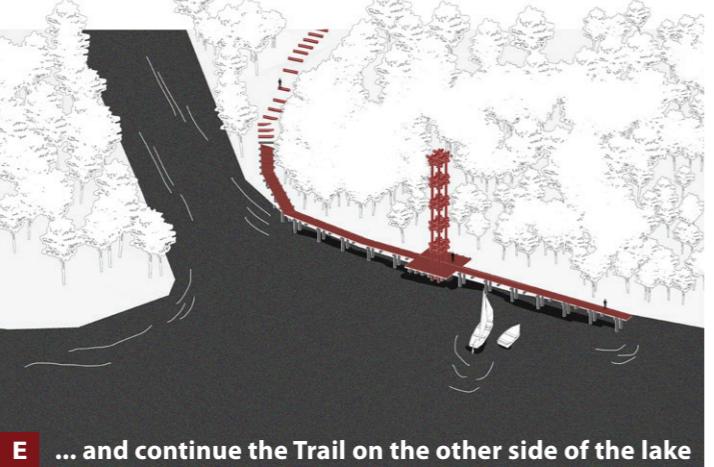


WATER MEMORY: ENGAGED TOURISM TRAIL ALONG THE MASURIAN CANAL

Recultivation of an unfinished waterway as a means of cultivating cultural continuity in former East Prussia

MEZO SCALE

Eleven points have been chosen to be crucial in order to demonstrate the idea behind the Engaged Tourism Trail. The red color, derived from rusty parts of abandoned sluices marks the way of the Trail. The path follows the terrain where it is possible, in order to achieve minimal interference with nature. Other forms are aligned with the water infrastructure of the Masurian Canal. The path follows the terrain where possible, in order to achieve minimal interference. In other places, structures are aligned with the water infrastructure of the Canal.

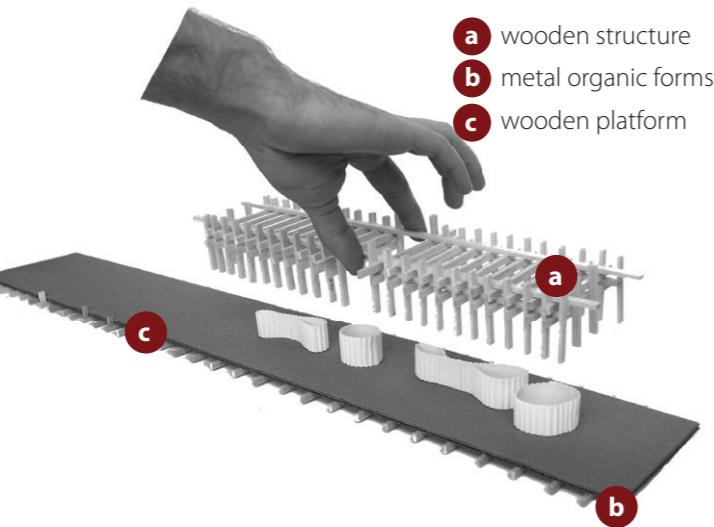


D one can rent a kayak to cross the Rydzówka lake...

MICRO SCALE

Any action taken on the Masurian Canal should indicate a sense of a meaningful journey and by that it should also indicate the route of the journey. But in order to enable exploration and own discoveries that contribute to building one's own cultural identity, the actions should not be literal, but rather metaphorical, ambiguous even.

This genuinity of form and matter are basic values that should be taken into consideration when deciding the Masurian Canal's fate. Because of that, a lot of this project was dedicated to mapping and analyzing what is there, what was there in order to determine what will be there, which would be in fact just another layer to the long history of the place.

