

(AUDIO)
SMARTER
ZoHo

ANALYSIS

“Soundscape composition enhances our understanding of the world and influences our daily perceptual habits”.

“Our listening capacity always becomes refined in an acoustically clear environment, such as a hi-fi soundscape, and we often experience a desire to listen as well as to make sounds. The contemporary soundscape is “lo-fi”, too much urban noise thus creates loss of energy”.

“Soundscape is the acoustic manifestation of “place”, where the sounds give the inhabitants a “sense of place” and the place’s acoustic quality is shaped by the inhabitants’ activities and behaviour. The meanings of a place and its sounds are created precisely because of this interaction between soundscape and people”.

“The soundscape or sonic environment is an intimate reflection of the social, technological, and natural conditions of its area. One of the main tasks of soundscape ecology is to maintain an acoustic balance in the environment and ideally to determine how its quality may be improved”.

The World’s Soundscape Project, 1960’s, Simon Fraser University, Canada

PROPOSAL

INTRO

Contemporary life is characterized by huge quantities of data about physical space, social behavior, practical activities, etc. Almost every and each one of us produces and manages data in a daily basis. There are several ways to collect, represent, monitor and manage data. But, how can these data shape and ultimately improve the quality of our physical environment? By AUDIO SMARTER ZoHo we propose the development of a project based on the invisible yet essential element of sound. Bearing in mind the importance of a balanced sonic environment for the mental and psychological health of human beings, we empower urban users, of all ages and backgrounds, to manage and temporarily alter their soundscapes. We propose the update of the urban infrastructure, which will facilitate the contemporary needs of a smarter and sustainable city.

WHAT?

A new urban infrastructure which forms a network of “acoustic spots”, easily accessible by anyone who wishes to temporarily alter his/her sonic environment. An option for soundscape customization is offered to the inhabitants and visitors of ZoHo.

WHY?

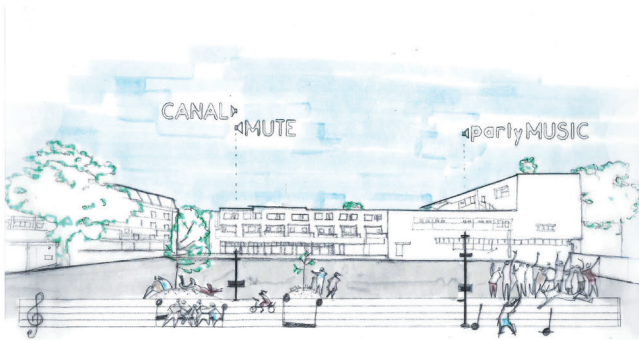
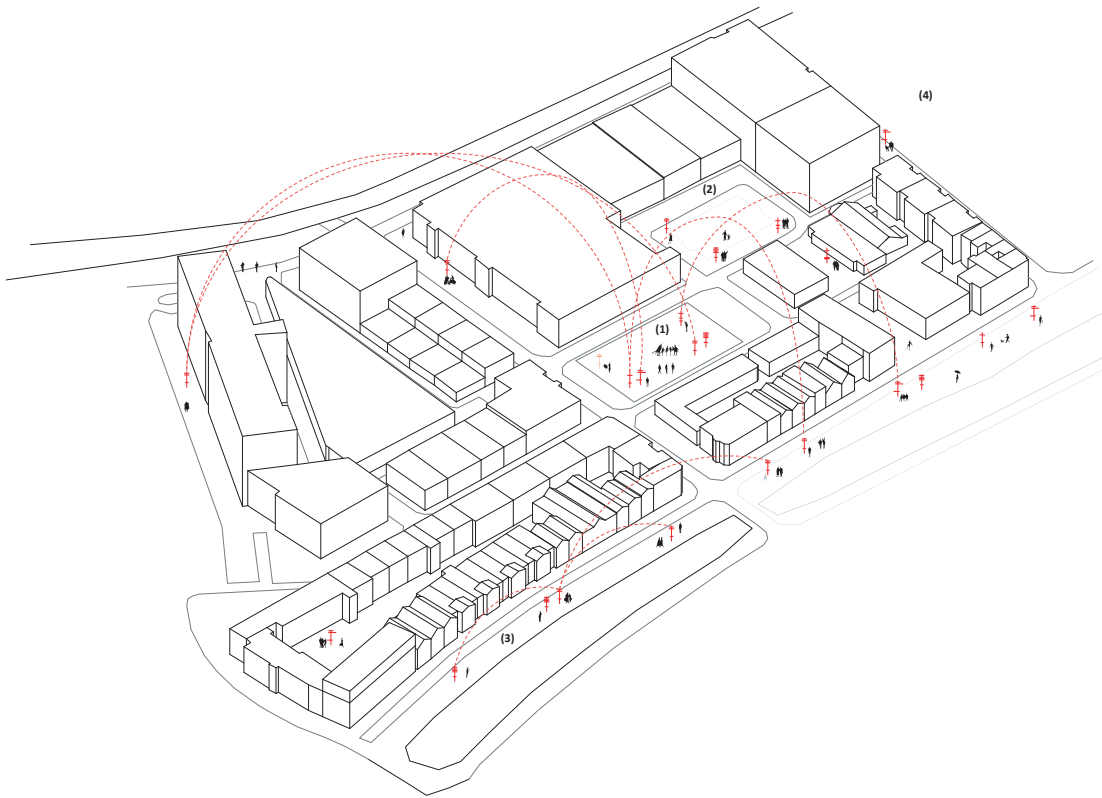
The main objective of the project is to improve the quality of the open-air urban acoustics. People will become aware -in a hands-on and active manner- about the available technologies, which may alter their living environment, through their own participation. The ultimate goal is to develop a cosier public space, through the creation of temporary acoustic micro atmospheres.

