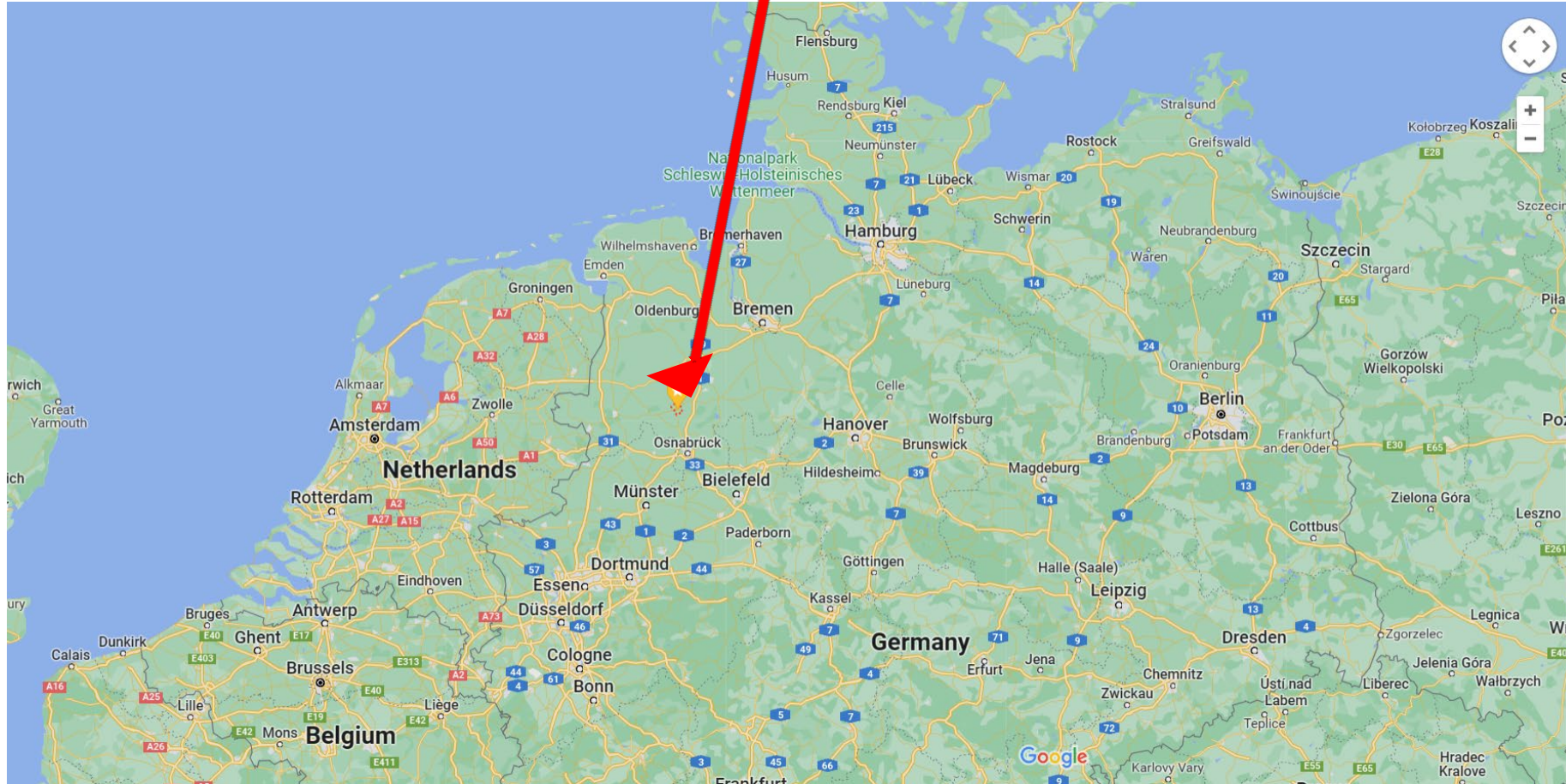
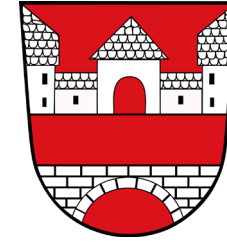


