



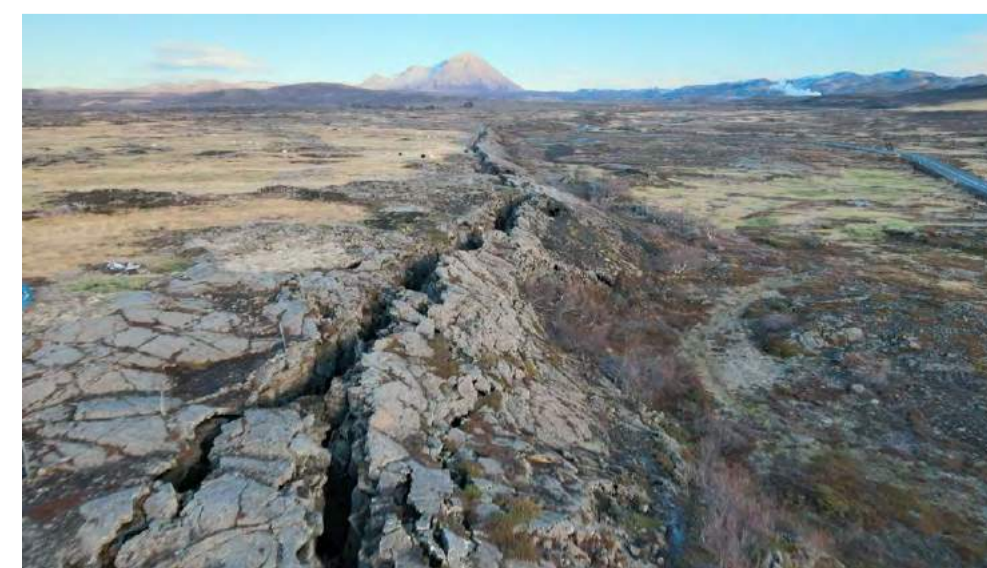
At the top of the fissure are three laminated wood crossing beams allow access to the North American continent
Each beam is sized to allow one individual to cross at a time, allowing for a reflective moment given the elevated view of the fissure and the setting sun on the horizon

Iceland Crossing Time

Grjotagja is home to some of the most beautiful natural terrain in the world, punctuated by the remarkable geothermal pools which are nested adjacent to the tectonic fault line which defines the ever-expanding boundary between the North American and European plates. This is a site of great wonder, fragile and tactile, demanding the need for protection and conservation from excessive tourism that has been damaging the surrounding lava fields. The hand of man in this landscape and climate is very difficult to erase. Our submittal has been informed by personal visits by several of our studio members starting as early as 1967 and by local friends in the area who have highlighted the need to preserve and protect many of the historic and natural sites from uncontrolled access by far too many visitors. We would look forward to working with the Landowners of Vogar farmland to find a successful solution to reduce uncontrolled use of this valued property.

Conservation of landscape; touching the land lightly; the use of a minimum of material to achieve the maximum benefit; all moves are sustainable; individual experience must be unique and tactile: these are the rules we set for ourselves in all our projects. As a design studio we have a deep appreciation for phenomena found in nature and in this project, "Iceland Crossing Time", we have described a sensitive approach to frame and protect the site and heighten the visitors individual experience of these wonders, the geothermal pools and the jagged rock out crops of the fissure.

Our site plan defines a visit as a journey, a journey of multiple destinations "linked" by modest yet powerful, poetic architectural experiences which touch the senses. Using simple amenities and thoughtful interventions that are scaled to the individual, the landscape is not overwhelmed but rather embraced by a delicate presence, complimenting this vast natural landscape. We would like the visitor to spend time at the site, moving comfortably up, over, across and within the landscape, allowing themselves time to appreciate, contemplate and distill the significance and beauty of the site. Our design, while protecting the site, allows for greater accessibility, moments of comfort and the encouragement of social interchange. We hope to engage the mind and the body, to impart a sense of learning about Iceland and a sense of wonder, that this place where we stand in this moment in time, is where the earth is recreating itself below our feet.



