

Reading the Temporal Landscape: A Performance in Architecture and Nature

Appendix 1:

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Graduation studio Explore Lab
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Architecture Track

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All visual material is produced by the author if not stated otherwise.

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2022/2023
Version: 1

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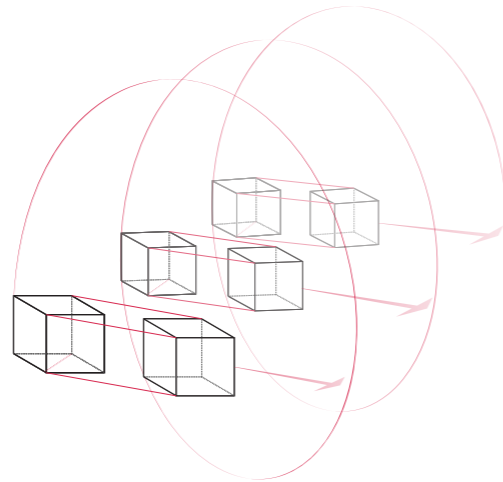
Introduction

This appendix takes a deep dive into the temporal landscape as a performance, examining how architecture and nature interact and evolve over time. Rather than being static entities, the landscape and architecture are dynamic and ever-changing systems that continuously unfold like a performance.

It will explore the concept of using musical scores and abstract notations as a way to represent and analyze the interplay between the landscape and architecture. These scores offer a visual language that captures the essence of the temporal landscape and provides a unique perspective on how the performance unfolds. By examining the landscape and architecture through the lens of musical composition and choreography, it gains a deeper understanding of their temporal nature and appreciates their beauty and complexity.

Various musical scores and abstract notations will be presented to illustrate different themes and aspects of the landscape and architecture, showcasing the intricate relationships and patterns that emerge as they intertwine and evolve together. Through this exploration, it aims to reveal the rich tapestry of the temporal landscape and shed light on the dynamic, fluid nature of architecture as it dances with the landscape

over time. Embracing the performance aspect of architecture and landscape not only deepens our understanding of their temporal qualities but also opens new avenues for creative expression and innovation.



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First Act: Visualizing the Seasons

In the first part of this Appendix, we embark on a journey through the four distinct seasons in the Arctic region of Alta. This section aims to enhance our appreciation for the dynamic interplay between nature and architecture, as well as the cyclical patterns of change that define this unique environment.

Through the exploration of each season, we will employ abstract shapes, symbols, and visualizations to capture the essence of the Arctic landscape's temporal transformations. By doing so, we aim to create an immersive experience that transcends traditional representations and fosters a deeper connection with the ever-changing Arctic seasons.



Winter

Sounds of winter

1. The crunching of snow underfoot
2. The howling of the wind through trees and structures
3. The creaking and cracking of ice on the river
4. The distant call of a raven or other winter bird
5. The soft sound of snowflakes falling

Description

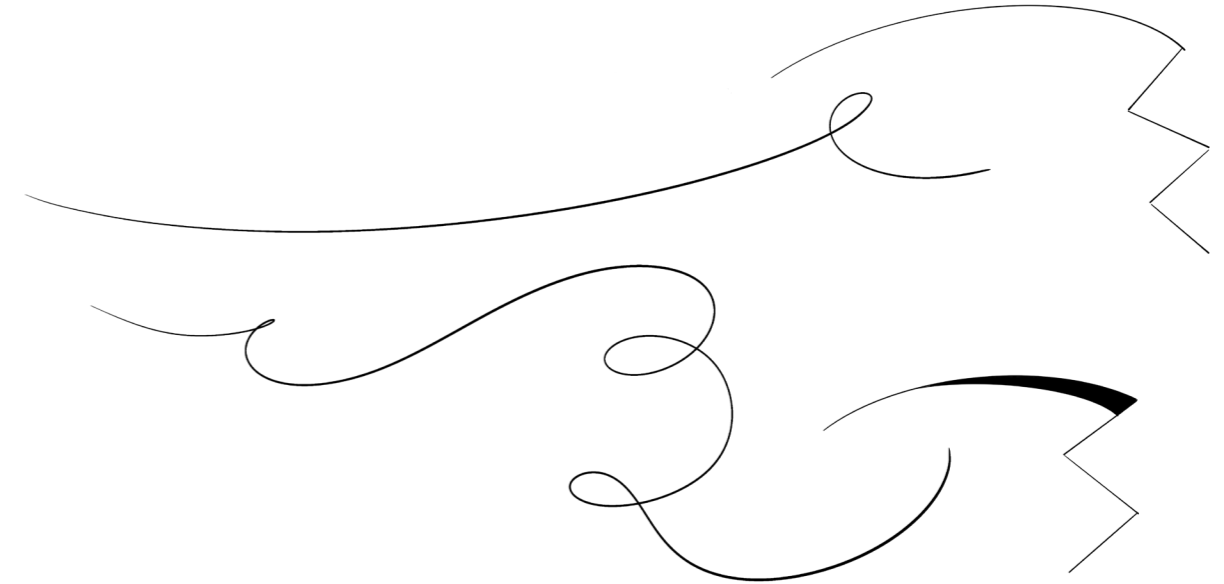
The winter soundscape is characterized by a slow, calm pace with a sense of stillness. The melody is often minimalist, with sparse, lingering notes that evoke the vastness and quietude of the cold season. Instruments such as a piano, a string ensemble, or gentle bells can create a delicate, introspective atmosphere that captures the essence of winter.

