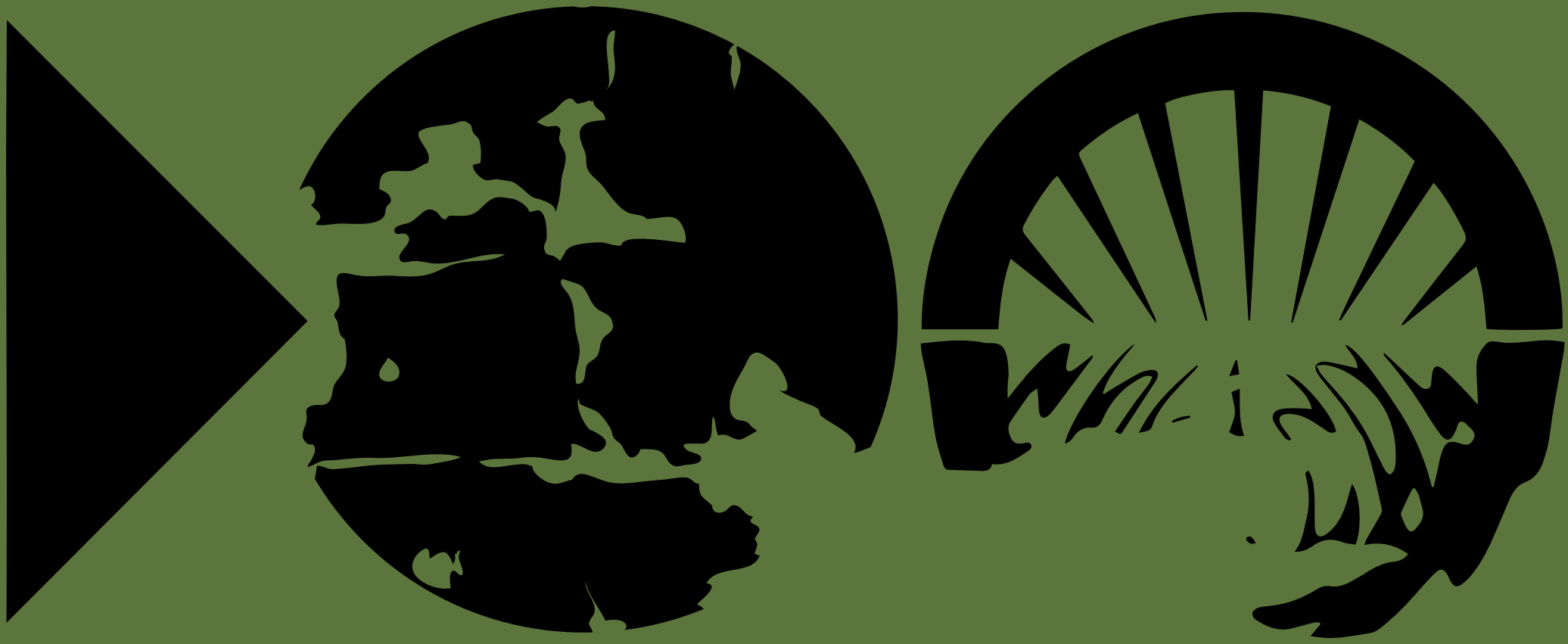
AFTER

Amsterdam Academy of Architecture
~~Winter~~ Summer School



SHELL

Artist in Residence 2022
Selçuk Balamir

A JUST TRANSITION CALENDAR

2020–2060

COLOPHON

Programme

“After Shell”
Winter Summer School 2022
30 June–8 July, 2022,
Amsterdam Academy of
Architecture

AIR Programme
and Winter School
The artist-in-residency of Selçuk Balamir is a cooperation between the Amsterdam Academy of Architecture and the AIR programme of the Amsterdam University of the Arts. The Amsterdam University of the Arts invites the Artist in Residence to inspire students and teachers by confronting them with topical developments and issues from the arts practice. These tailor-made AIR programmes focus on innovation and connection in an international and multidisciplinary context. Led by an Artist in Residence, the annual Winter School supplements the main study programme at the Amsterdam Academy of Architecture. Students learn to work on a design assignment as a team during an intensive workshop.

Artist in Residence
Selçuk Balamir is a designer, researcher, educator and organiser, working on post-capitalist politics, commoning practices and climate justice campaigns. He co-developed the creative and strategic framework of Climate Games (peer-to-peer disobedience platform) and Shell Must Fall (mass disruption of shareholder meetings). He co-initiated the social housing projects NieuwLand (postcapitalist urban commune) and de Nieuwe Meent (cooperative based on commoning). His PhD in Cultural Analysis from University of Amsterdam is on postcapitalist design. He currently teaches New Earth (eco-social design) at Willem de Kooning Academy in Rotterdam. Selçuk was born in Ankara, studied in Strasbourg, and currently resides in Amsterdam.

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Thorsten Schlossmann
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Mingus ten Cate
Oskar Oonk
Yves Paquaij

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Wet’suwet’en territory
Sohila Elshenawi
Thijs Klein Ovink
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Glaudemans
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Julian van der Linden

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Kashagan field, Caspian Sea
Farida Atta
Zhiyu Li
Jeffrey van der Sluijs

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“Transition is inevitable — justice is not” by Sam Wallman, 2015

“Climate Justice is Social Justice”, screenshot from The Breakdown ep4, by Earthrise Studio and Waterbear Network, 2021

“Climate Justice Sunflower”, flag by Peace Supplies, original artist unknown

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BLUEPRINTS FOR A BETTER WORLD

Madeleine Maaskant

Director of the Amsterdam Academy of Architecture

In addition to the regular curriculum at the Academy of Architecture, in which students are trained as architects, urban designers or landscape architects, all first- and second-year students participate once a year in the ~~Winter~~ Summer School, a sanctuary for artistic research within the curriculum. This is not an extra or elective, but an essential part of the training programme. Whereas in the regular curriculum the emphasis is on working toward the qualifications that go with the professional title, the ~~Winter~~ Summer School is pre-eminently the place where students can consider their own field from an entirely different angle. Not infrequently, the chosen perspective leads to surprising new insights, as this calendar shows.

The Academy of Architecture asked Selçuk Balamir as Artist in Residence of the ~~Winter~~ Summer School in the 2021–2022 academic year. He was trained as a designer, wrote a dissertation on the relationship between design and commoning, and is a climate justice activist. This combination of expertise makes him the perfect person to engage with spatial designers in a discussion about climate change, and the role and responsibilities of the spatial design sector in it. The participating students did an excellent job of addressing the questions posed by Balamir. Through design interventions, they created images of the future and wrote stories about a fossil-free world. The time frame of the interventions was given (namely in the 2020s, 2030s, 2040s and 2050s) but the locations were different for each group. During the final presentations, the students not only tapped into their design skills, but also proved to have very different qualities. Some awakened the actor in themselves and performed surgery dressed as doctors; others turned out to be poetic storytellers, giving an abstract rendition of declining biodiversity in an animation with twigs and hands.

This is exactly what the ~~Winter~~ Summer School is for. In imagining possible futures, spatial designers can go beyond exclusively technical solutions and work toward a more holistic approach to design that combines the pragmatic with the poetic, the constructive with the seductive. This is where the arts come in, and where the position of the Academy of Architecture as part of the Amsterdam School of the Arts comes into its own. Design drawings can serve not only as instructions for putting together concrete buildings, cities and landscapes, but also as poetic expressions of possible futures, showing not what will be irrefutably so, but what could be if you put the imagination in power. Blueprints for a better world.

2020–2060

(DESIGNING A NEW WORLD) FROM THE SHELL OF THE OLD

Selçuk Balamir

Shortened transcript of the introduction lecture to the ~~Winter~~ Summer School, 30 June 2022

Let's Talk About Shell.

In May 2019, at the Circustheater in Scheveningen, the shareholders of Royal Dutch Shell were having their Annual General Meeting, just as they have been for the last 20 years. Joining them for an intervention was the spokesperson for codeROOD, a grassroots disobedient climate action collective I was part of. When it was her turn at the microphone, she declared that the people present there were witnessing a "historic day": that it would be the last Shell shareholder meeting ever to be held. She went on to explain that in the midst of a climate emergency, the last thing we needed was exactly what was happening there: continuing business-as-usual, maximising shareholder value with short-term profits. We wanted to make sure this would never, ever, happen again. This was the launch of the Shell Must Fall campaign; we thought it would be quite decent to inform the board of directors first.

Little did we know that a year later her prediction would turn out to be true. Sadly enough, it wasn't our action that cancelled the meeting: we were just 100 days before "one of the most exciting mass actions yet" when the pandemic cancelled any such gathering. Then last year, the company decided to move its headquarters to London, citing vague reasons like 'streamlining operations'. But even the Financial Times remarked that "there are clear reasons why Shell wants to leave the Netherlands, where climate activism led to a May court judgement ordering Shell to cut more emissions by 2030." Alongside the tax benefits they would gain in the UK, this 'capital flight' was the result of the mounting pressure from climate activists. The campaign is far from over: our fellow organisers in the UK also caused massive disruptions to the company's first-ever shareholder meeting in London earlier this year.

You may be wondering why I am talking to spatial designers gathered here for the kick off of a ~~Winter~~ Summer School about the company formerly known as "Royal Dutch" Shell. What I would actually like to talk about is designing a rapid, just, and comprehensive eco-social transition. But unfortunately, we have some concrete obstacles like Shell in front of us. Dislodging these obstacles is a precondition for a just transition. I believe there is merit in focusing on a concrete case study like Shell, instead of talking about an abstract 'energy transition'. Consider Shell the perfect case study that encapsulates broader issues of Western global extractivism, Dutch colonialism, financial speculation and corporate control.

Of course, the entanglement of overdeveloped societies with carbon pollution is a complex matter. But there is absolutely no doubt about the paramount responsibility and culpability of the energy industry. A handful of companies have dominated the sector and profited from fossil fuels and their derivatives. They have built corporate empires with geopolitical, infrastructural, financial, and ideological underpinnings. These companies have known about the consequences of their actions all my life, and yet, they doubled down on this path. They have manufactured dangerous distractions like greenwashing, 'carbon footprint' and 'carbon offsetting' to divert attention and deny their role.

I was one of the 17,000 co-plaintiffs alongside Milieudefensie and other organisations who sued Royal Dutch Shell. And last year, we won the case. The court in The Hague agreed that the human rights consequences of climate breakdown are more important than the company's right to operate freely and profit from extracting and burning fossil fuels. Now the company is being held responsible for the so-called 'scope 3' emissions, and it has to halve its total emissions within this decade.

This is unprecedented, but only the beginning. There is no viable business model for Shell. Its current legal and financial form is inadequate for implementing the changes required by the court case and demanded by the people. As long as Shell remains a 'public limited company', it cannot keep fossil fuels in the ground. It cannot decommission its infrastructure. It cannot provide a fair deal for its ex-workers, nor compensate damaged communities, nor repair ecosystems. In short, it cannot put itself out of business.

If it cannot be nudged in the right direction to make voluntary, incremental adjustments, then deep structural changes can only be enforced upon Shell: radically and responsibly restructuring its ownership, control and purpose, by any legal, economic and political means necessary. Call it dismantling, dissolving, decommissioning, sunsetting, phasing out or retiring: this is necessary, overdue and inevitable. Shell might be moving on from its Dutch past, but let's remember how it still benefits from social acceptance and national pride in this country. So let's talk about Shell, here, in this ~~Winter~~ Summer School. By extension, let's also talk about our role, complicity and responsibility as designers in this land, and let's talk about what we can do.

Speaking of the complicity of designers, I would like to introduce you to a very special architect. Will Gains is an Architectural Designer at Bowman Riley. He has designed and built an electric car charging station for Shell. Shell website says that "Will's hugely excited about the idea of working with Shell to create the EV hub of the future." Let's hear from Will himself, who is featured in an advertisement that portrays him as a problem-solving, birdbox-building, overengineering aficionado and keen cyclist:

> Will: *I'm currently working on developing a design for an EV charge hub, where electric vehicles can go and charge up their batteries. This is the first time a full Shell petrol station has been transformed into a full EV charge centre. As a keen cyclist, it's a real positive thing to work on a project*

2020–2060

that promotes more electric cars on the road.

Voice-over: *Thanks to the innovation of people like Will, Shell's first electric-only station in the UK is taking shape.*

"Thanks to the innovation of people like Will", Shell is able to greenwash and design-wash its image. Make no mistake: Shell spends more money on marketing than on renewables, on which it spends only a few percentage points of its total investments. Will probably gets his over-engineered birdhouse charging station paid from the marketing budget. Not to mention EV charge stations are an utterly misguided, ineffectual and false solution to decarbonising mobility, let alone tackling lithium extractivism, improving public transport, or reclaiming urban space. To summarise: Will designed a charging station for Shell. That's greenwashing. Then Will played in an advertisement for Shell. That's also greenwashing. My advice for you: Don't be Will.

Just Transition, System Change and Postcapitalism

The decades of great transformation are ahead of us. There is a big role for designers, especially in repurposing vacant buildings, reclaiming defunct industries and regenerating damaged territories. And yet this is not just a matter of technical expertise; it also requires navigating complex ethical considerations. What kind of energy transition are we going for? Do we wish energy giants like Shell to become green capitalist renewable monopolies, or do we want to turn them into a decommodified, cooperative energy democracy?

There is a slogan by climate justice organiser Quinton Sankofa from the USA: "Transition is inevitable. Justice is not. Let's get to work." What do we mean when we say 'just' transition? Isn't everything we do to reduce carbon emissions inherently a good thing? Shouldn't we just indiscriminately use every tool at our disposal to stop global heating? Yes and no; there might be a right time for some things, and there are other things that will inevitably make things worse. If overdeveloped countries had started with individual action and market-based solutions fifty years ago, they may have delivered a version of green capitalism, perhaps delaying crossing the biophysical limits of the planet by a century. Maybe a point will be reached where tweaking the geochemical composition of the planet will be desperately needed to lessen some of the worst impacts. In a volatile world, solutions need to be emergent and contextual.

Some things are certain: the time for incremental measures within the coordinates of capitalism is over. At this late hour, nothing short of system change is going to work. We have centuries of decolonial and anticapitalist critique, decades of scientific evidence

and an incontestable intergenerational duty grounding this. Claiming otherwise has many flavours: market fundamentalism, climate denial, climate delayism, growth fanaticism, eco-modernism, eco-fascism. I'm afraid these are at best desperate coping mechanisms, and at worst anti-humanist and anti-naturalist death drives.

If you want a numerical approximation for what I mean by system change, consider this: radical reductions imply halving emissions every decade until mid-century, and then keeping that balance carbon-negative at least until the end of the century. This means that the biggest, most impactful chunk of decarbonisation has to happen first. There is no such thing as 'starting modestly and increasing ambitions', as it is often expressed by technocratic politicians. In this Decade Zero, even the latest IPCC report recognised the need to give up on economic growth. Here is another numerical approximation for system change: carbon pollution per capita is so grossly unequal (with 10% of the world population responsible for half the emissions, and half of the population responsible for 10% of emissions), that abolishing carbon privileges of the few is the fastest, least disruptive and most effective way to get started.

So in that sense, justice is not an add-on to the laundry list of an already complex and exhaustive set of techno-scientifically determined transformations that need to happen. It is a moral compass, a practical field guide, and frankly, the only politically realistic program that doesn't involve perpetuating and aggravating already entrenched mass suffering. Intersecting issues, struggles and solutions is how you build power, resilience and diversity on this unjust, damaged but not yet entirely broken planet. In other words, there are no quick fixes and no silver-bullet solutions, but the patient, careful, intricate work of weaving environmental, economic, political and racial justice into the tapestry of social progress.

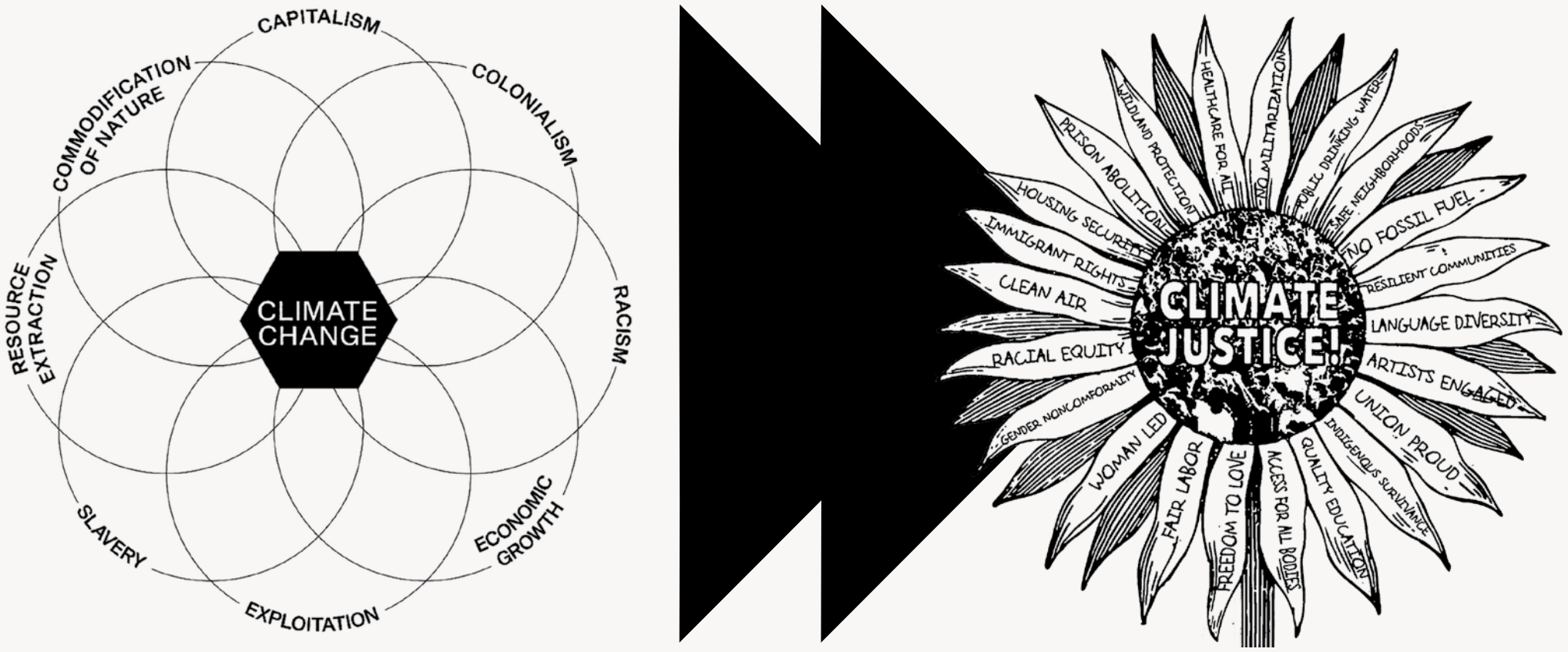
It is impossible to capture the complexity of it all, but I will share two slogans that hint at the ethos of a just transition: "Return, Repair, Regenerate": defend indigenous sovereignty over occupied territories and against extractivist projects; restore impacted landscapes, watersheds and coastlines; expand biodiverse ecosystems by rewilding. "Decarbonise, Decommodify, Democratise, Decolonise": transform energy systems towards clean, socialised, publicly-owned models, by dismantling their extractivist, productivist, capitalist and (neo)colonial power structures. Before you claim any 'green' credentials for your next design project, ask yourself: how much are you fulfilling these 3Rs and 4Ds?

Prefiguration, Speculation and Design

I would like to give "Shell" another layer of meaning, and in doing so, I would like to introduce some design-political concepts to

2020–2060

Image credit



structure our work. The Industrial Workers of the World is an internation-al, revolutionary, industrial labour union, founded in Chicago in 1905. The Preamble of their Constitution ends with the following statement:

> *It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for everyday struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.*

It is such a vividly architectural metaphor: to preserve the structural elements of something to build something new. Call it adaptive reuse, but applied to an entire economic and civilisational model. Note that the strategic focus is on organising within industrial production, with the expectation that once capitalism is over, its industrial legacy would be inherited and carried on. Today, this position is simply indefensible. The colonial, capitalist and industrial paradigms are indistinguishable. Extractivism is the closest term that captures the core logic of their continued legacy.

I'd like to complement and contrast this quote with another iconic revolutionary statement. Buenaventura Durruti was a Spanish anarcho-syndicalist Civil War hero. When asked whether victory is worth it if the country will be in ruins, he is attributed with the following answer:

> *We have always lived in slums and holes in the wall. We will know how to accommodate ourselves for a while. For you must not forget that we can also build. It is we who built these palaces and cities, here in Spain and America and everywhere. We, the workers. We can build others to take their place. And better ones. We are not in the least afraid of ruins. We are going to inherit the earth; there is not the slightest doubt about that. The bourgeoisie might blast and ruin its own world before it leaves the stage of history. We carry a new world here, in our hearts. That world is growing in this minute.*

While I admire Durruti's strong revolutionary utopian attitude, shouldn't we be afraid of a world in ruins, when it is not just the built environment, but the very fabric of life that is disintegrating in front of our eyes? If I grossly simplify, the Preamble and Durruti represent two opposing revolutionary strategies: 'we are going to inherit productive infrastructure' vs. 'we are going to build out of capitalist ruins'. The revolutionary question might have given way to the question of transition, but it appears that our pathways are no different a century later.

The good news is that the expression 'from the shell of the old', means something radically different for later generations. Quite the opposite actually: since the 1960s, the expression has been repurposed by the feminist, ecologist and pacifist strands of the New Left, to signify what has become known as prefigurative politics. To pre-figure means to 'anticipate or enact the preferable future in the present, as though it has already been achieved'. To shape things in the present the way we'd like them to be in the future. So the emphasis is on already forming the new society, growing the new world, by means of carving out spaces that foreshadow and precipitate the new society, hollowing out the spaces of the old world.

Let's call this new world and new society, for lack of a better word, postcapitalism. Postcapitalism is neither a historical inevitability nor an ever-present alternative; it is rather the narrow emergency pathway to avoid civilisational collapse and mass extinction. Given the circumstances, we don't even have the luxury to have a fully coherent, positive, utopian project; postcapitalism is rather leaving the riddle of history unsolved, it is what we fill the void of the shell with, it is what flourishes from capitalist ruins. The task of postcapitalist designers is to give shape, meaning and purpose to those actions. In his 2017 book, Postcapitalism: A Guide to Our Future, Paul Mason remarks:

> *We have to design the transition to postcapitalism. Because most theorists of postcapitalism either just declared it to exist, or predicted it as an inevitability, few considered the problems of transition. So one of the first tasks is to outline and test a range of models showing how such a transitional economy might work.*

Neither simply desiring nor observing postcapitalism, 'designing the transition to postcapitalism' is done by 'outlining and testing a range of models'. In other words, combining speculation and prefiguration. If design can be both prefigurative and speculative, then postcapitalism can indeed be designed, the means and the ends of the transition reconciled. I believe near-term, plausible, hopeful speculative fiction can be indistinguishable from strategic policy recommendations. Perhaps storytelling (and visionary fiction) can set the transition in motion. So I encourage you to embrace your most speculative designer selves in this ~~Winter~~ Summer School. I challenge you to prove Fredric Jameson wrong, and make the end of capitalism easier to imagine than the end of the world.

