

A vibrant garden scene featuring a stream with stone steps and a large log bridge. Numerous children are engaged in various activities: some are climbing the stone steps, others are sitting on the log bridge, and a few are looking at plants. The garden is filled with diverse greenery, including tall grasses, leafy plants, and a large tree in the background. A small wooden building is visible in the distance. The overall atmosphere is bright and sunny.

**The world outside
the classroom**

**...on the other
side of the
Channel**

*Beauty made
of potsherds*



Learning through Landscapes
Conference, Winchester, 1-7-2010

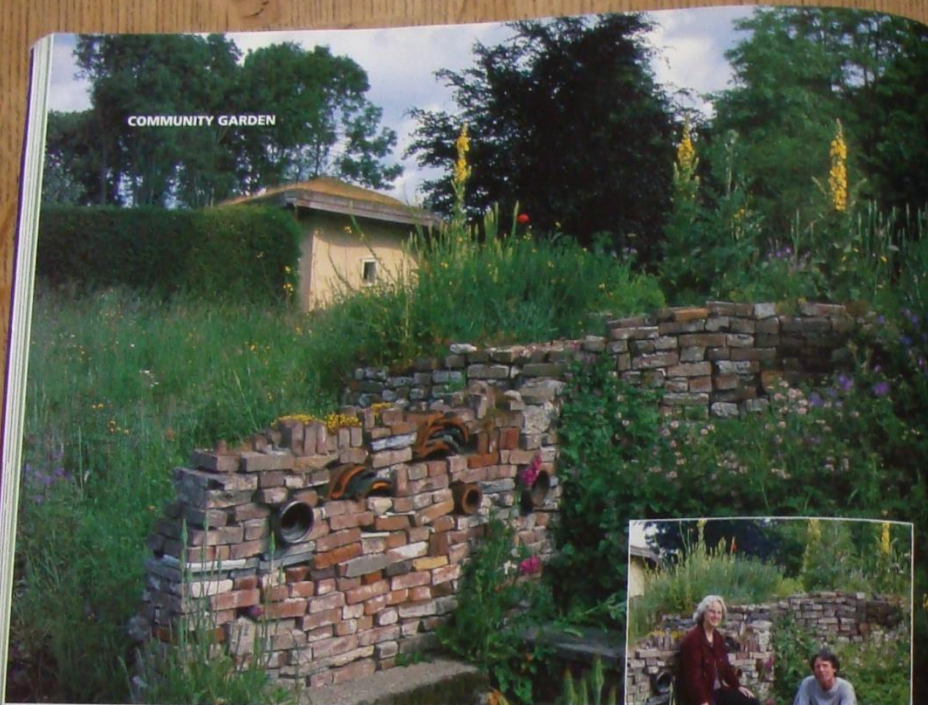


**A special garden house
from loam, wood and straw
with a green sedum roof**





COMMUNITY GARDEN



English visitors called what we were creating: Artistic Ecology.

Money to fund the garden is raised from subscriptions to their magazine about their work as well as from training events and study tours. "I have always wanted to find ways of bringing nature close to people, especially children," says Marianne. "Our garden here is a valuable resource, combined with our office and library, for anyone who wants to create a community nature garden."

The first thing that strikes any visitor to Oase is how water is the essential element, as in much of the Dutch landscape. A straight, narrow canal near the entrance leads into the small lake at the heart of the garden, its formality making an effective contrast with the naturalistic character of the rest of the garden. Standing as a bold focal point is a nature garden pavilion. This building has a bold contemporary appearance, yet was made using traditional timber-frame building techniques.

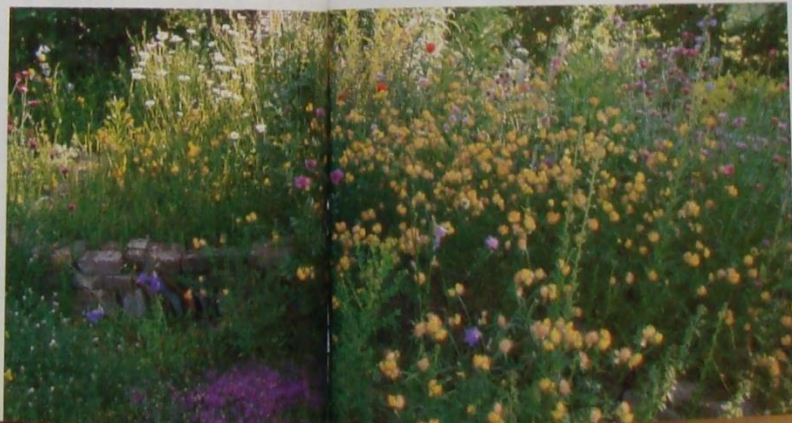
THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE: MARIANNE VAN LIER AND WILLY LEUFGEN (INSET, FAR LEFT) HAVE CREATED A GREEN SPACE THAT EPI TOMISES THE MIX OF ART AND ECOLOGY IN DUTCH NATURE GARDENS.

HEEM WORK

THE OASE GARDEN IN HOLLAND IS AS BEAUTIFUL AS IT IS ECOLOGICAL. NIGEL DUNNETT DISCOVERS AN URBAN OASIS. PHOTOGRAPHS BY JANE SEBIRE

Holland has a long tradition, stretching back to the 1920s, of gardens that bring nature into the heart of its towns and cities. These so-called heem parks and gardens (*heem* literally means home or habitat) first started out as educational gardens, providing a refuge for the wild flowers that were rapidly disappearing from the countryside, but today are valued as much for their innate beauty as their ecological value.

