



Rethinking local policies – Bringing back nature to the city

”Water in an urban context”



Hans Thoolen

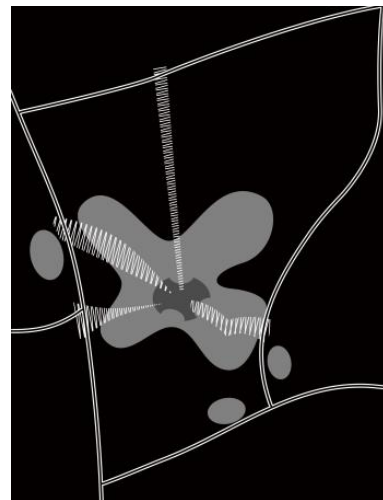
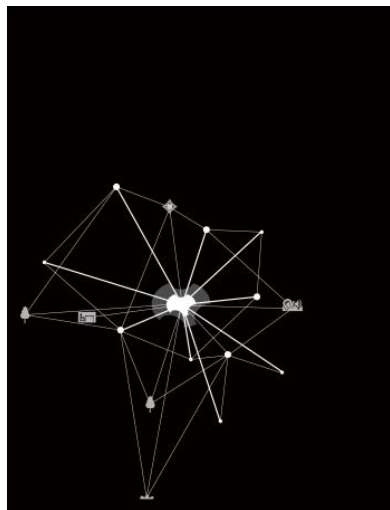
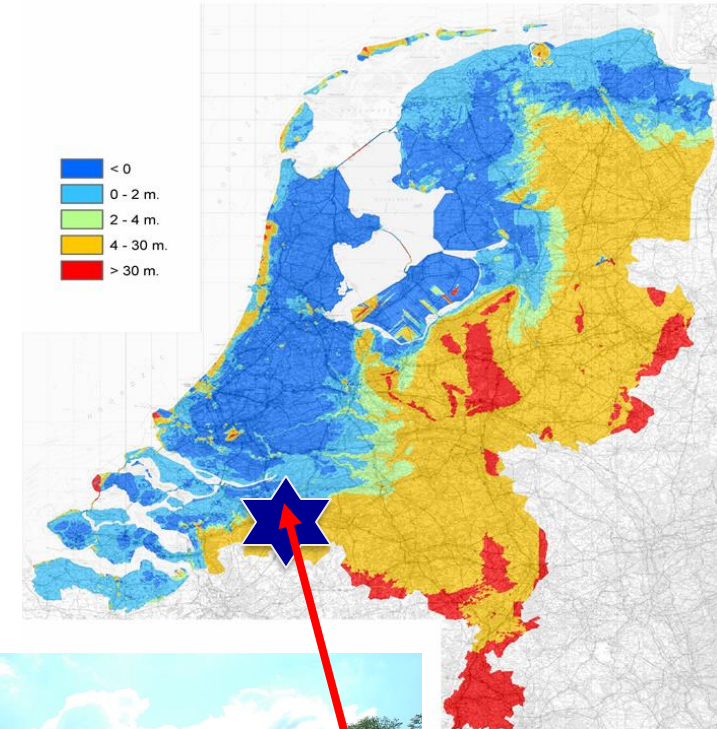
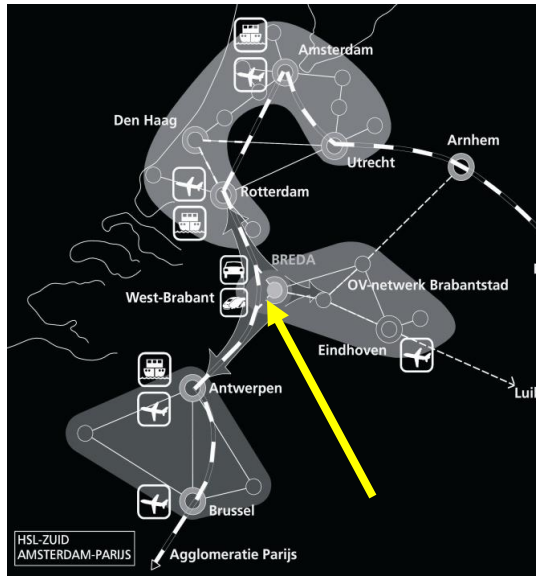
Project Coordinator WaVE
Municipality of Breda, the Netherlands (LP WaVE)

