

NR. 21 - MARCH 2026

ROTTERDAM CENTRAL DISTRICT



From concrete balls
to blossoms **38**

**ROTTERDAM ROOFTOP DAYS
REVEAL JUST HOW MUCH
SPACE IS STILL UNTAPPED **30****



TREE HOUSE

GATEWAY TO IMAGINATION



BINNEN-KORT IN VERKOOP!

STAP BINNEN IN TREE HOUSE

In het hart van Rotterdam, direct naast Rotterdam Centraal verrijst een nieuwe landmark. Een iconische toren van 130 meter hoog met 37 verdiepingen en een spectaculair uitzicht over de skyline van Rotterdam. In Tree House komen 127 koopwoningen tussen de 25^e en 37^e verdieping.

De appartementen variëren van circa 50 m² tot ruim 247 m² met allemaal een eigen buitenruimte. In en rond het gebouw ontstaat een nieuwe ontmoetingsplek voor de stad, met bruisende horeca, circa 15.000 m² kantoorruimte en circa 2.000 m² verblijfs- en ontmoetingsvoorzieningen.

TREEHUSEROTTERDAM.NL

A District in full bloom

The days are getting longer. Have you noticed it yet on the Weena? The first rays of sunlight cast a golden glow over the area, and anyone who looks closely can see it everywhere: the Rotterdam Central District is awakening. It is spring—the season of new beginnings, energy, growth, and bloom. In this edition of our magazine, we celebrate that dynamism, as our district is currently transforming faster than Japanese cherry blossoms can unfold.

For a long time, this was an area of concrete and roaring engines, but we are now at a historic turning point. Take Hofplein, for example. Where five lanes of asphalt once dominated, a green city entrance will soon rise, featuring no fewer than 150 trees. It is a prime example of how we are making the city more livable: transforming a “traffic machine” into a place where people want to stay. As Christian Gausepohl from the municipality aptly puts it: “You get something back when you redistribute space differently.” And that is exactly what we are doing—making room for quality, connection, and calm.

This shift from “concrete to blossom” is also visible in the Schiekadeblok. Project manager Andriena Lushtaku looks ahead to the transformation of the Delftsehof and paints a clear picture of the future: “A cool and super-green meeting place in the middle of all the high-rise buildings.” A promise that makes the district not only more beautiful, but also more human. We are already looking forward to seeing the city quite literally come into bloom here.

But a district does not bloom through trees and buildings alone. It grows through the people who work, live, and dream here. High above the city, crane operator Serge Admiraal is helping build The Modernist from his own “360-degree penthouse.” Every day, he watches the skyline change, while below, the lights turn on in the district’s offices. That moment, he says, remains beautiful every single time and captures the boundless energy of the area.

That human layer is essential. Roos Zondevan emphasizes this in her column: sustainability goes beyond spreadsheets and returns. It lives in the social

connections that bring a city to life—in places where people meet and feel at home. The Rotterdam mentality of getting things done connects us all. Whether it is bureau Brink, which has consciously chosen the Groot Handelsgebouw for ten years, or Martin Trcka, who gives Rotterdammers the freedom to explore the city on their own power with Give a Bike. Here, we are not just building with stone—we are building an ecosystem in which people, ideas, and initiatives can flourish.

I invite you to browse through this magazine and feel the fresh wind of renewal. From the serene calm of Maaskant Park to the limitless possibilities on our rooftops: let yourself be inspired by the makers and doers who bring color to our district.

Wishing you lots of reading pleasure and a blooming spring!

Dominique van Elsacker
Chairperson RCD



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Livability

Schiekadeblok

Rotterdam's fifth facade

For years, the Schiekadeblok, a redevelopment block along Schiekade in Rotterdam, has been Rotterdam's rough diamond. A place of concrete, creativity and late-night escapades. But anyone who thinks that this iconic part of the city will remain merely a monument to post-war reconstruction is mistaken. Project manager Andriena Lushtaku is helping shape a future in which the historic character of the existing buildings, the arrival of new towers and the ambition for rooftop farming all coexist.



As project manager for the redevelopment of the Schiekadeblok area, Andriena sits at the centre of a complex network of property developers, creative entrepreneurs and Rotterdam’s relentless drive to reinvent itself. Her mission is clear: preserve the area’s unique ecosystem while the skyline around it continues to rise.

‘Schiekadeblok is far more than a collection of buildings,’ she says. Andriena describes it as a creative, innovative ecosystem—and anyone who has ever had a beer at Biergarten or been to a gig at Annabel will know exactly what she means. Architects, designers and artists work side by side here, and the area’s raw, stone-heavy character offers a sense of freedom that is increasingly hard to find elsewhere in the city. But that rawness has a downside. Maintenance has slipped in places, and the public space is, as Andriena puts it with disarming honesty, ‘rather messy and very stony’.

RAW SOUL

Plans for the coming years are therefore ambitious. ‘Something really impressive is going to happen along the railway line with the Bluezone Offices,’ Andriena explains. ‘On the east side of the city centre, the Perronpand building will make way for a tower around 70 metres high. And on the site of the Biergarten, a new giant will rise: a residential tower reaching up to 200 metres.’

At street level, these buildings will house restaurants and a cultural hall. Andriena: ‘The idea is to make the area truly lively,’ she says. ‘But what matters most to me is the renovation and transformation of the heart of the block—the reconstruction buildings along Delftsestraat and Schieblock itself. For example, buildings have been sold that are being redeveloped into Hotel Metro—a place where hotel guests, restaurants and

creative workspaces come together.’ Keeping creative entrepreneurs in the area, she adds, requires a tailored approach—even in the new buildings. ‘We don’t want to lose the raw soul of the place. We want to give it a sustainable future.’

FROM CAR PARK TO GREEN OASIS

Perhaps the most striking aspect of the plans is the shift from grey to green. Anyone walking through the Schiekadeblok today will see a largely paved landscape with little greenery. But if Andriena has her way, that will soon change dramatically. The Delftsehof square will play a central role. ‘It will be a cool, lush meeting place in the middle of all the high-rise buildings,’ she says enthusiastically.

‘Terraces will surround the square, turning the centre into a genuine oasis. And one crucial change will make that possible: the car park will move underground. Two metres of soil will be added on top,’ Andriena explains. ‘That means we won’t need planters—we’ll be able to plant full-grown trees directly in the ground.’

THE REVOLUTION OF THE FIFTH FAÇADE

The ambition doesn’t stop at street level. In fact, much of the inspiration comes from above. DakAkker on top of the Schieblock—currently Europe’s largest rooftop farm—has become a success story and a source of inspiration for the entire area. The idea is to expand this concept across the neighbourhood: a kind of ‘DakAkker XXL’. ‘We see the roof as the fifth facade,’ Andriena explains. ‘In architecture, the walls are traditionally the first four façades. But here the roof is just as important for nature. It’s no longer something we add as an afterthought.’

Green roofs are now required for properties sold along Delftsestraat West. ‘We want roofs that combine ecology with rooftop farming,

and that people can actually visit. A shared roof landscape can contribute enormously to the sense of community at Schiekadeblok.’ Of course, there are technical challenges. Water, soil and plants add considerable weight. Together with Wouter Bauman from DakAkker, the team visited the PAKT rooftop farm project in Antwerp to exchange knowledge about innovative solutions for weight reduction, water retention and the role of rooftops as social spaces.

That idea of shared space extends to the ground floor as well. ‘We have already decided that things like waste collection will take place indoors. This is crucial for the Delftsehof as a green meeting place surrounded by terraces. It means we can keep the outdoor space for trees and planting, rather than containers.’

BUILDING WHILE THE CITY KEEPS MOVING

The project is expected to be completed in 2034. It’s a long journey, and the construction period will take some doing. The challenge will be maintaining the area’s energy while cranes tower above the city. Andriena is clear about one thing. ‘We don’t want people staring at closed construction fences for ten years. We’re organising the public space so that places like Biergarten can keep operating and there’s still room for events and gatherings. In fact, the temporary situation creates opportunities.’

