

# City4CFD: Automated 3D city reconstruction for different scales in urban flow simulations

Clara García-Sánchez, Akshay Patil, Ivan Pađen, Hugo Ledoux  
Delft University of Technology

# Who is here today?



Clara García-Sánchez



Akshay Patil



Ivan Padén  
(Lead Author)

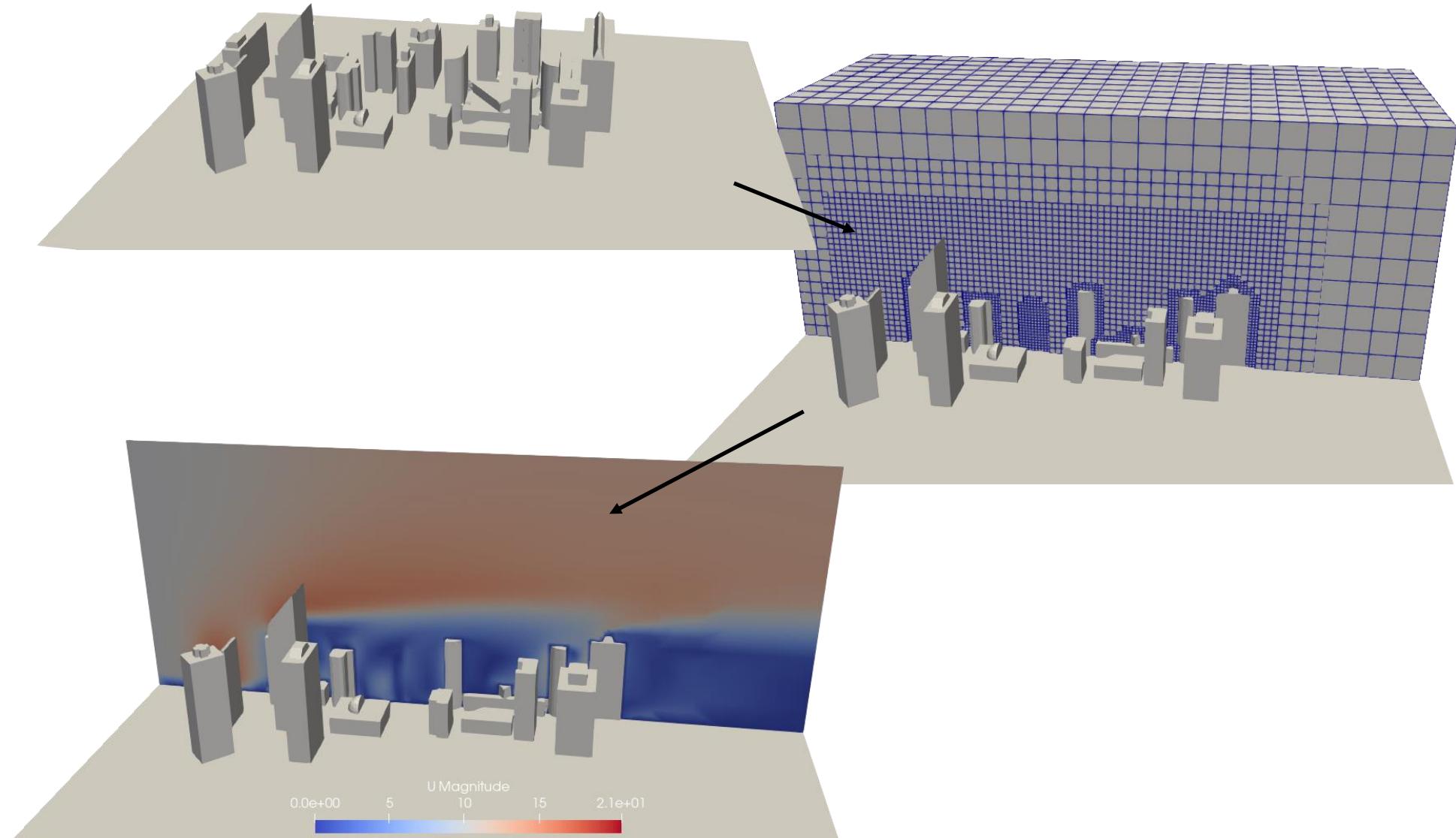


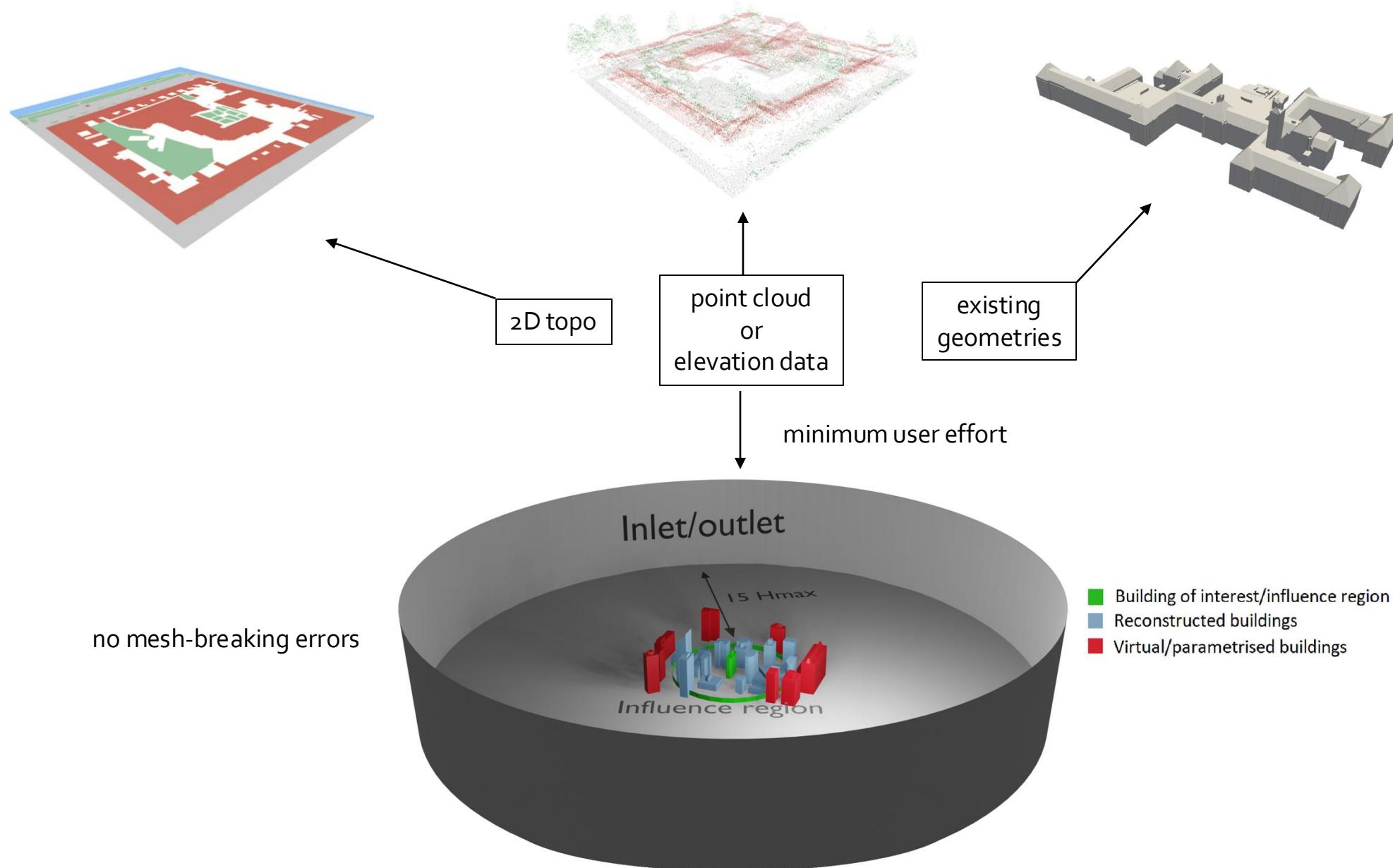
Hugo Ledoux



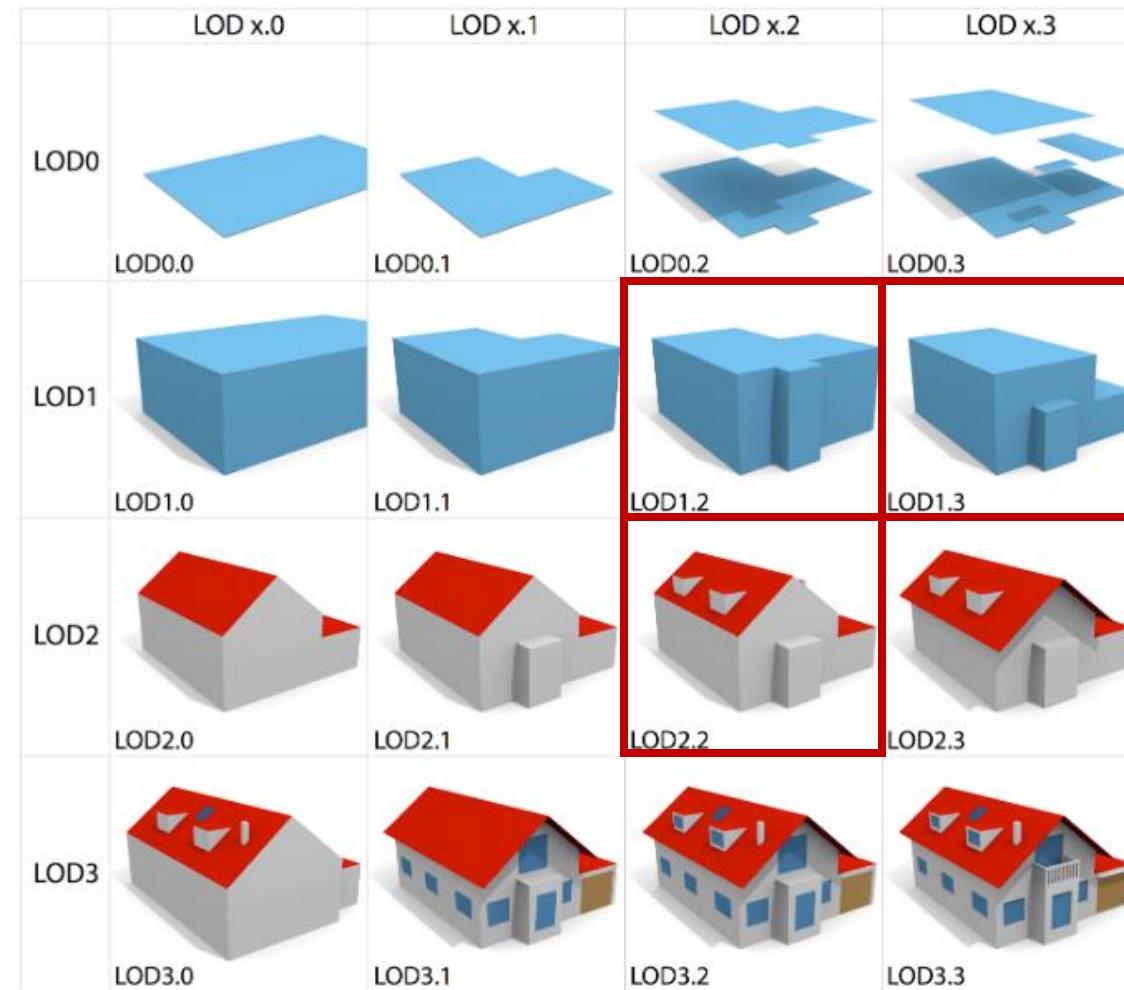
City4CFD

What is specific to urban flows





## "TU Delft LoD's" City4CFD

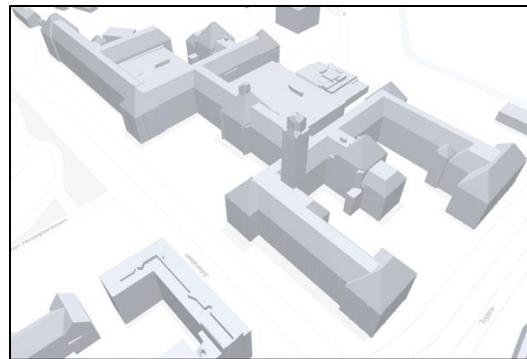


# High-detailed reconstruction

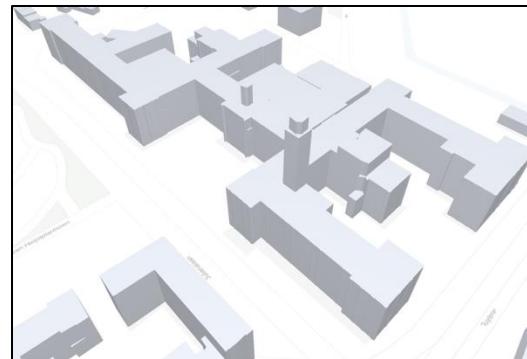
Multiple LoDs



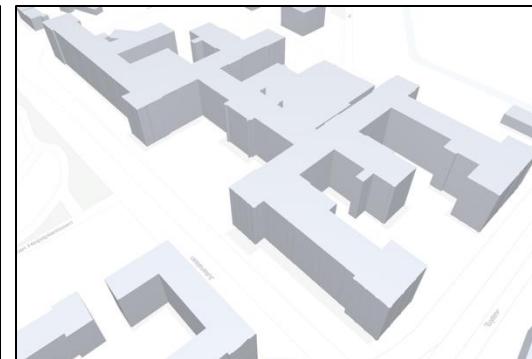
Increasing Geometric Detail



LoD 2.2

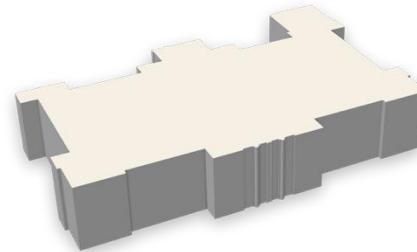


LoD 1.3

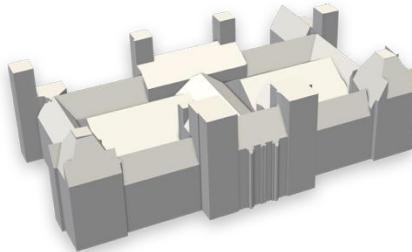


LoD 1.2

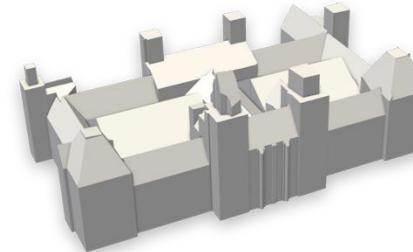
Complexity through graph-cut optimization



