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Anneke Bokern

## **Architectural Guide Rotterdam**

Rotterdam is the Netherlands' most dynamic city, innovative, creative, welcoming the world - and a little bit rough around the edges. The first impression one gets during a visit is the large number of high-rise buildings, which explains the moniker "Manhattan on the Maas". The citizens of Rotterdam call it the capital of architecture. But as the *Architectural Guide Rotterdam* shows, the second largest city in the Netherlands has much more to offer than just glossy prestige projects.

In this guide the author Anneke Bokern presents a selection of more than 150 buildings from Rotterdam, ranging from the few remains left from the Golden Age in the 17th century, to modern classics and finally contemporary projects. She introduces the reader to famous highlights as well as lesser-known interventions such as the small houses that can be found on infill sites or bottom-up initiatives. Six tours lead through different parts of the city - ideal for discovering the city by bicycle.

In addition to an introduction on the historical urban development of the city, the architectural guide also includes a chapter on its most momentous event in recent history: the bombing of Rotterdam during the Second World War and the complete destruction of the city centre. It was subsequently rebuilt and reinvented itself. Today the city - which is home to Europe's largest port - has the highest density of architectural experiments from anywhere in the Netherlands. It is therefore no wonder, that the city is now home to a thriving architecture scene which includes such famous bureaus as OMA or MVRDV. An interview with the renowned Rotterdam-based architect Kees Christiaanse provides insights into recent developments from an insider's point of view.



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The Architectural Guides by DOM publishers are handy travel companions for readers interested in architecture and culture. Projects are carefully selected and researched to make each individual book a ready work of reference, while background information and attractive design inspire armchair travellers to imaginary journeys. In 2014, the series was awarded with the „Iconic Award“ by the German Design Council, in 2016 with the „German Design Award Special“ and in 2017 it received the ITB Book Award.  
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