

REIMAGINE

Sustainable Alpine Architecture & Tourism:
Reimagining through Circular Strategies

P2 PRESENTATION
RESEARCH & DESIGN
Catherijne Schot
11-06-2024

FASCINATION

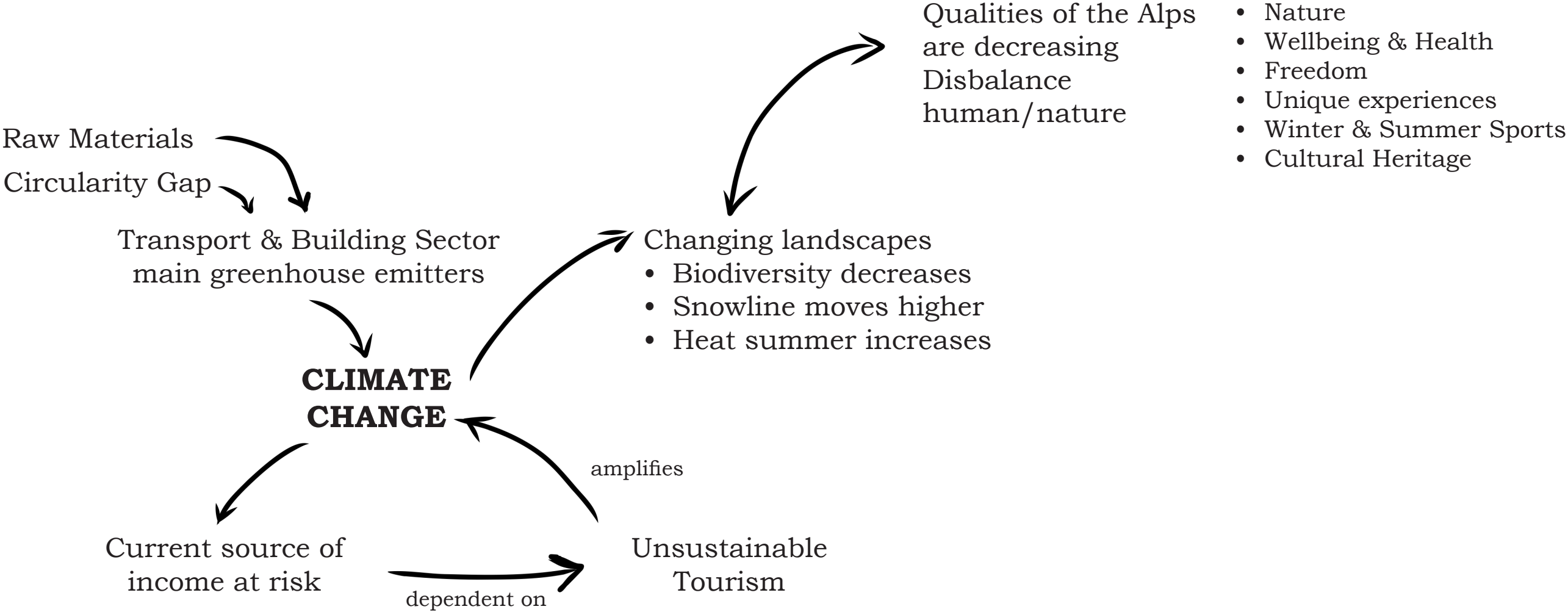


CHALLENGES IN ALPINE REGIONS

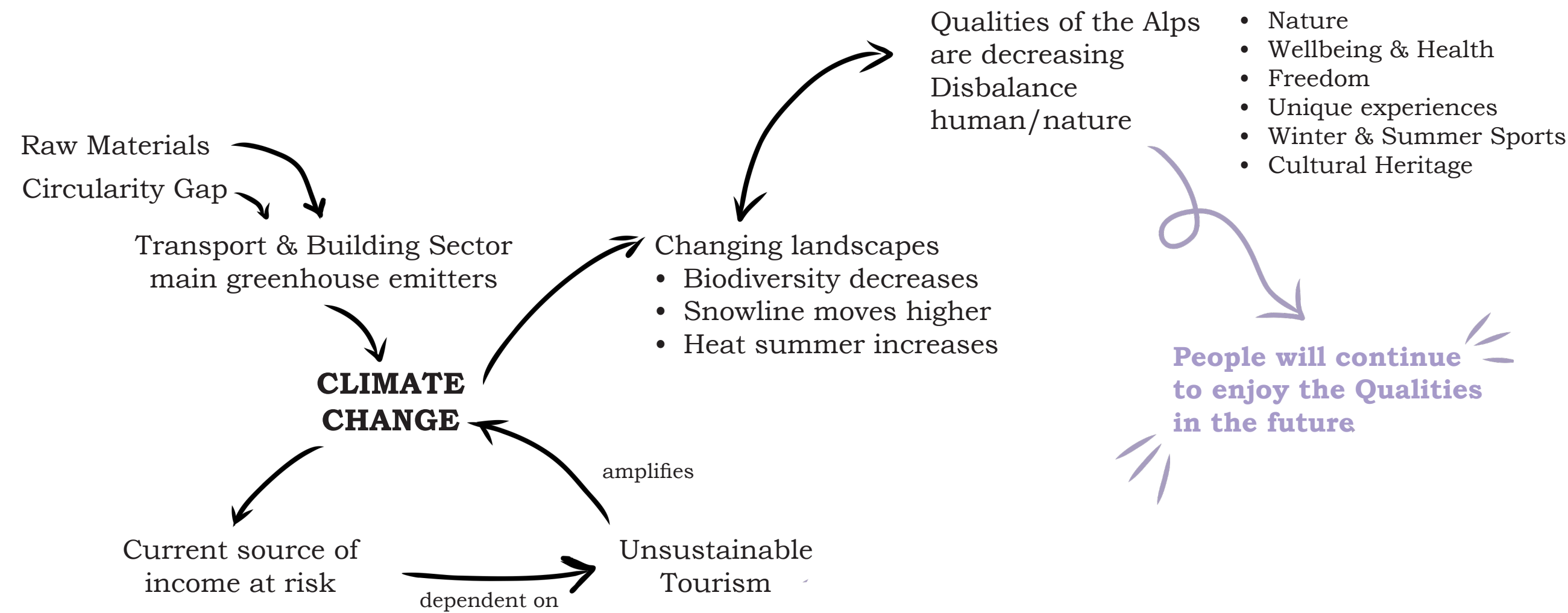
PRIORITIES OF THE ALPINE CONVENTION

“Goal: The Alps shall be a model region for a sustainable future worth living in for humans and all other species in 2030 and beyond.” (The Alpine Convention, 2022)

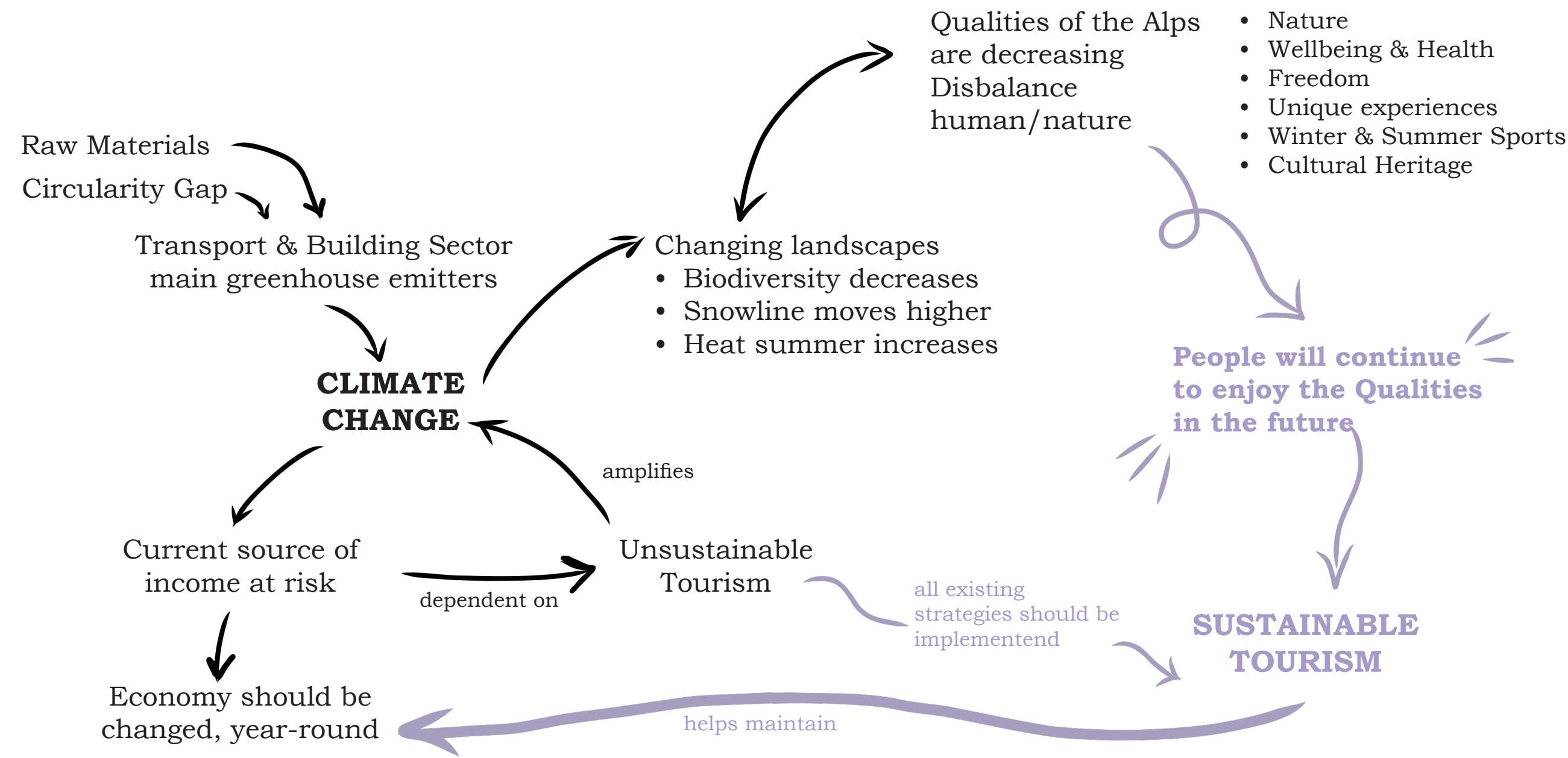
CHALLENGES IN ALPINE REGIONS: CLIMATE



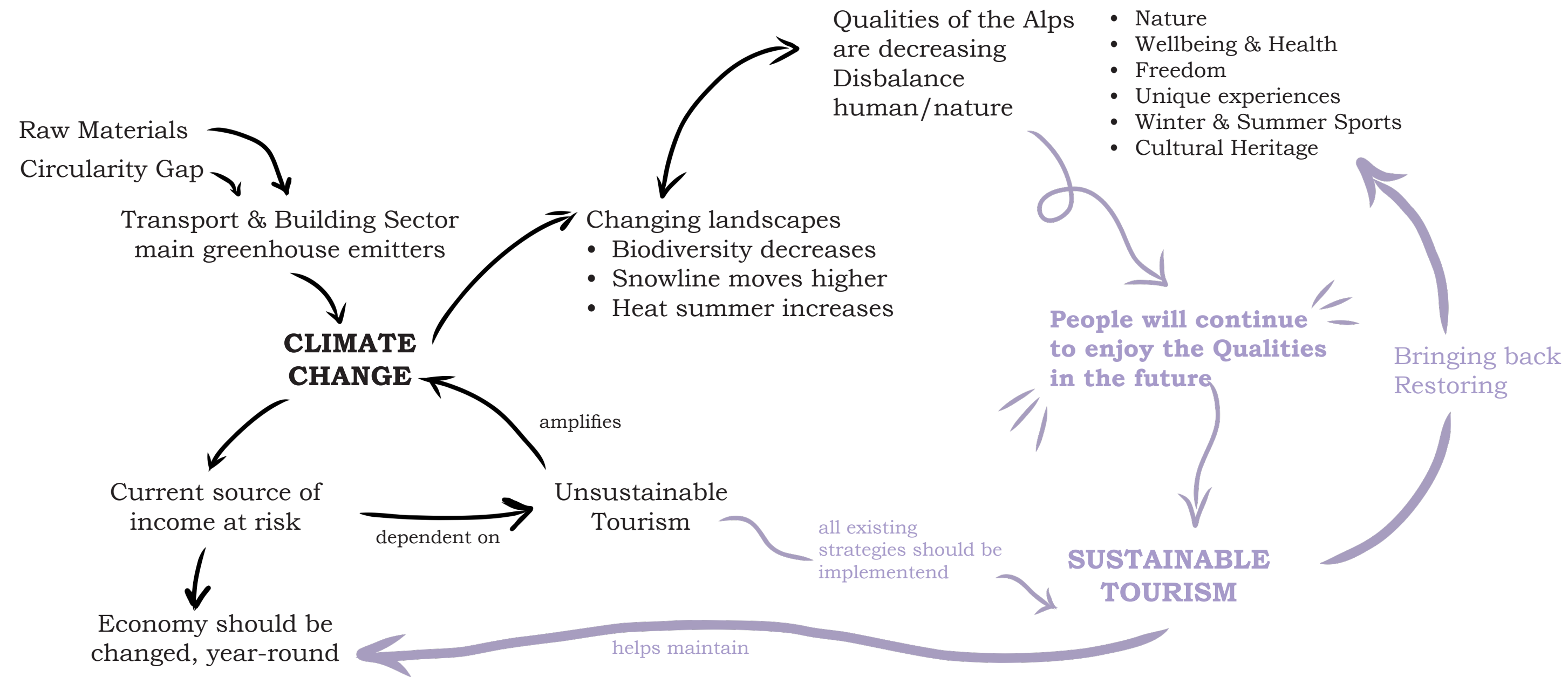
CHALLENGES IN ALPINE REGIONS



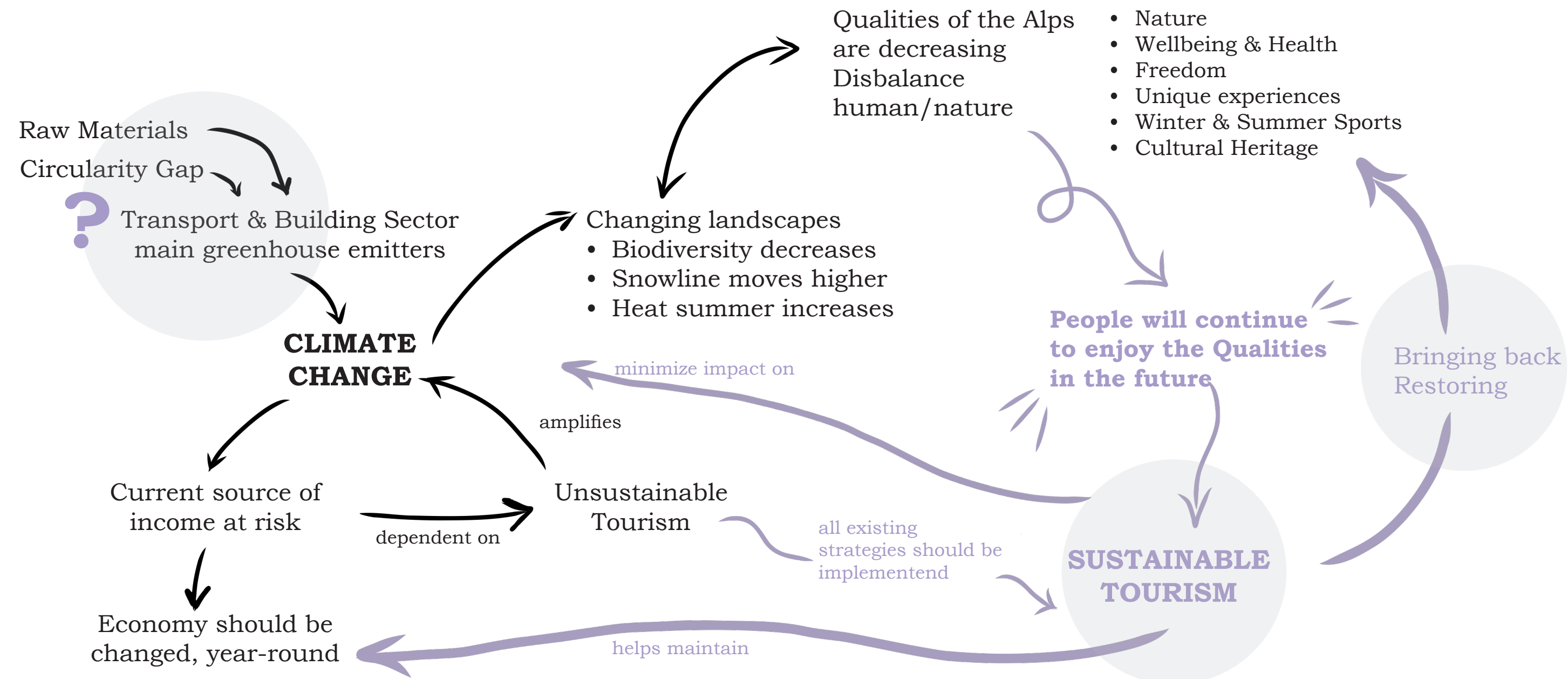
CHALLENGES IN ALPINE REGIONS



CHALLENGES IN ALPINE REGIONS



CHALLENGES IN ALPINE REGIONS



THEN...

Laboratory of Modernism



Sledge lift del Lago Nero by Carlo Mollino 1946-47



Les Arcs, Charlotte Perriand, 1960

THEN...

Laboratory of Modernism

Building in Alpine Regions felt
like an [Accomplishment](#)



THEN...

Laboratory of Modernism

Building in Alpine Regions felt
like an **Accomplishment**



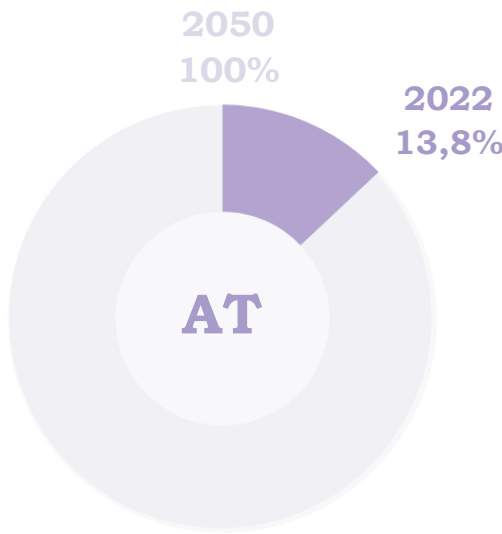
NOW!

Laboratory for Circular Building
Methods

Contributing to closing
the material loops is the
Accomplishment

THEMATIC RESEARCH **OBJECTIVE**

Develop/find effective design solutions and/or strategies to help bridge the Circularity Gap of Austria while aligning with sustainability goals for tourism in the Austrian Alps.



