In Completed

on-going collaborative designed places in Den Helder

First mentor
Dr.ir. S.I. de Wit

Second mentor
Dr. A. Sioli

Delegate
Ir. C.H.E. van Ees

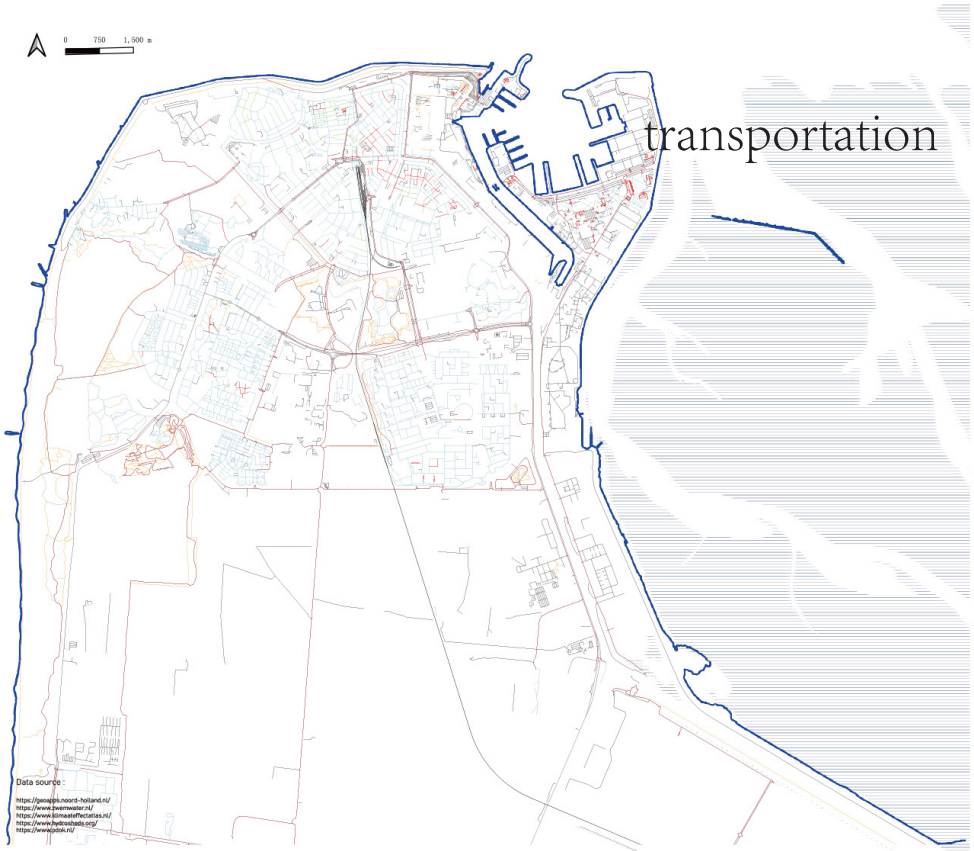
Author
Yizhuo Zhang
5556228

01

DEN HELDER

INTRODUCTION & PROBLEM FIELD

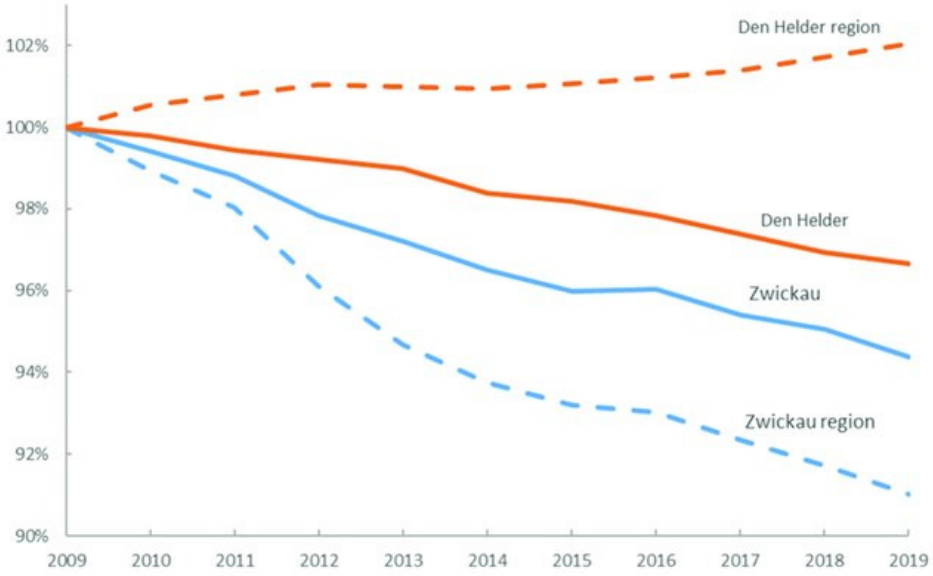
Den Helder
Noord-Holland Province
Netherlands



- urban decay

- urban shrinking

relative population change



Shrinking Den Helder: The Dutch Detroit at Sea?

December 2, 2013 By Jolien Groot 3

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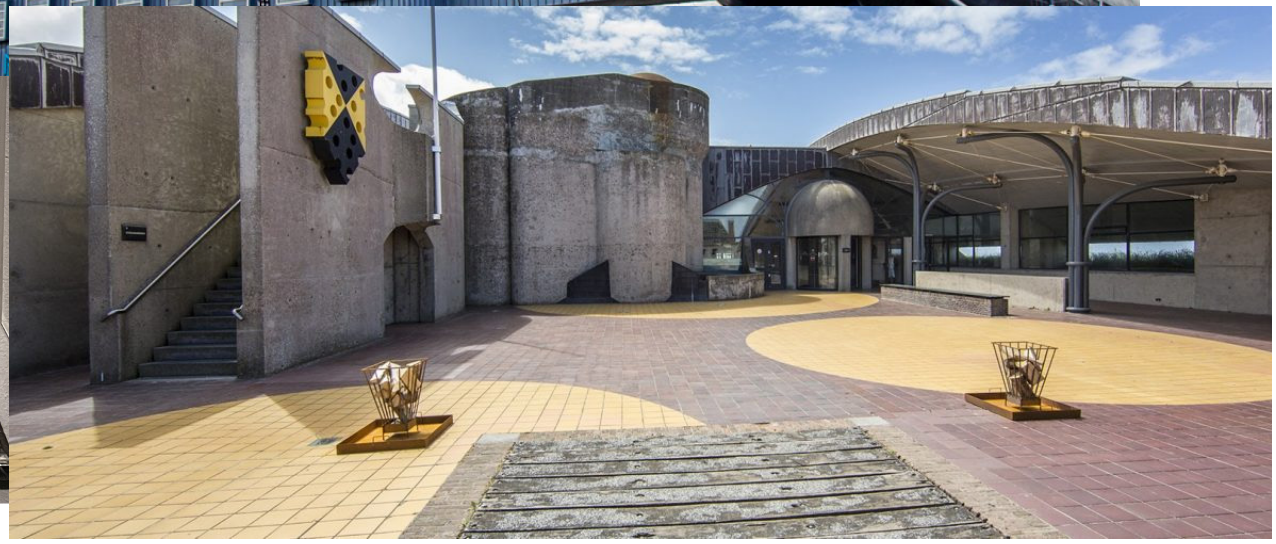
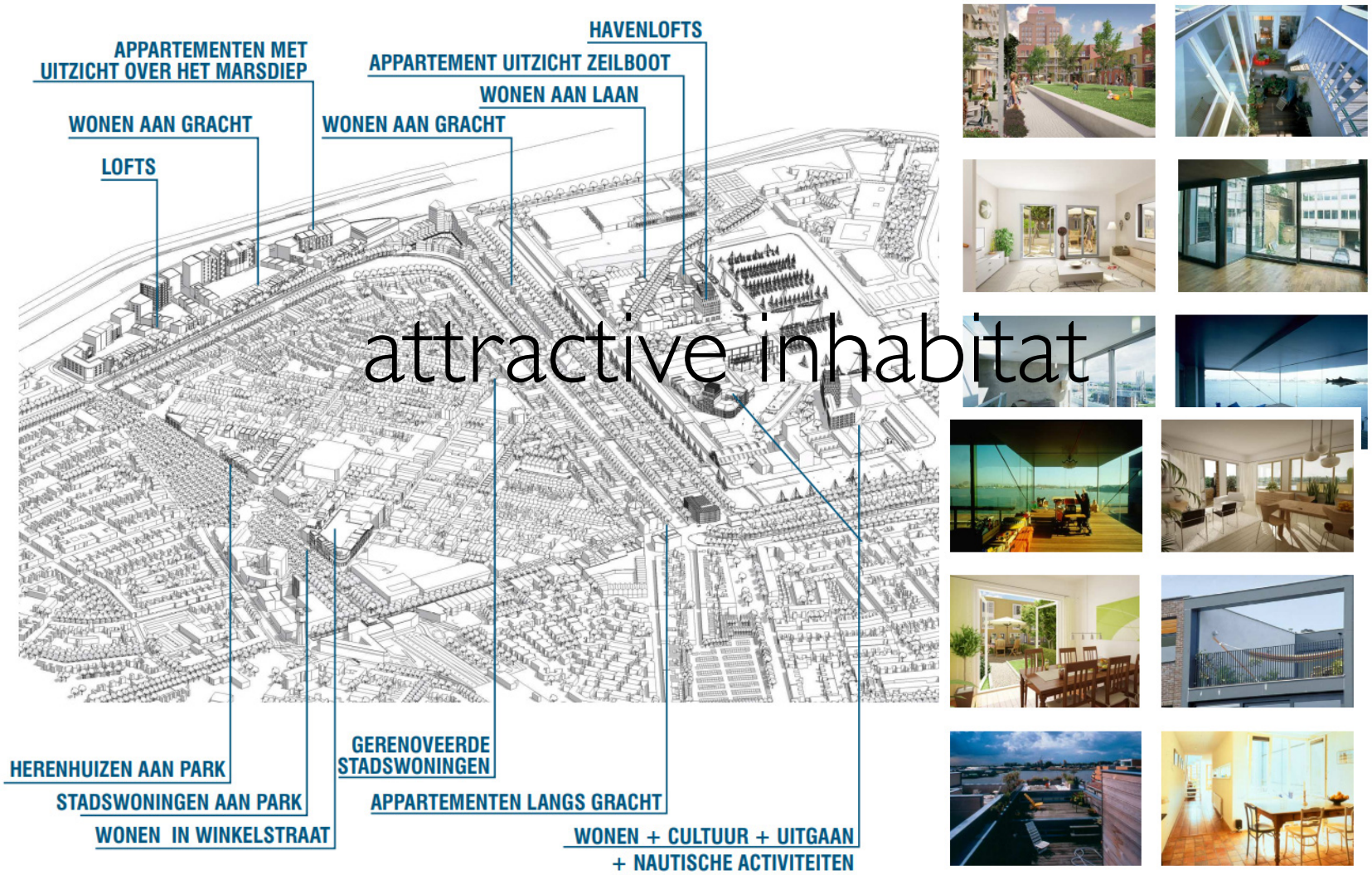
Many urban and regional development theories focus on the growth of urban regions. But what about regions that shrink? In recent years, an increasing number of urban planners have concerned themselves with how cities shrink and what should be done about that. Shrinking cities are a relevant research topic: a German project called Shrinking Cities found that over 450 cities (with of over 100,000 inhabitants) worldwide lost at least a tenth of their population over the past six decades.

This blog entry focuses on a case of urban shrinkage in the Netherlands: Den Helder. Never heard of it? That is possible, since it is only a small city in a small country. As a native *Den Helderian*, let me shortly introduce the city to you. Den Helder is a small city (population of 56.739) in the uttermost northern part of the province North Holland in the Netherlands, surrounded by the sea.

museum...momument...the memory...




HAVENLOFTS
APPARTEMENTEN MET UITZICHT OVER HET MARSDIEP
APPARTEMENT UITZICHT ZEILBOOT
WONEN AAN LAAN
WONEN AAN GRACHT
WONEN AAN GRACHT
LOFTS
attractive inhabitat
HERENHUIZEN AAN PARK
STADSWONINGEN AAN PARK
WONEN IN WINKELSTRAAT
GERENOVEERDE STADSWONINGEN
APPARTEMENTEN LANGS GRACHT
WONEN + CULTUUR + UITGAAN + NAUTISCHE ACTIVITEITEN

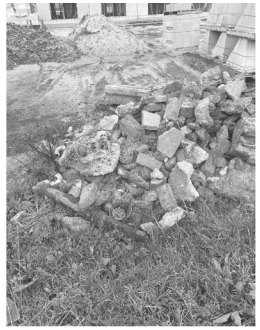
but , the public is losing the memorial connection with the grand memory and city places ...

Can we invite the public to take part in the transformation of Den Helder, and create a stronger link between the public and the places?

02

UNDEFINED PLACES

FASCINATION



community renewal void (ephemeral)

as a result of the rebuild policy in the community against urban shrinking.The voids appear after the post - war building was removed.

surrounded by commercial place

nature habitat

occupied by leftover stuff

inside a border

historical leftover (long - term)

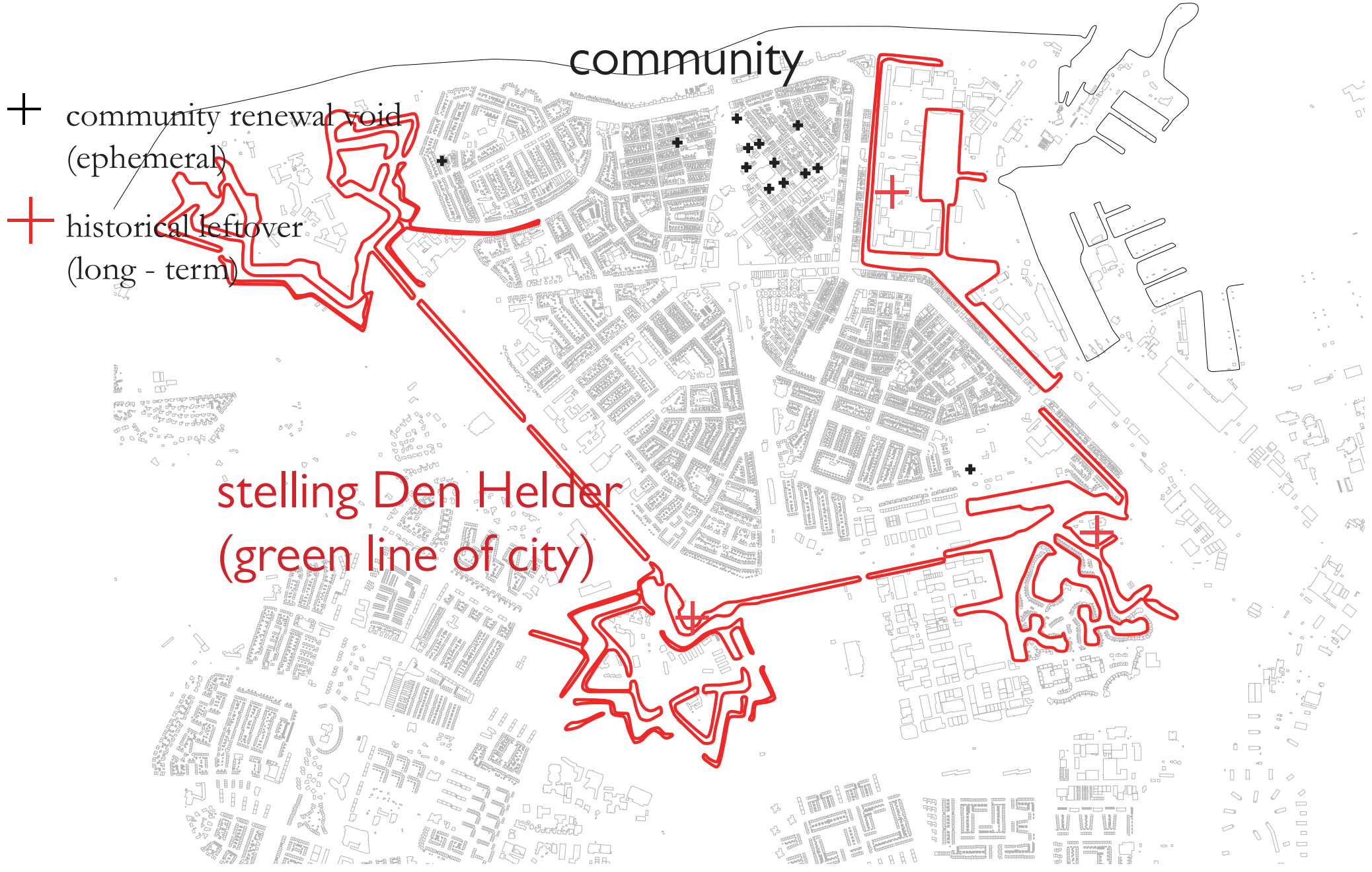
as a result of the urban decay.The leftovers appear because the ignoration of the heritage and the abandonment of old industrial structure.

surrounded by flat place

car parking lots

growing place

heritage symbol


community
community renewal void
(ephemeral)
historical leftover
(long - term)
stelling Den Helder
(green line of city)

Can we transform the undefined places in Den Helder by inviting the public participation?

proposal

- community renewal void

community garden → attractive living habitat

- historical leftover

heritage park → enhance place identity

03

MEMORIAL LENS & OPEN-ENDED DESIGN

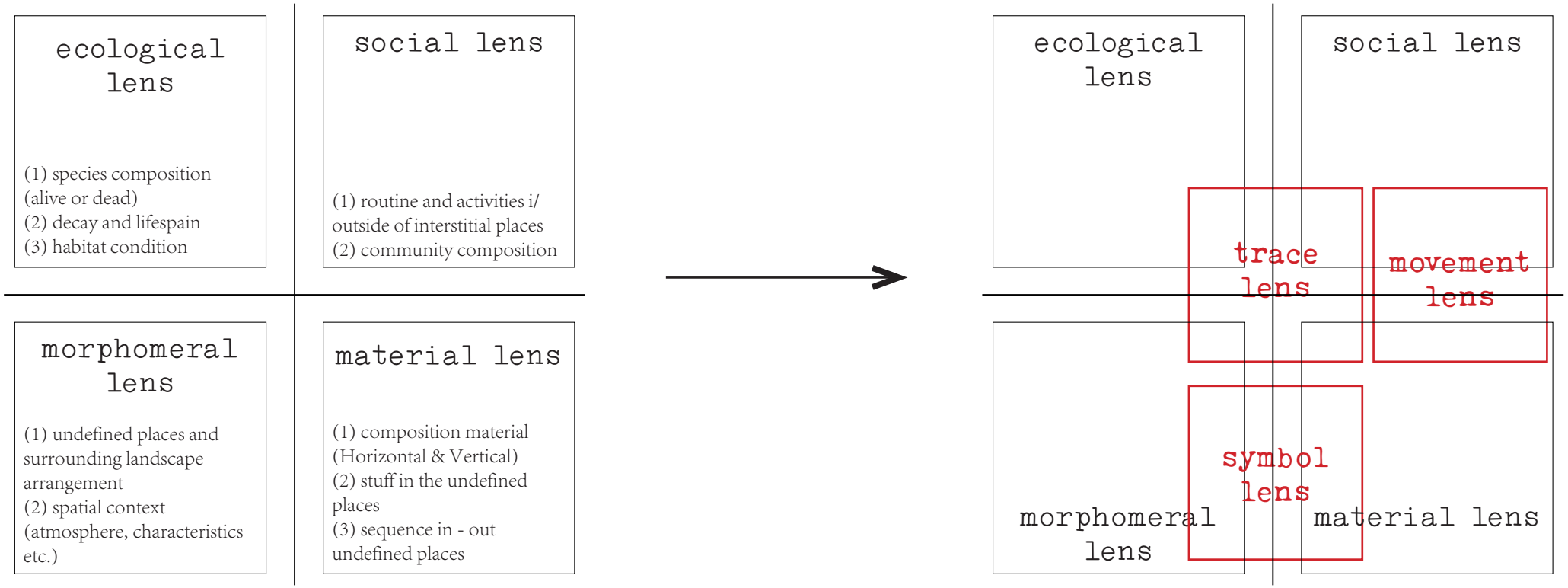
morphomeral lens

social lens

material lens

ecological lens

- memorial lens
methodology

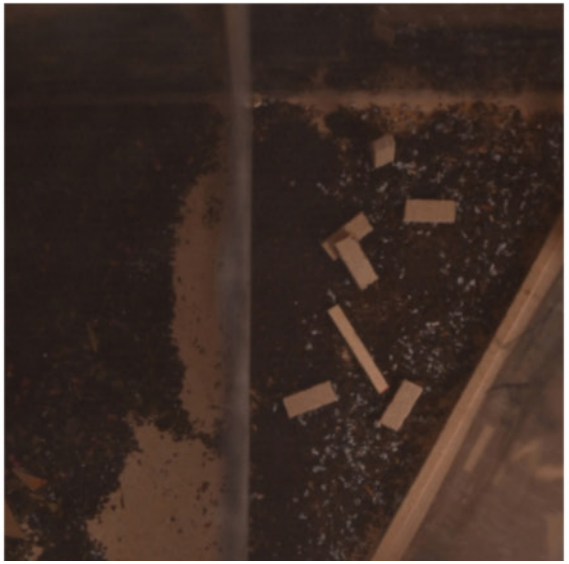


movement lens

towards a quite different form of actual or imagined intervention

symbol lens

like to collect familiar or peculiar objects around us.

