

Creating
a Multifunctional
'hub' in the Heart
of a Multicultural
Vulnerable
Neighbourhood

Empowering the Productive City in an Urban Neighbourhood



Dear European competitors,

European NL, Rotterdam Architecture Institute (AIR) and the municipality of Rotterdam are proud to propose five locations for European 15. All five have been designated ‘high priority’ development sites by the municipality.

This is the site brief of Visserijplein. In short, the challenge is to design a multifunctional building block in the heart of a multicultural, vulnerable neighbourhood, incorporating (part of) the local market and providing space to new forms of living, meeting, learning, making, playing and working – by analogy of new concepts like the Library of the Future. The aim is to give the area a socioeconomic boost. A combination of housing, public and cultural programmes, space for local businesses and a place where young people can grow their talents is desired at this central location.

Colophon

European 15 Rotterdam

Initiated by Stichting European NL

In full-partnership with Rotterdam Architecture Institute

www.airrotterdam.eu

Launching partner

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In Search of 'Good Growth'

Rotterdam is growing. The city aims to build 50,000 new homes in the next decade and to vigorously enhance the quality and energy performance of the existing built environment. In short, Rotterdam is looking for 'good growth': building a compact, circular, productive, healthy and inclusive city with equal opportunities and high quality of living for everyone. It aims to be a vibrant and welcoming place for people of all walks of life, ages and beliefs. Citizens of Rotterdam should be able to live productive lives by working, learning, caring or in any other way contributing to the development of the city and its narratives. Therefore, it is important to remove barriers, to increase connectivity, to collaborate on 'making city' and to move forward on the rich Rotterdam tradition in architectural experiment and innovation.

Radical Renewal of Spatial Policy

For European 15, five sites have been selected within the city of Rotterdam that could catalyse opportunities on multiple levels. Places that could enhance the city's social resiliency and contribute to 'good growth'. These five sites will be a testing ground for the new Rotterdam vision and regulatory framework on spatial and socioeconomic developments, called the *Omgevingsvisie* (Environmental Strategy). This framework is currently being drafted by the municipality. Because of its holistic approach, it should accelerate innovative spatial solutions and sustainable socioeconomic developments. It is supported by an extensive participatory process and an action research program. The European 15

sites have been selected to implement this process, through research by design and its aim of implementing exemplary projects. The five assignments are in line with the theme of European 15 and the central themes of the *Omgevingsvisie*: Productive, Inclusive, Circular, Healthy and Compact City.

Public Learning Programme

In addition to the European 15 competition process, there is an extensive public learning programme, including public events, workshops, masterclasses and a storytelling campaign. European 15 is initiated by European NL, Rotterdam Architecture Institute, the municipality of Rotterdam and aims to connect a strong network of committed and innovative private parties.

This period is a crucial moment in the urban development of Rotterdam. For the municipality, the possibility of acquiring diverse new ideas, testing the scope of the *Omgevingsvisie*, and at the same time providing opportunities to young talent, is the main reason for the cooperation with European 15.

Enter the European 15 competition and join the Rotterdam search for good growth and the urban work-and-live environments of the future.

Best regards,

European NL,
Rotterdam Architecture Institute
&
Municipality of Rotterdam

VISSERIJPLEIN

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Rotterdam x European 15

The fifteenth edition of European centres on the productive city as a design and development challenge. European NL and the Architecture Institute Rotterdam have set up a partnership for European 15 and decided to work together with the municipality to focus on five Rotterdam locations that are each exemplary for the current challenges the city faces. Through the international platform of European Europe, young design teams are challenged to work on these questions. The express ambition of the competition is to award the five winning teams a follow-up contract in line with their design proposals.

To Rotterdam, its participation in European 15 also presents an opportunity to field-test the *Concept Omgevingsvisie* (Concept Environmental Strategy Rotterdam). The pursuit of a densified city (a) with resilient residential environments requires reciprocal considerations between the need for productivity (b), health (c), inclusiveness (d), and a sustainable, circular living environment (e). The recently drafted *Concept Omgevingsvisie* (also see text in box) puts these five perspectives on the city on the agenda in mutual coherence. A design competition aimed at innovation must take this ongoing thinking and development process into account and ideally also inform it. Taking productivity as a starting point, the European 15 challenges will therefore also address the other cornerstones of the *Concept Omgevingsvisie*. European 15 is partly aimed at acquiring knowledge about the biggest post-war change in the field of spatial planning in the Netherlands.

Radical Renewal Spatial Policy in the Netherlands

ENVIRONMENTAL ACT

The Omgevingswet (Environmental Act) is a Dutch act that will enter into force in 2021. The Environmental Act is about the physical living environment, in other words: about everything we need to live, work, study and recreate, such as water, air, soil, nature, roads, energy and buildings. At this time there are many separate rules and regulations that concern our physical living environment. When the new act is in force, all those different rules and regulations will have been combined into a single, coherent act. The Environmental Act not only ensures that there are fewer rules, but also that these rules are clearer and more accessible. In addition, it will be easier for residents and entrepreneurs to start initiatives together. The municipality monitors and advises what possibilities there are.

ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY NL

The Environmental Act requires that all municipalities and provinces draft a local environmental strategy that reflects how each municipality or province will deal with developments in

the physical living environment now and in the future. Central government also draws up an environmental strategy. An environmental strategy is a story, image or website by which the municipality shows how it wants to organize its physical living environment.

ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY ROTTERDAM

Rotterdam takes developments that affect the use of space, such as climate change and population ageing, as well as the growth of the city, into account. Today, the city houses about 644,000 people. This number is growing and every day, in addition, thousands of people come here to work, study, spend leisure time or because they have to go to hospital. That is a lot of space users. However, the space is limited. That is why it is important to think about which activities go where. The green and the water need space, for example, as do new homes, solar energy, waste collection as well as everyday facilities within walking and cycling distance.

Rotterdam's Environmental Strategy is not only about the city or the centre of Rotterdam, but also about the port area and about Hoogvliet, Rozenburg, Pernis, Heijplaat and Hoek van Holland. Very different areas that are all part of Greater Rotterdam. Different things are important in different areas. But whatever the area, we always look at the whole. Are there enough dwellings, is there proper public transport, outside public space, greenery, schools and care facilities within walking and cycling distance and are the air and water clean? Rotterdam has developed a *Concept Omgevingsvisie* in which it summarized the above in five perspectives:



