

Chapter 4 Concept



1. Eastern Scheldt storm surge barrier

West 8

West 8 designed the surrounding landscape of the Eastern Scheldt storm surge barrier by flattening out the sand into a broad expanse covered with shells. At high water, these shells provide the ideal grounding place for coastal birds. Birds select areas which provide optimal camouflage. The white birds settle upon white shells and black birds upon black shells (Tepper,2011). The design manipulated the organisation of the shells into artificial, rhythmic lines placing emphasis on the settlement nature of the bird colonies. The design offers the motorist crossing the storm surge barrier and interesting take on the regional bird life as well as breathtaking views across the ocean. The designers solved a real problem of the storm water but also focused on the surrounding landscape and how it might be an educational experience for the motorist. The nature of the project displays a reactivity to regional aspects by illustrating the essence of a place through a designed landscape.



Figure_4.1. West 8's abstract sea shells (Tepper,2011)

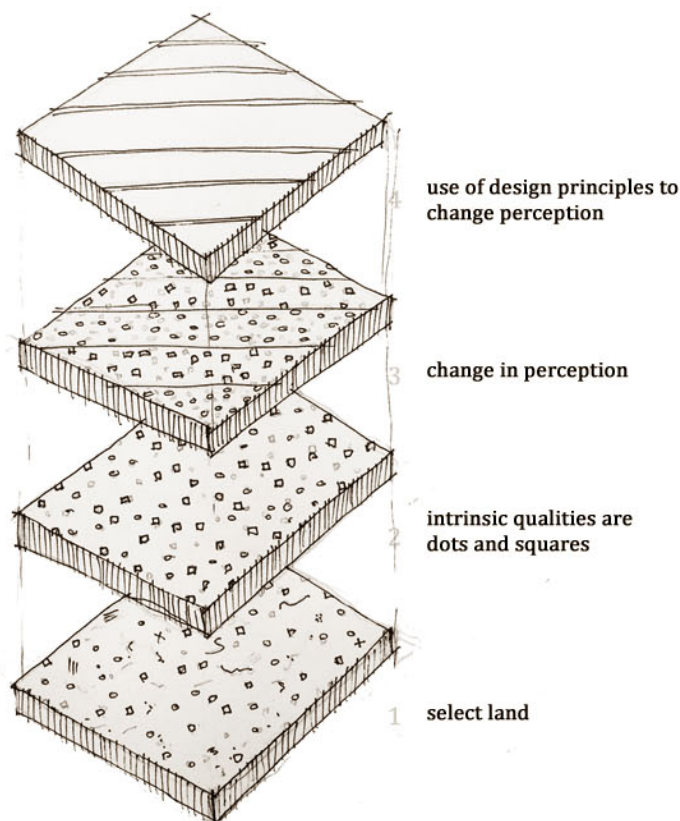
2. Concept: Unlocking the landscape

The author has identified a means by which the landscape may be *unlocked*. The concept of unlocking is to be understood as the process of making something plain or obvious. It includes the attempt to change how one perceives.

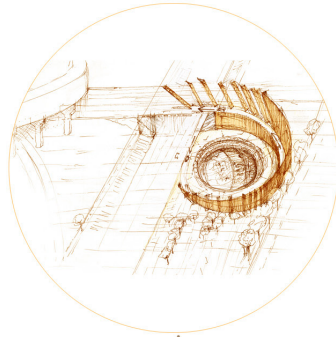
The intention of this concept is not necessarily to change *what* one sees but rather *how* one sees. Ultimately changing perceptions.

