

**H. P. Berlage (1856-1934) travels to The Dutch East-Indies  
A journey in drawings, 1923**

**Review and comment on "De Indische reis van H. P. Berlage" by J. Molenaar (1991), composed in  
text and pictures  
Dirk Teeuwen**

**Photographs taken by Dirk Teeuwen are available on request.  
Drawings are not available.**



**1. Dwelling houses along Solo River Surakarta-Solo, Berlage 1923 (picture from the book)  
This beautiful scene has gone forever, the buildings have been demolished: thrown to the wolves  
from the world of money and indelicacy.**



**Hendrik Petrus Berlage finished his studies in architecture at Zürich University in Switzerland. He developed an architectural style, a trend in art, known as "Amsterdamse School". Berlage, as a democratic socialist, designed houses, and many blocks of flats with an entrance hall, in some new working class areas in Amsterdam. But, of course, there was a lot more. His design of the Stock Exchange (1898) along Rokin Street in Amsterdam was one among his many famous works. Berlage's basic principles were geometric principles and repudiation of the application of excessive ornaments based on views from the bygone days such as Jugendstil for example. The plastering of building materials was rejected. Each kind of material (walls, coverings from steel or glass, etc.) had to be visible. Decoration in coherence with constructions only.**

**In 1923 Berlage made a journey through The Dutch East-Indies / Indonesia. The drawings below show Berlage's mastery, not only as a great architectural draughtsman, but as an inspired artist as well.**

**2. H. P. Berlage 1932**

Berlage visited from March 23th to April 5th 1923 Batavia / Jakarta and Buitenzorg / Bogor. Then he went by train to Bandung, Tea Estate Malabar, Yokyakarta, Solo, Borobudur, Prabanan, Mojokerto, Soerabaja / Surabaya and further to Bali. He returned to Surabaya and Yogyakarta and made sketches at Wonosobo, Semarang amd Cirebon. On June 17th 1923 he travelled by boat from Batavia to Sumatra: Padang Panjang, Fort De Kock / Bukit Tinggi, Kota Nepal, Sibolga and Pematang Siantar. Then by train to Medan and Brastagi. On June 27th 1923 his voyage back home to Holland began. (Source: Molenaar, J.)

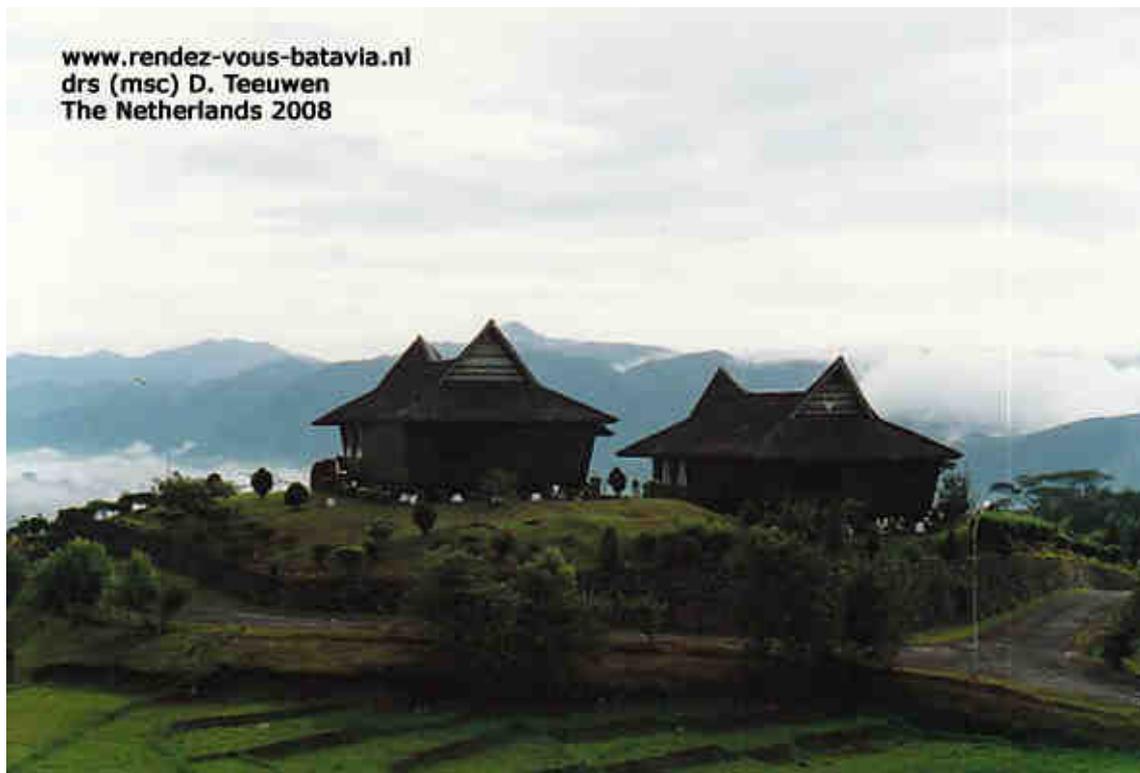
Berlage himself feared that the colonial world as reflected in his wonderful, pastel coloured, drawings could disappear under the pressure of modern Western "civilization". Developments in the modern world caused a lot of destruction indeed, but on the other hand there is much left from the olden days. I try to demonstrate this by showing a few of Berlage's drawings from the book mixed with a couple of photo's from modern times.