Compact City Rotterdam develops into a densified, attractive city by the river



Healthy City Rotterdam makes healthy urban living possible



Inclusive City Rotterdam offers space for encounter and participation

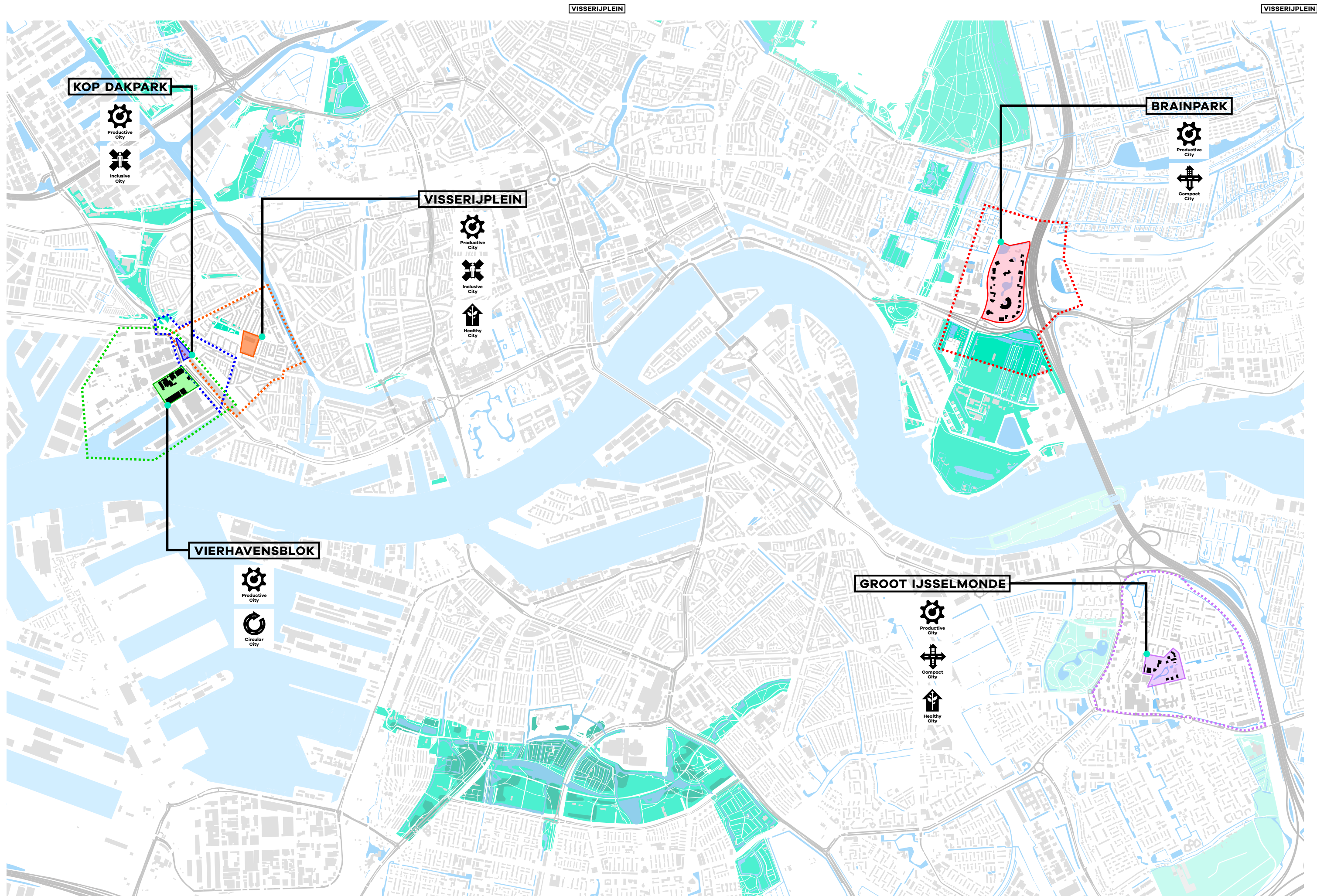


Circular City Rotterdam offers space for sustainable energy and recycling



Productive City Rotterdam makes room for The New Economy

The definitive *Omgevingsvisie Rotterdam* (Environmental Strategy Rotterdam) will be published in 2020.



URBAN CONTEXT

Upgrading Living Conditions
Improving Educational Infrastructures
Empowering Citizens with Common Spaces

The City of Rotterdam seeks opportunities in the combination of accommodating its growth and creating a more inclusive and healthy city. To lift the socioeconomic status of vulnerable neighbourhoods, like Bospolder and Tussendijken, it focuses on improving the perspective of vulnerable residents in the area. To this end, it aims to remove barriers so that everyone can participate more easily in social and societal processes, with equal opportunities in education, work, culture and sports. Upgrading and diversifying the housing stock, and improving educational infrastructures are important basic strategies. In addition, strategic urban interventions – new developments on a relatively small scale and a more attractive public space – are used to embed mixed programmes and facilities in the heart of these neighbourhoods, empowering residents of all ages on multiple levels and building a just and equitable city.

Upgrading Living Conditions

In the past decade, Rotterdam has committed itself to developing a strong economy and becoming an attractive place to live. The approach on the north bank was mainly based on better utilizing and expanding on existing qualities. However, there are also a few neighbourhoods on the north bank that are at a disadvantage on a social, physical and economical level. In these 'vulnerable' neighbourhoods like Bospolder and Tussendijken, the focus is on restructuring and reorganizing the existing housing stock, so that growth within these neighbourhoods results in an inclusive living environment. Investing in the existing housing stock to improve on quality of life for the current residents and to widen the variation within the existing stock is a requirement for these kinds of neighbourhoods. A diversified housing stock means a better balance between the underprivileged and the privileged, increasing the social and economic resilience of the area. The locations that become available for development are to contribute to the part of the housing supply that is currently insufficient, or to create some leeway to be able to deal with other parts of the neighbourhood that are not scheduled yet. Bospolder and Tussendijken have been thoroughly renewed and are places where people of Rotterdam of various lifestyles live side by side. An example is the housing complex Le Medi (founded in 2008): a unique design that symbolizes integration of residents and lifestyles.

