



European 15-location Groot-IJsselmonde  
Quicksan

STEEN  
HUIS  
MEIJERS

Content

**History of IJsselmonde** – ambitions and results  
**7 challenges** – future-proofing the garden suburb

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HUIS  
MEL<sup>JRS</sup>

### Summary of the presentation to follow

The European-site in Groot-IJsselmonde is wedged in the in-between zones of urban planner Peter van Drimmelen's radial plan. Technically, it is part of the sub-neighbourhood Tuinenhoven, but because of its location within the ring road, this part of Tuinenhoven was planned to have a more multifunctional program (instead of just housing). The site is also located in an intended green belt that separates IJsselmonde's centre (Keizerswaard) from the neighbourhoods that fan out from there. Even though Van Drimmelen did intend for "special functions" (such as schools and community centres) to be located in this lush nature-like zone, the greenery was clogged later with closed-off buildings, inaccessible shrubbery and high fences.

Around the same time that Van Drimmelen was finalising his first zoning plans, the NAM (Dutch Petroleum Company) discovered immense oil reserves underneath Rotterdam. This resulted in the integration of over 20 oil rigs (extraction sites) in the green belt and green zones in between the neighbourhoods. Even though Van Drimmelen did consider that the issue was solved rather "harmonically", both during and after several decades of oil contraction, these NAM-sites formed industrial scars in what was supposed to be a tranquil, away-from-the-post-industrial-city living environment. Even though NAM has left the area several decades ago, quite a few of these sites are still left derelict or are used as parking lots.

### Summary of the presentation to follow

7 challenges:

1. IJsselmonde 's identity in rapidly changing Rotterdam Zuid (*slide 41*)
  2. Future-proof the garden city concept (*slide 47*)
  3. Formulate suitable densification of the green zones (*slide 50*)
  4. Reinforce connections within IJsselmonde and with surrounding neighbourhood (*slide 56*)
  5. Re-adjust to human scale and clarify the urban lay-out of IJsselmonde (*slide 60*)
  6. Distinguish through unique aspects of IJsselmonde (*slide 64*)
- + . Don't approach the assignment as another problem solution, but depart from the opportunities that IJsselmonde and its history present.



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SteenhuisMeurs – cultural history and area development, current spatial assignments with cultural heritage foundation. Based on premise that places have a memory. Focus on narrative, we always go back to primary sources to understand process, decisions, etc.

## **History of IJsselmonde**

The garden city as social training territory



Pre-war Rotterdam (ca. 1935), IJsselmonde is a small agricultural village on the southern bank of the Maas. Houses and farms are built on a dike body, from where the land was cultivated with long, narrow trenches, expanding southwards.

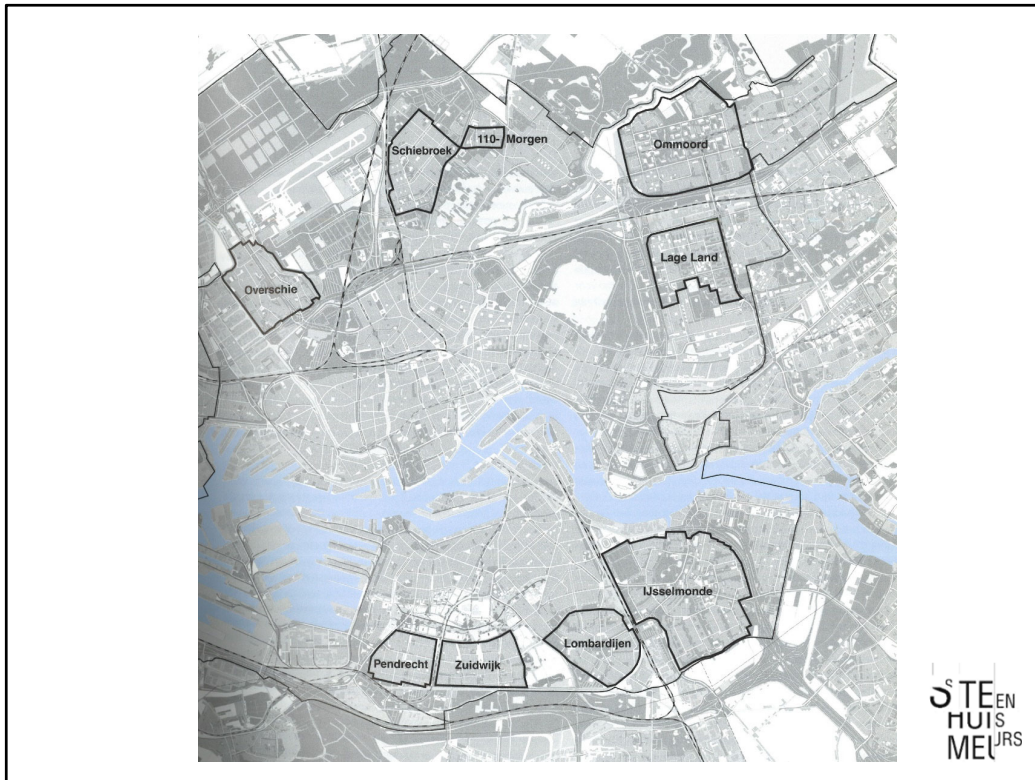
Source: topotijdreis.nl, stadsarchief Rotterdam



Map from c. 1955. The city of Rotterdam is encroaching. West of IJsselmonde polder, new housing districts (like Feijenoord) and garden cities (like Vreewijk) are built. IJsselmonde becomes part of Rotterdam in 1941. The first expansions of this former village are relatively small and follow the lay-out and direction of the underlying polder structure. Typology '*gesloten bouwblok*' = closed blocks of housing (in contrast to later modernist typologies, such as slabs)

Source: [topotijdreis.nl](http://topotijdreis.nl)





After WWII, serious housing shortage. The urgency resonates in the explanatory statement of the first plans for IJsselmonde:

