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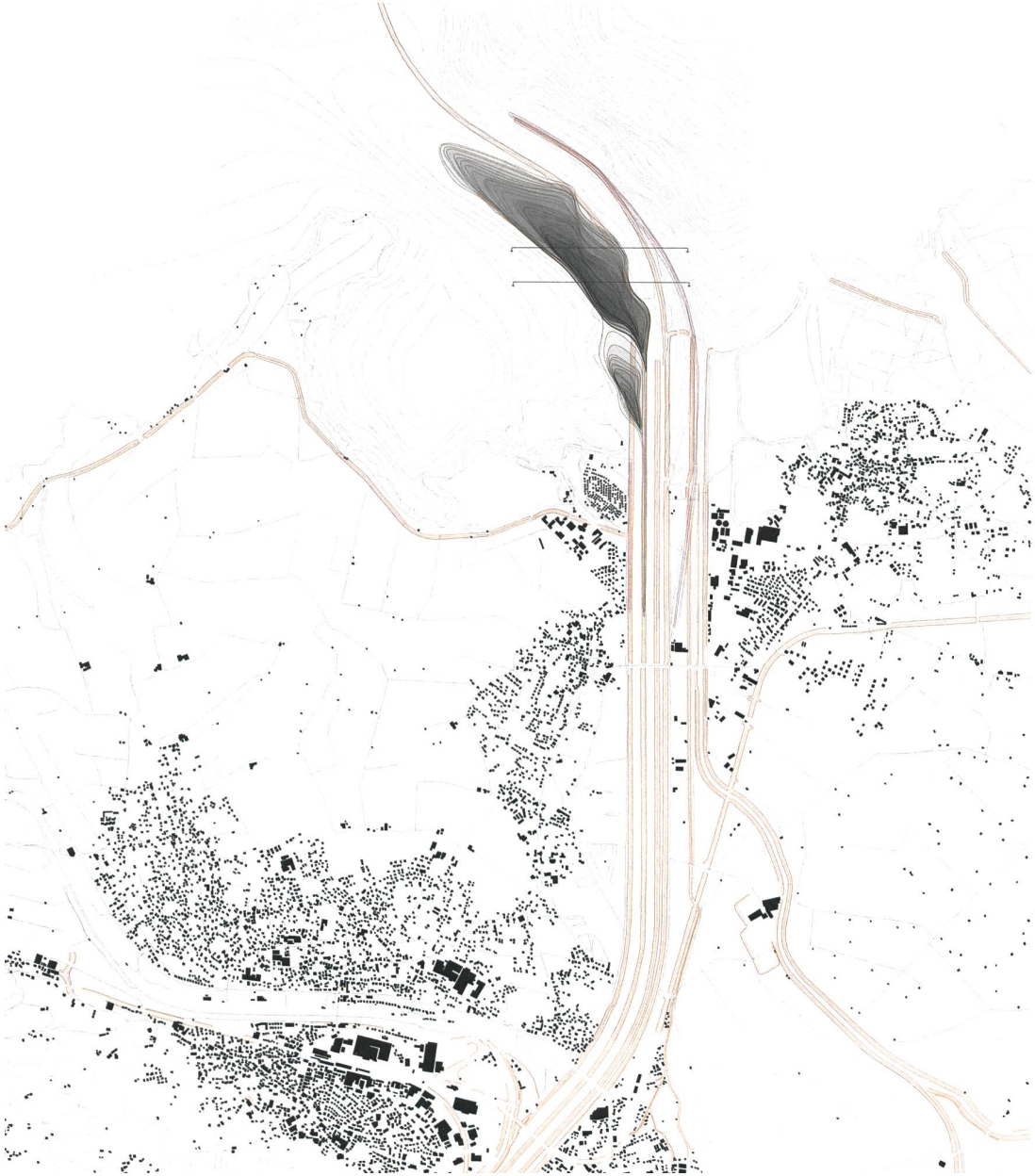
site plan



STABILIZING COUNTERBALANCE

Rupert Muldoon

This design proposal investigates the principles of land erosion and forming through sediment deposition with respect to the site's context. Water is released through the land in a manner that turns currently static dykes and reed beds into a more dynamic system of continuous flux and flow.

