



A strong community starts with people who feel at home where they live and connected to the people around them. That sense of belonging is what we at de Firma Stek love to contribute to.

We work in social design, community building and participation. Our focus is on creating neighbourhoods where people do more than simply live next to each other: places where residents take part, build networks and feel ownership of their surroundings. Through opportunities to meet, collaborate and organise together, social cohesion can grow. To us, this is an essential part of every urban development.

What we do

We connect the physical environment with the social structures that help communities thrive. We believe that the right mix of design, organisation and programming can create a neighbourhood system in which residents feel involved, connected and at home.

Our approach consists of three clear phases:

1. Vision & Strategy

Together with residents and stakeholders, we develop a socially sustainable vision for the neighbourhood. We define the social and spatial ambitions and explore the deeper social dynamics at play: what already exists, what is needed and how the environment can support this.

2. Action Plan

Based on the vision, we create a practical action plan. This sets out the social programmes, spatial interventions and organisational structures needed to build a strong and lasting social infrastructure.

3. Implementation & Long-term Support

We help turn plans into practice and make sure they become part of everyday neighbourhood life. This means we do not only help create places and programmes, but also think about how they will be used, managed and supported over time.

De Buurt Stek

De Buurt Stek is one of the ways in which we translate social design into practice. It is a physical meeting place and a socio-spatial tool that creates the right conditions for resident interaction, involvement and self-organisation. It gives residents space to take initiative, organise activities and feel ownership of their living environment.

This does not have to be one single place. It can also be a network of shared spaces that connect residents, such as a community garden, workshop, meeting space or neighbourhood hub. The form of De Buurt Stek depends on



the context and is shaped around the needs and wishes of the neighbourhood. In this way, it helps create a connected social ecosystem.

Why we want to contribute to the NEB topics

The New European Bauhaus focuses on creating places that are not only sustainable, but also inclusive, beautiful and socially connected. That is exactly where our work comes in.

Our focus is on strengthening social cohesion through social design and social infrastructure. We create places that are not only attractive and well-designed, but also actively support community life. We help build neighbourhoods where residents have room to grow, connect and contribute, and where social networks form the basis for a strong, resilient community.

Our added value

What sets us apart is our practical approach to social design and our extensive experience with participation. We know from experience that neighbourhood connection does not happen automatically when physical space is created. It grows through collaboration, involvement and opportunities for residents to take ownership.

We bring hands-on knowledge from practice into strategic thinking, and we help make sure social ambitions are carried through into implementation. With our broad network of municipalities, developers and housing associations in the Netherlands, we can move from ideas to action quickly and effectively.

We are not just thinkers, but doers. We combine knowledge of social design with practical tools and interventions that help strengthen social cohesion and connection in neighbourhoods.

Contact:

Tineke Belder
Tineke@defirmastek.nl
0294 308 000

About de Firma Stek