



dynamic Schiedam

CATEGORY strategic/urban/architectural

TEAM REPRESENTATIVE architect or urban planner or landscaper

LOCATION SCHIEDAM, VROM-KOEMARKT

POPULATION City 67,500 inhab.

STRATEGIC SITE about 6 ha **SITE OF PROJECT** 2.2 ha

SITE PROPOSED BY the municipality of Schiedam

OWNER(S) OF THE SITE the municipality of Schiedam and private owners

COMMISSION AFTER COMPETITION involvement of the winner in the realisation of the brief as supervisor of the public space. For the development of the real estate programme the municipality will endeavour to introduce the winner and the plan to the developing parties.

HOW THE SITE CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE ADAPTABLE CITY?

Schiedam is an old industrial city in the south of the Randstad conurbation, within the Rotterdam grid, well-known for its jenever (gin) industry. Schiedam has adapted well to developments as they evolved through the ages. *Koemarkt* has of old served as the entrance to the historical town centre: this is where Hoogstraat begins (or ends), and also Buitenhavenweg where the VROM site is situated. The differences in height, revealing how the former dikes were laid out to protect Schiedam from flood water, are distinctive features. The development of *Koemarkt* reflects the building periods and the approaches to urban planning in the last fifty years. Answers to economic and programmatical questions of today determine the feasibility of a first stage in a development that should be sustainable and conceived for the longer term.

CITY STRATEGY

Schiedam is currently focusing on the regeneration and sustainability of the Nieuw Mathenesse business park, where the VROM site is situated, and which is also directly connected with Koemarkt. In the longer term, on the western edge of Rotterdam, a modern and innovative residential environment will develop on, and adjacent to, the waterside. Schiedam's town centre will be the nearest centre for these newcomers with shops, catering establishments and cultural facilities. Koemarkt and the VROM site form an important pivotal point between the "old" jenever town and the modern distillery cluster developing on Nieuw-Mathenesse. An infill for the VROM site, an important but missing piece of the jigsaw next to *Koemarkt*, makes this assignment a complex, but fascinating undertaking in the body of ideas regarding the adaptable city.



SITE DEFINITION

The *Koemark* and the VROM site are situated on the southern side of the city centre and, together, possibly form one of the city's most interesting and visible locations. At the end of the nineteenth century *Koemark* was the tram terminus, the route ran from Rotterdam along Rotterdamsedijk forming a connection with Schiedam. The European site is also the spatial, pivotal point of the city. Here, the river Schie, quite literally, bends in the other direction and will become a major gateway to the city centre and a recreational area instead of being a traffic hub. Here the ambiance of the eighteenth-century city centre and the industrial character of the port converge in an exciting way. This site has the potential to expose this specific identity and quality of Schiedam.

ADAPTABILITY: MAIN ELEMENTS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT

Koemark is a central point in Schiedam where several worlds converge: the eighteenth-century historical town centre, a late nineteenth-century neighbourhood and an early twentieth-century business park. The space between these three urban areas is currently dominated by infrastructure. Accents will indeed shift in the town's main traffic structure creating space on *Koemark*. In the present urban structure the VROM site is situated "behind" the development on *Koemark*. The existing development on *Koemark* forms part of the intervention area. The adjacent VROM site is a unique location along the river Schie, situated between a nineteenth-century business park that still functions as such, and the historical town; however, it looks like a leftover space. Owing to the proximity of the glassworks and *Koemark* within

a stone's throw, this location is hardly suitable for traditional programmes. What form of infill and significance can be given to *Koemark* and the adjacent VROM site? Part of the assignment is to give both places a new significance in the urban structure, possibly with a direct interconnection between the two. The enhancement and design of the spatial qualities of the water, functional blending, sustainability with emphasis on economic and cultural re-use, strategic and organic developments and imaginative programming of the plinths are elementary aspects in the assignment. The central question that applies to all infills is what basis can be established to enable this part of the town to become genuinely adaptable? How can a truly-sustainable intervention in the structure be deployed that will provide a strong foothold for the longer term?



europan 12 - Nederland - Schiedam



Koemarkt seen from Rotterdamsdijk



VROM site



Koemarkt seen from the Koemarkt bridge



Buitenhavenweg between the VROM site and along the river Schie