# Mozaïek aan de Maas

Cultuur Campus | 04.03.2021

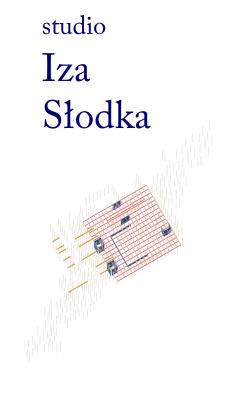
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Rotterdam 04.03.2021

#### Team

Having built a broad network of professionals who we cooperate frequently with, we decided to apply a collective approach towards solving each design challenge. In case of Culture Campus assignment we brought together a team composed of several designers with relevant experience and interests to benefit the project most.

Together with Jens Jorritsma and Maciei Wieczorkowski we previously worked

together on other complex urban projects in the Netherlands (Smakkelaarspark in Utrecht, Vierhavensblok in Rotterdam), during which we had a chance to establish our working method and design approach. While each of us separately work on various different projects, we are cooperating as a team on bigger scale assignments on a verge of landscape, urbanism and architecture.

In our work we carefully analyze and study existing qualities of each site – we believe that the individual character of every place is a base for its further successful development. Especially in case of post-industrial sites in transformation like M4H or Maashaven their identity and history offer an important starting point to continue designing on.

We try to create a vision that is specific to each particular site and helps with strengthening its identity, while at the same time offering a flexible framework for various activities and functions that can change over time.



Izabela Slodka – A winner of Europan15 with "Makers' Maze" proposal for Vierhavensblok in Rotterdam in 2019 and a nominee of the European Young Talent Architecture Award in 2016. She's a registered architect with a master degree from TU Delft and an experience working in several companies in the realm of architecture, landscape and urban design in the Netherlands. Founder of Studio Iza Slodka - an architecture company with a focus on areas in transformation, existing qualities of post-industrial sites and redefining relationships between architecture and public spaces.



Jens Jorritsma – Urban designer, teacher and researcher with a degree in land use planning (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen) and urban design (Rotterdam Academy of Architecture). He has been working on the relationship between water and public space for the last decade. Jens was selected for the Archiprix with his graduation project concerning water sensitive design and was involved in the design and realisation of the first watersquare. He has been tutor and lecturer at the academy of Architecture in Rotterdam and Amsterdam, Hogeschool and IHS Erasmus University. In 2018 he and his partner founded OBSCURA, an office for urbanism, architecture and art.



Maciej Wieczorkowski - Spatial designer holding a Master of Science degree in Architecture from Technical University of Delft. Experienced with working on projects of various scales at architectural and urban design offices in Poland and Netherlands. Co-founder of Dividual, a practice of research and design at the intersection between architecture, urban planning and landscape. Together with partner, he focuses work of the office on turning urban obsolescence into design opportunity and architecture with engages with communities.



Operating in between scales, we find it essential to develop urban concepts that provide clear guidelines for the architecture. In our work urban plans are never treated as fixed blueprints, but as a set of rules and a flexible framework to address the needs of the everchanging resilient cities of the future.

Public spaces are as important as buildings and the boundaries between these two are often flexible and blurred, allowing for different spaces to be used according to the needs and contributing to creating a vibrant, mixed and porous urban fabric.

## Mozaïek aan de Maas



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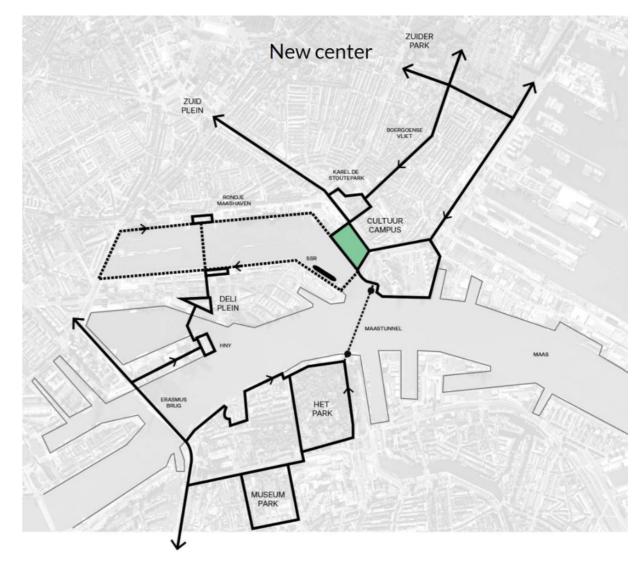
#### Context study

In the first stage of site analysis we looked into several documents presenting the future vision of the Rotterdam South. This part of the city is being developed and its character is continuously changing. In the report "Het verslag van de verkenner: Huis met veel kamers" from 2017 there is a description of Rotterdam as a collection of various districts - each with its own identity and characteristics. This multitude provides richness of architecture, functions and people and indicates the dynamic nature of this part of the city. The metaphor of a house with many rooms matched our own observations and created an inspiration of the further analysis of the context.



Het huis op Zuid heeft vele kamers en in die kamers liggen weer kamers en in die kamers zitten weer andere onontdekte kamers. Er valt nog zoveel te zien!

Abdelkader Benali



-6-

Diagram showing the network of green and recreational spaces around the Maas River and main connections around Culture Campus site.

With Maas River as a new center of Rotterdam, Culture Campus site becomes part of the recreational and green network developed around it. Its close proximity to Maastunnel entrance and the future OV network will ensure good connections with the rest of the city.

Rotterdam as a house with many rooms with variety of spaces, functions and users. (Image: © mecanoo architecten) Source: "Het verslag van de verkenner: Huis met veel kamers", p. 44

#### Site visit

The site visit of the Van Leeuwen recycling halls provided an important set of information and inspiration for our design work. Already from the distance the location strikes as an unusual assembly of different elements: from historic brick buildings, metal sheds and fences to huge industrial halls and containers. Visible immediately after existing Maastunnel, Yellow Nelcon crane is a characteristic element and an undoubtful landmark of the site.

The halls themselves create an interconnected system – their lightweight structures allow for openings and passages in between buildings. Where not completely open, shared facades are imprinted on the neighbouring building, showing the shape of the adjacent hall. Warehouses

are built next to each other in a cellular system and are sometimes created by later additions. For example Shedhal was built by suspending a roof between existing Machinehal and Braathal. Similar inside – outside ambiguities are part of the site's charm and its uniqueness. With parts of the front facade missing, the Conradhal becomes an interesting alcove and works in fact a covered part of the outdoor space.

The spatial characteristics of the Van Leeuwen recycling halls are unique even for the industrial locations. In our opinion it is worth to base some parts of the new design on these found principles in order to create one-of-akind development, rooted in the identity of the site, experimental and challenging traditional urban plans.



visible on the inner facade of the Conradhal. On the right: Roof of the Shedhal suspended in between Braathal and Machinehal.



Assemble of elements: a photograph taken from the Charlois side of the Doklaan street.

Interior of the Van Leeuwen halls photographed during the site visit. On the left: imprint of the Braathal

#### Site's identity

Looking at the historical pictures of the site, it quickly becomes clear that flexibility has been always part of its identity. Various configurations of industrial halls and connections to the water and the city were continuously adjusted and changing according to the needs. Hyper-flexible lightweight structures could easily follow requirements of different activities and companies moving to and from the location.

While having very similar construction systems, various halls have also different specific spatial conditions – various heights, sizes, roof shapes, light

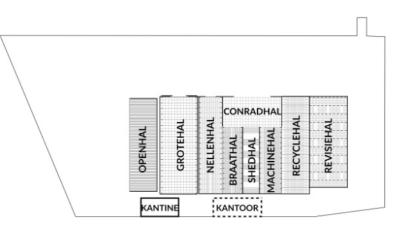
conditions and so on. Each of them has its own historical name -a part of the building's identity.

These warehouses were added over time, not as traditional buildings with alleys and square in between them, but directly next to each other, expanding the space needed for specific activities.

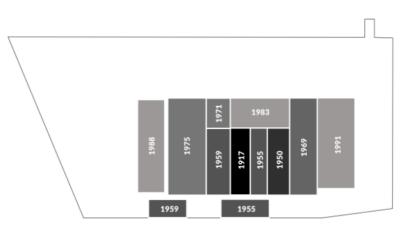
We imagine that this process could continue – not necessarily in the form of the industrial halls but as a series of various indoor and outdoor spaces remaining pieces of the site can be developed over time to accommodate future functions.



