

The Green Mile

Amsterdam, NL

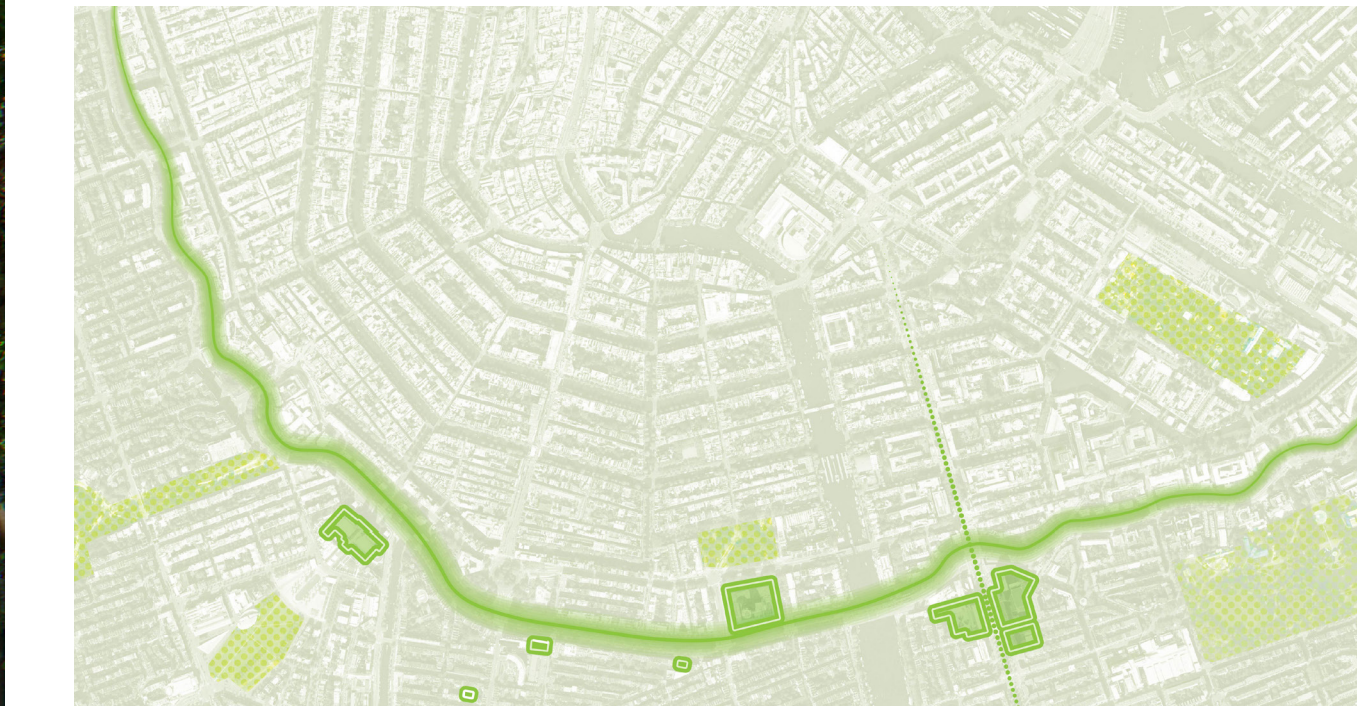
The Stadhouderskade is the most polluted and dangerous street in Amsterdam. The Rijksmuseum, Heineken, De Nederlandsche Bank, Hogeschool van Amsterdam, UNStudio and Blendingbricks, all located on Stadhouderskade, have joined forces to transform this important traffic axis in Amsterdam into a meaningful and future-proof place for people, animals and nature. An attractive place to meet, to stay, to walk, to sport and to play.



Analysis

The Stadhouderskade

The Stadhouderskade is part of the main spatial structure of Amsterdam. This route connects large city parks (e.g. Vondelpark and Oosterpark) as ecological hotspots for flora and fauna, but also important cultural and educational institutions of Amsterdam (e.g. Rijksmuseum, Hogeschool van Amsterdam).



Current situation

The location functions as an edge zone; an infrastructural ring around the center. Cars and cyclists dominate the area. The quality of stay in the public space is very low. It's a place to move through, rather than a place to stay.



Pollution

Due to the large amount of car traffic, the Stadhouderskade is one of the most seriously polluted locations in Amsterdam in terms of air quality and noise level. Moreover, the prognosis is that the traffic pressure will increase even further.



Road safety

Intersections on the Stadhouderskade are among the blackspots of Amsterdam in terms of road safety. In addition, (tour) boats dominate the Singelgracht. This heavy traffic load disturbs animals and nature in and along the canal.



History : Nature vs culture

The canal has traditionally been the boundary between the cultivated urban environment and the natural environment. Later it became a strolling route along the water.



Future: From ring road to route for local traffic

In the vision of the municipality of Amsterdam for 2050, the character of the Stadhouderskade will change from a through ring road around the center to a route for local traffic with a lower speed.



Vision

The Stadhouderskade has a lot of potential to become a special place. A number of core values are already there. There are beautiful trees. It is located on the water, connects many side roads to small parks and houses beautiful companies, museums, icons along the road and in the neighborhood. These just don't work right now. The realization of the potential quality of The Green Mile is happening step by step. Together with the local residents,

we make a plan for each location that is based on the common vision. In this way, The Green Mile transforms into a coherent whole of green spaces where residents and users feel at home. The collaboration between the municipality of Amsterdam and The Green Mile organization supports this step-by-step adaptive transformation. This inclusive organizational model can be applied to the entire canal zone around the

centre. The Green Mile offers space for flora and fauna and at the same time improves the living environment of people. For example, with water filtering, animal-friendly quays, floating platforms and green areas to make insects, birds and other animals feel at home.

To guarantee support and cohesion within this process-based approach, an inspiring vision of the future is

essential. An important function of research by design is to depict the possible positive future, both in words and images. This turned out to be an important link in translating the intentions into concrete actions. By mutual understanding and trust between the private and public parties was created.

Stakeholders

The Green Mile movement consists of three lines:

Programming

Events, social gatherings and other activities that bring people together.

Politics

An organization for representation and

mutual coordination of common interests.

Physically

The research by design creates a framework and offers tools to transform the Stadhouderskade in Amsterdam.

Together with all stakeholders, we draw up the vision for The Green Mile. This includes both human and non-human stakeholders, such as plants and animals. A future-proof city is designed for people, nature and animals. The vision will be adjusted on the basis of the lessons learned from the first projects. This creates an inclusive, self-learning movement.

For each location, a group of stakeholders is gathered who, through workshops, make a plan for the new environment (future use and maintenance).

