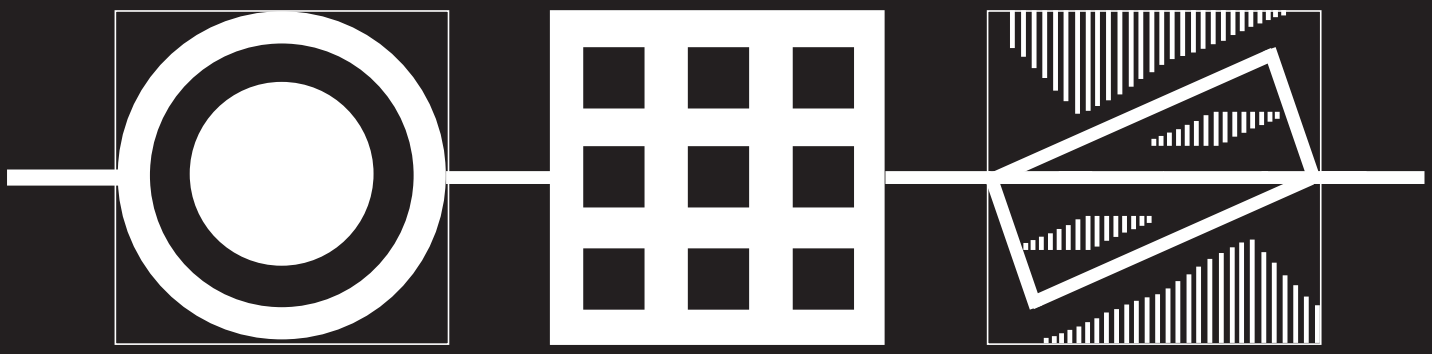


Pavilion of Montegnegro
Biennale di Venezia 2018

Pavilion of Montegnegro

Competition proposal for
Bienalle di Venezia 2018

PREFACE
MONTENEGRO

ABSTRACT
The sun and sea are not usually a difficult concept to sell. Throw in the occasional charm of old Venetian streets and Balkan cuisine and you have Montenegro's coast in a nutshell. Adjacently to this, the land pulls steeply out of the Med, giving rise to breath taking landscapes and jaw dropping valleys.

The latest in Europes hot list of summer "Leisure Cities" Montenegro has it all to offer. If the price is right, you can even own a piece of it yourself...

"Budva was President Tito's Benidorm"

Adrian Mourby, 2016

PREFACE
Tourism makes up 20% of Montenegro's GDP, and is rising fast. Behind it has rushed a storm of developers, dubiously trying book to push through eye gouging blocks of faux contextual mass to shelter the perceived masses during this summer pilgrimage. The quality of the urban fabric though has not reciprocally improved.

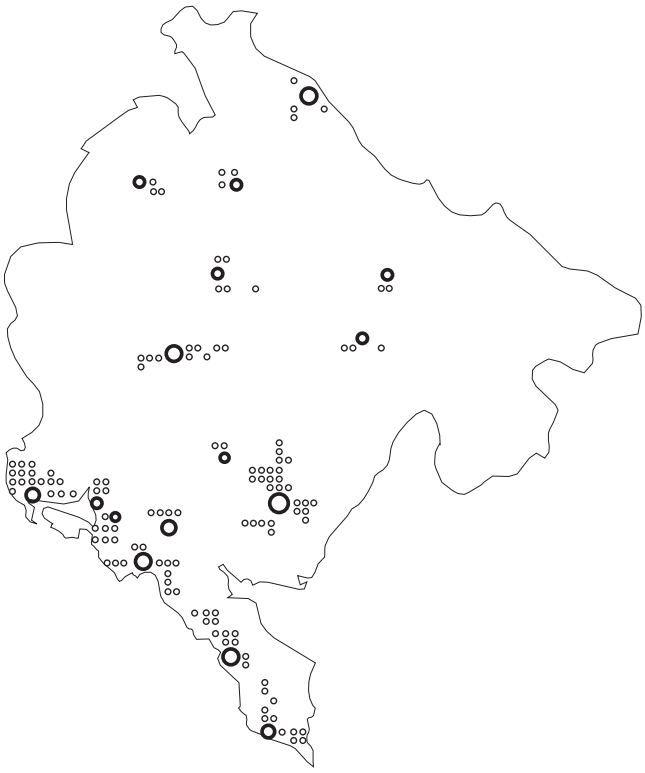
Neither have the landscapes which encompass them. The luke warm attempt to "add" to the cities of Montenegro has done little more than raise the number of available rooms on any given night. Lack of real density, vague planning and poor spatial quality has thus lead to a poor urban life.