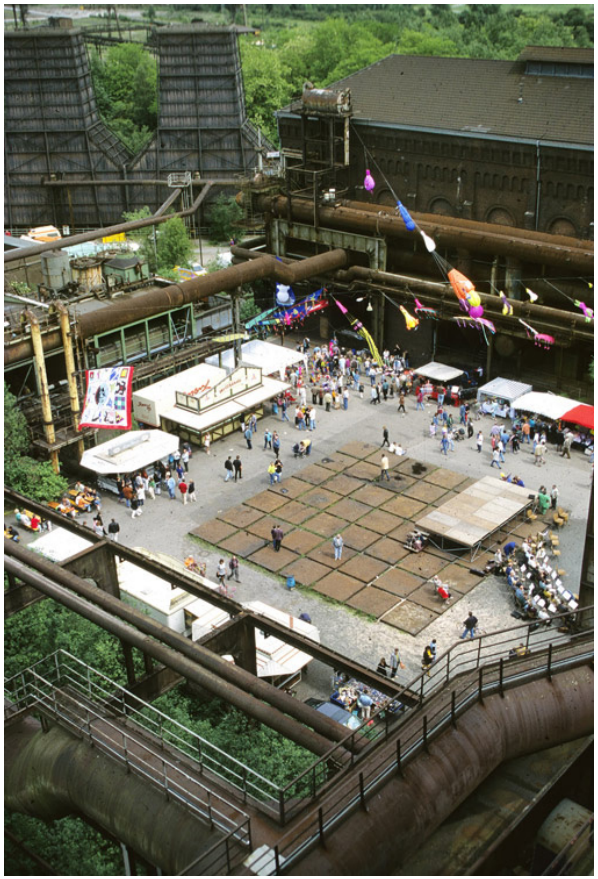


trace lens

spatially order and focus human intention, experience, and action...

symbol lens
+
movement lens

activity, attitude

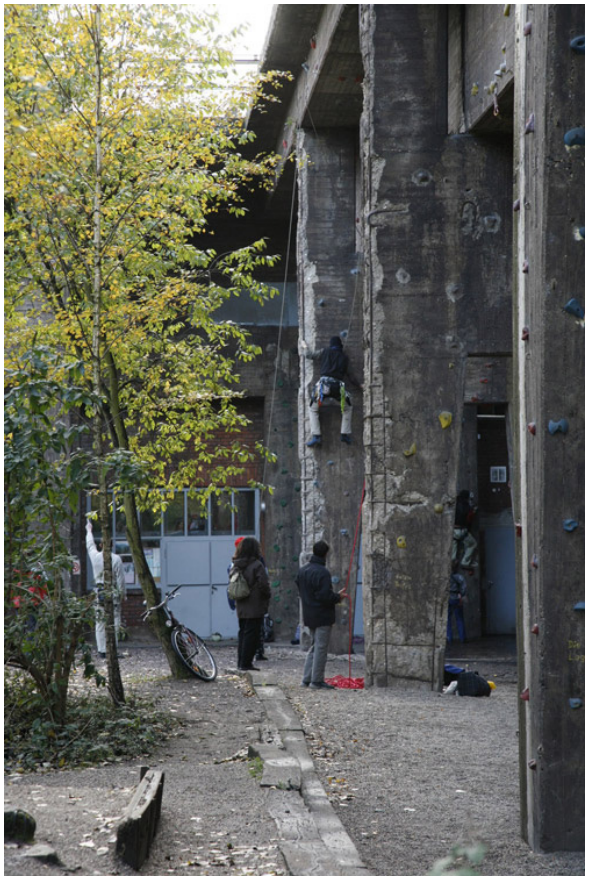


symbol lens

meaningful material, atmosphere

movement lens
+
trace lens

random material, arrangement

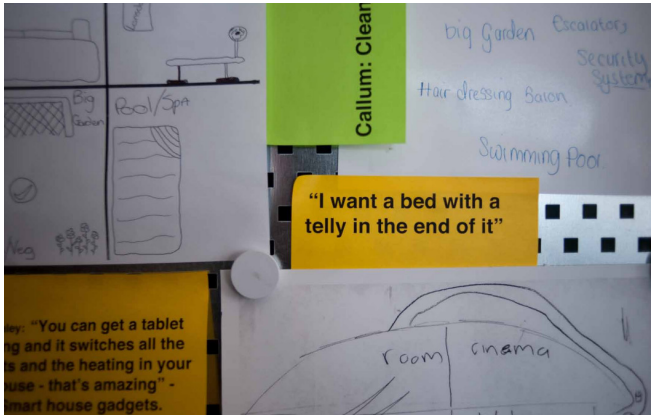


- guided open-ended design

design framework

- designer

review + guide

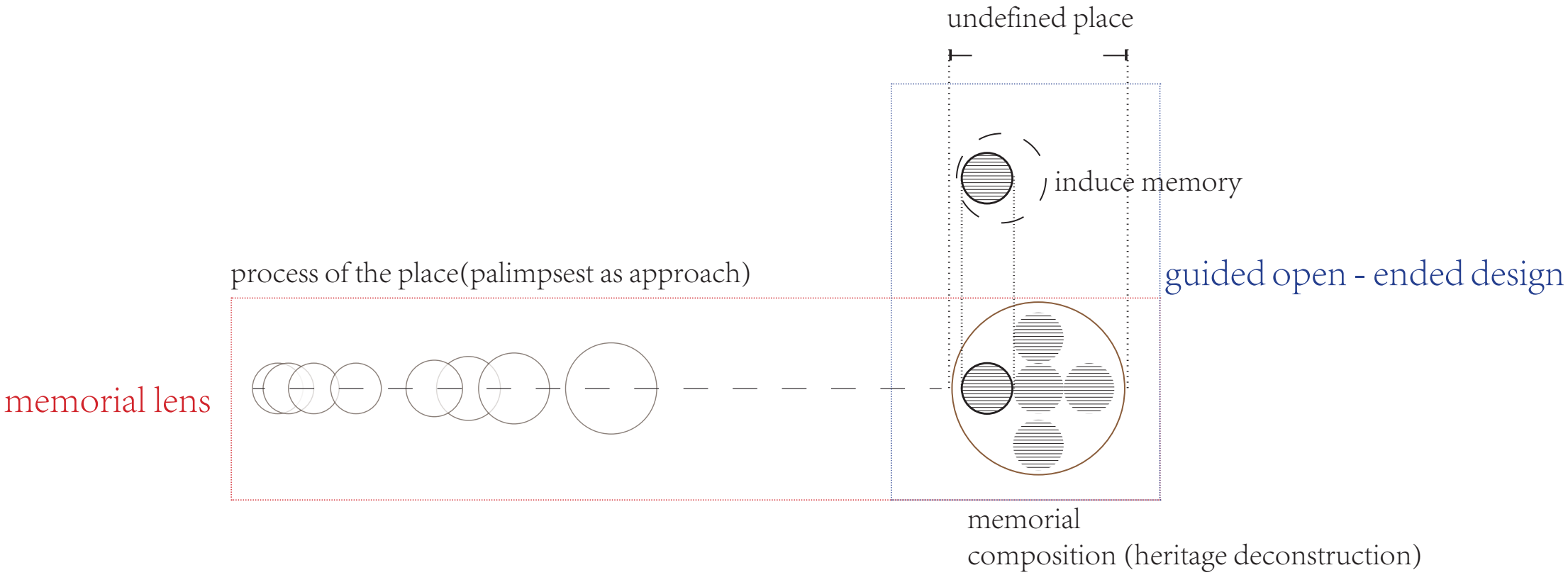


- user

hands - on building

guerrilla social & spatial maintenance between designer & user

design approach



How can we use the practical design to transform the undefined places and evoke memory?

