

Bentham Crouwel

Reeweg customs house, Rotterdam

The customs building on Reeweg is suited to its setting, with its function legible in the exterior. It is wedged in-between the infrastructure of road and railway and this datum is rendered in the building's form. The dark container-like building follows the bend informing both road and railway. It sits amid the stacks of containers typical of this dockland region. Emblazoned on the facades of the office is the colour coding used by customs. All outer walls are built up of dark grey pigmented concrete piles and black window frames. Reflecting green and yellow foil lights up vividly in the headlamps of passing vehicles. The interior contrasts with the mute exterior keeping out dirt and noise, and is entirely transparent – a move to stimulate teamwork.

Client

Rijksgedebouwendienst, directie Zuid-West

Architect

Bentham Crouwel Architecten

Start design

1993

Completion

1998