

Sewer water treatment utility Leidsche Rijn >>>



# Sewer water treatment utility Leidsche Rijn

## project

Sewer water treatment utility

## location

Leidsche Rijn, Utrecht, the Netherlands

## designers

Remco Rolvink  
Arjan Karszen

## partners

A+D+P Architects  
DHVwater BV  
SmitsRinsma

## client

Water Board Hoogheemraadschap De  
Stichtse Rijnlanden

## size

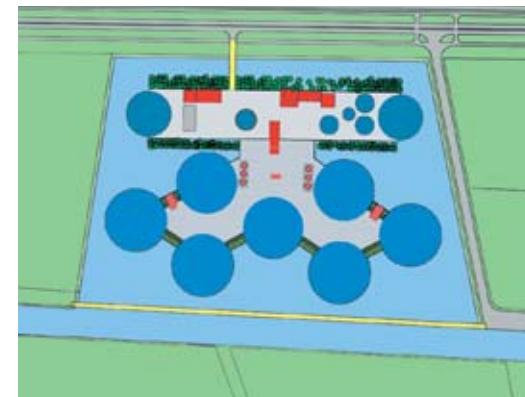
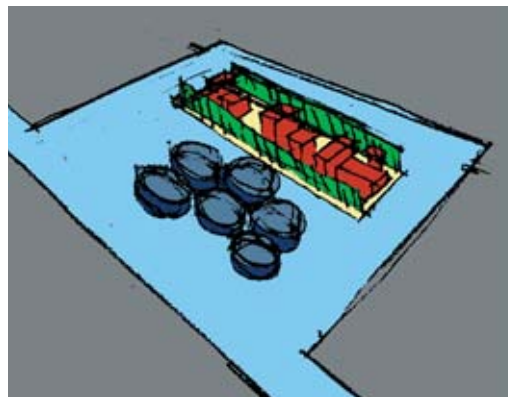
6 ha. / length 30 m

## year of design

1996 - 2000 / 2001

It is clear where the water comes from in your bathroom, where it goes, and what you have to turn to adjust the temperature. These things are less evident when it comes to the major forms of intervention to the (Dutch) landscape such as gas drills, waste incinerators, waterworks or sewer treatment plants. Although these are essential utilities, it is customary to bundle them together or to hide them primly behind a camouflage of greenery. To the average consumer industrial complexes are bad by definition, they are ugly and therefore not a good thing.

It is, however, quite possible to address a large utility by the same principle as the sink in the bathroom. The function can be revealed without exposing the details of the separate parts. The design of the sewer water treatment utility at the residential building site Leidsche Rijn incorporated the idea of deliberately allowing the equipment to be visible. The spatial composition was determined by the technical requirements of the various units. This allows each passer-by, employee or inhabitant of the area to actively experience the utility.



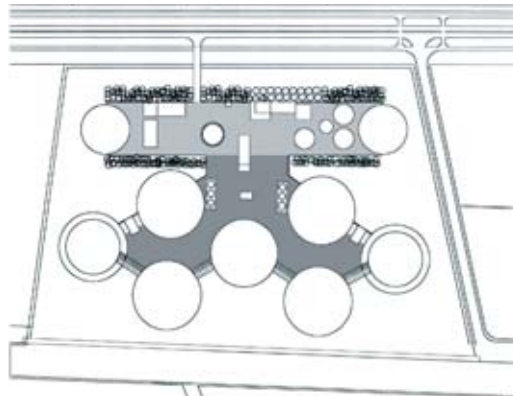


An analysis of the purification process reveals both passive mechanical components (sedimentation and storage) and active components (input, filters, control building for process management and office, sludge drainage, etc.). The principle passive elements are the large carousels. These mechanical components have strong profiles which, as they are identical in size, may be arranged in an attractive rhythmic composition which highlights the scale and disposition of each object. The active elements include a number of buildings and constructions of various size and shapes; in this case the dynamics are expressed through sheer diversity. These buildings are arranged, as dictated by the purification process, along the extensive strip that forms the production island. The dynamics of shape and size are further accentuated in the architecture of the buildings by the use of diverse materials.

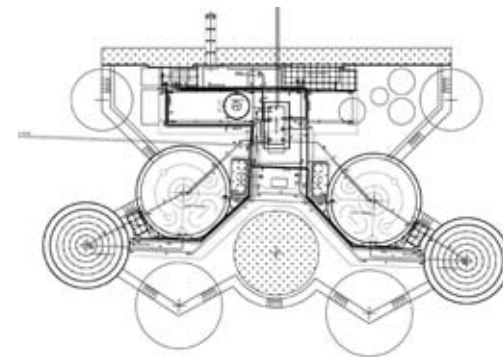
the transition between the production island and the carousels



