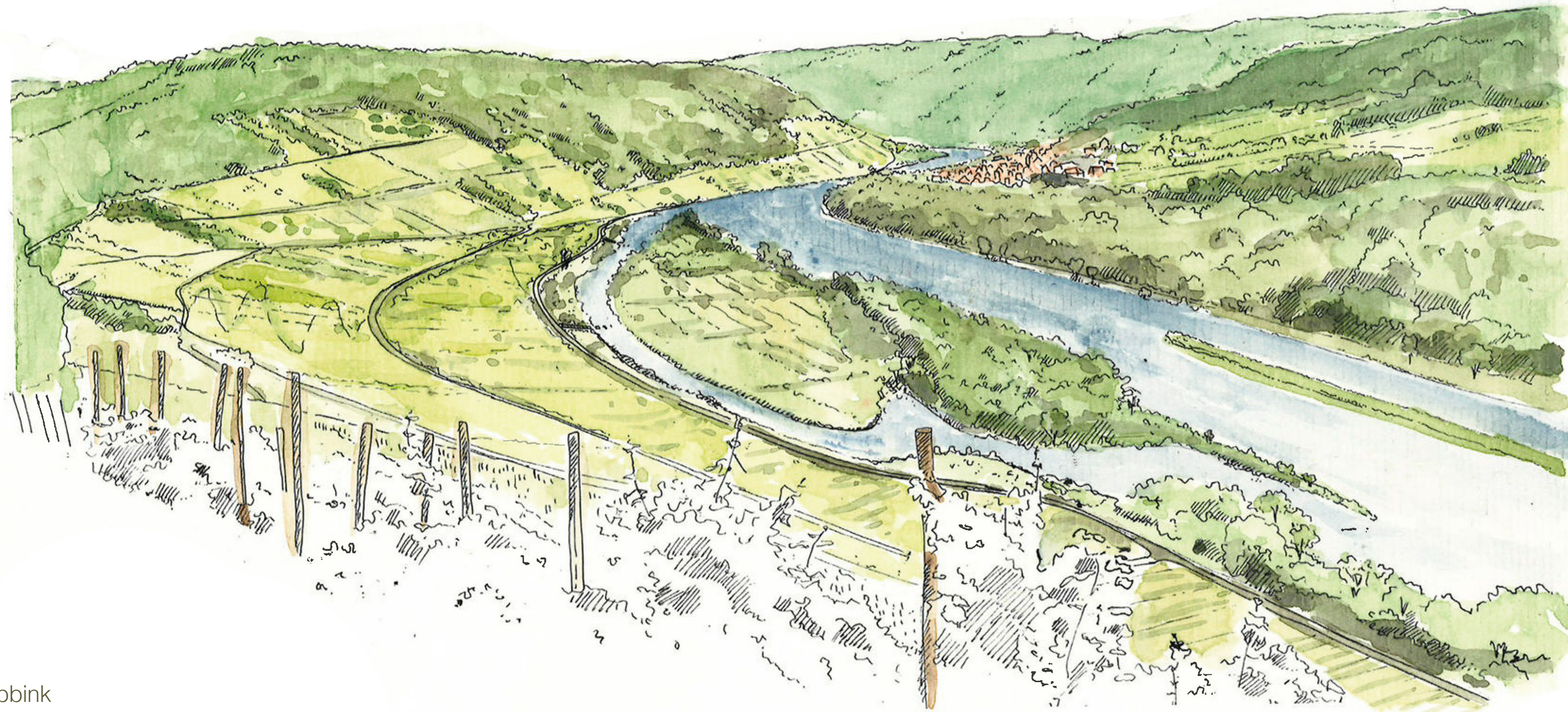


MOSEL BEYOND THE PICTURESQUE

From Romantic View to Layered, Resilient Landscape



Geeske van Batenburg
5859506

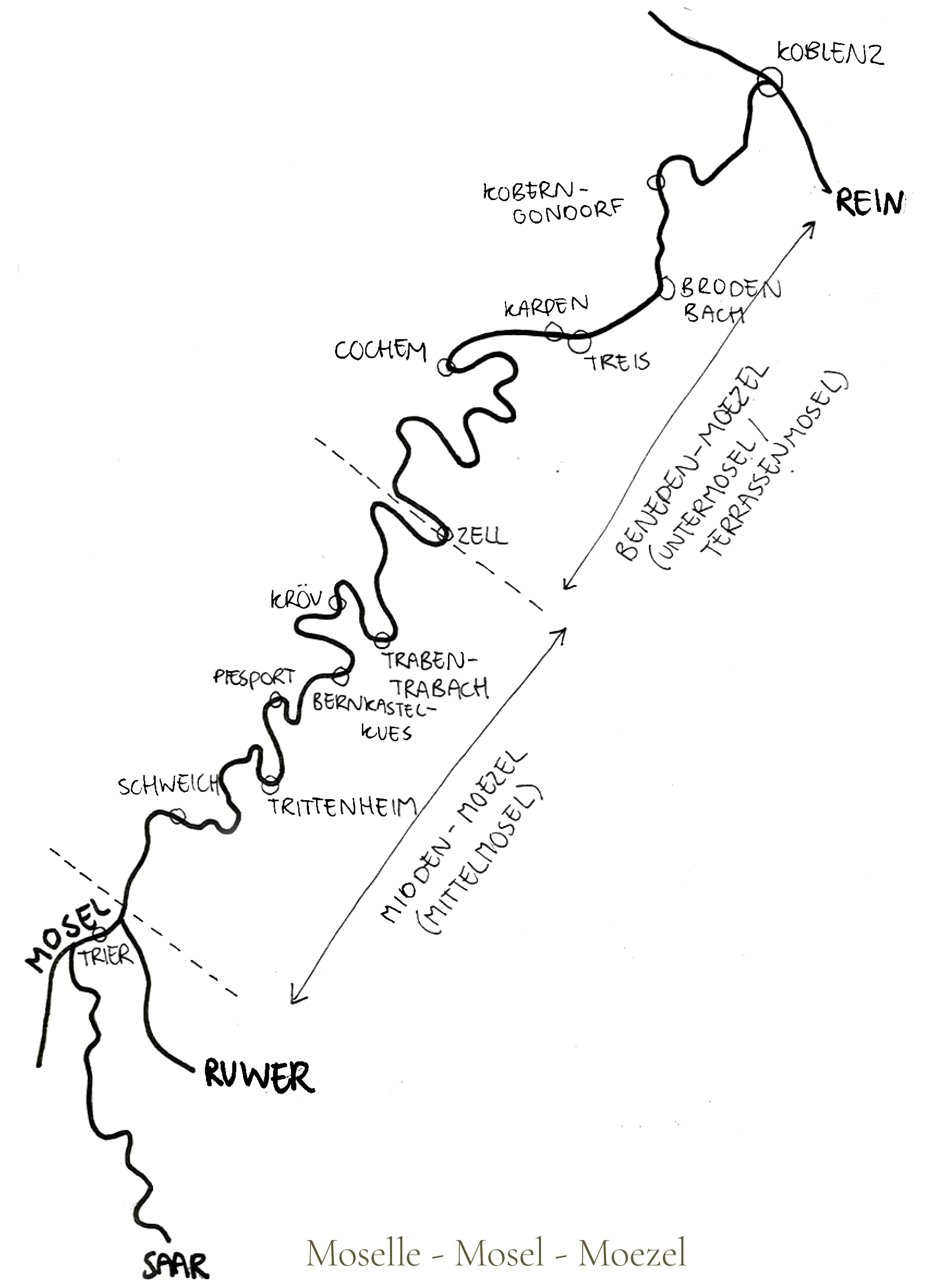
A4 presentation 22 / 06 / 2026
MSc Graduation Project
Academic year 2025 / 2026

Responsible Supervisor: Dr. ir. Inge Bobbink
Supervisor: ir. Mieke Vink
TU Delft | Architecture, Urbanism and Building Sciences

The Mosel River



The Mosel River



Moselle - Mosel - Moezel

Mosel Region



Mosella

Decimus Magnus Ausonius (310-395 AD)

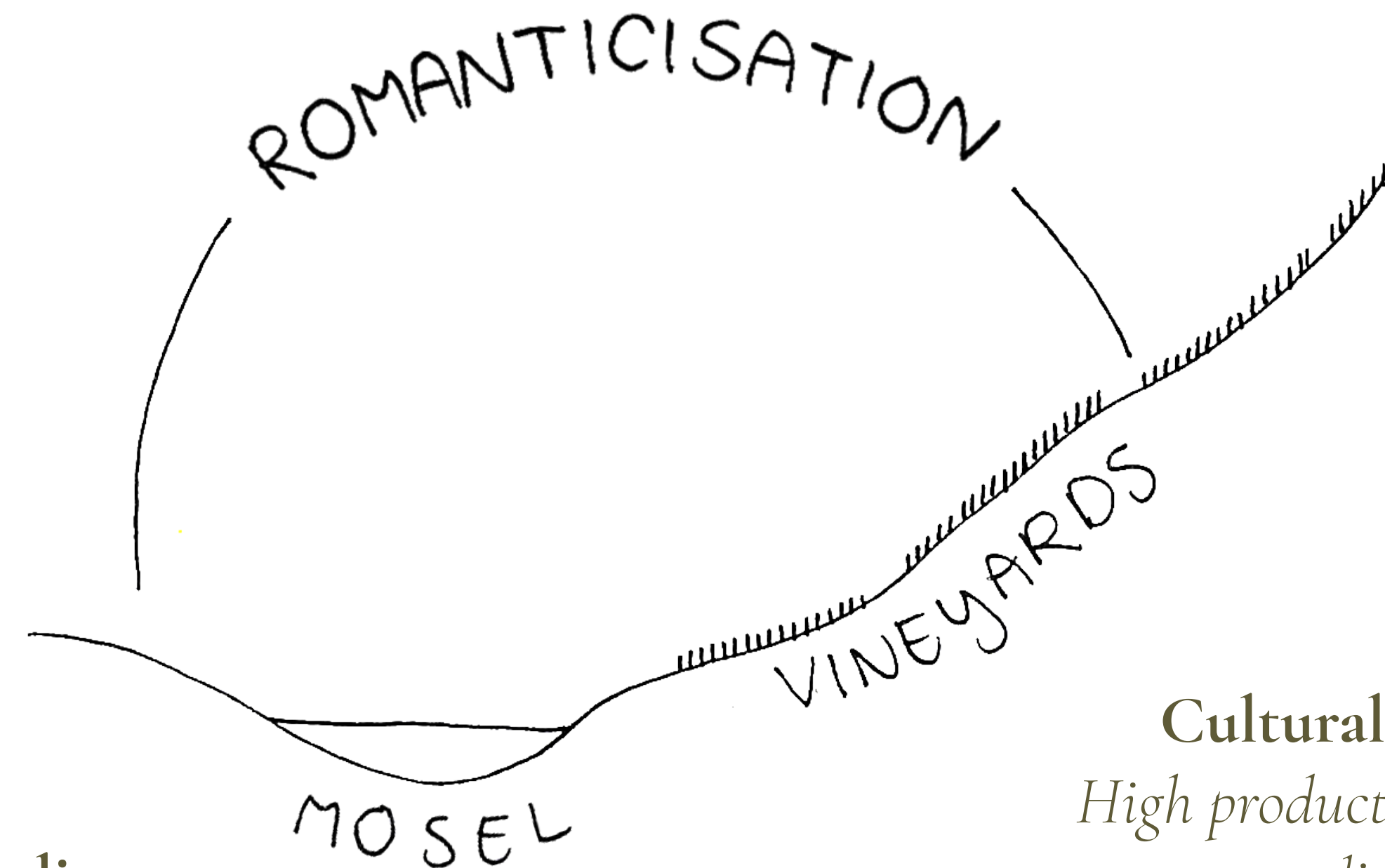
5 / 54

The gifts of Bacchus which in vineyards grow 160
In long lines and attract one's wandering eye
On rocks and sunny ridges way up high.

Such a dramatic sight! *The Gauran crest
And Rhodope are luminously dressed,
And Mount Pangaea's bright with her own wine,
While Mount Ismarus boasts a verdant shine
Above the Thracian Sea – thus one may see
The golden Garonne painted similarly
By my vineyards, and from the river's verge
Vines grow as to the highest peak they surge. 170
Blithe folk and busy farmers dash up high,
Then down again as they all roughly vie
With roars. One on the towpath travelling
And a boatman rowing down the stream both sing
Lewd songs to those who prune late in the day.
The rocks, the trembling woods, the stream all pay
Respect to them with echoes.*



Romantic image of the Mosel Region does not line up with the problems that it is facing.



Mosel River is reduced to a line:

Fluctuating character and ecological and spatial connection to the landscape is lost.

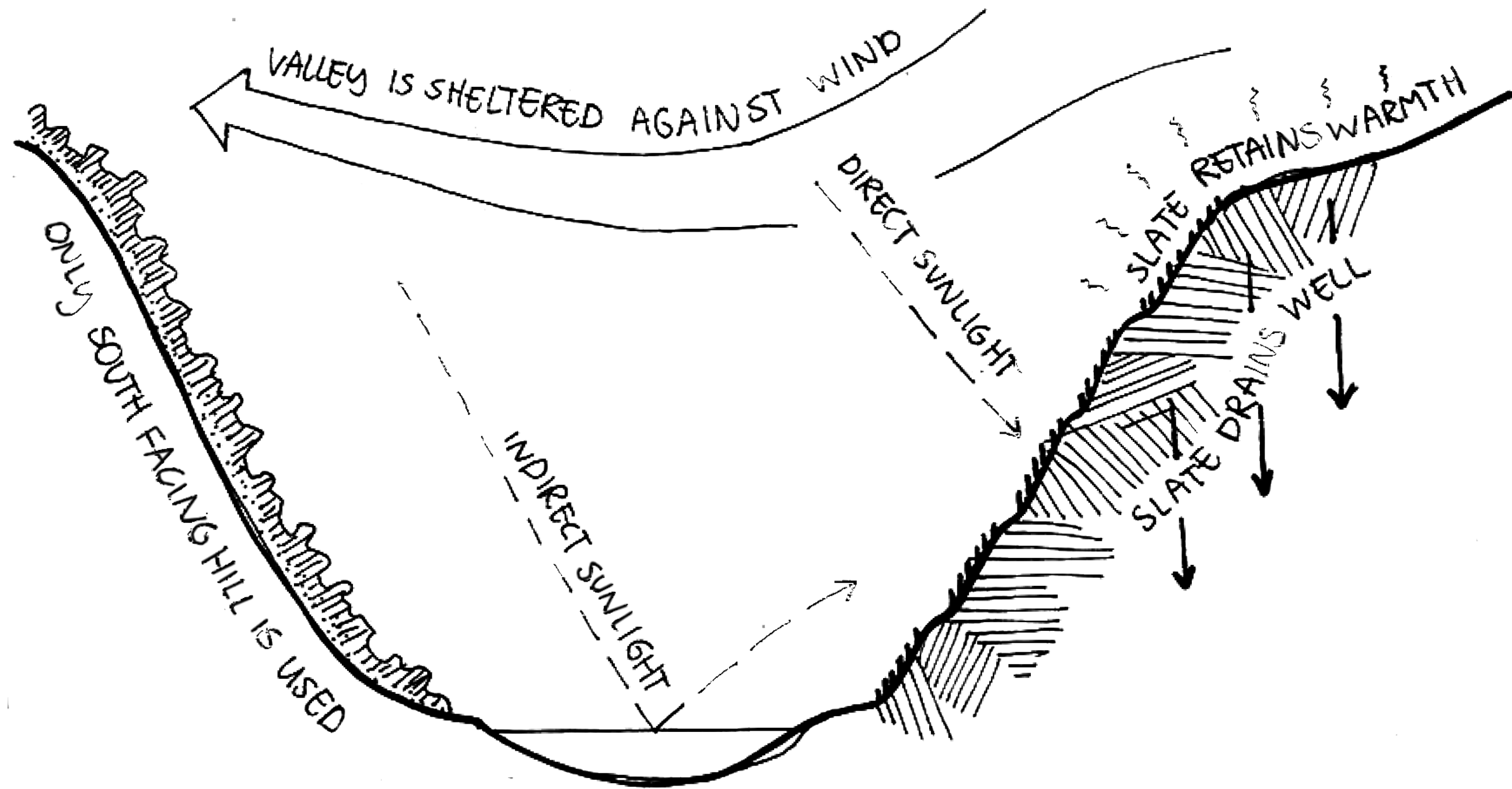
Cultural landscape under pressure:

High production cost leads to abandonment of traditional vineyard landscape.

Research Question

“ To what extent can the romantic image of the Mosel Valley be maintained and enhanced through the transformation of its monocultural landscape into a dynamic, resilient landscape? ”

The Mosel Valley



Conceptual section of Mosel Valley.

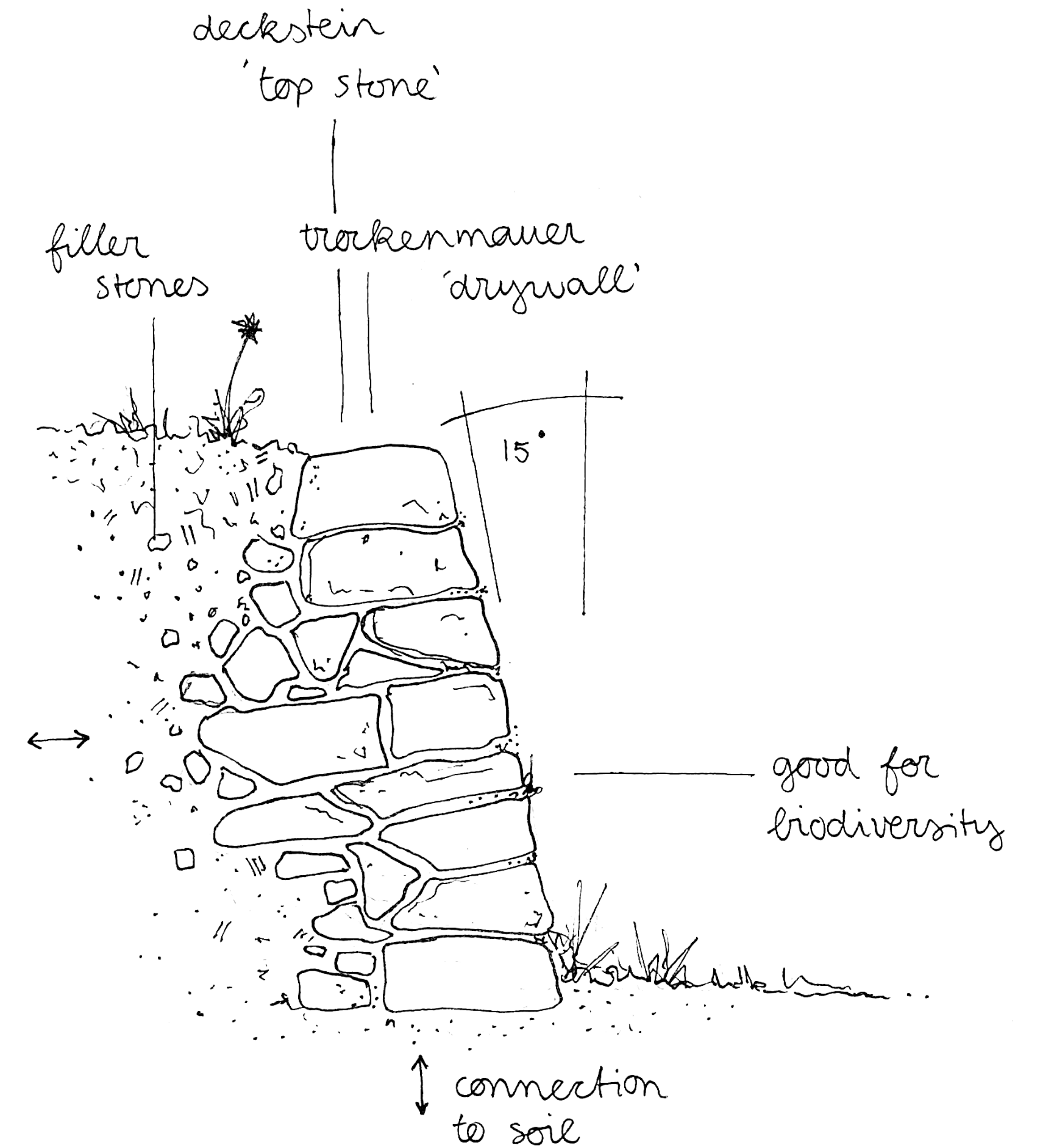


Mosel Valley near Pünderich.

The Mosel Valley



Rock formation and drywalls in a vineyard of Clemens Bush, Pünderich.



The Mosel Valley



Vineyard of Clemens Bush (clemens-bush.de).

The Mosel Valley



Managed terraces (left) next to abandoned ones (right) in Hatzenporter Stolzenberg (Photo Dieter Rogge, Wikipedia).

