
Glass Fragile Handle With Care

2009

Martijn Sandberg has designed a typographic pattern for the glass of the Stadshoven Weidevenne Apartment Building, Purmerend, the Netherlands. The apartment complex is 75 metres long, consisting of five storeys with a gallery on the West façade. The gallery has balconies that, per floor level, are staggered in relationship to each other.

A point raster is applied to the transparent glass by 'damaging' the surface through sandblasting. The point raster resembles a grid of protective plastic bubble foil, the familiar packing material.

A series of letters appears within the sandblasted point raster, making an unending and continuous text visible to the passer-by over the full length of the glass of the gallery and balconies. As if pre-printed packing tape has been pasted over the façade in four strips: 'Glass Fragile Handle With Care Glass Fragile Handle With Care.'

Title: 'Glass Fragile Handle With Care'

Artist: Martijn Sandberg

Location: apartment complex Stadshoven Weidevenne, Purmerend/ NL

Material: sandblasted glass

Measurements: glass gallery, railings and balconies, surface 467 m2, height 1.05m

Concept and design: 2006-2007

Definitive design: January 2007

Built: 2007-2009

Completion: 2009

Commissioned by: Municipality Purmerend and Bouwcompagnie, Hoorn/ NL

Architect: Faro Architects/ NL