

2. Juni 2020

Professor
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Chair of Sculpture, Object, Installation

Titel
Vorname Name

Fakultät/Einrichtung

Aufgabengebiet

To
Skipulags- og mannvirkjanefnd
Póra Marý Arnórsdóttir chairman
e-mail: skipulag@isafjordur.is



***We are in Space* –
Sculpture in Public Space at the Municipality of Isafjördur**

Dear Póra Marý Arnórsdóttir,

I am writing to you as professor of fine arts managing the Bauhaus University project *We are in Space*. *We are in Space* is a public sculpture that we would like to realize with the support of the municipality of Isafjördur. The art work is meant to be a project of local cooperation partners and Bauhaus University Weimar within the premises of the former ski lodge in Isafjördur. Our project partners in Isafjördur are the architects Elísabet Gunnarsdóttir, Kjartan Árnason and the Rögnvaldur Institute. Elísabet Gunnarsdóttir has forwarded our concept to the municipality in a letter a few weeks ago (it is also attached to this letter).

Meanwhile, I can let you know that Bauhaus University in Weimar has approved funding of more than 15.000 Euro to make the project possible. The university budget will cover building and material costs for the sculpture as well as travel costs to Isafjördur for the construction team of Bauhaus University.

Together with architect Professor Johannes Kühn and his assistant Martin Ahner, we have already started the technical planning according to german building standards. If a building permit of the municipality is issued in time, it would be possible to install the sculpture during the second half of July this year.

After completion, the sculpture will become public property of the municipality of Isafjördur. The technical structure of the sculpture is designed to achieve a durability of at least five years. Technical maintenance and a roundup security check after that can extend its lifetime for another five years and longer, but is not provided in the budget of Bauhaus University.

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The project team and I would be very happy to receive a building permit for the sculpture and are looking forward to hearing from you. Please let us know, what kind of information you need from us to start the process. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Björn Dahlem". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

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Björn Dahlem

***We are in Space*, 2020**

Artistic Concept

The installation *We are in Space* is meant to be a monument of openness and a mental gate to the universe. While many people believe, universal space is something “far outside”, it is a matter of fact that we are *i n s i d e* the universe.

The installation is a landmark in the unique scenery of Isarfjörður, establishing a location on earth where people mentally connect to the universe, to alien thoughts, to the vastness of empty space, to billions of galaxies surrounding us, to alien minds and maybe even physical alien visitors. A place to raise the awareness, that universal space is not a place “far outside” but in fact the place that we all inhabit.

Formally the installation and its sculptural components derive from dodecahedron shapes, as the dodecahedron is the ancient symbol of the mysterious fifth element, the element of the skies and thereby represents extraterrestrial strength and mystery.



Image 1) Björn Dahlem, *We are in Space*, 2020

Structure

The structure of the installation mainly consists of wooden beams and boards (standard construction wood). There are two elements of the structure: the landing pad, which is a flat, pentagonal platform, consisting of a grid of wooden beams. Diameter of the pad is about 400 cm, its height about 12 cm. The pad is covered by a low, black stained footbridge leading to a black pentagon in the middle of the pad. The tower, which is an approximately 450 cm rising foot with a dodecahedron shaped, mirrored sphere on top (diameter approx. 130 cm), has a total height of about 580 cm. The tower is fixed by concrete foundation or floor anchoring (in rocky ground). For additional stability four steel cables are fixed from the tower to anchoring in the ground.

The installation consists of low-tech and simple materials, which are always typical for my work. Technical construction is meant to be simple but safe and fulfilling all standards of security aspects. The installation is meant to be ephemeral and be removed or re-installed after a certain time (five to ten years). You can see the approximate measurements in the technical sketches (image 2+3).

