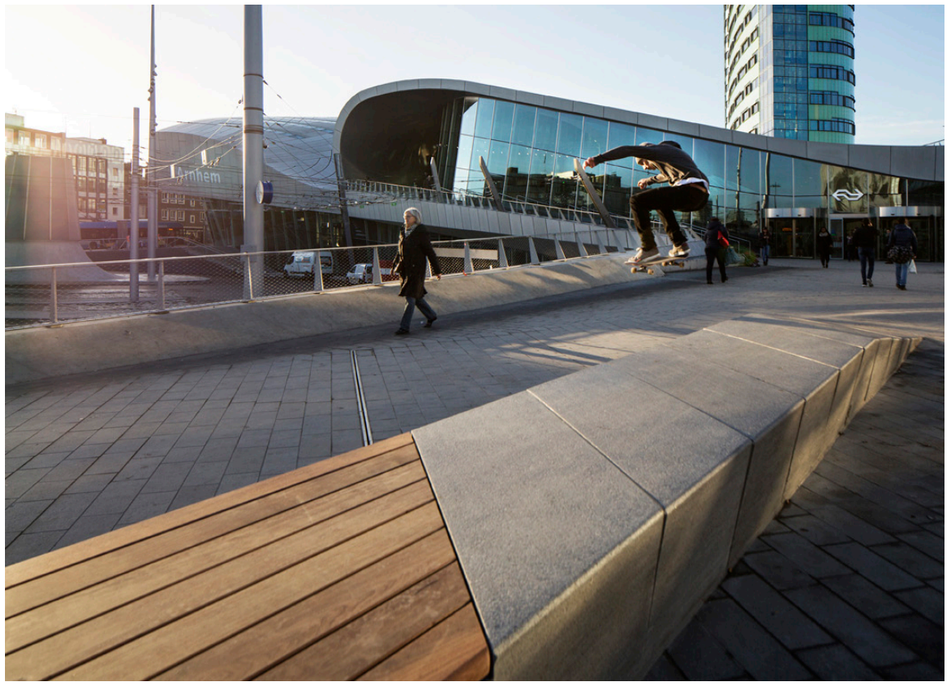
J205 Arnhem Central

Previous State
Arnhem Central Station is located just outside the city centre, somewhat isolated by a busy road. Until recently, arriving passengers often had to ask for directions to the centre.
The previous station was built in 1954. The nondescript building was hidden behind the bus terminal and a parking lot. The lay out was purely functional and was little inviting. It was a typical space of flow, as opposed to a space of place.
The station area lies on the slopes of the Veluwe massive, dipping into the lower landscape flanking the River Nederrijn. This results in a 20 meter height difference that has to be bridged in public space.

Before

Aim of intervention
At the end of the 20th century the municipality of Arnhem and the Dutch Railway decided to build a new station and to improve the public space around it. UN Studio designed an iconic building shaped to the flow of passengers. The public space is designed in close collaboration with the municipality, the Dutch Railway and UN Studio.
The ambition was to create top quality public space, facilitating the 65,000 passengers that use the station every day. But a high-quality station is much more than just public transport hub. The station and the surrounding public spaces, including facilities and meeting places are an important place of encounter for both inhabitants and travellers.
The second goal was to connect the station to its urban surroundings. The new station area should knit into the fabric of the city, making the routing to the centre easy and natural.