

A FRUITFUL COOPERATION OF URBAN METEOROLOGY AND DESIGN

THE REALCOOL PROJECT




A wide-angle photograph of a canal in Amsterdam. On the left, a paved walkway is lined with large, leafy green trees. A cafe with several white patio umbrellas is open, and many people are sitting at outdoor tables, some looking towards the canal. The canal itself is a calm body of water, reflecting the sky and the surrounding greenery. On the right side of the canal, there is a sidewalk with parked cars, including a black sedan. In the background, tall, historic buildings with many windows and a prominent church spire are visible. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and urban.

REALCOOL


REALLY COOLING WATER BODIES IN CITIES





it has been assumed that urban water bodies necessarily have a cooling effect but, during warm summer periods, this cooling effect is limited over day and actually often originates night time warming

(Hathway and Sharples, 2012; Steeneveld et al., 2014; Heusinkveld et al., 2014, Theeuwes et al., 2013; van Hove et al., 2015)



there are indications that the proper combination of shading, water vaporisation and ventilation around water can help to keep urban waterbodies and their surroundings cooler

(van Hove et al., 2015; Albers et al., 2015; Yokohari et al., 2011)

RESEARCH QUESTION

which combinations of urban water bodies with shading, water vaporisation and ventilation most effectively improve outdoor thermal sensation?



OBJECTIVE

to create design prototypes of the most cooling combinations of shading, water vaporisation and ventilation around urban water bodies – conceptual frameworks

**animated 3D scenes depicting
layout and biometeorological
effects**

TEAM

experts on bioclimatic urban design, urban meteorology, water and 3D modelling



OKRA

DE URBANISTEN

Tauw

National Institute for Public Health
and the Environment
Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

Gemeente
Amsterdam

Gemeente
Hoogeveen

Gemeente Utrecht

's-Hertogenbosch

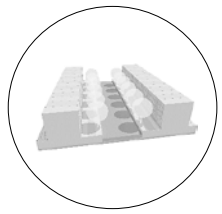
NWO Applied and
Engineering Sciences

SiA

AMS

an iterative, cumulative research process actively employing designing

(Lenzholzer, Duchart and van den Brink, 2016; Breen, 2002; de Jong and
van der Voordt, 2002; Nijhuis and Bobbink, 2012)



