

Country /City Norway, Tromsø

University / School UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Academic year 2022-2023

Title of the project A palliative design for the (after)life of mine #7

Authors Caitlin Jakusz Paridy

## TECHNICAL DOSSIER

**Title of the project** A palliative design for the (after)life of mine #7  
**Authors** Caitlin Jakusz Paridy  
**Title of the course** Diploma  
**Academic year** 2022-2023  
**Teaching Staff** Mari Bergset (Course Leader); Eimear Tynan (student supervisor)  
**Department / Section / Program of belonging** Academy of Arts, Landscape Architecture  
**University / School** UiT The Arctic University of Norway



### Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

In 2028, Norway's last and longest-operating coal mine is expected to cease operations in Longyearbyen, Svalbard. The context of the mine is quite unique in that most of the mine's coal shafts are situated under Foxfonna glacier, and the remaining areas are set within and on top of a permafrost landscape. These cryogenic conditions, however, are currently undergoing rapid degradation due to an increasingly warmer and wetter climate resulting in glacier melt, ground de-stabilization and geo-hazards. This project proposes a decommissioning strategy and design for the coal mine that considers its cultural and environmental qualities and values. A key question addressed in this project asks how the closure of the coal mine can address cultural and cryo-geological changes impacting the landscape above and below ground, as well as the community's future relationship to this landscape. The project adopts a concept coined by geographer Caitlin de Silvey called palliative curation. This recognises the finite lifespan of structures and artifacts through dignified and sensitive modes of curation. The design interventions take reference from the existing and predicted fluidity and entropy of the site where materials, structures and processes are concealed and revealed over different spans of time. It caters for a gradual transition of the diverse physical states of the site while maintaining social encounters. In doing so, it invites relations to evolve between humans and more-than-humans as the mine and cryogenic conditions slowly fade from this landscape.

