

# Transfer / Trasposizione

The site of the Radicepura Garden Festival is immersed in the vast fields of the plant nurseries. It is also integral part of the landscape between the Etna and the sea: the volcano looming in sight. Visiting the festival inextricably connects the pleasure of visiting landscape and an impressive 'machine room' of plant and garden production.

'Garden' is inherently about import and export, about the transport of ideas and cultivated plants, about exchange. But garden is always specifically related to its site. This relationship to its location is why no two gardens are alike. Gardens are producers of knowledge where we learn about our relationship with nature – and, quite pragmatically, with our immediate surroundings.

Between Giarre and Catania within some 25 kilometres the terrain drops 3.300 m from the height of the Etna crater to sea level. In order to make the mountain side utile, it has been structured by terraces. Retaining walls strongly characterise the landscape. But the region is further textured by ubiquitous walls between properties. Travelling through the landscape around Giarre means travelling between walls. The festival grounds are behind walls and are entered through a large gate.



Acireale region, Via Palombaro 37°40'35.5"N 15°09'38.1"E



Lava stone walls Acireale region, Via Dogana. 37°40'58.5"N 15°09'58.5"E

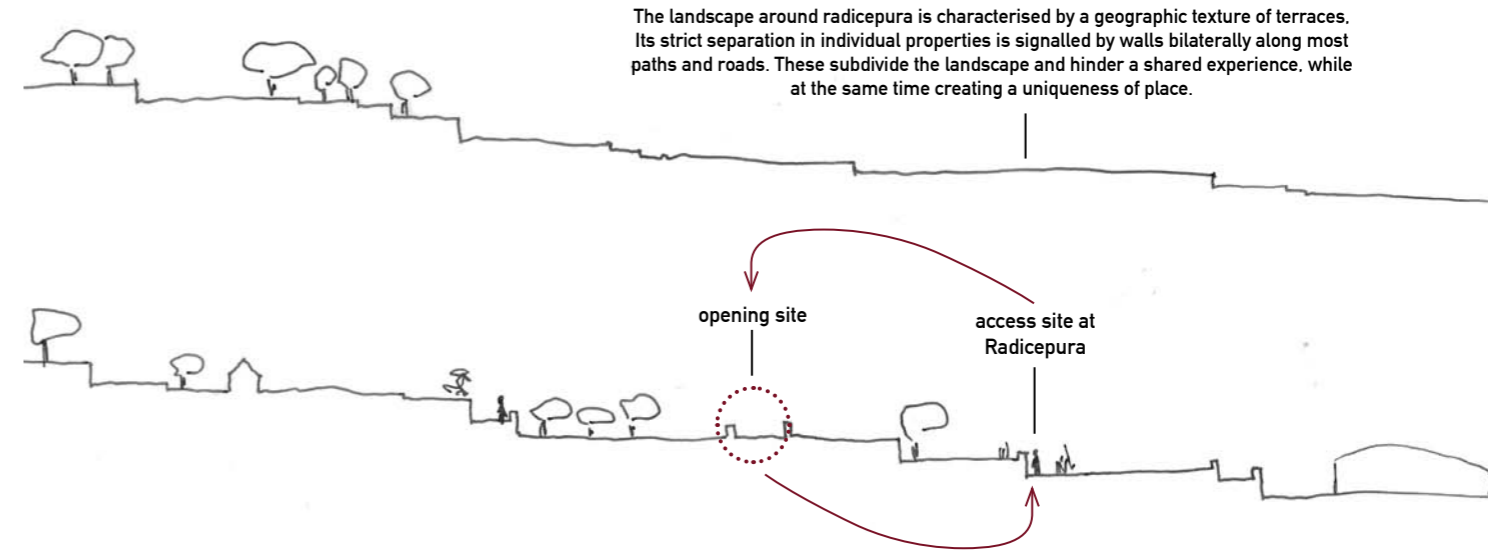
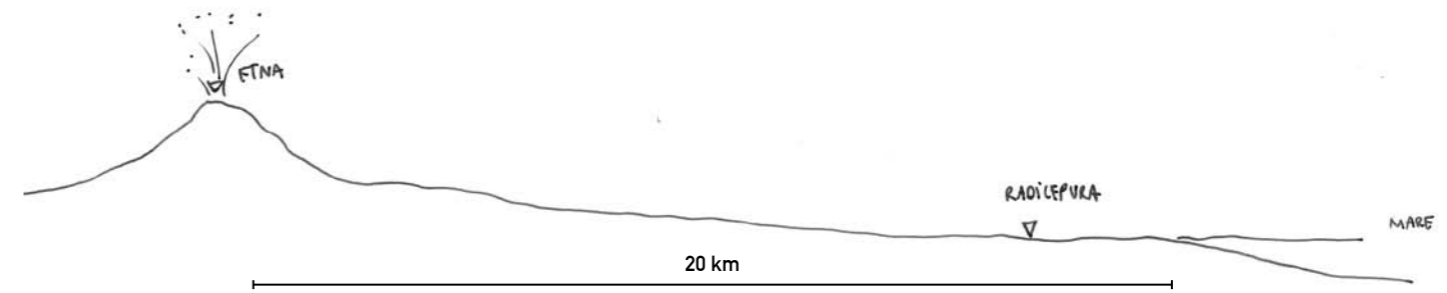


Acireale region, Via Presidente 37°39'55.0"N 15°10'41.7"E

**PROPOSAL** — We propose a small – yet binary – project that reflects the role of this landscape's walls – and brings garden festival and the cultural landscape together. The landscape's walls reflect the geographical location: more often than not, these landscape walls are artfully built from lava stone; contemporary time has conceded to mortar and concrete as addition, annex and surrogate. We would like to help re-cultivate the quality of these walls and to underline their structural and cultural role in the region.

