In April 2009, over a hundred houses were demolished in the district Woensel-West. The site would remain closed off by a typical construction fence until the start of the new housing development in 2011. During a research on how to reintegrate the fenced-off area into the neighbourhood, designer Vincent Wittenberg became inspired by the many fences in the area. Different types of fences have a different function. The main differences lie in the way they communicate. A garden fence does not only divide but also announces something.

Wittenberg proposed to replace the existing construction fence by an enlarged copy of one of the demolished garden fences, including 2 gates. By doing so, the fenced space becomes a playground.

This intervention at the border of the terrain literally restored the space to the neighbourhood. The former gap is now a public space with allotments and a playground.

Vincent Wittenberg is a designer from the Netherlands. In 2009 he graduated at the Design Academy Eindhoven, public space department. He is always looking for the latent potential of a location, and considers design less in terms of problems to be solved and more as the discovery of hidden possibilities.

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Photographs by Vincent Wittenberg