The Oase garden near Arnhem is a fine example of the movement. Created just ten years ago in the grounds of a 19th-century monastery, Oase is a magical place where wild flowers flourish in glorious profusion giving an air of permanence that belies its relative youth. This urban oasis is the creation of Willy Leufgen and Marianne van Lier, who live as part of a creative community of artists, writers and musicians at the monastery.



Its most eye-catching feature is the sweeping green roof, planted with sedums and dianthus. Water drains after heavy rainfall down chains suspended from the lower lip of the roof and collects in small bog gardens and pool areas that themselves overflow into the main lake, making a clear connection between building and garden.

The lake itself only comes into view when you reach the end of the canal, where it opens out to reveal the wider garden. It is hard to believe that the presence of water is entirely artificial – held in place with a synthetic liner. Willy is a little apologetic about this. "It is the only part of the garden that breaks our ecological rules," he says. "But the beauty of the water and the rich wildlife it supports means that it is the real heart of the garden."

These days, the lake's wide, shallow margins and open swampy areas support beautiful displays of orchids in



Part of a 85 years old tradition of nowadays more than a 150 public nature gardens and parks



Nederland



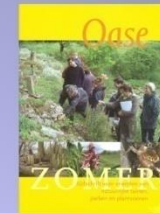
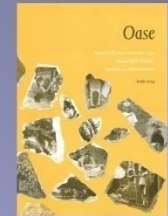
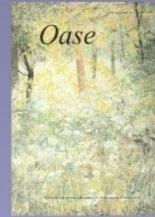
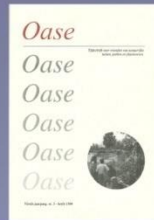
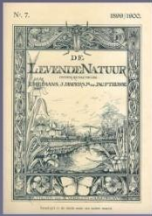


Foundation Oasis,
entrance, front garden



Oasis information centre

OaseOase - het tijdschrift

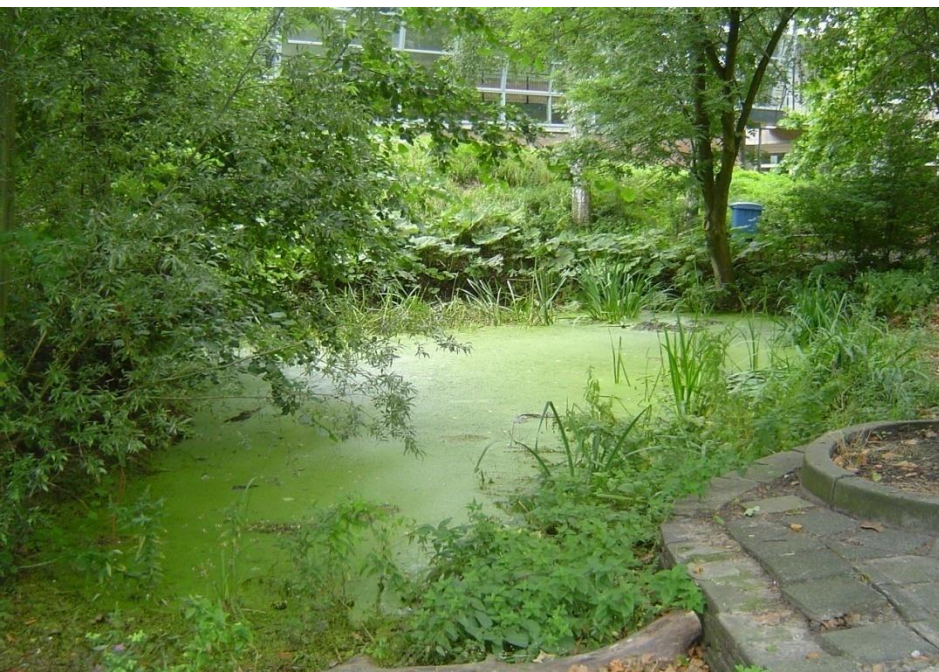


- eerste nummer mei 1991
- verschijnt “met de seizoen mee”
- ondertussen al weer 63 keer
- gegroeid van 80 tot 1130 abonnees
- gedragen van binnenuit: eerste hands, uit de praktijk, optimistisch en samenhangend
- 171 auteurs, 22 recensenten en 7 columnisten tot nu toe
- een bonte stoet, een gedroomde waaier!

“Het is niet verwonderlijk, dat in een tijd waarin wij dagelijks geconfronteerd worden met de Jobstijdjagen van een onderdrukte en leeggeroofde natuur, tuinen ontworpen worden van een bijzondere soort: wilddroeiende en bewust ongerepte natuurtuinen. Het zijn wens- en droomtuinen, aanklagende, weemoedige en hoopvolle tuinen, die wij ontwerpen in het aangezicht van verstikte bossen, vervulde rivieren, vergiftigde bodem en stervende dieren. Zij geven uitdrukking aan onze betrokkenheid en ons gevoel van onbehagen, maar tegelijkertijd ook aan onze moed tot verandering en onze levenslust.

Wij verlangen naar zulke tuinen omdat we het contact zoeken met het leven om ons heen. Omdat wij hopen dat we in deze tuinen weer op een gelijkwaardige manier met de natuur leren omgaan.”

