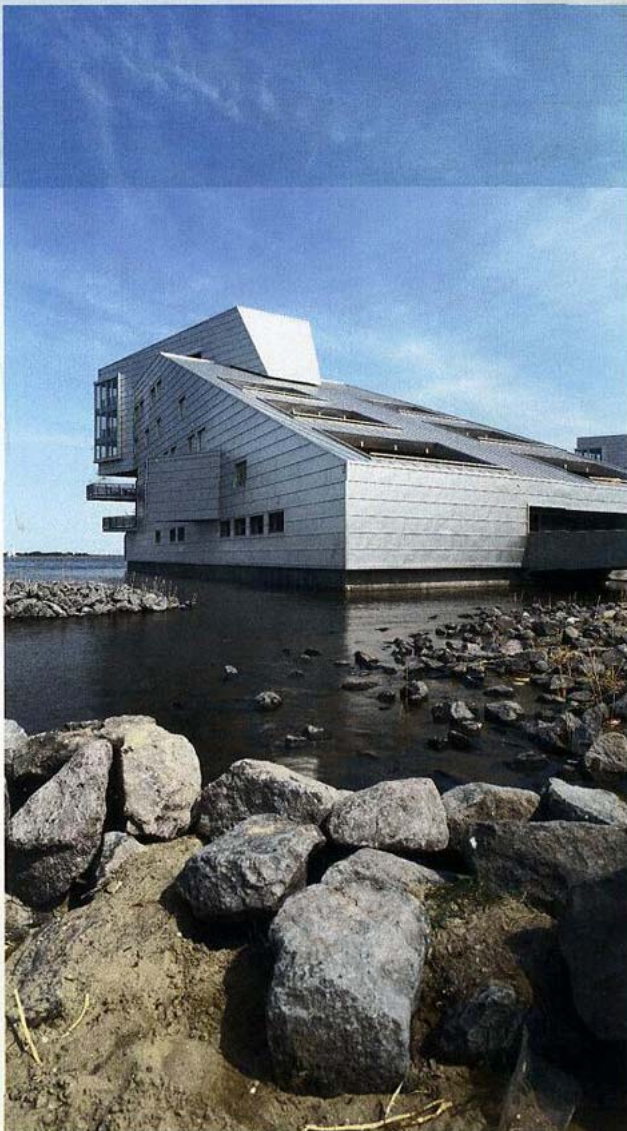


velocity viewfinder»rotterdam's architects

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View any city from on high and you'll get a unique perspective of the world below. Treetops and rooftops obscure the roads and people themselves, so it's left to the various towers, factories and other landmarks to speak for the city and its inhabitants, a high-rise projection of the people who built them.

Rarely is this phenomenon stronger than in Rotterdam, as viewed from the Euromast in the city's fashionable Delfshaven. Several of Rotterdam's architectural adventures are visible from the viewing platform, but the most striking feature is the sheer amount of water on all sides. This biggest of all the European ports is more water than land, and its architecture seems to be battling for attention, the buildings in competition with each other and the sea that surrounds them. Whether it's the Erasmus Bridge with its distinctively kinked pylon or the geometric Shipping and Transport College, these modern giants draw the eye with a particularly industrial flamboyance born of economic necessity.

Flattened during World War II, Rotterdam was faced with the massive task of trying to rebuild itself from scratch. But it turned adversity into opportunity and re-invented itself as a forward-thinking megaport, embracing the modernity forced upon it by the destruction caused by the war. Its architecture is part and parcel of this modernity and the city has been recognised as a centre for cutting-edge building design since the 1980s. Today it is home to some of the most important architectural practices in the world, including Rem Koolhaas and OMA, Erick van Egeraat, MVRDV, Neutelings Riedijk, NOX and Kas Oosterhuis (ONL).

The Netherlands is renowned for its innovative approach to design, so it's no surprise that the influence of this architecturally advanced city has spread throughout the country. In his new book *Architecture in the Netherlands*, author Philip Jodidio has compiled some of the most remarkable modern buildings seen in the country. The book covers architects who are based in cities across the whole of the Netherlands, but on these pages we've compiled a sample of work by Rotterdam's architects only, offering an insight into the



**Architecture in the Netherlands**  
by Philip Jodidio is published  
by Taschen, £14.99 (€19.99)  
[www.taschen.com](http://www.taschen.com)