

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).

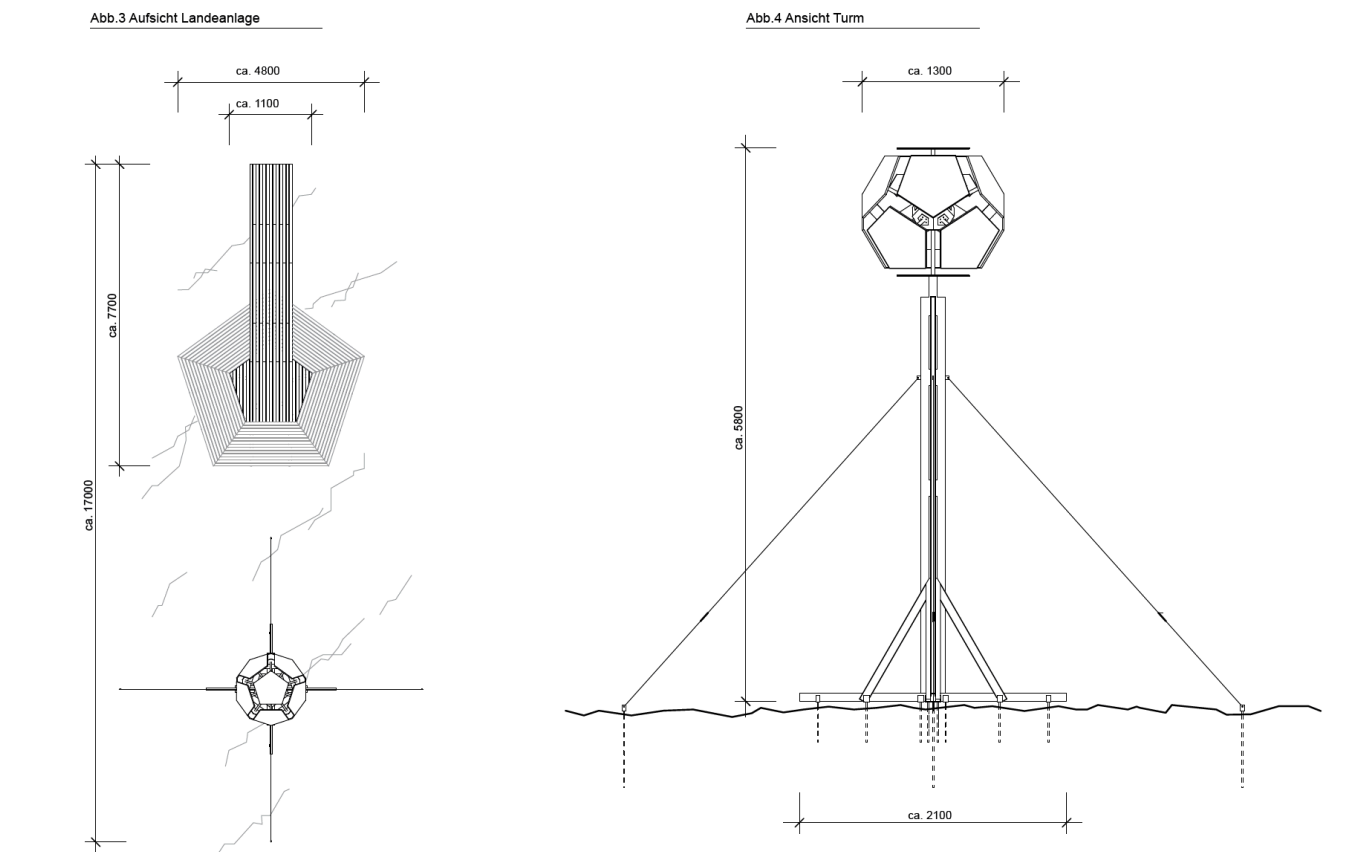


Image 2) *We are in Space*, 2020, technical sketch

Abb.1 Axonometrie Landeanlage

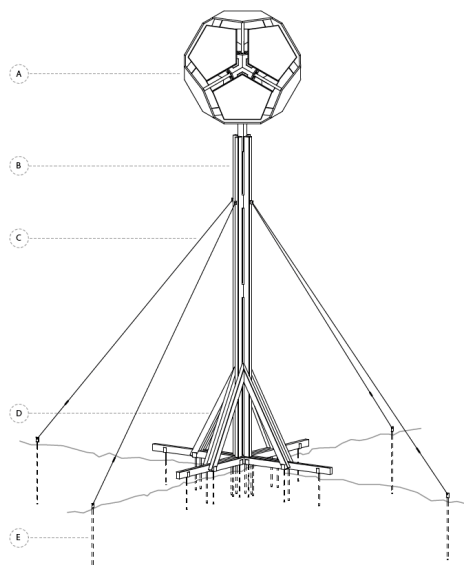


Abb.2 Detail Turm-Kopf

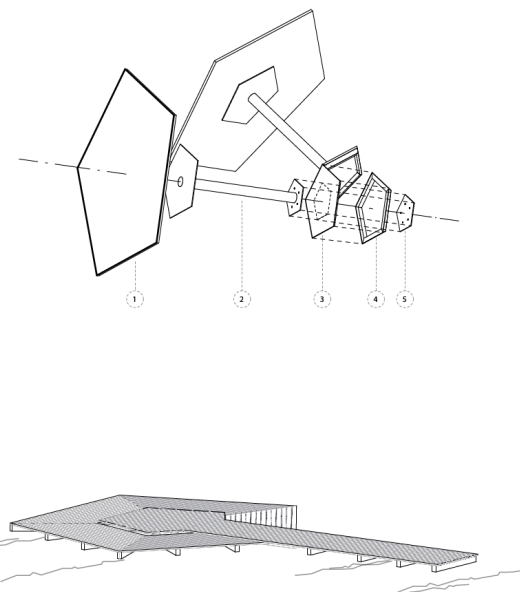


Image 3) *We are in Space*, 2020, technical sketch

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 Isarfjörður.

