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APRIL / MAY 2007

EUROPE €19.95 / UK £14
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CANADA \$ 29.50 / USA \$ 24.95

BY THE MAKERS OF
FRAME



JAPANESE

HOUSES



DIG THE LINES

ZECC ARCHITECTS

HOUSE

VRIEZENVEEN / NETHERLANDS



THE HORIZONTAL LINES OF A HOUSE IN VRIEZENVEEN BY ZECC ARCHITECTS REFER DIRECTLY TO THE FLAT DUTCH LANDSCAPE.

TEXT MARTIJN GOEDEGEBUURE
PHOTOS CORNBREAD WORKS

Architects who say that a building 'carries on a dialogue' with its surroundings or who talk about lines that 'fuse' with the landscape can't always count on the admiration of people living close by. Take the case of a dwelling that Zecc Architects realized in the Dutch province of Overijssel.

With a crystal-clear picture of the landscape in mind, the young Dutch firm produced the sketch of a house whose linearity literally 'merges with the long lines of the landscape'.

The reactions of people in the vicinity varied from 'Everybody should build such nice houses' to 'How dare you put something like this in our neighbourhood?' Judging by the latter, certain critics would like to see the house blend into the horizon completely. Is it possible that the architects came up with 'long lines merging' only after the fact?

The man who designed the house and who heads up Zecc Architects, Marnix van der Meer, protests. 'It's definitely not something that we came up with in retrospect. When we saw the site, it was immediately apparent that the house should be a reflection of the landscape. The straight lines clearly refer to the flatness of the land, and the bipartite silhouette corresponds to the outlines of existing farms. Not only that, but the zinc we used for

the roof is much more in harmony with Dutch skies than the orange roofing tiles featured in Overijssel's old farmsteads.'

Van der Meer does understand the objections, however. The village of Vriezenveen is rural with a capital R: these are people who don't show off and who never forget that modesty is a virtue and silence is golden. Houses here have pitched orange roofs, brick walls, the correct number of windows and a front door that welcomes visitors. Except for one residence, of course – an angular example made from zinc, wood and glass. Dig those straight lines, people.

www.zecc.nl