

Haagse Havens (Harbours of The Hague)



Project author or developer:
Stroom Den Haag

Where:
NL / The Netherlands / The Hague

Website:
www.stroom.nl/index_en.php

Thinking about the future of The Hague starting from its urban development

The project Haagse Havens (Harbours of The Hague) has been initiated by Stroom Den Haag (The Hague) to explore new ways of urban development, for which the industrial area Haagse Havens functions as a training ground. In this area the typical urbanistic “blueprint” planning failed, and a new start is sought starting from the existing situation, instead, and in active collaboration with local, small-scale actors. This approach calls for a much better understanding of the current qualities, a more flexible handling of urban planning and regulation, a different way of designing and a better use of the capital available beyond money, in form of available time, energy, love and commitment of entrepreneurs and residents in the area. With Haagse Havens, Stroom continues a line of activities that have brought this center for art and architecture over the period of a decade increasingly closer to shaping the actual physical organisation of the city; as a cultural institution it has thus become itself an active agent in the (re) development of the city of The Hague, spearheading new alliances to experiment the city’s future. In the situation where for years urban development focused on construction, growth and profit, the actors involved here have recently decided (and have been forced) to mark time. Together with the Department of Urbanism, Mobiel projectbureau OpTrek and the TU Delft new perspectives on making city are being sketched and tested. There is a need for a new working method and ethos, which will require a different way of working, looking, appreciating, financing, controlling, designing and regulating. How different exactly, is the subject of Haagse Havens.

