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INTENSE: SCAPES

Carolyn Fickinger

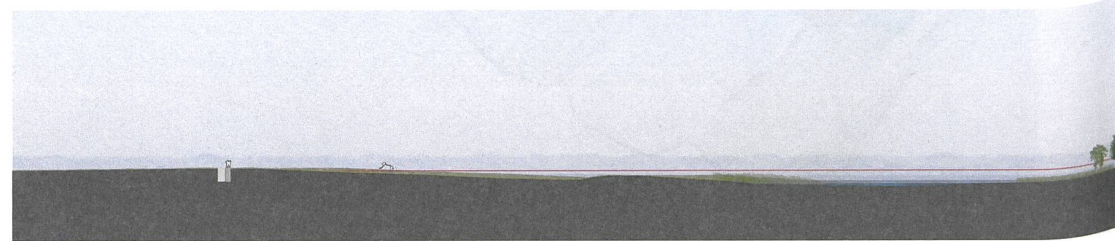
The design intervention reacts to the existing Rhine Delta's exceptional role as an expansive field along an urbanized shoreline as well as the biggest nature reserve around Lake Constance. The required Rhine deviation is used to incorporate a broad zone of land between existing urban structures and the shore into the floodplain. It heightens the experience of the continually changing landscape: developing and changing textures in flora and fauna, the forces of the tides (both of the New Rhine and the lake), and the sediment-related transformation of the topography. In addition to meeting existing reeds, the area will establish a threshold of seasonally diverse water situations in order to increase the plurality of habitats there. It will expand the floodplain for both the Rhine and Lake Constance, helping to reduce damaging flooding further up the valley and around the lake, as well as function as a sediment trap to maintain the water quality of the lake, thereby resolving current political disputes. The open zone establishes a clear border and redirects urban sprawl without diminishing the quality of life along the urban belt of Bregenz – St. Margrethen – Dornbirn and Feldkirch. In addition, it enhances existing qualities and uses.

By freeing the Rhine River from its narrow canal, a new relationship to the water is established. The Lake Constance and the New Rhine are allowed to interact in a more natural manner without completely destroying the existing context, and the tides of both water systems are made legible.

During most of the year it is possible to walk or boat through the reeds and forests or the dry river arms and experience the unmediated impact of weather, tides and vegetation. The visitor has to use his own muscle power to push through the terrain, wade in the silt, or make his own path through dense vegetation. Since no routes will be maintained nor infrastructure such as electricity provided, trips will need to be individually organized. The scale of the new deviation allows everybody to enter without harming the natural ecosystem, whereas the absence of clear regulations and spatial structures invites those people who want to make the extra effort to invent their own activities.



site plan

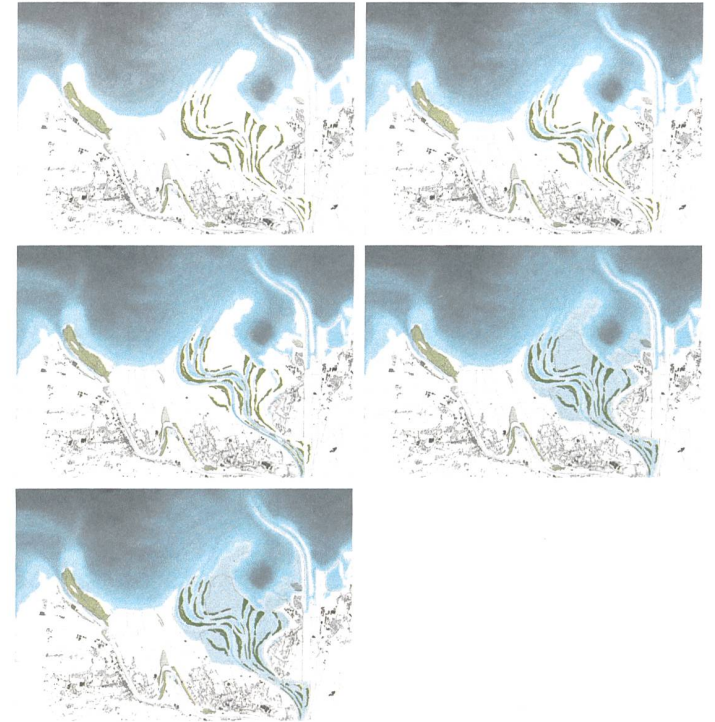


perspective of lochsee in 25 years



perspective of water's edge

water level diagrams



section at mouth of new rhine

