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Architecture and Town Lab
Module Urban Landscape Design

Urban Landscape Design

urban parks 2

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Revitalizing housing estates

New playscapes

Gridgrounds, Amsterdam, The Netherlands 2017

Dmau - Openfabric

Het Breed is a modernist neighbourhood defined by rational **residential blocks, 5 stories** with 'streets in the sky' in Amsterdam North designed by the architect Frans Van Gool in 1963.

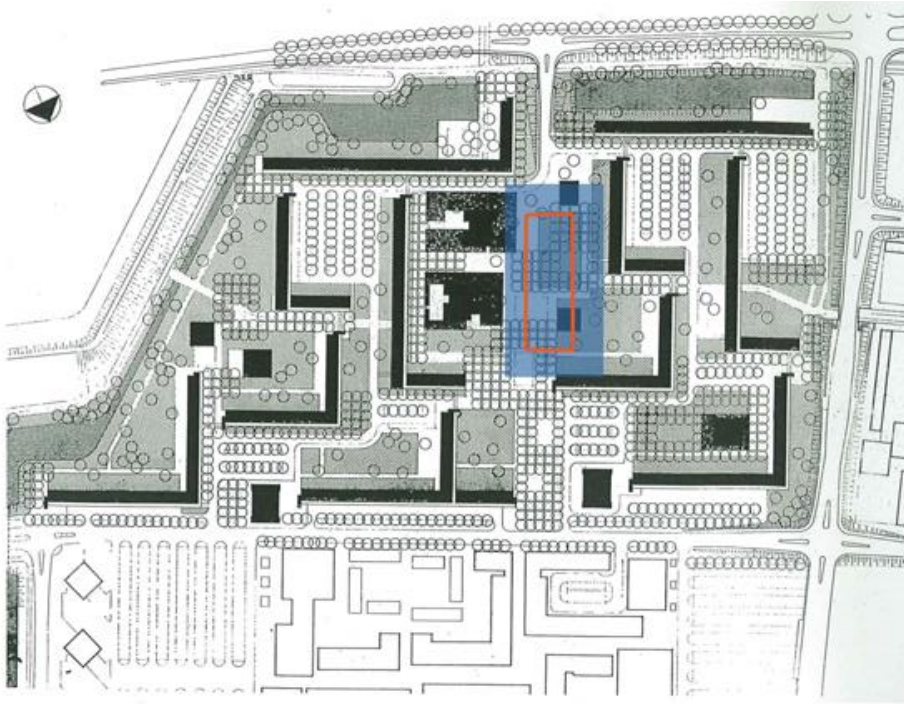
The landscape design, which succeeded Van Gool's plan in 1969, was inspired by modernist principles and is characterised by **an extensive grid of plane trees across the site.**

The neighbourhood includes a number of schools and secondary pedestrian routes linked by simple, scattered concrete play objects.

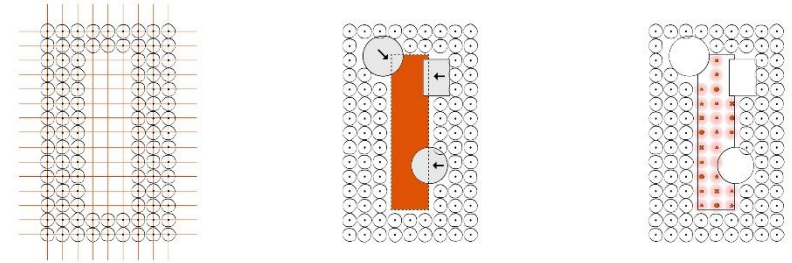
In recent years the apartments have been renovated with new entrances and fenestration. Today **the public space across Het Breed has become dominated by car parking** and is in need of renewal, the asphalted central space with dilapidated tennis and basketball courts was a not welcoming and inviting for the majority of the residents anymore.

There was even nowhere to sit as the benches and rubbish bins had been previously removed by the council to reduce antisocial behaviour.





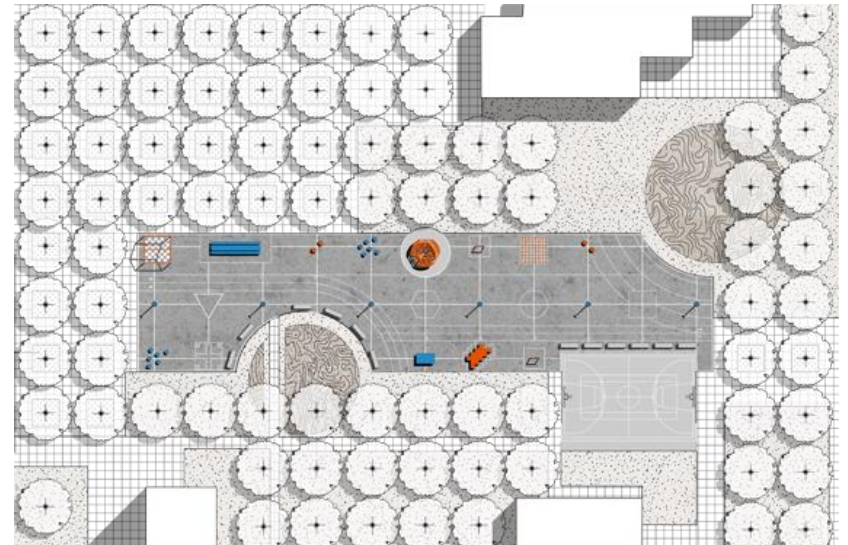
Gridgrounds' creates an **elongated public square** of 88m x 17m, stretched across the central space so **all paths converge here defining a new center for the neighbourhood**. The asphalt square is based upon the original neighbourhood grid and the **grid is made visual and tangible through the white marking lines running through the space**.



The **square is framed by the grid of plane trees (*Platanus*) and grass and planting along the sides**

the rectilinear form is punctured at **3 points by 2 green circles and 1 rectangular multifunctional sports court**.

One of the green circles is an **active play space** developed with the local schools, the other a **green space full with biodiverse planting that acts as a sustainable drainage point** during periods of intense rainfall.



At the points of the grid they placed **different play elements** inspired by the modernist playgrounds of Aldo van Eyck in Amsterdam. To create coherence **all objects are painted orange and blue, two colors that have been used in a recent renovation of the adjacent buildings.**

Through the cohesion of the color, each object achieves a new identity, independent works that collectively form an open-air museum of play elements.