The characteristic natural landscapes have not fared much better. A lack of cohesive planning and control has meant that there are an innumerous amount of inactive and lost landscapes.

For an economy so driven by tourism, why not accentuate it?

The 'local' has already been diminished. Attempts of faux contextual development has done nothing but dilute the quality of the existing context, blurring the boundary between them. The damage already done is irreversible, with giant developments dotting the coastline.
The solution to this is to pump up the volume.
Density should be encouraged within the area areas by all means.

Current Situation -
Major cities of Montenegro already showing urban sprawl.



Forecast -
Large scale urban sprawl due to lack of planning. Quality of freespace lost.

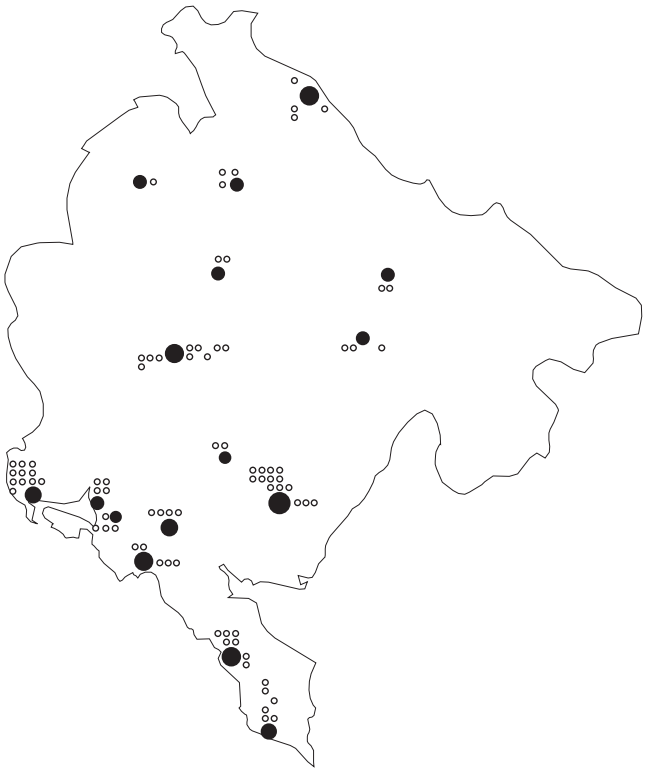
CONTROLLED CHAOS

Concentrate this at points it can be seen as Montenegro's string of pearls - controlled chaos. Development has and is constantly happening - no need to protect the current situation, it has already festered into an unhealthy urban project. Attention is needed for all aspects, residents, tourists INTENSIFY AND DIVERSIFY.

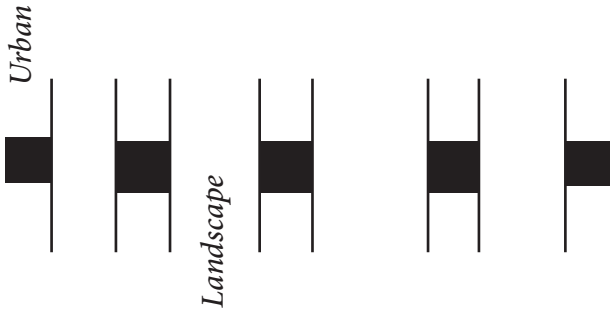
Controlling and focussing this chaos allows for landscape to remain untouched, flourish and actually highlight it through higher contrast.