bj.thoolen@breda.nl



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

City of Breda, central position and just about dry feet



Breda: changing role and meaning of the water system



1350 TRADE



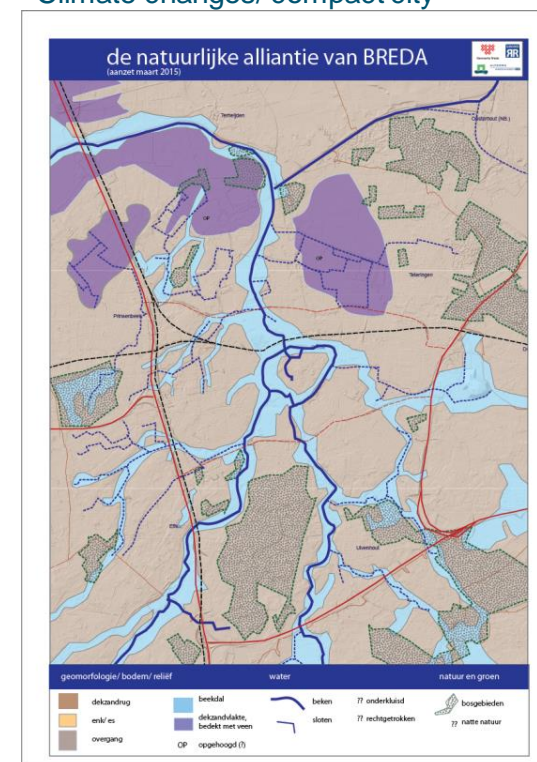
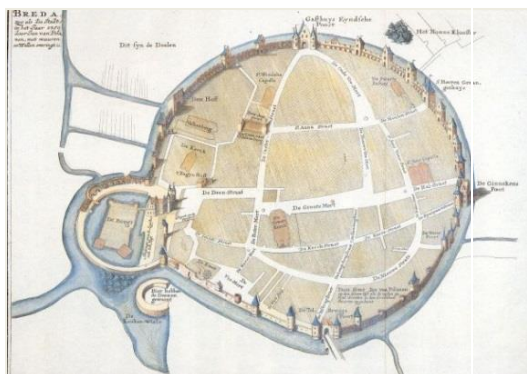
1824 DEFENCE



1980 QUANTITY



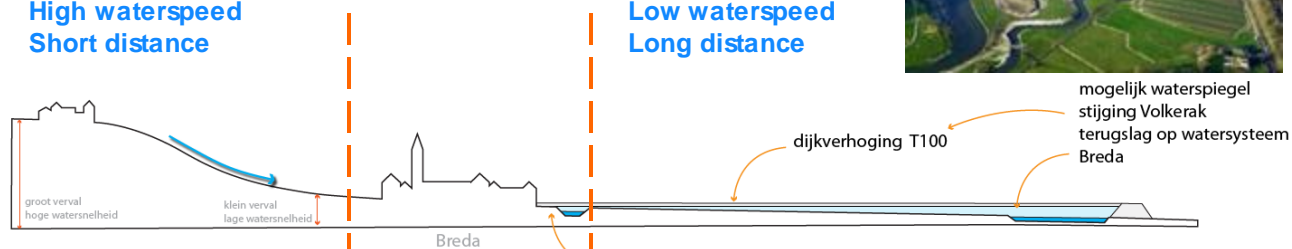
2014 – 20XX QUALITY
Climate changes/ compact city



Watersysteem Breda

High waterspeed
Short distance

Low waterspeed
Long distance



Belgian Border
+ 25 NAP

Breda
+/- 3 NAP

NAP = New Amsterdam Level

Green deal means: redefinition of skills

~~Townplanning~~

~~Urbanisme~~

~~Landscaping~~

~~Paysagisme~~

~~Townscaping~~

~~Urbagisme~~

Townwaterscaping !!

Urb-eau-gisme !!

