These hotspots are a selection of places which you may not find (or overlook) in the tourist guides, although I could not resist including some usual suspects. It is completely incomplete but so is your time. The restriction I used in the selection was that the hotspots are located near a public transport route to the EuroHaptics conference site.

Hope you enjoy Amsterdam,
Maarten
A: Muziekgebouw/bimhuis
Piet Heinkade 1, www.muziekgebouw.nl and www.bimhuis.nl
A truly great building with a magnificent cafe on the waterside of the IJ. You’ll see the best sun set of Amsterdam. Furthermore, the “Muziekgebouw” is the place to be for contemporary classical music, the acoustics are great. The “Bimhuis” is located inside the building and hosts the best jazz concerts you’ll find in the Netherlands. The background of the podium is a big glass wall through which you can overlook Amsterdam during the concerts (if they don’t close the curtains).

B: Pond naar NDSM
Free boat tour to the North side of Amsterdam. You are very lucky since at the other side is a very cool festival (www.overhetij.nl) going on during the conference. It is an old industrial site (a dock) and definitely worth visiting and see the other side of Amsterdam.

C: Public library
Oosterdokskade 143, www.oba.nl
New library building which everyone in Amsterdam loves.
A: W139 & Winston Kingdom
Warmoesstraat 131, www.winston.nl
Every night bands and party, for the young ones!

B: Cafe van Zuylen
Torensteeg 8
Best place to have an outdoor drink at a canal side.

C: Netherlands Media Art Institute
Keizersgracht 264, http://www.nimk.nl/ (admission 4.50 euro)
Contemporary video art

D: Nieuwmarkt
At the border of the Red Light District, this place is filled with fine eateries (have a famous Cheese fondue at Bern) and cafes. Also check out the Zeedijk.
A: Oudemanhuispoort
Small alley that hosts second hand book stands.

B: Kromboomsloot
One of my favorite canals, although nothing happens there. Maybe that's why it is my favorite.

C: Huis Marseille
Keizersgracht 401
Contemporary photo gallery (admission 5 euro)

D: Cafe De Jaren
Nieuwe Doelenstraat 20
Also a very nice place to have a drink at the waterside.

E: Waterlooplein
Market for second hand clothing and other stuff.

F: Cafe De Sluyswacht
Jodenbreestraat 1
Nice cafe at the waterside

G: Hermitage
Nieuwe Herengracht 14, www.hermitage.nl
A guy from Amsterdam persuaded the Hermitage to have a dependence at the Amstel. Great stuff, although it depends a bit on the current exhibition.

H: Spui
Bookshops and cafes all located within a few feet.
A: Concerto
Utrechtsestraat 60
Best cd shop in Amsterdam

B: Stadsschouwburg + Last Minute Ticket Shop
The city theatre hosts the best plays in the city and in the Last Minute Ticket shop you can buy tickets for many theaters for half the price.

C: Weber/Lux
Marnixstraat 397/403
Cafes for late night drinks. Favorite place for Amsterdam pop musicians (although not in the weekends).

D: Snoeshaan
Leidsekade 90
Favorite place for actors to have a drink after work.

E: Melkweg
Lijnbaansgracht 234-A,
www.melkweg.nl
Pop concert venue.

G: Eylders
Korte Leidsedwarsstraat 47
Great old cafe with a very dirty place in which you can smoke your cigarettes, if you like...

H: Paradiso
Weteringschans 6, www.paradiso.nl
Old church and now a pop temple. Best place for some dance moves, if they have something on schedule.

I: Rijksmuseum
Stadhouderskade 42,
www.rijksmuseum.nl
Still under construction, but a small part is open for the public

J: PC Hooftstraat
The expensive-shops-street of Amsterdam. If you like it.
A: Filmmuseum + Vertigo  
Vondelpark 3, www.filmuseum.nl  
Watch old movies in an old theatre and afterwards sit under the big trees in the park for dinner or only a drink.

B: Blauwe Theehuis  
Best place for drinks in the Vondelpark

C: Van Eeghenstraat  
Nice street to wander a bit, nice but rather expensive houses for the people who decide not to go into science.

D: Concertgebouw  
Concertgebouwplein 2-6, www.concertgebouw.nl  
The famous Amsterdam Concert hall. A bit expensive, so check out the last minute ticket shop!

E: Zuiderbad  
Hobbemastraat 26,  
http://www.zuid.amsterdam.nl/vrije_tijd_en_sport/zuiderbad?ActItmIdt=300893  
Hace a swim for a few euros

F: Marie Heinekenplein + De Appel + De Pijp  
In this area you may find less tourists and more nice places to eat. The Amsterdam Yuppies occupy this area. De Appel is a contemporary art gallery

G: Museumplein: van Gogh  
The only big museum that is not (partly) closed!