Circularity Gap Austria
Ambitious

Room for improvement
Fulfilling ambitions



Current source of income
at risk due to climate
change

Economy should be
changed, sustainable
tourism



Changing landscapes

- Biodiversity decreases
- Snowline moves higher
- Heat summer increases

Qualities of the Alps
should be brought back,
restore disbalance

THEMATIC RESEARCH **QUESTION**

*How can circular solutions be integrated into the design process of reimagining Architecture in the Austrian Alps to enhance **the Sustainability of Tourism** and contribute to **closing the Circularity Gap in Austria?***

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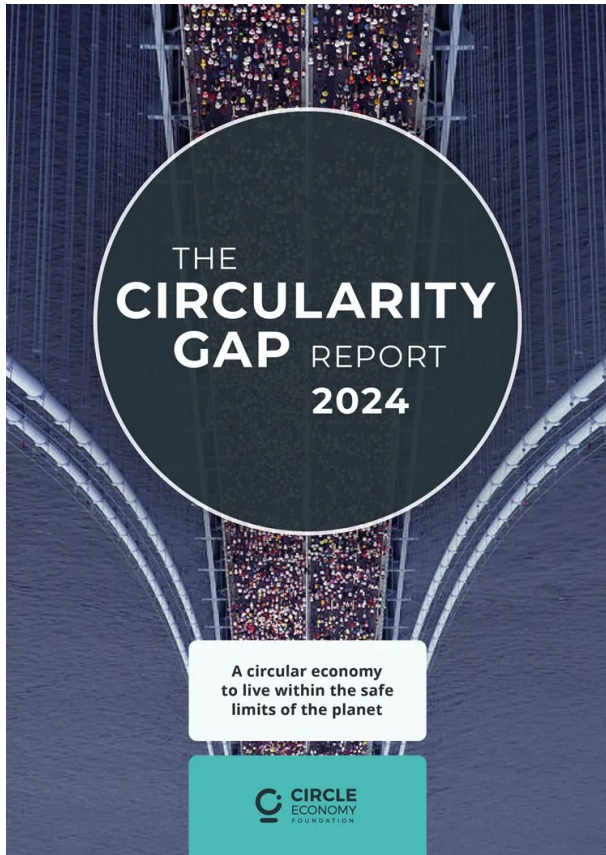
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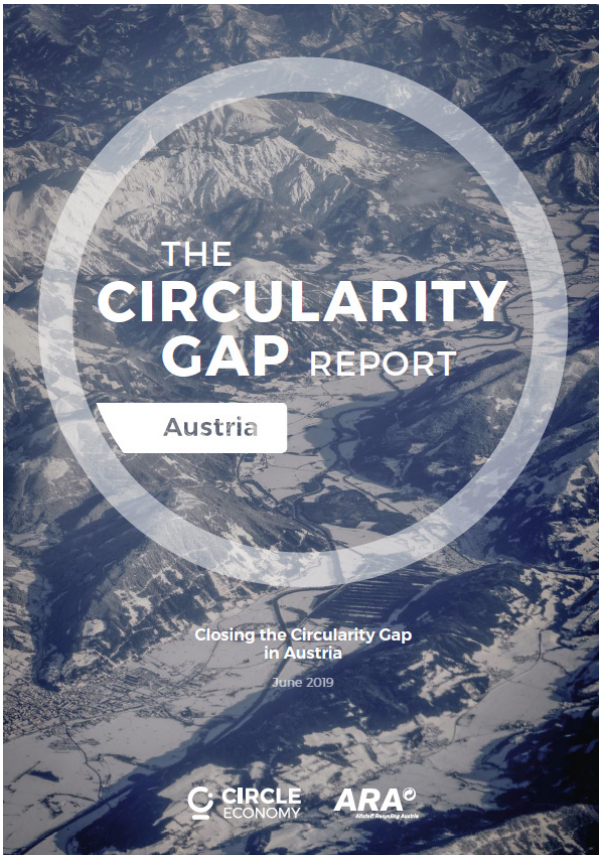
Which (material) flows should be prioritized to enhance **the Sustainability of Alpine Tourism?**

Which (combination of) circular solutions contribute to
closing the Circularity Gap in Austria?

LITERATURE

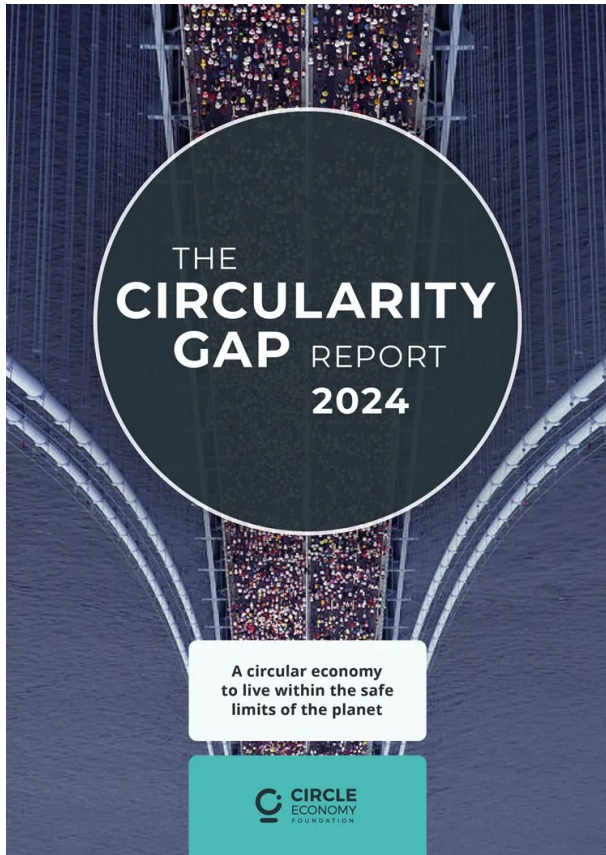


GCGR (2024)

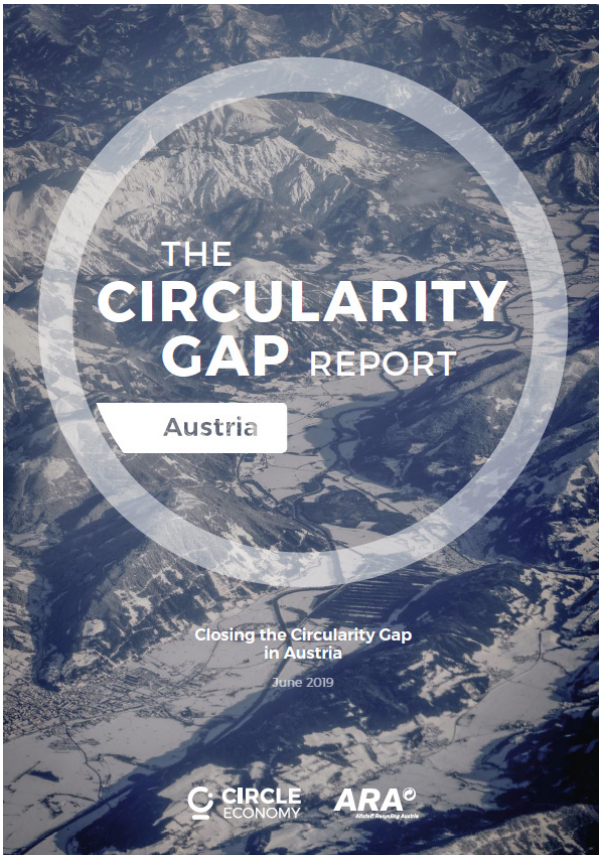


ACGR (2019)

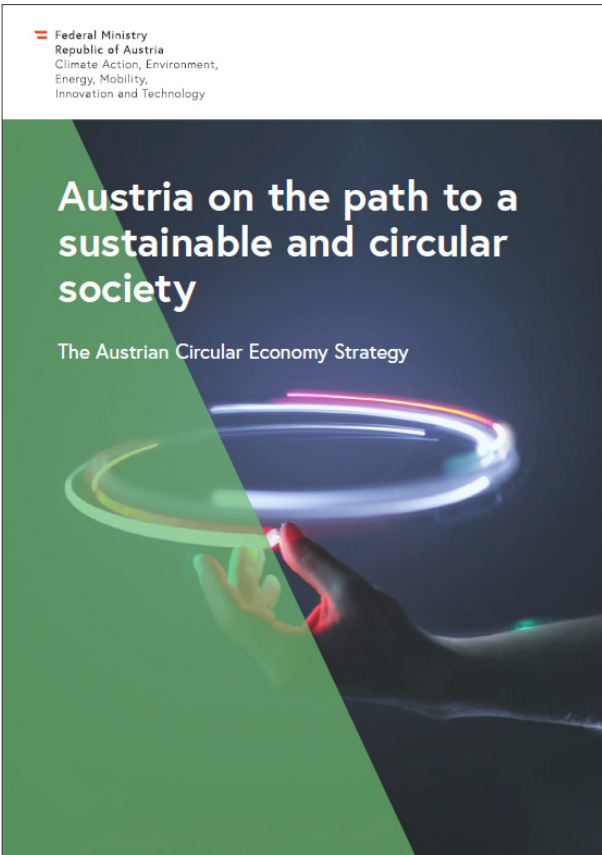
LITERATURE



GCGR (2024)



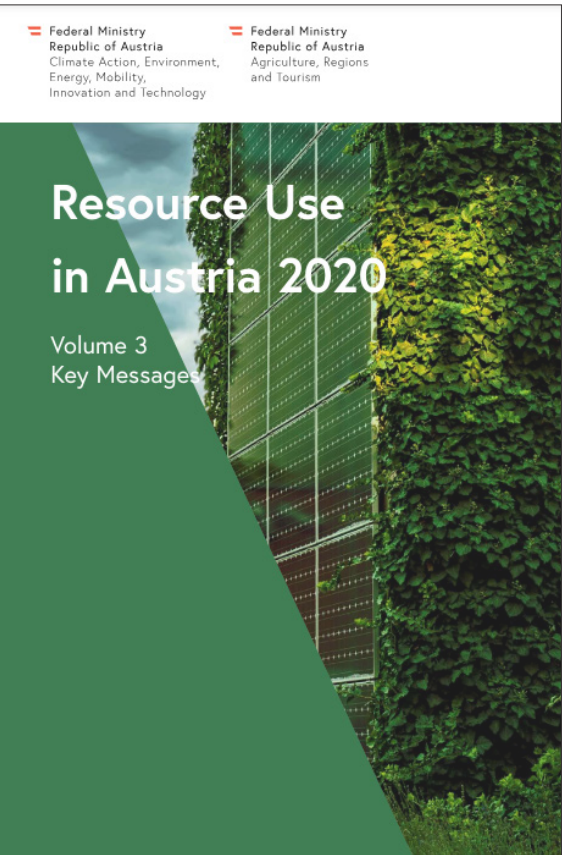
ACGR (2019)



ACES (2022)



RMM (2021)

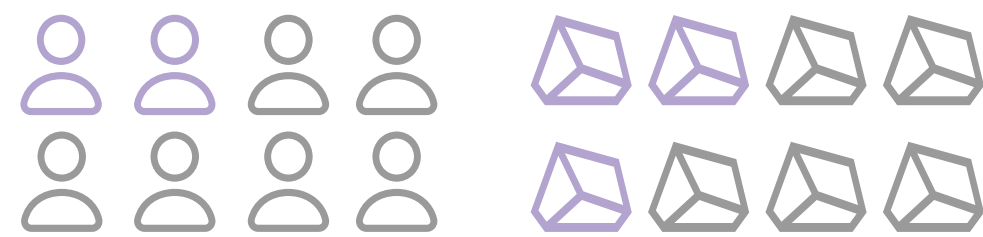


RU (2020)

The Global Circularity Gap Report (GCGR)

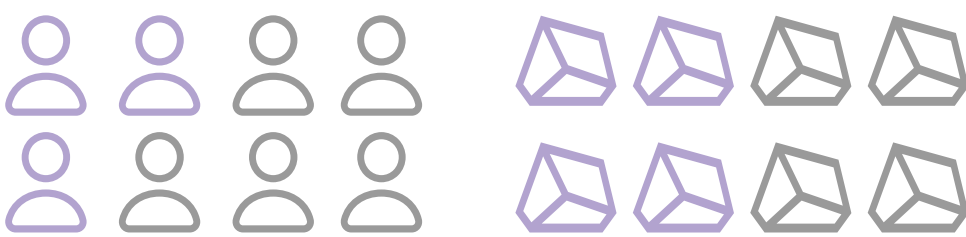
SHIFT COUNTRY

High-income countries in the Global North, the Gulf, Australia.



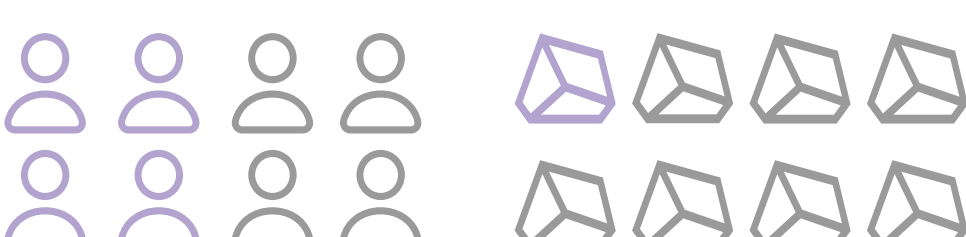
GROW COUNTRY

Southeast Asia, Latin America, Northern Africa, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.



BUILD COUNTRY

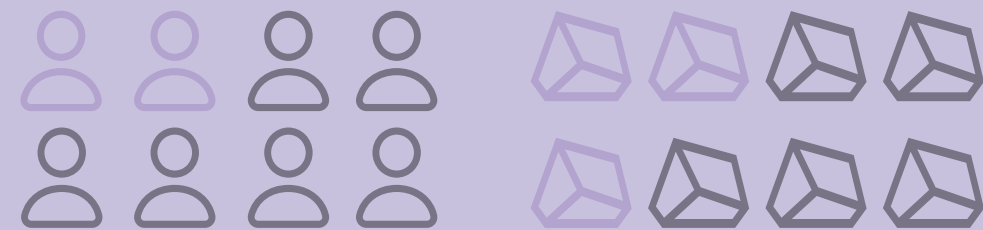
Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia



The Global Circularity Gap Report (GCGR)

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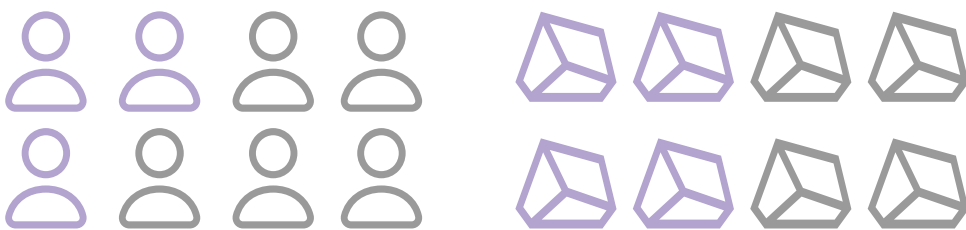


RM largely imported, offshoring environmental impacts

17% of the world's population
More than one-fourth of Global Raw Materials

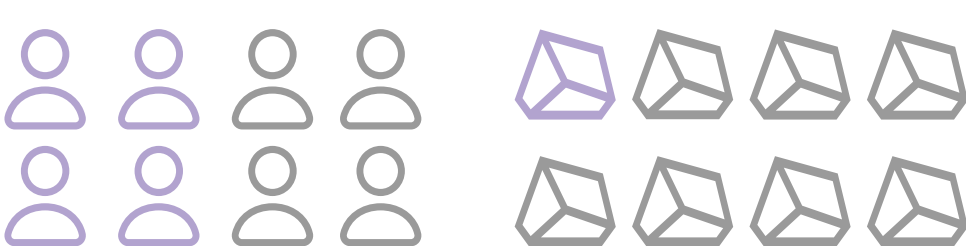
GROW COUNTRY

Southeast Asia, Latin America, Northern Africa, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.



BUILD COUNTRY

Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia



AUSTRIA AS SHIFT COUNTRY

**“RADICALLY REDUCE
MATERIAL CONSUMPTION
AND UPHOLD WELLBEING”**

- Extend the lifetime of machinery, equipment and goods
- Rethink consumption pattern
- Decrease import of raw materials (out of grow countries), lessen impact on planetary boundaries
- Make the most of what already exists and prioritise circular materials and approaches
- Applying circular solutions to the already built-up environment is key to reduce

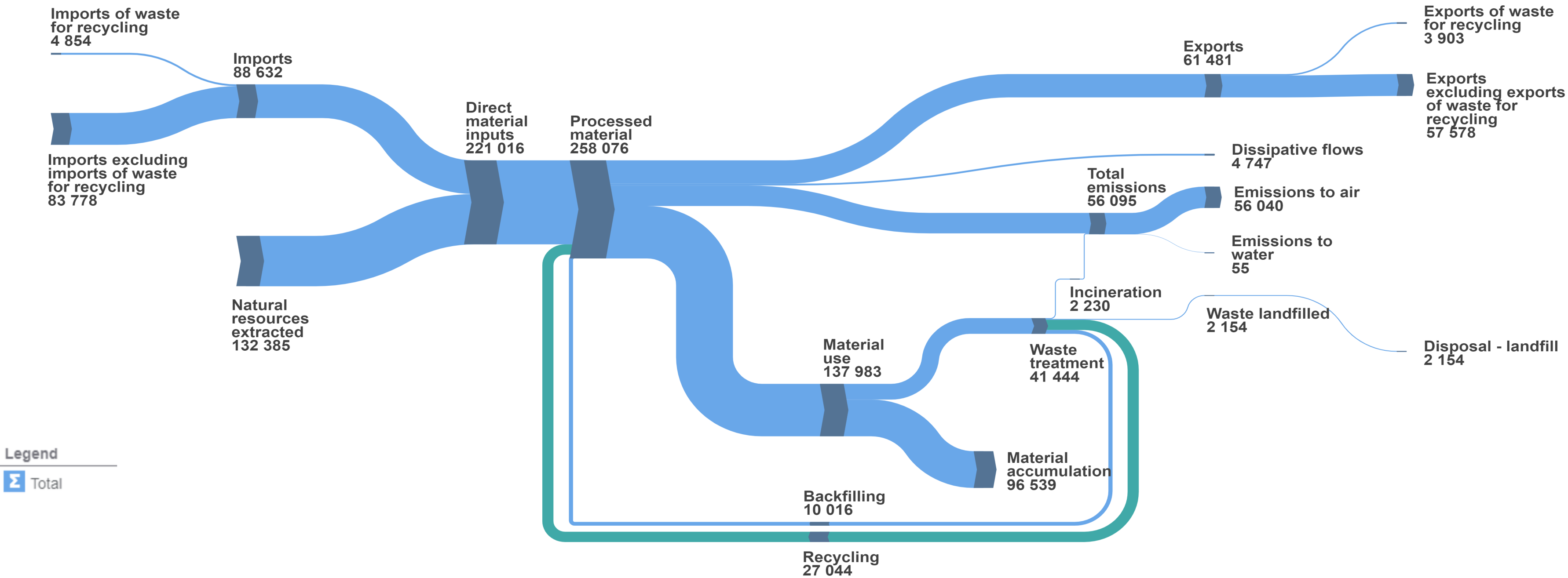


STATUS MATERIAL FLOW AUSTRIA

Material flow diagrams

Austria - year 2022

Thousand tonnes



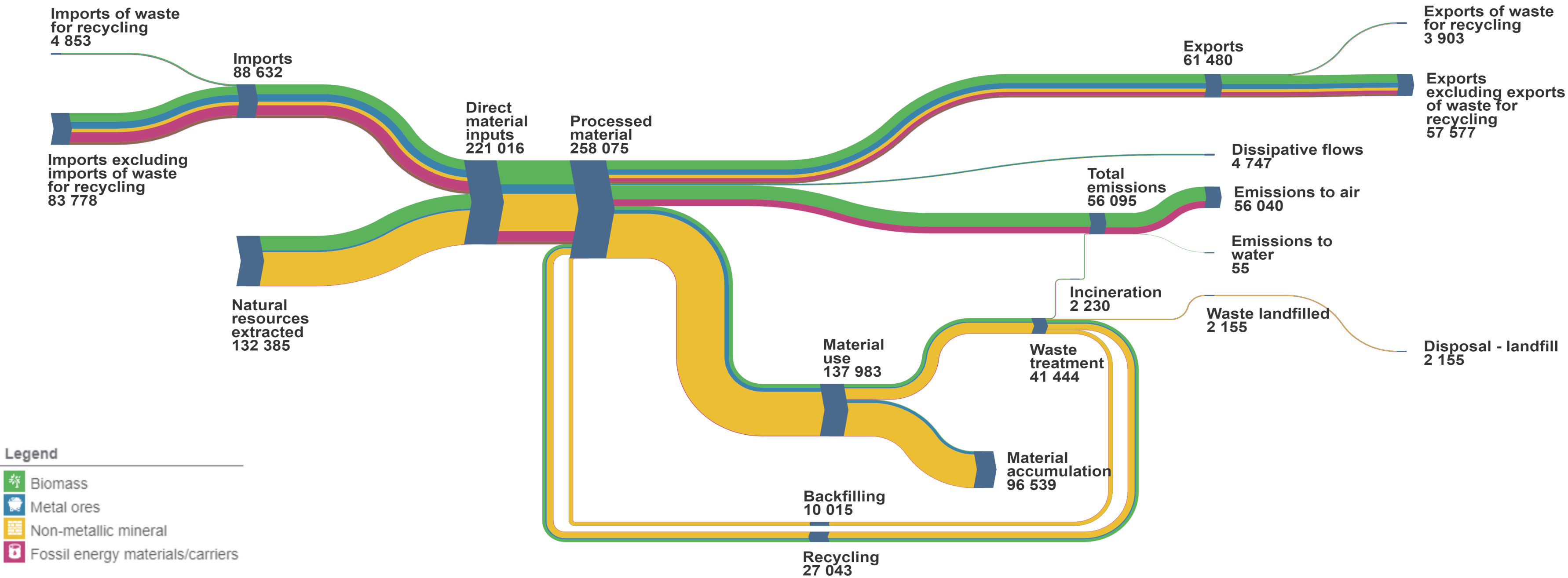
Source: Eurostat (env_ac_mfa; env_ac_sd; env_wassd)

