

# ON (A) BUILDING

the value of making and thinking with the hands - lecture archineering - 22/11/2024





the image i use for my cv



what i usually look like in reality

Remi Groenendijk

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- BSc and MSc in Architecture (..and half a MSc in Building Technology + PhD course with RC)
- Set up Bouwtuin, worked @ Rintala Eggertsson, self employed (architectural aid agency)
  - In training at HMC (hout en meubilieringscollege) to become a carpenter

# ON (A) BUILDING

building as both a 'verb' and a 'noun' - object and act.

standard google translate search for the word 'building:'

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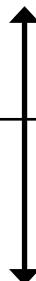
1 a structure with a roof and walls, such as a house, school, store, or factory.

Synoniemen:

structure construction edifice erection pile  
property premises establishment place

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Architecture



Carpentry

2 the process or business of constructing something.

"the building of highways"

Synoniemen:

construction erection putting up raising  
establishment fabrication production  
assembly

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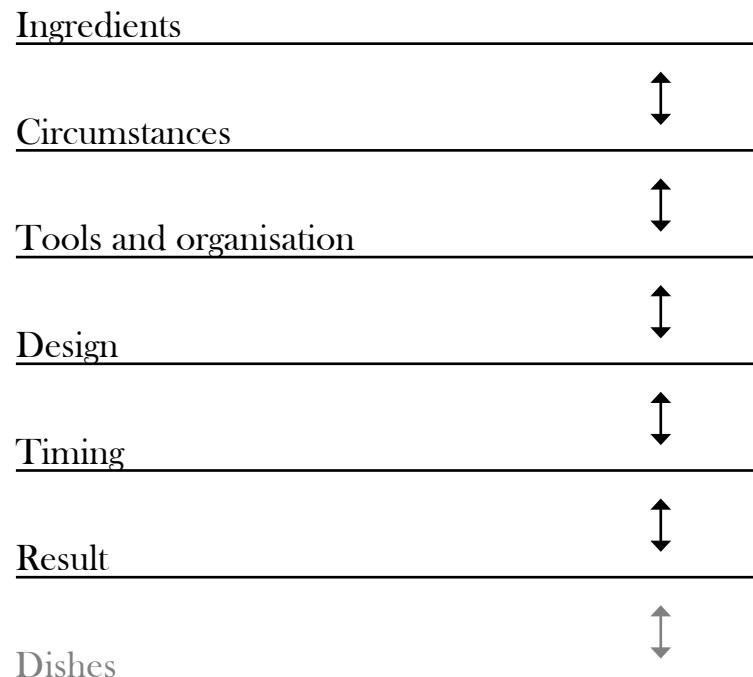
or in normal language; architect meaning archi (chief) tekton (builder) i.e. master carpenter

# WHY DESIGN + BUILD?

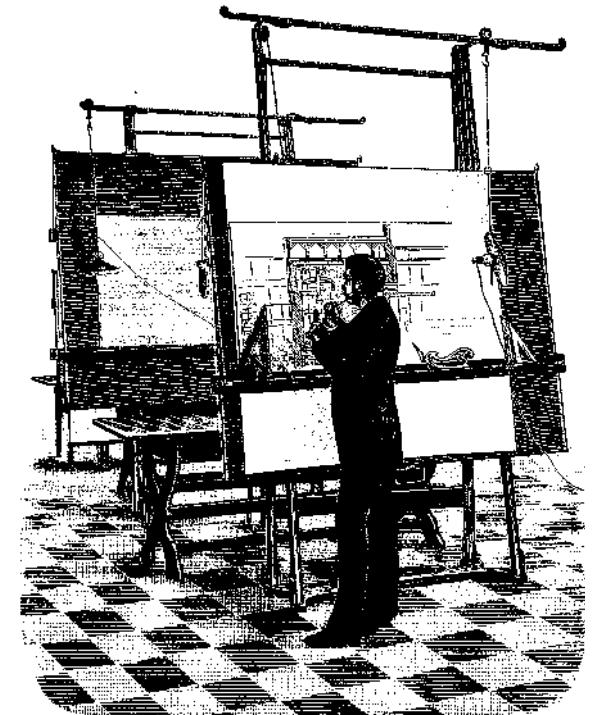
Hassan Fathy:

*'(...) A (wo)man has a mind of his own, and a pair of hands that do what his mind tells them. A man is an active creature, a source of action and initiative, and you no more have to build him a house than you have to build a nest for the birds in the air (...)'*

A chef



An architect



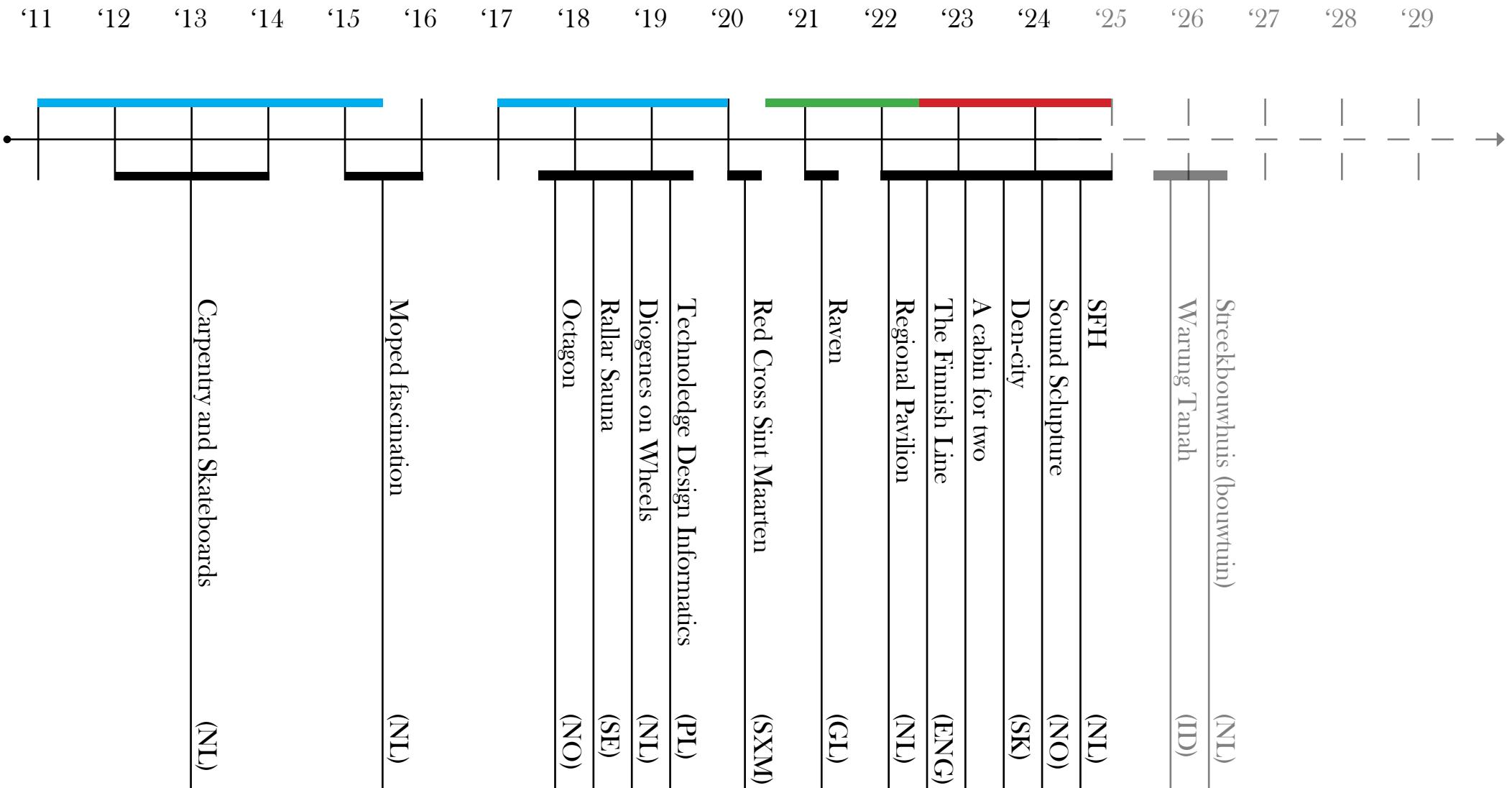
what influence do our decisions as an architect have on all aspects behind and beyond our realm? Designing and building as a way to understand the link between these layers, and thus become a better architect.