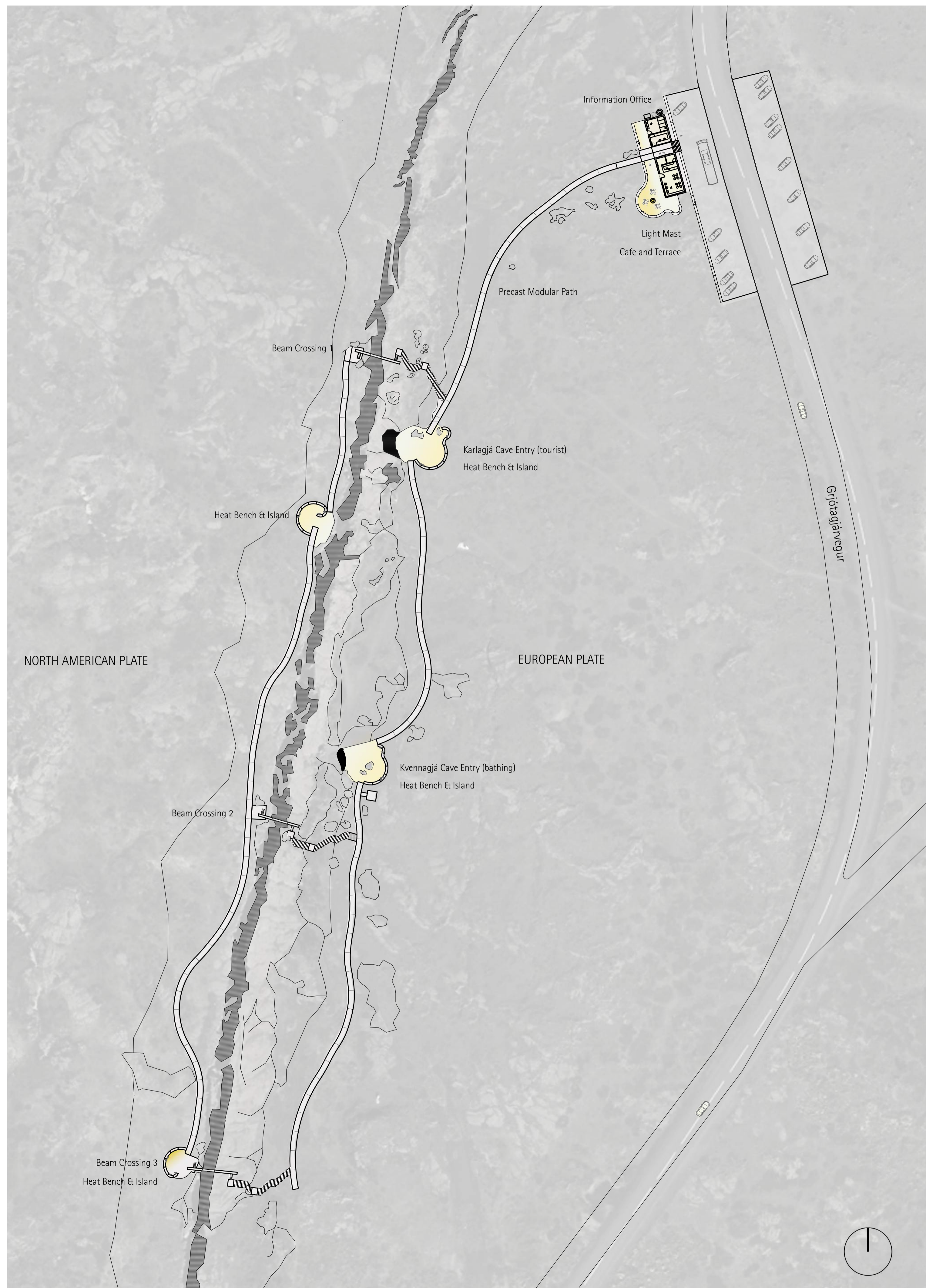
Existing site photos



The cave entry experience remains natural, without any man-made interventions



The interior cave experience without any man-made interventions. Candles can be brought in at night and interact with the movement of water



Grjótagjá Caves - Site Plan



Approaching the site by car, a 15 meter high light mast, marks the entry from a distance as a glowing, shimmering beacon



The entrance to the site is defined by the cafe and office buildings. The parking area is defined by precast seating elements



The threshold created by the buildings frames the journey to the caves and fissure ridge



Straight and curved pre-cast concrete seating elements define the cafe terrace. These replicable precast elements can be laid out in a variety of ways that respond to the terrain



The cafe and office entries are pulled away from geothermal cave entries, which now sits at the North of the site, directly off of Grjótagjárvegur.