A wonderful example of this is the current layout of the Delftsehof square. Where there was once a car park, local entrepreneurs have created a temporary public space with a skate ramp and patches of greenery. ‘It’s participation at its best,’ Andriena says. ‘We set

the framework—safe, public, sustainable—and they shaped the space themselves. It already shows the direction we want to move in.’

For Andriena, the redevelopment of Schiekadeblok reflects a broader shift taking place across Rotterdam. The city is gradually transforming from a hard-edged port city into one where quality of life plays a central role. ‘Just look at the greening of the quays, Coolsingel boulevard and Hofplein square,’ she says. ‘Or the temporary lawn next to the Markthal, which people have been using intensively for almost ten years now. People are craving those small green oases in the middle of the city. Green spaces really do make a difference.’



● The Modernist is een Rotterdams antwoord op de vraag naar hoogstedelijk wonen.



Duurzaam, comfortabel, toekomstbestendig en met het oneindig fascinerende uitzicht op de Rotterdamse skyline.



THE
MODERNIST



ROOS ZONDEVAN
Founder Wise

THE VALUE BEYOND THE SPREADSHEET

‘Sustainability’ is a word we love to use—in plans, visions, and presentations. Often, it refers to energy, circularity, and returns; to figures that add up, to metres that have been let, and to models that show that it ‘works’. Don’t get me wrong: that’s important. It has to add up in the Excel spreadsheet. But sustainability is more than that. Much more.

What increasingly concerns me is another form of sustainability: that of people, of culture, of social initiatives, of everything that makes an area not just functional, but meaningful. And that, of course, is the part we struggle to assign a concrete value to.

We now have a pretty good idea of what a square metre costs. We can calculate what a building yields and how quickly an investment will pay for itself. But how do you express the value of a meeting place? Of a cultural hub? Of greenery that is not only beautiful but also provides calm, promotes wellbeing, and brings people together?

And yet it is precisely these elements that define a place. They determine whether people feel at home there, whether they want to stay, whether they feel connected to their surroundings. They form the foundation for creativity, entrepreneurship, and encounters. Without this human layer, all that remains is a backdrop: sleek, efficient, and empty.

Ironically, it is often these hard-to-measure values that ultimately have the greatest impact on the hard numbers. Areas with a strong cultural and social foundation are more attractive, more resilient, and more future-proof. They draw talent, spark innovation, and foster long-term commitment. In the end, this too translates into economic value.

So the question is not whether culture, social initiatives, and green spaces have value. The question is why we continue to treat them as secondary simply because they don’t fit in the spreadsheet. Perhaps it’s time to broaden our definition of value. Not everything that counts can be counted.

To me, sustainability is about creating living environments where people feel seen; where there is space for encounters, experimentation, and humanity; where not only buildings, but also communities, can flourish. If we dare to invest in this—with attention, trust, and patience—we will build areas that yield returns today while retaining their significance tomorrow. That, in my view, is the most sustainable value we can create. Perhaps we should ask ourselves more often: what do we lose when we only count what is measurable? And what do we gain when we dare to invest in what makes a place truly human?

A strategic perspective from the Groot Handelsgebouw

Brink, the management and consultancy firm specialising in construction, real estate, infrastructure and spatial development, operates across the Netherlands. Ten years ago, it deliberately chose to establish an office in the heart of Rotterdam's Central District. From the sixth floor of the Groot Handelsgebouw, an extensive post-war building, Brink enjoys a magnificent view of a city in constant motion. Managing Partner Janneke Koeleman sees how both the city and the location energise the company: 'Rotterdam dares to be bold, which suits us perfectly.'



Trains arrive and depart, travellers flow in and out, and construction projects pop up across the city. A decade ago, Brink moved into its office at the Groot Handelsgebouw—no other location could have embodied their credo, 'the beating heart of construction, infrastructure and real estate', more aptly. 'Every day, we're involved in shaping buildings and cities,' says Koeleman. 'So you want to be right in the middle of it all. How amazing is it to be able to see, feel, and experience the city like this?'

FROM POLICY TO CONSTRUCTION SITE

Brink was founded in 1972 by

architect Deddo Brink, who recognised that work in the construction sector could be carried out more efficiently and effectively. The company has since evolved into an independent consultancy, supporting clients with technically and administratively complex construction and development projects.

Today, Brink employs over 220 people across offices in Rotterdam, Eindhoven, and Groningen. 'We have projects nationwide, but having an office here means we also work on many in the region,' explains Koeleman. Brink's clients include both government bodies

and major private organisations. Its portfolio ranges from complex construction projects to strategic real estate management, area development, and hands-on project management. The list of previous assignments is long: renovation of the SS Rotterdam, work for the Rijksmuseum, real estate management for the COA (the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers), projects for ASML, construction of the Depot Boijmans Van Beuningen, and most recently, the new Fenix Museum in Rotterdam. 'We're involved in a wide variety of projects, but we're not a construction company ourselves. We don't build; we coordinate and manage on behalf of our clients.'

STRATEGIC RELOCATION

The same year Brink relocated from a business park in Leidschendam to the Groot Handelsgebouw, Koeleman joined the company. 'I only spent a few more months at the old office,' she recalls. 'Moving here was a strategic decision

initiated by our former director Hans de Jonge. Our previous office no longer reflected the ambition and professionalism we wanted to convey. We wanted to apply our own advice on modern workplaces. Sustainability was becoming increasingly important, and being close to a major transport hub makes commuting easy for both employees and visitors. Accessibility, particularly to The Hague and other government bodies, is much better. And of course, the Groot Handelsgebouw has character—it's an iconic building.'

REJUVENATION AND GROWTH

The relocation proved to be a catalyst for growth. Since 2016, Brink has grown steadily, with an average of around ten full-time employees per year. The influx of young professionals, many from Delft University of Technology and Eindhoven University of Technology, received a further boost. 'Rotterdam has a unique appeal,' says Koeleman. 'Our workforce has become much younger. The city's increasing

popularity has helped, too. When I graduated, most people moved to Amsterdam. Now, Rotterdam is attracting a younger crowd, and we've grown alongside that trend.'

When asked whether the building fosters social connections and whether Friday afternoon drinks are organised, Koeleman turns to her colleague Valerie van den Broek. 'As a resident of Rotterdam and part of the younger generation at Brink, she is the right person to answer this,' Koeleman says with a smile. Van den Broek agrees that the social aspect is an important part of Brink. 'We regularly host Friday drinks or go out in the city together,' she says. 'Recently, even family members joined. This helps to create a strong bond outside work. The Groot Handelsgebouw's location and its events, like small markets and networking gatherings, make it easy to meet others.'

Koeleman adds: 'The office in the Groot Handelsgebouw is open and

welcoming, with spaces where visitors can also work. It feels less like a traditional office and more like a place people can drop into. Our clients can even work here themselves.'

ROTTERDAM DARES

Brink has recently extended its lease with Jamestown, the landlord of the Groot Handelsgebouw, for another ten years, ensuring their view over Stationsplein, the square in front of Rotterdam Central Station, remains for the foreseeable future. For Koeleman, who lives in Brabant, Rotterdam has become more than just an office location over the years. 'I've really got to know the city,' she says. 'The directness, pace, and collaborative spirit resonate with me. It mirrors the hands-on mentality at Brink. One thing's for sure: Rotterdam dares. And that's exactly where we feel at home.'



'EVERY DAY, WE'RE INVOLVED IN SHAPING BUILDINGS AND CITIES. SO YOU WANT TO BE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF IT ALL'

Together we are building an area that everyone can be proud of!

Welcome to Rotterdam, the city where innovation and entrepreneurial spirit merge. A place to be proud of, with its iconic skyline, the raw charm of the world port and the no-nonsense mentality. At the heart of this metropolis lies the Rotterdam Central District (RCD) - the meeting place for people, businesses and ideas. From the imposing Groot Handelsgebouw to the buildings around Hofplein, RCD bustles with creativity, knowledge and entrepreneurship, and you can be a part of it.