Literature recommendation:

- Hassan Fathy - Architecture for the poor
- Juhani Pallasmaa - The eyes of the skin

# TIMELINE

the past decade + to identify which projects to talk about today



# WHERE IN THE WORLD

*octagon*



*rallar sauna*



*technoledge*



*red cross*



*raven*



*finnish line*



*cabin for two*



*sound sculpt.*



*warung tanah*



*skateboards*



*diogenes*



*regional pav.*



*SFH*



*Streekbouw*

# SKATEBOARDS

a starting interest in crafts, both wood and mechanics



# SKATEBOARDS

Location: Delft, Netherlands  
Project: Hobby, skateboard making  
Client: Several  
Materials: Left over wood from carpentry work



# OCTAGON

a first design and build experience



# OCTAGON

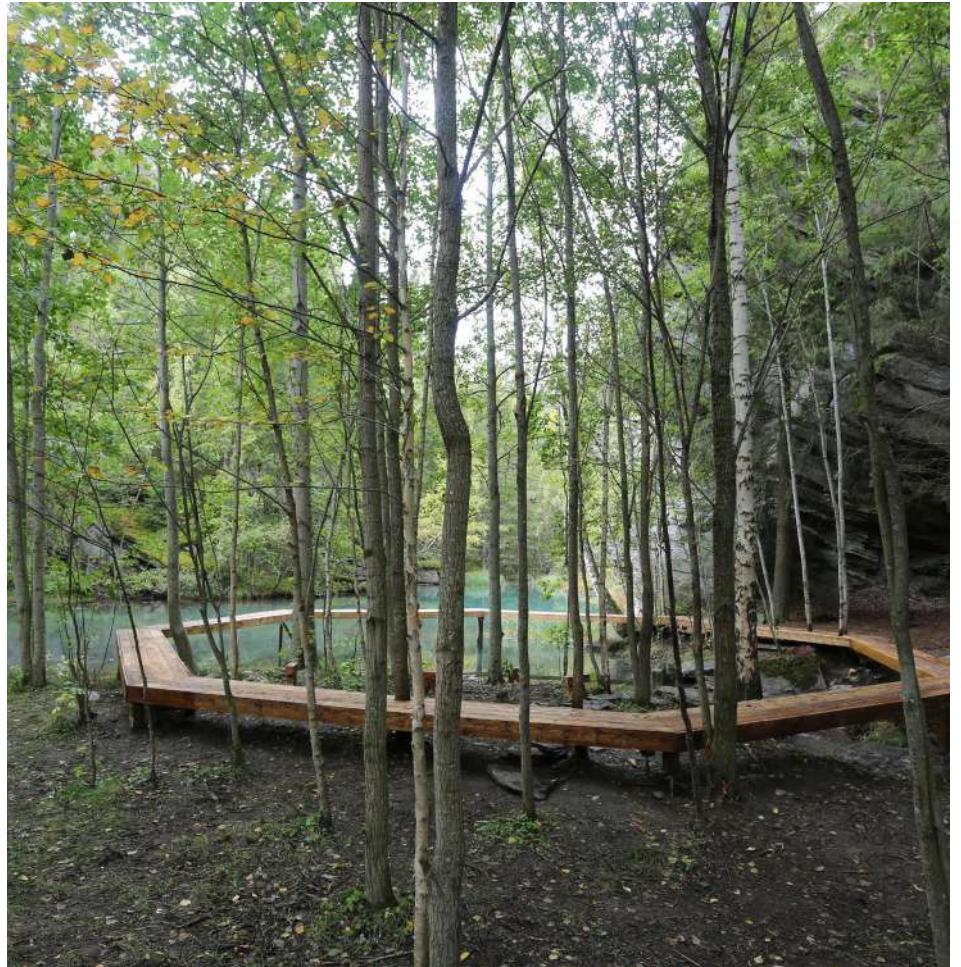
Location: Harpefoss, Norway,  
Project: Pavilions in Nature  
Client: Harpefoss Hotel (artist in residency)  
Materials: Local wood from mountain, local stone from riverbed  
Duration: 10 days on site  
People: 20 students

Total group: 20 students

10

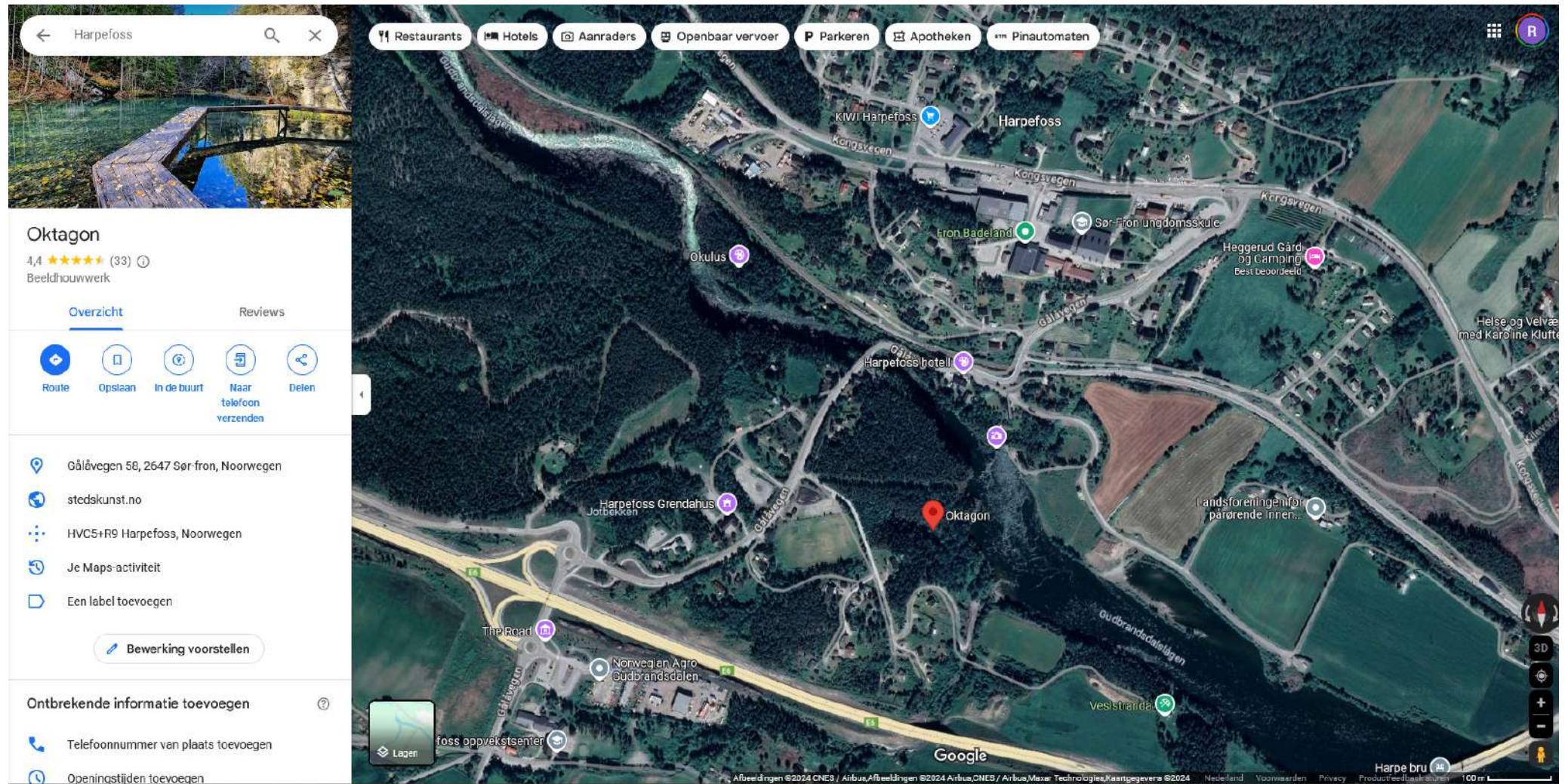


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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMBMJBuQN-E>



it's still there!

# SAUNA GRÅVIKEN



# SAUNA GRÅVIKEN

Location: Gråviken, Sweden  
Project: Sauna  
Client: Pekka Stokke (private)  
Materials: Local and reclaimed wood, reclaimed corrugated iron  
Duration: 10 days installation, unfinished  
People: 10 students



calculate the amount of materials you need (BOQ) + margin.. or else be resourcefull and solve on site if possible



keep the tools you use most on you. Especially in places where ones you drop them on the ground, it's hard to find them again



make sure the ambitions of the project align with the timespan / tools / energy, or else there is no finished result! + think about logistics



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=itVNjugh980&t=158s>

## DIOGENES ON WHEELS



## DIOGENES ON WHEELS / BIKE CABIN

Location: Naaldwijk, Netherlands  
Project: Folly  
Client: None, private project  
Materials: Wood mostly  
Duration: 2 weeks

a first 'house.' Building site / tools and area highly affect your capabilities. Burning off cuts, like in Norway, was not appreciated here, something with the amount of people around.



think about what happens to your projects afterwards, how to store, how to use, etc. It does not end when you finish.



