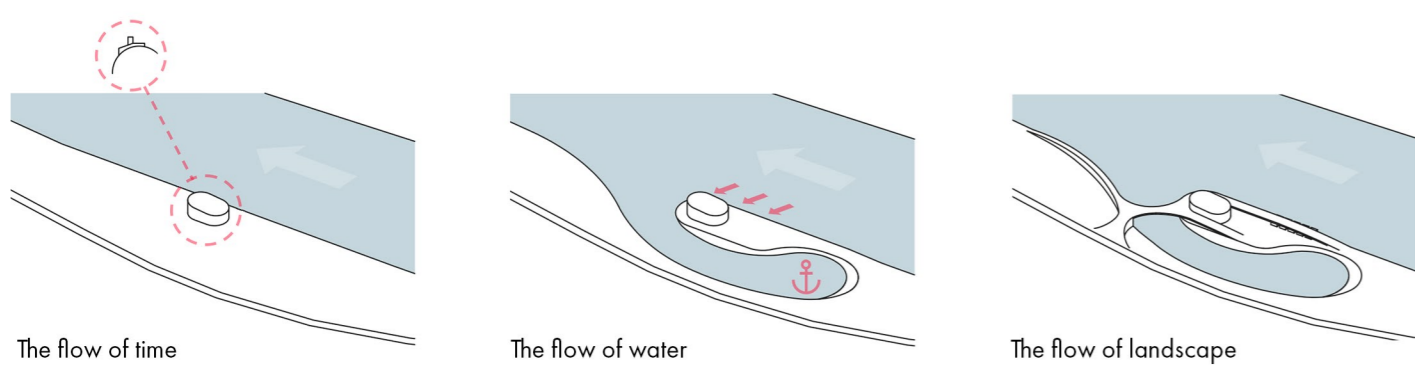




ÚSTÍ NAD LABEM MARINA

time - water - landscape flow!



The flow of time

The flow of water

The flow of landscape

THE FLOW OF TIME

Can we design a building that stands the test of time?

Time flow is permanent, yet often misunderstood phenomenon. The process of time flow slowly shaping our environment stands beyond our imagination. Our narrow mind doesn't enable us to fully perceive that the environment was systematically crafted for millions of lifetimes and will be there still the same as mankind passes away. After all, we all are just travellers in the flow of time. Even though proud human tries to forge the space in his manners, time heals all the wounds he inflicted to the nature. The flow of time slowly grinds down the sharp edges, moves the immovable objects and leaves behind just his opinion.

Only time can interpret our actions, our creations, our dreams. Overwhelming majority of the structures proven by time are created by nature, but a few are man-made. Only few buildings, landmarks, engineering structures, etc... prove its worth. Time is the greatest critic, only time can decide, whether architecture can be considered good or not. We do not intend to question the decision of time, the subtle creator of genius loci of the valley. We intend to honour those timeless structures, landmarks, dominants. We approach site with humility and respect to the structures that stood the test of time. Those elements, river, topography, terrain should be taken as priority and the design should adapt accordingly. The building itself shouldn't be an attention seeker, but instead it should point out the surroundings and become quiet observer, part of the environment enhancing it.

Our focus was to create dignified harmonical counterpart of the Sítěkov headland and the castle, the local dominant defining character of the landscape. We created simple mass reminding rock abraded by the river flow, the hub. The shape evokes a guard protecting the gate of the city formed by Vrkoč and Sítěkov rocks on both sides of the river, wishing a good luck to the travellers down the stream. This basic archetypal structure becomes a host of the most important functions of the building, becomes a host of many travellers seek for rest, enjoyment or just sense of freedom and connection.

THE FLOW OF WATER

Can we design a building that adopts the way of water?

Labe river is mighty mistress. She stubbornly shapes her way through the mountain range. She brings freedom and wealth for those, who respect her way, but those opposing will be pulled down to the deepest abyss. Human tried to tame the waves, tame the wildness of the streams, yet only succeeded in the way of collaboration and mutual respect. The design is inspired by the steady flow of Labe river. The mass combines grounded steady rhythm with fluent liquidity. The mass is organically uplifted in a slow gradation with the stream, then returned down to the river level as a long rogue wave.