Enlarged Site Plan at Entry



Section through the fissure showing the wood beam crossing, the geothermal bathing cave, heat island with precast concrete benches, and cafe entry building



Glue-laminated wood crossing beam



Structural insulated wood panel construction; SIP



Color palette of natural landscape and rising steam



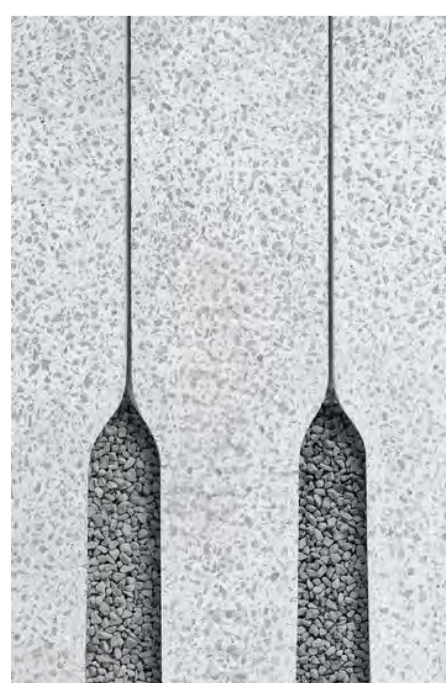
Light emitting mast: stainless steel spiral screen construction



