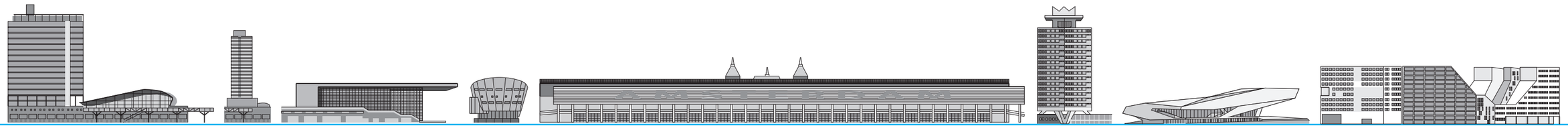
Competition Research
of the landmarks around the IJ

The Head of Java-Island
as new metropolitan peninsula

20
13/
-14

Janick van der Meiden

Faculty of Architecture
Delft University of Technology



Part I

1.1 Introduction page 05

1.2 Goal & Ambition page 05

1.3 Method page 05

Part II : Inventarisation

2.1 Overview and location page 06

2.2 PTA & IJ-tower page 11

2.3 Mövenpick Hotel page 12

2.4 Muziekgebouw aan ‘t IJ page 13

2.5 NEMO page 14

2.6 Amsterdam Central Station page 15

2.7 Toren Overhoeks page 16

2.8 EYE page 17

2.9 IJ-dock page 18

Part III : Relations

3.1 Key locations page 19

3.2 Ground level relations page 20

3.3 High-rise relations page 21

Part IV : Typology & size

4.1 Typology page 22

4.2 Architectural form page 23

4.3 Size page 24

Part V : Requirements

5.1 Conclusions page 25

Notes page 26

1.1 This publication is made for Architecture graduation studio: Architecture and Dwelling : At home in the city.

In this brief research the landmarks and icons are being discussed that could influence the design for the housing building on the Head of Java-island.

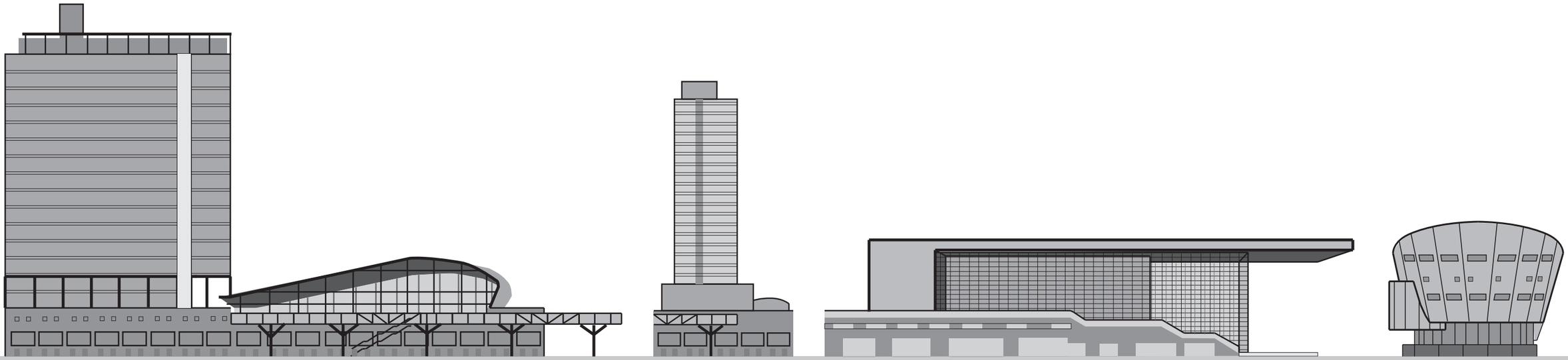
1.2 My goal is two gather information to let my design compete with these buildings. This is not a story about winning but more about relating with the other landmarks and icons. This is important because of the ambition I have for my housing building. It must position housing, as primair program of cities, between the iconic public buildings most cities profile themselves with.

1.3 The method I used:

II Discover:	What is the urban function?
	How does people recognize the building?
	How does it distinguish itself from the other landmarks and icon?
III Determine:	The relations between the landmarks and icons.
	The weight of visibility from different locations.
IV Analyse:	Typology
	Architectural form
	Size
V Conclusions:	Short summary of the findings that I could use for my design

