

linseed oil



schoolyard

public art work development
programme ot sluisbuurt

(23)

amsterdam, the netherlands
by annee grøtte viken

from plant to point

artist annee grøtte viken and the (nelly&) theo van doesburg foundation propose a public art work for the inner courtyard of the planned hogeschool inholland that makes use of local soil and plant species, rain and wastewater to grow materials for painting. it grounds the university to the site, develop alongside the building and through its story link students and staff to the place they inhabit.

the proposal linseed oil schoolyard responds to the need for us to re-connect to the planet and the environments we create, the importance of the stories they tell and their impact on how we live.

the sluisbuurt area is located in the east of amsterdam, two kilometres away from the centre. it covers an area of circa 600 000 m², which will accommodate residential, commercial and educational buildings. the

area is surrounded by the ij and enclosed by the zuider ijdiijk.

one of the biggest institutions that will establish itself in sluisbuurt is hogeschool inholland. according to the the architecture firm cepezed they have made the design for an almost energy-neutral (beng) educational building for the inholland university of applied sciences in amsterdam. and "the building will be taken into use at a central location in the future green living and working district, the sluisbuurt."

our proposal for a perennial schoolyard is inspired by the ambition of the area of sluisbuurt to be a green living and working district and that of the school as being almost energy- neutral, including elements such as a roof-garden, collecting rainwater and water re-use. the heart of the building as it is drawn today holds an atrium with an idea of a hilly, landscaped design with a city balcony at the front with a beautiful



render of interior atrium by cepezed architecture office
with illustration of material painting by annee grøtte viken

view of amsterdam. what better then to add a linseed oil schoolyard to that view?

the perennial schoolyard will be able to provide many possibilities for both the neighbourhood and the hogeschool, from recreation, knowledge, production (food, materials), exchange, sharing, establish connections, symbolise a layered history and provide stories of growth and sustainable living for a neighbourhood built from scratch.

the perennial schoolyard is thought to be of particular interest to the faculties of agri, food & life sciences, health, sports & welfare and creative business. proposed to carry flax, flowers and fruit trees. the schoolyard will be documented through an interior yard, a floor painting based on the outside yard. with 7 500 students and 500 student living spaces, hogeschool inholland will bring a lot of activity to the area of sluisbuurt.

a public art work and a programme

the linseed oil schoolyard is a proposal for a garden as a site-specific artwork for the inner courtyard of the new building of hogeschool inholland in sluisbuurt. the yard will grow flax to produce linseed oil and plants to produce pigments (these plants will also be suitable to eat or refine into other products). the flax plant will also provide tools that will be used for painting. the extracted material will be used to paint one or a series of "carpets" that will function as documentation of the garden and the process on the floor surfaces inside the hogeschool inholland.

the "yardcarpet" invites you to gather and sit on the floor. the painting will be made in



floor painting: collage

response to the process and the materials that is extracted from the schoolyard and the outcome will be based on the art of translating visual qualities of materials onto objects and architecture, also known as material imitation. yard and garden share the same linguistic root. the schoolyard is here considered a flourishing place, a ground that offers knowledge, a site for collective engagement, cultivation and social interaction, a place to share and exchange, a sanctuary for thought and rest. both the yard (garden) and the artwork is desired to develop alongside the construction of the building, growing and adapting during the process. the artwork presents itself through a series of rituals and activities related to the growth of the yard with the aim to facilitate, encourage and document other ways of thinking and being. reweaving webs of relationships.

material painting

the paintings propose a new type of archaeological study, where objects are not brushed out of the sand but instead materialise from what is grown from it. the soil from which the plants grow, colours of sand, shape of pebbles, drawings of rocks will form the basis of colours and shapes used in the paintings. the painting is inspired by the floor in the amsterdam town hall at dam square that show a microcosmos of the world, made by precious materials from around the world. this painting will instead emphasise the relationship between the moon and the soil to unearth a new centre and way forward, lifting our relationship to the soil, how we take care of the earth and each other. elements of past and future form a symbiosis and remind us how they are both intrinsic parts of the future were growth is vegetal. the vegetal and mineral come together as representations of the past and clues for the future. the artwork is proposed executed in the public spaces of the school, in the inner courtyard or merge onto doors to be snippets of discoveries or clues to new thoughts throughout selected



imitation marbles cave of forgotten dreams with
juri suzuki art projectspace neverneverland in amsterdam.
photo by ayako nishibori

interiors. material paintings are considered integral parts of a building, meaning they don't necessarily aim to stand out in a particular way – they might merge with elements of the space and disappear. the paintings for inholland will be aligned with the architecture but also appear in ways that inspire conversations and thoughts or trigger curiosity among students, staff and guests traversing the premises of the school.

