the group of sculptures referring to the construction of the ring of canals in The Hague. Work begun in 1613 under the supervision of Prince Maurits. The text reads: 'Door burgers' daad – op Maurits raad – Deez cingel ontstaat' (By burghers' effort – at Maurits' advice – this canal is built). Because The Hague has never been granted a charter, no town rampart was ever built. The canal was excavated around the village and was the only defence stronghold and an important supply route for trade with the town centre.

👉 In front of the bridge, you turn right and walk up Zwarteweg. You continue to Parnassusplein, passing Muzenstraat. On your left you see the Hoftoren.

16 Hoftoren

Built: 2000-2003

Architect: Kohn Pederson Fox

The Hoftoren houses the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. The office building is 29 storeys high. A prominent point of recognition of the complex is the pointed, open tower to which the building owes its nick-name 'the fountain pen'. It dominates the skyline at a height of 142 metres. The slim shape of the tower is emphasised by the vertical lines of the façade. The tower is one section of the building and is situated on Oranjevuitensingel; via the 8-metre high central hall you pass into the low section that is adjacent to Central Station. Due to the open character of the ground floor, the garden has, as it were, been brought inside. Two U-shaped sections enclose an inner garden, the court. This serves as a green city oasis for office workers, but also for passers-by in Rijnstraat. In addition, the inner garden provides transparency to the building at street level. The sand-coloured natural stone and the high windows also ensure that the Hoftoren does not project a harsh image and that architecturally, it dovetails optimally with its surroundings.

17 Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment

Built: 1992

Architect: J. Hoogstad

The Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment derives its charm primarily from the gigantic inner gardens. Government workers requested an emphasis on light, green and windows that open. Realising that last request required making the façade smaller to avoid outside noise from becoming a problem. Hoogstad designed high spaces that lessen noise impact and make for green work spaces with lots of daylight. The use of glass creates an effect that is both impressive and playful. They are surrounded by a central wing and, on both sides, five shorter wings, interconnected via gangways. This floor plan was derived from the five main departments of the ministry. In addition, the architect has successfully made the route from The Hague Central Station to the city centre go through the building: pedestrians, cyclists as well as city trams travel right through the ministry at street level.

👉 You are now entering Parnassusplein.

18 Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

Architect: M. Graves

Instantly striking is the 'Castalia' office tower of the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport with the double gable roof. Formerly, the solitary office building Transitorium stood here. Originally built in the sixties, its skeleton has been reused. The architect gave The Hague a remarkable building that very successfully combines the small scale of a canal-side house and the large-scale of an American office tower. Graves refers not only to the typical Dutch gable roofs, but also to the size and vertical effect of Dutch windows, as these can be seen in the city centre of The Hague. On the fourth and fifth floor, Castalia is connected with the adjacent Helicon building. Dutch architect S. Soeters designed this building on Parnassusplein. The complex comprises three identical, partly stepped discs that span the tram route. Because Helicon was not allowed to have a gable roof, the architect made a kind of silhouette of a spire with aluminium plates in two façades.

👉 In the inner courtyard, you pass 'The Well', a sculpture by Anthony Gormeley, which takes up a special place under a steel grid. You return to Zwarteweg and take a left into Muzenstraat.

De Resident

You are now in 'De Resident', a new district in postmodern style (Built: 1998-2002. Architects: R. Krier, A.N. Natalini, C. Pelli, M. Graves, S. Soeters, B. Dirrix and P. Drijver a.o.). This district connects the low-rise buildings of the historic centre with the high-rise buildings of the business centre around Central Station. The district, which is also called a city within a city, came into being towards the end of the nineties through the collaboration of ten architects headed by Rob Krier, who made the urban development plan. Office complexes, houses and pedestrian zones are successfully combined in this project. Other features of De Resident are the many underground car parks, high-quality architecture and the use of bricks for the cladding of façades, which gives the district a stately image. The different Greek names in De Resident refer to the classical goddesses of art and science, the Muses.

19 Zurich Tower

Architect: C. Pelli

An immediate eye catcher is Cesar Pelli's Zurich Tower, which is also called the 'lemon squeezer' because of its characteristic hexagonal domed roof. For his striking design, the architect was inspired by the expressive use of bricks of the Amsterdam School, which is particularly noticeable from tilting façade sections in Muzenstraat.

🏠 You are now entering Muzenstraat and the heart of the 'De Resident' area, Muzenplein.

Muzenplein

Architect Natali created a Mediterranean style open oval in the middle of a built up area that exudes an atmosphere of intimacy and seclusion. Newly built apartments ring the oval. Along the streets and squares, you'll find buildings by Italian architect Adolfo Natalini and the Dutch architects Gunnar Daan, Peter Drijver, Bert Dirrix and Thon Karelse.

20 Muzentoren

Architect: R. Krier

The Muzentoren, together with the Orion and Sirius buildings, forms the entrance to the new district of 'De Resident'. The gate function of the Muzentoren is accented by the distinctive use of black brick and the striking corner location. The architect has found a clever solution for the tram route through 'De Resident': he lets trams drive into the Orion building through a gate. This interrupts the symmetry of the two smaller buildings. The streets around the octagonal building evoke the same expectation as the streets around a large church in many a city.

🏠 Follow the road left of the Muzentoren.