For further information

**Máster d'Arquitectura del Paisatge - UPC**

Contact via email at:  
master.paisatge.comunicacio@gmail.com

biennal.paisatge@upc.edu

**Máster d'Arquitectura del Paisatge - UPC**

Sede ETSAB - Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya

Calle Jordi Girona, 15. Edificio Omega 1-3  
08034 Barcelona - Spain

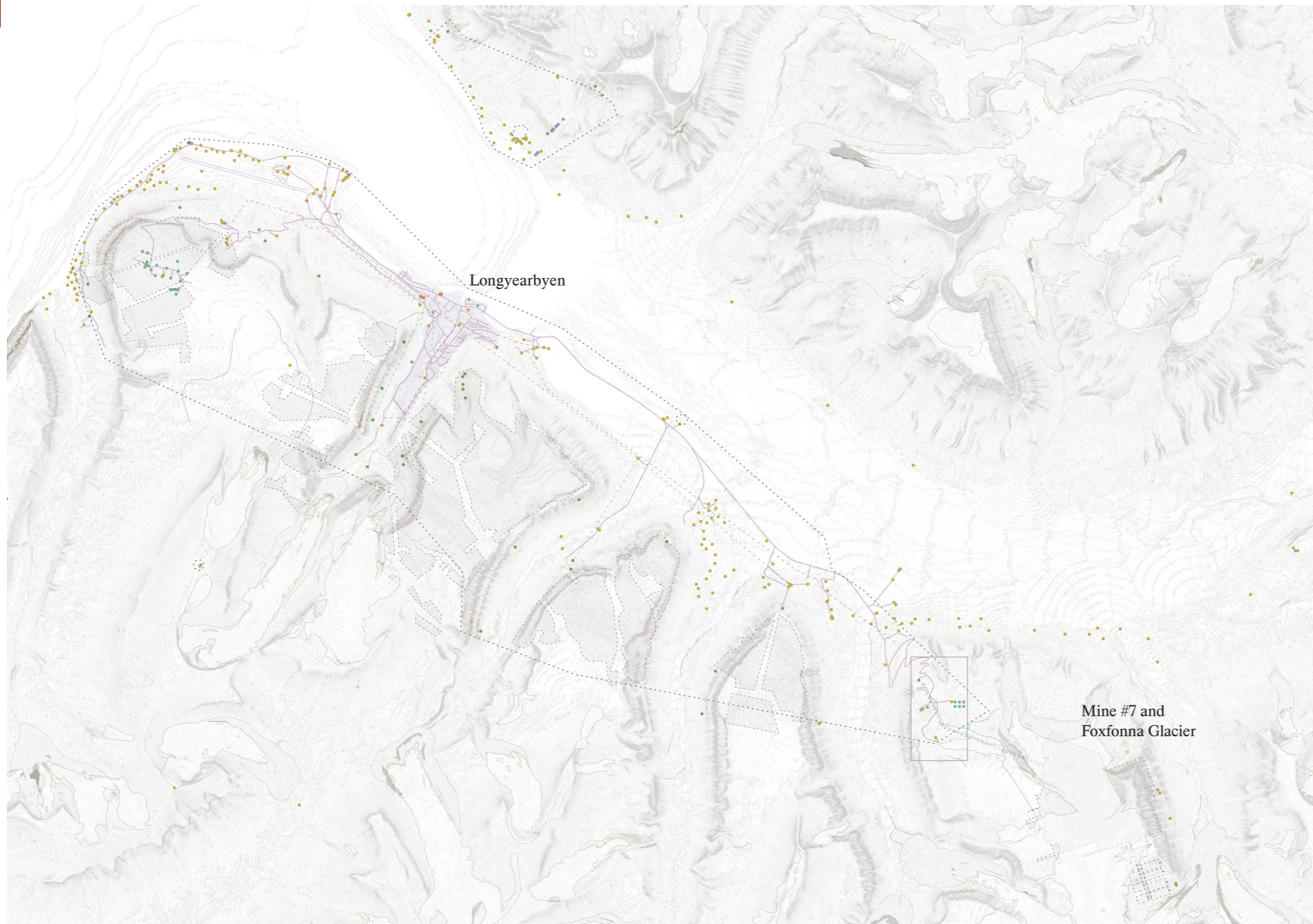
COAC - Colegi oficial d'Arquitectes de Catalunya

