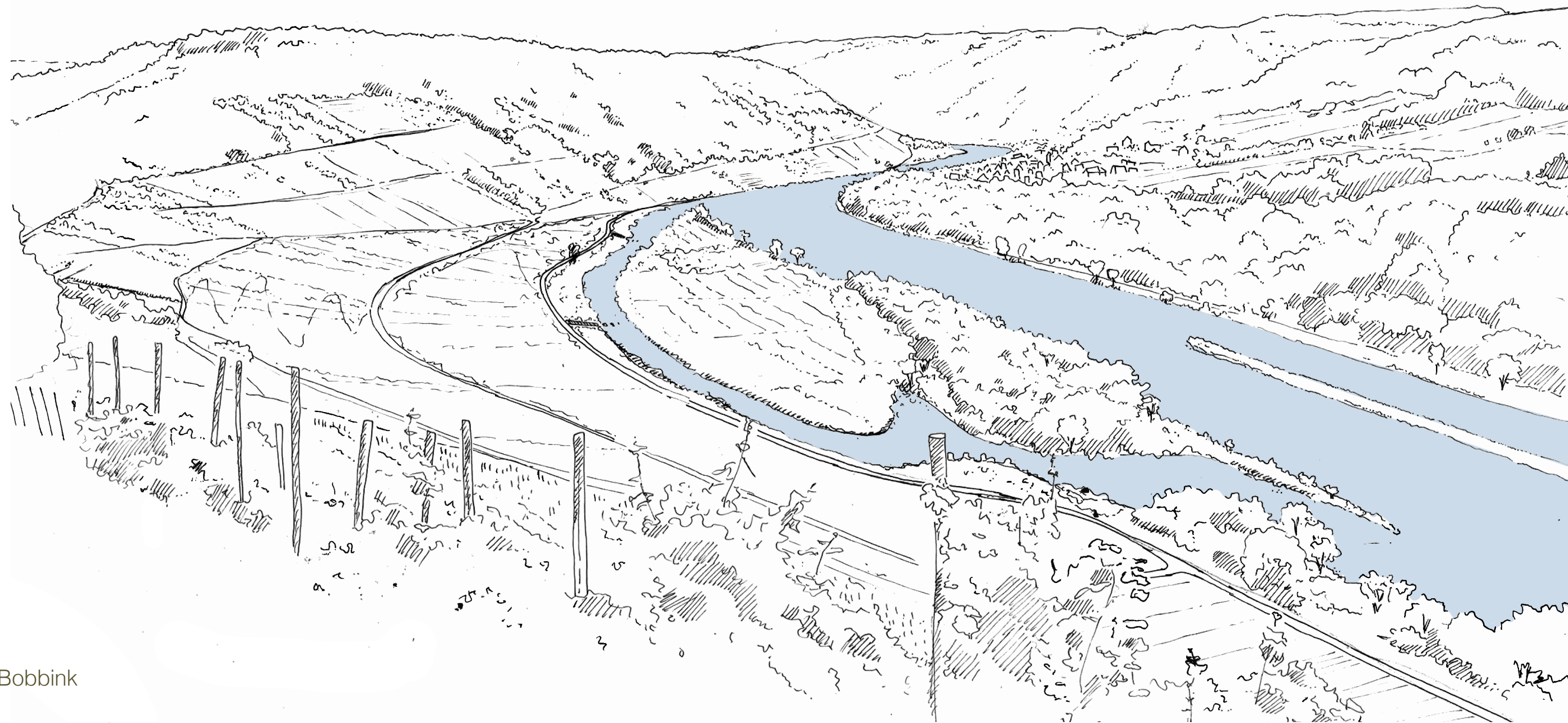


MOSEL BEYOND THE PICTURESQUE

From Romantic View to Layered, Resilient Landscape.



Geeske van Batenburg
5859506

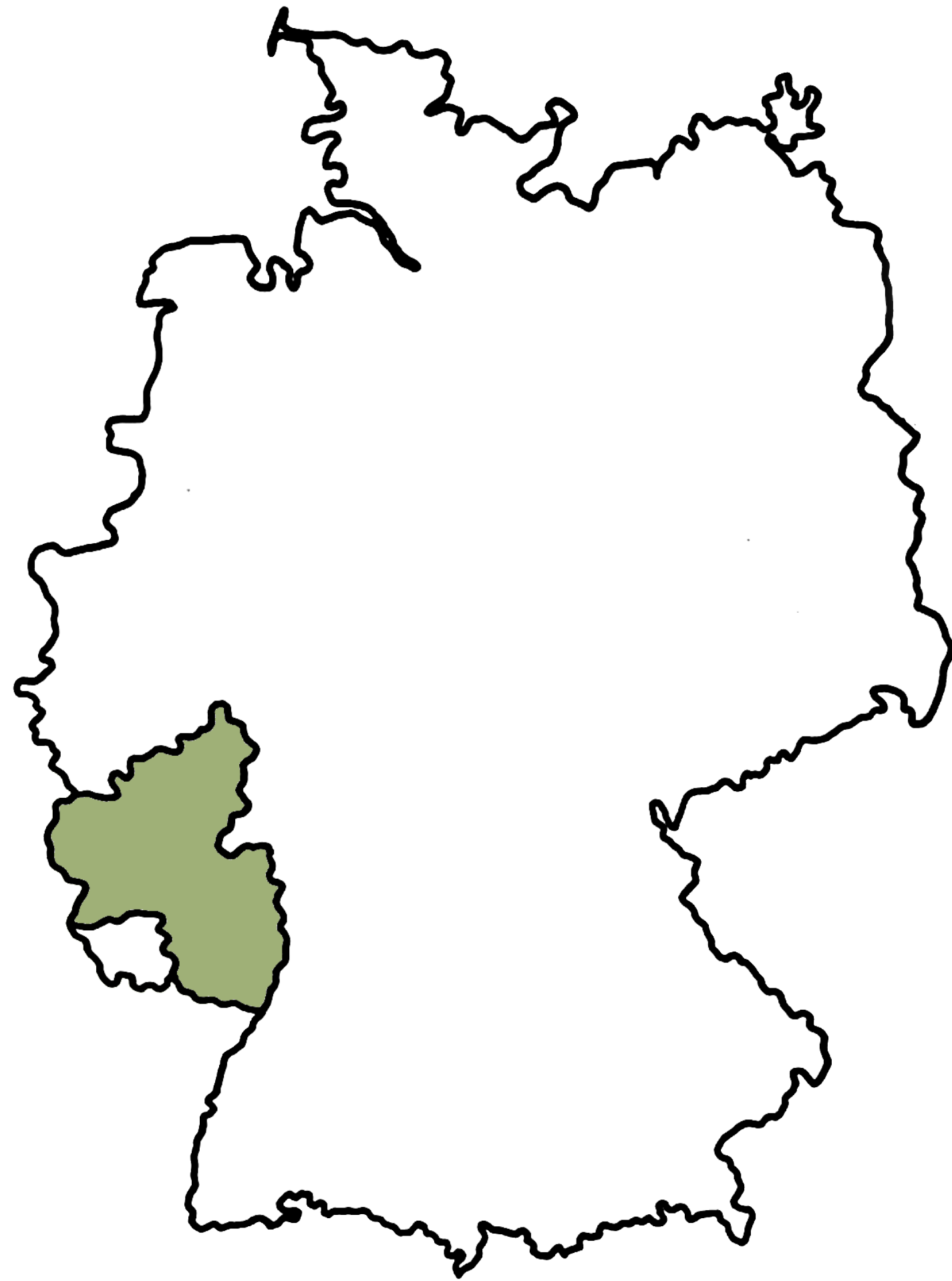
A3 presentation June 2, 2026
MSc Graduation Project
Academic year 2025 / 2026

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

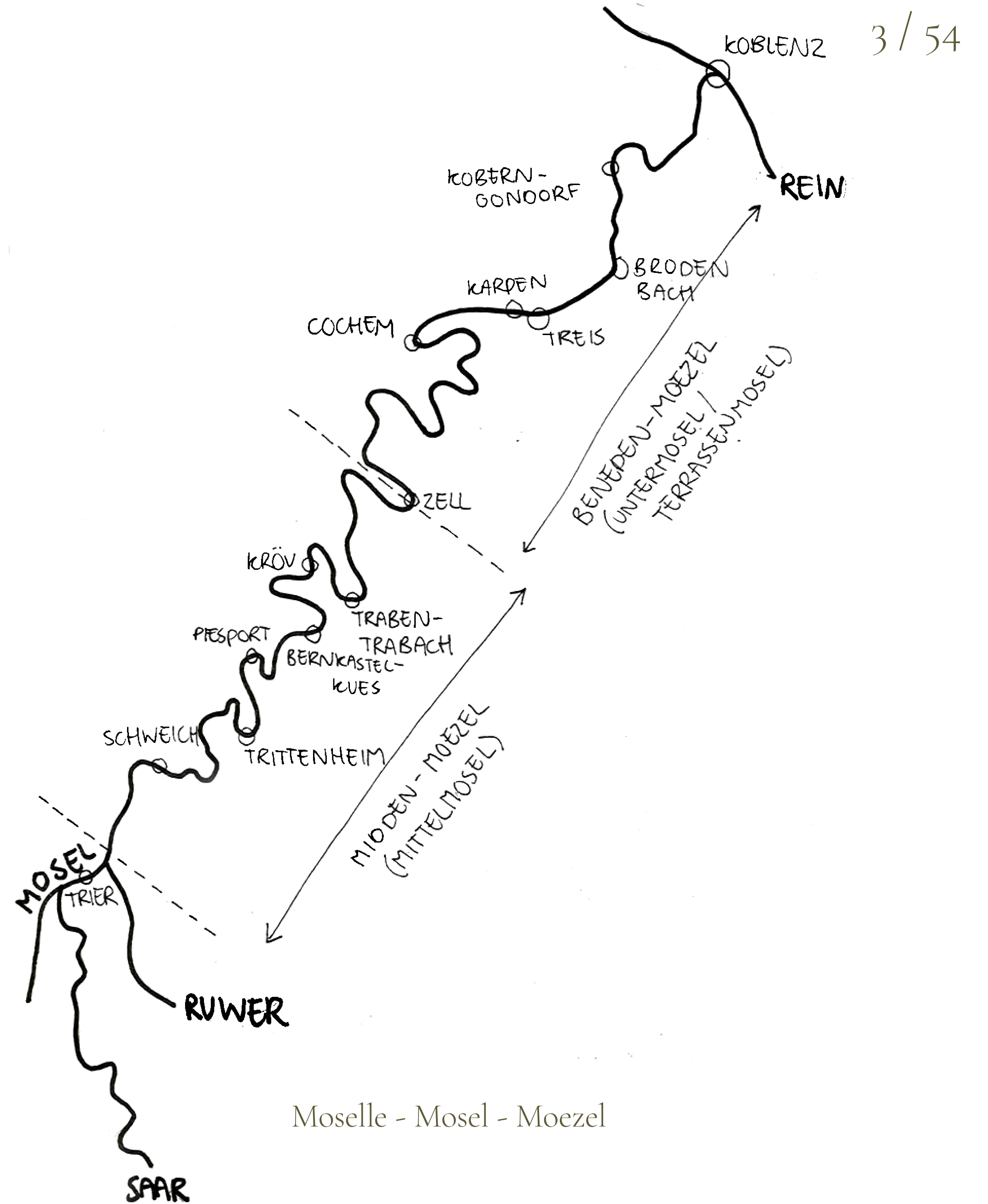
Interest



Interest



Rheinland-Pfalz



Moselle - Mosel - Moezel

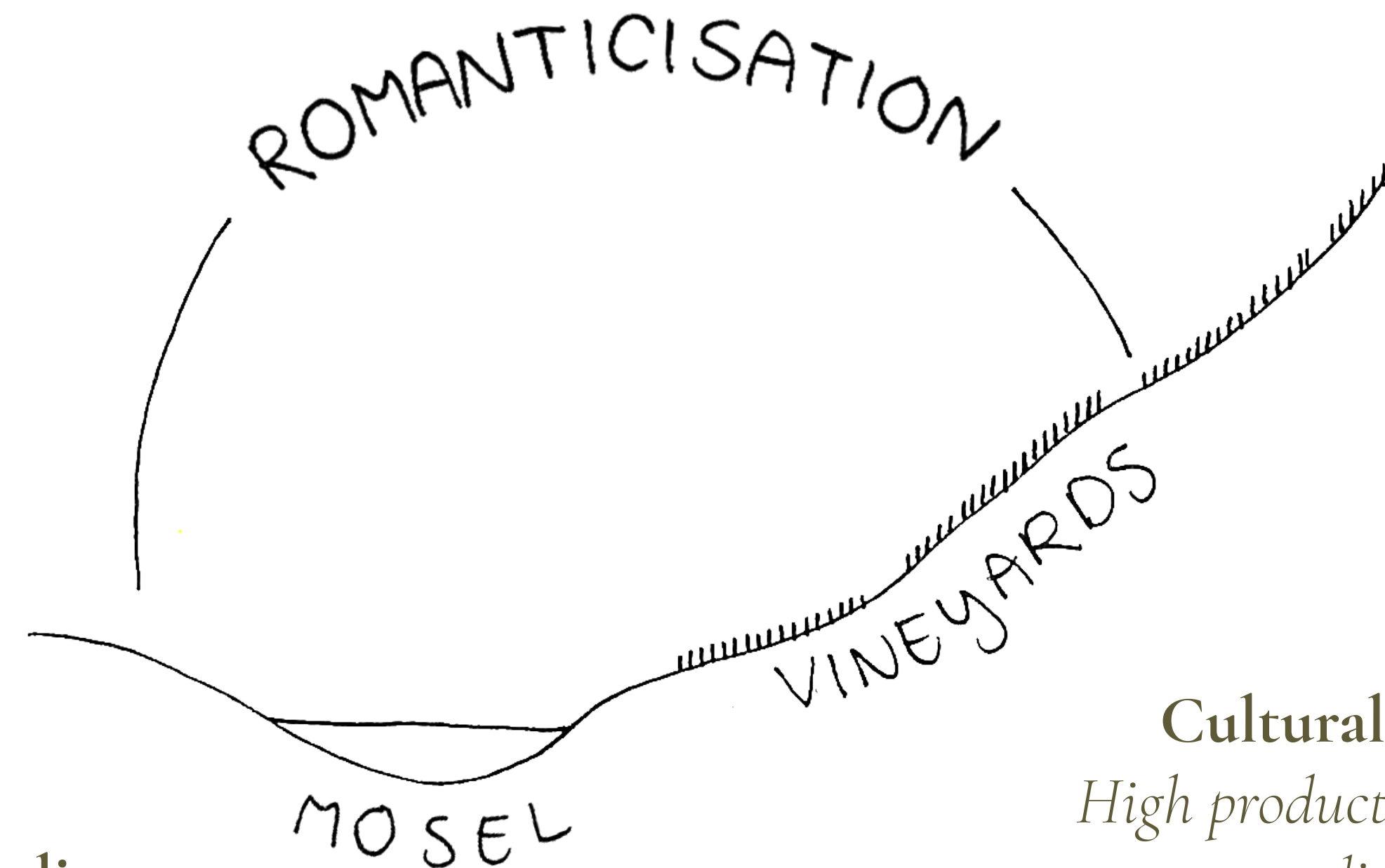
Mosella

Decimus Magnus Ausonius (310-395 AD)

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.*

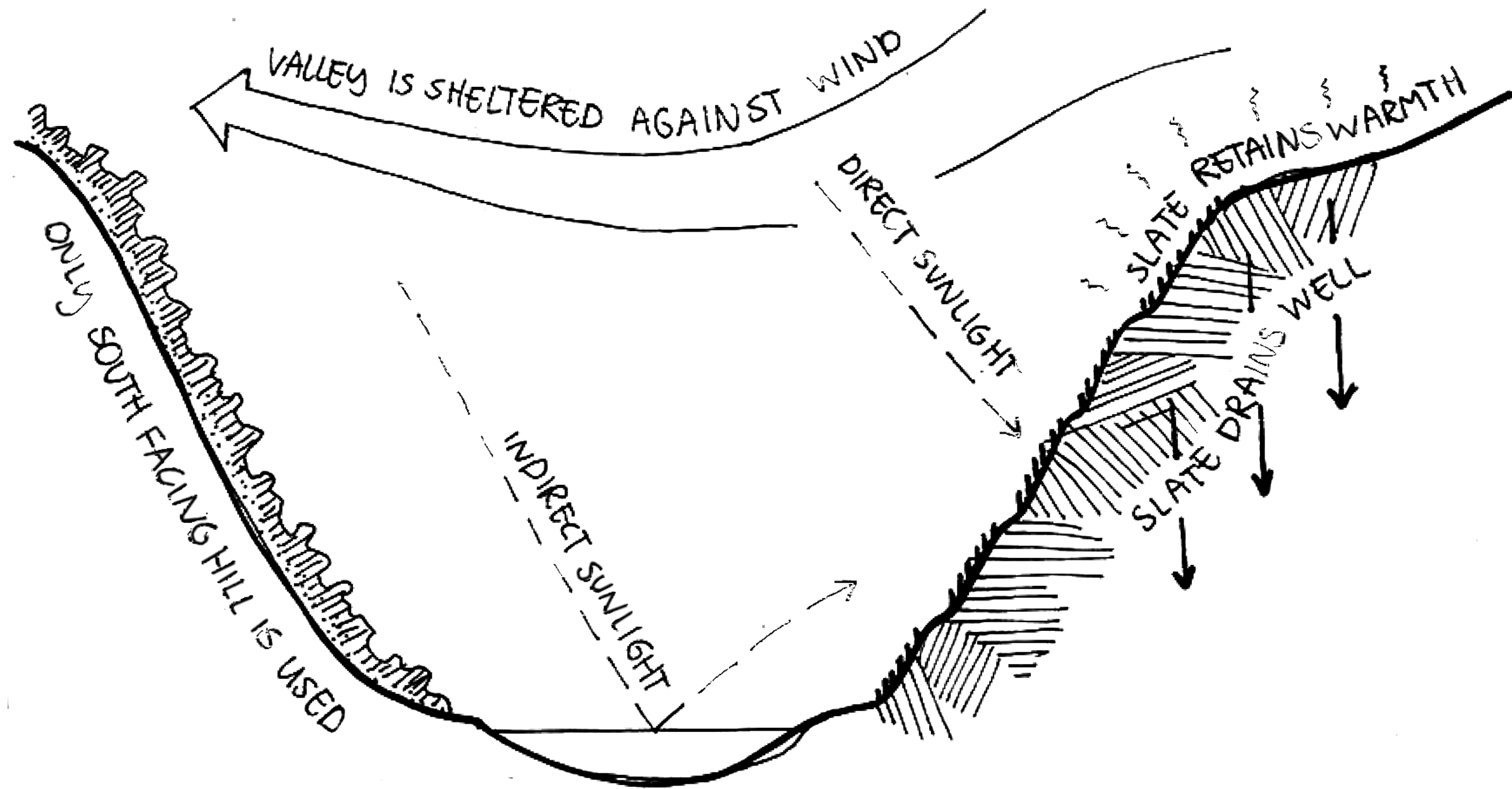
Cultural landscape under pressure:

*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.

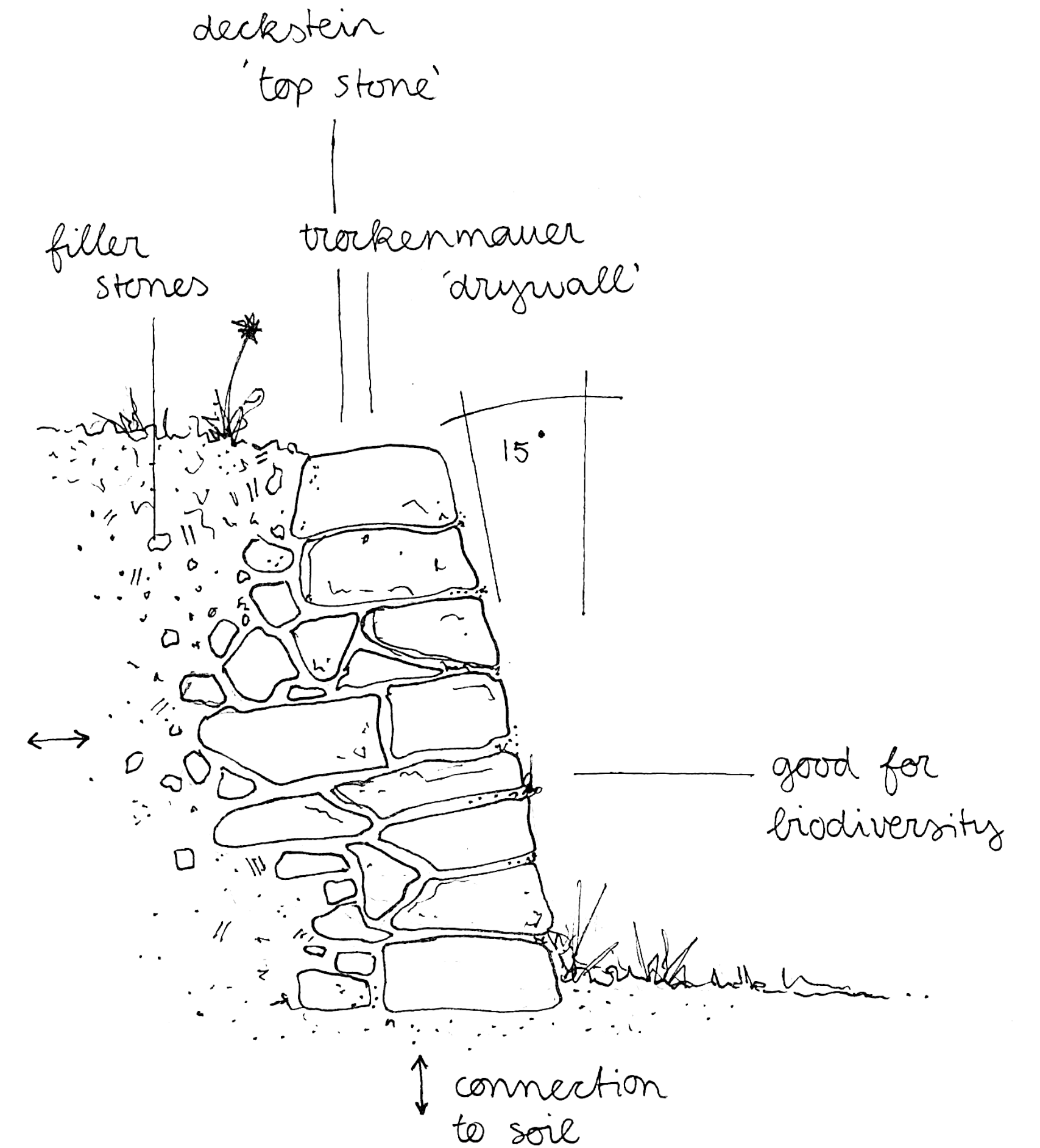


Mosel Valley near Pünderich.

The Mosel Valley



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



The Mosel Valley



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

The Mosel Valley



some parts are very difficult / dangerous.

paths too steep and small for machinery.

contrast between vertical lines and rock formations.

