

Dear Europan competitors,

Amersfoort is thriving and embracing significant growth. Several major societal challenges require solutions, including issues related to housing, mobility, energy, sustainability, and climate change. How we shape these solutions will define the city now and for many generations to come. We prioritize the development with care for the living environment of people, animals, and plants. Strengthening greenery and nature is essential for biodiversity and liveability. To achieve this we focus on connections between neighbourhoods and between people.

In line with these ambitions,

Europan Netherlands and the Municipality of Amersfoort are proud to present six locations for Europan 18. These locations are strategically significant for the municipality and aligns closely with this session's theme of resourcing, highlighting Amersfoort's search for innovative approaches to urban transformation.

Kop van Isselt Reintegrate Old

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Amersfoort in the region

Amersfoort is a historic and strategically located city in the central part of the Netherlands. Situated in the province of Utrecht, it lies at the heart of the country, making it a key connection point between the Randstad - the economic and urban hub of the west, including cities like Amsterdam and Utrecht.

The rural regions of the north and east, such as Gelderland and Overijssel. The city is surrounded by diverse landscapes, including the Utrechtse Heuvelrug National Park to the south, the Eemland polder area to the north, and the Gelderse Vallei to the east.

Amersfoort is a major railway junction, with its central station providing direct connections to key cities like Amsterdam, Utrecht, Zwolle, and Deventer. These factors contribute to its accessibility and its role as a regional and national transit node. The city's accessibility supports its function as a residential and economic center, attracting commuters, businesses, and visitors from across the Netherlands and beyond.

Amersfoort's central location has made it a significant transportation hub. It is well-connected by major highways such as the A1 (east-west) and A28 (north-south), facilitating efficient road travel.

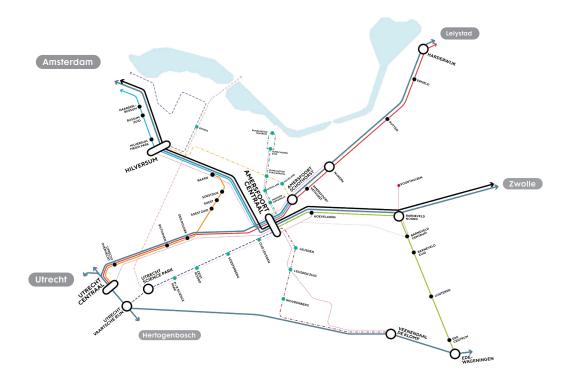
The Regional Vision for Amersfoort, emphasizes its integration with the broader Utrecht Metropolitan Region. The city leverages its proximity to Utrecht, one of the



most competitive regions in Europe, by aligning its goals with Utrecht's strategies for healthy urbanization, mobility, and sustainability.

The vision incorporates shared objectives for balanced growth in housing, employment, and green spaces, ensuring connectivity and alignment with the national and provincial frameworks. The geographical location formed the starting point for the development of Amersfoort. The city's spatial principles and choices were largely based on the existing cultural-historical and landscape values.

The quality, diversity, and proximity of the surrounding landscape remain key reasons for people and businesses to settle in Amersfoort. Original routes, waterways, sight-lines, and other landscape elements serve as meaningful foundations.









The city's position on the edge of the Utrechtse Heuvelrug and the lower-lying Eem Valley and Gelderse Valley is palpable even in the heart of the city.

Principles from Regional Spatial Vision

Growth Within Urban Areas

Prioritize development within existing built environments to preserve open spaces.

Support Vital Villages:

Enable limited growth in villages and focus additional expansion in the regional heart

Naturally Attractive

Use water systems for climate adaptation. Preserve and enhance landscapes.

Heart of the Netherlands

Improve accessibility and prioritize cycling in urban planning.

Locally Vital

Strengthen urban centers and regional recreational structures.

Thinkers and Doers

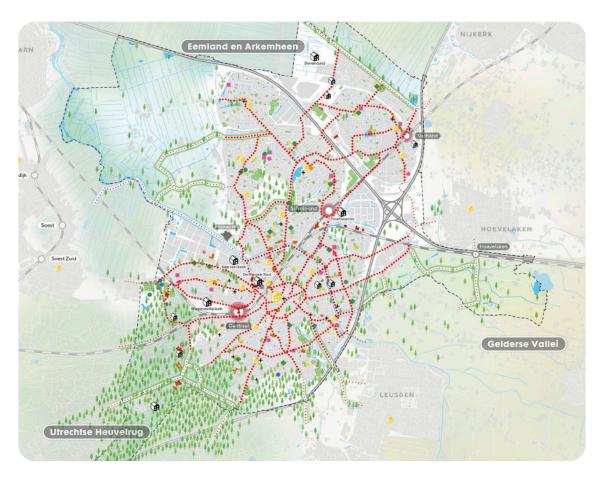
Develop distinctive living/working environments, focus on sustainability and foster interaction.

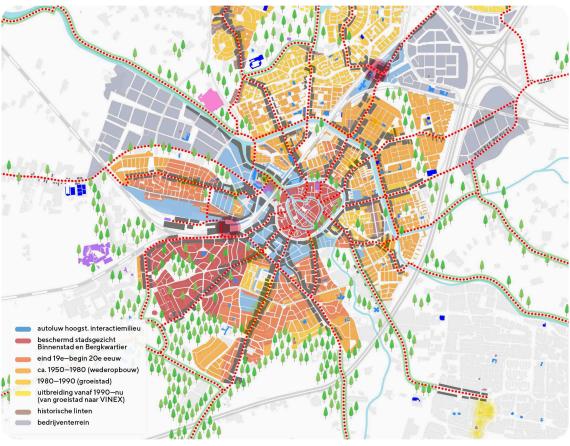
Implementation Plan

Monitor housing and workspace needs; start new development planning before shortages arise.









Urban Arteries and meeting places

Amersfoort envisions its urban arteries as vibrant lifelines that connect diverse neighbourhoods through shared spaces, dynamic programs, and cultural identity. The diversity of these arteries is key, as they vary in design while adhering to five fundamental principles: inclusivity, vibrancy, orientation, continuity, and identity. These principles guide the development of spaces that are both harmonious and distinctive, ensuring they remain meaningful for all residents and visitors.

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Inclusive spaces

Create a network of vibrant and accessible meeting places that inspire community engagement, encourage inclusivity, and improve connections through thoughtfully designed public spaces

Vibrant program



Establish dynamic urban corridors that integrate vibrant urban functions, creating spaces where activity and liveliness thrive.

Prioritizing accessibility and safety ensuring that every individual feels a sense of belonging and connection, creating human-centred neighbourhoods.

Orientation



Ensure that the orientation of spaces along the urban corridors enhances the identity and diversity of the environment, creating a harmonious blend of functionality and aesthetic appeal while avoiding fostering feelings of insecurity. Buildings and spaces should be designed to feel open, welcoming and safe.

Continuity



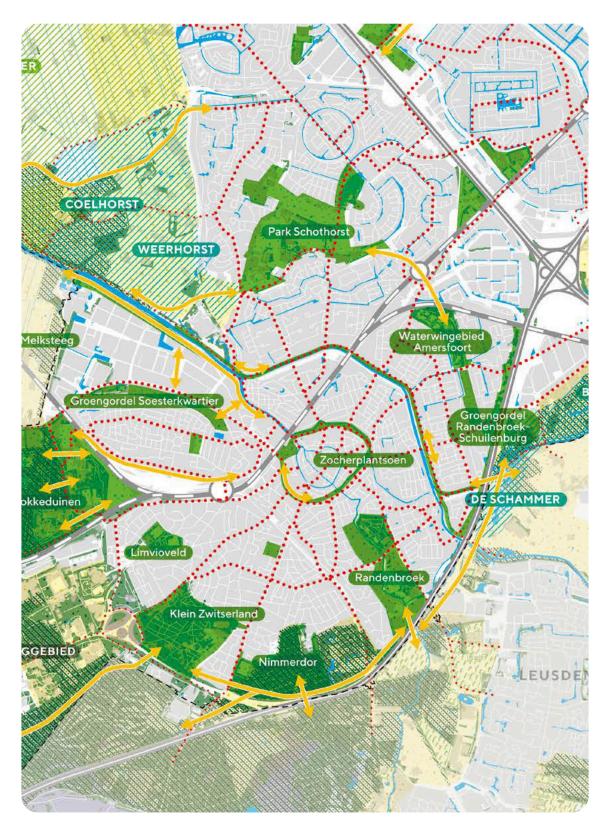
Create welcoming and safe corridors for slow traffic ensuring seamless connectivity between neighbourhoods and the city.

