

ABOUT OUR PARTICIPATION IN UTOPIAN HOURS

In May 2026, Rotterdam became the first city outside Turin to host Utopian Hours, co-hosting the first part of the festival's 10th edition. It marked a new chapter in a long-standing connection, with Rotterdam-based architects and urban thinkers taking the stage at the festival over the years.

Now Rotterdam returns to Turin for part two. Bold, innovative and resilient, Rotterdam embodies the spirit of Utopian Hours. Renowned for its forward-thinking approach to sustainability, architecture, infrastructure and urban planning, the city continues to turn challenges like climate adaptation and flood resilience into solutions for the future of urban life.

MORE INFORMATION ROTTERDAM.INFO

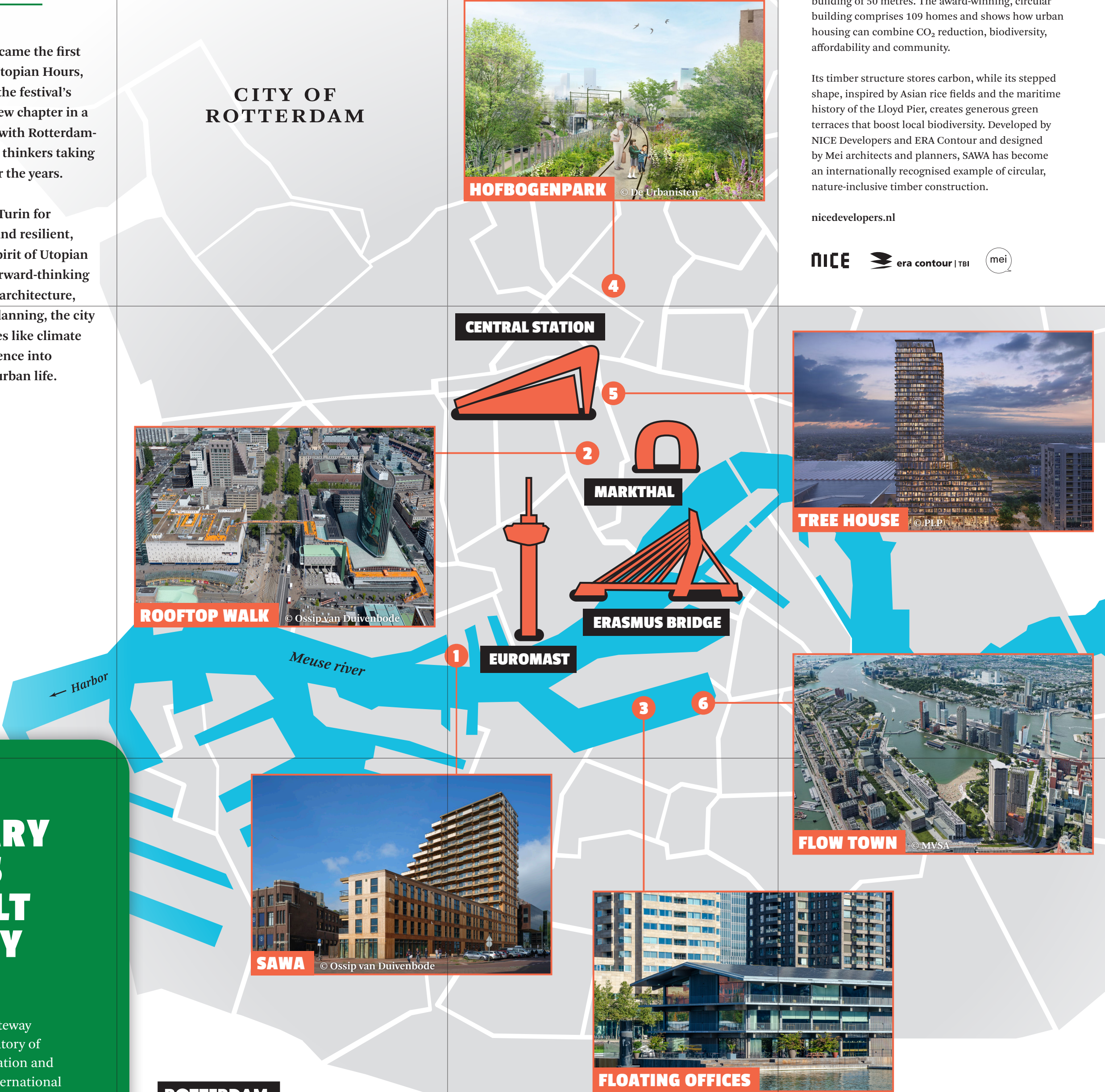


FROM VISIONARY IDEAS TO BUILT REALITY

These projects provide a gateway to Rotterdam's living laboratory of architecture, climate innovation and city making, connecting international partners to pioneering projects and their creators.

Explore more: rotterdam.info

CITY OF ROTTERDAM



1. SAWA
By NICE Developers, ERA Contour, Mei (Lloydstraat)
SAWA is Rotterdam's first fully timber residential building of 50 metres. The award-winning, circular building comprises 109 homes and shows how urban housing can combine CO₂ reduction, biodiversity, affordability and community.

