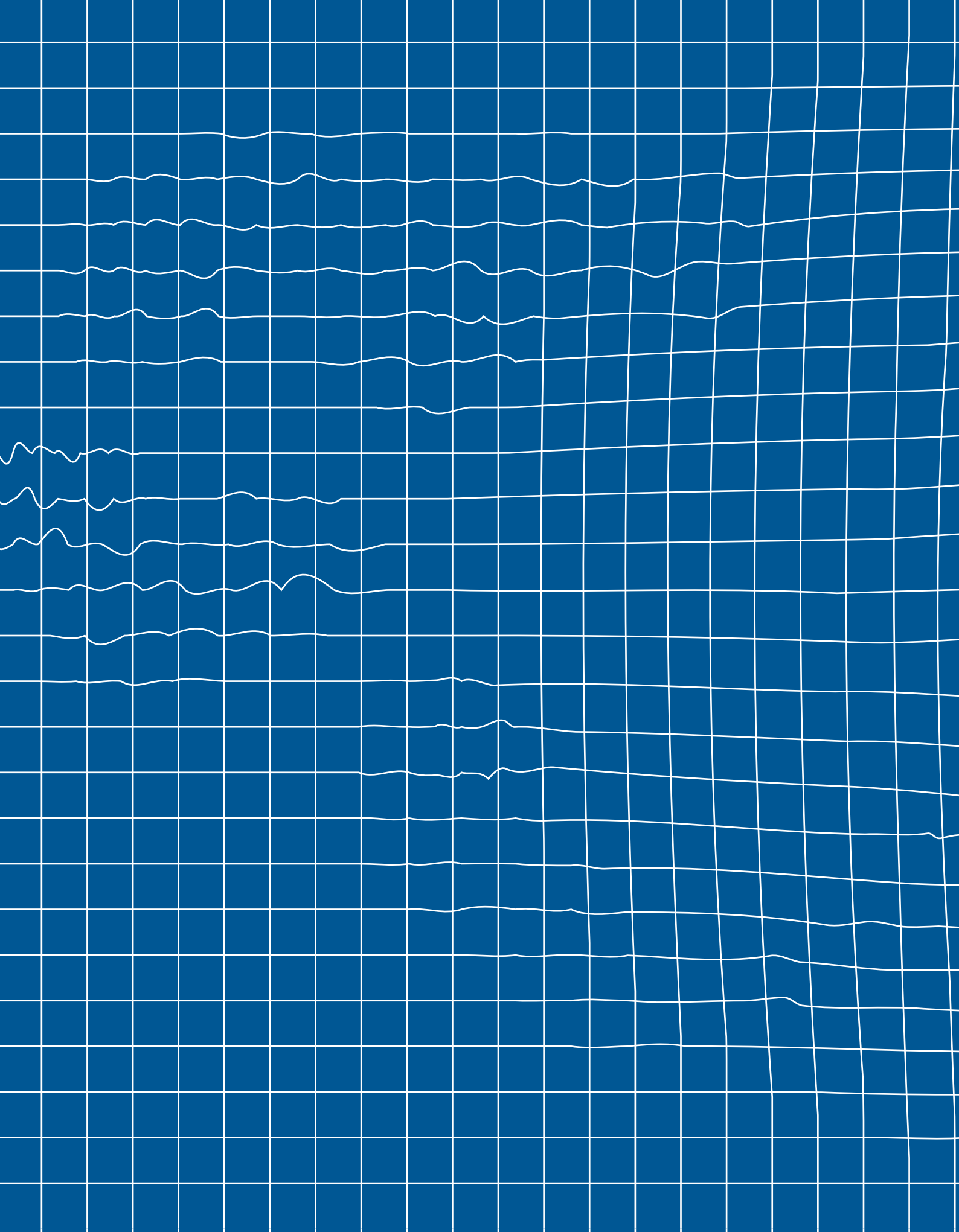
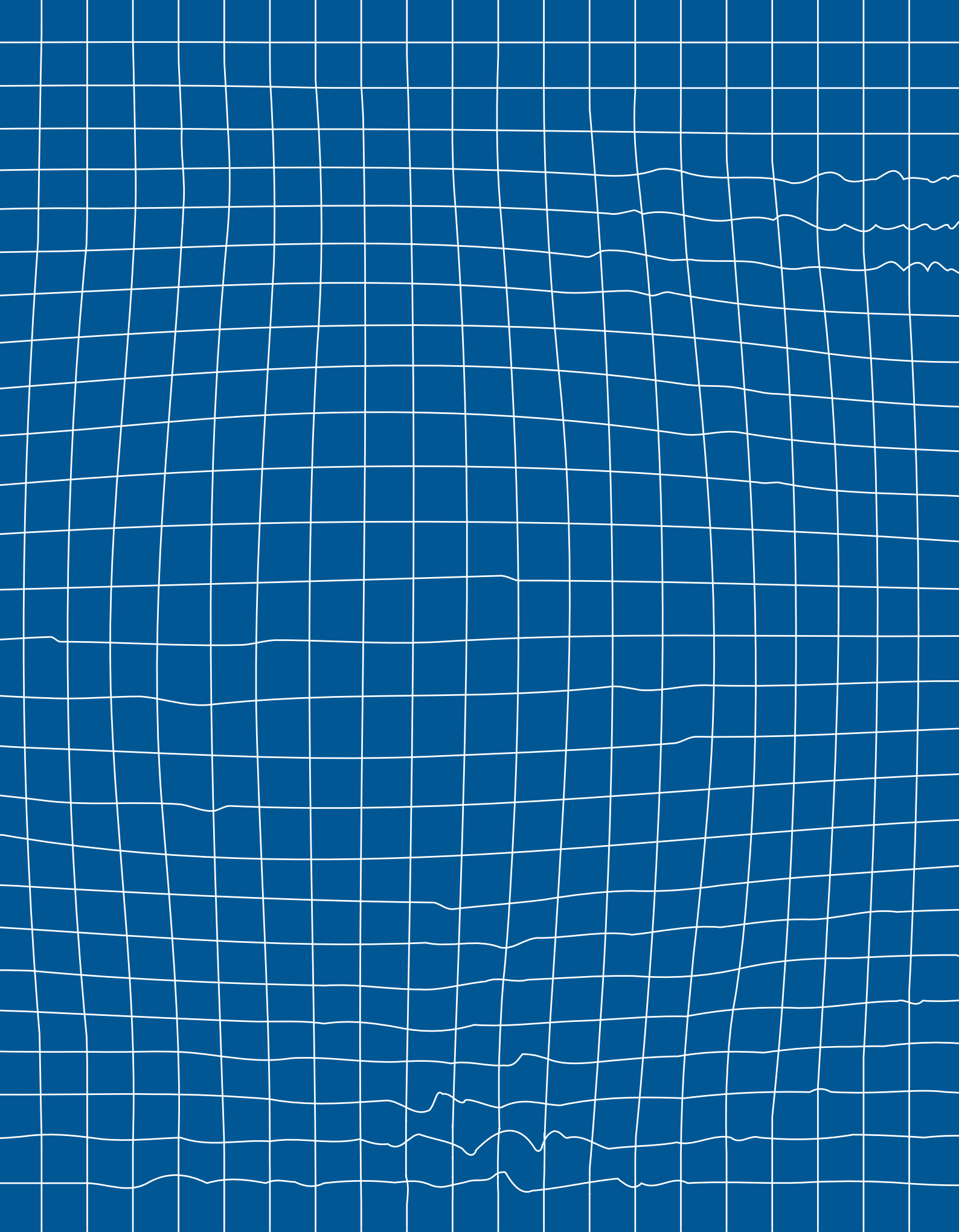


# Marineterrein Amsterdam

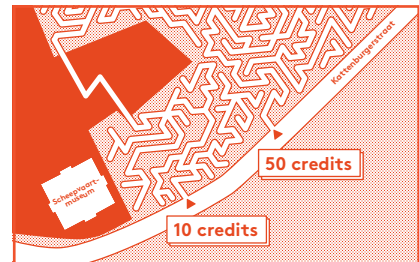






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# Doing things differently

Marineterrein Amsterdam is looking for answers to our rapidly changing world. Globalization and technological innovation are constantly changing our immediate environment. How can we keep our city and society liveable when we have so little control over what causes these changes?

We only have one chance to redevelop this part of the city centre. The Dutch government and the Municipality of Amsterdam have taken a unique approach to finding a joint solution. In addition to the usual administrative processes, the redevelopment will also be driven by the activities on site. This will help to define a clear ambition and develop the necessary knowledge and skills to stay on course in a constantly changing environment.

The organizations at the Marineterrein focus on issues like learning, water quality, health, and an increasing lack of space. They develop and test innovative solutions and, if these prove useful, they apply them in practice immediately. Developing, testing, and implementing is the best way to find solutions to the challenges we face in our complex world.

