

FORGET-ME-NOT a third life to the Alte Fähre

I. TUNE UP THE ECOTONE

Lachau identity is built on images where the natural environment, and the relationships between water and land are essential. It works as an ecotone, a transition between biological communities, at multiple scales as it is located between the biotope of the eastern slope of Pfänder, the protected stream of the Lachau and the shore of the Lake Constance. Many smaller creeks cross the landscape creating multiple flowing transitions: floodplains, spring forests, floodplains and spring bays, river between the urban fabric spread across the landscape.

As Lachau increases in size and population, some strategies must be set to avoid losing its biodiversity condition and provide ecotone services:

1. Allow the natural connection between different biotopes or "necessities" to increase the chances of biological continuity.
2. Implement biotopes, enlarge creeks banks and naturalize them to maximize the biodiversity and improve stormwater management.
3. Create rain gardens and wetlands as refuges for drinking fauna and flora.

"The third landscape is not free. It covers all ecotones capable of maintaining diversity. A forest is an ecotone. A bank is an ecotone. A meadow... A bank... A mountain... A cloud... Manifest of the third landscape, Gilles Göttsch



II. PROMOTING THE SLOW CIRCULATION

Following the sound of water to reach to the lake Constance. The act of creeks that lead downhill to the shore on the shortest and softer way to reach the waterfront. While in the diagonal across the use of water vehicles is more prominent, the perpendicular pathways will lead pedestrians and cyclists directly to the natural gas circulation along the lake. The green urban spaces across the town, instead on the green multifunctional infrastructure may become the biggest equipment of the city.

Strategies to promote healthier mobility:

1. Re-naturalizing the canalized waterways and pathways, siding it with designed systems of perennial trees and evergreen shrubs.
2. Creating enlarged water parks to promote biodiversity (floodplains).
3. Connecting the horizontal set of pedestrian pathways to improve the inner mobility of the town.
4. Add points of social and cultural interest located along the pathways.
5. Constantly define the condition of natural landscape interlaced with the urban fabric.
6. Permeate the fast circulation:
 - Building the possible crossing points instead of concentrating all efforts in improving a main crossing point.
 - Soften the cross points by locating urban activated corners next to it.
 - Shortening the underground path by suppressing obsolete infrastructures and adding openings to provide natural light in the middle of the tunnel.



III. CYCLING THE LAKE

The Lake Constance Cycle Path connects 3 countries: Austria, Germany and Switzerland in a practically East line. Touring along the third biggest lake of central Europe has become one of the most popular lake routes around. More than a tourist attraction, the track is also an important infrastructure for averaging citizens commuting to Lindau or Bregenz, both for professional and leisure activities.

Lachau's harbour and its expanded services and attractions (Draht completion, restorative area, toilets and showers, bathing area and access to cultural activities) are located in a strategic area, both for locals and visitors to implement a service point for digital including immediate services (Information, rental, parking, repair and electric charging stations).



IV. NATURBAN NODE

Lachau, created from green and constructed ecologies, must embody its polylogic character with multiple activity nodes.

The project proposes a set of exterior, interior and intermediate spaces that must be placed both for the human and non-human, providing space for inter-species relations, but also independent areas.

1. Single hub
2. Playground area
3. Unprogrammed square with movable public furniture
4. Wooden bleachers towards the East basin of the harbour.
5. Beach area
6. Waypoint over the landscape
7. Weather information point
8. The "New harbour building" (connecting the restaurant and bank, the former harbour service building, the sailing club and additional free access space that can be that can be programmed with cultural activities).



V. GREENSCAPE AND THE THIRD LANDSCAPE

However, the main attraction of the area relies on its natural condition. The landscapes are not immediate decorations but real environments, which react as much to multi-scalar geological bases as to atmospheric oscillations. They must host places both for the human and non-human, providing space for inter-species relations, but also independent areas.

1. Permeable wall: Removing obsolete infrastructures and unprogrammed pavements to let the landscape recover its original surface.
2. Green canopy: A varying density of plantations, alternating islands of vegetation and open spaces.
3. Social clearing: A large clearing in front of the new building and leading to the bleachers will create a strong relation between the public space and the harbour, and allow visual of the ensemble from the town station.
4. Third landscape: Biodiversity does not thrive in planned landscapes but in the wild plots. Only in the indicative spaces devoid of function, on the margin, where machines and humans do not arrive, is where plants and other living beings can freely roam and constantly reinvent themselves. From the neck of trees to the further beach, from the living soils to the green canopy, each element in the site will contribute to cooling the city, decontaminating the atmosphere, and allow our ecosystem to breathe.



VI. A THIRD LIFE FOR THE ALTE FÄHRE

The proposal is the ultimate response to the identity of Lachau Harbour and a beloved identity icon: The Alte Fähre Moorings.