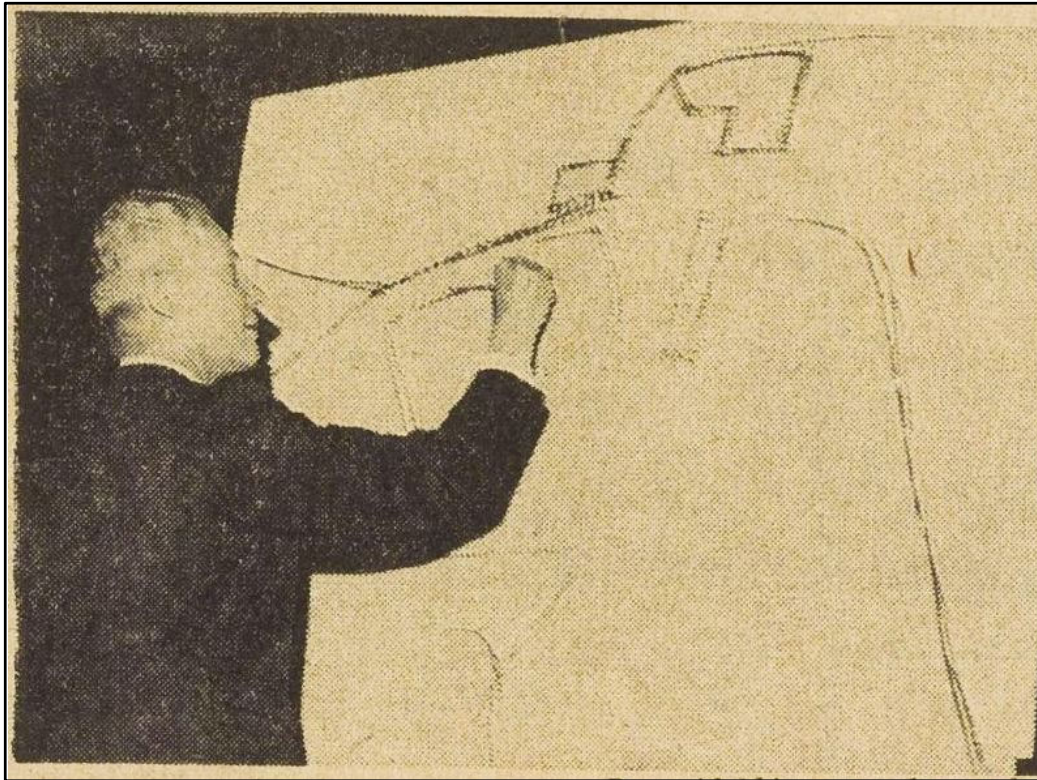
*‘Wij hebben daarmede de nodige spoed betracht, omdat de eis van continuïteit in de woningbouw het noodzakelijk maakt, dat op betrekkelijk korte termijn nieuwe bouwgrond beschikbaar komt.’... ‘Wij beseffen dat met de uitvoering daarvan verlies van land- en tuinbouwgronden gepaard zal gaan, doch achten zulks onvermijdelijk en inherent aan elke uitbreiding van onze gemeente.’*

[We have exerted a certain urgency, for the requirement of continuity in the construction of new houses demands that on a relatively short term, new buildable area becomes available. ... We realise that with the implementation of this plan, large sections of agricultural and horticultural land will be lost, yet we deem this inevitable and inherent to any such expansion of our municipality’.]

New neighbourhoods and garden cities were constructed on the outer regions of the city. On the south side, Pendrecht (5744 dwellings), Zuidwijk (6935 dwellings), Lombardijen (6236 dwellings) and Groot-IJsselmonde (10.992 dwellings). IJsselmonde formed both the closing end of this sequence and the expansion of the old village IJsselmonde. The plans for these neighbourhoods were founded in a quest for the ideal new neighbourhood, where people could leave in green and

peaceful surroundings, away from hectic city centres. It was vital to relieve city inhabitants from the anonymity and individuality that industrialism had created, to be able to grow up in healthy surroundings and to re-learn a sense of community or even village life.

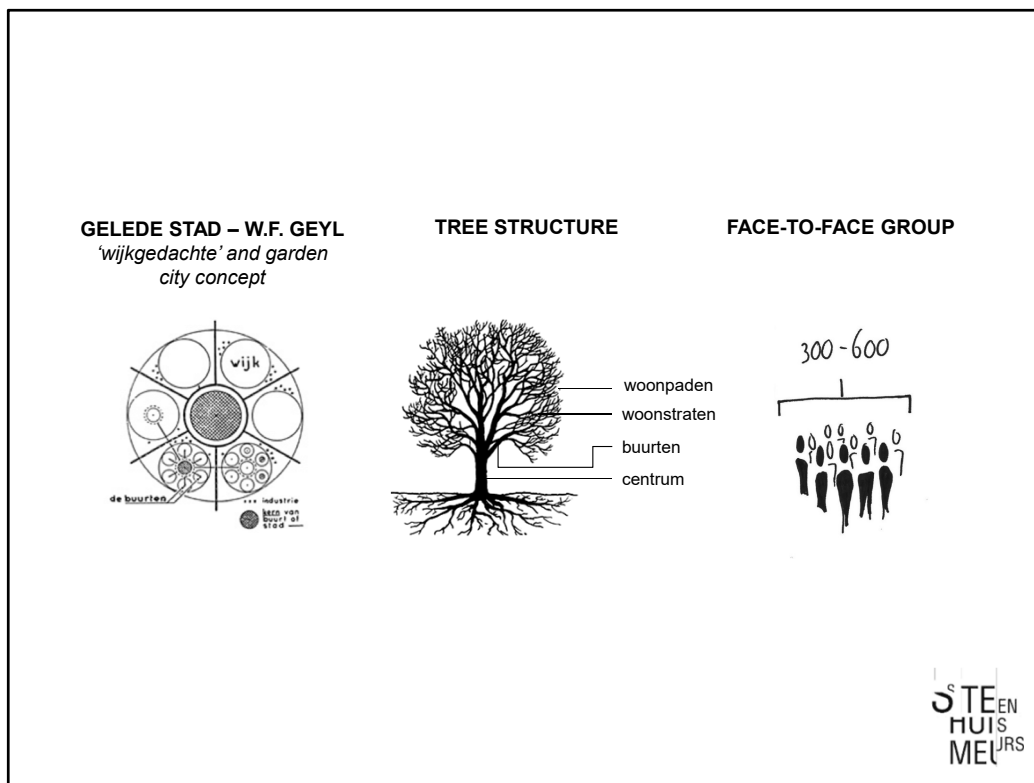
Source: Hage, K., Ruitenbeek, J. & Zweerink, K. (2005). *Van Pendrecht tot Ommoord. Geschiedenis en toekomst van de naoorlogse wijken in Rotterdam*. THOTH Uitgever.



Peter van Drimmelen, 29 juni 1960 at an inhabitants meeting

He started to work for de Rotterdamse Dienst voor Stadsontwikkeling under Cornelis van Traa (who designed the city's post-war reconstruction plan) in 1947.

Source: Het Vrije Volk, 29 juni 1960 (via Delpher)



Van Drimmelen was, like many of his contemporaries, inspired by several theoretical concepts developed mostly in the US and the UK around the start of the twentieth century that searched for solutions for the dense, unhealthy and unhygienic workers' living conditions in rapidly industrialised cities and regions. At the core of these concepts was not only health, but also community and socialisation.

The structural organisation of the neighbourhood is based on a number of theoretical concepts:

-The 'Gelede Stad' of W.F. Geyl from Rotterdam municipal office Gemeentelijke Werken, based on the neighbourhood unit ('wijkgedachte') as developed by Clarence Perry and the Garden City concept of Ebenezer Howard. The 'wijkgedachte' is a model of social order in the city, ranging from the house, the neighbourhood, the district to the city. It rooted in Dutch urban planning through the so-called Groep Bos, a group of architects and civil servants founded by Alex H. Bos, director of the Rotterdamse Dienst voor Volkshuisvesting. Geyl's concentric organisation ranged from house to neighbourhood to district to borough to city and functioned as a counteract on the desocialisation and individualisation of city dwellers. This process of recovering humanity and collectivity could not be implemented top-down, but had to be created bottom-up, for which this scheme was considered to be the katalysator (Blom, Jansen, Heide, 2004, 17) – De typologie van na-oorlogse wijken

- Tree-structure. Based on the Gelede Stad, Drimmelen designed IJsselmonde (and Lombardijen) on the structure of a tree, or the human body. The borough's centre was the trunk, or the heart, from where branches (wijken), twijgen (woonstraten) and nerven (woning) ran out.

