

About Vathorst

Vathorst: A world of difference

Vathorst is the new city-district of Amersfoort. This residential area will be developed between 2000 and 2018. The objective is to build some 11.000 houses with all the necessary amenities, including shopping facilities (17.500m²) a railway station. Offices (100.000m²) and a business park (35 ha.) are also part of the plan. The housing programme consists for 30% of subsidized housing. The developing joint-venture is a Public-Private-Partnership (Municipality of Amersfoort 50% and five private partners).

The development itself stems directly from the Fourth Memorandum of Spatial Planning, a national programme dating back to 1993 (so-called Vinex-location). Since then new developments and new strategies have taken over. Elements of this renewal are at the hart of Vathorst. Medieval water systems structures the plan area (water as a structuring principle), thus creating smaller groups of houses or home-zones. Of course the area will be developed sustainably, making use of durable materials and energy resources (e.g. solar energy systems, district heating), efficient use of space (clustering of amenities) and high-quality architecture.

The challenge of ensuring diversity and pleasant living conditions in this large scale development was translated into a major theme for the city plan: A world of difference. Two cityplanners joined to design the plan together in Atelier Vathorst: Kuiper Compagnons, Office for Urban Planning and Architectural Consultancy and West 8, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture.

As a result every section of the development area will have its own atmosphere reflected in architecture, density, scenery and structure. For example in the section called 'Velden 1', (which is already realized), houses will have traditional forms like the so-called saddlebacks. Many wooded banks will be preserved within this section. In the section called 'De Laak', most houses have flat roofs and a feel of modern architecture. The landscape (polderland) is transformed and redesigned (typical Dutch) with many canals. In the future 65% of the houses will have vistas of water or will be situated on the waterfront. The housing density per hectare in this section will be higher.

In general, much attention is given to the immediate environment, in such a way that the modern citizen can find everything close at hand. This creates a sense of security from which he or she can step out into the world. To meet the demands of the target group an up-to-date infrastructure will be put in place: Fibre-To-The-Home. For excursions or information you can visit and/or sent an email to:

i-centrum@vathorst.com