Water brings life, in meaning transport as well. Ships should have the priority in the overall urban design of the site, dedicating the ground floor of the marina primarily for naval travellers. We intend to create a safe haven for those, who seek refuge. Analysing the closest Labe river ports (mostly in Germany, but some in the Czech Republic) we came to conclusion that the only way to construct long time harbour on such a river is to create an artificial bay in a hydrodynamic shape that minimizes river currents. Docking on an open river for a longer period is risky business, even though short period docking is doable.

We designed strengthening of the leading edge of the riverbank, that enables versatile temporary docking of 90 m long hotel boat or two 35 m long or three 20 m long boats. Those docking spots are designed to be easily accessible and adaptable to the change in the river level. Also, five private short-term docking spots are available for tourist apartments guests. Those spots are directly accessible from the river and enhance the visitor's experience.

For long-term docking we designed an anchorage in the artificial bay. Twenty small size (8m) ships can find their permanent anchorage in the calmest water of the bay. Two spots, that are connected to the main transport hub are suitable for 35 m long ships and there are plenty of reserve space at the outer edge of the bay. The entrance of the bay is designed to honour surrounding dominants by being built directly on the Vrkoč-Sítěkov axis.

THE FLOW OF LANDSCAPE

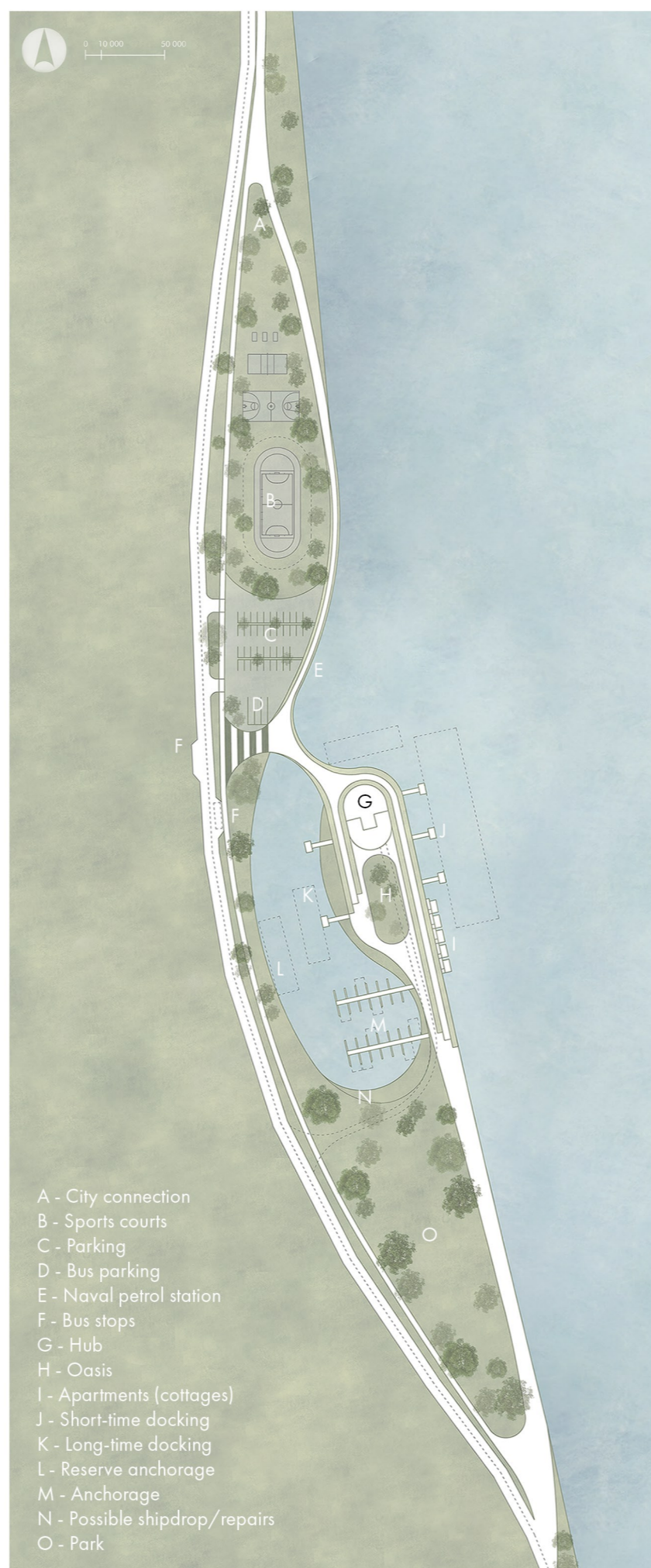
Can we design a building that becomes a part of the landscape?