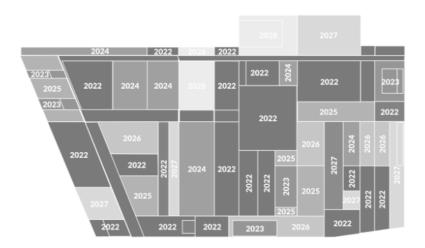
A historic photograph of project site with an old Ponserpad connection towards the water. Source: CHARLOTEC IJzersterk in Charlois Terrein Doklaan Rotterdam.



Different names, spatial conditions and identities of each building present on the site.



Different dates of adding halls to the assembly.



The continuation of the already started process: new spaces developed over time.

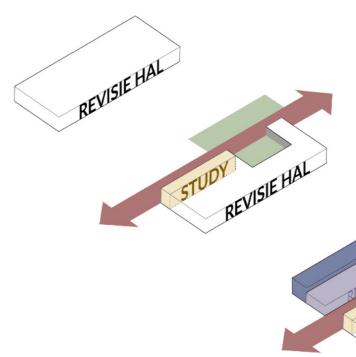
### Flexible strategy for the future

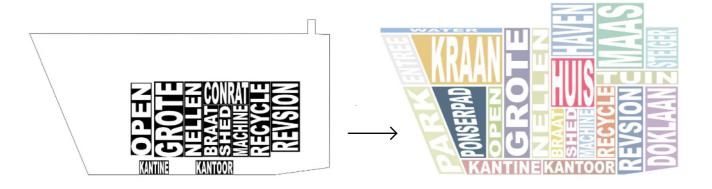
Looking for a concept that is rooted in the site's identity and that takes advantage of the flexibility of the existing structures we propose to continue the existing logic of the location and transform the monofunctional industrial site into a diverse multi-use public Culture Campus. The existing halls work as spatial containers for different activities — they can be closed or open and in our view do not need to be considered strictly indoor spaces.

Our strategy is to add on to this ensemble over time and to develop more interconnected spaces — clearly defined platforms for future functions with various indoor and outdoor qualities and flexible spatial conditions.

These old and new rooms form a mosaic of different functions, buildings and public spaces, which can allow for a certain degree of flexibility and organic growth, while at the same time being clearly defined already in the early phases of the development.

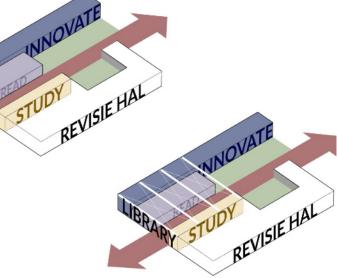
This strategy provides a spatial framework that uses the existing potential of the flexible typologies and the site's identity and offers one strong binding idea for the future developments that could accommodate a variety of different functions and activities.





The illustration of the main idea: transforming mono-functional industrial site into multi-use mosaic of various indoor and outdoor spaces with clear identities and flexible spatial conditions.

Illustration of the gradual development of architecture: new spaces are added over time providing space for the functions to expand. Various volumes and outdoor spaces are combined into one diverse ensemble of elements.

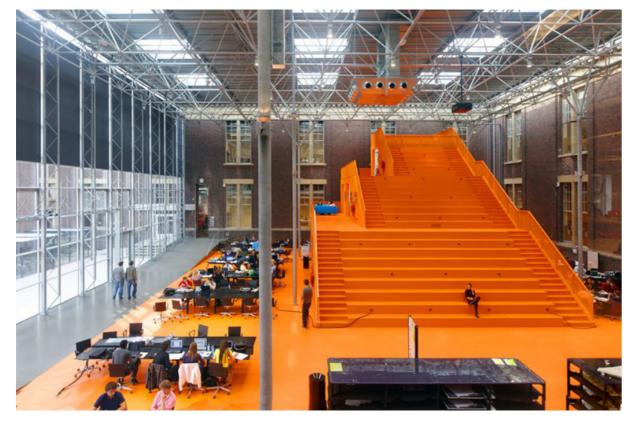


#### Scale analysis

With the clear starting idea of the Mosaic, it was necessary to test the concept and to illustrate what collection of functions and spaces could come together on the Culture Campus site. To give a good overview of that, we analysed several objects from a few categories: educational (for example TU Delft lecture hall, LocHal library, Kunststad NDSM etc.); cultural (Turbine Hall from Tate museum, Filmhallen in Amsterdam etc.); recreational (Foodhallen in Amsterdam, Streetmekka in Copenhagen etc.) and more. The selected designs are relevant to the

Culture Campus project in terms of scale, function and often, post-industrial character of the architecture.

After combining all these into one patchwork of functions it was easier to see the potential of the main concept to host a variety of activities and grasp the scale of the project site. Looking at the final result of this exercise it became clear that the future Culture Campus needs a variety of spaces - both indoor and outdoor to be able to accommodate a mix of functions and create a resilient system attractive for a wide range of users and visitors.



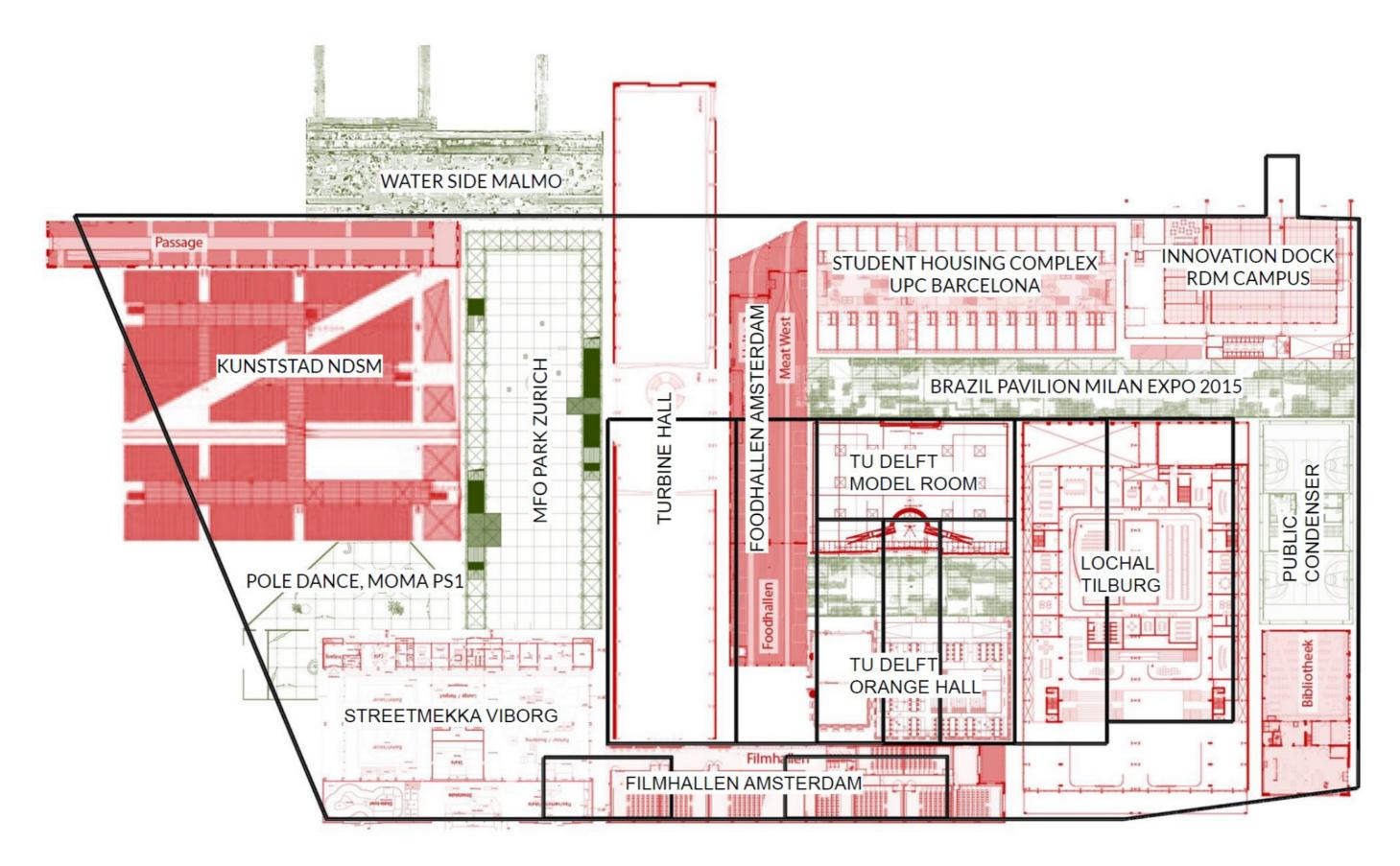
Orange hall at TU Delft in the Netherlands. ©Photo: MVRDV



2000, © Tate

On the right: LocHal public library in Tilburg, photo © Stijn Bollaert

On the left: Turbine Hall at Tate Modern in London. Artwork: Louise Bourgeois, I Do, I Undo, I Redo,



Combined floorplan of selected projects follow the idea of the mosaic. Various indoor and outdoor functions mix together creating diverse collection of spaces that could attract many different groups of users and visitors.

