

# Martien Schaaperhuis - The Netherlands

## Introduction

Martien Schaaperhuis is a protected living facility in Amsterdam, the capital city of the Netherlands. This location is a development-oriented housing facility where residents initially receive intensive support and gradually learn to manage more aspects of their lives independently. The residents aim to eventually transition to their own housing. The focus is on providing assistance with meaningful daytime activities, financial management, and living arrangements. Residents can be referred through the justice system (IFZO) or via the municipality (WMO).



HVO-Querido, an organization that manages a wide range of (forensic) facilities in North Holland, particularly in the Greater Amsterdam area, manages Martien Schaaperhuis. They provide shelter, guidance, and daytime activities for people in vulnerable situations. Their approach is personal, strength-based, and focused on promoting participation in society. Through their commitment and expertise, they strive to create an inclusive, livable, and safe community.

The idea to establish Martien Schaaperhuis for homeless people emerged during the Daverende Daklozendagen in 1997, a discussion forum involving homeless individuals, social workers, housing providers (including Martien Schaaper), and architects. Thanks to the patience, enthusiasm, and persistence of everyone involved, Martien Schaaperhuis finally opened its doors in 2008.

## Scale

Martien Schaaperhuis accommodates 60 residents. The justice system permanently funds ten of these spots. Initially, one-sixth of the residents are placed by the justice system and later transition to a place funded by the municipality. The residents live in groups of eight people.

### RESCALED-principles in practice:

- Small-scale
- Differentiated
- Community-integrated

## Differentiation

### *Target group:*

Martien Schaaperhuis is a housing facility for adults, both men and women, focusing on (former) homeless individuals who need support due to psychiatric problems as they work towards societal reintegration. The facility accepts clients with controlled substance use (drugs and alcohol), provided it does not involve severe addiction problems. The facility is drug-free.

On average, residents stay at Martien Schaaperhuis for two years, with the goal of developing sufficient independence to move on to other housing arrangements. The target group includes individuals who have the potential to progress to independent living and are motivated to work towards this goal, as demonstrated by their active participation in work and activities. Residents can be placed through the justice system (IFZO) or the municipality (WMO).

### *Forms of security:*



At Martien Schaaperhuis, relational security is a priority, with a focus on trust and respect. Residents are encouraged to be as independent as possible, although independence is built up gradually when necessary. A positive living environment is promoted through attention to the surroundings, maintenance, cleanliness, and prompt resolution of issues. Equality between residents and staff is emphasized, with a focus on collaboration and active participation from the residents' committee.

This is complemented by several static security measures to ensure residents' sense of security. Firstly, cameras are installed in common areas, and footage is reviewed only in the event of incidents.

Additionally, there are weekly room inspections to maintain hygiene standards. Daily supervision is provided from 7:30 AM to 10:45 PM, after which a night supervisor takes over.

Martien Schaaperhuis also implements procedural security measures through various house rules. Residents have the freedom to come and go 24/7 with their own keys. However, disruptive behaviors such as begging or loitering on the street, and the use of hard drugs, are prohibited. Residents are also responsible for keeping their own rooms and shared spaces clean, with assistance available if needed.

### *Activities:*

At Martien Schaaperhuis, independence is encouraged, and residents are responsible for their own schedules. Staff and residents collaboratively create a plan based on the residents' goals, needs, and wishes.

All staff members use a strength-based approach, which supports working in a way that is strength-focused, recovery-oriented, and safe, within the framework of the organization's

established strength principles. The program is designed to help residents identify and develop their strengths to facilitate a successful recovery journey. Within this framework, there is room for personal choice and individualized support.

During their stay, residents are required to include certain activities in their weekly schedule, such as income management, daytime activities, and treatment by an outreach team. While residents are not required to have employment, they must engage in some form of meaningful daytime activity. They receive personalized guidance in various areas, including household tasks, day care, administration, finances, housing, social skills, and network expansion. Additionally, there is an option to join a recovery group that supports residents in discussing their mental health and addiction recovery.

Martien Schaaperhuis primarily collaborates with external partners for daytime activities. However, residents also have the opportunity to work in Steigerstek, the restaurant within the facility. This restaurant offers daytime activities for residents interested in the hospitality industry. It is open for lunch and dinner for residents and visitors, with a free breakfast provided for residents. For other meal times, residents can choose to cook individually or in groups, or eat at Steigerstek.

Visitors are welcome daily until 10:00 PM, with a maximum of three visitors per resident and the option to have overnight guests for up to two nights per week, subject to prior arrangement with the personal counselor and reception.



## Community-integration

### *Location and architecture:*



Martien Schaaperhuis is located in a residential neighborhood in Amsterdam on Steigereiland, with various shops and local amenities nearby. The location is easily accessible by tram, just fifteen minutes from the central station. The building features an open and bright design, contributing to a pleasant atmosphere. Despite its spacious appearance, the interior is designed to be cozy and inviting.

The building has three floors and is equipped with an elevator for accessibility. Residents share their living space with up to eight people. Each resident has their own room, which includes amenities such as Wi-Fi, a TV connection, and a private shower, sink, and toilet. The kitchen and living room are shared within each residential group. Additionally, there is a shared outdoor area for relaxation. Each floor has communal washing machines for residents' use. Besides the living areas, Martien Schaaperhuis also houses Steigerstek, a restaurant connected to the facility.

Martien Schaaperhuis also offers the possibility of internal transitions during the residency. Rooms vary in size and include options with or without balconies, and individual studios are available within the building.

### *Interaction with the community:*

Martien Schaaperhuis promotes interaction between residents and the local community in various ways. It encourages residents to participate in neighborhood activities, including using social services, engaging in work and sports activities, and finding meaningful daytime activities within the community. The facility itself does not offer specific activities.

The Steigerstek restaurant, located on the ground floor of the facility, is open to local residents. This creates a social meeting place and fosters integration and interaction between the residents and the surrounding community.

### **Martien Schaaperhuis**

Founded: 2008

Capacity: 60

Security level: Low

Nearest city/town:

Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

Nature of interaction: Visited  
by RJN (15/01/2024)

**Publicity/ read more**

- About Martien Schaaperhuis at the official website of HVO-Querido:

HVO-Querido. (2023, February 14). *Martien Schaaperhuis - HVO-Querido*. Retrieved 15th of may, 2024 from <https://hvoquerido.nl/locaties/martien-schaaperhuis/>

- About Martien Schaaperhuis at the official website of Mijn Woonlocatie (Care and housing support in Amsterdam):

Martien Schaaperhuis - mijnwoonlocatie. (2021, July 19). *Mijnwoonlocatie*. Retrieved 15th of may, 2024 from <https://mijnwoonlocatie.amsterdam/locaties/martien-schaaper-huis-msh/>

- About Martien Schaaperhuis at the website of an architectural firm:

*Friso ten Holt » Martien Schaaperhuis Amsterdam*. (n.d.). Retrieved 15th of may, 2024 from <http://frisotenholt.nl/portfolio/martien-schaaperhuis-amsterdam/>