

Malietower, The Hague

The office tower stands at a salient point above a motorway, where it marks the transition from urban area to green zone and serves the motorway traffic as a city gateway. This last-named capacity is strengthened by the direction the transparent glass facades give the building. These fold inward leaving the steel structure freely visible. The effect of shadow and the dynamics this creates can be seen by motorists passing underneath. The side walls, whose glass continues right up to the overhanging roof, have clear strips of fenestration. Above each of these a band of figured and reflecting glass acts as a sunbreak; round glass blocks in the concrete inner leaf speck the facade with points of light. Wing-shaped aluminium slats screen off the parking space occupying the first five floors. These slats merely alternate above the entrance, making the garage function all the more visible as such. The girders bearing the building aloft dictate the ambience of the main entrance hall.

Client

AM Development (formerly Multi Vastgoed)

Architect

Bentham Crouwel Architekten

Gross floor area

50000 m²

Start design

1991

Start construction

1994

Completion

1996