



EUROPEAN
URBAN RESILIENCE
FORUM

25 - 27 June 2025

Rotterdam, The Netherlands

12TH EUROPEAN URBAN RESILIENCE FORUM

Self-guided Architecture tour

25-26 June 2025

Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Venue: LantarenVenster


Self-Guided Architecture Tour: Resilience in the Heart of Rotterdam

Stops: Timmerhuis → POST Rotterdam

Estimated duration: 45 minutes (with time to explore surroundings)


Walking distance: 400 meters (~5 minutes)

Stop 1: Timmerhuis

 *Corner of Meent and Rodezand*

 *Designed by: O.M.A. (Office for Metropolitan Architecture) – founded by Rem Koolhaas*

 *Completed: 2015*

 How to get there: Starting point is the Timmerhuis, please refer to the logistics package on how to travel here from the main venue.

About Timmerhuis

You're standing in front of one of Rotterdam's most futuristic and versatile buildings: **Timmerhuis**, designed by **OMA**, the renowned architecture firm of **Rem Koolhaas**.

- This structure fuses a municipal building from the 1950s (called the *Stadstimmerhuis*) with a striking glass-and-steel cloud-like extension.
- It houses a museum, shops, cafés, municipal offices, and 84 residential apartments.
- Beneath it lies a 102-space underground parking garage.
- The northern tower rises 60 meters (14 floors), the southern tower has 11 floors.

Historical Significance

- The original Stadstimmerhuis was a post-WWII reconstruction hub, where city officials planned the rebirth of Rotterdam after the 1940 bombing.
- Integrating old and new architecture reflects Rotterdam's identity as a resilient, forward-looking city.

Why it Matters for EURESFO:


- Adaptive reuse of heritage (the 1950s core) shows how cities can honor history while embracing sustainability.
- Multifunctional spaces increase social and economic resilience.
- Its transparent, modular design promotes openness and adaptability—values central to urban resilience.

What to look for:

- The reflective cube-like façade that changes appearance depending on the light.
- The inner atrium that connects the busy shopping street (Meent) with the historic Laurenskwartier.
- Public access to **Museum Rotterdam** (entrance on the ground floor).

Stop 2: POST Rotterdam

 *Across from Timmerhuis, along Coolingsingel*

 *Under redevelopment – completion expected in 2024*

Walk Directions:

Exit Timmerhuis onto Rodezand, turn left. Cross Coolingsingel and you'll see the former post office building and construction site—this is **POST Rotterdam**.

About POST Rotterdam

You are now viewing a resilient icon under transformation.

- Once the city's main post and telegraph office, this heritage-listed building is being revived as a vibrant public space.
- It survived the 1940 German bombing, alongside City Hall and the Stock Exchange—making it one of the few historic structures still standing on Coolingsingel.

The New Design:

- The original façade is preserved, while inside a luxury hotel, shops, restaurants, and a new atrium are being created.
- A 155-meter residential tower is rising behind it, bringing new life and residents into the city core.
- Expected to open to the public in late 2025.

Why it Matters for EURESFO:

- A showcase of resilient heritage preservation and urban regeneration.
- Reflects the importance of reanimating dormant urban assets—making them inclusive, climate-ready, and economically viable.
- Highlights how post-industrial buildings can become engines for societal and economic resilience.

What to look for:

- The monumental neoclassical façade, carefully maintained during construction.
- The massive tower rising from the rear, symbolizing a new vertical city center.
- Try to peek inside the lobby or through construction hoarding to see the restored postal halls.

Optional Tips for First-Time Visitors:

- Rotterdam is a “**city of reconstruction**”—most of its city center was rebuilt after WWII, and modern architecture is part of its identity.
- Both stops are near shopping areas, cafés, and restaurants. Consider stopping by **Markthal** (5 min walk), another OMA-designed building with a covered food market.