The Mosel Valley

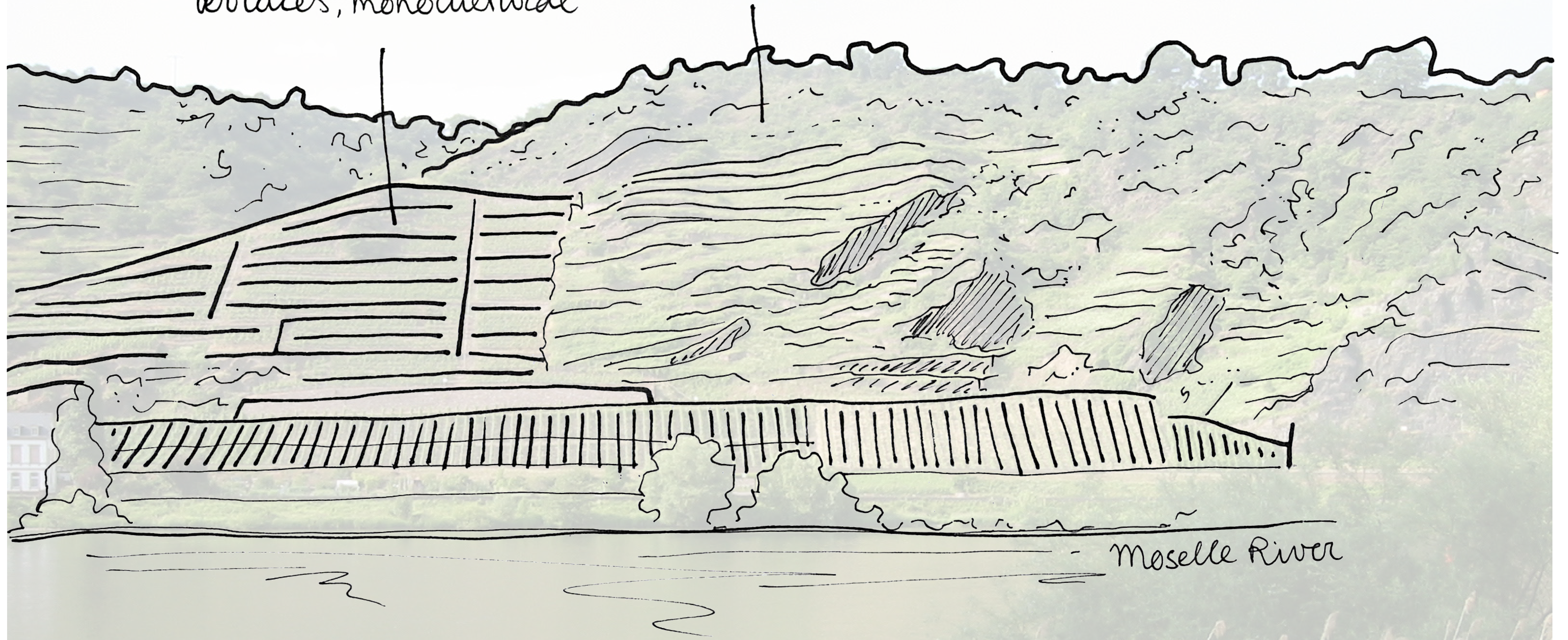


Managed terraces (left) next to abandoned ones (right) in Hatzenporter Stolzenberg (Dieter Rogge, Wikipedia).

The Mosel Valley

managed, modern
terraces; monocultural

abandoned vineyards
due to difficult production



The Mosel Valley



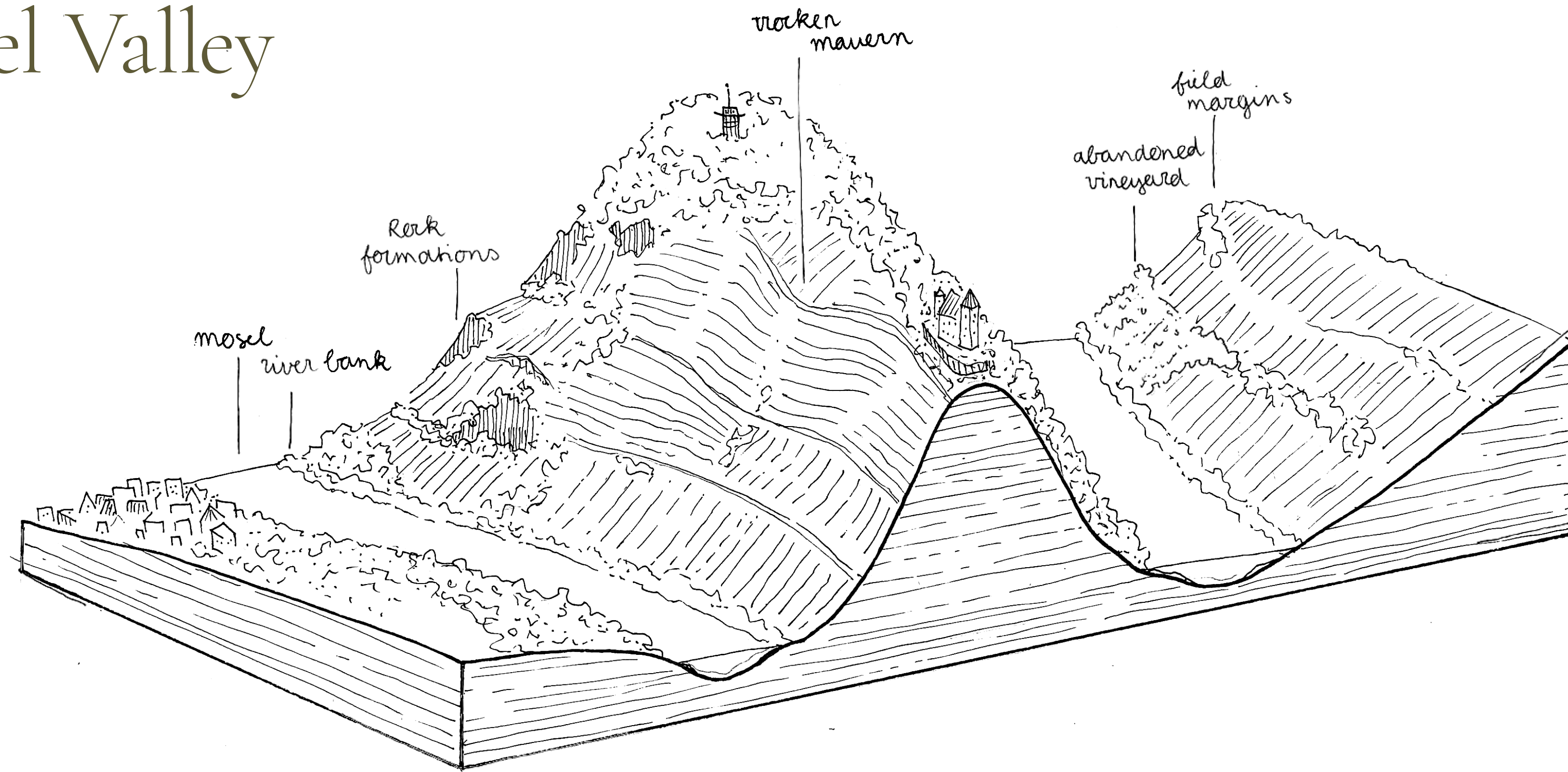
Pünderich around 1930 ([unitedarchives.com](https://www.unitedarchives.com)).



Pünderich around 2020 ([zellerland.de](https://www.zellerland.de)).

The Mosel Valley

Habitat types



Vineyard lanes (hs-geisenheim.de)



Abandoned vineyards



Drywalls



Rock formations

The Mosel Valley

Abandoned vineyards



Abandoned vineyards



Blackberry
(*Rubus fruticosus* agg.).



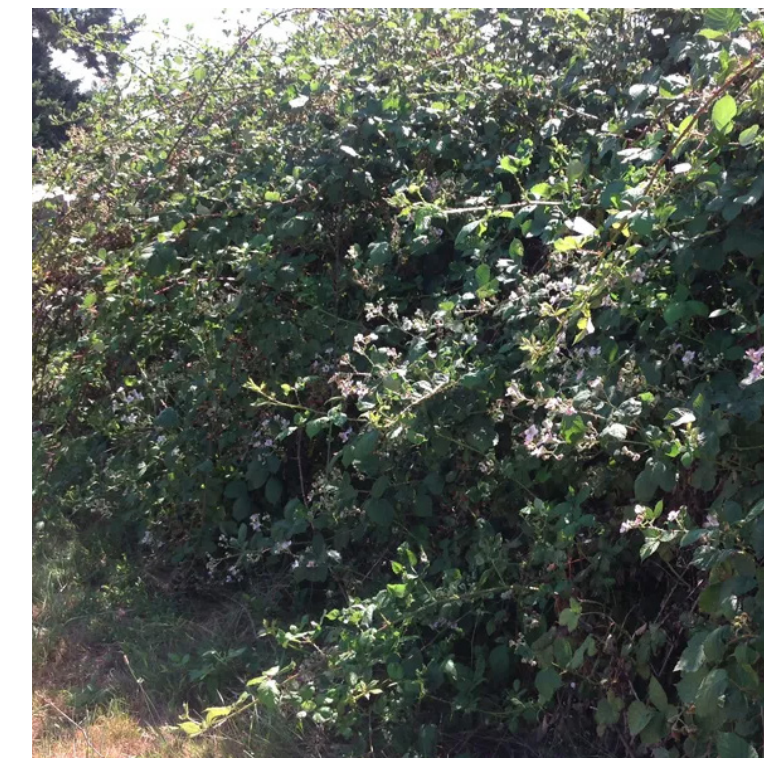
Clematis
(*Clematis vitalba*).

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*.



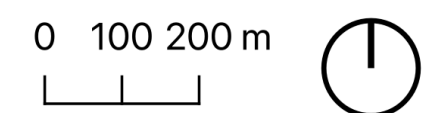
Historical map of Mosel floodplain around 1803 -1820.



Historical map of Mosel floodplain around 1843 - 1878.



Satellite Photo of 2025.



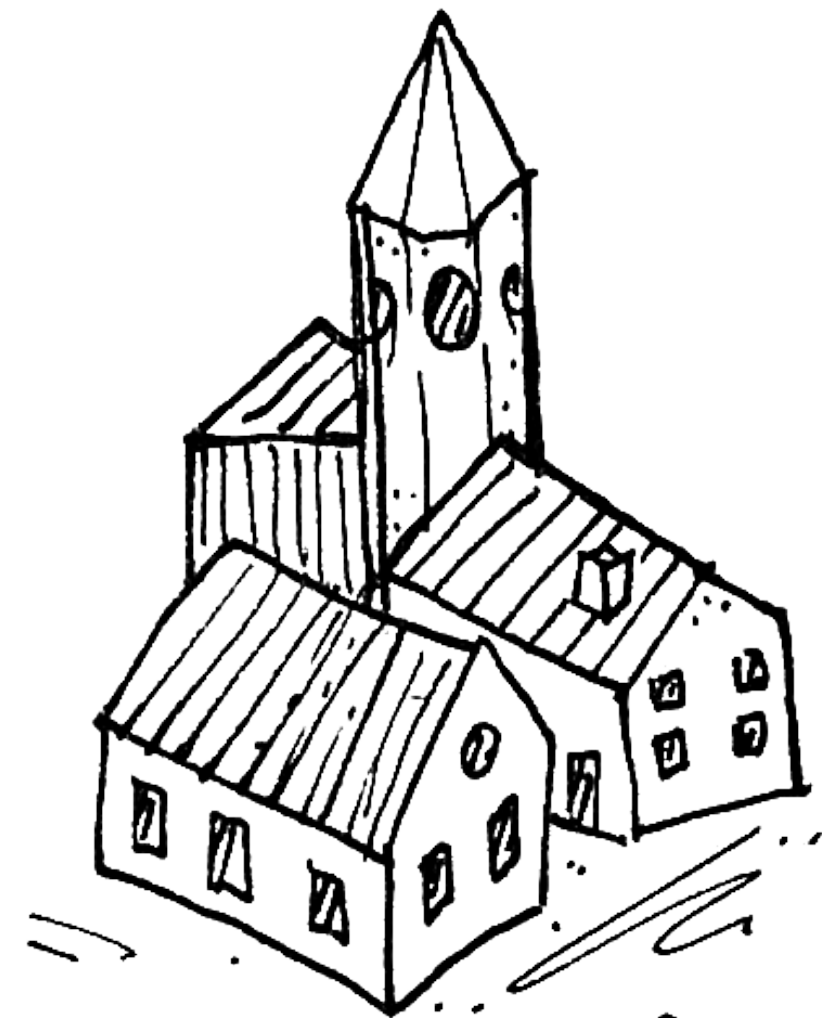
The Mosel Valley



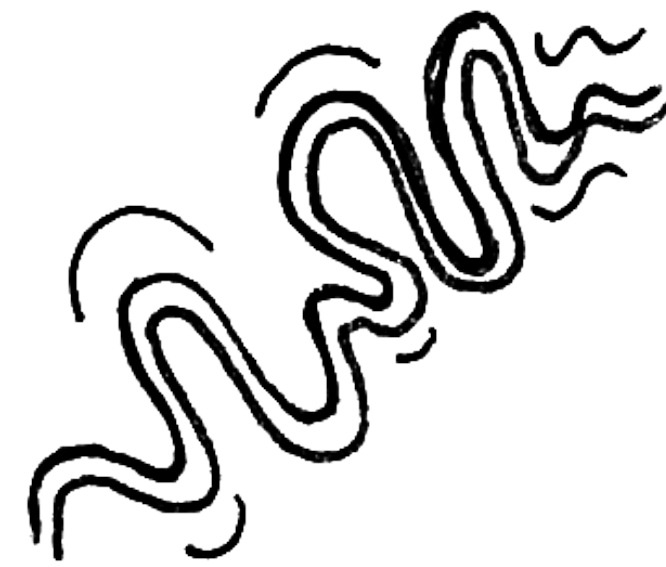
Marienburg church from Prinzenkopf viewing tower.

*“ 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? ”*

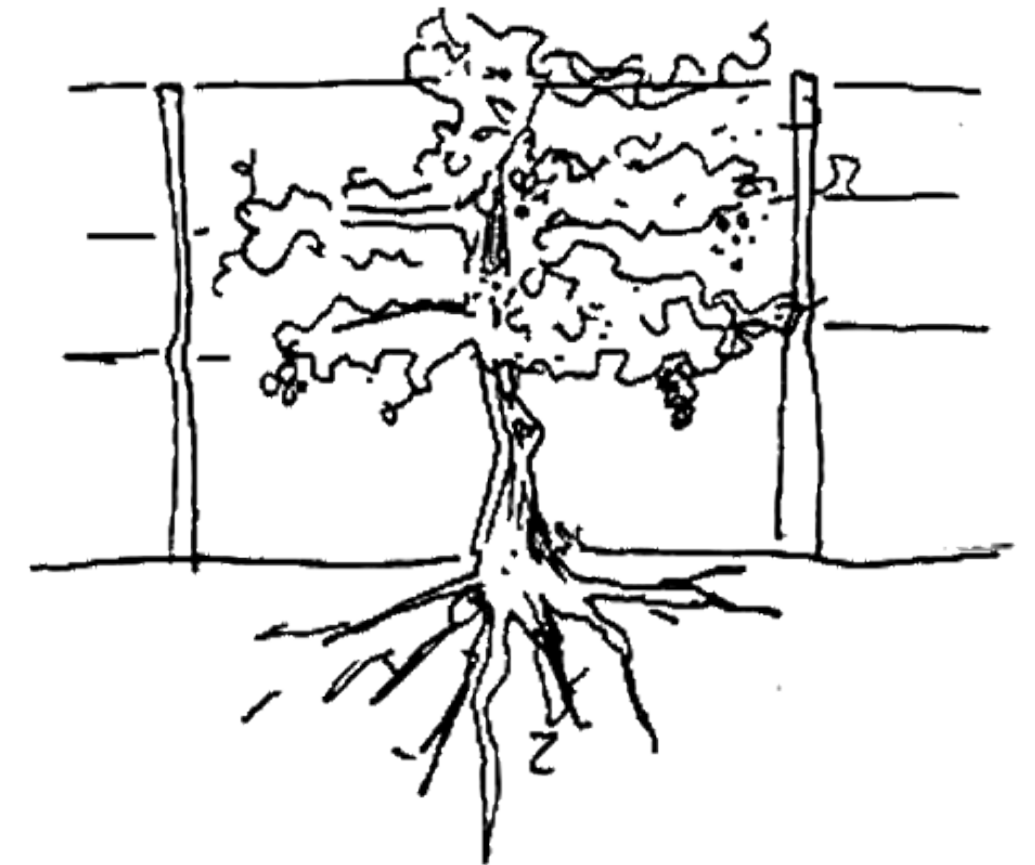
Theoretical Framework



cultural elements

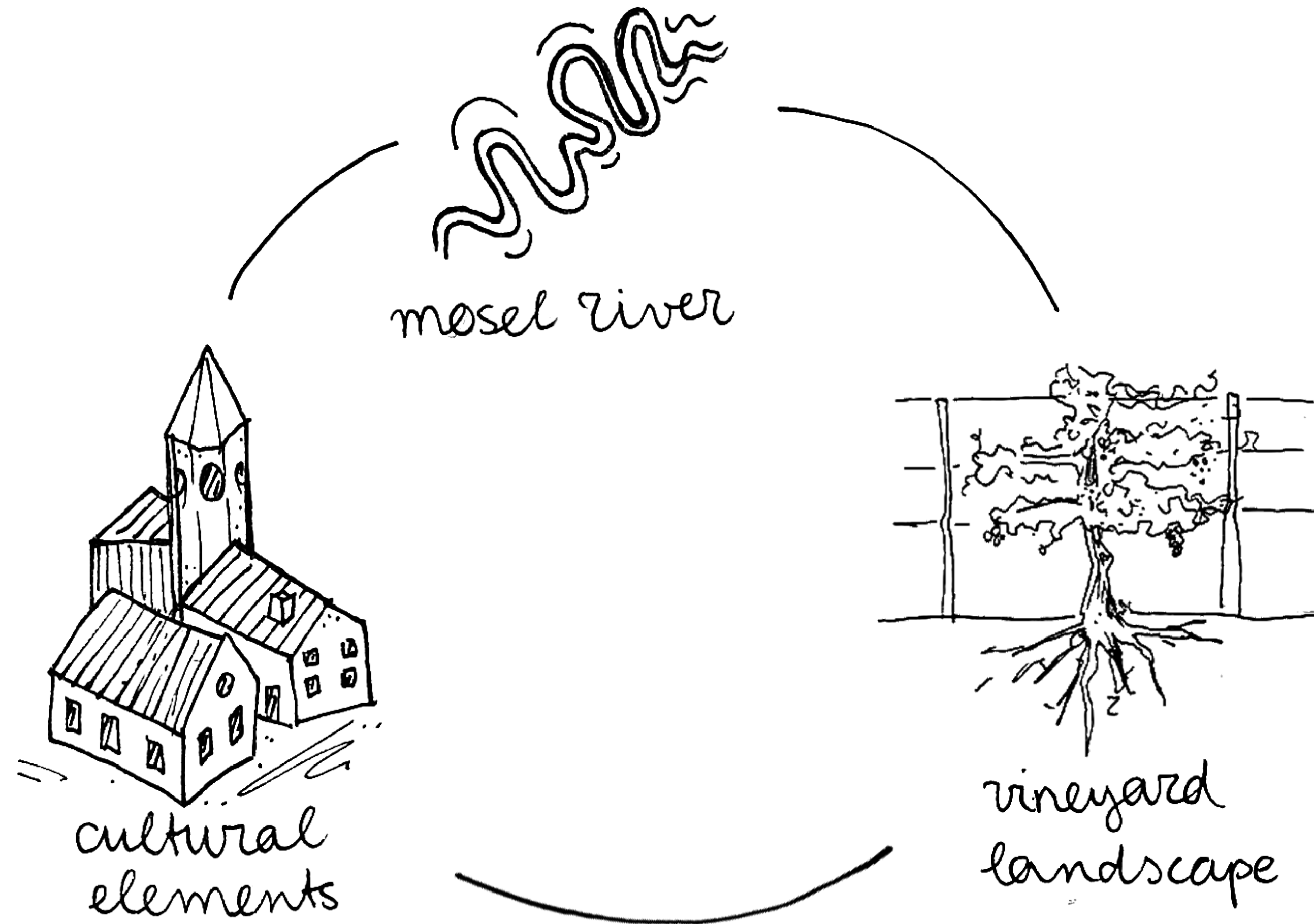


mosel river



vineyard landscape

Theoretical Framework



Theoretical Framework

Romanticism (1800-1850)

22 / 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

Romanticism

23 / 54

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

Landscape Garden



The garden at Stourhead, Wiltshire, England. From “National Trust” by James Dobson, n.d.



“Landscape with a Ruined Castle”, watercolor on paper. From “Meisterdrucke” by William Gilpin, 1790.

Theoretical Framework

Design Principles



PASSING OF TIME



CONTRAST



LIMITED VISIBILITY

Design Assignment

*“Designing landscape interventions at the site that create awareness for change and increase landscape resilience. The design should critically **reinterpret the Romantic Mosel landscape** and translate its qualities into contemporary spatial strategies.”*



PASSING OF TIME



CONTRAST



LIMITED VISIBILITY

“Designing landscape interventions at the site that create awareness for change and increase landscape resilience. The design should critically reinterpret the Romantic Mosel landscape and translate its qualities into contemporary spatial strategies.”