**OPENING** : A site in the landscape is chosen, where an opening in a lava stone wall enables a vista from road or path over the larger landscape. Ideally this is an existing, maybe derelict opening, that might at some point later be reconstructed. The opening would be clarified by cleaning and formalising the edges and by painting them in a temporary white or brightly coloured paint. Ideally two such openings would be made directly across each other in order to underline the uniqueness of this situation. The site with the openings can be freely visited, at least from the adjacent road.

Visitors of the festival will receive a map of the location. Potentially their visit of the garden festival will be expanded by a pointed encounter with the larger, beautiful landscape.



The landscape around radicepura is characterised by a geographic texture of terraces. Its strict separation in individual properties is signalled by walls bilaterally along most paths and roads. These subdivide the landscape and hinder a shared experience, while at the same time creating a uniqueness of place.



**ACCESS** : Next to the festival grounds we propose building a low platform of lava stone. This 'garden-platform' is to serve as a tool of spatial access to the 'garden'. We believe that, essentially, the spatial and vegetative structures of the nursery are a very impressive garden in itself. The longitudinal platform (quasi a laid down wall) would reach into a grove of potted trees: a visit into the stock of the nursery, the occasion for some moments with the plants. The platform raised at three steps (45-50 cm) gives a slightly differing perspective, it serves as safe ground. Ideally, stepping onto the platform would raise the visitor overlooking the canopy of the trees.

At the end of the platform one can find a box with the maps of the openings in the landscape.



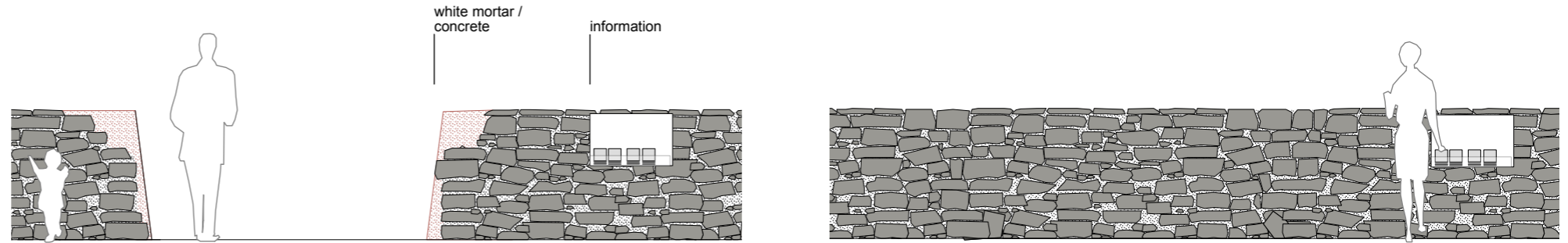
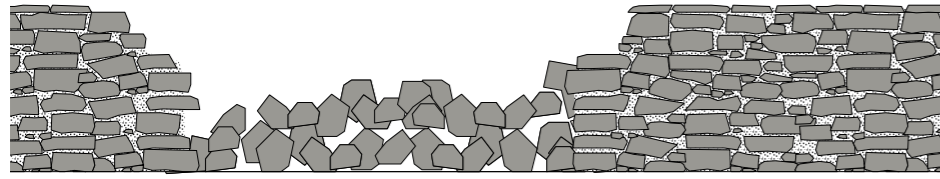


scal ca. 1:1000 : possible location for an 'opening site'



scale ca. 1:1000 : possible location for an 'access site' at Radicepura Festival site

