

The logo for Design Museum Den Bosch features the words "DESIGN", "MUSEUM", "DEN", and "BOSCH" stacked vertically in a red, sans-serif font. A thin green vertical line runs through the center of the text, passing through the 'I' in "DESIGN", the 'U' in "MUSEUM", the 'N' in "DEN", and the 'O' in "BOSCH".

# DESIGN MUSEUM DEN BOSCH

Design Museum Den Bosch presents:

## **Looking In with Thijs Wolzak**

*13 October 2018 up to and including 17 February 2019*

Between September 2011 and January 2018, Thijs Wolzak took 248 photographs of Dutch people in their homes. This photo series was published weekly in the Dutch newspaper NRC Handelsblad's popular column *Binnenkijken* [*Looking In*]. Never before in the Netherlands has such a complete, consistently created impression been recorded of the diversity of people and their habitats. Design Museum Den Bosch is delighted to be able to present a selection of photographs from this series in an exceptional, unique way, demonstrating the impact of design on people's individual living spaces. The exhibition is part of the project *Human Interior* by Thijs Wolzak. The photos are accompanied by interviews with the residents, and philosopher Coen Simon will give his views on the interiors. A book, *Human Interior*, featuring 50 photos from the series and texts by Arnon Grunberg and Coen Simon, will be published at the same time.

### **Unique presentation**

A selection of 23 images from the series Wolzak created for NRC Handelsblad was made for the exhibition, and these images will be presented in large-format light boxes displayed separately in the space. The exhibition was designed by the internationally renowned Kossmann.dejong agency, and reinforces two major qualities of the images. Firstly, the photos contain a lot of details, all of which tell their own stories. By showing each image in large format, each living space becomes a treasure-chest of discovery. Secondly, thanks to the spatial feel of the photos, the viewer is given the feeling of standing on the threshold of a space – almost able to step inside. A sensation heightened by the residents themselves, speaking through audio handsets. After all, it is not only the visual aspect that counts here: these images tell individual stories.

### **Impact of design**

Through its exhibitions, Design Museum Den Bosch illustrates the social significance of design. "And where is this greater than in our most intimate living space, our own home?" says the museum's director, Timo de Rijk. "With this exhibition – as well as a range of other activities – we want to stimulate visitors not only to think about other people's interiors, but also about their own choices and motivations in their own environments. Whereas an interior and its furnishings used to last a lifetime, these days people see the house as a space in flux, and its interior – like clothing – as an extension of their own personality." Alongside all the individualism, Wolzak's series of photographs also reveals a collective mentality. For example, the series refers to the typically Dutch habit of leaving the curtains open in the evening. After all, we have nothing to hide!



## **Human Interior**

Photographer Thijs Wolzak chose the term *Human Interior* for his project, which in addition to this exhibition also consists of an accompanying book. The series of 248 photos gives us an anthropological view of how we attempt to get to grips with the world in our era through the design of our own living spaces. While visiting his subjects at home, Wolzak was often dumbstruck by how far people go in assembling a home, furnishing their own workspace, building a nest. What often seems to the viewer to be surprising or even absurd, for the residents themselves is natural – the only logical choice. In his photographs – which he always took with a final destination in mind other than the pages of a newspaper – Wolzak transmits his own sense of wonder to the viewer. It is this wonder that forms the basis for the book and the exhibition, designed as a multimedia experience.

---

### **Note for the editors**

#### *Opportunities for interview*

Thijs Wolzak will be glad to talk about his photo series, the exhibition and the accompanying book. For interview requests, contact Design Museum Den Bosch.

#### *Special offers for readers*

Design Museum Den Bosch often makes special offers for readers. Please inform us in advance if you are interested in these.

#### *The book*

Lecturis will be publishing the book *Human Interior* on 13 October in a dual-language edition (NL/ENG), format 38x28cm, 120 pages. With texts by Arnon Grunberg and Coen Simon. Retail price € 29.95 ISBN 978-94-6226-289-8

#### *Contact*

For further information or images, contact Marcel Ploegmakers, marketing & communication, Design Museum Den Bosch: [mploegmakers@designmuseum.nl](mailto:mploegmakers@designmuseum.nl) / 06-53592878