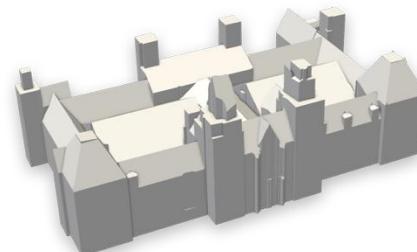
$\lambda = 0.01$



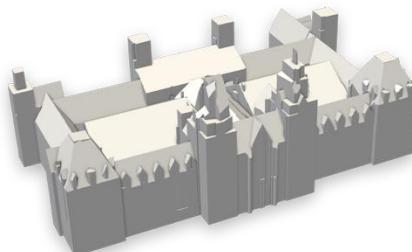
$\lambda = 0.2$



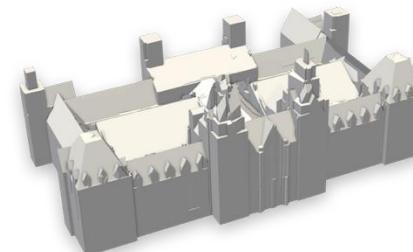
$\lambda = 0.4$



$\lambda = 0.6$



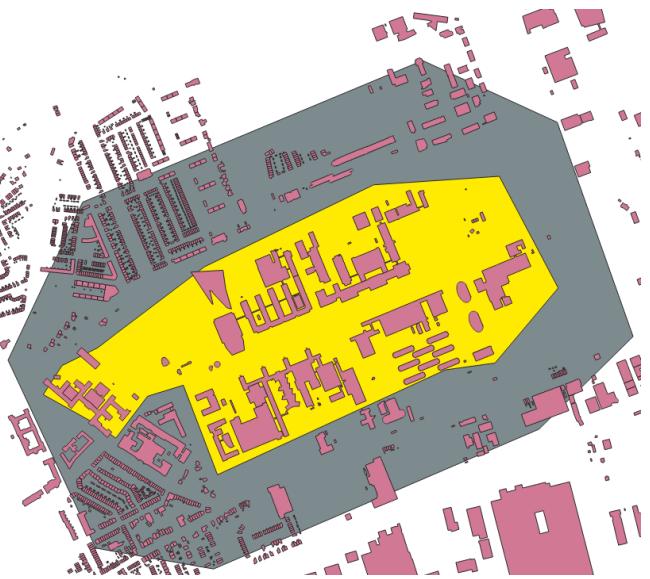
$\lambda = 0.8$



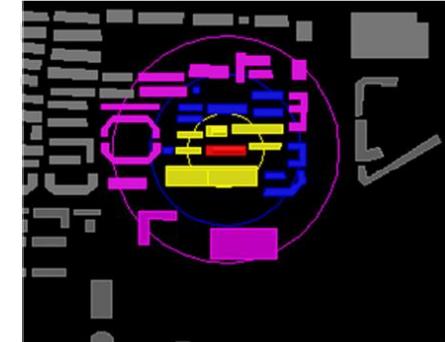
$\lambda = 0.99$

# What City4CFD does – boundaries & region of interest

Manual

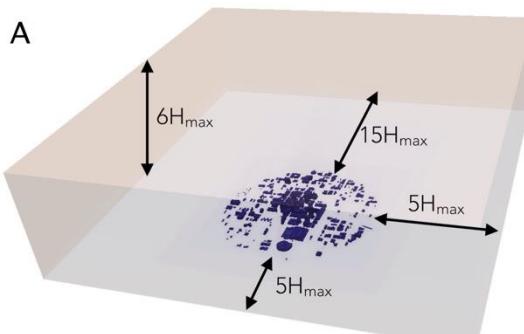


Region of interest BPG



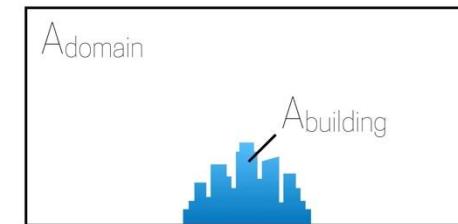
- Target Building
- $R = L$
- $R = 2L$
- $R = 3L$

Domain BPG

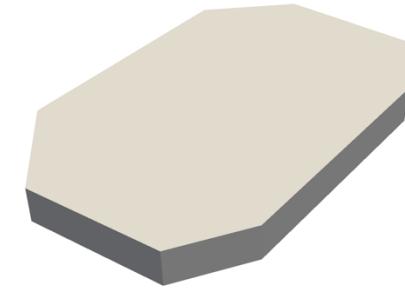
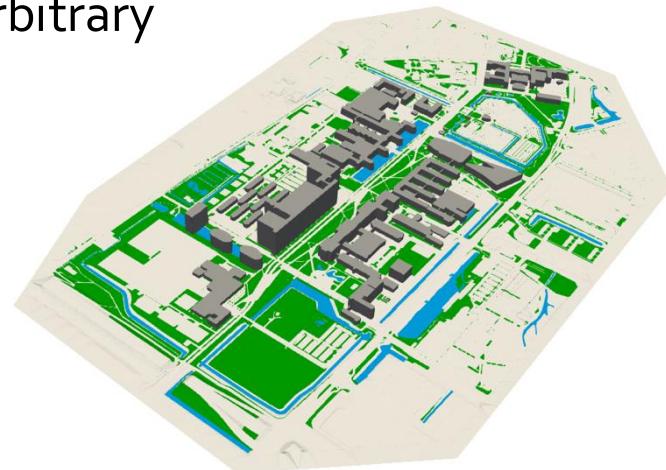


