

GROUP 3

RAVELIJN OP DEN ZOOM

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Introduction

The fortress of Ravijjn op den Zoom was once an important part of the defense of the city and the city walls. When the defense mechanism of the city was abolished during the 19th century, the fortress was saved only thanks to its urban and commercial impact. This meaning of hers became insignificant again after the First World War. Since then, the fortress has undergone several changes with the aim of returning it to its importance in the structure of the city. This analysis shows its importance in society, as part of the heritage of Bergen op Zoom and as part of the urban heritage of North Brabant. But also its social, architectural and environmental potential.

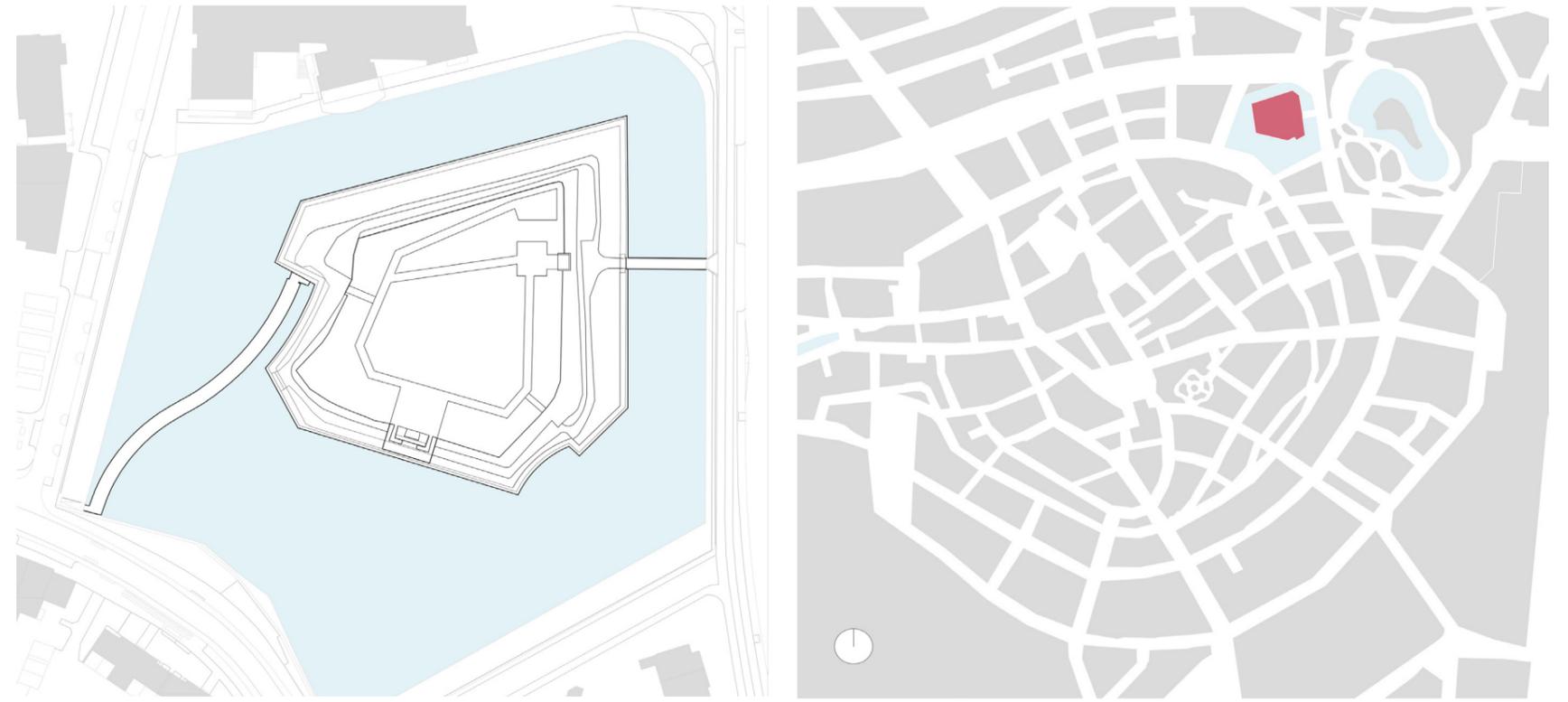


DESIGN

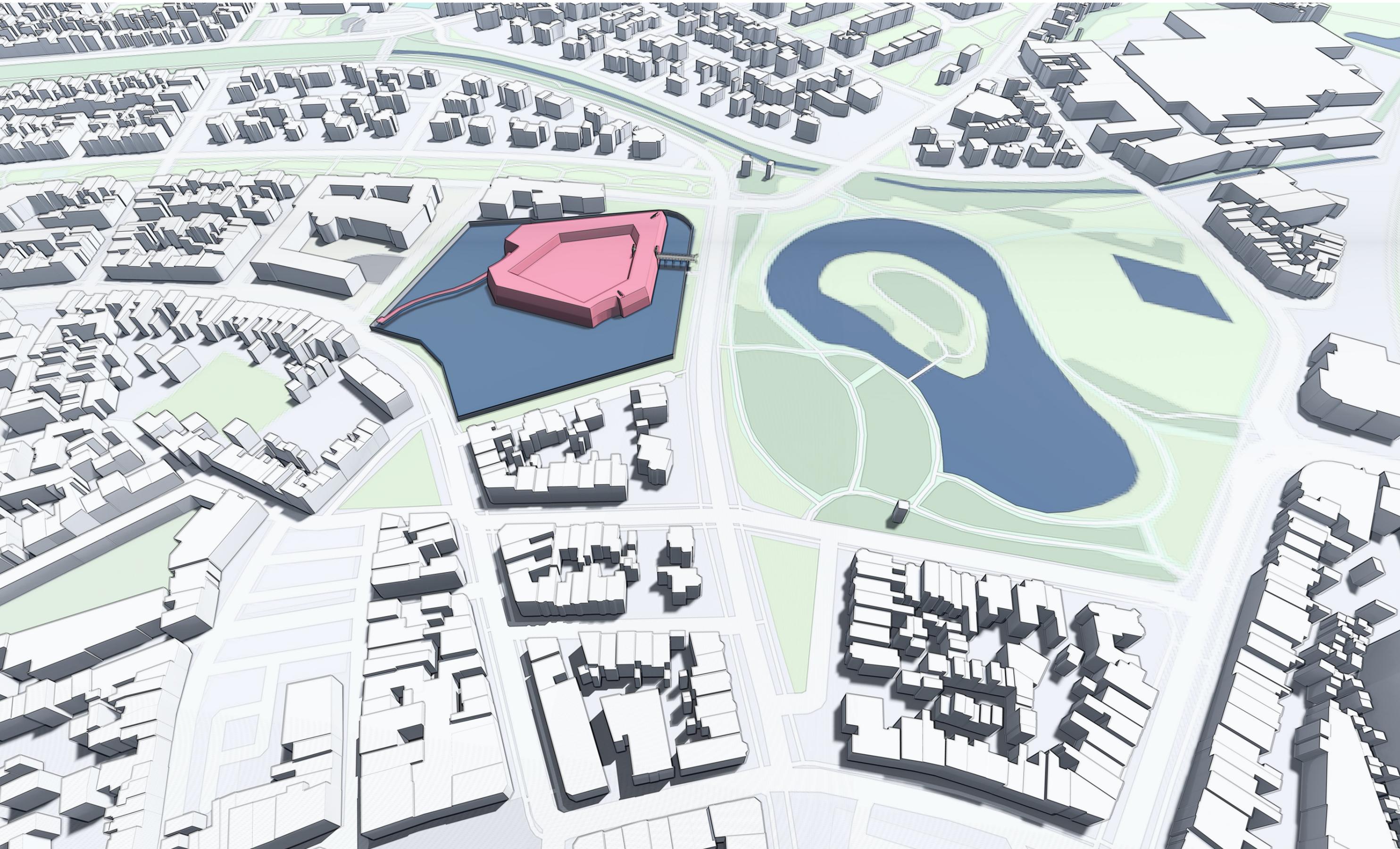
RAVELIJN OP DEN ZOOM

City Context

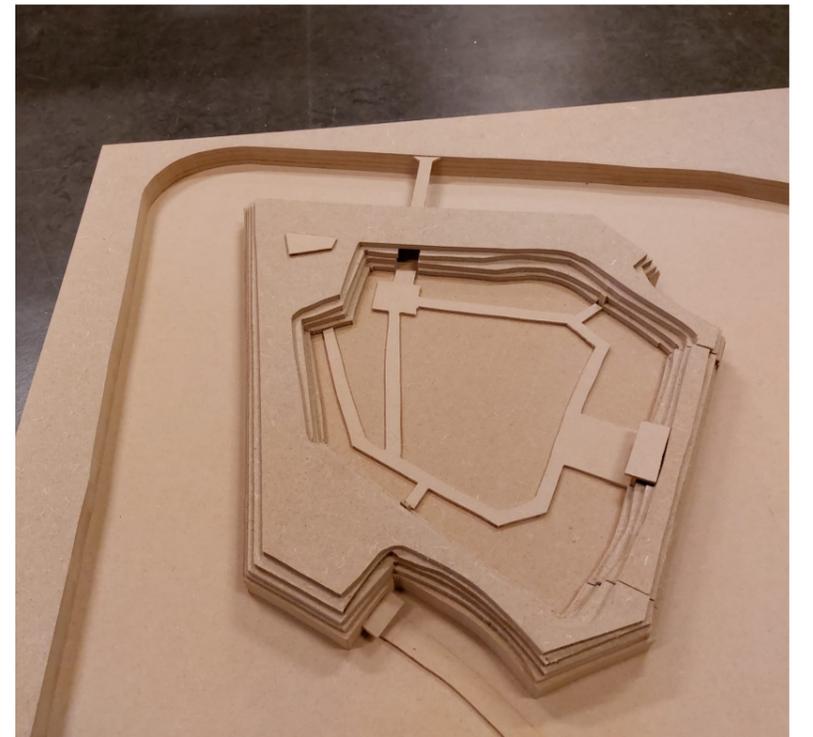
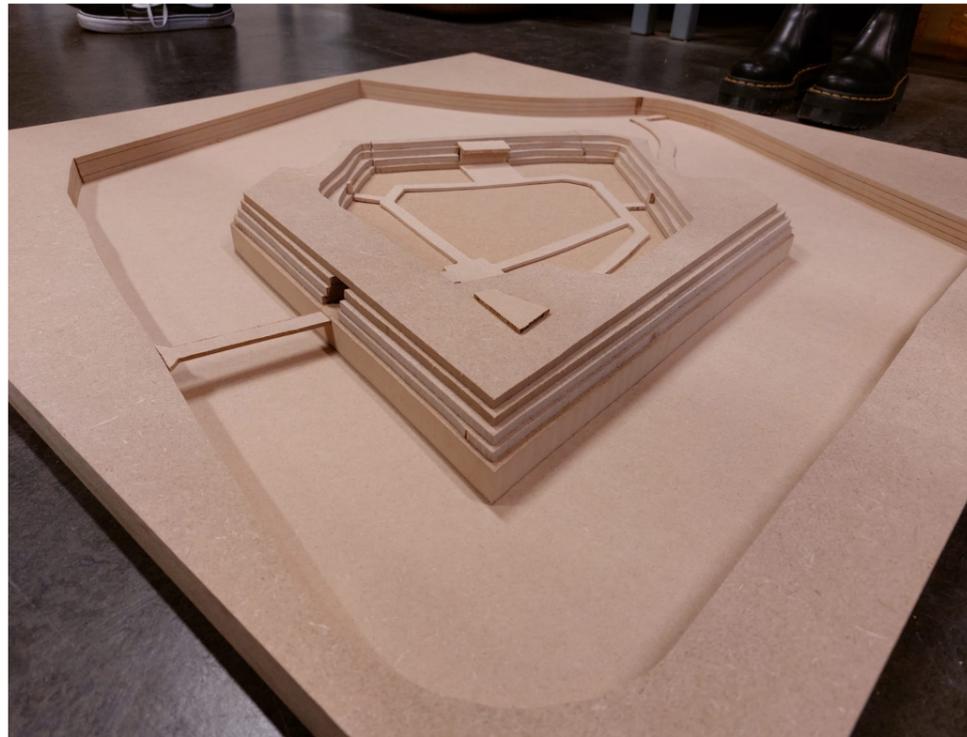
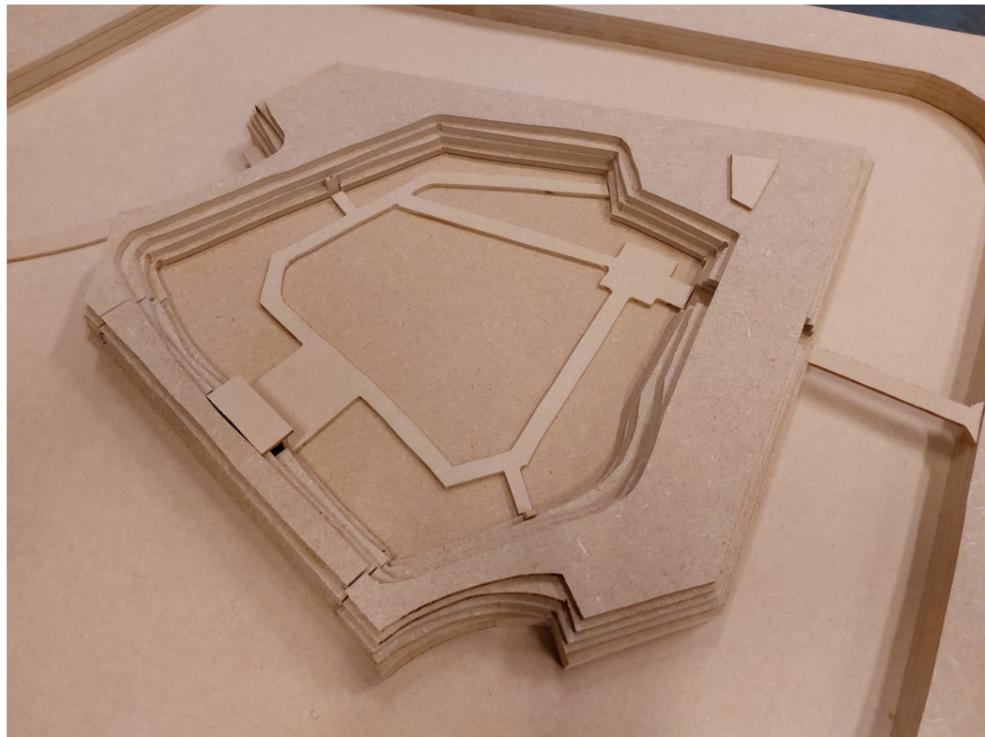