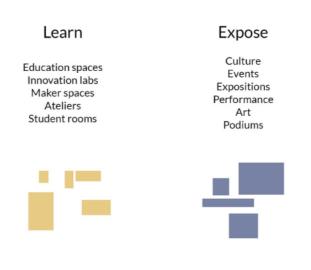
#### Programme mix

With the several scenarios tested during the scale analysis, we studied the requested program. We organized it in 4 main groups of activities: Learn – consisting of educational spaces, labs, classrooms, ateliers and student housing; *Expose* – related to cultural program, events and art, Meet - including shared meeting rooms, restaurant, bars and cafes and Relax — with green spaces, sport facilities, terraces and outdoor hangout spots.

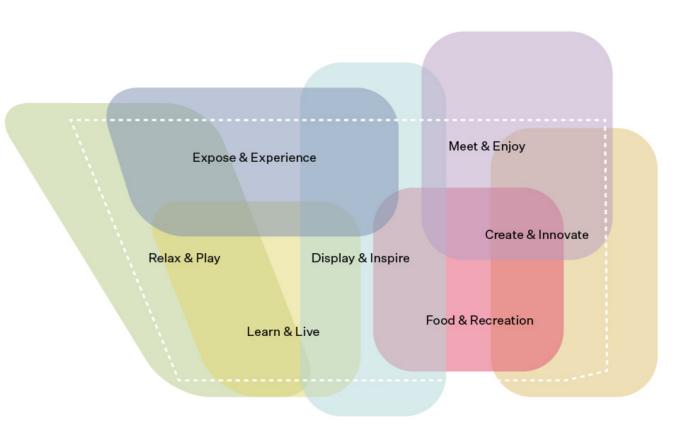
Each of the categories consists of a series of bigger and smaller functions and outside spaces that are interwoven on the project site. This vibrant mix ensures diversity and liveness of the development. At the same time, we propose to create main zones with different themes: *Relax and Play* connected to the park (with green spaces and sport fields); Expose and *Experience* at the entrance from the

Maastunnel (with big event space); Learn and Live at the extension of the Charlois streets (with music classrooms and student housing); Display and Inspire in the Grote Hall and its extension towards the water (with big indoor and outdoor exposition space); Food and Recreation in Conradhal and adjacent smaller halls (with foodhallen and main square); Meet and Enjoy at the waterfront (with a student housing, green spaces and meeting rooms); Create and Innovate on the right edge of the project site (with classrooms, library, labs and workshops).

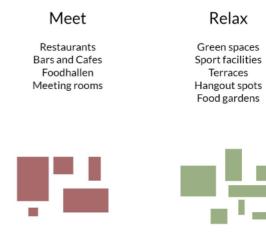
The main concentrations of activities provide amenities to support certain functions. These zones do not prevent functions from mixing further on the site, their boundaries are not strict they overlap with adjacent zones, sharing spaces and facilities and creating interconnected networks of functions.



Main groups of activities: Learn, Expose, Meet and Relax.



Overlapping zones of different functions on the site – while creating main concentrations of certain themes, they allow for functions to mix further, share facilites and interact with each other.



### Embedding in the surrounding

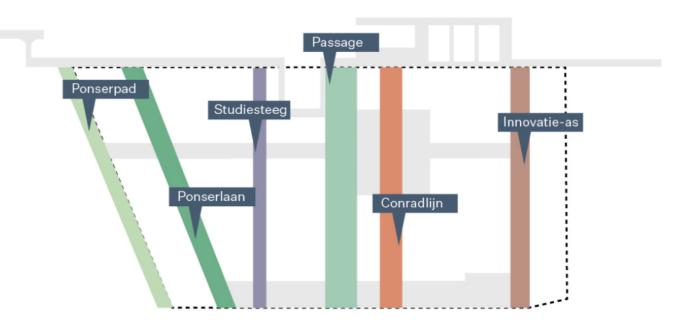
Mosaic proposal is a network of spaces embedded in its surrounding. To make sure that the site is accessible, we propose several connections to the neighbourhood - from the side of the Maastunnel entrance, water route of Maashaven, as well as Charlois neighbourhood. Our mosaic plan allows for the Maastunnel park to expand, bringing back the historical axis of the Ponserpad and strengthening the relation between the neighbourhood and the water edge. Network of green spaces of various sizes and characters is continuing throughout the site linking Maastunnel park and Karel de Stouteplein. New developments build up a healthy environment and provide a series of high-quality outdoor spaces to the local residents.

In our plan we distinguish two groups of main connections: perpendicular and parallel to the water edge. The first group consists of see-through visual and physical passages between Charlois and Maas River. While creating direct relations between the neighbourhood and the waterfront. they invite visitors from both directions to visit and experience the other location. These pedestrian alleys are filled with greenery and rows of trees. They are not empty

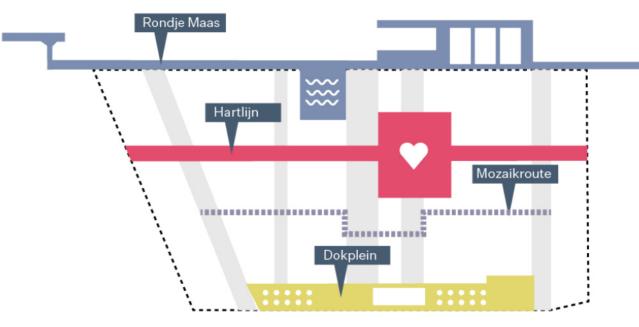
corridors, but long and lively frontrooms connecting many various adjacent functions. Open and green Nellenhal can become one of these perpendicular connections.

The parallel axes create 4 different connections with various functions and characteristics. Along the water site there is irregular Rondje Maas with a series of recreational spaces and functions continuing all around the Maashaven bay. Main axis of the project (Haartlijn) leads to the main square - the central space and the heart of the development. Inner passage through various squares and halls (Mozaïekkroute) creates a continuous pedestrian route accessible from the side of the Maastunnel park.

