

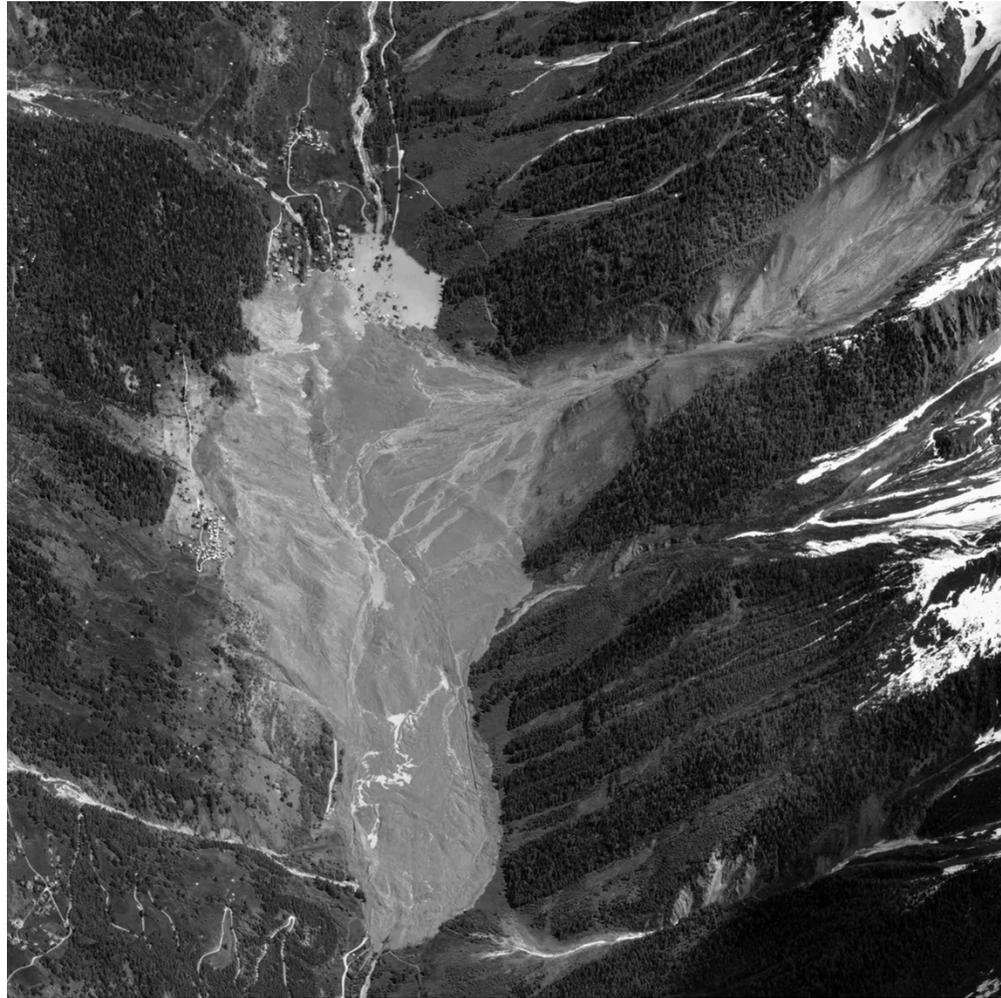
WATER CULTURE LANDSCAPES IN THE ALPS
TOWARD MORE-THAN-HUMAN FUTURES IN THE LUMNEZIA VALLEY

