



## Chapter 6

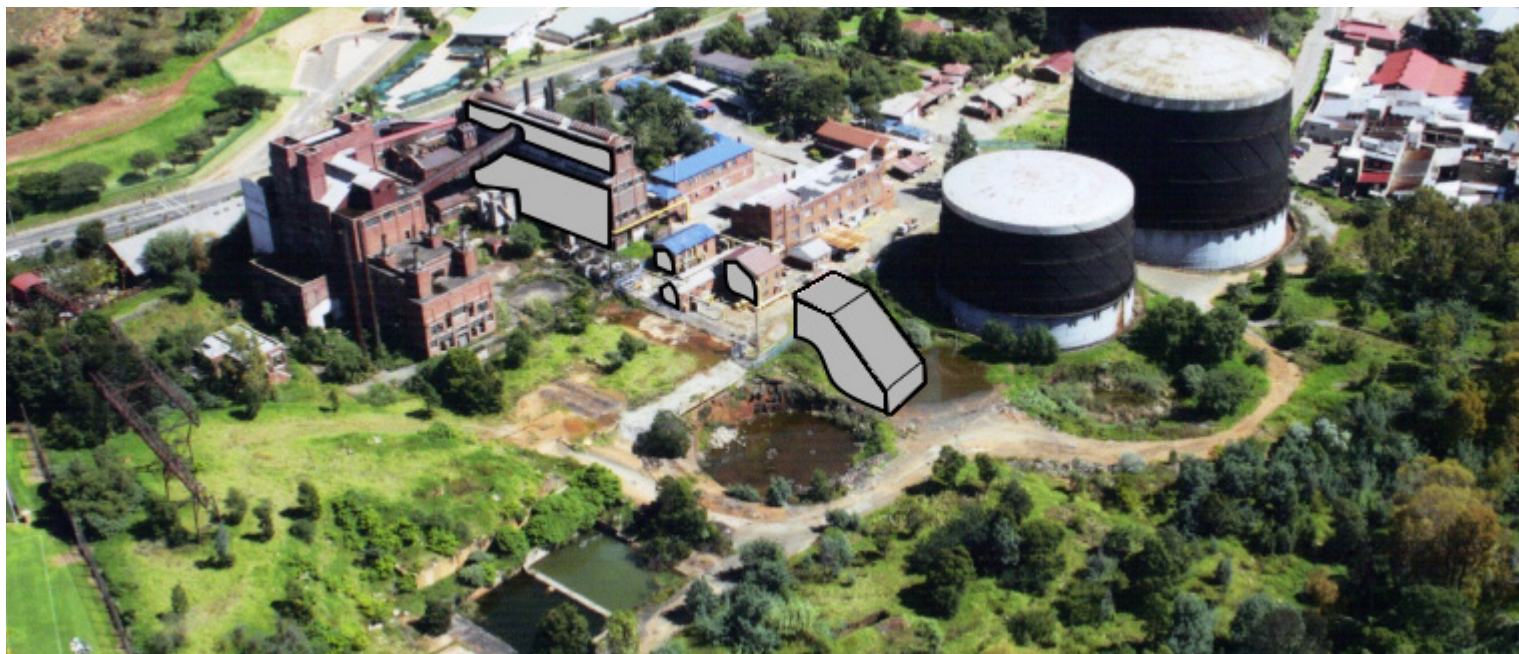
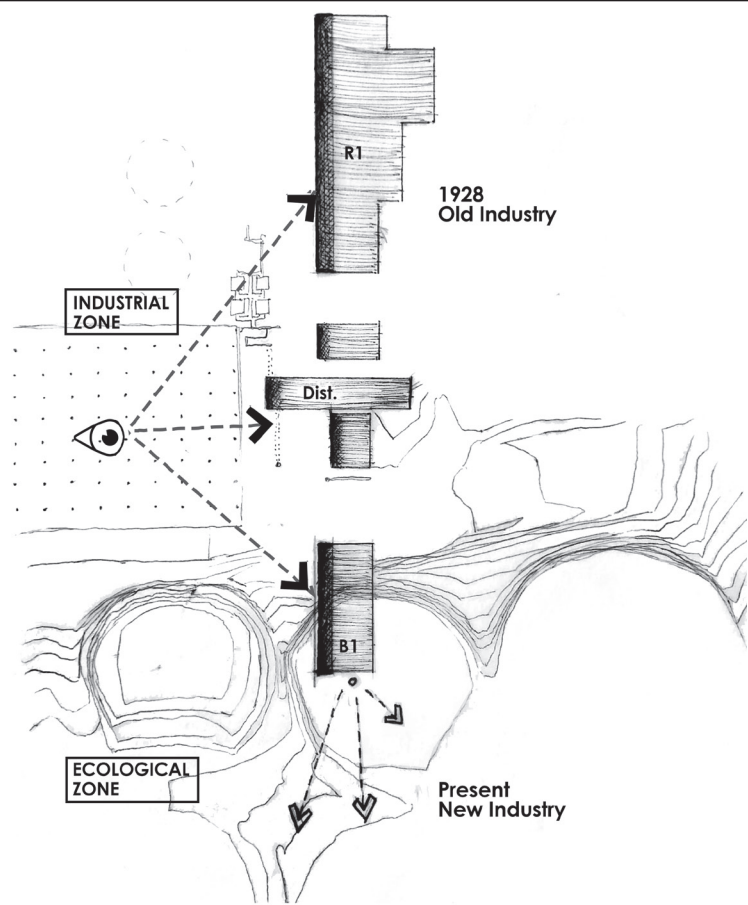
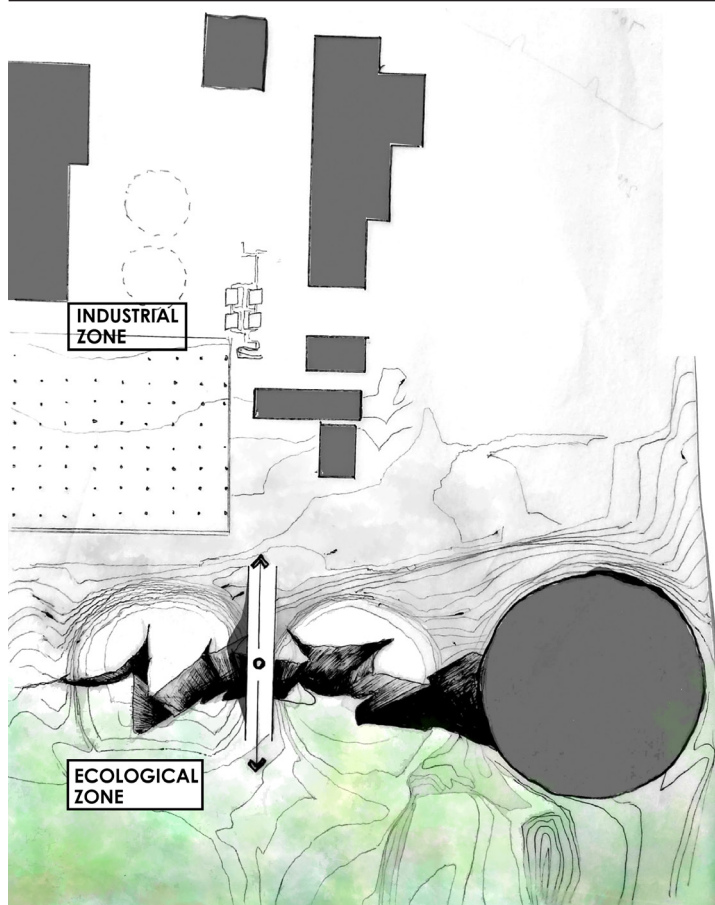
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## Conceptual Development

