Rethinking the driving range

Driving range

The biggest of these hubs is the golfhub, situated on the previous page, is the driving range. It is built in and on a constructed polder in the former highway-land. Ranges over the sunken highway and serves as an entrance. Considering the possible golfhub, the special status of the surrounding area as a parkland or a citypark and the fact that a international highway runs underneath, this driving range should be far more than the minimal driving range. The driving range should also be able to sustain itself, without the adjacent golfcourse. With the direct link to the highway it can also serve people who are just passing by or business people who want to have a meeting in an informal place. They can just set some balls without playing a whole course of golf. Because it also serves as the natural landmark for golf, there are facilities such as a gym, meetingrooms, offices and a golfshop. These facilities are placed in the "urban" part of the building, built with more natural materials, which continue and delimit the corridor to the tee of the first golfhole. The other hubs in the recreation grid will be used for business people who are just passing by or people who want to use the gym, meetingrooms, offices and a golfshop. The "rural" part is the counterpart of the "urban" structure, which has a more technical look and is made mostly from steel. Figure space to the overspaas and the actual driving range function between these two structures is the restaurant, hanging from the steel construction over the overpass and the highway. It is the link between the meetingrooms and the golfboxes. Thanks to its tile shape it views over the length of the structure. The restaurant gives a view of the polder with the skyline of Rotterdam and the people who are hitting balls on the driving range. The restaurant can be directly supplied from the road underneath by an escalator. The driving range leads the visitors who can hit their balls and practice their swings through the restaurant to the catching area. The boxes are aiming the golfballs and are placed converging in a point near the highway to ensure that the catching can be as small as possible. The boxes are hard on the outside, but soft on the inside. This is also meant to make easily hitted balls lose their energy. In contrast the box protects them from rain and can be heated by radiation. The "urban" part is the structure that holds up the golfboxes with the ball hitting area. The steel frames are interchanging with aembrature frames which changes from rooftop to basement. The "urban" and the "rural" structures are placed parallel to the highway. At every point of the structure the relation between highway, linkroad and highway is tangible.

Climate

The building has quite some elements that have a double functions. Horizontal louvres are also used as a shelter for maintenance, the walls of the highway and the catching net for golfballs are also doubling the air from fine dust. The climate system also adds some double functions to the building. In the asphalt of the polderplots also some tubes are running through, using the solar generated heat to warm up the building together with the skyheating. The system works with air which is heated up in the solarheating, is spreaded up and cooled down by the airheating.

Night

Because it is connected to the highway and therefore has extended opening hours, the driving range should also operate when it is dark. The ballboxes are lit by lights built into the highway-wall. The line of light changes from bottom to top, from golfballweave to rooftop. The steel frames are interchanging with a embrature frame which changes from rooftop to basement. The "urban" and the "rural" structures are placed parallel to the highway. At every point of the structure the relation between highway, linkroad and highway is tangible.

In the Driving range

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Interchanging landscape

A automated system to clean, check, store and transport golfballs is incorporated into the "urban" structure. Together with the catching area it controls and processes the golfballs fully automatically. The catching area is, the landscape designed to bring the ball back to the driving range by using gravity. It consists of a screen, a net over the highway and polerdikes covered with shrubs. The running system feels as a podium with ditches and stairs, but the screen is replaced with the golfball. The polerdikes are elevated in the middle, at every 50 meter from the driving range is a top of an island. On these islands is a point with the distance of the top to the driving range, giving the approximate distance to the player when a ball lands on or just behind the golfhole. The wave-like composition of the landscape is noticeable from the highway and exit point, which runs under the asphalted polder islands. The screen next to the earthwork protects the people passing through the orchestral. It is the widest and highest at the place with the biggest chance of crashed golfballs. Thanks to its transparency and the background of the elevated orchard it is poorly visible from the polder.

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