



DATALYST

data node center as a catalyst for urban development

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Master Thesis

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Cover:

Aerial perspective from south-west showing the project proposal

Gothenburg, Sweden 2012

Abstract

Internet is growing exponentially, and as such, large companies that handle large volumes of digital information need server facilities.

The planning and construction of massive server halls for Facebook are well on the way to be constructed in the outskirts of Luleå. This is the largest server facility built in Europe as well as Facebook's first establishment on the continent.

Northern Europe is ideal for constructing these facilities as from multiple standpoints of which cold climate and a good digital infrastructure is among the most mentionable and beneficial.

These server halls will, when finished, have the same energy consumption as 40 000 villas. The area need is equal to 11 football fields. There is no plan to utilize the heat produced.

This is an investigative project dealing with the question on how a server hall can be integrated into a city context and used as a catalyst for urban development.

What if the heat loss could be used for additional program? What if the server halls could come to be integrated to the city, working in close relation to urban life?

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1. INTRODUCTION

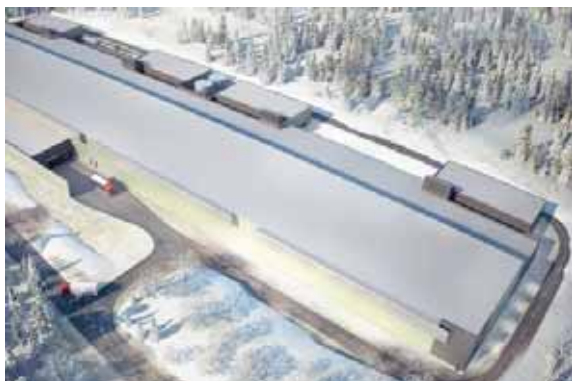
1.1 Point of departure

MÅNDAG DEN 23 APRIL, UPPDATERAD FÖR 5 MINUTER SEDAN

SVD NÄRINGSBLIV

Serverhallar ska stärka Norrbotten

Det norrbottniska näringslivet har fått guldvittring. Stärkta av Facebooks miljardetablering i Luleå åkte i går en delegation till USA för att studera datacenter och kanske locka fler stora aktörer till trakten. Hur mycket Facebooksatsningen, med minst 103 miljoner kronor i statligt stöd, verkligen ger i antal jobb är dock oklart.



23 januari 2012 kl 02:00, uppdaterad: 24 januari 2012 kl 09:36

KONTRAKTSJAKT

LULEÅ Efter att den USA-baserade sociala nätverkssajten Facebook låtit svenska projekterings- och byggbolagen Sweco och NCC sätta spaden i jorden för bygget av serverhallar – som uppges kunna ge 400 jobb till Luleå – har kommunen och grannarna Boden och Piteå gått samman om utvecklingsbolaget North Sweden Datacenter Locations.

Men Norrland sitter ju i ett skruvstäd mellan två Natoländer, Norge

Mavento

VAD GÄLLER SAKEN?

Det så kallade molnet – lagring av data på gemensam plats i stora servrar och datahallar – har blivit en stor bransch inom informationstekniken. Minst 2,5 miljarder människor i världen beräknas använda sig av molntjänster. 2010–2011 var de totala investeringarna i datacenter runt 200 miljarder kronor och i år väntas siffran bli 230 miljarder, enligt

Facebook värmer upp i Luleå

LULEÅ: Facebooks tre serverhallar i Luleå kommer att släppa ut enorma mängder värme som inte ska återvinnas.

Värmen kommer från tusentals datorprocessorer som förbrukar lika mycket ström som 40 000 villor. Det mesta av värmen måste ventileras bort för att processorerna ska fungera. Värmen som släpps ut kommer att höja omgivnings-

temperaturen med 1–4 grader, 100–200 meter utanför hallarna.

– Med den lösning som kunden valt går det inte att återvinna värmeenergin, säger Erik Nerell vid NCC till tidningen Byggindustrin.

NCC BYGGER serverhallarna tillsammans med ett amerikanskt företag som byggt Facebooks serverhallar i USA. NCC tänkte till att börja

med att det vore en spännande möjlighet att tillvarata överskottsvärmen.

– Men de hade redan bestämt att kylningen skulle se ut på ett visst sätt. Facebook ser inte någon tänkbar användning av överskottsvärmen. Behovet av fjärrvärme är redan tillgodosett i Luleå, och det finns inte plats för exempelvis växthus eller andra industrier nära serverhallarna.

NyTeknik Först och främst med teknik och IT
Måndag 23 april 2012



Facebook bygger det största datacentret i sitt slag i Europa - i Luleå. Det kommer att bestå av tre serverhallar om 28 000 kvadratmeter vardera. Illustration: Facebook

Därför storsatsar Facebook i Luleå

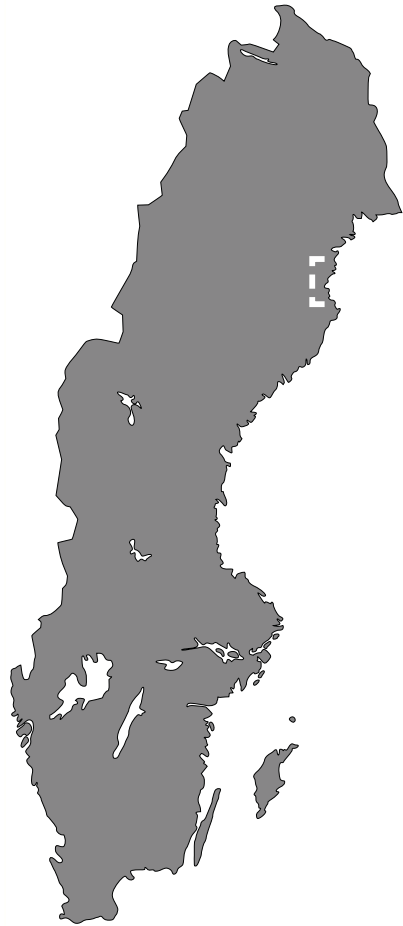
Av: Linda Nohrstedt
Publicerad 27 oktober 2011 13:35

66 kommentarer

Det har varit en hel del hyschhysch, men under torsdagen offentliggjordes Facebooks satsning på sitt första europeiska datacenter i Luleå. Tre gigantiska serverhallar ska byggas – med miljontals kronor i stöd från regeringen.

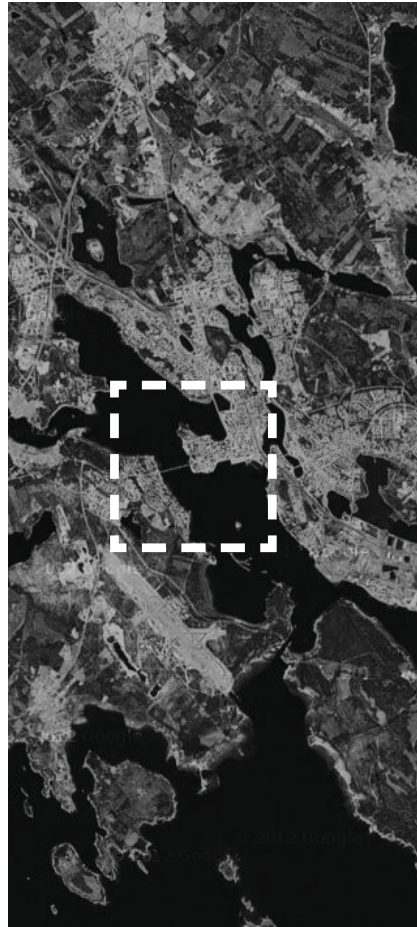
– Vi har undersökt alternativ i hela Europa och efter en omfattande process kom vi fram till att Luleå hade den bästa helhetslösningen, med ett klimat väl lämpat för naturlig kylning, tillgången till ren energi, bra mark, välutbildad arbetskraft och ett skickligt och engagerat företagsklimat, säger Tom Furlong, ansvarig för nyetablering

The planning and construction of massive server halls for Facebook are well on the way to be constructed in the outskirts of Luleå. This is the largest server facility built in Europe as well as Facebooks first establishment on the continent.



Sweden

zoom



Luleå

zoom



Central peninsula (Centrumhalvön)



renewable sources of energy



cold climate-"free" cooling



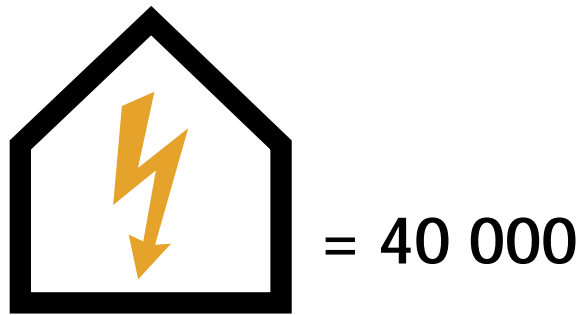
stable governments



pre-existing infrastructure



Northern Europe is ideal for constructing these facilities as from multiple standpoints of which cold climate and a good digital infrastructure is among the most mentionable and beneficial.



These server halls will, when finished, have the same energy consumption as 40 000 villas. The area need is equal to 11 football fields. There is no plan to utilize the heat produced.

What if the heat loss could be used for additional program?

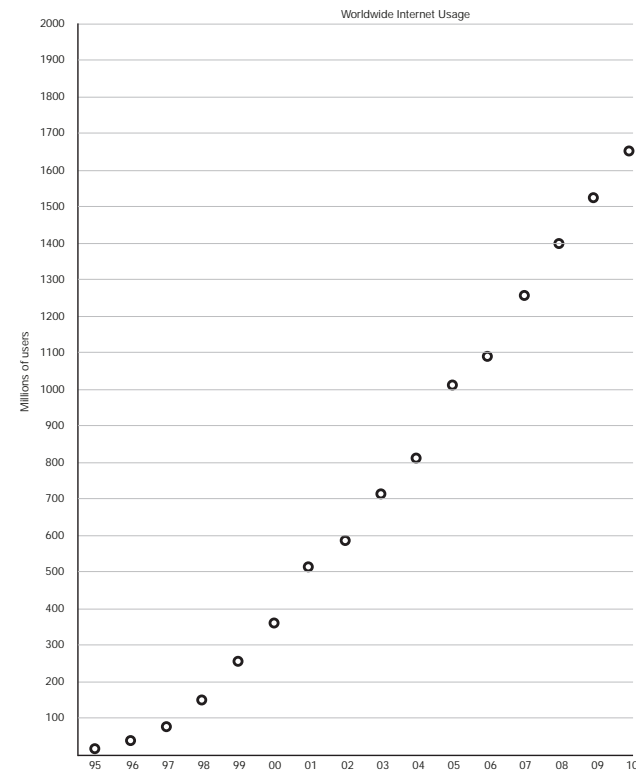
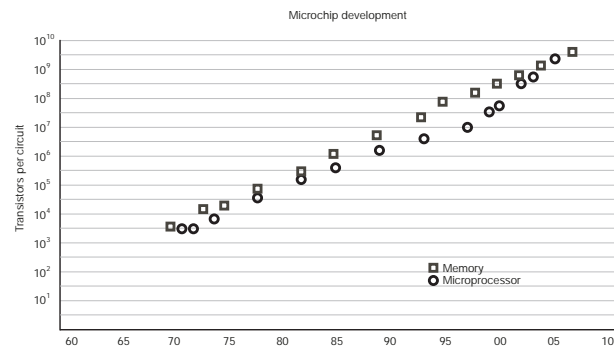
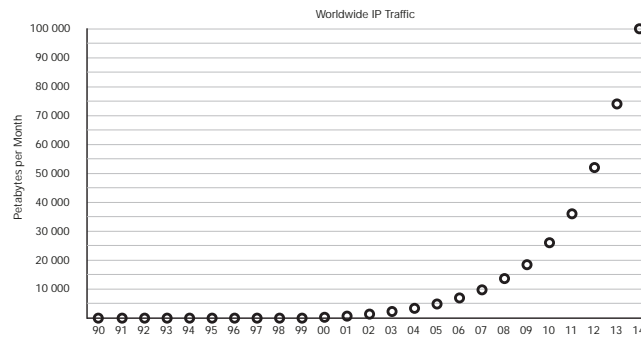
What if the server halls could come to be integrated to the city, working in close relation to urban life, adding area rather than consuming?

1.2 The connected world



The illustration seen above created by Chris Harrison (chrisharrison.net) displays a map devoid of any other geographical information except digital nodal points of cities. Every connection point in the global network requires a server of some sort, each being a data

node center (DNC). Most of these hubs are operated by traditional telecommunication companies and others by internet service providers or web hotel companies, to name a few.



The graphs (internetworldstats.com) show how the internet usage have exploded since the mid 90's. Today almost 2 billion people worldwide have direct connection to the internet or have the ability to connect to it in their near vicinity.

Even though the increase in the internet usage is linear, the amount of transmitted data is not. New technology and new ways to communicate, share data and the size of packets transmitted makes each person's digital footprint grow larger for every year. If this was all of the scenario the space required to store and transmit all of this data would probably overcrowd the entire planet.

Over the last 50 years, the power of computers has doubled every year and a half. This explosion of computer power is known as Moore's Law. Moore's law, named after Gordon Moore, noted

the exponential advance in the power of computing in the 60s. "Moore's law isn't a law of nature, it's a law of human ingenuity." (Seth Lloyd, Programming the Universe).

Luckily, this development is still continuing, but as the usage of internet continues to increase, the need for new DNC's are still a requirement. Even if the phone companies of old have adapted to the new millennium, they traditionally did not have to store data.

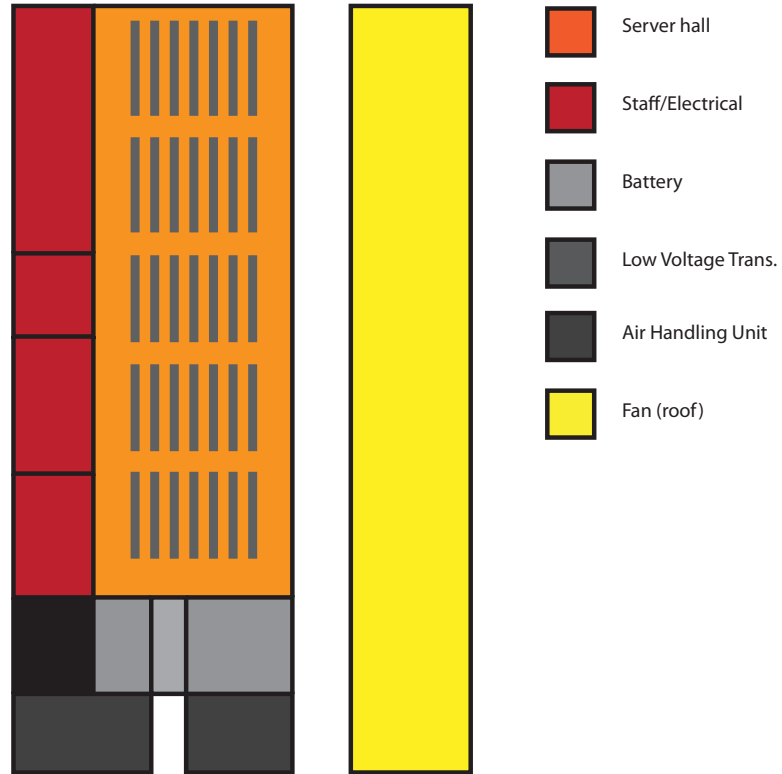
Server Halls/DNC's is a new type of "clean" industry and consumes a large amount with no other physical byproduct except for heat. As a further step towards a sustainable future this heat should be put to use.

1.3 DNCs

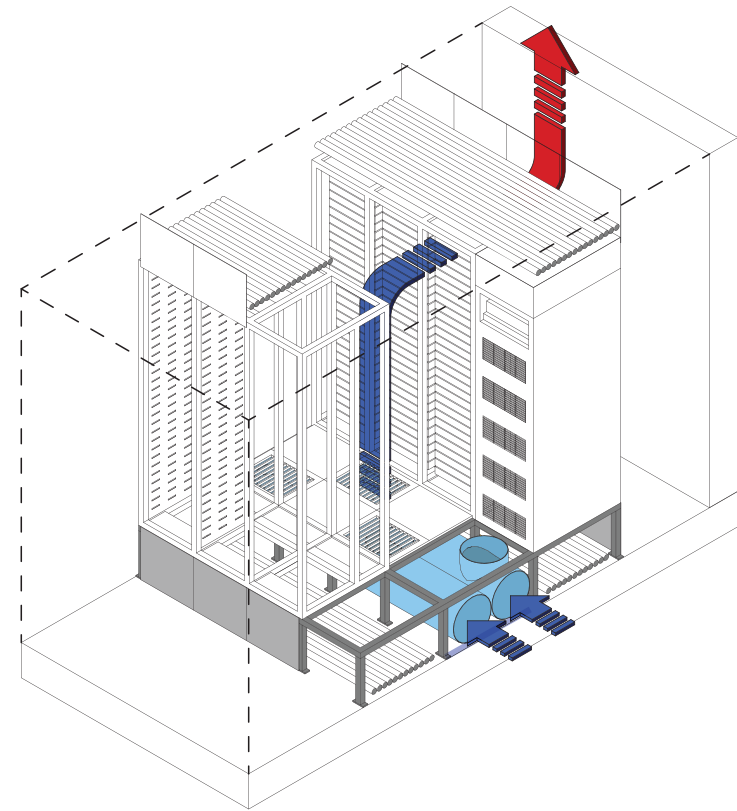


Typologies of existing DNCs - from left to right: "high tech", art deco and warehouse

Good references for existing DNC's are hard to find. Most being one of the three typologies associated with these kinds of facilities today. They are generally bulky windowless buildings (warehouse-like) or preexisting art deco buildings. Some are designed to look "high tech", as a sort of manifestation of technology or big machines.



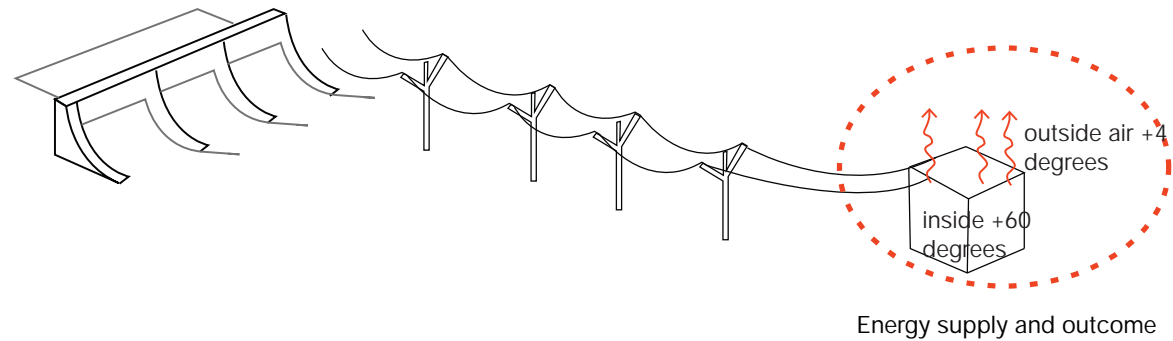
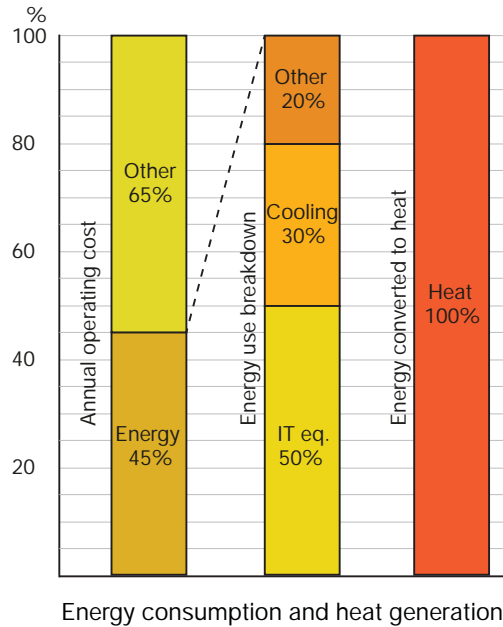
Schematic layout of a generic server hall



Server space

The servers are standing in racks in long rows in big halls with miles of fiber optic wires. The server racks have two sides, the cold aisle and the hot aisle. In the cold aisle cool air comes into the front of the servers and, once heated, gets transported out via the hot aisle.