Andreas Winkler, Zelters tuinarchitect, auteur van: “Das Naturgartenhandbuch für Praktiker” - Citaat uit bovengenoemd boek, vertaald door M. van Lier.



Dutch pioneers:
from the late
'70th:
De Werkschuit,
Zwolle (*above*),
Mendel college,
Haarlem (*below*).



Waldorf school in Zutphen, Gelderland






Amphitheatre from old tiles




Wilde Weelde

- vereniging van vakbekwame mensen die werken in de groene sector
- veelal kleinschalige bedrijven
- ecologisch groen is geen modeverschijnsel, maar een bewuste keuze
- veel leden zijn pioniers op hun vakgebied en hebben van hun ideaal hun werk gemaakt,


documentatiemap




Portretten en adressen van kleinschalige bedrijven en organisaties die kunnen helpen bij het realiseren van ideeën



natuurrijke tuin



- * Natuurlijke en duurzame
- * Natuurlijke kwaliteit en duurzaamheid
- * Natuurlijke
- * Natuurlijke kwaliteit van de tuin
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- * Natuurlijke kwaliteit van de tuin



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Garden in front of the office of our foundation Oasis



Wilde Weelde-members helped us a lot in 1998





Some years later...

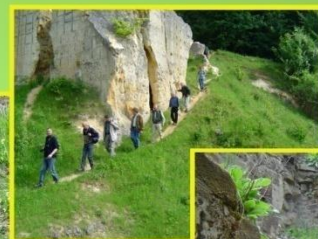


*The association
of Wilde Weelde
has at the
moment 165
members*



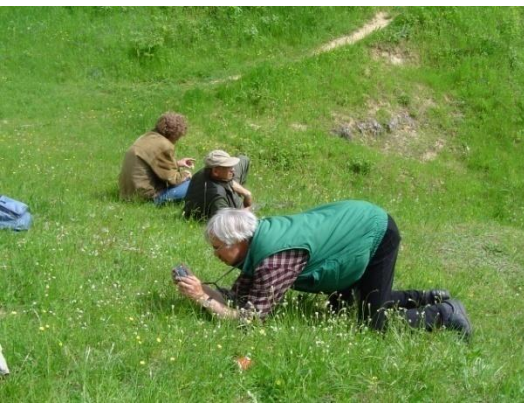
Vakgroep Heemtuinbeheer

- Opgericht in 1995
- Voor en door beheerders van natuurlijk groen in Nederland en Vlaanderen
- Uitwisselen van kennis en ervaring
- Excursies en studiedagen in natuurrijke parken en tuinen
- Referentie-excursies naar natuurgebieden
- Steeds in een andere regio





*Excursions of the group of specialists
in nature gardening*



Springzaad

Samen werken aan meer ruimte voor natuur en kinderen

- Opgericht in 2001
- Open netwerk voor mensen uit het onderwijs, voor- en naschoolse educatie, nme, ontwerpers, ecologisch hoveniers
- Excursies, studiedagen en workshops
- Artikelen, koffertje, boek
- Informatie en advies
- Aangesloten bij Ruimte voor de Jeugd