Visualizing

A series of thin, delicate lines that create a minimalist and serene composition. The lines are gently curved, with occasional sharp angles representing the sudden ice cracks. The overall form is sparse, with plenty of white space that evokes the quiet, snow-covered landscape. The color palette is monochromatic, featuring shades of white, gray, and blue, which mirror the coolness of the winter season.

Shapes

- Rectangles and elongated triangles: These shapes represent the icicles hanging from tree branches and rooftops, as well as the sharp edges of ice formations.
- Circles and ovals: These shapes represent the roundness of snowflakes and the gentle curves of snowdrifts.



Spring

Sounds of spring

1. The rushing sound of the river as the snow melts
2. The chirping and singing of birds returning
3. The gentle rustling of new leaves emerging on trees
4. The babbling of brooks and streams as they come to life
5. The pattering of rain on the ground and structures

Description

Spring's soundscape is marked by a gradual awakening, with a pace that picks up as the season progresses. The melody is lively and optimistic, reflecting the renewal and growth of nature. Instruments such as flutes, harps, and light percussion can evoke the vibrant energy and sense of hope that comes with the arrival of spring.

Visualization

Imagine an organic and fluid form, with swirling shapes that evoke the movement of the rushing river and the melting snow. The composition is dynamic, with a sense of momentum and energy, as the shapes intertwine and interact with one another. The color palette includes vibrant shades of green, blue, and yellow, reflecting the awakening of nature and the arrival of new life.

Shapes

- Spirals: These shapes evoke the swirling movement of water in the rushing rivers and streams.
- Wavy lines and undulating curves: These shapes represent the growing plants and the ebb and flow of water as it shapes the landscape.



Summer

Sounds of summer

1. The humming of insects, such as bees and mosquitoes
2. The splashing of water as people and animals cool off in the river
3. The rustling of leaves and grasses in the summer breeze
4. The calls and songs of a wide variety of birds
5. The distant rumble of a summer thunderstorm

Description

The soundscape of summer is characterized by a lively, upbeat tempo that captures the energy and warmth of the season. The melody is often bright and cheerful, filled with major chords and harmonies. Instruments such as acoustic guitars, brass instruments, and hand percussion can create a joyful, celebratory atmosphere that reflects the abundance and vitality of summer.

Visualization

Envision a composition filled with bold, lively shapes that are reminiscent of animal sounds and heavy storms. These shapes could be angular and jagged to represent the intensity of thunderstorms or more rounded and organic to capture the bustling life of the season. The overall form is dense and energetic, with a vivid color palette that includes bright hues of blue, green, red, and yellow, reflecting the warmth and vitality of summer.

Shapes

- Hexagons and pentagons: These shapes represent the complex structures found in honeycombs and the patterns created by insects, such as bees and ants.
- Irregular polygons: These shapes symbolize the unpredictable nature of heavy storms and the variety of life forms thriving during this season.



Autumn

Sounds of autumn

1. The sound of rain falling on leaves and the ground
2. The rustling and crunching of fallen leaves underfoot
3. The calls of migrating birds as they pass through the area
4. The creaking of tree branches as they sway in the wind
5. The trickling of water as the river flow starts to slow down

