

SITES OF MERIT IN ICELAND - VARDÁ

Mission for Ministry of Industries and Innovation, Department of Tourism

Mission Final Report – Graphic Documents Volume 2C / GEYSIR

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In cooperation with



CONTENT OF THE FINAL REPORT

VOLUME 1 Synthesis of recommendations for Sites of Merit approach

Context, objectives of the mission and programme

Proposal for an innovative approach

- Natural & cultural sites and Sustainable development
- Sites of Merit Commitments

Testing the Grands Sites de France approach and methodology in Iceland

- A method based on the recognition and experience of the values of the site
- The key points of the method
- The interest of the exercise
- Translating these elements into action: the Landscape Intention Scheme

Recommendations for translating the Sites of Merit commitments to each site

- The vision, the principles for action in the sites
- The working method at each Site of Merit
- Site development

Recommendations for national policy steering

- Steering and governance at national level
- Position of the 4 test sites in relation to the Sites of Merit commitments
- The labelling process
- What types of sites should be involved in the Site of Merit Policy ?
- Involvement of private partners and private owners of the sites
- Local governance of projects
- Involve architects, landscapers and contractors
- Create a site managers network

Conclusion

Annexes: List of documents transmitted to MII, Programm, List of Participants

VOLUME 2 Graphic Documents (drawings, photos, Landscape Intention Schemes)

2A Introduction

2B Jokulsarlon

2C Geysir

2D Gullfoss

2E Thingvellir

Note 1: In Volume 1, numbers in brackets refer to Volume 2 slides.

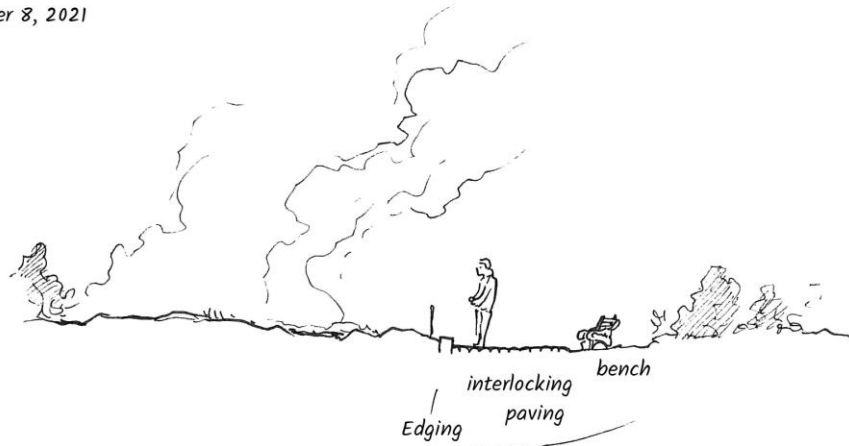
Note 2: In this document, "Sites of Merit" and "Varda" are used interchangeably.

Note 3: All drawings, maps and LIS are by Alain Freytet.



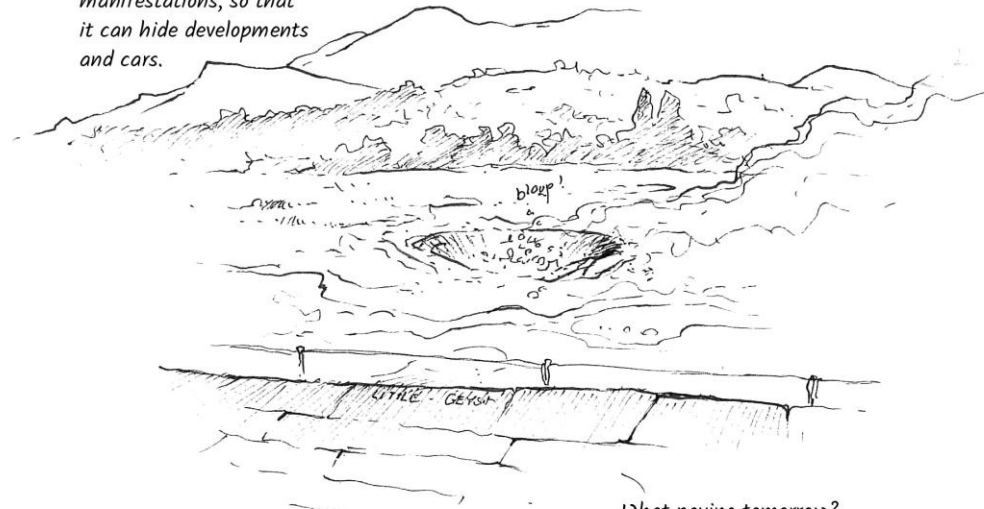
The new ongoing project for the site





The vegetation must be monitored, so that it does not occupy the area too much, in particular the pines, at the risk of hiding the geothermal manifestations, so that it can hide developments and cars.

this somewhat poor border will be replaced during the project



What paving tomorrow?



