



Rocks on the Channel
Kichitwaa Shkwaandem

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introduction

The Kichitwaa Shkwaandem (Heaven's Gate) Trail is an extraordinary natural place located on the shore of the Lake Huron North Channel just north of Manitoulin Island. The site is bookended by two first nation communities with Sagamok First Nation on the trail's west side and Whitefish River First Nation on the east. The land and the North Channel are significant to indigenous history and continue to hold cultural importance today. The trail stretches 38 km from Sagamok First Nation in the west to hwy 6 in the east. There is an additional back entry access to the trail through the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve south west of the hwy 6 access point. The site is a part of the La Cloche Mountain range and is known for its dramatic geologic formations and striking white quartzite. In addition to the unique geology on the site it is also an ecologically diverse area. The trail has been subject to very little human disruption leaving the natural environment to thrive in its wildness.

As one passes through the Kichitwaa Shkwaandem Trail they will encounter breath taking vistas, and incredible displays of trees, plants, animals and fungus, the solitude of the wilderness and unparalleled experiences.

The following interventions will seek to respond to and appreciate this remarkable landscape.



abstract

The Kichitwaa Shkwaandem (Heaven's Gate) Trail is a vast expanse of wildness. It is differentiated from Ontario's developed landscape by its isolation from the built world. The Trail has been uniquely shaped by a majority of natural influences. Design interventions will be driven by the preservation of the site to maintain its naturally formed elements. The design process centers around responding to the site, beginning with site selection. The primary site selected preserves the existing landscape with none intrusive building access by boat via the North Channel. While the secondary site, on Frood Creek, will use interventions to deter ATV traffic which is currently causing detrimental harm to the site. Following site selection, site analysis identifies key aspect of the site, informing the design.

Site analysis has been an important process to understand not only the current condition of the site, but the shaping of the area over time. The geologic processes the site underwent holds an immense impact on the landscape. The geology is the narration of the site's story, it has dictated the events which have occurred there. The design interventions respond to the site through mimicking the geologic process of layering. The elements which shape the site will be represented through a layered dimensional lumber assembly.

Intervention forms will be built up from stacked 2 x 4, 2 x 6 and 2 x 8 wood members. The layered horizontal members will be interlocked with perpendicular vertical members to support the structure of the interventions. To reduce the impact of the interventions, the materiality will consist of cedar wood members, cedar shingles, and wood dowels. The construction will occur on site to allow the landscape to inform the assembly. Irregularity will be introduced in the wood members through their width and length to imitate natural formations. In addition, the cabin interventions will replicate the form of the unique rock formation on the shore edge of the site.

The interventions, guided by shaping elements of the existing site will strive to host an intangible shaping of the place through experience. In summary, the design will be guided by acknowledgment, respect and preservation of the existing landscape and an exploration of positive shaping through the build form.

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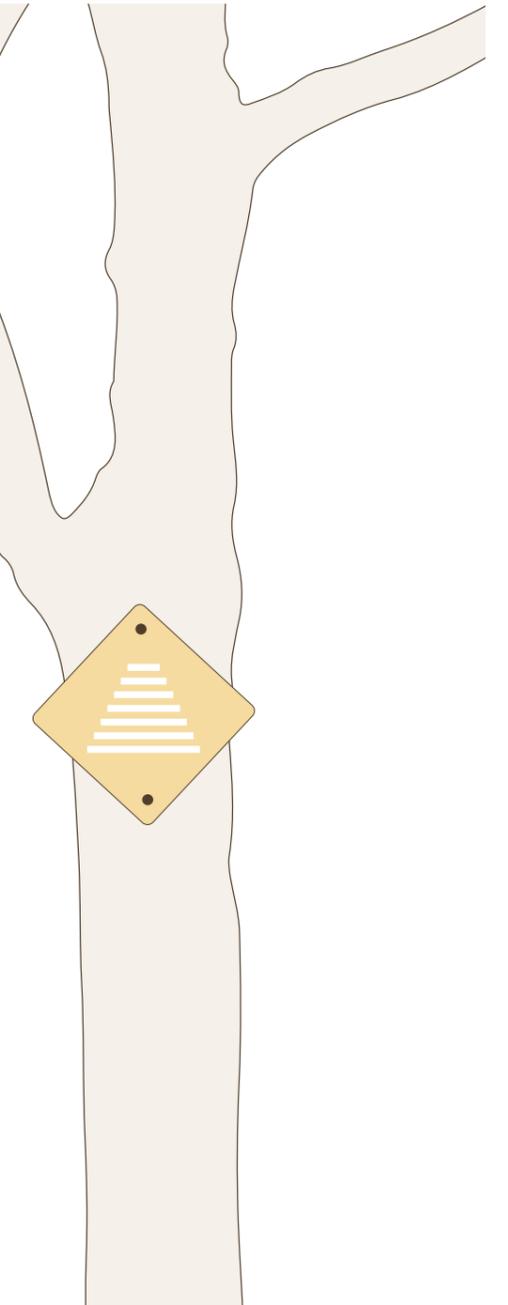
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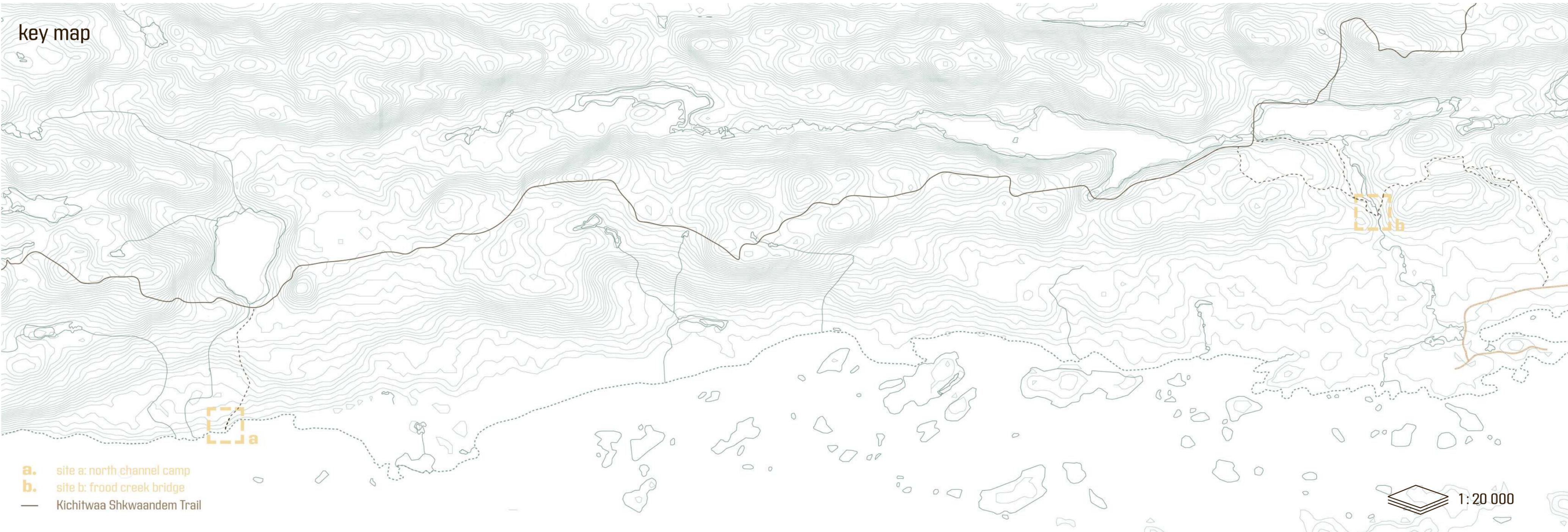
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wayfinding



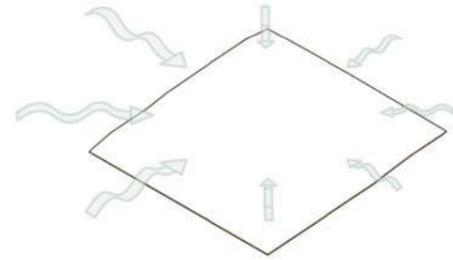
key map



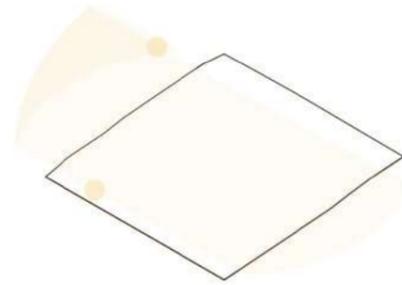
- a.** site a: north channel camp
- b.** site b: frood creek bridge
- Kichitwaa Shkwaandem Trail

