

SEARCHING FOR STABILITY
Monastery in Andalusia

Andjela Brankovic

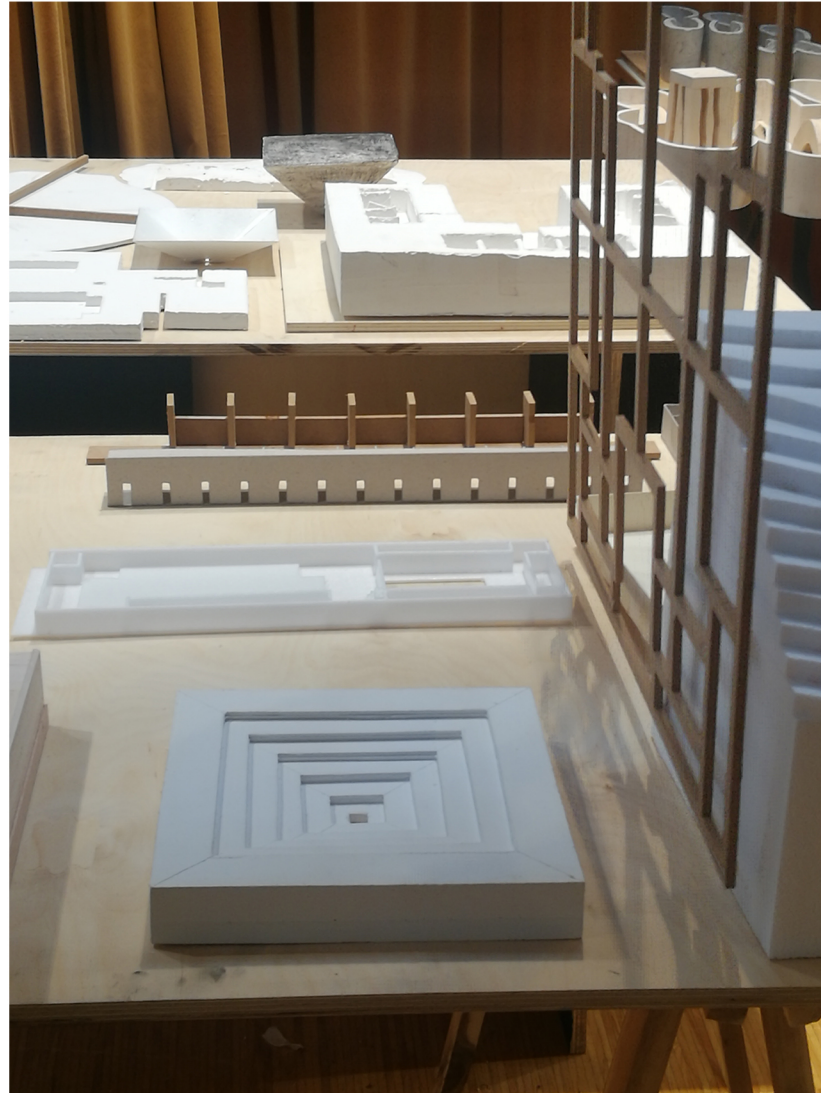
STABILITY

I think what we demonstrate is the value of staying put. Modern society is so full of people rushing from one place to the next, one job to the next, even one family to the next. But we are able to stay put, and I think there is something that is attractive about that because so many people are rootless.