Part II : Inventarisation

2.1 Overview and location

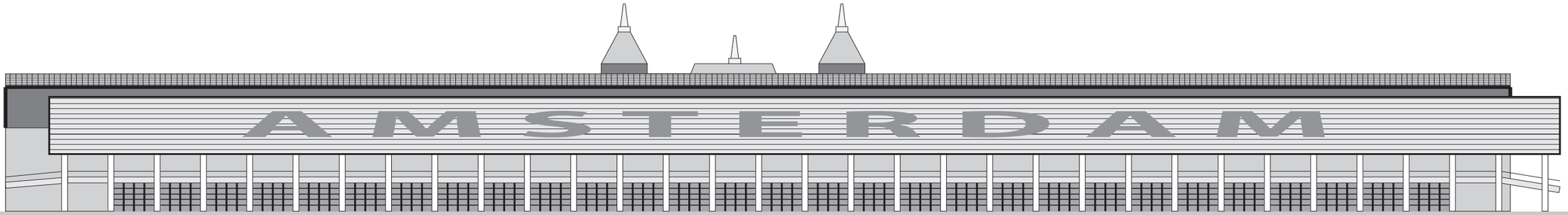


IJ - TOWER and PASSENGER TERMINAL AMSTERDAM

MÖVENPICK HOTEL

MUZIEKGEBOUW AAN ‘T IJ

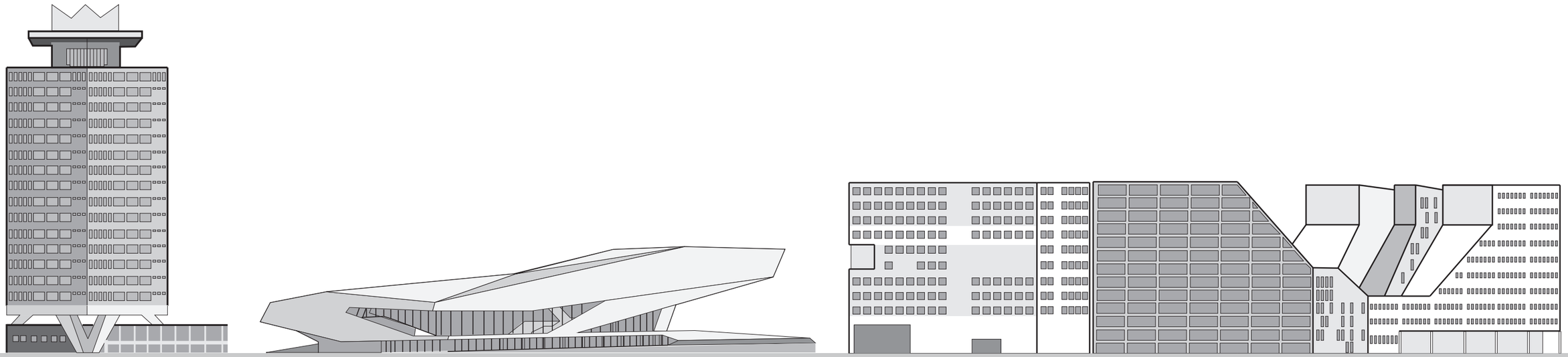
NEMO



AMSTERDAM CENTRAL STATION

Part II : Inventarisation

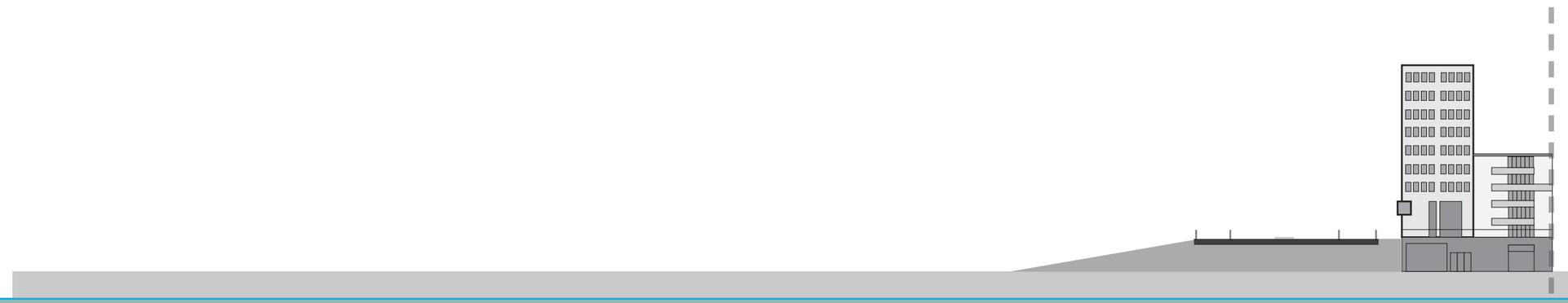
2.1 Overview and location



TOREN OVERHOEKS

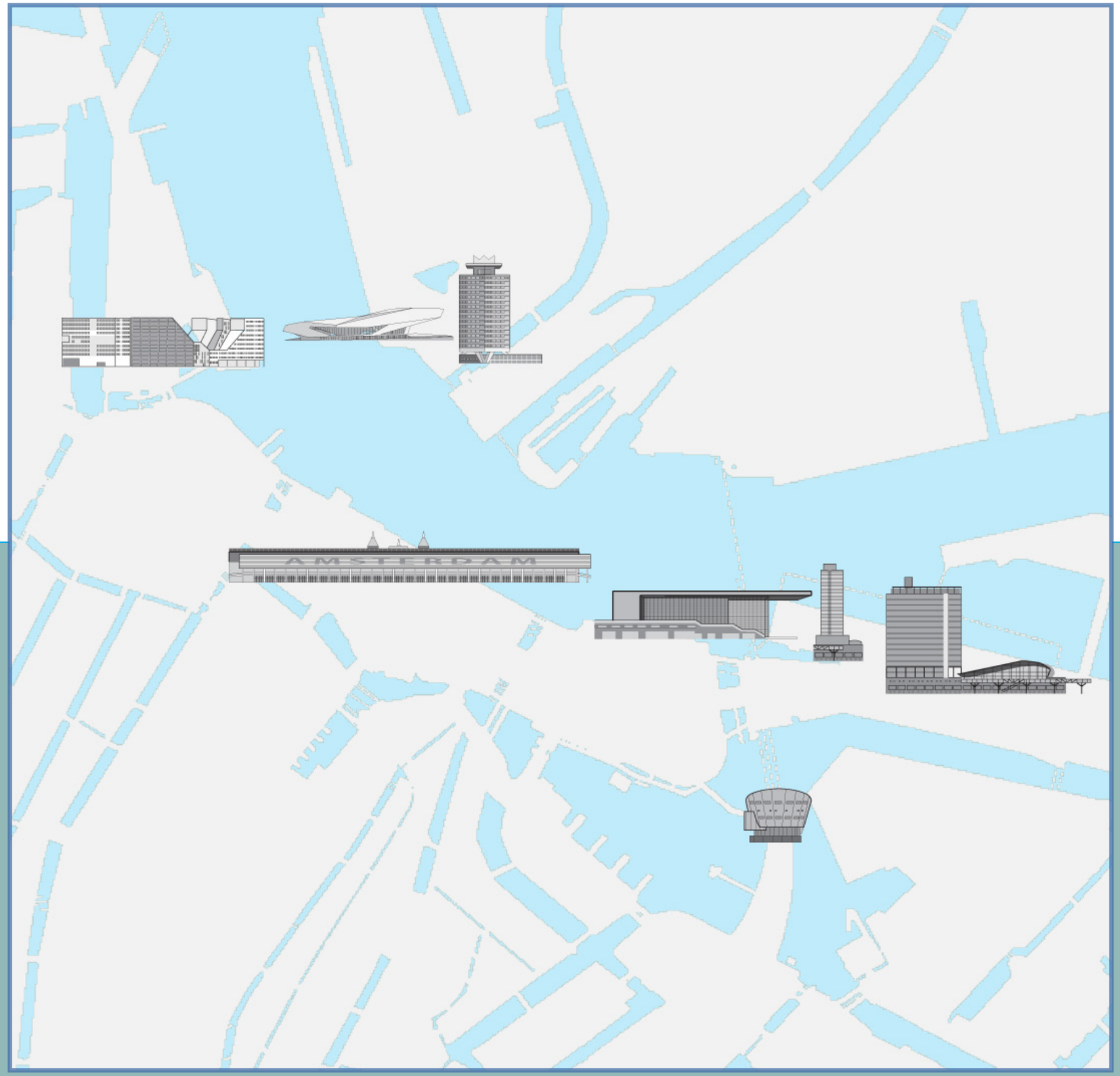
EYE FILM INSTITUTION

IJ - DOCK



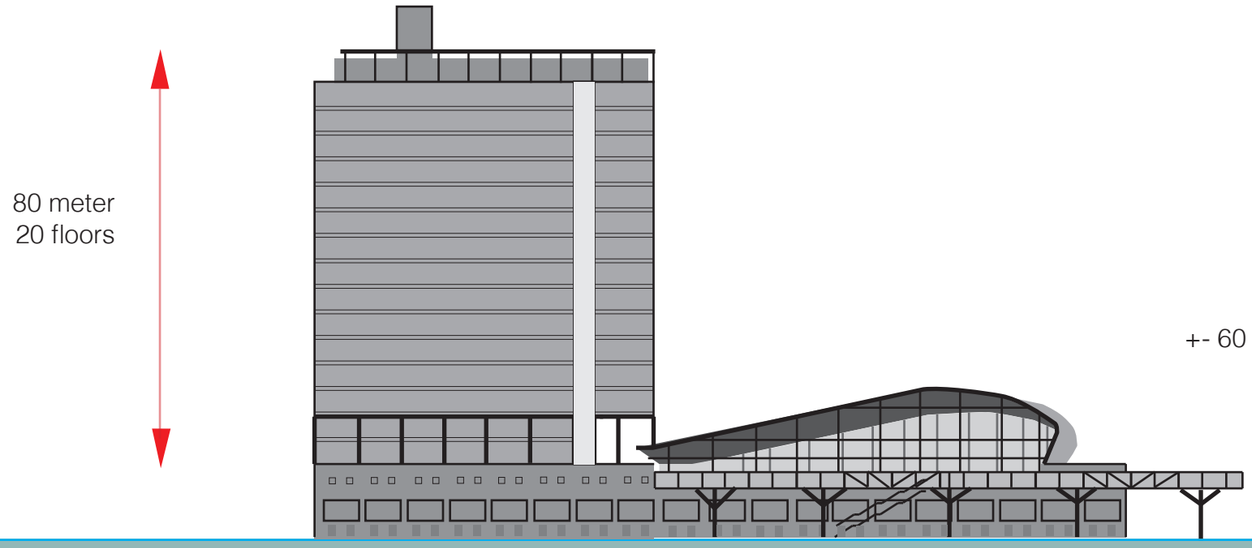
Part II : Inventarisation

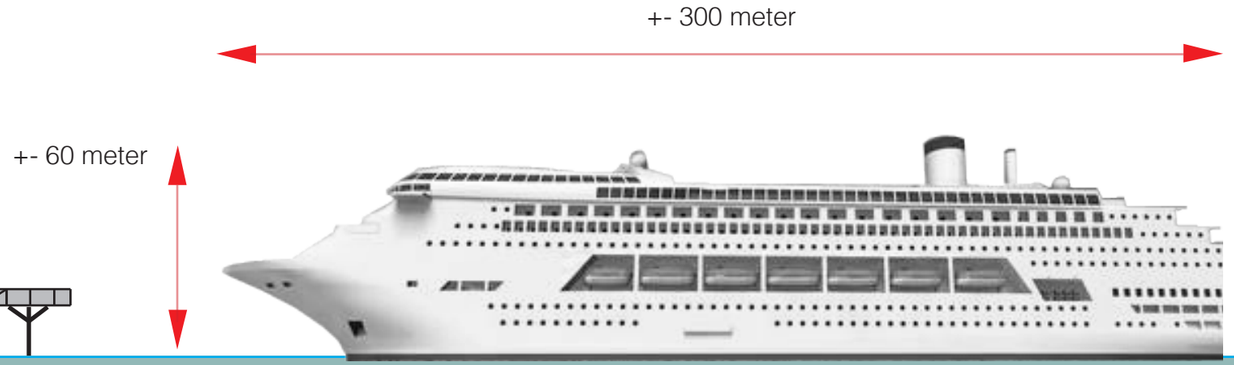
2.1 Overview and location

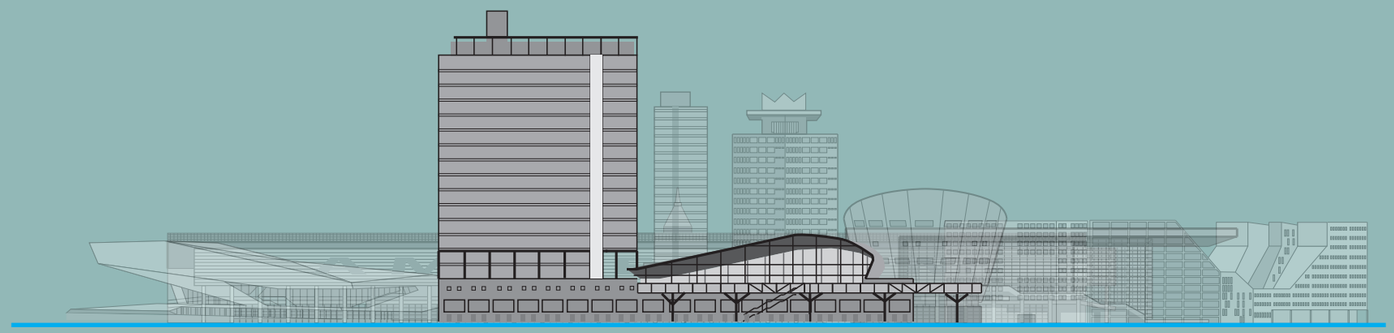


Part II : Inventarisation

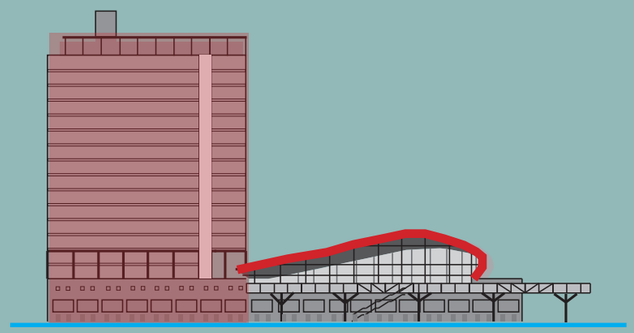
2.2 Passenger Terminal Amsterdam & IJ-tower