Steps to UNLOCKING the regional landscape

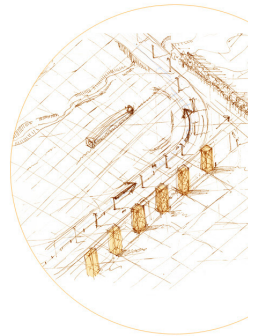
1. Select land to unlock
2. Identify intrinsic characteristics of the selected environment
3. Change *how* one sees intrinsic characteristics. Do not change the characteristic inherent qualities.
4. Achieve change in perception through design principles



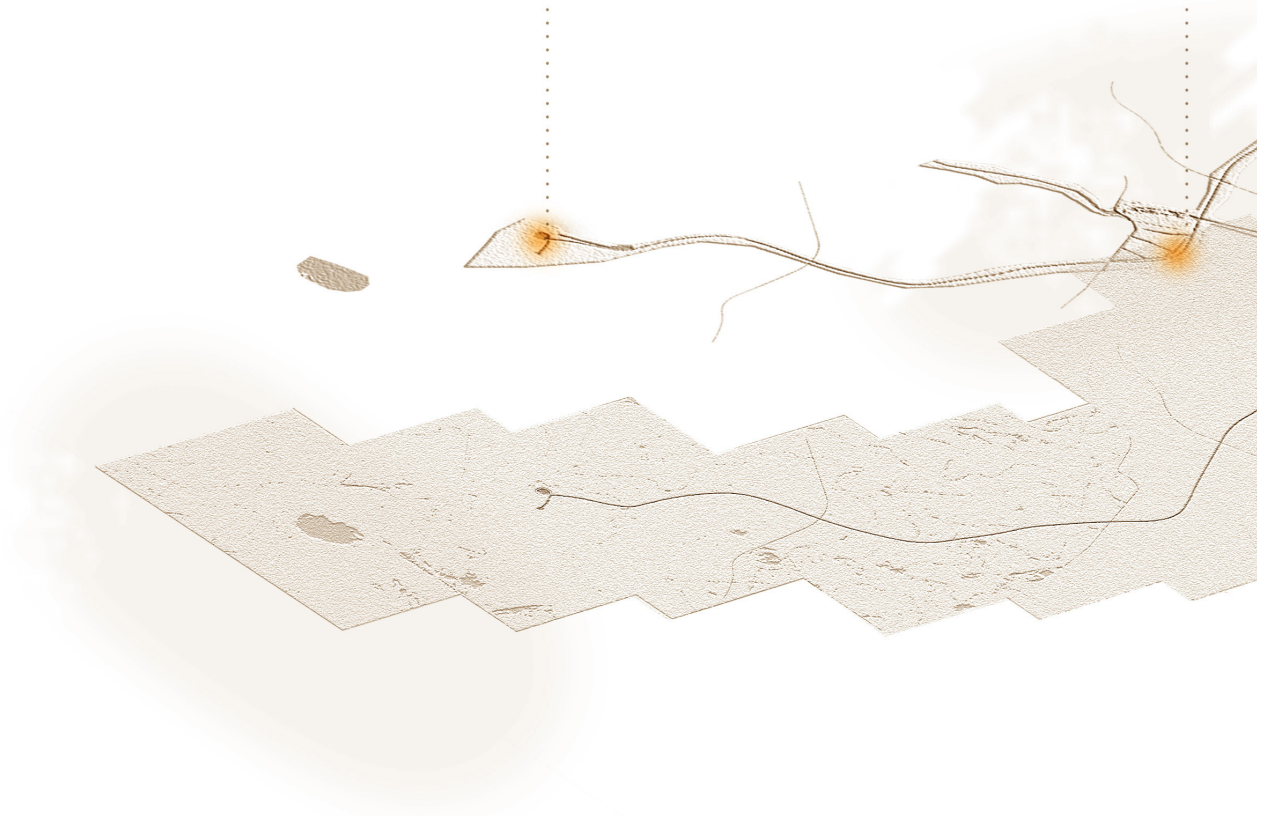
Figure_4.2. Steps to unlocking the landscape (Author;2015)