You'll pass the statue 'Light and Dark'. The statue consists of two men standing with their backs against each other. They symbolise the contradiction within architect Krier: one figure lets his head hang in dejection and the other proudly stands straight and tall.

🏠 Bear left, crossing the tramway. Walk towards Turfmarkt.

On your left is Wijnhavenkwartier, which will be completely rebuilt. The 'Black Madonna' apartment block (Architect: C.Weber) has already been demolished. The ministries of the Interior and of Justice will meet with the same fate, creating space for two new government buildings, some 500 residences and several city services. The project will take at least ten years to complete.

🏠 On the right, you are passing City Hall. The atrium is accessible.

21 City Hall and Public Library

Built: 1989-1995

Architect: R. Meier

The American architect Meier designed the city hall and public library. It contains offices, the meeting hall of the City Council, a large public library, catering establishments and shops. What is impressive is the 40 metres high registry hall. Some residents jokingly call the building the 'ice palace'. The City Council prefers 'white swan'. Do take the elevator to the eleventh floor, unless you have a fear of heights. The city hall has the largest covered atrium of Europe, with the Wedding Room on the first floor. Different exhibitions are held in the hall.

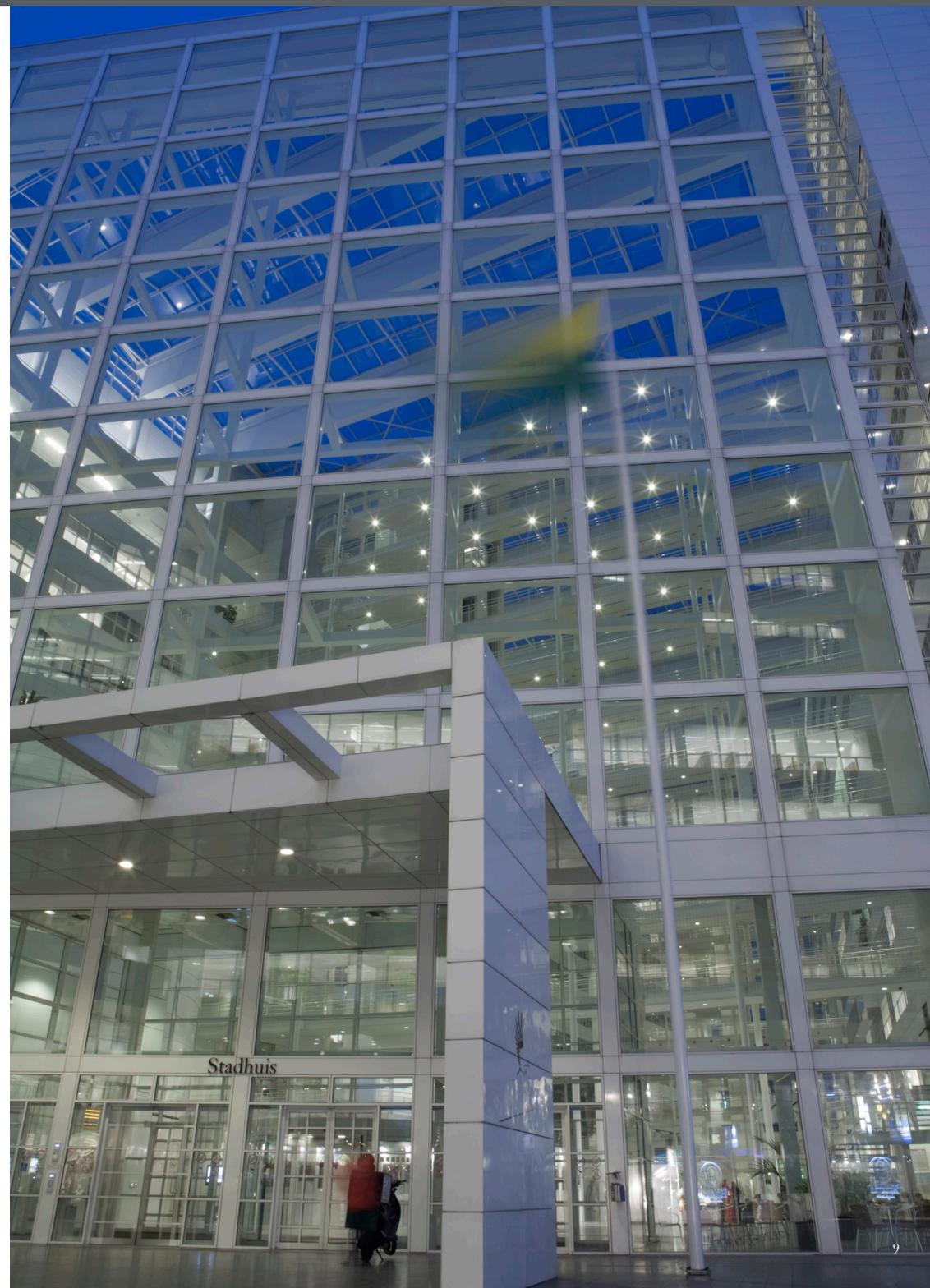
🏠 Leave the Atrium at the Spui side and go left onto Spuiplein, where you will find several theatres.

