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SITUATION DRAWING AARE ISLAND

1 Aare Stauwehr Olten The weir marks the bifurcation of the Aare into the 6.2km long Oberwasserkanal and the 9km long meandering, recently reengineered and renaturalized Alte Aare. It is the safety valve for the steady channel that directs the water into the turbines further downstream, and redirects the excess water into the old riverbed and controlls flooding.

2 Aare Oberwasserkanal Winznau - Schönenwerd The Oberwasserkanal is the major topographical interveniton in the basin of the Niederamt. Built out of the ground between 1913 and 1917 by a myriad of mostly italian workers it defines a horizon and spatial definition for the land around it. The rows of Poplar trees underline the steadyness and continouity of its gradient. Along its dam the project proposes a series of Limestone benches, that create places to stay.

Rastplatz | Playground Schachenallmend The melancholy of the place is condensed on a small plaque next to the fountain:

"In the years 1976-77, the owners of the Gösgen nuclear power plant created hiking trails along the Aare in a goodwill action. This rest area is part of it. Previously, there used to be a 50-meter shooting range on this site. The Waterworks extended the rest area in 1978 with a simple fountain made of fir wood. This fountain, which had become rotten, was completely destroyed by vandals after 30 years. The new fountain was made in 2007 from the remnants of a 143 year old oak tree. The oak tree had to be cut down because of a power line in the nearby forest. The slender, exotic shape with the pyramid in the background, looks somewhat oriental. This interplay was not intentional."



5 Water Pump Station Schachenrüti Whithin the next five years the drinking water pump station will be replaced because the increasing water polution will make the water unsafe to drink as wel al the amoumt of water needed in the future can not be provided by this station. It is a unique place, instead of fencing the station off from the public as it is usually done, it is surrounded by a garden of wild hedges and meadows to create a niche for the many rare birds that inhabit the area. Once defunct the station could become the home of the local club of Ornithologists. A new larger Pump station will be built around 800m south on the fields of the Aareschachen.

6 Ad-Hoc Infrastructures Kreuzweg The pragmatism and non-chalance surrounding public infrastructures along the network is striking. The Toitoi mobile toilet represents exactly that, it is a right choice for the right place but a provocation nontheless. There is no sewage system in place out there and the risk of flooding would eventually make it vulnerable. The additional limestone lines/elements proposed by the project tap into such found/built places by introducing repetitive, recogniseable landcape elements.



Lookout Hill Landfill Fröschenweiher The second part of the landfill intervention is the Lookout Hill. The material removed by the construction of the path is piled up on the outermost corner of the site vis-à-vis the nuclear power plant on the far side of the Alte Aare. the hilltop rises 14 meters from the plateau enabling a view of the surrounding landscape and the two (three) rivers. The hilltop is crowned with a small lookout and a fireplace and can be scaled via a set of stairs on the southern ridge of the hill.

Ruin Burg Göskon Obergösgen The last remnant of the Burg Göskon sits quietly off the path along the channel. The extraordinary defensive topograpyin front of it was cut away by the construction of the Oberwasserkanal. This also saved the crumbling ruin from falling into the Aare as it became the topographical connection point to the extensive landfill of rubble from the construction of the Oberwasserkanal. While it remains hidden away, this spatial pocket is formally strenghtened and connected with the rest of the intervention throgh small paths and familiar Elements of Limestone.

10 Gösgen-Däniken Nuclear Powerplant Däniken The looming cooling tower and the concrete sphere of the reactor hull are the two prominent elements of this landscape. Built in the 1970's the power plant has now reached its half-live and is expected to be decomissioned and subsequently deconstructed within the next 50 years. The tower was the reference point for the walks that led to this project, its resistance to distance, meaning the difficulty of relating oneself to it as you move towards it or away from it. In this movement the perspectives and perceptions start to oscillate. It is always present and distant at the same time.

Suburban Interactions Robidog Procession The Robidog as symbol and symptom of the suburban landscape. It informs a procession from one station to another, a silent agreement to the conveinience of suburban life. Other symbols and signifiers of the suburbanisation of the Niederamt can be found and experienced through activities offline and with digital layers of informal agreement on who's fastest, or the number of cars, plastic outdoor lounges and garden gnomes that cover the landscape and gardens. The cooling tower throwing its shadow onto this landscape, with its veins that buzzingly zip away, does surely enable the the meaningfull and meaningless conveiniencies of everyday life.

12 Laufkraftwerk Gösgen Niedergösgen The Laufkraftwerk is the culmination of the energy in the channel, after passing the turbines the water flows calmly towards Schönenwerd to rejoin with the Alte Aare.