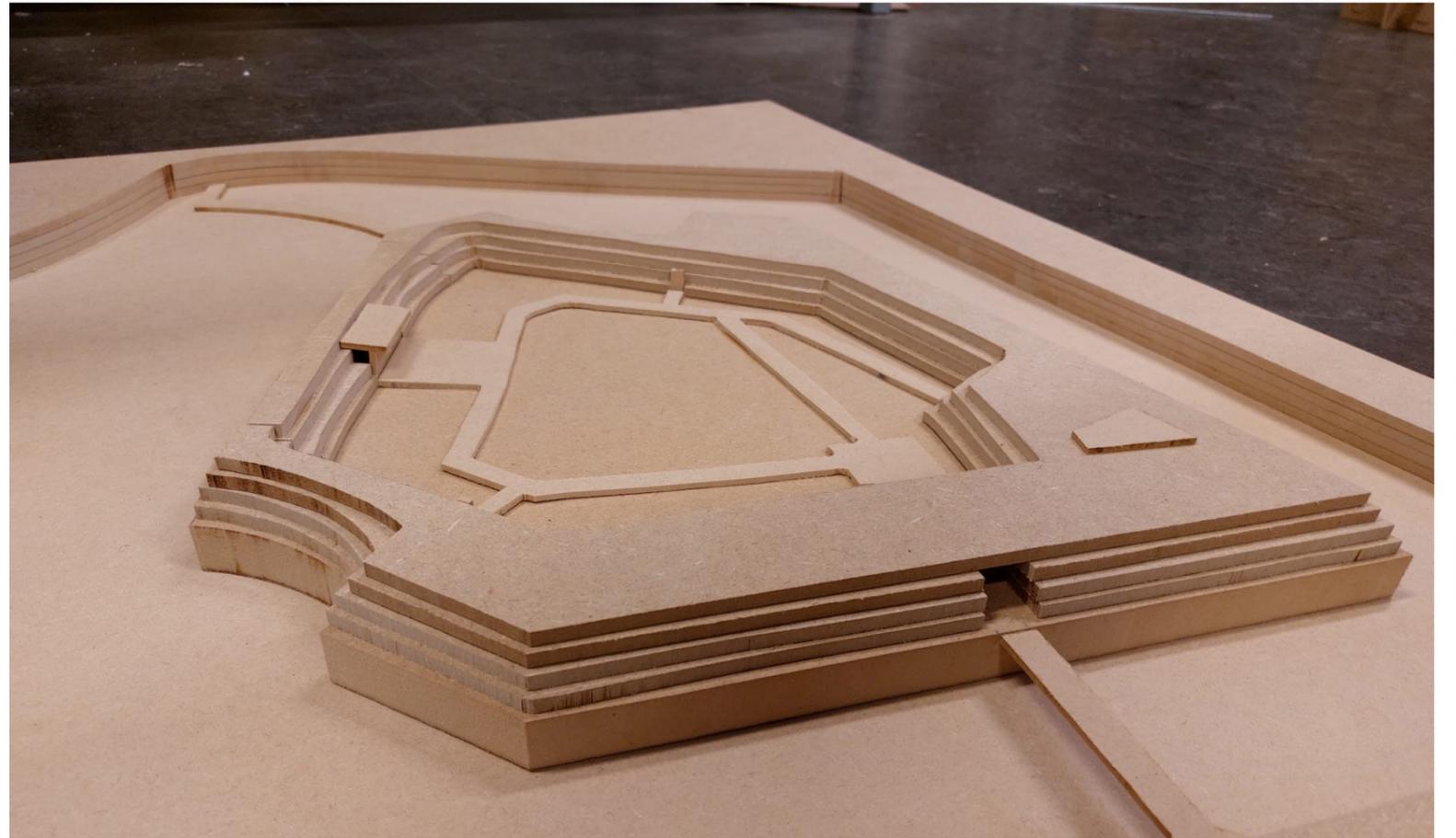
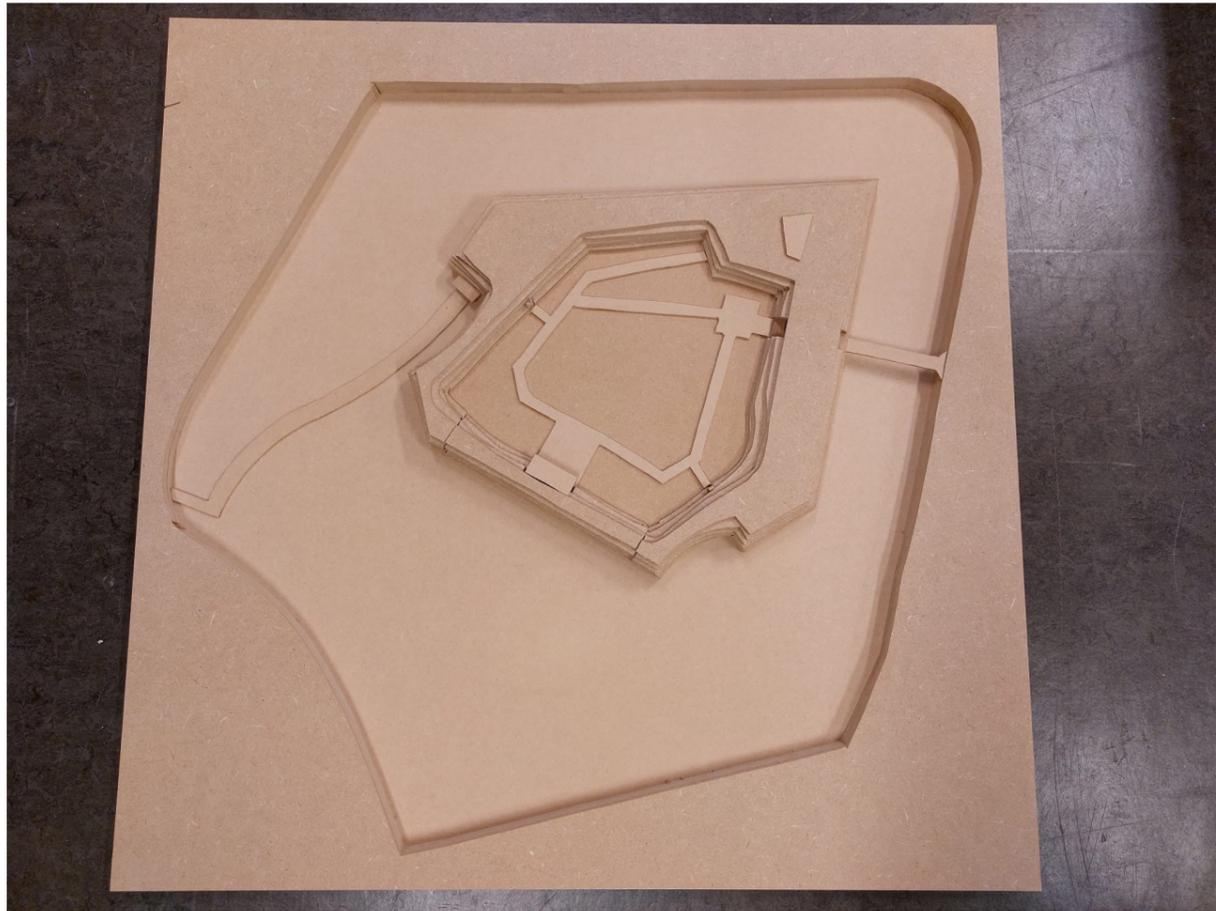
Ravelijn is one of the remaining parts of the city fortification system that surrounded the city of Bergen op Zoom, one of the cities of the Zuiderwaterlinie guarding the access from the south to Holland and Zeeland. It is situated on the perimeter of the city center, due northeast, facing Anton van Duinkerkenpark. The plot is defined by a pentagonal shape, where a fortress-island stands, surrounded by a moat.



