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The Granary is an urban, vertical interpretation of a soil decontamination plant. An accessible machine that materialises and spatialises the very soil and ground the city is built upon. Each of the three silos is divided into a laboratory side and a machinery side, separated and connected by a public corridor.



The silos accomodate the techniques of bioremediation (microorganisms), thermal desorption (heat treatment) and soil washing, which uses water. The building is designed to enable synergies, i.e. in yielding and distributing waste heat between the three strategies. The public and laboratory spaces are connected to these synergetical cycles and profit from the decontamination facilities.



Sound visualisation of urban machine noises. Sample collected in January 2023, Berlin-Kreuzberg.

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The Scanner: A dynamic decontamination tent dragged from a wall-like structure with visor-like elements. As the building is spanning the site's width, it becomes a connector of the surrounding's two fenced-off sides.





Its second level further serves as a viewing platform of the decontamination processes: The structural necessities become inhabited and accessible. As the remediation time for clearing the whole site is calculated to be 542 days, the structure becomes a temporary installation of understanding: not only between the formerly disconnected surroundings, but also between humans and machines – and both their relationships to the Boden.



Sound visualisation of truck and excavator noises. Sample collected in November 2022, Berlin-Neukölln.

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The third design act revolves around the reuse of the structural elements of the temporary Scanner: the former vertical columns as well as the visor windows. They become an accessible greenhouse for soil storage and phytoremediation. Four longitudinal data server arrays organise the space and are regulating the temperature in the greenhouse for optimal growth conditions of the remediating plants.



The former vertical structure with a height of 16 m is rotated and suspended from the sides of the existing soil storage pit. Three beams span the full width of 48 m, with the server racks constructed as hanging elements from the greenhouse roof. Pathways between the planting rows are emphasised to be used and visited by the public.



Sound visualisation of contaminated ecology noises. Sample collected in January 2023, Berlin-Buch / Hobrechtsfelde (Brandenburg).

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Vision of the post-contaminated landscape with the Granary as a machine of loving grace overlooking a biodiverse garden of cohabitation.



The landfilling of the former freight station is kept yet excavated to have an underground level for delivery, soil reception and mechanical treatment. Also the Garden, the contaminated greenhouse, is embedded into the floor. This means that after the sites decontamination, only the high part of the building will be visible, whereas the other function blur with their surroundings.



Sound visualiation of a sand toad's call. Sample collected in January 2023, Berlin-Charlottenburg/Grunewald.

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The facade of the Granary is designed to allow for filtering, inspired by the filter screens of decontamination machines: While the facade panels are filtering light for the laboratories adjacent to them, they also serve as a boundary between the labs and the public balconies which go around the silos in a circular way.







Sound visualisation of playful human voices. Sample collected in January 2023, Berlin-Charlottenburg/Grunewald.

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