

urban courtyard



European 4
Amsterdam Osdorp

winner international competition European 4

112 apartments
1200 m² commercial space
parking garage with 112 parking places
client: housing corporation Het Oosten,
Amsterdam

completion: 2002

In 1996, the focus of the international European 4-competition was to find new ways of dealing with the increasing density of the existing urban scheme in the Amsterdam Osdorp district. This is the winning entry.

The brief for the relatively small piece of land (3000 m²) was to build 112 apartments with parking space and 1200 m² of commercial space. An important objective in the design was the creation of a high quality communal space within the building; a small public square to the southwest of the building was also left.

The stratified architecture reflects its interior functions. The first two layers (maisonettes, parking, commercial space, and storage) are clad in dark brick. On the third floor, a large communal garden is surrounded on three sides by apartments. The fourth side of the court has been cut back over a height of seven meters, creating a huge balcony overlooking the new public square six meters below. From the fourth floor up, dwellings of various types are clad in enamelled glass and untreated timber.

There are 26 different types of dwellings. Small garden maisonettes spread over two and three floors, bigger and smaller corridor duplexes, various varieties of gallery apartments, around-the-corner flats, and exceptionally high terrace houses make a welcome contribution to the bland choice on offer around the project.

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