I have always had a soft spot for the architecture of the 2910s and 1930s with its simple lines and apparently modest appearance an I have vague memories of Dutch colonial architecture in Indonesia, my native country.
Suddenly there was an opportunity to join the architecture tour Java 2010, organised by Pauline van Roosmalen. What a golden opportunity it was: combining those two themes! To be able to see so many beautiful houses, office buildings, factories and churches. Most of them saved by enthusiastic, local Societies for Heritage Conservation, others rather dilapidated and damaged by trees growing through the roods. Names of architect I had never hear of: Aalbers, Wolff Schoemaker, Cuypers, Karsten, Maclaine Pont etc. Widening my horizon.
Interesting to learn about the controversy between architects who believed in modern ways of construction – e.g. Wolff Schoemaker – Villa Isola – Lembang, and those who favoured the traditional, indigenous ways – Maclaine Pont – Institute of Technology – Bandung. *Some of the beautiful hotels we stayed in had a link with the colonial past and most of the restaurants we visited were remarkable, not only for their excellent food, but also for their interior design.*
All this against the backdrop of a stunning nature, the throb of modern cities, the noise of countless motorbikes and the peace and quite of a tea plantation,
I really enjoyed this tour. Impressions galore!

Marijke