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Left: **Figure 57** The link between Industry and Ecology (Auriol, 2017)  
Right: **Figure 58** Building 1 as extension of heritage narrative (Author, 2017)  
Bottom: **Figure 59** Building 1 as conceptualized mass on site (Author, 2017)

## 6.1 Conceptual intention 1: Extension of Industry

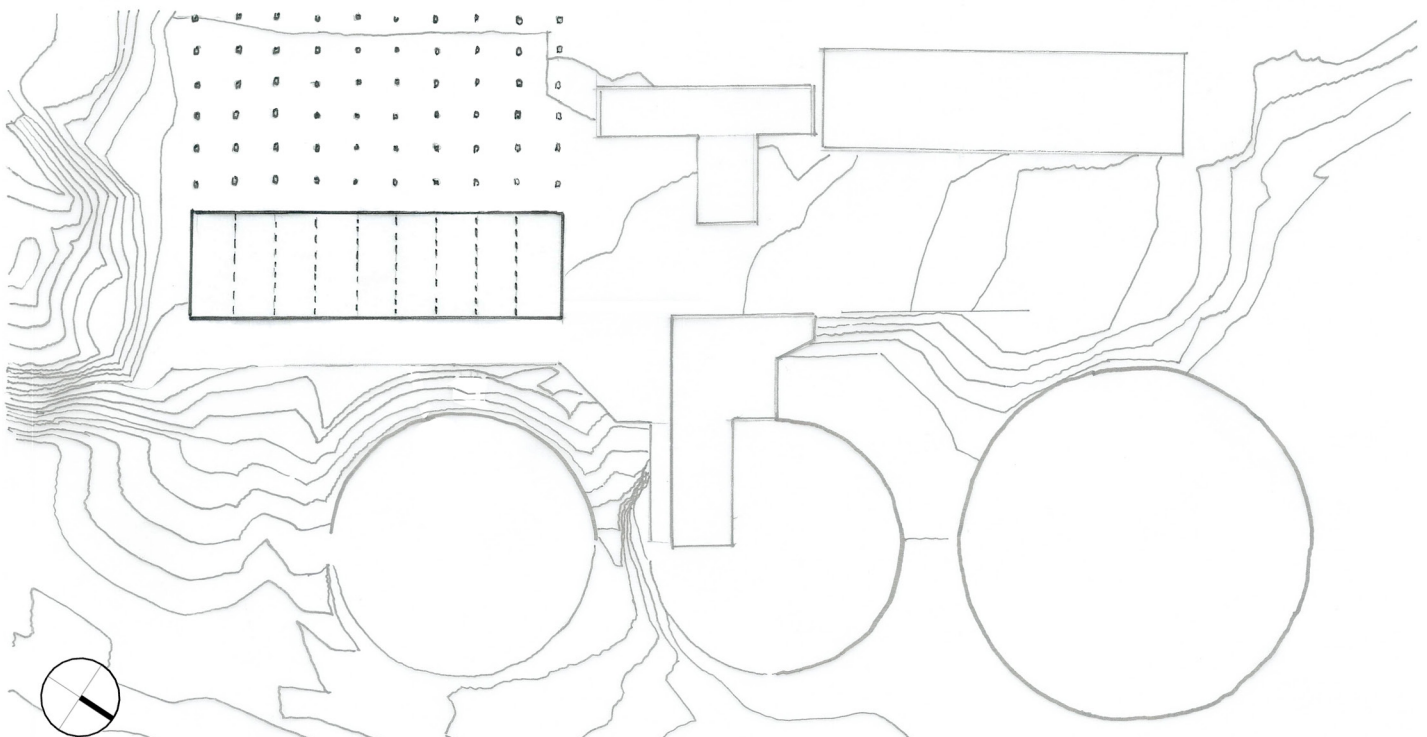


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The intervention area lies in a transition zone between two distinct areas: the industrial “core” to the south west and open green space to the north-east. Tanks No 1&2 and their demolition have caused this transition zone to be a buffer space, a wasted space, where both industrial activity and ecological take-over have been repelled. To address this disconnection, two conceptual approaches are taken. Firstly a literal connection is proposed between these two landscapes and secondly the placement of a built intervention in