In this review I made use of Molenaar's work (of course) and:

- [www.bmz.amsterdam.nl](http://www.bmz.amsterdam.nl)
- Groot, E. P. de: Varen op de Oost; Alkmaar 1994
- Boer, G. J. de: Nederlandse Passagiersschepen; Alkmaar 1979
- Berlage H. P.: Mijn Indische reis (My Indonesian journey); Rotterdam 1931
- Boer, dr M. G. de: De Stoomvaart Maatschappij "Nederland"; Amsterdam 1922
- Collection of photographs Dirk Teeuwen

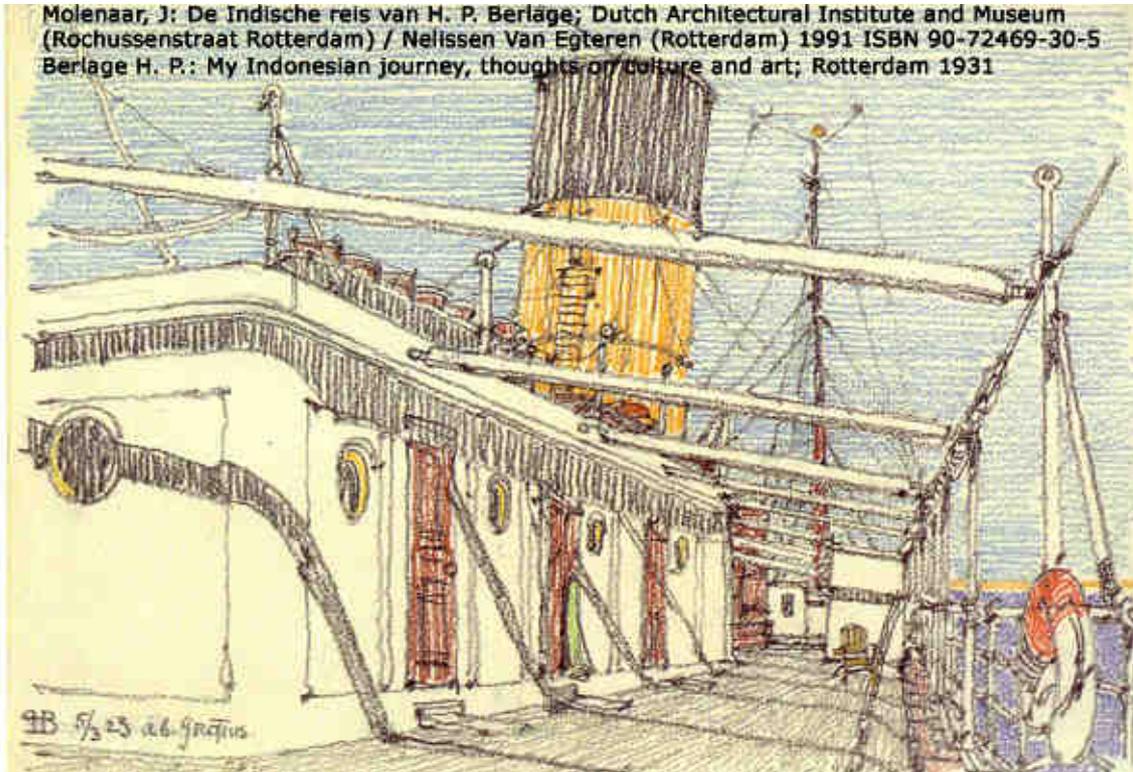
Recommended:

- Ravesteijn, W. and Kop J.: Bouwen in de Archipel (Building constructions in Indonesia); Zutphen Holland 2004
- Akihary, H.: Architectuur & stedebouw in Indonesië (Architecture & urban devepolment in Indonesia); Zutphen Holland 1988
- Gill, R. G.: De Indische stad op Java en Madura (The Dutch East-Indian city on Java and Madura); Delft Holland 1995 (doctoral thesis)