STATUS MATERIAL FLOW AUSTRIA

Material flow diagrams

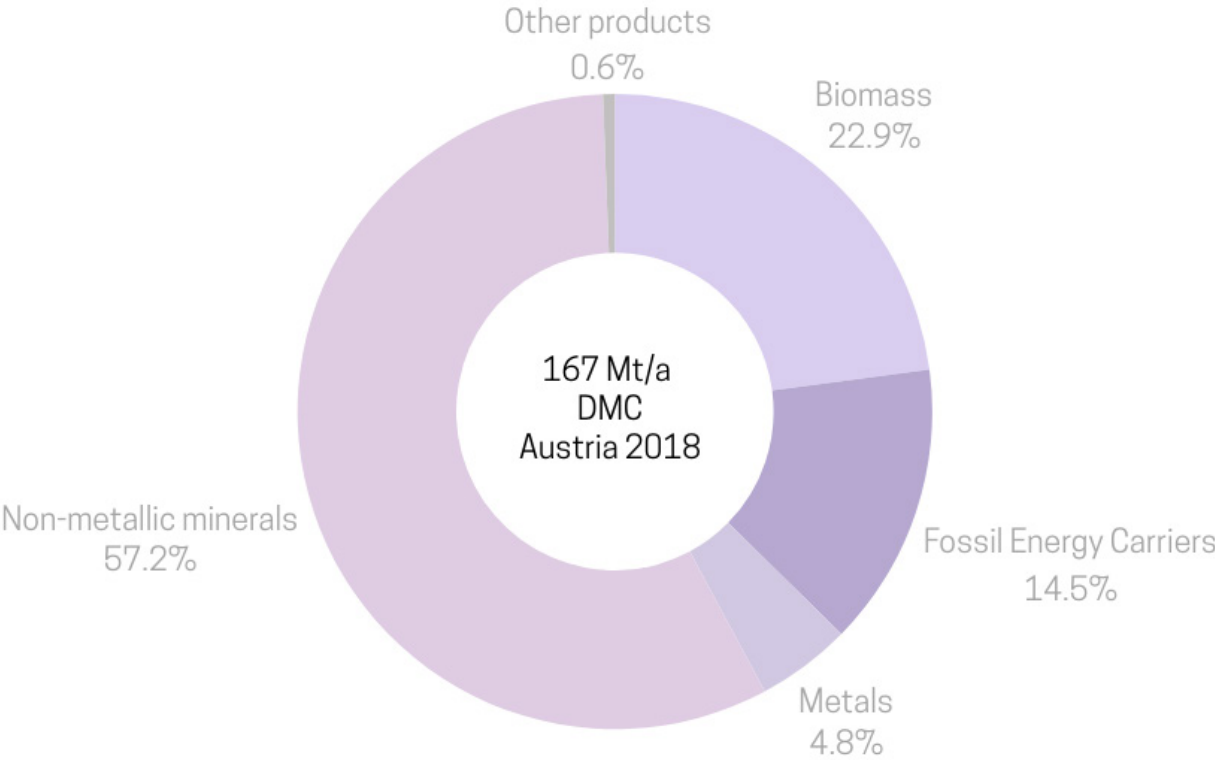
Austria - year 2022

Thousand tonnes

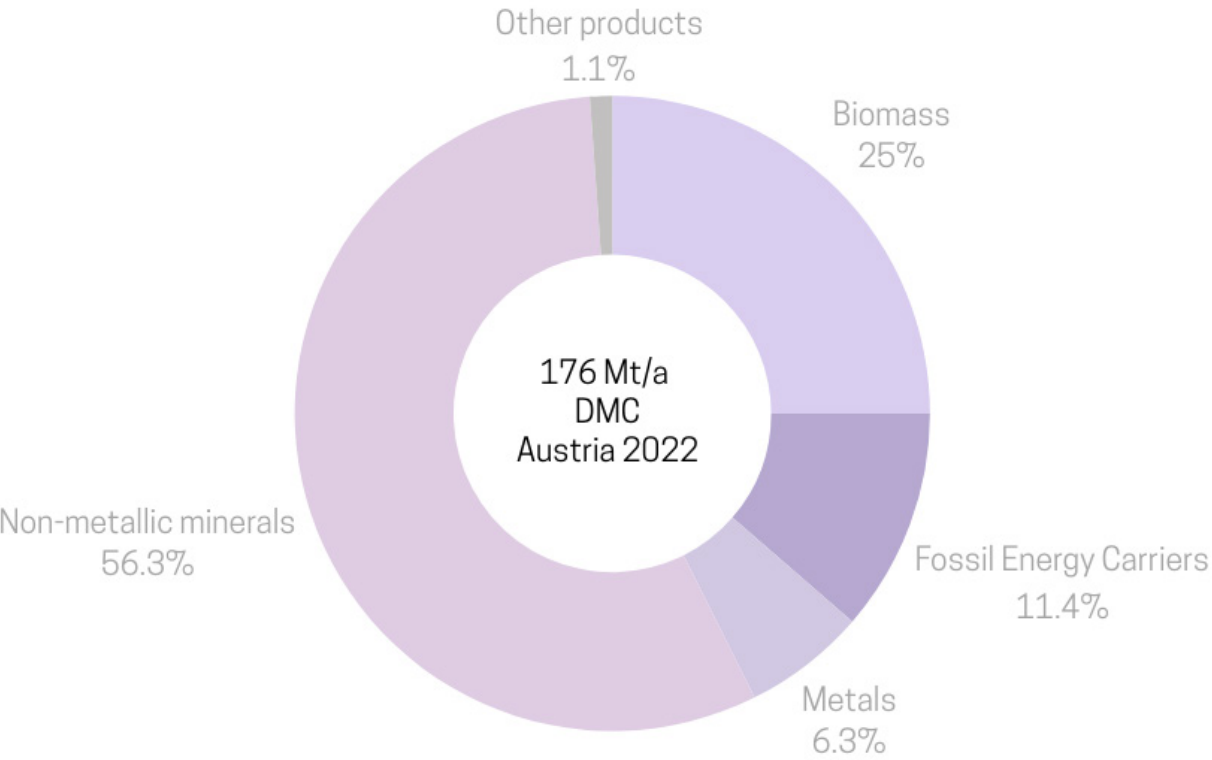


Source: Eurostat (env_ac_mfa; env_ac_sd; env_wassd)

MATERIAL USE IN NUMBERS



BEFORE PUBLICATIONS



AFTER PUBLICATIONS

Increase in total Domestic Material Consumption
Increase of 4 Mt/a of non-metallic minerals

Decrease of 4 Mt/a in the use of fossil energy carriers



RESULTS

REPORTS & STRATEGY DOCUMENTS

ACGR (2019), GCGR (2024), ACES (2022), RMM (2021), RU (2020)

- Maximising Existing Stock
- Local Sourcing and Recycling
- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Integration
- Circular Design Principles
- Raw Material Provision: Priorities and order

CIRCULAR STRATEGIES

Context Austria

Assessment of Sustainable Use of Material Resources in the Architecture, Engineering and Construction Industry – a Conceptual Framework Proposal for Austria

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²Institute for Water Quality and Resource Management, Vienna University of Technology, Karlsplatz 13, 1040 Wien, Austria

Cite as: Schützenhofer, S., Kovacic, I., Rechberger, H., Assessment of sustainable use of material resources in the Architecture, Engineering and Construction industry - a conceptual Framework proposal for Austria, J.sustain. dev. energy water environ. syst., 10(4), 1090417, 2022, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.13044/j.sdewes.d10.0417>

ABSTRACT

Circular economy in Architecture, Engineering, and Construction requires consideration in the design, deconstruction-planning, and waste management. This paper aims to develop a Framework to evaluate the material sustainability of buildings by comparing the proportionality of costs to environmental impacts of construction waste flows. Therefore, an extensive literature review was conducted to find parameters needed, such as building certification, life cycle assessment, or material passports. Next, a distillation process was conducted to reduce the large number of parameters found to be manageable. Following the applicable legislation, procedures to be carried out at different stages, from dismantling to recycling or treatment, were defined. Practical applications were derived, such as support for deconstruction management, resource management, and conclusions for planning. The final parameters were assigned to these processes. Due to a lack of data, data collection and public data provision are essential for applicability.

KEYWORDS

Circular economy, Sustainability evaluation, Waste management, Construction waste, Building demolition, Built environment.

Proposal for Austria, Schützenhofer et al. (2022)

- Prioritising Material Reuse and Recycling
- Implementing Resource Efficiency Measures
- Incorporating Life Cycle Perspective
- Promoting Data-Driven Decision Making
- Regional Customisation of CE Practices

CIRCULAR STRATEGIES

Context South Tyrol, Italy

Supporting a regional strategy for circular economy in South Tyrol, Italy

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Authors' emails: matteo.rizzari@eurac.edu; elisa.agosti@eurac.edu; gianluca.grazieschi@eurac.edu; christian.hoffmann@eurac.edu; joana.bastos@eurac.edu

Abstract

The project *Strategy for Circular Economy in the Autonomous Province of Bolzano* aimed at promoting and supporting the transition to a more circular economy (CE) in the region of South Tyrol, Italy. The project focused on the potential synergies between the bioeconomy and the built environment; in particular, it addressed potential opportunities for improving the prevention and management of waste, through the recovery and use of by-products and waste from bioeconomy sectors (namely forestry and agriculture) in construction materials. An integrated approach merging quantitative and qualitative analyses was applied: specifically, the paper addresses the combination of quantitative tools, including geographic information systems (GIS), material flows analysis (MFA) and life-cycle analysis (LCA), with a stakeholder engagement process grounded in semi-structured interviews (SSIs). The integrated approach resulting was oriented to support the public administration in the design and implementation of strategies to enable the transition to a CE in South Tyrol. The findings emerged in terms of (i) harmonizing local legislation and provincial strategies for circularity with market needs of the organizations, (ii) adopting new and improved product design, and (iii) strengthening the inter-sectoral cooperation as far as knowledge sharing, data on material flows and dissemination of good practices are concerned. By combining different tools in an integrated approach, the research contributed with concrete results to supporting the public administration, while also increasing the awareness and the promotion of CE opportunities to key stakeholders - which is crucial to successfully develop and implement effective policies and strategies in the region.

Keywords

Circular economy, regional development, stakeholder engagement, insulation materials, LCA, GIS.

Strategy for South Tyrol, Italy, Rizzari et al. (2023)

- Waste prevention
- Synergie between bioeconomy and built environment
- Promote Recovery and use of by-products and waste from forestry and agriculture
- Biomass by-products: Wood fiber, branches
- Reusing CDW

RESULTS LITERATURE

ACGR (2019), GCGR (2024), ACES (2022), RMM (2021), RU (2020)

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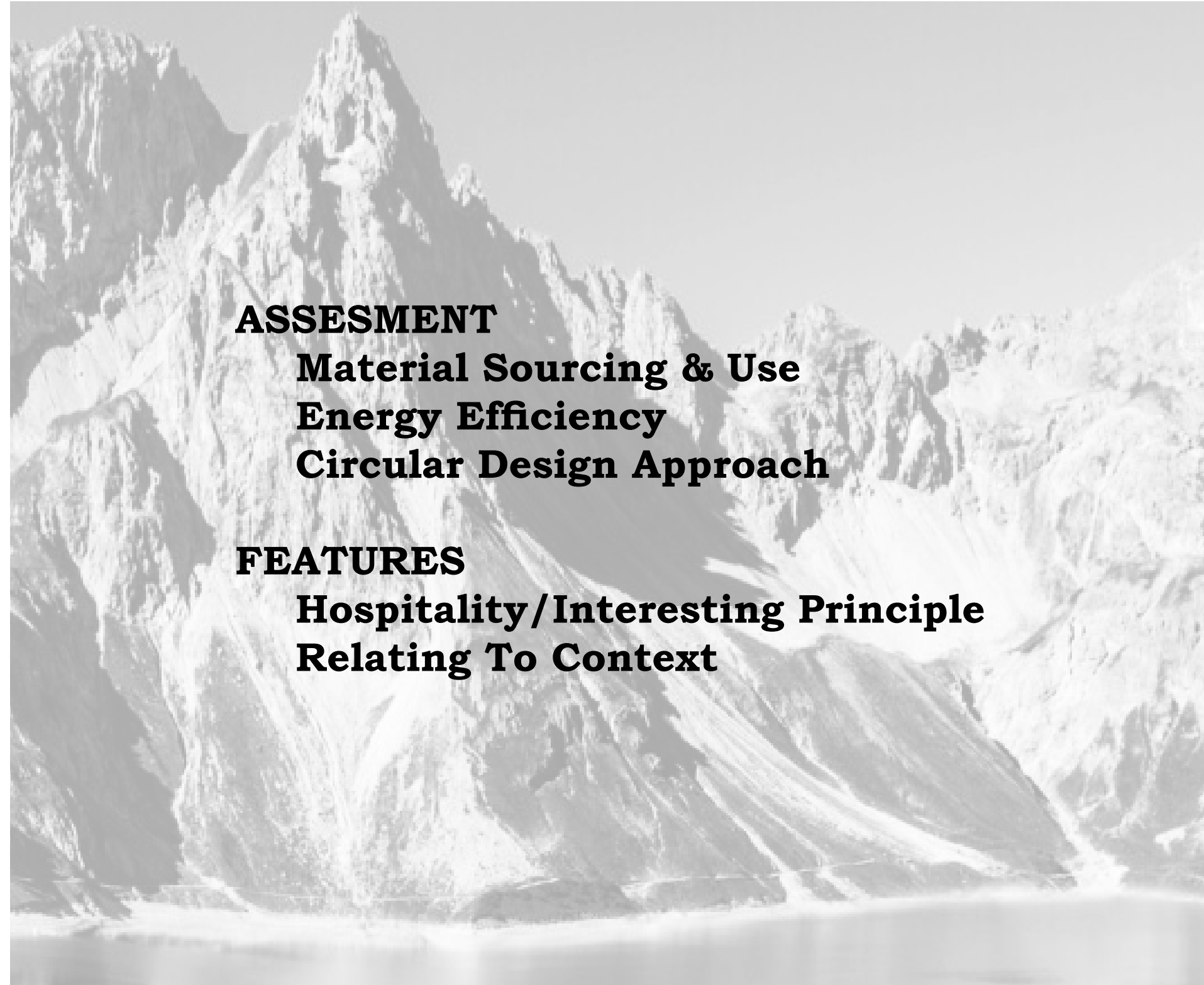
CASE STUDIES

ASSESSMENT

Material Sourcing & Use
Energy Efficiency
Circular Design Approach

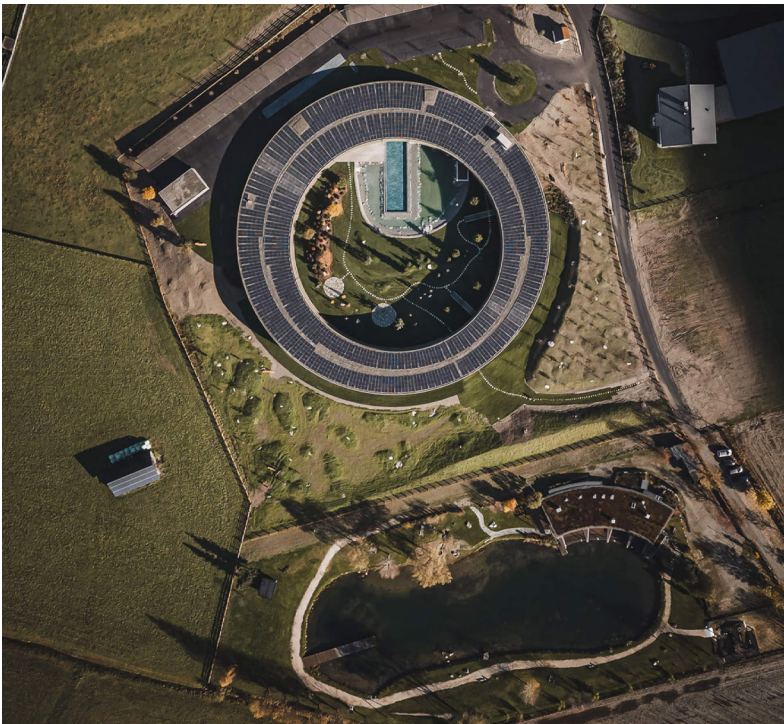
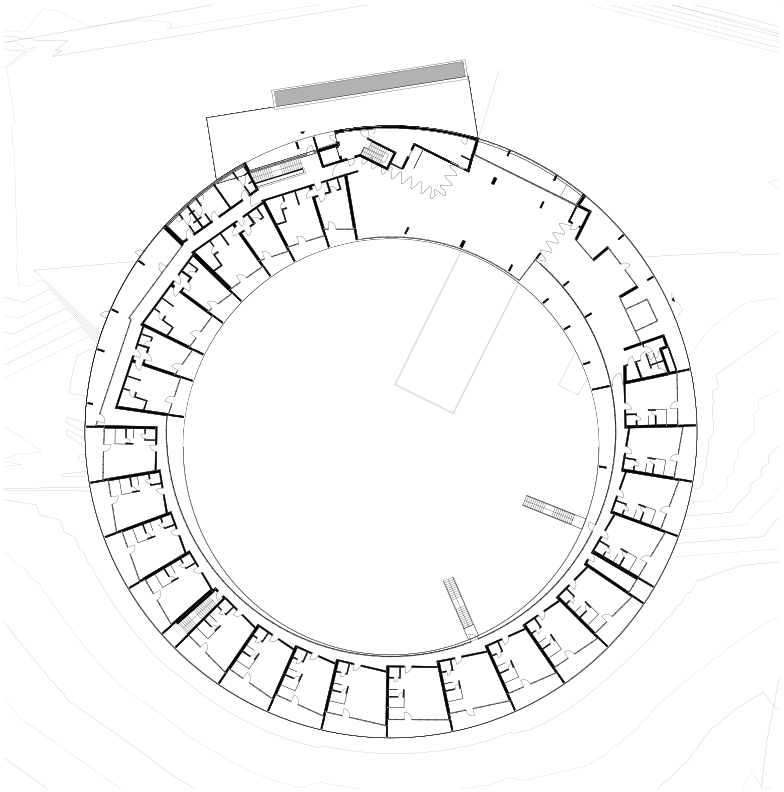
FEATURES

