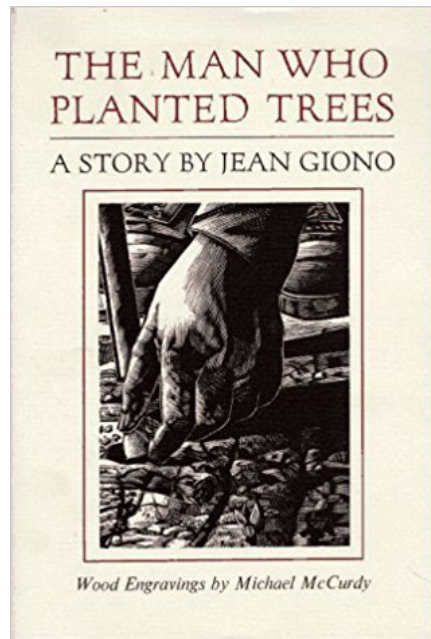




# Foreword

Published in 1953, this book tells the story of a shepherd who settles in Provence, somewhere in the foothills of the Alps. His habitat represents a dull treeless valley with almost no sign of civilization. The idea to revive this piece of land fully captivates the shepherd and even turns him into a bee keeper, as sheep activity affects immature tree sprouts. He dedicates his life to reforestation, little by little changing the valley into the Garden of Eden, all by himself. The phenomenon of rapid nature growth attracts 10,000 people, who settle down among magnificent grooves, owing their happiness to the man who planted trees.



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

What if such a phenomenon occurs not somewhere far away but right in the city?

# Introduction

MAN > AGAINST / TOGETHER WITH < NATURE?

## Nature empowered

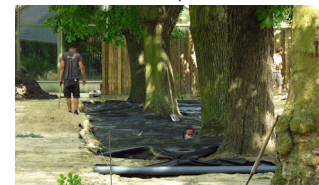


Inspiration. Vertical wall surrounding a monastery. Reminds of a landscape when rotated.

Personal photo archive.  
Prague, February 12, 2017

Nature is able to assimilate even artificial matter, if given time and space.

## meanwhile, in the center of Antwerp...



Plastified underlay to keep ground cover under the trees clear from weeds.

Reconstruction Antwerp Zoo.  
Belgium, 2017

In fact, humanity is ingeniously skillful when it comes to suppressing Nature.

After all, it cannot express its will.  
Or can it?

## Nature protected from our cruelty



\*picking flowers, walking grass & trampling down dogs strictly forbidden

Tailor-made collage.

Original image:

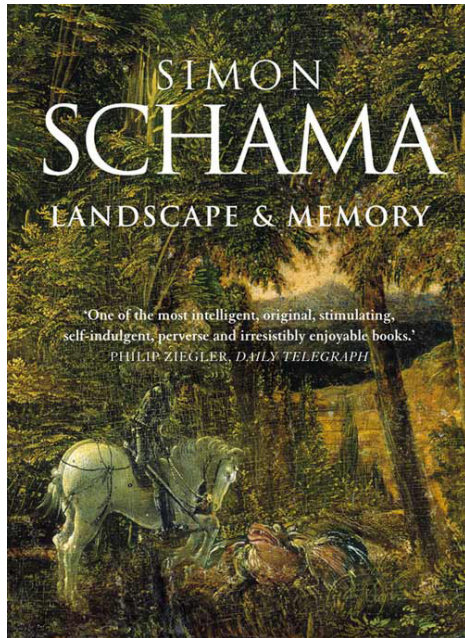
Nikolai Sokolov  
Proposal for a resort hotel in  
Matsesta, 1928

This graduation serves an incentive to reconsider the current state of human-nature relationship

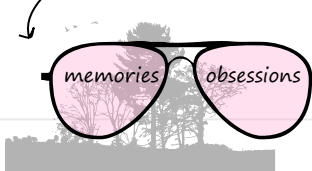
Greenscapes in and outside our cities: ARE THEY NATURE?

Main question: when observing landscape, what do we see - nature / culture?

Schama's answer: culture; landscape is the work of mind of the one who observes it



According to Schama, our perception goes through the filter of memories and obsessions



*Environmentalist's vision:*  
humanity romanticizes nature, all the same  
continues to exploit it

*SCHAMA's vision:*  
the relationship between civilization & nature  
is 'a cause not for sorrow but celebration'.