1.3



Hydroelectricity is the energy supply feeding the DNC. The electric equipment needs to be cooled down because it operates at fairly high temperatures. The heat generated gets transported away from the facility as its only physical “product” - heated air.

A DNC of this scale with its inner air temperatures of a mean 60 degrees celcius would impact the micro climate in its surroundings by increasing the temperature within a radius of 200 meters by 4 degrees on average.

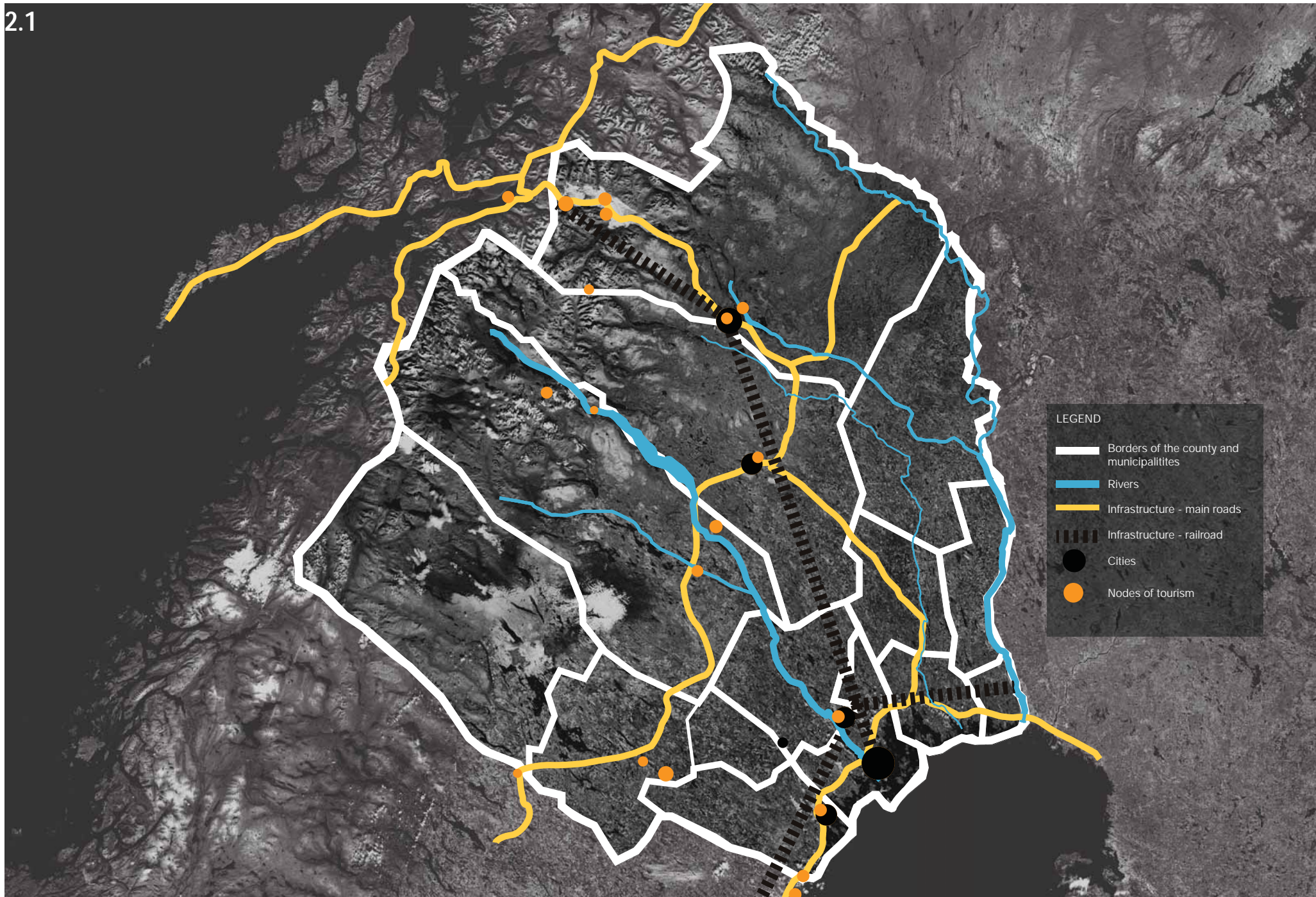


The heat is not enough to be able to heat up water, which would be needed to reuse some of the energy in district heating. This requires temperatures of at least 600 degrees. Thus, it is also not possible to transform the heat back into electricity via kinetic energies.

The conclusion of this is that for another program to be able to benefit from heat generated by the DNC, the program would have to be in close proximity to the DNC itself.

2. ANALYSES

2.1 Regional analysis





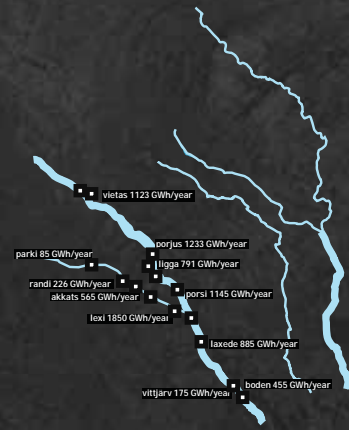
NORBOTTEN COUNTY

Being the most northerly county of Sweden, it's as well the largest one - covering almost 1/4 of Swedens surface, even though being sparsely inhabited. The main capital since 1846 is Luleå



MUNICIPALITIES & MAIN CITIES

The county consists of 14 municipalities, largest in area is Kiruna and largest in population is Luleå. Luleå and Piteå had the highest frequency of increasing number of inhabitants (Luleå 70 000 inhabitants).



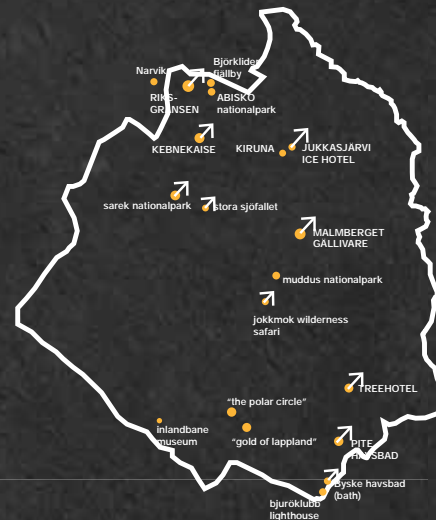
THE RIVERS

The three rivers in the region are of high importance, both as a geographical link, infrastructural, and as producers of energy. Luleå älv (river) is the main spot for hydro electric power plants in Sweden and further, Sweden is one of ten of the largest hydroelectric producers in the world.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Showing main traffic roads in the region and railway system and the two airports in the region (Kallax being the main and largest one). Infrastructural nodes are created by the largest cities, Luleå being one of main nodes.



TOURISM AS INDUSTRY

During the last ten years tourism increased up to 23 percent (and by the last year with 4 percent). This trend is showing on increasing numbers of both national and international tourists. Matter of fact, tourism as an industry have become to be of high importance for the economical development of the region. The touristic nodes are found in basically all the other nodes in the region, except for Luleå.



LULEÅ AS A NODE

Luleå, not only as a capital of the region, but as a geographical and economical node, is a very important link within the region. Being one of main economical and industrial nodes (SSAB, Luleå technical university) its still not constituting to being a node on the map of tourism in the region.

2.2 Program

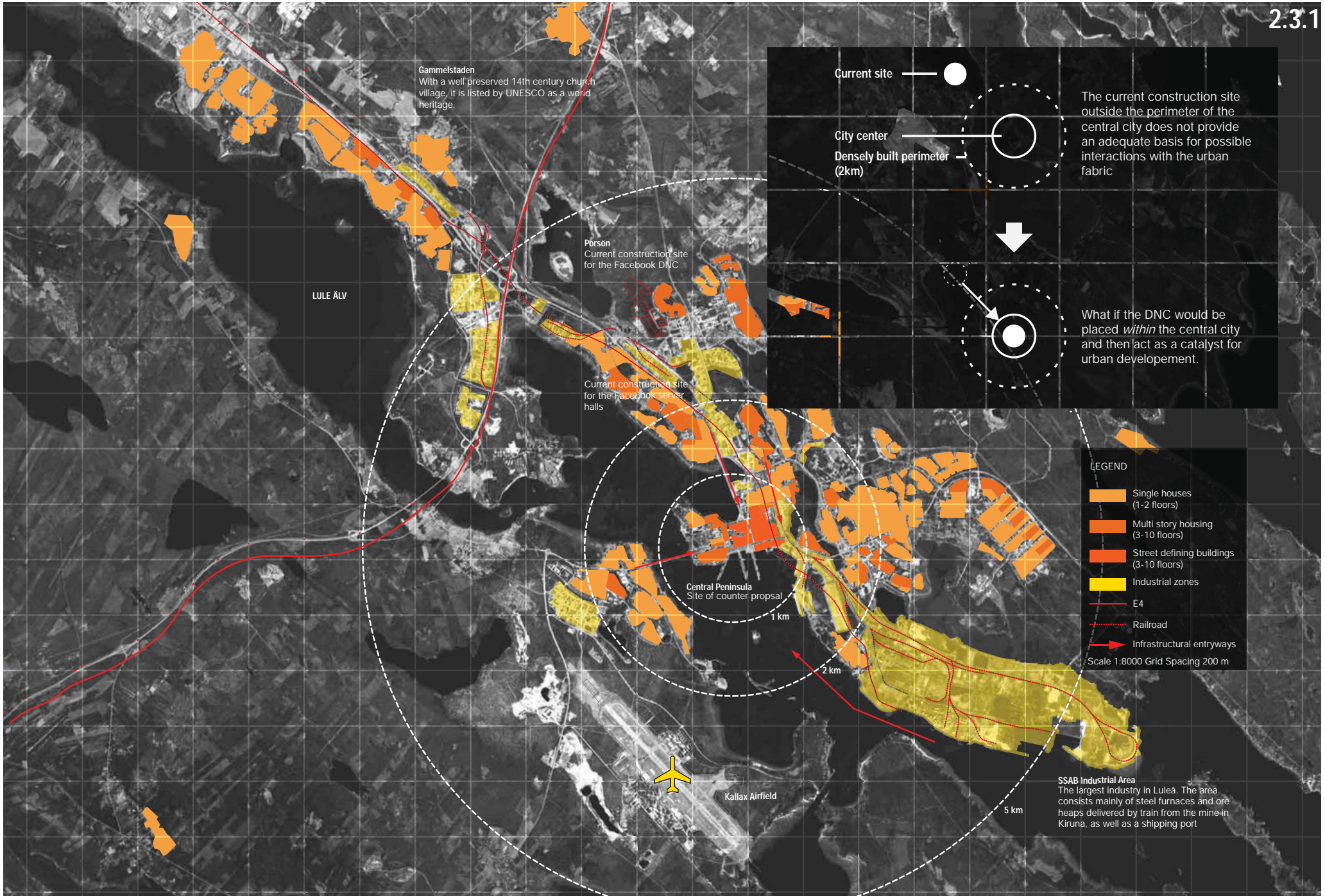


In background of given conditions at this point (the heat being a waste product actually being upheated air, meaning the program need to be in close proximity with the facilities) in background of the regional analysis concluding the non-existence of Luleå as a node in the economic loop of upcoming tourism in the region, and in

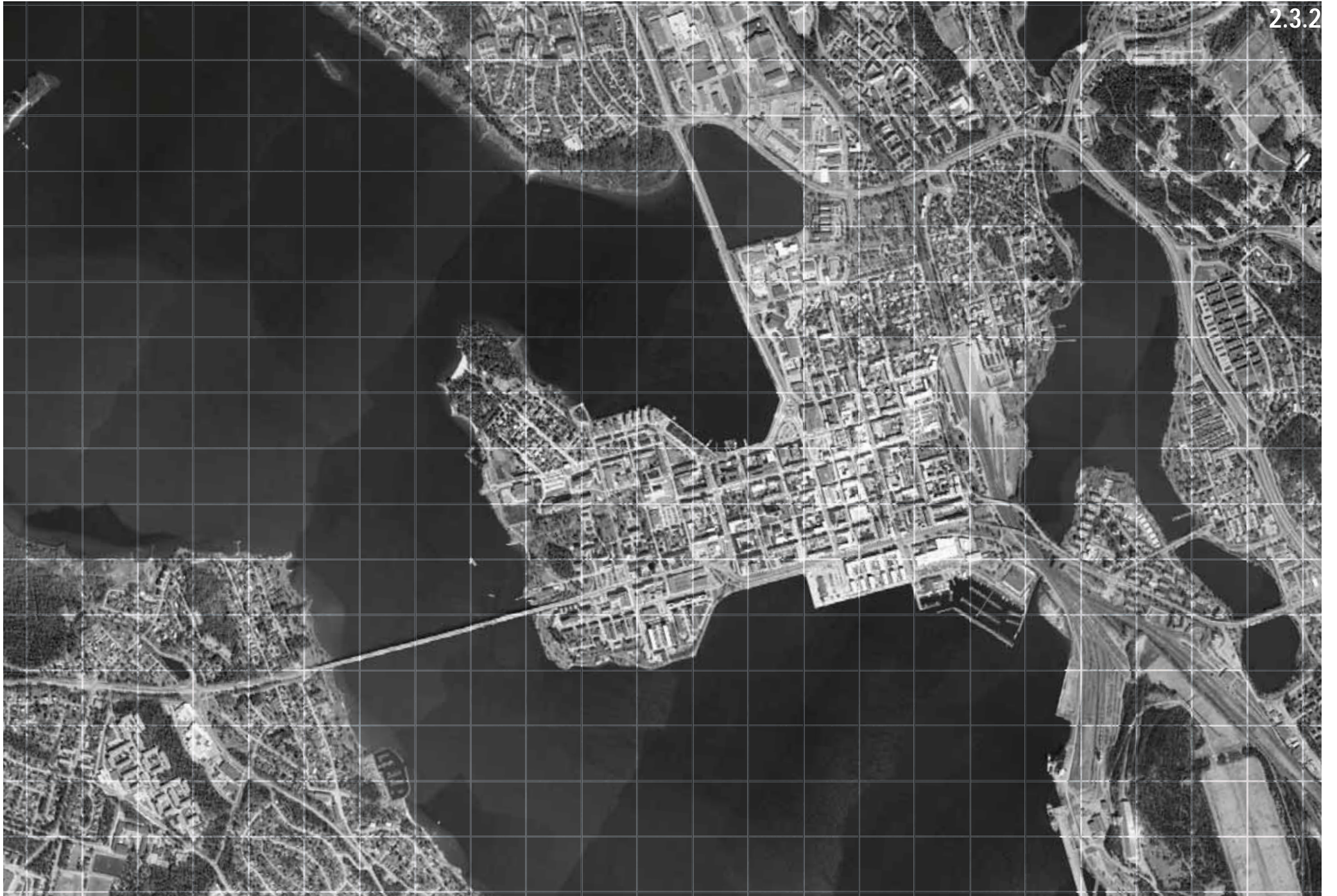
background with the aim to integrate the server halls with the urban fabric, within a local context, and as well in retrospect to the public and local conditions, several cathergories of possible programs were distinguished.

