

Afrikaanderwijk Cooperative - Rotterdam - NL

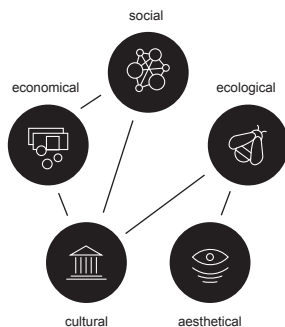
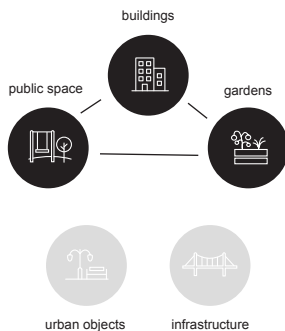
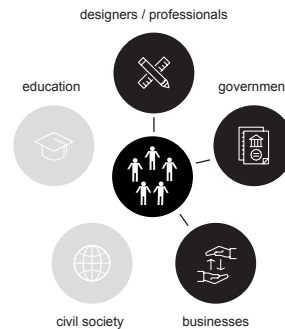
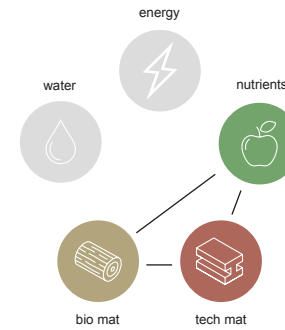


Afrikaanderwijk, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
2016 - ongoing
<http://afrikaanderwijk.net/>

The Afrikaander market takes place at the heart of the neighbourhood twice a week and attracts 15,000 people a day. Through a 'Right to Challenge' initiative, the Afrikaanderwijk Cooperative has taken over the waste collection of this market from the municipality. As a result, waste is now recycled by local employees during the day, making the market and neighbourhood cleaner and providing local people with a job, hence money flows remain local.

Enablers

The Afrikaanderwijk Cooperative was founded in 2013 with the aim of creating both economic and social value in the neighbourhood by initiating, stimulating and organising local initiatives. A number of initiatives aimed at creating local employment have already been successfully developed, such as a neighbourhood kitchen and a bicycle repair café building upon local knowledge and energy, using public funds.



Resources

A market produces a lot of residual waste: cardboard and paper, fruit and vegetable waste, plastic and plastics. Instead of perceiving this solely as a problem, the Cooperative saw an opportunity here: "We can also turn it around and see the market as a job engine instead of a waste market." That is why the circular market initiative includes local workers separating waste during market days and then processing it in the most circular way possible. High-quality materials can be returned to the market.

Actors

The Afrikaanderwijk Cooperative is a network organisation whose members consist of local residents, entrepreneurs, organisations and foundations. It cooperates with local and external partners in developing its initiatives. In order to develop to the initiative of a circular market, a working group has been set up in which, in addition to the cooperative and the municipality, the design studio Superuse participates.

Spatial elements

Superuse Studio made a design for a raw materials station that will be located at the market. The ambition is to create an iconic station where, in addition to the collection and separation of waste, social functions such as a repair café, exchange of goods, a shop that hands out free items and a makers' space can also be located. This station can be used by residents and entrepreneurs from the neighbourhood in addition to the market vendors, several days a week.

Values

The added value of the work of the Afrikaanderwijk Cooperative and specifically the initiatives around the circular Afrikaandermarkt is primarily financial and socio-cultural. The cooperative now employs 45 people, twelve of whom work at the market since January 2021. In addition, the circular market initiatives also have an ecological added value. The local separation, reuse and recycling of products and materials contributes to local and national sustainability ambitions.