

CURRENTS



Photographs by Herman Wout

Boarding House, The Lodging Ladder

Eastern Harbor Docklands area, or New Amsterdam, has been radically redeveloped over the last 15 years. It's a case for innovative modern architecture and planning. Now there is a new base from which to launch this futuristic neighborhood and the city beyond. The Lloyd Hotel, which attracts people from all over the world, opened last month in a building that was once a boarding house for Eastern European migrants waiting for passage to South America. Most recently, it was a juvenile detention center developed by four members of Amsterdam's alternative art



scene, who recruited some of Holland's best architects for the project, including Joris van der Meulen, Richard Hutten, Marcel Wanders and the architecture firm MVRDV, which was responsible for the overall renovation of the melancholy building. The architect Evert Breman.

The hotel has a 24-hour restaurant, a lobby (above right) with a carpet by Dutch designer Neke Saveur depicting a giant foot; but the space is also meant to encourage interaction among guests. It's also a "cultural embassy" staffed by artists and designers who will set up meetings for visitors with movers and shakers. Accommodations range from tiny cottages with communal baths to luxurious sprawling studios big enough for a creative team. The Lloyd Hotel is at Oostelijke Handelskade 30. Visit www.lloydhotel.com or telephone 011.31.20.561.3636.