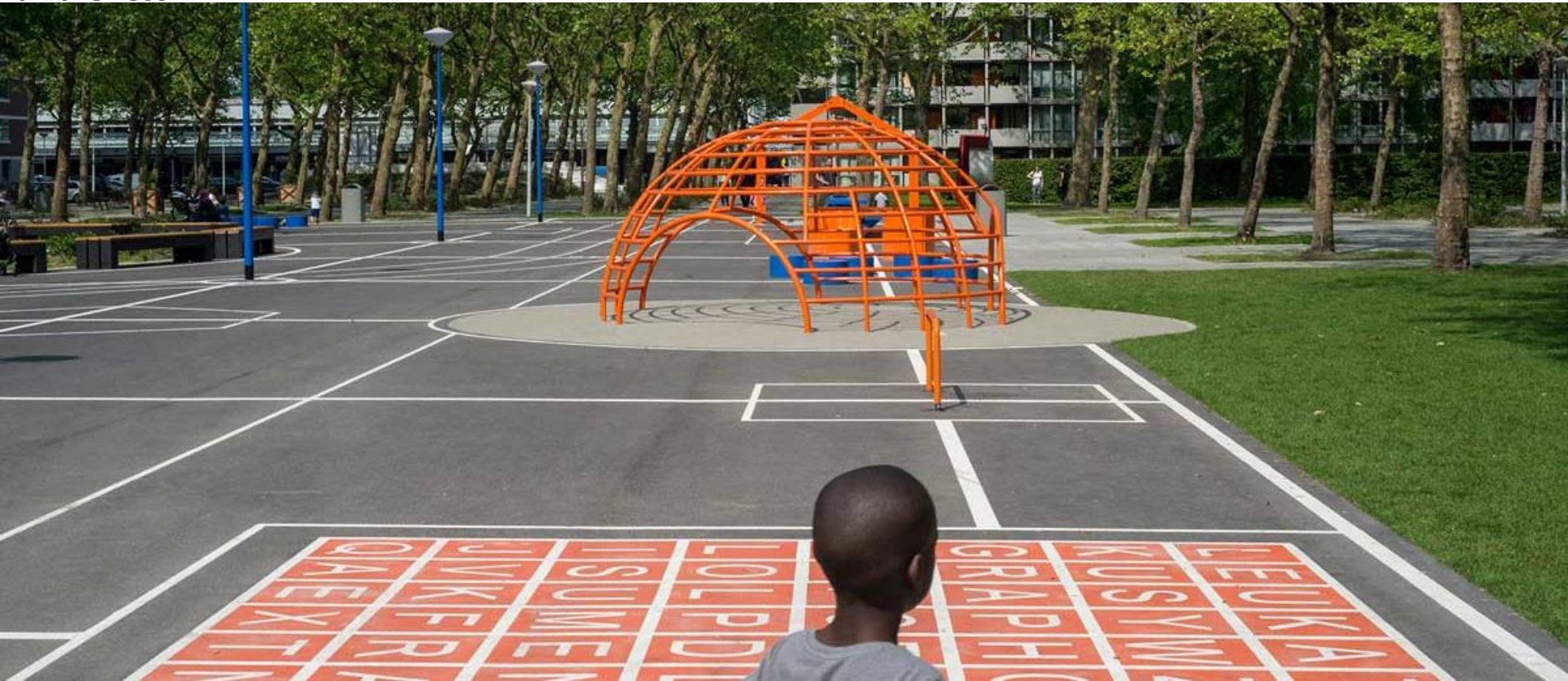


The **austerity and monotony of the context** is broken by the **new playscape**. In this way, the diversity of the play objects, **don't negate the history of the neighbourhood** but build upon it coming together to form a new meeting point for everyone

Given **the very limited budget** they chose to focus on primarily creating a **good functioning public space, a meeting point** for residents at the centre of the neighbourhood. The careful placement of the elements creates different gathering points.

Our material palette takes inspiration from road infrastructure, considerably cheaper than usual open space design materials, **asphalt surfaces, white road marking lines and “traffic orange” and “traffic blue” colours**.

Colourful landmarks make the space identifiable from a distance, an important factor in children’s spatial awareness.



Sollvallsparken, Uppsala, Sweden 2015-2016

Karavan landskapsarkitekter



Sollvallsparken is a **new district park** in Rosendal, Uppsala, a district planned for 3,500 new homes. **The goal has been to create an attractive park with a gathering path lined with activity areas for all ages, a park that promotes physical activities, sports, health, and social gatherings.**



An important goal of the project was to give the park a **distinctive identity**. Therefore, a **common walking and cycling route** through the area was designed as a **multifunctional pathway**, which could be used for training, warm up before exercise and as a place for activity itself.

The pathway is designed with **yellow lighting poles and equipment** that consistently reinforces the parks identity.

A series of activity areas for play, sports and togetherness are linked to the pathway. The park's activity areas offer something for everyone. In the more quiet part of the park there is a **playground for children** and toddlers between 1-5 years.

