

.HERITAGE

Course | Pro-module Academic Literacy and Research
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How can the residents of Breda be involved in the design of the t'Zoet site and build on its identity and heritage?

+ The CSM site used to be a swampy area outside of the Municipality of Breda. It used to be part of Princehage with its border in the location of where Haagdijk is today. The area changed significantly after the railway of Breda Roosendaal was installed, followed by the building of a **sugar factory** when the property was acquired by Van Aken. The construction of the railway and the sugar factory propelled Breda into an era of industrialization, solidifying its identity in the minds of citizens as for many years to come.

+ The site became one of Breda's most successful industrial sites. Numerous factories, for example, chocolate factories, a stone factory, and two giant sugar silos became the area's identity. The processing of sugar on the site created a **distinctive sweet smell** all across Breda. The smell even inspired the painter **Van Gogh** in some of his works.



+ In the context of t'Zoet and its historical relevance for Breda, its value lies in the post-industrial area of a former factory. Cultural heritage, as a concept, refers to features belonging to the culture of a particular society, such as traditions, languages, or buildings, created in the past but still hold historical importance (Heritage, 2024); t'Zoet represents such a place. It was known for its industrial purpose, operating for over twenty years as a place of sugar production, and at the same time became embedded in the consciousness of Bredanaars.

+ With new development, the site will undergo significant transformation. And how can the memory be kept? The name "t'Zoet" pays homage to its former function: sweetness. It is a nod to the **sugary past** that once thrived here. The sweet scent of sugar beets filled the air during the vibrant sugar beet campaigns. This legacy remains a significant aspect for Breda's residents, who can cherish and celebrate this personal connection to its history.

How can historical identity and untaggable legacy of the t'Zoet Factory site be preserved in its post-industrial use?

What are some of the intangible memories and experiences that will preserve the memory of the site?



"But it was very pleasant. All that liveliness and especially that heavy air that drifted over the city during the campaign... You recognized it immediately. Very Bredaas. Just like those silos. It's a shame they didn't do anything with it"

How to revive historical identity in post-industrial areas with taggable methods?



+ The sugar industry had such a prominent role in the history of Breda's that it has left a permanent mark on the city. The first sugar factory, established in 1872 along the Mark River, brought prosperity for its citizens. More importantly, the sweet aroma associated with the sugar production process is remembered to create a sense of place for local residents, especially during the winter.

+ Post-World War II, the Central Sugar Company (CSM) erected massive silos at the Markkade location to meet consumer demand for one-kilogram packs of sugar. These silos had a significant impact on the landscape of Breda. Eventually, the production of

sugar in Breda was not economically viable and the facility closed down in 2005. Even after its closure, the silos remained an important landmark for the residents of Breda, especially upon entering the city by train.

In 2010 the factory was demolished, including the iconic silos. Today, the ground of t'Zoet is a brownfield site, and the foundations of the old sugar factory remain intact. Despite the contamination, the soil bears past traces and supports an ecosystem above ground. The existing foundation remains of silos and factory buildings are now seen as a grateful source of inspiration for restoring the historical identity of Breda sugar industry.