

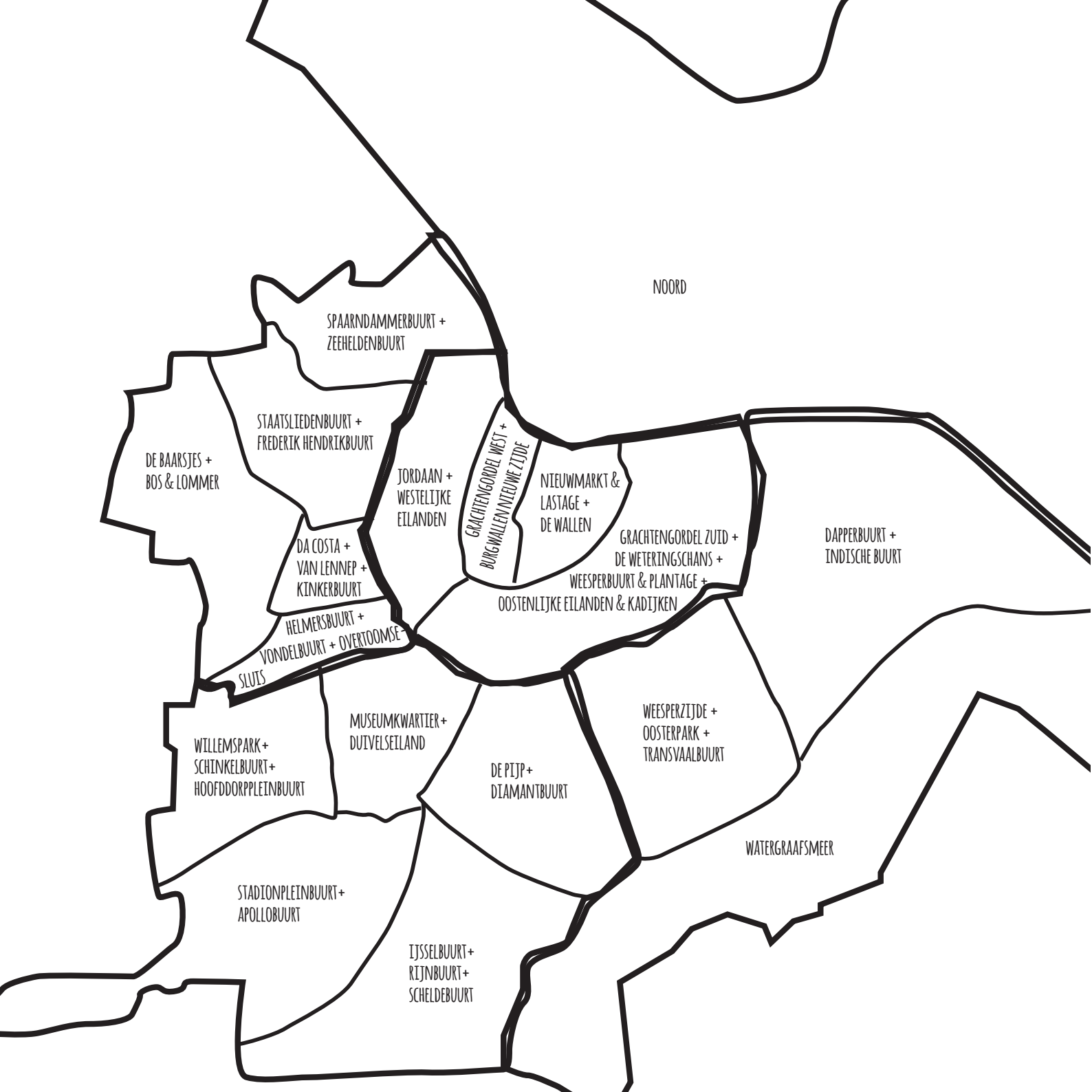
HOW TO AVOID THE OTHER TOURISTS

Although Amsterdam might often remind you of Disneyland in terms of its crowds, do not be fooled by the rental bikes in bright green, yellow or red colours, the winter caps with 'Amsterdam' written on them in bold letters or the coffee shops with Dutch treats. Whereas Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck head back home after closing, Amsterdammers actually live in Amsterdam. Therefore it is more interesting to show you where Amsterdammers shop, drink, eat or relax rather than treating it as an amusement park. I can hear you guys thinking 'my god, another local guide is about to try and reinvent the wheel'. Although I cannot deny it is a local guide, this guide takes a different approach. I would love to show the tourist from Rio de Janeiro to Bangkok how Amsterdammers live in one of the most beautiful capitals of Europe.