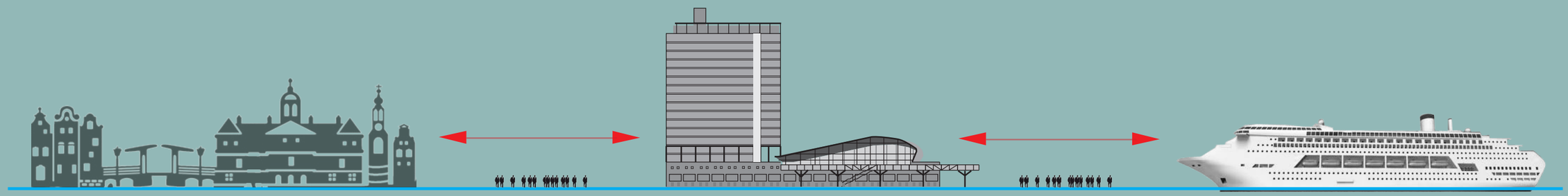




Distinguishability: Highest volume around ‘t IJ



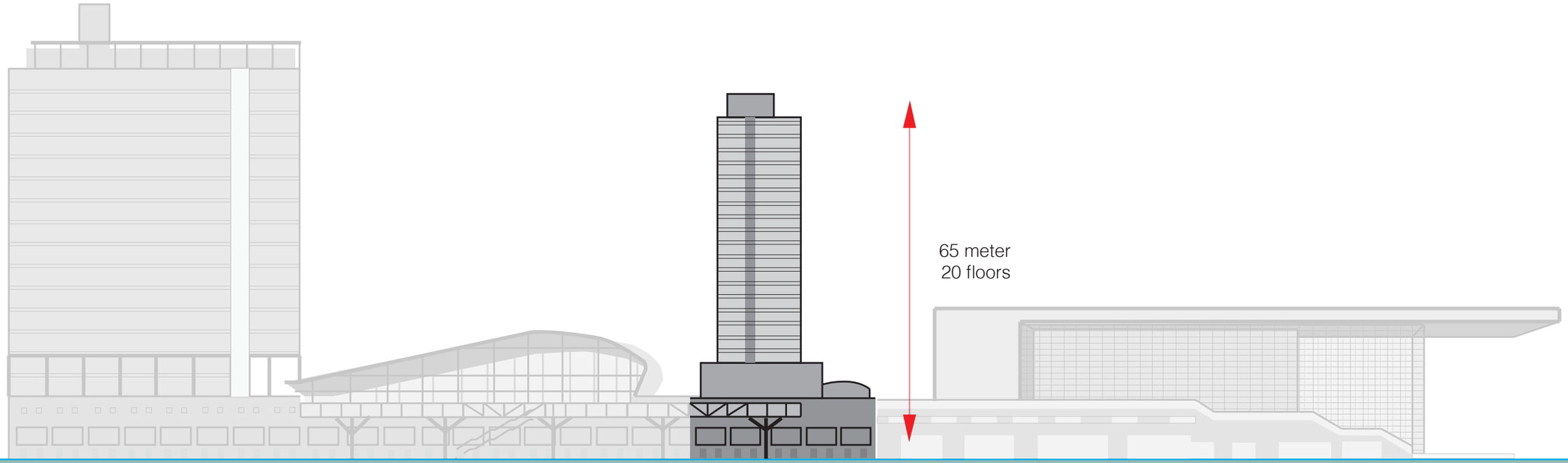
Recognizability: Contrast between a big thin slab and a smooth mass in the shape of a wave.

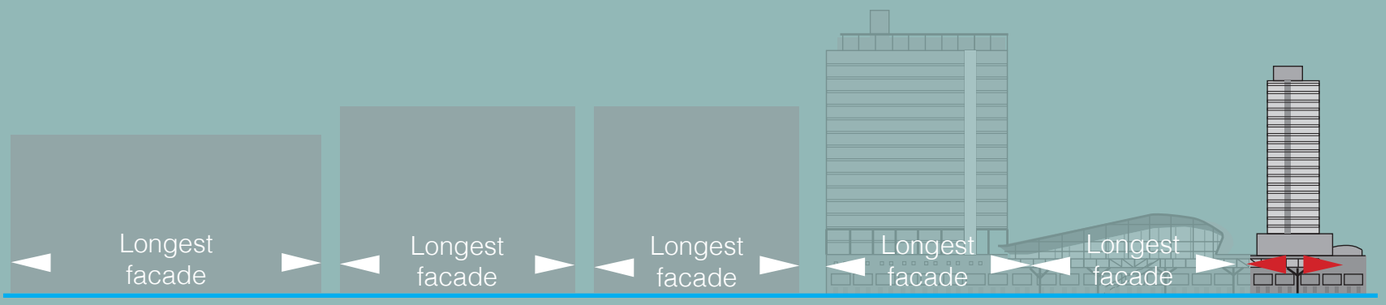


Urban function: The building is the gateway to the center of Amsterdam for tourist coming by cruiseship and therefore the face of Amsterdam

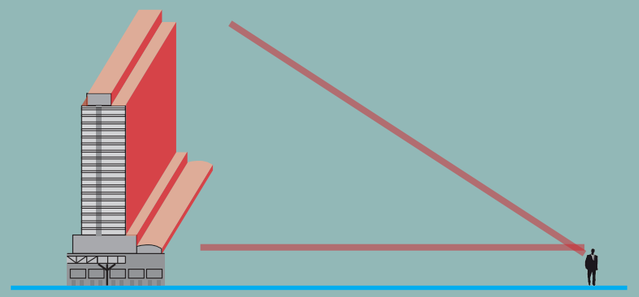
Part II : Inventarisation

2.3 Mövenpick Hotel





Distinguishability: Contrasting positioning of the building-volume in the urban fabric

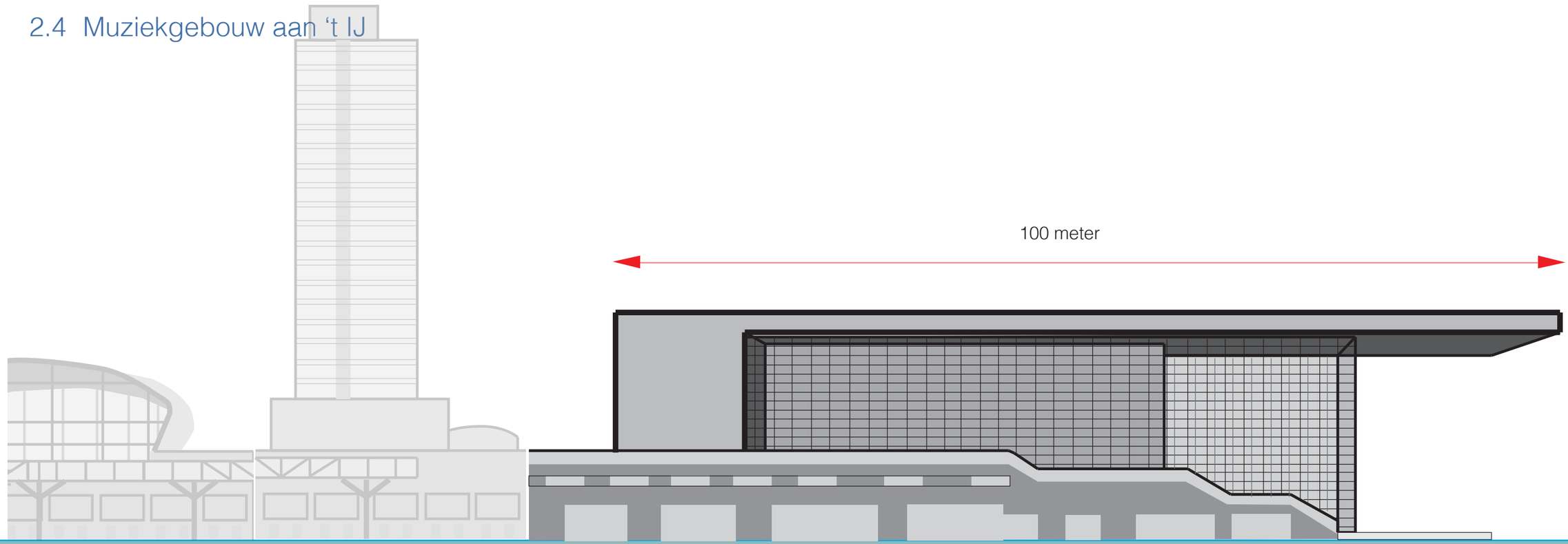


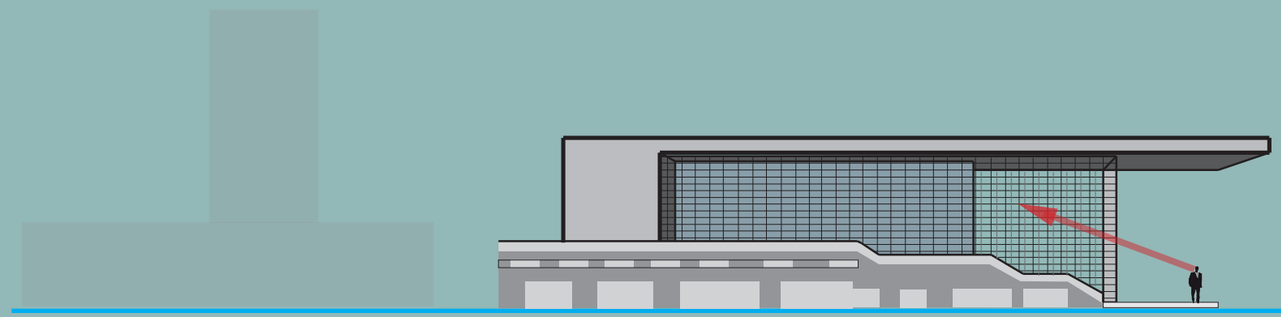
Recognizability: Big thin slab is very present in large area

