



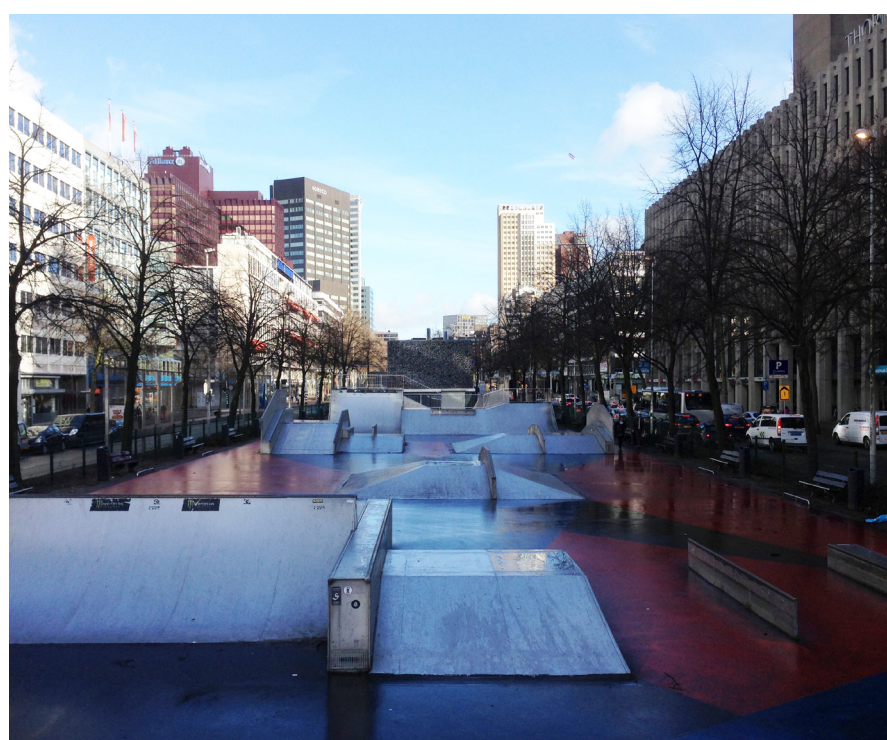
WESTBLAAK SKATEPARK

PREVIOUS STATE

The site of the skate park is in the middle of a big road in the centre of Rotterdam. This road, the Westblaak, is one of the four main roads surrounding the central area of Rotterdam. The road used to be one of the main streets for shopping, leisure and business but in the past years, the importance of the road has declined.

The road has the character of an interior urban highway, with two lanes of asphalt on both sides, traffic lights and relatively little street life on the sidewalks. The existence of a relatively isolated skate park, with big steel skate elements and high steel fences right beside the road blocking the view, aggravated this character. Only softened by a fair amount of trees reminiscent of the original spacious street profile.

The site has been a skate park since 2000. The old standard steel skate elements were in a bad shape and out-dated. Technically, the skate park needed a renewal and skaters wanted a new type of skate park. The original skate park was an example of a first generation skate park: rough, relatively cheap and isolated from the urban environment by a high steel fence. It consisted of the classic skate tricks which at that time one could find at most skate parks around the world.



BEFORE: prefabricated metal ramps, area only for training.



AFTER: customized space that invites all citizens to enjoy.



Westblaak is a relaxed place to skate, but it also gives challenges for pro's.