



Antwerp Unearthed

The capacity of Antwerp's historic underground canal system in facilitating future security for environmental and social infrastructures.



1. *Fascination*

2. *Problem*

3. *Question*

4. *Theory*

5. *Method*

6. *Experiment*

7. *Results*

8. *Relevance*

Content

1. Fascination

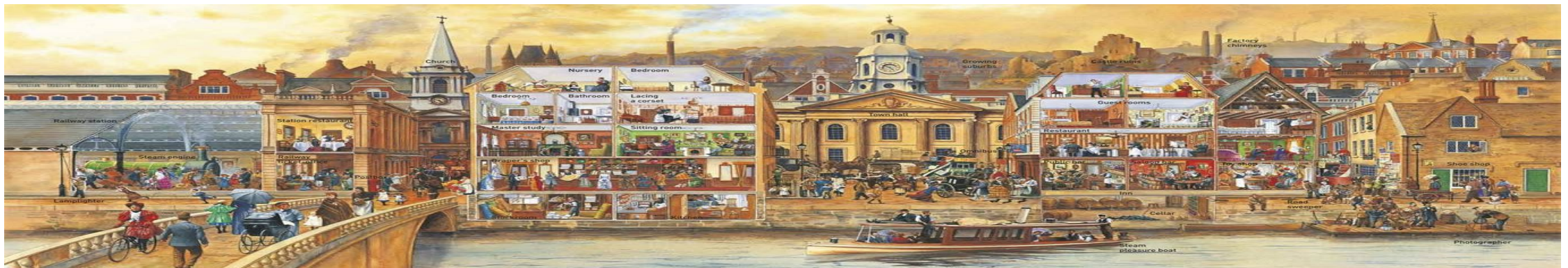






London
Piccadilly Circus

A Street Through Time | Anne Millard

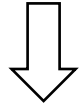


2. Problem

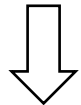




CLIMATE CHANGE



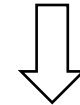
*harsh summers
harsh winters*



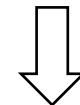
*environmental
infrastructures*



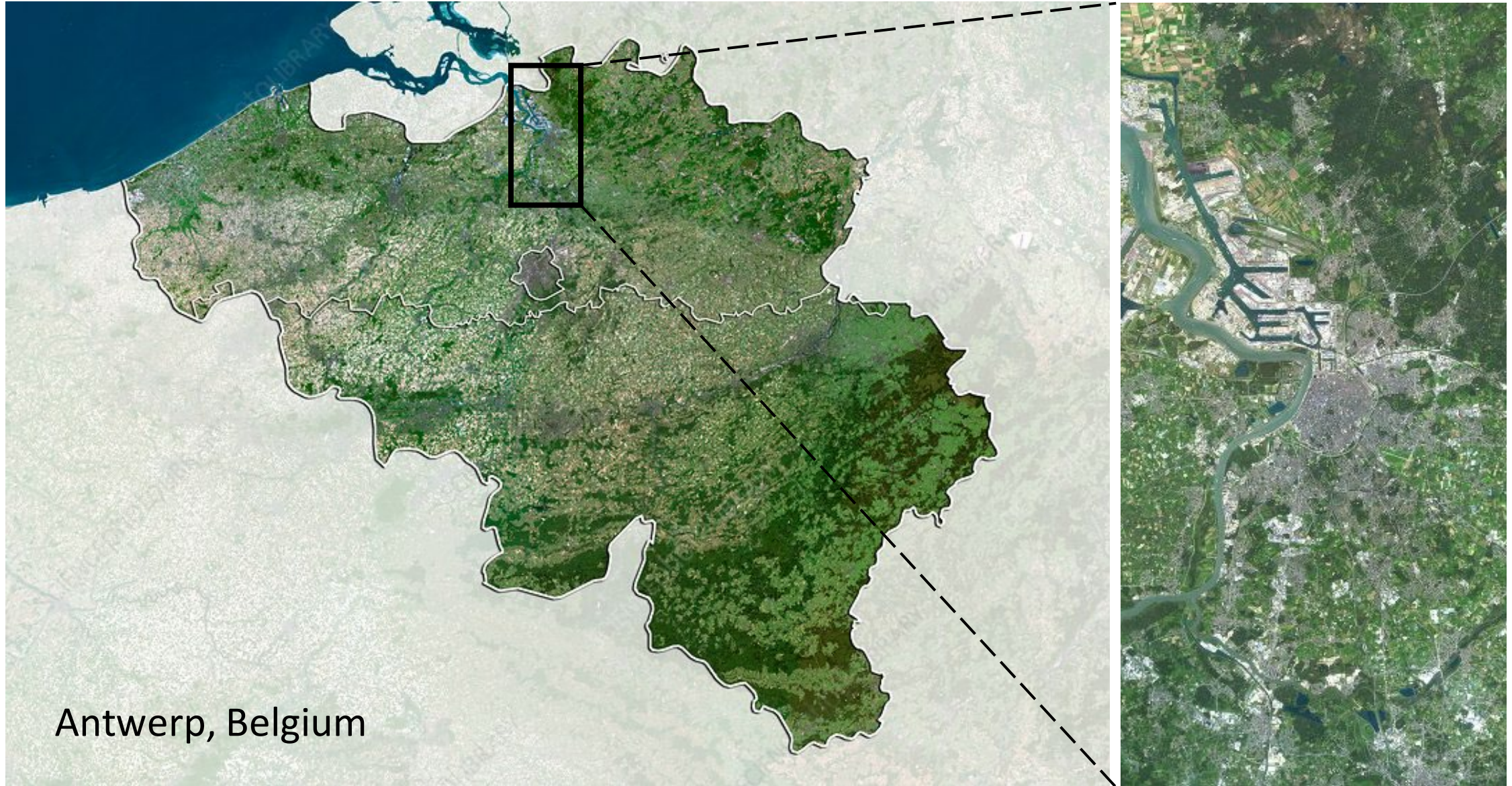
DENSIFICATION



*overcrowding
over renewal*

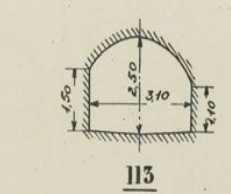
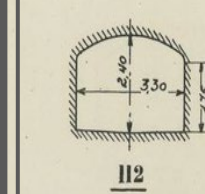
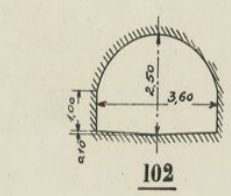
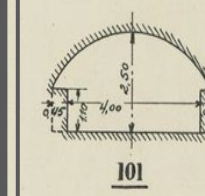
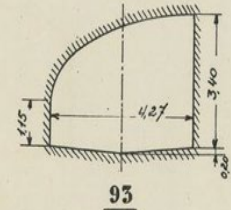
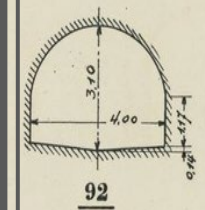


*social
infrastructures*

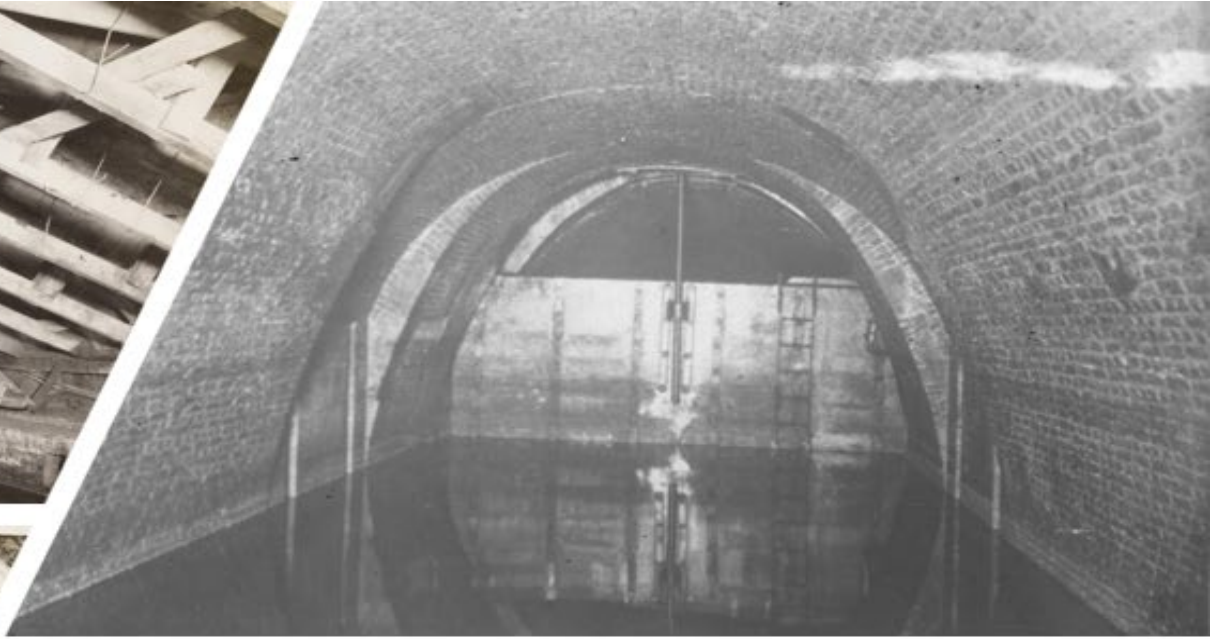


Antwerp, Belgium











3. Question

How can the reappropriation of the decommissioned underground canal system in Antwerp spatially mediate the city's urgencies regarding environmental and social infrastructure?

*How can the reappropriation of the decommissioned underground canal system in Antwerp spatially mediate **the city's urgencies regarding environmental and social infrastructure?***

SQ 1

What is the context of the urgencies regarding environmental and social infrastructure?

insight into external infrastructure problems

SQ 2

What is the context of the decommissioned underground canal system?

insight into internal infrastructure potentials

SQ 3

How can the city's problems be reconciled by the canal's potentials?

insight into design interventions

4. Theory



- Use ‘**integrated infrastructure masterplans**’ to ensure that the long-term land use effects of multiple infrastructural systems are considered jointly.

Delmastro, C., Lavagno, E., & Schranz, L. (2016). Underground urbanism: Master Plans and Sectorial Plans. *Tunnelling and Underground Space Technology*, 55, 103–111. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tust.2016.01.001>

outline operational criteria

set negotiation conditions

- Use a design mindset based on **systems-thinking frameworks** that outline the specific operational criteria and negotiation conditions for the desired infrastructures.

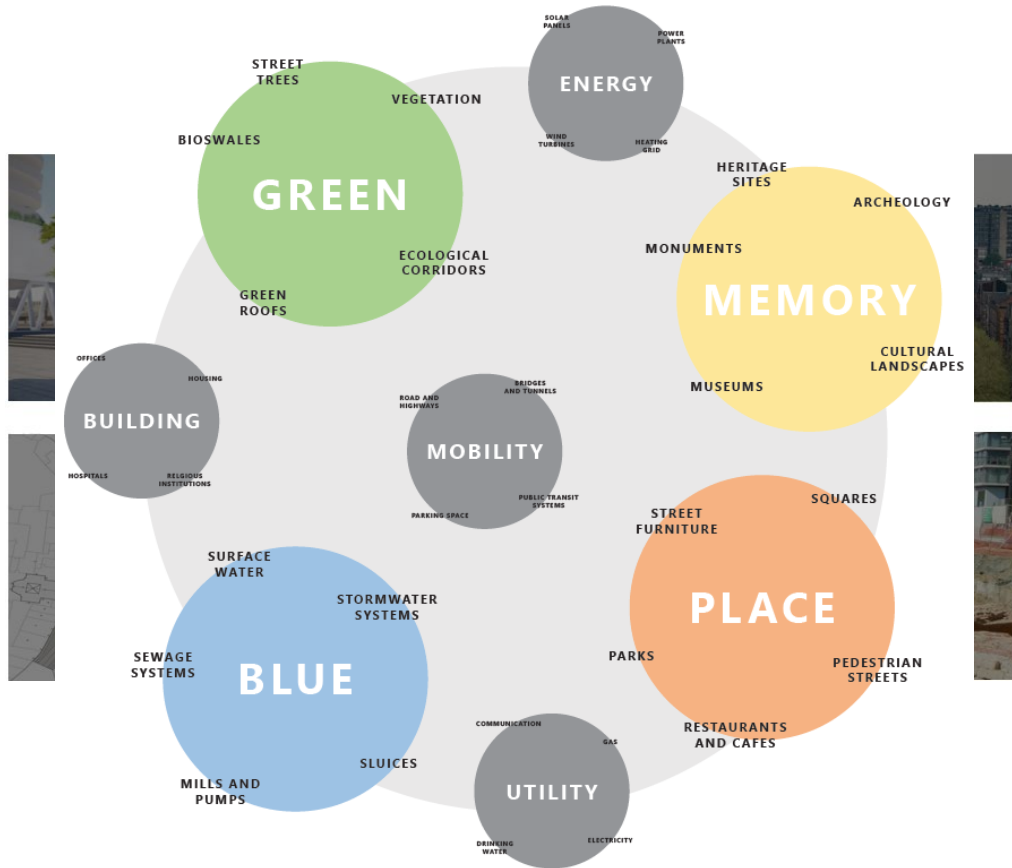
Von Der Tann, L., Sterling, R. L., Zhou, Y., & Metje, N. (2020). Systems approaches to urban underground space planning and management – A review. *Underground Space*, 5(2), 144–166. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.undsp.2019.03.003>



5. Method

RESEARCH QUESTION

implement various infrastructural themes



THEORETICAL QUESTION

implement a systems-thinking design approach

Environmental Maximization Method
(BOOM-Duijvestein, 1998)

1. INVENTORY (problems)
2. ANALYSIS (potentials)
3. MAXIMIZATION (proposals)
4. OPTIMIZATION (principles)
5. INTEGRATION (plans)

	Theme 1	Theme 2	Theme 3	Theme 4			
1. Inventory each theme SQ 1 - <i>outline problems</i>							
2. Analyze each theme SQ 2 - <i>outline potentials</i>							
3. Maximize each theme SQ 3 - <i>outline proposals</i>							
4. Optimize each theme SQ 3 - <i>outline principles</i>		+		+		+	
5. Integrate each theme SQ 3 - <i>outline plans</i>							

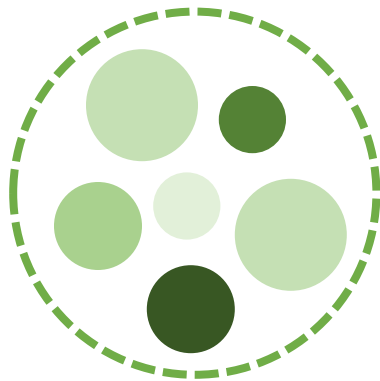
6. Experiment

1. Analysis
(problems)

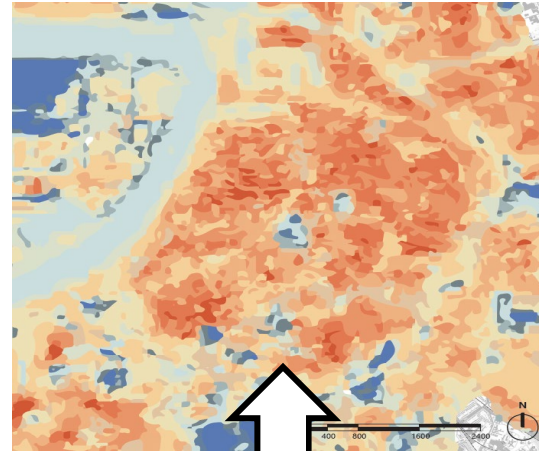
GREEN



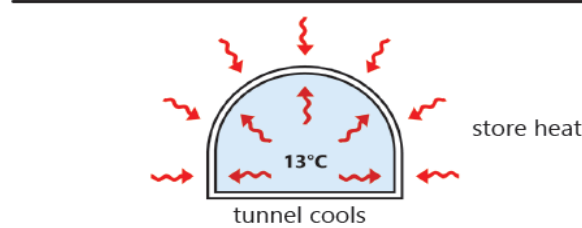
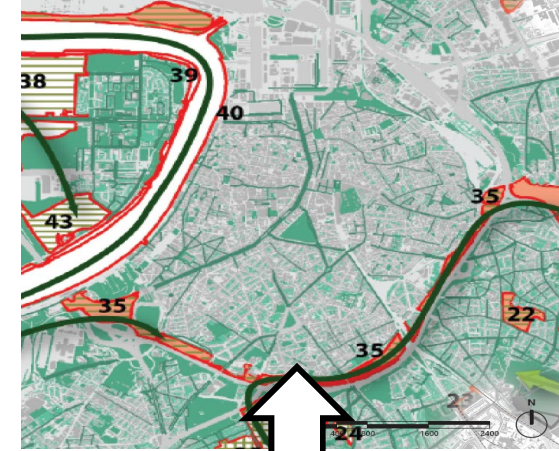
2. Inventory
(potentials)