This ~~Winter~~ Summer School is a provocation and an invitation to spatial designers: Are we ready for this gigantic challenge? Do we have what it takes to be a designer of the just transition? Are we capable of letting go of eco-modernist, solutionist, techno-fix ideologies? How can we simultaneously prefigure commoning practices and speculate postcapitalist futures? Can we put your skills and privileges into the service of the most impacted communities? How will we design for care, repair and justice? This is history calling us. Are we going to answer?

2020–2060

Image credit

The Gulf of Mexico is full of oil platforms and pipelines, and oil has been extracted from this area since 1942. Near the coast, platforms are fixed to a construction, whereas in deeper waters, platforms are floated. Over the course of time, techniques changed and by 2020, drilling took place at a depth of over three kilometres.

The Gulf of Mexico has seen three mega oil spills, the most recent of which was in 2010. Years later, traces of this disaster can still be found. A small share of these drilling platforms is owned by Shell, and several of the oil fields it owns have not yet been tapped.

APPOMATTOX

GULF OF MEXICO

2020

In one of the most desolate areas of Alberta, Canada, lies the biggest oil sands of the world. The area is 140,000 square kilometres. To put this in perspective, this area is three and a half times larger than the Netherlands. After Shell's arrival in 1967, the area was deforested and changed completely. Large parts of the green boreal forest in Alberta have been taken from us by big oil companies like Shell due to its hidden treasures.

The beautiful vertical lines of the trees had to make way for a flat empty horizon. Meanwhile the chemicals are transported to be thrown away in the river, which pollutes the air and magnifies the numbers of health problems. Tar sand processing is an inefficient process of extracting fuels, for which a lot of energy is needed. Well known for its cold climate, Canada, along with its arctic neighbours, is warming up twice as fast as the rest of the world.

ATHABASCA TAR SANDS

ALBERTA

2020

We expected it to be a trip of a lifetime but we did not expect it to shape our lives forever. It was July 2021. After four long years of studying at the Amsterdam Academy of Architecture, we, a group of five graduates, decided to take on a great endeavour: to leave the smog of the city for the richness of the Amazon. We longed for a break from our studies, to take a deep breath in 'the lungs of the earth'. When we arrived at the Nahua Kugapakori reserve, we were greeted by the Machiguenga people. The situation was far from what we had expected.

The Machiguenga people were suffering immensely. Their waters had been polluted, the flora and fauna had been destroyed, and they were grieving over people suffering from illnesses and dying. We asked them to share what had caused this destruction, and they pointed towards the Camisea gas pipes. They told us they planned to forage and collect as many seeds as possible in order to preserve the biodiversity before it vanished. We wanted to join their mission and support them in preserving as many species as possible, to save them from extinction.

CAMISEA GAS FIELD

PERU

2021

Floating on the sea, north of Australia, is the Prelude, Shell's flagship in the production of fossil gas. With a length of 500 metres, this enormous structure, built in 2012, is almost twice the size of the Eiffel tower. The ship produces 40,150,000 barrels of fossil gas a year, which is 147 times as much as is used in the Netherlands in one year. The gas is extracted from the gas fields beneath the sea bottom, to the ship where it is cooled to minus 165°C, in order for it to liquefy for the efficiency of transport. Smaller ships transport the gas to the shore where it is exported, mostly to Asia.

PRELUDE

FLOATING GAS FACILITY

2021

The current site in Buenos Aires – Dock Sud – is a former Shell oil and gas storage facility. Since 1984, this oil refinery has caused extreme environmental damage. More stressing are the effects of pollution and toxicity on the lives of the residents in a neighbourhood called Flammable – or “Inflamable” as it is called in Spanish.

For decades, and on a daily basis, the residents of Flammable have been living with toxic fumes. The community is made even more vulnerable by the scant resources, lack of income, and lack of basic infrastructure for sanitation and utilities such as water, electricity, gas, sewage, and access to health facilities.

VILLA INFLAMABLE

BUENOS AIRES

2022

On Monday evening on 4 July, Shell employees are gathered at the former headquarters of Shell in The Hague to celebrate the publishing of their digital time capsule, in honour of Shell's historical move to the UK. During this special event, the employees remember their precious time at the company, where they were employed for many years. They capture a frame in time to proudly commemorate their working environment, by collecting information, maps and photos that are typical of the early 2020s. At the end of the ceremony, they hide their digital time capsule in the vast database of Shell. The evening is shortly disrupted by the activist group Extinction Rebellion, who condemn Shell for all it has done to the environment. After a thorough discussion, the staff and the activists reach a compromise and the activists are allowed to make a small addition to the digital time capsule. They add a note that says: "Shell must fall!"

SHELL CAMPUS

THE HAGUE

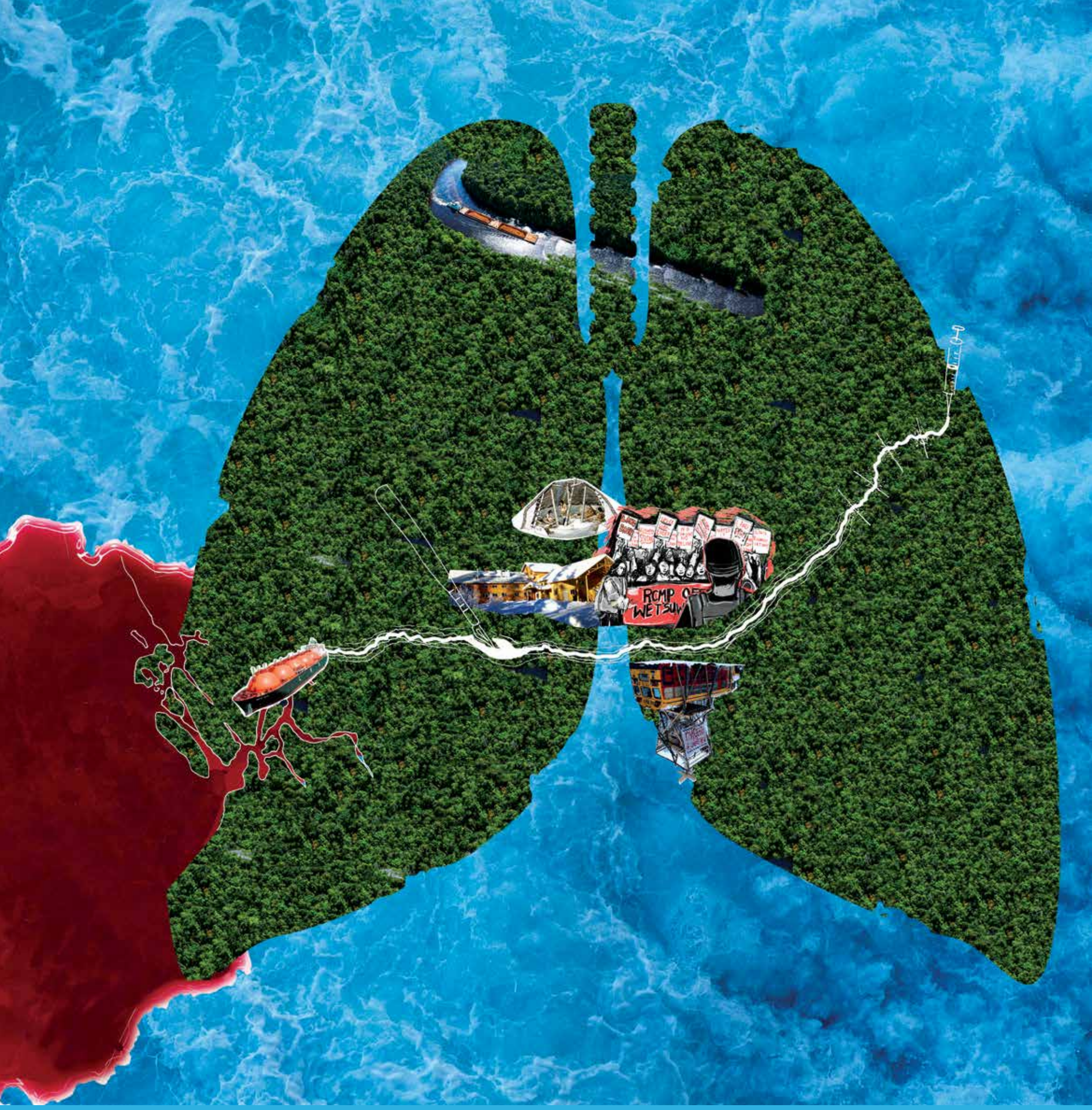
2022

Curaçao, an island in the Caribbean, got more industrialised than its neighbouring islands since the establishment of an oil refinery by Dutch Royal Shell. Thousands of tons of crude oil, extracted and imported from Venezuela were transformed into gasoline here. For a while, this seemed to create wealth and work, but it also came with environmental pollution and unfair distribution of wealth. The waning of the oil industry and the degradation of the Isla oil refinery created an unstable financial and political situation. The inevitable crisis – slowed down briefly by jetsetting tourism and real-estate speculation – would eventually lead to the economic collapse of the island.

ISLA OIL REFINERY

CURAÇAO

2023



My friend Kolin's worst nightmare came true: the checkpoint has been removed and Kolin is arrested. The destruction will continue and the scar will grow. He grew up seeing people cutting with their merciless scalpel through the land. The land that they see as their lungs keeps them alive. Not unlike a bad surgeon, their operations do not fix anything, but make things worse. They use their enormous syringes to extract the holy blood that they so badly want. Over the past years, Kolin and his people tried to heal and take back their land. He tried to stop them from extending the pipelines. The Wet'suwet'en built pit houses, lodges, cabins, checkpoints and bunks to heal the wounds. It is important to heal the residents because often they see no other way out than to fall with the trees and animals. It is an unfair fight in many ways, but Kolin will not give up.

COASTAL GASLINK PIPELINE

WET'SUWET'EN TERRITORY

2023

Moerdijk village counted 1,200 inhabitants in 2020, but the heart of Moerdijk is beyond the forest, half a kilometre from the dwellings. There, Shell has built an industrial landscape where 1,300 employees work every day — a 17-square- kilometre grid of dense pipes, big silos and scattered hangars. There are huge chimneys of steel, a pollution pond in the middle of the river, and explosions occurring in this network of pipes that run through the ground and across the Netherlands and beyond its borders to Belgium, Germany and the UK. It is a dangerous place to work but the financial benefits are too great to quit. In 2014, 44 employees died in an explosion on the Moerdijk site because Shell didn't procure a sufficient fire security system. But Shell blamed the local municipality for this lack of security and through this obtained 2.4 million euros to renovate the damaged building.

MOERDIJK CHEMICAL PLANT

THE NETHERLANDS

2024

NAM, the Nederlandse Aardolie Maatschappij, was founded as a partnership between Shell and ExxonMobil in 1947 for the purpose of exploiting the Schoonebeek oil field in the Province of Drenthe in the east of the Netherlands. In 1959, NAM drilled into the Groningen gas field near Slochteren, which turned out to be one of the largest gas fields in the world. The last ten years the gas field received a lot of negative press coverage due to the ‘gasquakes’ in Groningen - earthquakes caused by gas extraction from the field. The gasquakes and local opposition to NAM and gas extraction, led the Dutch government to restrict the volume of gas that NAM was permitted to extract, and to create a plan for phasing out the gas extraction completely by 2022.

NAM OFFICES

ASSEN

2024

The Shell petrochemical area is an important economic zone in Singapore and is the biggest Shell refinery in the world. It is part of a larger complex of islands with marine biodiversity and coral reefs. A reclamation project destroyed the Terumbu Bayan coral reef and the people of Palau Bakum were relocated for the construction of Shell's project. A place that is a wound today for the city and the local environment could be rethought as an ecological spot to restore the unique marine life of Singapore's shores.

EASTERN PETRO-CHEMICALS COMPLEX

SINGAPORE

2025

The original inhabitants of the site were nomads called Mapuche (mapu=land, che=people), who lived mostly along the rivers in the Neuquén region in Argentina. In 1885, the first tribes from the Confluencia area were killed in the Conquest of the Desert. Already then the native inhabitants were killed and pushed away. In the 1960s, YPF discovered oil in the region, which resulted in massive demographic growth in the 1970s and 1980s. The oil company created jobs in the short term but polluted the land and soil down to 400 metres deep, which will last for a long time—more likely forever. The Mapuche people are not as recognized as economic growth by the Argentinian government. The government took the land from the inhabitants. The former Minister of Energy Juan José Aranguren was also the former chairman of Shell in Argentina. He resigned from Shell to take on his role as a Minister, but he still kept his 16.3 million dollar worth of shares in the company.

VACA MUERTA

NEUQUÉN BASIN

2025

Once home to a rich and resourceful kingdom, the Nigerian Delta was colonised and its inhabitants were enslaved by the British Empire, which stole the ivory and palm oil to grow its economy. In 1908, the first black gold was extracted from its grounds. With the establishment of Shell D'Arcy in 1938, oil companies invaded the Niger Delta like parasites and began to fundamentally interfere with its environment, ecosystem and social structures. Bonny Island was no longer a stand-alone trading establishment but part of a violent destructive network.

BONNY ISLAND

NIGER DELTA

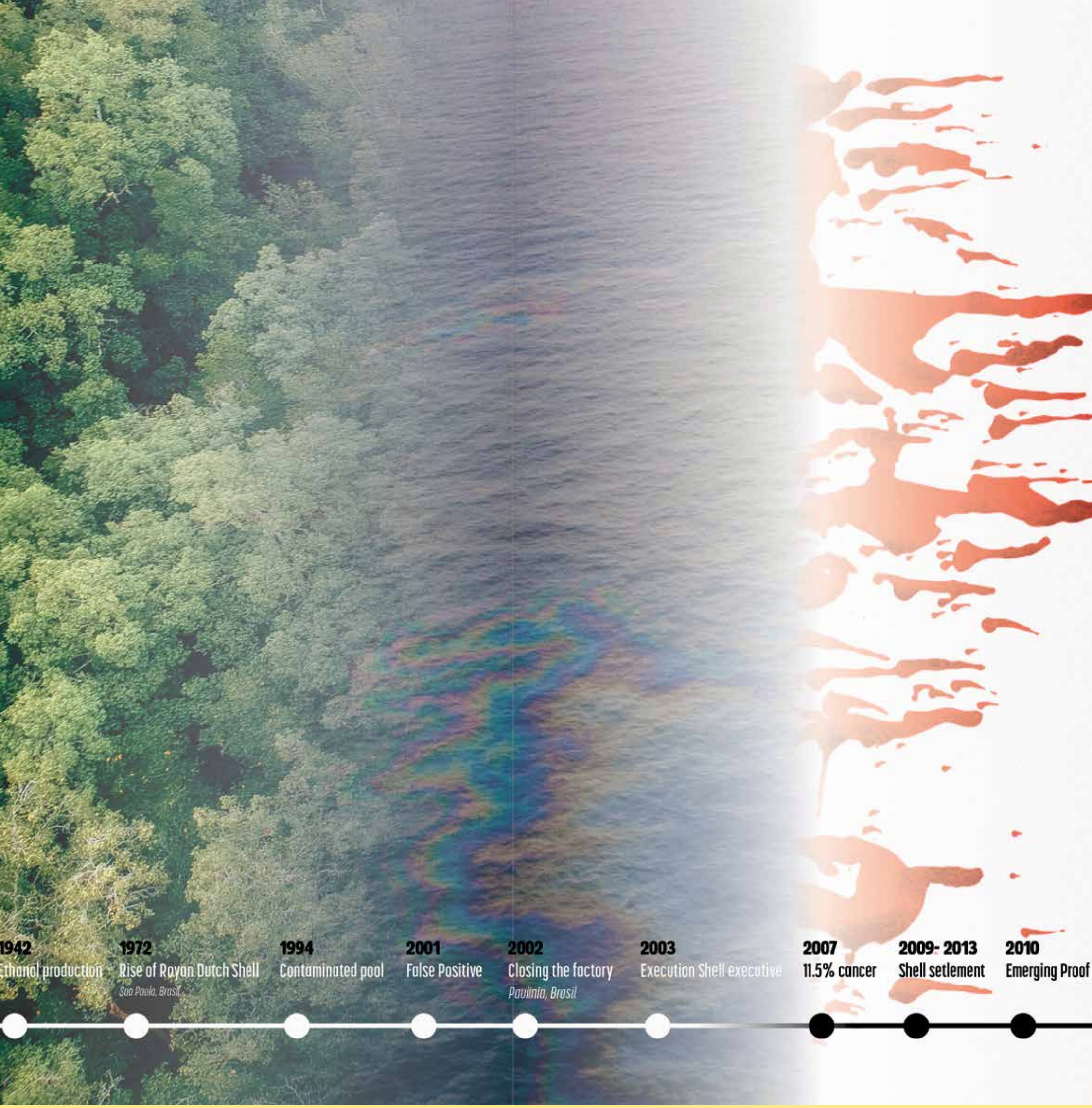
2026

On 4 July in Norco, Louisiana (USA), Elena and John were preparing to host a party to celebrate Independence Day. That day was probably the warmest Independence Day since decades, with temperatures at over 42°C. “It’s a special day for us: exactly three years ago I met John during the parade,” Elena explained. They were awaiting their friend Karen who was pregnant with her first child, and Elena hoped it’s her turn soon, so their kids could play together growing up. Months earlier, John was worried because his friends who worked at the Shell refinery nearby were unhappy. He tried to not let it ruin that special day. A few miles further away, on the same day, Will and Emily and their kids were celebrating Independence Day within the community park with other families. They hoped to see fireworks, because the year before the smoke of the nearby Shell refinery blinded their sight. Emily had been worried about Will who was feeling sick for a while but pretended to be fine. “Thanks to Will’s job at the factory, our son is able to go to a private school. Life is good,” Emily stated. Little did they know...

NORCO REFINERY

LOUISIANA

2026



I never saw my grandfather. But I met him through the stories. My dad used to tell me about him working on the sugar cane fields in Paulínia, Brazil, Brazil during WW2. My father himself spent his very short life working in the factory at the same location. Until his last breath he believed in the promise of a better future. Things really started derailing from then. I was 18 years old, and I was attending more funerals than birthdays. In the coming years I found out why. Headlines were screaming: POL-LUTION, CANCER, CORRUPTION. Soon after, the factory conveniently shut down. Only to continue their deadly business someplace else. Profit above life... That's when I knew what my life's purpose was going to be.

PAULÍNIA PESTICIDE PLANT

SÃO PAULO

2027

From 1902 to 2020, the Shell refinery in Pernis grew from modest beginnings to 550 hectares of machinery and chimneys that occupied vast stretches of the Maas river-bank. 2000 employees worked there year round, while at peak periods it could reach up to 6,000 workers. At the end of July 2017, the first impactful incident took place. There was a power outage at the refinery, and oil spilled into the water and damaged the river's ecosystem and soil. As a result, the complex was shut down, which probably led to a loss of several million euros, but many more years of nature restoration. A few days later a fire broke out, and soot particles caused horrible air pollution. Shell was under heavy control due to fears of more incidents among local residents who have started to rethink the use of Shell. How could the destruction be stopped?

PERNIS REFINERY

ROTTERDAM

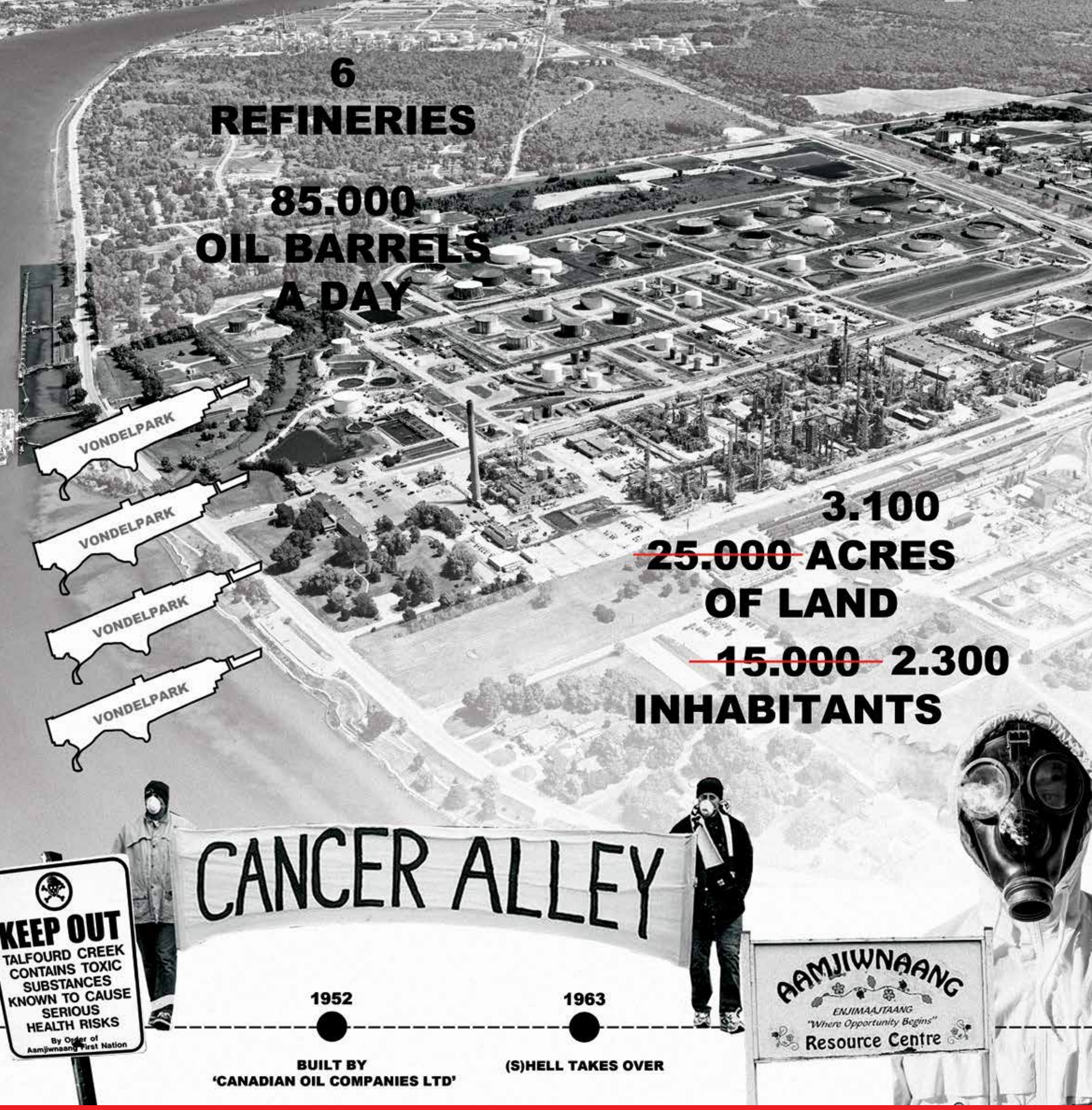
2027

In 1990, the former Dutch Royal Shell company had a plan to build large oil and gas rigs on the coast of Sakhalin Island, Russia. Two of these goldmines were Sakhalin 1 and 2. The production capacity of Sakhalin 2 was so high that around 2020 it supplied about 4% of the world's fossil gas. But this area didn't become only a goldmine for Shell and other oil companies. It was also one of the primary summer feeding grounds of the grey whale and North Pacific right whale. With the grey whale being an important pioneer of biodiversity, this area formed an important place for the ocean. With Sakhalin 1 and 2, things changed. Oil spills happened and environmental changes on the island and in the ocean ensued. Then, in 2022, something important for the oil companies happened. Russia started a war with Ukraine. Nobody wanted to trade with Russia anymore. Companies like Shell and ExxonMobil started leaving the country and they sold all their shares to Russia, making Russia the sole owner.

