

In this book, you will find a collection of special, handmade projects.

Where technology, imagination, and reuse come together.

**From steampunk installations to moving objects,
Each work is unique and built without compromise.**

**No standard solutions, but creative outbursts
who show what is possible when ideas are given
room to grow.**

**This book offers an insight into the making
process,**

**the thoughts behind it and the world in which
everything can come into being.**

For lovers of technology, art, and the unusual.

Hands That's Never Stop Creating

Craftsmanship, imagination, and mechanics: the story of a man who builds everything he can imagine.

Cock Zandvliet

Steampunk inventor and maker.

Artist, virtuoso, entertainer, eccentric, artist, and you name it.

Comments from the press, but he sees himself more as a kind of craftsman.

Just someone who works with his hands and prefers to understand what he is making, rather than just making it look nice.

Cock Zandvliet makes things simply because he cannot do otherwise.

Not to finish them, but to understand how they work and why they sometimes fail.

Getting that finished usually happens. Or not. And that is information too.

That started early.

Everything that could come loose, came loose. Not out of mischief, but out of curiosity.

We had to look at what lay behind it. What was inside it. What it did.

What moves must be visible.

What works must make noise.

And you learn more from what goes wrong than from what works immediately. The latter is still true.

He was born in 1958, at a time when working with your hands was still normal.

His father was a carpenter, and in his workshop he learned at a young age that measuring is no art, but fabricating it is.

Anyone can measure. Making it is the problem.

That errors are not hidden, but resolved. Or remade. Sometimes three times.



It was therefore logical that he himself took the same path.

After six years of primary school, he deliberately chose a practical direction.

He completed a five-year vocational training course in carpentry.

That is where the foundation was laid. Not only for the profession, but also for how you view work.

Right is right. Crooked is redo.

After his training, he first gained one year of experience as an apprentice carpenter, followed by one year as a full-fledged journeyman carpenter.

In those years, you learn what it means to pick up the pace. And that pace is higher than you think.

You also learn that working neatly is not an option, but a requirement.

Among others at Mulckhuijze Bouw, where errors were not theory but simply visible.

In 1983, he got married. A very important day in his life.

A number of years earlier, he started at the carpentry firm Leen Jansen in Rijpwetering, where he would eventually work for ten years.

That is where he really learned the trade.

Not from books, but in the workplace.

Customization. Solve. Move on.

Work that had to be right, because otherwise it would look even more crooked tomorrow.

It was a time of hard work.

But also of knowing: I can do this.

In 1987, there was an unexpected turn of events.

Due to a serious knee injury, he could no longer continue doing the heavy carpentry work.

Rejected for construction.

Almost lost his house.

Moments like that really hit hard.

Not only practical, but also in your head.

Nevertheless, he did not let himself be discouraged.

There wasn't much choice either.

In that same year, he started at the CRI in The Hague as a security guard.

Completed courses, obtained diplomas. Just starting all over again.

The work involved rotating shifts.

That sounds straightforward, but it isn't.

Over time, that resulted in sleep problems.

Within the CRI, he therefore switched to building maintenance.

Everything came together there again.

Technique, insight, approach.

If you come from the construction industry and enter the civil service at the same pace, you stand out.

Positive, but also difficult.

So yes, put the brakes on. And that took effort.

He provided maintenance, repairs, and practical solutions within the building and at other government buildings throughout the country.

Seeing what is needed and doing it.

Don't make it more difficult than it is.

The pace was slow.

Not because it couldn't be done faster, but because that's how it worked there.

Official errors and decisions last the longest.

There is little you can do to change that.

In total, he was employed by the government for 38 years.

Parallel to this, theater played a major role.

For twenty-five years (1980–2005) at the Maskerade theater association in Rijpwetering.

Set builder, actor, board member.

Build what needs to be built during the day.

Build what is allowed in the evening.

Later, three more major set design projects for musicals followed, including one in the Reformed Church in Oude Wetering (2008–2013).

Also active there as a prompter.

At that time, he worked with Piet Möllers .

A man of details.

Back to Cock

What others discarded increasingly became a starting point for him.

Things appeared on his workbench that already had a life behind them.

And could get another life.

No waste. Just not finished yet.

He worked slowly but accurately.

Not because he can't go faster, but because it has evolved that way.

And because sometimes looking is more important than doing.

He often stands still.

Look. A little legacy from the government.....

Turns a gear.

Listens and watches.

And then know: something is not right here.
That grew into steampunk and fantasy projects.
That's already about 17 years now.
His work was and is on display at Castlefest in Lisse
and during the Flower Parade in Roelofarendsveen.
For a large audience.
But also for people who know him. And then it has to
be right.
His biggest project to date is the steampunk
helicopter.
More than 1,600 hours of work in one year.
Not planned. Just necessary for this project.
Almost every day.
Keep going until it works.
The helicopter is not an end point.
More of a list of how it works.
Visible. Understandable. Without shortcuts.
Was it all sunshine and roses?
No.
Three burnouts .
More than seven years of hassle.
The death of their daughter.
Those kinds of things keep haunting you.
And the loss of eight acquaintances in one year at
“their” campsite.
That is piling up.
Some things don't go away.
You just take that with you.
He continued working for the government until 2024.
After 38 years, that stopped.

The farewell... let's just say: scandalous and unbelievable.

There are really no more words needed.

Although they do exist.

After that, he remained active.

Work two days a week at a local taxi company.

Just stay among people.

Apparently, no one had told him that quitting was also an option.

His workshop is now located in an old cowshed at Stal de Ripse Ruiters in Rijpwetering.

Wood, steel... and yes, cow dung.

The result is simple:

What stinks wins.

In addition, he is active in jeu de boules at De Boel de Boule in Roelofarendsveen .

Player and coach.

He makes things because making things occupies him.

As long as his hands keep working and the audience likes it, he keeps building.

Biker rollator



It started, as is often the case, not with a grand plan but with an idea that could not be pushed away, but pushed through.