

reflection

2011

The Palace Garden between the Noordeinde and Prinsessewal, is one of The Hague's most beautiful and inspiring places. The monumental trees, pond and contemporary sculpture collection combine urban nature and fine art against a backdrop of stately buildings such as the Noordeinde Palace, the Royal Stables and the Royal Archives. Although open to the public from sunrise till sunset the garden is mostly deserted, even on hot summer days. After many urban changes, the 19th century entrance gate to the garden has become subordinate to its environment. The square overlooking the entrance has

been turned into an obscure and inhospitable parking lot. Coming from the shopping center, one would walk past the entrance without noticing.

This urban situation cannot be changed, but it is taken as basis for the design. Two reflective glass panels are projected on the parking lot to focus the attention of passers-by on the reflected image of the entrance gate. Because of their transparency, the panels link two estranged situations: The attractive image of the garden becomes mixed with the surrounding ugliness; the passer-by may choose.