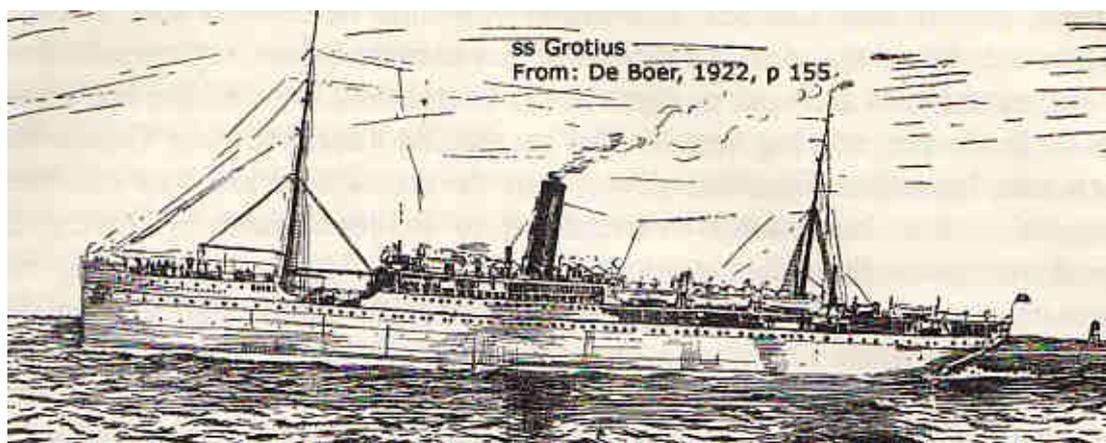


3. Minangkabau architecture near Padang Pandang, Sumatra 1998  
Photo Dirk Teeuwen

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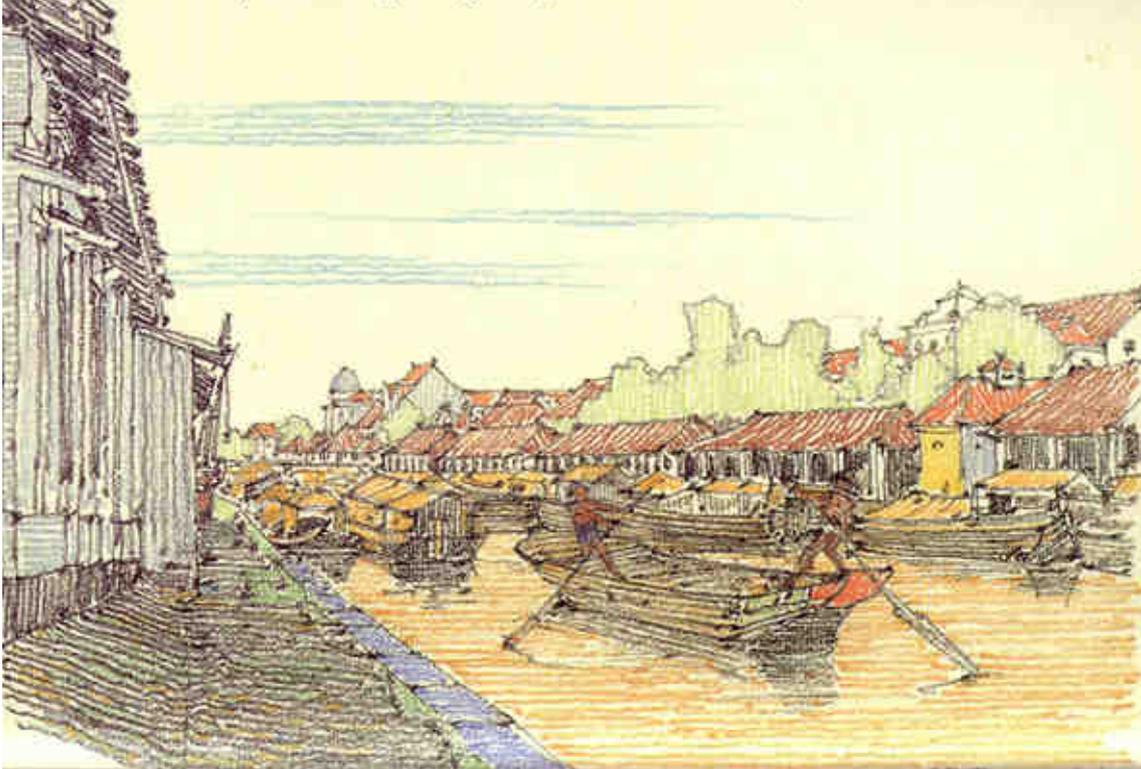


4. Steamer ss Grotius on the Red Sea (Berlage) 1923, picture from the book



5. Ocean steamer "Grotius" owned by Stoomvaart Maatschappij "Nederland"  
 Drawing by Menno van Meeteren Brouwer (?)

Molenaar, J: De Indische reis van H. P. Berlage; Dutch Architectural Institute and Museum (Rochussenstraat Rotterdam) / Nelissen Van Egteren (Rotterdam) 1991 ISBN 90-72469-30-5  
Bérlage H. P.: My Indonesian journey, thoughts on culture and art; Rotterdam 1931

