

Beginning of the North residential district

The RAVeL track which goes over the terrils

Highway N581

The RAVeL track which goes along the river.
The RAVeL (autonomous network of slow tracks)-the most visited tourist walkway in Charleroi.
The 14km of slow tracks goes alongside industrial ruins, over the slag heaps, through woods and along rivers.

Concrete basement, leftover from the factory

Materials' landfill. Leftover from industrial materials (gravel sand, coal)

Materials' storage, private territory

'Rockerill' - concert hall, former 'Cockerill Sambre' steel manufacturer.

'Breaking the boundaries'
Sealed line of buildings, all possible paths closed with fences.
Opening of the convenient walkways through the site.

'Water coast' | possible intervention
This blank spot well fit for water activities, there is well suited water coast, place for water transport parking and hard pavement and already existed car access.

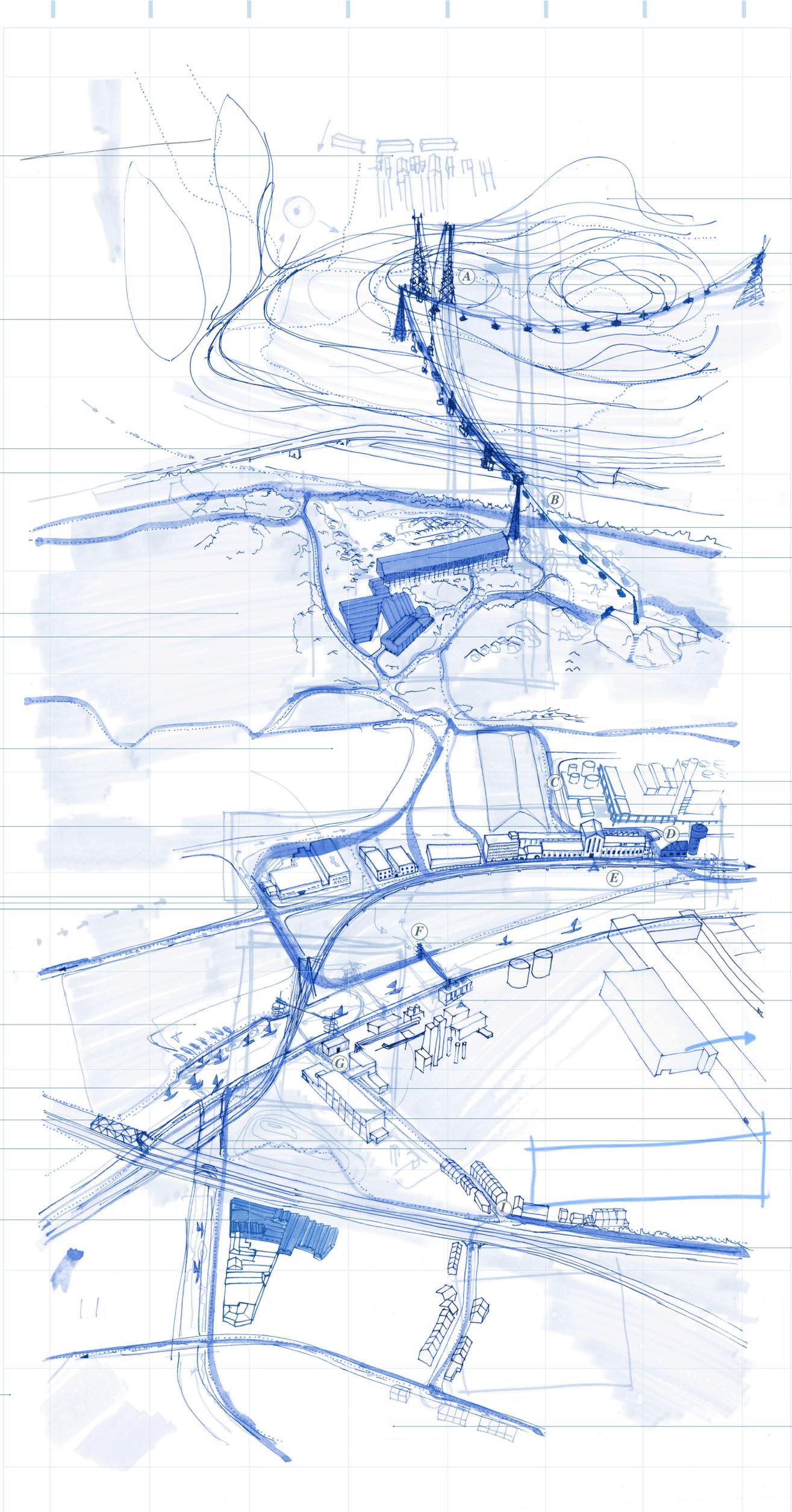
tram bridge, not accessible for pedestrians