The Mosel Valley



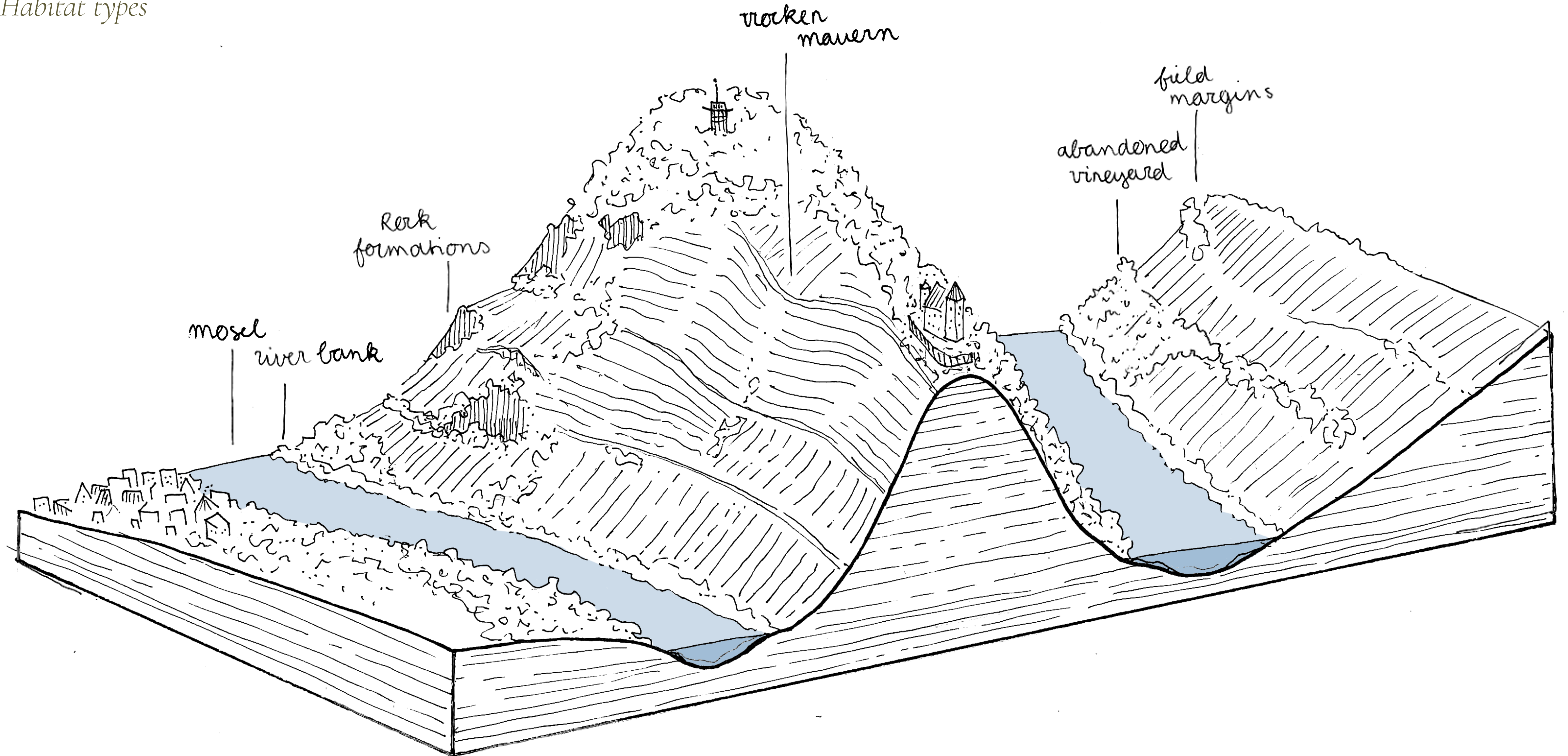
Pünderich, Mosel, around 1930 (unitedarchives.com).



Pünderich, Mosel, around 2020 (zellerland.de).

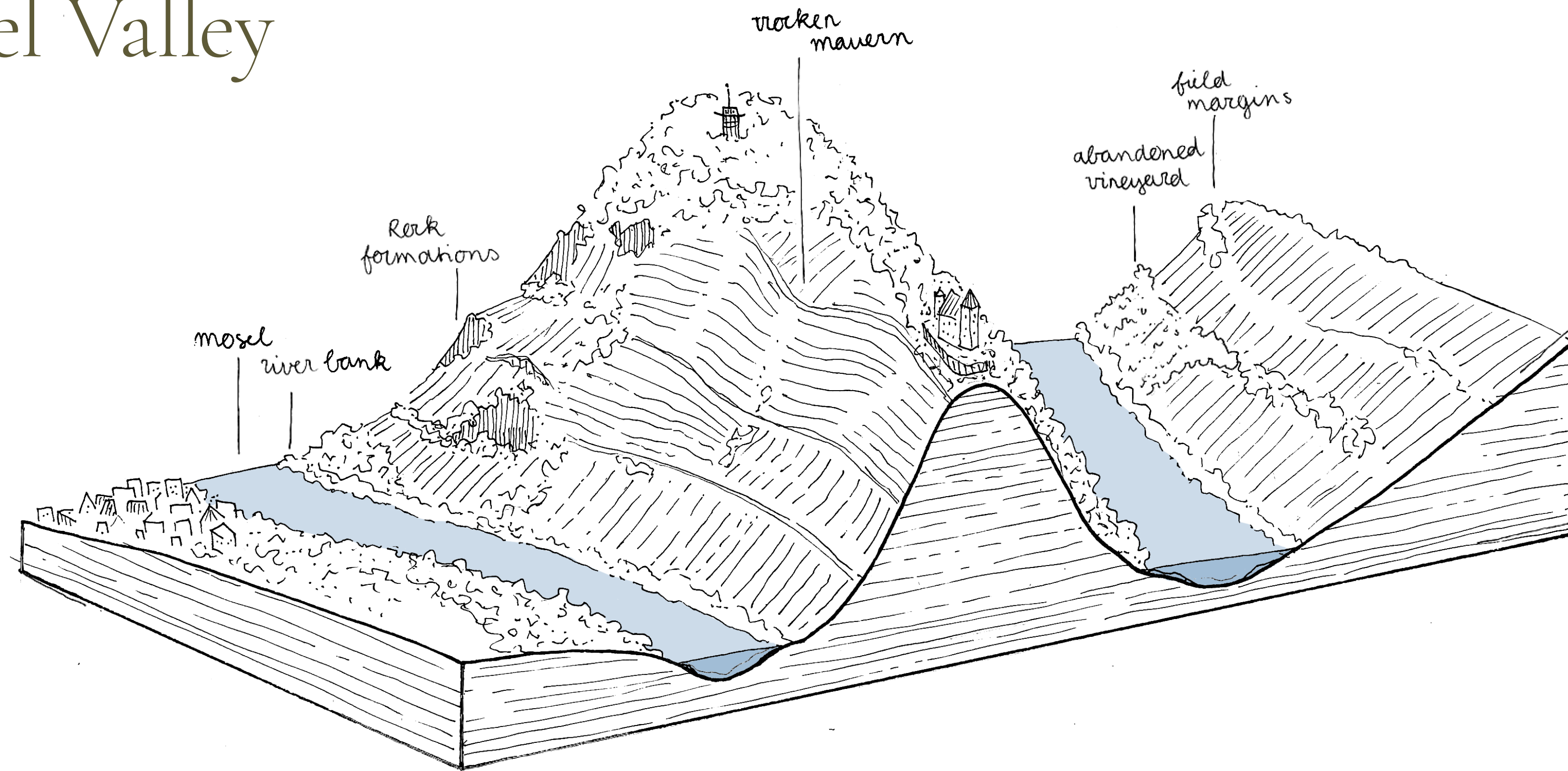
The Mosel Valley

Habitat types



The Mosel Valley

Habitat types



Vineyard lanes (hs-geisenheim.de)



Abandoned vineyards



Drywalls



Rock formations

The Mosel Valley

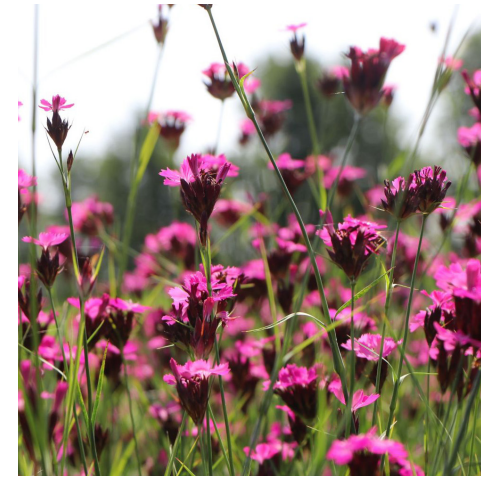
Drought-loving species



Blackthorn
(*Prunus spinosa*).



Blackberry
(*Rubus fruticosus* agg.).



Carthusian pink
(*Dianthus carthusianorum*)



Chequered Blue Butterfly
(*Scolitantides orion*).



Common Linnet
(*Linaria cannabina*).



Cirl bunting
(*Emberiza cirius*).



Clematis
(*Clematis vitalba*).



Cypress spurge
(*Euphorbia cyparissias*).



Dittany
(*Dictamnus albus*).



Dog rose
(*Rosa canina*).



Dyer's woad
(*Isatis tinctoria*).



Emerald lizard
(*Lacerta bilineata*)



Elecampane
(*Inula helenium*).



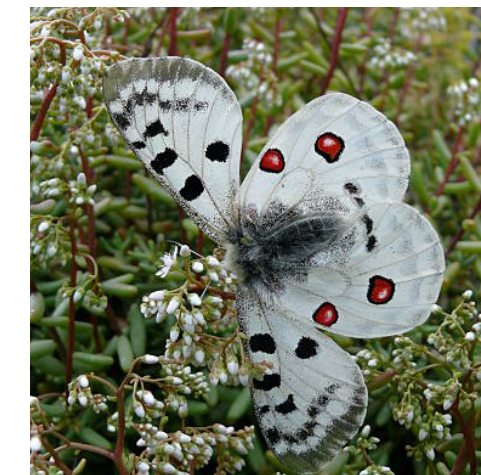
European Green Lizard
(*Lacerta viridis*).



Hawthorn
(*Crataegus monogyna*).



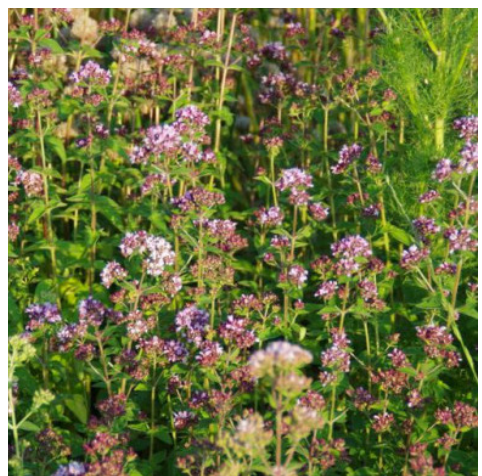
Houseleek
(*Sempervivum tectorum*).



Mosel Apollo Butterfly
(*Parnassius apollo*).



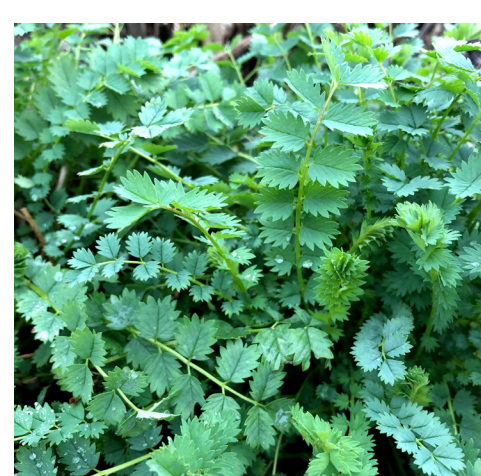
Mullein
(*Verbascum thapsus*).



Oregano
(*Origanum vulgare*).



Round-leaved bellflower
(*Campanula rotundifolia*).



Salad Burnett
(*Sanguisorba minor*).



Toadflax
(*Linaria vulgaris*).



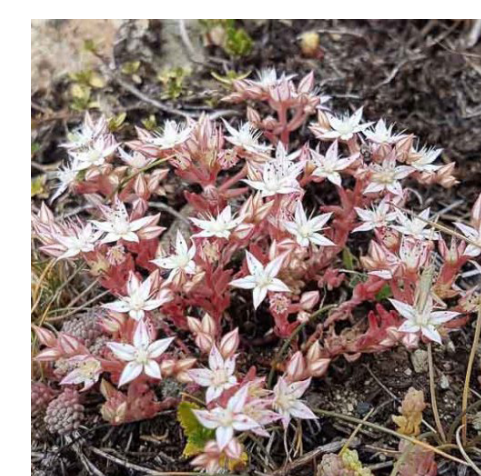
Vipers Bugloss
(*Echium vulgare*).



Wall Lizard
(*Podarcis muralis*)



Wild carrot
(*Daucus carota*).



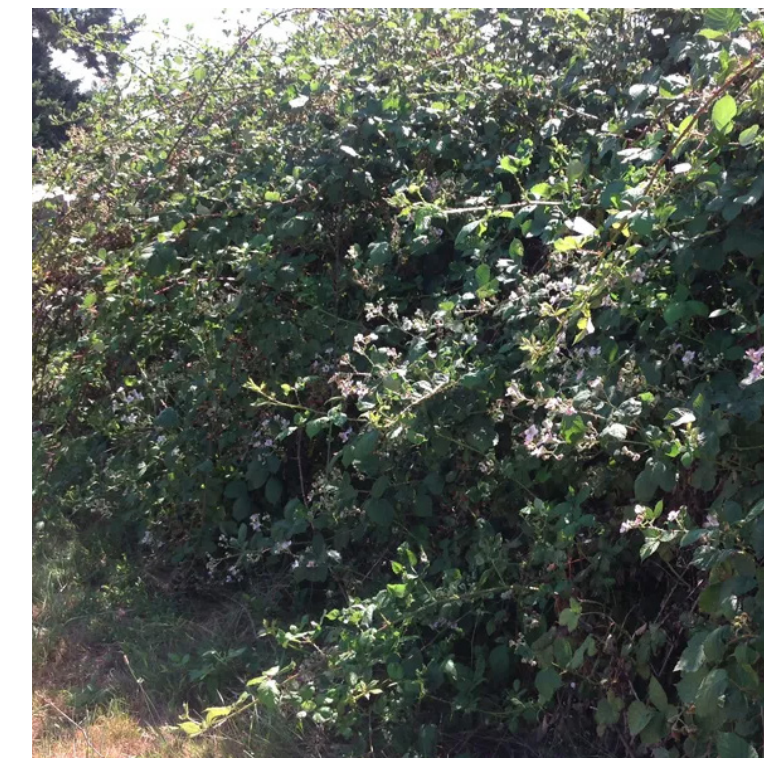
White stonecrop
(*Sedum album*)

The Mosel Valley

Abandoned vineyards



Abandoned vineyards



Blackberry
(*Rubus fruticosus* agg.).



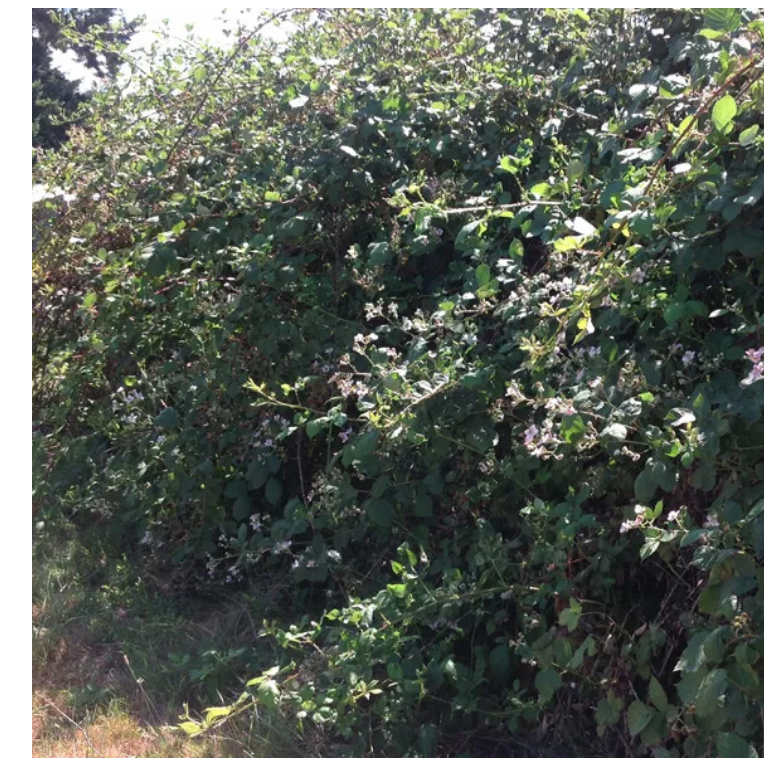
Clematis
(*Clematis vitalba*).

The Mosel Valley

Abandoned vineyards



Abandoned vineyards



Blackberry
(*Rubus fruticosus* agg.).



Clematis
(*Clematis vitalba*).

The Mosel Valley

The river as a line

“rivers are often reduced to **simple lines on maps**, overlooking their spatial, cultural, and ecological dimensions.”

Da Cunha, D. (2018). *The Invention of Rivers: Alexander's Eye and Ganga's Descent*.



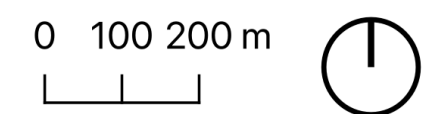
Historical map of Mosel floodplains around 1803 -1820 (LVerGeo).



Historical map of Mosel floodplains around 1843 - 1878 (LVerGeo).



Satellite Photo of 2026 (Google Satellite, 2026)



Vineyard Mosaic

(Re) introducing floodplains



High water of the Mosel, February 2026.

The Mosel Valley

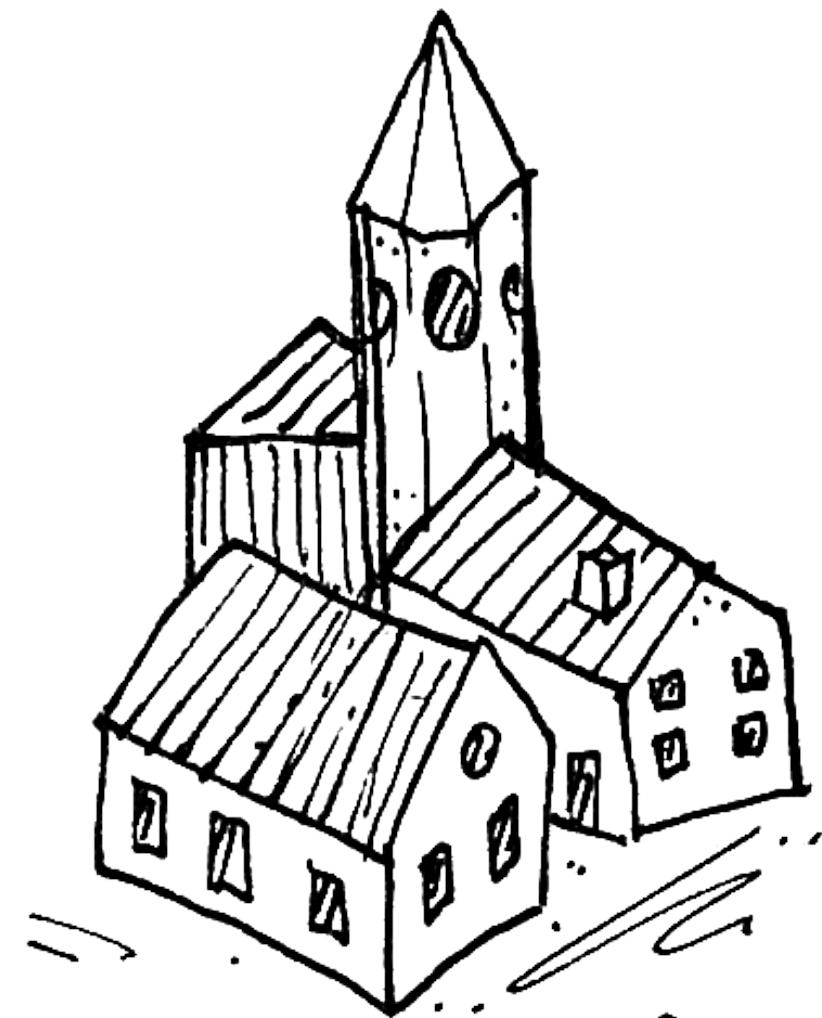


Marienburg church from Prinzenkopf viewing tower.