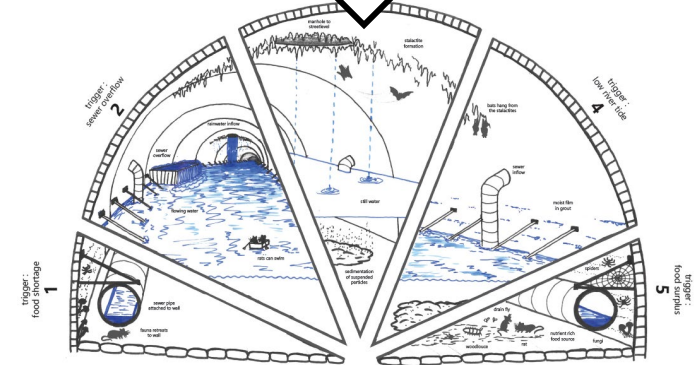
heat stress



ecological struggle

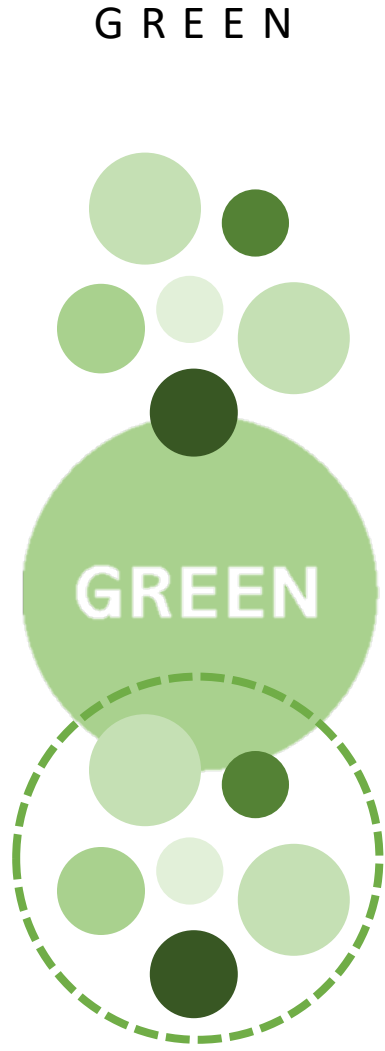


confined microclimate



natural biotopes

2. Inventory & Maximization 1. Analysis (potentials) (proposals) (problems)



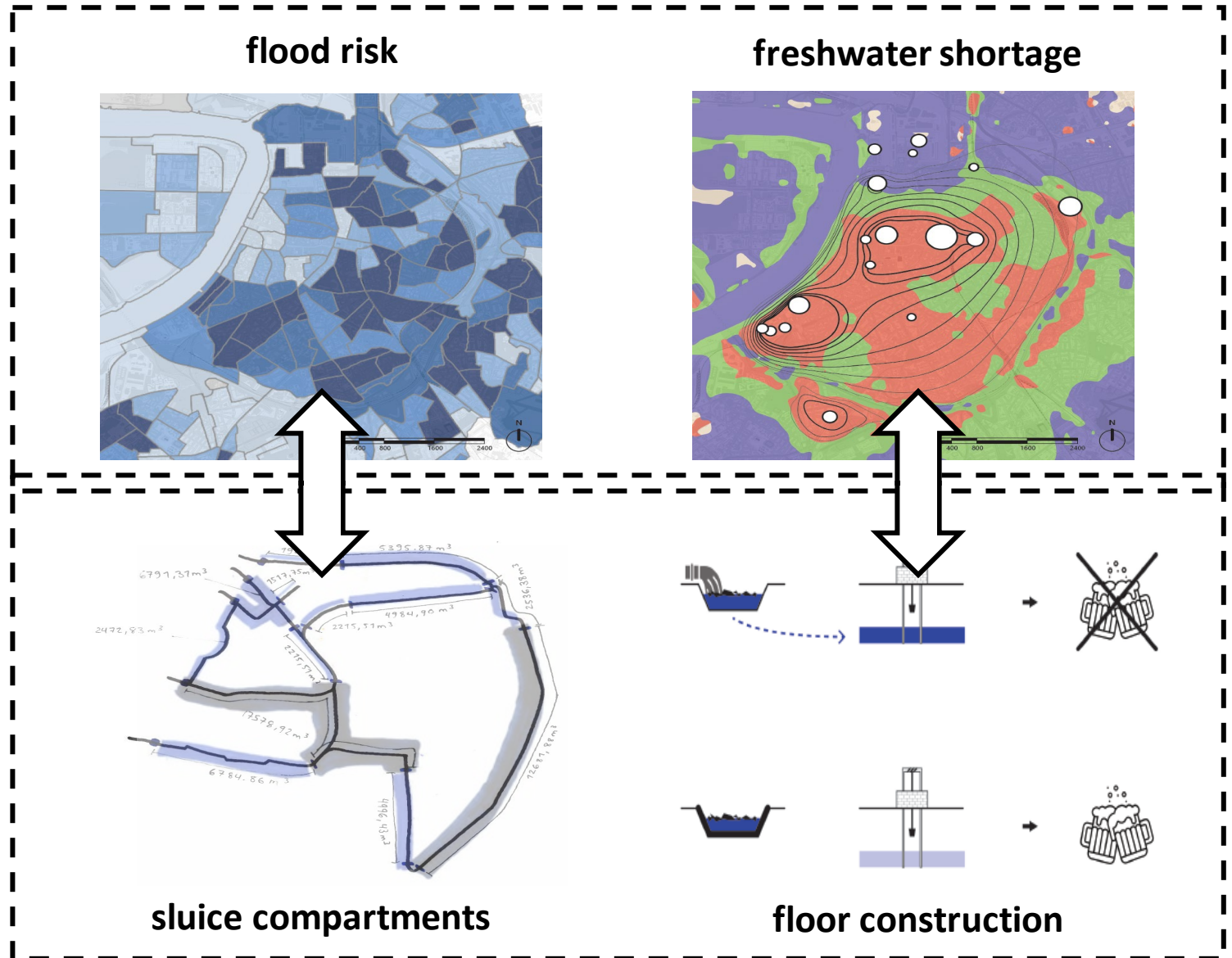
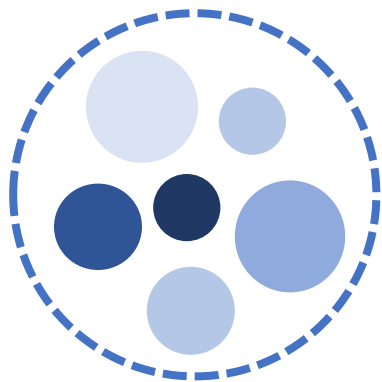
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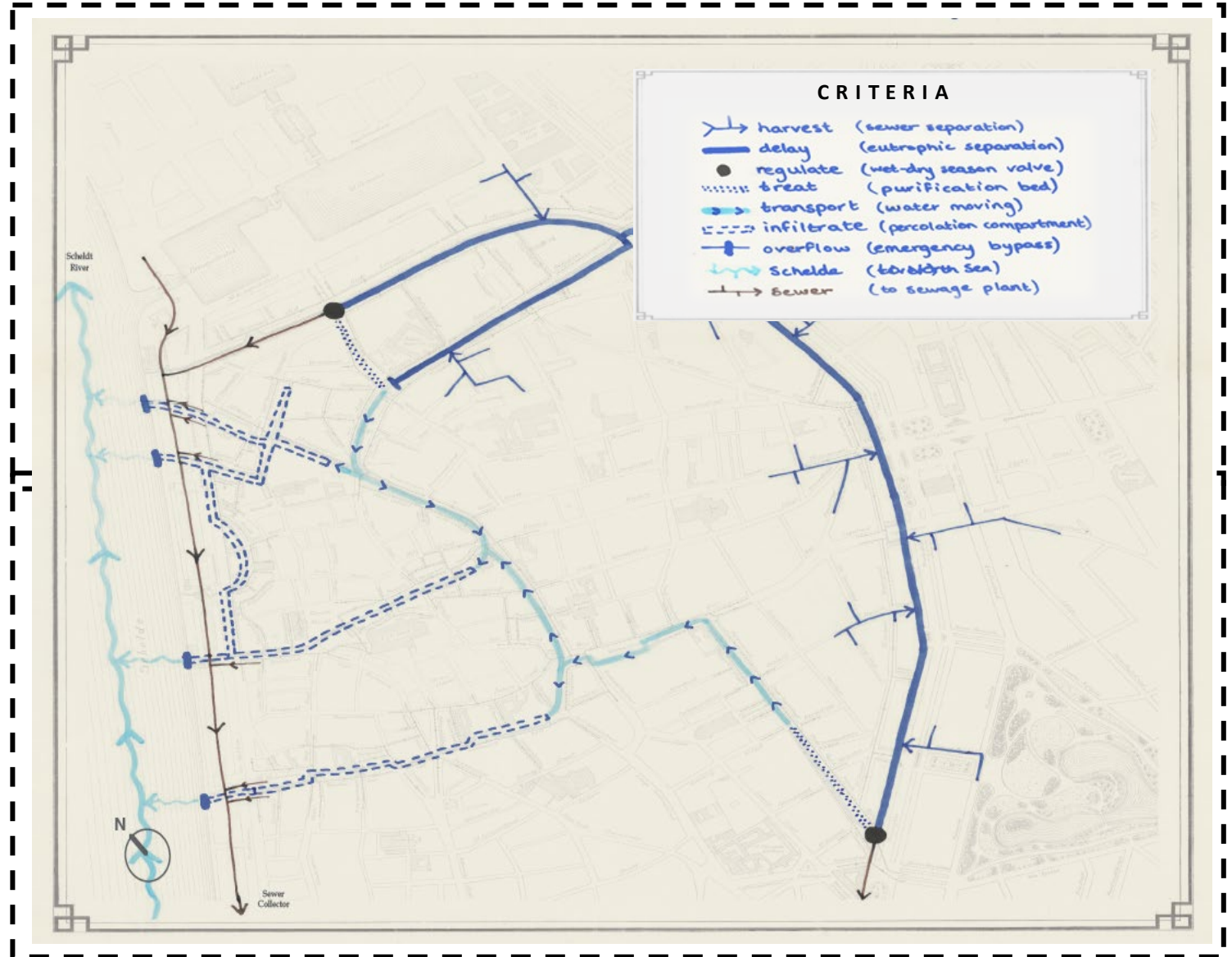
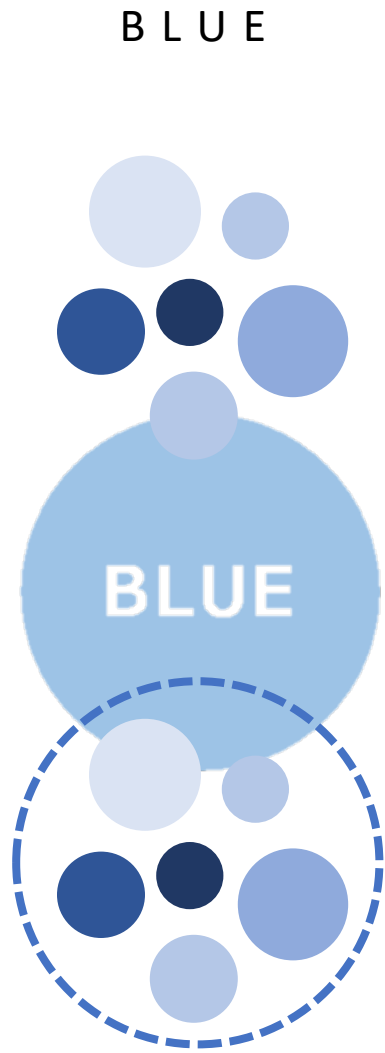
1. Analysis
(problems)



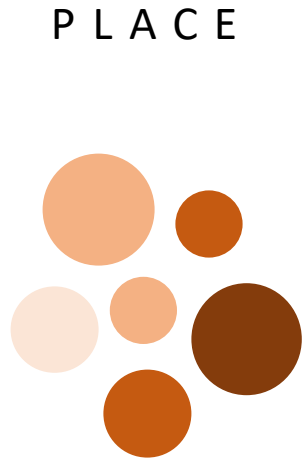
2. Inventory
(potentials)



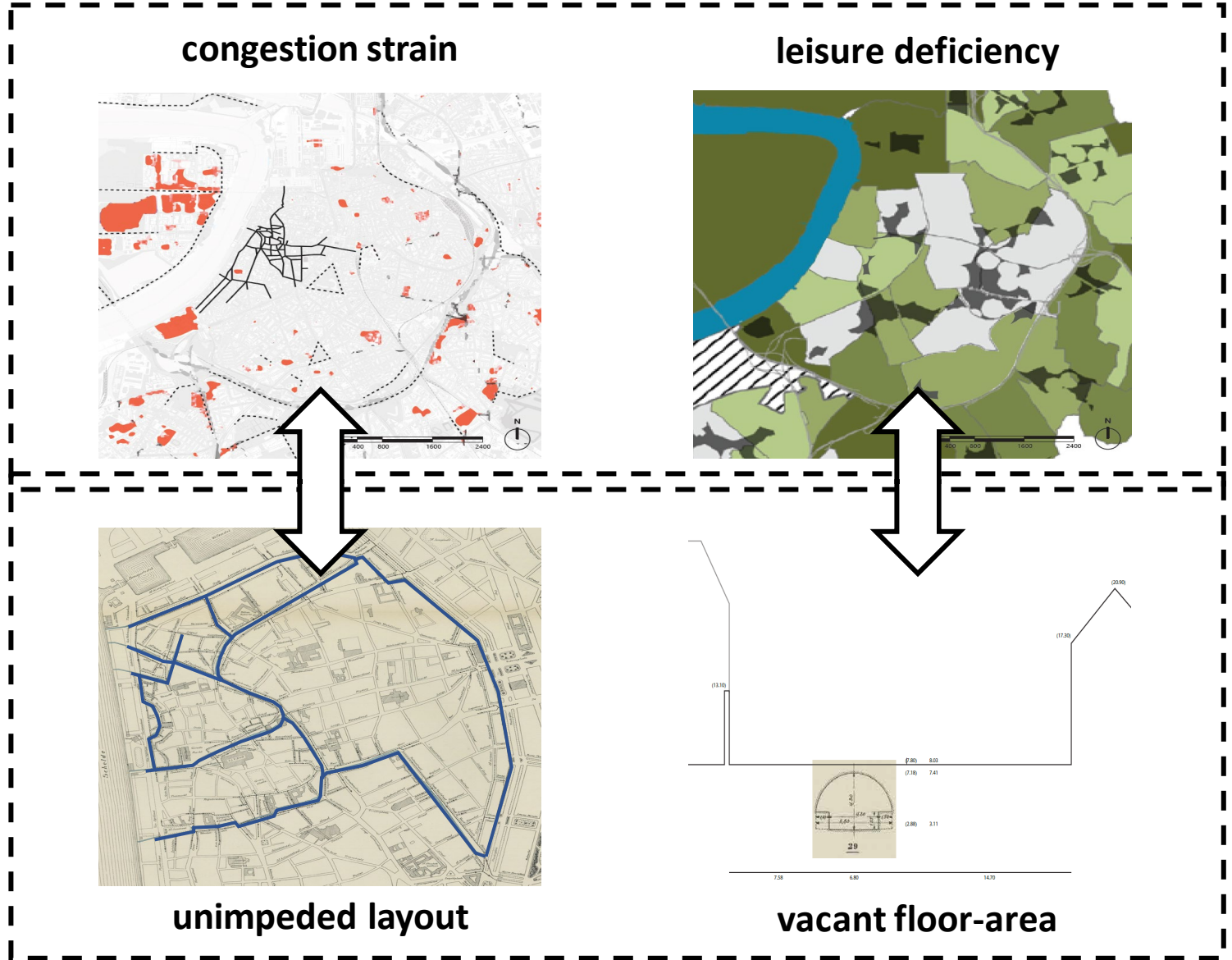
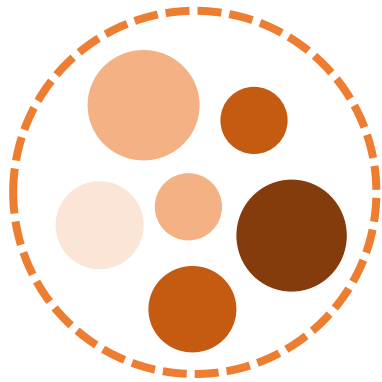
2. Inventory 3. Maximization 1. Analysis (potentials) (proposals) (problems)



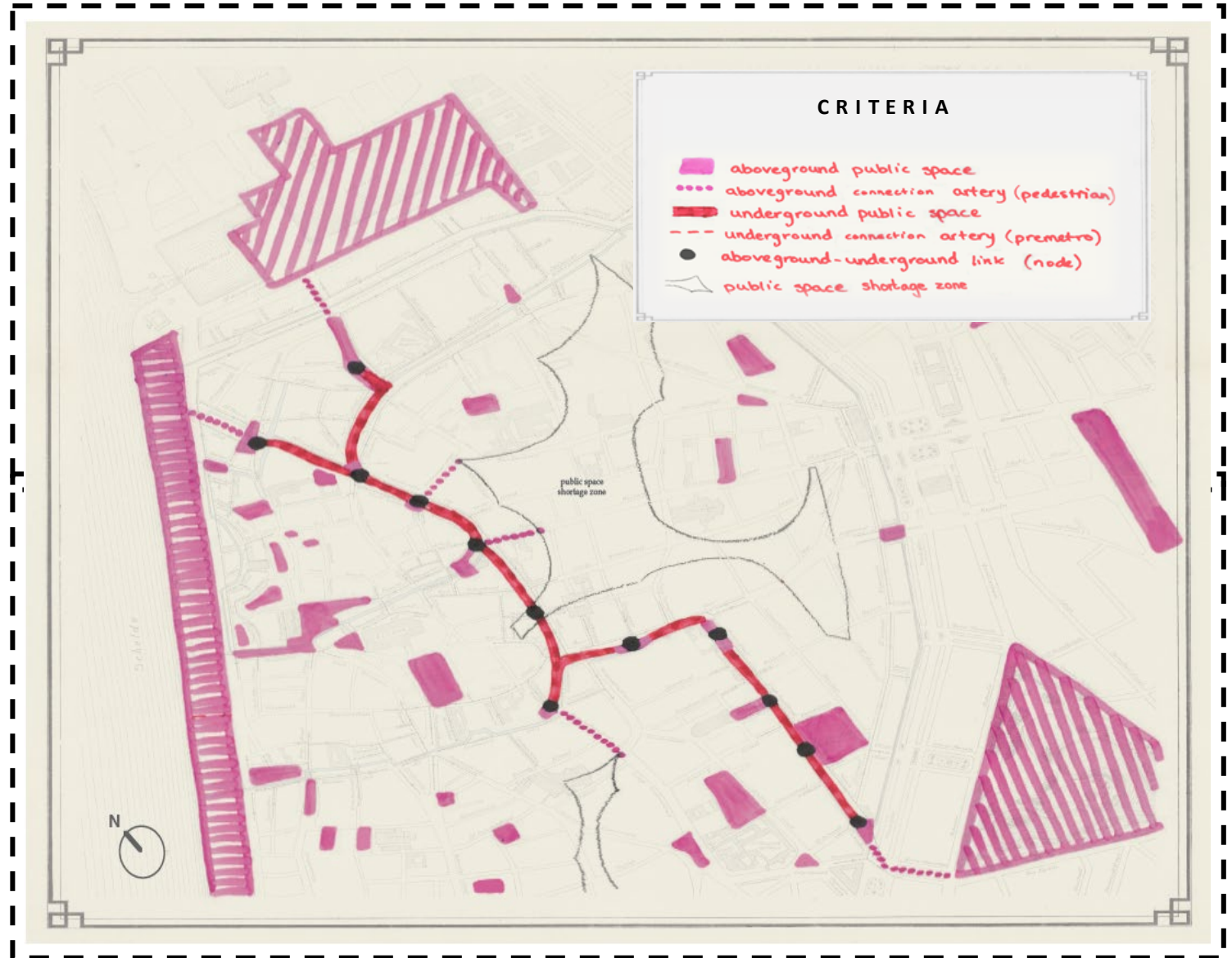
1. Analysis
(problems)