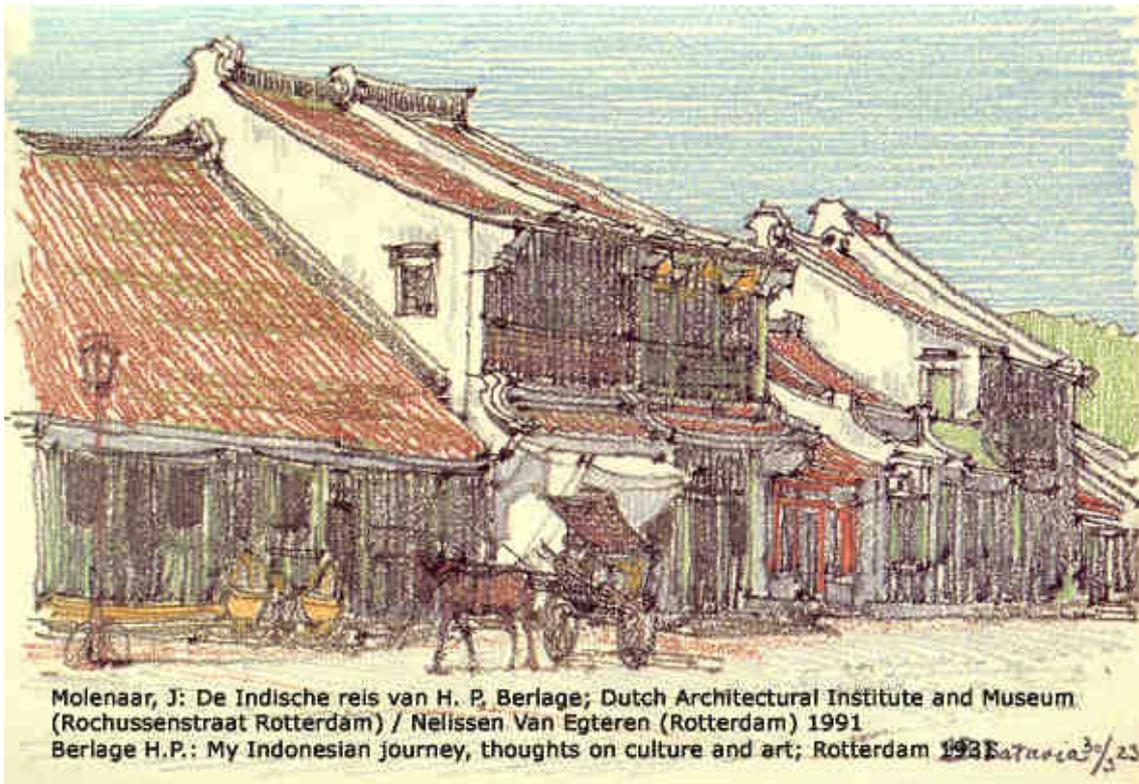


6. Kali Besar Batavia / Jakarta, Berlage 1923 (picture from the book)

