

**MASTERPLAN KNSM
 ISLAND
 AMSTERDAM (NL)
 1988-2003**

Taming the big dimension

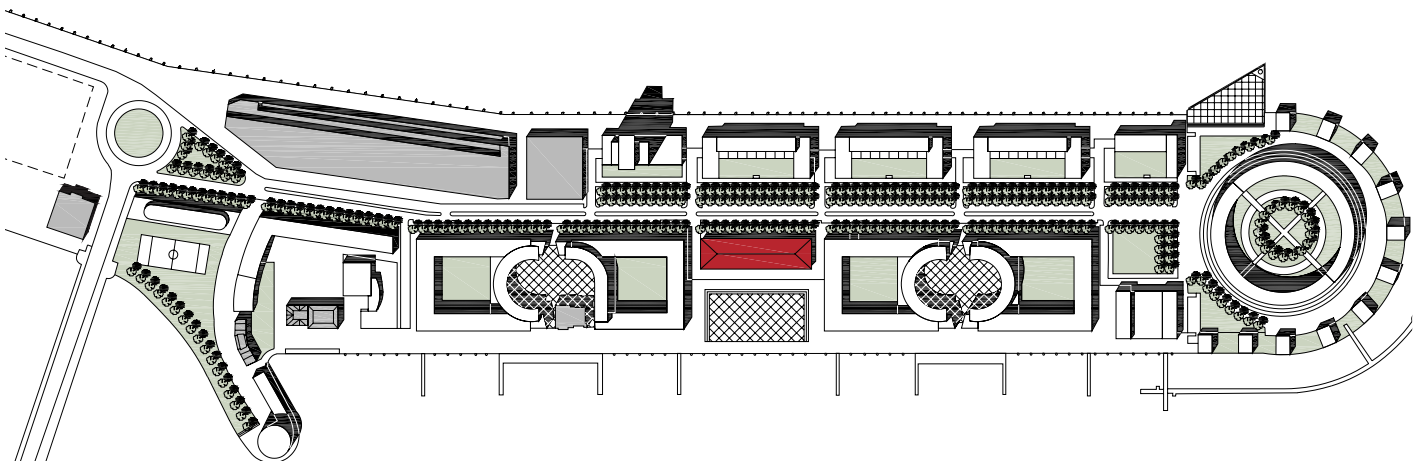
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The reorganisation of a dockside island as a residential district was uncharted territory in 1988. Coenen was very ambitious: the creation of an urban ensemble that can vie with the inner city, in spite of the narrow, elongated shape of the island. The source of inspiration was the southern district of Amsterdam, with its well proportioned building blocks and carefully situated streets, hence the asymmetrically placed boulevard running lengthwise, flanked by apartment blocks with (crossable) courtyards.

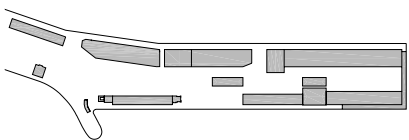
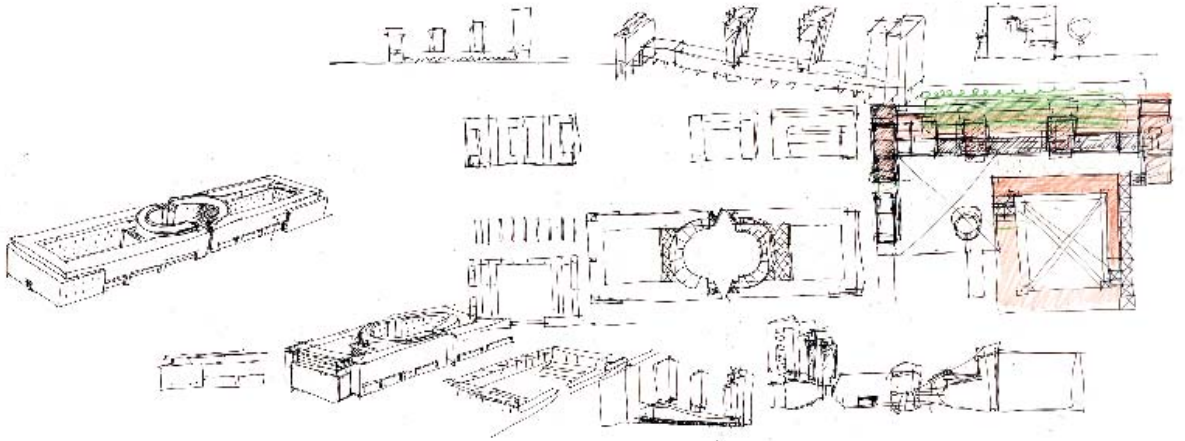
On the south side of the boulevard, and where it ends, are megablocks whose size is dictated by the expanse of water and the dimensions of the former dockside buildings. On the north south the horizontal silhouette plays a role – the rhythm of the smaller blocks and an asymmetrically placed tower.

A lot of talks were held with locals, including squatters and urban nomads, about how the public space was to be organised. They indicated where sun, wind and water created suitable sites. Six existing buildings were incorporated in the plan (one of them in a reduced form), as well as a garden after a design by Mien Ruys.

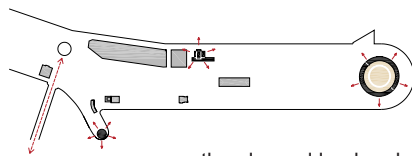
Hilde de Haan



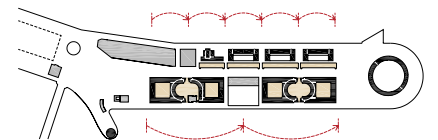
master plan KNSM-island, some changes were made to the bridge and blocks



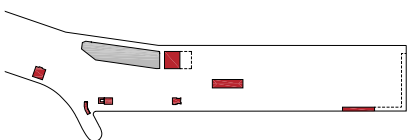
buildings around 1985



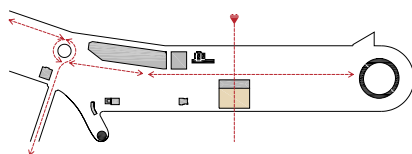
the planned landmarks



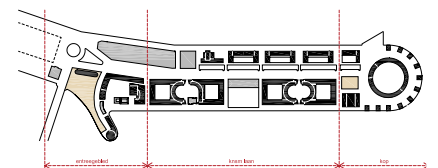
longitudinal dimensioning



existing buildings incorporated in the master plan



central axes, with the longitudinal axis not quite bisecting the island



main elements of master plan
new buildings in black