hole No 2 will seek to showcase the new industry in order to extend the linear narrative of retort No 1 and other buildings and artifacts. This placement will also enable the proposed industry to contribute to the park and extend remedial action into the site where the earlier industrial activity has caused pollution and damage.

## 6.2 Conceptual intention 2: Responding to the grid

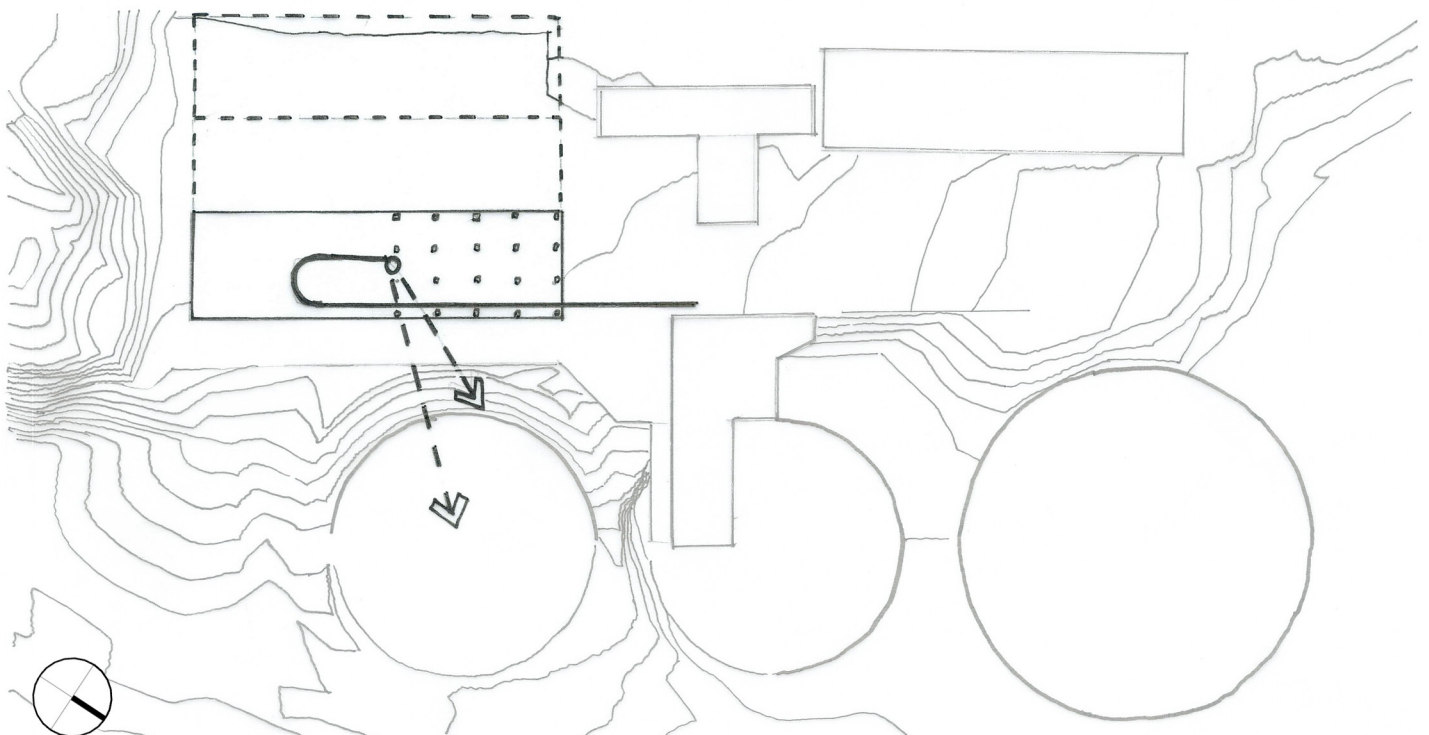
From an early stage in the conceptual development stage, it was apparent that the architectural intervention would entail two buildings. The first entity (referred to in this dissertation as building 2) as discussed in 6.1, communicates an extension of industry as part of a narrative of heritage and Building 1 found its conceptual inception as a response to the purification plant grid. To form a legible association between the existing ruins (column grid) and the new intervention, Building 1 was envisioned as an extension of this grid.