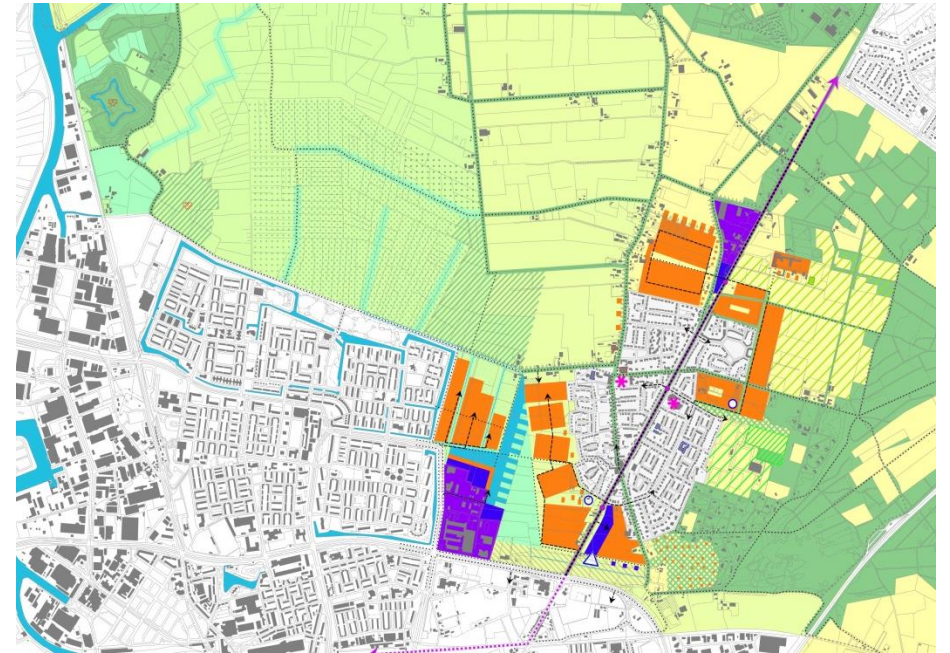
Experience: “Townwaterscaping in urban extensions”