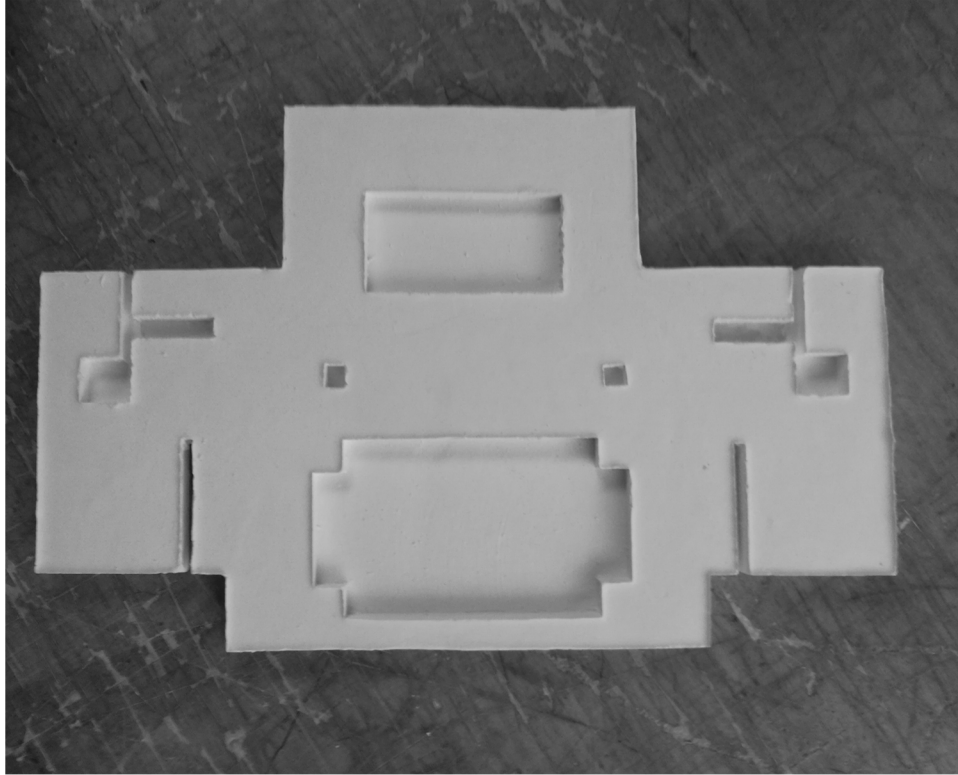
- Anonymous teacher in the school run by a monastery

The work is searching for stability in the world of movement. Stability has been found in a monastery, in the devotion within it, contemplation and introversion, while in the same time it nourishes the collective, the corporate body.