2.3 Local analyses

2.3.1 Luleå



2.3.2 Central peninsula (Centrumhalvön)



2.3.2

General analyses



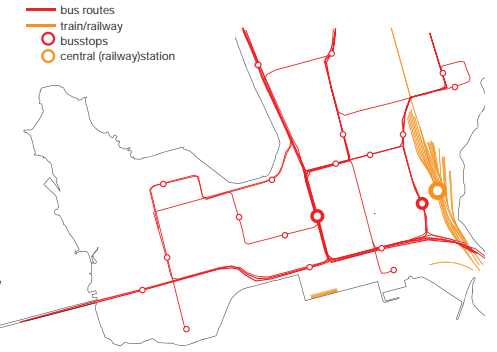
Land mass



Building mass



Green areas



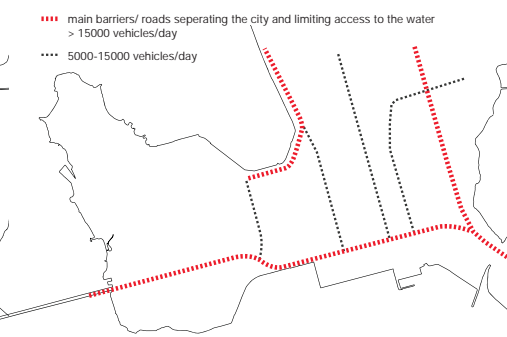
Public transport



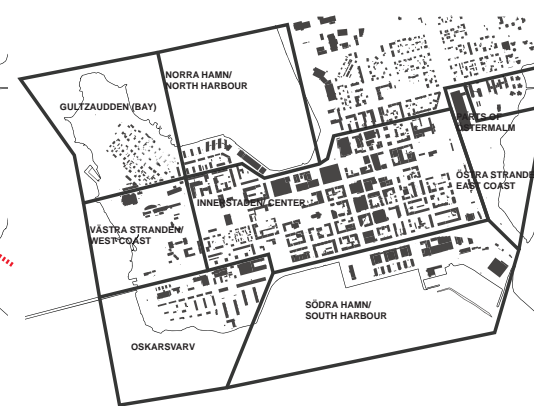
Frequency of empty areas



Social and cultural values



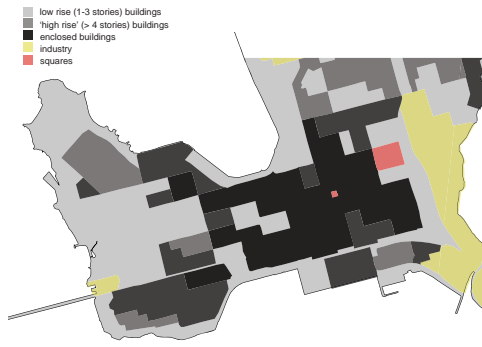
Barriers and main traffic roads



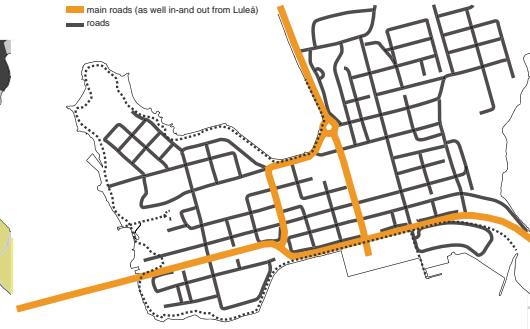
Areas



Building typologies



Building typologies- density



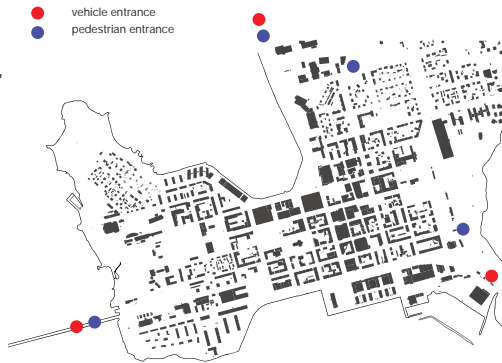
Infrastructure



User density



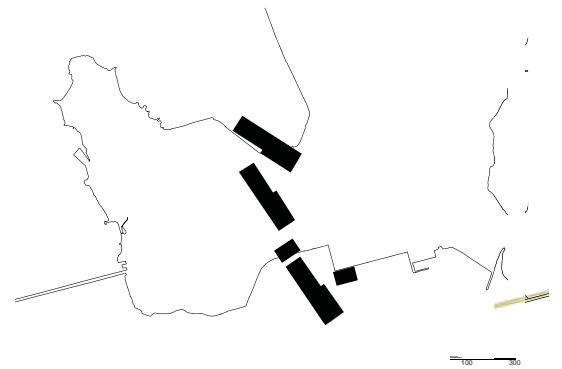
Areas waiting for development



Entrance points



(pedestrian) street density



User density

2.3.2

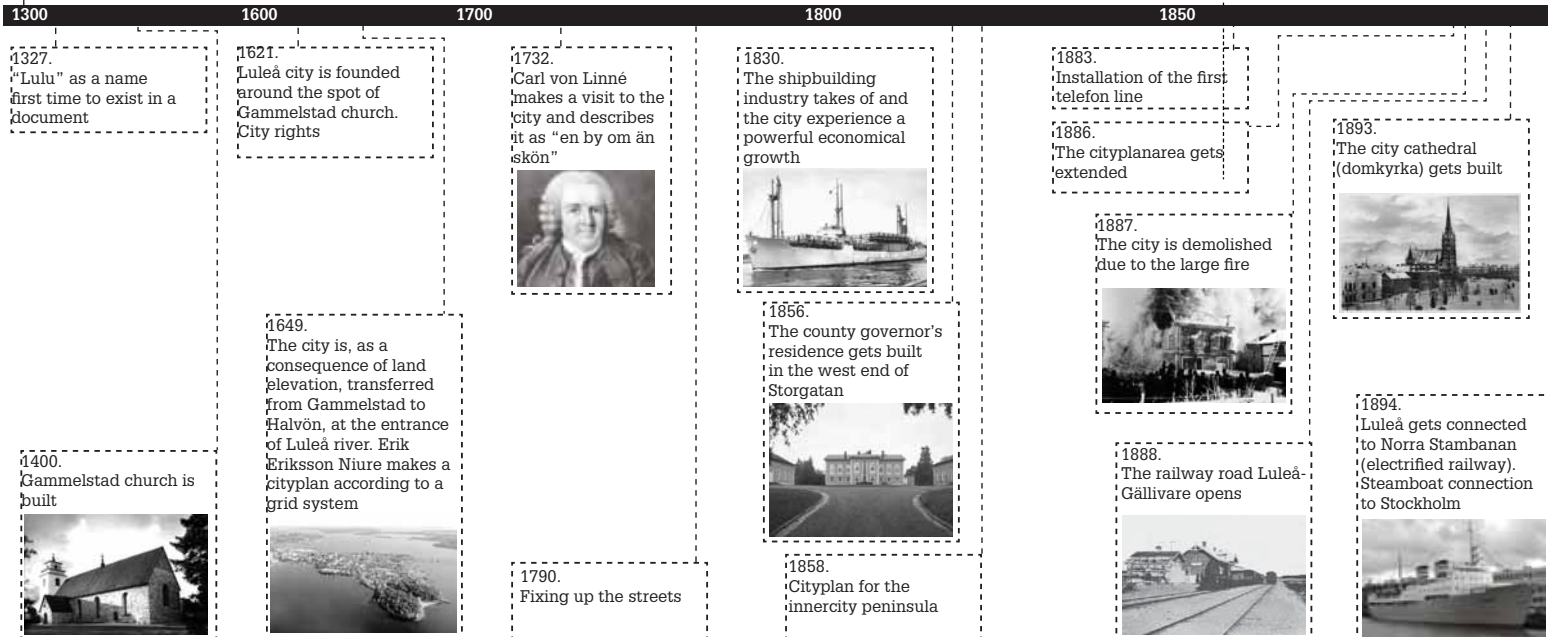
Timeline and historical maps



4 inhabitants



1901.
Södra hamn (the south harbor) starts to be built





9 500 inhabitants

11 300 inhabitants

30 000 inhabitants

60 000 inhabitants

75 000 inhabitants

1902. Hamnpiren (the harbor pier), Hamnspåret (harbor track) and Långkajen (the "long dock") are built

1907. The harbor sheds from Norra hamn (the north harbor) are moved to Södra hamn



1930. Tullpackshuset is built



1980. The business/activities in the harbor are gradually transferred to Svartölandet

2012- Södra hamn is waiting for exploitation

1900

1950

2000

1903. Oscar II inaugurates the ore track (Malmbanan) to Kiruna



1906. Luleå steelworks sets into business



1921. Luleå celebrates 300 years anniversary. Festivities on Gultzauden

1921. The car makes its entrance



1923. The first bus line is set in use



1932. Luleå city extends by incorporating Svartöstaden



1940. NJA (Norbottens ironworks) is created and Luleå becomes "the iron-and harborcity"

1950- NJAs expansion due to increasing demand europe leading to building boom, housing at Örnästet and

1954. connection west with the mainland with Bergnälsbridge



1955. Swedens first indoor shopping mall, Shopping



1957. first traffic light. Crossing of Storgatan-Kungsgatan

1969. Luleå, Nederluleå (lower Luleå) and Råneå merge to one municipality

1971. Luleå technical university



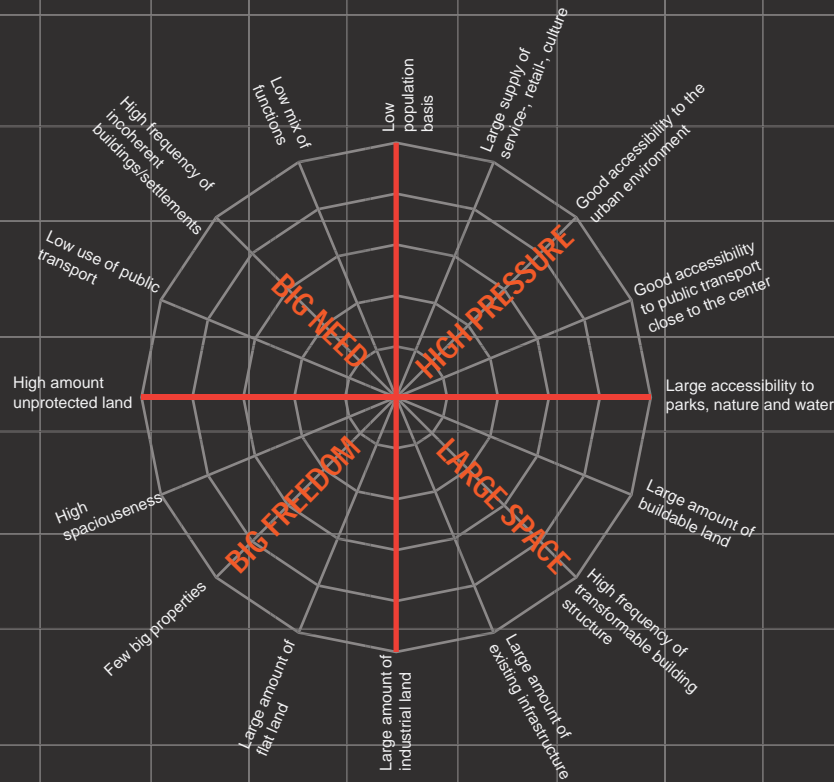
1980. the parking lots from the demolitions in the '70's are built upon.

1988. teknikens hus (science center)

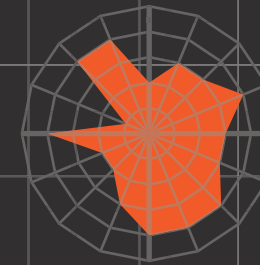
1988. world championships in sailing

2.3.2

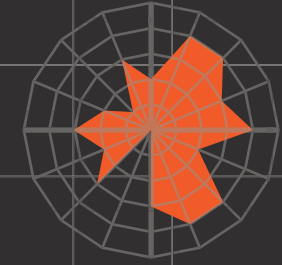
Densification and potential diagrams



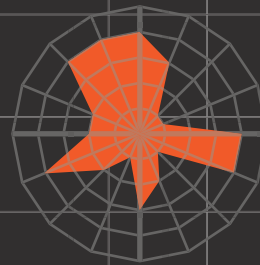
CENTER (1)
High pressure on densification
Low freedom and space



SOUTH HARBOUR (2)
Large unexploited area renders high potential for densification



NORTH HARBOUR (3)
Large space for densification and high pressure



WEST SIDE (4)
Historically protected area. No space or pressure but large need and freedom



OSCARSVARV (5)
Freedom, pressure and need is low but large areas for densification



GULTZAUDDEN (6)
Big need for densification, all other factors very low

This is a method used and described by the Stockholm City Council (2009) and applied to Luleå in a thesis at LTU (Arnedhed, Emilsson 2011).

In brief it is a diagram of four thematic quadrants describing the general potential of an area. Each are divided into 4 different indicators with a score of 1-5 were distinguished.

The south harbor area was chosen largely because the location has high potential and need for development and the position in the urban context provides a platform with good qualities for the construction of a new public waterfront.



232

6

3

7

4

5

2

3. PROPOSAL

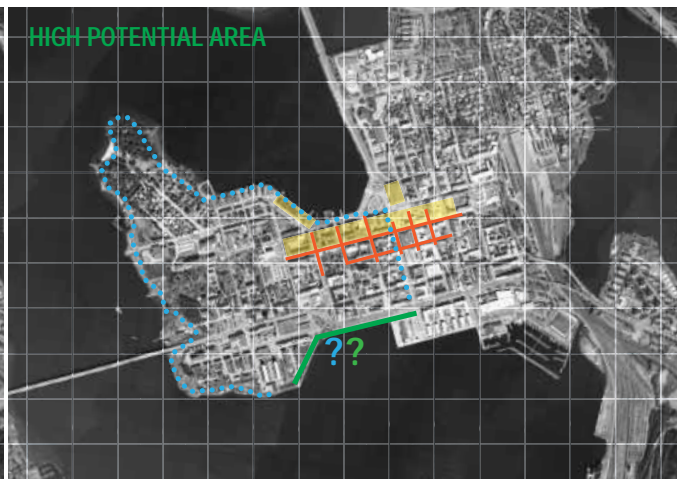
3.1 Project development

3.1



The activity is shifted towards the north of the peninsula.

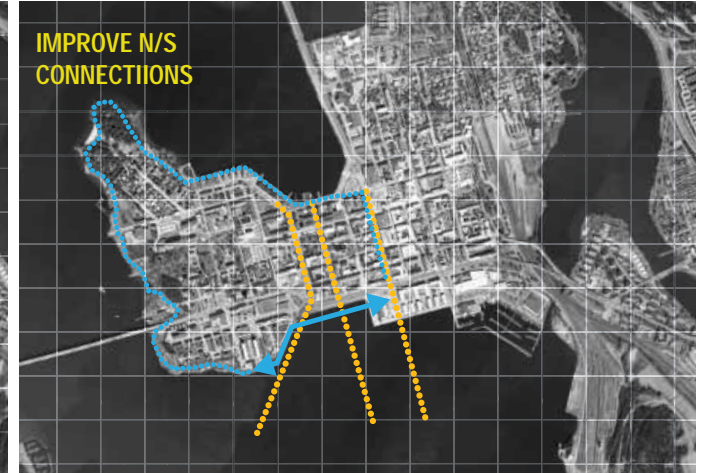
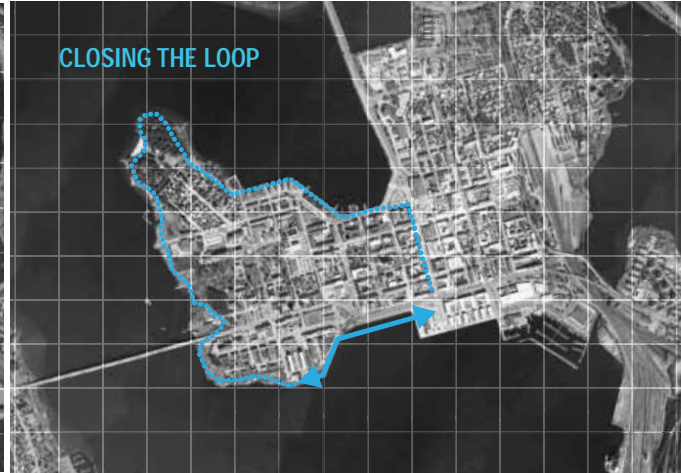
The public functions of the city core is shifted to the north side of the peninsula with user intensity fading southwards.



Leading around the peninsula is an important walking path that in its southern parts loses its continuity....

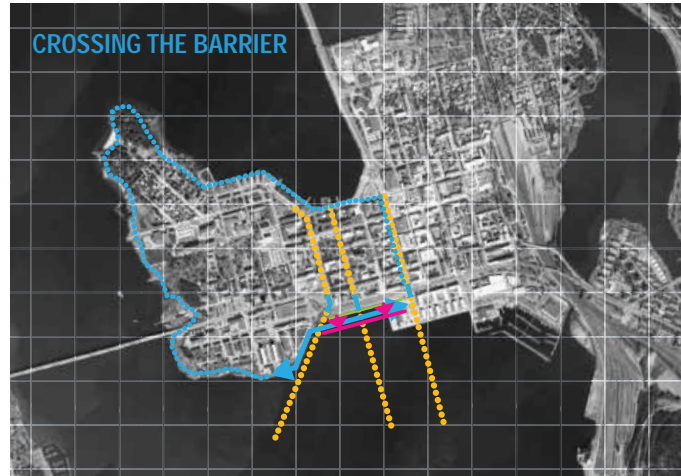
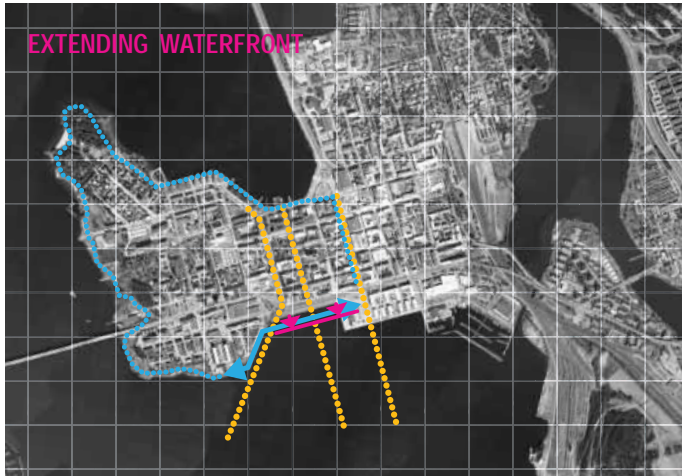
not taking advantage of the high potential area of the south harbor.

The southern harbor, which historically was buzzing with life was cut off from public accesability by a throughfare road built in the 70's.



The waterfront with its shoreline extension would complete the broken continuity of the highly important walking path.

This extension would strengthen the north south connectivity between the harbor areas.



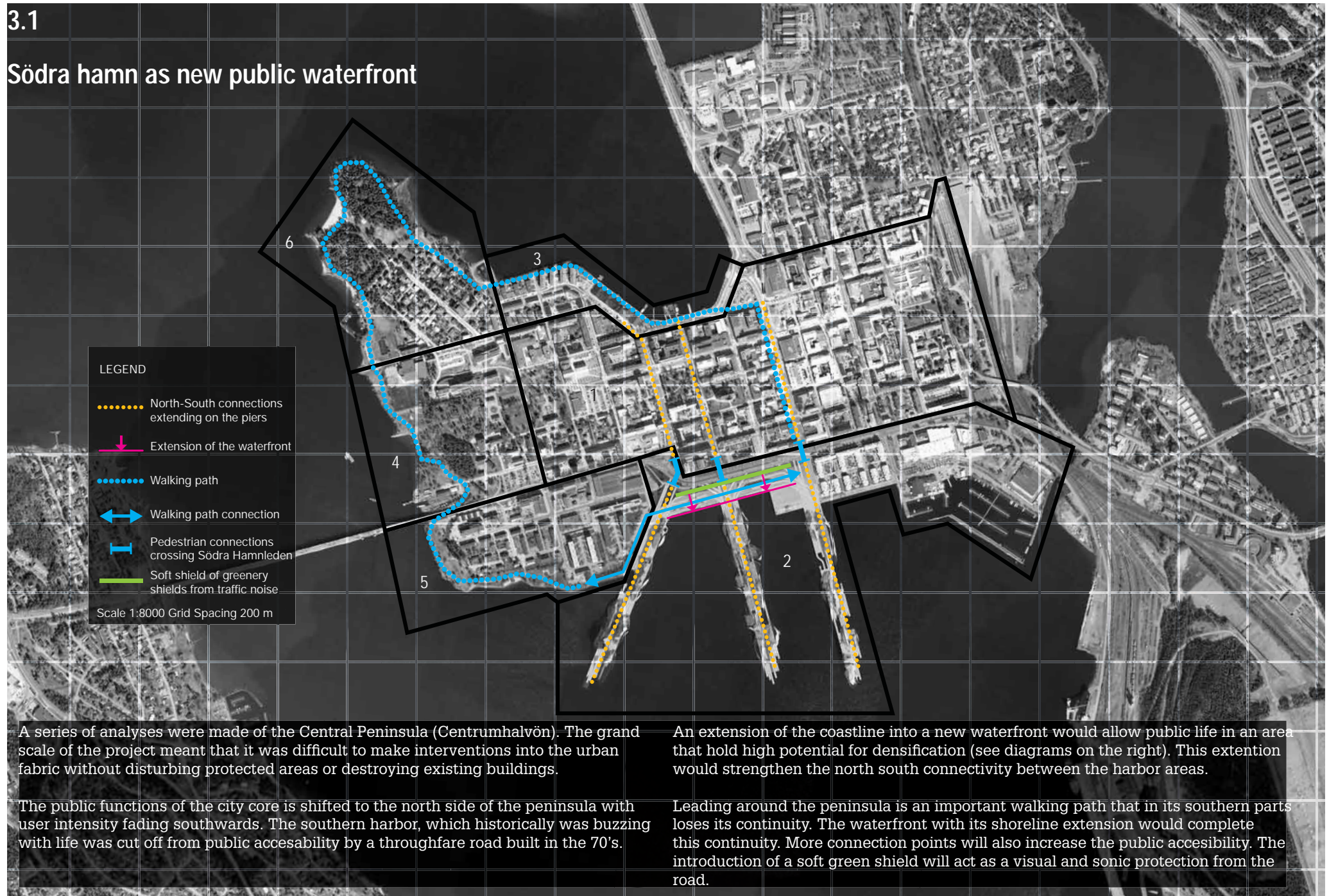
An extension of the coastline into a new waterfront would allow public life in an area that hold high potential for densification

More connection points will also increase the public accessibility.

