

# Project Jacobijnerkerkhof Grote Kerk

The Grote Kerk Leeuwarden is the oldest monument in Leeuwarden's city centre. It was built in the Middle Ages as a monastery. The ancestors of the royal family are also buried here. And the world-famous Müller organ from 1721 attracts many visitors every year.

On Sundays, services are held by the Protestant congregation, which owns the building. During the rest of the week there are often concerts, weddings and events such as graduations and fairs. The church is also open throughout the summer season, and regularly hosts art exhibitions.

There are currently plans to repurpose the church into a City Monastery. A place that exudes peace, where you meet people around important life themes. It will also be a place where people can live in a community. The core values of this place are to slow down, reflect and inspire. Former groups of students Placemaking have been working on the development of the courtyard garden and extending the visiting time for visitors/passers-by to the church.



The next challenge we face is the design of the outdoor space. The Grote Kerk stands on the Nijehove mound, one of the three on which Leeuwarden was founded. It is a meaningful place, full of stories. The Grote Kerk has been the landmark there since the end of the 13th century. Also on the square is the New City Orphanage (now home to the Nature Museum) and the Jewish School, with a war memorial in front of it. Next to the church is an enclosed lawn.

With various neighbourhood partners, we are working on the redevelopment of this area. It should become a place where residents of the square, Leeuwardeners from all over the city and tourists meet and enjoy staying.

## Assignment

We challenge the students of Placemaking to think with us about how this place can be more in tune with the wishes and needs of various stakeholders/visitors. We are at the beginning of developing this project. We are curious to see what we can learn from the principles of Placemaking to make Jacobijnerkerkhof a 'great place' where people like to come for reflection, wonder and encounters.

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