Description

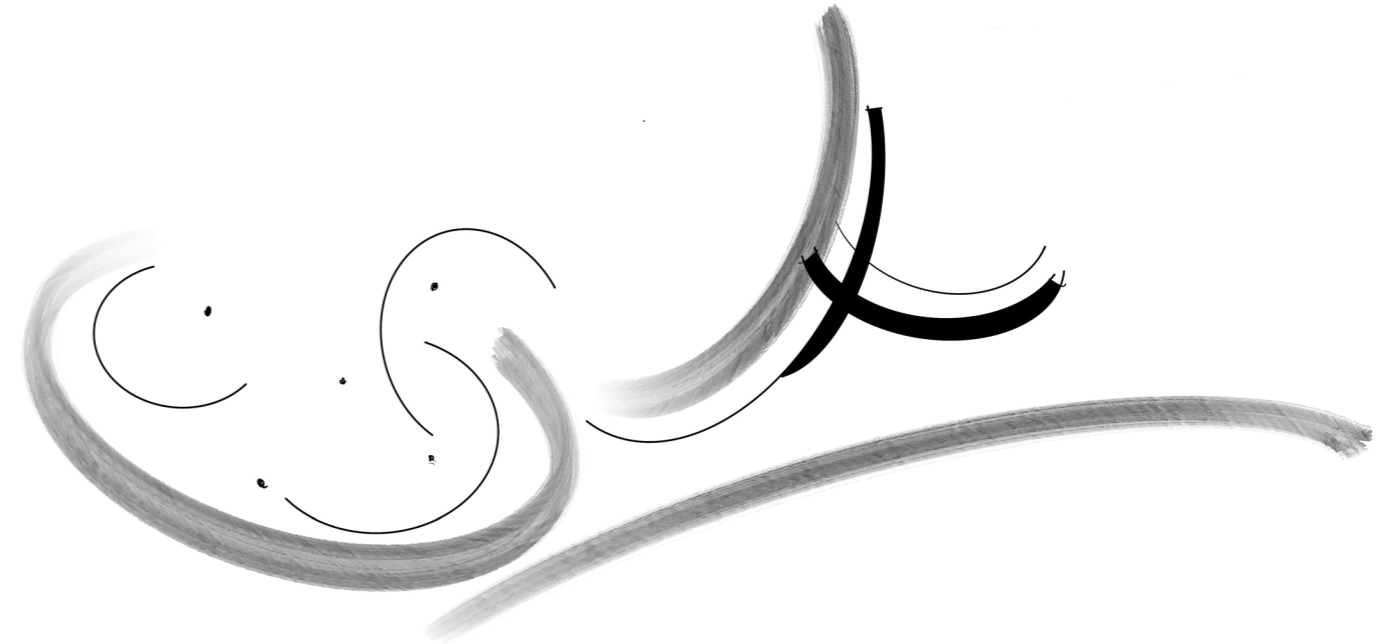
Autumn's soundscape features a slower, more introspective pace as the season transitions toward the peacefulness of winter. The melody is often characterized by melancholic or nostalgic tones, reflecting the fading beauty of the landscape. Instruments such as cellos, violins, and woodwinds can create a rich, layered atmosphere that captures the essence of autumn's introspection and change.

Visualization

Picture a blend of curving and straight lines that convey the sound of rainfall and the changing landscape. The composition is characterized by an interplay of forms that slowly transition from summer's energetic patterns to winter's more subdued nature. The color palette includes earthy tones, such as shades of brown, orange, and deep red, which mirror the transformation of the foliage during this season.

Shapes

- Parallelograms and trapezoids: These shapes represent the falling leaves and their angled descent to the ground.
- Organic shapes with rounded edges: These shapes symbolize the softened edges of eroded rocks and the gradual transition from the vibrant energy of summer to the quiet stillness of winter.



Second Act: Exploring Seven Topics Through Scores

Here we will delve deeper into the exploration of seven distinct topics, each topic represented by a graphical score. This section aims to broaden our understanding of how various natural processes can be interpreted through the lens of cyclic time and performance by employing the concept of the fifth dimension.

The fifth dimension moves beyond the traditional linear understanding of time and embraces the cyclical nature of events and processes in the natural world but also in performance. By incorporating the idea of cyclic time and performance, we can gain valuable insights into the patterns, rhythms, and relationships that define the ever-changing natural landscape. In this context, the use of graphical scores becomes instrumental in visualizing and representing the temporal aspects of the landscape.

Graphical scores are a versatile tool that allows us to depict temporality in nature. These scores enable us to capture the essence of each topic, from the seasonal changes in vegetation and wildlife to the dynamic interplay between architecture and the elements in nature. By using abstract shapes, symbols, and visualizations, we

can read the intricate patterns and cycles that occur within the landscape. These scores can then be used to read and performed through different mediums like music or dance.

In this section of the appendix, we will take a look at the creation of a series of musical scores, each representing one of seven topics. These scores will not only illustrate the temporal nature of each topic but will also serve as a foundation for an engaging and evocative performance that brings together music, dance, and narrative. By exploring the concept of cyclic time and utilizing graphical scores, we aim to foster a deeper connection with the ever-changing temporal landscape of architecture and nature.