The introduction of a soft green shield will act as a visual and sonic protection from the road.

3.1

Södra hamn as new public waterfront



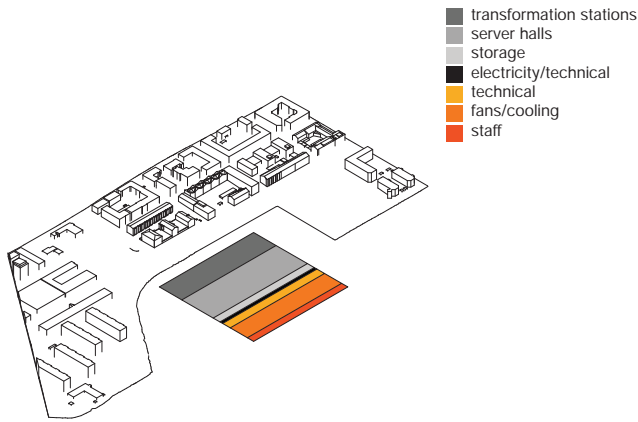
A series of analyses were made of the Central Peninsula (Centrumhalvön). The grand scale of the project meant that it was difficult to make interventions into the urban fabric without disturbing protected areas or destroying existing buildings.

The public functions of the city core is shifted to the north side of the peninsula with user intensity fading southwards. The southern harbor, which historically was buzzing with life was cut off from public accesability by a throughfare road built in the 70's.

An extension of the coastline into a new waterfront would allow public life in an area that hold high potential for densification (see diagrams on the right). This extension would strengthen the north south connectivity between the harbor areas.

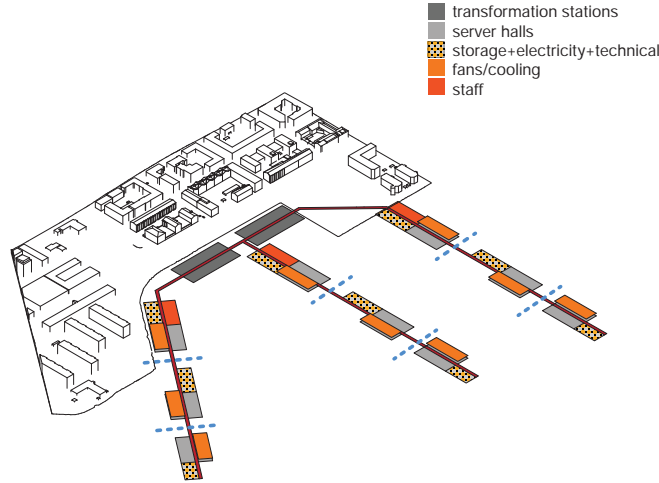
Leading around the peninsula is an important walking path that in its southern parts loses its continuity. The waterfront with its shoreline extension would complete this continuity. More connection points will also increase the public accesability. The introduction of a soft green shield will act as a visual and sonic protection from the road.

Project development on site - South Harbor



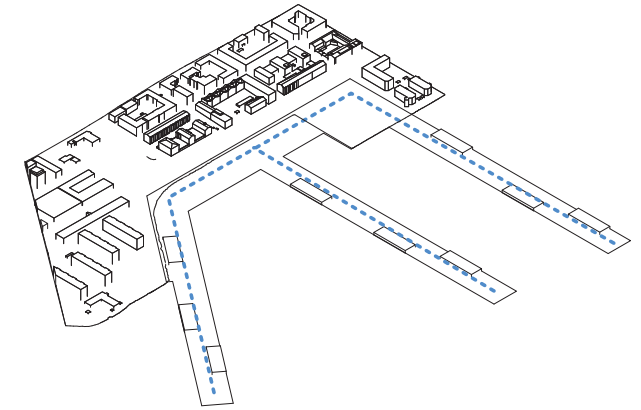
Program division

the program of the DNCs placed out on the project site, constituting the foundation of the project and program to come



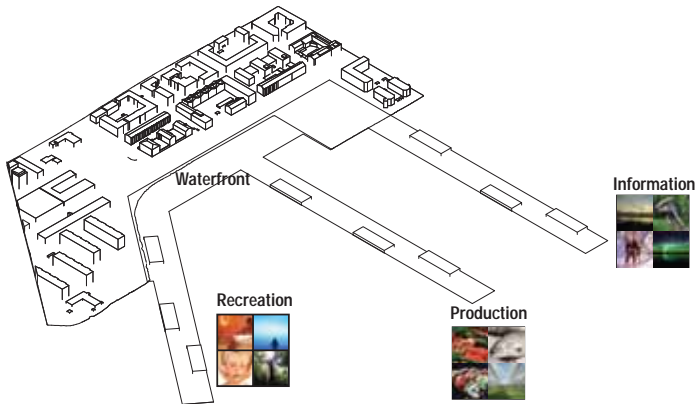
Re-structuring the program

The program gets further re-arranged in order to optimize the logistics and a subterranean accessway, connecting the DNCs with the transformation stations, is added



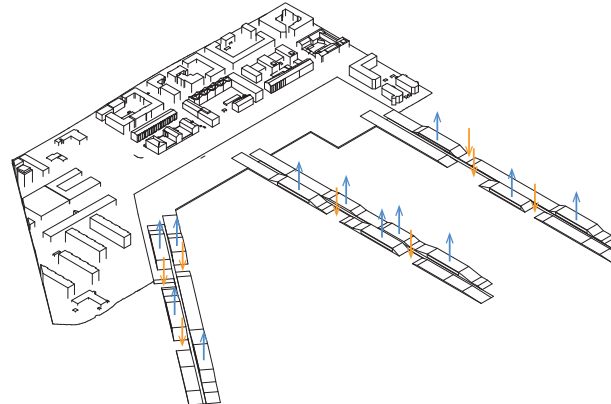
Adding public surface

The publicly accessible surfaces gets added on top of the DNCs



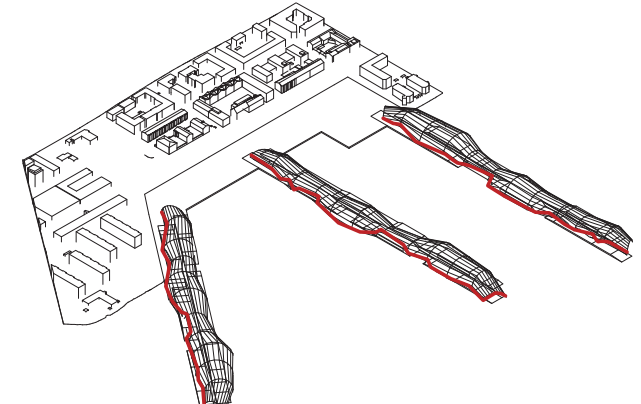
Public program

Program - in background of the conditions of which kind of thermal loss we are dealing with, the regional and local context and the integration of server halls into the urban fabric according to previous analyses



Adjusting topography of surface

The surface gets adjusted according to program specific needs, creating an accessible landscape

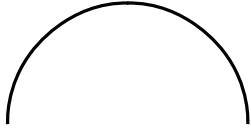


Adding membrane

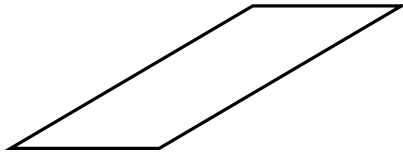
A climate shield envelopes certain parts of the program and accumulate heat produced by the DNC

3.2 Key design elements

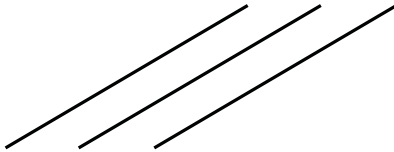
3.2



Membrane

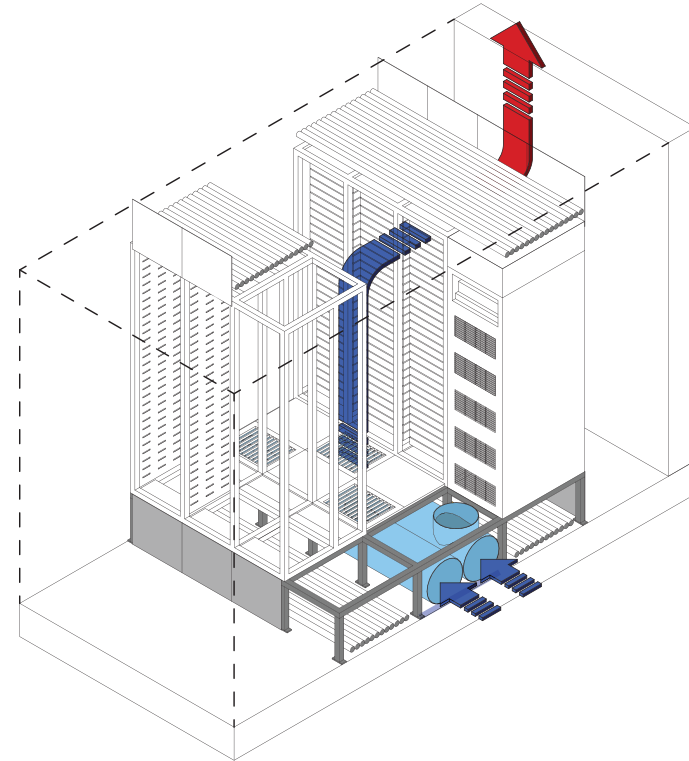
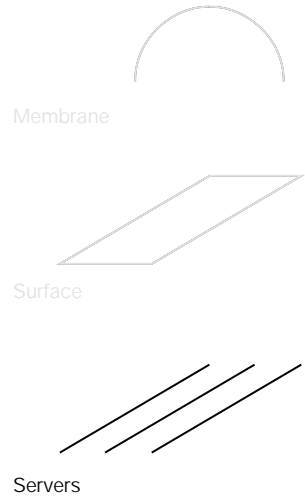


Surface



Servers

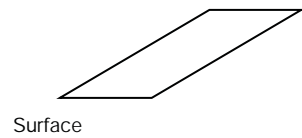
3 KEY DESIGN ELEMENTS



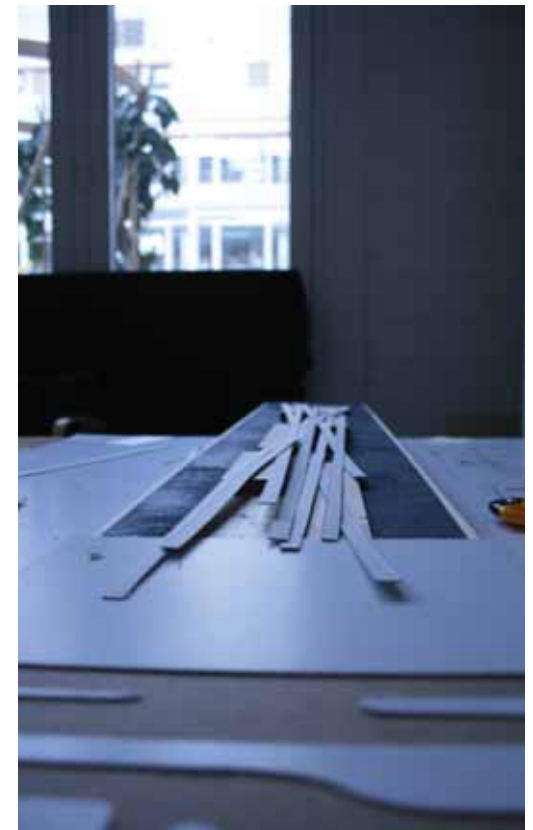
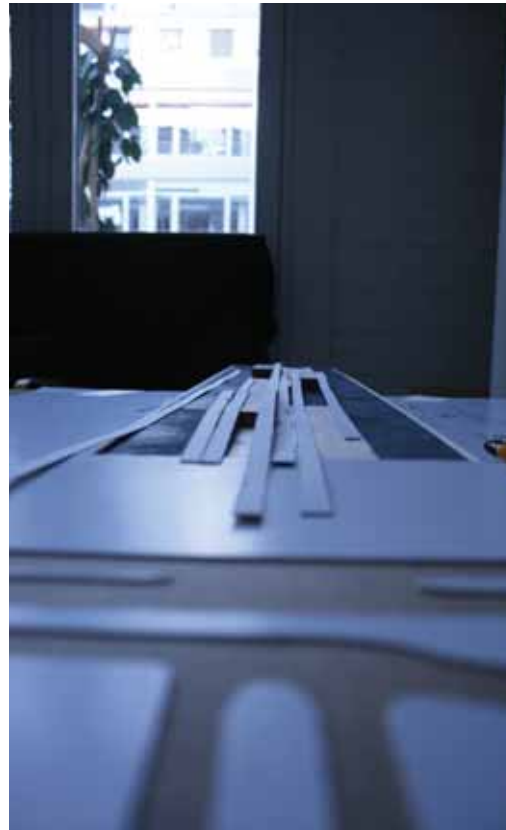
The servers- physical base of the projects and the heat producer.

3.2

Stripes



3 KEY DESIGN ELEMENTS

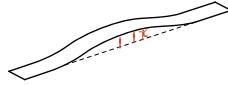


The public surface on top of the servers. The development of the stripes came from the basic setup of the server halls, with upheated corridors each fifth meters which would release the excess heat. The stripes further developed to a walkable surface that would come to define the landscape of the program.

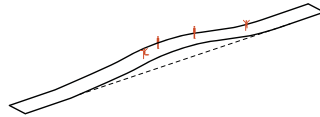
The set up of the stripes leaves lots of possibilities, from creating a walkable surface on top of the server halls to roofing, bridges, stairs, and so on.



covering programs



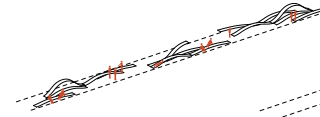
roofing



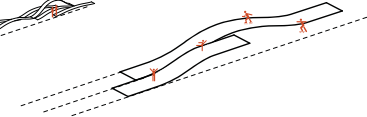
bridges



bike stands



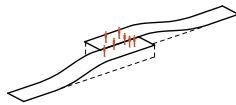
urban furniture



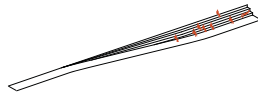
playground/skating/
working out



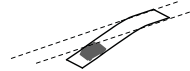
lighting



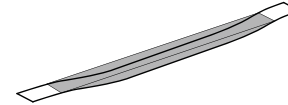
observation deck



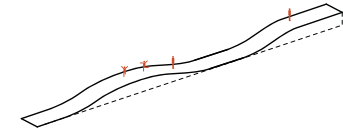
stairs



ramps (entrance/exits
parking)



water

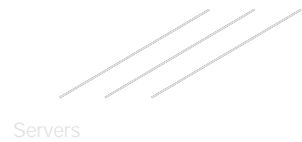
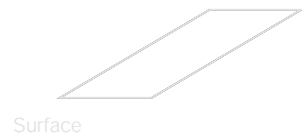
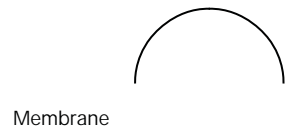


walkable/artificial landscape

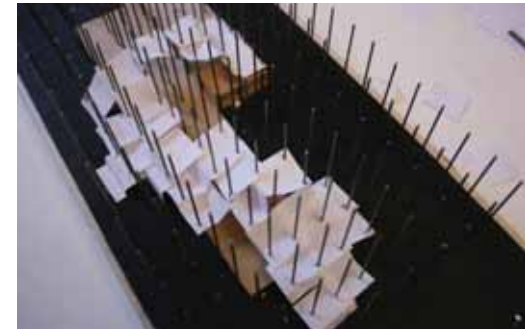
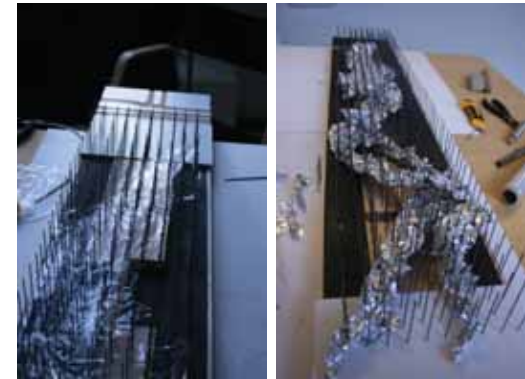
THE STRIPE: CATALOGUE OF POSSIBILITIES

3.2

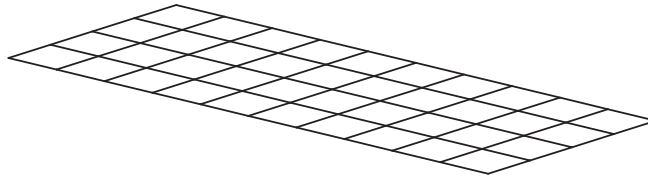
Membrane



3 KEY DESIGN ELEMENTS

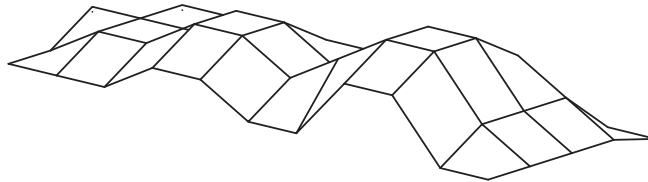


The membrane covers areas in need for regulated temperature and weather/wind protection. Because of the large amount of air being heated up, the membrane can, in places, be left open or semi open. The indoor temperature would be regulated through openings in the membrane.



