

Madurodam (<http://www.madurodam.nl/en/>)

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According to the Google search Madurodam is a miniature park and tourist attraction in the Scheveningen district of The Hague in the Netherlands. It is home to a range of 1:25 scale model replicas of famous Dutch landmarks, historical cities and large developments. For garden railroaders it is a treasure trove of ideas and inspiration. On our recent trip to the Netherlands we more or less stumbled upon it but it was one of the highlights of the trip.



I was disappointed that I could not find a book describing the history of the park with descriptions of how the buildings were constructed. I did find the following on the web translated from the Dutch by the computer and from the computer by me:

Models

Based on drawings employees of Madurodam calculate how small the windows, doors and trees should be. They use hundreds of photos of the buildings. Initially modeled buildings were made from wood but now they use plastic. They are cut to size by machine. The they have to be assembled and painted. The models have to stand outside for about 30 years and so they are often repainted.

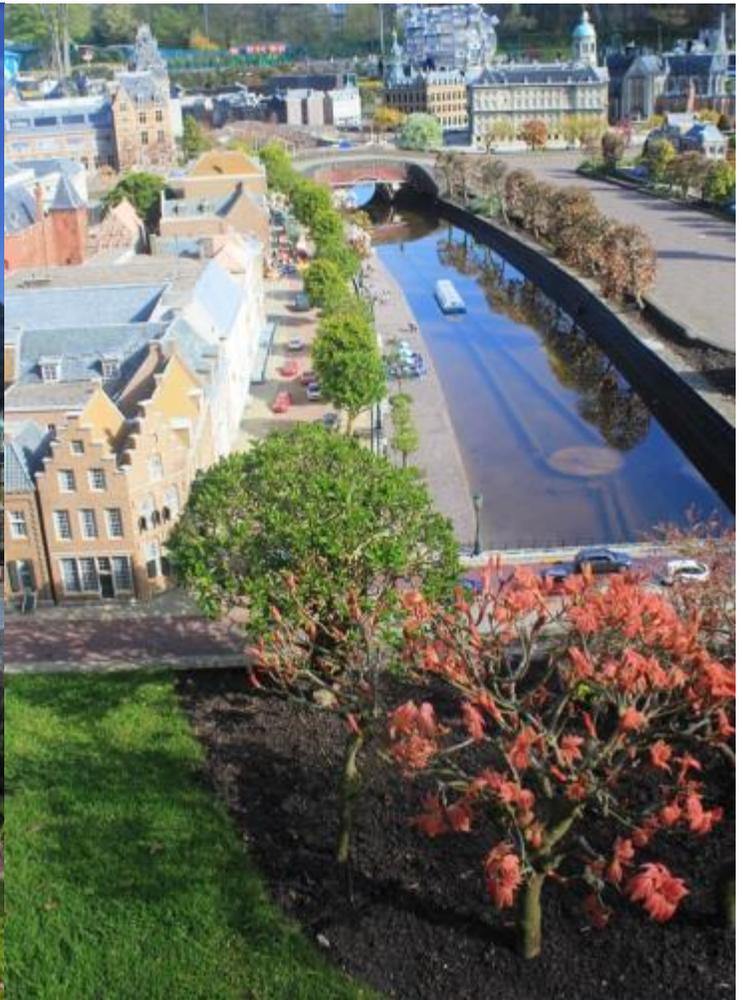
Plants

There are also a lot of attention paid to the landscaping. The plants are an important part of that. For this, they use real trees. To keep them small the trees are cut very often. If those trees would not be cut, they could be up to 15 meters high.

Some of my pictures are shown below but more are available at

<https://picasaweb.google.com/104839525425639615793/6279153949658194689>





On the left is the [Dom Tower](#) from Utrecht, 367 feet high and completed in 1382. Note the different kind of plants used to represent trees. While they did use a lot of box woods they also used regular shrubs and trees too. On the left note the mechanism used to move the boats.



The detail in the building models was outstanding. To the left is the model of the [Basilica 'Sint-Jan'](#) – Den Bosch started in 1380 and completed 200 years later. There are 96 curved flying buttresses.



Of course a visit to the Netherlands would not be complete without windmills. Madurodam had information on [water management with wind mills](#) and a simulation of the 19 windmills at [Kinderdijk](#) a UNESCO world heritage site, shown below.





There were also models of the canals including this replica of a lock. Kids of all ages could operate the lock and move boats up and down the canal.