tram bridge, not accessible for pedestrians

Beginning of the South residential zone

Abandoned factory | potential intervention
The part of the 'Cockerill Sambre' steel manufacturer.

MARCHIENNE-AU-PONT De Cartier
Metro and bus stations



Hiking tracks over the 'Terril du Bayemont'

Most popular tourist track of 4.6km through the range of the spoil tips.

'Cable car' | potential intervention
Cable transport in this area was used to connect the factories, transporting materials above the canal. These structures were forsaken and some of them were dismantled. The renewal of the cable car system reconciles with the industrial past, connecting it to people.

Materials' landfill. Leftover from industrial materials (gravel sand, coal)

Abandoned factory | potential intervention
Previously part of the 'Cockerill Sambre' steel manufacturer.

Abandoned bunker | potential intervention

Working plant, private territory

Opened path through the plant

'Water tower' | potential intervention
The tower used to be attached to the Rockerill building, functioning as a one system.

MARCHIENNE-AU-PONT Providence
Metro station and bus stations

The RAVeL track which goes alongside industrial ruins

'Water beam' | possible intervention
Abandoned industrial structure

'Cool Cooler'. Place of the tourist attraction

Hundred meters of the closed path from the South residential zone to the RAVeL track.

Working industry, private territory

Pooping tunnel under the tram lines which leads from the MARCHIENNE-AU-PONT De Cartier to the metro and bus stations.

Tunnel under the train lines

South residential district

Exploring area you walk through the abandoned factories. The wild vegetation breaks through the concrete and crawls into the buildings. Wild flora here seems to have become dominant over time, gradually taking control over everything in its path.

Moving south from the abandoned factory we pass through the green trench, situated between the active electrical plant on the left and the wild flower covered heap on the right (C). You now see the Rockerill the famous alternative concert hall of Charleroi. The building used to be part of the 'Cockerill Sambre' steel manufacturer.

Turning left in front of the Rockerill you pass through a small courtyard, which is squeezed between the old Water tower, the electrical plant and the concert hall (D). The tower used to be attached to the Rockerill building, functioning as a one system. Today though, the buildings have different characters and programs.

This forgotten space became a place to take a rest, have a drink, check out the bizarre environment, or listen to the improvisation of musicians from the Rockerill. This courtyard used to be closed for visitors. Now it is open and separated from the busy street with the semi permeable brick wall, creating an enclosed space. The metro and bus stop right next to the Rockerill, so you also can easily arrive by public transport.

Don't stay here too long though, you still need to visit the 'blank spot' across the road (E).

'Blank spot' is a paved event plaza stretching along the waterfront, from where we have a perfect view of the 'Urban Dream Wall', as well as the industry across the water. This place used to be neglected and closed, today though it has strong public relevance. Depending on the day of the week you can join different types of events like open air concerts, food markets, or sport events.

The elevated metro station creates a permeable border between the street and the plaza which evokes a feeling of security, without the need to create an additional barrier. The ground underneath the metro line used as a flexible space for the events covered functions, but also provides bike parking, lockers and restrooms.

To the right of the 'blank spot' we find a small wild park, which was until recently also closed for visitors. Here you can reach the 'Cooling Towers Overpass' by following the abandoned rail tracks (F).

The 'Overpass' is a bridge that repurposes an existing industrial structure. When you climb the ladder to the top of the bridge, you have a remarkable view over the canal and its industrial surroundings. Climbing this ladder intrigues and enhances our experience of the industrial atmosphere.

Following the channel to the West along the RAVel track you can turn left to the 'The hidden way' (G). This path passing through the 'Air Liquide Chemical Plant' and joins the site with the Southern residential areas (I). From here you can go straight through the tunnel if you want to take a metro or a bus to the center, or visit Marchienne-au-Pont or Vilette.

