

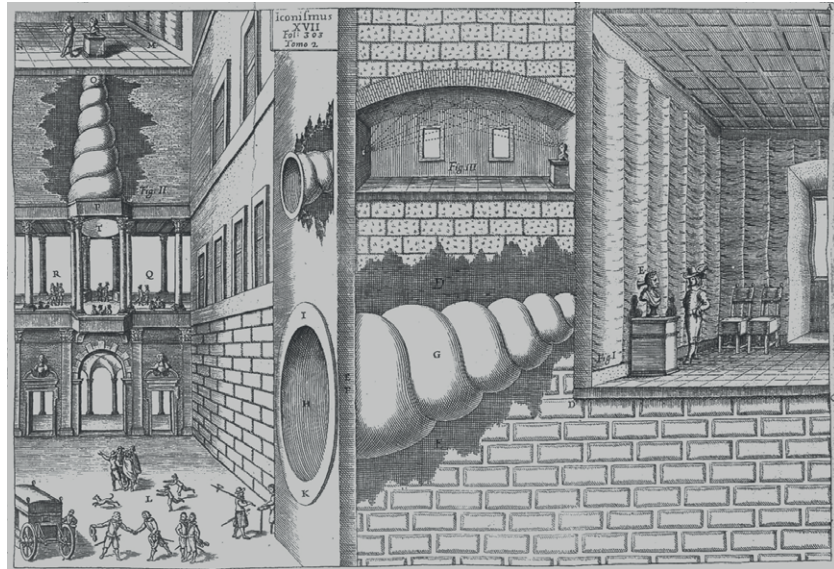
EAVESDROPPING THE PARLIAMENT

Bring politics to public space

Abigaël Schaller

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Introduction

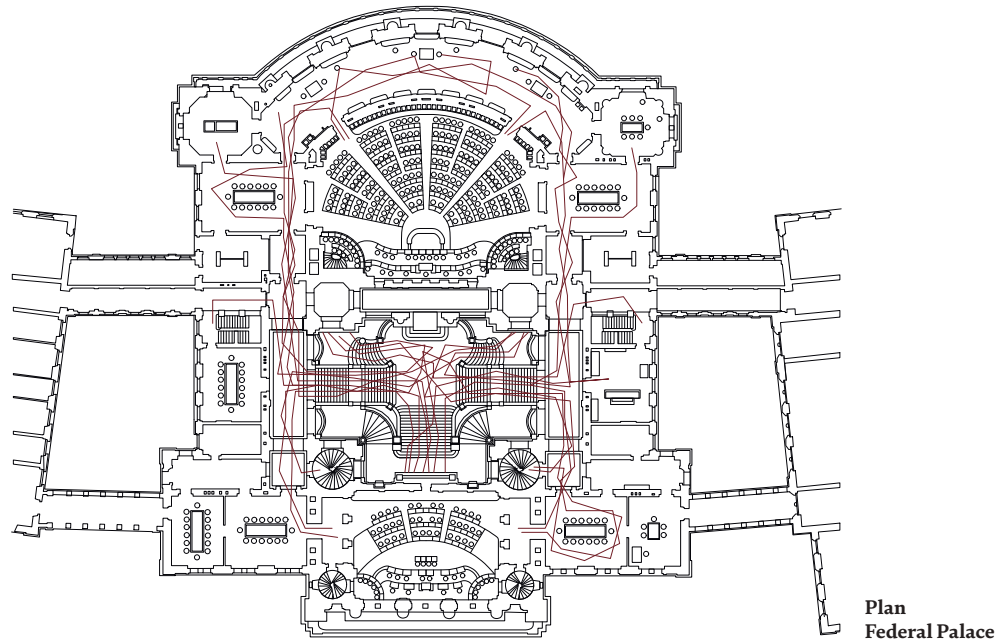


Speaking tubes connected to statues
From Musurgia universalis,
vol. 2, p. 303.

