NATURAL TRAFFIC CALMING IN ZEDDAM, HOW INVOLMENT OF ALL FACTIONS LEADS TO SAFETY AND A PLEASANT PUBLIC SPACE

The design and the design principles

In the design the principals "natural traffic calming" and "shared space" have been used. No longer the starting point is just the traffic on the road, and the landscape architect 'for all that is left". In this project the landscape architect was invited to search for design items that would influence the road user in it's behaviour in a natural way. In this way we could create more space for pedestrians, more green, and just a pleasant public space. The 'real' traffic safety is increasing, through the elimination of 'false sense of security' provided by traffic signs.

Here the road is made smaller, a square the shops can use has been introduced.

The design

Different areas are defined, based on their own existing character (green village road, center, transformation zone, and green rural road). The differences in character of the different areaus is enhanced, and emphasised. Where the roads were just to long green elements where introduced to break the boredom. Green islands in the roads, and shifting of the road-axis was used as well.

Use of the same material for car and pedestrian areas to create a level playing field (equality)

emphasising a pedestrian crossing with green hedges.

Results

At the end of the day 93 traffic signs were removed, and just 4 introduced. Safety was increased and the tourism got a boost. The project is used as an example for other cities to implement 'Natural Traffic Calming'.

In the project we found quite some lost spaces we could integrate and give new use. Here a place to sit and rest for cyclists/tourists

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