

atlantic wall variations

sequences on an obsolete haven

My diploma project evolves around the remains of the Atlantic Wall, a series of bunkers and fortifications built during the Second World War by German forces. The bunkers are situated from the Spanish/French border to the North of Norway. In Norway alone, over 300 fortifications were built.

With this "path" as a basis I travelled to various locations in North of Denmark and in South- and West Norway. This journey laid the foundations for my diploma project.

Rather than transforming the bunker, I reflect upon the standardization of the bunker and the shifting of the way one perceives them due to their different placings in the landscape. My personal narrative and reflection upon the landscape, shaped by my visit and research, forms the base of my interaction between the bunkers and the landscape.

The following "variation statements" has been developed to function as guidelines to my project.



variation statements

- 1 - The Atlantic Wall is a defensive "wall" along the coast line of Europe.
- 2 - It is assembled by the repetition of bunkers and fortresses along the coast line.
- 3 - These bunkers are standard structures that fulfilled a specific function: to monitor and protect "Europe".
- 4 - Through a journey to the stretch that goes from the North of Denmark to the South/West coast of Norway, a sample of this massive "wall" is generated.
- 5 - The bunker is static and standard, I move along its trail.
- 6 - The landscape provides variation of the bunker.
- 7 - In this meeting between bunker and landscape, lays the basis of the new variation of this stretch of the Atlantic Wall.
- 8 - A personal narrative starts. A new intervention happens in each plot.
- 9 - These interventions uncover the complexity of the theme: a background in its variations.
- 10 - The chosen fortresses are used as a way to show the landscapes they are in, acknowledging the bunker transforming them by its presence.
- 11 - The variation of a defensive wall, by evoking and developing each plot based on its relation to landscape: a reason to visit.
- 12 - In the end, the Atlantic Wall is no longer a "wall", no longer a repetition of standard elements, no longer an instrument of war, but a way of knowing places through new ways of seeing it.
- 13 - Infinite variations can be applied to the whole length of the Wall.