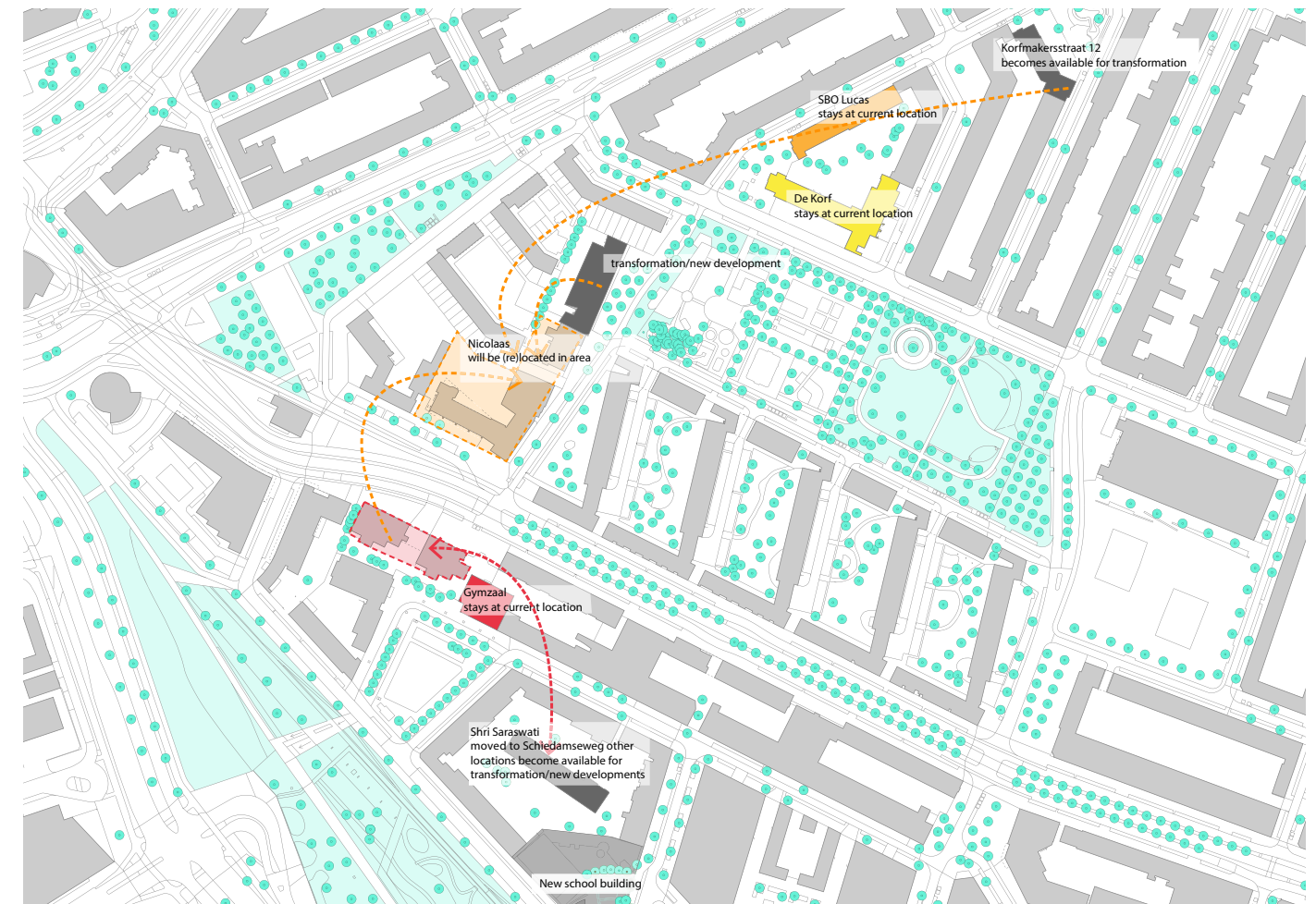


Housing complex Le Medi in BoTu, inspired by architecture of countries around the Mediterranean Sea, design by Geurst & Schulze, Korteknie en Stuhlmacher

Photo: Frank Hanswijk

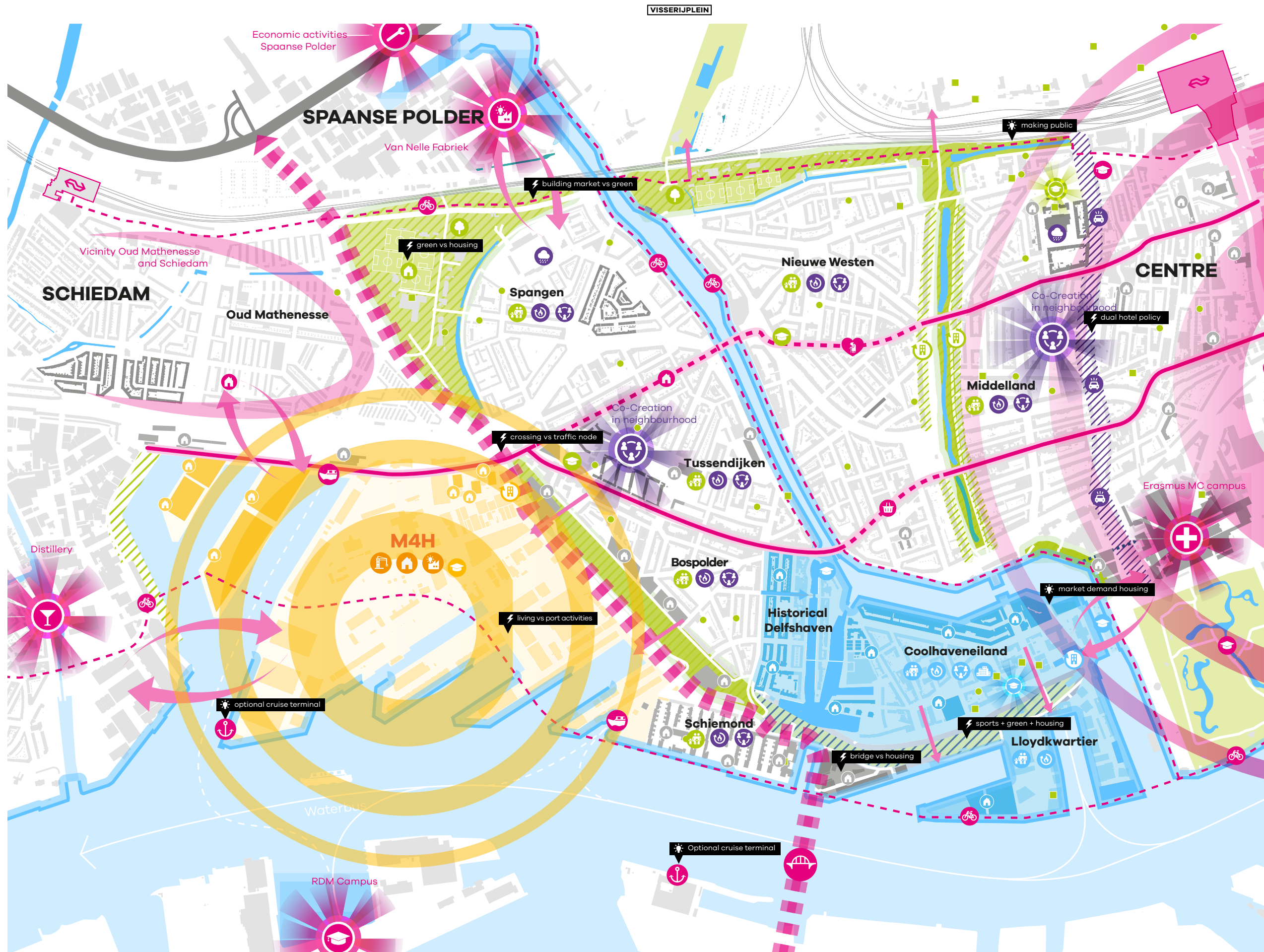
Improving Educational Infrastructures

Rotterdam strives for schools that offer good-quality education, focused on language development and tailored support. The way schools are housed is an important contributing factor. The municipality has therefore drawn up the Integraal Huisvestingsplan 2015-2019 (Comprehensive Housing Strategy 2015-2019) in coordination with the various school boards. In the framework of this housing strategy, an inventory has been taken of the various schools in the city. It focused on the spatial needs of the various schools (overcapacity or a shortage of space) as well as the quality of the school buildings themselves. The Nicolaasschool in Tussendijken is one of the schools that are being dealt with in the scope of this strategy. The goal is to turn the four different locations that are spread out over the neighbourhood into a single school cluster at Park 1943 that will meet the current quality standards.