1:20 000

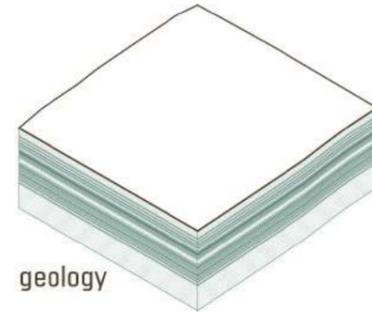
site synthesis



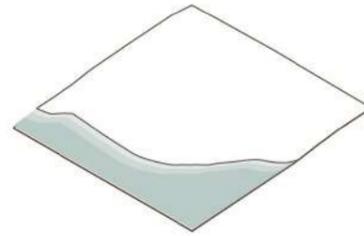
wind



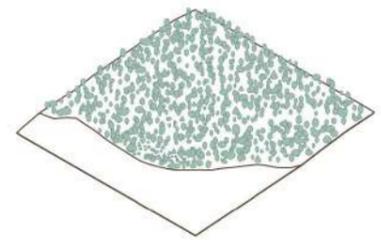
sun



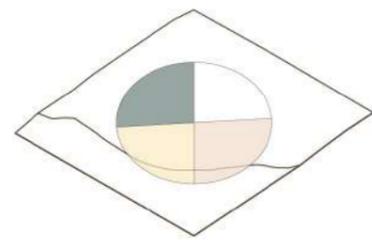
geology



water



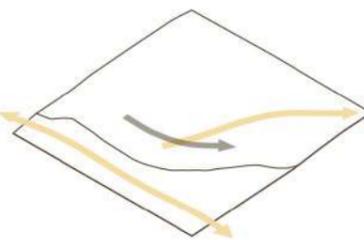
flora & fauna



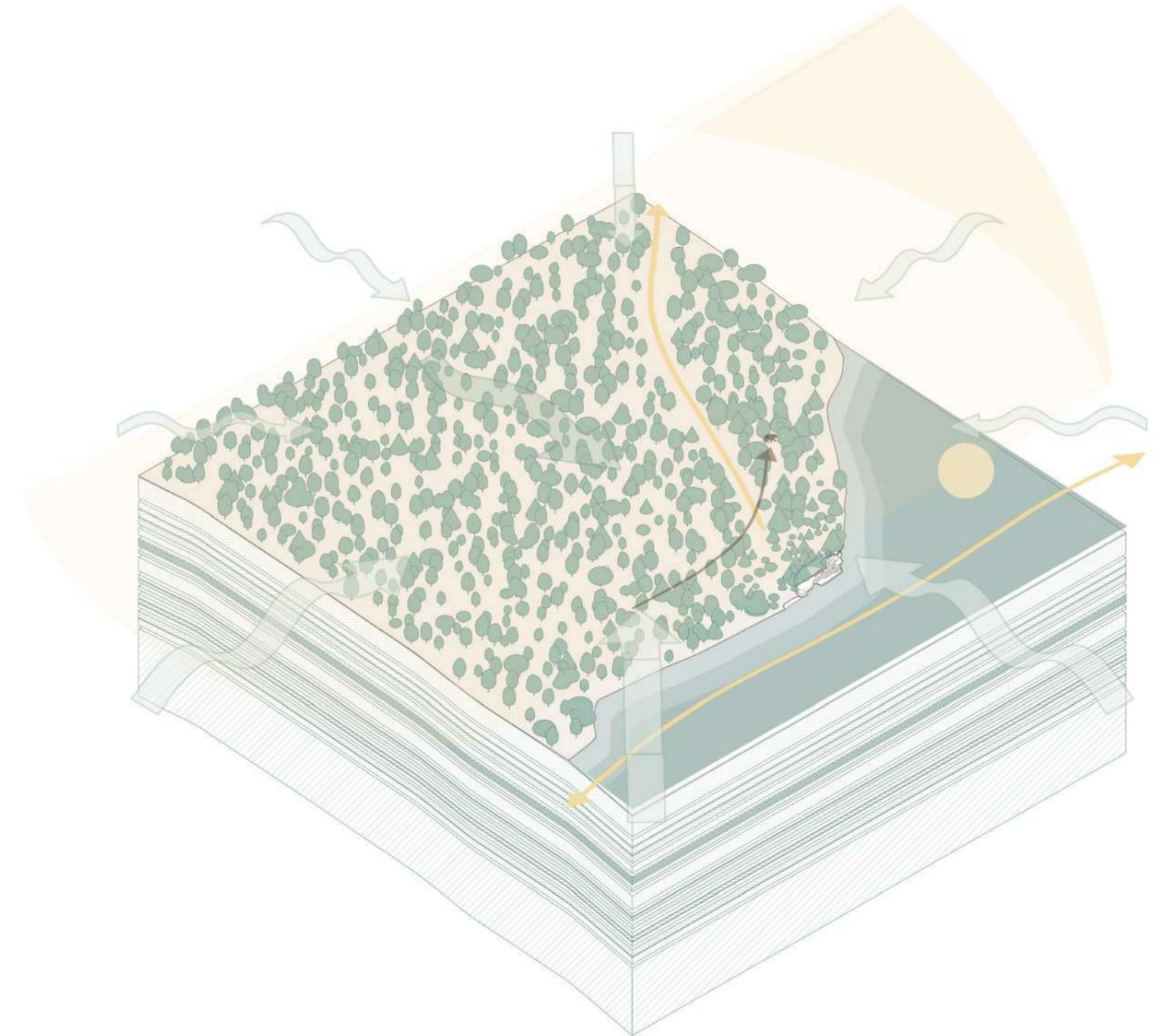
culture & history



art¹



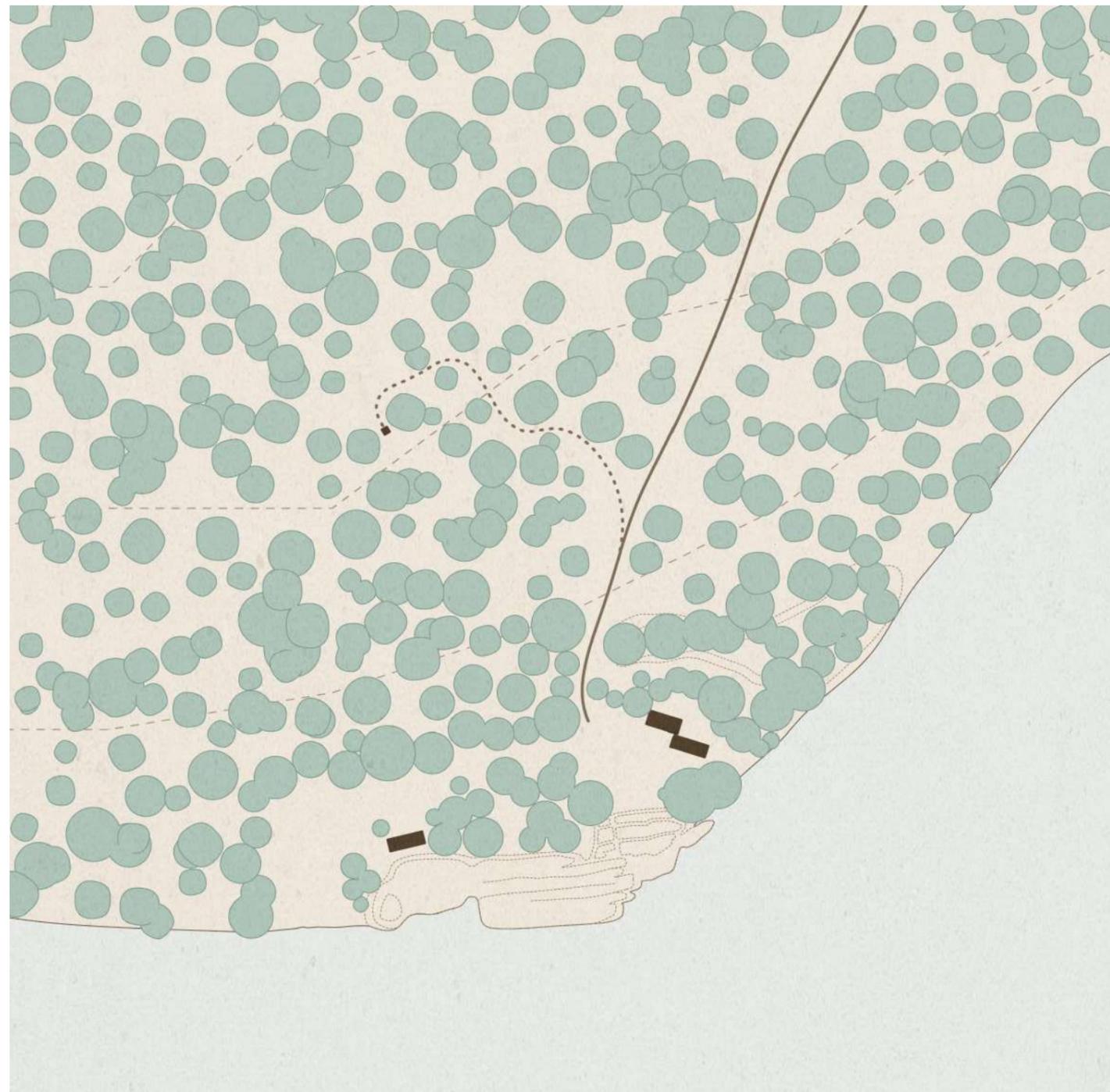
paths



1. Carmichael, Franklin. *Bay of Islands*. 1930. Northern Ontario Travel, <https://www.northernontario.travel/northeastern-ontario/painting-the-north-channel>. Accessed December 14, 2020.

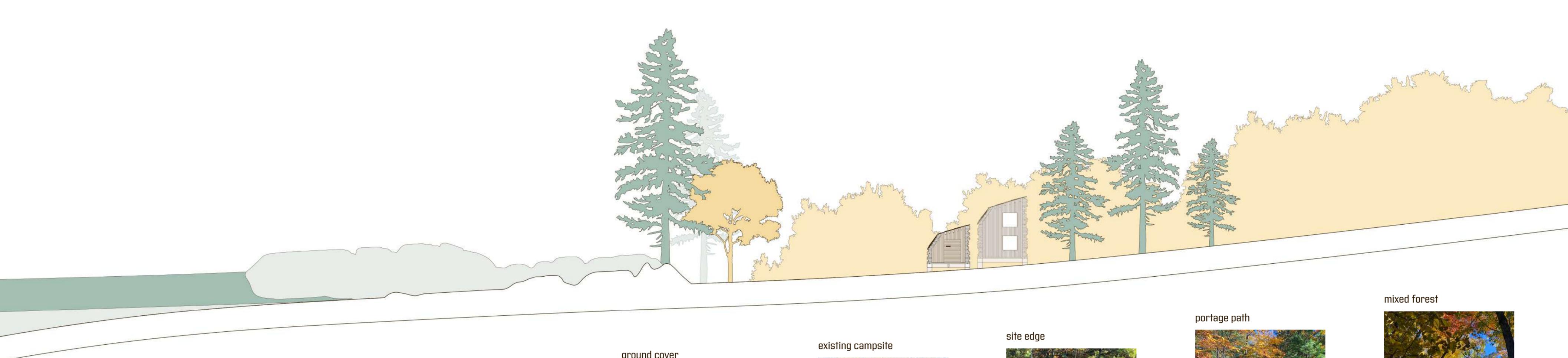
north channel camp

located 1 km off of the kichitwaa
shkwaandem trail and accessed through
a narrow unmarked portage trail which
leads from wright's lake camp (20 km) to
the north channel shoreline