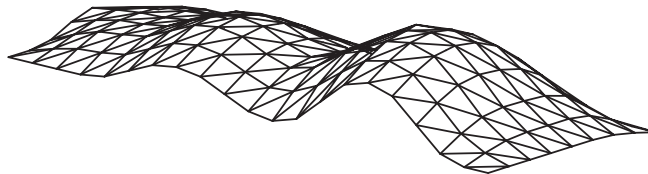
1. Grid

Starting point is a flat grid with a 5x5m spacing



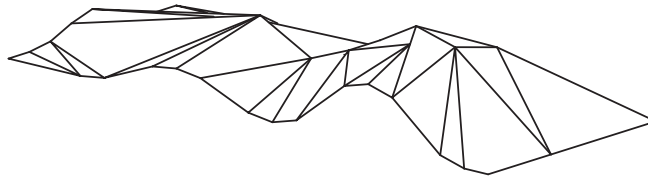
2. Height adjustment

Grid is raised according to program specific heights



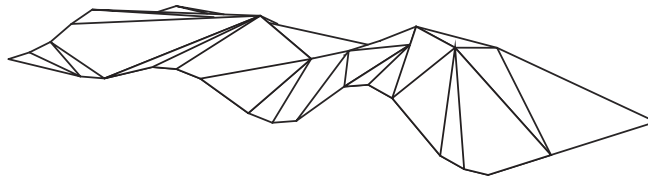
3. Refining the curve

The resulting shape is refined to receive a smoother curvature to better withstand wind forces



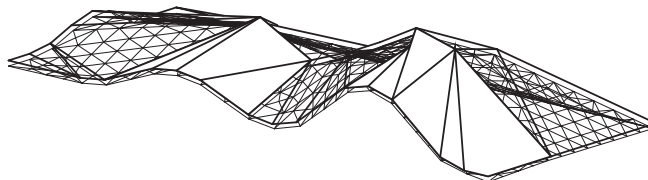
4. Optimization

The outer boundaries are preserved and the topography of the steel construction gets simplified and as a resultant becomes more surface efficient



5. Room definition

Certain areas of the membrane are completely covered and function as room definers and produce a visual dynamic element of the structure



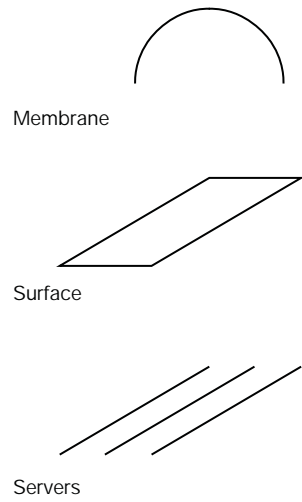
6. Glazing

The remaining open areas get subdivided into a finer triangular grid and receive a glazed surface attached to the inside of the steel construction.

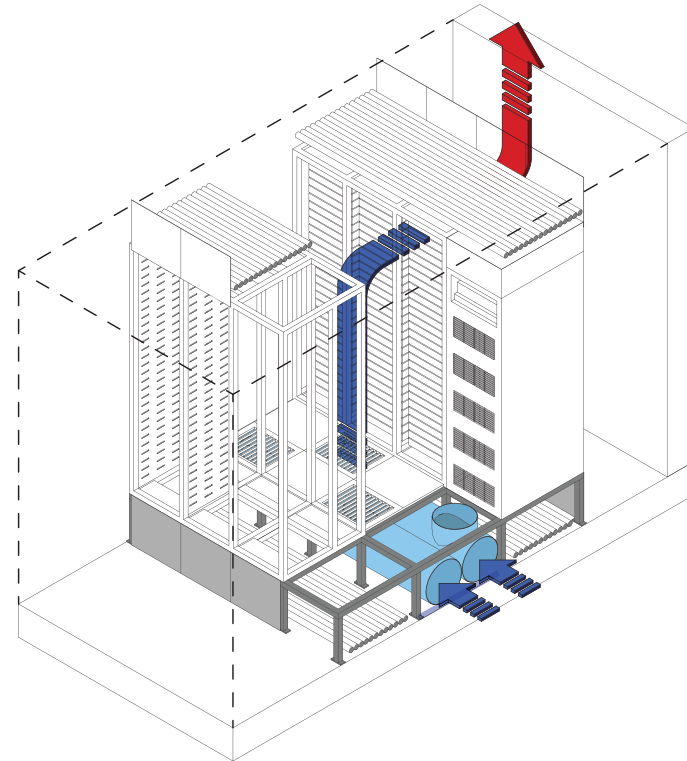
MEMBRANE DEVELOPMENT

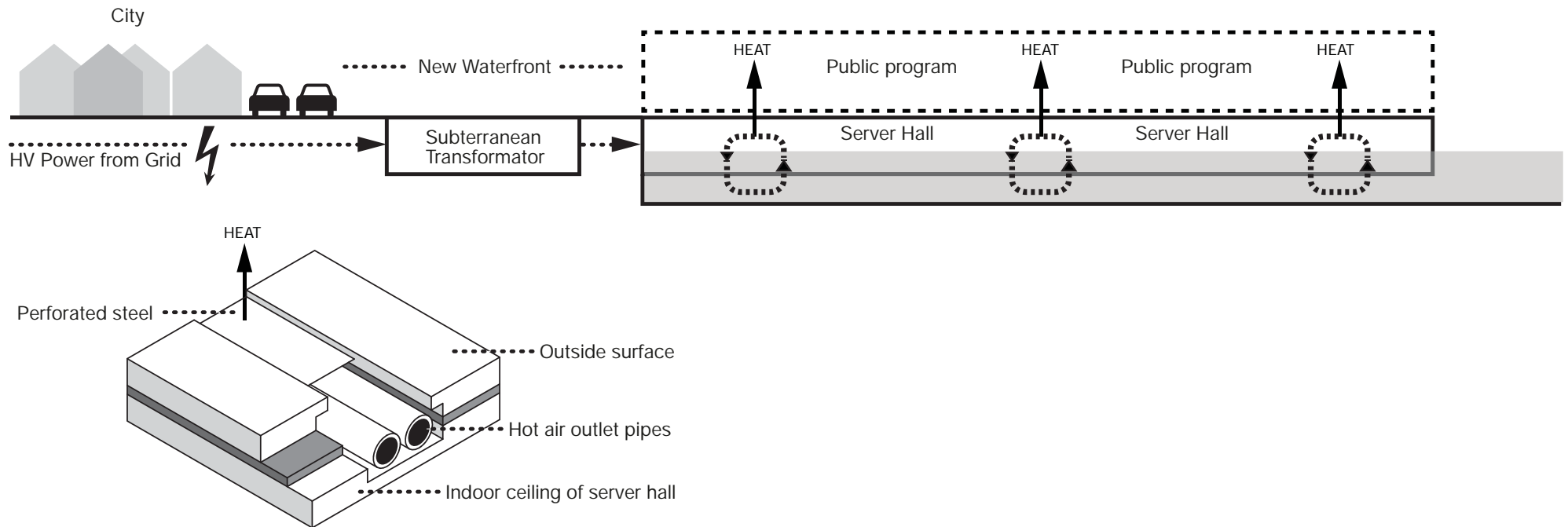
3.2

Energy circulation and heat distribution



3 KEY DESIGN ELEMENTS





The above is a schematic section view showing the main energy flows of the project. High voltage electricity gets transformed to 12V low voltage that feeds the electronics. Cooling is made by an amfibic system of both air and water cooling, depending on outer conditions.

The waste gets released into the public program via channels inlaid between the "stripes".

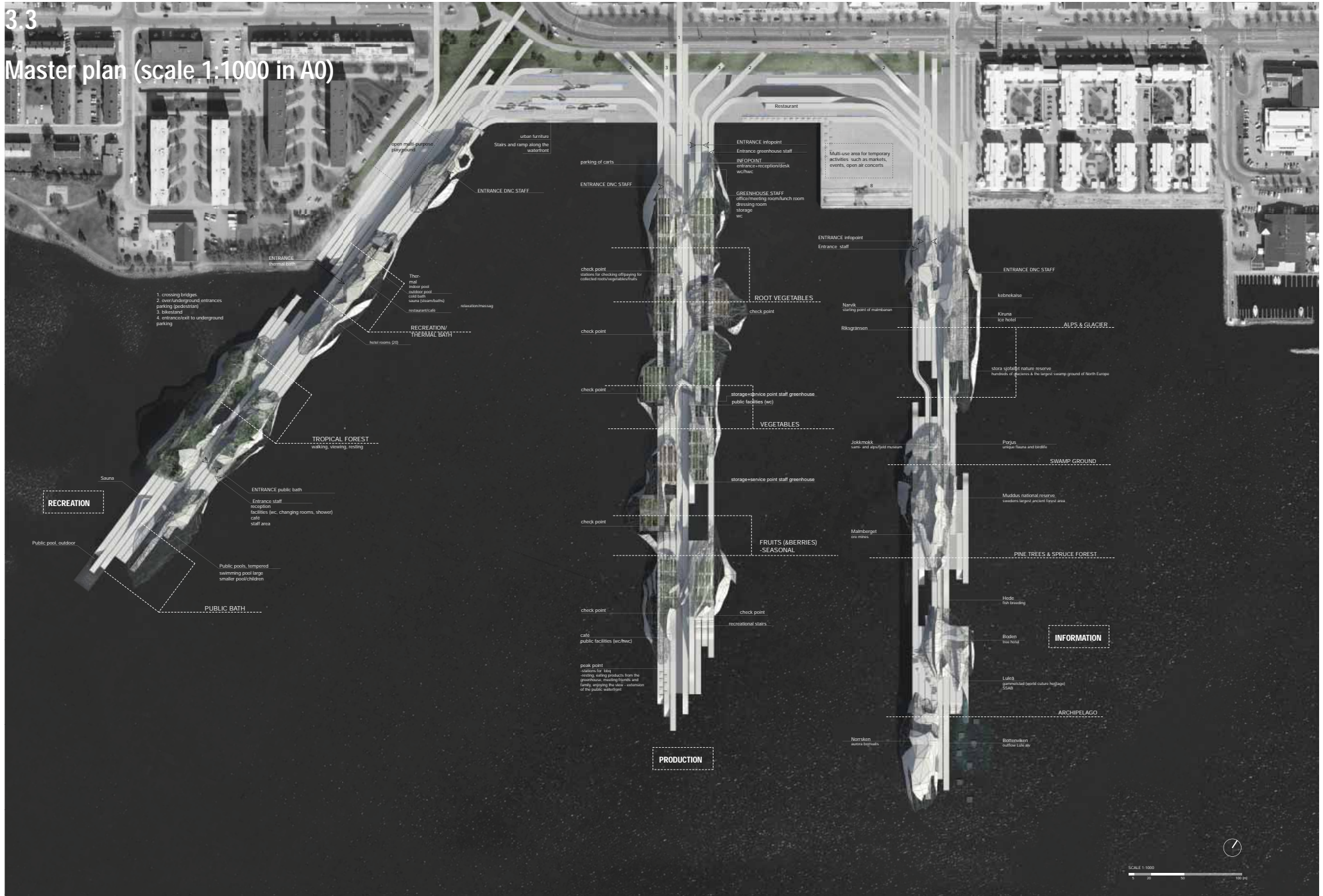
3.3 Project proposal

3.2

Section cut



Master plan (scale 1:1000 in A0)



- 1. crossing bridges
- 2. over/underground entrances parking (pedestrian)
- 3. elevated
- 4. entrance/exit to underground parking

RECREATION

TROPICAL FOREST

PRODUCTION

VEGETABLES

FRUITS (& BERRIES) - SEASONAL

INFORMATION

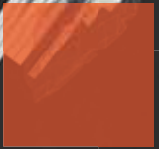
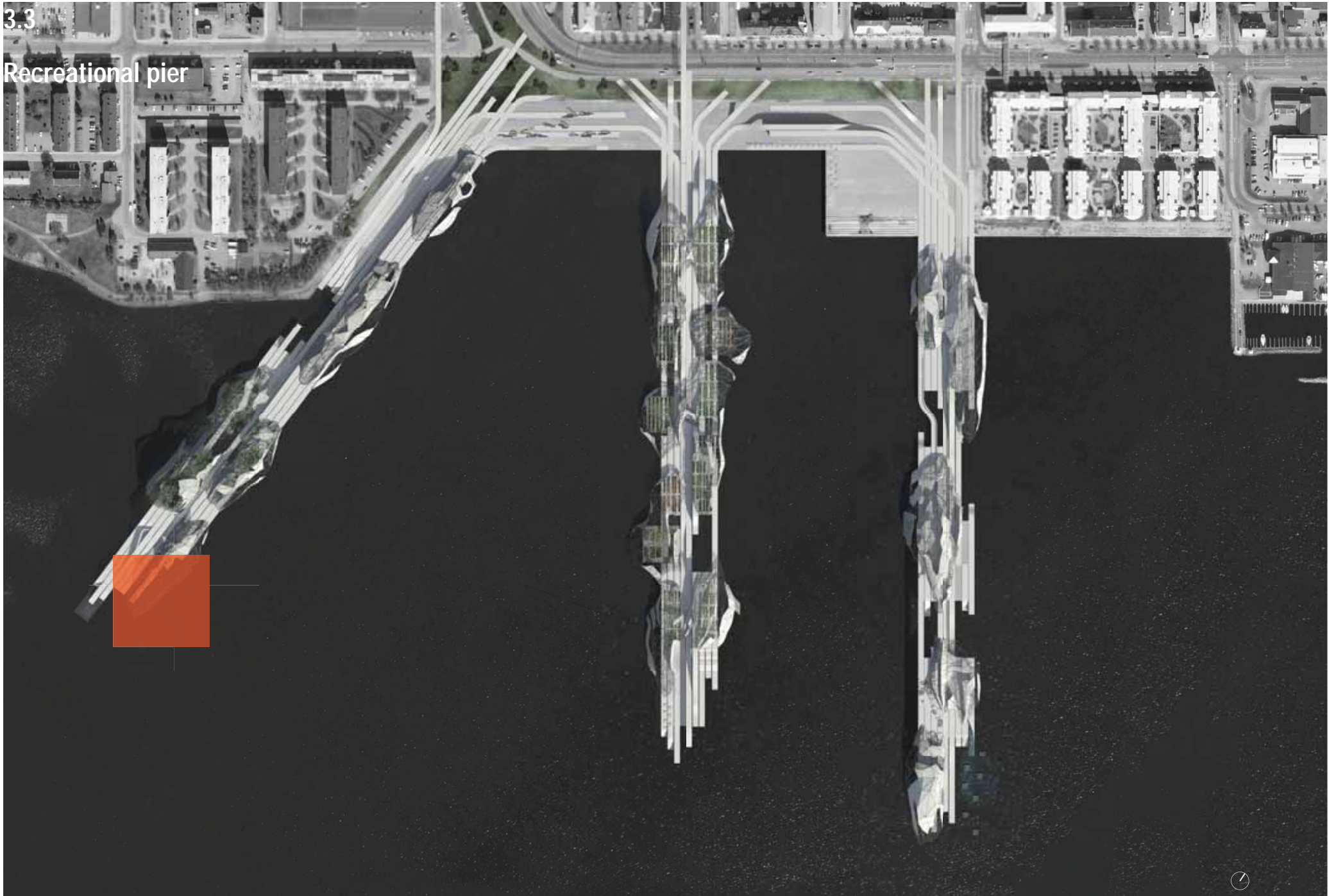
ARCHIPELAGO

SWAMP GROUND

ALPS & GLACIER

3.3

Recreational pier

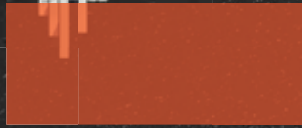
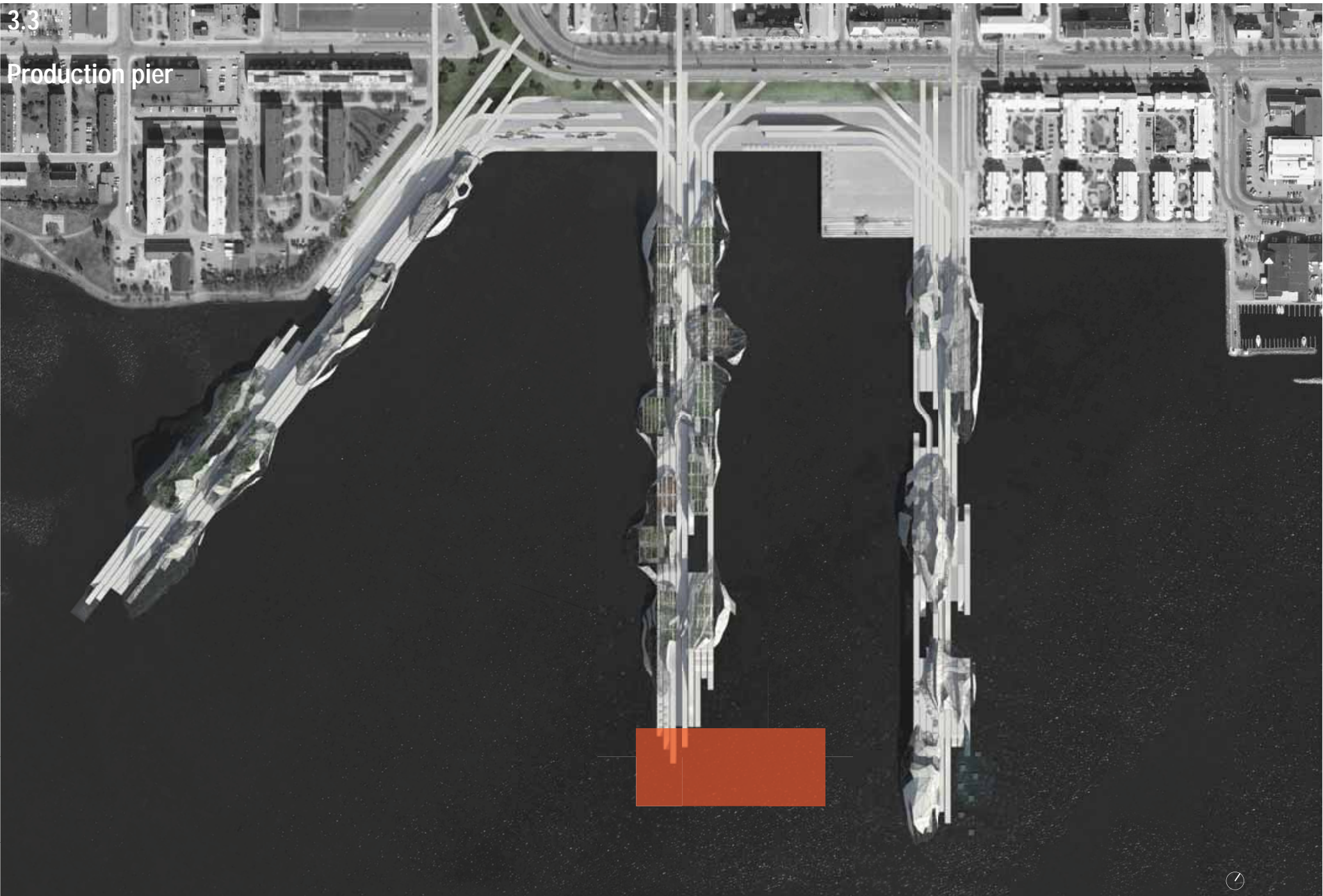