Urban function: The building performs the function as head or end of a long train of buildings with the same monotonous typology

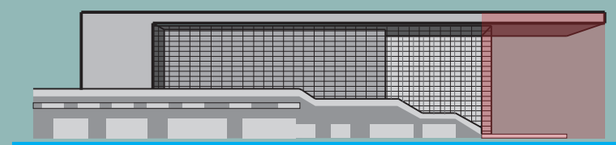
Part II : Inventarisation

2.4 Muziekgebouw aan ‘t IJ

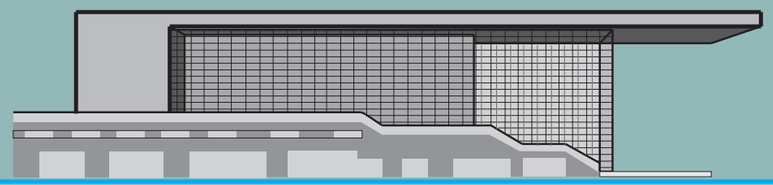




Distinguishability: Very transparant building at the point of the *Oostelijke Handelskade*, visible on wide range



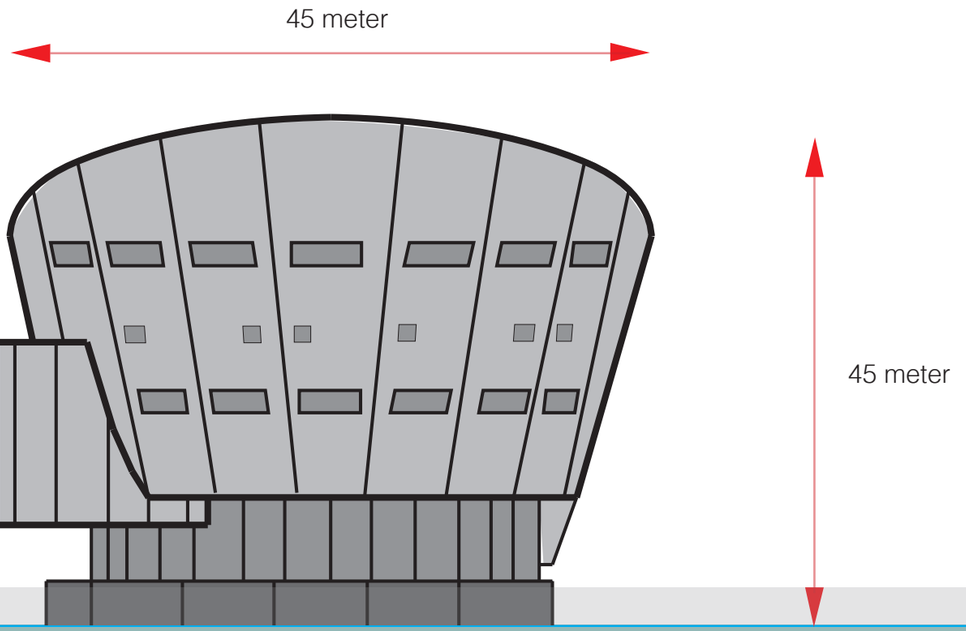
Recognizability: Powerful and clear gesture in architecture, the urban stage

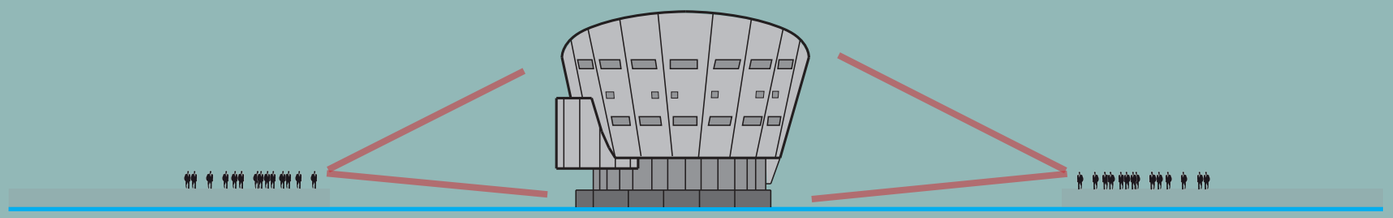


Urban function: An urban stage for the city of Amsterdam (events, television). Therefore maybe the face of ‘t IJ.

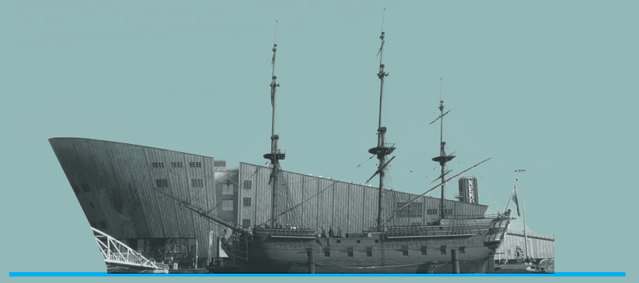
Part II : Inventarisation

2.5 NEMO

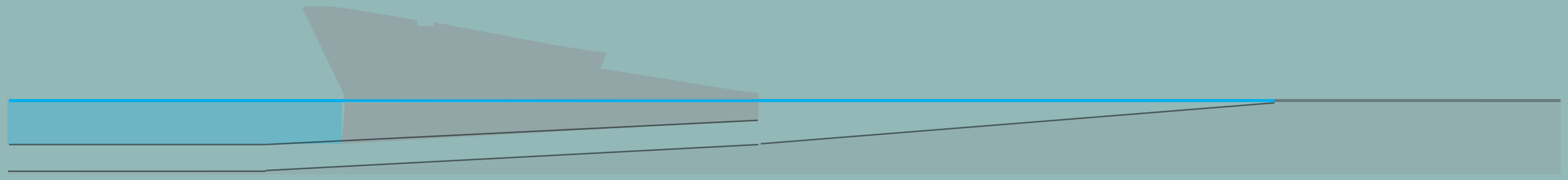




Distinguishability: Situated in the middle of the *Oosterdok* surrounded by water and visible from al sides



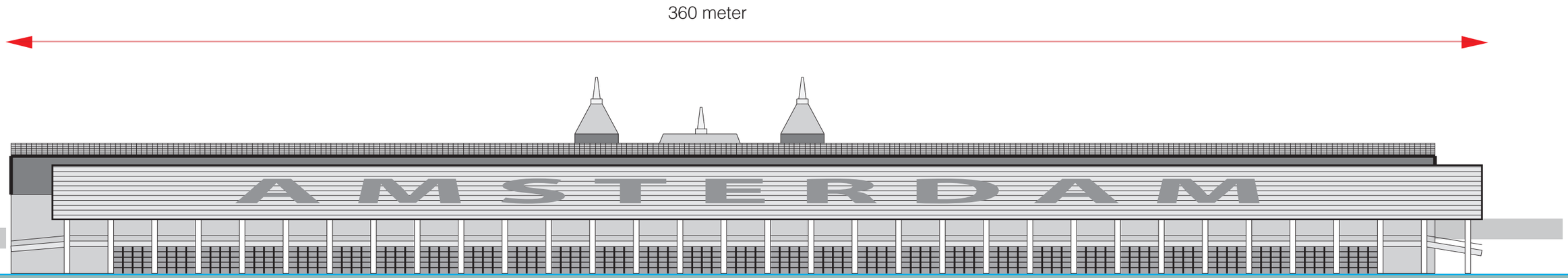
Recognizability: Architecural shape like a ship lying in the middle of a harbour (foto: www.panaramio.com)

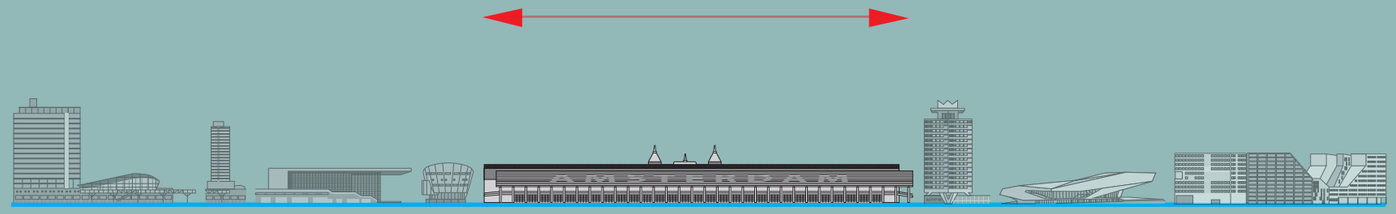


Urban function: Landmark guiding the entrance/exit of the IJ-tunnel. Being a vessel for science on urban but also national scale.

Part II : Inventarisation

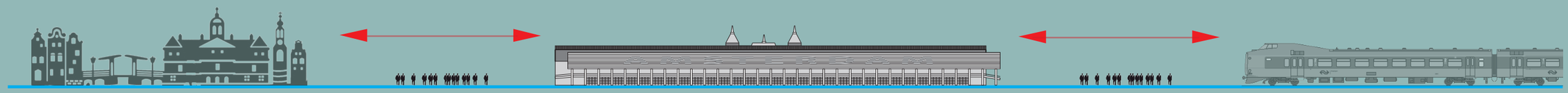
2.6 Amsterdam Central Station





Distinguishability: By far the longest volume around ‘t IJ and part of much longer infrastructure in the city.

