

Alpine mountain region Semmering, located at an elevation of 1000m above sea level, after the railway was built in mid 19th century, became a famous summer escape-from-the-city destination for Viennese Bourgeoisie as well as a beloved hiking, skiing and climbing region.

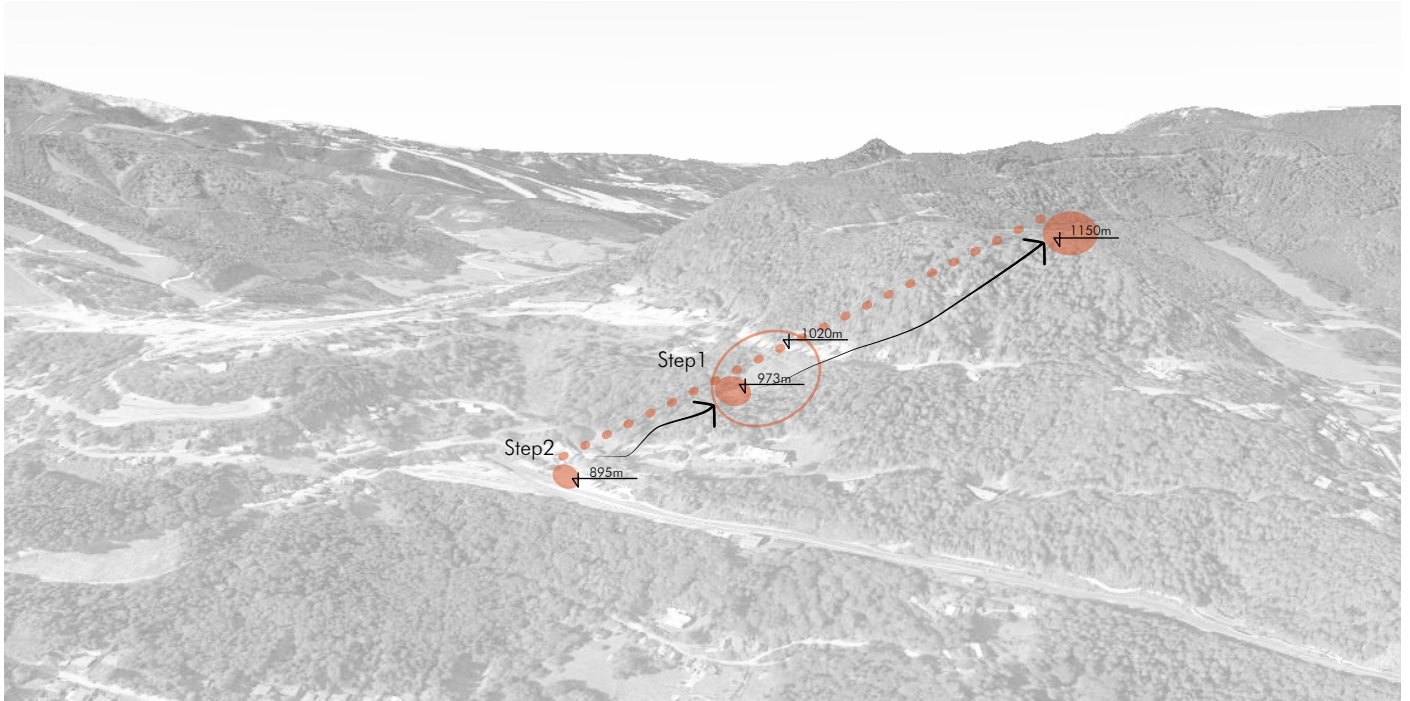
Nowadays, Semmering does not only attract people from Vienna seeking a weekend escape, but also tourists from all around Austria and surrounding countries, which directly affects the context and what is expected to be offered in terms of leisure, sport and health programme by such tourist hotspot.

Semmering is a region rich with scenic views, leisure spots, hiking trails and spaces for outdoor activities as well as places where visitors can stop on their route and simply rest. Due to bigger touristic demand in recent period of time and contemporary standards concerning inclusiveness we are proposing an addition to the already existing context in the sense of connection with nature, history, culture and locals, accessible for everyone.

In the alpine traditional way Hütte (hut) is kind of a building that is located on a hardly reachable place, somewhere on the way between the starting point and the end of a trail.

So, a hut being a middle point, a connector - place for gathering and exchange of experiences and stories, our goal is to provide such hut-experience in our visitor center that is easily reachable for everyone.





Step1 - defining the construction area

The chosen building site is a small flat area on a steep slope providing a view over hills and cosy sheltered position suitable for a hut. Not being located next to the road, the visitor center built on that site would not affect the already existing skyline or views from the platforms along Hochstrasse, on the contrary it would provide space in form of nature terraces for visitors to celebrate the nature. Also, the visitor center would have a strategic position in creating a new hiking trail (from the Railway Station to the very mountain top) and being a new starting point for already existing trails, providing a sheltered space for exchange of knowledge, participation and education too.

Step2 - connection

Connecting the lowest point - the Railway Station (arriving point of visitors and point where many walking and hiking trails start) with the highest point of the mountain above Hochstrasse with cable car would allow all visitors, no matter their age or physical condition, to have a ride with 360 degree view and once at the top, enjoy the pleasant climate of the summer region and the view of the alpine mountain landscape.