A MASTER THESIS BY JULI OSUSKY

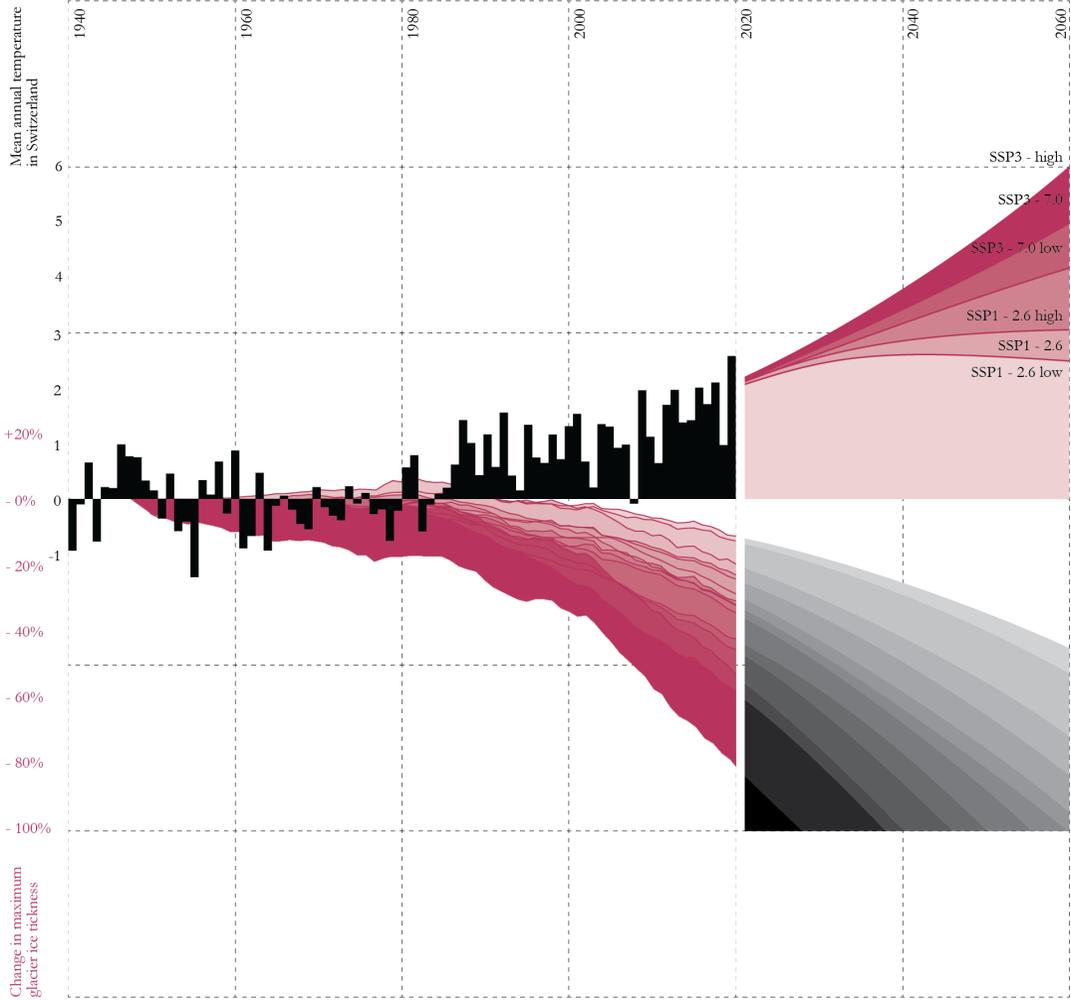
Erratic Nature



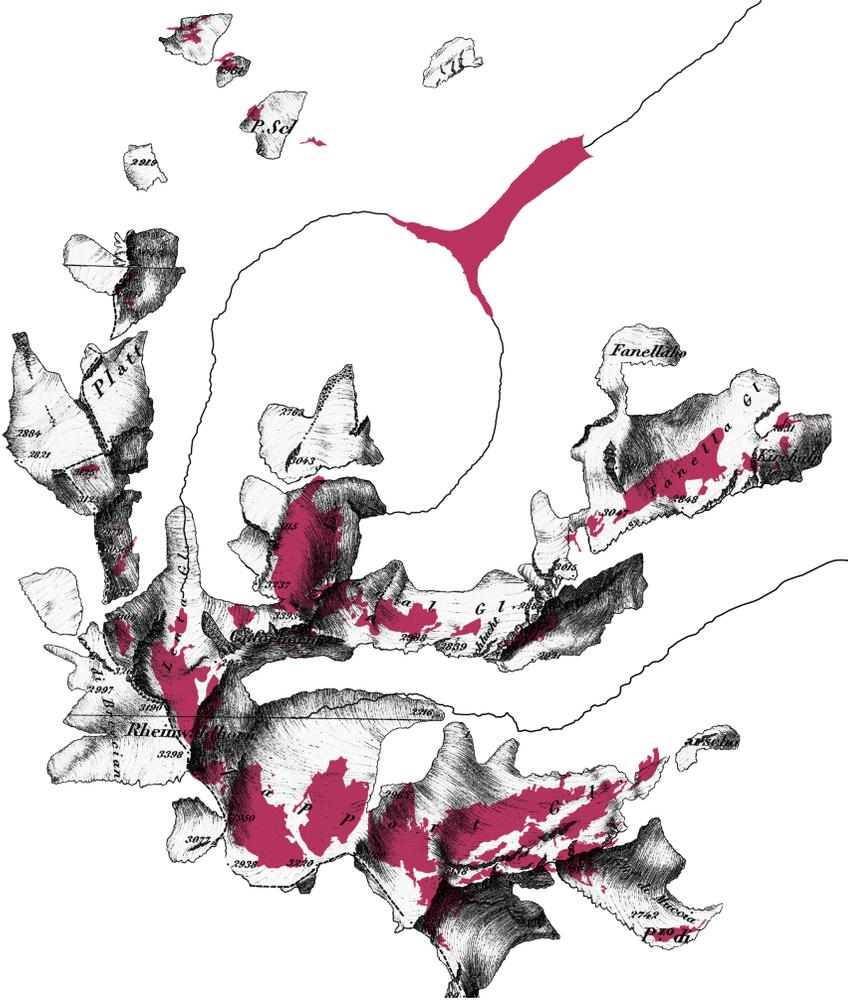
Erratic Nature



glacier melt and rising temperatures



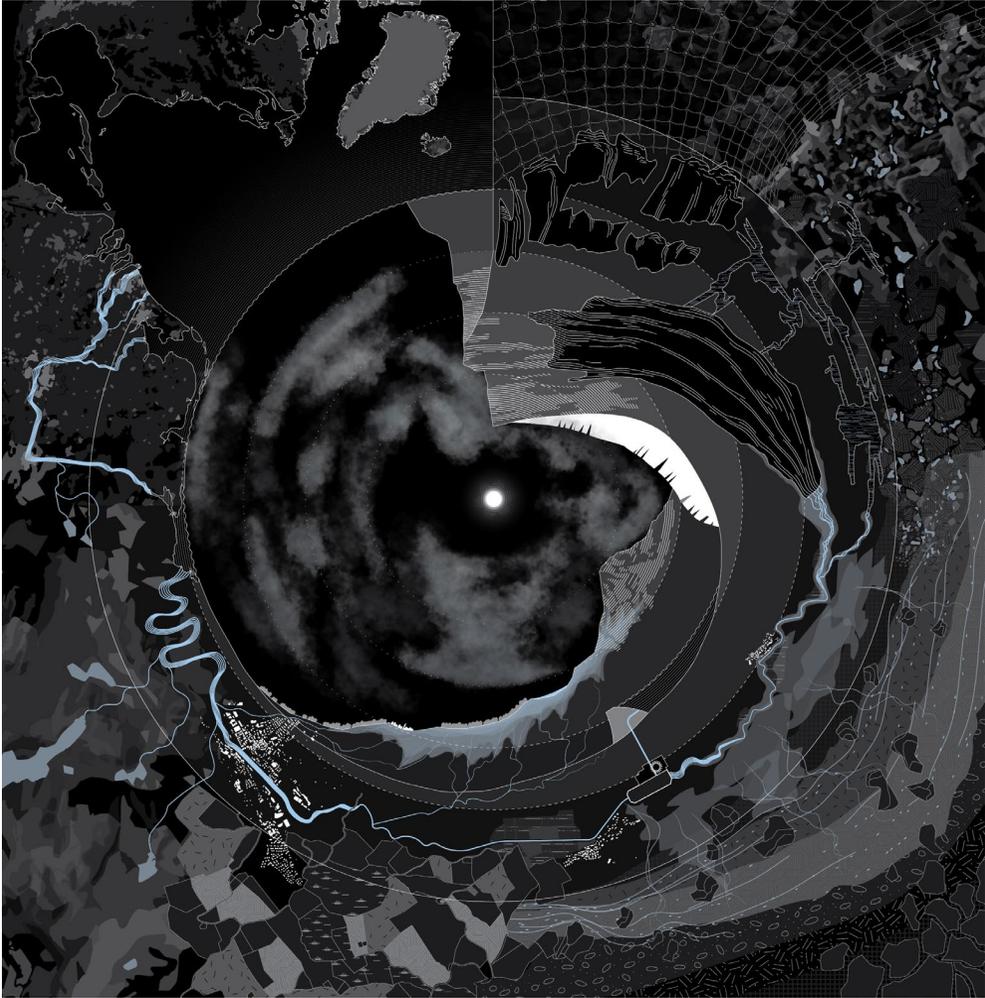
glacier melt and rising temperatures



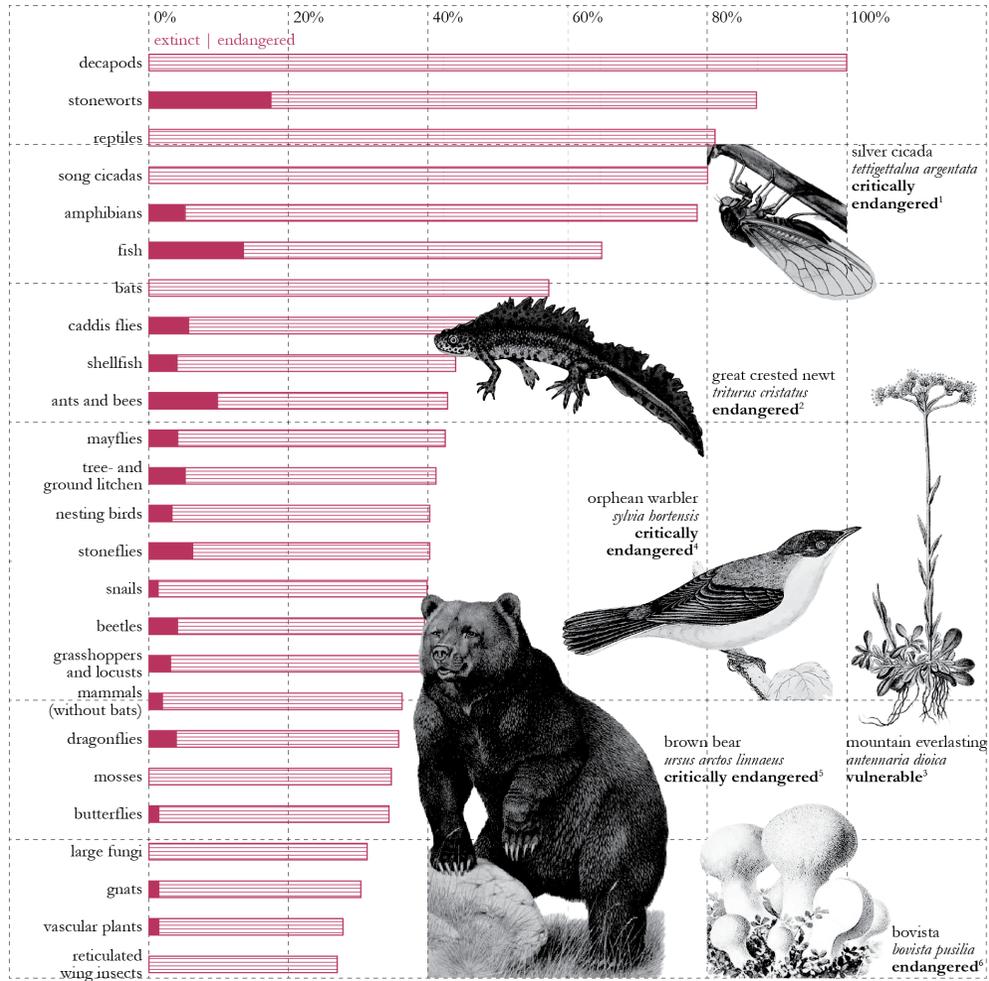
the water tower of Europe



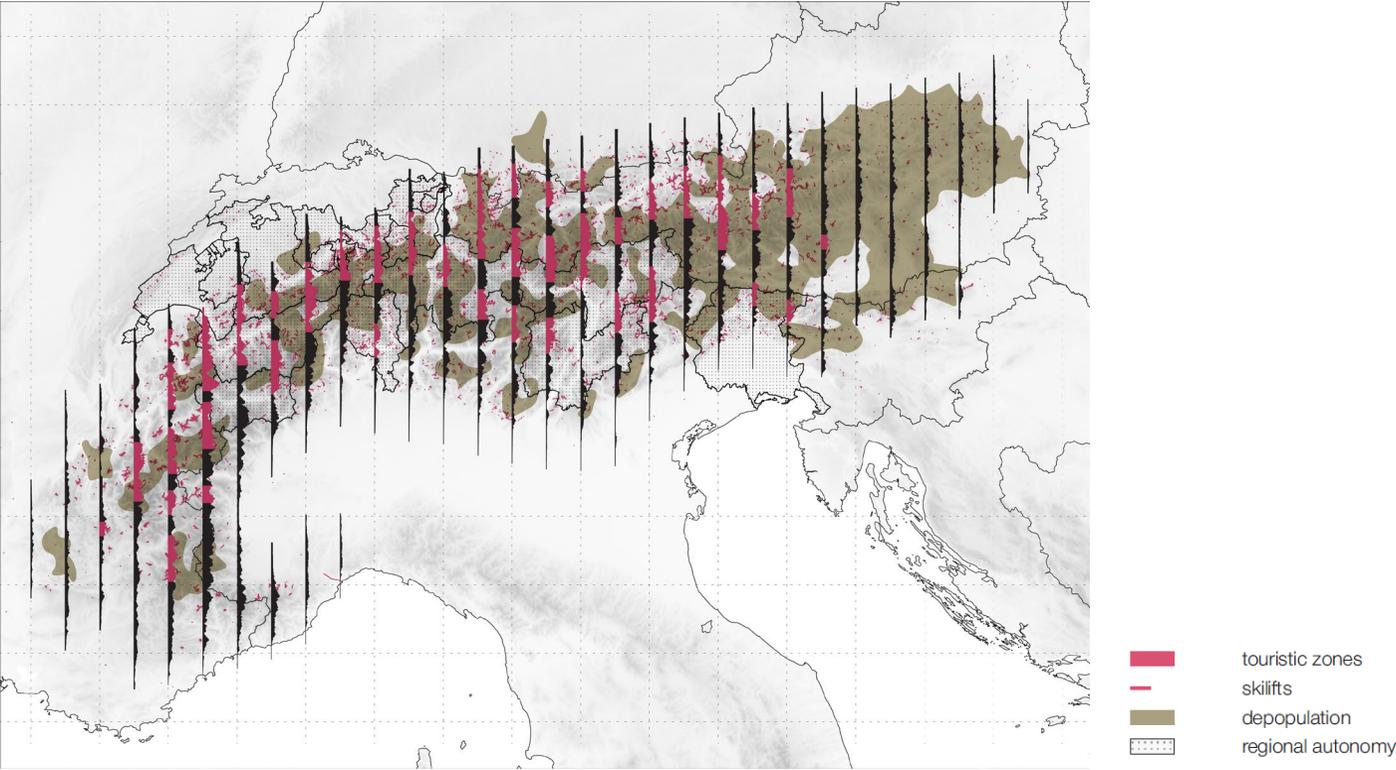
Water shaping the territory



Biodiversity loss



repurposing of the Alpine space for tourism



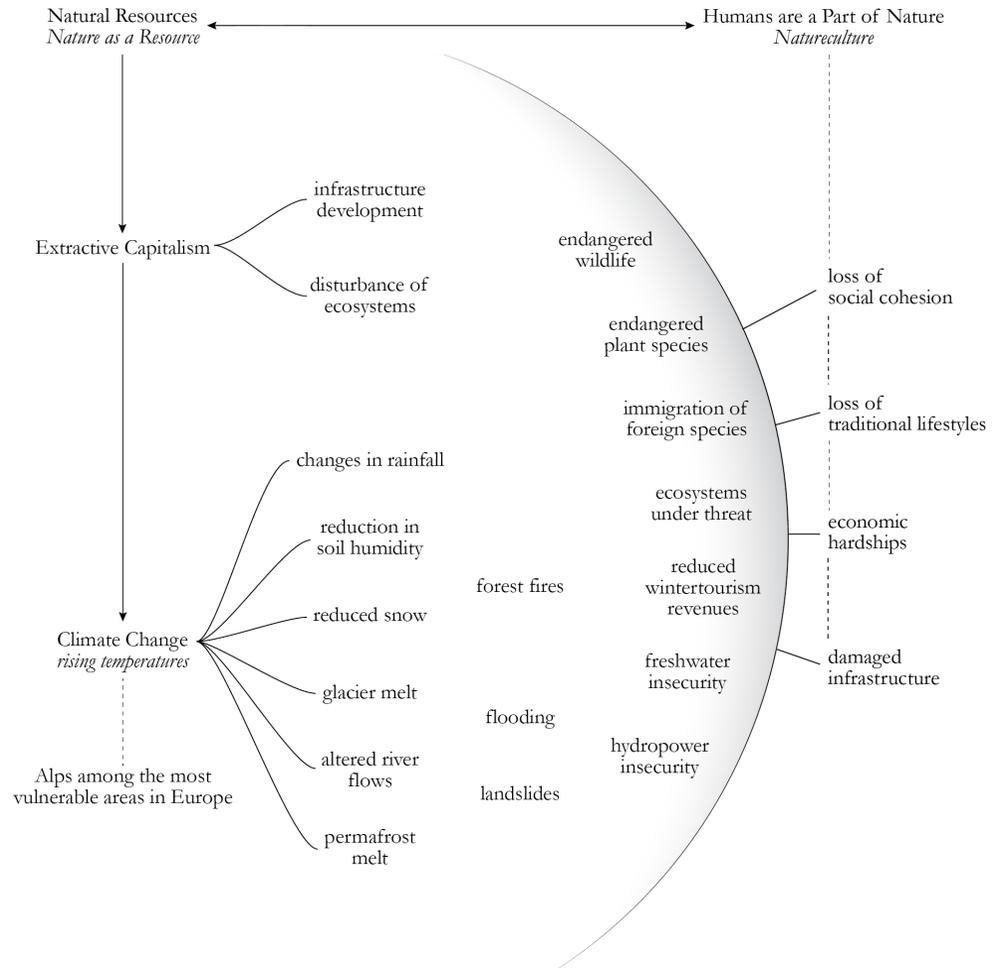
The Alps: A culture landscape



Me



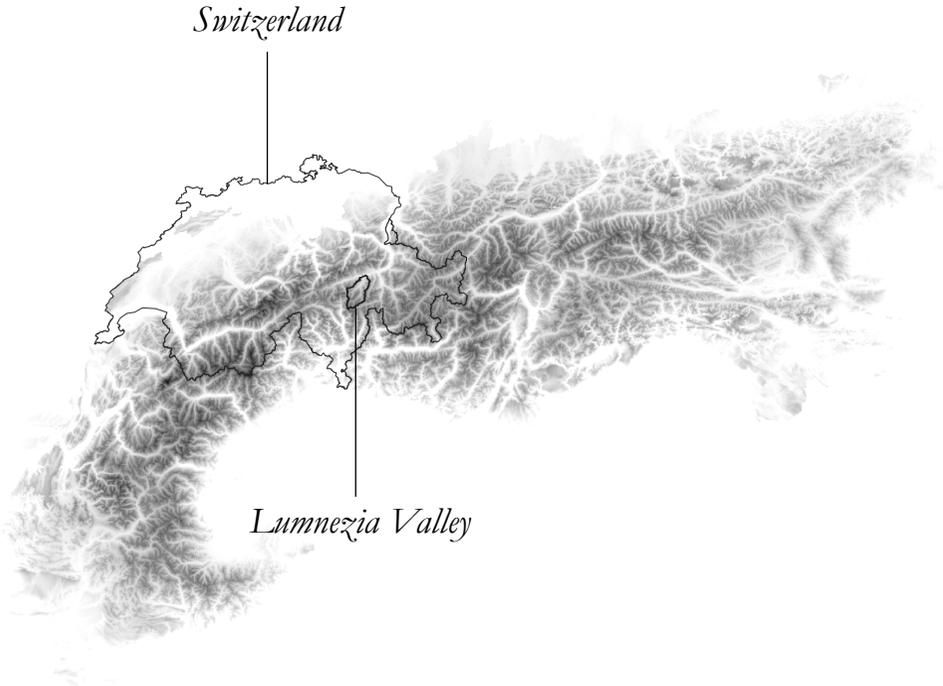
Problem field



Problem Statement

The Alps are undergoing **profound transformations** across ecological, social, and spatial dimensions. These changes manifest across three interrelated layers of territory: as *material artifact*, as *relational network*, and as a *designed construct*. Together, they illuminate the **overlapping crisis** of climate change, biodiversity loss, and the **erosion of agency** of local human and non-human actors under the anthropocentric paradigm of modern capitalism.

The Site



Research Question

How can more-than-human communities in the Alps reclaim their **agency** under changing climatic and hydrological regimes through **embracing water** in the **culture landscape** to take an active role in their own **refuturing**, illustrated by the case study of the Lumnezia Valley, Switzerland?



Locating the Self
Part I

Territorialization (*def.*)

The production of territory as a **tool of socio-spatial control** emerging through the interplay of **power, labour**, and **semiotic meaning** (Raffestin & Butler 2012). In Actor Network Theory, territorialization is the assembling of territory through **dynamic relations** between **human** and **non-human** actors.

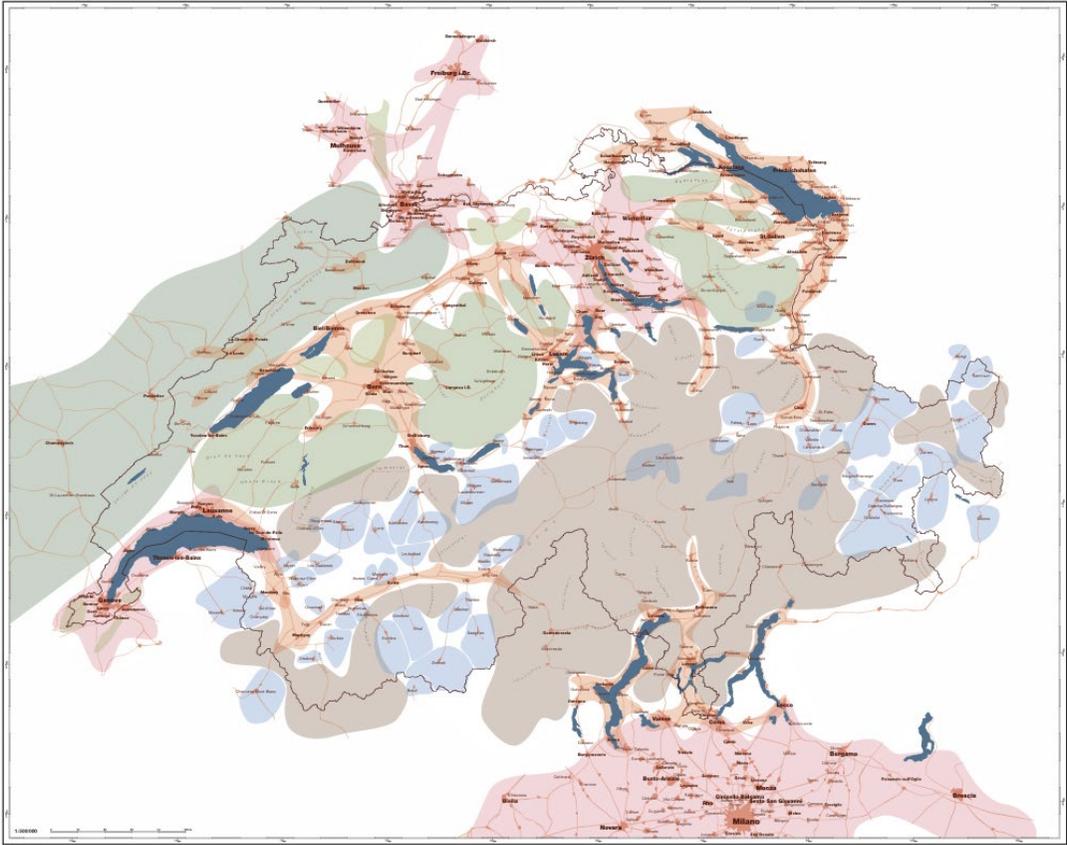
Futuring (*def.*)

Non-innocent imagination of futures, as a design practice. Futuring calls to attention the **privilege** of those who can articulate futures over those who can't. It acknowledges the power of **ontological design**.

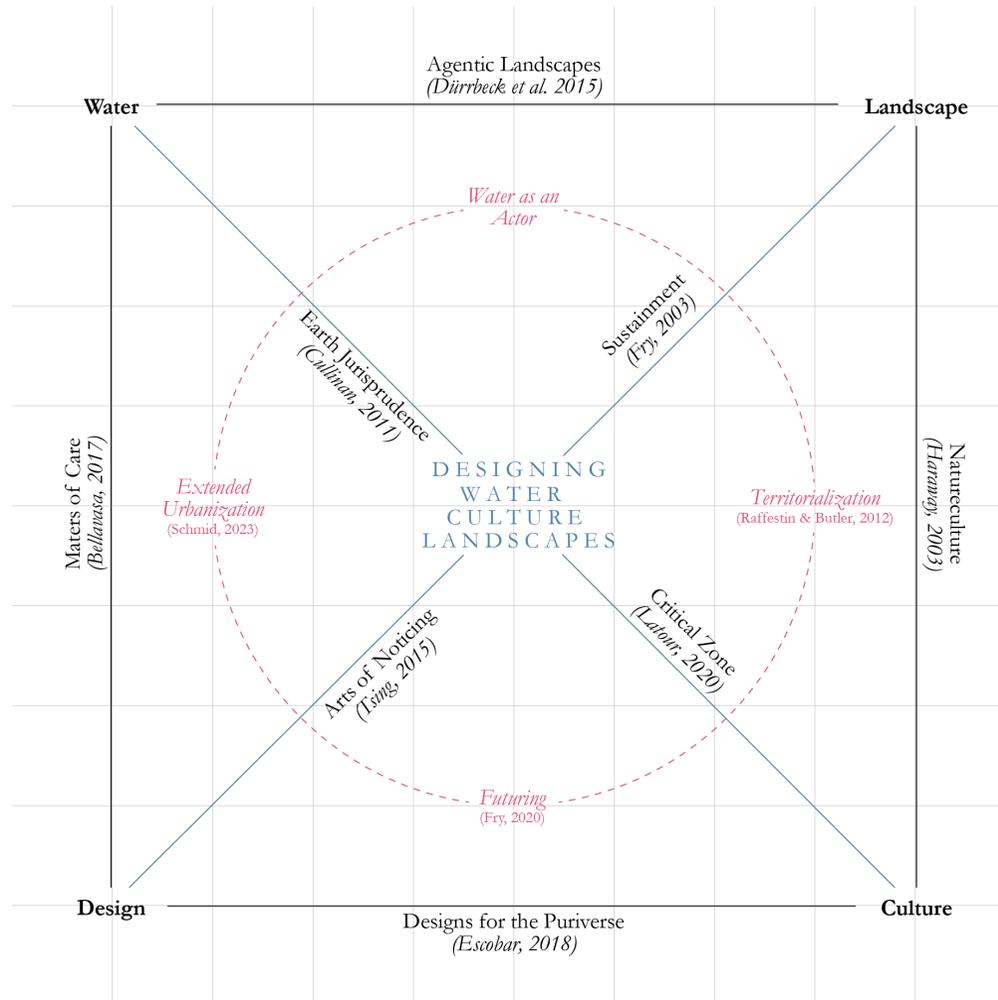
Extended Urbanization (*def.*)

The **operationalization** of the global hinterlands for core urban functions through the material **production of urban space**, the production of **territorial regulations**, and the production of **urban experiences** in everyday life (Schmid, 2023).

