



## ROTTERDAM OR ANYWHERE

RPW Design has completed the renovation of Hilton Rotterdam, bringing the interiors of this 50-year-old modernist architectural icon into the 21st century. Built in 1963 by one of the foremost architects of the post-war modernism in the Netherlands, Hugh Maaskant, the Hilton Rotterdam's exterior exemplifies the glamour, sophistication and forward-looking excitement of the Dutch society of the 50s and 60s. Fifty years on, this Grand Lady of Rotterdam has been given a new lease of life after a €36 million two-phase refurbishment.

The main entrance has moved from one side of the building to the other, to imbue a greater sense of arrival. The new entrance features a visible five-metre-wide canopy and new porte cochère, whilst the old entrance facing the main square has been retained for pedestrians.

The lobby has been designed around the original grand sculptural staircase, which has been restored and complimented with new timber and bronze finishes. A light feature descending alongside the staircase and a source of fluorescent light concealed in the ceiling further above add a dramatic, luxury touch to the space.

Unexpectedly for a brand hotel guestroom, RPW Design has introduced statement free standing furniture pieces inspired by Rotterdam's architectural influences, moving away from fitted hotel furniture to a style that gives a sense of being in one's own home. The proportion used and balance of materials – two fifths of wood paneling and three fifths of painted walls, as well as the composition of colours (steel blue, pale grey and a punch of burnt orange), were influenced by Mondrian abstract paintings.

*RPWDesign.co.uk*

*Photography by Jim Ellam/ Venuez.*