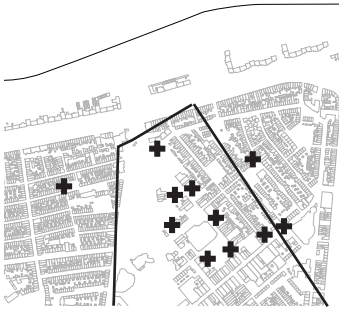
04

A DESIGN EXPERIEMNT

2 locations

- coffeeshop void & Rijkswerf Willemsoord

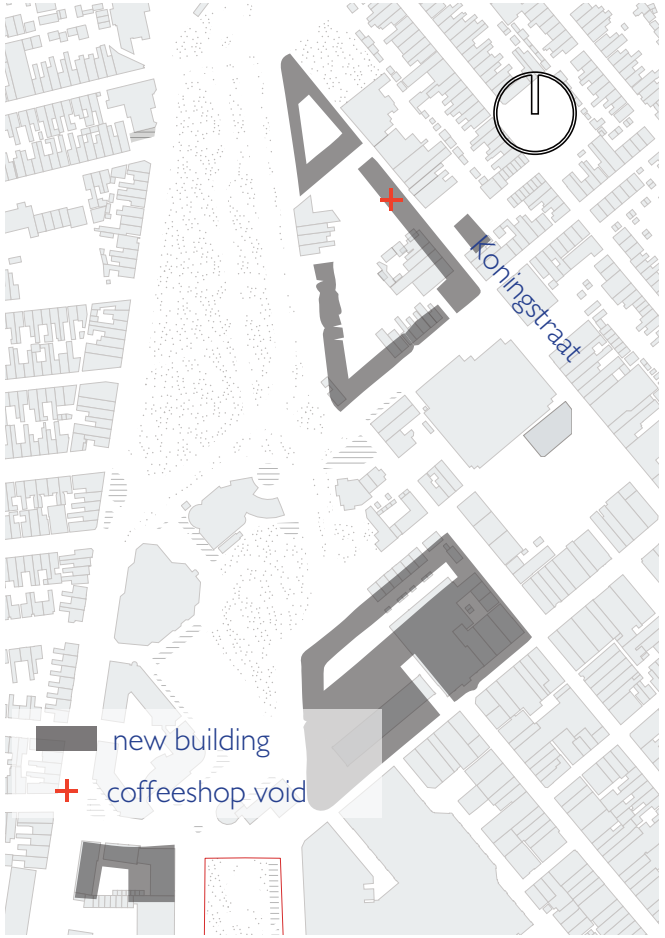
- community renewal void in city center



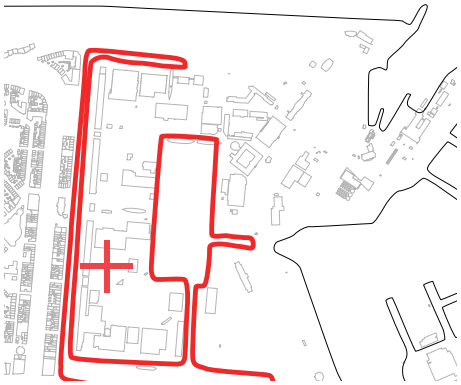
city center

2000

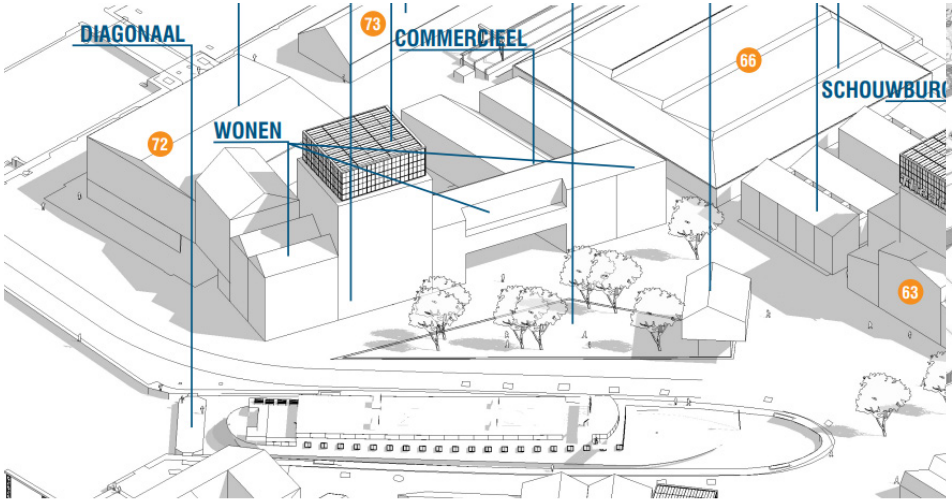
2030

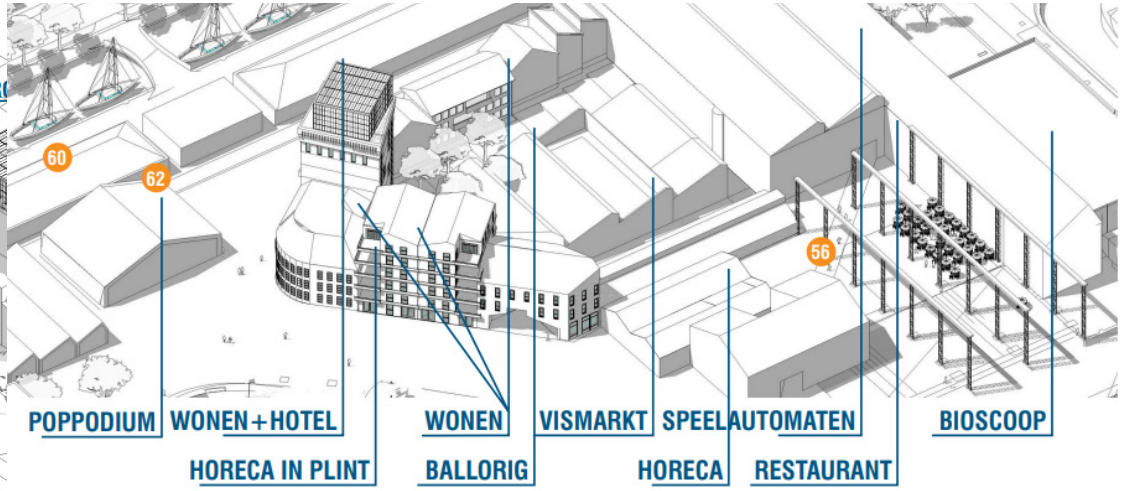


- historical leftover in Willemsoord



Rijkswerf Willemsoord

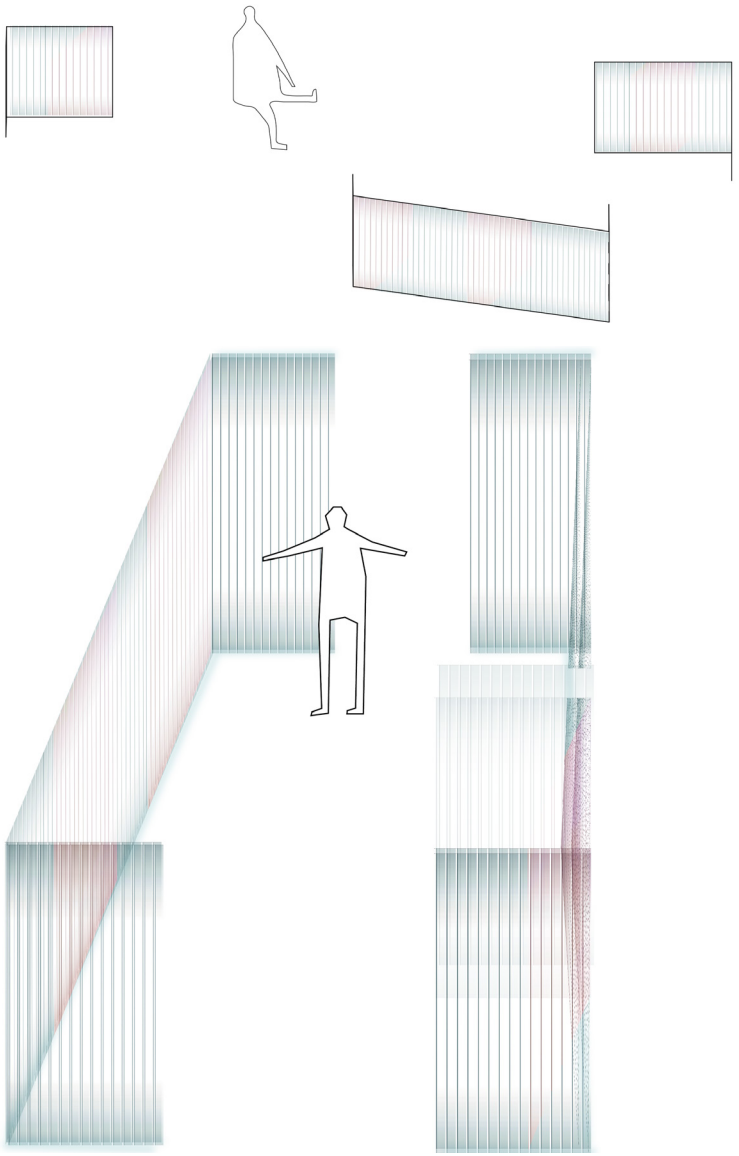




2 main elements

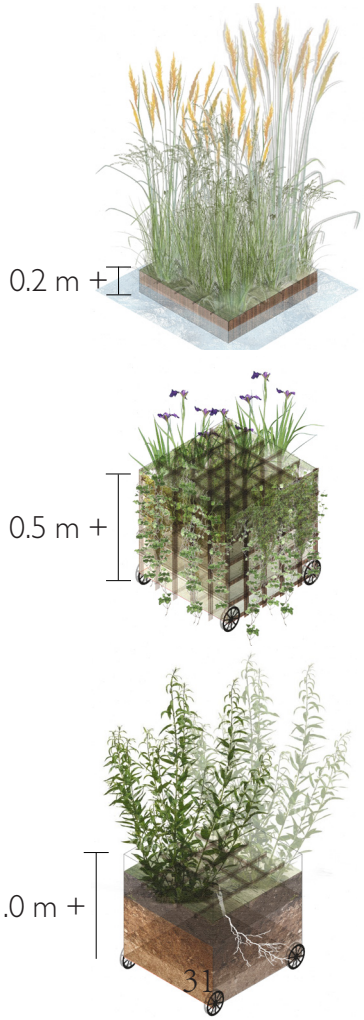
- framer & container

- framer given by designer



- container filled by user

type A for the plantings
& public art works



type B for the leftover,tools
& garbage

type C for the historical bricks
storage

2 experiment

- time+spatial shift & site shift

1

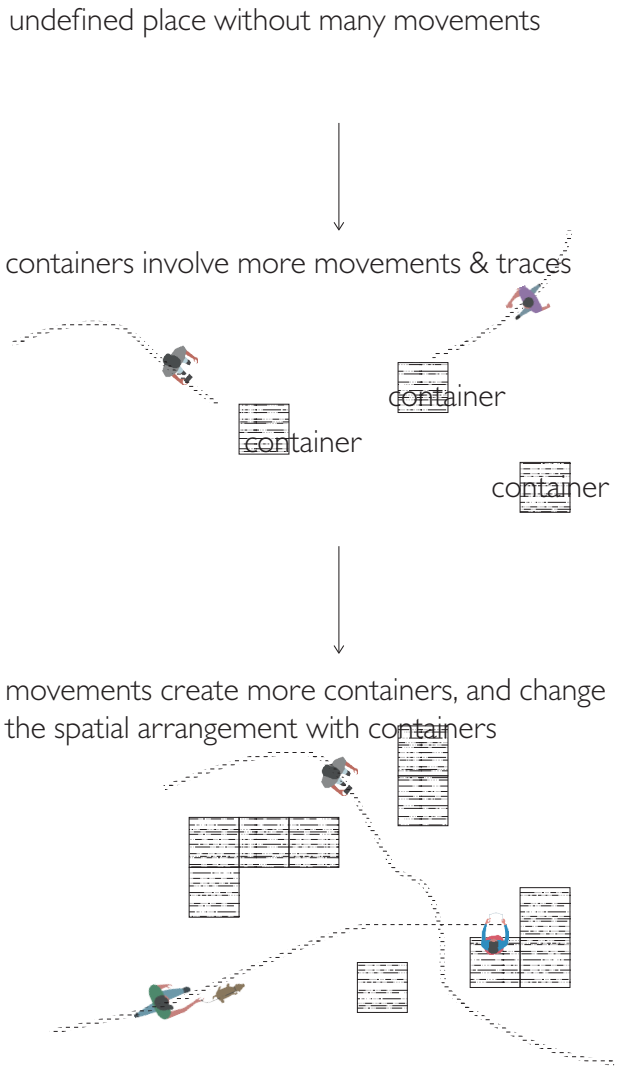
- time & spatial shift experiment

ephemeral place

community renewal void (coffe shop void)

long - term place

historical leftover (Rijkswerf Willemsoord)

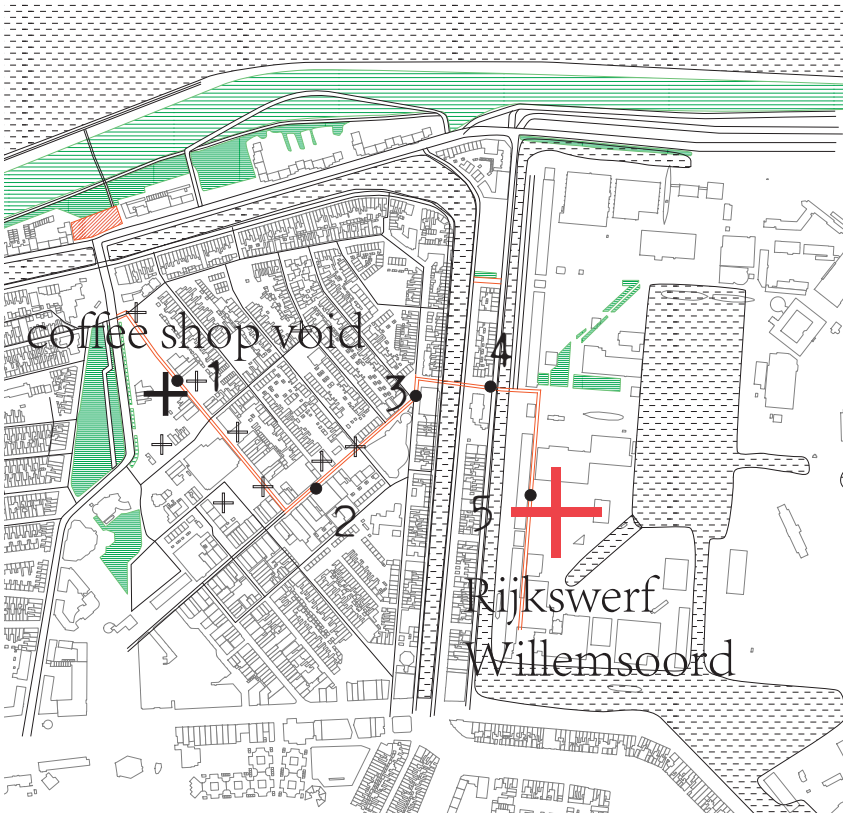


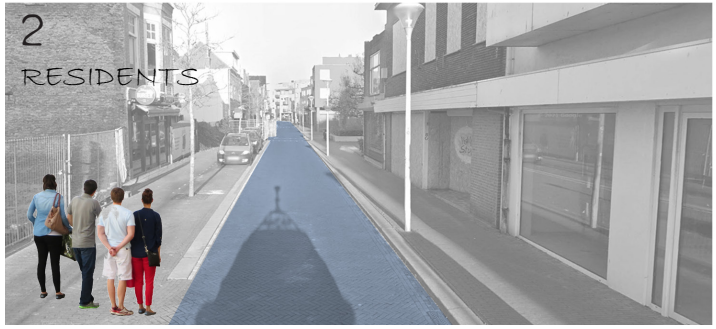
2
- site shift experiment

community renewal void
(coffe shop void)

elements
travel

historical leftover
(Rijkswerf Willemsoord)

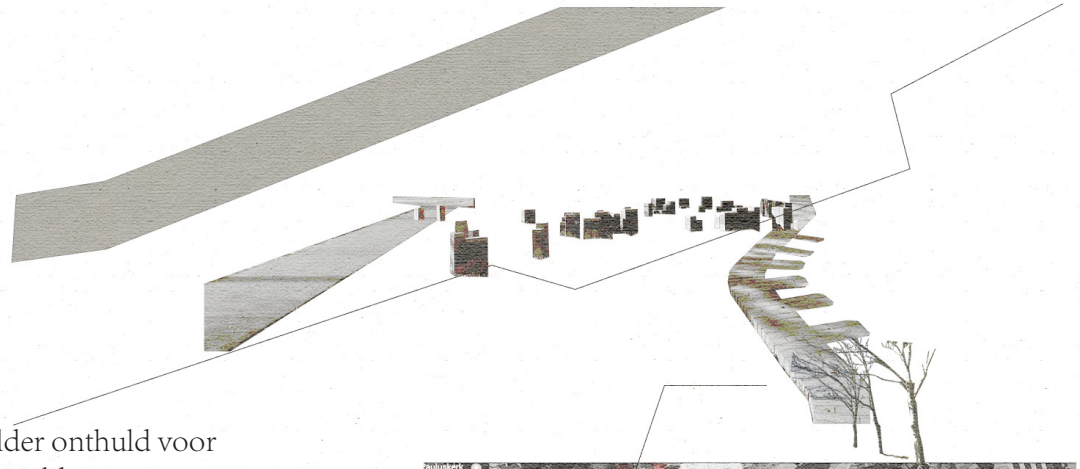




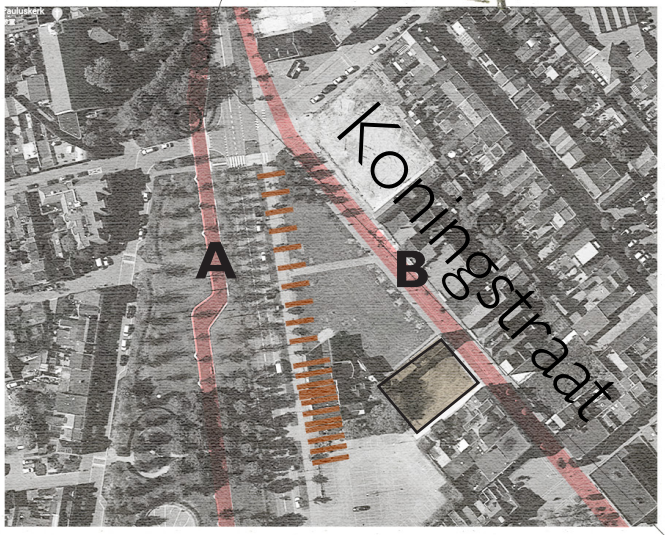
05

COFFEE SHOP VOID

EPHEMERAL PLACE EXPERIMENT



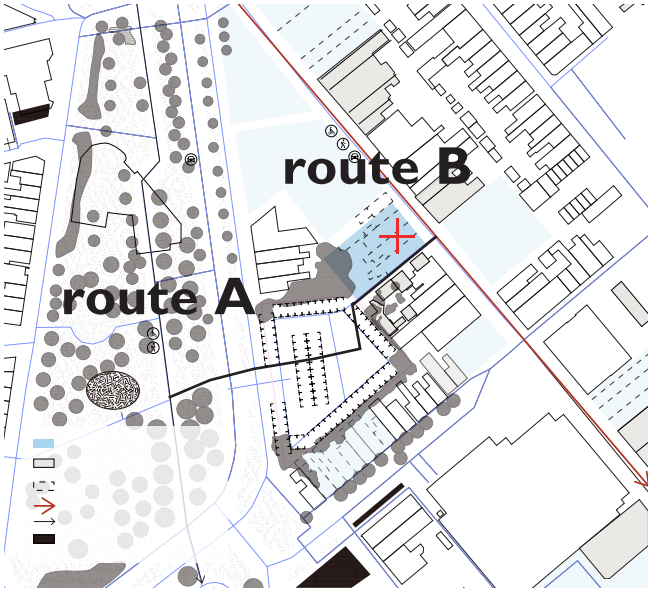
Monument in Den Helder onthuld voor
118 vermoorde Joodse Heldernaren

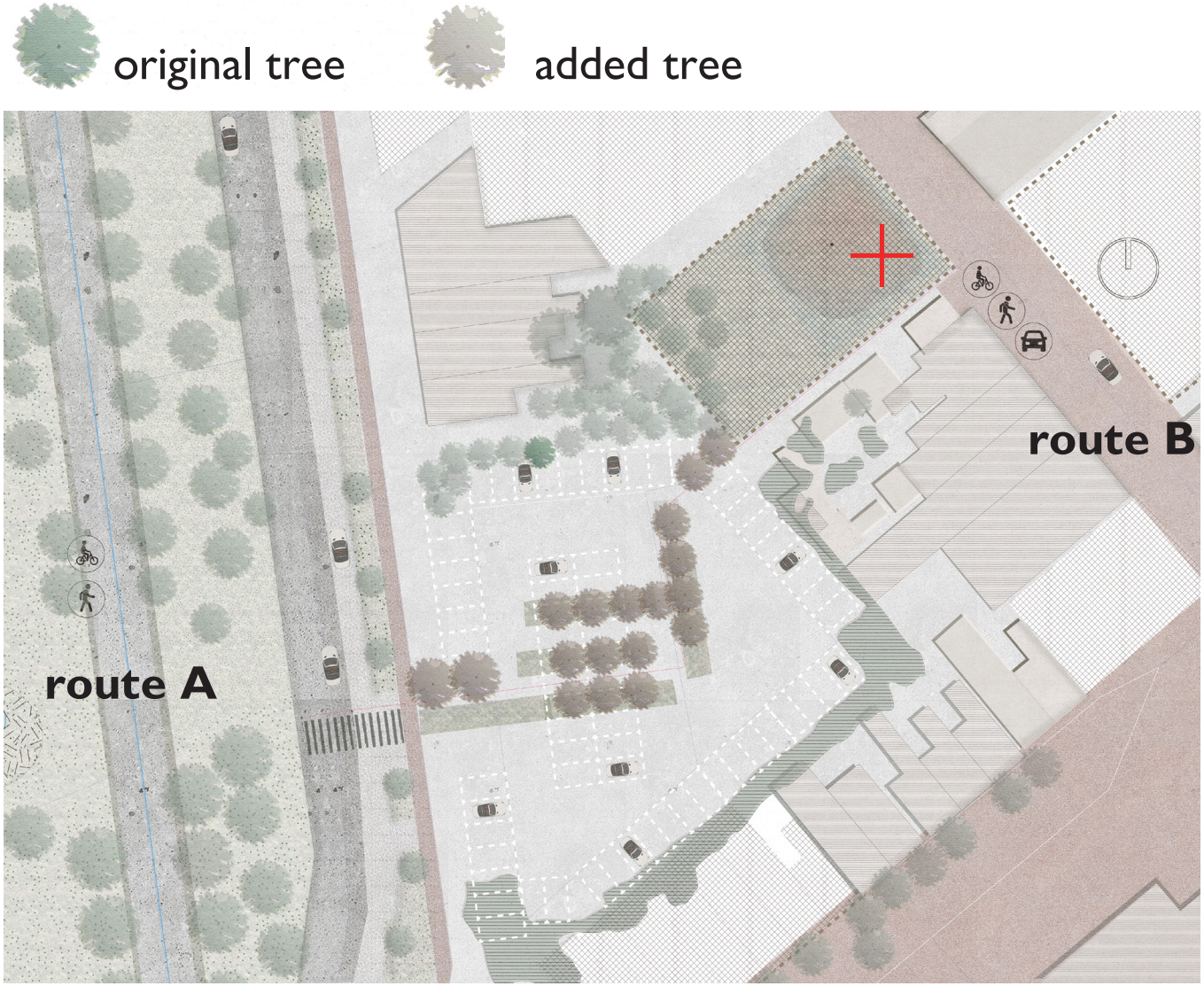


canopy density

Former Synagogue on Kanaalweg.This synagogue was
in turn destroyed by acts of war in 1944.