Urban model



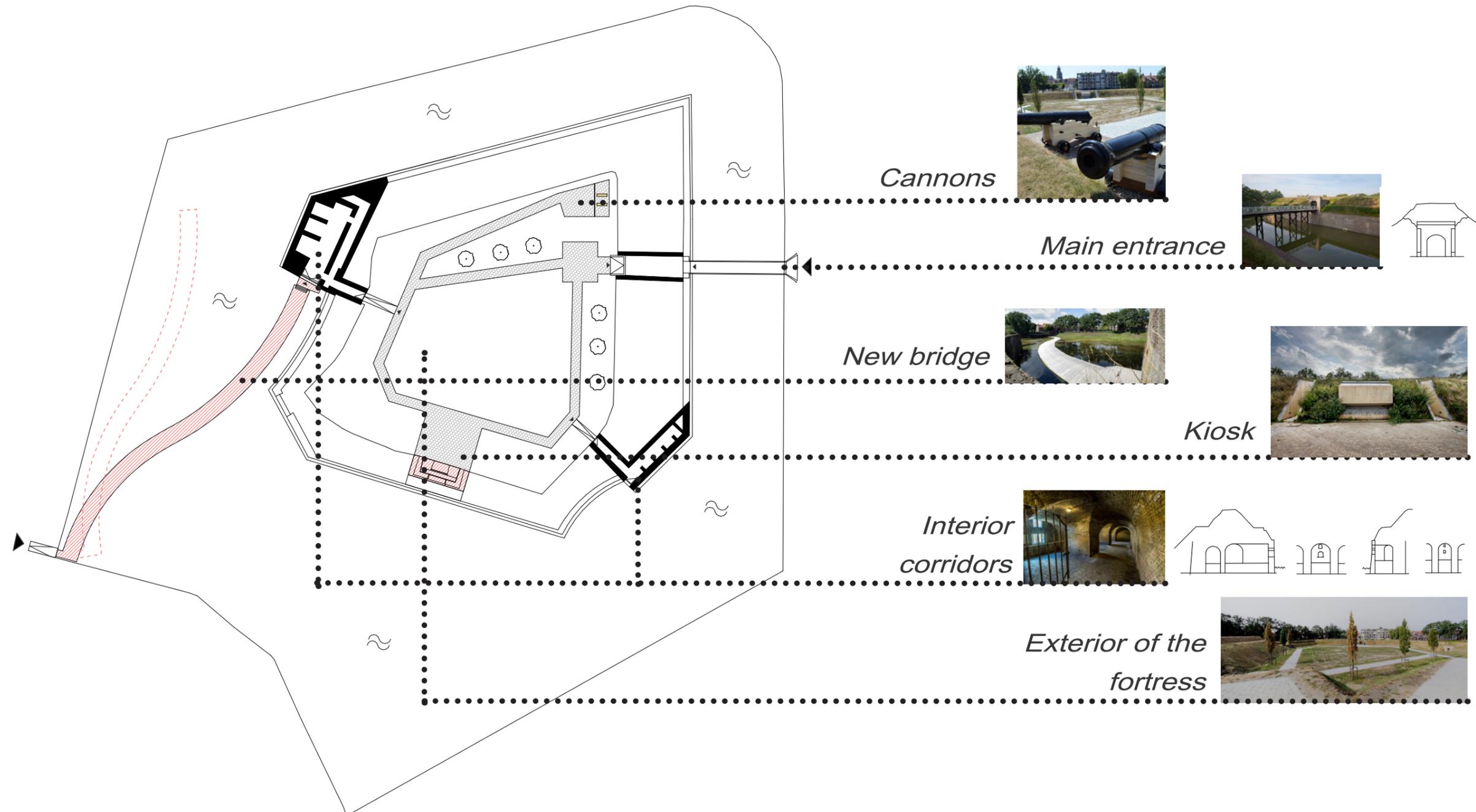
Physical model



Exterior and interior

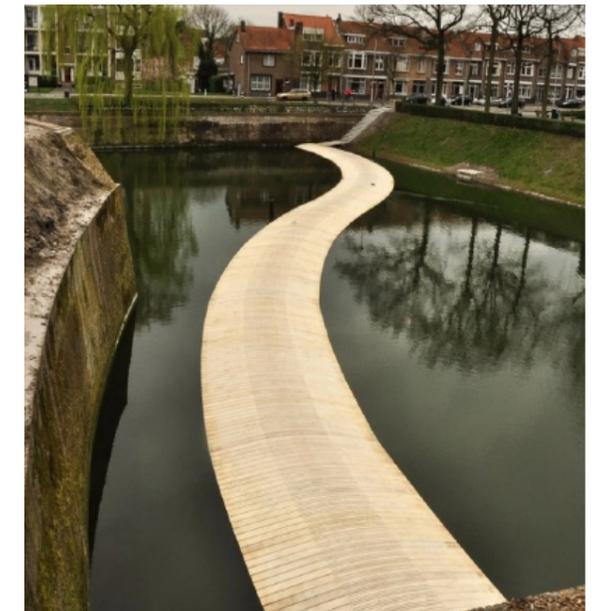
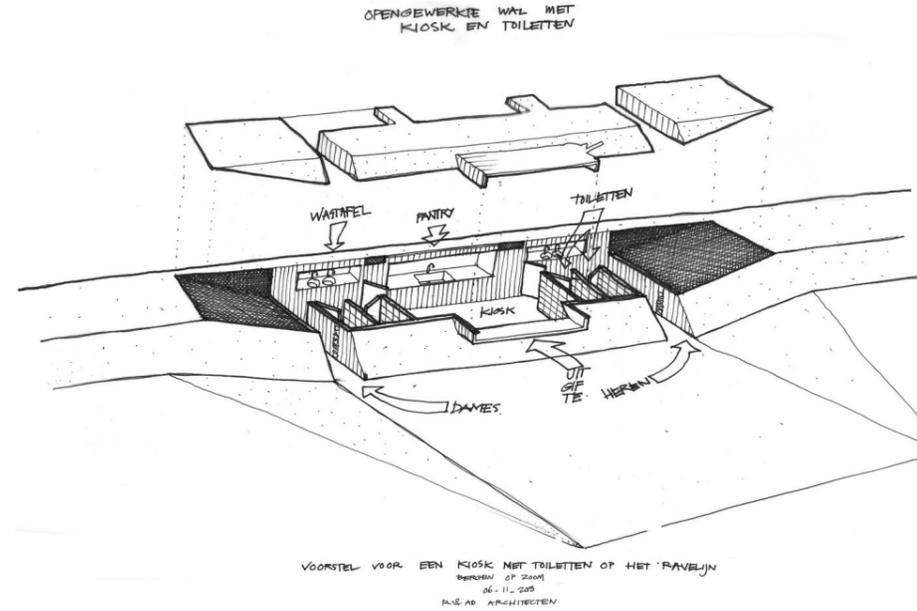
The main entrance is from the eastern side across the bridge. The second bridge is from west side from the center. The fortress is completely covered with grass, paved walkways are made for pedestrians. There are currently 6 trees planted on the fort. There are two more entrances to interior corridors from inside the fortress. On the east-north edge of the fortress, there are placed two cannons.

