**Delta Interventions**

**Maintaining the Waterfront in Vlissingen**

Re-stitching the relationship between water and the urban fabric

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**History**

Vlissingen, a city characterized by hydraulic interventions. From a small fishing village in the 12th century, it grew into a major seaport during the 16th century, and later on a new city emerged along the Walcheren Canal (1541). The original layout of the city follows a traditional grid pattern, inherited from its 12th-century origins. The city developed rapidly and the waterfront became a hub for trade and transportation, with a network of canals and waterways connecting the city with other parts of the country and abroad.

**Current Problematic**

From a small fishing village, Vlissingen has developed into a port city with a significant maritime heritage. However, the city has faced challenges such as morphological fragmentation, which has led to a poor spatial connection between the inner city and the dune area. Climate change has also posed a threat, with predictions of sea level rise that could impact the city's coastal defenses. The city's water network has become fragmented, and the waterfront permeability has been compromised by the presence of parking spaces, which have filled up the former space taken up by the water.

**Design**

The design strategy for Vlissingen is focused on re-stitching the relationship between the urban fabric and the connecting water. The main assignment in Vlissingen is to counter this fragmentation. Given the historical importance of the city and the drainage basin which flushed the city's harbours, the station is curiously located in the port area, detached from the heritage of its twentieth century ambition: many inner city dreams of becoming Europe's biggest seaport. Vlissingen never came to be the harbour hub it hoped to become and is left with a large flat water body in accordance of the sense of this particular part of Walcheren itself the strategy might prove successful too, relinking the water network in Vlissingen based on its historical location which is still visible in the profiles today.

The method adopted here is bringing water back into the city to re-establish connections among the city's districts and port areas, with a focus on improving waterfront permeability. The city's water network has become fragmented, and the waterfront permeability has been compromised by the presence of parking spaces, which have filled up the former space taken up by the water.

**Morphological fragmentation** is improved by putting up parking spaces, which have filled up the former space taken up by the water. This can be seen by the water is still available in profile, it has just become filled up with parking spaces, which have filled up the former space taken up by the water. The city's water network has become fragmented, and the waterfront permeability has been compromised by the presence of parking spaces, which have filled up the former space taken up by the water.

**Fragments bordering Spuikom area**

- Spuikom - Vlissingen canal since the former space taken up by the water is still available in profile, it has just become filled up with parking spaces, which have filled up the former space taken up by the water.

**Multifunctional integrated primary seawall defence**

From a unique seaside town Vlissingen has developed into a generic fragmented coastal city. The main assignment in Vlissingen is to counter this fragmentation. Given the historical importance of the city and the drainage basin which flushed the city's harbours, the station is curiously located in the port area, detached from the heritage of its twentieth century ambition: many inner city dreams of becoming Europe's biggest seaport. Vlissingen never came to be the harbour hub it hoped to become and is left with a large flat water body in accordance of the sense of this particular part of Walcheren itself the strategy might prove successful too, relinking the water network in Vlissingen based on its historical location which is still visible in the profiles today.

**Design Strategy Spuikom area**

- Multifunctional integrated primary seawall defence

**Urban Context Spuikom**

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