INTERIOR VIEW FROM RECREATIONAL PIER - PUBLIC BATH

3.3

Production pier

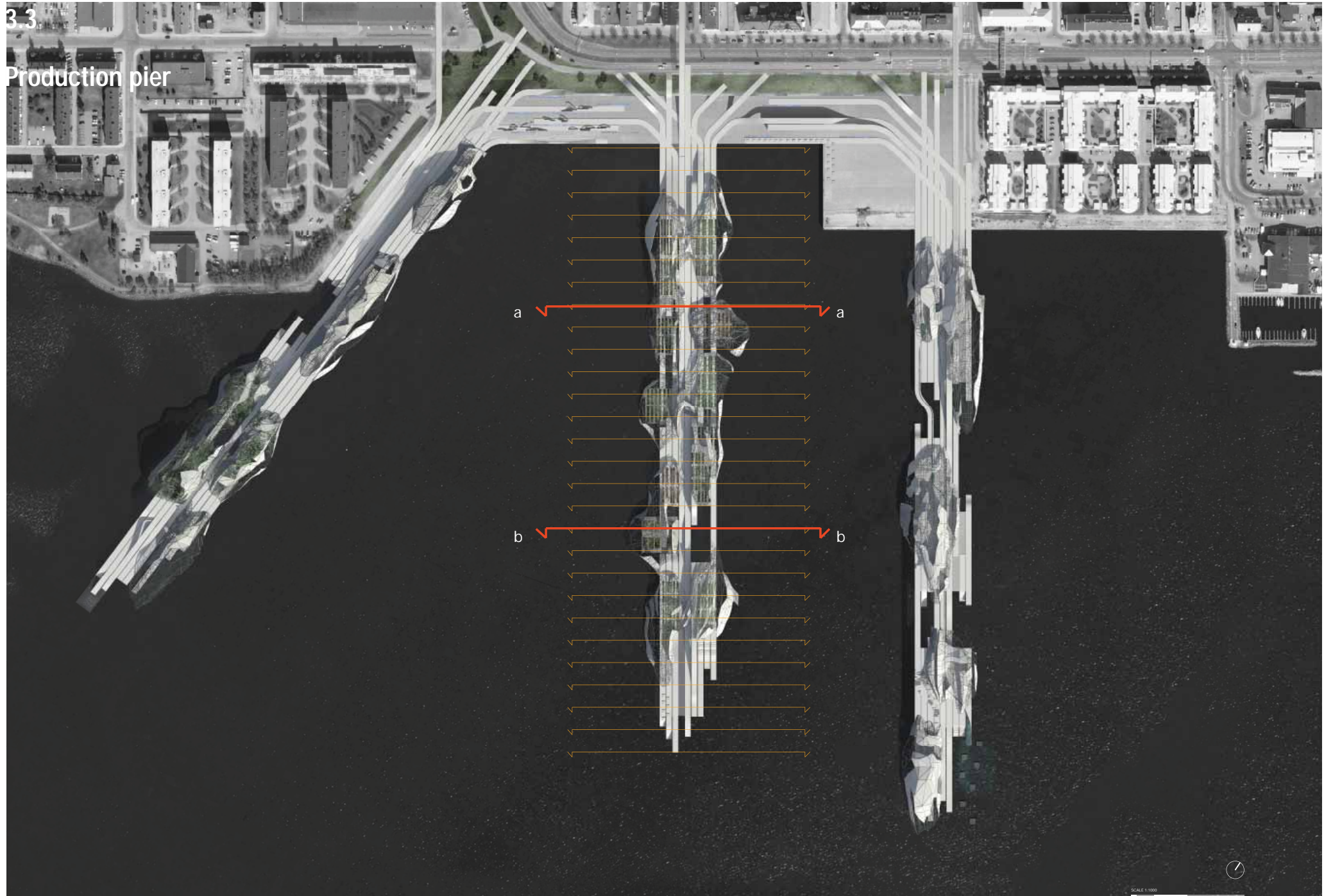


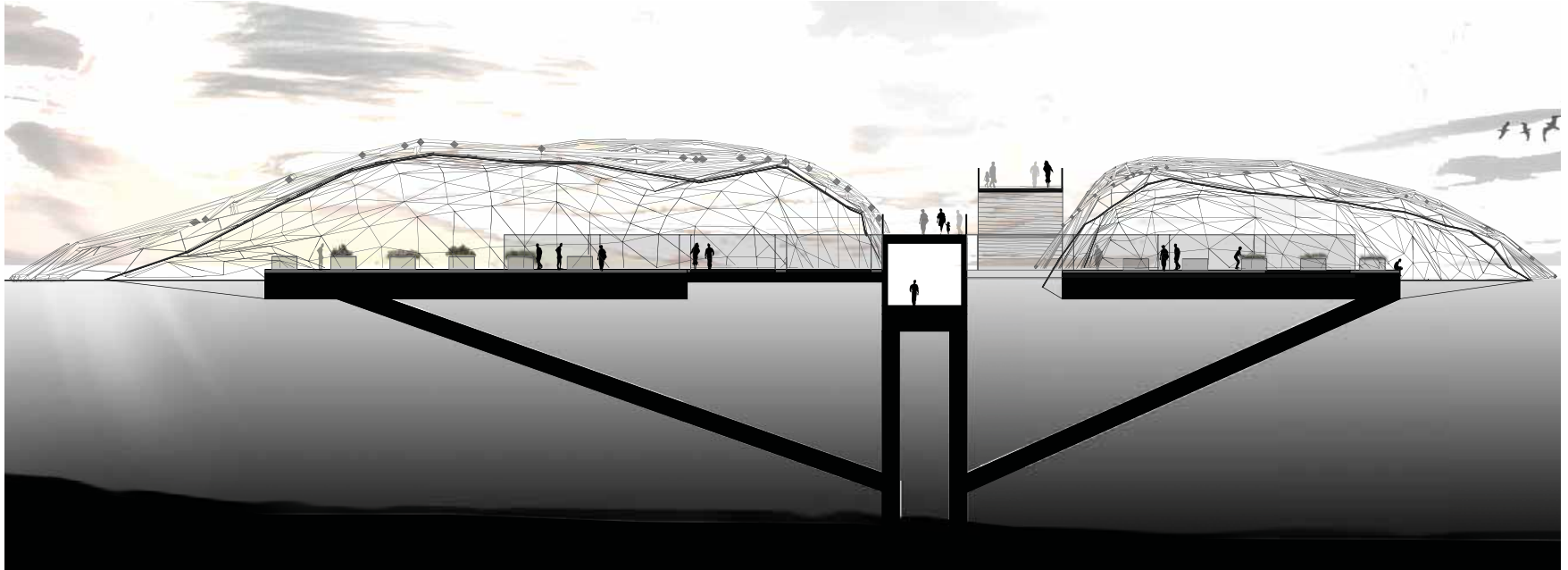
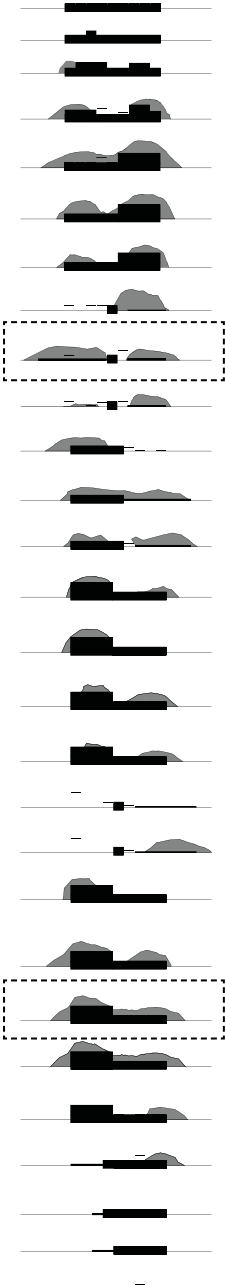


VIEW FROM THE WATER (SOUTH)

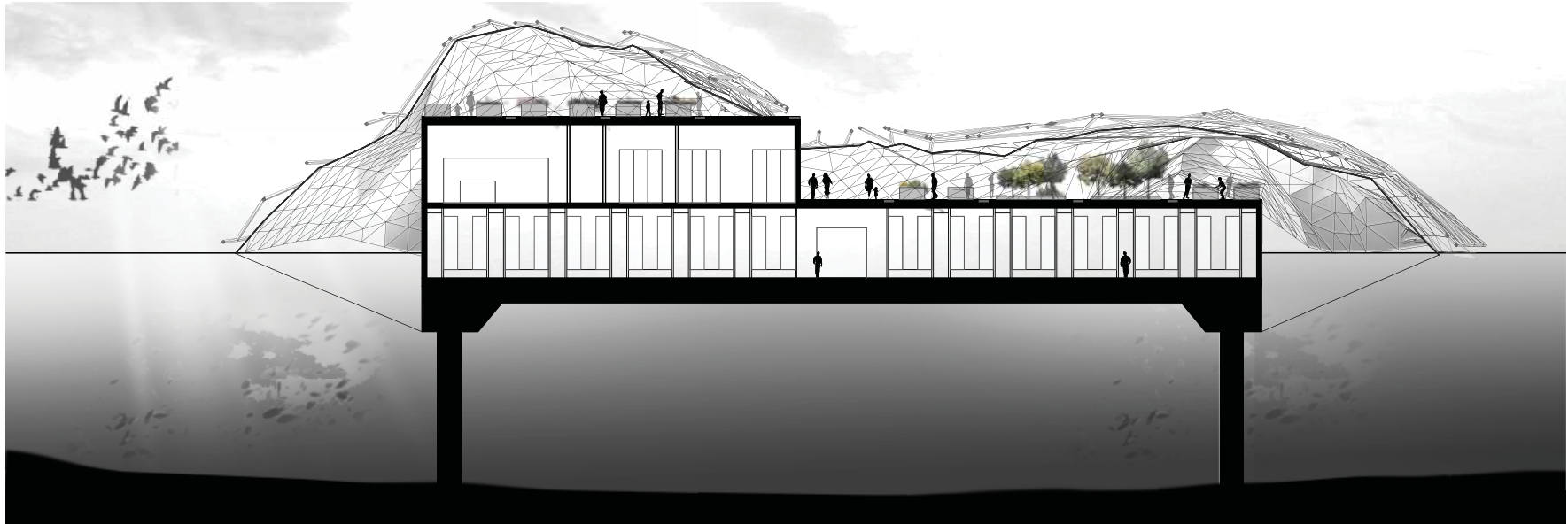
3.3

Production pier





CROSS SECTION A 1:400 (ORIGINAL SCALE A0 1:200)

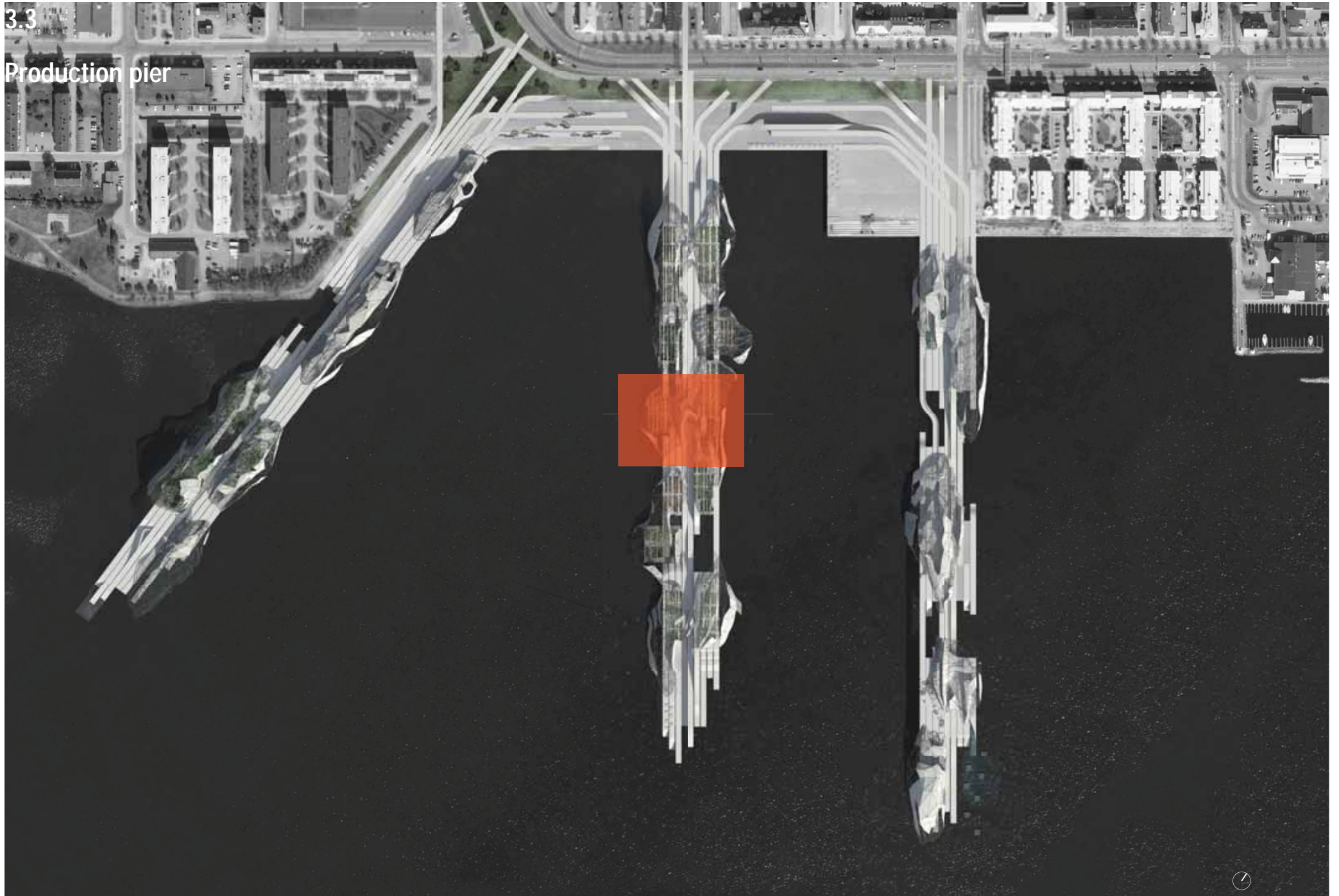


CROSS SECTION B 1:400 (ORIGINAL SCALE A0 1:200)

CROSS SECTIONS
1:4000 (ORIGINAL SCALE A0
1:2000)