2. Inventory
(potentials)

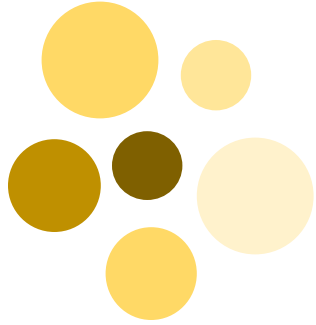


2. Inventory 3. Maximization 1. Analysis (potentials) (proposals) (problems)

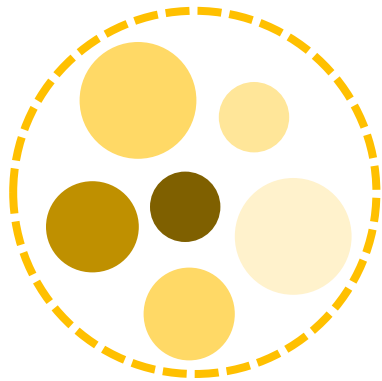


1. Analysis
(problems)

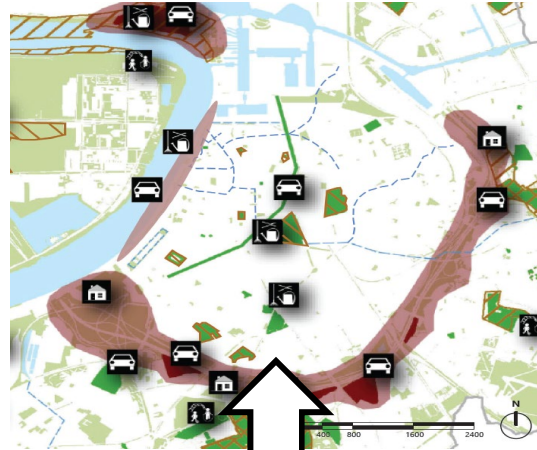
MEMORY



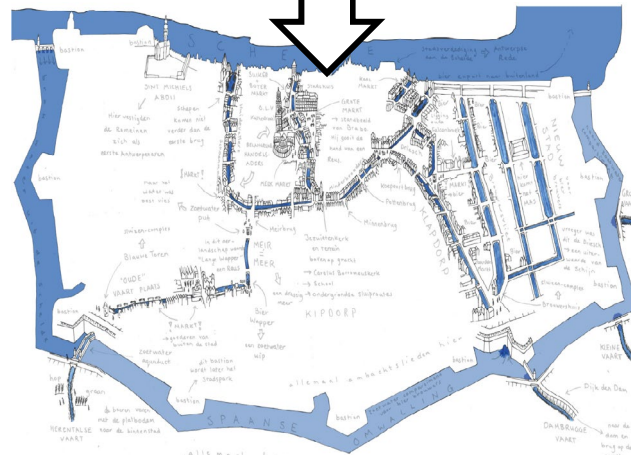
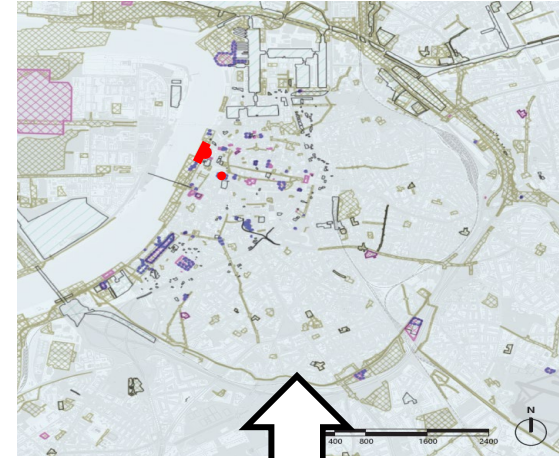
2. Inventory
(potentials)



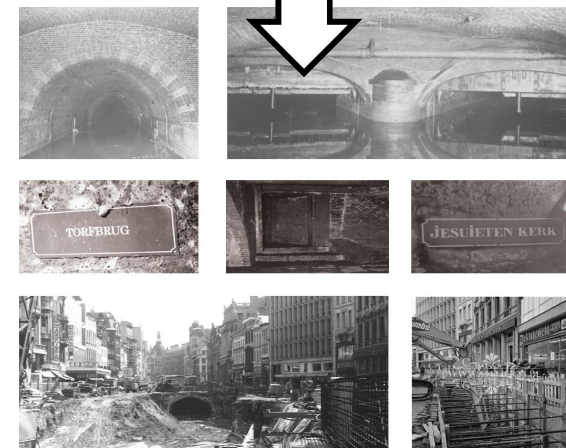
identity depreciation



heritage decline

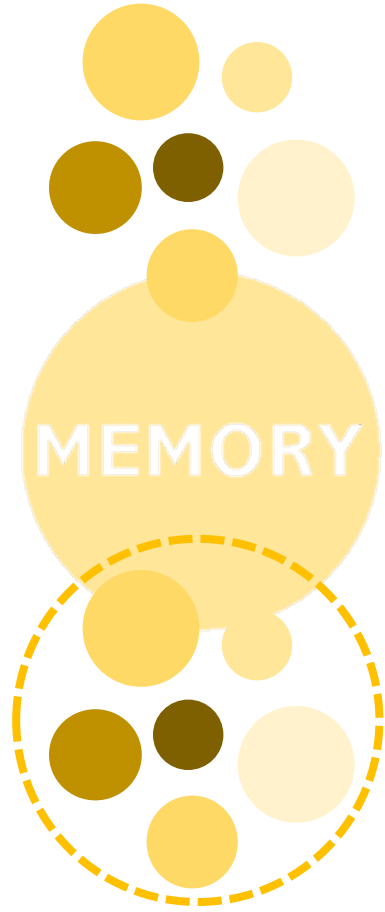


lingering narratives



physical relics

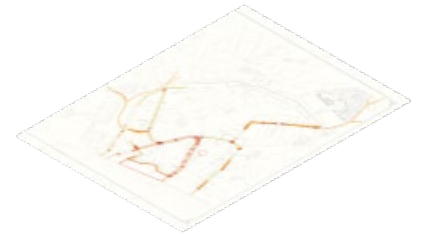
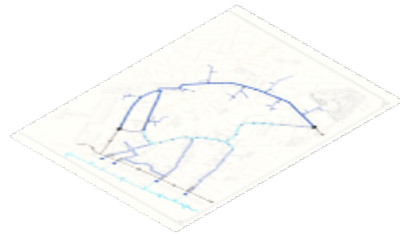
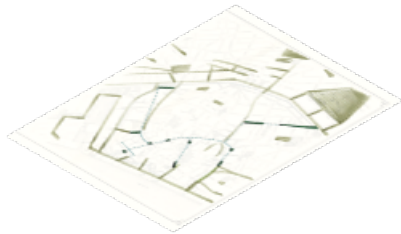
2. Inventory & Maximization 1. Analysis (potentials) (proposals) (problems)



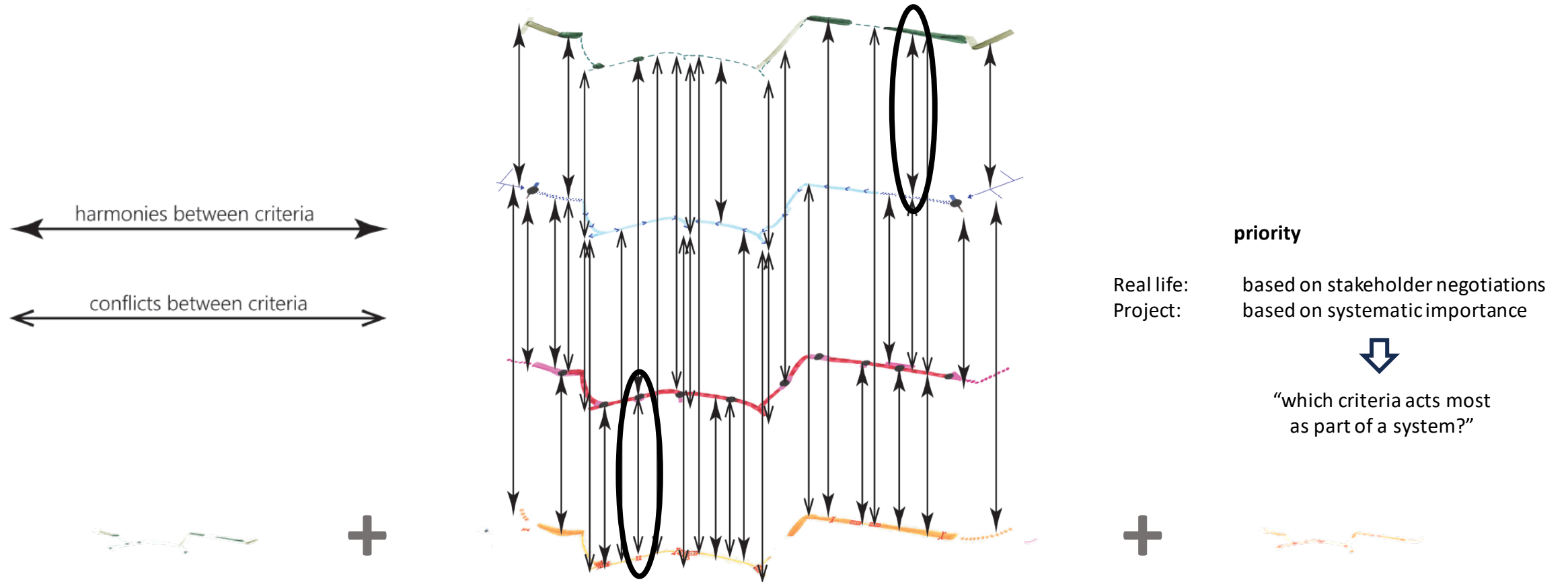
MEMORY



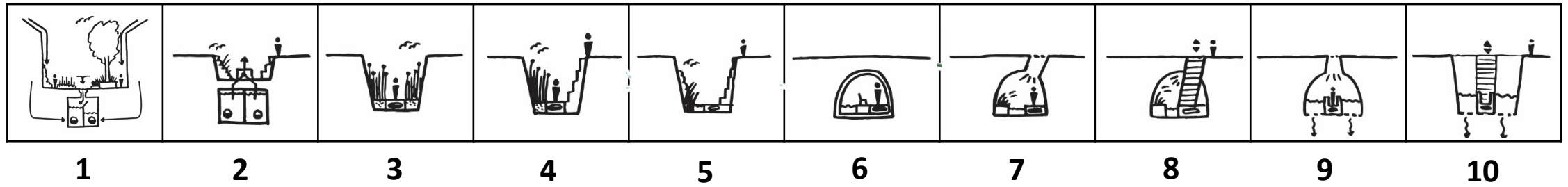
4. **Optimize** each theme (outline the principles)



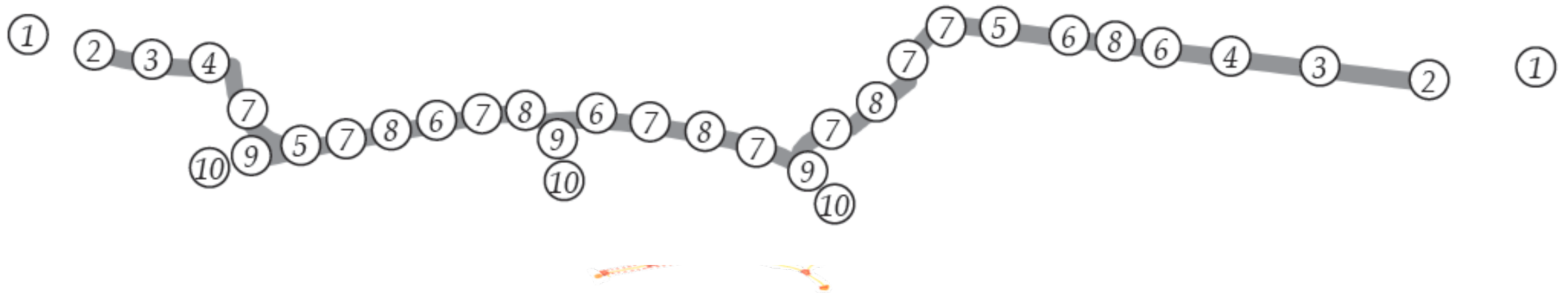
4. Optimize each theme (outline the principles)



4. Optimize each theme (outline the principles)



optimization phase = functional quality





Museum aan de Stroom
(City Museum)



Premetro Station Meir



Market Falconplein

Stadspark (City Park)