Prioritizing cyclists and pedestrians, we aim to foster environments that encourage mobility, strengthen communities and enhance the overall quality of urban life.

Identity



Enhance the recognizability and unique character by celebrating diversity, integrating cultural and historical elements, and fostering a sense of pride and belonging, making the urban arteries memorable and meaningful to all who traverse them.



It is also about the inclusivity of public spaces; are they accessible and reachable for everyone, young and old, and for people with disabilities.

— from summary of participation in the environmental vision, 2021

City Environmental Vision

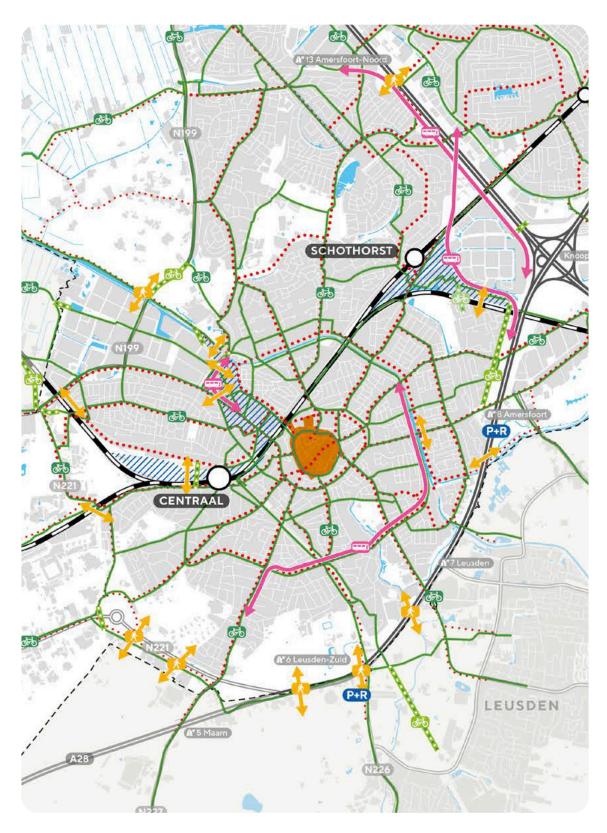
A green city in a green environment that embraces water

WE CHOOSE TO LET THE NATURAL SYSTEM GUIDE THE DESIGN OF PUBLIC-SPACES

Healthy living together means a city with ample space for water and greenery and a robust, well-functioning natural system. A green city in a green environment provides opportunities for relaxation, recreation, social interaction, and healthy physical activity. A healthy living environment contributes positively to a healthy lifestyle, social cohesion in neighbourhoods, and spaces with room for peace, quiet, and clean air. We aim for a nature-inclusive city and countryside where people, plants, and animals feel at home. We want to live with nature, not at the expense of it.

Therefore, it is essential for us that the living space for trees, plants, and animals grows alongside the city. To achieve this, we will work according to the Basic Nature Quality principles. We enhance biodiversity with sufficient and well-connected water and greenery for people and animals. To create a sustainable, healthy, and attractive living environment, water and soil will guide the design of (public) spaces wherever possible.





The Stadsring keeps the city center trapped and closed. This barrier should be removed so that the city center can grow further as a lively and welcoming hub.

- from summary of participation in the environmental vision, 2021

A City with Sustainable Mobility

WE CHOOSE SUSTAINABLE AND ACTIVE MOBILITY WITH MORE SPACE FOR CYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS

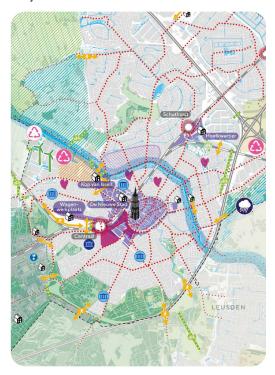
In the future, Amersfoort will be an accessible and liveable city that embraces active mobility (walking and cycling) and public transportation. Proximity is the key. By building compact and mixed-use areas along urban arteries and at centrally located, easily accessible meeting points, near amenities and public transport hubs, we encourage active mobility and the use of public transport. This reduces the need for car travel.

To keep the city accessible and liveable, cars will no longer take priority in spatial planning. Instead, we prioritize pedestrians first, followed by cyclists, public transport. Private car use is the last priority, to achieve this shift we implement parking regulations. Together these measures lead to a better living environment, lower parking demand, and more space for greenery, climate adaptation, and areas for recreation.





An inclusive and attractive city to live in



AMERSFOORT PROVIDES A HOME FOR EVERYONE AND CHOOSES HEALTHY GROWTH WITH SUFFICIENT DIVERSITY

Healthy living together means that all people have a home and feel at home. This applies to existing residents as well as the large number of people seeking housing. The city grows so that everyone can have a home. Pleasant living—feeling at home—not only involves having accessible, affordable, and suitable housing but also a healthy and inclusive living environment and how people coexist. Many different people can live alongside and with each other here, where everyone can be themselves and feel connected.



A city becoming Sustainable & CO2-Neutral

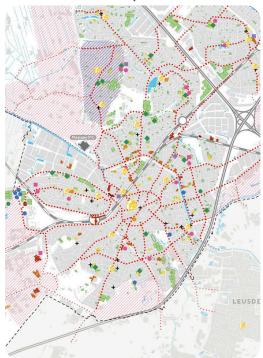


WE CHOOSE RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MATERIALS

Healthy living together means transitioning to sustainable energy. We focus on an inclusive approach where no one feels excluded, and everyone can participate in the energy transition. Together with residents, organizations, and entrepreneurs, we inform about changes, engage in dialogue, and provide support where needed to make progress in the energy transition. By 2050, we will emit no harmful greenhouse gases because we will have replaced fossil fuels with renewable sources such as solar, wind, or water. Our goal is to become energy neutral as quickly as possible.



A city where facilities grow next to development

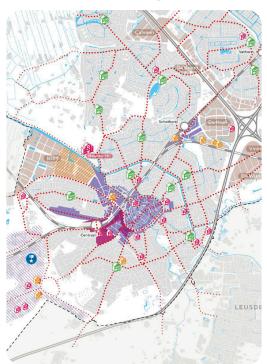


WE WANT FACILITIES TO GROW WITH THE INCREASE IN POPULATION

Social facilities contribute significantly to a healthy and attractive society. They play an important role as meeting places within the city. In a city with a growing population, the demand for facilities also increases. We distinguish between urban facilities and those at the neighborhood or district level. An increasing number of seniors and residents with disabilities require different forms of culture, recreation, services, and care. With the growing number of children and young people, there is a rising need for education, childcare, and spaces for sports and play. The changing demand for facilities will not be uniform across the city.



A city with a diverse and resilient economy



WE WANT THE JOBS TO GROW WITH THE INCREASE IN POPULATION AND WE AIM FOR AN ECONOMY THAT IS SUSTAINABLE, CIRCULAR, IN AN INCLUSIVE, HEALTHY AND LIVEABLE CITY

Amersfoort aims to be a versatile economy that aligns with the needs and skills of its residents. Economic activities will contribute to the city's vibrancy and appeal, offering a high level of amenities and innovative solutions to ensure fairness, sustainability, and resilience. We stimulate the transition to a green and circular economy. We aim to meet space needs within the existing city limits, requiring careful land use and a clear framework for economic prospects. Business and office locations play a key role in housing Amersfoort's enterprises, alongside workplaces in neighborhoods, the city center, and various shopping and recreational areas.



Given the Earth's ecosystem fragility and the myriad social crises we face, there's an urgent need for innovative approaches to counteract harmful resource extraction, overconsumption and environmental degradation.

This imperative has birthed a call for regenerative projects that seamlessly weave together elements of nature and culture. Central to this mission is the cultivation of synergistic connections between biogeophysical data, sociospatial justice and health.



