

Heerenveen Centre >>>



Heerenveen Centre

project
reorganisation of the
centre's public space

location
Heerenveen

designers
Berrie van Elderen
Arjan Karssen
Frederieke Kühn

partners
Pieter van Walree
lighting advice: Marc van Gelder

client
Municipality of Heerenveen

size
Two streets,
a number of alleys,
a square and a canal

year of design
1997 - 2002

photography
Jeroen Alberts



Recreating an integrated centre

The refurbishment of the town centre of Heerenveen reestablishes the original elongated character of the southern part of the town centre, with its three parallel streets. The plan involved a series of rigorous interventions: traffic routes were re-routed and profiles were changed. The coherence of the public space was reestablished through the use of a uniform paving material. Elongated ('waal') manganese coloured paving bricks are used as a basic paving material throughout the town centre, with different materials being added in specific areas: Belgian bluestone in the pedestrian zone and on Gemeenteplein square, and standard ('linge') format red-brown paving bricks in the areas where there is traffic.

The contemporary design of the street furniture is in keeping with Heerenveen's status as a progressive modern town.



Gemeenteplein square

Gemeenteplein square is clearly differentiated from the straightforward character of the streets. A 'wall to wall' square was created, without any differences in height to demarcate bicycle lanes or the road.

The area of the square is defined by trees on the two southern corners and along the north edge. Lighting and street furniture are concentrated along the north edge of the square, so the square is an open area free of obstacles.



'barcode'



Lindegracht retaining wall

The square is paved with Belgian blues-tone and clearly forms a unity but at the same time it is also very variegated. Different surface finishes tie in with different atmospheres on the square. The surface of the traffic lanes is somewhat rougher, while the area in front of the Oenemastate building is paved with polished, brushed and grinded tiles that add a more chic touch.

Additionally, several specific tiles are integrated, such as drainage tiles, market tiles, tiles illustrated with children's drawings and tiles combined with LED lighting. These lighting tiles are connected to a computer which ensures that the slow illumination of the tiles gradually causes the square to sparkle.



tile drainage



tile market



tile child's drawing

