

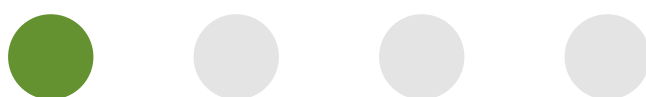


Where is it?



Markthal could not be better situated: in the very centre of Rotterdam in the historic neighbourhood of Binnenrotte, and a stone's throw from Station Blaak. Access to Markthal is so easy that it has become both a shopping destination for local inhabitants and a tourist destination for visitors. Markthal is not only a major food market, it is also a major architectural landmark which is easily recognisable from a distance!

By Olivier Dauvers



HOME

Markthal ROTTERDAM (NETHERLANDS)



What is it?



This artist's impression (highly faithful to the project) illustrates its three uses: living spaces in the walls, including 200 apartments which cross them completely; food shopping areas in the centre (take-away food) and, lastly, restaurant areas. To illustrate the food-oriented them of the hall, the 11,000 m² ceiling is decorated with a cornucopia (by Arno Coenen) depicting fruits, vegetables, cereals and other food products.

A destination which is truly unique in its category... From the exterior, the building is indeed recognisable from afar in that it is constructed in the form of a hollow cylinder with end-to-end natural light. Over 200 high-end apartments have been constructed in the walls with views on each side: inwards onto the forum and outwards onto the city.

The glass and steel centre of the cylinder is occupied by a vast hall of 6,200 m² and a height of 40 meters at the top of the arch, decorated in the style of a cornucopia.

This hall is entirely dedicated to the sale of foodstuffs, in the image of a traditional market. It includes around 80 stalls selling all types of goods: fruits and vegetables, fish, cured meats and meat, for example. Restaurants are dotted around between the stalls, reinforcing the culinary aspect of the site.

Another type of shopping experience is available in the basement. Ahold, the leading Dutch retailer, has constructed an Albert Heijn supermarket there the surface area of 1,500 m².

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Key figures



Floor
footprint
120x90 m



Height
of the arch
40 m



Construction
4 years

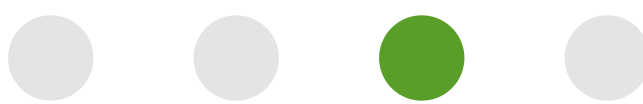


Sales floor
6,200 m²



On its ground floor, 96 permanent stalls mostly sell fresh produce: cheese, meat, fruits and vegetables, baked goods etc.

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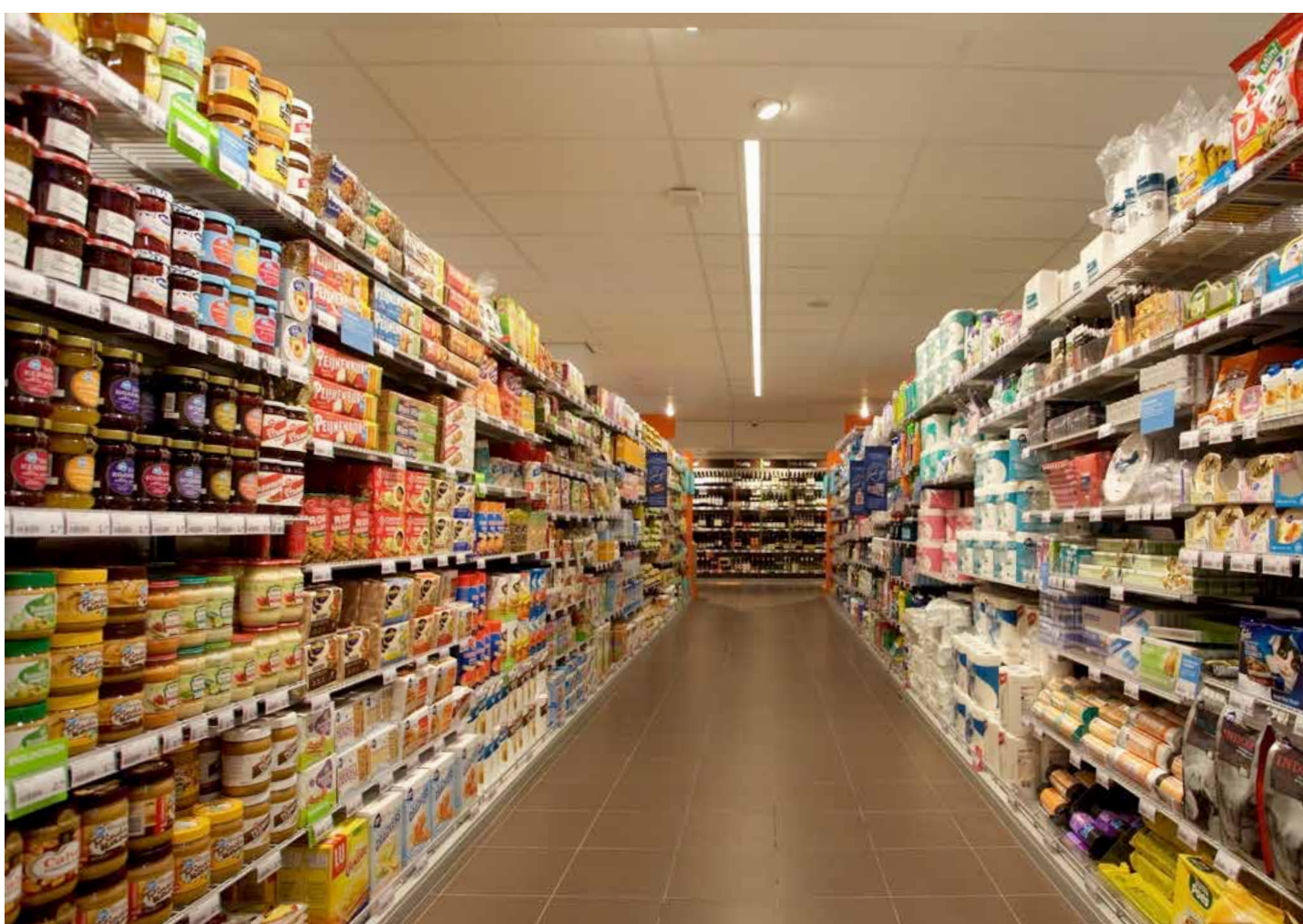


What is interesting about it?

At first glance, Markthal looks like a reinterpretation of the traditional covered market. But its scope is far more ambitious. Firstly because it combines food shopping with takeaway restaurants and seated restaurants. Secondly because Markthal is a living space above all, with 228 apartments constructed in the walls of the hall. Last, but by no means least, it is an extremely spectacular building. To the point that it has won a number of awards including the Mipim Award (a trade show).

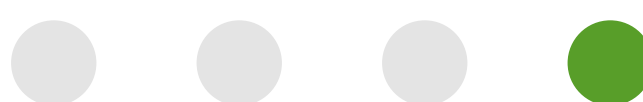


Markthal has another original architectural feature... There is a mezzanine floor dedicated to restaurants above the specialised stalls. The hall is literally inundated with people at lunch time!



To improve business at the centre (particularly for local inhabitants), the basement is occupied by more “traditional” stores. In particular an Albert Heijn supermarket, a drug store and wine merchant etc.

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