

# De Horstermeerpolder

## A landscape with a secret: landscape plan for the Horstermeerpolder, NL

The Horstermeerpolder is a highly dynamic area, inhabited by an innovative and hard working population. As one of the few places available for development in the Vecht Plassen Area it has become home to hundreds of small businesses focused along its main road. At the same time whole scale nature development and water storage combinations were planning to transform large areas of the polder for new use. We quickly realised that the qualities which defined this cultural historical landscape would be quickly eroded by new development of all kinds if these processes weren't guided to reinforce and reflect the spatial characteristics of the Line. The idea of bill boarding recreational networks with 'here is' would soon become 'here was', if nothing was done to protect the intrinsic values of the Line as a total entity.

### Unlocking secrets

Our approach was to devise a simple spatial strategy. The polder was divided into two entities: the production polder (orientated towards work, agriculture and housing) and the relaxed polder, (orientated towards nature, water storage and recreation). This would directly improve the problem of water quality in the Vecht plassen area, and allow room for innovation and production. Organising the potentials of these two entities in this way would also allow the two worlds to profit from each other. We then applied our value system of qualities to inform and permeate all levels of design decisions from the type of water system, to the form of recreational structures, down to new guidelines for buildings. Our aim was to unlock the secrets of the Line, and where necessary develop new structures in the spirit of the Line.

Belvedere therefore is not only about the recognition and reinforcement of existing identities, but (and when necessary) the creation of new values and identities that inspire new phases of history in a context of landscape as unfolding story.



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