

ROCK ALONG

In the current global context linked to global warming, we are recently experiencing the emergence of new types of tourism. The proposed project consist in a progressive development of the islands of the Helsinki archipelago as a promenade project, a slow tourism project designed to be in continuity of the history of the place and its local culture while adapting to the particularities of each of the 300 islands that make up the archipelago.

Catching our attention as a fundamental landmark of the history of the archipelago, the construction of the fortress of Suomenlinna in the second half of the 18th century on a group of islands located at the entrance to the harbour of Helsinki is still today one of the main attractions of the city. It consists of a set of military fortification walls, built in local rock. Also marked by the presence of a large number of villas and old gardens engirdled of low stone walls, those mineral remains still rhythm our path in these lands.

These constructions of stones, sometimes simple low walls that comes out of the ground, some-times huge walls that seem to rise from the water, highlight the granitic materiality of the island rocks re-vealing itself according to the tides or appearing between two forest areas. Of great diversity, the islands of the archipelago present their own particularities from urban to a complete natural scenery, while some island in the exemple of Malkassari are dedicated exclusively to tourism activities.

At the exception of islands dedicated to camping, the current visitors of the islands are rather in-clined to practicing nautical activities or visiting the historical heritage sites. The visit is concentrated in a very short time, a day to a week-end. Visit sometimes constrained by the accessibility and lack of land-marks making difficult an overall understanding of the site. The project would offer a slower, softer type of tourism, a tourism that would become a real experience resonating in the longer time of nature and rocks.

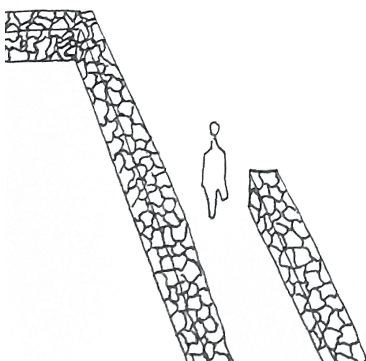
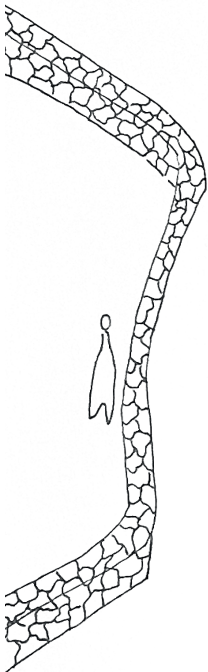
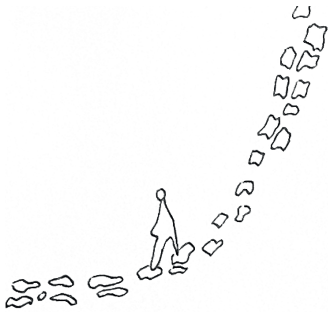
In face of those fragments,

each describing an independent, partitioned situation differentiated by its geographical situation, diversified materialities or specific programs, it seems important to grasp the essence of the archipelago as a groupement of those islands and to envision them as a whole. Highlighting the existing paths using a set of landmarks, this project is guiding us through two readings of the site :

The first reading is urban, therefore taking place in continuity of the existing paths. Stretching out like a net guiding the visitor from a place to another, at the image of the remains of the low garden partition walls and the fortress of Suomenlinna : it is a stone wall. Common thread growing along the existing spaces it sometimes rises in the shape of a low wall, sometimes sinks into the ground as a discreet paved path of 50cm wide blocks.

The second reading is cultural. Inspired by each specificities of traditional and current architectural constructions. Each program finds a stereotypical form expressed by a light structure of wood and a base of local stone. Thus Sitting Area, Trash Can, Shelter, Toilet, Pool, Sauna, Fire place, Observatory, Bird House, Kayak Storage or Pier almost appears and morph into folies, small constructions of poetic meaning, landmarks. Evolving with the needs of each specific situation, each landmark exist from a minimal to a small, medium or large size according to the character of each island.