This guide is not just a summary of all the bars, parks, cafés or shops one can find. The places have been selected by me and my fellow Amsterdammers who showed me their favourite places. These are both known and unknown places to tourists, and they represent the Amsterdam I live in. It might be a shock to you to find that I do not visit the red light district regularly, or that I don't hang around in a coffee shop in the weekends, or that I do not visit the Sex Museum or the Torture Museum, or that I never eat at a steakhouse on the Damrak, or that I stay far away from the bakeries at the Damstraat (yes, everything looks tasty, but did you ever see someone bake inside or refresh the waffles?). Unfortunately, this is the picture that most tourists associate with Amsterdam, what a pity! This guide should eradicate this image of Amsterdam and change it into the Amsterdam that I and many Amsterdammers among me know: a creative, busy, special and above all beautiful place to be and live.

This guide consists of five chapters. Each chapter covers one part of the city: West, South, East, North and Centre. Every chapter has been divided into neighbourhoods. In order to make this book accessible, different neighbourhoods have been put together. A selection has been made of the funniest, most beautiful, striking, exclusive or most ordinary restaurants, bars, cafés, shops and arts & entertainment. In addition to these places, walks have been mapped out. These walks will show every neighbourhood's finest places, architectural beauties, visual art and undiscovered courtyards. A walk can easily entertain you for a day. The North chapter is somewhat different. North has not been divided into different neighbourhoods and has just one tour which is by bike. North has some beautiful sites but not all of North is nice to walk around or stop by for a drink or bite.

So, take off your Amsterdam winter cap, throw away your joint and start experiencing the versatile Amsterdam that is waiting for you!



NOORD

SPAARNDAMMERBUURT +
ZEEHELDENBUURT

STAATSLIEDENBUURT +
FREDERIK HENDRIKBUURT

DE BAARSJES +
BOS & LOMMER

JORDAAN +
WESTELIJKE
EILANDEN

GRACHTENGORDEL WEST +
BURGWILLEN/NIJEUWE ZIJDE

NIEUWMARKT &
LASTAGE +
DE WALLEN

GRACHTENGORDEL ZUID +
DE WETERINGSSCHANS +
WEESPERBUURT & PLANTAGE +
OOSTENLIJKE EILANDEN & KADIJKEN

DAPPERBUURT +
INDISCHE BUURT

DA COSTA +
VAN LENNEP +
KINKERBUURT

HELMERSBUURT +
VONDELBUURT + OVERTOOMSE
SLUIS

WILLEMSPARK +
SCHINKELBUURT +
HOOFDDORPPLEINBUURT

MUSEUMKWARTIER +
DIJVELSEILAND

DE PEJP +
DIAMANTBUURT

WEESPERZIJDE +
OOSTERPARK +
TRANSVAALBUURT

WATERGRAAFSMEER

STADIONPLEINBUURT +
APOLLOBUURT

IJSSELBUURT +
RIJNBURT +
SCHELDEBUURT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WEST

Spaarndammer and Zeeheldenbuurt	6
Staatsliedenbuurt and Frederik Hendrikbuurt	10
Da Costabuurt, Kinkerbuurt and Van Lennepbuurt	20
De Baarsjes and Bos & Lommer	30
Helmersbuurt, Vondelbuurt and Overtoomse Sluis	40
	50

ZUID

Museumkwartier and Duivelseiland	62
Willemspark, Hoofddorppeleinbuurt and Schinkelbuurt	66
Stadionbuurt and Apollobuurt	78
De Pijp and Diamantbuurt	88
IJsselbuurt, Rijnbuurt and Scheldebuurt	98
	110

