

Effective delivery of sustainable landscape design

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Dutch Waterline fort. Image captured and amended by Anastasia Nikologianni.

Introduction

This paper forms part of a wider research looking at pioneer landscape strategies across Europe, examining the extent to which low carbon, sustainability and spatial quality can be delivered effectively on urban and strategic scale, and covers examples from the 'Landscape Observatory' (Spain), the 'Room for the River' and the 'New Dutch Waterline' (Netherlands).

Methodology

Two case studies are used to illustrate the potential of this approach. The example of the Landscape Observatory in Catalonia is based on a framework of sustainable development, increasing knowledge for the landscape and monitoring the landscape changes. The Netherlands case study examines two national programmes, the 'Room for the River' and the 'Dutch Waterline' demonstrating how the idea of landscape, low carbon and design quality can shape the implementation of landscape strategies.



Visualisation of the 'Room for the River' Project in Lent/Nijmegen. Introducing elements such as water safety and spatial quality at early stages of the process has a major impact in the successful implementation. Image provided by the municipality of Nijmegen.

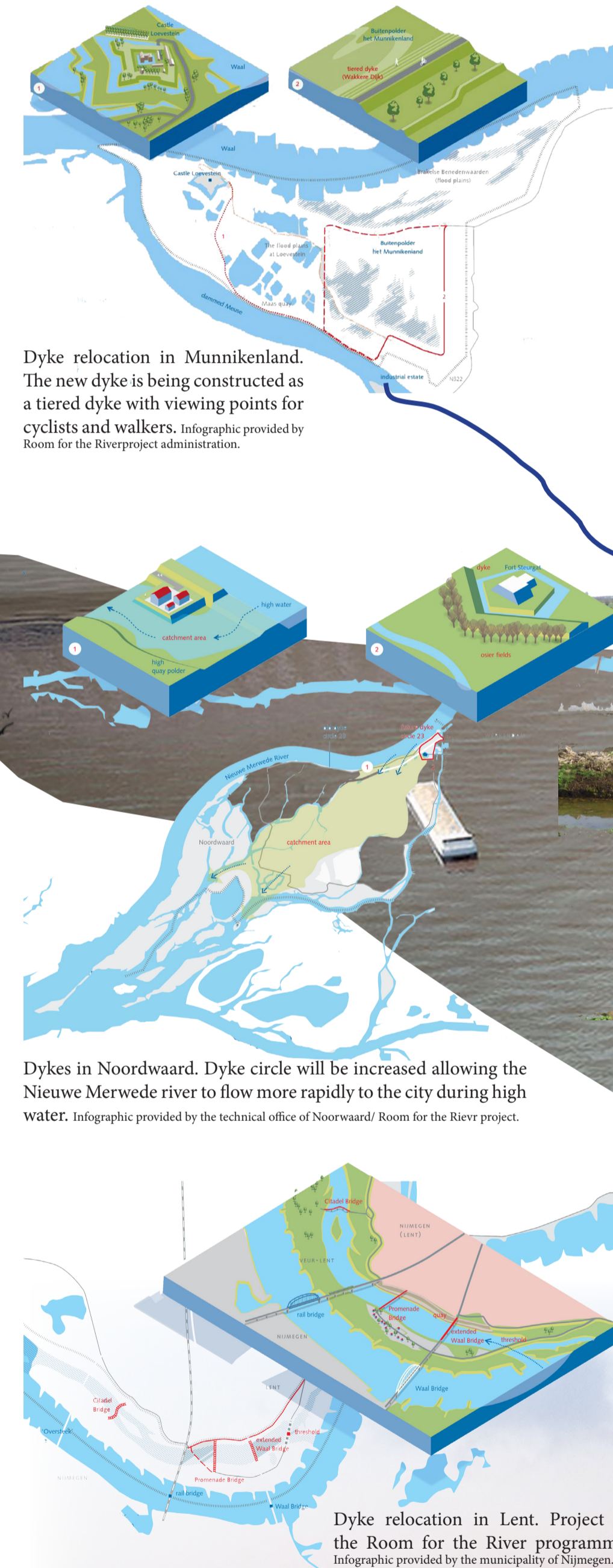


Showing how a climate adaptation project is able to create quality landscape spaces. Visualisation of the 'Room for the River' Project in Lent/Nijmegen. Image provided by the municipality of Nijmegen.

Landscape is now recognised as being an integral, active and fundamental factor affecting the quality of people's lives.

Netherlands; Design Implementation

The Room for the River is a landscape adaptation programme addressing a high-risk climate issue such as flooding, while the Dutch Waterline aims to preserve the existing landscape and historical infrastructure. The emphasis on landscape quality was given from the very beginning of both projects by integrating into a public law.



Dyke relocation in Munnikenland. The new dyke is being constructed as a tiered dyke with viewing points for cyclists and walkers. Infographic provided by Room for the River project administration.

Dykes in Noordwaard. Dyke circle will be increased allowing the Nieuwe Merwede river to flow more rapidly to the city during high water. Infographic provided by the technical office of Noordwaard/ Room for the River project.

Dyke relocation in Lent. Project of the Room for the River programme. Infographic provided by the municipality of Nijmegen.

Dutch Waterline bunker. Created by RAAF + Atelier de Lyon the bunker enhances the existing and emphasises the history of the area. Image captured and amended by Anastasia Nikologianni.

Conclusion

The paper illustrates ways that the landscape ideas can be interpreted to reality in a way that results to a quality and resilient place. It is suggested that the successful delivery of a landscape strategy can be strengthened by the establishment of a holistic mechanism which integrates the landscape idea, the environmental and social assets as well as a vision for their implementation.

The way drawings and visuals inform strategic design and planning, enforce the notion that better understanding of low carbon and quality concepts is crucial for the development of the project process and that pictorial forms play a key role in the communication of key ideas.

Catalonia; An identity to the region

The Landscape Observatory, established to help implement the European Landscape Convention (ELC) in Catalonia, has succeeded in bringing attention to the landscape and create a landscape oriented culture. It has managed to integrate the concept and principles of ELC to such an extent that there is now a public law protecting landscape. Overall the activity of the Landscape Observatory has managed to shape the way people perceive Catalonia. Developed tools such as landscape catalogues, dissemination material and visuals it has changed perceptions on the way institutions and public view regions and their potential.

The photos of Barcelona, Catalonia and Netherlands have been captured by the researcher and some have been amended for the needs of this poster.



Park Güell, Barcelona. Image captured by Anastasia Nikologianni.