Strategic plan to improve the educational infrastructure in BoTu

Source: Gemeente Rotterdam



Spatial strategy for district Delfshaven

Source: Gemeente Rotterdam

- Attracting privileged families
- Green ring
 - Transformation to housing
 - Possible other learning environments
 - Privileged families in the city
 - Greening
 - Housing
 - Primary / secondary school

Redevelopment M4H into an innovative Makers District and housing location

- Port activities
- Innovative companies
- Pressure from M4H

Development water-related districts (Delfshaven, Lloydkwartier, Coolhaveneiland)

- Waterfront development (City in Delta, Living along the River)
- Urban density

Focus on sustainability and resilience (social and climate)

- Co-creation
- Climate adaptation
- Energy transition
- Environmental pollution

Improving connections (programme and infrastructure)

- Programmatic link
- Urban street / facilities strip
- Focus on housing (transformation of urban street)
- Focus on health care (transformation of urban street)
- Focus on retail (transformation of urban street)
- Connections
- Slow traffic connection
- Pressure from city centre
- Third city bridge
- Optional cruise terminal
- Water bus stop

- Tension
- Opportunity

- Housing in development
- Potential new housing

Empowering Citizens with Common Spaces

Development towards the new economy, which is increasingly focused on 'white-collar labourers', threatens to increase the disadvantages of the residents in neighbourhoods like Bospolder and Tussendijken. The large percentage of social housing in these kinds of neighbourhoods house citizens of Rotterdam of which many are unemployed, have a low income and little education and whose lifestyle can be labelled as unhealthy.

To prevent this, Rotterdam focuses on an inclusive city where the prospects of these vulnerable groups are improved upon. An inclusive city enables everyone to participate. To this end, it aims to remove barriers so that everyone can participate more easily in social and societal processes, with equal opportunities in education, work, culture and sports. This means that the spatial developments in these neighbourhoods are used to create this inclusive and healthy city. A good example is the 'Dakpark' – bordering on the neighbourhood of Bospolder, initiated and still managed and programmed by local residents – which is a visible improvement on the quality of living and creates a meeting place for various groups of people.



The 'Dakpark' on the border of neighbourhood Bospolder (on the right), one of the largest rooftop parks in Europe

Photo: Frank Hanswijk

STUDY AREA

History of Bospolder and Tussendijken
Urban Neighbourhoods of Diversity
Socioeconomic Challenges
Facilities as a Basis for an Inclusive Neighbourhood



Bospolder and Tussendijken, 1934

Source: Gemeentearchief



Neighbourhoods Bospolder and Tussendijken, 1943, after the forgotten bombardment

Source: Gemeentearchief

History of Bospolder and Tussendijken

The Nieuw-Mathenesserpolder and the Bospolder were constructed in the fourteenth century, protected from the water by dikes, among which the Nieuw Mathenesserdijk (this dike has disappeared under the neighbourhoods), hence the name 'Tussendijken': between dikes. The neighbourhoods of Bospolder and Tussendijken, often referred to as BoTu, were constructed from 1910 according to the expansion plans of A.C. Burgdoffer and P. Verhagen. Bospolder was known as a working-class neighbourhood and Tussendijken housed more municipal workers and small-business owners. The land in Bospolder was sold by the municipality in plots to private construction companies, causing a cluttered city image. There was a mixture of municipal and private construction in Tussendijken. Typical of construction in Tussendijken is the density with a minimum of private and public outside space. Construction in the strip between the Schiedamseweg and the Rösener Manzstraat was designed by architect J.J.P. Oud, commissioned by the municipality. This construction became famous for his attempt to develop new housing types in closed blocks with a communal courtyard. On 31 March 1943, the western part of the area was bombarded by American airplanes by mistake: the forgotten bombardment. The construction designed by Oud was for the most part destroyed. It took until the 1960s for the ruined streets to be rebuilt. After the war, apartment buildings and shops were built here, and the Grote Visserijplein and Park 1943 were constructed. An urban renewal operation started in 1979 and was completed in the 1990s. The visible dichotomy in the structure of Tussendijken stems from the reconstruction of the western part and the heart of the neighbourhood in the 1950s. This part of the neighbourhood has a much broader layout and also contains more public space.

Urban Neighbourhoods of Diversity

There is an enormous diversity and dynamic among the residents, entrepreneurs and organizations in BoTu. That is the strength of the neighbourhoods and also what makes them unique. BoTu has a high population density of over 14,000 residents and is viewed as a people's neighbourhood with a relaxed and friendly atmosphere where its multicultural character is not up for discussion. About 80 per cent of the population consists of so-called 'new' Dutch people and almost 70 per cent is of a non-western background. BoTu is a society of various communities that contain strong networks. BoTu has relatively a lot of senior housing but is also home to many children: about a fifth of the population is younger than 15.



Inventory of cultural heritage in neighbourhoods Bospolder and Tussendijken

Source: Bospolder Tussendijken Cultuurhistorische verkenning en analyse – Steenhuis stedenbouw/landschap & Urban Fabric

The neighbourhood also has a lot of spatial potential: special places with culturally and historically valuable buildings, strong edges and a lot of developments in the vicinity that can give the neighbourhood a positive boost. The neighbourhood has a lot of stone and is densely populated, but Park 1943 and the recently constructed Dakpark make a welcome green addition. BoTu basically has it all: it is positioned close to the city centre, it has good connections by car with the Ring Rotterdam and excellent public transport connections with the rest of the city, it contains a great amount of schools and facilities and the Makers District in development (Merwe-Vierhavens) and historical Delfshaven around the corner.



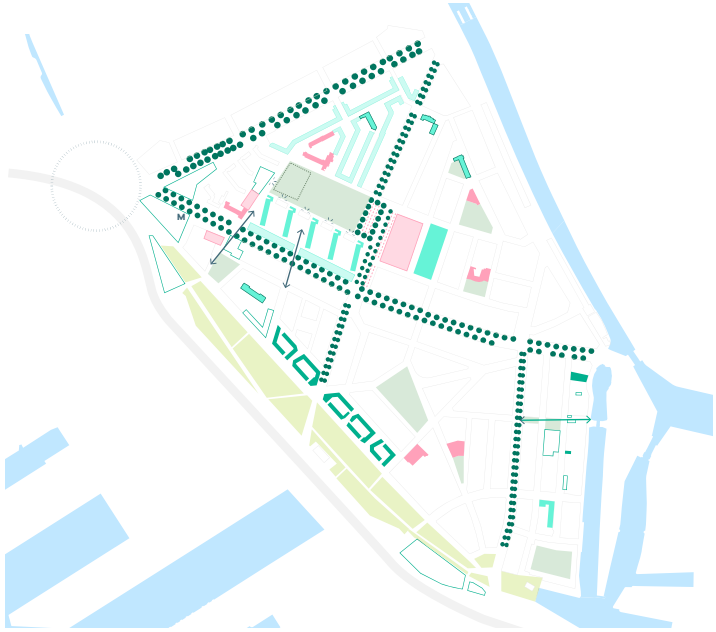
Typology of public space in neighbourhoods Bospolder and Tussendijken

Source: Gemeente Rotterdam

Socioeconomic Challenges

Nevertheless, because it is dealing with serious issues, BoTu is not associated with attractive living. The neighbourhoods deal with great challenges in the realm of safety, working and living. The socioeconomic problems in BoTu are complex: prolonged dependence on social security, health concerns, financial problems, loneliness among the elderly and disturbances by street youths. A large part of the population has no access to the labour market. The ratio of the amount of jobs and the population is 13 to 100. This is one third of the city's. This ratio can be seen in the income data. Almost three quarters of the households are in the 'low-income' category. Aside from the Schiedamseweg, the shopping strip on the south side of Tussendijken with a few successful entrepreneurs and a lot of one-man shops, the local employment rate in the neighbourhood is low. There is also little variation in housing supply. Of over 3,000 houses, about 75 per cent is social housing. About 70 per cent of the residences are tenement buildings or apartment buildings without elevators in the low-rent sector. The current residents have, contrary to some other areas in the city, a strong connection to the neighbourhood. There are, however, few possibilities for various target groups to find a suitable residence or advance their living circumstances. This is why many residents, when their income improves, move to a better house outside of the neighbourhood. In short, the neighbourhoods score well below the Rotterdam average. The situation has improved in the past years but the neighbourhood still scores half the Rotterdam average in the social index (general experience of quality of life), safety index as well as the physical index (satisfaction in living environment). The neighbourhoods therefore unabatedly demand attention.