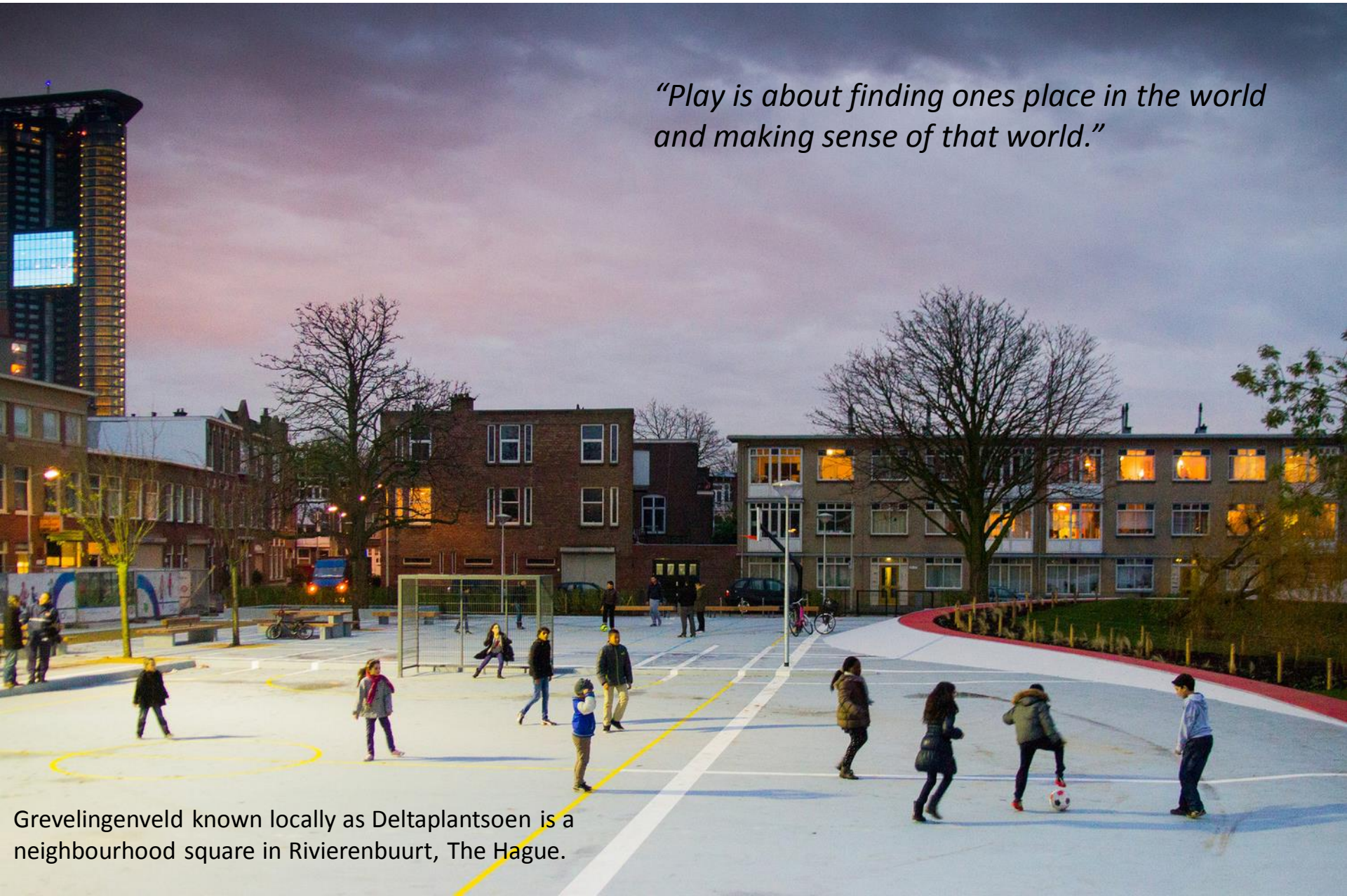


Durable materials have been used in the park. The equipment is mainly made of **steel** and the **wooden deck** and stage is made of **Kirai hardwood**. Large 2x2 meter concrete slabs frame the activity areas. The activity areas consist of **site-cast rubber** and sports coatings in various warm colours.

Into the wild, Den Haag, The Netherlands (2015)

Dmau - Openfabric

“Play is about finding ones place in the world and making sense of that world.”



Grevelingenveld known locally as Deltaplantsoen is a neighbourhood square in Rivierenbuurt, The Hague.

5100.0 mq

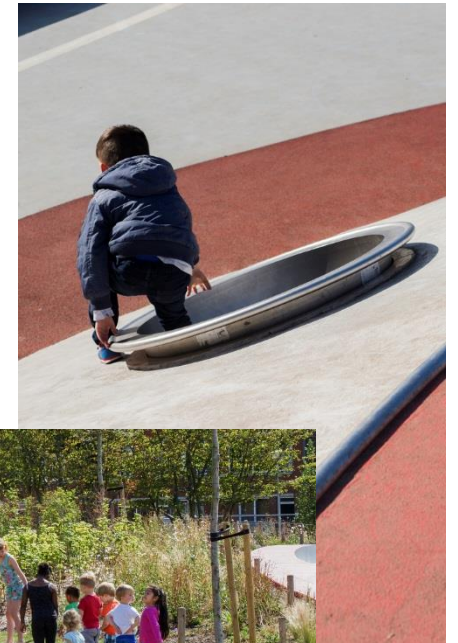
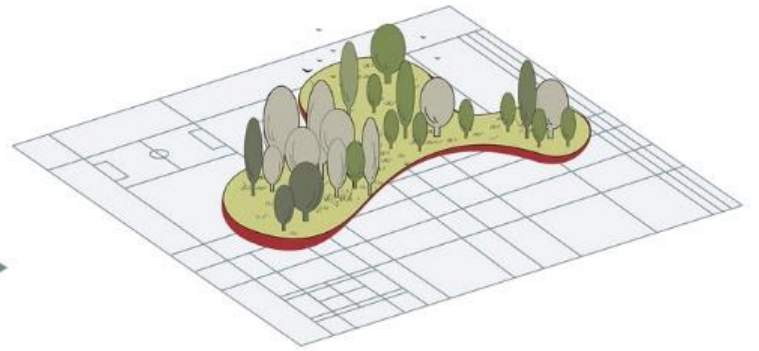
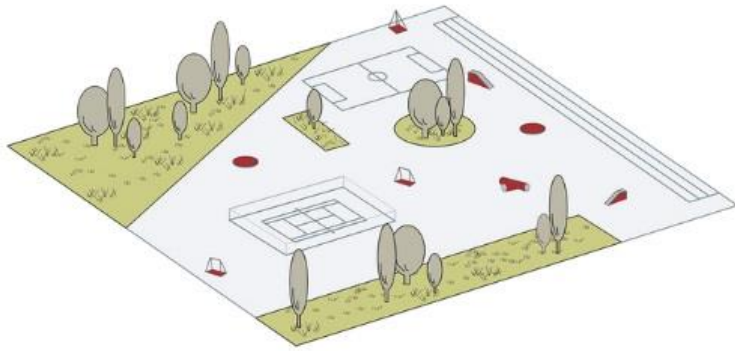


The plan has an **urban exterior** and a **wild natural interior**, **each space contains a different type of play.**



The **formal exterior** is a place for **sports and structured ordered games**, while inside the **wild interior** **children are encouraged and free to construct and destruct their own play spaces using natural materials.**

A boundary “**ribbon**” between the two **worlds wraps and protects** the interior, while adapting towards the exterior to allow games and integrate traditional playground elements.



Beetsplain, Dordrecht, The Netherlands (2003)

Nlarchitects with landschapsarchitecten

Oud Krispijn is a neighborhood in the city of Dordrecht. It was planned by Van der Peck in 1932 as a **Garden City** for the working class: a warped grid, small housing blocks, sweet little houses with front and back gardens, refined 'corner solutions', alleys and several 'green' axis and some modest squares.



“The square serves as a **meeting point**, a point of gravity for the surroundings. **The square should be non-discriminatory, but kids of different ages and the elderly that live around it could be considered the main target groups.**

Therefore it had to supply a playground and sport facilities as well as more calm and intimate areas for resting and relaxing. The common idea was that it should become a 'green' square.”



