

research and educational center design

dedicated to the protection of the natural landscape in Hel

existing condition

The subject site is located in the immediate vicinity of the area protected under the "Hel Peninsula" Nature and Landscape Complex. Despite being situated within a region of significant topographical diversity, the site itself is characterized by relatively flat terrain, without major elevation differences. The area covered by the study is overgrown with a pine forest, whose condition is somewhat weaker compared to the vegetation within the protected zone. The main design assumption was to preserve as much biologically active surface as possible and to limit interference with the existing landscape in order to maintain its natural character.

The land balance is as follows:

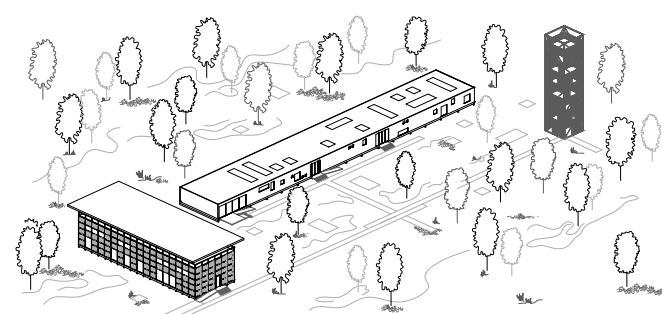
- total plot area: 11,680.00 m²
- biologically active surface: 9,065.00 m²
- paved surface: 1,187.00 m²
- building footprint: 1,428.00 m²

concept description

The development is located in the central part of the site, which—combined with the existing tree cover—allows it to be partially concealed and reduces its visual dominance in the landscape. Natural materials were used in the design, supporting the harmonious integration of the structures into the surrounding natural environment. Wooden viewing and resting terraces are distributed across the entire site, forming part of the infrastructure that encourages human interaction with nature. Their layout is intended to invite users to spend time outdoors and enable free movement throughout the area.

Apart from the necessary fire access road, no permanently hardened surfaces were introduced, which helps preserve the semi-natural, forest character of the entire development. Parking spaces are dispersed along the paved circulation route irregularly and visually unobtrusively.