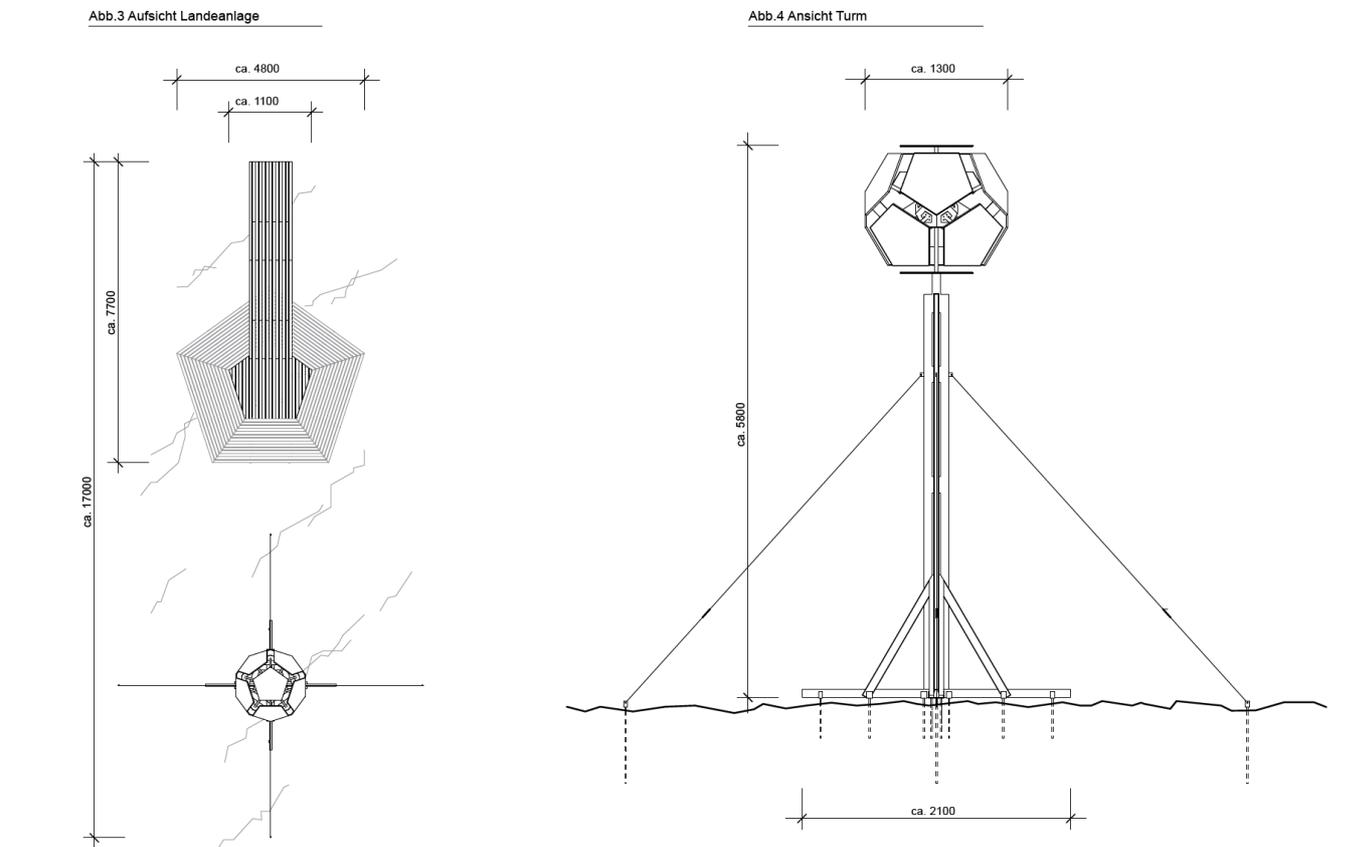


Image 2) *We are in Space*, 2020, technical sketch

Abb.1 Axonometrie Landeanlage

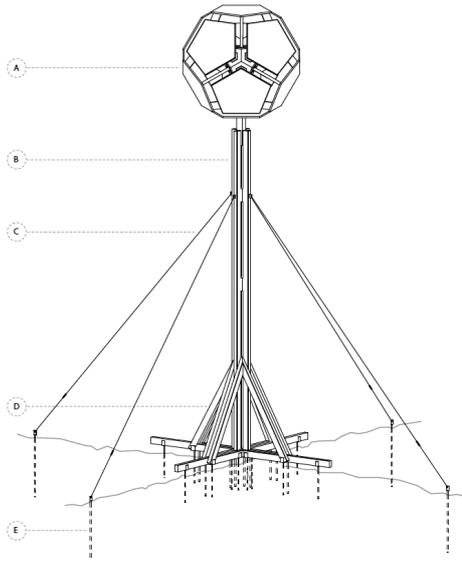


Abb.2 Detail Turm-Kopf

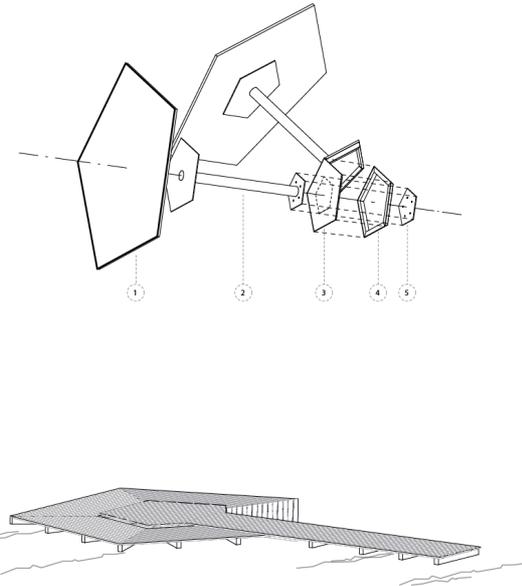


Image 3) *We are in Space*, 2020, technical sketch

Installation

Installation will be done by the artist, architects, architecture students and art students of Bauhaus University Weimar. If there is support from local people, it is kindly appreciated.

Building material, apart from smaller constructive components (like mirrored plastic panels) will be bought at hardware stores in Reykjavik and Isafjörður.