Hospitality/Interesting Principle
Relating To Context



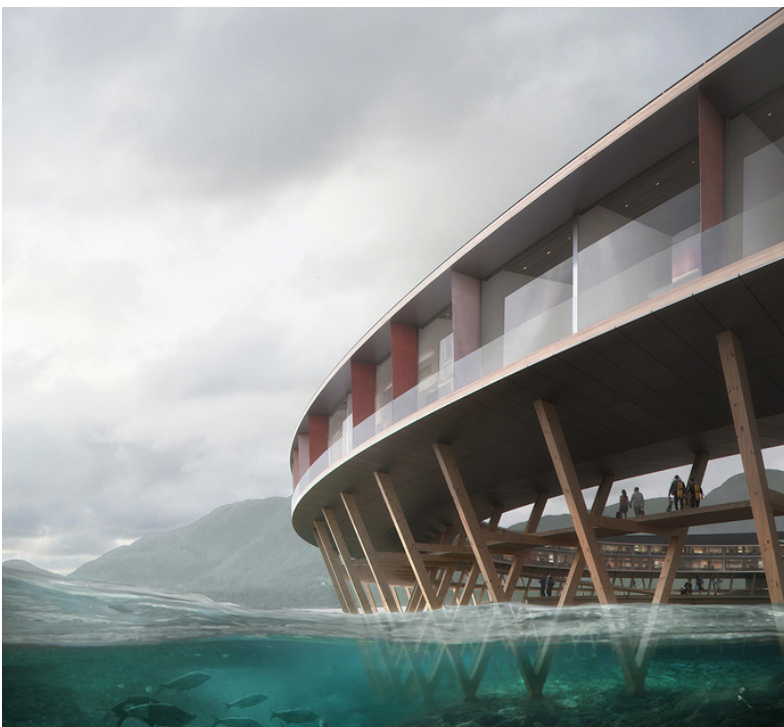
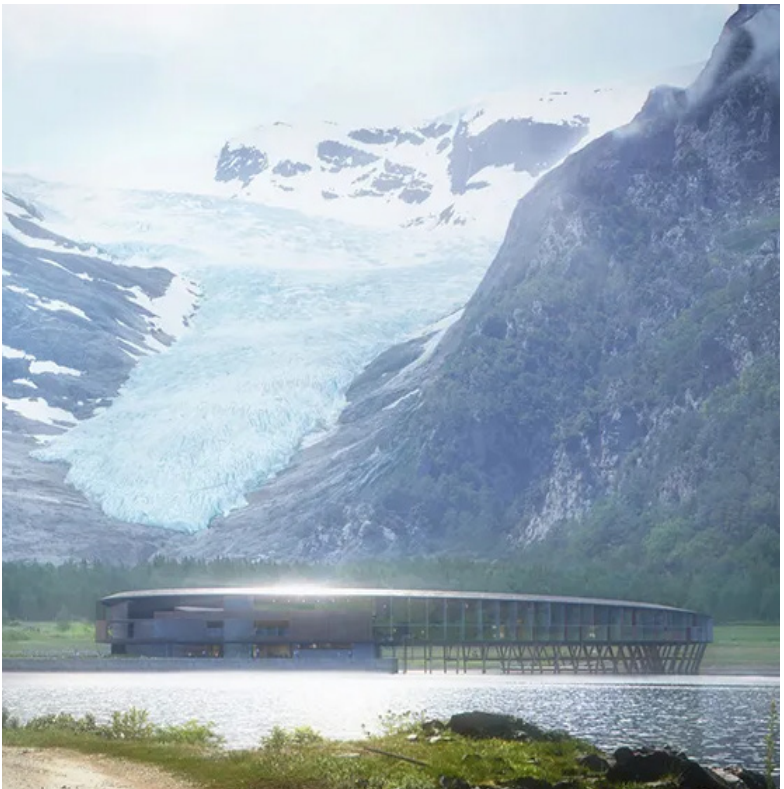
OLM Nature Escape – Andreas Gruber Architekten

Location	Sand in Taufers, South Tyrol, Italy
Year	2019-2023
Maximising Existing Stock	No, newly built
Material Resources	Biological, Technical materials
Local Sourcing – distance to site	Larch wood (2 nd most common tree in South Tyrol)
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Integration	Self-sufficient: 126 geothermal probes (125 m deep, 15000 m ²), solar energy systems (800 kW PV)
Circular Design Principles – Design Approaches	Design for Longevity
LCA: Skin, Structure, Services, Space plan, Stuff	Skin: natural mineral surfaces in the form of natural plasters and stone surfaces Structure: static structures (solid wood) are relocated inwards (the circle). Services: Slots and ceiling openings for building services, fire prevention. Water management through water-efficient fittings, greywater recycling and rainwater harvesting systems. Space plan: efficient utilisation of space & planning of the building.
Label/Certification	CasaClima Nature



Svart – Snøhetta (Concept)

Location	Svartisen Glacier, Norway
Year	2017-2019
Maximising Existing Stock	No, newly built, still concept
Material Resources	Biological, Technical materials
Local Sourcing – distance to site	unknown
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Integration	Self-sufficient. Aim to reduce 85% of energy consumption. Norwegian solar panels produced with clean hydro energy. (Solar mapping determined form of design)
Circular Design Principles – Design Approaches	Design for Longevity, Regenerative Design
LCA: Skin, Structure, Services, Space plan, Stuff	Skin: predominantly Glass Facades Structure: Wood (minimal footprint), Concrete? Services: no details Space plan: multifunctional design elements (e.g. boardwalk & structure) efficient utilisation of space & planning of the building.
Label/Certification	-



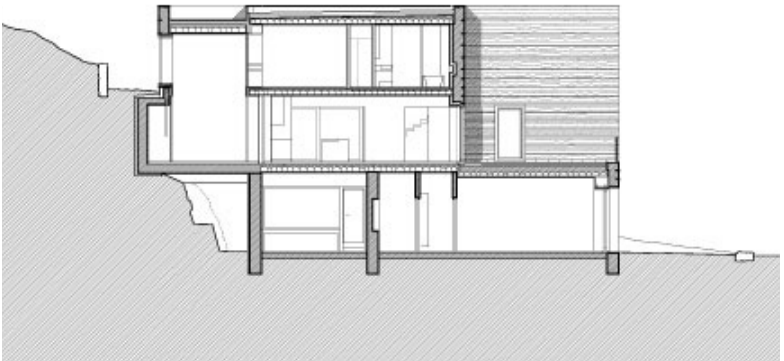
Hotel Ryttergården – 3XN, GXN

Location	Bornholm, Denmark
Year	2021
Maximising Existing Stock	No, newly built
Material Resources	Biological materials
Local Sourcing – distance to site	CLT prefabricated, tiles of upcycled glass from local sources
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Integration	Rooftop Solar Cells
Circular Design Principles – Design Approaches	Design for Longevity, Design for Standardisation, showcase for material innovation
LCA: Skin, Structure, Services, Space plan, Stuff	Skin: Timber Cladding Structure: CLT Services: Natural ventilation, Solar cells, water recycling Space plan: Standardisation of units, efficient utilisation of space & planning of the building.
Label/Certification	-



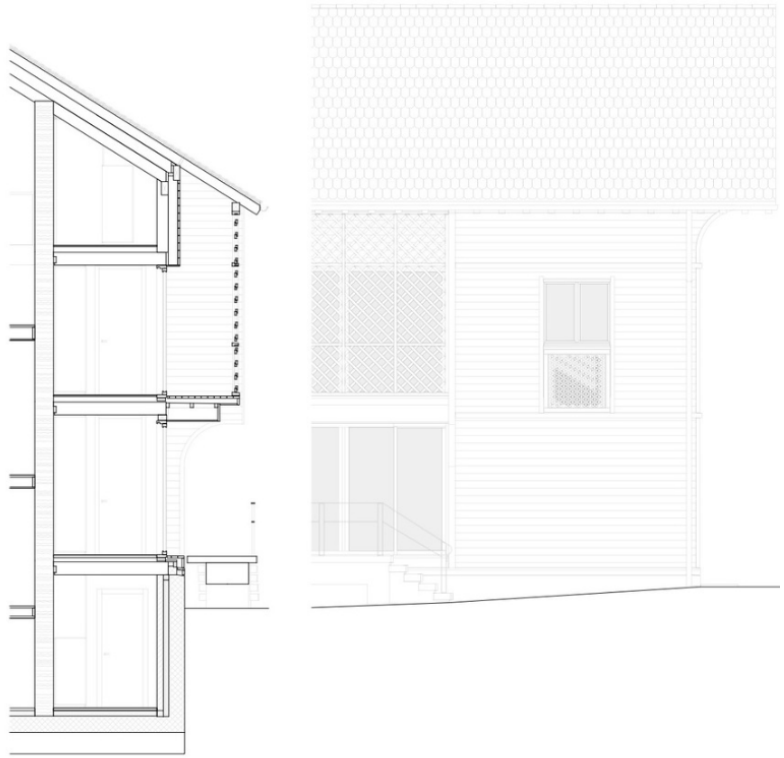
Haus Rauch – Lehm Ton Erde Baukunst

Location	Schlins, Austria
Year	2005-2008
Maximising Existing Stock	No, newly built
Material Resources	Biological
Local Sourcing – distance to site	Own excavation pit, 0 km
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Integration	Thermal mass, acts as heat buffer
Circular Design Principles – Design Approaches	Design for Longevity, Regenerative Design
LCA: Skin, Structure, Services, Space plan, Stuff	Skin & Structure: Solid rammed earth Space plan: Efficient, Rectangular
Label/Certification	-



House K - Seiler Linhart

Location	Alpnach, Switzerland
Year	2018
Maximising Existing Stock	No, newly built
Material Resources	Biological
Local Sourcing – distance to site	Earth, own excavation pit, local spruce/silver firs
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Integration	Thermal mass, heat distribution, wood-burning stove
Circular Design Principles – Design Approaches	Design for Longevity, Regenerative Design, Disassembly
LCA: Skin, Structure, Services, Space plan, Stuff	Skin: Untreated solid wood elements Structure: Solid wood, Rammed earth, concrete pedestal (reinforced with bamboo) Services: Stove Space plan: Efficient, Rectangular, Open around core
Label/Certification	-



CONCLUSIONS CASESTUDIES

Practical examples of implementation

Category	Circular Solution	Design Input	Potential
Material Sourcing and Use	Local and Natural Materials	Use wood, earth, natural plasters, and stone.	Promotes sustainability and reduces environmental impact.
	Elimination of Chemical Additives	Avoid adhesives, composites, and chemical materials.	Reduces pollution, ensures healthier living environments.
	Rammed Earth	Use for its thermal mass properties, regulating indoor temperatures and humidity.	Provides natural temperature and humidity regulation, reducing energy consumption.
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Integration	Self-Sufficiency	Implement geothermal, solar, and other renewable energy systems.	Achieves energy self-sufficiency and reduces reliance on fossil fuels.
	Design for Energy Optimisation	Use design strategies that maximise energy efficiency and minimise consumption.	Lowers energy consumption and operating costs.
Circular Design Approach	Design for Longevity	Ensure durability and long-term performance of buildings.	Extends building lifecycle and reduces need for frequent replacements.
	Efficient Use of Resources	Optimise space and material use to minimise waste.	Enhances resource efficiency and lowers costs.
	Repurposing Waste	Reuse material offcuts and other waste in construction or furniture.	Reduces waste and promotes a circular economy.
Water Management	Innovative Water Systems	Integrate water-efficient fittings, greywater recycling, and rainwater harvesting.	Enhances water conservation and reduces utility costs.
Efficient Space Plans	Maximising Space Efficiency	Plan spaces to optimise functionality and minimise material use.	Ensures efficient use of space and materials, reducing waste.
	Multifunctional Design Elements	Incorporate elements that serve multiple purposes to enhance efficiency.	Increases functionality and reduces the need for additional materials.

SOLUTION - INPUT - POTENTIAL

Circular Solutions	Design Input	Potential
Maximising Existing Stock	Prioritise adaptive reuse, renovation, and retrofitting of existing buildings to preserve resources and cultural heritage.	Reduces demand for new materials, decreases waste, and maintains historical and cultural continuity.
Local Sourcing and Recycling	Use locally sourced, renewable, recycled, or reclaimed materials in construction.	Promotes resource efficiency, reduces transportation emissions and offshore environmental impacts
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Integration	Incorporate energy-efficient features and renewable energy sources into building designs.	Reduces energy consumption, minimises reliance on fossil fuels, and contributes to a positive energy balance.
Circular Design Approaches	From the initial design stages apply modularity, material transparency, and lifecycle thinking.	Ensures efficient resource use throughout the building's lifecycle, facilitating future reuse and recycling.
Prioritising Material Reuse and Recycling	Emphasise the reuse of materials and recycling of construction and demolition waste (CDW).	Substitutes primary resources, reducing environmental impact.
Implementing Resource Efficiency Measures	Adopt practices that minimise waste generation and optimise material use.	Enhances sustainability by reducing resource consumption and environmental impacts.
Incorporating Life Cycle Perspective	Consider the entire lifespan of buildings, using Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) indicators to evaluate environmental impacts.	Provides a holistic understanding of a building's sustainability, informing better design and material choices.
Promoting Data-Driven Decision Making	Develop digital environments for data collection and analysis, implement Material Passports (MPs) and Building Certification systems.	Enhances transparency and informed decision-making in resource management.
Regional Customisation of CE Practices	Tailor CE strategies to regional specifics, considering local construction practices and waste management systems: bioeconomy (forestry, agriculture) and by-products.	Addresses unique regional needs, improving the effectiveness of CE strategies.

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CONCLUSION

MATERIAL STRATEGY

Raw Material Provision: Priorities and Order

1.

Sustainable Secondary Sources

2.

Sustainable Renewable Sources

3.

**Only the rest from Non-renewable
Sources**

CONCLUSION

MATERIAL STRATEGY

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Only the rest from Non-renewable Sources

Architecture in Austrian Alps

Reuse Strategies are important, but lacking?

Possibilities to Contribute in Design Project

Are there materials to reclaim?

CONCLUSION

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Traditional Building Methods using wood

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(Certified) Timber, rapidly renewable materials, Biobased

CONCLUSION

MATERIAL STRATEGY

Raw Material Provision: Priorities and Order

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Only the rest from Non-renewable Sources

Architecture in Austrian Alps

Reuse Strategies are important, but lacking?

Traditional Building Methods using wood

Traditional Building Methods using stone, concrete

Possibilities to Contribute in Design Project

Are there materials to reclaim?

(Certified) Timber, rapidly renewable materials, Biobased

Sourcing with high ecological standards, find alternative solutions for insulation material

Which (material) flows should be prioritised to
enhance **the Sustainability of Alpine Tourism?**

TOURISM FLOWS



Monitoring Sustainability of Alpine Destinations

Environmental Issues:

- Transport and soft mobility
- Management of energy and resources
- Snowmaking and the management of large facilities
- Protection of natural heritage and remarkable and ordinary biodiversity
- Action against the artificialisation and degradation of natural ecosystems
- Impact of climate change (mitigation and adaptation)
- Waste management

Economic Issues

- Enhancing local production
- Spatial development and land planning
- Seasonality



A lot is changing, due to climate change, one thing will remain: **In the Alpine regions people will continue to enjoy tourism and winter sports in the future, striving for health, freedom and unique experiences.** This will only be possible in the future in harmony with society and the environment. Therefore, tourism must be developed with **low sustainability risks.**

CONCLUSIONS

Choices in Programm & Use

PROGRAMM & USE

*Program of Requirement **circular building project** in the Austrian Alps
contributing to **sustainable tourism***

Program of Requirements

Total Area: ~2500 square meters

1. Systems & Sustainability

- Modularity - expanding or downsizing?
- Design for standardisation
- Energy-efficient systems (heating, cooling, lighting)
- Greenhouse - Foodproduction (?)
- Waste management and recycling facilities
- Water management

2. Hotel Components

2.1. Entrance and Lobby Area – 150 sqm

- Reception desk
- Seating area
- Luggage storage
- Information kiosk
- Restrooms

2.2. Guest Rooms ~ 600 sqm

- Total Rooms: 25-35 rooms
- Standard Rooms: 20-25 rooms (20-25 sqm each)
- Double Rooms: 5-10 rooms (30-35 sqm each)

2.3. Common Areas

- Lounge area (with fireplace?)
- Small conference/meeting room (outside space?) 30-40 sqm)

2.4. Bathhouse & Wellness ~ 250 sqm

- Douches, baths
- Small fitness center
- Sauna and spa area

2.5. Back of the House

- Laundry room
- Housekeeping storage
- Maintenance room
- Staff break room
- Staff changing rooms

3. Restaurant Components ~ 550 sqm

3.1. Dining Area

- Main dining room (150-200 sqm, 50-80 seats)
- Outdoor terrace (50-75 sqm)
- Breakfast area (part of restaurant)

3.2. Bar Area

- Bar counter (20-30 sqm)
- Seating area (20-30 seats)

3.3. Kitchen and Support Areas

- Main kitchen (100-150 sqm)
- Prep kitchen (50-75 sqm)
- Cold storage (20-30 sqm)
- Dry storage (20-30 sqm)
- Dishwashing area (20-30 sqm)
- Staff restrooms and changing rooms

4. Recreational Areas

- Children's play area
- Ski & Bicycle storage
- Changing Rooms

DESIGN QUESTIONS

*How to design a **circular building project** in the Austrian Alps that not only contributes to **sustainable tourism**, but also to **closing the Circularity Gap in Austria**?*

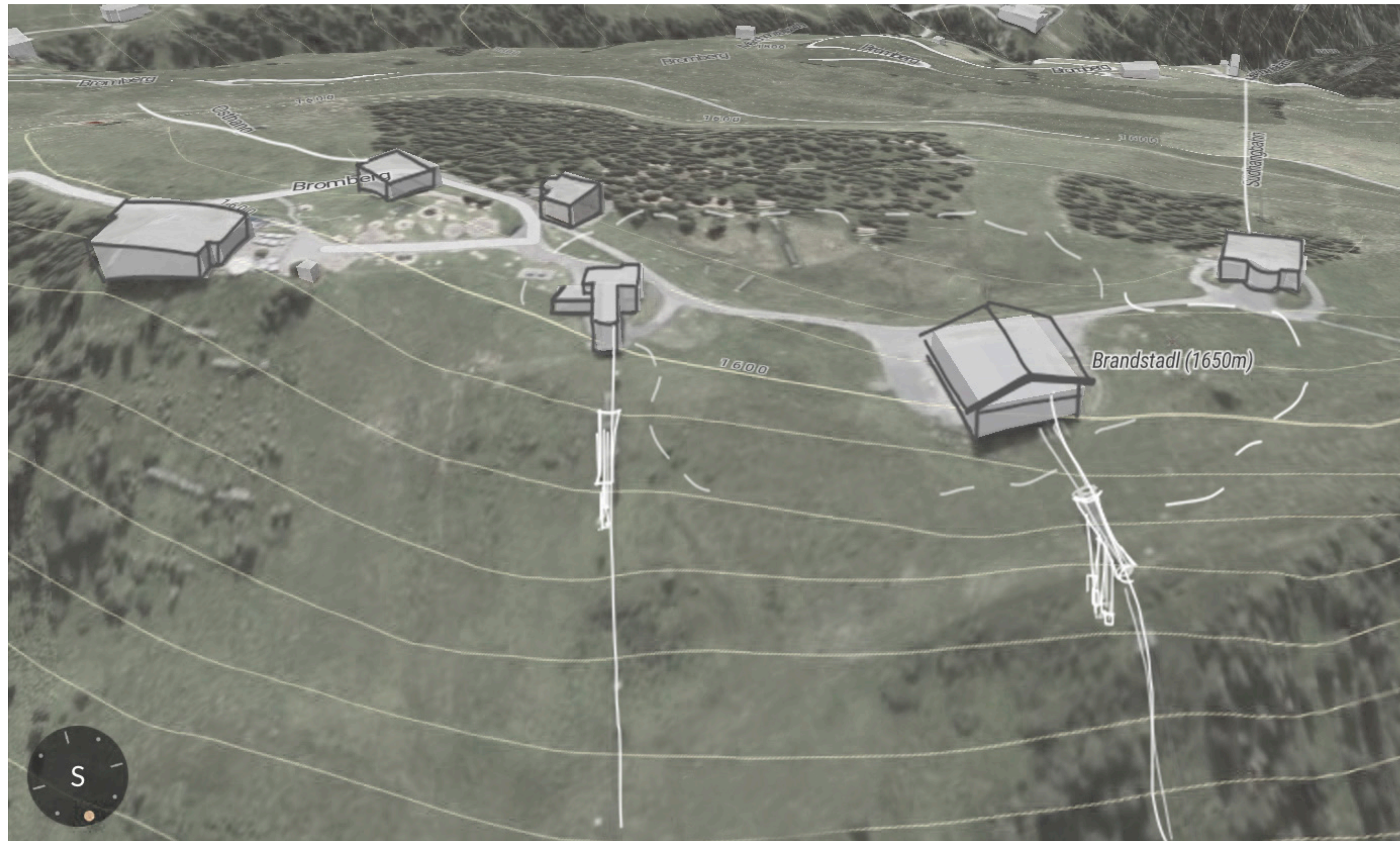
How can the design serve as a **manifestation of circular innovation**?