Carrer Arcs, 1-3  
08002 Barcelona - Spain

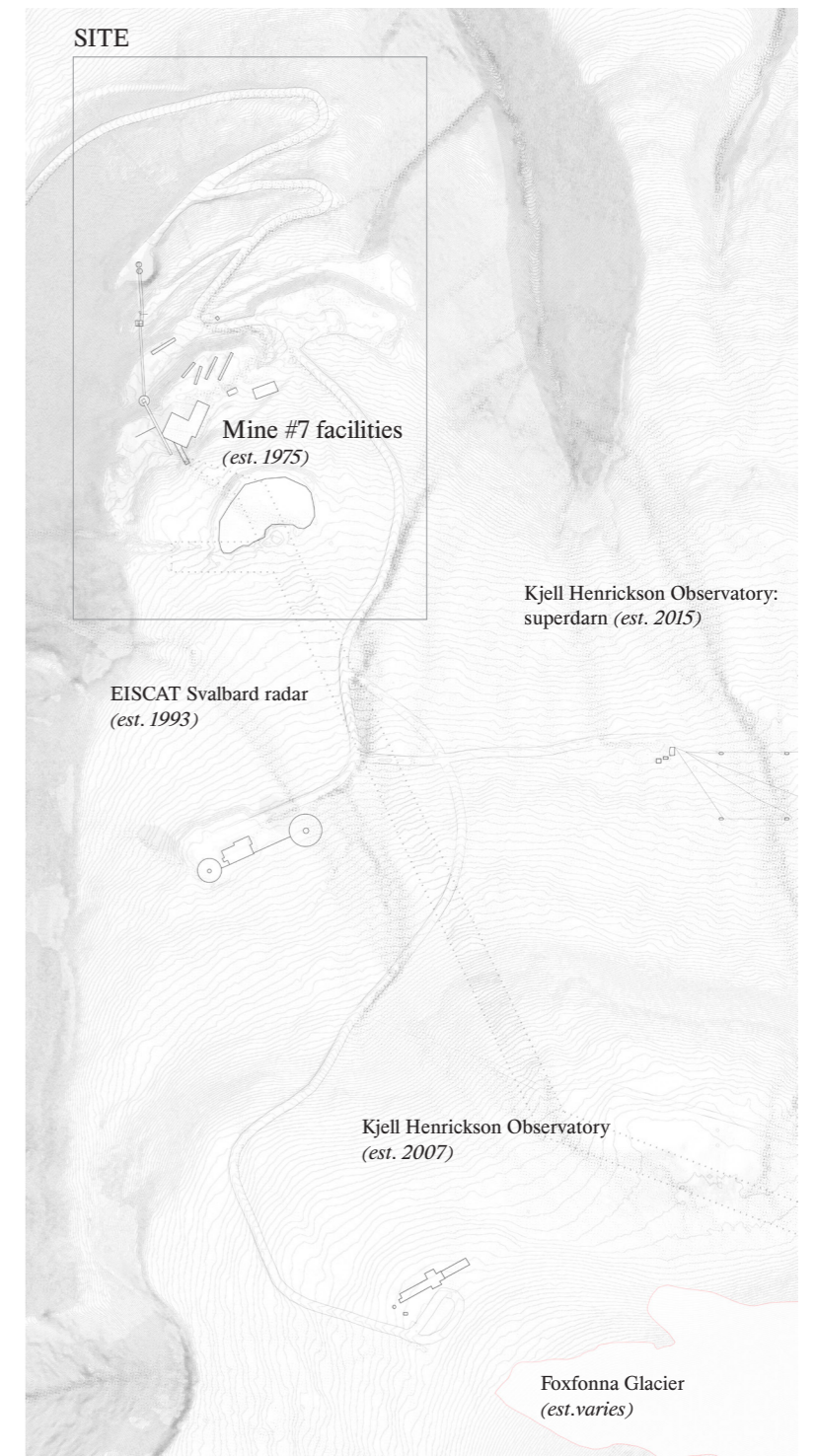
**12th International Biennial Landscape Barcelona**