Urban Issue: Zoom of current urban landscape: Urban void and lack of definition

Landscape: Few points of strategic activation required.

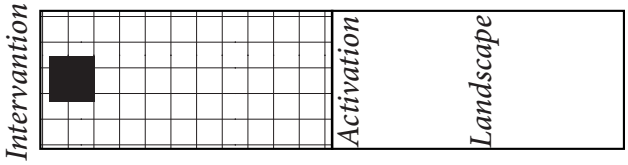


Proposition -
Greater density brought to urban areas. Encouraging density will limit sprawl and give quality to poor urban spaces.



The pearl necklace

Current state of urban landscape gives no boundary to urban form through lack of density. Undefined urban void becomes a mess, chaotic space. Neither space working in relation with the other instead both bleeding into each other.



Lost Landscapes

Landscapes themselves require minimal intervention in order to become activated. Many traditional family villages in Montenegro have been left abandoned as younger generations leave home and elders cannot remain to maintain it,

code: GA43

Density and Freespace

In order to create a resilient Montenegro one has to radically challenge the planning of urban areas in order to protect its natural beauty.

The high potential quality of Montenegro's freespace can be further extenuated with hyper density in its urban fabric. This quality is what we would like to bring the pavilion of Montenegro at the Venice Biennale.

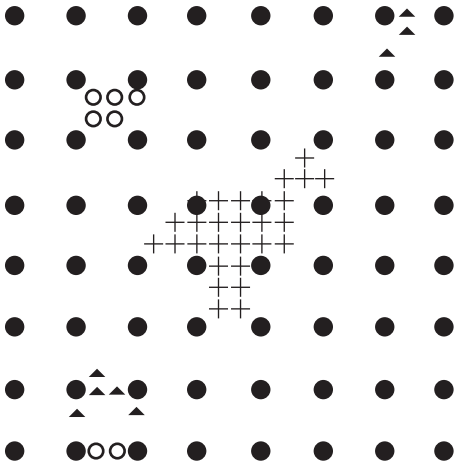
SPATIAL INTERPRETATION

The spatial interpretation of this concept can be seen as the play between density and void. This has a very literal correlation with the concept we have developed when looking at strategies for Montenegro on urban, landscape and architectural levels.

The void space within the exhibition can be seen as a continuous line. Starting with a wide base in the first exhibition space, the line distorts itself, either becoming nothing more than a path guiding one thought the exhibition at times. In other areas it engulfs the entire room, changing the users perception of the space as they move through it. This line links eloquently together the series of spaces in order to tell a complete story, that should be both intellectually stimulating as well as spatially engaging.

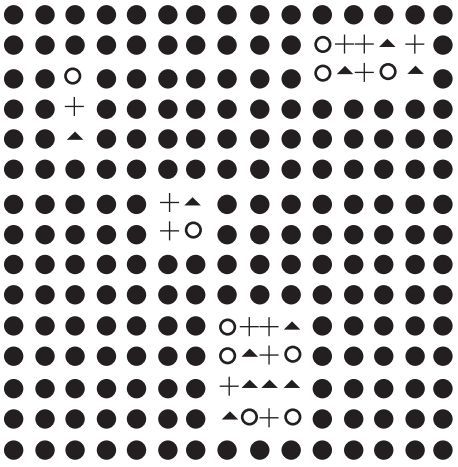
When one zooms in on the current urban landscape of Montenegro, it is evident the lack of definition that takes place at a city level, leaving urban voids to bleed into the cities fabric. This lack of definition can be seen on the diagram on the right. The answer to this is to structure and denssify the urban areas in order to promote activation and diversity.

The same can be said for the landscapes of Montenegro. There are many lost landscapes that require some form of intervention, even on the micro scale in order to generate true activation and usability of these spaces.