axonometric view



design concept

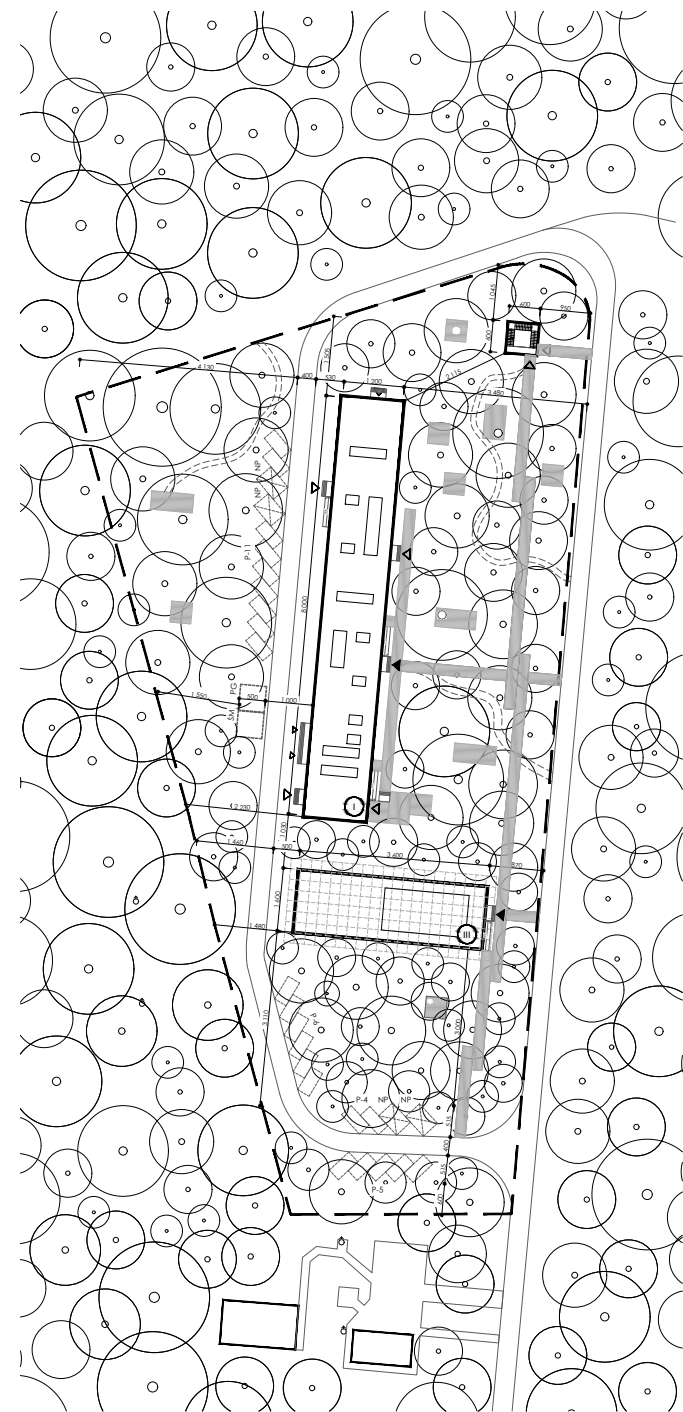
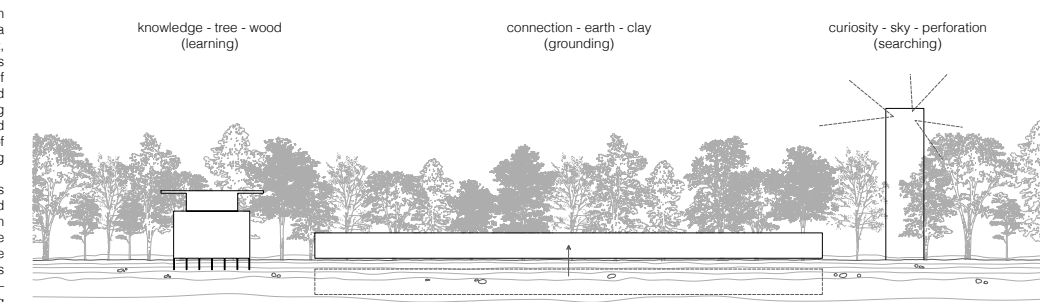
The complex was designed with the need to protect landscape and natural values in mind. Its architectural form (building scale, materials used, and spatial solutions) was shaped in a way that embeds it within the context and integrates it with its surroundings. The structures do not dominate the environment but instead become part of it, respecting landscape, historical, and natural conditions.

Each element of the development serves as a symbol referring to the process of building the relationship between humans and nature. This symbolism is encoded both in the architectural form and in the selected materials. The viewing tower represents the act of searching — initiated by curiosity. It enables a shift in perspective and the perception of a broader context, thereby expanding the field of exploration. Its openwork structure supports a gradual discovery of successive levels and hidden elements of the space.

