

info@pauldekort.nl www.pauldekort.nl

Commissioned by; the municipality of Enschede.

© 2012

TRECHTEREN FUNNELING

Paul de Kort 2012

BACKGROUND

The 'Enschede Route' is a contiguous route of bicycle- and walking paths around the city. An informal network of paths invites walkers to explore the surrounding areas. The area also forms a fairly harsh border between the urban area of Enschede and its countryside.

South-west of Enschede, in the direction of Haaksbergen, this route cuts through a lovely, lightly sloping landscape, consisting of enken, small agricultural plots bordered by wooden walls and thin, straight drainage ditches with steep, hard shores.

The municipal Enschede, Dienst Landelijk Gebied-oost (DLG) together with water management Regge en Dinkel are working together in this area on development that allows better water management and a varied landscape. During dry periods there is little water, but in the winter or spring, or even just after heavy rain, the water levels, sometimes quite suddenly, increase rapidly. From high to low, the area knows little difference in level. A meandering brook watercourse with broader and sloping shores should increase the water storage capacity in this area



OPPORTUNITIES FOR ART

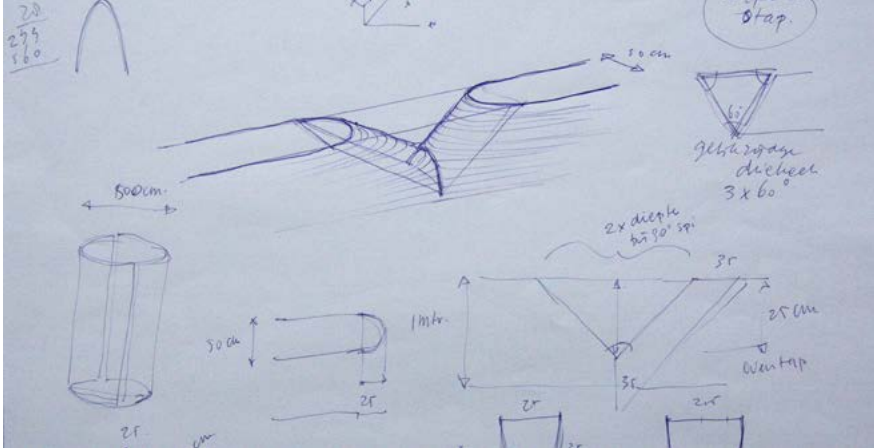
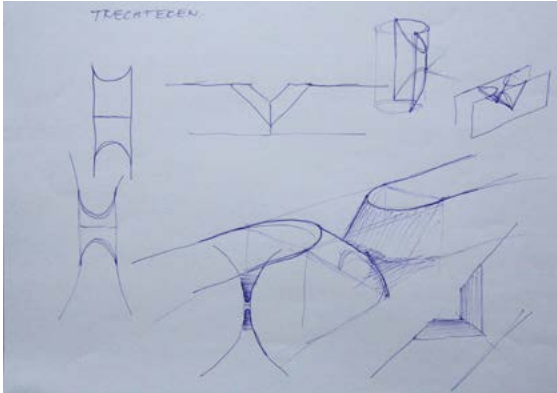
In the design sketch by DLG in 2009 such a meandering brook has been drawn. Crosses between the informal networks of paths and the brook was not yet elaborated on during the writing of this art assignment (October 2009). This provides us with an ideal opportunity to integrate art into a development project.

The crosses will be used as strategical 'pinpricks' to create a more spontaneous dynamic in this area. Between the paths and the water these are areas where the experience of this place, especially the meeting of the water, can be enhanced.

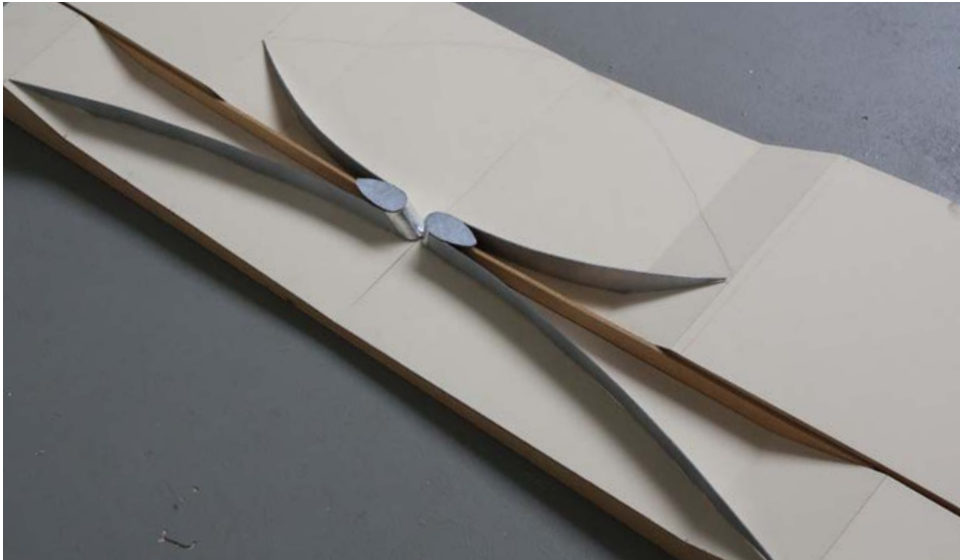


TRECHTERS (funnels)