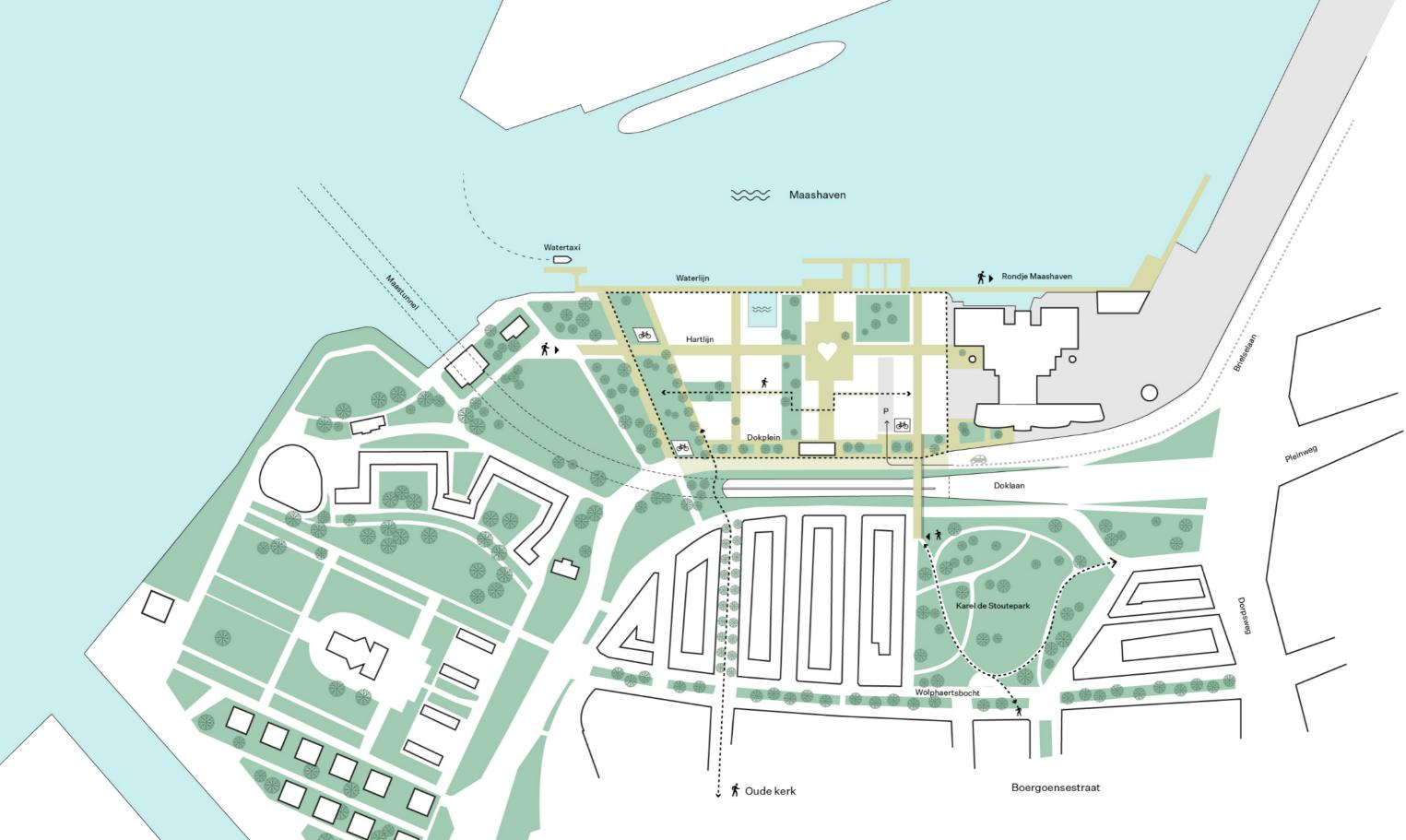
Wide and open *Dokplein* – a square along the Doklaan road offers a buffer zone and enough space for pedestrians and greenery to create an enjoyable boulevard that could host a variety of functions for both residents and tourists. One of these functions could be an outdoor market, where various items could be exhibited and sold, contributing to building up a circular economy and encouraging exchange between different groups of users.



Various see-through connections between Charlois neighbourhood and Maashaven waterfront.



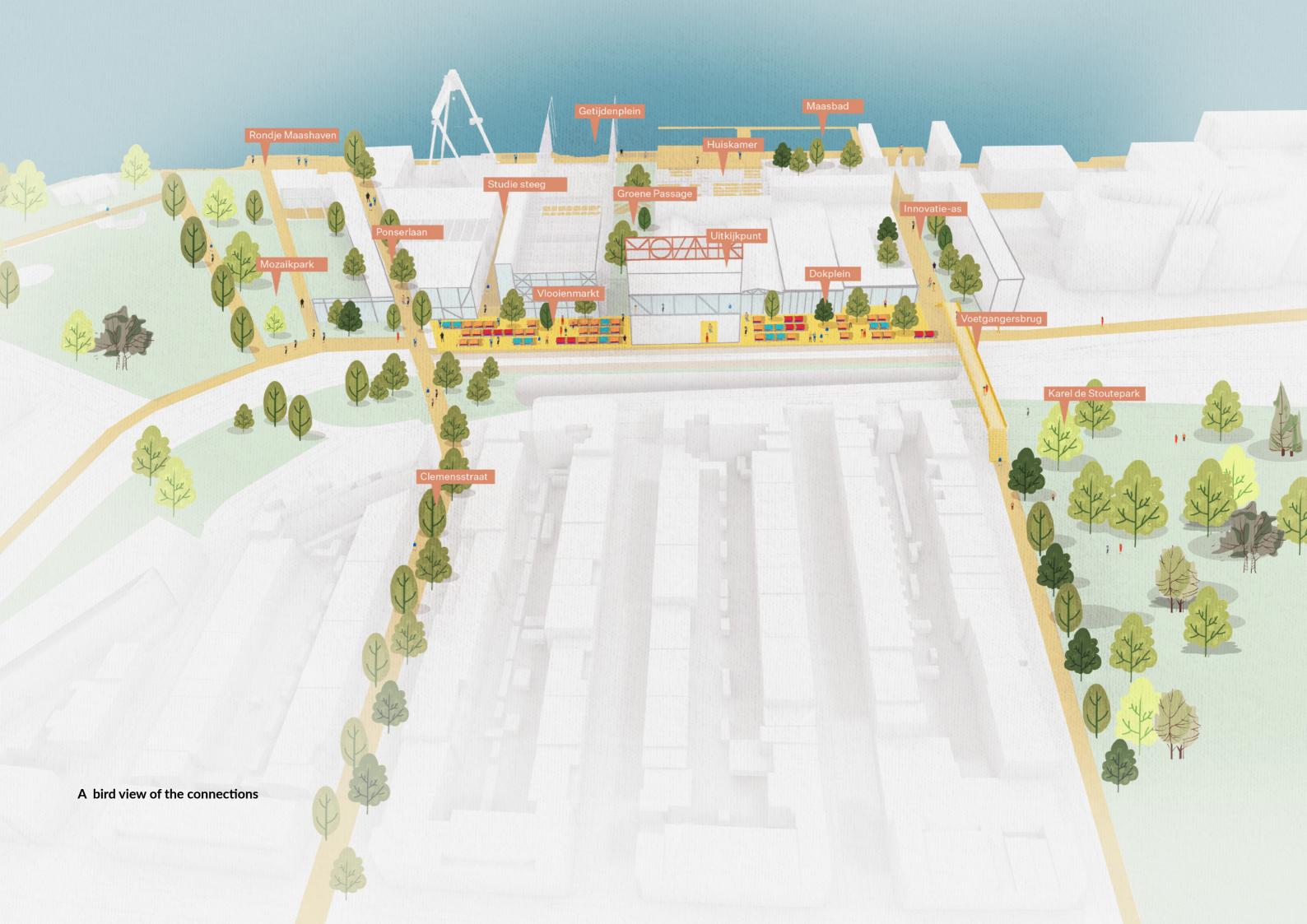
Series of pedestrian connections leading throughout the project site and filled with various activities and programs.



Map of the future connections



A view of the renewed Nellenhal



### Mosaic of structures and functions

Described frameworks help us to organize the final plan, where all functions come together around a series of diverse public connections and green spaces. The mosaic of outdoor spaces is defined not only by the buildings and their facades, but with the help of various multi-functional structures.

Walls, roofs, beams, benches and steps create interesting and ambiguous indoor and outdoor rooms. They have practical functions too: from the sitting edges, outdoor stages, roof supports to the external exhibition walls. Thanks to

them, the functions inside the buildings can easily extend into the outdoor spaces.