**Figure 60** Responding to the grid as conceptual response (Author, 2017)

## 6.3 Conceptual intention 3: Movement along the grid

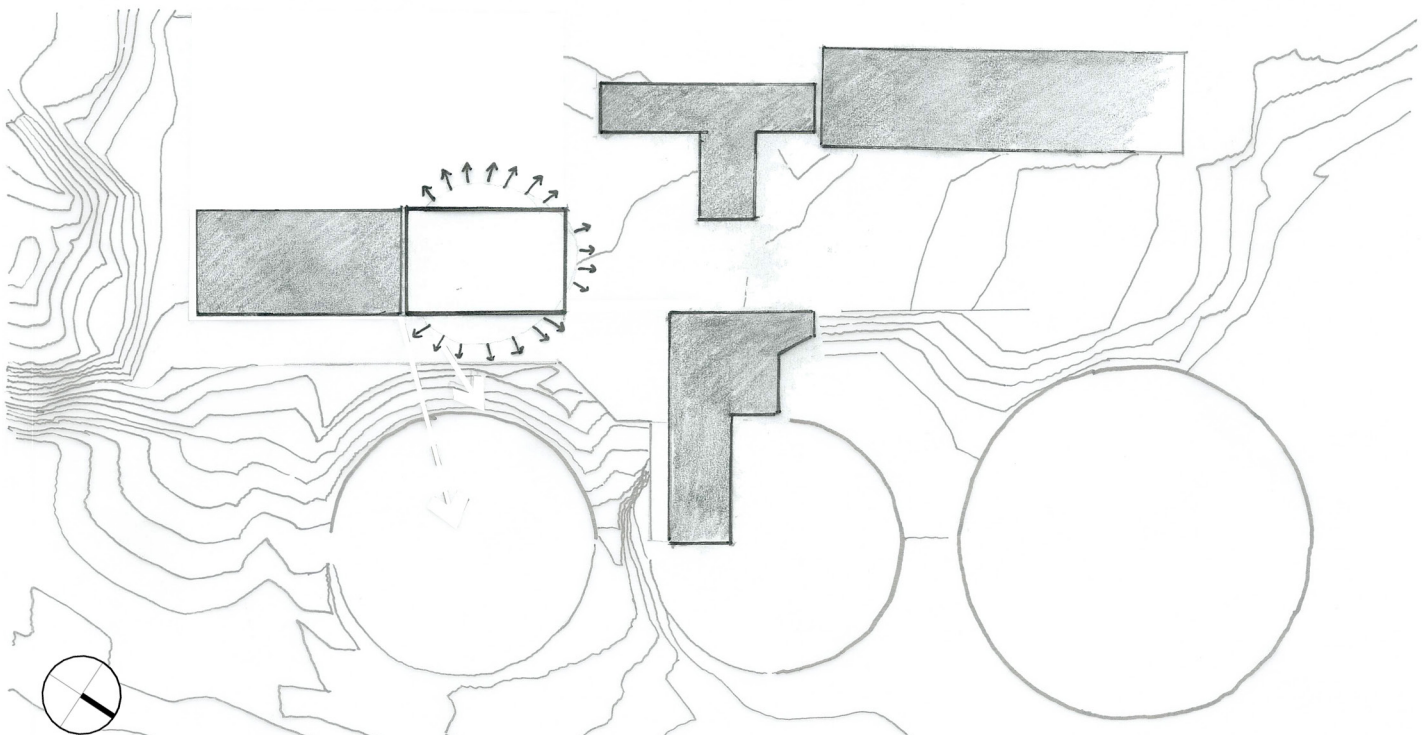
Another conceptual influence for the design of Building 1 was the potential of the approach towards the building to be a didactic experience where the user would reflect on the grid whilst being drawn into the building. This line of movement was envisioned as an ascension that would be facilitated by the building and culminate in a large vista over the landscape. In so doing, the building's circulation and views could be closely tied to both its immediate heritage fabric and the park.



