

In the Forest, Don't Touch Anything

A living cartography of absence and renewal

In the Forest, Don't Touch Anything is a living cartography of Jewish Partisan dugouts—Zemlyankas—hidden across the forests of Belarus. Once sites of refuge, resistance, and survival, these underground dwellings have since dissolved into the forest floor, marked only by subtle depressions in the earth. This garden reconstructs one dugout at true scale using field photography, photogrammetry, and 3D modeling, preserving the spatial memory of a place at risk of disappearance.

A crushed granite serpentine path guides visitors through space and time. It begins with the present condition of a dugout barely legible in the soil, its boundaries staked to acknowledge what remains. The path continues toward a future condition, where the void once carved for survival becomes a renewed hub for life and growth. Along this journey, oral testimonial markers appear like Partisans in quiet motion, sharing fragments of their days at camp.

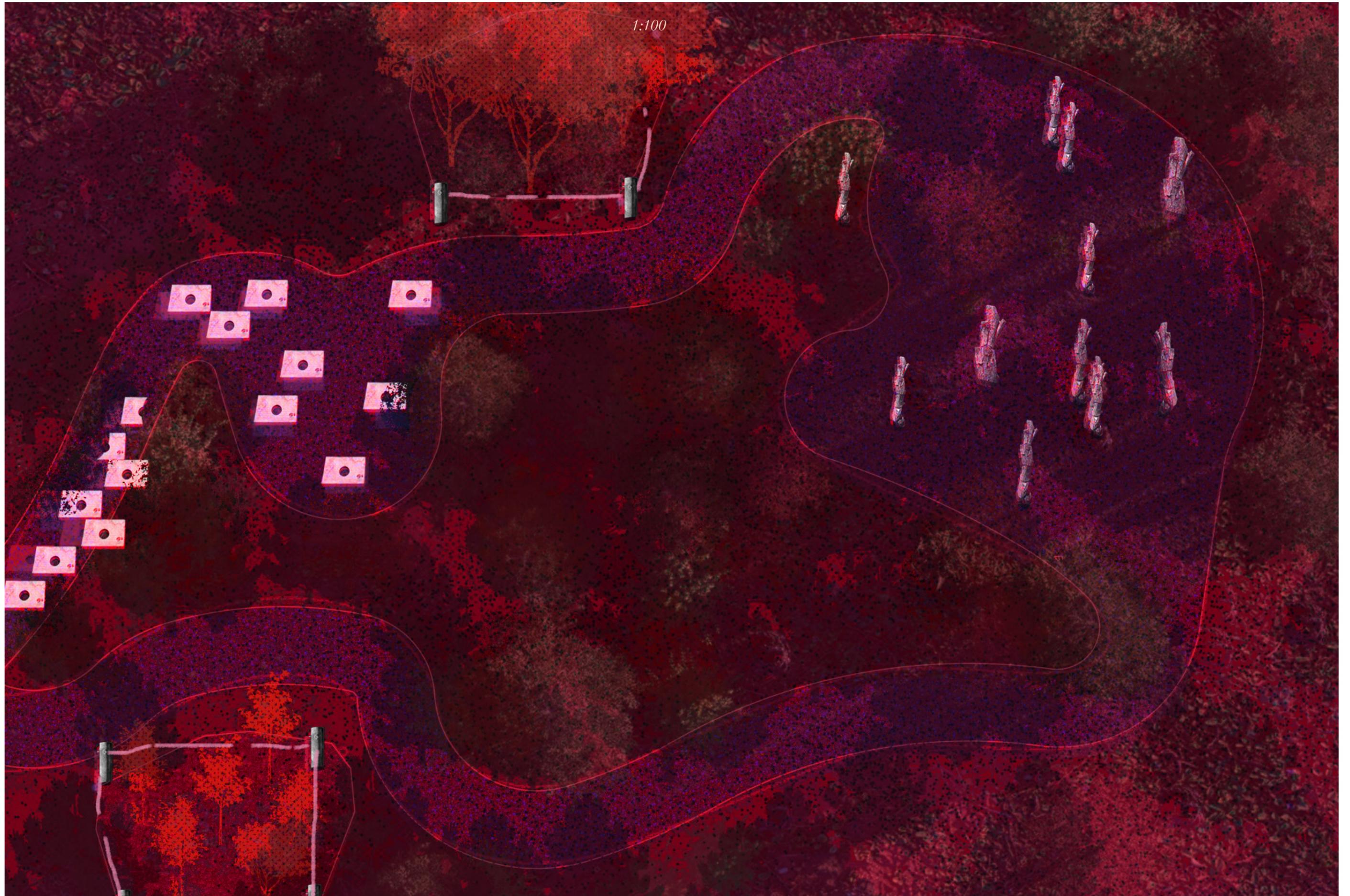
Over decades, these markers decay, leaving only stone bases etched with survivors' words. The forest continues to transform around them. Memory persists in an evolving landscape.