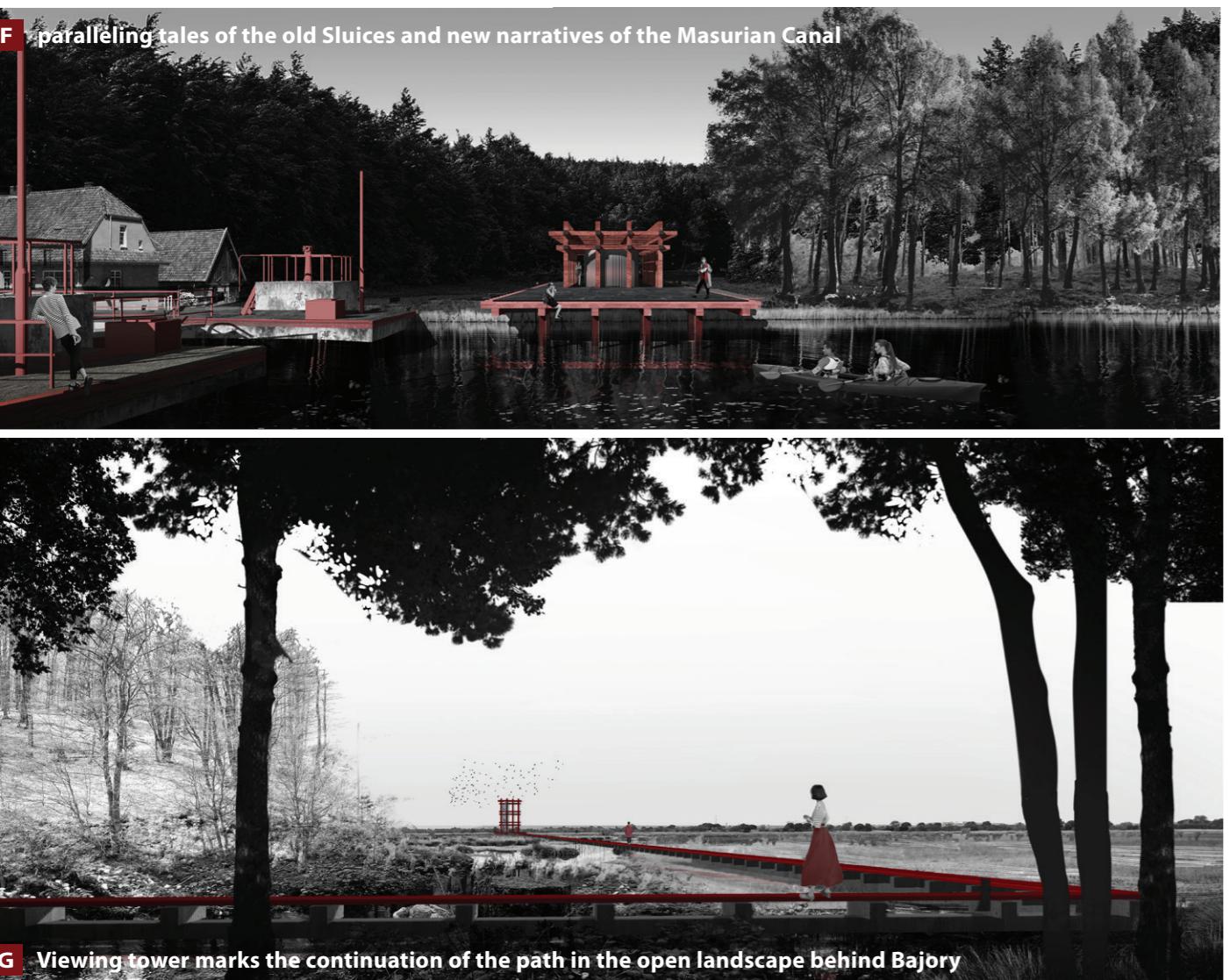


DOING NOTHING

The key is not to design an eternal structure, that would overshadow what is left of the Canal, but a neutral presence, that takes into account that it may also fade away and disappear along with the natural succession that has overcome the Masurian Canal.

Survey of the Canal has lead to a conclusion that architecture cannot be the answer to everything, and sometimes we should ask ourselves not "how to build?" but rather "how not to build?"

