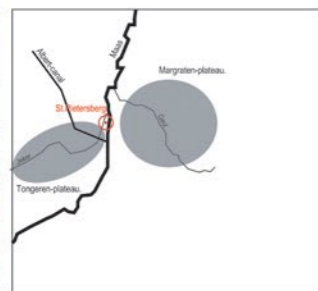
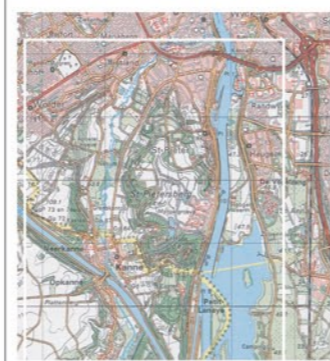
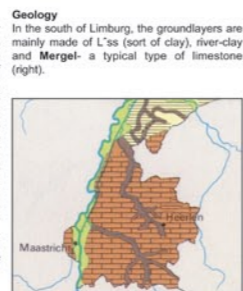


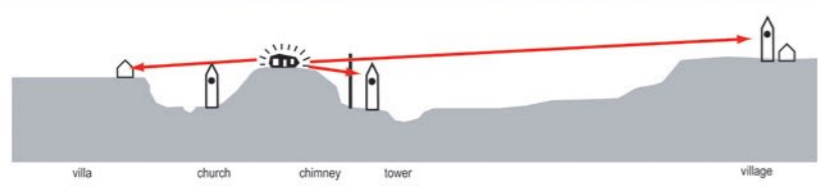
## LOCATION



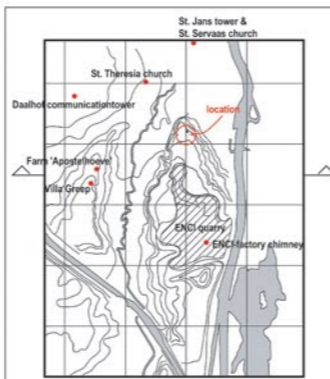
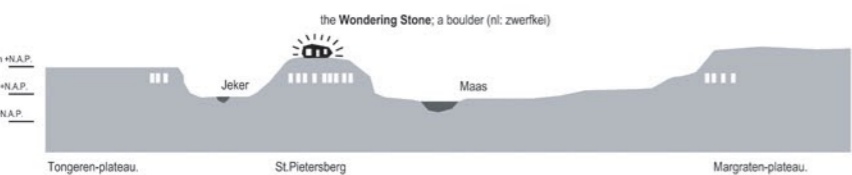
**Location**  
Maastricht is located in the valley of the river Maas. This river cuts through a big plateau just like some smaller rivers (left). South of Maastricht also the Albert-canal from Liège(B) to Antwerp(B) cuts through these plateaus, creating an isolated wedge between the Maas and the smaller river Jeker. Here we find the Sint Pietersberg which is not a real mountain(berg) like its name suggests, but a rather small hill. This hill mainly consists of a typical limestone: Mergel. The ENCI company has a quarry there where they extract the chalk-containing limestone to produce their cement, the basis of concrete.



**Views**  
The rivers around the St. Pietersberg have dug-out valleys, but the surrounding land is more or less of the same height as the St. Pietersberg. So from the little plateau on the top of the St. Pietersberg you can see either the buildings on the plateau of Margraten (villages further away) or the higher buildings of the city of Maastricht which surrounds the hill. This is a very striking characteristic of the landscape there.

