
One More Wall Well Done

2016

Martijn Sandberg has realised a site-specific artwork on the Southern facade of First, a new build project on the Weena in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. The brick facade relief covers a wall surface measuring three and half metres high and twenty seven metres long.

A message has been left in the stretching bond on the wall, written in relief with brick letters two and half metres high. A text becomes visible in the play of light and shadow on the brick wall of the building's side facade: 'One More Wall Well Done'.

One More Wall Well Done

A wall has been raised, the job is finished. The bricklayer looks at the result of his completed work with pleasure and satisfaction and says with appropriate pride: 'One More Wall Well Done'.

The artwork pays a tribute in imagery and language to creation and construction, and at the same time refers to the activity of the job; the realisation of the artwork itself.

Bricks and sound

In the reading direction from left to right the first word 'one' is followed by the second word 'more', after that by the middle word 'wall', the fourth word 'well' and the last word of the saying: 'done'.

The 'o'-sound in 'more' reverberates in 'wall'. 'Well' builds on the previous word. The last word 'done' is similar in sound to the first word 'one', and vice versa.

The deed of construction is recorded in one rhythmic sentence, from the beginning to the last action of accomplishing the wall: 'One More Wall Well Done'.

Sound and echo

'One More Wall Well Done' is a song of praise, a hymn. Laying the bricks of the wall is celebrated in song by the artwork. Anyone listening well to the melody of the bricks resounding from the Southern facade, hears an echo. The name of the maker and the title of the artwork on the Northern facade reverberate in the sound and the sequence of the English words chosen.

Martijn Sandberg's facade relief 'One More Wall Well Done' is also a compliment, a homage to the artwork 'Wall Relief no.1' (1955) by Henry Moore, which is located on the other side of the building.

Figuration and materialisation

The form of the artwork 'One More Wall Well Done', executed in brick, is not only a symbolic and direct reference to the 'pixels', the building blocks applied in architecture in general, but also refers to the material of which the Henry Moore artwork is constructed.

Colour and tone

The brick letters in high relief on the brick wall match the stones around the letters with regard to brown colour and sort. 'One More Wall Well Done' is a facade relief, laid in brick in one colour tone.

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The brick letters executed in high relief provide a spectacular show of light and shadow on the wall in a daytime and evening situation. With regard to theme, content and form, the artwork 'One More Wall Well Done' by Martijn Sandberg adds a multi-layered accent to the Southern facade of the First building in the city centre of Rotterdam.

Title: 'One More Wall Well Done'

Artist: Martijn Sandberg

Location: First building, Southern facade, Weena, Rotterdam

Measurements: (lxh) 27.30m x 3.50m

Material: facade relief in brick

Concept and design: 2013-2014

Execution and completion: 2015-2016

Artwork incl. location: September 2016

Commissioned by: First Rotterdam CV, Maarsen Groep BV, MAB Development

Architect: de Architecten Cie., Amsterdam