

Schiphol The Green Square >>>

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project
landscapedesign

location
Schiphol, Hoofddorp

designers
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René van der Velde
Berrie van Elderen
Mark van Rijnberk
Marika Oudijk
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partners
Arcadis and Grontmij

commissioned by
Mainport and Green Foundation

size
900 ha
phase south 1 : 63 ha

year of design
1997 - 2001

photographs
Jeroen Alberts

Recreational park around Jumbo jets

The Haarlemmermeer is dominated by Schiphol airport. In the slipstream of the airport a modern residential and commercial landscape has developed. However the 19th Century agricultural polder - the Haarlemmermeer - did not grow along with it. A number of green projects, such as 'The Green Square', attempt to rectify this by making the polder more attractive. The Square demands to be - given its location and surroundings - everything but a traditional recreational park.

Vision

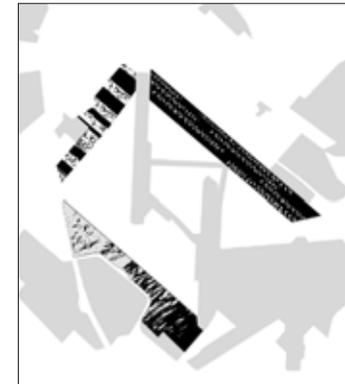
The Green Square consists of three sides that together with Schiphol form an imaginary square. For each strip accessibility, the neighbouring functions, and the location within the polder differ. This offers opportunities to develop three different areas with a different character that invite various forms of recreational use. Since this use is not static and imposed from above, each strip may be employed in a flexible manner both in time and in use. By using a common visual language - formed by a limited number of building blocks - the Square has become a very recognisable unit.



footprint Schiphol



new airstrip



green compensation



The Green Square South: 'relaxed'

The most important building blocks are 'tilted lots' where agricultural lots are dug out on one side and elevated on the other. The dug out areas fill with water. Due to the slight gradient of the bank of the elevations, ecologically valuable transitions between wet and dry environments appear. The gradients and water surfaces invite all kind of forms of recreation. A second important building block is a broad, hardened path that forms a continuous route through the Square and offers space to cyclists, skaters, and hikers. Other building blocks are for instance asphalt areas, bridges, lanes, buildings, furnishings, and the manner of management of the areas.



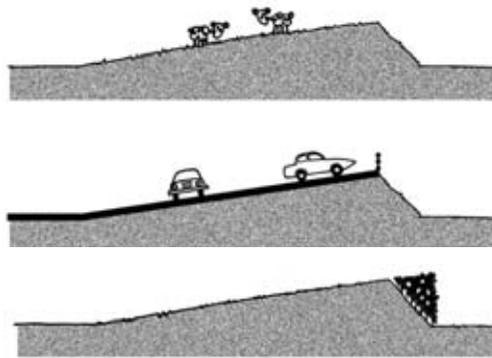
The Northern Green Square: 'dynamic'



The West Green Square: 'bourgondic'



The Southern Green Square: 'relaxed'

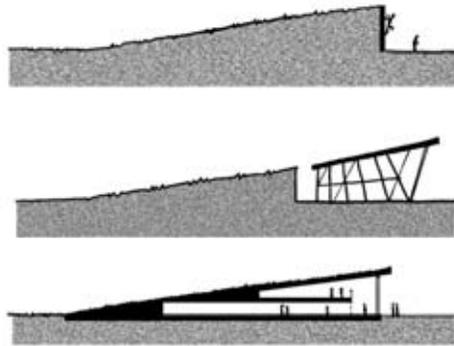


'tilted lots of land'



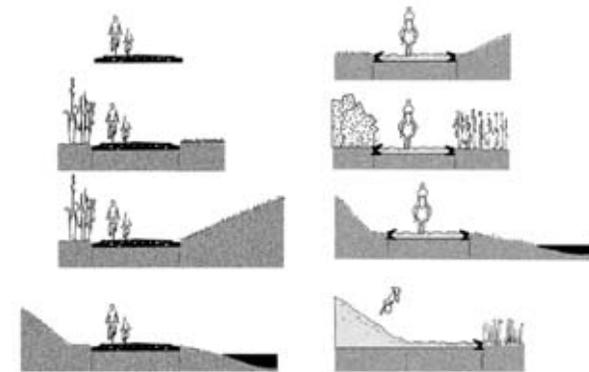
bridges

The southern strip forms an overflow area for Hoofddorp. Going for a walk and experiencing the new horizon in the polder landscape are activities that link up with the local character of the strip. Water and openness are important themes in the most quiet part of the Green Square.



sitting platform

By designing shallows in the water areas large architectural reed lands appear. Between the 'tilted lots' wide views on the vast polder open up. Up to this moment only this strip has been realized.

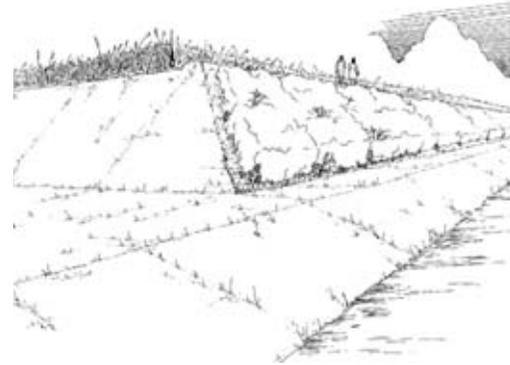


paths



fishing platform





perspectives 'tilted lots of land'