- step 1 connect Koningstraat(B) with Stadspark(A) through coffee shop void





- step 2 coffee shop void transformed into community garden

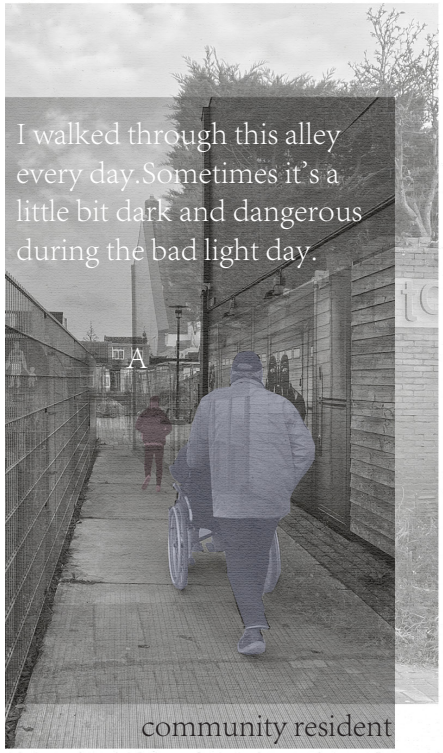
SYMBOL LENS

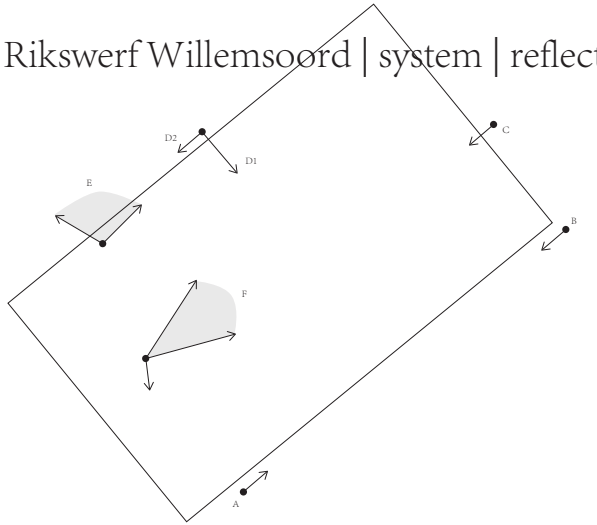
building before WWII

built in 1931, dead in 2023

wild habitat

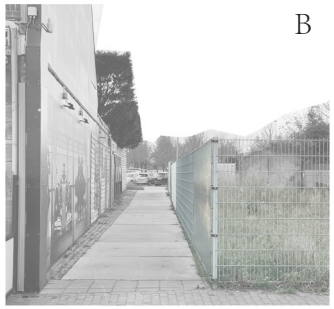
MOVEMENT LENS





A

B



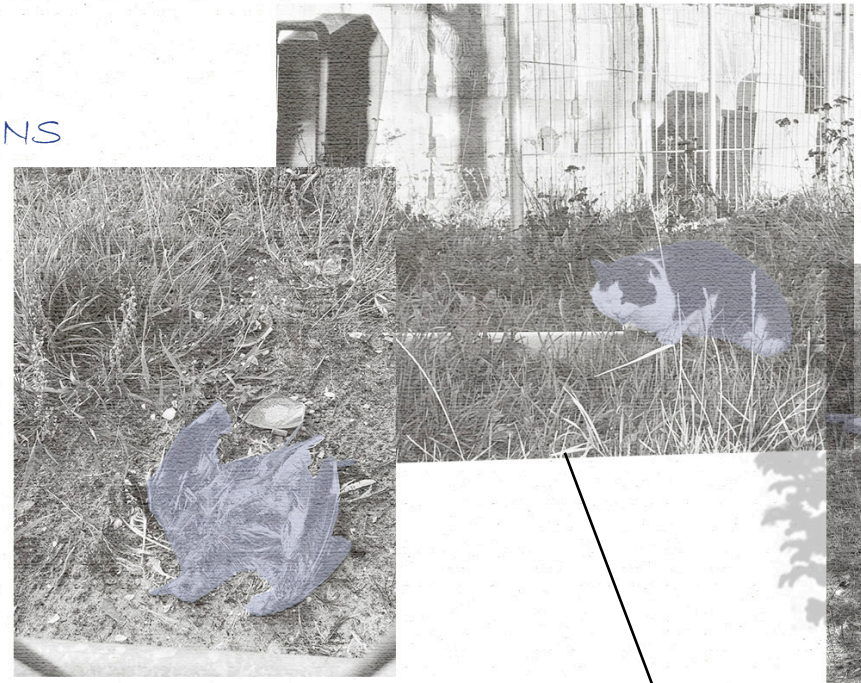
C

D

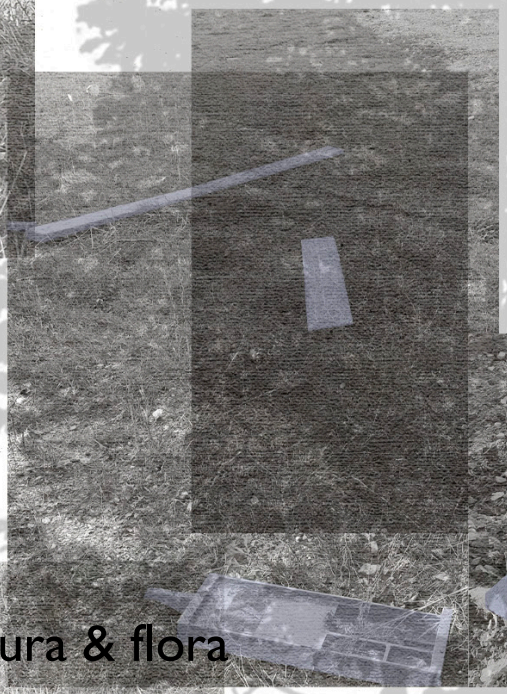
F

E

TRACE LENS

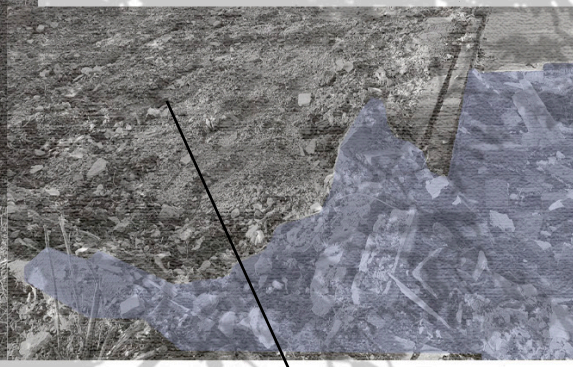


animal



canopy

architecture
structure



a habitat for the faura & flora

food packaging boxes

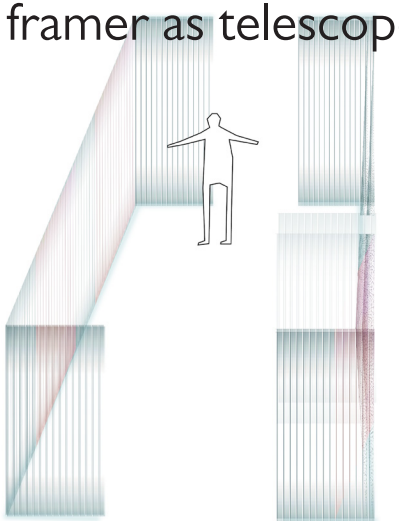
salvage of the
materials and build up

toy & cans

I brick pavement
+ containers

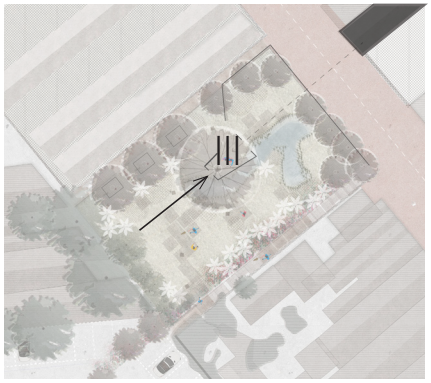
II reeds

III framer as telescope



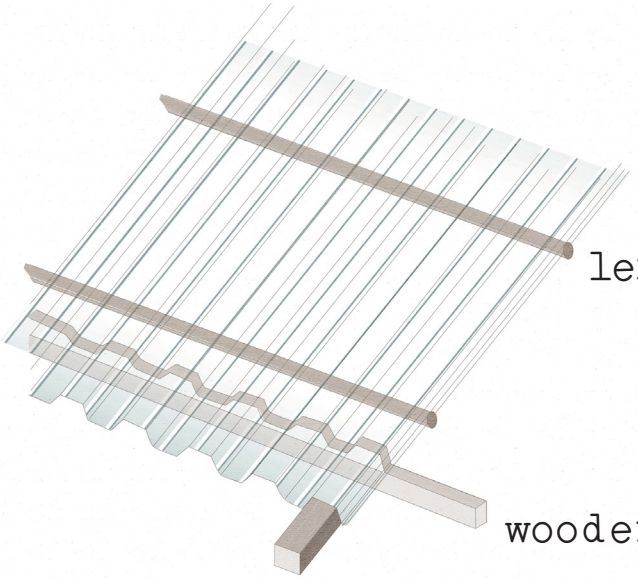
- container

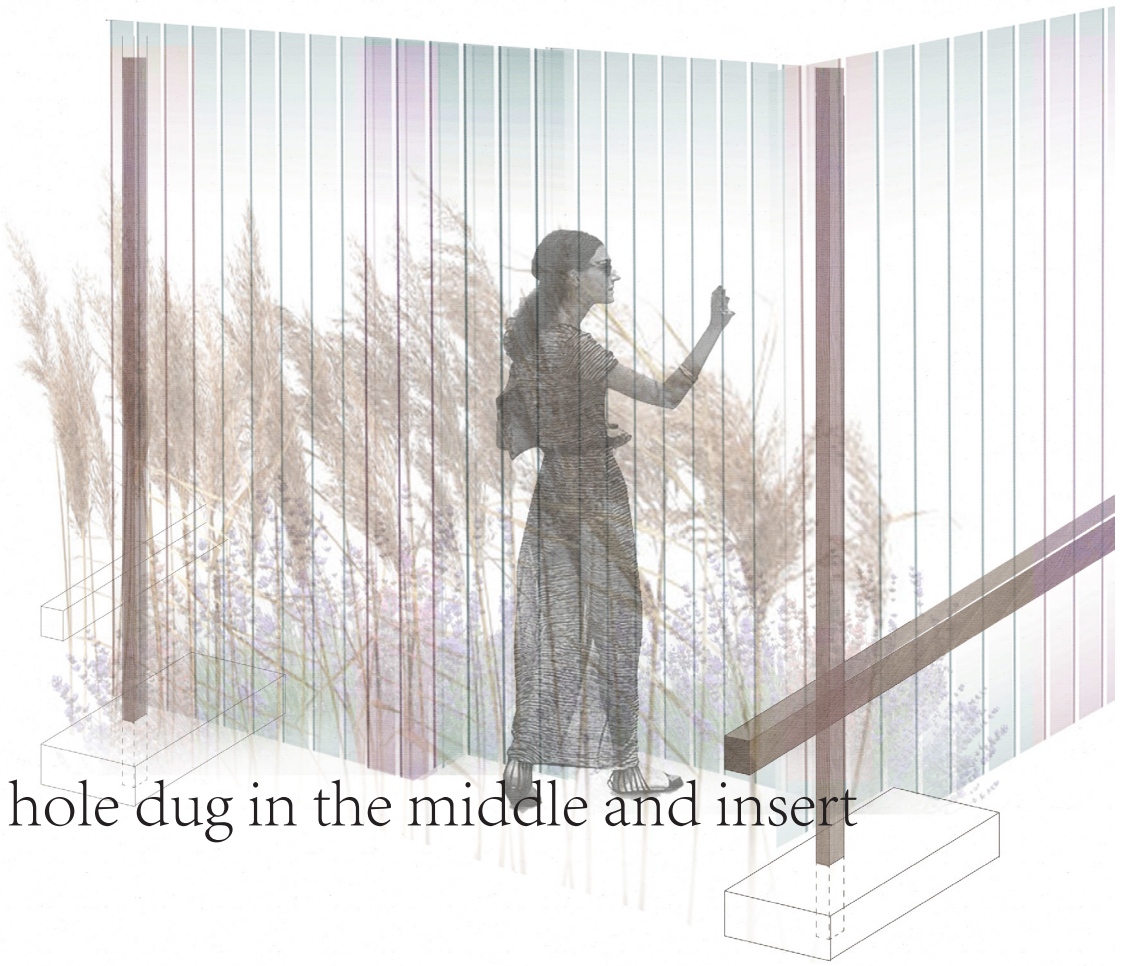
as a recording of user behavior



- framer

as a focus of the historical building





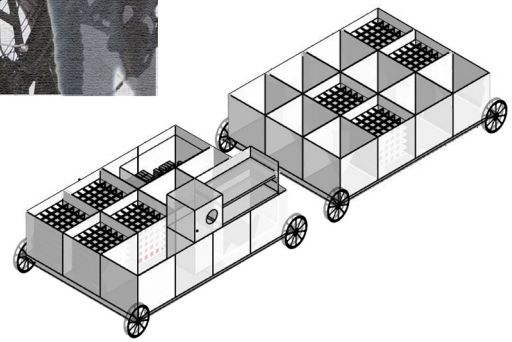
Use the concrete structure with the hole dug in the middle and insert the bottom wooden strips to fix

reeds change the water surrounding spatial experience

- manifest

During the experiment of transforming from renewal voids into community gardens, I propose a paradigm for investigating the relationship between spatial guidance and people's behavior.The users create their own gardens using the objects **(container & framer)** I provide. This is an ongoing process. I, the user and the site itself influence and shape each other in this experiment.

join the journey towards Willemsoord!