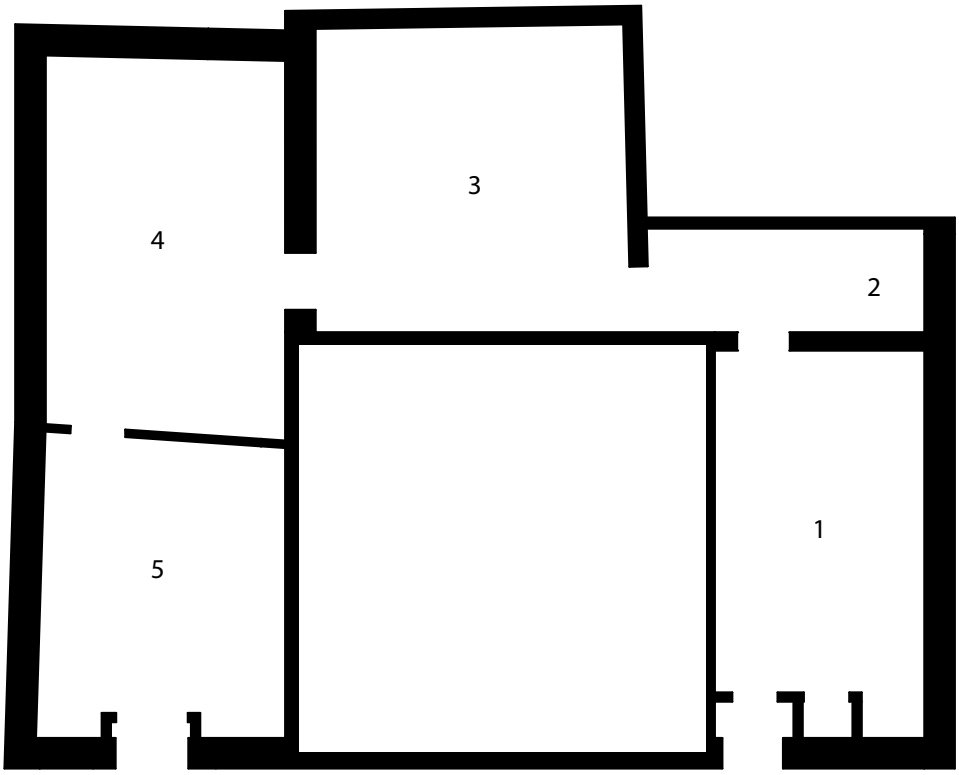
The Formless Landscape

Current state of urban landscape gives no boundary to urban form through lack of density. Undefined urban void becomes a mess, chaotic space. Neither space working in relation with the other instead both bleeding into each other.