BECOME A MEMBER OF RCD

As a member of the Vereniging RCD you will be the first to know about all changes in the area, hotspots and activities. We organize exciting events and networking meetings to connect entrepreneurs and make sure your voice is heard. Whether you want to learn more about developments in the area, discover new business opportunities or simply expand your network, we provide the right platforms and support.

JOIN:

- RCD Talks: Inspiring knowledge sessions and meetings about entrepreneurship and arts & culture in the district.
- RCD Events: Networking drinks, dinners and events to meet and get to know fellow entrepreneurs.
- RCD Q&A: Your point of contact for everything going on in the area.
- News & Updates: Stay updated monthly on the latest developments, promotions and activities.
- Our Magazine: Full of news, hot spots and entrepreneurial stories four times a year.
- Online Promotion: As a member of the association, you get visibility through our extensive online platform.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

For questions about Rotterdam Central District or to become an immediate member, contact Iris Martin:

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- 06-23485384



Come and see: A green oasis in the city

In every issue, we ask an entrepreneur to show us their favourite spot in the Rotterdam Central District (RCD). This time, Renée van der Toorn takes us to Maaskant Park in the Groot Handelsgebouw, an extensive post-war building. 'Seeing people genuinely enjoying the park gives me a little moment of happiness.'

Renée is responsible for the creative marketing of this Rotterdam icon on behalf of Jamestown, the American property owner of the Groot Handelsgebouw. 'I make sure the building stays visible and attractive, and that our offices remain fully occupied while tenants feel happy here,' she explains. 'At the moment we're completely full: more than 450 companies are based here and occupancy is around 99 per cent. I also organise all events and activities for our tenants. No two days are the same, and I love the challenge of keeping things lively in a building of this size.'

Renée's favourite place lies in the courtyard of the Groot Handelsgebouw. 'Maaskant Park has more than 400 different flowers and plants, so there's always something green to see,' she says enthusiastically. The green oasis is named after Huig Maaskant, one of the building's original architects. Few people realise that the courtyard once served as a truck lane where lorries delivered goods directly into the building. 'In spring and summer it's

wonderful to sit here in the sun when everything is in bloom,' Renée says. 'We've also created seating areas so tenants can hold meetings outside.'

The park is her favourite because of its serene atmosphere, even though it is located in the heart of the city centre. 'Especially on days when you can go outside without a coat,' she says. 'I often come here to work, make phone calls or take a walk with colleagues instead of sitting at my desk all day.' The park is also accessible to non-tenants. The RCD is, of course, a busy area where thousands of people work, and there aren't many green spaces nearby,' she explains. 'By greening places like this, you create a small moment of tranquillity amid the busy district.'

Maaskant Park also gives Renée a lot of personal energy. 'It's great to see that our investment is being appreciated and that tenants are enthusiastic about it,' she says. 'Seeing people genuinely enjoying the park gives me a little moment of happiness.' She has been working in the RCD for six years, but recently she has also become involved as a board member. 'I've always found the RCD fascinating,' she says. 'It really is the city's red carpet.' She believes the area has a lot of potential. 'A lot is going to change in the coming years with new homes and offices being developed here. It's exciting to witness that transformation up close—and even more special to be able to contribute to it as a board member.'

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Most beautiful view A 360-degree penthouse in a crane

In every issue, we visit an entrepreneur in the Rotterdam Central District (RCD) and discover the view from their location. This time, we meet Serge Admiraal, an independent crane operator working for Stebru on the construction of The Modernist.

The Modernist is rising on Weena street, directly opposite Rotterdam Central Station in the RCD. The complex is expected to be completed by the end of 2028, and construction is already well underway. Each morning, crane operator Serge climbs a few ladders and takes a lift from the construction site up to his workplace high above the city, where his day begins at 7 am. 'I'm currently working at a height of about 65 metres,' he says from his cabin. 'But the crane moves with the height of the building, so eventually I'll be up at 76 metres. And that other crane will reach 132 metres,' he adds, pointing towards the crane being used for the construction of the 125-metre southern residential tower.

Every day, the view from the crane is unique. 'The sunrise in particular is always special: I try to photograph it once a week.' Rotterdam is his city. 'I was born here, at the Havenziekenhuis hospital. Working on a project like this in my own city is fantastic. And looking out over Rotterdam from up here is incredible. You recognise everything. I can see the projects I've

worked on before, such as the Erasmus MC. That was another prestigious project. I have memories of everything. Like there,' pointing to the Groot Handelsgebouw, an extensive post-war building, 'I used to go to parties on the roof there.' If there's a fire somewhere, he's the first to see the smoke. 'You could also have a career as a weatherman because you can see the rain showers moving in clearly from miles away. On a sunny day, I'll say to the lads downstairs, "put on your rain gear". They'll laugh, wondering what he's talking about. But fifteen minutes later, they're standing in the rain.'

Rain doesn't bother him much. Only strong winds or nearby thunderstorms can temporarily halt the work. Even then, Serge simply waits it out in the cabin. 'I've got all the comforts I need up here: air conditioning, my cool box and a book,' he says. 'It's basically a 360-degree penthouse,' he laughs. Despite what many people imagine, Serge doesn't find the job lonely at all. 'I've got cameras and I'm in constant contact with the team below by radio,' he explains. 'So even though we don't see each other face to face, I know exactly what's happening on the ground.' For him, the job never gets repetitive. 'Every day is different, and I go to work with a smile every morning. I watch the city wake up. The office lights flickering on across the district. It's a wonderful view.'

MOBILITY

A broken chain, flat tyres or squeaky brakes—many people put their bike away at that point. For Martin Trčka, it's the start of something bigger. With Give a Bike, he's bringing bicycles—and bike skills—back to the city. Literally and figuratively. This spring, Rotterdam's Central District (RCD) will see a highly visible continuation of that mission.

Fix your bike, gain

Freedom



‘A BICYCLE THAT
KEEPS RUNNING
IS A SMALL
BUT CONCRETE
CONTRIBUTION TO A
SUSTAINABLE CITY’

Anyone who meets Martin notices immediately: he prefers action over words, although he speaks with infectious enthusiasm. ‘I didn’t even found Give a Bike myself,’ he says with a laugh. ‘But I was there at the start.’

That was in 2016. Three friends from Rotterdam created a foundation to give used bicycles a second life. Martin, with a background in forestry and nature conservation, joined a month later as a volunteer bike repairer. ‘I was doing a PhD in Prague, but it was frustrating—too much thinking, too little doing. Then I worked in Amsterdam at a bike company where so many usable parts were thrown away. Saddles, wheels, everything. At one point, I had fifty saddles at my girlfriend’s house. Then she said, “Maybe you should really do something with these.”’

That ‘something’ became Give a Bike. First as a volunteer, then as the person running the foundation. ‘After a few months, I realised I was the only one consistently there. So we started small: raise money for the rent, collect bicycles, and find people who need them. Three simple steps.’

MORE THAN JUST TRANSPORT

Give a Bike has a clear mission: get bikes into the hands of those who need them. ‘At first, I mainly thought about Africa—children who have to walk miles to school, who have no public transport. A bicycle literally opens up a new world for them.’

But he quickly realised this need exists closer to home. ‘Even in big cities like Rotterdam, there are people who cannot afford a bike. And a bicycle is more than transport. It means independence, access to education, work, healthcare—freedom.’

That idea fits perfectly with the vision of a sustainable, liveable city. But Martin sees a challenge. ‘We still live in a car-centric society. People think you need a car to succeed. Yet a bicycle often takes you to the same place, with far less environmental impact and better for your health.’