SAKHALIN–2

SEA OF OKHOTSK

2028



Sarnia, a town located in Ontario, Canada, on the border with the USA, is well known for its oil refineries, timber industry and railway port. Since 1963, Shell has run the main Corunna Refinery, previously owned by Canadian Oil Company Limited. Every day approximately 75,000 barrels of raw crude oil are refined into a range of petroleum products such as gasoline, diesel, jet fuel and various petrochemicals. While the refinery is a generous economic contributor to the local town, as well as the greater region, outcries from the locals have increased exponentially. The air and water quality within the area has decreased rapidly. Cancer outbreaks within the local community have caused residents to protest against the once beloved Shell refinery.

CORUNNA REFINERY

SARNIA

2028

The new headquarters of Shell is located in the most central location of London, striving to disguise itself as a culturally-integrated entity with positive influence. In actuality, the building casts a large shadow on the space beneath the Jubilee Park. This shadow is as real as it is symbolic. The Jubilee Park replaced the Festival of Britain, a cultural complex built in 1951 as a morale booster. It was an attraction where people could gather and visit many exhibits. Crucial to the site was the Dome of Discovery, a place where scientific discoveries and future propositions were displayed as optimistic prospects for the post-war public. The dome was targeted by the subsequent conservative government as 'communist propaganda' and was destroyed, whilst the other cultural buildings remained. Here, Shell has been occupying this area ever since. With a 33 billion dollar net worth, it earns many times more than several countries but damages the whole planet. The Shell beast has its head in London, but many tentacles across the world.

SHELL CENTRE

LONDON

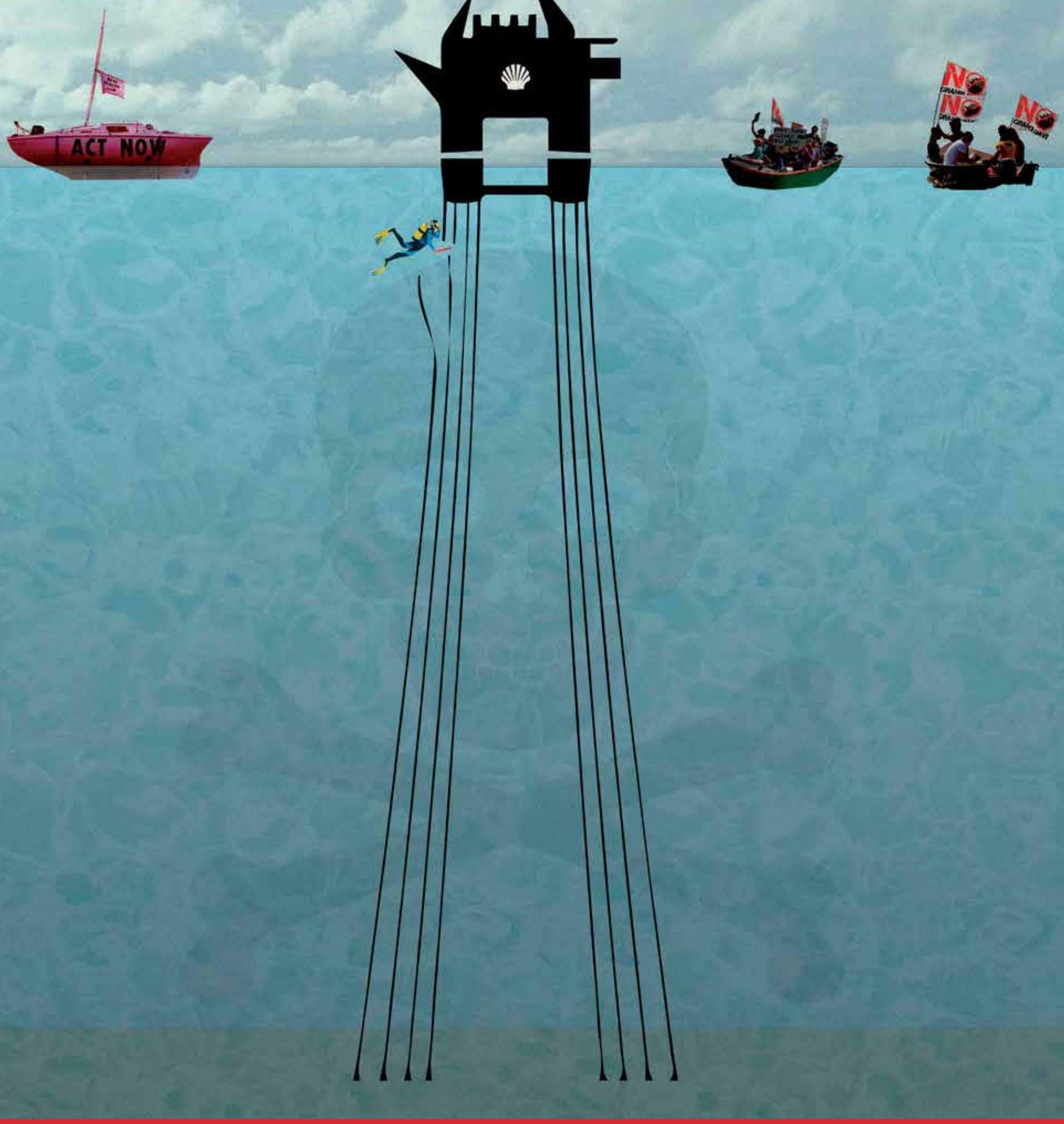
2029

The Kashagan oil fields account for approximately 2.5% of global seaborne oil trade. Spanning 75 kilometres in length and 45 kilometres in width, it is the second largest oil field in the world. Located in the North Caspian Sea, the Kashagan oil fields are operated and developed by North Caspian Operating Company (NCOC), with five major stakeholders involved in this joint venture, namely KazMunaiGas, Shell, Total, Eni, and ExxonMobil. Along with the oil, huge amounts of wealth are extracted from the communities, whilst the pollution has caused serious environmental consequences. The Caspian seal, five types of local sturgeon fish and certain migrant birds suffer from the degraded habitats.

KASHAGAN FIELD

CASPIAN SEA

2029

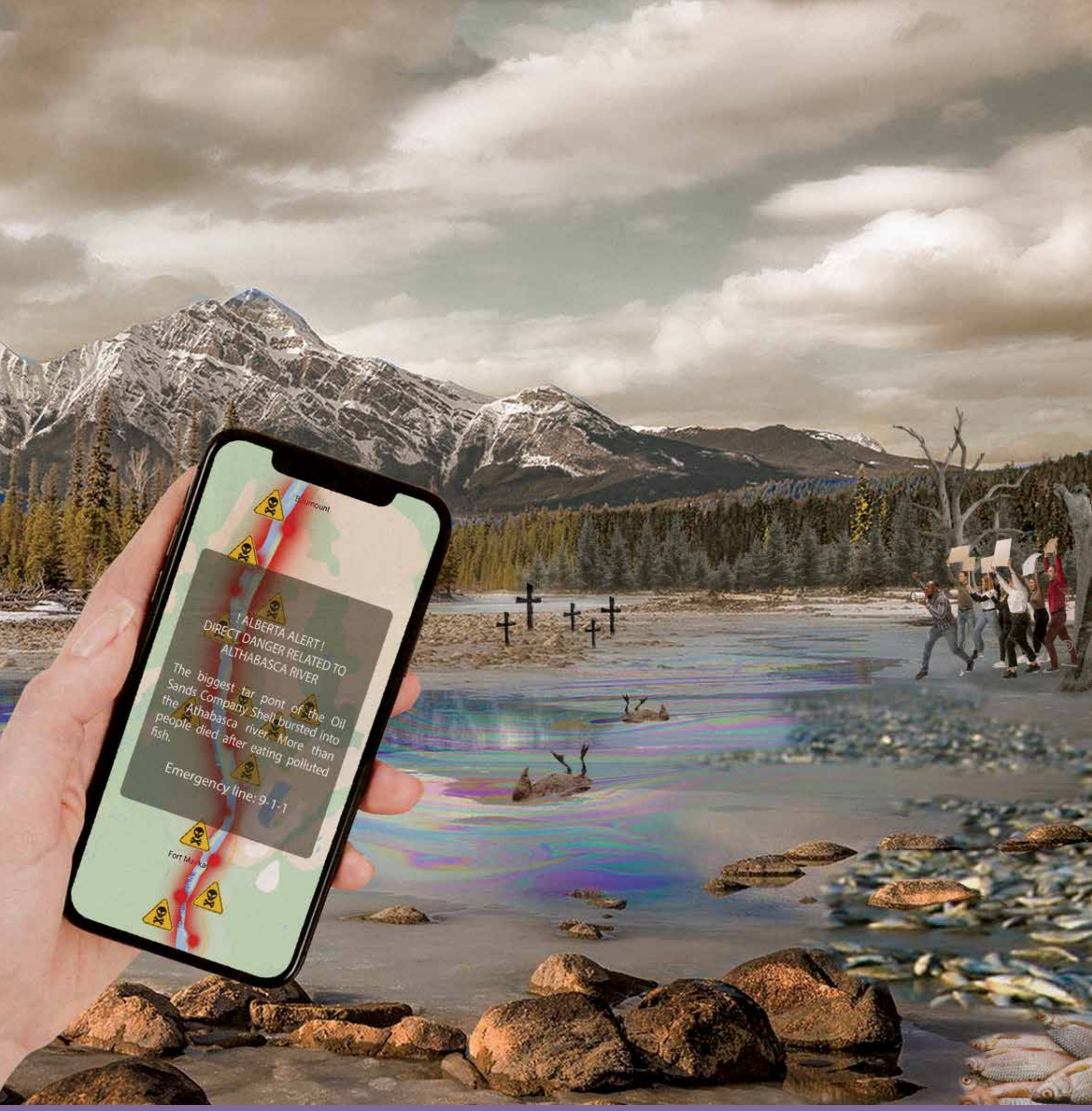


Already ten years ago it became clear that the platform Appomattox was highly destructive in the Gulf of Mexico. Shell never took any responsibility for the harm and destruction, and the local communities of Louisiana had had enough. They joined forces with activist groups and began protesting around the platforms peacefully. Regrettably, Shell did not even react to these protests. The locals and the activists felt they were running out of time to save lifeworlds in the ocean, and decided it was necessary to take further action. Many of the workers were also tired of how they were treated, and how they had to risk their health on these platforms. They decided to join the protest movement in secret. Together they worked out a strategy to free the platforms from the oil drilling, and to stop the production immediately.

APPOMATTOX

GULF OF MEXICO

2030



“Enough is enough!” That is what the people living along the Athabasca River say. From 5 July onwards, the government can no longer ignore the impact of the oil sands on the flora and fauna, and even more importantly, the health of the inhabitants of Alberta. On this day the biggest tar pond of the Albian Energy Sands Inc. burst into the Athabasca River, killing more than 300 people who have eaten the polluted fish. This is not the first case. The reports of the Alberta Cancer Board show that cancer cases have increased by 30–50% for the workers and their community. People can no longer drink the water of the river. Many activist groups, such as Keepers of the Athabasca, have come to the river to block it by building a dam. The company no longer has access to the water they need for the tar sand extraction. The people from Alberta say NO! NO! to the practices of the Albian Energy Sands Inc.

ATHABASCA TAR SANDS

ALBERTA

2030

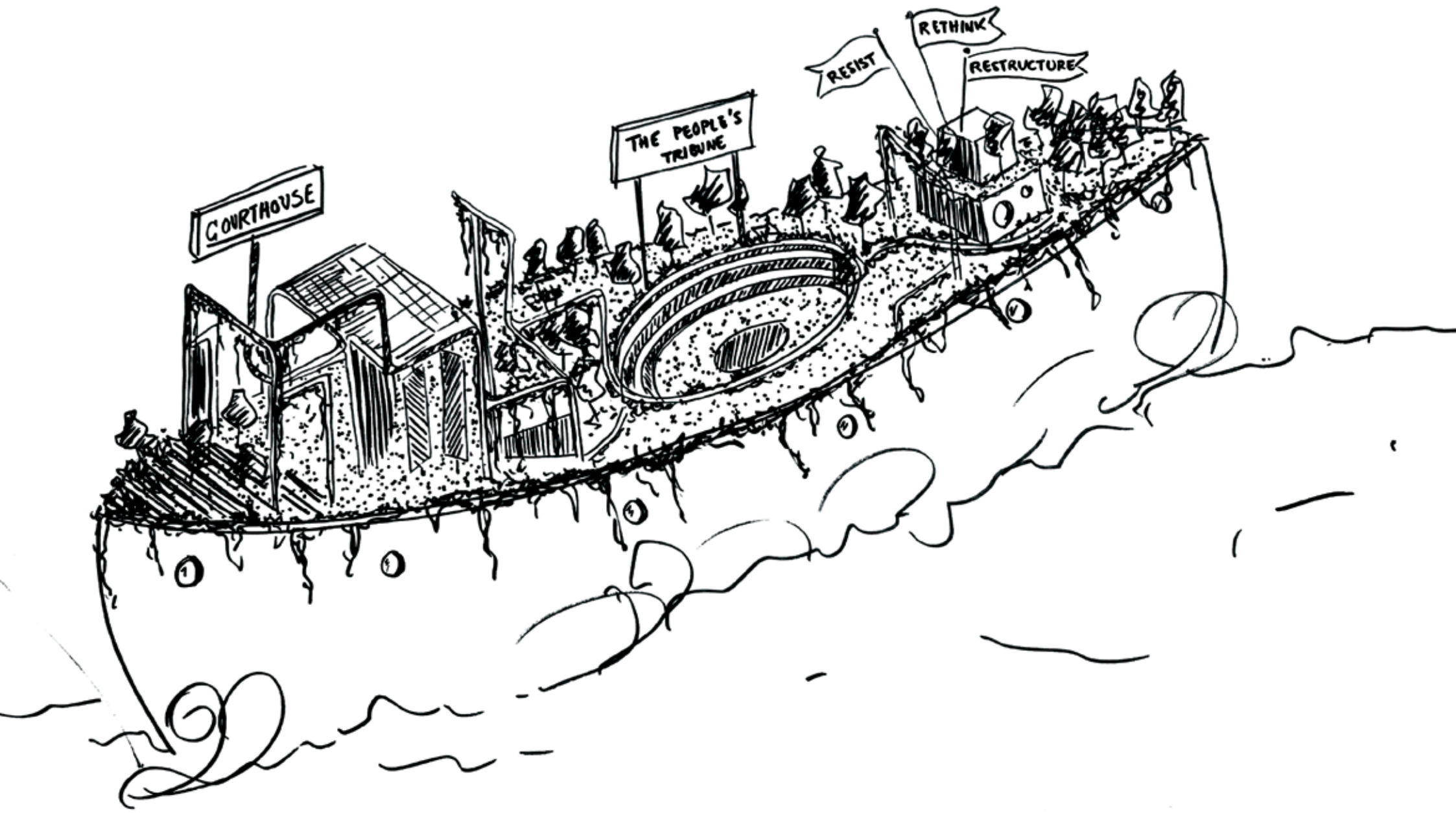
The knowledge of the local people is far beyond what any of us had imagined. They are in touch with everything around them. We are joining forces in combining their embodied knowledge and technologies with ours. For this, we are reusing parts of the abandoned Camisea factory. We are storing the seeds in the place where it all began, to preserve them for the future. As our endeavour progresses, we know better how we are fighting the problem face to face. The pollution hits back worse each day.

We are confronted with oil spills, which drench animals and destroy their food source. The natural water supply has decreased, and at times the air quality feels so toxic to the point that we cannot breathe. Then it happened. Nobody foresaw the power of Earth's movement, its phenomenal ability to fight back, and be heard once and for all. The ground shook violently, the earth caved in, and the tallest trees cracked in half.

CAMISEA GAS FIELD

PERU

2031



Resist, rethink, restructure. We claim the opportunity to clarify the polluted waters of the past with the lightness of freedom and independence. We raise flags to connect cultures and mend broken hearts. The floating state of Prelude glides in the direction of stability and sustainability, based on social decisions of a deep democratic, circular, and popular government. Trust is the basis of our governance, which acknowledges that every being has rights and a need for space.

PRELUDE

FLOATING GAS FACILITY

2031

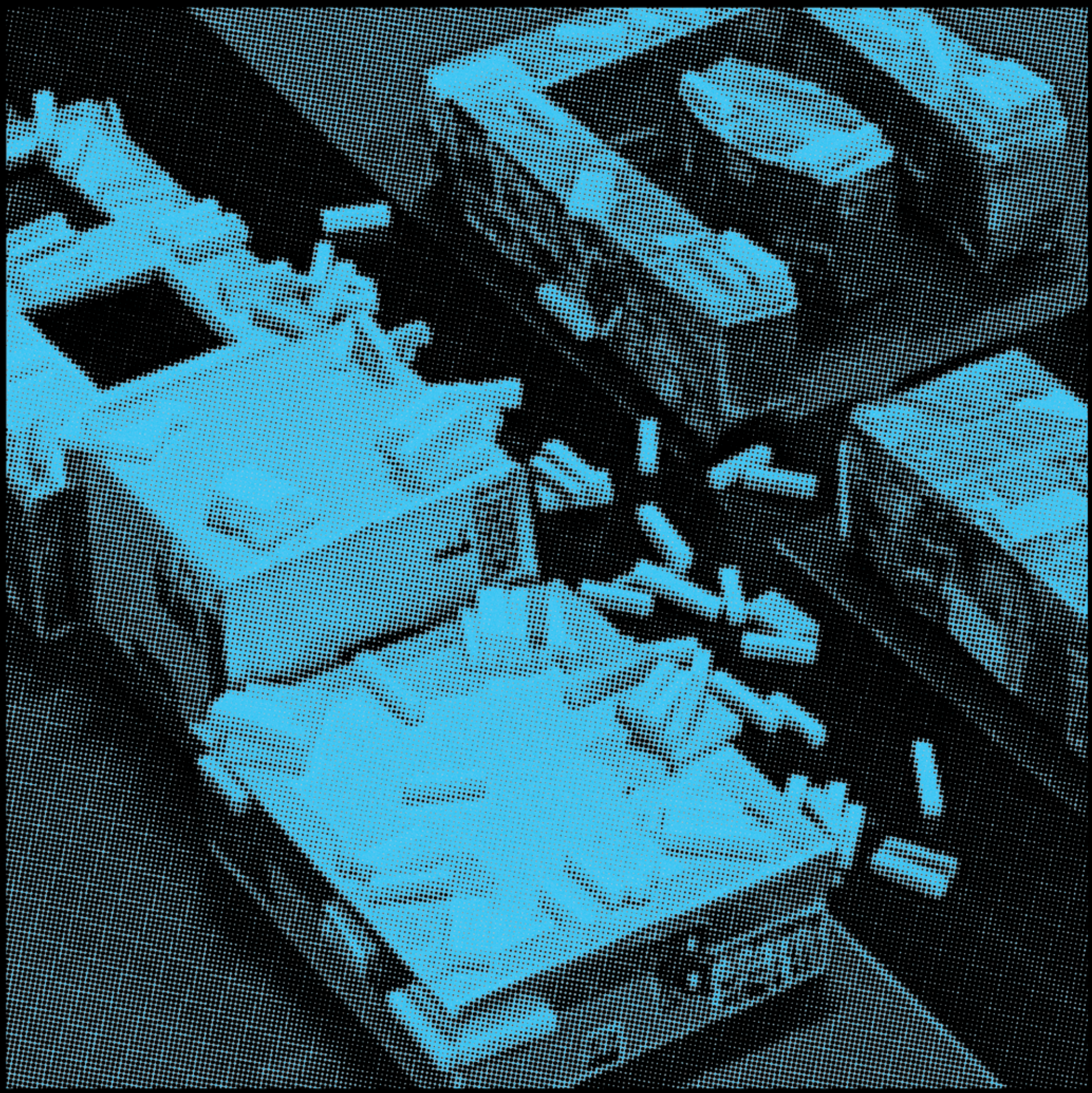
The issues in Flammable are ongoing. After a long period of inaction resulting in more and more uncertainty and confusion for the residents, the community finally organised themselves with help of international organisations and fought back. Since then, lawsuits have piled up as more and more people joined the movement. Corrupt governmental power structures caused setbacks to the movement, which led to other ways of tackling the problems. That is how the coup happened. People got sick and tired of the lack of change. They consolidated and appropriated the whole of Dock Sud. This was the beginning of Vida Maravillosa.

VILLA INFLAMABLE

BUENOS AIRES

2032

THE HAGUE - AFTER MUCH BICKERING, THE BUILDING COUNCILS OF 'IN MY SHELL' HAVE FINALLY AGREED; A COLLECTIVE MISSION TO PUSH FORWARD A NATURE-FRIENDLY TRANSITION AT THE FORMER SHELL CAMPUS.



On Tuesday morning on 5 July, the municipality of The Hague invokes a policy of tolerance for the squatting movement In My Shell, which has taken over the former Shell headquarters. The building remained vacant for years, due to years of ongoing legal battles between the creditors following Shell's bankruptcy. Even to this day, there is no agreement on what will happen with the real estate Shell leaves behind. The squatting residents, who've moved in a year after the fall of Shell, rejoice. "Justice is served!" yelled Johan, one of the original inhabitants of the Shell campus, and the movement's leader. "If the debt collectors take over, they will destroy the building and the community and replace it with expensive apartments. But look at what we've created here now. A real community of people who look out for one another. We're an example to others."