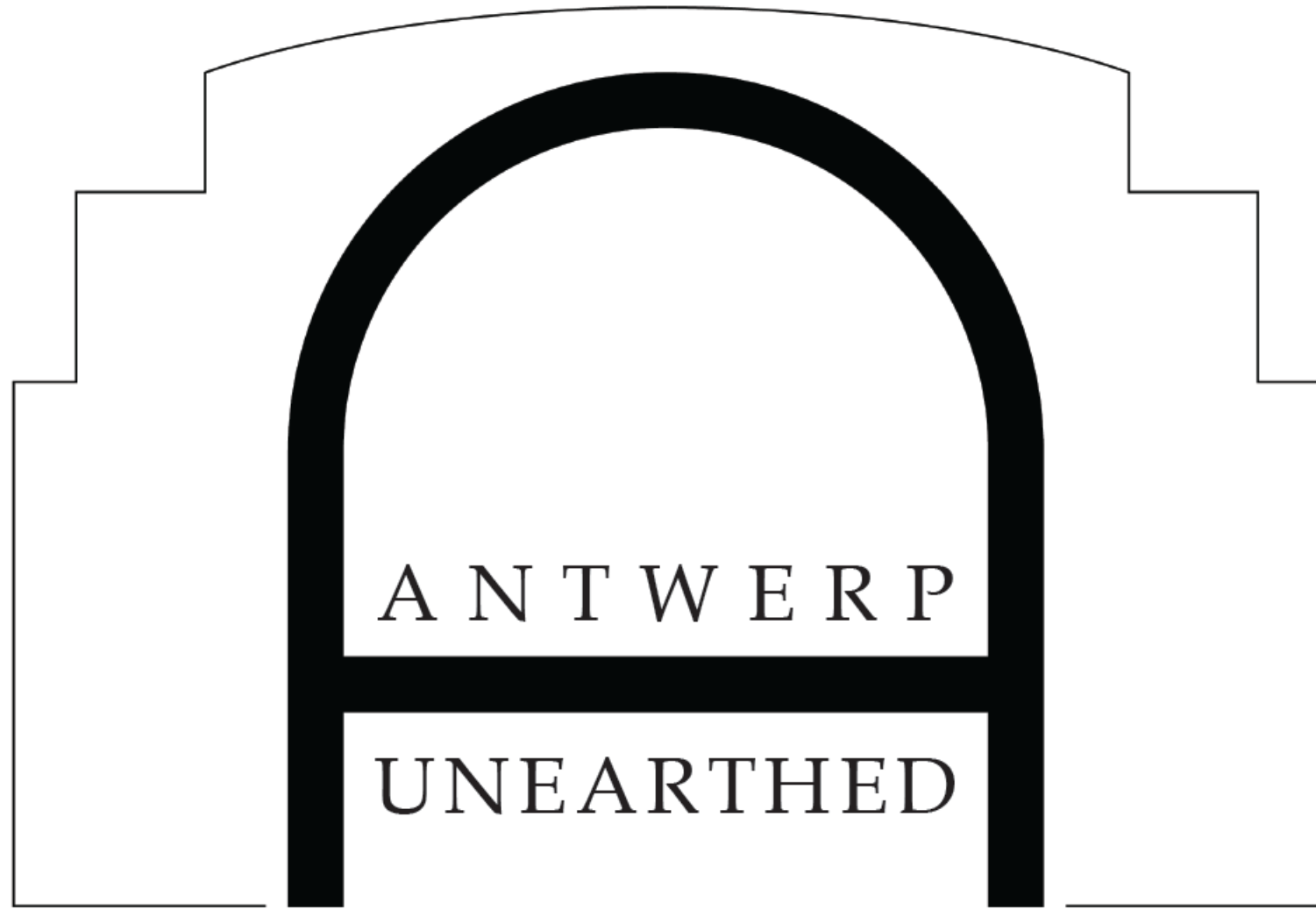


Market Oudevaartplaats



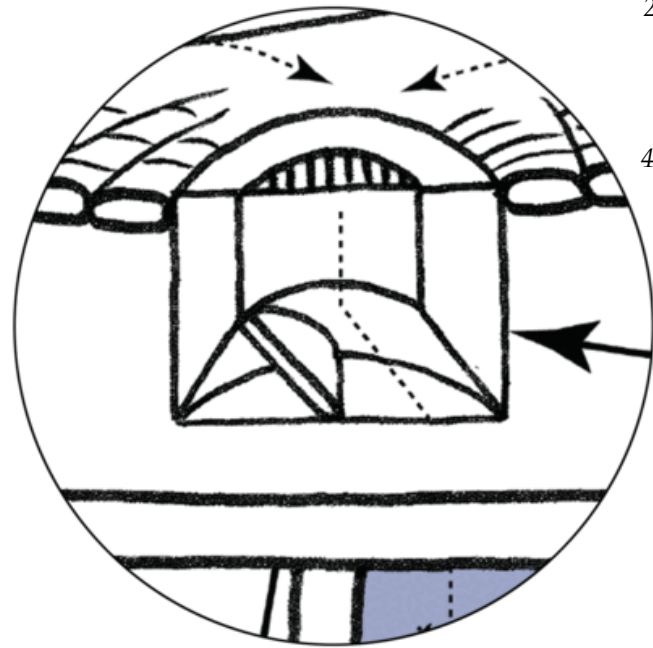
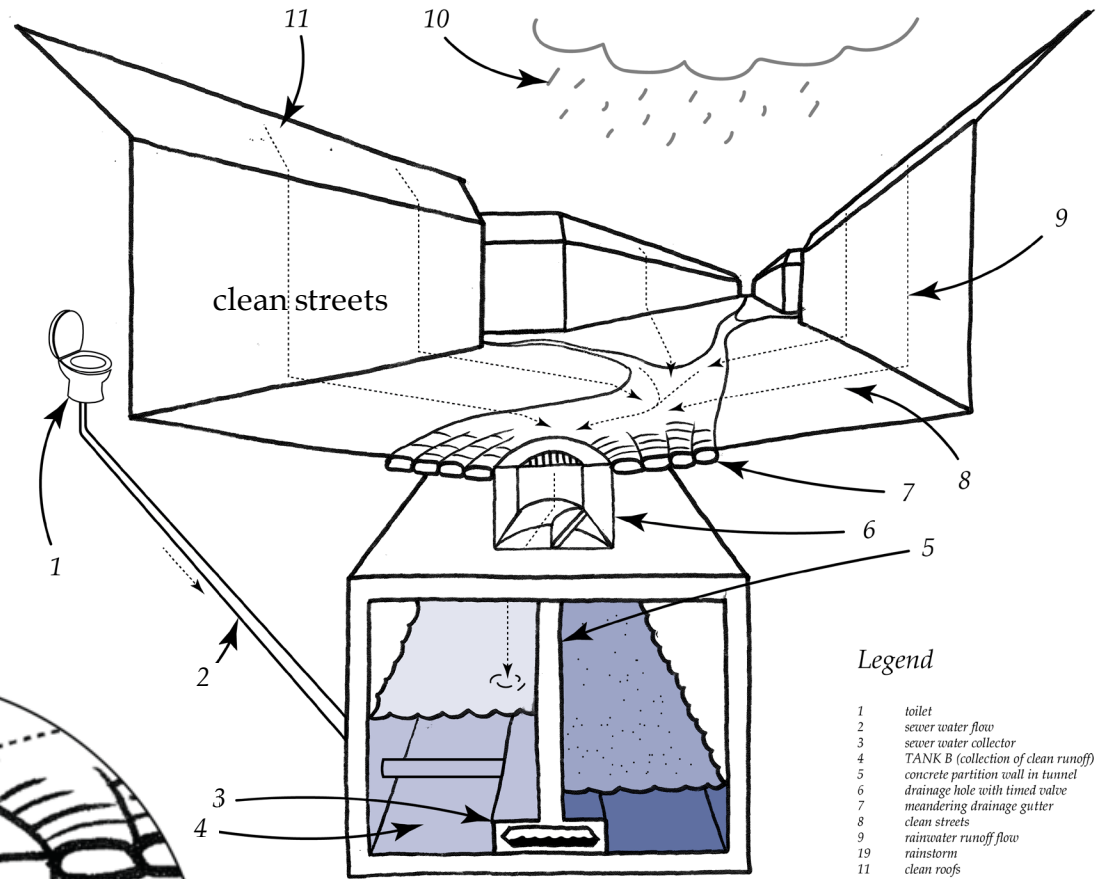
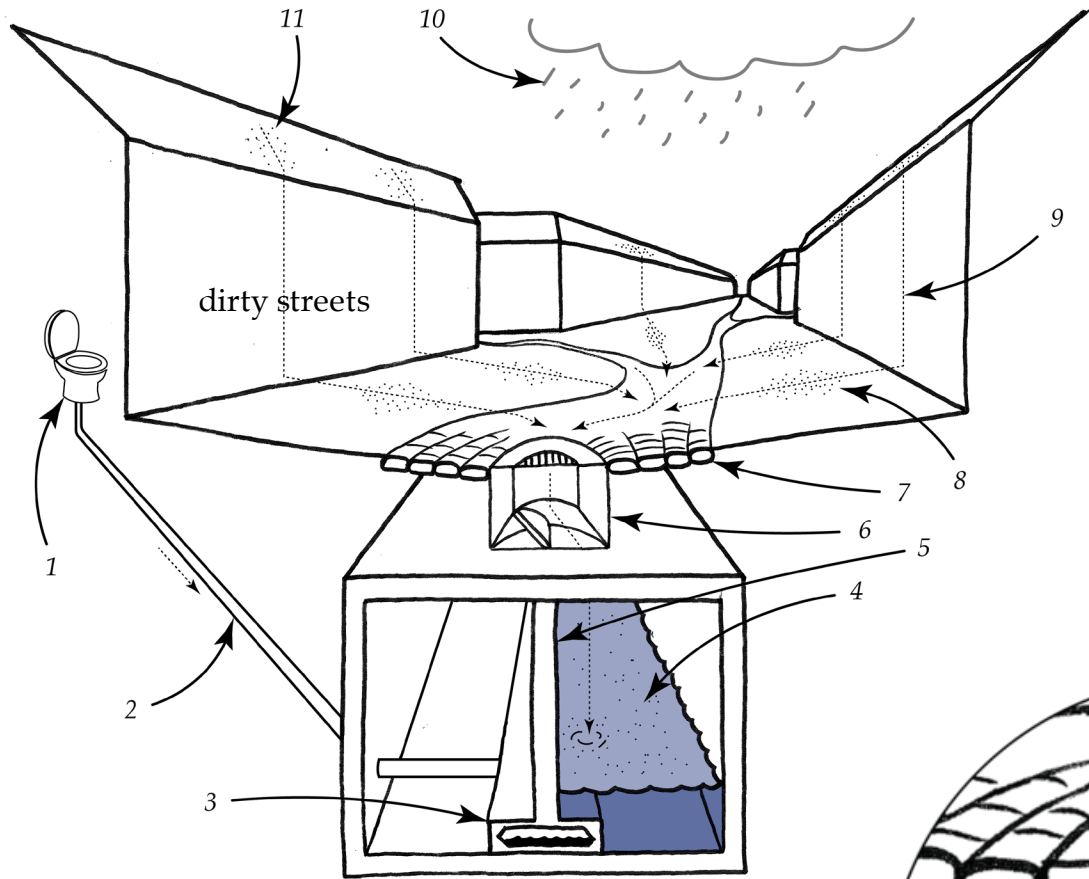
Shopping
and
Nightlife
Districts







Tuinstraat



- Legend*
- 1 toilet
 - 2 sewer water flow
 - 3 sewer water collector
 - 4 TANK B (collection of clean runoff)
 - 5 concrete partition wall in tunnel
 - 6 drainage hole with timed valve
 - 7 meandering drainage gutter
 - 8 clean streets
 - 9 rainwater runoff flow
 - 10 rainstorm
 - 11 clean roofs



< 15 min

separate
polluted runoff
from the first
15 minutes ...

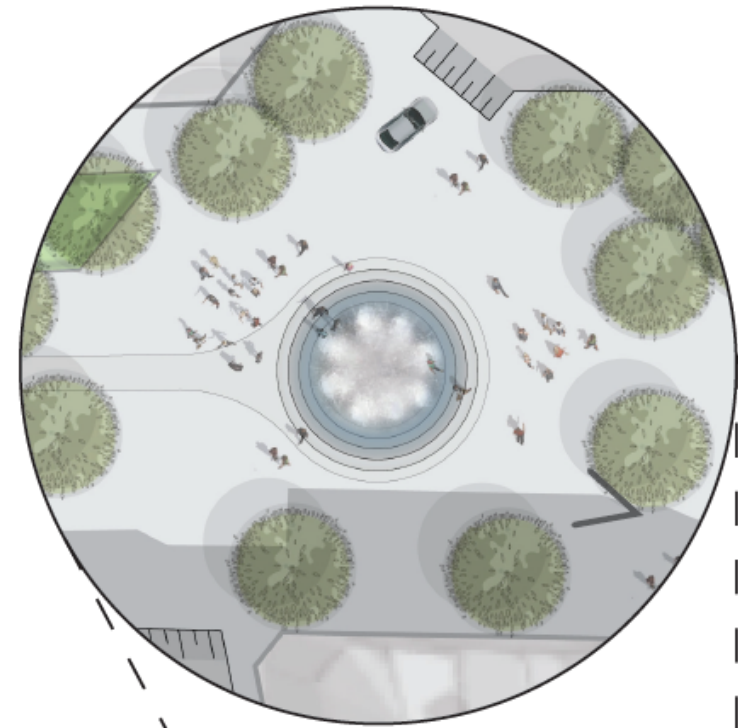
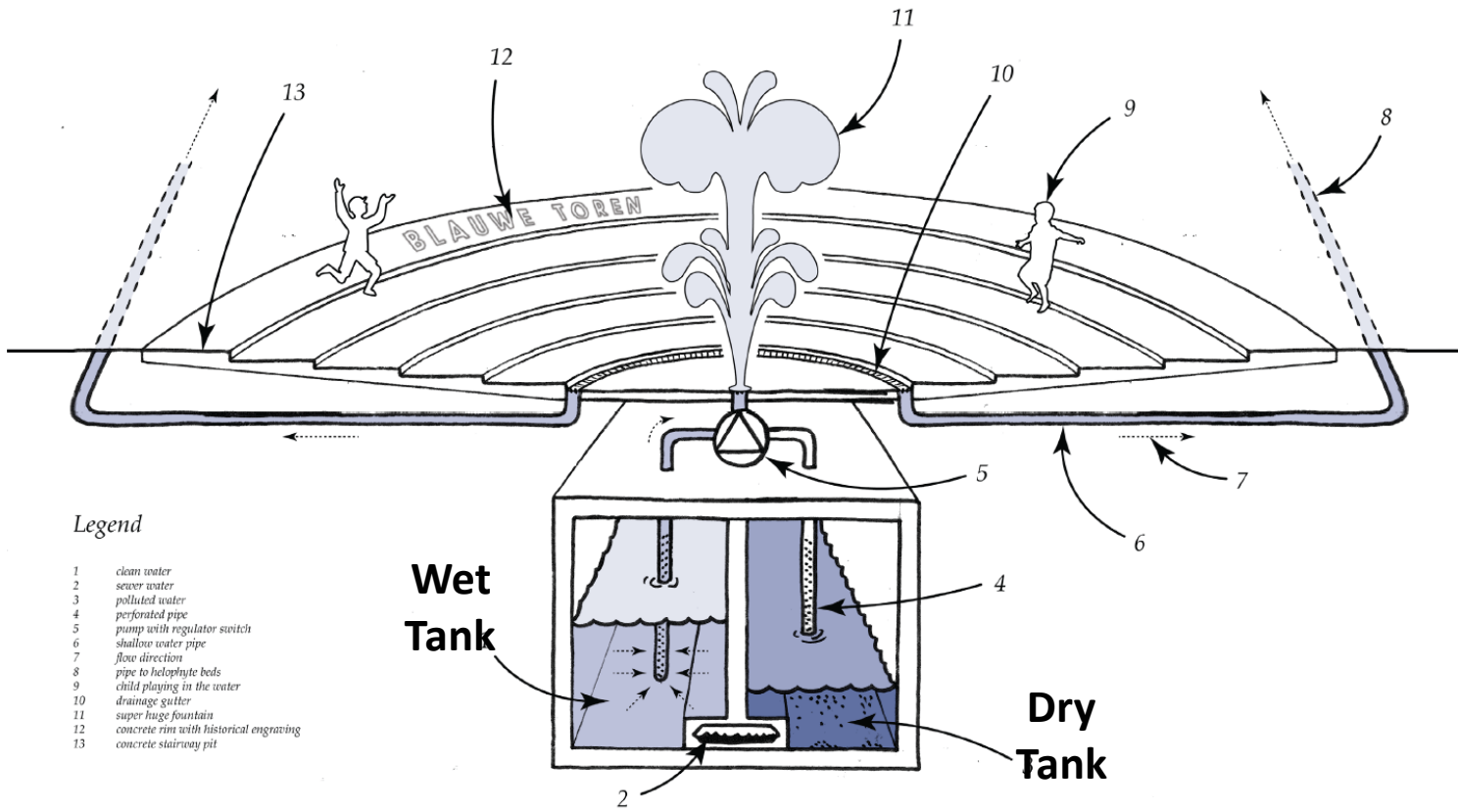
... from clean
runoff during
the remaining
rainstorm



> 15 min

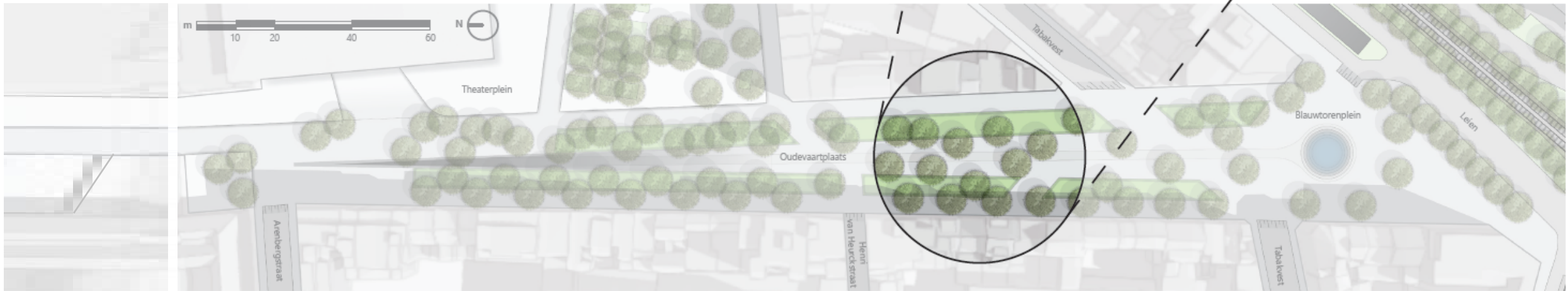
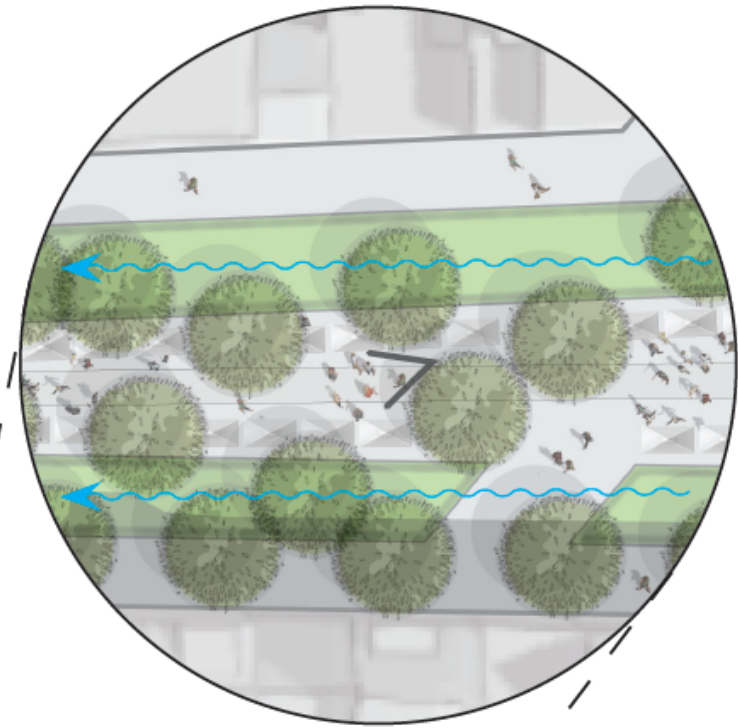
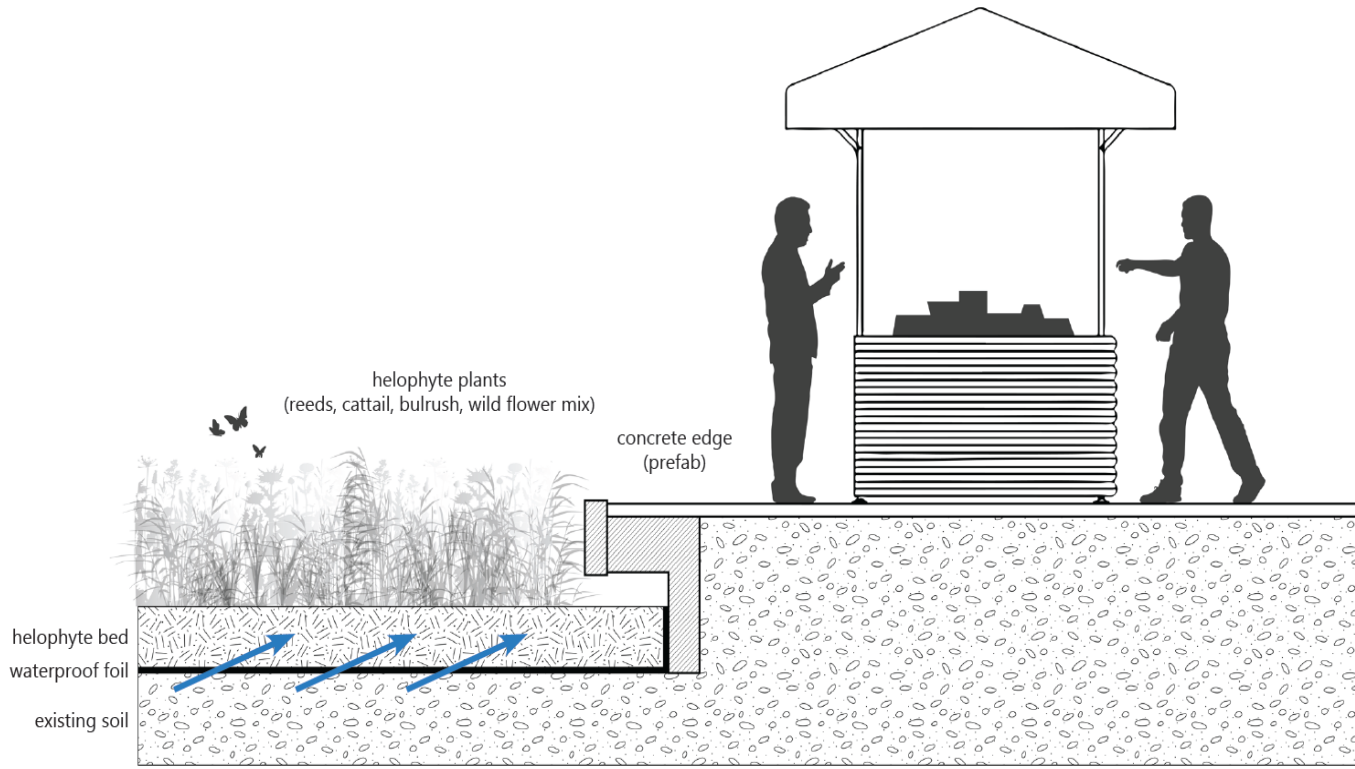


