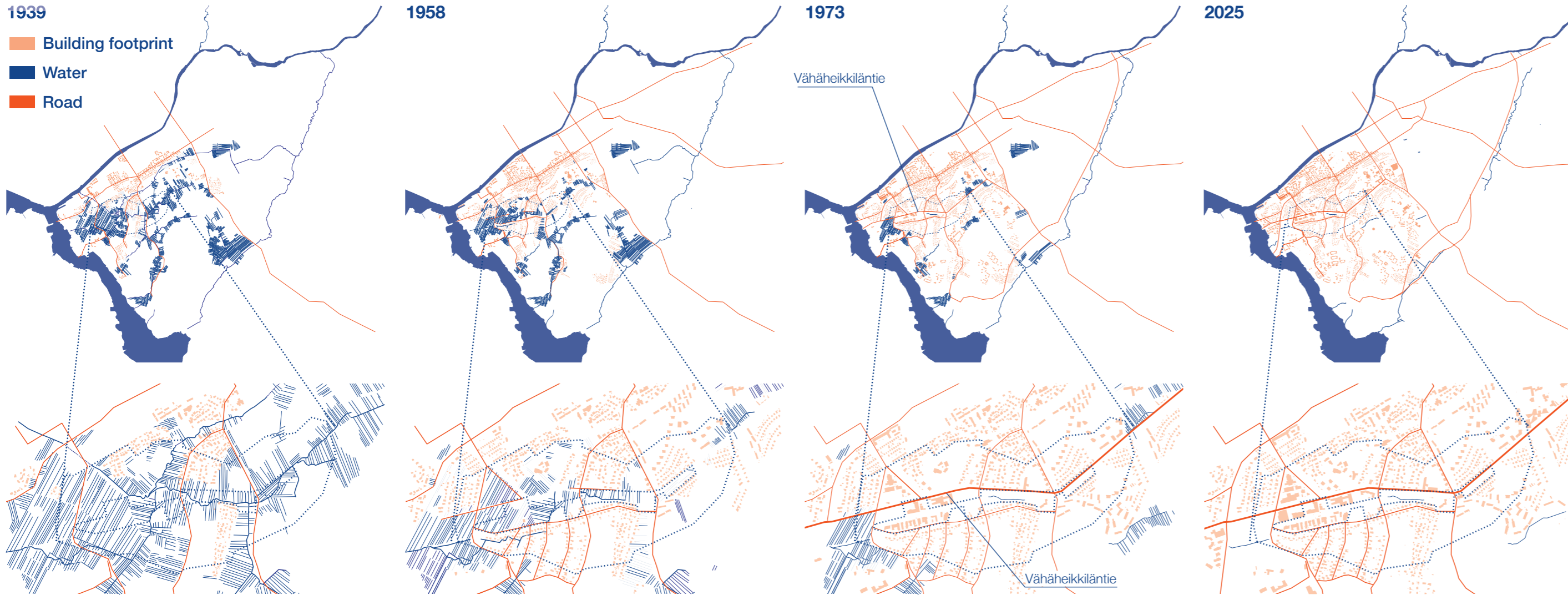


the Vähäheikkilä canal - a radical mobility shift after 100 years of burying water

