



City walk along modern architecture on the IJ

Distance; 8 km

This walk will take you through the former harbour area which is now a residential area with highly acclaimed architecture.

Amsterdam has always been an important city for architecture. In the nineties, the redevelopment of the banks of the river IJ gave Amsterdam new opportunities for architecture. The first area to emerge out of nothing was the Eastern Docklands (Oostelijk Havengebied). It became an interesting neighborhood in terms of both urban development and architecture, attracting many architecture enthusiasts from The Netherlands and abroad from the 90's onwards.

Start: Tram stop Rietlandpark - tram line 26 from Amsterdam Central Station (direction IJburg)

Finish: Amsterdam Central Station



Python bridge

After the square, turn left onto the quay. On your right hand side you will see the white residential complex Venice on the KNSM island. You will also see the high red bridge that we have to go over.



The Whale

After the bridge, turn right and then immediately left onto the Tegelbergplein. Walk over the boulders along the work of art by Mark Manders.

Walk onto the Ertskade and then turn left, this part is also called Ertskade. At the end turn left and then immediately right onto the J.F. van Hengelstraat. Walk to the large grey residential building.



IJ-tower

Straight ahead you will see the IJ-Tower.

  **Piraeus**

Walk past the IJ-tower, and after hundred meters after The Whale, turn right onto the connecting dam. Walk onto the bridge part of the Connection dam. In the distance you will see on your left side the Jan Schaefer Bridge, built in 2001 by Ton Verhoeven. When you look to the right you will see the brown housing complex Piraeus.

  **Barcelona**

After the bridge, turn right before café de Zuid. You are now on the KNSM island. On the Levant quay take the first street on the right and then turn left. The quay runs along Piraeus. After this you will see the former canteen building of the KNSM, dating from 1960. It was squatted by artists who called the building Edelweiss. Later it was converted by CASA architects into studio apartments. The next apartment building is Barcelona. Walk until the big fence.

  **Brantas canal**

Turn left onto the courtyard and from here you walk through the underpass. Directly on the opposite you see a large red brick residential complex designed by the architects Paul and Frank Wintermans. The four separate buildings in the complex are named after former cargo boats of the KNSM, which in turn owed their name to ancient Greeks: Diogenes, Archimedes, Pericles and Socrates. They are often called the Greek philosophers' flats. Not rightly so, because Archimedes was a mathematician and physicist, and Pericles a statesman and general.

Turn left onto the KNSM-laan. Past the 'philosopher's flats' stands the somewhat gloomy looking 'Skydome' by Wiel Arets (1996). It is also popularly known as 'The Black Widow'. The balconies are integrated in the flat and therefore fit well together. Opposite the flat is the north facade of 'Piraeus'. Remarkable is the glass wall that covers a number of corridors.

Walk all the way down the KNSM-laan and cross the tram track to the footpath. You are now on the Java island with the only old construction of the Java island in front of you. The SHB building (Collaborating Port Companies) dates from 1918 and has been squatted in the past. In 1992 the building was reconstructed by Casa Architects.

Continue walking straight ahead on the footpath and enter the Bogortuin until after the SHB-building and walk right onto the footpath. Across the water you'll see the fully built Eastern trading quay (Oostelijke Handelskade) with, on your left, with the turret, the Lloyd Hotel.

Walk along the basketball court to the first canal. Once there, cross the little bridge of the Belgian artist couple Guy Rombouts and Monika Droste. They made nine bridges for the Java island. The shapes are based on their own form alphabet, the AZ-art, which produces a different word for each bridge.

Turn left after the small bridge. On the other side of the canal you will see a number of houses in different colors on both sides.

The building on house number 7 has a rather deviating copper facade.

The house at number 15, with its lifting beam, has gained inspiration from an old Amsterdam warehouse.

Turn right towards the Javakade. At numbers 2-32 you will see the houses of architect Joke Vos. You will walk past two other almost identical blocks. Only their color differs and the construction of the facade is slightly different. You will pass the Majanggracht. You walk past the Lamonggracht and end up on the Brantasgracht.

  **Jan Schaefer bridge**

Turn right on the right side. Pay special attention to the pairs on numbers 11 and 14 by Dana Ponec, and 13 and 16 with their striking facades by Jos van Eldonk. Turn left across the small bridge and take a left onto the even side. You will return to the Javakade where you turn right. Walk until the bridge.

  **Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ (Music building on the IJ)**

At the bridge, take the left entrance. Just before warehouse de Zwijger turn left to go down the bridge on the quay. Turn right onto the Piet Heinkade. After the Jollemahof, turn left towards the Vriesseveem and then turn right onto the Piet Heinkade. Keep right at the fork in the road! You will pass the Passenger Terminal, by the London architectural firm HOK, and the Mövenpick Hotel, by Claus and Kaan. Here you have a view of the Bimhuis which is part of the Music building on the IJ.

Take the stairs on the opposite of the Mövenpick hotel towards the Piet Heinkade and then turn right.

From here you walk back to Central Station.