



GROUNDING

GROUNDING

Earth is the material we live on, but we hardly think about its value... Every year tons of unpolluted earth in the Netherlands end up in landfills. With this project, we would like you to elevate the value of raw earth and show its potential as an extremely sustainable construction material and an alternative to processed materials.

Raw earth used as a building material does not require heavy processing but only a relevant composition of the soil, water and time reserved for drying to obtain high-quality construction.

Since it is not treated with any additives, the earthen material can be reused an infinite amount of times after dismantling or it can just simply crumble apart at the end of the building's lifetime, without leaving traces on the environment.

With local partners, we resourced earth from the project area. Fine sand that was dug up in Hilversum South at 2 metres depth. Coarse sand from the same location was dug at 3 metres depth. Sandy loam comes from Hilversum North close to the heather. The clay originates from Almere.

With a compressed earth block press, we tested recipes of different earth mixtures to create stable earth blocks. With the strength of our muscles, we produced 182 blocks on-site. Half of them were made of pure local soil; the other half was stabilized with 4% lime to compare their performance and weathering process.

Over time, purposely unprotected against weather, earthen blocks will decompose reuniting with the landscape they originate from. The impact of fast-growing vegetation and animals will escalate the erosion process. This installation will not leave any pollution in the long run and this should be our goal for all future buildings.

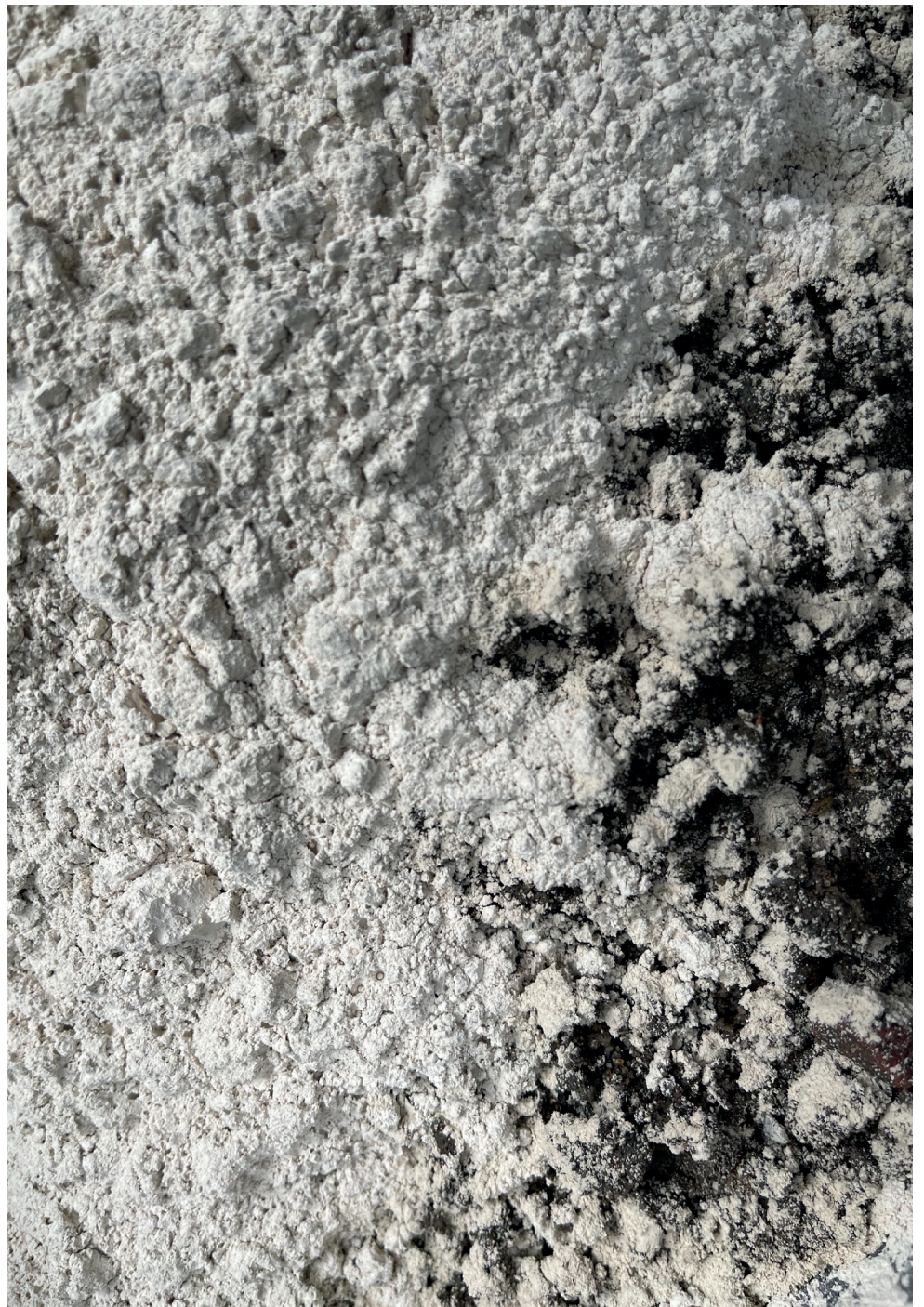
Grounding is a metaphor for recreating a balance between the built environment and the natural world.























































initiative



Amsterdam University of the Arts
Academy of Architecture

students

Laura Vorstman
Cherise de Wit
Klaas Steur
Dennis van Gils
Liza Foppen
Sharona Sinke
Tamar Griffioen
Yannick Algra
Jeroen Piels
Matijn Kroes
Joran Spakman
Rivka van de Vught
Max Witteveen
Imme van Straaten

teachers

Marlies Boterman
Anna Zań

in collaboration with



Gois Natuurreservaat

Peter Kampen
Rutger Ruizendaal
Melvin Scholten
Bas Vermeulen



Oskam VF

Rokus Oskam



Grondverzet Hilversum

Dirk van Dijk



Aannemingsbedrijf H. de Boer
Muiderberg B.V.

Lucia de Groot
Anne-Marie van Huissteden

