

PHYLOSOPHY AND IDEA

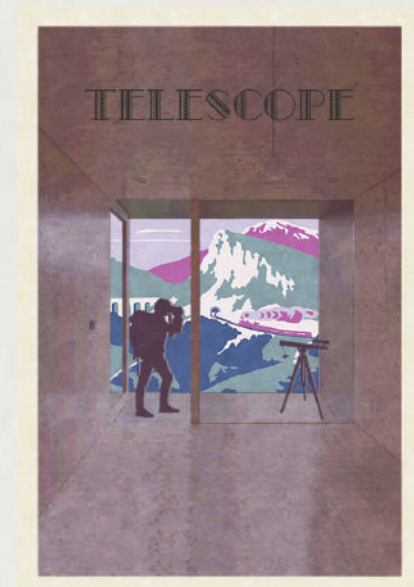
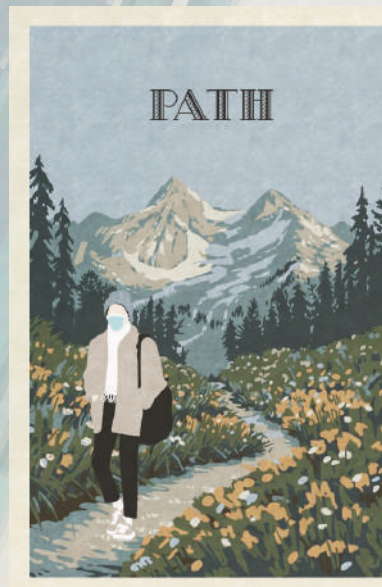
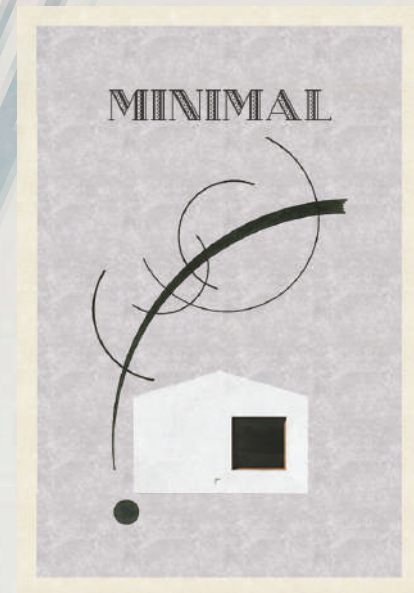
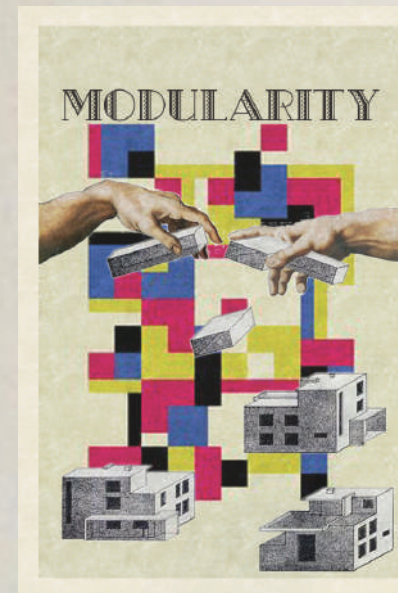
Telescope between the mountains | CALATOTLE group
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THE STORY

The story of Kalipe, the spirit who lives in the Semmering mountains and protector of the town, invites many visitors every year to the wonders of this place surrounded by nature.

The spirit is only visible at night, when the moon rises, but it is impossible to get close to it: it can only be observed from afar.



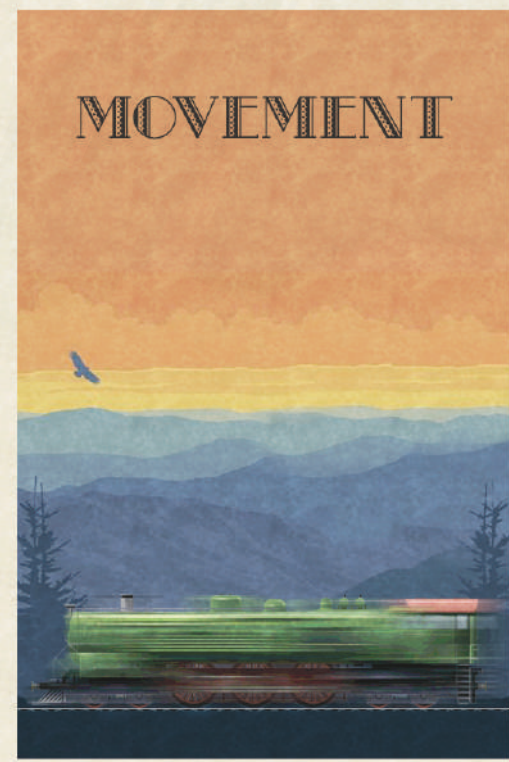
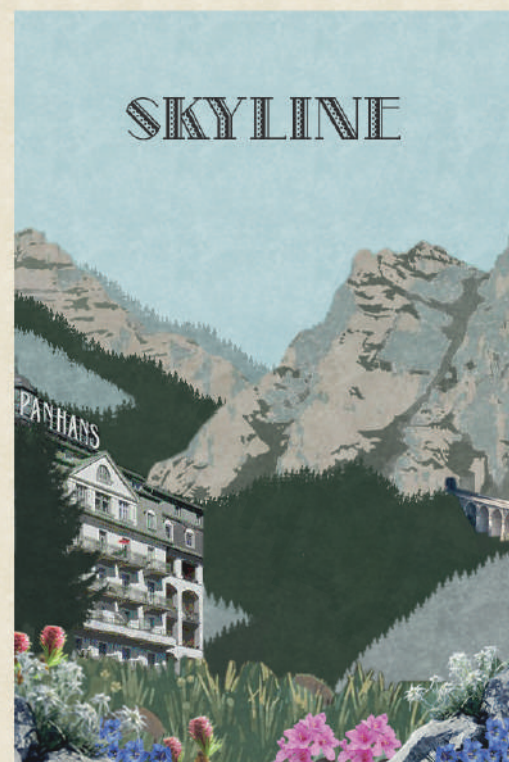
THE THEMES