We don't intend to design just a building, we are designing the environment. The idea of smooth flow is encrypted in an overall design. Based on the river stream rhythm and gradation the mass of marina is lifted above the ground creating a cover for travellers on the platform while enabling natural transition for non-naval guests without mixing up with the naval operation area. Curvy platform shaping creates a fluid landscape, reminiscent of infinite flow pattern, the platform encircles the hub in the same way Labe encircles Sítěkov castle. Smooth curves of the design in a combination of surrounding picturesque landscape evoke an idea of land art. The platform is partially planted with a greenery, creating even deeper connection to the surrounding landscape, becoming an integral part of it.

Northern part of the site is occupied by sports courts and parking spots. Public transport connection is enabled at the western part of the plot by the current bus stations. The quay is made into the public promenade with a platform as an elevated vantage point. The promenade is in the north connected to the cyclist paths. Main entrance to the hub for public is across the bridge visually enclosing the anchorage bay to the first-floor reception and information centre.

The ground floor of the marina is dedicated solely to the naval transport interchange. There are pontoon piers on both sides of the marina, the hub ground floor consists of waiting room for passengers with a lounge and a bar and technical background of the restaurant. There are five separate six-bedded apartments (cottages) further away from the hub connected to the river suited for larger groups of people. In between the hub, piers and apartments, there is quiet "oasis", spot planted with trees slowing down the rush environment offering protection and relax.

First floor of the hub is occupied by the reception with information centre and hotel rooms accommodating 45 guests in a double to quadruple rooms. Top floor of the hub serves as a panoramic restaurant with a staggering view to the city and the valley. Southern part is dedicated to the restaurant terrace offering a view to the opposite side of the valley and plenty of southern sun. The complex is materialized in exposed materials – timber slats, exposed concrete, clear and frosted glass and aluminium frames.



- A - City connection
- B - Sports courts
- C - Parking
- D - Bus parking
- E - Naval petrol station
- F - Bus stops
- G - Hub
- H - Oasis
- I - Apartments (cottages)
- J - Short-time docking
- K - Long-time docking
- L - Reserve anchorage
- M - Anchorage
- N - Possible shipdrop/repairs
- O - Park