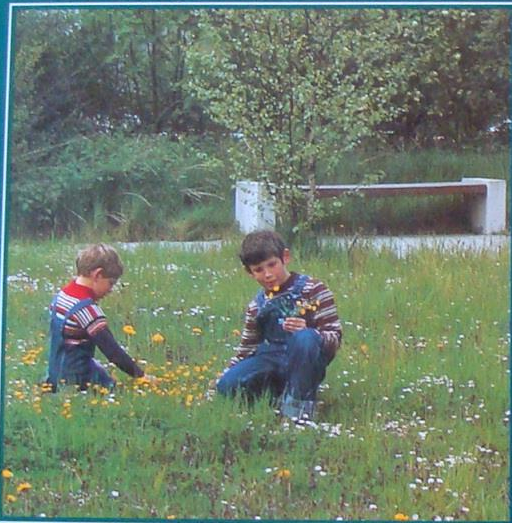


Impatiens glandulifera
I. noli-tangere and
I. parviflora

KLEINER BILDATLAS

NATURGARTEN

Alex Oberholzer und Lore Lässer



PARKLAND

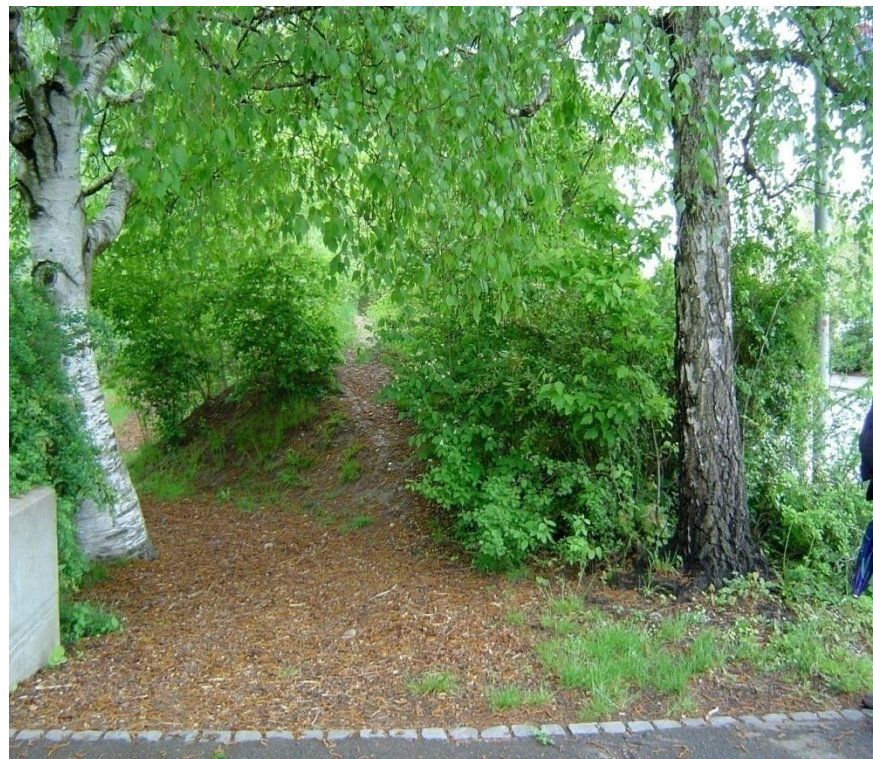
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Alex Oberholzer und Lore Lässer

NATURGARTEN



HALLWAG





Robust...



A kindergarten in Bern



Faszination
Naturgarten



das ist
er

Gabriela
Earch

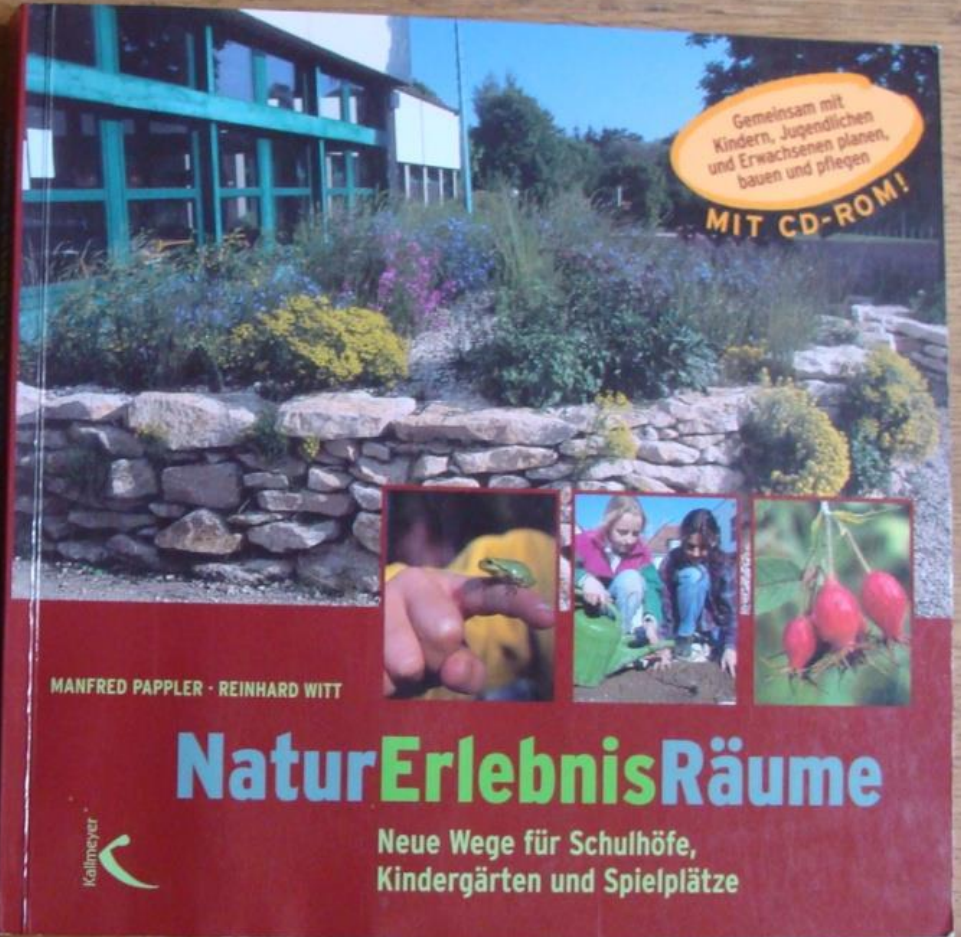
Alex Oberholzer | Lore Lässer

Gärten für Kinder



ULMER

Gardens for children



Nature Experience Areas/Spaces



Reinhard Witt, trying a glide in a wonderful nursery school in Notzing, Bavaria









The drake of Diethenhofen







A naturally designed and arranged garden offers at least the possibility to:



Many-sided movement



Settle down and feel safe



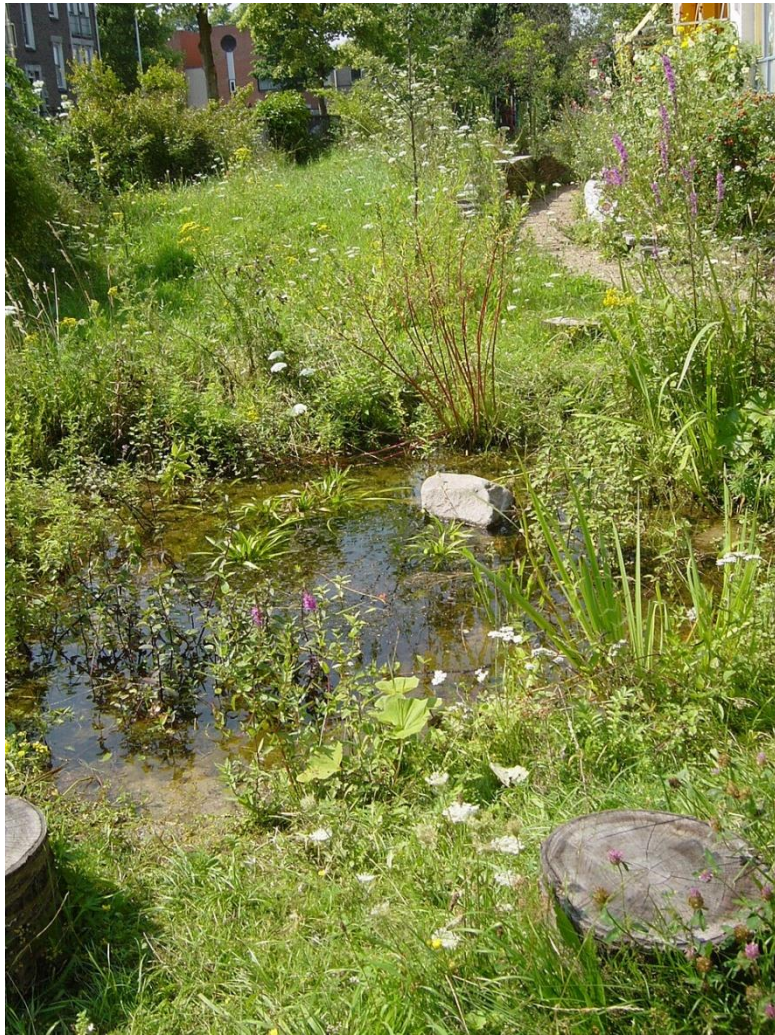
Find various places for creativity

Experience nature





Köllerholz school in Bochum (NRW)





Berlin











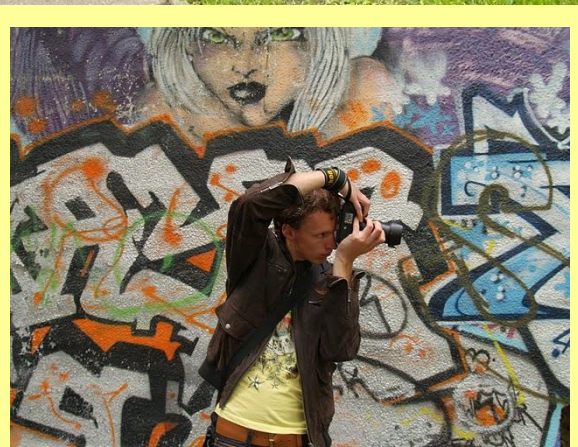
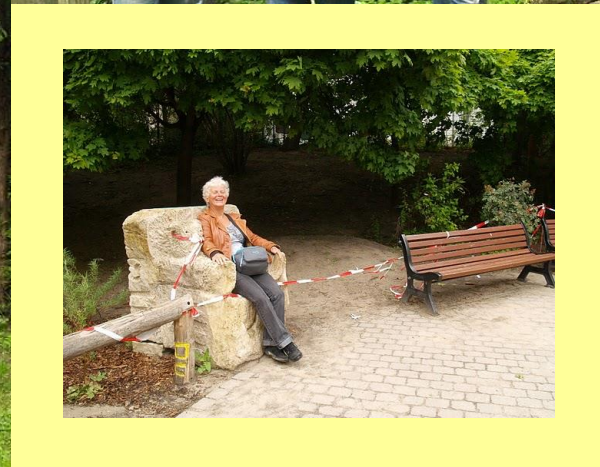