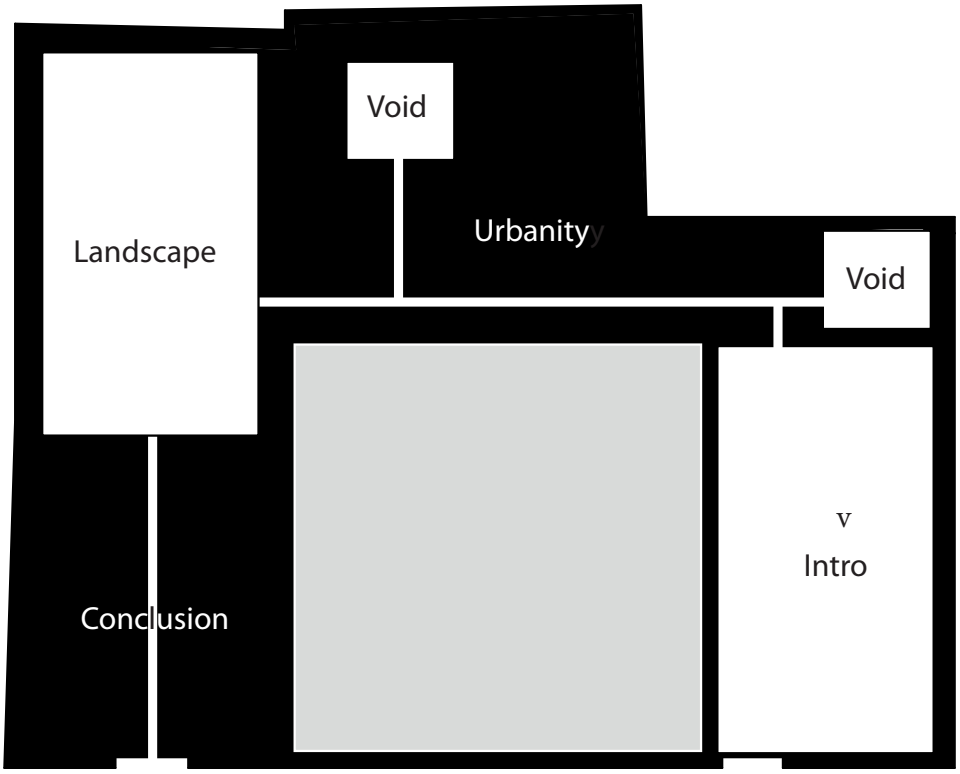


Structured Intensity

Through high density urban voids are defined, given structure and identity. System also introduces higher diversity. Not only tourism flourishes but the start of diverse business opportunities generating a sustainable economy.

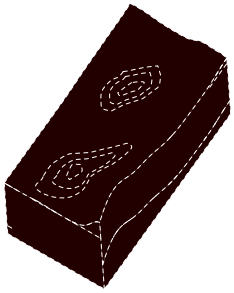


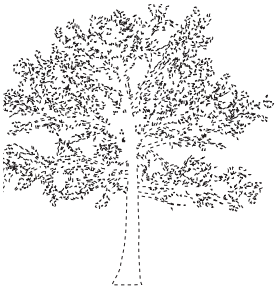
Current Situation -
Sequential layout of exhibition spaces.



Spatial Interpretation -
The exhibition spaces embody the feeling and give emotion of density and freespace.

Device



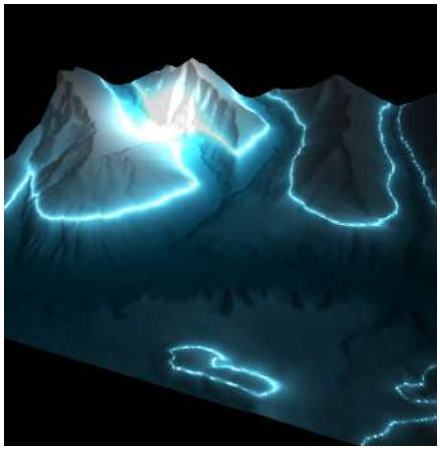


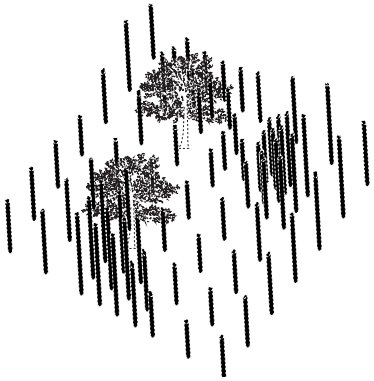
Description

Emerging Resilience
Opening the exhibition utilizing a digital projection onto a physical relief of the landscape of Montenegro would be the ideal way to create the initial discourse discussed in the preface of this document. The differences in urbanity and landscape usage can be shown as they are currently, what they will look like with uncontrolled sprawl, and what a solution of urban density could look like.

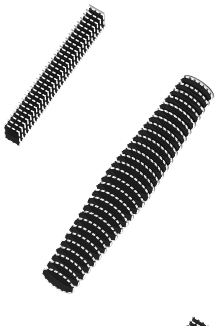
Natural Connection
Representing the notion of void, a space to catch ones breathe within the density of the exhibition, the trees themselves form an integral part of the exhibition.
Fitted with audio speakers, the trees playback live recordings of sounds from different landscapes in Montenegro directly to those sitting under them in the exhibition.

