



Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

## 2. Jakarta/Batavia Kali Besar Barat, Kali Besar West I Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

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Photo  
Dirk  
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Holland

Asian elegance, photo DT

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[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pand\\_aan\\_de\\_Kali\\_Besar\\_west\\_-\\_20652951\\_-\\_RCE.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pand_aan_de_Kali_Besar_west_-_20652951_-_RCE.jpg)

### **Kali Besar Barat, nrs 2 and 3 in 1972 Dutch dwellings from 1730**

#### **Introduction**

**The south side of Kali Besar West is a quay with surprises, because of some well maintained historical monuments. However, this quay will confuse you also. The old Dutch inner harbour of Batavia, known as Kali Besar since time immemorial, will burden you with a lot of discouraging impressions. There is a lot of the**

deterioration, dilapidation and mutilation of many Dutch architectural fireworks. Architectural fireworks created by famous Dutch architectures from the twenties of the last century, such as Eduard Cuypers, Frans Ghijsels. A lot of these historical monuments were enriched with Dutch art like stained glass windows created by Jan Sabelis and others. Much of this is damaged now.

This part of the Kali Besar Tour can be done within 30 minutes

### List of pictures

#### 1. Southern side of Jakarta's Kali Besar Barat/west

Left the building of the Chartered Bank dating from 1920, two houses from about 1730 (nrs. 2 and 3, a little bit yellow), the offices of the Sirtorius Company and then Toko Merah, Red Shop, an office from about 1730.

#### 2. Southern side of Jakarta's Kali Besar Barat

See 1, more or less the same view in 1930.

#### 3. Kali Besar to the south in 1928

On the right side of the picture you can see Bank Bridge and the Chartered Bank building with the cupola.

#### 4. Kali Besar Barat, nrs 2 and 3

Two Dutch houses from the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

#### 5. The fanlight of nr. 3

#### 6. Toko Merah

Two Dutch houses from the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### Pictures



1 Chartered Bank, Kali Besar Barat 1998

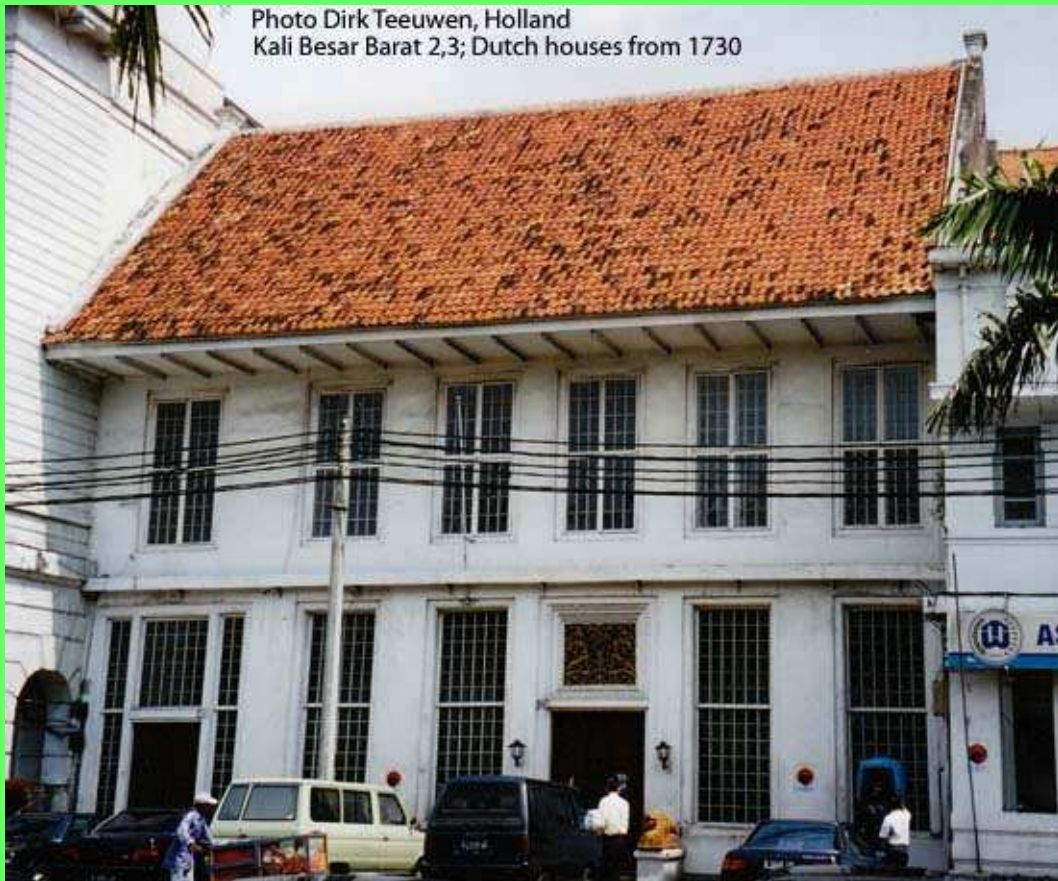
Wikipedia, Tropenmuseum NL, public domain  
Kali Besar Barat/West, 1930