LEARNING BY DOING

This March, Give a Bike launched a spring campaign in Rotterdam’s Central District, with Fix Your Bike at Stationsplein as its visible centrepiece. This isn’t a traditional repair service, but a do-it-yourself workshop. ‘We don’t fix your bike for you,’ Martin says firmly. ‘We give you the tools and show you how to do it yourself.’

Why? ‘It’s a bit like cooking,’ he explains. ‘Anyone can do it, but you need someone to say: you can do this. Bike repair is a craft that’s being forgotten. Bike shops are expensive, and with services like Swapfiets, people don’t think for themselves. When something breaks, they just swap it.’

Martin thinks that’s a shame. ‘Sometimes all it takes is some oil on the chain or a bit of air in the tyres. It extends the life of the bike enormously. And honestly, it’s fun—almost meditative. I always say: I started with Lego, then IKEA

furniture, and now bicycles.’ Rotterdam Central Station is the perfect location. ‘So many people, so many bikes, so much movement. This is where we show people their bike is valuable and they can take care of it themselves. A well-maintained bicycle is a small but concrete contribution to a sustainable city.’

STRONGER TOGETHER

Collaboration is at the heart of Give a Bike. The foundation works with the municipality of Rotterdam on the Fietsbank (Bicycle Bank), a scheme supporting people on low incomes. ‘Last year we repaired 503 bikes and gave away 176. The best

part? We see the people taking them away, ready to ride.’

Together with the Mano Foundation, Give a Bike helps newcomers train as bike mechanics via a six-month work-study programme.

Other collaborations include Bikeflip, offering second-hand children’s bikes by subscription, and Buurman in the Schiehaven. ‘Sometimes they lend us a van; we repair their bikes in exchange. It fits perfectly with our approach.’

Companies in the RCD can also play a role. ‘We do team events, collect abandoned office bikes, and run Fix

Your Bike workshops for employees who cycle to work. We’re open to anything.’

TRAIN-BIKE-WORK COMMUTE

Martin’s first cycling memory? He laughs. ‘I grew up in the Czech Republic on a BMX with a back-pedal brake. I’d go as fast as possible and skid, raising a huge cloud of dust.’ Now, cycling is mainly about convenience: train-bike-work commutes. He has three bikes—in Utrecht, Amsterdam and Rotterdam. ‘But I don’t own them,’ he grins. ‘They’re part of the Give a Bike stock.’



Hofplein

FROM TRAFFIC JUNCTION TO GREEN CITY GATEWAY

Hofplein square sits at the heart of Rotterdam. Once famous for its fountain, it has long been dominated by asphalt—five lanes circling a roundabout. That is about to change. In the coming years, the square will be transformed into a green, car-free space for pedestrians and cyclists, featuring around 150 trees.



‘It has long been our wish to make this place more than just a traffic square,’ says Christian Gausepohl, senior landscape architect for the city centre at the Municipality of Rotterdam. ‘Hofplein square sits in a part of the city that had to reinvent itself after the bombing of 14 May 1940. Now we are at another turning point.’

A GROWING CITY

Rotterdam is growing rapidly. Around 10,000 new homes are planned in the city centre, 4,000 of them near Hofplein. Another 100,000 m² of office space will be added. ‘That means more residents, employees and movement,’ says Christian. ‘But public space does not automatically grow with it. You have to use the space you have more intelligently.’

Where five lanes once dominated, there will soon be just two. A central green space around the

fountain will accommodate the tram, while pedestrians and cyclists take priority at the edges. ‘As a cyclist, I already notice the difference,’ Christian adds. ‘It feels greener and quieter. You gain something when you divide the space differently.’

150 TREES AS A FOUNDATION

The heart of the new square? Trees. Lots of them. From roughly 15 to more than 150, in varying shapes and sizes. Ronald Loch, Tree Advisor at the Municipality, has been involved since the design phase. ‘Trees aren’t decoration—they’re the foundation of the square,’ he says. ‘They determine the microclimate, the appearance, and the resilience of the area.’

What is special is that the existing plane trees near the Hilton Rotterdam have been preserved. ‘Mature trees immediately give character to the square,’ says Ronald. ‘If you

start with only young trees, it takes years to see the effect. By combining mature trees with new plantings, you get an instant impact.’

Tree species were carefully selected. Maples provide a reddish-pink autumn colour, others turn yellow or remain green in winter, while evergreen pines add year-round structure. ‘We considered colour, scent, and the overall experience,’ says Ronald.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION IN PRACTICE

The greening isn’t just for looks. It helps tackle climate challenges and improve health. Trees can cool the area by up to seven degrees on hot days through shade and evaporation, while filtering particulate matter and improving air quality.

Beneath the square, a water reservoir will collect and store

rainwater. During heavy showers, it prevents flooding; in dry periods, it supplies irrigation. ‘We don’t waste a drop,’ says Christian. ‘This system is crucial for a future-proof square.’

‘Green spaces have an effect beyond their borders,’ adds Ronald. ‘Cooling can be felt up to 100–150 metres beyond the green area. This square will impact the entire surrounding area too.’

NOT A PARK, BUT A PLACE TO STAY

Hofplein won’t become a city park. It will remain a dynamic hub with trams and traffic, but the quality of the space will improve dramatically. Seating will be added around the edges for lunch breaks or shaded rest, and three bronze sculptures by Willem de Kooning, previously hidden, will be given a prominent place among the greenery.

‘It won’t be a space to kick a ball around,’ says Christian. ‘But it

will be a square where people want to linger for a while.’

PUZZLING WITH SAFETY AND IMPLEMENTATION

Redevelopment is complex. Each quadrant of the square will be tackled separately to keep the city centre accessible. Work began in 2025 and is expected to continue until late 2027, with the square fully renovated by early 2028.

The combination of trees, traffic, and trams requires careful planning. ‘Sightlines for tram drivers are crucial,’ Ronald explains. ‘You can’t plant trees everywhere. Working with designers and RET was a real puzzle.’ Maintenance has also been planned in detail: intensive aftercare for the first three years, followed by periodic inspections. Most trees are planted in generous soil areas rather than paved pits, significantly extending their lifespan.

FUTURE-PROOF HEART OF THE CITY

Hofplein’s greening is part of a wider movement: in just four years, Rotterdam has added more than 20 hectares of green space. Paving gives way to plants, residents get involved, and large projects set the tone.

‘Those 150 trees are part of the urban system,’ says Christian. ‘They reduce wind, provide shade and boost biodiversity. In this way, they enable the city to grow in a positive way.’

Ronald looks ahead: ‘I hope that in a few years, when I retire, I can walk across the square and say: we did it. It turned out exactly as we imagined.’

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HELP, MY BATTERY IS STILL AT 100%!



JOYCE KORNET-VREUGDENHIL
General Manager
CIC Rotterdam



Recently, I found myself confronted with the art of being silent. A friend and I went to a Bob Dylan concert in Amsterdam. It was an 'offline concert': phones had to be placed in a locked pouch at the entrance. The first grumbles started while we were still queuing. A woman in her twenties complained that she wouldn't be able to film anything for social media. When I suggested that the peace and quiet might actually be rather nice, she gave me a very serious look.

But if I'm honest, that evening made me realise how often I instinctively reach for my phone myself. Usually for no real reason—just the unconscious dopamine urge to check the time or see whether any new messages have come in. Inspired by the experience, we decided to make the next CIC team outing without phones. For a team made up largely of 'digital natives', that could have been a challenge. But the outcome was surprisingly positive: real conversations and genuine connection, without digital distractions. I would have liked to show you the photos, but—fortunately—there aren't any. The whole experience made me reflect on the art of being silent in a broader sense. The business world sometimes seems designed almost exclusively for extroverts. Even in my role as a connector, my social battery occasionally runs out faster than I care to admit. While some people thrive in large groups, others prefer the depth of one-to-one conversations. I probably fall somewhere in between: an extroverted introvert, or what people nowadays call an ambivert.