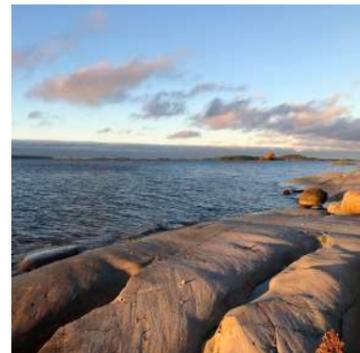


1:750





shoreline



rock formation



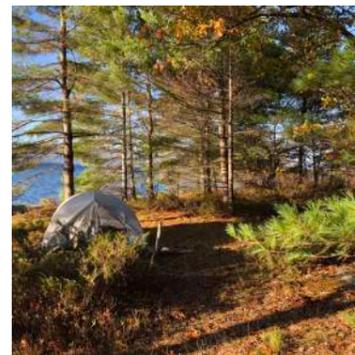
reindeer lichen



ground cover



existing campsite



site edge



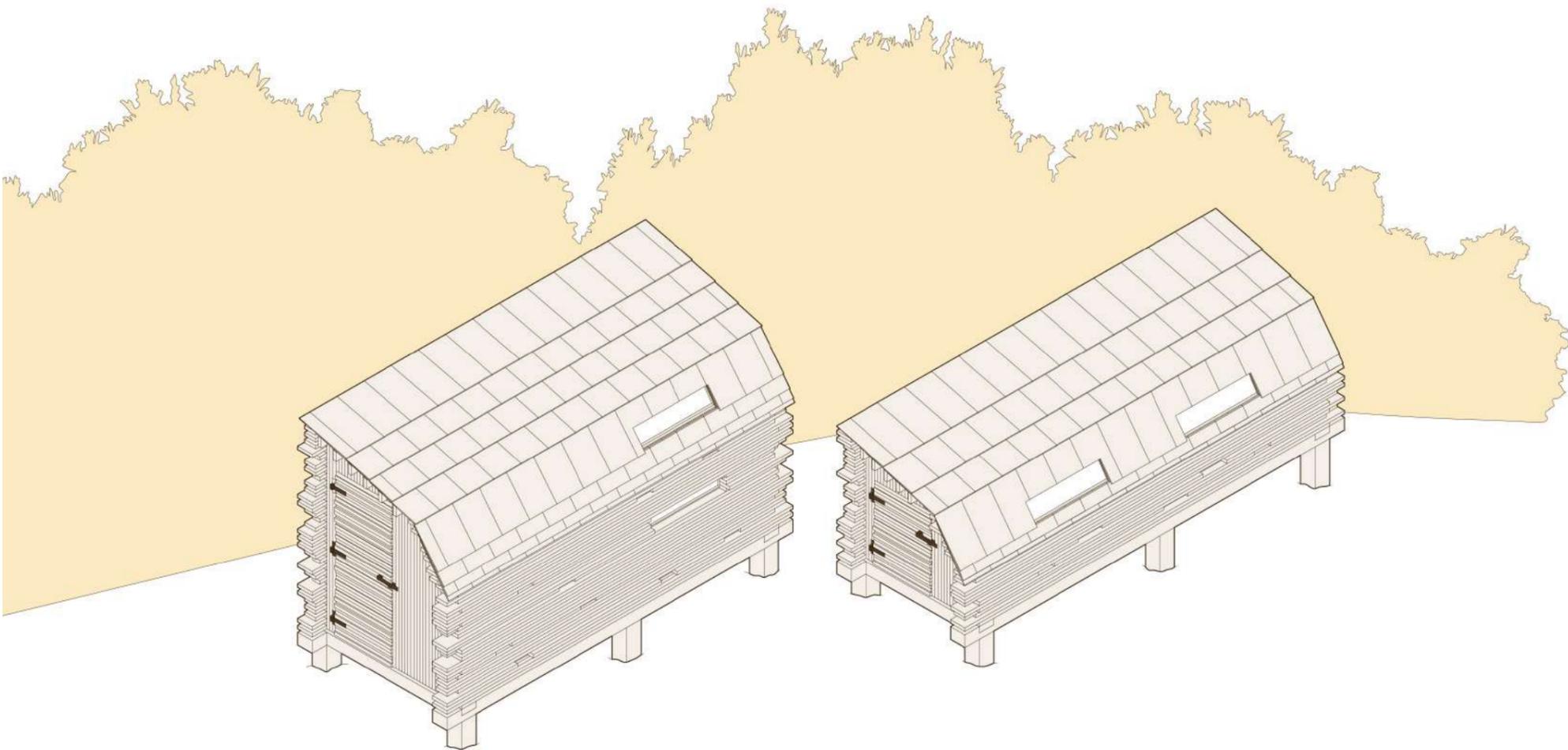
portage path



mixed forest



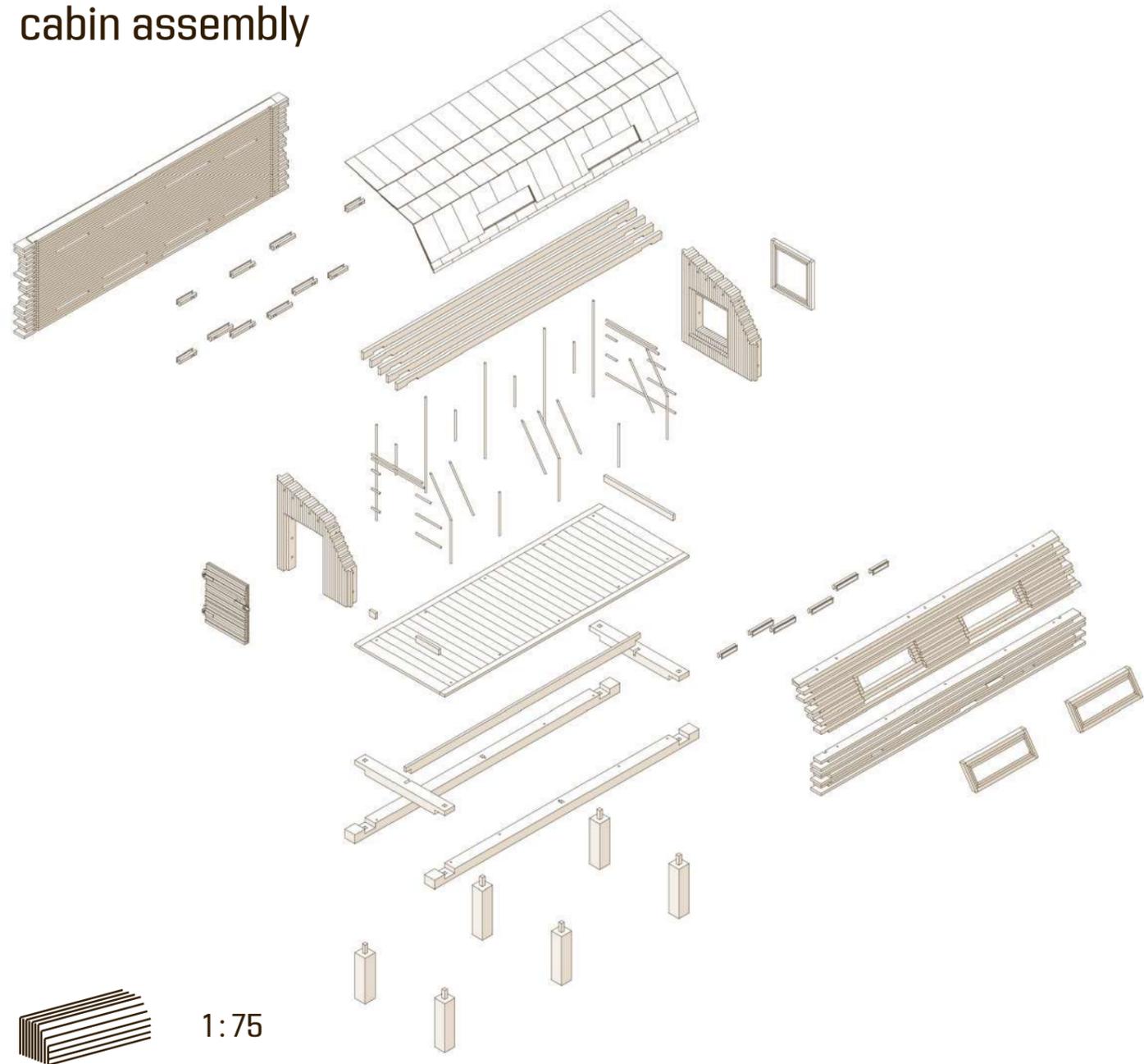
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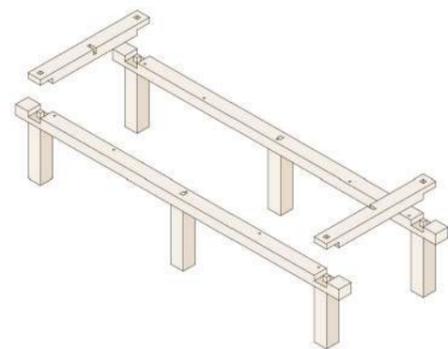
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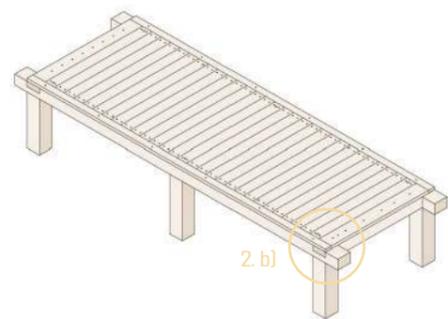
cabin assembly



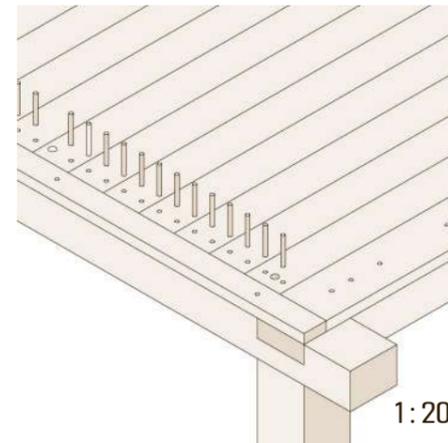
1. footing mortise and tenon joint



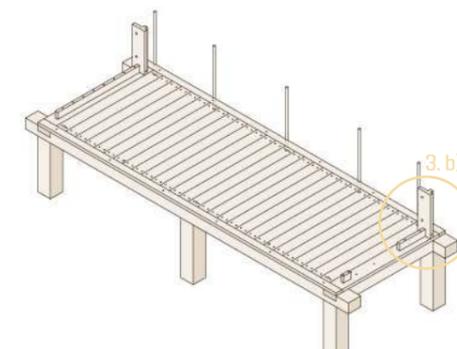
2. floor



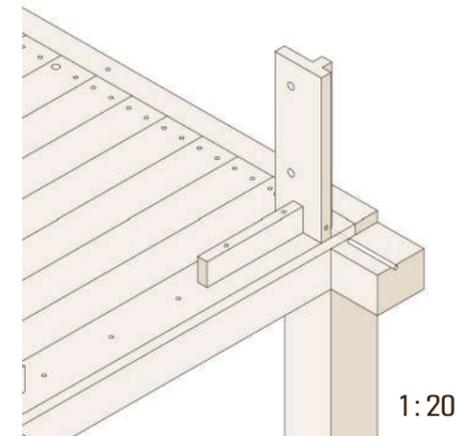
2. b) floor dowel connection



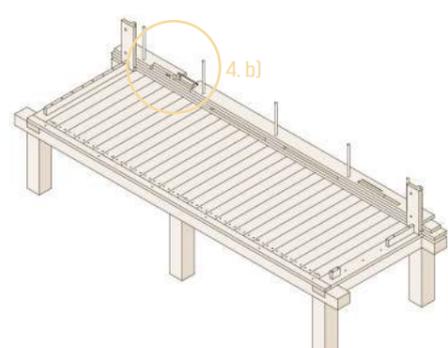
3. vertical dowels for wall assembly



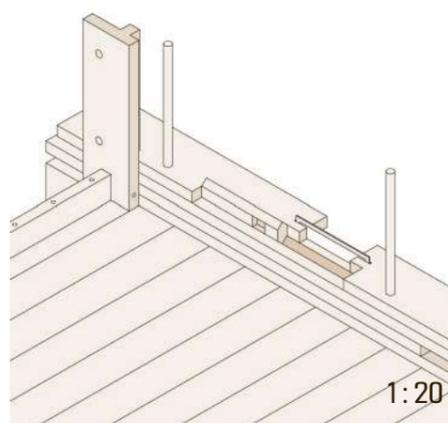
3. b) vertical member connection



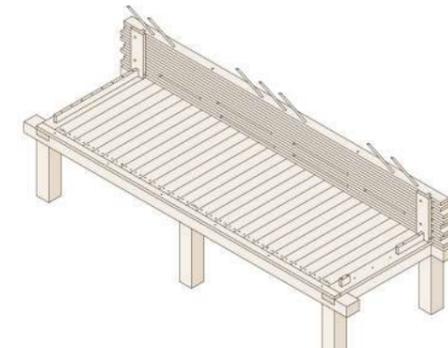
4. stacking the front wall



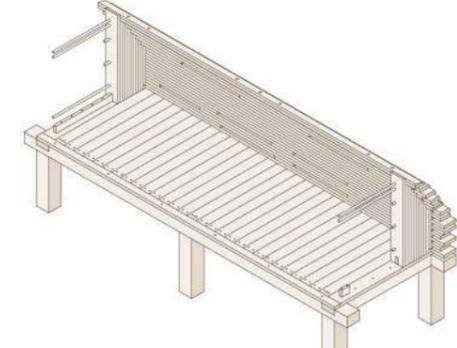
4. b) sliding vents built into the walls



