

THE CUBE HOUSES

The Cube houses (Kubuswoningen in Dutch) are a set of innovative houses built in Rotterdam and Helmond in the Netherlands, designed by architect Piet Blom. The houses are built around the concept of living on an urban roof: high density housing with sufficient space on the ground level, since its main purpose is to optimise the space inside. Blom tilted the cube of a conventional house 45 degrees, and rested it upon a hexagon-shaped pylon. His design can be seen as a village within a city, where each house represents a tree, and all the houses together, a forest. That is why the group of houses is called 'het Blaakse bos' (the Blaak forest). Three test versions were first constructed in 1974, and in 1977 18 houses were constructed in Helmond. The many houses required for a 'woonwoud' (living woods) were never realized. The houses in Rotterdam were designed in 1977 in a plan of 55, of which 39 were built. The houses in Rotterdam are located on Overblaak Street, right above the Blaak Subway Station. There are 38 small cubes and two so called 'super-cubes', all attached to each other.

