

Feargus O'Sullivan ~ Amsterdam's Bold Housing Solution: 10 Artificial Islands



The islands of IJburg, with Center Island jutting out to the right. (Image courtesy of Amsterdam)

Right now, Amsterdam's Center Island (*Centrumeiland* in Dutch) doesn't look like much—just an inhospitable sand bar poking out from the city into the huge IJmeer Lake. But there's far more to it than meets the eye at present. The island, in use for the first time this summer as a campsite-cum-art installation, is in fact an entirely artificial creation, lying at the heart of what could currently be Europe's boldest engineering and housing program. This sand bar will become one of 10 new residential islands rising from the depths of the IJmeer. In a distinctively Dutch move, Amsterdam is not only planning for future expansion by building a network of model neighborhoods to expand into—it has actually constructed the ground on which those neighborhoods will stand.

Read more: <http://www.citylab.com/amsterdam-bold-housing-solution>