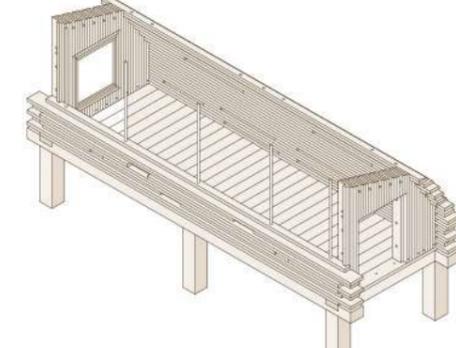
5. dowels for angled wall



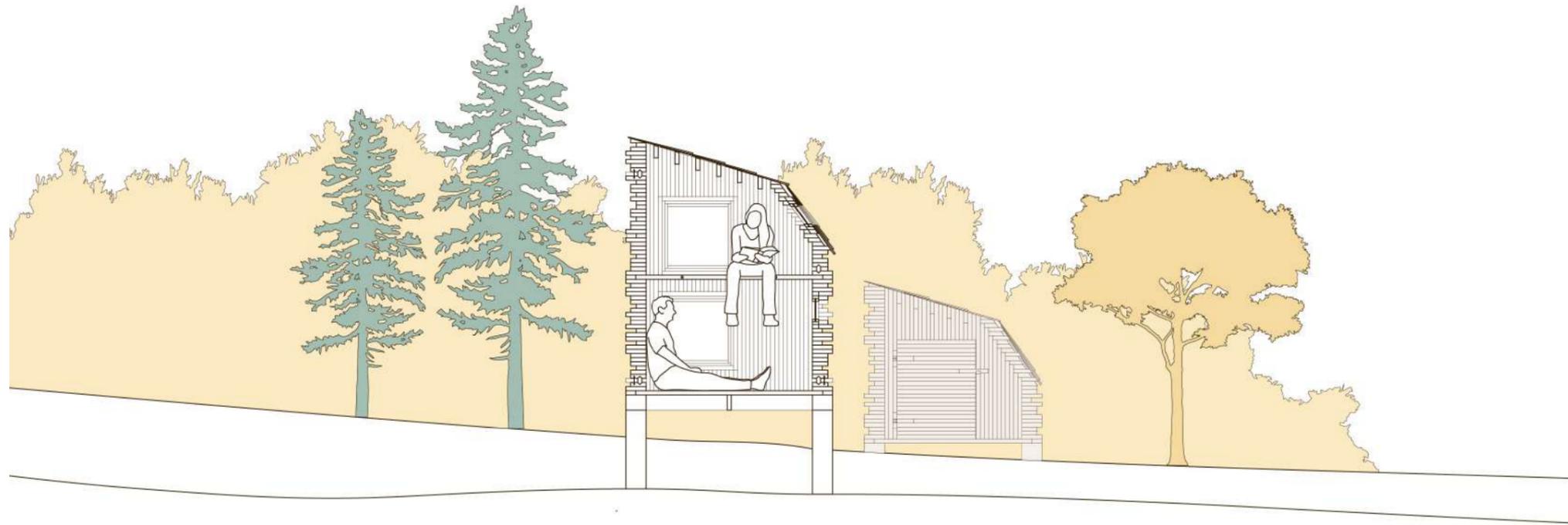
6. end wall assembly



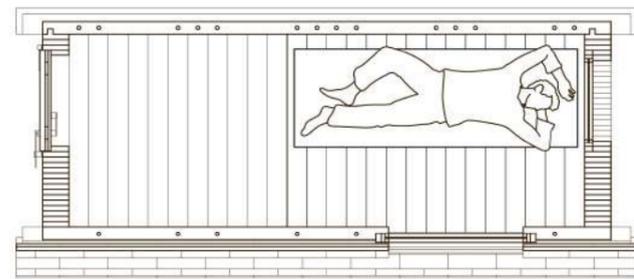
7. stacking the back wall



big cabin



1:50

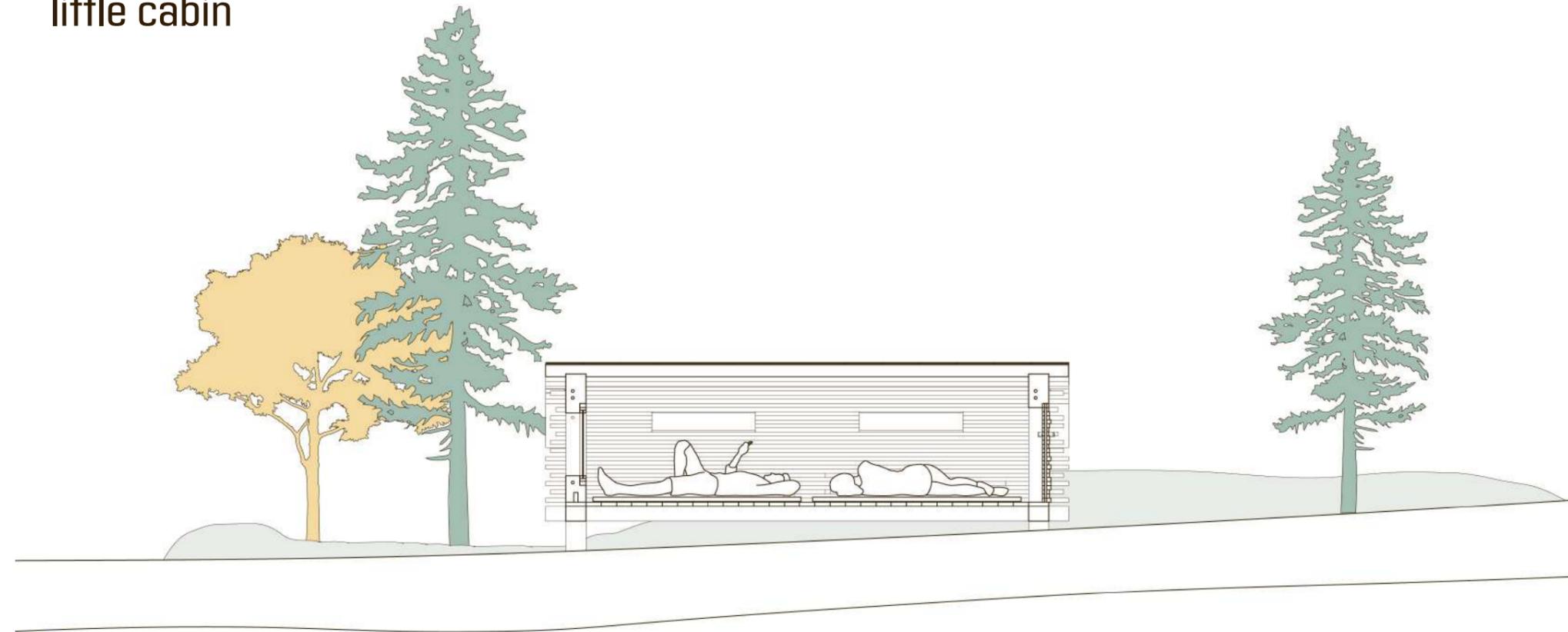


big cabin sleeps four

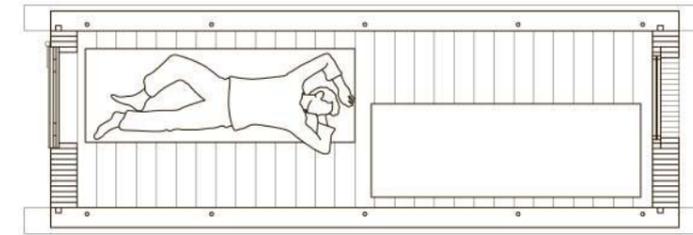


1:50

little cabin



1:50



little cabin sleeps two

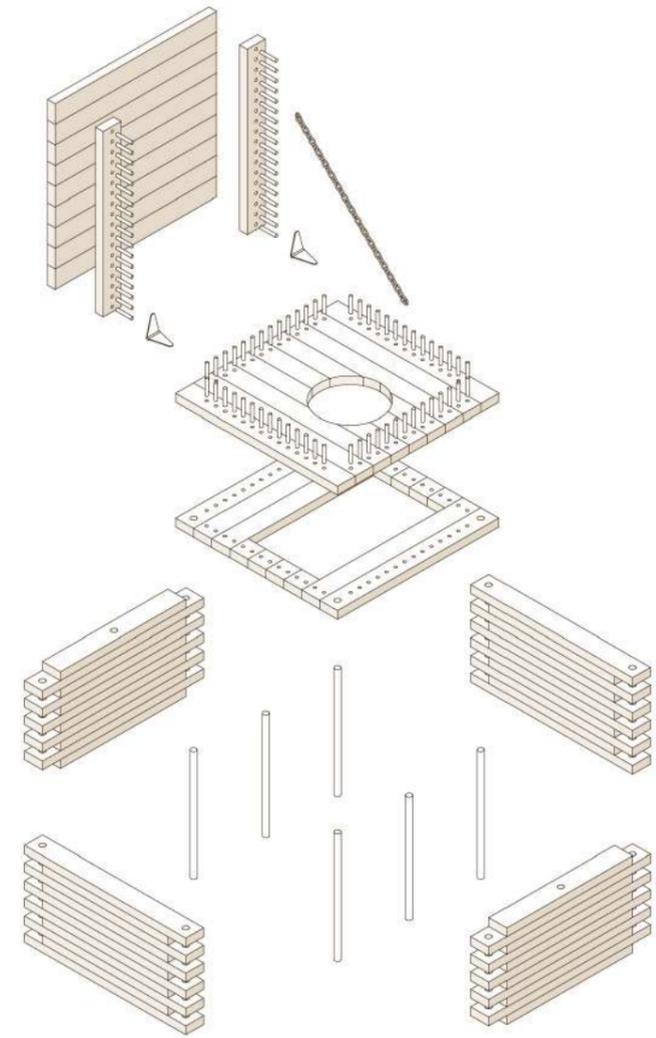


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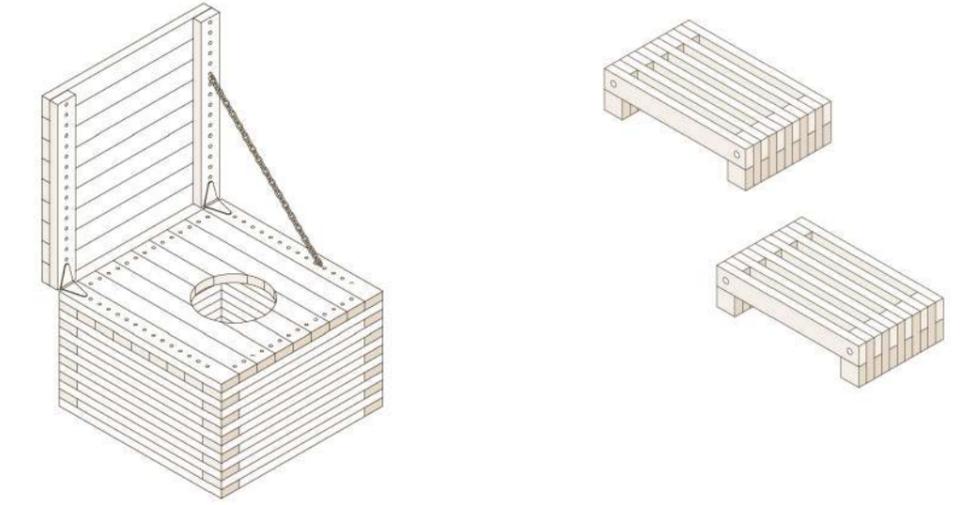