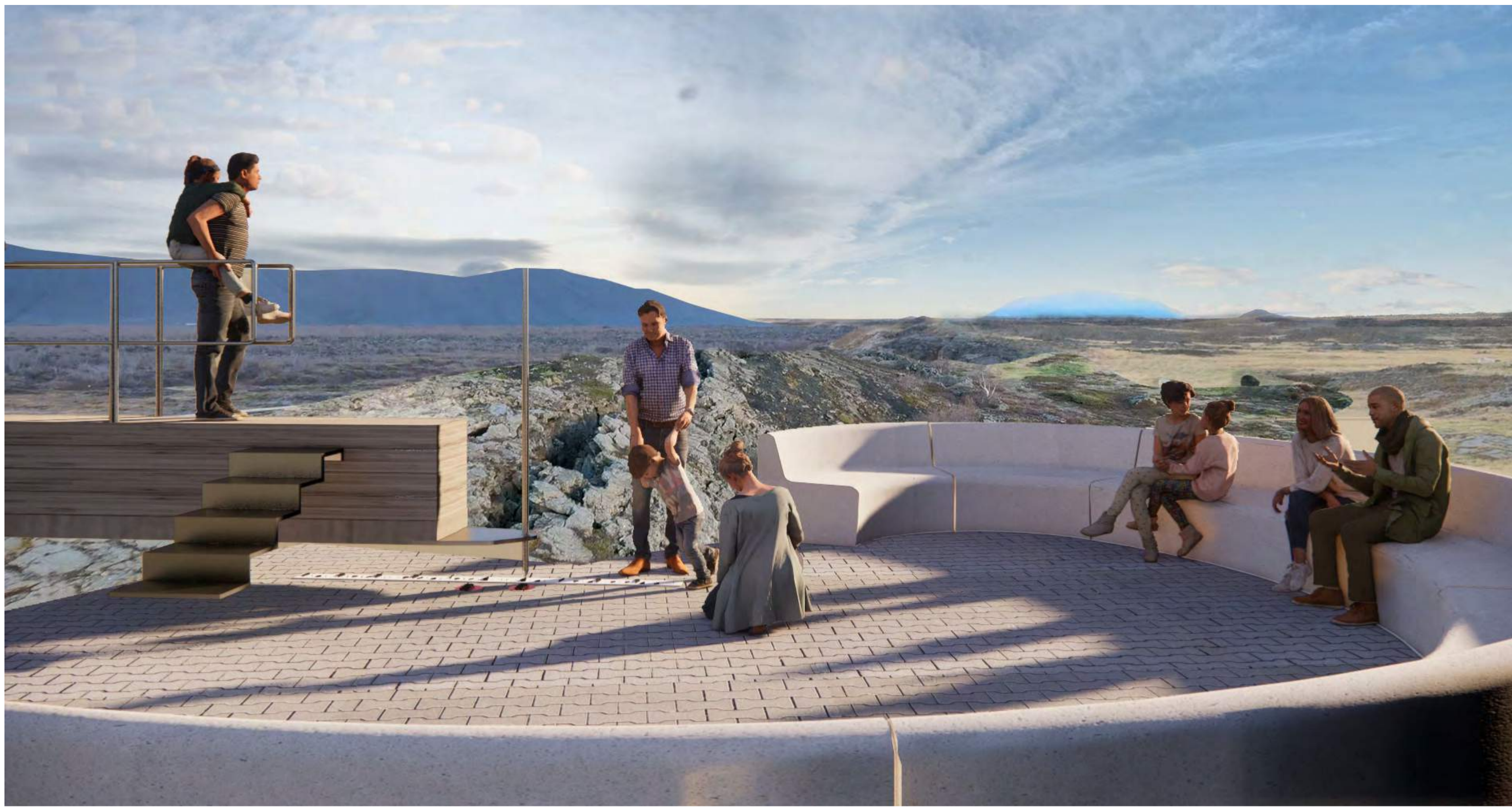
I-block paver hardscape



An example of precast seat element