Formerly known as the Konstanz II, and the Baden, the ferry entered service on April 30, 1930 linking the port of St. Gallen to Konstanz. After the turbulent years of the WWII when it was used by both German and French armies for transporting troops, it resumed his normal service in 1945.

In 1975, after 46 years of service the ship was retired and sold to the Lachau Sailing Club and set on fire to be burned down to construct a VET it was transformed into a clubhouse and a restaurant, an important meeting spot for locals and visitors, and a reminder of history on the shore of Lachau.

After another 36 years on its 2nd role, it is showing some signs of exhaustion but, it is yet the time to "forget the Alte Fähre" or "let just have some care and a new purpose for the green to come!"

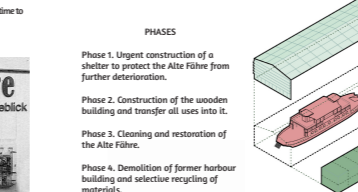


VII. SHELTER & PEPPER

The project creates an ambitious public resource following 3 objectives:

1. To preserve the Alte Fähre by sheltering it from the rough weather conditions and prevent its further deterioration.
2. To provide an appropriate space for all the required uses.
3. To allow free access, a possibility of appropriation of the space as architecture and the city on and consumer goods.

These objectives are articulated through 2 different construction sets: A greenhouse shelter (not permanent, built with a renewable roof that reveals a non-weather cover) and a wooden building (that host the specific activities).



VIII. THE GREENHOUSE

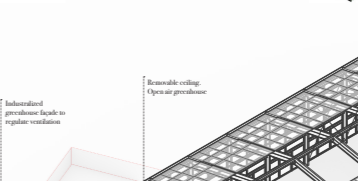
It is an adaptable bioclimatic infrastructure that shelters the ferry and creates an intermediate space. Dealing with opposite conditions along the year, the greenhouse can become an interior garden in winter and a shaded exterior in the breezy hot summers becoming a climate refuge, which enriches the possibilities of the area.

Structure:

1. Light structure: removable ceiling. Without a fixed roof to minimize its occupiable footprint.
2. Skin (curved): Low cost bioclimatic skin built after individualized greenhouse systems capable to warm and cool to regulate the solar gain and ventilation and improve the interior temperature without energy consumption.
3. Material specific: improve the comfort by regulating the humidity gradient.
4. Dry construction system that can be reversible and recyclable.

Activities:

1. The preserved Ferry: Freed from external threats and current uses, will recover its original free plan. Free access will connect with recreational programs.
2. The greenhouse will remain an available space, and intermediate garden which can work either with the wooden service building in extension of its activities, or independently to welcome public events (concert, fairs, shows).



IX. THE WOODEN BUILDING

Attached to the greenhouse and taking advantage of its conditions, the wooden building host under a single roof all required uses.

Structure:

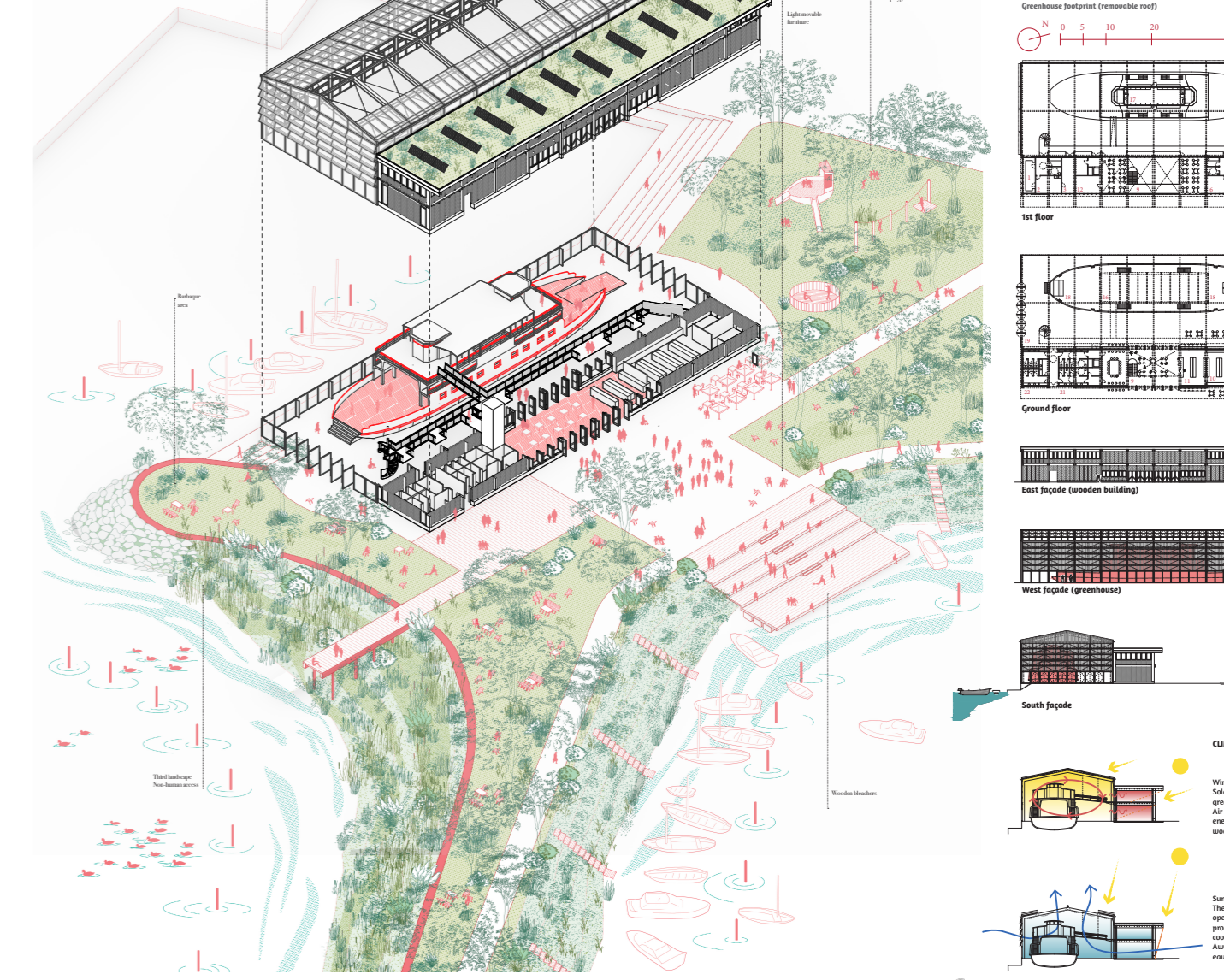
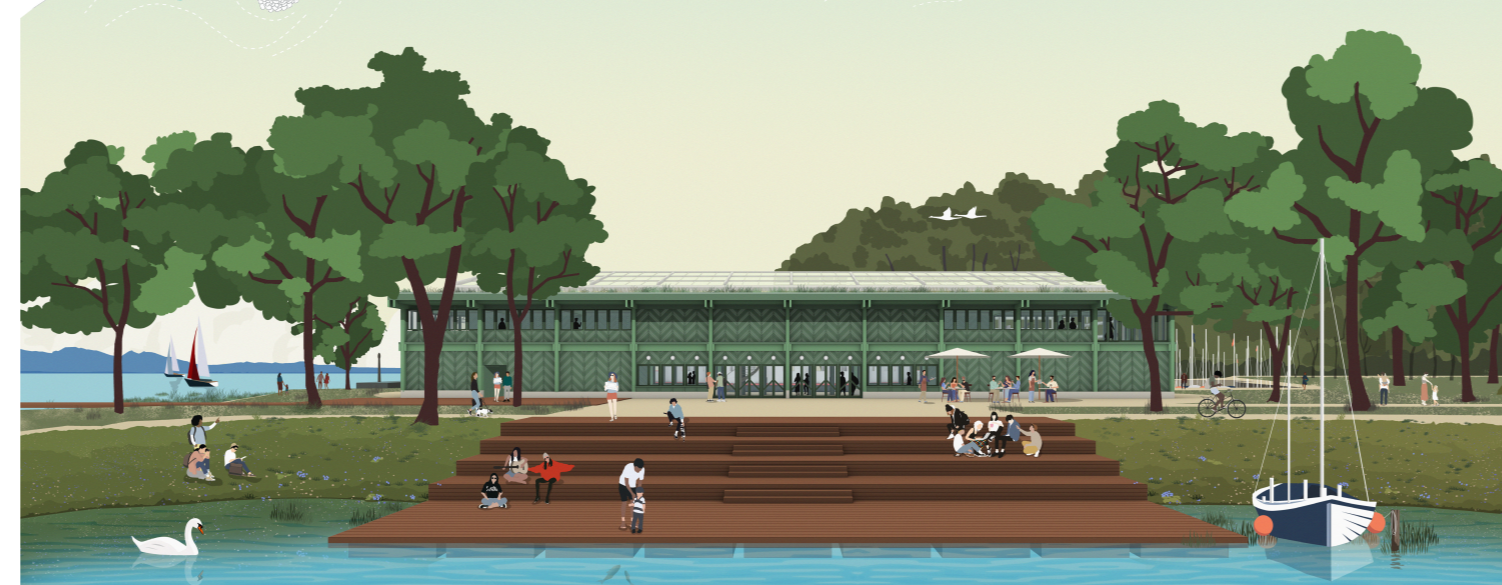
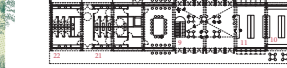
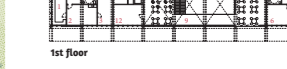
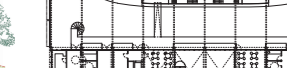
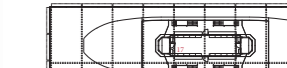
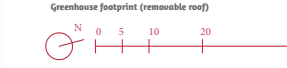
1. Materials: Low environmental impact materials, from organic sources reducing the carbon footprint. Ecologically responsible materials. Recycled concrete for foundations and ground floor pavement.
2. Active roof: The solar panels in the roof will provide energy to power the building. The rest of the available surface will be a green roof helping to mitigate the heat in summer.
3. The modularity of the system reserves the possibility of program evolution, what guarantees a longer life expectancy for the building.
4. Dry construction system that can be reversible and recyclable.