Adventure play ground, Berlin-Prenzlauerberg





*Inspiring Berlin,
May, 25-29, 2010*





Freiburg – a Mecca of nature playing grounds in southwest Germany





Coombes School

Arborfield





Coombes School,
Arborfield

The wonderful pond in Palatine school, Worthing







Stehat, Morocco





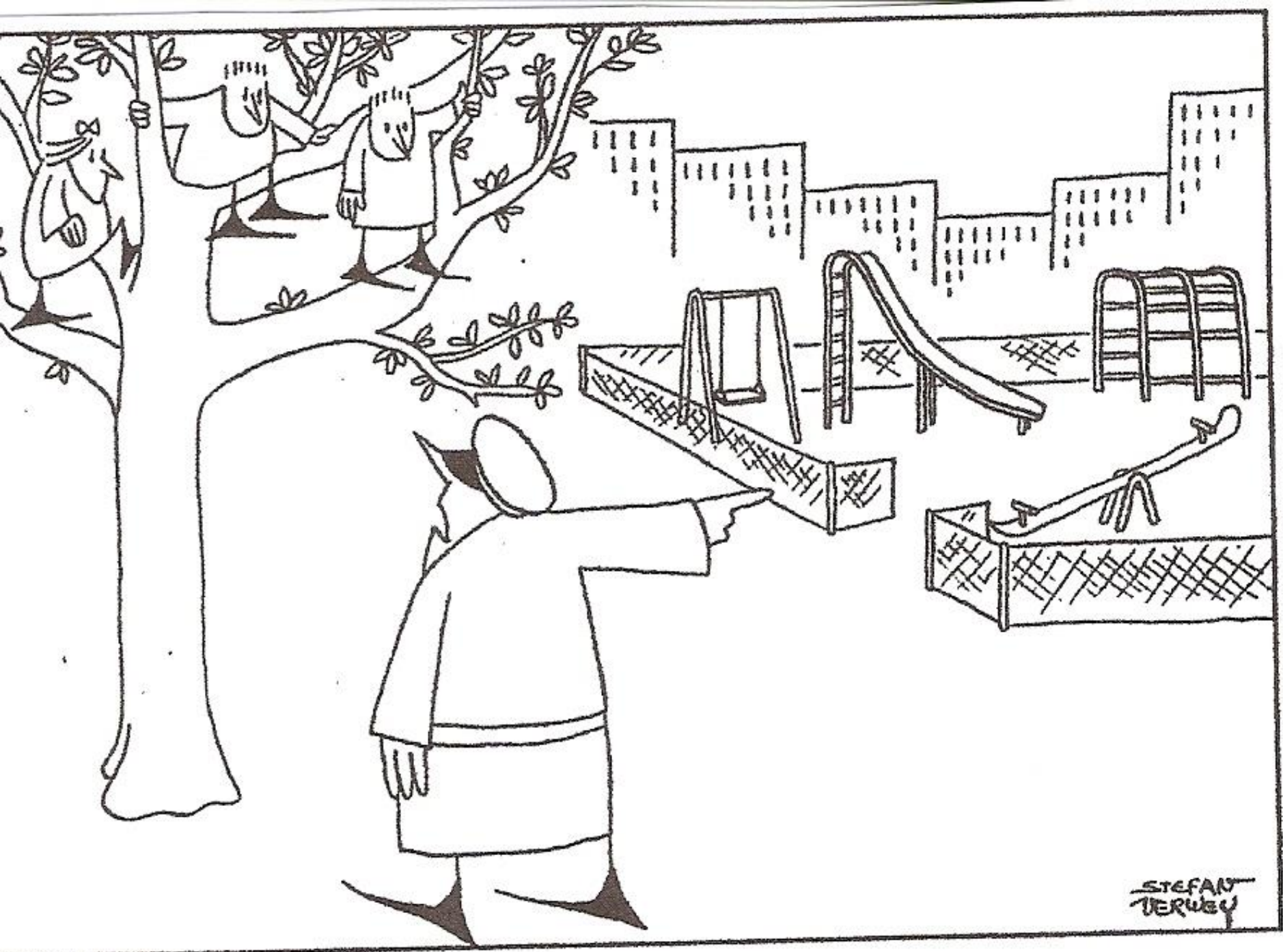
Fiskars and Nagu, Finland



Typical school grounds







STEFAN
VERUEY



Looking for comfort





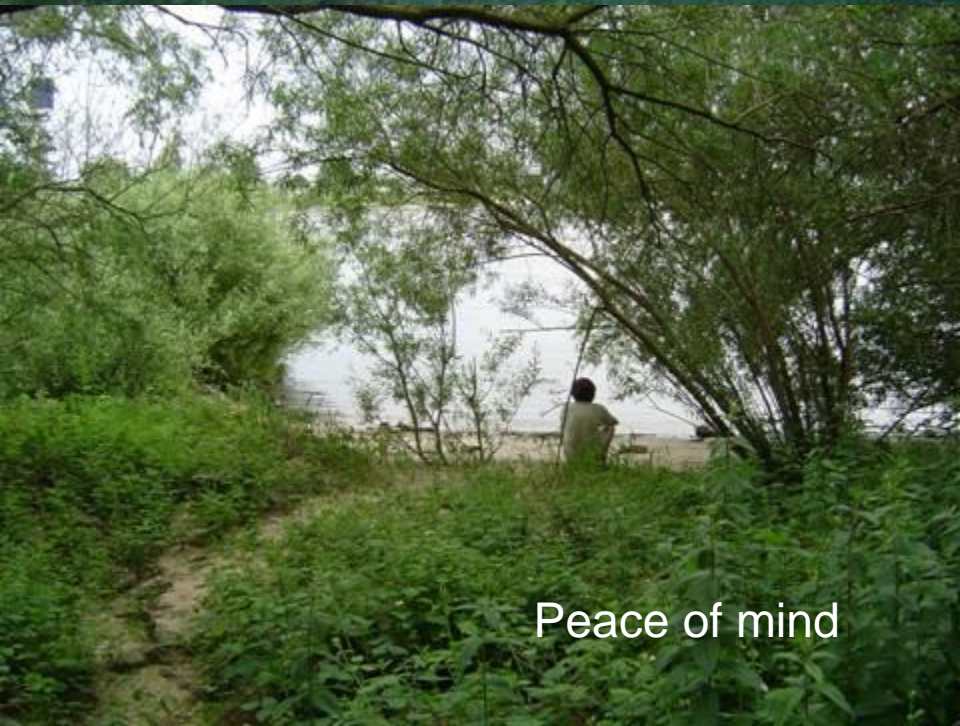
Movement



Experiencing Nature



Creativity



Peace of mind

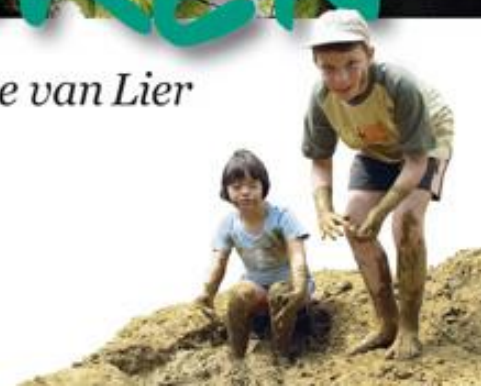


*If children don't find nature
anymore,
we have to bring nature back
to the children*



