RIETVELD WALKING ROUTE
UTRECHT

1. **Centraal Museum**
   - Leaving the museum through the main entrance, turn right and walk to the end of the street. Turn right to cross the bridge (Abtsterbrug), and turn left into Maliesingel. Take the first road to the right, called Zonstraat. At the end of Zonstraat, turn right into Mecklenburglaan. On the opposite corner of the first street to the left you’ll see 2 Rietveld Van der Vuurst de Vries, Julianaalaan 10.
   - Continue down the road you came, passing by the house standing to the right of Julianaalaan 10, and then turn left immediately into Waldeck Pyrmontkade. At Waldeck Pyrmontkade 20 you’ll find 3 Chauffeur’s dwelling. Stray further along Waldeck Pyrmontkade, and take the first turn to the left into Louise de Collignystraat. Turn right into Koningslaan, and then take the first street to the right, Prins Hendri klaan. Continue down this street until you see the flyover, with just before it 4 Rietveld Schroderhuis, Prins Hendri klaan 50.
   - Pass under the flyover to find on your left, 5 Dwellings Erasmuslaan 5-11 and Erasmuslaan 1-3/Prins Hendri klaan 64.

2. **Shopping route to return**
   - Follow Prins Hendri klaan back, crossing Wilhelminapark at the end. Turn right and at the roundabout, turn left (Burgemeester Reigerstraat). Follow this street, crossing Maliesingel into Nachttegaalstraat, and take the first turn to your right, Mgr. van de Weteringslaan. Just after number 120, turn left into Malieslaan, and turn left again at the end (Bilstraat). See 6 Huis Truus Schroder-Schräder, Erasmuslaan 5-11.
   - Turn right into Gansstraat and then take the first road to the right, called Zonstraat. Take the second street to the right, Nicolaassstraat, and then continue along the river, passing housing blocks on your left-hand side.

Optional addition to the route
Take second street to the left, Fuuthof. Turn right into Gansstraat and then the first turn to the left, Laan van Soestbergen. Follow this street to the end, and pass under the railroad. Cross bicycle path and turn immediately left into Tolsteegplantsoen. Follow the bend to the right and then turn left, into Sasserlaan. Take the first turn to the right to see 7 apartments Toermalijnlaan 1-79 and Toermalijnlaan 2-80. Continue on and cross the street to enter 8 Robijnhof.
- Two-on-one dwellings: Robijnhof 1-18
- Single family dwellings: Opaalweg 41, Robijnlaan 2-10 and 16-24, Topaslaan 42
- Apartments: Kornalijnlaan 1-7 & 11-17, Opaalweg 17-39, Topaslaan 18-40
- Return to the Kromme Rijn river.

Pass under the flyover and continue until you reach Tolsteegsingel.
Continue straight on, taking the first crossing to the right and then crossing the bridge in the direction of the café-lined Ledig Erf street. Continue straight on to Twijnstraat. Take the first turn to the right, Nicolaasstraat, and continue straight on to 9 Centraal Museum.
**THIS ROUTE TAKES YOU ALONG SOME HIGHLIGHTS IN THE WORK AND LIFE OF GERRIT RIETVELD (UTRECHT 1888 - UTRECHT 1964).**

Huis Van der Vuurst de Vries 1927
The Utrecht Archives

In 1927, the new owner commissioned Rietveld to redesign the dwelling with a dwelling for his chauffeur. The result is a very remarkable building, compared to the adjacent row of dwellings from the 20s. For this assignment, Rietveld was able to experiment with prefabricated components, which was far from customary at the time. He used black concrete slabs with white dots as cladding for a cube-shaped iron skeleton, alternately attached horizontally and vertically. To ensure enough natural light within the dwelling, he added a bay window to the living room and a skylight over the hall and kitchen.

Van der Vuurst de Vries also asked Rietveld to design a garage combined with a dwelling for his chauffeur. After training in his father's furniture workshop, Rietveld decided to start his own workshop in nearby Groenekan with his mother and his sister. After the death of his father in 1917, around 1918 he built his well-known chair consisting of separate plywood panels and slats here. It was only in 1923 that the chair was executed in the iconic colours: a red back, a blue seat, and black slats with white ends. When Rietveld decided to continue as an architect in 1924, Gerard van de Groenekan – on the left of the photo – took over his workshop.