Processes in the river (erosion and deposition)

Overview

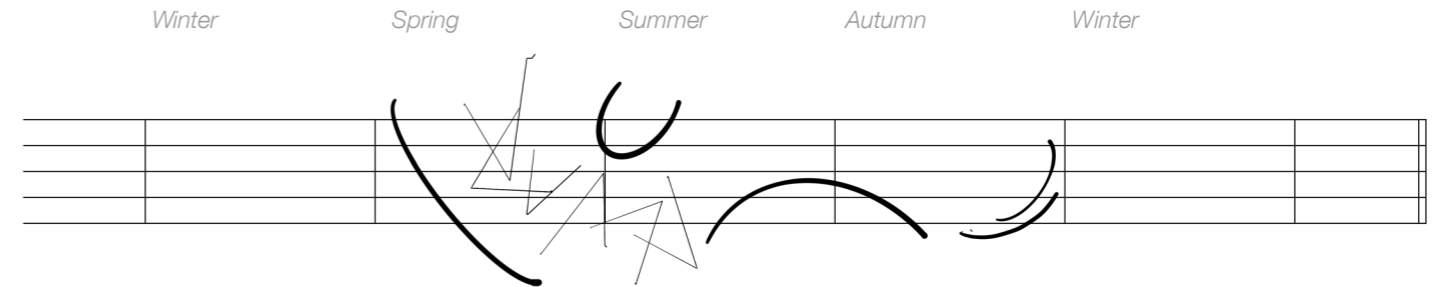
This theme focuses on the natural processes of erosion and deposition in the river and how they interact with architectural structures.

Relevance

Understanding these processes will allow to design architecture that adapts to the changing landscape, potentially leading to more sustainable and resilient structures.

Symbols and visuals

Fluid, organic shapes representing the river's movement, with sharp, jagged edges for erosion and smooth, rounded forms for deposition. These shapes would interact dynamically, conveying a sense of constant change and adaptation.



Sounds of the river

Overview

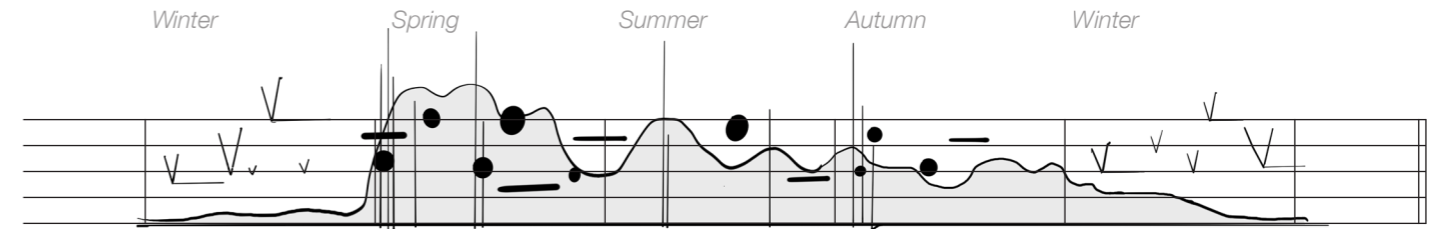
This theme explores the auditory aspects of the river, including the sounds of flowing water, wildlife, and human activities near the river.

Relevance

Incorporating sound into your research can provide a deeper understanding of the site's atmosphere and inform design decisions that create a harmonious and immersive experience for inhabitants.

Symbols and visuals

Abstract, sinuous lines that vary in thickness and amplitude, undulating and intertwining to represent the diverse sounds of the river. These lines would flow and pulsate, evoking the rhythm and energy of the water's movement.



Light throughout the year in the Arctic

Overview

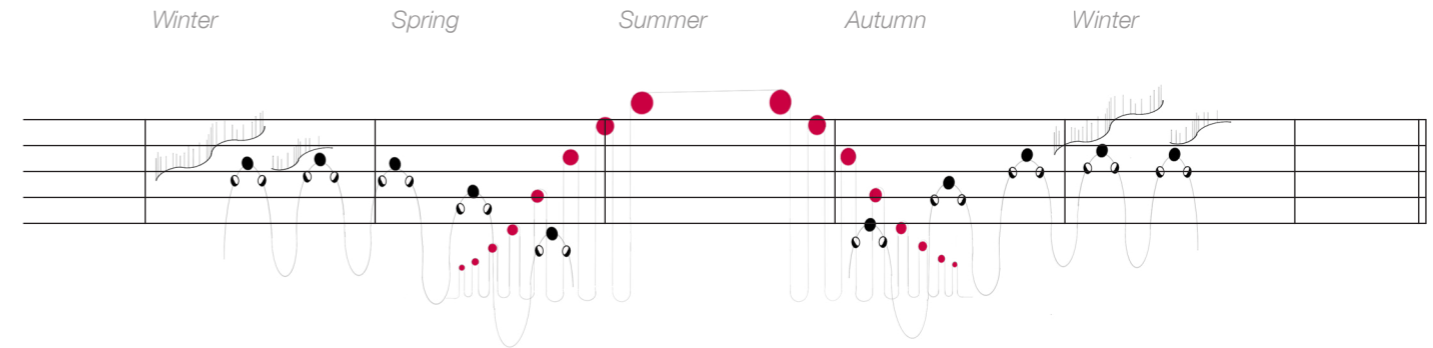
This theme examines the variations in sunlight and darkness experienced in the Arctic region throughout the year, including the polar day and polar night.