Not long ago, I attended a meeting that lasted an entire day. The plenary sessions and the overall purpose of the gathering were certainly worth reserving the day for. But the extensive networking lunch, the endless coffee breaks dedicated to making new contacts, and a full afternoon of active networking—it was quite demanding for a flexible ambivert like me. At one point I slipped away with a few fellow participants to recharge our social batteries. It turned into a lovely conversation about the power of silence in a world that is always switched on.

Does that mean I'm arguing against networking events? Quite the opposite. Carefully curated programming is in CIC's DNA, and something I believe in strongly. Innovation rarely happens in isolation. But the magic of connection isn't always about volume. Often, the true value of a community reveals itself in quieter moments—through that single personal conversation where the foundations for collaboration are laid.

It is precisely by recognising different needs that we make our meetings stronger. Our smaller lunch sessions attract entrepreneurs who prefer to avoid the crowds but still want meaningful content. As far as I'm concerned, it's perfectly fine if you come purely for the substance and then retreat into the quiet afterwards. Just as it's equally possible to feel the infectious energy of entrepreneurship the moment you step into one of our larger CIC Monthly gatherings. To those who see silence as the enemy, I would say: put your phone away, give yourself a break, and see what emerges in the space between the words.

Hotspots

We're taking you on a tour of the most exciting nightlife spots in the district. From raw clubs and buzzing bars to sleek cocktail lounges and unique night venues – discover where RCD's nightlife comes alive and the night never ends.

COSMO HAIRSTYLING

Located on Weena, Cosmo Hairstyling ensures you look your best, whether heading to the office or out for the evening. In this modern salon, experienced stylists offer personal attention and an eye for detail. From a quick touch-up to a completely new look, you'll leave feeling refreshed, confident and well-groomed.



BERTMANS

On the edge of Rotterdam's Central District, Bertmans is a bright, contemporary café where health and flavour go hand in hand. Think healthy pancakes, great coffee, inventive vegetarian dishes and natural wines—all served without compromising on taste. The relaxed atmosphere and fresh interior make it perfect for a long lunch, a coffee date, or a midweek break.



BENTO CAFÉ

Bento Café is a haven for lovers of Japanese cuisine. Enjoy fresh sushi, generously filled bento boxes and authentic flavours in a quiet, minimalist setting. Bento Café brings a taste of Japan to the centre of Rotterdam.

TRAINMORE

In the heart of the RCD on Weena, TrainMore is a high-end gym where design meets discipline. With state-of-the-art equipment, spacious training areas and a sleek, modern interior, it's the ideal place to work on strength and fitness. Need extra motivation? The more often you come, the lower your monthly contribution.



LEBKOV & SONS

A trusted name in Rotterdam's Central District, Lebkov & Sons serves excellent coffee, generously filled sandwiches, and high-quality lunches. Perfect for commuters and office workers, it's the ideal spot for a flying start to your day or a quick pit stop between meetings—all without compromising on taste.



Rotterdam Rooftop Days reveal just how much space is still untapped



Anyone looking for space in Rotterdam should look up. For twelve years, Rotterdam Rooftop Days has been showing the city's hidden potential at height. From 30 May to 7 June, the festival returns, this year focusing on the Rotterdam Central District (RCD)—the city's most densely populated area. Directors Léon van Geest and Nikki Kamps share their passion for exploring Rotterdam from above.

The reason for the festival is as simple as it is urgent: Rotterdam has too little space. At street level, that is. Above, the city offers vast, largely unused rooftops—more than 18 square kilometres of flat roof space brimming with possibilities. Since 2014, Léon van Geest, Nikki Kamps, and the Rotterdam Rooftop Days team have been championing this

overlooked potential—not with dry policy papers, but by literally taking people upstairs. By opening rooftops to the public, organising striking events, and offering educational programmes, the festival shows what is possible: sports, dancing, social gatherings, and even a touch of nature at height. In short, the festival is not just a series of events—it's an

invitation to see the city from a different perspective.

A GATHERING OF IDEAS

To change something, you need to capture attention. Both Léon and Nikki understand this. Nikki grew up involved in festivals that combined culture, art, and urban vision. Léon, with his background in architecture, has long been fascinated by Rotterdam's transformation over the decades. 'We were bombed in the Second World War and then experienced remarkable growth,' he says. 'You see it best from the roof. It lets you take visitors on a journey through the city's history, growth, and future.'

The festival is about making people think about space, connecting them with art and culture. 'We could have done that in basements too,' Léon laughs. 'But the view from a roof is far more appealing. A roof is a prime location—everyone wants to be up there. That's why it's often used in films. And yet, we largely leave this space unused.'

FOCUS ON ROTTERDAM CENTRAL DISTRICT

In previous years, the festival impressed with a footbridge over the Coolingsel boulevard, a giant slide from the roof of the Maritiem Museum Rotterdam and a walking concert above the Hofbogen viaduct. This year, the festival is focusing on the RCD. 'It's the most densely populated part of the city,' Léon explains. 'It is precisely here that the need to look at things differently is greatest. The RCD is an area where living, working, travelling and staying all converge, and the pressure on space is tangible.' In addition to opening up some fifty roofs where

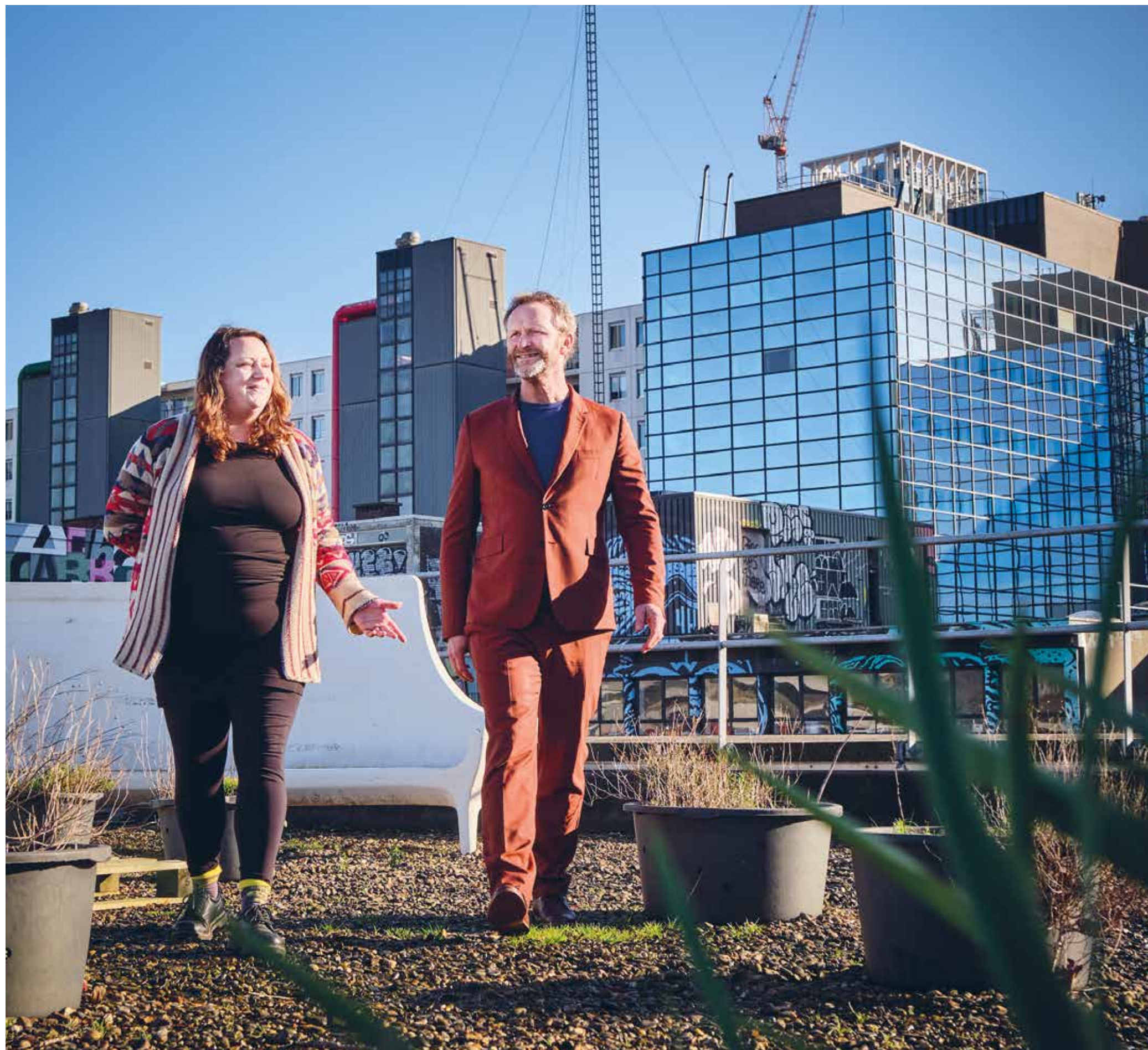
education, culture and catering will be found, the spotlight will be on the Schiekadeblok.