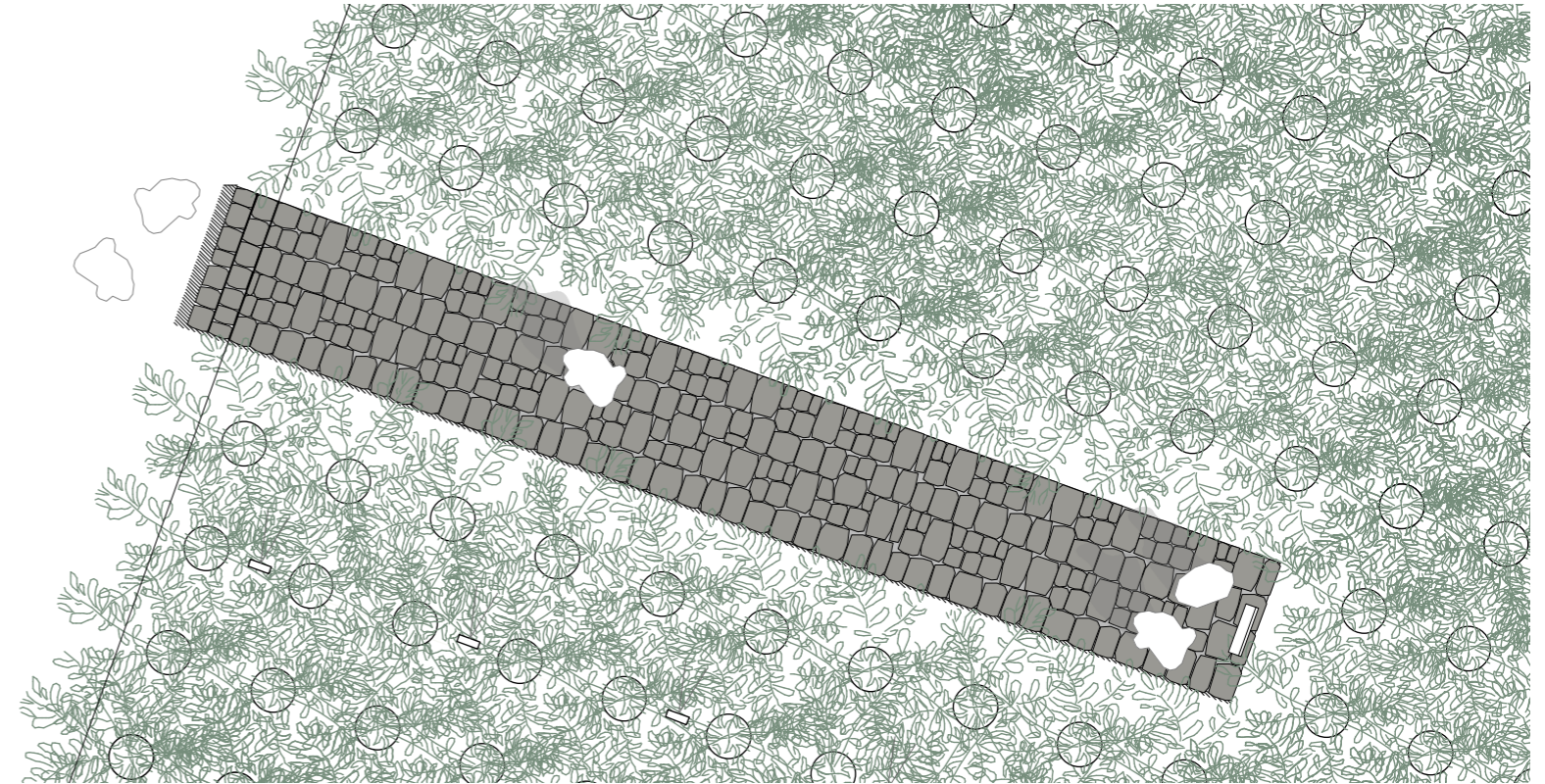




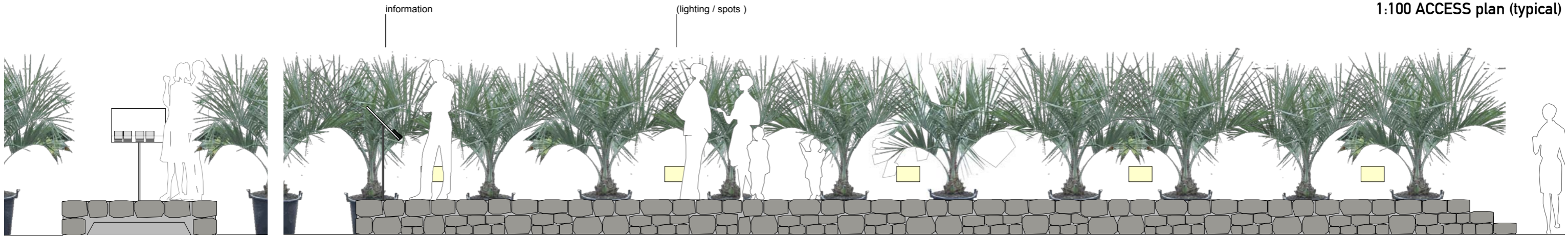
1:50 OPENING / 3 phases



