TRANSFORMATION OF A FOREST INTO ECOCLOGICAL LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL AREA

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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 m² 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.

NEWeways 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.
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