## Amicitia Exchange











Our proposal revitalizes Amersfoort's strategic position within the Randstad, responding effectively to its current challenges of high rents and the underutilized Amicitia building. By introducing live/work units at the ground floor, we create incubators that support startups, while also addressing the housing affordability crisis and stimulating local economic activity. Lowering the existing ground level significantly enhances street engagement, removing unwelcoming blind façades and establishing a dynamic, inviting interface with the city.



Startups clustered in these units benefit from mutual synergies, fostering a vibrant entrepreneurial environment among diverse sectors such as makers, AI technology developers, carpenters, and marketers. The live/work units are designed with long-term adaptability in mind, offering the flexibility to become fully commercial or fully residential over time, responding to changing needs and market conditions. Residential spaces above are thoughtfully designed to cater to varied household types, promoting inclusivity by accommodating seniors, families, and individuals.

Our holistic approach champions circularity, prioritizing environmental sustainability, economic resilience, and community well-being. We enhance urban greenery by extending existing green belts around the





building and creating a lively public square at the forefront, ideal for markets and community events. Strategic openings through the building's long façade improve accessibility, drawing people into a revitalized and animated courtyard.

Central to our design is the historic Amicitia building, reimagined as a vibrant community center offering essential amenities such as a gymnasium, nursery, small library, communal kitchen, and versatile meeting spaces. Additionally, community gardens situated on northern terraces supply fresh produce directly to the on-site restaurant, activating communal spaces and reinforcing local food networks.



Architecturally, small detached dwellings punctuate the front facade, adding human-scale intimacy and urban texture, each complemented by private gardens. The building's upper levels incorporate a modular prefabricated system with red-brick cladding, echoing Amersfoort's traditional palette and scale. Extensive greenery, comfortable seating, and thoughtfully designed gathering areas transform the space into an inclusive, active urban ecosystem.

To promote a safer and more pleasant pedestrian environment, vehicular traffic is limited with the introduction of a one-way street. We also aim to negotiate designated delivery times for large HGVs to reduce congestion and enhance livability.