

# Heritage & Architecture

## MSc1 Adapting 20th C. Heritage: American Embassy



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### Tutors

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Code	AR1AH010
Credits	10 ECTS
Location	Den Haag
Excursion	Yes
Costs	-

From fortress to public building.

In 1959 the US embassy, designed by Marcel Breuer, was built at the corner of the 'Korte Voorhout' and the 'Lange Voorhout' in The Hague. This was the place of the former Hotel Paulez that was bombed during World War II. The new embassy consists of two rectangular volumes each with a separate monumental entrance. The volumes are connected by a transparent corridor. At the courtyard an independent auditorium is located. Because of several reasons the embassy moved to Wassenaar and the building became vacant.

The focus of the design assignment is on creating more liveliness on this important location at the border of the inner city of The Hague. The aim is to attract people by giving the building a public program, making the plot more part of the urban life.

The building is a prime example of modernist architecture, featuring a facade of light-colored stone panels with a grid of rectangular windows. The windows are set within a series of projecting, angular concrete frames that create a rhythmic pattern. In the foreground, there are several flagpoles with the Dutch national flag and the American flag. A vintage car is parked on the street, and a person is riding a bicycle. The sky is clear and blue.

In any case the building has to adapt to modern standards. The student has to substantiate proposed interventions in relation to the heritage values.

There is a strong relation between the H&A Architectural design studio and the Building Engineering studio (AR1A080)