

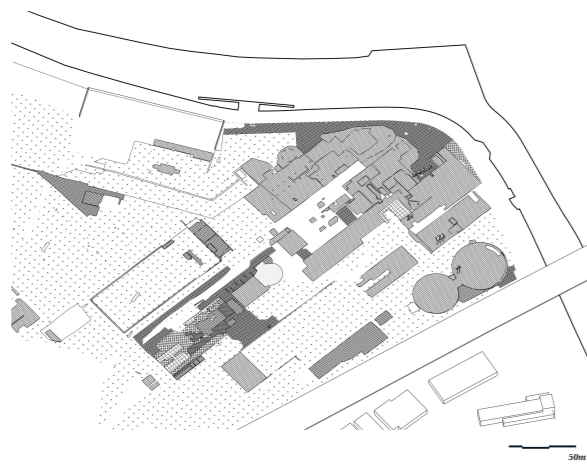
Strata - scapes

Past soils

Most of the existing foundations are kept and reused as the basis for the new strata. In this way, the ground (and its pollution) is mostly recycled, and allows for a safer inhabitation by human and non-human beings.

In the case of dilapidated foundations, these are removed and the materials are reused elsewhere for construction or paving, while the soil is exposed and a landscape strategy is implemented to phyto-stabilize it.

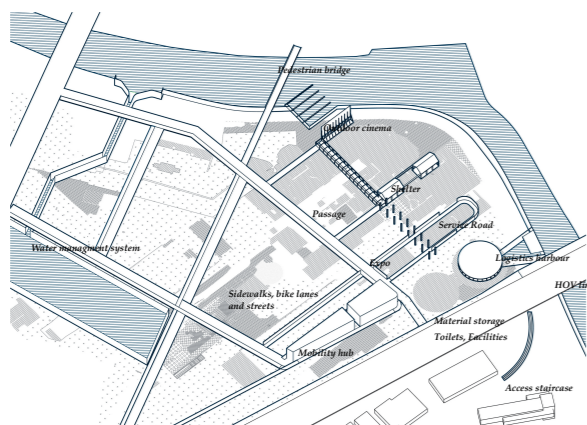
The contaminated soil is also a source of peat trees, as well as a support for the above-ground ecosystem and an ecosystem in itself, and as such is part of the strata-scape.



Basic infrastructures

The Basic Infrastructure constitutes the most needed, fixed structure. It allows access to and permanence on site, it responds to the essential technical and social needs, and it is therefore always public. It generates a framework within which other development can take place.

Elements of the Basic Infrastructure grow over time and create an asset for the future architecture. In the meantime they provide basic amenities for public events, but material experiments and research to take place.

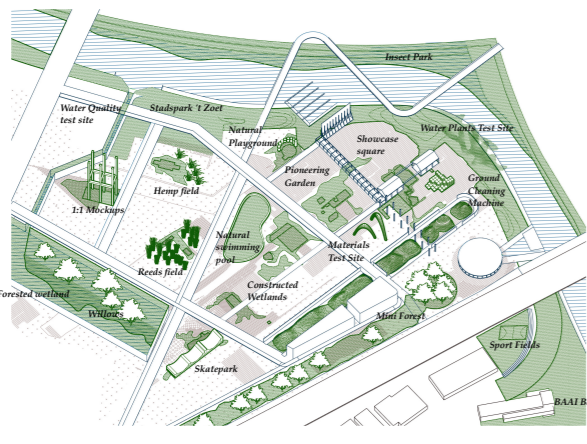


Test grounds

The Test Grounds are occasions to experiment with innovative approaches, materials, construction techniques, uses and aesthetics. They activate the site in unexpected ways and push the boundaries of what architecture and urban spaces could look like.

They also establish links with local industries, from education, agriculture, to digital fabrication in order to test and implement circular flows.

These tests become a valuable shared resource for the further development of the site, in terms of knowledge, networks and social aggregation, and inform future developments.