Visualization riverfront

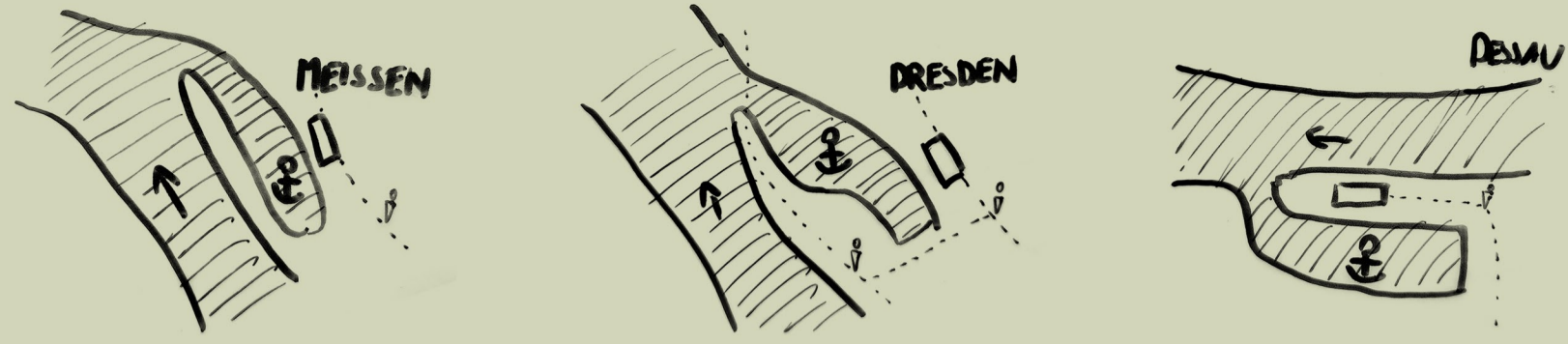


Visualization anchorage bay

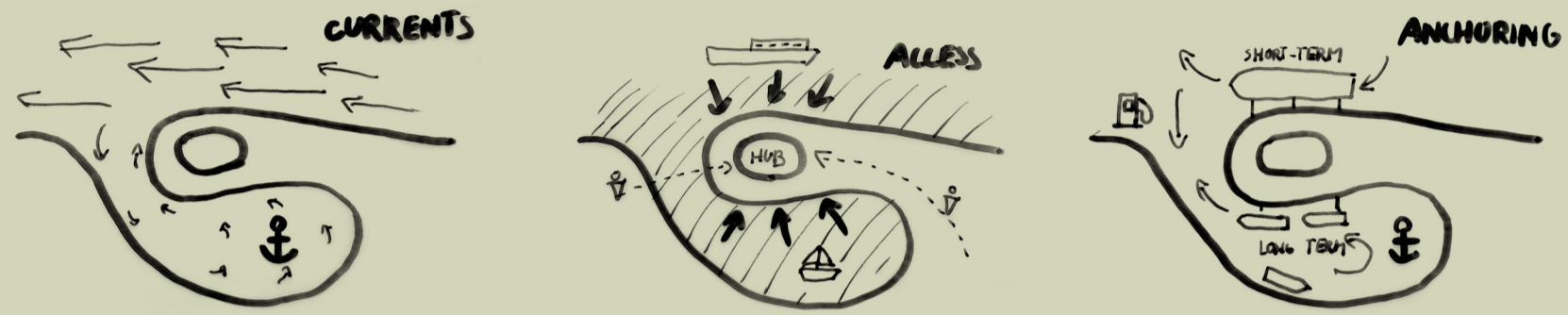


Visualization entrance

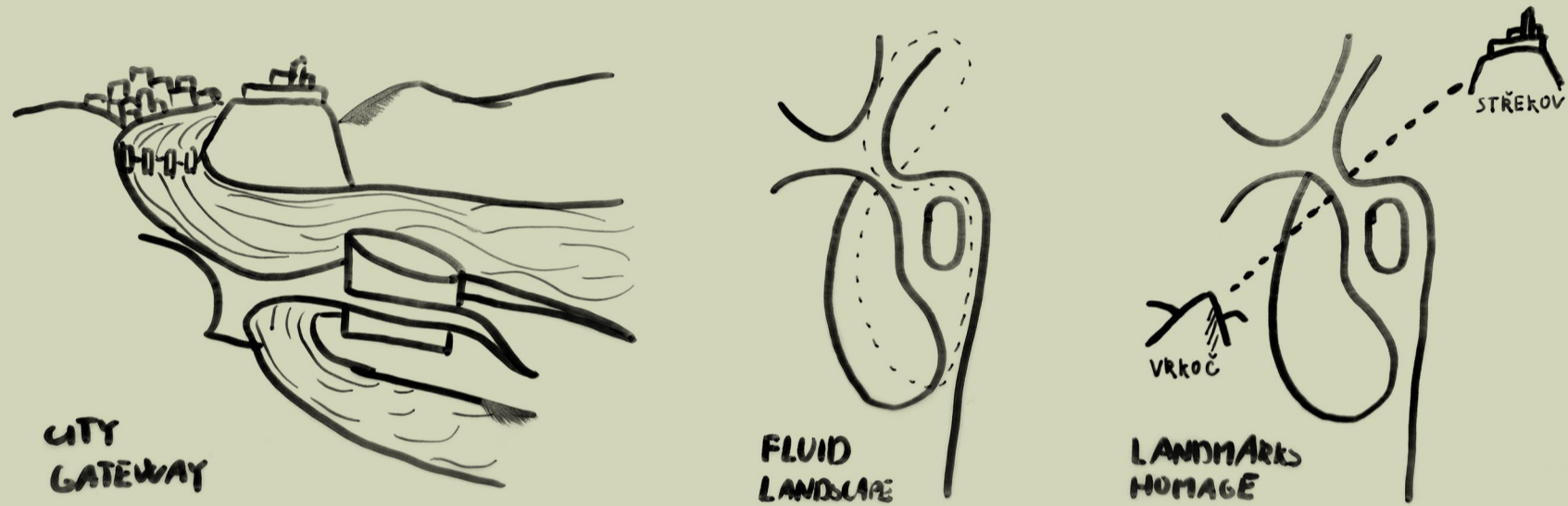