B

$$BR = \frac{A_{building}}{A_{domain}} < 3\%$$

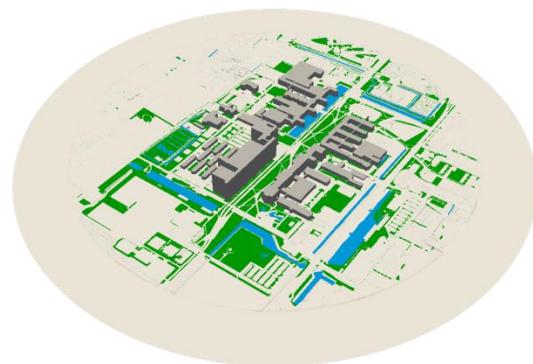


Arbitrary

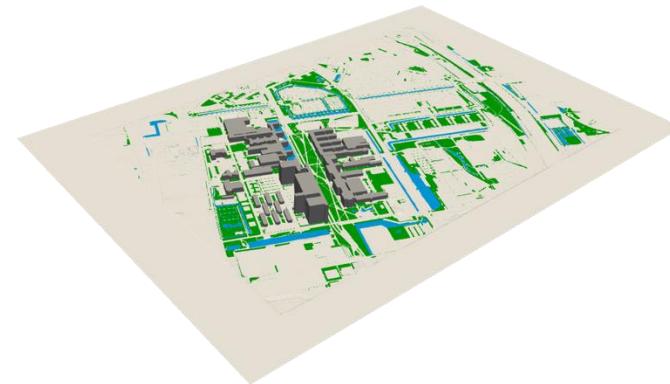


BPG

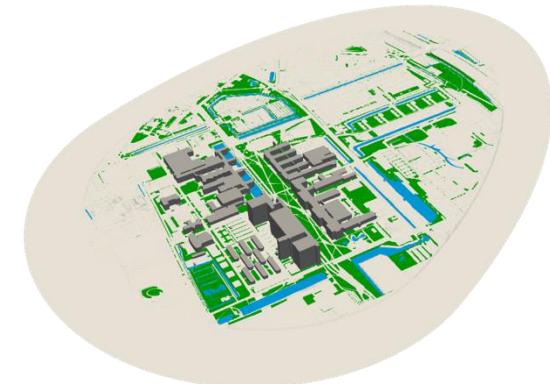
Round



Rectangular\*

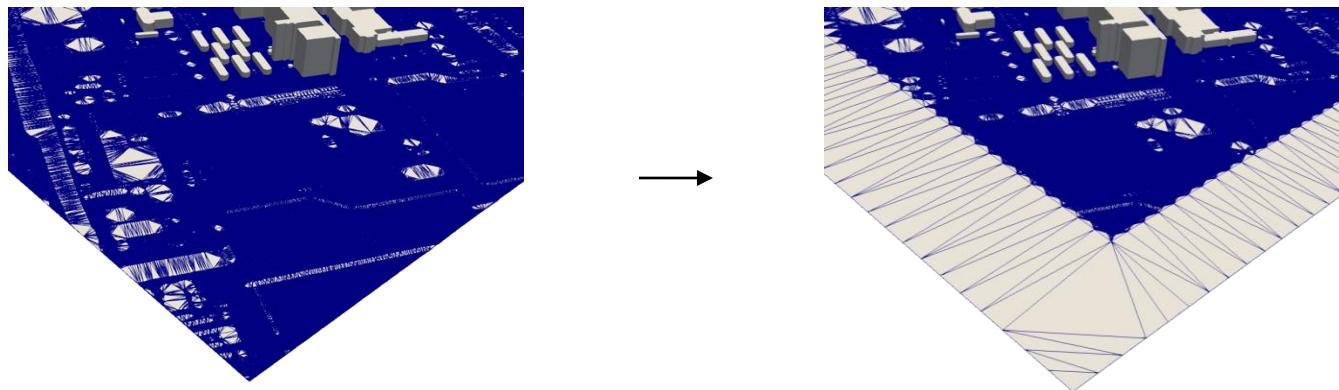


Oval\*

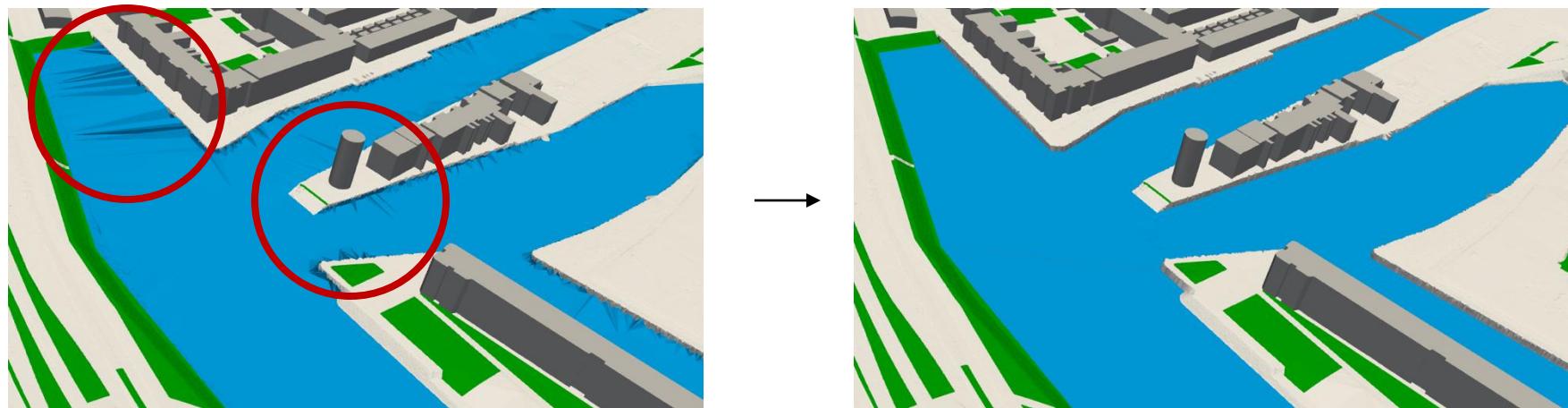


\*Adjusted to prescribed flow direction

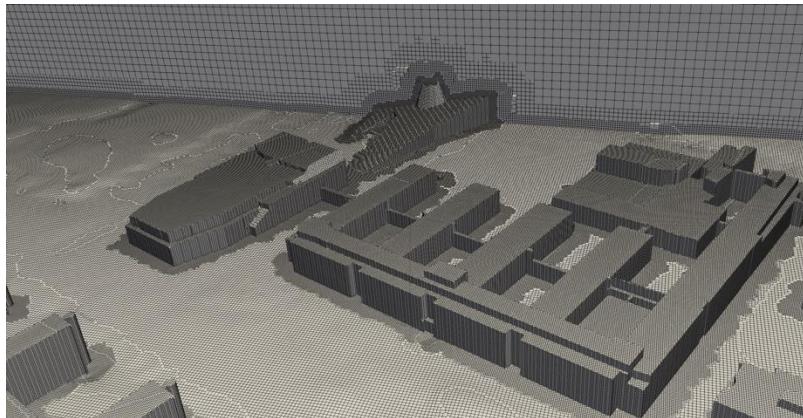
Domain edge buffer



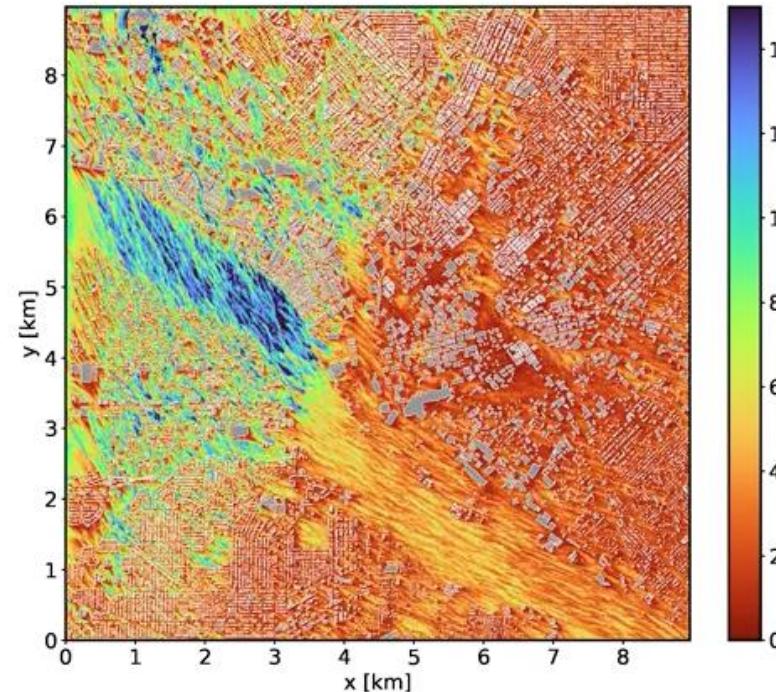
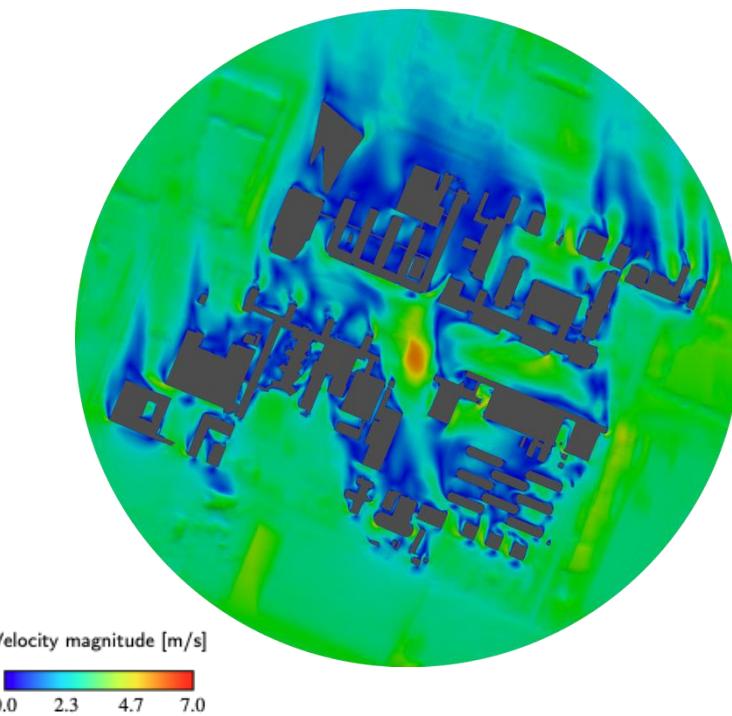
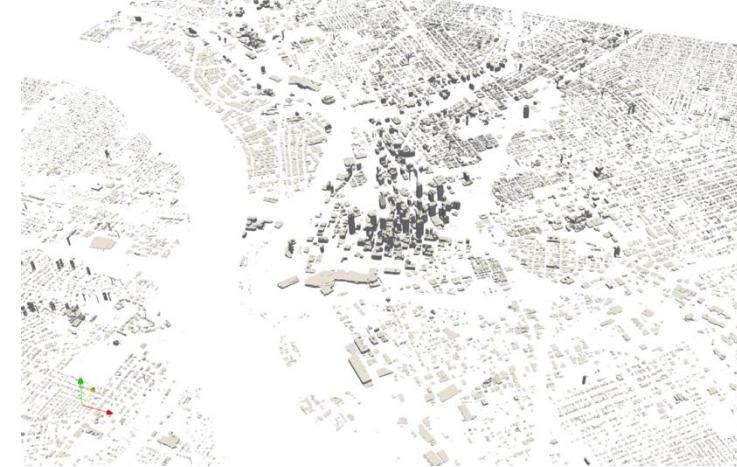
Surface layer flattening – useful for water



TU Delft (1 km x 1 km)



