

Opening soon: De Stijl voorbij. Gerrit Rietveld en de jaren vijftig. (Beyond The Stijl. Gerrit Rietveld and the 1950s).

Exhibition in the Rietveld Pavilion

September 16th 2017 until January 8th 2018

The characteristic Rietveld Pavilion in Amersfoort will be the setting of the exhibition 'De Stijl voorbij. Gerrit Rietveld en de jaren vijftig.' (Beyond The Stijl. Gerrit Rietveld and the 1950s) that is initiated by FASadE, the Centre for Architecture in Amersfoort. The exhibition is part of the nationally celebrated *Mondrian to Dutch Design*, a theme that shines a light on De Stijl's 100th anniversary. The Rietveld Pavilion is a true icon in The Netherlands, being the first art hall in the country. The focus of the exhibition is on the turbulent, post-war nineteen-fifties.

The nineteen-fifties of the twentieth century were crucial years in the life and work of Gerrit Rietveld. After a period of a slight decrease in commissions, a new recognition was achieved on a national and international level. This change was initiated by the exhibition of De Stijl in the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam in 1951, to which Rietveld was invited to participate. The exhibition was a great success and made its way to Venice and New York. One of the responses to the successful exhibition was an increase in commissions for public spaces from national and international patrons, and resulted in a new appreciation of Rietveld as architect and designer.

The exhibition *De Stijl voorbij. Gerrit Rietveld en de jaren vijftig.* manages to recreate the atmosphere of the fifties as well as the important part Rietveld played in it. Designs that Rietveld made in this decade are at the epicenter of the exhibition: the three pavilions (the Rietveld Pavilion in Amersfoort, Venice and Sonsbeek), the Amersfoort chair and other designs. The Zeitgeist is full of innovation but shows tension as well. The working class of the Netherlands were to be re-educated in common taste based on the principles of architecture and interior design of the so-called Goed Wonen-movement (translated as 'Living Well'). In 1950 the successful exhibition *Schoonheid in Huis en Hof* (Beauty in Home and Yard) took place in Amersfoort, with Rietveld as its curator. The exhibition drew a large number of visitors from all over the world.

The exhibition *De Stijl voorbij. Gerrit Rietveld en de jaren vijftig.* will focus on the history of the development of the Rietveld Pavilion in Amersfoort, and will place it in the context of its decade and of the two other pavilions that were realised. The Unesco Press Room in Paris was also designed by Rietveld, and an authentic part of it can be seen in the exhibition.

Rietveld Pavilion

The pavilion built in 1959 is one of the most important later works of architect Gerrit Rietveld. It is a respectable example of the functionalist architecture of the Interbellum, known in the Netherlands as Nieuwe Zakelijkheid (*Neue Sachlichkeit*). With its sober, almost Spartan, characteristics the Rietveld Pavilion distinguishes itself internationally by its spatial qualities. Rietveld designed the building in 1959 as an exhibition space to celebrate the 700th anniversary of the city Amersfoort, which showed huge changes into the era of modernity. For over fifty years the Rietveld Pavilion functioned as a center for modern art in Amersfoort, with many (inter)national exhibitions. After a period of uncertainty about its future all eyes are yet again turned to the pavilion in Amersfoort. The pavilion is being renovated to bring it back to its original state, so that which the authentic look of the interior are restored.



Interior Rietveld Pavilion in Amersfoort. Photo: Jan Versnel

100 years De Stijl

In 2017 the 100th anniversary of De Stijl is celebrated nationally in the Netherlands with the title *Mondriaan to Dutch Design*. Several museums and cultural organizations have initiated exhibitions and special programs to fit this theme in art and architecture. Gerrit Rietveld was one of the frontmen of De Stijl-movement.

About FASadE

FASadE, the Forum for Architecture and Urbanization in Amersfoort, provides a strong and broad programme for its audience in which architecture and urbanization are its main focus. It offers a platform for inspiration, an exchange of ideas and is a great place to network. FASadE also organises lectures on miscellaneous topics, exhibitions, excursions and guided tours, and has frequently publishes booklets.

Visitor information

Exhibition location: Rietveld Pavilion, Zonnehof 8, 3811 ND Amersfoort, The Netherlands

Exhibition period: September 16th 2017 until January 8th 2018

Opening hours: daily 11:00 - 17:00 hrs. Closed on Mondays

Tickets: € 8,-

Website: www.rietveldpaviljoen.nl

The ground floor of the exhibition is accessible for wheelchairs, the first floor is not.