

# Newsletter

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## Renovation Binnenhof

### *The interview*

## Creating a future-proof Binnenhof

**Thousands of people walk the halls of Binnenhof from early morning to late at night. The ministers, journalists, civil servants, tourists, political representatives and local residents who visit the complex daily all leave their marks. The renovation of this listed building will start after the summer of 2020 and should prepare it for the next few decades to come.**

'The Binnenhof is worn out. Rooftops, pipes, escalators, elevators: almost everything is being replaced,' says project director Pieter Dijkmeester of the Central Government Real Estate Agency. During the renovation, asbestos will be removed, fire safety measures will be updated, visitor capacity will be increased and the safety standards will be improved.

The Central Government Real Estate Agency expects this extensive project to take five-and-a-half years. 'We plan to start immediately after Prinsjesdag 2020, on the third Wednesday of September,' says Dijkmeester. But before work can begin, clear agreements must be made about the desired changes.

These agreements will take into account the needs and wishes of the people who work in the building. A team of architects and technical advisors will translate these needs into a design. Other parties, such as the municipality of The Hague and the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (RCE) will also weigh in on the design. 'With such an intensive design process, it can take a while to work things out,' explains Dijkmeester. 'The same is true at the Binnenhof. It's important that we work carefully and diligently. After all, it's the world's oldest parliamentary building still in use today.'

One thing is clear: the renovation will be drastic in terms of construction, but also in terms of its effect on the surrounding area. 'We want to keep the inconvenience to an absolute minimum for local residents by making clear agreements with the builders and by providing good and timely information. But there will still be some inconvenience. Nevertheless, we want to show them that they have a front-row seat to a very special project.'

For local business owners, good accessibility is extremely important. 'We're committed to ensuring that the number of visitors to the Binnenhof and the surrounding area remains the same during the renovation. One way we plan to do this is to organise activities with the neighbourhood and the municipality that focuses on the renovation and the history of the Binnenhof.'



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## *Binnenhof renovation*

The Binnenhof in The Hague consists of several buildings, the oldest of which dates back 800 years. This is where the Dutch Senate and House of Representatives, the Ministry of General Affairs, and part of the Council of State convene. After many years of intensive and continuous use, a large-scale renovation is necessary to increase the safety and the working conditions for visitors and employees and to preserve the cultural heritage in the long term.

### **Temporary housing**

The renovation is scheduled to start after the summer of 2020. The House of Representatives will temporarily relocate to Bezuidenhoutseweg 67 and the Senate and Council of State to Lange Voorhout 34-36/Kazernesstraat. The Ministry of General Affairs will move to the Catshuisterrein. Everyone will return in 2025, when the Binnenhof will be operational again.

## The Binnenhof according to...

### Anita van der Helm

Entrepreneur, resident and board member of the residents' association *Rondom het Plein*

## We want to know where we stand

Anita van der Helm runs **Tango Centro** dance school on Lange Poten, on the first floor of the building opposite the Binnenhof. She lives right next door. Her interest in the developments surrounding the Binnenhof renovation therefore comes as no surprise.

'This is a great location in the city centre, directly opposite a gorgeous building in the political heart of the city,' says Anita, sitting on the edge of the dance floor. 'I really enjoy it. At the same time, I'm worried about what's to come. Will it be accessible later? What about the noise, the dust and the sand?'

That brings us to Anita's main complaint: unclear communication. 'For two years, we were promised information that either came much later or not at all. As business owners and residents, we just want to know where we stand.'

But she also has hope. 'The building right behind me, on the corner of Kalvermarkt and Korte Houtstraat, is getting a new facade. Lots of measures have been taken to limit inconvenience for the surrounding area in the next ten months. If those measures work, I have every bit of faith in the renovation of the Binnenhof.'



**'Will it be accessible later?  
What about the noise, the  
dust and the sand?'**



**'The Binnenhof is the  
heart of the city'**

### Sander van der Eijk en Ulbe de Boer

## The Binnenhof belongs to us all

**Good friends in daily life, Latin dance partners at Tango Centro on Sunday afternoons and born-and-bred Hague natives: Sander and Ulbe are closely involved in the Binnenhof renovation.**

'The Binnenhof is the heart of the city, which made The Hague what it is today. That's something you want to be careful with,' says Sander. 'To me, it's important that they preserve the character and atmosphere of the building. And that they involve the surrounding area in the plans. After all, the Binnenhof belongs to us all.'

Ulbe couldn't agree more. 'I hope the politicians can resist the pressure of public opinion when it comes to costs. The renovation is going to cost a lot of money, so just accept that fact and don't skimp on the details. Whatever happens, they should make sure the results are something everyone can be proud of.'