**Figure 61** Movement along the grid as conceptual response (Author, 2017)

## 6.4 Conceptual intention 4: Water-based recreation

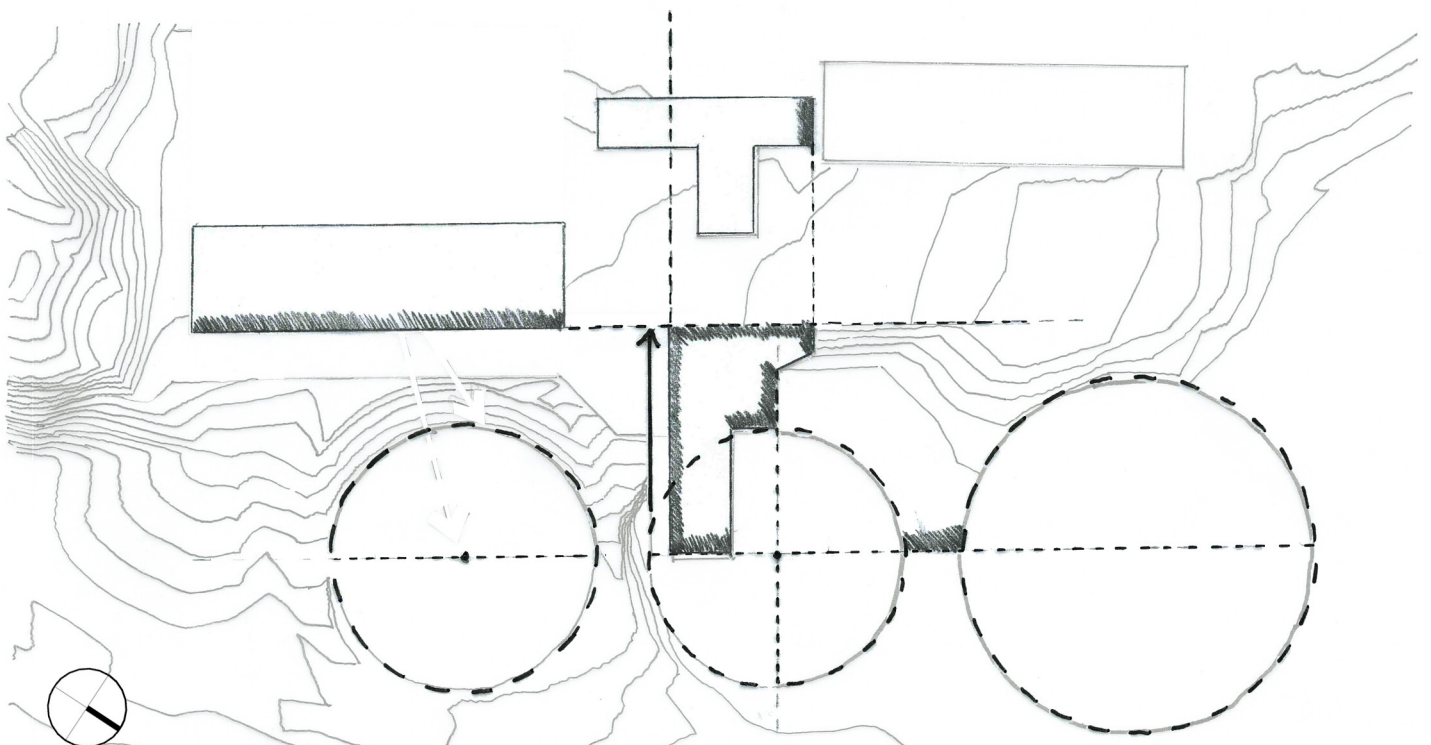
Through Latz' intervention at Duisburg-Nord recreational activities were proven to be effective ways to script new associations with heritage fabric in the minds of users. The northernmost half of the Purification plant footprint was conceptualized as a foyer space to the entire scheme that ties together aspects of heritage, recreation and aquaculture. This aim would be realized in the implementation of a recreational water park that forms a recreational association with water other than mere functional or aesthetic purposes.



**Figure 62** Water-based recreation as conceptual response (Author, 2017)

## 6.5 Conceptual intention 5: Cohesion through geometric order

One of the unique attributes of the Gas Works is the manner in which the ensemble of buildings formed cohesive spaces in between them that were ordered according to their purpose within the sequence of the coal to gas process. In order to tie into this ensemble in a legible way, it was prioritized that the intervention should be ordered according to the geometric cues offered by the existing structures. In so doing, experiencing the site would mean relating new architectural interventions to existing structures and thus drawing more attention to their significance.



