

Haga

## Arhitectura contemporana

Richard Meier.

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Richard Meier has established a reputation as a modernist architect. His designs are renowned for their sobriety, the material selected and - a crucial element - their whiteness. To Meier, white is the symbol of clarity, purity and perfection. It's people that give the building colour. 'White intensifies the perception of all other shades of colour that occur in nature and in natural light. White is the reminder of and the precursor to other colours', according to Meier. This consistent approach is also expressed in the absolute uniformity of shapes. Everything is based on multiples of 45 centimetre; even the width of the pointing between the tiles was prescribed. Daylight is of the utmost importance inside the Town Hall. The light should reach the floor of the Atrium unimpeded. Light streams in from all directions, but most of all through the glass roof, seemingly infinitely reflected by the uninterrupted white surfaces. Virtually all parts of the Town Hall benefit from the light bouncing off the white panels of the facade. The fascinating play between light and dark is given added emphasis by the atmosphere imparted by the typical Dutch light conditions. 'The clouds in The Hague are incredible', says Meier. 'When the sun breaks through, it's often like a beautiful painting. The natural light in the Town Hall is a reflection of that light, and this is what you experience when you walk through the building'.

