

EUROPAN 6 – GRONINGEN – NEDERLAND

Location: Groningen, Oosterhamrik strip

Population: 170,000 inhab.

Study area: 8 ha || **Site area:** 2 ha



CONURBATION

Groningen is situated in the north of the country, its town centre having attractive shopping and entertainment facilities. The town can be defined as a centre of history, tradition and innovation. A university town, it is also a source of inspiration for education, research and culture. EUROPAN 3 winners were involved in the development of an urban plan for the town's CiBoGa site and have been commissioned to design projects for two sub-sections. The building of these projects started in 2000.

SITE

The site runs along the Van Starckenborgkanaal and on both sides of the Oosterhamrikkanaal, which forms a radius out from the town centre. The site is a transition area between two 1930s housing estates. The zone along

the Oosterhamrikkanaal is important in that it functions as a public transport route between the town centre and the Kardinge sports and leisure complex. In future it will carry slow moving traffic and possibly car traffic from the ring-road to the north entrance of the university teaching hospital.

FUNCTIONAL ISSUES

A programme must be formulated that mixes, but differentiates, small business units and a diversity of housing, and forms physical, social, and economic links with the neighbourhood's overall regeneration.

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SOCIAL ISSUES

Intervention on the site must act both as a catalyst and a generator for the immediate neighbourhood and ultimately the east side of town.

PERCEPTUAL ISSUES

The Oosterhamrikkanaal must fulfil a recreational function, and the zone along the Van Starckenborgkanaal play a role as a public space for people from the nearby neighbourhoods, linking them to the presence of a waterway.



PROGRAMME

Housing is to be programmed, some accessible from the street and with a garden; the remainder, apartments with large outside spaces. In addition there are to be small business units (100 m² to 500 m²).

THEME

On a site where various urban structures converge: some existing, some planned, the proposal must be a symbiosis of a concrete plan and intelligent strategy, capable of accommodating future evolutions and so deal with the result of processes yet to come.