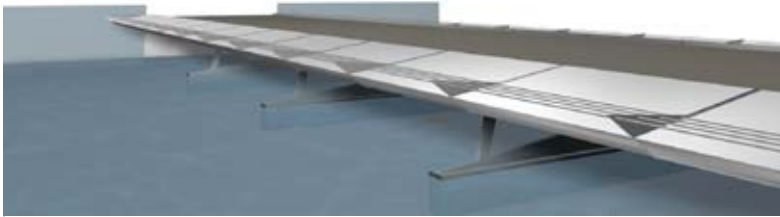
water behind the carousels



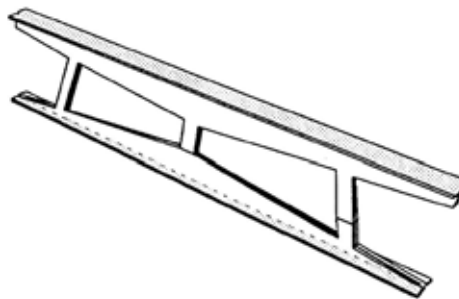
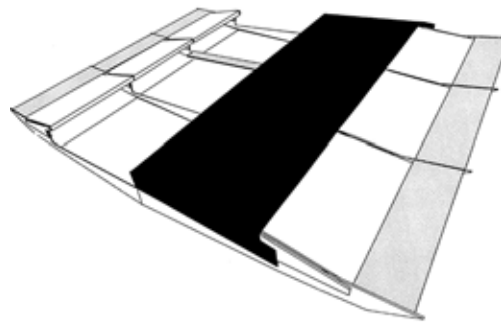
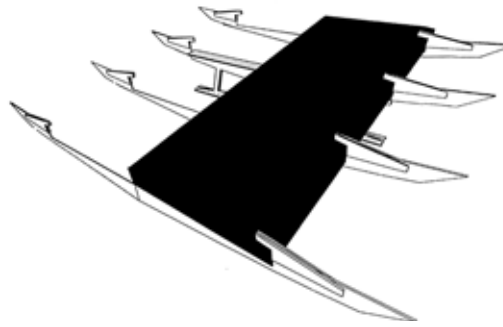
division of the outside area

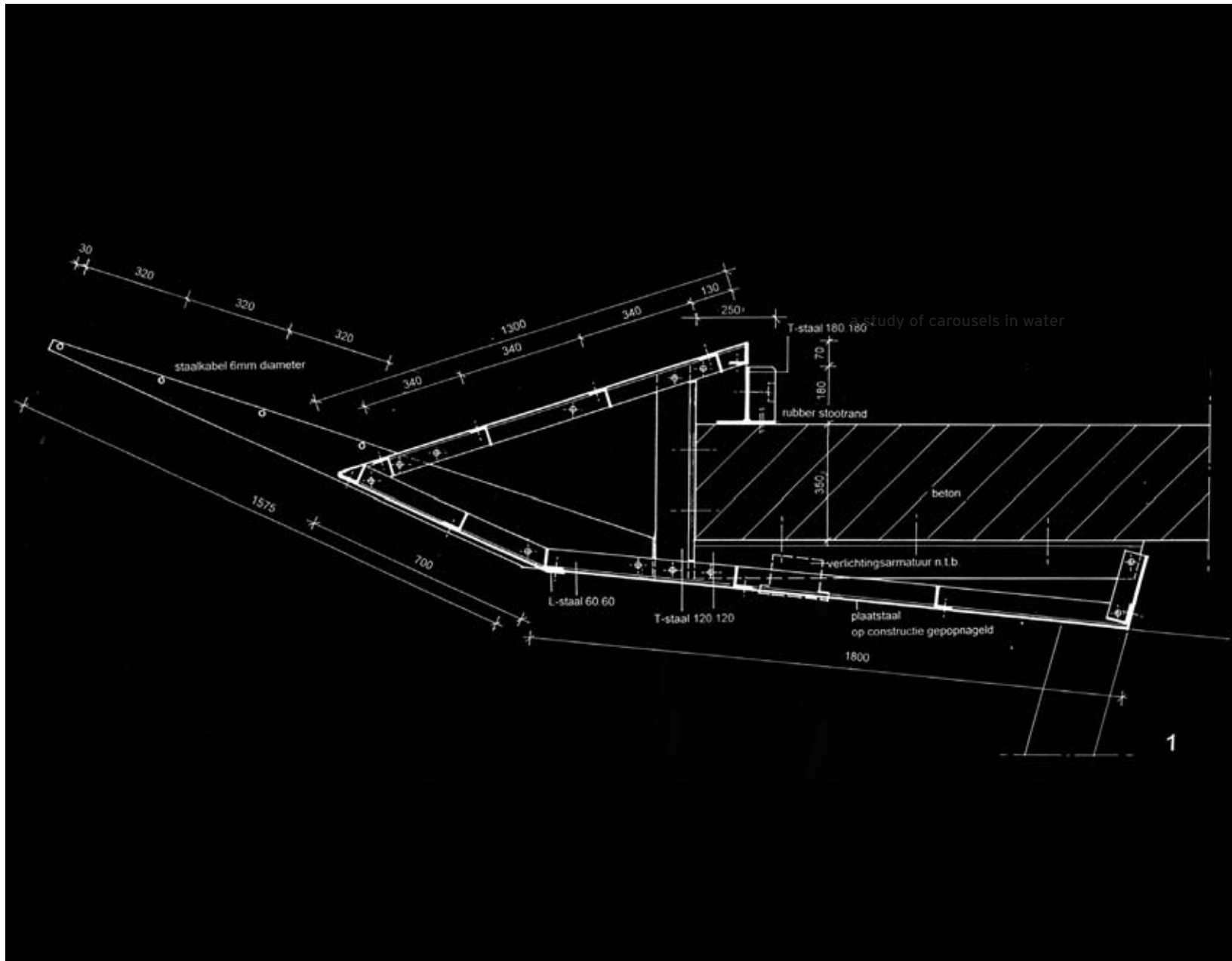


technical representation



The entire composition is framed by water, which accesses the canal behind the complex directly. This eliminates the need for placing unsightly fences around the utility. The water is deep at the production island at the front. The entrance is rendered accessible by a specially designed, 30 metre long bridge. The water at the rear is shallower, allowing reeds to grow around the carousels. This water is bordered by a narrow dike, along which a footpath runs. The complex has taken a definable shape now that the water area has been filled and the trees have started to grow. The machine has been anchored in place and has become a part of the community of the Leidsche Rijn.





bald cypresses in front of the production island