

RIETVELD WALKING ROUTE UTRECHT



1 Centraal Museum

Leaving the museum through the main entrance, turn right and walk to the end of the street. Turn right to cross the bridge (Abstederbrug), and turn left into Maliesingel. Take the first road to the right, called Zonstraat. At the end of Zonstraat, turn right into Van Mecklenburglaan. On the opposite corner of the first street to the left you'll see **2 Huis Van der Vurst de Vries, Julianalaan 10.**

Continue down the road you came, passing by the house standing to the right of Julianalaan 10, and then turn left immediately into Waldeck Pyrmontkade. At **Waldeck Pyrmontkade 20** you'll find **3 Chauffeur's dwelling.** Stroll further along Waldeck Pyrmontkade, and take the first turn to the left into Louise de Collignystraat. Turn right into Koningslaan, and then take the first street to the right, Prins Hendriklaan. Continue down this street until you see the flyover, with just before it **4 Rietveld Schröderhuis, Prins Hendriklaan 50.**

Pass under the flyover to find on your left, **5 Dwellings Erasmuslaan 5-11** and **Erasmuslaan 1-3/Prins Hendriklaan 64.**

Shopping route to return

Follow Prins Hendriklaan back, crossing Wilhelminapark at the end. Turn right and at the roundabout, turn left (Burgemeester Reigerstraat). Follow this street, crossing Maliebaan into Nachtegaalstraat, and take the first turn to your right, Mgr. van de Weteringstraat. Just after number 120, turn left into Maliestraat, and turn left again at the end (Biltstraat). See **A Huis Truus Schröder-Schräder, Biltstraat 423** on your left.

Cross the street to enter Oude Kerkstraat. Take the second turn left, to find **B Rietveld's birth address, Ooftstraat 14.**

Return to Nachtegaalstraat, continue straight on to Nobelstraat. Keep going until the Janskerk (church). Turn left into Korte Jansstraat. Take the third turn right to see **C Juwelier Begeer, Oudkerkhof 27** and **D Leerwinkel Wessels & Zoon, Oudkerkhof 15-17.**

Continue on, turn left to enter Vismarkt. Take the first turn left into Servetstraat, passing under the Dom Tower. Turn right into Korte Nieuwstraat, and carry straight on to return to Centraal Museum.

Return under the flyover and cross into the street directly to the left, Laan van Minsweerd. Take the first turn to the right to enter Hendrick de Keyserstraat. Take the second street to the left to enter Jan van Scorelstraat, and turn left at the end of this street into Adriaen van Ostadelaan. Continue down to this street, and on the corner with Ferdinand Bolstraat you'll find **6 Rietveld's furniture workshop, Adriaen van Ostadelaan 93.**

Continue further down Adriaen van Ostadelaan, crossing the large intersection and continuing straight on. Take the second street to the right, entering Israëlslaan. Immediately after the curve turn left, into Breitnerlaan. There you'll find on the left, **7 Huis Theissing, Breitnerlaan 11** and **8 Huis Muus, Breitnerlaan 9.**

Turn into the footpath just after Huis Muus. When you reach the river, turn right. Take the bridge across the Kromme Rijn river, and follow the footpath on the opposite side. Stay on the footpath until the gate at the end, and then continue along the river, passing housing blocks on your left-hand side.

Optional addition to the route

Take second street to the left, Fuuthof. Turn right into Gansstraat and then the first turn to the left, Laan van Soestbergen. Follow this street to the end, and pass under the railroad. Cross bicycle path and turn immediately left, into Tolsteegplantsoen. Follow the bend to the right and then turn left, into Saffierlaan. Take the first turn right to see **E apartments Toermalijnlaan 1-79** and **Toermalijnlaan 2-80.**

Continue on and cross the street to enter **F Robijnhof**

- Two-on-one dwellings: Robijnhof 1-18
 - Single family dwellings: Opaalweg 41, Robijnlaan 2-10 and 16-24, Topaaslaan 42
 - Apartments: Kornalijnlaan 1-7 & 11-17, Opaalweg 17-39, Topaaslaan 18-40
- Return to the Kromme Rijn river.

