



Counter for Heritage and Sustainability

A one stop shop to make heritage more sustainable



AMSTERDAM



921,402



Cultural heritage for sustainable development



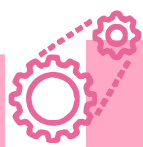
Challenge

With over 9,000 monumental buildings and 15 conservation areas, Amsterdam boasts a very high 'heritage density'. The urgency of making monuments and sites more sustainable became very clear and real to comply with goals set by the 2015 Paris Agreement. However, making heritage more sustainable can lead to possibly conflicting situations between, for instance, interventions on windows, walls, putting solar panels on the roof of a building and its heritage values.



Solution

The municipality wanted to provide access for everyone who wished to know more or do something about sustainability in combination with heritage regardless of ownership, income, or ties to the city. Therefore, the city created a digital counter to collect and deliver information on making built heritage more sustainable. By giving information about the buildings in protected heritage areas, i.e. what is their status and what permits are required to intervene on them, the portal facilitates sustainable initiatives on cultural heritage from residents and organisations. The portal also provides booklets and handouts translating sustainability and heritage policies into easily digestible information for locals.



How ?

- 1 Between March 2021 and June 2022, before developing the portal, the city consulted heritage professionals, local organisations and residents asking for their needs and initiatives that they had taken to make heritage more sustainable. The city got more than 300 answers.
- 2 The city mapped protected heritage areas and monuments and provides this information to the public on the online counter.
- 3 On the counter, users can 'zoom in' on their address or property and see what advice is given, where opportunities lie, for instance to instal solar panels, and what the criteria (may) be. They receive a personal overview of the sustainable steps they can take and how to finance interventions to make the building sustainable. Finally, they can find inspiration from other practices on the website.

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Budget/Financing

- January 2021 – December 2022 €150,000
- January 2023 – December 2027 approximately €300,000/year



Management

- The Counter for Heritage and Sustainability is a project of the Spatial Quality Committee, Monuments and Archaeology, Sustainability and Permits, Supervision and Enforcement of the city of Amsterdam.



Transferability

- Use tangible and intangible heritage values as an inspiration for green projects, for instance making monuments and buildings more sustainable and eco-friendly or public spaces greener.
- Set a framework describing the kind of projects combining heritage and sustainability you are looking for to showcase as examples.
- Actively reach out to all communities to share information that are relevant to them. E.g. organise small events where you can show examples of sustainable interventions on heritage buildings or areas.



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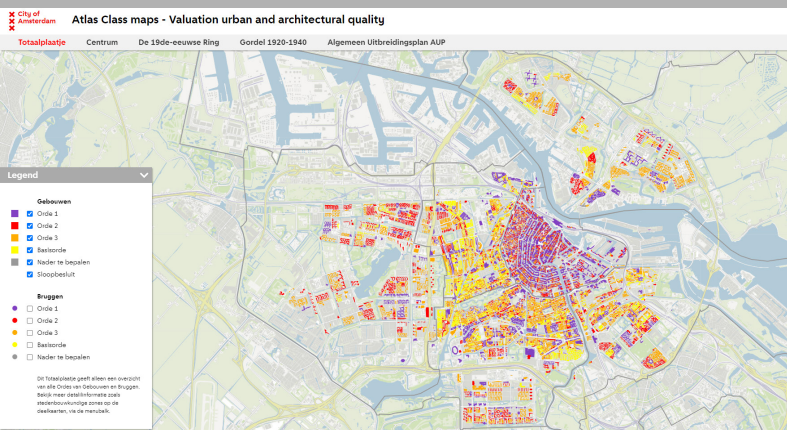
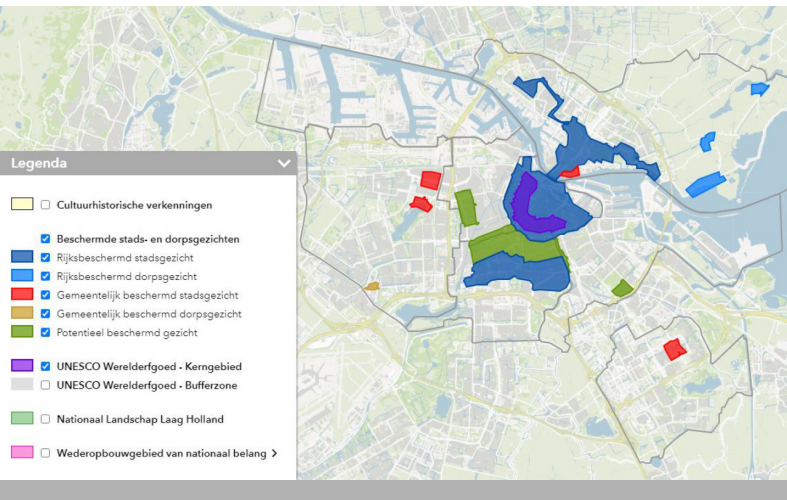
Impact

Before 2021 residents and owners struggled to find their way through rules and regulations. Most of the time they could not connect with the right person within the city's organisation. Nowadays they are channelled and answered properly.

The counter has produced so far:

- 3 interactive maps
- 5 online informative webinars
- 3 informational gatherings
- Policy handouts/ documents

By analysing the various projects linking heritage and sustainability, the city has been able to connect the different dots and in doing this, could better define its assignments.



Links

- [Website](#) (in Dutch only)
- [Map of urban and architectural quality](#)
- Solar panels and heritage: [roof inventory](#)



Contact

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