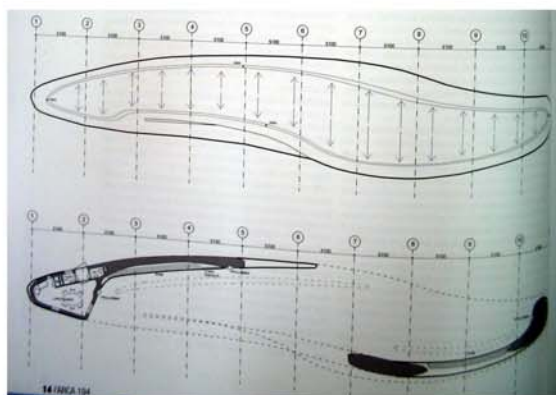


HOOFFDORP

## Arhitectura contemporana

Maurice Nio - statie autobuze

Cea mai mare structura realizata din materiale sintetice  
- langa aeroportul Schipol



Compared in a rather unlikely way, bearing in mind the alien nature of the material in question, to roots, stones, bones, bits of shells, smoothed by the elements and the passage of time, but carrying with it something repulsive, intestinal, like a probe exploring somebody's guts.

Something arcane, with its place already set in our minds, half animal or huge beast like those anthropologists study, half the industrial product of relentless numerically-controlled ultra-computerised machines, used with great bravery and cool intelligence.

The fact is that, instead making some pointless critique, as you wait for the bus and try it out for size yourself, you would like to overhear an impossible conversation between Joe Colombo and Captain Ahab. While vandals huddle together over on the other side of the road.

**Cyclopes:** if, as a rather weak metaphor, we replace the operating table with modern-day Holland, then the sudden encounter between noise barriers and detached houses would be worthy of some latter day Count of Lautréamont. We would find the old umbrella and sewing machine transferred onto a quite different territorial scale (see: *Compte Lautréamont*, *Chants de Maldoror*, *Chant 6*, Paris 1868 – [www.maldoror.org](http://www.maldoror.org)).

The obscure, celibate duplicity of conflicting couples was already inherent in the contrast between the environmental conditions and programme. The housing estate, in the woods around Hilversum, is extremely up-market but hardly inductive for peaceful home life, due to all the nearby traffic. Here, instead of just designing other hearing-impaired houses as if there was nothing at issue, facing the motorway or alongside deafening highways, there has been a real attempt to see what could be achieved in such a perilous situation. A bold and almost inevitable enterprise, that even the real estate market was ready to acknowledge. These twelve houses look as if they have been bought on paper. I wonder if any of the buyers thought of Hölderlin? After all the architects were forced to believe that Where the danger is greater, there is also more to be saved. The twelve Cyclopes reproduce that very special, reassuring, sci-fi atmosphere of an outpost on a hostile planet: ours.