

Zaanstad

Present condition

Caso, Olindo

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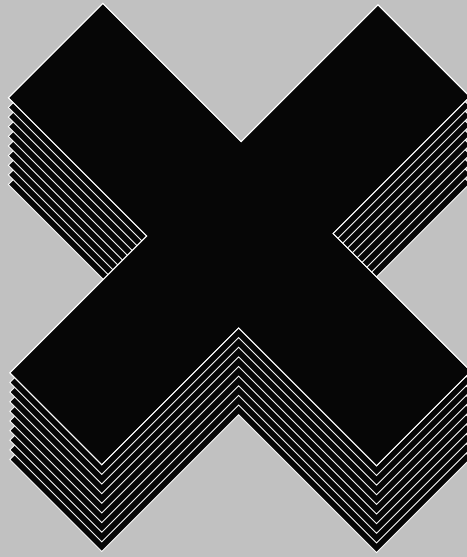
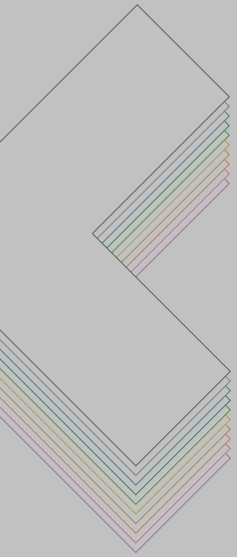
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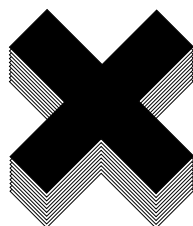
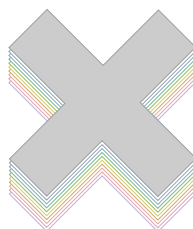
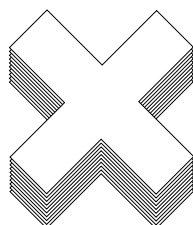
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KAAN Architecten

Project leaders

Hrvoje Smidihen
Manuela Triggianese

Tutors

Hrvoje Smidihen
Luc Willekens
Manuela Triggianese
Olindo Caso
Stefan de Koning
Steven Steenbruugen
Sven Jansse

Complex Projects Students**Amstel**

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Chenxi Dai
Hendrik Vogelpoel
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Rosa Steenkamp
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Amsterdam Totaal

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Zaanstad

Present condition; Text by Olindo Caso

Known as an industrial site before anything else, Zaanstad is the next area to be redeveloped to accommodate the rapidly expanding city centre of Amsterdam. The current debate on the fate of this site which encompasses part of Haven-stad is between preserving the industrial heritage of the past, or, invoking a form of tabula rasa and developing the site from scratch.

The site is characterised by an overwhelming landscape of open spaces comprising of water (the IJ, articulated into piers, ports and bays), the large Petroleumhaven (whose future is linked to that of fossil fuel) and green spaces that are largely inaccessible. Other than the large building grain and dense presence of silos, there seems to be little evidence of urban planning other than for logistics and transportation of industrial goods.

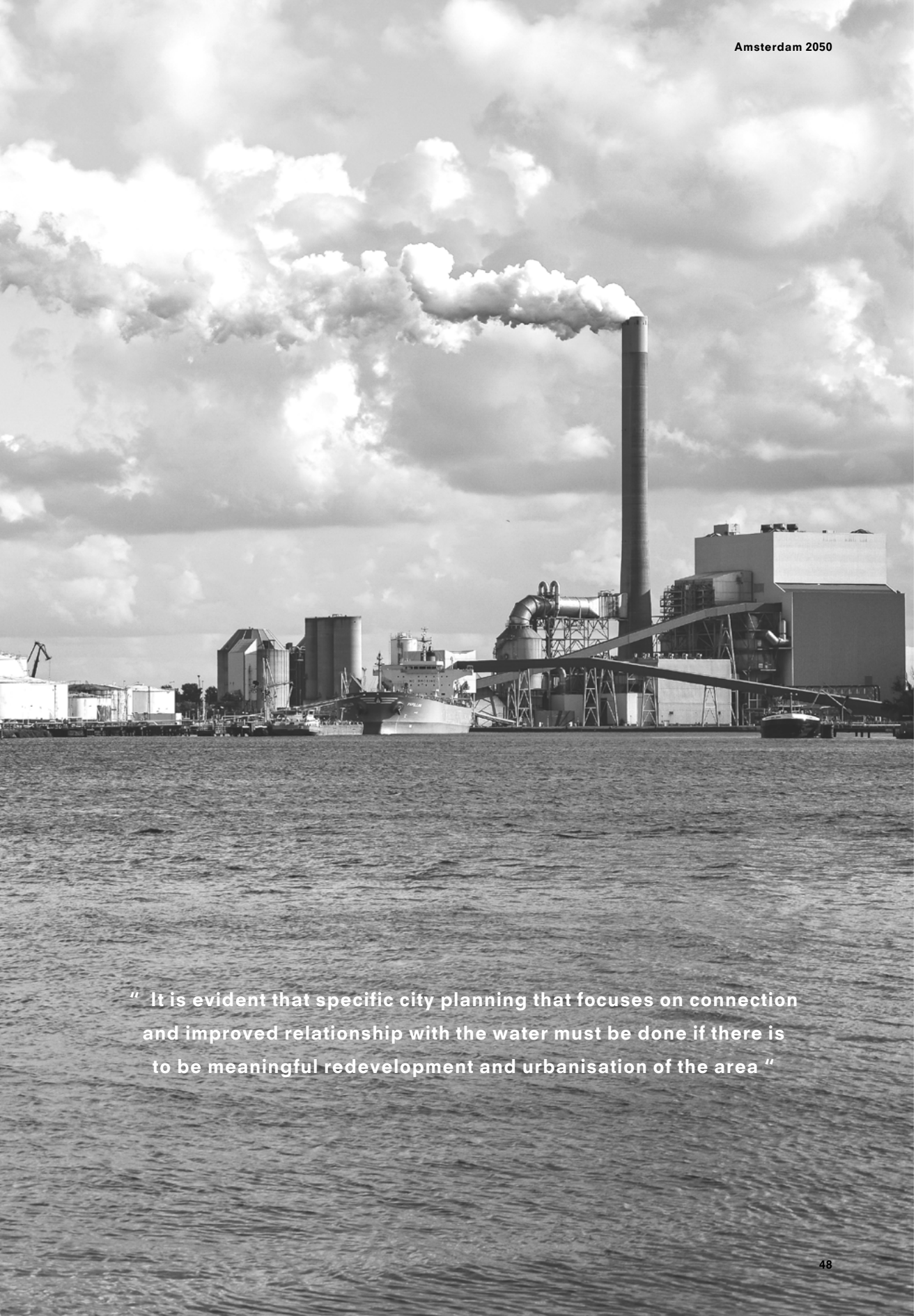
The IJ, historical gateway into The Netherlands is ironically the very barrier for the site of Zaanstad as it acts as a 'highway' for naval transport and restricts movement and connection between the two masses of land. It is evident that specific city planning that focuses on connection and improved relationship with the water must be done if there is to be meaningful redevelopment and urbanisation of the area.





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“ It is evident that specific city planning that focuses on connection and improved relationship with the water must be done if there is to be meaningful redevelopment and urbanisation of the area “