The interior of the fort consists of corridors with barrel vaults made of bricks.



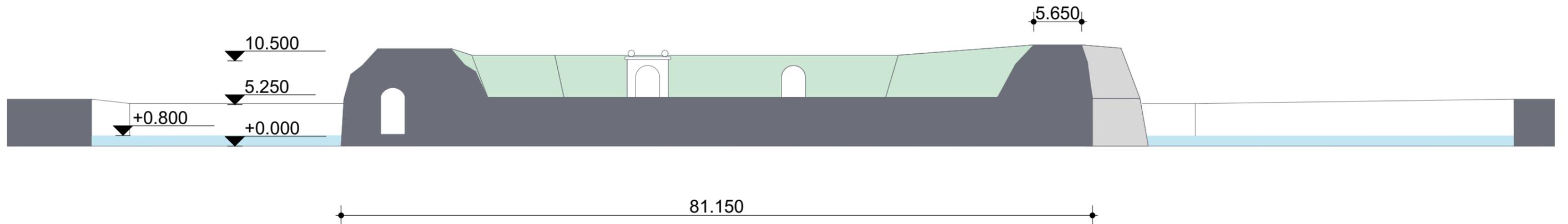
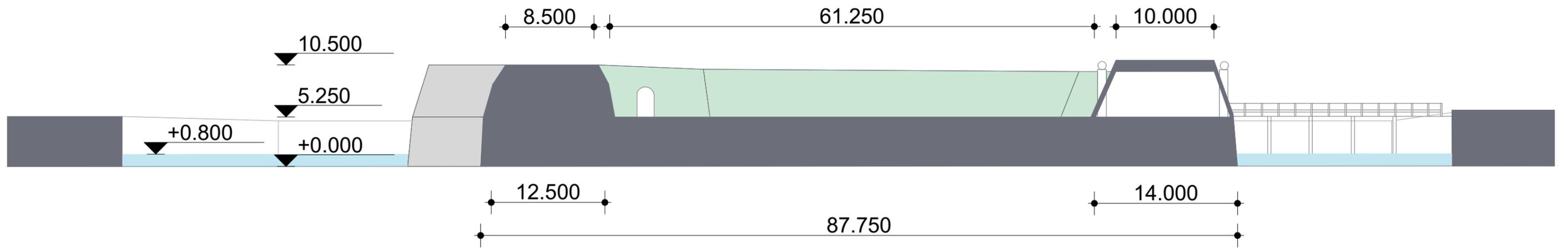
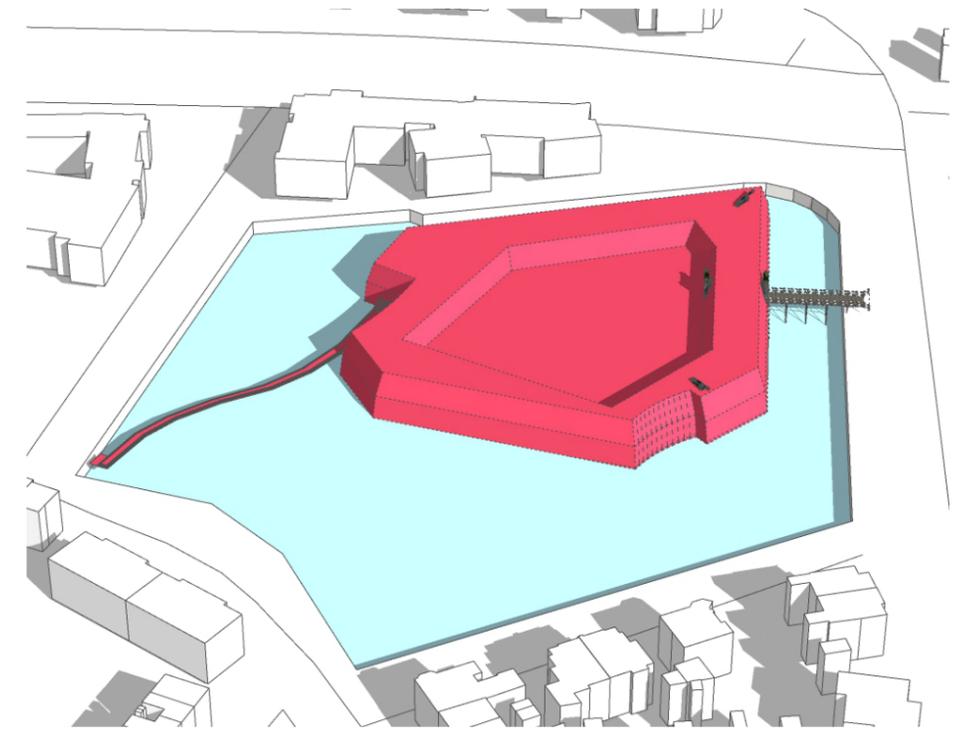
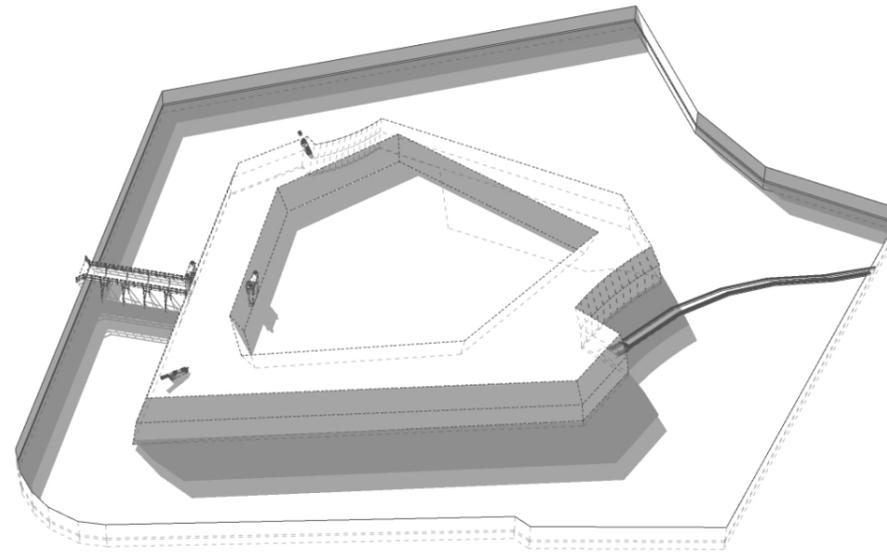
Current use and new transformation

The fort is possible to visit during the opening hours from april to october or on request. It is regularly used for public and private events. In 2015, new kiosk and second bridge were built, both designed by RO&AD Architecten. The kiosk contains public toilets and a coffee/information counter. The kiosk is placed in wall of earth, it has two entrances, one for each toilet and at the front, there is big hatch to open the kiosks bar. The new pedestrian bridge was made for two reasons - to connect the fortress to the city centre, and to make a second escape route from the fortress in case of emergencies. The bridge is floating and in winter it can be pulled to the side, so there can be ice-skated around the fortress.



