

ASSEMBLY CITY

A QUICK-ASSEMBLE ARCHITECTURE FOR A TIME OF EMERGENCIES

WE LIVE IN A TIME DEFINED BY EMERGENCIES—CLIMATE, HOUSING, AND SOCIAL—AND ARCHITECTURE HAS THE DUTY TO EXPLORE NEW WAYS OF BUILDING AND LIVING BY PROPOSING REVERSIBLE, LIVING SPACES PREPARED TO EMBRACE UNCERTAINTY.

ASSEMBLY CITY IS A PROPOSAL FOR A NEW KIND OF CONTEMPORARY URBANITY: A HABITABLE, PREFABRICATED, AND DEMOUNTABLE INFRASTRUCTURE, CAPABLE OF REDUCING EMISSIONS AND ACCELERATING THE URBAN RESPONSE TO THE GROWING NEED FOR HOUSING. THE BUILDING IS AN EXTENSION OF THE LANDSCAPE AND CONNECTS TO THE SITE'S GREEN AND WATER SYSTEMS. IT BECOMES A NEW SYMBOL FOR THE CITY OF AMERSFOORT: A SYMBOL, NOT SHAPED BY FORM, BUT BY ENLIGHTENED TOWARD THE ENVIRONMENT AND ITS INHABITANTS.

ASSEMBLY CITY IS ALSO A CITY OF ASSEMBLY: A HORIZONTAL WAY OF LIVING, WITHOUT HIERARCHIES, WHERE HOUSING, SPORTS, AND NATURE COEXIST AS PARTS OF THE SAME ECOSYSTEM. THE COLLECTIVE SPACES AND 150 DWELLINGS ARE UNDERSTOOD AS PLACES FOR CARE, ACTIVITY, AND ENCOUNTER—SPACES TO LIVE AND TO WORK. IT IS NOT A CLOSED BUILDING, BUT AN OPEN INFRASTRUCTURE: A FLEXIBLE FRAMEWORK FOR FAIRER AND SHARED WAYS OF LIFE, PREPARED TO FACE THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE.

CONNECTING TO A TERRITORIAL SYSTEM

Assembly City anchors itself in the green-blue system of the Amersfoort region, as outlined in the Regional Spatial Vision and the Ontwikkelkader Kop van IJssel. It extends the urban metabolism into the ecological corridor along the Eem, connecting city and landscape. More than a building, it becomes part of a regional structure shaped by water, climate and shared way of space.

A NEW URBAN SYMBOL

A clear and singular form becomes the new northern gate of the city. Not a patchwork of volumes, but one unified gesture—recognisable, symbolic, and scaled to the metropolitan edge. A gesture not born from form, but from the logics of care, coexistence and collective resilience.

LIVING WITH NATURE

The building stands in the middle of a park—and this defines its identity. It bridges the urban and the natural, becoming part of the landscape. Nature's roof added on, but integrated: it climbs facades, shades porches, enters patios and covers the roof. The architecture becomes part of the ecosystem, offering spaces for nature to live, grow and be shared.

A URBAN FORUM

The ground floor is a large covered public square—a generous open porch that becomes a central hub for sport. It hosts the main indoor sports hall and offers changing rooms for everyone training or exercising along the canal. It also acts as a shared threshold, a community hall that connects public life with the upper residential levels. A civic platform open to all, supporting both organised activity and informal use.

A GATE TO AMERSFOORT

Koppelbrug sits at the edge of the district, right next to the iconic drawbridge that defines this part of the city, just as the Koppelbrug once did for the old town. It becomes a new gateway to Amersfoort and introduces a way of living, working and relating to nature and sport that is open, inclusive and deeply local.

A SPORTS BOULEVARD

A landscaped ribbon of sport stretches along the canal, connecting running paths, fitness zones, water activities and informal play. Public changing rooms on the ground floor of the project support this extended network. Sport becomes a continuous public infrastructure for active and healthy urban life.

DEMOLITION WITHOUT WASTE

The existing industrial hall is dismantled, not erased. Its structural elements are reused to build elements on the new park, while the soil from the parking excavation shapes new topographies. A project that avoids tabula rasa and turns waste into landscape—a circular gesture of continuity.

SOUND BARRIER STRATEGY

Koppelbrug Avenue is a high-noise corridor. The building's outer skin integrates acoustic barriers and vegetation to filter the sound and create a new soundscape of calm.

European Amersfoort. Koppelbrug Site E18. Regenerating Landscapes **1**

A GROUND FLOOR AS PUBLIC PARK AND SPORTS HALL

The ground floor is more than structure. It is a public park, a civic threshold, and a shared space for movement, sport and gathering. Partly open and partly covered, it extends the landscape beneath the building, blurring the line between architecture and nature.

At its centre lies a 28x48 metre column-free sports court, a clear, generous void that becomes the heart of community life. Around it, flexible rooms host multiple uses, and public changing rooms connect directly to the park and canal-side sport infrastructure.

This level acts as the base of the whole project, but also as a social condenser: a space for encounter, exercise, rest, celebration and care. A hybrid between a plaza, a building and a park, open to all, and always in use.