**inventory
'testbeds'**



critical comparison
UC1



design 1



test 1

expert judgements +
simulations + UC2

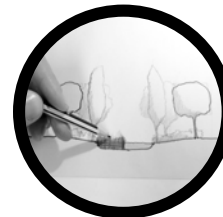


design 2



test 2

expert judgements +
simulations + UC3



design 3



test 3

expert judgments + inquiry +
'reality check' (simulations) + UC4



ITERATION 1
microclimate



ITERATION 2
water storage



ITERATION 3
urban design



design 4
last refinements



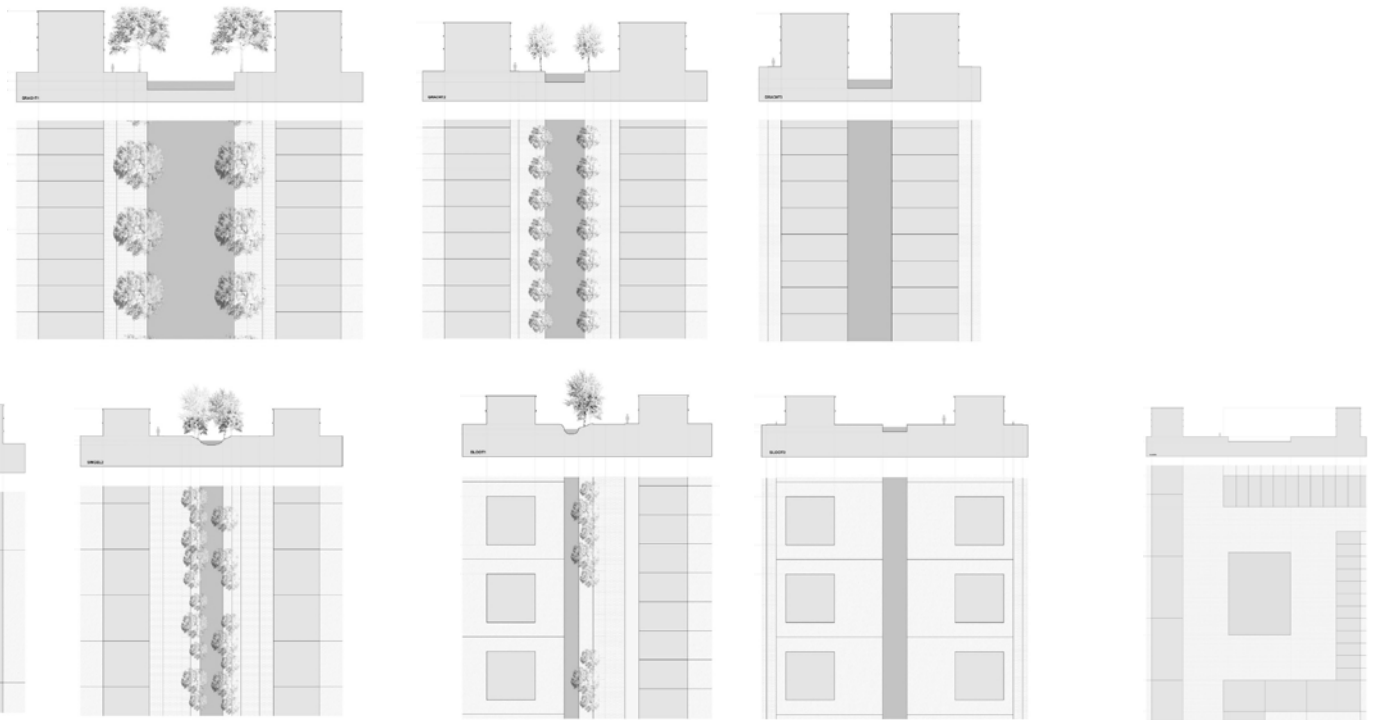
test 4
final simulations

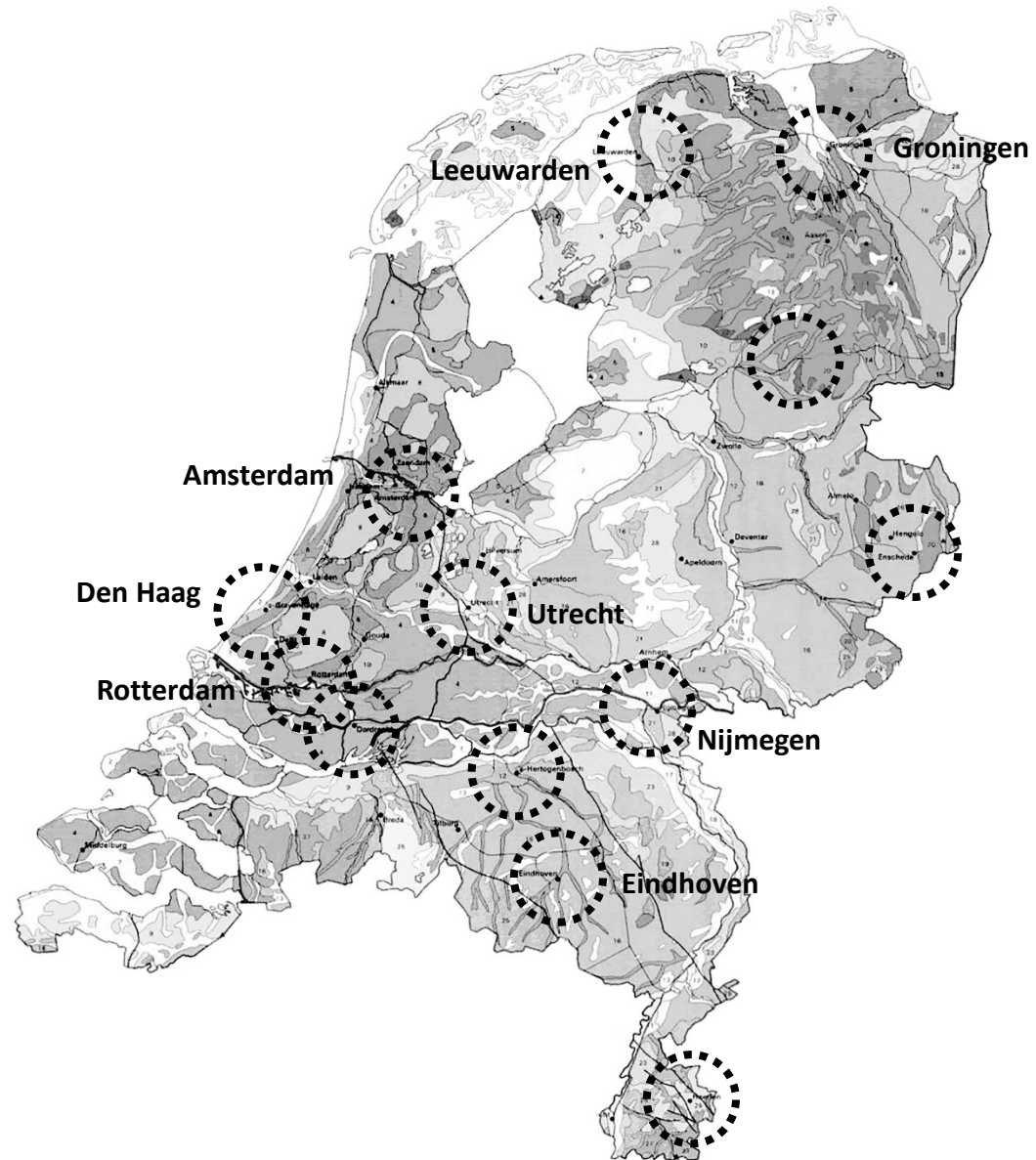


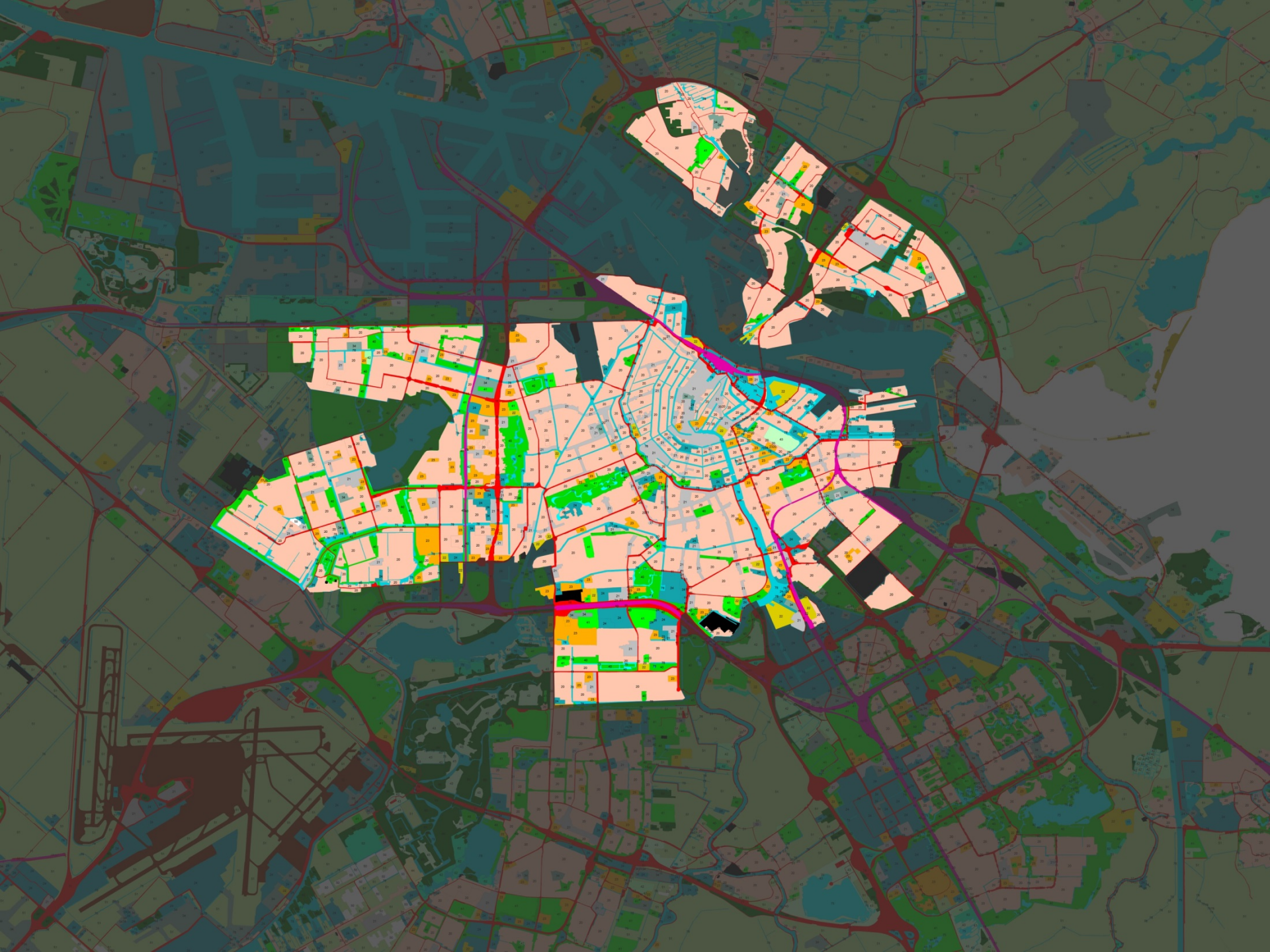
ITERATION 4
prototypes

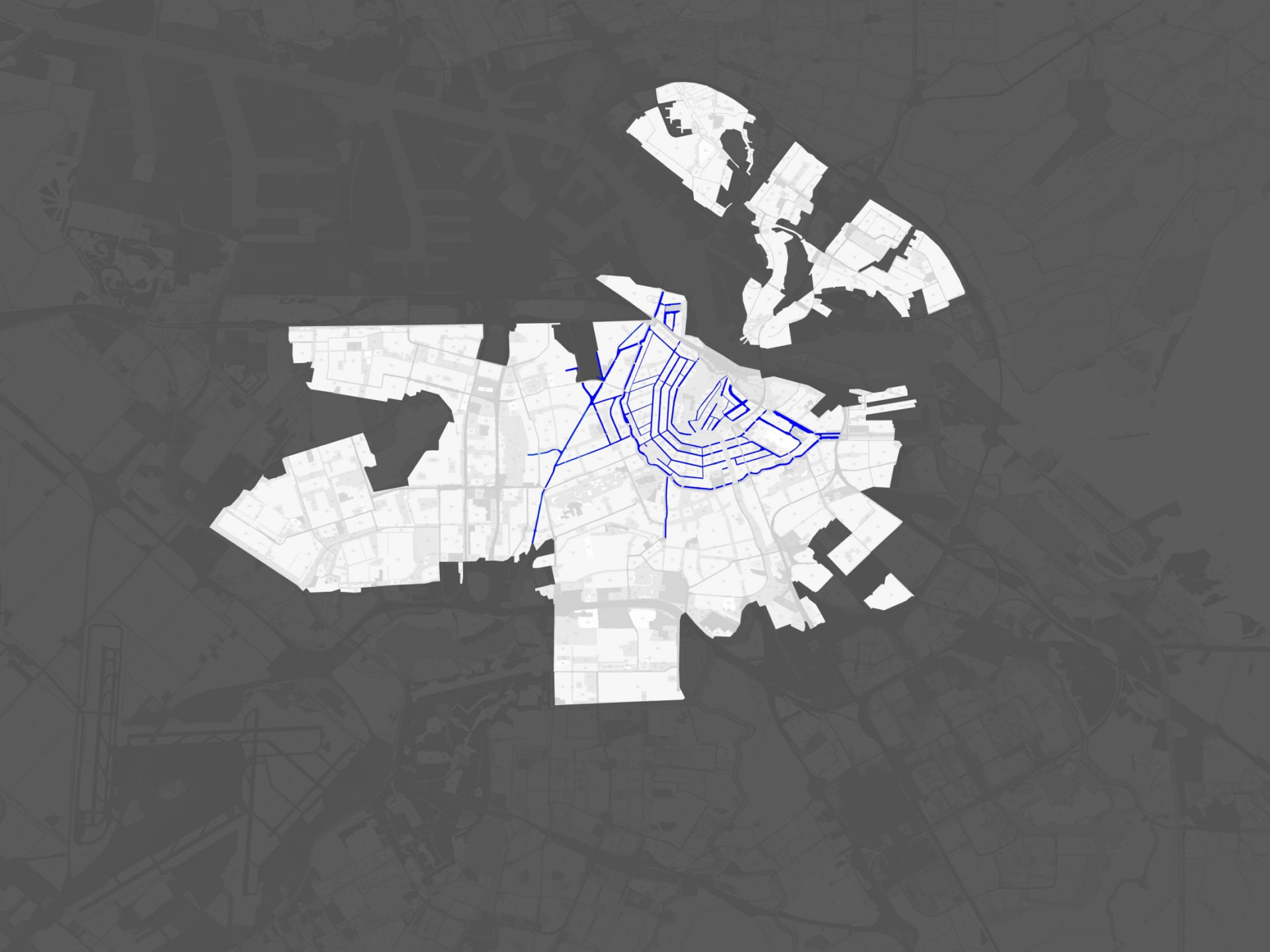
preparatory work

‘testbeds’ – spatial reference situations of common urban waterbodies upon which the prototypes are created