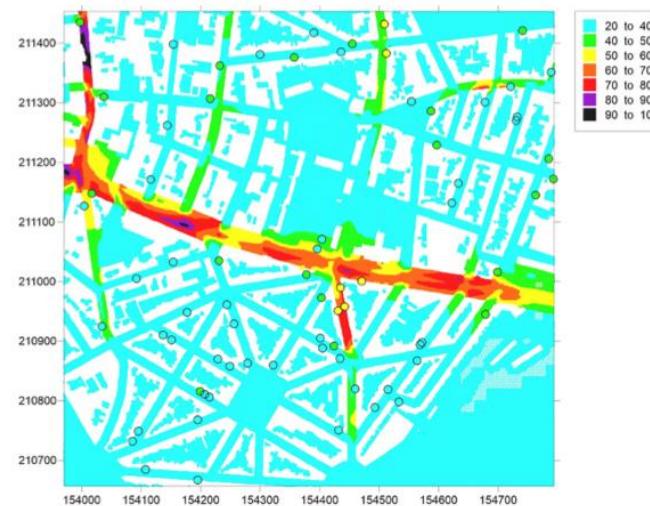
Downtown Dallas, TX (8 km x 8 km)



## Antwerp

F. Martin et al. (2024)

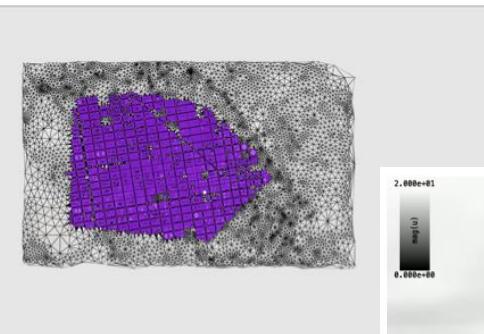
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2024.171761>



## San Francisco, CA

J. Hochschild, PhD thesis

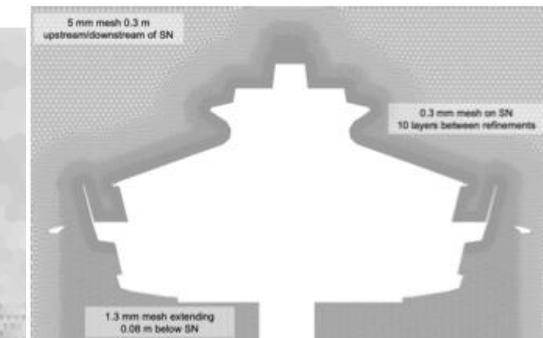
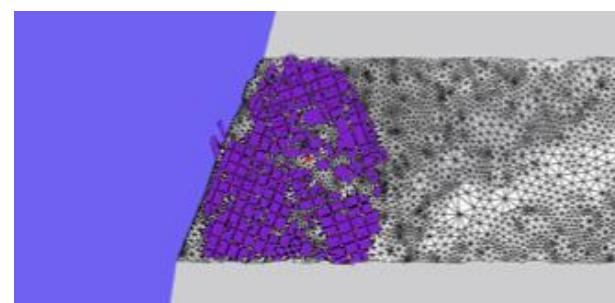
<https://purl.stanford.edu/sm262cb0838>



## Seattle, WA

J. Hochschild, PhD thesis

<https://purl.stanford.edu/sm262cb0838>



# Any questions up to now?

## Let's do some simple pre-checks:

- WSL?
- Paraview?
- QGIS?
- Python?

