



HRVATSKI MAGAZIN ZA NEKRETNINE / CROATIAN REAL ESTATE MAGAZINE

## PLUTAJUĆE KUĆE FLOATING HOUSES

U DOMU KOD  
DIANE VON FUSTENBERG  
AT HOME WITH  
DIANE VON FUSTENBERG

## ZELENA SVJEŽINA GREEN FRESHNESS

NAJBOLJI IZBOR NEKRETNINA  
THE BEST REAL ESTATE OFFER



## Plutajuće kuće - originalna i ekološki osviještena budućnost stanovanja

Jeste li ikad pomislili kako bi bilo imati kuću na vodi? Kakav bi osjećaj bio da vam je mjesto stalnog stanovanja plutajuća kuća te da je, kad vam dosadi okoliš i pogled s prozora, samo odvezete i premjestite na neko zanimljivije mjesto? Nizozemski arhitekti su, za one koji žele živjeti na originalan i ekološki prihvatljiv način, dizajnirali suvremene kuće na vodi, takozvane plutajuće kuće

Piše: Danijela Mandušić Foto: Arhiva DalCasa

Nekke plutajuće kuće imaju čak i vlastite vrtove / Some floating houses even have their own gardens



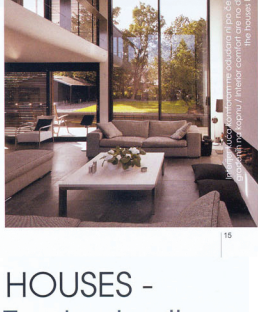
Foto / Photo: Waterstudio.NL Photo: Pieter Kers

**D** o ideje kuća na vodi došli su nizozemski arhitekti zbog izrazitog zanimanja ljudi za ovaj alternativni način stanovanja, a također i zbog potrebe uzrokovane samim položajem Nizozemske, koja je, kao što joj i samo ime kaže, dijelom smještena ispod vodene površine te ima brojne mliječne vodene rukavce koji kao da su stvoreni za život na vodi. Uskoro je ovaj originalan i ekološki način stanovanja postao hit diljem svijeta.

Stoljećima se Nizozemska, a i mnoga područja u svijetu, bore protiv poplava i podizanja razine morske površine. Kao posljedica globalnog zatopljenja, razina mora se u 20. stoljeću povisila za 20 centimetara, a predviđa se da će se do kraja 21. stoljeća podići za dodatnih 60 centimetara. Zato su se nizozemske graditeljske tvrtke dosjetile kako na vrijeme reagirati na globalni porast vodene površine, te dizajnirale prikladne, a ipak savršeno udobne, lagane i definitivno nekonvencionalne – kuće na vodi.

### Najviše kuća na vodi u Nizozemskoj

Nizozemska je poznata po tome što veliki broj njezinih stanovnika živi u kućama na vodi. Zemlje za gradnju novih kuća tamo više jednostavno nema, a, prema nekim procjenama, u idućih dvadesetak godina nedostajat će oko pola milijuna novih stanova, koji se danas više ne mogu gdje graditi. Građene od drva i aluminija, ove kuće su izrazito lagane te prilagođene svakoj vodenoj površini, a međusobno su povezane pontonskim mostovima te



Plutajuća kuća dizajnerske tvrtke Water studio sama proizvodi vlastitu energiju i ničim ne narušava okoliš / Floating house by designer firm Water Studio produces its own energy and does nothing to hurt the environment

## FLOATING HOUSES - Original and Ecologically Conscious Residential Future

Have you ever thought about having a house on water? How would you feel about having a floating house as your place of residence, which would enable you to simply untie the ropes and move it to a more interesting location once you get bored with your surrounding and the view from your window? Dutch architects designed contemporary houses on water, the so-called floating houses, for those who want to live in original and ecologically acceptable manner

Written by: Danijela Mandušić Photo: DalCasa archive

**D**utch architects came up with the idea of building houses on water due to people's intense interest for this alternative way of living, as well as due to the geographical position of Holland, which is located under the water surface and has numerous water channels that are tailor-made for living on water. This original and ecological way of living soon became a hit around the world.

Holland and many other areas around the world have fought against floods and ever-rising water surface for many centuries. Global warming caused the level of water to rise 20 centimetres during the 20th century, and it is predicted that it will rise another 60 centimetres until the end of the 21st century. That's why Dutch construction companies didn't waste any time in trying to come up with a reaction for the global rise of the water surface, so they ended up designing appropriate, yet perfectly comfortable, light and definitely unconventional – houses on water.

### The Majority of Floating Houses in Holland

Holland is probably better known for having a large number of people living in houses on water than any other country in the world. The country simply has no more land to build new houses on, and according to some estimations, around half million new apartments will need to be built over the next twenty years, but there is nowhere else to build. Made of wood and aluminium, these houses are extremely light and adjusted to the water surface. They are mutually connected by

pontoon bridges, which enables them to be located up to 100 metres from the land. As far as the level of interest for this alternative way of living goes, let's just mention that Dutch construction company Ooms Bouwmaatschappij, a pioneer in the business of designing floating houses, is currently building five thousand of these houses. The prices of floating houses vary between 180 and 500 thousand American dollars, depending on the size and level of furnishing, and it must be said that most of them have already been reserved.

"The people have always fought against water, but the living philosophy has changed and now we understand that the water is not our enemy, so we should start using it instead of fighting it" – says Van der Werdt, director of Ooms Bouwmaatschappij.