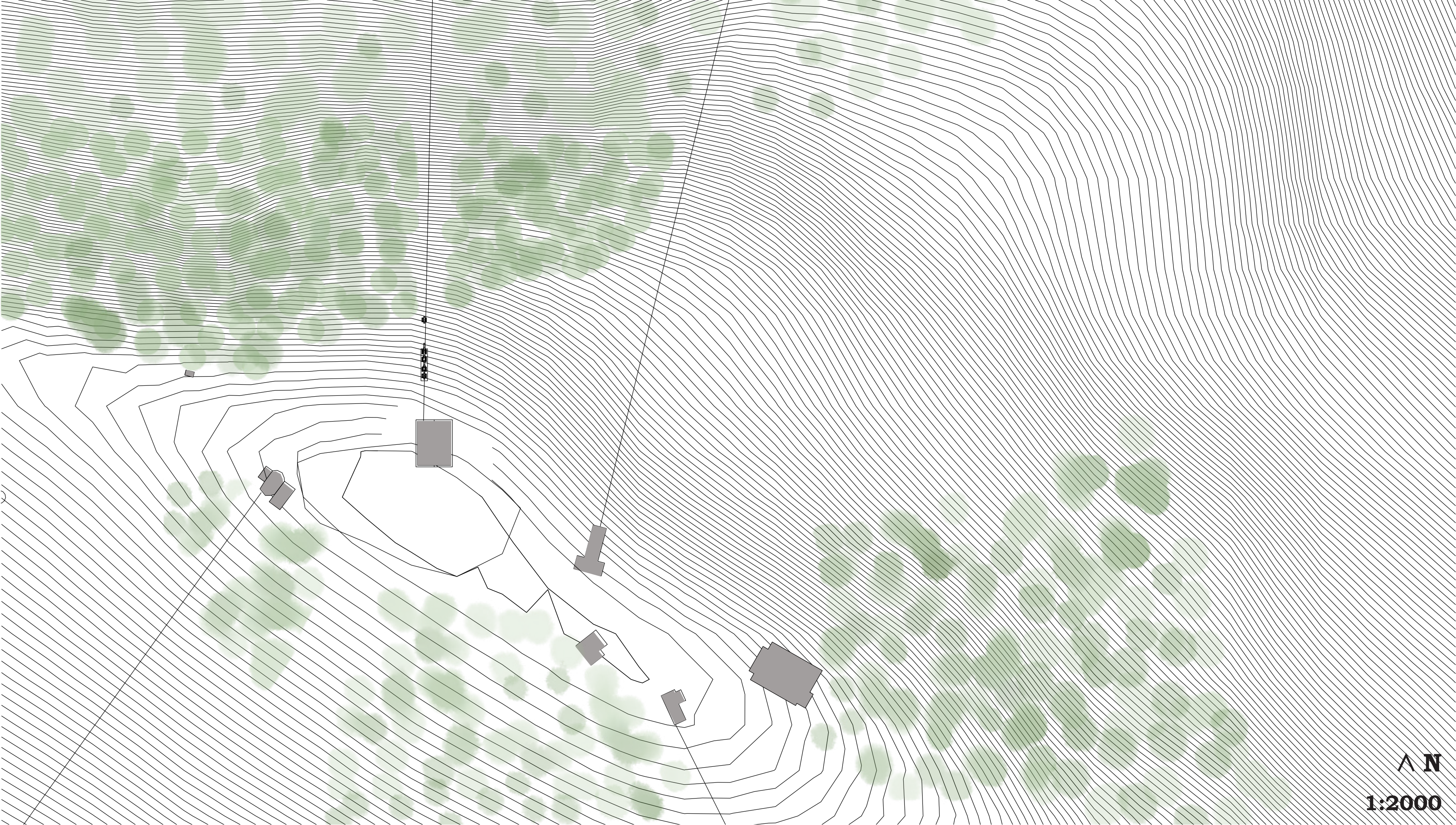
How can the design **restore the qualities of the mountains**, emphasize them and let people (inhabitants & tourists) **continue to enjoy** them?



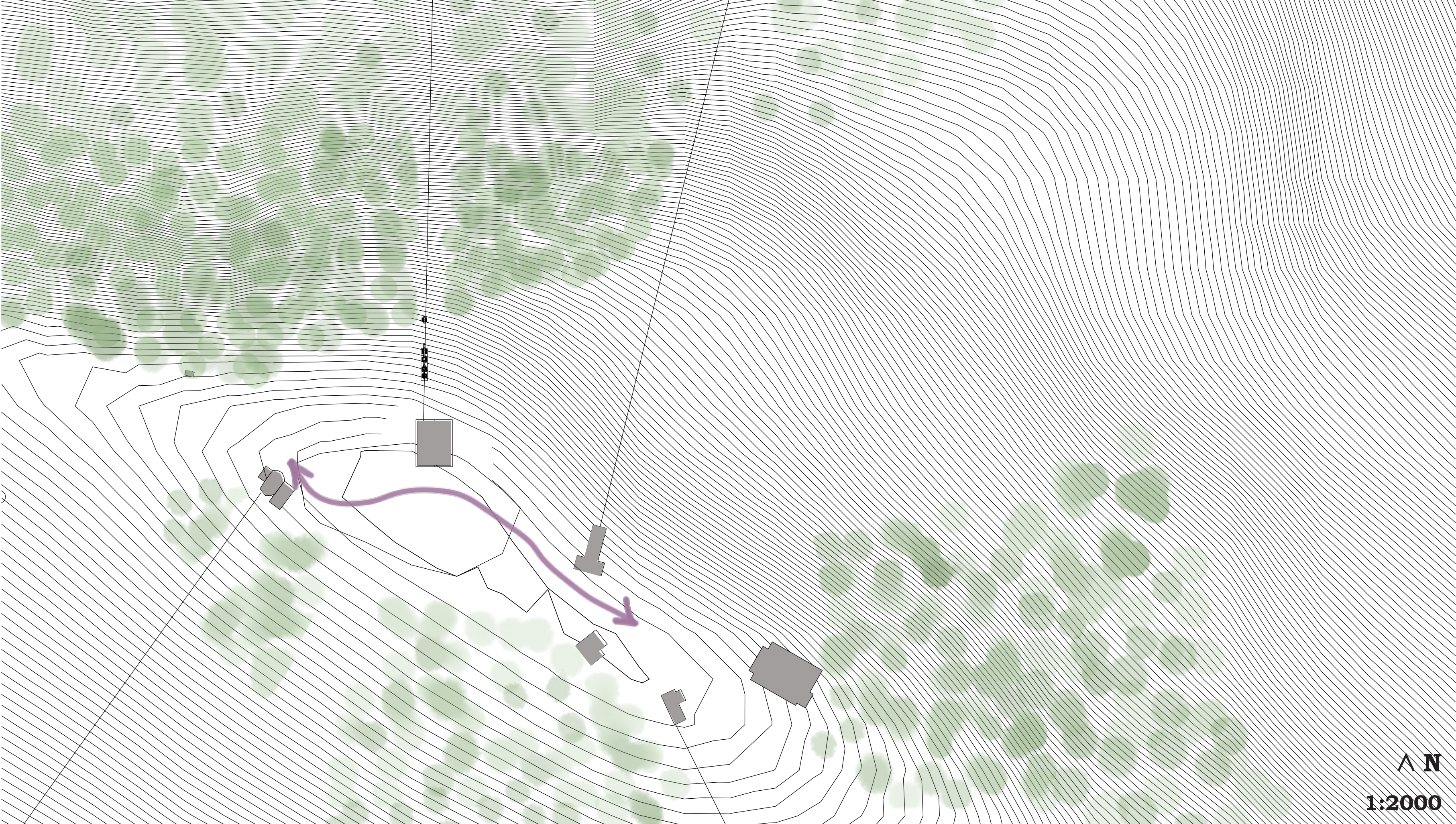








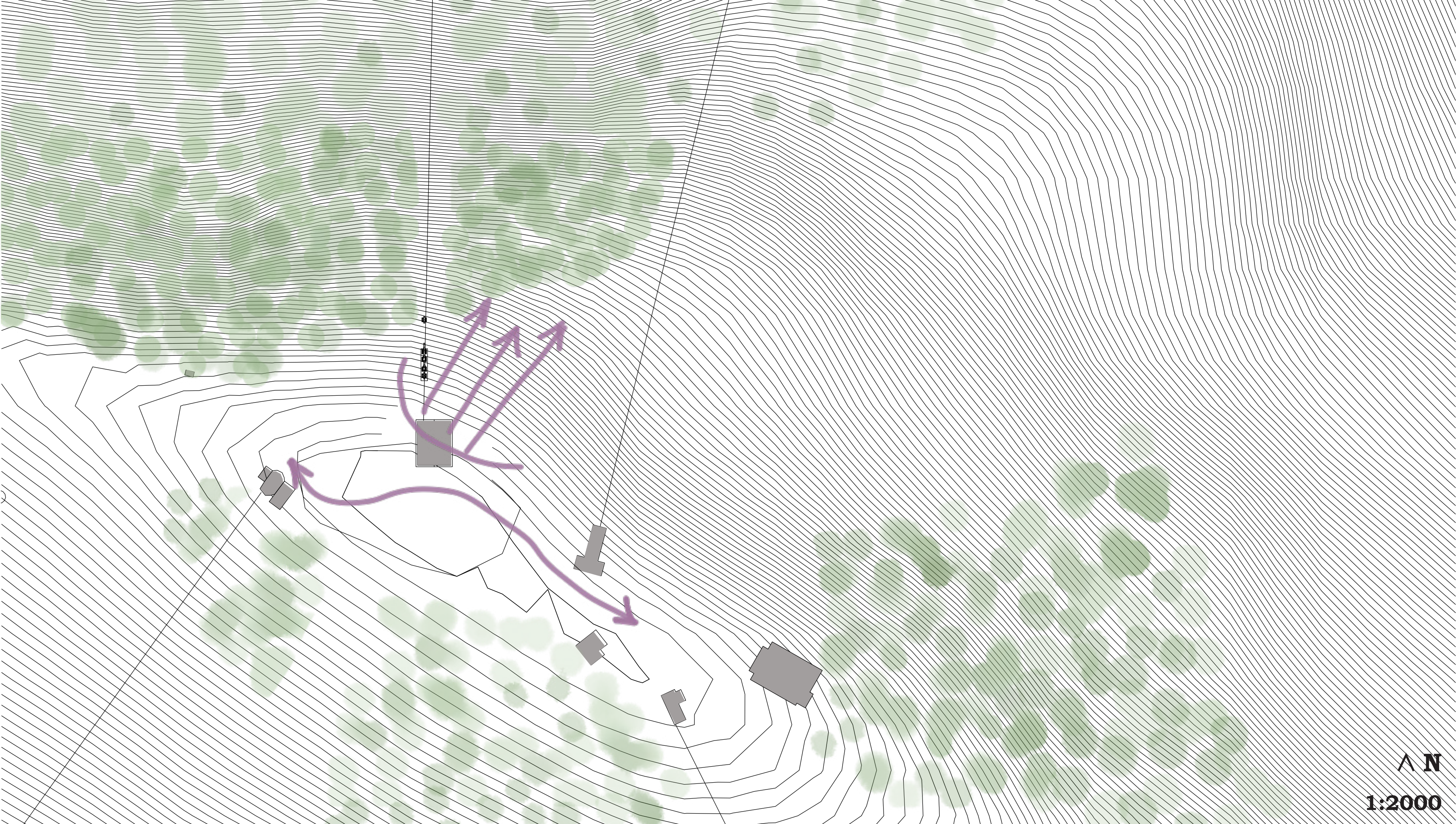
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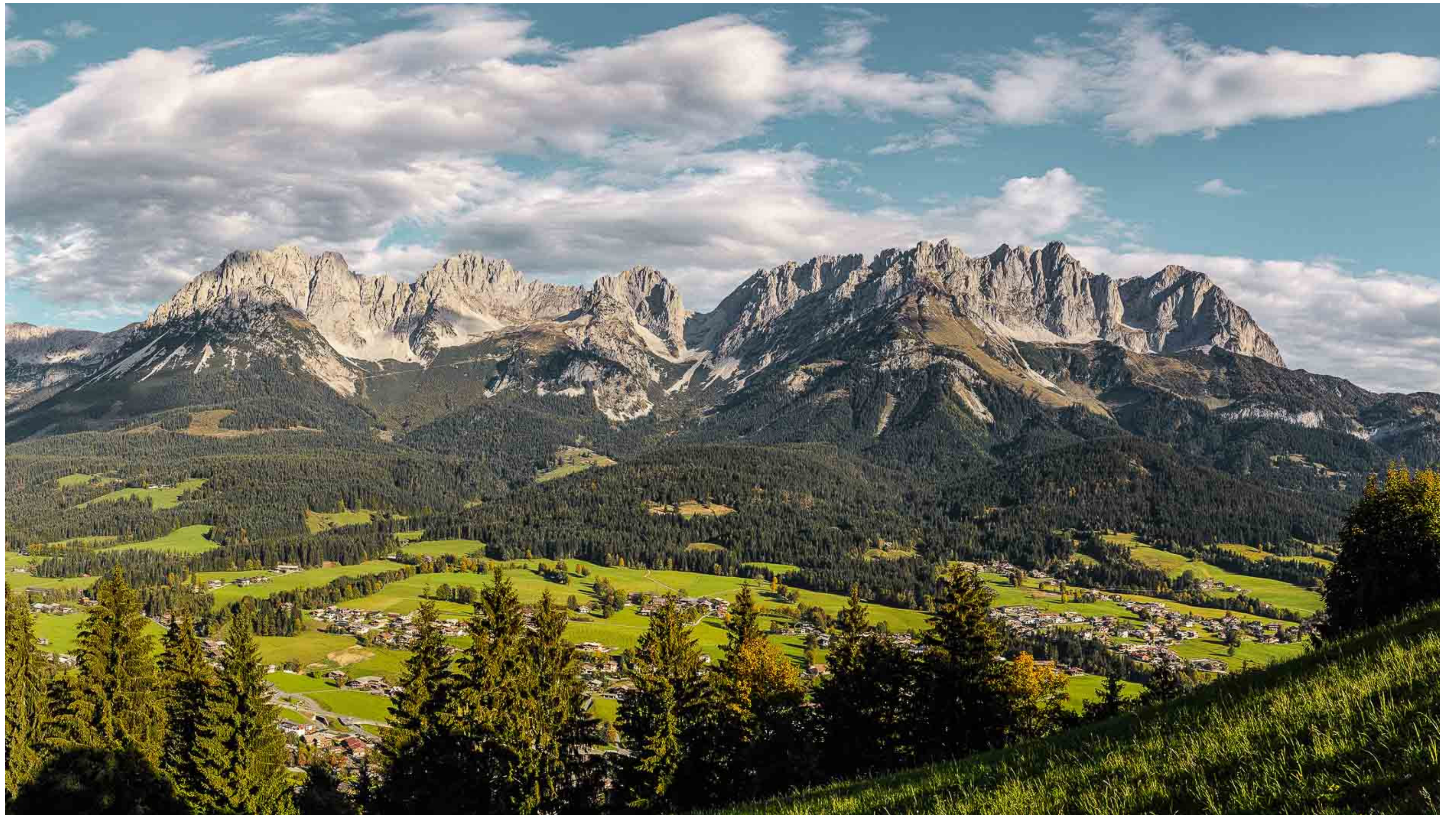