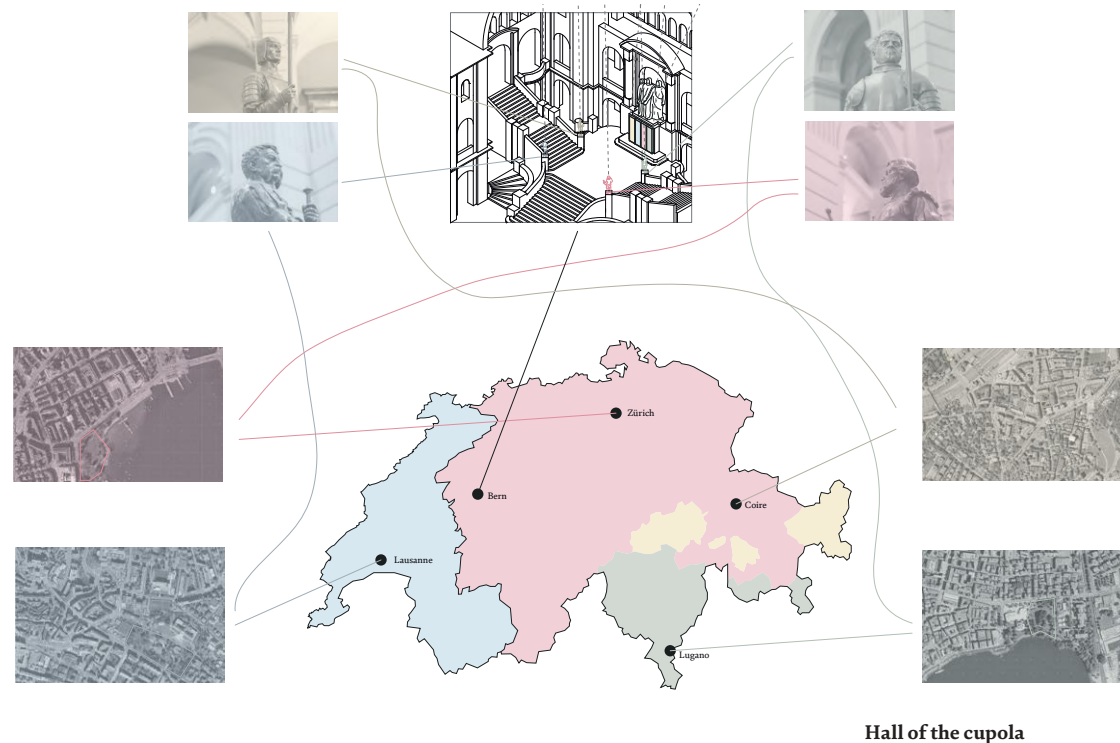
My research started by the verb “to eavesdrop”. It means "to listen secretly to someone's conversation". From a political point of view the definition of eavesdropping can be illustrated by the willingness of the people to gather information in a non-official context. In addition to the official media, knowing political opinions and subjective position of elected politicians increases trust and confidence. It is also interesting to see politicians in informal context to realize that they are like everyone else and to break the fence between them and citizens.

Starting from this question, the purpose of my project is to develop the issue of opening up the parliament’s discussions to the public. Since the two chambers are already filmed and transmitted in live, what interest me is more informal spaces of the parliament. Sound is my starting point, because it the biggest dimension of eavesdropping. I propose an experimental project that will transmit in live the sound in the parliament, without any filter and directly to the public. The goal is not to target and gather specific information but to share to the public the informal atmosphere in the Federal Palace.