This magazine describes the current developments at the Marineterrein. Researchers, makers, and thinkers share their stories and we explore the past and the people who live in the area. Marineterrein Amsterdam is more than just a part of Amsterdam – it's a community that extends far beyond the physical boundaries of the site. A community that knows things can be done differently.

**Liesbeth Jansen, Project Leader at Bureau Marineterrein Amsterdam**

**Thijs Meijer, Deputy Director of Bureau Marineterrein Amsterdam**



# Hand-made

Designing, testing,  
and implementing.  
The Marineterrein is  
all about concrete  
results.



Text: Roos Menkorst  
Photography: Aisha Zeijpveld

# Measuring motion

**Data and sensing expert Alessandro Bozzon works at the Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Metropolitan Solutions (AMS Institute) and sees the Marineterrein as a living lab.**

How do you deal with an ever-changing city? And how do you prepare that city for the future? The city as a challenge. Alessandro Bozzon, head of Data & Intelligence, discusses this topic with enthusiasm. 'The Marineterrein can give us the opportunity to conduct research in the field of sensing.'

**Living lab** 'The Marineterrein will be our new home base. It's the perfect place to play and offers the unique opportunity to conduct measurements close to home and carry out experiments using the same configurations we use in the city,' he explains enthusiastically.

'This is a unique opportunity to experiment continuously'

It is a true living lab, where you can use cameras to count the number of passers-by. 'The cameras we use are "privacy-aware": they only register the number of people and pass on a number.'

**Custom building** Experiments on light and activity sensors can also be carried out. The AMS Institute will soon install temperature sensors in their building. 'Climate is one of the biggest problems for office workers,' says Bozzon. 'Some people are too hot, others too cold. By taking and analysing different measurements, we can make changes in the building accordingly.'

**Adapting the city** The ultimate goal of these measurements? 'Techniques like these can help us with crowd management and urban planning,' explains Bozzon. 'The more we know about how people travel through a space, the more we can adapt the city to our needs in a fast and dynamic way.'

# The necessity of failure

**Peter van Sabben, a co-founder of Growth Tribe, tells us about lifelong learning.**

The wall is lined with posters that read, 'Keep failing till you make it' and 'Get shit done'. A huge sign is used to keep track of the employees' various failures. The fail of the month is rewarded with a party. The E-wing, which once housed the navy's electronics programme, is now home to Growth Tribe, an academy that teaches you the digital skills you need to adapt to online developments. 'Both companies and individuals enrol in our courses,' says co-founder Van Sabben.

**Relaxed** The average age of the employees is 25. Lunch is eaten standing up. I look around and see two colleagues discussing work while making their way through a miniature indoor golf course. Van Sabben points to the hammock. That's a great spot to relax between teaching classes.' Classes are held next door, in a glass-walled room.

**Experiments** What do course participants learn? The two-day course trains them to become growth hackers. 'It's easier to determine what people want online,' says Van Sabben. 'If you run a website, you want to know how many people visit it. You want to know what they see, how they make comparisons, and whether they came from Google or Facebook. By conducting continuous online tests with your visitors, you start to understand what they want.' It's all about fast and continuous experimentation.

**Always learning** Van Sabben wants to give people a better online experience. According to him, many companies have been too lazy for too long. 'Everyone who works here knows how to build a simple website. It's a basic yet important skill.' Growth hacking is not only useful for companies, but also for others interested in this field. Growth Tribe is primarily geared towards people between 30 and 50 years old. The curriculum is updated every month with the latest developments. Learning digital skills is a lifelong process, says Van Sabben. 'You have to understand how the digital world works if you want to stay relevant on the job market.' He stops to think. Today's growth hacking may be tomorrow's artificial intelligence, blockchain, or robotics. 'You never stop learning.'



'We saw water  
fleas in the  
sewage water'





# Heleen's samples

## Water and health expert Heleen de Man researched the water quality of the Marineterrein's inner harbour.

Earlier this year, Heleen de Man used a manhole hook to open some eighty sewer drains at the Marineterrein. 'The lids came off quite easily,' she says. De Man took samples everywhere she went to better understand the quality of the water. In order for the Marineterrein's inner harbour to qualify as an official swimming location, the water measurements have to be contamination-free for two years. De Man found no problem at all with the water. 'It was crystal clear and we even saw water fleas and other aquatic life in the sewage water.'

**What causes contamination?** These results came as quite a surprise, given that people had previously fallen ill after swimming in Amsterdam's canals. Previous measurements revealed that the water was contaminated at the time. The question was where that contamination was coming from. The water experts got to work. Was it caused by waste disposal from passing ships on the IJ? Was it coming from the canals? Or was something else going on?

**New samples after rainfall** Research found that the water quality was particularly bad after it rains. This inspired a new hypothesis: a faulty connection could be to blame. In order to test this theory, De Man headed to the Marineterrein on 29 May 2018 – a day with heavy rainfall – to take new samples. She pried open dozens of sewer drains and discovered that several rainwater drainage pipes were connected to the Marineterrein's waste water sewage system.

**Safe swimming water** 'The waste water sewage system can't handle heavy rainfall,' De Man explains. 'As a result, a mixture of rainwater and waste water flows through the so-called emergency exit and into the inner harbour.' The solution is as simple as it is effective: the rainwater has to be channelled back to the rainwater sewage system. 'We plan to move the emergency exit to the other side of the Marineterrein,' says De Man. The measurements will be complete in the summer of 2020, after which the water will hopefully be deemed swim-proof. ♦

# A 3D printer on every desk

## Bas van Berkestijn, managing director of Borges, is developing a search engine for 3D models.

'Vincent van Gogh lived in this room from 1877 to 1878. He was a theology student at the time,' explains Bas van Berkestijn with pride. Van Gogh's uncle was director of the Marinewerf (naval dockyard) at that time, which explains why the artist-to-be was allowed to live here. More than 140 years later, a database for 3D design is being developed in this very spot.

**3D figures** Van Berkestijn gives us a short tour. In the corridor, 3D printed figures of the company's nine-person team are on display. One floor up, a basic 3D printer just started printing a new object, layer by layer.

**Machine learning** 'Our mission is to create a database of all possible 3D models,' says Van Berkestijn. 'We don't want to add them one by one; instead, we want to generate the designs using user input. This is also known as machine learning.' He offers an example. 'Imagine you're looking for a vase. You find a standard vase in the database. but to create a more original one, you could use the input of others to change the shape and create a unique design,' he says.

**3D dream** The start-up was named after Jorge Luis Borges, the author of the short story 'The Library of Babel', about a library containing every possible book. 'Borges aims to democratize the design process,' says Van Berkestijn. In other words: to empower anyone, anywhere, to create anything. This is the dream Van Berkestijn and his team have been pursuing for years now. Unfortunately, reality is a little trickier. Different reports predicted that 3D printers were the future.

‘They thought everyone would have a 3D printer on their desks by 2016.’ That’s clearly not the case. In addition to being expensive, 3D printing is also something that’s best left to the professionals. ‘Consumers have yet to embrace 3D printing, but this could change ten years from now.’

**Timing and luck** To some extent, both timing and luck factor into the success of any start-up. Seeing how difficult it is to get the average consumer interested in 3D printing, Borges is focusing on bigger companies instead: on DIY shops and large-scale furniture manufacturers. ‘Imagine needing a part for a wardrobe you bought six years ago. At the click of a button you’ll end up at Borges, where you can design and order your product.’ Van Berkestijn is convinced that 3D printing is our future. ‘The only risk is that we don’t know when that future will arrive.’ ♦

# Learning through play

**For Hayo Wagenaar, co-founder of IJsfontein, life is about learning through play. IJsfontein develops a wide range of digital applications geared towards personal development.**

Hayo Wagenaar is a familiar face at the Marineterrein. For him, innovation started with the CD-ROM, he explains in his office. He co-founded IJsfontein in 1997 together with Jan Willem Huisman. The two met while studying interaction design and developed a game as part of their graduation project to teach children about the principles of physics. It was an instant hit. ‘It also marked the start of IJsfontein,’ says Wagenaar.

**Playful methods** More than two decades later, the company – with forty employees and a branch in Germany – has a turnover of four million euros per year. They make games and installations and develop VR projects. In addition to designing for children, IJsfontein also develops educational applications for adults. ‘We are constantly trying to advance our field through playful methods,’ explains Wagenaar. ‘You can explain how things work, or you can have people experience it first-hand.’

**Experiencing dementia** The examples are countless: IJsfontein develops projects for museums, for children, for e-health applications, and for major companies. By way of example, he refers to Into D’mentia, a project commissioned by a foundation that promotes the interests of caregivers. For this project, they built an interactive home in a shipping container to help caregivers experience how someone with the early stages of dementia experiences the world. ‘The visitors are given a jacket with integrated speakers. A voice gives them commands, such as “walk to the kitchen” or “open the refrigerator.” Suddenly an angry daughter appears, but they don’t understand why she’s angry. They’re asked to turn off the radio, but they don’t know how. Visitors become increasingly confused which, of course, is the objective,’ Wagenaar emphasizes.