Relevance

Understanding the unique lighting conditions in the Arctic can inform design decisions that optimize natural light and provide comfortable living environments.

Symbols and visuals

Expanding and contracting radial shapes that shift in color from warm to cool tones, symbolizing the changing daylight hours and sun's position. The shapes would morph and blend, creating a sense of the passage of time and the ethereal quality of Arctic light.



Social interactions between people

Overview

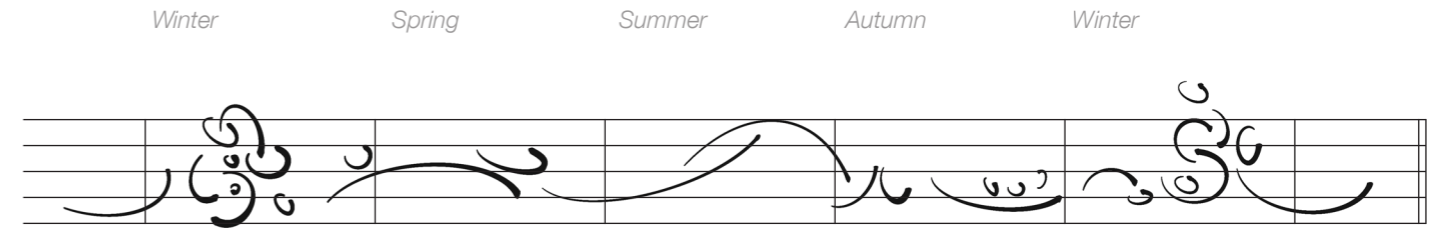
This theme investigates the ways in which people interact with one another and the environment in relation to the changing seasons and landscape.

Relevance

Examining social interactions can help you design spaces that facilitate community engagement and adapt to the evolving needs of the inhabitants.

Symbols and visuals

Overlapping, fluid forms that change in size and opacity, representing the dynamic nature of social interactions. Connecting lines and curves would create a sense of communication and interconnectedness, while motion and variation in color would evoke emotion and energy.



Seasonal changes in vegetation and wildlife

Overview

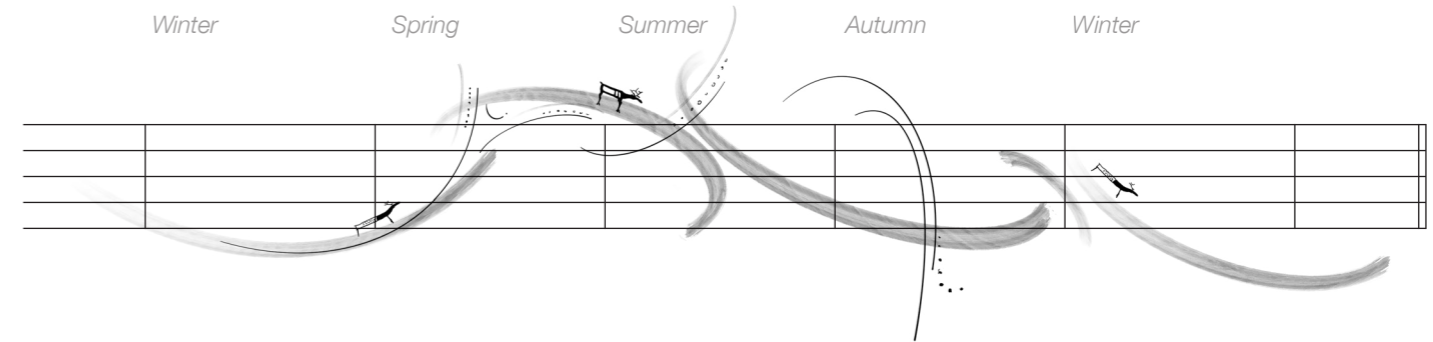
This theme explores the shifts in plant life and animal populations throughout the year as a result of seasonal changes.

Relevance

Understanding these changes can help inform design decisions that respect and support the natural environment, promoting biodiversity and ecological resilience.

Symbols and visuals

Abstract, organic shapes and forms that evolve and transform with the seasons, incorporating movement and curvature to suggest growth and change. These shapes would interact and overlap, conveying the interdependence and diversity of the natural world.



Human activities and rituals related to different seasons

Overview

This theme investigates the various activities and cultural practices that people engage in during different seasons, such as festivals, traditions, and seasonal occupations.

Relevance

Understanding seasonal human activities and rituals can help you design spaces that accommodate and celebrate these cultural practices, fostering a strong sense of community and connection to the environment.