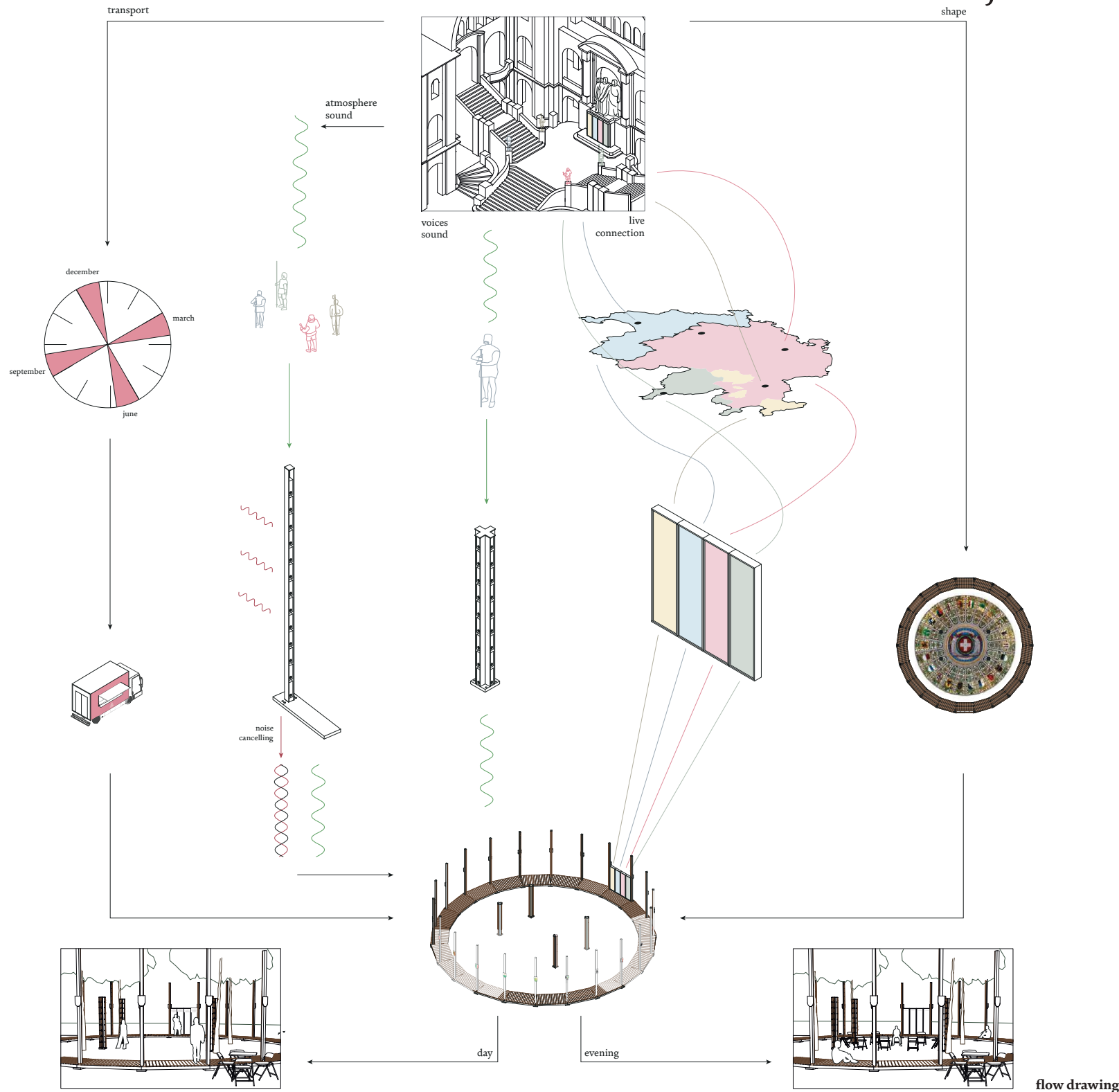
Languages symbolism



The parliament room that will be listened to is the hall of the cupola. This is the place in Parliament that sees the most flow of people over the course of the day. It is also a place full of symbolism. The politicians are symbolically observed by the different statues. On this drawing of the hall, opposite of the entrance, we see the statues of the three confederates. It represents the three legendary founding fathers of the former Confederation who were sworn in to the Grütli Prairie. They symbolize the independence and freedom of Switzerland. If we look up, we will see the cupola on which we find the crests of the Swiss cantons which show the diversity of Switzerland united under the same dome. We also see the four statues that adorn the railing of the stairs. They represent the four national languages of Switzerland, Romansh, Italian, Swiss-German and French. It's on those four that will be placed microphones. By doing so the statues really become interpreters for the public. The sound will be transmitted in four places in Switzerland, one in each linguistic region, and translated in the corresponding language when needed.