designing

experimenting with different combinations of shading, vaporisation and ventilation strategies around water



to reduce the thermal load placed upon people by increasing shading

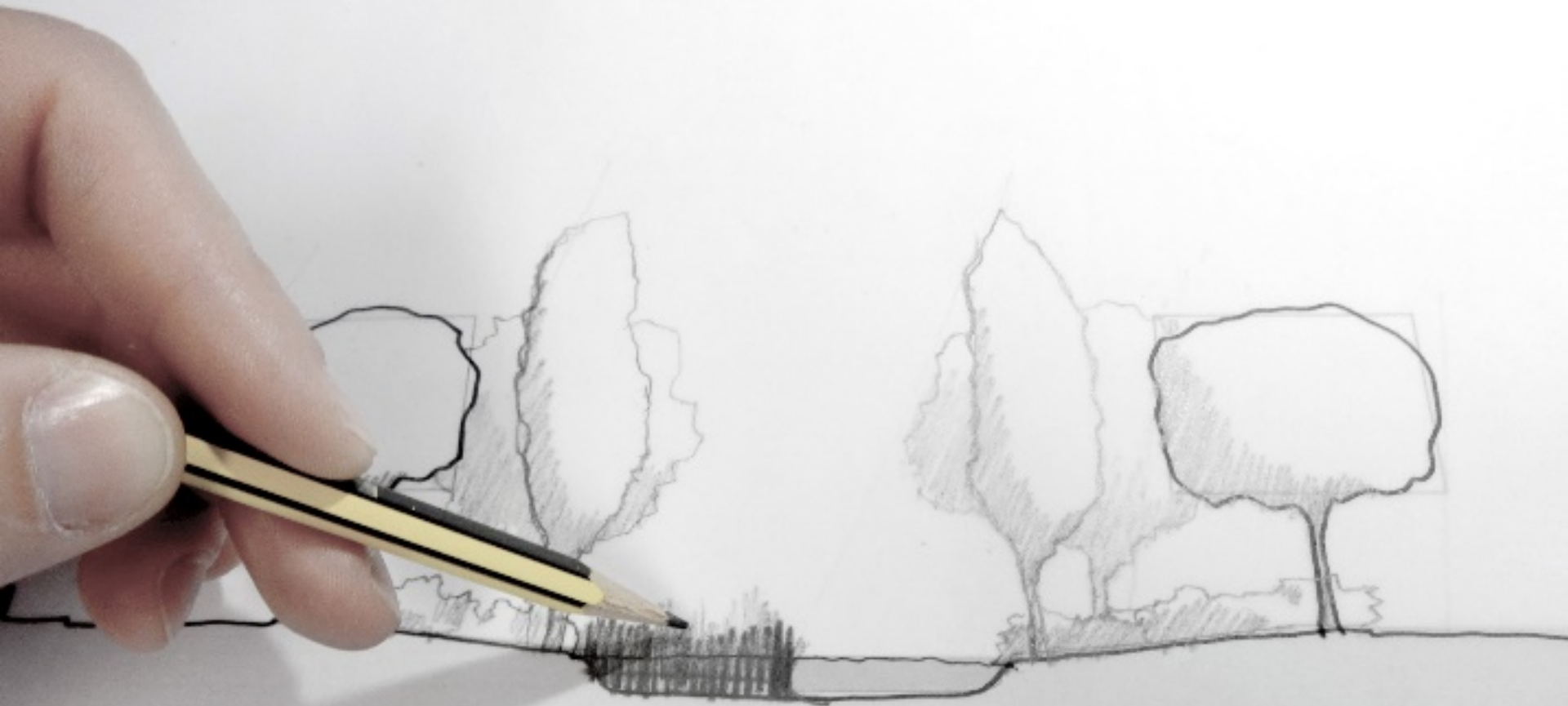


to cool the air through water vaporisation



to stimulate cooling by wind

typical tropical day
($T_{\max} \geq 30\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$) / 21st June /
solar noon (1.40 p.m.)





REALCOOL / DESIGN MATRIX

E-W

DESIGN ELEMENTS	DESIGN STRATEGIES															
	SHADING				EVAPORATION				VENTILATION				WATER			
Trees	n.a.	-1	0	2	3	n.a.	-1	0	1	2	3	n.a.	-1	0	1	2
SHRUBS	n.a.	-1	0	1	3	n.a.	-1	0	1	2	3	n.a.	-1	0	1	2
AQUATIC PLANTS	n.a.	-1	0	1	2	3	n.a.	-1	0	1	2	3	n.a.	-1	0	1
VINES	n.a.	-1	0	1	2	3	n.a.	-1	0	1	2	3	n.a.	-1	0	1
MOSSES	n.a.	-1	0	1	2	3	n.a.	-1	0	1	2	3	n.a.	-1	0	1
GREEN WALLS	n.a.	-1	0	1	2	3	n.a.	-1	0	1	2	3	n.a.	-1	0	1
SHADING DEVICES	n.a.	-1	0	1	2	3	n.a.	-1	0	1	2	3	n.a.	-1	0	1