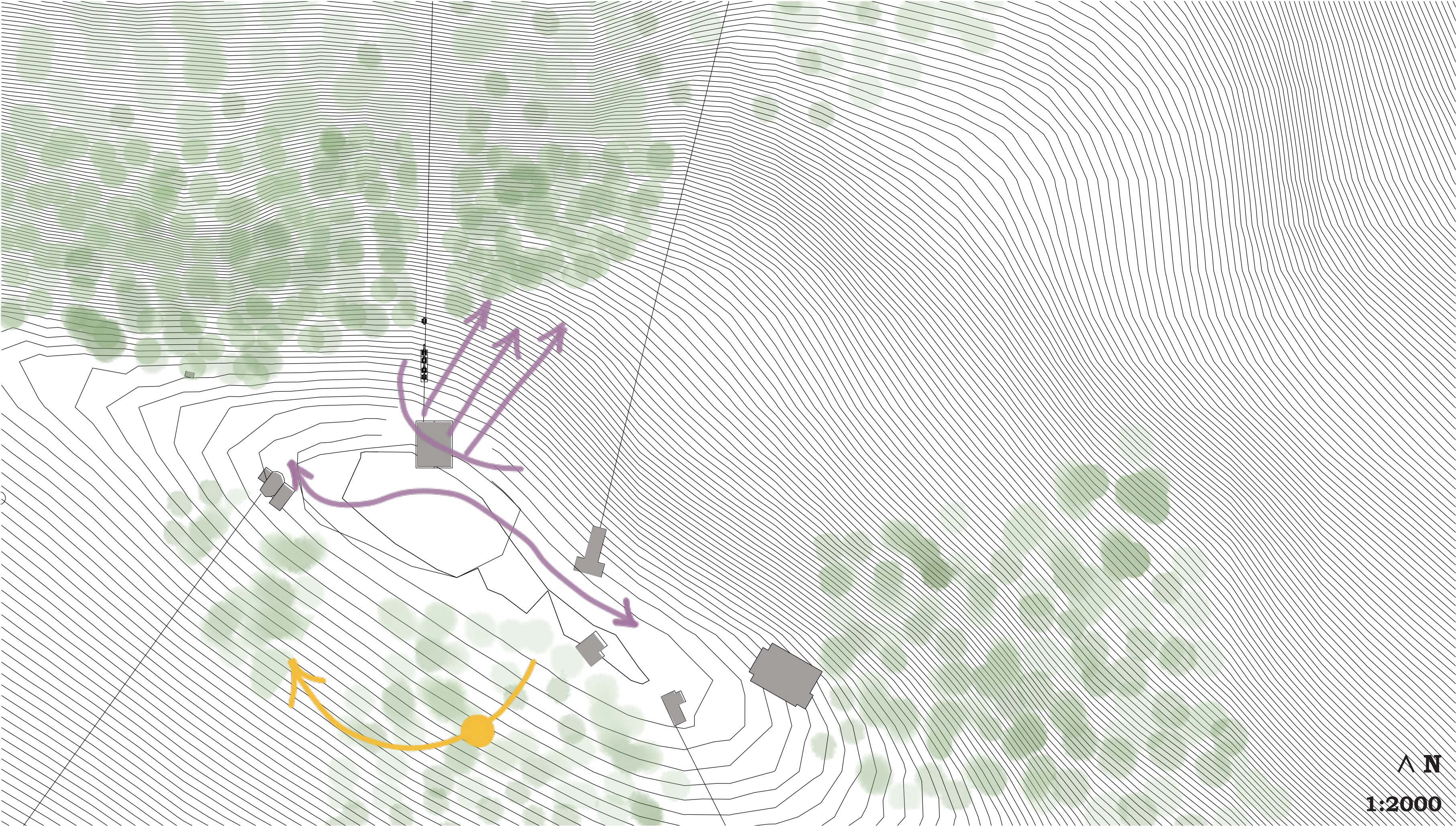
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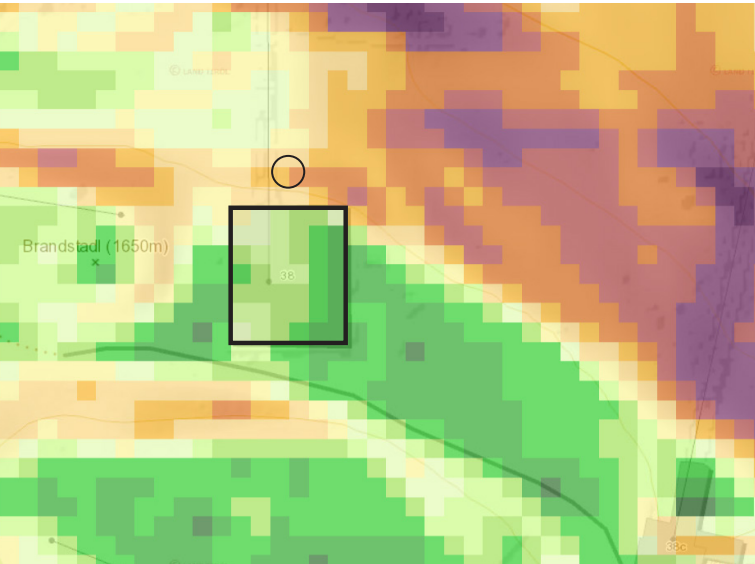
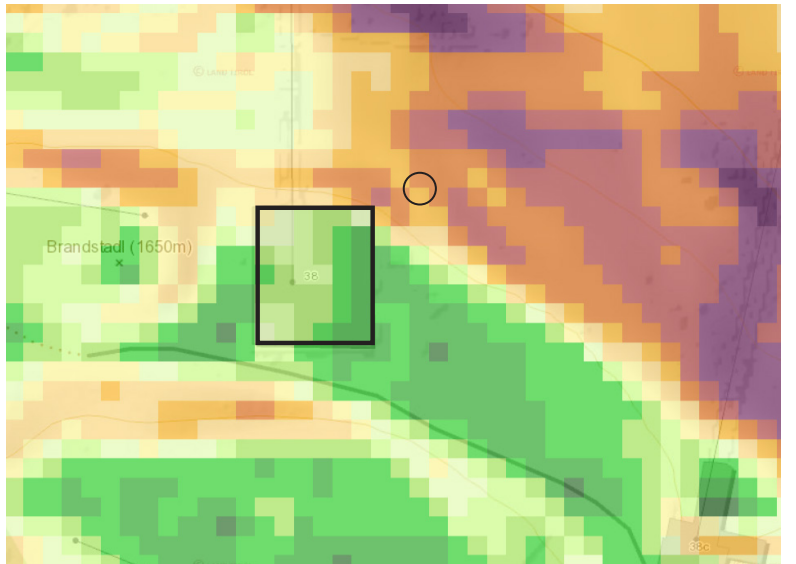
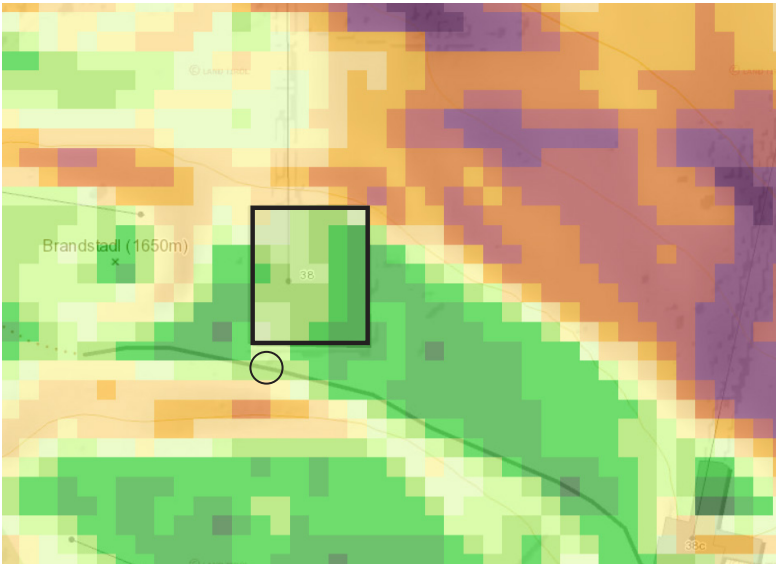
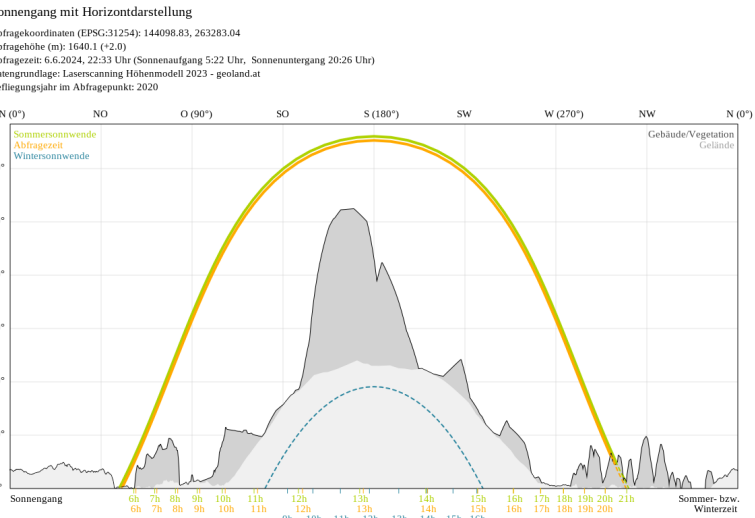
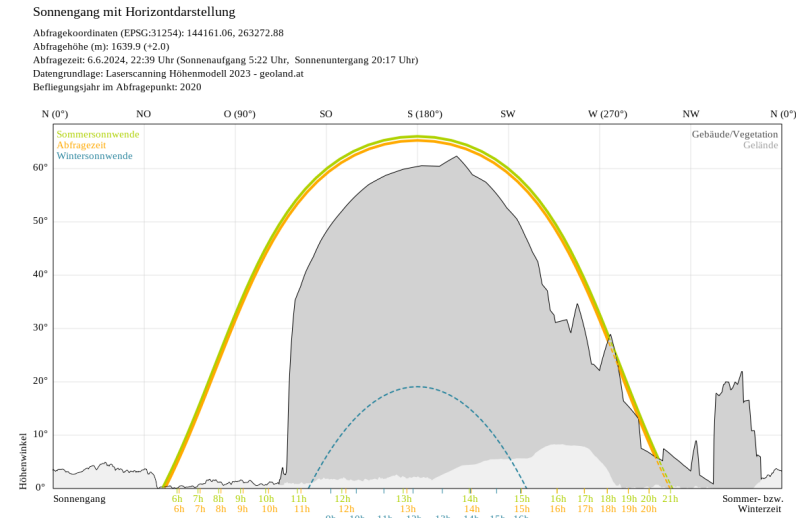
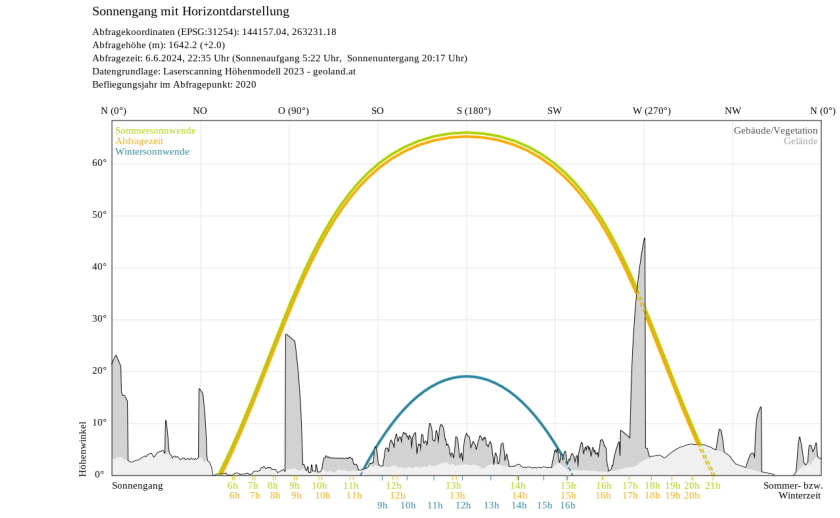






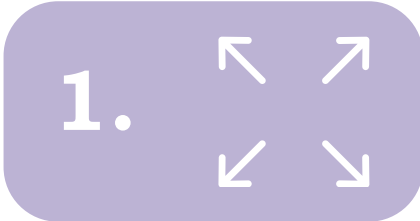
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SUN PATH DATA



DESIGN RULES & STEPS

START: WHAT IS ALREADY THERE?
WHAT ARE THE REGIONAL CE STRATEGIES?



MAXIMISE STOCK

INVENTORY - POTENTIAL STOCK



STRUCTURES TO REUSE?

INVENTORY - WHAT CAN BE USED, MATERIALS TO RECLAIM?
CONTRIBUTE TO CLOSING MATERIAL LOOPS

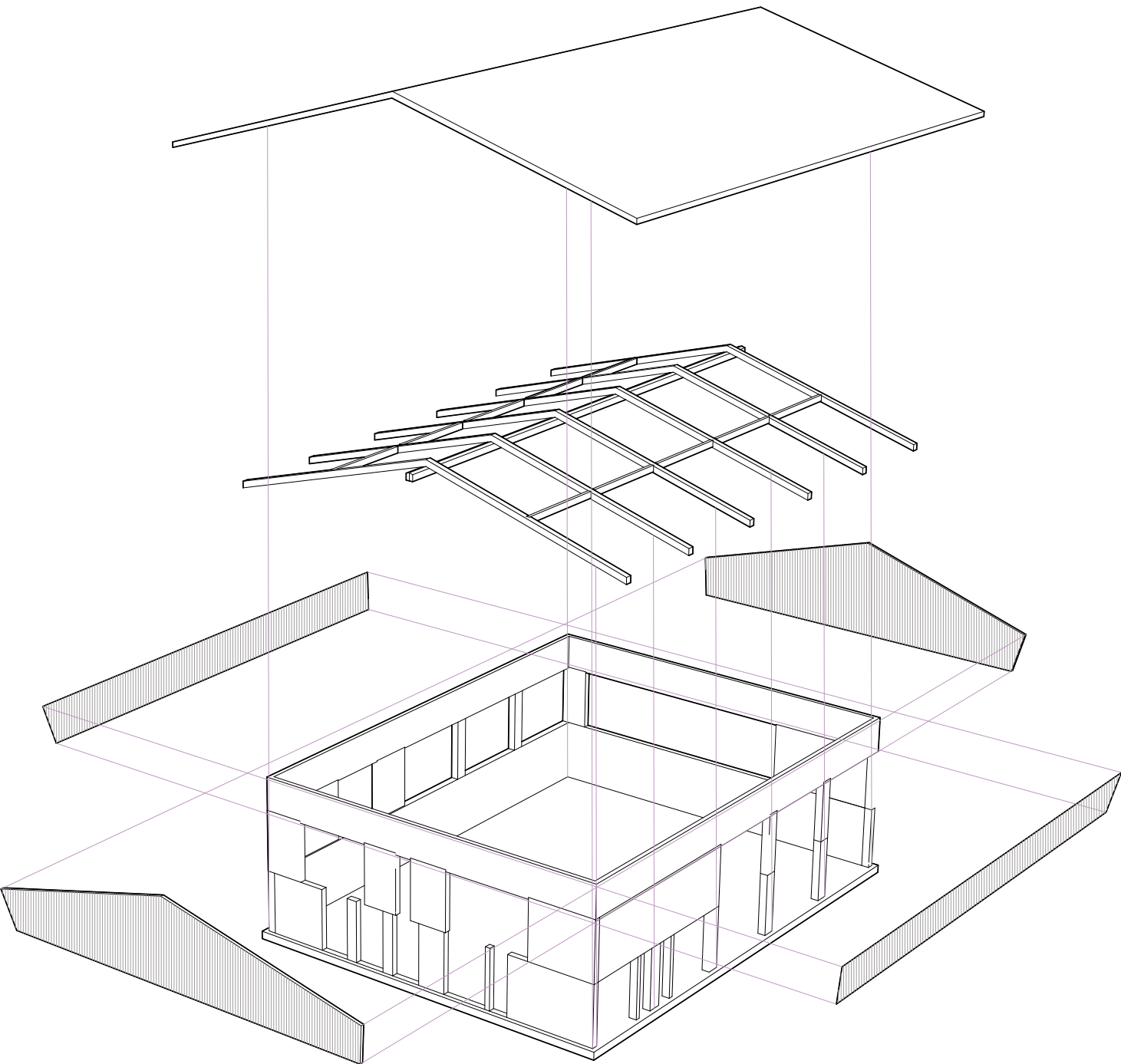
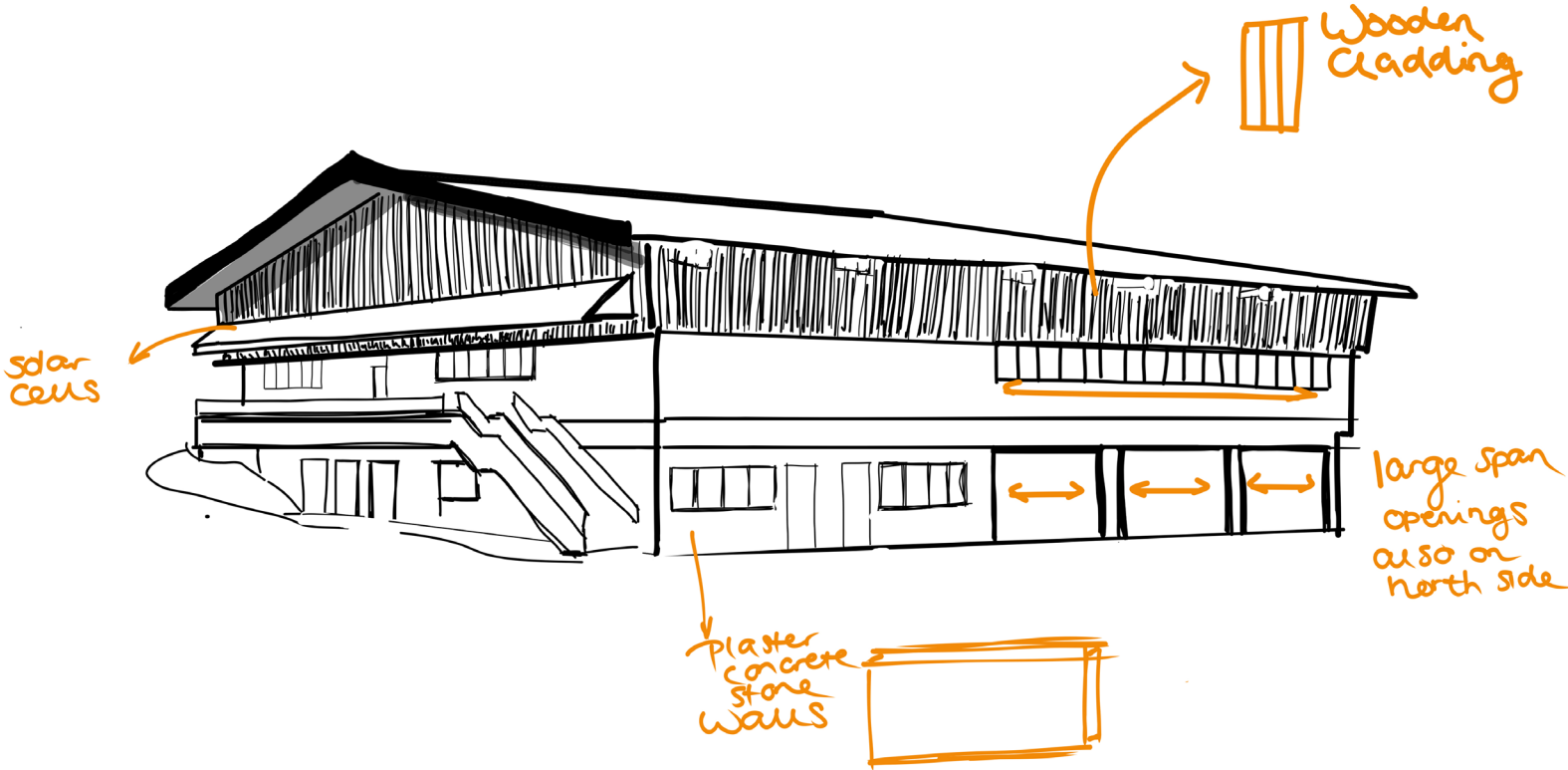


LOCAL MATERIALS - KEEP WITHIN RANGE

RAMMED EARTH, IF EXCAVATION
CERTIFIED WOOD
BY-PRODUCTS FORESTRY, AGRICULTURE



INVENTORY
EXISTING



1.