HOW?

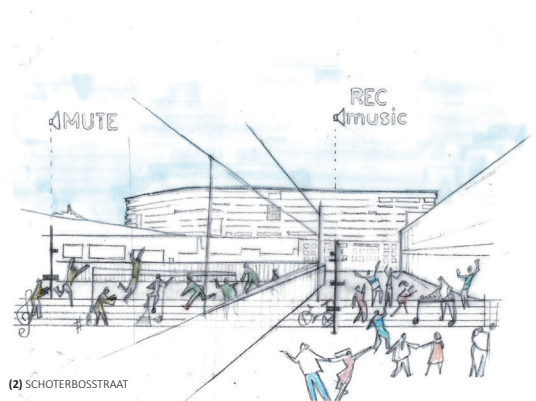
A new urban gadget is designed and installed in the area of ZoHo. The gadget is multiplied and distributed throughout the landscape. Suitable equipment and accessories such as sensors, speakers, microphones, WiFi enablers, etc. shape the gadget. A special mobile application completes the infrastructure and constitutes the interface of the system. The mobile app acts also as a “saving of resources”, since end users employ parts of their personal mobile equipment to access and operate the urban gadgets.

FOR WHOM & BY WHOM?

The proposed grid of acoustic spots is designed for the visitors and inhabitants of ZoHo. It is provided by the municipality of Rotterdam, in collaboration with other initiatives and multiple stakeholders. Additionally, users can contribute conceptually and practically for further improvements of the gadget, building a bottom up project.



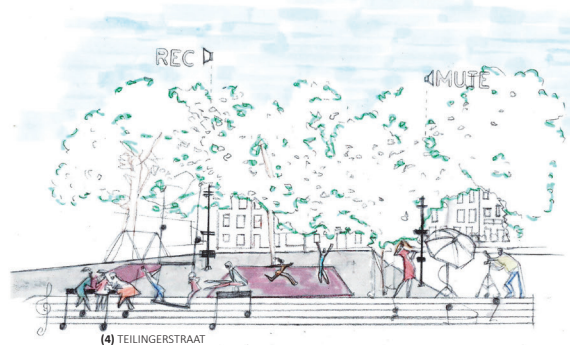
(1) ALMONDERSTRAAT (SQUARE)



(2) SCHOTERBOSSTRAAT



(3) NOORDSINGEL



(4) TEILINGERSTRAAT

PHYSICAL SPOTS

Scenarios of Use:

(*this is an open catalogue with potential scenarios of use. Users can improvise and expand it with much more ideas & unique activities.)