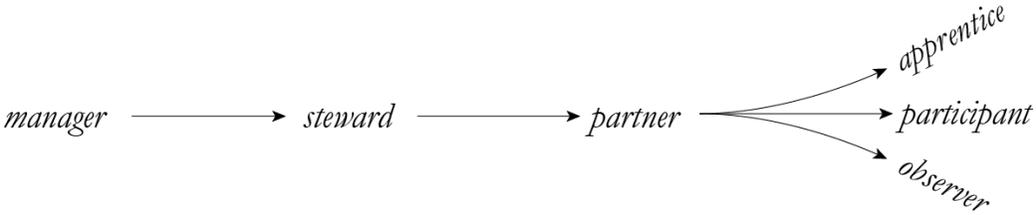
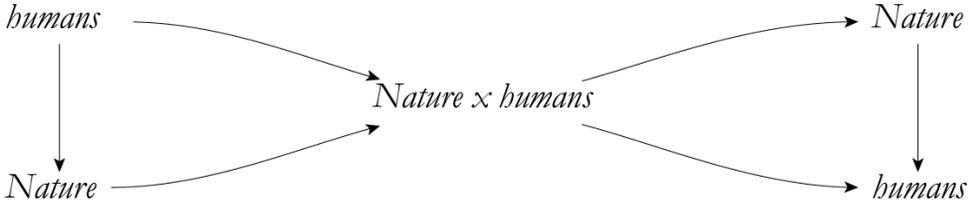
Switzerland: An Urban Portrait (2006) Diener et al., Birkhäuser