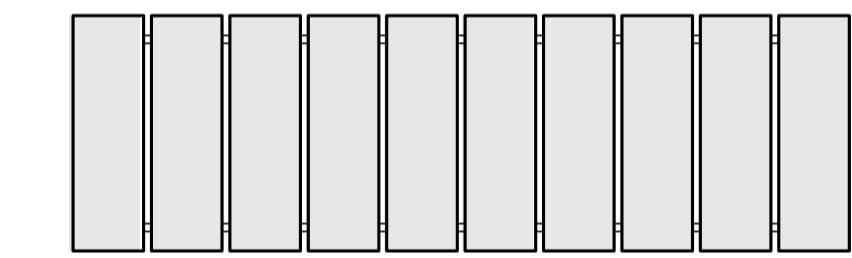
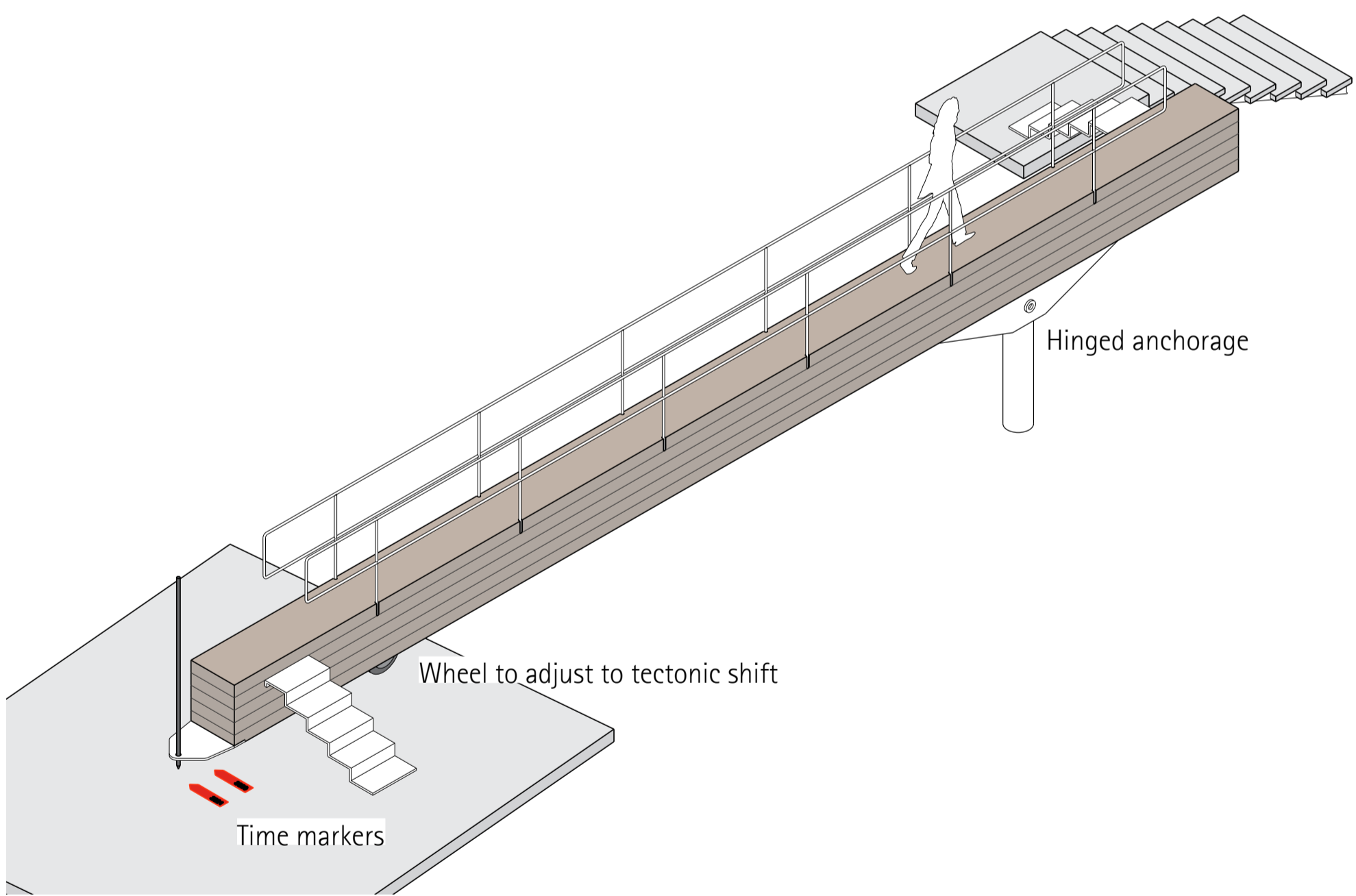
Precast plank element