I. LABE PORT ANALYSIS



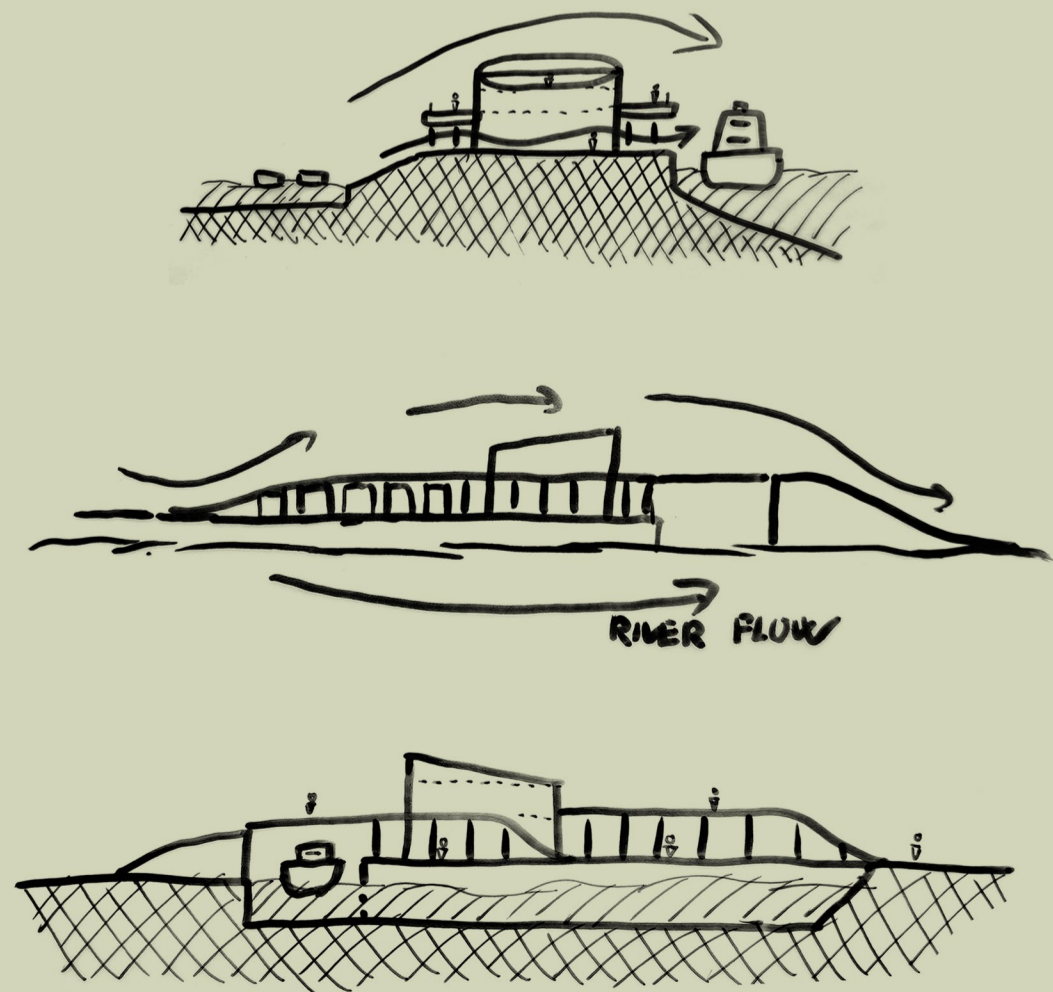
II. SAFE HAVEN



III. GENIUS LOCI



IV. LANDSCAPE INTEGRATION



V. BUILDING DESIGN

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