# SPLIT SHELL



# SPLIT SHELL

Location: Wroclaw, Poland  
Project: Stage backdrop  
Client: Music venue  
Materials: Plywood, fiberglass and epoxy  
Duration: 2 weeks  
People: 30 students

the idea of not CNC but HMC (human numeric control), shaping panels into a double curved surface. Working with plywood, fiberglass and epoxy.



never stop thinking about safety, even (or especially) if you are in a rush to finish on time



logistics.. how do you handle, transport, install the objects you make? Prefer two carrying, one installing

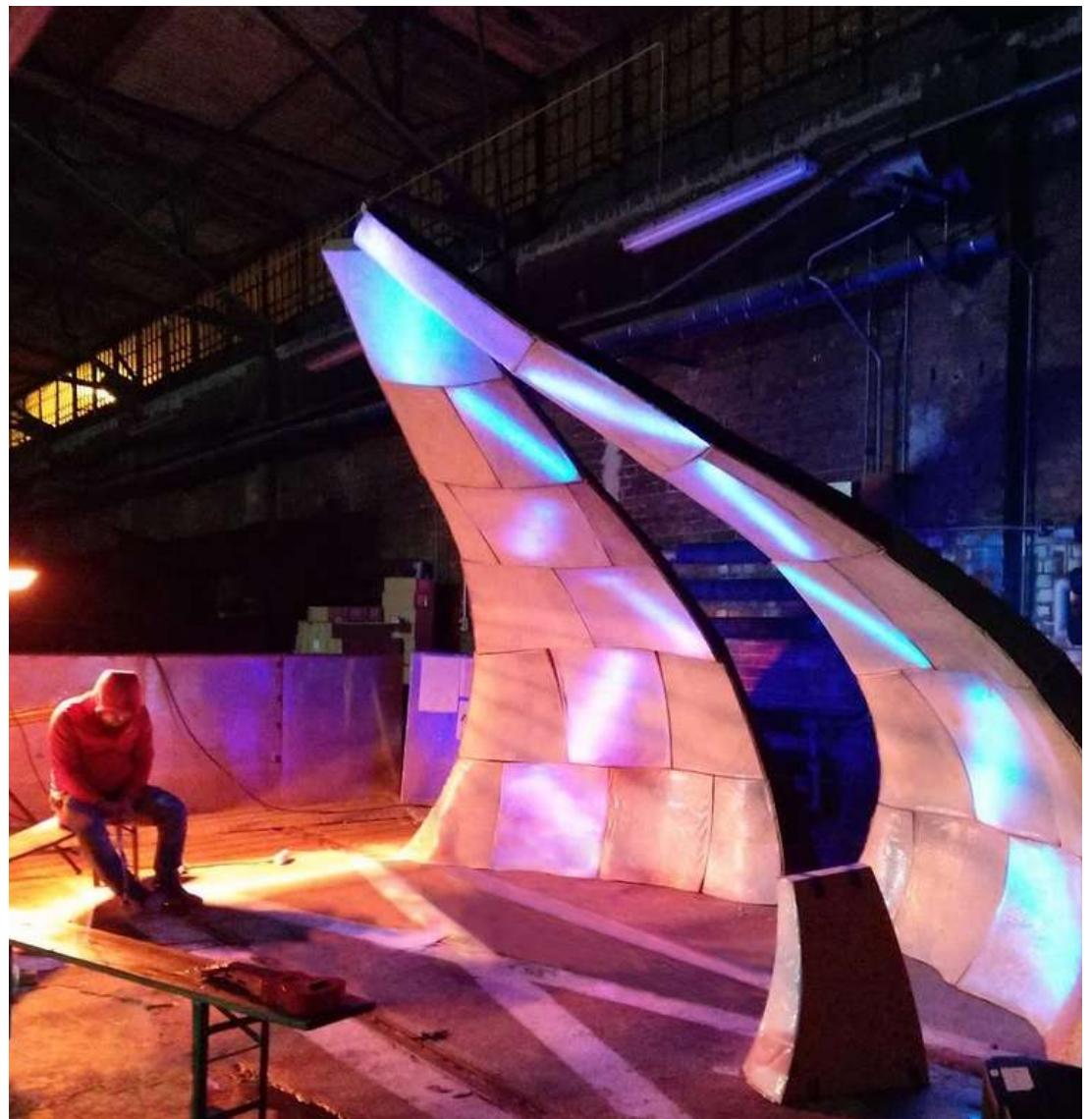


30 students, three shells, two fleximolds, long time to cure, what happens?



stress to get it finished, decided to make two rather than three split shells. Plan it so that you can use everyones capacity most of the time.

materiality decides mode of working, safety and so on. As architects we make design decisions that influence the life of the makers



# RAVEN



# RAVEN

Location: Kangerlussuaq, Greenland  
Project: Public pavilion  
Client: Prosjekt 67  
Materials: Waste, wood, stone, metal.  
Duration: 10 days.  
People: 15 students

what happens if importing goods is cheap and exporting waste costs money? A dump.



# MATERIALS



discarded doors and windows



wood

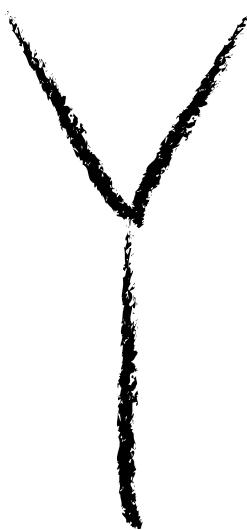


metal

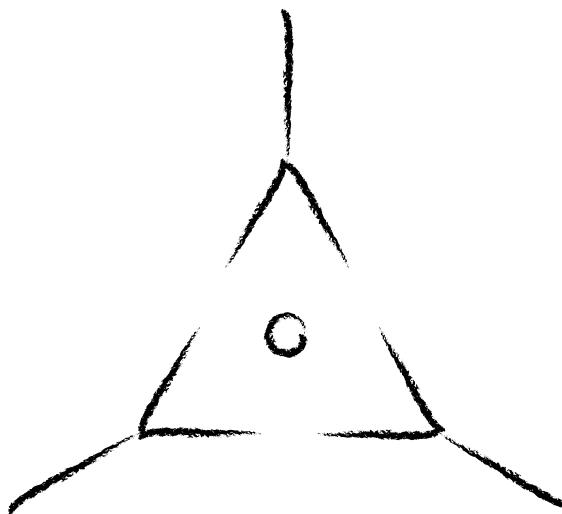


anything... 100% recycled material + local stone

# CONCEPT

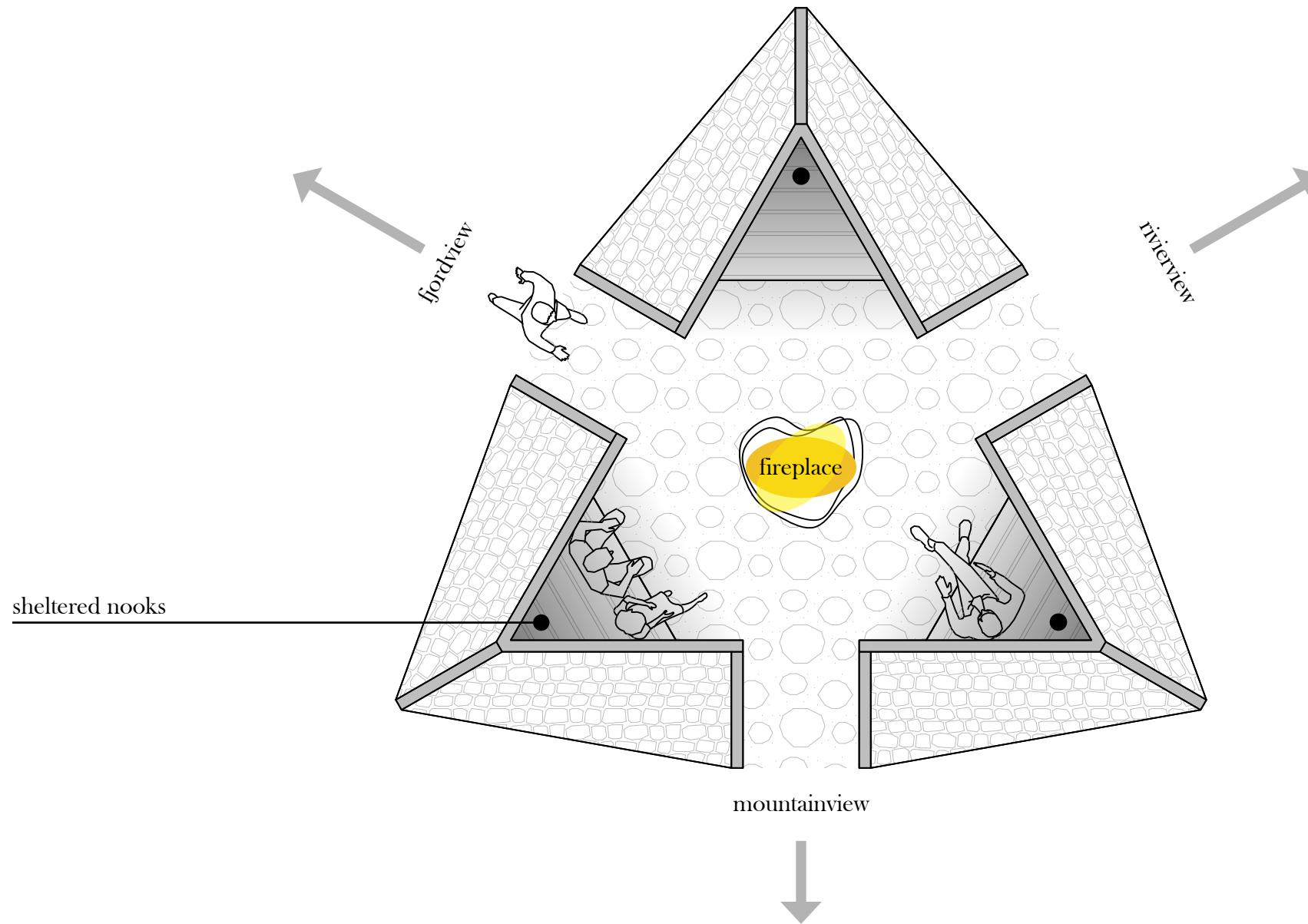


meaning 'raven'



meaning 'earth'

# PLAN



an architecture that 'fits' by way of materiality, because it was sourced on site, a relation between stone and mountain



make sure you have enough time to enjoy what you have been constructing! As so will do others when you finish your project



this was sent to us only afterwards, apparently we had used a building technique that was once considered a tradition. Moss grows on the stone over time.



