

MICRO-MACRO

A Creative Exploration of Landownership in Scotland

Micro – Macro is a creative response to Landownership in Scotland, examining its impact on our hills and the environment as a whole. The project seeks to promote discussion rather than make a statement. The concept is built upon the idea of observation. Macro, the larger shelter looks out towards a dramatic mountain view. Walking up a hill just to take a photo, driving to a busy tourist car park, the romanticized view of Scotland. This shelter represents superficial observation.

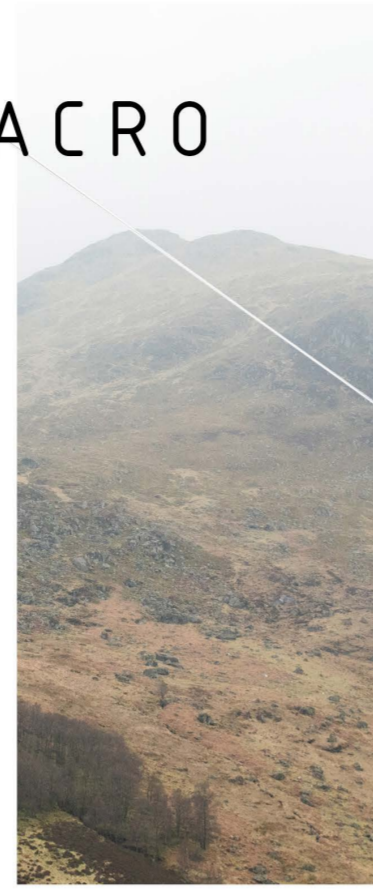
Macro's sibling, Micro, frames a different experience: as you look closer you begin to develop a deeper appreciation of your surroundings, questioning what is around you, becoming aware that much of what you see has been shaped by those who own it. Micro stands for all the little details found in the Landscape, the plants and animals living in different ecosystems, but also the reality that the Scottish hills are experiencing many environmental issues. These two fundamentally different ways of experiencing the hills are visualized through scale, material choices, interactions, and orientation.

The journey that led to Micro-Macro standing in the Sma' Glen has proven that there are landowners open to conversation, whereby both landowners and other land-users can reach a mutual understanding that preserves our precious hills for all to enjoy.

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eb0D_cC63qw&ab_channel=Danilain



MACRO



Shadows created by the changing sun



Adjustable panels to change the view



Engraved photographs capturing memories made in the hills



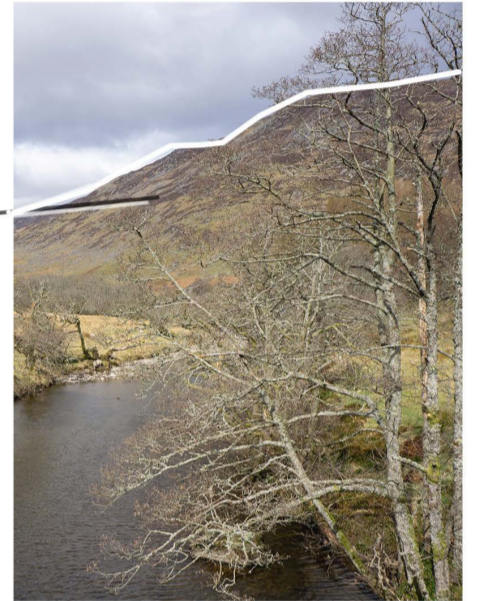
Adjustable Viewfinders focusing on details in the Landscape



Interactiv map - use a magnet to mark your favourite place in the Cairngorms



MICRO



RESEARCH

With 432 people owning half of all privately owned land in the country, Scotland has the most concentrated land ownership pattern in Europe.

Only after living in Scotland for four years, have I come to learn that the romanticized vision of Scotland pictured in my head wasn't the full reality.

My main point of interest for this project is the Cairngorms National Park. As the name would suggest, I always assumed that the National Park is owned by the Nation. With this being the norm back home in Italy.

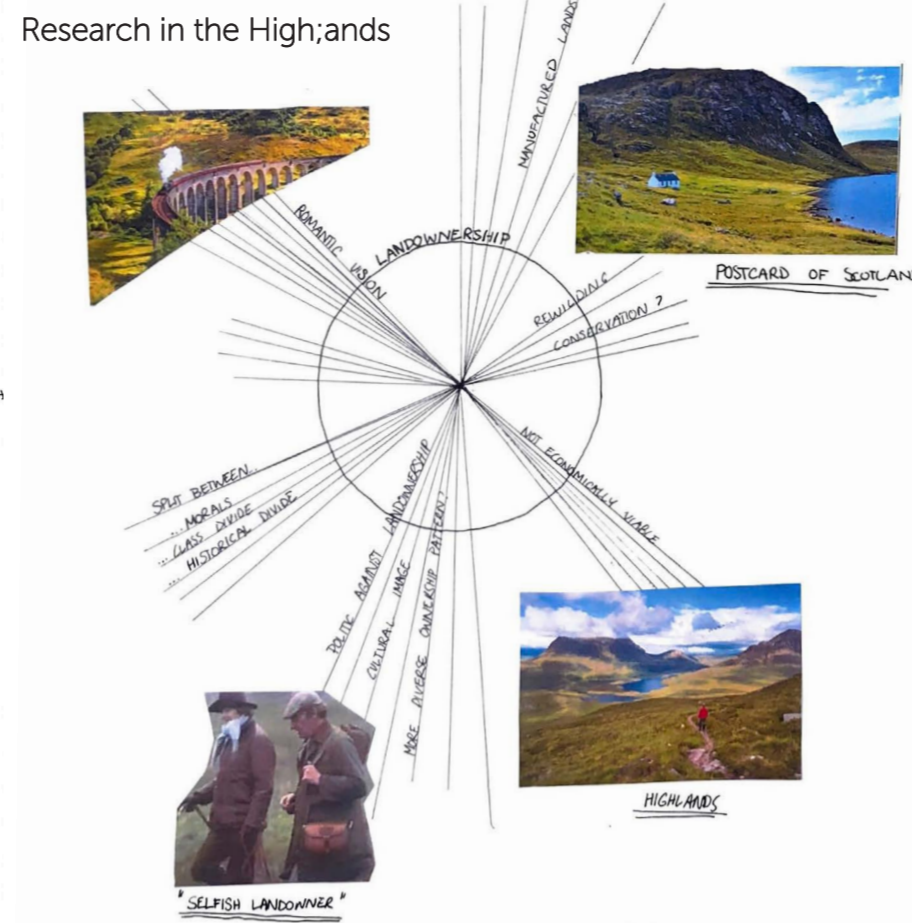
In the Cairngorms National Park, however, about 75% of the land is privately owned. Whether this is good or bad, should be left for a different debate, however, it is undeniable that the land was and continues to be shaped by those who own it.