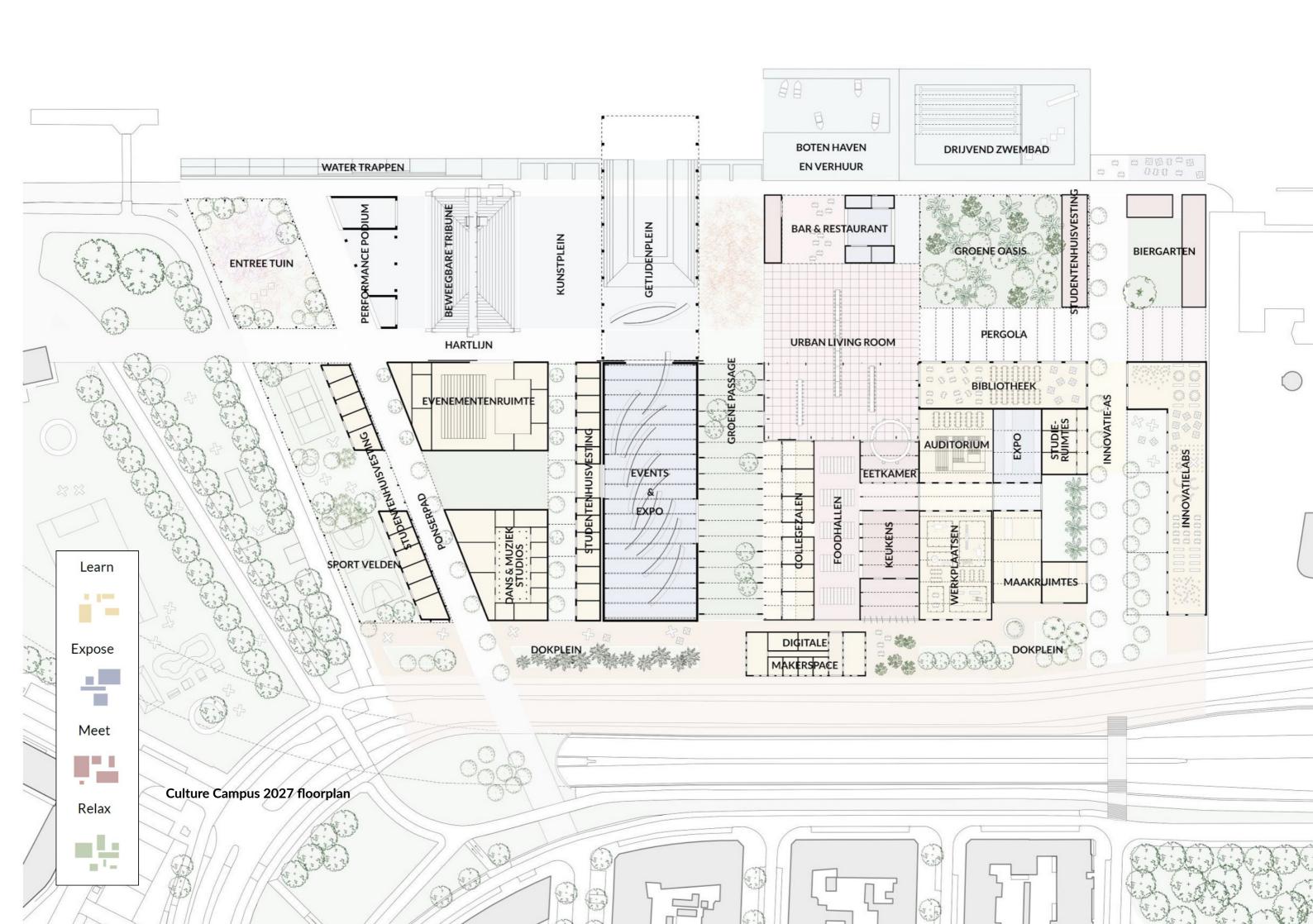
Colorful pavings with various patterns are used to define different parts of the mosaic and energize the site. Big diversity of users and activities is expressed with the richness of elements, colors and materials. The idea of the mosaic extending throughout the entire site with its rooms as spatial containers for different activities is strengthened by this experimental and non-standard use of architectural elements.



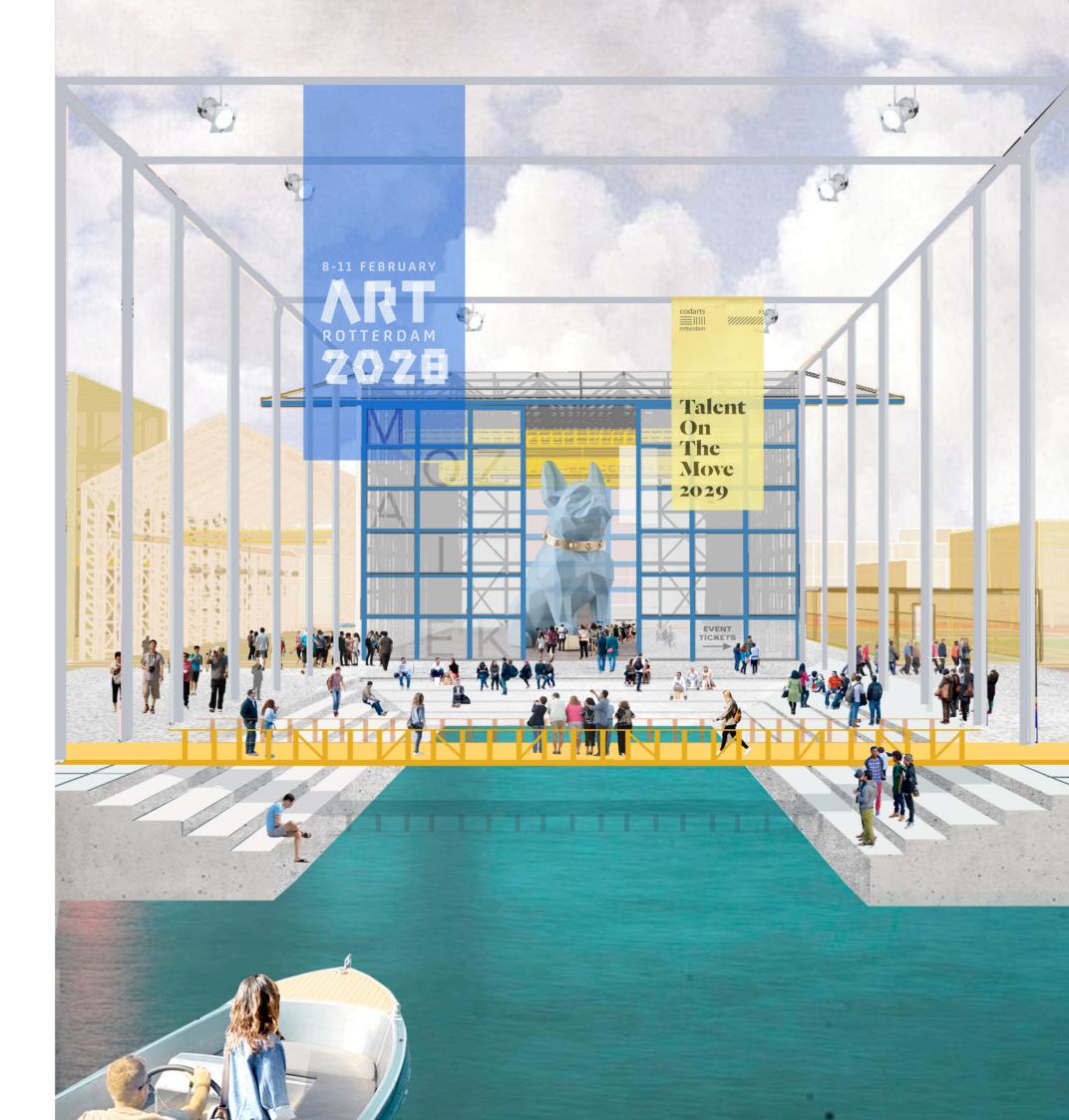
On the left: LaLaport Toyosu by Earthscape, photo © Earthscape On the right: Segre STREET by Territori 24 in Barri del Castell, photo © Territori 24

Wijkpark De Porre, photo © Johnny Umans





Grotehal serves as a main exhibition and event space and is extended towards the water with an open frame. This structure defines the boundaries of the tidal square and the event square, at the same time serving as a support for light and sound equipment, event flags, temporary roof etc.



### Mosaic of climates & accessibility

Individual parts of the mosaic are not equivalent to closed building volumes. Outdoor structures and open facades create blurred edges between the outside and the inside. Each mosaic's room or existing hall can consist of various climates and accessibility levels: from always open, public outdoor spaces to completely private, indoor, enclosed and climate-controlled rooms.

This gradient of climates and accessibility levels can be achieved with various architectural tools, for example full height movable facade panels, semitransparent building extensions, box-inbox solutions inside bigger halls, green courtyards and public or semi-public front rooms.

The goal of these solutions is to provide a wider range of possibilities of using both indoor and outdoor spaces throughout the year, maximizing the use of space in various weather conditions and creating a development that is as inviting and open as possible. Within this concept it is possible for most buildings and halls at the site (at certain times) to become part of an open network of public spaces.



Nantes School of Architecture by Lacaton & Vassal, photo © Philippe Ruault; Lacaton & Vassal; Valery Joncheray

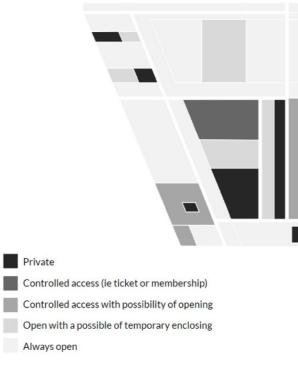


Diagram of different access zones: from public and always open to private with restricted access.

