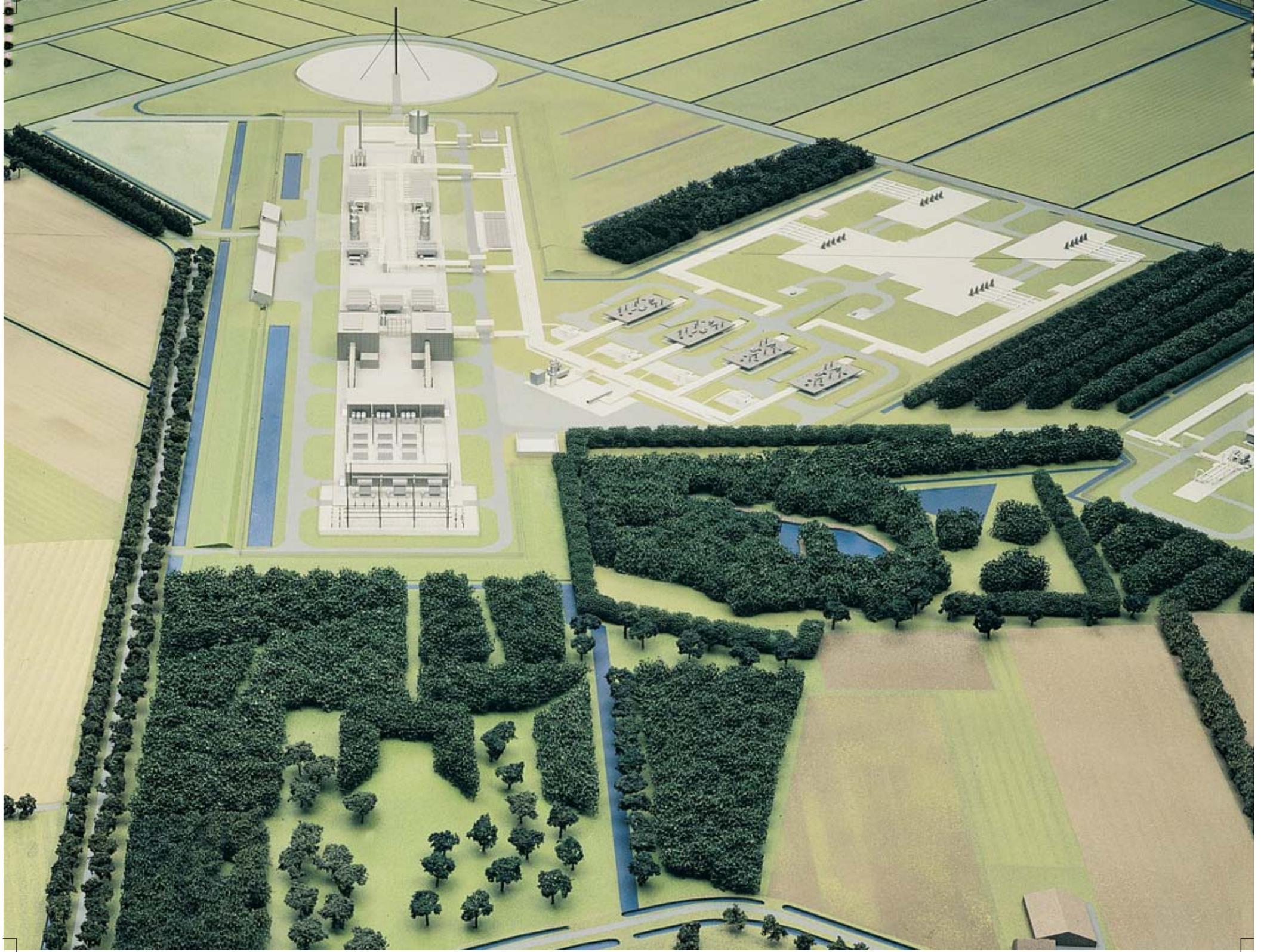


Underground gas storage facility Langelo >>>



Underground gas storage facility Langelo

1st prize for external appearance Drente
1999

project
Underground gas storage facility

location
Langelo, the Netherlands

designers
Alle Hosper
René van der Velde
Berrie van Elderen
Peter de Ruyter

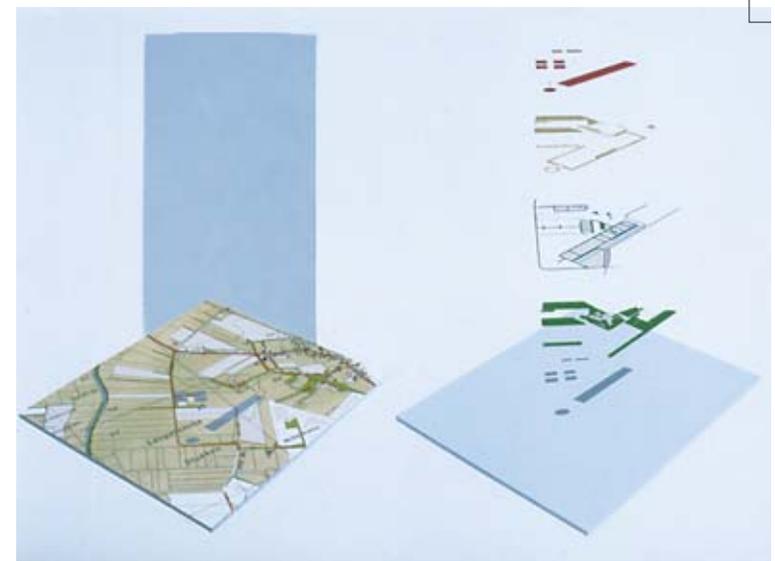
partners
Cor Kalfsbeek Architects (DAAD)

