

Country /City Australia, Melbourne

University / School RMIT University

Academic year 2022

Title of the project The Afterlife of Concrete

Authors Runjia Chen

TECHNICAL DOSSIER

Title of the project	The Afterlife of Concrete
Authors	Runjia Chen
Title of the course	Design Research Project A+B
Academic year	2022
Teaching Staff	Alice Lewis, Jen Lynch, Emily Wong
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Master of Landscape Architecture
University / School	RMIT University



Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

Designers are concrete consumers. We engage with this anthropogenic geology as a product, paying little attention to its life cycle beyond design. The ubiquity often misleads us to mistreat concrete, which shapes a broader misperception; however, landscape architects are partially historians. With the power to choose materials and make spaces, we also create history by selecting perspectives and stories.

This project seeks to expose the concrete lifecycle. Hidden grounds of extraction, production and demolition are revealed through "tracing", to look for the rejected values and lost locality in concrete. Various devices are used to uncover uncharted territories, such as remote sensing, historical record finding, and speculating through observation. Sites disclosed and transformed include a limestone quarry, a former cement works, and redevelopment sites across Melbourne CBD. Working with drawing and mapping, insights at different scales are drawn to construct the design outcome.

The Afterlife of Concrete demonstrates how to design with demolished concrete more creatively and cautiously; a key strategy, "curating the existing," makes spaces for everyday ceremonial and temporal experiences. By engaging with demolition processes, the project reimagines exclusive zones in transition as sites to grow a resilient relationship with concrete, meanwhile revealing unrecognised heritage.