**Barcelona October 2023**

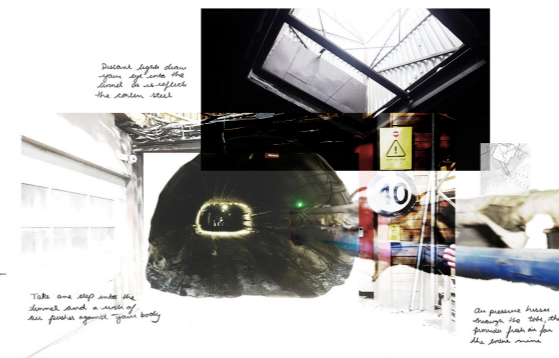
**SCHOOL PRIZE**



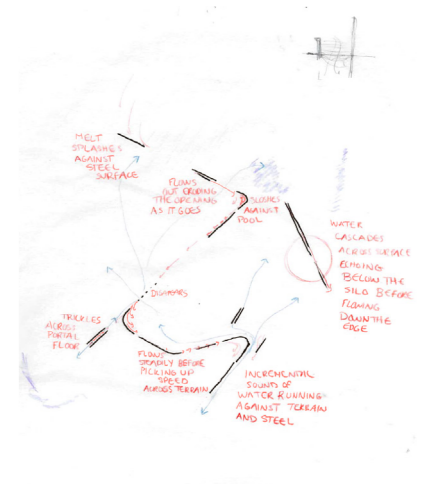
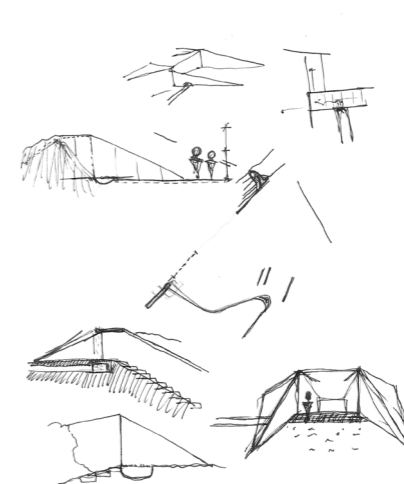
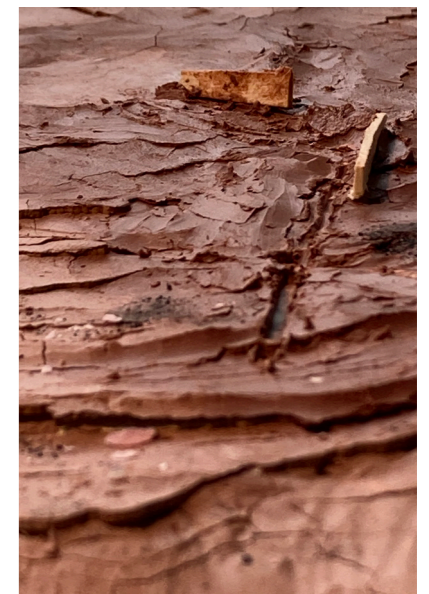
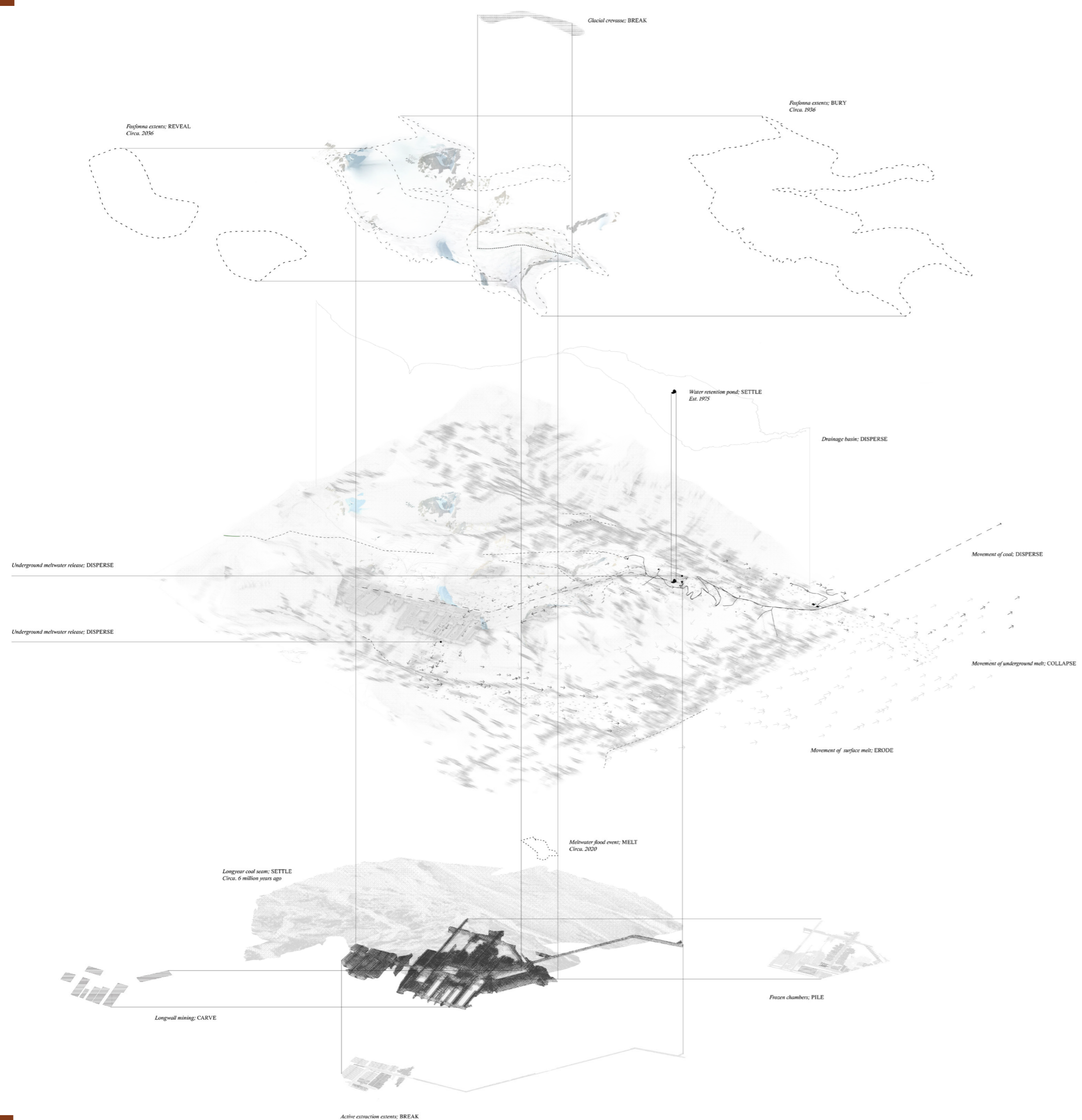
Mine #7 is located to the East of Longyearbyen, accessible via a paved road which follows along the network of mines and mining infrastructure which litters the valley (top). It is the longest running mine in operation and is expected to close in 2028. This coincides with climate change events drastically impacting the cryogenic and cultural landscape of this community.