OOST

Weesperzijde, Oosterpark and Transvaalbuurt	118
Indische Buurt and Dapperbuurt	122
Watergraafsmeer	132
	142

NOORD

CENTRUM

Jordaan and Westelijke eilanden	152
Grachtengordel West and Burgwallen Nieuwe Zijde	170
Nieuwmarkt & Lastage and De Wallen	174
Grachtengordel Zuid, De Weteringschans, Weesperbuurt & Plantage and Oostenlijke eilanden & Kadijken	184
	194
	206

FOOD & DRINKS

GOLDEN BROWN BAR & THAI (A)

You might not find the combination of a bar and a Thai often and you might even question the concept. Well, stop questioning, 'cause it is a success! The restaurant is upstairs on the mezzanine and the bar is downstairs. Though the café is small and shaped like a rectangle, Golden Brown has made wise use of the space. A large welcoming corner sofa, some small tables and a range of bar stools are nicely and wisely put in place to make it the customer as comfortable as possible.

Jan Pieter Heijestraat 146 - www.goldenbrownbar.nl

GOLLEM'S PROEFLOKAAL (C)

Where Mecca is the most important city for a Muslim and a to-do on their bucket list, Gollem's Proeflokaal is the most important café for a beer lover and has to be a to-do on every beer lover's bucket list. Gollem's Proeflokaal is a Belgian and international beer vault and will overwhelm you with the beer menu. In addition to the enormous choice of beers, the staff are friendly and the food (standard menu for a café) tasty.

Overtoom 160-162 - cafegollem.nl

VOLDAAN: SOEP MET BALLEN (SATISFIED: SOUP WITH BALLS) (B)

Voldaan is the answer to unhealthy fast food. All the soups, salads and (meat) balls are organic and homemade, something you taste instantly. The menu is simple (four choices of soups, four choices of salads and four choices of sandwiches) but the dishes aren't: herbs, cheeses, leguminous vegetables, organic bread and all sorts of (meat) balls. Voldaan is a small restaurant and might therefore be the perfect place to take out an organic feast before chilling at the Vondelpark.

Jan Pieter Heijestraat 121 - www.facebook.com/voldaan.amsterdam

WG (WILHELMINA GASTHUIS) CAFÉ (E)

A former home to patients with the plague and mental illnesses in the 17th century turned into an academic hospital in the early 20th century (opened by Queen Wilhelmina) and now partly turned into a café. While finding this café you might find yourself lost at some point. It doesn't seem that difficult, once found, but you were probably distracted by the greatness of the old hospital terrain. WG café is a neighbourhood café which is unknown to even most Amsterdammers. The menu is simple, the prices are reasonable and the ambiance is cosy.

Marius van Bouwdijk
Bastiaansestraat 52
www.wgcafe.nl

CAFÉ TOUSSAINT (D)

Café Toussaint is usually a crowded café and for the most part packed with local residents. Visiting this café will make you forget the busy and fast life in Amsterdam for a moment. Note: if you spot many pregnant women passing by, do not think there is something in the water at Café Toussaint - there is an obstetrician located across the street.

Bosboom Toussaintstraat 26 - www.bosboom-toussaint.nl

CAFÉ TER BRUGGE (F)

Ter Brugge is mainly a café but serves a simple lunch and dinner as well. It may be categorized as a brown café, but less intimate. Nevertheless, the location of Ter Brugge outshines many cafés in Amsterdam. Located at the end of the Overtoom, with a great terrace and a view on the Kostverlorenvaart, this makes Ter Brugge special and worth a visit for a good old cold beer in summertime.

Overtoom 587 - www.facebook.com/CafeTerBrugge

BUUF ETEN (G)

Buuf is a neighbourhood oriented restaurant, hence the name Buuf, an abbreviation for 'buurvrouw' which means 'female neighbour' in Dutch. The restaurant is decorated in 70s style which gives the place a warm ambiance. The menu has some fixed and daily varying dishes and is priced reasonably. What is special about Buuf is that they make everything themselves and try to cook with as little E numbers as possible. Tip for your visit to Buuf: do not sit down and wait to be served - it is a self service restaurant. Order your dish at the counter, get your pager and wait until you can pick up your order.