## 100 YEARS OF BURYING WATER

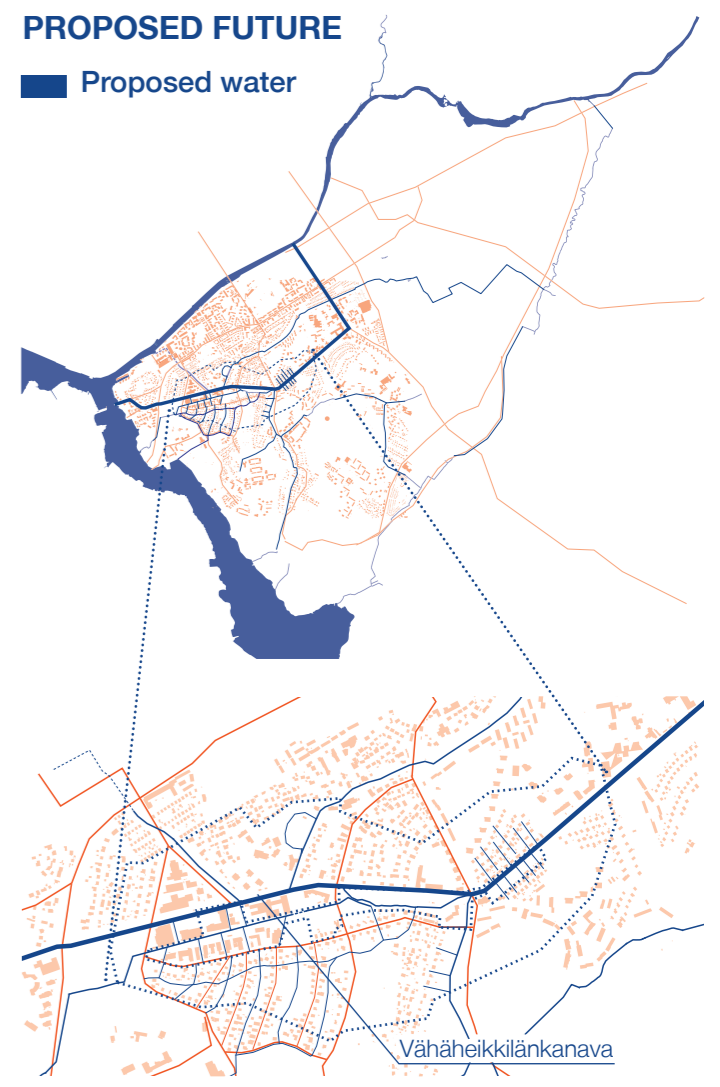


More than a hundred years ago, the area known today as Vähäheikkilä was shaped by the slow, meandering branches of water flowing from the Aura River. This low-lying terrain was first defined by water—a soft, shifting network that made the land fertile and habitable. People gradually adapted to the area for cultivation, working with the water rather than against it. Water was not hidden; it was visible, useful, and present in daily life.

Over time, however, human occupation began to push water underground. The spongy water systems were buried to make way for roads, housing (1958), and industrial infrastructure (1973). Alongside this change came the construction of Vähäheikkiläntie - a major road that sliced through the landscape, displacing water and reducing the land's natural capacity to manage it.

Today, Vähäheikkiläntie, together with the hardened surfaces of factories and car parks, acts as a barrier. These elements fragment the landscape, block ecological continuity, generate noise, and offer little value as public space. There is no longer room for water.

The Vähäheikkiläkanava project proposes a radical response: transforming the existing road into a navigable canal, where water flows once again at the heart of the neighborhood.



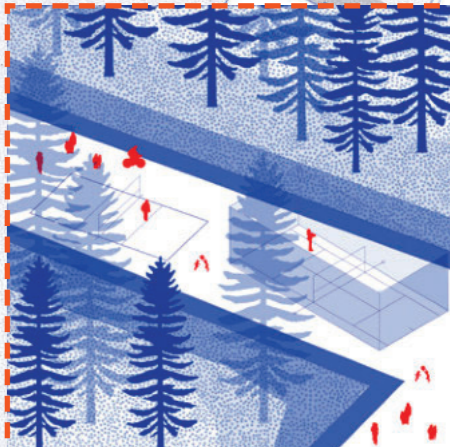
## PROPOSED DESIGN STRATEGY | SCALE 1:1500



**3 + 8 Quiet Park**  
Located within the floodable forest, these calm clearings are gently integrated with existing buildings. They offer a peaceful coexistence between nature and human presence—spaces for rest, reflection, and subtle interaction with the quiet water-scape.



**9 Sauna in the wetland**  
A quiet repurposed sauna pavilion nestled in the wetland offers a place for reflection, warmth, and connection with nature.



**23 Reclaimed sportfield**  
A part of the Uittamontie road is transformed into a hard-surfaced public sport area—offering space for basketball, volleyball, tennis, or other urban sports—reclaiming infrastructure for active community use.

## BUILDING PLAN 1:10000

- Existing buildings
- Repurposed buildings
- New buildings

The project redefines building typologies by preserving existing structures, guiding new timber buildings with water logic, and enabling circular, flexible living. Phase 1 features an elevated canal-edge housing block and hybrid housing-landscape clusters that support resilient, water-integrated urban life.

## ECOLOGICAL CONNECTION & FLYING SQUIRRELS WAYS

- New green corridor
- Urban trees
- Floodable forestry
- Flying squirrels & Birds movement
- Linear planting
- Trees alongside waterways
- Existing trees
- Wetland

## ACTIVITIES/ PUBLIC SPACES

- Vähäheikkilä water way
- Desirable bike & pedestrian lane
- Urban bike lane
- Shared walk ways
- Seasonal wetland
- DIY and community farming
- Indoor public facilities
- Sport fields
- Flexible public spaces