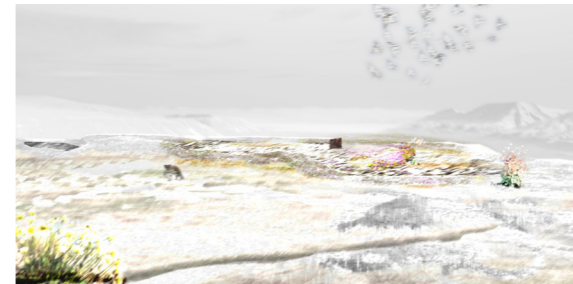
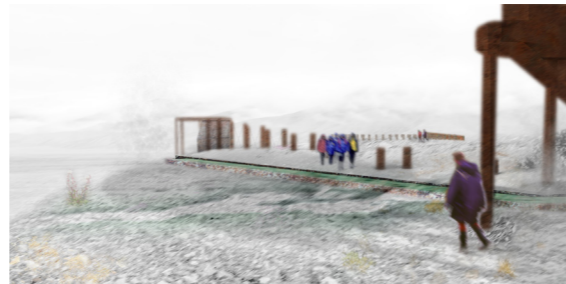
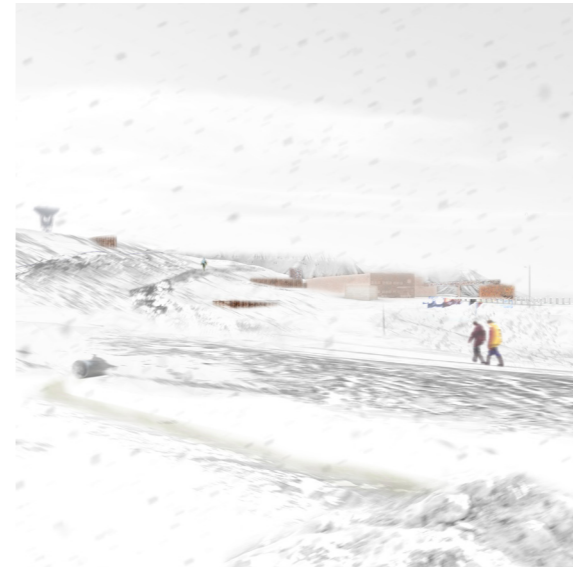
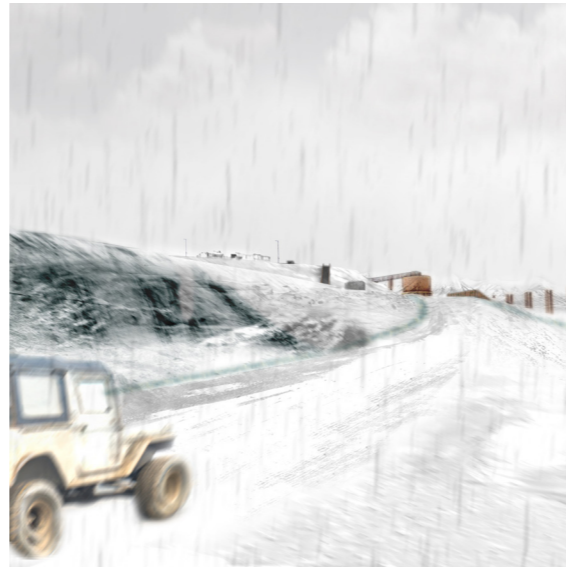
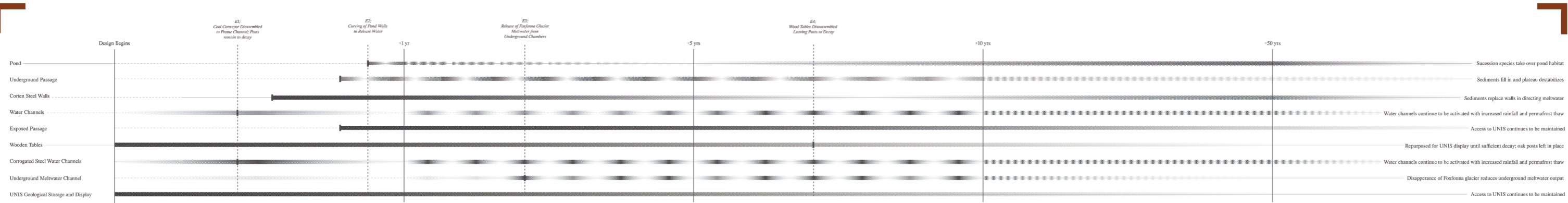
Alongside the mining and glacial infrastructure, research facilities from the University Centre of Svalbard, maintain a presence on the site (top).



