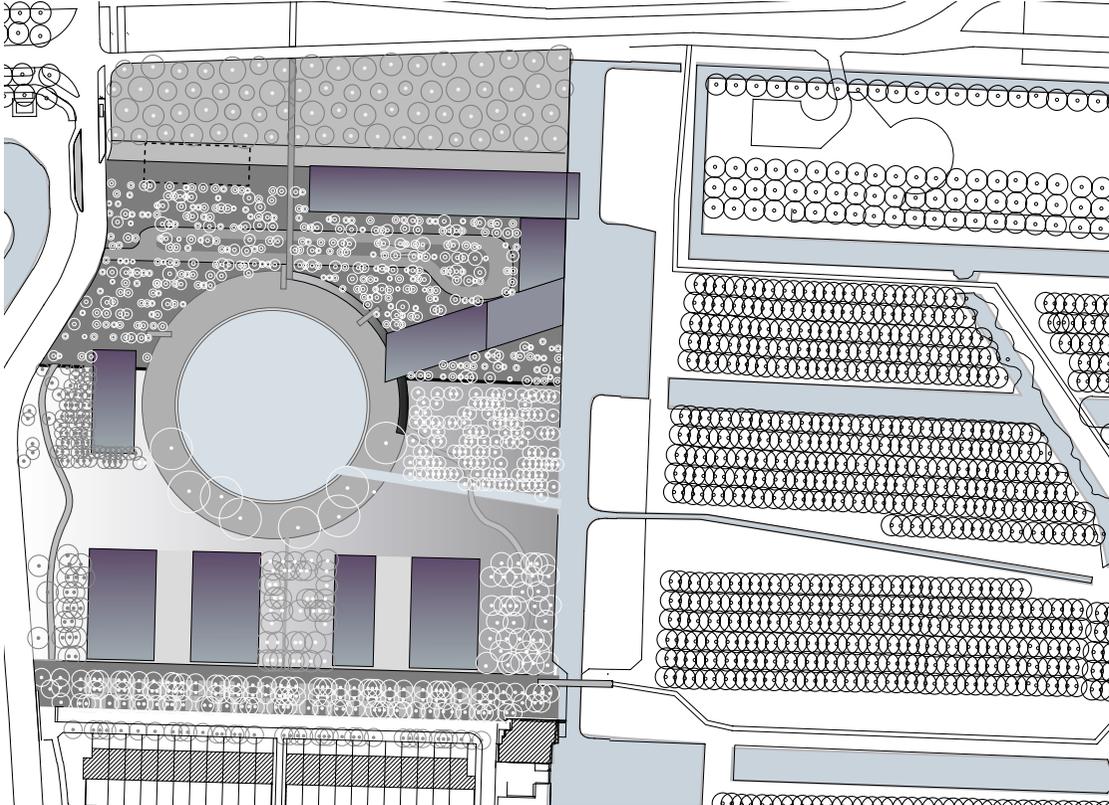


Combined dwelling/office area A'veen

Landscape Architects for SALE

2000

Urban masterplan and design of public space for a new residential area with houses and offices at the edge of town.



In Amstelveen on the edge between city and countryside a new residential area is developed right on top of the never realised A3 highway. The neighbourhood with its strong linear character forms a sharp cityedge. At the end of the line as last piece in the puzzle a location is developed with a mix of functions: various offices, hybrid living/business dwellings and a childcare center. The location lies strategically in four directions: to the north big offices, south suburban dwellings, west the city and east the rural landscape. Because of an overhead aviaional noise border that prohibits dense building there's room for an overkill of public space. The design bends this to an advantage by making two layers that hook up with the surroundings. The urban layer connects to the ritmics of the buildings of the A3 line. The park layer connects to the ritmics of the landscape. An enormous cirkel of water connects both layers and forms a link between the four different surroundings. The 'dangerous' form of the cirkel is the the only one capable of such great connectivity while staying autonomous itself. It organises all program and routing and introduces landscape scale. The different buildings all vary in function but are designed as a whole. Unity comes out of materialisation, and oriëntation. The buildings have 'closed' facades with rough material at the outsides like stonebaskets and rough wood and open facades with glass at the insides. The materials used in the buildings are also used in the park, coarse stone walls, rough wooden furniture. The park part in the south is built up with allees of sculptural trees and colorful ecological carpets of wild flowers. The park part in the north where most offices are located has a gravel floor with a series of plantrows that flower in different ritmics. The cirkel with its wide stony edge cuts itself into the upwards tilted northpart and rises above the downwards tilted southpart.