Génicart district, Bordeaux, France 2015

BASE landscape

Located in Lormont, on the right bank of Bordeaux, the Genicart district is a **housing estate** built in the sixties. The playground was developed by BASE as part of a **project to improve living conditions for the residents** of a 1960s housing estate

In addition to restoring the buildings, the project proposes to create **green ways, sporting equipments, traffic lanes and socializing sites in order to totally transform this district making it a contemporary car-free precinct**

Through the project, they plan to address some of the consequences of the housing estate rehabilitation initiated in the 80s such as the partitioning of the site, the more progressive transition from public to private as well as the reduction and ill use of community spaces. All these aspects are contrary to the main principle of housing estates.

special attention is paid to the **bottom of the buildings** which suffer from a lack of shops or from inadequate configurations



The Lormont playground is intended as a compact and partially transparent object at the centre of an area entirely dedicated to children's games that gives a new purpose to an underused site.

Perforated metal panels create a semi-opaque surface around this **elevated playground structure**, which contains slides, climbing nets and a trampoline



Metal-clad boxes housing the main play equipment are enclosed by a timber framework, while perforations in the powder-coated sheet-metal cladding create *moiré* patterns* across the surfaces.

*a large-scale interference patterns that can be produced when an opaque ruled pattern with transparent gaps is overlaid on another similar pattern.



Openings in the decking contain netting that can be used for climbing or hanging on. Vertical sections of netting can be used as a way to clamber onto the decking. **Benches are incorporated into the surface of the decking**, while **raised platforms** around the perimeter of the playground provide additional seating and play areas.



Espai Germanetes, Barcelona, Spain

EMF landscape architects



Located in a central area of the city of Barcelona
The project consists of **3 public areas** : the recent "micro-urbanization" of Germanetes, the intervention lot, the "Gardens of Emma".
The *Gardens of Emma* are an ancient space of a Convent

Activating Vacant Space with Gardens in Barcelona

The project is a "time process" with **different possible scenarios**, a result of a work that has an **active participation of various district associations**, born with the purpose of recreating this urban abandoned space

The cross-axis of the path consolidates the *bosquet de l'eixample*, forming a recognizable entity even from the outside.
The **perimeter wall of the Convent turns into an equipped wall**, which, through the various treatments, shows part of the activities that take place inside.



The new *Espai Germanetes* is a **diversified entertainment area** that welcomes children and the elderly.

It becomes the fulcrum of neighborhood life and representative space, **multifunctional surface despite reduced size**.

Consistent with the features of Barcelona City's public spaces, Germanetes has **rest shady areas, urban gardens in tanks, children's playgrounds, sports facilities**.

This is a strong incisive action on the compact city fabric







GermaNetes

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Temporary / permanent public spaces

AND OF SOIL AND WATER: KING'S CROSS POND CLUB, LONDON 2013

Ooze architects

King's Cross Pond Club is a temporary installation, but also a community project and a public swimming pool...no...**It is a pond and not a pool.**

It is a bathing pond, in a natural oblong shape, built 2 metres above ground level and 10m wide x 40m long. The central pool is surrounded by hard and **soft landscaping, including pioneer plants, wild flowers, grasses, and bushes** so that the environment evolves as the seasons change.

The pool **water is purified without chemicals** because it is filtered exclusively through natural processes **using wetland and submerged water plants to filter** and sustain clean and clear water.

It is the UK's first public man-made, naturally purified outdoor bathing pond.



King's Cross was during Victorian time the most **important industrial center** and a railway junction in London, then follow the crisis with the deterioration and abandonment, until today with **the urban redevelopment leading a new radical transformation** which includes the conversion of the industrial architecture transformed into schools, cultural centers, galleries

The **public spaces** is one of the main character of the area with new gardens and parks, new squares and roads

The area is designed to enable a regenerative process, and to attract the attention of people about the quality of public space and biodiversity.

With this intervention, Ooze Architects together with the artist Marjetica Potrc wanted to explore the **relationship between nature and the urban environment** by dialing a real self-sustaining ecosystem, a living laboratory that includes nature, water, earth and human body.

The original concept for the project was set out in summer 2013 and further developed throughout the autumn of 2013. Initial ideas around delivering such a **public art project** within a development site centered on ideas of what is public space and what is private space.

Now, it doesn't exist and in its place there is a park.







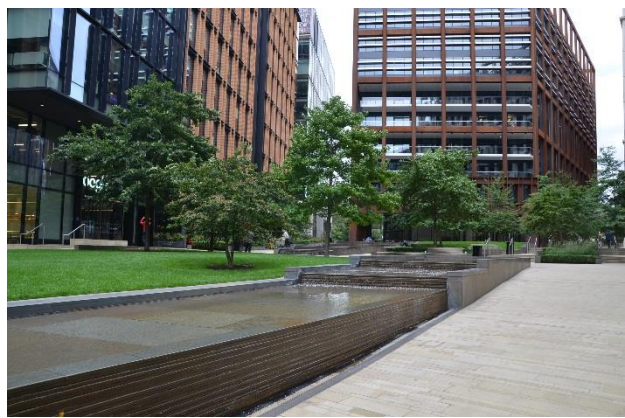


lewis cubitt park NOW



King's Cross station

pancras square by townshend



granary square by townshend

Boerenhol' parking, Kortrijk, Belgium (2009)

WAGON landscaping



The Boerenhol's [ParK]ing is an **experimental garden**.

"The main question was how to recycling form, usages and the soil of a parking to create a new public space? We must find innovative and ecological solution in a world where soils are more impermeable. The idea to remake a fertile ground from parking contributes to this debate"

Depaving =

the removal of unnecessary pavement or hard surfaces to create green space

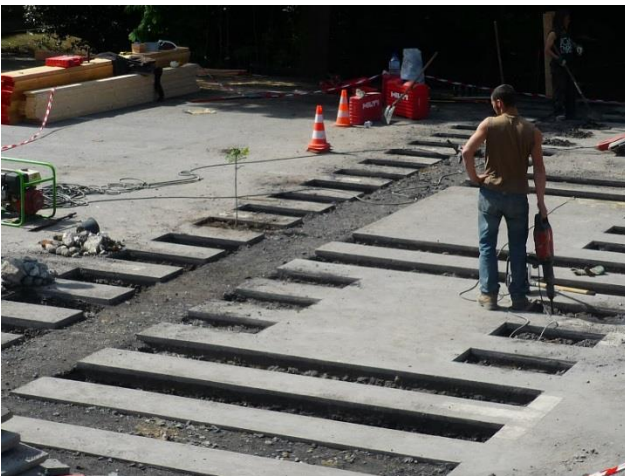
In the city centre, a tree plot at the edge of a parking lot, is a remnant of the former moats that have been filled gradually for city needs.

The real ugly point next to site is a car parking .