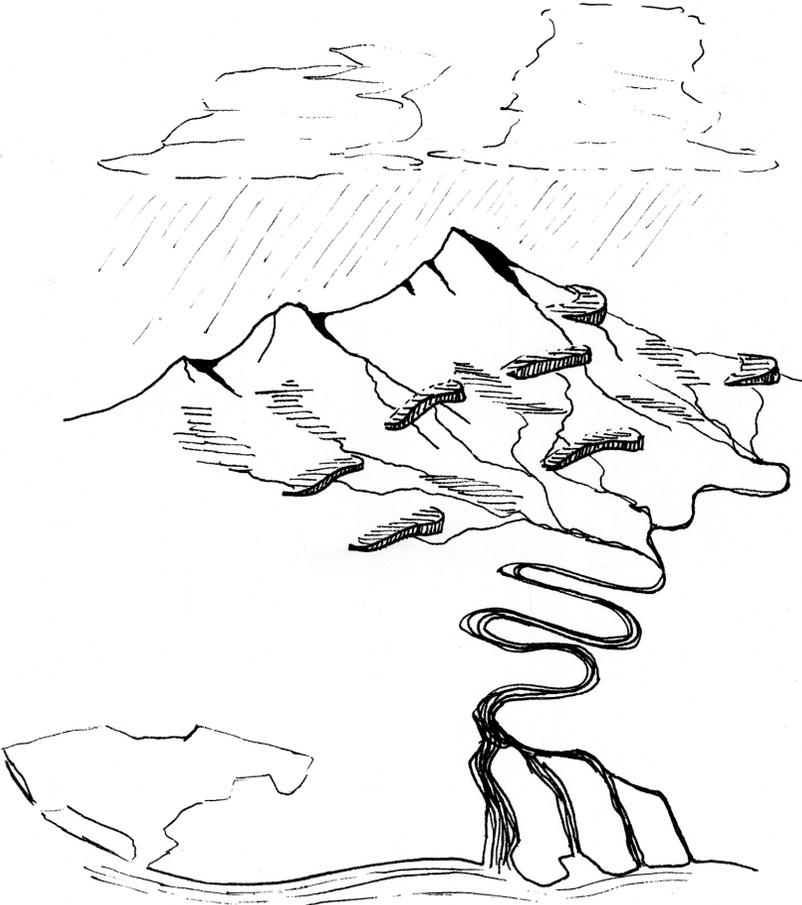
Theoretical Framework

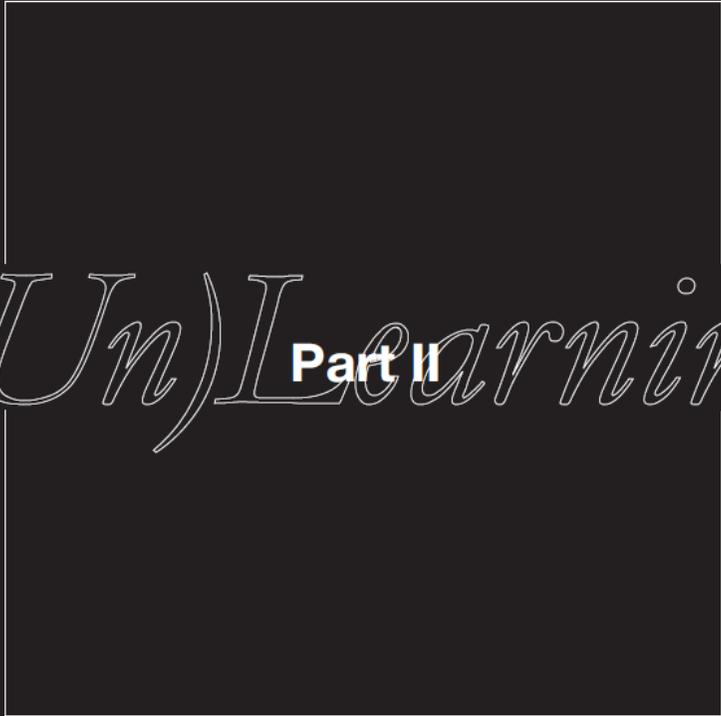


Nature as a resource – Nature as a partner



Proposition: The Water Garden as an act of Refuturing



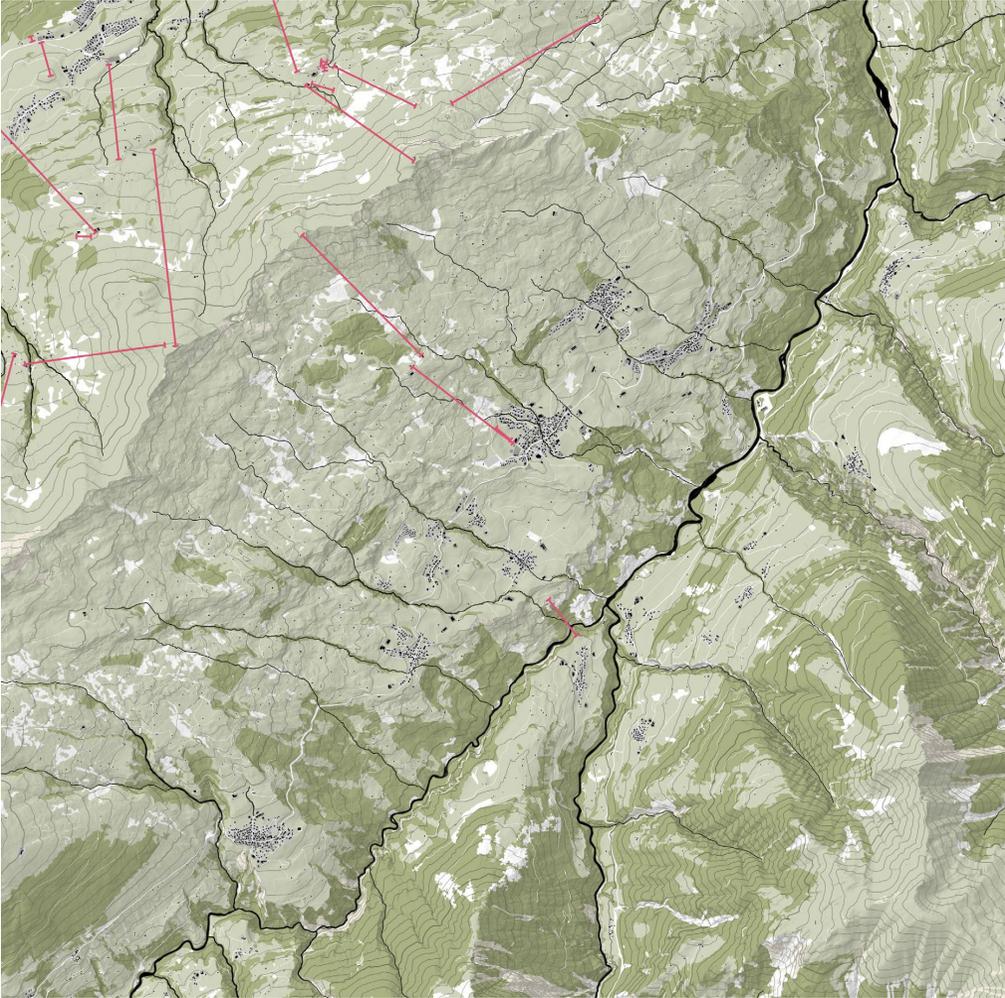


(Un)Learning **Part II**

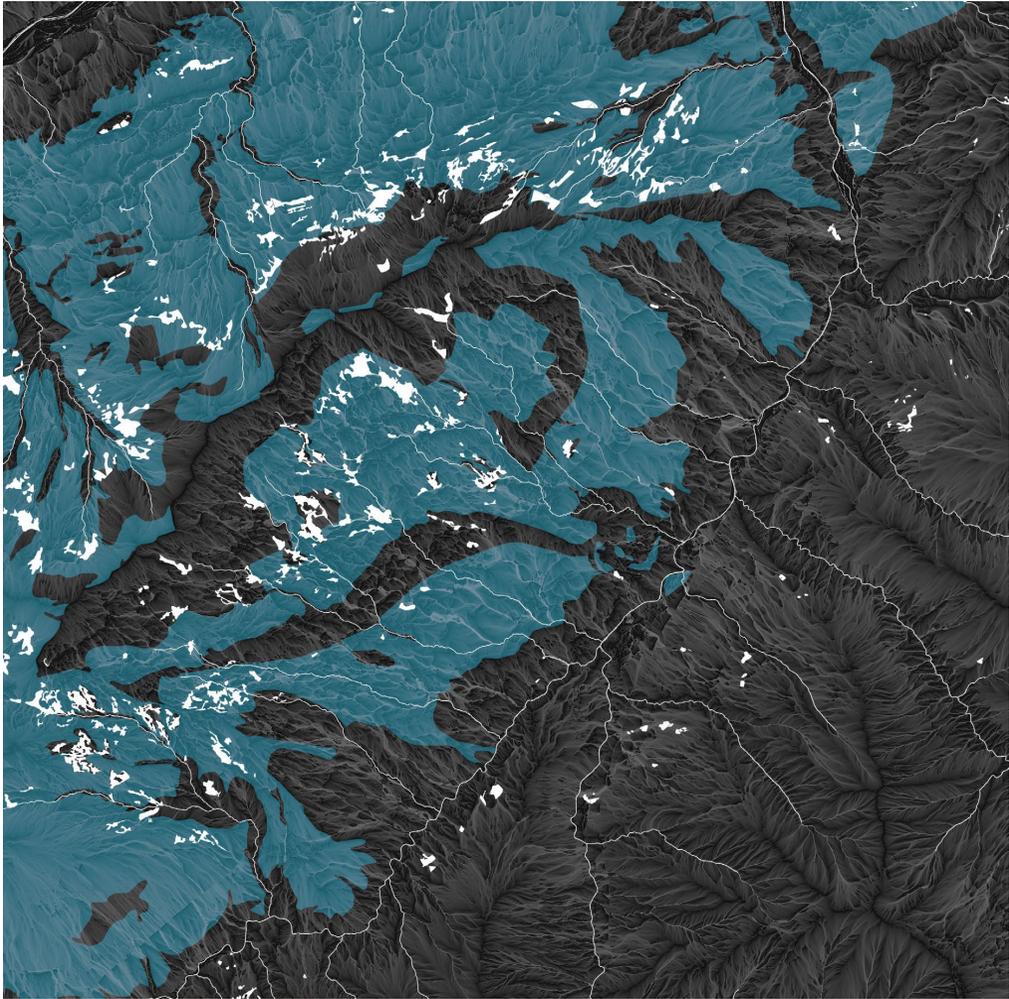
The Lumnezia Valley



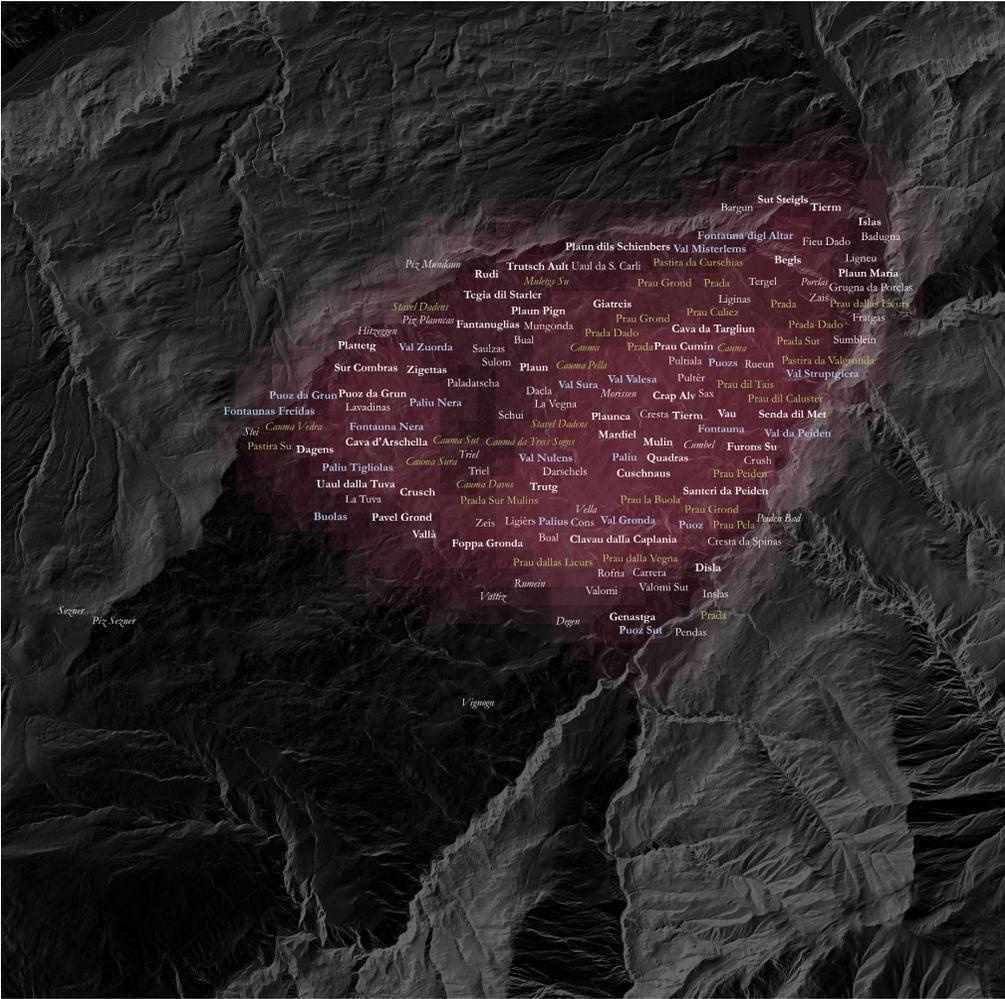
Lumnezia Valley – Pez Mundaun



Wetlands: Margins



Names and Identities: Memories of the Land



Unseen wetlands: Paliu Marscha



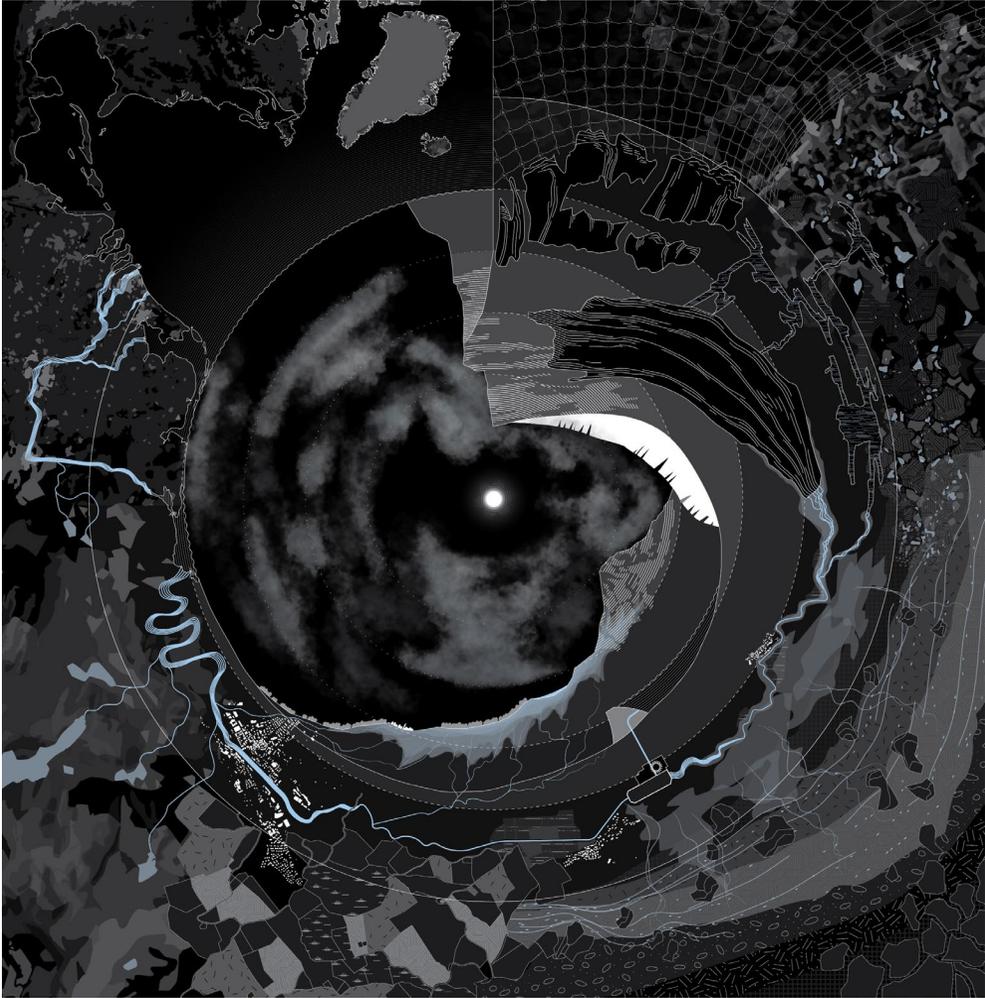
Unseen wetlands: Cauma Su