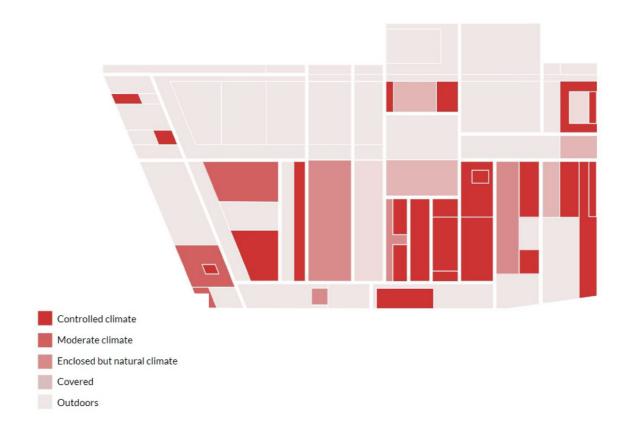




Diagram of different climates: from outdoors and open to indoors with controlled climate.

### Development strategy

Mosaic is a hyper-flexible concept that can allow for many different scenarios and can adjust to the specific requirements and planning without compromising the main idea. While ensuring maximum flexibility of the proposal we developed clear steps as a development strategy for the site.

Starting with the existing halls and structures the first step would be to ensure the accessibility of the site – creating connections to the Charlois neighbourhood, Maastunnel entrance and Rondje Maas as well as opening up some of the halls and allowing for passages and alleys to link Doklaan boulevard and the Maashaven waterfront.

The initial division of the mosaic could be already introduced on the site – bringing a series of green spaces, public corridors and squares. Clear definition of spaces would help with placing various functions and precise interventions.

Step 1. Existing halls and structures.

#### Hyperflexibel gebouw

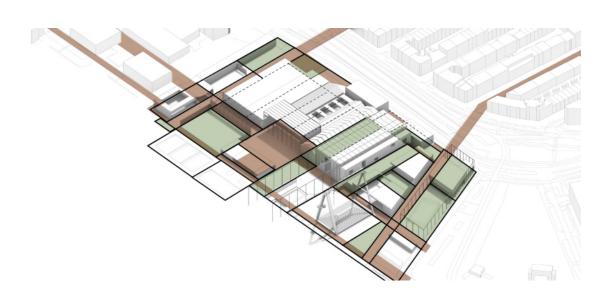
"De cultuurmachine is een hoogwaardige verblijfsplaats, de <u>huiskamer van de stad</u>, die zich eenvoudig aan laat aanpassen aan in de loop der jaren veranderende functies"

Francine Houben



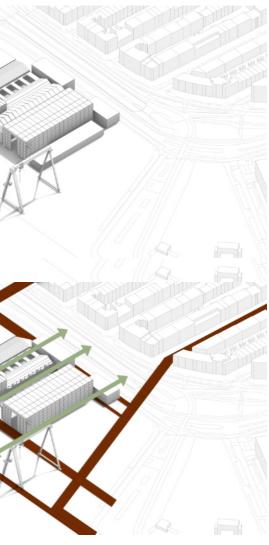






Step 3. Mosaic of green spaces and public corridors.

Idea diagram: hyperflexible building



Step 2. New connections and passages between Charlois neighbourhood na Maashaven waterfront.

### Temporary use — 2022

Culture Campus already in 2022 will invite students, local residents and tourists. Following the idea of the mosaic and development strategy steps we propose to create connections towards Charlois neighbourhood starting with a temporary bridge above Doklaan road to link the new public site with Karel de Stouteplein and extension of the Clemensstraat following historical Ponserpad direction. New entrances and passages will ensure access to the Maashaven water side and Maastunnel entrance.

In this first phase we propose a full renovation of Grotehal and Recyclehal. Recyclehal is in relatively good technical conditions and after improvements it could host educational programs with the lecture hall, labs and workshops. Grotehal in our plan is the main space for events and exhibitions. It is an impressive building that could host many people and attract visitors already in the early stage of the developments.

We suggest demolition of Openhal and Kantine gebouw to create new connections. Casco renovation of Nellenhal would create an open, green corridor through the site. Similarly Conradhal — by opening it up and renovating its structure we can already introduce the main square in the heart of the mosaic.

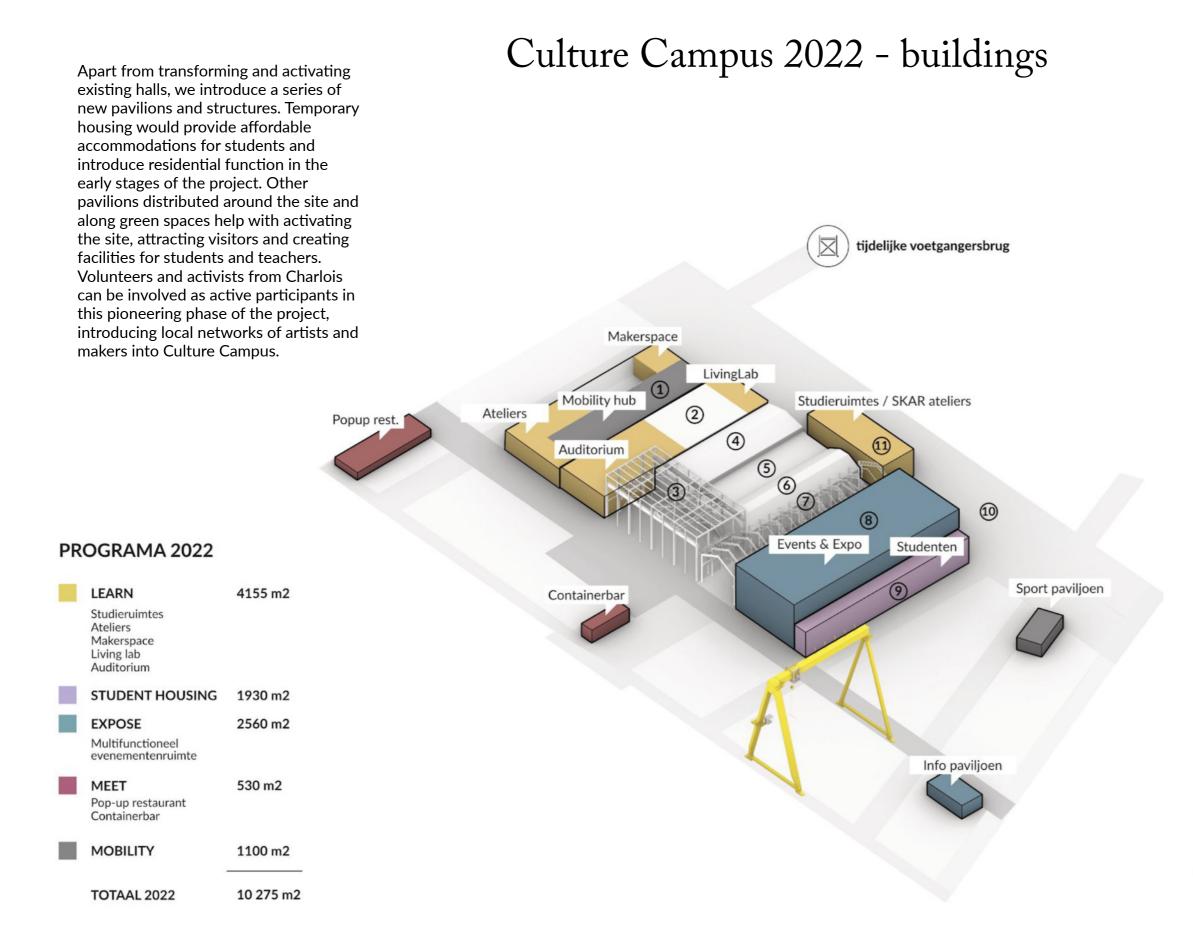
In our 2022 plan both Revisiehal and Kantoorgebouw host temporary functions. In the first one we propose creating makerspaces, ateliers and mobility hub. Kantoorgebouw could be rented to artists and makers and temporarily host study rooms.