## Download the required git repositories:

- City4CFD repository:

<https://github.com/tudelft3d/City4CFD>

- Workshop repository:

[https://github.com/gsclara/ICUC\\_Workshop](https://github.com/gsclara/ICUC_Workshop)

## Follow the steps in the repository:

### macOS

Mac users can install City4CFD through Homebrew:

```
brew install tudelft3d/software/city4cf
```



ONLY MAC USERS

### Docker

We offer built [Docker](#) images for every release, available at the [Docker Hub](#). Running [the docker script](#) for the first time will pull the docker image from the Docker Hub repository.

## Follow the steps in the repository:

Dependencies are generally available in Linux distributions, e.g. in Debian/Ubuntu/Mint:

```
sudo apt-get install libmpfr-dev libgmp-dev libboost-all-dev libeigen3-dev libomp-dev libgdal-
```

CGAL can be directly downloaded from the [release page](#) (-library). No install is necessary, only the path to the unzipped folder is required (see below).

In macOS you can install all dependencies with Homebrew:

```
brew install cmake boost cgal eigen libomp gdal
```

ONLY MAC USERS

To build City4CFD, do the following:

```
mkdir build && cd build
cmake .. -DCGAL_DIR=/path/to/cgal/dir
make
./city4cfdf
```

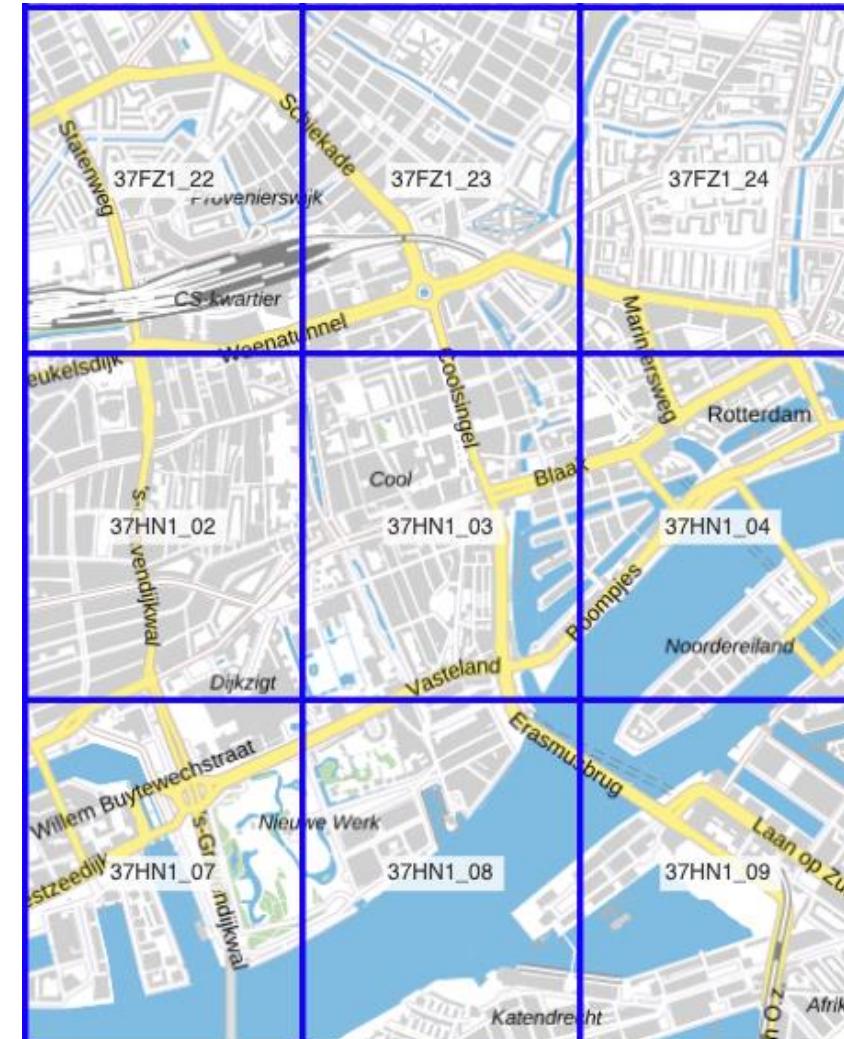
ALL USERS

# Reconstructing Rotterdam



# Reconstructing Rotterdam – point clouds

- Geotiles:  
<https://geotiles.citg.tudelft.nl/>
- Download all the tiles in the image



tudelft3d / City4CFD

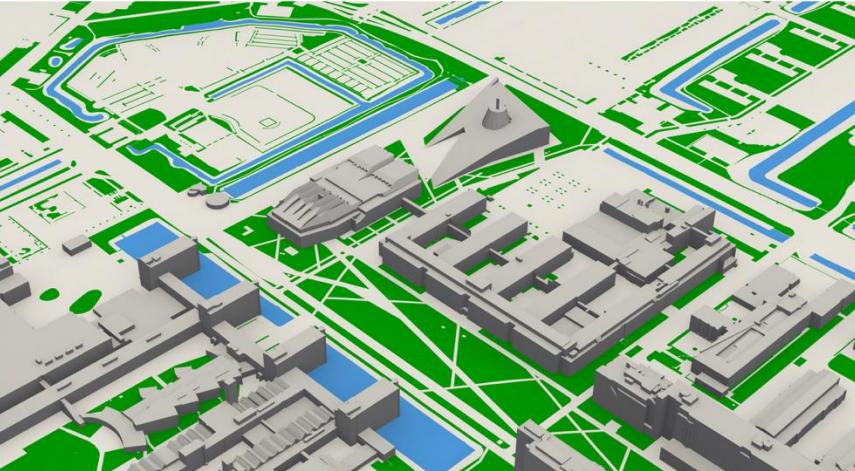
Type  to search

Code Issues 5 Pull requests 1 Discussions Actions Projects Wiki Security Insights Settings

## Home

Akshay Patil edited this page on Apr 24 · 15 revisions

[Edit](#) [New page](#)



Generating geometries for microscale computational wind engineering simulations is a tedious task for academic and application purposes alike. Researchers and engineers often have to rely on existing 3D geometries which were not made with computational fluid dynamics in mind, leading to a mainly manual and time-consuming task of geometry preparation.

Our aim is to address this issue with a purpose-built software, which we called City4CFD. It combines different input data typical in GIS, such as point clouds and 2D polygons, to create a 3D geometry, while keeping the requirements of CFD packages in mind.

In this documentation, you can find information on how the reconstruction is handled, as well as the information on the preparation of input data and the walkthrough of reconstruction parameters.

Pages 11

- [City4CFD](#)
- [Features](#)
  - [Buildings](#)
  - [Terrain](#)
  - [Surface layers](#)
  - [Influence region and domain boundaries](#)
- [Configuration File](#)
- [Input Data](#)
  - [Polygons](#)
  - [Point clouds](#)
  - [Aligning polygons and point clouds](#)
  - [Where to find input data?](#)
- [Tutorials](#)
  - [Delfshaven, Rotterdam, The Netherlands](#)
  - [Scalable Reconstruction, Global](#)

Clone this wiki locally

<https://github.com/tudelft3d/City>

# Reconstructing Rotterdam – config file

## Configuration File

Ivan Pađen edited this page on Jun 3, 2024 · [21 revisions](#)

The configuration file is in JSON format. It is a necessary input and it is validated against a schema.

A few examples of configuration files are in the [demo folder](#).