Using the landscape
Water as a quality



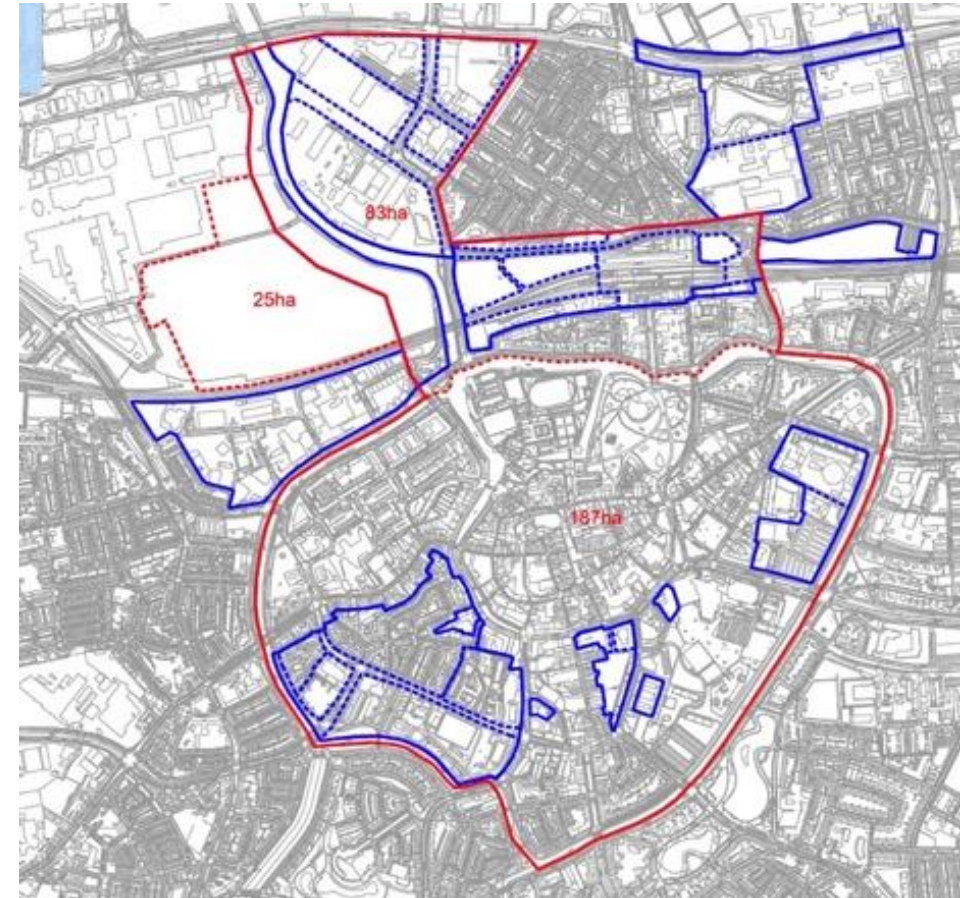
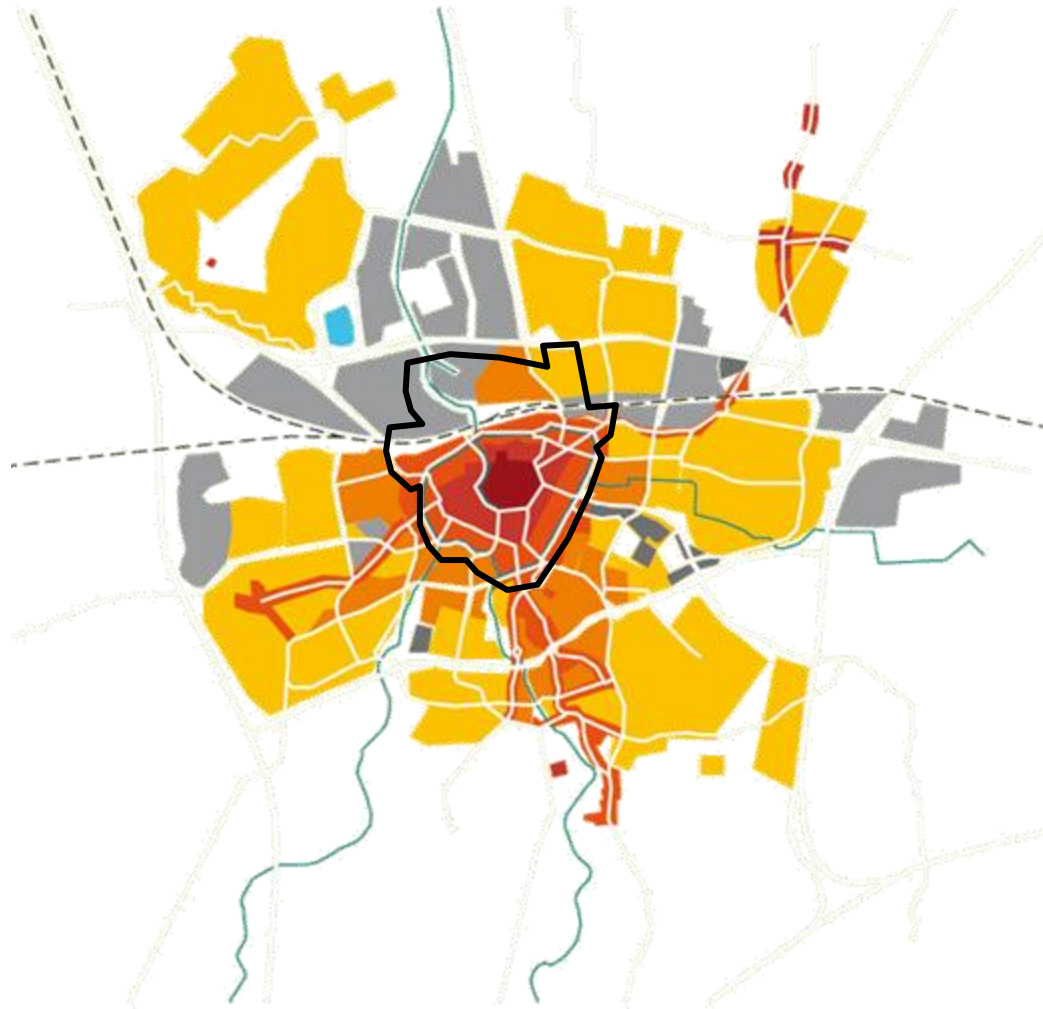
Watermachine collecting/ purifying urban water for inundation polder



