A11 MOTORWAY

The A11 motorway is one of the largest recent infrastructural projects of Belgium. A twelve-kilometre stretch with 50 new bridges completes the motorway connection between the ports of Zeebruges and Antwerp.

The infrastructure crosses a man-made polder landscape, reclaimed from the sea. All the existing elements have been introduced by humans over the last thousand years, culminating in a functional landscape capable of retaining water, stabilising dikes and stopping the wind.

The former flat horizon of the water has been transformed into a vertical landscape.

This built landscape allows a precise reading of its constituent elements, made up of three typologies: the ‘Infrastructural Landscape’ with its 19th century canals and their multiple alignments; the ‘Linear Landscape’ of the planted dikes along the primary roads; and, the ‘Fragmented Landscape’ of wind-breaking hedgerows around solitary farms.

Each landscape typology has been distilled into its landscape elements, resulting in an extensive catalogue of existing interventions.