client
Nederlandse Aardolie Maatschappij
(Dutch Petrol Company)

size
45 ha

year of design
1992 - 1997

photography
Pandion
Harry Cock
Annalies Scheerhoorn



layered design structure

Large-scale interventions in the Dutch landscape, such as infrastructure or industrial complexes, are usually packaged in green strips in order to withdraw them from view. This denies from the outset that such objects might actually be attractive to look at. A strong architectural concept that shows respect for the landscape might - certainly with time - form a positive addition. After all, industrial structures from the past, from windmills to the nodding donkey, are generally recognized as valuable monuments these days.

The gas storage facility at Langelo in the Drenthe province is such a large-scale intervention. Gas that is pumped in other locations is stored here in a former gas field. Although the actual gas is stored deep underground, above ground an extensive technical complex is necessary. The complex consists of three elements; the gas storage area Norg 2, a gas treatment installation, and an area with measuring stations. The gas storage is located at the edge of a low sand ridge that is surrounded on three sides by brooks. In the centre of the sand ridge Langelo is located, a stretched-out village with a green.



installations behind the bank



slotted cleanly into the landscape



flare boom



oak-lined lane with cycle path alongside the facility



view of the facility

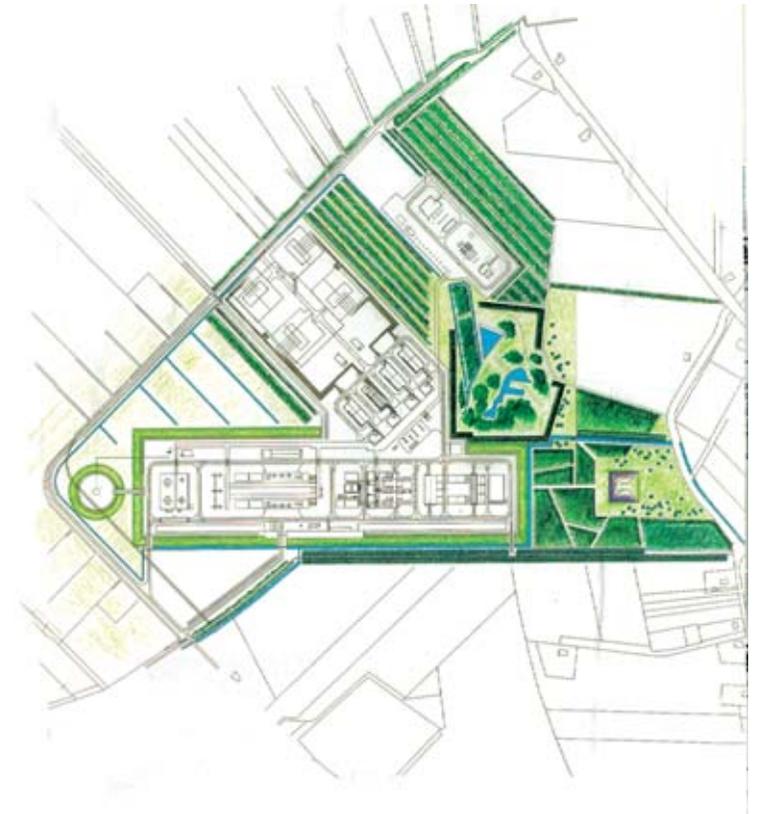
The vision for the landscape is aimed at reinforcing the landscape types present: the wide and large-scale brooks, the heath land reclamations on the sand ridge which are clearly structured by strips of woodland, and the intimate and small-scale village centre. New woodlands and lanes that radiate out of the village to the brooks are designed for the sand ridge. These strips are interesting from an ecological point of view because they connect different environments; from elevated, dry, and oligotrophic, to low, wet, and eutrophic. The radial structure of the landscape is accentuated by the loose composition of the gas storage. The gas storage area and the measuring stations are built parallel to the structure of the lots and are separated by strips of woodland. The gas treatment facility - 60 metres wide and almost 600 metres long - is turned in relation to the other elements. The length and orientation of the strip is emphasized by a lane and by two vertical elements at the extreme ends: a slim flare boom and a look-out hill. Around the strip is a bank with a slightly sloped grass wall that encompasses all the visual obstacles and the installation. This emphasizes that the complex is part of the landscape and does not need to be camouflaged.



geographical situation



look-out hill between the village and the facility



oak-lined lane with cycle path, slightly sloped grass wall and facility