SHELL CAMPUS

THE HAGUE

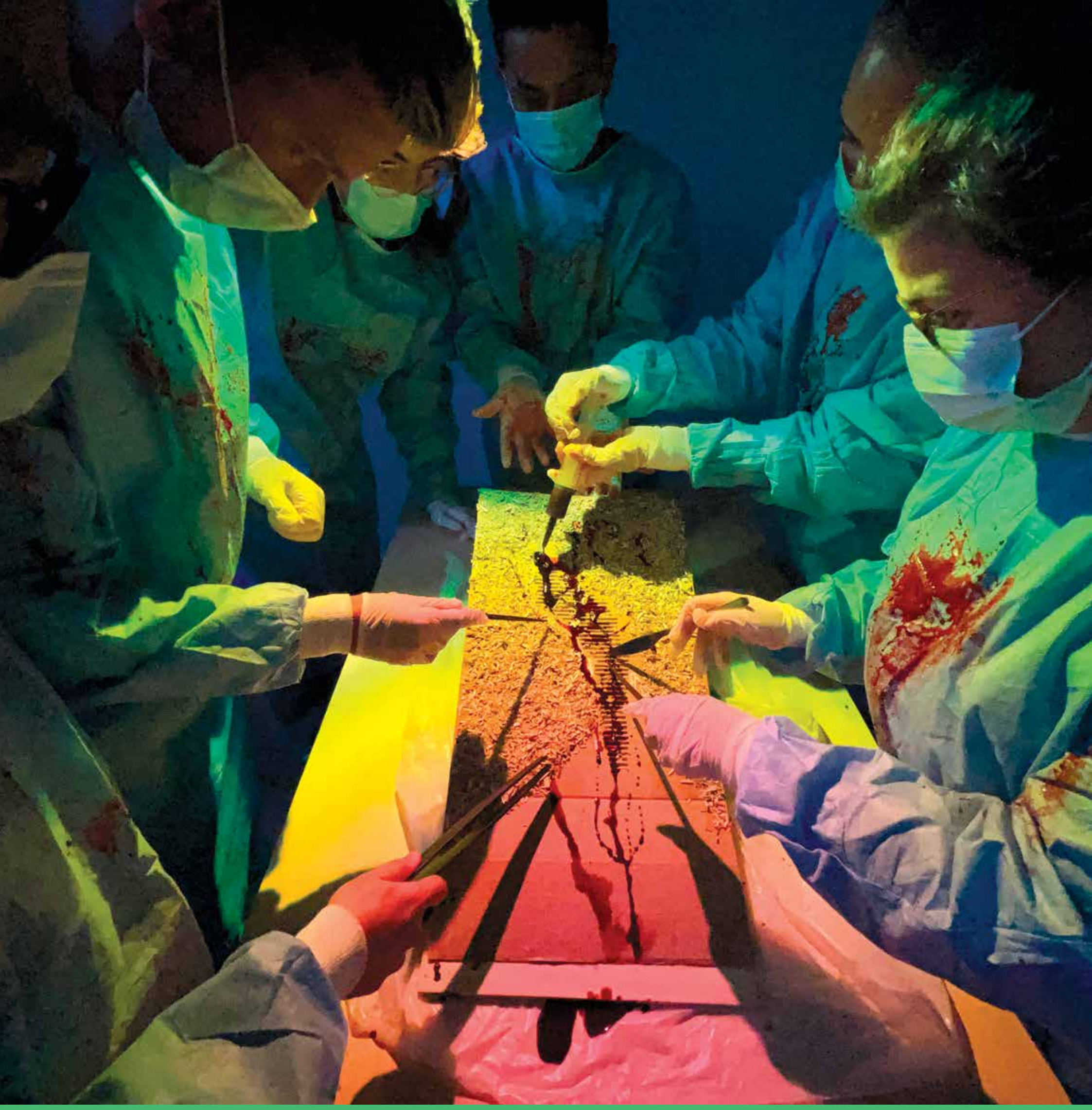
2032

By the late 2030s, the degradation of the abandoned refinery had resulted in large-scale pollution of the local ecosystems through oil spills and toxic waste. The sudden drop in tourism together with widespread unemployment due to the closure of the Isla lead to economic breakdown. Many goods which until then had been imported, including basic commodities such as food, water and energy became unaffordable. Political leadership failed to address the root causes of these problems, which lead to escalating public unrest. Precarity and despair took hold of the island and destroyed what little community and nature had remained unscathed.

ISLA OIL REFINERY

CURAÇAO

2033



After many years of gas extraction, earthquakes became the new reality along a large portion of the pipeline. A huge earthquake, which began at Dawson Creek, collapsed the oil reservoirs and this extended through the pipeline itself. The magnitude of the earthquake brought the entire pipeline in danger as it occurred in multiple places. The land of the indigenous people, the Wet'suwet'en, has been directly impacted. They cannot live in such polluted places. The forest is beginning to decay, and the soil is getting infested by the residuals, which is tearing the communities apart. The holy blood that leaks out of the wound is now spreading and poisoning the entirety of the lungs. It is horrible to hear the news that the village of my friend is getting poisoned due the horrifying acts of Shell. I hope he gets well.

COASTAL GASLINK PIPELINE

WET'SUWET'EN TERRITORY

2033

In the 2030s, the use of oil for transport is drastically reduced in order to minimise CO_2 emissions, which is backed up by investments in public transportation. But oil is still substantially used for technical innovations. Rising water levels shaped the bank of the river just as Shell had shaped it in the 80s. Land is lost against the eternal fight with water. Salty water is changing the ecosystem of the region. During episodic events the water is even infiltrating some parts of the Moerdijk site, mixing with the pollutants and spreading them around. This is forcing Shell to slowly diminish its activity at the site and clean up the parts closer to the river. Shell sold the more troublesome parts of their operations to the municipality. In this process, the employees lost their jobs, the Moerdijk village lost its main financial resource, but its inhabitants did not leave since they felt attached to their community and identity.

MOERDIJK CHEMICAL PLANT

THE NETHERLANDS

2034

The NAM headquarters had been vacated instake 2025. Due to the decline in gas usage, the headquarters were forced to relocate to a smaller facility. The now empty and imposing building symbolises the good time it once had, but also the rapid decline and decay it endured. Up until the 2030s, the Netherlands worked hard to get rid of its dependency on gas. The tipping point came in 2034.

Due to the complete exhaustion of Groningen, NAM was forced to stop completely. The building has time to rest and look back at the footprint it has left behind. While the people in the background are busy repairing the damage caused by this footprint, the building is already thinking of an improved version of itself.

NAM OFFICES

ASSEN

2034

Shell's petrochemical complex is in part built on reclaimed land that destroyed the coral reefs of the island of Terumbu Bayan. In agreement with the government, Shell began the expansion of its complex in 2035. This was done without consulting the local people or the marine conservationists that have been working to protect the marine life of the surrounding islands. This expansion project will bury what remains of the coral reefs of Singapore and destroy the mangroves. Their extinction will endanger the life of several marine animals and ecosystems. Shell's refusal to recognize its decades of negative impact on Singapore's wilderness accumulated into a breaking point. With the last remaining coral reefs under threat, the demonstrations led by local and international marine conservationists and climate activists have sparked civil disobedience nationwide. The government is forced to shut down Shell.

EASTERN PETROCHEMICALS COMPLEX

SINGAPORE

2035

Today, on Saturday 31 August, we remember one of the gravest tragedies that has hit Argentina. Twenty years have passed since the oil field explosion. We look back at the historical accident that caused some of the greatest environmental damage in this country. One of our reporters captured the moment of the disaster: "On the night of 31 August, the biggest explosion to date took place at the Shell oil field in Vaca Muerta, a region in the province of Neuquén in Argentina. The explosion caused many casualties, and oil workers are missing. The explosion was experienced like an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.8.

The seismic movement was felt 300 kilometres away. At this moment inhabitants are being evacuated. We have been told by one of the indigenous community members that the explosion caused a shock wave that has blown away houses in the nearby village. We have been told by people that their family members are missing. And still the problems caused by pollution of this disaster are undermined. One of the women we spoke with lost her family together with her house. She was devastated and clueless of what to do."

VACA MUERTA

NEUQUÉN BASIN

2035

This destructive network entailed ports, land-cutting channels, rusty leaking pipelines, refineries and oil platforms. Freshwater turned into brackish water, soil became infertile, species became extinct, people lost their agricultural lands and became dependent on oil money. When oil profits dropped, the people were left with nothing. The rising pressure among the people first found release in armed conflict and oil bunkering. The drop in the price of oil, the old and broken infrastructure, and the resilience of the people eventually pushed the parasite out of the wasted and abused country. The abandoned Shell infrastructures and the land were taken back by the community to which the land belonged. The people have united to repair the Delta.

BONNY ISLAND

NIGER DELTA

2036

The climate changed rapidly over the last decade. Natural disasters became more frequent and had greater impact. After a decade of disasters, the final punch was Hurricane Shelly in 2036. This event marked the beginning of a big catastrophe. The infrastructure of the Norco petroleum refinery and chemical plant were irreparably damaged. The toxic chemicals entered the atmosphere and benzene polluted the water. The area became almost uninhabitable, the people who had the resources could flee, but a lot of people had nowhere to go. Many people died in the first weeks but soon help arrived. In the years prior to Hurricane Shelly experts and designers already worked on plans in case of an event like this. To survive, communities needed to be resourceful, which led to new ways of coexisting with the planet.

NORCO REFINERY

LOUISIANA

2036

I spent the next few years studying journalism in Amsterdam. I always felt guilty about the quality of life I had in those years. I dreamt of creating my future there. That was until the news about the devastating flood in my hometown hit me. I knew in my heart I had to go back. Paulínia was destroyed. Not only people's homes, but also their spirits were broken. I wanted to use what I had learned in Europe. From Paulínia, I started attracting a lot of media attention. Communities slowly started rebuilding. The factory remained untouched, and it continued to decay. People were not ready to revisit their trauma, so nature started taking over. I had a feeling a better future was finally ahead of us. And I had a clear idea of how to make that happen.

PAULÍNIA PESTICIDE PLANT

SÃO PAULO

2037

We are tired of lies, underplots, and greenwashing campaigns created to protect Shell and its abusive and polluting systems. In Rotterdam, the neighbourhood of Pernis suffers the most. After the refinery has got six times bigger than Pernis, the situation seems irreversible. Climate change is extreme, the river's capacity is overwhelmed, and flooding has become the norm. Dangerous incidents in the refinery have multiplied due to the flooding: soil pollution, oil spills damaging the weak ecosystem, fires causing smoke clouds of acid rain. People are getting sick, and the population has decreased over the years. People can no longer survive near the refinery anymore. People have lost homes, hunger strikes have begun, and hope has gone. However, we also see an opportunity. We are using various methods to clean up the chemicals: making a barrier of human hair to clean out the oil from the water, and using mushrooms to clean the chemicals from the soil. We are beginning to see the possibilities of restoring the landscape by letting the river reshape the site into the rich delta it used to be.

PERNIS REFINERY

ROTTERDAM

2037

Because of Russia's declining economic situation and their Carbon Neutral 2060 campaign, the country decided to abandon their oil rigs. This created a devastating situation on Sakhalin Island: Sakhalin 1 and 2 are now left unused and the people living on the island have lost their main source of income. Together with the loss of biodiversity, due to previous decades of oil drilling, the people of Sakhalin Island are starving. Desperation has struck.

The community of the island has started to dismantle the abandoned oil rigs to sell their parts. Lately, while taking apart vital parts of Sakhalin 1 and 2, a terrible thing happened: a large oil leak across the Okhotsk sea. The situation, both in the sea and on the island, has gotten even worse. The community of Sakhalin Island is desperate and doesn't know what to do. How could they recover from this disaster?

SAKHALIN–2

SEA OF OKHOTSK

2038

Shell's complete disregard of human and animal life has continued until the 2030s. There have been numerous protests, following the research which proved that there are chemicals in the air, which are polluting the nearby waters, and causing sickness amongst the Aamjiwnaang community. The chemical factories of Shell and surrounding oil and rubber refineries have produced chemical cloud cocktails that have become a disastrous hormone disruptor to the area. This hormone disruptor has, after an already steady decline throughout the 2020s, brought the male birth rate of the Aamjiwnaang First Nation down to zero. This has caused an uprising against Shell and the refineries, demanding termination of the factories, and the reinstatement of the health and safety of the indigenous people and their environment.

CORUNNA REFINERY

SARNIA

2038

6.7% of the world's GDP still goes towards fossil fuels. Subsidies will continue to keep the big companies afloat while quality of life sinks to all-time lows. In only eight short years, the looming market crash has hit, after the 2020 bubble there was nowhere else to grow. The lingering Russian war brought energy shortages to new highs. Food shortages are more common and energy poverty has risen along with high unemployment rates. With the growing tensions in urban environments, London is becoming a social pressure cooker. It is becoming ever more clear to more people that the collapse of the system is not only imminent, but necessary. The idea of a just transition echoes with the general public on a personal level. The urban fabric is disarticulated due to urban exodus and infrastructure is costly to operate. Hungry and looking for someone to blame, the general public starts mobbing and raiding corporate buildings.

SHELL CENTRE

LONDON

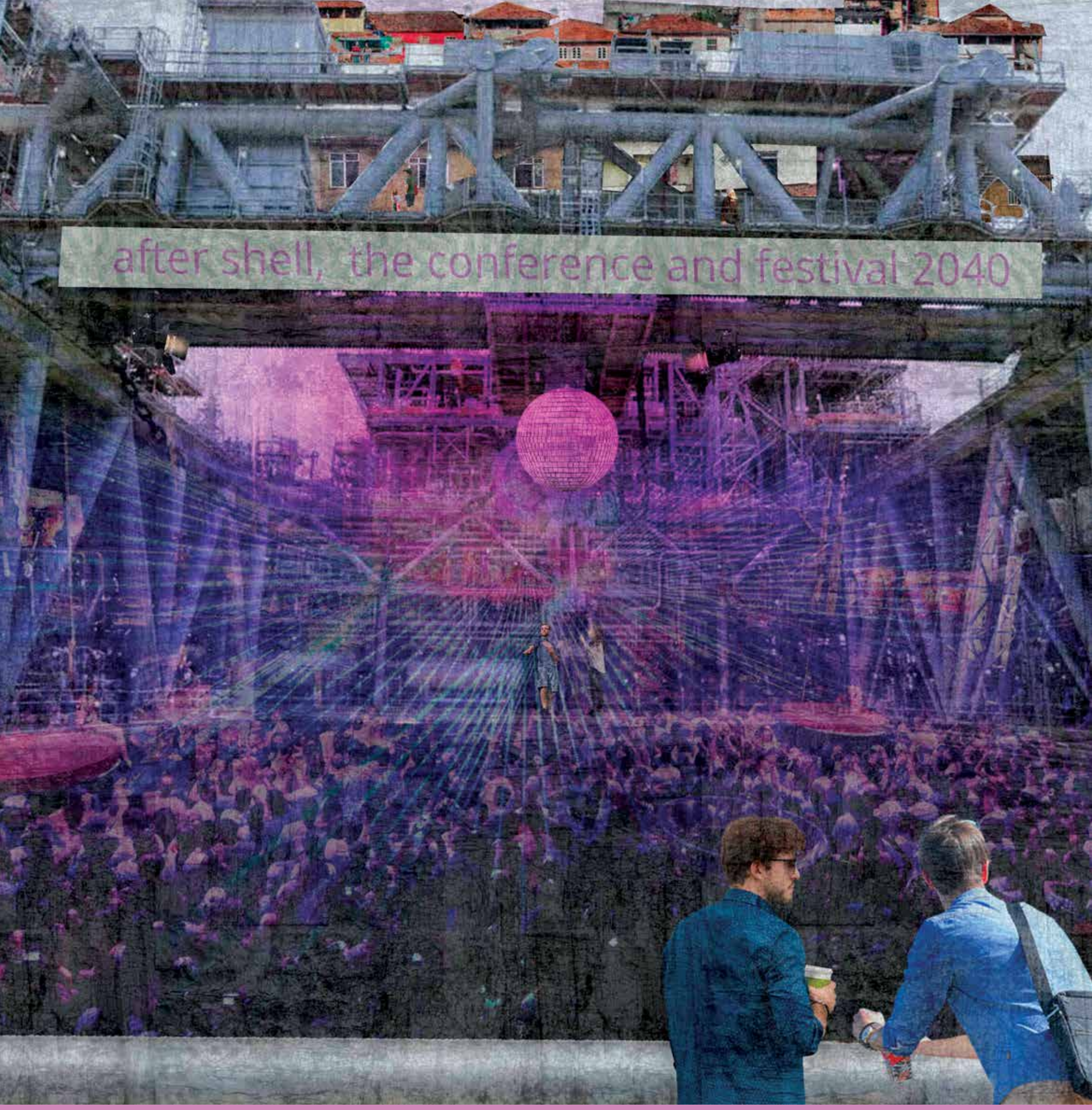
2039

Once upon a time, a huge cluster of lofty towers appeared on the horizon of the Caspian Sea. People could hear echoes from there: “We will be rich! Haha!” Each and every day, from those towers black liquid would be drilled from the sea, and roaring flames would be spewed into the sky. Living offshore, Adilet’s family breathed the polluted air, and suffered from water shortages. Adilet’s friends were seals and sturgeon fish, who cried for him when he walked by. Covered in oil, they were scared of the heavy noise coming from the towers. Adilet told the government about the plight of his friends and asked for help. Governments enriched by oil exportation ignored it all. Adilet’s story slowly spread around the world. People protested against the Kashagan investors and called for justice. Those with vested interests who only cared about their wealth and pleasure have been sent to prison. From the profit of oil exports, the government is now allocating large sums of money to revitalise the environment destroyed by oil development. The government recognises that everyone is equal, not like in the past where whoever had the most money had final say. Adilet and his buddies finally have their normal lives back.

KASHAGAN FIELD

CASPIAN SEA

2039



Appomattox on the loose! Floating in the Gulf of Mexico is a steel future-proof island. The activist groups hold their annual meetings on the Appomattox as a middle finger to Shell. People are welcome to join the small community who inhabits and maintains the island. Researchers along with young climate fighters watch the marine life set their fins into the once so polluted seawater. Climate refugees have found shelter in the changing Appomattox, and former Shell employees have found peace in a nature-friendly life. Post-capitalism teaches us that neither money nor profit is needed on the island, as the community runs on sharing practices. Once a year the island hosts a festival with speakers from near and far, which ends in a party that lasts until the sun rises up from the horizon.

APPOMATTOX

GULF OF MEXICO

2040

“Once we pollute every stream, every body of water, and the price of water will cost more than oil, only then will we realise that we can’t drink oil.” “Mní wičhóni,” as the Lakota people say: water is life. And it is time we give life and the rivers back to the rightful holders: to the indigenous communities of the Dene, Cree, and Métis peoples, to nature and Athabasca’s river life, and the former workers of the Albian Energy Sands Inc. Collective stewardship of life requires us to include the rights of water in our democracy. In this democracy new jurisdictions are given to indigenous people and former workers to participate in river sharing, governance and use. Since the dam, a research cooperative for purification of the river has emerged. The cooperative functions as a community and is built on the dam. The cooperation of the Keepers of the Water is part of a network of communities that acknowledges the rights of the river.

ATHABASCA TAR SANDS

ALBERTA

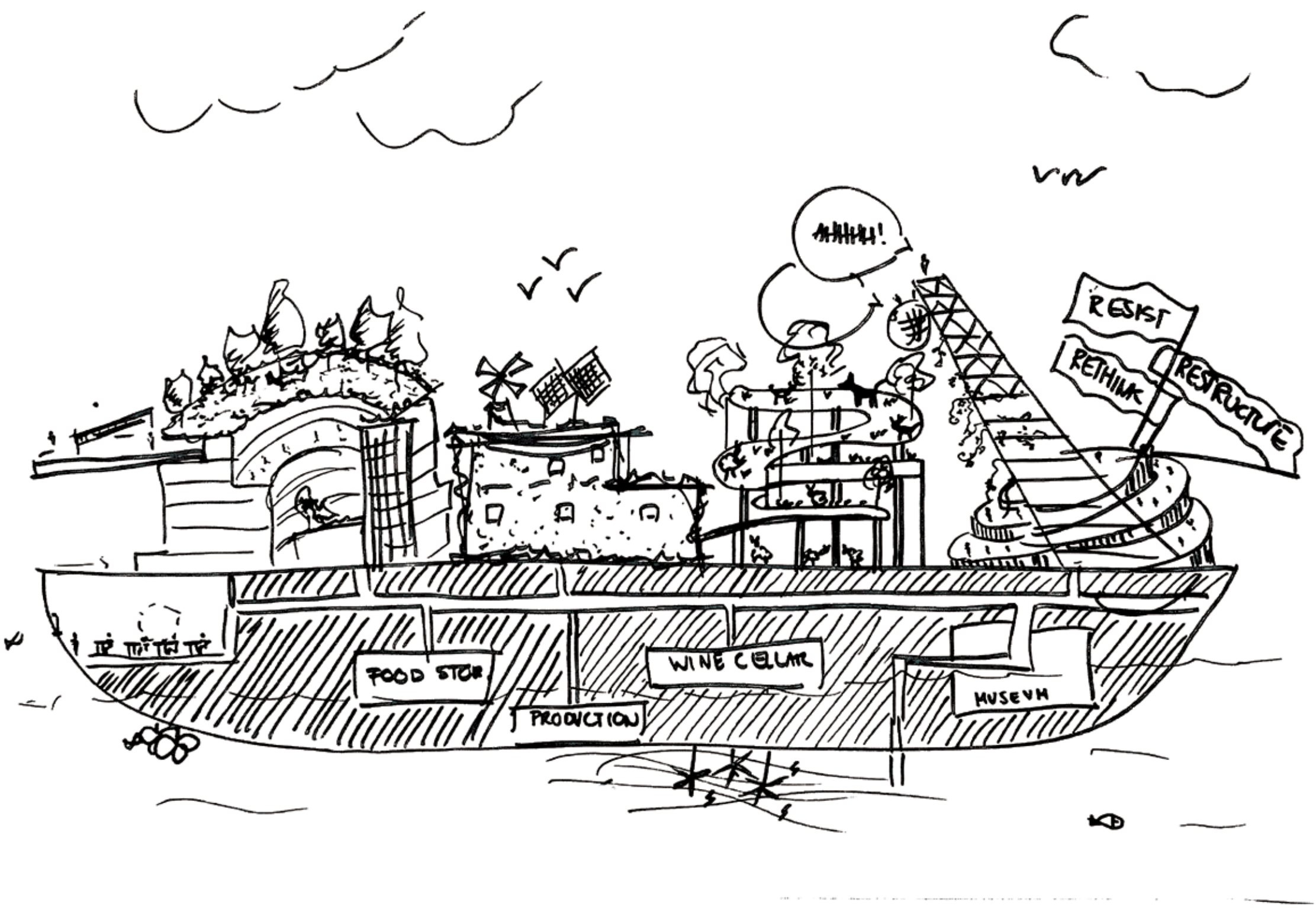
2040

Being in touch with the land, the Machiguenga people felt the signs of this disaster coming. They left in the dead of night with only the necessary tools to survive. They found a clearing where the falling trees could not harm them. We were glad to hear that the Machiguenga people had made it to safety. By transforming the former factory into a seed bank, we aimed to address the problem at its roots. As the ground shook and the buildings began to crumble, our intervention began to work. Out of the shell of the former factory, the seed containers exploded. As the great collapse came to a still, Earth could begin to heal. The explosion flooded the surroundings with light, and a whirlwind of seeds was spread throughout the area. This aftermath will forever be known as the Great Re-build. Over the next decade, slowly but surely, the Nahua Kugapakori reserve would be restored to its former glory.