cabin site furniture

thunderbox

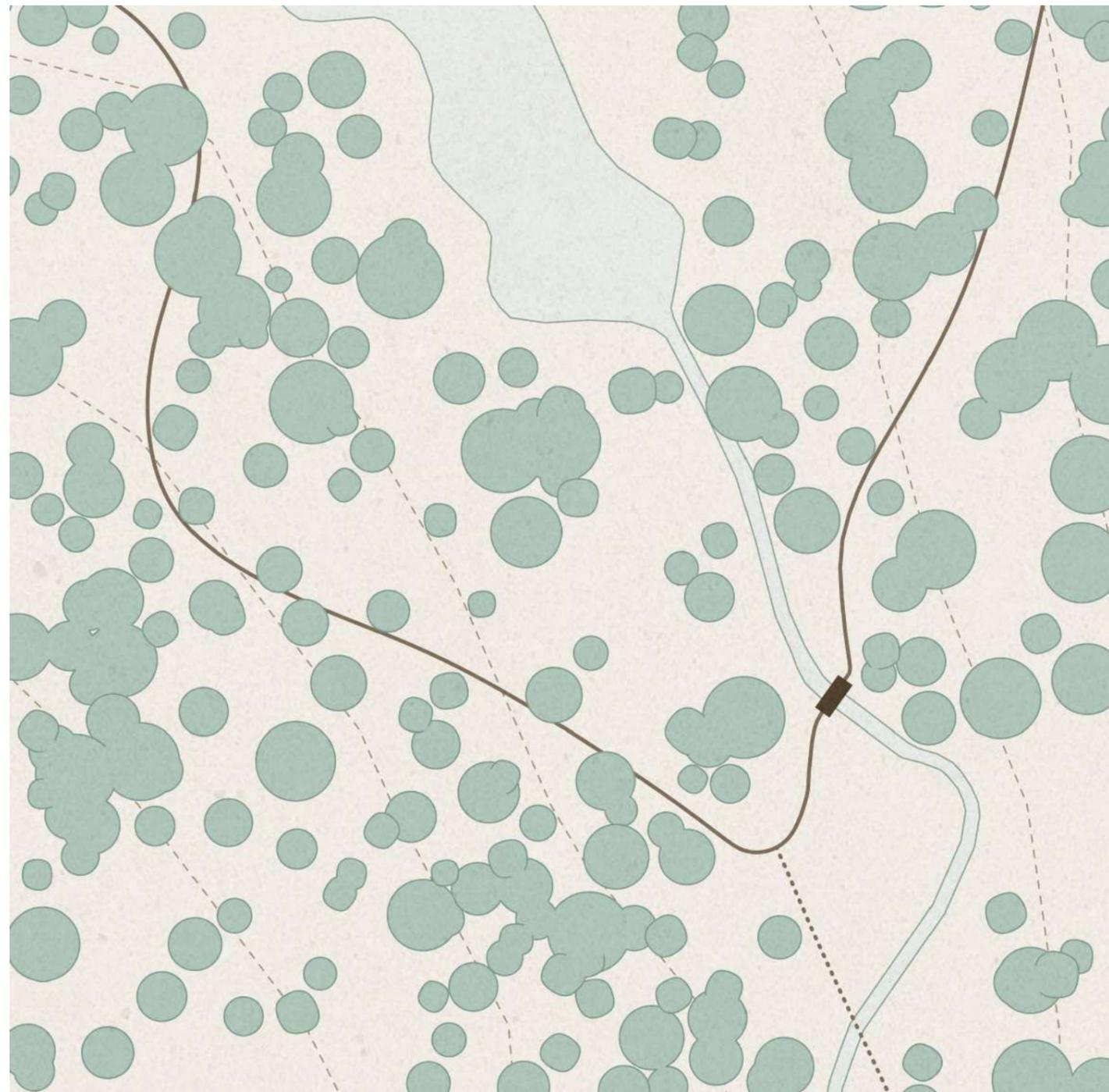


seat



frood creek bridge

located in the back entry access to the
kichitwaa shkwaandem trail through the La
Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve on the
red deer trail

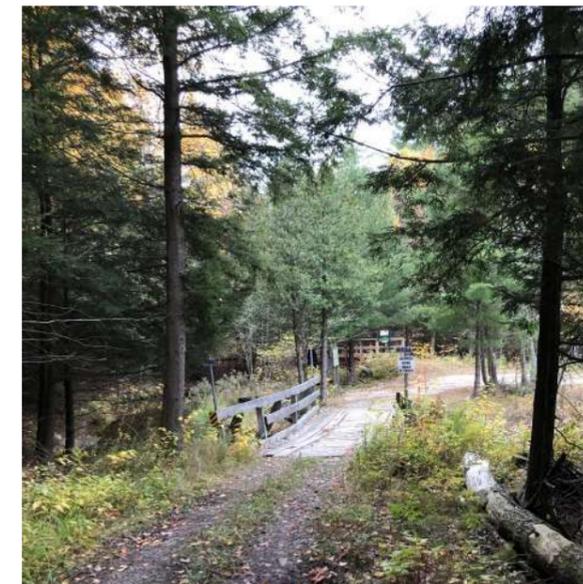


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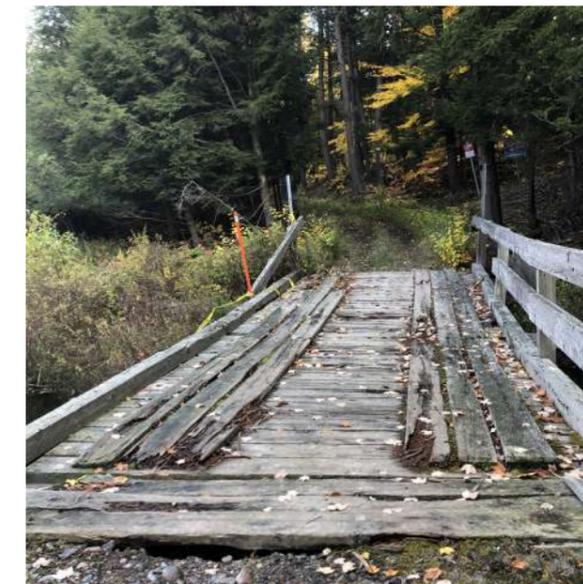
trail damage caused by atvs



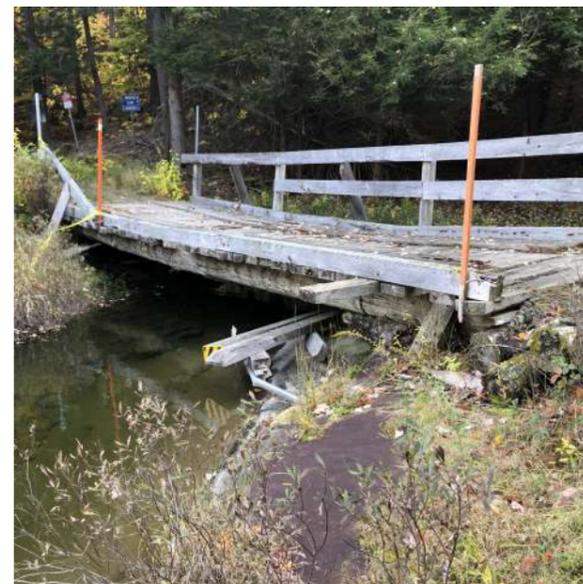
red deer trail



existing bridge



existing bridge over creek

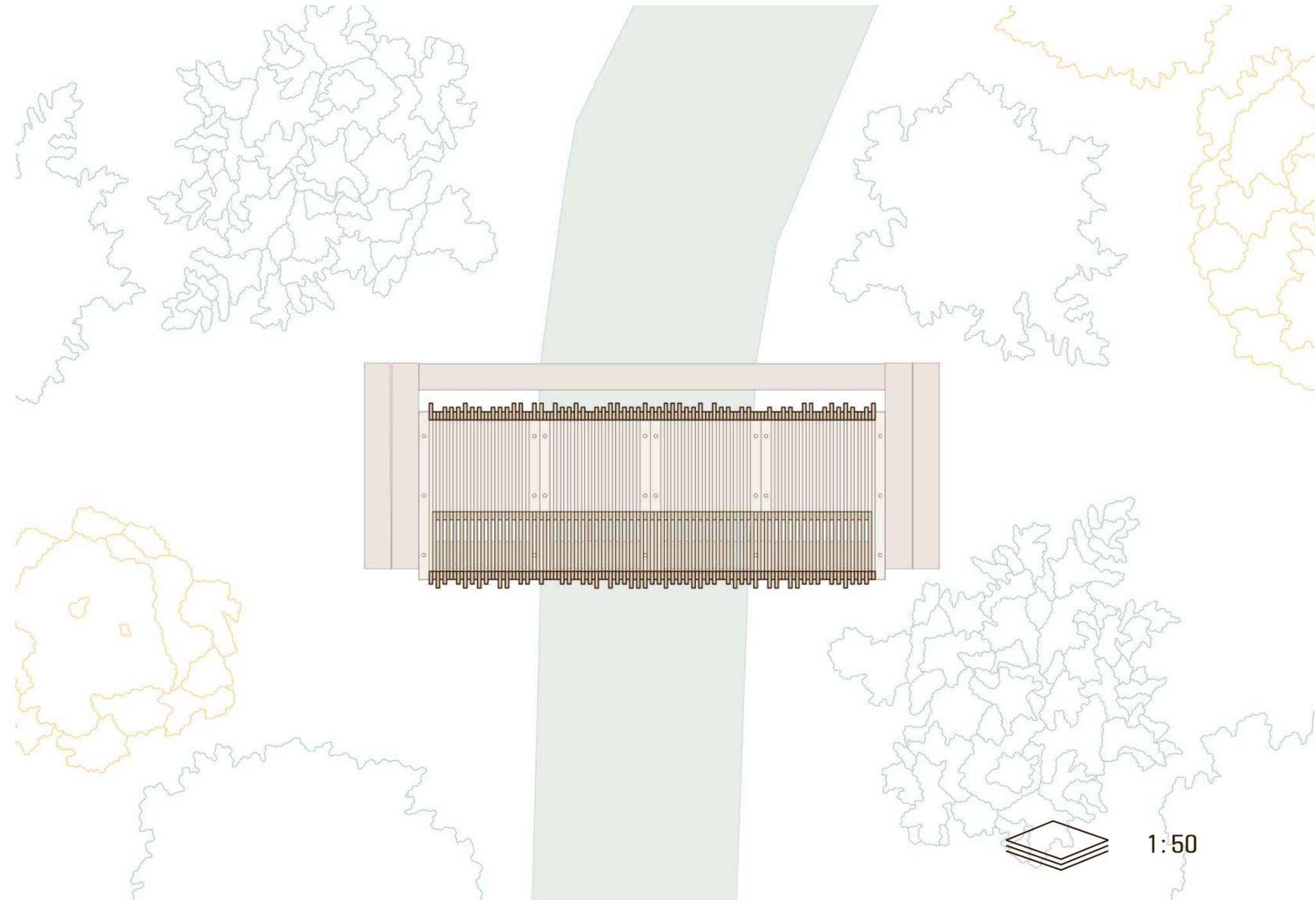
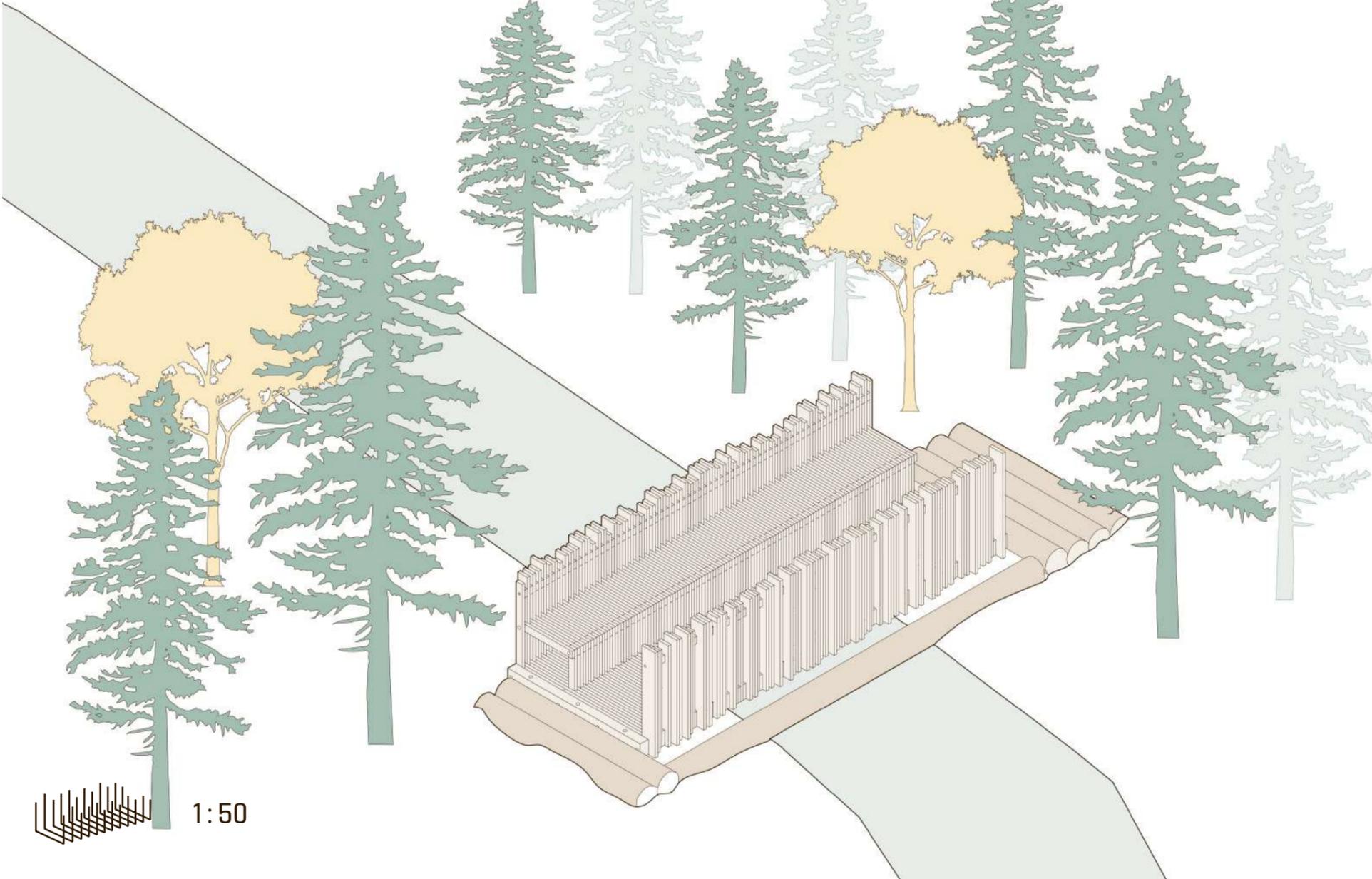


