



## Museum Het Spinozahuis for everyone

Spinoza is alive and kicking! The ideas of the great philosopher Spinoza can be linked to contemporary issues such as democracy, freedom of speech, fake news and the infinite human search for happiness.

In the renewed Museum Het Spinozahuis everything revolves around experiencing an authentic historic place. The visitor is immersed in a 17<sup>th</sup>-century ambiance, feels Spinoza's presence in his reconstructed library. Using powerful, varied means, the museum appeals to wide groups: students, families, day trippers, (foreign) tourists and experts. A visit to the Spinozahuis inspires to learn more about the Netherlands' greatest philosopher, to look at your own life and society from a new perspective and to make a connection with current events and developments.



## Your donation matters



Support the renewal project of the Spinozahuis Museum and provide Spinoza, with a Museum worthy of this great philosopher.



All donations, both large and small, are welcome on  
**IBAN NL11 INGB 0000 5303 15**

attn. "Vereniging Het Spinozahuis" stating "Renewal Museum Het Spinozahuis" or scan the QR code. Thank you!

## They too support the renewal plans



### Cornelis Visser

Mayor of Katwijk

*"Social media makes what Spinoza says about reason more important than ever: rational thinking and analysis prevents us from being guided by feelings instead of by our mind!"*

### Paul van Tongeren

Philosopher of The Nation 2021-2023  
(honorary title)

*"The piety of thought and a vigorous defence of the freedom go hand in hand with the greatest Dutch philosopher."*



*Colophon: Idea and publication: Museum Het Spinozahuis Rijnsburg.  
Texts: Wim Schouten, Dirk van Delft. Photos: Louis van Schie, Aart Dijkzeul, gem. Katwijk version, Merlijn Doornik (Photo P van Tongeren) Architectenbureau Marcel van Dijk, Rietbroek Oudijn designers*



## The Spinozahouse renews



**Support  
the museum  
Spinoza deserves**



## Spinoza: our greatest philosopher

Living in Rijnsburg Spinoza develops ideas that form the basis of *The Ethics*, his most important book. He develops a revolutionary vision of Reason (the intellect), of God (Nature) and of man and his happiness. His ideas form the basis of the later Enlightenment and are still extremely topical and relevant today. Spinoza is alive and kicking!

Spinoza's fame is evident from the association of his name with the most important Dutch prize for scientists; "The Spinoza Premie". Spinoza is also part of the National Canon of Dutch History, the framework for Dutch history education. His ideas can be linked to current issues such as freedom of expression, democracy and the relationship between religion and politics.

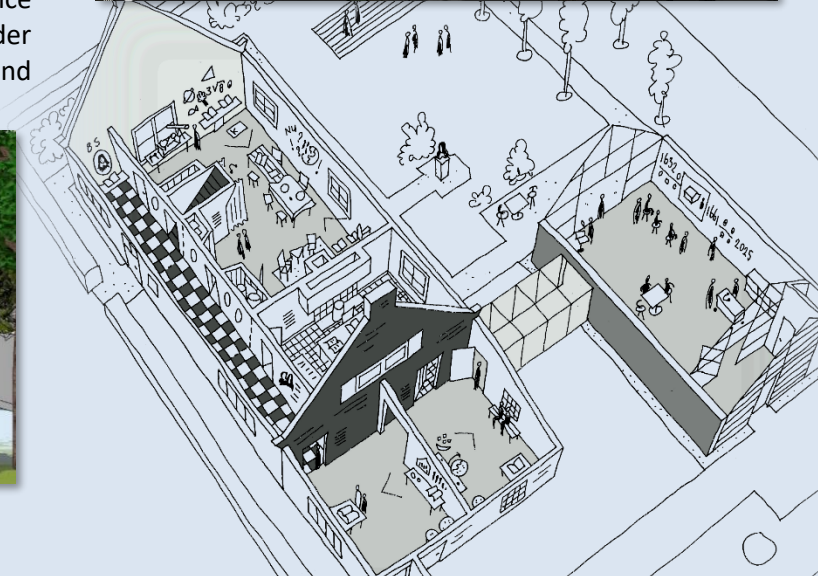


## Renewal plan Spinozahuis Museum

The renewal plan of the museum consists of three parts.

1. a new modern entrance building will create extra space needed to properly receive visitors and introduce them to the museum. It also houses a museum shop and simple catering.
2. the garden will be given a facelift and will be integrated in the museum route. Existing elements such as the well-known bust of Spinoza by sculptor Wenkebach and the iconic trees remain untouched.
3. and on top of that, a new professionally designed museum exhibition will be mounted.

A new accessible exhibition on the fascinating story of Spinoza's life and ideas, and its impact and significance even for our present time, will appeal to a broader audience. A modern approach which will preserve and even extend its unique historical authenticity.



Mayor of Katwijk, Cornelis Visser opens the exhibition "A book forged in hell" about the *Theological Political Tractate* written by Spinoza in 1670 (October 2020)

## The Golden Age

Spinoza lived in the seventeenth century; the Golden Age. The Netherlands was a tolerant Republic with room for everyone's beliefs while elsewhere in Europe people ended up being burned at the stake for their faith. Freedom acted as a magnet attracting enterprising people exposed to persecution elsewhere: unprecedented prosperity was our share.

Spinoza emphasized that a state of prosperity and happiness could not be reached without freedom. He was both concerned with inner freedom and with political freedom; both to be achieved in a peaceful and prosperous democratic state. Spinoza is considered to be one of the founding fathers of the Enlightenment.

## Association Het Spinozahuis

The Spinoza House Association was founded almost 125 years ago to buy, protect and preserve the house Spinoza once lived. The association has been looking after the museum since then. In Rijnsburg, also known as flower village, a team of Spinoza experts and enthusiastic volunteers take care of the museums daily business.