06

RIJKSWERF WILEMSOORD

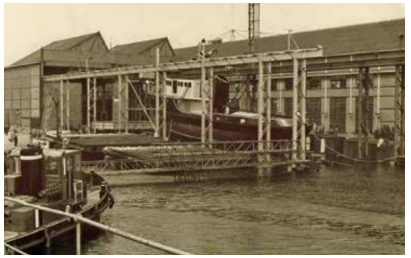
LONG - TERM PLACE EXPERIMENT

1812 born of
Rijkswerf Willemsoord

1822 dock and
aixs composition

1876 a period of
abandance

since 1900 important port



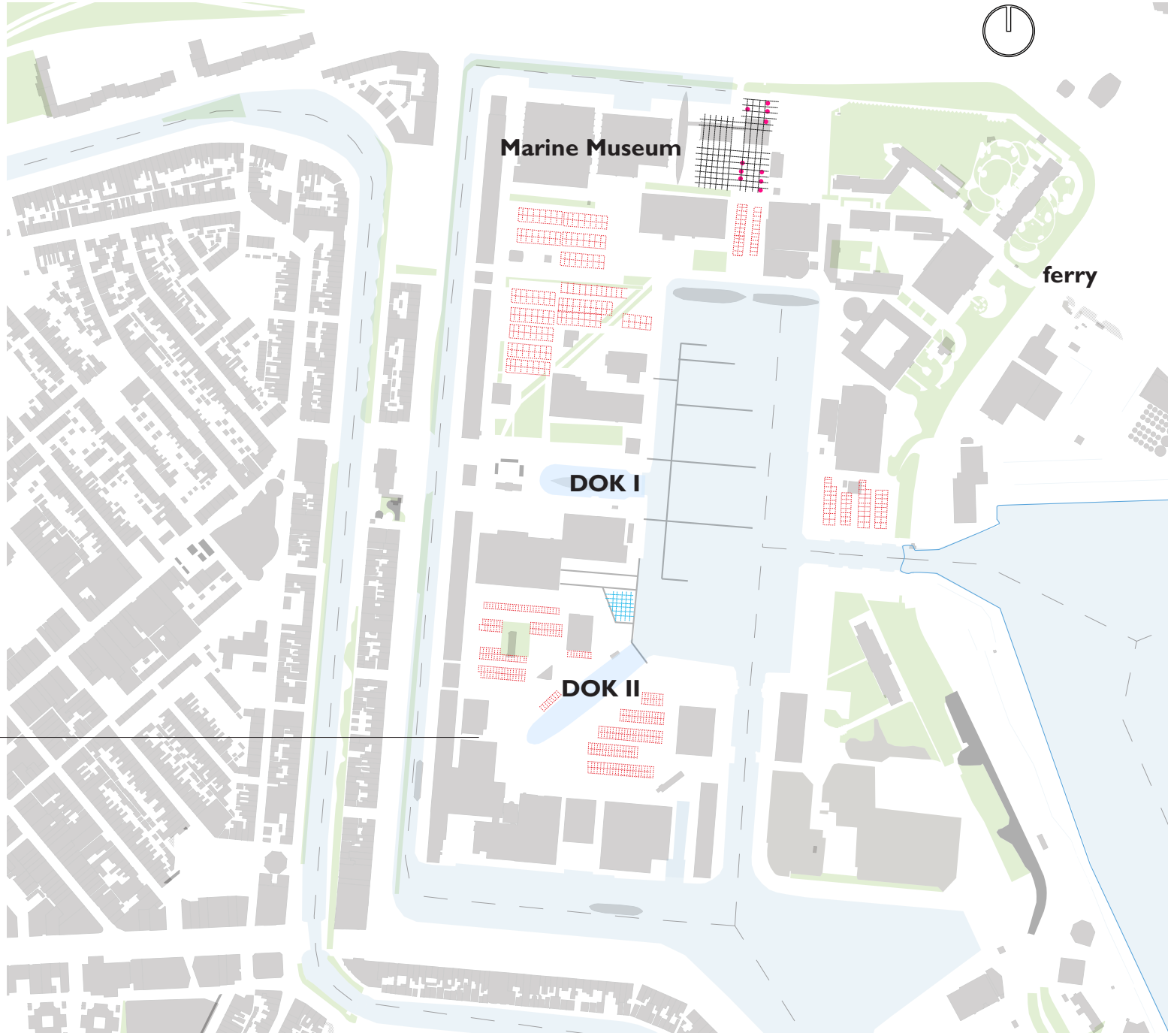
1939-1945 bombs
during the world war II

1954 new port
Nieuwe Haven

since 1989 the decay
& shrinking

nowadays a historical
place with leftovers

Rijkswerf Willemsoord zuid



SYMBOL LENS

grass

steel structure

mosses

wood

brick ground

brick wall

stone

glass window

stone

bunker

steel door & brick wall

steel infrastructure of industry

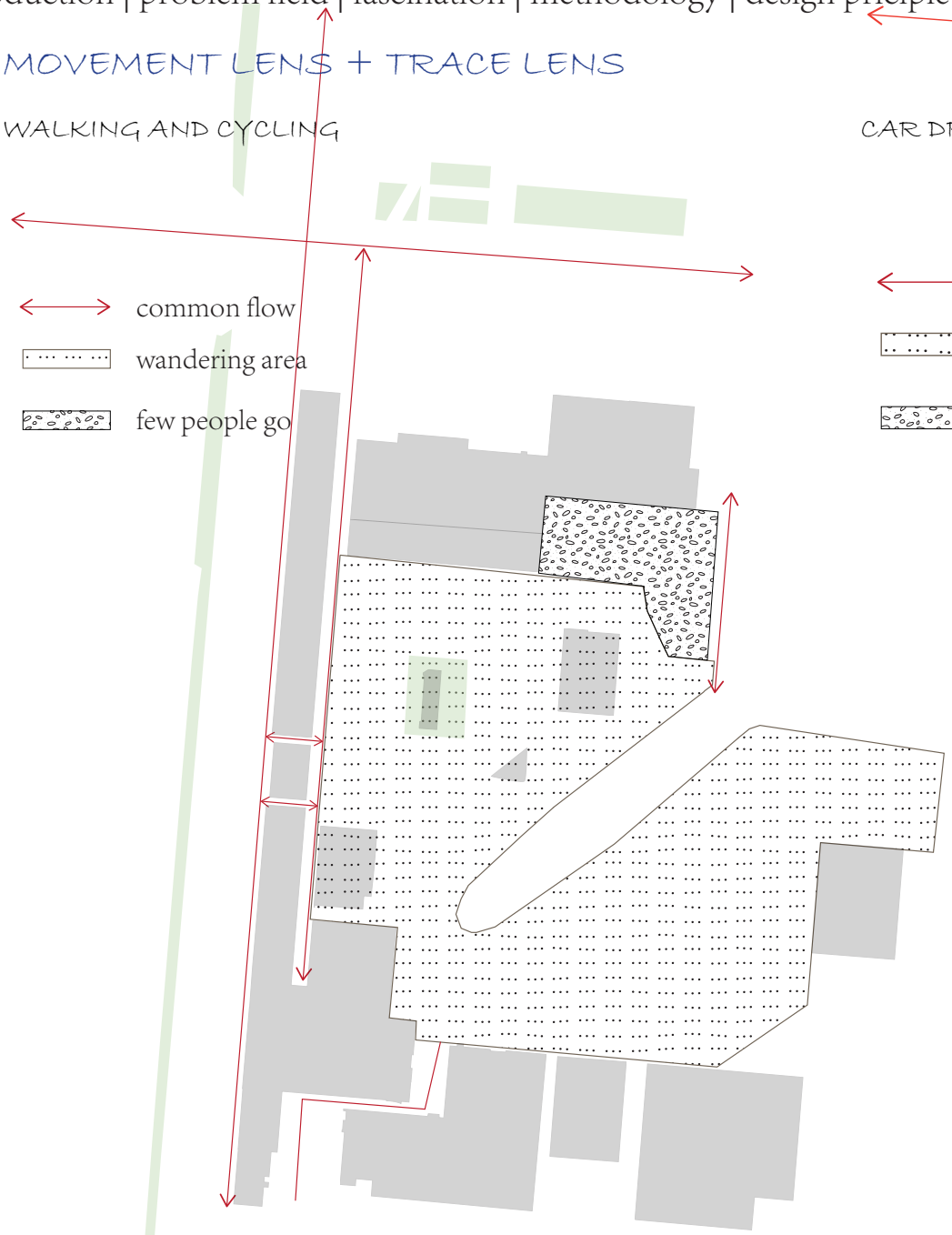
MOVEMENT LENS + TRACE LENS

WALKING AND CYCLING

common flow

wandering area

few people go

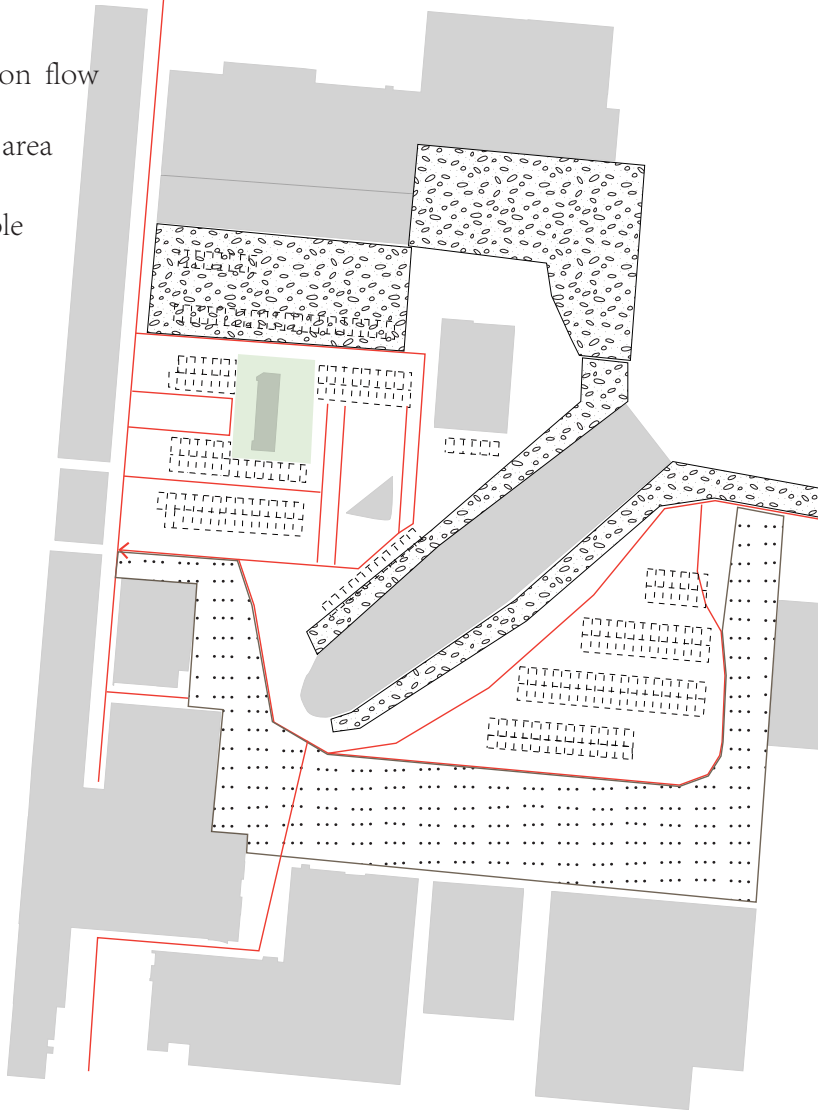


CAR DRIVING

transportation flow

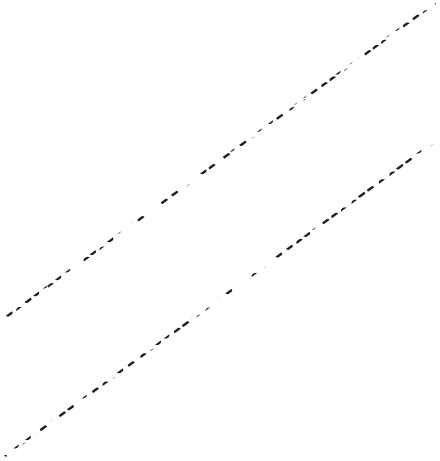
free driving area

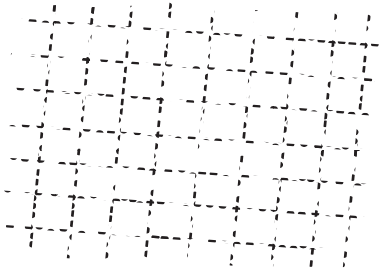
not accessible



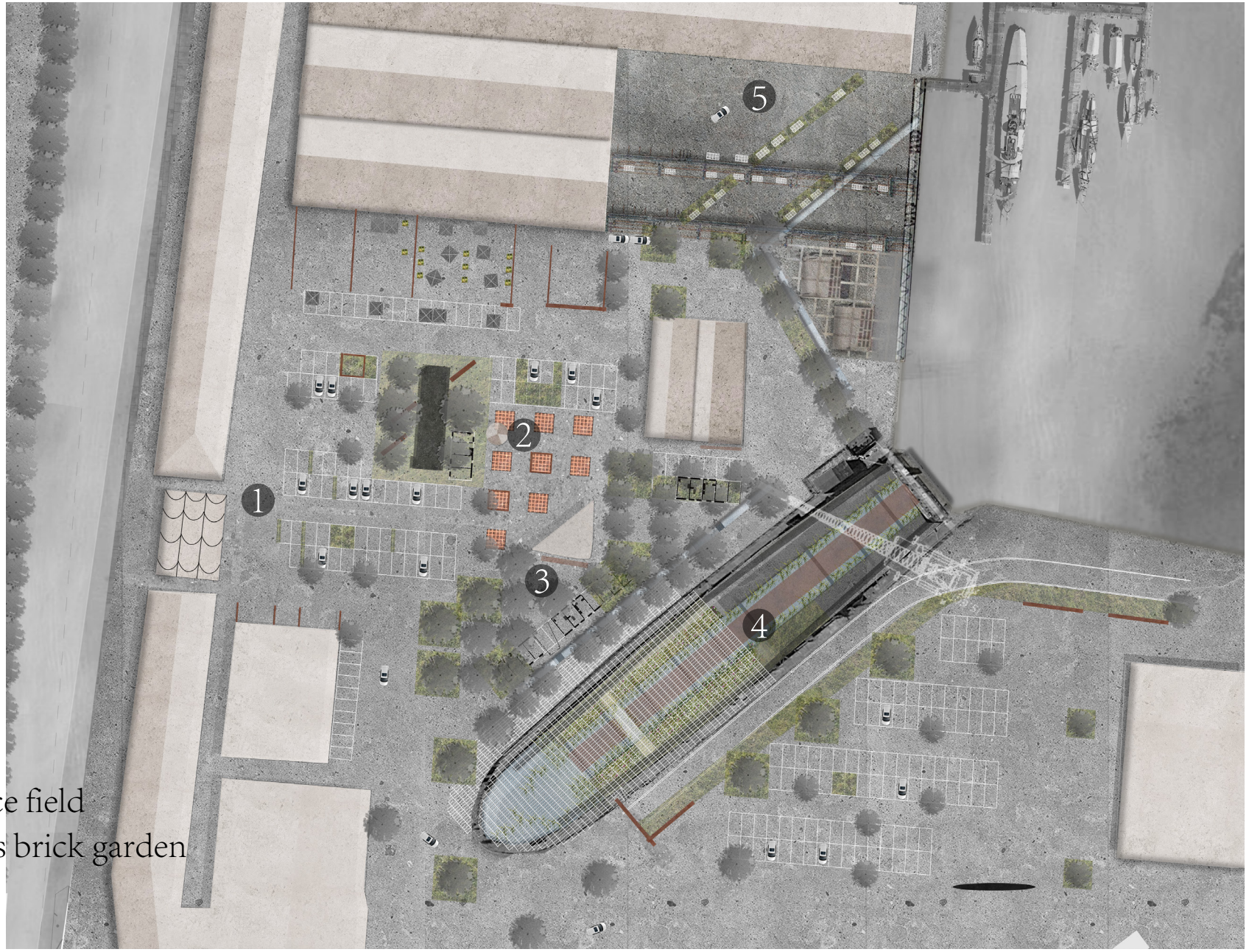
The place will be transformed into a heritage park by spatial design arrangement.

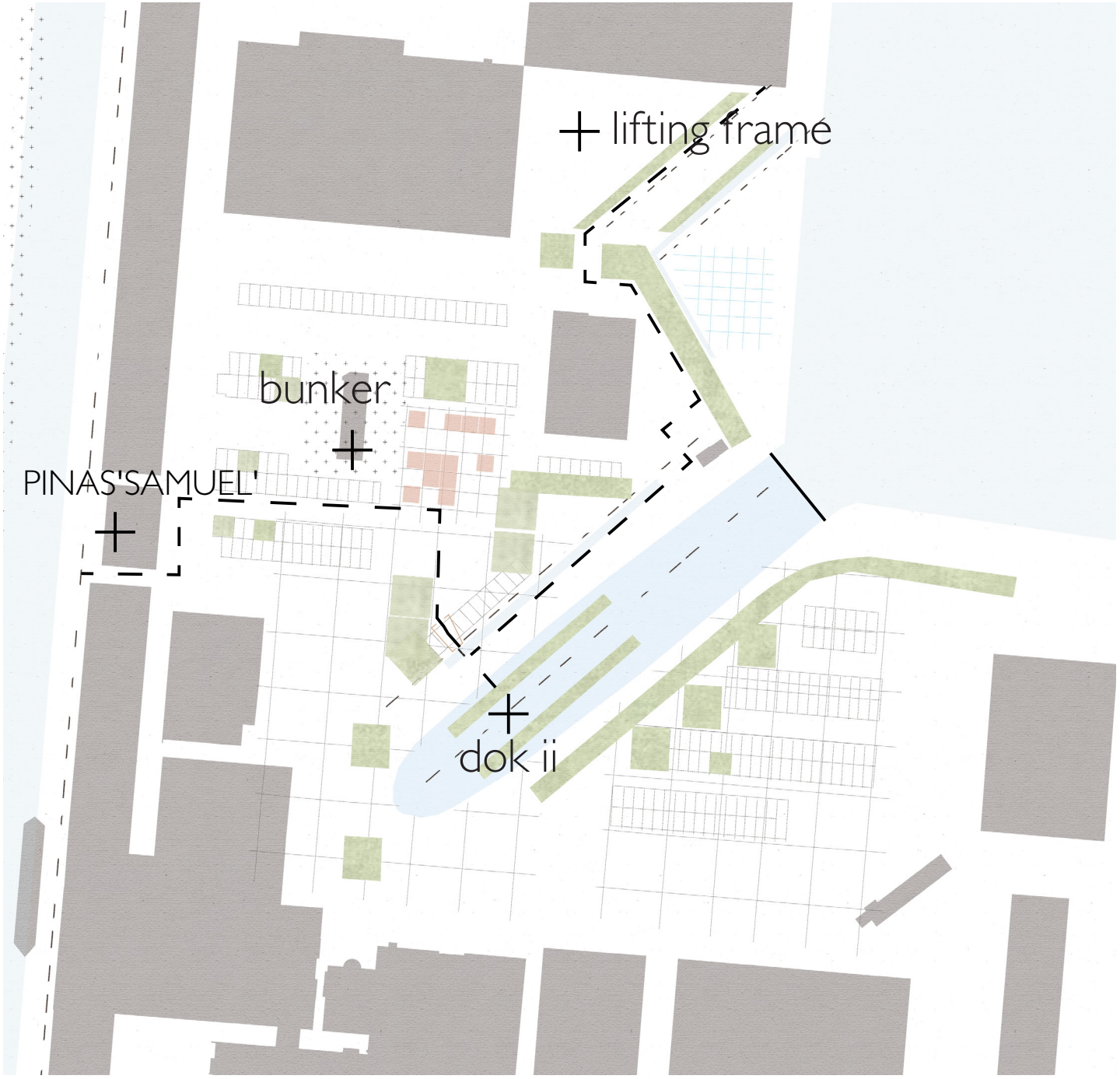
PATTERN EXTRACTION





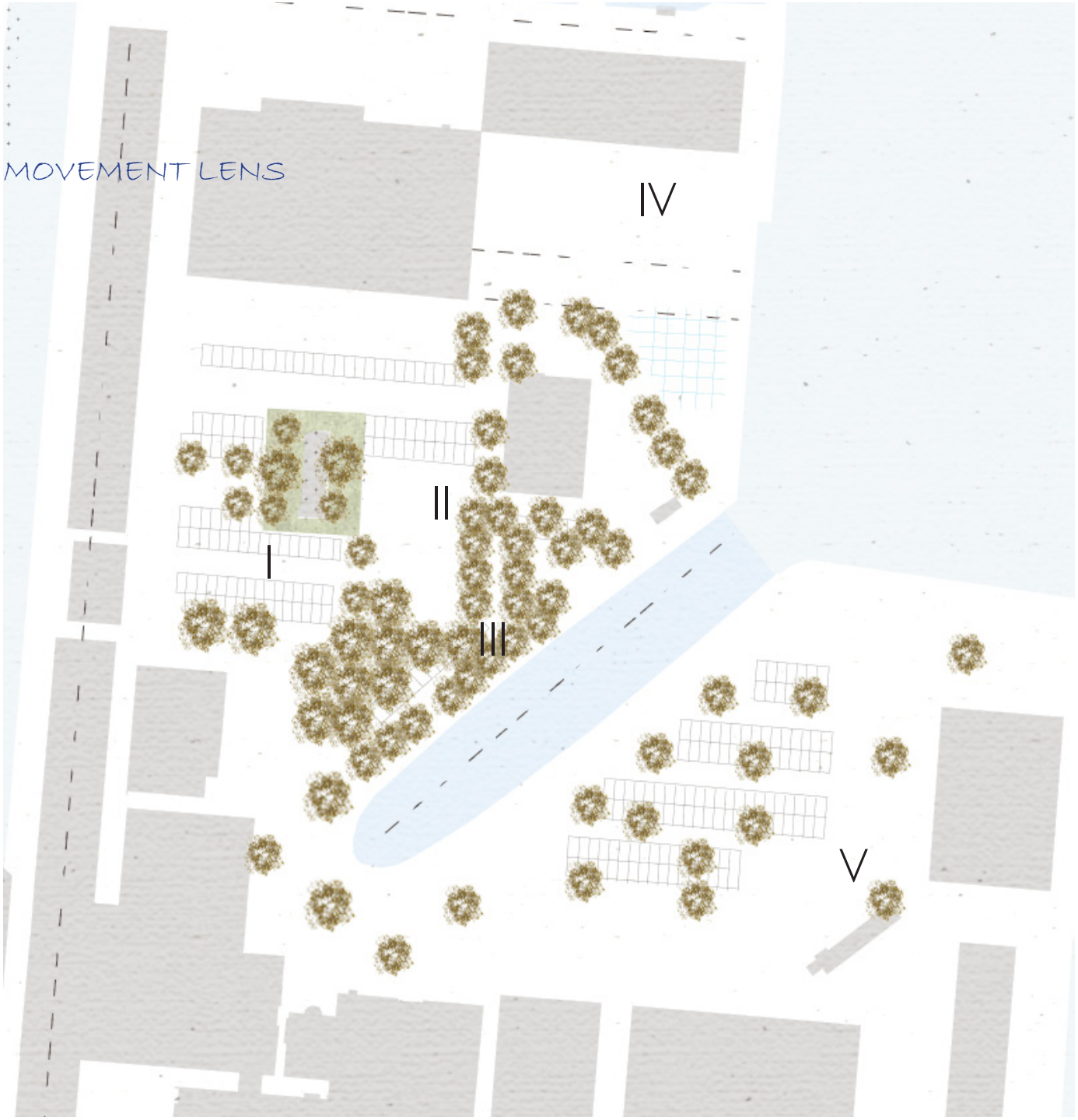
1 car parking lots
2 open performance field
3 community voids brick garden
4 dok garden
5 public exhibition