References

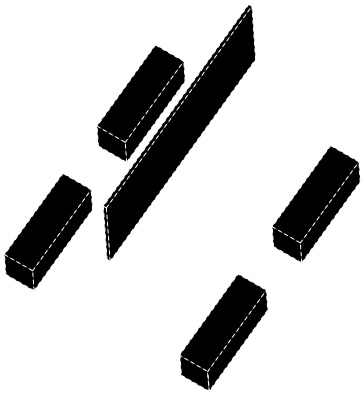




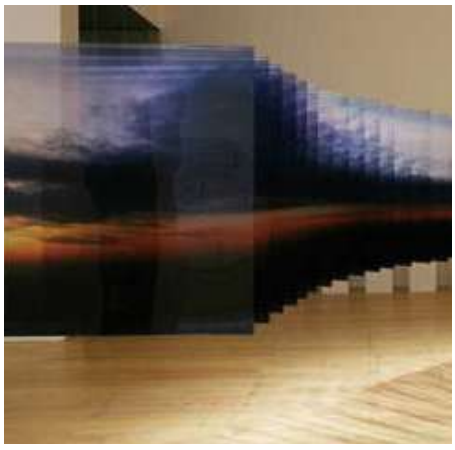
Urban Discovery
Density becomes an experiential quality of the exhibition. Utilizing vertical elements to create a 3d landscape, representing an actual data set of the urbanity of Montenegro, that the user can wonder through freely and explore. This space plays with density of a regular grid, either obscuring ones path or revealing the void spaces within.