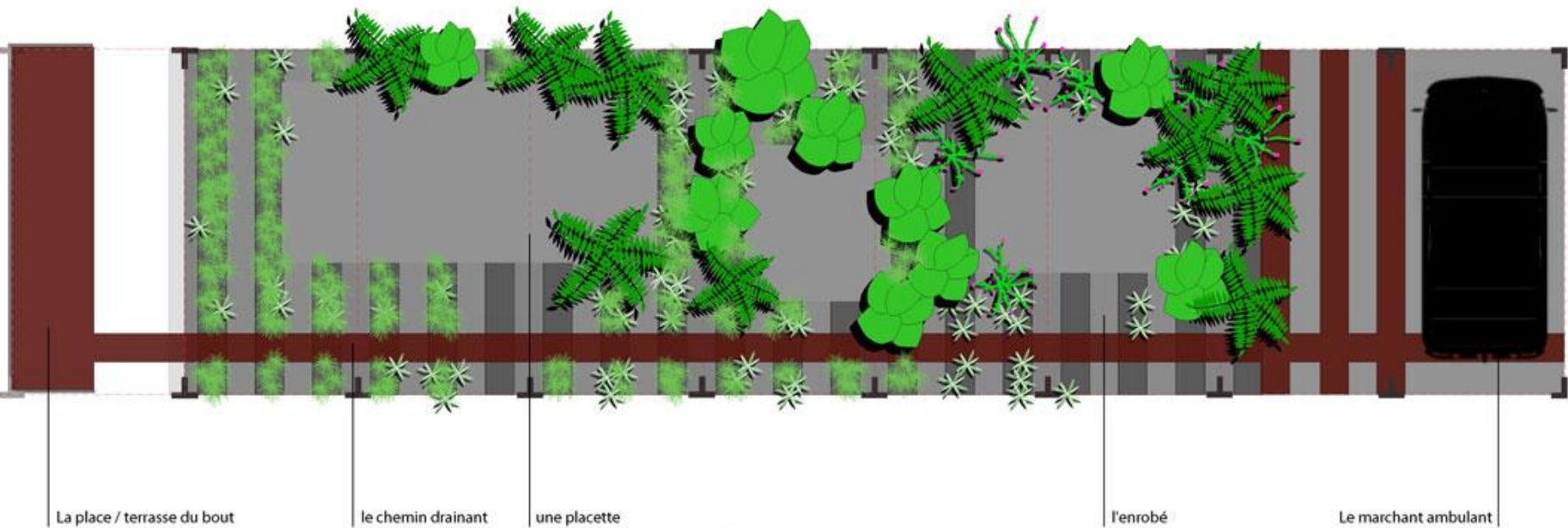
The project propose to recycle the parking corner into a garden and imagine a new future for the old moats.

Issues of urban planning are deeply subjected to new economic and ecological constraints.


Their proposal is design experimentation based on public space recycling and biodiversity in urban area.




Plan de plantation



 9 Cépées de l'année d'*Ailanthus altissima*

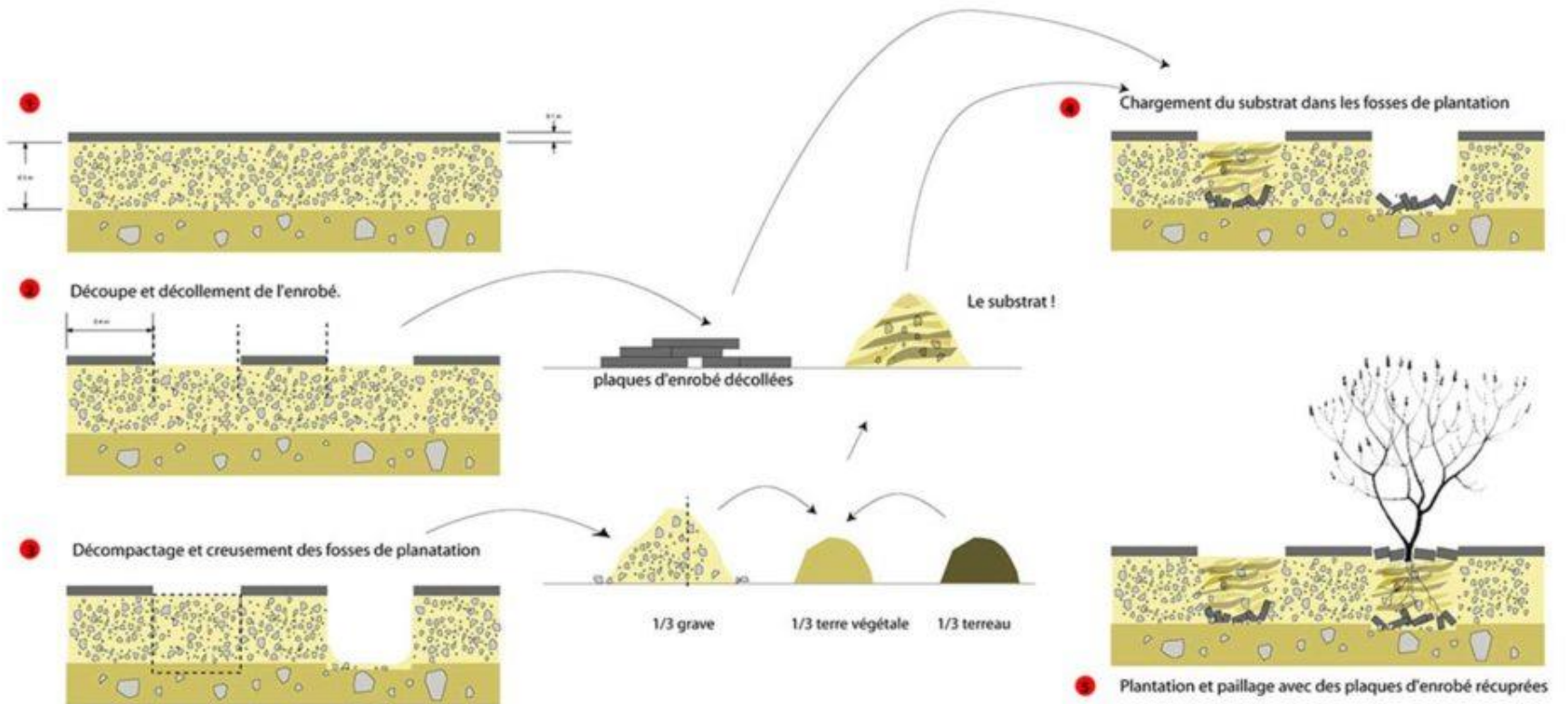
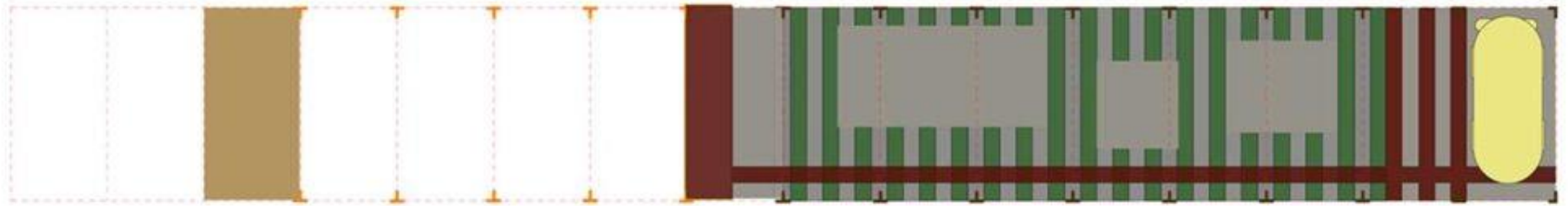
 6 Cépées de l'année de *Catalpa bignonioides*
7 Cépées de l'année de *Paulownia imperialis*