>noise canceling & sound isolation areas (reading, resting islands)

>sound production & revitalization

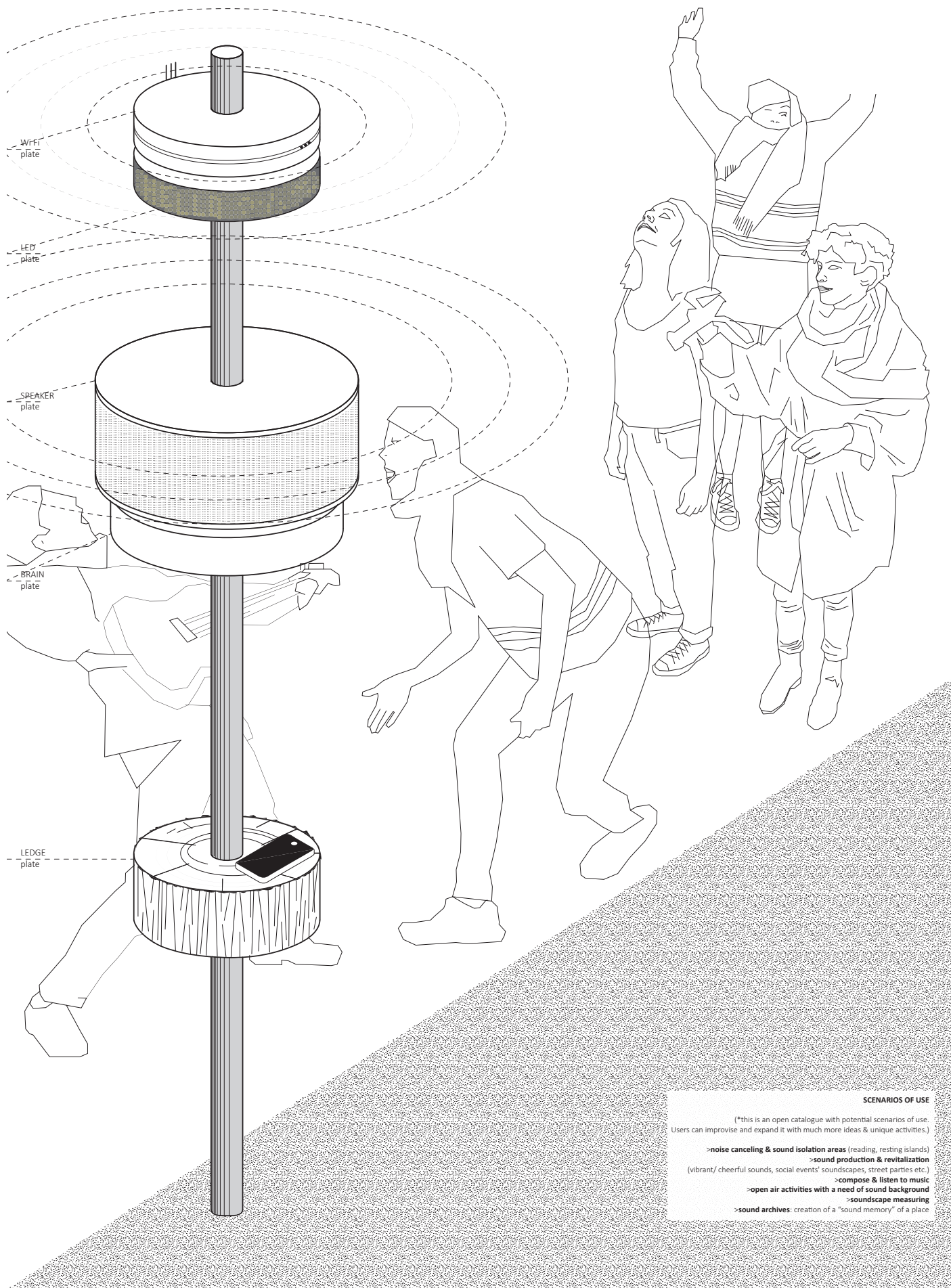
(vibrant/ cheerful sounds, social events' soundscapes, street parties etc.)

>compose & listen to music

>open air activities with a need of sound background

>soundscape measuring

>sound archives: creation of a "sound memory" of a place



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DIGITAL APP

#This is the AUDIO (smarter) ZoHo app for your mobile devices. Please download and get started#

>Tap to connect with any of the acoustic spots of ZoHo and start interacting with them

>Navigate through the MAP button and find where exactly the acoustic spots are located. See also which ones are available for individual use or go and share a spot with others.

>You can real-time measure the sound levels of an area by using the SPL METER.

>Explore lots of sounds, music tracks and noise canceling tracks on the LIBRARIES button. Upload your preference on an activated acoustic spot and create immediately your micro acoustic atmosphere. Share it with friends and neighbors!

>REC the urban noises and sounds of your preference or explore what others have been recorded. Listen to the urban soundscape!



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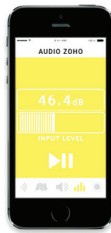
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