# Cultivating Companionship

Creating Conversations and Communities within the Cornfield

# Bersenbrück



WHERE





**Bersenbrück**

Bersenbrück

WHERE



CORNFIELD    BIOGAS PLANT    TOWN



WHERE



# BETWEEN HISTORY AND MODERNISATION



historic farm

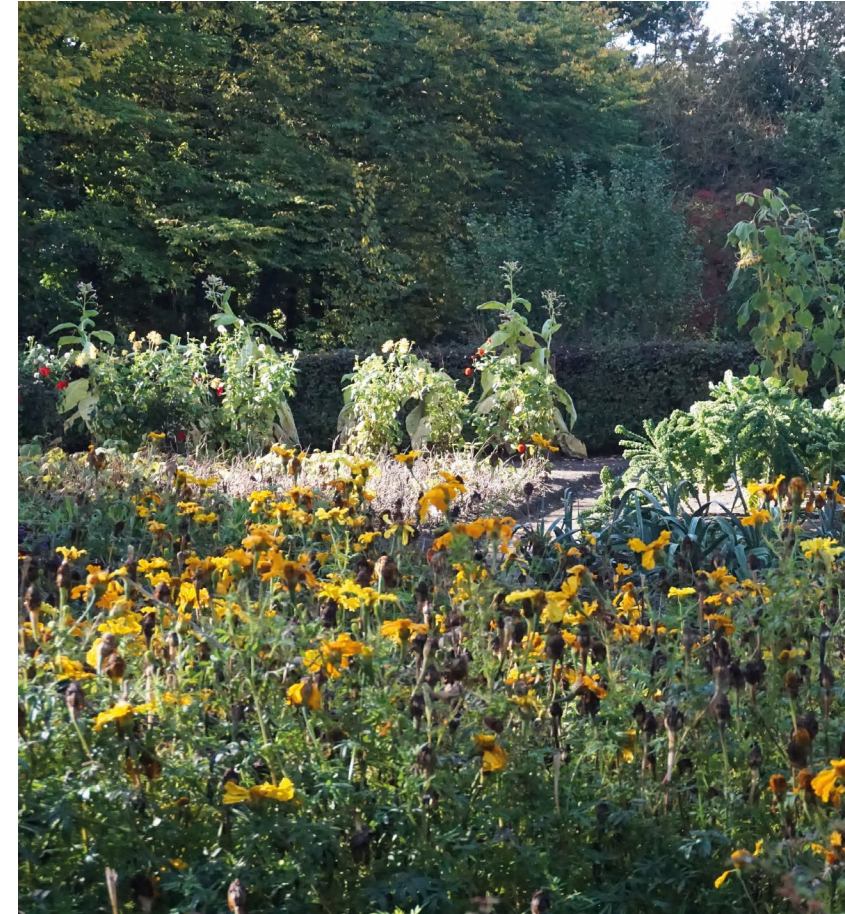
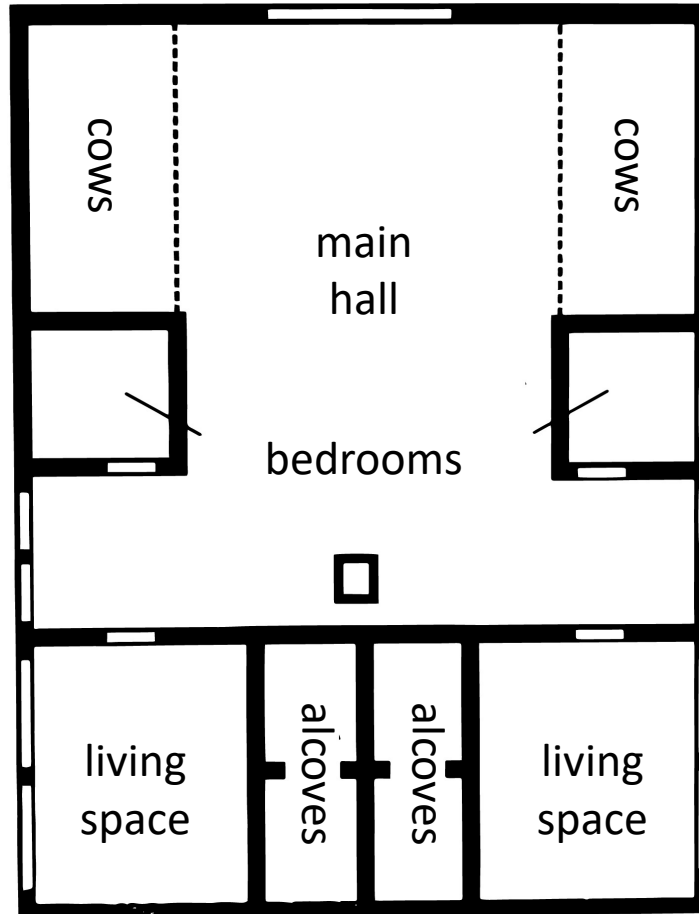