- Face-to-face group: C.H. Cooley, a community in which everybody knows each other face-to-face counts 300 to 600 people. To achieve this village-like characteristic, Drimmelen subdivided the neighbourhoods/districts into two 'woongroepen', divided by a neighbourhood garden (buurttuin).



Lombardijen, Peter van Drimmelen

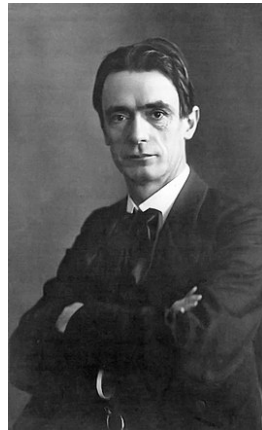
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Lombardijen, very similar plan to IJsselmonde, but much smaller scale

Van Drimmelen considered the neighbourhood too large as an entity to create the sought-after community feeling. He was inspired by the face to face group and in Lombardije, he divided each neighbourhood into two 'woongroepen' of 350 to 500 dwellings.

Source: Hage, Ruitenbeek & Zweerink, 2005.

## ANTROPOSOPHICAL PHILOSOPHY



Rudolph Steiner

### Vormende kracht

„Ik ben er van uitgegaan,” zo vertelde ons de heer P. van Drimmelen, de architect-stedebouwkundige van de Dienst van Stadsontwikkeling die het plan ontwierp. „dat de mens in de grote stad die in zijn dagelijkse werk aan allerlei spanningen onderhevig is, in zijn woonomgeving tot zich zelf moet kunnen komen. Hij heeft behoefte aan „ont”spanning, hij moet recreatief wonen. Maar hij moet zich ook in elke levensfase in zijn woonwijk thuis kunnen voelen. Dat moet vooral het kind, dat er indrukken opdoet die vaak beslissend zijn voor heel het verdere leven. Van de vormen van zijn dagelijkse omgeving moet en kan een vormende kracht uitgaan.”

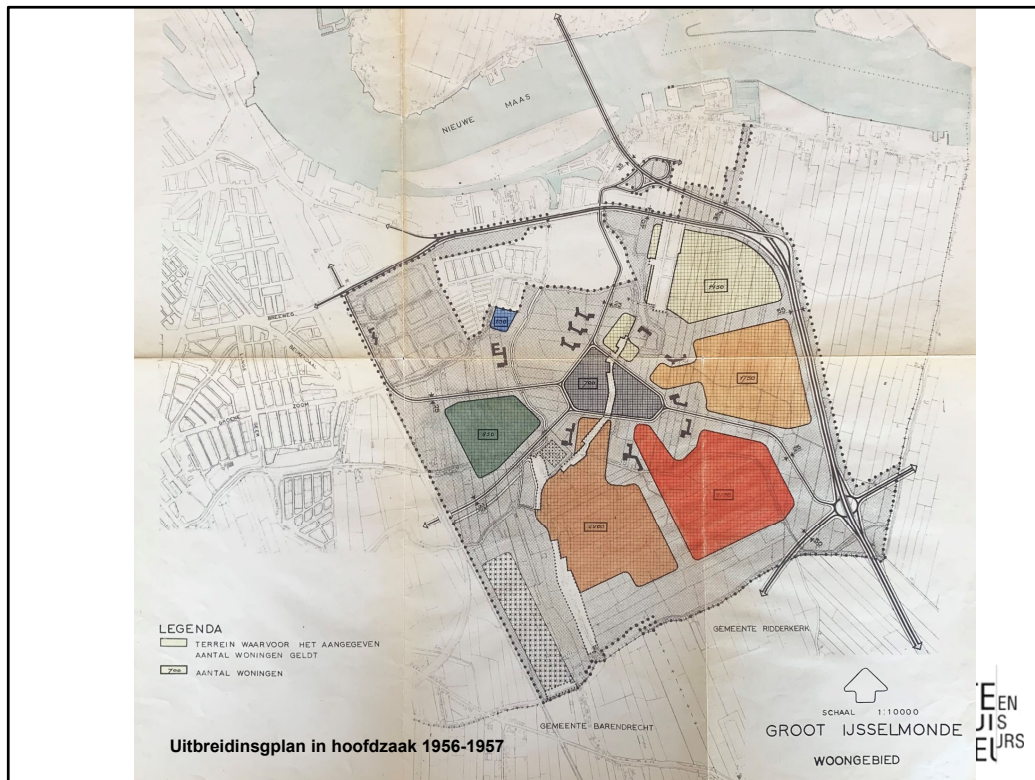
The neighbourhood as the social and societal training territory

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Van Drimmelen was inspired by Austrian philosopher Rudolph Steiner and his anthroposophical ideas. Perhaps more than his contemporaries, Van Drimmelen focussed on the individual and his development in life. People should feel free, children should grow up in an environment that supports their development. He saw the neighbourhood as the **social training territory** for kids – here they could learn how society works.

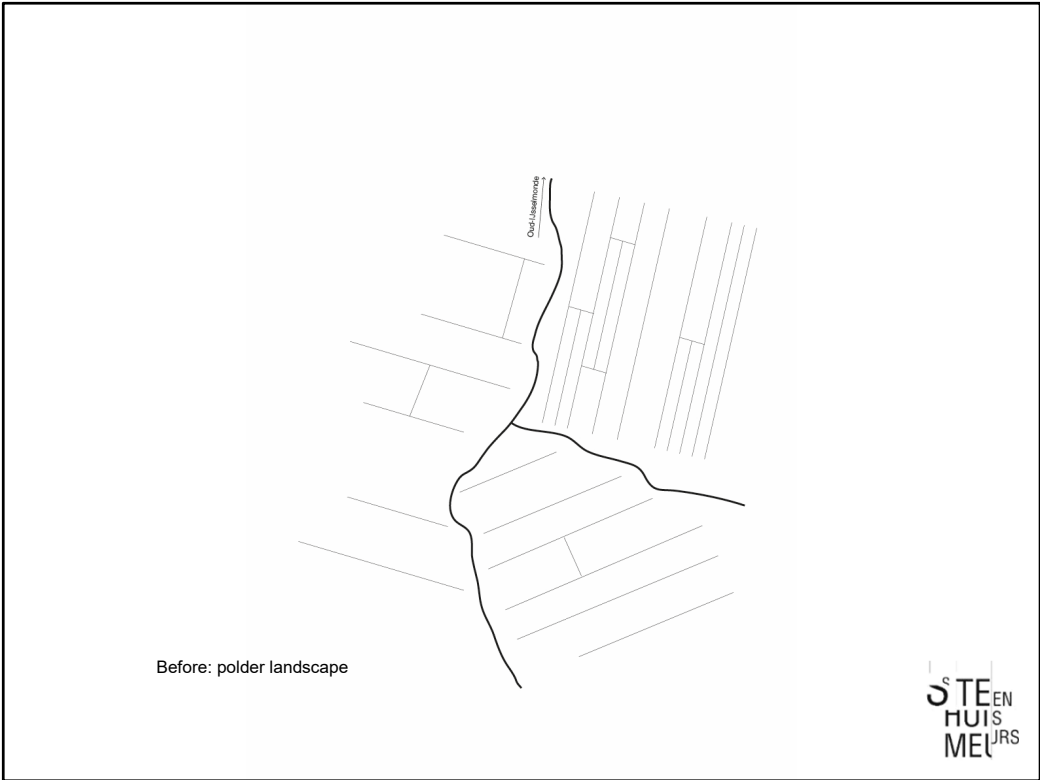
In the news paper clipping, Van Drimmelen states that people should be able to find relief from daily life and hectic cities in their living environment. They need relaxation, recreational living. In every phase of life, they should feel at home in their neighbourhood. Especially children, who gain impressions here that are decisive and formative factors for the rest of their lives.