'There are ideas for the Schiekadeblok area to create a continuous roof in the future, accessible to people,' Nikki says. 'This year, we're already showing what's possible with a guided walk across the roofs. The area has a very rich history. Thirty years ago, it was a place you would rather not go, now it is a creative hub. What's more, the area is on the verge of major construction projects,' Léon continues. 'So it's great to take visitors there.'

GREENING AT HEIGHT

Although the walk's details are still being finalised, the festival will also highlight the city's green ambitions. 'In the past, cities had a few parks, but now green corridors are increasingly important, for birds and insects alike,' Nikki explains. 'Rooftops can be a vital link.' Green roofs offer multiple benefits: water retention, reduced heat stress, and increased biodiversity. 'They're a relatively simple first step in an otherwise paved city,' Léon says. 'Solar panels can also be installed,

'WHEN YOU STAND ON THE ROOF, YOU CAN BEST SEE THE HISTORY, GROWTH AND FUTURE OF ROTTERDAM'



‘ROOFS CAN BE AN IMPORTANT LINK IN THE GREEN CORRIDORS OF THE CITY’

but the main challenge is bringing the benefits to people—residents, workers, and entrepreneurs. How can they feel the effect of a green roof?’

A collaboration with the Natural History Museum, birdwatchers who count birds on the roofs or gather in green oases high above the city. Over thirty thousand visitors expected at the Rotterdam Rooftop Days will experience all this during this twelfth edition. On weekends, rooftops are open to the public with tickets on sale; weekdays focus on schools and businesses. Léon and Nikki hope to show that rooftops are welcoming spaces where meaningful and beautiful things can happen.



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DELFTSE
POORT



NIKKI VAN DIJK
Biergarten owner

TEMPORARINESS IS NO EXCUSE FOR BALDNESS

‘An urban area with living conditions as healthy as those in a forest.’ That was the goal of the Climate Adaptation RCD team, set out in a 2018 report. I thought it was a wonderful ambition. A promise, too. I could picture it immediately: the RCD completely overgrown. Greenery pushing up through every crack and crevice. Trees everywhere—as many as possible. Perhaps even a narrow stream of rainwater running along the street, fed by a small waterfall trickling down a building facade.

But as I look out of the window of my office in the Schieblock, I see something very different. The espalier trees are being pulled out of the ground and taken away to Lombardijen. The large plane trees along the railway line were removed a few weeks ago, and not gently. Branch by branch, piece by piece, they were cut down. Making space. Because that’s how things work here.

The barrenness, combined with the grey winter, can sometimes feel heavy. I’m reminded of the scale of the task ahead: keeping this area alive while everything is still in motion. Soon there will be little more than a sandy expanse here. And yet it also fills me with a sense of excitement. Because emptiness means space. And rawness. And that is precisely what Rotterdam has always been able to work with.

We are at the beginning of a new phase. And I know I can make a difference here. A period in which we can reinvent public space through its temporary nature. A place where, for the next five years, we’ll simply sit in the sun and drink a beer. Where places emerge because someone makes them, not because they have already been sealed off. The abandoned car park is giving way to a rough construction site. And we’re going to fill it with greenery, in every form imaginable.

One day, there will be trees here again. Of that I’m certain. We don’t yet know where they will come from, or what lives they will lead. And many of the people who will one day sit in their shade have probably never set foot here before.

The RCD as a forest. It’s the most beautiful promise I’ve heard about this place. That vision alone made me love this area more—and, if I’m honest, the people working on it too. Because a promise like that takes courage. And difficult choices.

One day, it really will feel like a forest here. I have no doubt about that. Nature always has the final say. But until then, nothing will happen by itself. Temporariness is no excuse for emptiness. If anything, it’s precisely when you have to be bold.

So to policymakers: make greenery a priority. Be wilder than you ever dared to dream—even in the temporary—and let the RCD begin to feel like the promise it once was. And to the people of Rotterdam: let’s contribute to that greening as an act of resistance. Scatter seeds. Lift a paving stone. Plant something.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Planting a tree is simple.
Greening a city is not.
At Weena-Zuid and
Stationsplein, landscape
designer Sonia Meriin
is finding ways to bring
greenery amid concrete,
logistics and high
expectations.

**From concrete
balls to**

Blossoms



‘Did you know that this was once designed as a work of art?’ asks Sonia as we walk across Weena-Zuid. Pavements thread between tall buildings and scattered trees. Bicycles and terraces obstruct the walking routes, forcing you to literally manoeuvre around everything. Sonia said it earlier: ‘you have to stumble your way through here’. Only now do we notice it. It’s funny to think that this stretch of Rotterdam was once an ambitious art project; a visual ‘river’ of concrete balls that ran between the trees, giving structure to the street. ‘Now we see it differently,’ Sonia continues. ‘We want people to do more than walk through. We want this to be a pleasant place, with greenery that makes you want to linger.’

DOUBLE-CHECKING

Sonia Meriin is a landscape designer and responsible for the greening of Weena-Zuid and Stationsplein. But her work is about far more than simply adding plants. She creates climate-adaptive, experiential spaces in a city already full of concrete, pipes and logistics. ‘You always have to check what’s underground,’ she says, smiling. ‘I once drew a tree without realising there was a water pipe beneath it. When they started digging... lesson learned. Since then, I double-check everything.’

A mix of idealism and realism runs through her work. Sonia

grew up in Capelle, but for her studies she chose Landscape Architecture in Wageningen, surrounded by forests and rivers. ‘It was beautiful,’ she says, ‘but I soon realised I missed urban area. That’s where I find dynamism and challenge.’ Her studies offered variety: from large-scale regional projects to abstract design assignments. Interesting, but also abstract. ‘But as soon as it came to cities, it became tangible. Suddenly it was about pavements, trees and people. That’s where I focused my work.’

THE LOGIC OF NATURE

Her love of nature goes back a long way. ‘My parents often took me to the woods. My father taught me to recognise trees, mushrooms, what’s edible and what isn’t. That has always stayed with me. I believe you have to understand nature before you can properly understand the city. There’s a logic to nature—a coherence you also see in architecture, maths, and colour. Everything comes together in a certain way. I try to translate that into the urban environment.’

And that translation is sorely needed, because the plans for Rotterdam are ambitious. A thousand hectares of extra green space in an already dense Central District. High-rise buildings, bicycle parking facilities, logistics—everything competes for space. ‘That’s why we’re looking for unused spaces with potential,’

says Sonia. ‘Facade gardens, wider pavements, tree improvements. At Central Station, for example, trees are struggling in paving. By giving them more root space and planting companions around them, they’ll literally be happier—and the streetscape will feel more layered.’

HAPPY TREES

Greening is about smart choices. Sonia works with native species where possible, for biodiversity, but also considers the changing climate. ‘It’s getting warmer. Some spots, especially in the Central District, can be extremely hot. There, I sometimes deliberately choose species that thrive in Mediterranean climates. Finding that balance is part of the work.’

