

1449- 1461

Construction of the tower portal: the lower sections of the tower.

1449 is considered the year the current church building was born. However, there was already mention of a church dedicated to Sint Laurens in the same location about 100 years earlier. At that time there was still water between this simple church and the new tower, namely the Slikvaart.

Ca. 1488- 1513

Construction of the current choir and transept.

In view of the width of the Laurenskerk's side aisles, the new church will most likely be built around the old one. This was not unusual at the time. Due to subsidence, several chapels were likely demolished and rebuilt in the early 16th century.

Ca. 1460

Filling in the Slikvaart to facilitate construction of the church.

This was likely the plan from the start: connect the newly-built tower with the old church on the other side of the water. The Slikvaart was filled in for this purpose.

Ca. 1460- 1472

Construction of the current ship

New times, new minds. A whole new church was built in the space that had become available. Around August 1465, the consecration of this church section is mentioned; apparently the time had come to put it to use.

Ca. 1547- 1555/1556

Construction of the second and third sections of the tower.

By 1550, a point had been reached where two loud bells could be hung at the transition between the second and third sections. One of these was an old clock, the Laurencius clock from 1461.

1572

The Reformation, the Laurenskerk is passed to Reformed hands.

Most statues and altars are removed from the church and the interior is adapted for Reformed services.

1619- 1621

Tower crown construction by Kendrick de Keyser

The Laurenstoren is crowned with a wooden spire, based on a design by famous Amsterdam architect Hendrick de Keyser. The crown didn't last long - it was demolished in 1642, likely due to wood rot in the beams.

1645-1646

Tower crown by Dirc Davidsz. Versijde.

Following the failure of the wooden spire, the tower was given a stone crown instead. However, this didn't go entirely to plan. After attempts to raise the tower further in 1647, it was found to be inclined to such an extent that no more work was required.

1650

The ramp.

Large pieces of stone and limestone came down during a heavy southwest storm, while an evening church service was being held. A decision was made to straighten the tower by increasing its foundation and applying new pile-driving techniques, a highly labour-intensive job that would last from 1651 to 1655.

1661

Placement of the Hemony chimes.

The 36 carillon bells cast by the famous F. Hemony were set in place in 1661. Clappers and hammers were supplied by a blacksmith and city watchmaker van Douw.

1795

The Batavian Revolution.

Rotterdam's provisional council ordered the removal of all expressions of 'distinction'. This had major consequences for the interior of the Laurenskerk - all coats of arms, mourning flags, and tombs with coats of arms were removed. Weapon were cut from gravestones and "distinguished" marks removed. The liveliness, colour, and richness of the church disappeared.

1940

Bombing May 1940.

In May 14, 1940, the church and tower were severely damaged by fire as a result of the bombing of Rotterdam. Only the walls of the church and tower were preserved.

1947

Start of restoration and rebuilding.

Restoration of the tower began under the leadership of Gemeentewerken (public works) architect L. Voskuil and, later, architect J. Poot.

1952

Laying the first stone.

On 19 May, Queen Juliana laid the foundation stone for the restoration of the church building. Led by architects J.C. Meischke and A. v.d. Sturgeon, the restoration was carried out in 3 phases. Phase 1 was the transept, phase 2 the choir, and phase 3 the nave and north and south transepts. After the death of Meischke, management was taken over by J.W.C. Besemer.

1959

(Re)comissioning transept.

The church's transept opened on 24 October in the presence of Queen Juliana. The restoration of the choir was completed on 22 December, 1962.

1968

The roof was completed on 31 May, 1968, with 63,000 tiles used, marking the end of the restoration. On 15 December, 1968, the Laurenskerk was fully back in use during a festive gathering attended by

the royal family. On 22 December of the same year, doors designed by Italian artist Manzù were placed in the tower portal.

1973

New main organ.

On 7 December, 1973, the Laurenskerk's new main organ was played for the first time.

1981

Cubes of Quist.

New outbuildings designed by architect Quist were complete, providing space for changing rooms, meeting spaces, offices, and administration.