Rietveld’s Universe

Rietveld, Frank Lloyd Wright, Le Corbusier, Theo van Doesburg

Mid October 2010
Centraal Museum Utrecht

The exhibition called ‘Rietvelds Universe’ makes it clear that the Utrecht architect and designer, Gerrit Th. Rietveld (1888-1964), was responsible for many more designs than just the Red Blue Chair and the famous Rietveld Schroder House. This exhibition explores his life and his work in the broader context of his time. It starts by illustrating the creative process of the artist, who drew inspiration from the world around him and saw the work of his colleagues as challenges. In this way, ‘Rietveld’s Universe’ paints a clear picture of Rietveld’s contribution to 20th century architecture and design.

Rietveld’s Universe
‘Rietveld’s Universe’ projects the design process that Rietveld went through against the backdrop of direct and indirect influences in his environment. From the direct roles played by his mentors to the influence exerted by international historical developments. Besides Gerrit Rietveld’s work, the exhibition includes works by Frank Lloyd Wright, Marcel Breuer, Mies van der Rohe, Le Corbusier, Piet Mondriaan, Theo van Doesburg, J.J.P. Oud and H.P. Berlage.

Rietveld’s concept of space
Rietveld’s work was subject to various influences, although he maintained his theory that the point of architecture is the creation of space. This made him a prominent pioneer of the earliest 20th century avant-garde in which the concept of space plays a pivotal role. For this reason, ‘Rietveld’s Universe’ also focuses on Rietveld’s opinion on space, on the way he designed space and on his works - and his contemporaries’ works - controversial consequences.

Collaboration project
‘Rietveld’s Universe’ is a collaboration project undertaken by the Centraal Museum Utrecht, the Technische Universiteit Delft, the Universiteit Utrecht and the Nederlands Architectuurinstituut. The exhibition opens mid October 2010 and will subsequently be presented abroad.
Publication
A richly illustrated, scientific publication featuring various international (architectural) historians will be available at the exhibition. The articles it contains deal with divergent aspects of Rietveld's work.

Part of Holland Art Cities
This exhibition forms part of the official programme of Holland Art Cities 2009-2010. During this period, four of Holland's largest cities will devote themselves to art and culture during the 'Holland Art Cities' event. The top ten museums in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and Utrecht have joined forces to create an unprecedented art exhibition based on various themes. Two Amsterdam museums, the Hermitage Amsterdam and the Stedelijk Museum, will time their (re) openings according to Holland Art Cities. For more information, please visit: www.hollandartcities.com.

For up to date information go to: www.centraalmuseum.nl