

LOLA Landscape Architects Schelling Architecture Prize 2024

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LOLA Landscape Architects was founded in 2006 by landscape architects Eric-Jan Pleijster, Cees van der Veeken and Peter Veenstra. Today, a team of over 40 people work in the practice, ranging from landscape architects to architects and urban planners. There are few planners who have such a broad base and focus on the big picture as LOLA. Many of their projects involve the transformation of disused industrial sites or large sports facilities. As a result, they have increasingly become the driving force behind complex urban redevelopment projects.

LOLA stands for **LOst LANDscapes**: designing healthy landscape systems (in terms of the biosphere, not just adding a 'green layer') and creating unique experiences. LOLA brings the hidden layers of the landscape to the surface, working directly from the foundation of the soil. They aim for the extreme greening of the city. LOLA sees the entire city as a natural area. This approach brings various benefits: cooling, water retention, biodiversity, noise reduction, air quality, and more. LOLA calls this the **Nature-Based City** - a concept that a better city emerges when the natural system is taken as the starting point. Landscape architecture or the design of open spaces or the repurposing and transformation of all areas, whether natural or urban, whether developed or undeveloped or built on or unsealed in the future, will be a very important discipline in the transformation of our cities in order to compensate for the consequences of climate change, even if we no longer want to talk about controlling or containing it.

A famous intervention that many cities are currently studying to take up was the **Rotterdam Rooftop Walk 2022**, together with MVRDV - to bring the city center closer to its citizens in a new way with a temporary spatial experience.

<https://lola.land/project/rotterdam-rooftopwalk/>

The transformation of Bijlmerbajes in **Amsterdam**, a prison complex from the 1970s, into the 8-hectare **Bajeskwartier**, a natural, lively and car-free residential area, is currently nearing completion.

<https://lola.land/project/bajeskwartier-amsterdam/>

The 14-hectare **Adidas World of Sport** Campus in **Herzogenaurach** (2020) has already won several awards and recently hosted the German national football team at the European Championships.

<https://lola.land/project/adidas-world-campus/>

In China, LOLA has developed a wide range of public space projects, such as the 600-hectare **Forest Sports Park Shenzhen**, which was developed into the metropolitan region's local recreation area by 2020.

<https://lola.land/project/forest-sports-park/>

Their motto is:

“With thoughtful ideas and targeted interventions, we aim to design sublime places that are beautiful, surprising and thriving.”

LOLA landscape architects, Rotterdam NL

<https://lola.land>