His book depicts a set of scenes where humanity was able to find beauty in places,  
which otherwise would have been neglected.

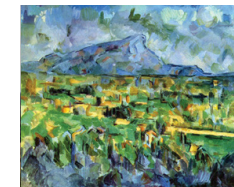
Similar ideas can be found in René Magritte's "La Condition Humaine"



MECHANISM EXPRESSED BY SCHAMA:



Mont Sainte-Victoire



Mont Sainte-Victoire  
depicted by  
Paul Cézanne



The same  
Mont Sainte-Victoire  
then evokes stronger  
response in us,  
which with time becomes  
unconscious

CRITICISM:

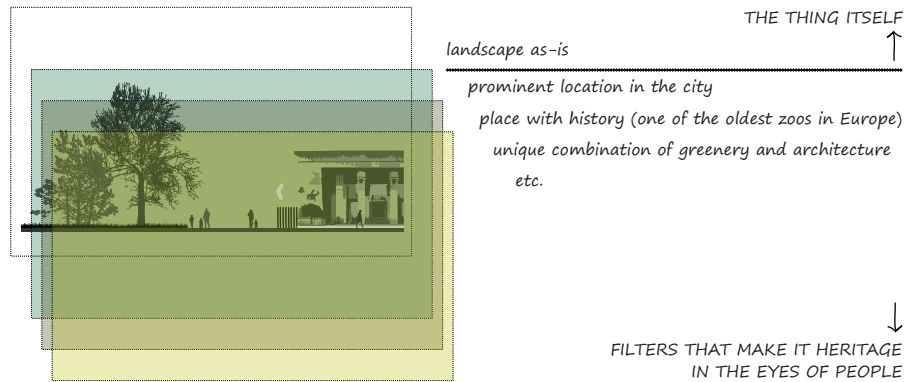
Mount Rushmore nurtured by Schama... Is it artistic triumph?  
To me, representation of human arrogance!





## ANTWERP ZOO WITH THE EYES OF SCHAMA

When Antwerp zoo landscapes are said to represent heritage... What does it mean?



IF FREED FROM CULTURAL FILTERS, WHAT IS IT?



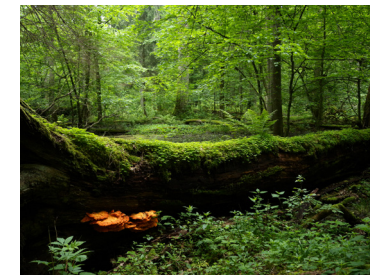
Antwerp Zoo as-is represents a **CONSTRUCTED LANDSCAPE** - human-made domain perceived through the lenses of culture as heritage.

QUESTION: WHAT ARE THE STRATEGIES TO DEAL WITH IT?

## CONSTRUCTED vs. INTACT LANDSCAPES



It takes a 2-hour flight from Amsterdam/Brussels to reach the closest non-constructed landscape



WWF's Living Planet Report 2016 claims that 'the majority of Earth's land area is now modified by humans. As of March 2016 just less than 3% of all Intact Forest Landscapes, characterized primarily by 'showing no signs of significant human activity, remain in Europe.

NOTE!!! EUROPE EXISTS IN THE REALM OF CONSTRUCTED LANDSCAPES



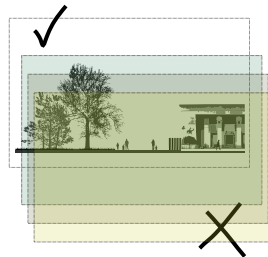
## WAYS TO DEAL WITH ANTWERP ZOO

### POSSIBLE DIRECTIONS:

#### APPROACH 1 | RIP CULTURAL LAYERS OFF

to reveal the truth and expose  
the phenomenon as-is;  
shock effect

What can this approach possibly  
lead to in terms of design?



Antwerpocalyps,  
Jonas Van de Vyver

Master project  
Sint-Lucas Hogeschool  
Antwerpen 2010

Personal criticism: To destroy is always easier than to create. Shock is a powerful but short-lasting effect. Instead, it is more challenging to add something meaningful and long-lasting.