**Learning by doing** ‘We want to create experiences that teach people something. Our motto: just do it.’ Wagenaar stands and takes me on a short tour of the building. In the corridor, a large LEGO board with figures and coloured blocks is affixed to the wall as a kind of decoration. ‘It seemed like a good idea at the time,’ says Wagenaar with a sigh. He points to the board. ‘We wanted our employees to use the board to illustrate the projects they’re working on.’ He expected it to produce a colourful pattern that changed daily. A few months later, he was forced to conclude that this was not the case. ‘Projects simply don’t move very fast in real life.’ He shrugs, then adds: ‘The only way to see if something works is to test it.’ ♦

'You can explain how things work, or you can have people experience it first-hand'



'Virtual reality will allow us  
to experience things we've  
never dreamed of'



# Star Trek's holodeck: from science fiction to reality

**The Netherlands Film Academy recently opened the VRAcademy. Director Bart Römer was involved in the academy's inception and tells us more about it.**

The VRAcademy currently consists of two classrooms at the Marineterrein, where a select group of students from the Netherlands Film Academy and other academies from the Amsterdam University of the Arts have been learning the basics of virtual reality since January of this year. 'We teach them how to edit a VR video, how to tell a story, and where to position the camera,' says Römer. VR gives the audience a 360-degree view. 'They get to really experience something, which is very different from watching a drama series on Netflix,' he says with a laugh.

**Melting pot** 'Immersive media has become the Film Academy's most popular specialization,' says Römer. VR is part of that; however, the academy couldn't accommodate this growing specialization. So when a spot opened up at the Marineterrein, Römer was immediately interested. 'Connections and coffee table conversations are extremely important.' An example of such a connection is VRBase, a Marineterrein community where makers and storytellers come together and work together, and of which the Film Academy and the

VRAcademy are members. The VRBase is located on the same floor as the VRAcademy. Here, you can share your knowledge with young Film Academy talents. 'The Marineterrein is a real melting pot that bubbles and boils.'

**Further research** The effects? 'No one knows, but that doesn't make this place any less important.' He finds it all incredibly exciting. 'I don't know where we'll be in ten years, but that shouldn't stop us from exploring new techniques. The first smartphone hit the market eleven years ago and the first iPad was released in 2010. The world has changed so much since then.'

**Spectacular** The VRAcademy is still conducting small computer-based experiments at the moment, but ultimately plans to build installations for more extensive experiments. Römer can't wait; his first experiences with VR were spectacular. He recalls the Oscar-winning installation *Carne y Arena* by acclaimed director Alejandro González Iñárritu: 'You walk across a floor of sand. On your way from here to nowhere you experience what it's like to be a refugee. Something like that makes more of an impression than any debate ever could.' Römer continues enthusiastically. 'Pretty soon, all we'll need is a headset or a phone.' Where will this take us? He thinks about it, then says: 'We won't be able to distinguish the virtual world from the real one any more. The holodeck from Star Trek will become reality.' ♦



A top-down view of a white desk. In the upper left, a clear plastic water bottle is partially filled with water. To its right is a white ceramic coffee cup filled with black coffee. Below the water bottle is a light blue notepad. A black card with white text is placed on top of the notepad. Two blue pencils are lying diagonally across the notepad and card. To the right of the notepad is a white card with a blue section containing white text. In the bottom right corner, there are several blue LEGO bricks scattered on the desk surface.

All  
about...

...how they  
tackle things  
in other cities

Text: JaapJan Berg  
Illustrations: Jorien Kemerink

# Only Lyon?

## New French developments

### Lyon, Carré de Soie, summer 2018

I've been working on my article about innovative forms of organic regional development for some time now. In it, I compare several planned or current examples of regional development in the Netherlands and abroad.

In the Netherlands, I chose to focus on the Oosterwold area in Almere. There, a new neighbourhood was created by actively involving residents and asking them to play a role in the design and management of the area. They refer to it as organic urban planning, which looks nothing like the way the rest of the young city was created. Instead of detailed urban plans, the final result was shaped step by step.

The second location I visited was the Marineterrein in Amsterdam, which is undergoing gradual transformation to create room for living, working, and recreation at a central location in the city. I closely follow all of the steps and developments. Thank you for sending the reports from the meet-ups you organized this year!

The third location was a 500-hectare area in Lyon called Carré de Soie, just outside the city centre. It's an interesting case because the market parties are the ones taking the initiative. This is rather unusual in France, where the government usually makes the first move in the form of an active land policy known as Zone d'Aménagement Concerté (joint development zone, ZAC). In this case, the municipality owns or attempts to gain ownership of the land. While the ZAC is still applied in Lyon, this ground policy plays a less prominent role in the process. The initiative is now in the hands of the well-known Pathé group, which wants to build a large, new cinema complex there. The government formulated objectives for the gradual development of the area. Investments are also being made to extend the metro lines towards this area as part of the redevelopment of the eastern part of the city.

It may sound dull, but it's actually fascinating to see whether the formulated objectives will be met during the project, in which citizens, the government, and market parties work together. Given the experimental nature, the gradual development of the area, and the removal of administrative burdens, Carré de Soie and the Marineterrein bear a striking resemblance to one another.

**Jeanne Malice**



'Market parties are taking the initiative.'



# A fit city

Sporty spaces inspire fitness

**Boulder (Colorado, USA), June 2018**

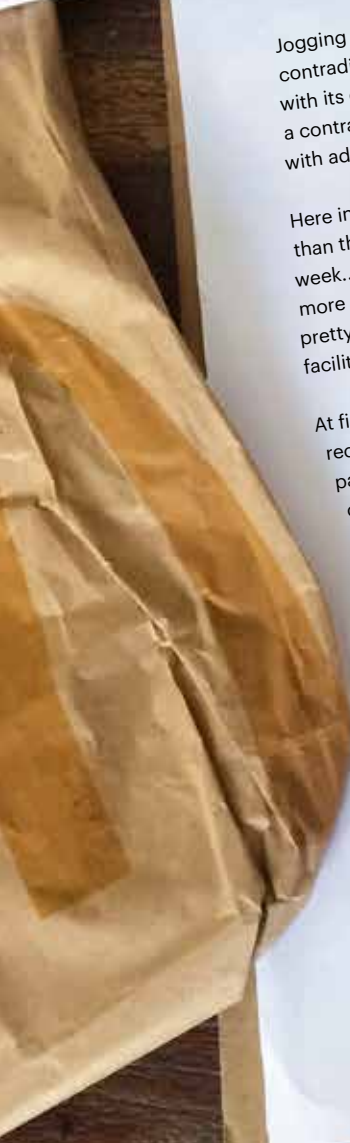
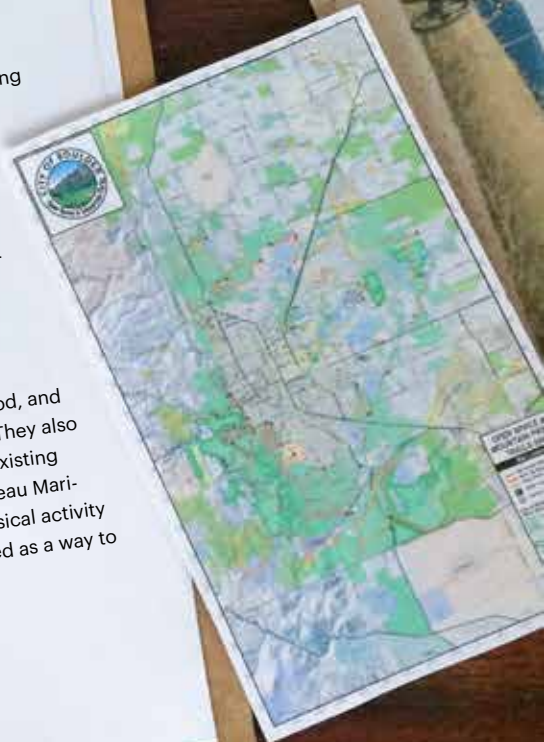
Jogging through Wonderland Lake Park, I realize that the average American is full of contradictions. A good example of this is America's infatuation with sport combined with its debilitating obesity epidemic. Major sporting events like the Super Bowl are a contradiction in terms: elite athletes competing for a national title are interspersed with ads for sugary drinks and high-calorie, super-sized foods.