Micro-Macro explores the contrast between natural and 'manufactured' landscapes, inviting visitors to observe and question their surroundings.

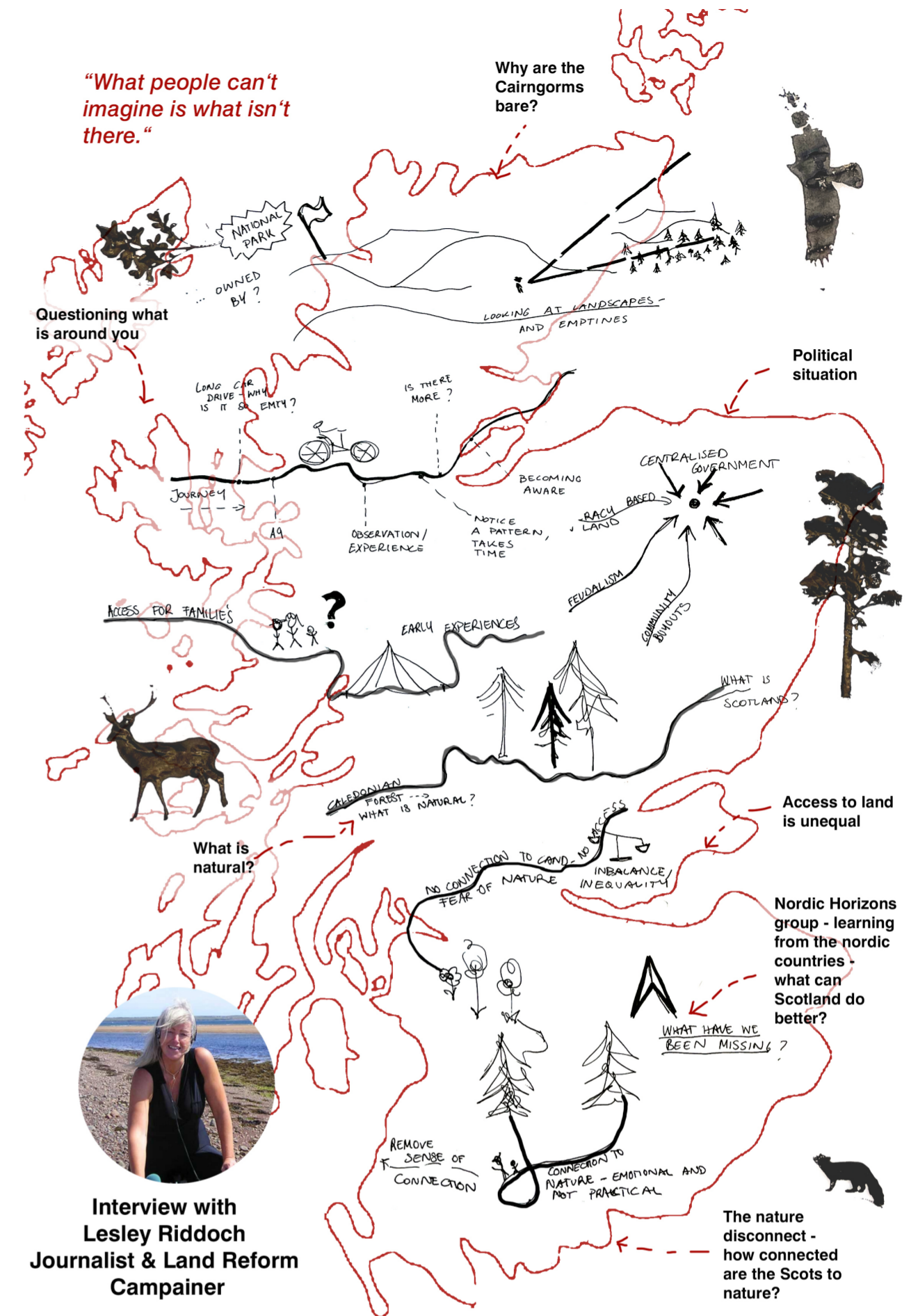
Who does the land belong to?