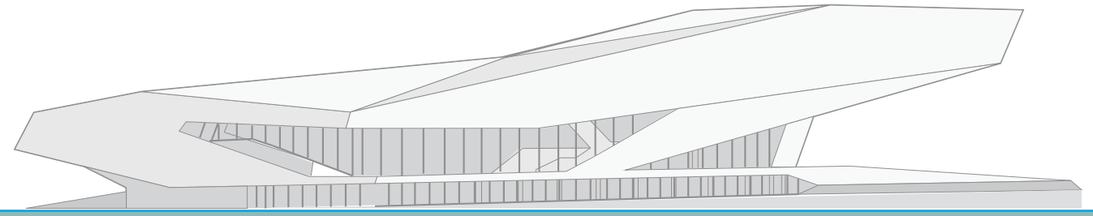
Recognizability: The high monumentality of the entrance facade of the station

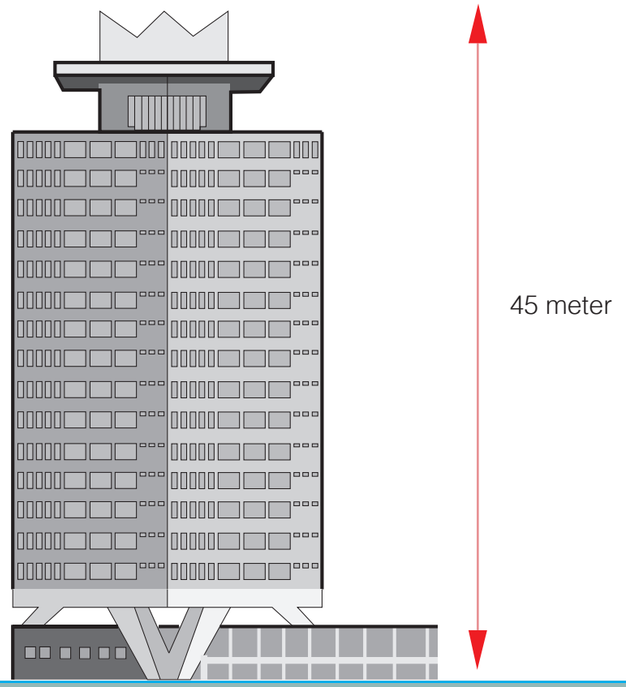


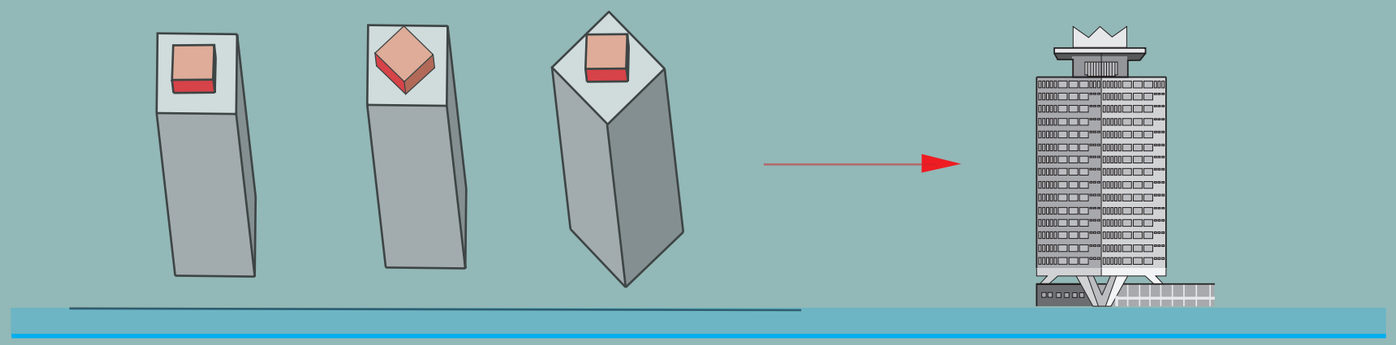
Urban function: The building is the gateway to the center of Amsterdam for tourist coming by train and bus and therefore the face of Amsterdam

Part II : Inventarisation

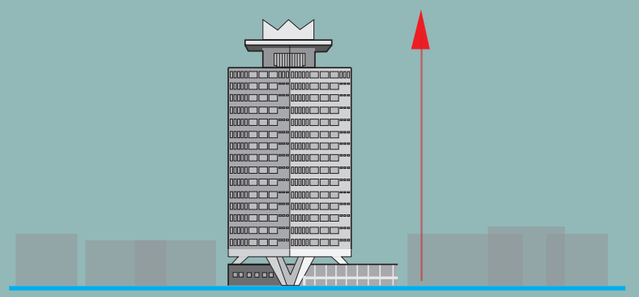
2.7 Tower Overhoeks







Distinguishability: Clear gesture to be different than the avarage sqaure or rectangular tower by making a clearly visible 45 degrees rotation. Also regarding the water-line.

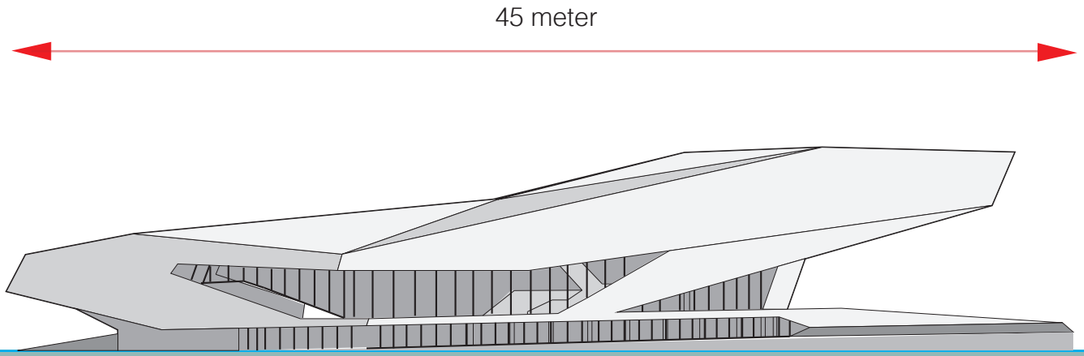


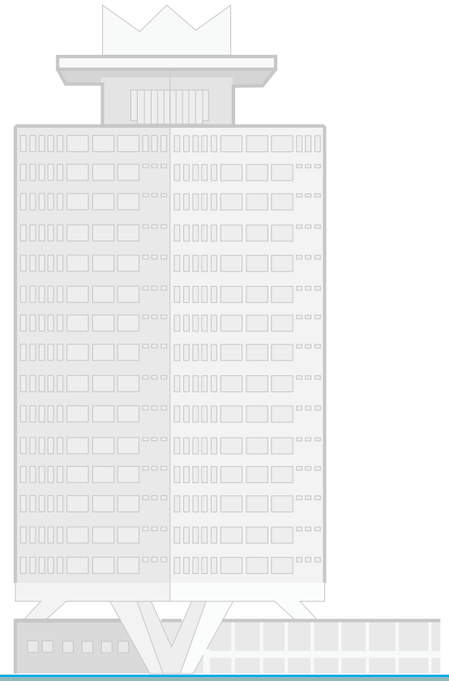
Recognizability: Only high-rise on the shore of Amsterdam-North. Very powerful on skyline

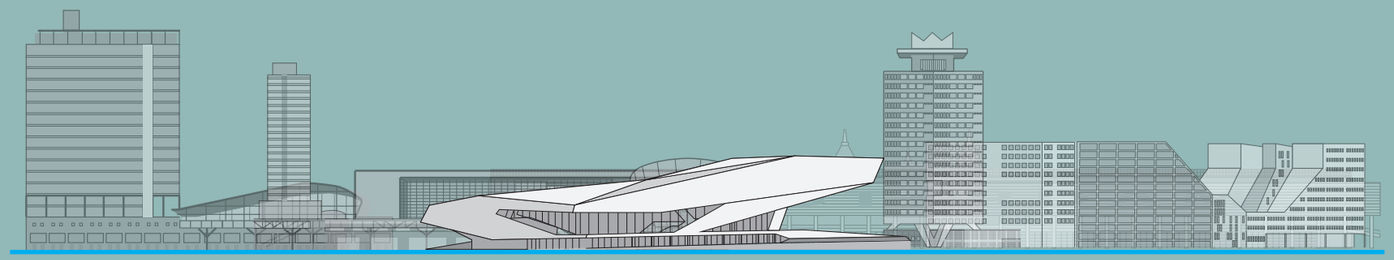
Urban function: Part of the history of Amsterdam as area of Shell and nowadays because of it solitary postion the face of Amsterdam-North

Part II : Inventarisation

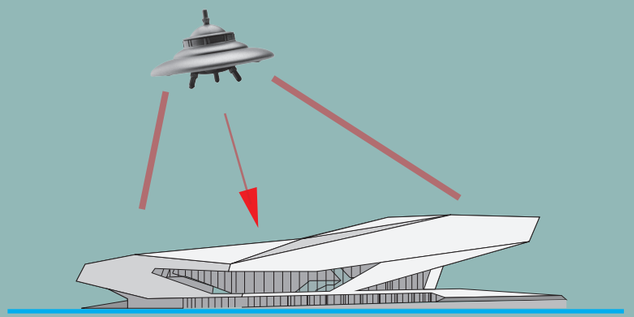
2.8 EYE



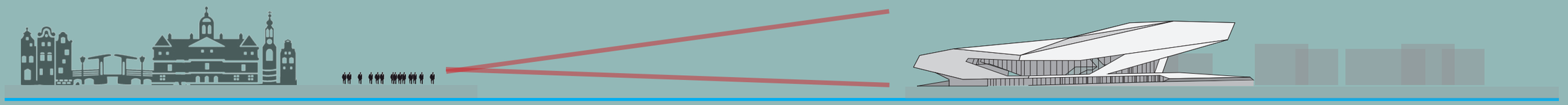




Distinguishability: His very modern architecture is very different than the other landmarks in Amsterdam, even than other buildings in the Netherlands in total.



