

Wagons Lits office building and Ibis Hotel, Amsterdam

Their position on the square fronting the railway station (Stationsplein) was influential on this design for offices and a hotel. One of the two principal masses (the office tower) has rounded ends that point the building in every direction so that you get a view of the city from it on all sides.

A layered composition of balconies, sunbreaks and clear glass render this building transparent. Its main structure is a combination of steel and concrete, with facades of silver-grey aluminium panels and steel parts that persistently lend it the colour of the sky. In the other portion (the hotel) all bathrooms are set against the outer wall which is then expressed as a rippling facade with bathroom windows in the projections and hotel room windows in the depressions. The pattern in the glass bricks and the undulations of the frontage create a glittering effect, whether in sunlight or artificially after dark, that suggests parallels with the water below.

Client

BV Nemeog, Utrecht

Architect

Bentham Crouwel Architekten

Gross floor area

office 6102 m²

hotel 5770 m²

Start design

1987

Start construction

1991

Completion

1992