The small engraved rock is not very pleasant, it would be to move or to engrave on the paving.



The engraved stone somewhat out of scale

September 8, 2021
Geysir



*A little stiff
lines in front
of the soft shapes
of the basins*

*The incredibly limpid
water despite its heat lets
guess the mysterious depths of
Icelandic waters.*

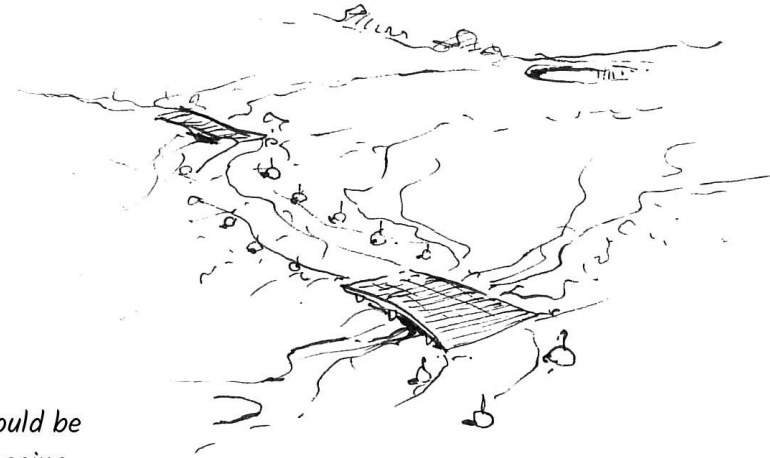




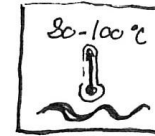
Every detail is important

September 8, 2021

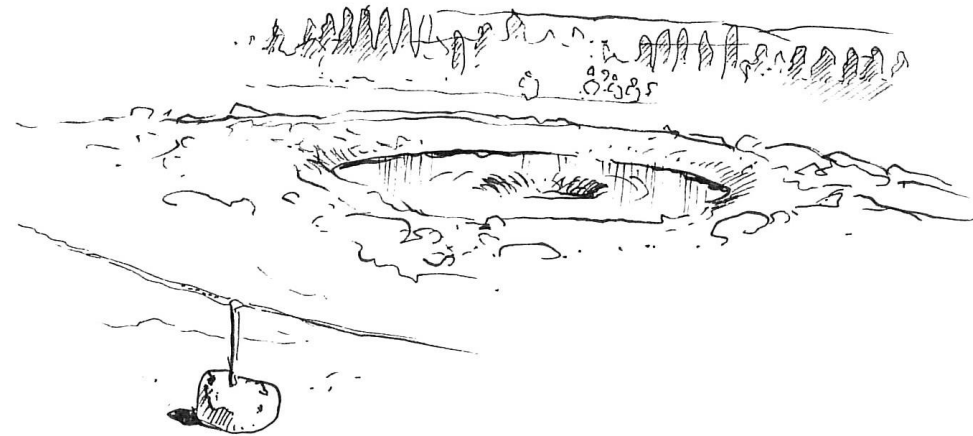
Geysir



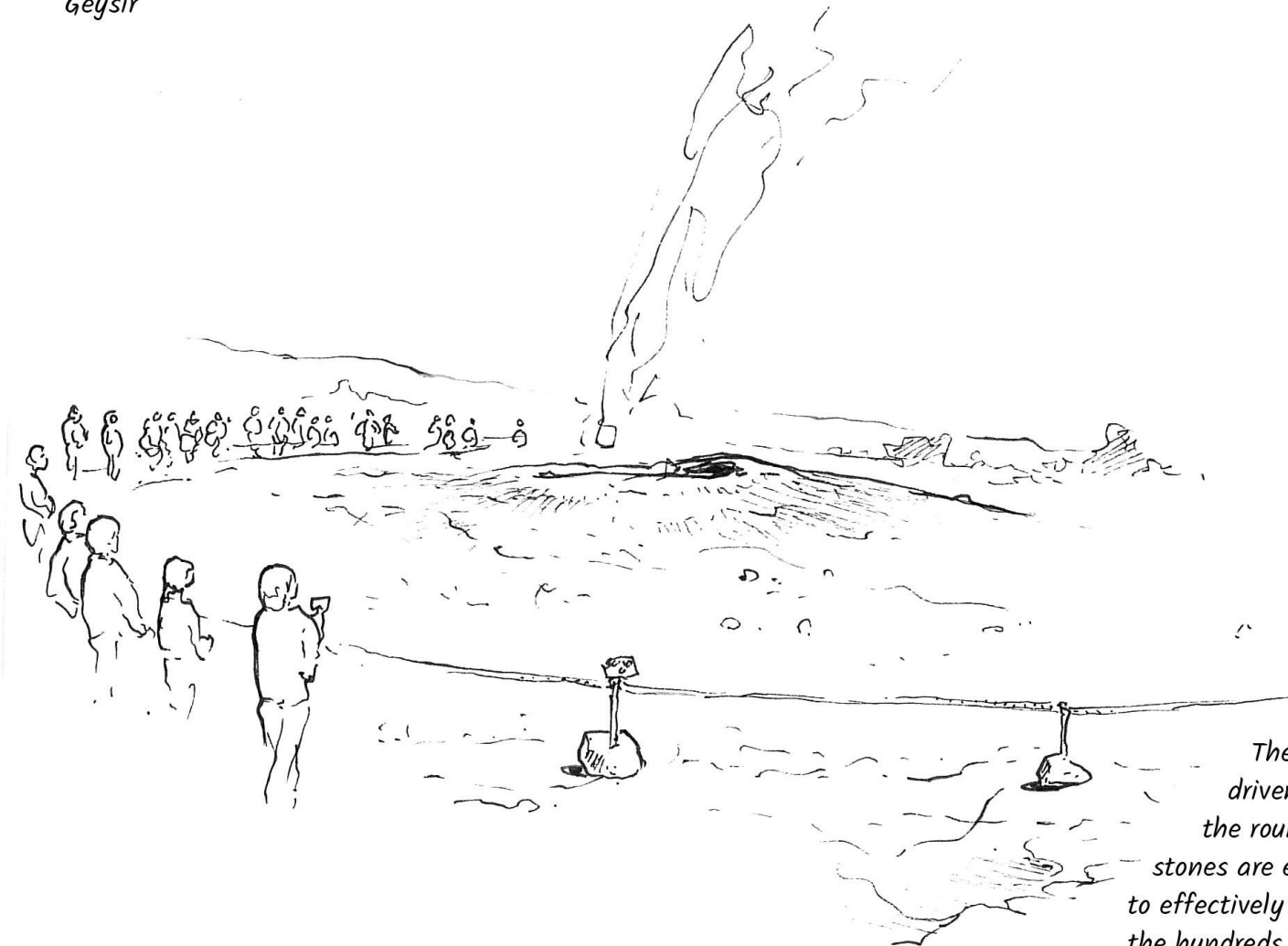
*It would be
damaging
for the site
to see all the paths
covered with a grid
of decks. Walking
on the volcanic soil,
feeling its vibrations,
remains a sensitive
experience beyond sight.
The soil, its textures,
its colors, its scales constitute
a heritage like the traces of
the old alluvium of Jökulsàrlon.
To cover them is to hide a heritage.
The gateways would only be used to cross the flows that they would reveal by their presence.*



*Behind, the poplars
bristle the horizon.
They should be re-
placed by trees that
are rounder, more
compact, more natu-
ral.*