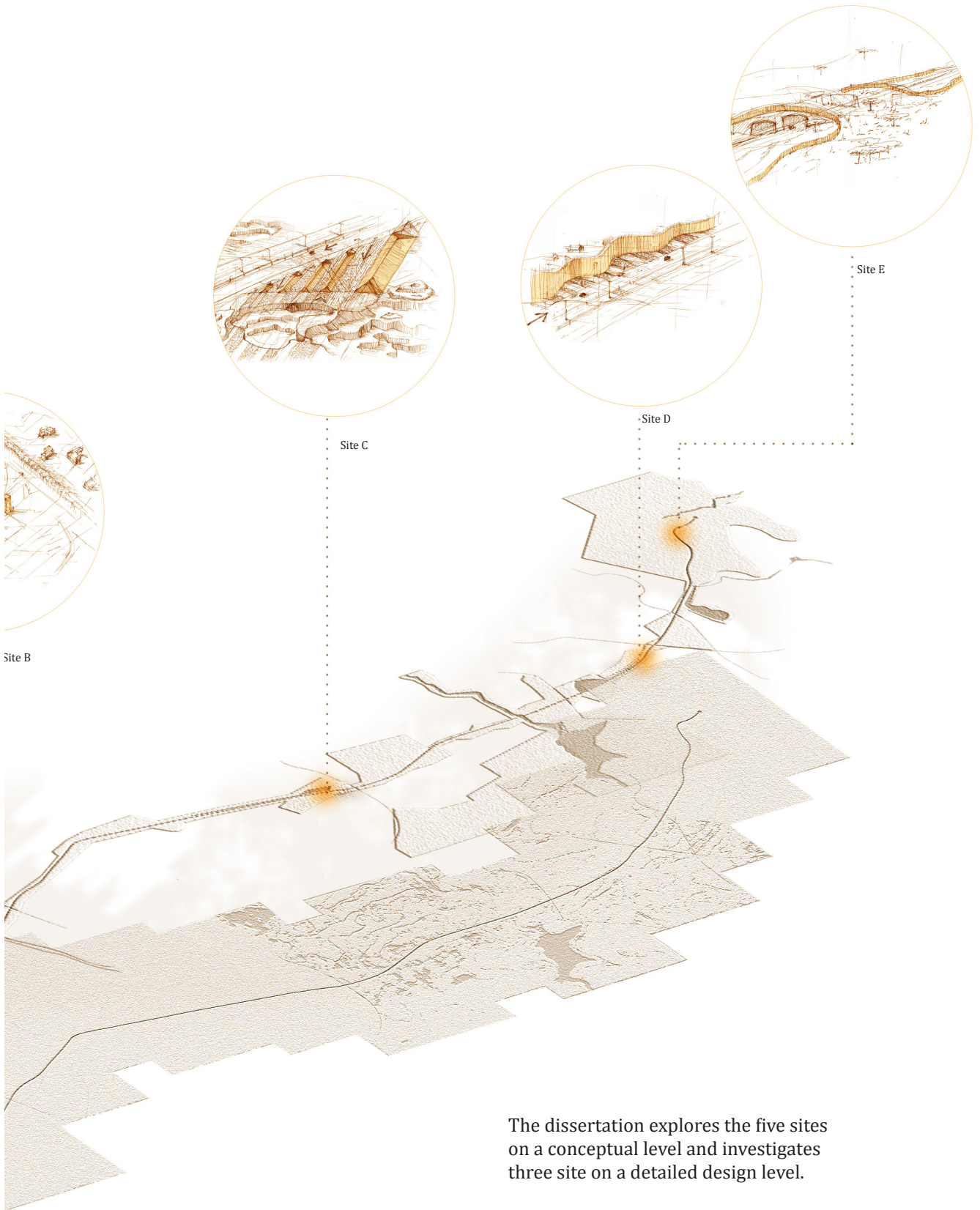


Site A



Site B





The dissertation explores the five sites on a conceptual level and investigates three sites on a detailed design level.

Figure_4.3. Five sites along the R21 (Author,2015)