Data Analysis

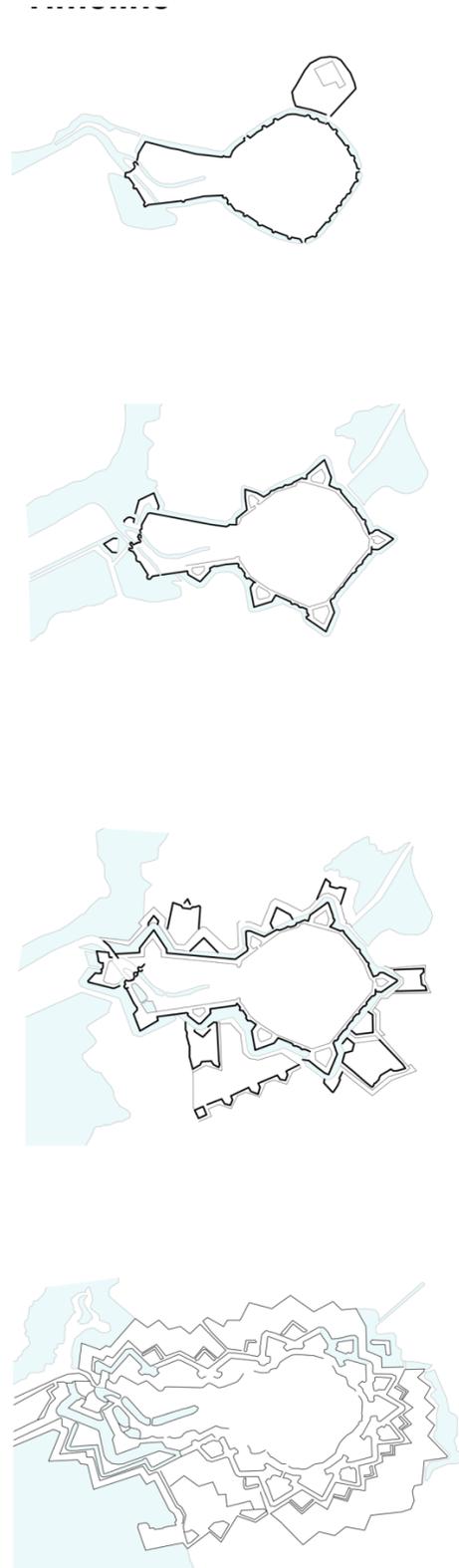
Ravelijn consists of an island in the middle of a wide moat, which is itself entirely surrounded by earthen ramparts and partly by stone walls. The fort is made of a brick foundation with earth walls on top. The earth walls and mounds are part of the fort on all sides. Except the wall at the side of the city are all original. In times of war this one was not necessary, because there was no attack expected from that side. Fort contains observation and firing slots, weapon cellars and magazines.



PRE-DESIGN

RAVELIJN OP DEN ZOOM

Timeline



1560 Within the town's first fortifications

1588 Town's first fortifications

1600-1647 The fortifications expand

Fortified city outworks enlarged and

1710 City of military

1755 Fortified city designed by Menno van Coehoorn finished

1800-1900 City of industry (sugar, pigment)

1581 Female christian settlement

1588 Beginning of the construction of the city walls, defence system: started to grow

1698 Construction of the new fortification system by Menno van Coehoorn

1702 Construction of the Ravelijn is finished

Beginning of the 18th century Improvement of fortification by adding bastions and lunettes

1747 For the first time the fortress was conquered by France

The back wall was added

1868-1886 Fortress lost its defending function, rest of fortification was destroyed, Ravelijn was kept - the surrounding moat was important for the water supply (Havenkanaal)

1931-1932 Renovation, main entrance gate and first bridge was built

1977 Used as a public garden/park and nursery school

2006 Second renovation, trees removed

2015 New kiosk and bridge built

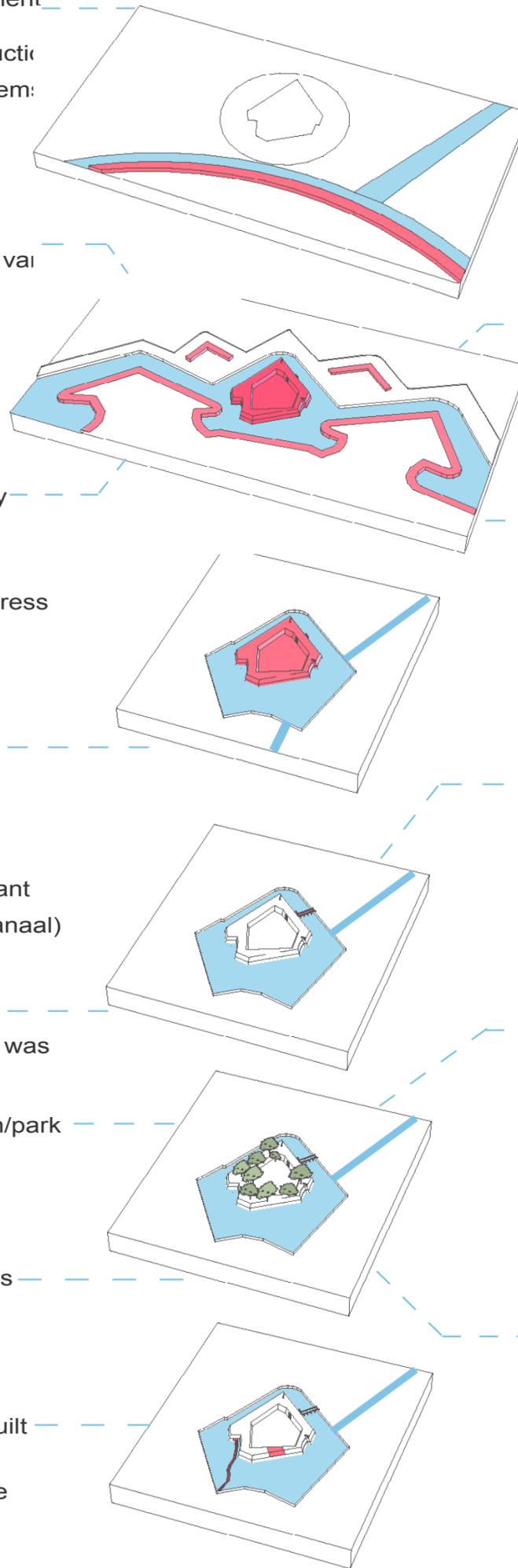


Image 2. Shooting chamber



Image 3. Original brick wall in interior



Image 4. First bridge and new entrance gate, 1932



Image 5. Comunal garden at Ravelijn, 1977



Image 6. Fortress with trees



Image 7. Fortress after renovation of the brick wall damaged by trees

History of city

From the 14th to the 19th century, Bergen op Zoom was surrounded by walls, ramparts, bastions and other defenses to defend Zeeland, Holland and Brabant. Not surprising when you consider that the city has been a frontier town in almost all of its history. The Ravelijn op den Zoom was built as a part of the fortress by the famous fortress builder, Menno van Coehoorn.