biogas plant

WHERE



# HISTORY



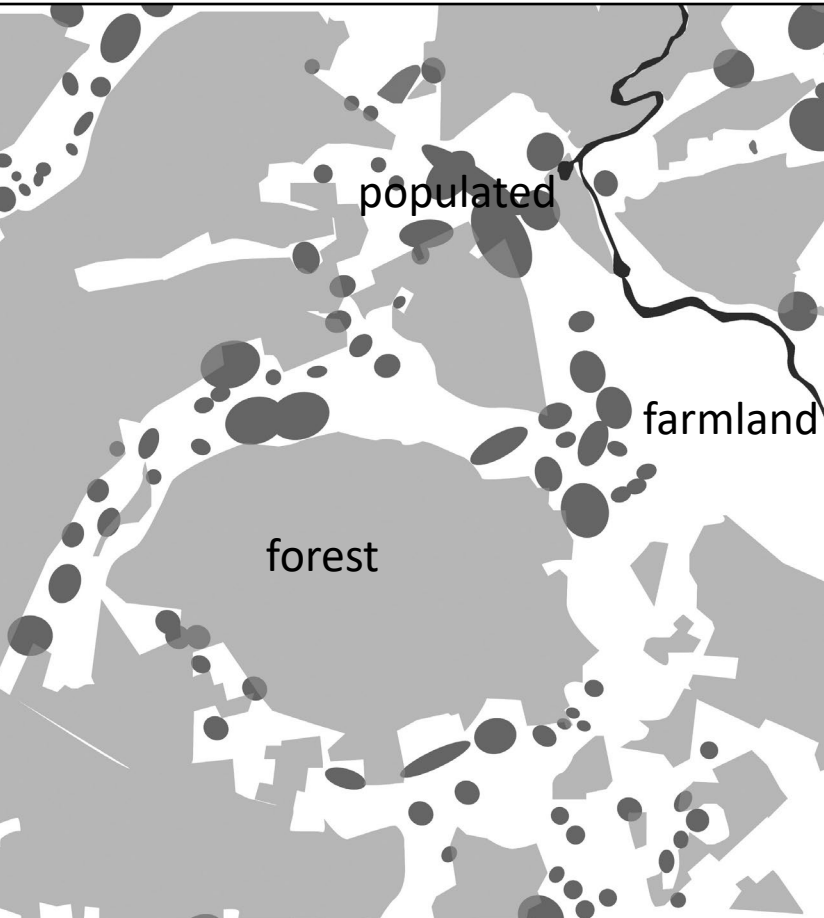
FARM

half-timbered farmhouse

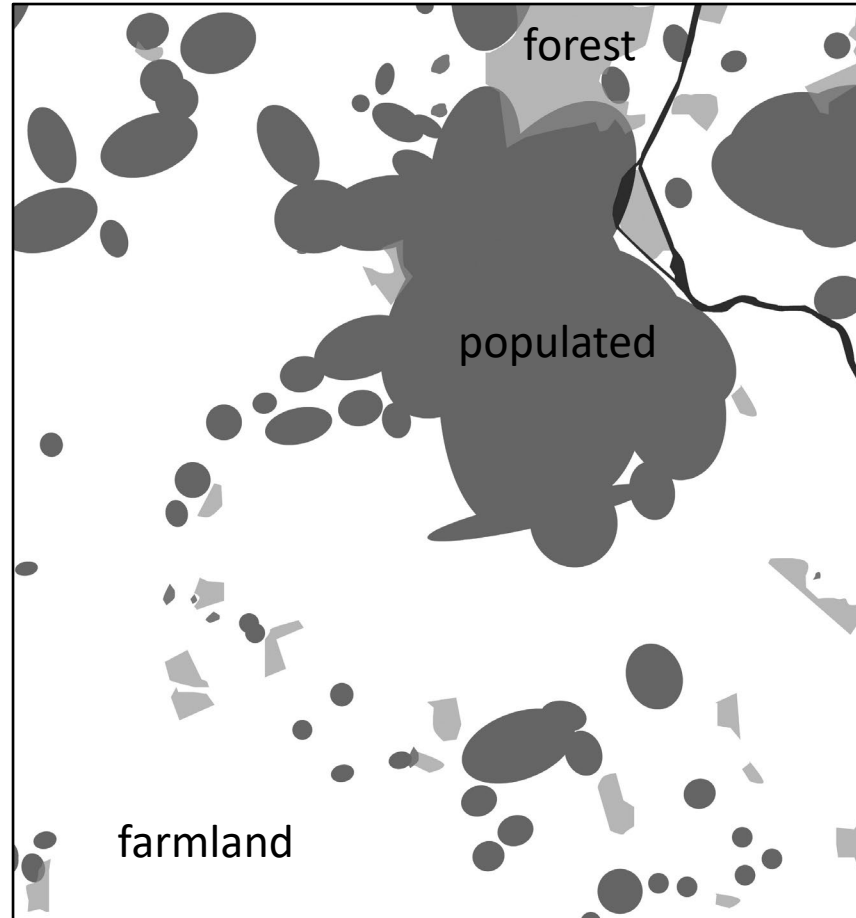
farmers' garden



# HISTORY



1834



2018



2021 (corn)

LANDSCAPE

# CULTIVATE COMPANIONSHIP

THIS PROJECT BRINGS TOGETHER A DIVERSE GROUP OF HUMANS, NON-HUMANS, AND CORN PLANTS IN A CORNFIELD.

THIS COMMUNITY'S GOAL IS TO REESTABLISH A CONNECTION WITH NATURE AND INITIATE A DIALOGUE ON HOW TO ADOPT A LIFE-CENTERED APPROACH TO LIVING, FARMING, AND DESIGNING.



# PROPOSAL FOR A RESEARCH RESIDENCY

A RESEARCH RESIDENCY BASED IN A CORNFIELD BRINGS TOGETHER PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES AND VARIOUS LOCAL SPECIES TO EXPLORE NEW WAYS OF COHABITATION.

THIS PROPOSAL COUNTERS EXPLORATIVE AND ANTHROPOCENE LAND USE AND INSTEAD FOCUSES ON LOCAL MATERIALS, TRADITIONAL WAYS OF BUILDING, AND COMMUNITY LIFE.

IT EXPLORES THE POTENTIAL OF A CORNFIELD BASED ON COOPERATION AND DIVERSITY. THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW BIO-BASED MATERIALS AND COOPERATION WITH NON-HUMANS, WE REBUILD THE CONNECTIONS WITH THE INTRICATE ECOSYSTEMS.



# OUR ANTHROPOCENE MINDSET HAS ALIENATED US FROM BEING PART OF NATURE



WHY



# INSECT POPULATION DECLINED BY 75% IN 30 YEARS.



WHY

Modern farming methods play a significant role in these changes, as the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides directly impacts ecosystems.



# MODERN FARMING HAS A MASSIVE IMPACT ON LOCAL ECOSYSTEMS



forest soil



cornfield soil

WHY

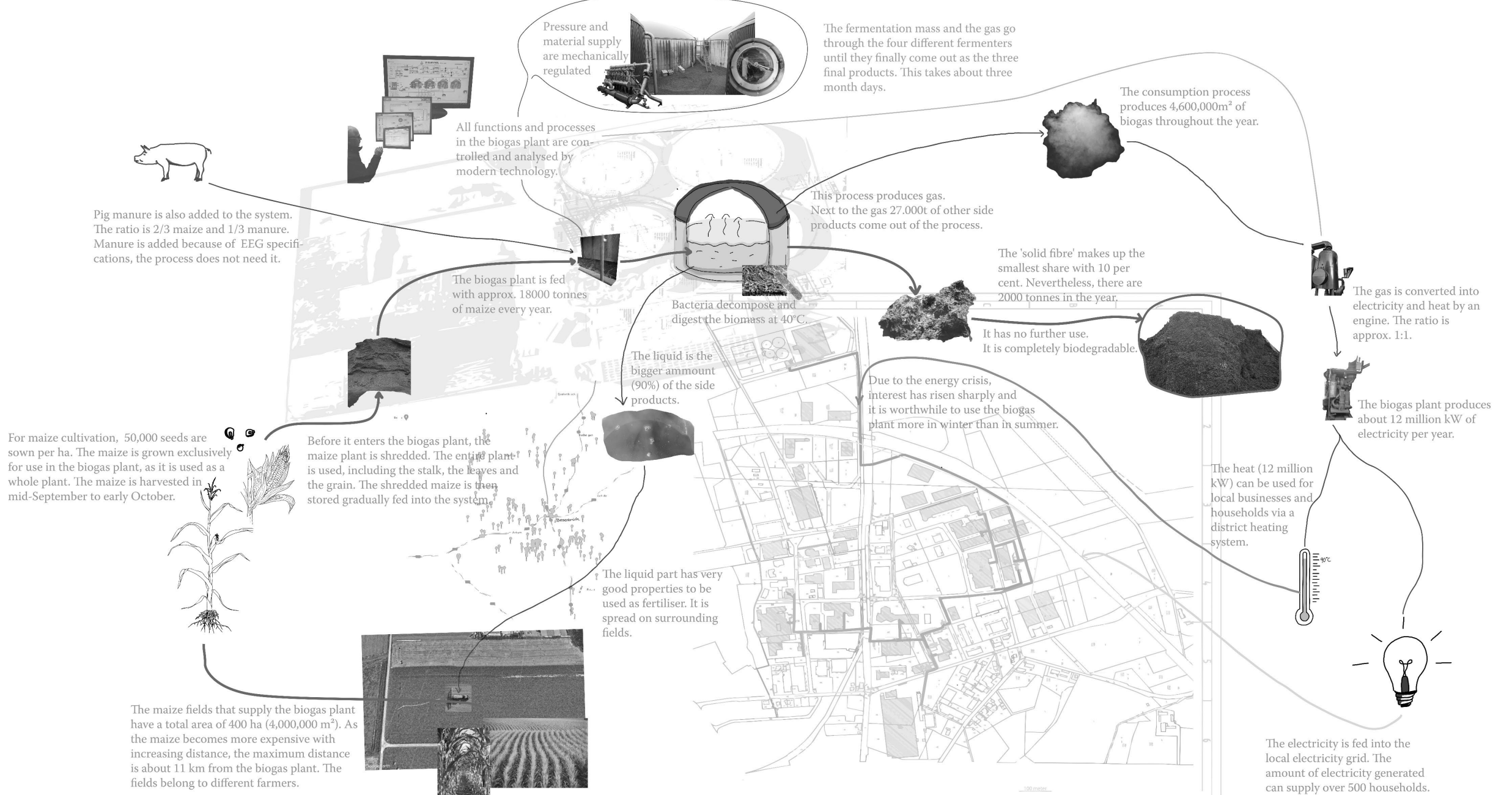


# MONOCULTURE CORNPLANTATION AS SYMBOL FOR THE ANTHROPOCENE MINDSET



Corn covers 205,000 million hectares of land worldwide,  
and where corn grows, little else can thrive.