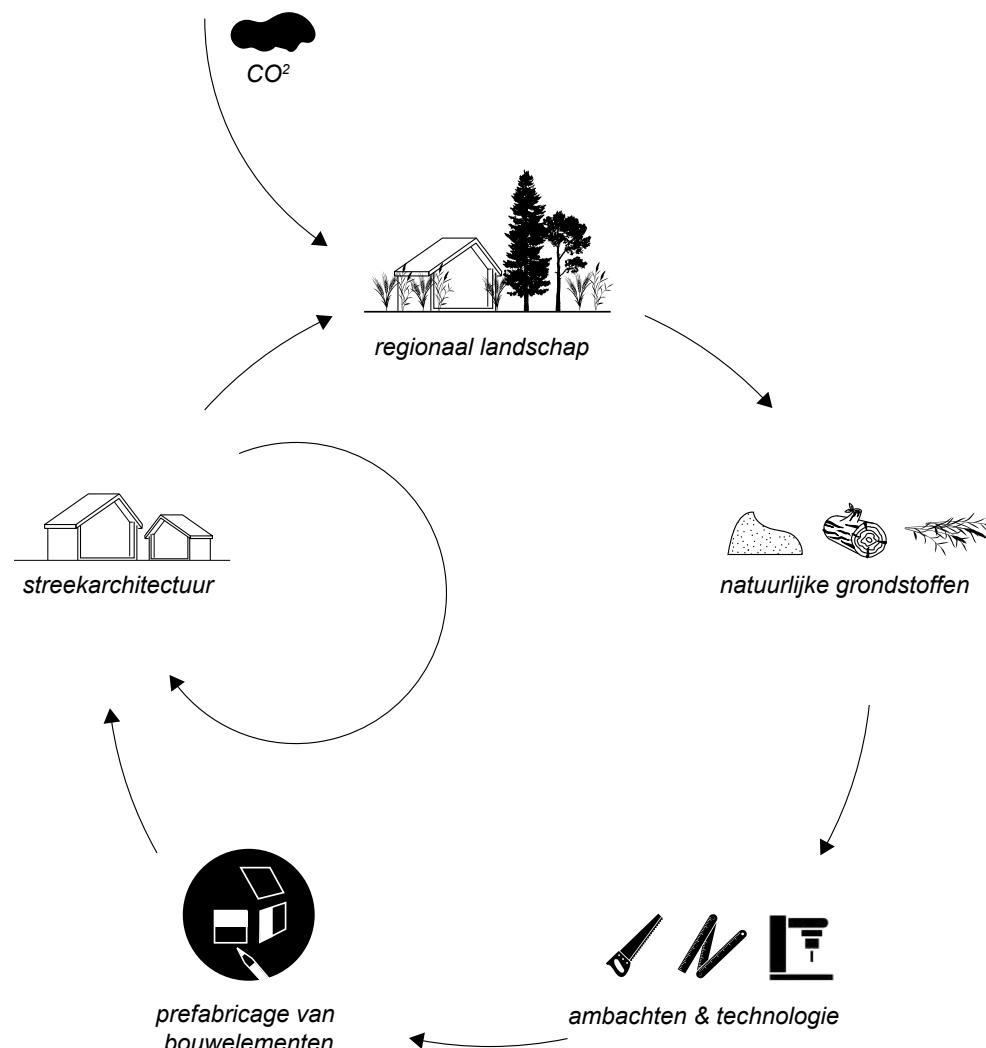
show avi timeline if time

# BOUWTUIN



# BOUWTUIN

Location: Gooi en Vechtstreek, Netherlands  
Project: Research and Public Pavilion  
Client: Bouwtuin foundation  
Materials: Wood, soil, reed  
Duration: 7 days for pavilion  
People: Several



action research methodology!

sourcing local materials, just like a chef wants to pick his / her own vegetables, here earth



with Wouter Slors, a local reed cutter / nature conservationist



with GNR (Goois Natuurreervaat) sourcing local wood



# BOUW TUIN



Wij zijn bouwtuin  
bouwtuin voor  
alt gedacht en  
allen bouw

Ons motto voor de bouwtuin  
is dat de bouwtuin een  
vrijplaats moet zijn voor  
alleen maar ook voor  
allen die daar  
bouwen.

BOUW TUIN

making use of the natural behaviour of wood to make interlocking connections

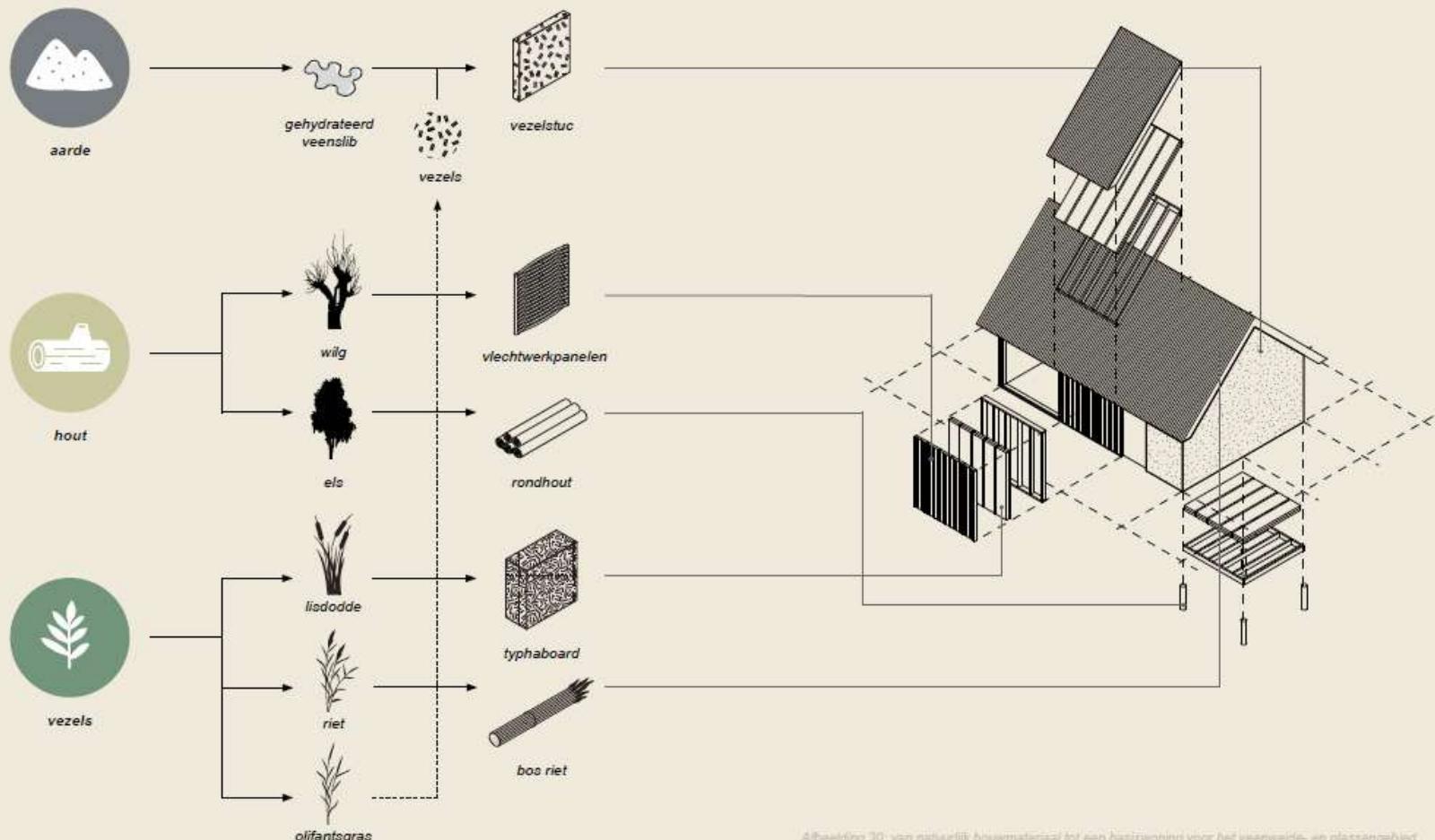


part of our work found it's way to the exploded view beyond building at dutch design week



### Materialisering basiswoning veenweide- en plassengebied

Het onderstaande diagram laat - aan de hand van een verdeling in aarde, hout en vezels - zien waar welk materiaal wordt ingezet om tot een basiswoning voor het veenweide- en plassengebied te komen. Hout voor het skelet komt men op het veenweide gebied te koop, deze kan regio breed gemaakt worden vanuit het hout uit het Goois Natuurreervaat. De overige gebruikte materialen komen direct uit het nieuwe cultuurlandschap, wat tevens een sterke relatie tussen architectuur en landschap oplevert.



