THE LAND-IN-BETWEEN

INTRODUCING THE SITE AND PROBLEM STATEMENT

This graduation project focuses on the A4/Vlietzone, an area of approximately 570 ha, located in the South western edge of the municipality of the Hague which is enclosed by the national highway A4, the Vliet (an old historic waterway, with cultural heritage value) and the national highway A413. The area is highly accessible.

The main assignment for the A4/Vlietzone is derived from the fact that developments that on first sight appeared to be unrelated and that originated from a different period of time, have more recently enclosed in-between the different urban developments of the Haaglanden region, with larger green structures.

While the Vliet zone has in regional terms become a central zone in the Netherlands, still the Vlietzone can be positioned as the urban fringe of the city of The Hague, with the accompanying typical more extensive landscape, such as wet soil coasts. Additionally, it is a dynamic place, with diverse areas in between.

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Urban Regeneration

With the scope of urban planners and design experts from the former Compact City project team at the University of Leiden, the A4/Vlietzone may appear to be unrelated and that originated from a different period of time. However, research on the urban fringe zone has been studied and critized in literature. The urban fringe zone is widely studied and critized as a zone that is often neglected in terms of spatial developments. However, urban fringe zone developments and planning need to take into account the critical scale and characteristic of this zone to the municipal planning and development programs. Additionally, the urban fringe zone is often perceived as a ‘monofunctional realm’ (Mossop, 2006; Shannon 2010). In such circumstances, the urban fringe zone can be perceived as an area that needs to be challenged by urban developments and infrastructural construction.

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In this respect there is a recognition on:

- The value of cultural heritage contributing to a notion of collective needs (Sieverts, 2007)
- The purpose of urban fringe design as an area of creative development (ibid., 2007)
- The potential of green spaces as an area of nature to be protected and preserved (ibid., 2007)
- The scale of cultural heritage contributing to a notion of collective needs (ibid., 2007)

Due to the increasing recognition of the urban fringe zone, the A4/Vlietzone project will be to integrate these different design tasks at hand, recognizing the place of the urban fringe zone in the larger metropolitan context.

Typology development

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The A4/Vlietzone

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Typological analysis

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