

Building a green Zuidas district

Amsterdam has the ambition to turn its most dense metropolitan district, the Zuidas, into a lively urban area for living and working, with green spaces contributing significantly to a high quality of life. The construction of a tunnel for the A10 Ring Road will deliver a rich green landscape which will assimilate the infrastructure, with green spaces on the car tunnels and the roofs of Amsterdam Zuid rail station's platforms, in the heart of the Zuidas district.

More than just colour

But Amsterdam's ambition extends beyond the central zone of the Zuidas, and beyond merely planting a few trees. The city wants to green the whole of the Zuidas district with a variety of trees, shrubs, herbs, climbing plants as well as various different forms of green spaces, such as green squares, pocket parks, green roofs and patio gardens.

A growing city needs to invest in green spaces

Densification increases the need for usable and meaningful green spaces. They can be given meaning by according them clear, socially significant roles and values (use, experience and

future values). With little public or green space available, the new lay-out of the Zuidas district will be designed with surgical precision and include both the public and private space. The plan's main focus is on a comprehensive design for the (green) public space. All the issues which are important for the development of the densely built Zuidas are taken into account in this green public space, including the area's use, climate, drainage and biodiversity.

The plan provides a framework for the design of the green public space, including targets and concrete measures. It will serve as a link between the city's comprehensive green strategies such as the Green Agenda and actual designs of specific areas. The plan looks at all types of green space in the area, including metropolitan landscapes, city green space, neighbourhood green space, the greening of specific plots and the connecting networks of green and blue spaces.

Defining feature

As well as the design, the plan also looks at the process of how we can plan, develop and maintain a future green Zuidas. A range of measures have

been taken to steer this process. These include the appointment of a green advisor, an ecological specialist and a green supervisor, as well as collaborating with grid operators, communication with local residents and businesses, including green space in the building envelope and taking into account management funds. These measures should help realise the ambition to give the Zuidas district a green boost. The plan for a green Zuidas makes green space into a defining feature of this dense, mixed metropolitan business and residential area.



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