Blauwtorenplein



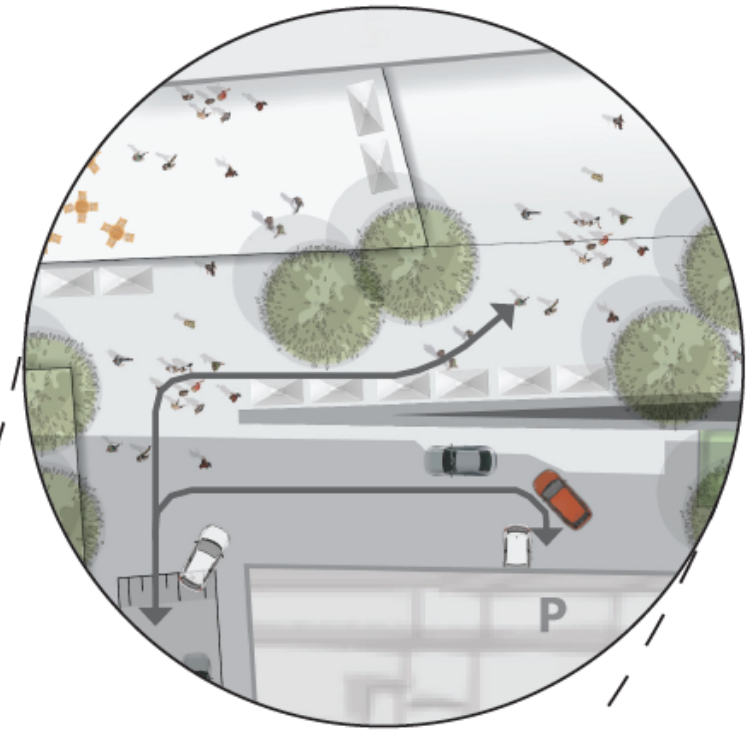
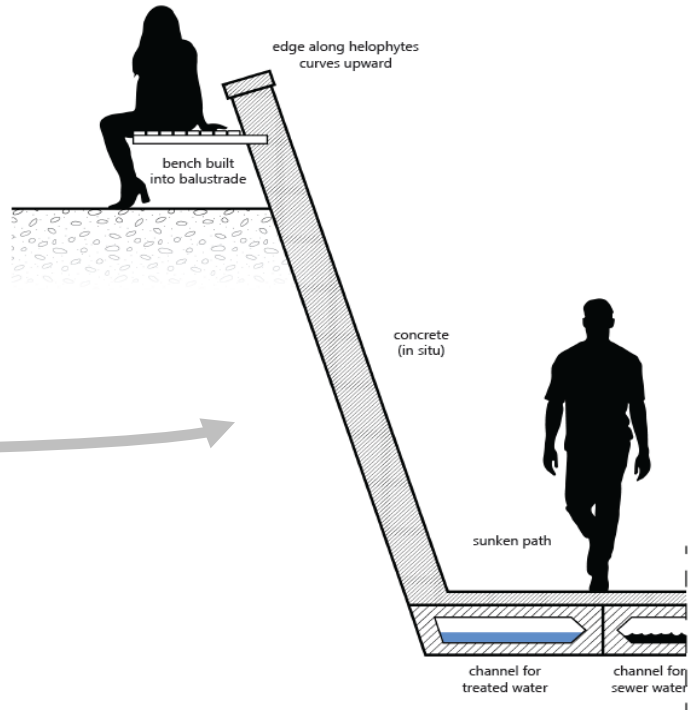
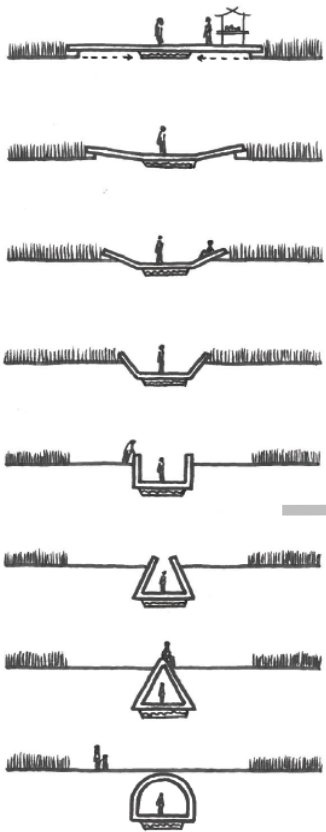


Oudevaartplaats





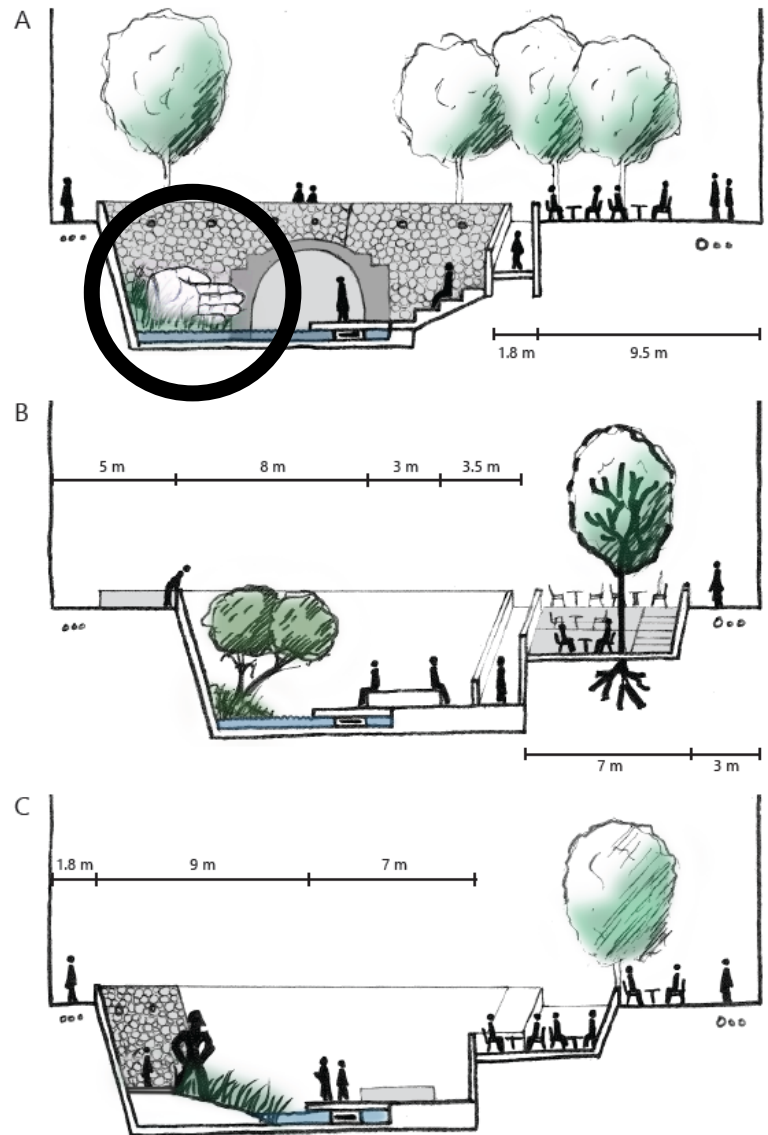
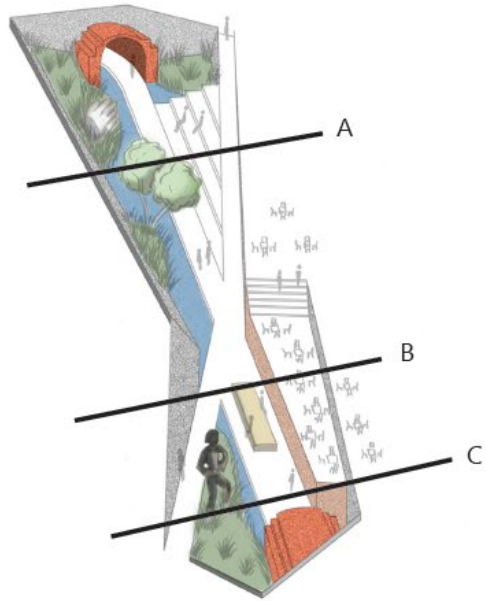
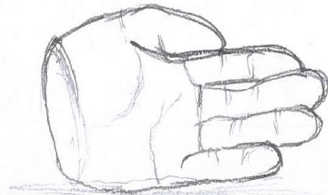
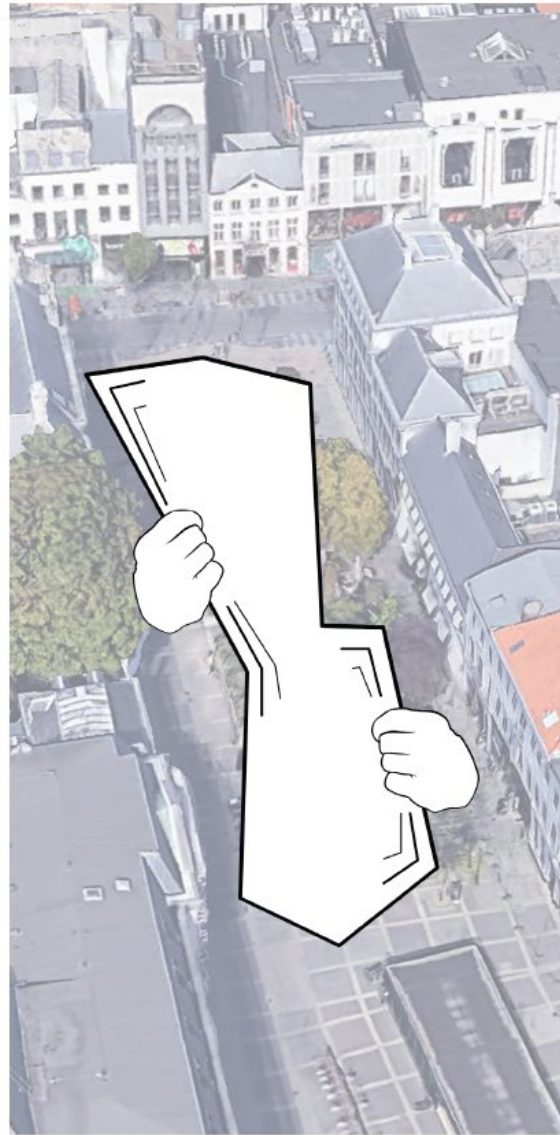
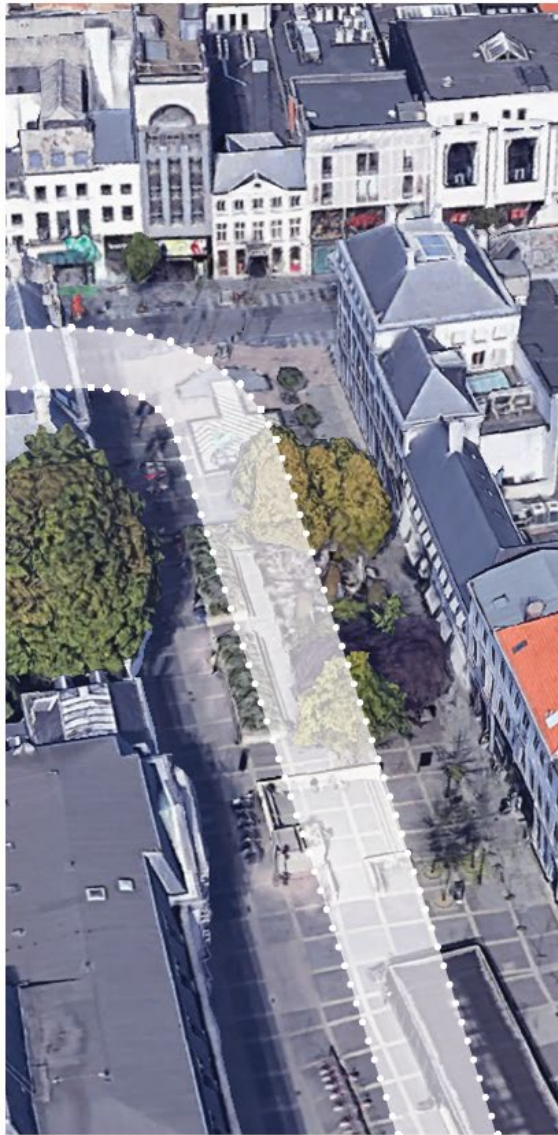
Theaterplein

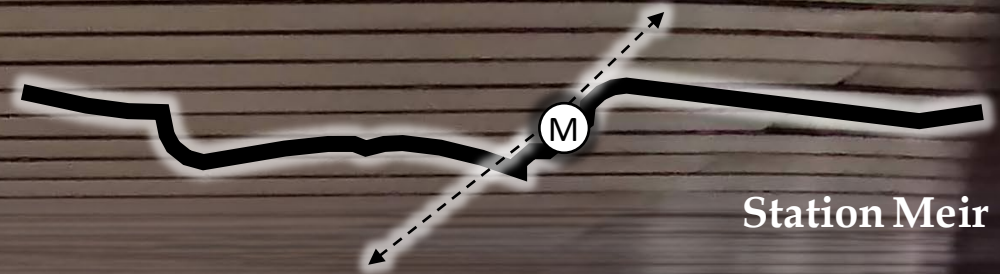




Wapperplein







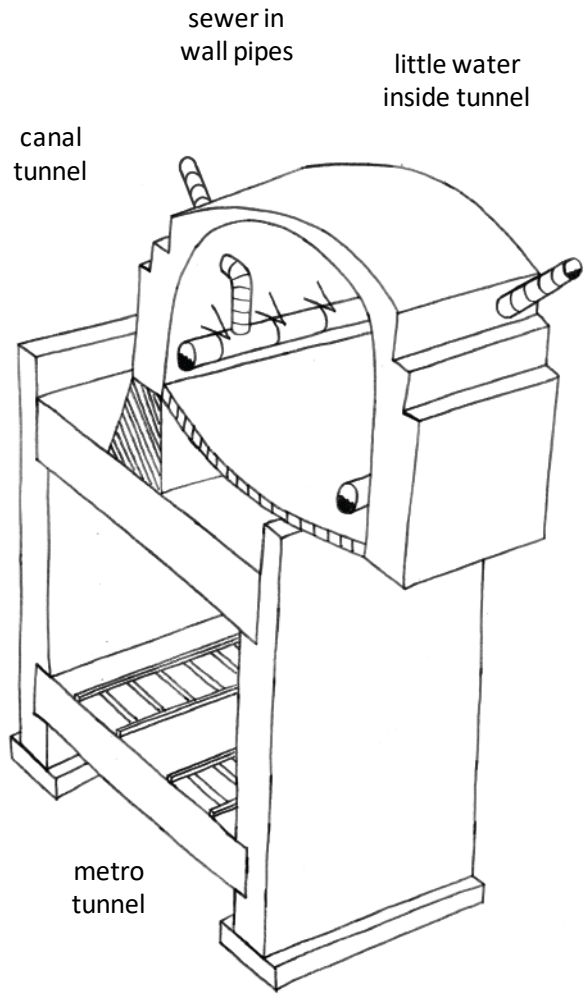
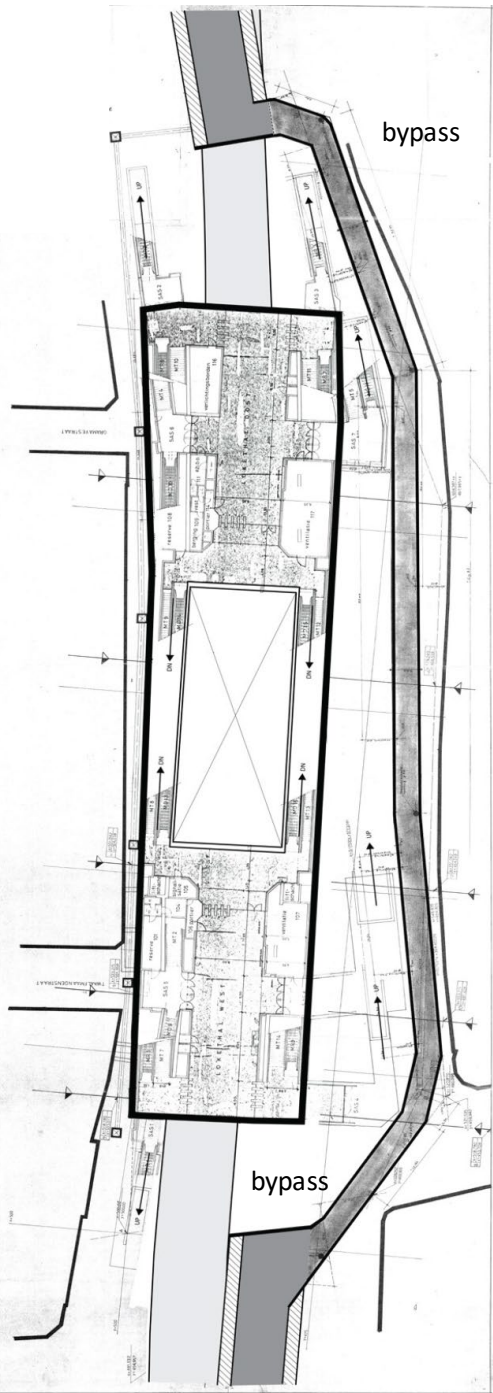
Station Meir

