



Schellekens House

Architect

Jozef Schellekens

Year

1934

Location

Steenweg op Mol 66
Turnhout 2300
Belgium

centrum.ar-tur.be

The introduction of modernist architecture to the small Belgian town of Turnhout began when Jozef Schellekens designed an ultra-modern double house for his own family and his friend the writer Theo Op de Beeck in 1934. Constructed in brick with clean lines, large areas of glazing and a flat roof, it is today regarded as one of the most important early modernist buildings in the Kempen region. Inside, cubic volumes of varying height and size define the living spaces. When completed in 1935, the house's modern appearance came under attack from local residents for being too radical.

A few years later, Jozef Schellekens became the provincial architect of Turnhout, designing public buildings such as schools and town halls and overseeing various restoration projects following the Second World War. Now protected as a Flemish monument, the house remains in the hands of the Schellekens family. Its interior, with original brightly coloured walls, has been carefully restored along with the unique built-in furniture. It is open to the public on occasion as part of architecture tours organised by AR-TUR.

Continuing the legacy of modernist architecture in Turnhout, in 1964 Schellekens's son Paul and son-in-law Carli Vanhout founded the architecture practice Atelier Vanhout & Schellekens (see page 180).



Veado

Architect

Paul Schellekens

Year

1969

Location

8 Hertenstraat
Turnhout 2300
Belgium

veado.be

During the 1960s three young architecture practices, Paul Neefs, Atelier Vanhout & Schellekens, and the office of Lou Jansen and Rudi Schiltz, began to make their mark in Turnhout. Although each had their individual style, the architects were influenced by the likes of Le Corbusier, Oscar Niemeyer, Arne Jacobsen, Hans Scharoun and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. The architects worked on several projects throughout the town and beyond, including private houses, monasteries, offices and shops as well as their own family houses, and their output is now counted as among the best post-war architecture in Flanders. The style was later dubbed the Turnhoutse School by eminent Belgian architect Renaat Braem.

Carli Vanhout's impressive home and studio on Parklaan, completed in 1964, is now the office of Architects in Motion, founded by Vanhout's son Luc in 2002. Paul Schellekens's house, constructed in 1969, has recently been converted into a bed and breakfast. The building is essentially one large roof structure, covered with a patchwork of windows and with its gable practically touching the ground on both sides. The interior is a labyrinth of spaces with vistas running across all three floors. The use of exposed beams, brick walls and carefully positioned glazing gives the house a sense of warmth, while white ceilings are punctuated with bold colours. Schellekens lived in the house until 2006. Its current owners have renamed it Veado and, abiding by its listed status, have sympathetically updated the house, bringing it in line with twenty-first-century standards and offering three modern bedrooms, with breakfast in the original 'winter garden'.