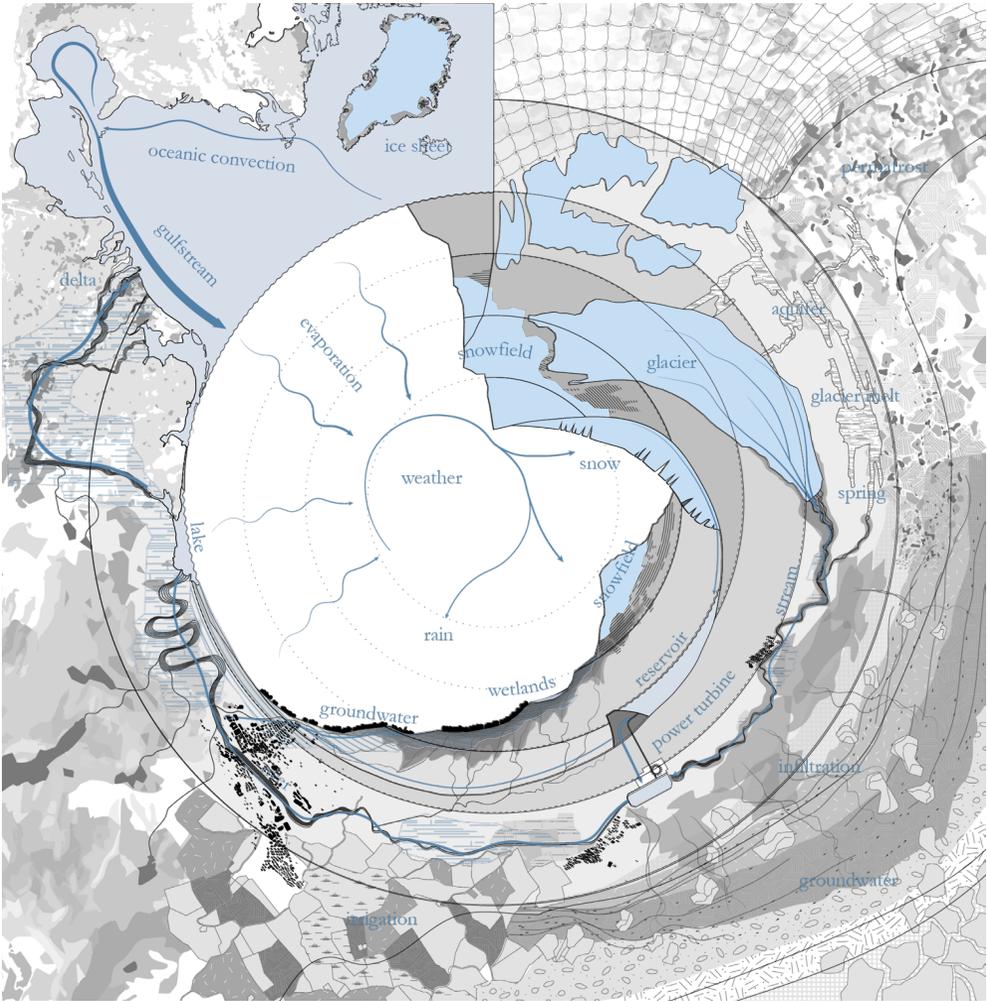
Reservoir for snow making



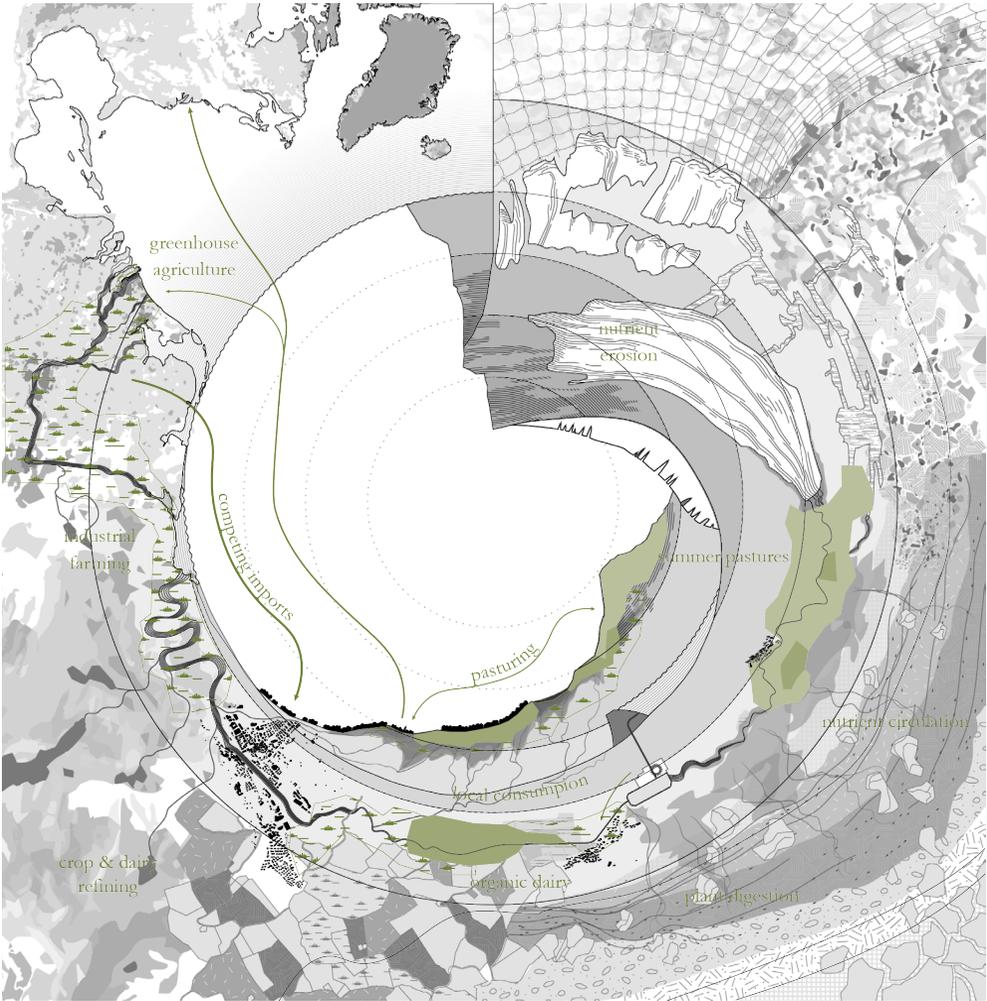
Systemic Section



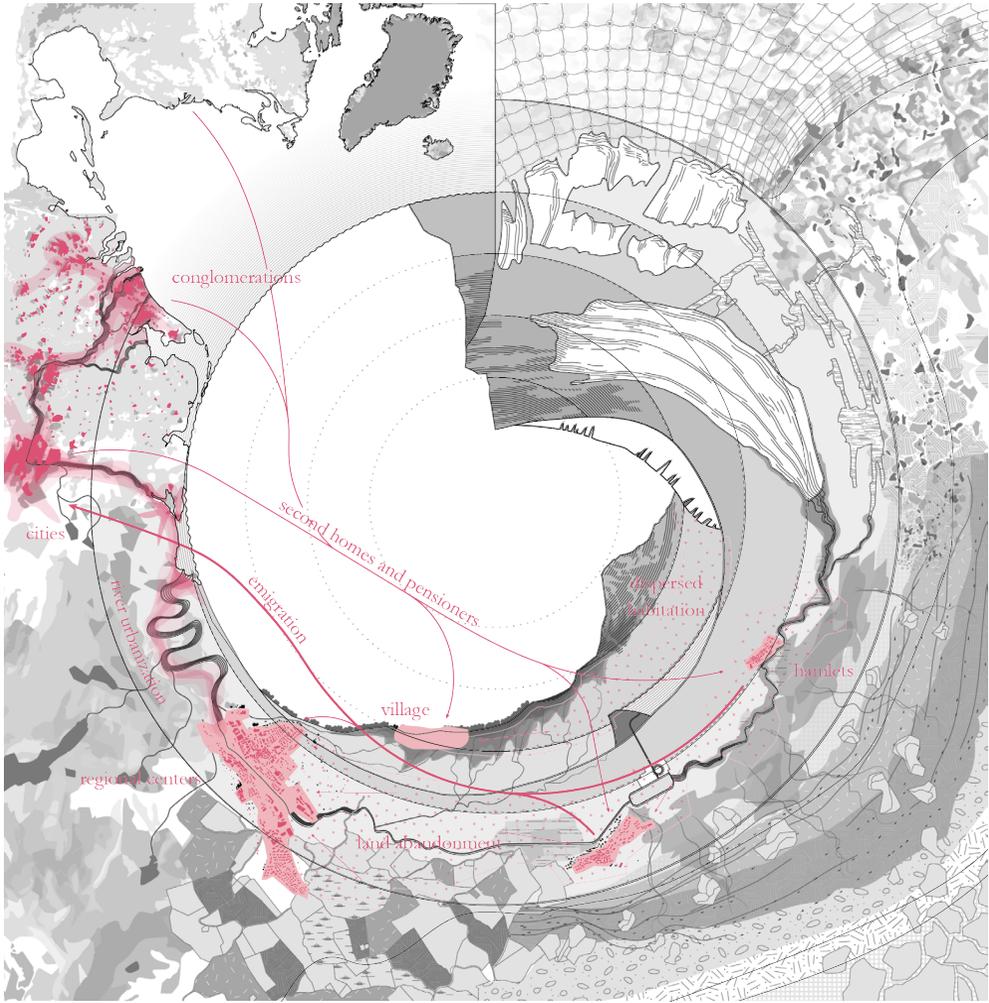
Systemic Section



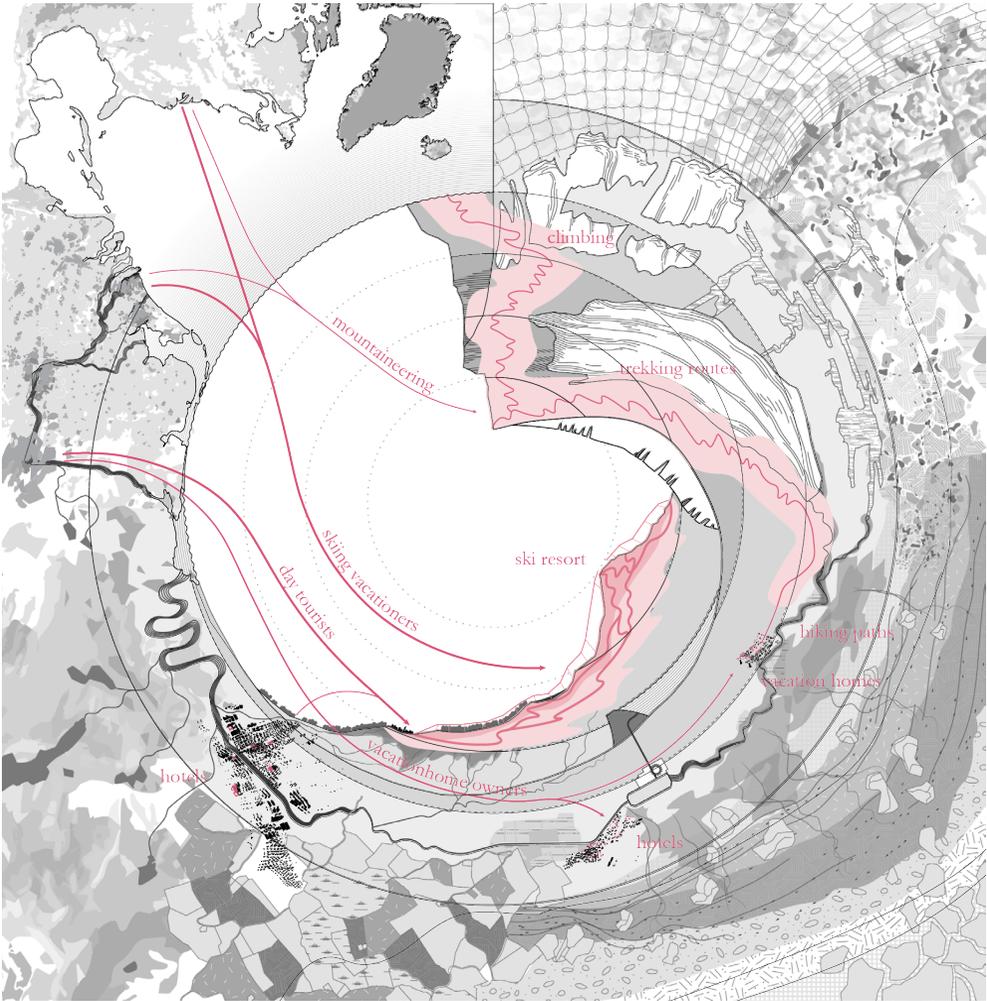
Systemic Section



Systemic Section



Systemic Section



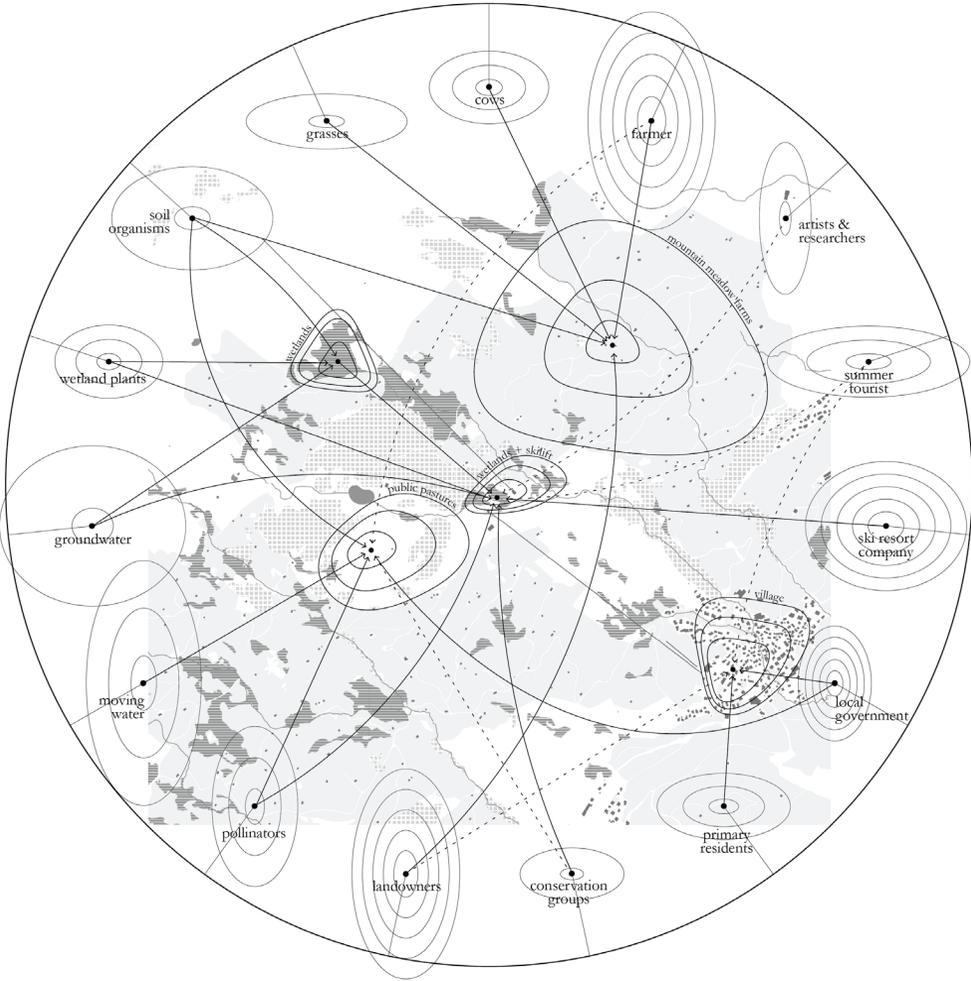
Seasonal Rhythms



A core group of Actors



Local Scale: a living landscape



Design Goals for Refuturing

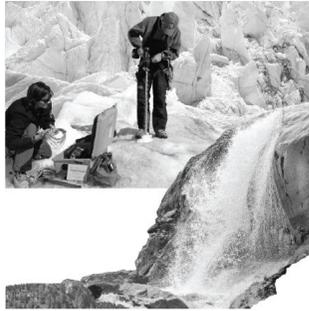


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5 πLQ^A^N, a bBΩ πOΩL / ε, π