Source: wikipedia, delpher

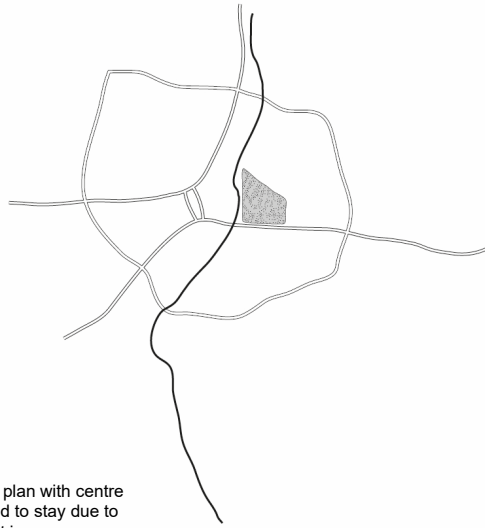


First official plan for Groot-IJsselmonde. Very similar to Lombardijen: centre – ring road (note here that the ring road is projected directly around the centre, this would change later) – neighbourhoods fanning out from there.

Source: Stadsarchief Rotterdam (Gedrukte Stukken 1956, folder 278)

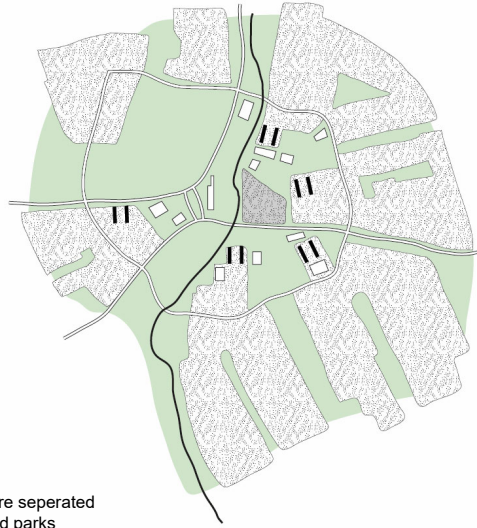






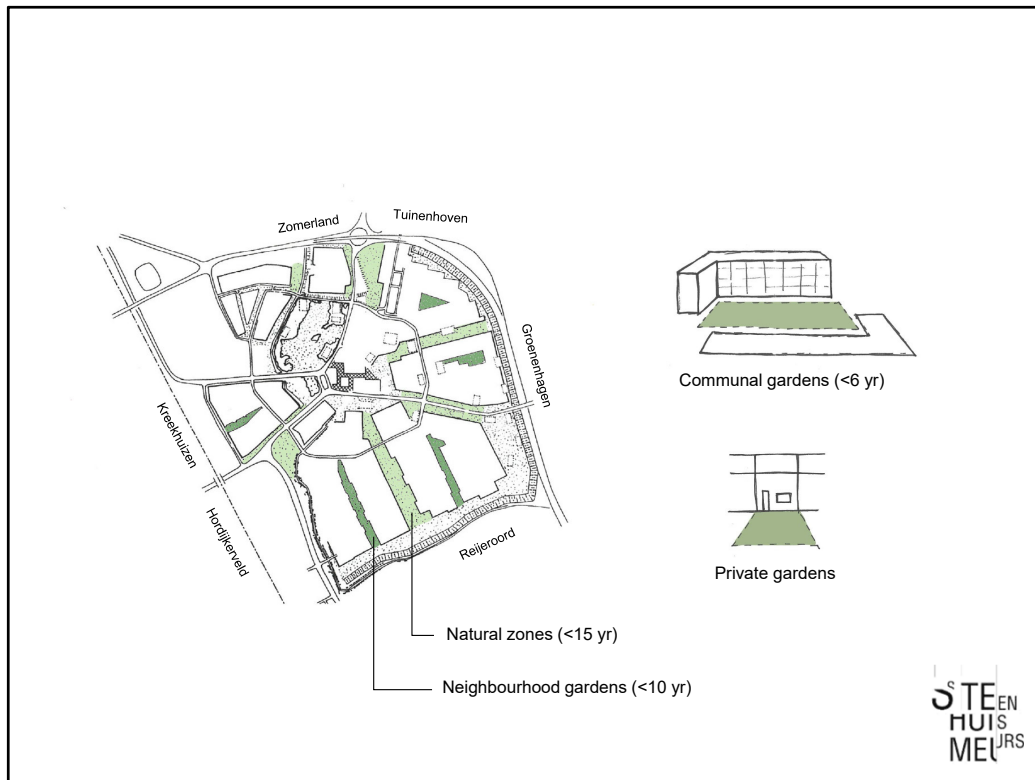
Tabula rasa: radial plan with centre at its core. Dike had to stay due to water management issues

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Neighbourhoods are separated  
by green zones and parks

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Important characteristic that distinguished IJsselmonde from other expansion neighbourhoods: green spaces functioned as one of the main structuring aspects of IJsselmonde.

1. Park De Twee Heuvels
2. Natural zones between the districts where older youth (>15 years) could kite, play bal and adventure games, etc.
3. The more quiet neighbourhood gardens were for kids of 10 years and younger, the elderly and the disabled, only accessible on foot
4. Communal gardens in between housing blocks, under watchful eye of mothers in the houses, for the youngest children
5. Private gardens (for lowrise houses)

*'De – vooral bij het moderne nomadenschap – in de praktijk van het maatschappelijke leven zo nodige tolerante sociale gezindheid moet reeds jong worden ontwikkeld. De gedwongen contacten, die de werksfeer kenmerken, dienen hun voorbereiding te vinden in de spontane ontmoetingen die in de woonsfeer kunnen ontstaan. Waar wonen en vrijetijdsbesteding steeds meer identiek worden, behoort de woonwijk meer het karakter te krijgen van een ontspanningsgebied dat tevens kan dienen als sociaal trainingsterritoir voor diegenen die tezamen de toekomstige samenleving zullen moeten vormen: de jeugd.'*

Life in these different 'layers' of city-living functioned as a preparation, a social training territory, for modern working life. Kids could grow and develop here within the safe limits of the district. Meanwhile, for adults, the garden city could function as a relief from and compensation of hectic, energetic and loud work hours in the harbour, the factory or the office.