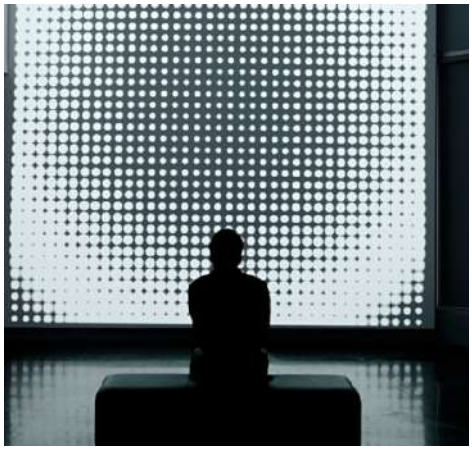


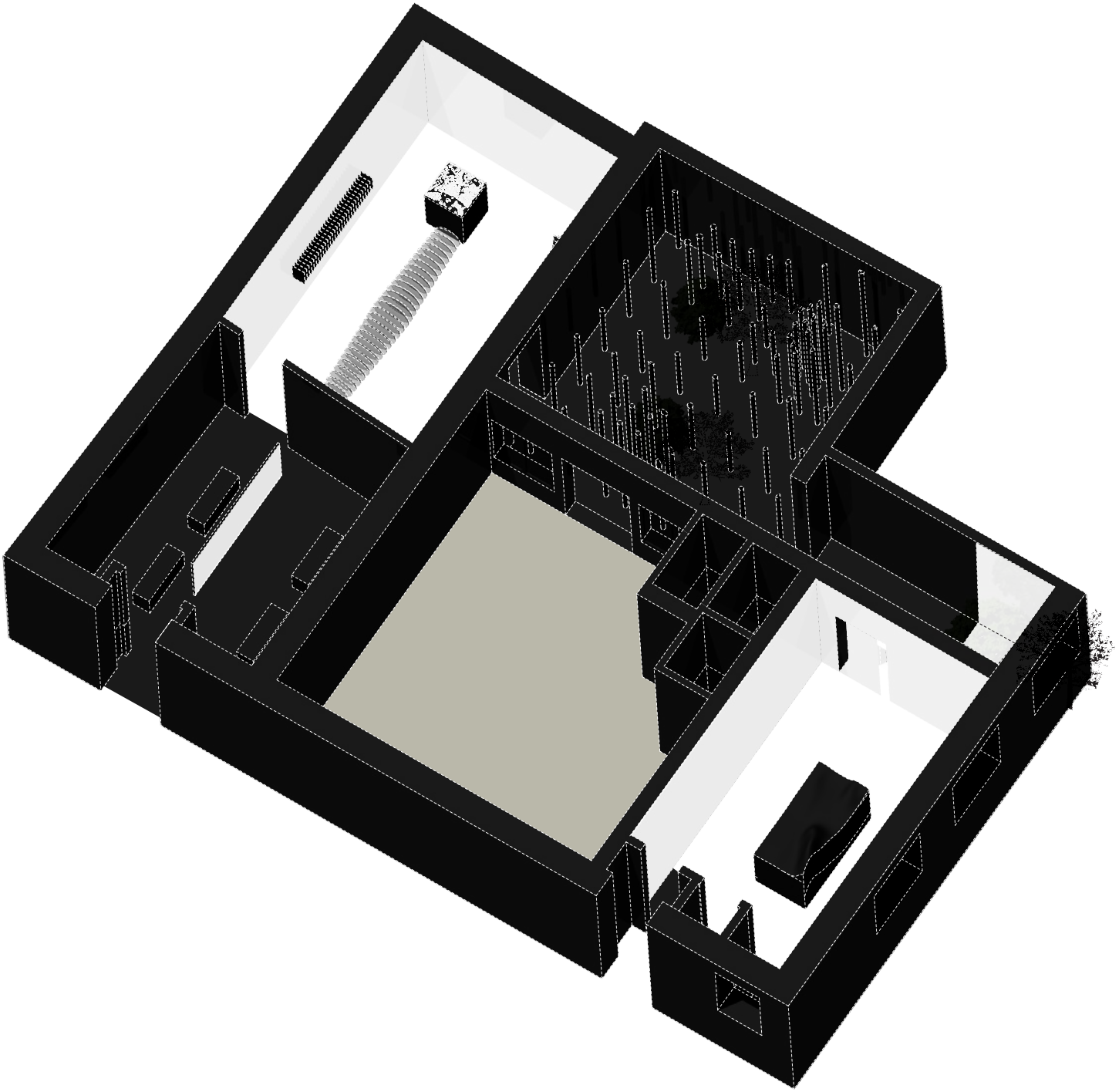
Disrupted Landscapes
Juxtaposing the dense Urban scape, printed perspex panels are used to convey the dramatic landscapes of Montenegro in a seemingly frozen animation. This freespace gives one the sense of openness associated with the landscapes on Montenegro. Landscape elements can also be montaged into these sequences, revealing how small interventions can possibly reactivate wasted landscapes.