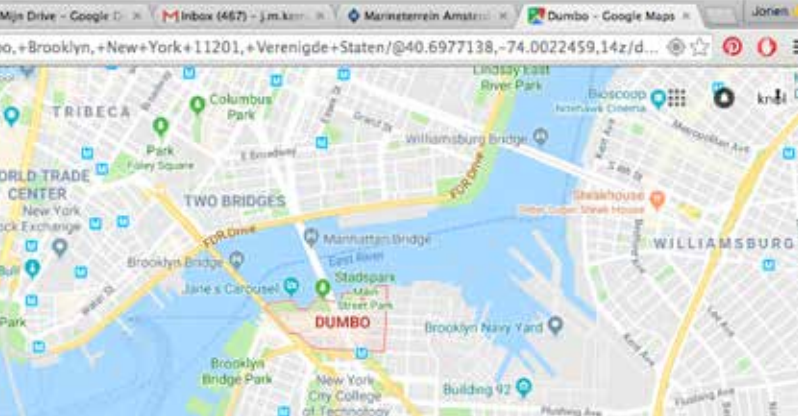
Here in Boulder, Colorado, one side of that double-sided coin is represented more than the other: nearly 70% of the local population exercises three or more times a week... or claims to do so, according to a recent Gallup and Sharecare poll. This is far more than the 53% estimate for the U.S. population as a whole. Nevertheless, this is a pretty impressive number. But what does it mean for a city, its spatial design, and its facilities?

At first glance, Boulder's layout doesn't seem particularly sporty. I know of three recreation centres, two outdoor swimming pools, a golf course, and a large cycling park. The latter – spanning an area of 42 hectares designed for young and old cyclists alike – is unusual compared to other cities. Boulder, with a population of roughly 100,000, is also notable for having sixty parks. That's one park for every 1,600 residents. By comparison, Amsterdam has 45 parks for its 850,000 residents. While numbers don't tell the whole story, they do reveal that there is plenty of room to exercise in close proximity to residential areas, which has a positive effect on the amount of exercise residents get. Sporty spaces inspire fitness and bring a fit city closer together.

That's why the efforts to create more spots for sport and exercise at the Marineterrein are so well-received. It's good for the city, the neighbourhood, and the residents. A fitness garden was recently opened at the Marineterrein. They also explored the possibility of creating jogging paths in the area and reusing existing facilities, such as sports fields and sports halls. Even more importantly, Bureau Marineterrein Amsterdam does not exclusively view sport and exercise as a physical activity that should be practised three or more times a week. Instead, they are viewed as a way to bring people from different backgrounds and ages together in a playful way.

**Daan Kiedis**





'The uphill road towards redevelopment and attracting start-ups.'

To: Marineterrein Amsterdam

Subject: **We are not alone.** *Another naval base*

**Brooklyn, New York, 4 July 2018**

I sat down to write this after the Independence Day fireworks show, which never fails to impress. According to the organizers, 40,000 fireworks lit up the sky tonight. They claim it's one of the largest firework shows in the world. I'll just have to take their word for it, as I'm too busy working on a proposal for the Brooklyn Navy Yard to verify it myself. It's a pitch for turning a historic building into a greener and more sustainable one through innovations. The last time we saw each other, I told you all about it. Now the ball is finally rolling. Things have moved fast these past two years. When Ard and I first brought our start-up to New York, we had no idea what to expect, but the market embraced our modular installation, which combines a green facade system with material reuse and LED lighting. I remember discussing our plans with you during the Smartroof 2.0 meeting at the Marineterrein Amsterdam.

Incidentally, the Brooklyn Navy Yard shares quite a few similarities with the Marineterrein. To begin with, it has Dutch roots. In 1637, Dutch pioneer Jansen de Rapelje bought 335 hectares of land on Wallabout Bay from the Lenape Indians. The region - located near Williamsburg along the East River - developed over the centuries into a crucial support centre for the Naval High Command for the North Atlantic Fleet. After years of dedicated service, the shipyard was closed in 1966. In the forty years that followed, the area slowly fell into disrepair. Since the beginning of this century, however, the area started redeveloping and attracting start-ups, technology companies, and small-scale manufacturers. It currently boasts 330 companies and 7,000 employees, although this is still only a fraction of the 70,000 people who once worked here daily. The area, which includes Downtown Brooklyn and the DUMBO neighbourhood (short for Down Under the Manhattan Bridge Overpass), forms the so-called Brooklyn Tech Triangle. The area is being redeveloped under the auspices of a non-profit organization that seeks to balance investing in new green buildings and infrastructure with maintaining existing buildings and attracting innovative companies. This is where the similarities with the Marineterrein Amsterdam come into play.

We feel perfectly at home here and secretly dream of seeing a skyscraper clad in our modular green facade panels. That would be amazing!

**Kind regards, Paul**





# Clean swimming water

Measuring the quality of swimming water more quickly

Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), March 2018

The invitation for participating in the seventh edition of the Amsterdam City Swim just landed on my digital doormat. For the first time since 2012, I won't be able to swim the two kilometres in Amsterdam's canals, but what an amazing annual event it is, aiming to draw attention to ALS (motor neurone disease) and raise money for research. I think what I'll miss most is the ducks staring after me in amazement as I swim past!

A few years ago, we found out after the event that the water wasn't safe to swim in. Measurements taken before the event suggested an increased concentration of certain bacteria. That's not unusual for canal water, but far too risky for more than 3,000 people to swim in. In cases like these, different standards apply. Unfortunately, the results came in too late; fortunately, none of the swimmers suffered any adverse effects.

The quality of Amsterdam's canal water pales in comparison to the quality of some of the lakes and lagoons here in Rio de Janeiro. The quality was so abysmal it even made international headlines two years ago in the run-up to the Olympics. The pollution itself came as no surprise, but the persistence and intensity of it was discouraging. With the Olympics on the horizon, it was time to sound the alarm. This led to a torrent of political finger-pointing, analyses, and solutions, often punctuated by images of swimmers or surfers dodging refrigerators, other waste, and dead fish. In the end, Olympic athletes swam and sailed in that very water. Now that the athletes and the media have left, there are only a handful of die-hard environmental organizations and innovative companies attempting to solve the immense water pollution problem.

Part of that solution may one day come from Amsterdam. More specifically, the Marineterrein, inspired by the Amsterdam City Swim. As the event starts every year from the quay, which is home to dozens of innovative companies, several parties – including Bureau Marineterrein Amsterdam, the Municipality of Amsterdam, Waternet, Deltares, and City Swim – are researching faster ways to measure swimming water. For those involved, it's not a matter of if but of how fast the measurements can be improved in terms of accuracy and reliability.

It would be great if the residents and fishermen of Rio could reap the benefits as well...

Maarten Zaan

'Part of the solution may lie in Amsterdam'



1. Artificial intelligence

2. Doubled processing speed

3. Improved balance

A. Ability to empathize

B. Social skills

C. Insight

# What to do?

How do we survive our rapidly changing world?

Farid Tabarki

# Learn to slow down

## Testing the human scope of technology

When asked how we should handle our rapidly changing world, Farid Tabarki's response was both surprising and refreshing: 'slow down!' According to Tabarki, technology is developing too quickly for us to catch up. That's why our only option is to focus on the human side of the knowledge revolution, such as empathy and social cohesion. To put it differently: computational power and processing speed is still doubling every two years but human capabilities are lagging behind, as Gordon Moore, the founder of Intel, predicted in 1965.

We should therefore start focusing on things like social skills and complex thought – something machines and computers may never be capable of. 'It's crucial that we prioritize local and individual questions,' says Tabarki.

At the Marineterrein, supply and demand converge with respect to both society and technology. That makes it the perfect place to test the human dimension in relation to technology. According to Tabarki, this is no easy task. 'Our evolution is largely based on our belief in progress. It's important that we learn how to position and channel our undiminished technological acceleration.' Without embracing setbacks, we will always be one step behind.

**Farid Tabarki is the founder of Studio Zeitgeist, which is located at the Marineterrein. Studio Zeitgeist has been exploring the (European) spirit of the time since its foundation in 2000. ♦**



1. Water weekly

3. Do not obstruct roots



2. Do not prune

Margot Mudde

# Mourn the disappearance of frayed edges

The city is becoming too clean

Margot Mudde's neighbourhood is undergoing a rapid transformation. Social rental housing is being sold, new residents have different ideas about what neighbourhood involvement means, and messier areas are being tidied. But what bothers her the most is the slowly disappearing greenery. It's becoming very noticeable. The frayed edges of nature – including the weeds, birds, and insects – are slowly fading from the street scene, as did the group of swans that could once be admired in the Oosterdok. Mudde suspects that increasing congestion in the city and on the water are to blame.

Her neighbourhood is becoming cleaner and, in a way, emptier, as is the city itself. To Mudde, this feels like a loss. The delightful disarray of stone and leaf are why she moved to Amsterdam in the 1980s to pursue her teaching degree. Without another economic crisis, Mudde doesn't see this situation changing anytime soon. Fortunately, she can cling to some pinpricks of light in the dark, such as the old houseboat that used to be moored outside Artis and can now be found right outside her home on Nieuwevaart. She also enjoys the beautiful anarchy of a little strip along the Dijkgracht canal.