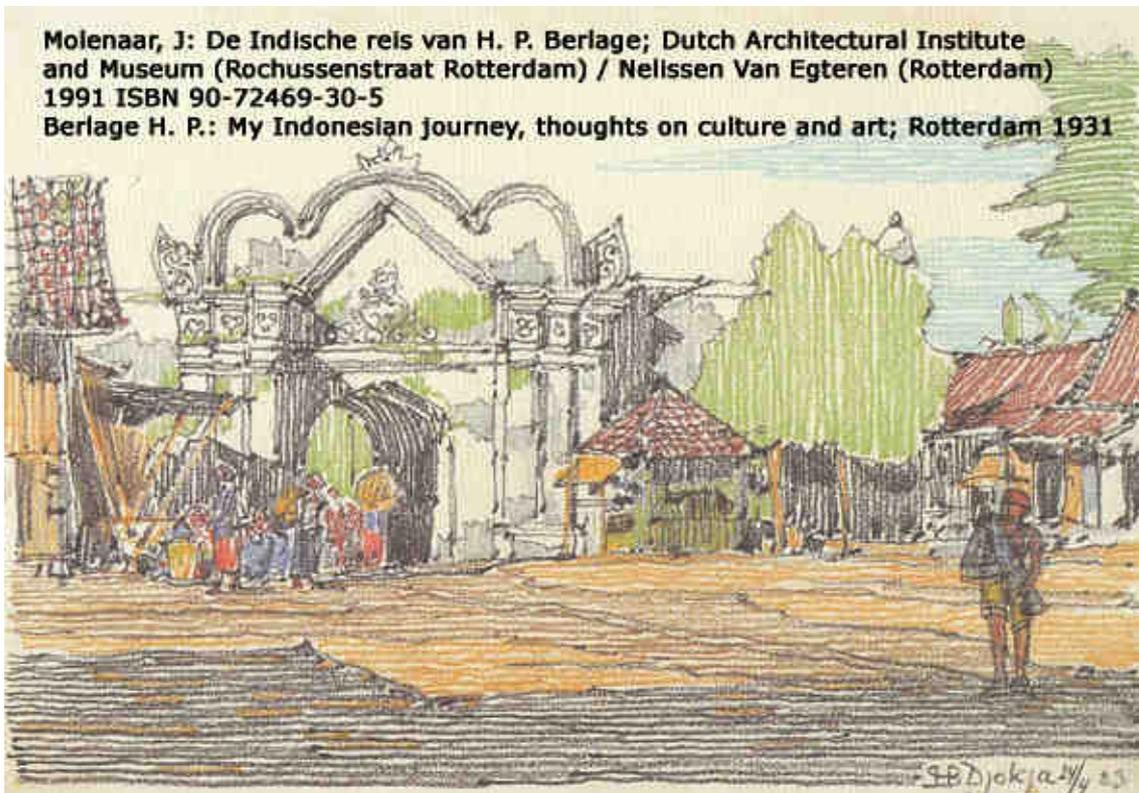
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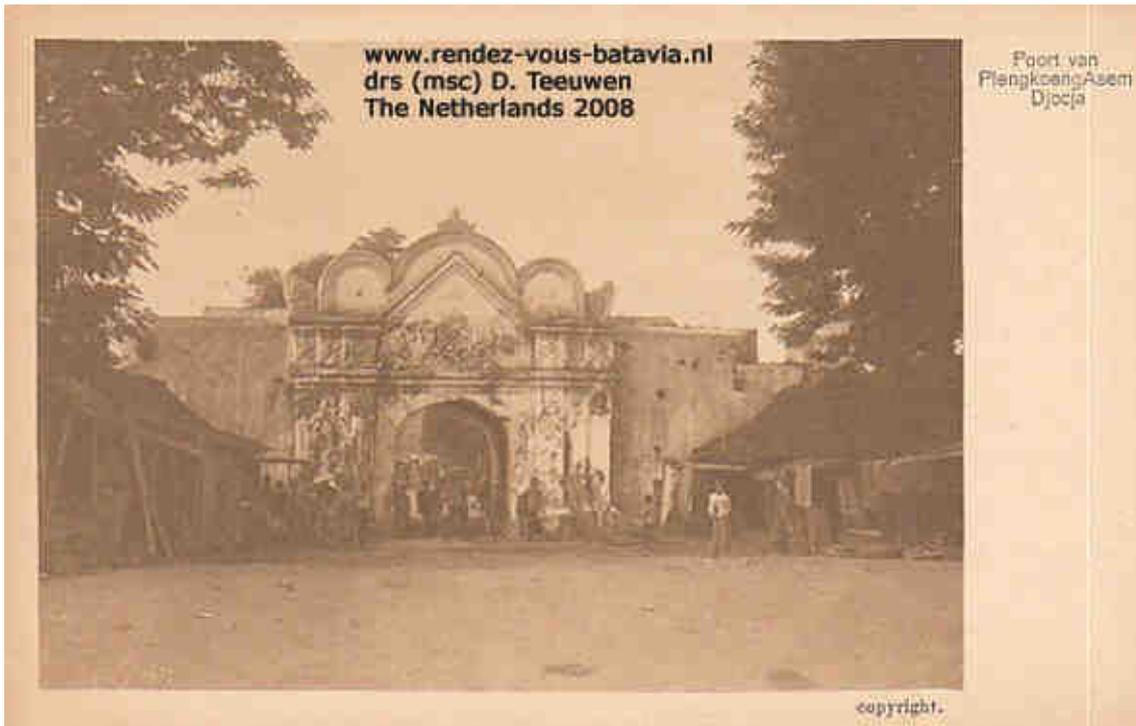