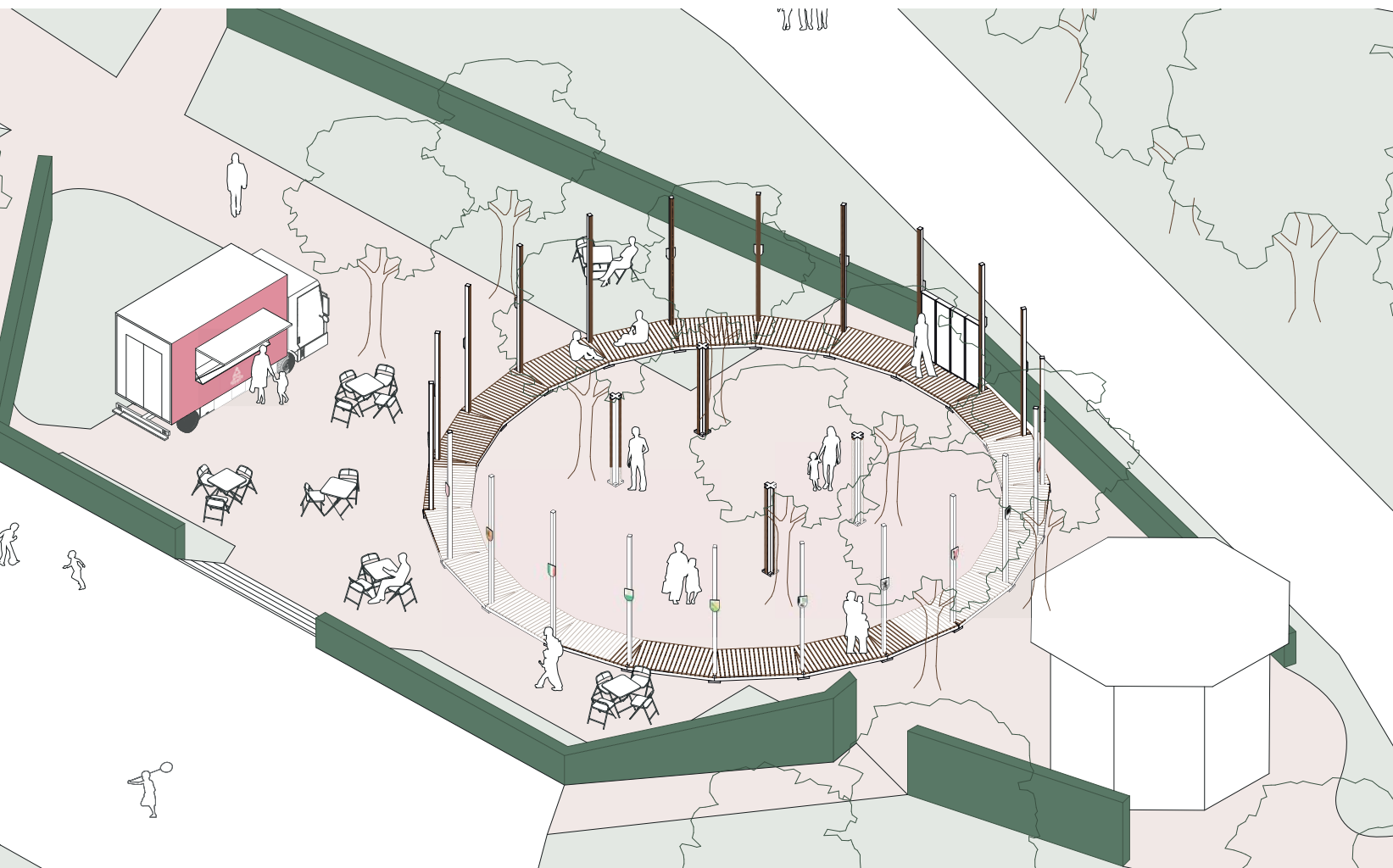
Project composition



The project is built according to several criteria. It is temporary and must be easily assembled and disassembled. The goal is to create an exchange and open dialogue between politicians and the public. The project thus connects the two places, in one direction via the transmission of sound and in the other via connected touch panels. Ambient noise must be attenuated in order to hear the transmission from the Federal Palace at best. The circular shape and the number of external pillars represent the geometry of the dome and the flags of the cantons.

Sound pavilion

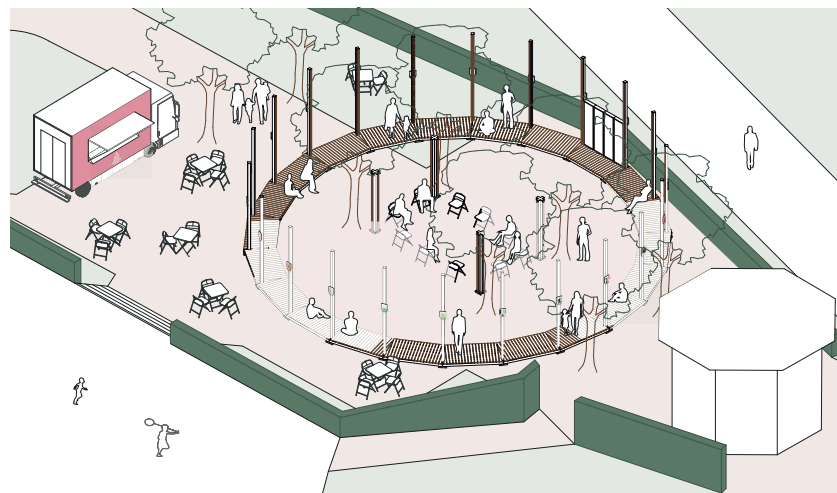
Sound Pavilion, day time
Axonometry



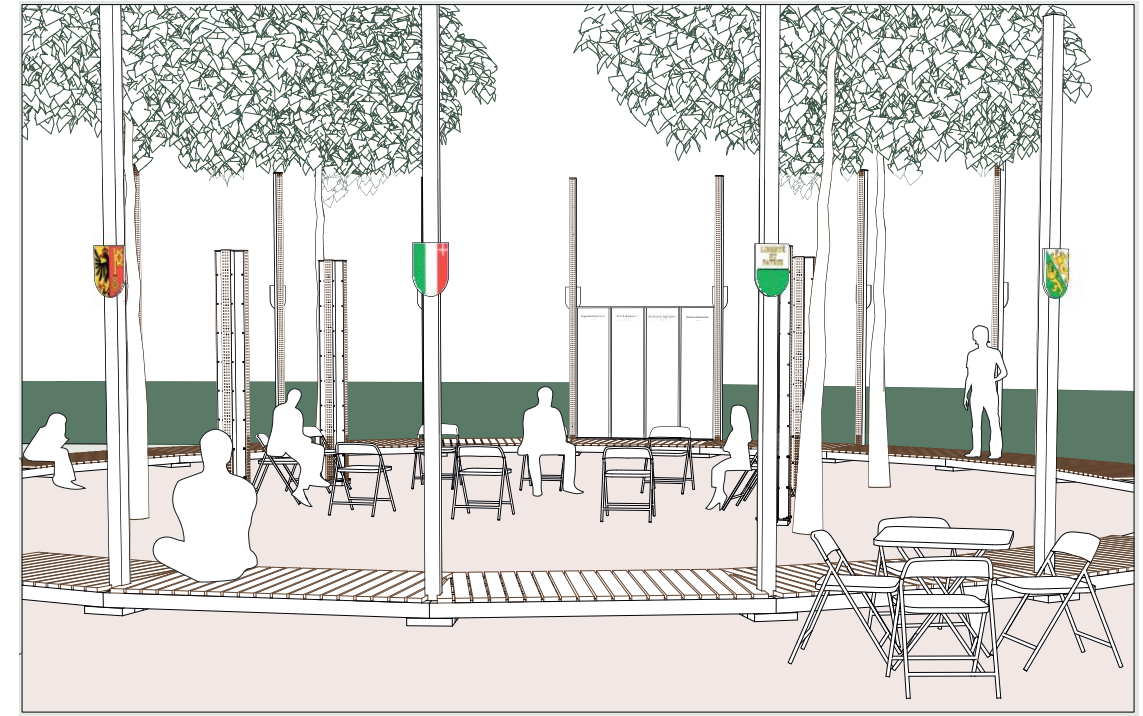
Adopting a geometry referencing to the circularity of the dome I create a round pavilion. The pavilion is a temporary structure that will be used as a sound transmission during parliamentary sessions, four times a year for three weeks. It's composed of twenty-two pillars with a ring floor to create a threshold, but also a continuous bench, and four central pillars.