**Margot Mudde is a customer service officer in Oostenburg and lives in the Kadijken neighbourhood. ♦**

4. Irrigation system

Illustration: Daniël Maarleveld

Thijs Asselbergs

# Learning new design methods

## Graduating at the Marineterrein

‘The Marineterrein is the perfect case study and testing ground for our students,’ says Professor Thijs Asselbergs. ‘It has it all: a unique context, perfectly usable buildings, a rich history, a combination of old and new features, and the need for innovative solutions.’ But perhaps the most distinctive aspect is the experience students can gain here while devising and designing slow architecture and plans.

‘The Marineterrein is the perfect testing ground’

The Marineterrein reveals the value of patience, careful observation, step-by-step development, and adaptive design. ‘It’s totally different from quickly throwing together a standard urban plan, as has been customary for decades.’ According to Asselbergs, a new generation of architects will learn the value of inclusive design: where existing elements and new insights on circularity and sustainability converge to create impressive new architecture. ‘The combination of high-level innovation and a relaxed approach is extremely popular,’ says Asselbergs. ‘We therefore highlight the significance of this theme and the Marineterrein in our programmes.’

**Thijs Asselbergs is professor of Architectural Engineering at the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment at Delft University of Technology. ♦**

Hester Aardse

# Preservation and conservation

## Interest in heritage is great, but complex

Hester Aardse has worked for the Office of Monuments and Archaeology at the Municipality of Amsterdam for the past twenty years. Although the buildings she inspects and evaluates are invariably of historical significance, some things have definitely changed over the past two decades. Firstly, Aardse and her colleagues increasingly focus on regions and their historical context as a whole, instead of on individual buildings. The Marineterrein, for which Aardse conducted a cultural-historical study in early 2018, is a great example of this (albeit not the only example).

Another change involves the interest in and commitment to her work. ‘More and more designers, developers, and residents are genuinely interested in the history of their surroundings, and therefore also in their cultural heritage.’ While this interest and interaction is great, it is also extremely complex. ‘Some people expect quick answers and think in terms of fixed and familiar concepts.’ But the two do not always coincide. This calls for a joint effort to determine what all of these parties really value and how they want to deal with it. This involves more than just listed buildings. ‘Amsterdam is changing rapidly. Many people are responding to this by cherishing all elements of the existing city, both old and new buildings.’ In this strong dynamic of urban renewal, people are looking for something to hold onto. That reflex can sometimes lead to an explicit need for the preservation and conservation of monuments. Unfortunately, this excludes other possibilities, including those for cultural heritage. Experts like Aardse believe heritage is the starting point for the design brief. The tension between appreciation, transformation, and retention is nothing new; in fact, Amsterdam is a great example of this. All historic layers, both old and new, and how to connect these are what make the city so fascinating.

**Hester Aardse is regional advisor for the Office of Monuments and Archaeology at the Municipality of Amsterdam. ♦**



# My Marineterrein

Stories by people who lived or  
worked at the Marineterrein

Text: Marieke Berkers

Illustration: Jorien Kemerink





# Learning Russian while in service

I heard you could learn Russian as a soldier, so I signed up. At the Marine Etablissement, I spent two years studying Russian with eight other students. Our classroom was near the Dijkgracht canal and we stayed at the Palace. It was quite an experience: we were the last people to live there before it was torn down to make way for the IJtunnel in the late 1960s, like so many other buildings.

Russia was a sworn enemy at that time, which is why there had to be some people in the armed forces who could speak the language and either talk to the enemy or spy on them. One of the exam components was to listen to marine radio transmissions. It was almost impossible to understand! We passed in the end, with some help from our superiors.

As student interpreters, we didn't really fit in with the soldiers at the Marineterrein. I was sent as a liaison officer to the Velzen locks to welcome the visitors from a British fleet review. Whenever we had British visitors, there was always bacon on the breakfast menu. We ate it at the current Homeland location, which used to be a restaurant under the officer's quarters (the Longroom). Now that I live nearby, I stop by sometimes to reminisce and have a bite to eat. ♦

**Gertjan van Andel took classes in the 'Palace'**

# Chief Officer of the Marine Etablissement

From 2008 to 2012, I served as commander of the Marine Etablissement, which is similar to being the chief officer. I ran the site with the help of seventy to eighty staff members. The Marineterrein was home to various defence companies, such as the arrival centre for inspection and selection, the Royal Military Police, and the social medical service, where soldiers could recover from injuries. I was responsible for on-site supervision and for arranging all external issues.

'A bank won't let you past the counter either'

If someone asked me why there was such a tall fence around the area, I'd explain that the Marine Etablissement was like a big office. A bank won't let you past the counter either. No one ever argued with me. But the Marineterrein is surrounded by a huge, old wall, which adds an air of intrigue. All the same, I always thought about how the Marineterrein could benefit the city of Amsterdam. In my time, for example, the Marineterrein was the start of the Amsterdam City Swim and we took the initiative to organize an annual sport day for boys and girls aged 10 to 12.

I would have liked the opportunity to do more with the area. The transport building could have used a sustainable update. When resources were prepared for transport, like bullet-proof vests, shoes, or weapons, they were packaged and cleared here before being sent to Schiphol. Unfortunately, budget cuts at the Ministry of Defence threw a spanner in the works. The municipality was also reluctant at times; for example, when the Ministry of Security and Justice wanted to relocate the court of Amsterdam to the Marineterrein. Opening part of the site to the public offers new opportunities to improve the buildings and the grounds. ♦

**Captain Anton Nieland was commander from 2008 to 2012**



# Sailing to Latin class

I lived at the Marineterrein from age fifteen to seventeen. My father was the commander from 1964 to 1968. My mother didn't want to live in the executive residence (dubbed 'the Palace') because it was full of rats, so they turned the chief officer's residence into the commander's quarters.

I took extra Latin lessons from a teacher who lived on a houseboat and I'd use the sailing boat moored just outside our house to get there. The teacher once skipped an entire lesson to go sailing with me instead. I wasn't going to argue with him!

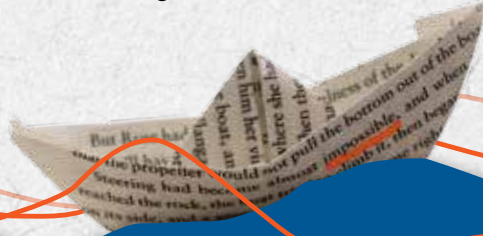
In the basement under the commander's quarters was the liaison bunker, which also employed women from the female naval department. I remember two women who thought quite highly of themselves. One of them had a little white dog. As a young boy, I remember wanting to see them up close, but I was never allowed in the liaison bunker. It was absolutely off-limits, as part of Section-S, as it's known in the navy.

Receptions were often held here. Den Uyl used to attend when he was an executive committee chairman of the municipality, before becoming Prime Minister. Even Princess Beatrix was invited as a guest. I saw her on the quay, rearranging the cannons because they weren't in a straight line. She saw me standing on the steps and asked what I was doing there. I told her I lived here, which caught her off guard... ♦

**Michael de Jong used to live in the commander's quarters**



'Princess Beatrix rearranged the cannons because they weren't in a straight line'



# The process

Transforming Marineterrein Amsterdam into a flourishing part of the city is a complex process that will take years to complete. What makes the redevelopment of this area so unique is that it involves two clients: the Dutch government and the Municipality of Amsterdam. Both adhere to a fixed process for regional development; however, these processes overlap in several key areas.

## 2.

### Underlying principles

Next, the underlying principles are developed into a plan that describes the roads, buildings, and other necessary facilities and how they are connected to each other and to the surrounding buildings and areas. In this phase, sketches are drawn up but there is no definitive urban plan.

## 1.

### Vision

First, the needs and possibilities are explored and a vision is developed. The ambitions and development opportunities are then documented in a memorandum.

# Where do we stand in the development of the Marineterrein?

## 3.

### Feasibility

The urban plan is then finalized and the financial implications are calculated. In this phase, the zoning plan or environmental plan is drawn up and a final decision is made on the feasibility of the project.

