

# ROTTERDAM CONNECTED CITY

## CITY CENTRE MASTERPLAN & WESTERKADE, THE NETHERLANDS

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### Vision for public spaces

The core of the task at hand is to create an attractive public space, a project which far exceeds the scope of a mere cosmetic operation. A vital city offers space to urban life, i.e., the phenomenon that is to a large extent generated by pedestrians, cyclists and people generally going about their business on the streets. Abolishing discontinuities in the network of the public space has high priority. Improving the balance on the street is facilitated by fortifying the system of public spaces intervening between the different focal points. Boulevards in the city centre are assigned, to a much greater extent than at present, the function of binding sections together. Access to the centre is re-organized: a park-and-walk system at the edge of the centre, coupled to good pedestrian routes, ensures optimum accessibility. In turn, the old, long lines of the city form valuable connections between cores and poles in the city centre. At the sections level, the public space connects locations at the neighborhoods level.

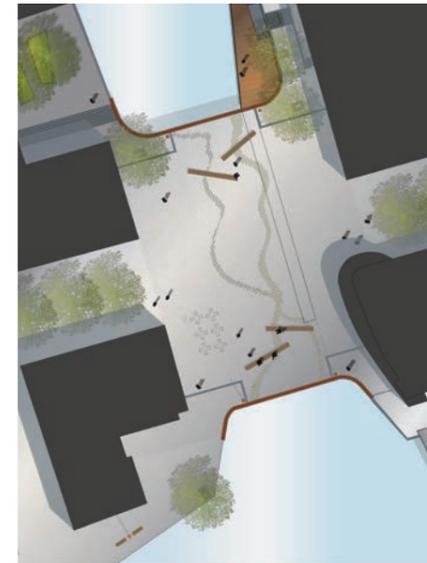
The project also includes an image upgrade for the public space. The basis for the transformation of this space is to be found in the underlying landscape, consisting of the Maas, the dikes and the old reclamations and routes. The relationship with the Maas calls for a strengthening of the meaning of the river as a source of recreation. Years ago, a step was already taken to assign a central role to the river in the heart of the city. Now, not only the notion of 'the city by the river' is being emphasized, but, in addition, the banks of the Maas are being transformed into carriers of recreational functions.

Rotterdam's public space increases in quality by making it greener: through the addition of green places and a greater

diversity amongst these, as well as by implementing sustainable solutions for rainwater catchments and the underground infrastructure. Greater differentiation in the public space is attained through the addition of a range of green courtyards to residential facilities, creation of green spots and strengthening of the overall green structure. Injecting a new layer of green spaces transforms the daily living environment; the resulting intensification offers opportunities for urban stratification, such as hanging gardens resulting from new green public spaces atop garages and roofs (roof gardens). The extra water obtained through rainwater catchments is used to create new types of green spaces for roofs.



Steps Detailed



Concept Plan Of Stadwater



Before



After



Initial Concept visual