This section of the documentation provides a walkthrough of the configuration file and available options for the reconstruction. An example of the configuration file containing all options is as follows:

```
//-- CITY4CFD CONFIGURATION FILE --//
{
  "point_clouds": [
    {
      "ground": "point_cloud/sampled_ground_1m.ply",
      "buildings" : "point_cloud/sampled_buildings_1m.ply"
    },
    "polygons" : [
      {
        "type": "Building",
        "path": "polygons/tudcampus.geojson",
        "unique_id": "gid" // Optional - use building ID from the polygon file
        "height_attribute": "height", // Optional - use height from the polygon file for reconstruction
        "floor_attribute": "num_floors", // Optional - use number of floors for reconstruction
        "floor_height": 3, // Floor height, required if 'floor_attribute' is defined
        "height_attribute_advantage": false, // In case height attribute takes precedence over other reconstruction methods
        "avoid_bad_polys": false, // Optional - ignore or try to reconstruct problematic (non-simply connected) polygons
        "refine": false // Optional - refine surface
      },
      {
        "type": "SurfaceLayer",
        "path": "polygons/Vegetation.geojson",
        "layer_name" : "Vegetation" // Optional - choose a layer name
      }
    ]
}
```

<https://github.com/tudelft3d/City4CFD/wiki/Configuration-File>

## Follow the steps in the repository:

### Getting started

The folder `examples` contains example datasets you can run for your first reconstruction. You can run your first reconstruction from the `/examples/TUD_Campus` folder by typing:

```
mkdir results
../../build/city4cfid config_bpg.json --output_dir results
```

in case of building from a source.

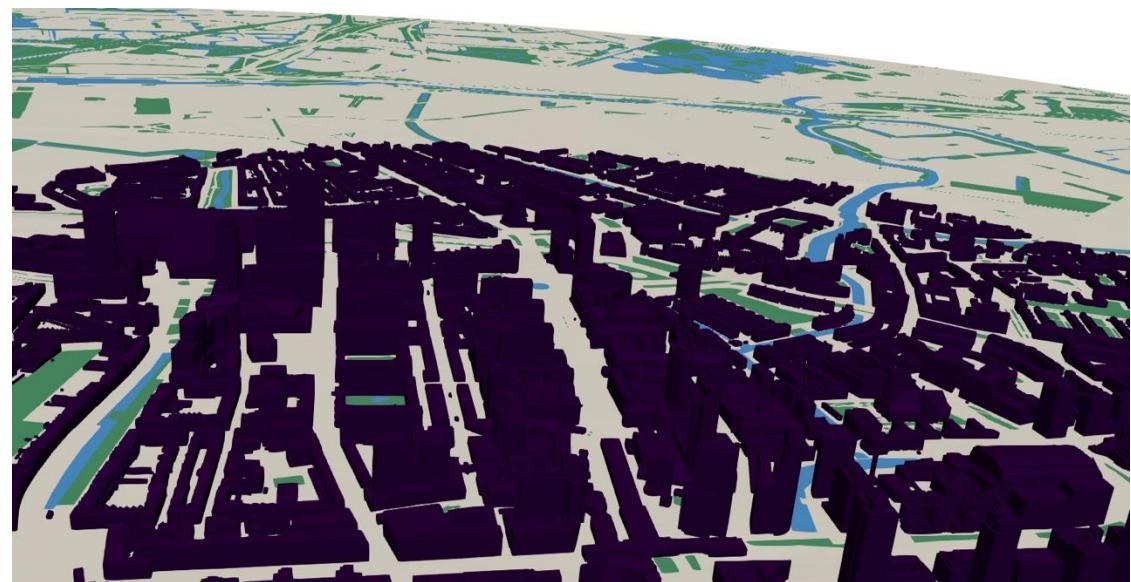
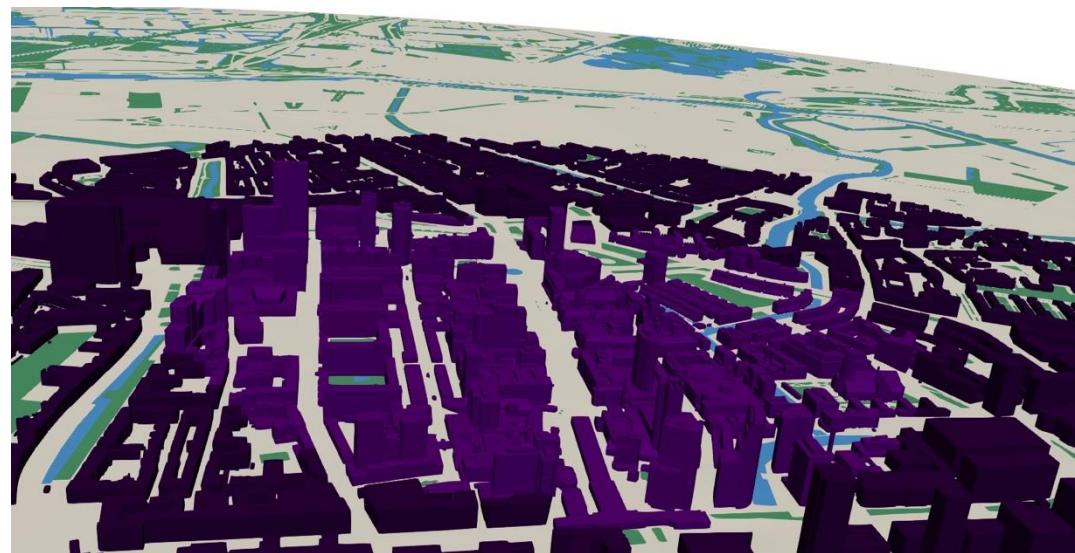
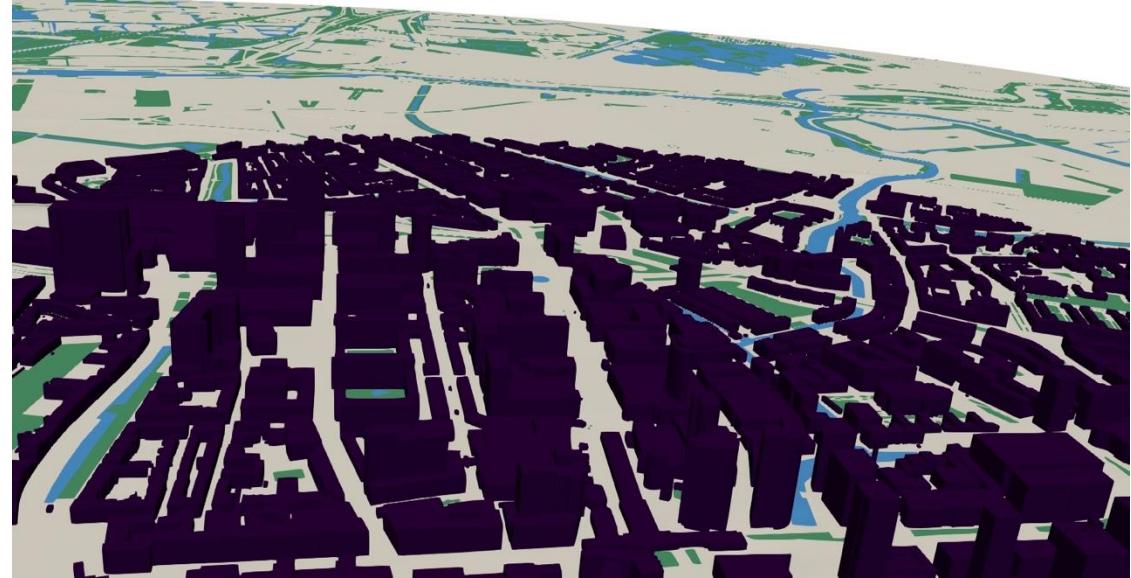
To run through a Docker container, you can use one of the scripts in `docker/run/`. The script with the extension `.sh` can be used in Linux and macOS, the one with the extension `.ps1` in Windows Powershell, and the last one with `.bat` in Windows Command Prompt. You have to run a script (you can copy it beforehand) from the root directory of the project (e.g. `examples/TUD_Campus`), and the arguments are the same as for the compiled executable, e.g.:

```
../../docker/run/city4cfid_run.sh city4cfid config_bpg.json --output_dir results
```

The script pulls the `latest` release from the Docker Hub. For a specific release, replace `latest` in the script with the released version tag, e.g. `0.1.0`. In Linux systems, you will probably have to run the command as a sudo unless you create a 'docker' group and add users to it.

More information on the project can be found in the documentation.

# Reconstructing Rotterdam – final result



# Some Tips/Tricks and Showcase

- Point Cloud availability - Global North  Global South, not as data-rich
  - OSM building height information
  - Local municipality data registry
  - Digital Terrain Model/ Digital Elevation Models (Raster -2.5D)
- Polygon retrieval and Simplification
  - `fetch_osm.py` – Pulls polygons (Buildings, Vegetation, Water, Forest etc.) from OSM data
  - `polyprep.py` – Simplifies polygons based on user input



City4CFD / tools / fetch\_polygons /

ipadjen Add copyright ✓

This branch is 45 commits ahead of, 3 commits behind main.