Pole Dance by So-il, M,oMA PS1, photo © SO-IL



Left: Paprocany Waterfront by RS+ in Tychy, Poland, photo © Tomasz Zakrzewski Right: Texture by Studio Basta and Wagon Landscaping, photo © Studio Basta



#### HALLEN 2022

1. Revisiehal - tijdelijk gebruik

#### 2. Recyclehal - volledige renovatie

#### 3. Conradhal - casco renovatie

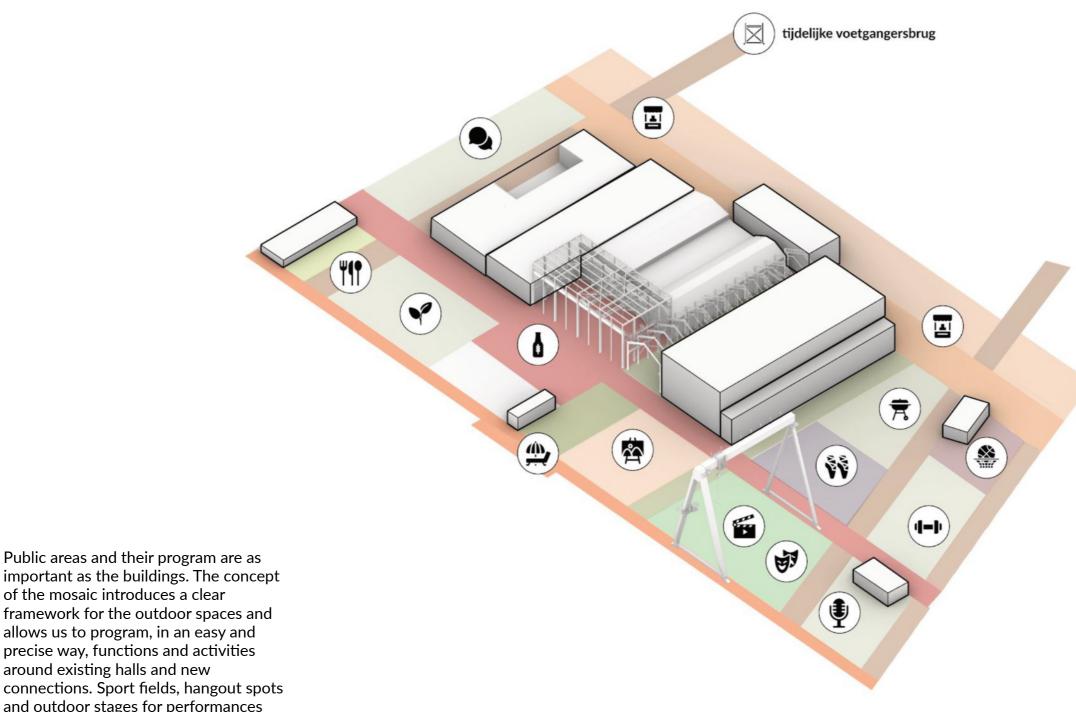
- 4. Machinehal niets gedaan
- 5. Shedhal open voor verbinding
- 6. Braathal niets gedaan

#### 7. Nellenhal - casco renovatie

#### 8. Grotehal - volledige renovatie

- 9. Openhal demolitie
- 10. Kantine gebouw demolitie
- 11. Kantoorgebouw tijdelijk gebruik

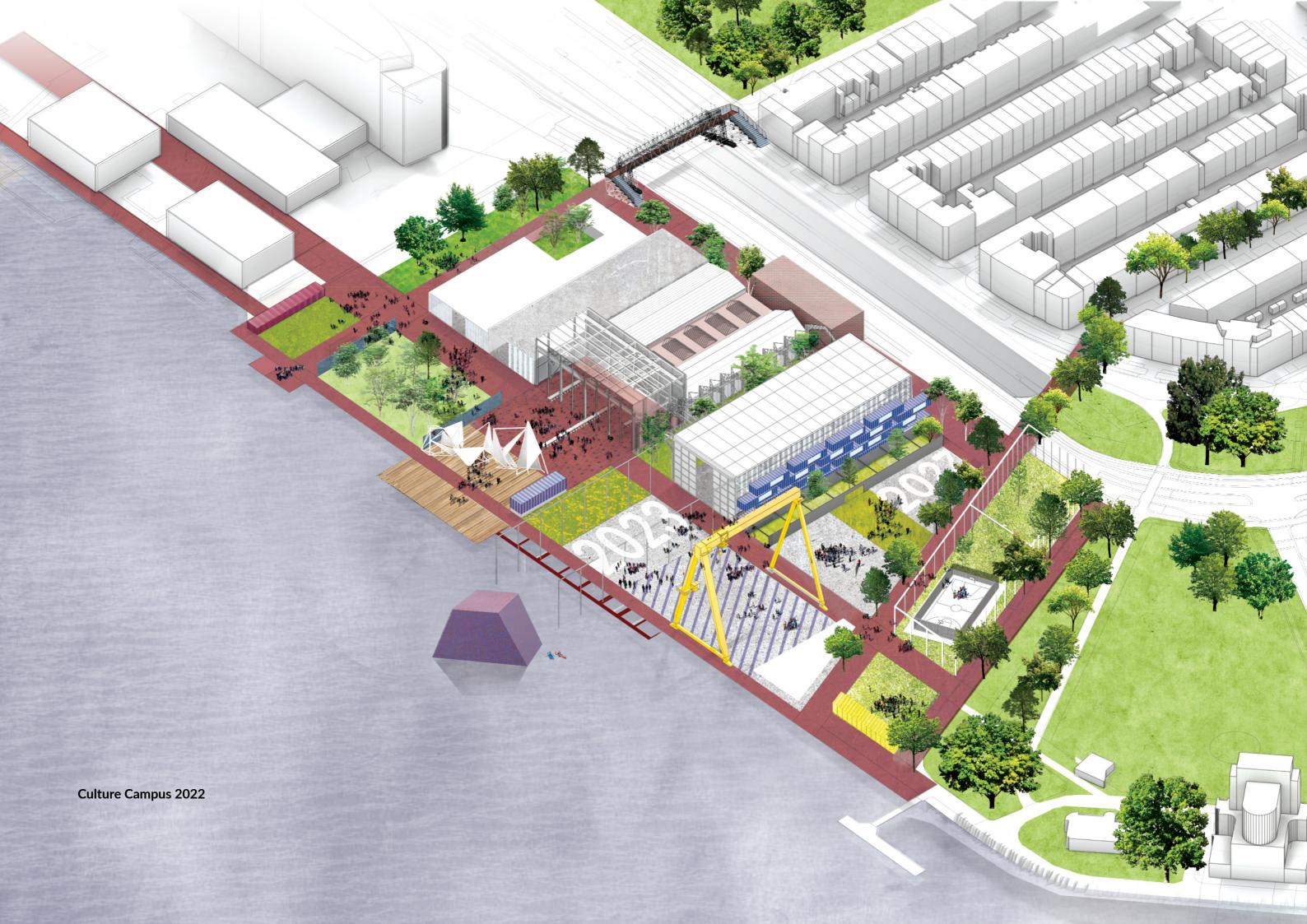
### Culture Campus 2022 - outdoor spaces



framework for the outdoor spaces and allows us to program, in an easy and precise way, functions and activities around existing halls and new connections. Sport fields, hangout spots and outdoor stages for performances and events are part of our early development plan.

#### activiteiten buitenruimte 2022





#### Future ambitions — 2027

Next steps in the site development focus on the renovation of the oldest halls: Braathal, Shedhal and Machinehal. Positioned in the center of the plan and connected to the main square they will host foodhallen and lecture rooms.

In 2027 many temporary functions will transform into permanent ones. For example there is new student housing placed in the spot of the previous temporary building, the footbridge is replaced by a long-lasting structure and various pavilions transform into fixed buildings on the site. Some of the existing halls and buildings are further renovated (Revisiehal, Kantoorgebouw) and expanded with new additions (library, restaurant).

New volumes are added to the site to create enough space for educational, recreational and residential functions. Cultural program is expanded as well and apart from the main event space (Grotehal), 4 other new smaller exposition and event spaces are located in different parts of the campus.

This development strategy assures that the temporary starting phase of the project is not something to be erased and completely replaced later on but an initiation and a starting point of the future functions. In this plan creation of the mosaic can start tomorrow and with it the specific identity, atmosphere and ambitions for the location can already take shape.