Overtoom 495 - www.buufeten.nl

VONDELPARK 3 (K)

Vondelpark3 is privileged by being housed in one of the most beautiful national monuments of Amsterdam: the Vondel Pavilion. The Vondel Pavilion was built between 1878-1881. It is a pretentious construction with a large terrace, stairs and many columns. Even if Vondelpark3 was just selling fries like any ordinary snack bar, it would still be nice to look at. Fortunately, Vondelpark 3 is not a snack bar but a restaurant with an international touch (do not forget your wallet though). Vondelpark3 has two large terraces, one just outside the restaurant on the ground floor and one on the balcony. Both terraces face southwards, which means sun all day long. In summertime, you will easily recognize Vondelpark3 because the terraces are always fully occupied. Because of its astonishing building, it is equally noticeable in winter.

Vondelpark 3
www.unlimitedlabel.com

SAFFRAAN (I)

Saffraan is a colourful enrichment to the Jan Pieter Heijestraat. The yellow and white awnings are hard to miss. Walking into Saffraan is like walking into an authentic Italian kitchen. Saffraan is both a caterer and brasserie and serves Mediterranean food. They do not have that much space inside but in the summertime you probably want to consume your lasagne verde, spinach salad or organic chicken in the Vondelpark anyway.

Jan Pieter Heijestraat 128 - saffraantraiteur.nl

LALIBELA (J)

Lalibela is located at a side street of the Jan Pieter Heijestraat and was the first Ethiopian restaurant in the Netherlands. The restaurant is packed with Ethiopian souvenirs and art and will probably catch your attention for a while until dinner is served. The menu consists of meat, fish and vegetarian dishes all served with the famous enjera, a mildly sour yeast-risen pancake. Eating with your hands has never been so tasty.

Eerste Helmersstraat 249
<http://www.lalibela.nl/>

ZOUK (H)

Zouk is an old guy on the Helmersbuurt block. It's hard to imagine the Eerste Constantijn Huygensstraat without Zouk. The reason Zouk has been successful for over ten years now is the unpretentious atmosphere and service. No hot, hip and happening here, but a no-nonsense menu, staff and interior. Zouk is a typical local neighbourhood café and should therefore be on your to-visit list.