**Figure 63** Cohesion through geometric order as conceptual response (Author, 2017)



## 6.6 Conceptual intention 5: Overlaid geometry

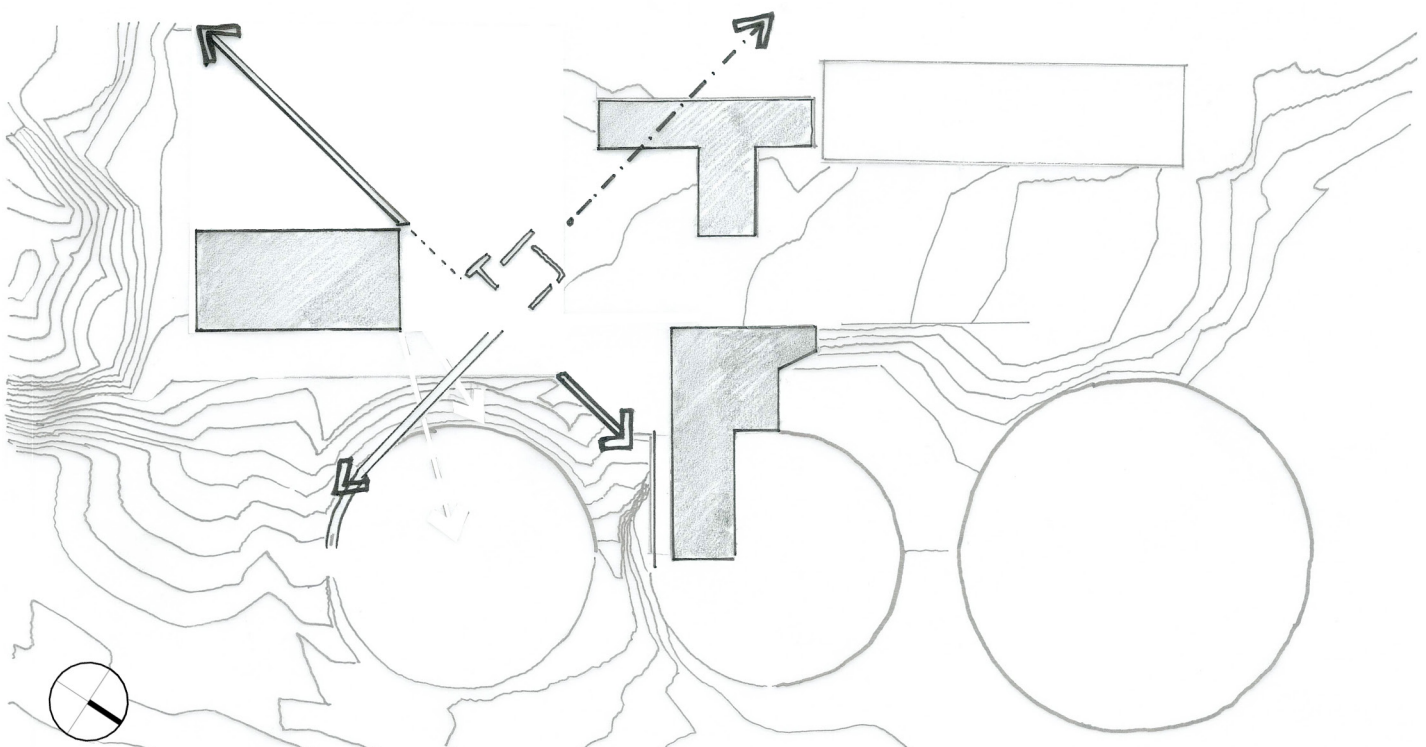
Another aspect of Duisburg-Nord was found to be helpful in translating theoretical informants into spatial explorations. Latz, approaching the site as a palimpsest of layers, designed circulation routes at various levels in order to author different experiences of the same space depending on the level of the user. In comparison, within this scheme the introduction of diagonal geometry sought to accomplish three ends:

1) To bind the scheme to two other architectural schemes not merely through lines of sight but also to express the exchange of water from one scheme to another.

2) To read these diagonal elements which are a water route, an overhead water pipe, a ramp and the lookout point as alignments with the water park

that would draw attention the foyer space of the scheme.

3) To place another layer of geometry over the strictly orthogonal layout in order to draw attention to the ordering system of the heritage buildings and purification plant columns.