WHY



### Energy farming.

Biogas production based on corn, is subventionized by the government.

WHY



# FOSTERING CURIOSITY, CARE AND COMMUNITY



HOW

# STARTING FROM THE CURRENT SITUATION AND BEGINNING A CONVERSATION

THIS PROJECT UNITES A DIVERSE GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS FROM VARIOUS PROFESSIONS, AGES, AND VIEWPOINTS BY BRINGING TOGETHER FARMERS, BIOLOGISTS, ARTISTS, AND MORE.

IT INITIATES DIRECT CONTACT AND COOPERATION WITH NON-HUMANS AND ECOSYSTEMS.

IT LEARNS FROM TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND LOCAL HISTORY. PARTICIPANTS WORK WITH LOCAL, NATURAL MATERIALS AND LEFTOVER PRODUCTS FROM THE FARMING INDUSTRY.

HOW



# MATERIAL RESEARCH



HOW

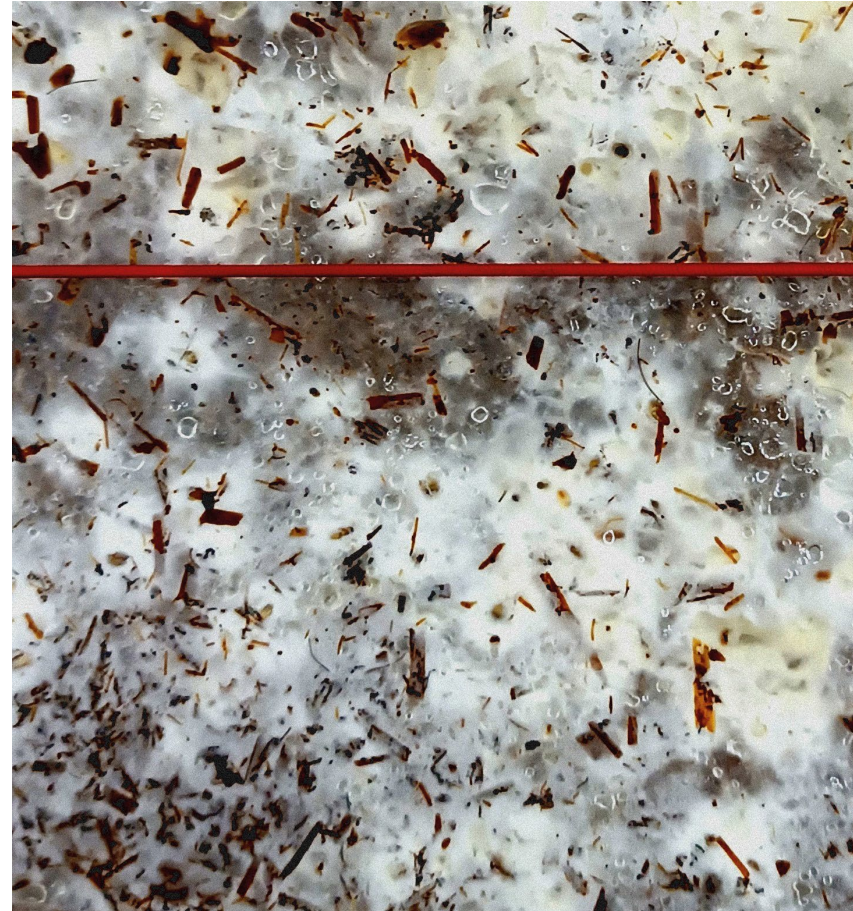
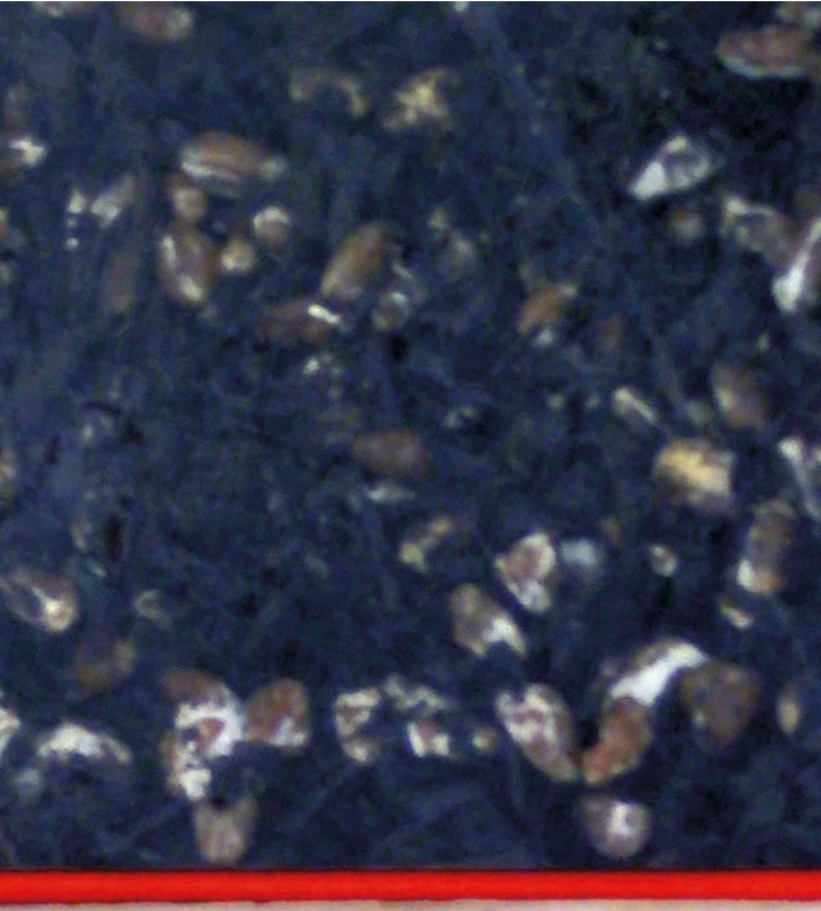