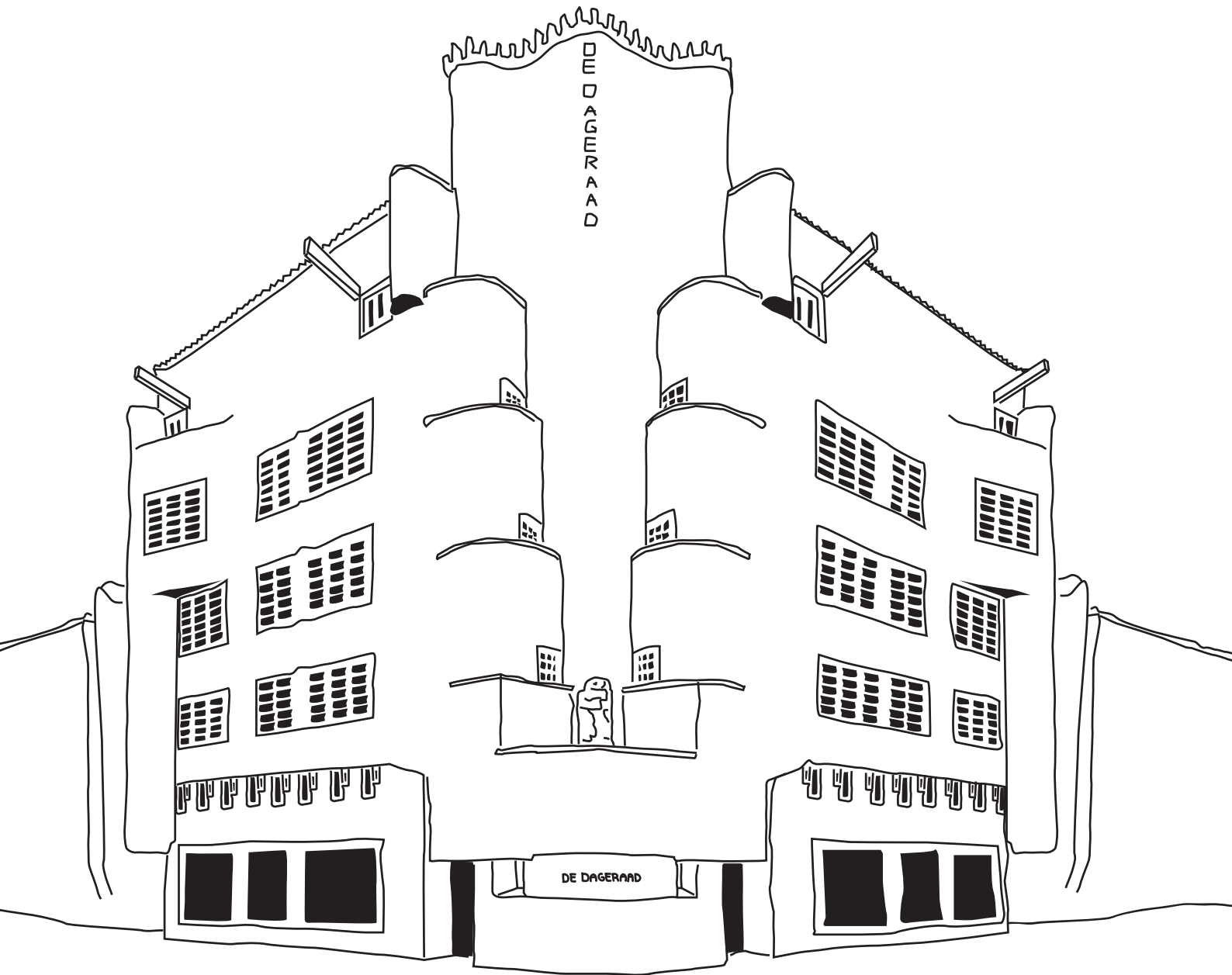
Eerste Constantijn Huygensstraat 45
cafezouk.nl

STARING AT JACOB CAFÉ & BAR (L)

Have you been looking for a welcoming place to brunch (their tagline is: 'it's a brunch thing'), drink coffee or discuss the latest gossip with your friends without feeling overly trendy? You can stop searching for it because you have found it! Staring at Jacob gives a true and personal feeling. The service is friendly and will make you feel part of their café for as long as you want to stay.

