



Into the Shadow

How to replace a infrastructural work (in Dutch: kunstwerk) by a work of art (in Dutch: kunstwerk)? How can an anonymous tunnel become a meaningful space? By taking the visitors to another place. Not physically of course, just mentally. This tunnel to the Tugelaweg is the ideal space for such an immersing experience. The two walls, each 40 meters long, will be functioning as huge screens. Man-high windows that give a glimpse to another world, a world that you can take part in. Here we tell the story of the animals.

Both sides of the tunnel are fully equipped with LED strips with 31,000 white, bright LED lights, from top to bottom and back to front. In front of it, a screen of frosted and tempered (vandal resistant) glass with a water-like pattern is placed. In general, all the LEDs are switched on, 24 hours a day. But within this overwhelming light, there will be moving silhouettes, where the LEDs are off. It appears that animals are moving directly behind the ripples of the glass.

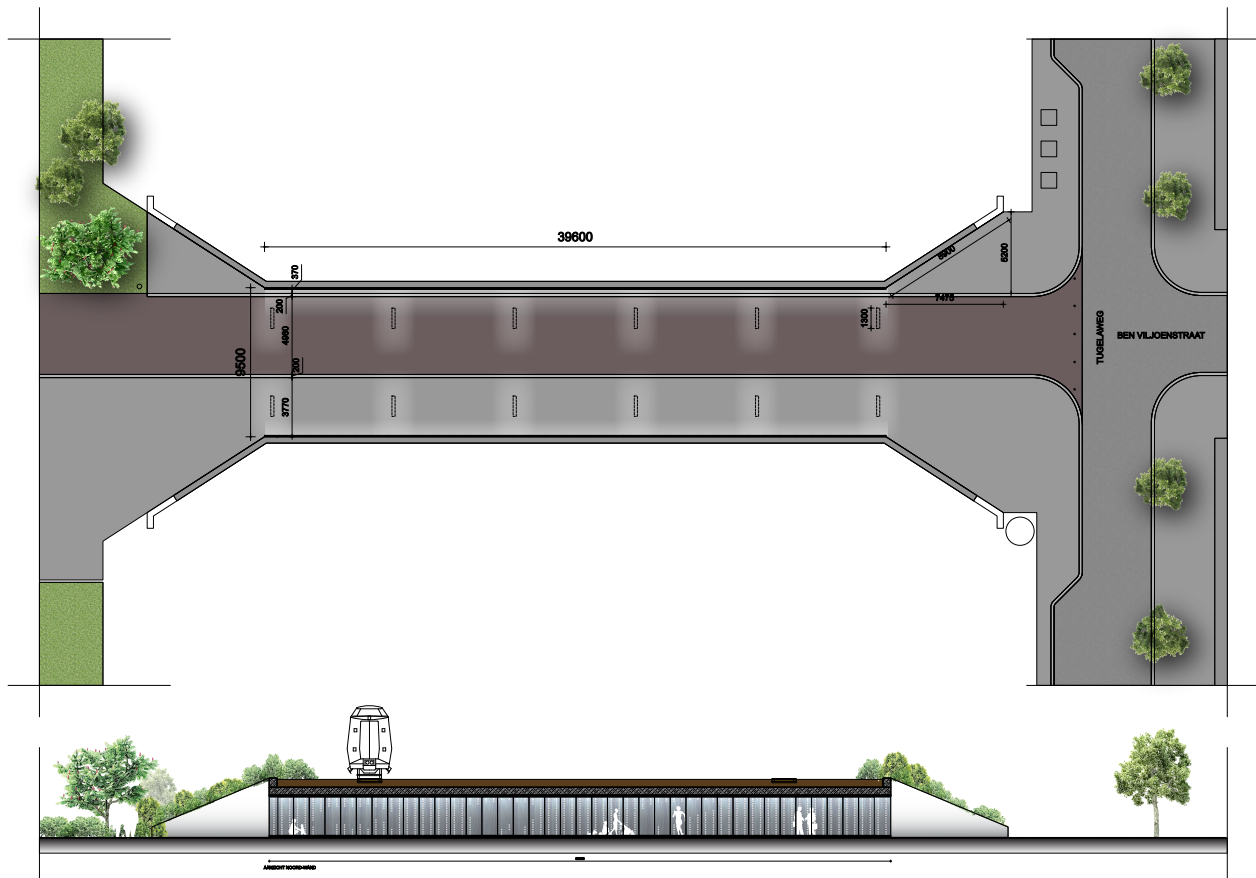
Here we tell a story about light. Or maybe better; about shadows, the absence of light.

The animals that pass here are those of Transvaal in South Africa. They are the 'big five': elephant, rhino, lion, buffalo and leopard. And just like on safari, us -the people- are just visitors. When lucky, you will see a buffalo grazing, a leopard that just woke or an elephant lifting his head. With some bad luck, you will see nothing happening, you will see just light. We experience the slowness and capriciousness of everyday wildlife. This is not a spectacular nature documentary on television format, but a life-size print of real animal life over a long time that can continue to intrigue. A layered image that is sometimes reminiscent of the shadow play of Indonesian Wayang puppets, sometimes to the primitiveness of prehistoric cave paintings. And a few will even recognize his personal animal nature in the shade. Here everyone will tell their own story.

Light Artwork in Amsterdam

address: pedestrian and bicycle tunnel Tugelaweg, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
design/contractor: NIO architecten
client: Municipality Amsterdam East
(sub)contractors: LichtNL, 360 Glas BV
design team: Joan Almekinders, Nikola Kungulovski, Andrew McConnell, Anja Verdonk, Jiří Vojtěšek
start design: August 2012
start construction: August 2013
end construction: September 2013
cost: EUR 148.000
area: 380 m²





horizontaal detail & proefopstelling