22 Dr. Anton Philipszaal

Built: 1984-1987

Architect: P.G. Vermeulen

The Dr. Anton Philipszaal on Spuiplein is the home base of the Residentie Orchestra. The construction of the hall meant a new start for this part of the inner city. The concert hall (1,800 seats) rises up from a glass shell containing foyers and offices.



23 Lucent Dance Theatre

Built: 1984-1987

Architect: R. Koolhaas

Lucent Dance Theatre is a design of the internationally celebrated architect Rem Koolhaas. It is a theatre that, as the first in the world, was specifically built for one theatre company, the Netherlands Dance Theatre. What is striking is the undulating roof of the hall and the artwork on the stage tower. The hall accommodates 1.000 persons.

24 Mercure Hotel Den Haag Central

Architect: C. Weber

On Spuiplein, you can see a hotel building by Carel Weber.

In summer, a computer-controlled fountain designed by Peter Struycken rises from the pavement of the square. Opposite Spuiplein, left of the New Church, you can see a theatre complex.

25 Theatre on the Spui

Built: 1986-1993

Architect: H. Herzberger

In this versatile complex, the various functions

are clearly recognisable. At the top are houses; cinema club Haags Filmhuis is located on the left; on the right is a restaurant and in the centre is the entrance to the theatre that features two halls.

26 New Church

In contrast with the modern architecture stands the 17th century Protestant church, the second built in the Netherlands, the first one in The Hague. It is an extraordinary building, because it lacks pillars and the roof rests directly on the side walls. The church is no longer a place of worship, but is used for commercial purposes.

You now go in the direction of Grote Marktstraat. At the right, by the entrance to the tram tunnel is the 'frog with umbrella', a statue by Karel Appel. The tram tunnel is a Rem Koolhaas design. Descend the stairs and you will arrive at the parking deck of the Souterrain. Walk to your right and enjoy the beautiful view of the tram line with wooden floor platforms.

27 Souterrain

In order to achieve better circulation and accessibility of public transport in the city centre of the Hague, the tram tunnel and souterrain were built in 1996. Rem Koolhaas' agency OMA made a gigantic design for nearly a 1.2 kilometre long underground construction containing a tram tunnel, two underground tram stations (Spui and Grote Markt), a car park and pedestrian passageways. You are now at Spui station and from here you have access to the souterrain via various entrances. The platforms are 11 metres long, which means that the longer vehicles of RandstadRail can stop there without problems. In the design, the traveller is central; openings in the street and between the floors of the souterrain ensure that the stations can be seen and illuminated from the street. Spui station has an international poster gallery with various exhibitions. This combination of station and exhibition area is unique in the world. The top two layers of the tram tunnel serve as a car park.

You leave the station via the stairs to the left (exit Grote Marktstraat) and enter Grote Marktstraat.

28 Spuihof

Architect: C. Dam

The Spuihof, with 74 apartments and shops on the ground floor, has a staggering building line on Grote Marktstraat, while on the side of the Spui the façade is shaped in the form of a semicircle.

Walk into Grote Marktstraat. Designed by famed architect Berlage, this street was built at the beginning of the 20th century, linking the old city centre with Prinsegracht.

29 Spuimarkt

A complex with apartments, shops, modernised chain store businesses, a cinema and catering establishments. During demolition work in 2003, the remains of a building from the 14th century were discovered.

30 De Bijenkorf 32

Built: 1923-1926

Architect: P.L. Kramer

Warehouse De Bijenkorf stands out with its façade, in which 'wavy' brickwork and glass strips alternate. This type of architecture is referred to as the Amsterdam School, which, as the name suggests, flourished primarily in the capital city. The sculptures in the façade are by H. Krop, among others. The void, closed off in 1962, was restored in adapted shape in 1995. Of the original interior, only the stairwell made of costly wood sorts and with windows and stained glass, remains.

31 Peek & Cloppenburg 16

Built: 1932

Architects: H.J.W. Thunnissen and J.H. Hendricks

On your left, you see the finely designed shop premises of Peek & Cloppenburg. The building has very beautiful brickwork. The façades were completely restored during a renovation in the seventies; the interior was modernised. Above the entrance, the façade is decorated with sculptures by P. Biesiot.

Walk straight ahead.

