

## DRAWING PROCESSES TO GENERATE ALTERNATIVE TYPOLOGIES AND ADDED VALUE FOR FRAGILE TOPOGRAPHIES

LOUISE DE BRABANDER, THIERRY LAGRANGE AND JOHAN VAN DEN BERGHE

Architectural practice seems to be under a moratorium, avoiding to build in fragile topographies and hesitating to critically question this moratorium by formulating a strong cultural argument, e.g. architectural design as added cultural value. Architects are expected to leave these topographies untouched. In my Master dissertation project, *The Remembered, The Experienced, The Imagined*, situated in one of the few remaining dune areas alongside the Belgian coastline, I have questioned this moratorium. Contrary to the predominant existing typologies at the Belgian coastline—the formations of high rise apartment blocks—refuges are designed (speculative architectural designs) that are not in contradiction with the true reasons why people come to the seaside. Walking, writing and especially drawing are the main and base research actions

through which I established this research. They will be further developed and refined in future research.

Based on this framework of thoughts, this research in its actual stage operates from a twofold: (1) architecture in fragile topographies and (2) the act of drawing. The dialogue between these two parts has been activated. The research is situated in the field of Design Driven Research and aims to investigate—through the selection of additional cases—the possibilities and potential of architectural interventions in fragile topographies and to do so by drawing design speculations (hypotheses) that question existing typologies that our habitual ways of seeing and our collective memories seem to qualify as normative. In these speculative designs, a search for adding cultural value (Van Den Berghe 2010) to these

topographies, is the underlying purpose. A film was produced and published. The making of the film is a self-reflection on the previous research and an unlocker of upcoming research steps.

The development of additional research cases is critical with regard to how and to what extent alternative typologies, generated through speculative architectural designs in differentiated contexts, can open gateways to the aforementioned added cultural value. The additional research cases have to be selected on the basis of a range of robust criteria. These can be cases in natural as well as in cultural landscapes, like historical sites (heritage) or urban contexts.

