

Become a Brickholder

**Help Build the Montessori Museum,
Open Archive and Research Centre—
Become a brickholder of the Maria
Montessori House.**

The Dream...

AMI has long dreamt of expanding its organization in Amsterdam, and thanks to a phenomenal donation by Orcillia and Nicky Oppenheimer our dream is about to come true!

We have purchased the house next door, which doubles our space and gives us a real opportunity to develop our dream of building a substantial Montessori Museum, Open Archive and Research Centre.

What is more, you can help us turn the dream into reality by becoming a “Brickholder”.

As a founding member of this extraordinary Montessori initiative, you will be aiding the development of an enterprise dedicated to giving a new dimension to Montessori in all its ground breaking and pioneering aspects.



Our Benefactors: Orcillia and Nicky Oppenheimer

Orcillia (Strilli) Oppenheimer has been passionate about Montessori for over forty years. In South Africa she was instrumental in re-introducing the Montessori

movement in 1976 and proving its relevance in the African context. As someone who cares deeply about our planet, Strilli has always found special relevance in Montessori's respect for nature where it touches on human development. In the past Strilli and her husband have supported many innovative Montessori projects. She once described Montessori as the Challenge, the Dream and the Promise. She's right.



Maria Montessori's Study in Amsterdam

The Challenge...

AMI wants to create an inspirational environment that will incorporate all of our aspirations to develop and maintain a Montessori Museum, an Open Archive and Research Centre. We now own a 100 year-old house that needs significant renovations to convert it into a welcoming and collaborative Montessori space. We need to raise over 1.5 million to be able to complete this work and we envisage a lot needs to be done to ensure we develop a centre that everyone is proud to be a founding member of.

To start with, we need to open dialogues with local authorities, designers, museum curators, architects and IT specialists to help us turn our ideas into real lecture rooms, research facilities, exhibition space, and more.

Help us realize this goal

www.montessori-ami.org/DonateMMHouse



The Promise

We promise to develop a centre where we can host presentations, seminars and lectures to further stimulate and broadcast Maria Montessori's philosophies.

We will be able to exhibit more of Montessori's own work in our museum, creating an enduring testament to her incomparable genius.

At the centre, researchers will be able to work with original documents and other resources, as well as draw on the knowledge and expertise of AMI staff in a more comfortable and amenable space.

Last, but not least, we promise to offer you a centre where you can meet up with old and new friends from all over the world to share your own Montessori dreams, challenges and promises!

2

How you can Donate

All donations, large or small, are welcome. Each donor will receive a "Brick Certificate" and all donor names will be recorded on a Founding Member Plaque.

Donation categories:

Friend: any amount up to USD 1,000

Contributor: USD 1,000 to 5,000

Pioneer: USD 5,000 to 10,000

Benefactor: USD 10,000 to 50,000

Founder: USD 50,000 - 100,000

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The Maria Montessori House



To give you an impression of the two buildings, here is a photo of 161 and 163 together. The one on the left with the red bricks is the Maria Montessori House.

How you can help us Fundraise

Perhaps you'll enjoy organizing special fundraising events. Perhaps you have creative ideas on how to garner support for this initiative, and encourage as many people as possible from your community to become Montessori Brickholders—we would love to hear about it! We will be highlighting fundraising events via a dedicated page on our website and through special Maria Montessori House Bulletins. We welcome your ideas, stories, and photographs, as well as children's drawings and poems.

t/h/a/n/k/s

Montessorians worldwide will love to see what you are doing across the globe.



The Museum

You can also contribute to our new centre by donating your historical Montessori books, photos and mementoes. Go on a Montessori treasure hunt in your attic, or persuade your favourite aunt to donate her Montessori possessions!

Recently discovered sound and image recordings have been donated to our collection by the children of Mario Montessori Junior, allowing us to literally see and hear Montessori as we have never beheld her before. And more unique materials will be entrusted to the care of AMI once the museum is operational.