Research in the Highlands



“What people can't imagine is what isn't there.”



LOOKING BEYOND SCOTLAND



Half of England is owned by 25,000 landowners - less than 1% of the population whilst 92% of the English country side are off limits to the public. Access to nature is a postcode lottery.

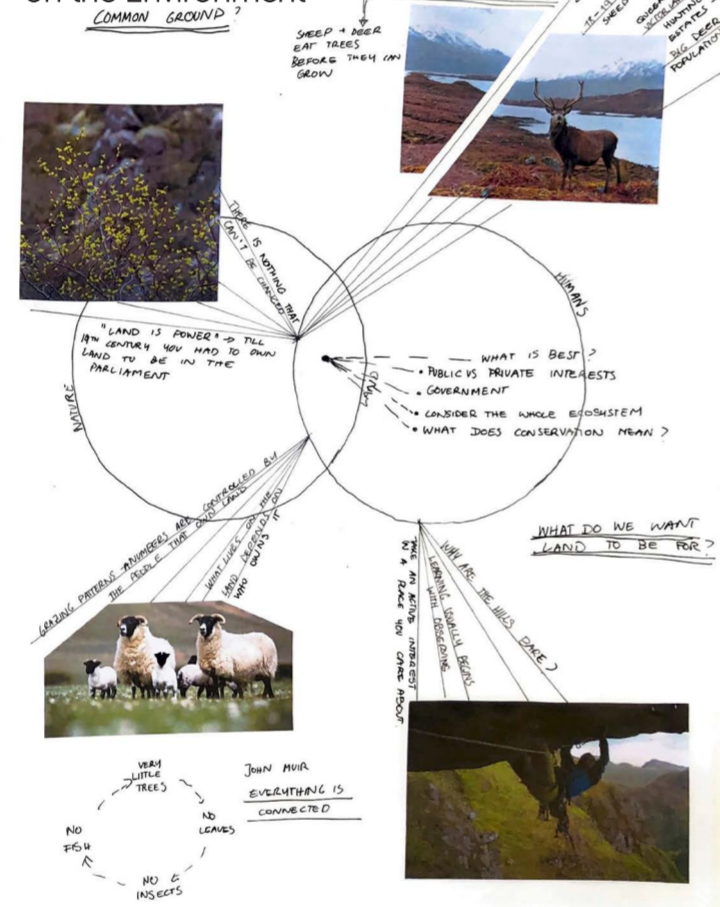


79% of forests are managed by 120,000 private landowners. In Norway, 400,000 huts across the country provide access to nature, compared to the 660 available in