1. Chopped wood sourced from the forest local to site and drill 75mm on holes for dowels
2. Use 20 mm dowel along center portion of installation allows helps mitigate tension
3. Use 50 mm *Cedrelia tricuspidata* or other strong hardwood for wooden dowel used in anchoring the installation into the stone footing
4. 305 mm X 460 mm X 20 mm Granite stone cladding of etched oral testimonial
5. Waterjet 52 mm sink in the center for the dowel connection
6. Mortar in place stone cladding to the Colonial White Granite stone base
7. Core out 50 mm of stone base using large bore drill
8. Core out 10mm space in the stone connection to facilitate drainage once the wooden installation is removed. This precaution is necessary because the structure is prone to cracking due to freezing and thawing.
9. Ensure stone base is minimum 4 feet to ensure it goes below the frost line

A

PLAN LAYOUT



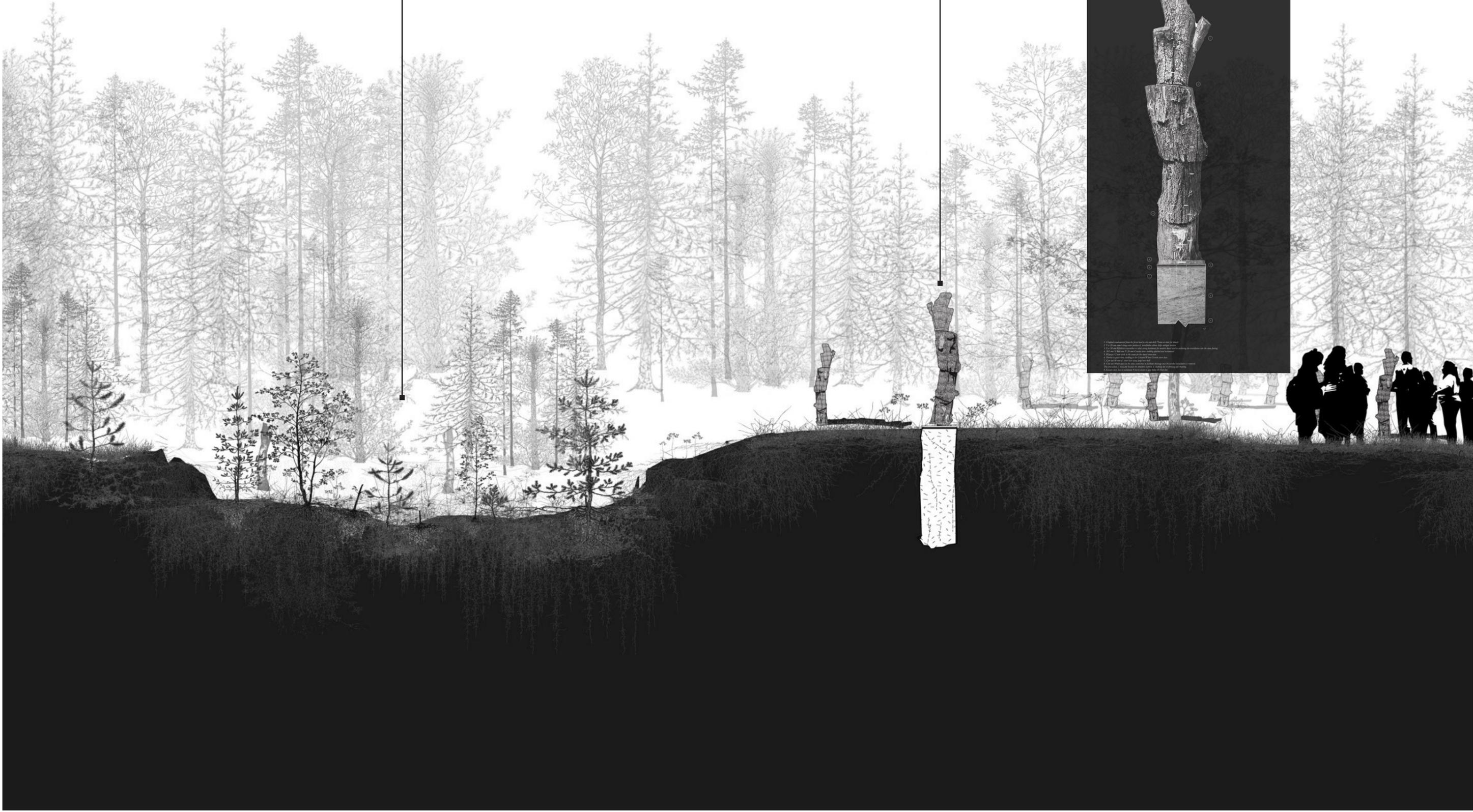
PLANTING PALETTE*Succession + Memory***STAGE 1 | PRESENT | ENTRANCE***Fragile beginnings, hollows with young trees taking root*Trembling Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*)Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*)Sapling Eastern White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)Hay-scented Fern (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*)Pennsylvania Sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*)Canada Mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*)**STAGE 2 | TRANSITION | PATHWAY***Pathway of testimony through camp grounds*Mature White Spruce (*Picea glauca*)Red-osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)Serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*)Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*)Tufted Hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*)Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)**FUTURE | EXIT***Voids swallowed, mature canopy closing in*Mature Eastern White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)Mature White Spruce (*Picea glauca*)Marginal Wood Fern (*Dryopteris marginalis*)Pennsylvania Sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*)

ELEVATION I | PRESENT CONDITIONS

1:100

METASHAPE TO RHINO DATA OF CURRENT DUGOUT AT THE BIELSKI PARTISAN CAMP - THIS DUGOUT TODAY IS UNPROTECTED AND DISAPPEARING

ORAL TESTIMONIAL MARKERS SCATTER THE "CAMP GROUNDS". THE SCULPTURE EMBODIES A DELICATE BALANCE BETWEEN INTEGRATION AND CAMOUFLAGE.



