



**2010 WORLD MONUMENTS FUND/KNOLL MODERNISM PRIZE
AWARDED TO BIERMAN HENKET ARCHITECTEN
AND WESSEL DE JONGE ARCHITECTEN**

*Award given for restoration of Zonnestraal Sanatorium,
in Hilversum, The Netherlands; rescue of iconic building helped launch
global efforts to preserve modern architecture at risk.*

For Immediate Release—New York, NY, October 5, 2010. . . . Bonnie Burnham, president, World Monuments Fund (WMF), announced today that WMF has awarded its 2010 **World Monuments Fund/Knoll Modernism Prize** to **Bierman Henket architecten** and **Wessel de Jonge architecten**, leading practitioners in the restoration of modern buildings, for their technically and programmatically exemplary restoration of the **Zonnestraal Sanatorium** (designed 1926–28; completed 1931), in Hilversum, The Netherlands. The sanatorium is a little-known but iconic modernist building designed by Johannes Duiker (1890–1935) and Bernard Bijvoet (1889–1979).



Zonnestraal, Main Pavilion, 2004 (post-restoration). Photo courtesy Bierman Henket architecten and Wessel de Jonge architecten.

The biennial award will be presented to the Netherlands-based firms at The Museum of Modern Art, New York (MoMA), on November 18, 2010, by **Ms. Burnham; Barry Bergdoll**, MoMA’s Philip Johnson Chief Curator of Architecture & Design and chairman of the Prize jury; and **Andrew Cogan**, CEO, Knoll, Inc. The presentation will be followed by a free public lecture by Messrs. Henket and de Jonge, who will accept the award on behalf of their firms.

The World Monuments Fund/Knoll Modernism Prize is the only prize to acknowledge the specific and growing threats facing significant modern buildings, and to recognize the architects and designers who help ensure their rejuvenation and long-term survival through new design solutions.

Ms. Burnham states, “The World Monuments Fund/Knoll Modernism Prize is intended to raise public awareness of the critical role that modernism plays in our architectural heritage. The

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Prize recognizes heroic preservation efforts and inventive architectural solutions that have overcome significant challenges to the survival of modern buildings while helping them to remain sustainable structures with vital futures. We hope this award will inspire other efforts to preserve important buildings at risk.”

Mr. Bergdoll adds, “The restoration of Zonnestraal met and exceeded the criteria for this prize. Zonnestraal is a Modern-Movement gem of concrete and glass, revelatory not only in its own time, but also each time that architects and historians have rediscovered it after years of neglect. Now that Hubert-Jan Henket’s and Wessel de Jonge’s stabilization work on the restoration is complete, it reconfirms Zonnestraal’s standing as one of the most experimental designs in the fervently creative decades of modernism between the two world wars. It is at once a beacon of Dutch rationalism and a major work of modern architecture internationally, one that can now be experienced in a way that resonates with its architect’s intentions.”

In determining the winner of the 2010 World Monuments Fund/Knoll Modernism Prize, the jury reviewed more than twenty nominations from fourteen countries, including Argentina, Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, France, Germany, Israel, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

In addition to Mr. Bergdoll, the jury included **Kenneth Frampton**, Ware Professor of Architecture at Columbia University; **Jean-Louis Cohen**, Sheldon H. Solow Professor in the History of Architecture at New York University; **Dietrich Neumann**, Professor of the History of Art and Architecture at Brown University; **Theo Prudon**, President of DOCOMOMO/U.S. and Adjunct Associate Professor of Historic Preservation at Columbia University; and **Karen Stein**, design consultant, writer, and faculty member in the design criticism program at the School of Visual Arts.

Mr. Henket remarks, “Modernist buildings were often designed with temporality in mind, which makes them fragile and very difficult to keep for future generations. I am thrilled that we won this important prize for our work on Zonnestraal, the most fragile and inspiring of them all.”

Mr. de Jonge says, “Since its completion in 1928, Jan Duiker and Bernard Bijvoet’s Zonnestraal Sanatorium has been among the most canonical and internationally celebrated examples of Modern Movement architecture in The Netherlands. Nonetheless, it fell into abject disrepair. The process of saving it required careful dismantling of the main building, which provided invaluable information and hands-on experience with early-modern building technology. We are delighted that Duiker’s work is once again available to the architecture community, as well as to the public at large, and are greatly honored that the Modernism Prize jury selected our project.”