We find the emblems of the cantons in front of the external pillars to recall the symbolism and the source of the pavilion. Symbolically, the speakers are placed in the same spot as the statues in the hall. The public will have the opportunity to react and respond to politicians by writing on panels connected live to parliament. The panels are placed below the feet of the statue of the three confederates. People can go and write whatever they want on it. There are four of them, one for each language, and they can write on one, the one corresponding to the language area. On the others it will be possible to see in live what is written in the other three pavilions. In the federal palace the politicians would see what is written by the public.

The goal is to hear how the life in the parliament is, it isn't any targeted information. The sound is transmitted in differentiated ways according to the sound. The external pillars have two goals. One is to protect the interior of the pavilion of the external sound. It uses the noise cancelling technology to do so. Secondly, they transmit the general sound of cupola hall, in order to create its general atmosphere. The four central pillars transmit the sound of the conversions held in the parliament. All of that is synchronize by a surround sound system. It's like in cinema where not all the sound come from the same speaker. The pavilion is the pavilion is wanted minimalist in order to be able to be transported in a truck that will remain on the spot and will turn into a café.



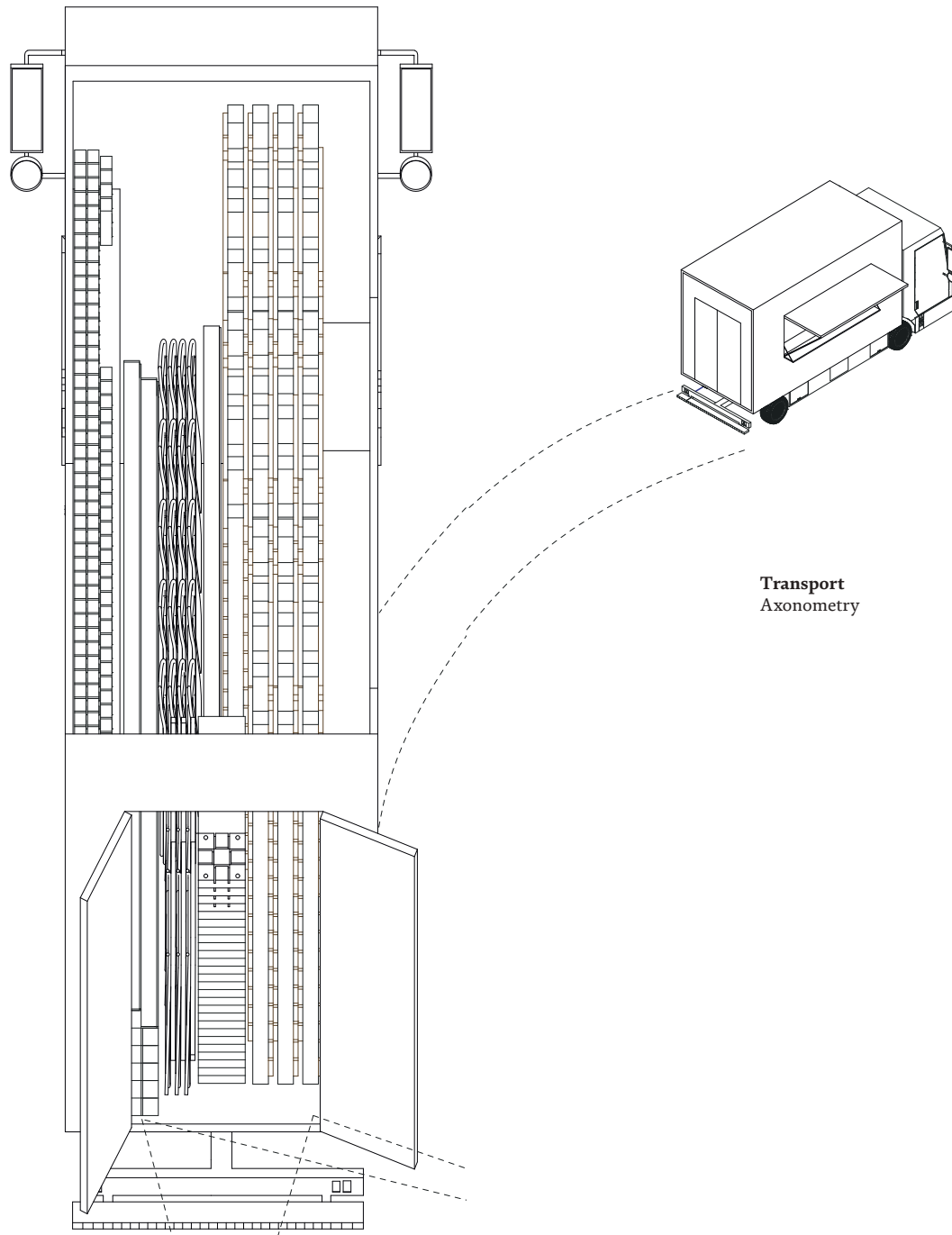
Sound Pavilion, evening time
Axonometry



Evening view

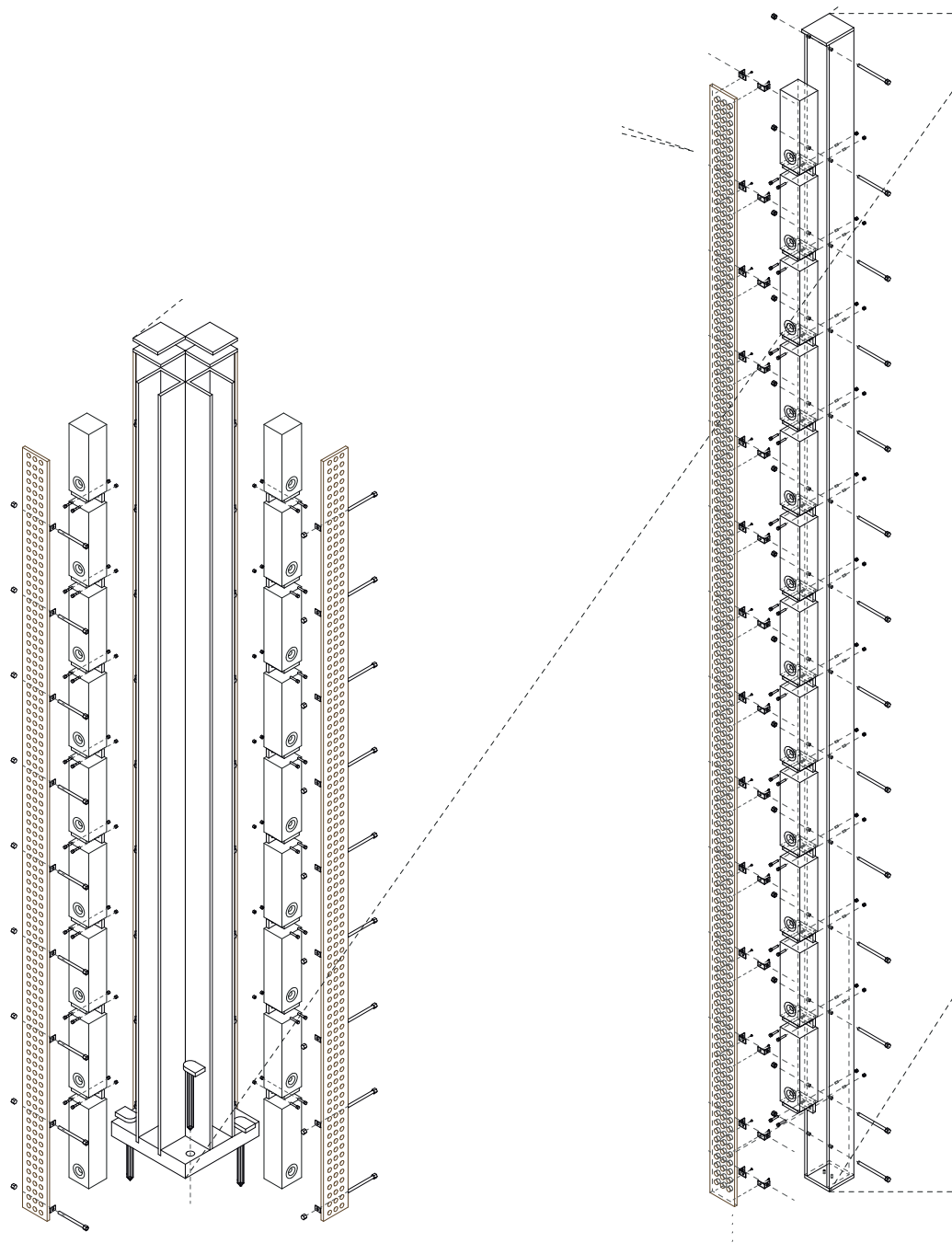
When evening comes, the pavilion is designed differently to create a place of debate open to all. Chairs are installed in the centre and the noise cancelling effect is turned off. During the day, the transmission from the federal palace is analysed and the four words or themes the most heard during the same day will be displayed to give the starting point for the debates of the evening. The four pavilions can connect between each other to discuss with people in the other language areas. If possible, politicians can also take part of the debate and answer some questions by doing a zoom trough the connected panels. The purpose of these debates is to inform people, allow them to get involved and understand what happens during the debates of parliamentary sessions.