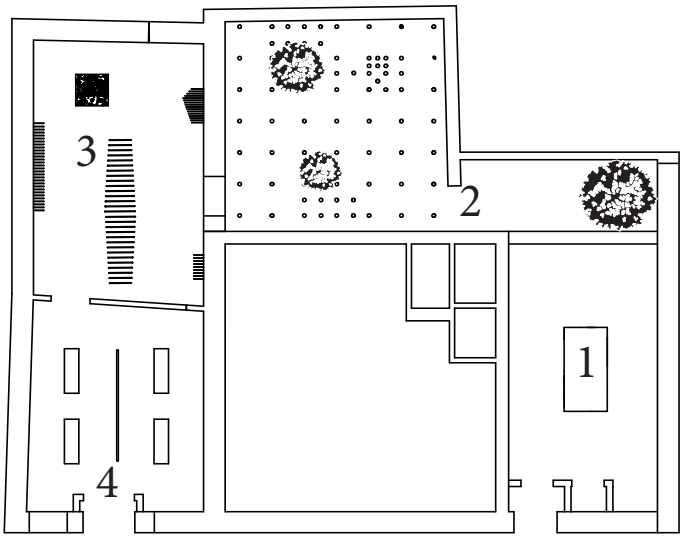
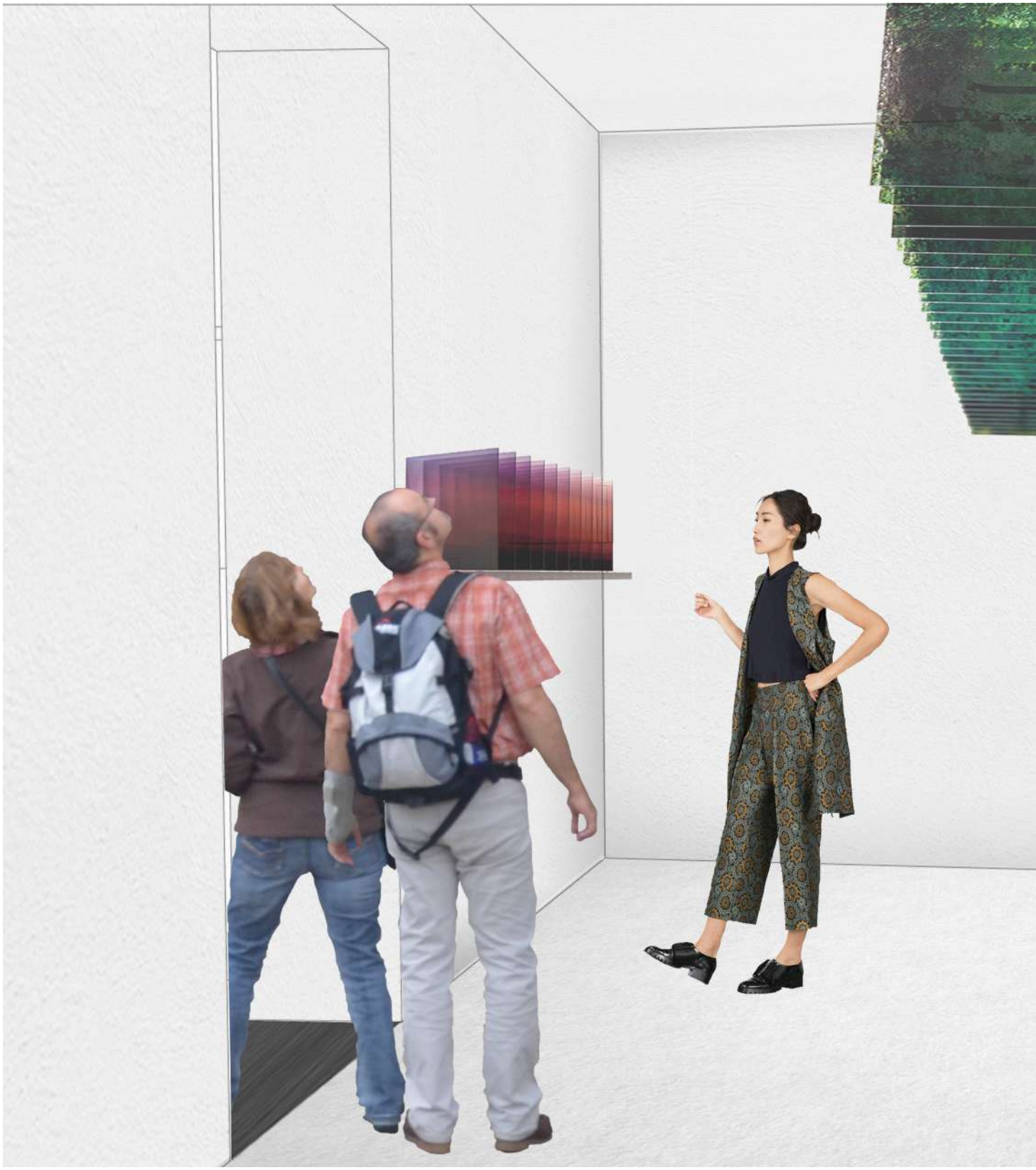


The Montenegro
Representation Project
A conclusion is brought forward with the use of video projection. Short films show how all the discussed concepts can come together generate positive discourse in terms of the future planning of Montenegro, looking at both its urban issues as well those within its landscapes.









1 - Introduction
2 - Urbanity
3 -Landscape
4 -Conclusion