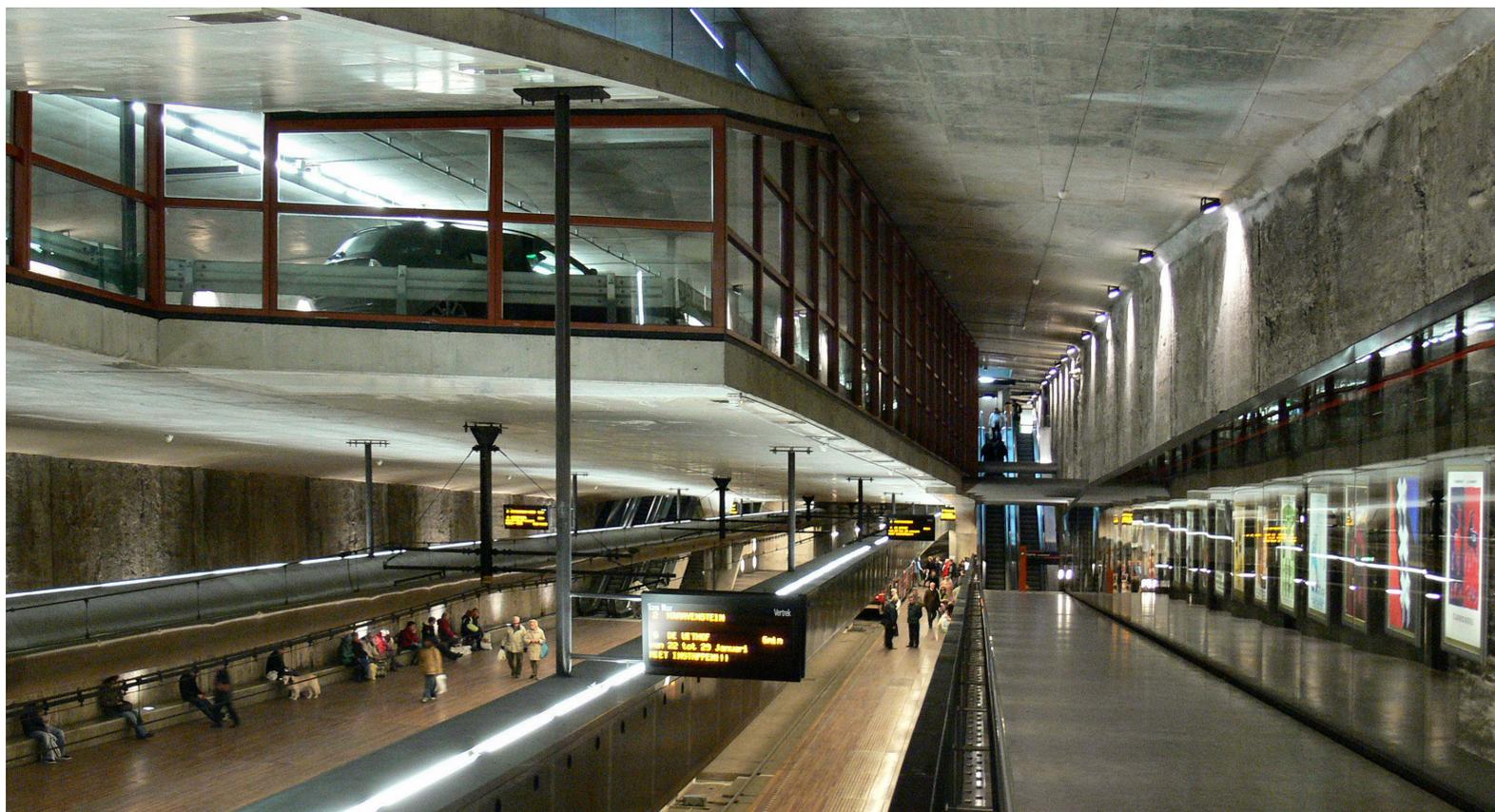
At no. 14, you see the old town farm, which was built around 1700. The inner courtyard was discovered during the construction of Grote Marktstraat at the beginning of the 20th century.

32 De Volharding 22 24

Built: 1927

Architects: J.W.E. Buijs and J.B. Lürsen

This striking building is a highlight of architecture in the Netherlands between 1850 and 1940. It was



built for the socialist co-operative 'De Volharding', but it now houses an office. The architecture is a synthesis of De Stijl, Cubism and New Realism. The light boxes between the windows can be used for advertising.

33 Lutheran Church 11 7 9

Built: 1754

Architect: P. de Swart

Lutherse Burgwal is named after the Lutheran Church, a building in classical style. This national monument has a monumental brick façade with high round arch windows. A richly decorated central bay ends with a tympan. On the roof you see swans, which are a symbol of the religious denomination of the church.

You are now approaching Grote Markt, a square with many cafes and terraces that plays an important role in The Hague's nightlife.

Grote Markt

This is the location of the second tram station, where once the 14th century Elizabeth Covenant stood. Remnants of this convent were discovered during construction of the tunnel. Many articles and clothes from this rich historical treasure trove were incorporated in the wooden floor of the northern platform. The Prinsegracht used to connect the old city with the Westland region. Via this canal, vegetables, fruit and cheese were transported. The canal was filled in at the beginning of the 20th century to accommodate the growing needs of traffic. The Grote Markt station entrance is a humorous detail by architect Rem Koolhaas, raising the souterrain and lowering the square. The lens-shaped opening allows daylight to reach the platforms. The subterranean bridges or 'passarelles' offer a good view of the platforms, revealing the medieval excavations.

34 Butter Weighing House 11 1

Built: 1650

The Butter Weighing House consisted of two buildings: the Weighing House and the Butter House. Butter was weighed in the Weighing House, after which it was sold in the adjacent Butter House.

You are now leaving Grote Markt and turning right into Vlamingsstraat. After passing no. 17, turn left and enter Haagsche Bluf shopping centre. The square contains two replicas of famous Jugendstil buildings. Except for no. 51, all the premises on the square are actually replicas. When leaving the area, you enter Dagerlijkse Groenmarkt. Turn right and pass The Hague's oldest inn.

35 't Goude Hoofd Inn 11 13

Since the Middle Ages, the 't Goude Hoofd Inn has been situated on this spot. In the middle of the 17th century, the inn was replaced by a new building, probably according to a design by P. Post. The rebuilding in 1938 (Architect: F.A. Warners) occurred in about the same design and gives a good idea of the way restoration was looked upon at that time. The interior in the style of the Delft School has been well preserved.