Milzea is a leftover material from the biogas production.  
The solid fibre got its name in the process of experimentation.  
Mil- = milpa (cultivated field), -zea = Zea maiz (bot. term for corn)





# OYSTER MUSHROOM + MILZEA



MATERIAL RESEARCH



# OYSTER MUSHROOM + MILZEA

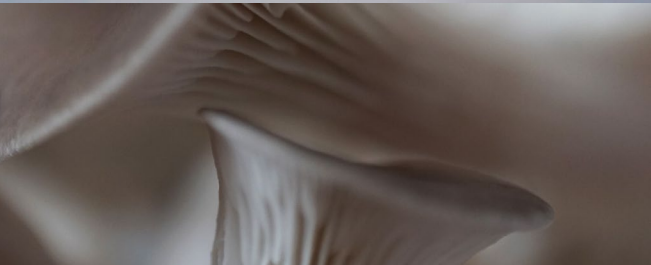
The mushroom and the leftover material together create a new material but also allow the harvest of fruits, based on human care.

The mycelium binds the material particles together, which, in turn, serve as the base for the mushroom to grow.

This project was developed based on the observation of wild mushrooms growing in mycelium, which was stored outside.



# MUSHROOM HOUSE



PROPOSAL

# MUSHROOM HOUSE

THE MUSHROOM HOUSE COMBINES TIMBER FRAME STRUCTURES WITH A MYCELIUM-MATERIAL.

IT SERVES AS A PLACE FOR SOCIAL GATHERINGS, COOKING, AND A RESEARCH HUB. ACCESSIBLE FOR PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT MOBILITIES, IT INVITES GUESTS AND LOCALS TO COME TOGETHER FOR CONVERSATIONS AND ON-SITE EXPERIMENTS.



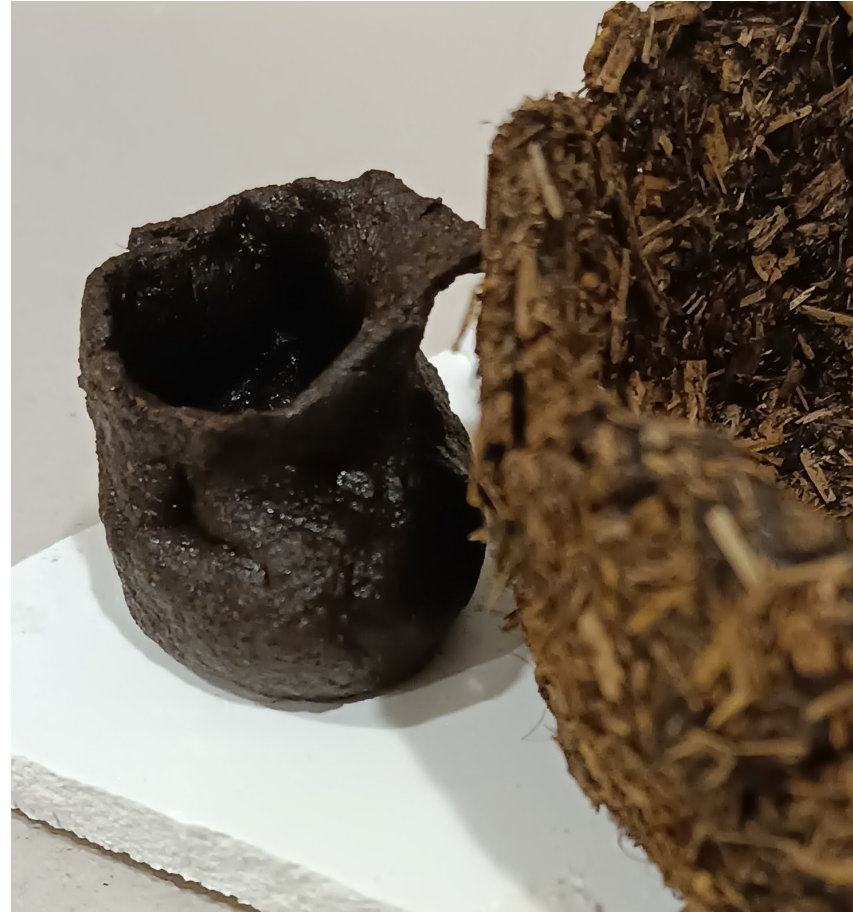
# STARCH-BASED MATERIALS



MATERIAL RESEARCH



# POTATOE STARCH + MILZEA





# POTATOE STARCH + MILZEA

THE COMBINATION OF STARCH AND MYCELIUM ALLOWS FOR THE CREATION OF A WIDE VARIETY OF MATERIALS.

BY ADDING DIFFERENT ELEMENTS, THE MATERIAL CAN BECOME FLEXIBLE AND SOFT, OR HARD AND 3D-SHAPABLE.