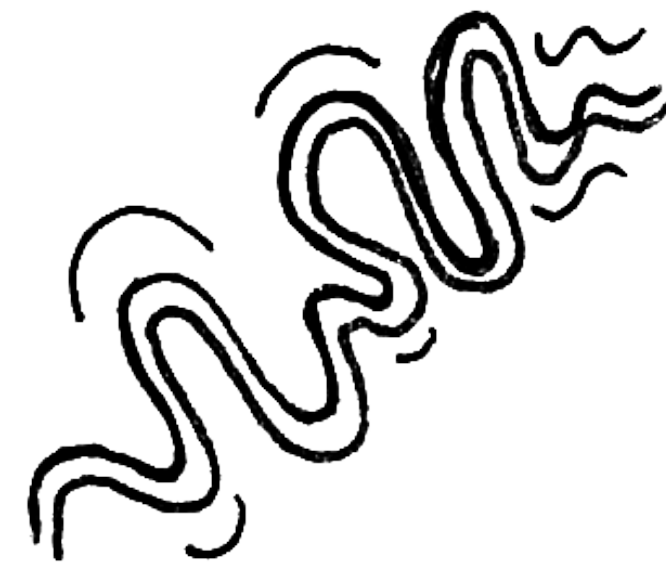
Research Question

*“ To what extent can the **romantic image** of the Mosel Valley be maintained and enhanced through the transformation of its monocultural landscape into a dynamic, resilient landscape? ”*

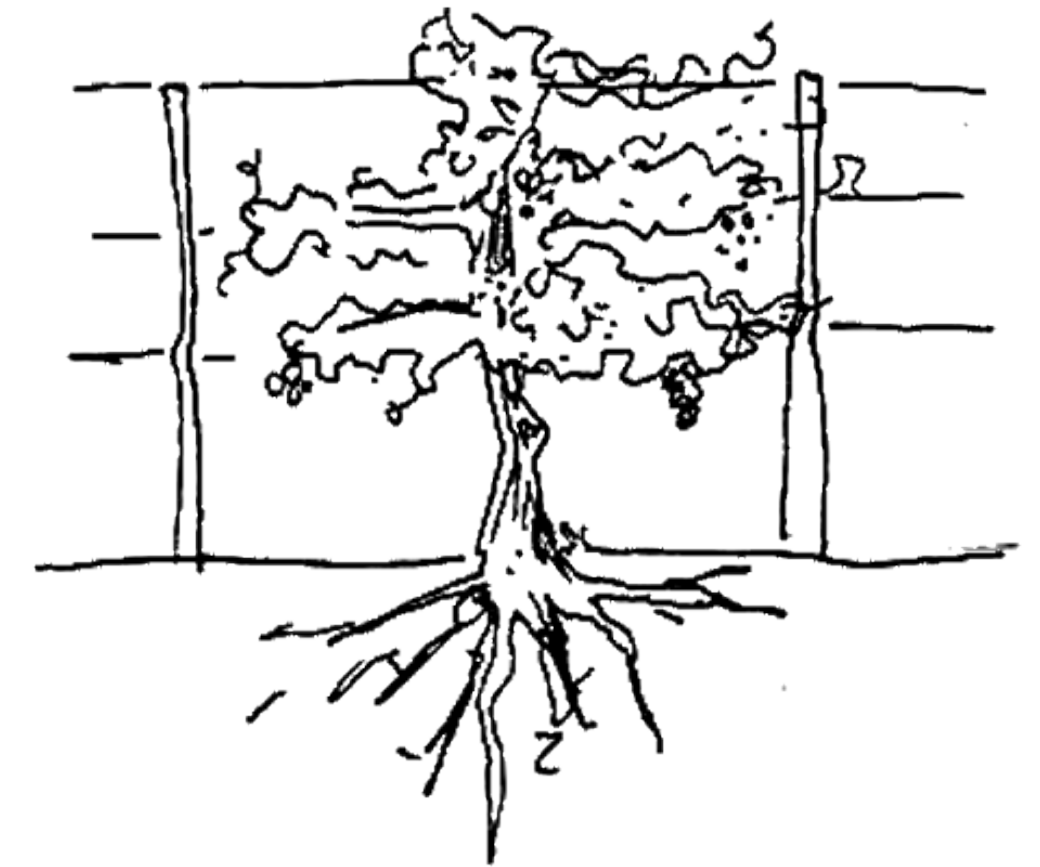
Theoretical Framework



cultural elements

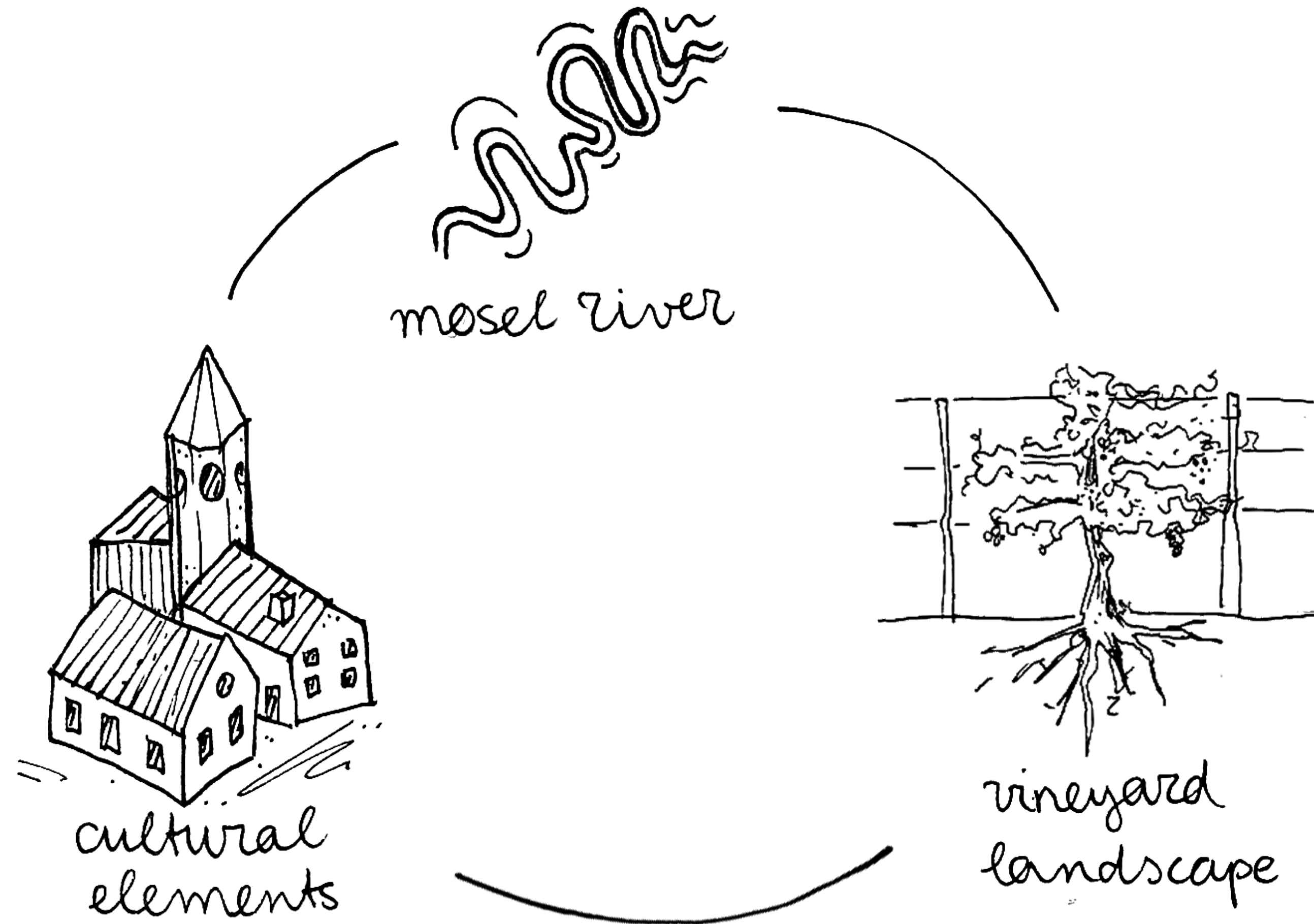


mosel river



vineyard landscape

Theoretical Framework



Theoretical Framework

Romanticism (1800-1850)

24 / 54



“The Burg at Cochem on the River Mosel from the South-East, beyond Sehl” by Joseph Mallord William Turner (1775 – 1851). Turner was an English Romantic painter known for his expressive coloring and marine paintings. He sketched this specific picture while traveling in 1840.

Theoretical Framework

Picturesque



“Landscape with a Ruined Castle” (1790).
Picturesque watercolour painting by William Gilpin.



PASSING OF TIME



CONTRAST



LIMITED VISIBILITY

Theoretical Framework

Romanticism

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Beautiful



The landscape is balanced and gentle: rolling hills, soft vegetation, and a calm river. The viewer gets a sense of ease and comfort.

Sublime



The Prinzenkopf tower lets the viewer see the landscape from great height, combining awe with fear.

Picturesque



Composition of the church in the background, the texture of vineyards in the front, winding paths, and the slope viaduct in the background create asymmetrical forms and framing.

Theoretical Framework

Design Principles



PASSING OF TIME



CONTRAST



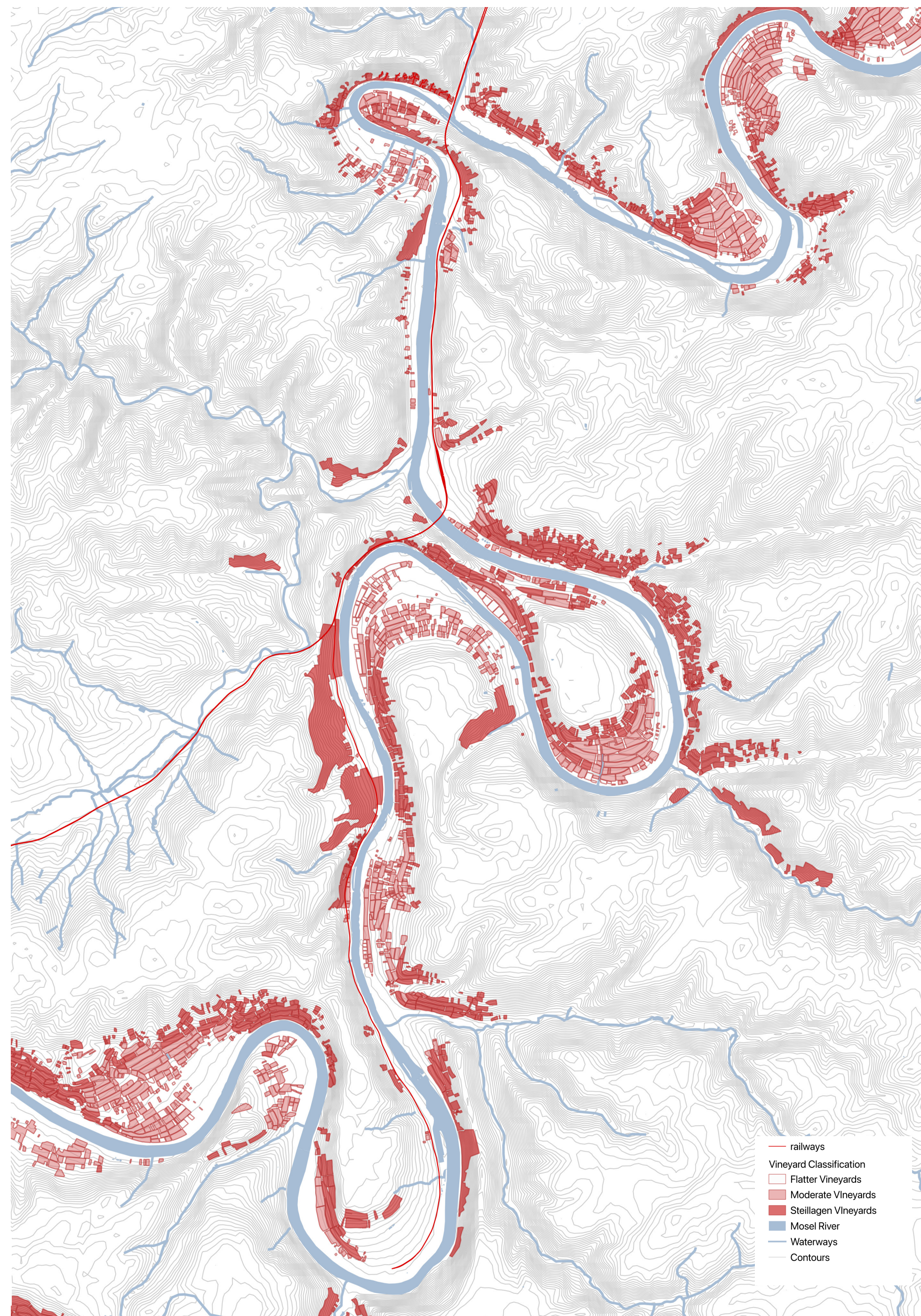
LIMITED VISIBILITY

What to do with this landscape?



Vineyard Mosaic

0 1 2 km



Vineyard Mosaic



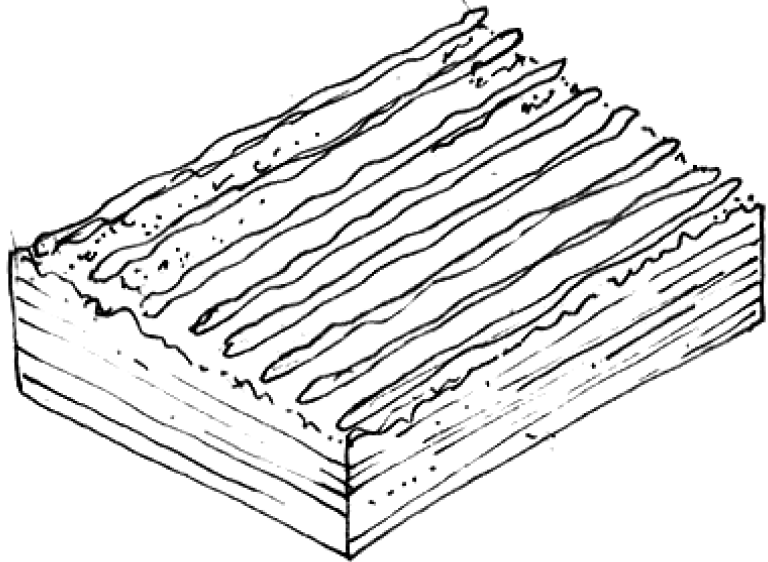
0 1 2 km



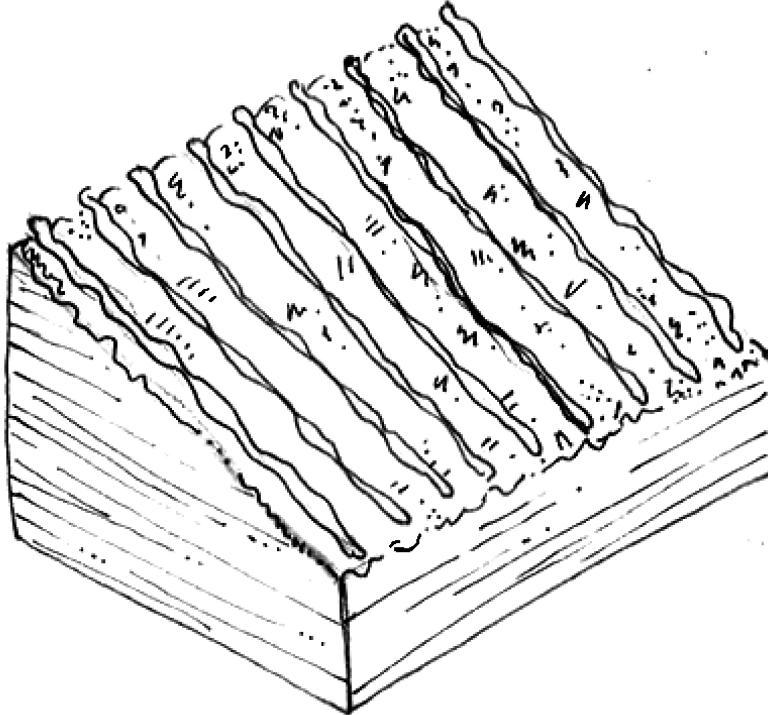
Vineyard Mosaic

Vineyard structure

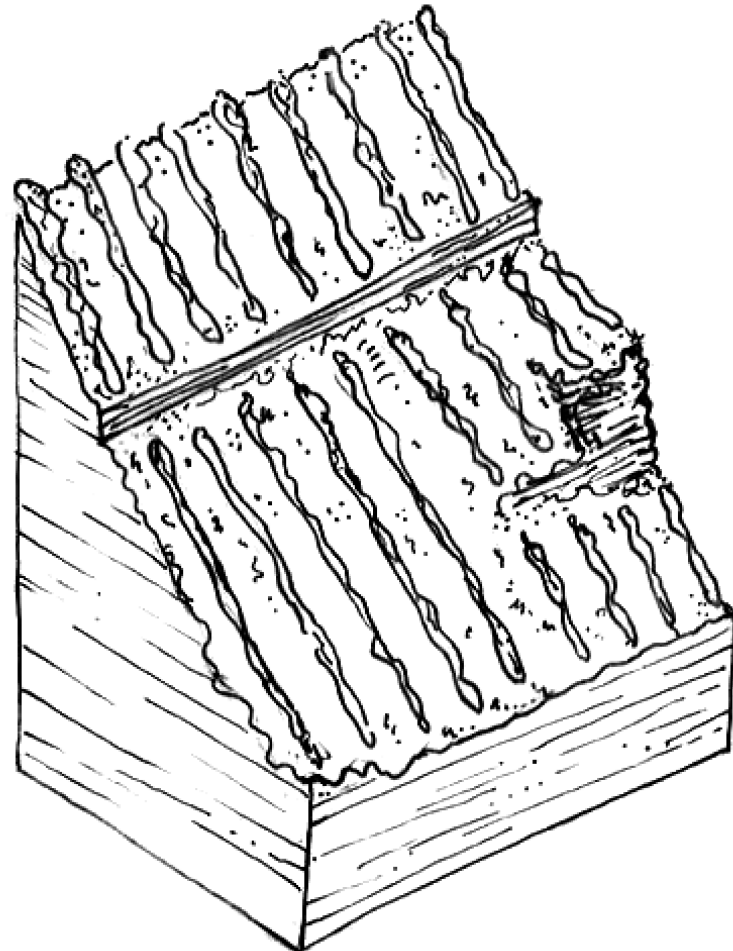
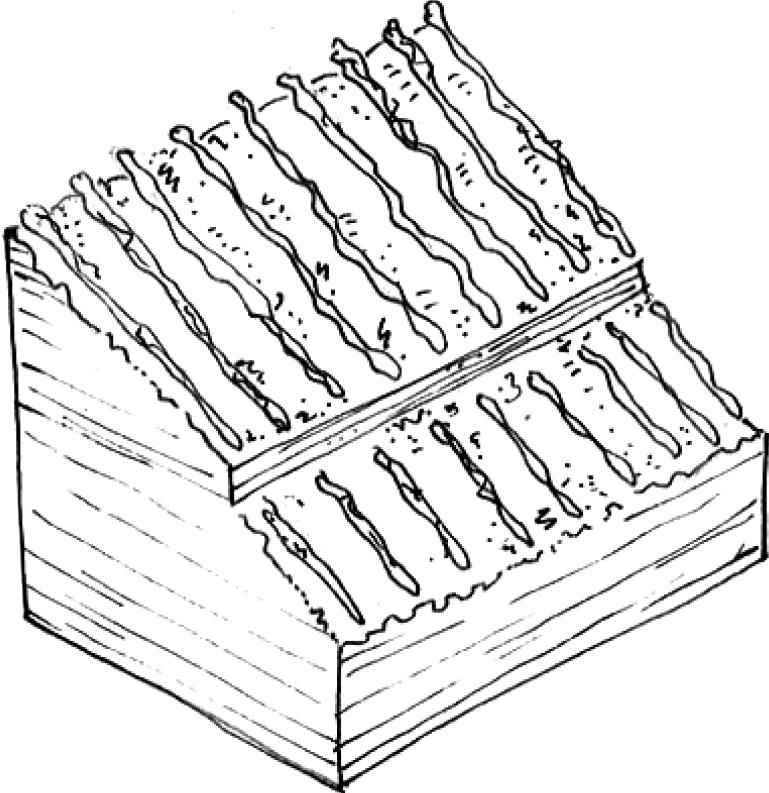
Floodplains