This also applies to Weena-Zuid, which is actually fairly shady. Originally, it was a messy mix of back entrances, logistics traffic, bicycles, scooters and terraces, with trees scattered here and there and catering furniture blocking the walkways. The task was clear: more greenery without disrupting the function of the street. Moving the trees was impossible. Sonia explains: ‘That requires years of preparation, and time and budget aren’t always enough. We’ve made the existing trees happier by giving them more root space. When everything is in bloom, it will be beautiful. We’ve also added green strips and a clear line in the streetscape. That creates tranquillity while keeping walking routes open. The overall picture has to be right.’

SMART PLANTERS

Where open ground isn’t possible, planters have been used. ‘We now have XXL planters, two by two metres, with a shrub in the centre and perennials around the edges—opposite Weena Café. In summer, people sit there reading or picnicking. That’s exactly what we want: a city that invites people in.’ The planters have another smart

‘I BELIEVE YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND NATURE BEFORE YOU CAN PROPERLY UNDERSTAND THE CITY’



function. They are temporary, but that is deliberate: ‘We place them before permanent layouts are final, so you can test how a space works and make adjustments. Because they’re movable, they can later be used elsewhere. That way, there’s always greenery somewhere.’

And then there is Stationsplein. The same principle applies there: ‘The first thing you see when you get off the train has to impress.’ Existing trees will be planted in well-prepared green areas, considering sightlines, climate, traffic and drainage. Sonia is involved in all the details. ‘A new

Albert Heijn supermarket has opened. That increases bicycle traffic. To prevent bikes ending up in the green areas, we’re installing a temporary fence for the first year, until the plants are strong enough.’

ODE TO NATURE

Anyone who pays close attention to Weena-Zuid will spot a subtle homage to history: a winding garland of flowering plants, designed by Sonia, which turns white in spring to honour the original artwork. ‘I enjoy connecting history and the present,’ says Sonia.

And soon, when everything is in full bloom, the city will feel like an open-air bouquet: trees in fresh shades, flowers along the pavements. Spring is in the air—and for Sonia, everything comes together. Peace and harmony amid the bustle of the city: a small ode to nature, right in the heart of Rotterdam.



THE MODERNIST

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Save the date: de start verkoop van de eerste 48 appartementen vindt plaats op zaterdag 21 maart a.s. Mis dit moment niet. Schrijf je in op de nieuwsbrief, dan houden we je hiervan op de hoogte.

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Tweekamerappartementen

Tussenwoningen van ca. 62 m² met een flinke woonkamer met open keuken, een slaapkamer en een loggia. De ene helft van deze appartementen is georiënteerd op het oosten, de andere helft is georiënteerd op het westen.

44 TWEKAMERAPPARTEMENTEN

CA. 62 M²

1 SLAAPKAMER

INCL. LOGGIA



Driekamerappartementen

Hoekwoningen van ca. 82 m² met een royale woonkamer met open keuken, twee slaapkamers en een loggia. De 34 appartementen zijn gelegen op de hoeken van de zuidelijke toren. In elk appartement heb je uitzicht op de stad en beleef je Rotterdam van A tot Z.

44 TWEKAMERAPPARTEMENTEN

CA. 62 M²

1 SLAAPKAMER

INCL. LOGGIA



Vierkamerappartementen

Hoekwoningen georiënteerd op het noordwesten en zuidwesten van ca. 82 m² met een flinke woonkamer met open keuken, drie slaapkamers en een loggia. Alle appartementen kijken uit op de fameuze Rotterdamse skyline.

10 VIER KAMERAPPARTEMENTEN

CA. 82 M²

3 SLAAPKAMERS

INCL. LOGGIA



21 MAART IN VERKOOP!

People watching

Rotterdam Central District is a great place for crowd-watching. All kinds of people pass through, each with their own story. Where do they come from? Where are they going? We stop five passers-by and ask them directly.

VINCENT (39)

‘Less than a month ago, we moved our creative advertising agency, Campagne, to Weena 200. Previously, we were on the edge of Rotterdam-Zuid-Zuid—so far south that Barendrecht was practically our backyard. We worked in a farmhouse dating from 1690; now we’re on the 12th floor among glass and concrete. In the lift, I feel like Abeltje, the flying-elevator boy from a famous Dutch children’s story: I get to press the middle button to reach the top floor. It takes some getting used to, but it’s fun. Now we’re in the heart of the creative scene. There’s so much going on, it’s easier to find lunch spots, and we’re surrounded by museums and other creative people. Now we just have to wait for the Biergarten to reopen!’



MILA (23)

‘I just finished my viola lesson at Codarts and now I’m taking the train to Amsterdam. Tonight I’ll be behind the bar at an Indonesian pub, where I also live. I come to Rotterdam every week for lessons. Soon I’ll audition for Codarts’ master’s programme, and I rehearse three hours a day in preparation. ‘I hesitated for a long time because being a musician is often hard work with little financial reward. But after completing my bachelor’s in Educational Sciences, I decided to give it a try. If I’m accepted, I might move to Rotterdam.’



MAURIK (36)

‘Natuurmonumenten asked artist Paulien Wiersma and me to make a “meeting table for nature” for the Hoge Veluwe. The materials were to be delivered to my workspace in the Schieblock. I expected a few planks from a forest ranger, but the lorry that arrived kept unloading pallet after pallet. Mistake: they had placed the order a hundred times over. Now a sheep farmer from Rotterdam North is taking the remaining planks to build a new barn. Meanwhile, a homeless man had made a little house out of some of the wood, with candles inside. Sadly, it’s gone now.’

FERDI (40)

‘My colleagues and I are inspecting shaft C1. We’re a diving team, but lately you’ll often find us in the Rotterdam sewers. It’s not physically hard work, but it’s definitely not clean. You can’t stand the smell without a mask. It only becomes truly dangerous when you can’t smell sulphur anymore—by then your sense of smell is paralysed and you could pass out. The trick is to adjust your mindset, imagining that you’re sinking into mud up to your knees. Do we get a bonus for dealing with faeces? No, but we do get a bolus...’



CHAVELLI (28)

‘After a weekend in Kampen, staying in a cottage with a few fellow influencers, I stopped by a friend’s place in Rotterdam. Now I’m heading back to Zoetermeer to have a meal with my mother: nasi moksi meti from Sranang. We always bring something back for each other because you don’t find much international food in Zoetermeer—certainly nothing as tasty as here. ‘I was too tired to shoot any content in Rotterdam, but I like the city a lot. Many of my friends live here, and if we have to choose between eating in Rotterdam or Zoetermeer, it’s an easy decision.’



What's on?

member edition

There's always something happening in the Rotterdam Central District (RCD). The problem is that you sometimes hear about it just a little too late. Not anymore! Here's your quarterly overview of everything we're doing, discovering and celebrating together—from drinks to behind-the-scenes events and from making an impact to meeting new people. You're invited!

Check the RCD app for updates, registration, locations, tickets/slots and to redeem your benefits. Some dates and locations are still to be confirmed, so keep an eye on the app for the latest information.

ON THE AGENDA

3 APRIL | BEHIND THE SCENES – Spring Block Market

Spring is here—time to step out of the office.

On 3 April, we'll be going behind the scenes at the Spring Block Market, organised by the people at Vintage aan de Maas. Expect music, clothing, art and, above all, lots of Rotterdam-based creators who will make you happy. We'll meet the entrepreneurs behind the market, hear their short and inspiring stories, and finish the evening the way a good Thursday should end: with drinks together on the square at Biergarten.

Time: 5 pm

Location: Schieblock

21 APRIL | FIX YOUR BIKE

Does your bike squeak? Are your brakes sticking? Or is your tyre permanently half-flat? This is your sign. On 21 April, three bicycle mechanics will be ready to help on Stationsplein. Stop by during the day for small repairs—and learn how to fix simple problems yourself. The initiative comes from Rotterdam-based social enterprise Give a Bike. In their circular

workshop, donated bikes are repaired and refurbished before being passed on to people who need them but can't afford one. So, you get a fixed bike, someone else gets new freedom of movement. Come and visit us.