#### APPROACH 2 | WHAT IS MISSING?

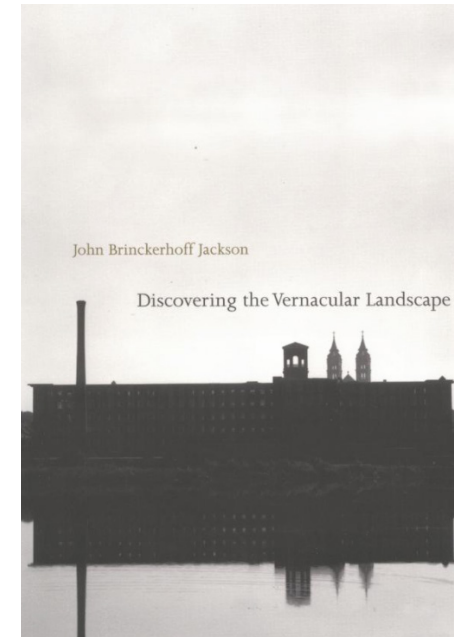
ALREADY THERE: prominent location in the city;  
place with history (one of the oldest zoos in Europe);  
unique combination of greenery and architecture

!!! NOTHING THAT NURTURES  
HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS BE-  
TWEEN MANKIND AND NATURE

HUMANE LAYER is probably missing. QUESTION: WHAT IS IT EXACTLY?

Main question: Vernacular landscape

Definition: 'one where evidences of a political organization of space are largely or entirely absent'.  
political = 'designed to impose or preserve unity and order on the land, or in keeping with a long range, largescale plan.'



#### MAIN FEATURES:

- informal
- multi-purpose
- offering opportunities for community engagement



Key element of the vernacular landscape:

responsible community,  
held together by personal relationships

#### CHALLENGE:

If such a landscape carries a desired HUMANE dimension, how can it be introduced right in the center of a vibrant city?

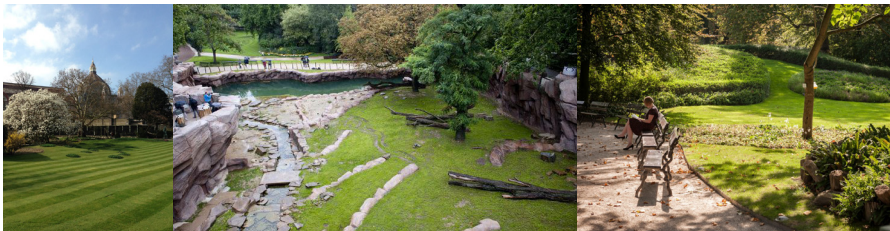
## ANTWERP ZOO WITH THE EYES OF JACKSON

Analysis of current situation in relation to vernacular landscape definition

1 | Projected vision of an 'enclosed garden' concept resulted in a very orderly framed structure that isolated itself from the surroundings and the people.



2 | Inside, it represents a constructed landscape, invasive species are not inherent to the surroundings (see page 6)



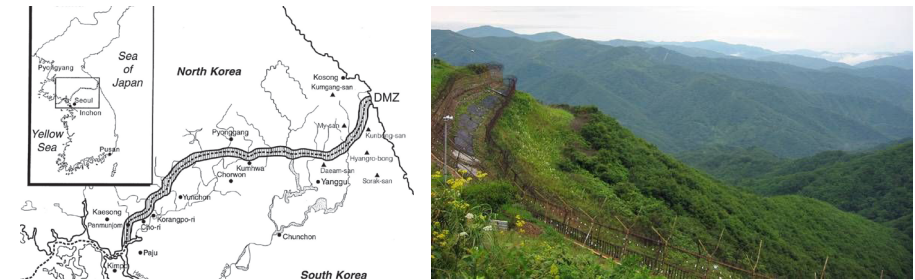
### CONCLUSION:

Antwerp Zoo area in its current state is quite the opposite of Jackson's vernacular landscape definition.

QUESTION: WHAT ARE THE INGREDIENTS FOR THE DESIRED TRANSFORMATION?

## IS NATURE DUMB?

The showcase of demilitarized zone (DMZ) between the two Koreas



Wildlife thrives in the Korean peninsula after humans were forced to leave the demilitarized zone. A ribbon of 4 km is home to thousands of species that are extinct or endangered elsewhere on the peninsula after massive deforestation, pollution and general environmental decline.

