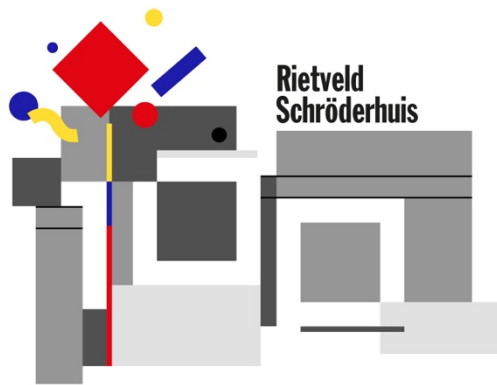


# Rietveld Schröder House celebrates 100th anniversary with festive jubilee programme

*100 years a style icon, 100 days of celebration*

The year 2024 marks exactly 100 years of the Rietveld Schröder House. Over a period of 100 days, we are therefore organising special events and activities to celebrate that Utrecht has been home to this architectural masterpiece for one century. It has also been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2000. On 15 May 2024, one hundred days before Truus Schröder's birthday on 23 August, Mayor Sharon Dijksma will perform the festive kick-off to the jubilee programme titled *100 years a style icon, 100 days of celebration*. Everyone is welcome to pay a quick visit to the house on that day, free of charge.



Bart Rutten, artistic director of Centraal Museum, the Rietveld Schröder House and Miffy Museum: 'The Rietveld Schröder House is an absolute highlight of modern architecture. Since its completion in 1924, it has been revolutionary and it remains that way one hundred years later. Next year we have even more to celebrate: the house will have been a UNESCO World Heritage Site for 25 years, which is something we're immensely proud of.'

Marco Grob, business director of Centraal Museum, the Rietveld Schröder House and Miffy Museum: 'The famous De Stijl house is an icon of Utrecht. Our goal is to make the house accessible to as many people as possible. That's why everyone is invited to pay a visit on 15 May, free of charge. In addition, we will continue to organise tactile guided tours in the coming year, so that people with a visual impairment can also visit the house.'

## **Jubilee market on 15 May**

The festive kick-off to the programme will be on Wednesday 15 May, with a market organised around the iconic house. At 4pm the Mayor of Utrecht, Sharon Dijksma, will formally open the market and thereby the festive period, *100 years a style icon, 100 days of celebration*. Truus Schröder's three granddaughters will be there to plant a tree in the garden of the Rietveld Schröder House.

At the jubilee market, various local entrepreneurs will present and sell their products. A number of unique items have been developed for the museum shop to mark this special jubilee year, such as a series of one hundred prints of the House by Studio Kars + Boom, as well as soap made from the apple blossom from the House's garden, in collaboration with the Werfzeep company. The market will be open from 4 to 8pm.

The house can also be visited by means of a quick visit, free of charge, on 15 May from 4 to 8pm. There will also be ongoing creative workshops for young and older visitors. For instance, you can make a birthday card for the house, or build your own house with Lego.

### **Open air theatre in and around the House**

After successful performances in national and international theatres, Theatergroep Aluin will perform the show *Bep, dochter van Rietveld* ('Bep, Rietveld's daughter') on location for the first time: in and around the Rietveld Schröder House. The play recounts the story of Bep Rietveld, Gerrit's daughter, who was introduced to the artists of De Stijl movement through her father and Truus Schröder. All characters are played by Audrey Bolder, who switches effortlessly from Gerrit to daughter Bep, and from the painter Charley Toorop to members of De Stijl and Rietveld's wife.

### **Neighbourhood walks with Jessica van Geel**

In collaboration with Jessica van Geel, historian and author of the book *I love you, Rietveld*, we are organising four walks in the district of Utrecht Oost, tracing the footsteps of Truus Schröder and Gerrit Rietveld. The walks will take place on four Sundays in June and July. During the walk, participants are taken past Rietveld's furniture workplace at the Adriaen van Ostadelaan, where he designed the world-famous slatted chair, as well as the address where Schroder lived on Biltstraat. This is also where the two first met.



### **Other activities**

Besides the jubilee market, the theatre performances and neighbourhood walks, other activities include drawing workshops in the garden of the house and a chess competition whose final match will take place inside the House. Community centre Podium Oost is organising a thematic day on 2 June with various talks, a film screening and workshops. We will also be visiting other city districts with a special programme.

The documentary *Een meubel om in te wonen - De huizen van Gerrit Rietveld* ('A furniture piece to live in – Gerrit Rietveld's houses'), produced by Lex Reitsma for the Close Up media programme (AVROTROS), will also premiere during the jubilee period, and will be screened in the Louis Hartlooper film theatre. The film brings to life the genesis of the Rietveld Schröder House, using audio recordings of an interview with Truus Schröder in 1982.

### **Publication**

To mark the jubilee year, an international publication about the Rietveld Schröder House is due out by the end of this year, written by curator Natalie Dubois and author and historian Jessica van Geel. The book offers a chronological overview of the history of the House and

its inhabitants, and contains many photographs and letters from Truus Schröder's archive that have never been published before. The book design is by Irma Boom and it is published by Hannibal Books.

### **Rietveld Schröder House**

The Rietveld Schröder House was designed by Gerrit Rietveld and Truus Schröder in 1924. The House is recognised as an architectural highlight of the art movement De Stijl. Rietveld designed the House for and with Truus Schröder as an exuberant and radical experiment in the use of space. The House has been on the UNESCO World Heritage List since 2000.

### **Truus Schröder**

Truus Schröder-Schröder (1889 - 1985) requested the furniture maker from Utrecht Gerrit Rietveld to design a new home for her and her family in 1924. Schröder, mother of three children and recently widowed, wanted to make a fresh start in a house that satisfied her personal ideas about domestic living. Together with Rietveld she designed the house in which she would subsequently live from 1924 until her death in 1985, so for more than sixty years.

### **Gerrit Rietveld**

Gerrit Rietveld (1888 - 1964) is a world-famous furniture designer and architect. He is best known for the chairs he designed, such as the Red and Blue Chair (1919). With the De Stijl art movement as one of his sources of inspiration, in 1924 he designed the Rietveld Schröder Huis together with Truus Schröder. It is the first house he designed, later followed by other residencies. He also went on to design the Gerrit Rietveld Academie and Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam.

### **Instagram**

Especially for the jubilee year, an Instagram account has been set up for the Rietveld Schröder House. Updates about the jubilee programme will be shared here, as well as exclusive images and inspiring stories about the House and its creators. Go to [instagram.com/rietveldschroderhuis](https://www.instagram.com/rietveldschroderhuis).

Image credits: Daniel Roozendaal and Stijn Poelstra