Afbeelding 30: van natuurlijk bouwmateriaal tot een basiswoning voor het veenweide- en plassengebied

new funding for pilot building, first step: sourcing wood!



blessing the trees that we will use in the upcoming project, a pilot house for this specific region, made from the materials sourced / cultivated in that region



reminds me of old shrine architecture in Japan, the master carpenters select and fell their own trees (hinoki).

<https://bouwtuin.nl/>

# A MINOR MOVE

where me and my wife lived for two years - a small town above the arctic cirle called Bodø



RINTALA EGGERTSSON ARCHITECTS



# THE FINNISH LINE

Location: Westminster, London  
Project: Sauna  
Client: Finnish cultural institute  
Materials: Wood, wool  
Duration: 7 days design workshop, 10 days building workshop - too little time for finishings  
People: around 15



part cnc part do and do - cnc failed which gave us major problems in the workflow. Details were to hard to produce by hand..



concept from underground tube - also a sweaty thing in summer, but finnish culture, hence the finnish line



again, make sure you have enough time to - in the end - enjoy your own architecture!



# THE ARCTIC HIDEWAY

Location: Fleinvær, Norway

Project: Cabin

Client: The Arctic Hideway

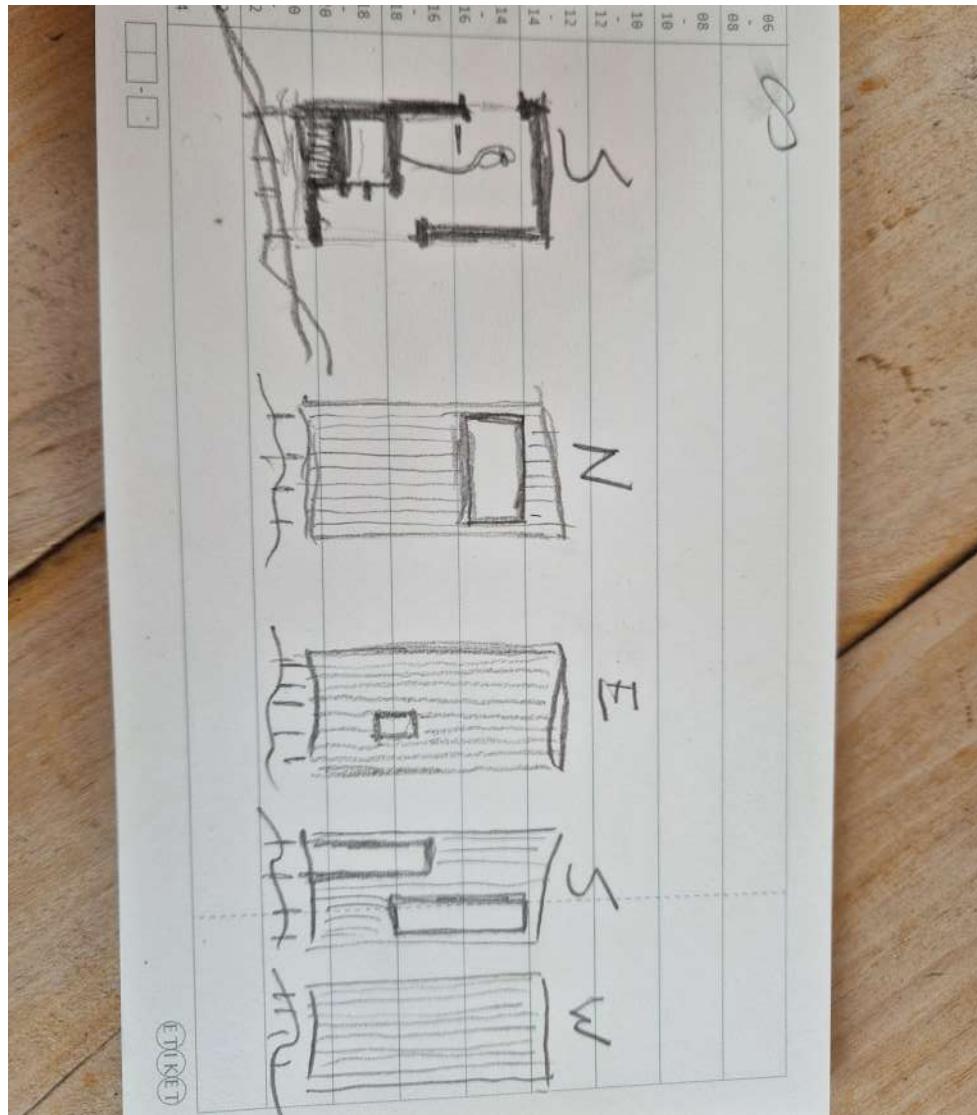
Materials: Wood

Duration: 10 day workshop - cladding finished by client

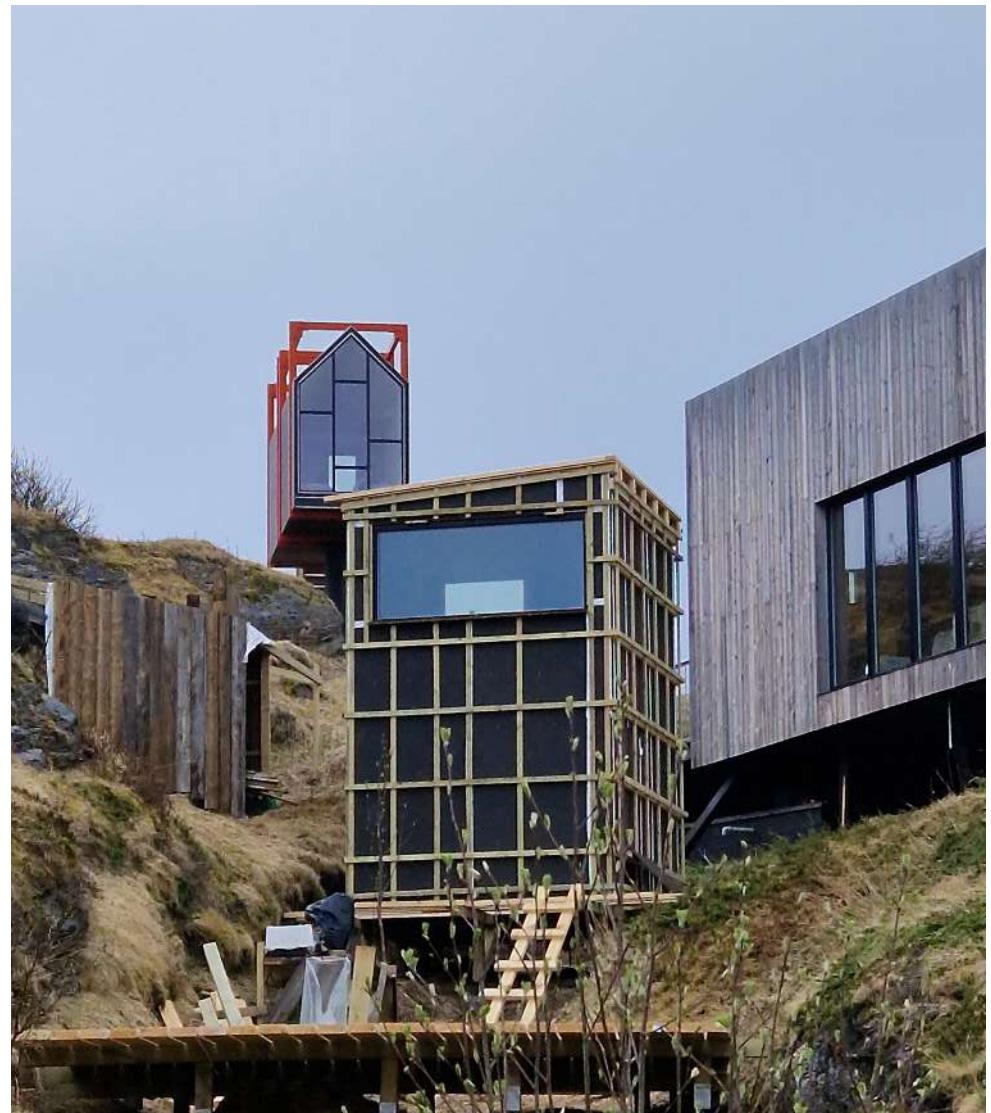
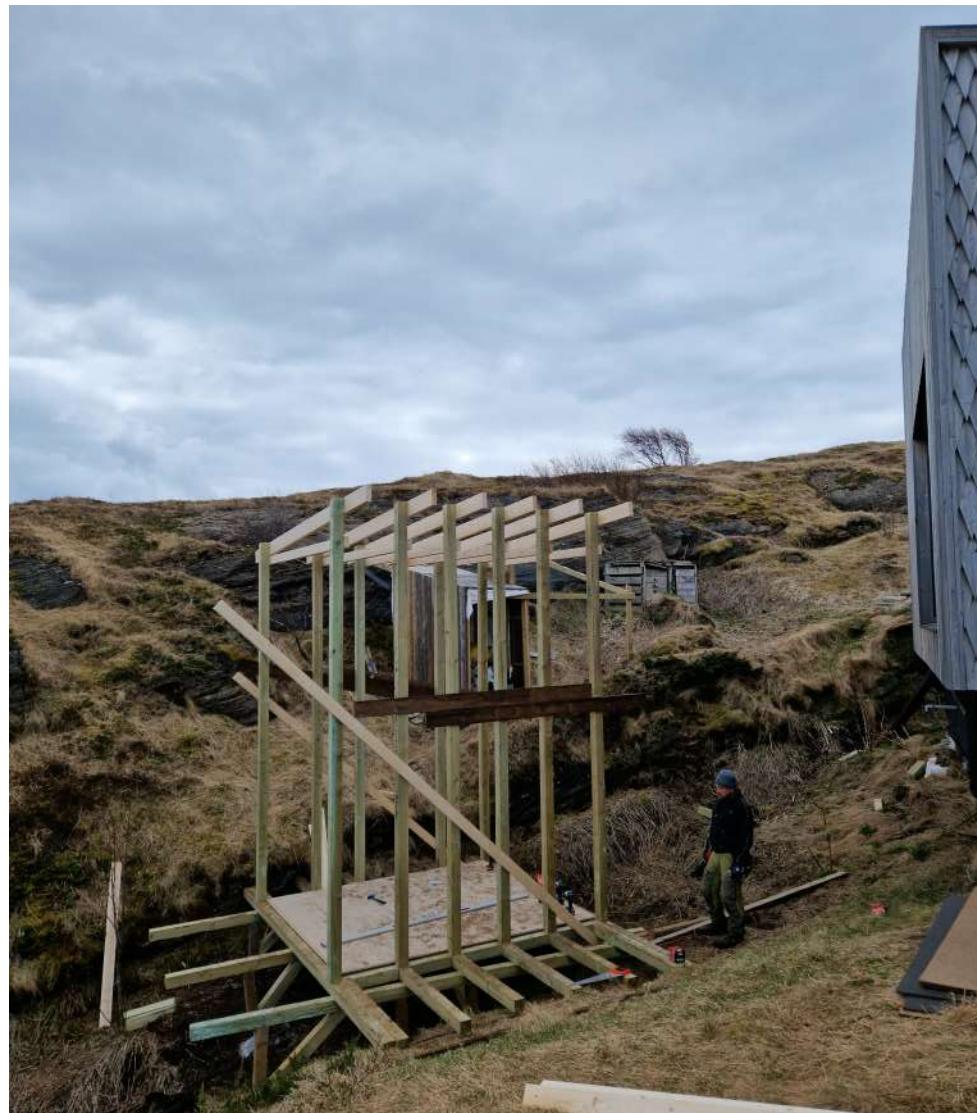
People: 3 architects / carpenters