re-cultivating the structure of the surrounding landscape

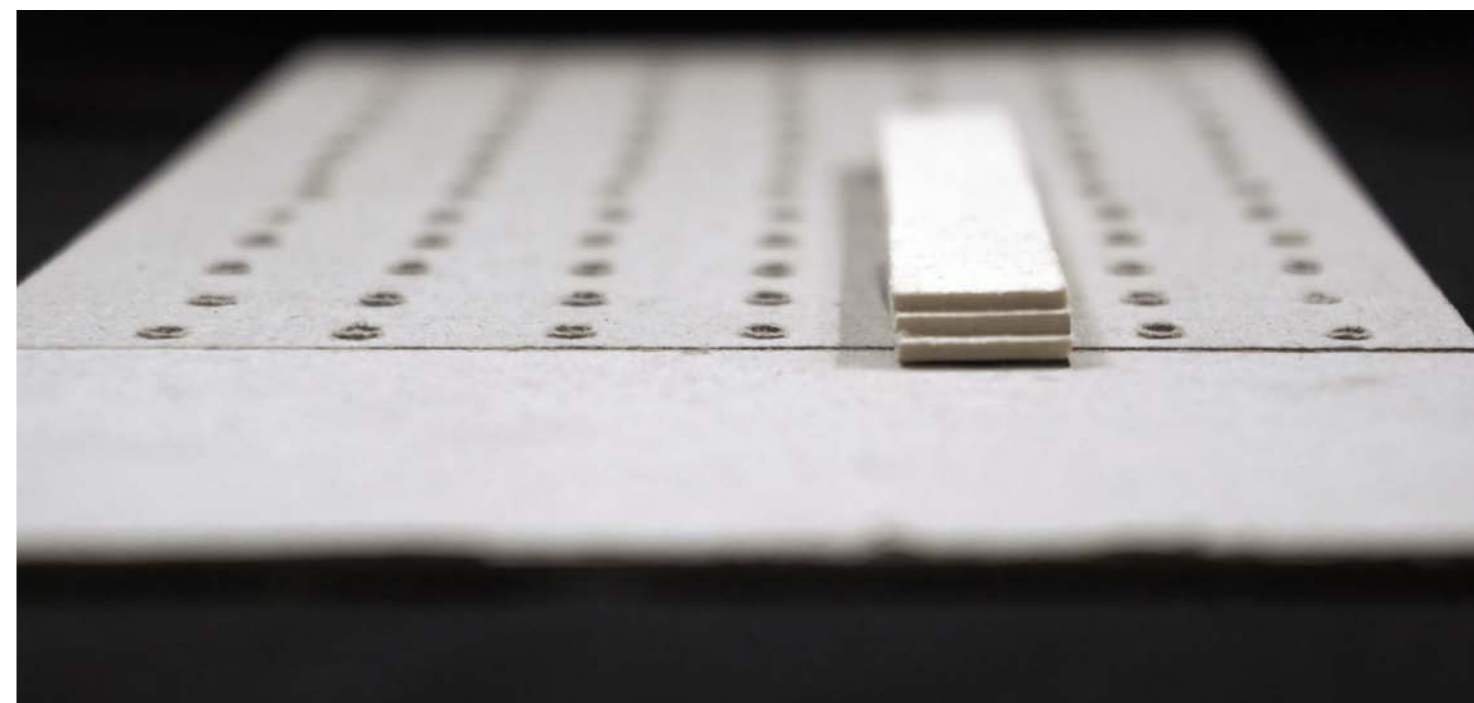
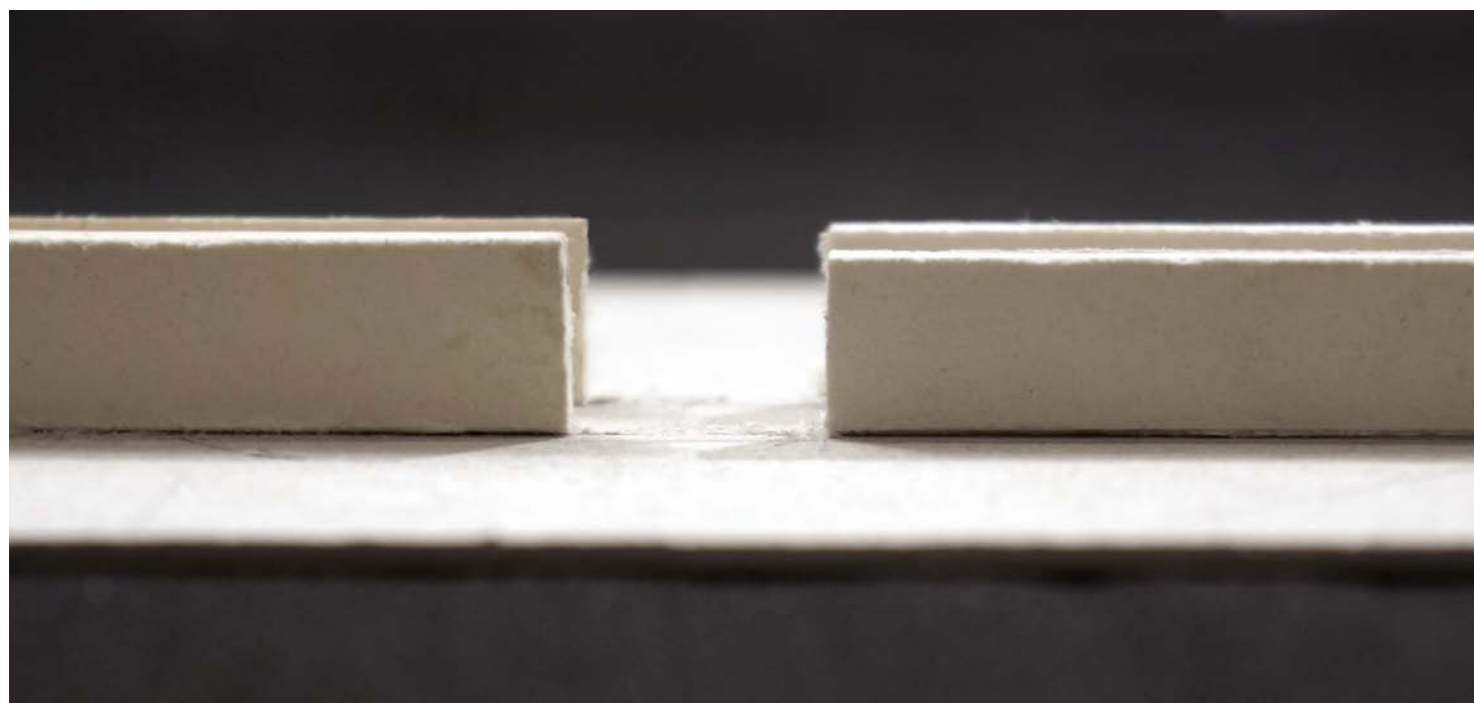


