

# research and educational center design

dedicated to the protection of the natural landscape in Hel

## 1. heathland



A space of silence in which nature reveals its subtle yet moving beauty. It symbolizes both fragility and resilience — these plants, though delicate, are capable of surviving in harsh and demanding conditions, representing the strength of nature. Due to their character, heathers are perceived as an element that balances the relationship between the natural environment and human activity.

## 2. sea



The primordial element is considered the cradle of life on Earth. It is commonly associated with infinity and the mystery of existence. It represents time that flows uninterrupted, absorbing everything — the world changes, while the sea remains constant. Along the trail, it appears as a space of encounter with the element — infinite, unpredictable, and untamed. It is a place where humans confront something greater than themselves.

## 3. bench



It serves as an invitation to pause — a moment of calm, respite, contemplation, and reflection. It encourages the traveller to slow down for a while, to remain in the place, and to consciously observe what unfolds before them with a sense of distance and attentiveness. It is a silent witness to transience — persisting in an unchanging presence while the surrounding nature undergoes constant change. It symbolizes a space of waiting and longing, but also of careful observation.

## 4. horizon

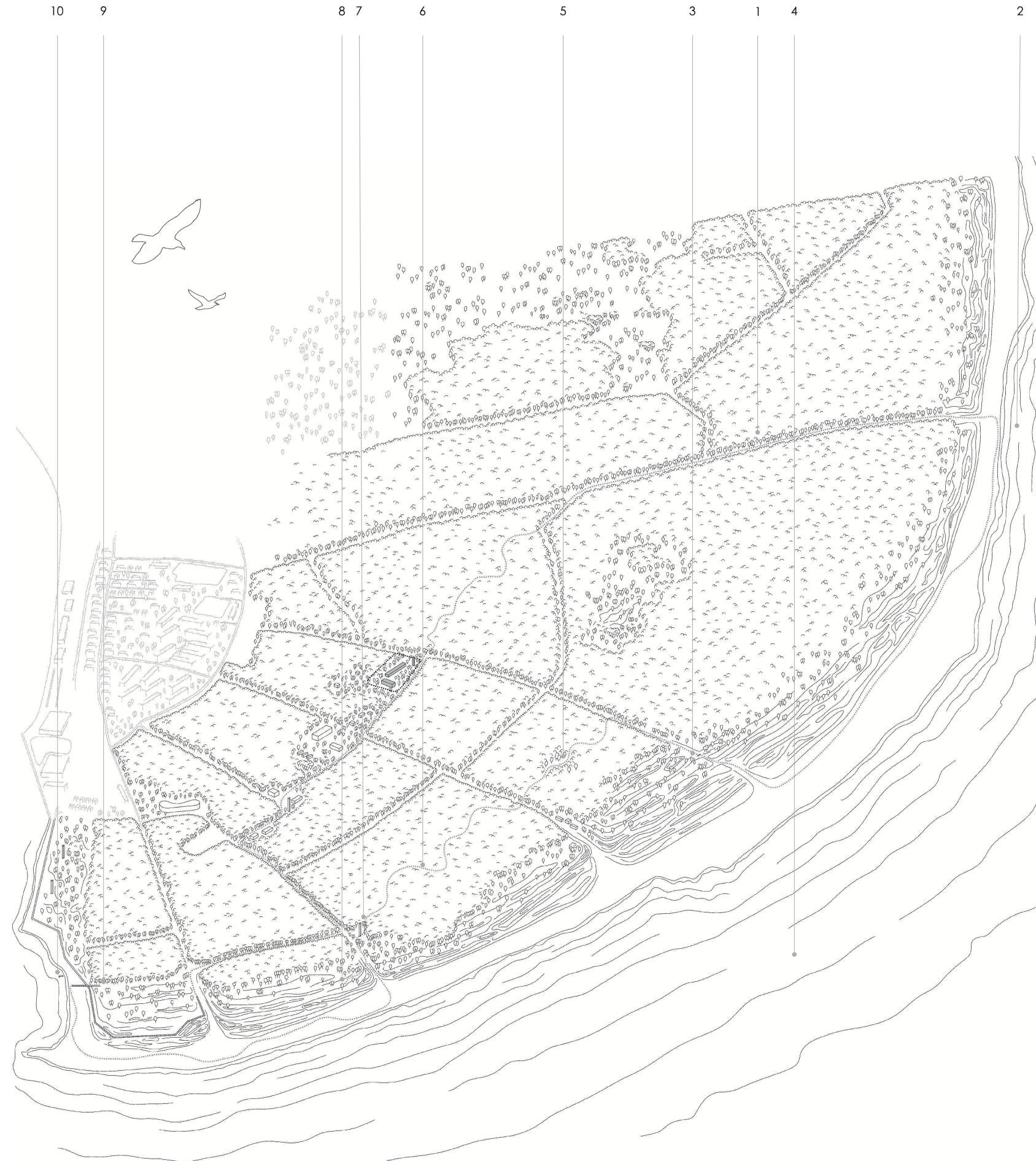


A metaphorical boundary between what is known and what remains beyond the reach of human understanding. It marks the limit of present experience, while simultaneously offering hope for the existence of something yet to be discovered. It symbolizes a transition between the material (natural) world and the spiritual (emotional) one — a point where sky, earth, and water meet, forming a harmonious whole of nature.

## 5. pine forest



A witness to history — evoking the memory of ancestors, it serves as a silent place of encounter with what has passed. The presence of pines, trees associated with longevity and resilience, gives the landscape a particular significance — both in its natural and cultural dimensions. The space is distinguished by exceptional environmental and symbolic qualities. Sunlight filtering through the tree canopies creates an almost magical atmosphere that shifts with the time of day. It is a space in which humans encounter nature consciously — as both observers and participants.



## 6. tree canopies



A natural vault — a space suspended between sky and earth, allowing contact with both realms to be maintained. It is a place teeming with life, though concealed. It serves as a shelter for countless organisms, from birds and insects to fungi and lichens. It invites reflection on the fleeting nature of the moment, emphasized by sunlight filtering through the tree canopies and the soothing rustle of leaves.

## 7. tower



It represents both a symbolic and physical elevation above everyday life. It enables a view of the world from a different, broader, and more complete perspective, fostering reflection and contemplation. The tower allows one to admire the richness of the landscape — a mosaic of pine forest, dunes, beach, and sea — revealing the natural structure of the surroundings, its rhythm, and its variability. It is a sign of human curiosity, a metaphorical symbol of searching and the pursuit of knowledge.

## 8. birch tree



A symbol of renewal, lightness, and delicacy. The birch is a pioneer species that appears first in areas with difficult growing conditions. For this reason, it is also associated with strength. Highly distinctive due to its black-and-white bark, it is regarded as a tree with a beneficial aura — associated with healing energy, calmness, and harmony.

## 9. horizon



A path connecting two worlds — in this context, the maritime world and the land. It is a symbol of reconciliation and the bridging of opposites, which may occur both literally (linking two points) and metaphorically (connecting ideas, people, and cultures). It enables contact with the aquatic environment and the observation of a different spatial realm. It is also a metaphor for transformation — a spiritual, personal, or symbolic journey into new and unknown territories and experiences. It encourages one to pause for a moment "in between."

## 10. boat



Above all, it represents a journey, or at least the possibility of one. This voyage may be interpreted literally or as the journey of life itself. A boat provides shelter on the vast waters, yet human fate remains dependent on the "whims" of the sea's power. Along the trail, it also refers to the deeply rooted fishing culture, which was, and in a certain sense still is, an inseparable part of life on the Peninsula.