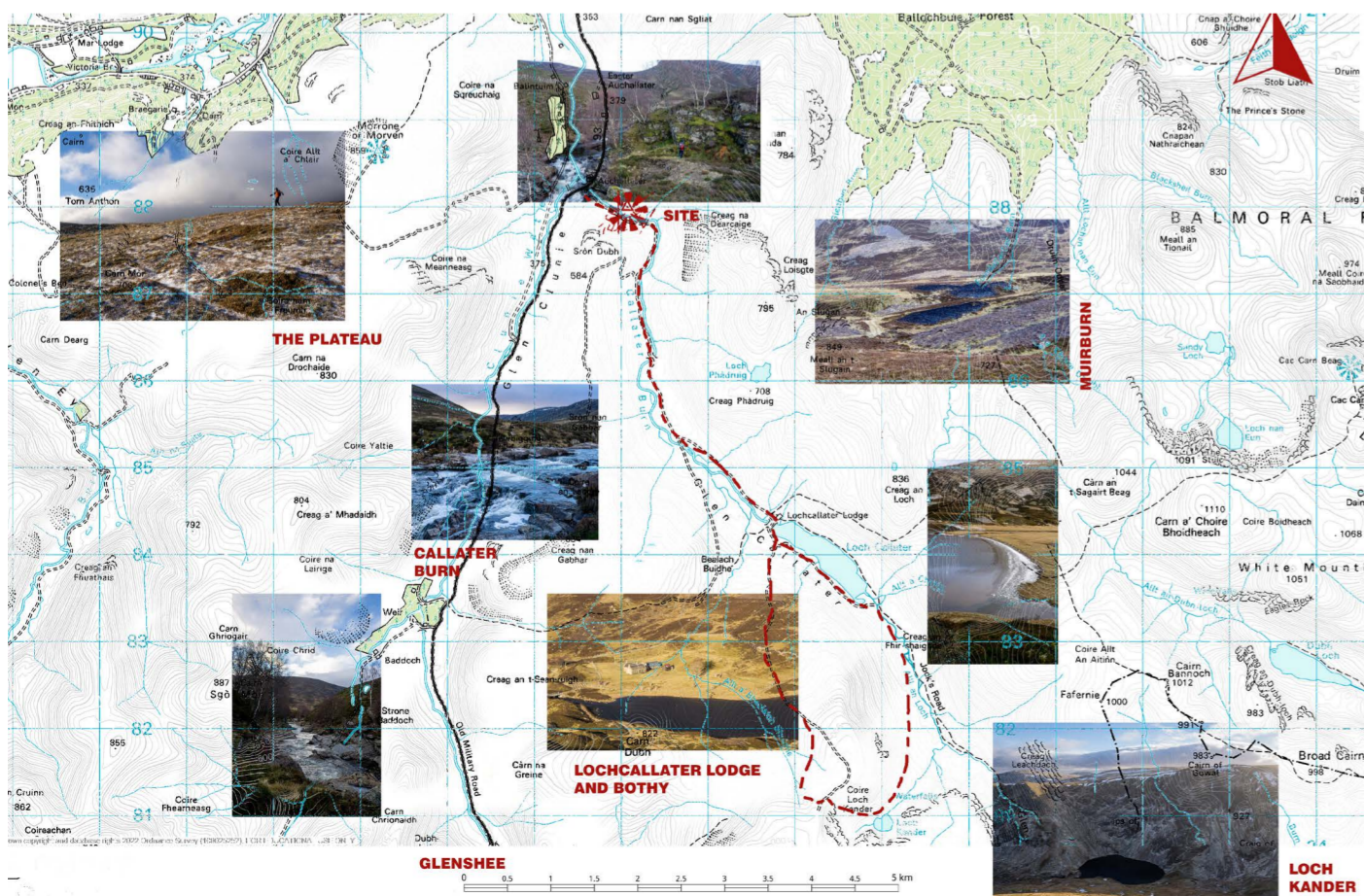
NATURE DISCONNECT

Are the Scots disconnected from Nature? According to Lesley, they are. In her opinion, the main reason for this is that only very few own land. In countries such as Norway, where the majority of the population has easy access to a hut or forest, people are more likely to spend time in the outdoors.