'Sociaal trainingsterritoir', 'ontspanningsgebied'

*Westelijk olieland nummer één?*

# Olierijkdom in ons land frappant groot

Nederland verrassend rijk aan olie



## Grote reserves in Zuid-Holland door nieuwe vondsten

NEDERLAND IS OP WEG verhoudingsgewijs het rijkste olieland van het westelijk continent te worden.

Dit blijkt uit mededelingen van de Nederlandse Aardolie Maatschappij aan het ANP. Ondanks de afnemende opbrengst van de Schoonebeekse velden stijgt de produktie van onze oliebronnen als geheel genomen.

De nieuwe vindplaatsen in Zuid-Holland blijken een betere opbrengst te leveren dan aanvankelijk was verwacht. Gezien de vondsten van de laatste maanden acht men het niet een gemiddelde van minstens 42 ton per jaar per vierkante kilometer landoppervlakte.

**The Netherlands is remarkably rich in oil – new reserves found in Zuid-Holland**

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In 1956, the first plans for IJsselmonde were approved by the city council, but in the mean time the Nederlandse Aardolie Maatschappij (N.A.M.) had started extracting oil in IJsselmonde. But there was no place left to built so the housings plans did go through, and Van Drimmelen had to look for ways to integrate the NAM-fields in his neighbourhood plan.

Source: Het Vrije Volk 13 August 1956



Oil rigs in IJsselmonde, mostly integrated in green zones

Van Drimmelen speaks of "harmonisch samengaan" [harmonic integration] en  
"vrijwel onopvallend verwerkt" [integrated discretely]



Pumpjacks (ja-knikker), perhaps not integrated as discretely as Van Drimmelen thought.

Source: Stadsarchief Rotterdam



Extraction fields right next to the shopping centre

Source: Stadsarchief Rotterdam





Building in the green zones: Community Centre 'Klimmende Bever', housing the district council, the municipal wedding venue, a theater, a bar, a hub for youth, creative spaces for pottery, furniture making etc., a music school, a library. This centre illustrates the ambition of creating a community. To the opening, even the bus drivers and mailman were invited. Built in 1973-1974, demolished again in 2005. Important to note how the landscape around the building was integrated in the design and constituted a 'soft' transition between building and park-like green belt.

Source: Stadsarchief Rotterdam



Here we see another aerial shot, the NAM-fields (or the scars they have left) immediately catch our eye

Source: Stadsarchief Rotterdam



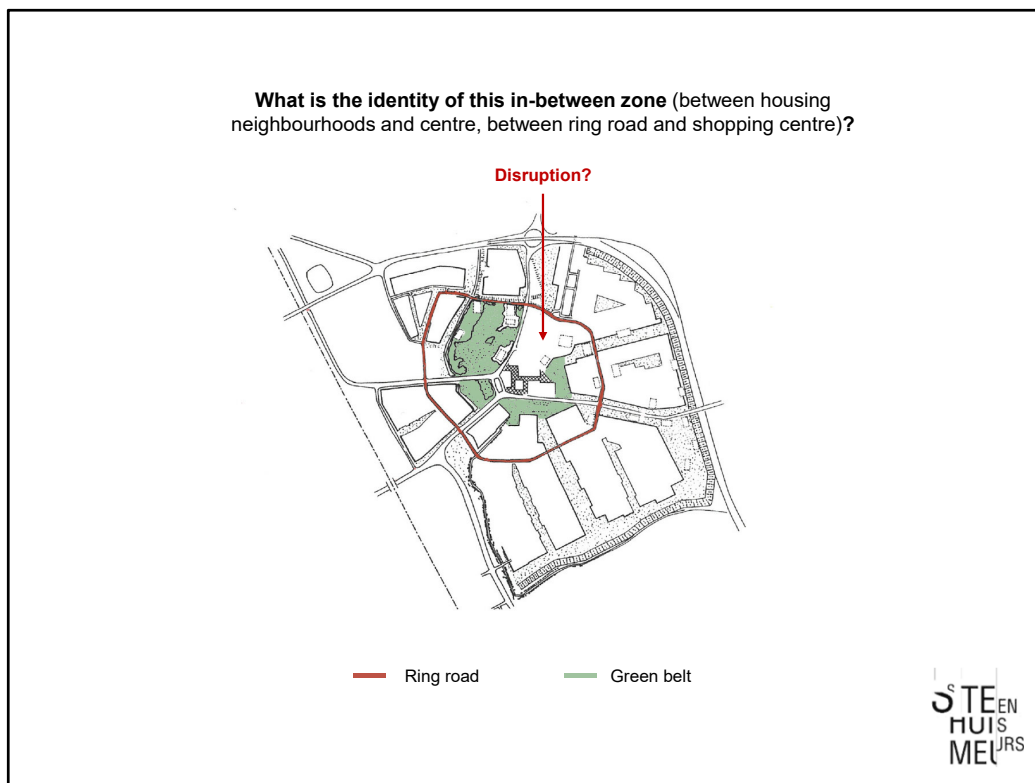
Aerial shot taken from the same position, but more recently. We see that the green belt has become congested with predominantly 80s and 90s additions. We also see that some NAM-locations are still there, barren pieces in the urban context, but more on that later. And we see the new additions to the shopping centre.

Source: Google Maps



Plan by Rijnbout, end of last century. New square, new connections between park and neighbourhoods, and new attempted connections with neighbourhoods on the north site. New public transport cluster.

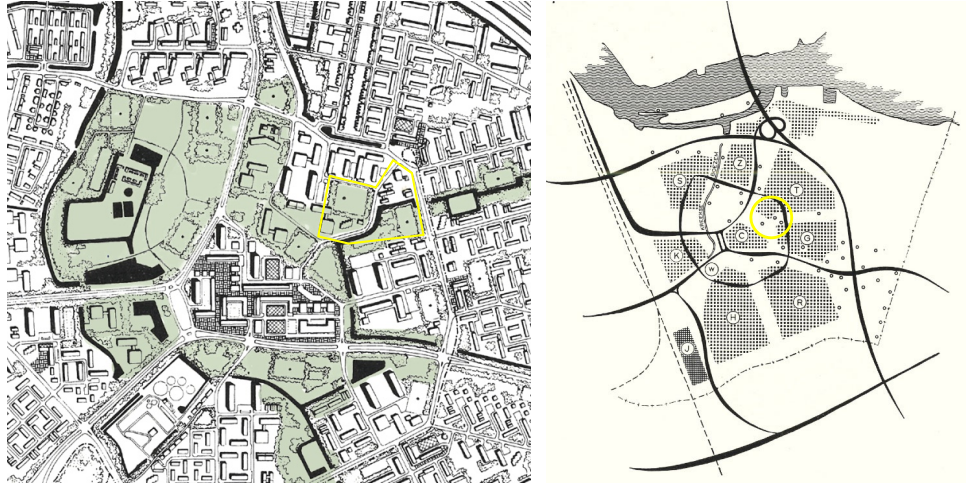




First of all, it is important to find Van Drimmelen's intentions here, what identity did he project on the areas between the ring road and the shopping centre. On a drawing from the book *Van Pendrecht tot Ommoord*, we see that, unlike the other neighbourhoods, the north-eastern neighbourhood of Tuinenhoven flows over into the shopping centre, ignoring the green belt.

