IHE Delft is an education, research and training institute in Delft, completely focused on global water issues. The goal of the Institute is to strengthen knowledge about sustainable and integrated water management primarily in developing countries and countries in transition. Every year, hundreds of water professionals participate in our various programmes at Master and Doctoral level.

Since 1957, the Institute has built up a network of 15,000 alumni from more than 160 countries. After their studies, the majority will return back to their own country, to contribute to finding solutions to the world’s water problems. IHE Delft has five different Master of Science programmes: Water Management, Urban Water & Sanitation, Environmental Science, Water Science & Engineering and Sanitation. IHE Delft also offers promotion opportunities for many students in their careers when they return home. There are currently a hundred and forty fellows working on their PhD research at IHE Delft.

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The history of this monumental patrician house can be separated into three stages

Before 1720, there were two breweries on the site: the Hartshoorn and the Rosbel (or Cimbel). In 1720 these breweries were demolished to make way for the current building, which in the eighteenth century was inhabited by some important Delft patricians.

Since 1800, different institutions have been housed in the building. The building was sold in 1803 to Dr. Abraham van Stipriaan Luïscuis on behalf of the regents of the Foundation of Renswoude. This was a charitable organisation founded in accordance with the will of Maria Duyst van Voorhout, Baroness of Renswoude, who died in 1754. From her legacy, orphan boys in the orphanages of Delft, The Hague and Utrecht received the chance of their lives. They were offered the possibility to study and thus to become architects, engineers, ship’s officers, etc.; expensive training which was usually not their lot. To this day, the Foundation still provides scholarships for young people.

During the Foundation years, the house received its most important visitor. The emperor Napoleon and his wife had made it known that they wanted a meal in Delft during their visit of the city on October 25, 1811. As the largest and most beautiful house in Delft, it was considered appropriate as an eating spot by the city dignitaries. Emperor and Empress were received in the regents’ room and served “white beans with parsley sauce”. For the city it was not such an advantageous visit. During a walk after his meal Napoleon saw a few beautifully decorated cannons at the armoury. These had been donated in 1669 to the Estates General. The emperor liked the cannons also and gave orders for them to be taken to Paris.

Other uses of Oude Delft 95 were a temporary military hospital (1830-1841) and, for the next 110 years, the Royal Academy of Civil Engineers and East Indian officials. After 1950, all TH buildings moved to the current TU location in Delft-Zuid. In 1955 many people lost their lives in eastern Pakistan (now Bangladesh) due to flooding. As a result, a request came from that Government for Dutch technical assistance, which led, in 1957, to the first international course in Hydraulic Engineering being established.

In 2003, UNESCO and the Dutch government decided to set up UNESCO-IHE which, in 2017 was renamed to IHE Delft Institute for Water Education.

Memorial window Cluysenaer

The window was created in memory of Dr. J.L. Cluysenaer, former president of the board of trustees of the Delft Technical University. The Window was designed by Prof. K. Sluyterman in conjunction with J. L. Schouten, and shows two figures in a medallion: Cleo, the muse of history and a young man who writes down the facts about the university.

Memorial plaque Belgian students

During the First World War, many Belgians were interned in the Netherlands. About 60 to 80 students among them had the opportunity to participate in courses at the TH. On their return to Belgium they had the memorial plaque installed in the building.

NAP

In the facade a sign is carved, with the mark of NAP (the Normal Amsterdam Level). This was established in 1875.

The Prinsenkamer

The Prinsenkamer was used to display many valuable paintings. Unfortunately one of the most valuable, ‘King William III’ was stolen and later recovered in Australia. This painting, in the golden frame, was painted by Nicolaas Pieneman (1809-1860). The other paintings in the Prinsenkamer are portraits of former rectors of the Technnical University.