# STARCH-BASED MATERIALS



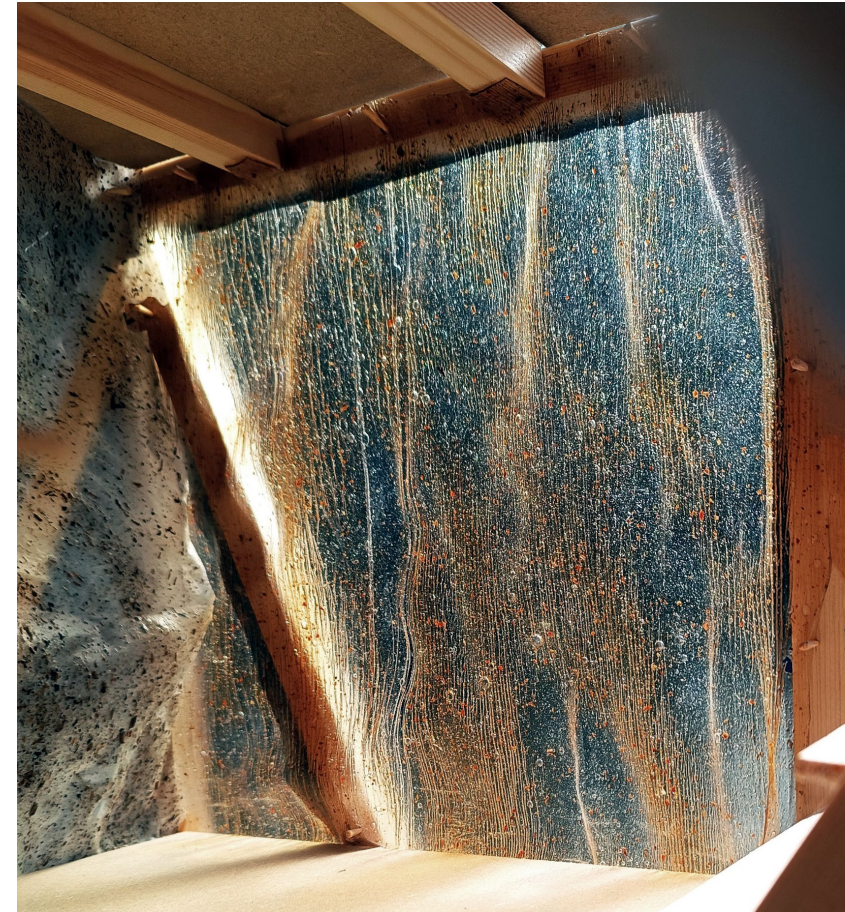
# POTATOE STARCH MATERIALS

THE COMBINATION OF STARCH WITH DIFFERENT ELEMENTS FROM THE FIELD ALLOWS FOR A HUGE VARIETY OF MATERIALS WITH DIFFERENT AESTHETIC CHARACTERISTICS.

BEETS, CABBAGE, CORN LEAVES, AND OTHER ELEMENTS INVITE PARTICIPANTS TO EXPERIMENT AND DESIGN ON AN AESTHETIC LEVEL, POTENTIALLY OFFERING NEW CREATIVE IDEAS TO EXISTING DESIGN CHALLENGES.



# NEST



PROPOSAL

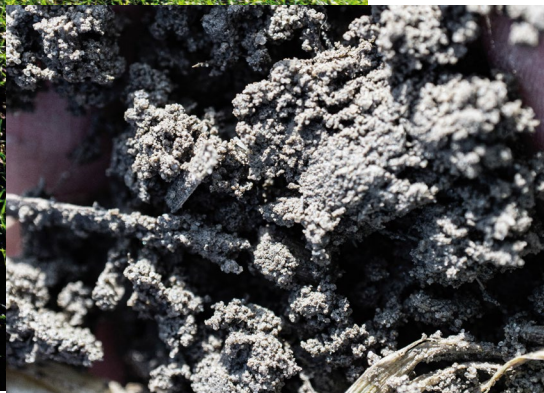
# NEST

THE NEST IS THE HIGHEST STRUCTURE AND IS CONSTRUCTED FROM WOODEN FRAMES AND BIOBASED MATERIALS PRODUCED ON-SITE.

THE TENT-LIKE WALLS ARE MEANT TO BE PERSONALIZED AND DESIGNED BY THE COMMUNITY THEMSELVES USING INGREDIENTS FOUND ON AND AROUND THE FIELD.



# SOIL



ECOSYSTEMS

forest soil

cornfield soil



# SOIL

SOIL IS THE FOUNDATION FOR LIFE TO FLOURISH.

BY EMPHASIZING SOIL AND ECOSYSTEMS, THE FIELD BECOMES MORE VIBRANT AND SUSTAINABLE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. CREATING HEALTHY SOIL MEANS GROWING FOR THE FUTURE IN COLLABORATION WITH THE LOCAL ECOSYSTEMS.



# COMPOST TREE



PROPOSAL



# COMPOST TREE

THE LOWER PART OF THE STRUCTURE CONTAINS COMPOST, SERVING AS A CRUCIAL FOUNDATION FOR NUMEROUS MICROBES, FUNGI, INSECTS, WORMS, AND OTHER SPECIES.

THESE ORGANISMS TRANSFORM ORGANIC MATERIALS PROVIDED BY HUMANS INTO VALUABLE SOIL.

ABOVE THE COMPOST, PARTLY ACCESSIBLE TO HUMANS, IS THE BIRD AREA.

THE STRUCTURE IS CONSTRUCTED FROM WOOD AND COMPOSTABLE MILZEA-STARCH-BASED PLATFORMS, ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY THROUGHOUT.



# 3-SISTER-PLANTATION

THIS PLANTING METHOD INVOLVES COMBINING MAIZE WITH A CLIMBING PLANT AND A GROUND-COVERING PLANT. THESE PLANTS GROW IN SPATIAL AND FUNCTIONAL SYMBIOSIS.

FOR INSTANCE, LEGUMES CONTRIBUTE NITROGEN TO THE SOIL, AND GROUND-COVERING PLANTS, SUCH AS SQUASH HELP RETAIN SOIL MOISTURE AND PREVENT EROSION.

MAIZE, ORIGINALLY CULTIVATED BY THE MAYA ON THE AMERICAN CONTINENT, HOLDS GREAT IMPORTANCE IN ECONOMIC, FOOD, RELIGIOUS, AND CULTURAL ASPECTS EVEN TODAY.



# 3-SISTER-PLANTATION



Lupine

The flowers attract beneficial insects and the roots bring nitrogen into the soil. Some varieties are edible for humans and a source of protein (potential for biomaterials).



Borage

Flower attracts beneficial insects for natural pest control. Grows fast and serves as natural mulch, it shades the soil and keeps it moist.



Dill

Aromatic herb that attracts beneficial insects and keeps the number of pests down. Promotes germination of certain vegetables such as cucumber, carrot, peas, and others.