**Figure 64** Overlaid geometry as conceptual response (Author, 2017)

## 6.7 Synthesis of conceptual intentions

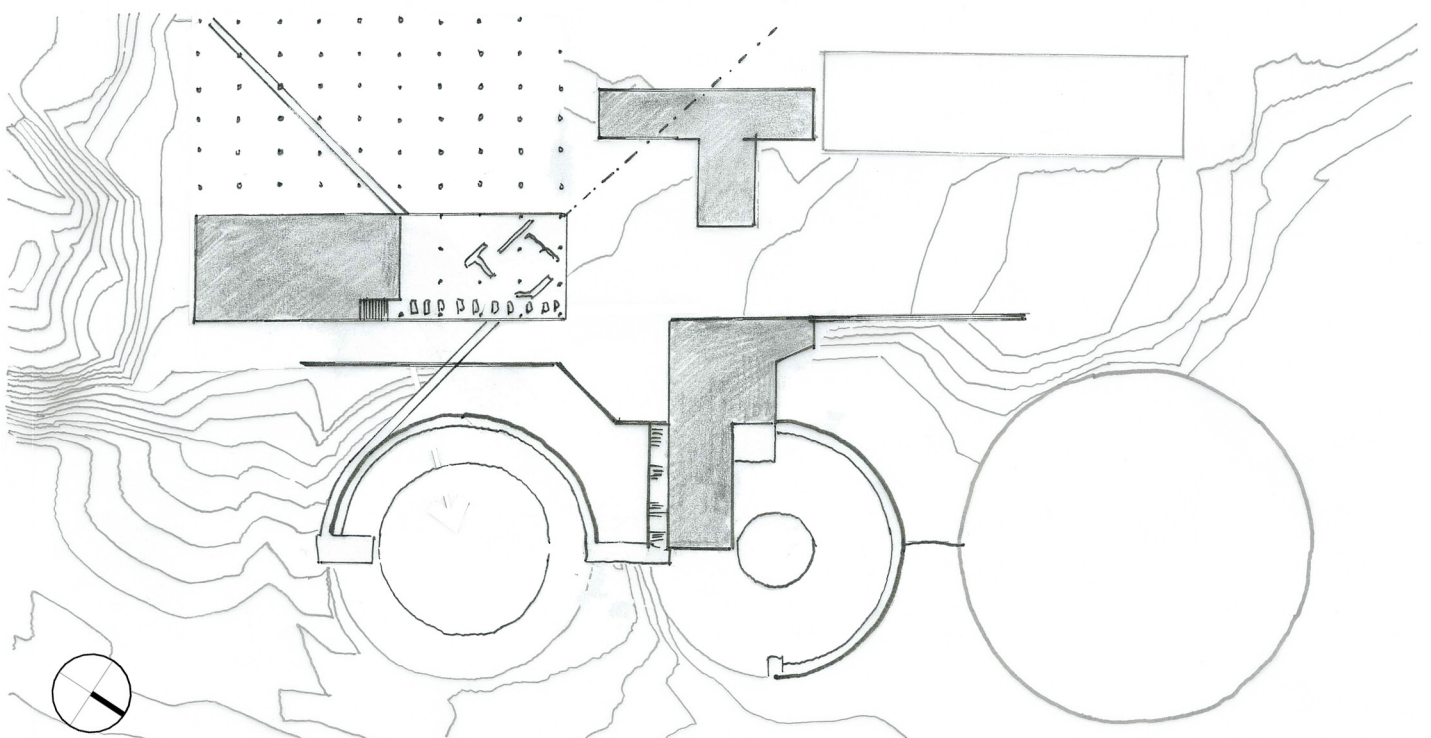


Figure 65 Synthesis of conceptual intentions (Author, 2017)

## 6.8 Place-specific conceptual approaches

In the pursuit of translating the theoretical stances mentioned before into design intentions, the distinct places within the chosen intervention area were investigated. The intention is to investigate how formal outcomes can come from applying theories on palimpsest, the aesthetic of austerity, Genius Loci as well as appropriate heritage approaches. Since these places and the threats and possibilities they offer vary greatly, it was decided to approach the site as a series of layers of intervention as this would also tie into the theoretical stance of reading the site as a palimpsest.

The plateau on which the purification plants stood offer numerous rusted steel and concrete foundations on which to respond, whilst the holes from the No 1&2 gas tanks present threats of soil erosion and soil pollution. Therefore, the two issues grappled with in these two instances are commemoration and environmental remediation.

The No 3 gas tank offers the challenge of appropriate re-purposing strategies. The investigation into zone 2 (see Figure 67) seeks to identify how place specific heritage considerations can guide placement of new structures within the entire intervention area. Therefore, the investigation into the first zone will aim to resolve coherence with both heritage fabric and other architectural proposals that form part of the Gas Works site proposal.

Above: **Figure 66** The intervention zones (Author, 2017)

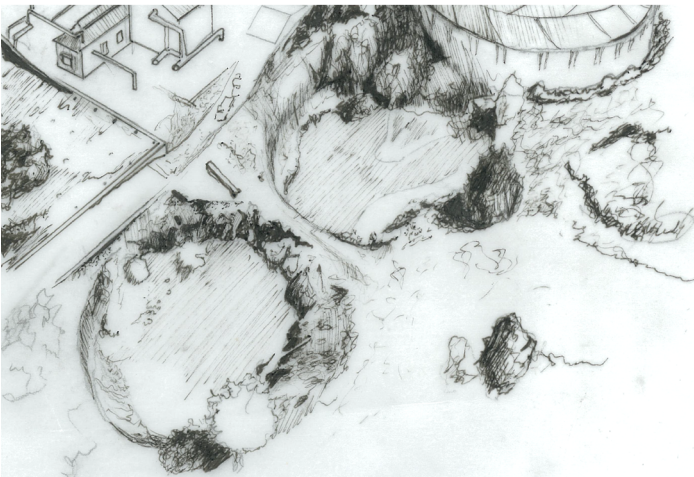
Right: **Figure 67** The intervention area (Author, 2017)



