

Furore-blok A, Amsterdam

The combined volume of three buildings form the Furore complex which in its entirety is reminiscent of the closed building blocks of the area. Yet the buildings also retain characteristics of autonomous structures and even display the traits of linear urban planning from the 1920's. This double character has led the architects of Blok A to design a massive structure that relates well to the smaller buildings that surround it. The five-meter high base that decorates Blok A at the ground level emanates a solidity that is typical of an autonomous building. Yet in the execution of the design there is refinement expressed in the juxtaposition of clear and rough melted glass. The upper section of this base serves as a balustrade for the French balconies of the first floor residences. Both building units, which stand on the shared base, resemble independent lines but they are connected by walkways and a glass sound screen erected to deflect traffic noise. The brick surface of the two buildings is graced by the rhythm of vertical fenestration and square openings cut into the facade where it continues up to form a high roof ridge. The rhythm is enriched by accents in the form of 'flower frames'; large windows which are shielded from the traffic noise by sliding glass panes set flush to the masonry. The fact that the facade openings form an oblique rather frontal composition enlivens the face of this complex.

Four commercial spaces and three office- residence units are situated on the ground floor level of Blok A. This is topped by seven floors of owner-occupied residences and rent-controlled units. The two types of residences are interspersed evenly through out the complex. Finally two levels of underground parking have been realised in the basement.

The main stairwell forms a single undivided light-flooded space that stretches from the lowest level of the basement up to the sixth floor. Access to the residences on the first floor is provided via the spacious terraces. The other residences are accessed via the walkways and galleries situated on the north side of the complex.

Thus the inner heart of Amsterdam is enriched with a notable building that beautifully stands in harmony with the surrounding nineteenth century architecture although it is in fact a massive apartment complex.

Satoko Hirokawa, T + T text and translations

Colophon

Client: Stadgenoot www.stadgenoot.nl

Project developer: Kristal projectontwikkeling www.kristal.org

Design: Kruunenberg Van der Erve Architecten, Amsterdam www.2xU.nl

Collaborators: Esther Edelmann, Margriet van Amersfoort, Moritz Bernouilly, Peter Nagtzaam, Wanda de Vries, Unger Beerends

Urban design, supervisor and designer of basement parking facility: Crepain Binst Architecture nv, Antwerpen www.crepainbinst.be

Construction advisor: DHV Bouw en Industrie, Den Haag www.dhv.nl

Physics advisor: Cauberg-Huygen, Amsterdam www.chri.nl

Installation advisor: Linssen, Amsterdam www.ibl.nl

Infrastructure and terrain advisor: Advin West bv, Hoofddorp www.advin.nl

Construction costs advisor: Inbo, Woudenberg www.inbo.com

Building site supervisor: Centraal Bureau Bouwtoezicht, Arnhem www.cbarnhem.nl

General contractor: Ballast Nedam Bouw Midden, Nieuwegein www.ballast-nedam.nl

Installations: Klimax Installatiebedrijven, 's-Hertogenbosch www.klimax.nl

Steel constructions: Sonnastaal Eindhoven BV www.sonnastaaleindhoven.nl

Masonry work support: Bouwelement bv, Uden www.bouwelement.nl

Prefabricated concrete elements: Waco Lingen Beton, Bergen op Zoom www.wacoling.nl

Aluminium frames: Hermeta Metaalwaren bv, Asperen www.hermeta.nl

Steel fencing: EeStairs Nederland bv, Barneveld www.eestairs.com

Supplier of decorative glass: SSGS Sas, Sas van Gent B.V. www.saint-gobain.com

Glass sound screen: Absoluut Glastechniek, Venlo www.absoluut-glastechniek.com

Elevators: Mitsubishi Elevator Europe www.mitsubishi-elevator.com

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Text: TXT media bv

Fact sheet

Key figures without basement

footprint	1224 m ²
gross area	6128 m ²
gross volume	19.370 m ³
# social apartments	22
net area social apartments	1324 m ²
# commercial apartments	24
net area commercial apartments	2939 m ²
# commercial spaces	4
gross area commercial spaces	586 m ²
start design+consultancy	2002
start construction	2006
completion construction	2008