The Masurian Canal is such an overbearing historical and physical virtue that it is not always obvious to add something to it. That's why this design is only an addition, a "sneak peek" of the Canal, which is already a big architectural value itself, especially when stumbled upon in the middle of the Masurian forest.



G Viewing tower marks the continuation of the path in the open landscape behind Bajory

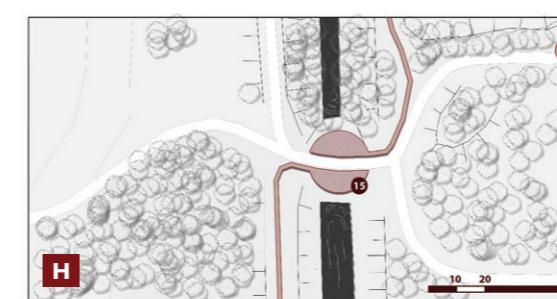
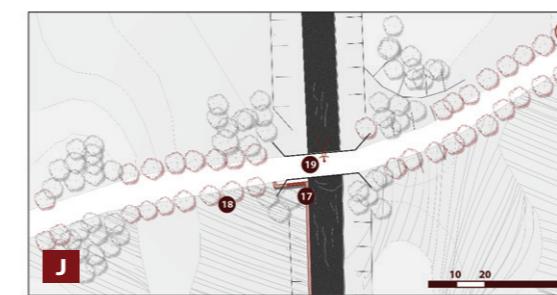
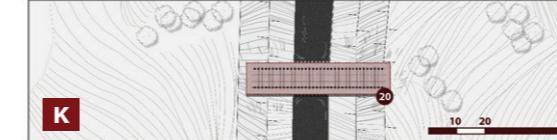
H circular platform marks the presence of the Canal and serves as a rest stop



G pathways and small bridges allow for a dry passage near Bajory Sluice



G pathways and small bridges allow for a dry passage near Bajory Sluice



THE TRAIL ENDS HERE

Behind the newly planted trees along the road leading from Brzeźnica to Kalki, the road that is marked by the old, steel bridge in Brzeźnica, lays the end of the journey. The Engaged Tourism Trail ends here. The trees act as a curtain for what is behind them - a screen, formed out of the span of the Brzeźnica bridge. One, red-painted span serves as a window with a view on the last element of the trail - another bridge.

Though it seemingly connects two banks of the Canal, it cannot be reached or crossed over as it is located in the militarized part of the Polish-Russian border. It is a visible symbol of an invisible border that cuts the Masurian Canal, though maybe, with time, a treaty between two countries might be achieved that would finally lead to doing something about the Canal. Until then, it serves also as a symbol of hope as well - a hope, that just as this bridge connects two banks, the Masurian Canal might sometime connect two hostile countries...



K a viewing point from Brzeźnica bridge - a hope that the Canal will once connect two regions...

WATER MEMORY: ENGAGED TOURISM TRAIL ALONG THE MASURIAN CANAL

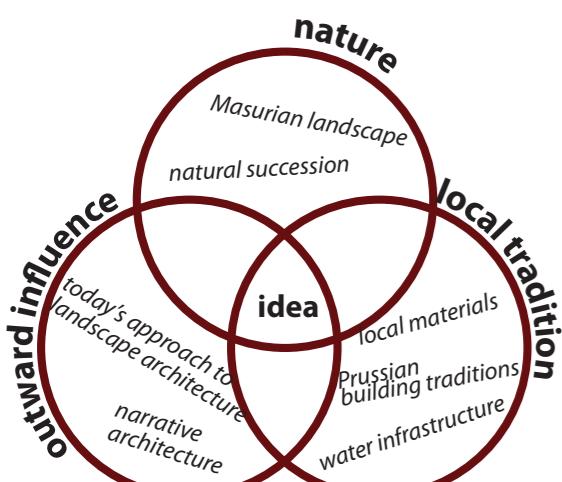
Recultivation of an unfinished waterway as a means of cultivating cultural continuity in former East Prussia

MASURIAN CANAL

The Masurian Canal was supposed to connect today's Great Lakes of Masuria with the Baltic Sea, at the same time balancing out economical differences between poor and rural south of East Prussia with its wealthy capital - Königsberg.

