The Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam was designed in the late nineteenth century by Dutch architect Pieter Cuypers. The function of the building was twofold: one part was the national museum, the other the gateway to the south of Amsterdam.

The museum use has paid an overly high price for its urban role as a connecting element between what was then the existing city –to the North– and the newer developments towards the South. A walkway - virtually a street - runs through the building from North to South splitting it in two parts, necessitating two entrances –both towards the North– and two main staircases; this means that only on the first floor are the Eastern and Western parts of the building are joined, while the ground floor and basement are divided.

The need for exhibition space has meant building within the courtyards which led to a lack of natural light. This also brought to a kind of labyrinth in which the visitor is given no information concerning their whereabouts.

The intervention on the building was, initially, meant to open up a new and unique entrance to the museum admission in the central passage hall, and secondly, to recover the courtyards and exhibition spaces, regaining somewhat their original state, or at least their dimensions.

The large space generated by opening and connecting courtyards houses all essential uses for visitors, and offers a suitable space on the scale that the grandeur of the building deserves. You enter this hall from the passageway, and the tours to the exhibition areas start at this point, linking with the original grand stairs.

In the new space created, natural limestone has been used. The courtyards are connected under the passage. On each of them a structure with an acoustic and lighting mission has been suspended: ‘the chandeliers’.

**Summary**

Publication’s title: The Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam
Typology: Museums and Galleries, Rehabilitation Commercial
Client: Programmadirectie Het Nieuwe Rijksmuseum
Surface: 45,000 m²
Year: 2001-2013
Status: Built
## STRUCTURAL SECTION

### MAIN DATA

- **Client:** Programmadirectie Het Nieuwe Rijksmuseum
- **Address:** Museumstraat, 1. 1071 Amsterdam, Netherlands
- **Type:** Museums and Galleries, Rehabilitation, Commercial
- **Status:** Built

### DATAS

- **Competition:** 2001
- **Design of project:** 2001-2013
- **Construction:** 2007-2013
- **Implementation:** 2013

### SURFACES

- **Site:** 16,000 m²
- **Main building:** 45,000 m²
- **TOTAL:** 45,000 m²

### PROJECT TEAM

#### Main Architect:
- Cruz y Ortiz Arquitectos

#### Collaborators:

#### Local Architect:
- Cruz y Ortiz Arquitectos, HMAADP Arquitectos

#### Interior design:
- Cruz y Ortiz Arquitectos

#### Lighting design:
- Arup

#### Landscape architect:
- Copijn Tuin - en Landschapsarchitecten

#### Restoration architect:
- Van Hoogevest Architecten

#### Digital imaging:
- Cruz y Ortiz Arquitectos, Indigo

#### Model:
- Jacinto Gómez

#### Photography:

#### Structural engineering:
- ARCADIS

#### Technical engineering:
- Arup, RoyalHaskoning DHV, Van Heugten

#### Fire advisor:
- DGMR

#### Construction management:
- Cruz y Ortiz Arquitectos

#### Contractors:
- JP van Eesteren, BAM, Hornij, Kuipers, Unica, Woudenberg

#### Work control:
- Van Hoogevest, Cruz y Ortiz Arquitectos, Rijksvastgoedbedrijf

### AWARDS

- Architectural Spanish Award 2013 awarded by CSCAE
- European Aadipa Award 2013
- Abe Bonnema Architecture Award 2013
- Interior Architecture of the Year. Icon Awards 2013
- Harrie Tillema Prize 2013
- The Brick Award, Worldwide Brick Award 2013
- FAD Internacional Award 2014
- De Gouden AAP 2014 (Amsterdamse Architectuur Prijs)