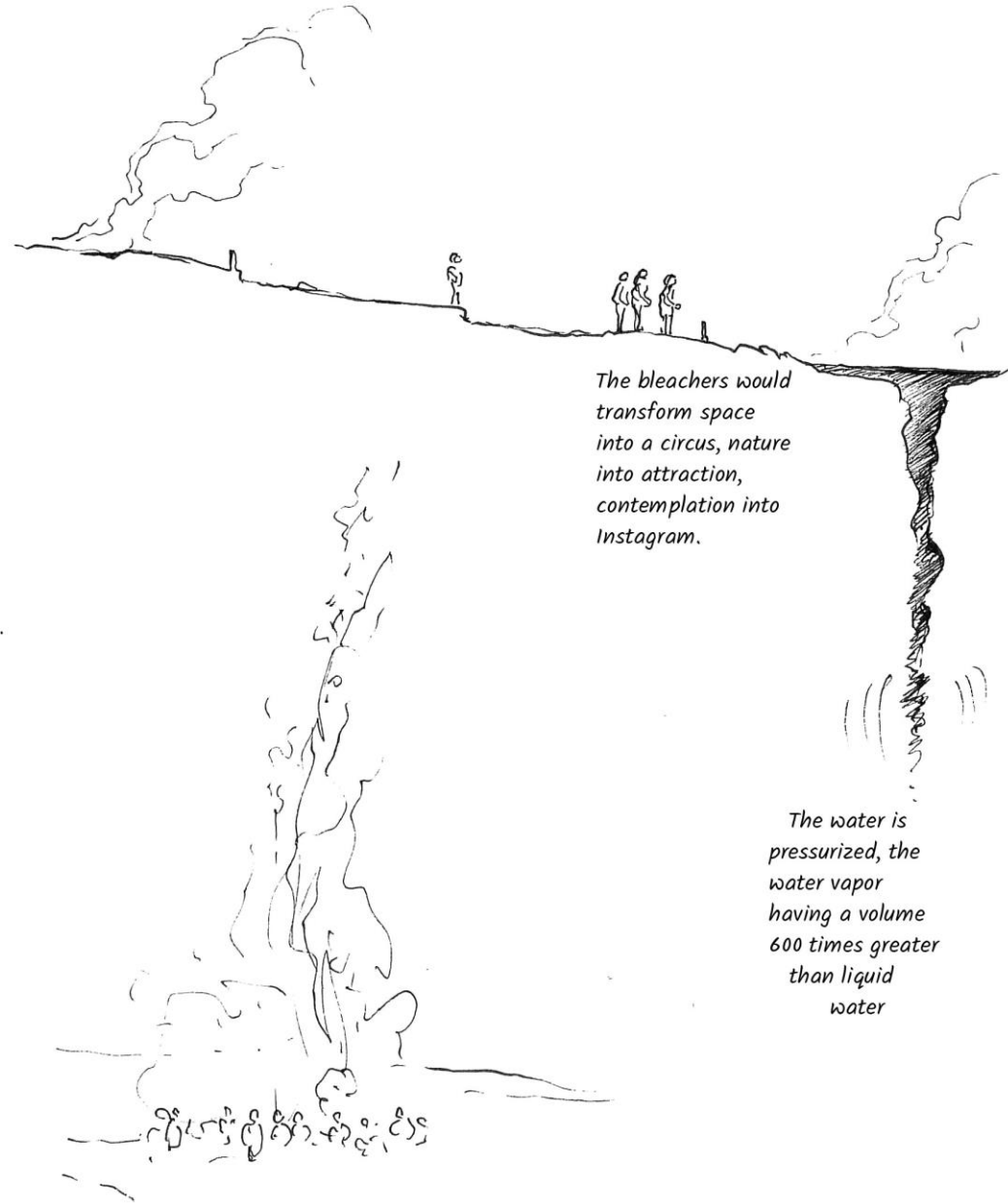


September 8, 2021
Geysir



The stakes
driven into
the round
stones are enough
to effectively channel
the hundreds of thou-
sands of visitors.

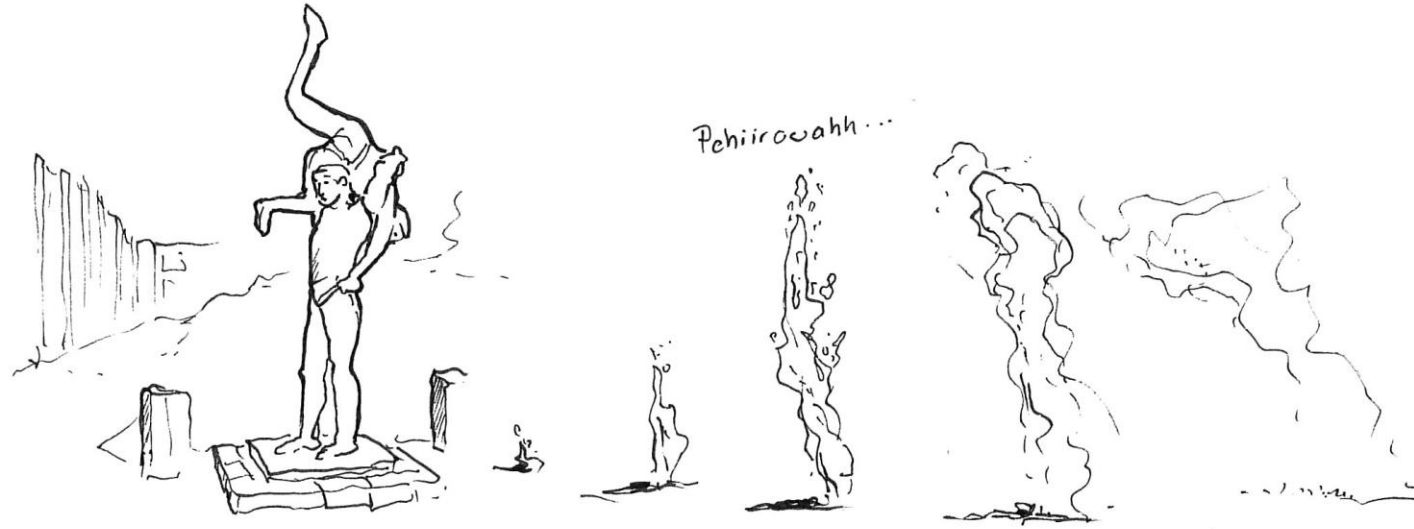
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The bleachers would transform space into a circus, nature into attraction, contemplation into Instagram.