Pass under the flyover and continue until you reach Tolsteegsingel. Continue straight on, taking the first crossing to the right and then crossing the bridge in the direction of the café-lined Ledig Erf square. Continue straight on into Twijnstraat. Take the first turn to the right, Nicolaasstraat, and continue straight on to **1 Centraal Museum.**

THIS ROUTE TAKES YOU ALONG SOME HIGHLIGHTS IN THE WORK AND LIFE OF GERRIT RIETVELD (UTRECHT 1888 - UTRECHT 1964).



2 HUIS VAN DER VUURST DE VRIES 1927 *The Utrecht Archives*

In 1927, the new owner commissioned Rietveld to redesign the dwelling. The most striking renewal was carried out on the exterior. Originally, the house had a traditional exterior, comparable to the houses on the left. The attic with sloping roof was expanded to form a full floor, and the house was topped by a flat roof – a very innovative thing at the time. New, broader windows were fitted, and the façade was redone with a rough plaster layer to form a unified whole. The plaster was executed in grey, one of Rietveld's favourite colours.



3 CHAUFFEUR'S DWELLINGS 1927 *Rietveld Schröder Archive*

Van der Vuurst de Vries also asked Rietveld to design a garage combined with a dwelling for his chauffeur. The result is a very remarkable building, compared to the adjacent row of dwellings from the 1920s. For this assignment, Rietveld was able to experiment with prefabricated components, which was far from customary at the time. He used black concrete slabs with white dots as cladding for a cube-shaped iron skeleton, alternately attached horizontally and vertically. To ensure enough natural light within the dwelling, he added a bay window to the living room and a skylight over the hall and kitchen.

E. Toermalijnlaan en F. Robijnhof 1958

Rietveld first developed ideas for large-scale social housing projects back in the 1920s. But it wasn't until the 1950s that he had the opportunity to put them into practice, in Utrecht. Rietveld felt that the dwellings should present a uniform sight on the outside. That's why they all have the same windows, with top windows made of ribbed matte glass and lower windows made of wired glass, backed by panels in different colours. The apartments are fitted with concrete blinds which used to be kept open, so that the laundry could dry in the space behind but hidden from sight. Robijnhof number 13 is a museum dwelling, to give visitors an idea of how people lived here in the 1950s.



4 RIETVELD SCHRÖDERHUIS 1925 *Rietveld Schröder Archive/The Utrecht Archives*

Rietveld designed his first dwelling in 1924, for the widow Truus Schröder. Following her husband's death, she wanted to start life anew with her children, in a new home. As in her former dwelling, she did not want to live on the ground floor. For the first floor Rietveld designed an open living space, which could be divided into separate rooms by means of sliding walls. From the outside the house looked so unusual that it soon became world famous. It seems as if the house consists of horizontally and vertically placed panels, painted in different shades of white and grey. The window frames are black to make them visually inconspicuous. Some of the structural elements are painted dark blue, red or yellow, adding horizontal and vertical highlights. The view on what was then the open polder landscape was an important part of the design. The windows on the north-eastern side of the first floor looked out over this landscape, and the large corner window was designed without a stile. This way, when the windows are swung open, the whole corner of the house disappears so that the interior and exterior merge to form a single space. When the flyover was built in the 1960s, Rietveld felt that this undermined his design to the point that he proposed demolishing the house. However, Truus Schröder wished to continue living there, and after her death the house became a museum dwelling where visitors can experience the vision of Rietveld and Schröder first-hand.



5 DWELLINGS AT ERASMUSLAAN, 1931, 1934 *Nico Jesse/Rietveld Schröder Archive*

When the zoning plan changed to allow construction on the polder facing the Rietveld Schröder House, Truus Schröder purchased the land opposite her home. This way, she could personally determine what the view from her house would look like. Rietveld first designed a row of four dwellings (1931), later followed by a block of six apartments (1934). To ensure ample natural light inside and optimum contact with outdoor space, the houses have broad continuous windows, balconies on the storeys, and each room has a door leading out. One of the dwellings was opened to the public in October 1931 to demonstrate a model interior by Rietveld. This interior is again on display in the model dwelling. The use of colour is striking, with white plastered brick façades and a pastel colour scheme inside.



