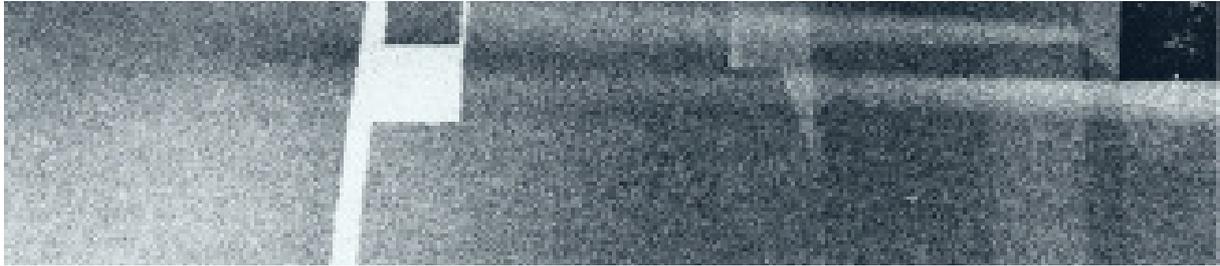


HARDCORE HERITAGE



Hardcore Heritage represents a new way of thinking about monuments and cultural heritage. Through deliberate destruction, radical changes in context, and seemingly contradictory additions, a new field of tension arises between present, past and future. 'After Image', 'Deltawerk 1:1' and national monument 'Bunker 599' should be read as built manifesto's that show the power of this approach.

Bunker 599 – New Dutch Waterline – by RAAAF | Atelier de Lyon, 2010

In a radical way this intervention sheds new light on the Dutch and UNESCO policies on cultural heritage. At the same, it makes people look at their surroundings in a new way. A seemingly indestructible bunker with monumental status is sliced open. Monuments are typically regarded as immutable and untouchable, and as a result tend to fade from public imagination and memory. This strategic intervention offers a new perspective on the other 700 bunkers in the New Dutch Waterline. Paradoxically, after the intervention Bunker 599 became a Dutch national monument.

After Image – Sugar refinery Groningen by RAAAF

After Image allows people to experience an aspect of The Netherlands that is normally hidden from view: cities are built on millions of pillars. After the radical demolition of the Sugar refinery only a desolate concrete area remained. RAAAF discovered that beneath the surface of the site – around which in coming years a new neighborhood will emerge - a colossal city of pillars is hidden. The intervention reveals this underworld of the former sugar silo seven years after the demolition. By excavating the foundations a concrete cathedral appears 30 feet below ground level.

Deltawerk 1:1 – Dutch Hydrodynamics Laboratory – by RAAAF

Deltawerk 1:1 is a tribute to the majesty and seemingly indestructible power of the Dutch Delta Works. The project shows the potential of deliberate reunification within cultural heritage. The test models in national monument Waterloopbos, the former Dutch Hydrodynamics laboratory, are in decay. One of these models is the Delta Flume, which was used for making massive waves on scale one to one to test the strength of enormous engineering works. The waves in the Delta flume are gone after 40 years of technological progress and many different experiments.

By excavating the sand plateau around the flume a gigantic 'delta work' of 7m high and 250m long is unveiled and surrounded by water. Massive concrete slabs are cut out of the 80 cm thick walls and turned 90 degrees around their axis. Over the years the slabs will be colonized by a nature. The space changes through the day, the seasons and over the years.