Zonnestraal

Zonnestraal was conceived by Duiker, then the leading spokesperson for the Modern Movement in The Netherlands; Bijvoet; and structural engineer Jan Gerko Wiebenga (1880–1974). Even while under construction it was celebrated as a significant monument, yet it fell from public and academic notice and into disuse after World War II, nearly disappearing into its surrounding landscape. In the 1960s, it was rediscovered and deemed by architectural critics and historians to be a major monument of modern architecture, and in 1982 the Dutch government commissioned Messrs. Henket and de Jonge, already leading experts in the field, to develop a solution for saving and restoring the country’s rich modernist heritage, using Zonnestraal as the prototype. This not only led to a conservation program for Zonnestraal, but also inspired Messrs. Henket and de Jonge to create DOCOMOMO (International Committee on Documentation and Conservation of Buildings, Sites and Neighborhoods of the Modern Movement), devoted to saving great works of modern architecture worldwide. In 1995, Zonnestraal received landmark protection.

Founded in 1919 by the Diamond Workers Union of Amsterdam, following British examples, the sanatorium—a complex of three pavilions—was part of a larger aftercare colony for tubercular patients. It was funded by Union dues as a facility that would train members who had been afflicted with the disease for their return to society.

Zonnestraal is emblematic of the emerging ideals of social democracy in The Netherlands during the 1920s, and it reflected the new concept of using occupational therapy in health care. For example, a nursery, a pig farm, an apiary, and a set of workshops were built as part of the recovery program, and a tea garden, canteen, kiosk, and open-air theater were designed to provide recreation. Some of the patients slept in forest cabins, and the estate also housed staff members. A projected open-air school was never built.

Based on a solid belief in science and progress, the sanatorium was established in the conviction that tuberculosis would be exterminated within thirty to fifty years and that the building would thus no longer be needed. Duiker subtly balanced the requirements of users and the building’s projected lifespan with the limited budget of the client, creating a concrete, glass, and steel structure of both breathtaking beauty and great fragility.

Restoration

Prior to beginning work on Zonnestraal, extensive research was employed to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the rationale behind its design. Messrs. Henket and de Jonge then developed a conservation program that was predicated on a thorough structural analysis of all of the building’s elements: framing, construction technology and materials, building installations, and the

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interrelation of all of these.

The conservation project aimed at the reconstruction of the sanatorium's design scheme, including its original façades, partitions, and finishes; however, there was little conservation or restoration of authentic materials, many of which had literally disappeared. Some lost parts—such as the steel window-casements, the sheet glass, and the linoleum and terrazzo flooring—were commercially reconstructed. Other components, like window glazing and hardware that had been industrially produced in the 1920s, were no longer in production and had to be handcrafted.

One of the significant components of the Zonnestraal program was the successful re-purposing of the facility for contemporary use: The re-creation of the original layout of the buildings now accommodates several health-care providers. The original workshops of 1928 have been restored and expanded in size in order to serve as an obesity clinic. The main building accommodates a sports-injury rehabilitation clinic and a conference center.

Bierman Henket Architecten

Hubert-Jan Henket (b. 1940) studied under Aldo van Eyck in the architecture school of the Delft University of Technology, and in 1976 established Hubert-Jan Henket architecten (known as of 2010 as Bierman Henket Architects). The diverse practice of the Esch-based firm ranges from the design of new buildings to the restoration and adaptive reuse of historic structures. Notable projects include the renovation of the Stedelijk Museum, in Amsterdam (2004), the transformation of a hospital into the School of Visual Arts, in Zwolle (2006), and the conversion of a factory into the Center for Performing Arts, in 's-Hertogenbosch (2004), among many others.

From 1996 to 2008, Mr. Henket was the supervising architect for Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport, and he is currently supervising two large inner-city urban renewal projects.