Details and transport

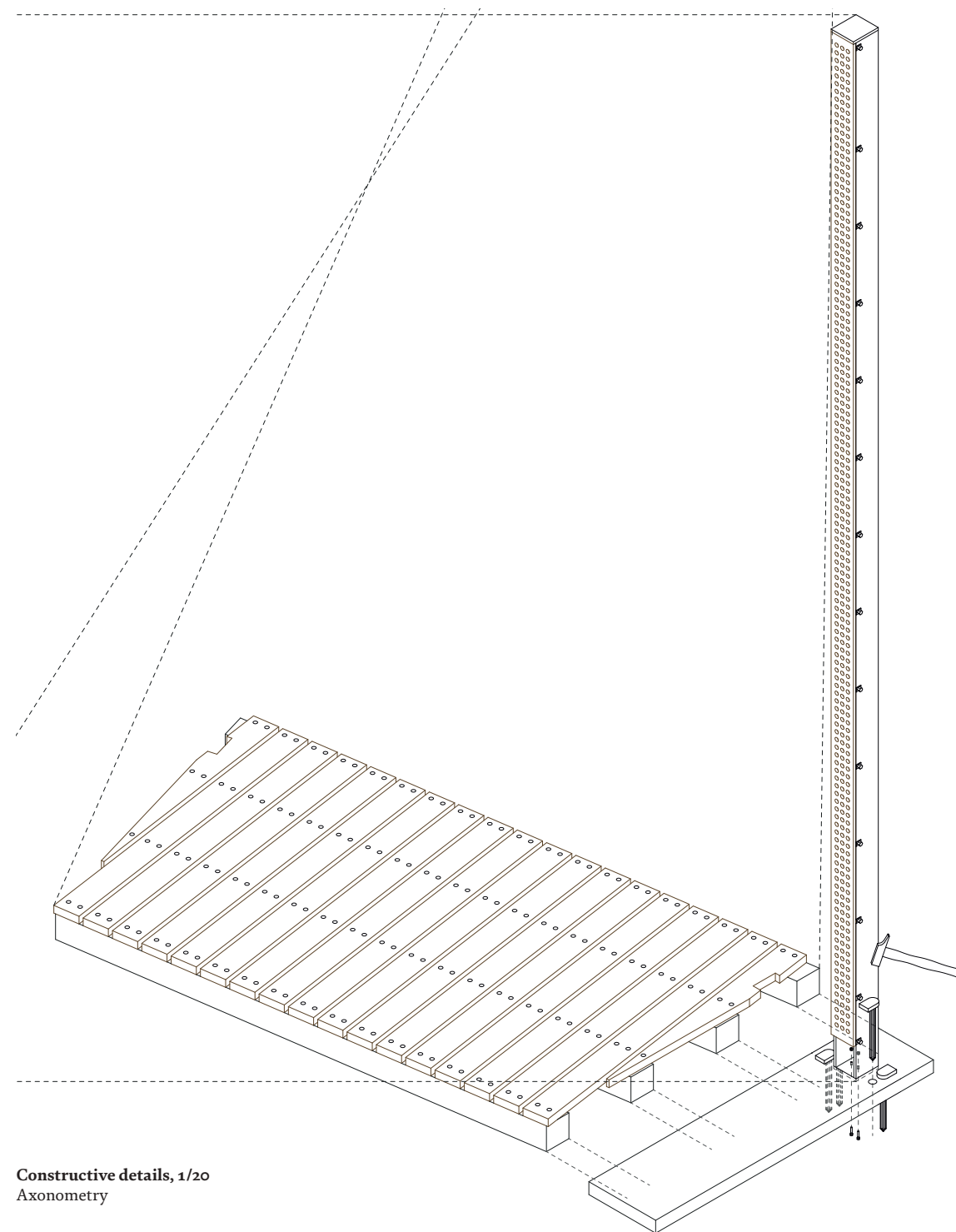


All the building units of the pavilion are dimensioned in order to fit in the camionette for transport. The vehicle plays a double role because once the pavilion is installed, it stays on site to offer a small restoration or complete another with furniture and take-out sales. During transport, in the truck are the modular floor, the pillars of two different sizes, street furniture, the speakers and connected panels as well as all the screws, bolts and tools needed for assembly.