Creating ecological parks as catalysts for transformation

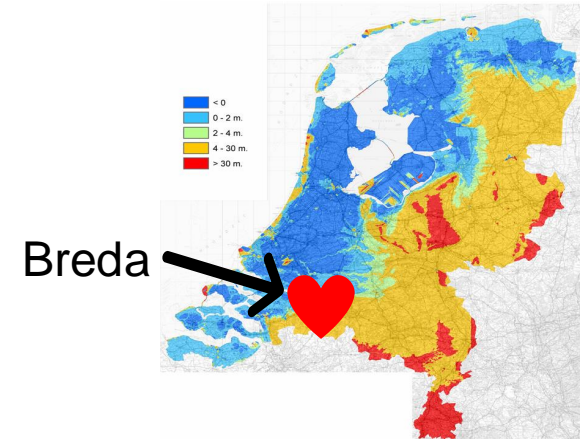
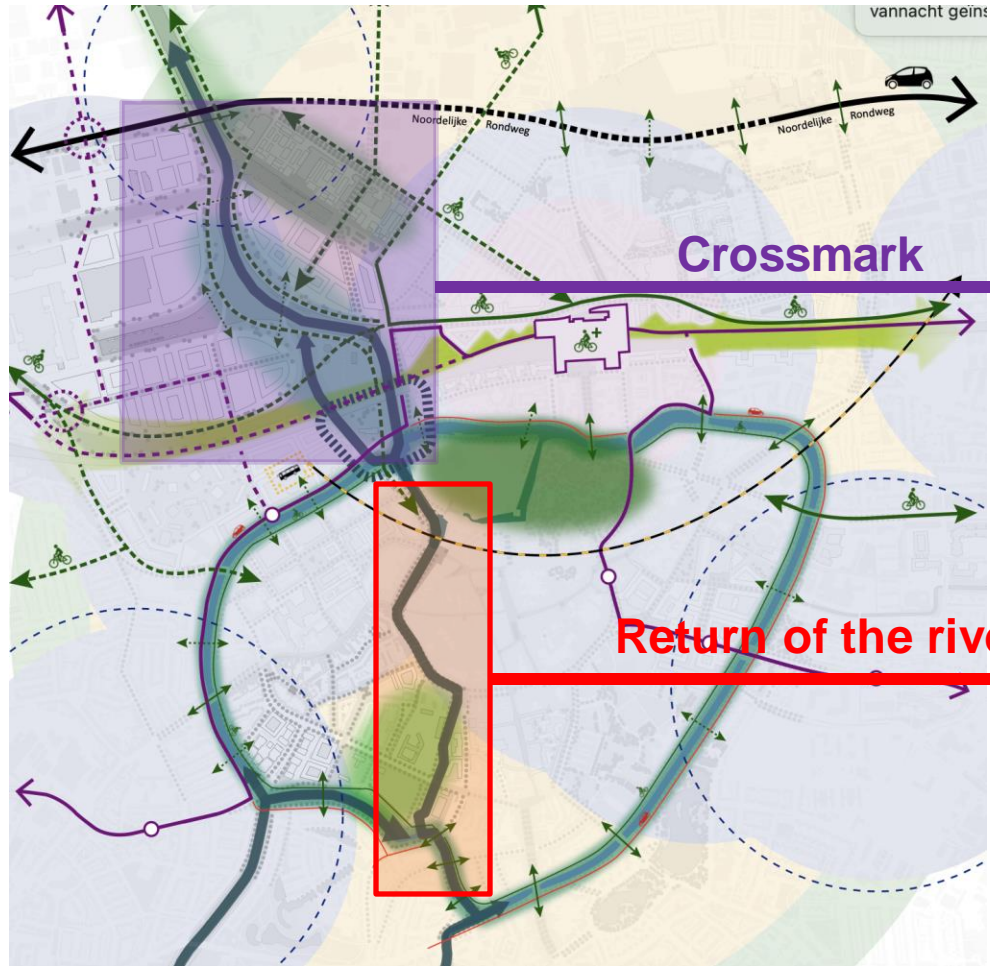


180 hectare transformation areas in the City Center From urbanisation to “urban regeneration”



