

# BLEND IN...

## Introduction to the concept

J. Algerapad

# Ochtend mensen

## Start of the journey

The J. Algerapad in Almere is at the heart of a soon-to-be vibrant, healthy and climate-adaptive area. Meeting, learning and development are key elements to consider in achieving this goal. Still, there is unexplored territory when it comes to using the J. Algerapad and its surroundings' potential. Take for example its central position in the city, its connection to a multitude of amenities and present green and blue structures. How do we ensure that these elements reinforce each other to enhance the liveability of this area for its users? Findings arising from the context analysis are leading in advising interventions that make the physical and social living environment more liveable. Let's walk on!

## Social environment

Human social environments encompass the immediate physical surroundings and social relationships, within which defined groups of people function and interact. The Algera path can be seen as an artery that runs through the neighbourhood and is therefore an essential asset for establishing social safety and cohesion. These benefits can be realized by enriching the environment of the Algerapad with places to stay throughout the day, causing more eyes on the street present 24/7.

Combined with appealing physical interventions, people using the environment are more inclined to take good care of the environment and a feeling of ownership can be triggered. To stimulate a great variety of people to use the path, an inclusive design with attention to a ground-level walking and cycling path is recommended.



## Context analysis

The J. Algerapad consists of a straight cycle path and sidewalk including an overpass and is located on the north side of Almere's Central Station. The path connects multiple services in neighbouring districts. Among these services are two recreational parks (800 and 1000m), a primary and high school (300 and 350m), a community centre (100m) and an Art Museum (100m). The path is mainly used by walkers, wheelchair or walker users, cyclists, runners and scooters.

The south side of the path consists of high office buildings that surround the Mandelapark and P.J. Oudpark which covers a parking lot, whereas the north side of the path borders a green lawn with trees and a statue, apartment complexes and parking lots.

## Physical environment

The physical environment reinforces the social environment and vice versa. Increasing connectiveness with surrounding services by implementing simple signs along the path guides people to their destinations in an effective way.

Placing attractive attributes along the path invite people to explore the surrounding area. These attributes must be playful for the eye and facilitate recreational purposes. Another essential condition is keeping the surrounding area around the path neat, tidy and safe. By facilitating these basic needs neighbors may feel ownership of the area which increases social awareness and control.

## Process design and steps

**Phase 1** | Literature research on J. Algerapad, brainstorm session with team members about aspects of healthy lifestyle and climate-adaptation inspired by masterclasses.

**Phase 2** | Field work J. Algerapad including context analyses and stakeholder analysis.

**Phase 3** | Brainstorm session with colleagues gathering interventions and making a quadrant analysis effort versus impact.

**Phase 4** | Determining location of specific intervention and translating findings on poster

## Expected impact

	Safety	Accessibility	Ownership	Biodiversity	Social cohesion	Water retention
Connectiveness & inclusiveness		+				
Green-blue networks				+		+
Basic needs	+		+		+	

# ...AND STAND OUT!

## The intervention

## WHAT

An urban living lab that functions as a landmark in an attractive and accessible city entrance with respect for ecological and social values. The urban living lab will become a breeding ground for the neighbourhood where young residents are stimulated to engage in a healthy lifestyle.



## WHERE

The area starting from the t-junction of the J. Algerapad path and the Churchillstreet. This location is in the direct view of the Central Station north exit.

# URBAN LIVING LAB

## WHY?

To attract young people to discover the north and southern part of the Central Station, the J. Algerapad must be a place that is (1) visible from the start, (2) pleasant to reside and pass through and (3) inspiring people.

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