Pole Beans/  
Green Beans

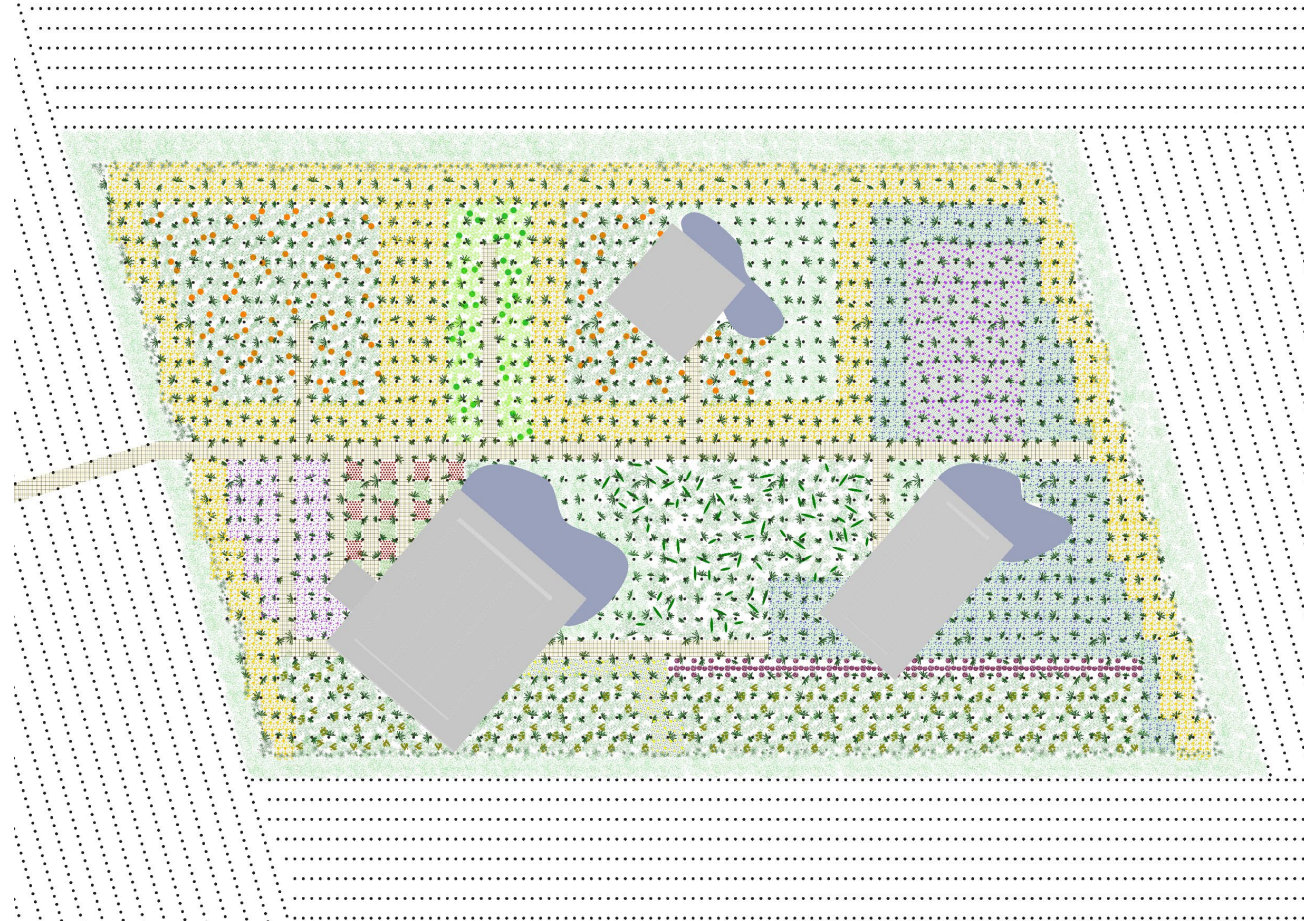
One of the „Three Sisters“. Brings nitrogen into the soil. Flower attracts beneficial insects.



Marigold

Flower attracts beneficial insects. Expels pests such as snails and nematodes. The taproots loosen the soil. Flower can be used for colored materials.

# 3-SISTER-PLANTATION

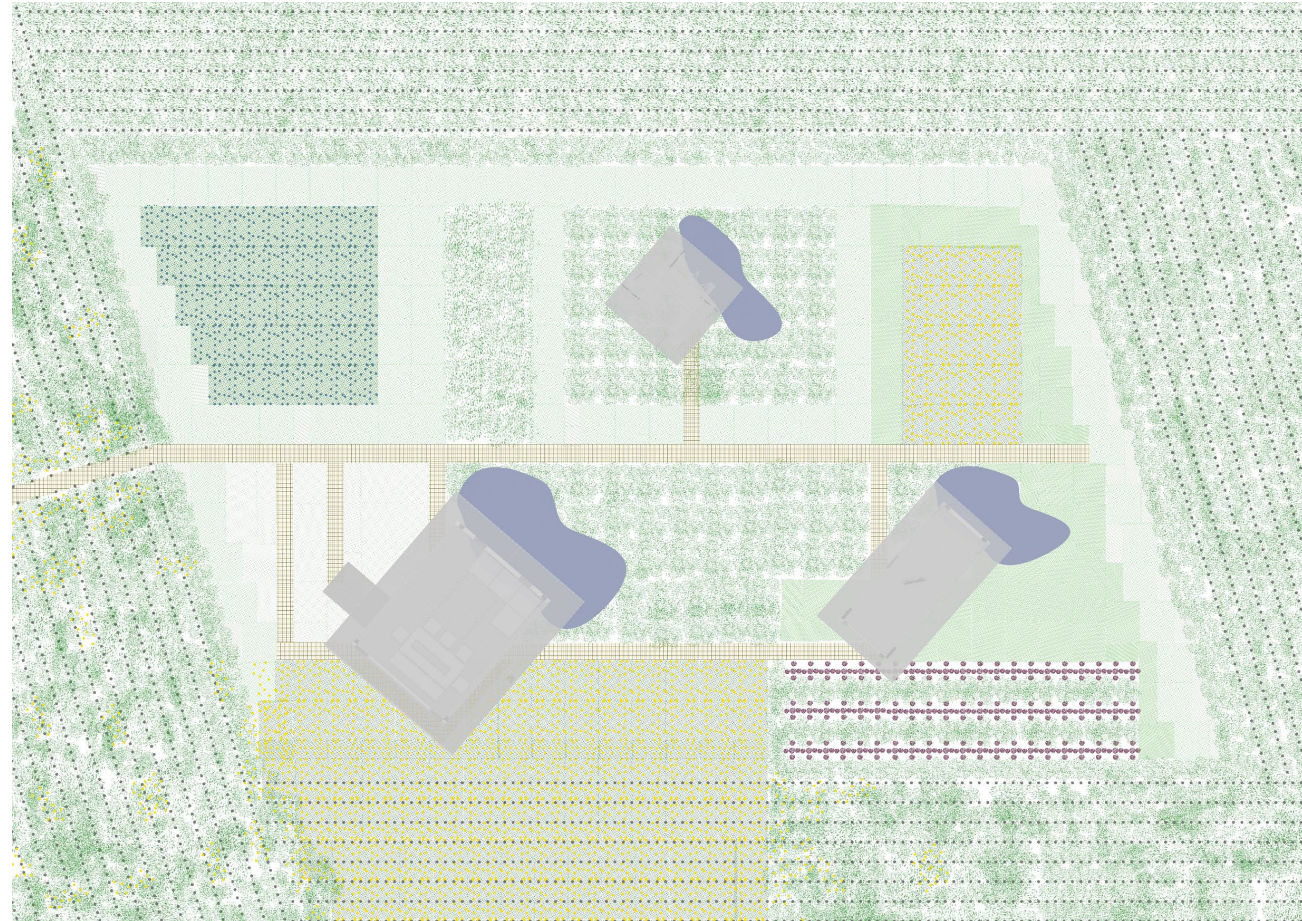


PROPOSAL

summer



# 3-SISTER-PLANTATION



PROPOSAL

winter



# HOW TO START



The project starts with the first conversation.  
Bringing the local community, municipality, researcher and artists on one table.