ELEVATION | FUTURE CONDITIONS

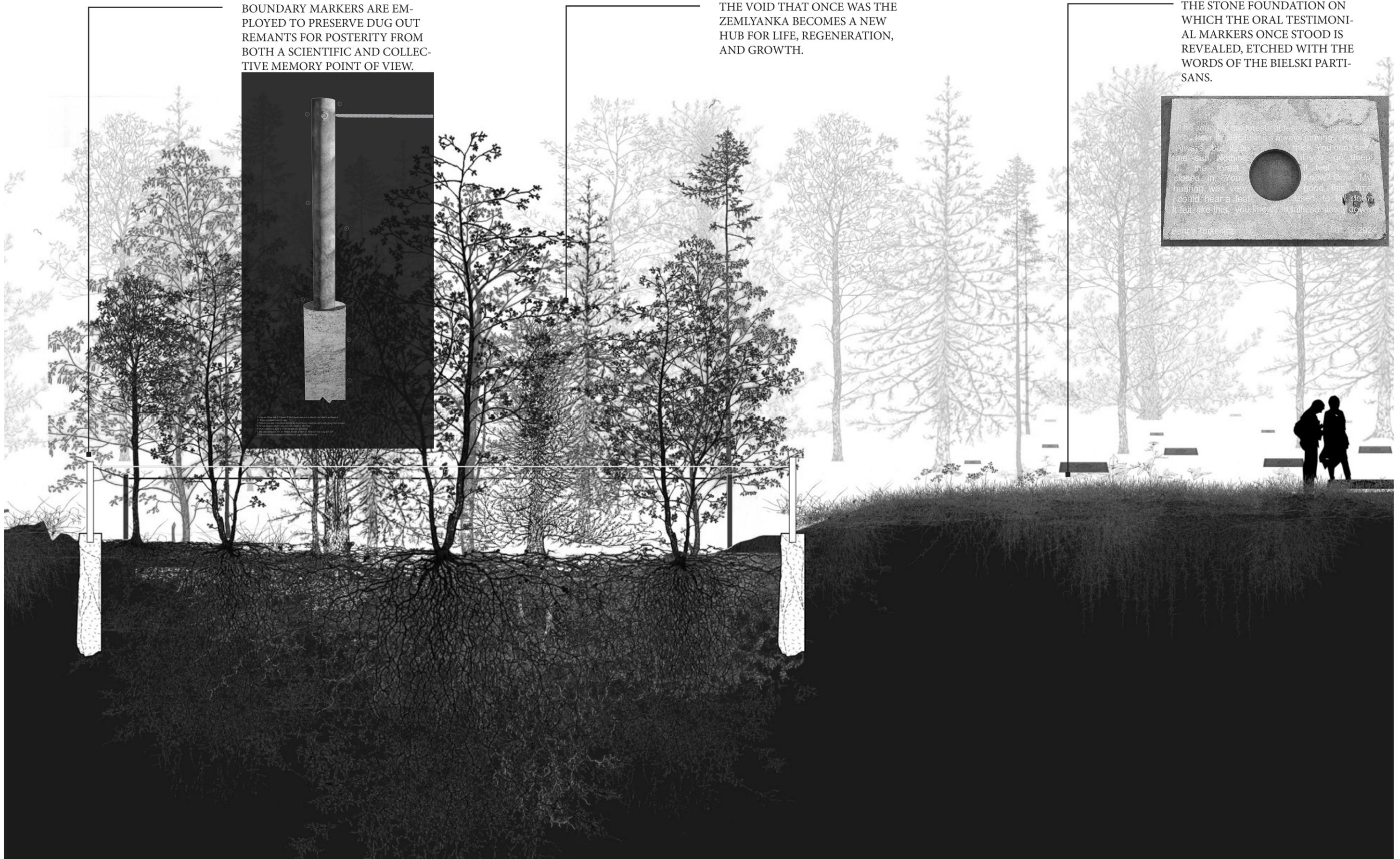
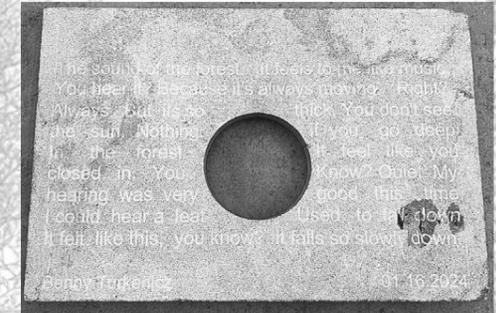
1:100

BOUNDARY MARKERS ARE EMPLOYED TO PRESERVE DUG OUT REMANTS FOR POSTERITY FROM BOTH A SCIENTIFIC AND COLLECTIVE MEMORY POINT OF VIEW.



THE VOID THAT ONCE WAS THE ZEMLYANKA BECOMES A NEW HUB FOR LIFE, REGENERATION, AND GROWTH.

THE STONE FOUNDATION ON WHICH THE ORAL TESTIMONIAL MARKERS ONCE STOOD IS REVEALED, ETCHED WITH THE WORDS OF THE BIELSKI PARTISANS.



Perspective

A walk through time and space