The water is pressurized, the water vapor having a volume 600 times greater than liquid water

September 8, 2021
Geysir



*The Icelandic wrestling is
like Geysir :
a search for elevation,
for gushing, by force.*

*Like the jet, initially compact,
ascending, is deformed with the
wind and becomes evanescent
vapor.*

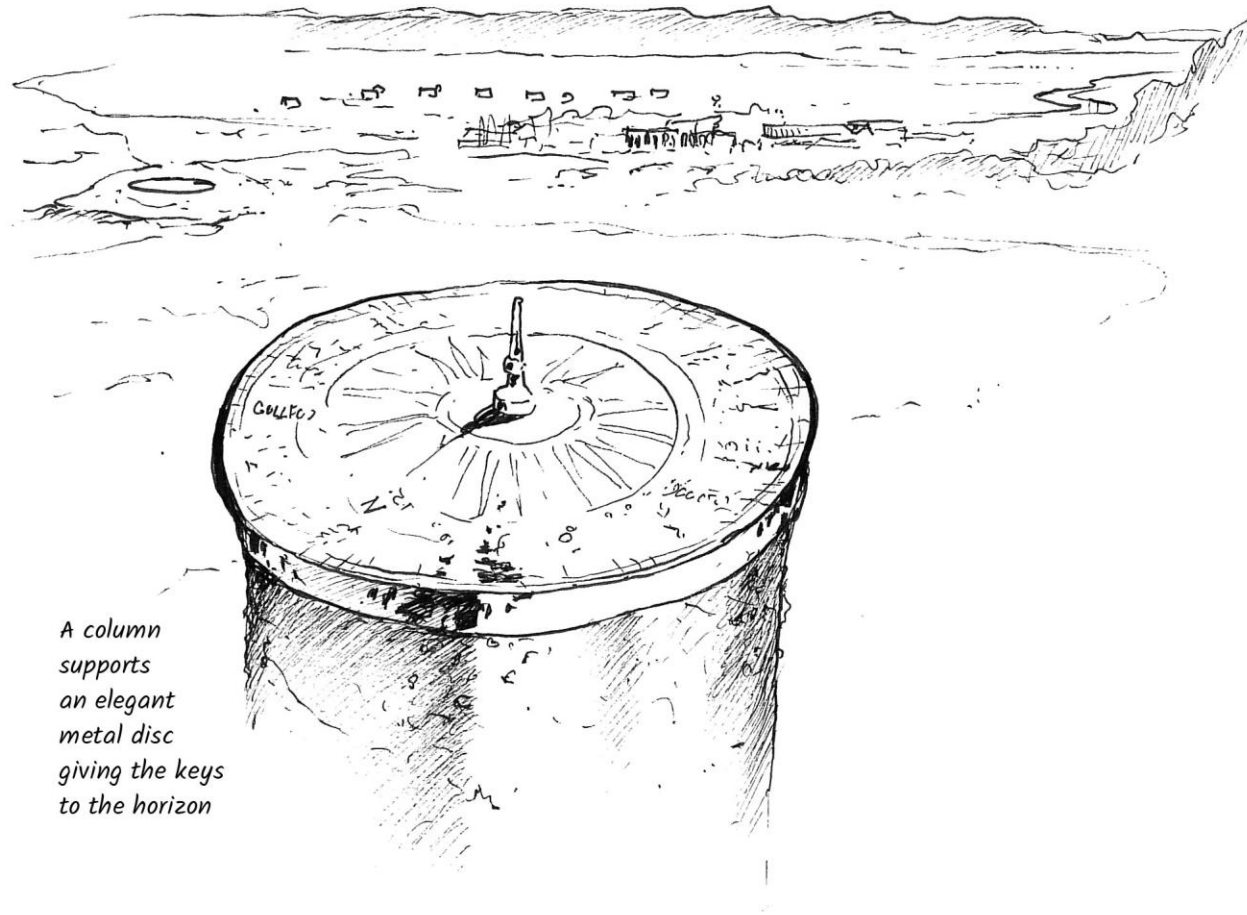


*Höfundus
Sculpture by
Jón Adolf Steinolfsson*

*The spirit of stone, the spirit of
Geysir, the one who has the force to
make water gush*