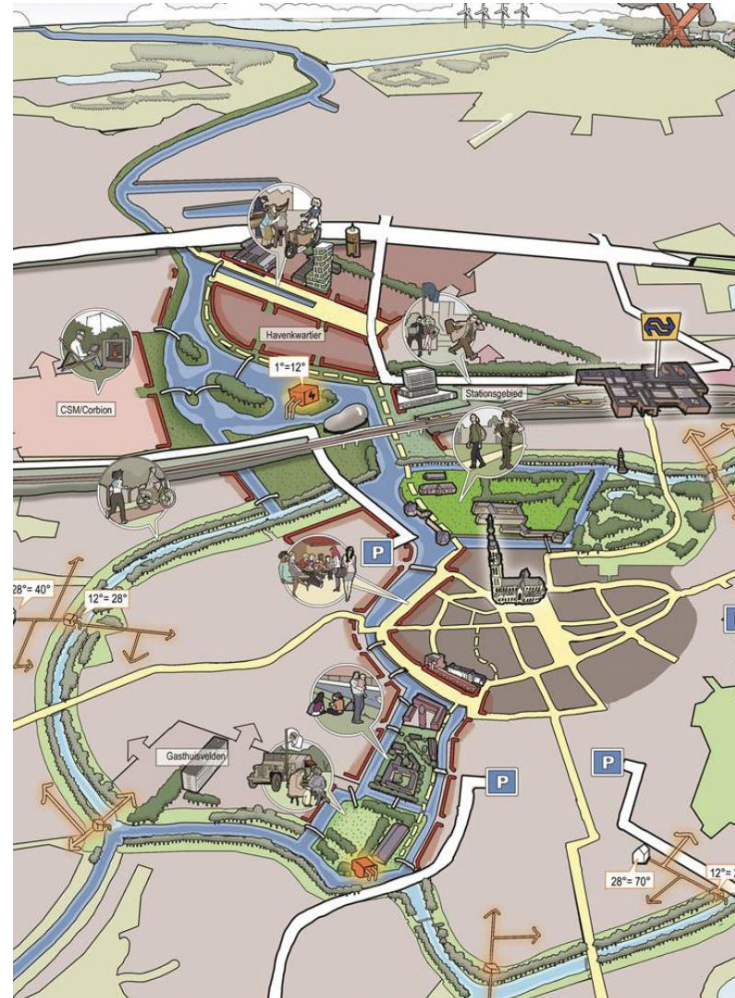
Water key element in transformation

Supported by European programs



The return of the harbour and river

Interreg IIB “Water in Historic City Centers”



Climate adaptation in a mineral environment



Interreg 2 Seas “Cool Towns”



Greenification of river and harbour quays



UIA (Urban Innovative Action) “Green Quays”



Green Quays



Greener City, Healthier Communities

Urbact “Health and Greenspace”



URBACT Health & Greenspace Expert Exchange visit Espoo



Water linked heritage valorization by developing an ecosystemic approach

Interreg Europe “WaVE”





Five inspiring cases in WaVE



Ravenna (It)



Breda (NL)



Aarhus (DK)



Ister-Granum (H-SL)



Alicante (SP)



WaVE's manifesto for Europe

- **Water linked heritage is an inspiration for nature based solutions**
- **Crucial for local identity and awareness of climate change impacts**
- **Stimulus for engagement stakeholders in co-creation from the beginning, this leads to more collaboration, ownership and social acceptance**
- **Avoid dogmas, go for development in dialogue**
- **Storytelling is essential:**
 - Place identity (**soul**)
 - Shared values (**trust**)
 - Heritage value (**quality**)
 - Creative engagement (**theater**)
 - Bold interventions (**courage**)
- **From human centered approach towards an ecosystemic one**
- **Heritage can be an important vector for ecosystemic development**

