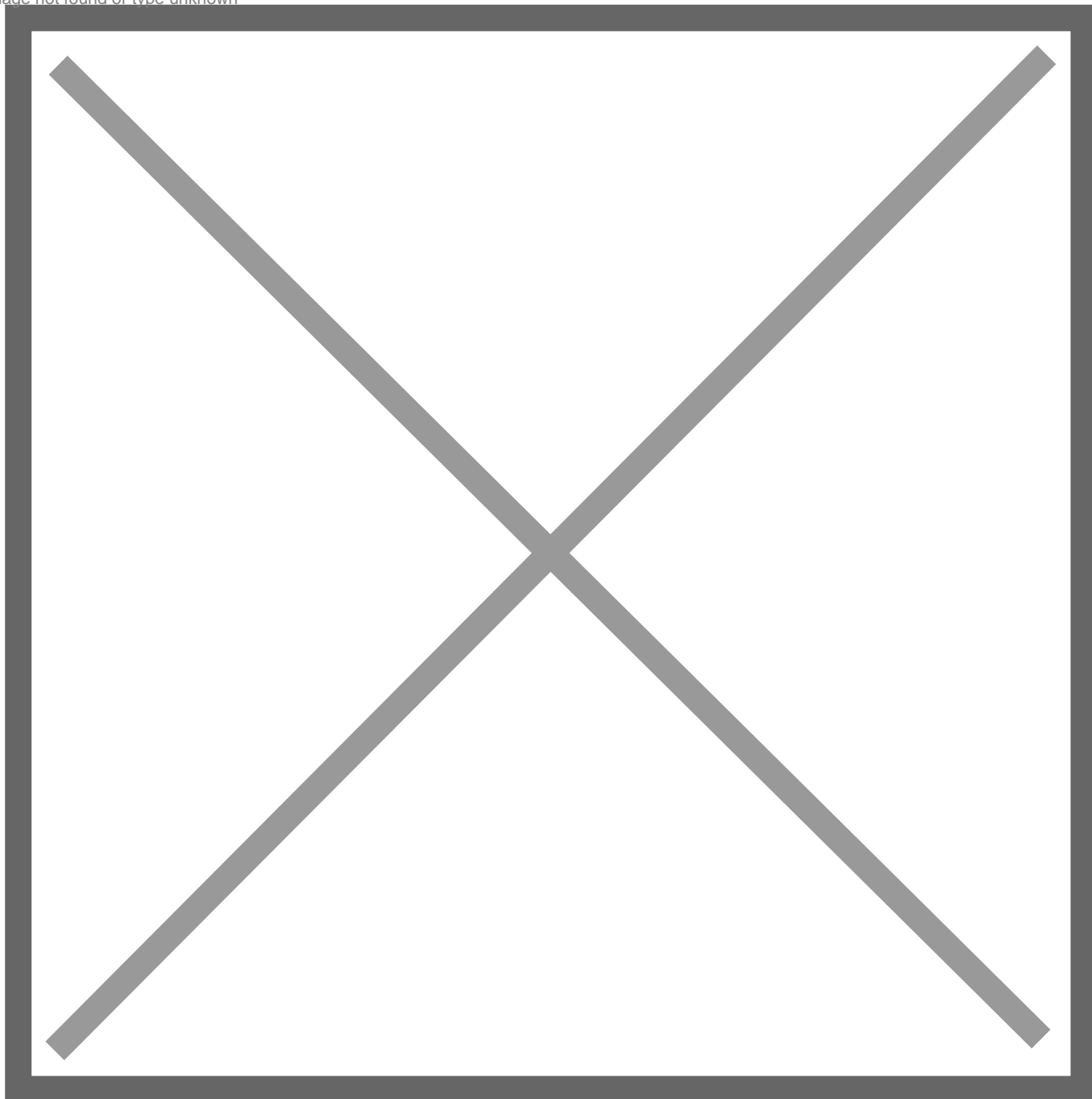


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**Delftse Montessorischool, Delftse Vereniging  
voor Montessori-Onderwijs [Delft  
Association for Montessori Education]**

**Netherlands**

Jacoba van Beierenlaan 166  
South Holland 2613 JK Delft

**Commission**

1959

**Completion**

1966

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**Original name**

Delftse Montessorischool [Delft Montessori School]

**Original use**

Education, Center for higher education / school

**Current use**

Education, Center for higher education / school

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**Architects**

Herman Hertzberger

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**Concrete by reinforcement**

Reinforced concrete

**Construction method**

Cast-in-place concrete, in-situ concrete, Concrete masonry units, such as concrete blocks

**Architectural concrete**

Architectural concrete

**Structural types**

One-dimensional/concrete frame

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**Description**

Herman Hertzberger devoted part of his professional career to typological research focused on school architecture, understanding it as a teaching tool: the architecture was not merely a container but an active part of the learning process.

At the Montessori school in Delft, Hertzberger translated the teaching principles of the Montessori method into the spaces: the building was meant to promote individual work and creativity, while, at the same time, fostering education in coexistence, cooperation, and communal living. In short, it was a testing ground for life in society. This idea resulted in a building that resembles a small city in its complexity: it provides secluded nooks – breaking with the classic, singular rectangular space of the classroom – and areas for relating with others, where spatial complexity was intentionally sought out. The whole was articulated based on a clear system for organic growth, which allowed for the building to be expanded a total of six times.

The school's construction and its expansions were also understood as an opportunity for learning. To that end, Hertzberger designed a system that was simple and intuitive, so the children could participate in the process as though they were playing a game. The system centred on construction using exposed concrete blocks, which were initially left without any surface finishes.

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## Links

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