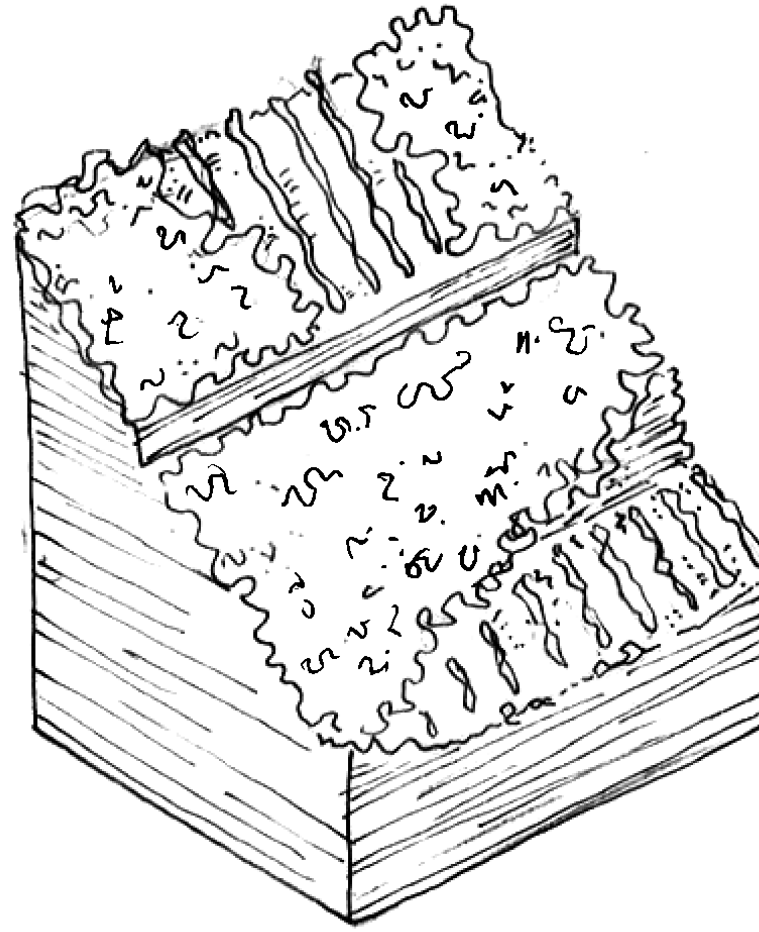
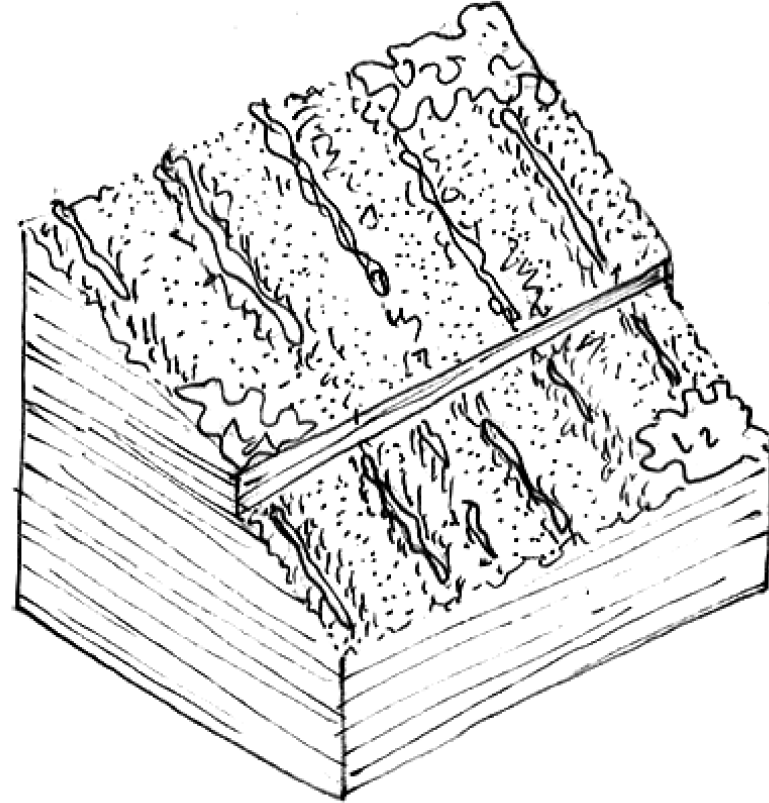
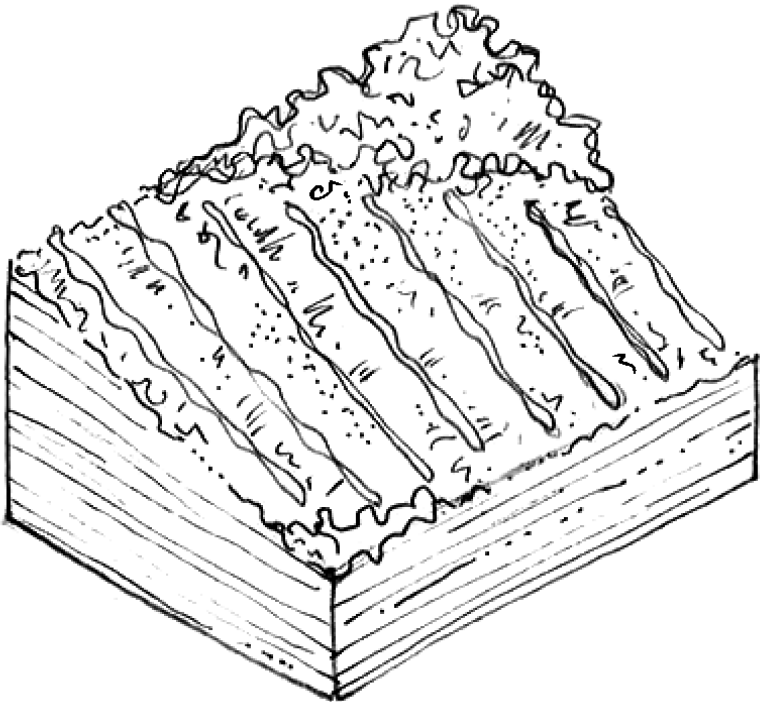
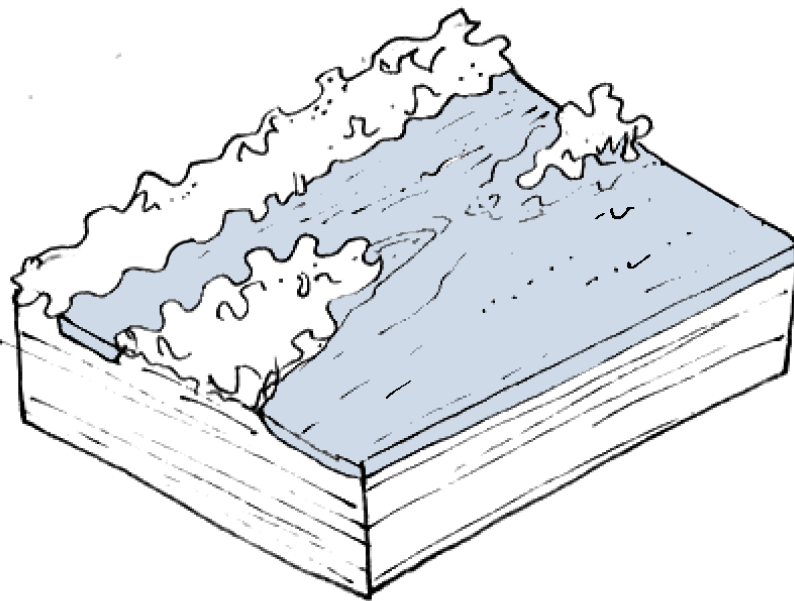
Moderate vineyards (5-30%)



Steillagen (30% and up)



Vineyard alternatives



Floodplains are (re)introduced to the Mosel river.

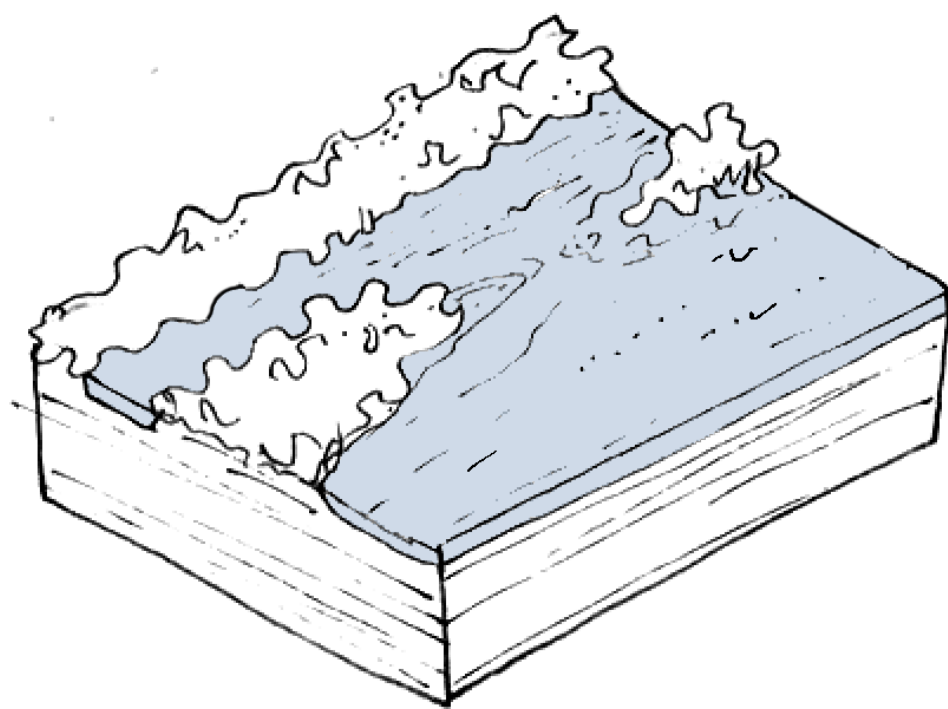
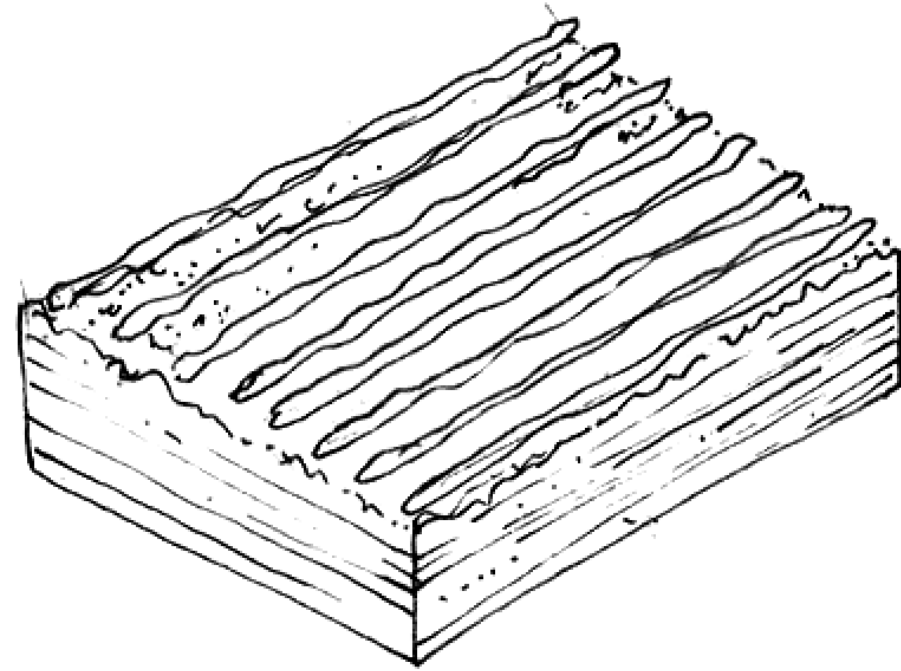
Vineyard lanes as transition zones and biodiversity corridors.

Mowing as a form of maintenance - these plots stay relatively open.

Keeping vineyard structures while letting natural succession go - these plots will turn into forest after a long time.

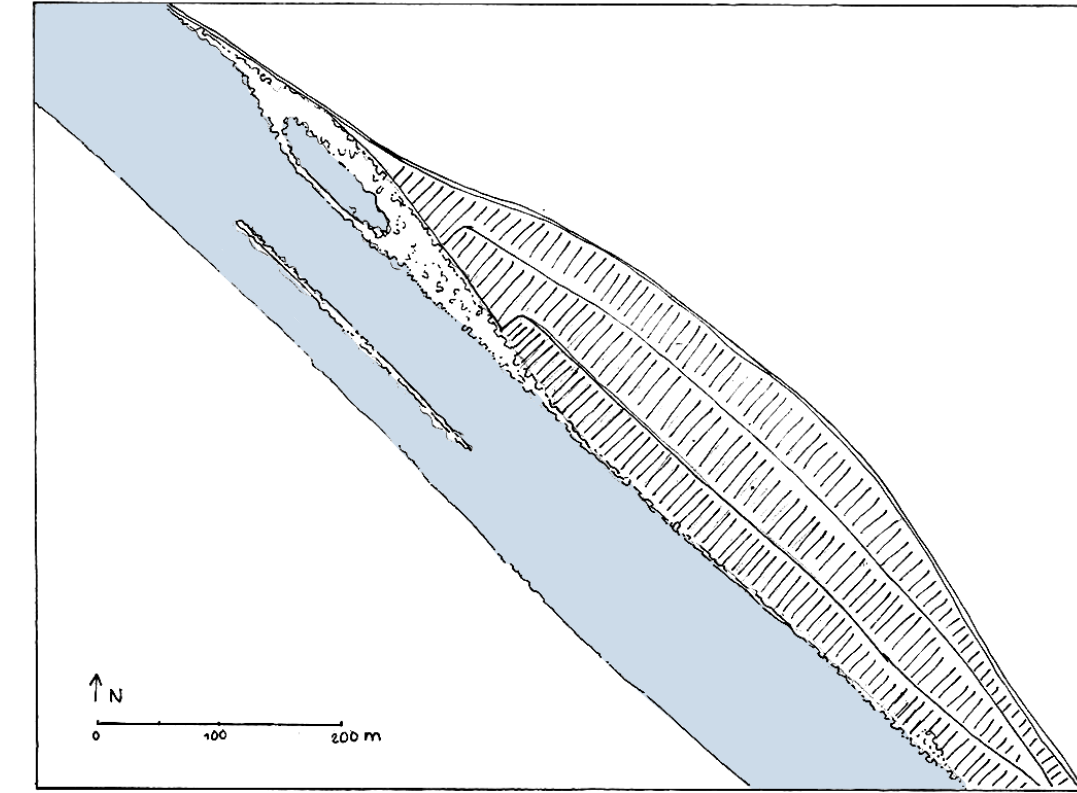
Vineyard Mosaic

(Re) introducing floodplains



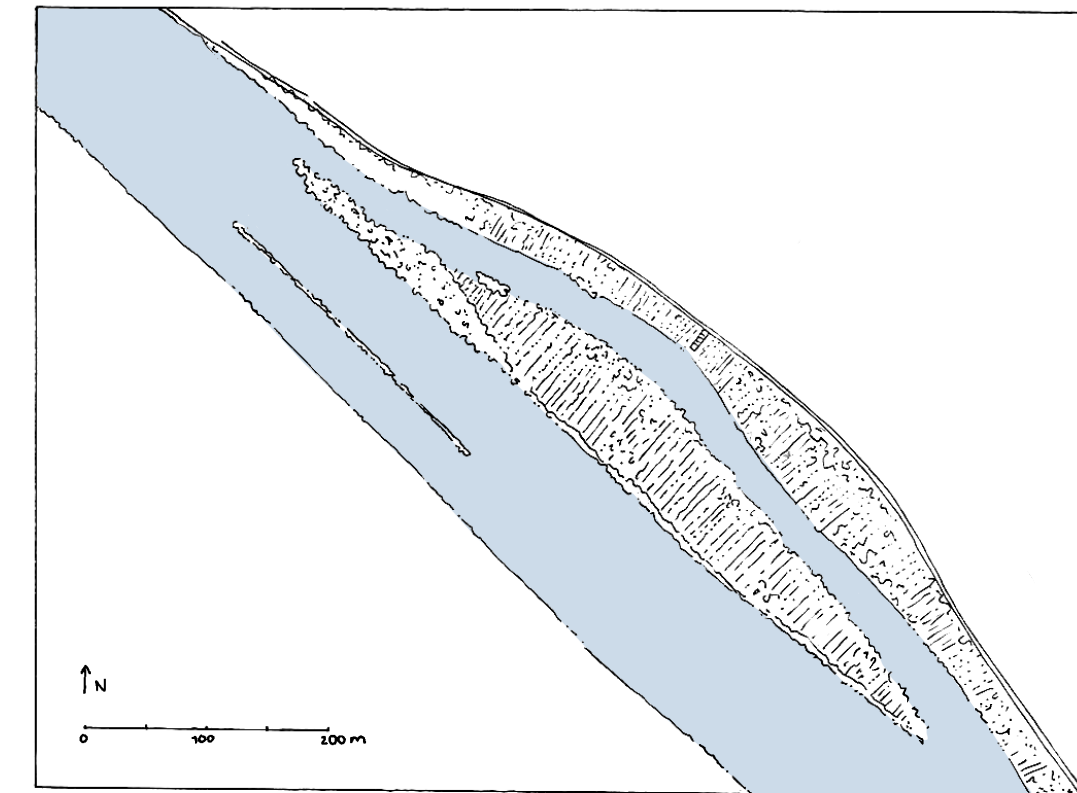
Current situation

Flat vineyards, minimal species diversity and abrupt river edges.



Initiation

The design is implemented and a side channel is dug in the flat area. The river can move freely in this area, both in sedimenting and eroding.

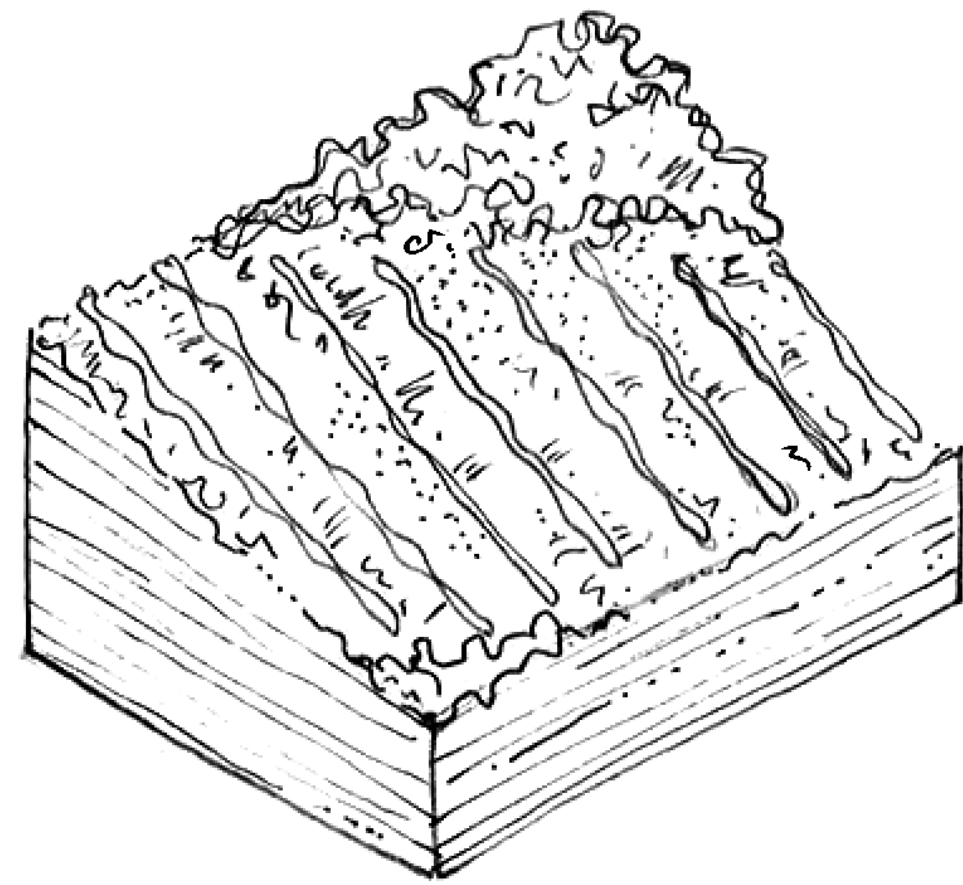


In 10 years

The river has taken over the area, riparian forest has developed, and biodiversity is high.



Vineyard Mosaic



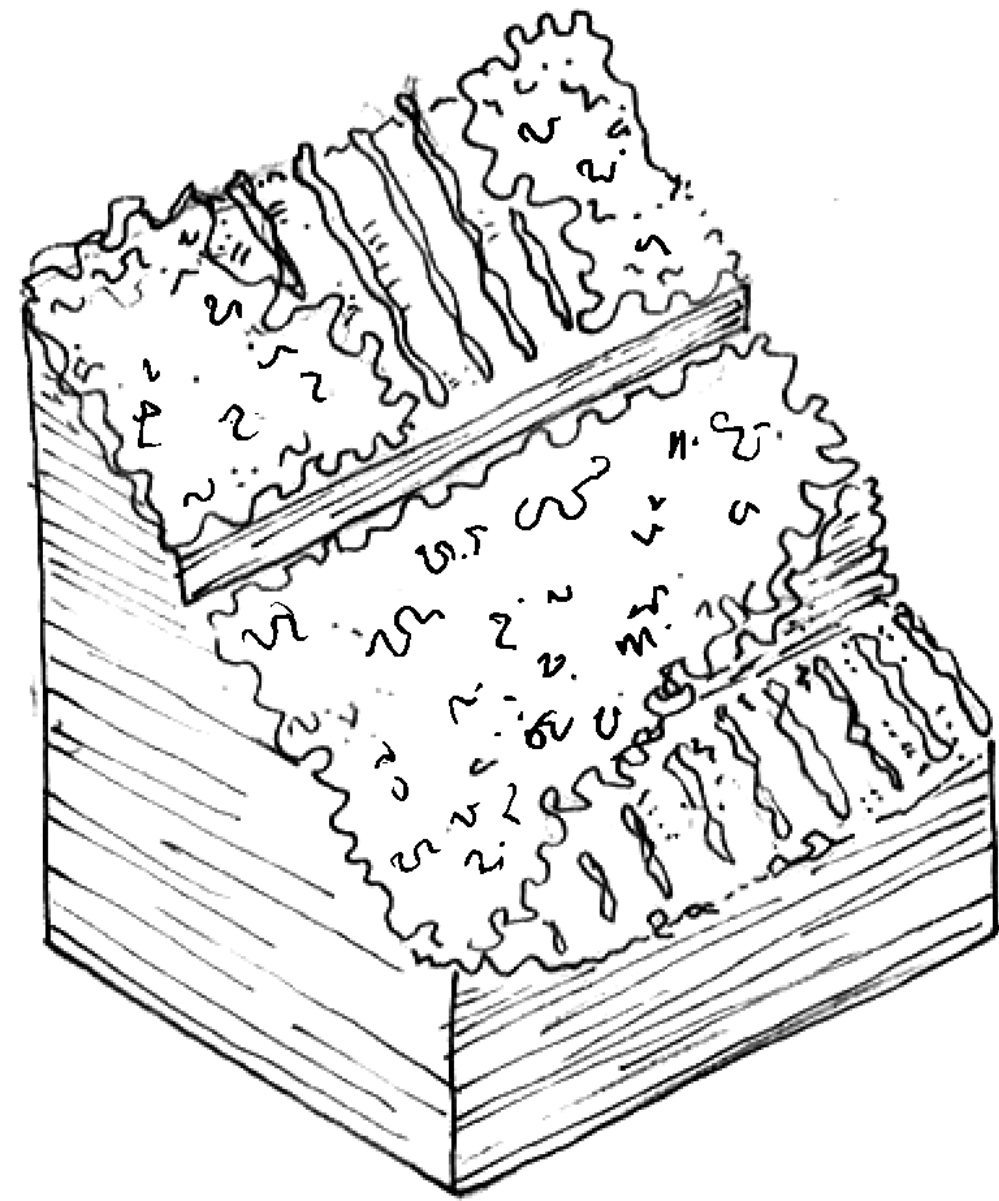
Vineyard lanes as transition zones and biodiversity corridors.

Exposed soil in a vineyard lane makes the soil prone to erosion and runoff.

Winery Clemens Bush in Punderich, Mosel, uses different herbal mixes in vineyard lanes that serve as plant protection against erosion, runoff and fungal diseases.