Right to Roam Impact of Landownership on the Environment



Map tracking observations made in the Cairngorms



Rhythms of Nature

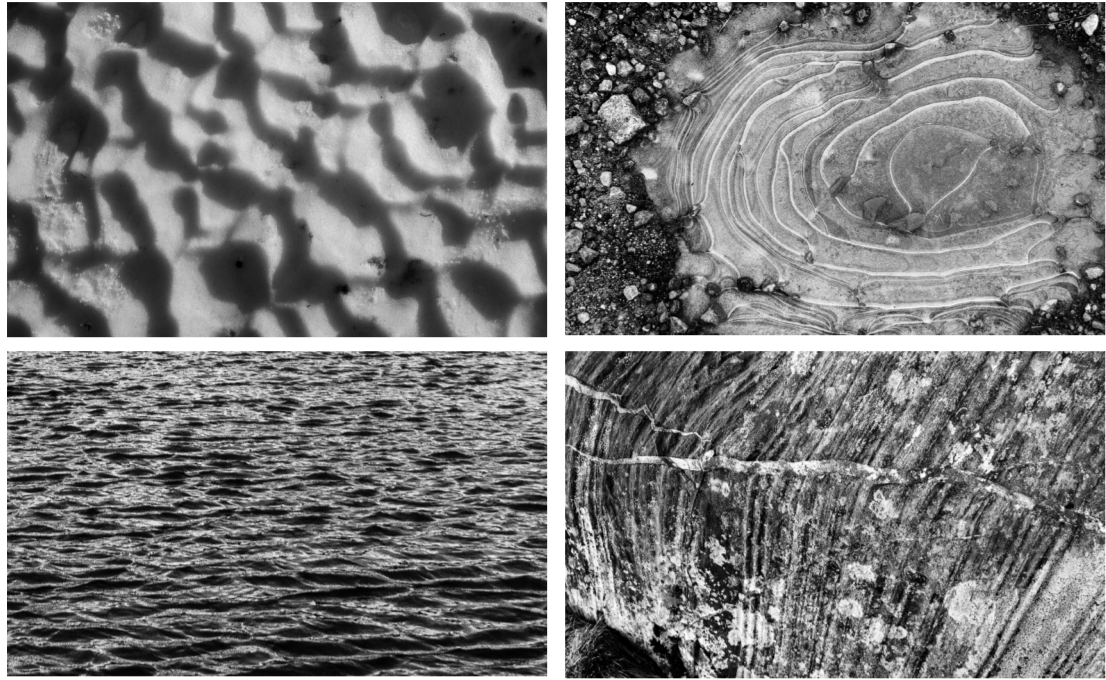


The site

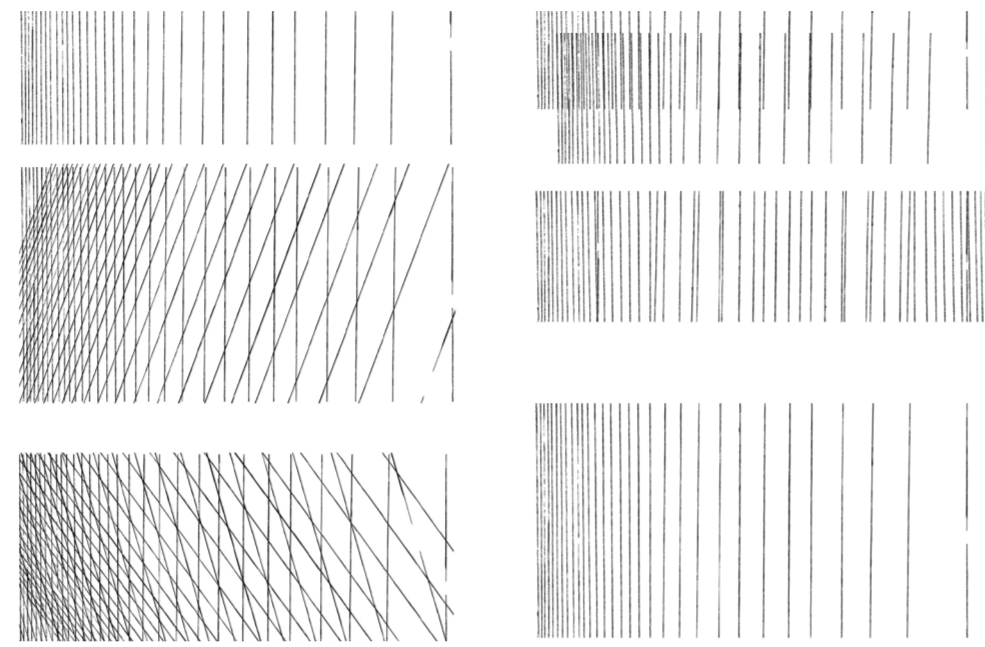


SITE VISIT

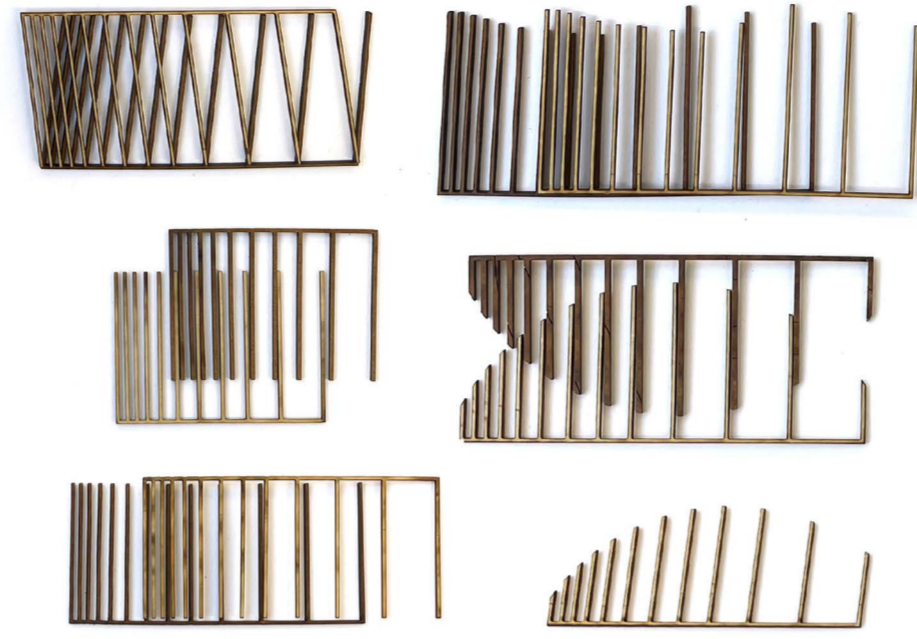
DEVELOPMENT



Photographs from the site visit



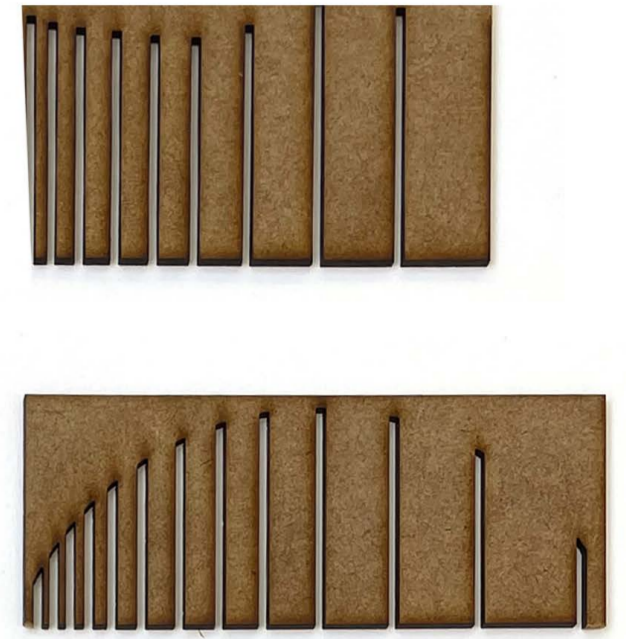
Line drawings created by tracing the site photographs



