

Press release
Rotterdam, November 4th, 2021

Future design destination “stilwerk Rotterdam” celebrated start of construction with alderman Bas Kurvers and the company’s CEO Alexander Garbe

Yesterday at 4 pm the city’s councilor and the German expert for interior design met up with several partners inside the former coffee warehouse to officially start the reconstruction of the historic building into Rotterdam’s upcoming design hotspot which will open in 2023.

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Around 50 people came together on the third floor of “Pakhuis Santos” at Brede Hilledijk 95 on Katendrecht. In his welcoming words alderman Kurvers stated: “This is a fabulous new destination for the historic Santos monument on Katendrecht, opening for the public to visit. It is a great adventure that stilwerk takes to give a new life to this now derelict monument. The entry of Katendrecht will have a new landmark.

Alexander Garbe spoke about his vision to transform the historic brick building into a special destination for interior design, food, events, workspaces and apartments. “We are aiming to create a special place for visitors where they can be inspired, work creatively, enjoy the culinary offerings and even live temporarily. And all this in an environment defined exclusively by premium design”, said the stilwerk CEO. “stilwerk Hamburg opened 25 years ago, transforming an old malthouse in the red district of the city’s port into today’s hotspot for living and lifestyle. We are confident that Katendrecht will undergo a similar development in the next years and we look forward to working together with everybody locally and internationally to make this happen.”

A design experience on every level

stilwerk Rotterdam will present its entire brand universe across 8,500 square meters and nine floors.

The ground floor of the historic "Pakhuis Santos" can be accessed from three sides and has been designed in the inviting style of an open market hall. Here, visitors can expect gastronomic delicacies, various offerings ranging from accessories to independent design and frequently changing events. The multipurpose commercial space can be used for events such as workshops, conferences, trade fairs and press functions.

The open central staircase gives guests access to floors one to five. Premium international brands, innovative up-and-coming designers, service providers and technology suppliers present their products in the loft-like spaces.

There are plans for a spacious workspace for creatives and freelancers with integrated dining area, bar and a rooftop terrace with spectacular views on the sixth and seventh floors, as well as 16 "short-stay" apartments with their own balconies. Workspace and apartments are furnished with products from stilwerk partners and curated by stilwerk. In this way, retail and hospitality are connected perfectly - like it is already the case with the German stilwerk Hotels - and interior design becomes a holistic experience for customers.

Historical architecture meets visionary design

stilwerk attaches great importance in all its projects to respecting the original architecture so that old and new, historical and modern can complement each other. The historic Santos building - a listed brick building on the Katendrecht peninsula - offers the perfect conditions for this. The former coffee warehouse from 1901 retains its attractive exterior, is being completely renovated and supplemented with a modern daylight atrium and a floating roof sculpture that houses two additional floors. The architects behind this spectacular project are RENNER HAINKE WIRTH ZIRN ARCHITEKTEN and WDJArchitekten.

Design hotspot of the Netherlands

Rotterdam is not only the largest seaport in Europe, it is also a dynamic and creative metropolis that is increasingly repositioning itself as the cultural capital of the Netherlands. The port industry has withdrawn from the cityscape in recent years. These areas are developing into modern districts that are being settled by young service companies and creatives. When it came to choosing the latest stilwerk location, the city of Rotterdam impressed as an experimental and design-oriented hotspot in Northern Europe.

The area around the Rijnhaven and the up-and-coming Katendrecht neighbourhood is developing into an extension of Rotterdam's city centre on the south bank. A spacious park, a beach and the river against the backdrop of the Rotterdam skyline will in the future beckon you to while away the hours. The historic harbour side of Rotterdam will be transformed into a new part of the city centre. High-rise buildings will border the new city park, which will occupy a large section of the current harbour basin next to the 'old' Rijnhaven with its historic quays, industrial monuments and beautiful views. The Rijnhaven is already easily accessible by public transport and bicycle and offers a wide range of opportunities for work, recreation and shopping. Various forms of accommodation are also available.

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stilwerk. Living intensified.

The stilwerk universe presents more than 800 premium brands in its design destinations, its [stilwerk hotels](#) and [workspaces](#), in its [online shop](#) and via virtual tour. From the classical to the avant-garde, from the kitchen to the study, from planning to furnishing, from the showroom to digital shopping, stilwerk offers everything when it comes to premium design and relies on cooperation instead of competition. The [stilwerk magazine](#), a design kiosk, cultural events and a [network for architects](#) round off the globally unique concept. At its locations in Hamburg, Düsseldorf and, from 2022, Rotterdam, brands, retailers and customers benefit in no small way from the prime location of the houses and hotels, the high-quality offerings in inspiring surroundings, the excellent service and the charisma of the stilwerk brand with its wide-ranging, cross-media communication channels. In 2021, stilwerk is celebrating its 25th anniversary.