

Hoofddorp Fort Island

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Hoofddorp Fort Island

Our Hoofddorp Fort Island design transforms the 8'100 square metre world heritage site into a public park, encompassing among others a restaurant, a small open air theater and a wild garden. It envisions a restoration of both the fort island and building, saving the monument from further decline.

The fort island is part of the Defence Line of Amsterdam, which extends 135 kilometres around the city of Amsterdam. Built between 1880 and 1920, the Defence Line consists of a unique system of inundation areas and forts. It was inscribed into the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1996. The fort in Hoofddorp is unique due to its central location in the heart of the town. Furthermore it is one of only two forts within the Defence Line of Amsterdam that are two storeys high.

Offering picturesque views over the surroundings, the green fort island will become an appealing public park. A new path will guide visitors from the bus stop to the highest point of the island. Contemporary elements will be added to the landscape in order to enhance its attractiveness, such as information poles, a new entrance gate, a connection bridge, a jetty as well as a small open air theater.

During previous renovations, some of the massive internal partition walls of the second floor were demolished. We used this historically incorrect situation to design a restaurant interior that references the original fort structure but benefits from the spaciousness of the current layout: dark wooden tables will be suspended from the lowest points of the solid in-situ concrete ceilings where the partition walls once stood, emphasizing the solidness of the concave ceiling in a functional way.

CLIENT
Stichting Fort van Hoofddorp

LOCATION
Hoofddorp, Netherlands

PROGRAM
Public

GROSS FLOOR AREA
2200 m²

YEAR
2012-2018

PHOTOGRAPHY
MWA Hart Nibbrig

TEAM
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