↑ WAPPER

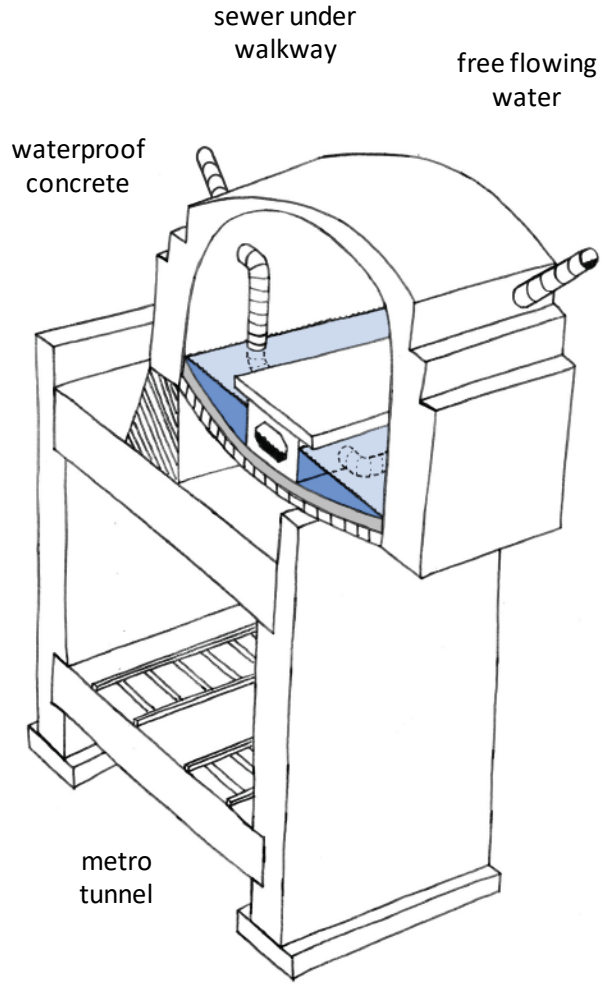
← 3' Linkerbever 15

→

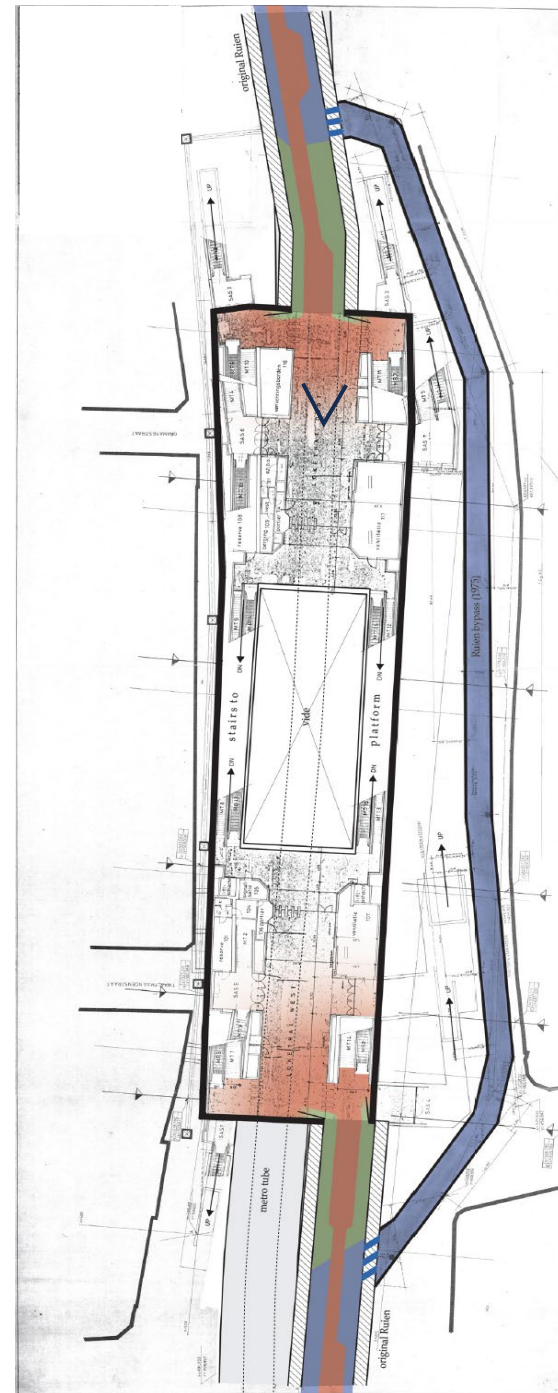




3D section before

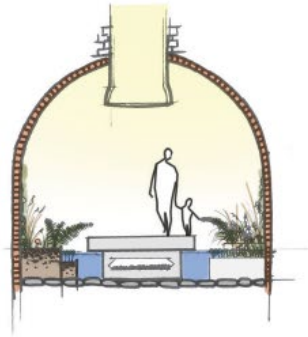


3D section after

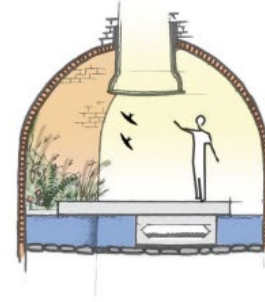




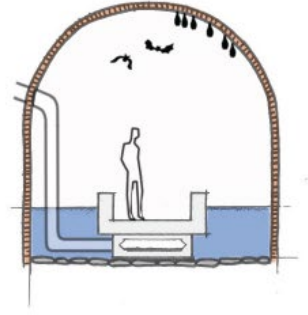
Sint Katelijnevest



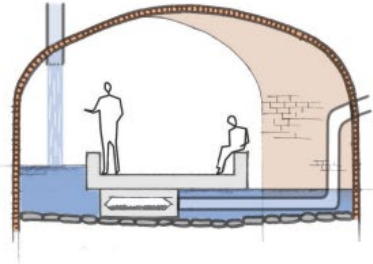
52



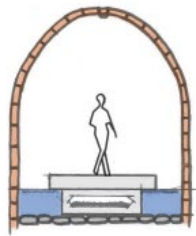
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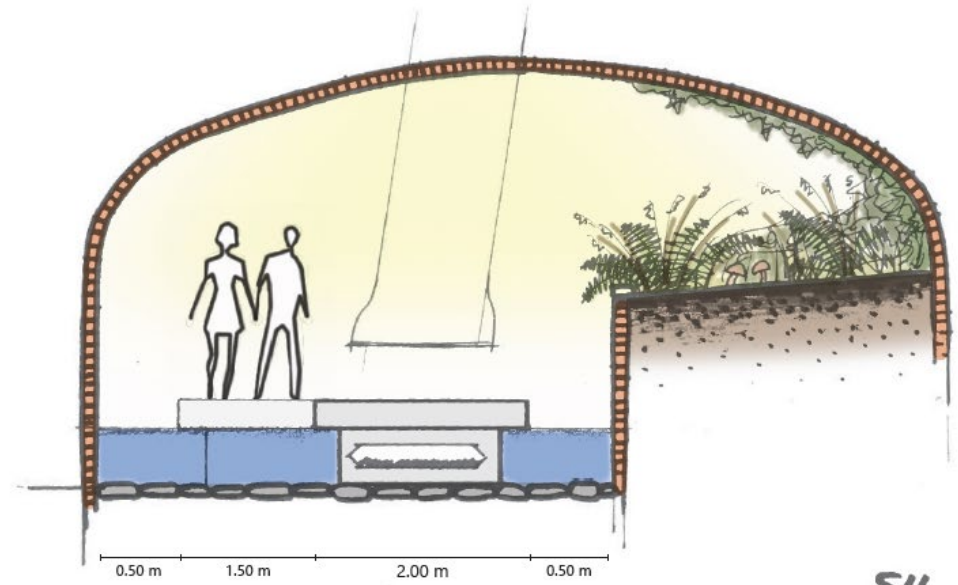
57



53



55



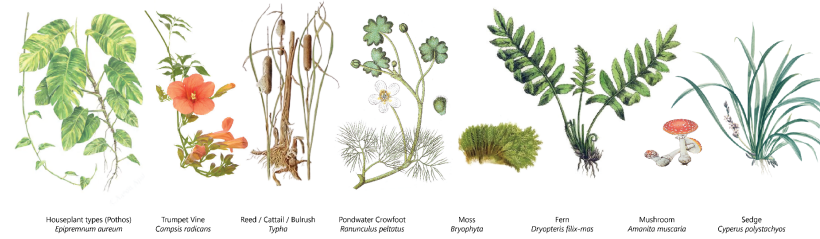
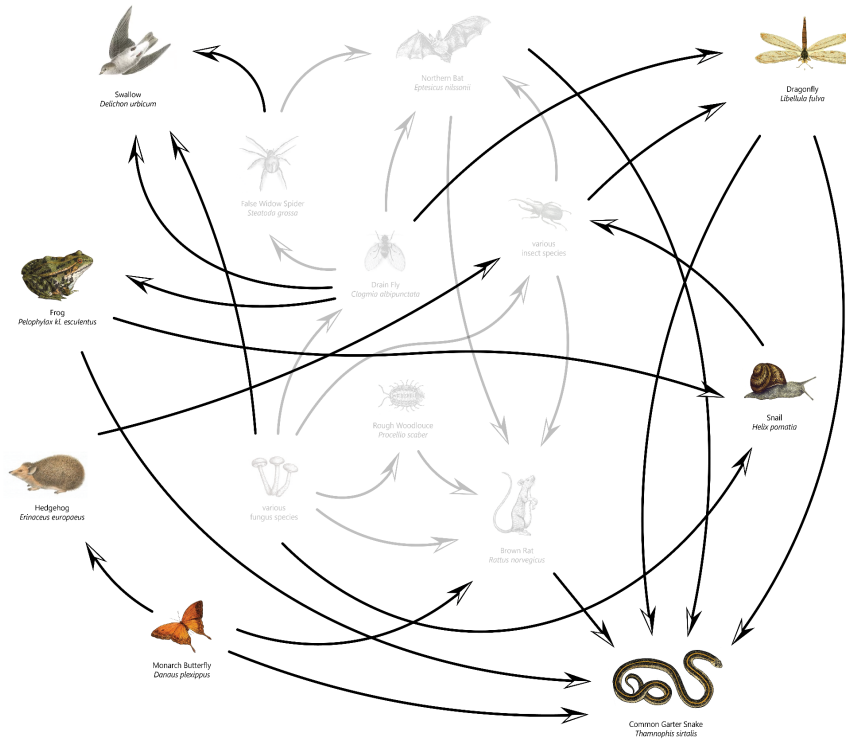
54



Sint Katelijnevest

SINT KATHELIJNEVEST



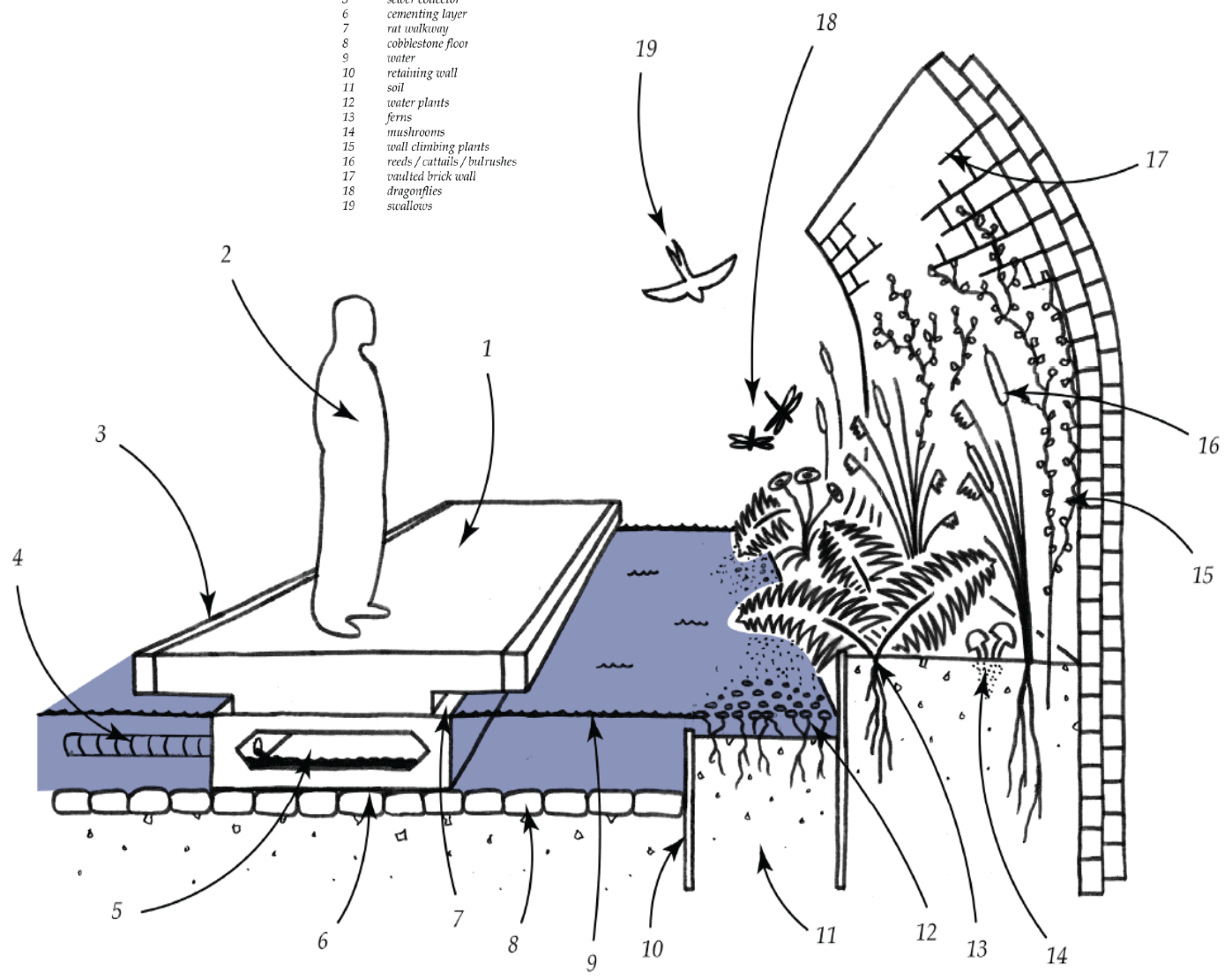


Ecosystem web

light grey colored = original (existing) ecosystem
 black colored = new to the ecosystem

Legend

- 1 walkway
- 2 pedestrian
- 3 walkway edging
- 4 sewer inflow
- 5 sewer collector
- 6 cementing layer
- 7 rat walkway
- 8 cobblestone floor
- 9 water
- 10 retaining wall
- 11 soil
- 12 water plants
- 13 ferns
- 14 mushrooms
- 15 wall climbing plants
- 16 reeds / cattails / bulrushes
- 17 vaulted brick wall
- 18 dragonflies
- 19 swallows





Sint Carolus Borromeuskerk



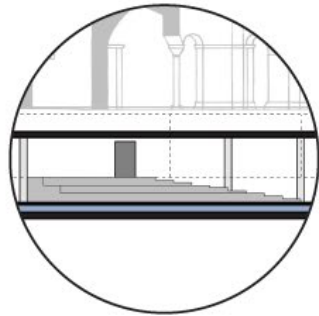
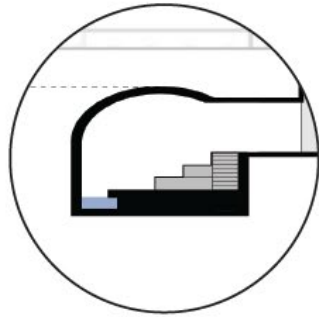
JESUITEN KERK



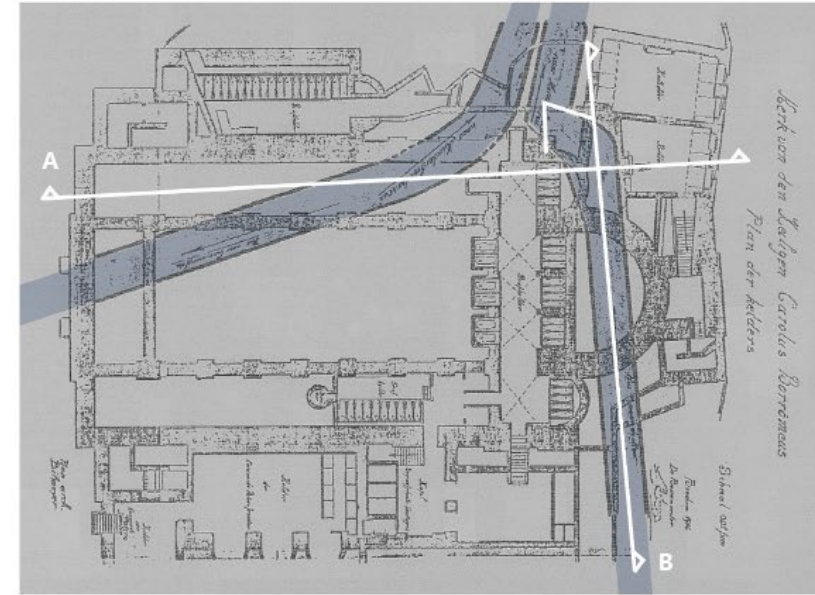
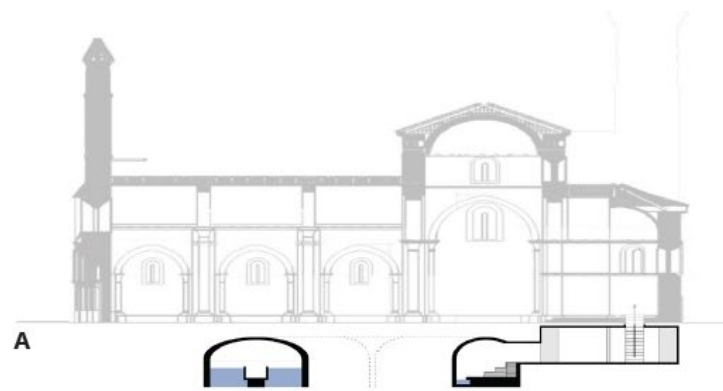
1600



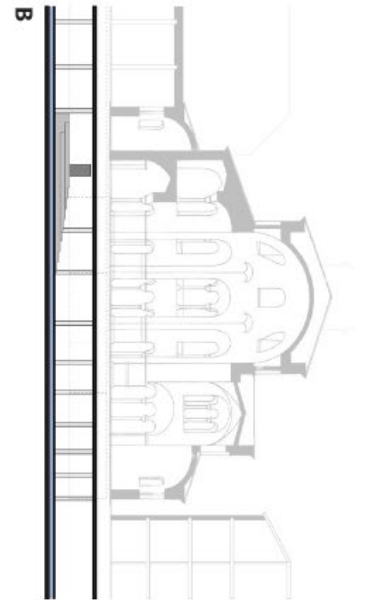
amphitheatre niche
(zoom-in section A)



amphitheatre niche
(zoom-in section B)



A not-so-secret
escape passage
from the overhead
church





Minderbroedersrui

MINDERBROEDERSRUI

An overgrown entryway enhances the surface level street space



Interpretive signs offer wayfinding information for pedestrians


Animals and Plants

DID YOU KNOW ? With the removal of the sewer overflows and the introduction of clean water, where light can penetrate from above, a series of plants are able to grow. These include houseplant species, vines, reed, cattail, bulrush, pondwater crowfoot, mosses, ferns, mushrooms, and sedge. They grow in soil beds along the edges of the tunnels, attracting a variety of animal species that enter the tunnels via openings like holes, stairwells, and slopes. These include swallows, hedgehogs, snails, monarch butterflies, frogs, dragonflies, and common garter snakes to keep the food web in check.