Source: Hage, K., Ruitenbeek, J. & Zweerink, K. (2005). *Van Pendrecht tot Ommoord. Geschiedenis en toekomst van de naoorlogse wijken in Rotterdam*. THOTH Uitgever.

What did Van Drimmelen himself intend here?



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If we look at drawings made by Van Drimmelen himself, we see that he did not intend for the green belt to be disrupted like that. On the left illustration, the neighbourhood of Tuinenhoven is separated from the shopping centre just as abruptly as the other neighbourhoods.

Source: Drimmelen, P. van, 'Groot-Ijsselmonde, een woonwijk in wording', in: Bouw nr. 20, 1962.

If we compare this inner-ring zone with the inner-ring zone of IJsselmonde's other neighbourhoods:



It is interesting to compare the plans of other neighbourhoods of IJsselmonde (here: Hordijkerbuurt en Reijeroord) to that of Tuinenhoven (the neighbourhood that the European-location is in), we see that here, within the inner-ring zones of these neighborhoods, the housing units mostly continue and only a few community functions were proposed...

Source: Stadsarchief Rotterdam, Stadsontwikkeling SO, 930 Selectiearchief



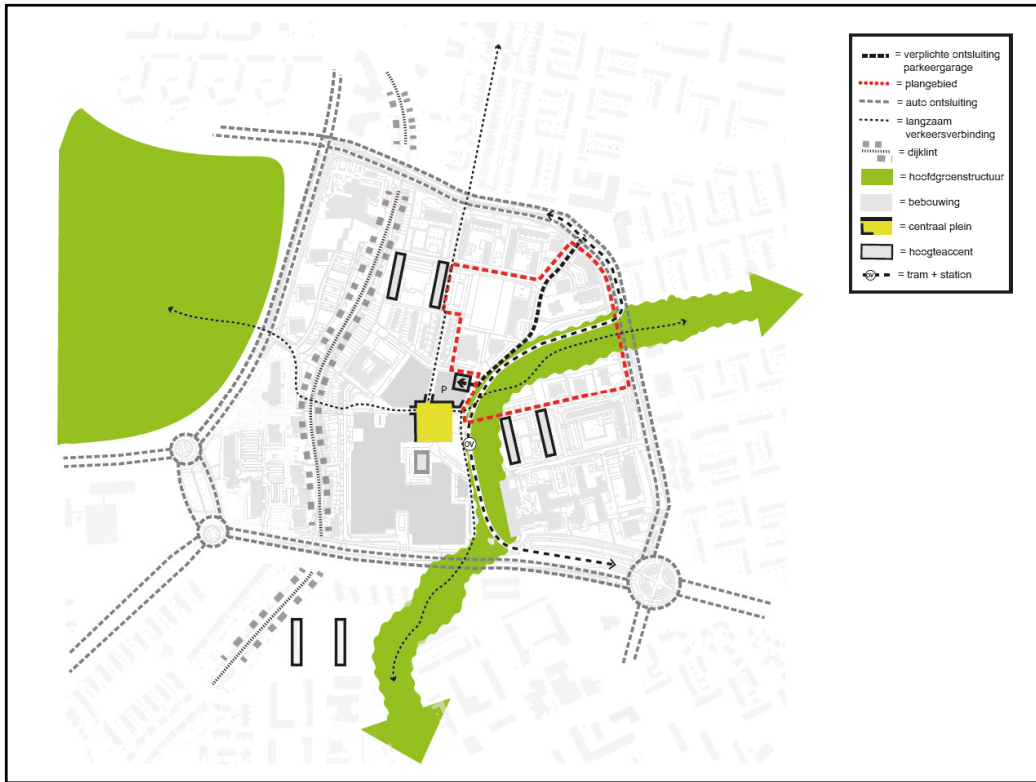


... while in Tuinenhoven, Van Drimmelen proposed far less housing units and far more “other functions” (community centres, schools, etc.) within the inner-ring zone of the neighbourhood.

Source: Stadsarchief Rotterdam, Stadsontwikkeling SO, 930 Selectiearchief

**7 challenges**

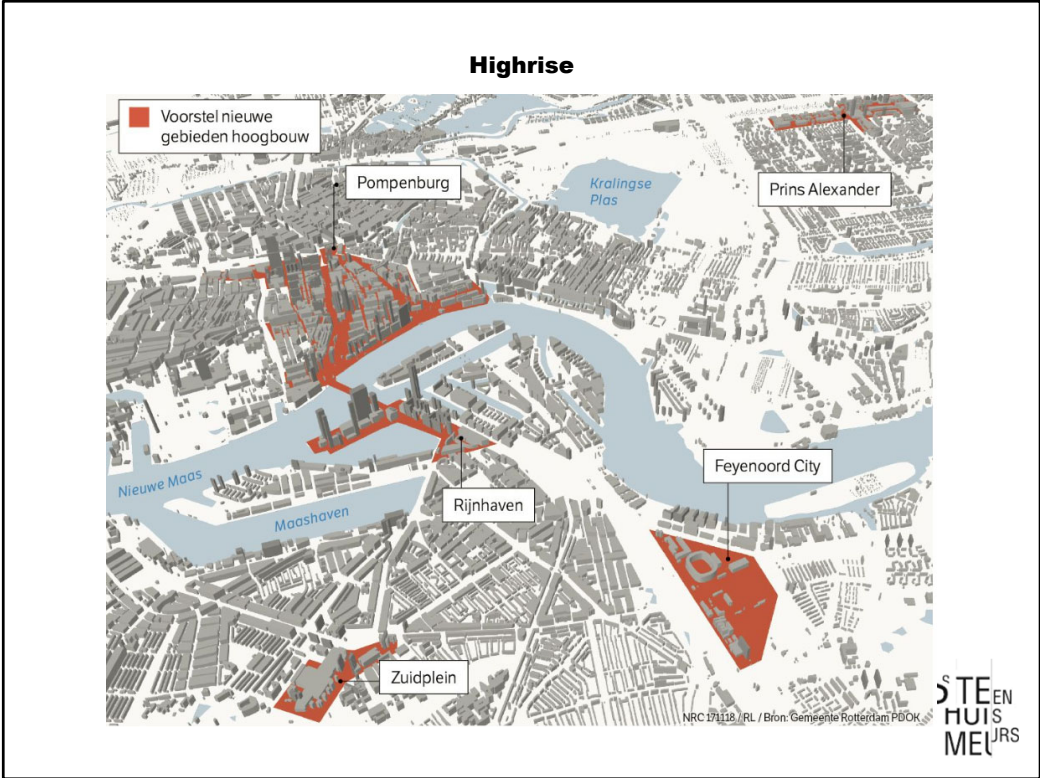
Future of IJsselmonde,  
future of garden cities,  
future of Rotterdam-Zuid



This is the European-15 location according to the brief. I would like to add some challenges and opportunities based on the cultural history of IJsselmonde.

## **1. IJsselmonde 's identity in rapidly changing Rotterdam Zuid**

- What is the position, role and identity of IJsselmonde in urbanisation, redevelopment and commercialisation of Rotterdam-Zuid?
- What themes of Rotterdam's general policies apply to IJsselmonde and how to respond to them?

