

Etten-Leur (NL)

future nostalgia

1

Etten-Leur (NL)

future nostalgia

2

Etten-Leur (NL)

future nostalgia

3

Today, in the age of polycrisis, the urgent rethinking of the living patterns of our cities provokes in us a particular feeling of nostalgia. It is not so much the past that provokes it, but rather the future. The idea of a designable and tangible future is mixed with a past in which everything seemed possible, in which city models were functional and one was not afraid to design new ones. Instead of translating this feeling into distrust, we thought we would take it as a basis for proposing a nostalgic, but not after-garde model of the future, in a healthy balance between the needs of the present and the functioning of the existing.

Etten-Leur is located within the North Brabant region, in a system marked by fragments of delta landscape with islands of greenery, alternating with a more agricultural landscape structured by the human hand given by land reclamation.

The first aspect at the spatial scale level was to try to emphasize the connection and proximity to the river and the delta.

On the reflection site we have developed an argument aimed at transforming the area into a superblock that functions as a fragment of the city of the future nostalgia. What does this future nostalgia translate into? In a strategy that leads to a gradual elimination of cars and parking within the reflection site through planned densification and a strengthening of soft mobility. For densification and point interventions, we identified potential areas of urban void to be transformed. The first was to identify a series of ground parking lots to be transformed into multi-story building parks, so as to regain public space in their place and, as the need for cars is gradually overcome, can then be rethought as a space of collective housing and hybrid living and working space.

