

## Cobra Cafe - Restaurant

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This restaurant designed as a tribute to an artists' movement. The restaurant and public facilities were awarded first prize in a contest organised by the Dutch government architect.

The concept for the Cobra Cafe is a tribute to the artists of the Cobra movement (1949). The cafe is located at the Museumplein, amongst some of the most important Dutch cultural institutions such as the Rijks Museum, the Van Gogh Museum and the Stedelijk Museum. Inspiration for the interior design comes from the monumental liquid landscape painting, painted in 1974 by Eugene Brands. The original painting is now the centerpiece of the interior. The painting is reflected in the design of the textured rubber floor, which flows like a painting through the space. The colours of the Rob Eckhardt-designed chairs are selected especially for this project and are also inspired by the painting. A raised floor in the middle of the room gives all visitors a clear view over the Museumplein. Around this feature, Estrada Cobra artist Tajiri designed a cast-iron railing. A Karel Appels sculpture, *Cavalry Child* (1950), is another strong feature. Poems of Cobra poets, Lucebert, Kouwenaar and Elburg, are screened on the glass walls. Menus, aprons and wine-labels bear reproductions of original works by artists like Theo Wolvecamp, Constant Nieuwenhuis, Anton Rooskens and Comelle. All the original artworks are displayed in the cafe.

Below the restaurant, the Cobra shop and public restrooms are located serving not only the restaurant but also the visitors of the Museumplein. These award-winning restrooms were designed with the point of view that such spaces may be a bit adventurous, and that the quality enforces respect and creates a clean and socially secure environment. The fully transparent glass toilet doors turn opaque when the toilet is in use. The video monitors provide distraction showing nature films and full wall mirrors are confronting, yet tickle one's vanity.