VRIT SPEL
VOOR
NATUUR EN
KINDEREN

Willy Leufgen & Marianne van Lier





A wooden suitcase full of ideas and pictures



Inspiration suitcase and -maps



30 sets with photo collages in a wooden suitcase



With those collages we try to enthuse many people to dare to develop more natural play grounds, landscapes etcetera



*“Free play
for nature
and
children”*



*Conference
18.10.2007,
Groeneveld
Castle*



Springzaad is working on more natural, adventurous and playful space outside:

- ✓ on school grounds, day care centres, playgroups
- ✓ in private gardens 'at home'
- ✓ on adventure playgrounds and other public playgrounds
- ✓ at children's farms
- ✓ at visitor centres and nature & environment centres
- ✓ in municipal parks en greenings
- ✓ in forests and other nature (development-) areas
- ✓ at professional training surroundings ('green' and educational)



...flowing into an ecological playing structure



A photograph of three children climbing a large, leafy tree. A girl in a red jacket is perched high on a branch, looking towards the camera. Two boys are sitting on a lower branch; one is looking at the camera while the other is looking down. A yellow shovel hangs from a branch on the right side of the frame. The background shows a green fence and more trees.

*To play and to learn
outside*

*An experience
for your life*

Marianne van Lier &
Willy Leufgen, NOT,
Utrecht, 30.1.2009



Oase Fietsexcursie Maastricht 10 juni 2009
OBS Binnenstad







*And behind the
fence little river
Dommel ogles...*

Boxtel





OBS De Molenwijk, Boxtel



Agatos excursion, summer 2007



Hessenberg





June 2008: opening of a new school nature garden in Amersfoort, primary school 't Anker









Hertog Karel primary school



Wilsele-Leuven

*Building walls of old material
as a part of a butterfly garden*







Arts outside



The schoolyard as an exhibition room







Not enough space?





**“Children’s working garden”
De Enk, Rotterdam - South**









B.S.O. De Marne, Amstelveen



**Day care centre
in Hilversum**





Maastricht



De Kleine Tuinman,
Ity Busstra, Dedemsvaart

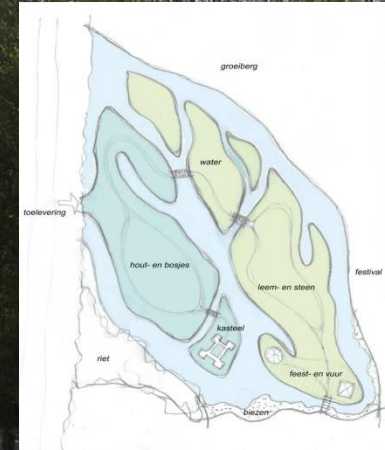




*De Speeldernis
in Rotterdam*



Playing nature in development De Ruige Plaat, Hoogvliet



New *playing nature* on the outskirts of a little village in northern Groningen



*A part of a
city farm*





Play forests



of our National Forestry Commission SBB





Nearby a visitors centre of a National Park in Limburg





*The 'learning
landscapes' around
a teachers'
academy in
Hengelo, Overijssel*

Springzaad

- Publications
- Workshops
- Excursions
- Study days
- Courses

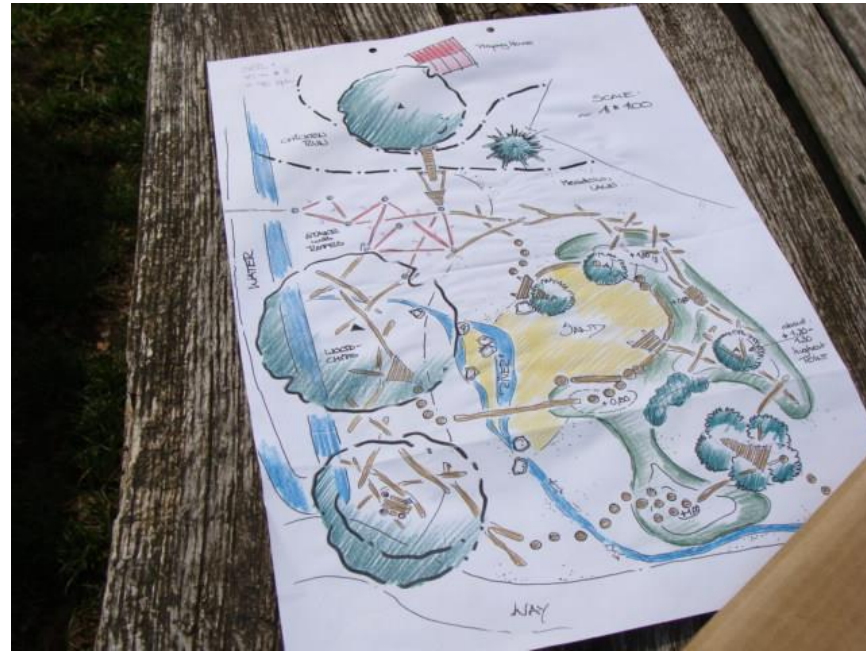




**Workshop "Let's build together a wooden Mikado"
OBS De Perroen, Maastricht, october 2005**

Workshop spring 2005,
day care centre **NuVier**,
Den Bosch





Workshop
De Kleine Aarde,
Boxtel, 24-26 mei
2008





And that 's how it looked just before the opening ceremony



Excursion to a serie of day care centres in Hilversum





Cycle excursion in Maastricht



june 2006, with Paul Janssen





“Pleasant wilderness” in Gent, B.