1:100 ACCESS plan (typical)



1:50 ACCESS plan / section / elevation (typical)





## REALISATION

Site visit / choosing the site: Both sites have to be chosen during a site visit and in dialogue with the responsible people. Generally, the two measures can and should be adapted to the respective sites. Either we develop potential sites in a first visit (sighting) and then contacting proprietors, developing options and make a final choice of site and necessary measures during a second visit. Or, we can rely on propositions by the organisers of the festival to then make the final choices.

### Desired characteristics of the sites:

**OPENING** — The place should enable a certain degree of `discovery` of the surrounding landscape; maybe in view of the Festival site, maybe with a view of the volcano. Lava stone walls should be a prominent feature here; they could be a damaged part of a wall that might be restored afterwards. The site should be publicly accessible and in short walking distance from place where two, three cars can be safely parked.

**ACCESS PLATFORM** — The location should connect the visitor to the plant production of the nursery, preferably in short walking distance from the festival gardens. Also, plants could be transferred to be near or on the festival site. The choice of plants (one or only few varieties) and their respective quality will be discussed with the nursery. The visitor should be able to have an impressive spatial relationship with the plants' canopies.

### Approximate dimensions of the interventions:

**OPENING** : for example 1,5 x 3,0 m (height/width).

The opening in the walls should be closed after a year or two as part of a reconstruction and (re)cultivation of the regions lava stone walls.