Socio-economic 'side-effects' caused by unintentional phenomenon:



Touristic train service departing from Seoul

- ecotourism and eco-education; South Korea's official tourism site offers the opportunity to visit an area south of the DMZ that it calls the Peace-Life Zone.
- the Catholic University of Korea and SungKongHoe University developed a joint course for students targeted at history, sociology and ecology of the area
- multiple projects around, initiated by non-governmental organizations

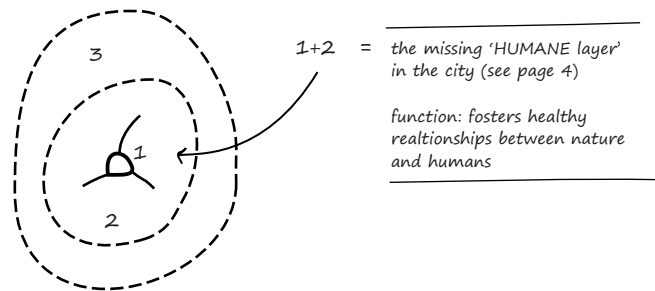
### LEARNING MOMENTS:

1. Nature does not express its will when not given chance to do so. Even a ribbon of just 4 km can be already enough...

2. Environmental phenomenon as a catalyst for societal integrity and socio-economic benefits

AMBITION: towards a vernacular landscape nested inside Antwerp's heart

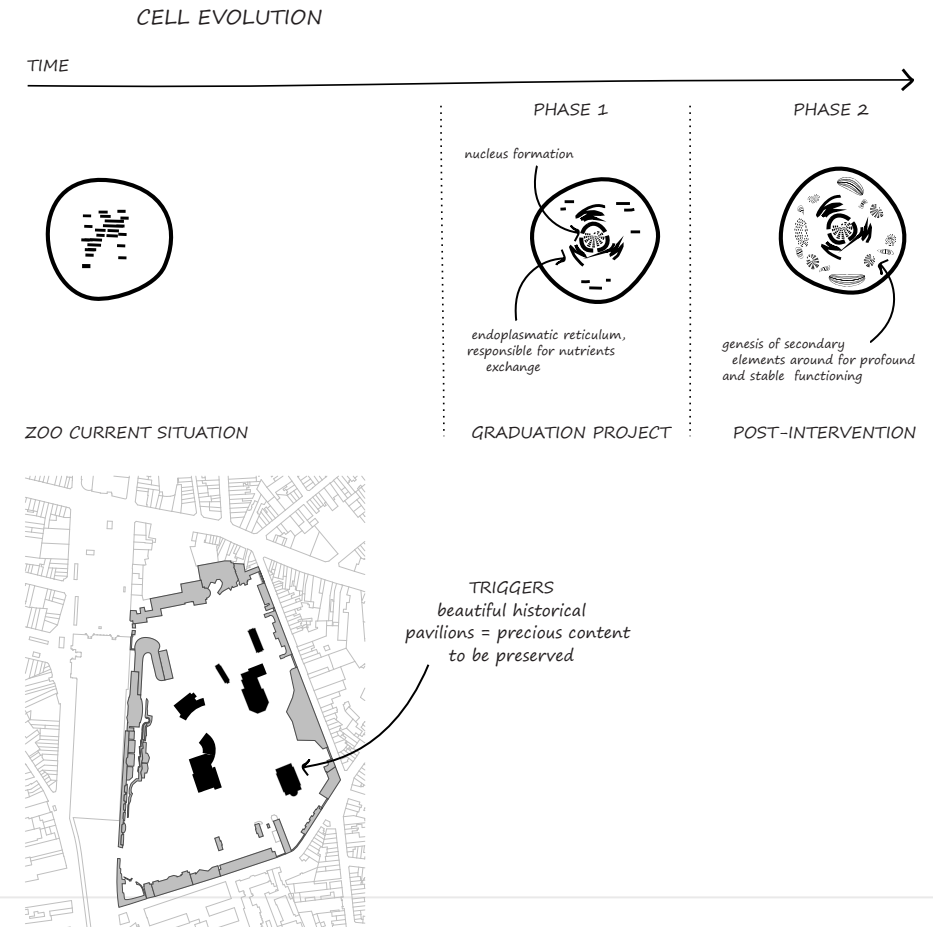
WHAT ARE THE NECESSARY COMPONENTS?



1. Community > key element according to J.B. Jackson (see page 9)  
function: nurtures and nourishes intact zone
2. Intact zone > human-free zone where nature, freed from pressure, can express its will (see DMZ example, page 11)
3. Buffer zone > transition between catalyst and hostile outer world (city)  
function: - protects and diminishes friction  
- accommodates socio-economic benefits exchange

NOTE: reminds of a cell structure

Work mechanism is similar to cell evolution



Triggers have the potential to form together

a powerful nucleus / multiple nuclei = element 1 Community



## Tracing the landscapes with a weak link between nature and human



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.

