

## Quotes architect Hans van Heeswijk about Royal Picture Gallery Mauritshuis

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*"New buildings tend to be designed as sculptural, trendy icons these days. That makes them attractive at first, but after a short while they also get outdated. A museum building however, needs to be functional and its architecture should stay attractive in a sustainable way for years to come."*

*"In renovation and transformation projects for museums we choose a different approach. In the design process we first examine and analyse the existing monumental building. We study its spatial principles, scale, routing and overall structure. After that we use these qualities as a starting point for the new building extension. We reorganise them into a new design that is clearly related to the old building."*

*"A museum is primarily a public building, visited by many people every day for which it is important that they can orient themselves quickly and feel welcome. Above that, a museum should especially be bright, uncluttered and inviting."*

*"The Mauritshuis is half the size of the Hermitage, but as a construction project twice as complicated. Three different building components above and below one another, four different, complex foundation techniques, and a construction site as big as a stamp."*

*"With a renovation, transformation or extension of an existing building, you must understand the building first, before you can start to build. For an architect this means that the design of the new layout within the existing shell deals more with organizing and cleaning up than shaping new things."*

*"The Mauritshuis museum has a world-class art collection, so it deserves a building at top level. Not only with regard to its building physics or functionality, but also architecturally. As an architect, you may not rest until the last screw is in place."*

*"Sustainability in the renovation and restoration of a monument means in the first place that it regains its viability again for a long period. Especially museums that are intensively used daily by huge numbers of visitors, should be solid, timeless and flexible in their design."*