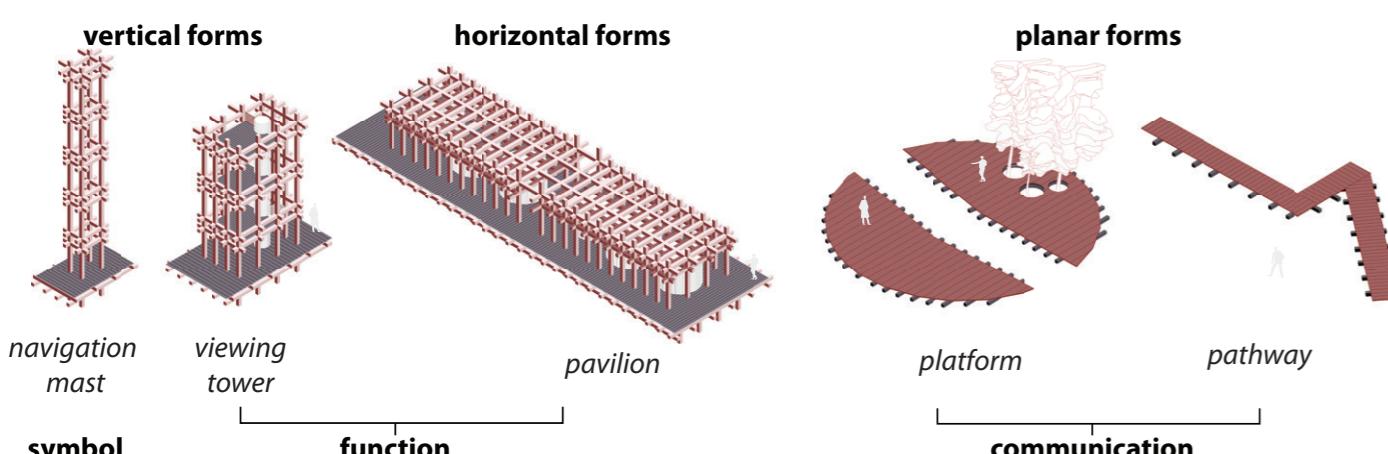
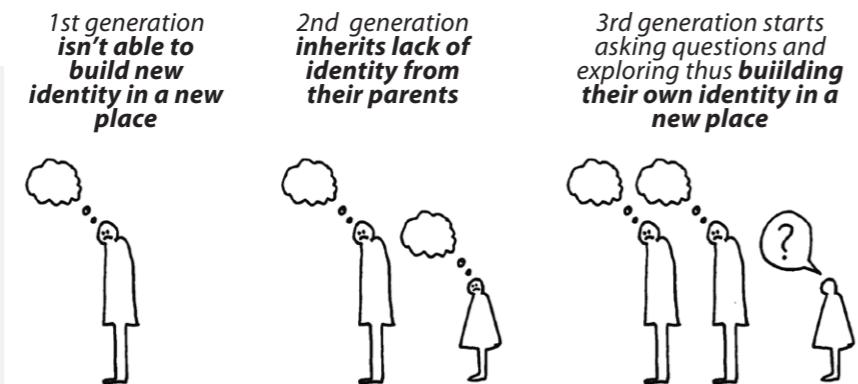
Plans for the Masurian canal, though starting as far as in the 17th century, have taken their form in the 20th century, thus being late for the European "Canal Age". Nevertheless it remains an example of great engineering solutions that emerged in the heads of 19th century architects. Its greatness can be measured in the height of bespoke waterlocks on the canal.