In pursuit of resilience, we propose three interlinked avenues that invite exploration and action.

Resourcing in terms of

Natural Elements and Risks

It's imperative to re-evaluate the fundamental relationship between humanity and the elements of nature—water, air, earth, and fire. While these elements provide essential sources of energy and fertility they also carry inherent risks and vulnerabilities. Understanding and mitigating these risks is paramount as we strive to coexist harmoniously with our environment.

Resourcing in terms of

Ways of Life and Inclusivity

The rapid evolution of lifestyles in our digitally interconnected world demands a re-evaluation of how we inhabit and interact with our surroundings. Fostering inclusive communities that prioritize intimacy, commonality, and solidarity is key. This entails adopting bioclimatic and permaculture strategies that not only accommodate human needs but also nurture symbiotic relationships between humans and non-humans, ensuring sustainability for all.

Resourcing in terms of

Materiality and Reuse

Our built environment presents an untapped reservoir of resources waiting to be harnessed. By adhering to the principles of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, we can unlock the potential of existing structures and materials to minimize waste and resource depletion. Embracing bio-geo sourced materials and localized construction techniques not only promotes environmental stewardship but also fosters a deeper connection to place and community.

Resourcing Europan 18



In line with these ambitions, Europan Netherlands and the Municipality of Amersfoort are proud to present SIX LOCATIONS for Europan 18. These locations are strategically significant for the municipality and aligns closely with this session's theme of RESOURCING, highlighting Amersfoort's search for innovative approaches to urban transformation.



Amersfoorf Resourcing





Reintegrate Old

URBAN CONTEXT

Historical Overview
Urban context
Social Value for the City



Kop van Isselt area stands at the threshold of a dynamic urban transformation with industrial heritage structures poised to anchor a vibrant new identity. It is central to district's vision of fully harnessing its potential for creative industries, housing, and public amenities, demonstrating Amersfoort's pursuit of an inclusive and sustainable urban future.

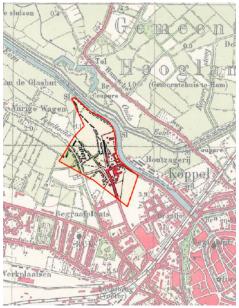
The design task is to shape Kop van Isselt into a dynamic, inclusive district that weaves together its industrial heritage. Fostering stronger community connection by well-designed green and blue Eempark, accommodating creative industries, housing and engaging public amenities at it's heart. Transform the heritage structures to an iconic presence that anchors the district's sustainable and inclusive identity.

Kop van Isselt

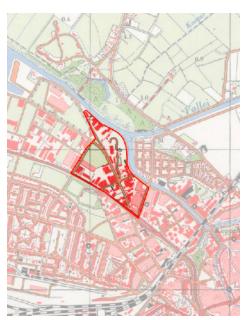


Historical Overview

Today, Kop van Isselt is characterized by a mix of functional industrial spaces, municipal facilities, and remnants of historical buildings. While still accommodating some industrial uses, the area faces challenges with aging infrastructure and underutilized spaces. Efforts have been made to preserve key industrial heritage sites. Green spaces along the Eem and new urban connections highlight its ongoing transformation.



Circa 1930



Circa 1960

Early Development (17th–19th Century)

The Eem River was crucial to the early economic and spatial development of Amersfoort, providing a direct connection to the Zuiderzee. On both banks of the Eem, near the Koppelpoort, industries developed from the 17th century onward, including mills for grain, saw, and oil production. Transportation relied heavily on barges pulled by horses along a towpath.

Industrialization (Late 19th–Early 20th Century)

The Nijverheidsweg and its adjacent goods railway (stamlijn), established in 1920, became the backbone of the industrial area. A "ladder structure" was formed, with industrial plots along perpendicular streets, enabling the expansion of industries like the Stoomluciferfabriek (match factory) and municipal facilities. The city also began utilizing the area for waste management and water treatment facilities, taking advantage of its location outside the historic city center.

Post-War Modernization (1950s-1960s)

The construction of the Amsterdamseweg (1952–1962) provided critical road connectivity, dividing the Nijverheidsweg into North and South sections and integrating the area into city's growing transportation network. The ring road and new industrial expansions attracted automotive industries. Plantings along the Amsterdamseweg and tree-lined paths along the Eem, added aesthetic and functional value to the industrial zone.

Decline and Redevelopment (1970s—1990s)
Suburban industrial zones like De Hoef and
Calveen led to a decline in Kop van Isselt's
prominence. Many industrial buildings fell
into disrepair, prompting urban renewal plans
focused on mixed-use development.

Urban context

The Kop van Isselt is undergoing a significant transformation, evolving from an industrial zone into a vibrant, mixed-use urban district. This development is part of a broader strategy that connects various regeneration areas along the Eem River and the railway corridor, integrating them into the city's historical and contemporary urban framework.

The Kop van Isselt, once a hub of industrial activity, played a crucial role in the city's economic development. With its proximity to the historical city center, the area holds potential for a seamless transition from industrial use to a multifunctional urban space.

The transformation aligns with Amersfoort's long-term vision of sustainable urban expansion, re-purposing industrial land into a lively, inclusive neighborhood. The project builds on existing urban structures, preserving significant elements of industrial heritage while fostering new opportunities for housing, employment, and recreation.



Anchoring in the (historical) urban fabric

New city district in a series of development locations within along Eem and Spoor in Amersfoort

Kop van Isselt serves as a crucial link between key urban nodes, including the city center, the Eem waterfront, and emerging districts such as De Nieuwe Stad. This development is not an isolated effort but part of a continuous urban renewal process aimed at reinforcing Amersfoort's identity as a connected, accessible, and dynamic city.

The district's redevelopment follows a model that emphasizes key aspects such as offering diverse housing and workspaces, enhancing sustainable mobility and connectivity, strengthening green-blue infrastructure, and preserving cultural and industrial heritage.

Link in the green-blue network

Kop van Isselt presents an opportunity to become a vital new link in Amersfoort's green-blue network.



By integrating natural elements into the urban fabric, the district can contribute to ecological connectivity, climate adaptation, and enhanced quality of life. Key aspects include: Connecting Green Spaces – Establishing seamless links between parks, riverbanks, and green corridors to create a continuous natural network. Enhancing Water Management – Implementing sustainable solutions like rain gardens, green roofs, and retention areas to combat urban heat and flooding. Promoting Biodiversity – Creating habitats for local flora and fauna, integrating nature into the urban landscape for ecological resilience.

Programmatic anchoring

New city district in a series of development locations within Amersfoort (along Eem and Spoor)

Kop van Isselt is positioned as a key development area within the broader urban expansion of Amersfoort. As part of a sequence of strategic urban renewal sites along the Eem and the railway corridor, this district offers a model for integrating housing, economic activity, and public amenities.

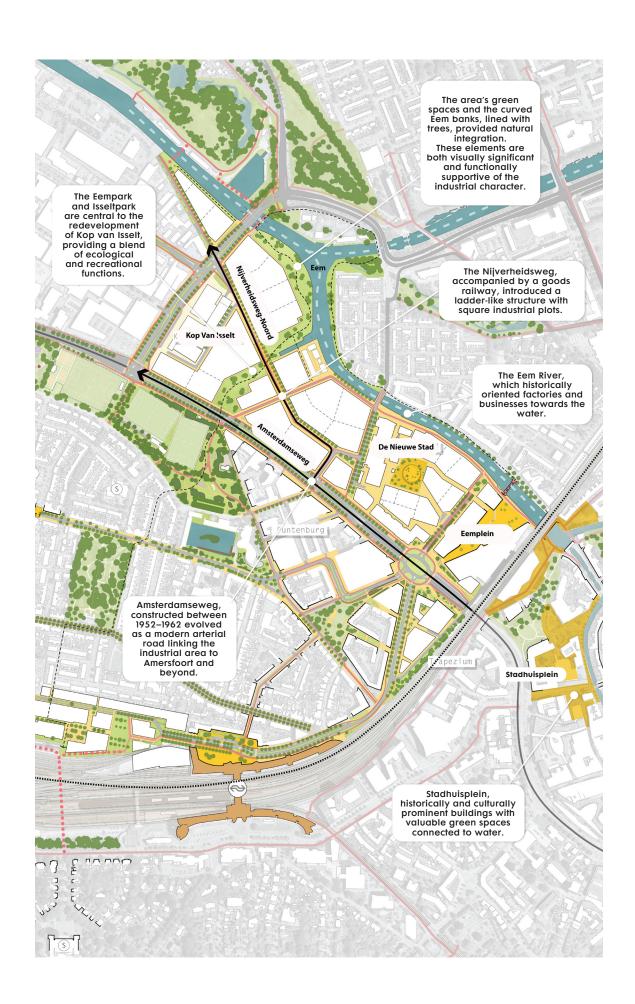
The project aims to create a dynamic mixed-use district where residential, commercial, and cultural functions seamlessly integrate. It focuses on enhancing accessibility and livability by ensuring essential services and amenities are within easy reach. Additionally, it supports economic growth by encouraging innovation, creative industries, and sustainable business practices.