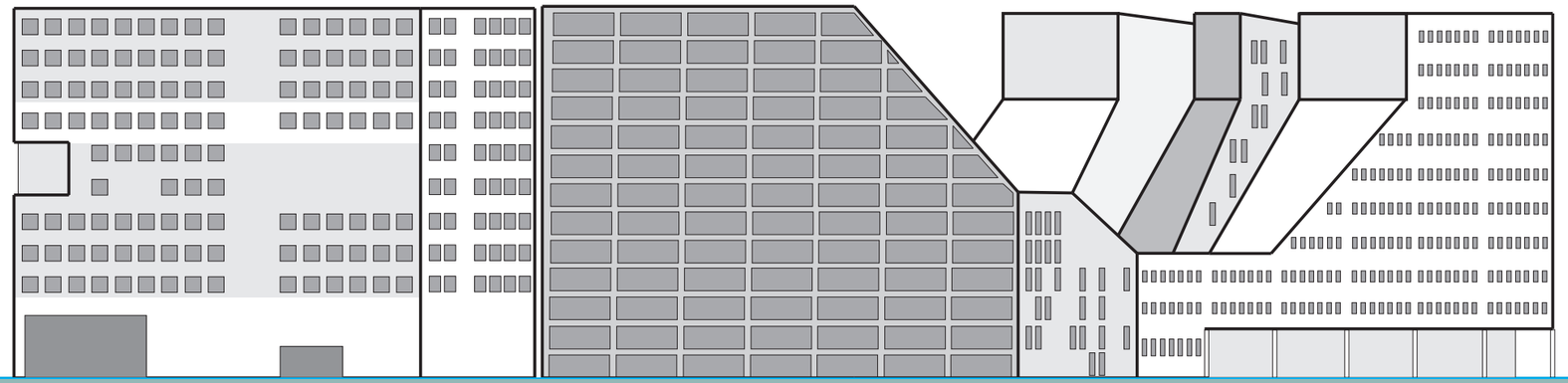
Recognizability: His alien/futuristic shape is immediately visible on the skyline of Amsterdam-North

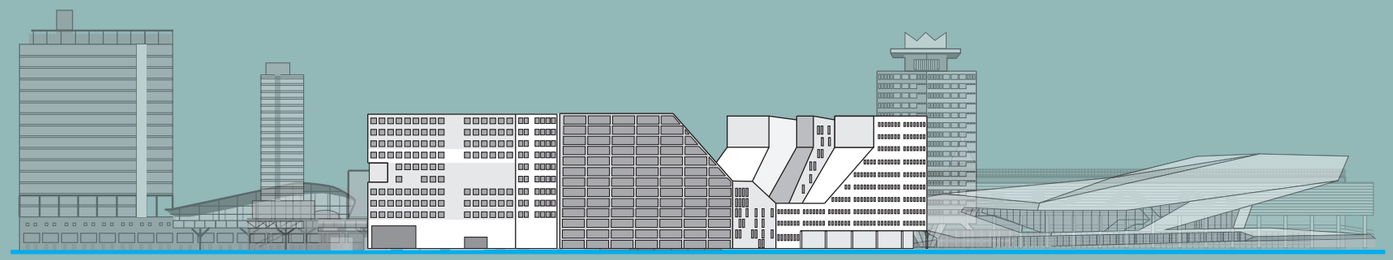


Urban function: Being an icon for the modern architecture in the Netherlands

Part II : Inventarisation

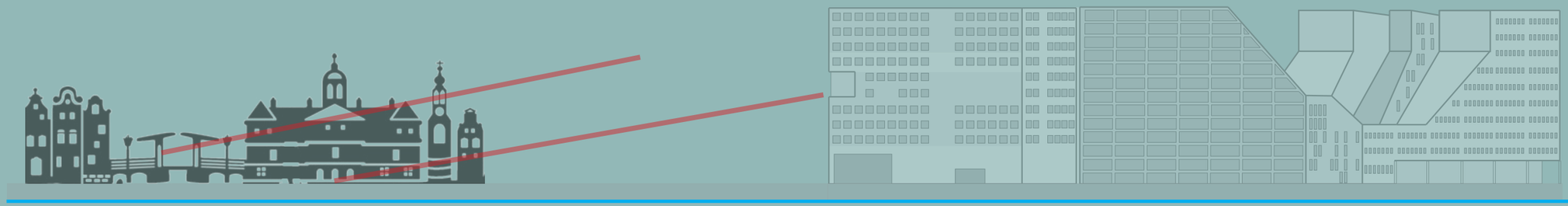
2.9 IJ-Dock





Distinguishability: Significantly bigger mass then the rest of the landmarks around ‘t IJ

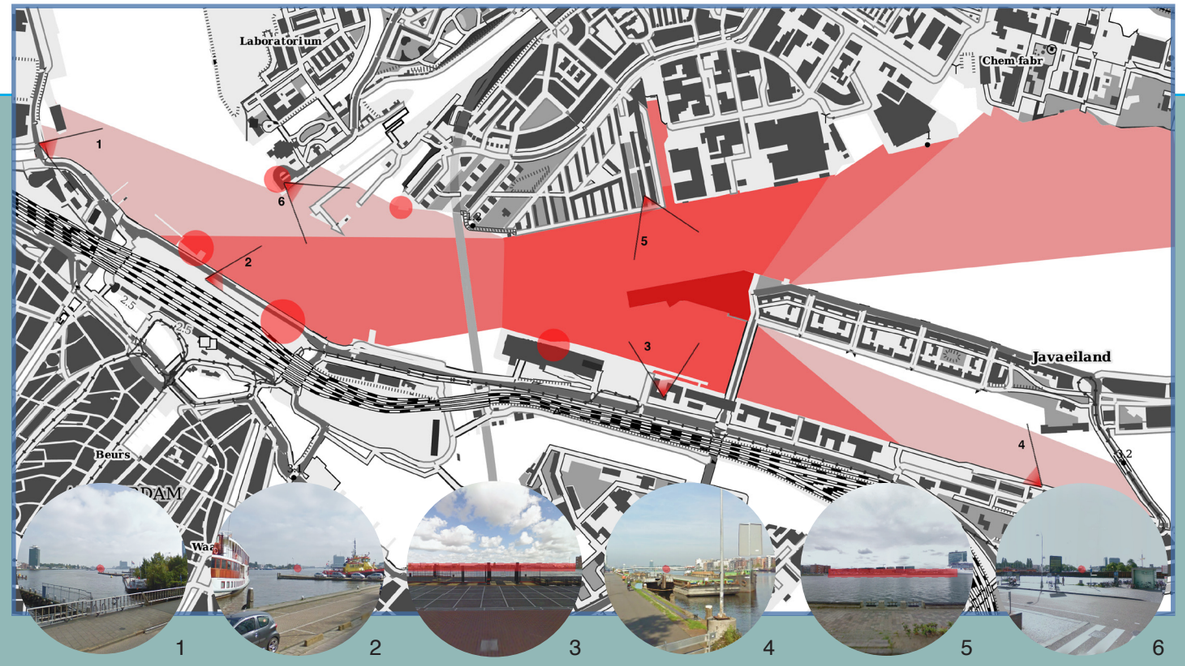
Recognizability: Urban fortress in the middle of ‘t IJ



Urban function: Being visible for ‘t IJ area and invisible for people in the city center