7. Kali Besar, Jakarta 1998  
Photo Dirk Teeuwen

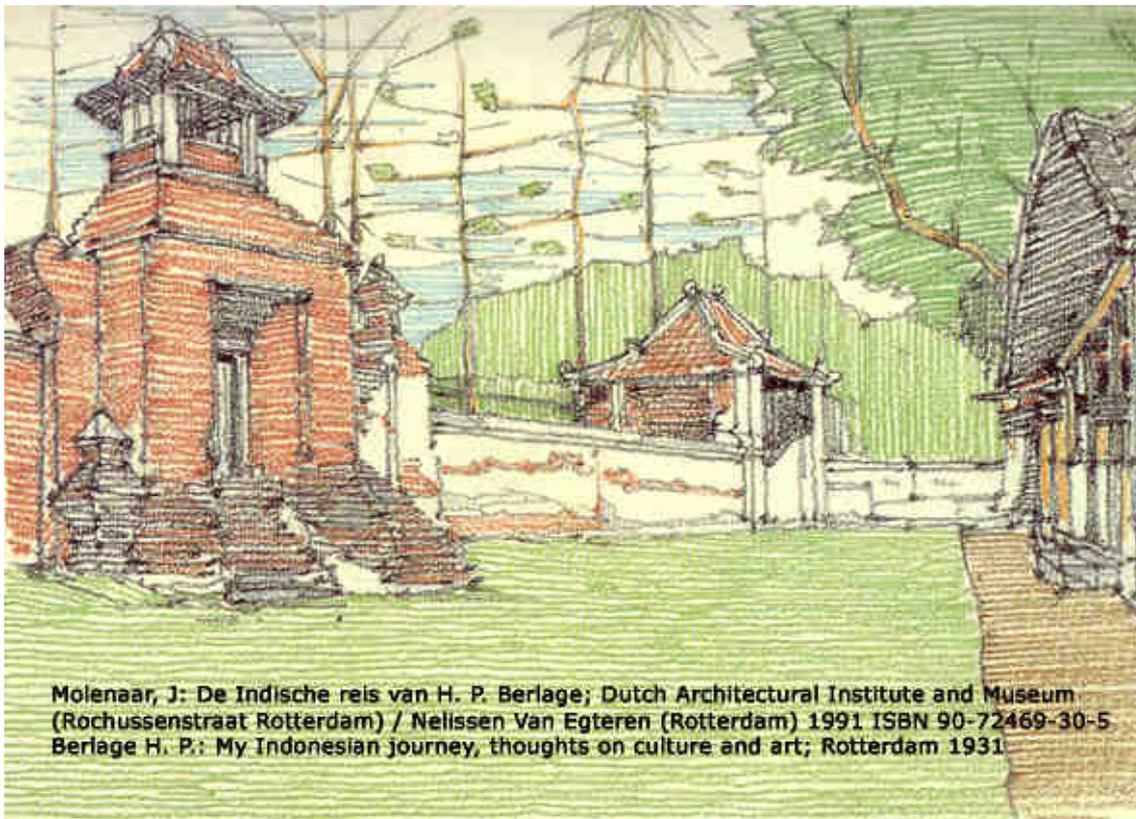


8. Kali Besar South, Batavia / Jakarta, Berlage 1923 (picture from the book)





**10. Gate Plerong Asem, Yogyakarta 1904  
Private collection Dirk Teeuwen**



**11. Kraton Kanoman, Cheribon / Cirebon, Berlage 1923 (picture from the book)**

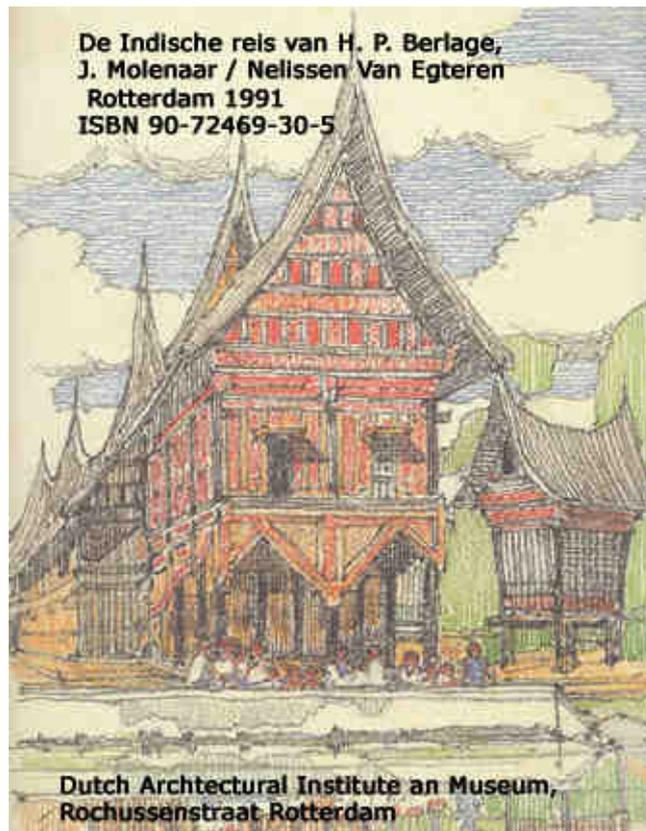
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**12. Kraton Kanoman, Cirebon 1998**  
Photo Dirk Teeuwen



**13. Kraton Kasepuhan, Cirebon 1998**  
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14. Padang Pandjang, Sumatra, Berlage 1923 (Picture from the book)



15. Minangkabau Cultural Centre at Padang Pandjang, Sumatra 1998  
Photo Dirk teeuwen

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16. Around Padang Pandjang, Sumatra 1998  
Photo Dirk Teeuwen