Name	Last commit message
..	
cities.txt	Add fetch_osm.py script
fetch_osm.py	Add copyright

Currently in `develop` branch

City4CFD / tools / polyprep /

ipadjen Update package requirements

Name	Last commit message
..	
README.md	Update polyprep README.md
polyprep.py	Add header to polyprep
requirements.txt	Update package requirements

README.md

Check [this page in wiki](#) for more information about polyprep

Available under `tools`

# Using fetch\_osm.py

## cities.txt input file

City4CFD / tools / fetch\_polygons / cities.txt

AkshayPatil1994 Add fetch\_osm.py script ✓

Code Blame 3 lines (3 loc) · 163 Bytes

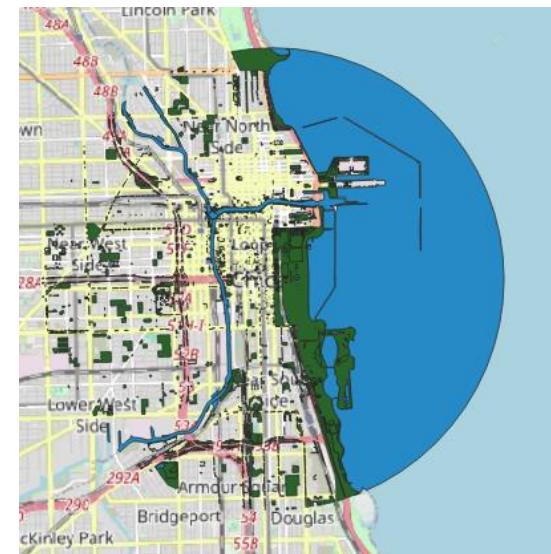
```
1 Chicago, USA, 41.8755616, -87.6244212, EPSG:6455
2 Barcelona, Spain, 41.39563705715212, 2.1610087803576256, EPSG:25831
3 Denver, US, 39.7392364, -104.984862, EPSG:4326
```

Name of  
the city

2/3  
Letter  
Country  
Code

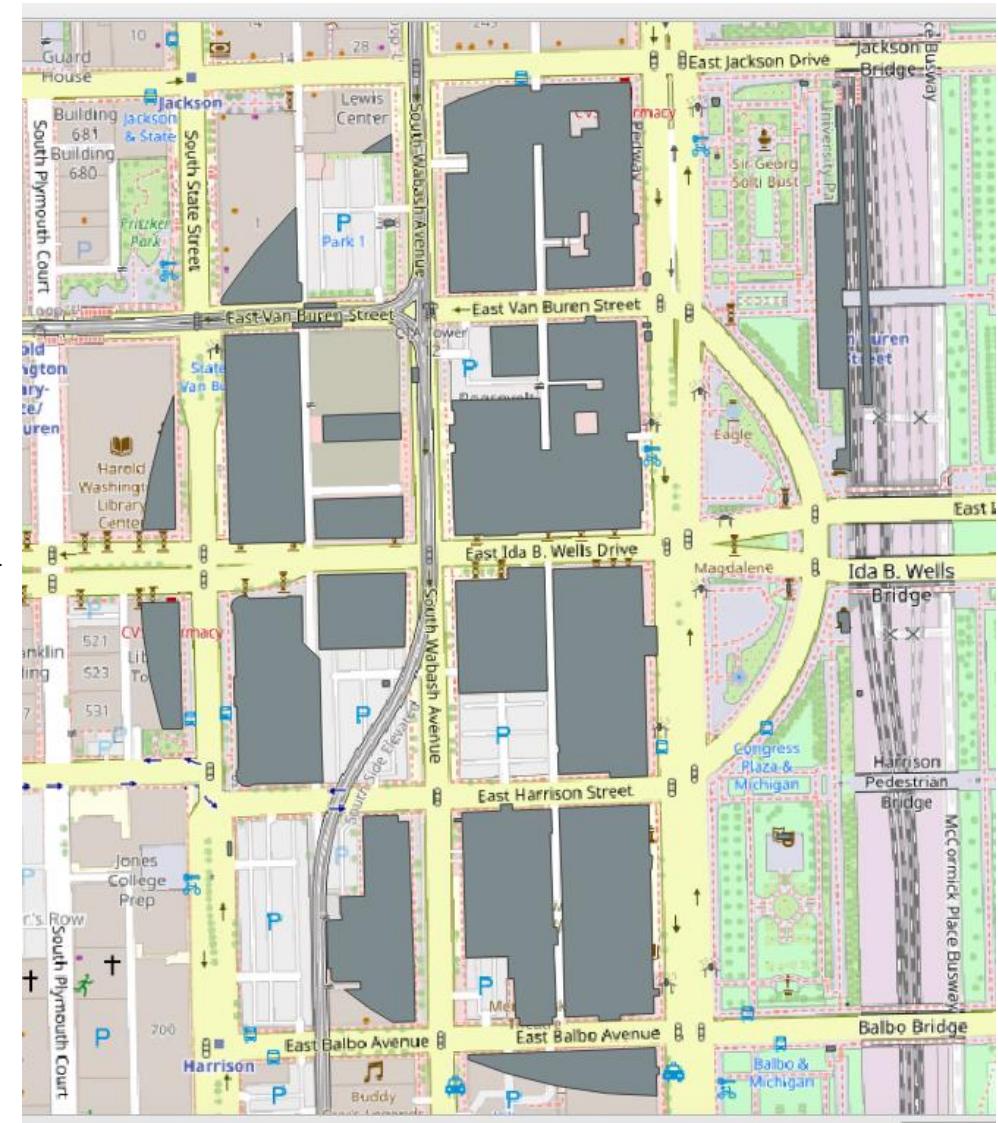
<center-latitude>,  
<center - longitude>  
In EPSG: 4326

```
21 #
22 # Importing the required libraries
23 import osmnx as ox
24 import numpy as np
25 import os
26 import geopandas as gpd
27 from shapely.geometry import Point
28 from geopy.geocoders import Nominatim
29 from pyproj import CRS
30 #
31 # USER INPUT PARAMETERS
32 #
33 Hmax = 230 # Maximum height of the building the region of interest
34 rbuildings = 1200 # Radius for building polygons
35 rpolygons = 4000 # Radius for non-building polygons (only active when Hmax < 0)
36 outdir = "data" # Define the output directory where polygons are downloaded
```