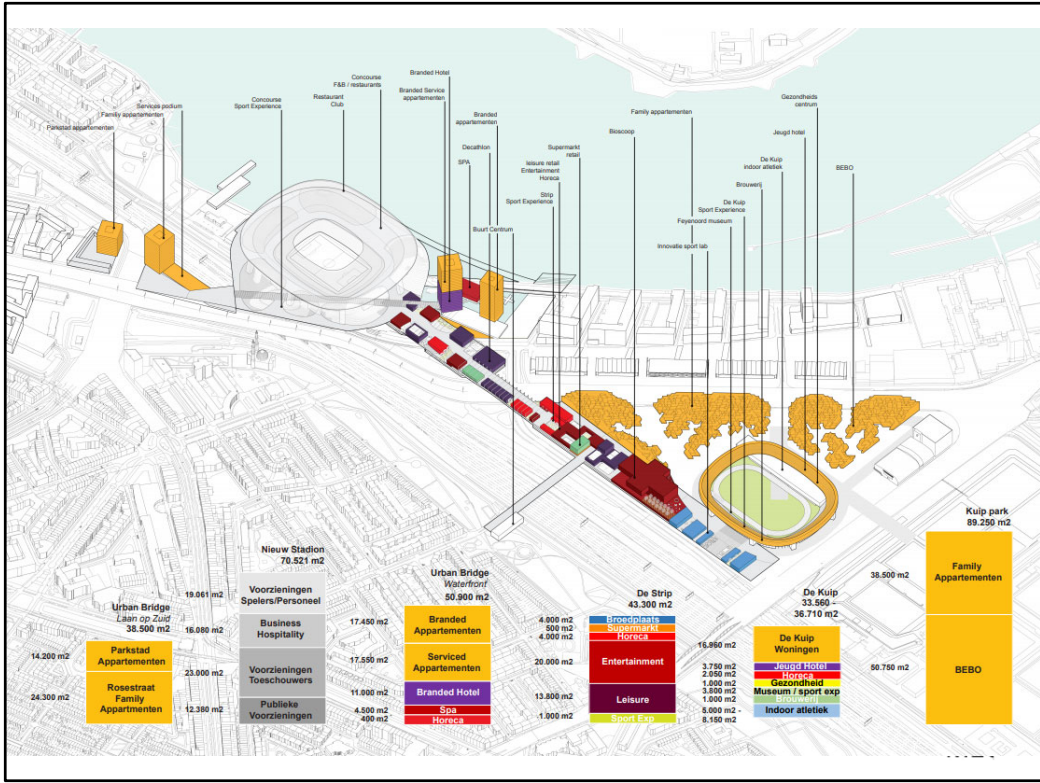


Highrise policy

## Feijenoord



Feyenoord City: big plans, right next to IJsselmonde (in the far left corner of the image)



**Kop van Zuid**

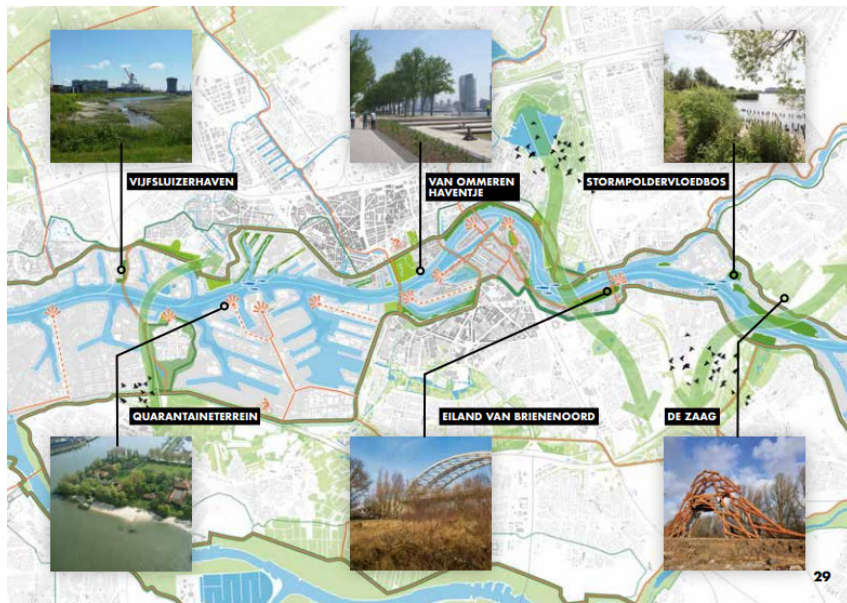


Nationaal Programma Rotterdam Zuid

Theatre and Library Zuidwijk (Hart van Zuid)



**Getijdenpark** (tidal park along the Maas river)



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Getijdenpark (tidal park along the MAAS)

## **2. Future-proof the garden city concept**

- The post-war and post-industrial ideals of community, escapism, security, health and space are re-emerging in today's society. How to fit in current issues and needs in the garden city of the 60s?
- The garden city has proven not to be without fault. How to solve elements like parking, closed-off building plinths and unkept green zones?

## Can garden cities and new towns work in the 21st century?

All major political parties have called for more garden cities and new towns, but there are lessons from the past to learn first



21<sup>st</sup> century garden city



Ageing population (photo: Ouderen Vierdaagse IJsselmonde)

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Source (left): the Guardian



Parking and closed building plinths



Feral and inaccessible green zone

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**3. Formulate suitable densification  
of the green zones**

- How to maintain (and strengthen) the character of the green belt zone around the centre area while introducing new functions and buildings?



Sometimes the green zones are as intended: beautiful and wild green areas interspersing the housing blocks



Green belt almost completely filled in with new buildings (offices, schools, etc.)



Inaccessible green zones in between neighbourhoods (this should have been a playing zone for kids <15 yo)





Schools in the green belt, according to Van Drimmelen's idea, but not park-like and behind high fences

**DON'T**



**DO**



Accessible green areas, transition interior-exterior, open plinths, degrees in use (private – collective), who takes care of the green zones, who owns them?

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Take inspiration from Van Drimmelen: 'bouwen in het groen', don't use trees and vegetation to hide what is built in it.

Green zones should be attractive, accessible, quality places. Do: soften the transition between interior and outdoors, open plinths, degrees in use (based on antroposophical philosophy of Van Drimmelen). Who manages the green zone, to who belongs the green zone, what uses does the green zones prescribe.