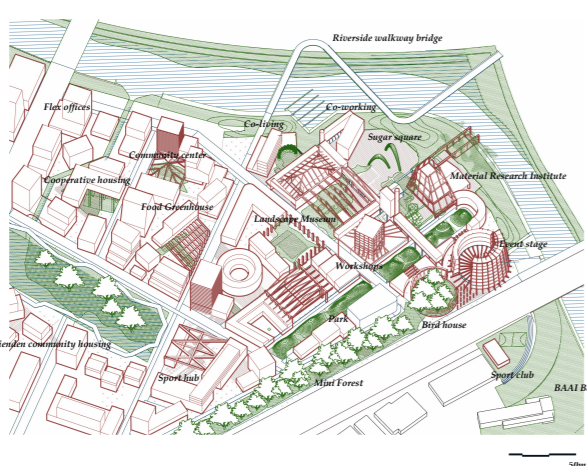
Bio-based infills

Finally, the Bio-based infills complete the building of the site. It is the most flexible and malleable layer and consists of all the buildings, spaces and structures that allow the full inhabitation of the site.

The infills provide a wide range of residential climates and a gradient of privacy, from shared unisolated workshops and studios to enclosed housing units and classrooms.

These added program overlaps with previously introduced common grounds and basic infrastructures, and incorporates them within new architecture (as a passage, public part of the building, extent from the building site etc.).

Added structures are made out of bio-based materials - majority of which were sourced locally, tested and experimented within the Test Grounds.



Strata - scapes

Urban Palimpsest

T Zoet - an empty but layered space - is the starting point of the project - an urban palimpsest, where past and new traces overlap and inform each other.

Our project doesn't propose an ideal city, but an imperfect one, where the interstitial spaces, the cracks, the in-between spaces acquire as strong a value as the architecture itself. Within this fiction, the distinction between inside and outside, organic and inorganic, built and natural is not visible nor relevant anymore. Every space becomes a habitat, every surface a support for new life, as a collection of pioneer landscapes, where natural and organic processes are given room (and time) to play their role in shaping the built environment.

We treat the city as a living ecosystem, in continuity with the existing, but always evolving, adapting and finding new ways of growing.

Selection of groundfloor spaces:

