

**COLORS OF MAASTRICHT**

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**MAASTRICHT 1993**

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The interest in urban color projects continued during the 1990s. In March the Sikkens Foundation gave advice to the organization of a conference in Lisbon about the historical colors of the city. Lisbon, which was the Cultural Capital of Europe in 1994. They were very interested in what had been achieved in Turin. The Sikkens Foundation took the municipal directors from Lisbon to Turin, as well as a delegation from Maastricht.

Maastricht has a long history which goes back to Celtic times before the start of the Roman calendar. History is reflected in the historical city centre with different Romanesque churches and churches in other architectural styles, as well as many squares. The best known square is the Vrijthof, situated close to the Servaas Church, which is named after Saint Servatius, the patron saint of traditionally Catholic Maastricht.

This was the first Dutch city where a color plan was created. The Turin team (Tagliasacchi and Zanetta) were involved from the very start, as well as the Limburg restoration studio and the Central Laboratory in Amsterdam, where art works were technically examined and restoration/conservation recommendations were drawn up. They not only gave technical advice, but also contributed their expertise in the field of architectural styles and decorative techniques to the project. In addition, Wim Denslagen was involved in the project, amongst others, as a representative of the Department for Historical Monuments, and Piet Kalsbeek, who also did the historical and analytical research into the square in Breda.

Another city which was interested in the color expertise of the Sikkens Foundation was Dordrecht.