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 9 OI AI %OΩL

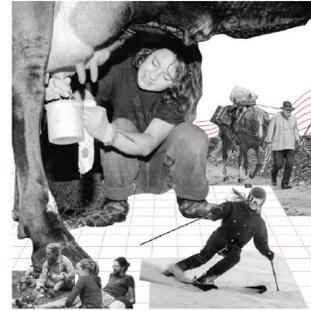
Design Measures for Refuturing



Design for
Hydro-Ecological Sustainment



Design for
Multispecies Care



Design for
Economic Regeneration



m1. restore and expand
wetlands



m3. grow small and
large ecological corridors



m5. design garden
transition zones



m7. create places for
community and exchange



m9. common seasonal
land uses



m2. restore and protect
flowing water



m4. protect niche
habitats and sanctuaries



m6. encourage physical
encounter

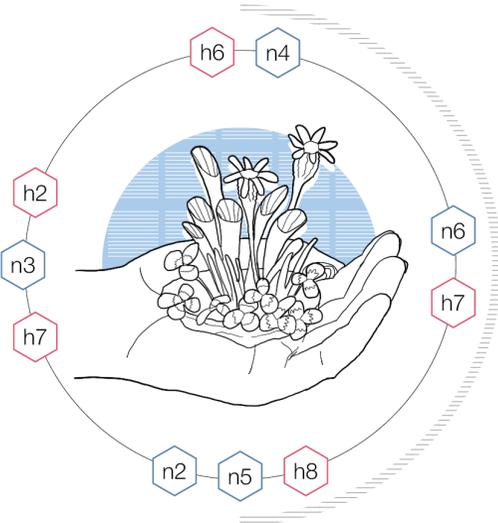


m8. narrate and listen
to the landscape

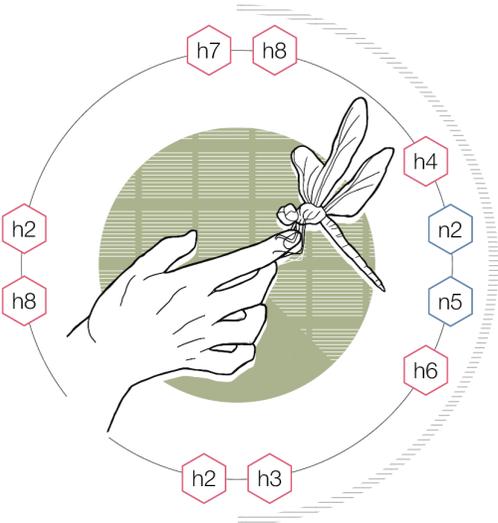


m10. develop soft and
adaptive interventions

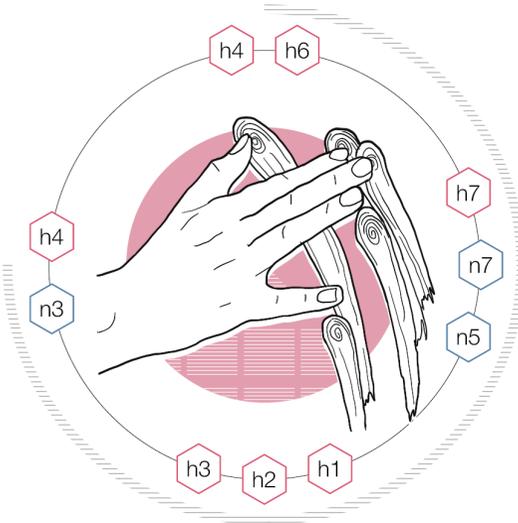
Design Measures for Refuturing



m4. protect niche habitats and sanctuaries



m6. encourage physical encounter

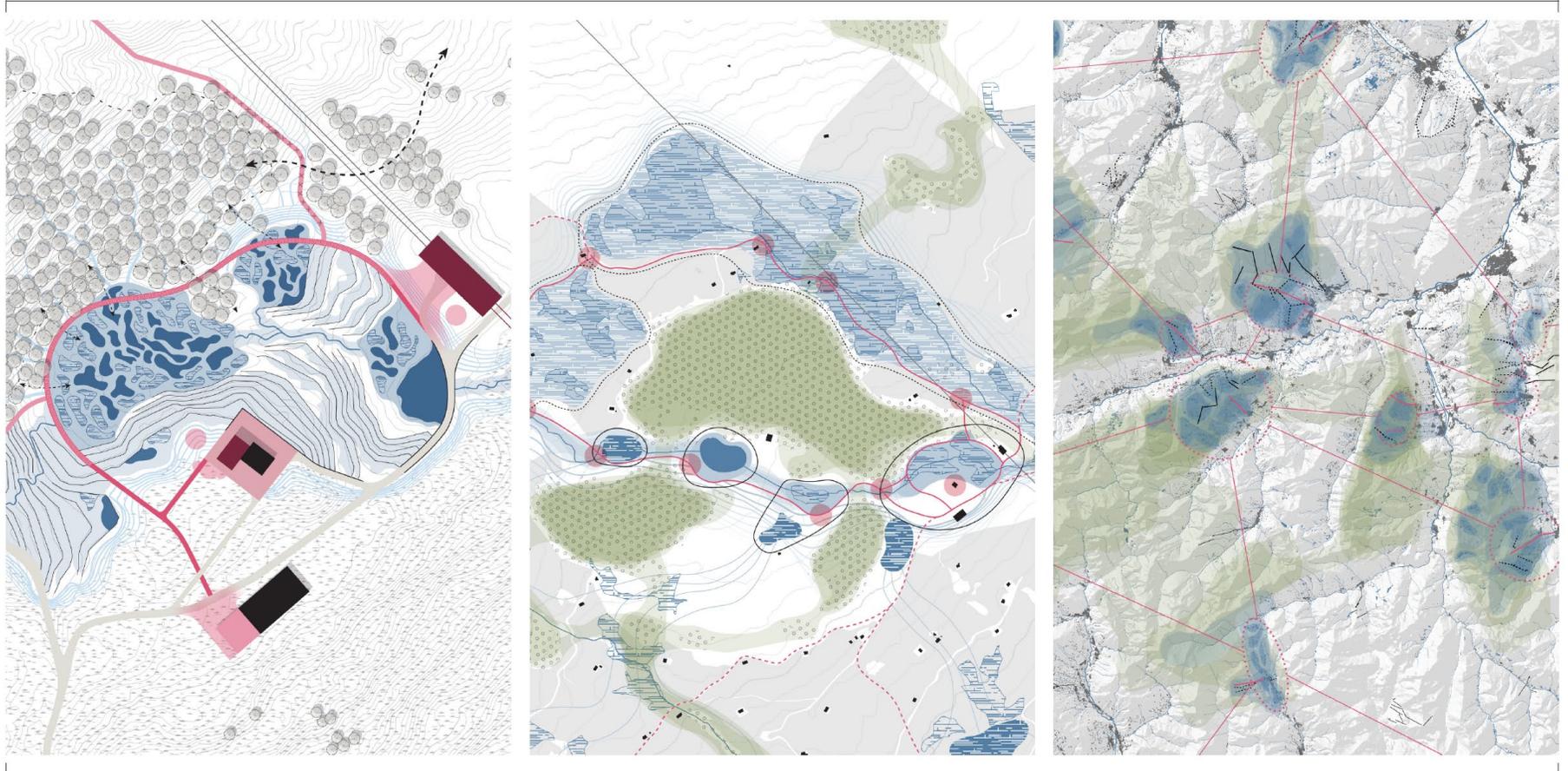


m4. develop soft and adaptive infrastructure



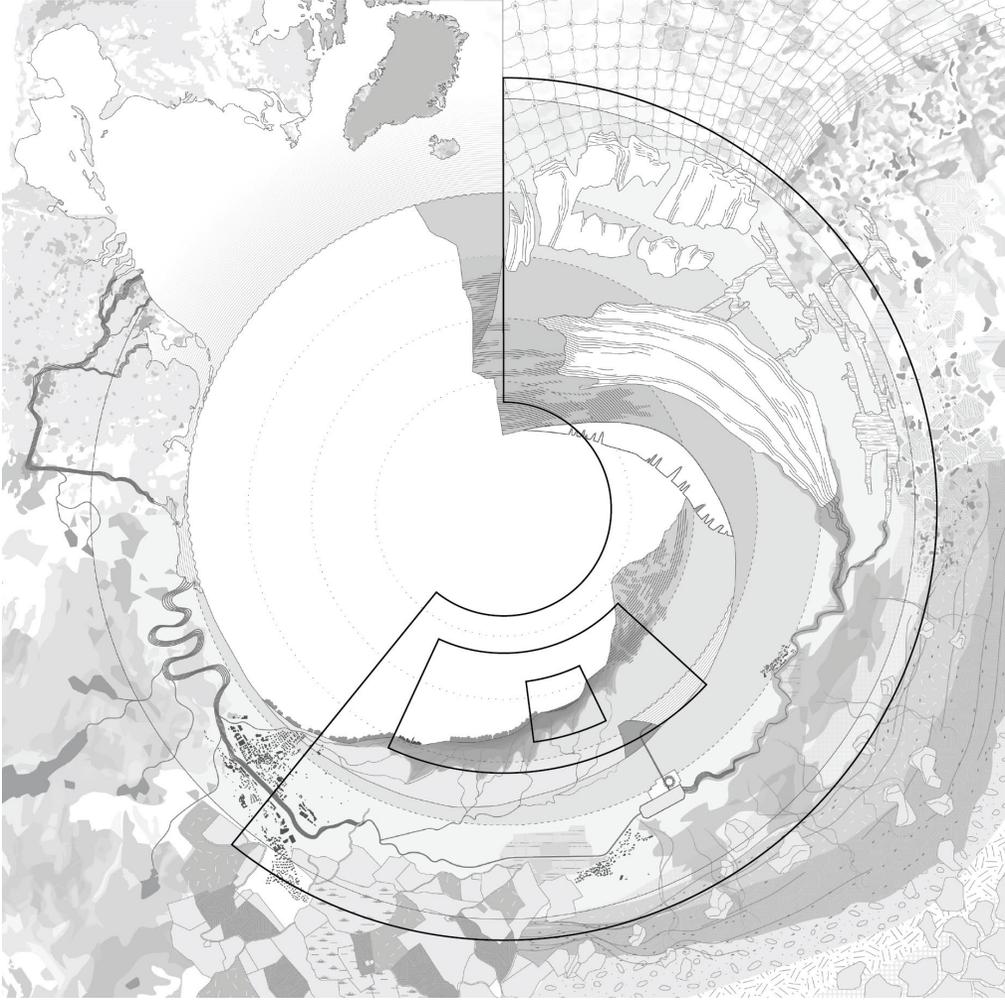
Walking—With
Part III

the W A T E R G A R D E N

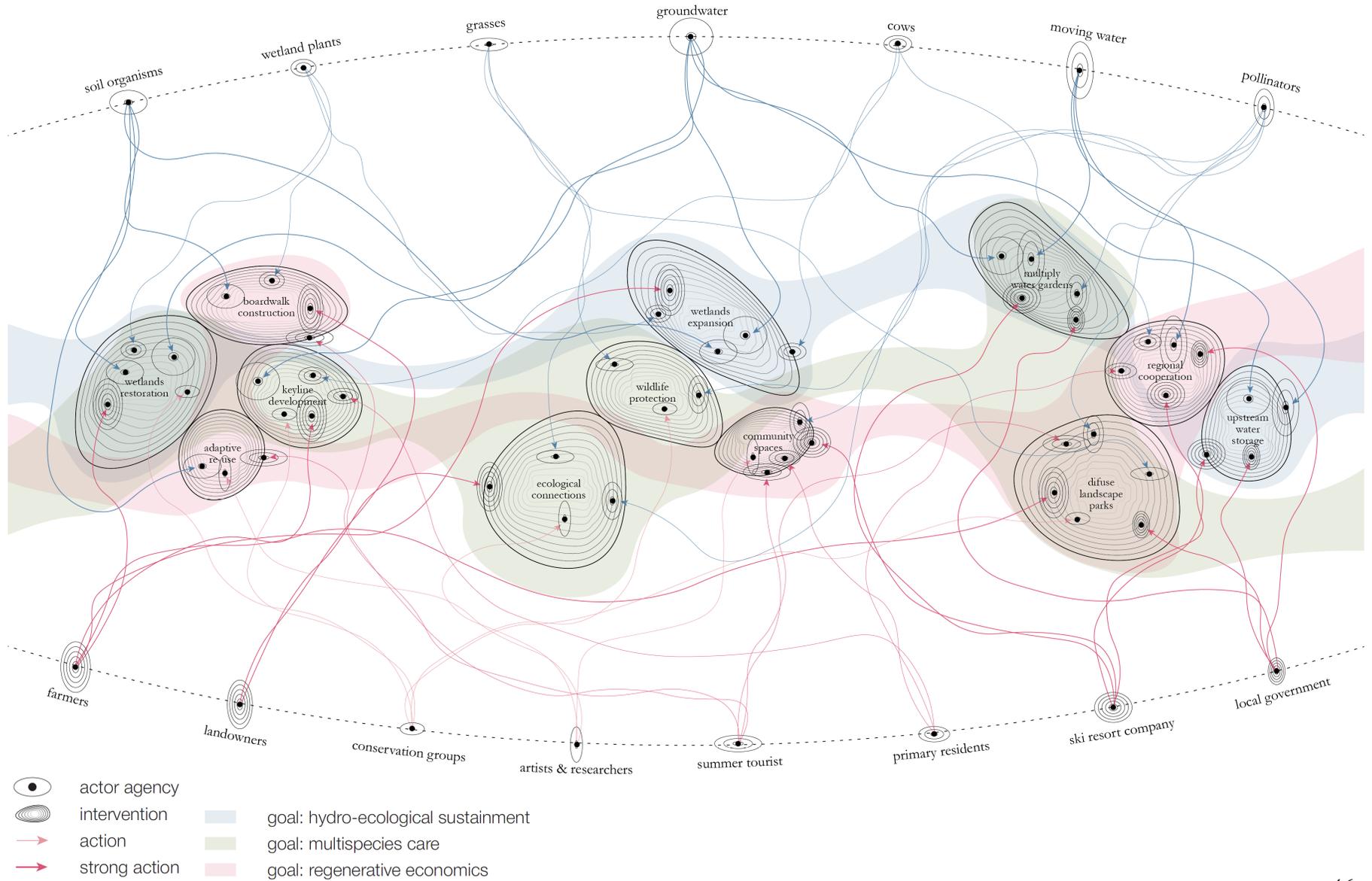


a PROPOSITION *for* REFUTURING

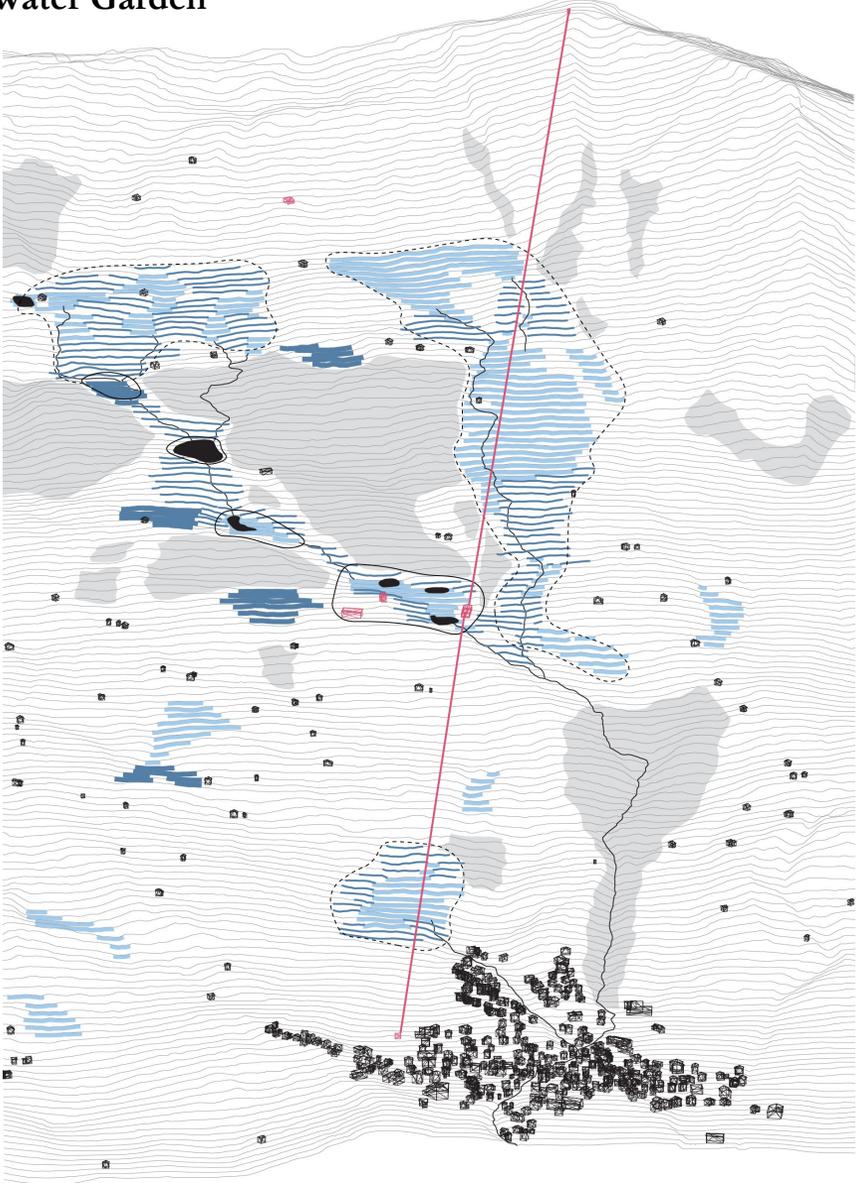
The Water Garden across scales



Entangled emergence



Local and Body Scales of the Water Garden



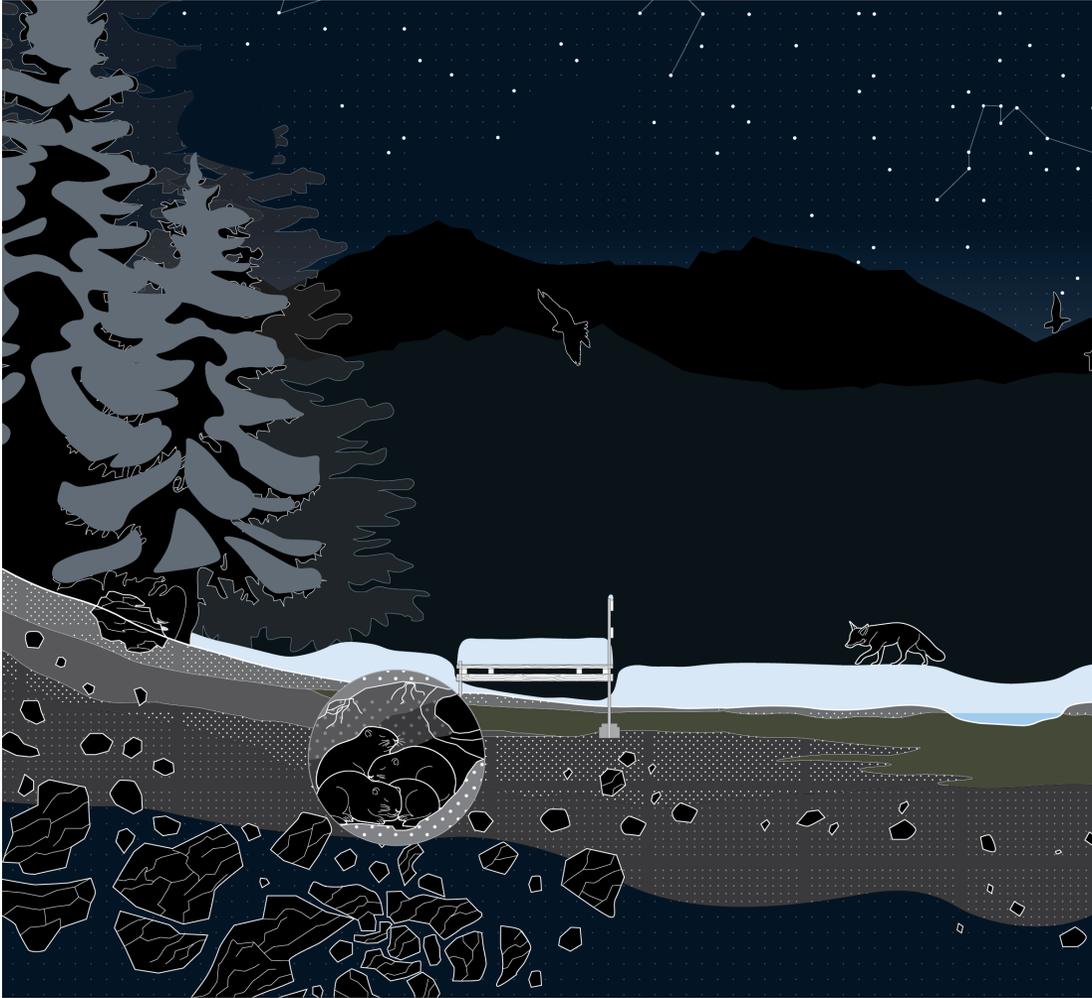
WATER CULTURE LANDSCAPES IN THE ALPS
THE WATER GARDEN
JULI OSUSKY



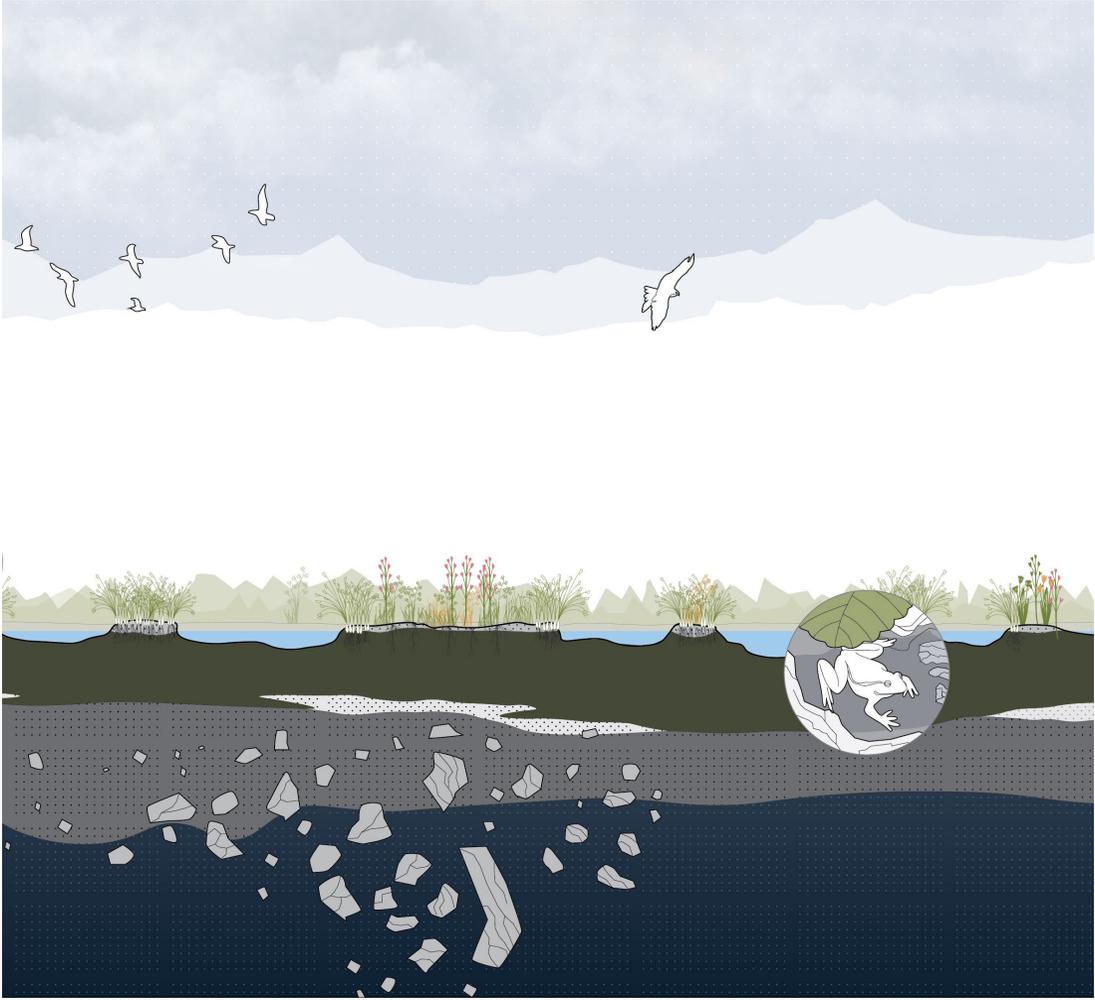
Intervention: Boardwalk



Intervention: Boardwalk



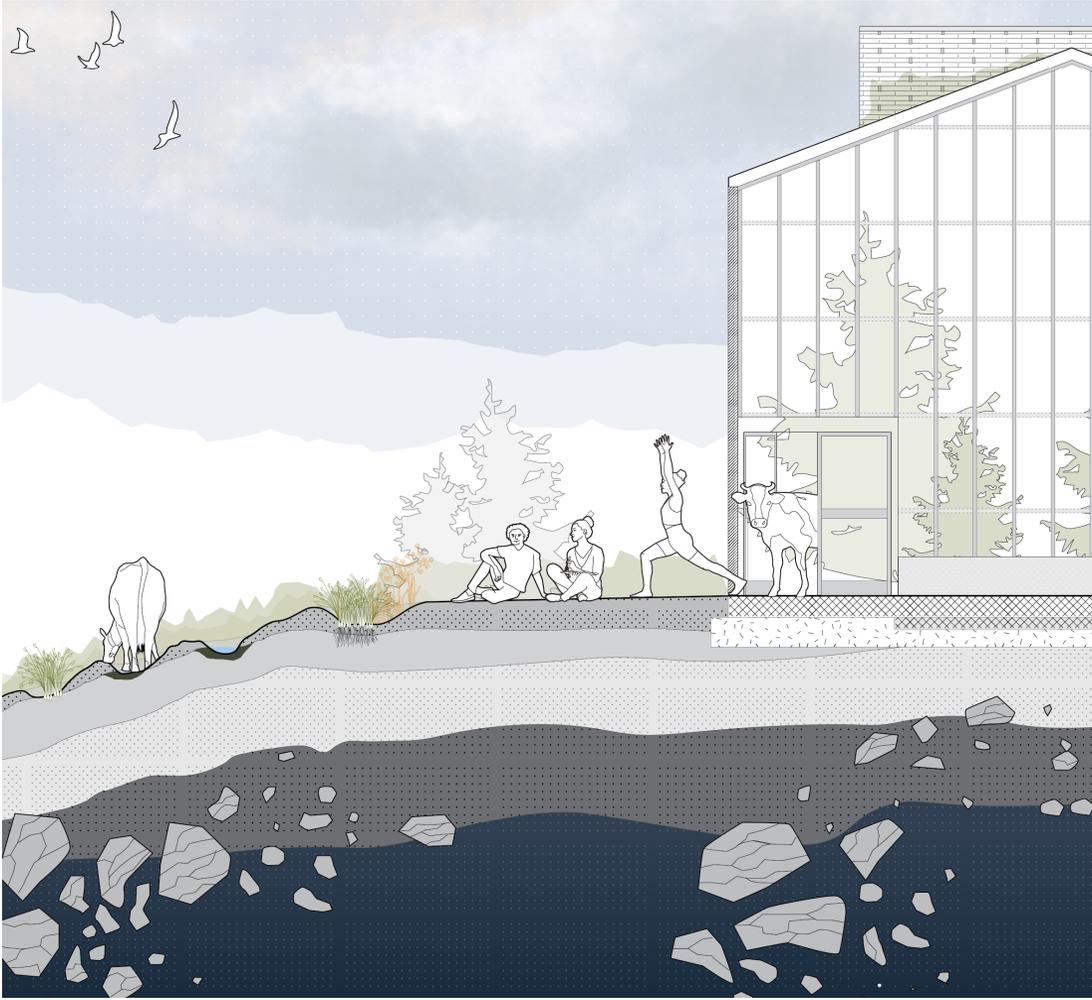
Intervention: Space for Nature



Intervention: Maintain and expand wetlands



Intervention: Multispecies community



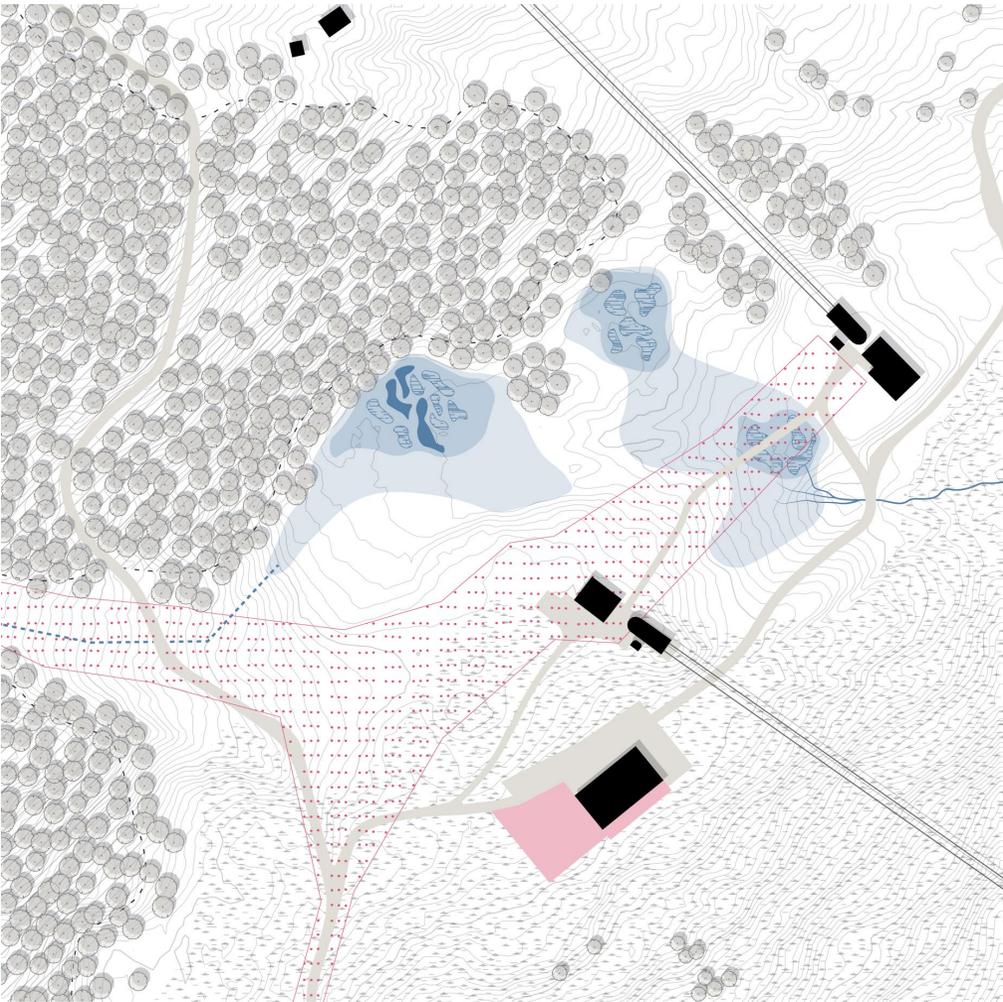
Intervention: Gardeners Cottage