**2 Southern side of Jakarta's Kali Besar Barat, 1930**



**3 Kali Besar to the south in 1928**  
**On the right side of the picture you can see Bank Bridge and the**  
**Chartered Bank building with the cupola.**



**4 Kali Besar Barat, nrs 2 and 3**



Photo Dirk Teeuwen, Holland  
Kali Besar Barat 2,3; main door

**5 The fanlight of nr. 3**



Photo Dirk Teeuwen, Holland  
Red shop, Toko Merah, two Dutch houses from the 18th century

### **6 Toko Merah Two Dutch houses from the 18<sup>th</sup> century**

#### **Tour**

**A decayed three storey building - located on the corner of Kali Besar Barat and garnished with a small cupola - attracts our attention. This office dates from 1921. Formerly it was a branch of the British "Chartered Bank of India, China and Australia" designed by the Dutchman Eduard Cuypers. The building is decorated with a long arcade and Doric columns. Inside the bank you can find beautiful coloured stained glass windows made by Jan Sabelis from the Netherlands in the year of 1921. The Chartered Bank owned branches in Singapore, Hongkong, Calcutta, etc. Today the Chartered Bank operates in South-Africa. Regrettably deterioration of architecture and dereliction of its stained glass art are results of remissness until now, to put it mildly.**

**The, more or less, yellow-coloured houses next to it (address nr 3) are rather decayed also. These semi-detached houses are noticeable, because they date from about 1730. These accommodations are fine examples of elegant Dutch colonial houses in Batavia from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In 1921 they have been restored. Have a look at the old beautiful fanlight over the main door, the one right from you. We don't know much about the owners in the olden days. Baron Von Würb, a bankrupt aristocrat from Prussia, lived here in a hired room. Believe it or not, this bankrupt Baron was one of the founders of the famous Batavia Society of Arts and Sciences.**

He was the founding father of many of the Jakarta museums. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century the house has been used as an office by the Chartered Bank. In case you want to know more about the Batavia Society of Arts and Sciences.

We continue our walk and now we discover Toko Merah, built about the year of 1730. Toko Merah, Red Shop in English, is the name of nr 9 and nr 11. You can not miss it. Toko Merah, at some time, consisted of two houses. The Dutchman Van Imhoff, later a governor-general, was the first owner of nr. 11. In 1743 the house nr 11 became a nautical college until 1755. After 1755 both houses served as an accommodation on behalf of relatives of Dutch Governors-General until 1785. From 1785 until 1810 Toko Merah served as an hotel for colonial gentlemen. After that the houses were mostly a temporary accommodation for official quests. In 1923 a renovation took place, the two houses were combined to form an office. Already in 1899 a part of its 18<sup>th</sup> century's interior, such as woodcarvings and furniture, have been transferred to the museum of the Batavia Society of Arts and Sciences near King's Square, now Museum Nasional near Medan Merdeka. Later the remains of these movable goods arrived in the Jakarta History Museum at Fatahillah Square. Nevertheless the interior of Toko Merah, Red Shop, is still very beautiful and very elegant in a sort of Batavia colonial style characterized by a lot of carved wood. If you want to see the interior, ask in your hotel about the possibilities.