CAMISEA GAS FIELD

PERU

2041



Ten years later, we have a solid social government as a base for the new state of Prelude. A regenerative economy has started up and is fulfilling the needs of the (future) inhabitants. Ecology, production and social awareness become the organising principles for the existing structures and spaces, layering the living environment into different yet connected levels. Society is starting to thrive. People play tennis on the former helicopter platforms, and cows and sheep graze on the rooftops of the former fossil gas structures. Children go to school where they learn about the values of this unique society and how to continue this new way of living. Self-sustainability is the engine that makes the ship evolve in a dynamic and just transition.

PRELUDE

FLOATING GAS FACILITY

2041

Vida Maravillosa, the new way of living for the people of Dock Sud, brings hope and inspiration. Together with designers, the residents design the new plot of land. The designers are here to facilitate the wishes of the residents. The residents have two major wishes: a place without pollution, and a place for relaxation, where they can live and not only survive. With these needs in mind, the designers suggest growing plants to clean the air, water, and soil. Naturally, this is not a fast process, but it will make the soil fertile again, which is needed to plant a lot of greenery. The result is a landscape park where not only living but also recreation, schooling and working happen.

VILLA INFLAMABLE

BUENOS AIRES

2042

After much bickering, the building councils of In My Shell have finally agreed to a collective mission to push forward a nature-friendly transition at the former Shell campus. The reason for the tense conversations is the increasing pressure on the buildings. Several communities had grown in their own buildings, leading to conflicts of interest with other communities. As a result, they slowly lost sight of the real core value, their shared climate improvement mission. Time for change, if it is up to council member of building C10, Will. “To live well, we have to go back to ourselves. Years ago, we were refugees looking for a place to live, but now it is nature looking for a place to live, which we have taken away. We take responsibility and open our doors, windows and walls to make nature part of our existence.”

SHELL CAMPUS

THE HAGUE

2042

Finally, the uprising brought a new government in power, and together with a multidisciplinary design team, popular assemblies and Shell – now a publicly-owned renewable energy utility – are looking at the abandoned refinery for a solution. Spills and toxins which had polluted the area are being cleaned up through soil regeneration, and regenerative farming. The land is restored and native species are returning and thriving once again. The old silos are being turned into tanks for water desalination, housing, and food production through aqua and hydroculture. With the aim of becoming more self-sufficient, they are producing solar and wind energy as well as hydrogen fuel.

ISLA OIL REFINERY

CURAÇAO

2043

Enough is enough. After all the surgeries that scarred the land, animals and people are combining forces. People from all walks of life are honouring the power and belief system of the Wet'suwet'en: we as people are not separate from the land but we are part of the land that sustains us. We are like white blood cells: we clean and take care of the mess Shell has created. Together we will defend the land against foreign substance infections and invaders. The land, the animals and the people will heal naturally, even though this needs time.

COASTAL GASLINK PIPELINE

WET'SUWET'EN TERRITORY

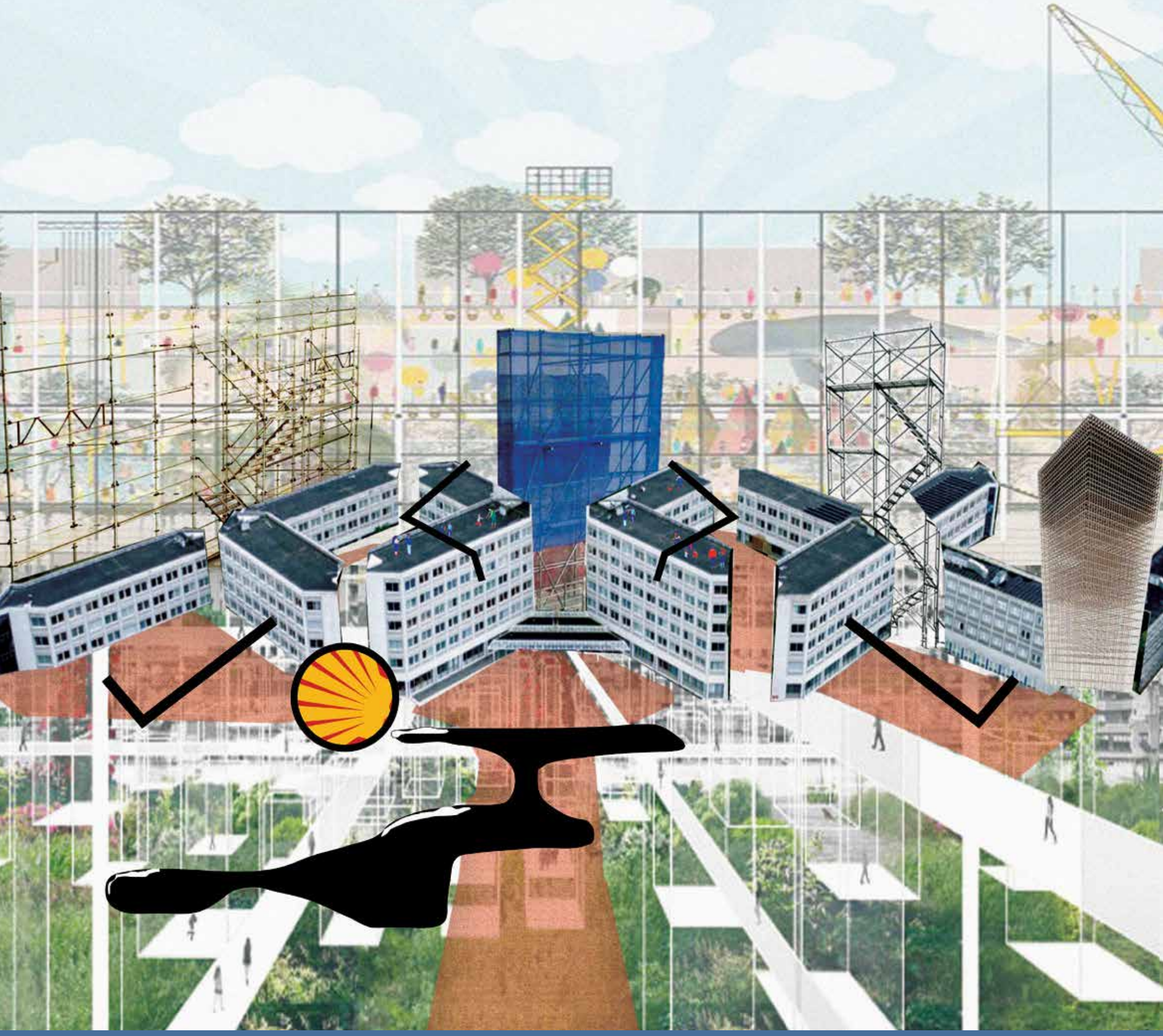
2043

The municipality began by revegetating the banks of the river with depolluting plants. In this way, some lands were restored as farmland. In addition, a portion of the land was rezoned in 2044 as an extension of the nearby De Biesbosch National Park, which established more means to protect this precious ecosystem. Despite the threat of the sea water, in order to continue using the site and its resources, A desalination system is installed in the modernised silo and pipes, along with windmills to pump the water locally. The fresh water that was produced was then easily distributed by the existing pipelines across the country to compensate for the intense droughts. At the end of the 2040s, all Shell employees were trained to ensure the desalination process and new professional activities were developed in farming to protect and value the National Park.

MOERDIJK CHEMICAL PLANT

THE NETHERLANDS

2044



It is the 2040s, and the building has a new meaning. Following the realisation of the damage the building caused to its surroundings and nearby communities, it has been decided that the structure will be maintained, but with new functions. A new self-sustainable community centre will be built. The new design incorporates biophilic design techniques that provide opportunities for residents to grow their own food with a communal greenhouse and urban farming centre, and wetlands to recover the landscape. The adoption of circularity principles and nature positive measures, and the engagement of residents of an earthquake-damaged village in a deep participatory process, is helping citizens not only to rebuild their own homes with their own visions but also to come together and define the village's bright future.

NAM OFFICES

ASSEN

2044

After Shell was shut down, the company was sanctioned for destruction of the coral reefs, the pollution it caused and its resources were dedicated towards restoring the ecology of the island and conserving the surrounding islands. Led by the local marine conservationist, an action plan was set in motion with the involvement of government officials, designers, and climate activists. Various local groups, conservationists and ex-Shell workers began the revival plan. The process is difficult and long and is focused on amending the damage and reducing the pollution left behind. The proposal aims to bring back ecological and cultural significance, by transforming the islands into fishing villages for the islanders. The structures will be reused as symbolic sculptures. The oil tanks are to be transformed into spaces that can provide habitats for various life forms and bridges will connect them allowing nature to grow in between. Coral reefs will be revived using careful replantation and 3D printing. The existing resort on the island will be transformed into a research centre for sustainable fishing. With a clear vision, Singapore aims to set an example of how to breathe life back into these petrochemical complexes, through a sustainable proposal that celebrates Singapore's ecological and cultural identity.

EASTERN PETRO-CHEMICALS COMPLEX

SINGAPORE

2045

After all the disasters caused by Shell in Vaca Muerta, the Mapuche people took back control over the land. They intend to use their knowledge of the area to bring it back to its original state and find a balance between humans and nature. The starting point is the fracking stations. All the fracking stations are being transformed into green areas connected by the grid that was left behind after the departure of Shell. From here, the Mapuche people will share their knowledge on sustainable farming with the former workers of Shell. Together, they will restore the land so a closed ecosystem can be created. There will be no hierarchy, and humans and nature will be equal in line with the belief system of the Mapuche people. Over the years, the Mapuche and the former Shell workers worked hard, together with people from outside the area who wanted to learn from them, to restore each former fracking station. Now that these green spots are being revived, nature will hopefully find its way back.

VACA MUERTA

NEUQUÉN BASIN

2045

The dry pipelines have left the people with nothing, but united them in their search for another source of energy. Various communities, such as the Igbo, Ijaw and Ibibo, militant groups such as Okoloma Ikpangi, along with activist groups united in Bonny Island, the heart of the parasite. They made plans to turn the infrastructure of Shell, such as the silos, harbours and pipelines, into a new power plant. The green power plant now generates energy for Bonny Island and the new settlements. It has replaced the parasite and has started a green energy revolution in the back lands of the Niger Delta. The new green power plant, a compost heater in the former silos on the LNG tank farm, generates energy through the heat that is produced by the rotting biomass. A symbiotic cycle has been created. People of various ethnic groups are now settled near the energy source and have formed a new settlement, United Bonny.

BONNY ISLAND

NIGER DELTA

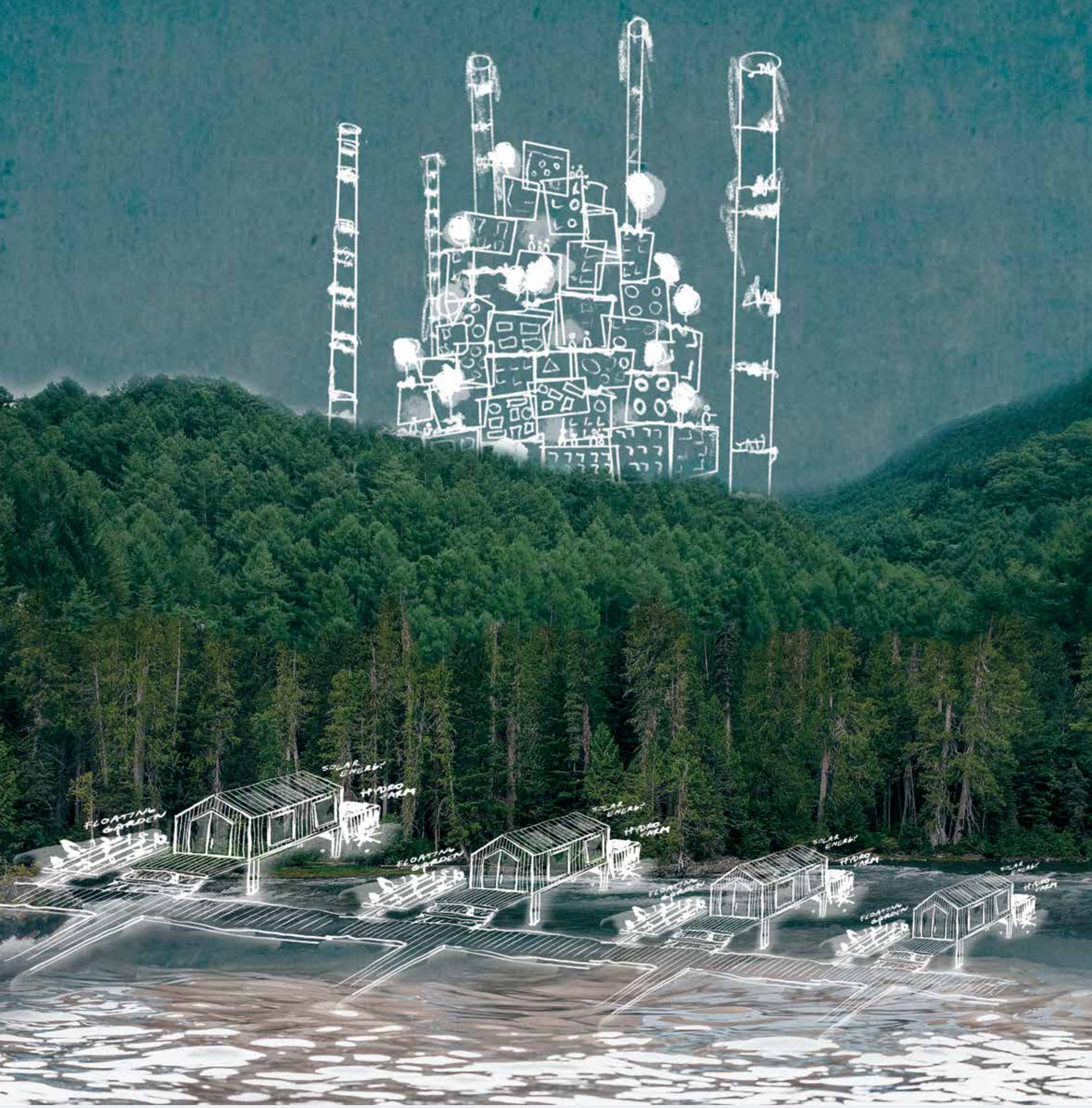
2046

After the devastating hurricane Shelly, the people who were left behind tried their best to survive and found methods to rebuild their lives. Initially they found shelter within the Shell structures to protect them from the rising water. With the help and support of designers, the community transformed the remains of the structure into new settlements. With the destructive effects of climate change hitting places all over the world, the global economy and social infrastructure changed irreversibly. New societies came up with sustainable ways of living, which gave them the opportunity to create a community based upon social equality and self-sufficiency. Salvaging the the remaining installations, people and designers were able to build a new city. Silos became houses, pipelines became places for food production, and extraction pipes formed the base of a new kind of public space.

NORCO REFINERY

LOUISIANA

2046



I joined a group of architects that were interested in the story of Paulínia. We went to the site to witness it firsthand. After the flood, the ecosystem took care of a big part of the cleansing process by generating new fauna and flora. The locals were in control of the new redevelopment, and we were there to facilitate. Due to the expansion of the river, a floating village built from locally sourced materials emerged. The factory that used to be the wound of the area is now in the process of becoming an urban structure similar to a favela. A vertical city on the skeleton of a poisonous factory. The city has freed itself from fossil fuel dependence. Harnessing the power of water, sun and wind, it meant the beginning of a self-sustainable city.

PAULÍNIA PESTICIDE PLANT

SÃO PAULO

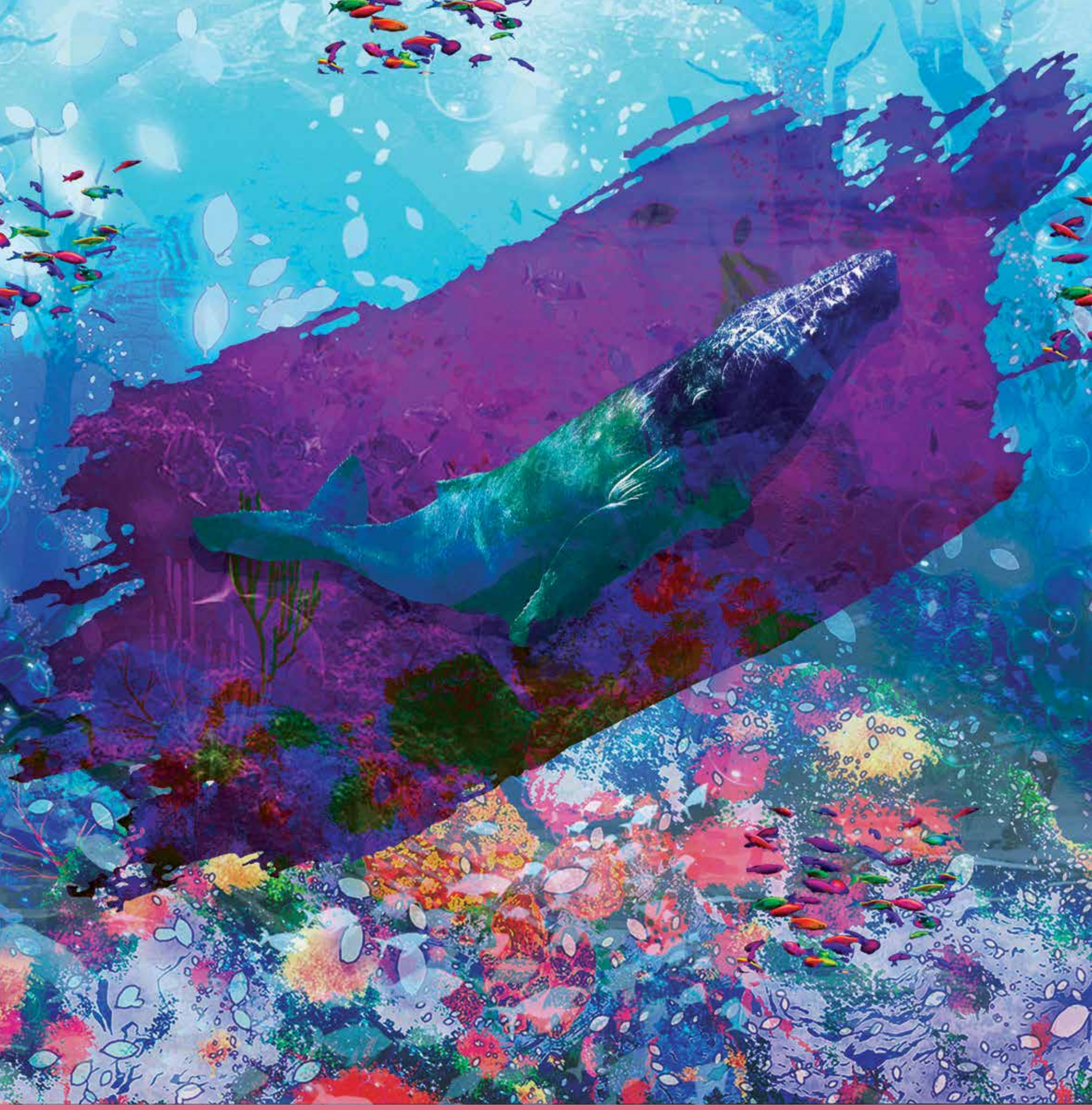
2047

To control the flooding, residents, activists and designers have created a collection of riverbeds to recreate the delta ramifications. Since the industrial port is located on higher lands, the canals hold the water and protect the residential areas from catastrophe, with the exception of Pernis. We need the infrastructure to host 5000 people, and thankfully, Shell was held to account for the damage and was forced to compensate for the costs by the International Court. The development of the water infrastructure, and the restoration of the relationship with the surrounding delta landscape are our priorities, combined with the necessity of creating housing for the residents of Pernis. After having gathered the pieces of the old infrastructure, and allowing the landscape to heal, we are able to support the first settlements. This new landscape is a great start to the rewilding of the delta, attracting all kinds of flora and fauna.

PERNIS REFINERY

ROTTERDAM

2047



Luckily, the situation didn't go unnoticed by the local government. They came to the conclusion that it couldn't go on like this any longer. For too long they have been dependent on a global, oil-based economy. They realised biodiversity in the ocean, as well as on land, needed support. They reached out internationally. They asked interdisciplinary design teams to devise transitional programs for the island, and to work together with the local community to develop a restorative plan for the island and the sea. We were assigned to the oil rigs and created Project Eco-Shelly, a plan to transform the rigs into floating crustacean and plankton farms. We made use of indigenous fisherfolks' knowledge from Sakhalin, the technological knowhow of the ex-oil workers and the expertise of nature conservationists. Today, these crustacean farm communities move freely with the tides around the Sea of Okhotsk in a circular motion setting the right conditions for whales to find their way back to fulfil their job as eco-pioneering species. Marine life will follow the whales.

SAKHALIN–2

SEA OF OKHOTSK

2048

After the heavy protests and riots of the 2030s, Sarnia oil factories closed for good. It is the year 2048, and the Aamjiwnaang women are taking over the vacant carcass of the factory, which was imposed on their sacred land in the 1950s. Due to the constant pollution for almost a century, the soil and water has been irreversibly destroyed. The only way of living there is by claiming the heights of the factory, which is the least polluted area. The community is starting to build their houses on the chimneys, water towers and rooftops, using the traditional knowledge of their culture. Since baby boys are not being born anymore, men are very scarce and growing old. Women have become the rulers of society and THEY ARE NOT COMING DOWN!