Vineyard Mosaic

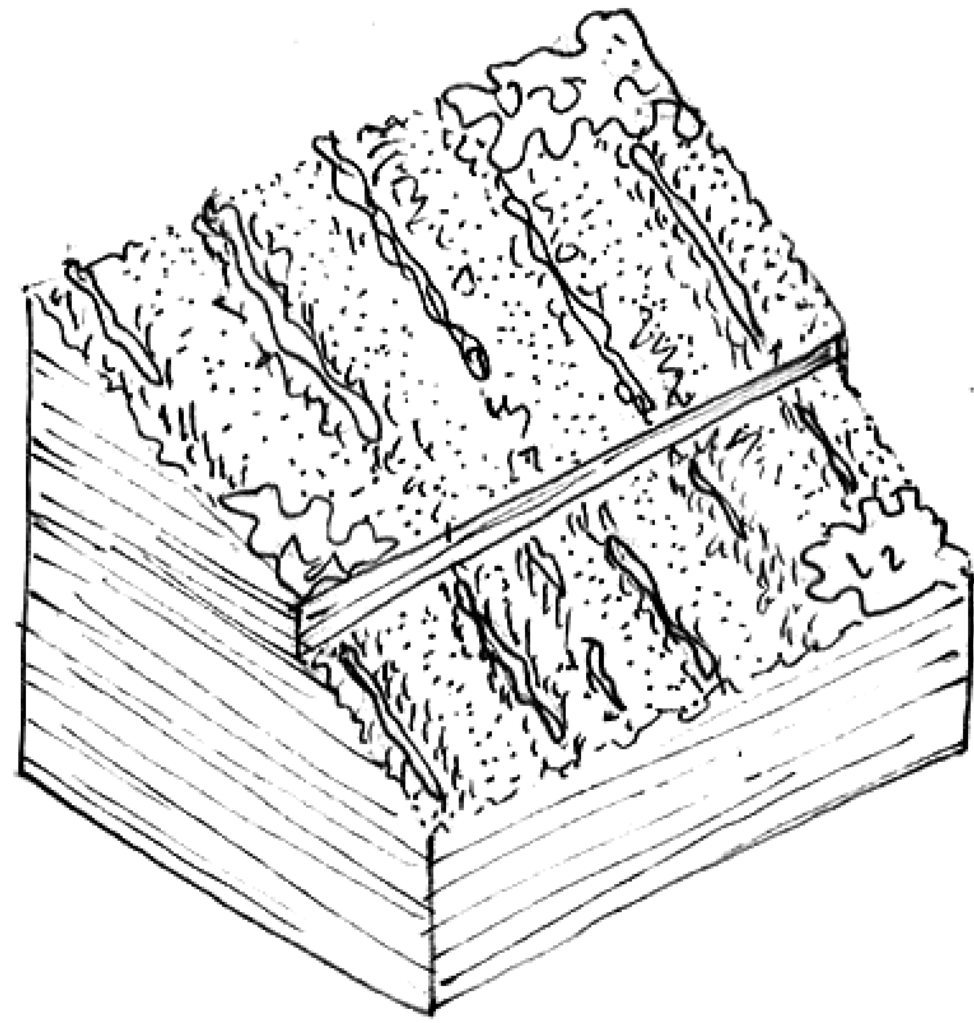


Keeping vineyard structures while grazing - these plots will turn into forest after a long time.

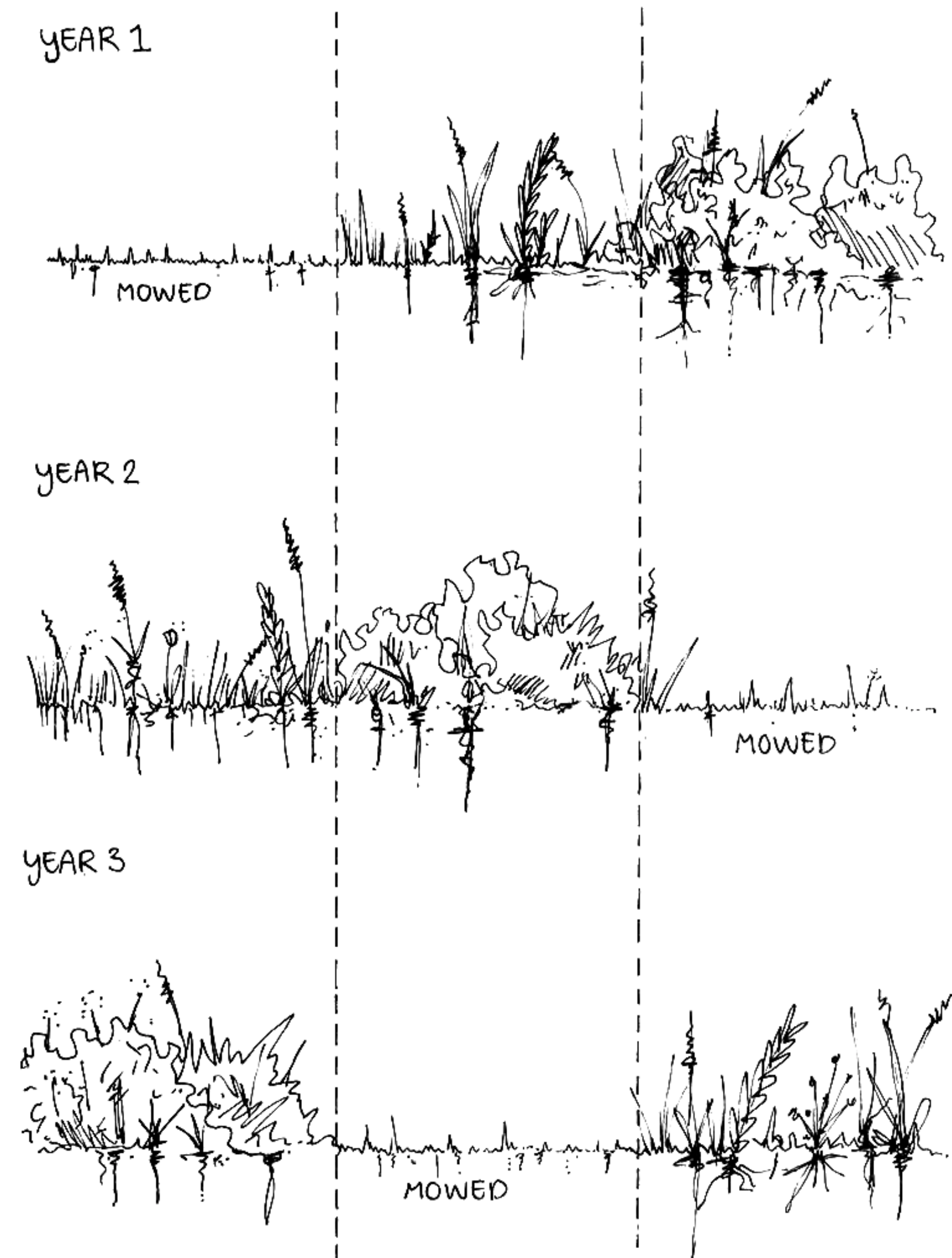


Winery Clemens Bush uses Thuringian Forest goats to counteract invasive shrubs on un-used land.

Vineyard Mosaic

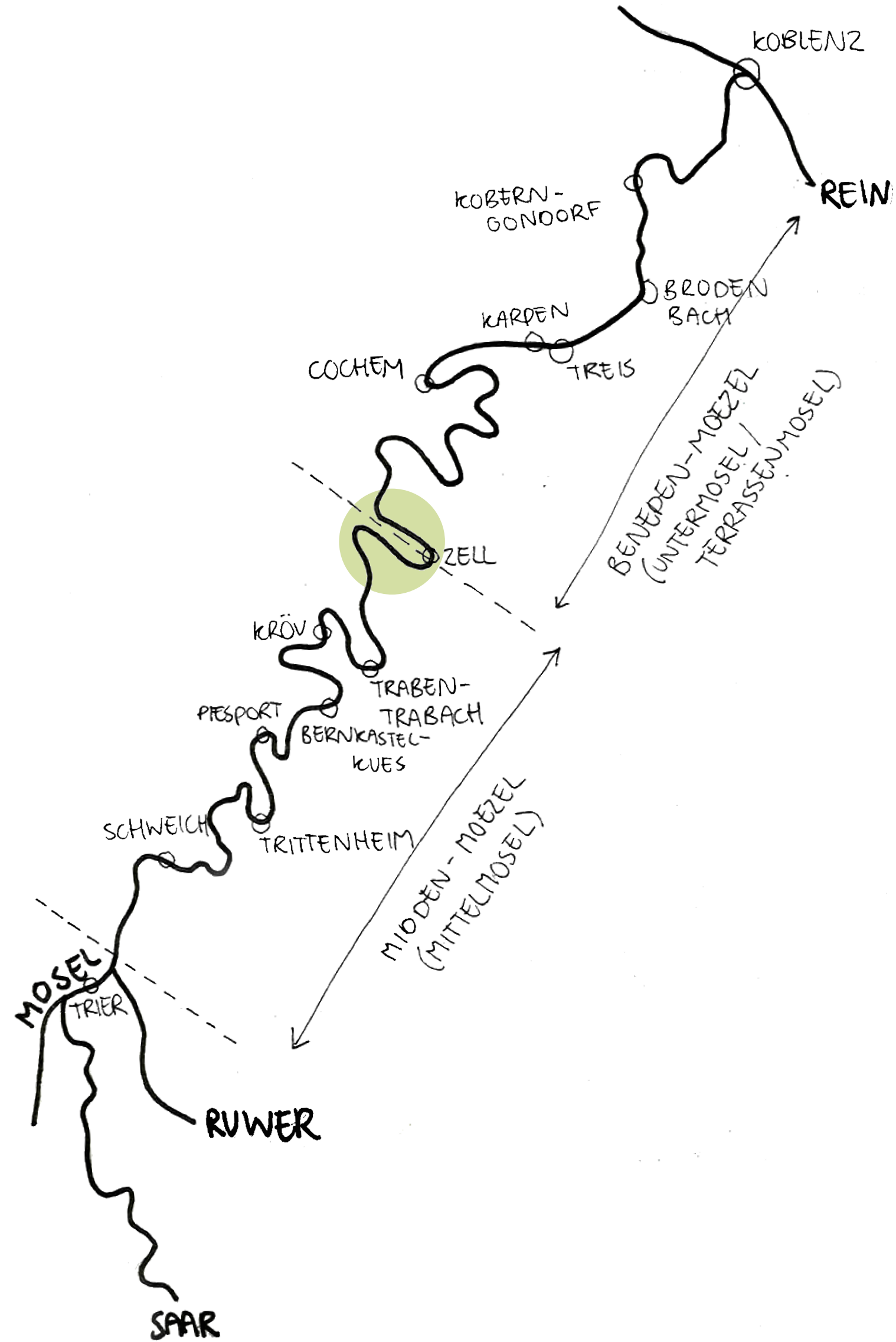


Mowing schedule as a form or maintenance - these plots stay relatively open.



The Site

Zeller Hamm



The Route

The Site: Zeller Hamm



The Route

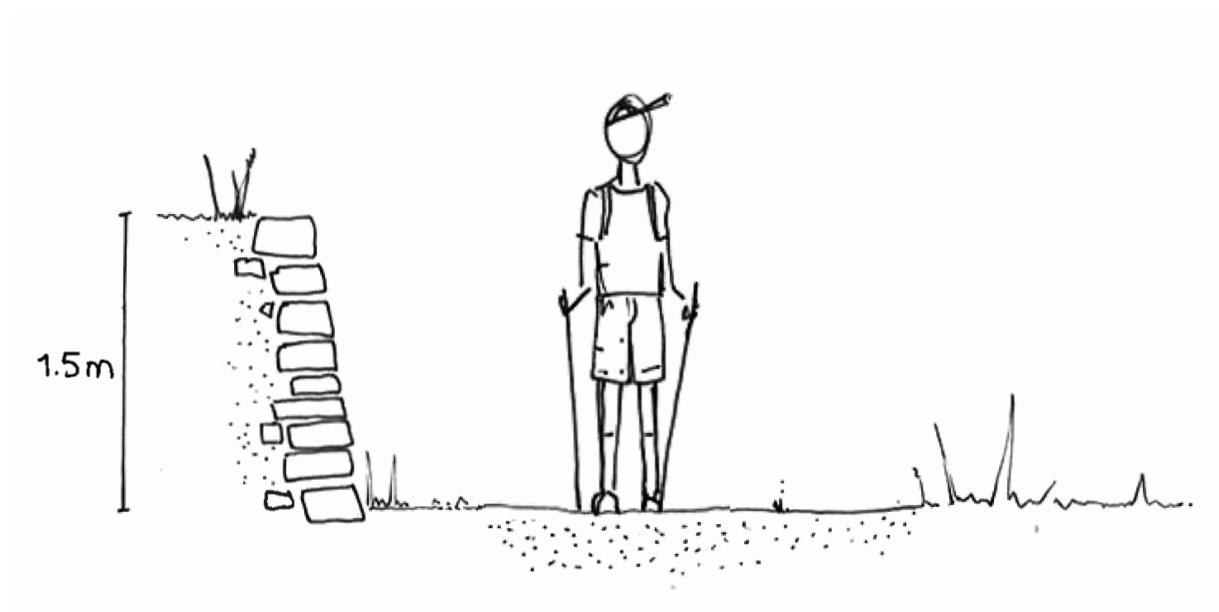
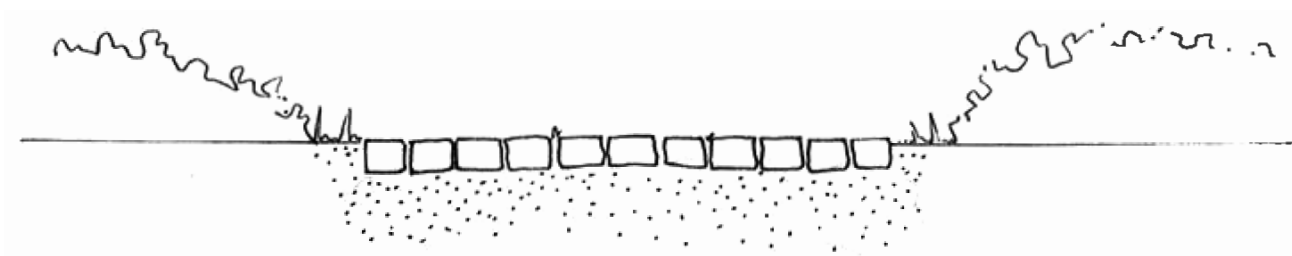
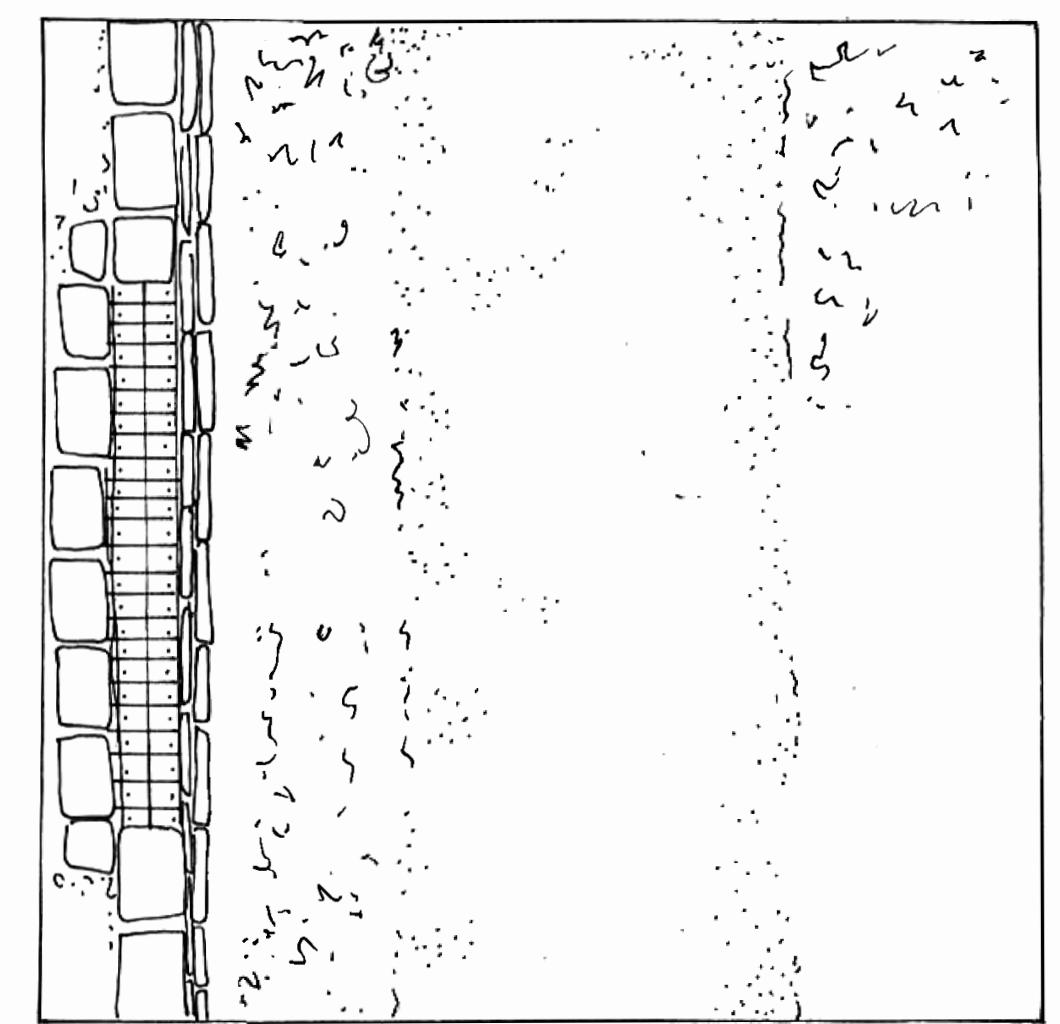
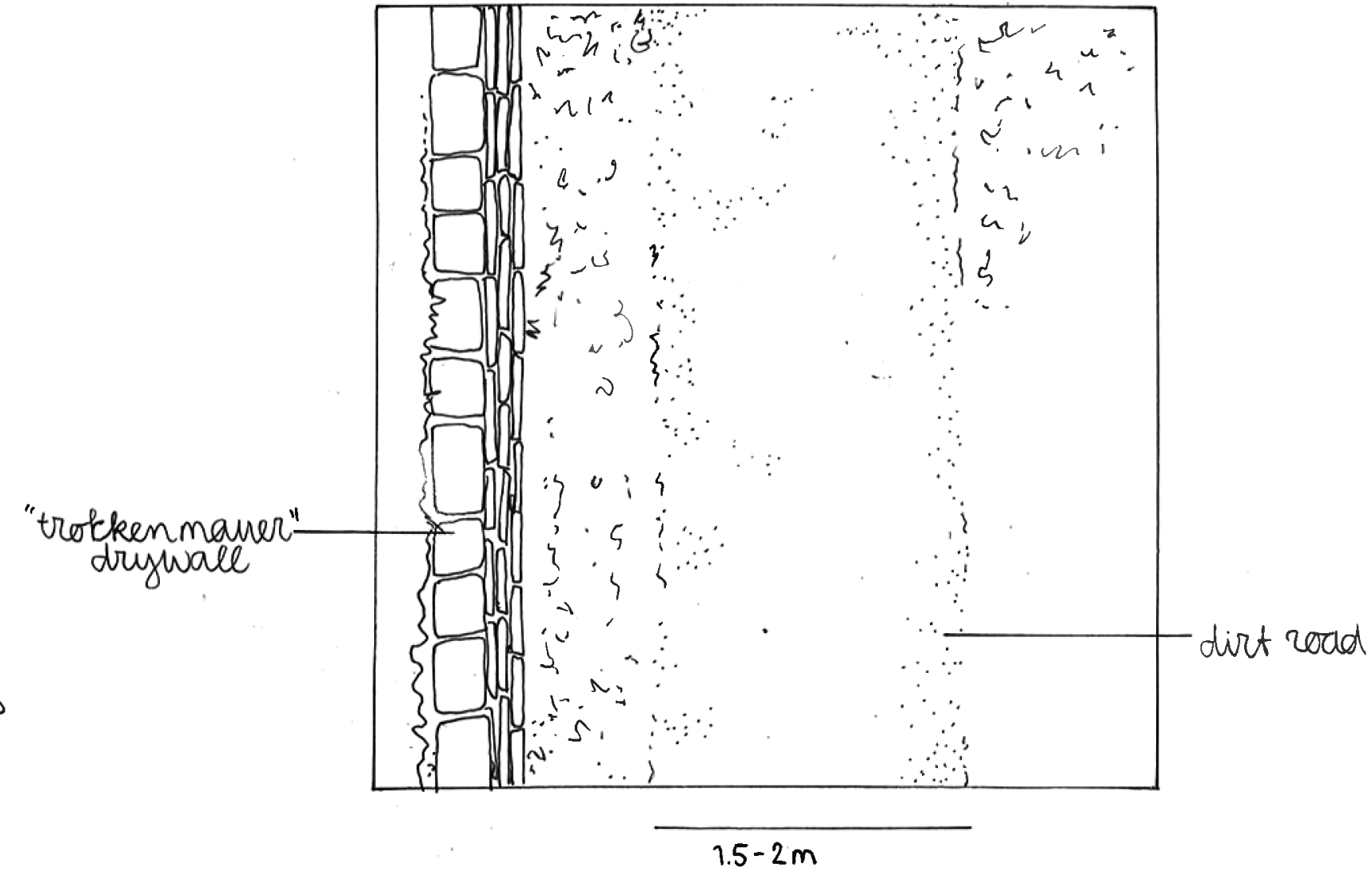
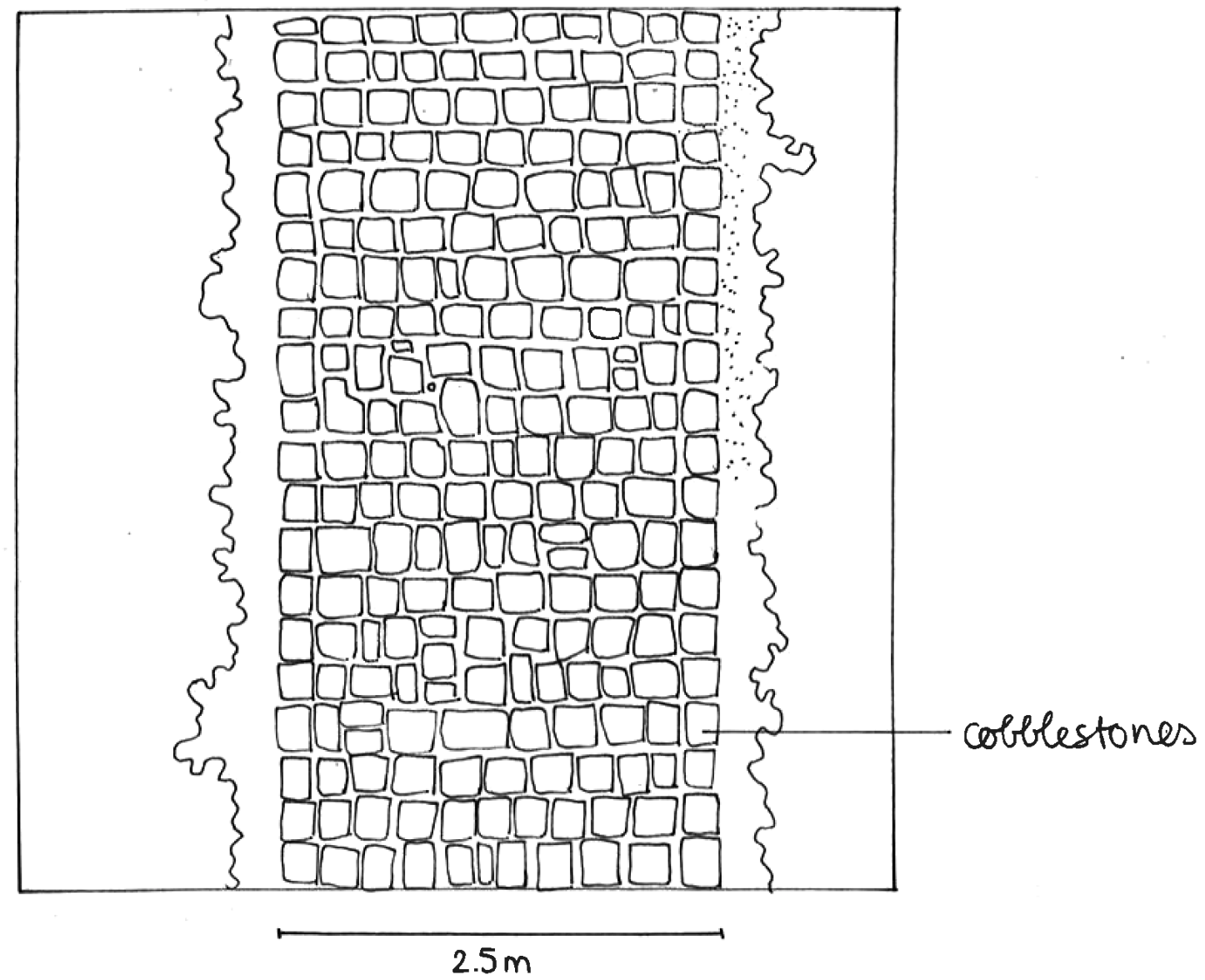
The Site: Zeller Hamm