Nature becomes the new Romantic Subject

Romantic Mosaic

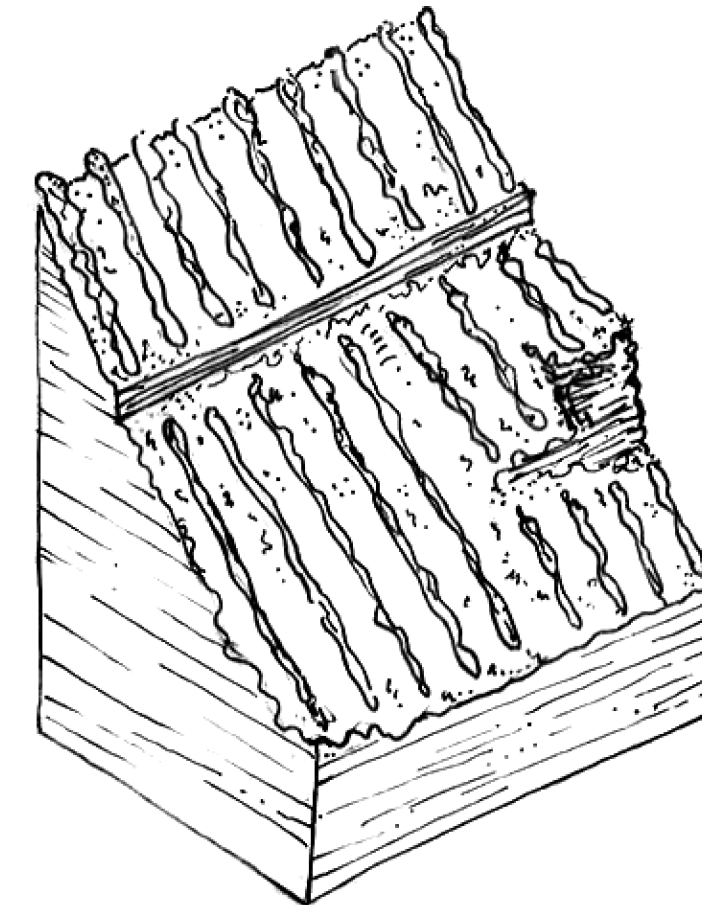
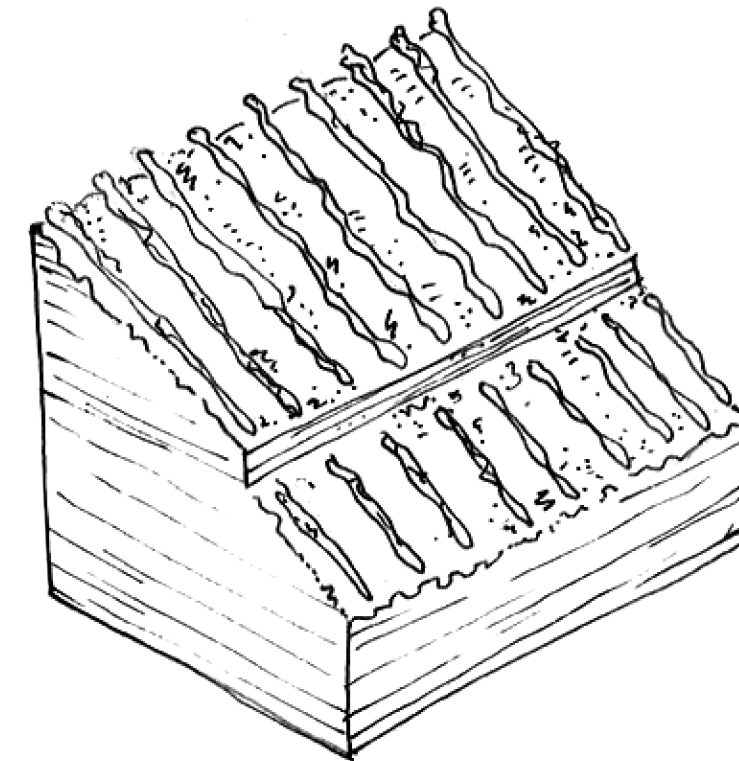
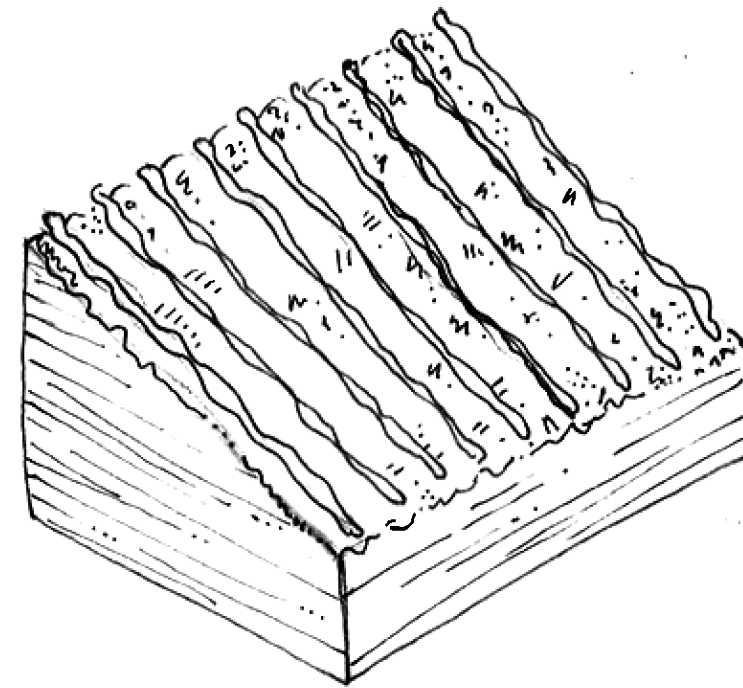
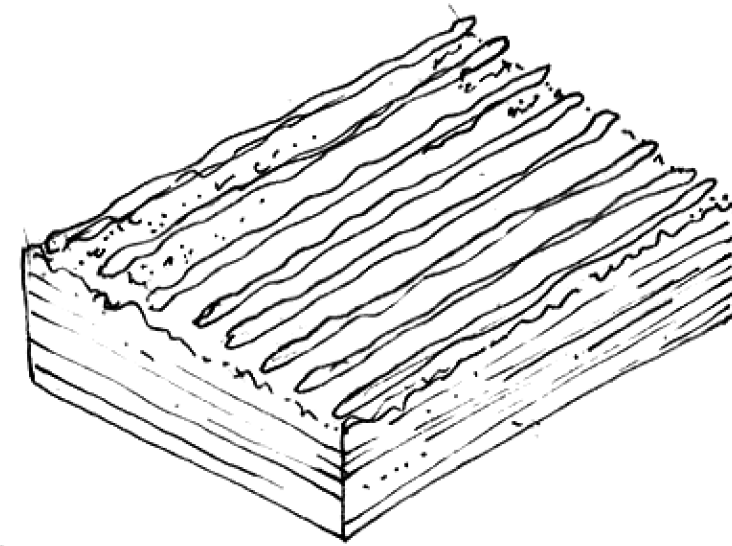
Vineyards

Floodplains

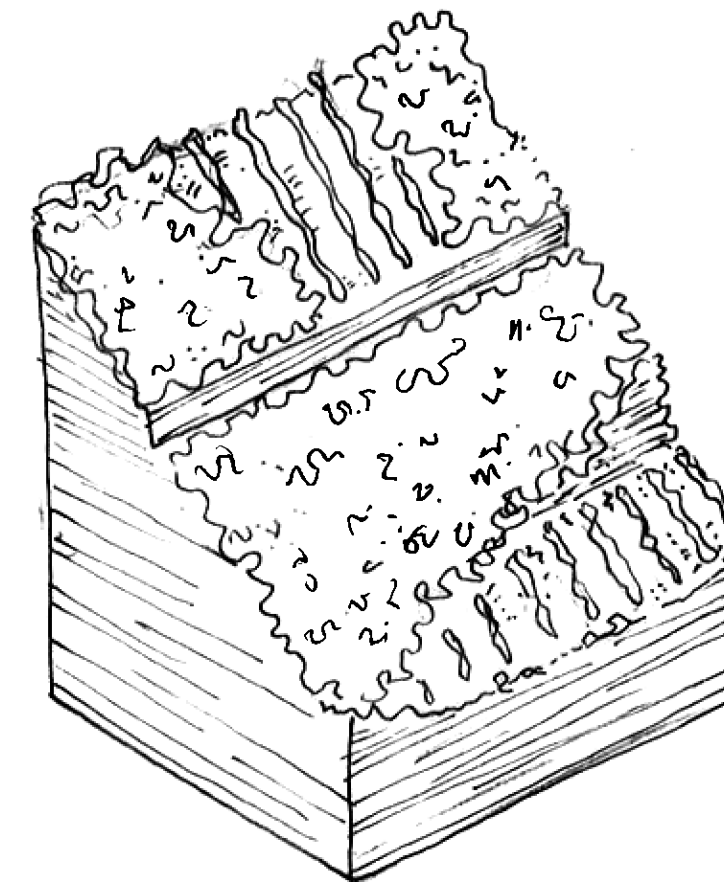
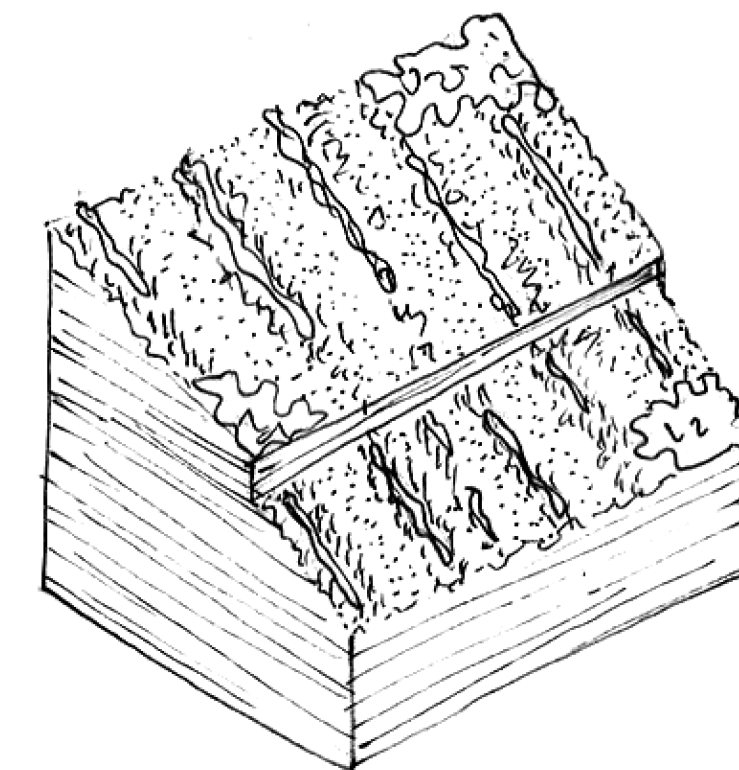
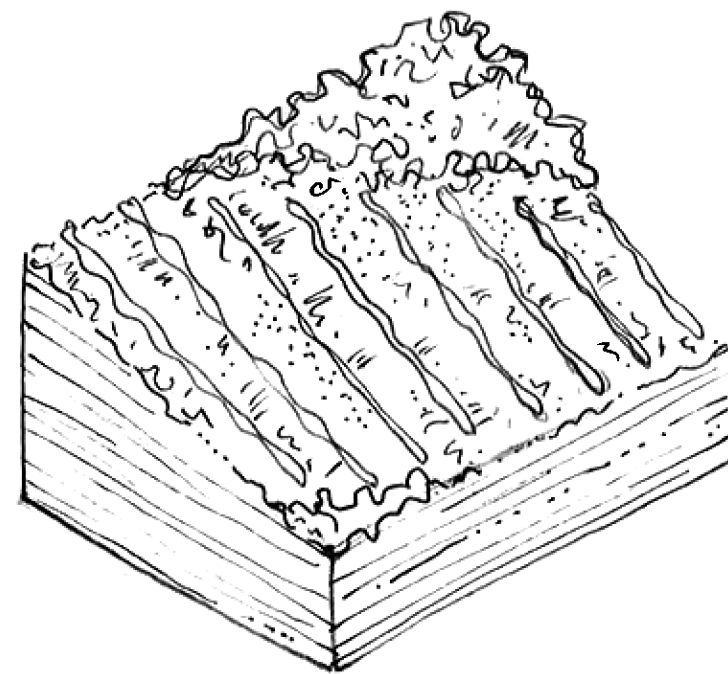
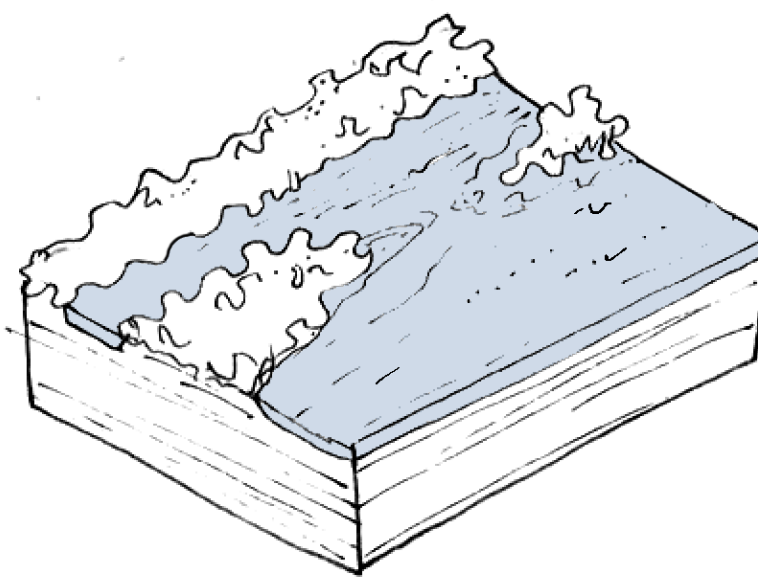
Moderate vineyards (5-30%)

Steillagen (30% and up)

Vineyard structure



Vineyard alternatives



Floodplains are (re)introduced to the Mosel river.

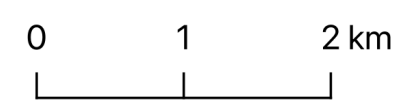
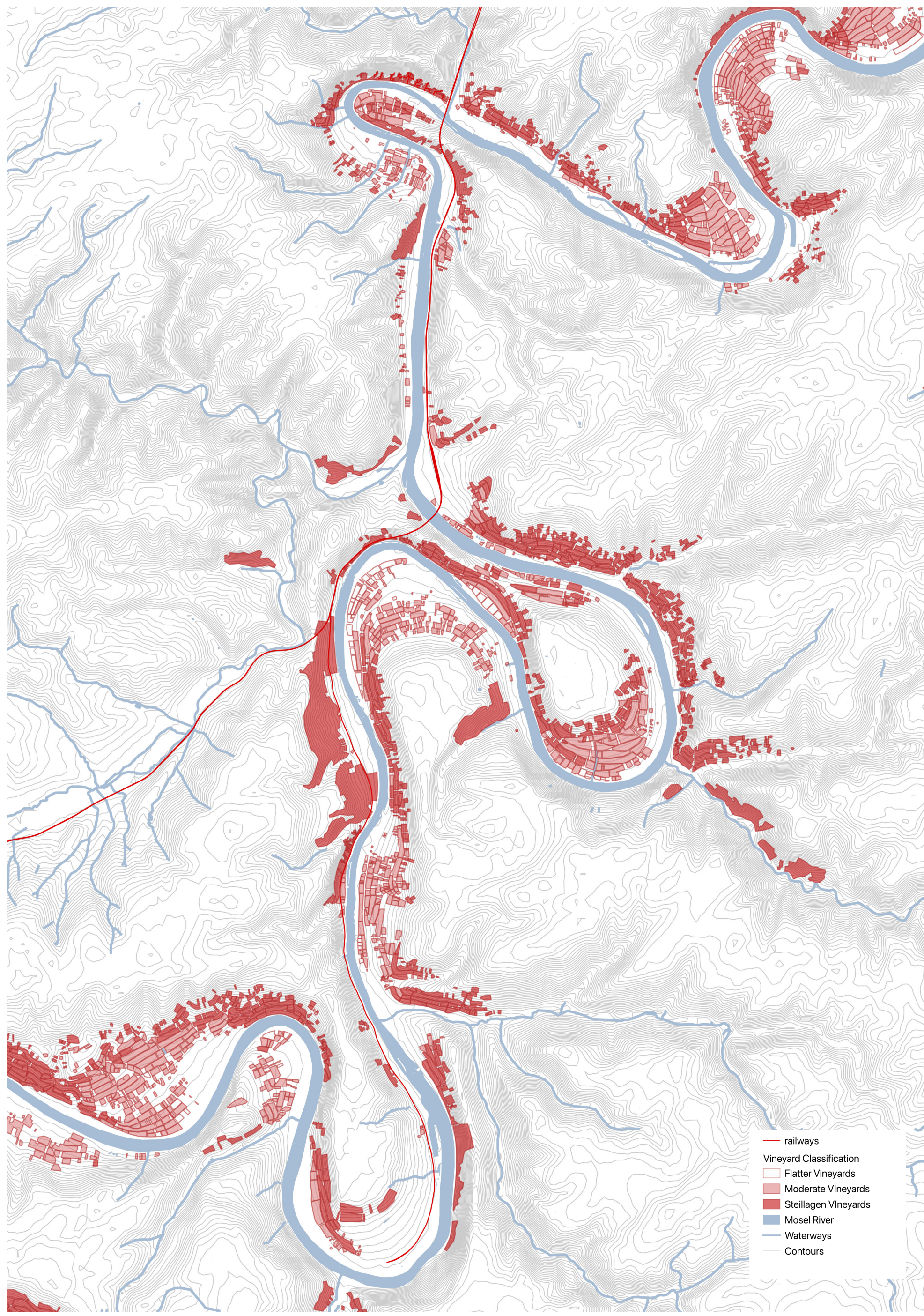
Vineyard lanes as transition zones and biodiversity corridors.

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.

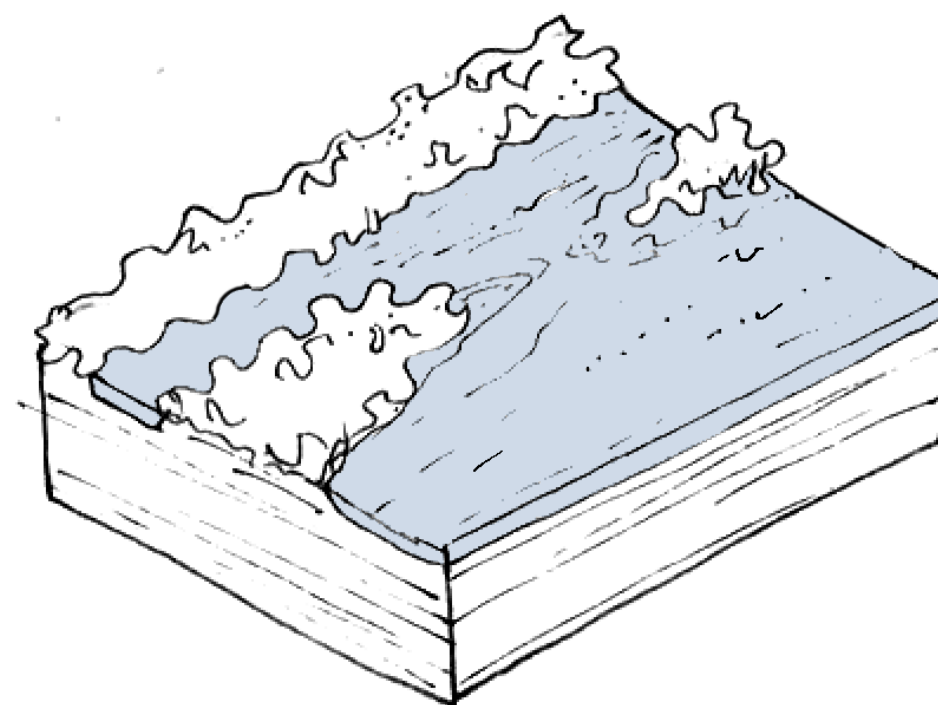
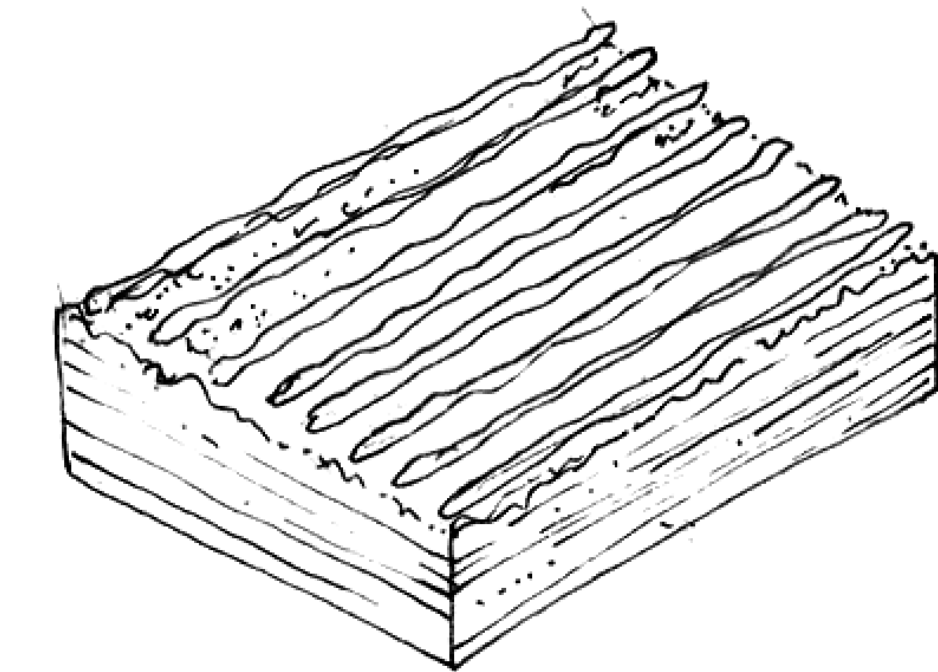
Romantic Mosaic

Vineyards



Romantic Mosaic

(re) Introducing floodplains



Current situation

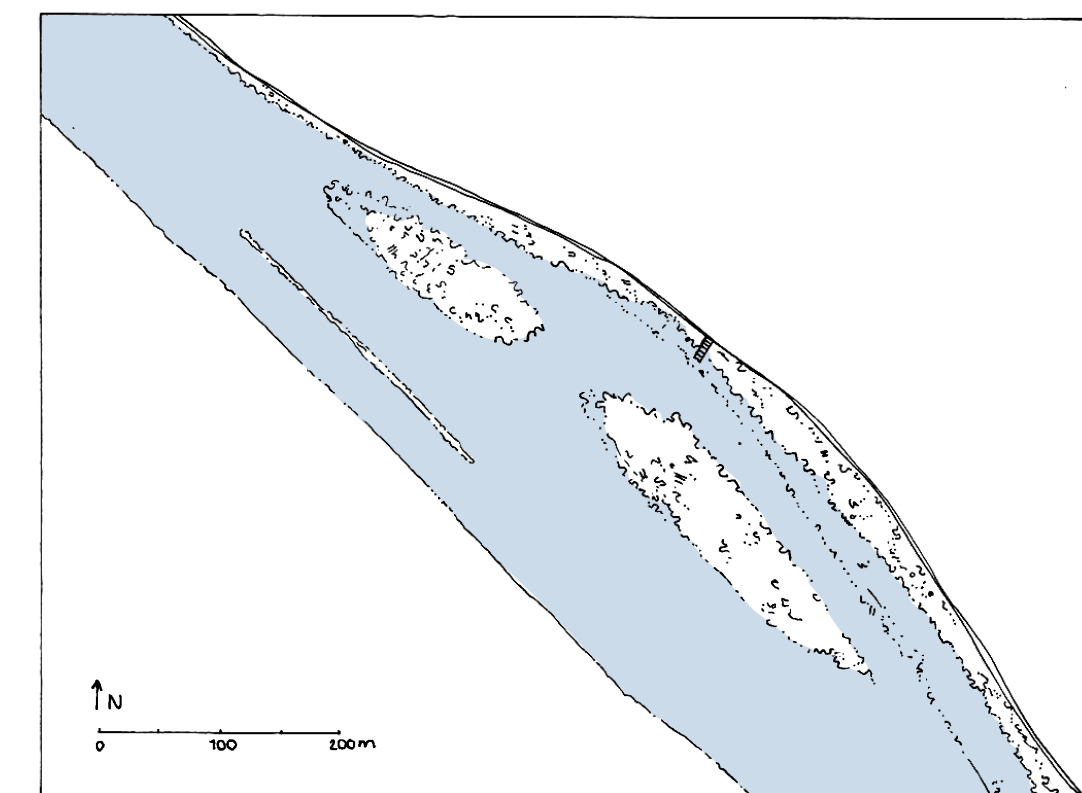
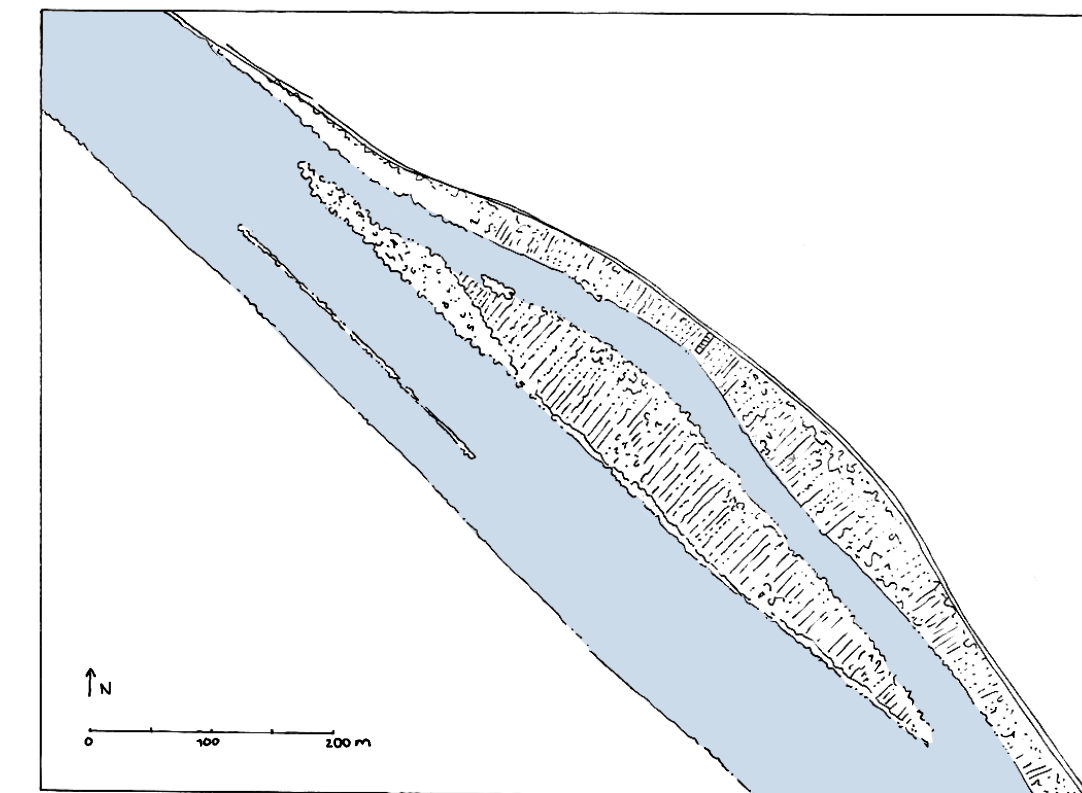
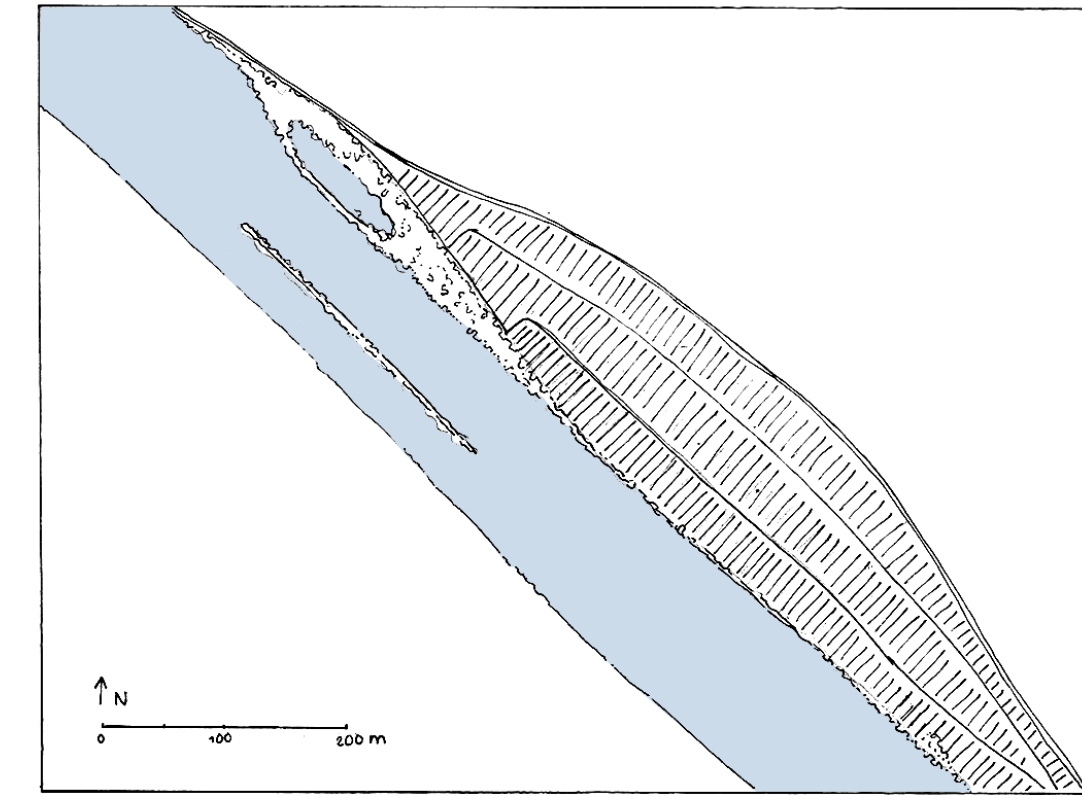
Flat vineyards, minimal species diversity and abrupt river edges.