- New developments
- Renovation of housing blocks
- Transformation of schools
- Possible development sites
- Upgrade housing blocks (to be confirmed)
- Existing schools
- New developments central area
- Market
- Replacement Vierhavensstraat
- Assignment Marconiplein



Spatial strategy for neighbourhoods Bospolder and Tussendijken

Source: Gemeente Rotterdam



Objectives BoTu (social index)

1. CAPACITIES

- Less complex debt problems
- Less low literacy
- More healthy residents
- Improved accessibility of health care

2. PARTICIPATE

- More people at work
- Increased participation of youth in society
- Less lonely people
- Improving the socio-economic status of youth

3. LIVING ENVIRONMENT

- Diversification of housing types
- More sustainable houses
- Improved accessibility of public space
- More water-adaptive outdoor space

4. RELATIONS

- Strengthening social structures

Challenges/opportunities

1. RESILIENT SCHOOLS AND SQUARES

- School
- New school location or upgrade
- School shuffle
- Improving the quality of education
- Existing gymnasium
- Possible location for new gymnasium building

2. INTEGRAL APPROACH OF AREAS

- Cooperative area development
- Renovation projects
- Renovation
- Market

3. INCREASE COOPERATION AND SOCIAL RELATIONS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Important social services
- Other social property
- Community centre
- Centre for Youth and Families (CJG)
- Question guide
- Opportunity for social services

4. ENERGY TRANSITION AS SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPULS

- Greening and improving outdoor space
- Energy transition
- Climate adaptation
- Focus: compact shopping area
- Decrease in retail facilities
- Current heat network

MAAS- AND SCHIEZONE

- Programme Riverbanks
- Recreational route
- Ferry connection possible

NEW BUILDING PLANS

- Study- / search area
- Planning
- Recently built
- Housing

BUILDING BLOCKS

- Existing building blocks
- Recently built (after 2005)

Other

- Ideas
- Location with energy
- Better connection

Socioeconomic ambitions for neighbourhoods Bospolder and Tussendijken

Source: Gemeentearchief

Facilities as a Basis for an Inclusive Neighbourhood

BoTu has a great range of shopping facilities (among which the well-known Schiedamseweg and the market twice a week on the Visserijplein), schools and social facilities and proximity to urban facilities. An important positive aspect of the neighbourhood is that the urban subway system runs underground through the neighbourhood (under the Schiedamseweg), providing a good connection with the city and the greater area. This proximity and with it the accessibility of facilities is an important core asset in the pursuit of an inclusive neighbourhood. However, there is an actual problem concerning the quality and diversity in the supply of facilities.

A specific occasion for this is the improvement of sports facilities for schools and after-school activities. Schools are the anchor point in BoTu. In Tussendijken there are a lot of primary schools spread throughout the neighbourhood. To better facilitate these schools, and with them the students, the schools need to be clustered. Facilities like outside playing spaces and gymnasiums can subsequently be shared. Plus a number of existing gymnasiums in the area, also used for after-school activities, no longer meet the current standards. Creating new gymnasiums that do is not possible in the current locations due to the limited size of the locations combined with the increased space demand. An innovative design at a new location offers a chance to strengthen the heart of BoTu.

Creative and social entrepreneurs create a new dynamic. This also offers strong starting points for the emancipation of local residents. The challenge is to make sure these new forms of working and entrepreneurship contribute structurally to the prospects of the current residents. In various locations in BoTu and outside, entrepreneur skills are cultivated in a cooperative setting. One example is the Bouwkeet, a makerspace in BoTu. Every local resident, mostly children but adults too, can (learn to) make something here. They can develop new skills and that results in new creative entrepreneurs but also in encounters with locals.



Photo: Frank Hanswijk



The 'Bouwkeet' (makerspace) in Bospolder, breeding ground for creative entrepreneurs of the future

Photo: Frank Hanswijk



High quality public space plays an import role in bridging the gap between generations, cultures and beliefs



Typical architecture in the neighbourhood



Entrance to the parking of shopping centre Keizerswaard



Besides regular daily use, the Dakpark hosts diverse public pop-up events



Typical architecture in the neighbourhood with small shops on the ground floor



Multiple activities in Park 1943, next to the Visserijplein

PROJECT SITE AND ASSIGNMENT

- Facts & Themes
- Characteristics
- Competition Assignment

Facts

Site representative

Municipality of Rotterdam

Actor(s) involved

Municipality of Rotterdam, Delfshaven Coöperatie, Stichting Park 1943, Havensteder, Bibliotheek Rotterdam, Pier 80

Team representative

architect and/or urban planner

Expected skills with regards to the site’s issues and characteristics

Architectural, Urban Design

Communication

Anonymous publication online after the 1st jury round
Publication in book and potential exhibition after the competition

Jury - 1st evaluation

With the participation of the site representative

Jury - prize selection

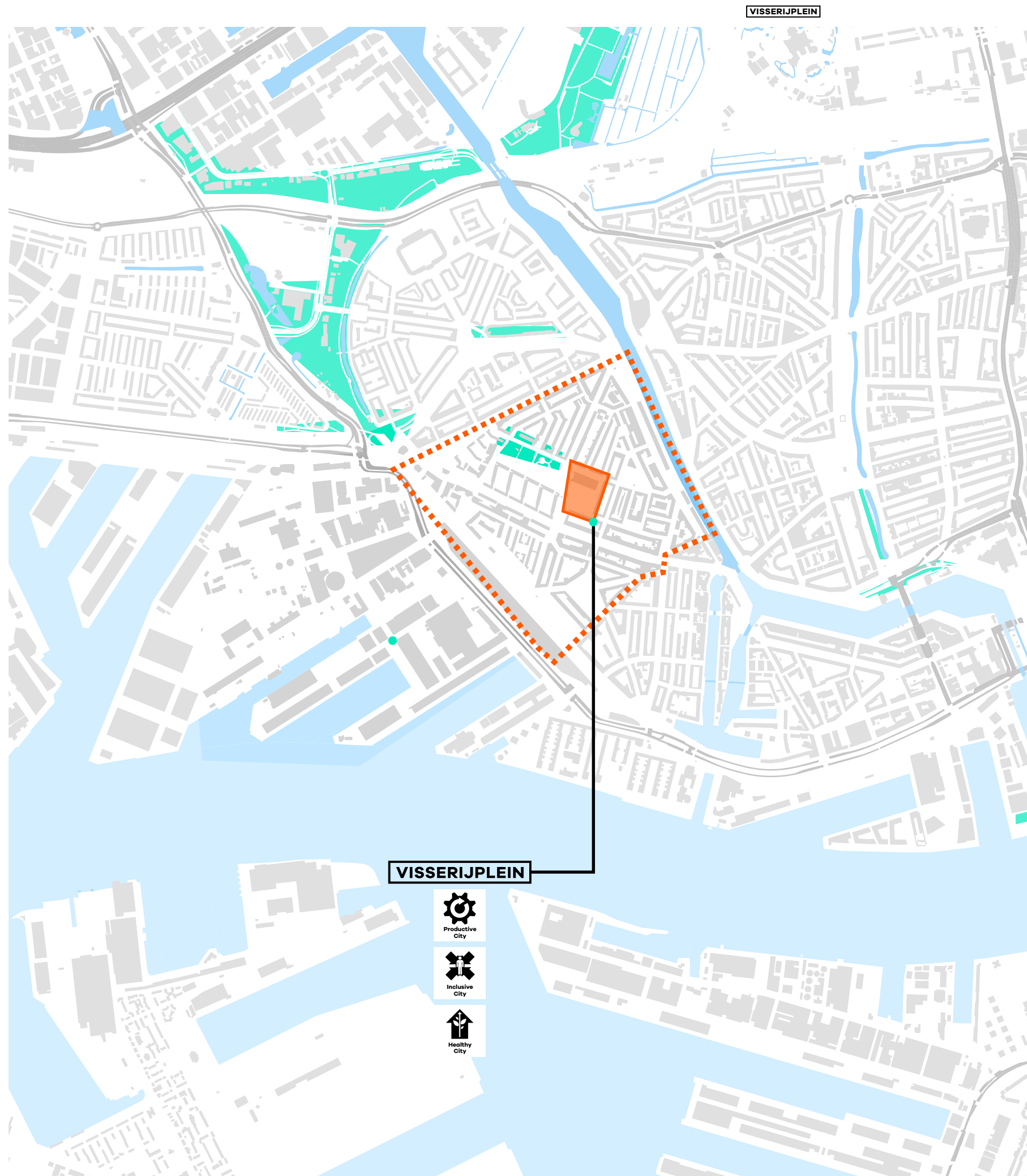
Ranked selection: with Winner (€12,000), Runner-up (€6,000) and Special Mention (no financial reward)