A LOW-CARBON, PREFABRICATED SYSTEM

Built from timber and recycled concrete, the structure reduces embodied emissions while enabling adaptability and reuse.

SOFT WOOD EXTERIOR FAÇADE

A low-carbon timber structure wraps the building. It creates a shaded, planted, communal space—an outdoor extension of the homes.

PREFABRICATED WOOD LIVING UNITS

CLT housing modules are stacked for fast and low-carbon assembly. Their repetition enables efficiency, while allowing flexible and adaptable ways of living.

LOW-CARBON FOUNDATIONS WITH LANDSCAPE REUSE

A semi-underground parking avoids deep excavation, while the excavated soil is reused to shape the terrain and define the landscape. This system reduces impact and lays the base for future transformation.

URBAN CANOPY: LIVING ON TOP OF A CIVIC BASE

The building grows from the ground like a light canopy over the park. A semi-underground level keeps cars out of sight, while above, the open ground floor lets nature and people flow through freely. The homes rise above this shared base, forming a flexible and open community where public and private spaces blend. A place ready to change, adapt and grow.

A BASEMENT THAT ENABLES A CAR-FREE DISTRICT

A semi-underground level spans the entire plot, concentrating parking for the neighbourhood while keeping the surface free for nature and people. Built just below street level, it reduces excavation, allows light and air in, and can be reused in the future for other collective uses.

PREFAS CONCRETE CIVIC BASE WITH RECYCLED AGGREGATES

This structure minimises carbon emissions by using prefabricated concrete beams with recycled aggregates. Long spans enable open, shared public use, and the whole system is designed to be reversible and reusable over time.

Solar panels to create a self-sufficient building

European Amersfoort. Koppelbrug Site E18. Regenerating Landscapes **2**

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A BUILDING THAT ASSEMBLES ITSELF

Assembly City is not just built—it is assembled. Dry, fast and light. Like a choreography of precision and care, prefabricated elements arrive by truck, are lifted by crane, and stack one above the other. Construction is fast, reversible, and low-impact—a system ready to be modified, repaired or reused over time. Housing grows layer by layer over a civic base. It is not a monument, but a tool, a support for change. What begins as a system of modules becomes a living organism—a structure where people and nature are expected, and transformation is welcomed. Here, architecture does not impose permanence, but enables life.

A FLEXIBLE HOME

A space for living, working and creating—all at once. This adaptable, luminous home blends the domestic with the productive, the intimate with the shared.

ONE STRUCTURE, MANY WAYS TO LIVE

A single structural module allows for multiple unit types—from studios to co-living clusters. Repetition brings efficiency, while variation supports diverse needs and household configurations. This flexible system enables intergenerational, inclusive and evolving ways of life—adapting to the rhythms of care, work and shared living.

~ Studio (30 m²) for individuals or young couples
~ 2-bedroom unit (60 m²) for small families or flat-shares
~ 4-bedroom unit (90 m²) for expanded households: a queer couple with a child and a close friend, two single parents raising kids together, or multigenerational families.

Duplex, stacked vertically, offer spatial variety and independence.

Cluster, support student housing or co-living formats with shared kitchens and bathrooms

House + workshop combines domestic life with productive space

A MAT OF LIVING

Starting from a 30 m² module, the housing system allows for aggregation, variation and coexistence—forming a porous field of life. This is not a closed housing block, but a fabric of relationships: open, transformable, always in use. Collective kitchens, shared workshops and community rooms for childcare, study or rest are distributed across a horizontal platform where limits between inside and outside are soft, blurred, and adaptable. The façade system is reversible and porous, allowing each home to breathe, grow and connect with its neighbours and the landscape. The system supports intergenerational life, cohabitation and evolving ways of living—offering new models for inclusive and adaptable urban housing. Homes are flexible and light, but rooted in shared needs. Architecture here is not enclosure, but support: a spatial framework where uses, rhythms and people change, and where life is always collective.

AN OLD STREET

People greet each other, children play outside, and daily life spills naturally into the public space. Here, architecture supports bonds between neighbours, generations and rhythms of life. A street not just for moving through, but for staying, meeting and belonging.

FUN PALACE
- CEDRIC PRICE

Not a building, but a changing framework for public life. A space to gather, play, learn and invent—where architecture supports potential instead of prescribing use.

European Amersfoort. Koppelbrug Site E18. Regenerating Landscapes **3**

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TREEHOUSE PROTOTYPE
- FREI OTTO

A home suspended in a living forest. Light and open, it blurs the boundary between dwelling and nature. A structure that breathes, hosts life, and coexists with trees, wind and rain.

'A COZY COTTAGE'
- A.B. WALKER

A collective structure that hosts diverse ways of living within a shared frame. Like a village stacked in the sky, it blends density with identity, and housing with landscape—reimagining the vertical city as a place for coexistence and care.

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A gentle symbol for Amersfoort, open to life, sport and shared care. With the aesthetics of prefabrication, and rooted in water and green, it becomes a part of the Eem's landscape.

The ground floor is more than structure—it's a public sports plaza. It opens to the park and welcomes everyday movement and collective activity.

Walkways and terraces become spaces to share life, surrounded by sun, air, plants and animals. Architecture that every day brings people.