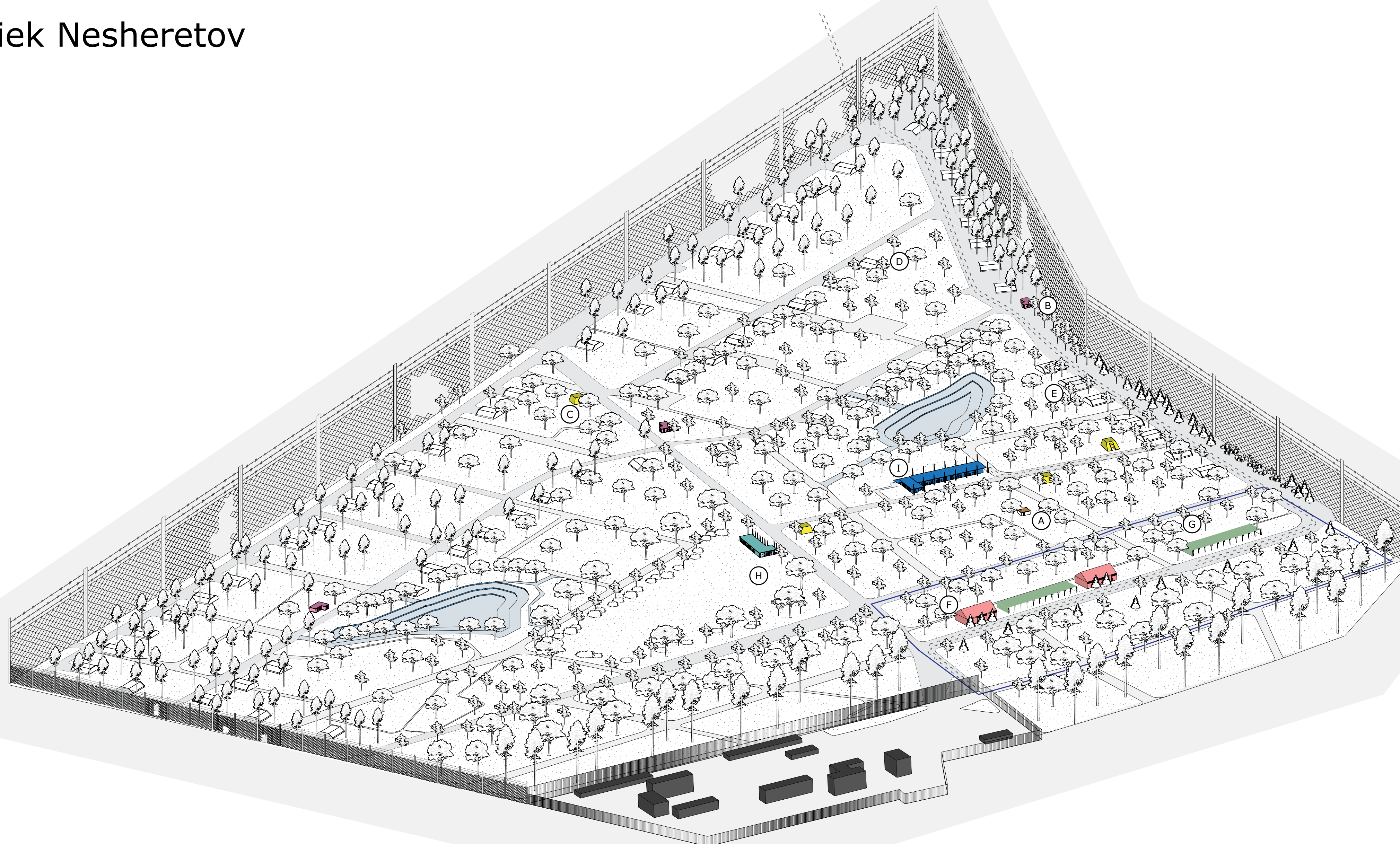


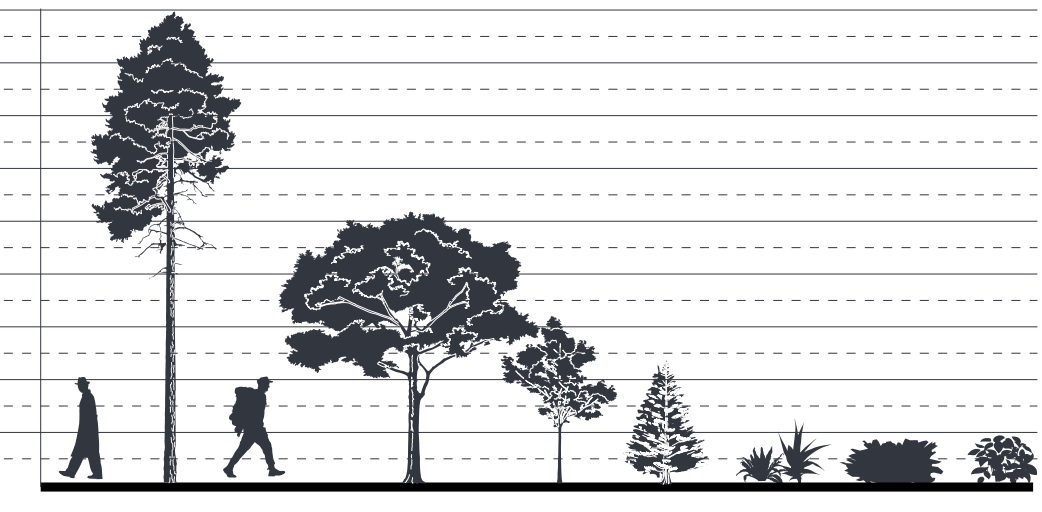
# CROSSING BORDER

Niek Nesheretov

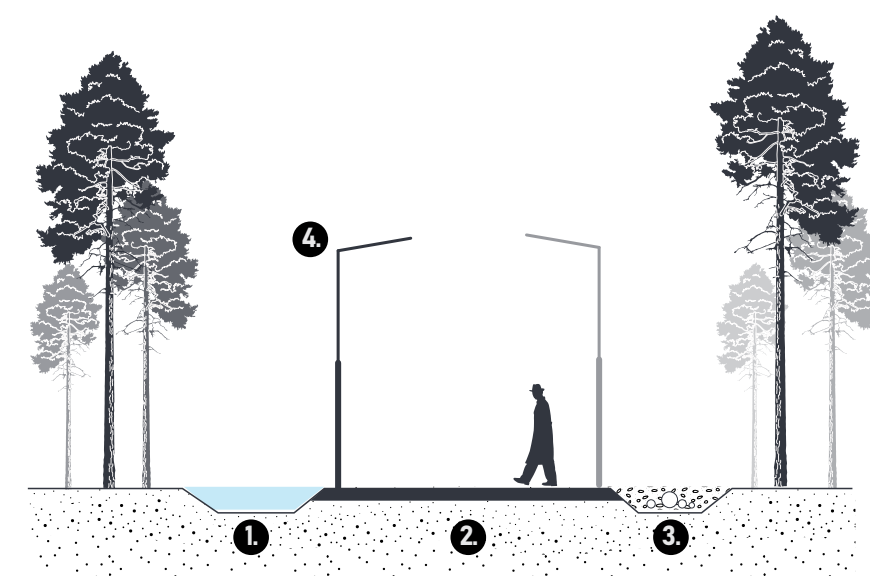
Arendonk - Belgian border  
Military base



## LANDSCAPE



## ROADS



- 1 water canal
  - 2 concrete road
  - 3 infrastructure
  - 4 Lanterns
- Concrete road  
Dirt road