a cabin for two, sketch to reality, testing portals by sketching in real 3D



progress images



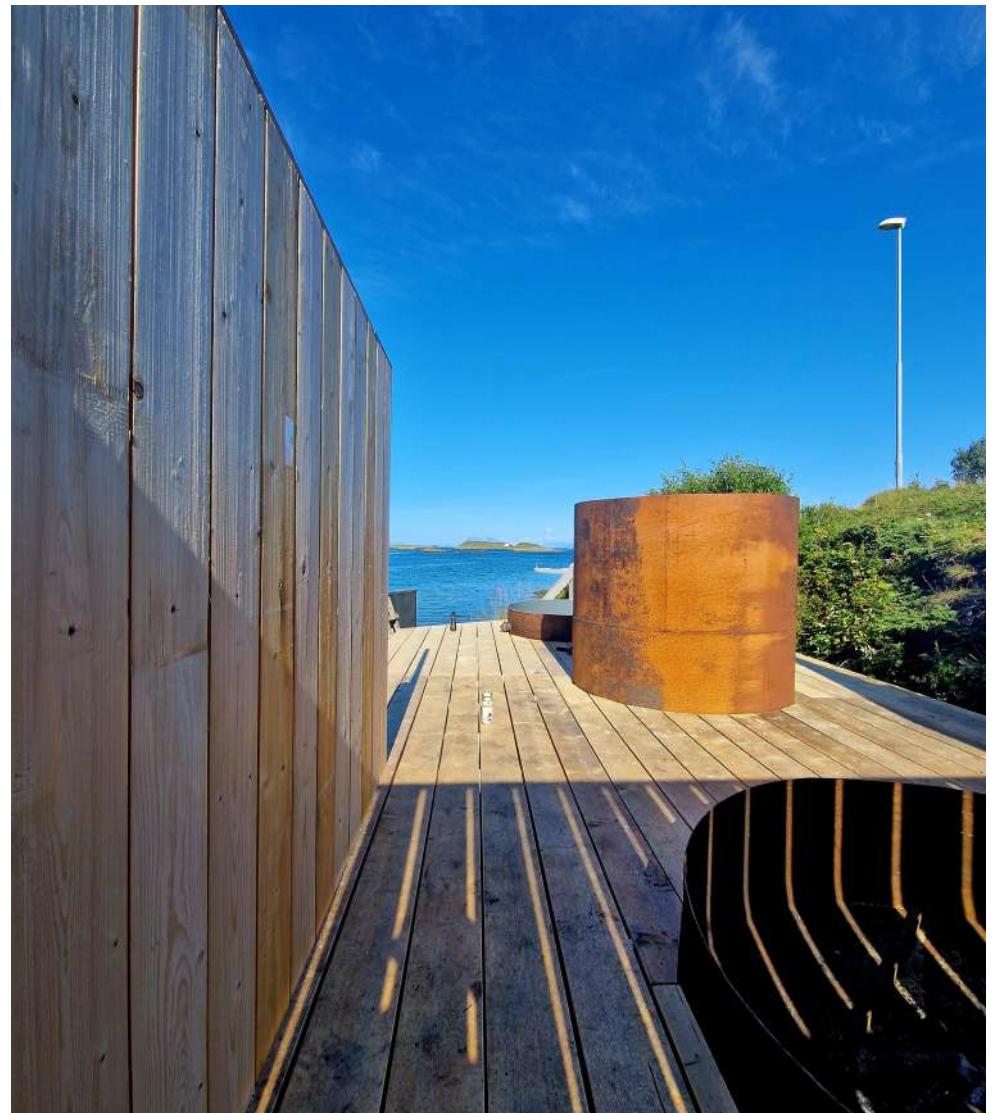
spare time activities, on an island with 20 inhabitants in the arctic sea, one needs to be self sufficient..



steamer - public art pavilion with reclaimed metal together with metal artist Mischa Diaconu



a returning element - a workhorse or (stable) table, organise workflow, think of the path the materials will have to take