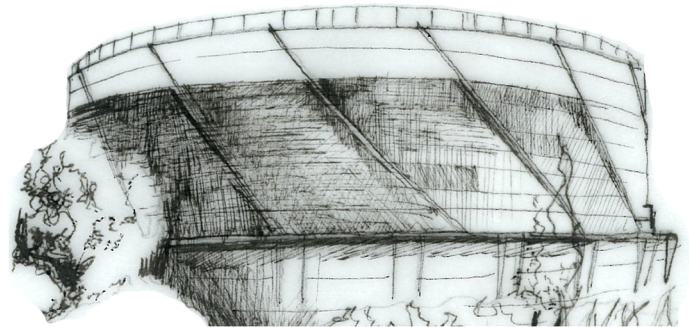
① Order within the intervention area



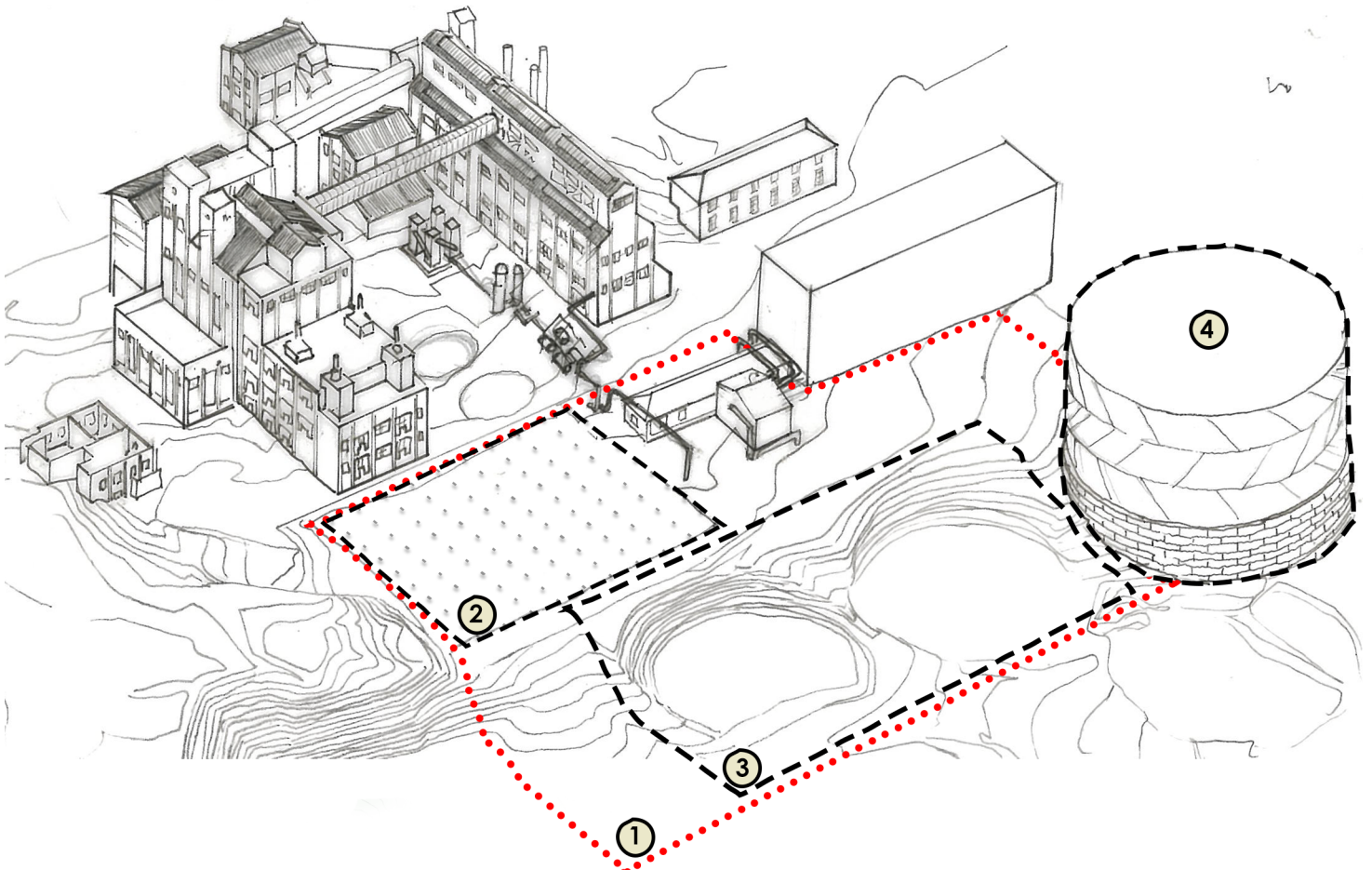
② The purification plant plaza



③ Nr 1 & 2 gas tank holes



④ Gas tank Nr 3



## 6.9 The layering of intervention

### Site intervention as a palimpsest

Employing the theory that a site can be read as a series of layers written upon one another not only means that the Gasworks site can be read in its various layers of history and transformations but also that any new intervention can be applied in a series of layers. This is a necessary approach in the intervention area since there are various issues/opportunities that need to be addressed and which seem unrelated at first glance. The conceptual development of the intervention thus addresses all the aspects that the restitution of ecology and the heritage of industry require.

The first two layers of intervention would need to respond to the current condition in terms of soil pollution and industrial remnants. After soil stabilization and the appropriate acknowledgment of demolished structures have been planned, the third layer would entail formal heritage responses that would dictate the placement of one building. This building would signify the progression of industry towards more ecologically sustainable means. The fourth layer builds upon the commemoration strategies of the second layer by activating the public spaces that are currently undefined. Activating and defining these spaces would seek to restore the broken coherence of the site (refer to Figure 32 on page 29). Illustrating a co-dependence between two buildings would strengthen the Genius Loci of the site where an ensemble of buildings forms the whole and therefore from the onset the possibility was there that two buildings might be required.

4) **Restore broken coherence**

3) **Formal heritage responses**

2) **Commemorate demolished structures**

1) **Employ remedial actions for erosion  
and soil pollution**

Figure 68 The layers of intervention (Author, 2017)

