



## PRESS RELEASE

# HENRY HUDSON SUITE OPENED IN GRAND HOTEL AMRÂTH AMSTERDAM - IN THE SHIPPING HOUSE

Amsterdam, 19 March 2009 - Tuesday's theme at the Shipping House was New York and Amsterdam's shared history. VIPs from the US and the Netherlands congregated at the Grand Hotel Amrâth Amsterdam for the opening of the Henry Hudson Suite, after which they enjoyed a stylish Captain's Dinner. New York Congressman Maurice Hinchey had travelled to Amsterdam especially to perform the opening ceremony with the owner Giovanni van Eijl. This year's festivities were organized in honour of Henry Hudson's voyage of discovery to America on the VOC ship the Halve Maen (Half Moon).

### **Very Special Guests**

Esq. André Testa, lingerie designer Marlies Dekkers, Consul General Majorie Ames and members of the Lower Chamber, Laetitia Griffith and Henk Jan Ormel, as well as many other Dutch and American dignitaries and successful entrepreneurs, witnessed the opening of the Henry Hudson Suite in Grand Hotel Amrâth Amsterdam by the guest of honour, Maurice Hinchey, congressman for the district of New York. During the welcome-drink reception, held in the historical staircase hall, Elsevier's Editor-in-Chief Arendo Joustra presented Maurice Hinchey with the first copy of the special Henry Hudson Elsevier. The central theme of this edition is the 400-year history of friendly ties between New York and the Netherlands.

### **Captain's Dinner**

Many public figures attended the Captain's Dinner at the Seven Seas restaurant. The international press spoke to congressman Hinchey, but also to Mr. van Eijl, owner of Amrâth Hotels, Mr. and Mrs. Gerson from Port of Amsterdam, ORAM Director Jack Steijn and the architect Ray Kentie. Elsevier's special Henry Hudson edition got passed around and was enthusiastically received.

### **Henry Hudson Suite in five-star deluxe Grand Hotel Amrâth Amsterdam**

The Henry Hudson Suite is the largest suite at 250m<sup>2</sup> and was fitted with authentic Amsterdam School furnishings as a reminder of the glory of shipping and the sea. It is one of 24 beautiful suites, among which a three-storey Tower Suite, and an Oriental Suite with panoramic views over the city of Amsterdam. The five-star deluxe Grand Hotel Amrâth Amsterdam also includes 141 spacious hotel rooms with high ceilings, all luxuriously furnished in the style of the historical Shipping House and provided with every conceivable modern comfort. This makes Grand Hotel Amrâth Amsterdam 'A World of Luxury and Art'.

### **Amrâth Hotels & Restaurants**

Ambience, elegance and refined taste are the key words typifying all 15 hotels of the Amrâth hotel group. This rapidly growing Dutch hotel chain, with its characteristic four- and five-star hotels, offers about 1,200 spacious and comfortable rooms, has a turnover of some EUR 40 million and provides work for approximately 450 enthusiastic and service-driven employees. All Amrâth hotels are situated on or below the Alkmaar - Nijmegen line, with the group's registered office located in Maastricht. Amrâth hotels and real estate are owned by the Van Eijl family. For more information, see [www.amrathamsterdam.com](http://www.amrathamsterdam.com) and [www.vaneijl.nl](http://www.vaneijl.nl).

#### **NY400**

During a press conference held in New York on 28 January 2009, Mayor Bloomberg, Mayor Cohen and State Secretary Timmermans officially gave the green light for the celebrations of 400 years of friendship between New York and the Netherlands. In April 2009, it will be exactly 400 years that the VOC ship 'the Half Moon' left Amsterdam, with Henry Hudson as its captain, in search of the north easterly passageway to Asia, but it ultimately landed on what is now known as Manhattan. This led to the eventual establishment of the colony of Nieuw Nederland (New Netherlands) and the establishment of the trading post of New Amsterdam, which later became New York. In 2009, a great deal of attention will be focused on this historical event and the history and values shared by the Netherlands and the United States. In April 2009, a variety of events will be organized in The Hague and Amsterdam, which will be called New York Nights, and New York will have activities with a Dutch theme in September. You can find more information and a complete schedule of activities on [www.NY400.nl](http://www.NY400.nl)

#### **Note to the editor, not intended for publication:**

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