

Diepenheim Old Village Centre >>>



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project
design public space
old village centre

location
Diepenheim

designers
Peter de Ruyter
Arjan Karssen
Pieter van Walree

partners
Fortuyn / O'brien, artist

client
Municipality of Diepenheim
(Municipality of Hof van Twente)

size
1100 m Grotestraat / Goorseweg

year of design
1997 - 2001



Diepenheim village centre redevelopment

What is the significance of the village in the 21st century and how can this be expressed in a modern design? These were the most important questions with regard to the redevelopment of Diepenheim's centre, a village in Overijssel with 2,700 residents. HOSPER already created a vision of the village and the surrounding landscape in 1994 as the basis for situating visual art. This resulted in the Diorama Diepenheim exhibition. In 1997 this was followed by the Manifest for a Modern Village, a reference study into villages. This became the guideline for the redevelopment of the village centre. Diepenheim is situated in a sloping, wind-borne sand deposit landscape, which is intersected by streams such as the Boven-Regge and the Molenbeek. The feudal history of the village is the determining factor for the current shape of the landscape. A network of lanes in an idyllic landscape linked the country estates and farms. Diepenheim village developed along the old trade route: Grotestraat/Goorseweg.

Diepenheim's environment is as meaningful and significant as the built-up area is meaningless. The Grotestraat/Goorseweg through route was a wide asphalt lane. The choice was made in the new design not to exclude through traffic from the centre so that the viability of the core could be safeguarded. The carriageway, however, was narrowed considerably. This gives the feeling of deceleration as does the noise of crunching gravel. The smell of flowering trees also provides a nostalgic look and feel. This ensures that the total image matches what Diepenheim is: a peaceful village.



impression Goorseweg



Goorseweg new situation



impression Grotestraat



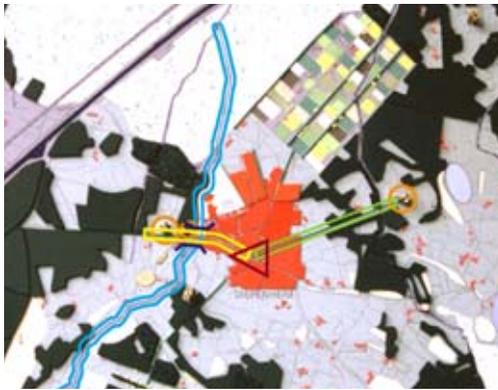
principle Goorseweg profile



Emphasising history

Its history is emphasised by the difference in profiles of Grotestraat and Goorseweg. Grotestraat now has been given an asymmetric profile after the redevelopment. Parking has been excluded as much as possible and realised at a distance. Goorseweg has, on the other hand, been given a strongly symmetrical profile due to its origins as a drive to a country estate. This is further emphasised by the trees, box hedges and the position and shape of the lighting masts. A special component of the redevelopment can be found where Grotestraat crosses the Boven-Regge. The stream has been given ecological banks and the crossing with the road is emphasised by a specially designed 'transparent' bridge.





Square as the living room of the village
 Diepenheim did not have a central public space until recently. The environment of the connection between Grotestraat and Goorseweg did indeed have a central location but it was fragmented. By moving the roads, a beautiful area was created for a square that offers space to all types of activities such as musical shows, the weekly market and the mobile hairdresser. A special 'service wall' was designed in front of the square where the many passing cyclists can take a break and can use a water tap and an integrated bicycle pump. The role of the square as the 'living room for the village' is represented through seating elements under the planes that have been designed by the artist Irene Fortuyn. These elements consist of casts of chairs that come from the real living rooms of Diepenheim.

party at the Grotestraat

model square



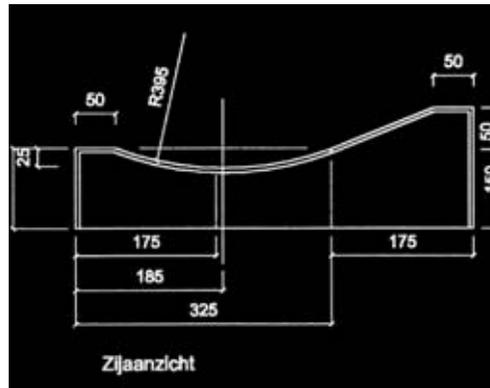
plan square



facilities wall



special furniture - casts of underside of chair



detail groove - special designed element