

Opaque, static, impersonal...

CONCRETE WAS HATED.

Unlike timber, stone and brick, it didn't become inscribed over time with the story of its use, its aging being rarely considered. Aloof and illegible, it frustrated our need to see ourselves reflected in the environment.

before

1 **spacetime paving slab**

A programme of experimental research, challenging preconceptions about the nature of concrete, involved unstable aggregates including frozen peas, salt and firelighters. This conceptual springboard led us to exploit conventional processes of concrete decay, to produce objects that would change controllably over time. Our first application is paving, a major component of the urban environment, and ripe for evolution.

TEST SERIES 5
31/3/06

4 pt agg by vol.
1 pt cem

5 x 5 x 5
125 litres

25 litres each
20 pt agg
5 pt cement

2500 agg
625 cement

10 lit agg
2.5 cement

Random Pattern

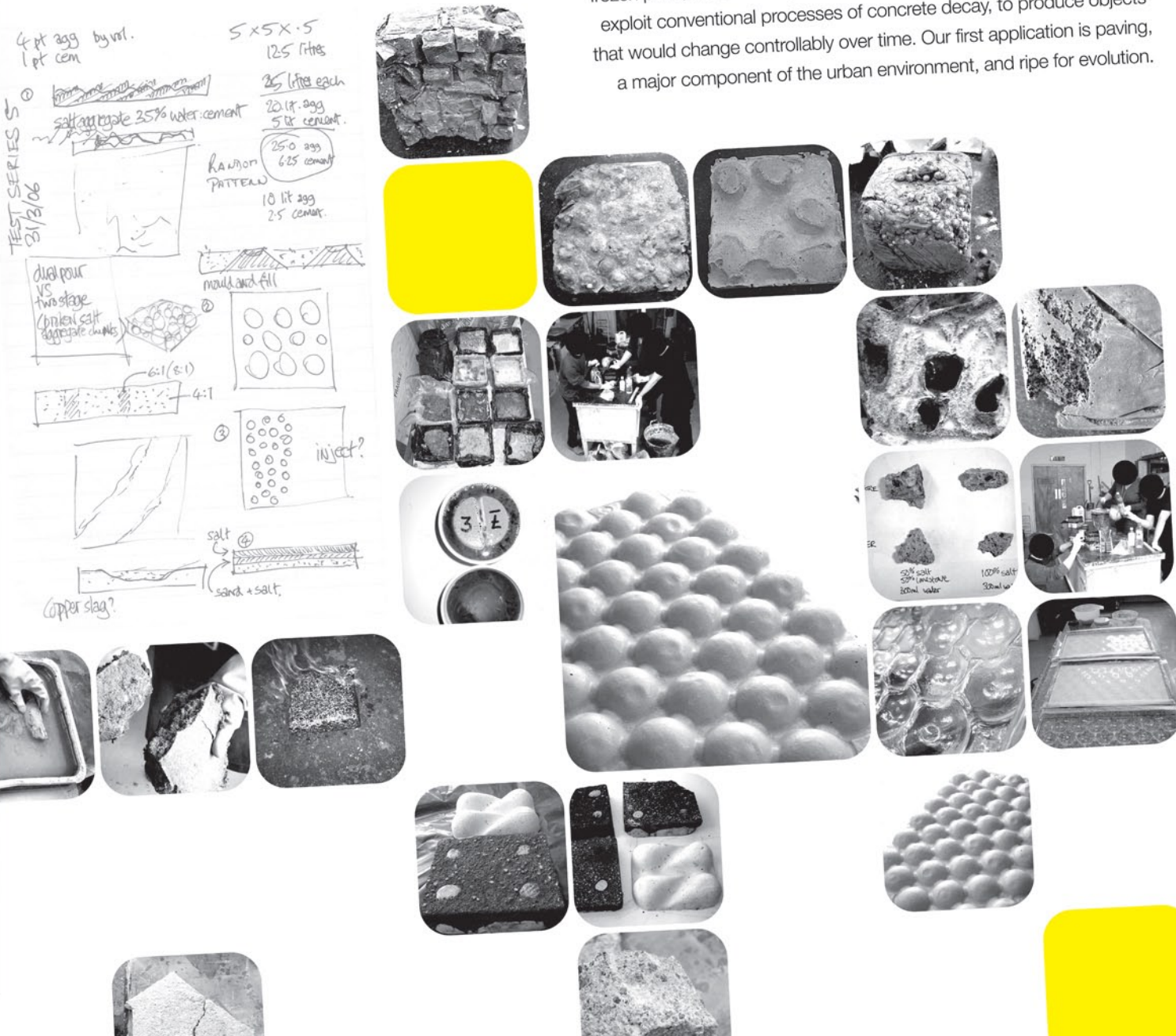
6:1 (s:1)
4:1

inject?

salt

sand + salt

Copper slag?



Transparency through legibility, plasticity in time, shaped by use...

concrete is loved!

The *Spacetime* paving slab **1** reveals a pattern of pedestrian use **2** through visual and tactile changes over time, **3** improving city navigability and **4** promoting engagement and involvement with the urban environment.



after

2 **spacetime paving slab**

Spacetime's achievements are obtained through a corrugated lower layer of extremely hard concrete progressively exposed through the wearing down of an infilling upper layer of slightly softer concrete in a contrasting colour. In the heavily used areas, the bumps of the lower layer will protude further with time and use. This difference in hardness between the two layers of the *Spacetime* slabs records the history of the human use of a space.