This map was produced as a part of the master dissertation: 'If Given Half a Chance: Relating (Post) Industrial Landscapes: A Strategy for Rehabilitation of the Authentic Charleroi' within the dissertation framework 'Khorra and Turan Unknown Cities'.

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A
THE INDUSTRIAL SILHOUETTE
Observation platform

"Nature tends to creep back into the most unlikely places if given half a chance"
Dave Goulson 'Bee Quest'



B
THE FLOATING PATH
Cable car link

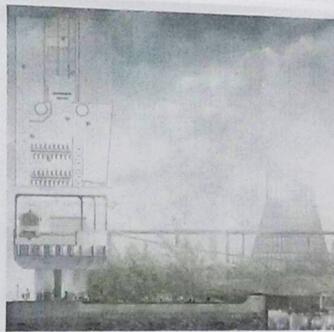


C
THE TRENCH
green corridor to the Rockerill

"The precision of disposition, articulation, arrangement - architecture - so that a preexisting place can be found, disturbed, awakened, and brought to presence."
George Descombes



D
THE LOCKED HISTORY
Rockerill courtyard



E
THE BLANK SPOT
Plaza, everyday activities

"I see a landscape as a question and an invitation. In this border zone between heaven and earth we try to find our way and tell stories to colour our lives and to give them meaning."
Andrei Tarkovsky, 'Roadside Picnic'



E
THE BLANK SPOT
Plaza, food market



E
THE BLANK SPOT
Plaza, sport event

"The path as a way of researching the landscape, of experimenting with alternately big and little things which are often overlooked and neglected - blades of grass, flowers, stones, tree roots, small streams, and so on."
George Descombes



E
THE BLANK SPOT
Plaza, open air concert



F
THE OVERPASS
Pedestrian bridge

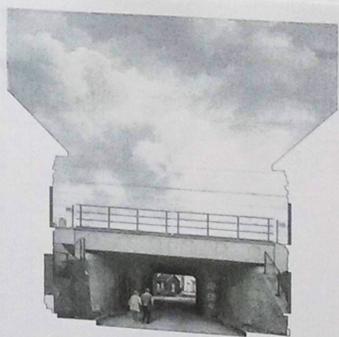


F
THE OVERPASS
Pedestrian bridge

"Everything we needed was already there, and it was our job simply to find and re-present these features through a discreet architecture."
George Descombes, 'The Swiss Way'

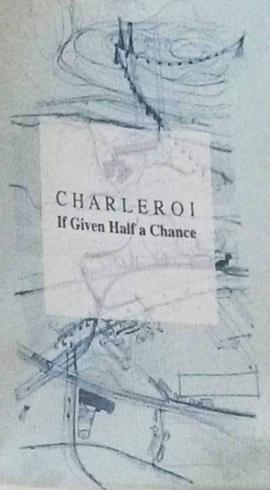


G
THE HIDDEN WAY
Active plant entrance



I
THE HIDDEN WAY
Residential area entrance

"Human tends to creep back into the most unlikely places if given half a chance"
Tommas Ooms



CHARLEROI
If Given Half a Chance

If Given Half a Chance, is an alternative landscape strategy for the rehabilitation of post industrial landscapes based on a case study of Charleroi. The project goal is to reconcile these abandoned places to people, by highlighting their authentic qualities. It aims to change people's perception of their environment through small design interventions.

The strategy based on the the fragment of the area 'Zone-1' and links Le Bougnon and Vilette neighborhoods.

The ambition of the projet is to enable Charleroi to benefit from its industrial past and empower the ability of a place to deliver a spatial narrative closely linked to the urban context.

Zona - 1
From Rue du Chemin de Fer to Rue de la Réunion 2 km

You are now standing on the top of the cable car station - an observation platform (A) which is the highest point of the terti chain, 158 m above sea level. You arrive here by following the hiking trail through the spoil tips range starting in the city centre, or straight from Le Bougnou residential area. From the observation platform you are treated to a stunning panoramic view over the city. In the Southern direction, it is possible to overlook the silhouette of the industrial landscape, which gradually shifts from these green terrils to factories.

Instead of following the car bridge, you can take a cable car from this station to arrive on the Industrial Island and visit the abandoned factory across the canal (B).