Traffic network

Exploring opportunities in the field of mobility

A well-functioning transport network is essential for the success of Kop van Isselt as an integrated urban district that focus on:

Enhancing public transport accessibility, developing extensive pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, implementing smart traffic solutions to ease congestion, and fostering shared mobility initiatives while minimizing car impact on public spaces and promoting a walkable, livable urban environment.



Social Value for the City

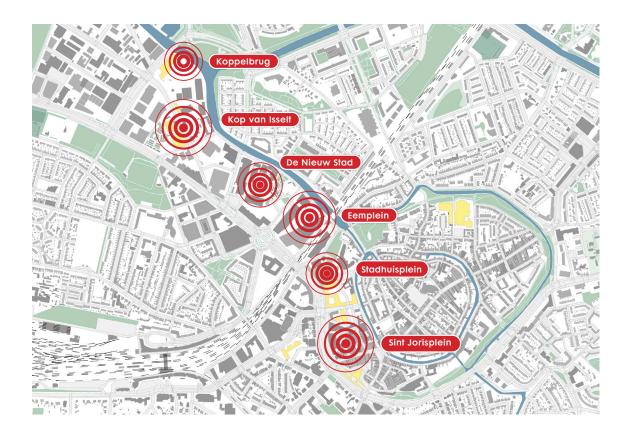
The development of Kop van Isselt introduces a new, sustainable urban district unlike any other in Amersfoort. It fosters innovative urban living and working environments, incorporating smart solutions for energy, resources and mobility, within a green, climate-adaptive setting. This transformation supports a healthy and future-proof urban life.

Kop van Isselt as a Connector

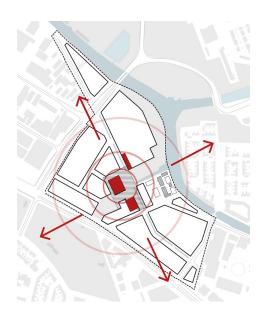
Spatially and programmatically, Kop van Isselt fills a missing link in the urban ring around the historic center, completing the city's core. It bridges multiple transitions—connecting the center with residential neighborhoods, business areas and the surrounding landscape while shaping a gateway to the future.

Historically, Kop van Isselt became an isolated part of the city due to heavy infrastructure barriers like the Industrieweg and Amsterdamseweg, as well as a lack of coherence with De Nieuwe Stad and limited access to the Eem waterfront. The ambition is to transform it into a seamless connector, integrating with Soesterkwartier, Jericho-Jeruzalem, Isselt, and De Nieuwe Stad and Eemplein.

By restoring connections and unlocking the area's full potential, Kop van Isselt will feel like an integral part of the city. Here, new impulses will emerge for urban living and working, with smart solutions for energy, resources, and mobility within a green, climate-adaptive designs. Kop van Isselt will facilitate a healthy urban lifestyle.









Five Principles for Redevelopment

The development framework for Kop van Isselt is based on five key themes from the Langs Eem en Spoor strategy. These themes establish guiding principles that shape the area's transformation. They have been tailored into specific principles for Kop van Isselt; Identity, Public Space, sustainability, Program and Mobility.

Identity

The Connected Urban District

Kop van Isselt is shaping a dynamic urban identity focused on connectivity—linking people, functions, and spaces within the district and beyond. Strategically positioned along the Eem, it bridges past and future, integrating diverse functions, densities, and urban forms to complete Amersfoort's urban fabric in a sustainable way.

Inspired by successful 19th- and 20th-century urban districts, Kop van Isselt fosters an inclusive and resilient environment built on meaningful connections.

Public Space

Balance Between Tranquillity and Vibrancy

Kop van Isselt blends calm and energy through a cohesive green-blue network. The Eempark is the district's lively heart, offering a multifunctional space linked to the Eem and surrounding landscape.

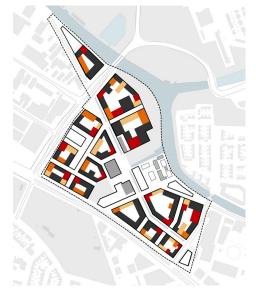
A compact yet diverse urban layout features enclosed blocks, high-rise accents, and inviting public spaces. Pedestrian-friendly streets and cycling routes ensure seamless connectivity. Cohesive architecture supports diverse uses, fostering social interaction and community life.

Residents can choose vibrant or tranquil living environments, with homes offering private retreats or shared outdoor spaces within protected blocks.

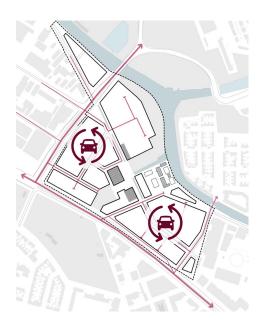
Sustainability

A Future-Proof Urban Life

Living and working in Kop van Isselt means







embracing a green, healthy and smart lifestyle. Sustainability is driven by three pillars: a vibrant community hub, a connected landscape, and future-ready systems.

A balance between social interaction and privacy ensures personal and collective growth. Resource-efficient design, local participation, and green networks enhance usability, experience, and long-term value. The district minimizes its footprint with smart energy solutions, circular construction, nature-inclusive design, biodiversity enhancement, sustainable mobility, and climate resilience.

Program

Inclusive Living and New Industry

Kop van Isselt blends residential and business spaces, fostering a diverse and dynamic urban life. Residents and entrepreneurs thrive in an inclusive, inspiring environment that balances urban energy with tranquillity.

The district accommodates all demographics, emphasizing family-friendly urban living and affordable housing. It also integrates clean, small-scale industries within residential areas, offering collaborative workspaces, cultural hubs, and mid-sized offices. Heritage buildings are repurposed for public use, strengthening ties with broader urban facilities.

Mobility

Smart Movement in the Walkable City

Prioritizing pedestrians, cyclists, and micromobility, Kop van Isselt ensures a walkable, green environment with strong access to the Eem and Amersfoort Central Station.

Cars are guests in the district, with minimal impact on public spaces. Smart mobility solutions support a congestion-free, emission-free environment through transport hubs, shared mobility, and efficient connections for cyclists and pedestrians.

Kop van Isselt leads the transition to a smart, clean, and sustainable mobility future while ensuring comfort, safety, and affordability for all users.