Growing from the guiding stone line, the landmarks in their minimal form are built in stone directly integrated into the low wall. In this state, the landmarks are a sign, a minimal use, an impulse, the possibility of development. By the addition of a wooden structure those designed minimal shapes become architectures varying over 3 sizes. The architectures are archetypal, referring to traditional shapes, dialoging and interrogating the scenery by their positioning. In this way, the structures can evolve simply while still resting on a previously defined mineral base. This base, simple, remains useful and perennial, when the wooden part can be enlarged, moved according to



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the needs of each island. Line and landmarks accompany the visitor in its path, generating a variety of combination, revealing and casting a new gaze on the natural qualities of the islands territory.

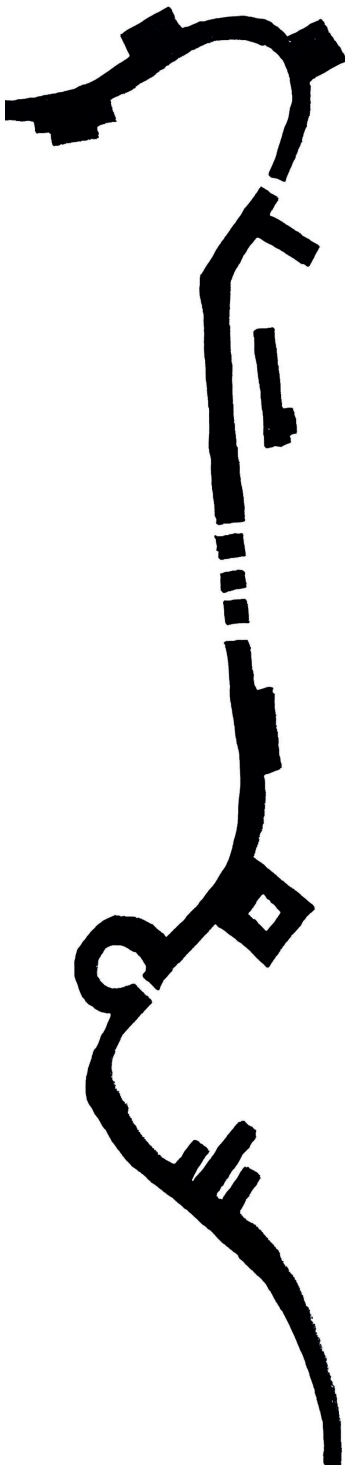
Therefore the first sign to emerge from the line is the Sitting Area : interrupting the line the blocks rising can become a simple sitting device developing, then twisting, to invite the visitor to the center, finally becoming a theatre. The trash can may consist in a simple hole in the line, multiplying and covering itself to adjust to selective sorting of trash, eventually sinking into a ground storage. The shelter present itself as a laying bed of stones, then covered by an overlaying roof protecting from chilly winds, wrapped as a house. From a screen to a cubicle, the toilets, dry for a minimal impact, avoid the view of the visitors. The pool, emerging from a parallel line to a deck, a dressing space, an observatory of water level, also becoming an access in cold weather to the iced sea. The sauna, from a mount of stones to a cabin. The fireplace from barbecue to a restaurant, the observatory ever rising towards a higher point of view. The birdhouse highlighting the presence and cohabitation of various species on the islands. The kayak storage and pier allowing the access by adjusting sizes to needs.

Opening the possibility of a new usage of the land as well as of the existing buildings in proximity of the path, those constructions could naturally evolve in a variety of commercial usages, morphing the kiosk into summer cafes, villas into hotels. Gardens, as the garden of Kotiluoto will be structured by the stoned wall and added landmarks, forming a geometrical garden, inspired by its historical design, consisting of 6 vegetated areas letting space to a natural wild plantation system. Discreet paved pathways will allow the visitor to access a seating area or a shelter in the grass.