Cable transport in this area was used to connect the factories, transporting materials above the canal. These structures were forsaken and some of them were dismantled. The renewal of the cable car system reconciles with the industrial past, connecting it to people.

Landing on the 'Bunker station' you arrive in an alien landscape of stones, metal and ruins. The remnants of the bunker were a barren heap of sand. These relics of the bunker were adjusted to the requirements of the cable car station. The sand slope and the added staircase now invite you to climb on the top of the station and gaze upon the industrial heritage.



THE INDUSTRIAL SILHOUETTE
Observation platform

'Nature tends to creep back into the most unlikely places if given half a chance'

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Cable car link

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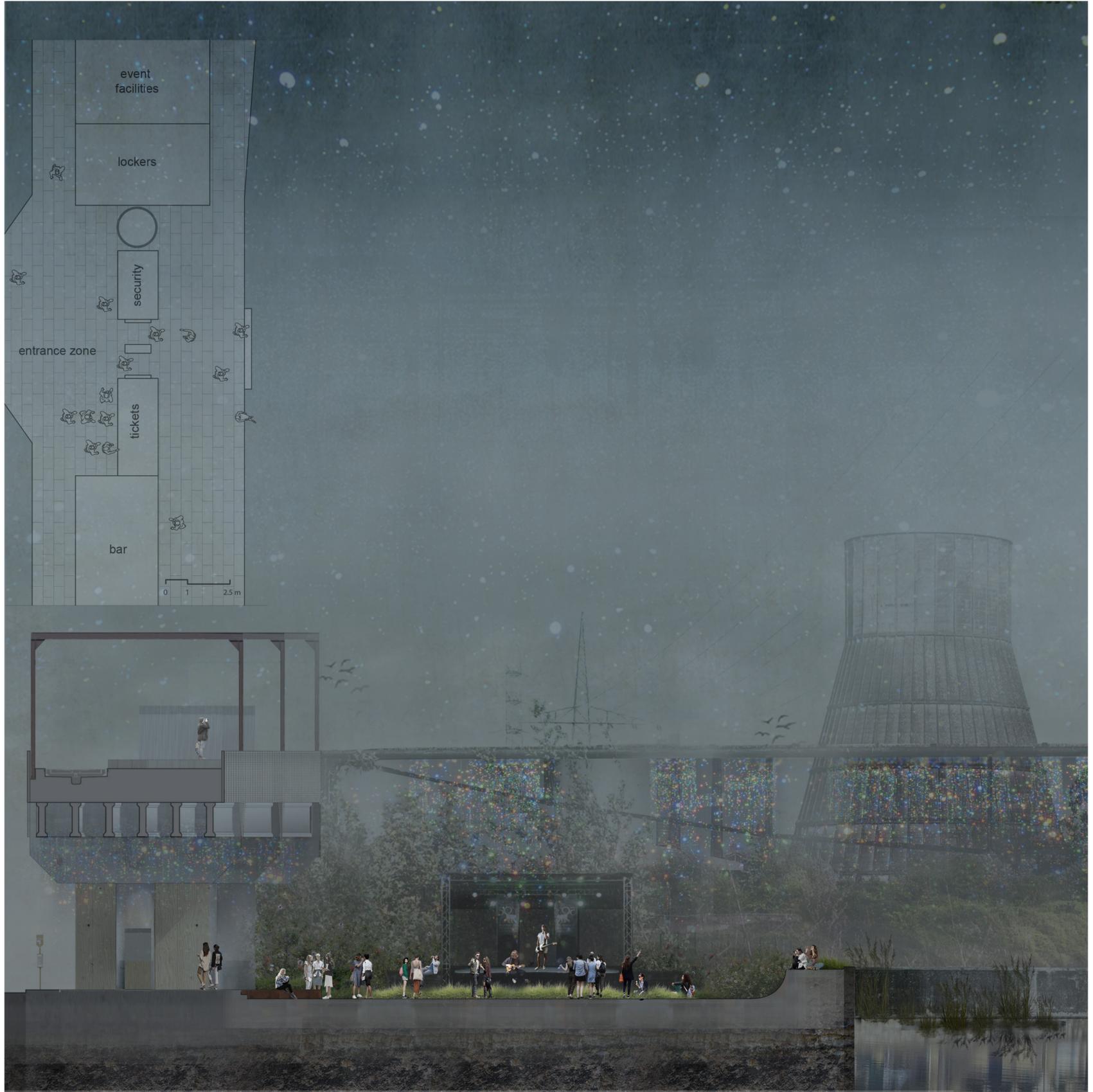
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Green corridor to the Rockerill