# CONVERSATION

PRESENTATION AND  
CONVERSATION

INVOLVE AS MANY PERSPECTIVES  
AS POSSIBLE

GATHER FIRST IDEAS

MAKE PEOPLE CURIOUS TO  
EXPLORE MORE.

REALISATION



# WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOPS WITH DIFFERENT PARTNERS

WORKING TOGETHER ON A HANDS-ON AND CREATIVE BASE

DEEPENS COMMUNITY BONDING AND RECONNECTS TO HISTORICAL PRACTICES OF COMMUNAL WORK.

REALISATION





# DOCUMENTATION

PROCESSES, IDEAS AND ACTIVITIES  
WILL BE DOCUMENTED TO

REFLECT AND CONTINUE

TO PRESENT THE PROJECTS TO  
OTHERS SO THE COMMUNITY CAN  
GROW

TO PRESENT FOR FURTHER  
FUNDING

REALISATION



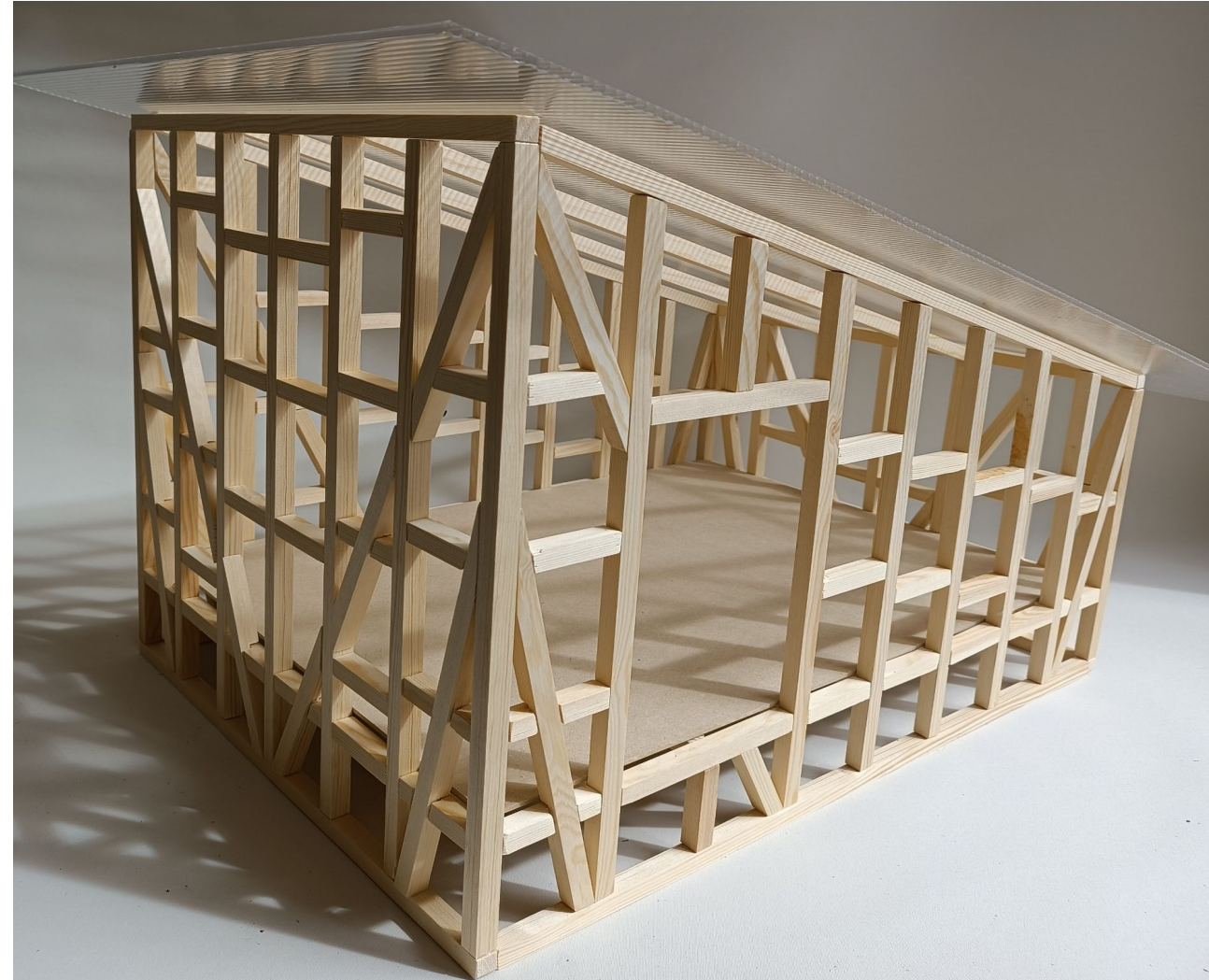
# BUILDING IN THE FIELD

THE STRUCTURE PRESENTED CAME OUT OF REPRESENT A POSSIBLE FUTURE MOMENT OF THIS PROJECT.

THE REALISATION OF THE BUILDING MEANS TO BEGIN WITH ONE, AND THEN REFLECT AND CONTINUE ON REAL-LIFE EXPERIENCES.

THE FINAL DESIGN OF THE CORNFIELD CAN BE DIFFERENT IN THE END; BUT THE FUNCTIONS AND OVERALL PRINCIPLES OF THE PROPOSAL SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND DURING THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

REALISATION





# GET INVOLVED

FOLLOW THE DEVELOPMENT  
OF THE PROJECT

TELL YOUR FRIENDS  
AND THOSE WHO YOU THINK  
MIGHT BE INTERESTED OR  
SHOULD KNOW ABOUT IT

SEND YOUR FEEDBACK AND IDEAS  
AND JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

@liinaa\_h





# Cultivating Companionship



Creating Conversations and Communities within the Cornfield.  
@liinaa\_h