

# Park of Luna

Design / DRFTW Office associates & HOSPER landscape architecture and urban design

Client / Municipality of Heerhugowaard and HAL-board

Location / Heerhugowaard-South, The Netherlands

Photography / Pieter Kers / Jan Tuijp



HOSPER has been working on the Park of Luna for the past ten years, from the masterplan phase up until implementation. In collaboration with the municipality, Nelen and Schuurmans and DRFTWD this resulted in the development of an attractive recreational area with several activities and a naturally purified swimming lake as its central element. The Park of Luna has been nominated for the Rosa Barba European Landscape Prize 2010 and is, as part of the project 'City of the Sun', selected for the European Urban and Regional Planning Achievement Awards 'Special Merit Award' 2010.

The 'City of the Sun' (designed by Kuiper Compagnons) is completely surrounded by a 'ring of open water', which encompasses more than 70 hectares of new water. This 'ring of open water' will separate the residential area from the surrounding recreational areas and guarantee that a 'large amount of open space' can be experienced in the plan area. Most use of the water will be made on the banks in the recreational area. The recreational area has two sides: the inner side is oriented towards the open water and the 'City of the Sun', the outer side towards

the surrounding landscape. The ambitious water system is unique: it is designed to store a great deal of water and conserve water in the summer. A great deal of attention was devoted to the water quality, accessibility, and the ability to experience the system. To this end a number of structures were designed which include a circulation pumping station, a natural purification plant, a dephosphatising pond, a bridge, and a canoe crossing.

The structures were designed to ensure that passersby could experience the water to the maximum possible extent. Pursuant to this objective the public can access the roof of the pumping station. This offers a view of the lake. In addition, the pumping station is located in a strategic position close to the entrance to the beach. The inlet of the water purification plant has been raised above water level where it is both visible and audible. In adopting this approach the structures have become part of the large 'water purification machine', form prominent features in the landscape, and serve as locations where the process can be experienced.