## 4.

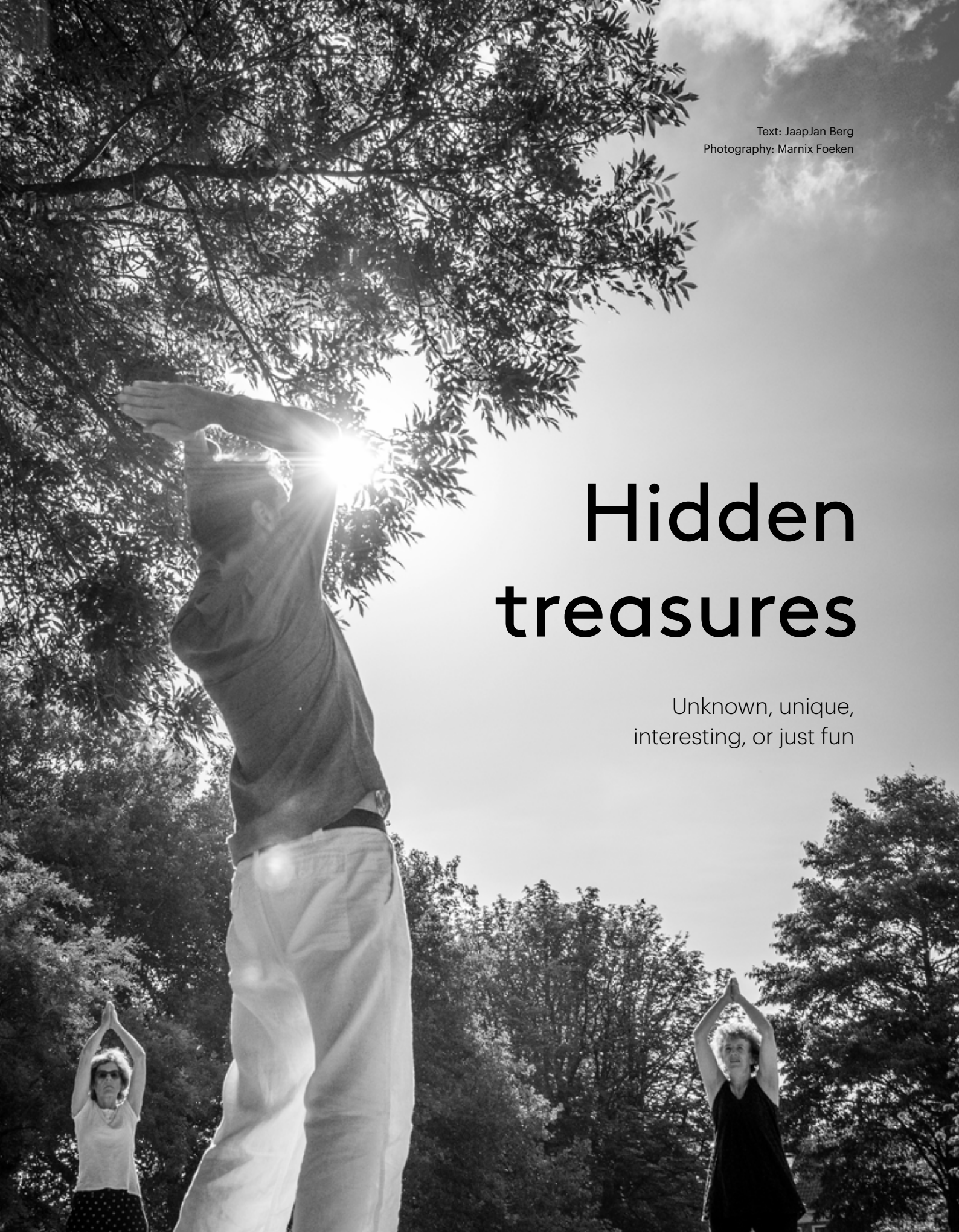
### Execution

Once executing parties have been found, their plans are first tested against a zoning or environmental plan before ground can be broken.

At the time of writing (mid-2018), the first step had been taken and the parties were working on further defining the vision. To do so, all obstacles have to be removed. While testing the plans, for example, a desire for more on-site housing was discovered. The site owner (Dutch government/Ministry of Defence) indicated wanting to have a stronger on-site presence than previously discussed. The plans will have to be adapted accordingly, but the vision will remain unchanged. In the meantime, sustainable solutions for health, learning, and use of space can be developed at full speed.

The Marineterrein is not a public area, like a neighbourhood or a park; instead, it is privately owned and partially open to the public. As a result, there are far more opportunities here than in a normal public area. This is being utilized fully by guiding the development down a different path, which makes it possible to test different solutions in search of the strongest one. This is the perfect method in our rapidly changing society.

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Text: JaapJan Berg  
Photography: Marnix Foeken

# Hidden treasures

Unknown, unique,  
interesting, or just fun



The Marineterrein's most beloved hidden treasure

# The cat with the most staff in Amsterdam

Amy Winehouse the cat may be the Marineterrein's most beloved hidden treasure. She has lived here for a year-and-a-half now and was named after her favourite nap spot: the wine cellar at Pension Homeland.

Amy doesn't have an owner; she's her own boss. And she is also the cat with the most staff in all of Amsterdam. She'll wander into any office at the Marineterrein where the door is ajar in search of affection and pampering. She's also free to explore the other side of the fence, run by the Ministry of Defence.

Amy thinks quite highly of herself, perhaps because she comes from such a good home. She was found between two walls of a building on Keizersgracht, which makes her a real canal district cat. She spent some time at the animal shelter, but now lives in the greenest and quietest spot in the city.

Amy isn't very fond of people, but people love her. She sometimes joins Agniet, the manager of the hotel Pension Homeland, on a stroll of the grounds; not because she wants to, but purely out of self-interest (she tends to attract crows and magpies, but people keep the birds at bay).

She went missing a little while ago and the neighbourhood app nearly crashed with worried responses and offers to help look for her. She strolled into the Marineterrein the next day, tail held high as if nothing was wrong. ♦







Gate and guardhouse represent duties and responsibilities

## Remnants of a forgotten routine

Every military complex has a guard tasked with inspecting all people and objects that enter and exit it. This is an important post that cannot be abandoned. Guardhouses, like the one at the Marineterrein's blue gate, were therefore built to make this task a little more pleasant. The small guardhouse between the barrier gates is part of the gate and guardhouse designed by architecture firm Benthem Crouwel in the early 1980s.

An important post that cannot be abandoned

It now serves a different role, namely, as a small information centre, due in part to some of the Marineterrein being opened to the public. Here you can find announcements (some quite playful) for various activities. The current example (screwed onto the ground and therefore theoretically moveable) was not designed by Benthem Crouwel, but was delivered by Falco based in Vriezenveen. Originally a manufacturer of transport equipment, the company later transitioned to bicycle racks, bicycle storage, and guardhouses.

But not all things change. The large gate behind the house features hydraulic technology to make sure it can be opened and closed quickly in the event of an emergency. It is still regularly checked by Lloyd's Register Stoomwezen, an agency that has been responsible for inspecting and approving pressurized devices since 1855. Other than a handful of Ministry of Defence personnel, they are the only ones who know how to open and close the doors. ♦



New boardwalk,  
old location

# Walking on water

Renovating historic buildings always triggers mixed emotions. The restoration of buildings or objects that have been lost to time seems to reset history, as it were. Whatever replaces it both belongs and doesn't belong...

Locals respond  
with enthusiasm

This is not to say that we should view the new boardwalk in the Marineterrein's inner harbour as a reconstruction. An aerial photograph from 1926 shows a boardwalk in the same spot, connecting two quays. Soldiers were involved in the

construction both then and now, resulting in beautiful photos of tough men and divers. But the differences between the old and new boardwalk are huge. The reservoir is smaller and part of the site (and its buildings) made way for the IJtunnel. Perhaps the biggest difference of all is that this harbour was once used by the navy and was closed to the public.

The new boardwalk is very much accessible to all, as confirmed by the enthusiastic responses of local residents immediate after it was built. According to a neighbourhood app: 'The neighbourhood has been waiting for this for a long time.' ♦





