Description of the intervention

HOSPER has designed a plaza where open functional spaces and green oases of lush vegetation alternate. The different shapes between the buildings have a life of their own and thus forge a soft and organic unity between the different residential and care buildings. The new, compact complex for the Zonnehuis Care Home is positioned on the eastern side of the site and integrates all forms of complex elderly care facilities. The building enables the residents to live in a home environment. Therefore the deliberate choice was made to develop three separate building volumes, each with its own architectural impact. The common facilities are spread over the ground floor of the volumes and are also accessible via the outside spaces. As a link between two buildings of the care home a special canopy was designed which is more than 40 meters long and has an undulating roof of glass and steel resembling 'floating leaves' which follow the design of the garden.

In addition to the Zonnehuis a fourth residential apartment building with a children's day-care facility was built. In the plaza floor around the care complex HOSPER designed gardens with perennials and a greenhouse for activities with residents. There is also a large terrace for the restaurant of the Zonnehuis and there is a playground for children. A walking ramp and exercise steps have been added to the perennial garden in favour of walking exercises for the elderly. Two gardens have been specifically designed as dementia friendly garden. They are made up of round, soft shapes avoiding twists and turns and dead corners, the fences have been softened by hiding them in a hedge and a clear difference in colour is created between walkways and flowerbeds.

The design for the outdoor space makes a strong connection with De Ontmoeting: a cohesive building that consists of four residential buildings on a multifunctional plinth (office, restaurant, medical functions) around a leafy courtyard garden. An underground car park was built under the building, continuing under part of the outdoor space. The connection between De Ontmoeting and the Zonnehuis Care Home is formed by large ornamental grass surfaces featured with trees. The roads for car traffic are positioned on the outside of the site. This allows the residents to move in a relaxed manner between the buildings of De Ontmoeting and the Zonnehuis Care Home. A major east-west pedestrian path forges together the Ontmoeting in the west, and the Zonnehuis in the east.