frood creek

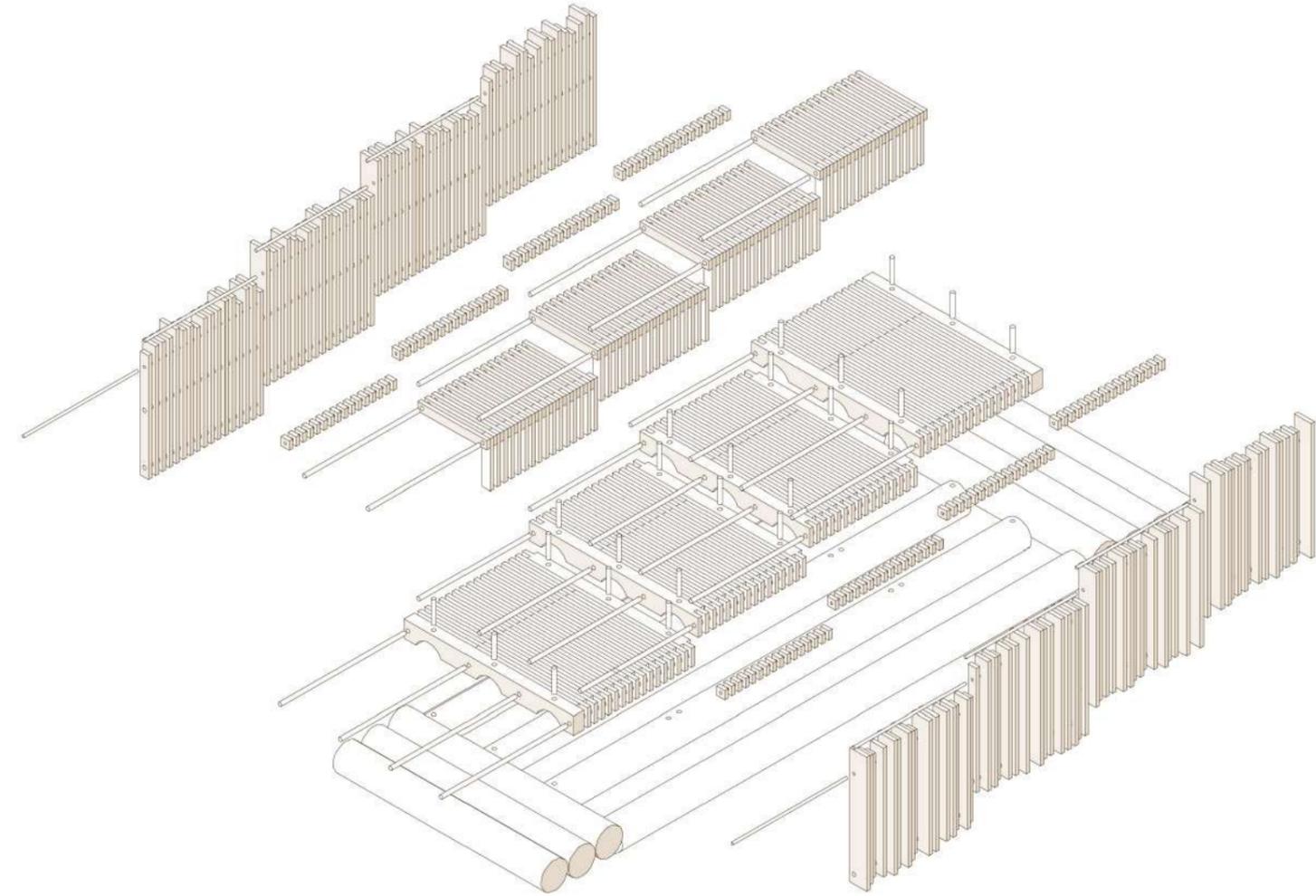


existing bridge footing



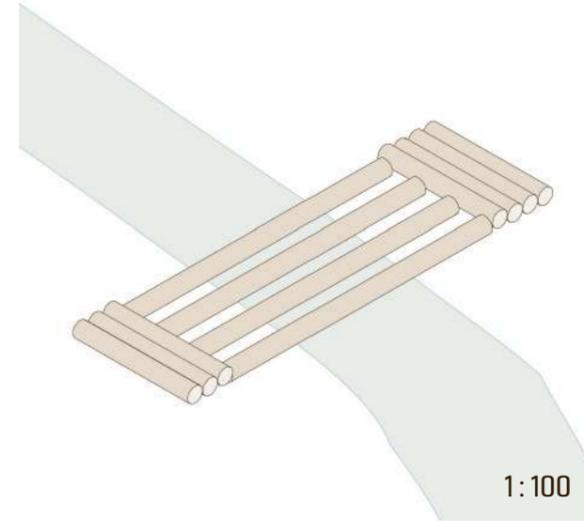


bridge assembly



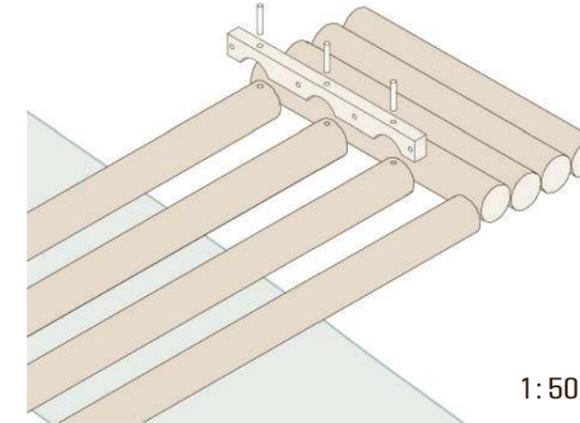
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1. foundation logs from previous bridge



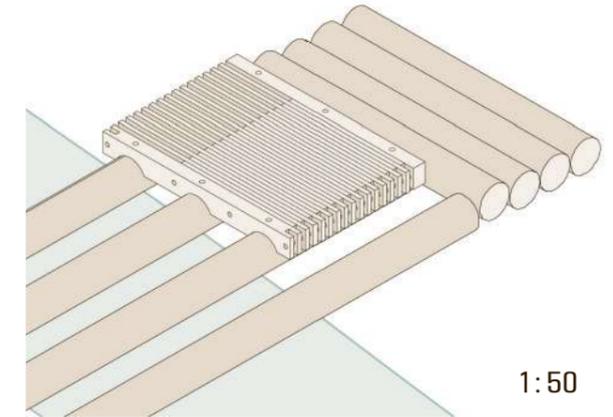
1:100

2. base to foundation logs dowel connection



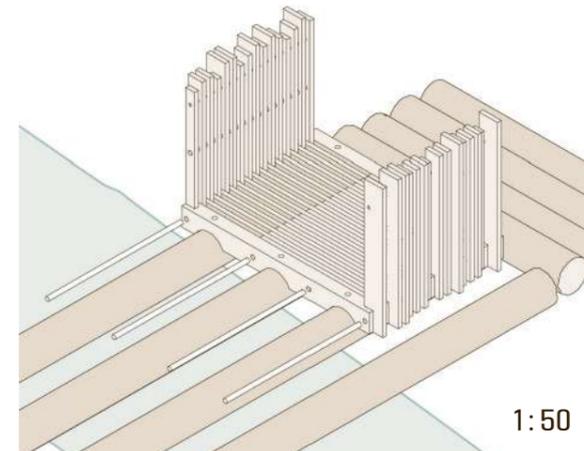
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3. section 1 base assembled