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 Isarfjörður.

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 Bauhaus students (architecture/fine arts)

Collaboration Partners Isarfjörður

Elísabet Gunnarsdóttir, ArtsIceland and The Rögnvaldur Foundation

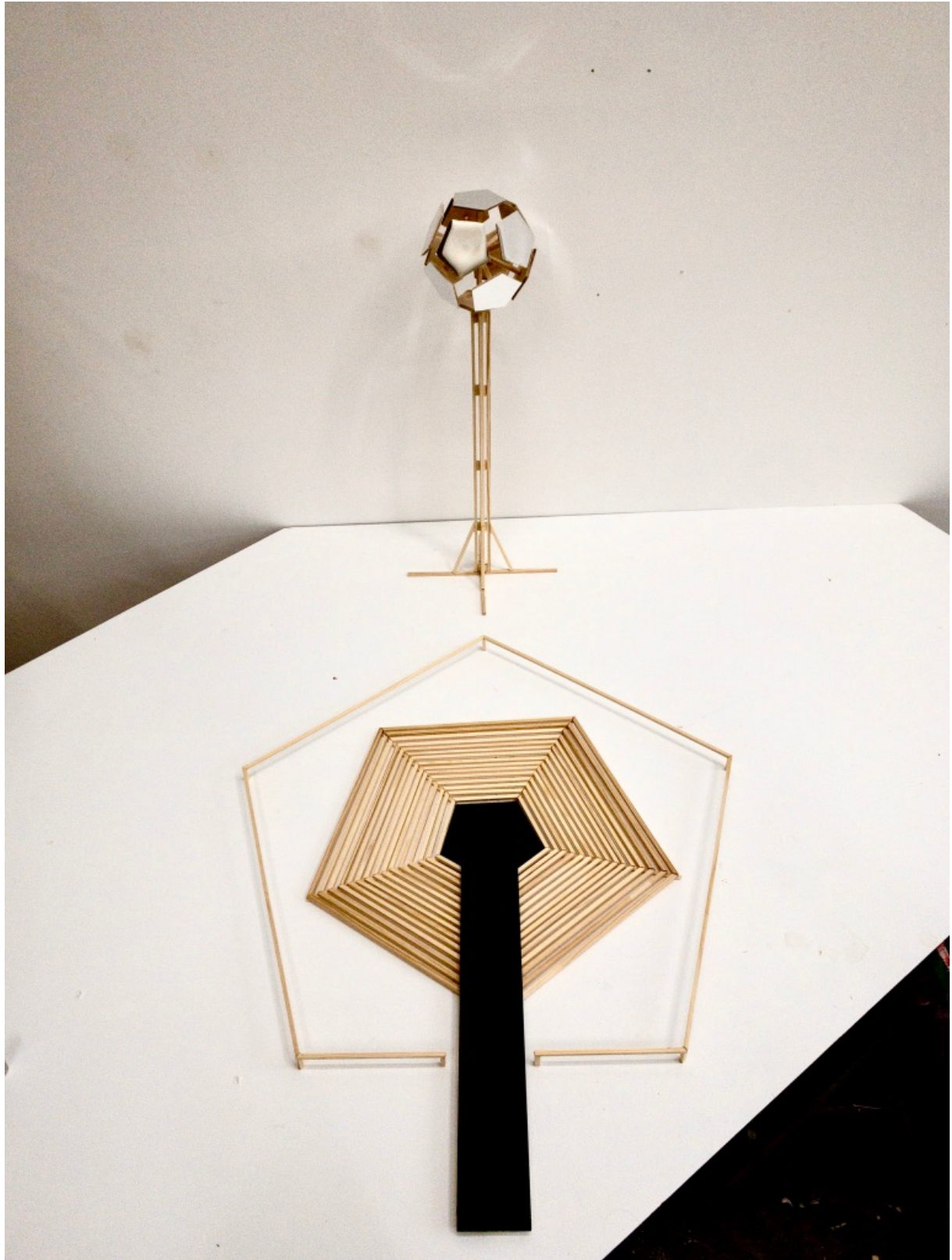


Image 4) Björn Dahlem, *We are in Space*, 2020 (model)