

COLORS OF DORDRECHT

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DORDRECHT 1993/2005

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A plan for the historical study of color in Dordrecht started in August 1993 on the initiative of the Sikkens Foundation.

Years of research into drawings, paintings and paint specifications, supplemented with a study of the application of color in a number of historic monuments, led to a range of 55 historically inspired colors which were presented by Sikkens in 2002. A color route followed in 2005. This meant that Dordrecht was the first city with its own color range. On the basis of a historical interpretation of the colors found on the buildings, the research gradually started on composing a color palette. A palette of historical colors developed, arranged over time. These were not the precise colors of the past, but the interaction of these with room for modern colors, which have the character of material imitations entirely in accordance with tradition. For example, the color bronze is included in the range, a greenish-brown color based on the description of paint specifications from the 19th century. Hardstone, a gray color, is also based on weathered Belgian hard stone.

Some colors refer to typical businesses or people from Dordrecht, such as Rodermont. This blue color was based on a paint specification for painting the wooden slates of Rodermont crane in 1755. There is also Rutten yellow, an ochre color inspired by the drawings of Johannes Rutten (1809-1884). Harbor green refers to the water of the inner harbor of Dordrecht.

The color range also indicates on which parts of a building the colors can be used. For example, Bentheimer Donker is suitable for window ledges, surrounds, other woodwork on 16th and 17th-century buildings, keystones and contrasting colored stone bands. Tower gold can exclusively be used on special architectural elements. It is best to use real gold leaf.

The application of the 55 Dordrecht colors is based on clear starting points. Buildings acquire an individual identity while the spatial cohesion between the buildings from different periods is retained. The colors correspond to the ageing facades over the centuries.