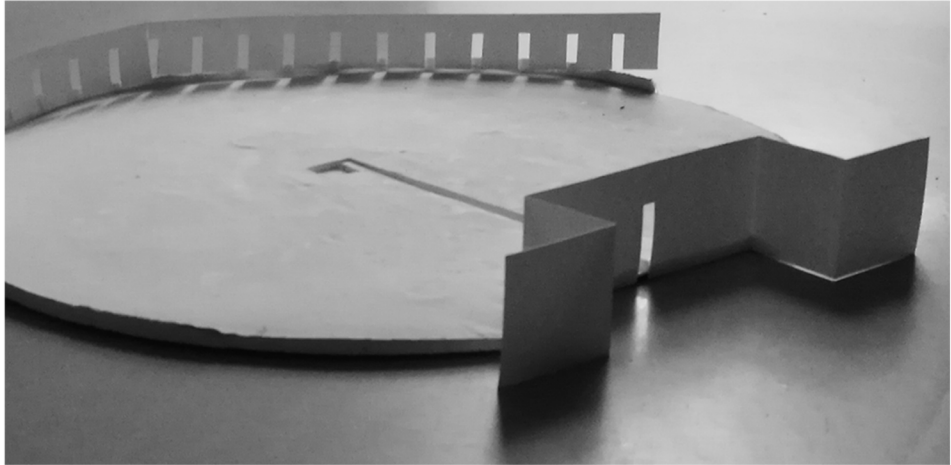
THE SEARCH



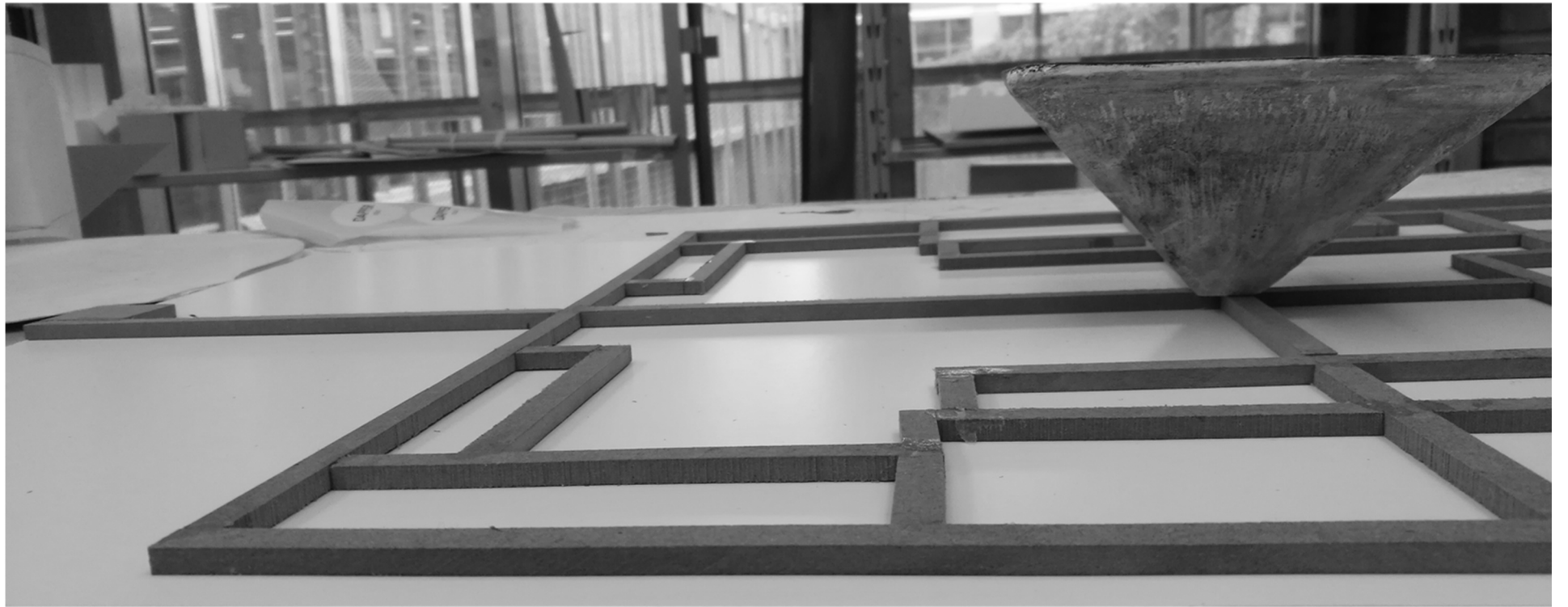


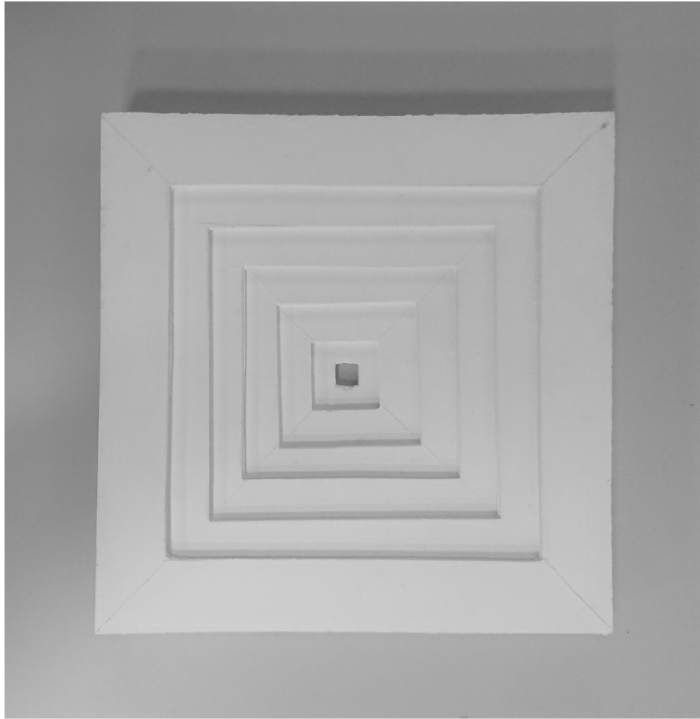


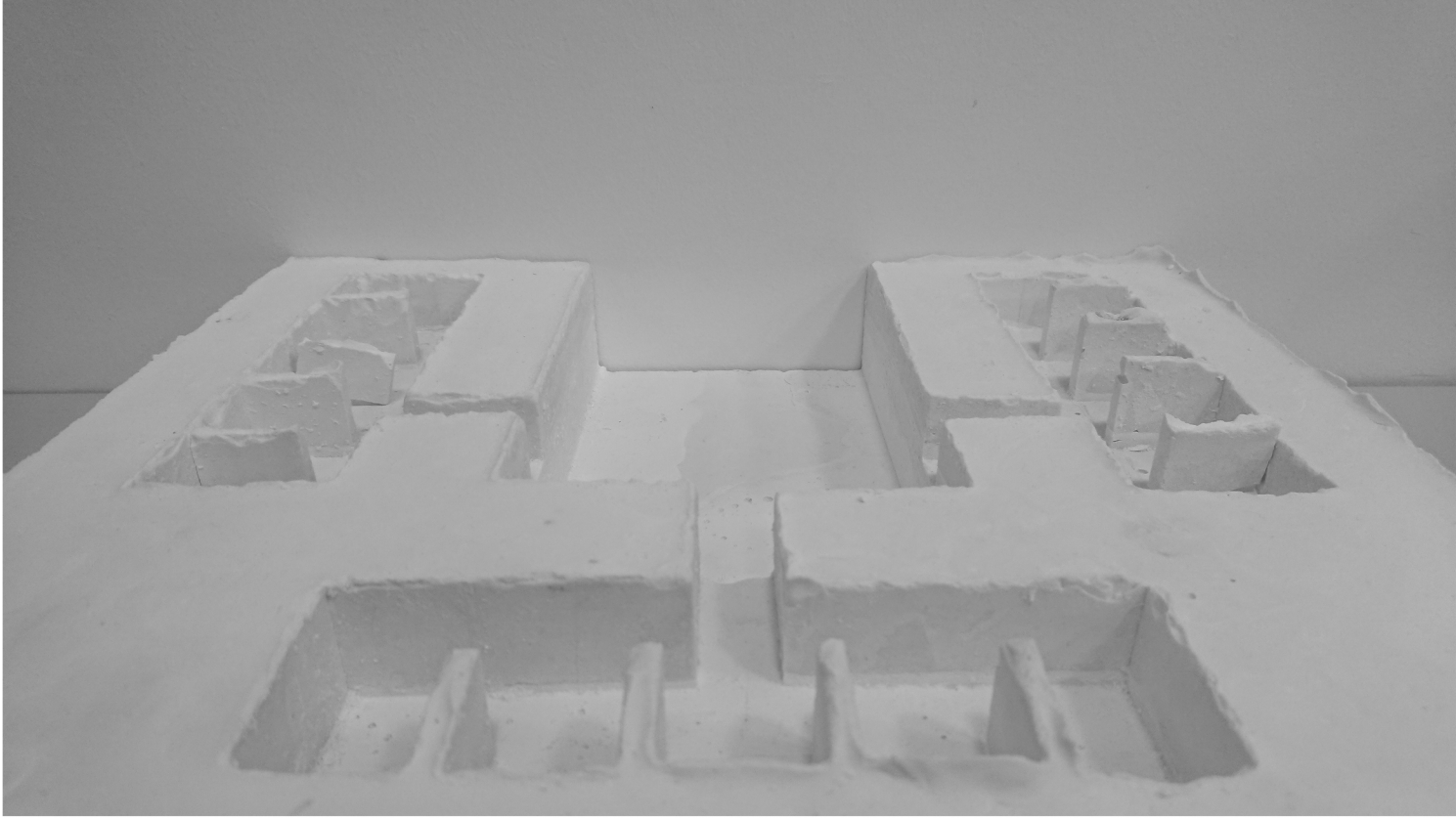












SITE

El Caminito del Rey is a walkway, pinned along the steep walls of a narrow gorge in the province of Malaga, Andalusia. The route is linear in one direction, downwards from the north to the south, with beginning at Ardales and end at Alora.

