

ATELIER PRO

Opdrachtgever
Maatschappij voor
Bedrijfsobjecten
MBO

Locatie
Kattenbroek
Amersfoort
Netherlands

Project type
urbanism

Functies
commercial &
retail, residential

Kosten
€ 18.151.208,-

16.650 m²

Project status
completed

Periode
1988 - 1993

Oplevering
1993



beeld: peter de ruig

District Centre Emiclaer, Amersfoort

In 1989 atelier PRO designed the district centre for Kattenbroek in Amersfoort. The brief called for shops (18000 m²) and 264 housing units. Among its mainstays are a Hema department store, a shopper hall and two supermarkets. Kattenbroek itself was designed by Kuiper Compagnons on a metaphorical underlay. The district centre exfoliates from a tapering plaza in the series of courts strung along Laan der Hoven ('avenue of courts', one of the principal metaphors devised by masterplanner Ashok Bhalotra). Set at right angles to this main plaza space is the so-called shopper square off which are the larger shops.

The centre is firmly embedded in the neighbourhood by routes leading to the surrounding districts, and by the prospect of the lake. Curiously the route crossing the curved street wall of Het Masker has been unstitched at their intersection by the urban designer responsible. Sixty-three housing units stand along the lake, with the remaining 171 on the north-eastern side of the district centre.

The tower acts as the hinge

between the diagonal and orthogonal directionalities in the centre scheme. To protect the centre from the obvious course of having everything oriented inwards and to let the housing in the scheme profit from the view of the lake, the development lining the lake has been slit open at places. An uninterrupted serpentine canopy serves to reassert its continuity. The centre's orientation to the lake is strengthened by a steady decrease in building height towards the water.

Ontwerpteam
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