

public playground



Location/
Sint-Jobskade,
Rotterdam, the
Netherlands
Design/
Bekkering Adams
architecten

Photography/
DigiDaan
Area/
1,500 sqm

The design for a new space encompassing a school, sports facilities, and a public square is a pilot project resulting from research undertaken in 2007 on the potential of playgrounds for the public domain. The square is located on the Mullerpier in Rotterdam. It is a schoolyard for the primary school nearby, as well a public square. In the vicinity of the square are buildings with different functions, such as a home for elderly people, a business center, a theater, and housing. In the original urban plan, the square was a green oasis in the neighborhood. The reality was an empty plane of asphalt. Because there was no attraction, it was hardly ever used by the neighborhood. Also, schoolchildren found very little variety for play activities.

The new proposal was set up in cooperation with the school, parents, and people from the neighborhood. The plan includes the improved sports square where older children can play more competitive sports, and a smaller square where all children, especially younger children, can play safely in a diverse way.

Around the square is a green hedge, which together with the green rubber underground with a pattern of leaves, relates to the theme of "a secret garden." This was one of the demands for the projects envisioned by the main participants in the project. Today, the playground offers green shelter and many types of play space. The final result of the project encourages children to play in innovative ways, while adults can use the square as an outdoor neighborhood space.



