

Amersfoort op den Berg >>>



# Amersfoort Op den Berg

project  
urban plan and  
design of the public spaces

location  
Amersfoort

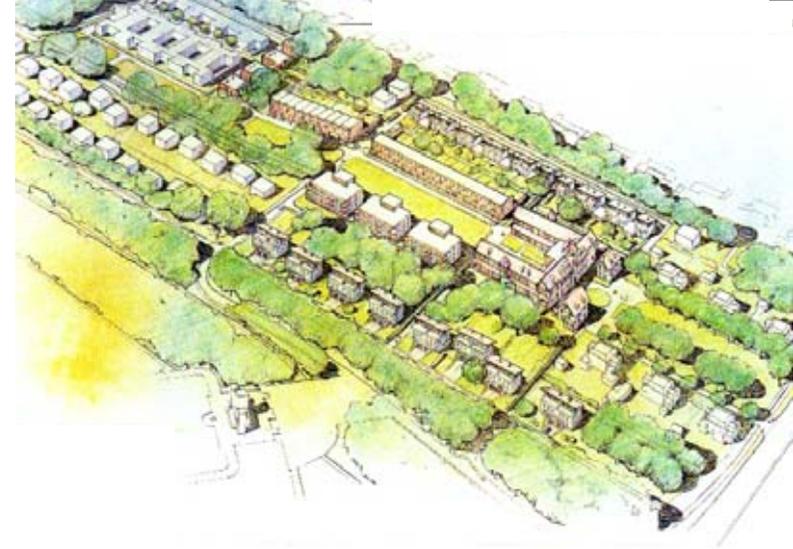
designers  
Alle Hosper  
Berrie van Elderen  
René van der Velde

partners  
Bart Brands  
Bureau B+B

client  
Municipality of Amersfoort  
BAM woningbouw  
Latei

size  
10 ha

year of design  
1992 - 1998



## **The region's character is compatible with its formality**

The Bergkwartier is one of Amersfoort's most charming residential districts. Its location on the flank of the Utrechtse heuvelrug hills and the many trees gave ample cause to the development of a spacious, opulent residential environment. The new 'Op den Berg' residential area is located on the periphery of this region, close to the "Belgian monument" commemorating the internment of Belgian soldiers in the Netherlands in the first World War. The residential area is located on the site of the former state correctional institution for juveniles.

Substantial earthworks were carried out when the land was used by the state correctional institution so that effective use could be made of the site, including areas for vegetable gardens and a sports field. This resulted in a region of approximately 10 ha of woods that enclosed terraced open spaces which were steadily lower to the north (with a total height difference of about 18 metres).

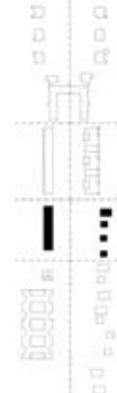
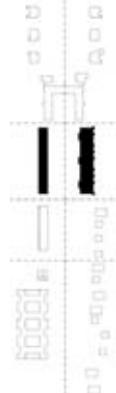
Since the times of the state correctional institution the region has been dominated by a large, stately main building on the Utrechtse weg. The main building, in combination with six white semi-detached villas, forms a marvellous gateway to the region at the rear. As a result, the gardens exert a continually greater influence. With these interventions the character is more formal closer to the main building and much more informal further away.



central space



urban principles



**The design of the homes and public spaces emphasises the powerful, uniform appearance**

An endeavour has been made to design the homes in a manner so that clear units are obtained in the region which possess a powerful, uniform appearance. The materials used in the plan make a major contribution to this objective. It was decided that the central public space would be surrounded by buildings with a powerful character compatible with that of the main building. This was achieved by using dark bricks. Moreover - and in analogy with the main building - the new buildings are narrow and tall, with high windows and rooms which, in combination, emphasise their verticality. Moreover, they will all be located on a straight building line along the park. Most homes will be built in accordance with prescribed plans. The design of some of the other homes will be discretionary, although they will be governed by planning regulations laying down their external appearance.



planmap



front court



shortcut to central space



semi-detached houses on the outside of the plan



road between dwellings and Belgian-monument



stairs to central axis



height difference in garden



playground makes use of height difference



central space