Thus, dilating and contracting itself, this project is evolving, developing, changing. Its wooden structures can appear or disappear following the

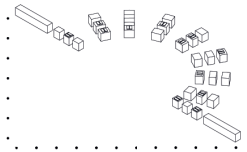
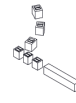
needs of touristic flow or even contain it to preserve the natural wilderness and inner beauty of the preserved spaces as the visitors follows the guiding stone wall. Leading the visitor through the cultural heritage of the site, the typologies of the surrounding buildings while offering convivial spaces that residents and visitors alike can make their own.

The project, in its own way, tells us its own new story. Developing, expanding, it unfolds into a living device allowing exploration and dialogue with the natural space of the islands over the seasons and Finnish leisure activities. Contracting, almost completely disappearing, it reveals the materiality and forms of a minimal installation evoking the past and present history of the place.



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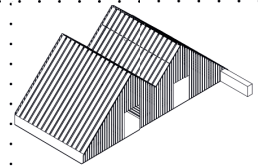
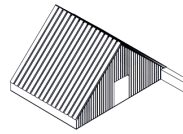
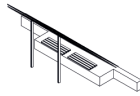
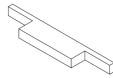
SITTING AREA



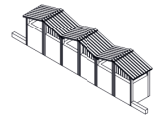
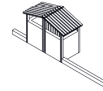
TRASH CAN



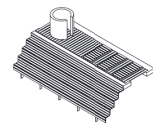
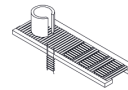
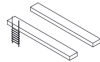
SHELTER



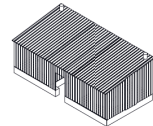
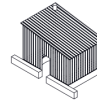
TOILET



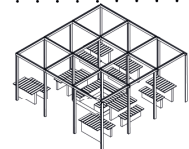
POOL



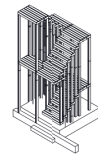
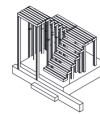
SAUNA



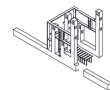
FIREPLACE



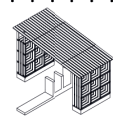
OBSERVATORY



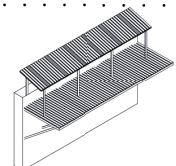
BIRDHOUSE



KAYAK STORAGE



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1 : Helsinki © Mariia Kauppi

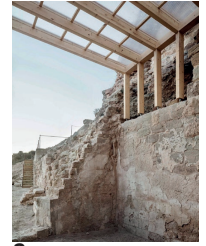


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2 : Kayak Storage Staps



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3

3 : Landscape adaptation of the walled enclosure and chapel of Jorba castle, Carles Enrich Studio



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4 : Underground waste compactor



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5 : Traditionnal Finnish outdoor Shelter



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6 : Traditional house in the Fiskars company town, Raseborg, Finland, Europe, ©robertharding



7

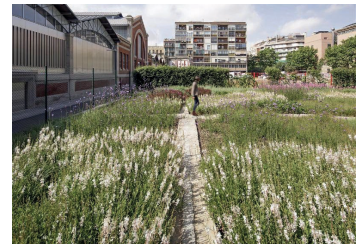
7 : Sanctuary, Ai Weiwei, © Iwan Baan

8 : Traditionnal Sauna



8

9 : Nino market square, Spain, Lea Atelier and Landscape ecology Architecture Gael © Del Rio



9

10: Suomenlinna Fortress © Suomen Ilmankuva Oy



10

11: Toilet, © Juha Jarvinen



11

12: Vartiosaari Cultural Environment Invention Report, © City of Helsinki



12

13: Allmannajuvet Zinc Mine Museum, Norvège, Peter Zumthor architecte © Per Berntsen



13

14: Old stone structures in Malkasaari. © City of Helsinki



14

15: Sauna



15

16: Dry stone fences in the Yorkshire Dales, England, © Peter K Burian



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