The magnetism of a city stems not only from its infrastructure, but also from the power and energy it draws from those who live and work in it, and so sustain it. Consequently, the notion of social and cultural sustainability defined as “Livability” needs to be seen as one of core qualities of any city and as a primary catalyst for its sustainable future. The radical question for landscape architects and urban designers is: How can a city manifest the sustainable development socially, ecologically and culturally?
Mathilde Square was a challenge not only in terms of its design and urban integration requirements, but also in its demand for technical finesse. To escape the frenetic activity of downtown Eindhoven, one can now relax in the green oasis at Mathilde Square. After shopping or a long day at the office, here one can quietly enjoy a drink on the terrace or sit down on a bench among lush plants.

Design Concept:
The amorphous form of the planning area demanded an exacting structure. The design concept is therefore based on rigid lines that run counter to the building. The unity of the design is accomplished by using consistent shapes and materials.

Design Details:
The surface is paved with just one material: a dark gray concrete slab resembling natural stone. This gray carpet is laid in a rigid, complex pattern and is surrounded by a plinth that distinguishes the square from the building and also highlights the difference in level between the parking deck and the environment. The square becomes an enclave with its own distinctive identity. The difference in level distinguishes the hectic city life and the intimate and green area of the square. These divergent worlds are also emphasized by the fence around the square, which serves mainly as a security measure. Wisteria and roses overgrow the adjacent pergola and create a transparent...
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Barrier, offering passersby a glimpse of the green atmosphere and the terraces.

Elongated Corten planters create a stripe pattern, producing alternating open and closed spaces that are suitable for routing and terraces. At several spaces between the container, the wooden benches and bicycle stands that vary in length, width and height are positioned. The robust color of the Corten steel, the warm look of natural wood and the gray pavement, form an interesting contrast to the white, gray and black tones of the building.
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