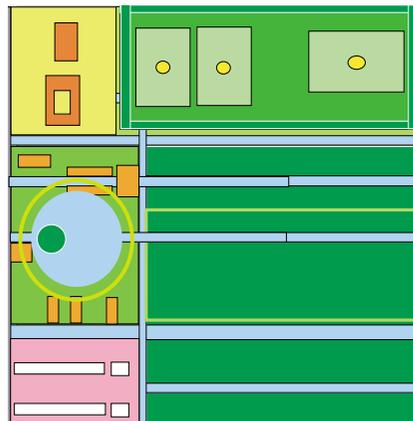
Landscape position

Link in surrounding areas

Ecology

Watercirkel

Unity in material

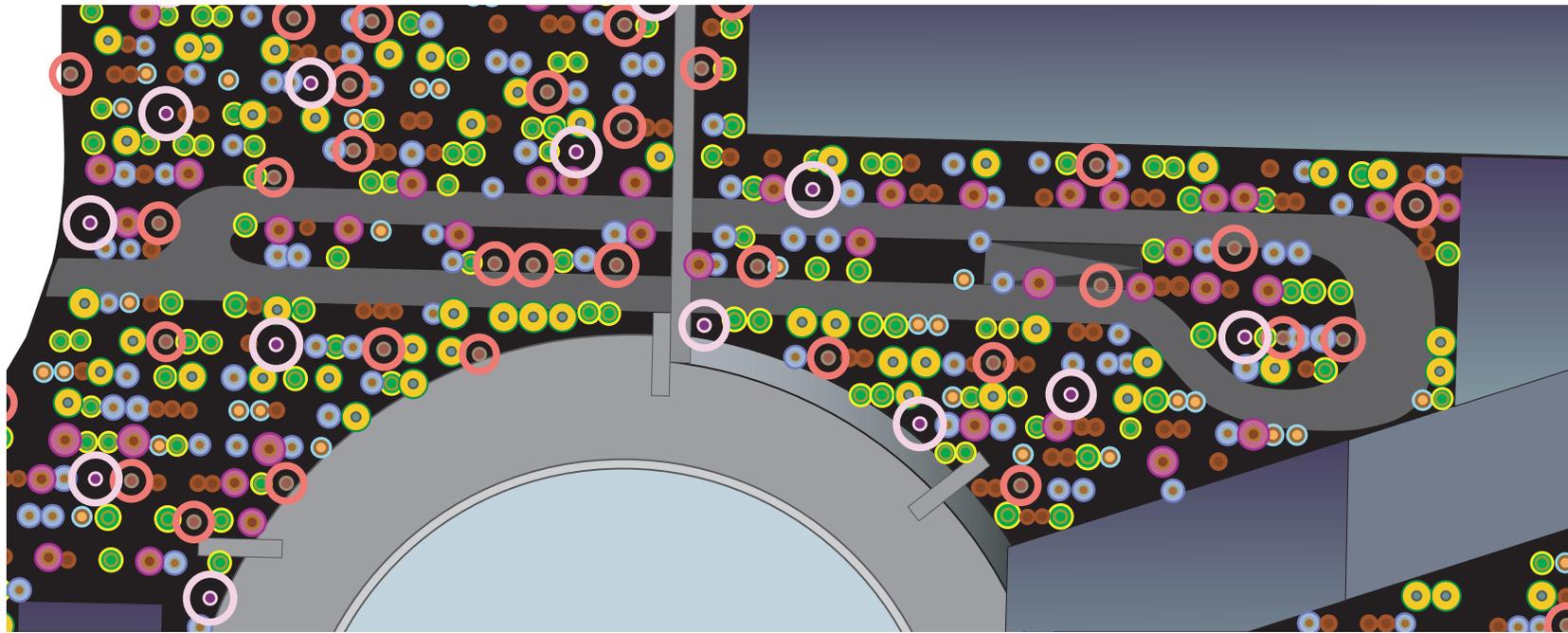


Combined dwelling/office area A'veen

Detailed plan for the north area in front of the main office building.

Landscape Architects for SALE

2001



A field of 7.500 square meters of plants is created to give the site landscape scale. This sparkling and ritmical tapestry of colors and leaf-forms provides a changing atmosphere over the months. The combination of planttypes are not chosen to shine in harmony but instead to create strong dissonants with eachoter; fragile and fresh Irisses and Lillies with sturdy and dry grasses; shy white sphere-formed grass with obnoxious yellow Forsythia. They go together like sweet and sour and interplay with the two styles of architecture in the area: soft and wooden vs. strong and stony. The dense planting prohibits car traffic and especially parking in the area and guides without the need of obvious guiding objects or signs.