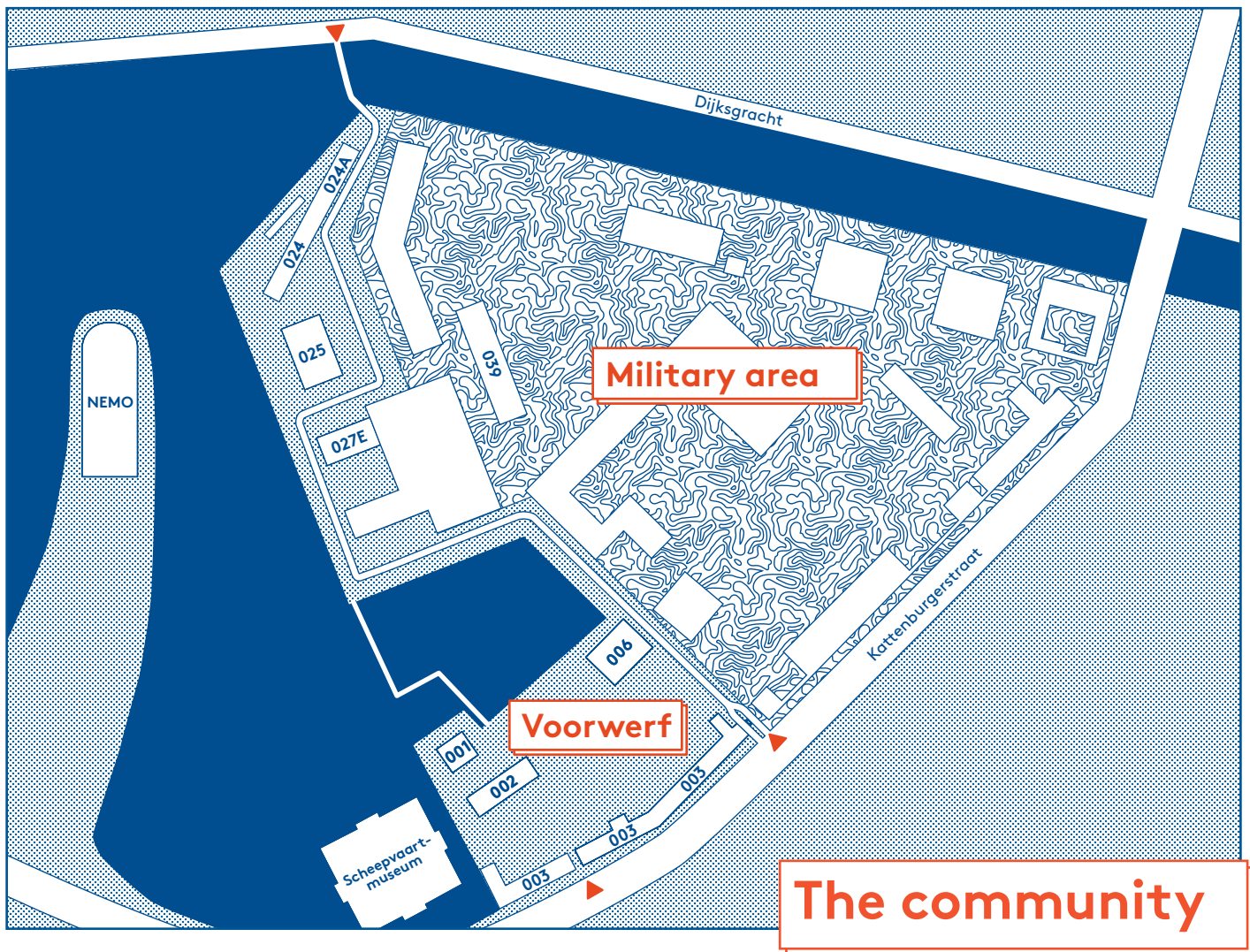
Canteen show-stopper

## Klingers' climbing wall

The company restaurant in the conference centre (building 030) is home to an impressive work of art: an immense sculpture that spans two floors, made entirely from clinkers, with references to the sea. It is an expressive object that has caught the attention of countless Ministry of Defence employees over the decades, who would pass the sculpture after filling their plates with the day's lunch special. For years, the work of art towered above people as they chatted, laughed, or silently finished their plates. Did any of them ever consider climbing it? After all, the sculpture strongly resembles a climbing wall an experienced alpinist might tackle.

### An immense sculpture that spans two floors

Despite the resemblance, that wasn't what artist Jos Klingers had in mind when he designed it in 1966. He intended it to be a show-stopping work of art in the canteen that was being built between 1964 and 1966. The original sculpture for the canteen for corporals and soldiers at the Marine Etablissement in Amsterdam was damaged in 2004 when the building was stripped and renovated, resulting in the loss of the staggered facade walls. Fortunately Klingers' sculpture survived the renovation and will hopefully be rediscovered as the showpiece it is. ♦



**Who works on the Marineterrein and what do they do?**

- 003 C - Alliander DGO**  
Opportunities for sustainable energy supplies
- 027 W - AMS Institute**  
Technological solutions for metropolitan regions
- 003 C - Amsterdam Smart City**  
Living and working in a smart city
- 002 A - Archeologiewerkplaats MA**  
Unearthing stories
- 003 H - Borges**  
The world's leading 3D file platform
- 001 - Bureau Marineterrein Amsterdam**  
Supporting the transformation
- 003 G - Cinekid**  
Producer of film, television and new media festival Cinekid
- 027 E - Clubhouse**  
A great place for exchanging ideas and a healthy lunch
- 039 - Codam**  
An unorthodox coding college

- 001 - Commandantswoning**  
A comfy place to exchange deeper thoughts
- 027 E - Digital Natives**  
Makers of digital platforms and services
- 003 G - Drain Products**  
Products for healthy cities
- 003 G - FMO Solutions**  
Organizes, manages and designs all internet facilities on the Marineterrein
- 027 E - Growth Tribe**  
Teaching technical growth skills
- 006 - Homeland Brewery**  
Unique beers, made at the Marineterrein itself
- 024 C - IJfontein**  
'Serious games' for personnel training, museums, or primary education
- 003 C - Locatienet**  
Specialist in geographical webservices
- 027 E - Makerversity**  
Offering makerspaces, equipment, knowledge and inspiring peers
- 003 C - Nine Connections**  
Effective use of social media for organizations

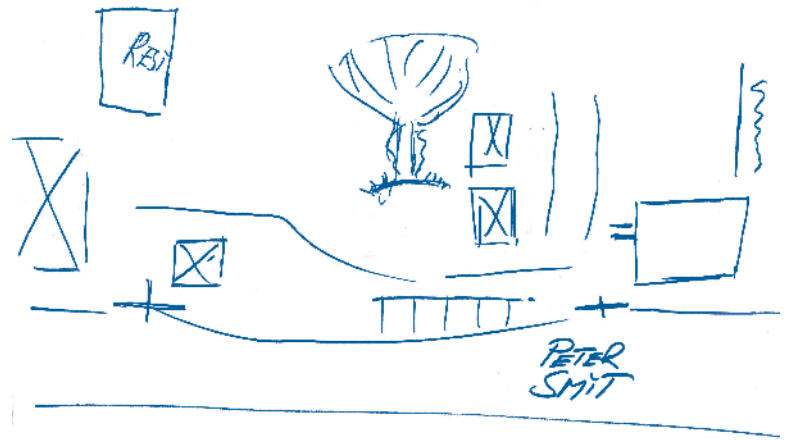
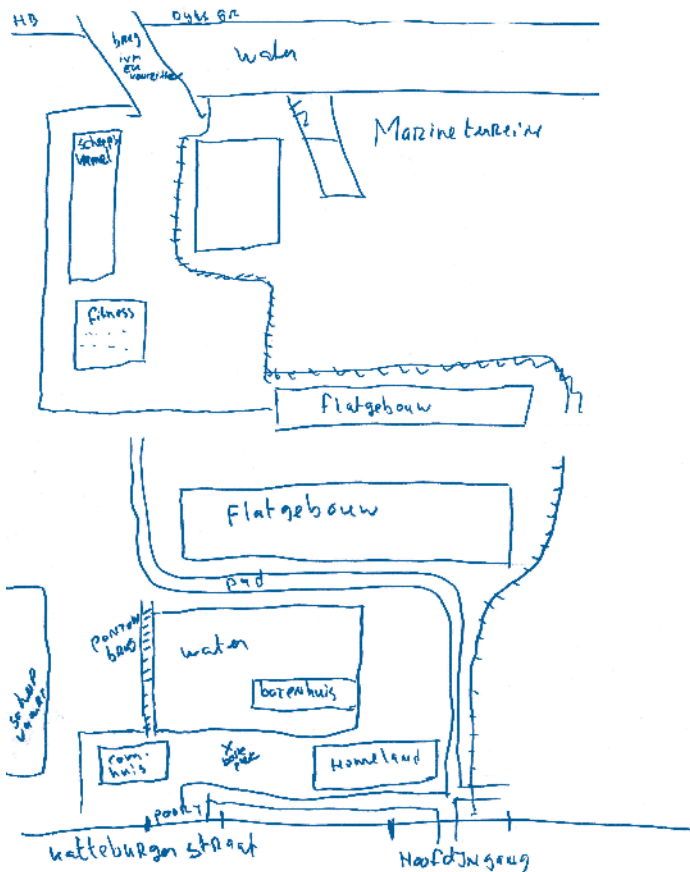
- 002 B - Open State Foundation**  
Reuse of open data
- 003 B - Orientation Travel Productions**  
Experience of filming in over 50 countries
- 006 - Pension Homeland**  
The hotel for professionals
- 024 A - Scheepskameel**  
Restaurant with a fascination for pure cooking
- 003 B - Sports Water Drainage Systems**  
Sustainable water for sports fields
- 003 H - Studio Zeitgeist**  
Exploring the zeitgeist
- 003 A - The App Academy**  
A boot camp for app developers
- 002 B - The Next Speaker**  
Agency for the best technology experts
- 003 B - Tree Ground Solutions**  
Cities need green spaces
- 002 A - TV Academy/Academy Pictures**  
An optimum environment for media talent
- 027 E - XRBASE**  
Bringing together specialists in the field of Virtual and Augmented Reality