testing

cooling effects of the design experiments

assessing on design criteria



expert judgements



micrometeorological simulations



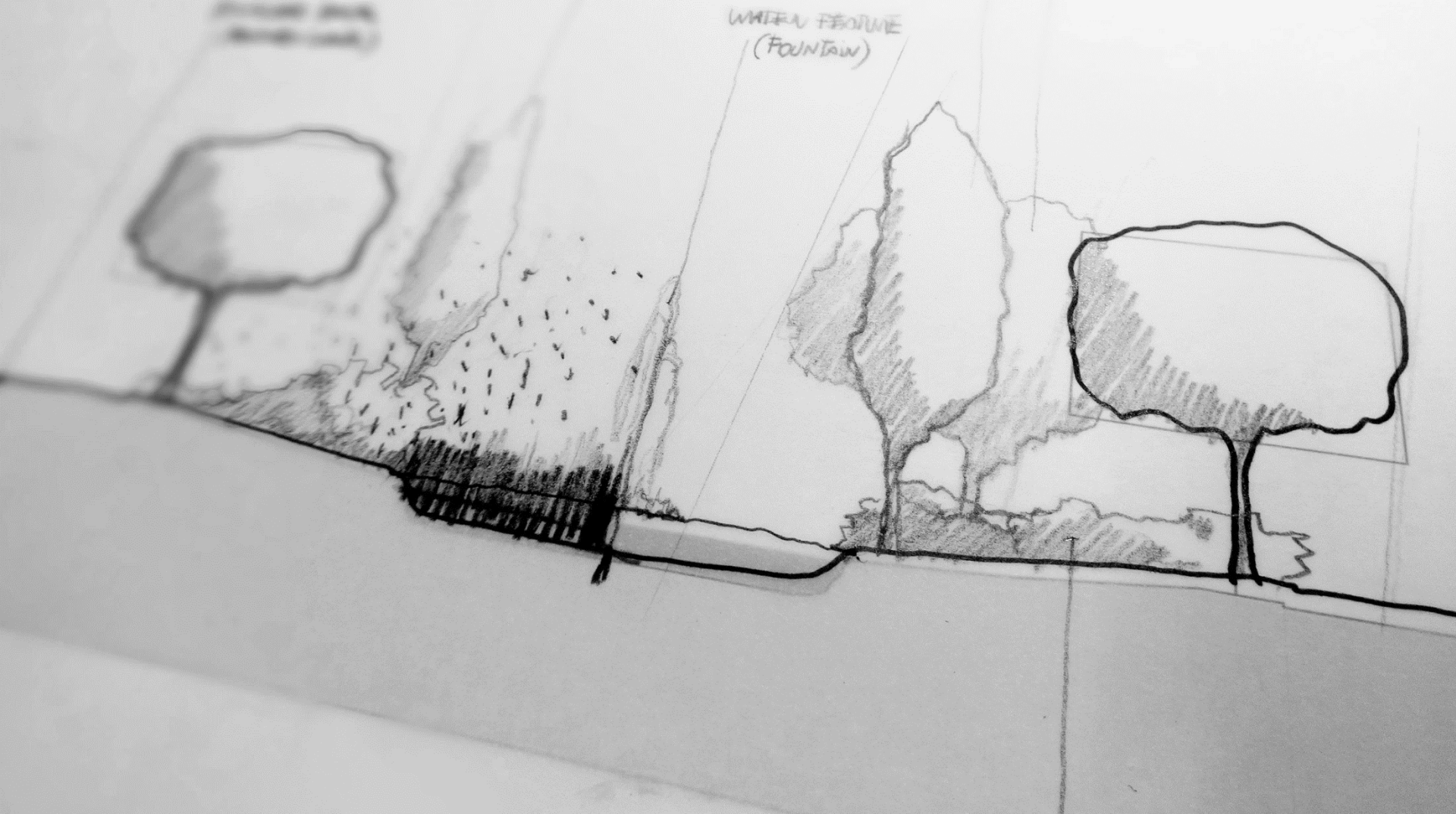
workshops with external committee

expert judgments

the most influential biometeorological
issues around the design experiments

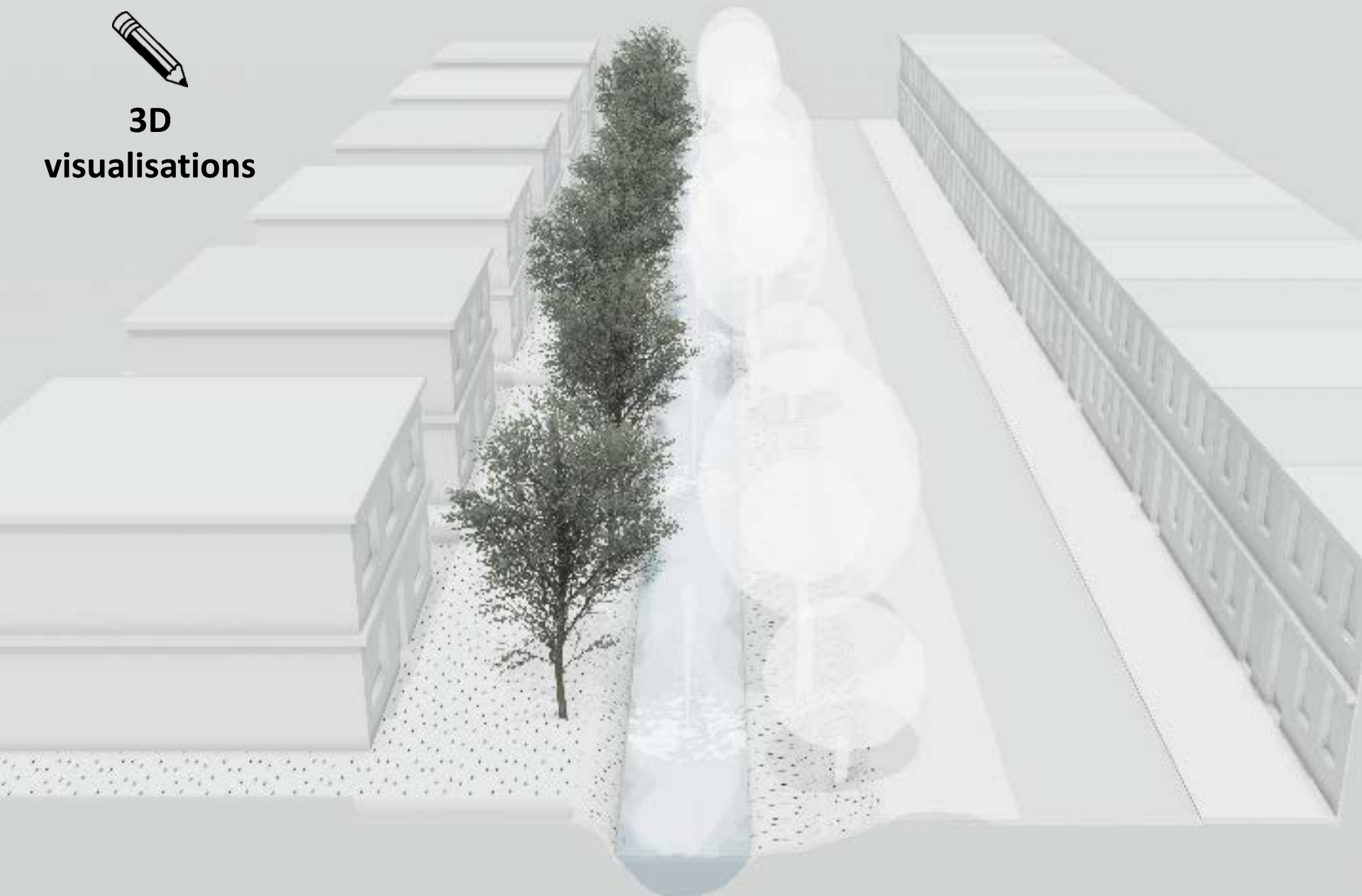


sketches



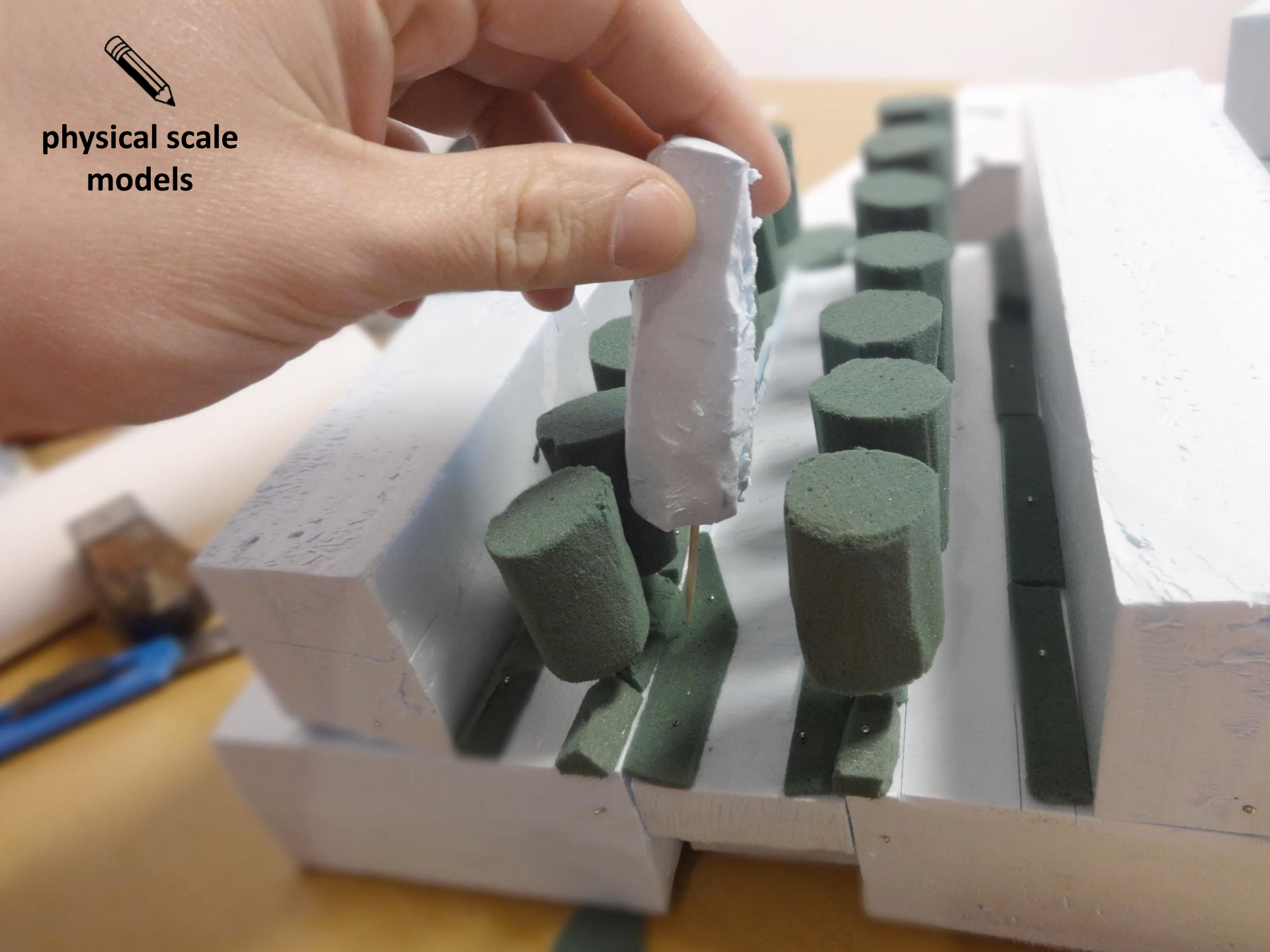


3D visualisations



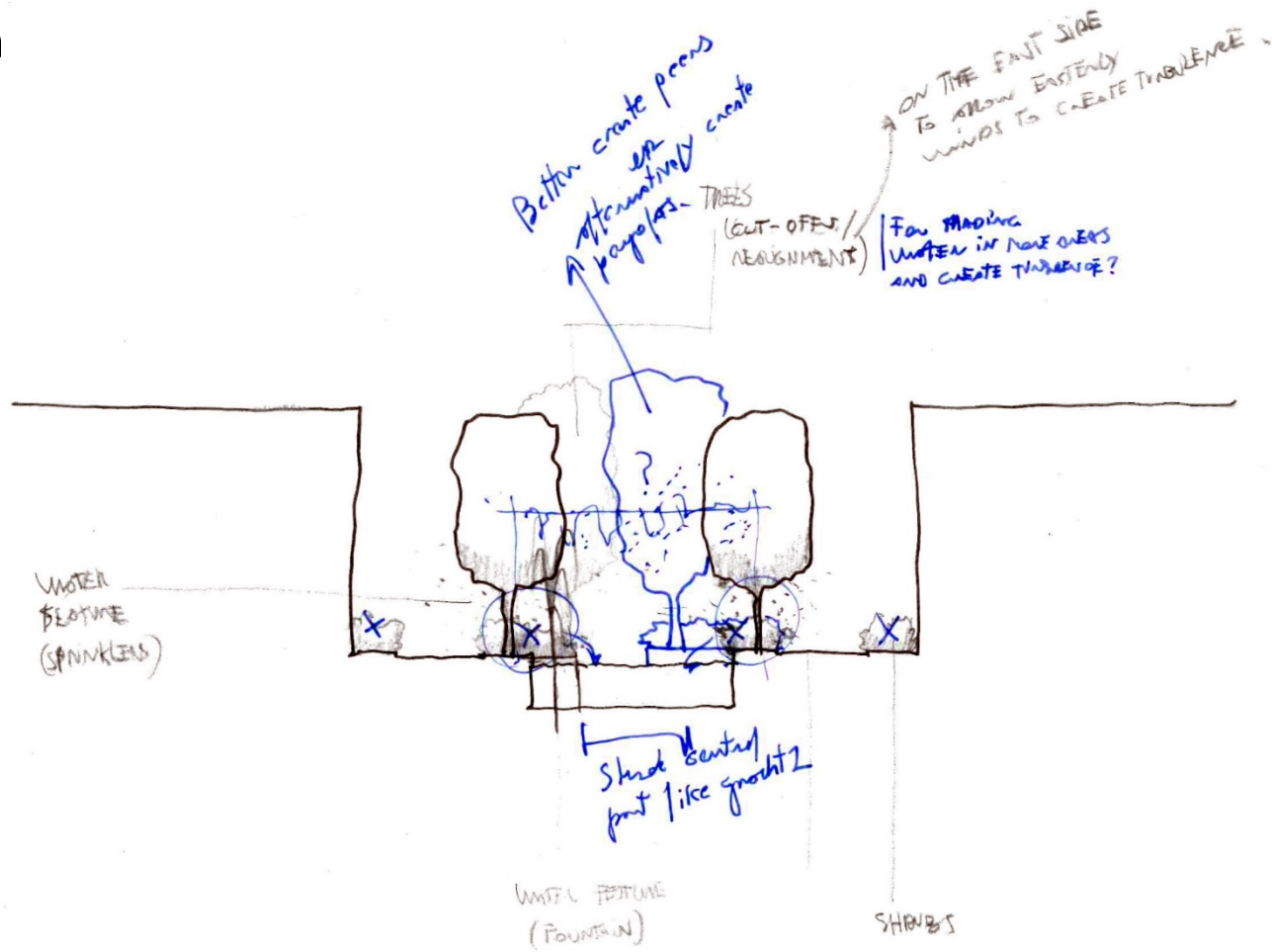


physical scale
models



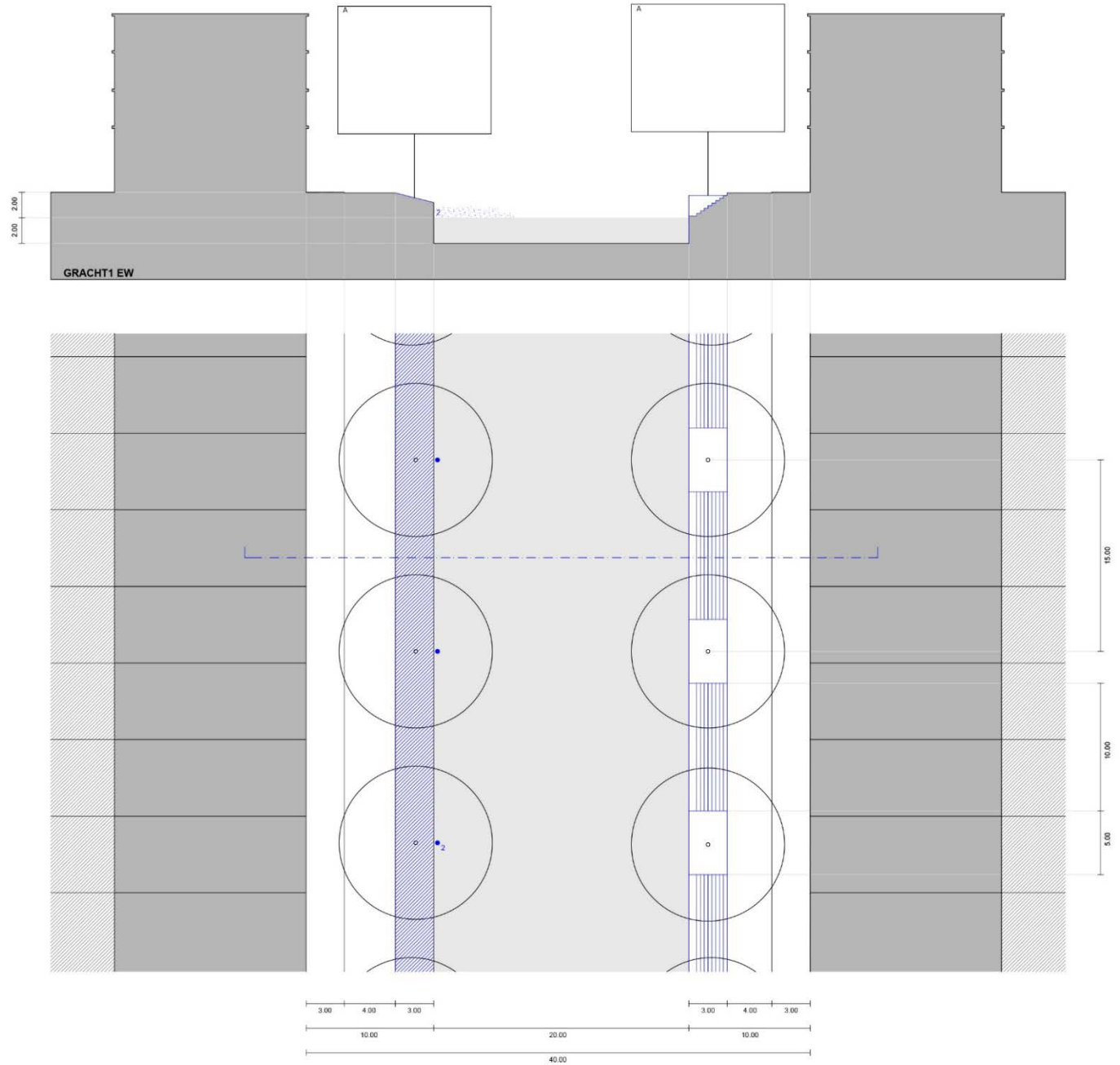


critical discussion





2D drawings





specifications

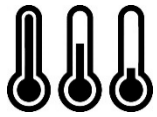
Category		GRACHT / CANAL			SINGEL / BOULEVARD		SLOOT / DITCH		VIJVER / POND
Designation		GRACHT1	GRACHT2	GRACHT3	SINGEL1	SINGEL2	SLOOT1	SLOOT2	VIJVER1
City / testbed code		AMSTERDAM / AMS1	DELFT / DEL1	DORDRECHT / DOR2	DORDRECHT / DOR3	UTRECHT / UTR3	AMSTERDAM / AMS3	LEEWARDEN / LEE3	DEN HAAG / HAA2
Soil type		CLAY	CLAY + PEAT	CLAY + PEAT	CLAY + PEAT	CLAY	CLAY	CLAY + PEAT	PEAT + SAND
Width of canyon (m)		45.000	5.800	900	1.000	3.400	1.300	5.400	1.200 (m ²)
Climate		CITY	CITY CENTRE	CITY CENTRE	CITY PERIPHERY	CITY	CITY PERIPHERY	CITY PERIPHERY	CITY CENTRE
H/W ratio	H/W ratio	MEDIUM / 0.35	MEDIUM / 0.44	HIGH / 1.7	LOW / 0.15	LOW / 0.22	MEDIUM / 0.27	MEDIUM / 0.24	LOW / 0.17
	SVF	PARTIAL OBSTRUC	PARTIAL OBSTRUC	PARTIAL OBSTRUC	LITTLE OBSTRUC	PARTIAL OBSTRUC	LITTLE OBSTRUC	LITTLE OBSTRUC	NO OBSTRUC