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.

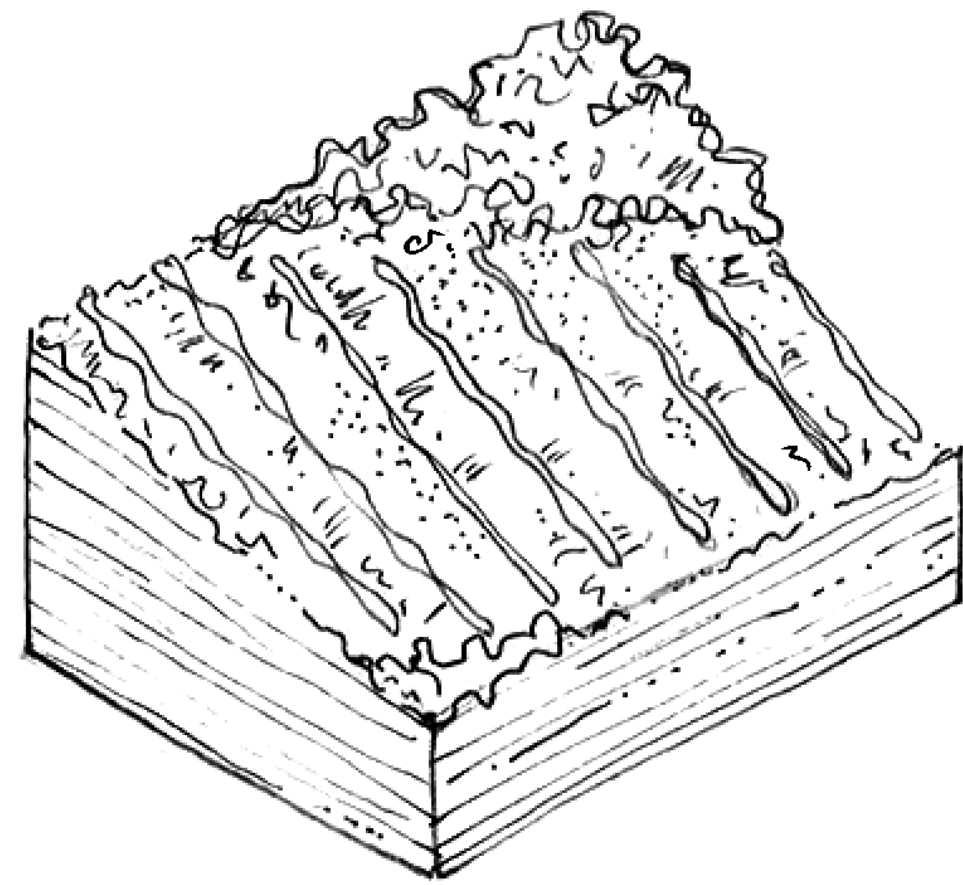
In 10 years

The river has taken over the area, different types of vegetation and species are thriving.



Romantic Mosaic

Vineyards



Vineyard lanes as transition zones and biodiversity corridors.

Exposed soil in a vineyard lane at the Marienburg. These parts are prone to erosion and runoff.

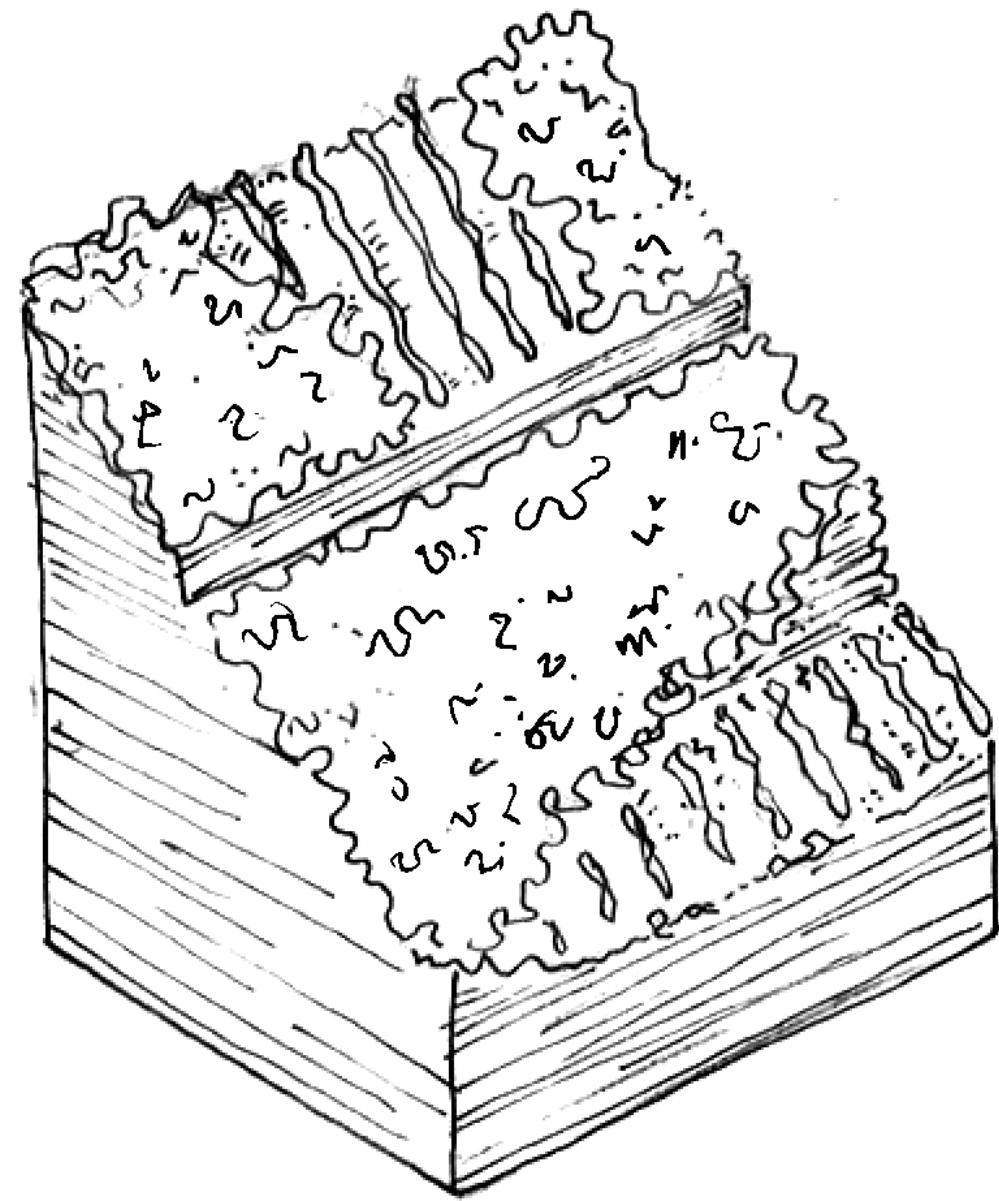


Winery Clemens Bush in Punderich, Mosel, uses different herbal mixes in vineyard lanes that serve as plant protection against fungal diseases.



Romantic Mosaic

Vineyards



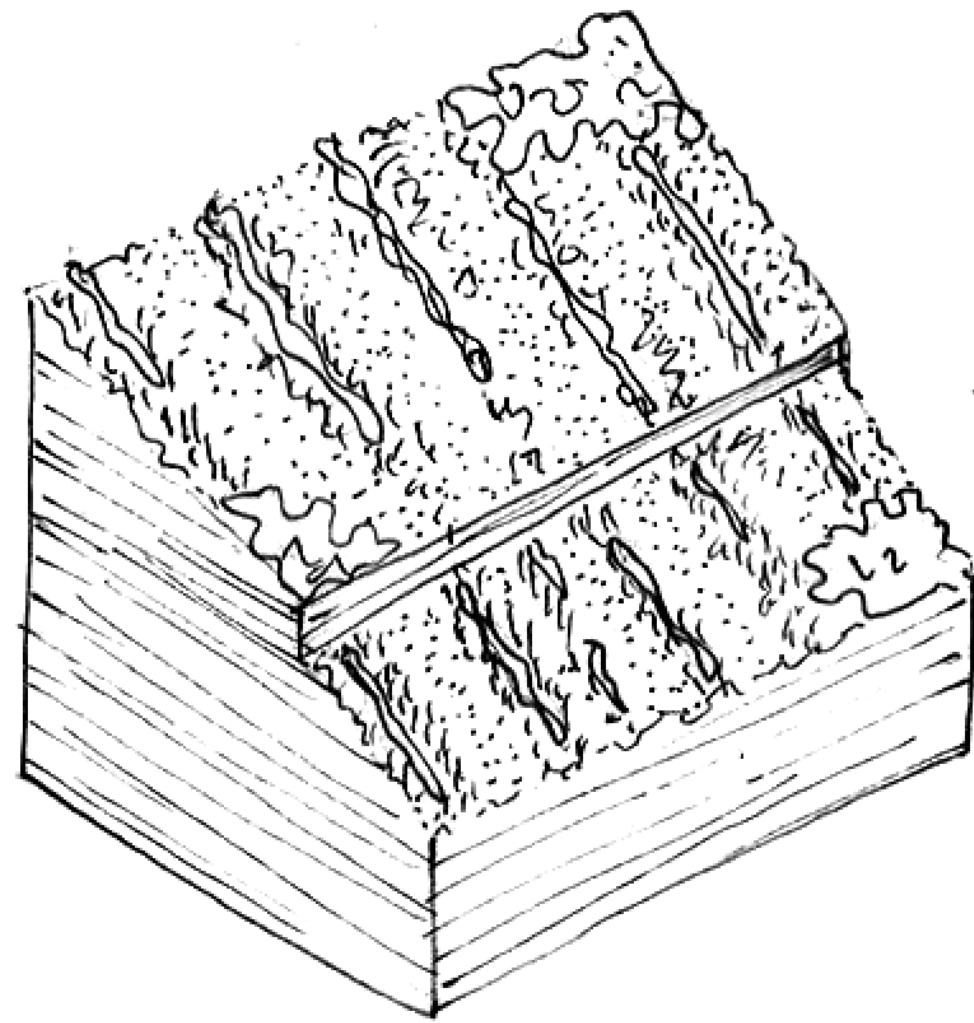
Keeping vineyard structures while grazing - these plots will turn into forest after a long time.



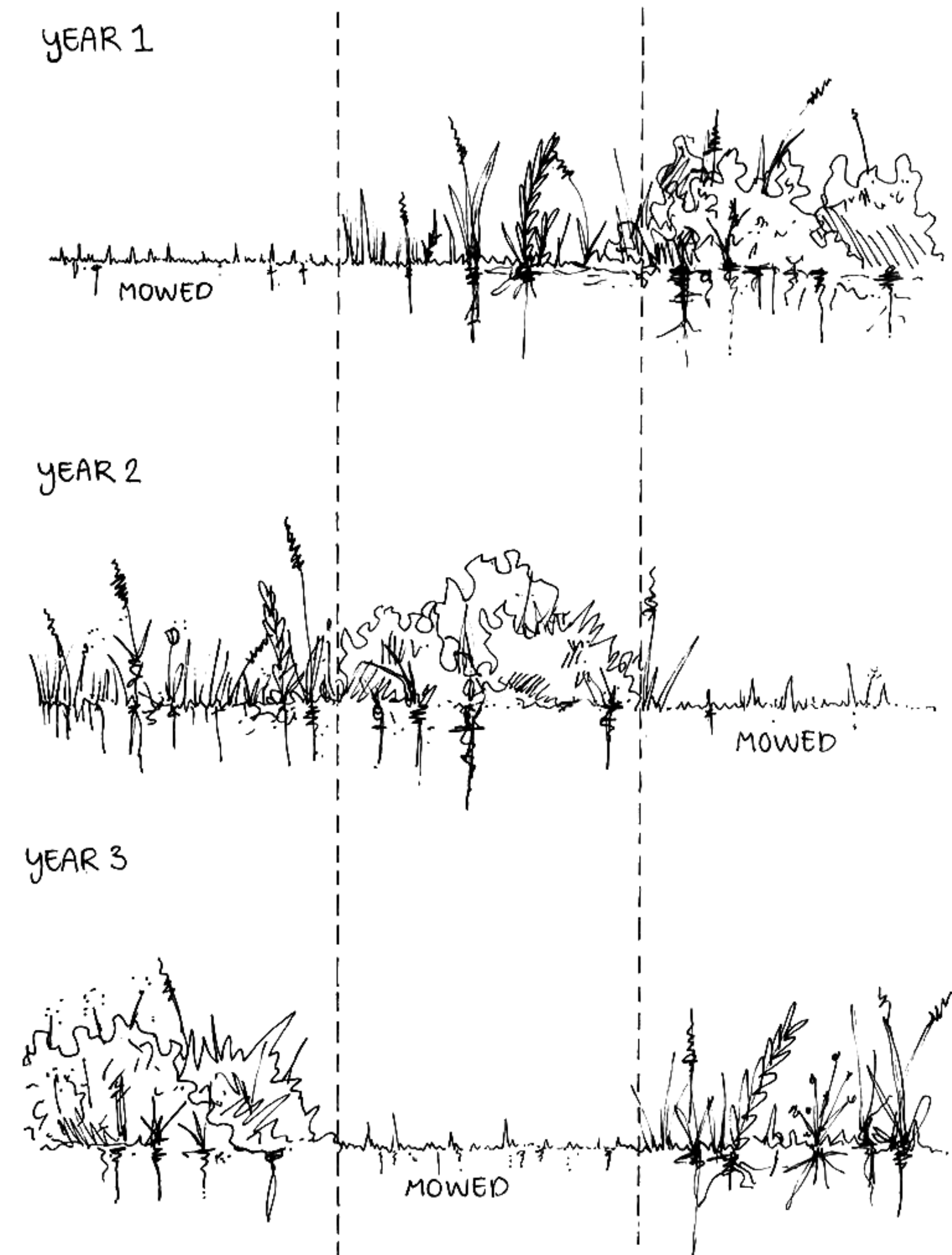
Winery Clemens Bush uses Thuringian Forest goats to counteract invasive shrubs on un-used land.

Romantic Mosaic

Vineyards

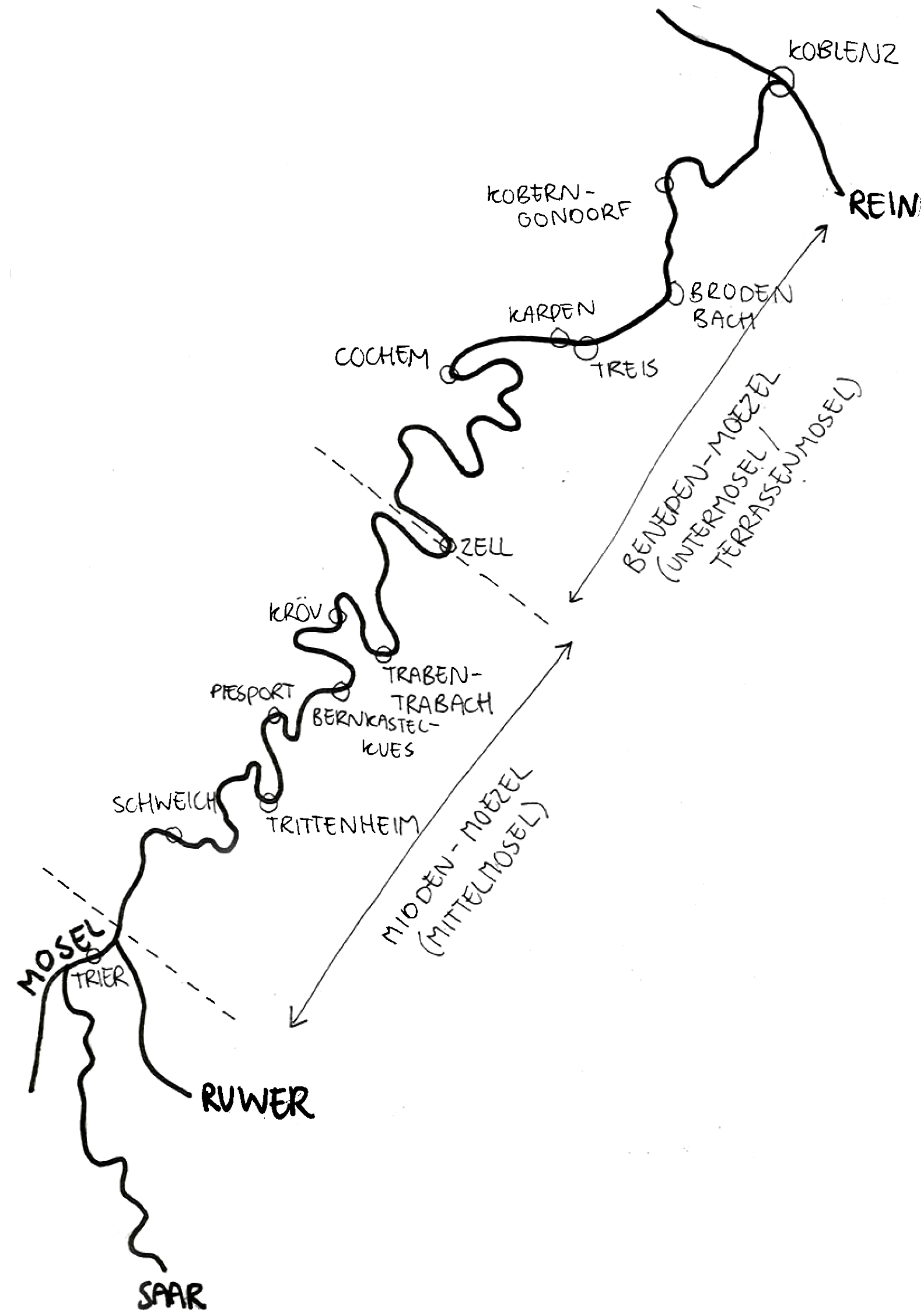


Mowing schedule as a form or maintenance - these plots stay relatively open.