Kind of weirs are placed in strategical places in the brook. From the shores, retaining walls move in a fluent arch towards the middle of the trench. The retaining walls touch each other in a V-shape. This is called the 'Treichter'. Because of the 'Treichter', you are able to walk across the brook and at the same time, the water is stopped and pushed upwards, after which it can continue to flow with more force.



artist impression, scetches studies en models



FLOODING

Since the early middle ages a tradition exists in the south-west of Enschede, on the border of Gelderland and Overijssel. Traditionally, during the winter months, ploughing fields are used as a space for excess water through an ingenious system of weirs, ditches and quays. This means that excess rainwater was buffered and that the fields were enriched with nutrients. As soon as spring comes around and farmers need their lands again, the water is lead away.

Now, something similar may be introduced. The space right before a 'Trechter'. is lowered and broadened to form a similar field for excess water. This, too, has multiple benefits; the area is able to store more excess water which means that canals and rivers below stream don't have to process a large amount of water at once. It also has a positive effect on the biodiversity in the area and increases the experience.



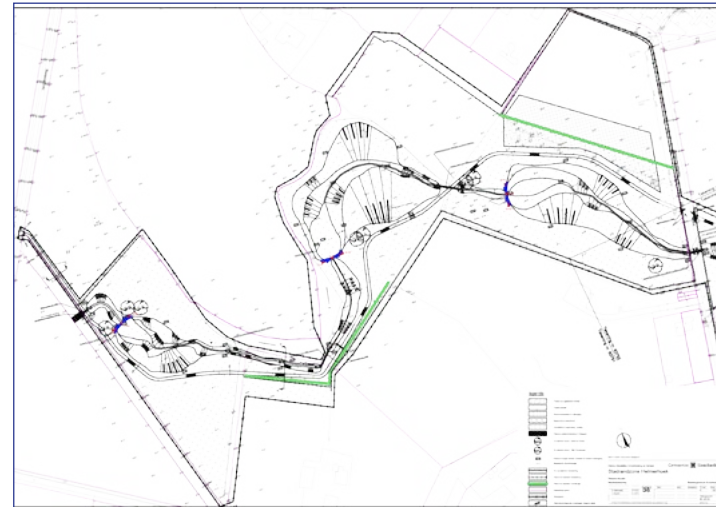
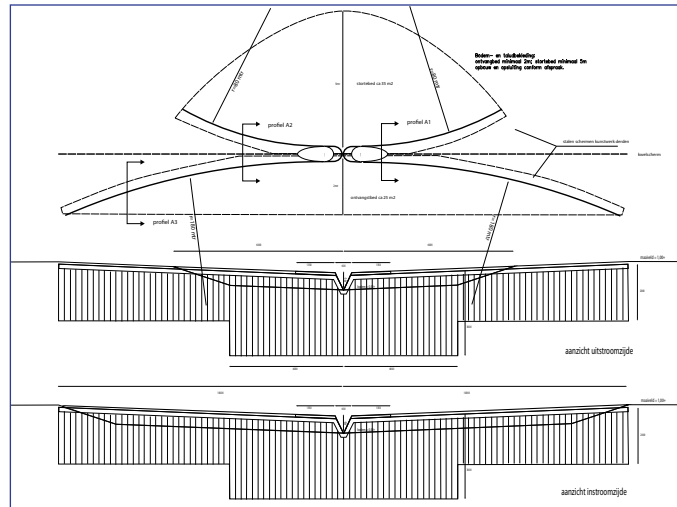
Artist impressions of Trechters (2009)



TRECHTEREN

In dutch the terms 'Trecht', 'drecht', 'dracht', 'tricht': they are all related to the Latin word 'trajectum' in the sense of a crossing, a fordable place in a stream. We find traces of this in many toponyms such as Maastricht, Utrecht, Dordrecht, Drachten, Haastrecht; these names all refer to a place in a stream or river near-by with a fordable place. In this area the 'Trechters' are where the path is continued across the catchment of the brook.

The design of the 'Trechter' causes narrowing in the flow profile of the brook. The water is pushed upwards. The areas before a 'Trechter' will therefore, even during dry periods, be able to store more water. Together with the water management Regge en Dinkel, the shape of the 'Trechters' has been calculated and shaped so that even during peak discharges the 'Trechters' provide enough flow, the area will thus never flood.



A STRATEGY

'TRECHTEREN' is a verb and a strategy. The 'Trechters' create a behaviour in both the water and the people walking by. The water is forced to flow through the 'Trechter', the walker is invited to cross the brook at these places.

The dynamics of the water will naturally dig a meandering trench in the sandy soil. The walker is challenged to find their way from 'Trechter' to 'Trechter', creating spontaneous desire paths. Gradually, patterns find their way into the landscape. But they will never be like the patterns created on the drawing board.





stainless steel step plates on the heads of the funnels provide a safe crossing

the 'noses' of the Trechters are polished, the retaining walls are pearled