garden activities

the yard will be developed in collaboration with the school, architects and planners and the process will be driven by exchange and knowledge production within the structure of the school itself among students and teachers interested in the project, extending



a landscape producing flax and linseed oil.
suggested that oil is left in crates to be thickened
and brightened by the sun



gathering native seeds.

photo by <https://salmoncreekfarmmeditations.org/our-seed-community>

out to professionals working in the various fields related to the garden, such as water and soil management, flax production, pigment extraction and cultivation of plants – all areas with long traditions in the netherlands.

the working title “from plant to point” looks at the yard as a symbol for our relationship to its materiality, and perhaps in many cases, our estranged relationship to it. to add rituals connected to the growth of the garden we are invited inside, to gather and connect through a mutual curiosity and joy for plants and trees. we learn how they thrive off each other and how we can thrive off them.

the garden will not only hold flowers and flax, but underline the importance of interconnectedness of species and will in

addition include a planting scheme for both fruit trees and vegetables. the yard aims to tap into the water management system planned for the school and use recycled rain or sewage water to grow flax (linseed oil) and flowers (pigments).

the area will be under construction for about 10 years, that means that its residents will find themselves in an environment in constant change. the linseed oil schoolyard is a proposal to grow a garden and community, with and of students, staff and caretakers connected at the school. it wishes to contribute to social sustainable growth through the act of taking care together and through understanding the natural components of sluisbuurt and make connections between people and their environment. the yard will establish rituals

in relation to sowing and harvesting, and strive to become a place to learn from, to work with, extract from as well as a space to breathe in and relax.

the garden will benefit from having perennial plants, it will establish a sustainable growth cycle, help stabilise the soil and prevent erosion. perennial plants are hardy and stay green long into fall and come back early in spring. it is not an invasive species and goes well together with other plants – an important aspect in a garden with a variety of different plants. perennial plants prove nutritional to animals, is a good pollinator and with its colour make also a decorative element in the garden. the garden might annual and perennial flax, perennial flowers and fruit trees.

flax is one of the most versatile plants we have, it produces both seeds and fibres and is known as the origin of a range of products, from linen, sails, damask, lace and sheets, bank notes, canvas, ropes, fine cigarette paper, teabags, seeds and oils for animal and human consumption, treatments for skin and hair, to oils and varnishes for painting. its oil is in addition a valued component in the production of putty and linoleum and the fibre for strengthening composite materials and cladding roofs. linseed oil is derived from the seeds of the flax plant (*linum usitatissimum*). the flax plant has been cultivated commercially for textile, seeds, and oil for over 20 000 years.

the yard is in need of caretakers. caretakers can be both students and staff but also imagined open to invited people with an environmental practice such as artists, biologists, architects, gardeners and others interested in the workings of the yard. the group of caretakers will need to be guided by a yardmaster, one appointed by the school

that will follow the process and lead the work when needed and appoint caretakers at the start of every semester. after the documentation (painting) is finished, further type of care of the yard is to be decided upon by the students and staff of the school.



traditional class at institute supérieur de peinture
bruxelles van der kelen-logelain



references for a harvest celebration (oogstfeest)
with the neighbourhood



public art work programme at sluisbuurt

“linseed oil schoolyard”

(29) by annee grøtte viken



public art work programme at sluisbuurt

network

for more information visit
www.theovandoesburgstichting.nl

the (nellyÜ)theo van doesburg foundation and artist annee grøtte viken welcome responses and ideas to further develop, prototype and finance the "linseed oil schoolyard" proposal. especially the expertise and interest of the following parties is required: hogeschool inholland, els corporaal – stadsecologist municipality of amsterdam, studio for immediate spaces department of sandberg instituut, hortus botanicus amsterdam, plant en houtgoed brussels, van de bilt zaden en vlas, rico verffabriek, pascal gatzen, the linen project artez and het nieuwe instituut.

colophon

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copywriting: kristoffer zeiner, kim wower, jules van den langenberg
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