Late start on the construction works and political conflicts afterwards have caused for abandonment of the project. What is left of the never finished Masurian Canal has surrendered to the natural succession and its ambiguous state of being calls for wondering how to deal with this hydrotechnical infrastructure in current design thinking and current geopolitical background of former East Prussia.



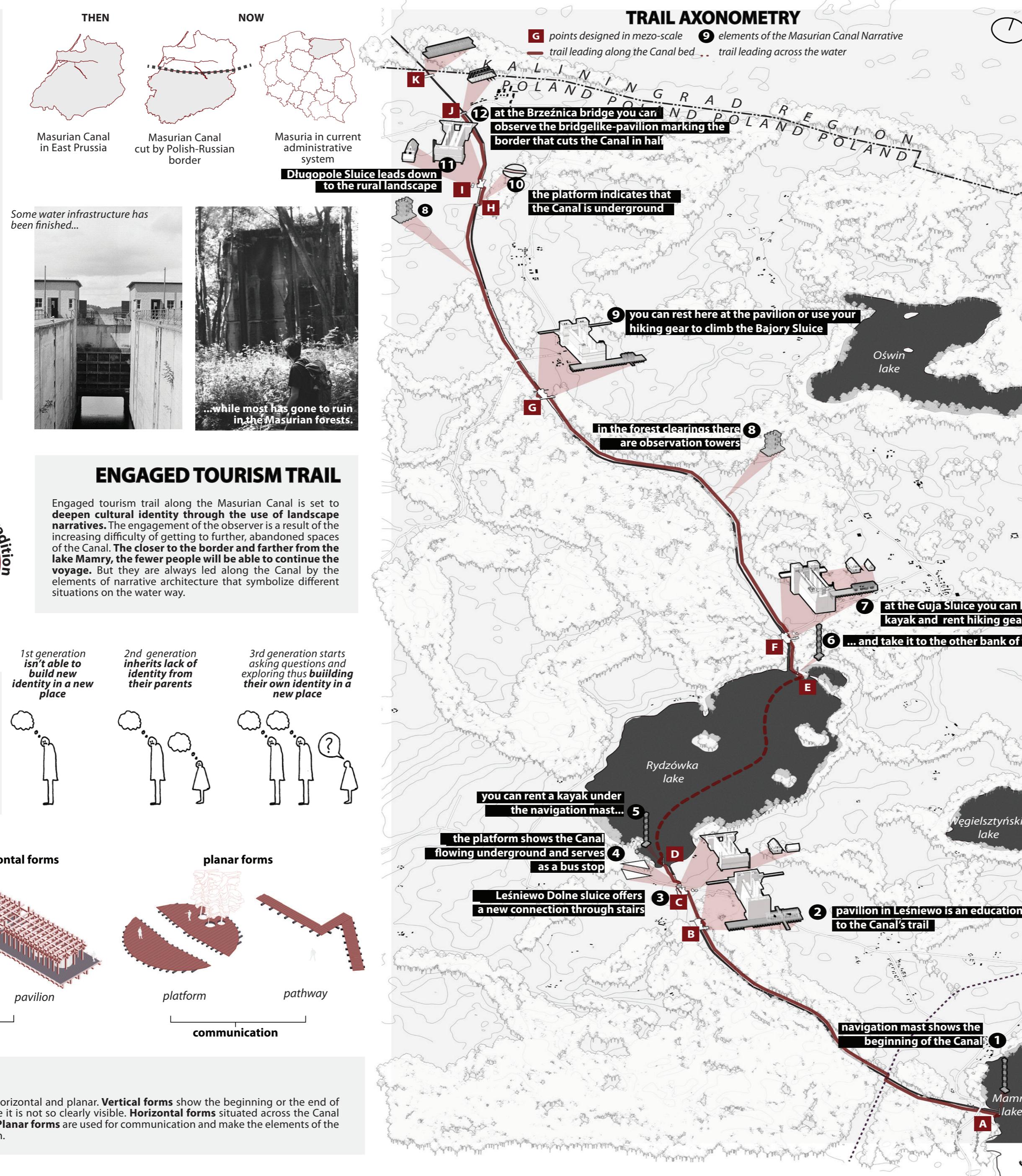
RITES DE PASSAGE

According to Zdzislaw's Mach theory of transposing phases of rites passage onto three consecutive generations, we're now currently in phase three, which means that the third generation of post-war migrants to Masuria is ready to adopt existing Prussian culture as their own.