### Floating Towers

Dutch architects were forced to find the solution for the problem of building in a country that has no more available land, while the floods represent a constant threat. Projects of entire settlements on water are already being made as we speak, and the first "floating settlement" should be opened by 2010 in the suburbs of Amsterdam, courtesy of Dutch firm Water Studio. The philosophy of this company, which exclusively specializes in floating objects, is offering a clean and simple design while still adjusting to every individual client. They also created one of the most fascinating floating build-

ings in the world – the magnificent floating tower that features 25 floors and is immersed into water by only six metres, which is enabled by extremely light construction materials – aluminium and glass. Besides the fact that it floats, this tower also rotates itself for one degree every minute – truly majestic!

However, floating houses are not considered trendy only in Holland, as the interest for this type of construction exists in the entire world. It is known that there are many floating objects in Dubai, while local American authorities also visited Holland to gain some information regarding building real estates on water in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina.

Besides the USA, which already features entire water settlements in marinas like the one in Seattle, these types of settlements are also fairly common in Canada due to their numerous lakes. German company Floating Homes from Hamburg won numerous design awards for their innovative, comfortable and visually stunning floating houses, which were designed by architect Farster Traubitzsch. The prices of these houses range from several dozens thousands of euros to groundbreaking million figures, as those luxurious floating villas have the size and level of comfort that are no different from the houses built on land.

The perfect example is the luxurious floating Villa Helmi, created by architects Karl Ristolainen and Tim Ural, which simply screams luxury in every detail, whether it's

I kompleksni apartmani mogu biti plutajući / The apartment complexes can also be floating

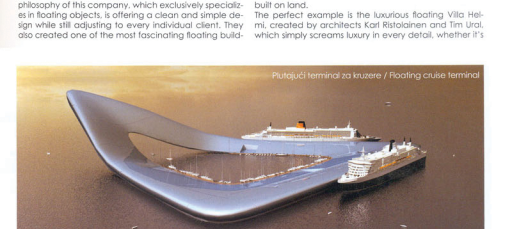


Foto / Photo: Waterstudio.NL, BAM



architecture, modern interior design or the level of technology and extraordinary isolation. It also must be said that Villa Helmi, just like all other houses by designer firm Water Studio, produces its own energy and does nothing to hurt the environment.

### Floating Designer Houses

Even some famous architects embarked on a journey of designing interesting and sometimes wondrous floating buildings. Russian architect Vladimir Plotkin created a small cylindrical house that created a huge amount of interest. This likeable little house with reticular walls was designed for one person, and it includes a bedroom, bathroom and terrace with options of grilling and sunbathing despite its small dimensions. Who wouldn't want to spend the summer floating around the river in their small home just enjoying the environment?

Dutch professor Frits Schoute paid even more attention to details when dealing with the idea of living on water. He is working on designing large platforms that would enable entire floating settlements in the middle of the ocean, protected from the waves and sea currents.

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"At the moment, we are coming up with systems of large dams that would completely protect such floating cities from the sea currents, which would make life on the middle of the ocean very pleasant" – Schoute says, and he also feels that people will start building these ocean platforms by 2020, while complete cities will exist and perfectly function by 2050. The world of the future will truly look significantly different.

### Belgian Architect's Vision for the Future – Self-Sufficient Floating Cities

Another expert dedicated his work to finding a solution for living in the future. Belgian architect Vincent Callebaut came up with his Lylpad project – self-sufficient floating cities that would provide sanctuary in the wake of the rising sea and future climate changes. Inspired by the bio-mimicry of the Amazonian lily, Callebaut envisioned Lylpad as a large ecopolis that floats the world's seas and offers solution for ecological problems caused by global warming: climate changes that result in affected biodiversity, lack of fresh water and energy. Callebaut's floating city of the future would produce more

energy than it spends thanks to a convenient combination of energetic efficiency: besides wind energy, it would also use solar, thermal, osmotic and photovoltaic energy. In that way, Lylpad would produce oxygen and recycle carbon dioxide. According to GIEC, which is an intergovernmental group on the evolution of the climate, the level of the sea could rise from 20 to 90 centimetres during the course of this century. Experts predict that the rise of the average temperature for only one degree Celsius will lead to the sea level rising for one metre.

In countries like Vietnam, Egypt, Bangladesh, Guyana or Bahamas, that could mean devastating floods in the most inhabited coastal areas, while all fertile soil would be destroyed by seawater that tears local eco-systems apart. In other words, over 50 million people would have severe existential problems, and this Belgian architect offers a quality solution to that gigantic problem.

### The Safety Aspect of Living on Water

Although the very idea of living on the water surface is fairly unconventional, there are no compromises when it comes to the safety of residents in these float-

ing homes. These houses have perfect protection from the wind and sea currents, as well as adequate thermal isolation. They are located on pontoons that can stand any temperature of water or air, from the hot Dubai to the freezing Scandinavia, which is dominated by below-zero temperatures during the winter period. The interiors of these houses are also technically and technologically equipped in contemporary manner, which means that their level of comfort in no way differs from standard houses. All these aspects ensure that floating homes' residents can enjoy their original floating houses without a single concern.

This type of residence has the advantage of providing true casualness and life in firm contact with nature. In today's world of accelerated rhythm, a modern man increasingly craves for a relaxed way of life away from the city noise and polluted urban centres. As a result, the level of interest for these houses on water keeps getting bigger year after year. Who knows, we just might start seeing small ecological houses on our coast, rivers and lakes, as their residents live the life of perfect symbiosis with nature.

Plutajući i rotirajući toranj u Dubaiju / Floating and rotating tower in Dubai



Foto / Photo: Waterstudio.NL, Dutch Docklands



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