**ACCESS PLATFORM** : 1,5 x 0,45 x 20 m (width/height/length)

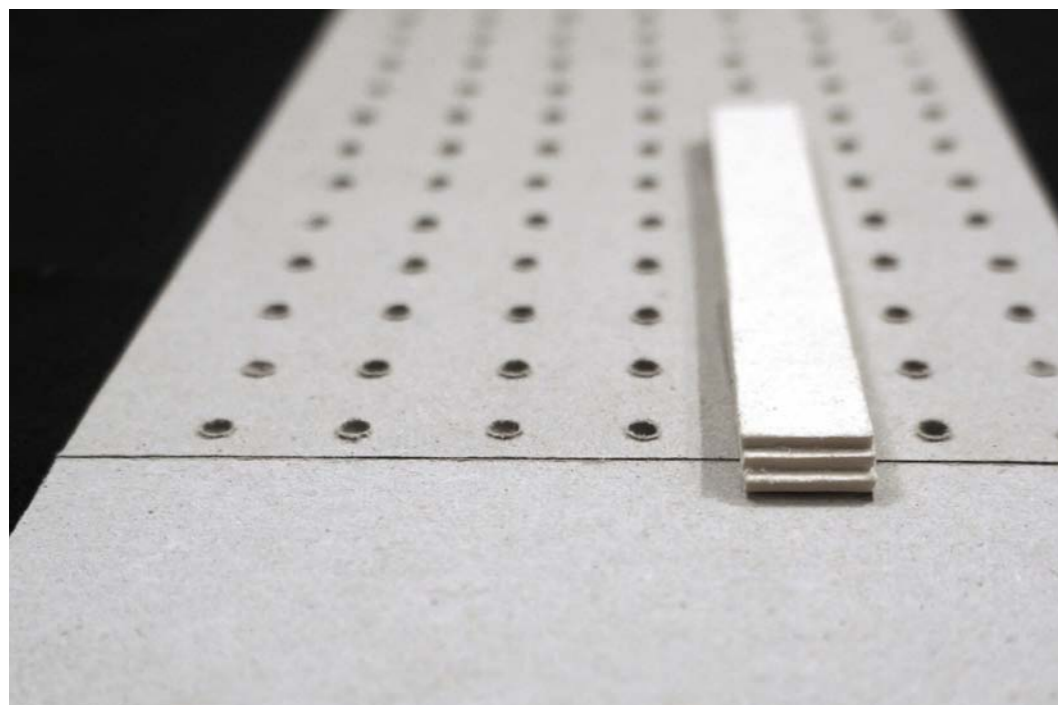
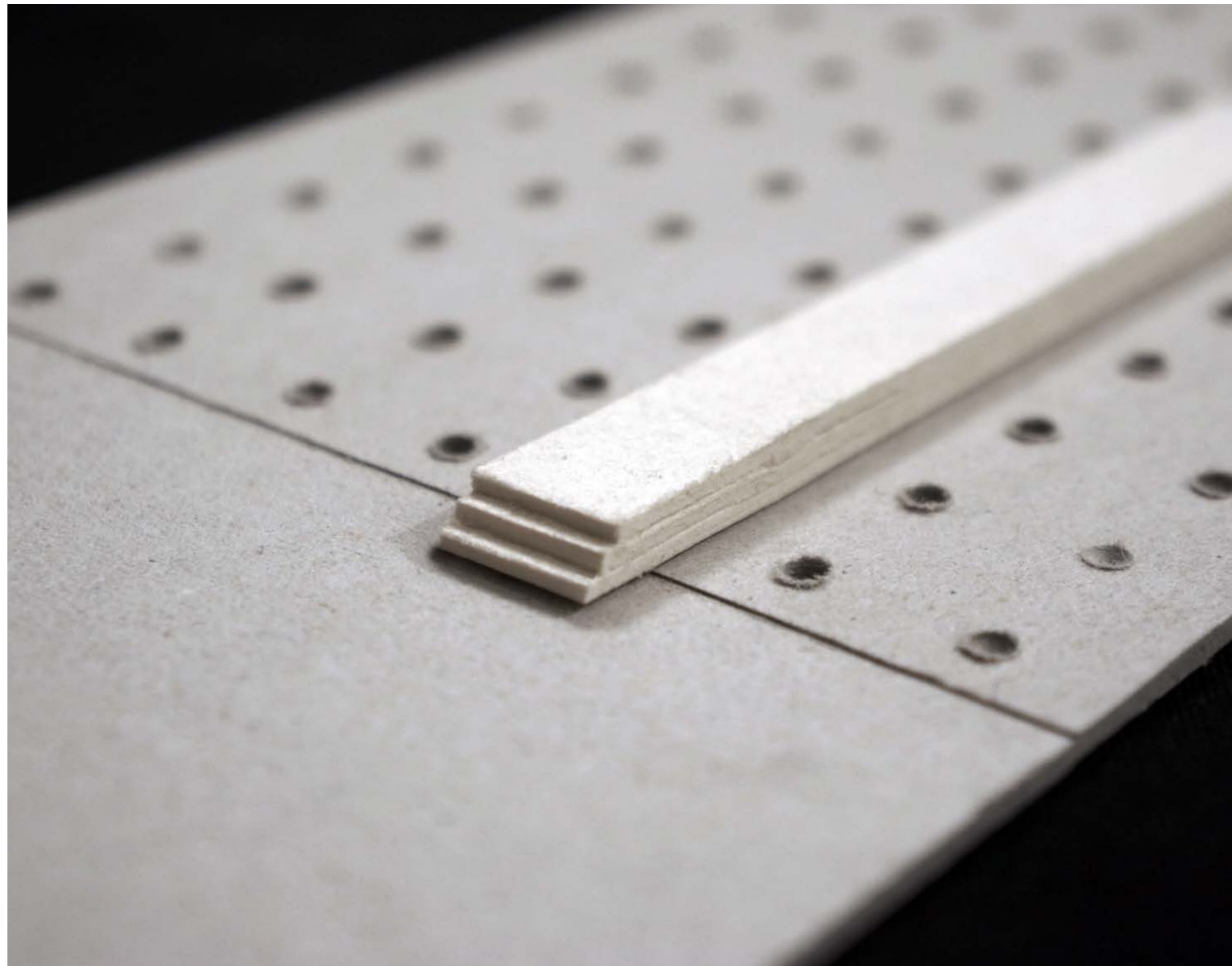
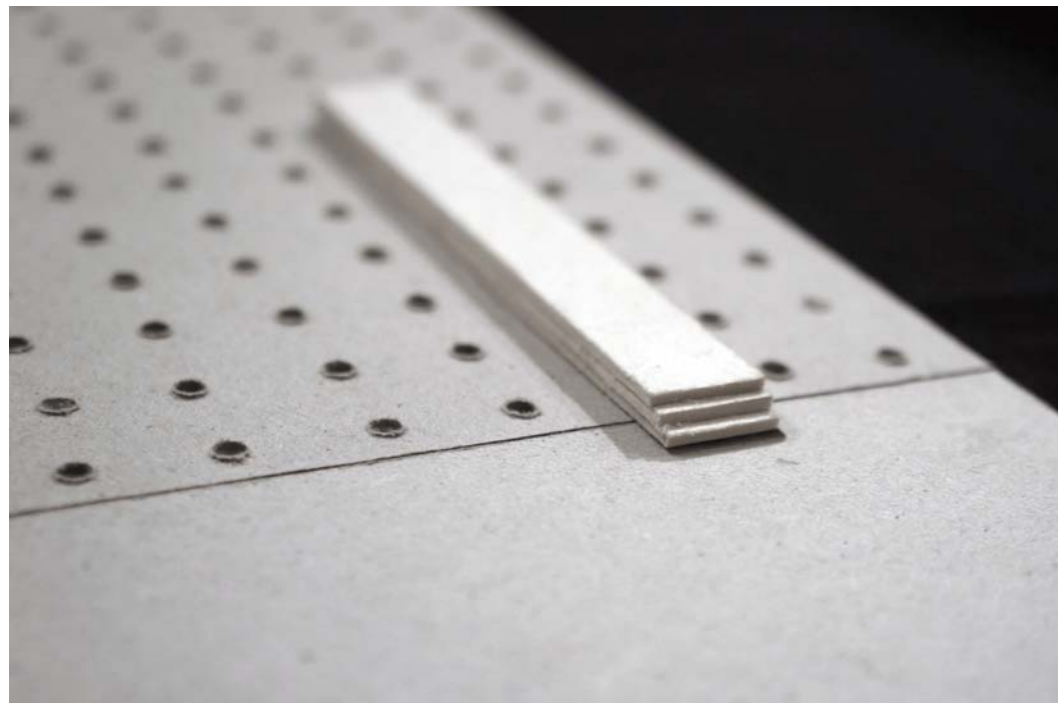
The platform will probably have to be built in a stable form and may remain for a good number of years.