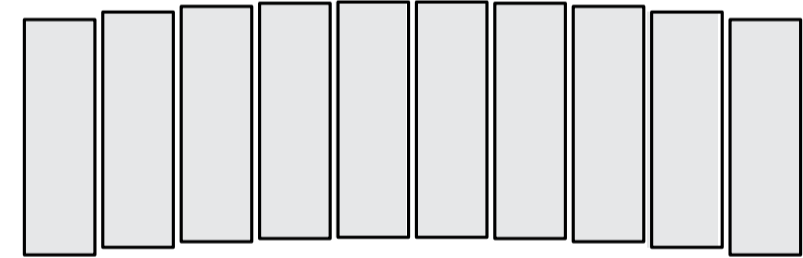
Walking on top of the beam crossing, creates a personal poetic experience as well as acts as a geological time-marker, registering the annual movement of the tectonic plates. The heat island hardscape is marked with an engraved time stamp, educating visitors about geological time and the unique landscape of Iceland. The beam has a hinged anchorage on the European side and a roller on the North American side allowing tectonic plates to shift freely



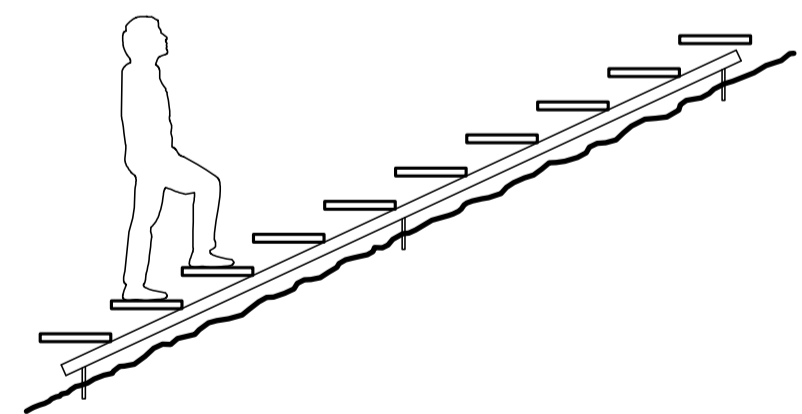
Atmospheric light of Icelandic winter when the sun hangs low on the horizon. Lighting is incorporated into the bottom of pre-cast bench elements and at the bottom of the wood beam crossing to create a low level pool of light. Radiant heat bench elements increase thermal comfort and control snow melting on the hardscape during the winter



