



PHILIPS

City of Emmen

Public lighting

Lighting up pride in the city

Award-winning lighting

A metamorphosis has transformed Emmen into a beautifully cohesive, inviting, and accessible city while preserving its green and open character. The Emmen City Centre Renovation Project has created a far more attractive place for residents, visitors and businesses. Using light to reflect the characteristics and ambience of each area in the city has played a significant role in the project's success. So much so, it was awarded third prize in the 2016 City.People.Light award for projects that best demonstrate how to 're-humanize' urban environments through light.

“The project incorporates lighting in attractions across the city, emphasizing major landmarks such as the Marktplain (Market Square) and the Raadhuisplein (Town Hall Square).”

Studio DL, responsible for lighting design during the Emmen project

Four cornerstone projects

One of the key challenges was achieving the transformation in a busy urban area within a very short timeframe. As well as focusing on functional lighting, the project devoted attention to the aesthetic image of the city at night. The idea was to create atmospheric public spaces that would be more appealing for residents and visitors to spend time in. The project focused on four key areas.

The Town Hall Square

The Raadhuisplein was designed by landscape architects and inspired by ideas from local residents. The innovative lighting design creates a magical spectacle at night, powered by solar energy generated by solar panels installed on the Town Hall.

The Market Square

The historic Marktplain square is a valuable extension of the modern Raadhuisplein. To provide room for the open-air market and other events, Philips FreeStreet luminaires were used. A grid of 29 bronze-colored posts was installed with cables suspended between them, festooned with LED lights shining from 11 meters above the Marktplain.

The Boulevards

Visitors enter the city center via the North or South Boulevard. Here, hedges have been planted in gently undulating lines between the meandering footpath and cycle track. The lighting poles along the route feature specially designed hubs that follow the same curves. In the evening, these are illuminated with blue LED lights, creating a fairy-tale ambience that guides visitors into the city.

The Hondsrug Tunnel

The final element of the project was illuminating the 235-meter long Hondsrug Tunnel that runs under the Raadhuisplein. The tunnel walls were enhanced with architectural lighting. 'Dolmen Light' was created by the conceptual artist Titia Ex and, at almost a kilometer in length, is the longest work of light art in the world.

Lighting up city pride

All light sources in downtown Emmen are controlled by the Philips CityTouch remote light management system. Jan nan der Tuin explains: “Using this system, the lighting points can be assigned to groups. A customized dimming profile can be defined for each group, adapting light intensity to how heavily that space is being used at any given time. And it is possible to define dimming profiles for weekends and weekdays, for summer and winter, and for specific events.”

An economic analysis calculated that the renovation project would generate 4,700 hours of work during the construction, as well as 820 structural jobs after completion.

“The quality of life in the space has improved immensely thanks to the new lighting scheme delivered by Philips.”

Jan van der Tuin, public lighting planning, City of Emmen



Links and consistency

Lighting plays a crucial role in creating consistency between the individual projects by using a cohesive theme.



Visitor accessibility

The new lighting illuminates footpaths and cycle tracks, guiding visitors through the city in a safer and more pleasant way.



City identity

Each area retains its own characteristics while contributing to the city's overall image.



Evening attraction

The new lighting has become an attraction in itself, providing a further reason for people to visit the city.



City pride

Thanks to Emmen's new image, residents are proud of their city center, which is now a more attractive place to live.

About Emmen

Emmen is an open, green city located in the north of the Netherlands. Tourism and leisure are important sources of income, including the WILDLANDS adventure zoo. To boost the city's economy, generate employment and enhance its international role, a new lighting concept was developed as part of the Emmen City Center Renovation Project. The aim was to create an identity to give the city center a distinctive appearance at night.

Fast facts

Customer

Municipality of Emmen

Location

Emmen, Netherlands

Products

CitySphere, Ocean Road, DecoFlood2, eW Burst Powercore, FreeStreet

Find out how Philips Lighting can transform urban spaces

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