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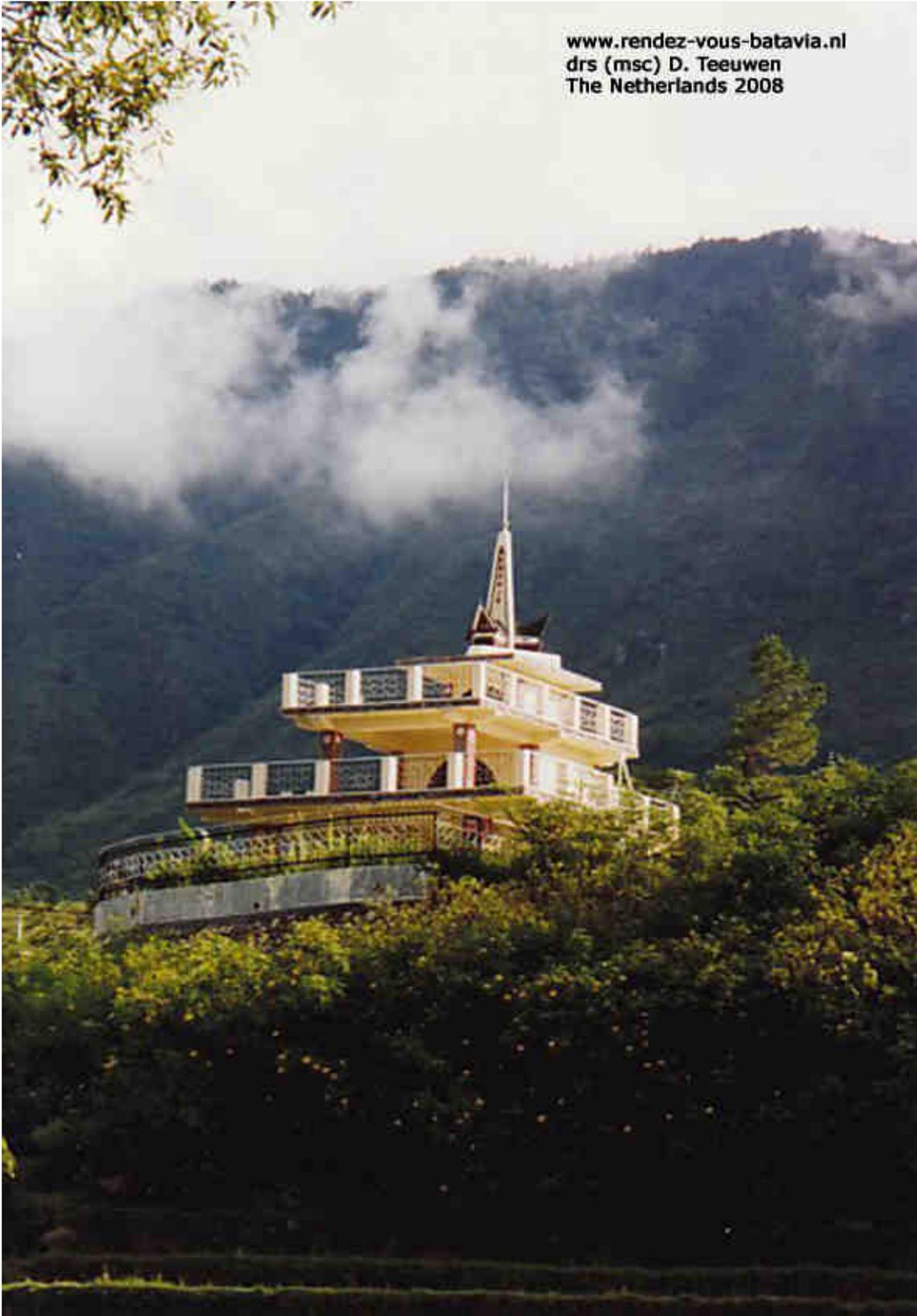


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**17. Batak architecture at Samosir, Sumatra 1998**  
Photo Dirk Teeuwen

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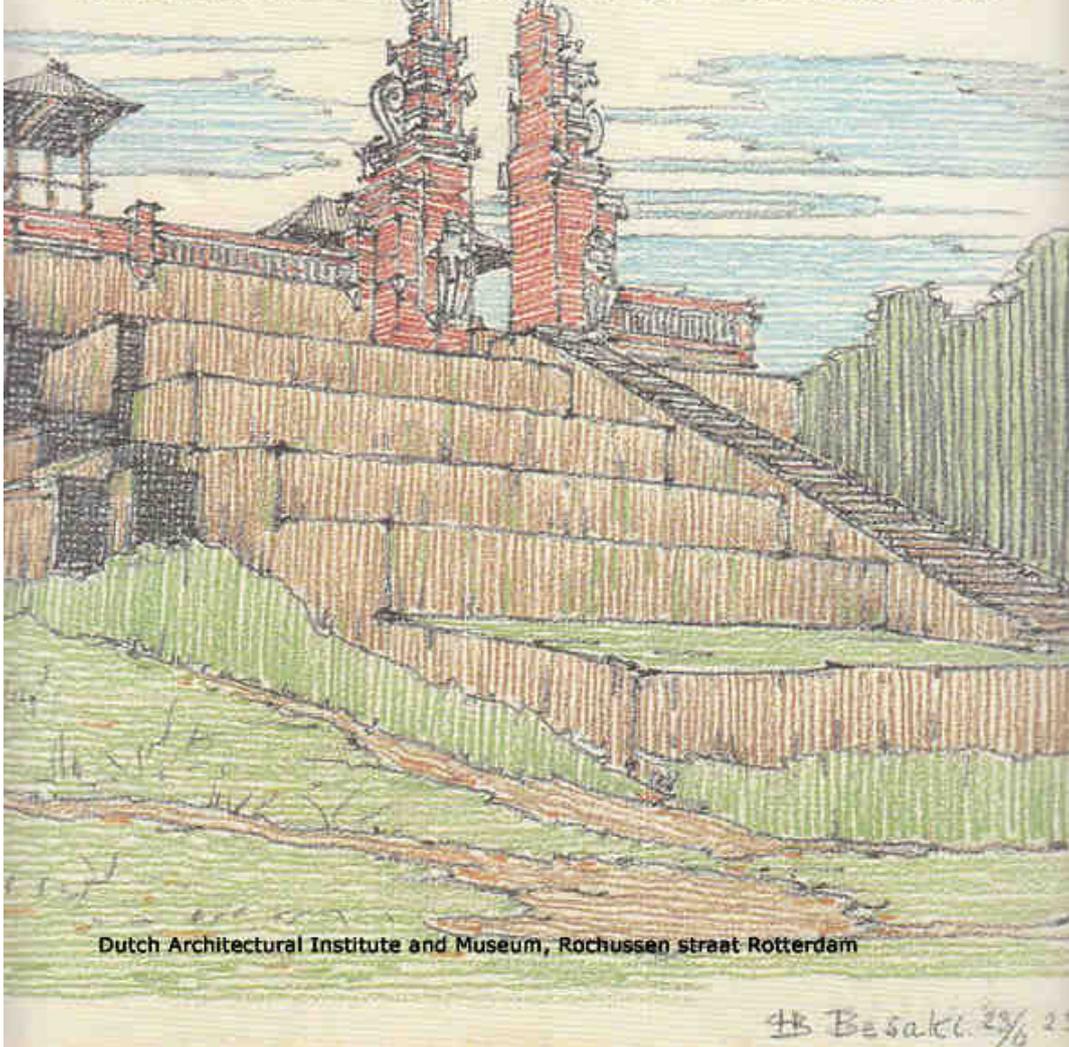
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**18. Batak family grave near Lake Toba, Sumatra 1998**  
Photo Dirk Teeuwen