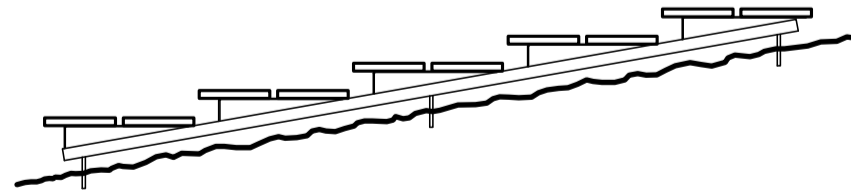
path support curved module



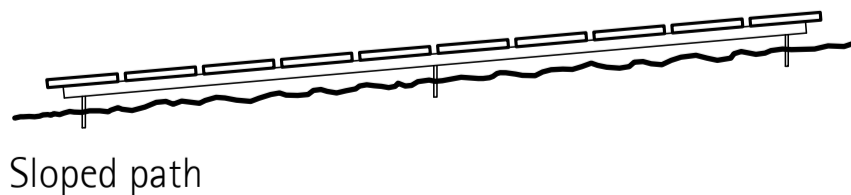
path support straight modules



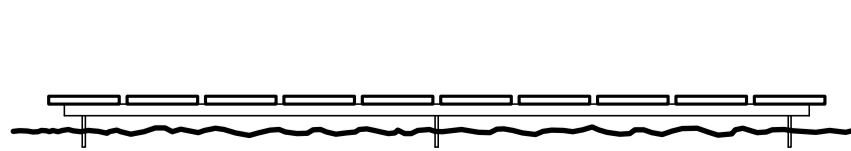
Conventional step



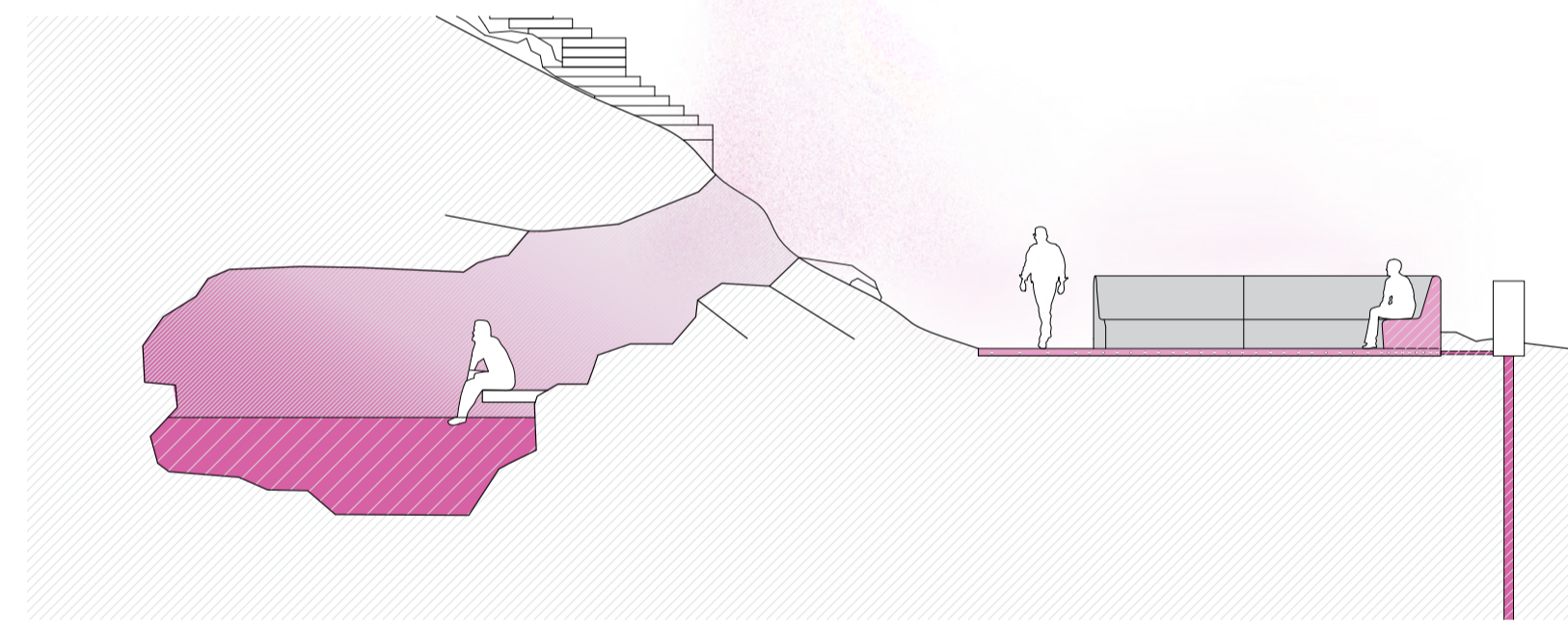
Landscape step



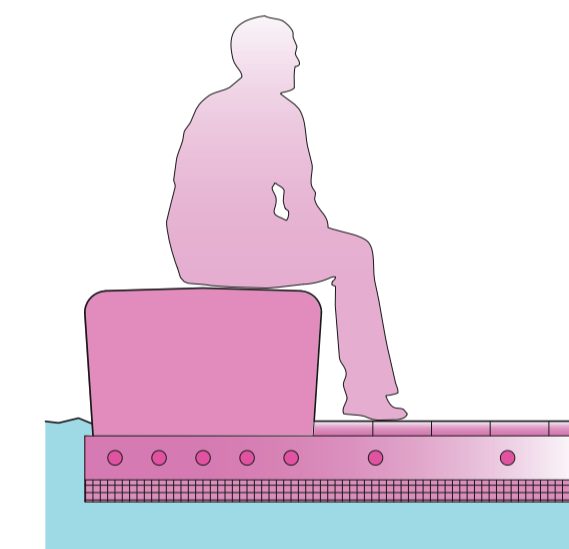
Sloped path



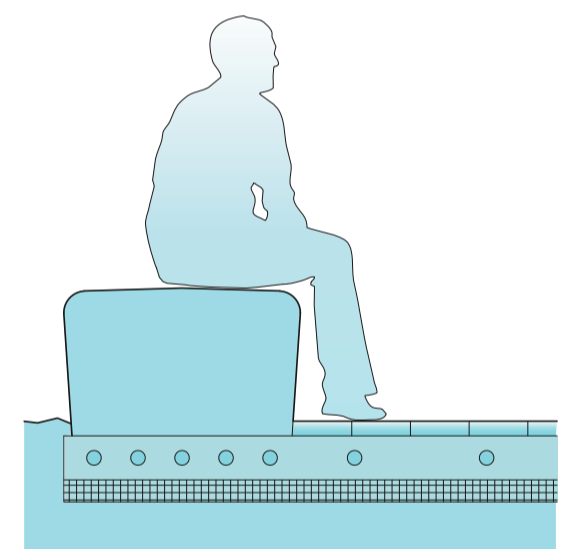
Flat path



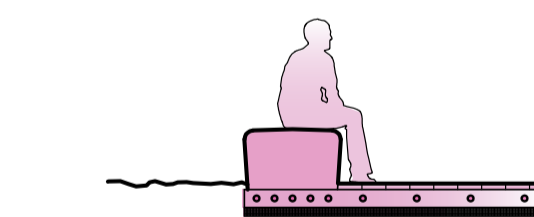
Thermal diagram at cave and heat island bench



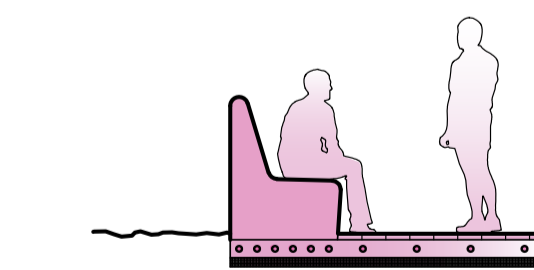
Winter - radiant heat



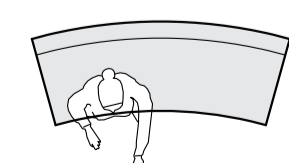
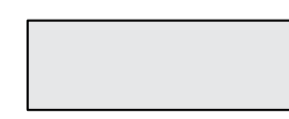
Summer - cooling