Mr. Henket, who has published widely, is co-founder (with Wessel de Jonge) and honorary president of DOCOMOMO and emeritus professor at Eindhoven and Delft Universities, having been actively engaged in architectural education throughout his career. His numerous honors include the Prince Bernhard Cultural Fund Award (1999). Knight of the Order of The Netherlands Lion (2003), and the BNA Kubus, the award of the Royal institute of Dutch Architects (2004), among others. In 1999, Netherlands public television broadcaster NPS aired the documentary "Hubert-Jan Henket, man of steel, wood and glass."

Wessel de Jonge Architecten

Wessel de Jonge (b. 1957), who studied architecture at Delft University of Technology, has had an extensive career as a practicing architect specializing in the restoration and preservation of modern architecture. Highlights of Wessel de Jonge architecten's many completed projects include

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the 1995 restoration of Gerrit Rietveld's 1953 Biennial Pavilion in Venice, Italy; the restoration of the Villa Poot, in Bergen (1932), completed in 2002; and the 1999–2004 large-scale rehabilitation of the Van Nelle Design Factory in Rotterdam (Brinkman and Van der Vlugt, 1926–30).

Current projects of the studio, which is located in Rotterdam, include the reconstruction in Eindhoven of the *Poème Électronique* pavilion from the 1958 World Fair in Brussels (Le Corbusier, Xenakis, Varèse) and the design of a new public library in Waregem (Belgium), among others. In 2010, Mr. de Jonge was appointed vice-chairman of the International Expert Advisory Committee to supervise the restoration of the iconic Villa Tugendhat, Brno, Czech Republic (Mies van der Rohe, 1930).

Mr. de Jonge, who co-founded DOCOMOMO with Hubert-Jan Henket (*see above*), lectures and publishes extensively on the challenges of preserving our recent international architectural heritage. His honors include the Royal Medal as an Officer in the Order of Orange Nassau (2003) and the BNA Kubus (2004).

Modernism at Risk

All too often, great works of twentieth-century architecture are lost to neglect, deterioration, and demolition only decades after their design and construction. Yet while the issue of preserving modern landmarks is gaining prominence in public discourse, these structures continue to face growing threats.

The World Monuments Fund began preserving modern sites in the 1980s, when it helped restore seminal modern Mexican murals following a devastating earthquake. Later, it led the restoration of Brancusi's *Endless Column* in Romania and the battle to save the Edward Durell Stone's A. Conger Goodyear House, in the U.S. Since its launch in 1996, the World Monuments Watch program has included more than twenty modern buildings, including the Rusakov Club (Konstantin Melnikov), Viipuri Library (Alvar Aalto), the Villa Tugendhat (Ludwig Mies van der Rohe), the International Fairground at Tripoli (Oscar Niemeyer), the Ennis-Brown House (Frank Lloyd Wright), Kings Road House (Rudolf Michael Schindler), and Grosse Point Memorial Library (Marcel Breuer) and Riverview High School (Paul Rudolph), grouped together on the 2008 Watch as "Main Street Modern."

In 2006, with support from Knoll, WMF launched **Modernism at Risk**, an advocacy and conservation program intended to bring international attention and resources to address the key threats and challenges facing many modern buildings, including inappropriate alteration, perceived obsolescence, and public apathy, as well as the technical problems associated with conserving innovative designs and materials. In 2008, the first WMF/Knoll Modernism Prize was awarded to Brenne Gesellschaft von Architekten mbH for the restoration of the Bauhaus-designed ADGB Trade

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Union School in Bernau, Germany. In late 2009, WMF, again with the support of Knoll, created *Modernism at Risk: Modern Solutions for Saving Modern Landmarks*, an exhibition of large-scale photographs by noted photographer Andrew Moore, with interpretive panels devoted to five case studies exploring the role designers play in preserving modernist landmarks. The exhibition continues to travel to design schools and other venues across the U.S. and Canada.

World Monuments Fund

The World Monuments Fund is the leading independent organization devoted to saving the world's treasured places. For 45 years, working in more than 90 countries, its highly skilled experts have applied proven and effective techniques to preserve important architectural and cultural heritage sites around the globe. Through partnerships with local communities, funders, and governments, WMF inspires an enduring commitment to stewardship for future generations. For additional information, visit www.wmf.org.

Knoll

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