

Funenpark

‘a monument for the future’





Just east of Amsterdam's inner city, on the barren land of a former railway station marshalling yard, the municipality of Amsterdam built a new urban quarter. A quarter that, in contrast to so many Dutch residential neighbourhoods, with their traditional lay-out of streets, pavements, parking spaces, front and back gardens, was laid out differently. A layout that asks for a new approach of public space.

The quarter is conceived as one, continuous, green, publically accessible courtyard. Within it the architecture is set: sixteen residential blocks stand free in space and a new long, hook-shaped apartment block defines the courtyard in the west. The courtyard was not to be split up in any way, consequently, all parking areas

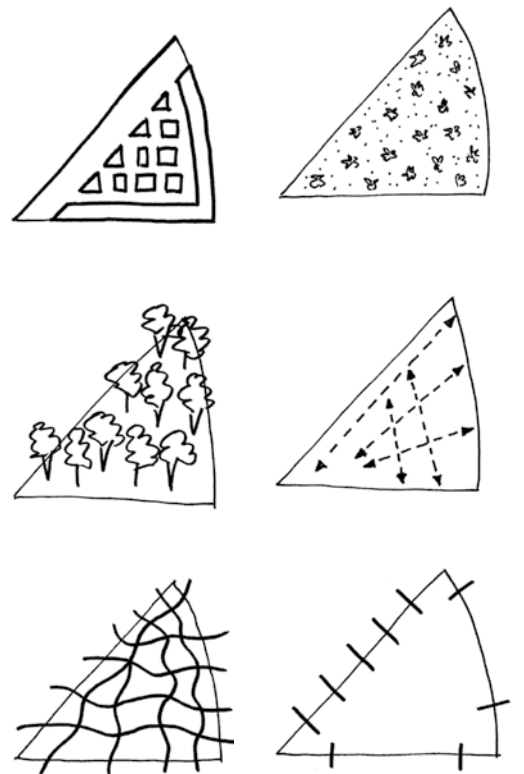


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had to be built underground and, more controversial, all private gardens had to be omitted. Instead, every apartment has a two metre wide wooden terrace for private use and lots of public space to use for walking, playing, and relaxing.

The maximised public space was designed as open parkland consisting of just three main ingredients: grass, pavement, and scattered trees. From these ingredients the pavement got particular attention as it was ideal to



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allow both residents and passers-by to wander freely through the space, and to make Funen's outdoor space distinct from its surroundings. To achieve this, LANDLAB designed an intensive network of paths made of two specially designed pentagonal concrete paving stones in three shades of grey. These were laid down in a random fashion which resulted in a directionless, rugged pattern that looks like a unidirectional stretched fishnet from above. The widened meshes in the west result in an oblong shaped zone of open park space, which forms the transition zone between the open Funenpark and the enclosed Czar Peter neighbourhood in the west.

The meshes of the net consist of grass planted with scattered groups of False Acacia (*Robinia pseudoacacia*, 170 in total) and daffodils. The transparent crowns of the False Acacia trees go well with the architecture and their bright





green colour contrasts nicely with the architectures brick and glass facades. In spring, the flowering False Acacia and the daffodils add a splash of colour and sweet scent to the otherwise green landscape. Several initiatives such as the introduction of plant pots along some of the facades further enliven the informal park setting.

Funenpark is well connected to its surrounding urban fabric by several



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cross connections. All the entrances to the park are emphasised by symbolic gates with integrated lights. These highlight the transition from the streets to the park: residents and passers-by are welcomed in a different, more relaxed world. The simplicity of combining three

ingredients resulted in an outdoor space experienced as continuous and binds together landscape and architecture. The quarter now forms a distinct, lush and relaxed quarter in Amsterdam's city centre. It evokes a feeling of freedom and offers a unique dwelling to its residents.

TECHNICAL CARD

LANDLAB studio for landscape architects is a landscape architecture firm that creates functioning and experientially rich places across a wide range of landscape scales: from landscape to park to garden.

LANDLAB has extensive experience in the design of streets and plazas, parks, zoo's, roof gardens and landscapes. Several projects such as Funenpark, the plaza in front of the EYE film institute and the Oeverpark are critically celebrated for their achievements. LANDLAB won prizes in Belgium for two shopping streets, De Driekoningenstraat and De Abdijstraat, and in received an Dutch award for their work on the Funenpark.



Project Focus

Project: Funenpark

Place: Amsterdam [NL]

Landscape architects: LANDLAB studio voor landschapsarchitectuur (Arnhem) [NL]

Collaborators: Martien van Osch (Berlicum) [NL]

Urban design: Frits van Dongen / ArchitectenCie [NL]

Design: 1999-2010

Construction: 2010-2013

Executor: Heijmans

Area: 4ha

Density: 140 homes per hectare

Commissioners: City of Amsterdam, Heijmans property developers

Awards: De Gouden Piramide 2011-In which the jury praised the design as 'a monument for the future.'

The Dutch Design Price 2007 awarded to the two special pavement stones.

Image credits: Anne ten Ham and Jeroen Musch