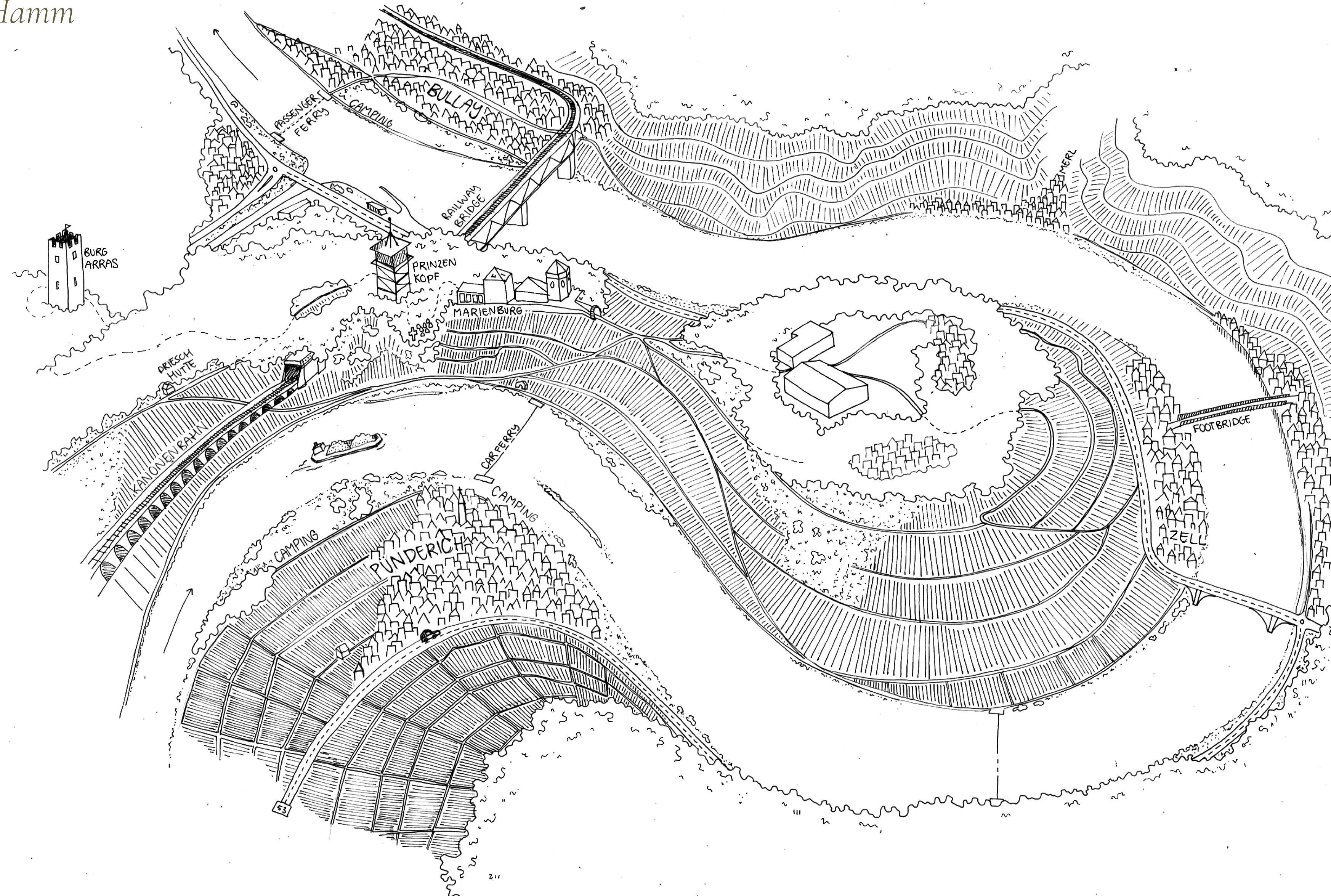
The Postcard Path

The Site: Zeller Hamm



The Postcard Path

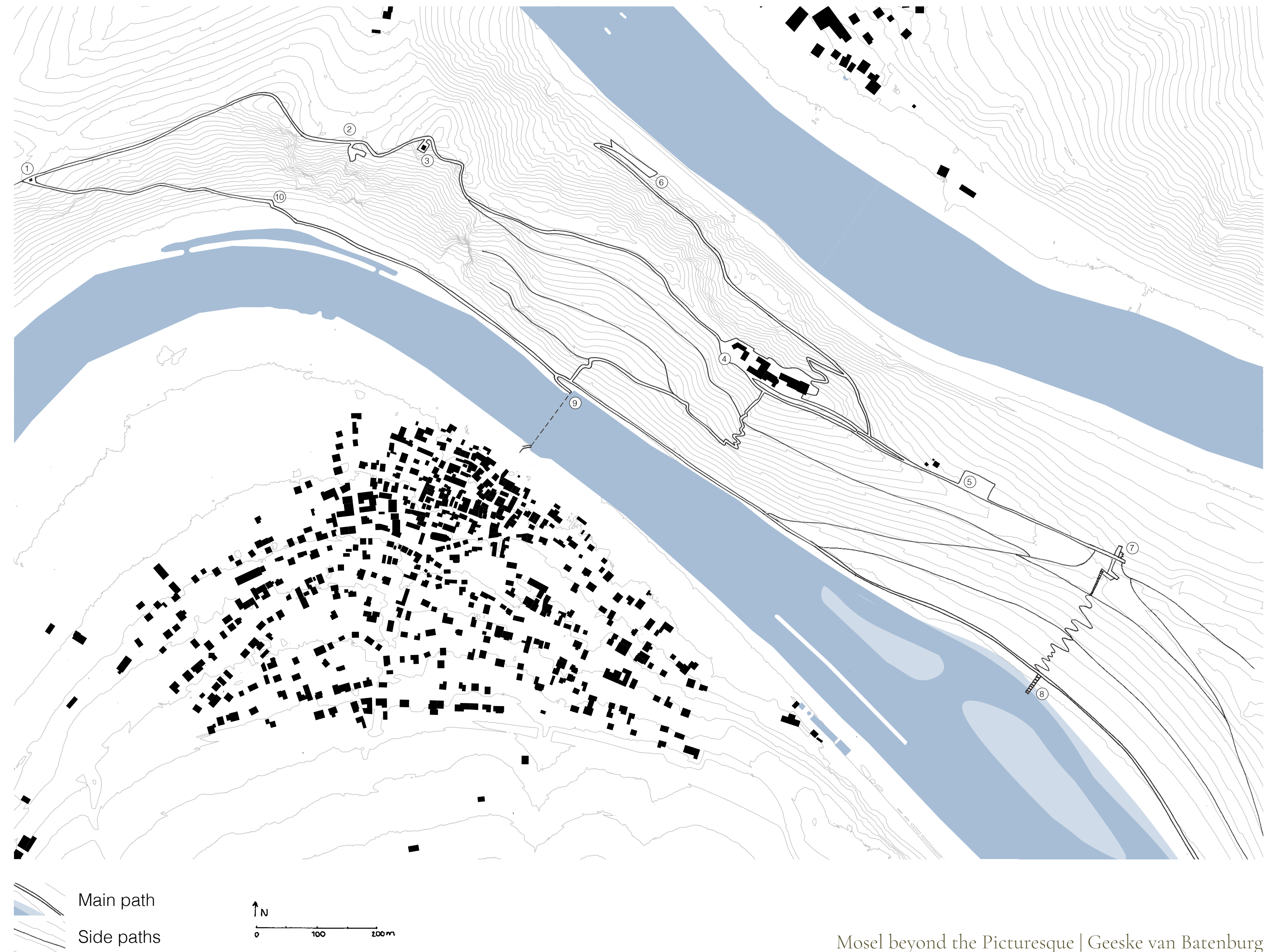
The Site: Zeller Hamm



The Postcard Path

Routing

- 1 Drieshutte
- 2 Soldier Cemetary
- 3 Prinzenkopf tower
- 4 Marienburg Church
- 5 Parking
- 6 Parking
- 7 Detail Design
- 8 Floodplain Stairs
- 9 Ferry
- 10 Kanonenbahn

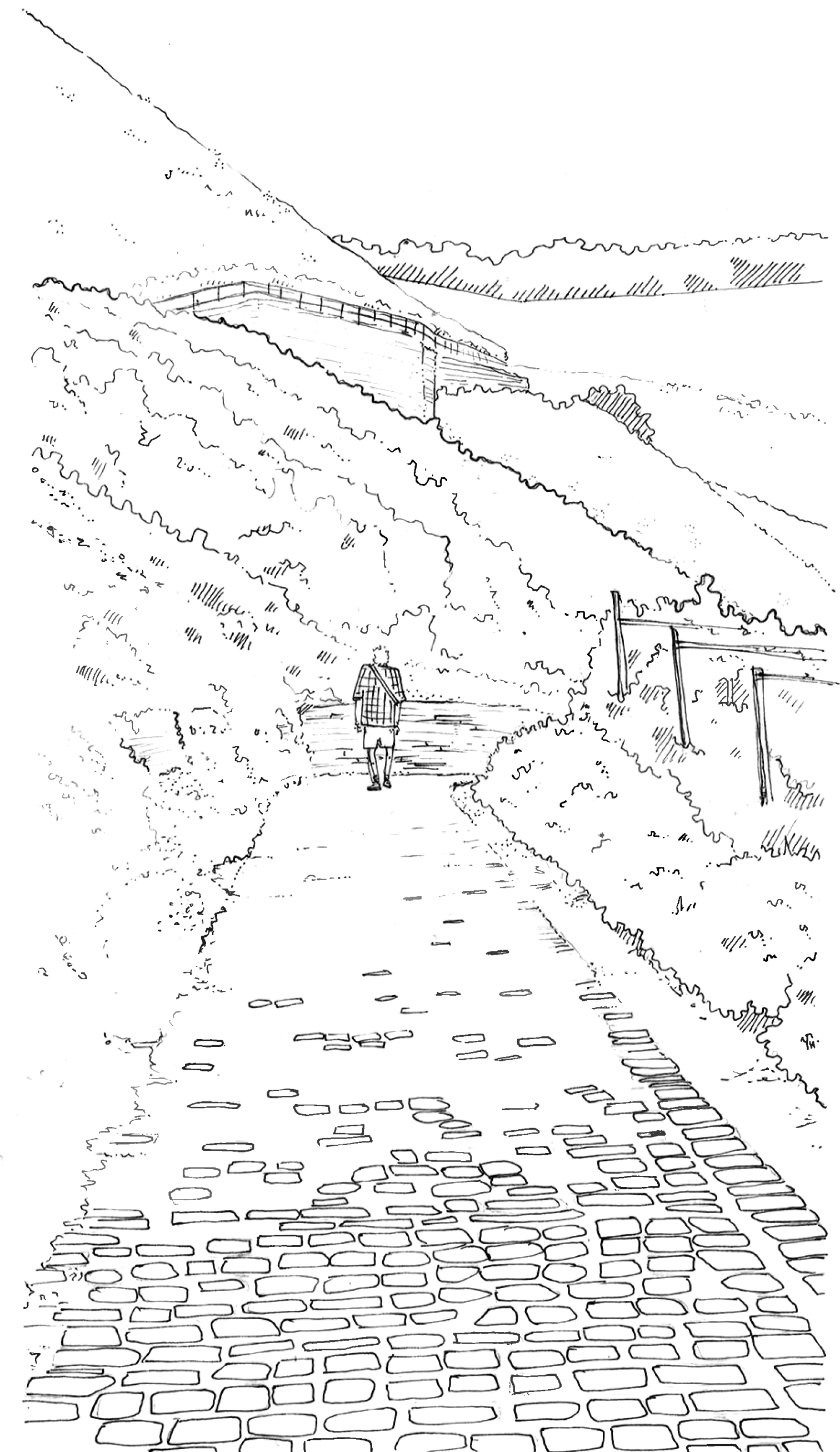
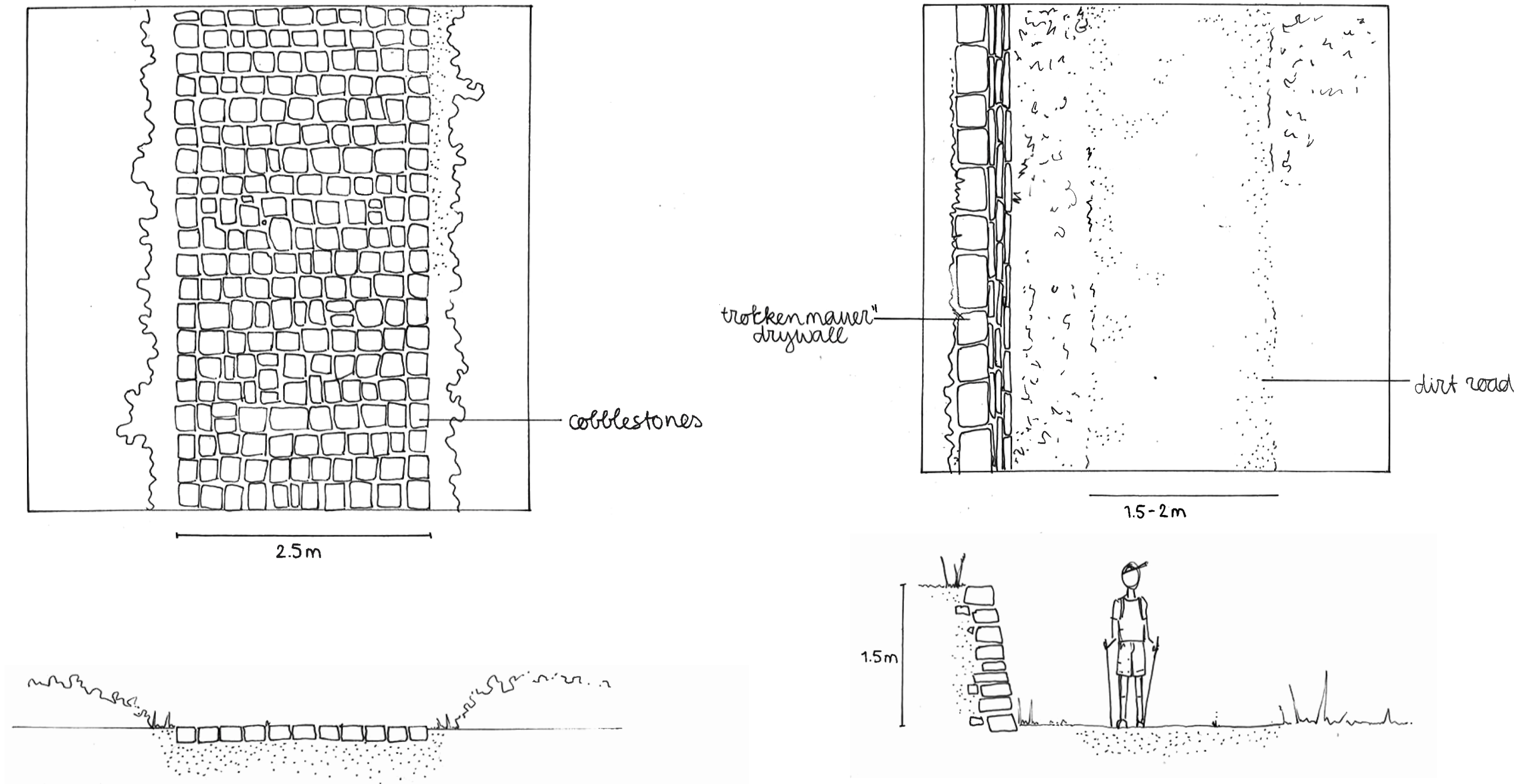


The Postcard Path

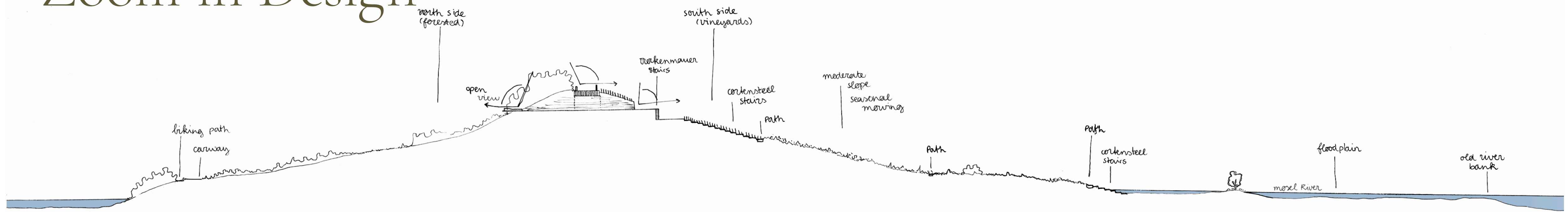
Routing

Main path

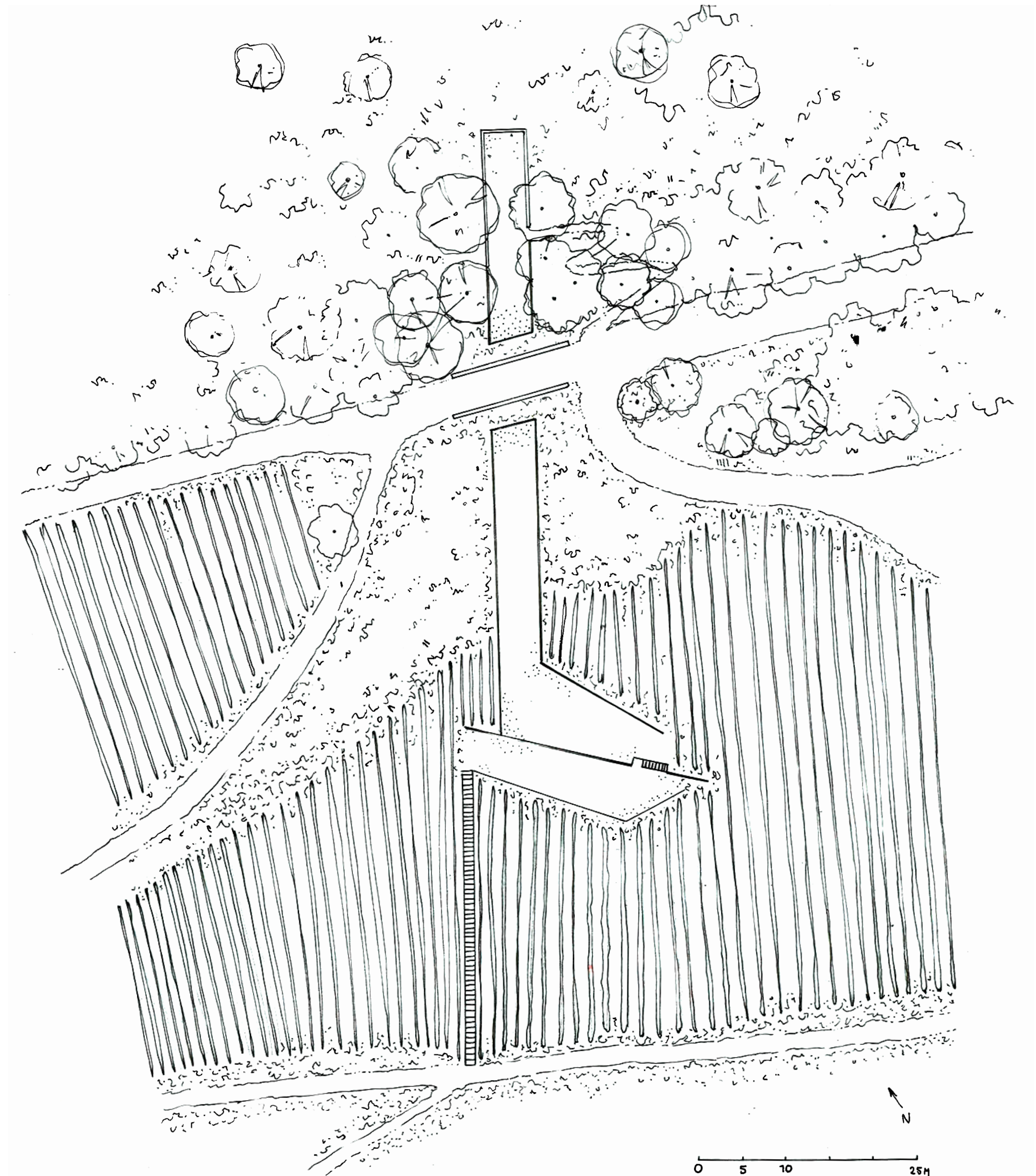
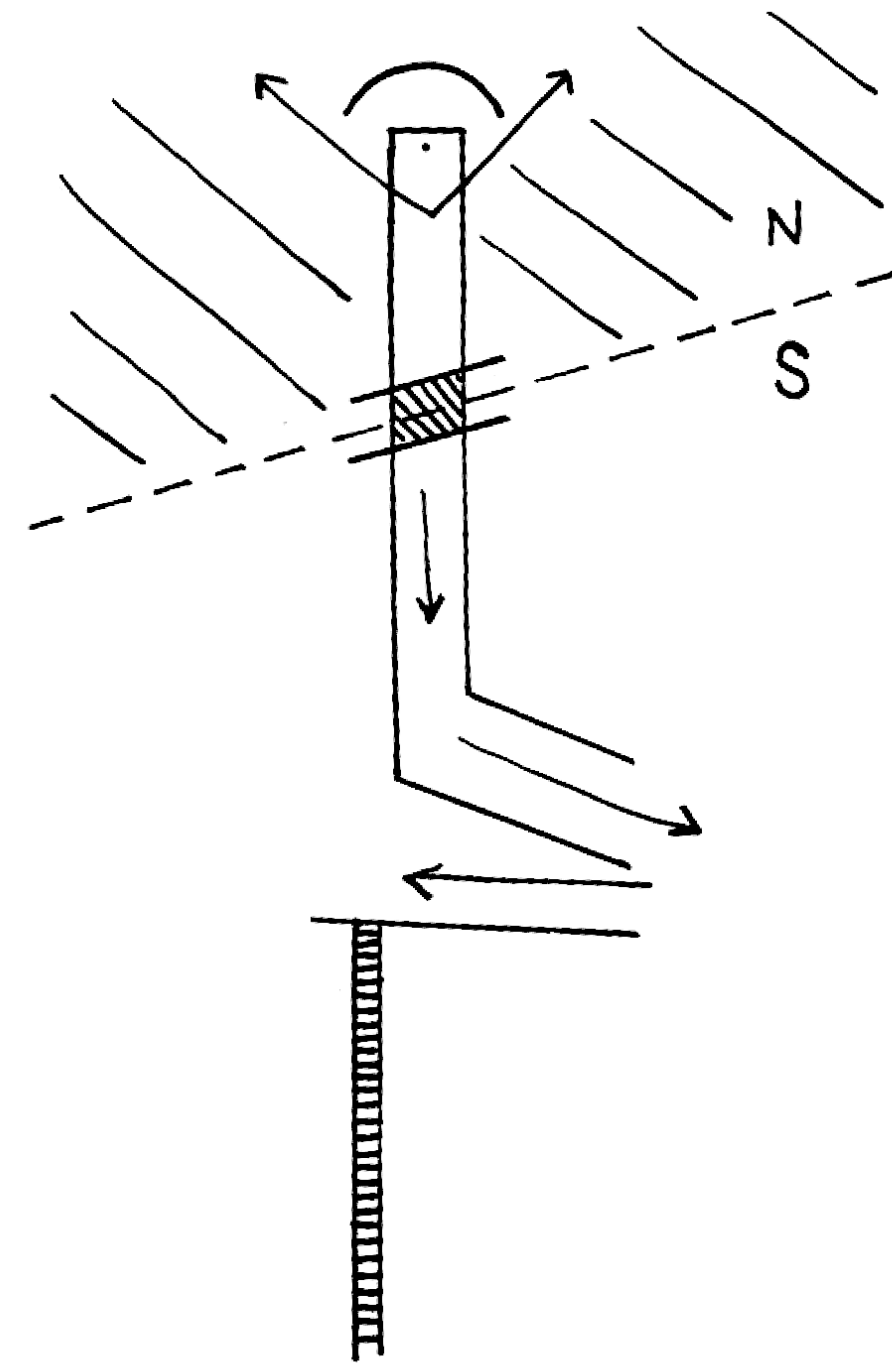
Side paths



