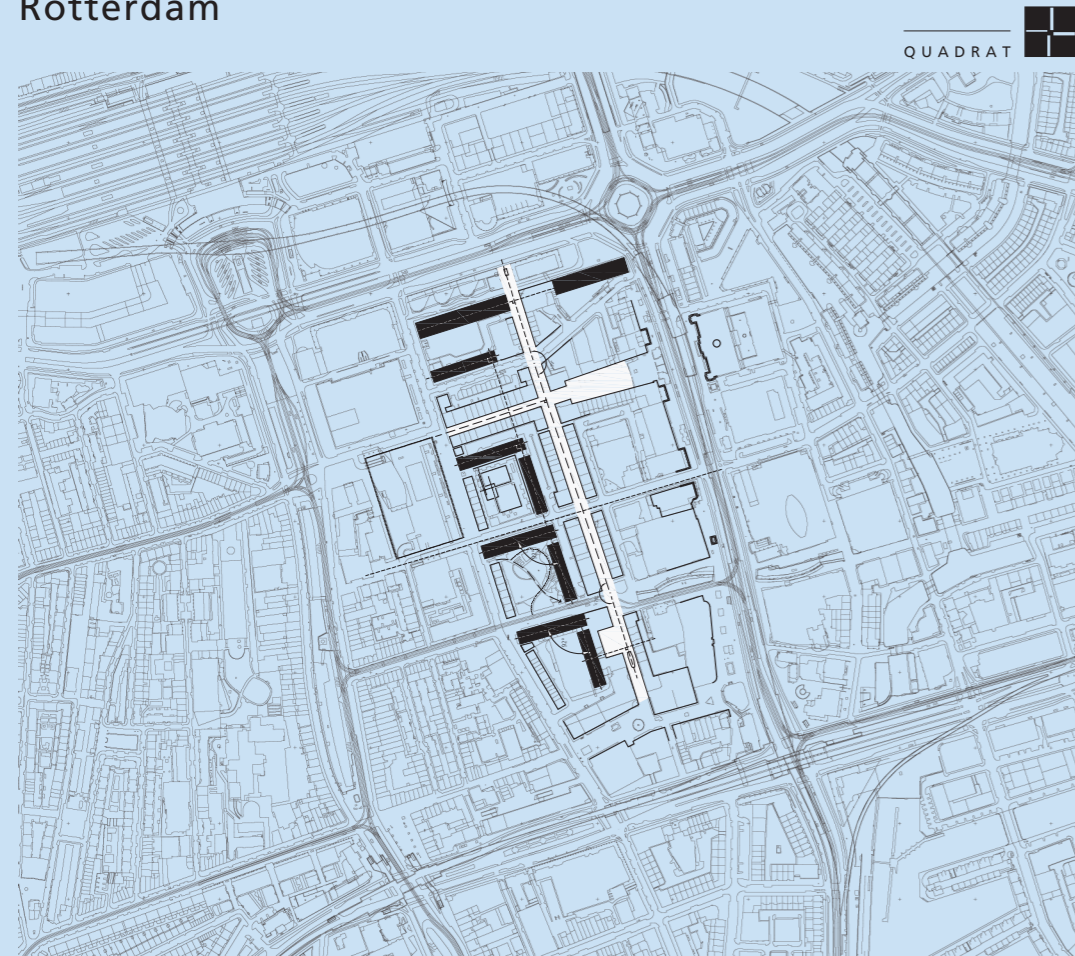


Lijnbaan and Stadhuisplein Rotterdam



design
atelier Quadrat
 client
municipality of Rotterdam
 period of design
2010 - 2015
 period of construction
2012 - 2016
 area
1,8 ha.
 design benches
atelier Quadrat - Blom&Moors



location, scale 1:10.000

The Stadhuisplein and the Lijnbaan are important remains of the Rotterdam post war architecture and therefore listed as national heritage. The Lijnbaan is known as one of the first pedestrian shopping areas in Europe. Urbanism and architecture are strongly combined into a concept that is referred to as: "from chair till city" by the original designer Bakema. A composition of housing flats, streets for expedition, lower buildings with two layers for shops and storage and the pedestrian area with shop windows, planting areas and aviaries are designed as a whole. Over the last decade the use of the shopping area has been growing massively which resulted in an increase of street furniture, paved area and terraces. While the urban space has been reorganized in 1995 it already came into decline. In combination with the redesigned subsoil city warming system, it was possible to give the urban space a large make-over.

