

Parkinggarage Laahaven Hollands Spear, The Hague

Location: NETHERLANDS

Owner
Q-Parking

Architect
Atelier Pro Architecten B.V.

Consulting Engineer
Grabowsky & Poort B.V.

Contractor
Gemeent Den Haag/Dienst
Sladsbeheer

The Atelier PRO won a multiple assignment for The Hague College. A dilapidated and desolate harbour area, just behind a main line railway station, was designated by the local authority of The Hague as the location for an educational establishment for Higher Vocational Training, with student numbers of about 13,000 and some 1,100 lecturers and other support staff. The complex measures some 85,000m². A unanimous choice was made in favour of Atelier PRO.

The parking garage was constructed as a 'polder'; the lowest floor consists of paving on sand made possible by virtually watertight outer walls in conjunction with constantly

lowering the water level. In this way, large spans were possible. To solve the problem of a 7.2m grid for the school above a 16m parking grid, V-shaped columns with striking appearance were chosen. These were supported by column foundation blocks on the lowest level. The walls of the garage were painted Japanese red to create an extra sense of space. The 'water zebra' at the front of the school creates a window in the roof of the garage. In this way the border between water and land seems to float. The concrete has been treated with a transparent paint.