36 Maison de Bonneterie 11 2

Architect: A. Jacot

The building of Maison de Bonneterie is a good example of how warehouses were built at the beginning of the 20th century in many European cities. With pilaster-like wall piers between the windows and the façades clad with stone, the building represents an architectonic movement that arose as a reaction to the innovations of H.P. Berlage, among others. The interior is dominated by a light shaft, surrounded by galleries and crowned by a stained glass dome.

37 Passage 11

Built: 1882-1885

Architects: H. Wesstra jr., J.C. van Wijk and J. Duynstee

On your right, you pass the main entrance of the Passage, the last example of this type of shopping arcade in the Netherlands. This is the most monumental entrance of the Passage. The many pillars and the high roof are particularly striking. Arcades were popular in large European and American cities in the second half of the 19th century. In one of the halls above the entrance, the first retrospective exhibition of works by Vincent Van Gogh was held in 1892, two years after his death. The wing leading to Hofweg was built in 1928 in expressionist style. The two other wings in Neo-Renaissance style leading to Spuistraat and the Buitenhof date from 1882.

38 Pathé Buitenhof 20

Built: 1904

Architect: J. Mutters jr.

Built as a hall complex for the now demolished hotel De Twee Steden on Hofweg, the Art Nouveau building at no. 20 later housed cinema Cineac, Tuschinski and now Pathé. During a recent large-scale alteration, the façade has been beautifully restored.

39 Berlage kiosk

Architect H.P. Berlage created a new design of Buitenhof in the twenties. He filled in a section of the Hofvijver pond for traffic and designed the



kiosk (1924) in the centre of the square where originally flowers and newspapers were sold. Under the trees on Buitenhof there are striking benches by designer Piet Zwart, who together with Piet Mondriaan and Theo van Doesburg, among others, belonged to the artists of the De Stijl group.

You now walk back to Dagerlijkse Groenmarkt, where a number of striking shops from the early 20th century can be found.

At no. 22, on the corner of Venestraat, a high building in the Berlage style catches the eye. It was originally the head office of the Dutch railways. (Built: 1910. Architects: L.C. Westerhoff and J.G. Wattjes). Numbers 33 and 25 are both Jugendstil houses with a lot of glass (Built: 1906-1910, Architect: L.A.H. de Wolf). At the right, a new shopping centre has emerged, designed by English architect John Outram, known locally as the 'candy box' because of its unusual colours.

40 Old Town Hall 1

Built in the 16th century on the cellars of the medieval Hof van Brederode where the village hall was founded around 1450, this is one of the first examples of the Renaissance style in the north of the Netherlands. The building has rich interiors from the time of construction in the 16th and 17th century section, which was designed by D. Marot.

The richly decorated façade contains the motto: 'Ne Jupiter Quidem Omnibus' (Even Jupiter can not please everybody). Above the centre of the façade are sculptures that represent 'Justice and Prudence'. You can also see the coat of arms of The Hague with the stork and a Latin saying, which loosely translated means 'wise men learn by other men's mistakes, fools by their own'. The complex was restored (1968-1975) and extended with a new council chamber, which has now been demolished.

41 Big or St. Jacob's Church 11 12

This church, originally Catholic, stems from the 14th century. After a fire in 1539, the church was completely restored. In the 19th and 20th century, the church underwent various restorations, the last of which was in 1986-1987, when the church was also adapted for multifunctional use. In 1956, the tower got a wooden crowning as a replacement of a neo-Gothic cast-iron spire. This was inspired by the original tower dating from 1539. The construction consists of three strongly contrasting sections: the tower, unusual because of its hexagonal shape, the nave marked by a series of gables and the upper choir with its railing and turret on the roof. The church contains many valuable works of art, including a Renaissance pulpit (1550), the escutcheons of Philip the Good, two stained glass windows attributed to Dirk Crabeth (16th century), on the presbytery the canopy grave of Admiral Jacob van

Wassenaer-Obdam (1667) and the Jan de Bakker (the first Protestant martyr) window by Max Nauta dating from 1929. The carillon was cast by Melchior de Haze in Antwerp in 1686 and extended by Eijsbouts in Asten in 1956. Of the three chime bells, the heavy Jhesus bell, weighing 6,500 kilos, was cast by the Moer brothers in 1541.

42 Hof ter Hage

Built: 1955

Architect: G. Friedhoff

The large apartment complex Hof ter Hage originally housed a large telephone exchange, next to the main post office. It is a fine example of austere but excellent government architecture from the fifties. Dutch postal service PTT, now TNT Post, sold the largest part of the building, after which it was rebuilt in 1998 into an apartment complex.

43 Kantoorgebouw Berlage

Built: 1895

Architect: H.P. Berlage

The tower and the robust appearance make this building look like a Florentine palazzo. The copious use of visible brickwork and of sculptures, placed at important spots on the building, was very modern at the time. The office building was erected by order of insurance company 'De Nederlanden van 1845', for whom Berlage would build an even larger office building on Raamweg in 1927.

Walk along the office building and pause for a minute at the Drie Hoekjes. The passage provides access to Prinsstraat. You are entering Oude Molstraat.