16 APRIL | DISTRICT DRINKS x MOMO

Motel Mozaïque Festival—better known as MOMO—is one of those weekends when you experience the city in a completely different way. Music, performances and art appear in unexpected places across Rotterdam. Sometimes intimate, sometimes raw, often surprisingly good. On 16 April, we will be joining in with District Drinks. We'll start at 5pm with dinner, drinks and a chance to unwind after work. Afterwards, we'll head into the city together to catch some of the festival concerts. Out of the office. Into Rotterdam.

22 MAY | DISTRICT DRINKS x METROPOLIS SNEAK PREVIEW

On 22 May we'll take a glimpse into the future. At around 4pm we're invited to the try-outs of Metropolis 2126—a city festival where young people explore art, technology and the future

of Rotterdam itself. Think AI, activism, climate, love and digital worlds—as seen by today's generation. Extra fun: the official festival is from 23 to 25 May, but you'll get a sneak preview. Afterwards we'll raise a glass together at District Drinks.

4 JUNE | BEHIND THE SCENES x ROTTERDAM ROOFTOP DAYS

Walk across the roofs of the Schiekadeblok and experience the Central District from an entirely new perspective. Via scaffolding, stairs and bridges, you'll walk at roof level from the DakAkker towards Delftsestraat. Expect skyline moments, unexpected views and a completely different look at the city. Along the way you'll discover the unique rooftop landscape of this part of Rotterdam and learn how future developments will transform the area. This route can only be experienced during the Rotterdam Rooftop Days.

We are organising a private tour especially for RCD members: let's climb to new heights together and finish with a toast at—literally—a brand-new level!

Also on 4 June: launch of Magazine 2!



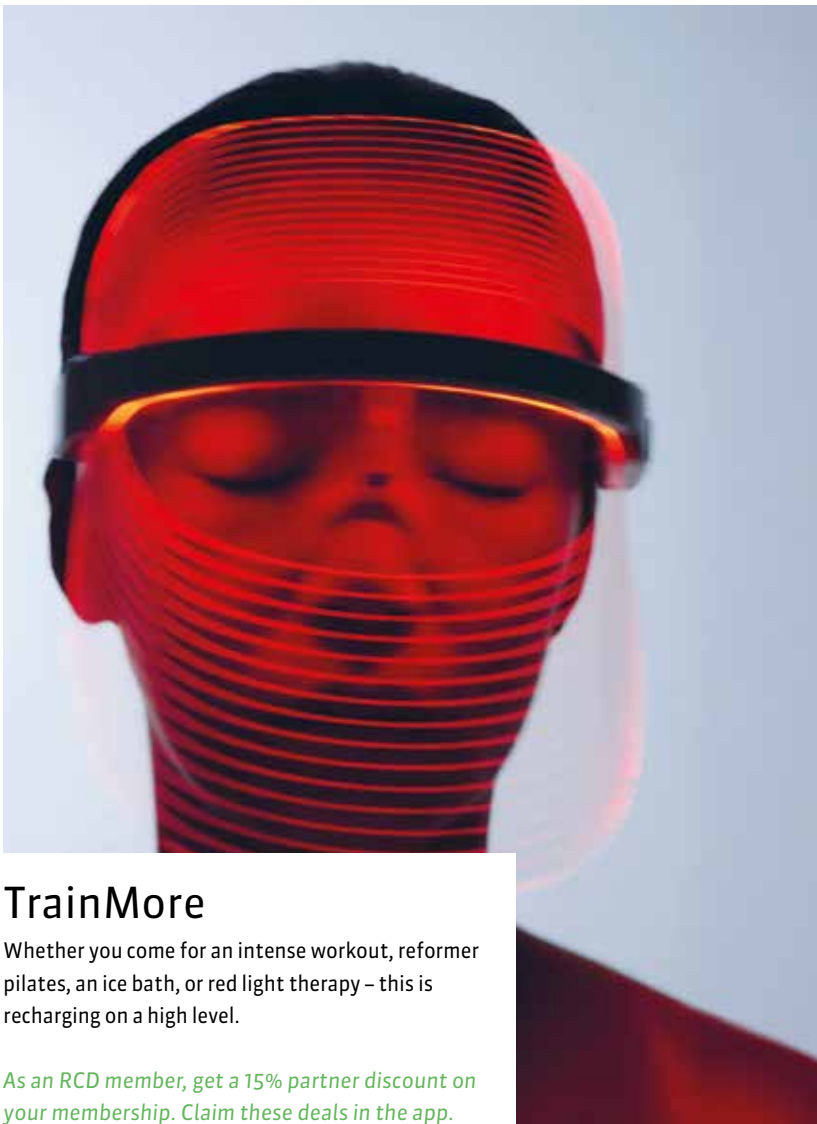
**DISTRICT DRINKS
x METROPOLIS
SNEAK PREVIEW**

22 MEI 2026



Buddy

A springboard for refugee filmmakers and creatives



TrainMore

Whether you come for an intense workout, reformer pilates, an ice bath, or red light therapy – this is recharging on a high level.

As an RCD member, get a 15% partner discount on your membership. Claim these deals in the app.



Multi Café

The versatile lunch café and catering studio in the Groot Handelsgebouw

As an RCD member, you get a free drink with the Lunch Deal (€14) or the Multi Menu (€22)!

IMPACT: HANDS ON

13–17 APRIL | PASS IT ON: TECH EDITION

That old laptop sitting in your drawer for months? Time to pass it on. From 13 to 17 April, collection crates will be available in the lobbies of many large buildings. Simply drop your device in and we'll take care of the rest. Through the Rotterdam Challenge, laptops will be checked, repaired where possible and given to Rotterdam residents who need them for learning, job applications or managing everyday administration. A small effort. A big difference.

JUNE | SUMMER IMPACT

As summer approaches, it's time to roll up our sleeves. Together we'll assemble summer holiday packages for children in Rotterdam who live below the poverty line and cannot go on holiday. It's half a day of working together, creating something tangible and seeing immediately why it matters. And of course we'll make it a

good afternoon too: sharing food, meeting new people and going home with a great feeling. Date to be confirmed. Check the RCD app to join.

MEET THE MEMBERS

BUDDY FILM FOUNDATION

We have a fantastic new member. Buddy supports refugee filmmakers and creatives through workshops, coaching and networking events, with one goal: helping talented newcomers find paid work in film and television. They may be a little hidden away in W70 (Weena 70), but what happens there is anything but invisible. If you see them around—say hello. And if you have a creative assignment, they'd love to hear from you.

TRAINMORE ROTTERDAM DELFTSE POORT (BLACK LABEL)

Yes! Also new to the club: TrainMore, near Centraal. A Black

Label gym with serious equipment and an extensive recovery zone. Whether you're coming for an intense workout, reformer Pilates, an ice bath or red-light therapy, it's all about high-level recharging.

Questions or collaboration ideas? Club manager Faisa Ali is the person to speak to.

MULTI CAFÉ

Multi is Laurence and Lieke's versatile lunch café and catering studio in the Groot Handelsgebouw. Their concept combines good food with a love of music, art and hospitality. Everything revolves around attention—to ingredients, to atmosphere and to their guests. What are you waiting for?

LID WORDEN

Not a member yet? RCD takes you to the area around Rotterdam Centraal, where businesses, creators, hospitality and culture are just a stone's throw away from each other. We open doors and connect people.

If your company joins, you and your colleagues can take part in District Drinks, Behind the Scenes tours and hands-on impact projects. Membership is for the whole team—and everyone benefits.

Download the RCD app to see what's happening! Want to join? Send us a message and we'll take care of it: iris@rotterdam-centralsdistrict.nl



