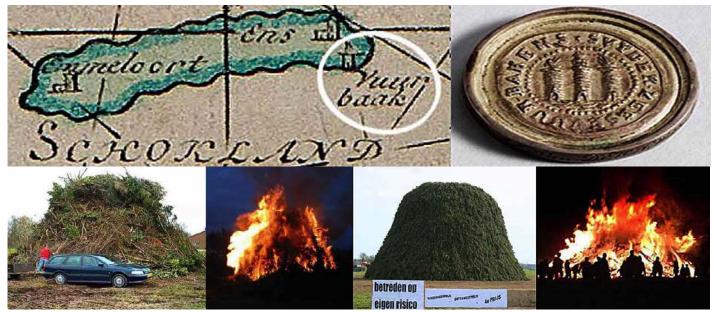
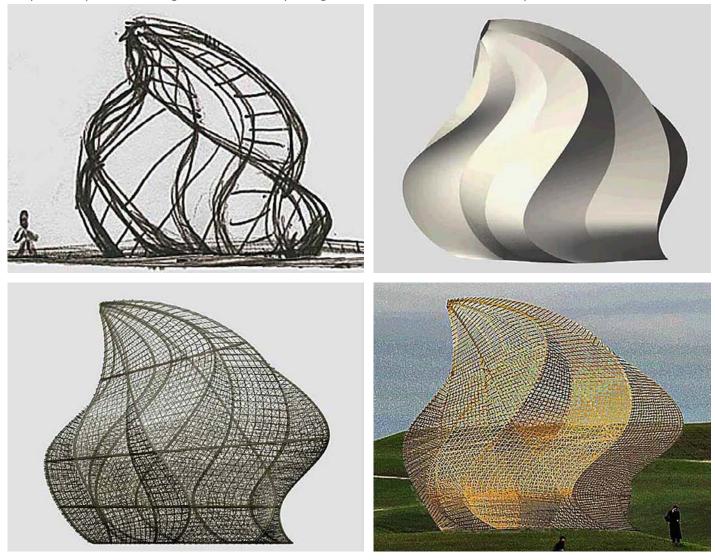
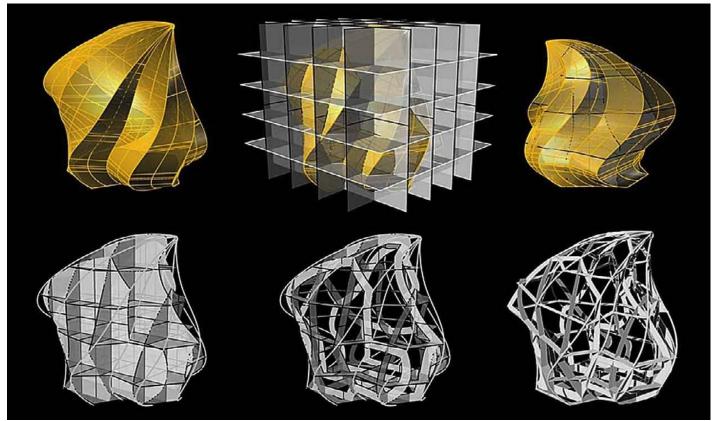


In 2009 I won a competition to make a landmark north of Emmeloord in one of Holland's main Polders. Where now the polder is there used to be the 'Zuiderzee', an annex of the of the North Sea. In the middle ages primitive lighthouses were operated, consisting of not more than a blunt elevation of earth where a log-fire could be lighted on. The sculpture is a reference to the these fire beacons. It also refers to the disorderly heaps of burnable material that people erect to set fire to during Easter. These 'Easter fires' are a very old ritual in Europe and as a tradition still very much alive in the Netherlands. The sculpture is completed in spring 2010.

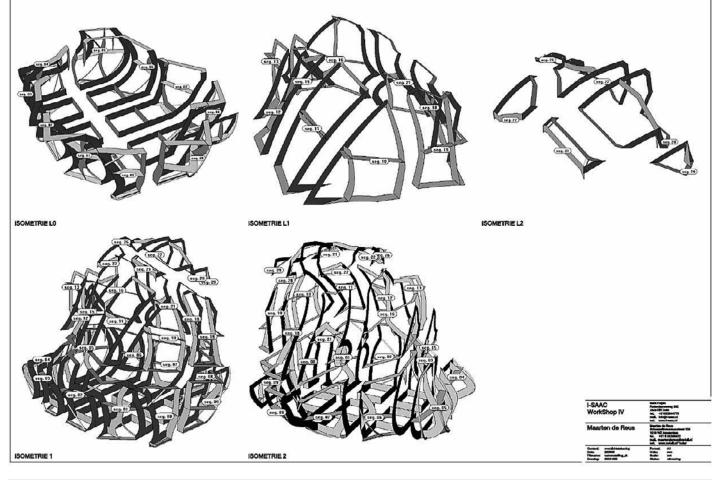


The sculpture commission was by 'Het Friese Pad', keepers of the former landfill that the sculpture now stands next to. Above: the old fire beacon of the Zuiderzee can be found on ancient maps and coins. The Easter-fires are both an improvisational sculptural shape as well as a giant flame once they are lighted. Below: first sketches and computer simulations.





With the Delft structural-engineering firm 'iSaac', a sturdy structure for the piece was determined. The chosen structural backbone gave the sculpture rigidity, and it also contributed to the visual complexity of the form.





Production of the piece was in the hands of 'Lemtech' Steelworks in Nijmegen.





After being coated by the firm 'NTZ' it took eight low loading trucks to transport the 29 parts from Nijmegen to Emmeloord. The sculpture weighs 25000 kilos and is held in place by 800 nuts and bolts.





The sculpture is placed on a mound so it will always have nothing but skies as a backdrop. This enhances the linear characteristic of the sculpture, as if it are 'lines' drawn in the sky.





At night the sculpture is lit, and though only just visible from the main motorway, it does embody the functionality of a beacon.