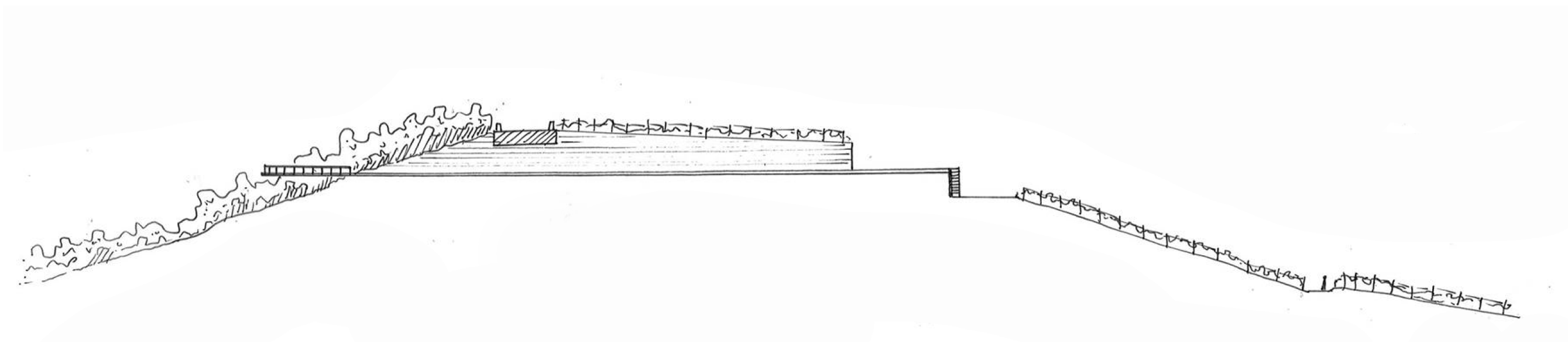
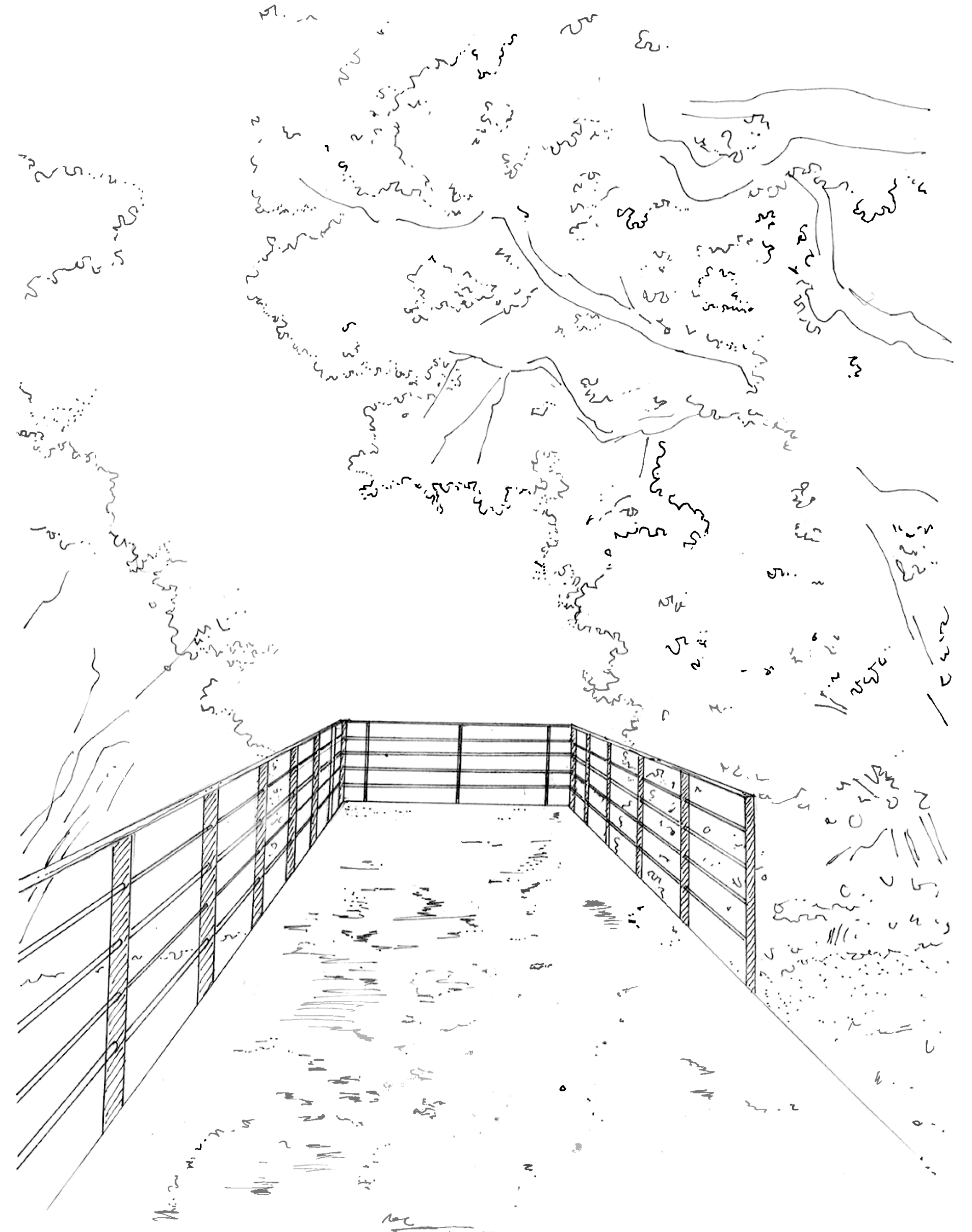
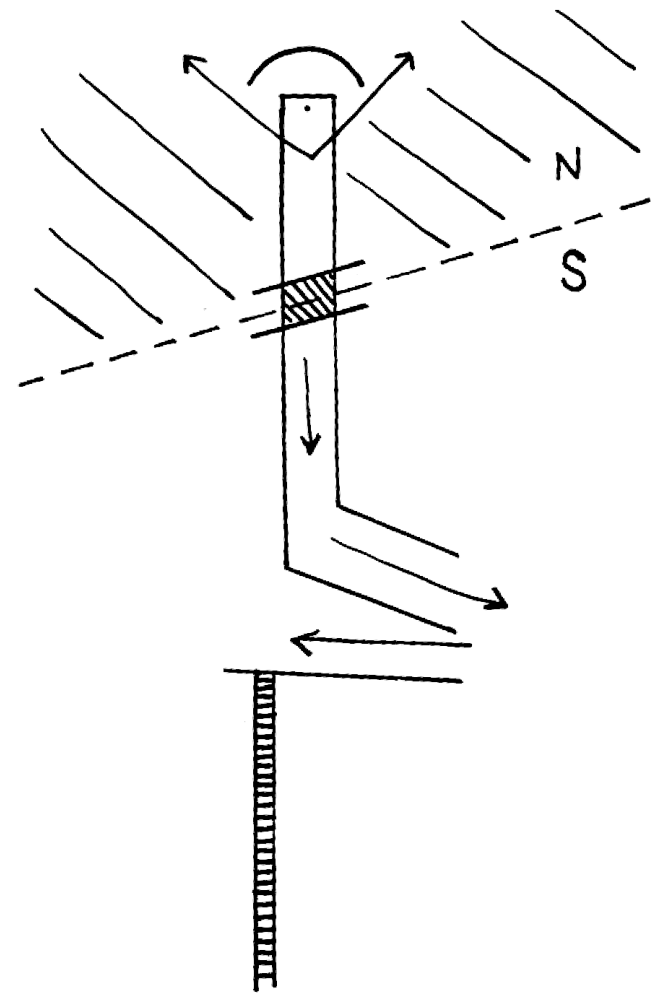
Zoom in Design



Detail Design



Viewpoint

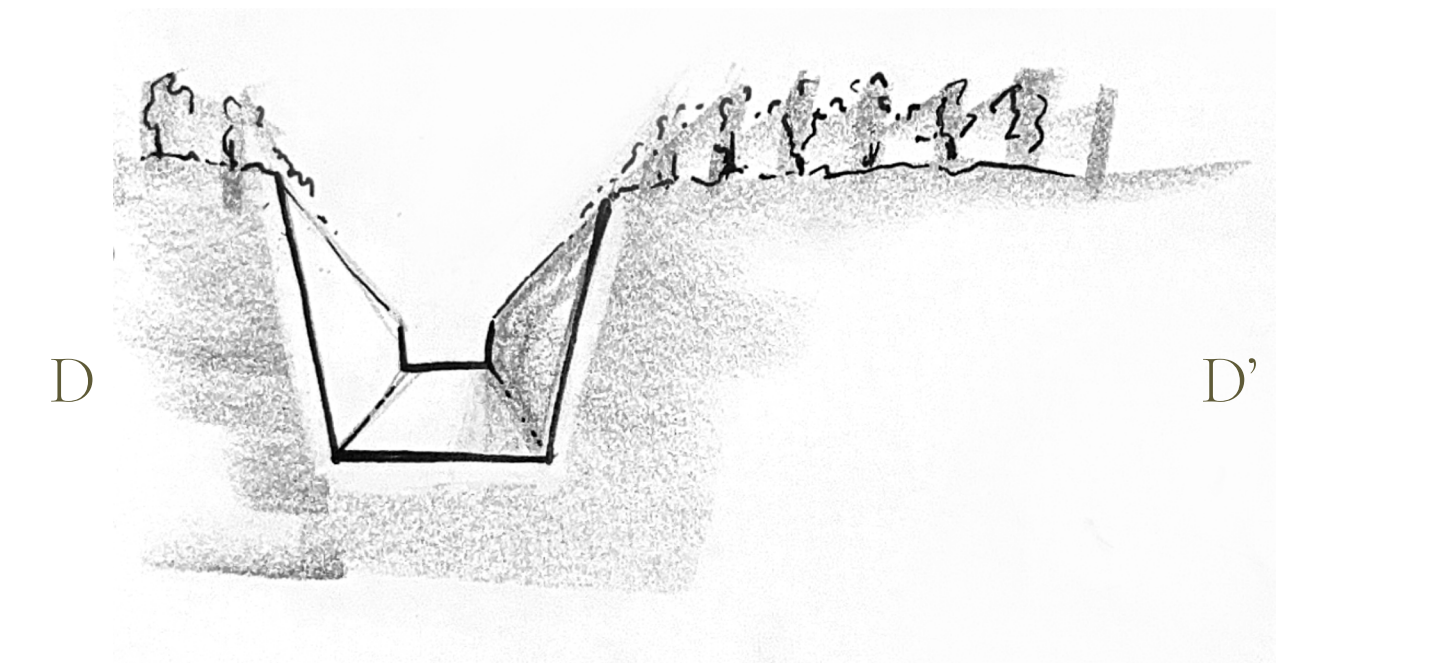
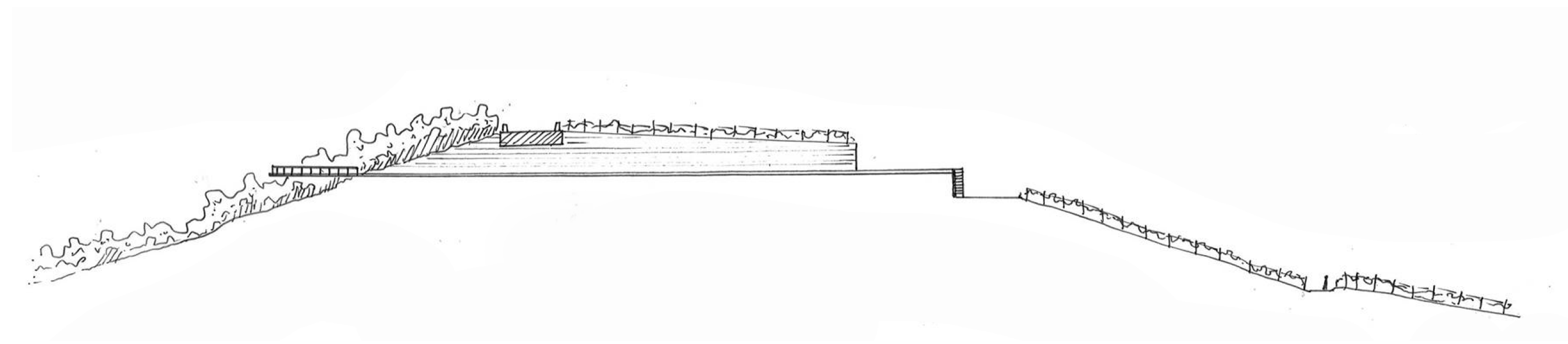
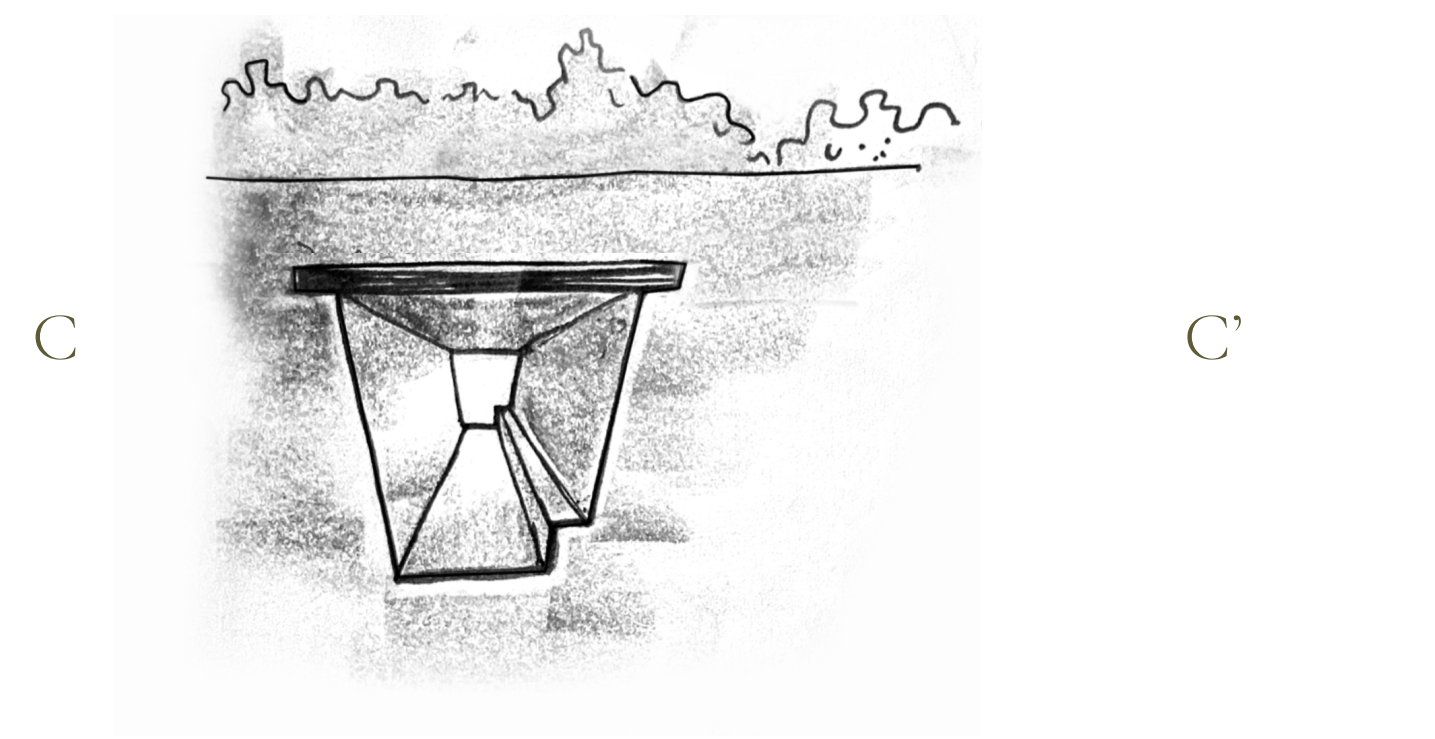
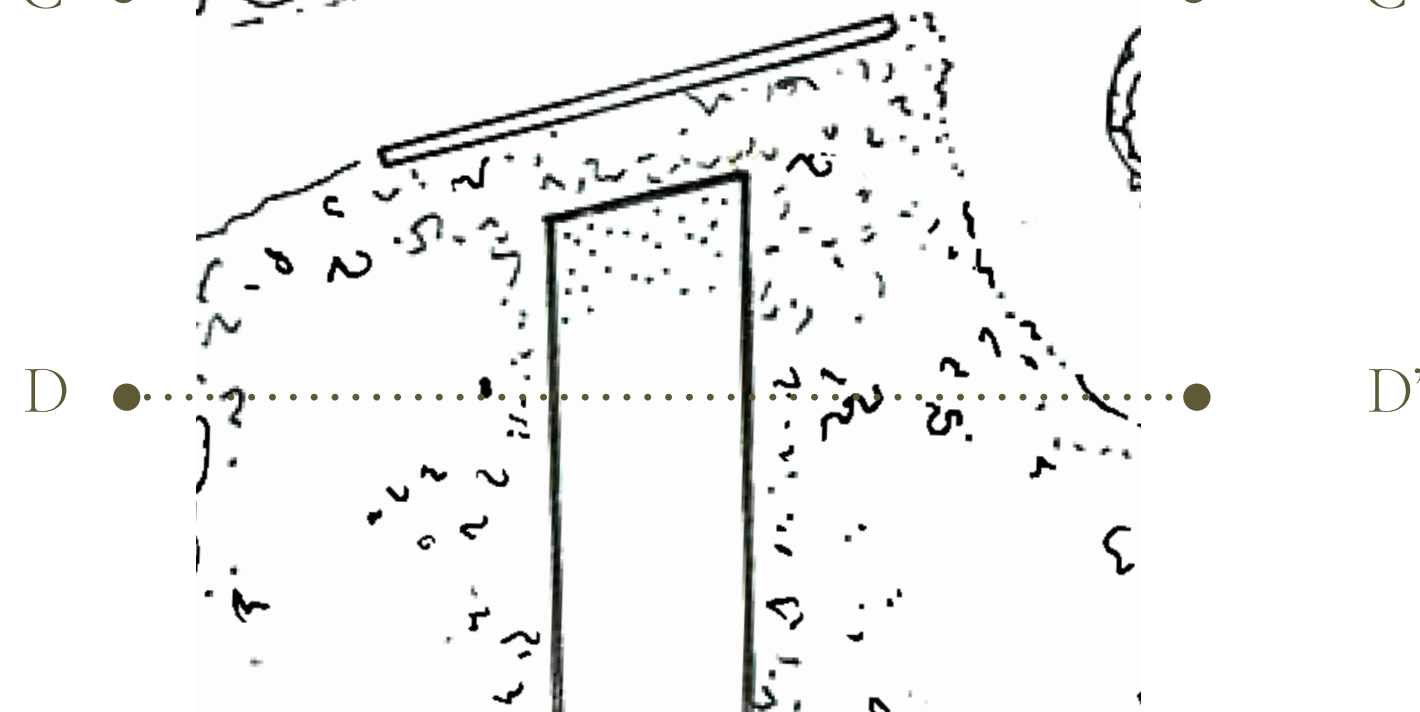
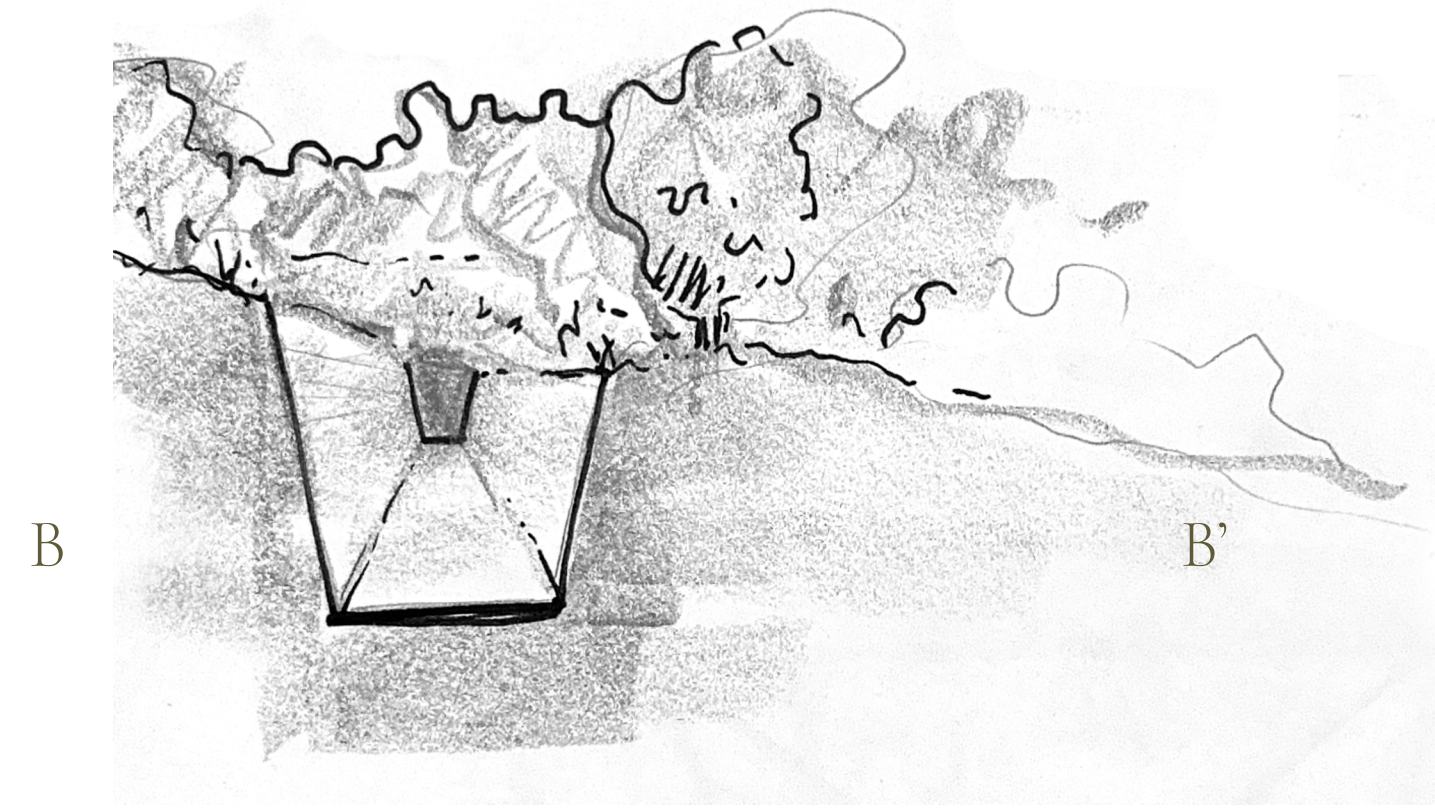
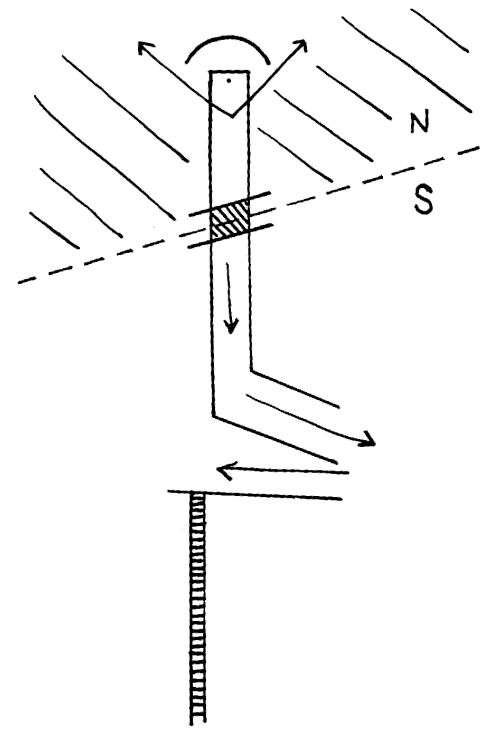


A

0 5 10 25M

A'