**4. Reinforce connections both within  
IJsselmonde and with surrounding  
neighbourhoods and city center**

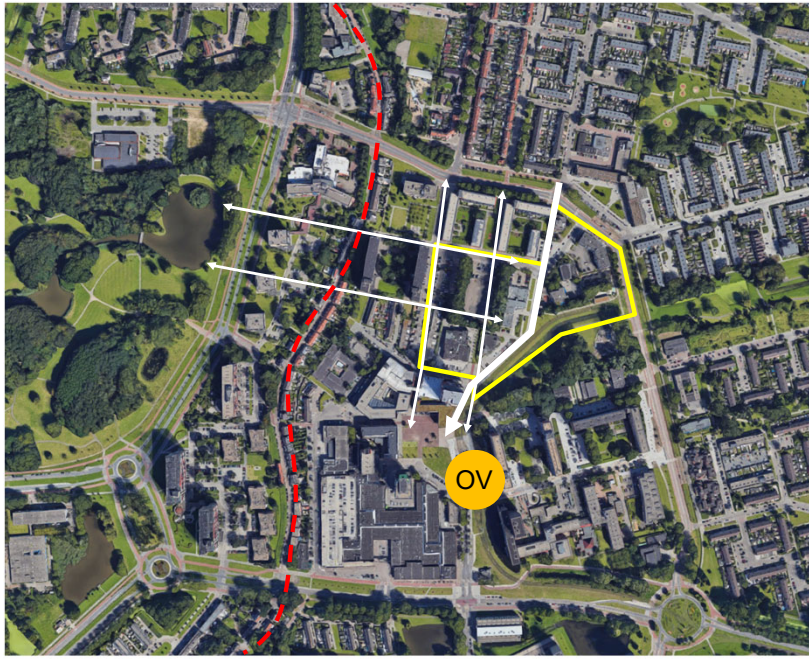




Apparently, directions are needed to reach the centre of IJsselmonde, even though it is the spatial centre point of radial axes. How to clarify the lay-out of this garden suburb?



Abrupt meeting of old dike and (relatively) new housing slabs, Van Drimmelen didn't really solve the fact that the dike would stay after all and would cut his IJsselmonde in two.



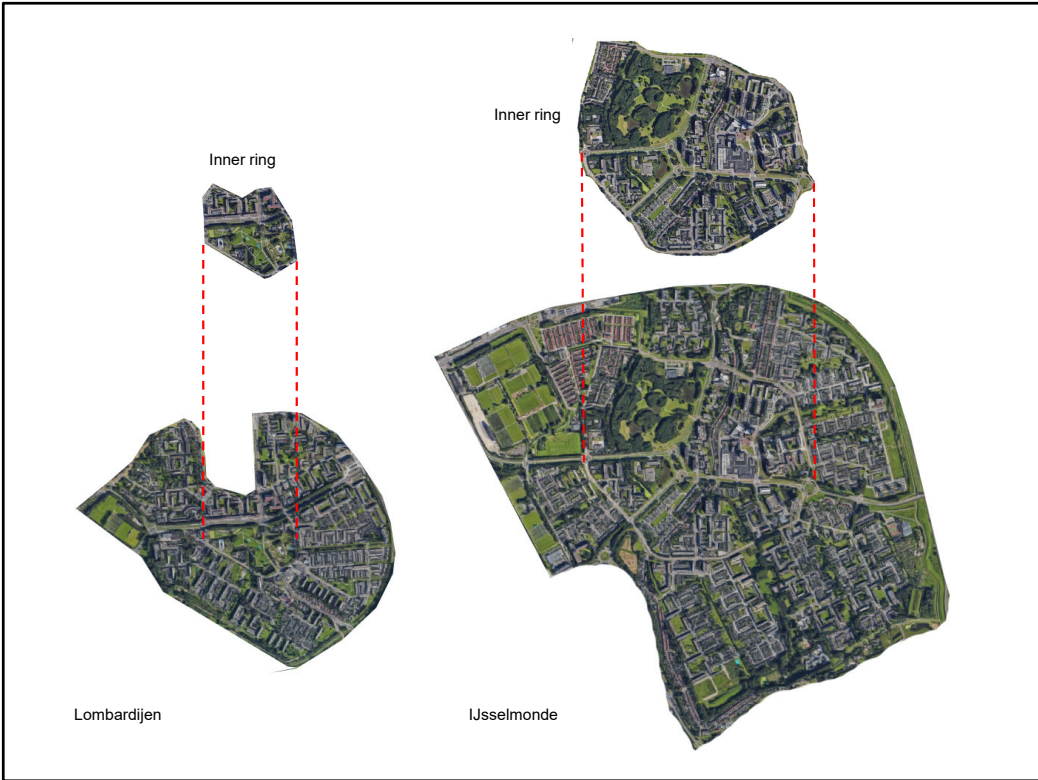
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**5. Re-adjust to human scale and clarify the urban lay-out of IJsselmonde**

- IJsselmonde is the inflated version of Lombardijen and has a remarkably low building density. How to re-introduce the human scale?
- The European site is wedged in between the centre, the green belt, the neighbourhood of Tuinenhoven, the ring road and the dike. What is the identity of this zone: is it centre, is it green in-between, is it a denser extension of the housing neighbourhood?

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IJsselmonde is an inflated version of Lombardijen, and you feel that in the unclarity of ...







Parking



Square



Shopping and parking

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A lot of things are HUGE in IJsselmonde



In the inner-ring zone of Tuinenhoven, Van Drimmelen intended the green belt to continue, interspersed by special functions (such as schools and community centres) that were intergrated accesibly and attractively in this green environment.

## **6. Distinguish through unique aspects of IJsselmonde**

- Successful densification in IJsselmonde can set the example for other garden cities. But what sets IJsselmonde apart?



Petroleum history

### Vormende kracht

„Ik ben er van uitgegaan.” zo vertelde ons de heer P. van **Drimmelen**, de architect-stedebouwkundige van de Dienst van Stadsontwikkeling die het plan ontwierp, „dat de mens in de grote stad die in zijn dagelijkse werk aan allerlei spanningen onderhevig is, in zijn woonomgeving tot zich zelf moet kunnen komen. Hij heeft behoefte aan „ont”spanning, hij moet recreatief wonen. Maar hij moet zich ook in elke levensfase in zijn woonwijk thuis kunnen voelen. Dat moet vooral het kind, dat er indrukken opdoet die vaak beslissend zijn voor heel het verdere leven. Van de vormen van zijn dagelijkse omgeving moet en kan een vormende kracht uitgaan.”

Antroposophical philosophy



Green wedges

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The former NAM-sites could continue telling the story of IJsselmonde.



Adriaan de Jongstraat



Dadeltuyn



Groene Tuin



Reyerdijk

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The oil rigs were left as scars in IJsselmonde. Many have become derelict or are used as parking facilities



Notenhagen



Bessentuin/Frambozentuin

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Some are integrated (somewhat) attractively in green zones



Kruidentuin



Groentuin



Hooghagen / Oldenhagen



Groentuin

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Many NAM-fields proved valuable places for more recent housing projects. Examples of densification of garden city: these zones were planned as green belts in between neighbourhoods.

**How can these now often derelict former oil rigs be integrated in the green zones of IJsselmonde, while also portraying this unique element of Groot-IJsselmonde's short history?**



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Extraction fields right next to the shopping centre





Some of van Drimmelen's antroposophical ideals are still present. Green playing fields in between housing, partly sheltered by trees, but still visible from streets and houses

**How to translate Van Drimmelen's antroposophical ideals of the 1960s in twenty-first century use and importance of green spaces?**



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Inaccessible green zones in between neighbourhoods (this should have been a playing zone for kids <15 yo)

**+ Don't approach the assignment as another problem solution, but depart from the opportunities that IJsselmonde and its history present.**

The European site – complex in past intentions and in need of identity and clarification – allows for experimentation, asks for it. Prevent further fragmentation and formulate an encompassing redevelopment that also answers to issues on a larger scale than the site itself.

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HUIS  
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