PROJECT SITE & ASSIGNMENT

Kop van Isselt in future
Green and Blue Infrastructure
Designing the public space
Industrial Architectural Heritage
Transform the existing buildings
Competition assignment

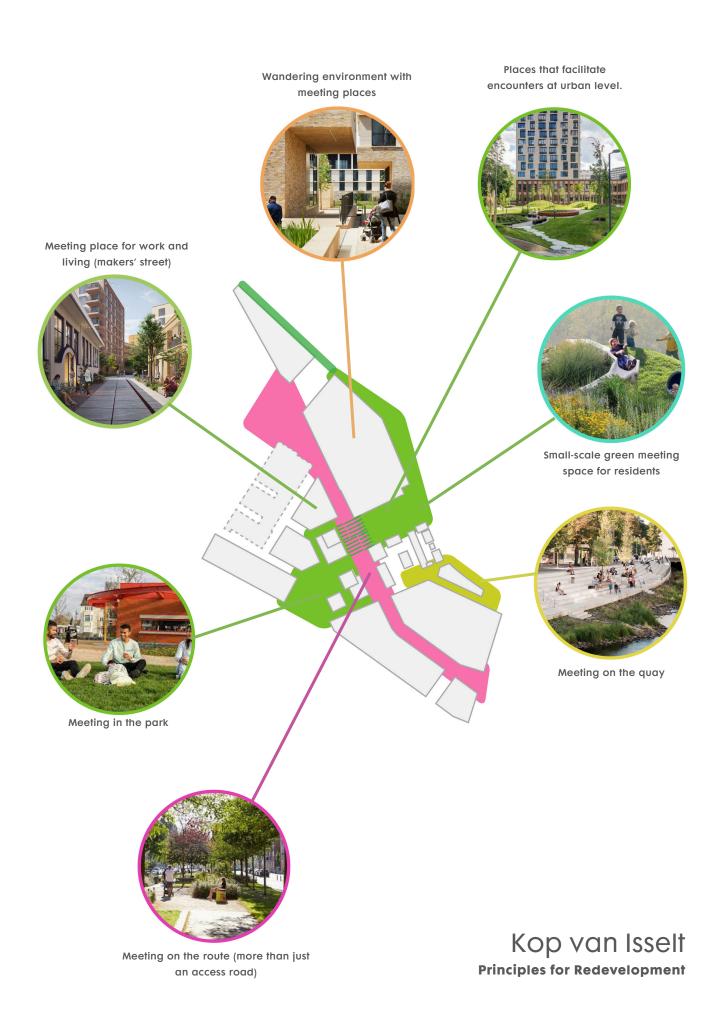


This adaptive reuse project must honour the architectural heritage, blending modern designs ensuring financial viability while integrating spaces for recreation and creative industries. Becoming the centrepiece of Eempark's design—a vibrant green heart with biodiversity and river connections establishing a distinct identity for Kop van Isselt.

The transformation should blend the old and new, activating urban life at the ground floor and adding 16,500m2 of residential space above. Preserve the industrial character while fostering community through mix-use spaces and innovative housing that reshape urban living. Proposal should also prioritise sustainability and circular design principles.

Kop van Isselt

Reintegrate Old



Kop van Isselt in future

Dreaming ahead, we envision how Kop van Isselt, guided by the proposed principles, can take shape as a new urban district of Amersfoort. By 2035, Kop van Isselt is a high-density urban district with space for workplaces and various social and cultural amenities. It complements the existing neighbourhoods of Amersfoort. The combination of living and working makes the area distinct from the more monofunctional residential and work zones that largely define Amersfoort. This mix also makes it a vibrant area.

The public space offers ample opportunities for encounters, and the buildings themselves contain various shared facilities. These include spaces for work, shared cars and bicycles, and meeting places. These "third places" form an important urban humus layer within the area.

Kop van Isselt serves as a spatial link between the city center and the surrounding landscape by transforming the banks of the Eem into public spaces with walking and cycling paths. Additionally, its public space connects the Green Belt along Soesterkwartier with the Eem's waterfront. Thus, Kop van Isselt is not an isolated island but an integral part of vital recreational routes within the city.

The buildings consist of robust urban blocks that incorporate a wide variety of housing types and workplaces. The inner courtyards provide space for private and communal green areas. The industrial heritage has been given a new future, housing restaurants, studios, and social facilities. These buildings serve as the district's defining character.

Given the scale of the project, its duration, and the complex interdependencies, a strategic phasing approach is necessary. The plan will be realized in multiple phases, with flexibility to accommodate changing conditions. The actual phasing will depend on parcel availability and market conditions.



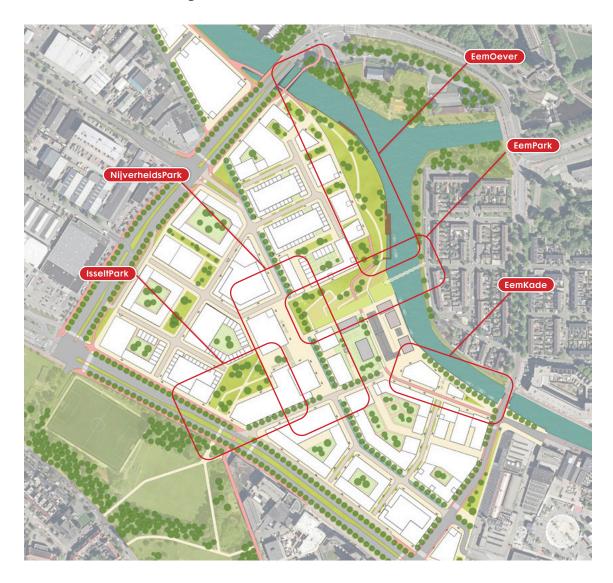
Below is a proposed phasing plan, which appears feasible based on the current situation. However, actual development steps may differ.

Phase 1: Development begins around the existing industrial halls in the heart of Kop van Isselt. Simultaneously, development along Geldersestraat may commence.

Phase 2: Development extends to parcels along Brabantsestraat. The current ROVA site in the northwest will also be developed, making the Eem riverbank accessible and enabling the realization of the Eempark, a key public space.

Phase 3: Once the fire department vacates the area, remaining parcels along Brabantsestraat can be developed, completing the southern section of Kop van Isselt. Additionally, construction will begin at the intersection of Amsterdamseweg and Industrieweg in the southwest.

Phase 4: The final phase aligns with the development framework agreements. Height accents, building lines, and massing may be adjusted during planning. One marked building remains a design challenge and will be coordinated with De Nieuwe Stad for integration and refinement.



Green and Blue Infrastructure

The area suffers from outdated infrastructure and fragmented connections to surrounding neighbourhoods like Soesterkwartier and Jericho-Jeruzalem. Many plots and buildings are underutilized or in a state of disrepair, requiring significant investment for renewal. Kop van Isselt's redevelopment prioritizes green and blue infrastructure to create a sustainable, liveable environment while integrating housing, workspaces, and recreational areas, preserving its industrial identity. Ecological Corridors and Sustainability



To promote sustainability and biodiversity, ecological corridors along the Eem River will be enhanced. Parks and green spaces will feature rainwater retention systems, with terraced basins draining into the Eem, ensuring effective stormwater management and climate resilience.

A newly planned central space will establish a direct connection between the Soesterkwartier Green Area and the Eem River, spanning from Amsterdamseweg to the Eem. This space will serve as a key ecological and recreational corridor, integrating walking paths while enhancing green and blue infrastructure.

Designing the public space

The two main elements of this central space are its ecological connectivity and recreational functions, seamlessly linking green areas with urban infrastructure while enhancing the overall quality of life.

Eempark - This central park meanders between old industrial halls and new residential-work complexes, creating terraced landscapes that integrate the Eem River. Designed as a multifunctional green space, Eempark will include picnic areas, sports facilities, as well as water terraces that provide direct access to the river. Additionally, urban biodiversity zones will support flora and fauna, enriching the natural environment within the redevelopment.

Isseltpark - Situated between Nijverheidsplein and Amsterdamseweg, Isseltpark serves as a crucial connection between the Soesterkwartier neighborhood and the Eem River. The park will feature walking paths that encourage sustainable





mobility, playgrounds and fitness trails to promote outdoor activity, and extended connections to the Groengordel (Green Belt), further integrating green spaces throughout the district.

NijverheidsPark - The current urban fabric has limited public spaces, with roads being the primary open areas. This has constrained the potential for vibrant communal or recreational zones. Future development will focus on expanding pedestrian-friendly, multi functional public areas to enhance livability.

Several notable historic industrial buildings contribute to the area's character, including small industrial artifacts such as transformer houses, fences, and rail remnants enhance the historical identity of Kop van Isselt. As it stands at the threshold of transformation, the area aims to become a dynamic and sustainable urban district while retaining its historical roots.

Here, Nijverheidsstraat will be transformed into a pedestrian and bicycle-only zone. The new public space surrounding the industrial heritage buildings must be thoughtfully integrated, ensuring seamless access to main entrances, parking entrances, and other facilities. This transformation will require innovative public space design that strikes the right balance between hard and soft landscapes, enhancing both functionality and aesthetics.

