Bottom-up

Bid book research for a 'Living Mines' Geopark



Research by Anne Floor Timan-Wenzel

Can the creation of new, multi-layered series of landmarks give added value and direction for development?

From visiting, mapping, diagramming and interviewing, I learned that Parkstad has a hidden geology, worth revealing.

Even though Parkstad's mining legacy was erased from the landscape, it is still determining everyday life. Also, there is a need for better internatio-nal connections, and -exchange. Current Euregional initiatives lack a theme that people can identify themselves with. The geology shaped the mining past, which shaped the urban tissue, which shaped the inhabitants. So why not focus on this strong, inseparable link?

A geopark might be a suitable form. From interviewing Geopark the Honds-rug, I learned that making geology ex-perienceable with hotspots, and creating awareness, are some of the key factors. By making a route linking existing and new hotspots in Parkstad, made visible by design interventions, I'm linking the area with Germany and Belgium.

A bid book tells the story of - and vision for - the landscape to stakeholders, to get support for the realization of the Geopark. By linking the regional problem of rising mine water with the Geopark, we can stimulate innovations and give direction in the development of Parkstad's future.



Showing the living geology: the rising mine water



Geopark route map with hotspots

Bottom-up

Landmark design for a 'Living Mines' Geopark



The hidden layers of Parkstad

Design project by Anne Floor Timan-Wenzel

How can I let Parkstad be the link to create unity in the international mining region, and how can I make this experienceable?

Parkstad forms the heart of an inter-national mining region with a diverse layered landscape, created by its geology and human intervention. Yet you can't tell: The mining legacy is visibly present in Germany and Belgi-um, but erased from the landscape in Parkstad, after the mining closure in 1974.

I want to reveal these hidden layers, to share them with inhabitants and visitors. To create awareness for the regional problem of rising mine water, I designed a landmark which lets people experience this living geology underneath their feet. With a bioremediation garden, I am making a suggestion to solve the mine water pollution, and other issues related to geology, pollution and energy transition. With it, we can show the pioneering spirit of Parkstad. And how Parkstad renews it energy landscape as a supplier for the Netherlands again, but now in a sustainable way.

The question I am posing with it is:

Can we restore the wounds we left in the landscape, and the ecosystems that we disrupt(ed) with mining?

And can we find better alternatives as our resources?



Landmark- and bioremediation garden design