← Secret passages (75m)

Infiltration tunnel (150m)


→




Swallow
Hirundo urburum




Hedgehog
Euroscopus europaeus




Snail
Helix pomatia




Monarch Butterfly
Danaus plexippus




Frog
Pelophylax kl. esculentus




Dragonfly
Libellula fulva




Common Garter Snake
Thamnophis sirtalis




Houseplant types (Pothos)
Epipremnum aureum




Trumpet Vine
Campsis radicans




Reed / Cattail / Bulrush
Typha




Pondwater Crowfoot
Ranunculus peltatus




Moss
Bryophyta



Fern
Dryopteris filix mas



Mushroom
Arumita muscaria



Sedge
Cyperus polystachyos

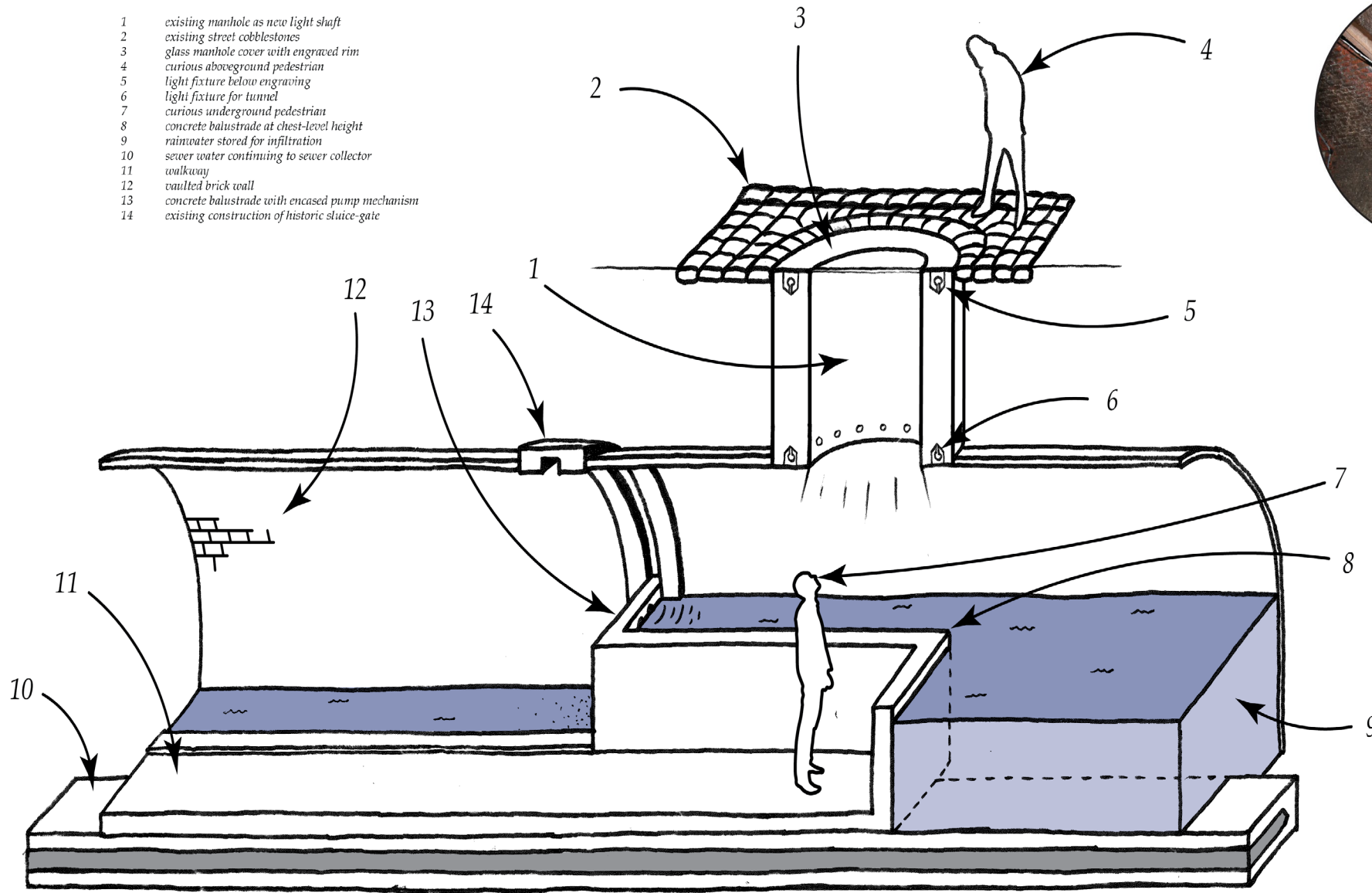




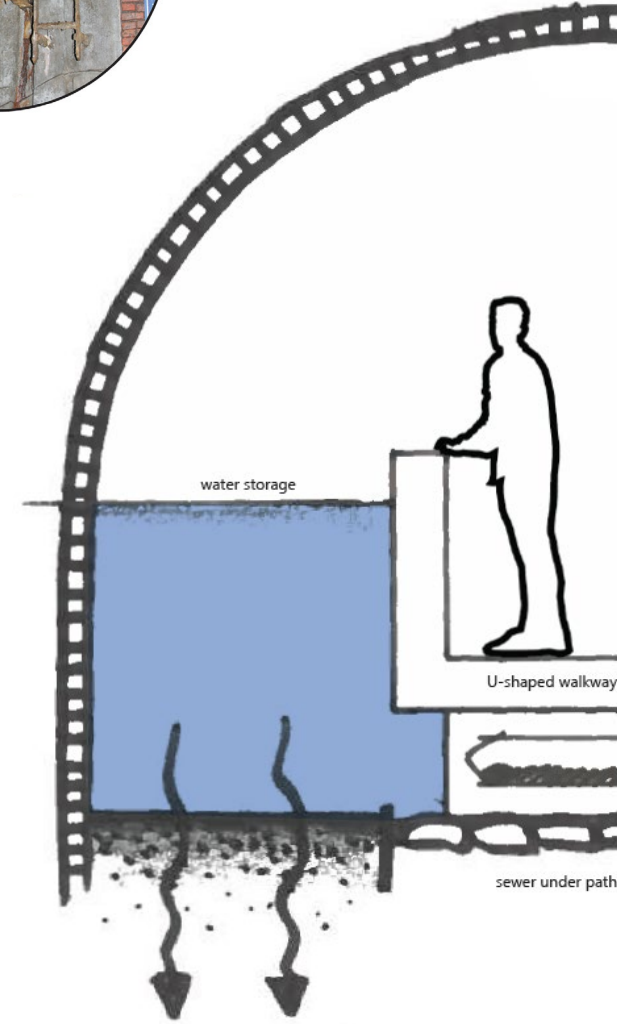
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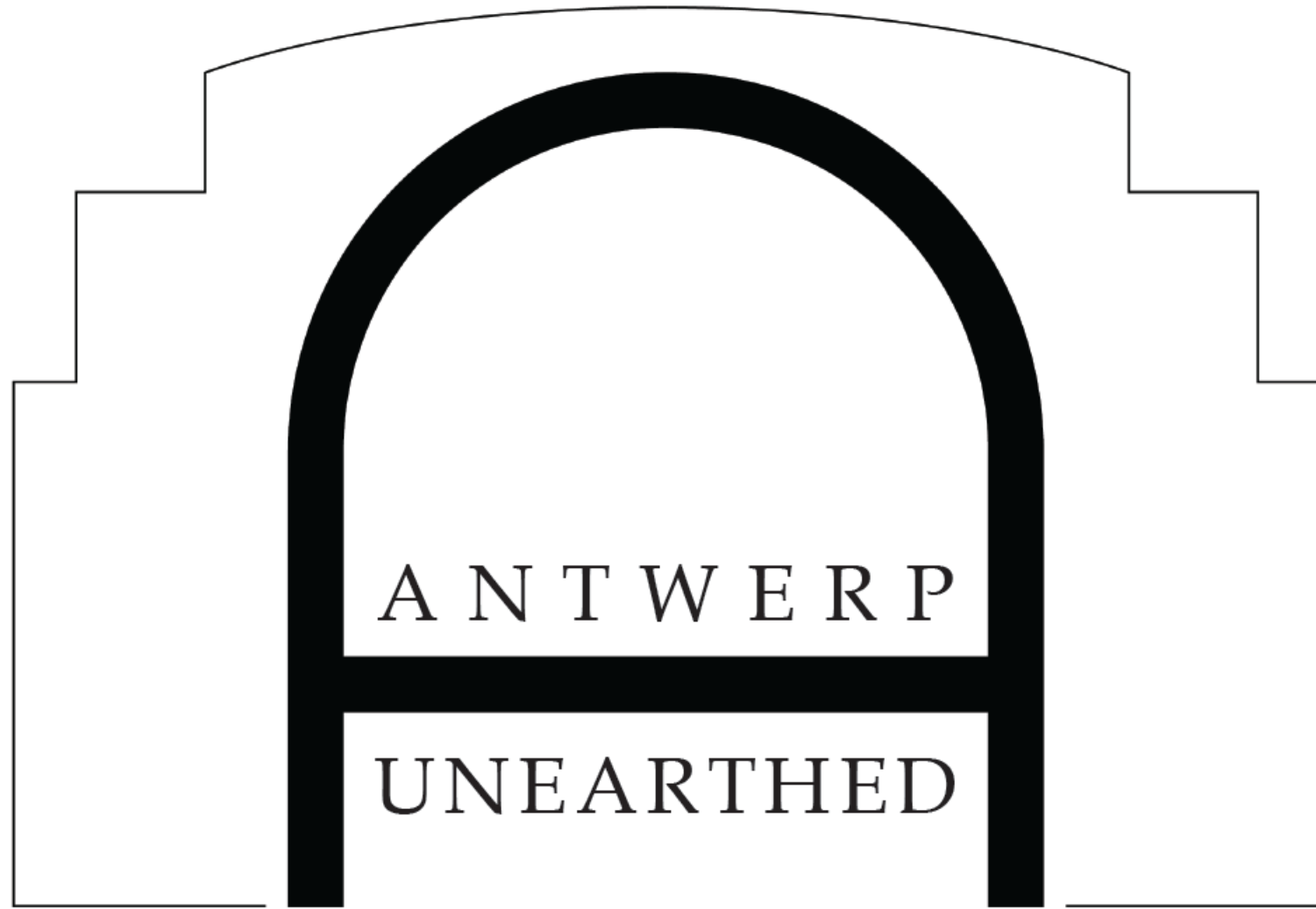
Legend

- 1 existing manhole as new light shaft
- 2 existing street cobblestones
- 3 glass manhole cover with engraved rim
- 4 curious aboveground pedestrian
- 5 light fixture below engraving
- 6 light fixture for tunnel
- 7 curious underground pedestrian
- 8 concrete balustrade at chest-level height
- 9 rainwater stored for infiltration
- 10 sewer water continuing to sewer collector
- 11 walkway
- 12 vaulted brick wall
- 13 concrete balustrade with encased pump mechanism
- 14 existing construction of historic sluice-gate



14
old sluice-gate in its
construction groove

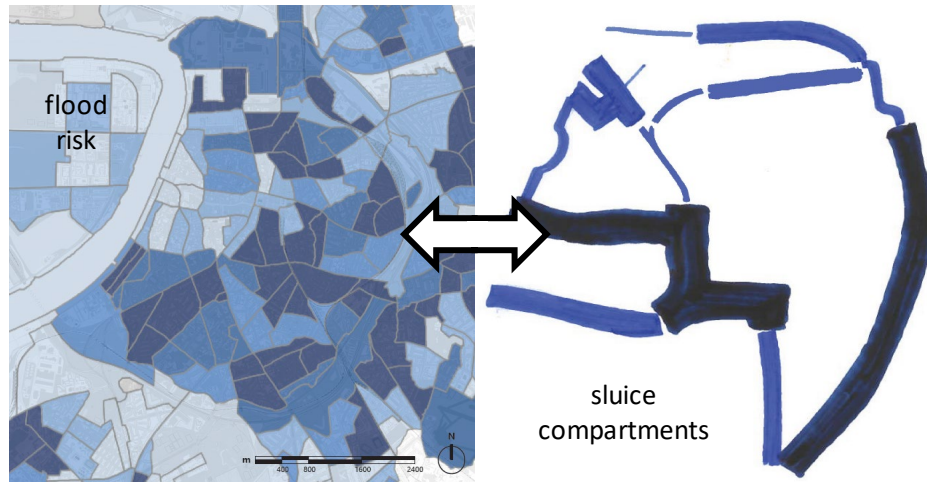




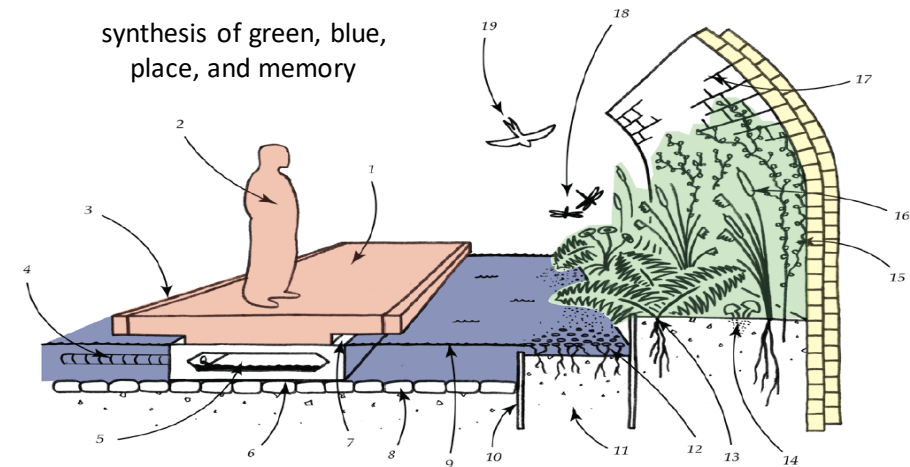
7. Results

How can the reappropriation of the decommissioned underground canal system in Antwerp spatially mediate the city's urgencies regarding environmental and social infrastructure?

