



The transparent design is a pleasant contrast to the solid walls of the exhibition wing.

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Hans Van Heeswijk unveils the Van Gogh Museum entrance

AMSTERDAM – Thriving on the admirable post-impressionist style of the Netherlands's most famous artist, the [Van Gogh Museum](#) will open its doors to the public via a new entrance hall on 5 September, 2015. The new hall replaces the pre-existing sunken pond which was part of the museum's exhibition wing, originally designed in 1999 by the late Japanese architect Kisho Kurokawa. The new design is a collaboration that was conceptually drafted by [Kisho Kurokawa Architects](#) and then elaborated on by Dutch architect [Hans Van Heeswijk](#).

The new entrance to the museum now encompasses a large spacious foyer, 6 meters below ground level, well equipped to welcome and assist the growing number of visitors. With extensive structural engineering and the latest glass construction techniques, the entrance hall is completely transparent. The glazed structure conveys a feeling of being lightweight allowing a sufficient amount of natural sunlight to flood into the sunken space. The high ceilings and the extensive use of glass provides a spacious, airy interior, complemented by the glazed, opulent staircase that connects street-level to the foyer. The new space provides an integrated circulation to the Van Gogh museum and exhibition wing, acting as a point of reference for visitors. The hall consist of a large area for visitors to congregate, as well as a cloakroom and a revamped museum shop that carries over 500 new products. The interior can also be utilised for events – either during or after opening hours – making it more versatile.

The design for the Van Gogh Museum entrance hall successfully repurposes an unused space, enhancing circulation and functionality. The new piece of modern architecture embraces the old with the new as well as upgrading the visitor's experience. To celebrate its opening, a labyrinth made of 125,000 sunflowers will be created in Museumplein over the weekend, paying tribute to Vincent Van Gogh.

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Text by Melika Aghabeigi

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