Passage

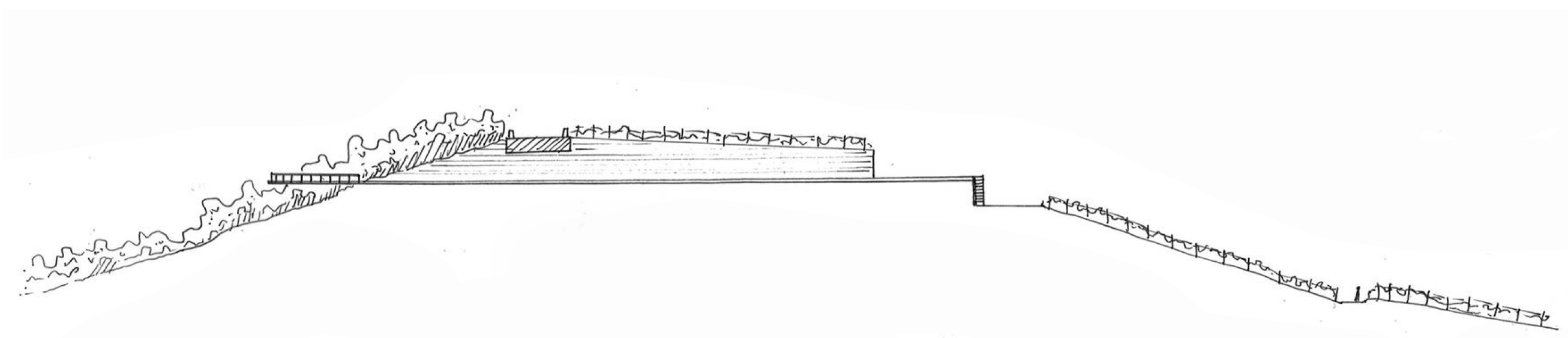
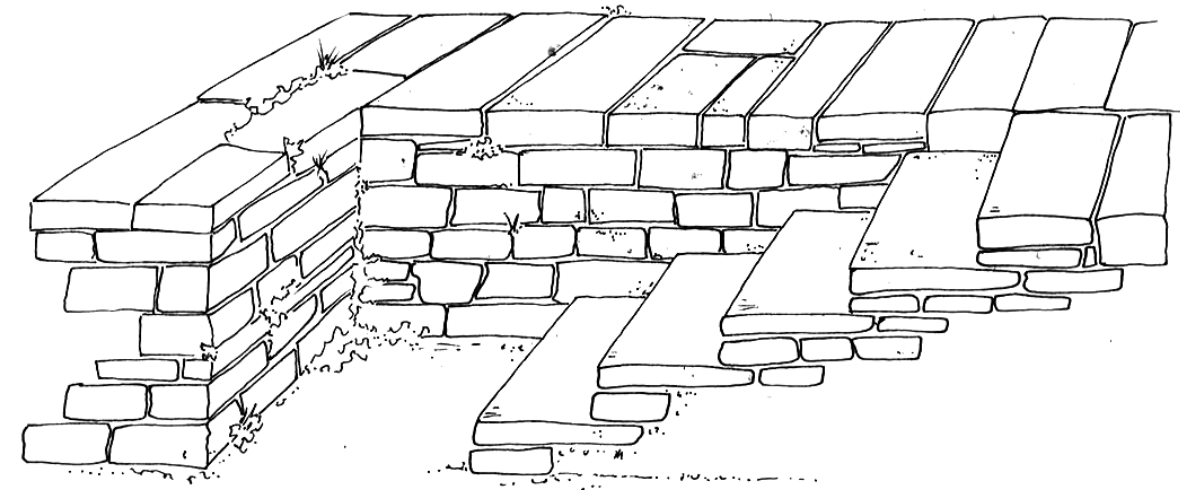
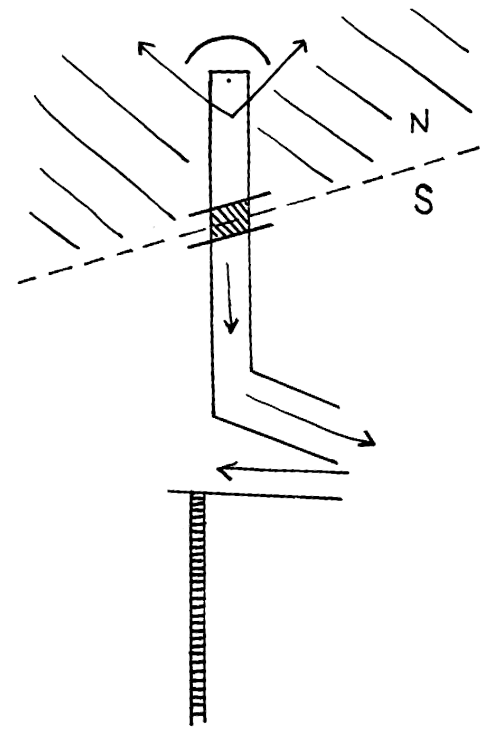


A

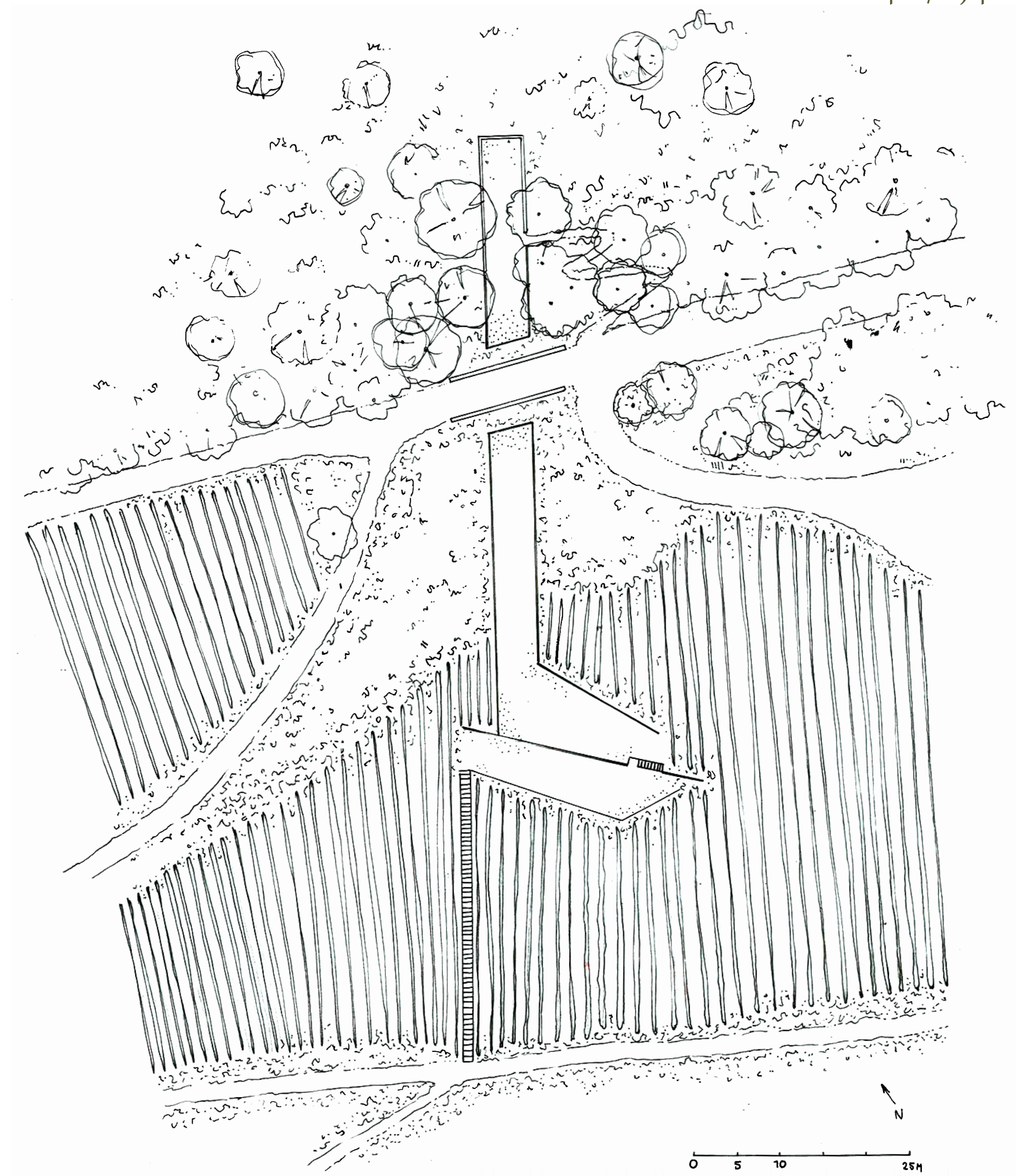
0 5 10 25M

A'

Viewing Platform

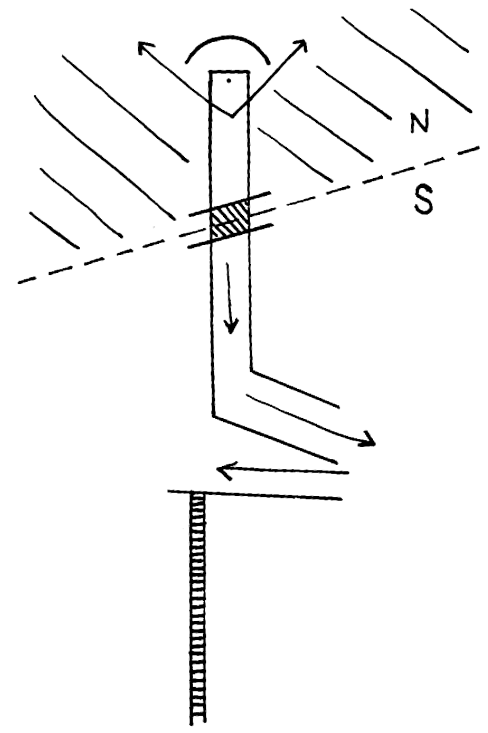


0 5 10 25M



0 5 10 25M

The Views



Viewpoint: Sublime

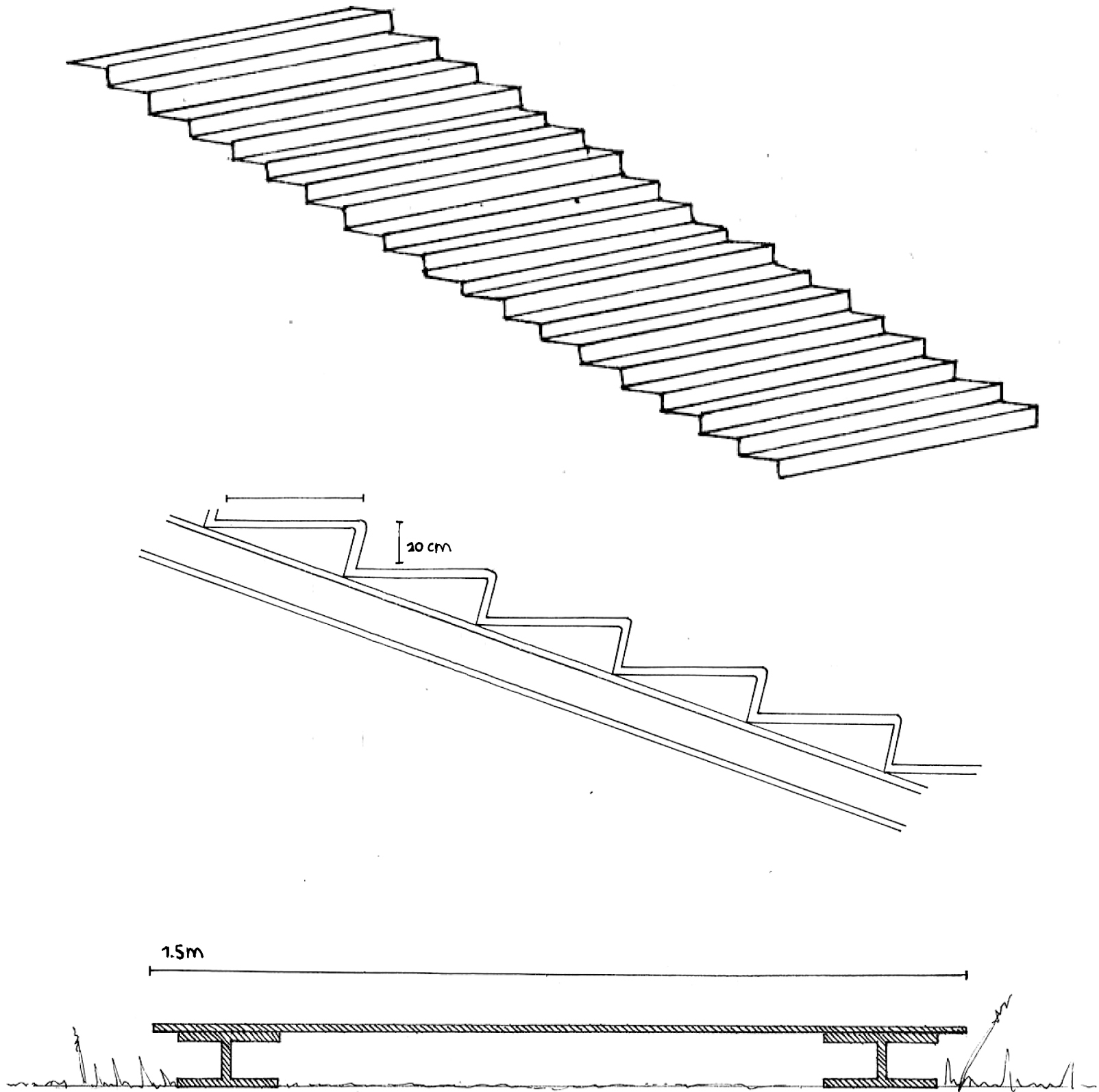
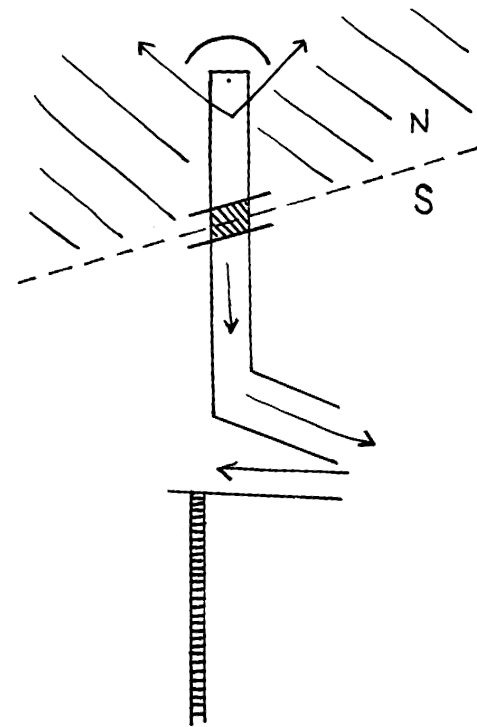


Viewing Platform: Beautiful

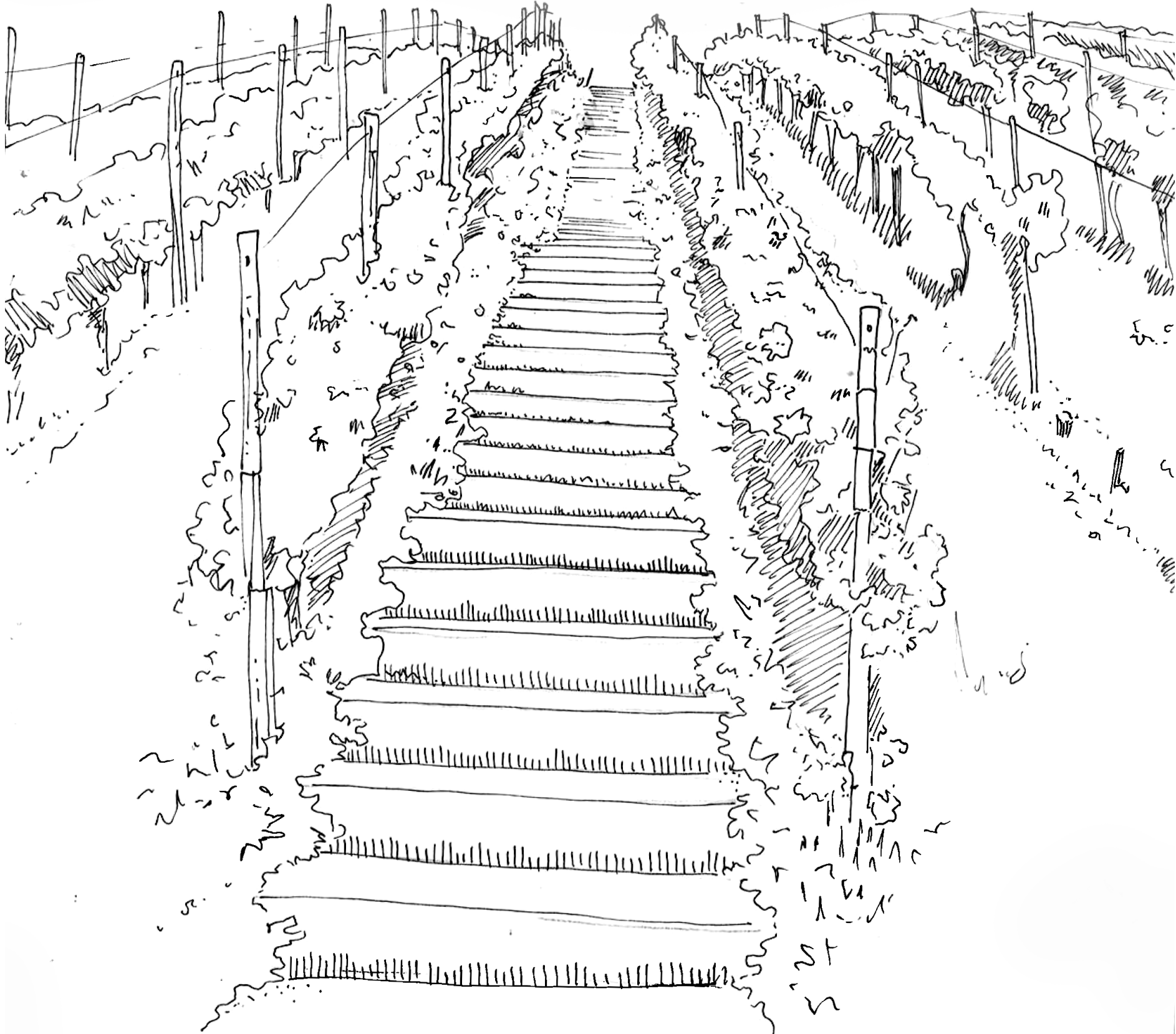


Lower Platform: Picturesque

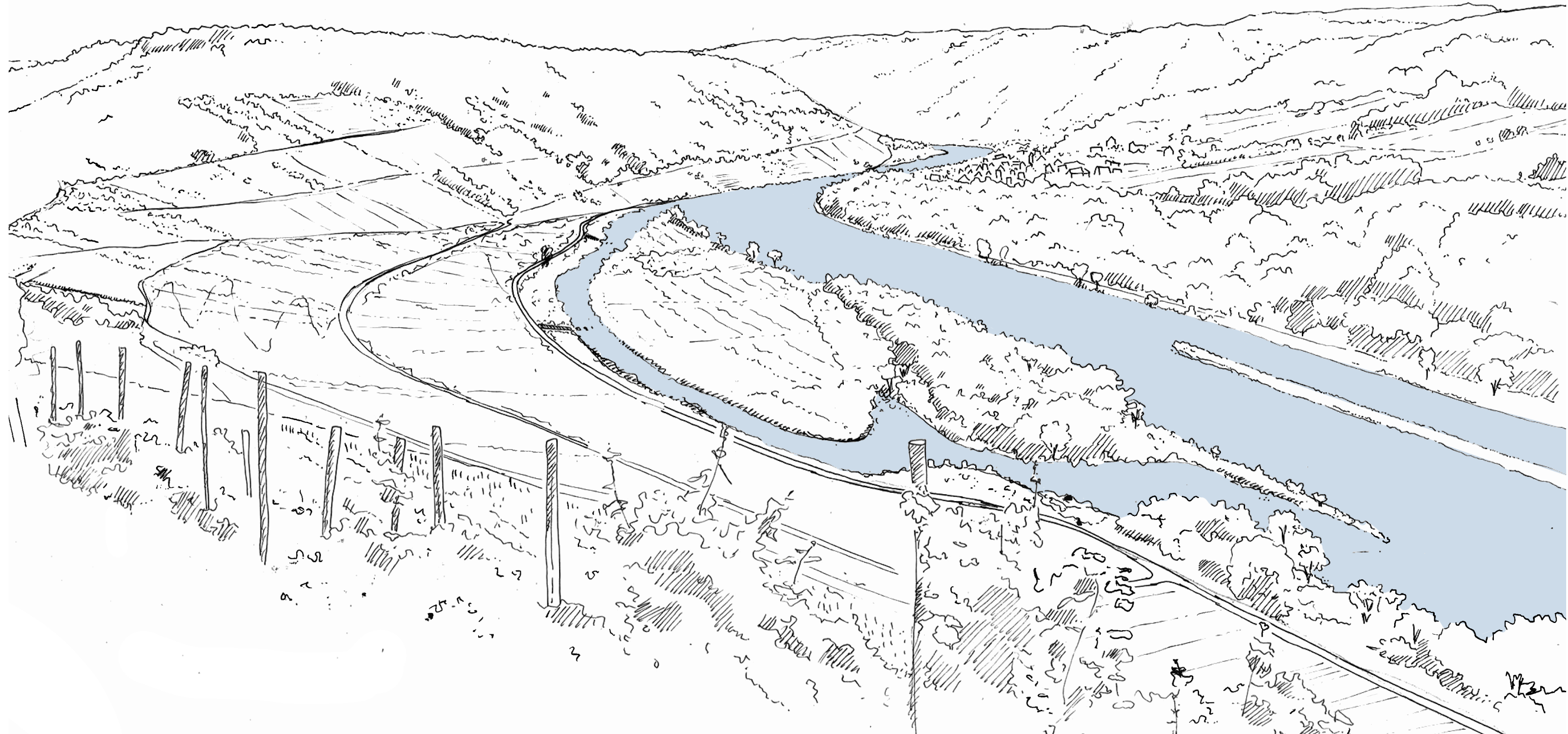
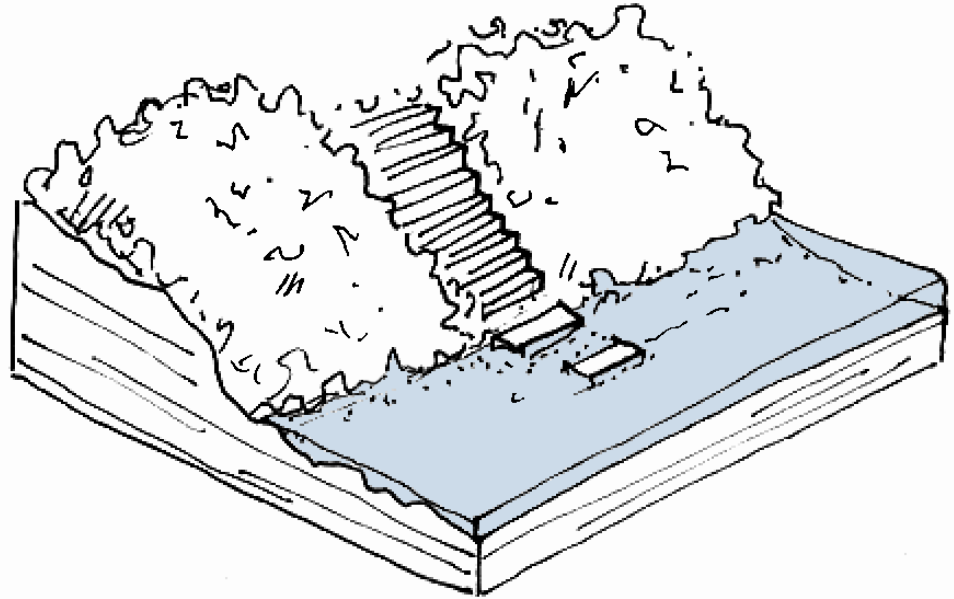
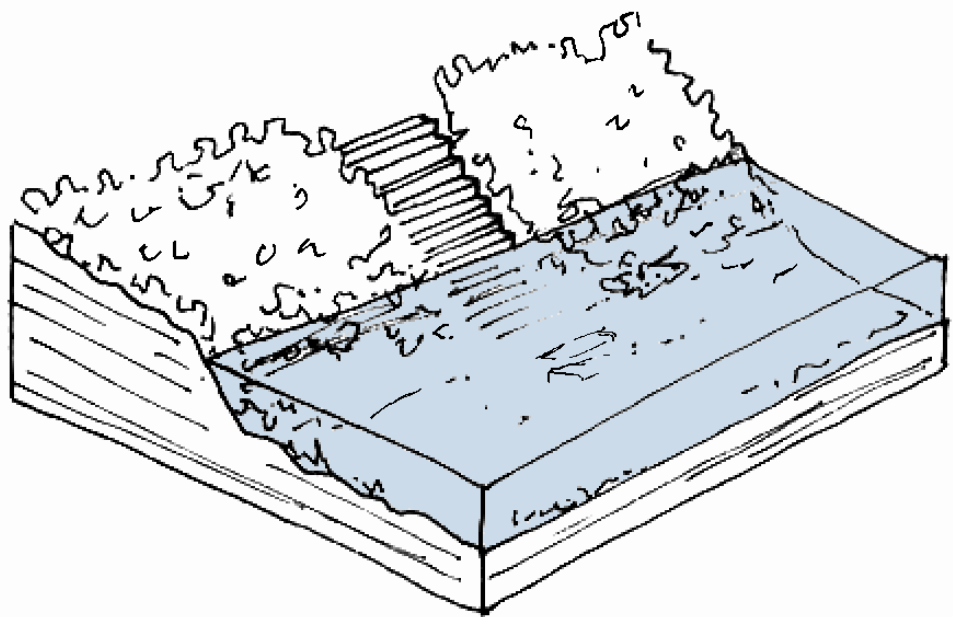
Vineyard Stairway



