

Heliport Groen Initiative - Rotterdam - NL

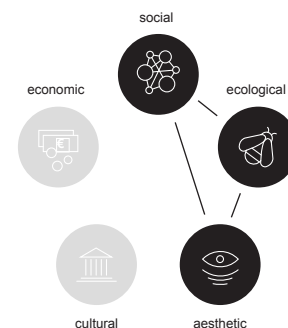
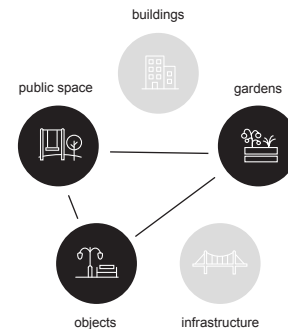
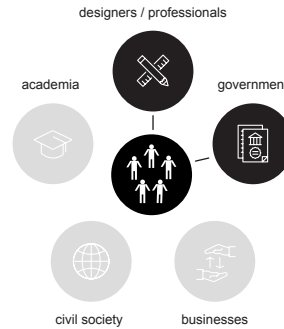
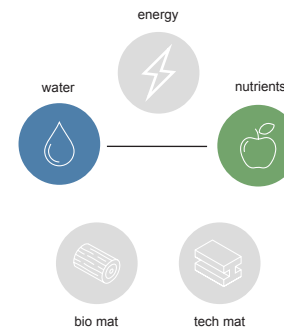


Heliport, Rotterdam the Netherlands 2020

Heliport is a residential complex in the Agniese neighbourhood in Rotterdam North. The name Heliport refers to the helicopter landing site that was here between 1953 and 1965, from where flights to Antwerp and Brussels were operated. After the opening of Zestienhoven Airport (later Rotterdam - The Hague Airport), Heliport became redundant and the area lay fallow for a long time until the demand for more housing led to the development of a residential area in 1976. In 2017, the inner courtyard was unappealing to the current residents, so they launched an initiative to turn the courtyard into a green, climate-adaptive and pleasant place for residents to be.

Enablers

The initiative taker, together with several other residents, submitted a residents' initiative to the area committee to replace some of the tiles of their inner courtyard with flowers and plants. The ambition was not only to develop a more pleasant courtyard, but also to be better prepared for climate change (both heavy rain and heat stress) and to promote urban biodiversity. Both their network of people, their finances and their knowledge about the content grew as the project got bigger and bigger.



Resources

Residents' initiatives at Heliport Green initially focused on greening the courtyard by redesigning it with more trees and flower-rich plants, benefiting biodiversity. Currently, four rainwater pipes have been disconnected, the others will follow at a later stage. In the new system rainwater is directed through an underground pipe system to a reed bed in the Karnemelksehaven. Inflow of additional water into the Karnemelksehaven through increased flow will hopefully also improve the water quality of this canal.

Actors

The local initiators worked together with a design studio, Stichting Tussentuin, who was responsible for the redesign of the courtyard and functioned as a mediator between the residents and the municipality. Municipality played an active role in the realisation of the project, in collaboration with the Water board.

Spatial elements

In the design workshops for the redesign of the courtyard, residents preferred organic shapes for the plant beds and path structure. Not only because this is more in keeping with nature, but also because the organic shapes help to reduce speed limits. Except for the slide, the new playground equipment is made of wood.

An vacant building unit, first rented by the Tussenruimte Foundation during the design consultation rounds, has been taken over by active local residents as a meeting spot.

Values

Ecological added value on the waterfront, ecological value has also been realised by increasing biodiversity. A selected variety of plants attracts certain insects and other animals. A year after completion of the project, residents are already clearly noticing this difference: there are more insects and birds.

Social value has been created by the increase of social cohesion as a result of the collective process. Clear aesthetic added value has also been realised: residents have been provided with an attractive and green residential space, including play facilities for children.