	Building heights	4	3	4 + 1 (below street)	3	2	2	2	4
Paving materials	Material	RED BRICK	RED BRICK	NO PAVING	CONCRETE + ASPHALT + GRASSES	RED BRICK + GRASSES	RED BRICK + CONCRETE + GRASSES	GRASSES (BACKYARDS)	RED BRICK
	Impermeability	IMPERM / 1.00	IMPERM / 1.00	no quays – buildings directly connected to the canal	MIX	MIX	MIX	PERM / 0.10-0.00	IMPERM / 1.00
	Albedo	MEDIUM / 0.30	MEDIUM / 0.30		MEDIUM / 0.30 (c) + 0.05 (a) + 0.25 (g)	MEDIUM / 0.30 (rb) + 0.25 (g)	MEDIUM / 0.30 (rb) + 0.30 (c) + 0.25 (g)	LOW / 0.25	MEDIUM / 0.30
	Emissivity	HIGH / 0.90	HIGH / 0.90		HIGH / 0.94 (c) + 0.93 (a) + 0.95 (g)	HIGH / 0.90 (rb) + 0.95 (g)	HIGH / 0.90 (rb) + 0.94 (c) + 0.95 (g)	HIGH / 0.95	HIGH / 0.90
Building materials	Facade material	RED BRICK	RED BRICK	RED BRICK	RED BRICK	RED BRICK	RED BRICK	RED BRICK	RED BRICK
	Albedo	MEDIUM / 0.30	MEDIUM / 0.30	MEDIUM / 0.30	MEDIUM / 0.30	MEDIUM / 0.30	MEDIUM / 0.30	MEDIUM / 0.30	MEDIUM / 0.30
	Emissivity	HIGH / 0.90	HIGH / 0.90	HIGH / 0.90	HIGH / 0.90	HIGH / 0.90	HIGH / 0.90	HIGH / 0.90	HIGH / 0.90
	Roof material	RED TILE	RED TILE	RED TILE	RED TILE	RED TILE	RED TILE	RED TILE	RED TILE
	Albedo	MEDIUM / 0.30	MEDIUM / 0.30	MEDIUM / 0.30	MEDIUM / 0.30	MEDIUM / 0.30	MEDIUM / 0.30	MEDIUM / 0.30	MEDIUM / 0.30
Vegetation*	Species	ULMUS / ELM	ULMUS / ELM	NO VEGETATION no quays – buildings directly connected to the canal	MIX	MIX	MIX	MIX	-
