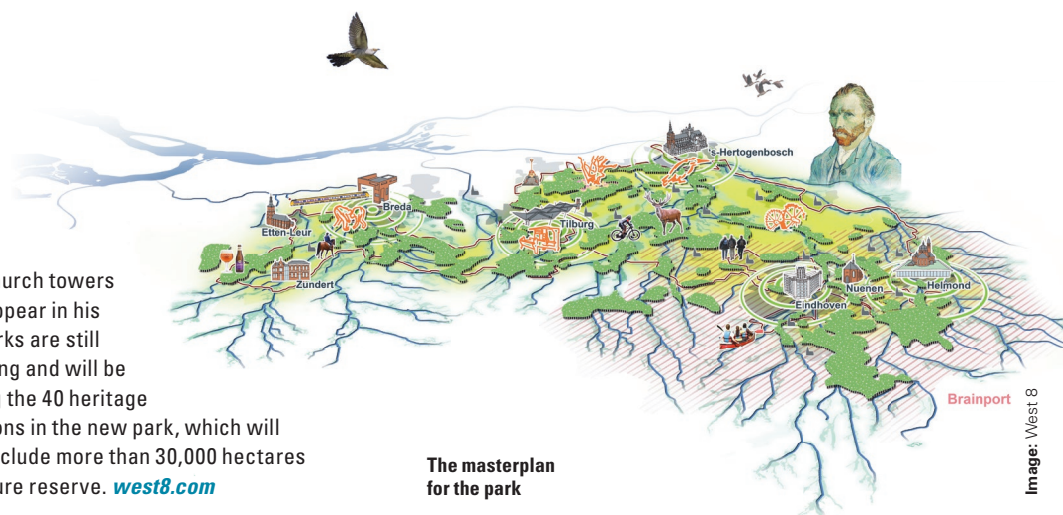


VAN GOGH NATIONAL PARK PLANNED

WEST 8 AND BUREAU OVERLAND

have created a masterplan for a new Van Gogh National Park in the province of Brabant in the Netherlands. Vincent van Gogh spent most of his life in Brabant and at least a quarter of his work was painted in the region. Many of the landscapes, water mills, rectories

and church towers that appear in his artworks are still standing and will be among the 40 heritage locations in the new park, which will also include more than 30,000 hectares of nature reserve. west8.com



WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON? MARIAN BOSWALL

Image: Katie Spicer



Marian Boswall MSGD read French and Italian at Oxford University, but then followed her heart to study horticulture and landscape architecture at Greenwich University. She started her own business in 2004 and

has since earned an enviable reputation for her work on landscapes of historic significance – she taught Historic Garden Conservation at Greenwich University for many years and is adviser to a number of important gardens, estates and trusts. Sustainability and respect for ecology and the local landscape inform her designs and she is also on the Board of the Blackthorn Trust Biodynamic Healing Gardens. Here, she talks to us about a new project to regenerate Rye riverfront in East Sussex.

What is the background to the Rye project?

The land for this new development was bought by local philanthropists who have invested several million in the project. They live near Rye and are passionate about bringing the arts to the area through this ambitious scheme, which involves converting a large warehouse into a multi-purpose arts centre, alongside an arts library, gallery spaces, office and retail space, indoor and outdoor

performance areas, a café, and a riverside walk. We are fairly local to the town, too, and were commissioned alongside the architects RXA, who we have worked with on previous projects, to design the Riverside landscape scheme.

What was the brief?

The clients asked us to create a riverside landscape that would connect the former boatyard known as Bridge Point with The Quay to the west, and the fishing quay and the Town Salts to the east, thereby increasing the relationship between the town and river. Our design also had to provide an outdoor performance space and an area to display art and sculpture, while building on a sense of community for the residents of Rye and those living in the new housing development.

How have you responded to the site?

Inspired by the history of the working boatyard, we designed a grass amphitheatre by the water's edge in the shape of a hand-crafted boat hull – imagining the space left by the vessels that used to fill the yard. A shiny topped pavilion at the mouth of the amphitheatre will be used as a stage for outdoor performances, or as a shelter when no events are taking place. The undulating forms of the



planters and seating are informed by the natural pools and ripples of river mud at low tide, while the central area of the design provides a flexible space for street performances and community events. Long sharing tables offer opportunities for people to strike up conversations – now socially distanced, of course. A broad promenade will lead from the gallery towards the river and a series of sculptures will link the landscape with the artists' studios and gallery.

What type of planting are you using?

The planting evokes the flat planes of the local marshes and Rye Harbour, with swathes of waving grasses and predominantly native wild flowers. We worked with the warden of the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve on our selections to ensure that the plants will be non-invasive and increase biodiversity, providing food and habitats for pollinators and targeting locally important wildlife.

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