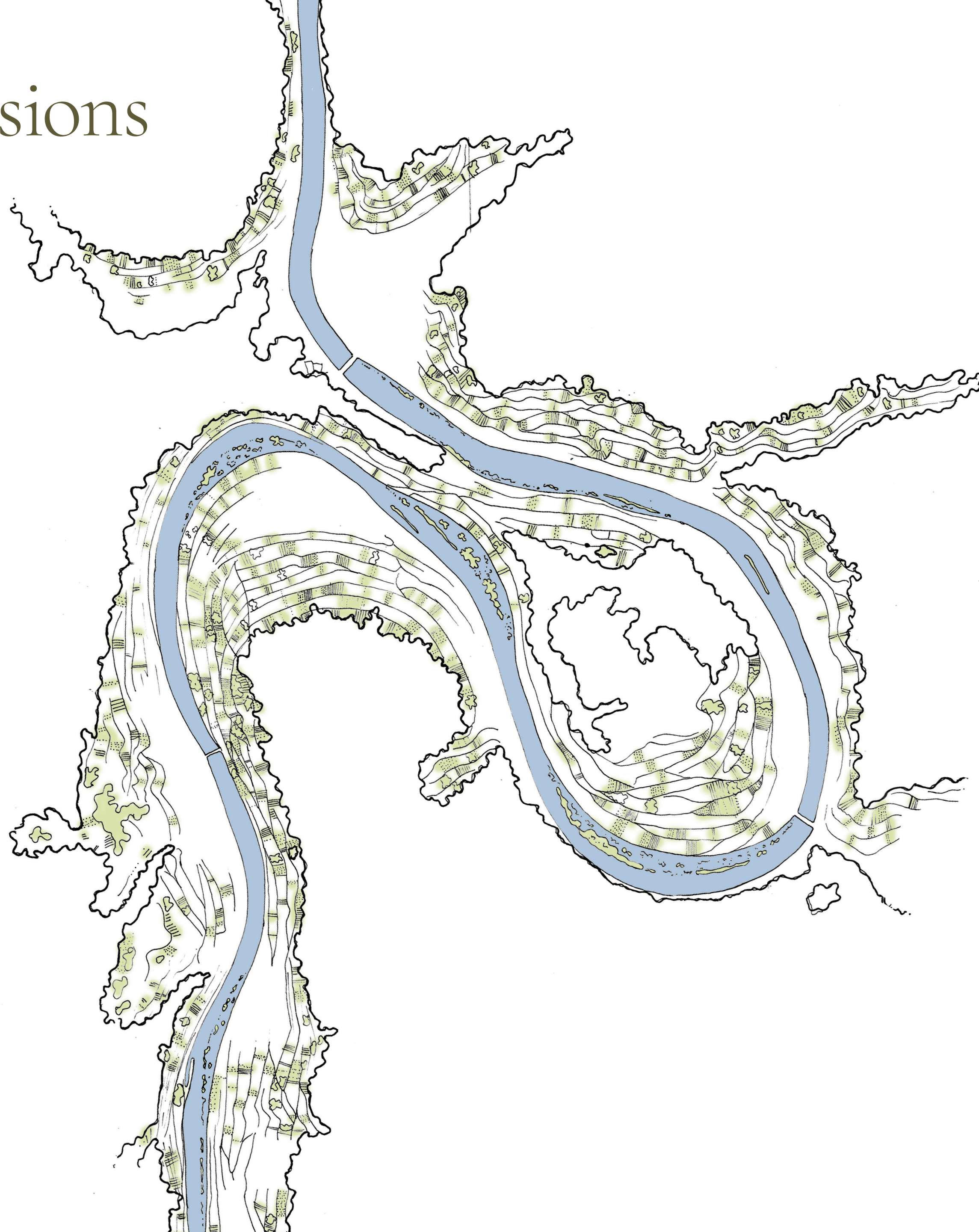
Precedent study of the cortensteel stairs.



Floodplain Stairs



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?”

Conclusions



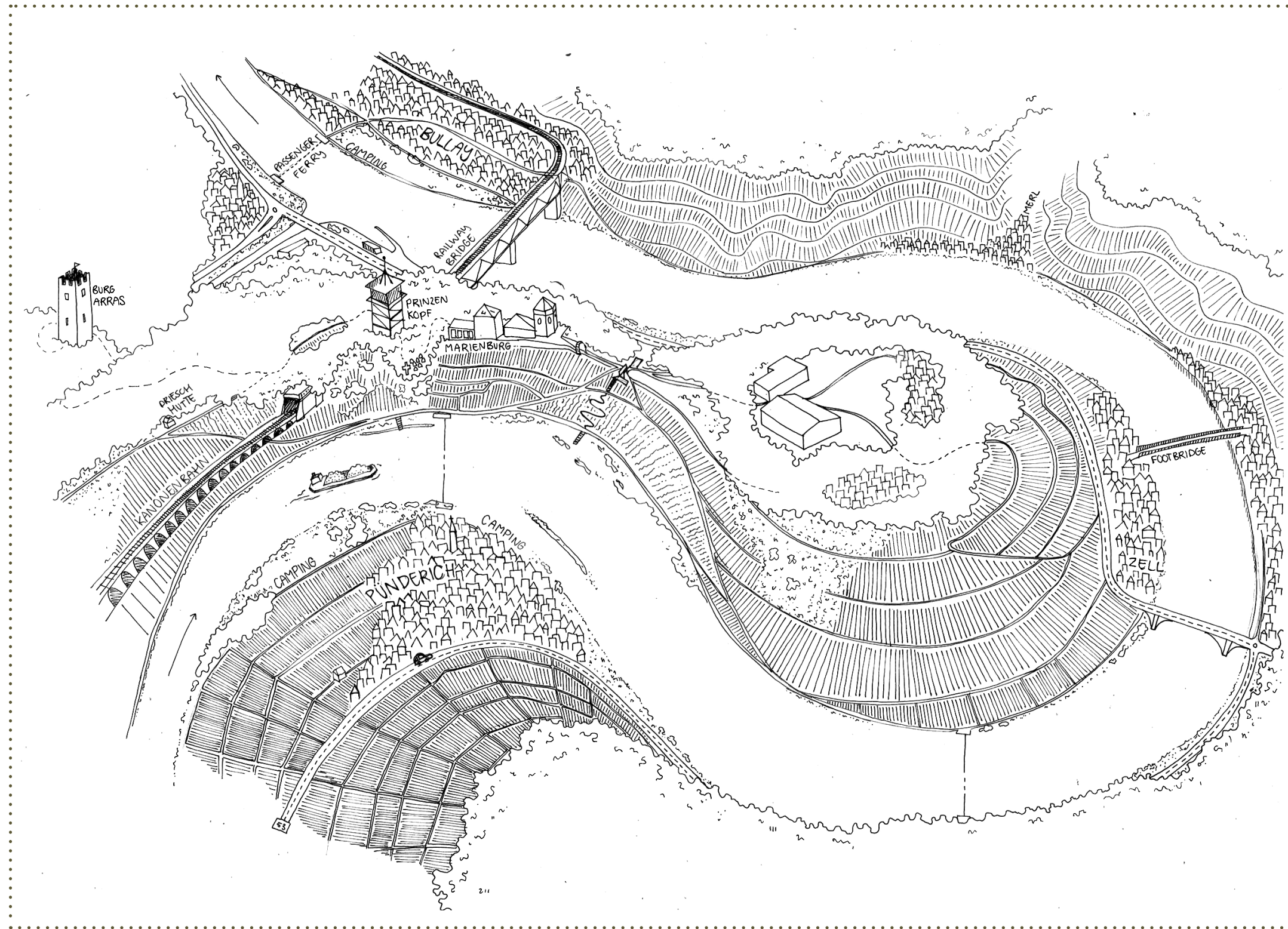
Conclusions



Fieldwork in the Mosel Region during different seasons. February 2026 (left) and May 2026 (right).

The Postcard Path

The Postcards



Mosel Beyond the Picturesque

From Romantic View to Layered, Resilient Landscape.

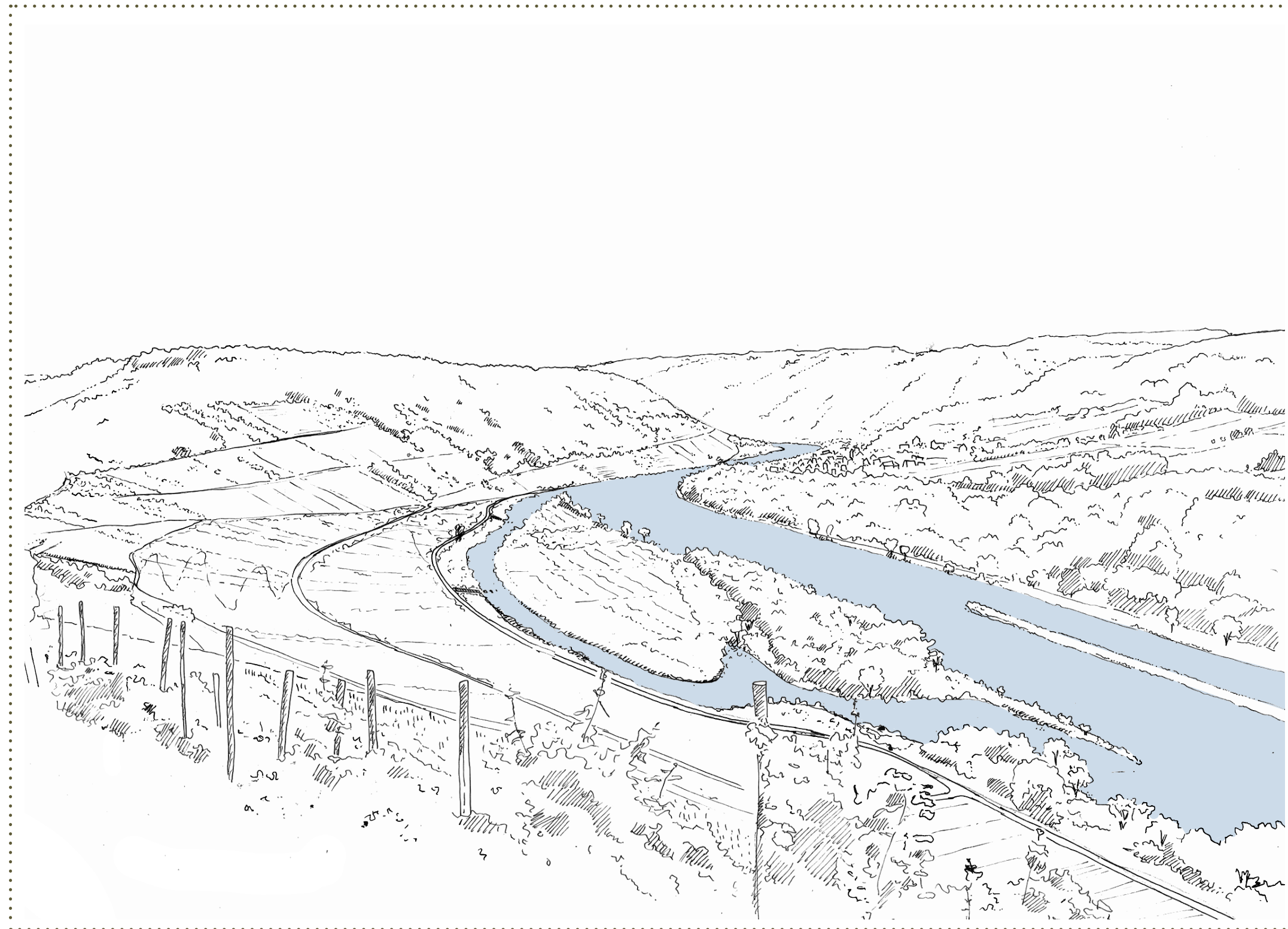


Geeske van Batenburg
MSc Graduation Project
Academic Year 2025 / 2026

TU Delft | Architecture and the Built Environment

The Postcard Path

The Postcards



Mosel Beyond the Picturesque

From Romantic View to Layered, Resilient Landscape.

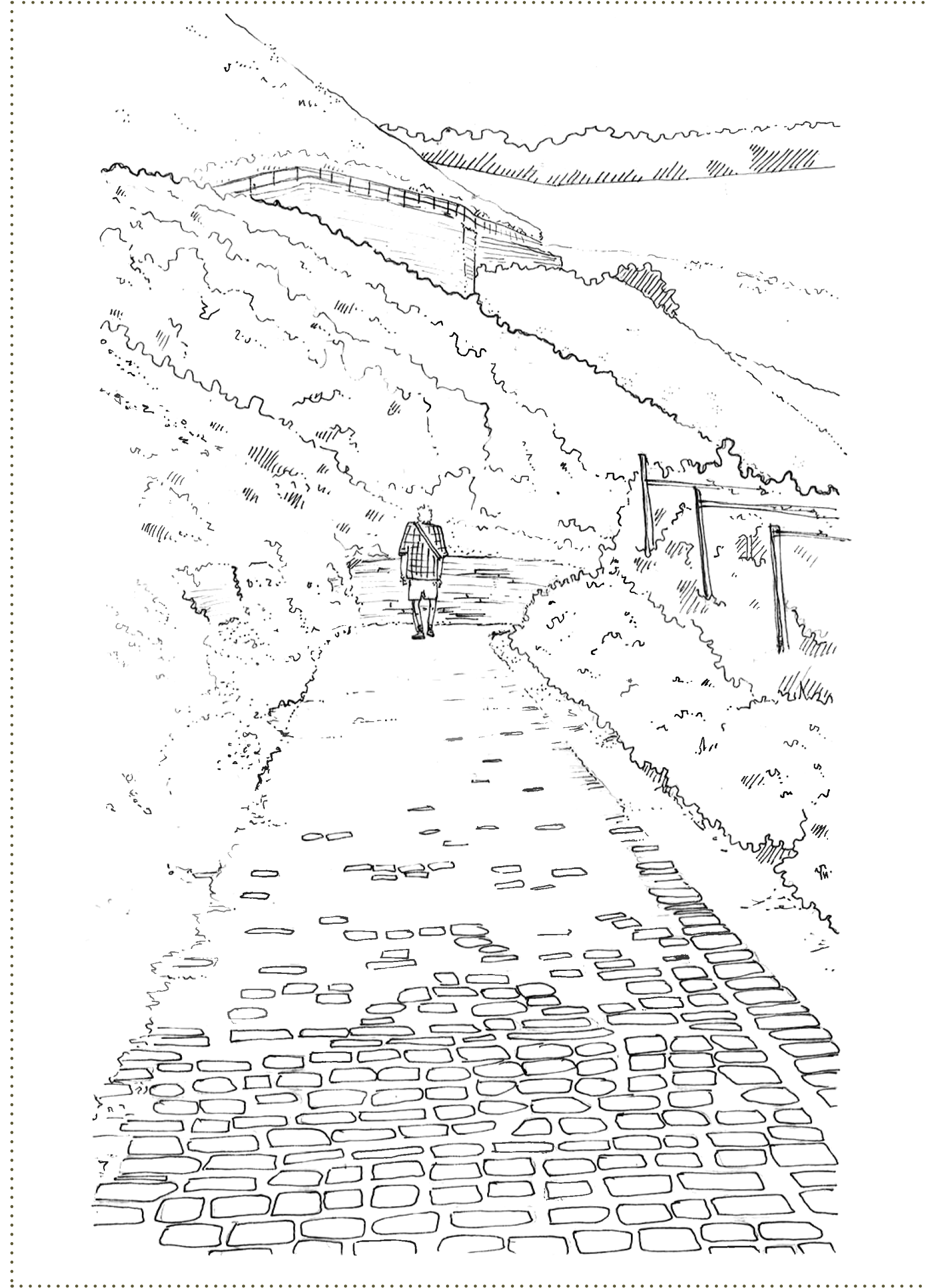


Geeske van Batenburg
MSc Graduation Project
Academic Year 2025 / 2026

TU Delft | Architecture and the Built Environment

The Postcard Path

The Postcards



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

The Postcard Path

The Postcards



Mosel Beyond the Picturesque

From Romantic View to Layered, Resilient Landscape.

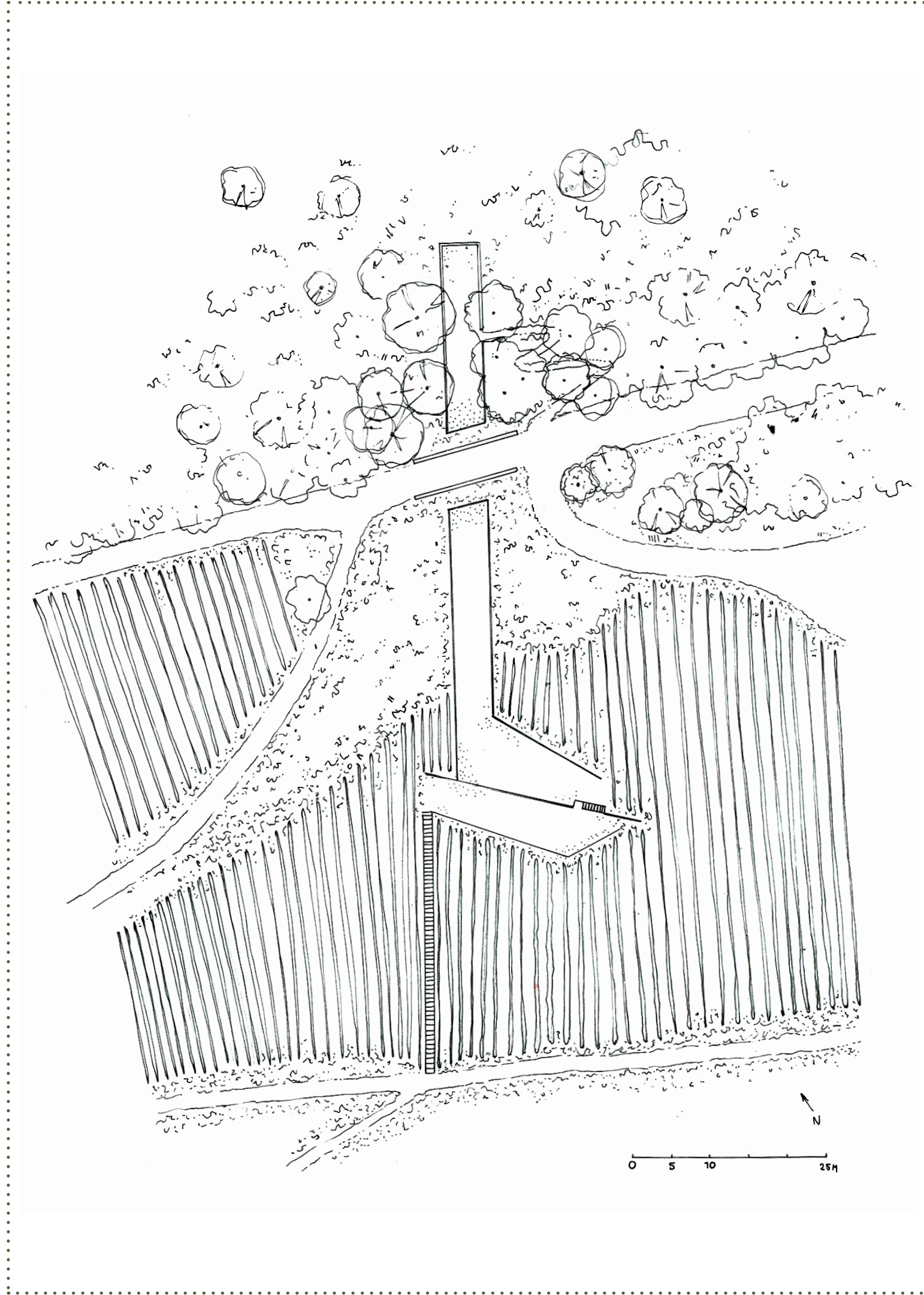


Geeske van Batenburg
MSc Graduation Project
Academic Year 2025 / 2026

TU Delft | Architecture and the Built Environment

The Postcard Path

The Postcards



Mosel Beyond the Picturesque

From Romantic View to Layered, Resilient Landscape.

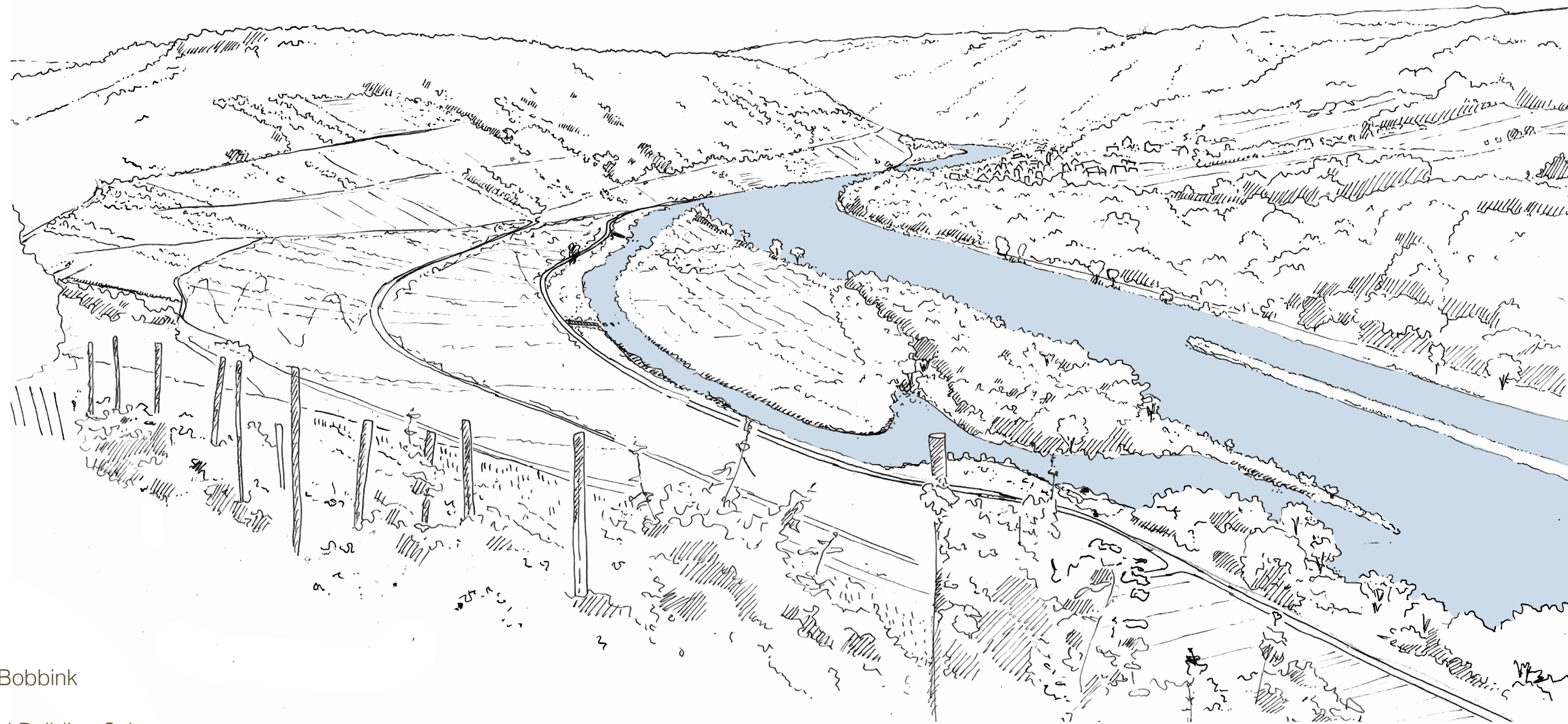


Geeske van Batenburg
MSc Graduation Project
Academic Year 2025 / 2026

TU Delft | Architecture and the Built Environment

MOSEL BEYOND THE PICTURESQUE

From Romantic View to Layered, Resilient Landscape.



Geeske van Batenburg
5859506

A3 presentation June 2, 2026
MSc Graduation Project
Academic year 2025 / 2026

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