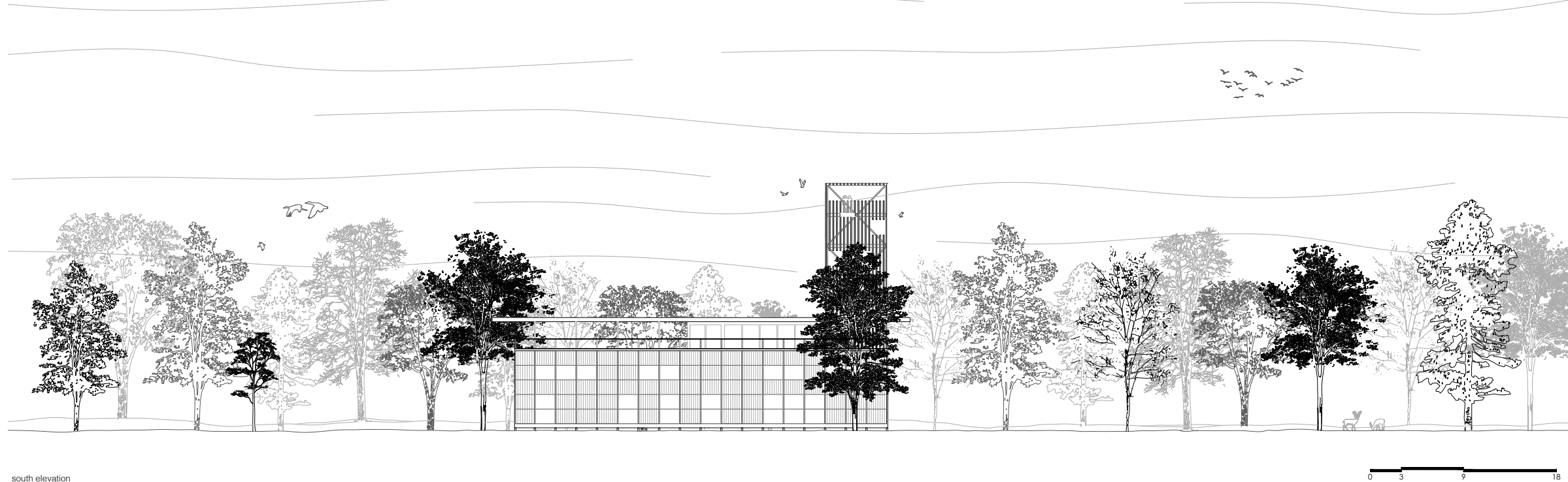
Another component is the motif of grounding — in this context understood as the establishment of a certain bond (connection) with a given aspect, theme, or element. The multifunctional pavilion is intended to be a place for the exchange of experiences and ideas. The finishing material used (clay) directly references this concept, reinforcing its meaning. The building's form, low and elongated, visually strengthens the symbolism of embedding, aligning with the idea of grounding both in a symbolic and spatial sense.

The next aspect of the presented cognitive process is learning, which emerges from experience and results in the acquisition of knowledge (often symbolically associated with a tree). That reference reflected both in the form and structure of the research pavilion. The architecture of the building is inspired by the structure of a tree (roots – trunk – crown), while the main structural and finishing material is wood.

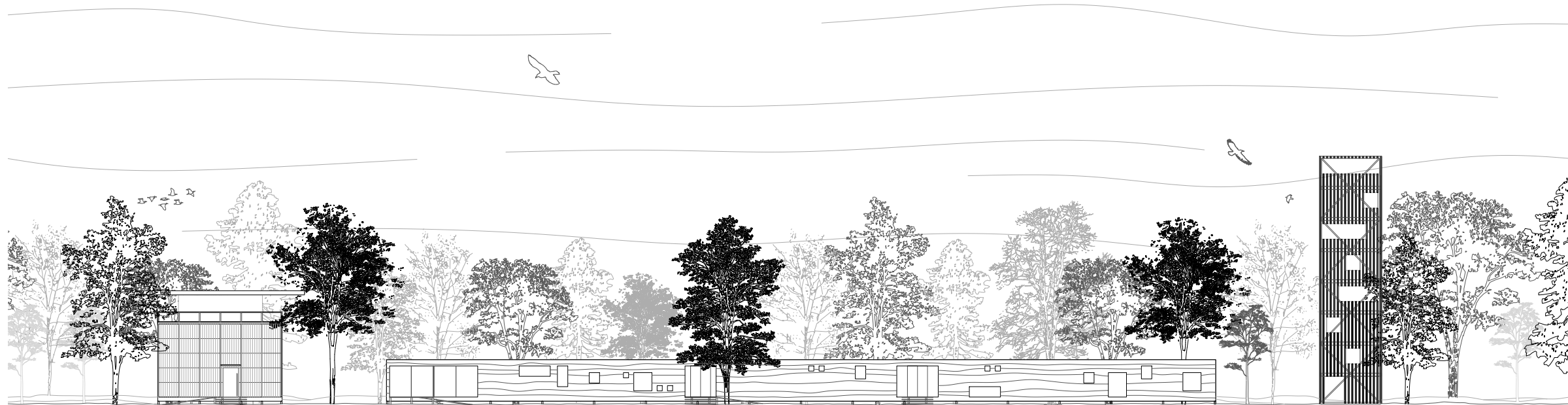
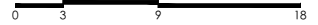
conceptual diagram



site development



south elevation



east elevation

