

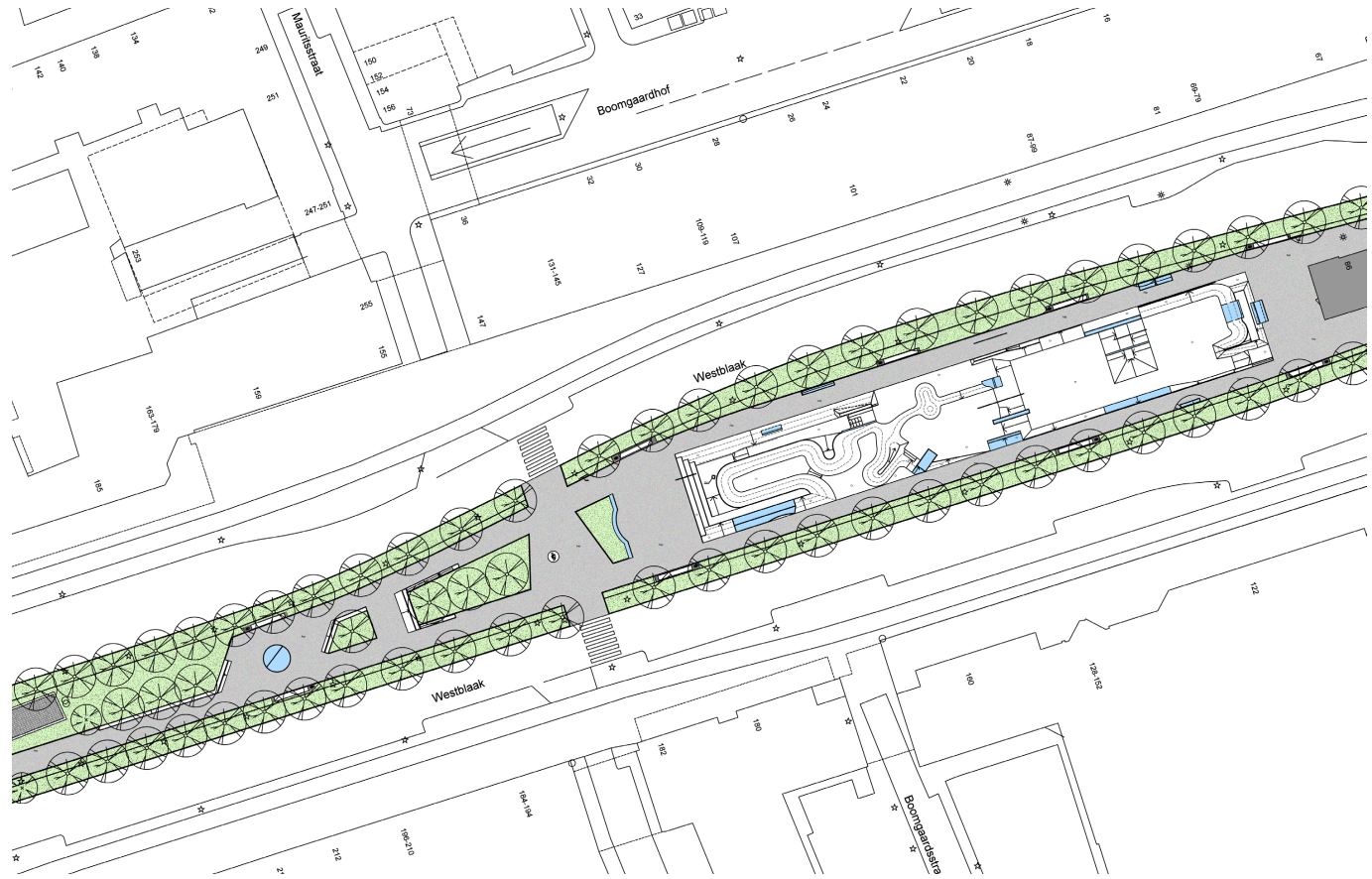
Users of the park were joining in the design process.



Construction workers were also skateboarders.



Details were carefully thought between the designers and builders.



EVALUATION

The City of Rotterdam initially looked at the redevelopment of the skate park as a 'necessary' technical repair for which only a limited budget was available and which therefore came down to replacing the old dilapidated elements with new comparable elements.

The initial position of the city resulted in a big political fight with a group of very effective activist skaters. It also led to a long stalemate. However, at some point, the activist skaters managed to convince politicians to invest more money and to ask for help from the Dutch Architecture Institute. This has strengthened both the position of stakeholders and the role design could play in this process.

Also, the position of the city changed, it came to realise the potential of the renewal of the skate park both as an investment in skate and youth culture as well an investment in an important public space in the city. With hindsight, both the enduring and often tough involvement of the activist skaters as well as the focus on quality by the city has resulted in a remarkable new public space which is proving to be a catalyst for the surrounding street life.

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