How does Amsterdam use retrofitting of urban areas for climate proofing a neighbourhood
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How does Amsterdam use retrofitting of urban areas for climate proofing a neighbourhood

Fieldlab
Although there is elaborate technical knowledge on climate adaptation, the implementation and involvement of residents stays behind. In this research we follow the process of major maintenance in the urban neighborhood Middenmeer, Amsterdam. In 2018 the city of Amsterdam will retrofit the urban space and renew the sewer in the area. This is a once in 30 years opportunity to make it climate proof. The collaboration between the municipality and the local water company requires a change of working in the institutes and involvement of the residents. In the research we observed if design choices are climate proof.

In parallel, we investigated the opinion of the people in the neighborhood. What does climate-proofing mean for the residents? By means of an area analysis, and area scans we looked for opportunities related to climate resilience. What are the problems, desires, needs and motivation, energy of local actors and how can we reach them?
Do people consider climateproofing as their responsibility and are they willing to take a role. What holds them back?
Together with the municipality we organize interventions and help to make a platform for residents and entrepreneurs to share information and ideas.

Conclusions Citycouncil and Watercompany
- At the citycouncil and Watercompany there is a growing knowledge of the approach of climate adaptation in public space
- At the moment approach and measures are restricted to public space
- Professionals understand there are opportunities in working together with the residents and involving private property
- As a result of this Fieldlab research professionals in the water company and citycouncil realize that for a better physical impact it is necessary to pro-active or cooperate with the residents in a community
- At the moment it is up to individuals in the public organizations to act just do the job, the intentions should be more apparent
- The citycouncil considers adapting the assignement formulation in future projects in more connection and dialogue with the neighourhood.

Conclusions Residents
- Residents are interested and involved in the neighbourhhood of Middenmeer
- Residents are interested in climate issues in their neighourhood and care for their environment
- They experience problems with excessive rain in public space but also in their backyards, and basements
- Residents are willing to act and take responsibility
- At the moment they feel they don’t have the knowledge and information to act