While visiting the site, a series of collages depicting the spatial implications of the mining and cryogenic infrastructure were created (left).



Mine #7 is located directly below the Foxfonna glacier which has resulted in severe flooding events above and below ground, influencing the landscapes formation. To understand these processes, a lexicon of cryogenic conditions (left) was created alongside a series of model experiments which worked to develop the design in ways which reveal these processes (top).



The palliative design for the decommissioning of Mine #7 is done over time in three parts (timeline; top); the reprogramming of the site's facilities to accommodate the storage, and display of geological samples by UNIS (section; right), an incremental land art intervention which integrates existing materials into the axis and contours of the site (site plan; left), and a series of events designed to draw the community to the site to witness and grieve its melting processes; the gradual draining of the site's pond and the annual release of glacial meltwater from the underground chambers (perspectives).

Through these works, visitors may witness the fluidity of Longyearbyen's landscape and come to develop a new understanding of this site and relationship to the cryogenic processes which shape the island.

*Perspectives (above; left to right)*

- 04.09.2029; Approaching the site from the road below, water channel releases meltwater across the cliff side
- 23.03.2035; Walking up the road to the newly established UNIS facility, steel walls from the intervention create sight lines across the way
- 02.11.2036; Walking through the underground pathway as meltwater trickles beside before releasing out the cliff side
- 04.06.2030; Group gathers as the underground meltwater is dispersed along the coal conveyor path
- 08.08.2060; Pond has drained, establishing a mossy, marshy, bird habitat



Scan QR code to listen to the designed soundscapes which accompany each of the perspectives (above).