

SL-AM

Densification in Slotervaart – Amsterdam. Overtoomse Veld, an urban area just outside the highway surrounding Amsterdam, can be considered the next frontier for urban densification. The land use of the garden city model provides great opportunities to intensify the urban tissue and become the next dense layer surrounding Amsterdam. At it's center is situated the August Allebeplein, a center for community facilities and everyday shopping. The ambition is to create a social sustainable environment that will integrate the development into the existing context; the seamless integration of absorbing of pathways, open spaces and buildings into the old fabric.

The mosque together with recent additions to the site (the police station and community building) were the starting point to develop a dense environment with narrow streets and a high concentration of small shops activated through supermarkets and other attractors. The shops are situated around a small central square positioned inside the urban tissue facing the mosque. The small scale identity not only relates to the city center of Amsterdam but provides a personal scale and the possibility to identify oneself with its environment. The roofs of the new proposed buildings, in the shopping area, are tapered to allow sun into the streets and at the same time give the possibility to activate them with private terraces. The unpleasantness of the present condition is partly due to the parking sprawl in and around the August Allebeplein. This could be avoided by diminishing the automotive presence without reducing the accessibility of the area by introducing a underground parking. In this project this happens underneath the garden strip. The implementation of this green area in the urban tissue not only puts the big housing slab into its proper context but also becomes the central orientated outside dwelling space for the inhabitants of the surrounding buildings. The slim dimensions and the fact that it's enclosed on all sides by buildings gives the park a natural sense of safety, there is always a neighbor looking. The intension is to develop the park as a classical garden with patterns of visual green and little grass patches, to avoid the creation of a lifeless dog toilet, accompanied by places to relax and socialize.

The railway noise issue on the west side of the location is being dealt with by putting a couple of office blocks in the park. The plinth from the big housing slab is removed which allows the building to be reattached with the urban fabric. The ground floor will be activated and will provide starting artists, architects or other starting enterprises with cheap ateliers and thus can become very important for the social renewal and activation of the site.

facts

location:	Amsterdam, the Netherlands
status:	idea competition 2010
site:	-
program:	regeneration 60's neighbourhood
client:	Prix de Rome
budget:	-
collaborators:	-