

Critica de arhitectura

Arhitectura contemporana

Hans Ibelings:

"Unmodern Architecture in Netherlands"

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tally, is not as free as its protagonists claim – took over from the public housing officials. The housebuilding industry has become increasingly oriented towards the demands of the market, personified by the housing consumer. One of those demands was for architecture that looked like what was, or could have been, there already.

While traditionalism undeniably answers the wishes of a mass market, its practitioners are regarded by their peers as rather non-conformist. In the past it was considered radical to break with tradition. In the course of the twentieth century, however, innovation became the norm to such an extent that it became a new tradition. Today, it takes more determination to be a traditionalist than to ride the successive waves of what remains of avant-gardism. Contemporary traditionalists are therefore considerably more radical than their familiar – and sometimes frankly dated – architecture would suggest, precisely because they are resisting the tradition of innovation. This tradition of innovation is so powerful that almost all the contemporary traditionalists were trained, and in many cases started out, as innovators, only to become traditionalists later in their careers. ■

FURTHER READING

Hans Ibelings, *Unmodern Architecture. Contemporary Traditionalism in the Netherlands* (Fascinations, 15). Rotterdam: Nai Publishers, 2004 (www.naipublishers.nl)