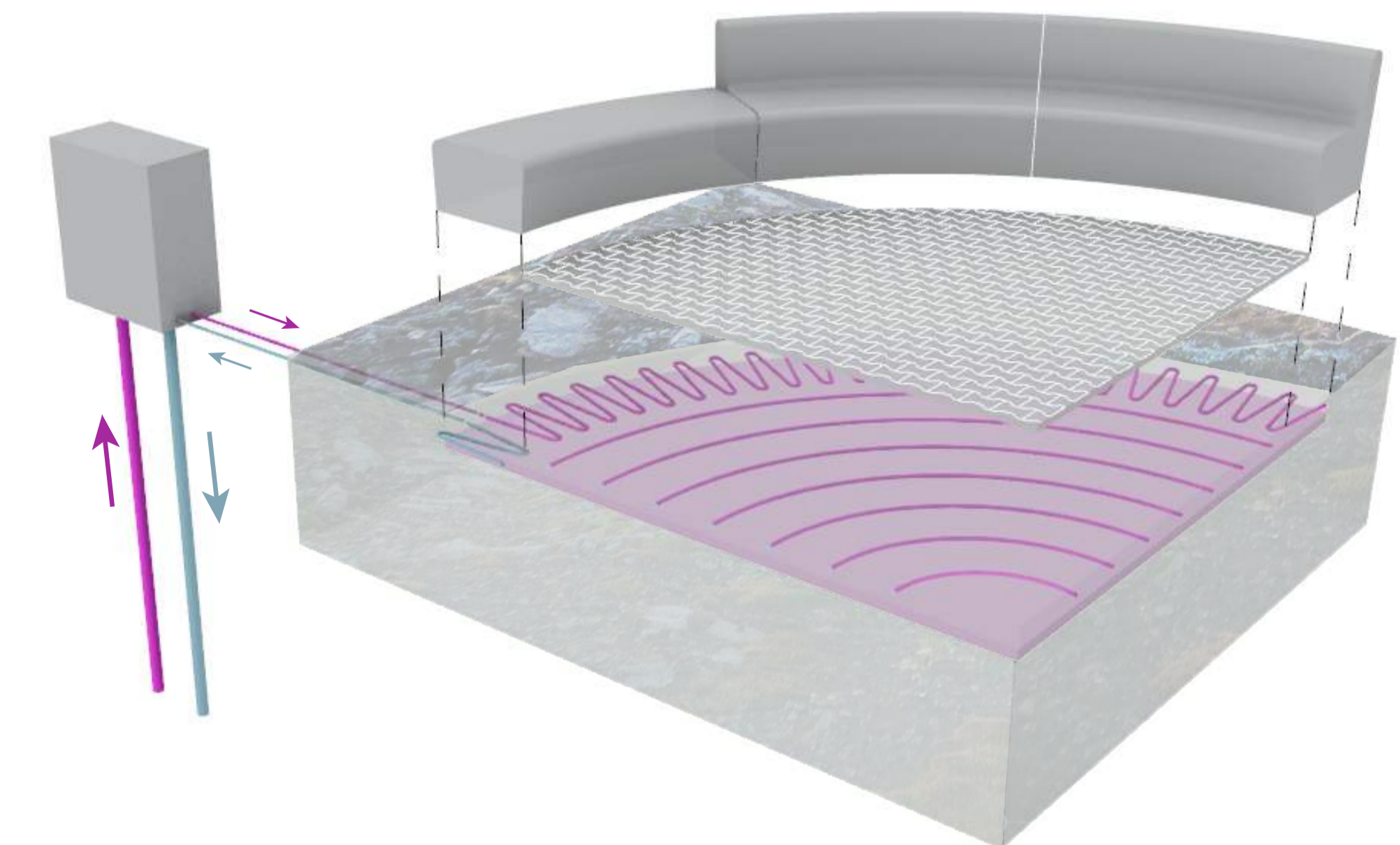
Low precast bench profile



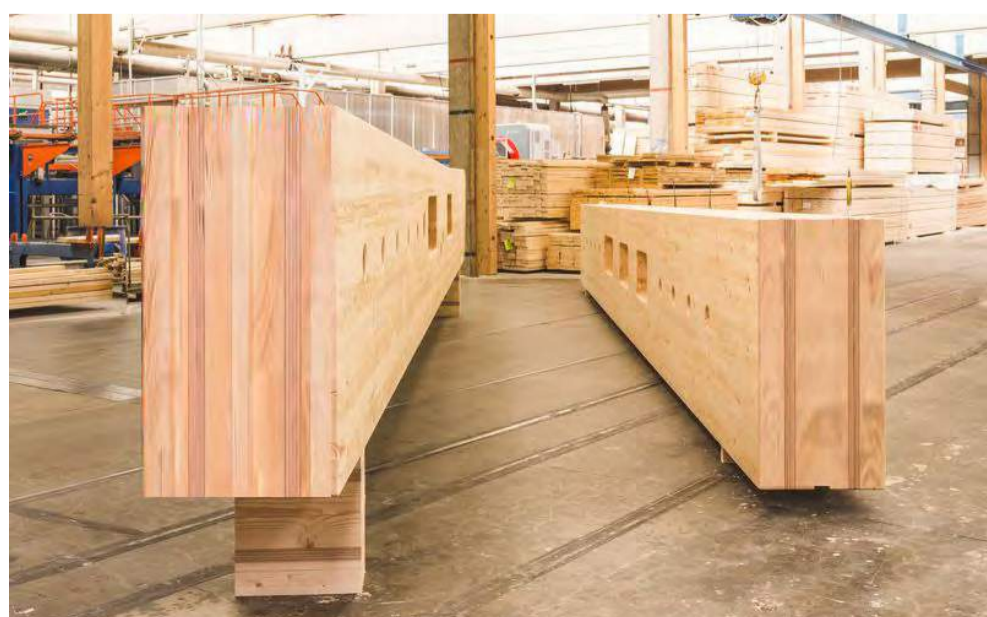
High back precast bench profiles



Straight, concave and convex bench modules



Radiant heat bench and hardscape system



Glue-laminated wood beam



Precast modular path system