

BRINGING NATURE BACK INTO THE CITY



Halfway through the 20th century, Utrecht sacrificed its historic city canal for the construction of a 10-lane highway, which separated the historic city center and the new construction around the station. Today, this area is located right next to the busiest train station and shopping center in the Netherlands and has become part of the redevelopment of the station area for sustainable further growth in the future.

After the people of Utrecht expressed themselves in favor of returning the historic canal belt, the municipality initiated a restoration, of which OKRA took care of the final phase. We designed it as a modern interpretation and extension of the historic park surrounding the city and turned it into a green-blue vein of the city.

Today, the park feels like it has been there forever, even though it is focused on providing modern solutions in mobility, ecology, and social and natural inclusiveness. As a result, the park has been embraced by residents and visitors as a place for activity and relaxation.



CATHARIJNESINGEL Utrecht - The Netherlands

Design: 2017 - 2018
Execution: 2019 - 2022
Client: Municipality of Utrecht
Collaborators: Witteveen+Bos, D. van der Steen BV

Winner of 2022 edition of
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OKRA