Bridge to Jericho-Jeruzalem - Additionally, Eempark will connect to the Jericho-Jeruzalem neighbourhood, renowned for its distinctive post-World War II architecture. Proposals for a bridge across to the Eemzijde aim to improve connectivity and accessibility, strengthening links between neighbourhoods and enhancing the area's overall integration.



Industrial Architectural Heritage

Kop van Isselt, Amersfoort's historic industrial hub, is distinguished by its architectural heritage, blending early 20th-century brick structures with postwar concrete and modular designs. Key buildings include the Rova Site, a robust 1950s municipal facility with prefabricated concrete trusses; NeNaFa Building Originally nameplate making factory and Fabriek van Van der Meiden originally equipment factory, a multi-phase structure showcasing evolving techniques with wooden and concrete cassette roofs. These buildings reflect the area's industrial past and hold potential for adaptive reuse in its transformation into a vibrant, mixed-use urban district.



Rova Site

Warehouse and Workshop Building Nijverheidsweg-Noord 35

The Rova site, built in the 1950s, represents an essential piece of Kop van Isselt's industrial and municipal history, serving as a central hub for waste management and municipal cleaning services.



Historical Context

The Rova facility, originally part of Amersfoort's municipal cleaning services (Gemeentelijke Reinigingsdienst) in the early 20th century, was developed to house the Municipal Cleaning Department. The main warehouse and workshop, constructed between 1953 and 1954, are the oldest surviving structures on the site. Designed by municipal architect J.E. Fischer, the warehouse served as a facility for



1981-1982







Steel-frame structure

maintenance, vehicle storage, and waste management operations.

Architectural Features and Construction Techniques

The building prominently features prefabricated concrete elements produced by NV Schokbeton, a leading post-war manufacturer of prefab components. Notable structural elements include lightweight Bimsbeton cassette plates, which incorporate pumice aggregate for ceiling construction, as well as prefabricated concrete frames beams that form the structure.

Functionality

The building was designed with practicality in mind, incorporating maintenance pits into the floors to facilitate vehicle servicing and repairs. This feature underscores its historical role in waste management and municipal cleaning operations, allowing for efficient maintenance of service vehicles.

Desian

The building showcases a long rectangular layout, characterized by robust brick façades and steel-framed windows, embodying the functional aesthetics of the post-war reconstruction period. Its utilitarian design reflects the architectural ethos of that era emphasizing durability, efficiency and straightforward construction principles.

Cultural and Historical Value

Recognized as a municipal monument, the Rova building stands as a testament to the city's industrial and architectural heritage. It retains its structural integrity and serves as a rare example of postwar industrial design. Its historical significance lies not only in its utilitarian function but also in its representation of the broader reconstruction efforts that shaped the urban landscape of Amersfoort in the mid-20th century.

NeNaFa Building

Originally nameplate making factory
Nijverheidsweg-Noord 38

The NeNaFa Building, originally a nameplate manufacturing factory, holds historical significance as one of Amersfoort's post-war industrial structures. Over the decades, it has evolved alongside the city's economic and industrial growth, adapting to new functions while retaining key architectural features.





NeNaFa Buildings in the 1960s



Historical Context

The Nederlandse Naamplaten Fabriek (NeNaFa) was founded in 1938 in Amsterdam by Mooyaart and Reyenga. In 1949, the company relocated to Amersfoort, establishing a new factory at Nijverheidsweg-Noord. Initially, NeNaFa specialized in manufacturing nameplates and type plates for bicycles and machinery. Over the decades, the company expanded, adapting to new industrial needs, and was later acquired by the Swedish Danielson Group in 1987, shifting focus toward touchscreens and keyboards. Production moved to Hardenberg around 2006, but the company still operates in Amersfoort at a different location.

Architectural Features and Construction Techniques

The original factory building, designed in 1948 by architect S. Vreeling, was characterized by four distinctive sheddak (sawtooth roof) structures, commonly used in industrial buildings to optimize natural light. In 1951, two additional sheds were added, replicating the original architectural style. Later expansions, including a 1955 office wing designed by M2.J. Klijnstra, introduced a reinforced concrete structure, distinguishing the office section from the predominantly steel-and-wood factory halls.

Functionality

The NeNaFa building was designed to accommodate industrial metalworking processes, requiring specialized workspaces, including acid baths and electroplating installations. Over time, as production methods evolved, the



factory adapted its layout to incorporate modern machinery and assembly lines, ensuring efficient workflow. Today, the building houses multiple tenants, including offices and creative workspaces.

Design

The factory's rectangular structure, red brick façades, and large steel-framed windows exemplify the functional and efficient industrial architecture of the post-war reconstruction period (Wederopbouwperiode). The sheddak roof system remains a defining characteristic, ensuring ample daylight penetration, a crucial feature for precision manufacturing environments.

Fabriek van Van der Meiden

Originally equipment factory / Nijverheidsweg-Noord 42

Historical Context

The NV. Apparatenbouw Van der Meiden was established in 1950 as a manufacturing facility for household and industrial appliances. The company had its roots in a trading firm founded in 1895 in Amersfoort, which specialized in gas-fired ovens, stoves, and other large kitchen equipment. The factory at Nijverheidsweg-Noord 42 was built in 1951, designed by Op ten Noort-Blijdenstein, and became a key part of Amersfoort's post-war industrial expansion. However, financial struggles led to a merger in 1953 and bankruptcy in 1954. In 1956, the facility was taken over by Van Swaay, which produced household freezers (Esta brand) before relocating in 1961. Since then, the building has housed various businesses, including a garage and a window frame factory.



Architectural Features and Construction Techniques

The factory was originally a single-story structure with a flat-roofed section that contained the metal treatment areas (acid baths, painting section) and a large production hall with three sawtooth roofs (sheddaken), an industrial roofing technique optimizing natural lighting. The building was constructed using a reinforced concrete frame by NV Schokbeton and steel elements for the sheddak structures. A transformer house was added at the rear. In 1956, the factory was expanded, adding four additional sheddaken and a new









office/showroom designed by architect Johannes H. Blom. The steel and wood components of the expansion were built by Jan Kuipers, Nunspeet.

Functionality

The facility was designed for the production and assembly of industrial appliances, including gas ovens and stoves. It housed dedicated areas for metal processing, painting, and assembly, ensuring an efficient production flow. When Van Swaay took over, it was adapted for the manufacture of deep freezers. Over time, as industrial demands shifted, modifications were made, and the building was repurposed for various businesses, including automotive services and window frame manufacturing.

Design

The building features a rectangular industrial layout with red brick façades and large steel-framed windows, typical of post-war functionalist industrial design. The sheddak system remains one of its defining elements, providing natural light to the workspace. The 1956 expansion introduced a modernist office façade, now partially altered. Despite later modifications, the core elements of the industrial structure remain visible.

Cultural and Historical Value

The Van der Meiden factory is one of the few remaining post-war industrial buildings in Amersfoort, illustrating the city's industrial expansion in the 1950s. While various modifications have reduced its original architectural clarity, the sheddak roofs remain a key industrial heritage element. The building, along with its neighboring NeNaFa facility, contributes to the historical identity of the Kop van Isselt area.

Although its historical and architectural value is moderate, preserving its sheddaken and structural integrity would help maintain the industrial character of the neighbourhood as Amersfoort continues to evolve.