SYMBOL LENS

– – visiting routing



I +

II /

III wandering park

IV exhibition

V parking

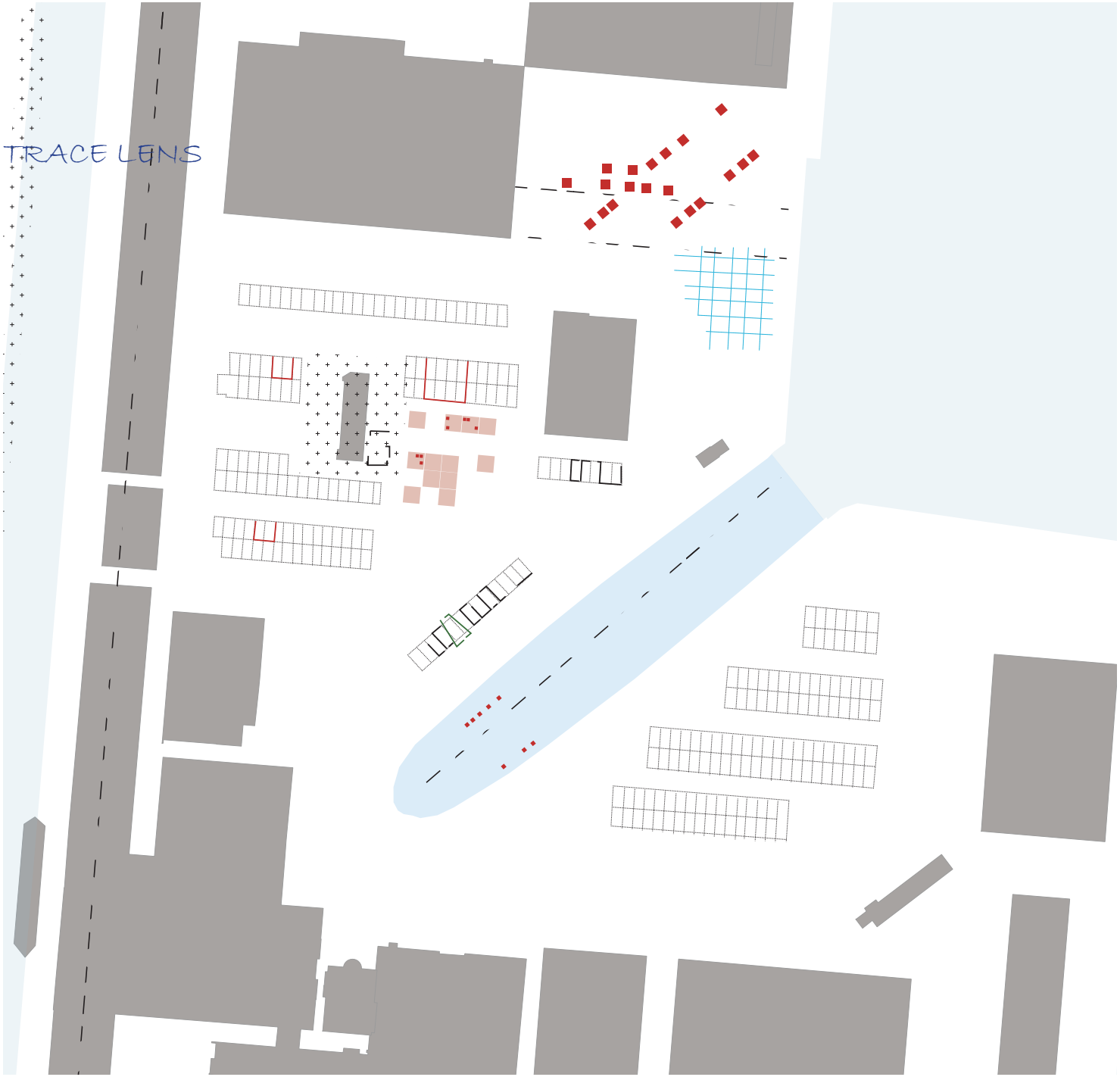
I plant,parking, rest

II perform, rest

III plant,communication,rest

IV exhibition, wandering

V parking



framer

container

brick structure

Every node is a stage for the users to act as they want

1

2

3

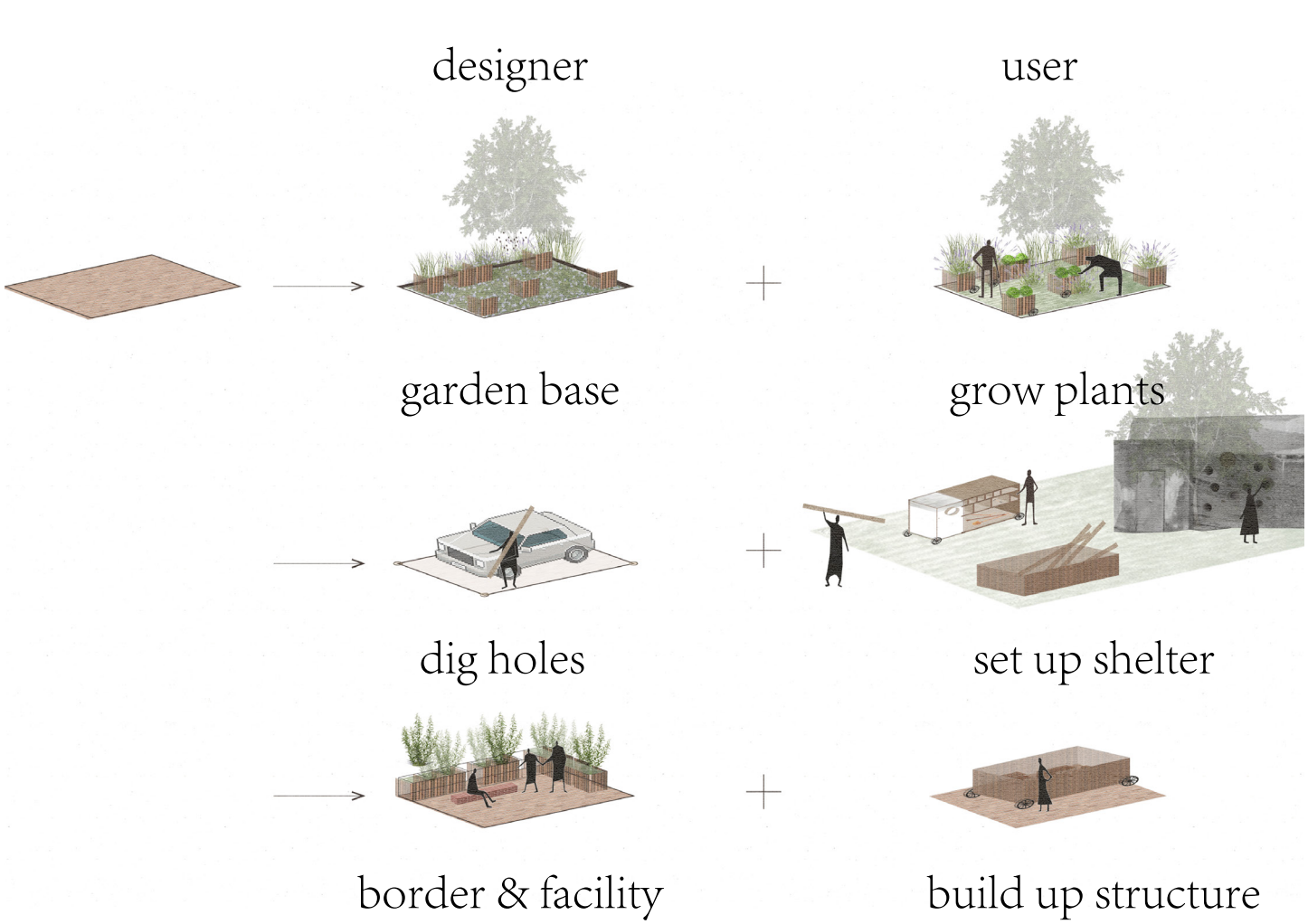
4

5

1 CAR PARKING LOTS & BUNKER

PHASE 1 PREPARE CAR PARKING LOTS FOR TRANSFORMATION

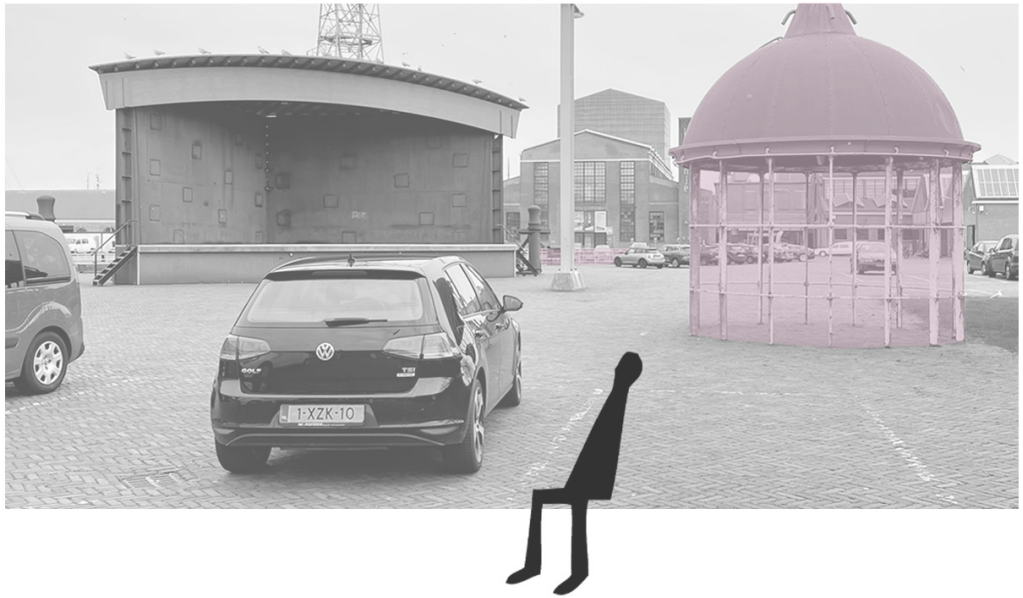
I invite the users to take part in ...

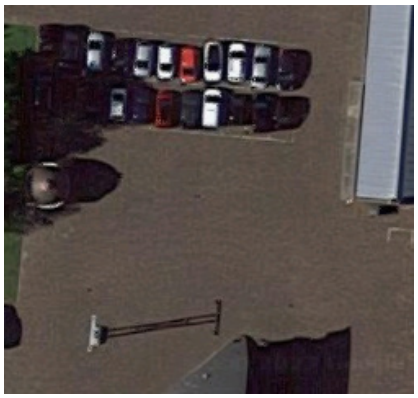


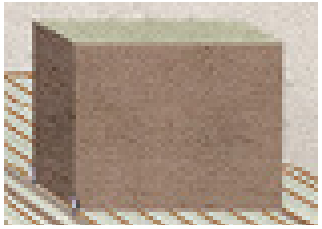
PHASE 2 MULTI - FUNCTIONAL CAR PARKING LOTS