By pairing external problems with internal potentials



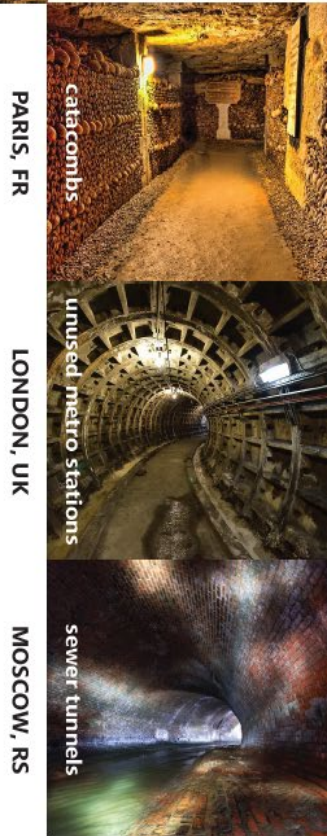
By forming a singly functioning infrastructure system



8. Relevance

SOCIETAL RELEVANCE

Apply to other cities facing space shortages for environmental and social infrastructures



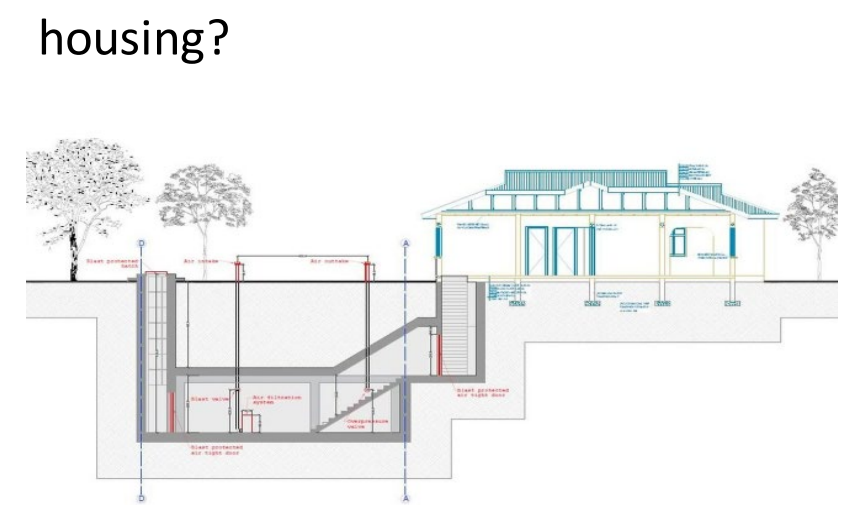
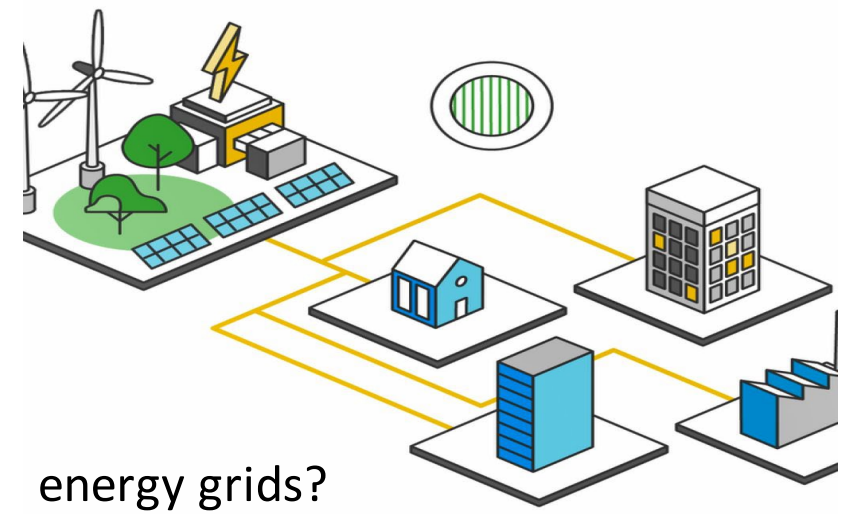
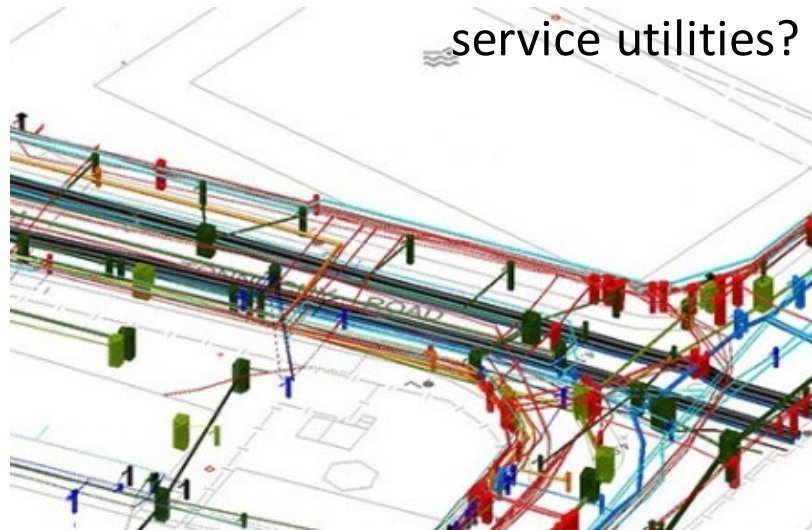
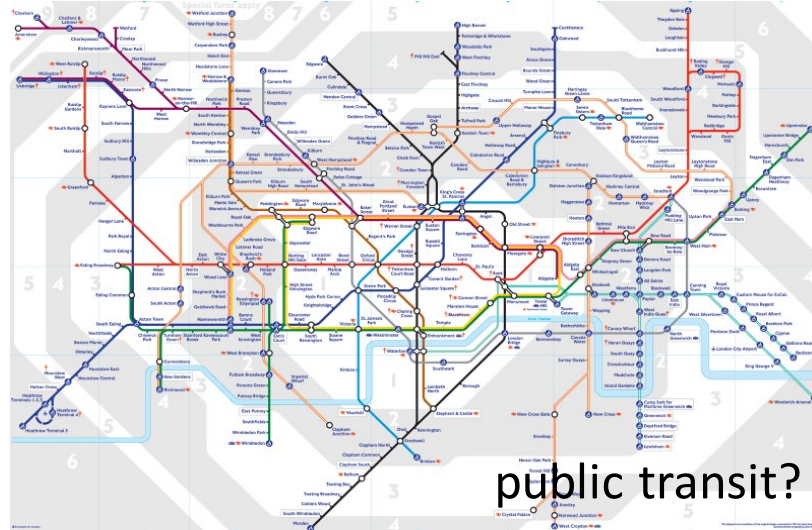
SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

Develop a method for implementing multiple infrastructures without conflicts

	Theme 1	Theme 2	Theme 3	Theme 4
1. Inventory each theme <i>- outline problems</i>				
2. Analyze each theme <i>- outline potentials</i>				
3. Maximize each theme <i>- outline proposals</i>				
4. Optimize each theme <i>- outline principles</i>		+		+
				+
5. Integrate each theme <i>- outline plans</i>				

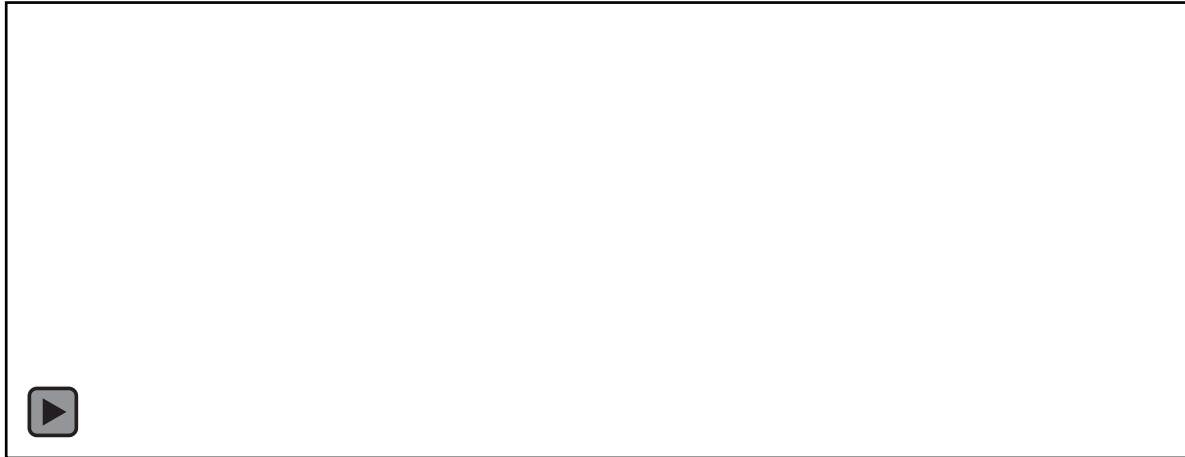
PROFESSIONAL RELEVANCE

Expand the interdisciplinary knowledge on infrastructure implementation

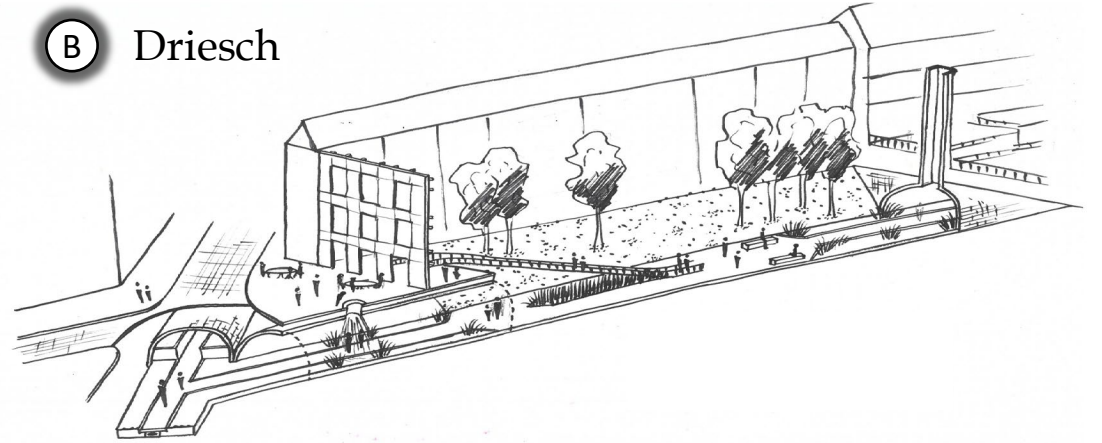


THANK YOU !

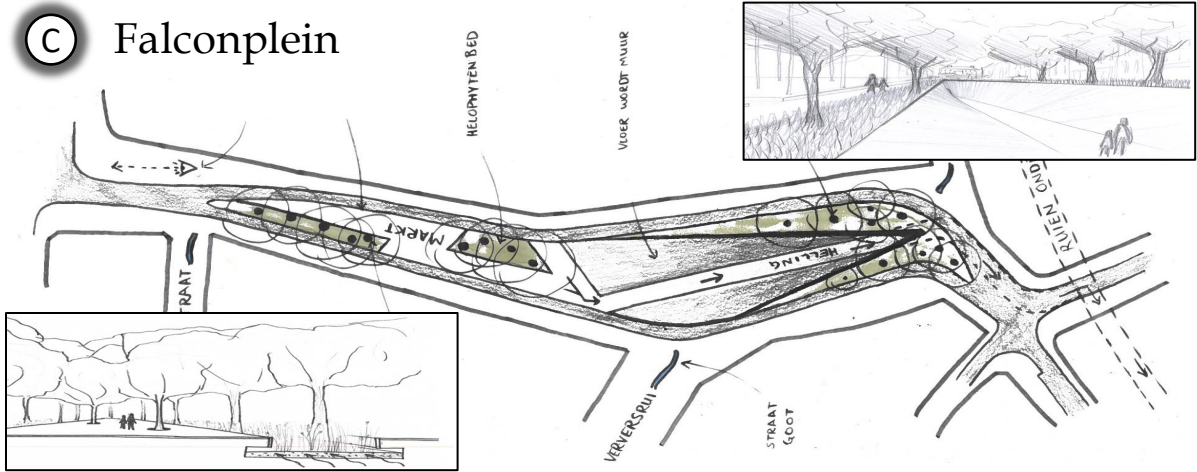




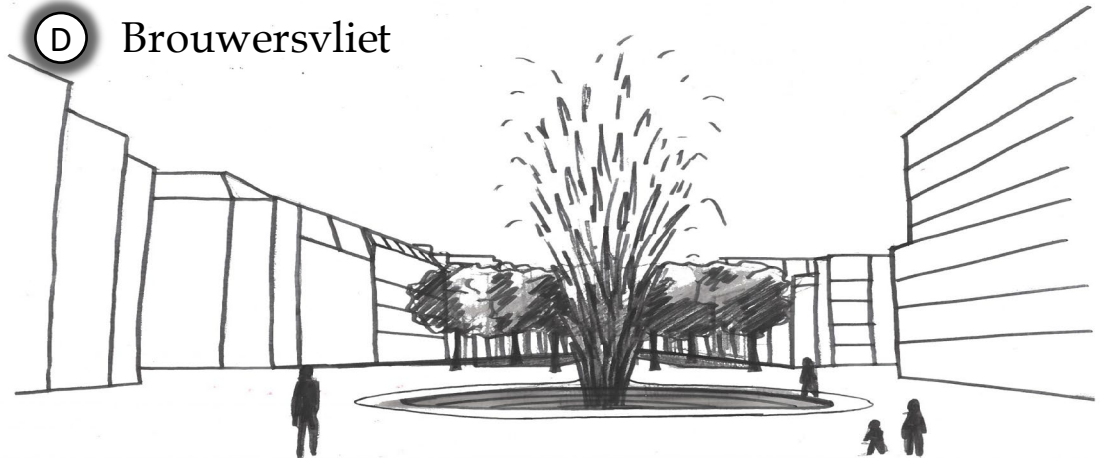
B Driesch

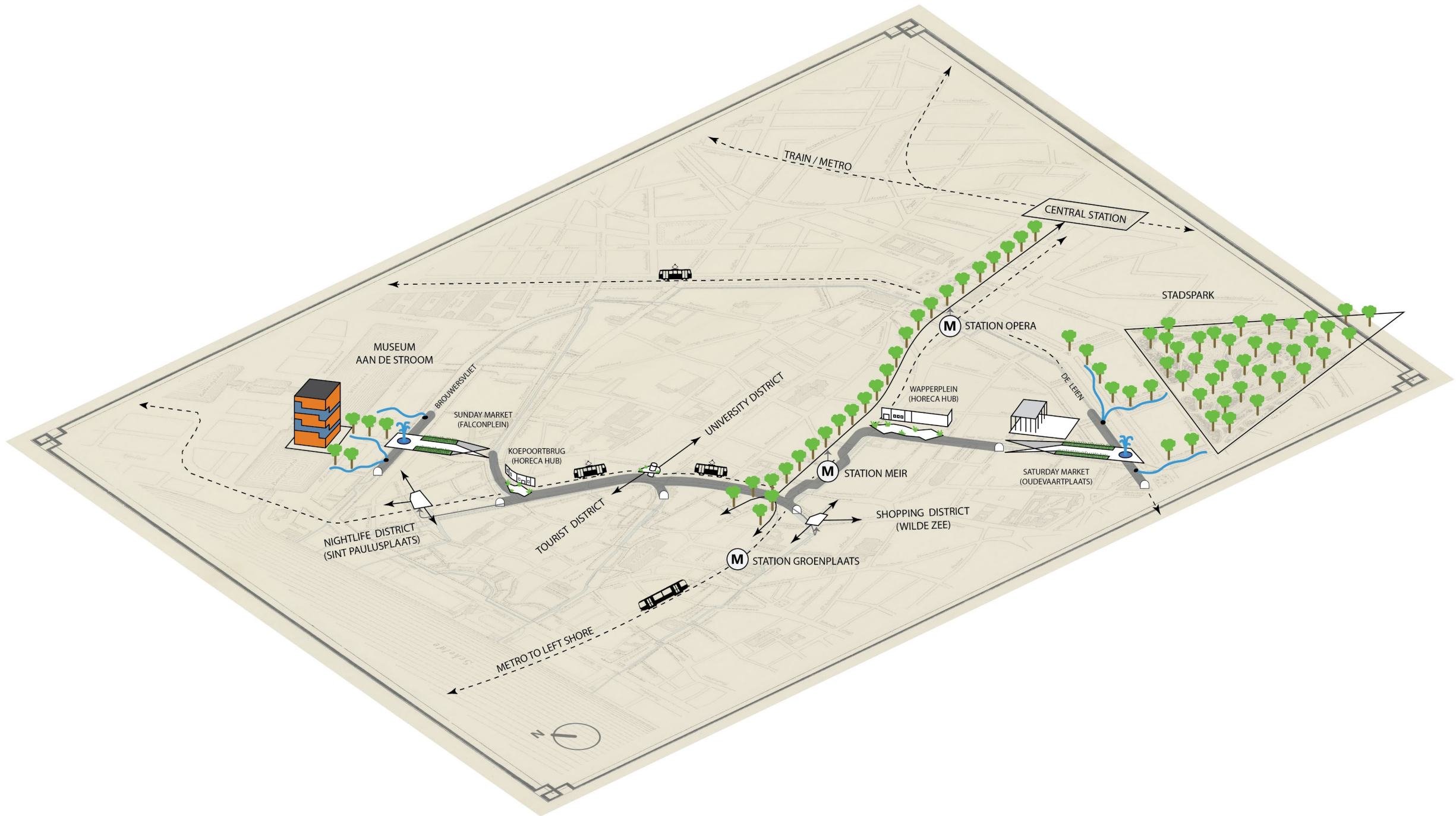


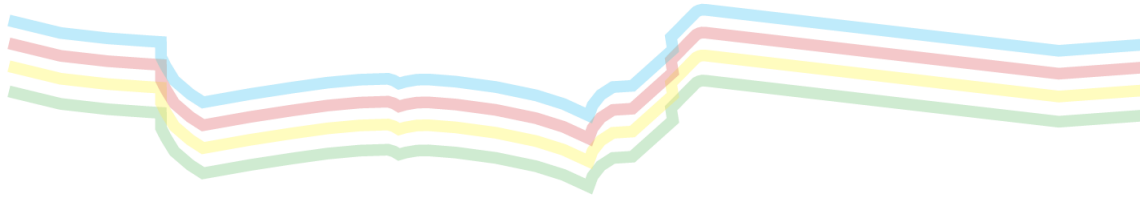
C Falconplein



D Brouwersvliet

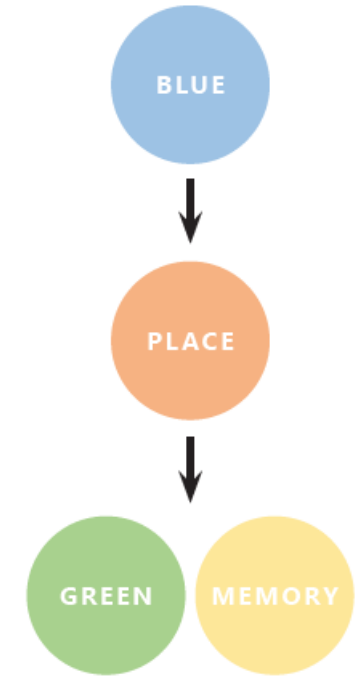






Phasing Strategy: phasing by theme

1. BLUE > acts most as a system
2. PLACE > determines success of green or memory
3. GREEN + MEMORY > scattered throughout, based on human presence





Phasing Strategy: phasing by location

Blauwtorenplein – Oudevaartplaats – Theaterplaats

Green:

- heat stress reduction (fountain) and ecological value (helophytes)

Blue:

- water regulating (fountain) and treating (helophytes) > infiltrating can be added at the bottom of the descending path

Place

- create new public space on an unnecessary parking lot and enhance the existing market space

Memory

- Sluice-tower (fountain) and canal (paving) is accentuated, while the tunnel itself becomes accessible