Main path

Side paths

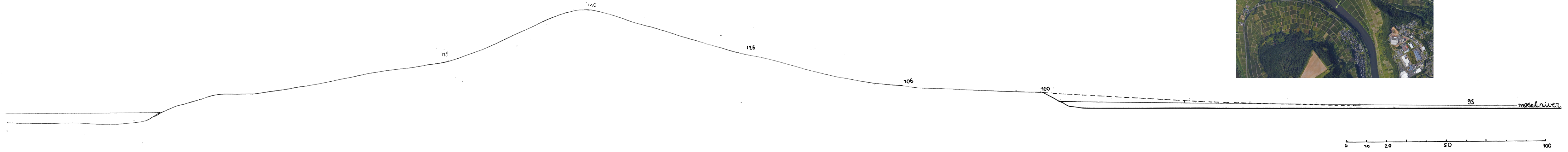
Drywall Seats



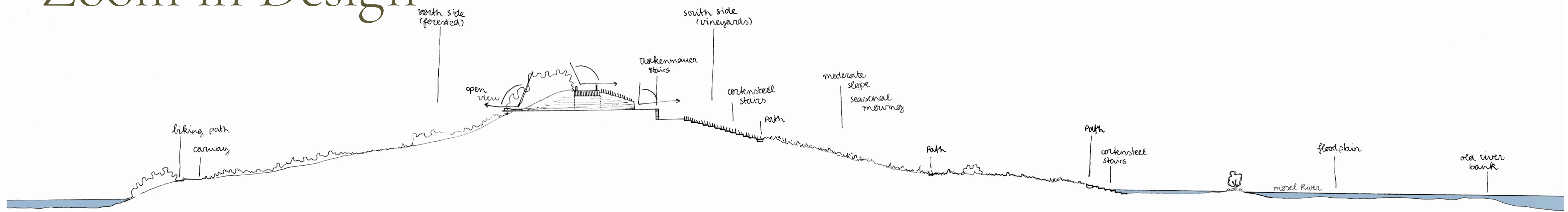
The Route



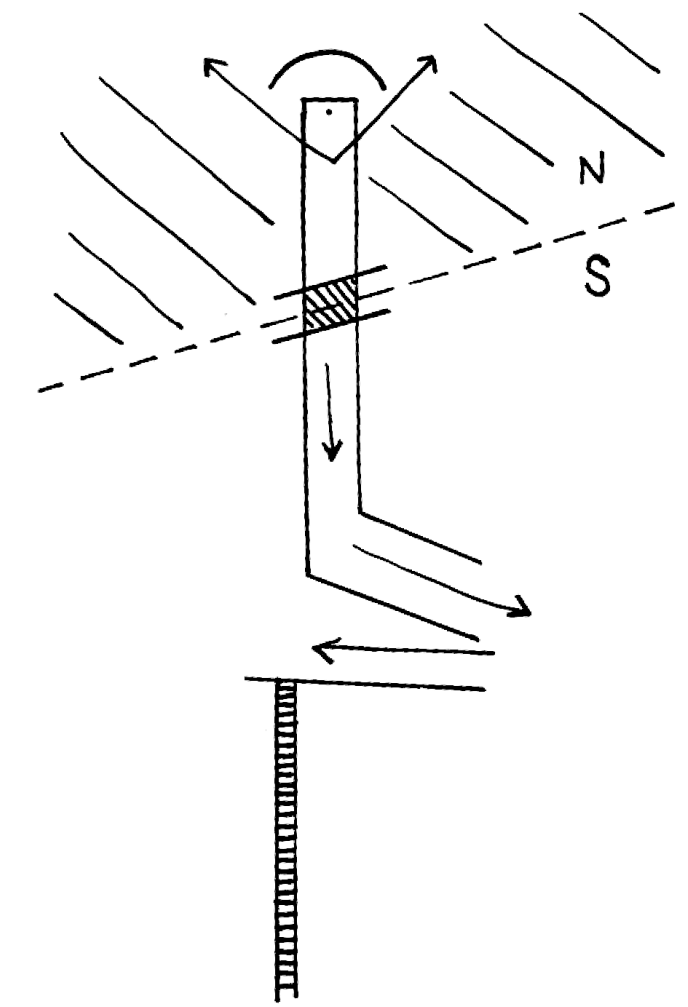
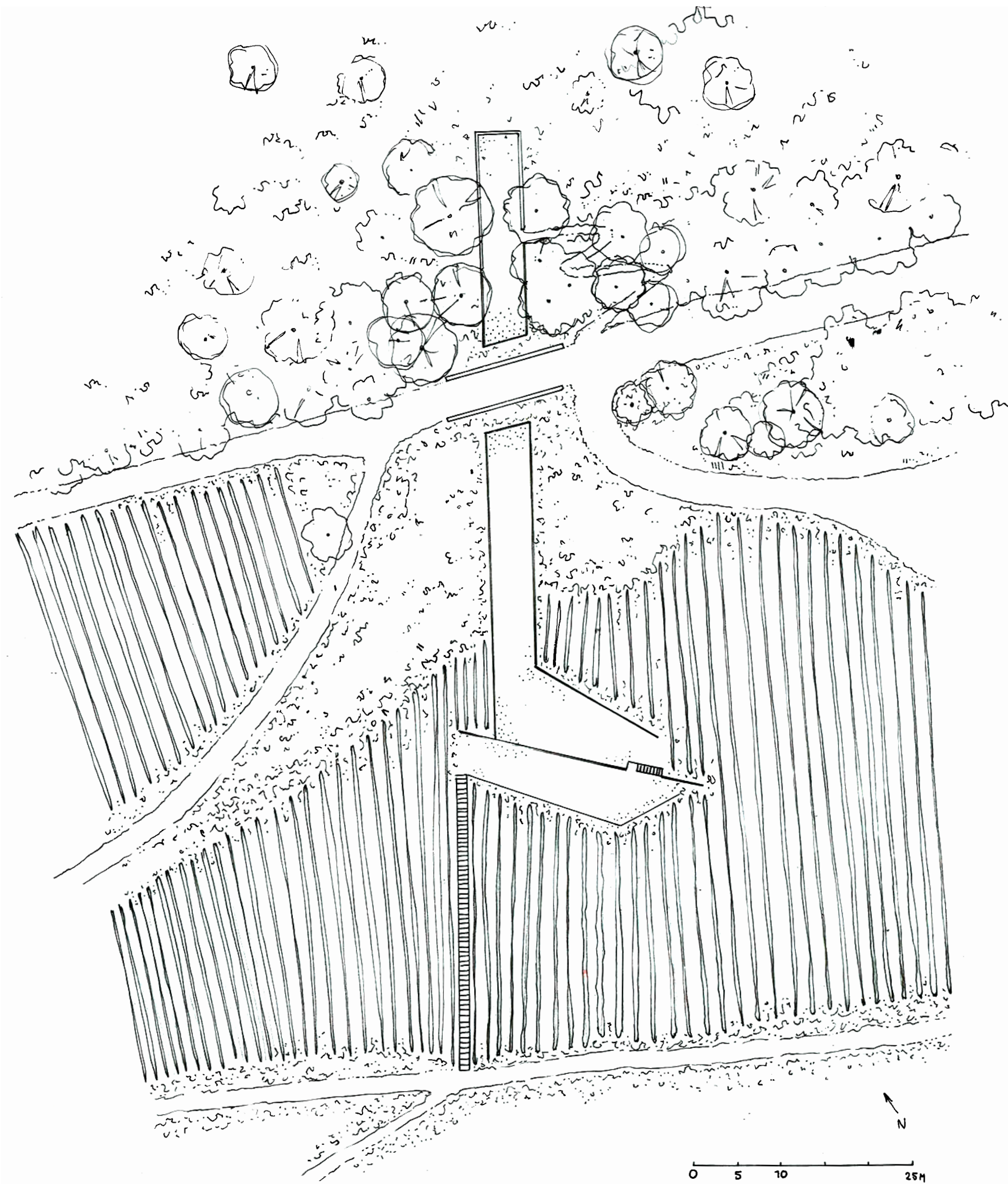
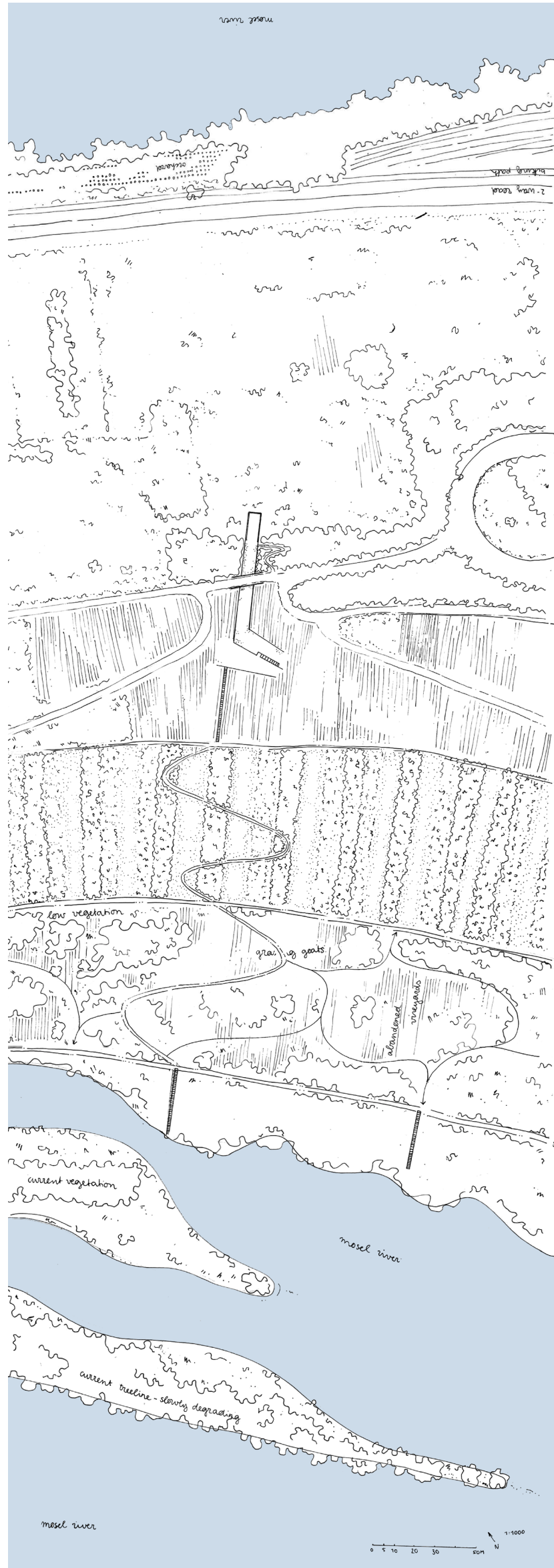
Zoom in Design



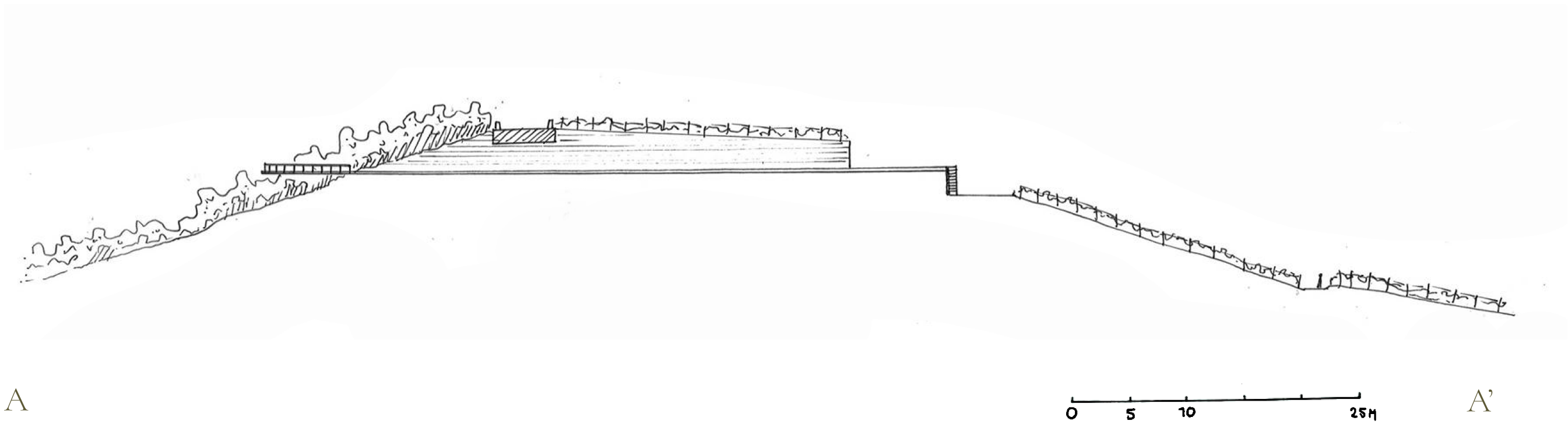
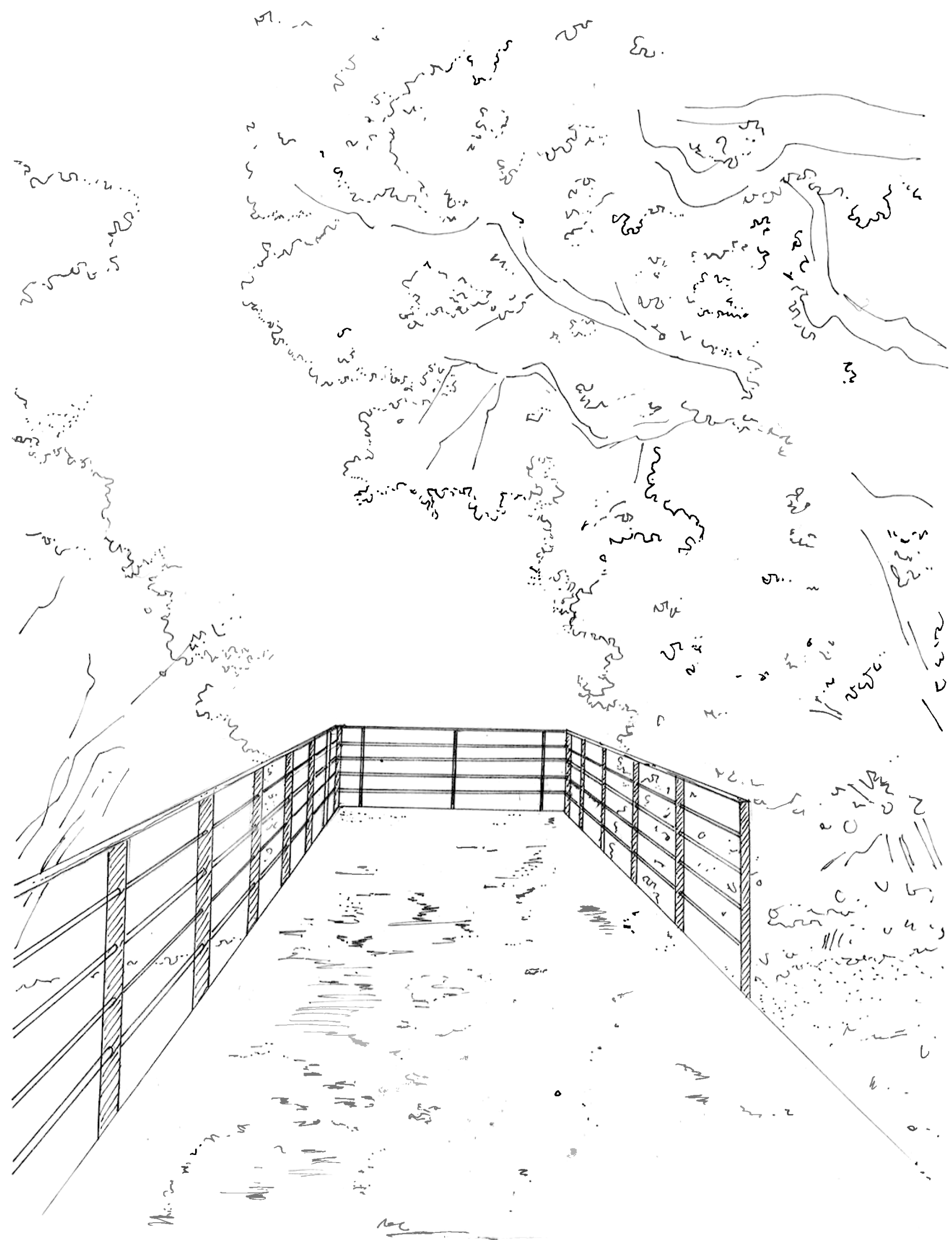
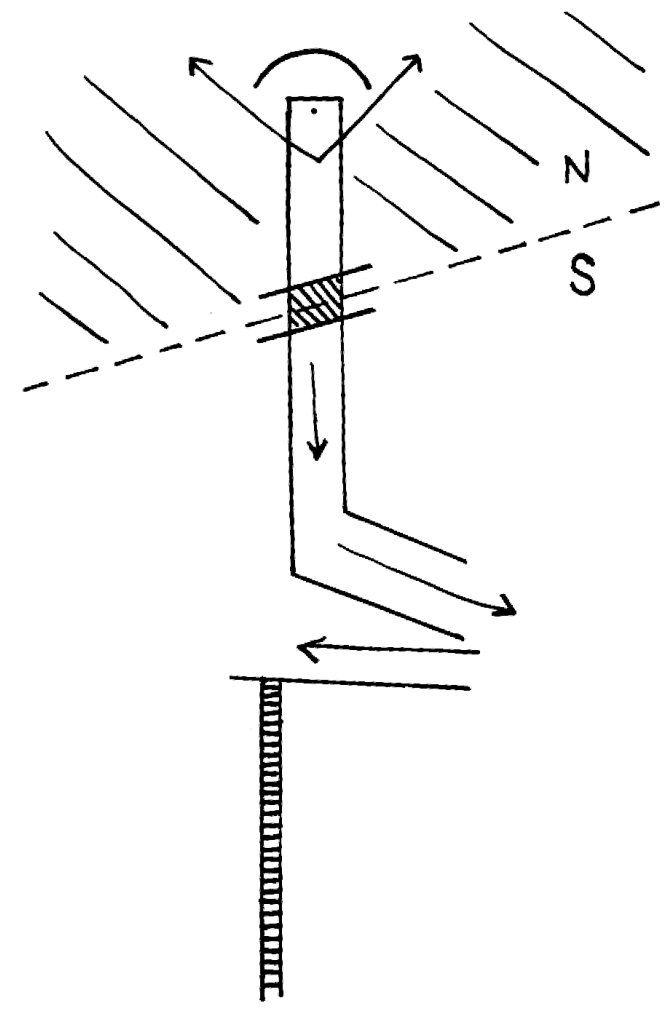
Zoom in Design