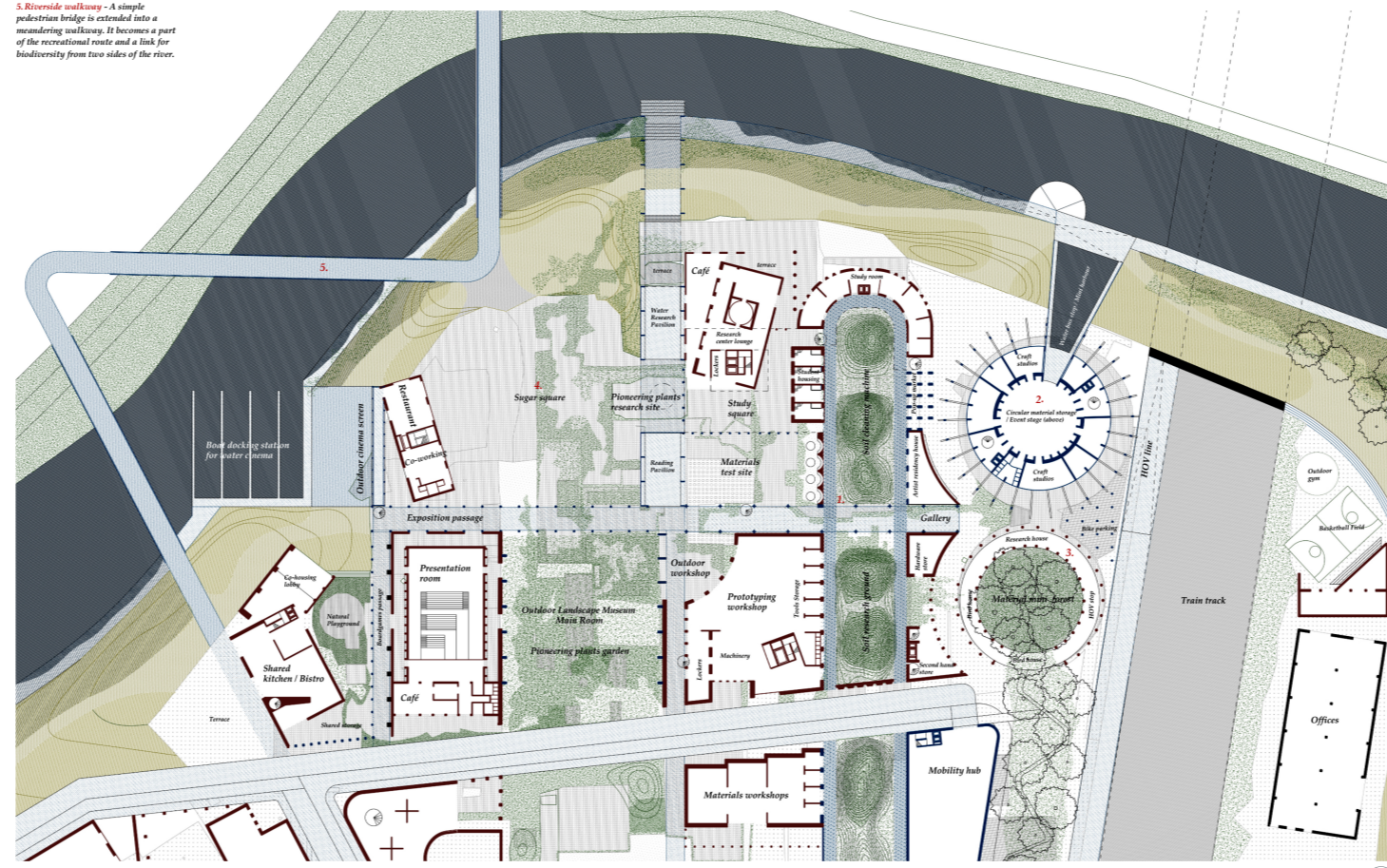
1. Ground cleaning machine - Soil that needs to be excavated and cleaned is brought to the designated terrain - Ground Cleaning Machine and piled in big hills (remnant of slopes of sugar beets from the past). It is gradually covered with plants and cleaned by a phytoremediation process. In the long term the area will transform into neighborhood park.

2. Silo 1 - On the foundations of the big silo there is a new layered structure proposed. It starts with a basic infrastructure consisting of boat harbour and material storage with craft studios around. Later on a new urban space event venue grows out of top of it.

3. Silo 2 - The second silo is designated as a mini forest area - a source of timber. A new circular structure made of reclaimed materials, garden walls, and porous bricks is then built around it. It serves as a large-scale billboard, dedicated to promoting biodiversity and providing a habitat for animals. The perimeter of the circular structure functions as a bus waiting area.

4. Sugar square - The sugar square is defined in the early phases of development by a series of public infrastructures. It is not an empty field, but a rich collection of materials of old foundations, various vegetation in-between its cracks and pioneering plants growing out of the adjacent areas.

5. Riverside walkway - A simple pedestrian bridge is extended into a meandering walkway. It becomes a part of the recreational routes and a link for biodiversity from two sides of the river.



Strata - scapes



Bioregional architecture

To create a healthy hybrid nature and offer a positive mode of the building sector in an era of climate crisis, we embrace the concept of bioregional design. We chose to employ for the most part, organic and locally sourced materials, with a form-to-building approach.

This range of materials reflects in the range of spaces they are able to define. Transition spaces that blur the boundaries between outside and inside are the result of this approach, where certain (lightweight) materials are used for screens, curtains, roofs that delineate spaces but don't fully enclose them. In this way, a variety of climatic conditions is offered to users, who are able to choose the environment that is better suited for their activities in relation to seasonality and weather.

