



**CATEGORY** urban design/architecture

**LOCATION** ALMERE - DUIN

**POPULATION** approximately 190,000

**STRATEGIC SITE** ± 15 ha **SITE OF PROJECT** 450 m<sup>2</sup>

**SITE PROPOSED BY** Municipality of Almere and Amvest (developer and investor)

**OWNERS OF THE SITE** Municipality of Almere and Amvest (developer and investor)

**COMMISSION AFTER THE COMPETITION** Building commission

#### **TRANSFORMATION OF SITE**

The assignment is to design an unusual and unique building that can first serve as an eye-catching information centre or cultural pavilion and can subsequently be “reused” as a detached house in the wood. This building should therefore be demountable. A building on piles is envisaged. The timber used should be sourced locally as far as this is possible. The study assignment is a landscape design for the already-existent woods with extra focus on the new water system to be constructed and, in particular, the way in which the “woodlands” in this wood can be developed.

#### **CITY STRATEGY**

Almere is a New Town, it has only existed since 1976. It is situated in the Flevopolder, a number of metres below sea level. The Flevopolder is new land, a spot once submerged under water. Almere was also founded to accommodate a substantial part of the growing population in Amsterdam and its environs. In the coming twenty years Almere is intended to expand to more than 300,000 inhabitants. As its urban fabric matures into a fully-fledged town, so, too, does the demand for new and unusual residential and living environments. With the development of the DUIN plan Almere presents itself on the IJmeer waterfront, on a strategic, highly visible, and easily accessible location.



**SITE DEFINITION** The competition assignment forms part of a larger plan entitled DUIN. This area development covers a waterfront of more than 100 ha., comprising 3,000 residential units and more than 100,000 m<sup>2</sup> of leisure facilities, offices, etc. It is one of the largest development areas in the Netherlands. Given that all the other developments in Almere have been built in the polder and not adjacent to the water, this waterfront forms a unique location for the town. The master plan foresees the creation of dunes on which the largest part of the programme is envisaged. These new dunes will be separated by two (existing) woods, which play an important ecological role for the site, because a new water system is included. The woods will also have “woodlands” with low-density housing. Where precisely the building

in its role as a pavilion will be built is not yet clear, but in its second designation this is certain: in a yet-to-be designed “woodland” in the southern wood.

#### **NEW MOBILITY**

A new train station will be built within a radius of one kilometre and a new bus line will run through the area. DUIN is consequently readily accessible by public transport, both from Almere and from Amsterdam. The motorway is just a few minutes away by car. The area will have a network of cycle routes linking up with the neighbouring areas.

#### **NEW WAYS OF LIFE**

DUIN will target people with an active lifestyle in an environment that challenges its inhabitants to walk, exercise, participate in sports, go

sailing, etc. In the “woodlands” within the wood there is plenty of space for private initiatives and architectural freedom: build your own house! Residents’ collectives play an important role in the management of the public space. And this creates a different, more direct connection between inhabitants and their environment.

#### **NEW SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

There is a great variety of ecological values within the existing wood. The new dunes retain the rainwater that seeps out at the foot of dunes. A new water system collects this for the benefit of the ecosystems within the woods.

# Almere - Nederland - european 11





Beach along Almere coast



Existing road through the area



Path through the wood



Open patch in the woods