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HEER-HUYGEN-WAERT

Reason

In 2019, the Middenweg-Zuid in Heerhugowaard was reconstructed over a length of 1850 metres. This reconstruction turned out to be necessary because the lifespan of the road and the trees had come to an end.

The total length of the Middenweg from south to north is almost 10 kilometres, but the profile of the southern part is still the most original with water, bridges and trees on both sides. The trees in particular give that part of the Middenweg its characteristic elongated perspective and regular rhythm.

This characteristic profile of the road has largely been preserved or restored after the reconstruction of the road. The 'dike body' has been slightly widened, a bicycle street has been constructed, along the east side a recreational path has been laid out, elms have been planted and the typical Heerhugowaard arched lanterns have been placed.

Middenweg will become a bicycle street which will also be accessible for pedestrians, buses and local traffic.

This art commission asked for a sustainable and innovative work of art that makes the cultural-historical values of the Middenweg visible and experienceable for its residents and passers-by.

Geometry

The Middenweg was constructed around 1630 immediately after the reclamation of Heer Huygen Waert from south to north and was one of the most important connecting roads to Alkmaar. The Middenweg cuts through the polder from south to north. From the outset, the Middenweg, then known as 'Middelweg', formed the central axis of the polder on which the geometric parcelling was oriented. The upright line in the polder was the ruler along which the surveyor could measure plots, ditches and possessions, always in 'rods', 'feet' and 'mornings';

"De Veenhuyser gronden daer onder Geleghen zijn mede verdeelt en geloot aan stucken van 15 morgens, Rynlandts maet van 600 int Morghen, gemeten ter halver weghen en Slooten, mede gheloot op den 20 juni Anno 1631 (...)" "Roeden van 12 voeten, Geestmerambachts Binnenbants maet, ofte Zijpsche Dijckmaat, van 600 int Morgen, bij een getelt door den Ingenieur Anthonius Metius."

The length of a 'Foot' and a 'Rod' could vary considerably per region, sometimes even per individual surveyor. Besides the 'Rynlandtse Roede', which was more or less the standard unit of measurement at the time, on the 'Carte van de Heer-Huygen-Waert' we also read 'Geestmerambachts -', 'Hondsbosse - or Zypsche Dyckmaat'.

After source research (Meertens Institute and KNAW) we have to conclude that in the parcelling out of the 'Carte van de Heer Huygen-Waert' several measurements and units were used simultaneously and side by side.



Space and time

When the introduction of the IJkwet in 1816 made 'the uniform system of measurements and weights' (metres, centimetres, kilos, etc...) compulsory, this source of confusion was a thing of the past.

But... is the distance between the tips of the middle fingers with outstretched arms still one 'fathom', is rope still sold by 'fathom'? Is an 'el' still equal to the length of the forearm from the fingertips to the armpit? Is the circumference of a pole still so many 'palms' and the thickness of a plank so many 'thumbs', is the width of a plot or road still measured in 'feet'? Is the size of a field still so large that the farmer knows in how many 'mornings' he can plough his land?

Since the Egyptians and classical antiquity (Vitruvius), landscape measurement was based on physical dimensions and physical experiences of space and time, grafted onto the -Human Measure-. Thumb, palm, foot and el are always derived from parts of the human body. -One morning ploughing- and -one hour of going- are concrete actions within fixed units of time.

In addition to the 'Rynlandts Roede' (a cast iron rod in a wooden box), Museum Boerhaave in Leiden has another special instrument in its collection: het 'Meetrad', the Measuring Wheel. The diameter and the circumference of the wheel are dimensioned in such a way that after 1,500 revolutions (5.4km) a small clock goes round exactly once. According to the description this is equal to 'one hour going', pure time and space in one object!

CAERTE VAN DE HEER-HUYGEN-WAERT,

Urlem al

Roeden van 12 voeten.

The landscape at a distance

The meter, as the basis of our current metric system, was originally defined as 'the ten-millionth part of the distance from the North Pole to the equator' and since 1983 has been defined as 'the distance that light travels in 1/299,792,458 seconds in vacuum'. Such an abstraction fits in a standardized and globalizing world, but with it we lose the realisation that a piece of land is a number of 'mornings' of ploughing, and a walk is an x-number of 'hours of going'?

We barely experience the 21st century landscape with this direct, physical experience of space and time and it is my firm conviction that this is reflected in the way we describe the landscape, how we move in it, but especially in our involvement with it.

We have literally 'put the landscape at a distance'.

