

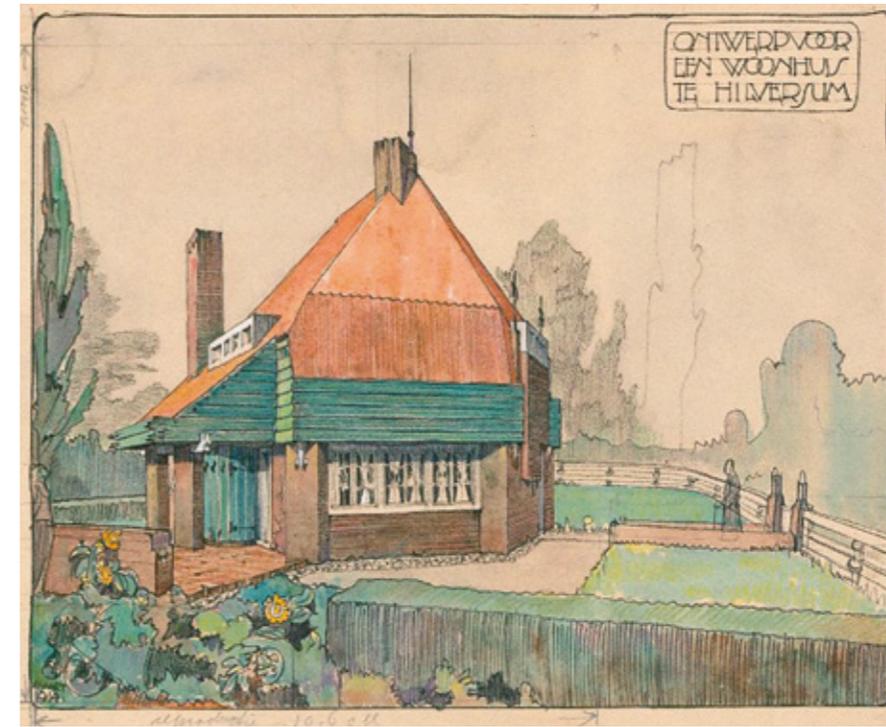
Sketch for a building, circa 1915

'This building has suffered the heaviest blow that can possibly be calmly and coldly inflicted by interfering customers, civil servants and other hordes of architecture-spoiling scoundrels. It is worrying to imagine what heroic sense of responsibility the man who dared to create this building must have had, sacrificing his highest values. This building is the life-size, monumental manifestation of the senseless, blunt, dull damper beneath which the blind forces of society extinguish the light and warmth of artists'.¹⁰³

De Klerk's talents are much less evident in this sober design. Nevertheless, it got positive press reviews and Queen Wilhelmina congratulated Michel de Klerk on the result. Very typical of De Klerk is the brick and earthenware relief on the façade representing the brow of a barge full of cut flowers with the auction's name below it along with the years 1921-1922.



Sculpture on the façade of the Aalsmeer flower auction hall



Design for a residence in Hilversum, 1914

There is also a building by De Klerk in Hilversum. In 1914 he was asked to design a private residence at the corner of Van Lenneplan and Zonnelaan. It was later to become known as the Bileken house. De Klerk was given carte blanche in designing this house and he really made the most of it. He designed almost every part of the building – from the façade to the coat racks, the chicken coop and the entrance gate.¹⁰⁴

Michel de Klerk also worked on various designs that were never realised, including a villa in Wassenaar, the new branch of the De Bijenkorf chain of department stores in The Hague, and a house for single men in Maastricht. He also drew a design for the restoration of the spire of the reformed church in IJsselstein that had been destroyed by fire. This design was actually implemented, though a few years after his death.

A somewhat different project designed by Michel de Klerk was a water monument in Wilhelminapark in Venlo. He worked on this design together with the sculptress Louise Beijerman in 1921.¹⁰⁵ He got along well with this artist. From his letters to Tine Baanders we know that he and Louise went out rowing and



Bilekenhuis in Hilversum, with gate, circa 1933