3.3

Production pier

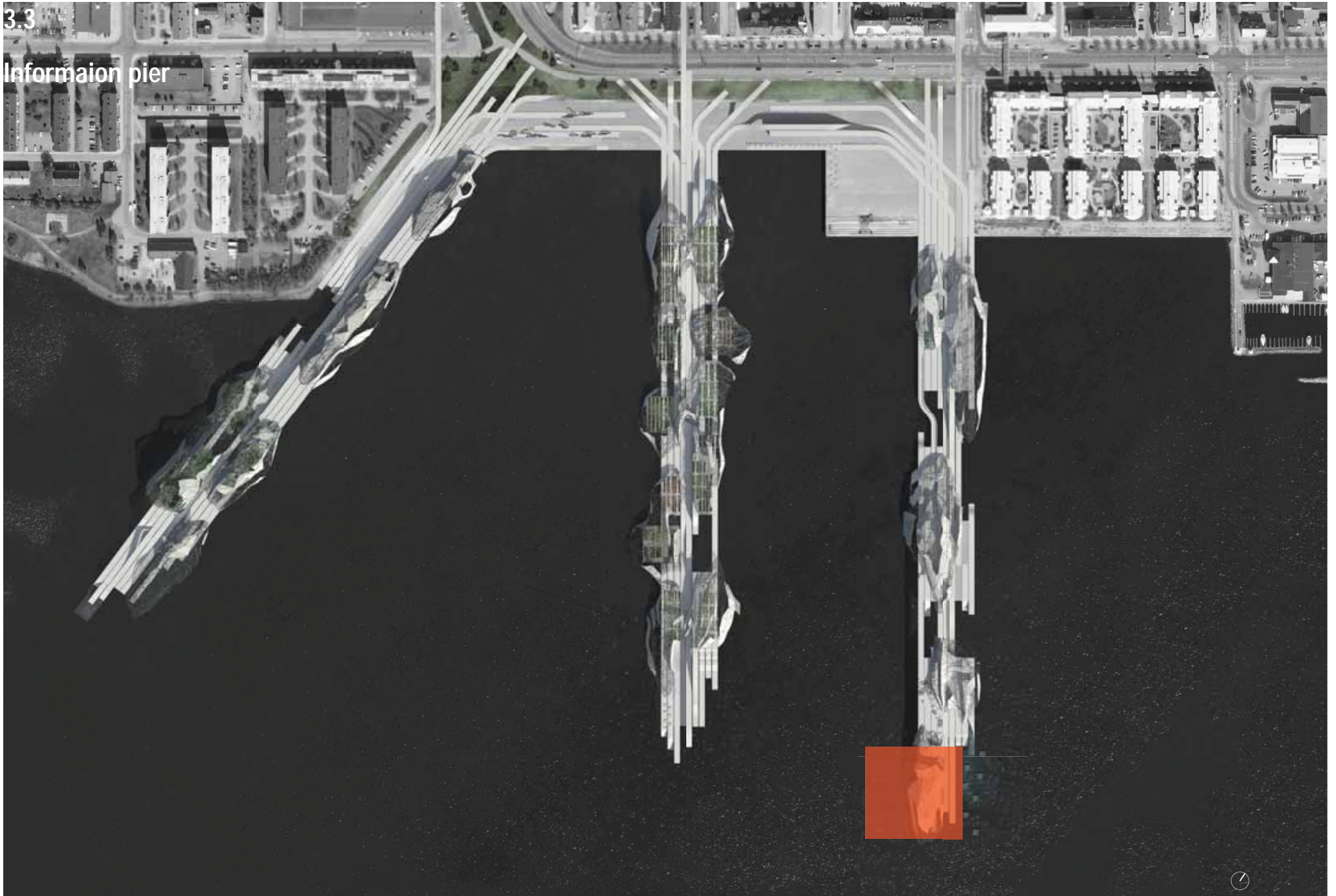


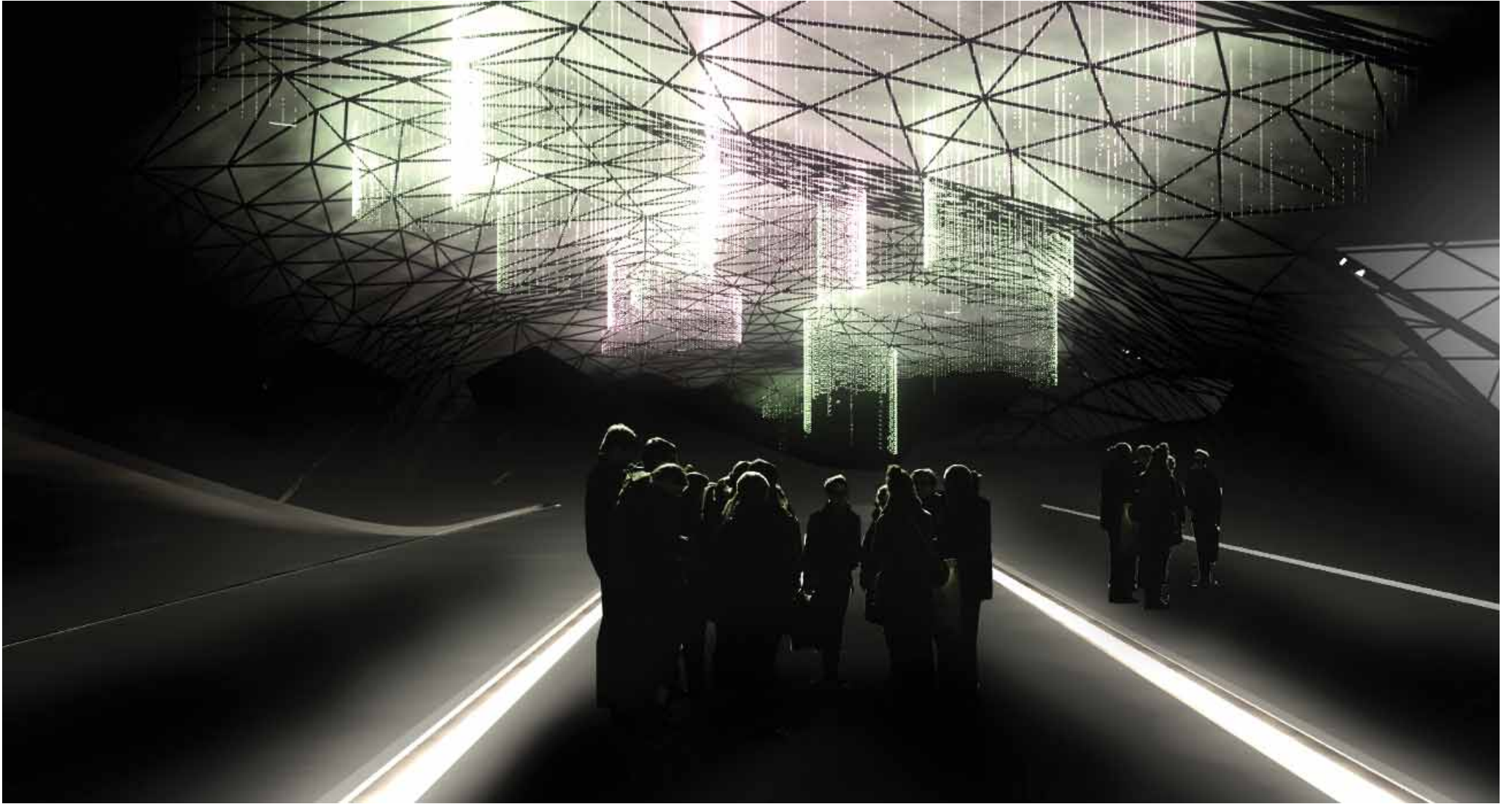


INTERIOR VIEW FROM PRODUCTION PIER - GREENHOUSE, OVERLOOKING VEGETABLE PLANTATIONS

3.3

Information pier

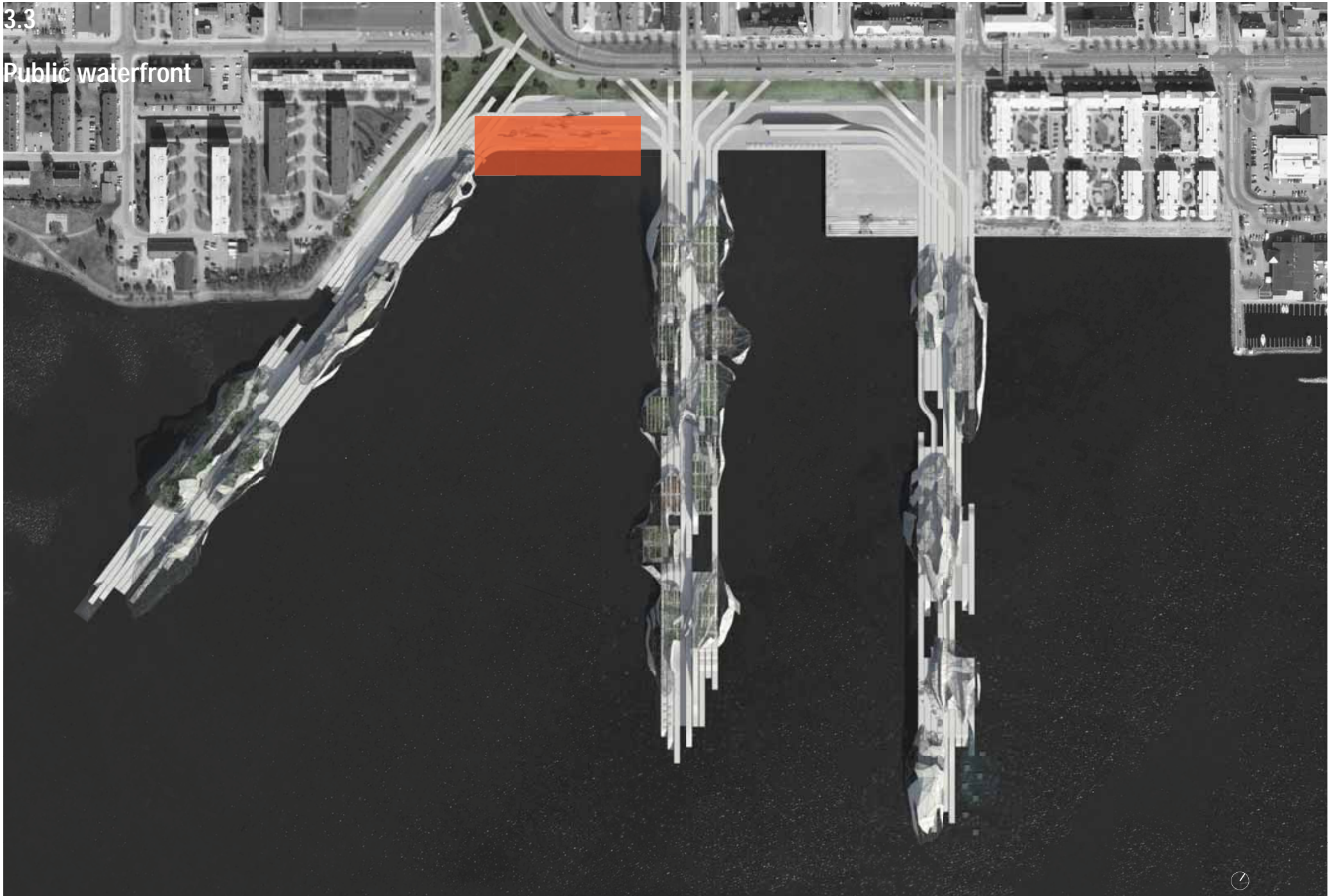




INTERIOR VIEW FROM INFORMATION PIER - AURORA BORREALIS, NORTHERN LIGHTS

3.3

Public waterfront





VIEW FROM THE WATERFRONT (WEST LOOKING EAST)