The -pedal- as a unit for experience of time, distance and rhythm for the cyclist

We still apply the 'foot' as a unit of measure when we 'fit' something. We hardly know the 'rod' as unit of measure anymore, but it so happens that a cyclist travels about 12 feet, so one rod, or 3.70 meters in one round of the bike pedal.

As Middenweg has become a bicycle street it is a good idea to rename the 'rod' as an obsolete unit to the 21st century 'pedal', a new standard especially for cyclists on Middenweg-Zuid.

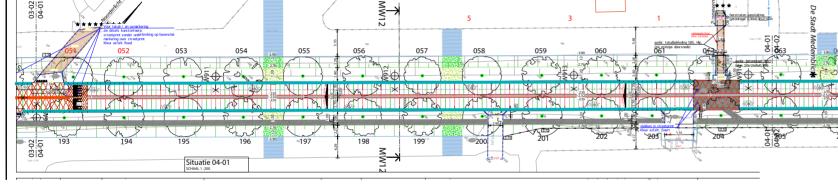


e Waerdt Polder

Human Dimensions

The elongated straight line of the Middenweg becomes the ruler of the human dimensions. The redbrown asphalt pavement and the brick central guide become the image carriers of this work of art, a drawing with a length of 1,800 m and an ode to surveyors such as Engineer Anthonius Metis.

Implementation drawing of a part of Middenweg-South



Trees and lanterns

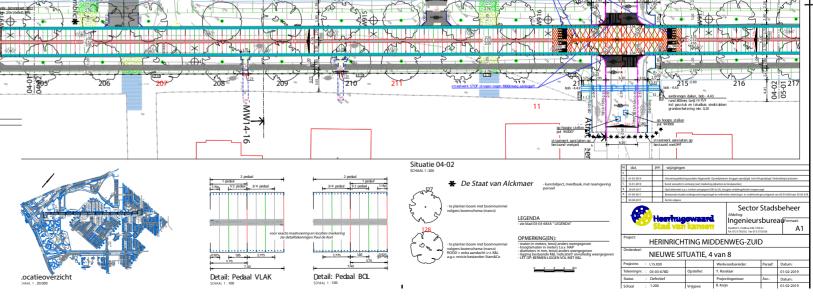
The red-brown asphalt and the bricks of the central guide are now the bearers of a drawing of a ruler of 1,800 meters, or 500 'pedals'. Not only the asphalt is an inseparable part of the work of art, but also the trees and lanterns are very precisely measured according to foot and pedal measurements and are marked along the ruler by circles and circles with a dash.

Time, space and rhythm

1,800 meters equals approx. 500 -Pedals-.

According to the 'Measuring Wheel' that is -1/3 circle of the clock- = '20 minutes going'.

The average cycling speed is approx. 18 km/hour. Converted the length of Middenweg-Zuid is 1/10 of 1 hour so Middenweg takes 6 minutes by bike.