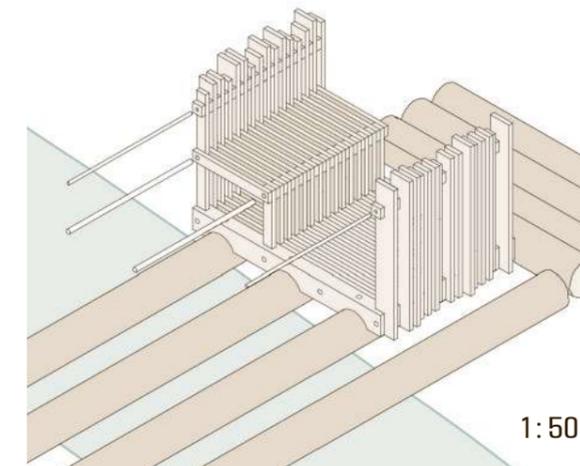
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4. railing to base dowel connection



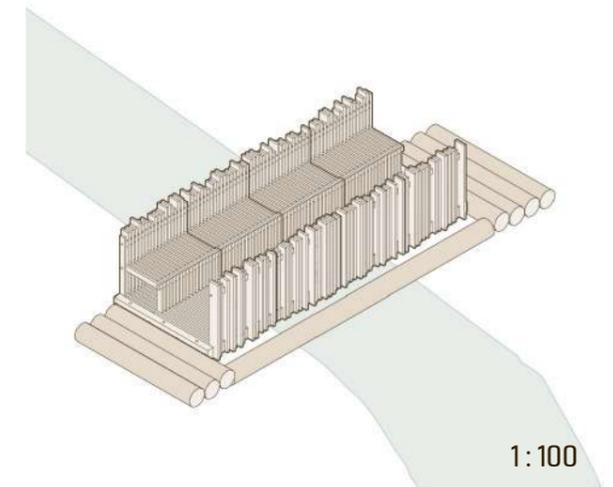
1:50

5. bench to railing dowel connection



1:50

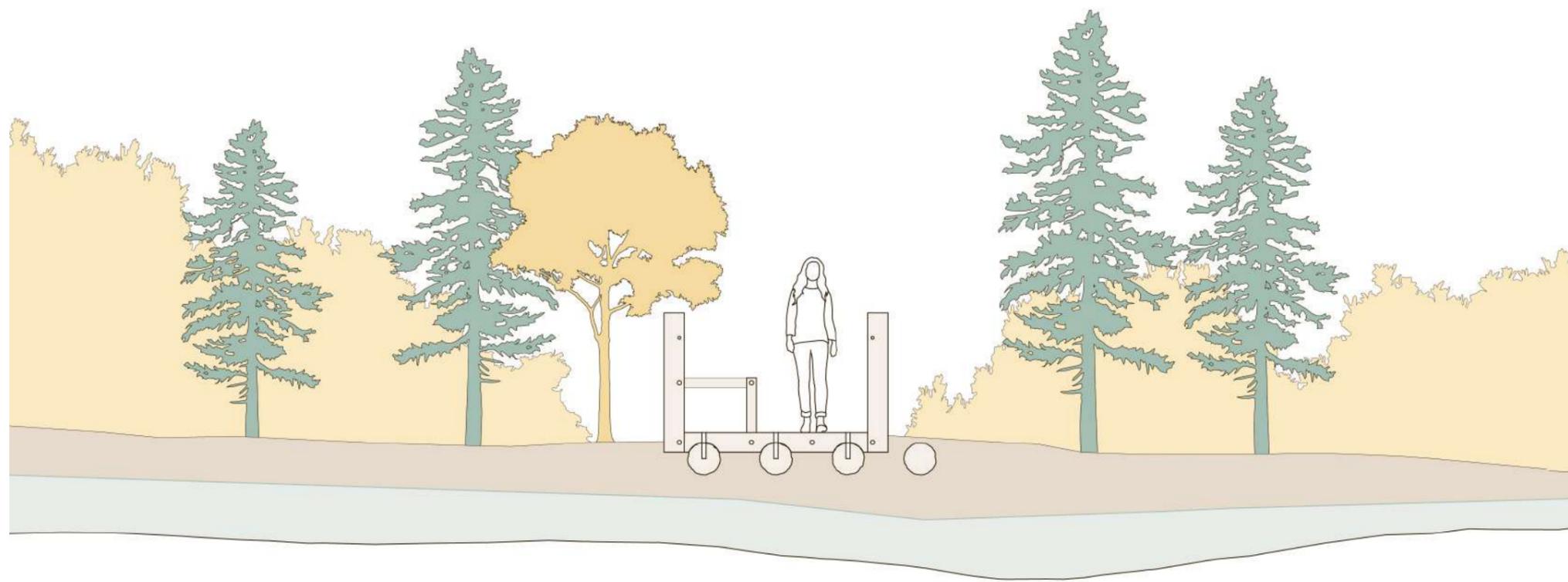
6. installation completed in four sections



1:100

summer crossing

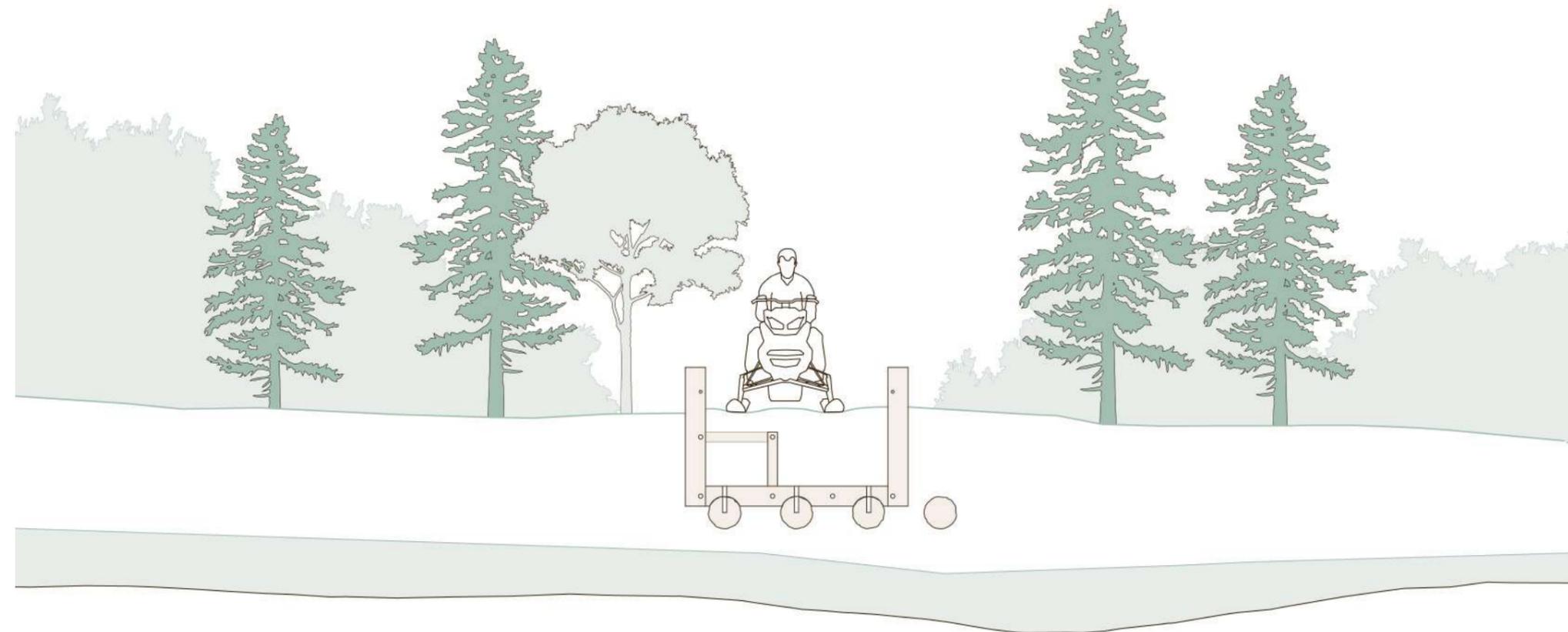
seat prevents atv passage by narrowing the bridge