CORUNNA REFINERY

SARNIA

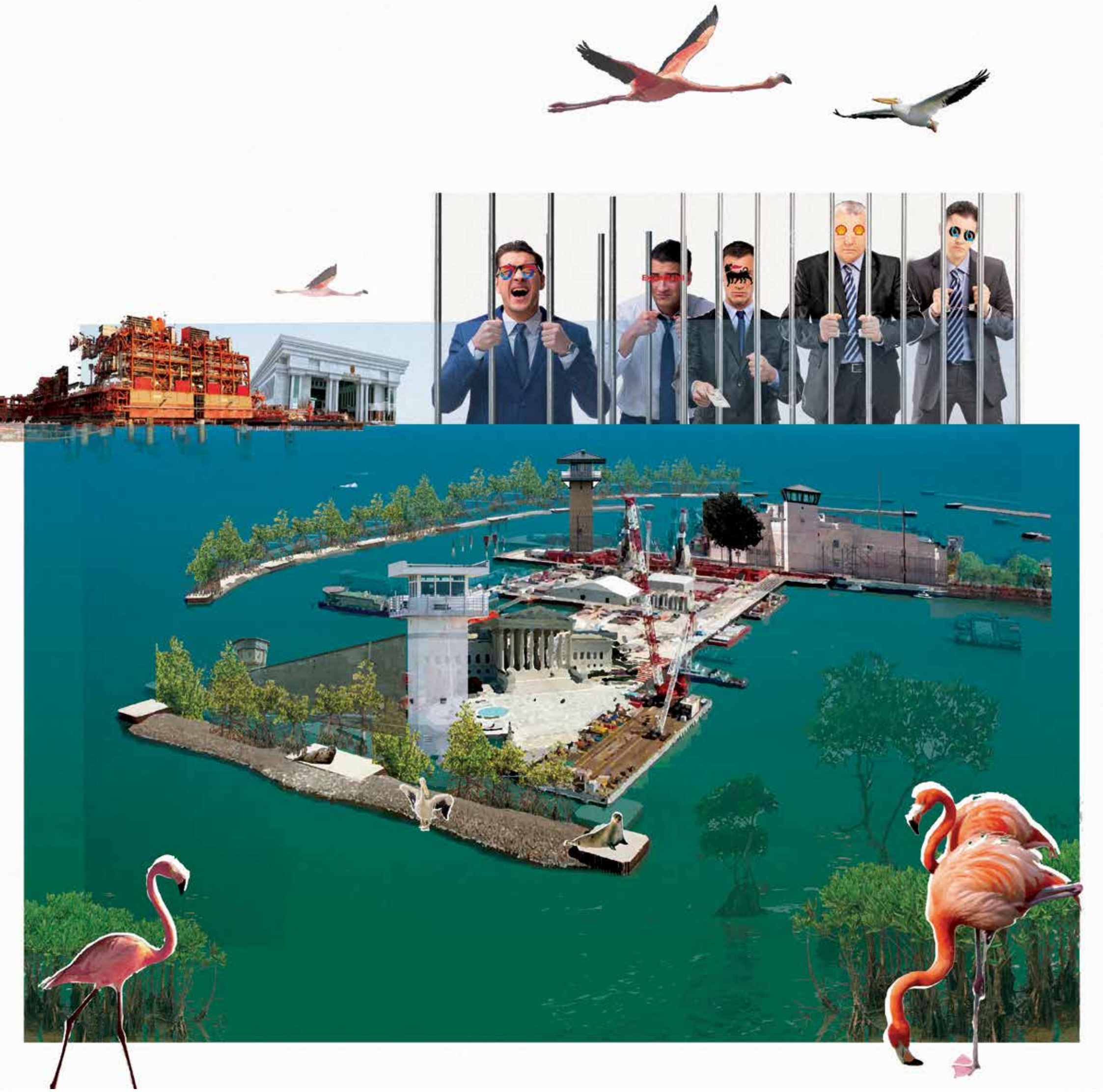
2048

A path within the city, a path towards a new world. 75% of the population flees the metropolitan centres. Fossil fuel companies are run to the ground by the fuel crisis and the just transition movement. With people seeking food safety and access to community living in the countryside, London is becoming vacant. For some, the escape was not possible. Together with charities and activist collectives, people are clustering in communities, sharing resources, labour, and warmth. They begin to reappropriate capitalist structures, and Shell headquarters becomes a key symbolic site. A design vision for locally-sourced living starts to take shape. The designers participate in, and the Jubilee Park soon is seen as an open green space that could produce food and house livestock. The building itself has plenty of potential. A democratic space of gathering in the underground auditorium – reminiscent of the Dome of Discovery – with housing on the floors reachable by foot, and material harvesting on the top floors. Slowly the oppressive shadow begins to give way to an open sky. The transformation begins, with an optimistic future for the urban horizon.

SHELL CENTRE

LONDON

2049

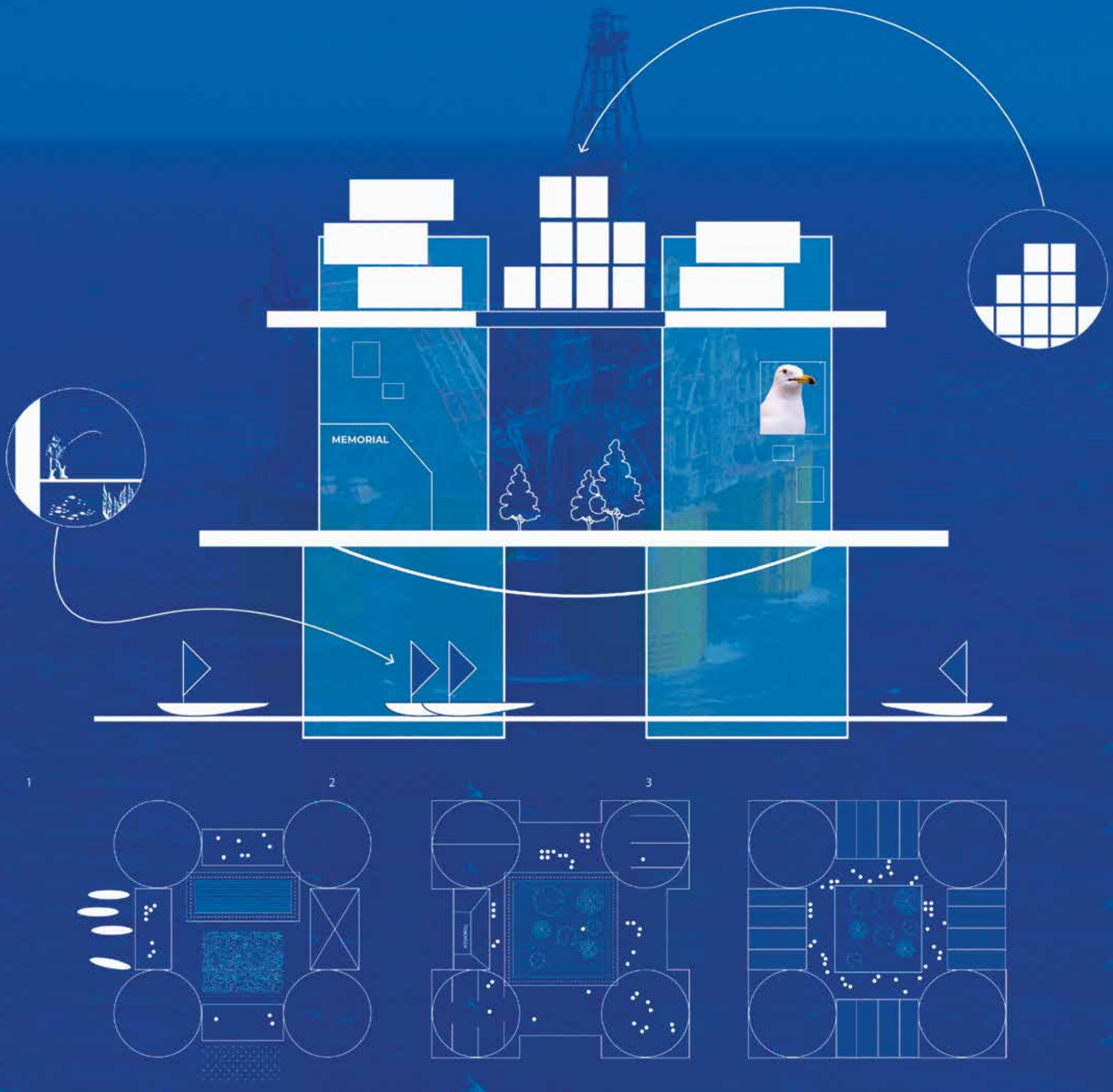


The hub island has been transformed into a tribunal and a prison for the people responsible for the atrocities committed against the environment and humanity. After these trials, a more just society was built. Whilst fossil fuel extraction and emissions have been stopped, rapid climate change is ensuing. Water levels are dropping and extreme rainfall events are occurring more frequently. Barrier islands which originally served to break the power of nature, are slowly transforming into thriving edges of biodiversity. On the horizon local communities are retaking power over their land and gaining land rights. Former drilling platforms turned into foundations for more equal societies living in harmony with nature. With the criminals convicted and locked up, people could behold the richness of nature, which had been previously destroyed for personal wealth and opulence. Prison serves as a rehabilitation from individualistic desires. Activist spatial designers facilitated this development, cooperating with communities to restore natural values and living areas.

KASHAGAN FIELD

CASPIAN SEA

2049



1 2 3

The committee has worked hard in recent years to create a self-sufficient island out of the former oil rig. The climate refugees have built a new life here, and the activists, who reclaimed the island years ago, have helped with this. The heart of the island is the inner garden, where a big party is held once a year. The party takes place a day after the activists and scientists meet.
By now, the vegetable garden is taken into account, so every year the stage is temporarily built over it. This vegetable garden produces fresh vegetables all year round.

The garden is also used as a sports field, playground and a meeting place. Around it are the original facilities of the Shell employees, such as the restaurant, cinema and first aid facility. The sheds from the 2040s have been replaced by container houses. These houses are covered with solar panels that generate power for the island. In addition to the food from the indoor garden, seaweed and mussels are farmed here, which contributes to the cleaning of the sea. Some of the residents have specialised in catching fish without damaging the ecosystem.

APPOMATTOX

GULF OF MEXICO

2050

Shell always depended upon the Athabasca River. Large amounts of water were always used in the process of refining the oil. With the construction of the dam and the diversion of the river, that era came to an end. The river was central to the fall of Shell, and since, the seed has been planted for a new society. The former workers and indigenous people no longer work up a sweat in the polluted tar sands but are jointly building a sustainable future through a just transition. Water democracy fortifies the indigenous peoples' and workers' power to live self-sufficiently. Clean water provides fertile ground where agroforestry – a combination of agriculture and forest – gets a chance. A new economy rises. Its scale offers a perspective not only to be self-sufficient but to provide for the entirety of Canada – we dream big: the entirety of the world. What was once polluted is now a source of life. The river has returned to its earthbound formation, whereby the inhabitants care for the river and the river cares for the inhabitants.

ATHABASCA TAR SANDS

ALBERTA

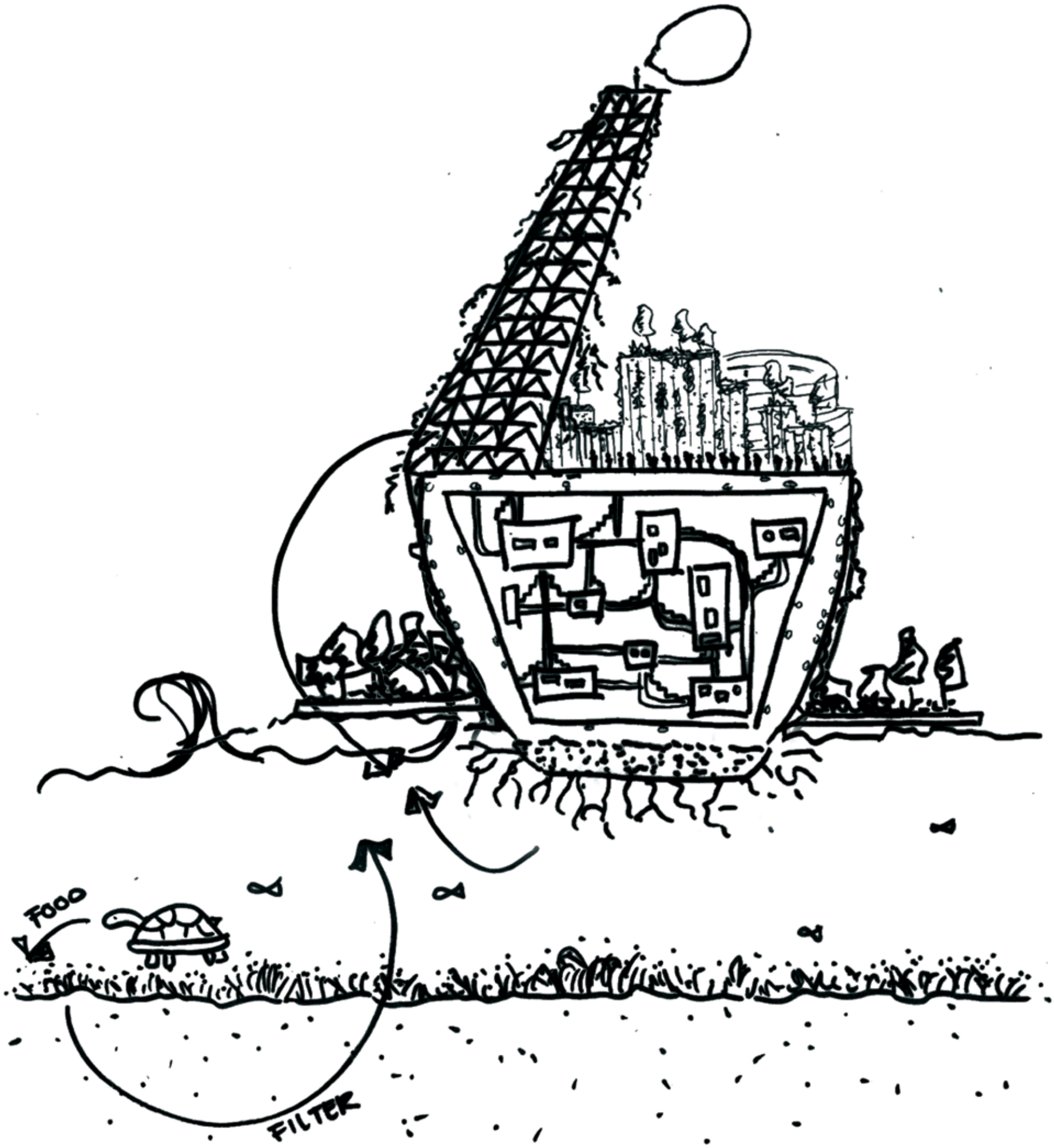
2050

Growth takes time, water, and light. Change doesn't happen in just one day. It might be a slow transition, but nature can heal and rebuild what has been lost. A body cannot function without lungs, and the world needs rainforests. Throughout this decade, new generations have grown up without the toxicity of the Camisea gas plant, knowing it as the start of something new. Many people come to visit the monument. We have gone back with our children to commemorate the travesties which happened there. The remains are all grown over, with an oasis where nature thrives to the extent that the rainforest produces enough clean air to affect the neighbouring areas. Reusing the old Camisea pipelines, scientists have developed a technology that pumps air to the nearby city. A by-product of photosynthesis, pure oxygen is released into the city and beyond. Through this we learn that nature always prevails, and that we must work collectively to protect it for a clean and better future.

CAMISEA GAS FIELD

PERU

2051



Following the flows of the seas, and the directions of the winds, the Floating Nation of Prelude reaches many corners of the world. As a modern day Noah's Ark, every one of those corners is represented on board. Not only tangibly in the Museum of the World, but also in the backgrounds of its citizens. Following a period of continuous technical breakdowns, the typhoon of 2025 – ironically a consequence of climate change – was the event that made Shell abandon the Prelude. But the workers of the ship thought otherwise and took matters into their own hands. They released the ship of its chains, and created a fair and equal society that floats around the world. People get off, people get on, people die and people are born. All that binds them is the belief in a brighter future on the ship. The ship that cleans the water beneath, where floating forests provide food for humans and birds. The ship with a democracy where everyone is heard. The ship where old fossil oil pipelines are the scaffolding for vertical vineyards. The ship that is called Prelude.

PRELUDE

FLOATING GAS FACILITY

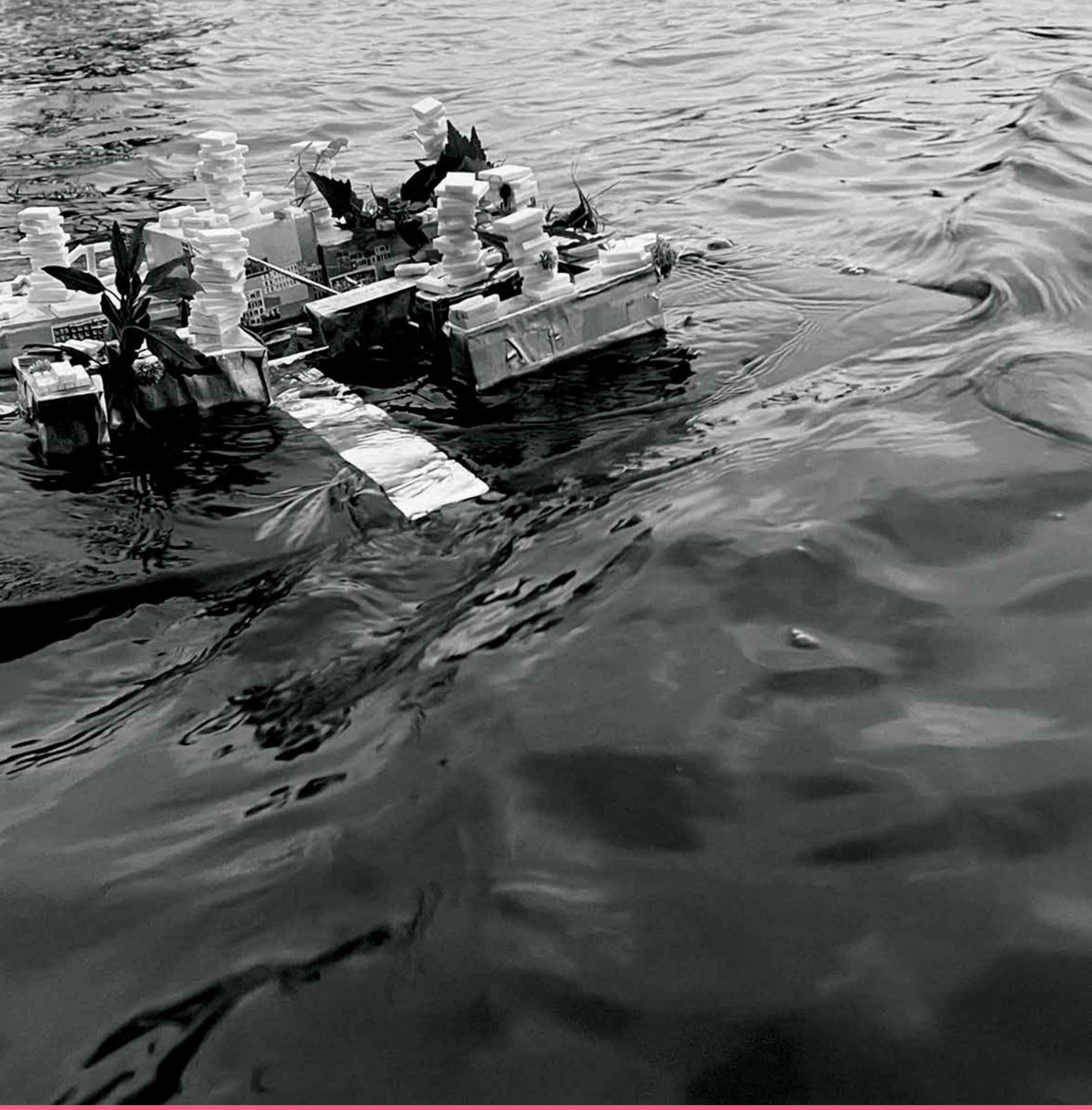
2051

As the community thrived, more and more people wanted to become part of it. It became known for its social cohesion – a place where residents worked together to shape their environment. In the beginning of 2052, Vida Maravillosa started to take shape in a bustling part of the metropolitan area of Buenos Aires, with not only housing but also leisure and recreation. The plans attracted various organisations, which decided to financially support the transformation. The government also offered support, seeing the place as an example for healthy urban regeneration. This circular park not only collects solar and wind energy but also provides work for the former Shell workers and helps inhabitants grow their own food. It is recognised as a great investment for the neighbourhood and the city. By combining the old structure of the site, and introducing various programs for nature, the site has become a healthy and educational landscape park where people who died there will be commemorated.

VILLA INFLAMABLE

BUENOS AIRES

2052



The In My Shell community, which for many years has been living in the former Shell headquarters in The Hague, celebrates its 6th lustrum. On this day a festive celebration takes place, in which we look back on a period of rich developments that have taken place within the community. After years of growth, the tapeworm principle is beginning to bear fruit. The idea of the green tapeworm was to connect the different communities within In My Shell, by literally blurring their borders with green worms that would break through their walls. The green, which symbolises the common mission of the communities, not only connects the communities with one another, but also strengthens the bond between people and nature and finally creates more space for nature itself. In My Shell is ready to live in full equality with nature, and is ready for the great change that the climate has in store for them for which they have been preparing for years. The water slowly seeps into the building block making the community a perfect symbiosis of people and nature living together in equality.