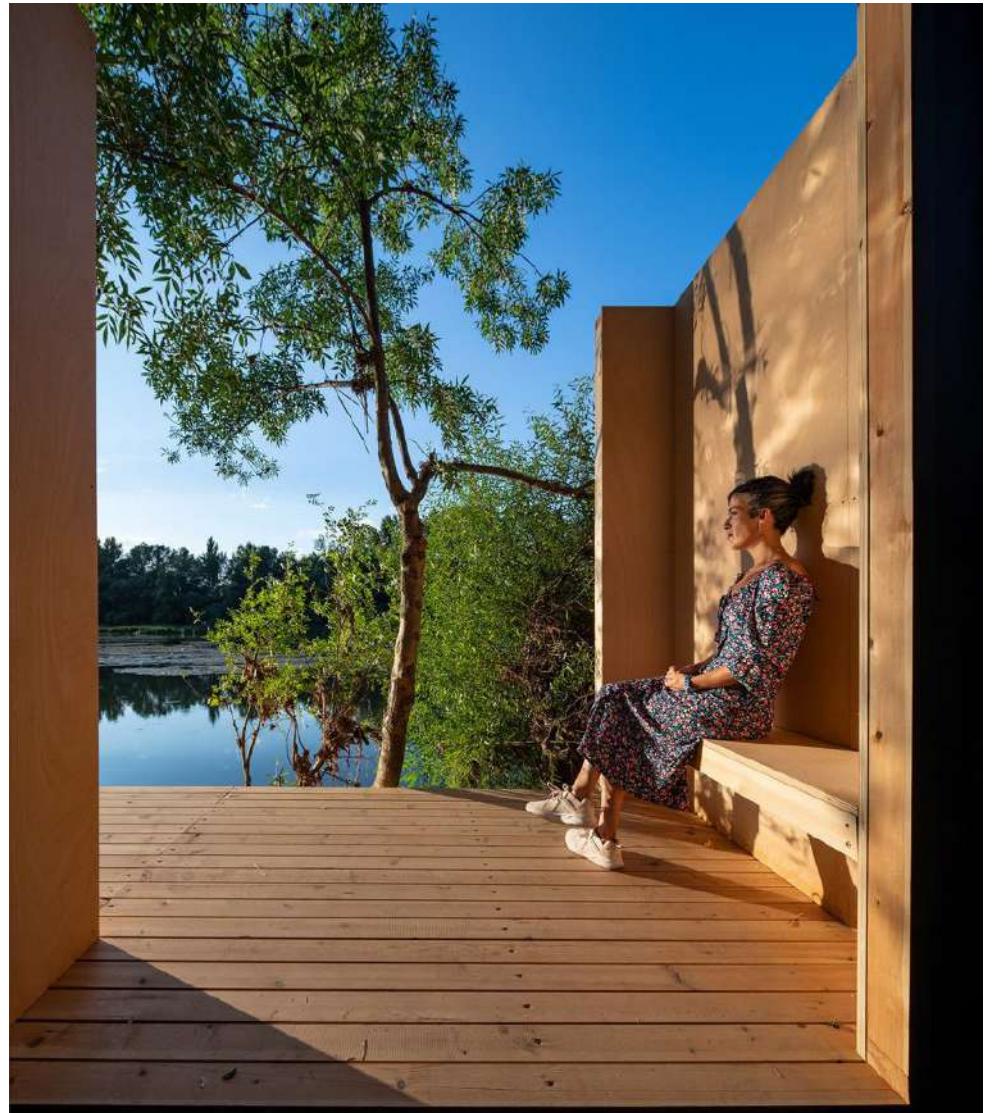
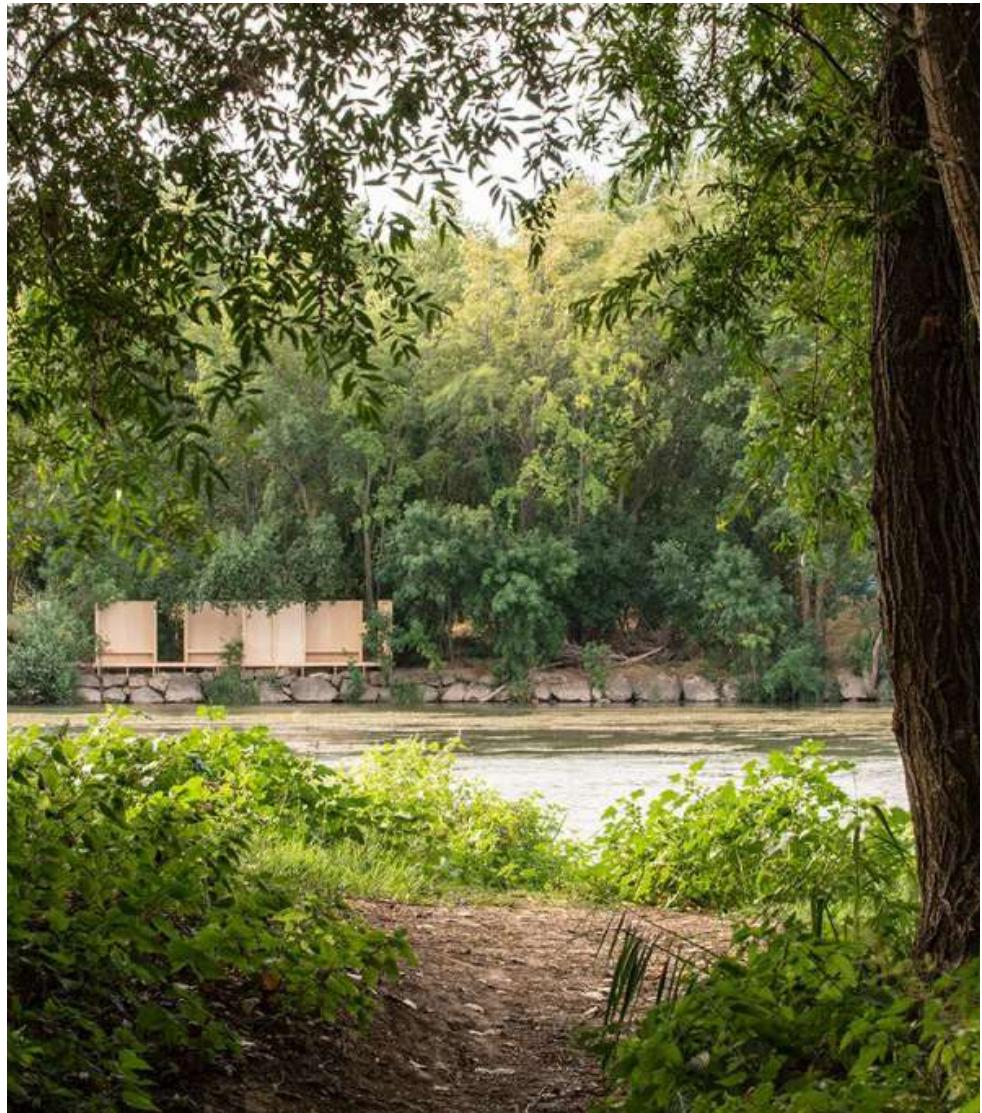
# HIBER SPACE

Location: Logrono, Spain  
Project: Public pavilion (temporary)  
Client: Concentrico - check it out online, it's a cool architecture festival  
Materials: Wood  
Duration: 10 days, finished after 4, a rare thing  
People: 3

beauty in simplicity, but often you have to think, test and try a long time before things become simple



also think about where you work, if its rainy, or if it's 35 degrees - rather in a forest



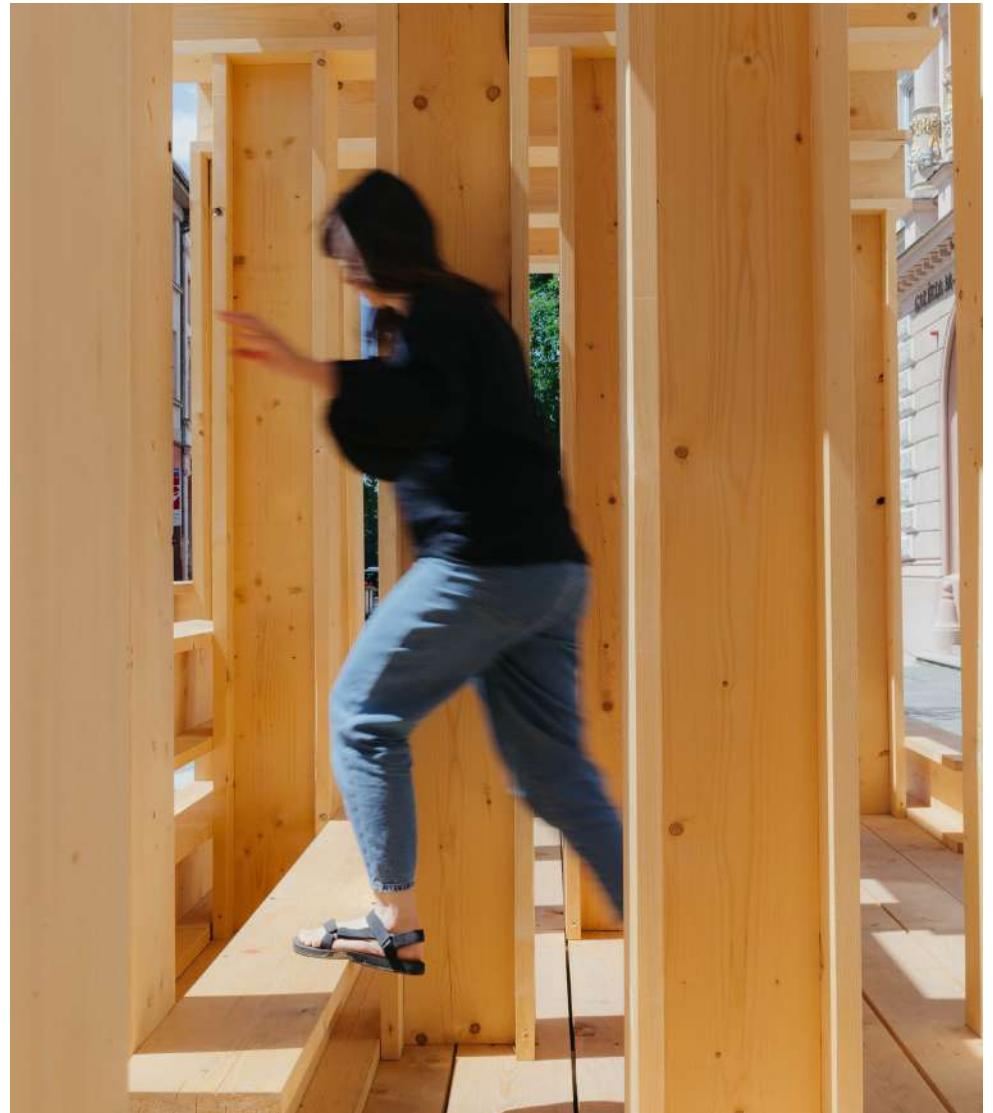
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P1V-0f3-wew&t=9s>

# DEN-CITY

Location: Trencin, Slovakia  
Project: Public pavilion  
Client: Trencin city  
Materials: Wood  
Duration: 7 days workshop - finished after 5  
People: 4 architect carpenters, 1 carpenter



what if.. this street had no cars? How could we utilize that space for the public?



what to do when you finish early.. prefer this over stressing to finish a project, think of social sustainability within the project group!