↖

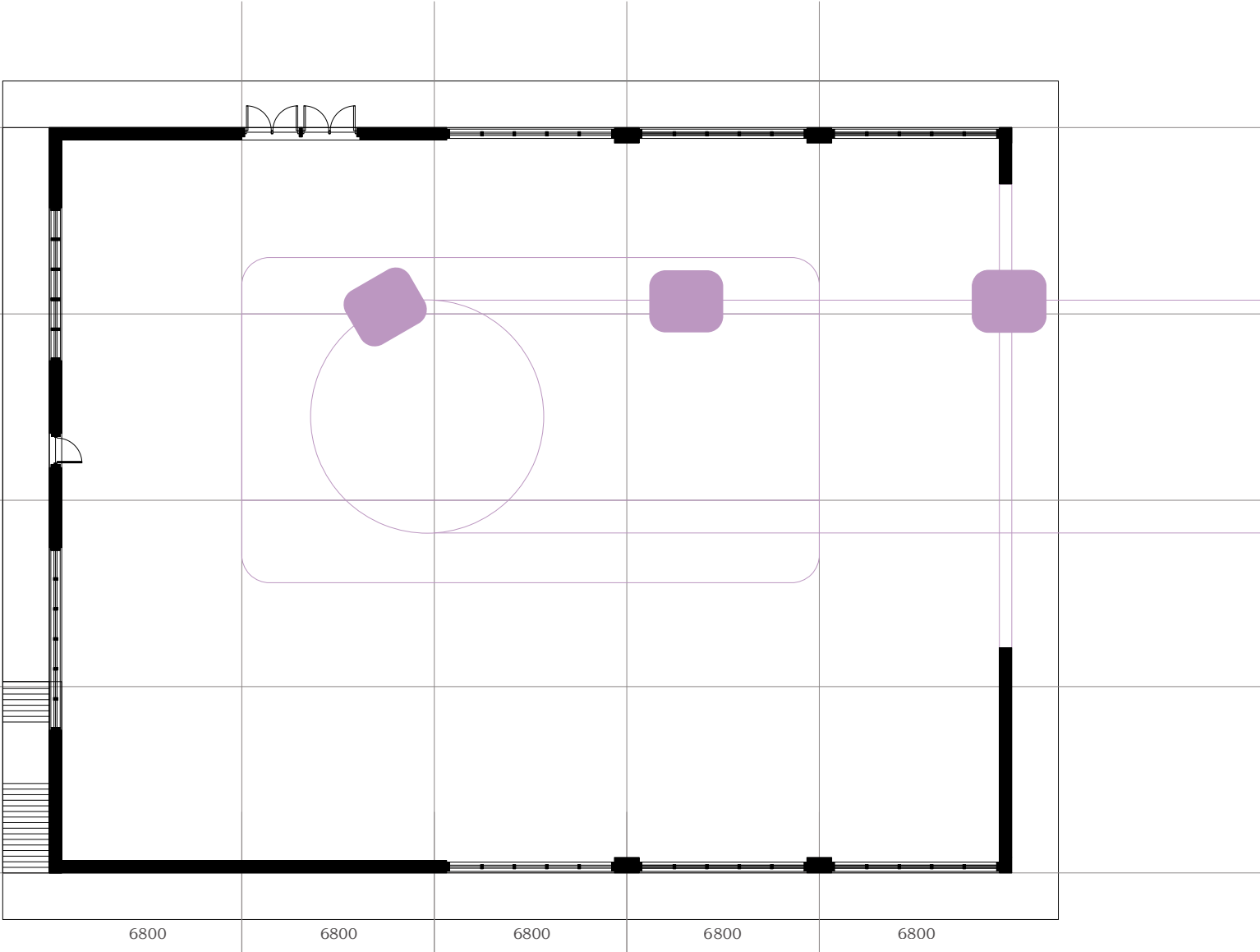
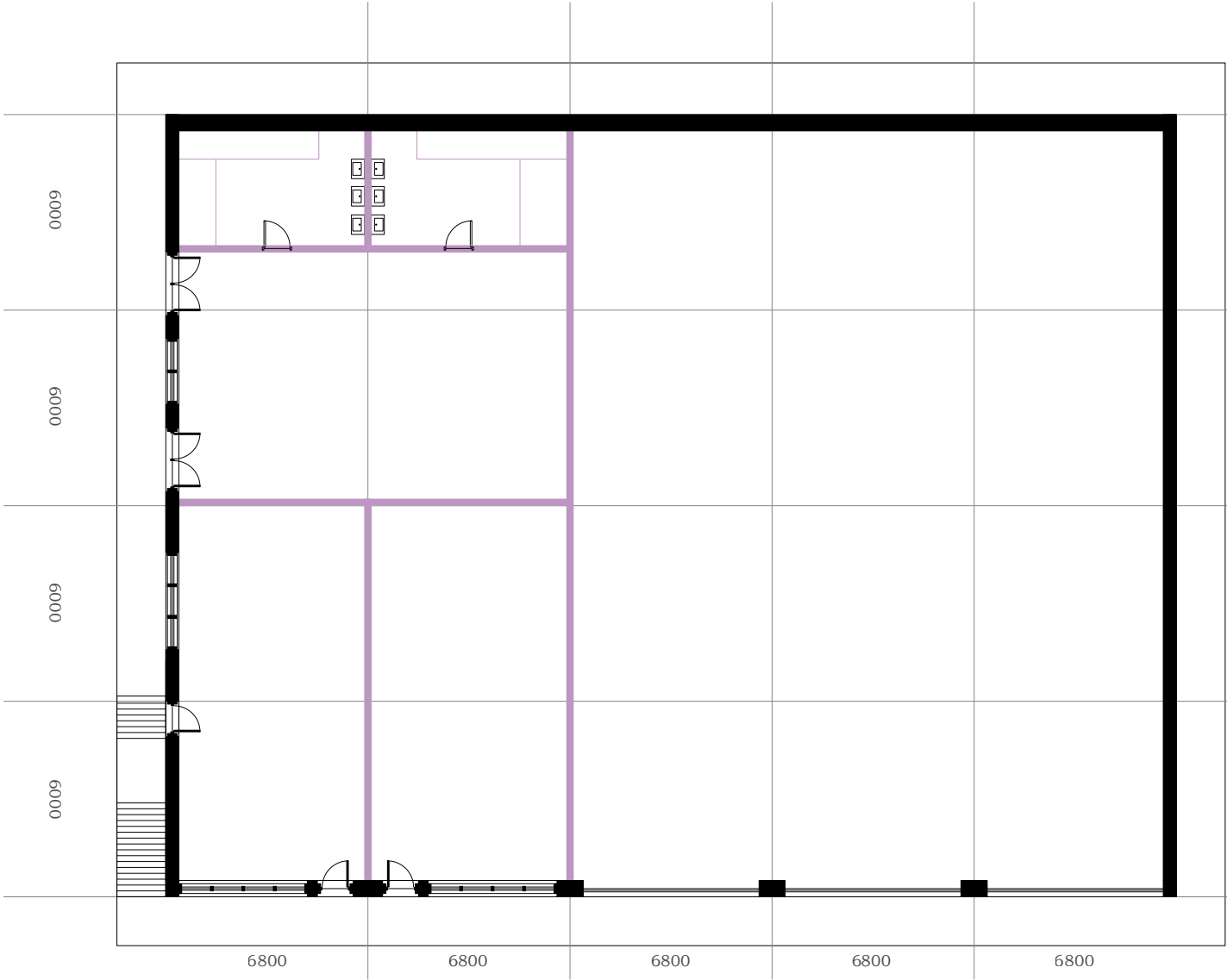
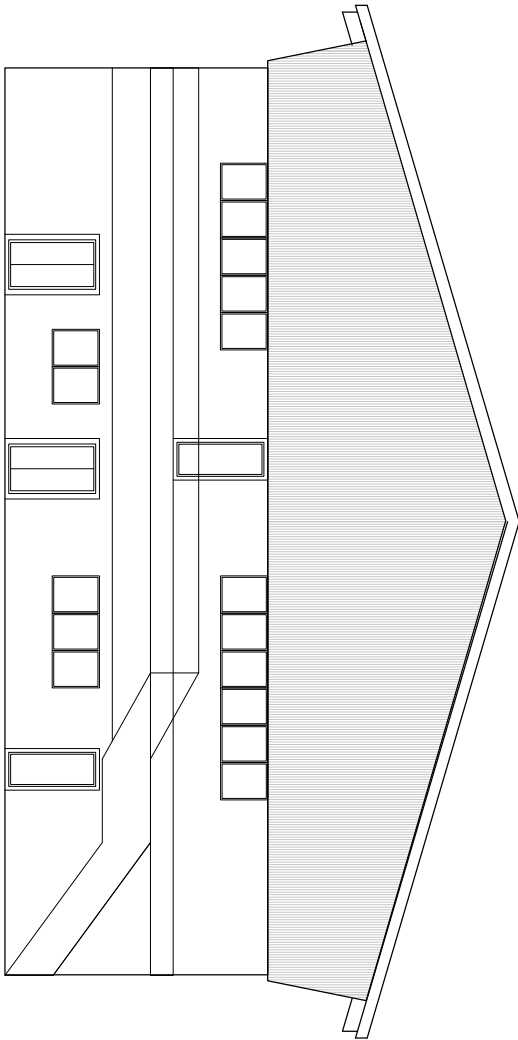
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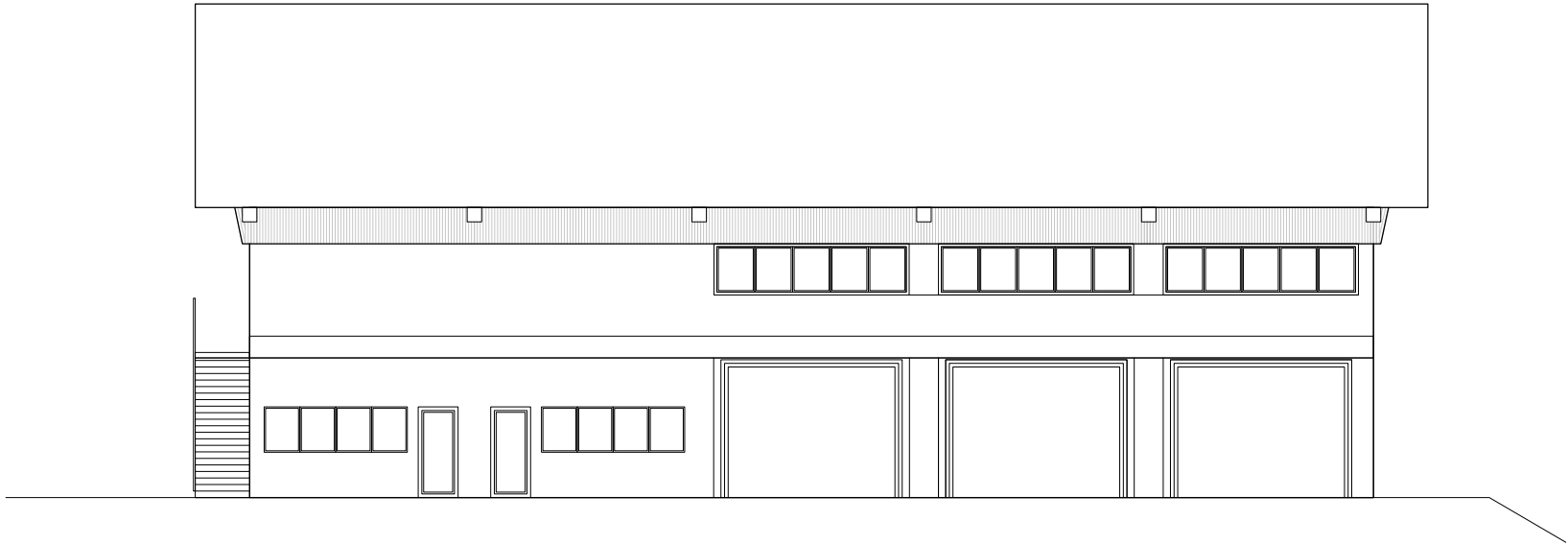
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INVENTORY

EXISTING



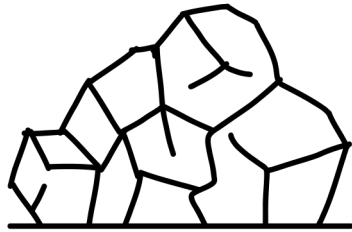
1ST FLOOR



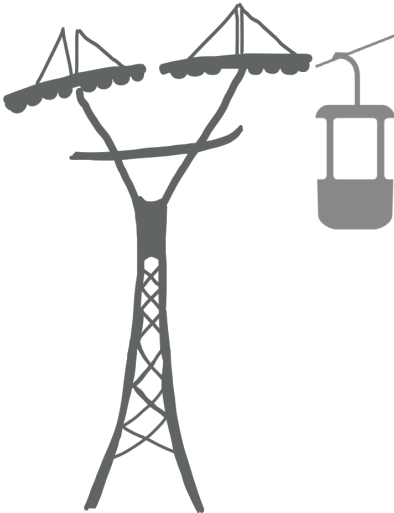
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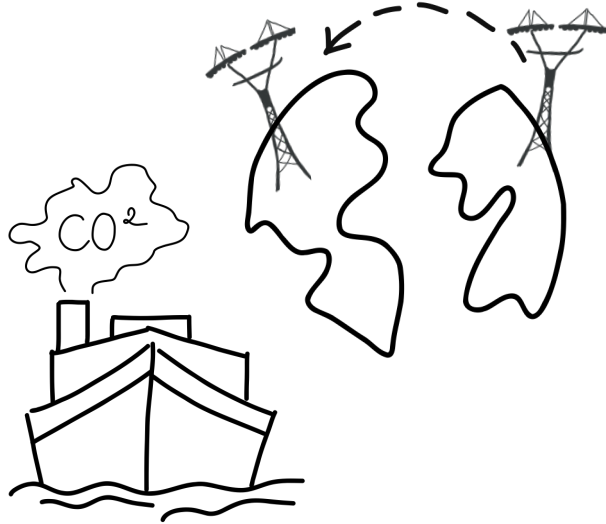
INVENTORY
CONTRIBUTE TO CLOSING MATERIAL LOOPS