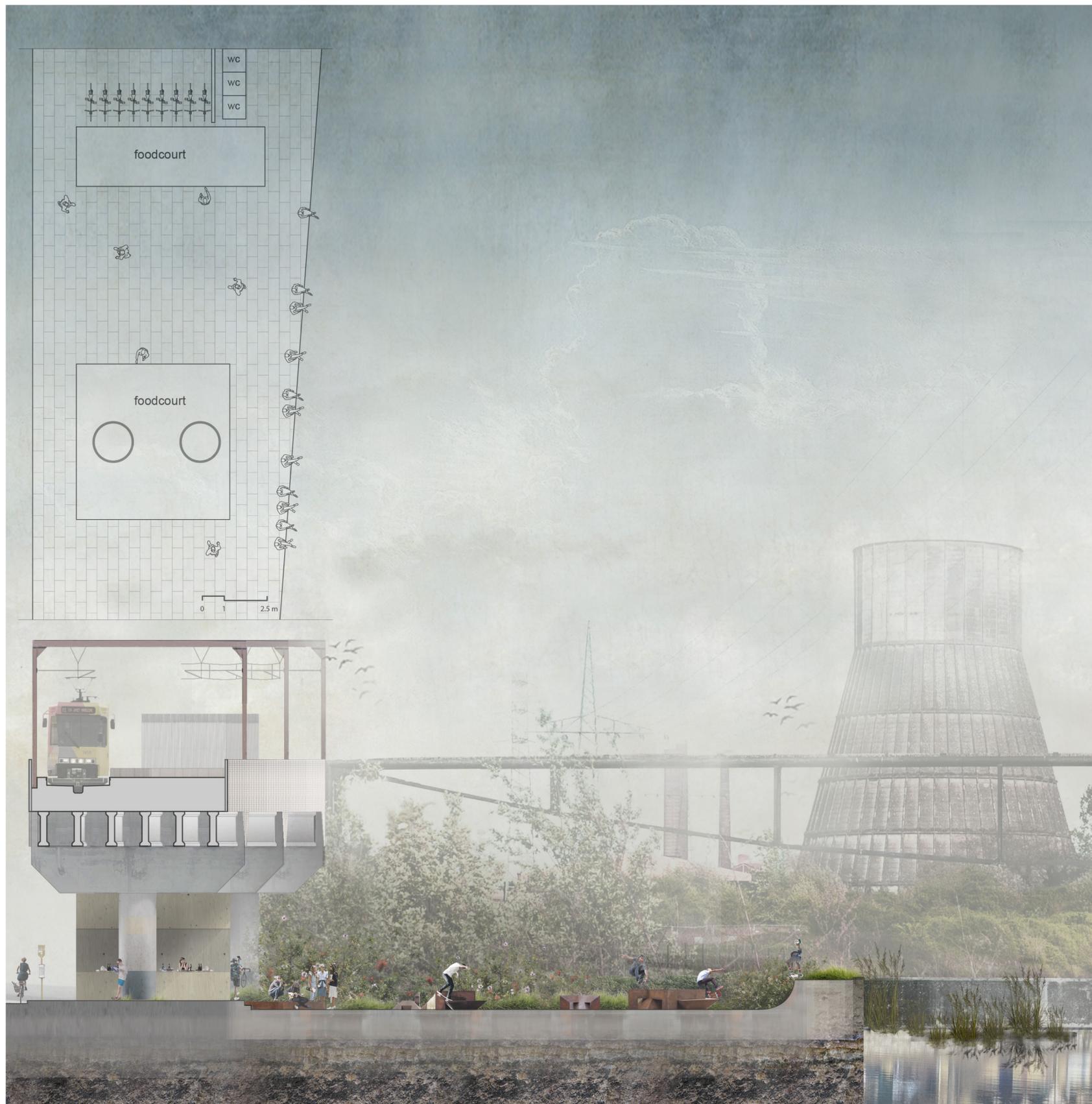
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Rockerill courtyard



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Plaza, everyday activities



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Residential area entrance