Symbols and visuals

Abstract, emotive symbols or patterns that capture the essence of various activities and rituals, with changing shapes, colors, and motion to signify the progression of time and seasonal transitions. These visual elements would blend and transform, evoking a sense of shared experience and cultural connection.

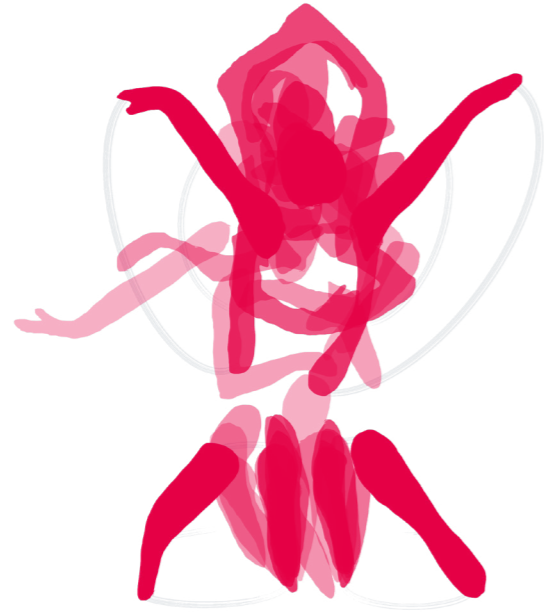
Winter

Spring

Summer

Autumn

Winter



Third Act: From Scores to Performance

In the final segment of the appendix, we delve into the translation of the graphic scores into various mediums - architecture, dance, music, and a narrative that captures the evolving dynamics of the architecture in an Arctic year. These graphic scores, initially created as visual interpretations of the Arctic landscape's seasonal shifts, now serve as a roadmap for our narrative. We explore the architecture not in isolation, but as an entity deeply intertwined with its context, weather, and the flux of nature. This segment looks into the beauty of change, spotlighting the transformative capacity of the landscape and the architecture it inspires.



Unraveling the core of Arctic Symphony

"Arctic Symphony" is a blend of architecture, music, dance, and narrative, all intertwined with the flux of the Arctic landscape. The graphic scores, a visual representation of the temporal rhythm of the Arctic seasons, are the fundamental core of the performance, serving as the roadmap for the unfolding of the architecture, music, dance, and narrative.

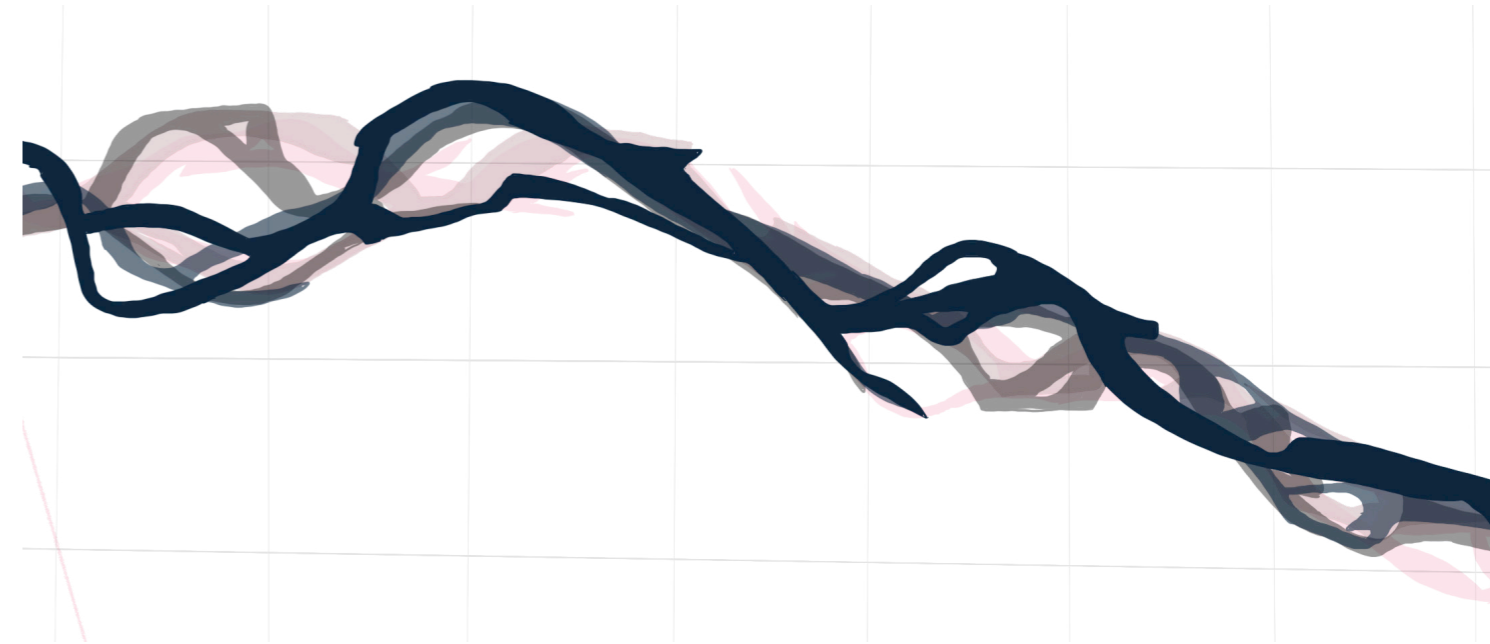
The architecture is characterized by two dynamic processes, one of production and one of deterioration. It is an ever-evolving structure that shifts in harmony with the seasons, mirroring the changing rhythm of the Arctic. Its design takes form through an understanding of the scores as a dynamic process, intertwining human interaction, erosion, and deposition. The ebb and flow of the elements create a cyclical pattern that starts over every year, mirroring the course of the seasons: the long rough winter followed by the rush of spring flood and melting snow, leading to a summer of production and autumn of harvest and preparation.