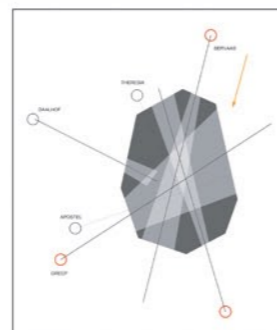
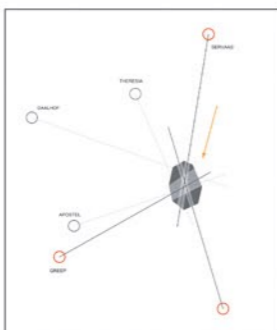
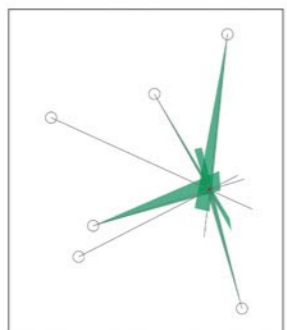
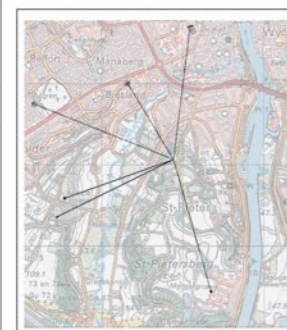


**History**  
Through history people have always quarried the Mergel-limestone from the hills around Maastricht. Even the Romans used it to build their important buildings. Since first people used the Mergel limestone as bricks to build their houses, they dug-out an extensive cavesystem. From the outside invisible the caves stretch-out for miles and miles underneath the surface of the St. Pietersberg and the surrounding plateaus.



## CONCEPT concrete= artificial STONE

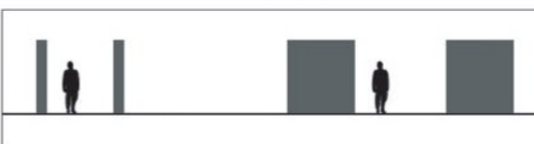
On the remaining piece of the St. Pietersberg, a small plateau north of the ENCI quarry, I chose to locate a small visitors pavilion in which visitors of the St. Pietersberg (which is very densely forested) can obtain information about the area: it's hike-trails, it's history, it's nature and it's industry, which go hand in hand on this special location near Maastricht.



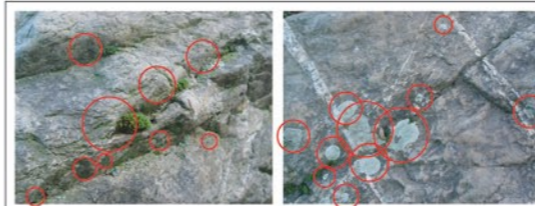
**Robustness** was the theme for the competition. So I chose to make the pavilion as robust as I could possibly think of: it became one big solid block of concrete, sort of like the hill it came from. Then I dug-out tunnels, directed to the interesting views you encounter when walking on the St. Pietersberg-plateau. This block now not only captures the hidden qualities of the St. Pietersberg and the industry it generated, but it also captures the exciting qualities of its surrounding landscape. Visually the pavilion relates to the 'zwerfkeien' which lie around on the plateau.  
A zwerfkei is a boulder of a type of stone which is not existing in the direct surroundings of the stone's current location. The explanation for this is that in glacial periods, these stones were transported in the ice that covered the land. Often that is also why these stones have strange forms: parts of the stonesurface could be worn down by scraping over the earth while packed in the ice. Sometimes, like the stones which are found in South Limburg, they came out of floating patches of ice which broke off the glaciers and were transported through the (glacier) rivers.

## THE WANDERING STONE

**THE WANDERING STONE** is a very free translation of the Dutch word 'zwerfkei'. But to me it also captures a wider range of aspects of the pavilion: Wandering people pass by the pavilion in which they wonder the surroundings, nature and industry while looking at the selected views.



I think there is a difference in experience of the architecture which for long has been neglected in our culture. For why do we want to live in old farmhouses with thick stone-walls, why does everybody relate to old castles? Don't heavy strong structures give us a sense of protectiveness- or do they relate to a more primitive sensation- the sensation of neolithic structures like menhirs or hunnebeds?



**In detail**  
The surface of the block will adapt to its surrounding nature: testifying this 'zwerfkei' of which several lie around on the plateau- probably transported there by people because they are usually found in the valley of the river Maas- lichens (mosses) and algae grow on them (left). Another nice aspect of these boulders are the surfaces, on which we find puddles of rainwater which reflect the sky and nature (right). All aspects that will be visible as well in the pavilion. Maybe the cracking of concrete when drying could be used as an expressive element...