ORE, STEEL PRODUCTION



30 YEARS

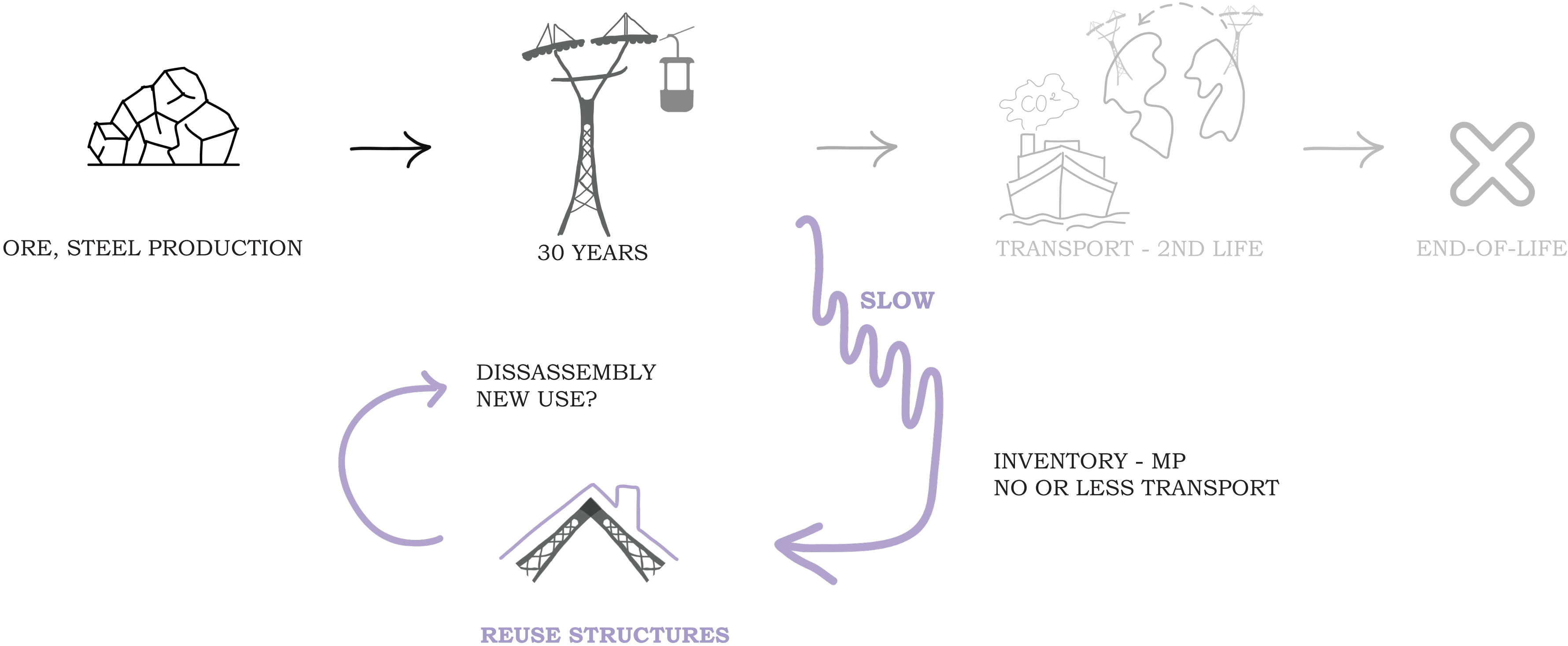


TRANSPORT - 2ND LIFE



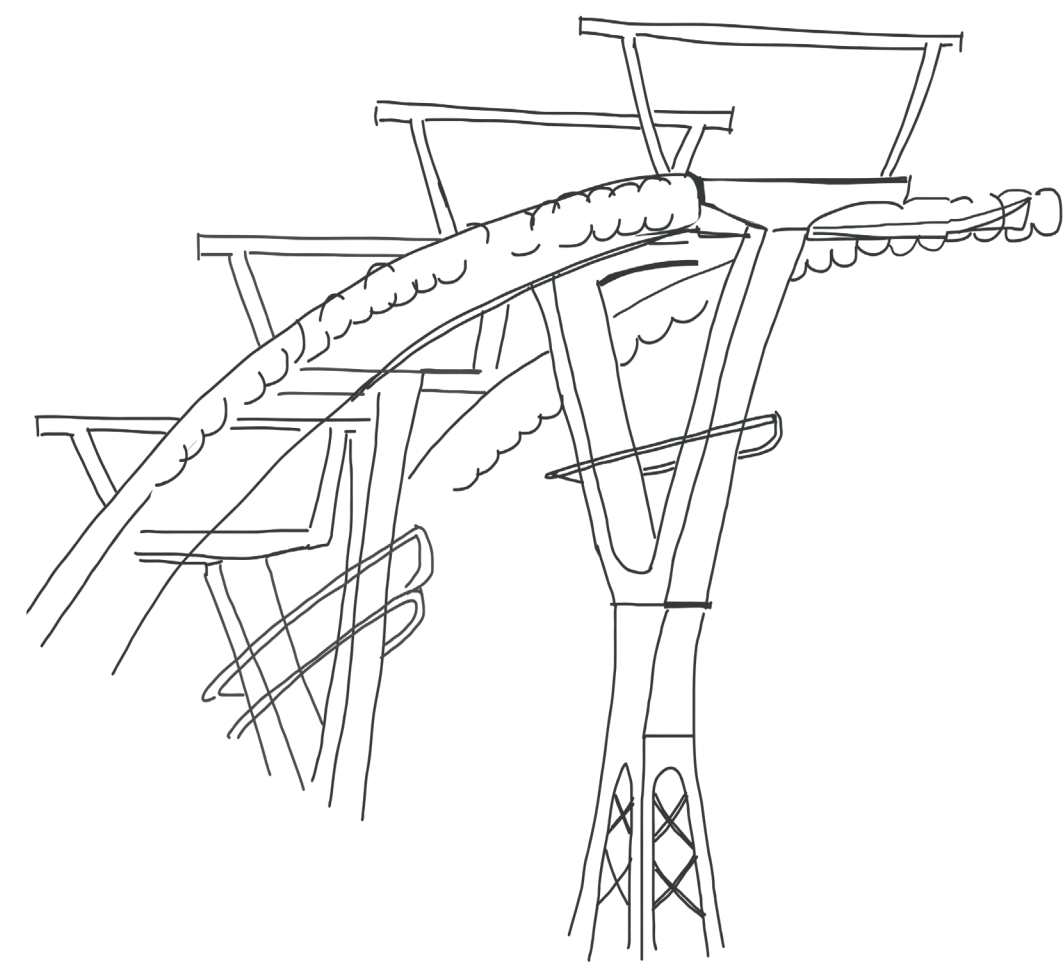
END-OF-LIFE

INVENTORY
CONTRIBUTE TO CLOSING MATERIAL LOOPS

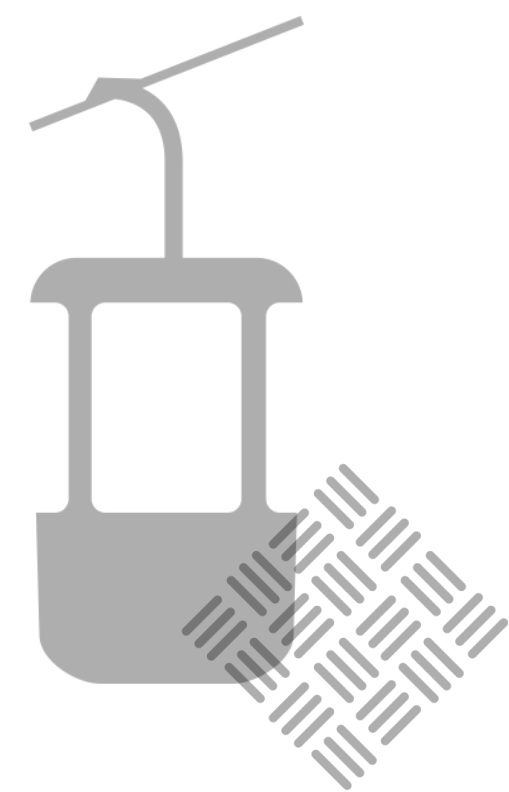


INVENTORY

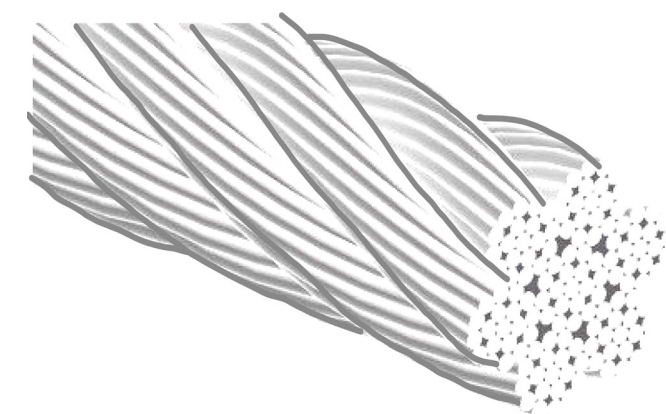
STEEL - REUSE



STRUCTURE - 25 COLUMNS



GONDOLA - SHEETS



CABLE - WIRES

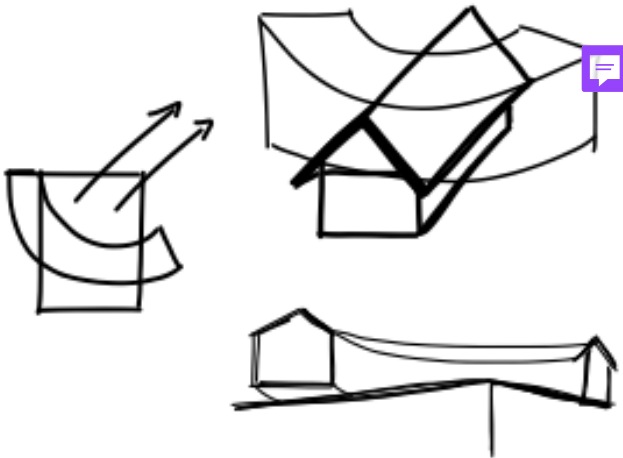
DESIGN CONCEPTS



HIDING IN THE WOODS

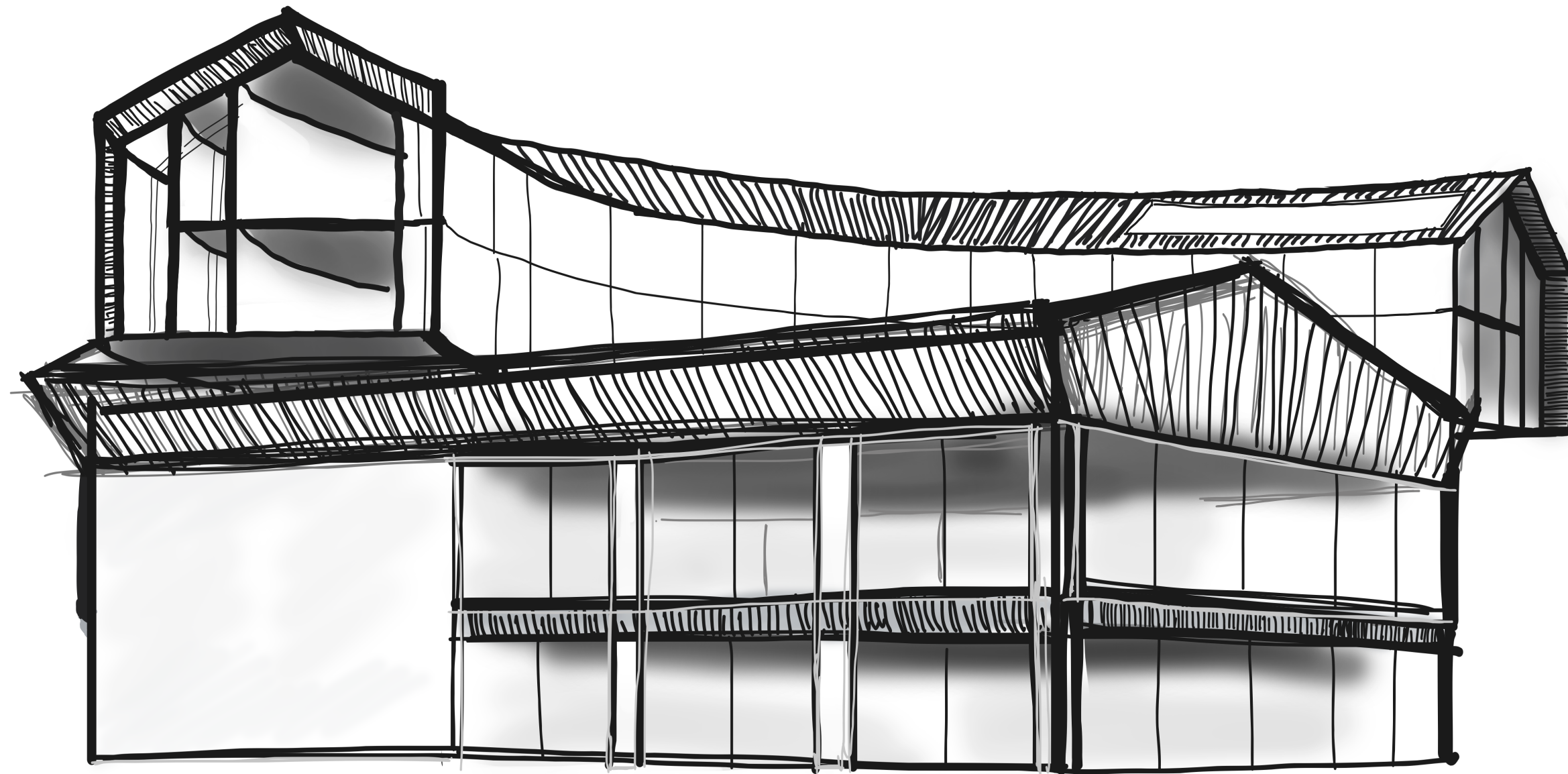


EXTEND PLATEAUS

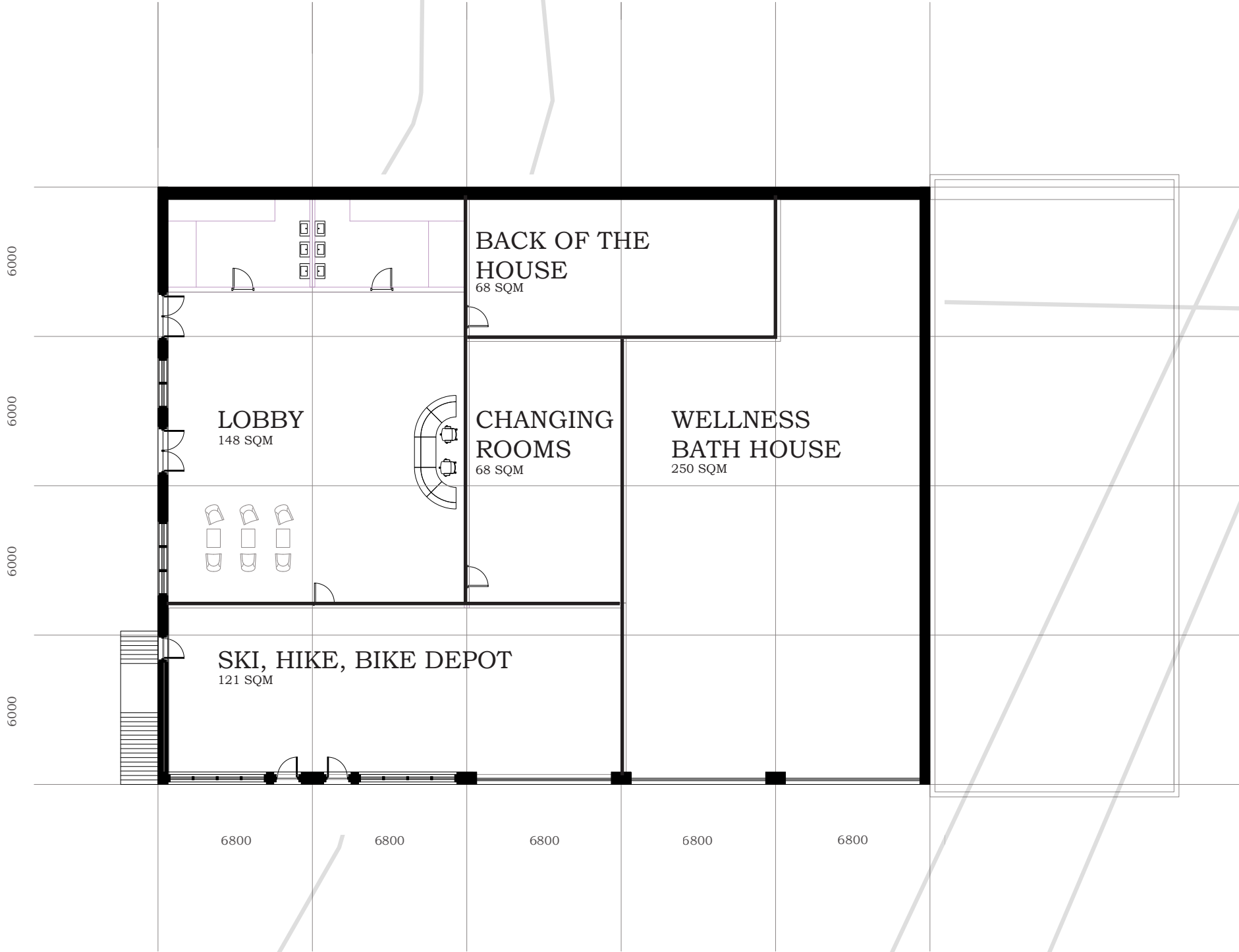


TOP-UP ON PEDESTAL

DESIGN CONCEPT

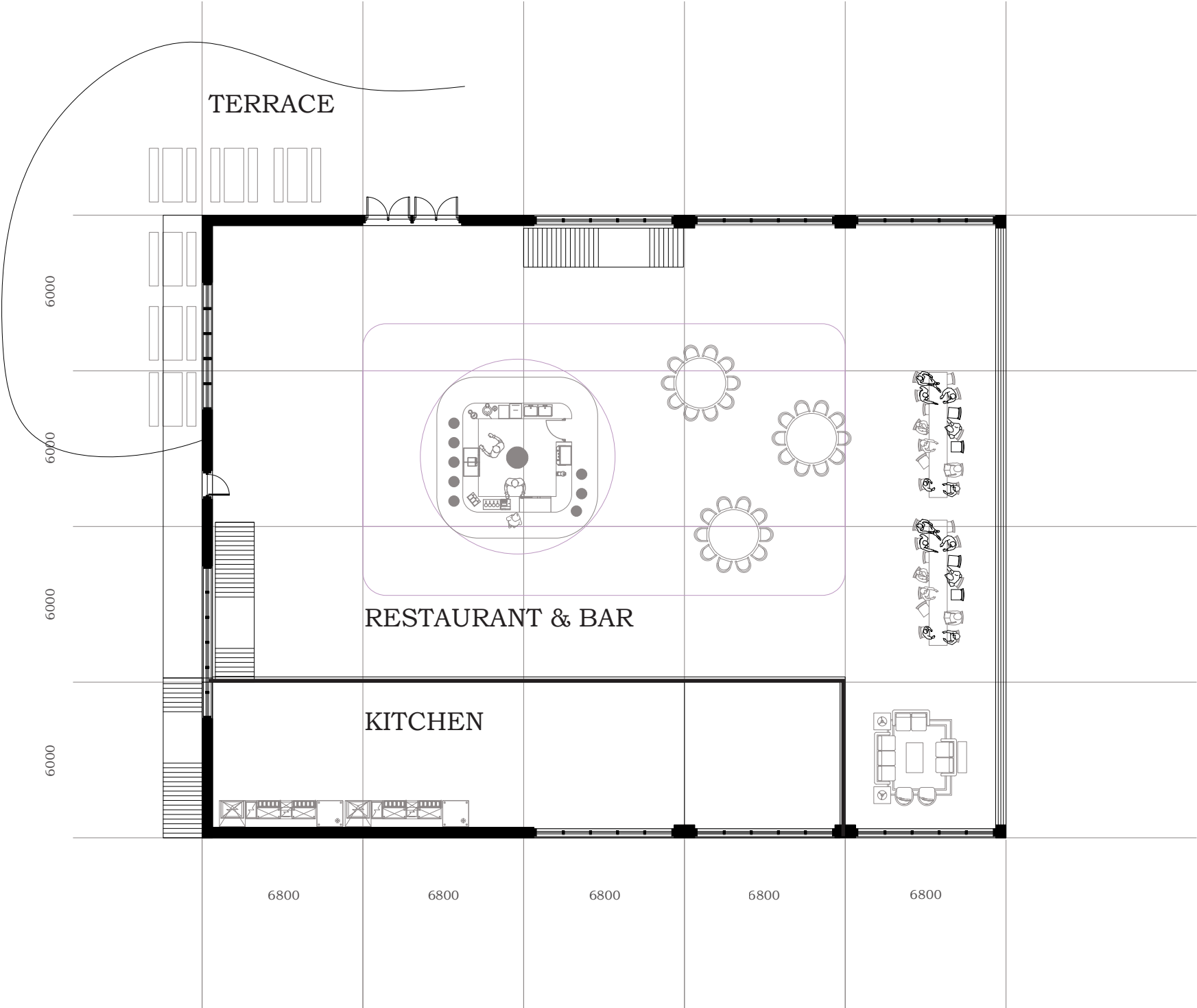


DESIGN
GROUND FLOOR



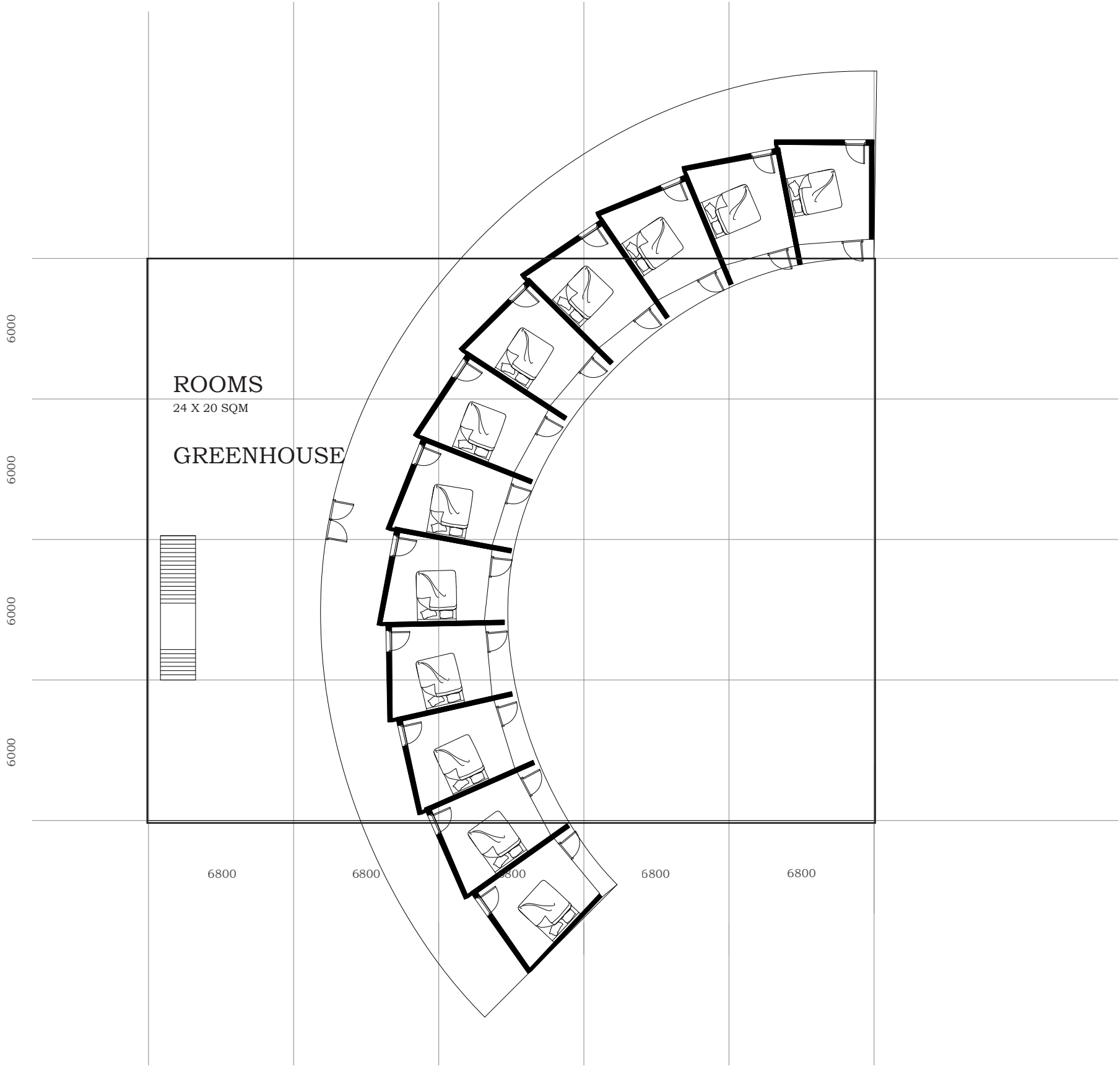
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DESIGN
1ST FLOOR



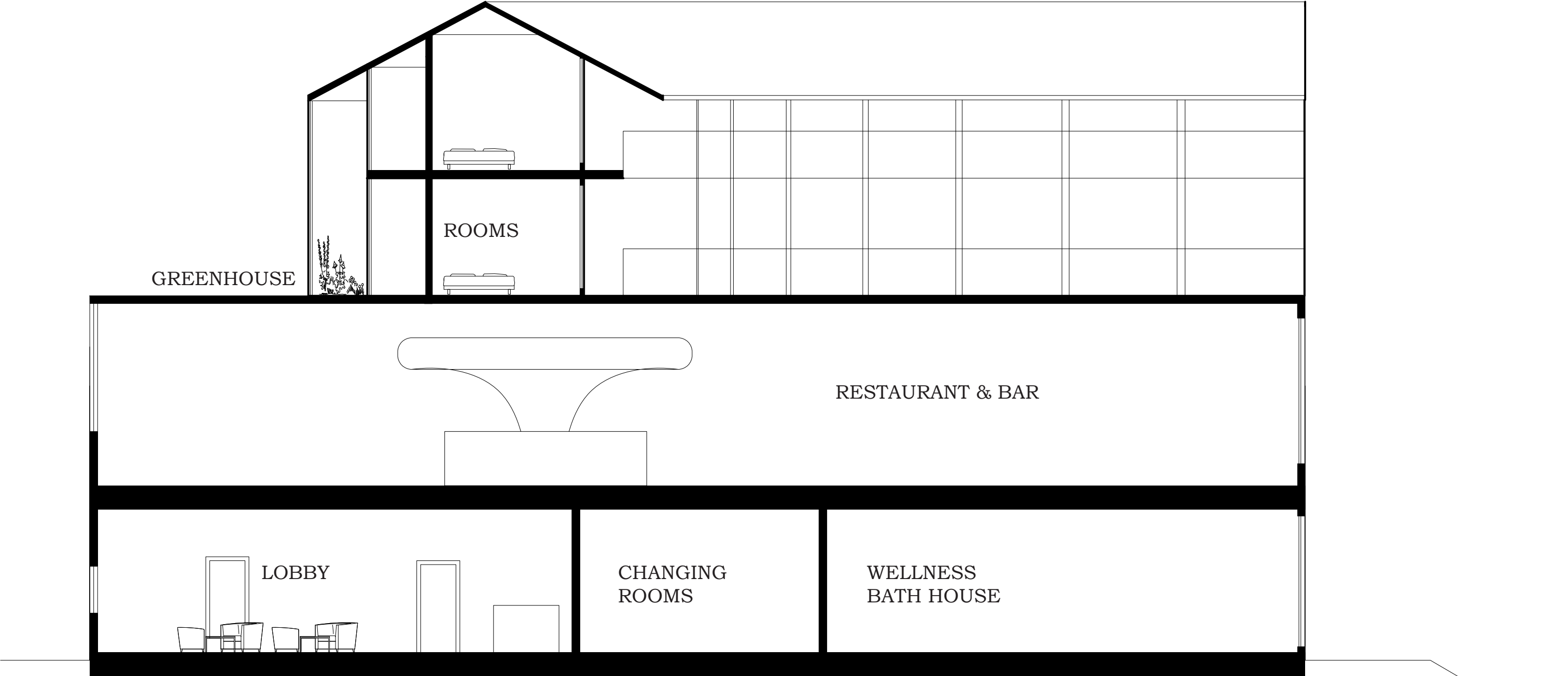
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DESIGN
FLOOR 2 & 3



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DESIGN
SECTION



S-N

1:100

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. The terrain is a mix of dark, dense forest and lighter, open fields. A small cluster of buildings, possibly a farm or small village, is visible in the center-right. A winding road or path cuts through the landscape. The overall tone is dark and somewhat grainy, typical of an aerial photograph.

**AND NOW?
AFTER P2**

Location visit!
Extend inventory
Measurements, dimensions
Technical requirements
Harvest map

GOALS

Circular building project,
Sustainable way of tourism,
Closing material loops,
Letting people continue to enjoy
the qualities of the mountains,
context of Austrian Alps

MOVE MOUNTAINS

QUESTIONS?