

## **In-Between Boezem Landscapes**

### **Designing a Mediating Water Landscape into the Dutch Lowlands**

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30 years of landscape  
architecture education  
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# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

# ECLAS NITRA 2025

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#### IN-BETWEEN BOEZEM LANDSCAPES - DESIGNING A MEDIATING WATER LANDSCAPE INTO THE DUTCH LOWLANDS

An in-between *boezem* landscape is a newly built large-scale green-blue diked structure that stores water in a polder landscape and enriches its ecology. A polder is reclaimed low-lying land surrounded by dikes with a specific water management regime, depending on its land use. Since many Dutch polders lie under sea level, the rainwater must be pumped out constantly. Today, polder water is discharged into the *boezem* network, releasing surplus water into rivers and sea. The newly designed in-between *boezem* landscape is mainly positioned between the polder and the *boezem* water level. Exceptional, it can be placed higher than the *boezem* level, meaning higher than the NAP (average sea level), making the land suitable to implement housing.

The principally linear water structure of the in-between *boezem* landscape can incorporate different water levels, veiled with vegetation, boosting ecological and recreational values. It stores polder- and rainwater and should be designed in a way that it can hold flexible water levels of up to 1-meter differences. Water from

the in-between *boezem* can be used during dry periods to irrigate agricultural fields and slow subsidence. The water stored in the in-between *boezem* is cleaned by vegetation; surplus water can be discharged via the *boezem*. The in-between *boezem* landscape must be designed according to the soil type, clay or peat.

The new landscape can hold various programs, like water activities, bike lanes, walking paths, fixed and flexible ones, flower meadows, tree lanes, and all kinds of dry-to-wet vegetation serving as a habitat for insects, amphibians and fish. Since the in-between *boezem* is positioned higher in the landscape, it functions as a belvedere overlooking the flat polder landscape. The in-between *boezem* landscape works as a climate buffer and initiator to transform the agricultural areas into a sustainable, circular system, embracing diverse and new forms of farming, like paludiculture, strip cultivation, peat growth and fish farming, by making the polder landscape more attractive and therefore accessible for people and animals.