Jacob van Lennepkade 215
staringatjacob.tumblr.com

DE DAGERAAD



WEESPERZIJDE, OOSTERPARK AND
TRANSVAALBUURT

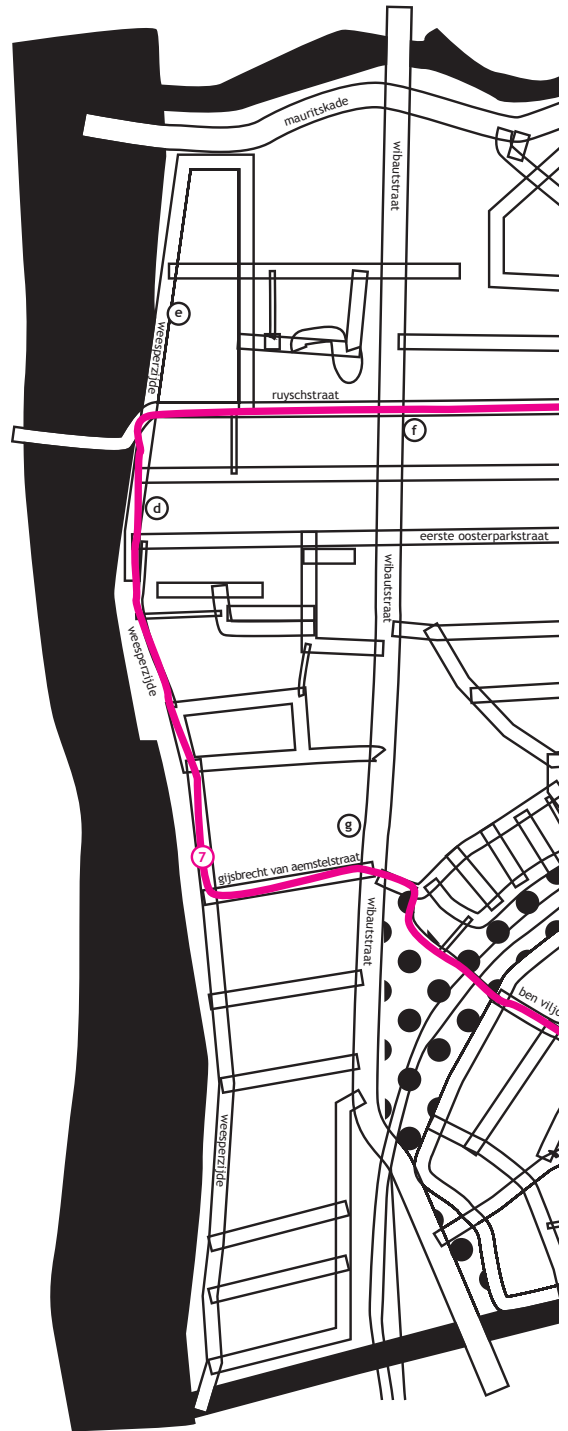
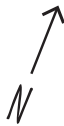
In the last quarter of the 20th century Amsterdam began to expand eastwards in order to provide housing for the lower income families. The Weesperzijde and the Oosterparkbuurt were one of the first neighbourhoods that arose. The Transvaalbuurt was built between 1910 and 1920.

The Weesperzijde is a small neighbourhood that is all about two connecting main roads: the Wibautstraat, a street with heavy traffic and many traffic lights, and the Weesperzijde, a street characterized by the endless strip of cyclists during rush hours. The Weesperzijde was the main road to Weesp (a village nearby Amsterdam) after the reclamation of the Watergraafsmeer in 1629 (see paragraph about the Watergraafsmeer). Soon, the Weesperzijde was used for relaxation and entertainment. There were hotels with moorings for pleasure craft, garden houses and rowing clubs (which still exist). Partly because of the view over the Amstel river and the entertainment provided by the water, the Weesperzijde was popular among people from the upper middle class in the nineteenth and twentieth century.

The Oosterparkbuurt is named after the Oosterpark, the first large park laid out by the Municipality of Amsterdam. The Oosterpark is the garden of the 'Onze Lieve Vrouwe Gasthuis' hospital, Tropenmuseum and Hotel Arena. More than seventeen percent of the Oosterparkbuurt is a green area, mainly formed by the Oosterpark. The streets in the Oosterparkbuurt are named after doctors e.g. Mary Zeldenruststraat named after a psychologist and psychotherapist and Andreas Bonnstraat named after a doctor, anatomist and surgeon.

The Transvaalbuurt or Afrikanerbuurt (African neighbourhood) is a multicultural neighbourhood with predominantly non-Western immigrants. The neighbourhood was established between 1910 and 1920. The architect H.P. Berlage (1856-1934) designed the street plan which meant curved and straight streets interspersed with squares and parks. Many of the houses were built in the style of the Amsterdamse School. Therefore the Transvaalbuurt has its own character. However, a disadvantage of this style are the relatively small houses. The Amsterdamse School was all about the aesthetic beauty and not about functionality. The name Transvaalbuurt and its street names are derived from the geographic concepts of the former Boer republics of Transvaal and Oranje Vrijstaat in South Africa. After the Second Boer War (which was won by the British), many Dutch cities named streets after people and other concepts connected to the Boer republics.

WEESPERZIJDE, OOSTERPARK AND TRANSVAALBUURT



EYE