 30 *Verbena bonariensis / gaura*

 55 *Euphorbia lathyris*

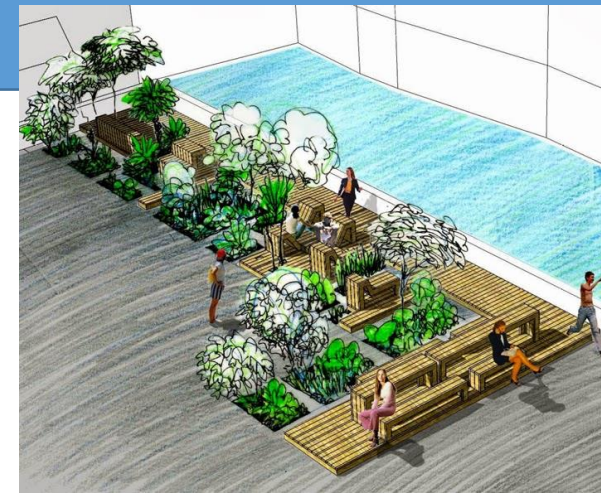
 200 *Euphorbia Cyparissias*





king's Lynn (UK) 2013

WAGON landscape



A new garden on a car parking

*“There are too much place for cars and not enough space for wildness and nature in the King’s Lynn city center. Project propose an other way of being in city on the Purfleet site, showing that **today city centers may show up a new contemporary way of living, emphasizing alternative way of moving and living, taking care about surroundings and ecological aspect.** This approach may have a meaning of **thinking urban spaces as garden** (on wide meaning). As if each citizen would be able and ready to **think outside area as a garden. Taking care about future, helping growing and developing city in the best way he can : as a gardener would take care of his own plants and garden.**”*

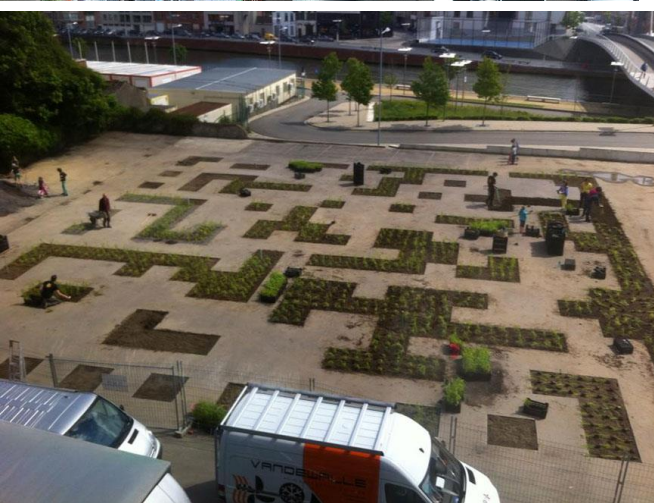
Flash Code Garden, Texture-museum, Kortrijk (Cortrai), Belgium (2014)

Studio BASTA / WAGON landscaping

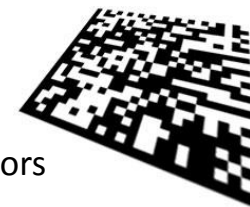
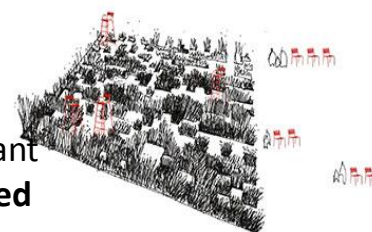


the garden masterplan represent the museum flashcode, offering some comfortable rooms into a labyrinthic space, lost in the city

The new linen museum *Texture* needs a new temporary square pending a total remake of the environment. Studio Basta and Wagon-landscaping **introduced a garden based on the Flash Code** (QR-code). The result is a **labyrinth of grasses** that remembers the flax-fields along the “Golden River” Leie. In the past, thanks to the linen industry, the river was called the « golden river », as for the linen color as for the economic aspect that it produced for the Kortrijk’s region.



*that's characterized by black modules arranged in a square pattern to store information to be read with a smartphone or computer



A temporary garden based on the Flash Code*.

Inspired by this, for the Belgian architects make it the concept for a temporary installation of pleasant effect. **The black modules of the code, marked with a chalk on the asphalt sheet, have been pierced and torn for the planting of grasses.** Thus, the green micro-spaces in the temporary labyrinth, they have been occupied entirely by supple and very high *sinensis blends*, while here and there are red chairs of various heights and wooden benches.

The final effect is a **garden cut into the asphalt with plants** disheveled by silvery flashes, whose colors and informal appearance recall the fields of line



Lifetime: 5 years



Active furniture

Active kant, Valby, Copenhagen 2013

1:1 landskab studio

The City Garden consist of three main element

The Urban Forest, placed in the gardens southern part, has an open canopy of different **oak trees** forming a ceiling, while the square itself is open from all sides. **The square**, which has become an urban hub, also **has an integrated rainwater management solution**; round basins in different sizes are places in between the tree trunks. Here rainwater is collected and slowly percolated and evaporated whilst the sky is reflected and the sunlight is drawn to square's floor.

The **Hilly Garden** is a green playful element that gathers the site from east to west. The garden is sun exposed during the day and the colorful flower beds and blossoming fruit trees are visually inviting people to stay. Read a book in the grass, have a picnic with your friends or run with the children up and down the green hills.