## Military Base Arendonk Man made landscape

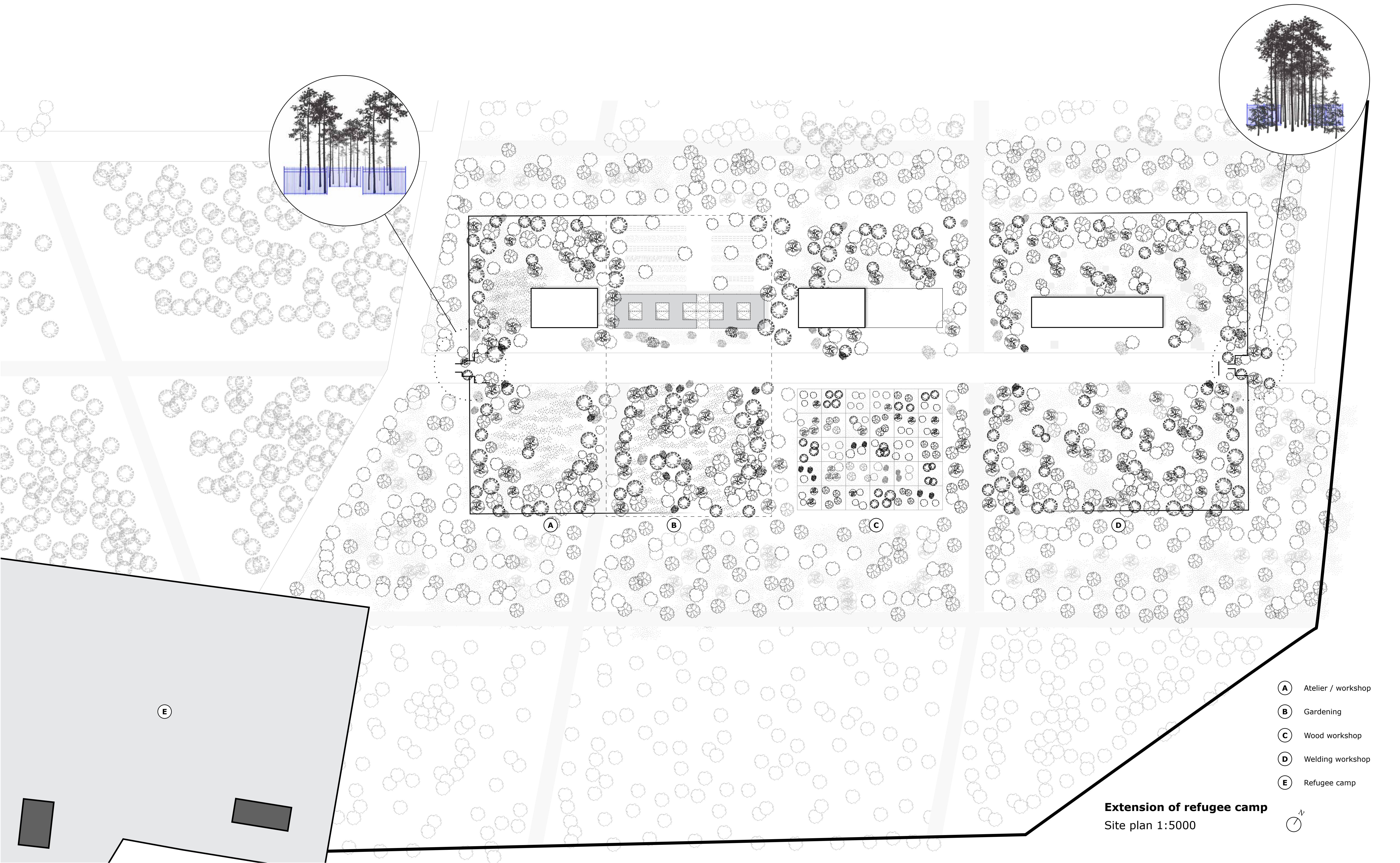
On the border of the Netherlands and Belgium, between the villages Arendonk and Reusel resides an old abandoned military depot. It is built in 1960 by the Belgian and German government on a site of 98 hectares. The purpose of the base was mainly to store heavy munition of bombs and grenades for the German army during the Cold War. On 7 July the Belgian government handed out the site with 81 bunkers and facilitation buildings over to the Germans, where it in 1997 renounced its function after the end of the Cold War.

The facilitating buildings on the south side of the site, that previously provided the accommodation for the army to guard and maintain the site, is transformed into a refuge camp in 2001. That still maintains its function and even extended to accommodate over 400 refugees. The bunkers on the other hand are slowly decaying as there is no use for it

The site withhold its own grim connotation. First, it is an odd thought that Germans occupied a piece of Belgian ground just 15 years later after the second world war. Second, it's a man made military base that was heavily guarded but now in an abandoned & decaying state. Third, the tall fences of 2 meters with barbwire on top arose from the ground, creating a new harsh physical boundary. Fourth, it is a site that withhold borders within the borders. The refuge camp bordered in within an already bordered military base.

Thus, the site creates its own gravity, and it pulls on the curiosity of the bystanders. It is reflected by the broken up or cut physical barriers to create new passages into the rabbit hole. The passages create a bizarre state of notion, the feeling of a trespasser, or as a rebellion actor, arises.

The abandoned site create its own rules, almost like an own country. As every one is involved in the act of not legally being allowed there. Resolves in avoidance of confrontation. The human contact is obsolete. The bystanders are the visitors that are mainly there for the nature, but also the refugees that escape their own regime to explore the unknown.



- A Atelier / workshop
- B Gardening
- C Wood workshop
- D Welding workshop
- E Refugee camp

Extension of refuge camp  
Site plan 1:5000