PHASE 3 OLD PARKING LOTS PARK
DOK GARDEN
OPEN STAGE
BRICK GARDEN
PARKING LOTS PARK

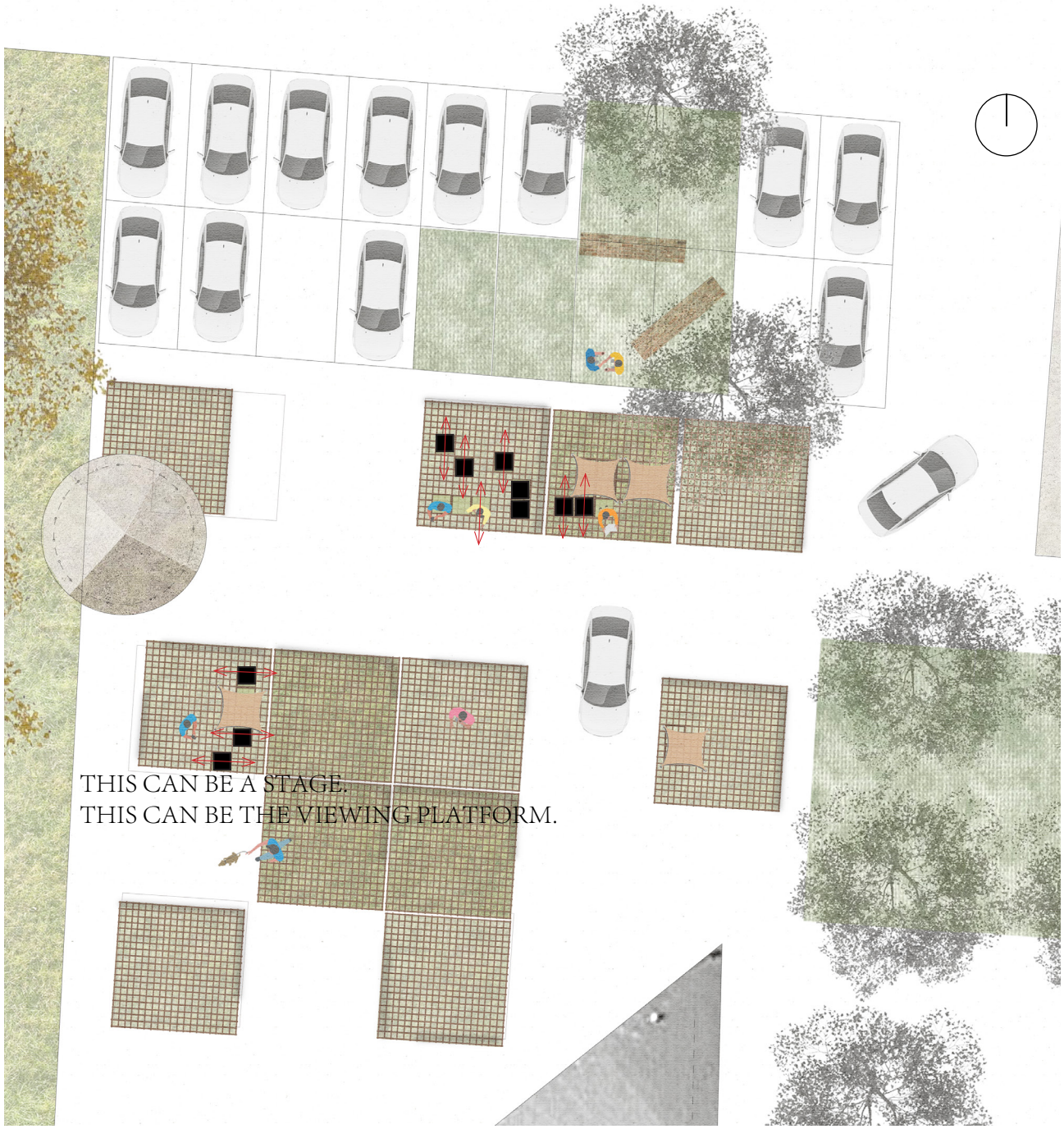
2 OPEN PERFORMANCE FIELD



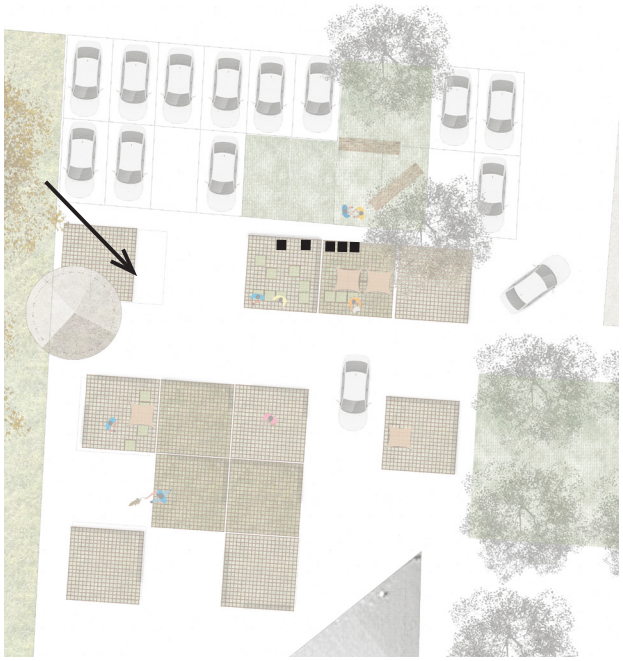


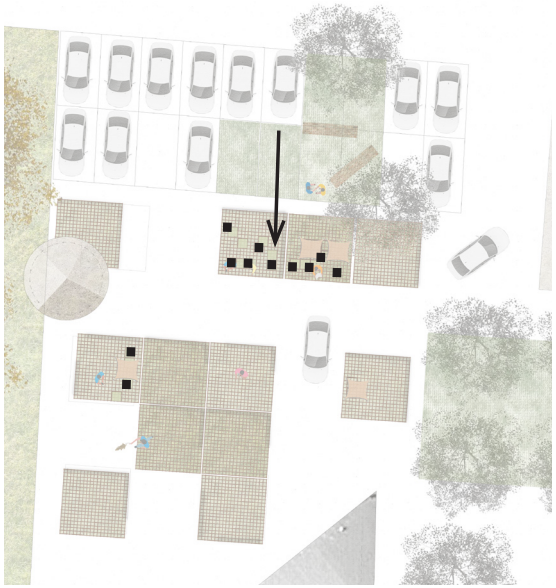


■ performance container

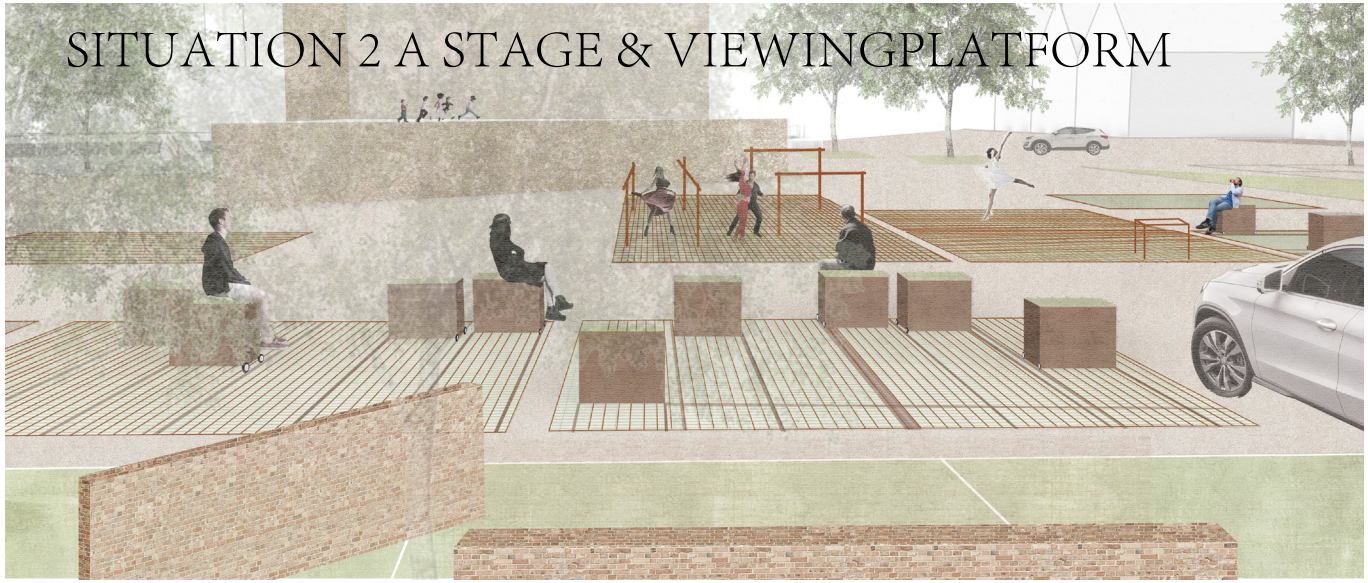


SITUATION 1 AN OPEN PLACE

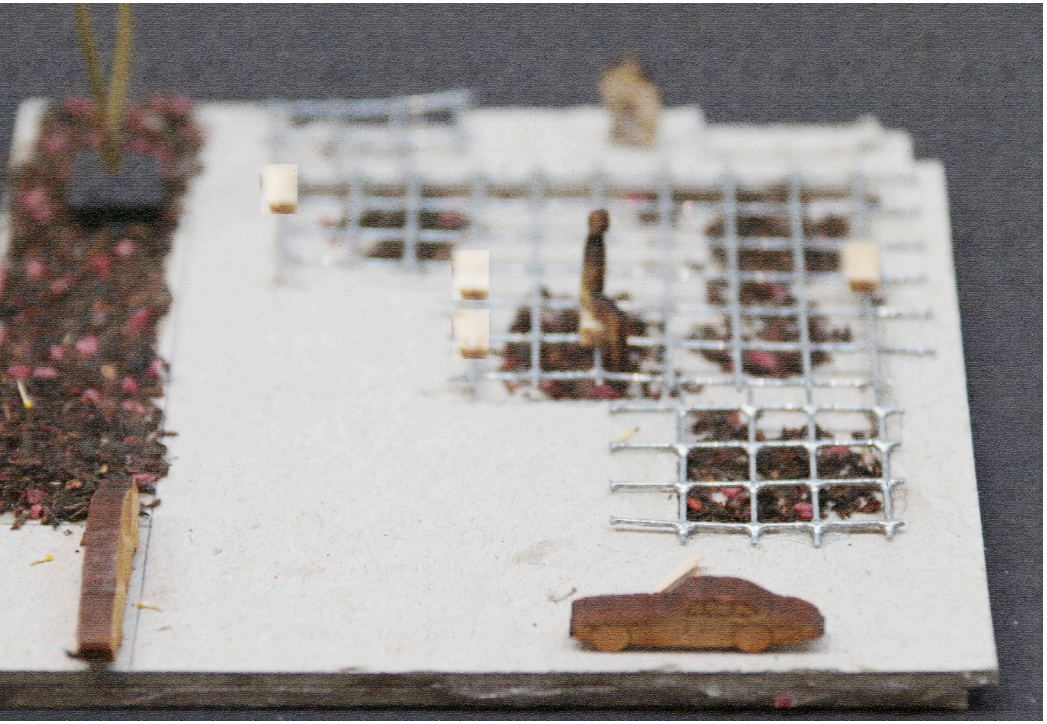




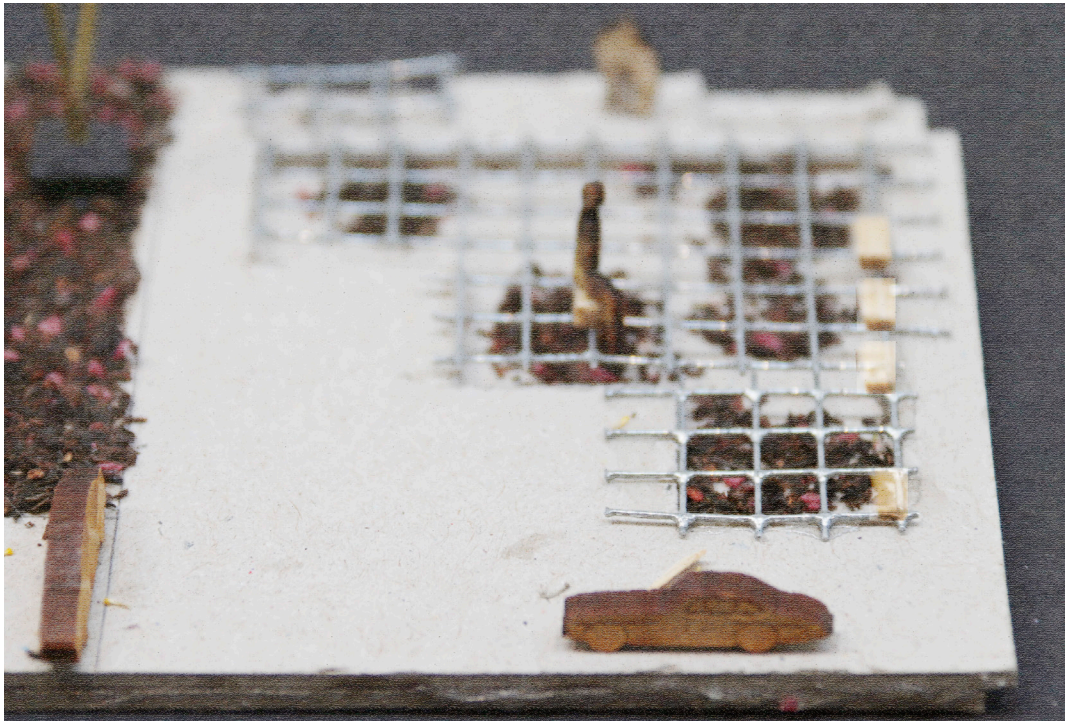
SITUATION 2 A STAGE & VIEWINGPLATFORM



SITUATION 1 AN OPEN PLACE

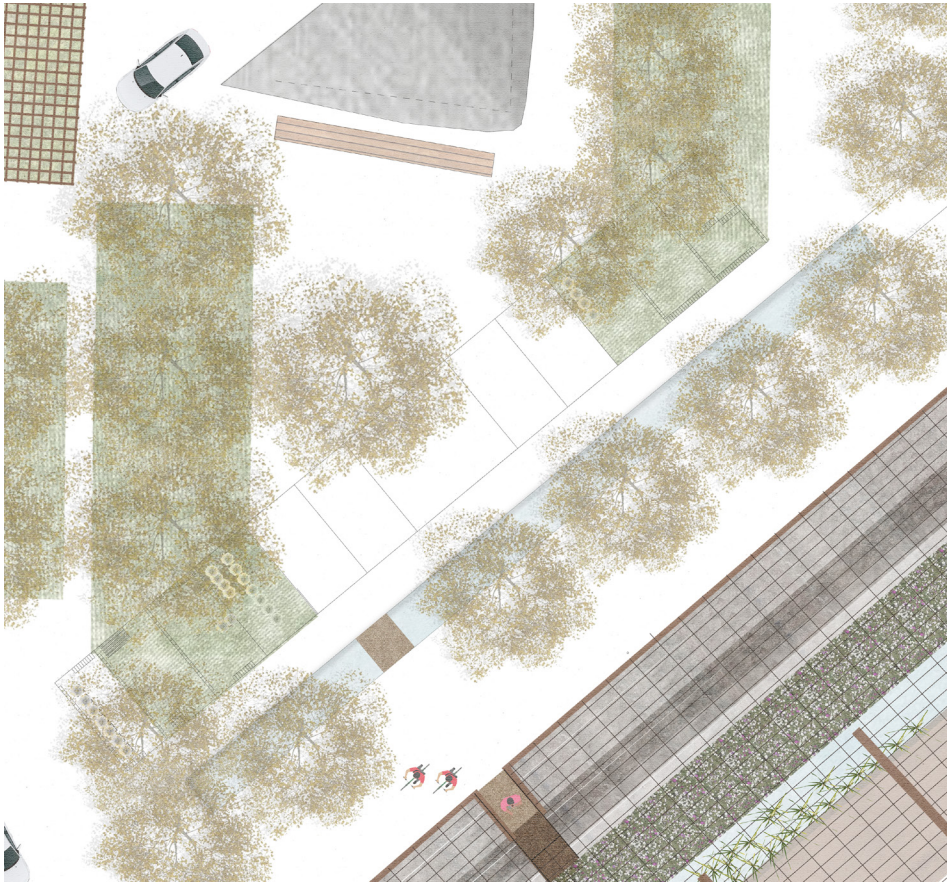


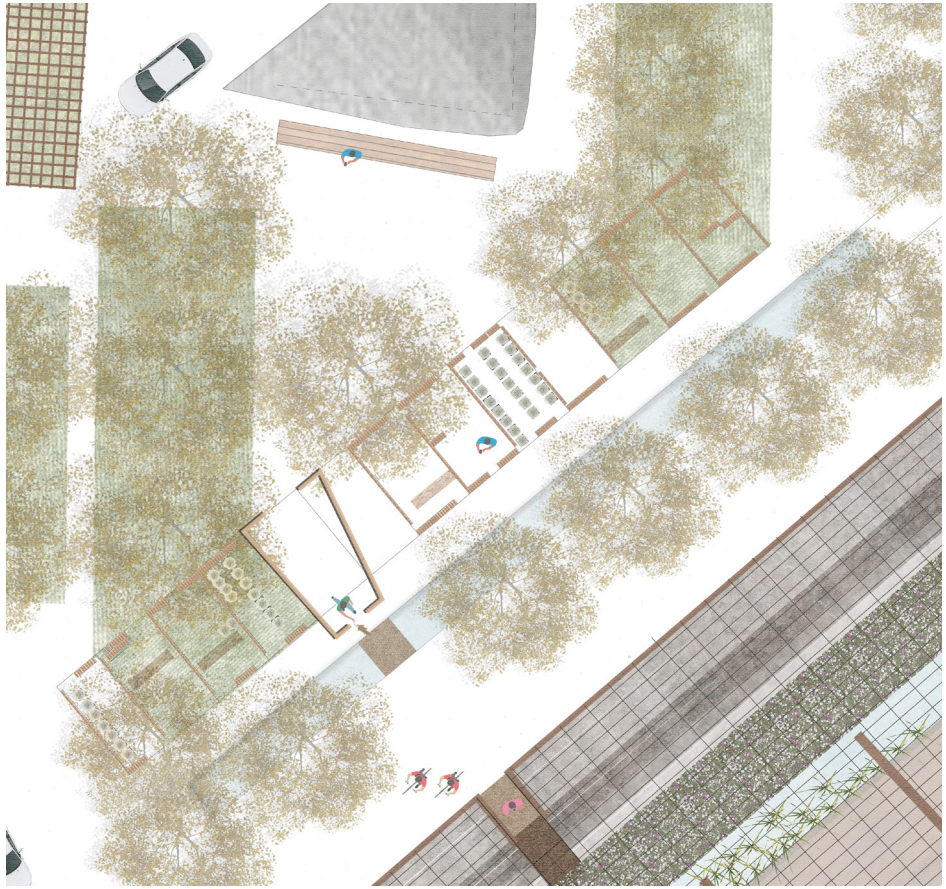
SITUATION 2 A STAGE & VIEWINGPLATFOR



3 BRICK GARDEN(for the storage of the community voids bricks & container & framer)

AFTER COFFEESHOP VOID TRAVEL...





In 2023, my father and I embarked on a memorable endeavor of transporting a stack of bricks, which we ingeniously repurposed as seating in the coffeeshop void . Today, this transformed space has become a cherished spot for me to enjoy leisurely afternoon tea with my friends.

ANDRE
KYLE

CHIRISTIAN

Ik was verrast toen ik deze stapel bakstenen hier zag liggen

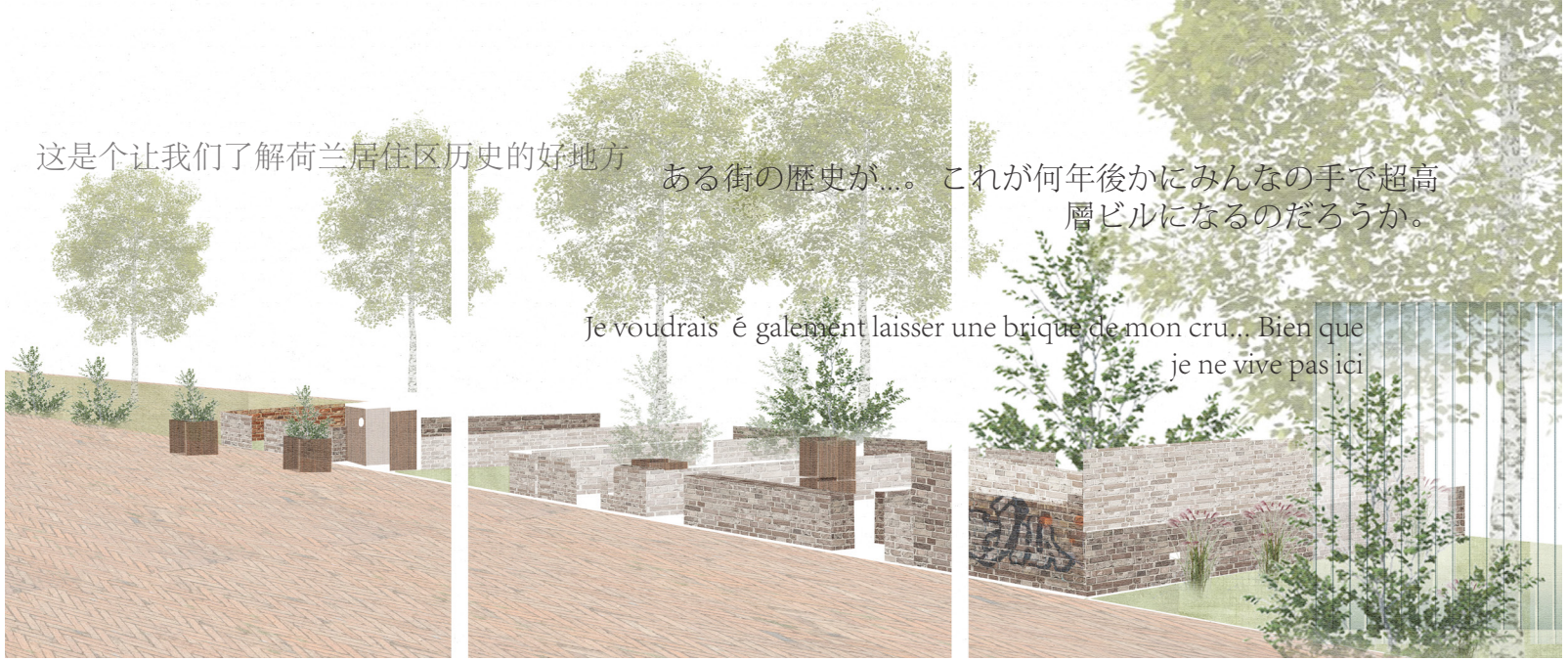
TOM

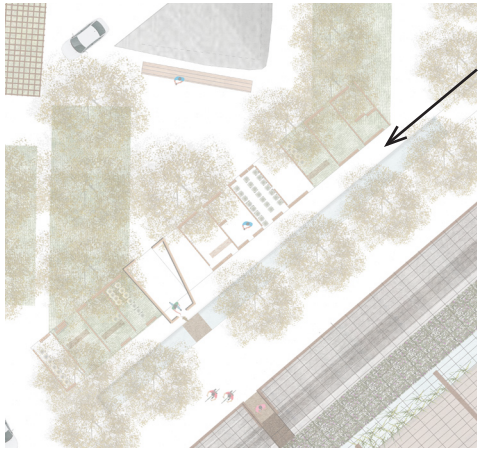
As a couple traveling to Den Helder, we stumbled upon these fascinating bricks that captivated our attention. Intrigued by their unique charm, we decided to leave our signatures in one corner as a meaningful souvenir. We were informed that the small brick wall originated from a community in Koningstraat. It's truly remarkable to imagine that such quaint building materials were utilized in that area three decades ago. It serves as a testament to the enduring legacy and rich history of Den Helder.

这是个让我们了解荷兰居住区历史的好地方

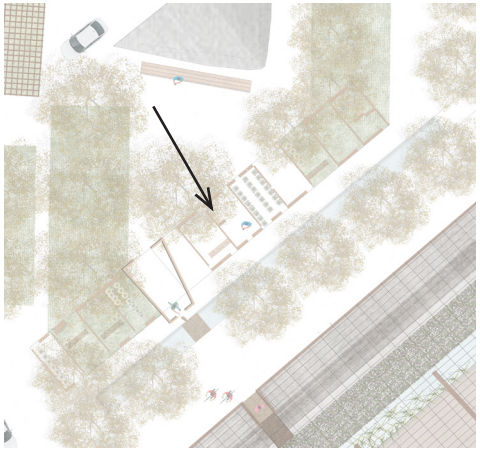
ある街の歴史が...。これが何年後かにみんなの手で超高層ビルになるのだろうか。

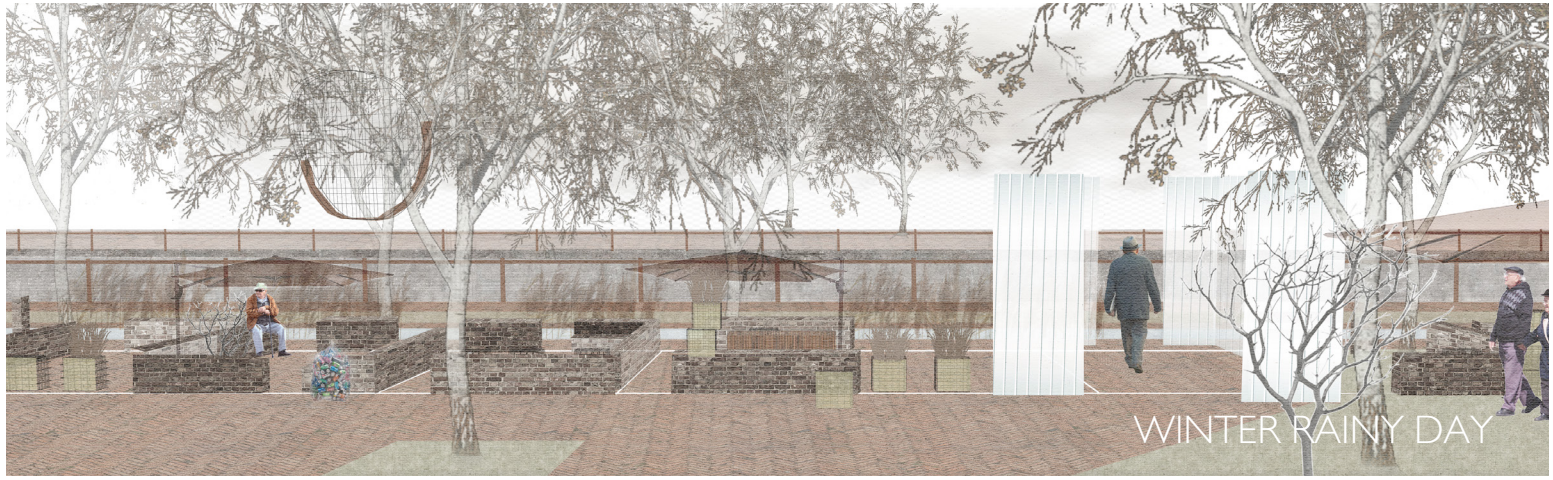
Je voudrais é galement laisser une brique de mon cru... Bien que je ne vive pas ici





SEASON CHANGES...
WILL YOU COME ALSO IN
WINTER ...?