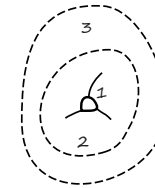


### PERSONAL REMARK:

In the most recent report (see Appendix 2)  
(ruimtelijk masterplan bijlage vergunningsaanvrag / 11.03.2014)

the indicated areas are part of the zone in red,  
marked as such for having  
the 'highest landscape quality'. DO THEY? see p.6

## Defining the zone that requires 'healing'



1. Community

2. Human-free zone

3. Buffer zone

band that guards designed vernacular landscape  
from negative impact of the city



human-free core where nature is  
liberated from human pressure

### QUESTIONS:

- How's human-free zone organized?
- What is the role of the pavilions inside?

## TRENDS &amp; PRECONDITIONS

Followed by the ban on wild animals use in circuses throughout Europe, Zoos are currently under scrutiny due to the changing ethics with regards to keeping animals in captivity.

Time, Feb 16, 2017

New York Magazine, July 11, 2014

boston.com, July 26, 2009

The Future of Zoos: Challenges  
Force Zoos to Change in Big Ways

The Case for the End  
of the Modern Zoo

Goodbye, Jumbo: The Identity  
Crisis

## Challenges and controversies covered:

- keeping animals in captivity for entertainment
- increasing requirements to habitats (spaciousness and natural conditions replication)
- conservation programs as justification for running a business
- inbreeding prevention
- etc.



Feb 9, 2014. THE CASE OF MARIUS

A healthy 2-year-old male giraffe from Copenhagen Zoo slaughtered to prevent probable inbreeding caused by the limited variety of giraffe species kept in one enclosure. All offers from other zoos and 500,000 euro from a private individual to save the life of a healthy giraffe were being turned down by Copenhagen Zoo officials. Visitors, including children, were invited to watch while the giraffe is being dissected.

National Animalist No Zoo Demonstration  
Turin, Italy, May 27, 2017

- How do zoos momentarily address the issue?
- Enlarging territory.



Safari park Beekse Bergen  
Netherlands



x 12 times larger territory  
compared to Antwerp Zoo

NOTE: many zoos worldwide have reached the limit for enlargement

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ANTWERP ZOO?

## ZOOS IN TRANSITION

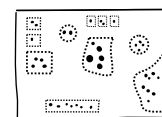
The zoos trapped on restricted urban territories enlarge and improve animal habitats by means of regrouping species.

## newly opened joint enclosures, south-eastern corner

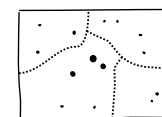


REMARK:  
this opportunity will soon be exhausted due to the limited capacities.

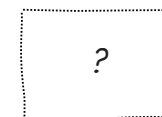
2018



From cages



to zones



to ...

... to understanding that ZONES = SAME CAGES, just bigger



IN THE LONG RUN,

animals not native to this environment will inevitably leave for better life in the wildlife sanctuaries, that offer genuine life conditions.

TO BE DEFINED: INTRIGUING POWER OF PAVILIONS WITHOUT EXOTIC ANIMALS



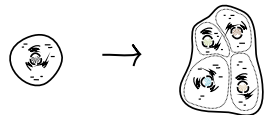
## PEARLS INSIDE HUMAN-FREE ZONE

Each pavilion together with the adjacent area inherits some distinctive features resulting from the way it was formerly functioning.

Terra Incognita map



from single to multi-nuclei core



To function as a community, multiple nuclei should connect

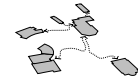
QUESTION: HOW DO ELEMENTS CONNECT?



## MULTI-LAYERED NETWORK

The intervention in relation to its surroundings and the city is characterized by the levels of mutually beneficial relationships, stacked together to form a steadily functioning organism.