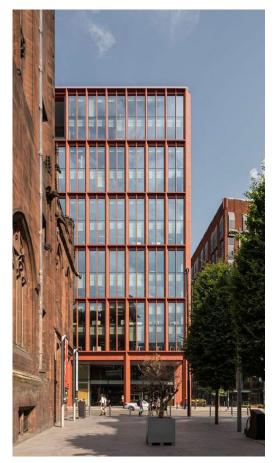








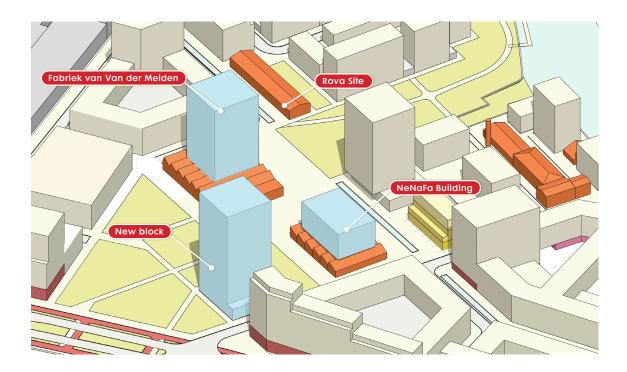


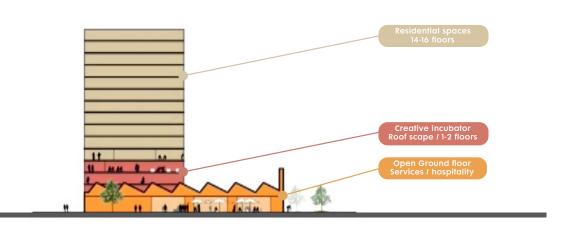


Transform the existing buildings

Additions can rise to 14-16 floors (NeNaFa, Van der Meiden and New block). New building volumes (shown here in blue) can be added on top, alongside, or through the existing halls, all while preserving and celebrating their industrial character.

- Total of ±160 housing units spread over (NeNaFa, Van der Meiden and New block) contributing 16,500m2 GFA of residential space (excluding parking)
- A creative incubator $\pm 2,500$ m2 spread over (NeNaFa, Van der Meiden and New block)
- Health centre ±1,000 m2 spread over (NeNaFa, Van der Meiden and New block)
- ROVA building is classified as a municipal monument, the interior is also protected.
 The change must be done in conjunction with the monumental values. The building will remain single story.

























View from Nijverheidsweg Noord



View from Nijverheidsweg Noord

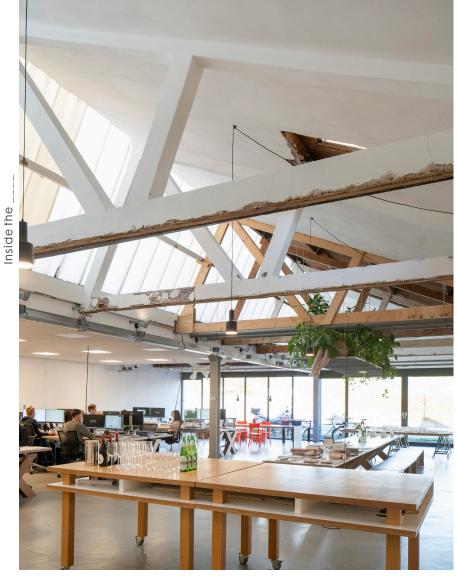






View from Nijverheidsweg Noord







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Competition Assignment

Amersfoort is re-imagining its urban landscape to create vibrant, sustainable and inclusive growth. The transformation of the Kop van Isselt area presents an opportunity to reintegrate industrial legacy into a dynamic district. This mixed-use development envisions 2,000 to 3,000 new residences, creative industries, and public amenities, fostering a lively and sustainable urban ecosystem.

Propose bold yet practical solutions for the comprehensive transformation of this area by repurposing industrial heritage structures, integrating diverse mixed-use programs, enhancing ecological Connectivity. The goals is to create a distinctive central urban area with a renewed identity, creating vibrant public spaces that reflect adaptability and sustainability while addressing local and urban-scale needs.



Follow-up process

The Municipality of Amersfoort, in partnership with the owner(s) of industrial heritage structures, are committed to realize the central public space. Currently, the building(s) are underutilized, and the owner(s) are keen to advance the concepts and typologies developed through the competition into a viable and profitable project, with the aim of realizing it. The Municipality also envisions the possibility of commissioning further design studies for the central public space, to explore opportunities for thoughtful urban development.

Adaptive Reuse of Industrial Heritage

The historic industrial buildings at the heart of Kop van Isselt are earmarked for adaptive reuse, becoming vibrant hubs for creative industries, public functions, and recreational activities. These structures will anchor the district, blending their architectural heritage with modern, functional designs to shape the identity of the central public space.

A comprehensive building envelope strategy should explore how these buildings can be transformed to unlock their full potential. This may include lateral expansions, vertical additions, or innovative architectural interventions that preserve their historical significance. These strategies must demonstrate financial viability by harmonizing innovative design with pragmatic solutions that ensure long-term success.

2 Eempark as the Green Heart

Eempark is designed to be central to the district, connecting neighbourhoods through leisure spaces for sports, picnics, and pathways for walking. It will strengthen biodiversity by linking the green belt (Groengordel) from the Soesterkwartier to the Eem, forming a ecological corridor that boosts biodiversity and connectivity.

Propose a visionary conceptual design for the central public space that integrates urban vibrancy with green infrastructure. Incorporate a terraced landscape for effective flood mitigation and highlight enhanced accessibility to the river Eem to foster both recreational and ecological opportunities. Bicycle and pedestrian pathways must ensure seamless connections to the central buildings.

3 New and interesting ways of living

Transform the existing single-floor buildings (all buildings within the reflection area) to accommodate approximately 160 housing units, contributing 16,500 m2²GFA of residential space (excluding parking). Landmark NeNaFa and fabriek van Van der Meiden can rise to 14-16 floors but ROVA shed is classified as a municipal monument, the interior is also protected. The change must be done in conjunction with the monumental values. . New building volumes can be added on top, alongside, or through the existing halls, all while preserving and celebrating their industrial character.

This integration of residential spaces should foster a lively community atmosphere by introducing new and interesting ways of living through innovative typologies that redefine urban lifestyles.

4 Creative Incubator and Community

To meet the growing demand for creative and health-oriented spaces, the proposed building envelopes (all buildings within the reflection area) will feature a creative incubator $\pm 2,500$ m2 will provide much-needed maker spaces, fostering innovation and collaboration. Additionally, health center $\pm 1,000$ m2 will deliver a pharmacy (160 m2), general practitioner (410 m2), physiotherapy (100 m2), dentist (250 m2) and midwifery practice (40 m2). The new building must exemplify circular design, renewable energy, biodiversity at its core.

Kop van Isselt Reintegrate Old

INFORMATION

Relevant documents
Facts and Rules
The jury
Organization



Relevant documents

Most of the documents provided here under are in Dutch language, please do use on-line translation services to help you understand the content. We excuse any inconvenience caused.

*** We strongly recommend reviewing the listed documents for a thorough understanding of the competition site, its historical development, conceptual evolution, and ambitions. Please note that some ideas and decisions across various documents may conflict or have been superseded.

06d Gemeente Amersfoort Advies MZ Monumentwaardering.pdf (2024)

Assessment of cultural and architectural significance for municipal heritage sites.

Bijlage 1 Een samenbindend raamwerk voor langs Eem en Spoor en Soesterkwartier (2023)

Proposals for connecting Kop van Isselt with surrounding areas via sustainable public spaces and mobility.

231027_Impressies voor raad_Blok 5 Eemplein LR.pdf (2023)

Design and planning insights for Eemplein Block 5, with a focus on integration and urban design.

230628_Historie.pdf (June 2023)

Historical analysis of Kop van Isselt, from its role in the Grebbelinie to its industrial evolution and decline

Waardestelling_ROVA-loods_Amersfoort def2_13112022.pdf (2022)

Heritage valuation for ROVA-loods, focusing on its industrial and architectural value.

Kop van Isselt- kaders op een rij.pdf (2021)

Overview of redevelopment principles, emphasizing sustainability, mixed-use spaces, and industrial heritage.

472_sh_OntwikkelkaderKVI.pdf (2021)

Development framework outlining strategies to transform Kop van Isselt into a vibrant, mixed-use urban district, focusing on sustainability and connectivity.

NeNaFa waardestelling.pdf (2019)

Valuation of the NeNaFa building, highlighting its architectural and industrial heritage.

Van der Meiden Waardestelling.pdf (2019)

Assessment of Van der Meiden building's architectural and historical significance.

Ambitiedocument_1.O_De_Nieuwe_Stad.pdf (2015)

Vision document for De Nieuwe Stad, focusing on innovation, sustainability, and mixed-use development.