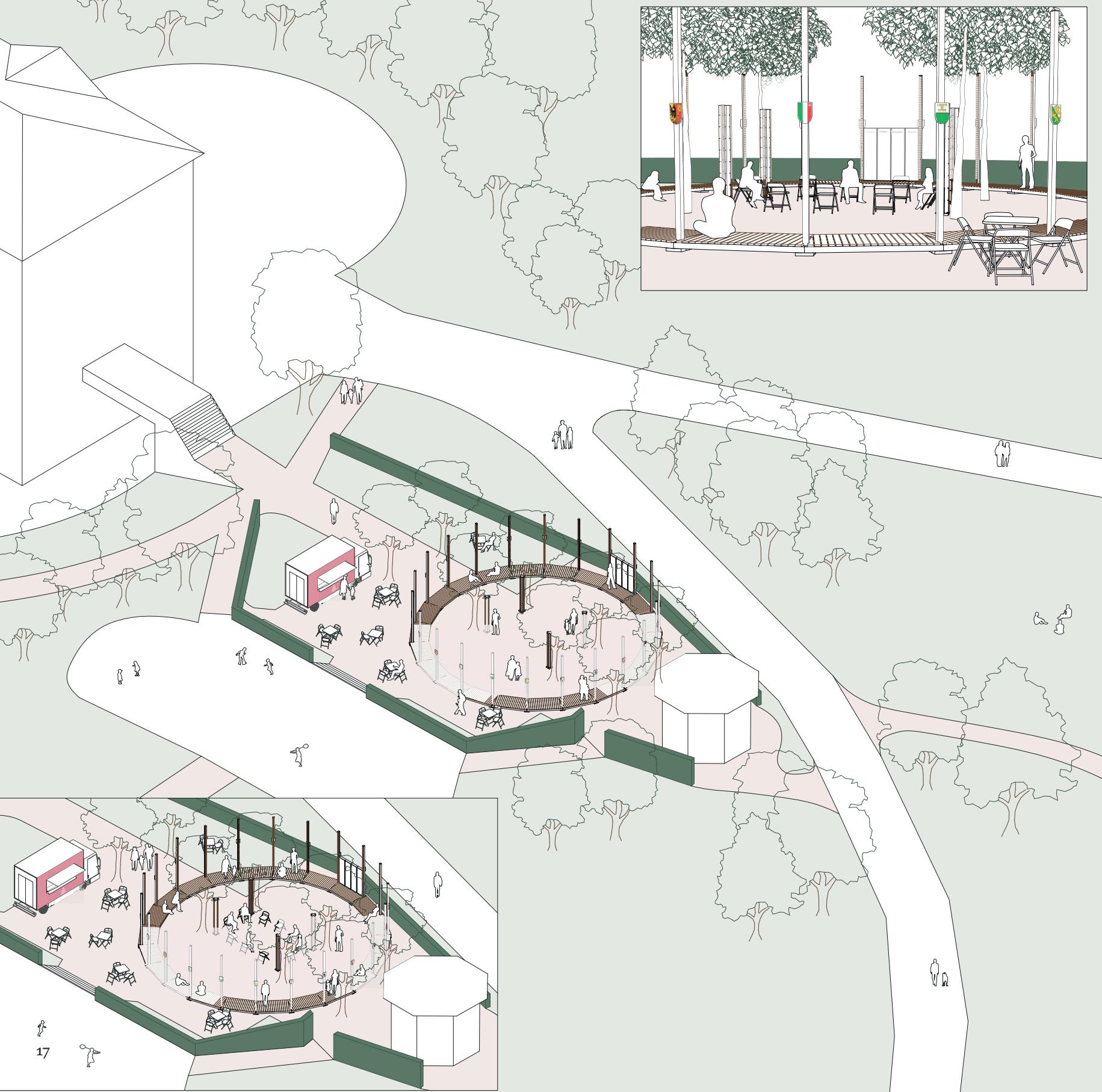
The pillars are made of metal, U-shaped, so you can put speakers and electrical devices inside. A perforated wooden panel is secured in front with bolts to hide and protect the speakers. The pillars are kept on the ground by sardines. The larger ones are stabilized by the prefabricated floor that rests on their feet. The floor should be assembled only the first time. Afterwards it should just be laid on the pedestals of the pillars. The walk it forms allows to create a threshold for the project as well as a bench that can be used the day or evening to listen or participate in the debates.



Constructive details, 1/20
Axonometry



Constructive details, 1/20
Axonometry



References