The Active Edge is marking the transition from the Urban Forest and the quiet street to the garden. **The edge is an active furniture, 100 meters made in wood that breaks up and down, and shifts between being broad and narrow in the middle of the City Garden where you can sit, play and meet other people.**



Kik park, Yangpu, Shanghai 2009

3GATTI Architecture Studio



Kik Park is a leftover urban area at the entrance to the Kic Village, constructed in recent years for the students at the nearby universities of Fudan and Tongji.

a **pleated wooden floor** destined to be suitable for all the functions that are indispensable in a public area (seats, green spaces, pathways, publicity panels. A sheet of paper cut and folded like a fan

king's Lynn (UK) 2013

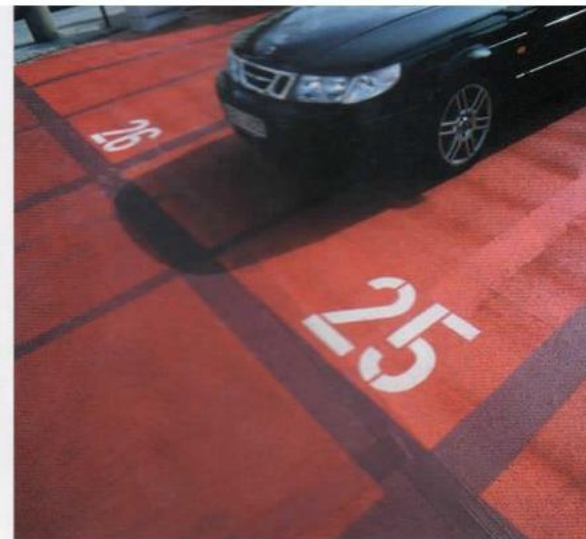
WAGON landscape



parking

Kaiak Marktparkplatz, Berlin

Topotek



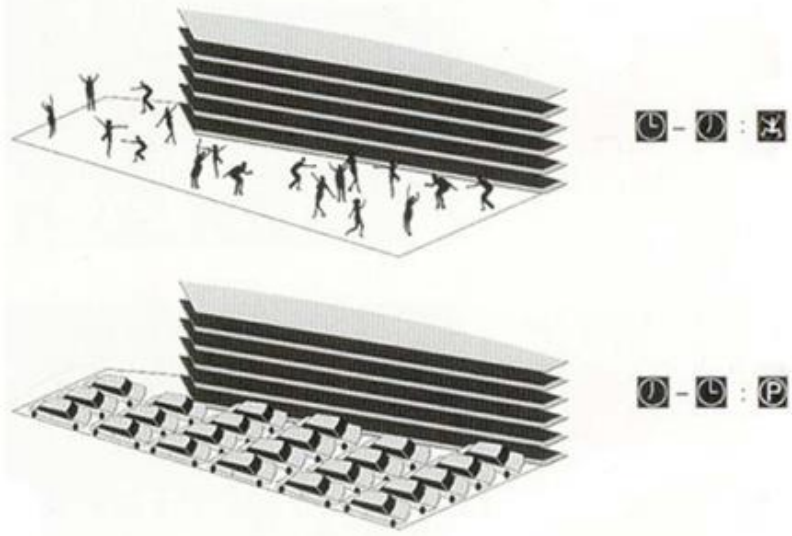
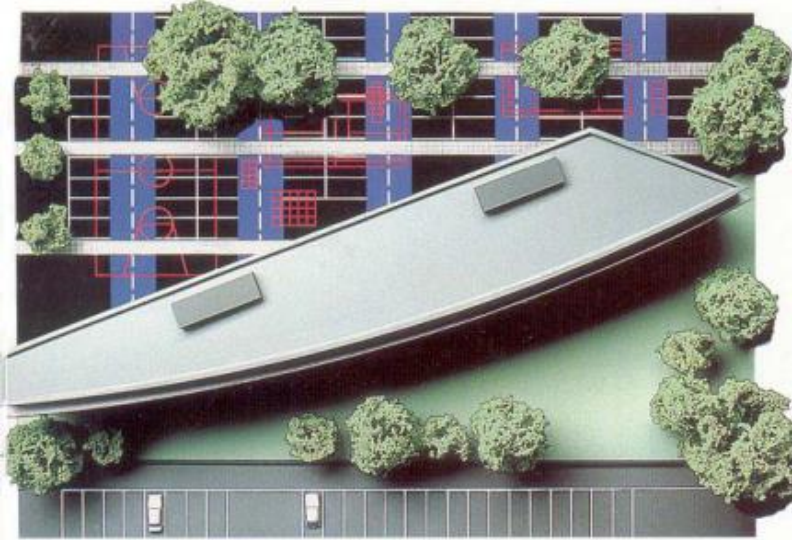
the space between was before transformation widely perceived by the citizens and visitor differently: for some, it was a necessary parking lot, for others an **unattractive open space**. This tension has Topotek made to benefit and created a **“place of change”** in a positive sense.

The existing asphalt pavement on the “marketplace” is extensively covered with **red paint** and patterned by a **fine, slightly curved distorted line screen**. In the center of the square is a **giant red umbrella**. This is spanned on event days and offers, for example, market and information booths, presentations and concert stages appropriate safeguards. **If it is closed it signals the possibility for parking**.

The **superposition of different uses in urban public space is normal and is symbolically represented by the pictorial and playful quality of the “marketplace”**.

Spielplatzplatz, Flamingstrasse, Berlin 1999

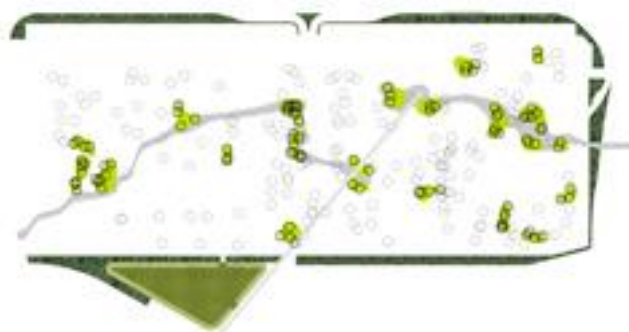
Buro Kiefer



Parching Marco Polo Airport, Venezia 2014/2018

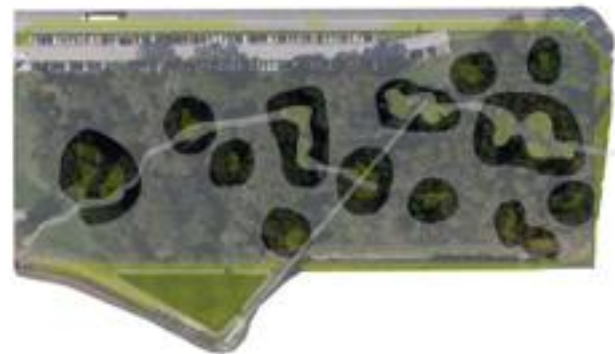
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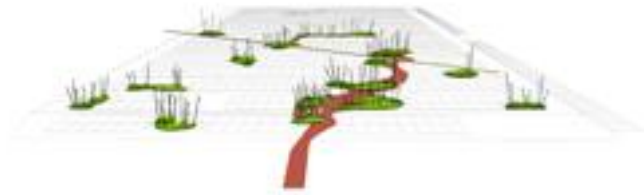
- ANIMA**
- Area verde di recupero
 - Area verde di progetto
 - Area verde di recupero
 - Area verde di progetto

Restituzione degli spazi di recupero e di progetto. Il verde è distribuito in modo da creare una rete di spazi verdi e di percorsi di collegamento.