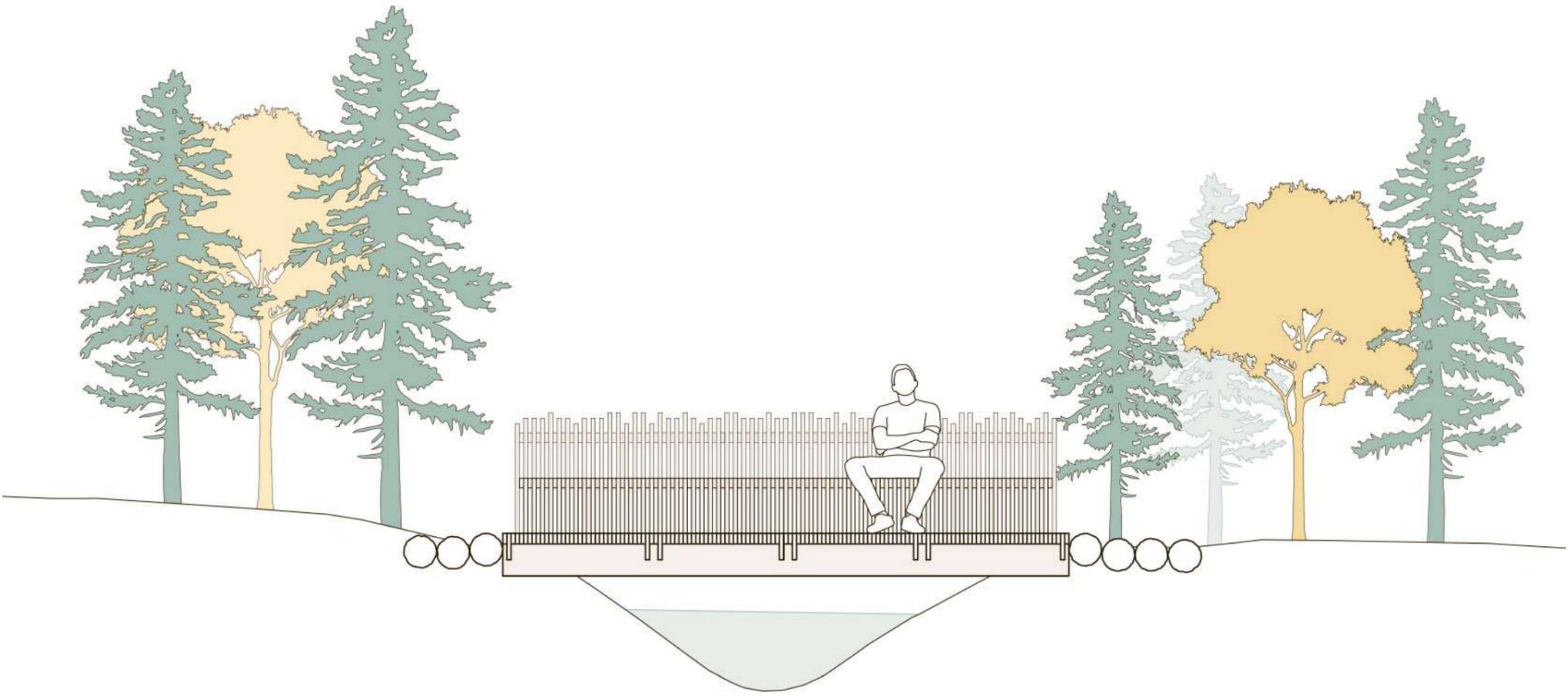
 1:50

winter crossing

snow infill widens the bridge allowing snowmobile passage



 1:50



1:50



appendix

model assignment

model 1

flora/fauna 1 : aerie



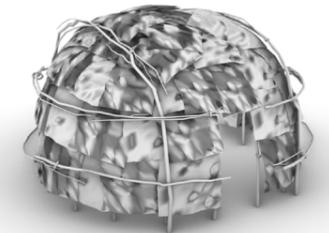
model 2

flora/fauna 2 : dam & lodge



model 3

indigenous : wigwam



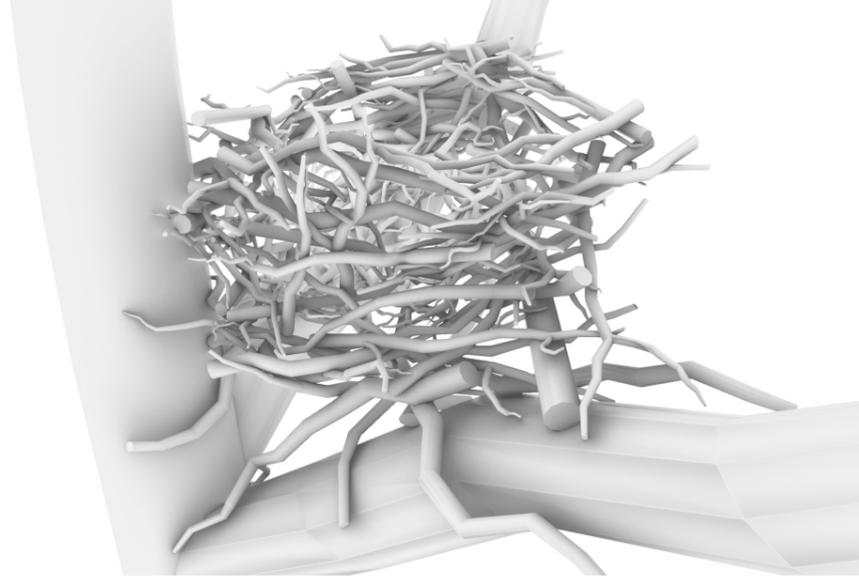
model 4

colonial : pièces sur pièce



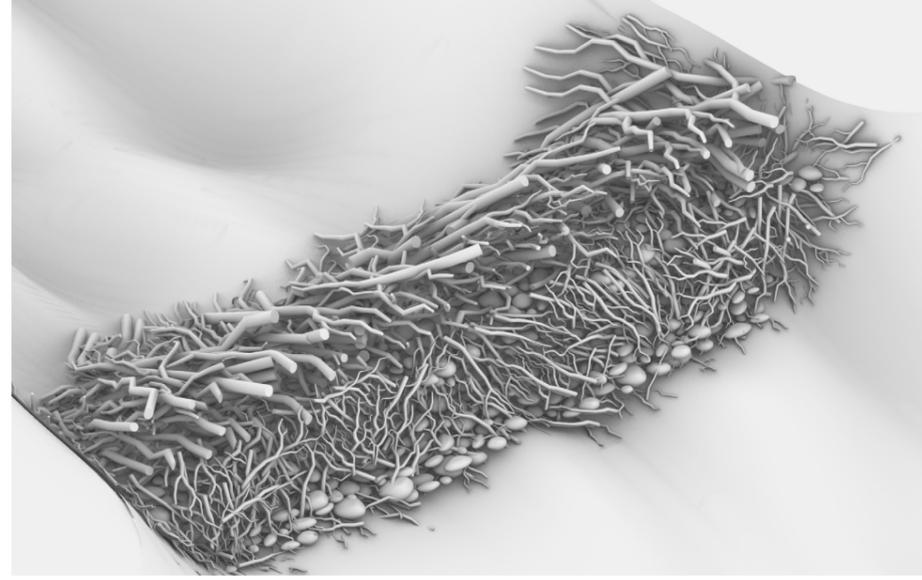
flora/fauna 1 : aerie

2020/09/15



flora/fauna 2 : dam & lodge

2020/09/18



indigenous : wigwam

2020/09/24

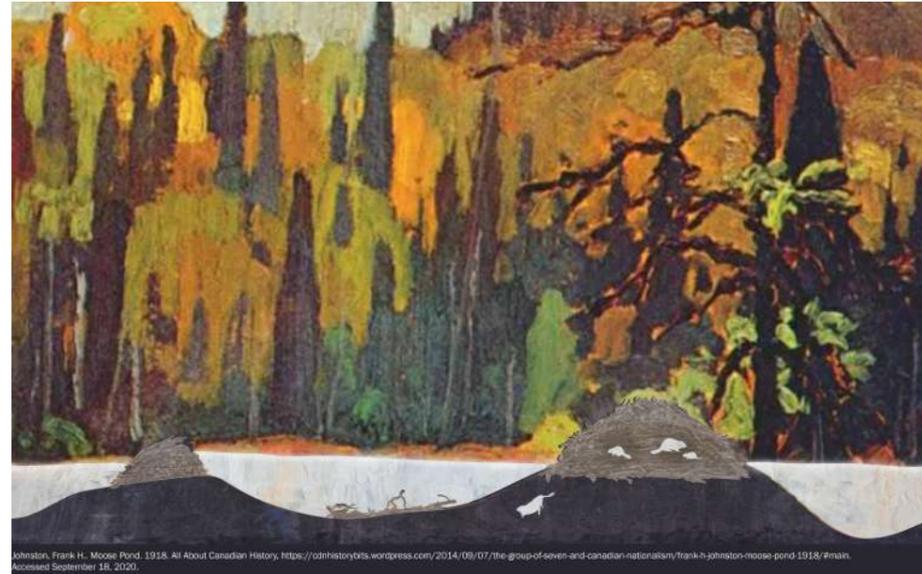


colonial : pièces sur pièce

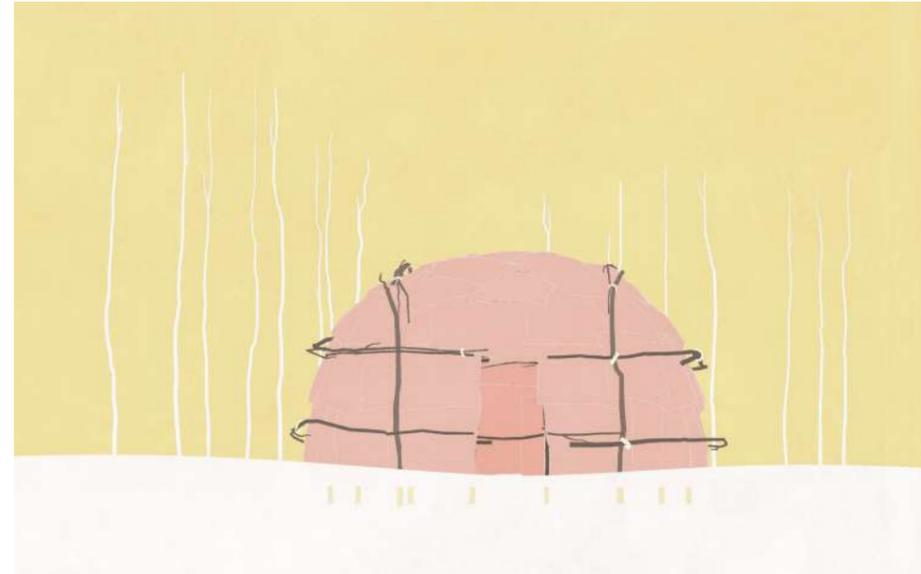
2020/10/06



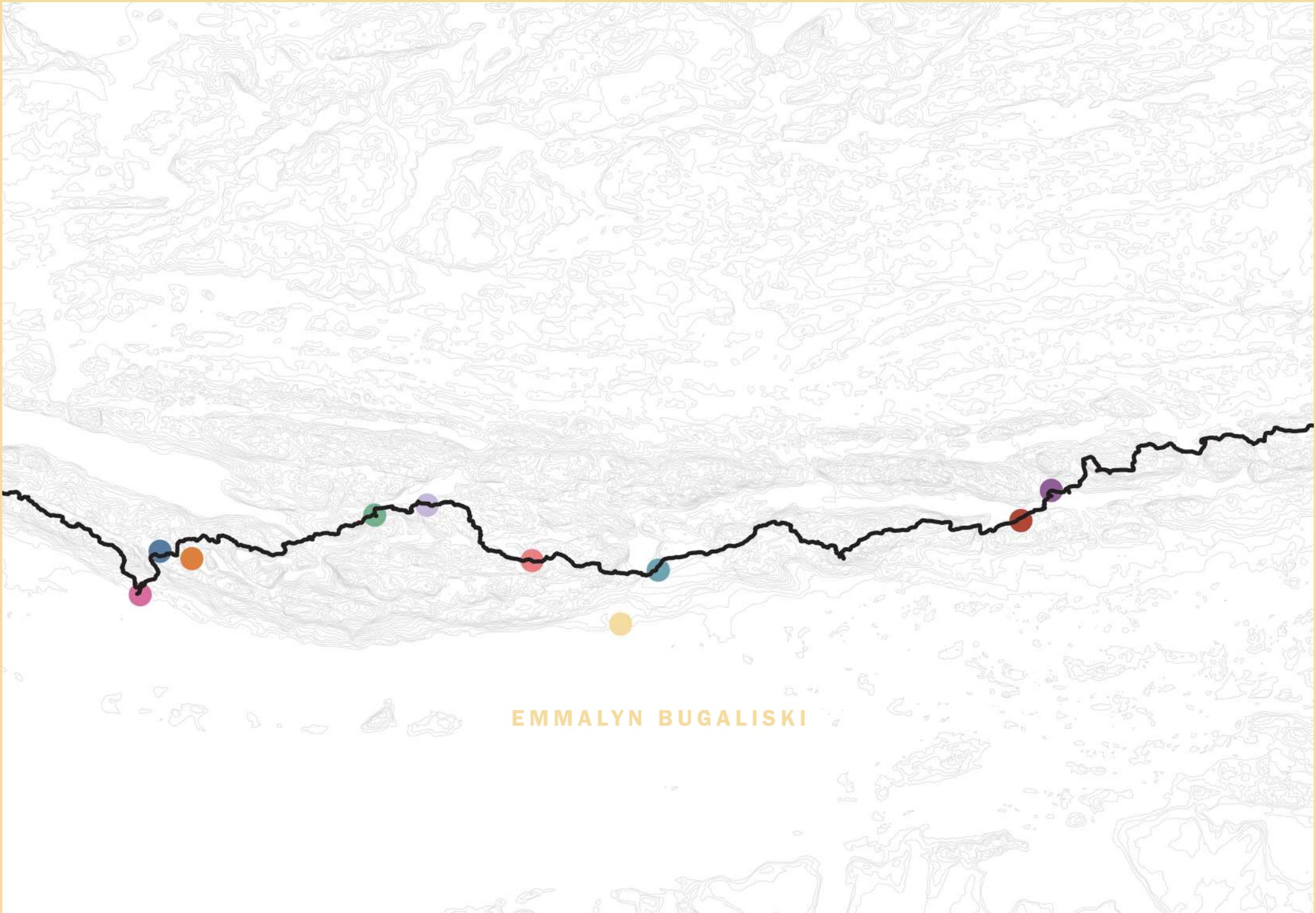
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If each of these three dwells are found placed in the situation and with the form which is necessary for them will be coming to aid for the work as perfectly done. (1)
Do not let us lose sight of our little rustic cabin. (2)
Buildings are made for habitation, and they are not habitable but in as much they are convenient. (3)



EMMALYN BUGALISKI