44 Old Men's Home

The sober brick façade of the former Old Men's Home displays the coats of arms of the founder Jacob Frederik van Beieren van Schagen above the entrance. From his legacy, an old men's house could be founded 1772. The Governor's Room has splendidly painted wallpaper.

Adjacent to the Old Men's Home, you will find the Willebrordus Chapel from 1928 by architect J. Duijnste in the Delft School style. On the first floor of no. 35, there is a chapel which was used in secret in the 17th century. Even today, a narrow alleyway links the house to Noordeinde, providing inconspicuous access.

The stately patricians' house at no. 32 dates from the 16th century and got its current Louis XIV style façade in 1747. At no. 34, the former Roman Catholic teacher's college was housed. The Oude Molstraat is one of The Hague's oldest streets, with

houses boasting façades from the 19th century to as far back as the 5th century, especially on the even-numbered side of the street. Several houses here were restored in 1980.

45 Old Catholic Church (Conventicle)

Built: 1720

Architect: D. Marot

Hidden between the houses in Juffrouw Idastraat and Molenstraat is the Conventicle. The church has a rich stucco interior in Louis XIV style with furniture of excellent quality, a high altar with altar stone by M. Terwesten, and pulpit and communion rails by J.B. Xavery. The side window above the door at no. 7 – the former house of the priest – displays an image of St. Augustine.

At the end of Oude Molstraat, turn right into Molenstraat. Here you will pass Koningspoort, which used to provide access to the back of Noordeinde Palace.

46 Walloon Church

Built: 1808

Diagonally across from Noordeinde 66, you see the Walloon Church. This simple neo-classical church was built with a donation from Louis Napoleon and is primarily known for its impressive organ, designed by the French-man Cavallé-Coll in 1885. At the left corner of the façade, you see a foundation stone.

47 Noordeinde

To the left of Noordeinde Palace is the former private dwelling of prince royal Willem-Alexander. He lived here from 1995 until his marriage with princess Máxima. The house dates from 1757 and is built on the foundations of an old dwelling from the 16th century. The house can be reached through the inside from Noordeinde Palace. On both sides of the staircase is the monogram of the Prince.

48 Noordeinde Palace

The palace, formerly called 'The Old Court', originated through the alteration and extension of a 16th century house that the States of Holland rented in 1591 for Louise de Coligny, the widow of William of Orange, and her children. In 1609, the States presented it as a gift to Frederik Hendrik and his mother. The large alteration of 1640 occurred by order of Frederik Hendrik; the architects were J. van Campen and P. Post. Until the French era, the palace served as one of the residences of the Stadholders. In 1813, after the inauguration of Willem I as king of the Netherlands, a start was made with the large alteration and extension of



the rear after designs of architects Ziesenis and de Greef. After the complex had been used for other purposes for over 30 years since World War II, the palace underwent a major restoration and Queen Beatrix chose to use it as a place of work and reception. Noordeinde Palace is a fine example of 17th century classical Baroque. The gate between both jutting side wings was added during the restoration. The equestrian statue of Prince William of Orange in front of the gate dates from 1845.

49 Gothic Hall 🏰 1

Built: 1840-1842

On your left is the Gothic Hall, designed by King Willem II. In his youth, the King had studied in Oxford and, at that time, acquired an interest in English Gothic architecture. After ascending the throne, he had several buildings in this style erected on Nassaulaan behind Kneuterdijk Palace on Noordeinde. The Gothic Hall was used for the exhibition of his collection of paintings. The hall is connected by means of a low wing to Kneuterdijk Palace, where he lived. The Gothic Hall has a beautiful wooden covering, inspired by roof constructions of the English Gothic period. The romantic organ by J. Bätz dating from 1842, which was removed from the hall in 1855, returned in 1990 after a restoration. The complex is currently used by the Council of State.

On the square between the Gothic Hall and Noordeinde Palace stands an old horse chestnut, where a stamp market was held every Wednesday afternoon. In 1987, the bronze-cast statue of Queen Wilhelmina, made by sculptress Baroness Ch. van Pallandt, was erected on this square.

🏰 You now return via Noordeinde and walk to Kneuterdijk via Heulstraat.

50 Council of State 🏰 3

Built: 1716

Architect: D. Marot

In front of you, on the corner, you see the former Kneuterdijk Palace. This dwelling in Louis XIV style was built for Johan Hendrik, Earl of Wassenaer-Obdam. In the first half of the 19th century it served as palace for King Willem II and in the 20th century as palace for Princess Juliana. After a thorough restoration, the former Kneuterdijk Palace is now used by the Council of State.

🏰 Turn left onto Parkstraat.

51 St. Jacobus Church 🏰 65a

Built: 1875-1878

Architect: P.J.H. Cuypers

Further down in Parkstraat, you will find the St. Jacobus Church. The tower of this neo-Gothic church is over 90 metres high. The interior with its wealth of altars, sculptures and stained glass windows is one of the best preserved from the neo-Gothic period in the Netherlands. The St. Jacobus Church is one of the three Catholic churches that were built after the Catholic hierarchy was restored to honour in the 19th century.