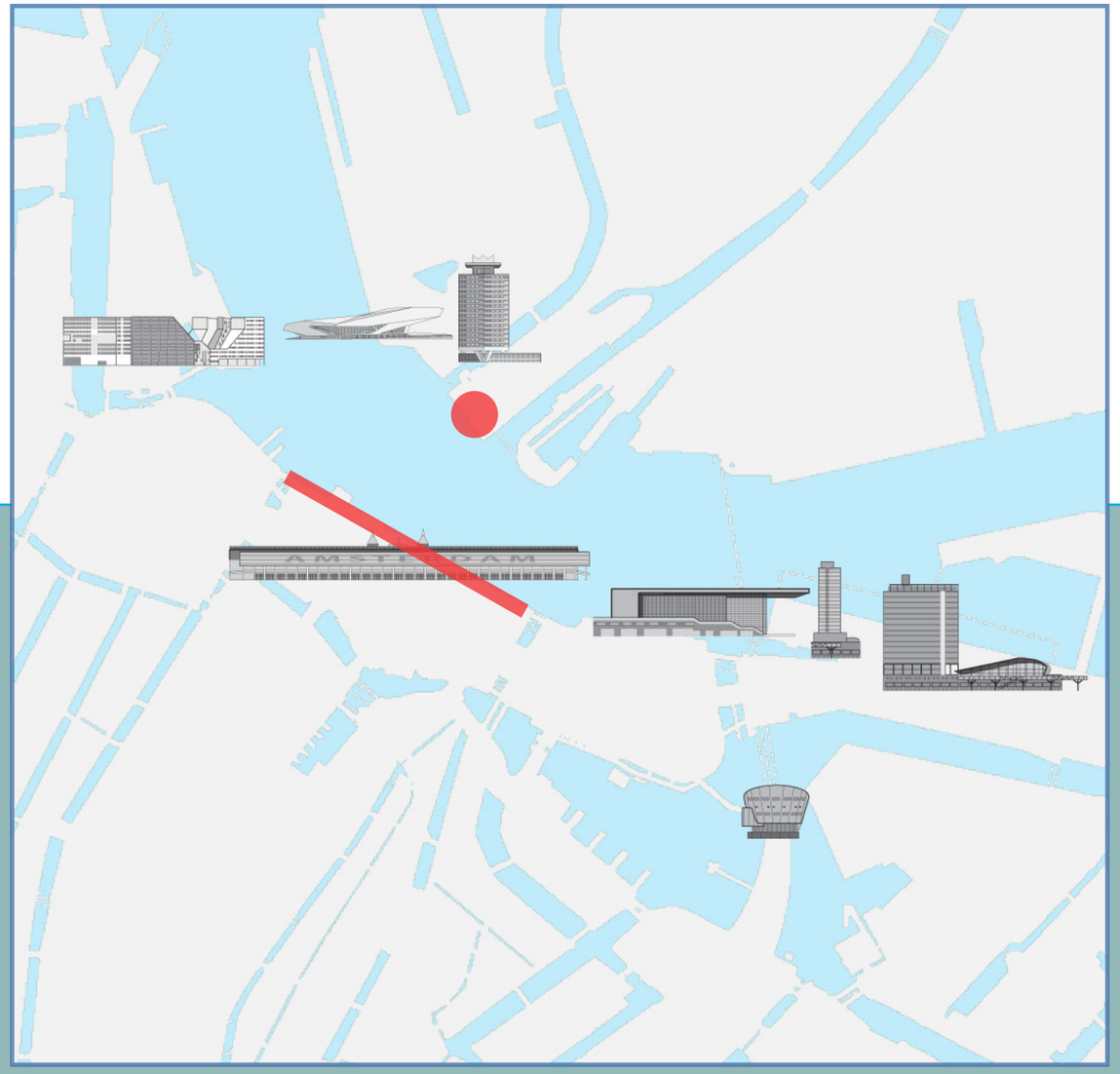
Part III : Relations

3.1 Key Locations



For the analysis of the Head of Java-island we have investigated the visual connections over the IJ to the location. Besides the visibility also some key-locations were being discovered where many passengers can experience the view on the location and the IJ. Generally these locations were public transport terminals. In the image above the degrees of red are indicating the visibility.

Consequential we can distinguish locations that have a visual connections to all or most of the other landmarks around the IJ.



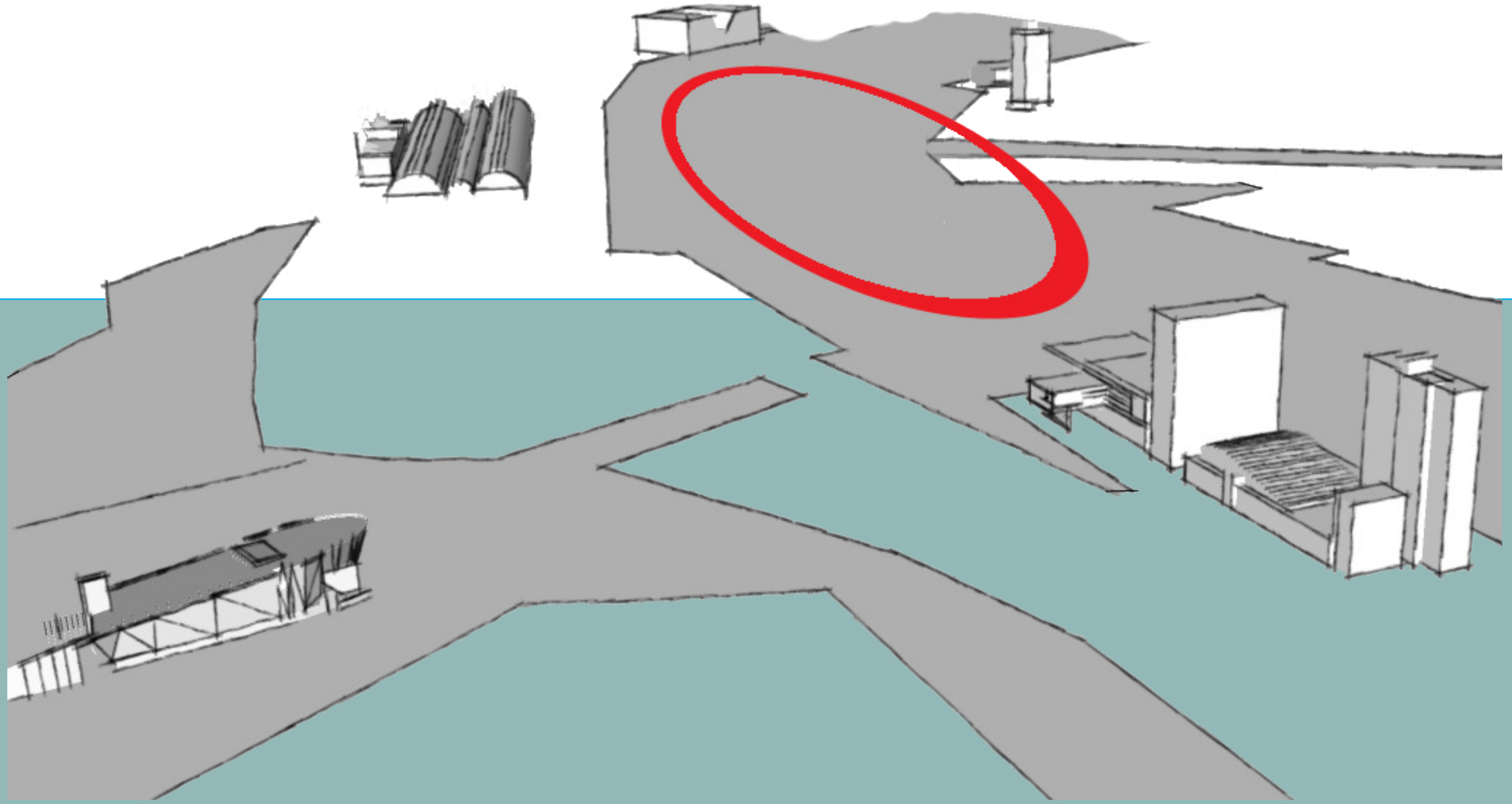
These locations can be seen as the key-locations in the competition between the landmarks. As seen in the image above are we talking about two.

The first one is the zone at the back side of Amsterdam Central Station. Until not very long ago this was literally the back side of the city. Nowadays this is a busy road and important node in the public transport infrastructure. The second one is the quay where the ferry-boat stops on the northern shore of the IJ.

Part III : Relations

3.2 Ground level relations

When we are standing on ground level the connection between the landmarks around the IJ is very strong. Especially the buildings like: Central Station, EYE, Toren Overhoeks and Muziekgebouw aan ‘t IJ have a special connection because of the water between them. NEMO and the Passengers Terminal Amsterdam have due to their location a secundary position.

