The most western tip of Java-land in Amsterdam’s eastern
Oostelijke Eilanden is an empty, elevated flat area
bordered on three sides by water and at the same time in the
midst of the city. In a design for a swimming pool and a public
space, the distinct emptiness and public accessibility are
maintained and strengthened where possible. In this respect the
site becomes an ‘outdoors’ inside the city.

With an ‘outdoors’ inside the city, the design refers to a
historical villa or_contemplative. In this classical model, a special
interplay of town, country, donsjil and building are explored and
developed. This project redefines the terms ‘outside’ and ‘place’
and projects them on the urban landscape of the IJ. Here the
term ‘outside’ loses its traditional meaning of urban-rural border
and the concept of place has a collective value (in the fore of a
public building) within a contextual specificity of a donsjil.

In the body of the tip of Java-land lies an elongated, low
building holding a fifty-metre pool, an instructional area and
relaxation pools connected in a linear organization. Through
multiple ramps the programme of the building is accessed,
creating a gradual descent into a ‘new world’ underneath the
public surface. At a centrally located arrival point, visitors have
the option to choose from the relaxation or exercise pools. The
changing rooms, formed by freestanding partitions and boxes,
define the transition between wet and dry areas.

The positioning and characteristics of the concrete trusses
determine the space of the pool hall. Low positioned window
openings create a constant relationship between the untreated
water of the IJ and the conditioned water of the pool. The
rooftop serves as public urban plaza where a visual interaction
between visitors and pool guests is found. This is where the
different scales of the city, landscape and pools are combined.
1. Design for the tip of Java-land in context
2. Site plan of the tip of Java-land
3. Elevation view from the north side of the tip of Java-land
4. Aerial view of the tip of Java-land
5. Longitudinal section
6. Plans of (top to bottom): roof, level -1, level -2