

# Middleburg

Historic Preservation “Yes”,  
Urban Renewal “No”



- Middleburg is located in Zeeland in the south of Holland
- City owes its attractive image to prosperity during the later Middle Ages.
- On May 17, 1940 Middleburg was bombed three days after the razing of Rotterdam.
- City leaders decided to rebuild based on the medieval street pattern.
- Starting in 1941, Town Planner P. Verhagen, the reconstruction planner sought to restore the city's core, combining Gothic and Baroque in a single cityscape..







Living on a houseboat really isn't that bad is it?





The best way to see the medieval street pattern is from the Toren tower, a climb not recommended for those with heart problems. You can also see the social housing at the edge of the city.





The abbey area, from the tower. Verhagen wanted to keep this area quiet so cafes were located elsewhere.





Why orange water? Holland was doing well in the World Cup (soccer).



This tapestry in the Zeeuws Museum describes the Dutch victory over the Spanish in 1588.





Middelburg's symbol, the lion emerging from the sea.  
Holland triumphing over Spain in 1588.





It's hard to believe but these are "new" houses, reconstructed after WWII. Middleburg benefits from winding medieval streets.





The City Hall frames the Market Square and its empty cafes this blustery, June afternoon.



Planners sought to incorporate key historical details into these buildings which contain homes above stores.



Since we are not far from Belgium with its French speakers it is not surprising that a French retailer located in Middleburg. Also note the Dutch willingness to let us look into their front windows. We see much of this in Delft.



I doubt this public art would be allowed in Cincinnati but I could be wrong. With my LL Bean duck shoes I was better prepared for the weather than my companion.