# Mental maps

Locals draw their own map of the Marineterrein

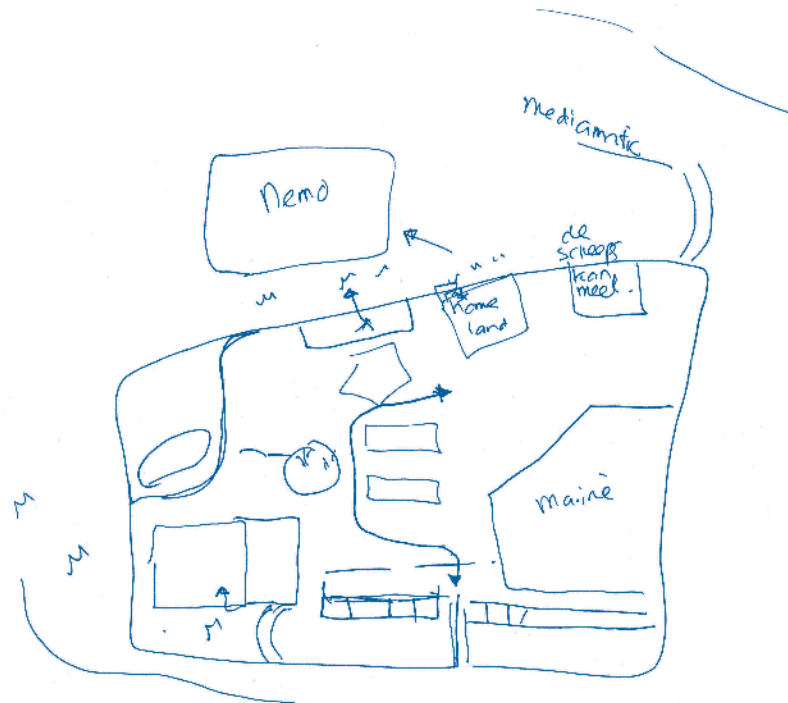
## Casper (63)

I'm at the Marineterrein quite often with my walking group, which I joined when I retired. My favourite place is the quay next to Homeland, which has spectacular views.



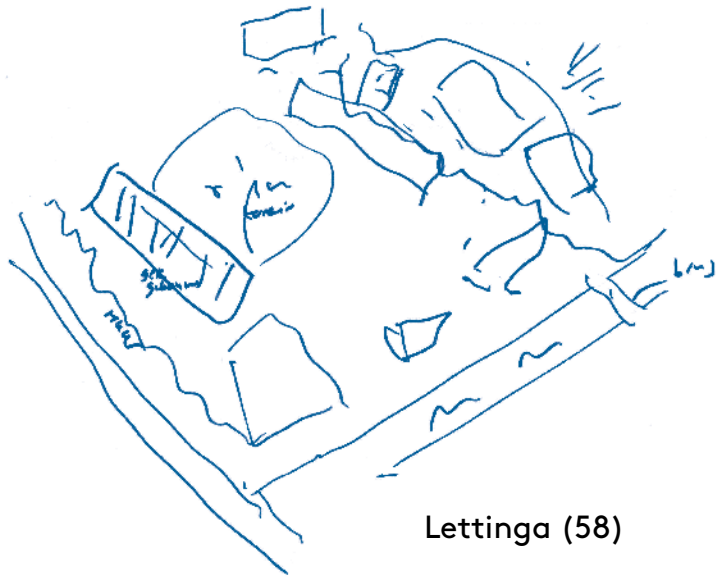
## Peter (76)

I don't live in the area, but my son and grandchildren do. We often walk around the site together. I love watching the ancient tree change with the seasons.



## Janni (42)

You can enjoy amazing views of the water from almost anywhere. I'm a primary school teacher in Kattenburg and stroll around the Marineterrein on my breaks.



**Norris (11)**

When school is out, my favourite thing to do with my friends is to swim near Homeland. The boardwalk is so cool!

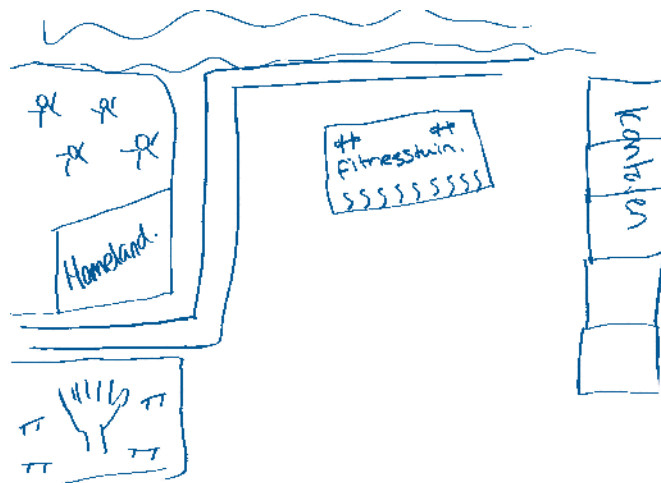
**Lettinga (58)**

I live nearby but I rarely visit. I prefer staying in my own garden. What I remember is the old wall, a few quirky buildings, and a big fountain that I thought was quite beautiful.

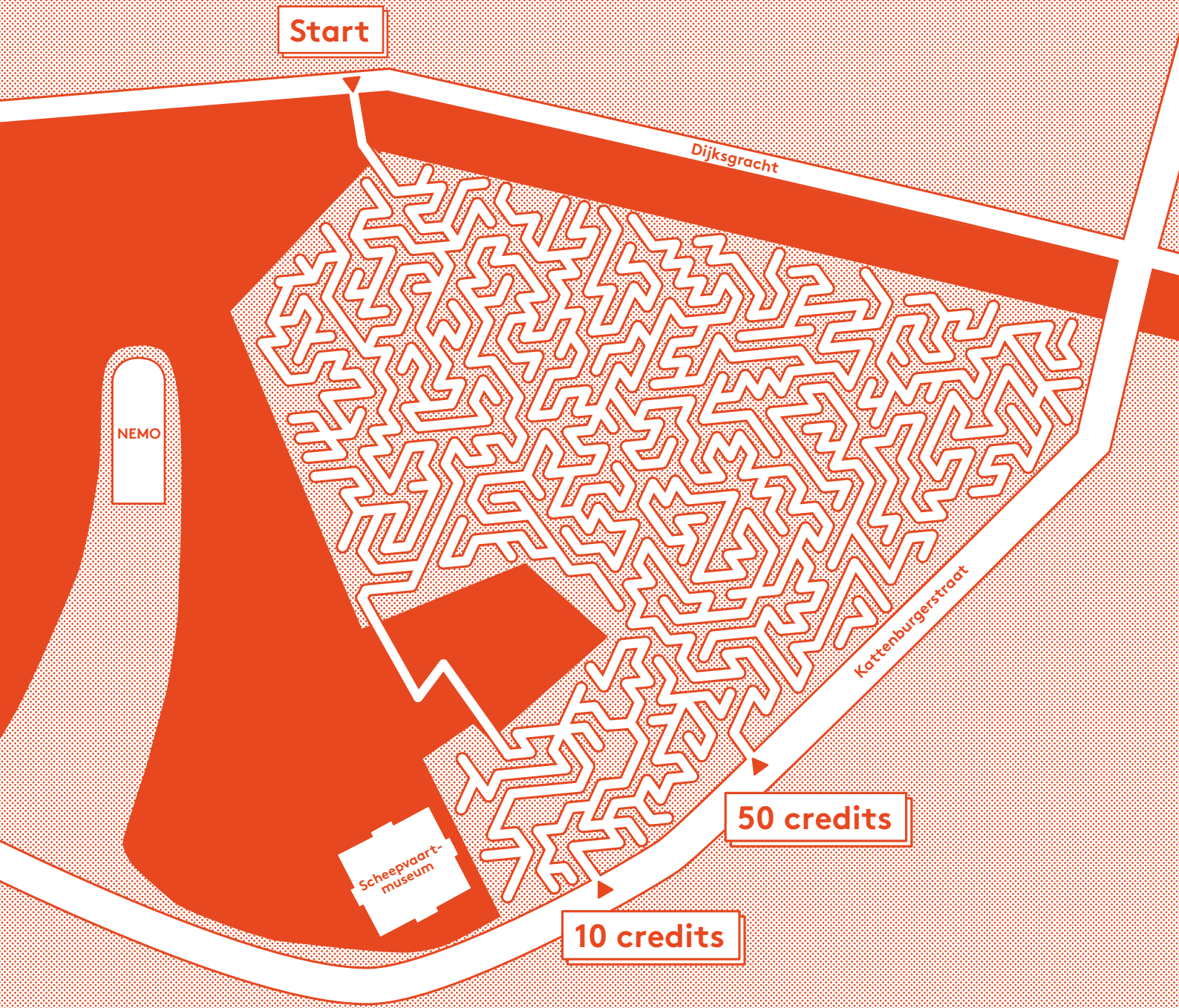


**Anouk (26)**

I work for a company that organizes sports events. Over the years we've held fantastic football tournaments on the military part of the site. My favourite spot is the new fitness garden; it's so inspiring!



# Find your way





# Publisher's imprint

## PUBLICATION BY

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Drukkerij Raddraaier B.V.

## PAPER

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