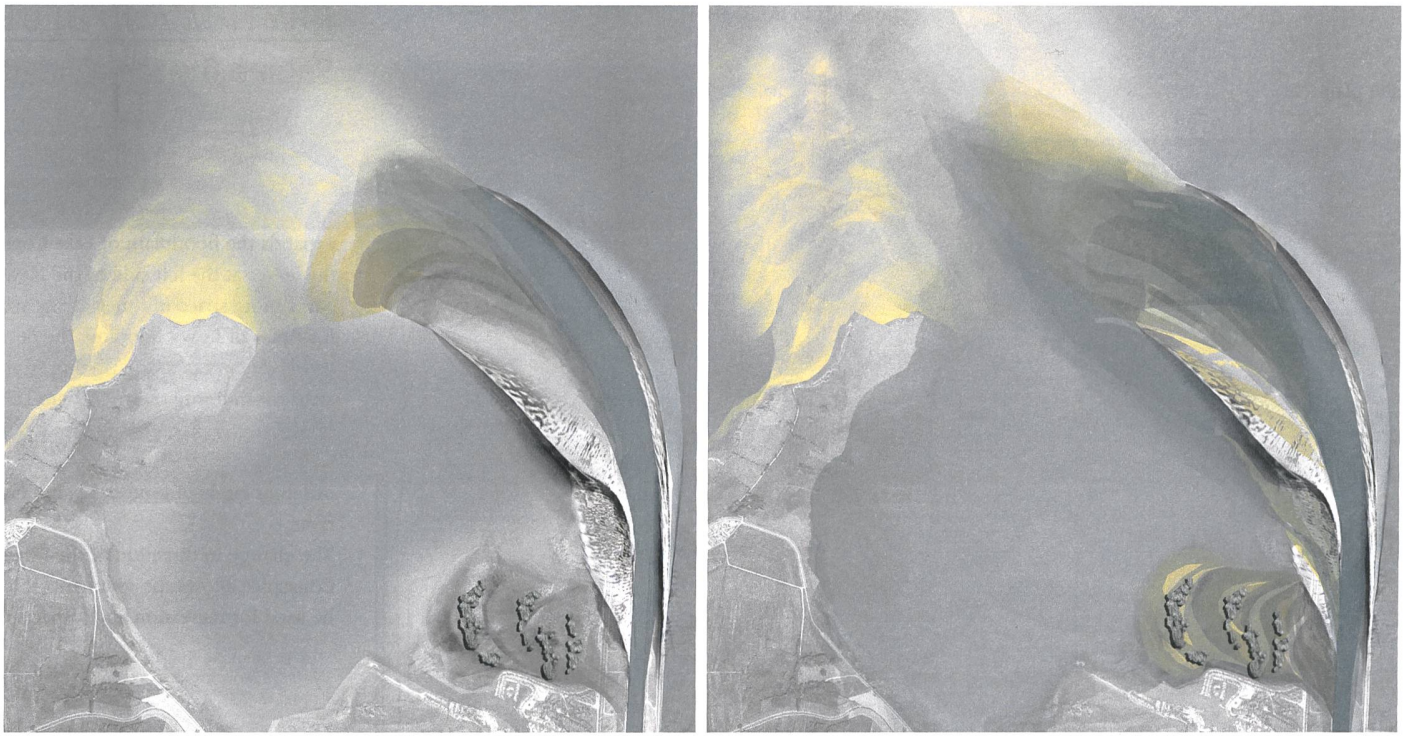
The intervention, which focuses on the mouth of the Rhine where river and lake water meet, allows for a greater amount of water to be released through the river's mouth at peak flow times. In order to achieve a balance of manmade and natural forces, the process of sedimentation on the inner curve of the river was sped through the mechanical harvesting of these sediments, forming a broad sediment zone articulated by phased shifts of the material.

The design effectively broadens the river's mouth into a wide body of water and sediment zones. While the outer spine of the embankment is strengthened, the breaking of the inner embankment changes the flow of the water at the river's mouth so that more water released at a slower velocity. This induces sedimentation on the inner curve to form a 'mount', its crest potentially reaching a height of 40 meters. The newly constructed geology becomes a time scale, where each year is marked by a successive layer of sediments. It will place the river mouth firmly on the map as a landmark – a destination. The new mount will make the transformation of a problem visible into a useful and diverse new landscape. The slow growth of the landscape will create its own history linked strongly to the place.

In the pastoral, preserved and static lands of the Rhine Delta a new landform will arise – one characterized by a series of intertwining landscapes and alternate

topographical model

ecologies. The topography and production of microclimates will, in turn, encourage a topology of vegetation to develop that emphasises the resulting changes in soil types and ground moisture. A diversified landscape will inspire people to discover how the place came to its current state and how it will continue to evolve.



plans showing winter and summer water levels and sediment dispersal

topographical section of intervention