*A day in the life of...*

*Michiel Buren*

## An eye for technology and people

**Michiel Buren is technical manager at the Central Government Real Estate Agency. He and a team of experts are responsible for ensuring that the renovated Binnenhof meets all technical wishes and requirements.**

'The renovation is first and foremost a technical feat,' he explains. 'And a complicated one at that. For example, there's no ventilation or air condition in the current Senate building. On hot summer days, the temperature can be unbearable.'

The team is therefore looking for a logical and culturally responsible place to install new climate-control systems. 'We're having the foundation of the old cellars examined this summer to see if we can use this area to house the new systems. We'll be doing some excavation work in several areas to get an idea of whether or not this is possible. This research is being done in close collaboration with the municipality's Office of Monuments and Archaeology. Together we'll make sure that interested parties can watch the construction work. After all, it's not every day that a historical location like this one is dug up.'



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*'We're having the foundation of the old cellars examined this summer'*



© Arenda Dornen

### *Binnenhof news*

## Reprieve for Hotel Central

**In a letter to the House of Representatives on 27 February 2019, State Secretary for the Interior and Kingdom Relations Raymond Knops stated that the former Hotel Central on Lange Poten would be preserved.**

Perscentrum Nieuwspoor and part of the House, is being included in the Binnenhof renovation. Several complaints were filed about the indoor climate at Hotel Central.

This prompted the House of Representatives to research whether the old building should be replaced with a new one.

However, temporary measures to improve the indoor climate have proved successful, which means other measures can be taken for a more permanent effect.

## Binnenhof treasures

# Exploring the origins of The Hague

**When the contractor analyses the foundation at several Binnenhof locations this summer, Andjelko Pavlovic will join him as an archaeologist for the municipality of The Hague.**

'As the seat of government, the Binnenhof is an important complex in The Hague and also the oldest. The foundations of the Binnenhof date back to the thirteenth century and form the origins of Die Haghe: a farming village once situated on a small dune lake until the Counts of Holland settled there. Everything we find in those depths tells us more about the origins of the Binnenhof and the city of The Hague.'



## Did you know...

**We still have a lot to learn about the history of the Binnenhof. Researchers are currently trying to determine whether Johan van Oldenbarnevelt was interred there and whether his remains can be found and identified.**

## Construction calendar 2019

### Mid-July

Foundation and archaeological research

### Autumn

- ◆ Preliminary design for Binnenhof renovation complete
- ◆ Informational meeting for Binnenhof area

**Schedule subject to change.**

Visit [www.rijksvastgoedbedrijf.nl/binnenhof](http://www.rijksvastgoedbedrijf.nl/binnenhof) for the most up-to-date timeline.

## Event calendar 2019

### 11-21 July

Summer programme Koninklijke Schouwburg (Royal Theatre)

### Late August to September

Open-air exhibition of masterpieces from the National Archive around the Binnenhof

### 9-17 September

Prinsjesfestival

### 14-15 September

Open Monument Day

### December

- ◆ The Hague Highlights: light show at the Ridderzaal
- ◆ Skating rink on the square
- ◆ Extra Open Monument Day

Visit [www.denhaag.com/nl/museumkwartier](http://www.denhaag.com/nl/museumkwartier) for more information

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This information is for residents, business owners and other involved parties in the direct vicinity of the Binnenhof. No rights may be derived from this publication.

For more information, visit [www.rijksvastgoedbedrijf.nl/binnenhof](http://www.rijksvastgoedbedrijf.nl/binnenhof). This site also has a digital version of this newsletter. The next newsletter will be published in the autumn of 2019.

If you have questions or comments, please contact Informatie Rijksoverheid by phone on 1400 (weekdays from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM) or via [www.rijksoverheid.nl/contact](http://www.rijksoverheid.nl/contact). You can also contact area manager Marieke van den Bosch by e-mail at [postbus.RVB.renovatie.binnenhof@rijksoverheid.nl](mailto:postbus.RVB.renovatie.binnenhof@rijksoverheid.nl).

For more information about contacting the municipality, visit [www.denhaag.nl](http://www.denhaag.nl) and click on 'Contact'.

This is a publication by the Central Government Real Estate Agency, in collaboration with the municipality of The Hague.

#### English

This newsletter is produced to inform residents, businesses and shop owners in the vicinity of the Binnenhof regarding planned renovation works. You will find the English version of this newsletter at <https://english.rijksvastgoedbedrijf.nl/real-estate/renovation-binnenhof>.

Follow the Central Government Real Estate Agency and the municipality of The Hague on

