

GALERIE METROPOL WIEN

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Kleiner Raum (links vom Eingang)

Maßstab: Podeste: 1:100
Wand: 1:1.000
Original Proposed Client: Iran (1978, 1987)
Client: suitable for any large property holder with dry lakes
and river-throughflow problems

Podeste: stages of construction for aquifer upwelling and oases-marsh upgrading projects, conducive to buildup of surface water (river) flows. The cones effect cave habitat in otherwise exposed territory, allowing for spread of underground and aerial animals. Soil burrowing and dung/humus accumulation absorbs aquifers otherwise rising at lower elevations, in salt-encrusted flats. The objective is to keep uprising waters out of the salt flats, and to combine the upright caves with downward-struck depressions, all around the salt flats, for increased sponge-like holding of waters. Evapotranspiration increases, more rain falls uphill, more waters flowing downhill, either underground or on the surface, or slowed down and absorbed in a biologically-active medium. Cage structures allow shelter for birds. In the final, marsh stage, a sloped convex disc with outward-spiralling depressions, allows waters at high level to be sopped up, but at low level to pass through. Wedge indentations function as cliffs from which pursued animals, if trapped, fall to their predators. The pyramid of species builds up. Grasslands begin to take hold outside the marsh, particularly with nutrient transfer by animals and pollination by insects.

In these sites, along with the marshes indicated on the spiral structures along the coast of the Gulf of Gabes, nutrients from the city can be introduced in the form of feathers extruded from alpha-keratinized single-cell organisms first grown on hydrocarbon substrates from pyrolysis.

An der Wand: continuation of multi-channel canal built by Iraq with Soviet advisors during the Iran-Iraq war to divert the Tigris River into the Karun and through a swath of Iranian territory; the canal has largely been destroyed; we propose continuing through the Karun, sweeping it down to the Gulf--for not military but architectural reasons. A first conception of this multi-channel structure is Oppenheim's Dead Furrow, 1967.

Großer Raum (Mitte)

Maßstab: Boden: 1:330.000
Wand: 1:500.000
hintere Wand: 1:500.000

Executor/Client: Algerian military, conceivably with Tunisia
Quellen: Wüste, Dennis Oppenheim, Michael Heizer
Küste, Robert Smithson, Dennis Oppenheim

Convergence and breakthrough of waterflows to the Sea.

First stages of savannah buildup for Algeria, restoring water cycles. Breakthrough from now-closed basin of Chott el Hodna, passing around saltflats below sea level, proceeding to the Gulf of Gabes. At coast, mix salt and fresh waters in sloped discs, both at the river mouth and in counter-spin wetland-inlets, for maximum dry-wet interspersions and productivity of species.

At highest points upland, in the Ahoggar Mountains, build diversions--not dams--for greater retention of what little water falls there.

All work is in the physical context of bird-insect migrations through Algeria to Austria and the Baltic. On the 1:5.000.000 chart, all sites are shown. They lie within 3000 km of Austria. Construction can increase the ecological and geopolitical strength of Austria. The site here lies literally along a Startbahn, or runway for migratory animals directly impacting on Austrian ecology.