May 30, 2009: Our Flemish friends and colleagues founded a new movement, **Springzaad Belgium**

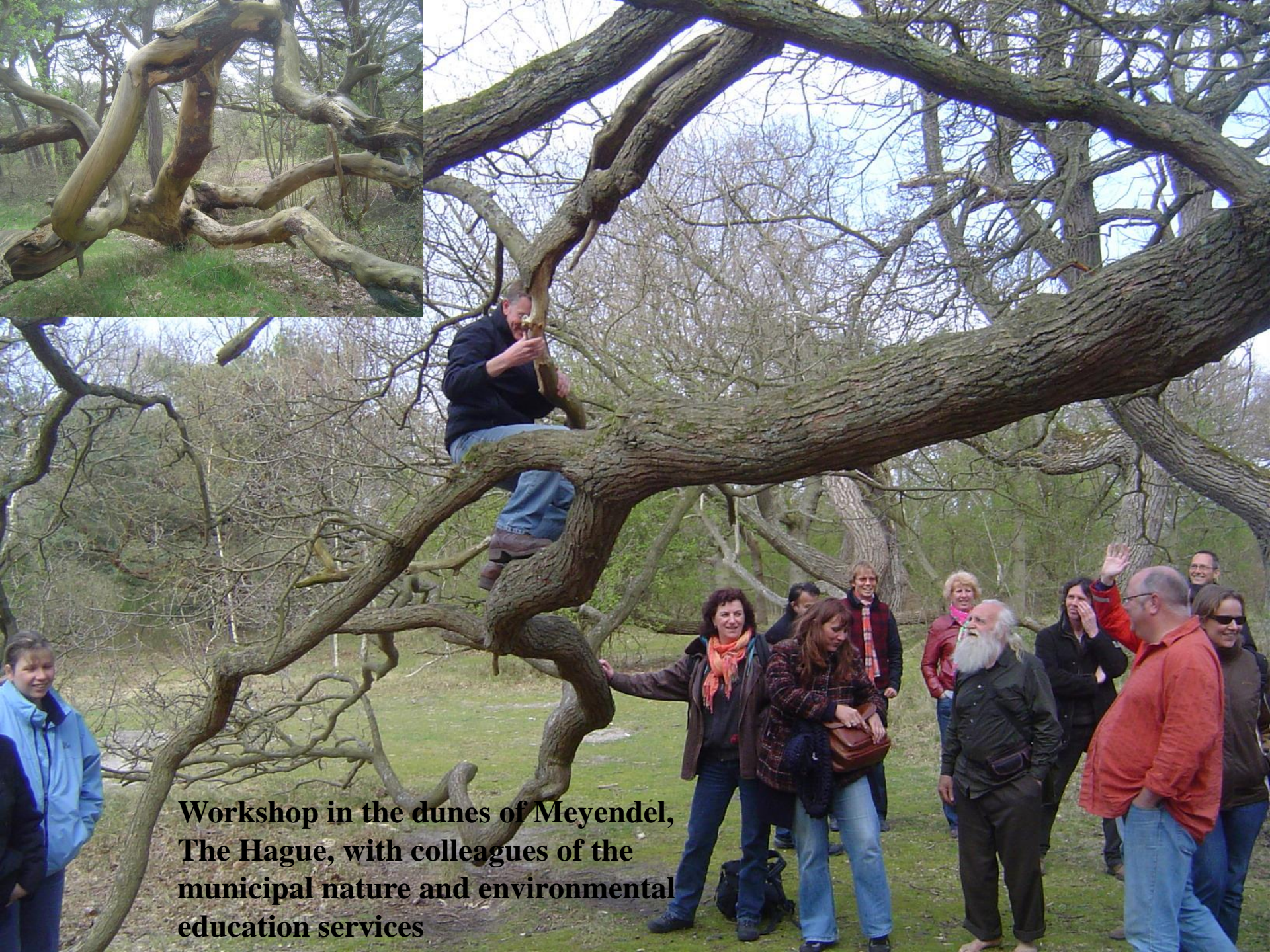


*Coaching directors of
public primary schools
in Leiden*





A workshop Creative with natural material at the river Waal



**Workshop in the dunes of Meyendel,
The Hague, with colleagues of the
municipal nature and environmental
education services**

Elyseum, a course - 2 years long, only on location - for ecological gardeners





**Combining nature
and arts: Museum
island Hombroich,
Park and Erft (river)**





*Museum island
Hombroich nearby Neuss*



*About challenge
and zero risk*



No life without risks!



Springzaad

creative green for children



www.springzaad.nl/english.php