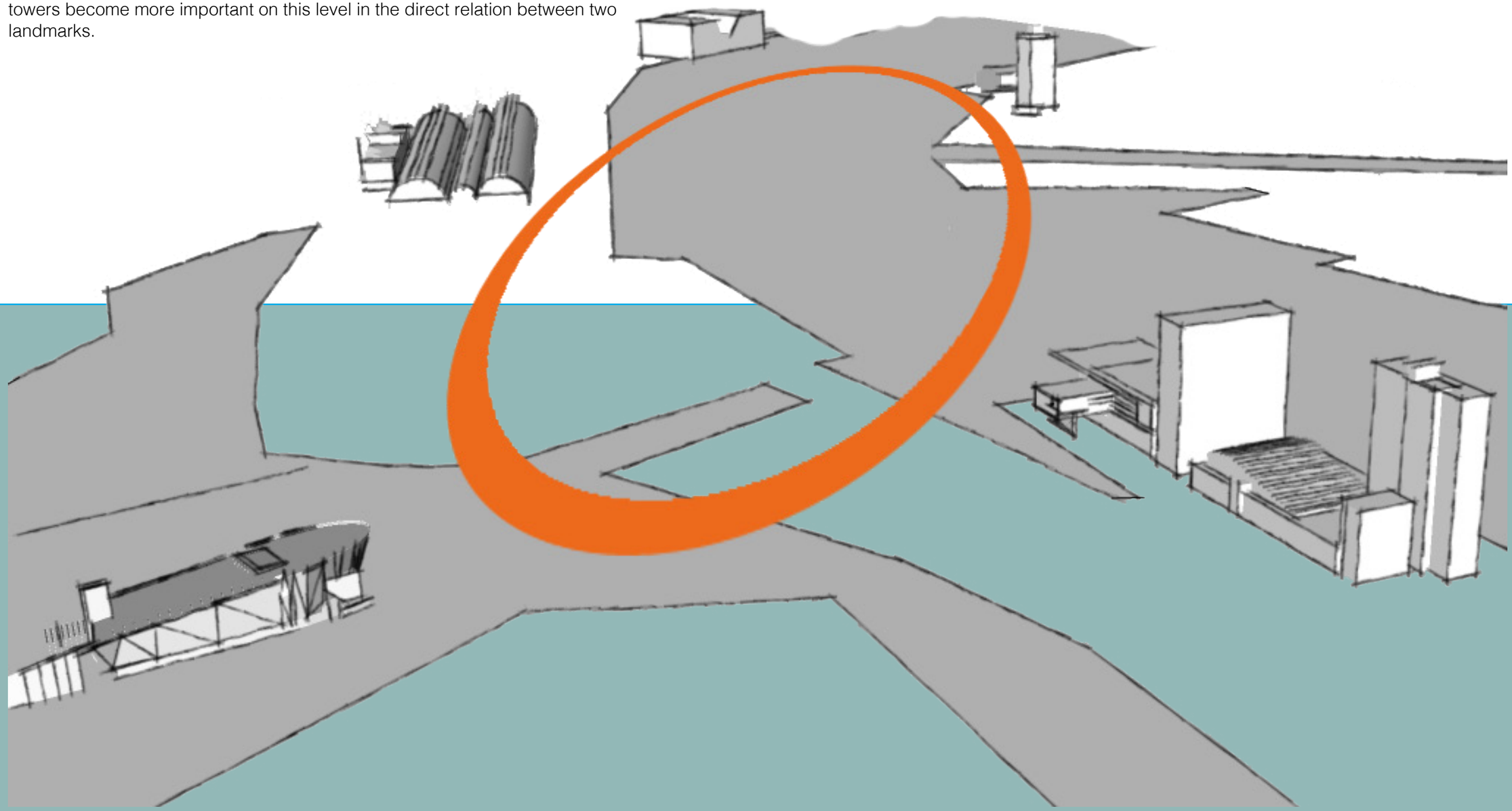


Part III : Relations

3.3 High-rise relations

But on a higher level different connections can be made because some landmarks are or include towers. These towers have an extra relation with each other. Because of the height of the towers NEMO is also visible from these buildings.

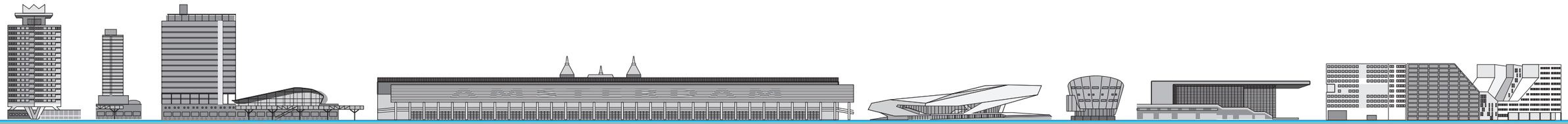
This way a different relation can be experienced when standing in one of the towers with more landmarks included than standing on ground-level. Also the towers become more important on this level in the direct relation between two landmarks.



Part IV : Typology & Size

4.1 Typology

Between the landmarks we can find different kinds of functionalities and typologies. The tower Overhoeks, Mövenpick Hotel and the PTA all have or are towers. Two of them have an office building typology. The EYE, NEMO, Muziekgebouw aan ‘t IJ are typical modern public buildings and are opening themselves to the public. The central station is for the greater part a normal 19th century railway station with some expansions over the years. The IJ-dock is the only hybrid-landmark/icon in the area and holds besides some different public functions also a housing program. Single housing landmarks/icons does not exist yet in this area. Silodam could be seen as a building in this category but is too far away to compete with the other landmarks discussed in this research.



The officetower

The hoteltower

The officetower and large terminal

The traditional 19th century railway station and large terminal

The modern museum

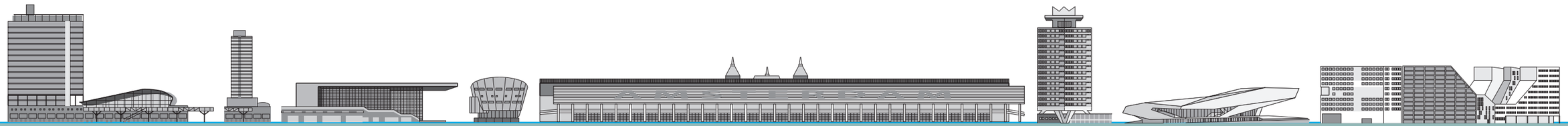
The modern museum

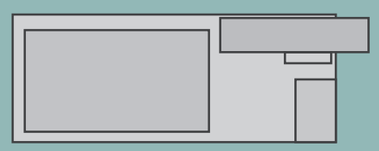
The modern concerthall

The hybrid building blockW

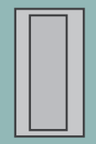
Part IV : Typology & Size

4.2 Architectural form

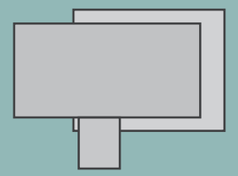




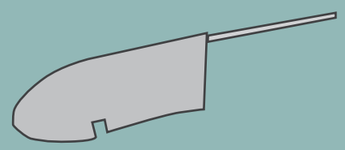
Passenger Terminal Amsterdam: Orthogonal placed volumes and rectangles



Mövenpick Hotel: Rectangle

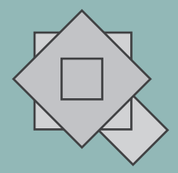


Muziekgebouw aan ‘t IJ: Orthogonal composition of different beams

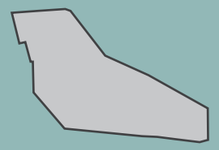


NEMO: The symbolic naval shape (ship)

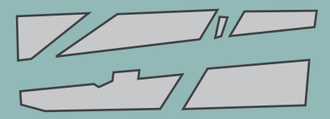
Central Station: Longitudinal halls / crossroad



Tower Overhoeks: Twisted squares and rectangles



EYE: The harmonic freeform

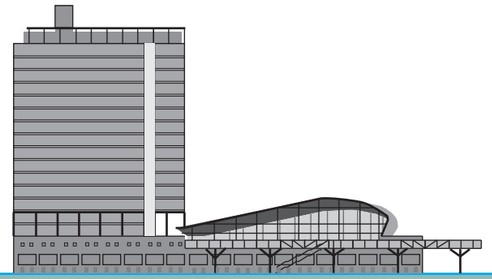


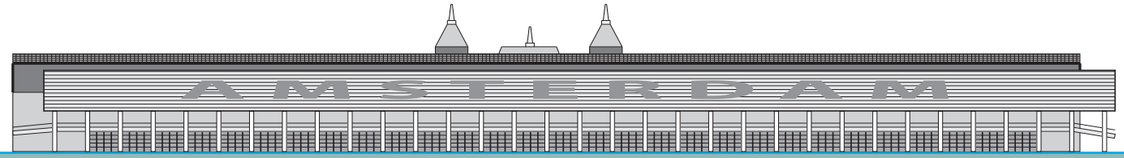
IJ-Dock: The scooped-out-clay-block

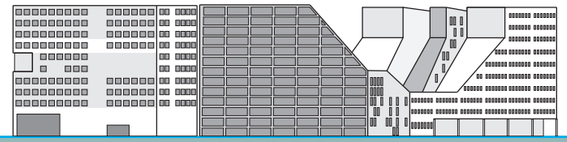
Part IV : Typology & Size

4.1 Size

How vulgar it may be, there are three winners in the battle of size in this selection of landmarks. The reason to investigate these measurements is because of the impact these large buildings have on the other icons and landmarks. To compete with these megastructures a building don't have to be bigger, longer or larger but have to be comparable. Catagorized in the same dimensional-interval of buildings.







Highest building: approximetely 80 metres high

Longest structure: approximetely 300 metres long

Largest surface / volume: approximetely 89.000 square metres
356.000 cubic metres

Part V : Requiremenst

5.1 Conclusions

urban function	typology	architectural form	relations	size	overall
Most of the landmarks around the IJ have public functions and are build for unique programs. These buildings are representing Amsterdam. But housing is also an important program in cities. How the cities are dealing with the housing task can be very charasteristic for the image of a city. Maybe is making a statement for housing a valuable urban function.	There is a range of different typologies around the IJ. There are three towers, three modern cultural buildings, two large terminals and one hybrid landmark. The hybrid landmark is the only landmark that household some housingprogram. A single housingbuilding can easily distinguish itself between the other landmarks.	Squares and rectangles. Only the EYE is really distinguishing itself from the other landmarks because of its form. This freefrom is considerable different. Triangles and round shapes are clearly missing in the scala of forms around the IJ. Maybe could the housingbuilding use this niche.	Because of the location of the head from Java-island is the height an important factor in the design. Only high-rise can communicate with the landmarks as IJ-Dock, the EYE and NEMO and becomes visible on a wide range. If the housingbuilding becomes to small the possibility exists that it will perish and become inferior to the other landmarks.	To compete with the other landmarks the housing building can't be to small. The highest buildings is 'unfortunately' directly situated next to the design location. The risk immediately exist that this building figurely cast a shadow over the housing building. This is not the ambition for this building.	Clearly the design task for the housing building is dual. On one side the building must contain quality dwellings. But on the other hand it must hold himself between the other, maybe intimidating, landmarks and icons around the IJ. These two ambitions could cause conflict. On every step and with every scale a thorough and deliberate approach with these two ambitions in mind must be applied.

Notes:

Background information

http://www.ptamsterdam.nl
http://www.moevenpick-hotels.com
http://www.muziekgebouw.nl
http://www.e-nemo.nl
http://www.amsterdamcentraal.nu
http://www.ijdock.nl
http://www.eyefilm.nl
http://www.overhoeks.nl

Used for drawings and analysis

http://www.google.nl/images
http://www.google.nl/maps (Google Earth)