September 8, 2021

Geysir

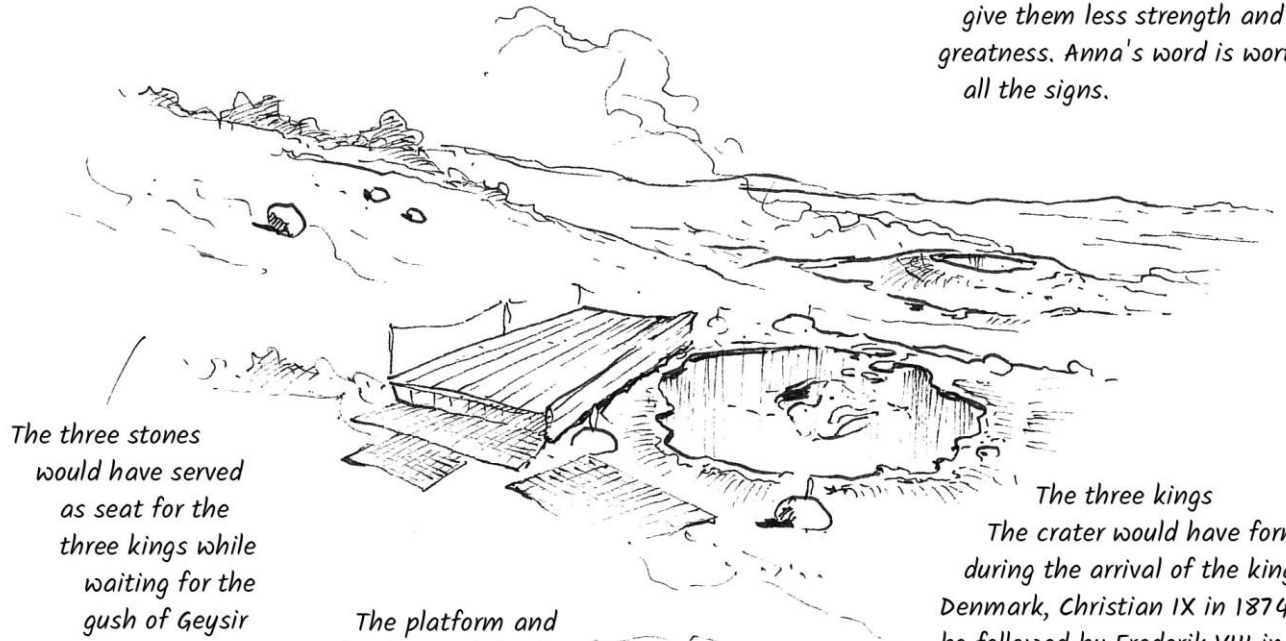


*A column
supports
an elegant
metal disc
giving the keys
to the horizon*

September 8, 2021

Geysir

The stones are much more interesting from a distance. A path to reach them would give them less strength and greatness. Anna's word is worth all the signs.



The three stones would have served as seat for the three kings while waiting for the gush of Geysir

The platform and the plastic slabs do not pay homage to history.

The three kings
The crater would have formed during the arrival of the king of Denmark, Christian IX in 1874. It will be followed by Frederik VIII in 1907 then by Christian X in 1921

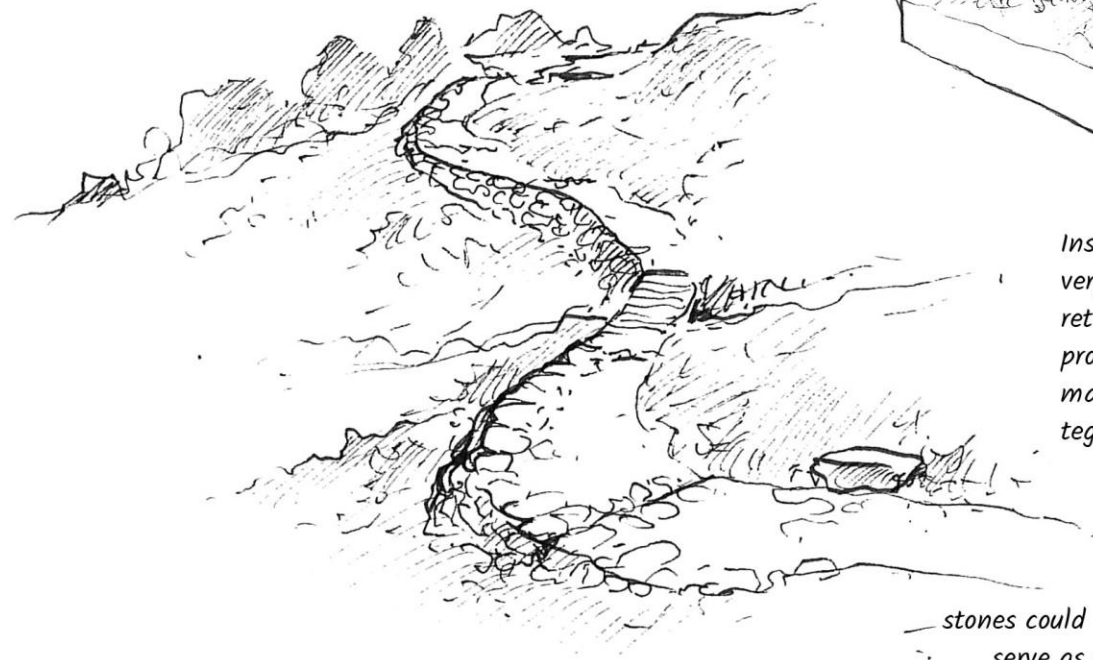




The impact of this platform is very important. Is there no other solution?