Defense use

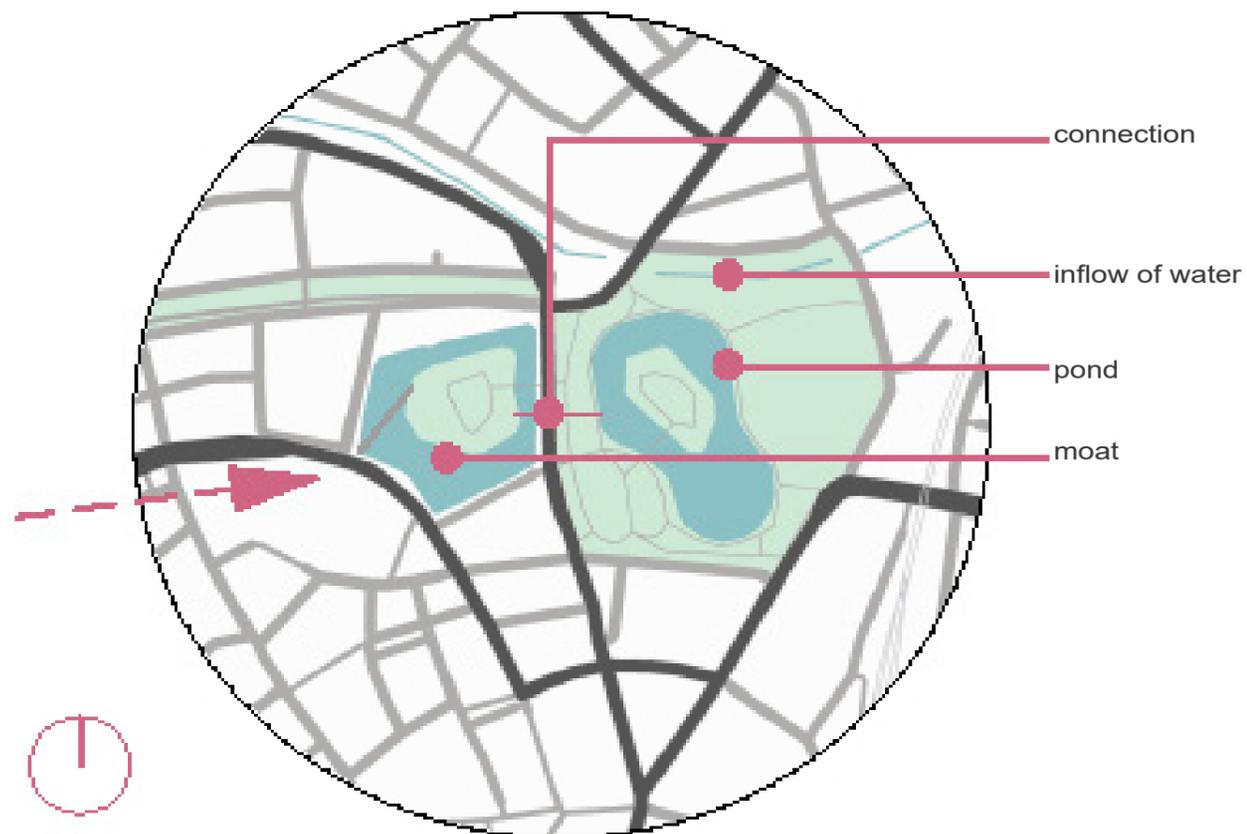
Other use

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

RAVELIJN OP DEN ZOOM

Environmental impacts

The city fortifications of Bergen op Zoom were part of the defense mechanism of the Zuiderwaterlinie. The fort is surrounded by a wide moat. This ditch was and is flooded with water. Thanks to its connection with the water inflow from the south of the city, it was possible to retain the water and use it as needed. Today, this possibility is not used and the water is stabilized at a depth of 80 cm.



Economical impacts

The building is the property of the city of Bergen op Zoom. Revenue from rentals and tours goes to the city. The fort is used seasonally and irregularly. New job positions are not created. The fortress has almost no recurring costs.



SWOT analysis

Strengths

- Building appearance is kept as it originally was
- Great historical value since it is one of the few remnants of the Zuiderwaterlinie fortifications
- Located in the city center and next to the city park
- Houses events occasionally (ex: Live theater, restaurant)