6 RIETVELD'S FURNITURE WORKSHOP **GERRIT RIETVELD IN CHAIR** *Rietveld Schröder Archive*

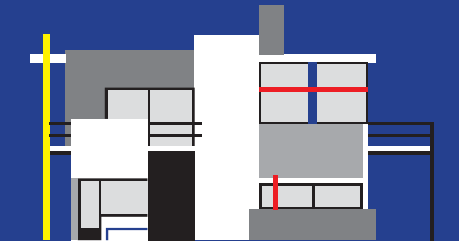
After training in his father's furniture workshop and a stint as draughtsman at the silver studio of the *Koninklijke*

Utrechtse Fabriek van Zilverwerken, the 28-year-old Rietveld set up his own furniture workshop in May of 1917. Around 1918 he built his well-known chair consisting of separate plywood panels and slats here. It was only in 1923 that the chair was executed in the iconic colours: a red back, a blue seat, and black slats with white ends. When Rietveld decided to continue as an architect in 1924, Gerard van de Groenekan – on the left of the photo – took over his workshop.

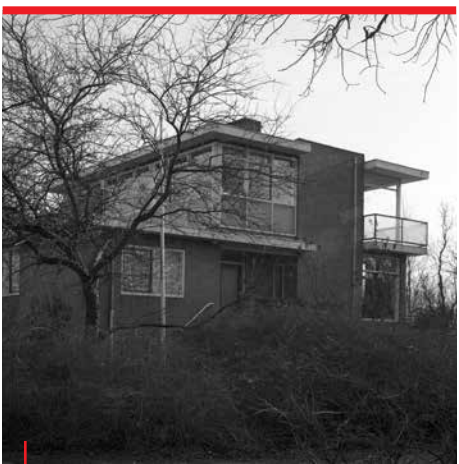


7 HUIS THEISSING 1959 *Jan Versnel/Rietveld Schröder Archive*

Huis Theissing presented a very different exterior, at first. Rietveld designed the dwelling for the chief researcher at the construction materials laboratory of Bredero's Bouwbedrijf. That's why it consisted of types of stone of different shades of grey. A special feature was the use of B2 blocks: hollow concrete bricks that were usually used for interior walls only. The bare concrete skeleton was visible at the back of the dwelling, serving as roof over the terrace. The rear façade has many windows, giving the fullest possible view of the Kromme Rijn river. Unfortunately, in time the B2 blocks proved to not be impermeable, and in 1980 the whole façade was covered with water-resistant grit and painted white, with the concrete skeleton painted grey.



RIETVELD WALKING ROUTE



8 HUIS MUUS 1959 *The Utrecht Archives*

Huis Muus presents a different sight from each angle. The front side seems fairly straightforward, with a storey that is slightly smaller than the ground floor. The right-side façade is of a much more intricate composition, with striking stairs leading up to the front door. The basement is raised slightly above street level, putting the ground floor at a slight elevation. The 'floating' roof is also clearly visible from this angle. At the rear, the house has an elevated and protected balcony, so that the residents can enjoy the view of the river from both floors. The ceramic relief is by the Italian artist Luigi de Lerma, who ran a ceramics studio in nearby Groenekan with his Dutch spouse, from 1934.

Rietveld Schröderhuis
Prins Hendriklaan 50
• Open Tuesday to Thursday and Saturday/Sunday from 11am to 5pm
• Visits only by reservation via rshreserveringen@centraalmuseum.nl
• www.centraalmuseum.nl/en/visit/locations/rietveld-schroder-house/

The model dwellings at Erasmuslaan and Robijnhof can only be visited by appointment. For more information contact rshreserveringen@centraalmuseum.nl.

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