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Geysir



Instead of the heavy and very visible decking, a retaining wall with a pronounced fruit could make the path more integrated, more natural.

stones could serve as a lighter bench, more discreet than the wooden boxes



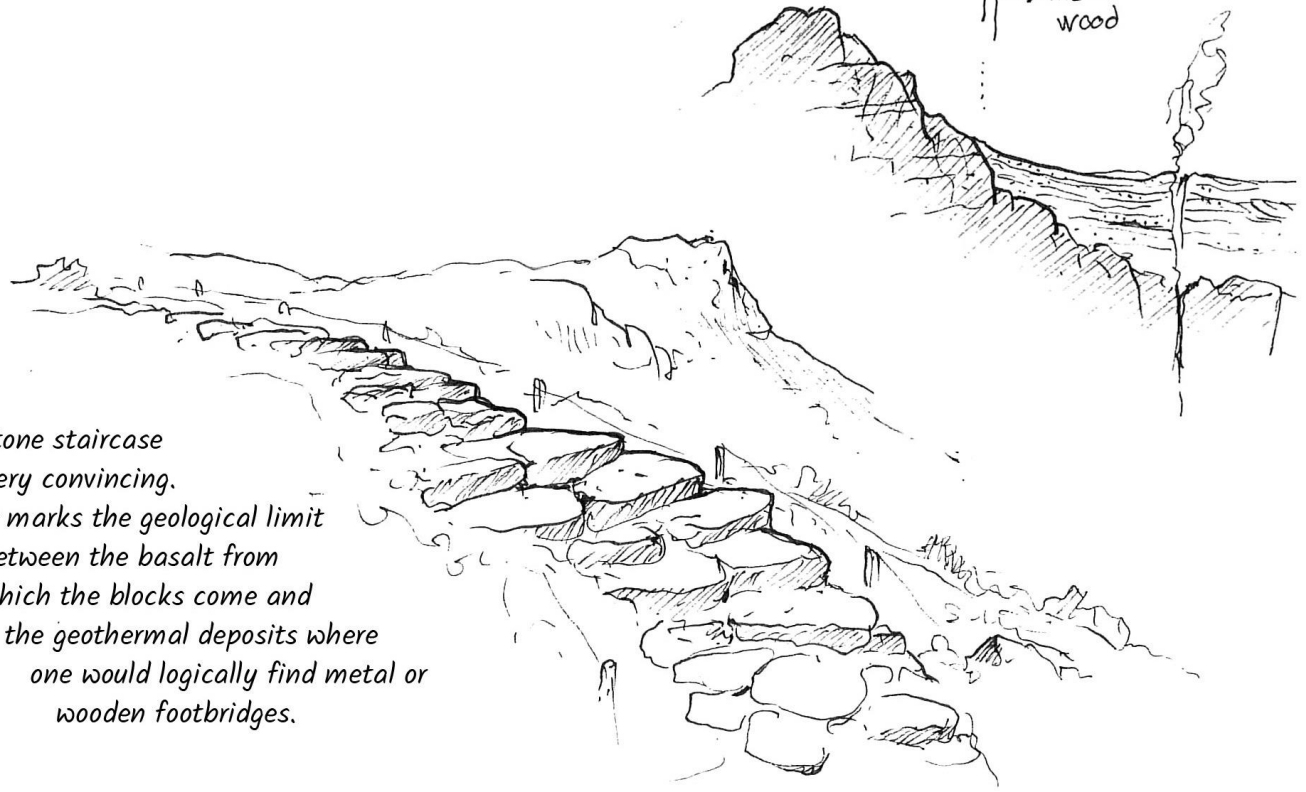
What beautiful work!