Mirroring the architectural process, the music and dance emerged organically from the scores. Bintang's music ebbs and flows, embracing the

rhythm of the seasons and the atmospheric shifts of the Arctic landscape. Each melody, rhythm, and instrument was chosen to reflect the various phases of the year. In turn, Ewa's improvisational dance was inspired by the scores and the music, dynamically echoing the rhythms of the natural landscape and the changing seasons.

On the following pages, you can read the narrative, a story that brings life to the architecture. She, the living structure, dances through the changing seasons, embodying the cyclical rhythms of nature captured in the graphic scores. The narrative tells a story of a journey through a year in the Arctic, reflecting the dynamic interaction between the architecture and the landscape.

The culmination of these elements was a performance that first occurred during my graduation ceremony on April 21, 2023. This performance now has its own life, continuously evolving. The project, in its dynamism, challenges the static nature of traditional architectural representations through blueprints that cannot change after something is built, celebrating the essence of time and change.



Arctic Symphony

Winter

In the far reaches of the arctic, where the sun dances with the horizon and the aurora paints the sky with vivid hues, there exists a living structure that breathes life into the frozen landscape. She is a bridge between nature and human, a bridge between worlds that adapts and evolves with the passage of time. In the midst of this land where the elements are both wild and fragile, she stands as a symbol of resilience and the eternal cycle of life.

As winter descends over the arctic landscape, she, the living structure, huddles beneath a blanket of snow and ice, her wooden bones creaking softly in the frozen cold. The river that once rushed with wild dramatic movements now meanders slowly beneath a layer of frozen ice, and the once-green cover of the forest floor has retreated, giving way to a world painted in white. In these moments of stillness, she embraces the silence, her thoughts wandering through memories of seasons in the past.

For those few humans that decided to stay the winter long, those who once were active in the landscape, are now retreating to the warm core of the dwellings within her. They gather around the gentle glow of the hearth, their laughter and conversation softening the icy surroundings. In

these cozy spaces, they share stories of the past and dreams for the future, creating memories that will last through the cycles of time.

She can sense their warmth and unity. She wraps herself around them, protecting them from the biting winds and swirling snow. As they curl up close to her heart, she feels their presence, a gentle reminder that she is not just a structure, but a living, breathing entity – a silent witness to their lives and a part of their journey through the seasons. In these moments of shared heat, they become one, a union connected by the symphony of the Arctic.

As she listens to the stories whispered by the slow flow of the water, stories of fluctuations and an evolving landscape. These stories, written in her wooden spine, a testament to that and those who dared to inhabit these surroundings. As the living structure stands over the frozen river, she knows that soon, the world around her will begin to stir again, and the cycle of the seasons will again begin anew.

Spring

As the icy grip of winter slowly releases its hold on the land, the living structure senses the arrival of spring. The once frozen river comes alive with the rush of melting snow from the surrounding mountains, its waters rushing with energy and promise. The earth, too, awakens from its frozen sleep, unveiling a carpet of vibrant green as the first shoots arise.

The living structure feels the heat of the sunlight on her wooden surface. With each passing day, she grows more and more attuned to the rhythm of the season, the steady heartbeat of the world around her. She feels the presence of the humans, who return to her, drawn by the irresistible call of the land and the promise of abundance that spring brings.

With every chop of wood and every block of earth gathered, the living structure senses the hopes and dreams of those who work tirelessly to shape her, their hands and hearts guiding her growth and transformation. As the days lengthen and the sun climbs higher in the sky, she herself becomes a canvas for the colors and textures that the season offers, her wooden spine covered with fresh layer of soft moss and vivid plants.

