

PIMBY Terpen

An innovation study for the storage of polluted dredge in the form of 'terpen'.



Client: Ministry of Water
Project: 2004
Realisation Budget: not disclosed
Status: study, currently in development

Terpen:

This study explores the possibility of storing significant amounts of polluted dredge in the form of 'terpen'. 'Terpen' are artificially constructed mounds for human settlement made from clay and soil to form safe living areas during periods of inundation. Historically they were most prolific during the Middle Ages, and were found in the ebb and flood region of the Rhine delta, in particular in Friesland and Groningen. The era of the 'terpen' lasted for approximately a thousand years, and was eventually replaced as a means of flood protection by the invention of the dike. Dikes are still the main defence for flood protection in the Netherlands today. The idea for new 'terpen' arises from the fact that rising sea levels and a changing river dynamic in the Rhine, means that extra flood protection measures are required in river areas during the next 50 years. One of the most likely measures is to allow polders (reclaimed land) adjacent to rivers to become flooded at certain critical periods to stabilise water levels. These flooding areas, or so called 'inundation' polders create new possibilities for new forms of living and recreation, yet at the same time require absolute safety.

Inventing the new terp

The terp is therefore an ideal form to allow development in the form of living and recreation to continue but at the same time offering a level of safety in the event of flooding. A series of models, illustrating the potentials of different approaches were developed to indicate how the new terpen could appear. No specific location was used, however the terpen were developed in the context of the lower Rhine. These models were used in public response research in which important parties such as nature groups, inhabitants, and farmers were asked for their reactions. For the large scale models, three types of terp were developed; the living terp (for new housing), the recreational terp (for new adventure activities) and the nature terp (for new ecology). Each model demonstrated not only different kinds of use and potential but also very different kind of visual appearance and impact on the landscape.