Costs

All travel costs (flights, rental car) can be covered by funds of Bauhaus University, Weimar. It is necessary to find funding for free accommodation for professors, assistants and students at private houses in Isafjörður.

Construction and building budget can also be sponsored by Bauhaus University. Local funding of building material and providing of tools and additional handicraft skills would be welcome and very helpful to save costs.

Team Bauhaus University Weimar

Artistic concept: Prof. Björn Dahlem (chair of sculpture, object, installation, faculty of fine art), Florian Schmidt (assistant artist), Katharina Wendler (assistant curator/logistics)

Constructional design: Prof. Johannes Kühn (chair of design and building construction, faculty of architecture), Martin Ahner (assistant architect)

Two assisting Bauhaus students (architecture/fine arts)

Collaboration Partners Isafjörður

Elísabet Gunnarsdóttir, architect, curator and director of ASÍ museum, Isafjörður/Reykjavik

Kjartan Árnason, architect, Isafjörður

Rögnvaldur Institute for Architecture, Design and Environmental Studies, Isafjörður

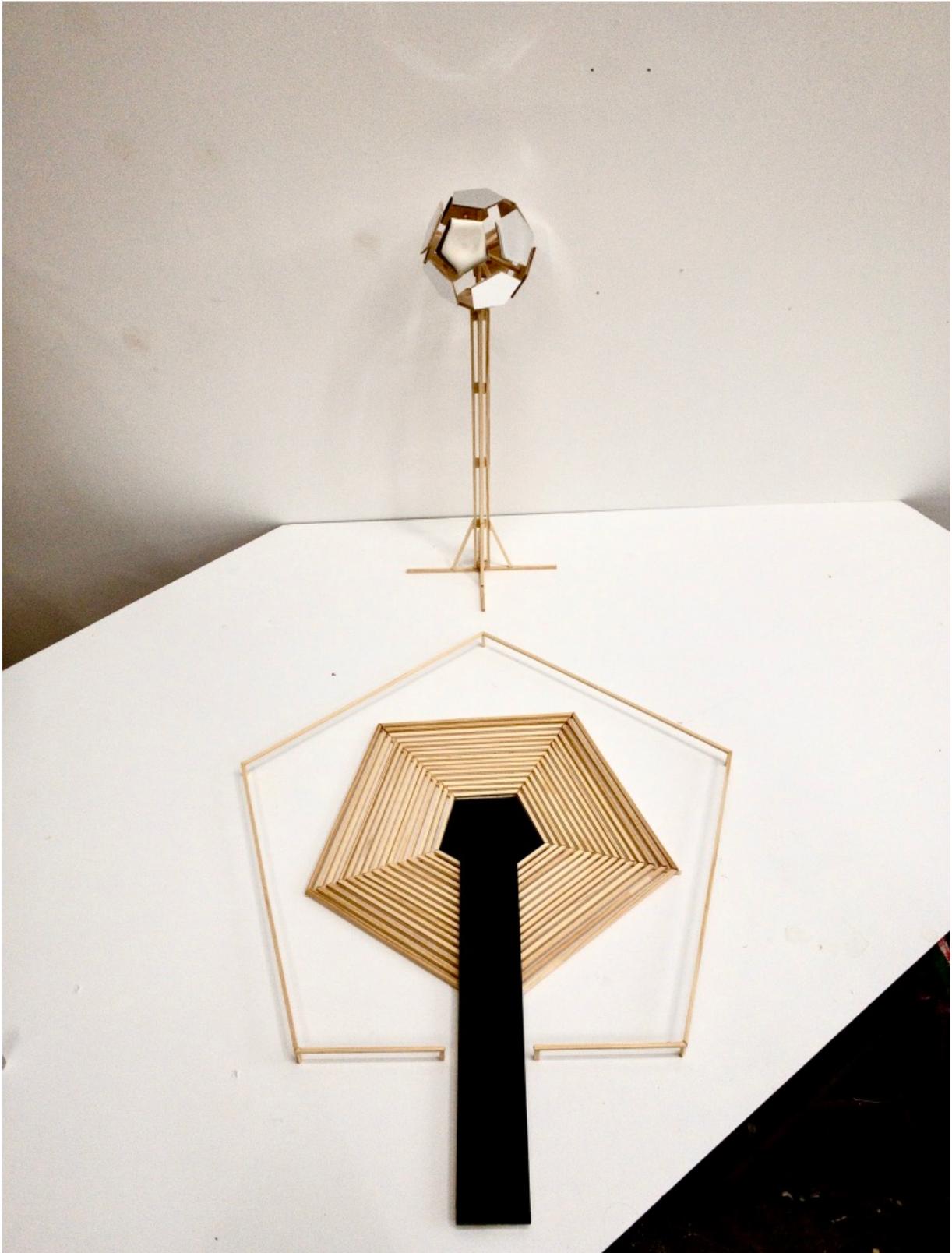


Image 4) Björn Dahlem, *We are in Space*, 2020 (model)