Weaknesses

- Most often closed and only accessible with pre-booking

Opportunities

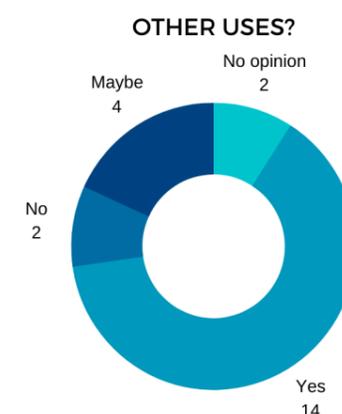
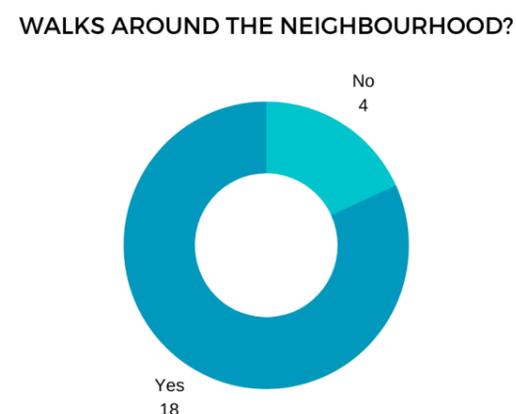
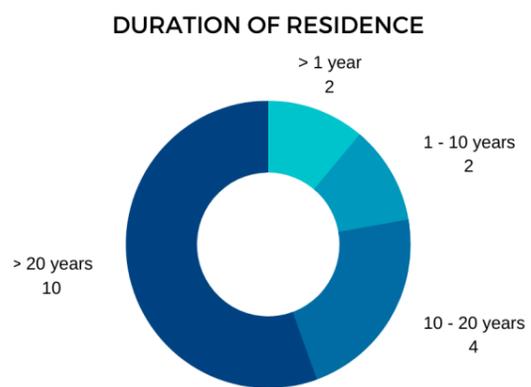
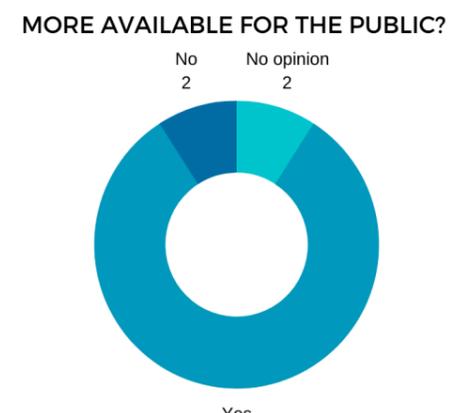
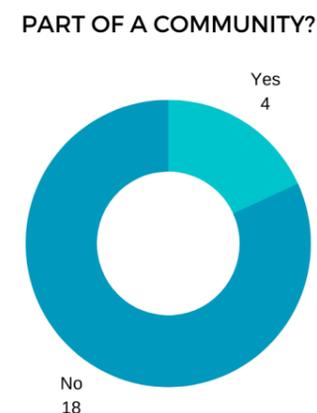
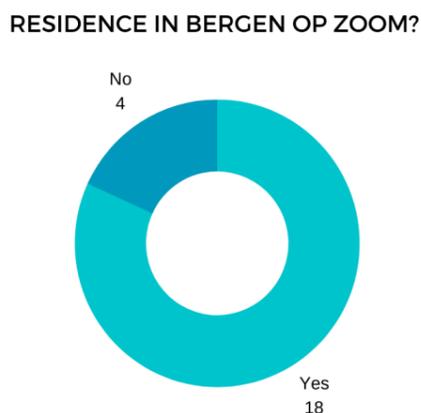
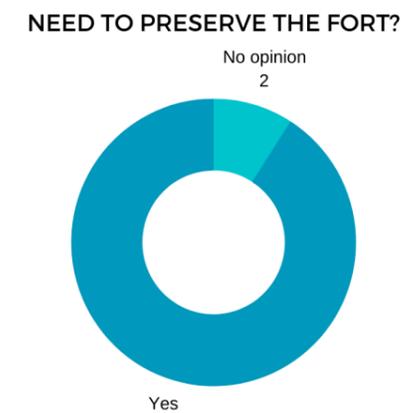
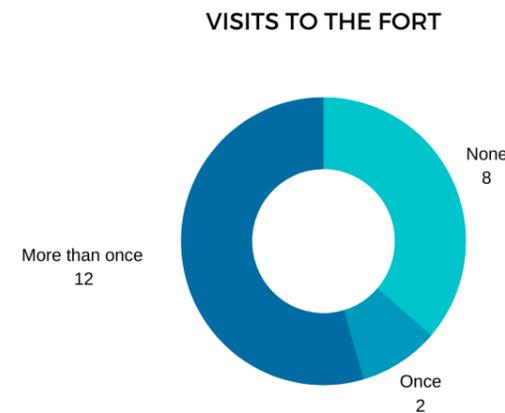
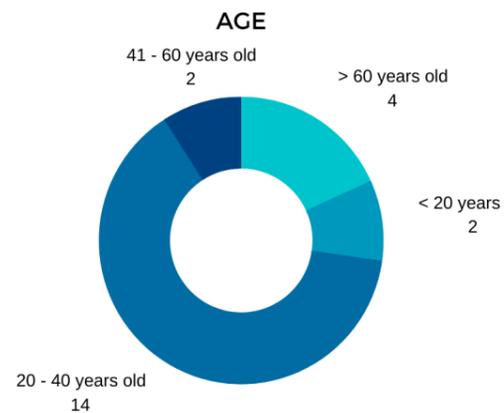
- Making the courtyard accessible all year around
- Using the building space for more events

Threats

- Natural decay of the building materials, especially those in contact with water
- May fall into disuse for lack of activity left only as a conserved memory

Data analysis conclusion

The survey was answered by 22 people. The majority live in Bergen op den Zoom and all of them find really important the preservation of the building, except 1 or 2 that had no opinion for this. Graphics show a strong bond between the fortress and the inhabitants, more than half of them all claim to have visited it more than once and nearly all of them find it pleasant to take a walk around it. Although, 20 people think that the fortress could also be used for other purposes or uses such as kids events, music events and so on, the only person that doesn't support this says that it should still be kept as a museum. People's opinion on the internet is not as positive as this survey, they think that now that it is restored it has become a bare and boring fortress and they can no longer walk on it and enjoy the greenery that it had.



Social media impacts

3,8 ★★★★★ 16 reseñas

- + Love the new additions (bridge and kiosk), beautiful to visit, perfect location, nice restoration.
- It used to be more fun, no possible entrance, empty fort, destroyed greenery.

Spatial/physical impacts

Exterior

Entire pieces of fortress wall have been cut away to remove the roots. It had to be added 150,000 new bricks in the walls. Added features are a kiosk and a new bridge that is a second emergency exit so social events can be held at the fort.

Interior

The interiors are almost empty, preserved in their original form. There are original brick walls, the floors has been restored. The interiors are used for tours.



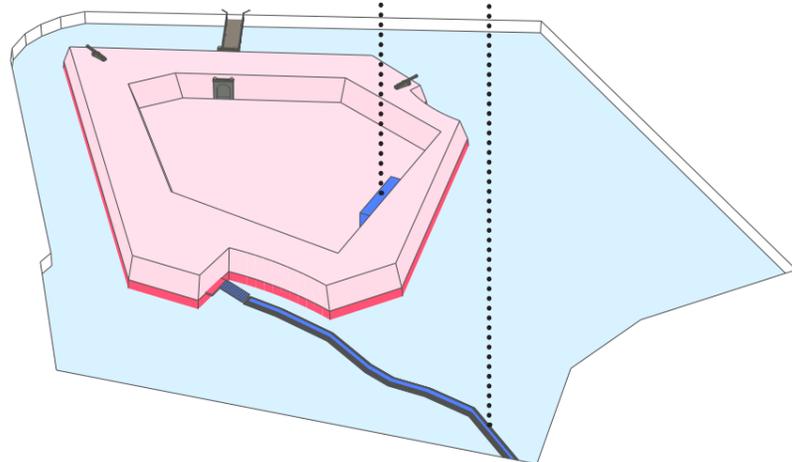
Restoration 2017



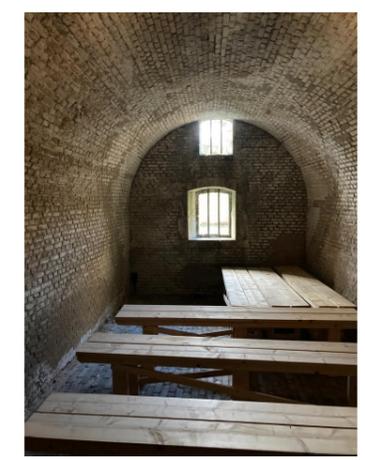
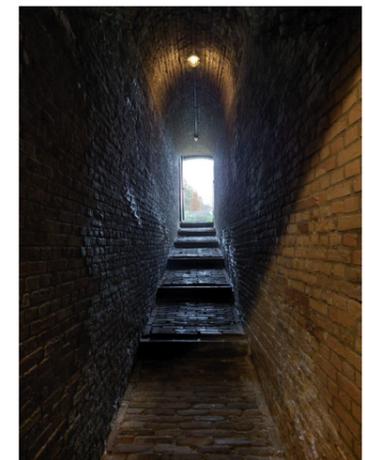
New kiosk



New bridge



- added
- restored
- kept



Conclusion

During its existence, the fortress changed its function many times. In recent years, the city has been trying to give it a social function, the fortress has undergone a transformation, cutting down trees, adding a kiosk and a new bridge. Based on analysis and research, it became clear that the object has not yet reached its maximum potential. However, the historical value of the fortress is indisputable. In the future, it is possible to use its surroundings for environmental purposes such as water retention, it also has the potential, according to a public survey, to become a point of social events.



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Thank you