The platform would be constructed on a light bed of compacted gravel. Regional lava stone (if available, via nursery), set with mortar of light concrete. Size of stones f.e. 30 x 35 x 25 cm. Depending on availability and craft possibilities.

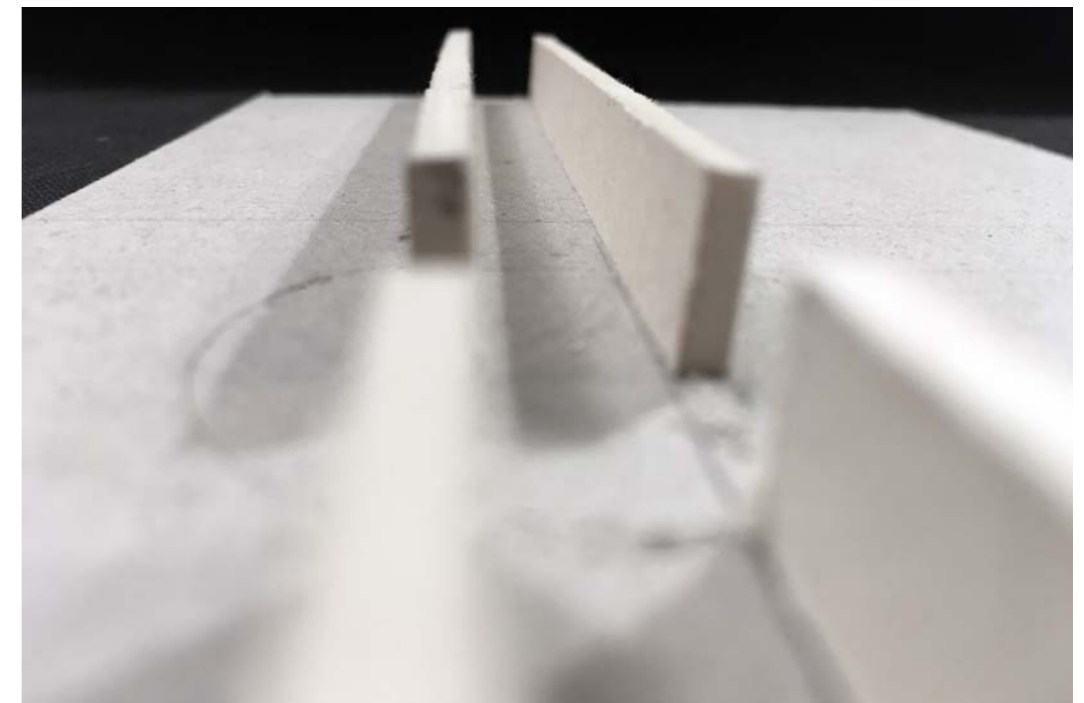
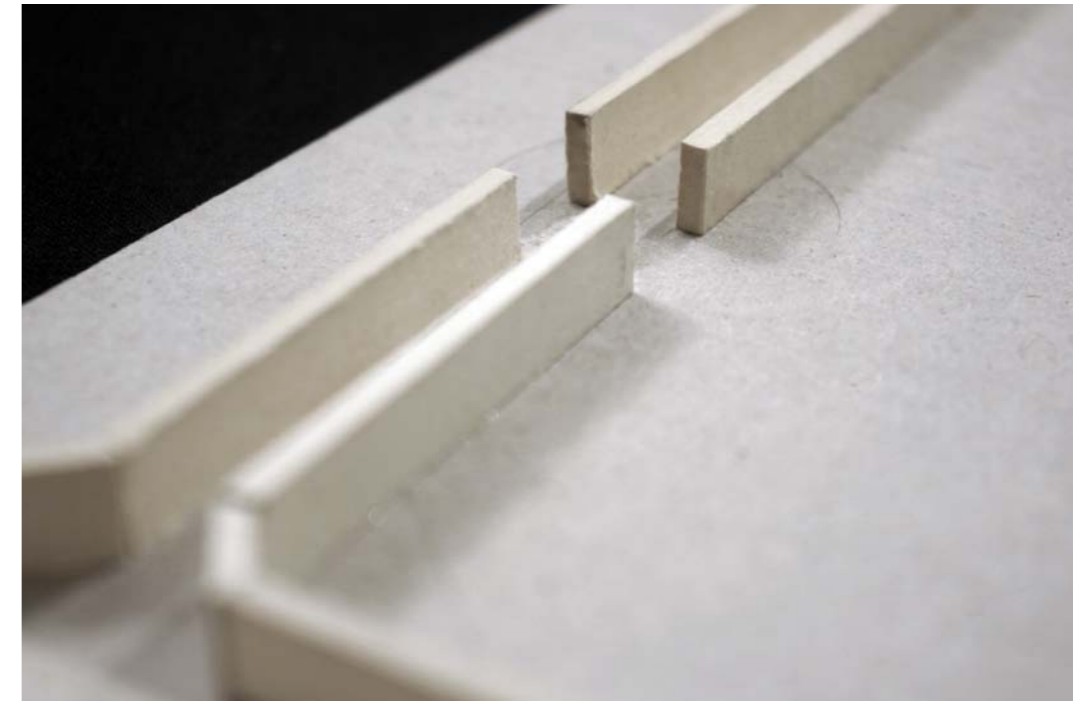
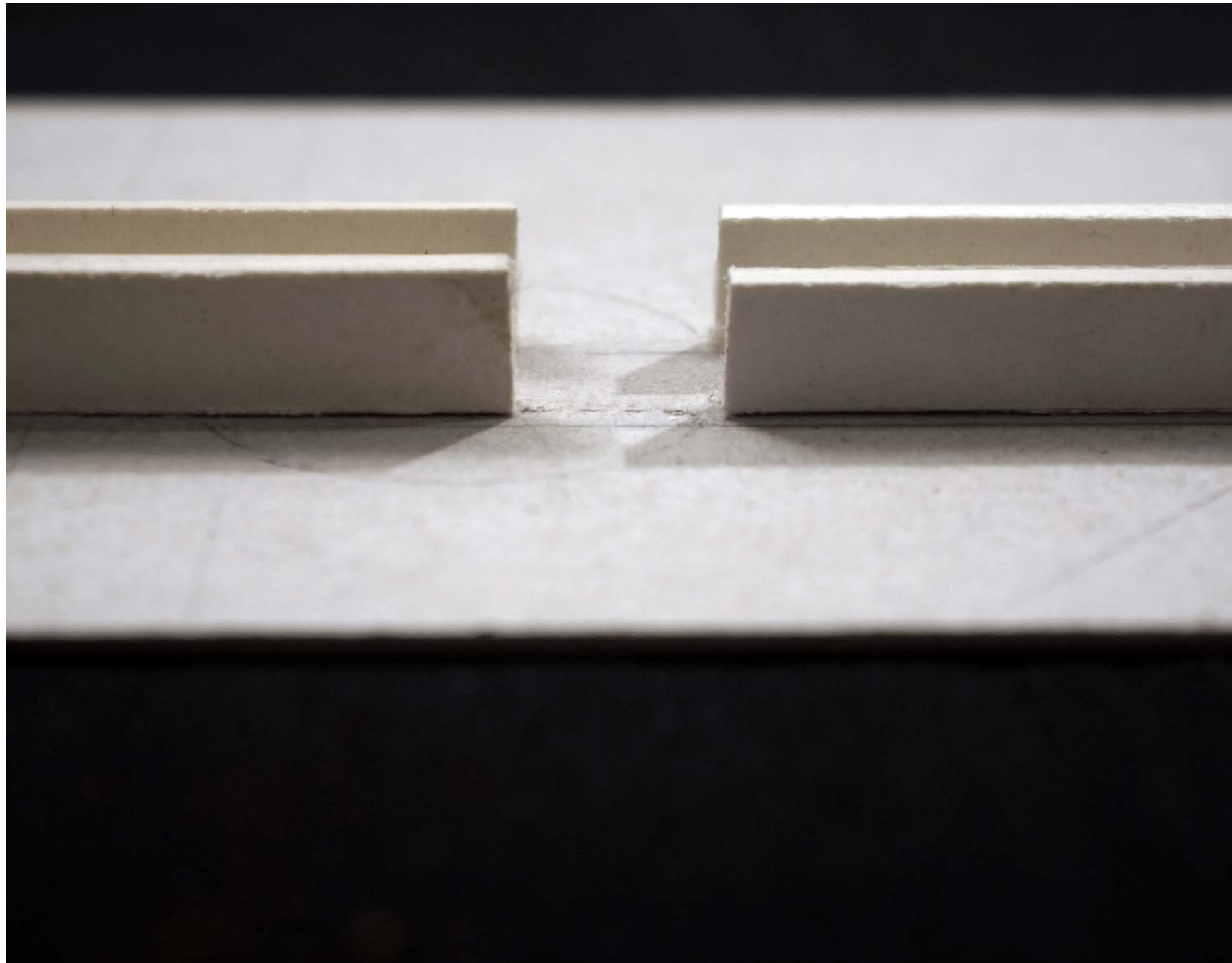
### Budget:

(1.200 EUR)	Travel and accommodation
2.400 EUR	Opening. Cleaning, clarifying and marking the openings. Transport of material off-site. Later: rebuilding of the wall.
6.600 EUR	30 m2 platform made of lava stones
500 EUR	Map / info handout. 2.000 pcs folded maps (b/w)
500 EUR	Info plates (map) at both sites, box for handouts.
- EUR	Adaptation of plant positions (internal workforce of Festival)
- EUR	Potted plants. Nursery's own material. The plantmaterial remains fully in vendable condition. May be sold off from installation.
- EUR	Lighting. Sponsoring / nursery.
<hr/> 10.000 EUR	





Study model of the 'access platform' in plant field. Size and proportion will depend on actual site.



Study model of 'opening' in landscape wall. Size and proportion will depend on actual site.