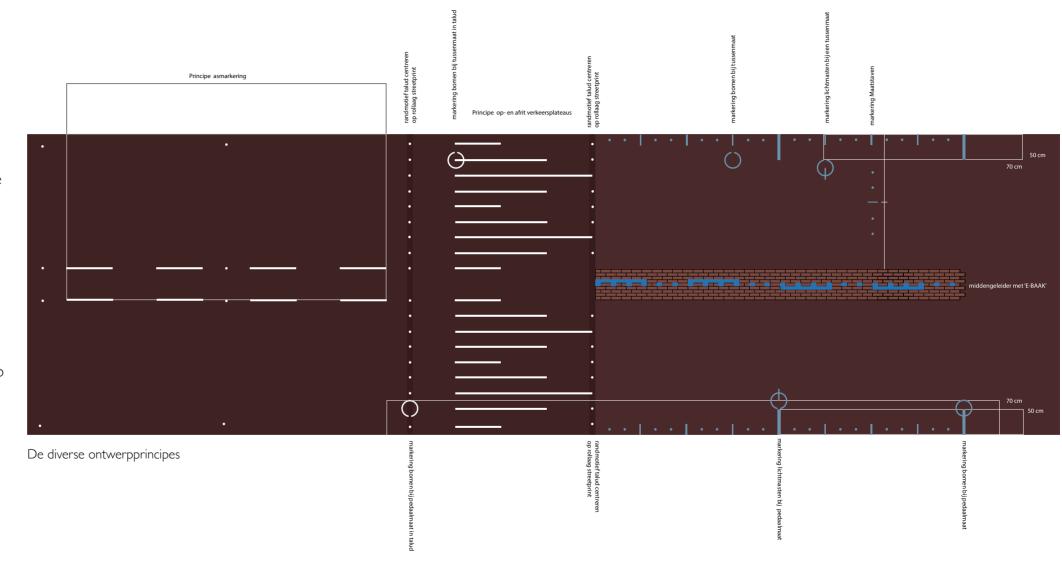


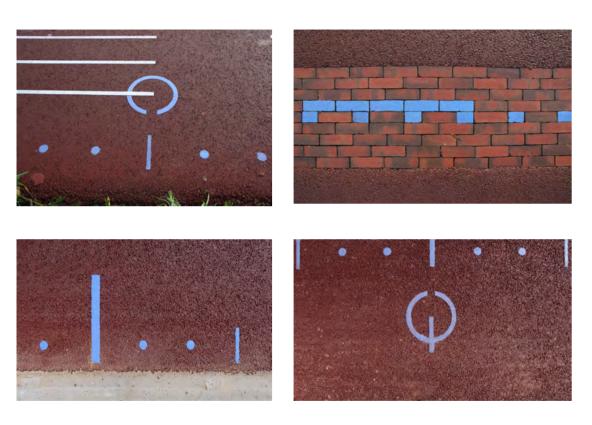
Modular system

The central conductor consists of - thick-format - paving stones in 9 parallel lanes and forms the basis and backbone of the renewed profile of Middenweg Zuid.

The 'dikformaat' has a length-width ratio of 1:3. A 'dikformaat' has a length of 20.5 cm, 20.5 cm x 1.5 = 30.75 = 1 Foot. 18 thick format paving stones = 12 feet = 1 Pedal.

The 'dikformaat' paving stone fits very nicely within the concept -Human Dimensions-. After all, the width-length ratio of the thick format has been developed for a firm grip in the palm of the paving stone maker.





The asphalt is the carrier of the artwork. The trees and lanterns are very precisely measured and positioned according to foot, step and pedal dimensions. and marked with stripes, dots and markers.



II Maatstaven (yardsticks)

One of the tools the surveyor used was the measuring beacon or yardstick. Along the Middenweg there are now 11 yardsticks with a height of 370 cm, one pedal.

These yardsticks mark the boundaries between the first parcels along the Middenweg south.

On a yardstick the 'human scale' is engraved in 'foot', 'step' and 'pedal', also the number of 'mornings' a plot was large and finally the name of the first owner or tenant of the plot concerned, such as Hans van Loon, Anna Quintings or Stadt Alkmaer.

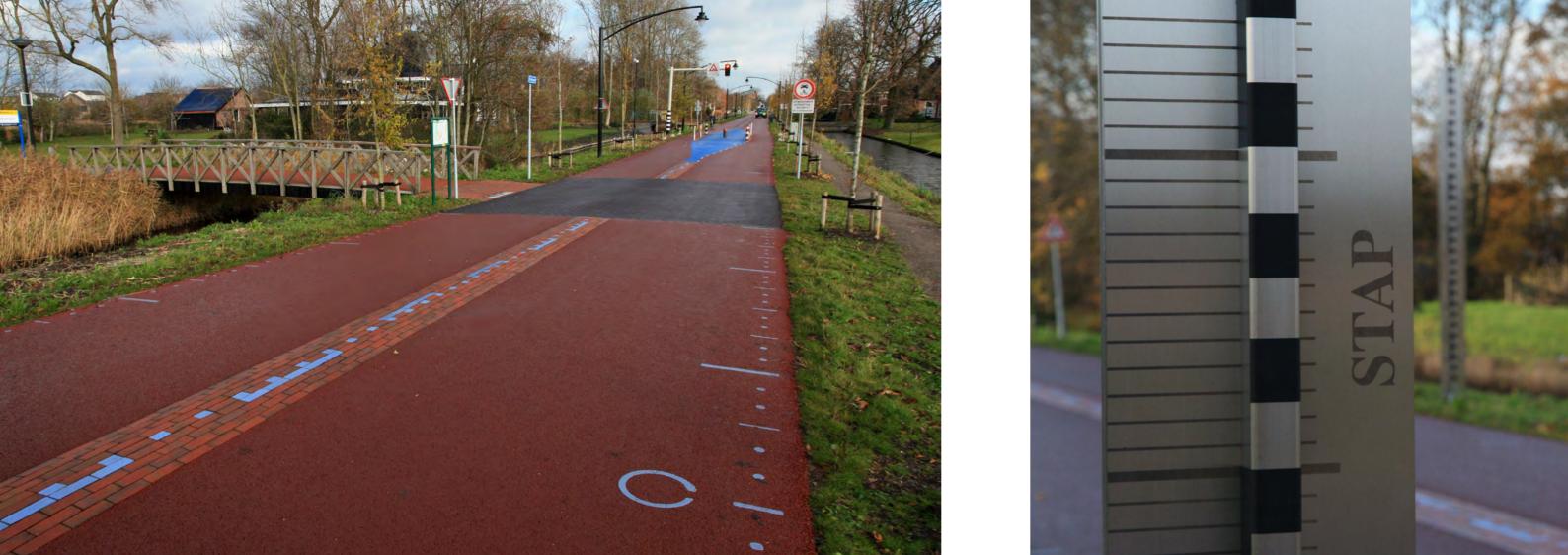
| lot | firtst owner | size | current address |
|---------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| CI | De Heer Raetsheer Borre | 15 morgen | Middenweg I |
| C2+C3 | De Stadt Medemblick | 30 morgen | Middenweg 7 |
| C4+C5 | Anna Quintings | 30 morgen | Middenweg 9 |
| C6+C7 | Hans van Loon | 30 morgen | Middenweg 13 |
| DI+D2 | Paulus van Asperen | 30 morgen | Huigendijk I I |
| D3+D4 | Hans Van Loon | 30 morgen | Middenweg 6 |
| D5 | De heer Raetsheer Borre | 15 morgen | _ |
| D6+D7 | Geraert van Santen | 30 morgen | Middenweg 12 |
| D8+D9 | Eduwaerdt van Lodesteyn | 30 morgen | Middenweg 18 |
| DI0+DII | Nicolaes Carbasius | 30 morgen | Middenweg 22 |
| D12+D13 | De Stadt van Alckmaer | 30 morgen | Middenweg 28 |