	Category	TREE	TREE		MIX	MIX	MIX	MIX	-
	Vegetative cycle	DECIDUOUS	DECIDUOUS		MIX	MIX	MIX	MIX	-
	Tree height	MATURE / 15m	MEDIUM / 10m		MEDIUM / 10m	MEDIUM / 10m + YOUNG / 5m	MEDIUM / 10m + YOUNG / 5m	MEDIUM / 10m + YOUNG / 5m	-
Predominant colours		WARM	WARM	WARM	WARM	WARM	WARM	WARM	WARM
Width of water (m)		20.00	9.00	10.00	12.00	5.00	3.00	5.00	40.00 * 30.00
Depth of water (m)		2.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.50

Envi-met plants species	Code	Species	Height (m)	Diameter (m)	Trunk height (m)	Crown height (m)	Crown shape	Foliage albedo
	A	'Feld ulme'	15.00	12.00	5.00	10.00	Rectangular	0.18
	A1	'Feld ulme'	15.00	9.00	5.00	10.00	Rectangular	0.18
	B	'Feld ulme'	10.00	8.00	4.00	7.00	Rectangular	0.18
	C	'Feld ulme'	10.00	5.00	3.00	7.00	Rectangular	0.18
	C1	'Feld ulme'	10.00	5.00	4.00	7.00	Rectangular	0.18
	D	'Schwartzpappel'	5.00	4.00	2.00	4.00	Circular	0.40
	F	'Feld ulme'	14.00	6.00	3.00	11.00	Rectangular	0.18
	H	Vines + shading device	3.00 (above water)	-	-	-	-	-

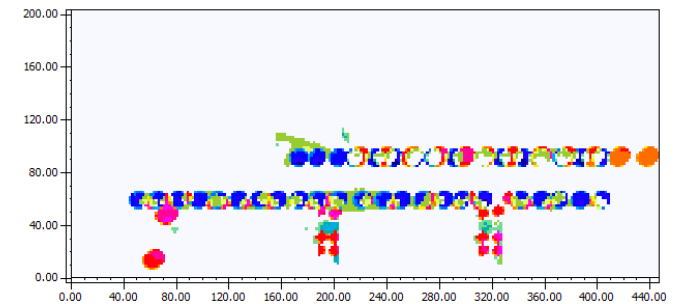
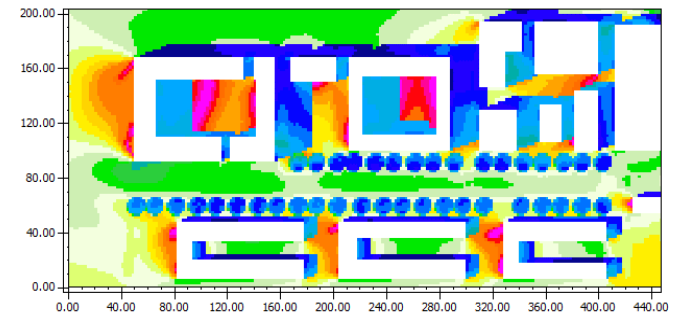
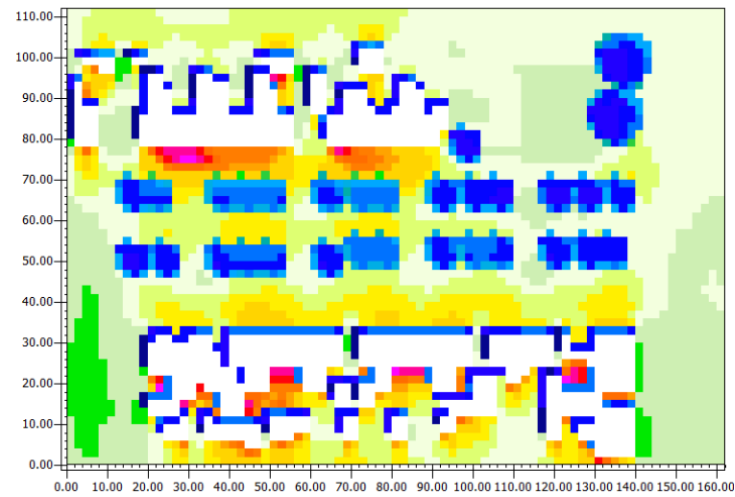
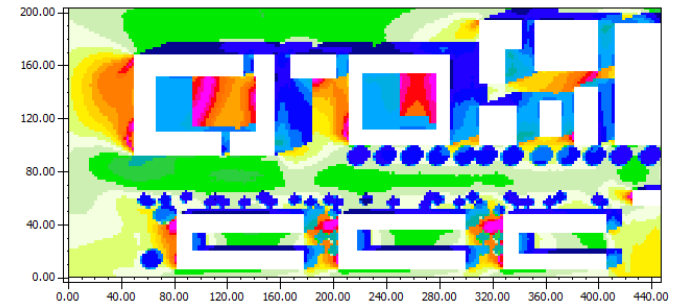
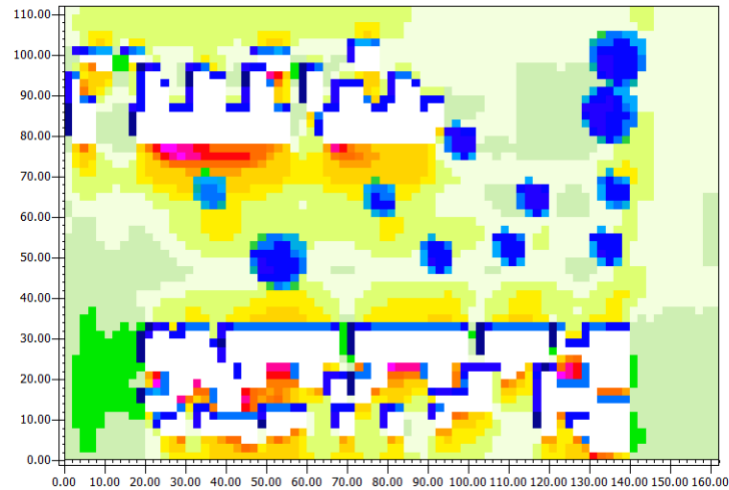
Envi-met water features	Code	Water feature	Height (m)
	1	Fountain	4.00 (above water)
	2	Sprinkler / water mist	Near water surface

