



## Cultuurpark Westergasfabriek

AMSTERDAM | 2006

Westergasfabriek, a nineteenth-century gas production plant on the outskirts of central Amsterdam, halted operations in 1981 and the site was re-zoned as a recreation space. The project was won in collaboration with Francine Houben of Mecanoo architects in 1997 and developed a concept of reuse and change within the sites existing buildings and landscape. The work began immediately to translate the 'Changement' concept into the detailed design that was completed in 2004.

Cultuurpark Westergasfabriek is one of Gustafson Porter + Bowman's defining projects and is considered a model of brownfield reclamation within a physically dense urban context and a complex set of stakeholders. Using 'Changement' as a foundation, the scheme establishes a delicate balance between buildings and landscape, contamination and accessibility, invention and interpretation, restoration and revelation that exploit the potential of the post-productive site.

Today it is a vibrant cultural center for the arts within an ecologically sustainable environment, that is also a meeting place for surrounding communities. The success of the project can be attributed to an effective design process which incorporated public input and site-specificity from its beginnings. The process of design included a full year of well-organized public consultation that led to an inventive layering of public space, with program's that suited both the arts and local communities. Providing spaces for large city events within a network of intimate natural landscaped environments.

### PROGRAMME

Public Park

### BUDGET

£7m (Initial) EUR23M (Final, due to delay of 2 years to resolve contamination)

### CLIENT

Westerpark District Council and the City of Amsterdam

### PROJECT DURATION

1997-2005

### SIZE

13.5ha

### ARCHITECT

Mecanoo (Led by Frances Houben)

### ENGINEERS

ARUP  
Pieters Bouwtechniek  
Tauw

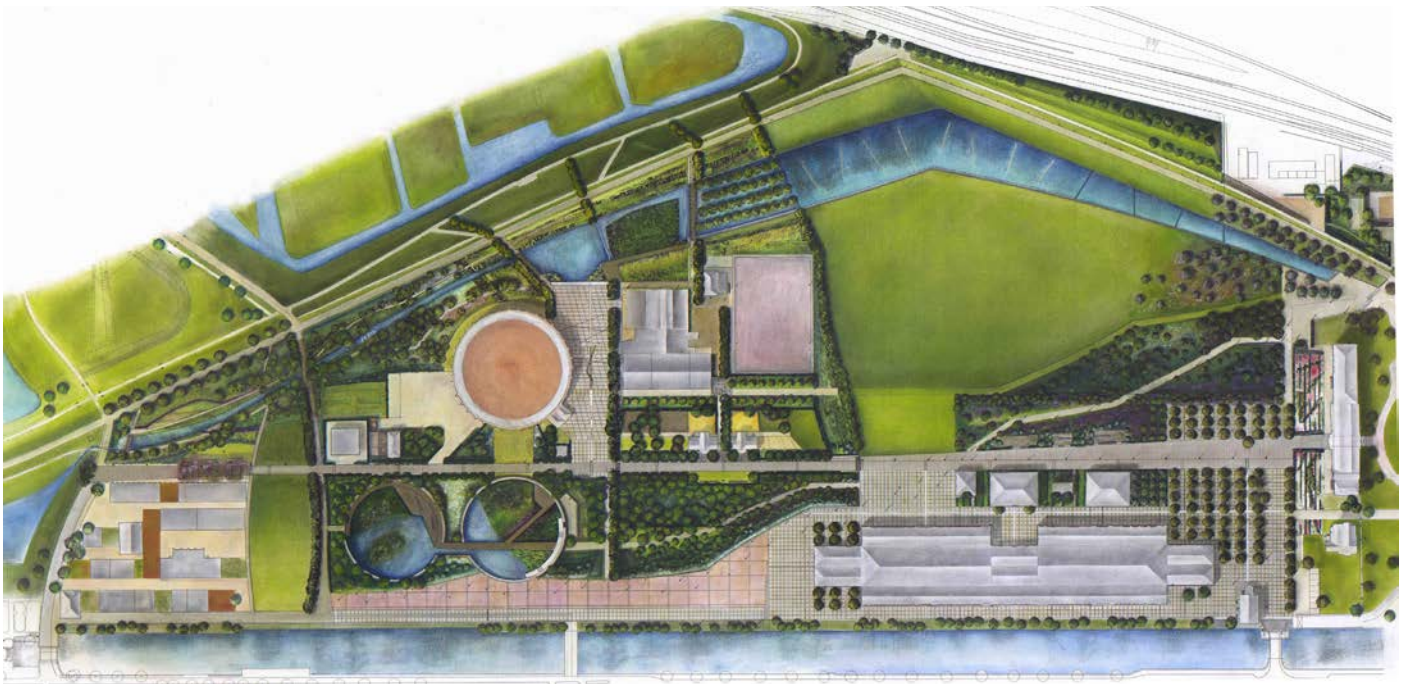
### PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Northcroft Belgium sa  
Tauw

### CONTRACTOR

Marcus bv





“The new park on the Westergasfabriek is certainly a fantastic new amenity. It is a meeting place for everyone, a park which is open all day every day, year in and year out. It forms a seamless whole with the buildings it surrounds... The buildings themselves were designed over one hundred years ago by Isaac Gosschalk. Kathryn Gustafson has been supremely successful in reflecting and complementing their form and character in the surrounding grounds, with all the beautiful and very special areas she has created.”

Evert Verhagen, Project Manager, Westergasfabriek Culture Park,  
1993-2003

#### AWARDS

- 2010 EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Award (Conservation)
- 2009 Green Good Design
- 2007 Landscape Institute Awards Winner – Design over 5ha
- 2007 International Urban Landscape Award, Topos
- 2006 Finalist, European Prize for Urban Public Space
- 2005 2nd Place Winner Built Project, RIBA Urban Space By Design Awards
- 2004 Golden Pyramid, Netherlands National Architectural Award