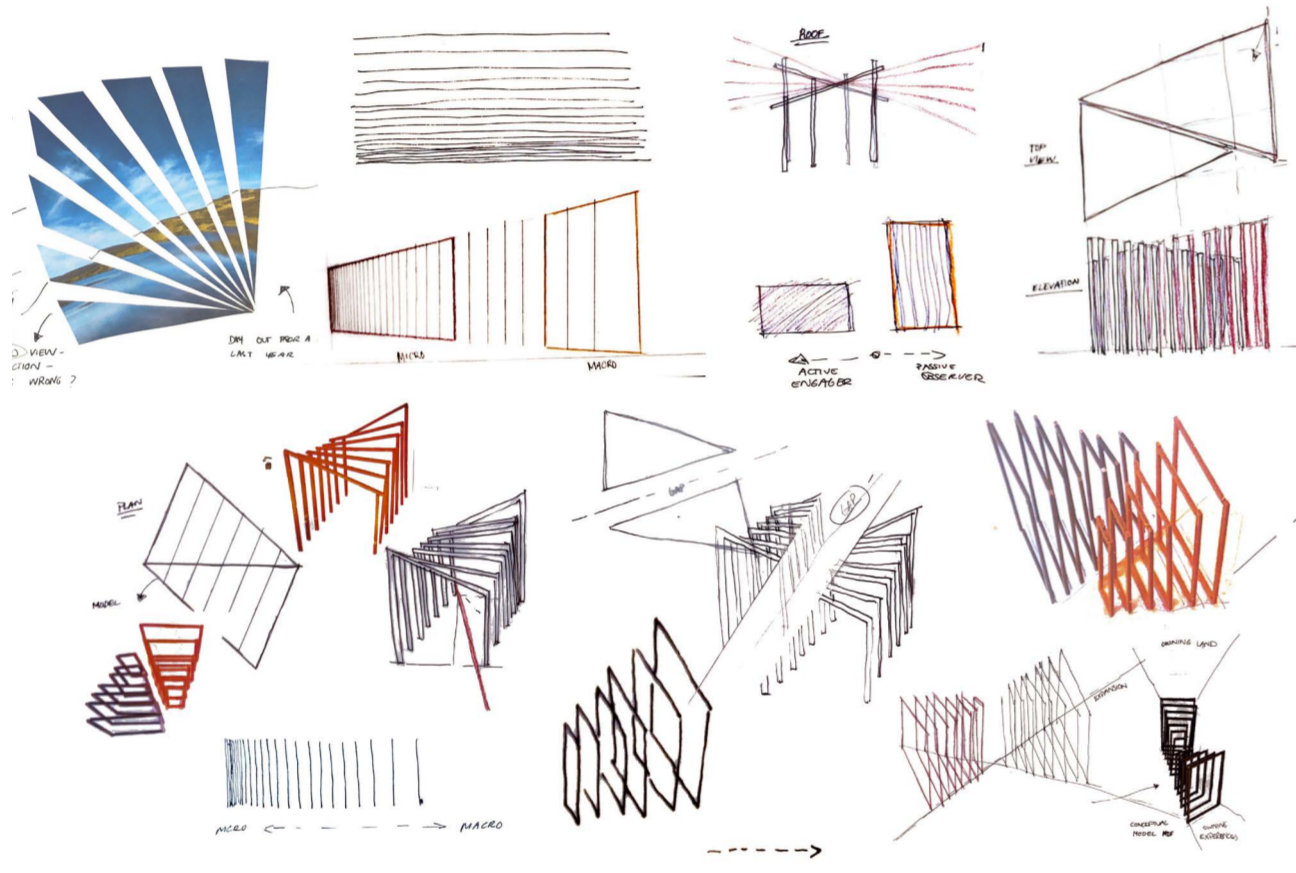
Laser samples of the line drawings, used for the design of Macro, to blend it into its surroundings.



Negatives of the samples used for the design of Micro to create a more secluded space with gaps to focus on the details.



