

The Amstel Church (Amstelkerk)

Amstelveld 10 1017 JD Amsterdam



History

Date of building: 1668-1670

Architect: Daniël Stalpaert (1615-1676), city architect.
Stalpaert also built the country's maritime warehouse (now maritime museum 'Scheepvaartmuseum') and the eastern church ('Oosterkerk'). He completed the city hall on the Dam Square, now Royal Palace ('Paleis'), which was designed by Jacob van Campen.

De Amstelkerk was built as a temporary Dutch reformed church for the inhabitants of the newly built extension of the ring of canals. The Amstel Square ('Amstelveld') was meant for a big stone church. In order to fulfil the immediate need this wooden temporary church was placed in a corner of the building location. The church, made of untainted pine, was plain enough for people to call it a preaching barn. In the end the plans for a stone church were not executed. The wooden church continued to exist and in 1840 the interior was extensively redone in neo gothic style and provided with an organ, built by Bätz from Utrecht. The money for the organ was collected by the congregation.

The church was sold for one Dutch guilder to 'Stads Herstel Amsterdam' in 1986 with considerable overdue maintenance, but with an obligation to renovate. The Stads Herstel office was opened here in 1990. The church interior has been housed elsewhere for example in the Reformed Church in Amerongen (church benches and pulpit).

Restoration Amstelkerk

Restoration under the authority of Stads Herstel: 1988-1990

Restoration architect: Gerard Prins

In 1970 the church's 300th anniversary was celebrated and it was provided with a new belfry and bell. When the bell rang the whole building swayed. The structural woodwork turned out to be in a poor state. During the main restoration in 1988 many beams were found to be affected by fungus due to the gutters that had been leaking for years.

During the restoration part of the church has been separated from the rest and it is used as a restaurant since then. The side buildings around the church consist of five houses. A floor was constructed in the church room around the middle space at the height of 1,80 m above the floor. The Stads Herstel offices are accommodated there. The church floor below was lowered in order to create downstairs rooms.

During this restoration the organ was restored as well. The instrument was taken apart and brought to the workshop of the Flentrop Company in Zaandam. It has been ready to use since November 1991.

At present

Owner: Stads Herstel Amsterdam, phone 020-5200090

Middle room may be used for exhibition, congress, concert, church service, wedding ceremony for example.

Look at <http://www.stadsHerstel.nl>

The appearance of Amsterdam is largely characterized by monumental and historic buildings. 'Stads Herstel Amsterdam N.V.' takes care of sustainable preservation of disintegrating monumental and representative heritage within the defence line of Amsterdam ('Stelling van Amsterdam'). The main activities are restoring buildings, giving them a new purpose and managing them with care. Stads Herstel contributes considerably to the preservation of heritage for the next generations and helps to keep alive the craft of restoration.

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