# SFH - SAUNA FOR HEALTH

Location: Park oosterbeek, Den Haag

Project: Sauna - ongoing

Client: Self initiated

Materials: Wood, wool

Duration: No deadline... that is a problem

People: 1 and friends

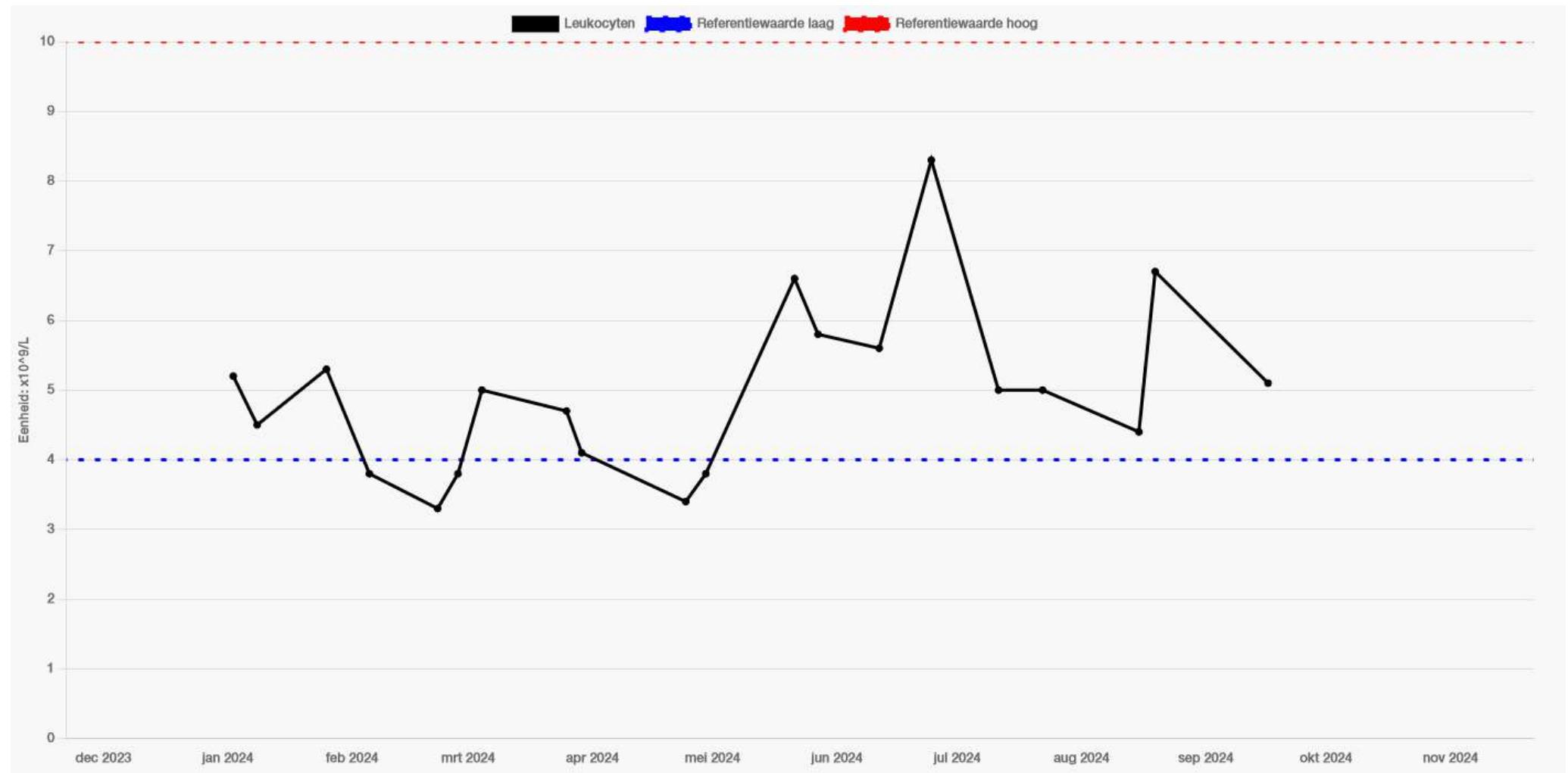
sometimes it is nice to make something for yourself too..



powered with offcuts from my wood workshop



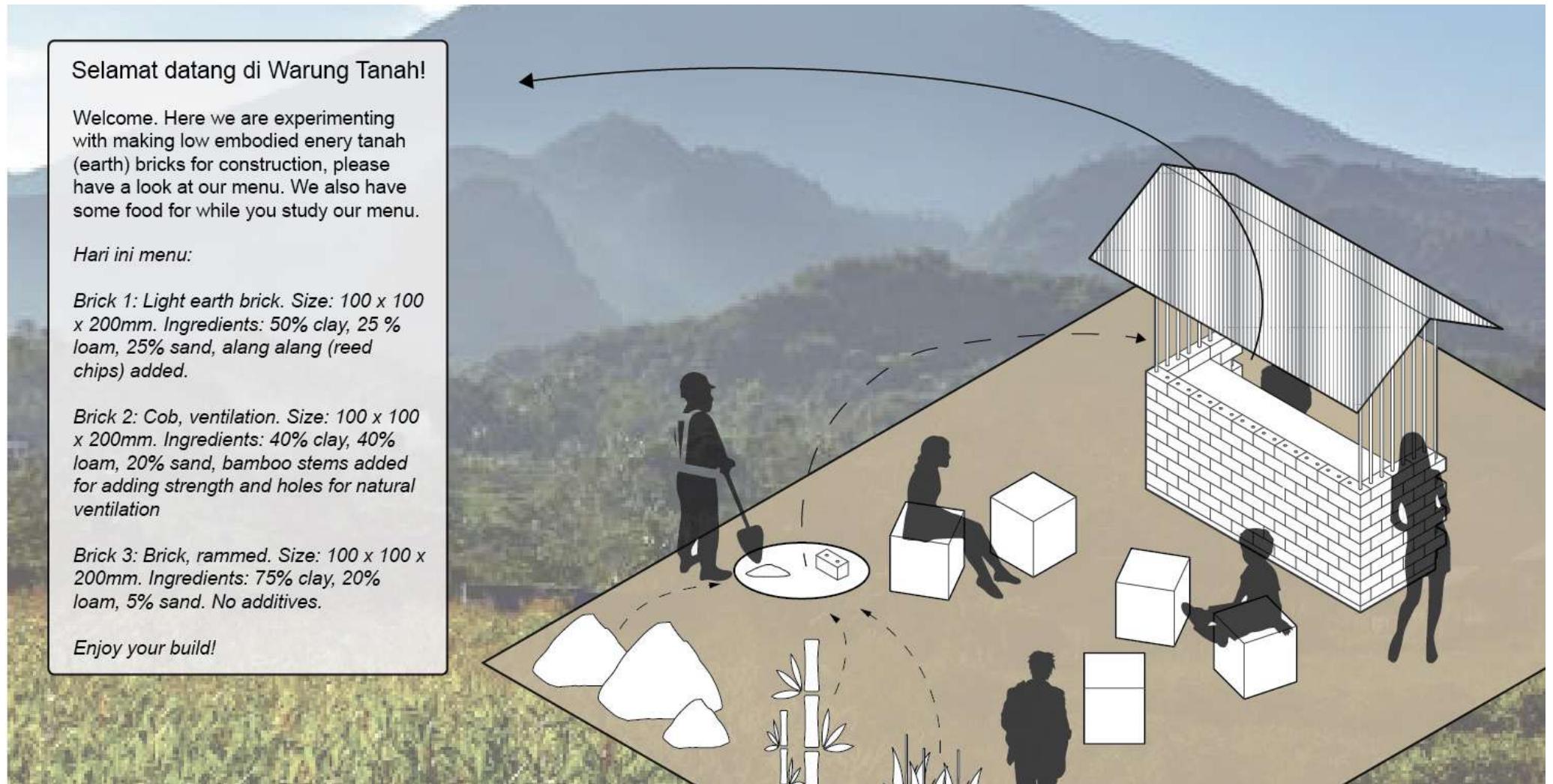
building as therapy - effect on leukocytes, exactly what i need!



no empirical evidence, but works for me :)

# WARUNG TANAH - UPCOMING

Location: Jatiwangi, Java, Indonesia  
Project: Design & Build restaurant in clay  
Client: Jatiwangi art factory / stimuleringsfonds, check out the website of stimuleringsfonds, good open calls  
Materials: Soil, bamboo, alang alang  
Duration: 4 week research, 4 weeks building (april and may 2025)  
People: me + ? open to hire an assistant for this project



## JUST A THOUGHT - QUESTIONS?

*By designing and building as an architect / carpenter, one can keep control over the whole process, so that sustainability can finally find it's way throughout the whole project, from a - z - and back.*

*for questions: [info@architectural-aid.agency](mailto:info@architectural-aid.agency)*

*aids in creating ecologically and socially just architecture, by designing + building*