SKETCHING



Sketches exploring repetition, directions and duality

MODEL MAKING



Sketchmodels looking at colour, shapes, and materials



Model scale 1:20



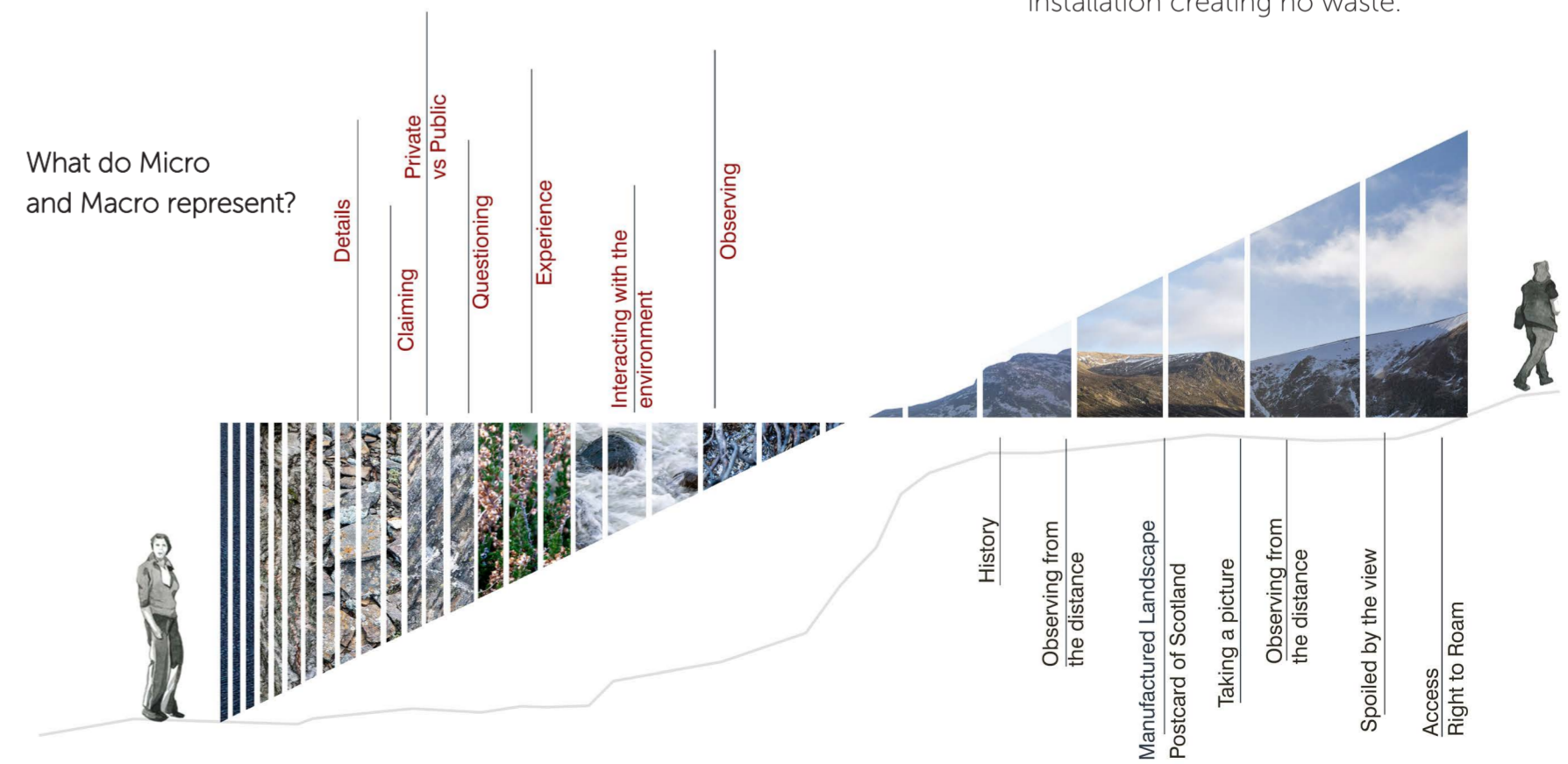
Model scale 1:5

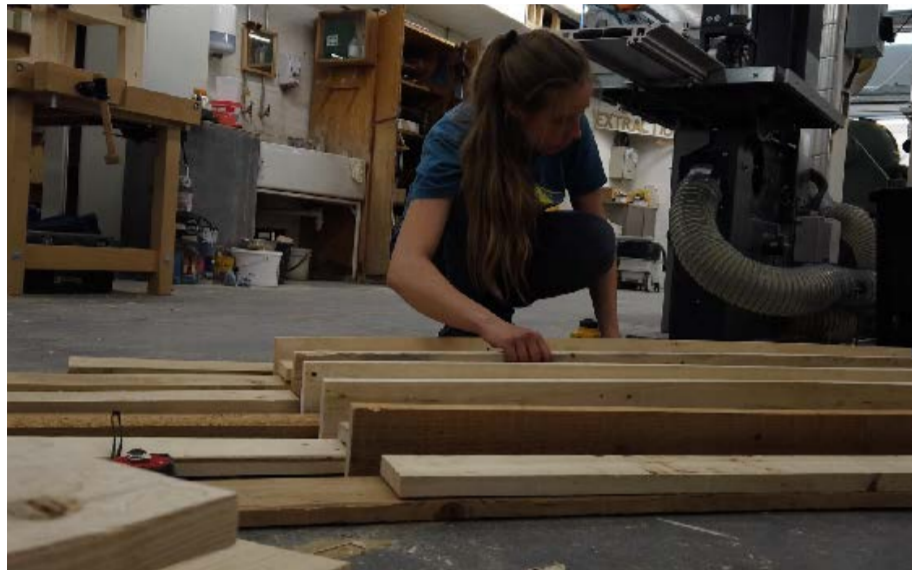
Both structures were designed to be easily dismantled and reused at the end of the installation creating no waste.

Two structures, two experiences, two ideas. This model shows the design created from the rhythms of the Cairngorms. Micro, in the bowl, is a more secluded space, visitors can peek through the gaps, with the panel sizes increasing consistently towards the big mountain view. Macro is a more open space with a raised viewing platform creating a place to enjoy the spectacular view. The vertical posts blend the structure with the surrounding landscape.



What do Micro and Macro represent?