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De Indische reis van H. P. Berlage, J. Molenaar / Nelissen Van Egteren Rotterdam 1991



Dutch Architectural Institute and Museum, Rochussen straat Rotterdam

4B Besaki. 29/6 23

19. Temple complex at Besaki, Bali, Berlage 1923 (picture from the book)  
20. Besaki 1998, photo Dirk Teeuwen



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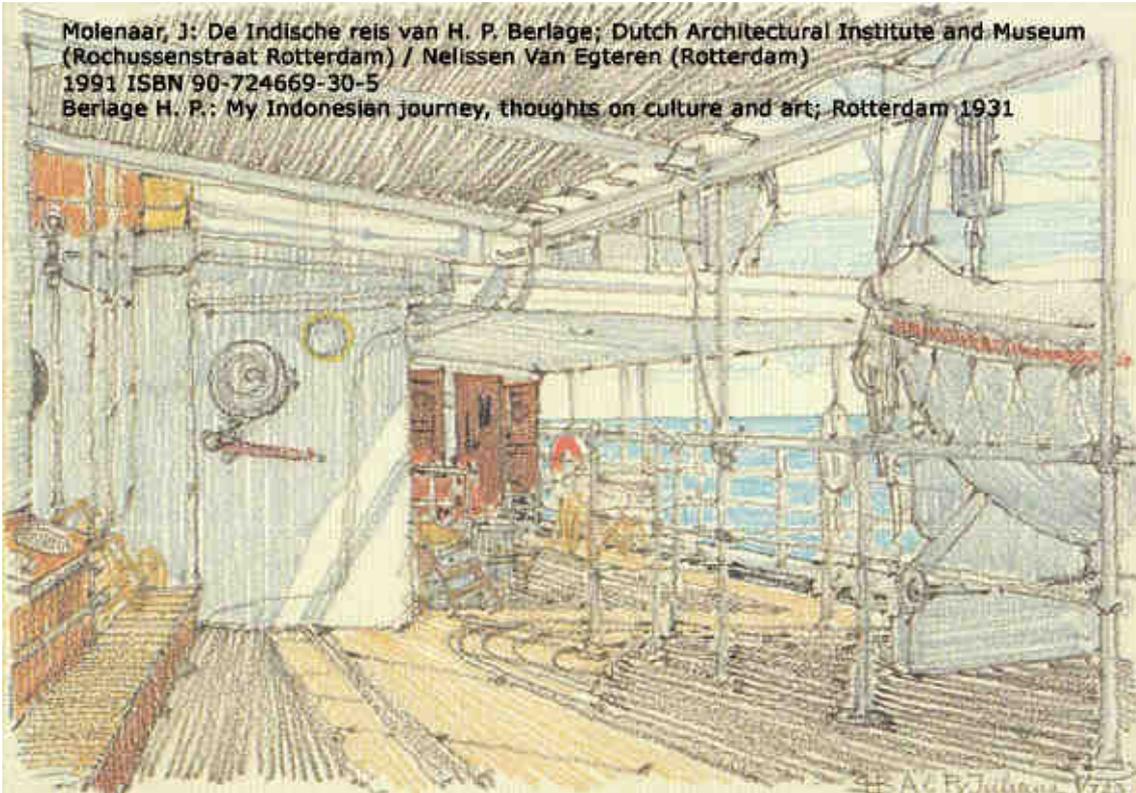
**21. Besaki 1998**  
Photo Dirk Teeuwen

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22. Besaki 1998  
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23. Return voyage, ss Juliana, Berlage 1923 (picture from the book)



24. Ocean steamer "Juliana" owned by Stoomvaart Maatschappij "Nederland"  
Drawing by Menno van Meeteren Brouwer (?)

End

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