Intervention: Gardeners Cottage



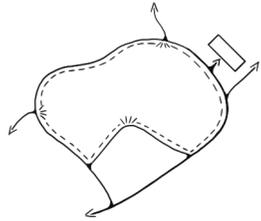
Body-Scale: Current Condition



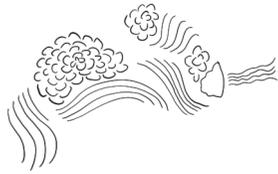
- standing water
- swamp condition
- peat wetlands area
- streams
- waterlogged soil
- keylines
- garden transition zones
- boardwalk
- footpaths
- building existing
- building addition
- community gathering area
- ecological corridor
- restricted wildlife protection area

50m
scale 1:2000

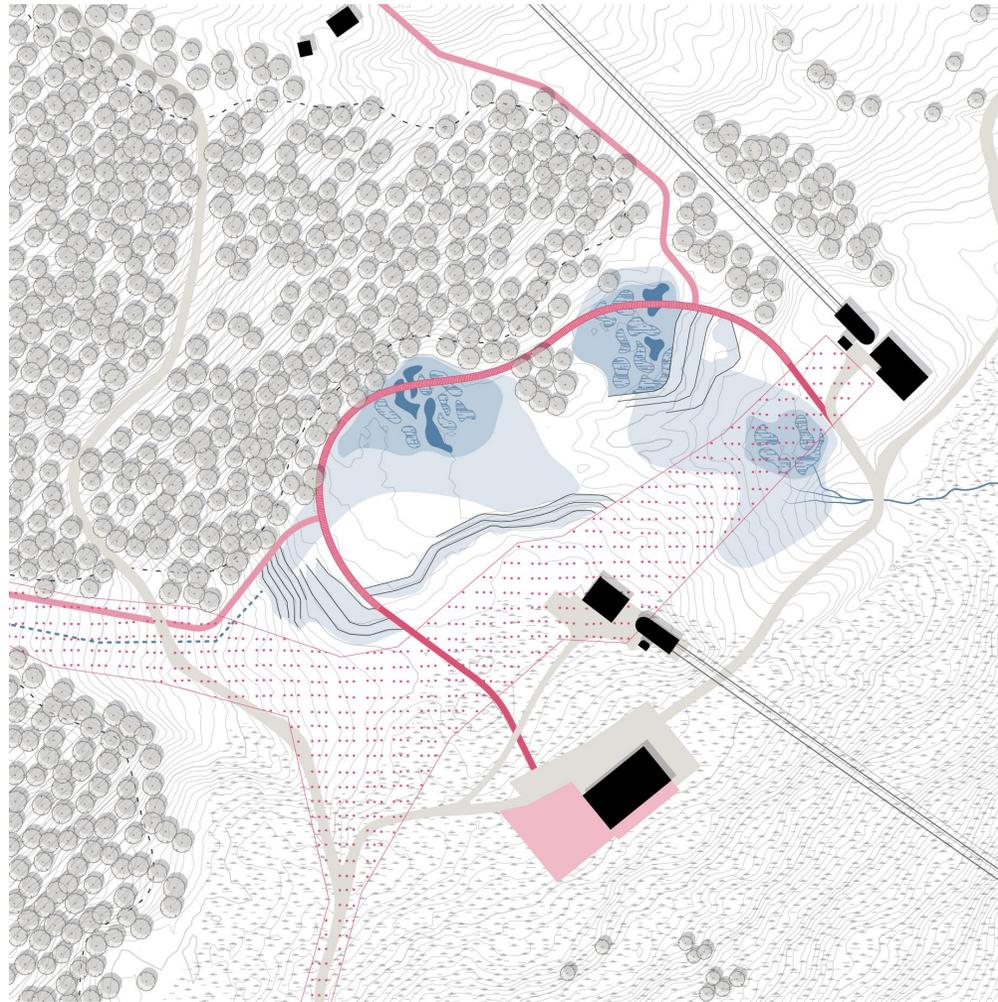
Body-Scale: Boardwalk & Keylines



Circular Boardwalk



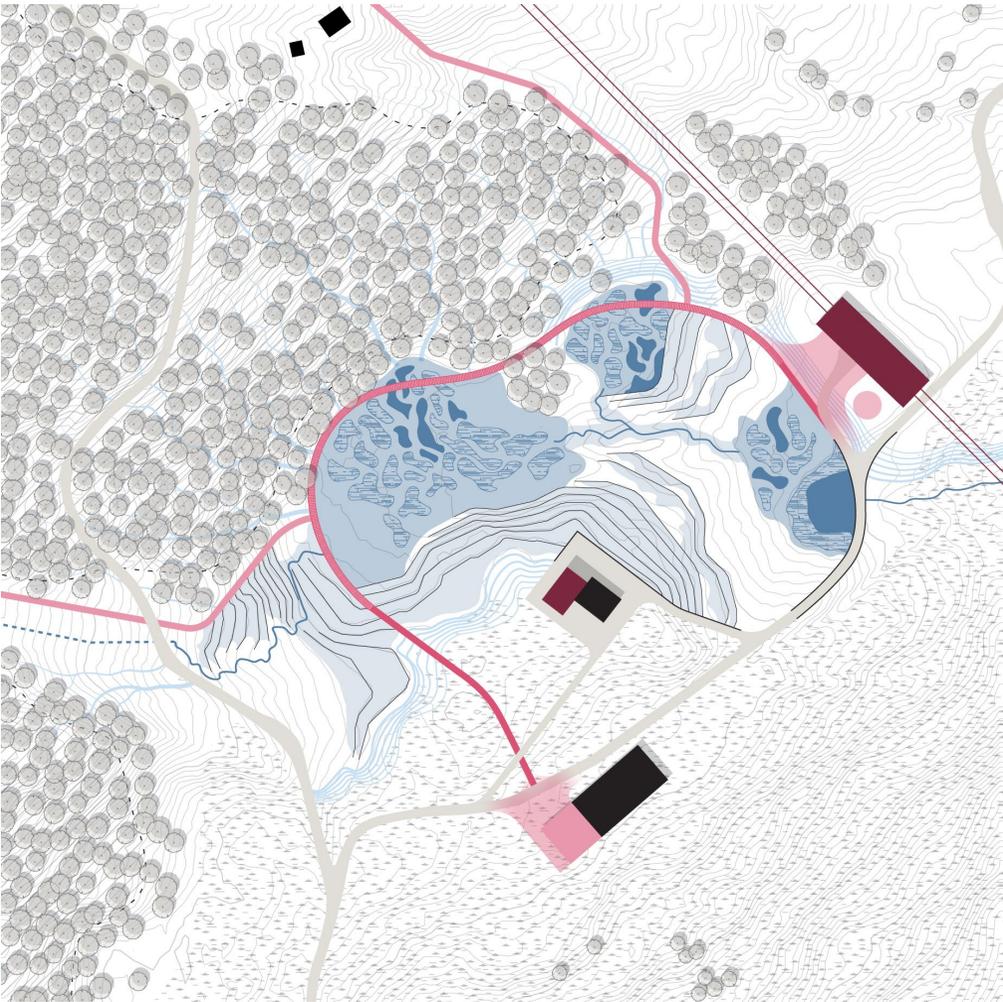
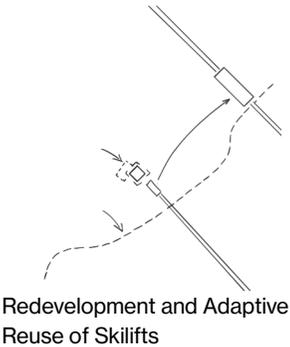
Landscape Care



- standing water
- swamp condition
- peat wetlands area
- streams
- waterlogged soil
- keylines
- garden transition zones
- boardwalk
- footpaths
- building existing
- building addition
- community gathering area
- ecological corridor
- restricted wildlife protection area

50m
scale 1:2000

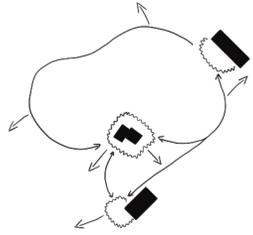
Body-Scale: Redevelopment of Infrastructure



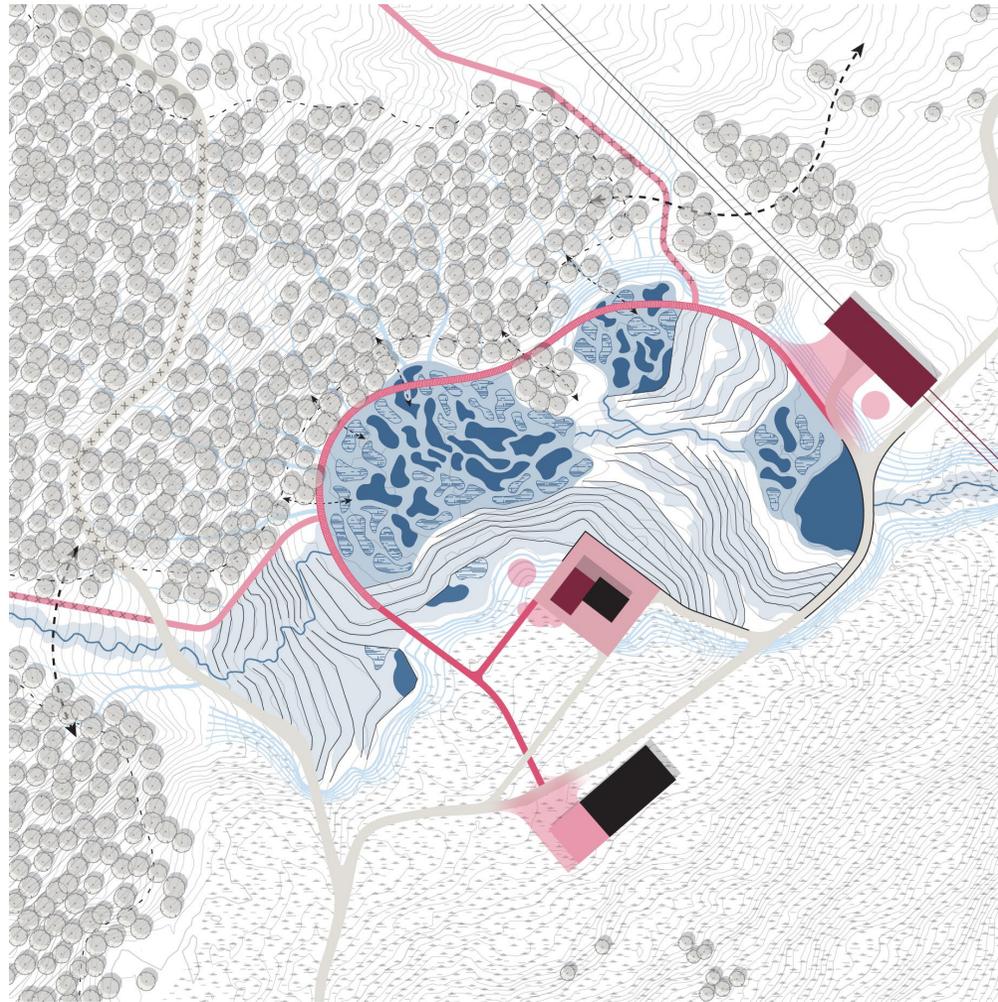
- standing water
- swamp condition
- peat wetlands area
- streams
- waterlogged soil
- keylines
- garden transition zones
- boardwalk
- footpaths
- building existing
- building addition
- community gathering area
- ecological corridor
- restricted wildlife protection area

50m
scale 1:2000

Body-Scale: Expansion and Maintenance



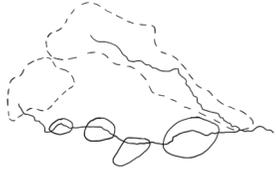
Community Infrastructure



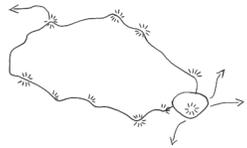
- standing water
- swamp condition
- peat wetlands area
- streams
- waterlogged soil
- keylines
- garden transition zones
- boardwalk
- footpaths
- building existing
- building addition
- community gathering area
- ecological corridor
- restricted wildlife protection area