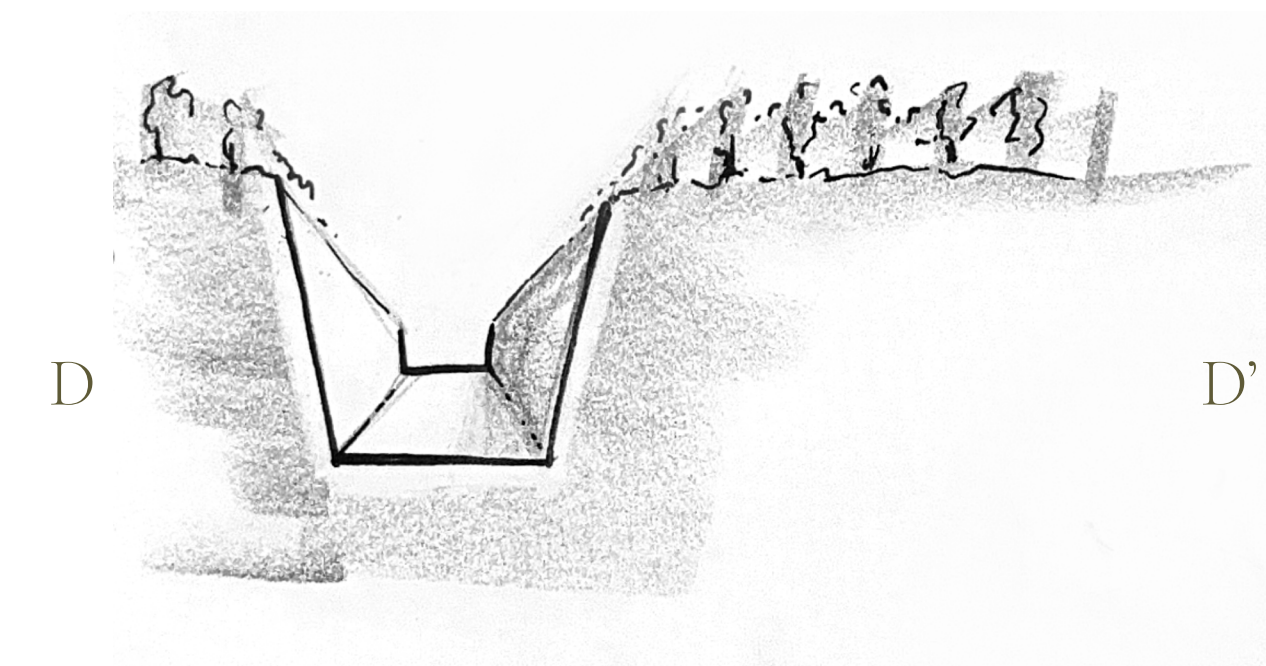
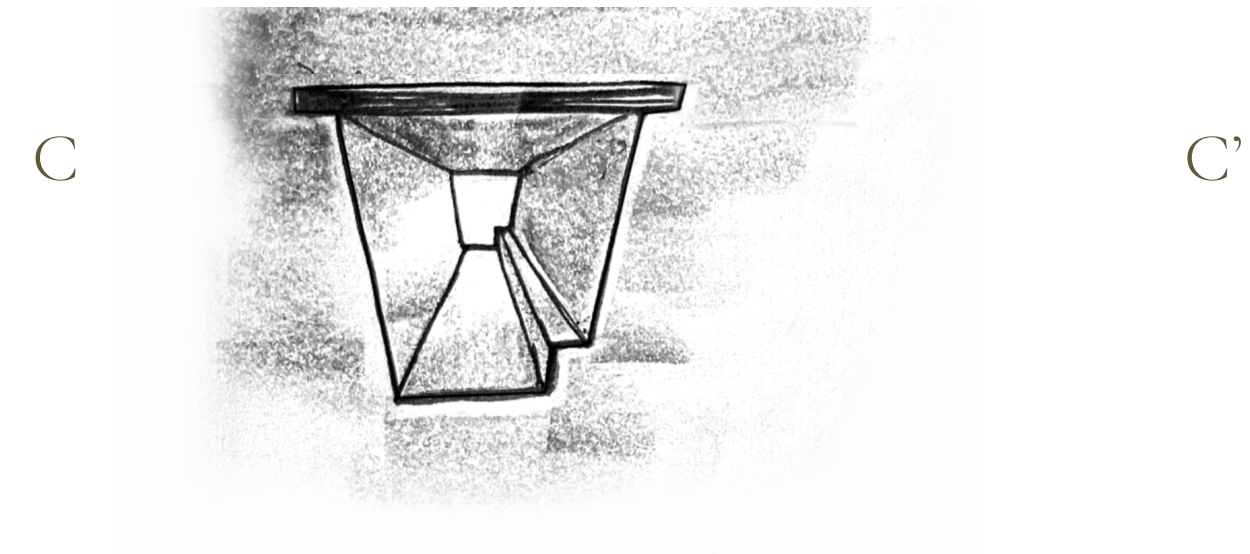
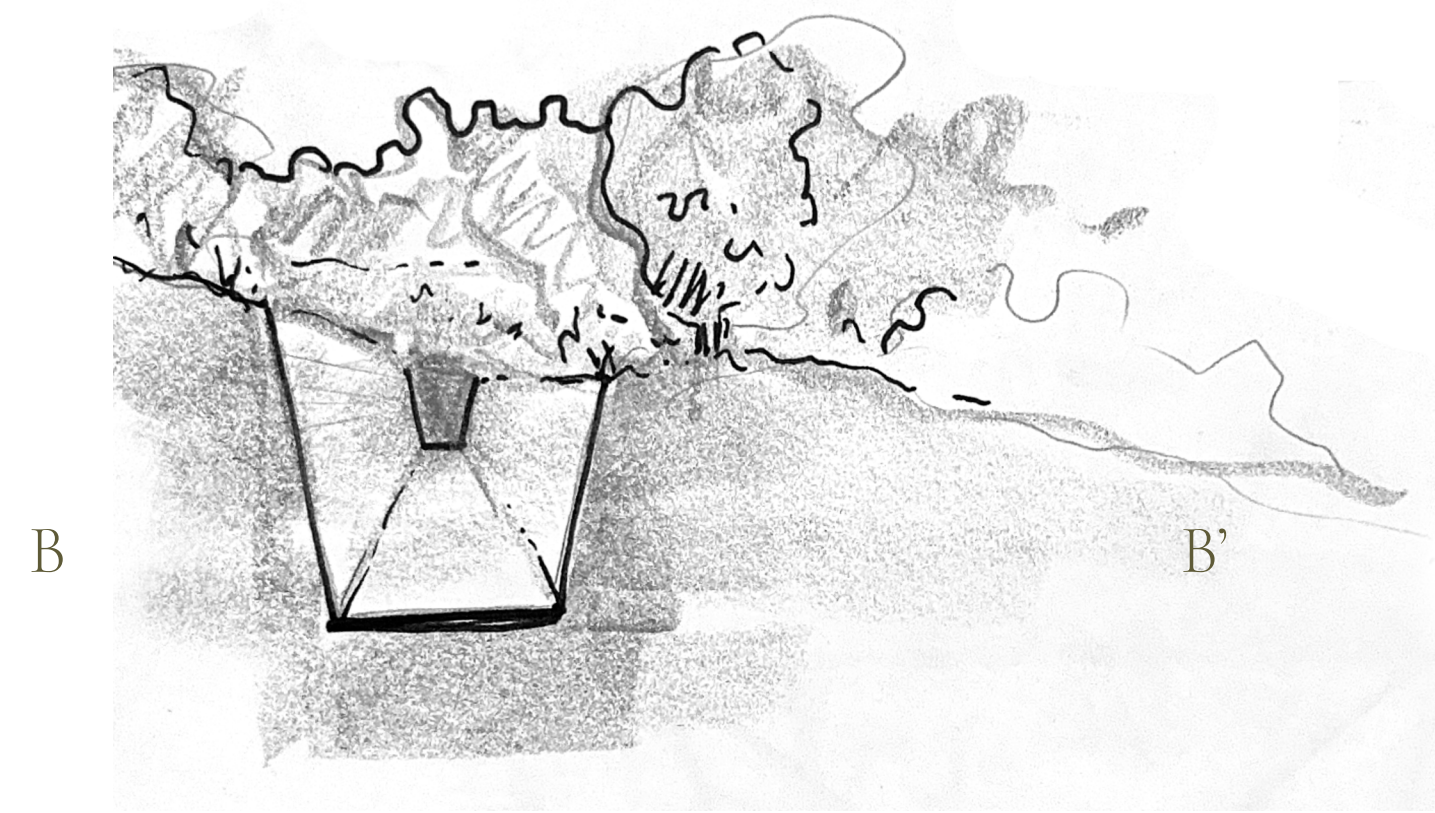
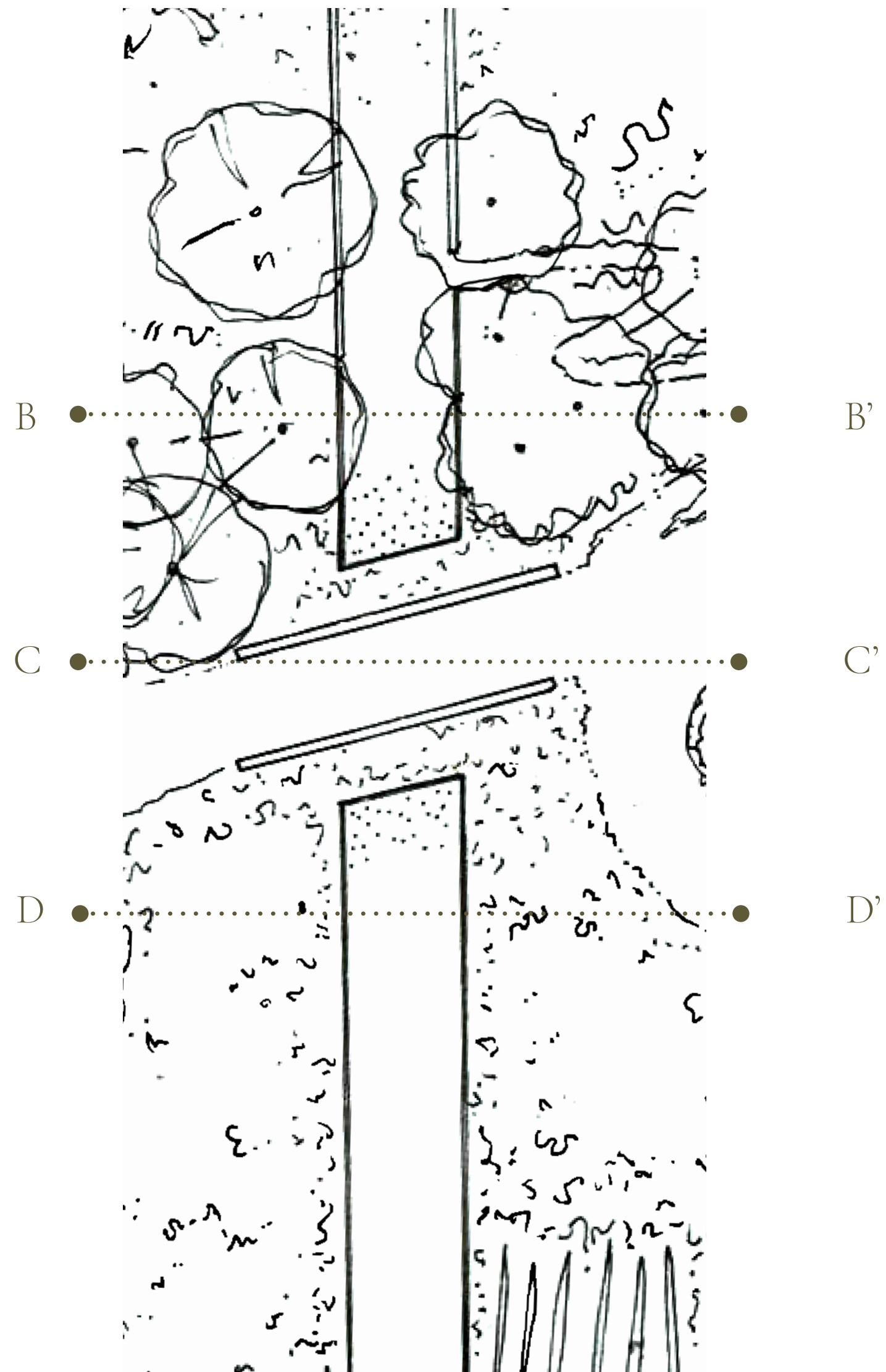
Detail Design



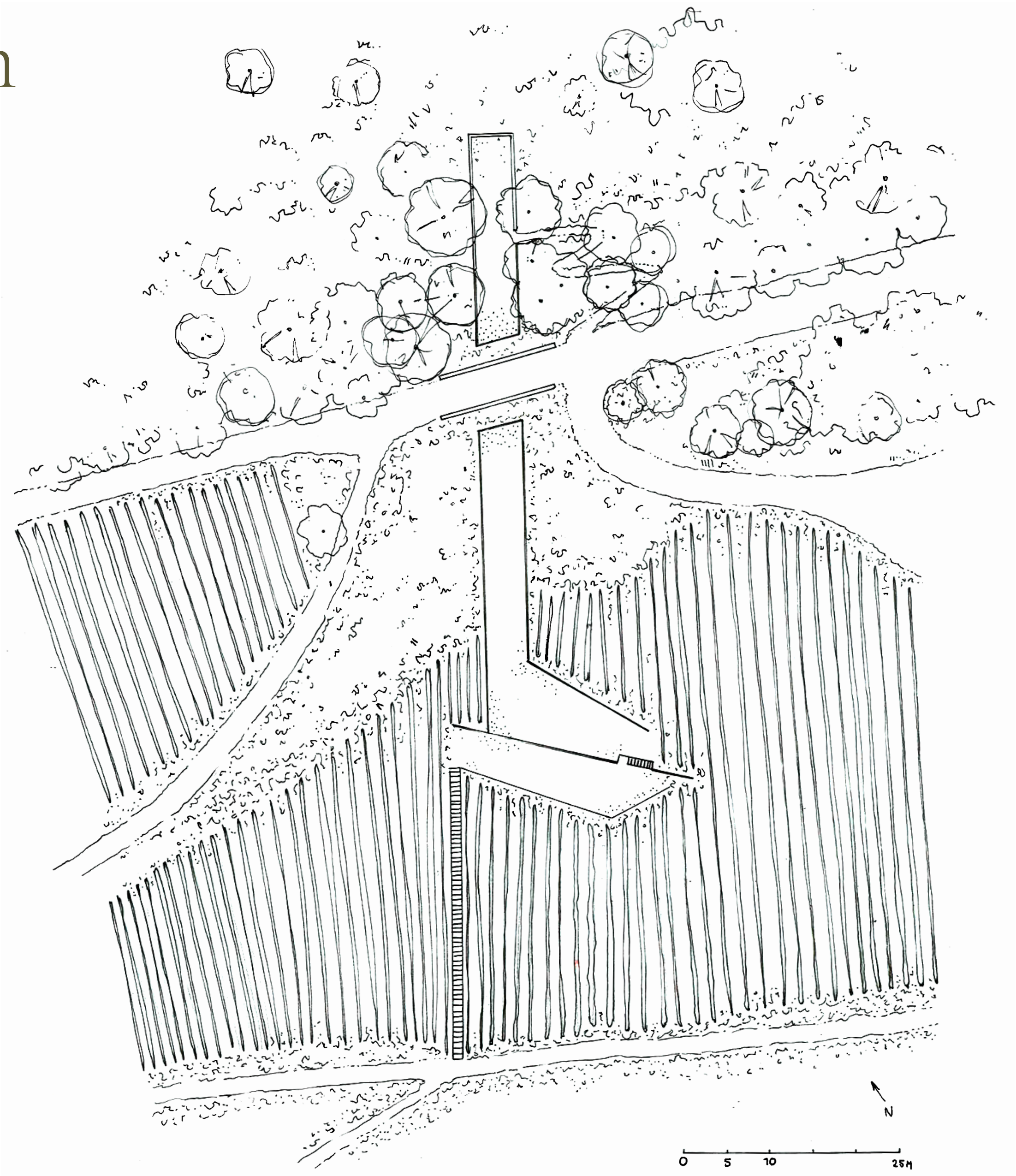
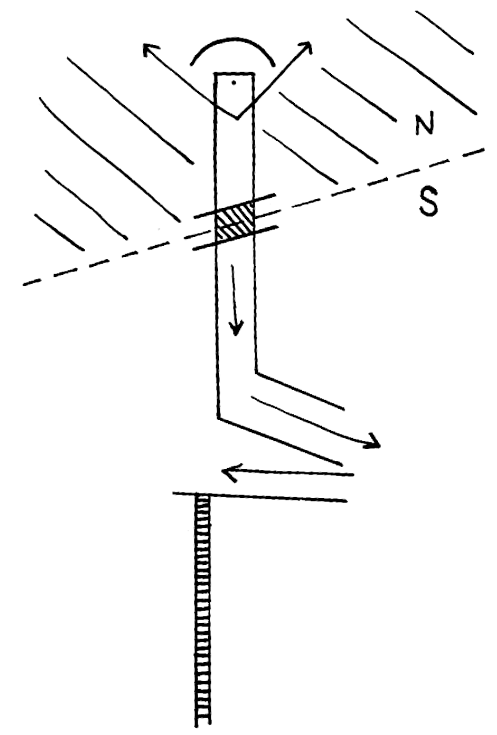
Viewpoint



