

SANDERBOUT

Sanderbout is a neighbourhood from the 1950's in the south-eastern Dutch city of Sittard. Formerly a miner's colony, the neighbourhood is a typical example of the decline of the heavy industry in the region and the subsequent unemployment and aging population. As many mass-housing developments in the Netherlands, the area is owned and managed by a housing corporation, in this case ZO Wonen. The corporation proposed plans for demolition of the houses, which were greeted without any enthusiasm by the inhabitants. As a response to these plans the occupants organised an assembly of ideas/strategies for a regeneration of the existing housing stock.

In collaboration with BURO RUIM from Amsterdam we proposed a method, which is based on the development of the area from inside out. Providing a socially sustainable solution is only possible when the architects collaborate with the inhabitants at each step of the decision making process. This is especially true in a neighbourhood such as Sanderbout, where the inhabitants have a tradition of adapting their own (rent) houses with numerous extensions. For this reason we propose a multifunctional gathering place and information centre where inhabitants, workers, architects, municipality and housing cooperation define together the future of Sanderbout. The local initiative gets supported by the housing corporation with knowledge and money. At the same time this centre becomes a hot spot not only for the neighbourhood but also for the surrounding areas. This possibly attracts newcomers or visitors to Sanderbout and justifies the implementation of a supermarket and public transport.

Sanderbout has an urban structure, which is very appropriate for CPO (collective commissioners schemes). We propose to build upon the local tradition of constant adaptation and in such a way to reinforce the identity of the area. The type of courtyards, back passages and open spaces allow also an alternative system of green spaces to be developed, which could satisfy the need for recreational activities expressed by the inhabitants.

facts

location: Sittard, the Netherlands

status: idea competition / strategy development 2010

site: 65 ha.

programme: neighbourhood regeneration

client: Stichting Wijkblad Sittard Tussen de Rails

collaborators: BURO RUIM