



Zecc Architects

Villa Vriezenveen

Area: 250 sqm

Photography: Cornbread Works

Location: Vriezenveen, the Netherlands
Residential

The open landscape either side of an ancient country lane between Vriezenveen and Almelo forms the backdrop to this house. Like the historic farmhouses along Weitemansweg, the house has a linear layout. The contours of the sections, which are linked one behind the other, come together to form a unified, statuesque whole. The house is lengthened by the formation of the upper floor in two separate elements that are offset towards the front and rear ends. This produces a silhouette of apparently separate sections that stands out in the surrounding area. In addition, this formation leads to the creation of the requested covered terrace at the rear and a carport at the front.

The black zinc of the outer walls is applied in long, horizontal strips with folded seams. Due to the sheen and somewhat uneven finish of the

material, the house reacts in a subtle way to the colours of the Dutch sky. Thanks to the dark, subdued colour, the house blends in with the landscape more than the big farmhouses with their orange roofs.

The rooms of the house, with their large windows, are oriented towards the surrounding area. Each room has a strong focus on one of the points of the compass. Only the kitchen has a multiple orientation and functions as the central hub of the house. All the rooms are accessible from this central space, some of them via open staircases. The main load bearing structure consists of three steel portals supporting two laminated beams, each 1 metre high and 27 metres long! In combination with walls of a wooden skeleton structure, this allowed overhangs in multiple directions to be created.