1. pavilion to pavilion



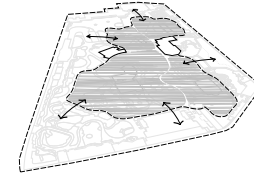
2. pavilion to adjacent landscape



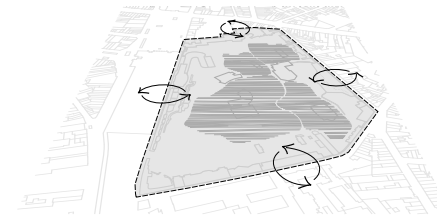
3. landscape to landscape



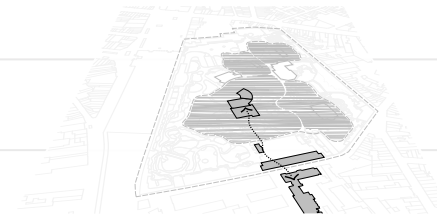
4. human-free zone to buffer zone



5. buffer zone to city



6. cross-connection





# 1. pavilion to pavilion

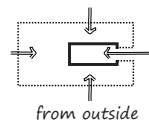
## SUPPRESSING HUMAN ARROGANCE

Nature is an all-embracing term. Humanity is only part of it.

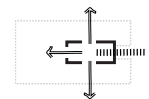
What type of connections between pavilions could heal human-nature relationship by celebrating the supremacy of nature over humans?



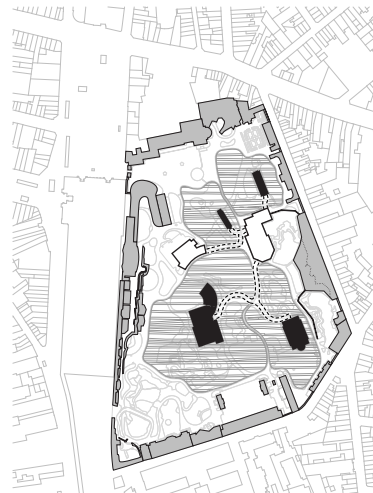
Ordinary pavilion  
experience  
overturned



from outside



from inside

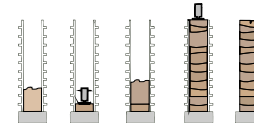
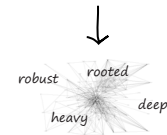


for other experiments see Appendix 4

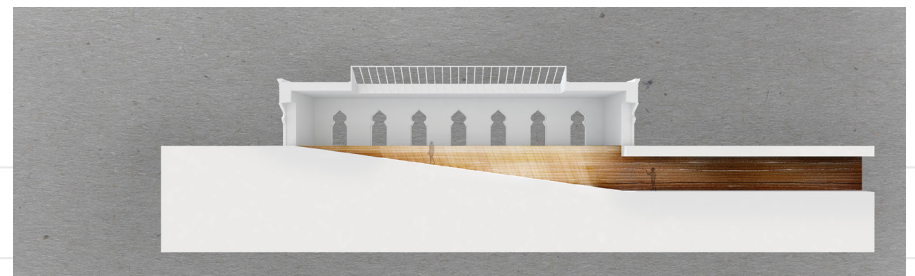
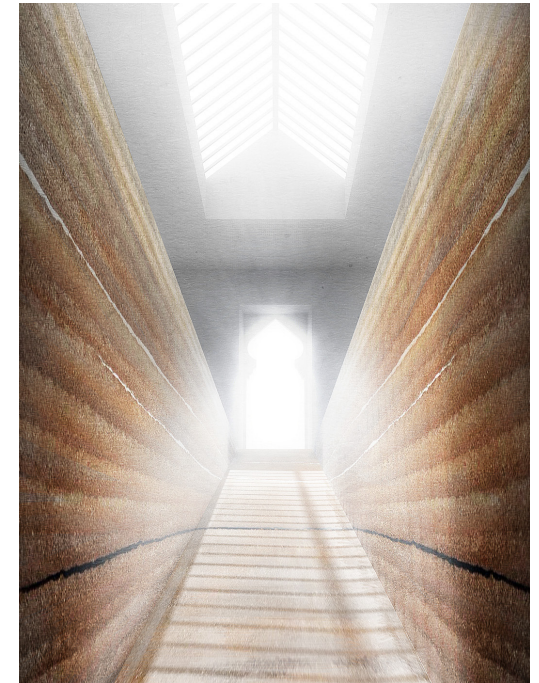
# 2. pavilion to adjacent landscape

## OKAPI ENCLOSURE

Terra Firma – solid land



rammed-earth building technology



last traces of okapis' escape to Africa



## 2. pavilion to adjacent landscape

### PAVILION = HUMAN EMBASSY IN THE NATURE KINGDOM

Each of the four pavilions is responsible for the adjacent landscape well-being and serves two functions at once:

- protects 'terra incognita' from human invasion
- supplies necessary nutrients for rampant nature growth



### PERMACULTURE PRINCIPLE

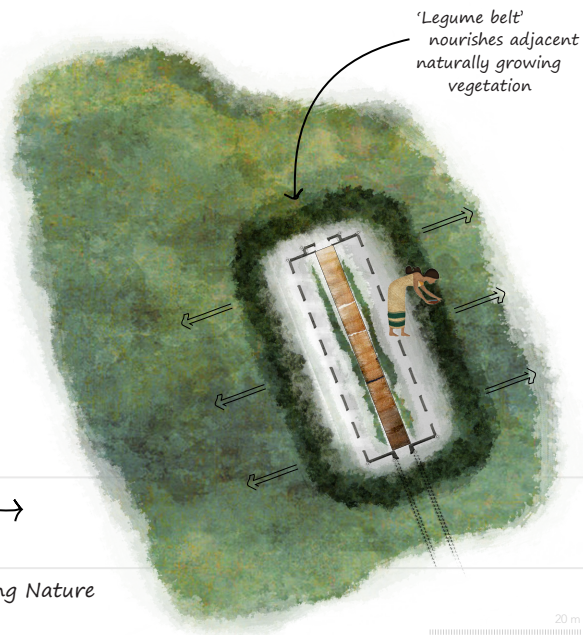
legumes



- supply nutrients (fix nitrogen in soil)
- release abiotic stress
- are home to useful microorganisms
- etc.



From feeding animals to feeding Nature



## 4. human-free zone to buffer zone

### NATURAL BORDER

When vegetation reaches natural density levels, the fences become redundant. Terra Incognita can now only be reached from inside.



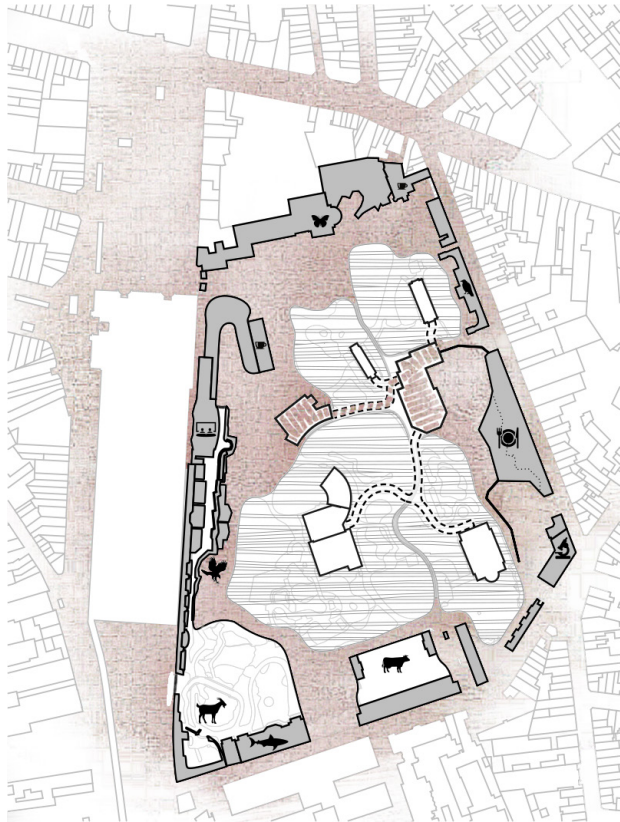
View towards penguins' enclosure  
Antwerp Zoo



## 5. buffer zone to city

### INTEGRATED NETWORKS

Existing attractions form a porous semipermeable skin around the core.  
It allows for public access, hence new physical and economic connections in the city