Others that have spontaneously offered wonderful items are the manufacturers Nienhuis, who wish to give some of their old materials for us to display; NAMTA is donating the artwork from the Centenary Exhibit, giving a true historical perspective on Montessori's life and work; and the training centre in Sri Lanka have just given us a set of historical Montessori lectures.

Do you have something similar that will interest and encourage generations to come? If you do, we would like to offer your mementoes a permanent home in the Maria Montessori House.

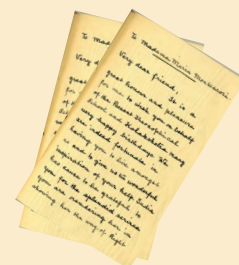
original manuscripts and drawings
by Maria Montessori



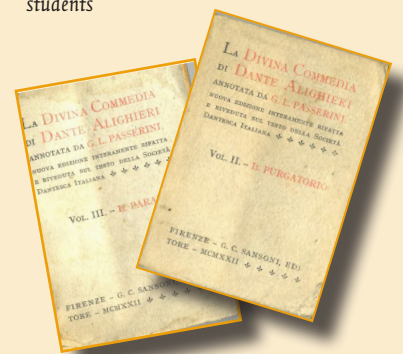
Many photographs, old and new.



Mementoes. This booklet was given to Maria Montessori on her 1941 birthday by the organizers and students of the Madras Course, India.



historical albums by Montessori students



books owned by Maria Montessori

What would you experience in the Maria Montessori House?
Film & Sound, Manuscripts, Photos,
and much more



Open Archive & Research Centre

How can the archives help your research?

Read what some researchers have to say

'AMI is at a very exciting moment in its history—I have great interest in the Museum, Archive and Research Centre that you are planning. From what I saw of the archival collection, it is clear that you have material of tremendous significance and of use to historians of education. My visit was very stimulating!' Noah W. Sobe, professor at Loyola, specialist in the history of education and in comparative and international education, USA

'With the publication of this new volume of Montessori's work, I would again very much like to thank AMI in Amsterdam, and their very helpful staff for assisting me in sourcing documents and articles from their library and archives.' Professor Harald Ludwig, editor of the Academic Series of Montessori's works in the German language, Germany



'I am in the process of completing my article, and once more would like to thank the AMI staff for all the precious tips they gave me, and the copies they made. They helped me find new material, suggested possible routes for my research, and brainstormed possible sources with me. They are all so knowledgeable and helpful. Their help has been invaluable. I loved doing research at AMI.'

Erica Moretti, PhD Student Brown University, USA/Italy

'It was great to be able to do research at AMI, and I will be back for many more sessions.' Maria Rosa den Oudendammer, Montessori teacher trainer, Netherlands

Thank you for helping my research into early Montessori influence in Argentina and Chile.' Dr Victoria Peralta, International Institute of Early Childhood Education, Central University, USA

'I love browsing through your library and coming for reading sessions. I always encourage my son's classmates to come for a visit to Maria Montessori's study, so they know where that wonderful woman worked and lived.' Ed Varekamp, Montessori parent, Amsterdam

staying for a chat
after a lecture



What more can we do with the extra space?

Host seminars and lectures!

Hosting Lectures

On the last day of the Montessori Summer Seminar 2010, AMI played host to the course participants. Here is how one participant expressed her experience: 'Thank you for allowing us to see, feel and be part of the soul of the Montessori universe. I was whisked back in time listening to the stories of Maria's life, seeing her personal objects, her desk and chair, feeling as if she was opening her arms to welcome us into a wonderful world of education for peace and understanding. But what definitely filled me up with hope and joy for the future was to see us all, students, teachers and parents alike from all around the world, all together listening and chatting, exchanging opinions and learning from one another in the heart of the Montessori world.' Céline Hameury, Spain

Welcoming Visitors

Today, we receive many visitors from all over the world in Amsterdam: seasoned Montessorians, young students, individuals and large groups.

We would love to see more visitors and offer them our special hospitality.



A tour of Maria Montessori's study

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