50m
scale 1:2000

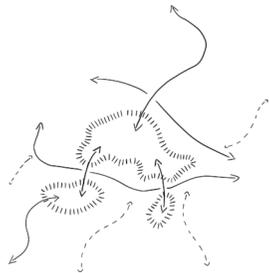
Local-Landscape Scale



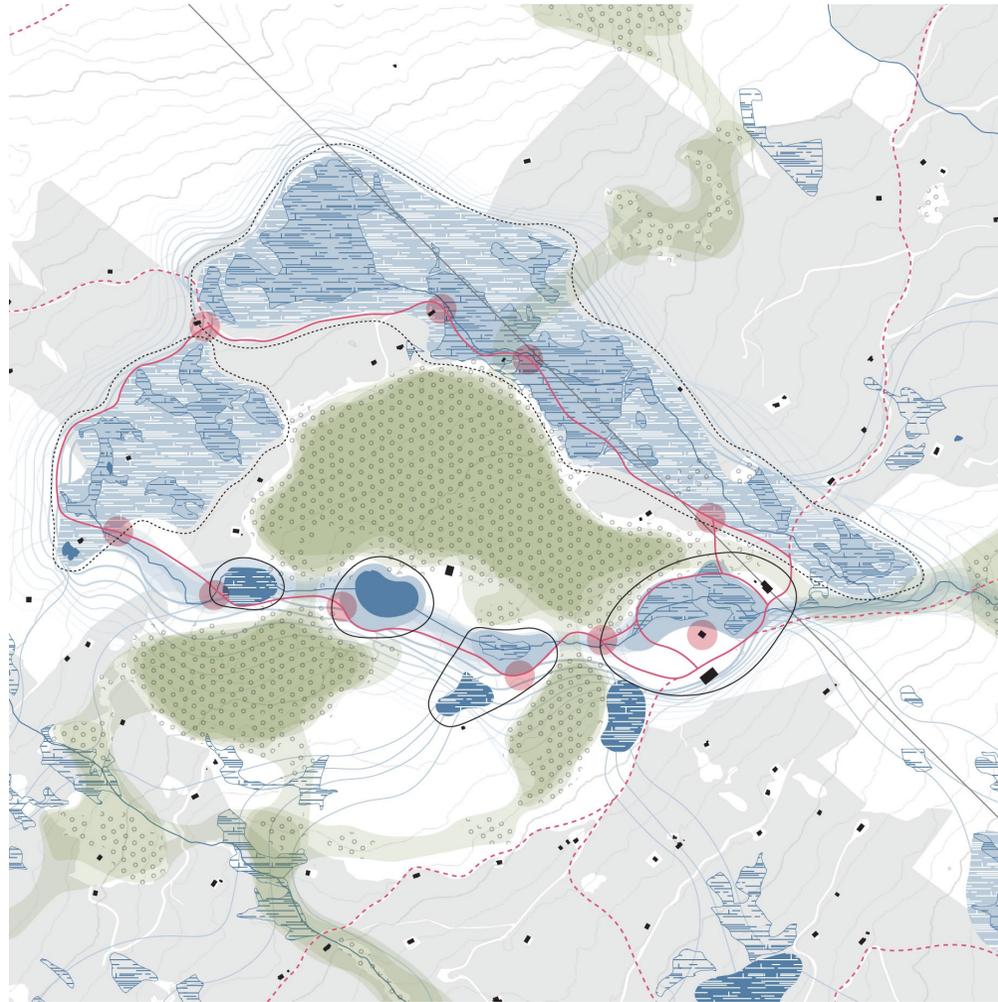
A necklace of Wetlands



A trail to notice the landscape



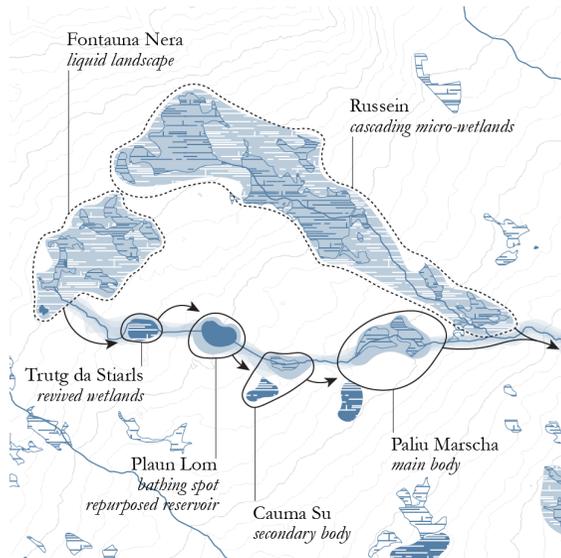
An ecological fabric



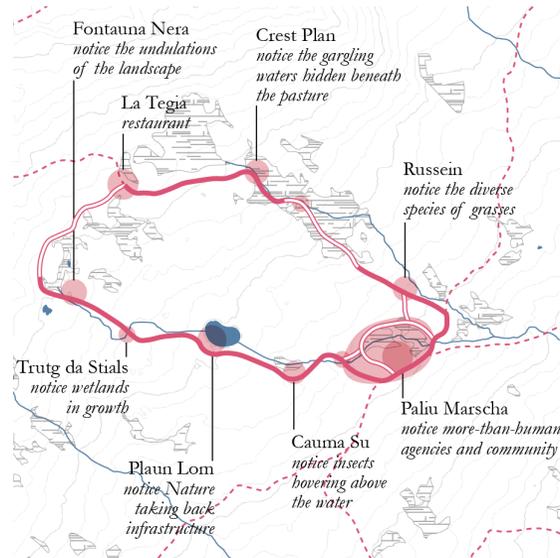
- existing wetlands
- expanded wetlands
- new wetlands
- water body
- streams
- water corridors
- garden transition zone
- distinct wetland bodies
- diffuse wetland bodies
- wetlands trail
- other trails
- noticing point
- protected wildlife forest area
- ecological corridor

200m
scale 1:10000

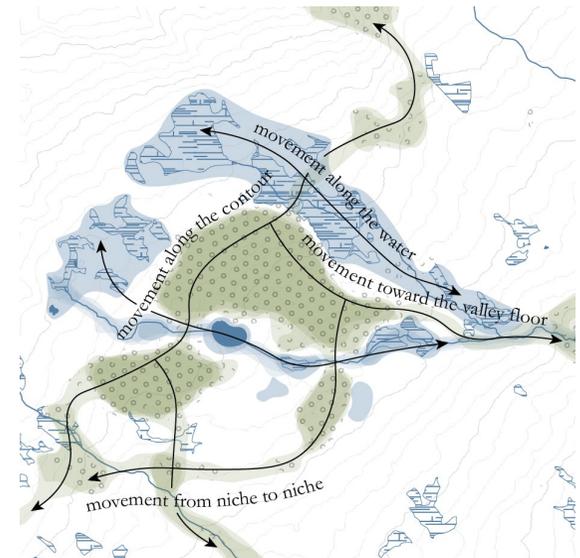
Local Scale



A necklace of wetlands emerging from existing Landscapes

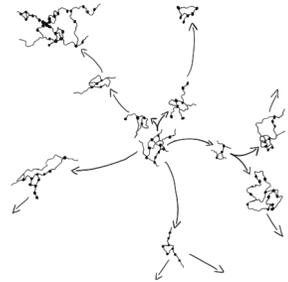


A trail to notice and encounter the Landscape



An ecological fabric to connect small and large habitats

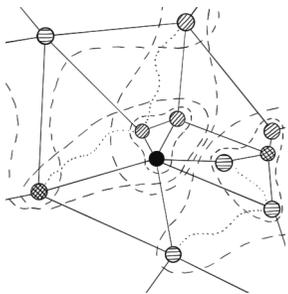
Regional Archipelago



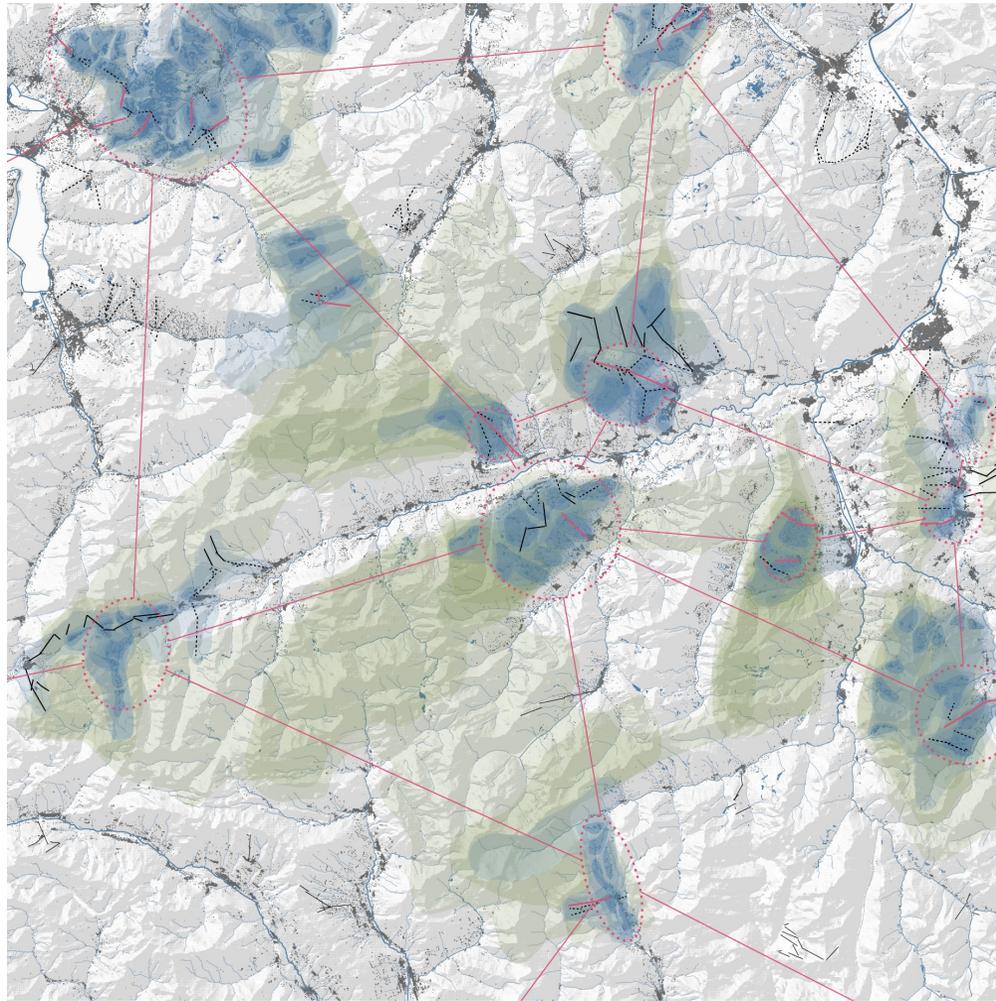
Expand the Water Garden to other places



Hold water in upstream areas to sustain the territory



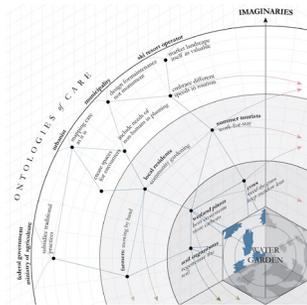
Cooperate between regions



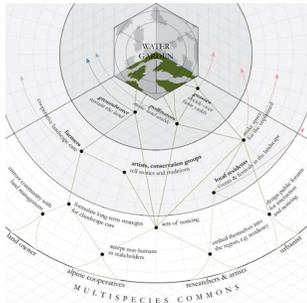
- existing wetlands
- water garden bodies
- water garden landscapes
- diffuse landscape parks
- ecological connections
- institutional connections
- rivers and streams
- ski lifts still in use for winter tourism
- ski lifts in use thanks to water gardens
- ski lifts out of use because of a lack of snow
- settlements

10 km
scale 1:500000

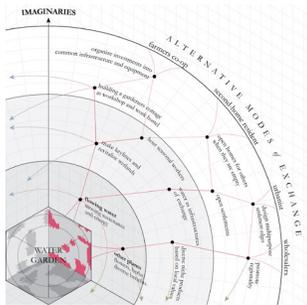
Design as Refuturing



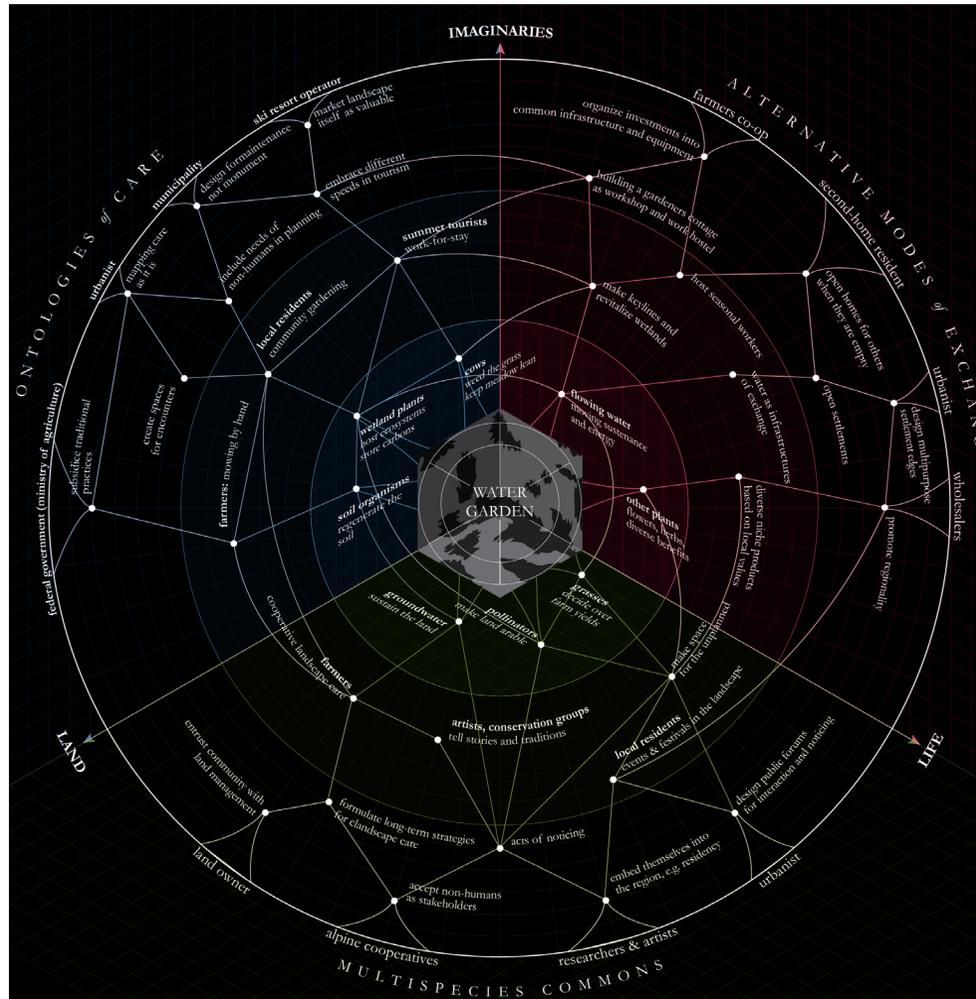
Ontologies of Care



Multispecies Commons



Alternative Modes of Exchange



Refuturing as Practice and Politics

- A **design ethic** and **political strategy** to reorient human activity toward sustainment
- Move from short-term logics of consumption and control to **long-term** viability and co-existence.
- A commitment to **ongoing relational** and **situated** transformations.
- Repositioning design as a **facilitator** of collective world-making.
- Different forms of **values**, governance, and economics.
- An ongoing process of **situated maintenance, care, and negotiation.**
- Design as **scaffolding** for diverse actors to co-create futures.
- Walking-with the land and community, **investing oneself** in shared futures.

Arts of Noticing: One among many



Creating alternative Futures



THANK YOU!

