DISASSEMBLE *a monument to progressive deconstruction*

RUIN RUNATIVE, In light of the environmental, social and energy crisis, our generation is left with some of the worst Worst: obsolete, or negative commons: resources that are negative, such as waste, power stations, polluted soil, or certain cultural heritages. Whether still functional or ruina runatives, the crucial question is how we deal with these legacies. Should we let them be, should we be a reminder of the systems that produced them and confront our architectural practice as a discipline of design, resource management, maintenance, and care.
The Cheviaz-Power plant was built in 1963 and closed its doors in 1999. However, its inheritance is a matter of debate today. In 2017, the demolition company Ferrari Demolition Services started the process of dismantling the complex. Since then, the site has come to a standstill due to the municipality's opposition to speculative projects despite its limited means to take care of the site. As part of its SDZR zoning plan revision, the municipality intends to designate Cheviaz as a transition zone, preserving any new construction for the next fifteen years. Zoning turns into a political tool to maintain some degree of control over the site's future development, while time is bought.
Developed in collaboration with the local government, the following Calendar of Operations addresses the zoning plan's 15-year timeline and proposes the conversion of the site into a public park, a place where people can walk, partially in nature as it was promised in 1963. Each building on site is slowly sanitized, open to the public and dismantled to leave space for the growing park. Some of the buildings, such as machinery halls and cottages, showing the gradual evolution of the site into an open cemetery.

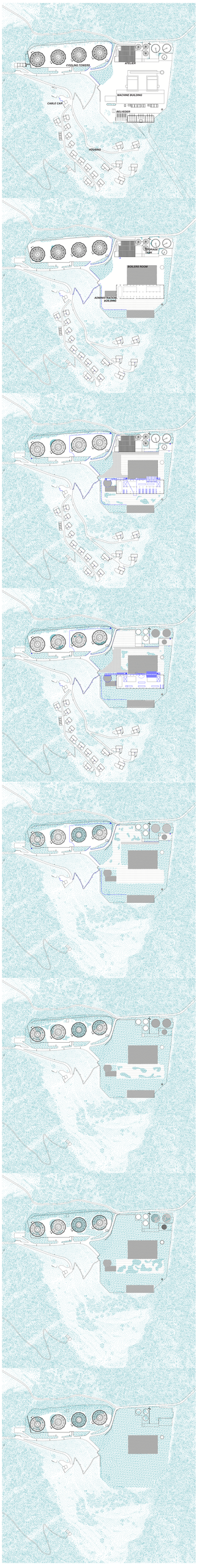
ZONING PLAN REVISION

NON-BUILDING ZONE ASSIGNMENT

PROMENADOLOGY: The first statement is to open the site to the public, to reconnect the community with its present and future. Showing the concerned public is the first step toward politicizing the situation and question its place in the future of the site, and the future of industrial ruins. How can we relate to this industrial ruin from the bottom of the valley, where the only thing visible is the 120-meter chimney? Cheviaz is a place of industrial ruins.
The site is in crucial need of sanitation, dismantling of certain parts, care and maintenance. While these first measures are being undertaken, ● Machinery removal and ● Sanitation, the site is ○ Opening to the public. Promenadology is a tool to engage with the concerned public to confront the current state of Switzerland's first thermal power plant. In the manner of Lucius Burckhardt, we do not propose a transformation of the site, but rather, we instead allow to work with it in our minds to develop an understanding of the environment.

DISMANTLING WITH CARE: In response to the demolition process that is underway on hold, the site becomes an open cemetery. Starting with the cooling towers and the machinery, the administration building are becoming workshop while the beholder, the ateliers and the cooling towers are ready to receive visitors. Meanwhile, various commercial, professional and cultural programs can find their place in the vacant spaces and cohabit with the deconstruction. Starting with the cooling towers and continuing with the machinery building is transformed in a recycling center. The ● Re-use process is set up and the materials are being repurposed for on-site use or stored prior to being transported and delivered according to demands.

RE-ASSEMBLE: The boiler's dismantling leaves the facade of the re-use center open and a 3.5 meters deep concrete foundation exposed. This makes room for ● Ground work to begin and the park to start to cultivate the site. The aim of the intervention is to reinforce relations between an ongoing process, the spaces, programms, and the concerned public.
A new layer designed as a scaffolding closes up again the facade while being the mediator between the workists, worker and visitors. The new layer is a flexible and adaptable framework offering a wishlist of possible activities, enabling the designated spaces, privatizing access and visual indication of the unmaking, remaking and maintenance of the site. The structure is designed to either be dismantled or reused, or, if the circumstances allow, be adapted to changing needs. More about the project?

THE THIRD LANDCARE: In 1963, a promise was made: the site would be left to nature. Today, nature has already left back its nature. Since 1999, nature has already started to take over. The site's gradual dismantling provides a further opportunity for adaptation and spontaneity that nature can take advantage of.
The ● Ground work deconstruction leaves room for ● Ground work that leaves room for the colonising of living things. Punctual drilling of the concrete ground emphasizes the spontaneity of nature growing through the cracks of the concrete with minimal intervention. The site becomes slowly a common ground for growing nature which slowly reclaims the industrial ruins. The ● Ground work unfolds and gently invades the whole, where minimal care is enough for spontaneity in an inconsistent evolutionary process.

OPEN OPTIMUM: After fifteen years, the scenario for Cheviaz appears as sequences of maintenance, care, deconstruction and transformation. The aim is to reach a balance between the ruins, the concerned public and the (re-)assigned in a non-building zone while staying in our collective memory. What is left is the remaining ground and the ruins, which, objective responsibility towards the negative commons, creating a new type of landscape that will continue to develop.