The aim of the design is to justify the status of national heritage and at the same time create a space that is suitable for a contemporary city life, in order that every inhabitant of Rotterdam and every visitor of the city feels at ease in the area.

To create a visible cohesion between urbanism, architecture and the design for the urban space, which has been lost in the previous reorganization, the original building grid of 1,10 x 2,00 meter has been incorporated in the grid of the pavement, measurements of the hedges, furniture and placing of the lighting. At the crossing of the Lijnbaan and Korte Lijnbaan the grid evaluates into a square grid of 2,00 x 2,00 meter onto the Stadhuisplein. The pavement is made of a grid of basalt tiles with strips of granite tiles that mark the building grid. The elegant anthracite colored pavement suits the architecture and marks the Lijnbaan project within the city centre. To clear the overgrowth of furniture, large stone benches are placed that fit into the grid of tiles, hedges are planted on more quiet places, lighting poles are removed and lighting is wired up between the facades, and the garbage bins are placed on a straight line and rhythm. Removing all the lighting poles results into a free perspective from the Korte Lijnbaan and the square Stadhuisplein on the Town Hall. A building development at the north-east side of the square includes a new orangery. This made it possible to remove the two pavilions that blocked the view at the Town Hall. The modern orangery is also planned for the remaining bars at the north-west façade of the square, at that point the size of summer and winter terraces on the east side

of the square can be reduced. More recent, in 2017, the façade and building structure at the southern side has been improved. Existing trees are preserved and new sugar maple trees are planted. The trees supply a nice canopy of leaves during the summer, and attractive view for the residence around the square. Three large stone benches are placed for a nice sitting and relaxing spot. A new pair of stairs is made with large granite elements as straight lines that mark the elevation between the original level of the Coolpolder and Coolsingel. Around the statue for the fallen citizens during world war two, made by Marie Andriessen, the design has been kept simple and in favor of this memorial place. At the little square at the south side of the Lijnbaan a large 160 year old plane tree and a gate of the formal Coolsingel hospital garden survived the bombing in may 1940 of the city of Rotterdam and were integrated in the original plan of the Lijnbaan. The form of the gate is the inspiration of the new design for the bonsai like tree tub. The wide edge of the tree tub is made for sitting. A system of aeration tubes and improvement of the soil helps the tree to stay healthy for many years to come, and was engineered with experts of the municipality. A new planting of perennials gives a beautiful atmosphere. At the north side of the Lijnbaan large blocks of yew hedges, attractive cherry trees and two new Gleditsia trees are planted around the terraces. The tree grates and the benches are especially designed for fitting into the grid of tiles and provided with a pattern that suits the pattern of the pavement. Also the lighting armatures, that were engineered with experts of municipality and the manufacturer, are especially made for the Lijnbaan and provided with a sustainable LED lighting source. The beloved little sculptures at the Lijnbaan are preserved and stored with a new base made of stone that suits with the new materials. According to the wish of the local community the original lighting letters 'Lijnbaan' were reconstructed and replaced at the entrances of the shopping street.

The intervention for the Lijnbaan and Stadhuisplein has contributed to the quality of the urban space in the city centre of Rotterdam and suits well with the program called 'City Lounge' of the municipality to create a more lively and attractive city centre. More precisely the design contributes to the cohesion between the Town Hall, the square Stadhuisplein and the post war project as a whole.



design drawing of the Korte Lijnbaan, Lijnbaan and Stadhuisplein