



Creating dune landscapes for nature and housing – how to assess the designs?

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Over the last decades landscape and nature organisations in The Netherlands initiated discussions about safeguarding characteristic historical landscapes, as well as improving nature and landscape quality. In these discussions they were supported by Dutch government agencies and newspapers.

As a consequence, architects, landscape architects and building firms in the Netherlands try to upgrade the quality of houses and build-up areas by creating special landscape settings. Dunes are one of the landscapes that appeal to the designers, and several projects make use of dunes to create a quality living environment. Also nature manager construct dunes in what is called 'new nature'.

This contribution evaluates several projects creating dune landscapes. Criteria for the evaluation are:

- the subsequent geomorphology,
- the materials used for construction,
- the resulting internal structure,
- the soil profile,
- the relationship with the vegetation,
- the historical integrity of the location.

These examples indicate that engaging earth-scientific knowhow would substantially improve the authenticity of the designs.