Simulation: a small change can have a big positive impact

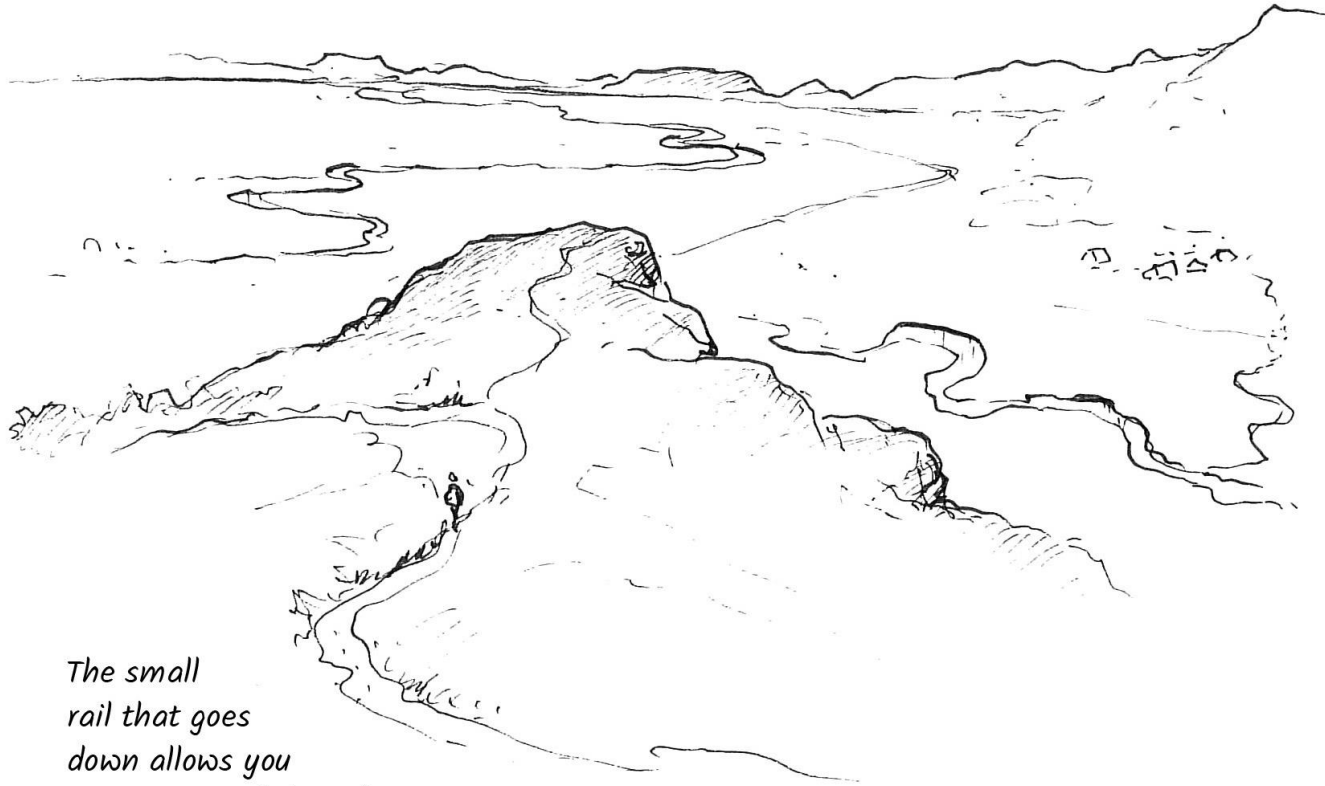
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Materials to use
for the paths :
stone ← → metal
wood



The stone staircase
is very convincing.
It marks the geological limit
between the basalt from
which the blocks come and
the geothermal deposits where
one would logically find metal or
wooden footbridges.

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Geysir



*The small
rail that goes
down allows you
to get out of the volcanic
atmosphere and the crowds.*

It offers a last sequence of calm, of softness in front of the large landscape in which a river basks.

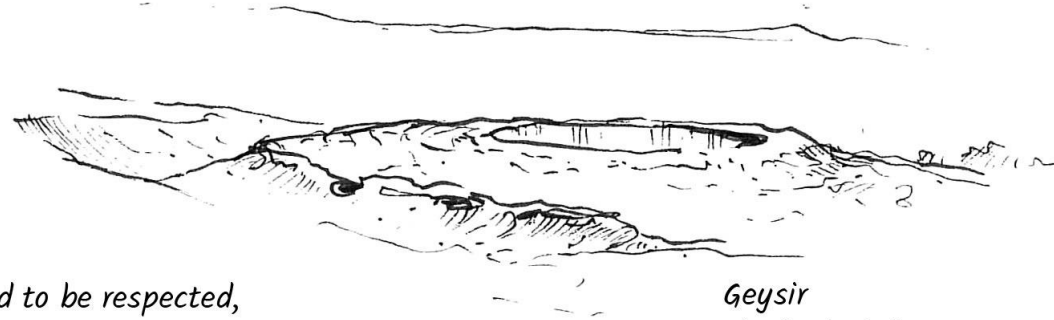


The importance of the landscape at a larger scale...

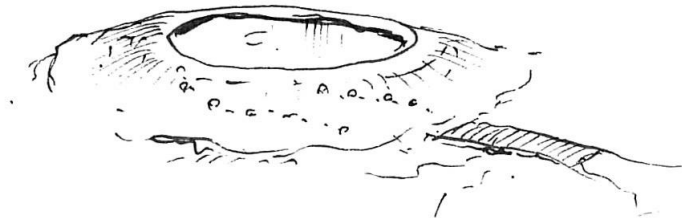


Simulation: removal of nearby parking, tree trimming. And if the recent constructions could have been avoided, or located elsewhere, or otherwise...

September 8, 2021
Geysir



The ground to be respected,
the concretions
are present



A platform
could be built at its
feet, without other arrangements.

Geysir
The lord of the Geysers.
The one by whom the geysers of the
earth are named
To see in the depths of his gaze, no
platform should be built on his body,
his mound.