

MEDIA INFORMATION

November 2023

Amsterdam Amstel Station, NL

Where past meets present

When it first opened in 1939, Amsterdam Amstel Station boasted one of the most innovative railway station buildings of its time. In recent years, the station and the surrounding area have been renovated and re-designed. One of the ways in which the balancing act of respecting the past while meeting the requirements of the modern traveler has been accomplished is through the use of various products from Jansen.

For a long time, Amstel station was considered the crowning glory of the work of Hermanus Gerardus Jacob Schelling, who left a significant mark on Dutch railway station architecture, with numerous different design concepts. Amstel was a joint product realized by Schelling and the architect Jan Leupen. At the time faced with increasingly diverse means of transport and a rise in passenger numbers, Schelling designed Amstel Station as the very first multi-modal transport hub. The different passengers and luggage flows served as the basis for the building design – accommodating, for instance, for the motorail trains that could be boarded here.

Schelling positioned the station concourse at right angles to the tracks, so that trams, buses, taxis, and bicycles could be arranged around the main concourse. One innovative feature was the fact that the station concourse and platform roofing were designed as large, airy, and inviting structures. The building concept includes historic references to cathedral architecture: Echoing the nave of a Gothic church, the tall, glazed main concourse towers above the lowly “side aisles” with their shops and service areas. The atmosphere is emphasized by huge wall murals by the artist Peter Alma. These formed part of the orientation concept from the very outset, focusing primarily on the careful use of light and spatial dimensions. However, some of these special features were lost in 1977, when the underground train line was incorporated into the station. The original visual axes were interrupted as a result of numerous large and smaller interventions, including the addition of new service desks and extended retail spaces.

Upgrades to the facility

In 2004, the station was listed as a protected monument. The decision was then taken in 2014 to restore it and return it to its former glory. The responsible architects at Amsterdam-based Office Winhov and Gottlieb Paludan Architects from Copenhagen set out to uncover the historic design language deployed by Schelling and Leupen, and to pick up where they left off. Accordingly, the building’s heritage value was to be restored and the structure was to be adapted to modern requirements and the increasing number of users. This also included the restoration of the original color concept and the visual axes. An important step in the renovation process

was the removal of the suspended ceilings with a view to restoring the original height and allowing natural light to come flooding in. The retail premises were also refurbished and given new façades. The ticket & service desk was relocated within the concourse to make the wall murals by Peter Alma fully visible once again.

A significant part of the building upgrade and its visual restoration was achieved by replacing the windows and façades. In the lower area of the concourse, rounding off the retail premises in the “side aisles”, the VISS façade system was used alongside Janisol 2.0 windows and Art’15 doors.

The Janisol 2.0 and Art’15 products are ideally suited to this type of renovation project involving protected buildings, as the steel profiles draw on the historic aesthetic while bringing the functionality of the building up to modern-day standards. With their exceptionally narrow face widths, they also offer maximum stability and excellent heat transmission coefficients. The VISS façade system serves as an optimal addition here. The mullion/transom construction enabled the architects to meet a wide range of requirements regarding heat, noise and fire protection while maintaining a uniform appearance.

Today, visitors and travelers can again experience the beauty of the railway station, in particular the light-filled space of the main concourse with its clearly arranged and open rows of shops, and the impressive wall murals.

PROJECT DETAILS

Building owner: ProRail, Gemeente Amsterdam, NS Stations, GVB

Architecture: Office Winhov, Amsterdam; Gottlieb Paludan Architects, Copenhagen

Metal construction: H. Baars BV, Rotterdam

Products used: Janisol Arte 2.0 windows, Art’15 doors, VISS façade

Text: Nicola Schröder, Conzept-B Zurich

Media contact partner:

Gerald Brandstätter, Conzept-B GmbH
Anemonenstrasse 40d
CH-8047 Zurich
Tel.: +41 (0)43 960 07 70
Email: gbrandstaetter@conzept-b.ch

Jansen AG
Anita Lösch
Industriestrasse 34
CH-9463 Oberriet SG
Tel.: +41 (0)71 763 99 31
Fax: +41 (0)71 763 91 13
Email: anita.loesch@jansen.com