For further information

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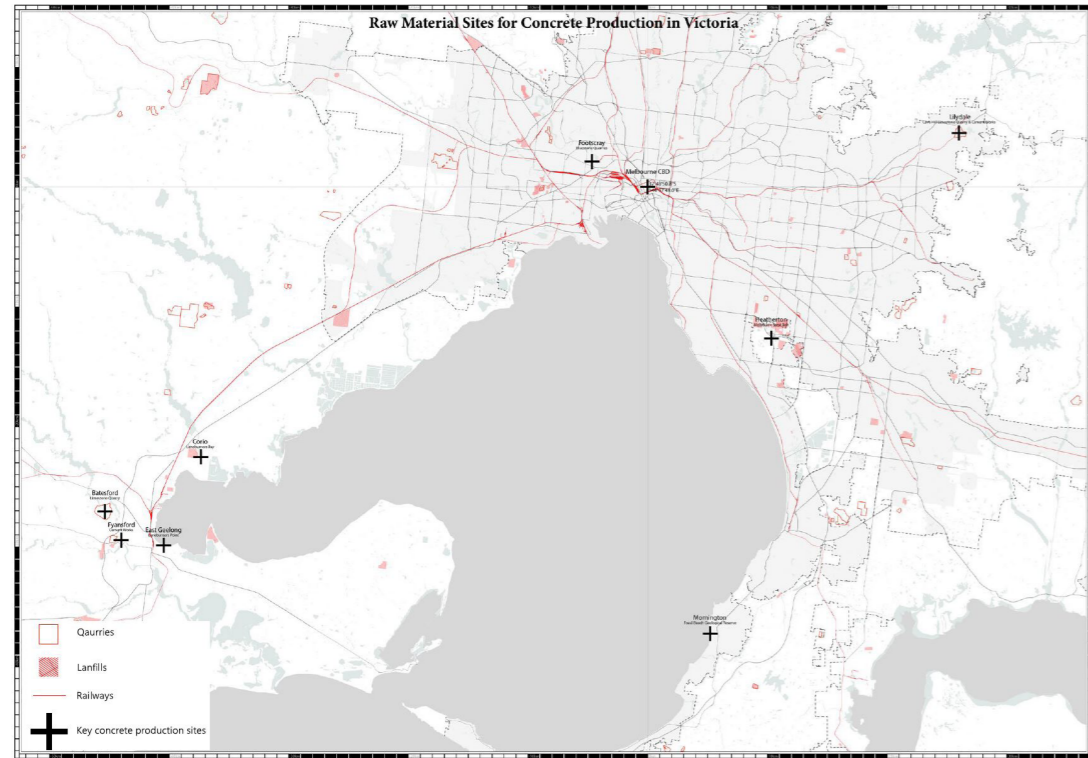
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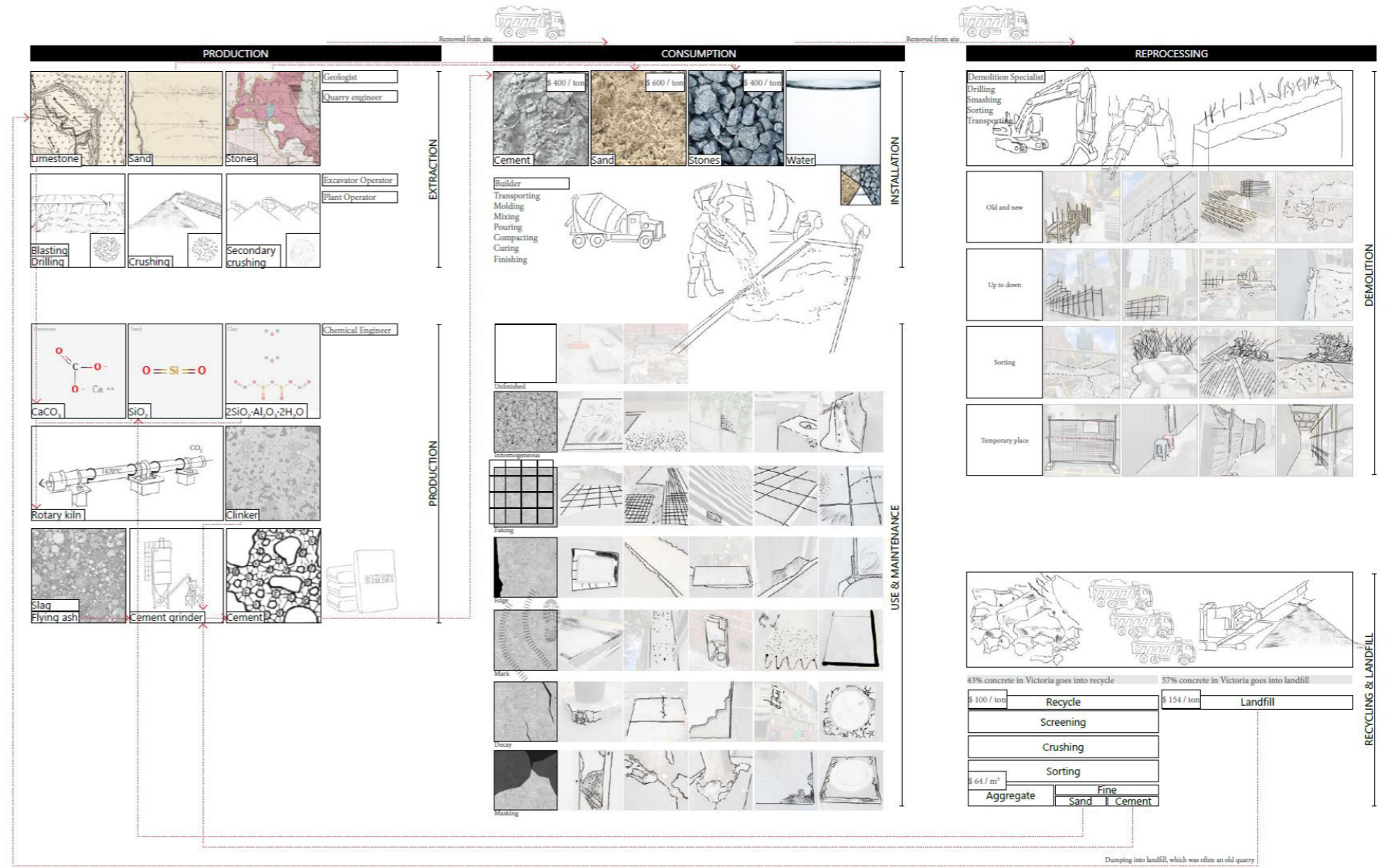
12th International Biennial Landscape Barcelona

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SCHOOL PRIZE



SEGREGATED DISCIPLINES IN THE CONCRETE LIFECYCLE





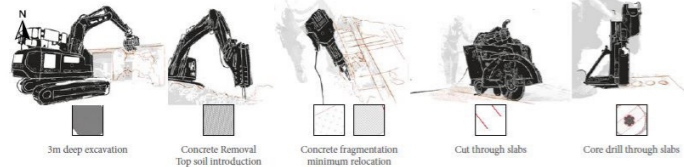
Organised by the amount of exposed bluestones



Organised by sizes

WORK WITH DEMOLITION

Demolition plan



Movement plan

Not hide, rather to showcase the movement of materials on site. Creating clear visual linkages between removed and constructed, concrete and raw materials.