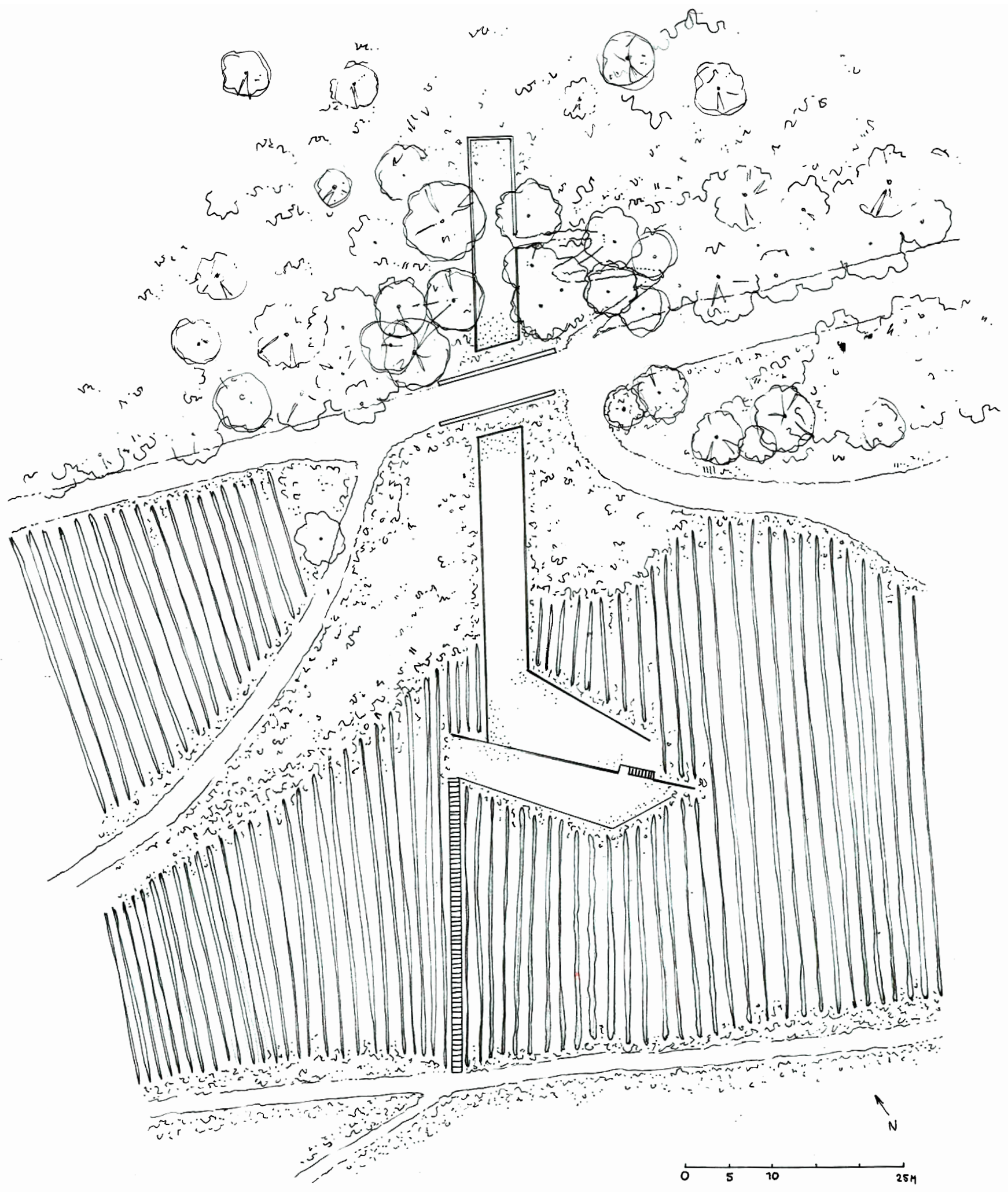
Passage



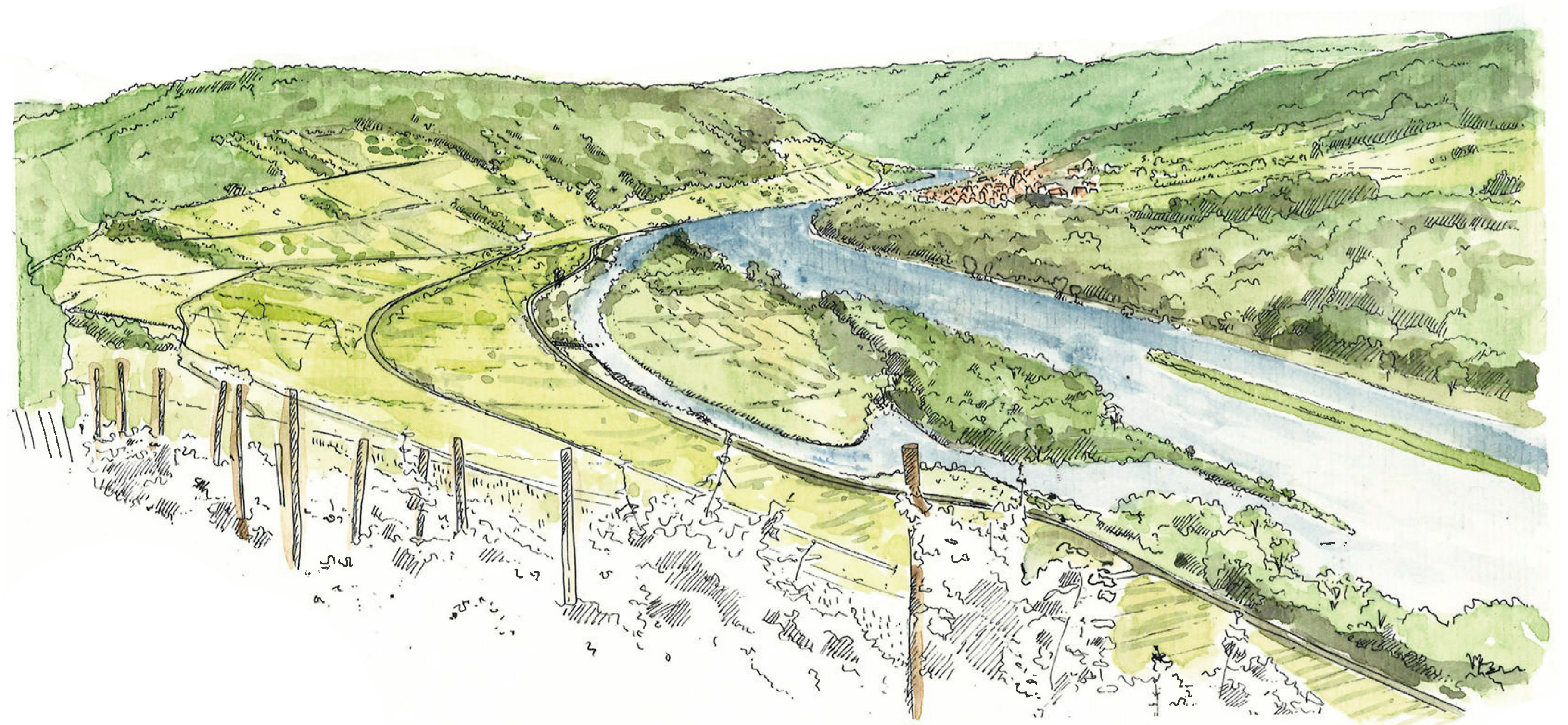
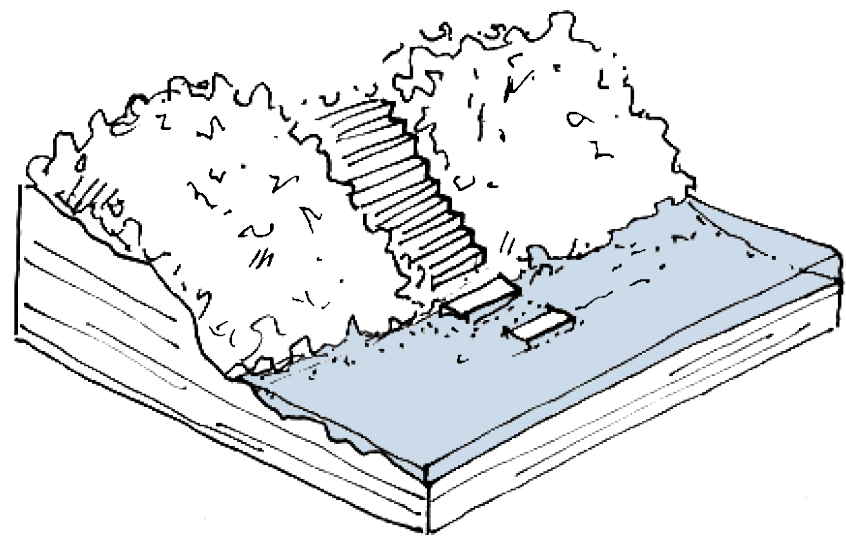
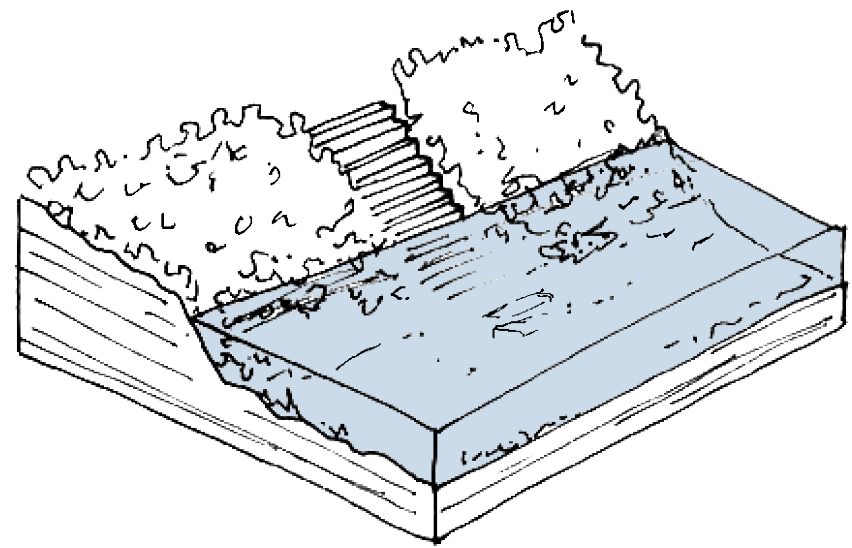
Viewing Platform



Vineyard Stairway



Floodplain Stairs





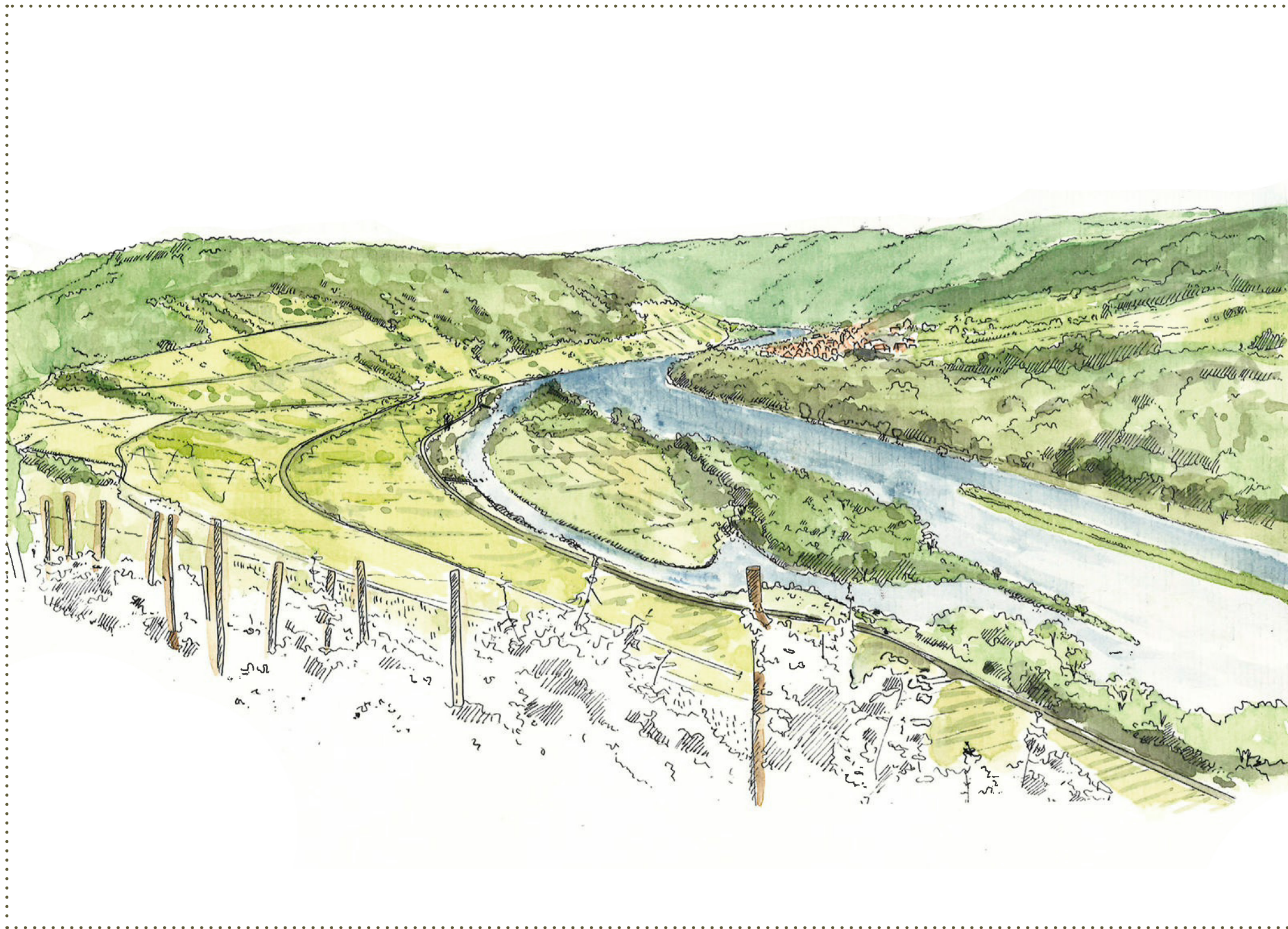
Mosel Beyond the Picturesque

From Romantic View to Layered, Resilient Landscape.



Geeske van Batenburg
MSc Graduation Project
Academic Year 2025 / 2026

TU Delft | Architecture and the Built Environment



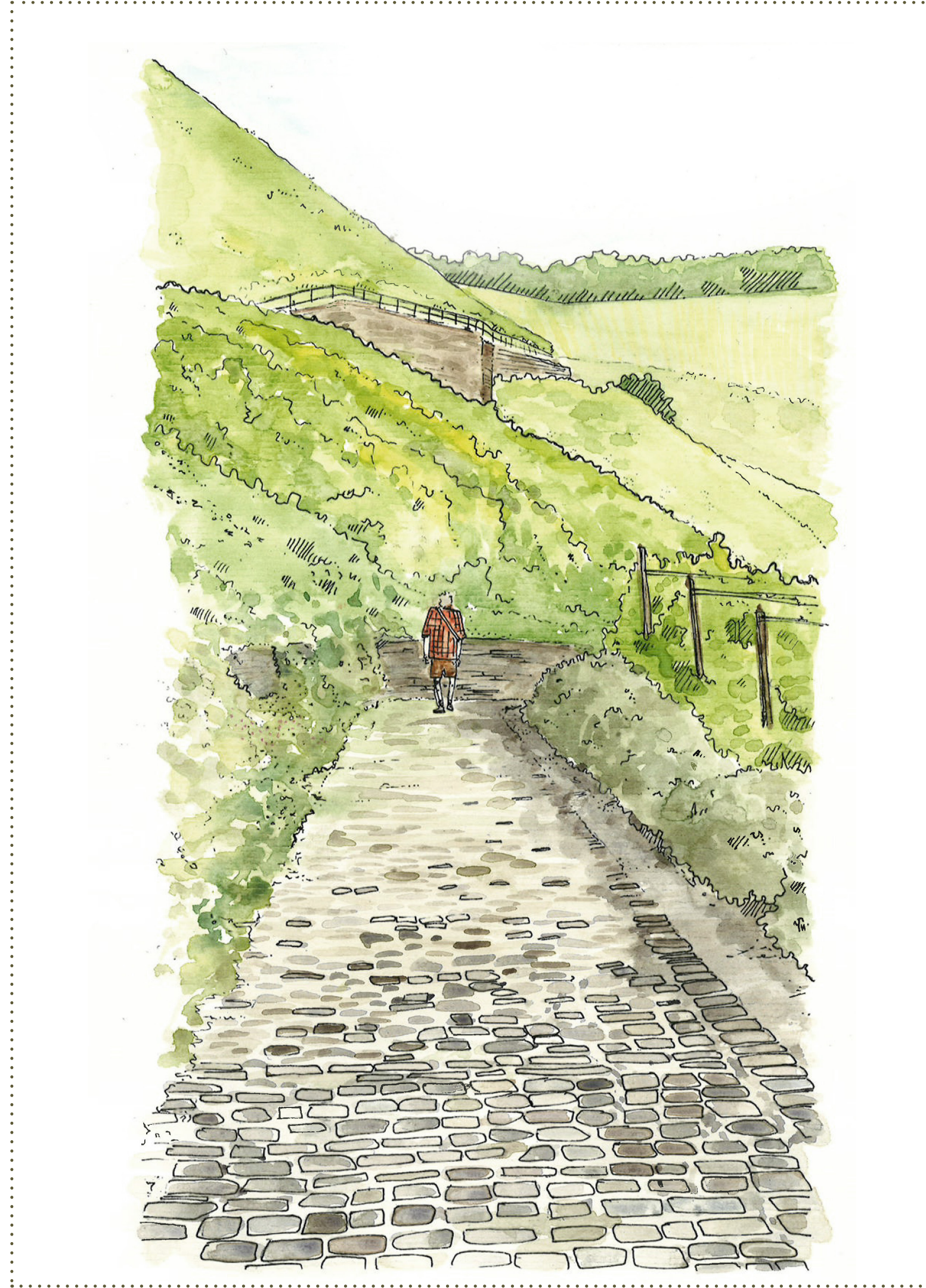
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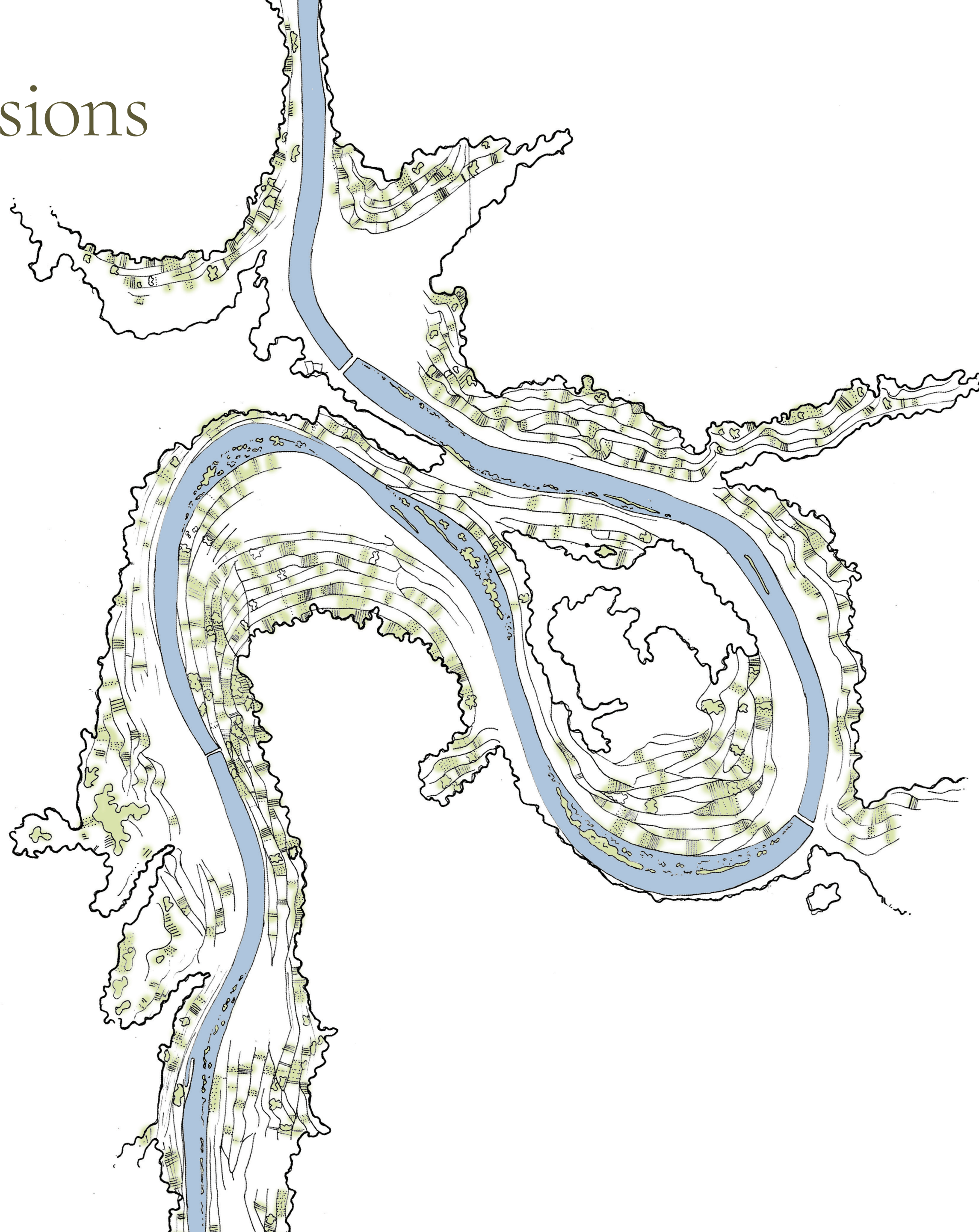
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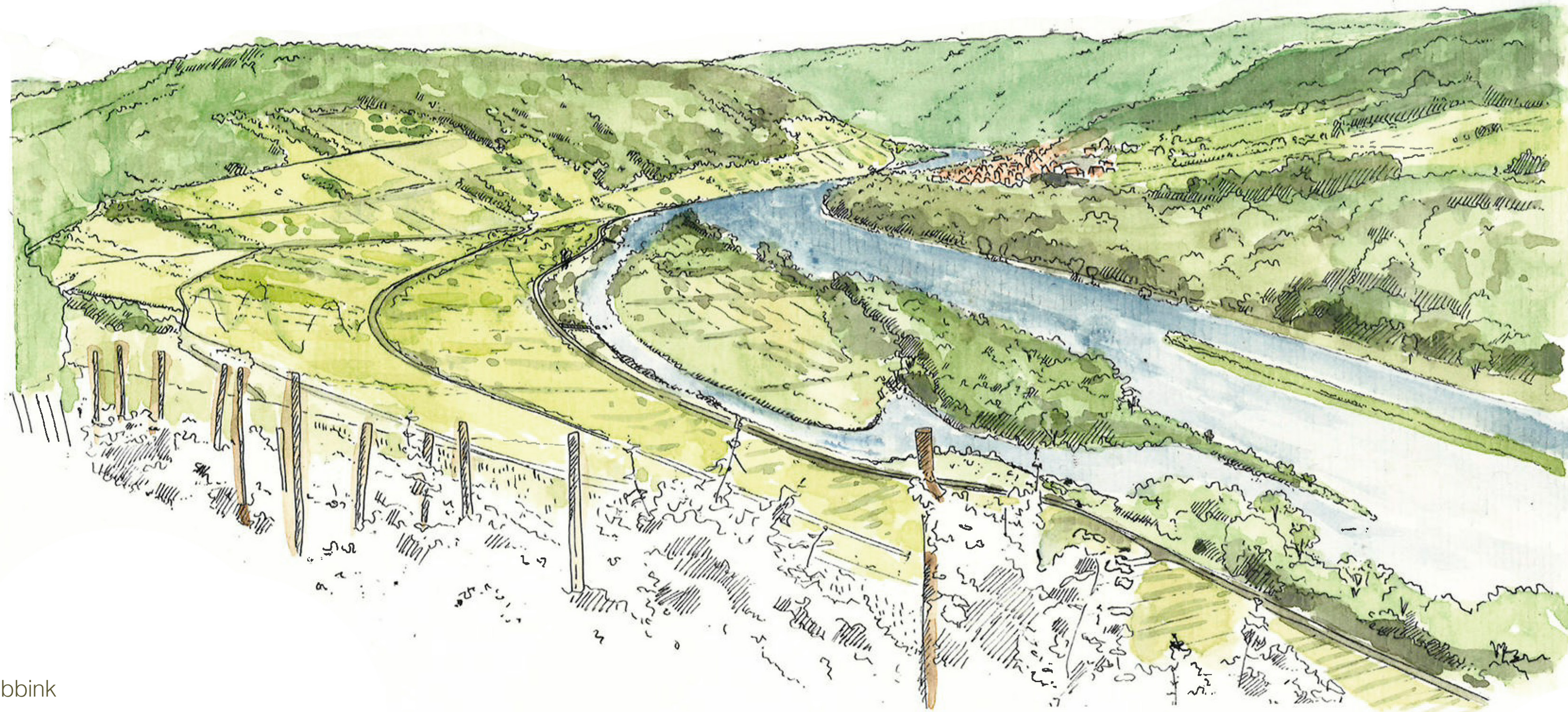
Conclusions



“To what extent can the romantic image of the Mosel Valley be maintained and enhanced through the transformation of its monocultural landscape into a dynamic, resilient landscape?”

MOSEL BEYOND THE PICTURESQUE

From Romantic View to Layered, Resilient Landscape.



Geeske van Batenburg
5859506

A4 presentation 22 / 06 / 2026
MSc Graduation Project
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Responsible Supervisor: Dr. ir. Inge Bobbink
Supervisor: ir. Mieke Vink
TU Delft | Architecture, Urbanism and Building Sciences