(bron: 'Octroy van de Heer-Huyge-Waert ende 't Register vande Cavels' uit 1631)











The trees, lanterns, intersections and connections, traffic platforms and bus locks, everything forms an inseparable part of the work of art.



At three places along the Middenweg south there are columns with information about the work of art.

'Meten met Menselijke Maten'

Voeten, ellen, duimen en roeden

Van de klassieke oudheid tot de invoering van de meter, de kilometer en de hectare in 1816, vormde het menselijk lichaam de 'maat der dingen'. Afstanden en oppervlaktes werden uitgedrukt in 'voeten', 'ellen', 'duimen' en 'roeden'. Eén 'voet' mat ongeveer 30 cm en een 'roede' was 12 voet. Een 'morgen' betrof een stuk grond dat de boer in één ochtend kon ploegen, een afstand drukte men uit in 'zoveel uren gaans'. Zuiver lichamelijke ervaringen van ruimte en tijd in het landschap.

Heer-Huygen-Waert

Rond 1630 is polder Heer-Huygen-Waert drooggelegd en van meet af aan vormt de Middenweg de centrale as van Heerhugowaard. Deze kaarsrechte lijn in de polder vormde de liniaal en meetlat waarlangs de 17e eeuwse landmeter de kavels, de sloten en bezittingen kon opmeten, steeds in 'roeden', 'voeten' en 'morgens'.

De Pedaal

De 'voet' als maateenheid passen we nog steeds toe als we iets 'uitpassen'. De 'roede' als maateenheid kennen we bijna niet meer, maar het toeval wil dat een fietser bij één rondgang van het fietspedaal ongeveer 12 voet, dus één roede, ofwel 3,70 meter aflegt. Omdat de Middenweg fietsstraat is geworden past het heel mooi om de 'roede' als verouderde eenheid om te dopen tot de 21e eeuwse 'pedaal', een nieuwe standaard speciaal voor de fietsende gebruiker van de Middenweg-Zuid.

Bomen en lantaarns

Het roodbruine asfalt en de bakstenen van de middengeleider zijn nu de dragers van een tekening van een liniaal van 1800 meter, ofwel 500 'pedalen'. Niet alleen het asfalt is onlosmakelijk onderdeel van het kunstwerk, ook de bomen en lantaarns staan heel exact uitgemeten volgens de voet- en pedaalmaten en zijn gemarkeerd langs de liniaal door cirkels en cirkels met een streepje.



Maatstaven

Eén van de gereedschappen die de landmeter gebruikte was het meetbaken of de maatstaf. Langs de Middenweg staan nu 11 maatstaven met een hoogte van 370 cm, één pedaal. De maatstaven markeren de grenzen tussen de eerste verkavelingen langs de Middenweg-zuid.

Op een maatstaf is de 'menselijke maat' gegraveerd in 'voet', 'stap' en 'pedaal', tevens het aantal 'morgens' dat een perceel groot was en tot bijvoorbeeld Hans van Loon, Anna Quintings of Stadt Alkmaer.

Meten met Menselijke Maten is een kunstwerk van Paul de Kort (www.pauldekort.nl)