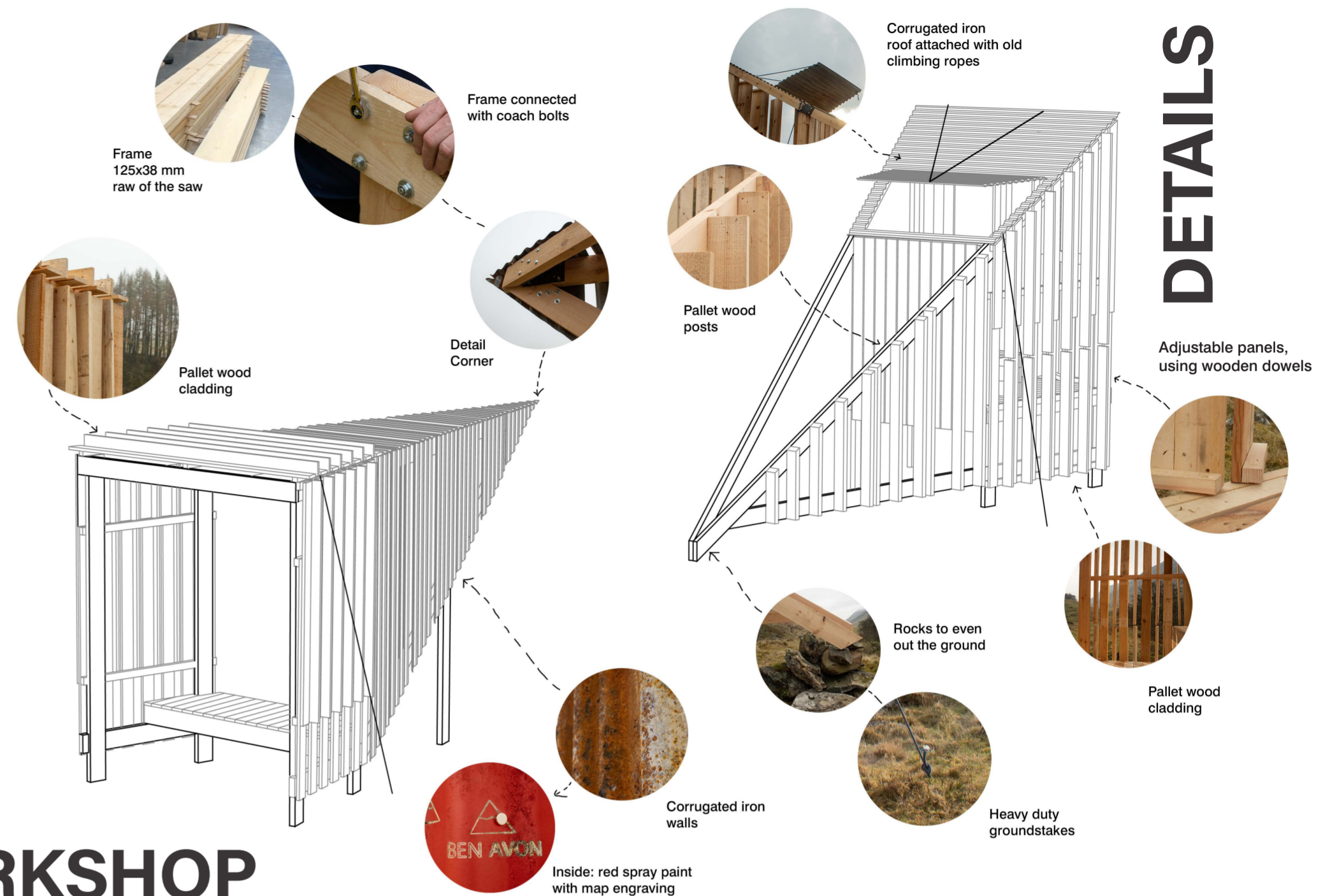


THE MAKING

WORKSHOP

I spent 5 weeks in the wood workshop building Micro - Macro starting with the frame, then prefabricated the walls, roofs, benches, and the platform as independent components so they could be easily transported and assembled on the site.

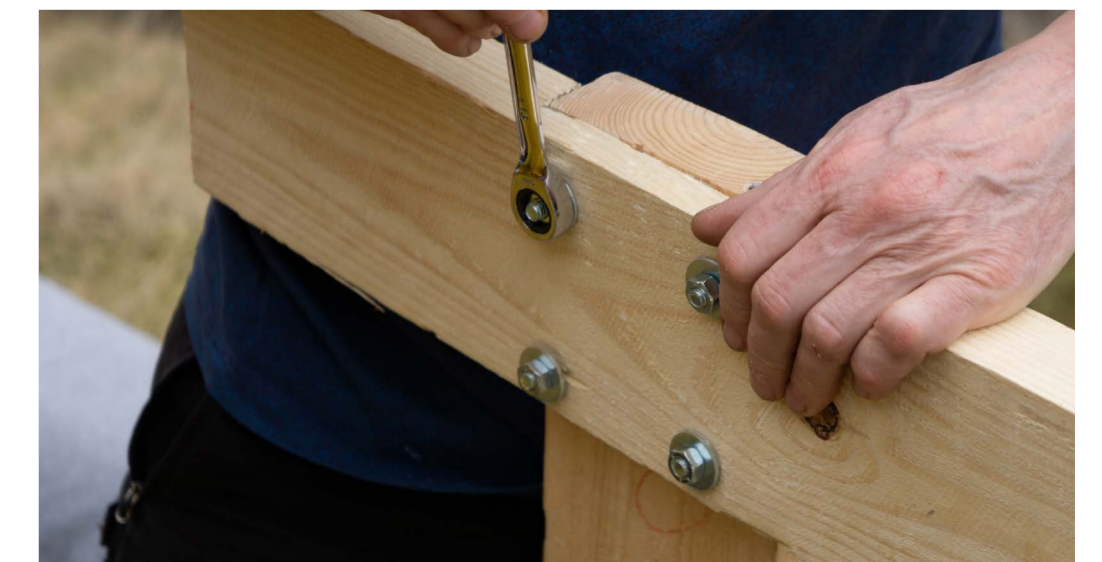
During the building process, I had the opportunity to expand my skills, learning a lot about joinery and timber frame construction. One day before the installation, we constructed the frame on campus, luckily it all worked out.



DETAILS

Unfortunately, I was turned down when asking for permission to install the structures next to Loch Callater, the place that initially inspired my design. After a delay of two months the estate manager rejected my initial proposal but allowed me to install the structures on the Abercairny estate in the breathtaking Sma' Glen.

With luck on my side this site proved to be the ideal location, with kind hospitable landowners, and with a situation that accepted Micro - Marco perfectly.



INSTALLATION ON SITE

MICRO



Micro looking out to the river and trees. On the inside panels, a map of the Cairngorms is engraved into the corrugated iron. The idea is that visiting walkers can mark their favourite place in the national park with a magnet. Little telescopes around the structure can be picked up to peak out between the gaps and zoom in on details in the landscape.



Macro is sitting raised up on a hill. Rocks were piled up to even out the ground. The facade of the structure consists of adjustable panels that can be opened and closed to change the view. Photographs from adventures that I've had in the Cairngorms over the past four years in Scotland are engraved in the panels. When the sun hits the structure, the shadows create another dimension.



MACRO

INTERACTIONS



Micro - Macro was designed for Interaction. Visitors are invited to have a peek through the telescopes, play with the magnets, adjust the panels, climb around, or just take a seat and enjoy the beautiful view.

