

# A JOURNEY TO SCIENTIFIC INSPIRATION

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## Walking towards experiences

**S**unday, the day I had already circled in my calendar weeks ago, was finally here. A train had just taken me to the Amsterdam's station and my stomach felt like I riding a roller coaster. My feet took fast steps while I was following the marked path towards the green building that I saw between traditional Dutch houses. With my bad sense of direction, the green colour of the building made me for once feel confident going somewhere new.

Slowly the details of the rusty green copper of the walls became clearer. This enormous building, shaped as a bow of a ship, seemed to be floating on top of restless water, where canal boats were driving curious tourists to take pictures. Many children and adults were crossing a bridge to get to the entrance of the building. In the air, dozens of purple and green balloons flew around to welcome everyone to NEMO's open doors event.

## Lost in Science

Once I stepped into the building, my eyes started shining. By seeing the big crowd outside, I would have never guessed that inside would be so perfectly organised to the tiniest detail. Everything was floating smoothly; the staff was ready to help anyone in need and big signs and screens were leading the way around

the souvenir shop, locker rooms, rest rooms, and the museum itself. Around me I only heard laughter, excited chatting and quick steps of children wanting to explore. Several scientific artefacts were decorating the high white walls like paintings. In front of me was a big white staircase which soon took me up and down to learn and explore.

"Welcome to Science museum NEMO. Would you like to have a map?" a staff member asked me with a smile, almost reaching from her ear to ear. All her attention was focused on me while she was holding a folded map in her hands.

"What a good timing. I was just wondering what you have to offer here," I replied and took the map.

The rustling sound reached my ear when I unfolded the map. My eyes were circling the unique and scientific wording that was printed on it with various shades of green. The museum was divided into five floors and each one of them had something special to offer. I decided to head to the fifth floor where my favourite section, energy, was located.

On my way to the fifth floor the beautiful shapes and features of several artefacts enticed me to stop and test my knowledge. It is unbelievable that after years of learning science, NEMO could still offer many topics I had no clue



about. All around me I could see people being as excited as children on Christmas eve. Everyone was thinking and solving scientific problems while the staff was there helping anyone with a question.

## Science is art and inspiration

My mind was full of curiosity when I arrived to the fifth floor. After the last step, I gazed upwards and could see big curvy letters 'Energetica- play with energy' in front of me. Around the corner something was flashing on and off, like someone left a TV on in a dark room. Before I knew it, my feet were already following the flash. I ended up in an empty and dark exhibition room, where was nothing but a big assortment of lamps of all

the sizes I could think of. These lamps would turn on and off at different times and it looked like million fireflies were playing against a night sky. I couldn't help but stare at this beautiful exhibition the NEMO had built. This was not only science, it was art.

Suddenly, my mind flew back to a forgotten memory. As a kid, I was never smart enough for chemistry. To me it always felt like I was studying a master level of gibberish. Then in this one chemistry class, our teacher gave us instructions to build a lamp and a miracle happened: I somehow knew exactly what to do. I can still feel the warmth of the tiny lamp when it started glowing, and how the feeling of proudness filled me. Now I

was here in Amsterdam, looking at these lamps, and my mind started

gaining inspiration. I felt a warm glow of happiness inside of me. All my feelings reminded me how learning science, especially energy, always felt so rewarding. That was the moment when I knew I wanted to completely understand the world around me.

My visit to NEMO was a greater success than I could have imagined. It did not only work for me as a source of new knowledge, but it also inspired me to research, explore, and learn about the science around me. Most of all, it pushed me towards my old, and now again new passion, science of energy.

"This was not only science, it was art"

SCIENCE MUSEUM  
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