Post-competition intermediate procedure

Meeting to present the rewarded teams to the site representatives. Possible workshop on site with the rewarded teams – winner(s), runner(s)-up, special mention(s)

Commission given to the selected team(s) for the implementation

Follow up design (or research by design) assignment on implementation at the project site (or a site with similar characteristics) commissioned by the municipality of Rotterdam and/or private partners



Themes



VISSERIJPLEIN x PRODUCTIVE CITY

Rotterdam strives for socioeconomic mixed neighbourhoods with possibilities for people to advance their living circumstances in the neighbourhood. Social resilience of citizens is a priority, to be sufficiently self-reliant and prepared for future developments. Citizens are invited and challenged to grow personally and to develop skills that suit the new economy. To this end, the accessibility of learning environments in the broad sense is crucial for the empowerment of vulnerable citizens and the future career opportunities of children. Improving the resilience of residents in vulnerable urban neighbourhoods, like Bospolder Tussendijken (BoTu), requires a local network of places with a mix of functions to meet, learn, make, play and work. Transforming natural meeting places, like the Visserijplein in the heart of BoTu, into such a multifunctional 'hub' ensures that these new interaction milieus are deeply rooted in the daily life of residents.



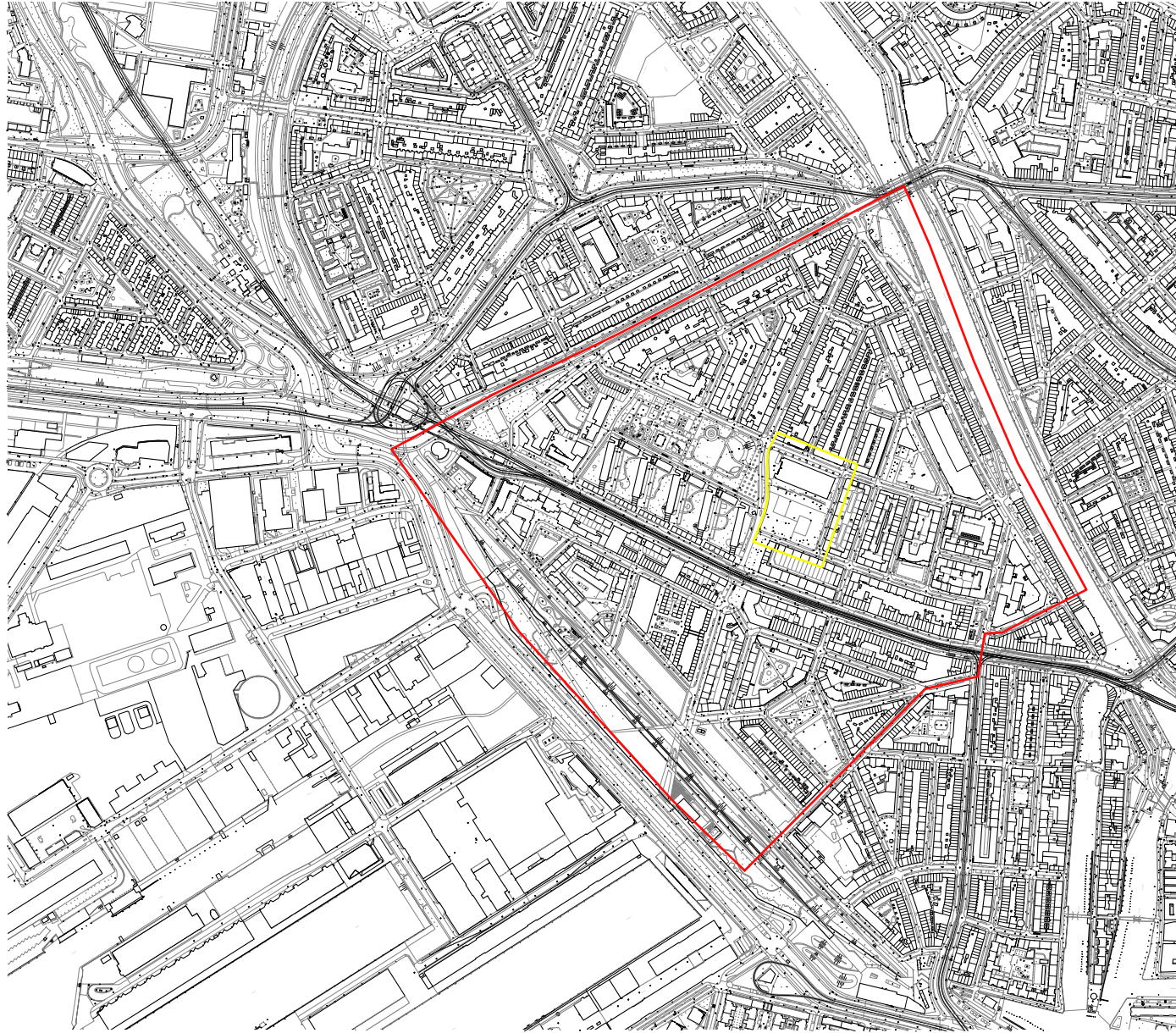
VISSERIJPLEIN x INCLUSIVE CITY

The design of the public space plays a crucial role in creating encounters between different population groups. That is why Rotterdam commits to high-quality places for encounter, living, sports and culture. Proximity of facilities at walking distance with safe walking routes enables every resident to participate. The Visserijplein has a lot of potential for the neighbourhood and its residents by adding construction and tackling the outside space. Situated in the heart of the neighbourhood, this place should contribute to facilitating and emancipating the residents. The stimulation of encounters, offering space to diverse target groups, housing various functions of the neighbourhood and providing a space for entrepreneurs is central in the search for a new combination of programmes in this location.