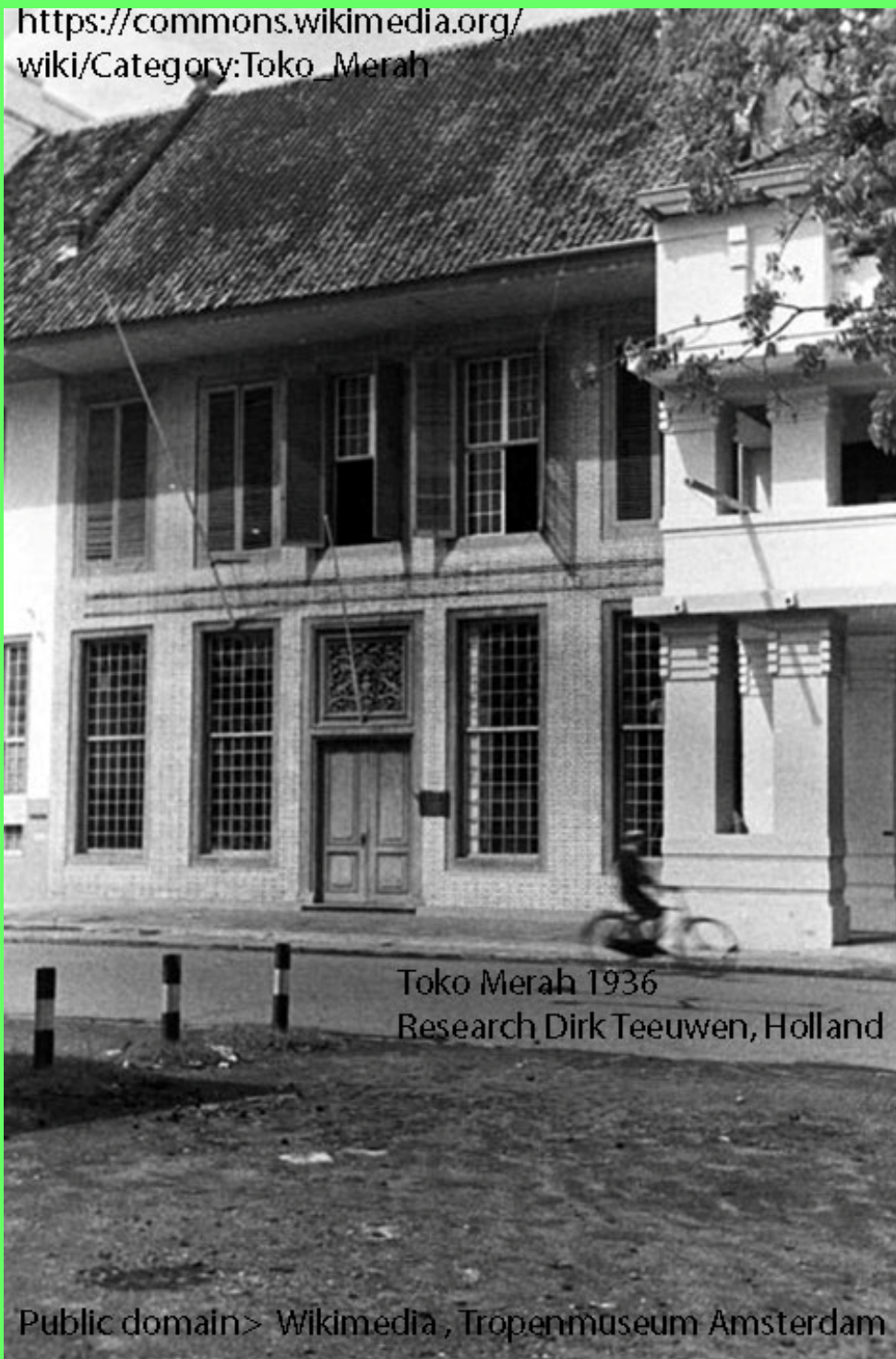
### Suggestion

Let your impressions of Toko Merah sinking in for a while. Then continue your walk along Kali Besar Barat. There is much to do around here.

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**Kali Besar Barat/West, Toko Merah in 1936**

**Ending**