Chauffeur's Dwellings 1927
Rietveld Schröder Archive

Rietveld Schröder House 1925
Rietveld Schröder Archive

When the zoning plan changed to allow construction on the polder facing the Rietveld Schröder House, Truus Schröder purchased the land opposite her home. This way, she could person­ally determine what the view from her house would look like. Rietveld first designed a row of four dwellings (1931), later followed by a block of six apartments (1934). To ensure ample natural light inside and optimum contact with outdoor space, the houses have broad continuous windows, balconies on the storeys, and each room has a door leading out. One of the dwellings was opened to the public in October 1931 to demonstrate a model interior by Rietveld. This interior is again on display in the model dwelling. The use of colour is striking, with white plastered brick façades and a pastel colour scheme inside.

Rietveld's Furniture Workshop 1917
Rietveld Schröder Archive

After training in his father's furniture workshop and a stint as draughtsman at the silver studio of the Koninklijke Utrechtse Fabriek van Zilverwerken, the 28-year-old Rietveld set up his own furniture workshop in May of 1917. Around 1918 he built his well-known chair consisting of separate plywood panels and slats here. It was only in 1923 that the chair was executed in the iconic colours: a red back, a blue seat, and black slats with white ends. When Rietveld decided to continue as an architect in 1924, Gerard van de Groenekan – on the left of the photo – took over his workshop.

Dwellings at Erasmuslaan, 1931, 1934
Nico Jeske/Rietveld Schröder Archive

1924, for the widow Truus Schröder. Following her husband's death, she wished to continue living there, and wanted to start life anew with her children in a new home. As in her former dwelling, she did not want to live on the ground floor. For the first floor Rietveld designed an open living space, which could be divided into separate rooms by means of sliding walls. From the outside the house looked so unusual that it soon became world famous. It seems as if the house consists of horizontally and vertically placed panels, painted in different shades of white and grey. The window frames are black to make them visually inconspicuous. Some of the structural elements are painted dark blue, red or yellow, adding horizontal and vertical highlights. The view on what was then the open polder landscape was an important part of the design. The windows on the north-eastern side of the first floor looked out over this landscape, and the large corner window was designed without a stile. This way, when the windows are swung open, the whole corner of the house disappears so that the interior and exterior merge to form a single space. When the flyover was completed in the 1960s, Rietveld felt that this undermined his design to the point that he proposed demolishing the house. However, Truus Schröder wished to continue living there, and after her death the house became a museum dwelling where visitors can experience the vision of Rietveld and Schröder first-hand.

Huis Theissing presented a very different exterior, at first. Rietveld designed the dwelling for the chief researcher at the construction materials laboratory of Bredeno's Bouwbedrijf. That's why it consisted of types of stone of different shades of grey. A special feature was the use of B2 blocks: hollow concrete bricks that were usually used for interior walls only. The bare concrete skeleton was visible at the back of the dwelling, serving as roof over the terrace. The rear façade has many windows, giving the fullest possible view of the Kromme Rijn river. Unfortunately, in time the B2 blocks proved to not be impermeable, and in 1980 the whole façade was covered with water-resistant grit and painted white, with the concrete skeleton painted grey.

Huis Muus 1959
The Utrecht Archives

Huis Muus presents a different sight from each angle. The front side seems fairly straightforward, with a storey that is slightly smaller than the ground floor. The right-side façade is of a much more intricate composition, with striking stairs leading up to the front door. The basement is raised slightly above street level, putting the ground floor at a slight elevation. The ‘floating’ roof is also clearly visible from this angle. At the rear, the house has an elevated and protected balcony, so that the residents can enjoy the view of the river from both floors. The ceramic relief is by the Italian artist Luigi de Lerma, who ran a ceramics studio in nearby Groenekan with his Dutch spouse, from 1934.