As she embraces the essence of spring, she becomes a reflection of the world around her, a symphony of growth and renewal that resonates with the very soul of the arctic landscape. In this time of hope and new beginnings, she stands as a testament to the resilience and adaptability of both nature and humanity, a living bridge that connects the past, the present, and the future, and a celebration of the eternal cycle of life.

Summer

As spring matures, summer arrives slowly, she absorbs a flow of vibrant warmth and chaos of the season. The sun reaches its height, casting long shadows and infusing the world with an intensity of light. The river, its powerful water from the melting snow, carries the song of the distant mountains and the stories of the land to the sea.

The living structure, now fully awake and vibrant, becomes the stage for a grand performance as people near and far arrive to work in harmony with her. She revels in their energetic movements, the touch of their hands, and the tempo of their voices as they work together. With each beam raised, each wooden nail hammered, and each earth block layed, she becomes a living symbol to the power of unity.

As summer's breath warms her wooden skin, she feels her structure expanding, growing, embracing the change and adapting to the shifting needs of the community. In this season of abundance, she is a sanctuary and a gathering place, a unit for shared dreams and hope of those who have come together to shape her destiny.

Under the gaze of the midnight sun, she becomes a living poem, her timbers resonating with the heartbeat of the land and the pulse of human effort. As the days slowly begin to shorten and the world once again prepares for the cycle to continue, she stands as a bridge between the seasons, a monument to the resilience of life and the eternal dance of time.

Autumn

The vibrant hues of summer start to fade, leaving space for pastel tones and golden hues of autumn. The living structure, attuned to the changing world around her, senses the transformation in the landscape as the trees shed their leaves, and the once-bustling river gradually calms down. A gentle melancholy settles upon the land, and she feels it too, deep within her wooden spine.

The season of harvest and preparation has arrived, and the community shifts its focus to gathering the bounties of nature and preparing for the long winter ahead. She, ever-changing and resourceful, becomes a sanctuary for the people, offering warmth and comfort as the chill in the air grows steady. She feels the rhythm of their footsteps as they come and go, carrying bundles of firewood and food for the cold months to come.

With each day, the sun sinks lower in the sky, casting a soft, golden light that bathes her in heat. The living structure, now dressed in the colours of autumn, reflects the beauty of the season in every beam and joint. The themes of entropy and cyclic time are once more on display, as she witnesses the world around her transition from abundance to inactivity.

In the hushed whispers of the river, she hears the sounds of the past and the promise of the future. As the first frost gently kiss her wooden surface and the river slows to a steady flow, she understands the importance of balance in the cycles of life. And so, as the final leaf on the trees drift softly to the ground, the living structure stands as a bridge between the seasons, ready to face the return of winter and the endless dance of time.

Closing the loop

As the colors of autumn fade away and the last leaves have fallen, the landscape is gradually enveloped by the icy embrace of winter. The living structure senses the shift, feeling the chill in the air and the hush of snowflakes beginning to blanket her surface.

The community, well-prepared and resolute, finds solace in the warm embrace of the living structure. Her adaptability and strength provide shelter against the harsh elements, as the wind howls and the snow piles up.

The sun hangs low in the sky, casting long shadows across the snow-covered landscape. Days grow shorter, nights longer, and the world is cloaked in an ethereal, crystalline beauty.

And so, as the Arctic Symphony plays on, the living structure remains ever-present, ever-changing, and ever-evolving, a bridge between seasons and a monument to the dance of time. Through the depths of winter, she waits, knowing that the arrival of spring will bring renewal and transformation, as the cycle begins anew, and the symphony continues to unfold.

The performers

Bintang

Bintang Manira Manik is an Indonesian versatile musician currently based in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Focusing on various hand percussion techniques and exploring ancient vocal techniques from India and Tuva such as Dhrupad and different types of throat singing.

His unique choice of sound creates a portal between the past, present and future combining musical chants with acoustic traditional instruments and electronic sound. Besides playing in multiple bands and creating solo projects, he is also actively creating and collaborating at the intersection of theater, film, dance, performance and visual art.

Follow him on:

Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/bintang20manira>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/manira.star/>

Bandcamp:

<https://bintangmanira.bandcamp.com/>



Ewa

Ewa was born in Poland where she grew up surrounded by the changing reality of the post-soviet transformation. As a teenager, migrating from her home country, she was faced with various juxtapositions of the original and acquired context. Although architect by training she is now involved in various projects which explore the intersectionality and translational character of architecture with other modes of enquiry such as dance, writing, film or philosophy. Those explorations seem to reflect the heterogeneity of her early experience and emotions such as - nostalgia, scarcity, the sublime, longing for home or absurdity.



Follow her on:

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/ziemieckaev/>

Arctic Symphony
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21.04.2023

MSc Architecture