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(NL)

# DEN BOSCH



154,220



## Challenge

's-Hertogenbosch is a riverside municipality characterised by impressive fortification walls and historic water defence features (bulwarks) that date back to the 16th century. Due to the disrepair of the bulwarks and the effects of climate change, at the end of the 20th century the inner part of the city was threatened by rising waters. The lack of public funding to sustain the urgent restoration work put pressure on the municipality to find a sustainable solution.

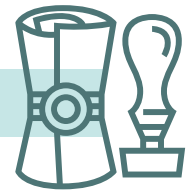


## Solution

The municipality turned to an overall redevelopment plan for the former St. John's bulwark, deciding to restore the former water defence feature instead of building a new system. The plan includes the creation of a new heritage and visitors centre with amenities and cultural activities.

The municipality leases the management of the space to an association of heritage volunteers, ensuring not only economic sustainability and employment opportunities but also revenue streams that can be invested in other heritage and educational projects.

# Bulwark Heritage Centre



### From former city gate into a new public space



Participatory governance of cultural heritage



Quality of interventions on cultural heritage



## How ?

- 1 The municipality set up a Fortifications Development Team in charge of the supervision of the restoration works (started in 2013), in close cooperation with local landscape architects. The municipality carefully selected the team's composition to combine historical, archaeological, technical and ecological expertise necessary to carry out the complex restoration work.
- 2 The team supervised the design and execution of the restoration works, combining traditional techniques with modern design and materials, inspired by traditional Dutch fortress design. Innovative engineering methods keeping the rising water (to 2.5 meters high) out of the bulwark, while maintaining public space. In parallel, the municipality developed the Bulwark Heritage Centre's exploitation strategy to ensure the financial sustainability of the site once the works are completed.
- 3 Since 2019, the former city gate has been a departure point for visitors and a public place for the residents to relax and meet each other. It includes a restaurant, a ticket office for guided boat tours and historic city walks, a visitor centre and an archaeological experience that showcases the archaeological artefacts through 3D modelling and virtual reality techniques.

## CULTURAL HERITAGE IN ACTION

Sharing solutions in European cities and regions



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## Budget/Financing

€ 3,790 million

- Mainly provided by the Municipality Fortifications Development Programme (59%) and the European Regional Development Fund (26%).
- Additional funds came from the cross- border cooperation programme Flanders-Netherlands, the province North-Brabant and local entrepreneurs.
- The management of the information centre takes place without any annual public funding. Due to the exploitation and management plan by the local heritage society and the market-based rent they pay, no additional funding was needed after completion of the project.

## Management

- 's-Hertogenbosch municipality, owner of the bulwerk, led development and implementation. The Fortifications Development Team was in charge of the restoration in synergy with the bigger plan 'Fortified Den Bosch' approved by the town council. A municipal project manager handles day to day management.
- The municipality collaborated closely with stakeholders, including the North-Brabant province and local entrepreneurs who co-funded the project.
- The Circle of Friends of Den Bosch is a volunteer heritage association crucial to the sustainability of the Bulwerk Heritage Centre. The Circle rents the space from the municipality and engages more than 60 volunteers for heritage tours and educational programmes.



## Transferability

- Don't be afraid to add contemporary architecture. Your project should be regarded as heritage in 50 years' time.
- Never compromise the quality of your project.
- Make sure that local inhabitants, the neighbours of your project, will benefit from the developments. Take them along enthusiastically during the development and realisation of the plan. You need their full support.



## Links

[www.bolwerkdenbosch.nl/](http://www.bolwerkdenbosch.nl/)

3D scan video: <https://bit.ly/2NYNhgr>



## Impact

- Reintegration of historical heritage into both urban fabric and society.
- Reactivation of neglected historical structures of fortifications for local development.
- Increased sense of belonging of citizens.
- Improved spatial quality of the living environment.
- Climate resilient aquatic environment preserving cultural heritage.
- Creating a social hub of the region and a gateway to the town for both inhabitants and visitors.



## Contact

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