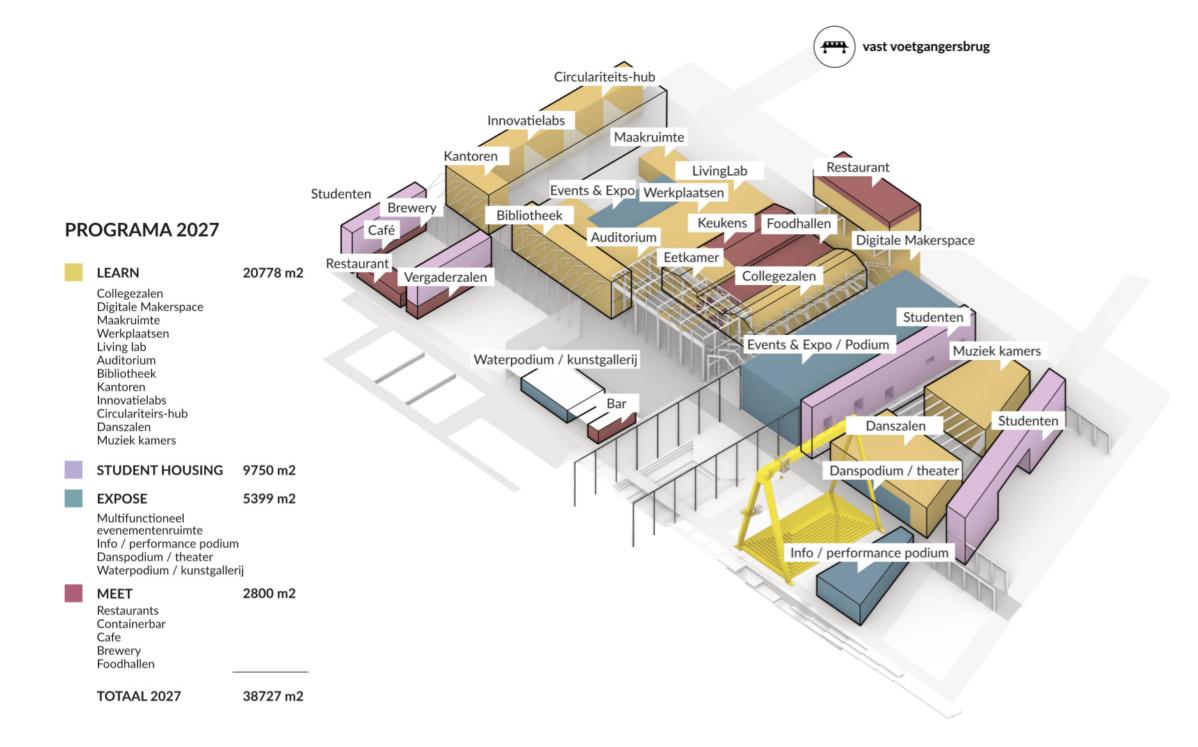
The Copenhagen Harbor Bath by Big, Jds/Julien de Smedt Architects, photo © Casper Dalhoff



Left: The Weather Project, 2003 by Olafur Eliasson in Turbine Hall, Tate Modern, photo © Studio Olafur Eliasson

Right: Management Sciences University, Bordeaux by Lacaton Vassal, photo © Theo Coutanceau Domini

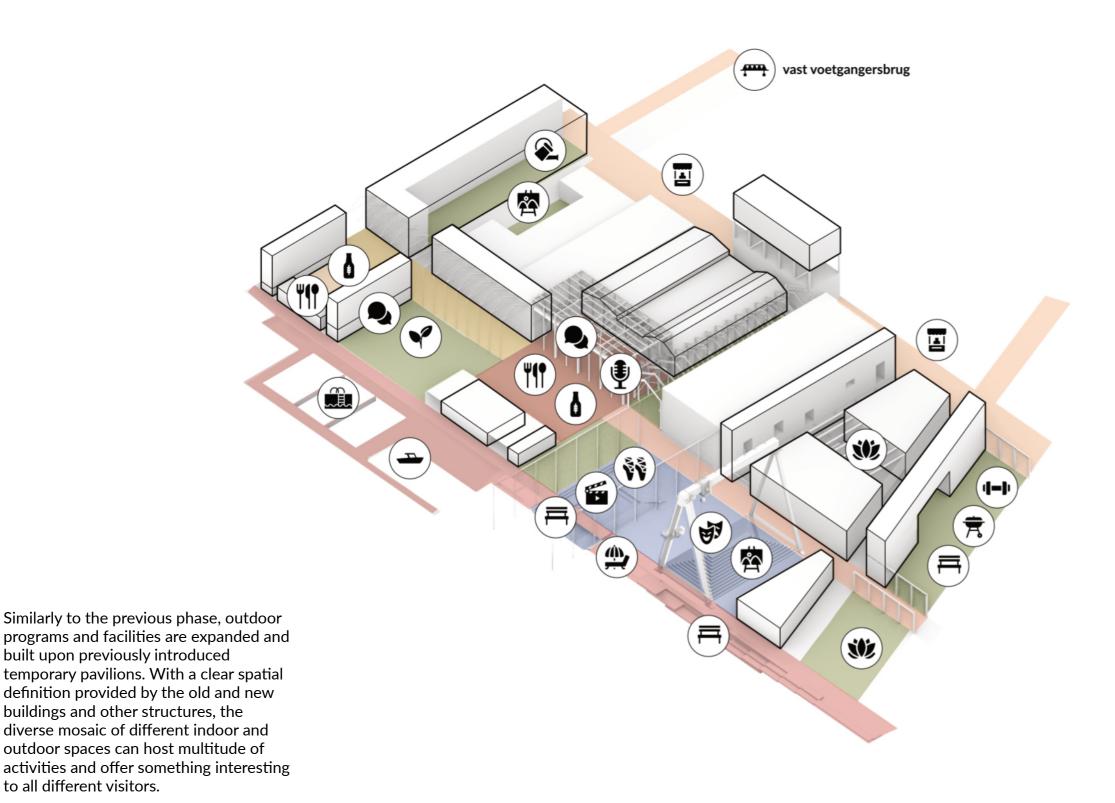
### Culture Campus 2027 - buildings



#### HALLEN 2027

- 1. Revisiehal volledige renovatie
- 2. Recyclehal volledige renovatie
- 3. Conradhal casco renovatie
- 4. Machinehal volledige renovatie
- 5. Shedhal volledige renovatie
- 6. Braathal volledige renovatie
- 7. Nellenhal casco renovatie
- 8. Grotehal volledige renovatie
- 9. Openhal demolitie
- **10. Kantine gebouw demolitie**
- 11. Kantoorgebouw volledige renovatie

#### Culture Campus 2027 - outdoor spaces



#### activiteiten buitenruimte 2027





#### A new destination in the city

Spatial concept of the mosaic offers a possibility of creating a unique place in the city — a place with a strong identity, history and a big diversity of spaces and activities attracting different users. Mozaiek an de Maas can become an icon of Rotterdam — not in traditional understanding of this term, by placing there a tall building of specific shape, but by creating a one-of-a kind urban plan, allowing for new types of interactions and experiments.

In this proposal architecture follows the main urban concept. Every building becomes a part of mosaic with its unique and experimental typology, strong connections with the outdoor spaces and redefined relationships with other buildings.

We imagine Culture Campus as a collection of rooms and spaces that can be shared and used by different organizations depending on the needs. There is enough room for local residents and tourists — the site can become a mix of various events of different sizes, networks of different organizations from local artists to national and international festivals.

With smart schedules we can ensure that the site always stays active and is used in its full potential.



Floorplan of Culture Campus site with different users sharing halls and outdoor spaces according to their needs.



Iconic Culture Campus site in a context of Maashaven.

The main square of the Mosaic -Huiskamer is a space where many different functions, halls and programs overlap. Because of that position in the plan we ensure that it can always work as a central space bringing people together and hosting many different activities and events — from day-to-day gatherings, food events and lectures to international art festivals, film events and concerts.



#### Conclusions and next steps

The idea of mosaic is a flexible concept that builds up on the site's identity and proposes a clear spatial framework for future developments. By distributing required programs around the site we encourage exchange, interactions, learning and sharing between different users of the space. Replacing standard building blocks with the chambers of various functions where architecture follows a non-standard and experimental urban plan creates conditions for innovation and provides a different answer to the complex task of designing Culture Campus.

Mozaiek an de Maas project is a first attempt to create a framework for the future development of the site. Clear concept allows for many different scenarios and can adjust to the needs of the future users. In our vision Culture Campus becomes an integrated part of the city with its network of green spaces and public passages going through the site. Of course these urban connections should be studied further taking into account even broader context. In the next steps we would like to work more with mobility concepts, public transport connections, pedestrian and bicycle flows. Undoubtedly the accessibility of the site plays an important role in creating a vibrant environment that we are hoping for.

In our concept the temporary functions and structures play an important role in a long-term development of the site initiating a mix of different activities and inviting different users to the location. We are especially interested in this early pioneering phase, when many elements of the site are still rough and authentic and working with the existing structures can set a course for the future.

While being interested in the relationship between the inside and the outside we would like to test the idea of blurring boundaries between these two and creating openings and passages through the site. The edges of structures and buildings can become first points of interventions and immediately change the character of the site — from closed and not accessible to inviting and public.