VISSERIJPLEIN x HEALTHY CITY

Going outside and getting enough exercise is essential to good health. The proximity of greenery, sports and health care in the immediate surroundings is important and should invite residents to exercise (more). The Dakpark is a good example of this, but the intention is to create a bigger and more diverse supply of high-quality play and sports locations in BoTu. Among other things, to accommodate the changing sports needs of the youth: think of urban sports – BMX, freerunning, skating and skateboarding – where the city itself becomes a playground. At the Visserijplein, a logical connection can be made between this challenge and the demand for space for new gymnasium facilities of the nearby schools.



**European 15 assignment Visserijplein:
study area (red) and project site (yellow)**

Source: Gemeente Rotterdam

Site Family implanting productive
milieus

Location Rotterdam, Bospolder
Tussendijken, Visserijplein

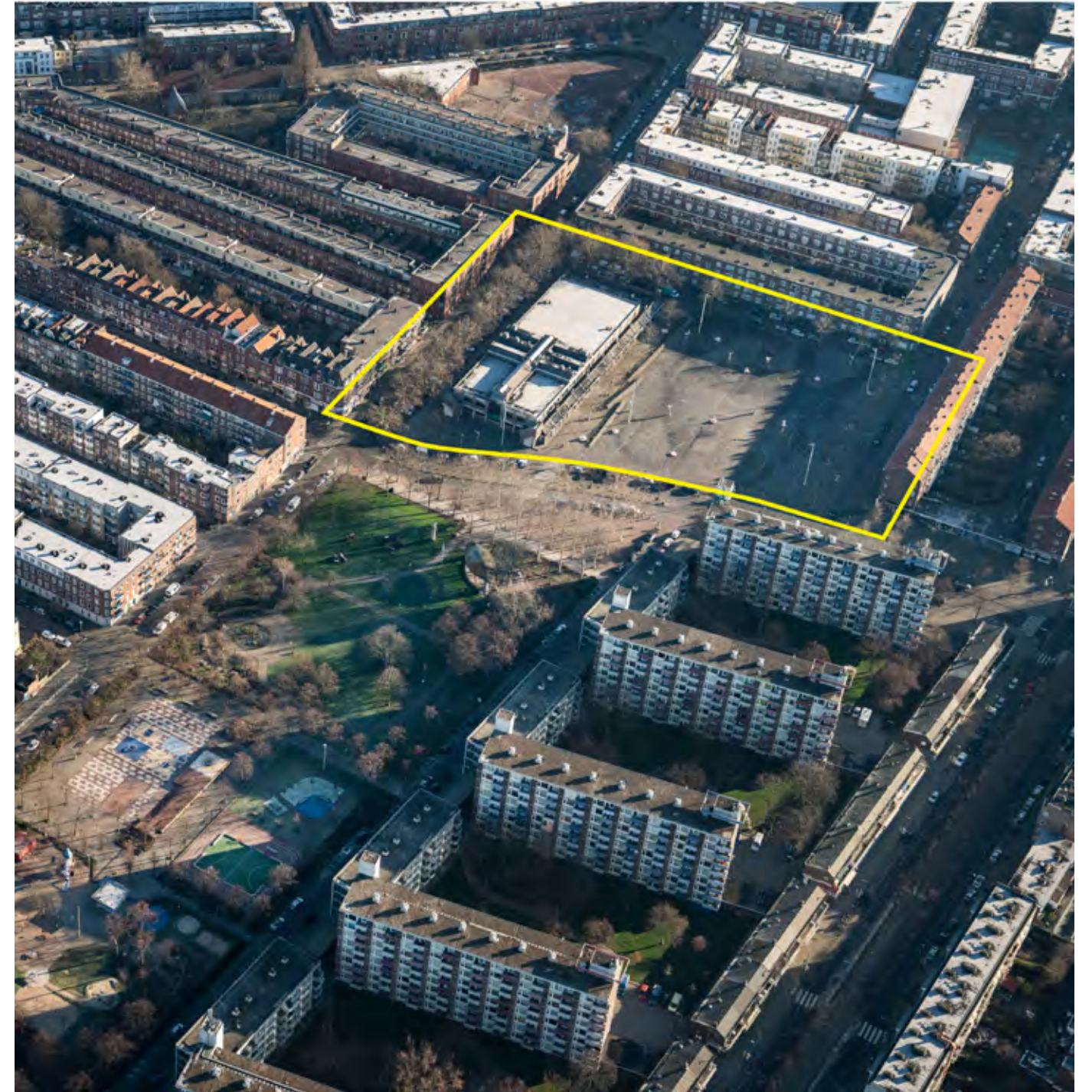
Population 644,000 inhabitants
(Rotterdam)

Strategic Site 61.5 ha

Project Site 2.2 ha

Scale S/L

Owner(s) of the Site mix of public
and private ownership



Visserijplein: project site (yellow)

Source: Gemeente Rotterdam





Characteristics

VISSEIJPLEIN

The project site is located in the heart of BoTu. The site is bordered on three sides by archetypal serially produced housing blocks (partly after the Second World War) and on one side by Park 1943. Twice a week the square is the setting of a busy market. On the other days of the week, it is a large underused open space. Pier 80, a multifunctional community centre, is located on one end of the square. It includes a library, sport facilities, and (co-)work and meeting spaces. The current programme of Pier 80 already attracts many residents, but should be more progressive. It can be a place that connects population groups and gives the neighbourhood a socioeconomic boost with a suitable programme. Especially youths who grow up in BoTu, often in poverty, are confronted with disadvantages in various fields. A renewed multifunctional neighbourhood centre could be an important and safe starting point for them.



Informal architecture bordering the Visserijplein

Photo: Frank Hanswijk



The Visserijplein on market days

Photo: Frank Hanswijk



The Visserijplein on regular days

Photo: Frank Hanswijk



Community centre Pier 80 next to the Visserijplein



Activities at community centre Pier 80



Market at the Visserijplein



Typical architecture with small shops on the ground floor, opposite community centre Pier 80



Activities at community centre Pier 80

Competition Assignment

The challenge is to design a multifunctional building block in the heart of a multicultural, vulnerable neighbourhood, incorporating (part of) the local market and providing space to new forms of living, meeting, learning, making, playing and working – by analogy of new concepts like the Library of the Future. The aim is to give the area a socioeconomic boost. A combination of housing, public and cultural programmes, space for local businesses and a place where young people can grow their talents is desired at this central location.

