



Pieter van Vollenhoven prize for conversion of factory building

ON 20 MAY THE KREPEL FAMILY WAS AWARDED THE PIETER VAN VOLLENHOVEN PRIZE*. THEY GAVE THE KLARENBEEK COUNTRY ESTATE A WHOLE NEW LIFE, WHICH WILL ENSURE THAT THE HISTORIC BUILDING WILL BE PRESERVED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. THIS INITIATIVE WAS CROWNED WITH THE HONOURED PRIZE. "MY PARENTS MANAGED TO RESTORE THE PROPERTY WITH A GREAT DEAL OF CARE AND ATTENTION, AND THEY TURNED IT INTO A BEAUTIFUL PROPERTY WHICH OFFERS MANY POSSIBILITIES", SAYS BERNHARD KREPEL (MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE KREPEL GROUP).

Change of use for factory building

The moment that the production site for our luxury wooden boxes was relocated to Poland the historic factory holding in Klarenbeek was put to new uses. Bernhard: "In the former sawmill of the box factory at the country estate there is space for art exhibitions, business meetings, family parties, workshops, furniture restoration and nature recreation. There are a great many possibilities and the historic property has an important role to play."

The 'Krepel History'

"My father, Jan Richard Krepel, is the seventh generation of our family to have lived and worked at the country estate", says Bernhard. Jan Richard is a direct descendant of Johan Richard Krepel, who started a copper mill on the estate in 1732. "A lot has changed since those days", Bernhard adds. "In 1870 the copper mill became a cigar box factory and in 1950 a factory for making doors was added. I am proud of the fact that we, as a business with so much history, are able to call ourselves the European market leader in luxury wooden packagings."



* The Pieter van Vollenhoven prize is awarded annually in the Netherlands to an individual or organisation that has taken on the challenge of preserving a historic property in the Netherlands by changing its use. In 2013 the prize was awarded to Prof. Pieter van Vollenhoven upon his departure after 27 years as Chairman of the National Restoration Fund. During his time as Chairman he actively supported initiative takers who stuck their necks out to preserve historic buildings. The prize was set up in order to keep this spirit alive, and to stimulate initiative takers who wish to give a new life to a historic building.

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