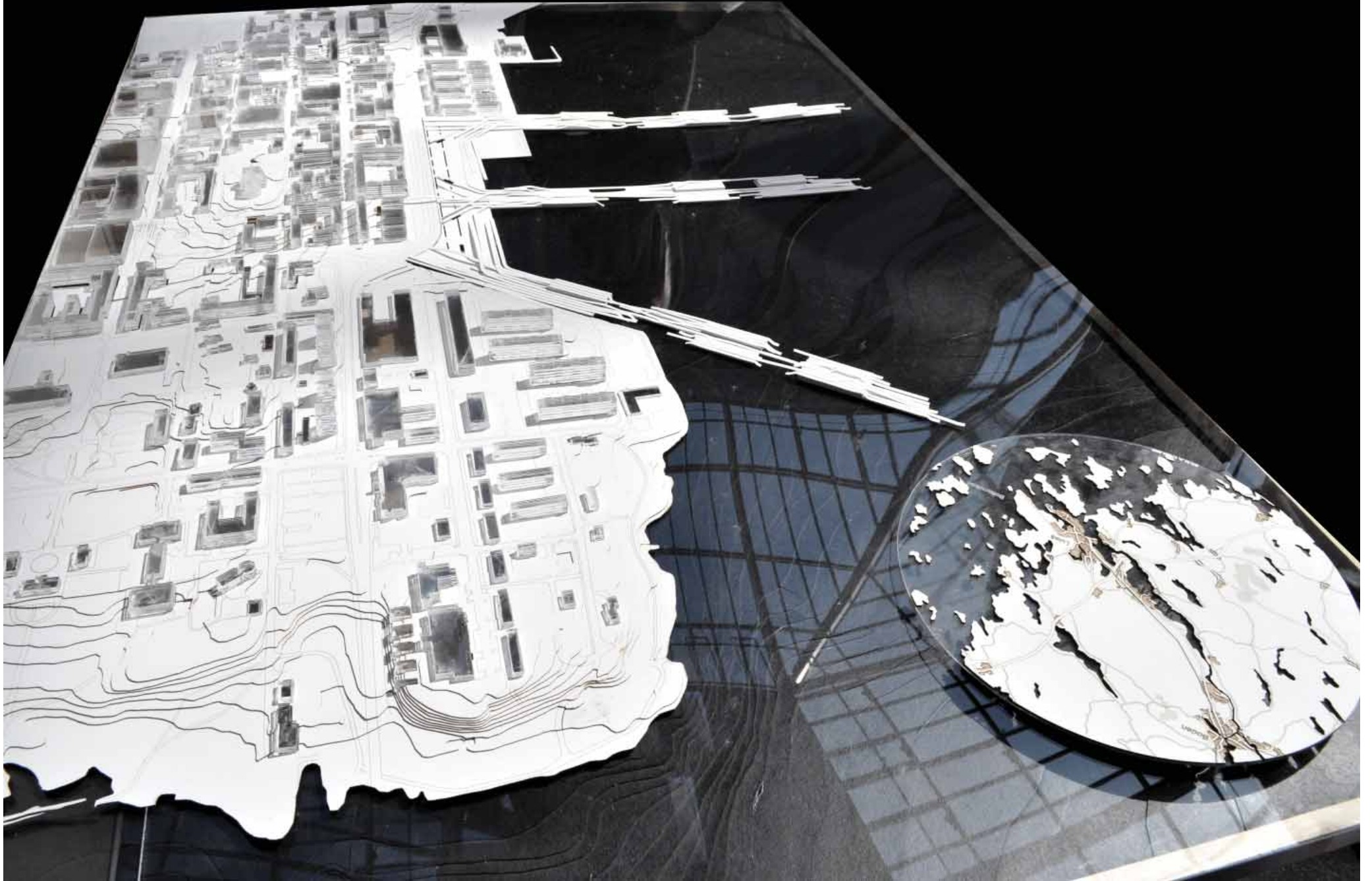




4. MODEL IMAGES

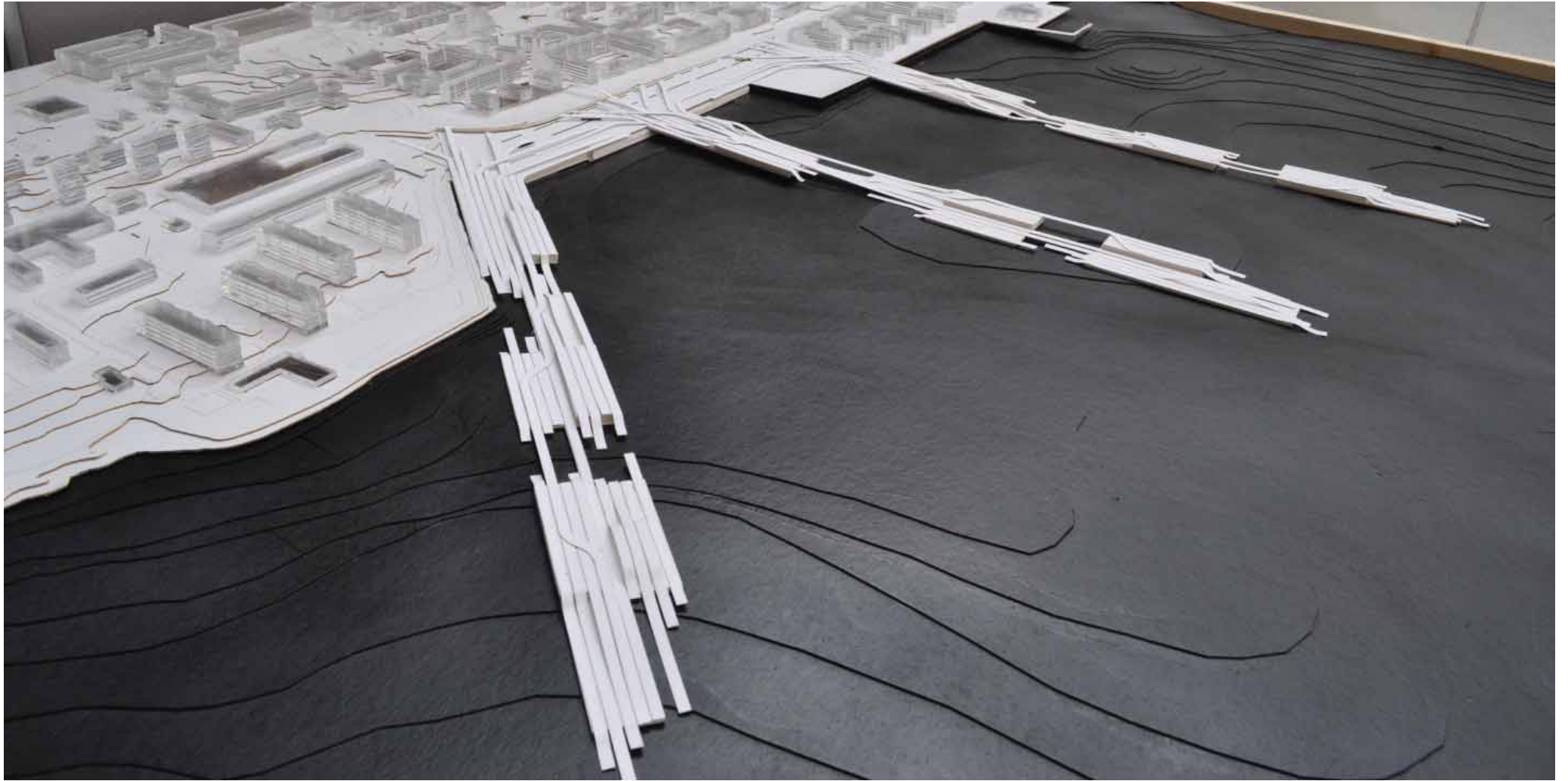
4.1 Site model 1:1000

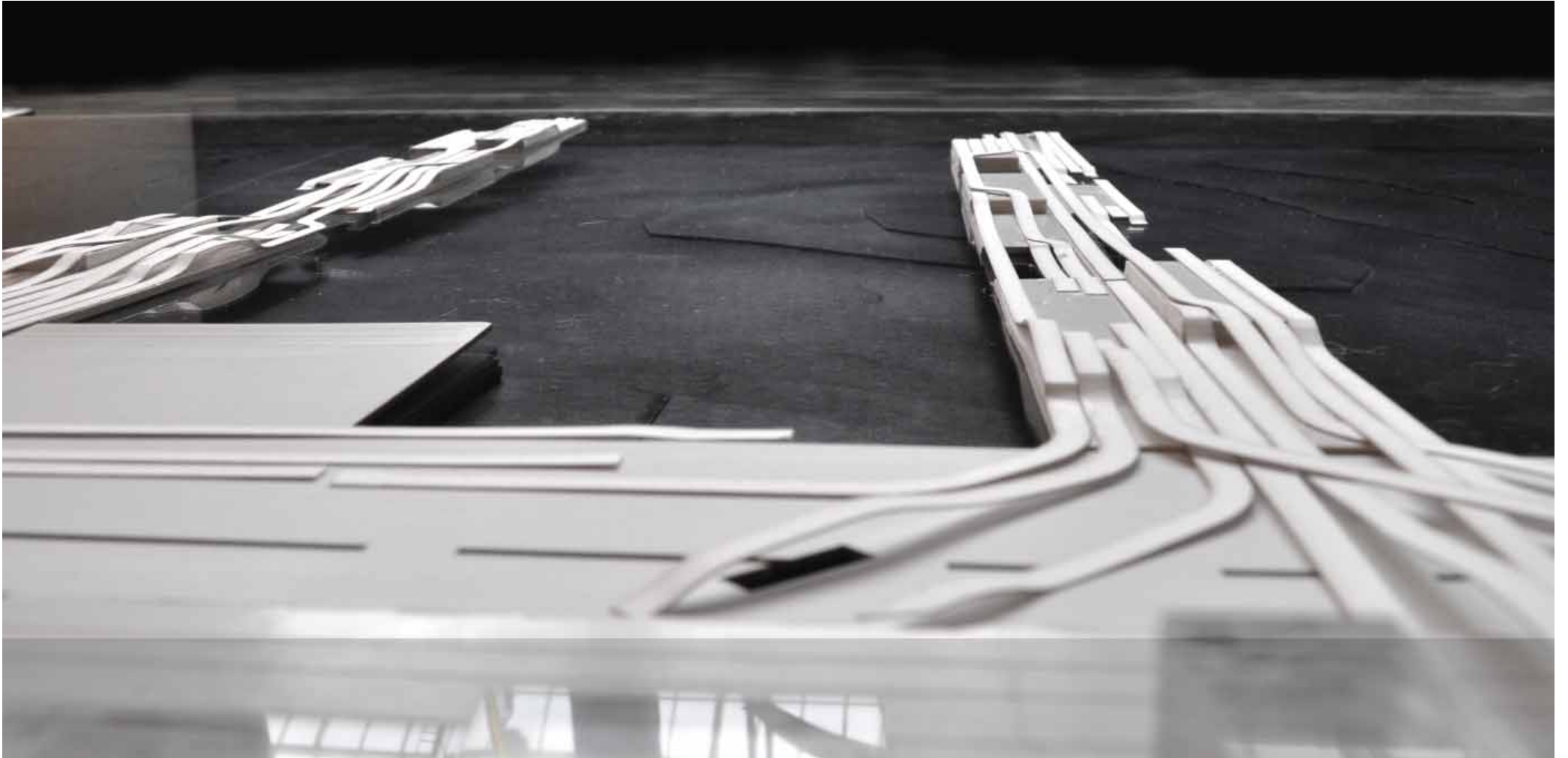
4.1





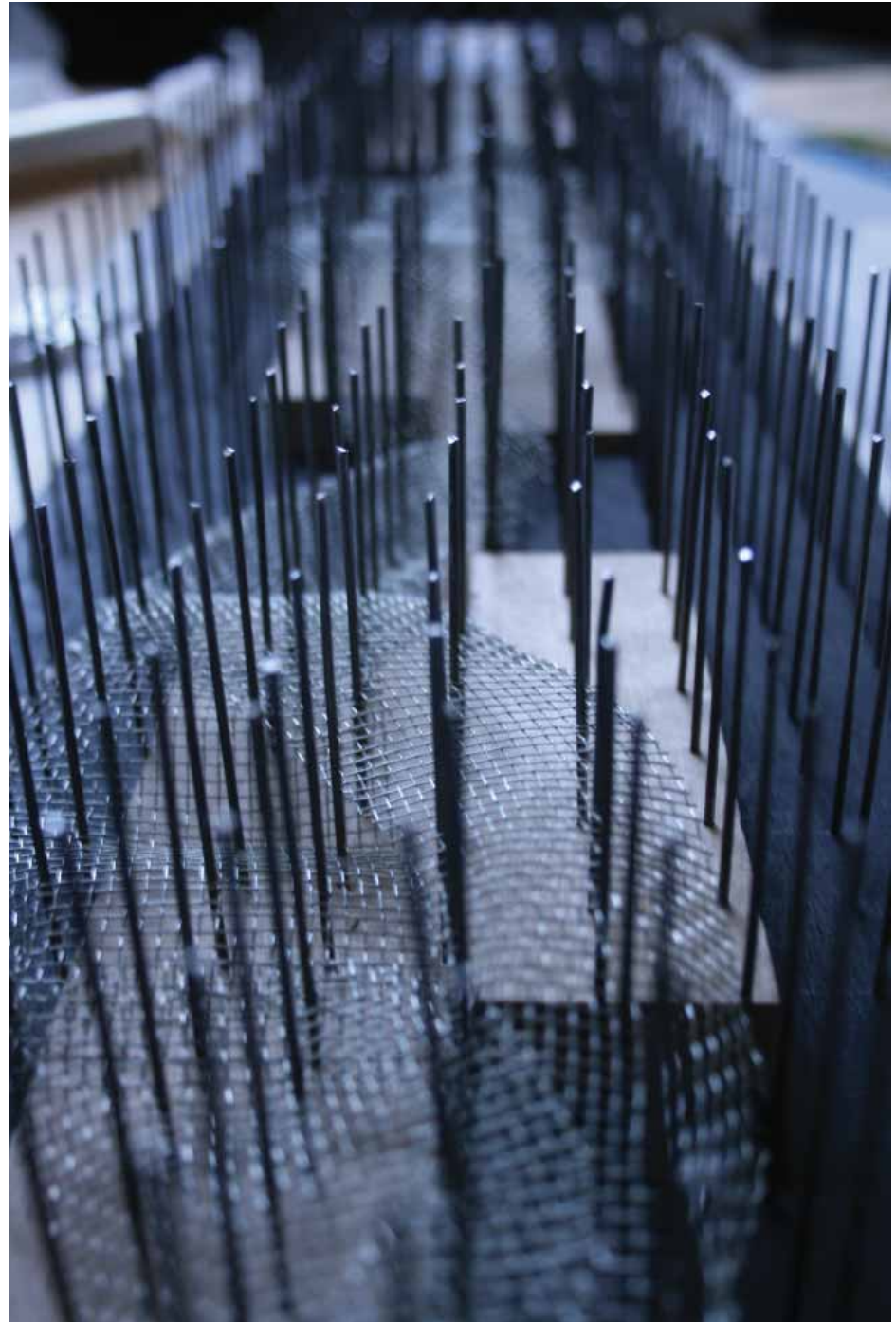
4.1

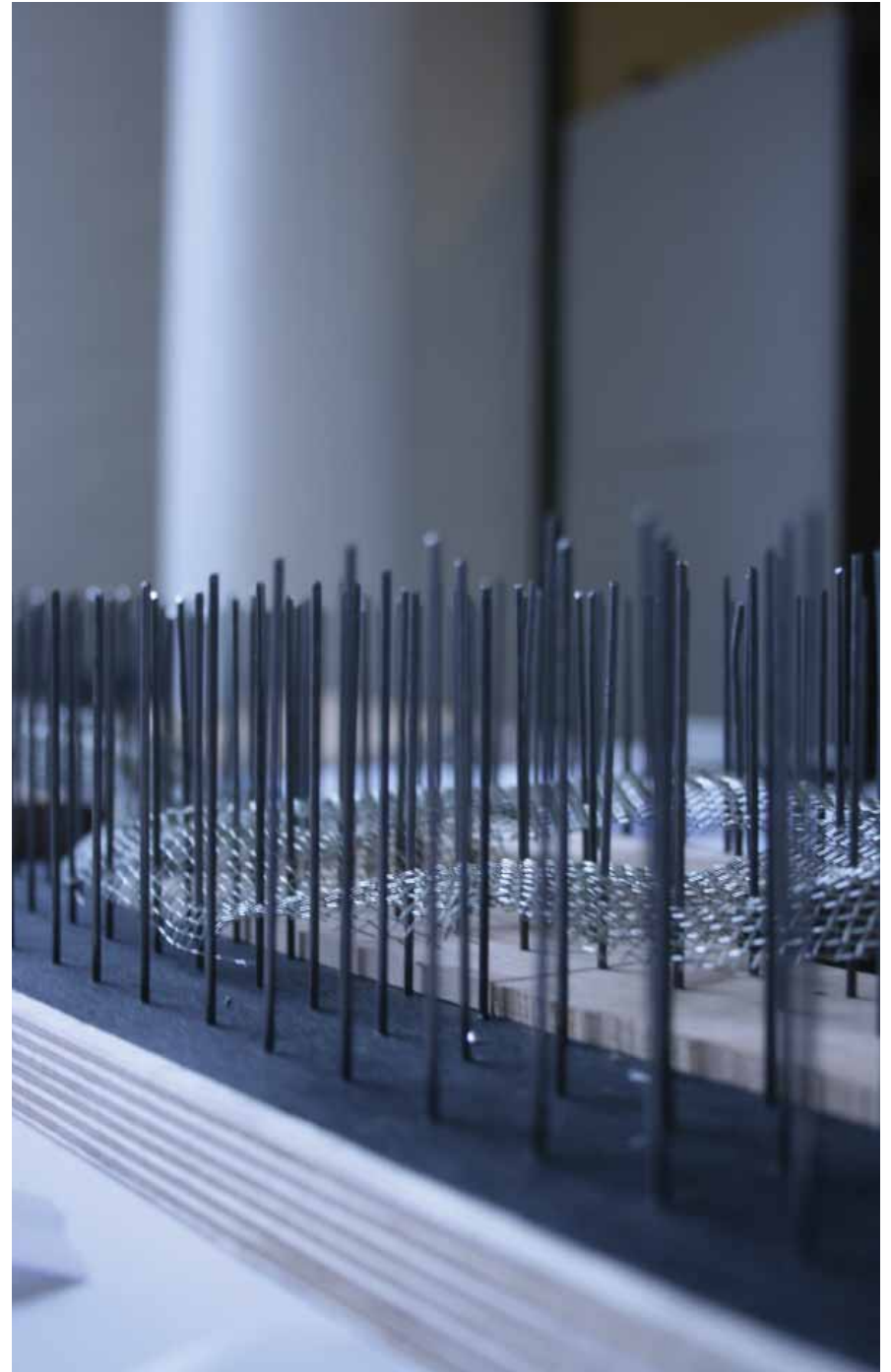
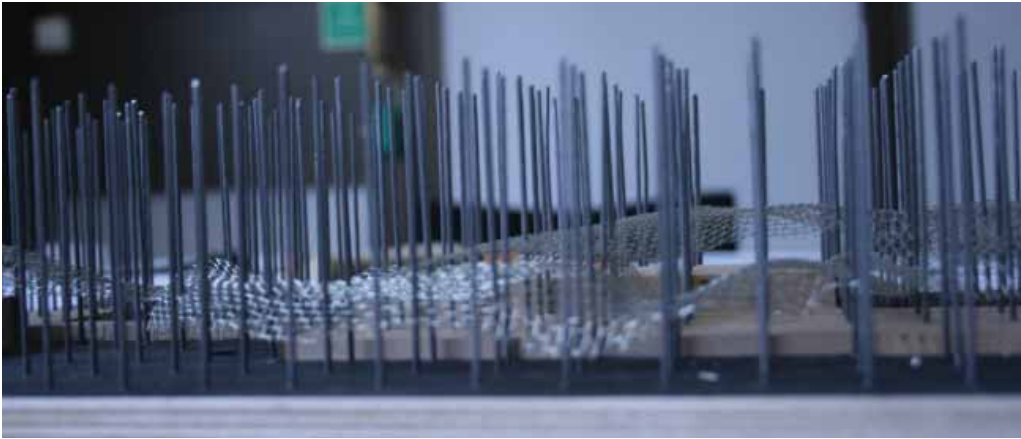




4.2 Skeleton model- membrane 1:500

4.2

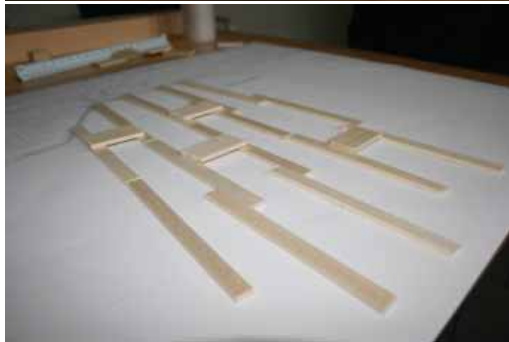
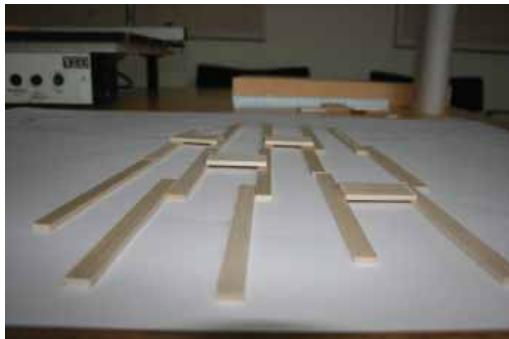
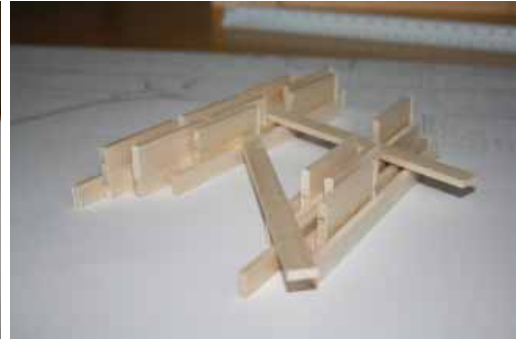
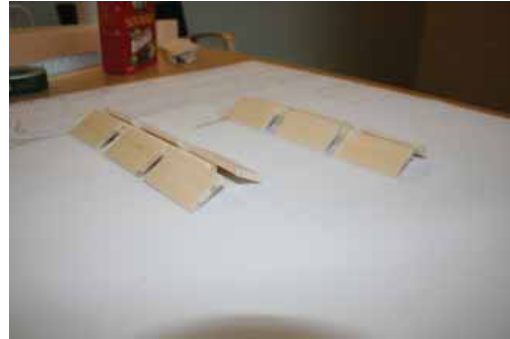
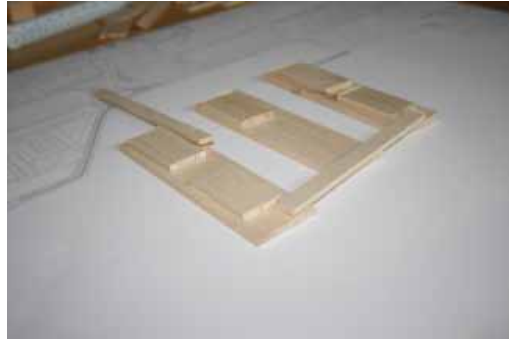




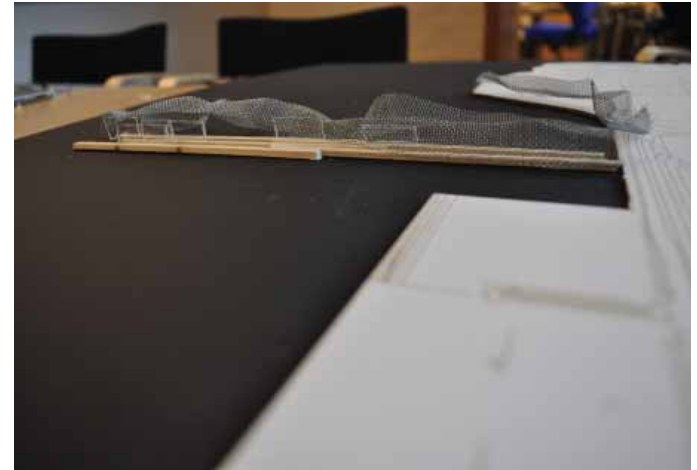
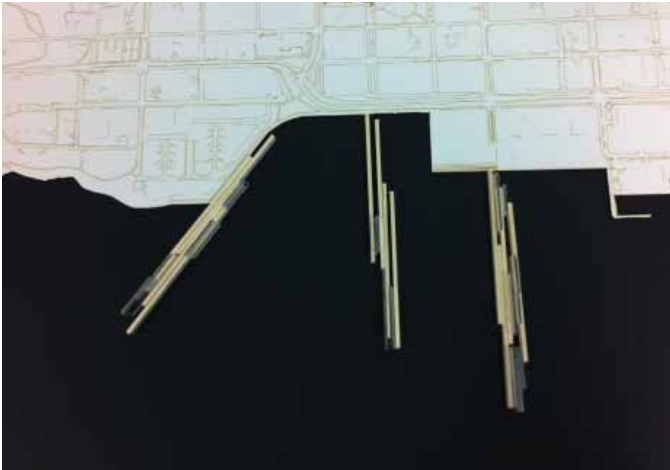
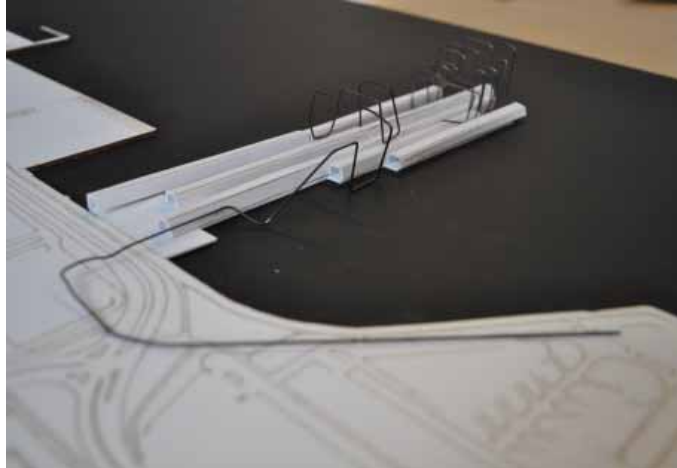
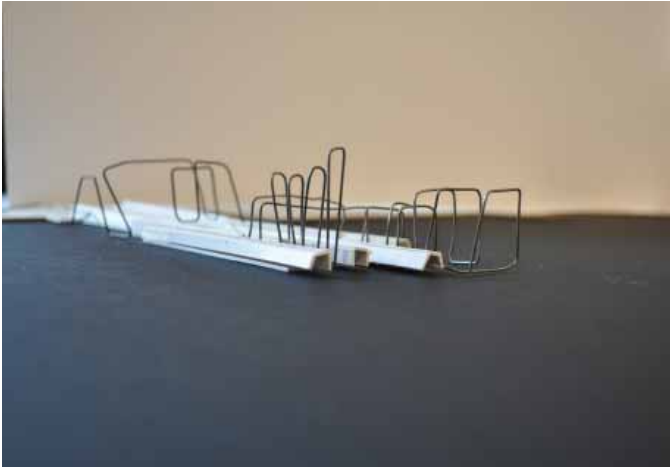
4.3 Model studies

4.3

Areal studies (1:2000)

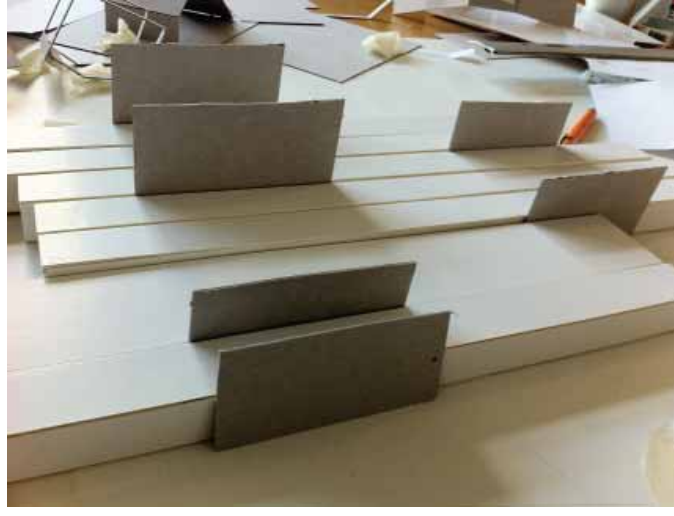


Relation and connectivity (1:2000)



4.3

Stripes - program (1:1000)



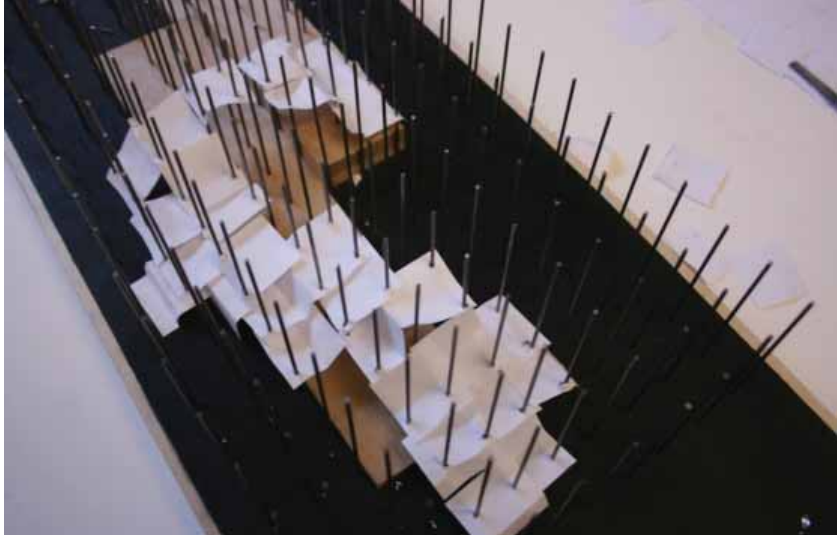
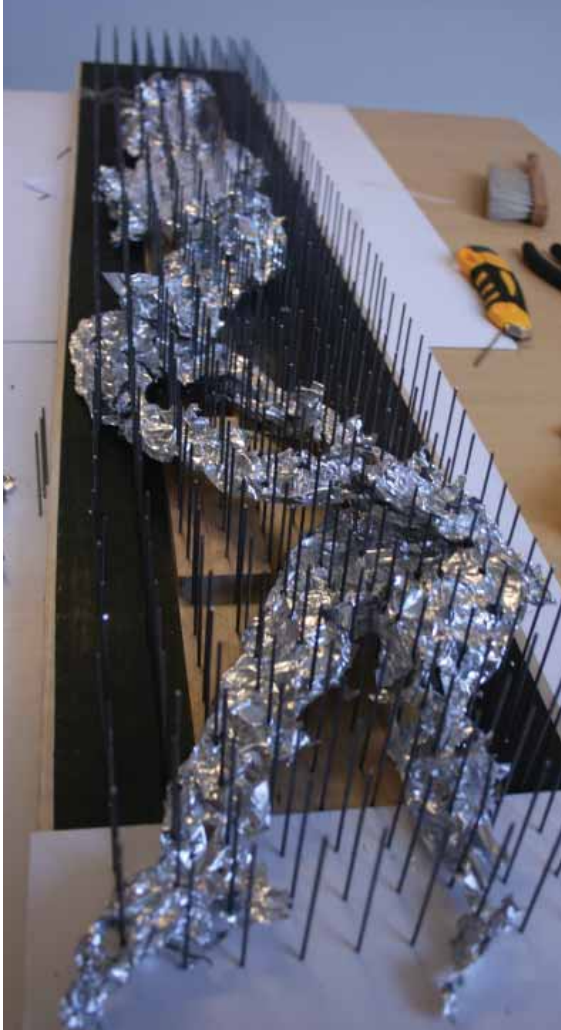
Skeleton model - stripes (1:500)



4.3

Skeleton model - membrane (1:500)





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