52 Rusthof 🏰 41 61

Built: 1841-1870

Behind the block of houses lies the Rusthof, one of the almshouses that The Hague has in abundance. The entrance is next to no. 65. It is a well-preserved almshouse that was founded by Elisabeth Groen van Prinsterer-Van der Hoop, wife of the well-known anti-revolutionary statesman. The almshouse was occupied by unmarried maid servants of the Reformed faith and irreproachable conduct.

🏰 Return to Kneuterdijk and turn left onto Lange Voorhout.

Lange Voorhout

This L-shaped lane between Kneuterdijk and Tournoiveld was originally part of the Earl's domain. In 1536, Emperor Karel V ordered lime trees to be planted there. From the 16th century onwards, the stately homes of noblemen and high ranking government officials were built here. Much of what remains today was built in the 18th century. On Prince's Day, the royal Golden Carriage passes here on its way from Noordeinde Palace to Binnenhof. From June to September each year, Lange Voorhout is the location of a large sculpture exhibition organised by Den Haag Sculptuur.

🏰 On Lange Voorhout, you will pass:

53 Monastery Church 🏰 4

Characteristic of this only hall church dating from approximately 1400 are the high gables at the front of the side aisles, in imitation of the Large Church. The interior has wooden barrow vaults. The name Monastery Church recalls the medieval Dominican Monastery, for which this place of worship was the church. After the Reformation, the Cannon Foundry was established in the choir section. In 1617, the Contra-Remonstrants began using the other section of the church. Since 1942, Reformed Duinoord Community worships here. The church has an 'Apostle window' by Lou

Asperslagh, a mosaic of 'The last supper' by Thorn Prikker, both from the Duinoord Church church demolished in 1842, and a Marcussen organ.

54 Pages' House 🏰 6

Built: 1618

The Pages' House has one of The Hague's few remaining 17th century stepped gables. The house originally served as a private dwelling for the master gun caster of the Cannon Foundry, which was located in the choir of the Monastery Church. From 1748, pages of the Stadholder's Court, later the Royal Court, lived here and since 1867 the house is used by the Red Cross. Next to the Pages' House behind the gate is the 15th century wall that was once part of a monastery that was demolished in the 16th century. The remains were discovered during the construction of the new building of the General Chamber of Accounts.

55 General Chamber of Accounts 🏰 8

In this building the General Chamber of Accounts has been located since 1867. It is the High Council of State that checks the finances of the country. The relieving arches above the windows and the ornamental anchors reveal the early 17th century origin of the façade. The wooden cornice dates from the 18th century. Behind the building, the new development of the General Chamber of Accounts was erected on the corner of Kazernestraat and Kleine Kazernestraat between 1992 and 1997 by the architects A. van Eyck and H. van Eyck. This married couple designed a striking office wing that dovetails with the old building of the General Chamber of Accounts on Lange Voorhout. The organic shape of the building and the blue tiles covering the façades are particularly interesting.



56 Diligentia Theatre 5

Built: 1805

In 1793, the Diligentia Society was established as a 'Society for the Practice of Experimental Physics'. After it had been decided to give concerts there in addition to lectures, the current Diligentia Theatre was built on Lange Voorhout. The building has a plastered façade in Empire Style crowned by a curved fronton. In 1848, 'Concert Diligentia' was founded. After a thorough restoration, the theatre opened its doors again in January 2004.

57 Pulchri Studio 15

Since 1900, The Hague artist society Pulchri Studio is located here. In that year, the building, which got its current appearance through a renovation in 1758, was extended with exhibition halls at the rear. The beautiful Louis XIV hall with stucco work in Rococo style dates from 1758. The Pulchri Studio Society was established in 1847. Famous painters of the Haagse School, including Israëls, Weissenbruch, Mesdag and the Maris brothers, were members of this society.

At no. 32^a, you will find the narrowest house in The Hague. Tax was once levied on the width of the windows. Apparently, somebody of modest means keen on living in a sought after area had this small house built. It is currently part of the Supreme Court of the Netherlands.

58 Supreme Court of the Netherlands 34

Built: 1734

Architect: P. de Swart

The building where the Supreme Court of the Netherlands is located, is one of the finest aristocratic dwellings in Louis XIV style in the Netherlands. The building consisted of an entrance with two windows on each side. The side wings dating from 1760 are also by P. de Swart in the same style. From 1813, when King Willem I returned from exile, the building served as a palace for several years, because Noordeinde palace was being altered. From 1819 until 1982, the Royal Library was located here. At the rear, in Kazernestraat, stand the statues of all the lawyers in Dutch history.

 Walk straight ahead.

59 Hotel Des Indes 54 56

Built: 1858

Architect: A. Roodenburg

On the corner of Vos in Tuinstraat, you see the ancient Hotel Des Indes, which after a thorough restoration in the autumn of 2005 opened its doors again. It was built as the residence of Baron van

Brienen. Since 1881, the building is a hotel. In the fronton you can see the coat of arms of Batavia. The vestibule stairs and the large foyer got their current appearance through a restoration in 1902. Before that, carriages could drive inside via a 'porte-cochere'. At the current location of the foyer, there was an inner court yard where the carriages could turn. The bar was a stable. In the past, the hotel had a special link with the Dutch East Indies, because many soldiers on furlough found temporary accommodation here. Hotel Des Indes has accommodated numerous royalty, Dutch and foreign statesmen and artists of international fame.