X. COMPACT, MODULARITY AND FLEXIBILITY

By compacting programs together is an advantage in terms of energy consumption, management resources and shared utilities. Reducing the construction cost and the maintenance expense along the green to come. The modular systems allow to efficiently prefabricate the components of the building for fast and economic construction. The modularity and the free plan permit great distribution flexibility what ensure the long-term life of the building with possibility to evolve as an ecotone.

Surface	Area
Harbour building	75,00m²
1. Restaurant	24,00m²
2. Workshop	22,00m²
3. Technical area	22,00m²
4. Storage	5,00m²
5. Toilet	5,00m²
Shedding club	112,50m²
1. Multifunctional room	80,50m²
2. Workshop	22,00m²
3. Storage	5,00m²
4. Toilet	5,00m²
Restaurant	479,00m²
1. Restaurant	246,00m²
10. Kitchen	103,00m²
11. Kitchen	19,00m²
12. Workshop	22,00m²
13. Laundry	10,00m²
14. Storage	51,00m²
15. Public space	21,00m²
Common grounds	1366,00m²
16. Alte Fähre main room	234,50m²
17. Alte Fähre upper room	50,00m²
18. Alte Fähre bow and stern	166,00m²
19. Ground floor greenhouse	729,00m²
20. 1st floor greenhouse	84,00m²
21. Public toilets	49,00m²
22. Public showers	44,50m²
Wooden building footprint	660,00m²
Alte Fähre footprint	350,00m²
Greenhouse footprint (removable roof)	630,00m²



1. GREEN ARCHITECTURE



Prioritize the value of the pre-existing woods in the urban areas. As a counterpart to built environments, the main nature structure is organized by ecologists of green patches. Limit the urban spread.

2. GREEN WETLANDS



The territory's essence lies in the relationship between water and land. Preserve and create wetlands throughout the landscape. Advocate for their maintenance and care to promote urban biodiversity.

3. CREEKS & PATHS



Signify the creeks in the slow paths downhill to the lake. Re-naturalize the banks of the streams as natural corridors that connect biotopes and help to mitigate weather conditions. Follow the sound of water.

4. PERMEATED BORDER



Permeate the border created by the train tracks with gentle level crossings that allow the path reach to the Hugelbach in the lakehouse. Shorten and soften the underground cross next to the Alte Fähre.

5. BICYCLE HUB



In a strategic position of the Lake Constance Cycle Path, the bicycle hub articulates the city, the railway station and the parking lot. It will provide basic services for the cyclists: information, rental, parking and repair station.

6. WEATHER ICON ARTIFACT



A weather artifact on the harbour dike may suggest a meeting point at the end of the pathway. A viewpoint both to the lake and back to the town and mountains.

7. LANDSCAPE WILDLIFE



Out of harbour or bathing services this stretch of the landscape is to become a third landscape: an unprogrammed site, refuge of biodiversity without access of humans. In the absence of human decision, the biological beings will create the wild landscape.

8. TONAL & ROAST



Dislocated from the bathing areas, this dedicated area for barbecue offers the basic services for informal social gatherings. Prevents the privatization of the public space by the harbour users.

9. NATURBAN PORT



The project proposes a set of exterior, interior and intermediate spaces that work symbiotically to create a physical and emotional framework to develop social activities.

10. RESTAURANT



The restaurant open plan and transparent facade articulates the relation between the exterior public square and the greenhouse that contains the Alte Fähre. The bank opens to both sides to offer an alternative informal meeting scenario.

11. COMMON SHELTER



The greenhouse becomes a public space free of use. An interior garden in winter and a shaded area in summer. A weather refuge for the people and the beloved Alte Fähre.

12. ALTE FÄHRE BACK IN TOWN



As an identity icon of Lachau, Identity, the Alte Fähre is not only preserved but, restored to its original open plan condition. A free plan that can be appropriated by the citizens and programmed with socio-cultural activities.