micrometeorological simulations

quantifying cooling effects with Envi-met

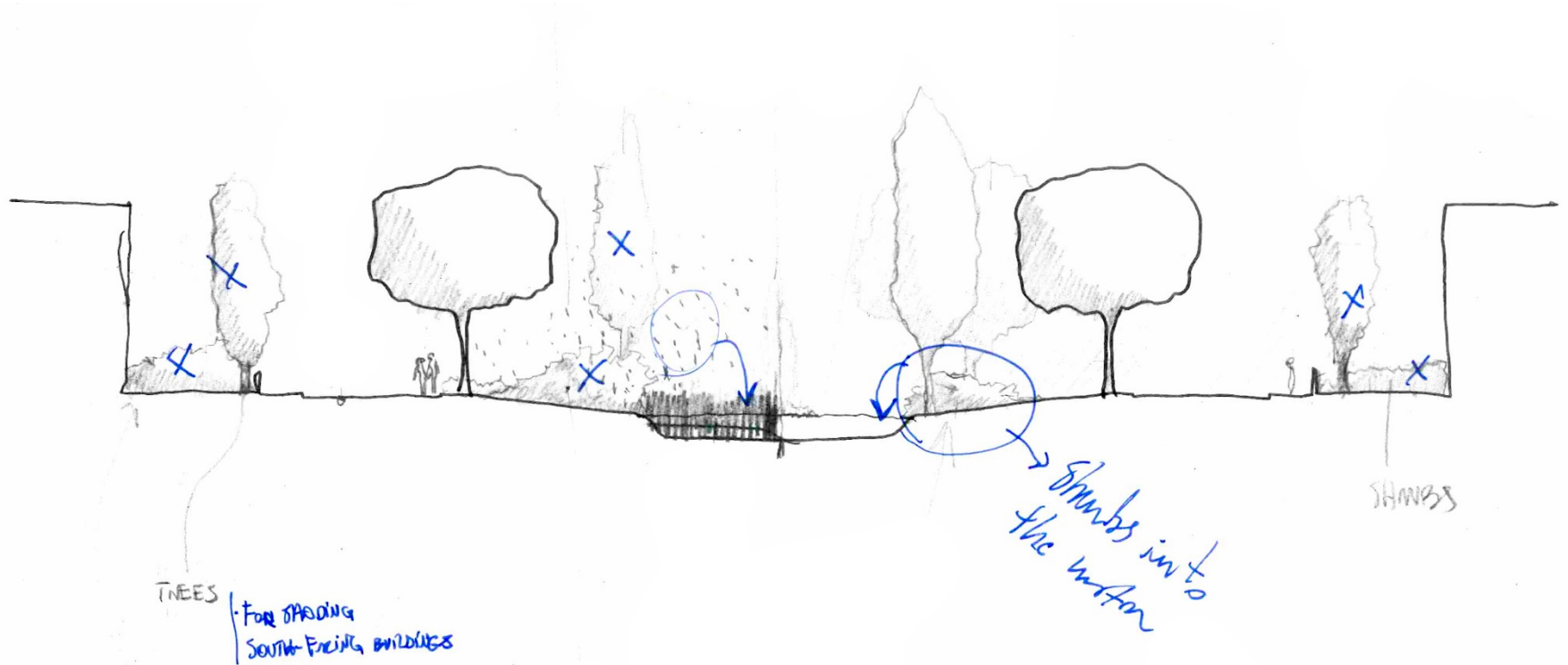


PET maps



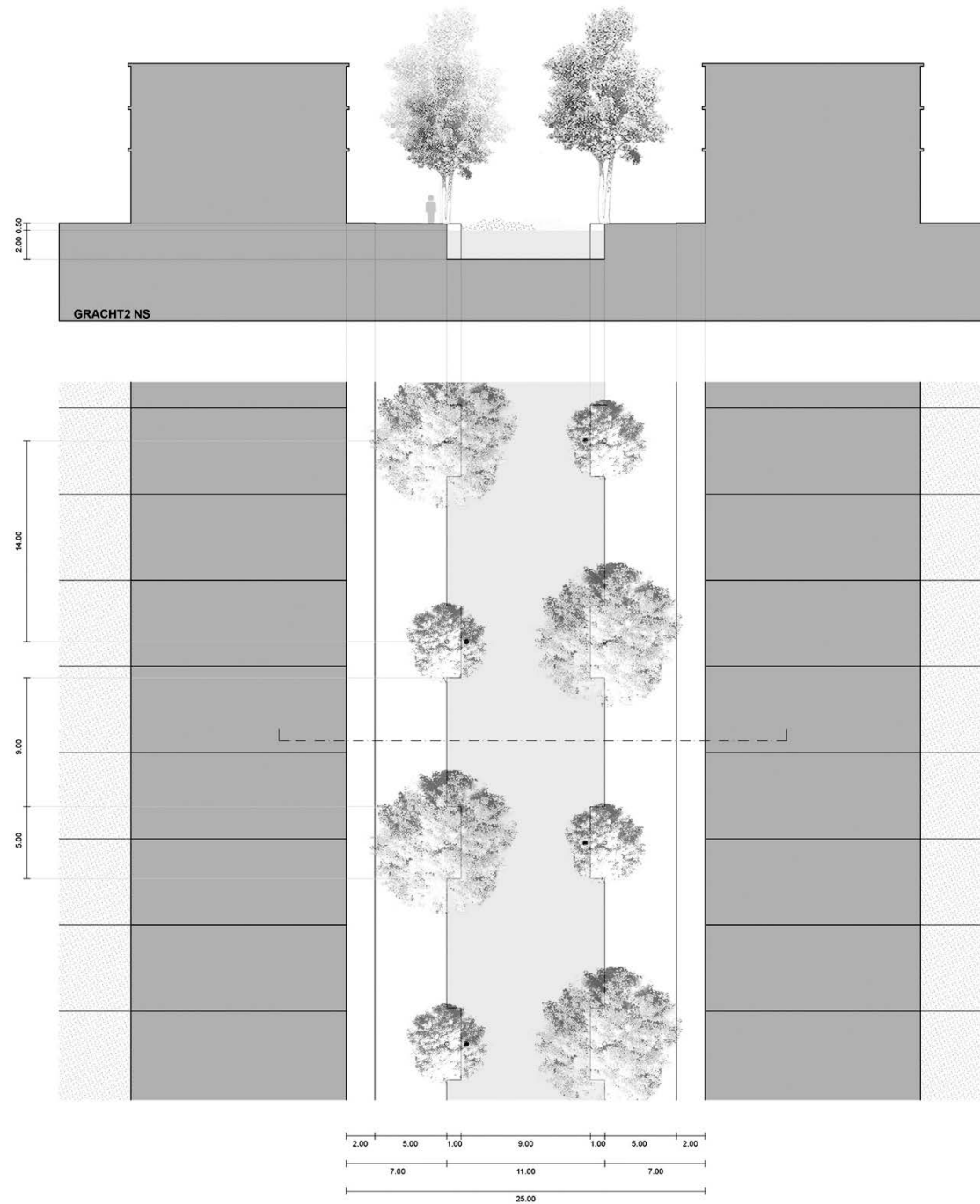


critical discussion



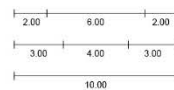
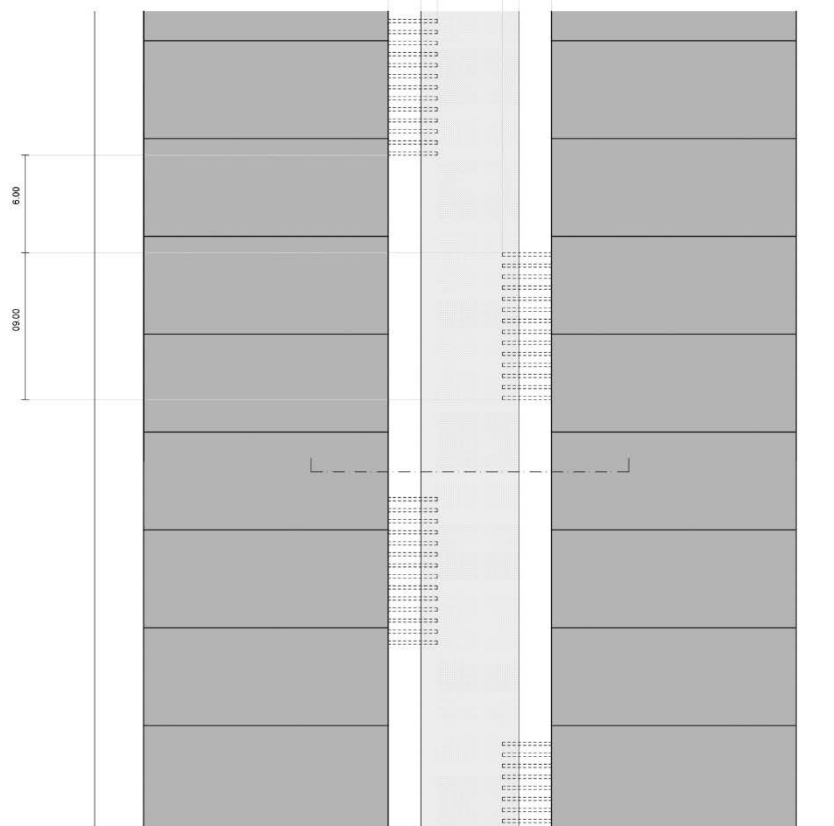
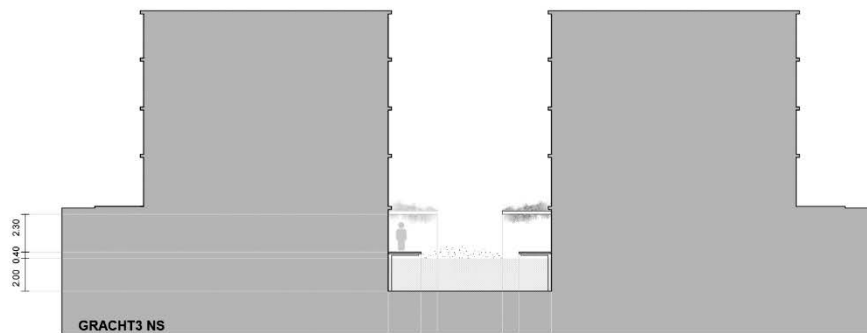


final drawings

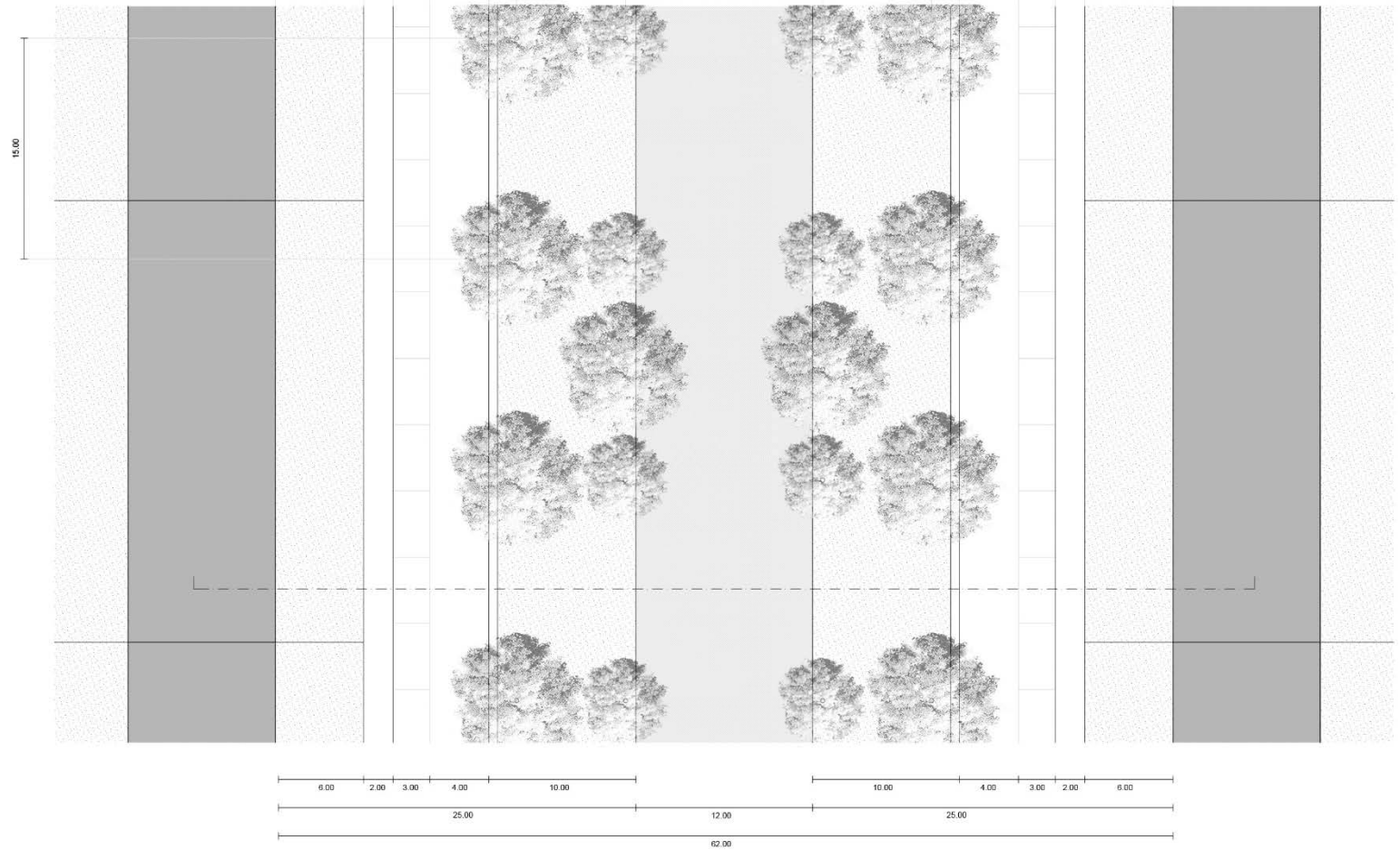
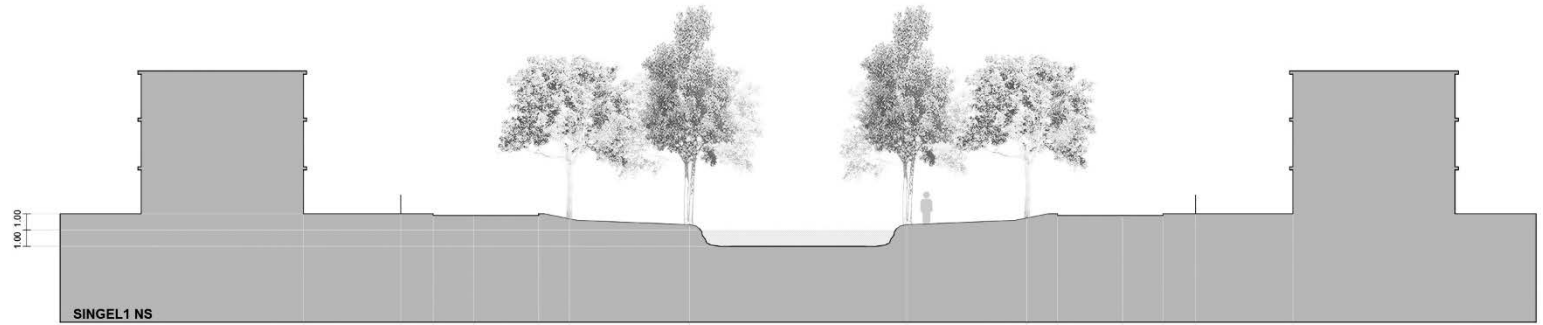




final drawings




**final
drawings**



our fruitful cooperation

curiosity

gave flexibility and
ease to the process

**openness to the
different
'vocabularies'**

for communication
efficiency

e.g. functionality
explaining specific terms

**finding ways of
enabling experts
to communicate**

for communication
efficiency

e.g. models, simple
drawings, different media

**coupling
methodologies**

for keeping
expectations real

e.g. discussing work
plan, adjusting timings

we need fruitful cooperation!

a 'design' as the object of inquiry is challenging for meteorological research



the synergetic combination of measures is a challenge for urban designers



**improved
urban
climates**

CONCLUSIONS

MICROCLIMATE

1. little can be done through design to achieve cool small urban water bodies
2. urban design can create cooler urban water environments: lower PET (1-7 °C at 15h) or redistribute heat
 - 2.1. shading is the most important factor (tree heights above 10 m)
 - 2.2. openness allows cooling by wind
 - 2.3. evaporating water through fountains (4 m high) and sprays has a maximum local cooling effect of 0.5 °C

CONCLUSIONS

COOPERATION

3. **the close dialogue generated evidence-based prototypes with practical relevance**
4. **urban meteorology and design can better cooperate by:**
 - 4.1. **being curious about and open to each other**
 - 4.2. **finding (creative) ways of enabling communication**
 - 4.3. **coupling methodologies**