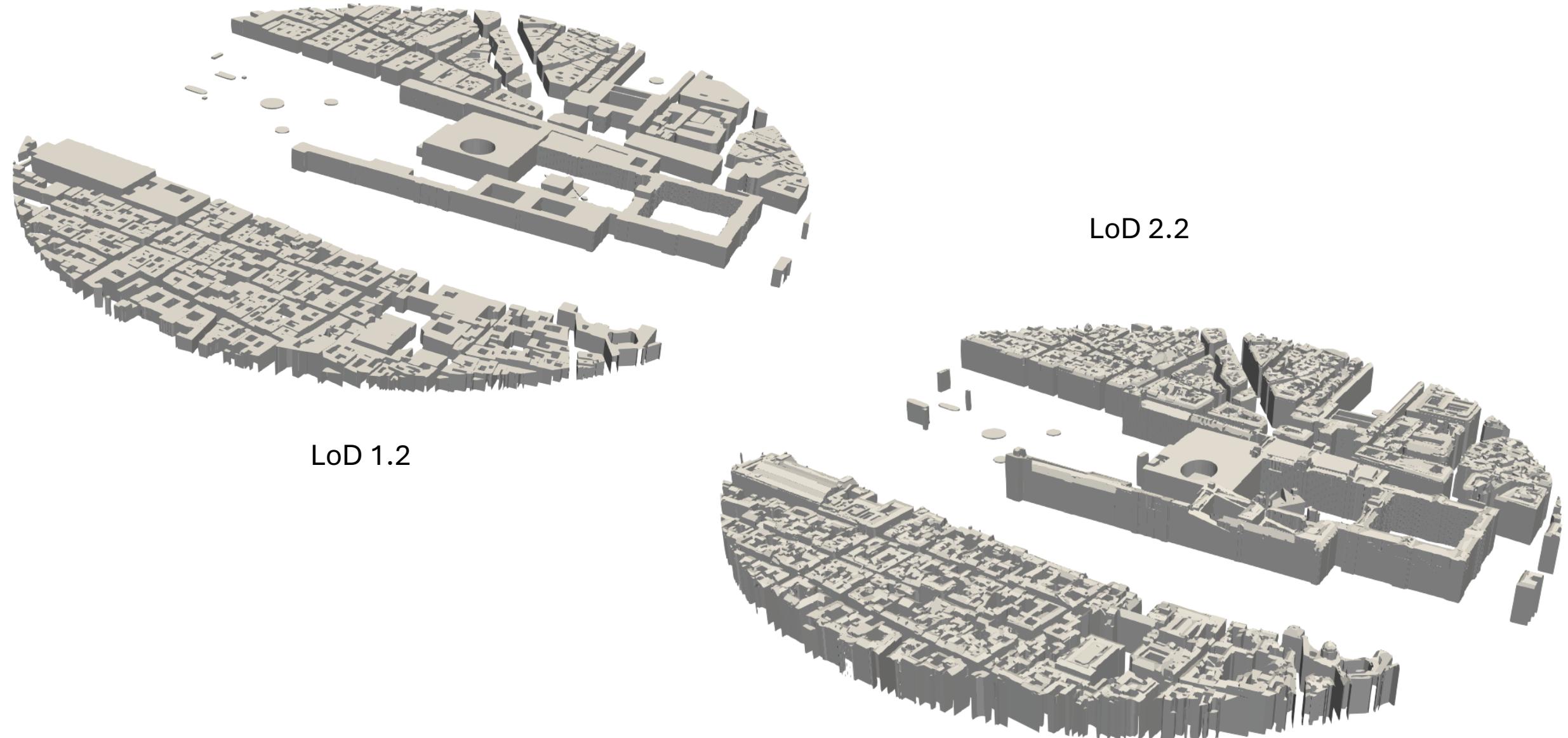


# Using polyprep.py

<https://github.com/tudelft3d/City4CFD/wiki/Polygons#polygon-generalisation>

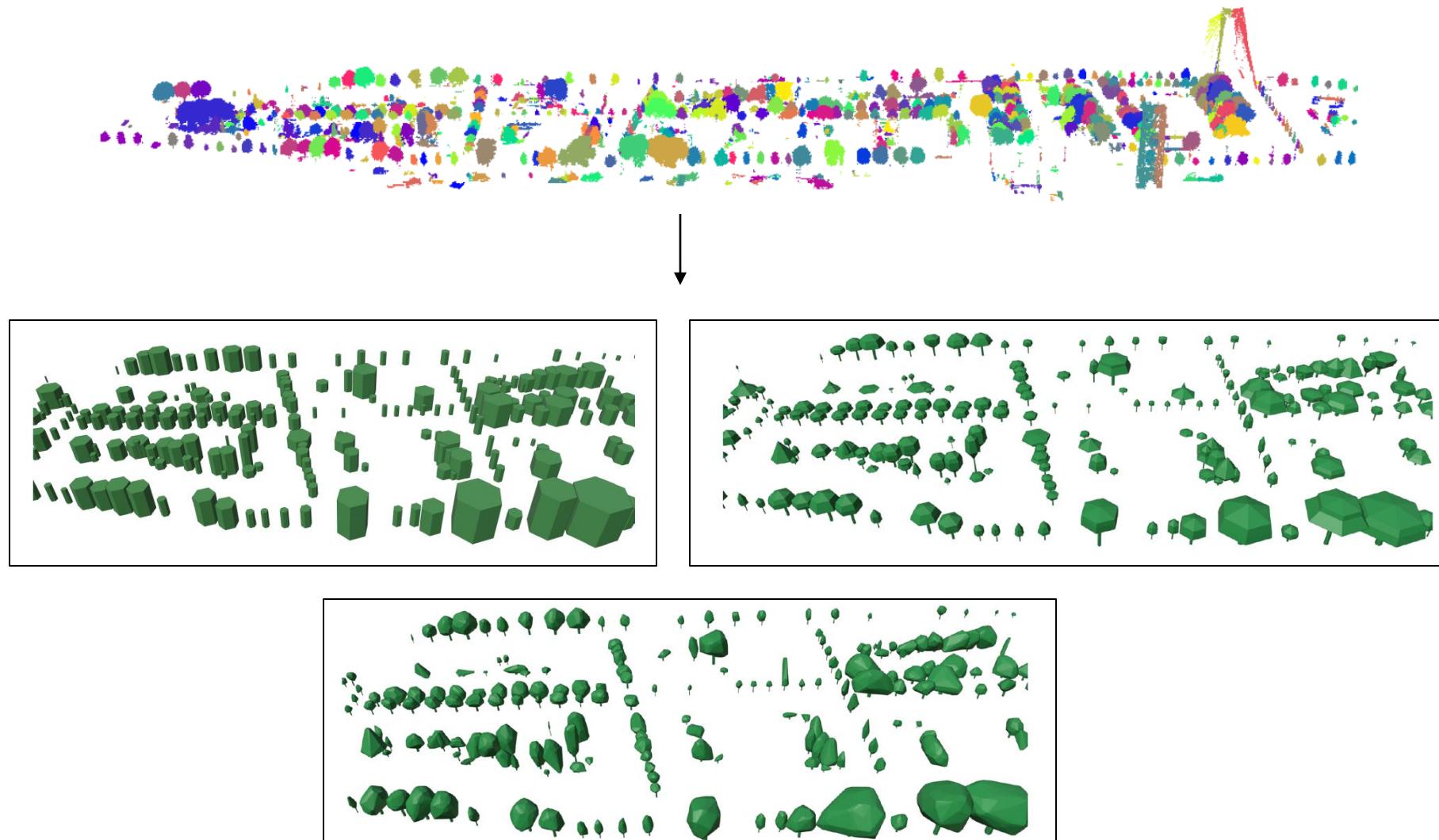


# Paris - Reconstruction

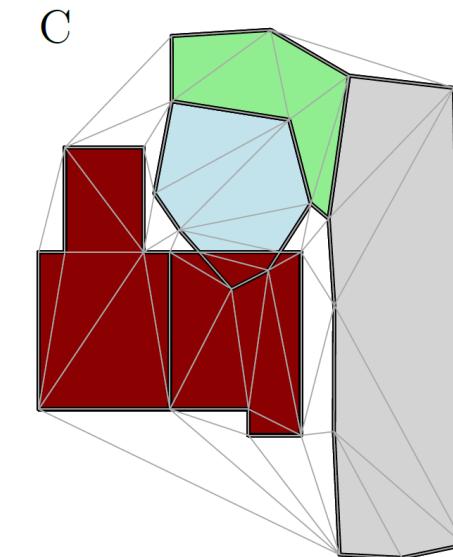
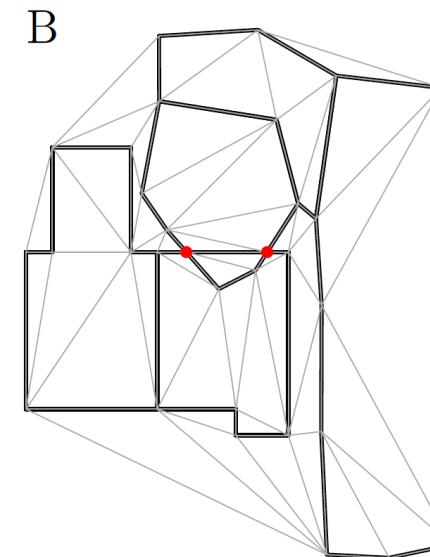
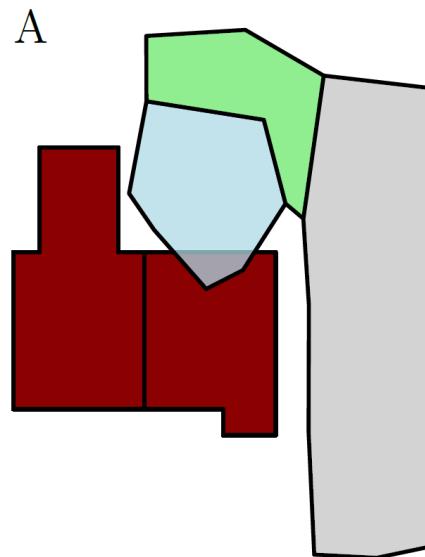


# Appendix

## Tree reconstruction from point clouds



# Constrained triangulation and conflict solving



# List of commands used

```
7594 python3 -m venv venv
7596 source venv/bin/activate
7598 python3 polygons/fetch.py
7599 pip install osmnx
7600 cd polygons
7603 python3 polygons/fetch.py
7604 python3 fetch.py
7605 pip install geopy
7606 python3 fetch.py
7608 python3 fetch.py > log.fetch
7609 vi log.fetch
7610 ls data
7611 cd ..
7614 cd PC
7615 ls
7617 lasmerge64 -i *.LAZ -keep_class 2 -o ground.laz
7618* lasmerge64 -i *.LAZ -keep_class 6 -o buildings.laz
7620 cd ../
7621 cd reconstruction
7623 vi ../polygons/log.fetch
7625 mv results results_LoD2.2
7626 city4cfd rotterdam_LoD2.json --output_dir results_LoD2.2
7630 deactivate
```