## Buildings by value and period of construction

## 5.2. BOUWKUNDIGE ANALYSE

## 5.2.1 Historische analyse

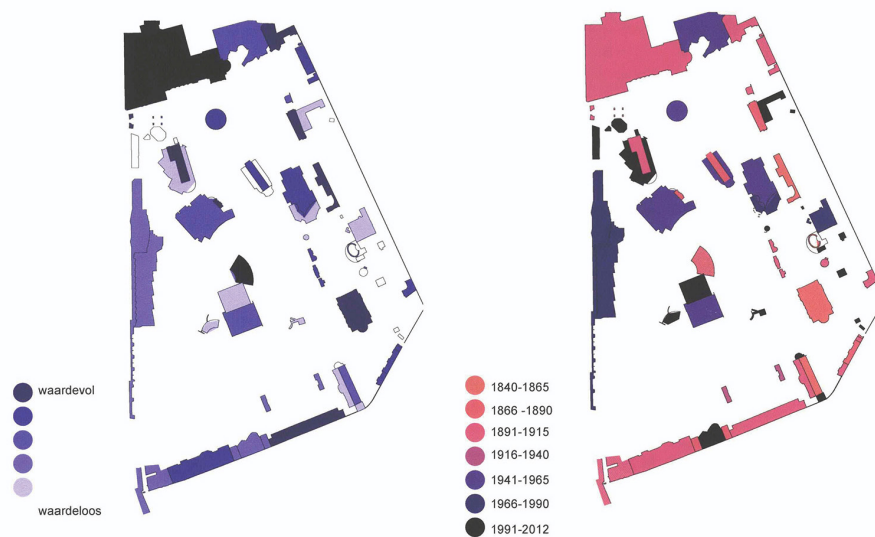
De historische analyse is tijdens het voortraject opgemaakt door Origin en ELD en is op aanvraag te verkrijgen bij de KMDA.

doc nr 12-016049 dd 24/04/2012

## 5.2.2 Architecturale analyse

De architecturale analyse is tijdens het voortraject opgemaakt door Origin en ELD en is op aanvraag te verkrijgen bij de KMDA.

doc nr 12 017427 dd 24/04/2012



05.03 analyse ouderdom gebouwen  
uittreksel historische analyse

05.04 analyse waarde gebouwen  
uittreksel historische analyse



KDMA doc nr 13-025598, Zoo van Antwerpen: Ruimtelijk Masterplan Bijlage Vergunningsaanvrag (Antwerpen: 2014), 16.

## Landscape quality and heritage value study

## 5.3. LANDSCHAPSSTUDIE

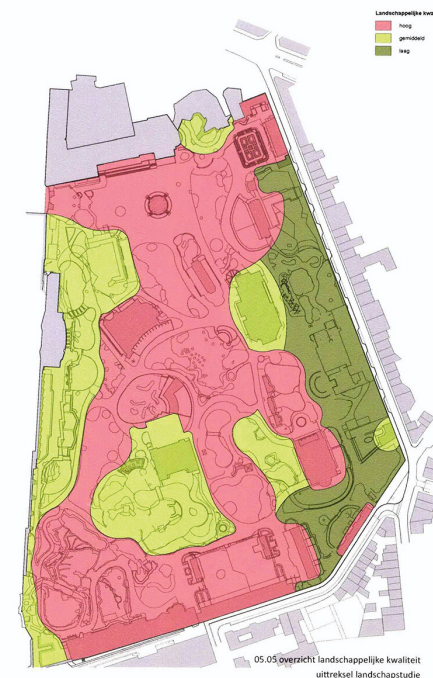
De landschapsstudie is tijdens het voortraject opgemaakt door Fondu Landscape Architects en is op aanvraag te verkrijgen bij de KMDA.

doc nr 12-015471 dd 04/05/2012

## 5.4. SWOT-ANALYSE

De SWOT-analyse is tijdens het voortraject opgemaakt door de ontwerpers en is op aanvraag te verkrijgen bij de KMDA.

doc nr 12-016049 dd 16/06/2012



05.05 overzicht landschappelijke kwaliteit  
uittreksel landschapstudie



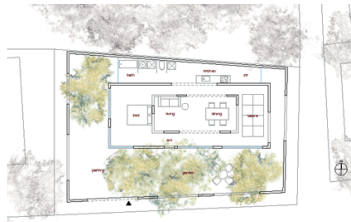
KDMA doc nr 13-025598, Zoo van Antwerpen: Ruimtelijk Masterplan Bijlage Vergunningsaanvrag (Antwerpen: 2014), 17.

## STUDY: borders &amp; transition strategies



Terrains du parc Monceau, Paris, XVIII century

parcels around landscape park in the city given up to farmers carry the features of both domains



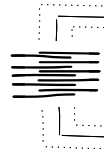
"House N" by Sou Fujimoto

layered onion-like structure softens commonly strict border between private and public domains



Ana Teresa Fernandez

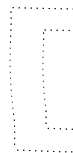
SF-based artist painting the U.S.-Mexico border blue to make it invisible



[1] interlock



[2] gradient



[3] invisible

## STUDY: connections