The design teams are asked to conceptualize and redesign the Visserijplein public space and the mixed-use community centre Pier 80. Conditions are:

- A new multifunctional live-work complex is introduced in which the synergy between the diverse programmes (see below) is maximized.
- The redevelopment of the public space around this new multifunctional complex is an actual part of this brief.
- The public square primarily has the role of a meeting place for the diverse groups that live in BoTu and the size of the square is justified by the chosen architectural solution.
- The current functions, meaning the Pier 80 programme and the local market, are preserved but the format is free.
- An innovative sports and exercise concept is introduced, focused on living, encounter, play and exercise inside as well as outside and suitable for schools and diverse after-school activities.
- Innovative types of entrepreneurship and accessible learn and work places are introduced (for example, like in the Bouwkeet and similar makerspaces).
- BoTu is designated as an experimental neighbourhood for the energy transition. The Visserijplein should reflect this and involve the local community in this transformation to a sustainable environment (for example, by making it tangible with prototypes).
- New innovative housing typologies are introduced.
- A continuous dynamic is guaranteed, given the temporal aspect of certain types of use, among which the market and the schools.

THE JURY

Jury

Jacob van Rijs (chairman)

Architect, MVRDV (Rotterdam, NL)

www.mvrdv.nl

Johan Anrys

Architect, 51n4e (Brussels, BE)

www.51n4e.com

Marc Glaudemans

Director Province of Noord-Brabant (NL)

Joost Beunderman (NL)

Urban geographer and director of 00:/ (London, UK)

www.architecture00.net

Marieke Kums

Architect, Studio MAKs (Rotterdam, NL)

www.studiomaks.nl

Beatriz Ramo (ESP)

Architect, STAR (Rotterdam, NL)

www.st-ar.nl

Tina Saaby

Former Chief City Architect of Copenhagen (DK)

<https://dk.linkedin.com/in/tina-saaby-3786763>

Jury substitutes

Mariet Schoenmakers

Independent urban designer and planner (NL)

Like Bijlsma

Architect, SUBoffice (Rotterdam, NL)

www.suboffice.nl

Technical committee

Is tasked to advise the jury on the contextual sensitivity and the feasibility of the competition proposals. After judging the technical committee will select from its body an implementation committee that will advise on the successful implementation of European 15 proposals in Rotterdam.

The technical committee is composed of: two European NL board members; two launching partner representatives; a private partner representative for each committed party; one site specific stakeholder representative per site; both jury substitutes (unless tasked to act as an active jury member).

ORGANIZATION

Project coordination

Martine Zoeteman

Secretary to European NL / E15 Project leader

André Kempe

Secretary of the European NL Board

Olof van de Wal

President of the European NL Board

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Director AIR, Rotterdam Architecture Institute

Bas van der Pol

Director AIR, Rotterdam Architecture Institute

Mattijs van Ruijven

Head urbanist, department of urban development, City of Rotterdam

Esther Heemskerk

Senior urbanist, department of urban development, City of Rotterdam

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European NL Board

André Kempe

Architect / Urban Designer

Co-founder / Director at Atelier Kempe Thill

Jonathan Woodroffe

Architect / Urban Designer

Co-founder / Director at S333 Architecture + Urbanism

Madir Shah

Architect / Urban Designer

Founder / Owner at URBANOFFICE Architects

Olof van de Wal

Director at SKAR - stichting kunstaccommodaties Rotterdam

Owner Leef de stad

RECOMMENDED READS

Rotterdam in Facts & Figures

www.rotterdam.incijfers.nl

In this database you can compile statistics related to several policy domains on the scale of the city, a district or a neighbourhood.

www.wijkprofiel.rotterdam.nl

The Wijkprofiel (Neighbourhood Profile) shows how the 14 areas and 71 districts are doing socially, physically and in terms of security. The scores are based on measurable facts and figures and the experience of the citizens of Rotterdam: their vote counts for 50 percent.

Relevant policy documents

URBAN PLANNING

Omgevingsvisie Rotterdam (Environmental Strategy)

An introduction on the radical renewal of spatial policy in the Netherlands and how the City of Rotterdam is developing its own Omgevingsvisie (Environmental Strategy) according to this new Omgevingswet (Environmental Act). Note: The first version of this Omgevingsvisie is not public yet.

Kaart van de Stad (Map of the City)

A future exploration of (new) spatial development opportunities of the City of Rotterdam. (PDF, published 2016)

Stadsvisie 2030 (Urban Vision 2030)

Spatial development strategy of the City of Rotterdam. (PDF, published 2007)

HOUSING

Woonvisie 2030 (Housing Vision)

Housing development strategy of the City of Rotterdam. (PDF, published 2016)

ECONOMY

Voortgangsrapportage 2017 Havenvisie 2030 (Progress Report 2017 Port Vision 2030)

Update of the Havenvisie 2030, published in 2011. (PDF, published 2017)

Roadmap Next Economy Metropoolregio Rotterdam-Den Haag

Shared ambition of 23 municipalities in the metropolitan region Rotterdam-The Hague to improve the next economy. (PDF, published 2016)

MOBILITY

Meerjarenprogramma Infrastructuur, Ruimte en Transport (MIRT, Long-range Programme Infrastructure, Space and Transport)

Annual update of the national mobility strategy. (PDF, Dutch only, published 2019)

Stedelijk verkeersplan Rotterdam 2030 (Urban Traffic Plan Rotterdam 2030)

Mobility strategy of the City of Rotterdam. (PDF, Dutch only, published 2017)

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

Het Verhaal van de Stad (The Story of the City)

What will the future of Rotterdam and its inhabitants look like in 2037? The answers of 9,000 Rotterdammers to this question are published online and in a downloadable PDF.

Ruimte voor een Stad in Balans (Space for a City in Balance)

An exploratory report mapping knowledge about participation and encounter in the Rotterdam neighbourhoods and identifying prospects for action in the physical domain that can contribute to participating and encounter.

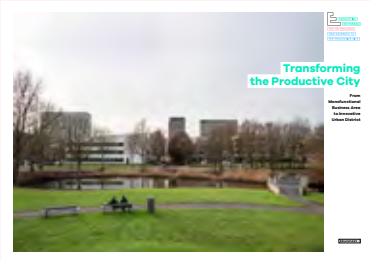
Read more about European 15

- [Online platform](#) with more information about the five sites in Rotterdam (NL) and weekly updates providing insight information
- [Competition Rules European 15](#)

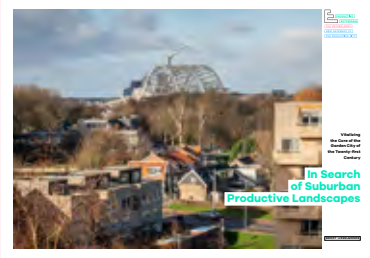
European 15 Sites in Rotterdam (NL)

European NL, Rotterdam Architecture Institute (AIR) and the municipality of Rotterdam are proud to propose five locations for European 15. All five have been designated 'high priority' development sites by the municipality.

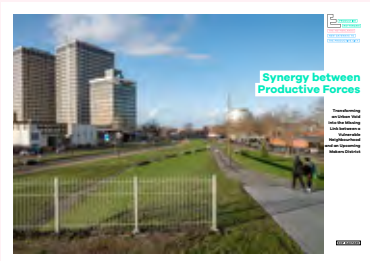
BRAINPARK I



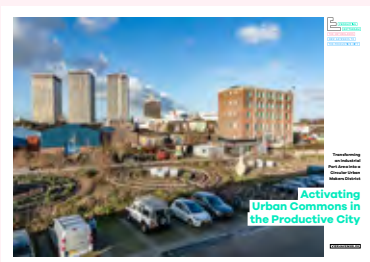
GROOT IJSSELMONDE



KOP DAKPARK



VIERHAVENSBLOK



VISSERIJPLEIN



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