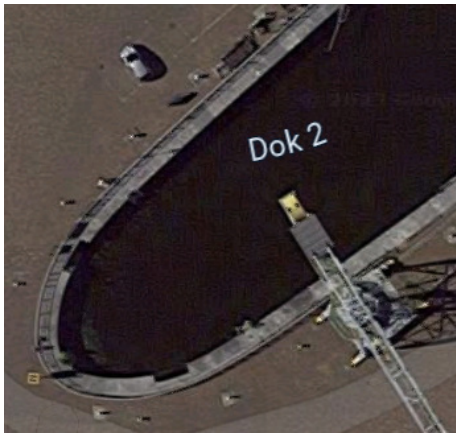


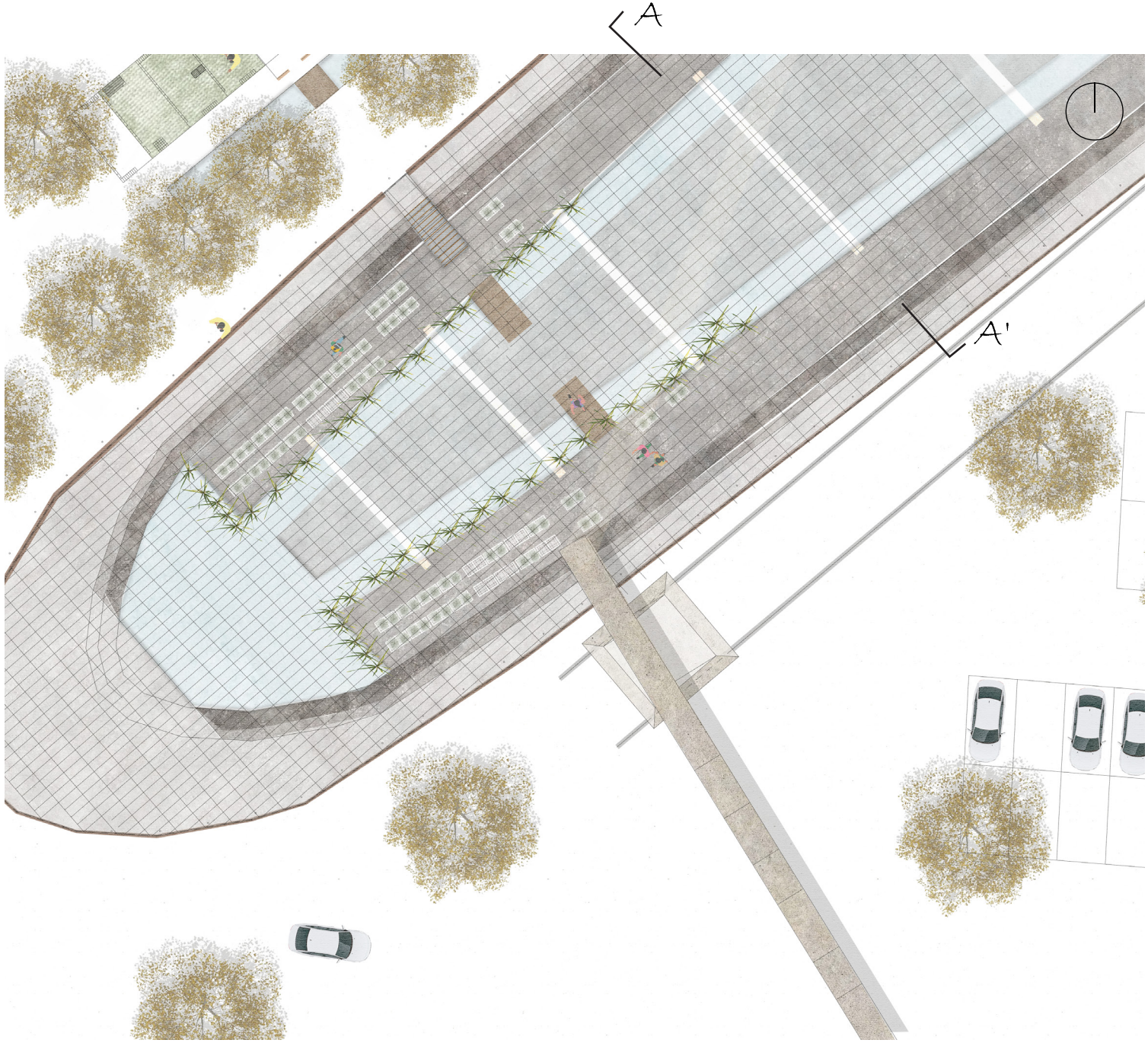


4 GARDEN IN DOK

visit in distance

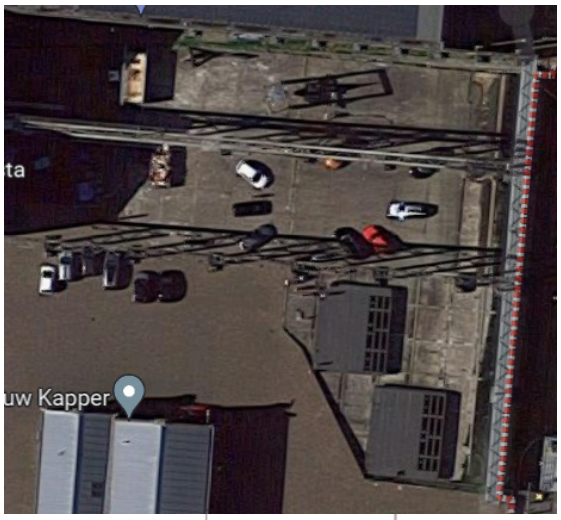
messy & not attractive

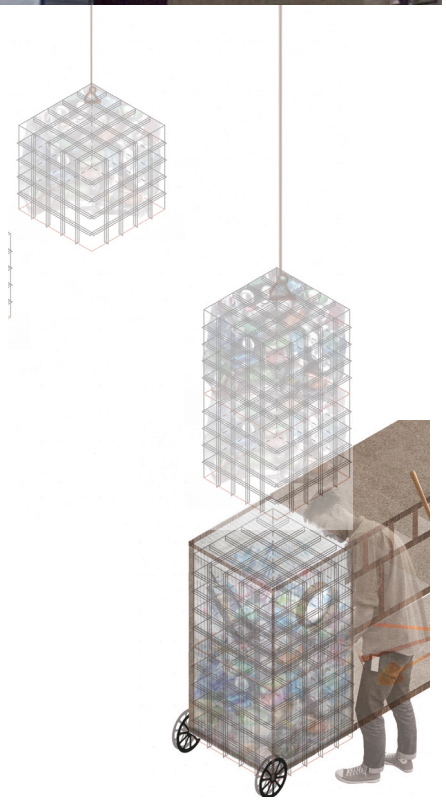

Dok 2

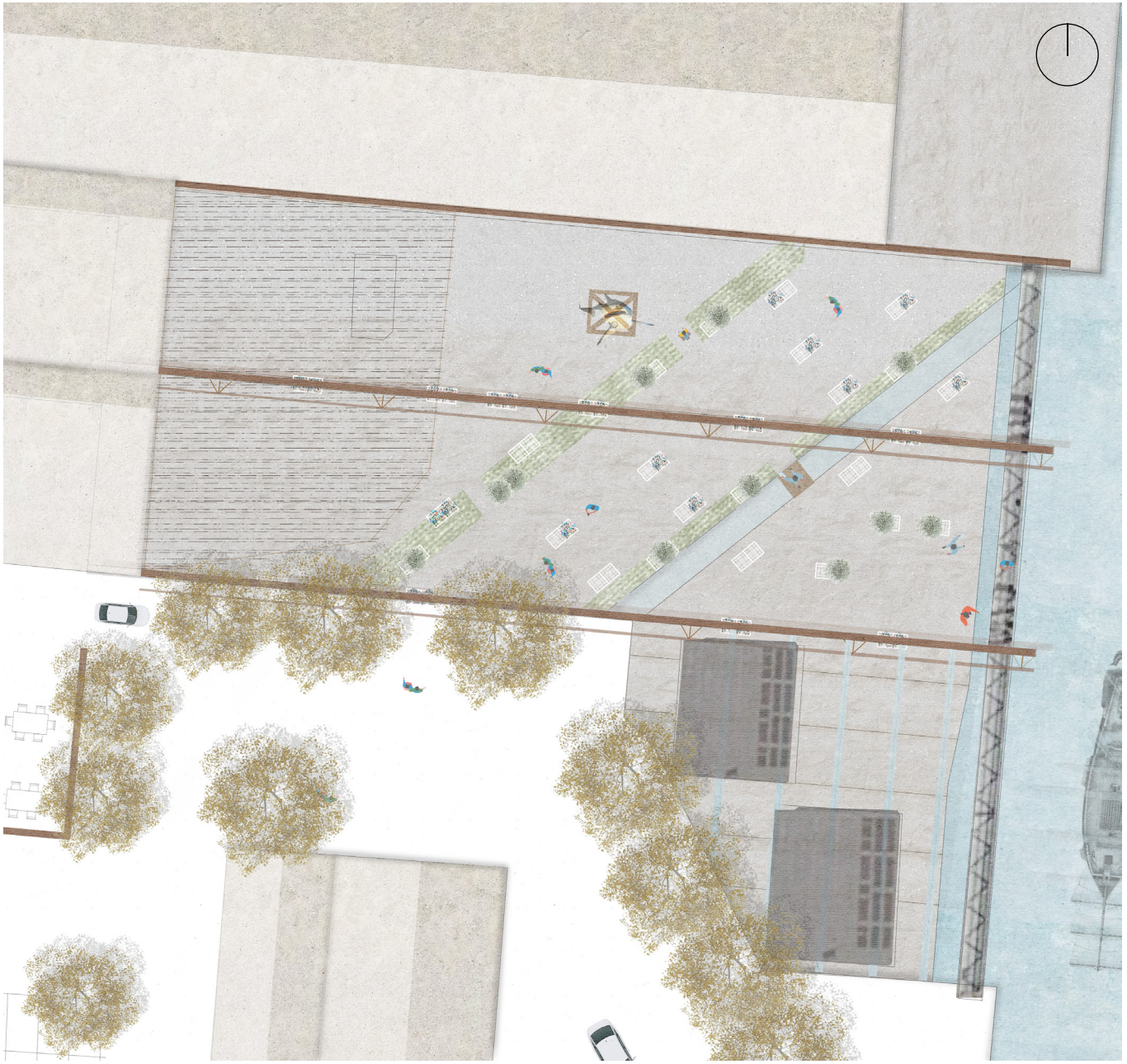

A
A'

SECTION A - A'

5 EXHIBITION FOR & FROM PUBLIC

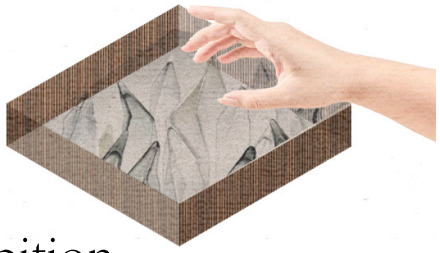

ta
uw Kapper





leftover exhibition

planting exhibition



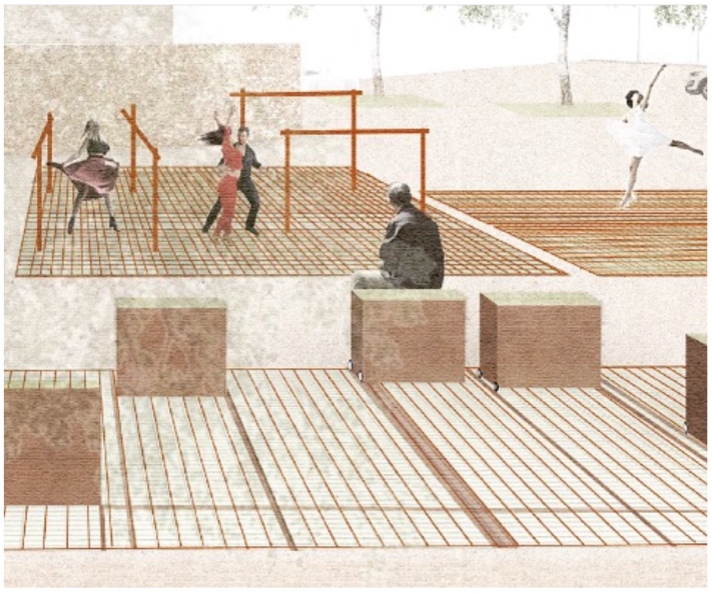
artwork exhibition

07
SYSTEM

container moving guidance

move freely by wheels

move in track



move by lifting

hang up

move by car in group

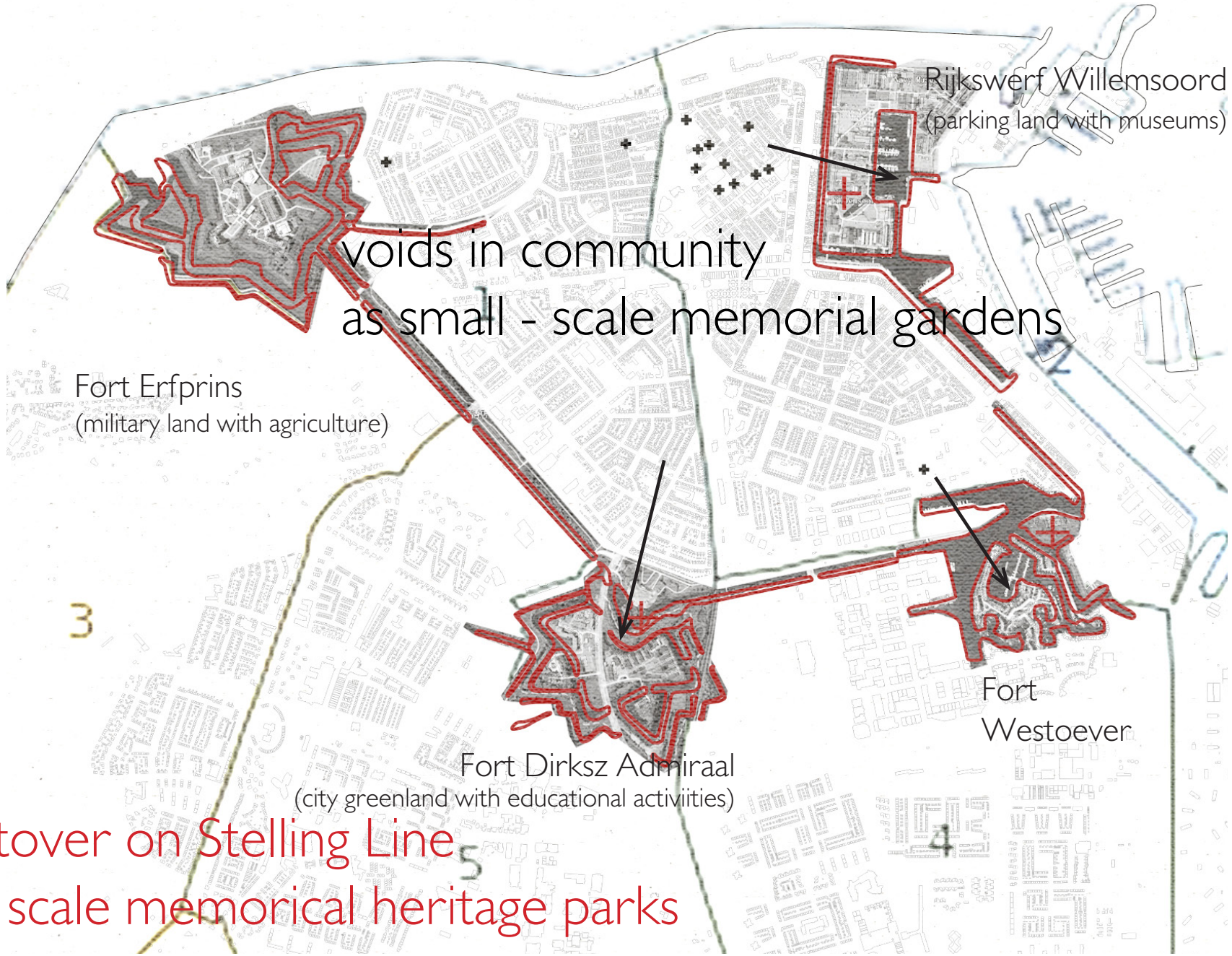
rent guidance

book a new
container by yourself
on...

see who is recording their
memory by container...

track the routing this
container traveled...

08
REFLECTION

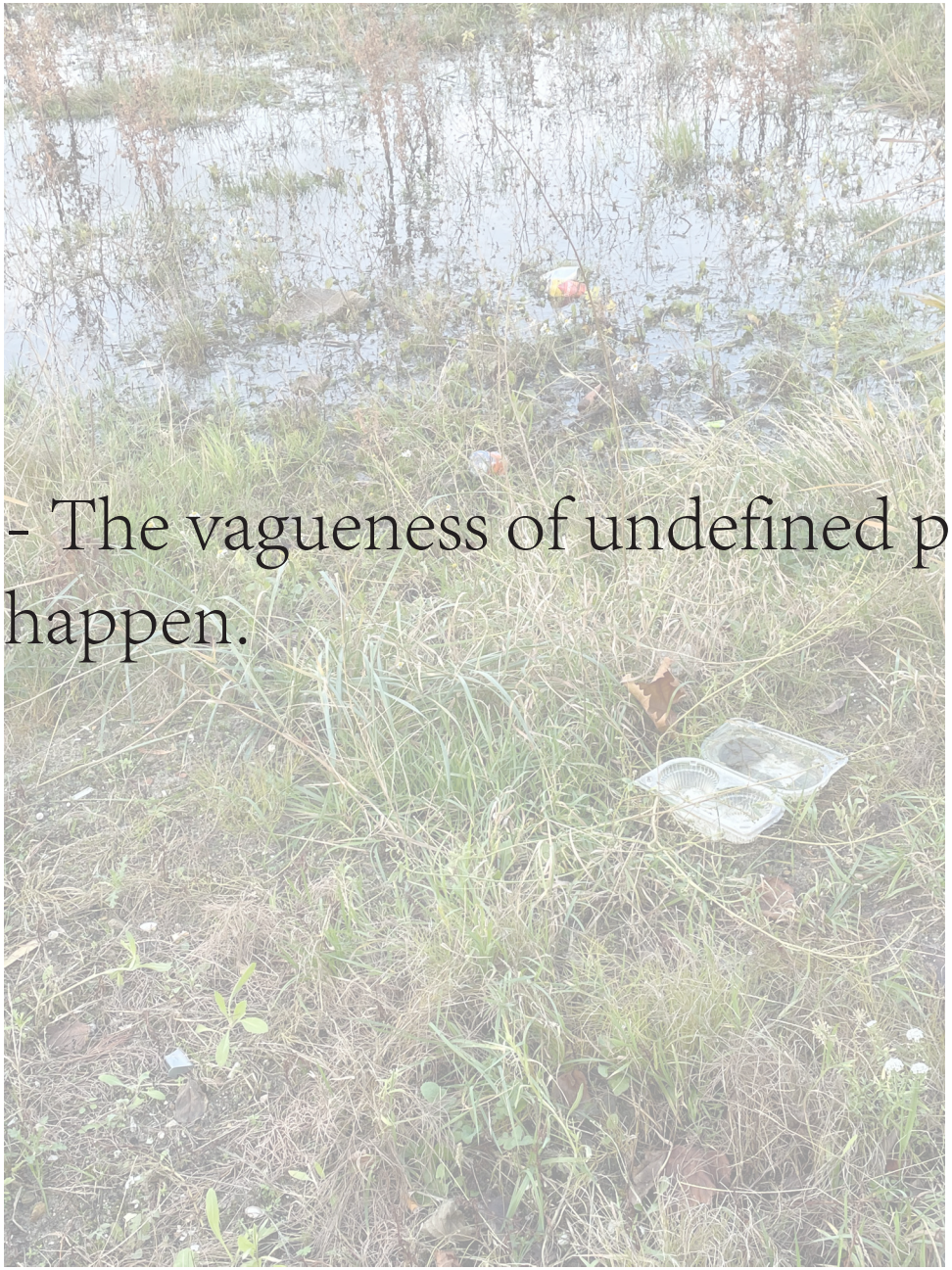


historical leftover on Stelling Line
as regional - scale memorical heritage parks

How can we transform the undefined places with public participation by practical design, and create a stronger link between the public, the place and the grand formal history of Den Helder by inducing daily memory in this process?

- Open- ended design gives opportunity to the public participation.

'The aim of spatial design is to give a perspective and an opportunity to look at such spaces: an idea, an interpretation, an unstructured text'



- The vagueness of undefined places allows more movements happen.

- Seek for the story from the grand historical narrative, and create the memory by your own movement.

Sometimes the next generation
that grows up through the fire
Maybe it will be even better
Just give them a chance...

start from the brochure!

thank you for the patience.
I hope you all enjoy the journy of the framer & containers.
and look forward to a visit to Den Helder by yourself.