SHELL CAMPUS

THE HAGUE

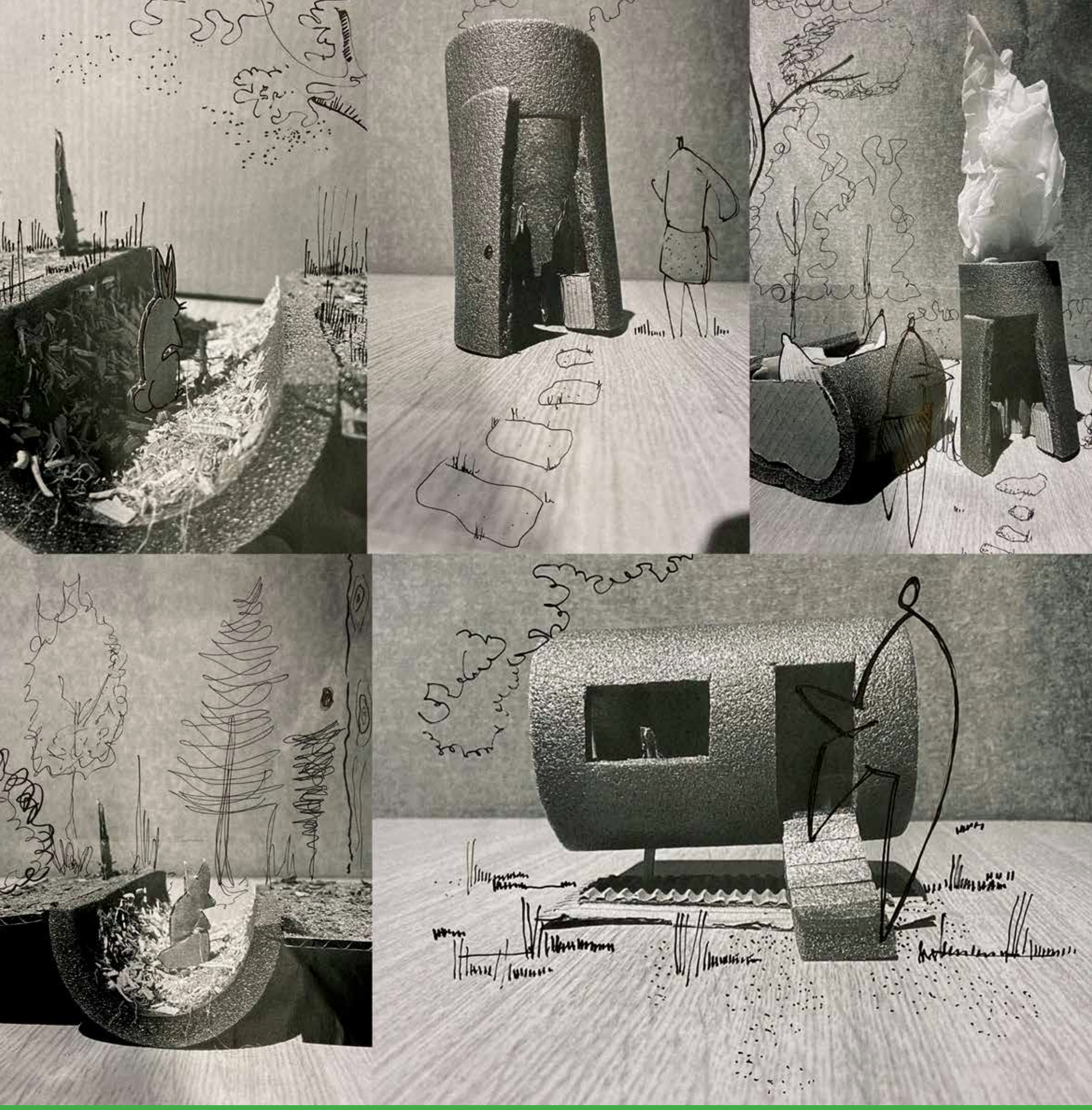
2052

Today Curaçao boasts a strong, self-sufficient community that works and lives there. It disseminates hard-earned expertise in self-sufficiency across the world, restoring the confidence and pride in the island. The combination of direct democracy, radical resilience and open-source design is proving to be a winning formula for a fast and effective transition. It is not without a hint of irony that the people of Curaçao rehabilitated the Shell brand from infamy and made it one of the symbols of sustainability.

ISLA OIL REFINERY

CURAÇAO

2053

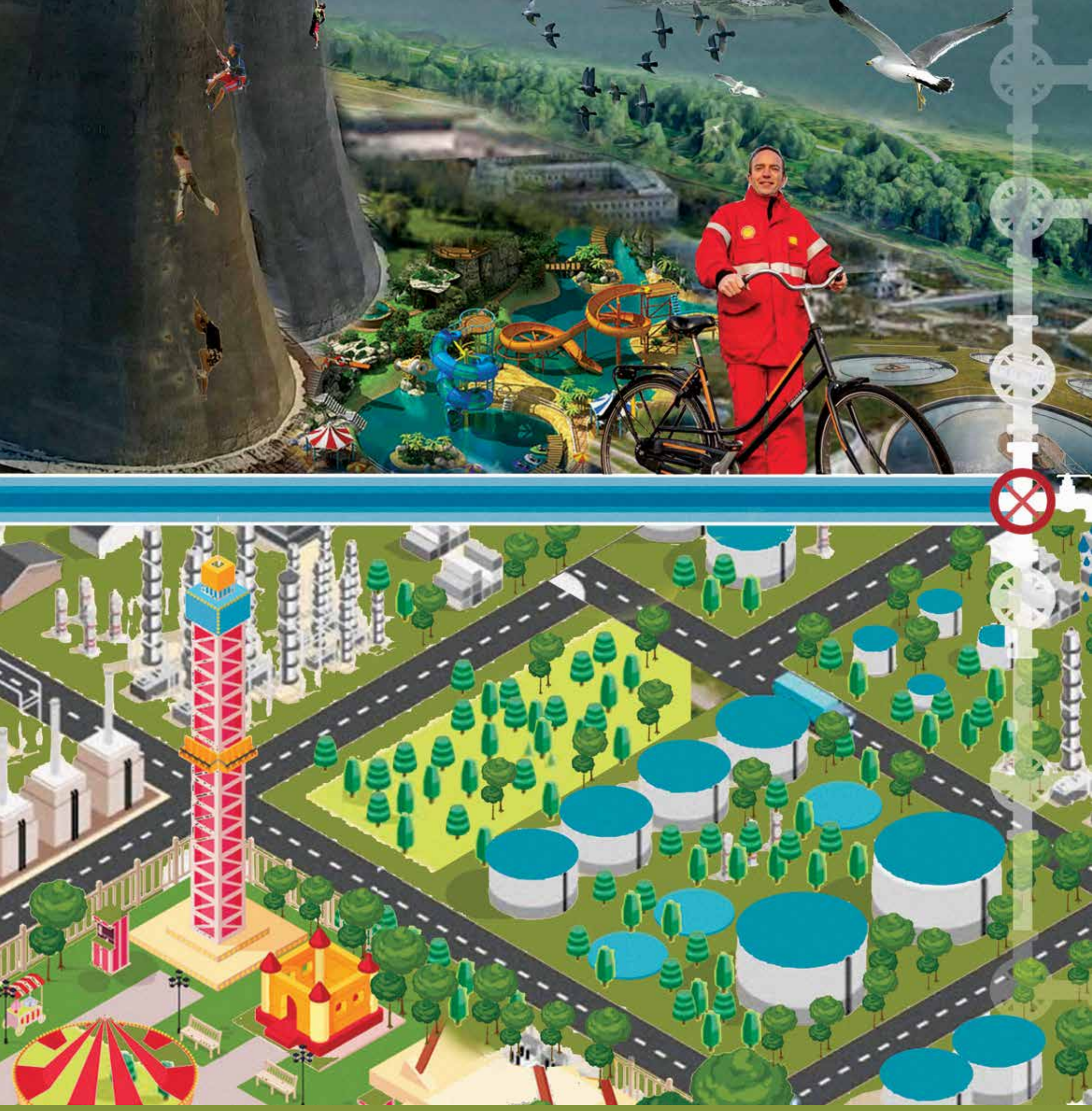


Today I woke up seeing the ‘white cells’. People are getting together, they are discussing, thinking and acting. It is beautiful to see, and I have not seen it for such a long time. The pipe, the scar is still there. But hold on, I see that something is happening. There are major interventions and transformations. It seems that the bad guy is turning good for the first time. The pipeline is turning into a shelter for people and animals. My joy increases every day, as I believe in the justice that finally comes to all kinds of living creatures in Kitimat. This is because the land belongs to everyone: the soil, the trees, the animals, the people and above all, Mother Nature. This is not the end of the story. It is the beginning of what I truly believe is the journey of the human who realises their mistakes, and learns how to reconcile their relation to Earth.

COASTAL GASLINK PIPELINE

WET'SUWET'EN TERRITORY

2053

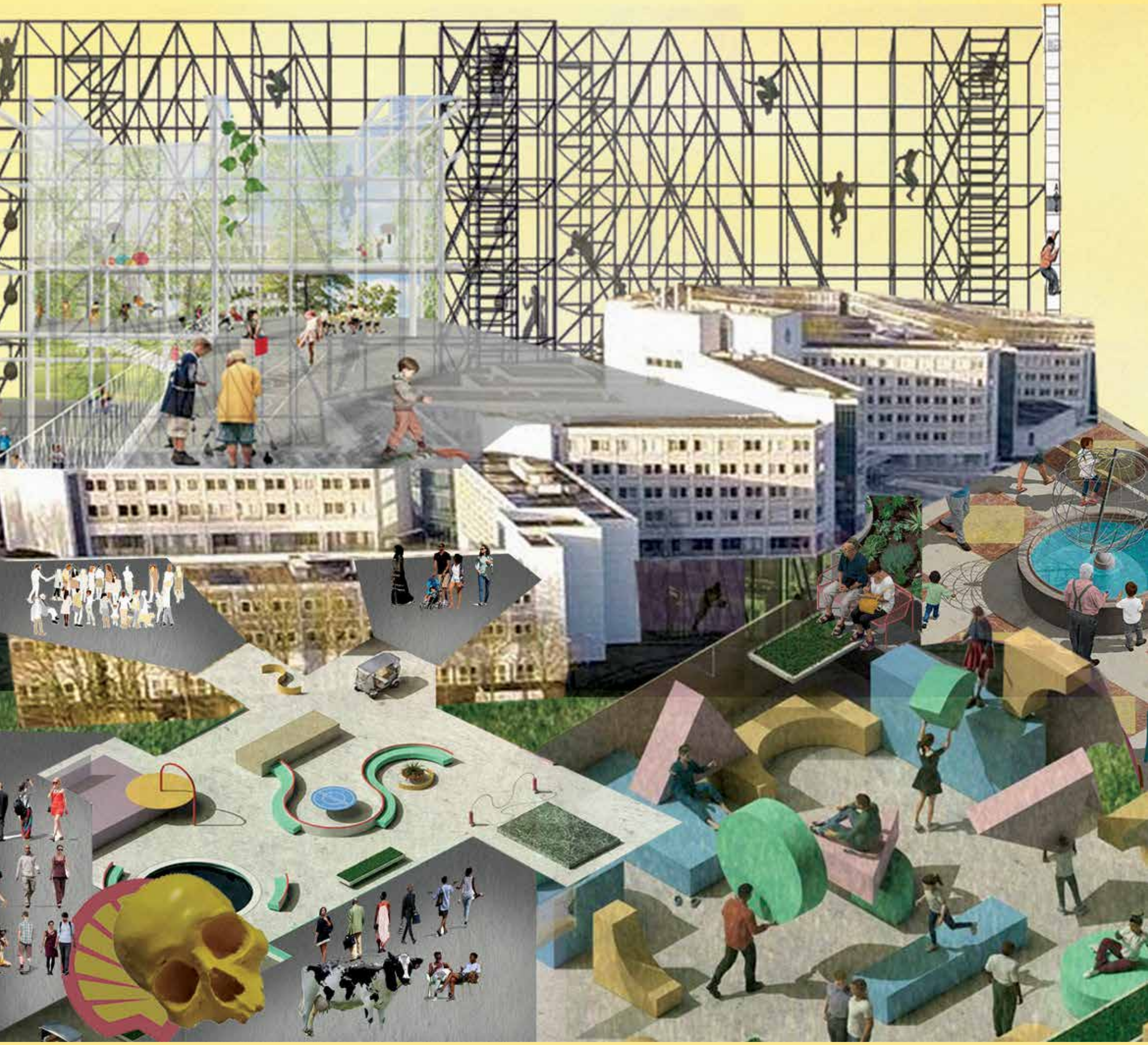


The renaturation of the site and the transformation of the oil industry into a desalination industry made the landscape way more friendly. The inhabitants of Moerdijk are increasingly finding themselves walking and playing in the area. The village of Moerdijk is becoming attractive again. The abandoned infrastructures are fascinating but unsafe for children to play around, so an amusement park is now being developed thanks to the involvement of the community and the financing of Shell. Pipes are reused in all sorts of ways for playing games, climbing, exploring, and jumping on. Moerdijk inhabitants and Shell employees are proud to participate in this project to show the visitors how they are succeeding in transforming a polluted and dangerous area into a beautiful landscape full of biodiversity, where they work to produce essential freshwater and food. This local and playful eco-tourism development is already raising income for the city of Moerdijk to invest in new beautiful projects for the community, such as a local wood atelier and a small school with the forest as its schoolyard.

MOERDIJK CHEMICAL PLANT

THE NETHERLANDS

2054



The next ambition is to think beyond: to work together towards social strategies and visions. The ambition is to show governments, institutions and citizens various possibilities for their futures, by building upon new ways of understanding co-living, economics and spatial co-hesion for a more social, livable and sustainable future.

We believe in the value of urban density to prevent the land-consuming sprawl of cities around the world. Just as nature is essential to reconnecting with our humanity, so too is re-learning how to communicate and finding a common ground despite our differences.

NAM OFFICES

ASSEN

2054

Pulau Bukom has become a nucleus of the ecological transformation on the coast of Singapore. The restoration of the island has led to an increase of biodiversity, and a social recovery of an area that was previously inaccessible. The restoration of the coral reefs reinvigorated marine life creating a boom for fishing. This brought about socioeconomic transformation that helped to restore the identity of the island and reconnect the people with their livelihood and heritage. Today the island is thriving. Nature is taking over with overgrown mangrove forests and the growth of other native species. The old petrochemical complex is a mere memory evoked by the oil tanks that now have bridges between them for the island's animals and plants to grow. In an effort to involve the local people, fisher huts were rebuilt using materials found on the island. The island stands as proof of an act of climate justice that brought Shell to finally answer for its decades of negative climate impact and social injustice. This successful action is paving the way for the restoration of similar sites worldwide, and pressuring other petrochemical companies to answer for their impact.

EASTERN PETRO-CHEMICALS COMPLEX

SINGAPORE

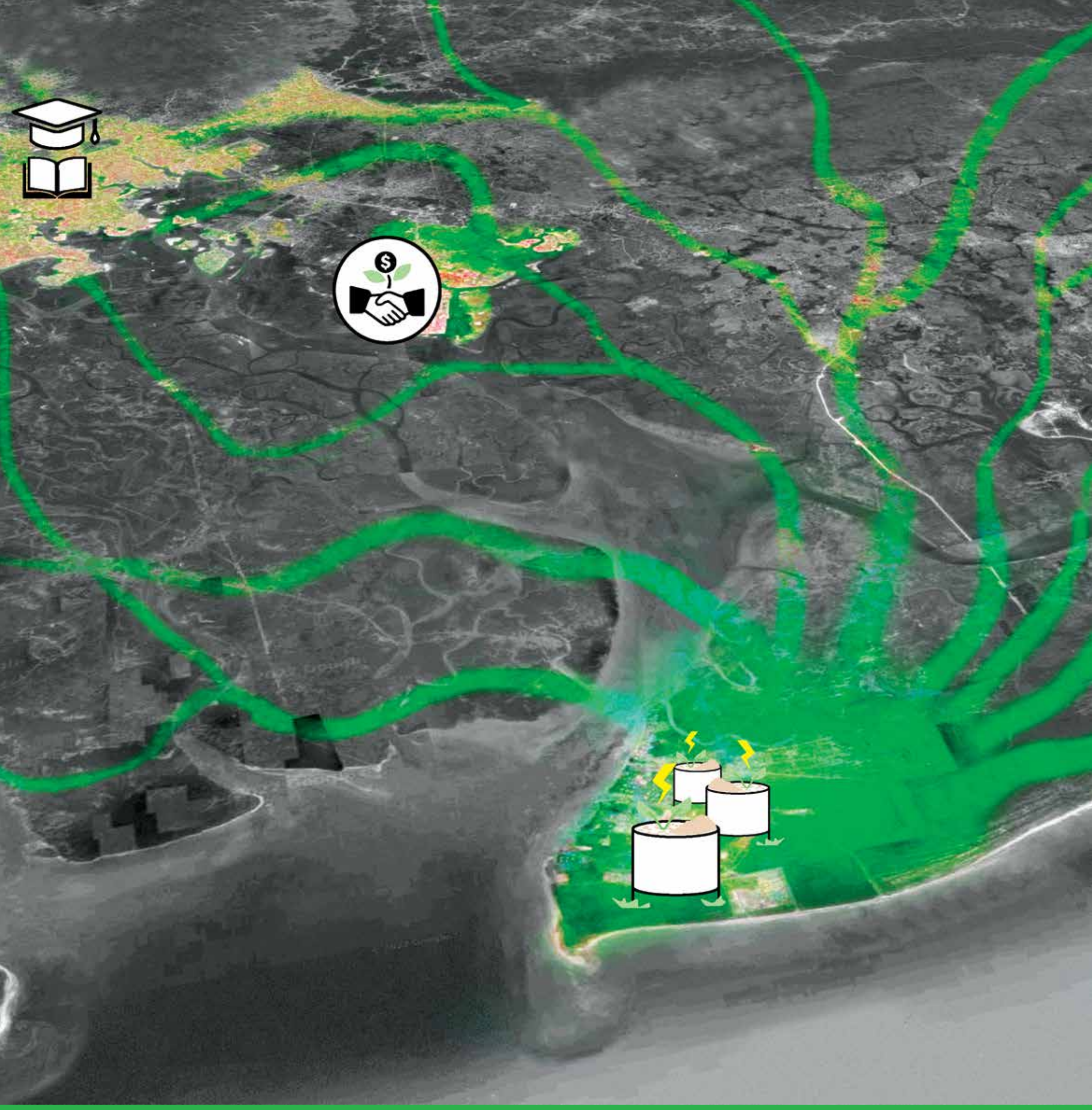
2055

The Mapuche people use a holistic nomadic farming technique: they move in search of suitable areas to grow their crops and herd their animals. Once the polluted ground was restored, the lands could accommodate the Mapuche people's way of life. The former fracking sites now have different functions from year to year like vertical farming, animal grazing, and cotton production. This makes the soil more sustainable. Also, by planting trees, a greening of the desert can begin. The former fracking sites now sustain Mapuche communities, where they grow food and materials. With the help of former Shell workers, people employ various techniques. The enormous earthly crack that emerged during the explosion of 2030 is now filled with clean water, thanks to the vicinity of the river. Due to this new stream of fresh water, the area is fertile with more vegetation. Vaca Muerta is becoming greener, and biodiversity is increasing. The old infrastructure of the drilling and extraction platforms has been dismantled and reused for new functions. This way, no material is wasted.

VACA MUERTA

NEUQUÉN BASIN

2055



The new power plant on Bonny Island is functioning as one small-scale solution for the energy supply crisis in the Niger Delta. The oil and gas have been replaced with algae and biomass, which create fuel and heat. Having dealt with the damaging effects of the crude oil in the area, Bonny Island has become the educational centre for new energy sources. The people and their sense of community have taken over. The conviction of not becoming dependent on one company, one government and one resource brings the power back to the people.

Other abandoned locations and infrastructures of the former oil business in Nigeria will be offered for similar projects, creating sources of energy, education and knowledge for the rapidly growing population of the country, and establishing a more symbiotic and independent interaction with the environment. The oil companies who interfered with the environment left the ecosystem fundamentally changed. The new conditions offer the possibility to implement saline agriculture for the establishment of self-sustaining food production.

BONNY ISLAND

NIGER DELTA

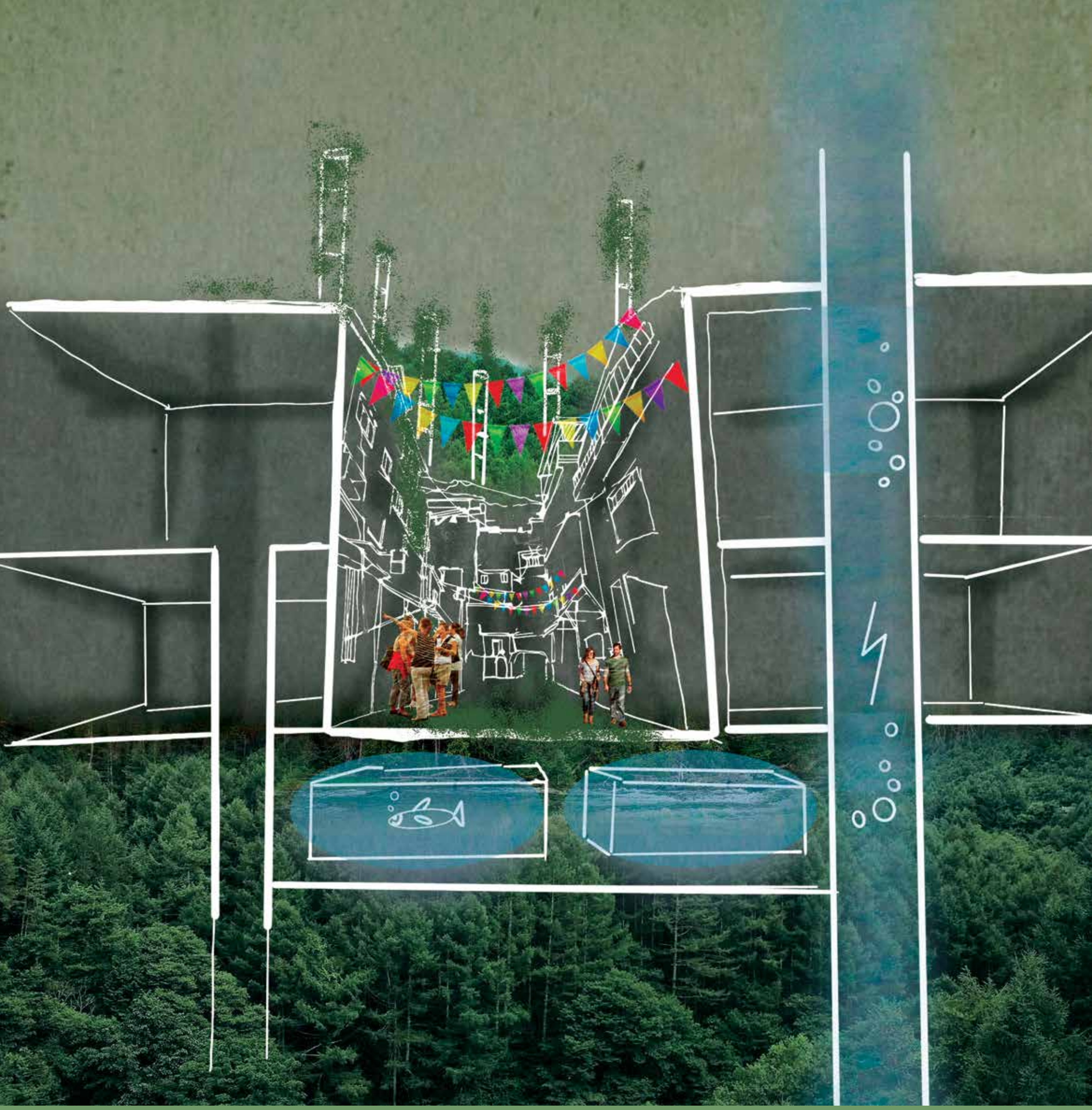
2056

Out of the dystopian place this area once was, a vibrant city emerged where life in the 2020s is only a memory. Using the skills of the generation that harmed the earth, new generations were able to shape society in a balanced and equal way. The former silos house neighbourhoods in which we created our homes. A place to educate, build, and hold civil participative debates. From the piping scraps, former welders used their skills to build bridges, elevated pathways, slides and platforms, enabling us to move within the city and create new spaces. The structures and constant water level offer us places to produce food and clean water, allowing us to be self-sufficient. Every one of us plays their role. Focused on our strengths and interests, we have built a community that not only respects everyone but also the environment. It took a disaster to disrupt the system, but it gave us the opportunity to build a socially just community. We don't know what the future holds for us, but our community is well balanced.