WaVE and rethinking local policies in Breda

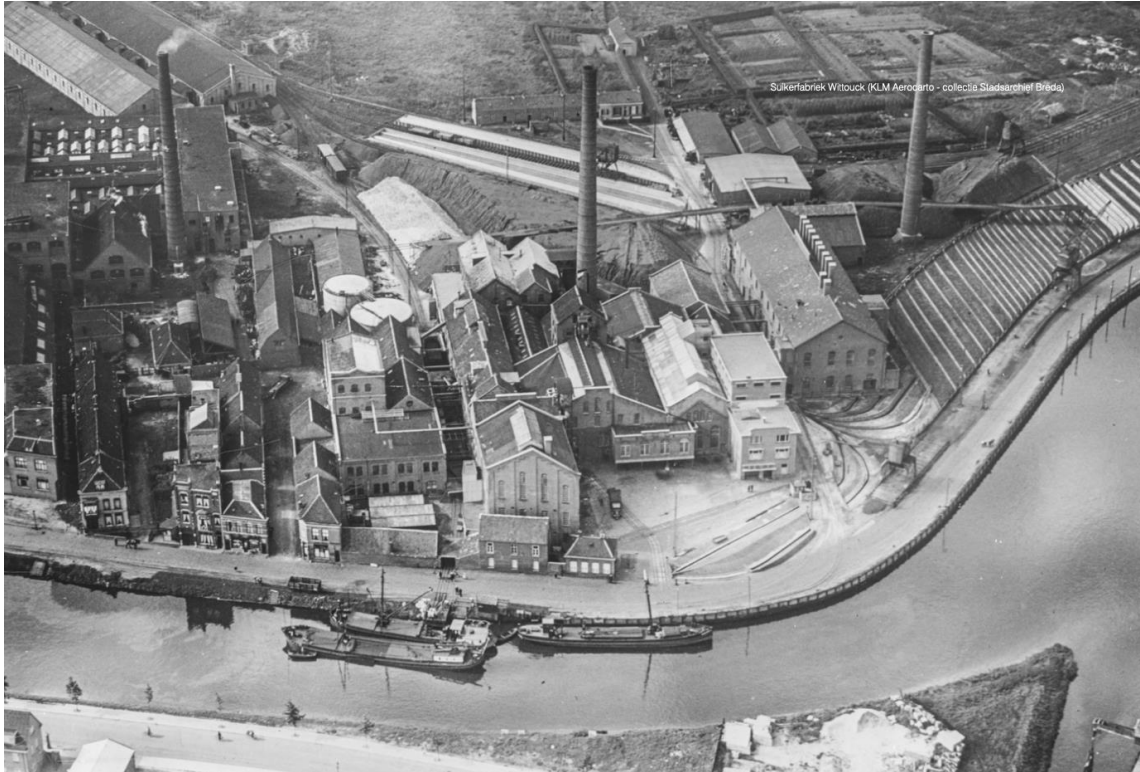


- Perspective “Breda, city in a park”
- Review heritage policy “heritage, resource for the future”
- Heritage organisations part of the strategic water table, equal to economy, spatial planning, water management et cetera
- Production of extra chapters on water related heritage in the digital heritage map of the city
- Recognition of placemaking as an important and crucial element in urban regeneration and the creation of new economy and culture

Outcome: Development perspective Crossmark area



Outcome: development perspective Crossmark area



Revalidation structure former sugar factory in the creation of a new “sugar square”, sweetest spot in Europe... Also subject of European competition young town planners.



From defensive inundation to climate adaptive retention





Outcome: planification harbour strip



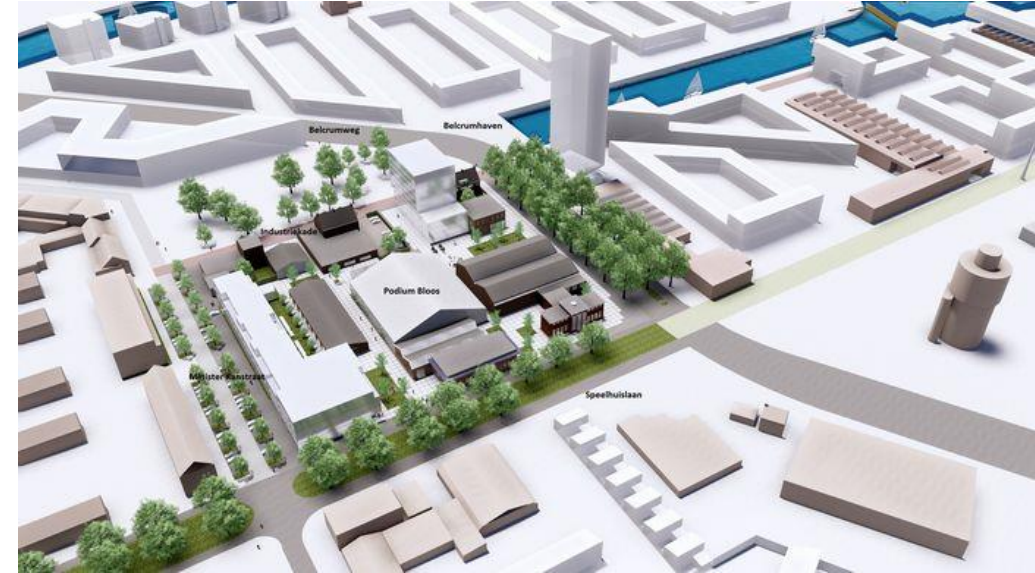


Integration former industrial real estate





Integration former industrial real estate



Placemaking: recognition and regulation



Always welcome in Breda!
Coffee is ready!

Thank you!



<https://projects2014-2020.interregeurope.eu/wave>

Hans Thoolen

Project Coordinator WaVE
Municipality of Breda NL (LP WaVE)
bj.thoolen@breda.nl



**Interreg
Europe**



European Union | European Regional Development Fund