- SCHEMA DISTRIBUZIONE E MOVIMENTO**
- Area di recupero di recupero
 - Area di recupero di progetto
 - Area di recupero di progetto
 - Area verde

Restituzione degli spazi di recupero e di progetto. Il verde è distribuito in modo da creare una rete di spazi verdi e di percorsi di collegamento.



- SCHEMA PIANO GLOBALE**
- Area verde di recupero
 - Area verde di progetto

Restituzione degli spazi di recupero e di progetto. Il verde è distribuito in modo da creare una rete di spazi verdi e di percorsi di collegamento.



Street as public space

Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, Australia 2011

Taylor Cullit Lethelean Landscape Architecture

Lonsdale Street, is a key part of the \$290 million Revitalising Central Dandenong Initiative, launched by the Victorian Government in 2006.

This **500metre long boulevard** establishes via the extension of patterned paving and creation of garden rooms creates a **pedestrian and cyclist priority environment** and a vibrant and successful shopping centrepiece for Dandenong.



A linear garden along the length of the road, with double rows of Pin Oaks, a significant arrival element and forms a park environment and a desirable community meeting place. In line with urban stormwater best practice, **a series of rain gardens capture and treat localized stormwater run-off to be reused for irrigation purposes.**

Lonsdale Street was conceived as a **grand boulevard with a pedestrian focus**. Through traffic was **concentrated into a central band defined by four rows of trees**. Adjacent to the retail frontages, broad tree lined plazas, shared traffic zones and linear gardens provide a pedestrian realm of generosity and distinction. The design is an example of an **interdisciplinary approach** to the construction of the city involving expertise across a wide range of disciplines and continuous liaison with key stakeholders.





Priorities:

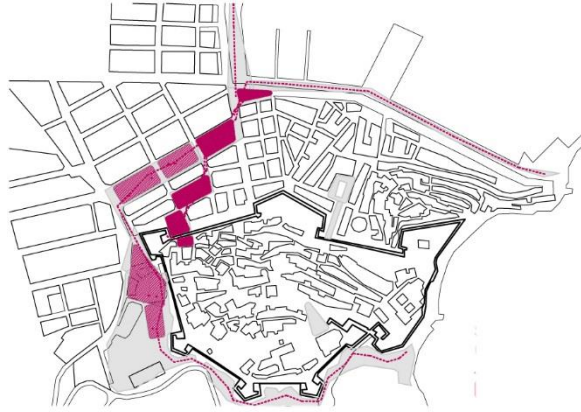
- **Connections** Instead of a significant barrier, Lonsdale Street became a key connecting catalyst, fostering clear and legible street connections to each of the City's key public assets.
- **Street Life** Creating a memorable boulevard, animated along its length and connected to a range of finer grain experiences from active retail edges, pocket parks, to civic plazas.

Paseo Vara de Rey y Plaza des Parc, Ibiza (Spain)

aldajover architecture and landscape



Paseo Vara de Rey y Plaza des Parc is a new model for pedestrian areas that is able to combine quality and economic sustainability



The XIXth century **Paseo**, a sand and tree-lined promenade parallel to the historic wall, was Ibiza's living room until the 1960's and 1970's. Then, an unfortunate operation fragmented what once was a unified space into minimal sidewalks and a reduced central space that was isolated by parking lots and vehicle transit lanes

Aldayjover's winning competition entry extends this initial objective to adjacent streets and to the space at the base of the wall in order **to make pedestrian the first historic development outside the wall**, to dignify the gateway to the walled city and to recover civic and historic values of Ibiza's urban core. These spaces become key urban articulations connecting pedestrians between two vital points - the port and the walled core. This series of diagonally connected spaces lead to a new elevator that improves access and revitalizes the most inaccessible sector of the old city.



Lines of trees and repurposed original stone curbs site guide pedestrian circulation and views. Street curbs, lampposts and urban furniture, like historic stone benches found on site, are recycled. All vegetation is kept, notably monumental species



*“We had to come up with a new vocabulary, of the same or **higher quality and durability, that would reduce costs by 60%, from 300 €/m2 to 180 €/m2.***

Given that infrastructural costs are hardly reducible, the pavement absorbed this massive cost cut.

*The proposed solution is an **assortment of tinted and concrete that is finished with different textures and types of local stones.***

A single material with different finishes and articulated with fine lines of galvanized steel organizes bicycle and emergency vehicle traffic, heavy pedestrian traffic along facades and spaces for rest.

*The result is a **new model for pedestrian areas and for how contemporary public space integrates differentiated urban fabrics.** It shows how to operate in a new economic era through innovating in the material palette.”*



Ecological design

Zollhallen Plaza 2009-2010

Ramboll Studio Dreiseitl

The design plays with the historic past of the site **which was a rail yard**. Timeless and **multifunctional benches** recall break noses of rail tracks, and old rail tracks are inlaid into the paving.

A bright **grove of cherry trees** provide the perfect amount of shade, while the infiltration planters with perennials and ornamental grasses give an attractive softness.

100% of the hardscape materials are high-quality demolition materials recycled from the old rail yard. This makes sense not just from a resource management point of view, but harmonises the new clean modern design with the historic architecture of the customs hall.





Cloudburst Plaza Dry

Disconnect from Sewage



The plaza is a fine example of **water sensitive urban design**, as it is disconnected from the sewer system. Beautiful **planters provide infiltration points**, and subsurface gravel trenches with innovative in-built filter medium reduce the hydraulic overload on the sewer system. Indented plaza areas create a surface flood zone. No rain water is fed to the sewer system, instead the ground water table is recharged.



Anti-flood greenery-boosting Climate Tile installed in Copenhagen street

studio Tredje Natur



street paving system in Copenhagen that aims to reduce street flooding and create green spaces.

"The Climate Tile represents an exciting approach to climate adaptation and urban development, where the two things are merged into one scalable system," said project manager Jan Rasmussen from the City of Copenhagen's Center for Climate Change Adaptation.



The Climate Tile (or Klimaflisen in Danish) is **dotted with holes that allow it to collect and manage water**, funnelling some of it into planted space alongside the pavement, to help stop streets from flooding.

The tile has been in development since 2014 and has now been installed in Copenhagen's Nørrebro neighbourhood, on a 50-metre-stretch in front of Cafe Heimdalsgade 22.

