

A Good Sport





Koppelbrug Site



A Living Environment full of Sport

Site

A Good Sport brings together a curious mix of functions: a large parking garage, housing, and a sports hall—situated in an equally curious location. The project lies in an area currently characterized by lightweight industry, but soon to be transformed into a car-free residential neighborhood. The site is uniquely positioned next to the iconic Koppelbrug, directly on the banks of the river Eem, which links it to the historic city center of Amersfoort, just 10 minutes away.

Amersfoort is renowned for its idyllic historic city center and high-quality suburban neighborhoods. On the one hand, many Dutch people still prefer a home with a front and back garden. On the other, the city urgently needs to densify and introduce more urban forms of living.

The site location next to Koppelbrug is of strategic importance. Located in close proximity to the hospital, the city center and the train station, it is a golden opportunity to introduce urban living that is not centered around cars, but focused on active and green living.

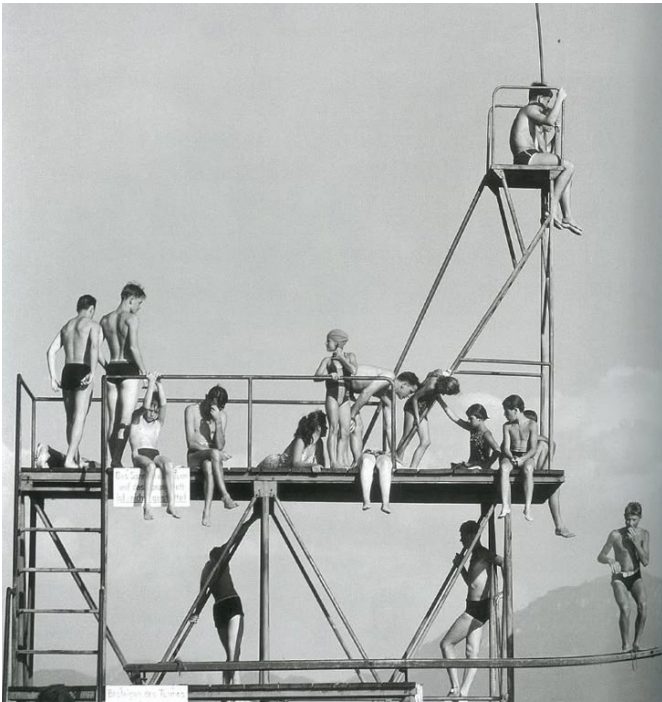
Through its people-oriented and socially driven approach, the Koppelbrug neighborhood will

become a natural extension of the 'Nieuwe Stad'—a place of high density and vibrant social interaction, close to the city center and set along the river. Yet it will not be a mere replica. Instead, it will develop its own identity, in line with the evolving character of the riverfront. This new neighborhood places a strong emphasis on sports and active living, embedded within a park-like setting along the riverbank.

Program

The integrated functions may seem unrelated at first, but together they form a vibrant ecosystem that fosters healthy living. By stacking the program, a new kind of urban density becomes possible—one that remains modest in height and compact in footprint. The layered building gently rises from the park, growing outward as it ascends. This approach minimizes the impact on the park while bringing the landscape into direct proximity with the sports facilities, blurring the line between built space and green space.

The sports hall is positioned on the ground floor and directly connects to the park, the river and the roads around. The park is brought one level upwards. Visitors enter the building straight from the park and are instantly positioned as



Structure as a Playing Field



James Wines' Highrise of Homes

spectators—an entrance perfectly staged for viewing sports events in the main hall.

Above the sports hall sit three levels of parking. On top, three levels of diverse housing for different age groups and socio-economic backgrounds are positioned around a green courtyard. The housing of three stories with a direct connection to the greenery around, mirrors the qualities of the well-known suburban neighborhoods of Amersfoort.

Although A Good Sport may appear large at first glance, it is in fact remarkably open and inviting. It welcomes all kinds of people engaging in all kinds of sports. Its permeable structure encourages movement and connection, offering an endless range of possibilities for use, interaction, and adaptation.