There also were models of locks in operation with ships running. In this location two ships sailed in two ponds connected by this double lock. When the ships met here, the lock doors opened, the ships entered the locks, the lock doors closed and water flowed between the two chambers and the ships moved to the level of the other pond. Doors opened up and the ships continued around. Somebody had a lot of fun designing this!



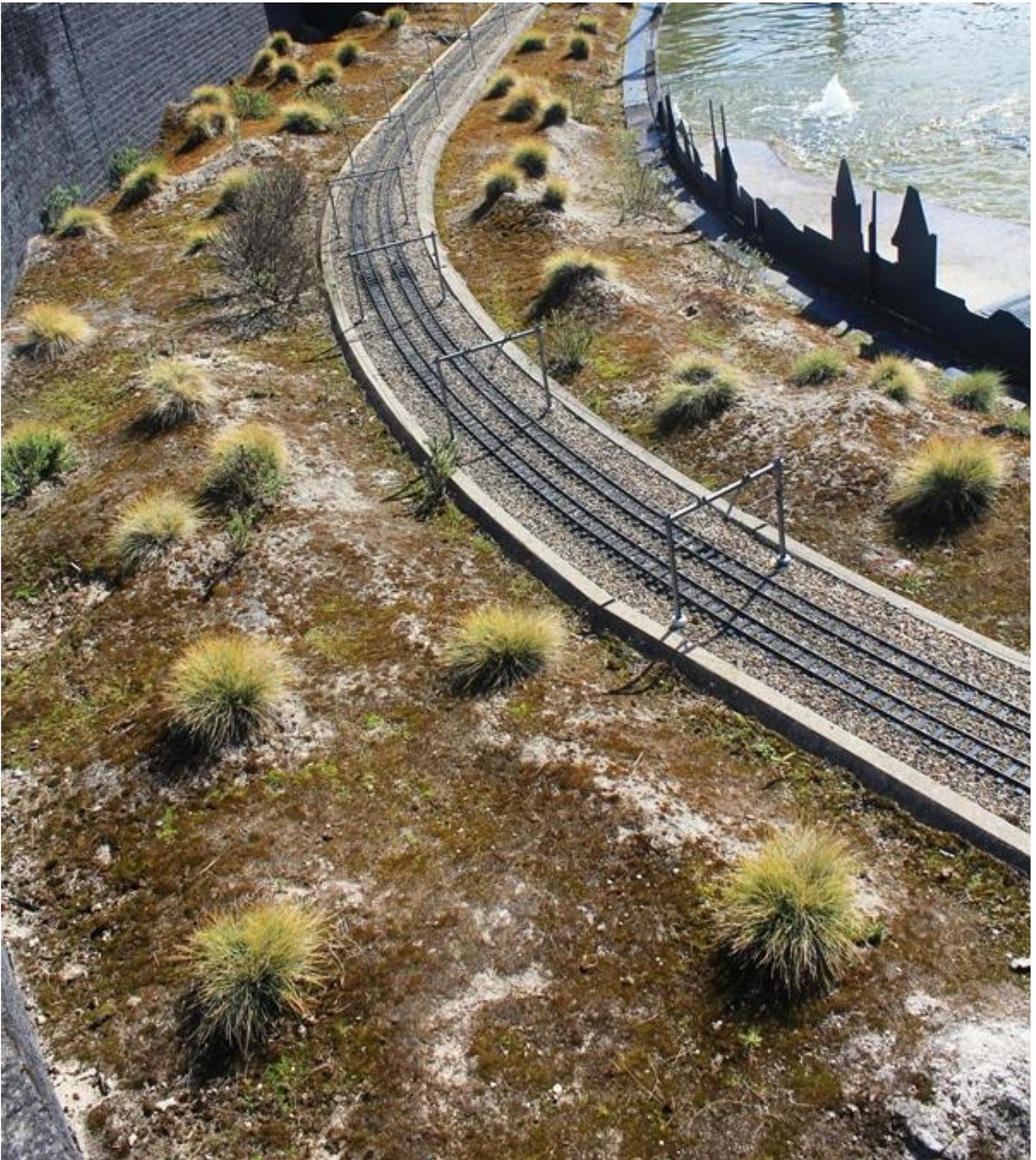


One of the more impressive features was the model of the Amsterdam [Schipol airport](#). This was complete down to the taxiing airplanes. Another interactive feature was this test track. When car drove around you could squirt water in several places causing the car to spin out.



Did I mention there were trains? Check out the details of the catenary and in the station.





I was very impressed with the landscaping that was done for the seashore section. Upon closer inspection they used a lot of mortar, moss and these grasses. Although simple the overall effect was very realistic.