The themes represent the necessary elements for understanding and developing the project of the visitor center. They make it possible to focus on the close relationship that is being pursued between architecture and nature, in an immersive experience with vintage overtones, to bring the town of Semmering back to its former glory.

The building will be developed according to linear and simple elements, non-invasive for the territory and with an eco-sustainable character. The function will be the one of a perspective telescope on nature, which perfectly integrates with the territory and opens points of view on the landscape.

The building will have to be modular, therefore with the possibility of adding or subtracting elements of the implant according to the necessities, easily disassembled and transportable, in balance with the landscape aspect.

The project includes a path that connects all the emblematic elements of the site with the visitor center.



GENIUS LOCI

"Genius Loci" is the Latin expression that can be translated as the spirit of the place, that name that every living thing possessed and would follow it from birth to death; it can also be called the demon, from Greek daimon, deity of a lesser order, who controlled, guarded, watched over and protected the place.

"Only when we understand our places, will we be able to creatively participate in and contribute to their story."

Norberg-Schulz, C. 1979, "Genius Loci. Paesaggio, Ambiente, Architettura", Milano: Electa, p. 202

Vittorio Gregotti isolates and prescribes that generation of the project based on the production and manipulation of images to the detriment of the rule and measure of the genius loci, fearing the surrender of the narrativity of the project in favor of media communication, in an autistic totalizing homologation.

"[...] The very specification itself of the "locus" as a singular fact, determined by space and time, by its topographical time, by its topographical dimension and its form, by being the place of old and new events, by its memory."

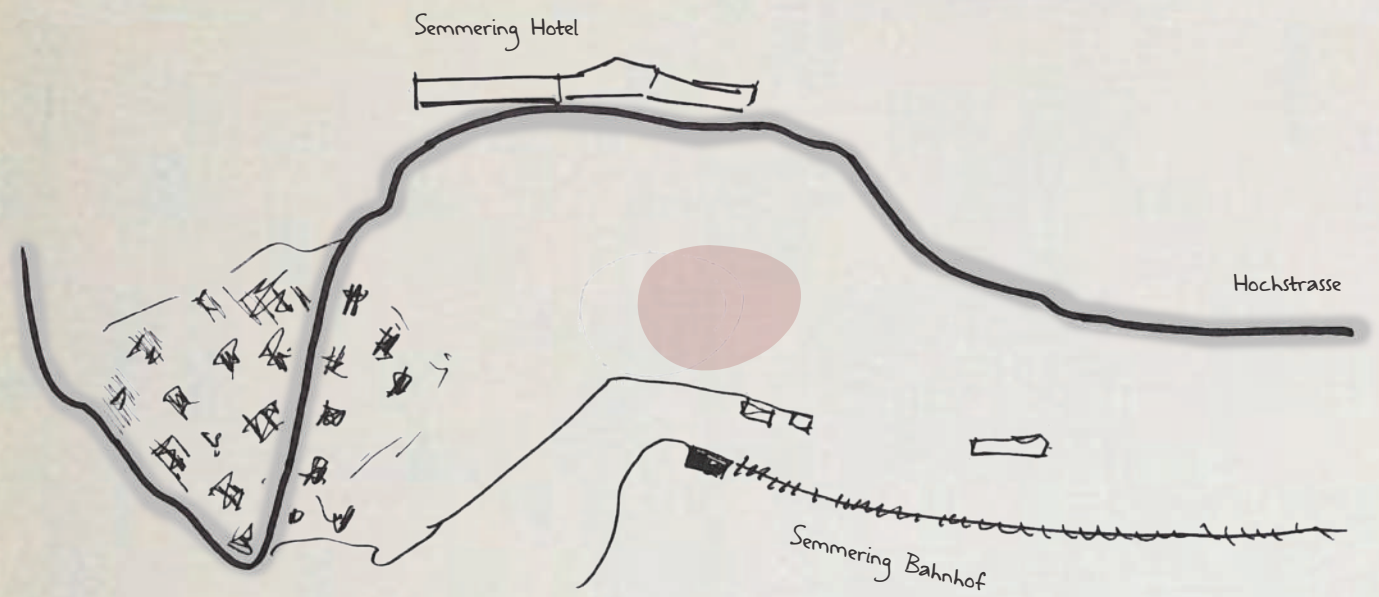
Rossi, A. 1983, "Architettura della città", Padova: Marsilio Editori, p. 140

Franco Purini sees the genius loci as the personification of every aspect of nature. "Identifying involves the founding act of naming".

Purini, F. 1976, "Luogo e progetto", Roma: Magma

In the dimension of the mountain project, the Genius Loci aims to understand the relationship with the natural site and the existing architectural heritage. The project should therefore be a synthesis of the notion of genius loci, so as to express all the characters of the place.

The Genius Loci, moreover, in its mythological meaning, can be identified with Kalipe, the spirit of the mountains of Semmering.



Semmering Hotel



EXISTING CONDITION

Semmering Hotel



PROJECT

Contour of project

Existing contour