Sport

Sport is central—both to the neighborhood and to the architecture of the building. A Good Sport enables and subsequently encourages a healthy and social lifestyle. Sport is for everyone—and is therefore both publicly accessible and publicly visible. For this reason, the prominent sports hall is presented as the beating heart of the building.

A digital billboard embedded in the façade broadcasts live updates, scores, and upcoming events, engaging residents, neighbors, and passersby alike. Sport becomes not just an activity, but a shared urban experience.

The site is defined by contrast—each edge shaped by a distinct urban condition: the elevated ring road over the Koppelbrug, the river Eem, a new residential district, and its adjacent neighborhood street. A Good Sport responds like a sponge, absorbing and amplifying these varied surroundings. It hovers above the ring road, opens fully to the river, and extends the riverbank into the building. The park flows in at one side, while the neighborhood street enters at ground level and ramps upward through the structure to the shared courtyard above. This seamless integration creates countless opportunities for interaction—between visitors of the sports facilities, neighborhood residents, and those living in the building—making sport a natural part of daily life.

Structure

The structure is essential to achieving the building's spatial organization and is therefore central to its architectural expression. It consists

of a robust rammed earth base, a recycled steel Vierendeel bridge, and timber housing above. This open and adaptable framework allows the building to evolve with future needs—fewer cars and more space for sports, markets, new homes, or even urban farming.

Architectural theorist and cyberneticist Gilbert Simondon, who explored the aesthetics of technological forms, describes this fusion of utility and beauty as technoaesthetic: the elegance of a tool perfectly suited to its purpose. A Good Sport is such a tool—designed for better health and well-being. Its structure becomes the very ground for activity: a car ramp transforms into a trail running path, a concrete core becomes a climbing wall, and the Vierendeel beam invites you to sprint across it.

Material

A Good Sport is constructed using bio-based and recycled materials. The ground floor features rammed earth load-bearing walls that house utilities with lower light requirements. The sports hall is spanned by cross-stacked steel Vierendeel beams, optimized for structural performance and slender dimensioning. Above, a lighter wooden structure reduces the load on the lower levels. The building is designed with dry-fixed elements to ensure it is demountable, adaptable, and expandable.

Parking

A Good Sport redefines the car park as a vibrant social space rather than merely a place to store vehicles. Serving as the first point of arrival, the parking area is designed with an efficient 7.2-meter grid, achieving a target of 300 spaces at 30 m² per car. Vertical circulation is organized around a straight ramp that links all floors in a continuous line, guiding visitors from the street directly through to the courtyard.

Positioned above ground, the open structure offers future flexibility, easily convertible

should car demand decline. More importantly, the parking is transparent, bright and inviting— a natural meeting place for residents.

Integrated within the Vierendeel steel framework to achieve the required span, the parking avoids heavy loads above the sports hall by incorporating a void that visually and physically connects the sports hall to the courtyard. The parking space itself is interwoven with various sports facilities. It features views into the main sports hall, a climbing wall, a yoga school and a 60 meter sprint track.

Ecosystem

The program layers are not merely stacked. Living, moving, and ecology are deeply intertwined. Spaces for sports are layered one on top of the other, forming a vibrant ecosystem where encounters and health are a natural part of everyday life.

These sports functions are arranged like spectators around the sports hall and even outside: they support, activate, and make sport an experience for all. This creates a dynamic whole in which sport does not disappear behind closed doors but becomes an active part of public life. The building becomes not only a destination but also a catalyst for movement—in the body, in the city, and in nature.

Neighborhood

A Good Sport is a rock thrown in the water. It nurtures healthy actions that cause ripples of effect to its environment. It stands as a prototype for a new residential neighborhood, transforming this part of Amersfoort. The park meanders freely between the housing blocks. In line with the program “Ruimte voor de Rivier 2.0” the design transforms the current hard quay into a soft natural riverbank. This not only aims to bring back a thriving ecosystem along the Eem, but also introduces a unique and intricate relationship between healthy living and ecology at the river: *living as A Good Sport*.