NORCO REFINERY

LOUISIANA

2056



Lately a new favela started to flourish. It gave people not only roofs over their heads but also a sense of belonging. A strong self-sustaining community. Thanks to the flexible design solutions, the city can easily adapt to change, whether in regards to the weather or a way of thinking. The vertical city became an inspiration for other communities. People here are sharing their home-grown food, renewable energy, and lives. Regenerative farming and more space for plants to grow relieved the tired soil and water. The sense of relief is also visible in people's faces. Being in control of one's own life is a great power. Autonomy is a framework for governance and is needed in today's world. One thing for sure, from now on, it's life above profit.

PAULÍNIA PESTICIDE PLANT

SÃO PAULO

2057

The site of the former Shell refinery has become a far-reaching natural landscape, and the delta is creating a connection to the surroundings. Part of the industrial heritage will be given a new purpose: the central area, where the 213-metre chimney is located, will become a memorial. A place to commemorate the fall of Shell, and to remember where we came from, so that we never go back. The efforts of activists and locals has led to a flourishing community. People are harvesting food, organising community gatherings, and hosting festivals and markets every day. The new town is formed along the delta, shaped by the canals and the nature around it. Some neighbourhoods have taken over the oil tanks, which have been refurbished as sustainable homes. People are recovering and Pernis by now has become their pride. Nature and humans are working together to turn Pernis into a circular and sustainable urban centre.

PERNIS REFINERY

ROTTERDAM

2057

The project had a rough start, since not everyone was as excited as the community of Sakhalin was. The program needed to prove itself internationally. But once it became evident that the collaboration between our design, the local government and the community of Sakhalin Island went smoothly and the biodiversity in the ocean was flourishing again, others started to believe in the project as well. Nowadays, the underwater ecosystem of the Sea of Okhotsk is restored. The people on the island learned to live symbiotically with the local biodiversity. A community is being built on the platforms as we speak, and a just transition is in progress. The program had such a restorative impact that it inspired oil rig transitions globally. We are looking into the possibility to extend the research to other places in the world.

SAKHALIN–2

SEA OF OKHOTSK

2058

During the decades after the Shell refinery in Sarnia stopped their operations, the all-women community of the Aamjiwnaang took their health issues into their own hands. They decided to live in the heights for good. They built houses using local materials, grew their own food on rooftops, used the chimneys to capture and filter water from the air to drink. Energy is produced by water(falls) streaming down the chimneys. It is 2058, and Cancer Valley is unrecognisable: it has transformed into a post-industrial vision of the Gardens of Babylon.

'Aamjiwnaang' is an Ojibwa word, which means 'meeting place by rapid waters'. This is exactly what the community has made. In this new society, water is a key element. Not long after the women stopped suffering from the toxic water and fumes, an amazing thing happened: one of the few pregnant women of the Aamjiwnaang community gave birth to new hope, a beautiful healthy baby boy. The absence of pollution rebalanced the hormones of the pregnant women allowing them to once again give birth to boys.

CORUNNA REFINERY

SARNIA

2058

This decade is bringing so many changes to the urban environment. Without global imports and information flow, the localization of resources is proving to be an adequate response. The haphazard occupation of the former Shell headquarters in the 2040s is now consolidated. The new world order and ways of living are seen as a laboratory for urbanists, architects and landscape designers. Local food production has become more reliable. Construction resources are managed within the building so as to create a greenhouse on the top floor. In the centre of the building, an opening was left: a symbol of breaking through the system, and a casting away of its oppressive shadows. The London Eye has been lowered into the river, turning it into a gigantic water mill that generates energy and pumps water for the community. Its touristic pods are recycled as impromptu greenhouses and housing units. Much like Rome after the fall of the empire, people live amongst the ruins, wondering how the old ways stood for so long. In contrast to the overworked, under-payed, burned-out culture of before, the 2050s bring a sense of calmness and belonging, feeling at one with ourselves and the planet. All under the new Dome of Discovery.

SHELL CENTRE

LONDON

2059

After the tribunal ceremony, the people in charge have been convicted. They are imprisoned at the main island hub. A museum of the history of oil extraction is established on the island as well. The environmental destruction and exploitation of local communities are the central focus of the museum. The people who inflicted these crimes serve their time as guides in the museum.

The prisoners lived this history and thus can pass on the lessons learned to new generations. Through this, the prisoners can reflect on their mistakes. The profits from the ticket sales are used to employ former oil workers in environmental repair and landscaping work. While the prisoners cannot leave the prison, they can see the world outside flourish without them.

KASHAGAN FIELD

CASPIAN SEA

2059

A JUST TRANSITION ACCELERATOR FOR SPATIAL DESIGNERS

Selçuk Balamir
Duygu Toprak

Thanks to Harriet, Mari, Kari, Rhodante, Radna, Ilona, Talissa, Marleen for sharing their impressions

Just as the programme (R)evolution Planet of the Academy of Architecture is a curriculum in progress, so too was the ~~Winter~~ Summer School that tried to do justice to the topic of just transition. To be fair to everyone involved, opting for an experimental pedagogy which revolved around a multifaceted design problem in eight short days was not an easy feat. It required intersecting elements of spatial justice, decolonial reparations, ecological regeneration and degrowth economics, all of which were rather unfamiliar domains for the students. With these challenges in mind, the programme was designed as a two-stage process. The first one was an intensive training weekend to initiate students into key concepts and principles of climate justice. It was also intended as an encounter between climate justice organisers and spatial design professionals, two communities that rarely get the chance to collaborate. The second consisted of four evening sessions where students brought together the two worlds, climate justice and spatial design, and built bridges among their respective disciplines to come up with their designs for a just transition.

Nine inspiring women, all of whom are experienced grassroots movement leaders, trainers and facilitators, ran the two-day crash course on climate justice. They not only delineated the contours of the eco-social transition but also questioned the design ethics of that transition. Their frank and confrontational attitude pushed the students out of their comfort zone, which involved unlearning predominant sustainability paradigms, acknowledging internalised ideological foundations of their disciplines, and resisting quick fixes and false solutions to wicked problems. The weekend was full of role-playing, teach-ins and political debates about climate breakdown, ecological transition, and social justice aimed at accompanying students as they navigated ethical complexities, developed a position, and got to know their team members.

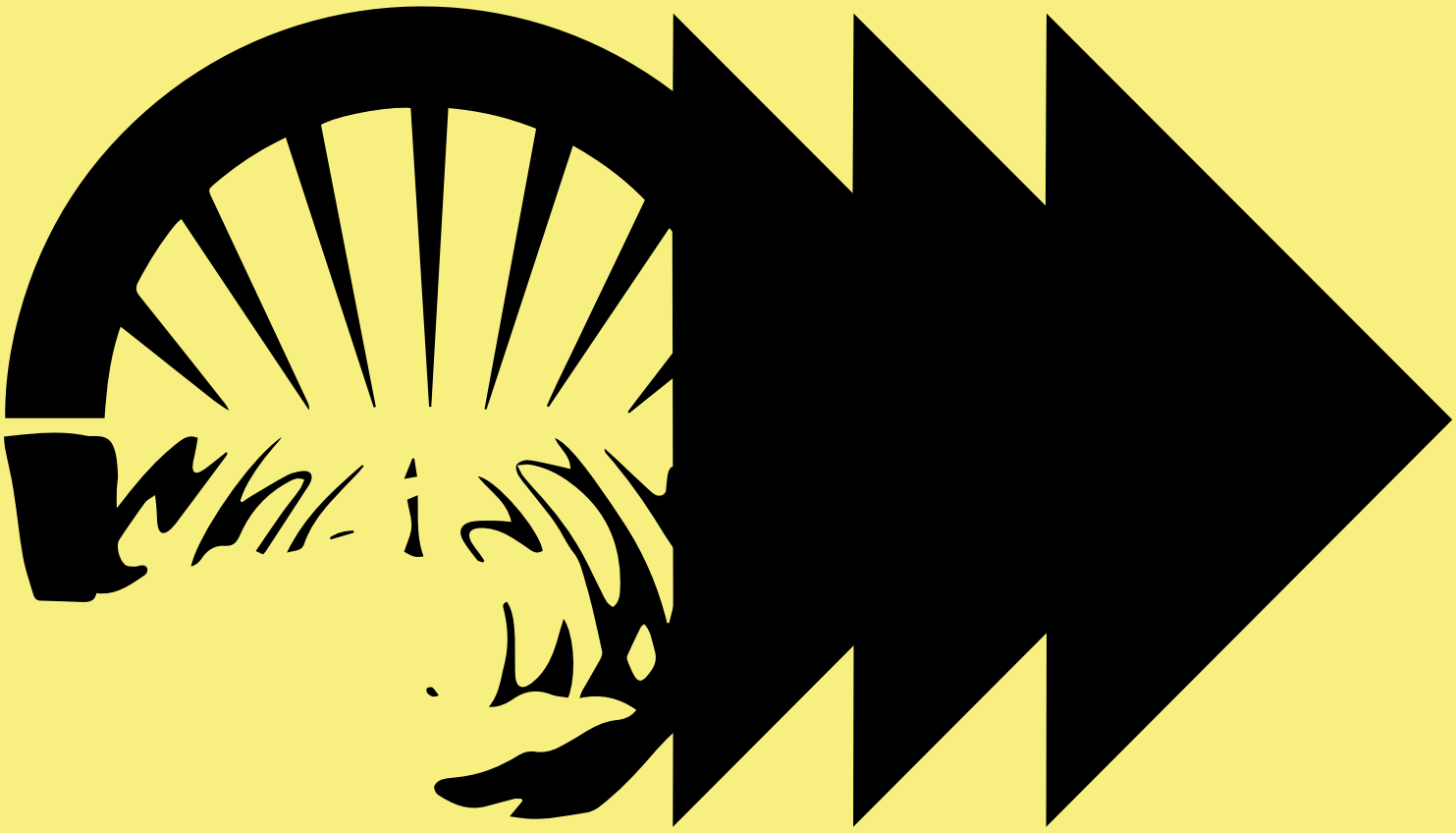
The critical engagement of the students resulted in both enthusiasm and pushback, as some viewed the training with mistrust, seeing it as an imposed political agenda, and wanting it to be 'neutral'. Albeit predictable to some degree, it made us discern how critically addressing pressing issues is tagged as biased while business-as-usual is unquestionably perceived as impartial. Our take from this experience is to clearly distinguish the roles of knowledge-holder and facilitator, so that there can be more space for articulating feelings of discomfort and debating conflicting positions. Students also expressed unease about being exposed to problems but not to the potential solutions, which reveals a solutionist mindset, possibly stemming from the lack of established just transition design methods to accommodate wicked problems which don't have straightforward solutions.

The second, main part of the ~~Winter~~ Summer School was dedicated to a collective spatial design project with an explicit climate justice agenda. Taking the end of (the company formerly known as "Royal Dutch") Shell plc as a non-negotiable, inevitable starting point, student groups were randomly assigned to Shell infrastructure sites worldwide. Offices, extraction fields, rigs, petrochemical refineries and pipelines – each site marked by a history of depletion, disaster or injustice. Students were then asked to imagine and design a rapid, responsible and justice-based scenario for decommissioning and repurposing that piece of Shell's legacy.

Instead of proposing a singular designerly gesture that is frozen in time, the students were invited to engage in 'cathedral thinking'. On each of the four assignment days, they were asked to fast-forward ten years from the 2020s to the 2050s to imagine successive stages of the site's transition. The first assignment day ("current") was dedicated to getting to know the existing state of the site. The second day ("crisis") was about speculating how the status quo would get irreversibly broken. The third day ("takeover") focused on establishing ownership models and brainstorming potential adaptive reuse scenarios. The last assignment day ("takeoff") expected the students to define the impact of their design and how it contributed to climate justice.

During these self-contained, pressure-cooker evening sessions, students had three hours to produce an image and caption encapsulating one decade. They were supported by a dozen tutors each day: professionals, researchers, and educators in the design and sustainability fields. They reflected on the students' images and captions and facilitated decision-making within the teams. The students received each day written feedback on their work in

2020–2060



progress to make sure the spatial propositions were consistent with the social processes in their scenarios, and to avoid simplistic representations of peoples and cultures or techno-fix interventions if there were any.

The assignment days felt more upbeat compared to the training days, as the students were in their relative comfort zone. Through their collective research, they were quick to deepen their eco-literacy, develop their affinities with environmental justice struggles, and expand their horizons far beyond Europe. We witnessed and appreciated that most groups genuinely engaged with the values and visions of a just transition. To share and further reflect on the progress of each group, the tutors had two check-ins per evening, which at times, felt like prefiguring a Shell plc Executive Committee mandated to oversee the comprehensive dissolution of the company.

During these check-ins, we noticed it was easier for some students to imagine the practice as 'commissioned work', particularly for those who voiced their doubts and showed resistance to a justice-based approach. While this tip helped some groups to proceed, it calls for a reflection on how easy capitalist realism bounces back even in an environment where speculation is encouraged. On top of that, it was hard for some to see the role of design in such a task, which showed that even young spatial design professionals tend to distance themselves from the pressing and defining crises of our time.

Fittingly, the final presentations were staged at the former Shell Lab canteen, built by Arthur Staal in 1977 and repurposed as the cultural centre Tolhuistuin, which professes its purpose to be a "catalyst for change towards an inclusive and fossil-free future". This location incited us to conceive the gathering as a performance. When we came together at Tolhuistuin, we time-travelled to the 2050s for a "Just Transition Congress" to take stock of what has been done and what is left to do. The students were asked to role-play their future selves and to recollect what each site has speculatively gone through in the form of storytelling.

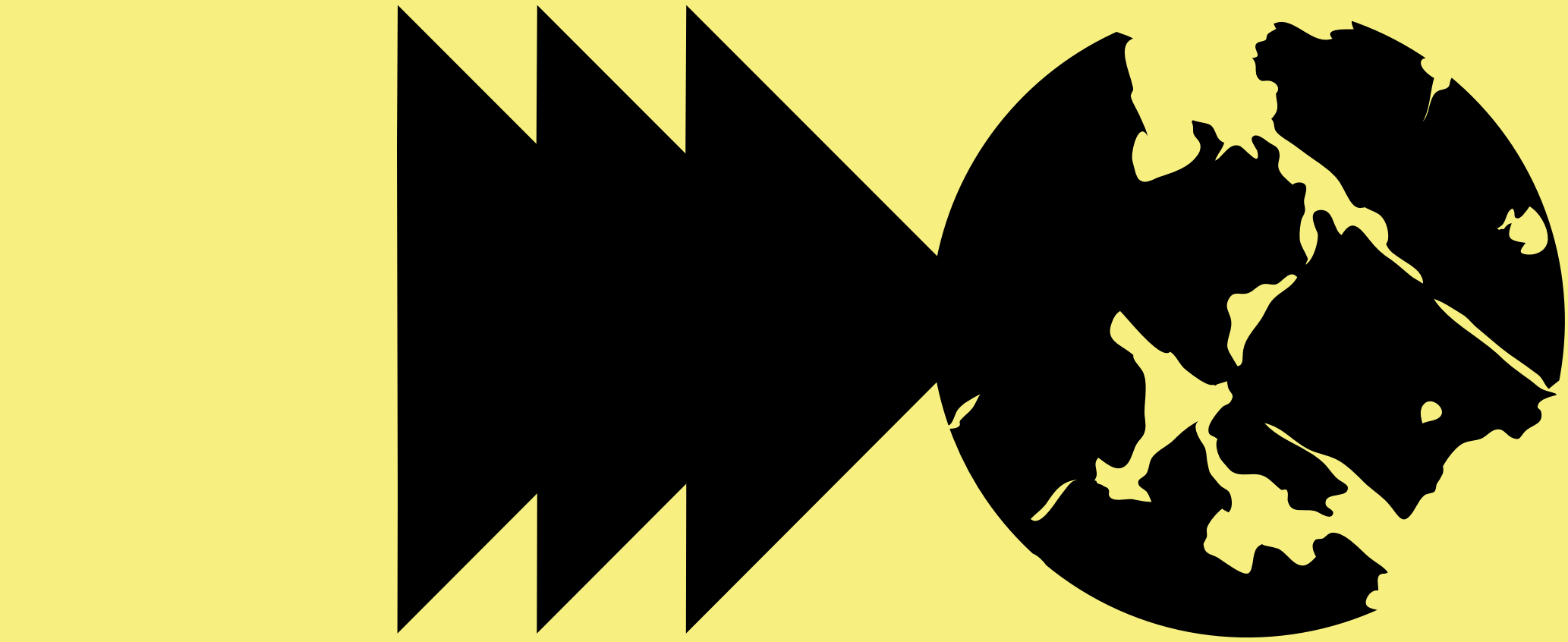
With almost no exception, all groups delivered impressive visuals and even more imaginative captions. Some even exceeded the assignment and experimented with more performative elements. Surprisingly, most stories incorporated social aspects more than ambitious and creative spatial propositions. Some students felt validated and emboldened by the space given to social justice in this assignment, and most interventions sought to convey a multitude of eco-social relationships feeding off newly introduced concepts. Still, the dire need to thoroughly decolonise the curriculum was apparent in some of the projects. While it was not the primary objective of the ~~Winter~~ Summer School to deal with colonial history, we believe designers of the just transition, combining intersectional, transnational and multidisciplinary perspectives, can better address the implications of designing for sites especially in the Global South once they are aware of the socio-spatial injustices brought on by past and present forms of colonialism.

The performative finale closed with a discussion held by the four respondents who reflected on the students' work and emphasised the importance of speculating, anticipating and precipitating hopeful futures that would emerge from the ruins of carbon majors like Shell. They also noticed and praised that this exercise expanded the field of design so that matters of spatial justice were tackled, even if some challenges remain unresolved: How to respond to crises that call for pedagogies which cultivate different knowledge systems, tackle complex problems with an awareness of different ways of being, and open up space for collective learning? How to 'compost capitalism' and take responsibility for colonial and ecological reparations through design? We are full of resolve to pursue similar (but hopefully more in-depth and slower-paced) pedagogical endeavours to advance and refine just transition design methodologies.

Spanning four decades and extending over five continents, the Just Transition Calendar seeks to showcase the wide range of approaches and skills employed by the students of the ~~Winter~~ Summer School, from critical thinking to analysing complex situations, from spatial intervention to speculative storytelling. The diversity of interventions and interwoven relations stand as a daily reminder of the task of our generation: a necessary, overdue and inevitable just transition.

From such modest beginnings may the deepest transformations emerge!

2020–2060



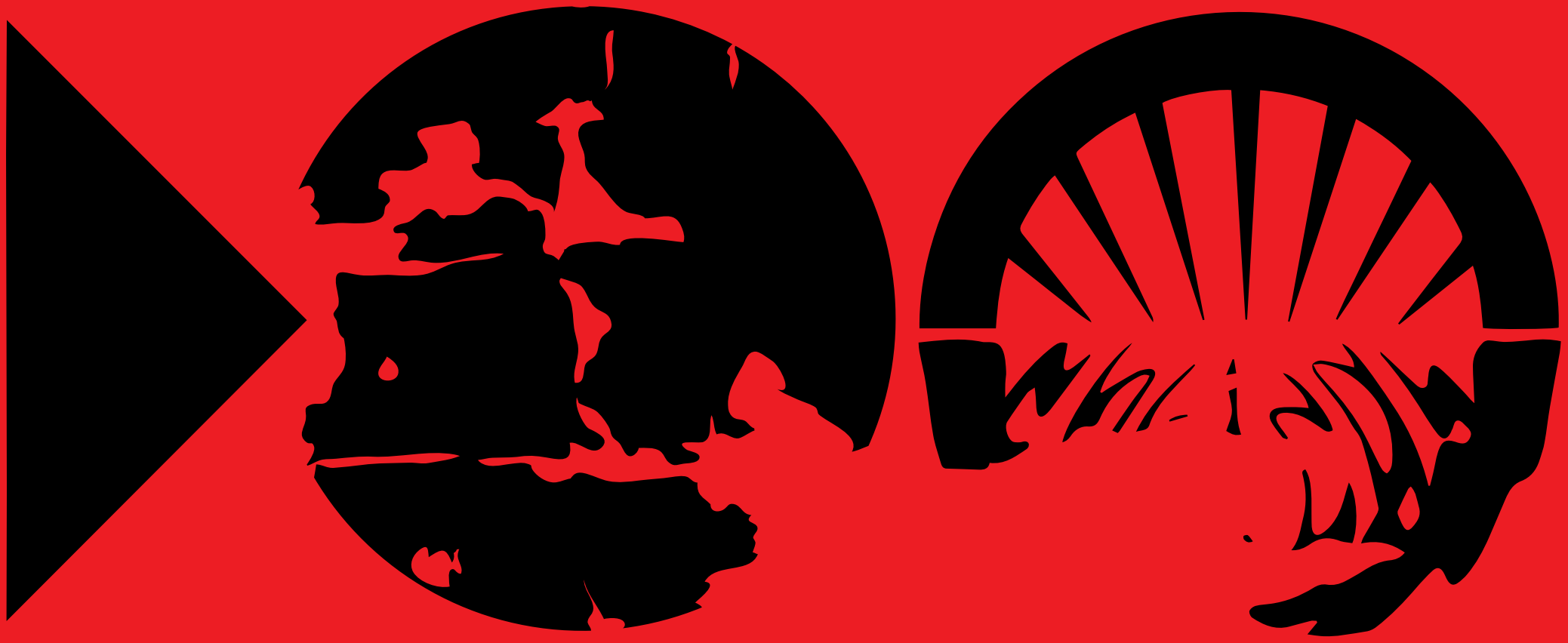
2020–2060

Photos by Jonathan Andrew

Amsterdam Academy of Architecture
~~Winter~~ Summer School

As we enter 2060, the Ministry of Just Transition is proud to present this commemorative wall calendar to celebrate our achievements across the world. This publication encapsulates the decommissioning and repurposing of twenty infrastructure sites that once belonged to Shell, one of the 20th-century carbon majors.

The Ministry was established in the immediate aftermath of a truly watershed event: the bankruptcy declaration and subsequent public takeover of Shell. Since then, the “After Shell” programme has swiftly become the cornerstone of the Ministry’s mission, tasked with facilitating the community-led, justice-based, and people-powered sunsetting of Shell’s legacy infrastructure, assets, and impacts.



To compile these annals spanning four decades of Just Transition, spatial designers from what used to be the Netherlands were invited by the Ministry to recapitulate their accounts as witnesses and contributors to the dissolution of the carbon major. May their work inspire the next generation of eco-social designers.

Artist in Residence 2022
Selçuk Balamir

To appraise the evolution of a site over each decade, please fast-forward twenty pages.

A JUST TRANSITION CALENDAR

2020–2060