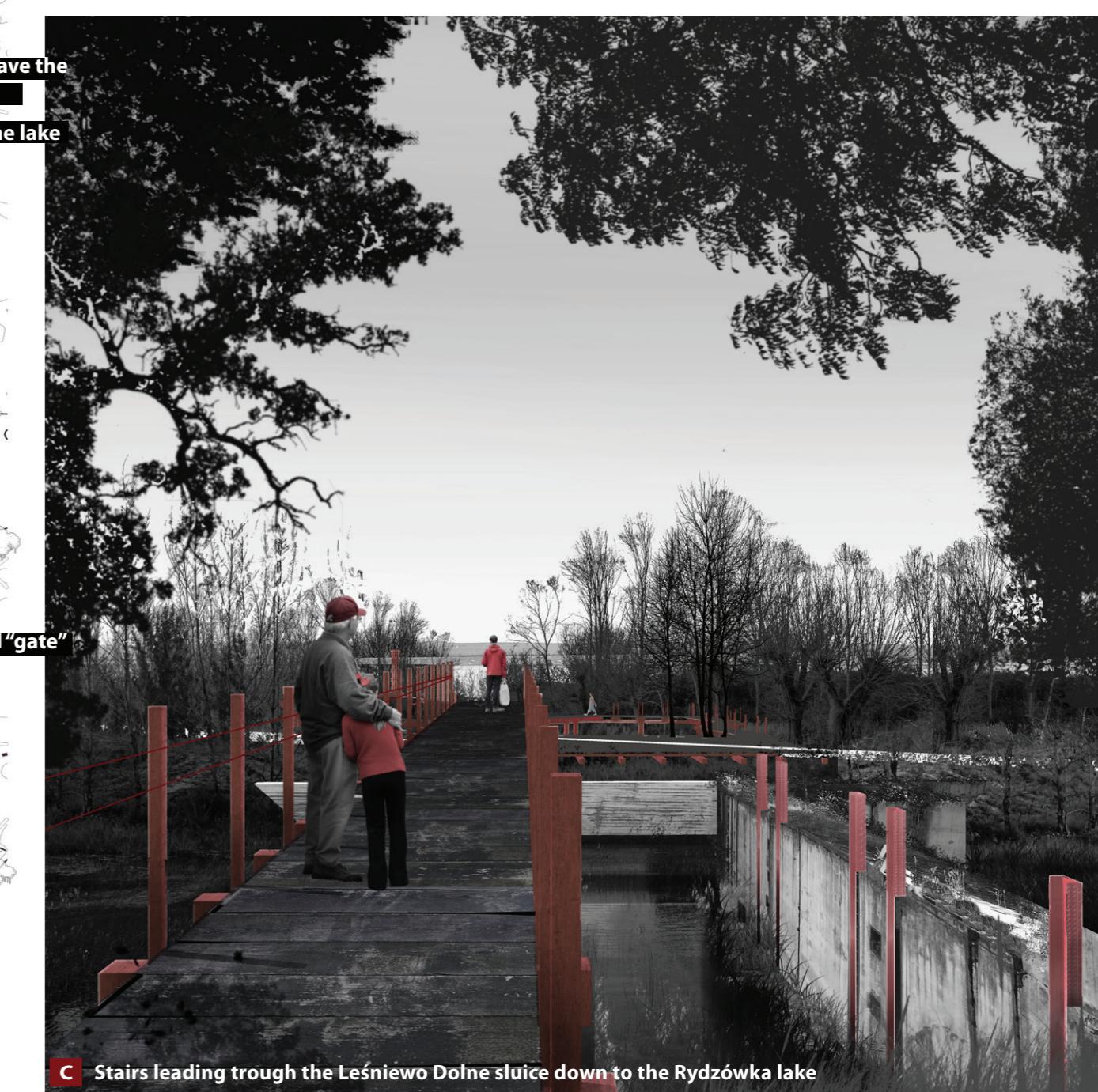
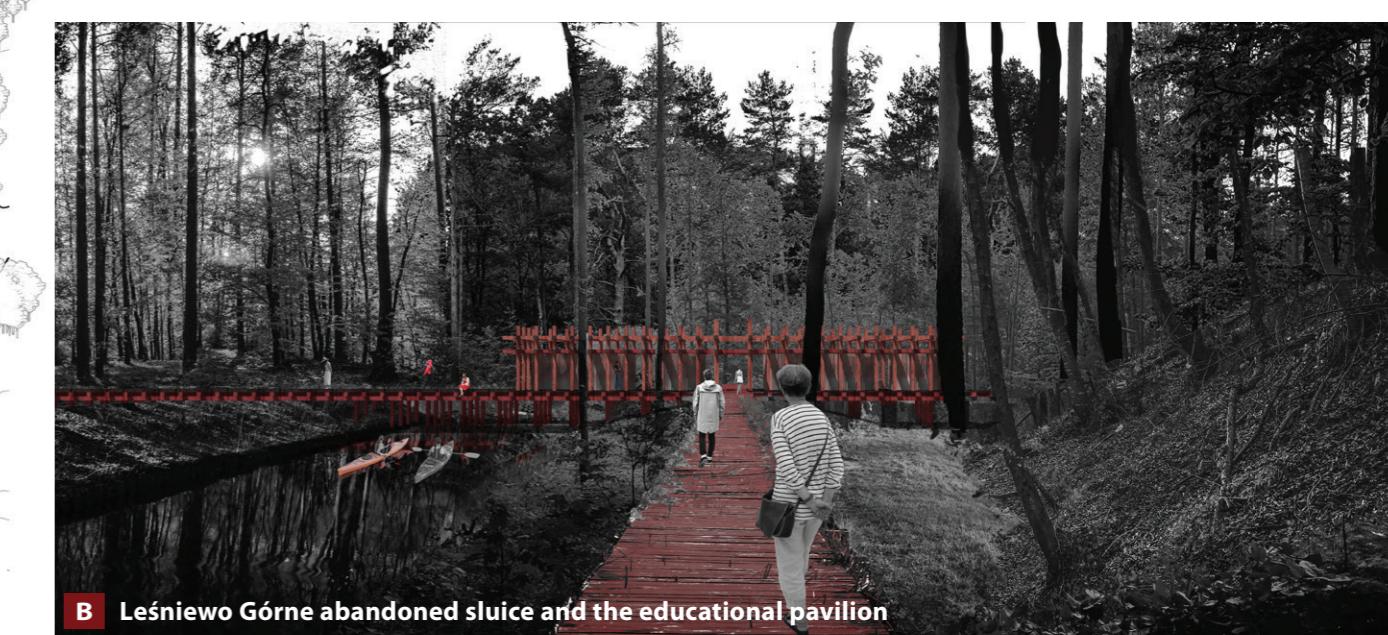


MACRO SCALE

The structures be categorized into vertical, horizontal and planar. **Vertical forms** show the beginning or the end of the Canal, or its continuation in places where it is not so clearly visible. **Horizontal forms** situated across the Canal indicate that the water way is split or ended. **Planar forms** are used for communication and make the elements of the Canal more readable, where it cannot be seen.



A navigation mast indicating the beginning of the Canal on the Mamry lake



C Stairs leading through the Leśniewo Dolne sluice down to the Rydzówka lake