472_sh_ErfgoedKVI_presentatie.pdf

Presentation on preserving and integrating industrial heritage into the modern redevelopment.

Facts and Rules

Facts

Site representative / Actor(s) involved

Municipality of Amersfoort

Team representative / Lead member

Architect and/or urban designer

Expected skills

With regards to the site's issues and characteristics we are looking for design proposals which mainly requires good Architectural and Urban Design skills. In addition it might be useful to also have Public space / Landscape Design skill with in the team.

Rules

Participate / Register

For registration and other information please visit https://www.europan-europe.eu

Competition Rules

For more complete competition rules and other information regarding Europan18 session please visit: https://www.europan-europe.eu

Evaluation

Jury

All jury sessions are conducted by our professional jury, comprising 7 to 9 members. Site representatives may attend these sessions but only as observers.

Award

The ranked selection includes a Winner, awarded €12,000; a Runner-up, awarded €6,000; and a Special Mention, which does not carry a financial reward.

Post-competition

Intermediate procedure

A meeting will be held to introduce the rewarded teams to the site representatives. This may be followed by an on-site workshop involving the winning team(s), runner(s)-up, and special mention(s).

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

The selected team(s) may be commissioned by the municipality and/or private partners for a follow-up design or research-by-design assignment aimed at implementation. This assignment will take place at the project site or a location with similar characteristics.

Communication

Anonymous publication online after the 2st jury round
Publication in book and potential exhibition after the competition

The jury

The Jury

The E18 Session will feature a professional jury comprising 9 main members, supported by 2 substitutes, making a total of 9 to 11 participants. Jury The jury process is divided into three parts: Technical Committee Analysis (Pre-Jury review), First Jury Session (20% of received projects, Shortlisting entries) and the last Second Jury Session (Final Selecting of winners).

Kristiaan Borret (BE)

Bouwmeester Maitre Architecte (BMA) at Brussels Capital Region (https://bma.brussels)

Jeroen de Willigen (NL)

Urbanist and partner / De Zwarte Hond, Chairman BNA, Supervisor Amsterdam Amstel, Healthy Ageing Campus. (https://dezwartehond.nl)

Eric van der Kooij (NL)

Chairman BNSP, Concept development at BPD Amsterdam (https://www.linkedin.com/in/eric-van-der-kooij-a18469ab/)

Oana Rades (NL)

Architect / Partner at Shift architecture urbanism (https://www.shift-au.com)

Wouter Veldhuis (NL)

Urban planner / State advisor for the physical living environment, Director MUST Ambassador, Platform Space for Walking (https://www.must.nl)

Cécilia Gross (NL)

Architect Partner / Director at VenhoevenCS architecture+urbanism (http://www.venhoevencs.nl)

Nathalie van Hoeven (NL)

Concept development at Eigen Haard (https://www.eigenhaard.nl)

Rob Meurders (NL)

Architect/Partner diederendirrix architects, Chairman Advisory Committee on Environmental Quality Eindhoven (https://www.diederendirrix.nl)

Tom Avermaete (CH)

Professor for the History and Theory of Urban Design at ETH Zurich (https://www.nsl.ethz.ch/en/professur/prof-dr-tom-avermaete)

Oliver Thill (NL) *Substitute Jury

Owner of Atelier Kempe Thill architects and planners (https://www.atelierkempethill.com)

Cristina Gamboa (ESP) *Substitute Jury

Cristina is co-founder at Lacol (https://www.lacol.coop)

Technical committee

The technical committee is tasked to advise the jury on the contextual sensitivity and the feasibility of the competition proposals. The technical committee checks the completeness of the entries while categorizing the entries to reflect the ambition of competition location. The goal is to help the Jury members dive deep into the content as quickly as possible.

The technical committee is composed of: two Europan 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

Madir Shah

Director, Secretariat Europan NL/E18 Project leader

Arno Goossens

Senior Strategic Advisor Spatial Development at the Municipality of Amersfoort

Maricke Hiddink

Architect - Advisor Spatial Developent at the Municipality of Amersfoort

Agnes Galama

Spatial Development Strategist at the Municipality of Amersfoort

Pre-competition working group

Flint, Amersfoort (NL)

Agnes Galama, Esther van Son-Kock

Amicitia, Amersfoort (NL)

Agnes Galama, Esther van Son-Kock

Scheltus Flat, Amersfoort (NL)

Agnes Galama, Esther van Son-Kock

Stadhuisplein, Amersfoort (NL)

Maricke Hiddink, Esther van Son-Kock

Kop van Isselt, Amersfoort (NL)

Maricke Hiddink, Dirk Hölzer

Koppelbrug, Amersfoort (NL)

Maricke Hiddink , Dirk Hölzer

Europan NL

André Kempe (Board member)

Architect / Urban Designer / Co-founder / Director at Atelier Kempe Thill

Jonathan Woodroffe (Board member)

Architect / Urban Designer / Co-founder / Director at Studio Woodroffepapa

Sabine Lebesque (Board member)

Architectural Historian Land and Development, Municipality of Amsterdam

Anouk de Wit (Board member)

Program manager Spatial Quality, Municipality Amsterdam

Arnoud Gelauff (Board member)

Architect / Co-founder / Arons en Gelauff architecten

Madir Shah (Director)

Architect / Urban Designer / Co-founder / Director at URBANOFFICE Architects

Isha Joshi

Architect / Urban Designer / Team Europan NL

Dear Europan competitors,

In line with the RESOURCING theme, Europan Netherlands and the Municipality of Amersfoort are pleased to present SIX STRATEGIC LOCATIONS for Europan 18. We warmly invite you to explore these sites in detail, as each location offers unique opportunities and challenges to help shape Amersfoort's future in sustainable, innovative, and community-driven ways.



Flint Reinvent The Theater

How can we, reinvent the program for inward-facing theater building Flint into a inclusive multi-functional hub that fosters creativity, connection to the neighbourhood and urban vitality for all, a new urban destination for Amersfoort?

Register @ www.europan.nl



Amicitia Restore The Fabric

How can we, restore the underutilized Amicitia location into an iconic gateway to Amersfoort's historic centre seamlessly blending housing, commercial, semi-cultural and green spaces to revitalize the urban fabric?

Register @ www.europan.nl



Otto Scheltus Reconnect City

How can we, reconnect Otto Scheltusflat as an urban hotspot bridging the central station and historic centre, creating innovative residential typologies and dynamic public spaces to create an inclusive new city landmark?

Register @ www.europan.nl



Stadhuisplein Rebuild Culture

How can we, rebuild Stadhuisplein into a dynamic Cultural Quarter which integrate performance venues, honours heritage and create a pedestrian-friendly design, bridging the historic core and river-front redevelopments into one harmonious urban experience?

Register @ www.europan.nl



Kop van Isselt Reintegrate Old

How can we, re-purpose Kop van Isselt's industrial heritage buildings into a vibrant mixed-use identity establishing new homes, creative industries, and lively green public spaces to foster a dynamic, sustainable urban ecosystem for Kop van Isselt?

Register @ www.europan.nl



Koppelbrug Rethink Health

How can we, rethink Koppelbrug as a mix-use building complex combining indoor/outdoor sports, housing, and parking so it becomes a landmark for health, community well-being, and inclusive urban living along the River Eem?

Register @ www.europan.nl









How can we, repurpose Kop van Isselt's industrial heritage buildings into a vibrant mix-use identity establishing new homes, creative industries and lively green public spaces to foster a dynamic, sustainable urban ecosystem for Kop van Isselt?

AMERSFOORT

e d u c e

e d u c e

e i n v e n t

e c o n n e c t

e s o u r c i n g

EUROPAN18

AMERSFOORT is thriving and embracing significant growth. Over the next decade, the city is dedicated to improving the quality, energy efficiency, and sustainability of its existing built environment, with a strong focus on prioritizing the needs and well-being of its residents.

In line with these ambitions, Europan Netherlands and the Municipality of Amersfoort are proud to present SIX LOCATIONS for Europan 18. These locations are strategically significant for the municipality and aligns closely with this session's theme of RESOURCING, highlighting Amersfoort's search for innovative approaches to urban transformation.