Denneweg

You can take a look at the pleasant Denneweg. In the Middle Ages, this street was an arterial road to Scheveningen and has a character that is determined by 18th and 19th century façades. On Denneweg, you will find many shops, antique shops and restaurants. Particularly striking is the Art Nouveau building at no. 56 (Architect: J.W. Bosboom) with the façade in cast-iron and glass architecture. Jugendstil was used frequently in the second half of the 19th century. The crowning iron façade designed in Art Nouveau shows a crown that indicates the inauguration of Queen Wilhelmina in 1898.

60 Escher at The Palace 74

Built: 1760-1764

Architect: P. de Swart

This building with the golden balcony was built as residence of Anthony Patras, delegate of Friesland to the States General. Napoleon spent a night here in 1811 when he visited his brother Louis Napoleon, King of Holland. In 1845, the building came into the possession of the Royal House. From 1901 until her death in 1934, Queen-Mother Emma lived in this building. Since that time it is known as Lange Voorhout Palace. In 1990, the municipality of The Hague purchased it, after which the building was given a renovation in 1991-1992. Currently, the former palace is a permanent museum for the works of artist M.C. Escher.

 Walking from Escher at The Palace, you will pass  The Hague's smallest house at no. 80.

At the house at no. 92, the 'Haagse hopje' has been developed towards the end of the 18th century. Baron Hop lived above the business of a sugar baker and his addiction to coffee led to the development of this typical The Hague candy.



61 Embassy of the United States of America 102

Architect: M. Breuer

On the corner of Lange Voorhout and Korte Voorhout, the Embassy of the United States of America is housed. During the bombardment on 3 March 1945, all the buildings on Korte Voorhout, with the exception of the Royal Theatre, were destroyed. On the corner with Lange Voorhout, the American architect built this embassy at the end of the fifties.

 Cross Lange Voorhout.

62 Royal Theatre 3

Built: 1766-1774

Architect: P. de Swart

The front section of the Royal Theatre with the curved façade is merely a part of the large palace that was never completed. In 1804, the building was made into a theatre, for which a hall was built in the rear, which got its current appearance in 1863. In 1991-1992, a restoration took place. During this restoration (*Architect: Sol DeWitt*), the hall was given modern entrance doors and a new box office was built against the side façade.



On your way to Lange Vijverberg you will pass the former St. Joris Doelen at no. 5, dating from the 17th century. The facing brick in the 18th century facade depicts St. George and the dragon. It dates from 1625. At the right, a small octagonal tower protrudes. It was part of the original 17th century Doelen building.

63 The Hague Historical Museum

Built: 1636

Architect: A. van 's-Gravesande

On the corner of Tournooiveld and Korte Vijverberg, you see the building of the former St. Sebastiaansdoelen, where the The Hague Historical Museum is located. The corner building, decorated by Ionian pilasters and with a fronton topping the middle section, was built for the archers of St. Sebastian. It is a fine example of the classical Baroque. The museum acquaints you with the history of The Hague and its residents throughout the centuries.

This corner offers one of The Netherlands' most beautiful city views. On the left, you see the Mauritshuis Royal Cabinet of Paintings with the adjacent 'Torentje', which houses the Dutch Prime Minister's office. On the other side stands the Gevangenpoort Museum with the spire of the St. Jacobs Church, also known as the Big Church, visible in the background.

  Now cross Tournooiveld towards Hofvijver. You will arrive at the beginning of Lange Vijverberg.

Today's Hofvijver adjacent to Binnenhof probably originated as a small dune lake. In the 14th century it was enlarged, and the soil used to build Lange Vijverberg. The houses along Lange Vijverberg date mostly from the 18th century.

64 Schuylenburch House

Built: 1715

Architect: D. Marot

On the other side of the road, you see the impressive Schuylenburch House with its stone façade in the Dutch Baroque style. The house now serves as the residence of the German ambassador.

65 Bredius Museum

Built: 1756

Architect: P. de Swart

This former mansion is the left section of three prominent houses that were originally built as one. After a thorough restoration, the collection of paintings of Abraham Bredius was housed in the fine Rococo interiors. Apart from works by Rembrandt, Cuyp and Van der Neer, works by less well-known masters are also exhibited.



Walking alongside the Hofvijver, you will come upon the bronze statue of a sitting man, depicting lands advocate and council pensionary Johan van Oldebarneveld. He was beheaded in 1609 at Binnenhof. The statue is by L. van Wenkebach, made in 1954. Close to Tournooiveld, a bronze statue of The Hague Jantje can be found. Jantje, alleged to be the son of Count Floris V, died at age 15 in 1299. The statue is from 1980 by Ivo Coljé.

  You turn right and reach Korte Vijverberg, dating back to 1636.

66 Cabinet of the Queen

Built: 1633

This building on Korte Vijverberg was built in 1633 and it was raised and its interior altered in 1724. In the 19th century, the anti-revolutionary statesman Groen van Prinsterer lived here. The Cabinet of the Queen is now housed in this building. Opposite this house, an ashlar compass rose with an arrow pointing north is visible in the pavement. It probably dates from the 17th century.

  You are now back at Plein, where this walk ends. From here, you can go shopping or visit one of the many museums.

Further information about this and other walks is available at:

The Hague Tourist Information Office/Ticketshop
Hofweg 1 (across Binnenhof)
2511 AA The Hague

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