Its timber structure stores carbon, while its stepped shape, inspired by Asian rice fields and the maritime history of the Lloyd Pier, creates generous green terraces that boost local biodiversity. Developed by NICE Developers and ERA Contour and designed by Mei architects and planners, SAWA has become an internationally recognised example of circular, nature-inclusive timber construction.

nicedevelopers.nl



2. ROOFTOP WALK
By MVRDV for Rooftop Days Rotterdam (De Bijenkorf, temporary)
In 2022, the Rotterdam Rooftop Walk let visitors explore the city from above. For one month, a 600-metre route of stairs and a 60-metre bridge, almost 30 metres above the Coolingsingel, connected the roofs of the WTC and De Bijenkorf.

Along the way, visitors discovered how Rotterdam's 18.5 km² of unused flat roofs could be used for greenery, water storage, food production and energy generation, helping the city tackle climate change. Since the Rooftop Walk, the annual Rotterdam Rooftop Days continues to open up the city's rooftops, offering new perspectives on climate adaptation, sustainability and urban development.

rotterdamsedakendagen.nl



3. FLOATING OFFICES
By Powerhouse Company & GCA (Antoine Platekade)
Floating Office Rotterdam (FOR) is a climate-adaptive, energy-positive and CO₂-negative office building floating in Rotterdam's Rijnhaven. Built largely from timber on a floating platform, it is designed to rise with the water as sea levels change and demonstrates how architecture can adapt to the effects of climate change.

The modular, demountable structure combines solar energy with an innovative system that uses harbour water for heating and cooling. Home to both the Global Center on Adaptation and its architect, Powerhouse Company, FOR has won several international architecture awards and sets the tone for the transformation of Rijnhaven into a sustainable and lively new part of the city.

powerhouse-company.com



4. HOFBOGENPARK
By Municipality Rotterdam & De Urbanisten (Luchtsingel, in development)
The Hofbogenpark will transform Rotterdam's former Hofplein railway viaduct into the longest rooftop park in the Netherlands, almost two kilometres long. The park celebrates the history of the former railway while creating a green route among the treetops for people, plants and animals.

A circular water system collects, naturally purifies and stores rainwater, helping the city cope with heavy rainfall and drought. The park needs no tap water for its planting and water features, while its greenery provides space for biodiversity and helps cool the city in summer.



ROTTERDAM PARTNERS

EXPLORE THE PROJECTS, PEOPLE AND PARTNERSHIPS DRIVING ROTTERDAM'S FUTURE CITY



5. TREE HOUSE
By Provast, PLP & ZUS (Delftseplein, in development)
Tree House will rise 130 metres next to Rotterdam Central Station, bringing together around 300 homes, offices and public space in 41,000 m² of climate-neutral living and working. Inspired by the ecosystem of a tree, the building combines high-density urban development with an ambitious approach to sustainability.

Tree House collects rainwater, including from the roof of Central Station, generates solar energy and incorporates greenery throughout the building. This greenery supports biodiversity and helps reduce heat stress, showing how Rotterdam can continue to grow while making its city centre greener and more climate-resilient.



6. FLOW TOWN
By MVSA & ZUS (Rijnhaven, in development)
A third of Rotterdam's Rijnhaven is being transformed from harbour basin into a new green urban district, with 3,000 homes bordering a new 18-hectare park on land and water. Flow Town will be the first building block of this transformation, bringing together more than 1,000 homes.

Flow Town brings the social qualities of a village to high-rise living. Instead of anonymous towers, it creates recognisable buildings, neighbourhoods, streets and shared spaces designed to bring people together. A mix of social, mid-market and private housing is combined with childcare, healthcare, sport, culture, shops, restaurants and workspaces, creating a lively new neighbourhood with community at its heart.





FROM GREY TO GREEN AND BLUE

Rotterdam is making room for green and water. In recent years, grey spaces across the city have been transformed into greener streets, squares, rooftops and schoolyards. Places that absorb rainwater, provide cooling on hot days, strengthen biodiversity and make the city a healthier place to live. It is part of a bigger ambition: becoming a **Green Water City**.

Tile-flipping

Tile-flipping means removing tiles or pavers from your garden, along the façade or in a square. You can replace the removed tiles with plants, trees or shrubs. This is not only good for your garden, but also for the neighbourhood and your health.

The Tile Taxi

The City of Rotterdam's Tile Taxi picks up old tiles free of charge. Residents can also hand in the sand that was underneath them. The collected tiles are recycled into new material for roads and embankments.

Tile-flipping figures

Tile-flippers in Rotterdam managed to flip 74,461 tiles in 2025 – almost the equivalent of one football pitch's worth of standard 30 by 30 centimetre paving slabs. In 2024, a total of 217,738 tiles were flipped, and in 2023 it was 231,048. That's 523,247 flipped tiles in the past three years in Rotterdam alone – enough to cover more than six football pitches.

523,247
TILES FLIPPED
IN THE PAST THREE YEARS



ROTTERDAM GROWS TOGETHER

Making a dense delta city greener, cooler and more resilient takes everyone who shapes it. Residents and architects. Developers and landscape designers. Entrepreneurs, schools, housing corporations, city makers and local initiatives.

From landmark buildings and new parks to green schoolyards, rooftops and tiny gardens along the pavement, every intervention is an opportunity. Together, they form a city-wide transformation in which water, greenery and biodiversity become part of everyday Rotterdam.

Because a climate-resilient city is not one big project. It is thousands of people changing the city together.



IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS

±27 HECTARES
of green added

19 SQUARES
transformed into
green-blue oases

58 GREEN-BLUE
SCHOOLYARDS
created



BUILDING A CLIMATE-PROOF ROTTERDAM TOGETHER

rotterdamsweerwoord.nl

