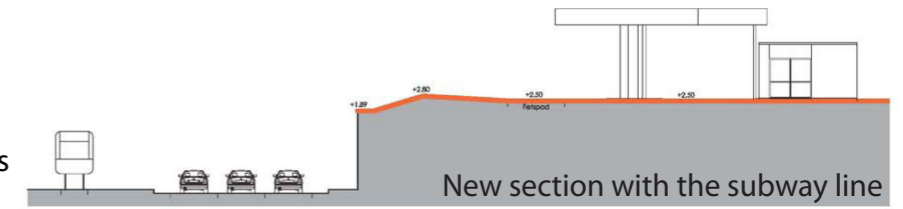


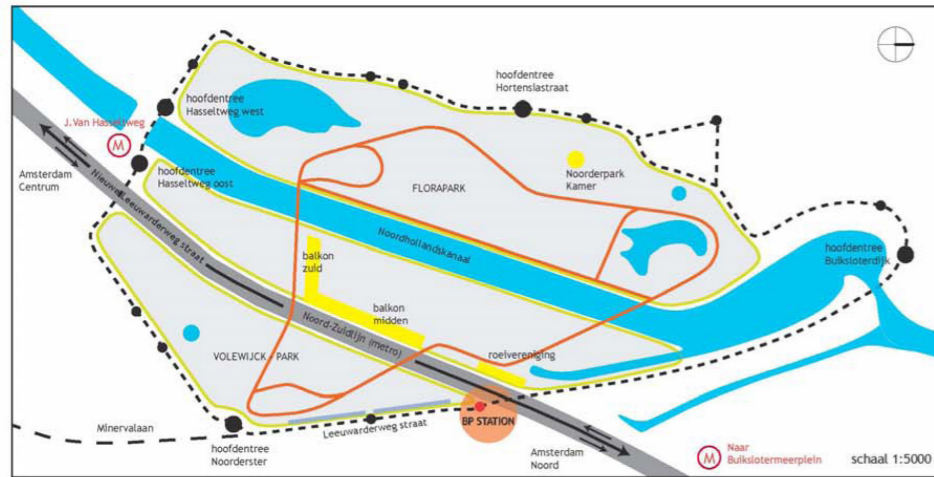
LED CLOUDS *Sophie Valla architects and Evert Verhagen* Former tank station, today a cultural center in Amsterdam North

Sophie Valla was given the mandate to refurbish two abandoned gas stations at the entrance of the new Noorderpark in Amsterdam North. New light installations turned the derelict buildings into colourful structures, creating an instant landmark for both drivers riding on the nearby highway and the park crowd.

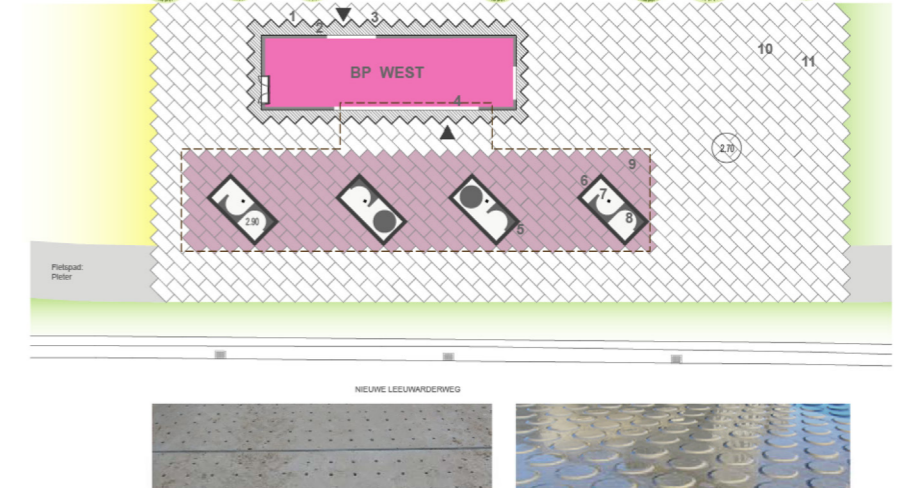
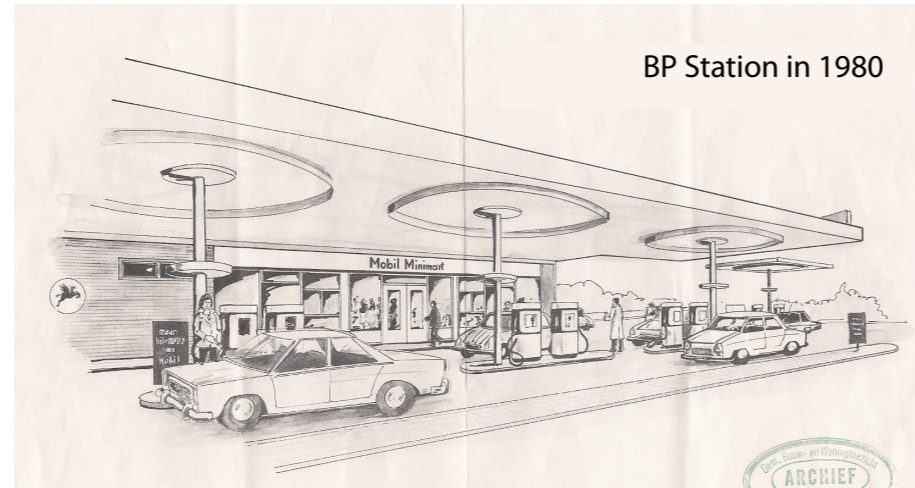


The Setting

The construction of the North-South subway presented Amsterdam North with the opportunity to turn the centre of Amsterdam North into a park. Sinking the Nieuwe Leeuwarderweg highway by seven meters allowed to merge three existing green spaces to create a Central Park for the residents of the area. The landscape architects West 8 planned the construction of three bridges over the sunken highway and the canal crossing the area in order to create a loop within the park. Two gas stations from the Eighties were going to be demolished, but for Mr Verhagen, the project manager, who saw an opportunity. The two buildings mirror each other on both sides of the park entrance. The space under the characteristic gas stations roofs was uniquely suited for public gathering. Verhagen asked Sophie Valla to turn the buildings into cultural centres.



The new Noorderpark



Phase 1: building renovation and design for a new plaza



Photo: Marcus Koppen

Phase 2: Permanent light installation and benches