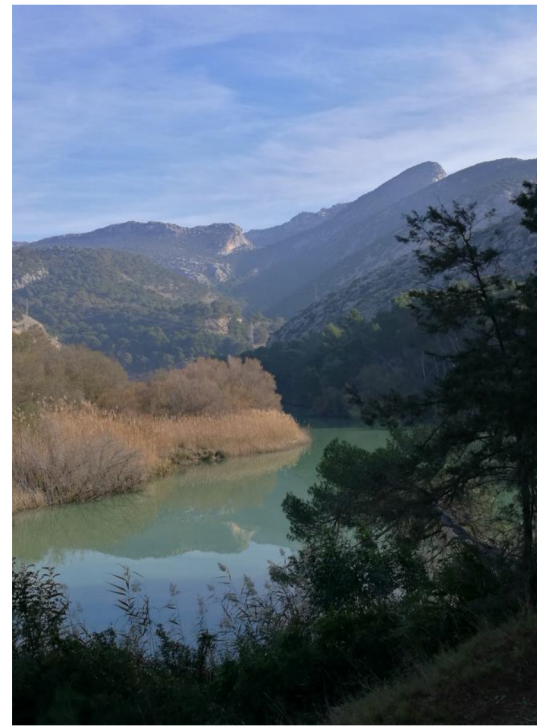
The walkway stretches between two dams, Count of Guadalahorce Reservoir and El Chorro Dam. It was built for workers at the hydroelectric plant at Chorro, Falls and Gaitanejo falls. The walkway was connecting the plants, to provide transport of materials and to help facilitate inspection and maintenance of the channel.

After reconstruction of the walkway the path became popular touristic attraction because of its unique scenery.





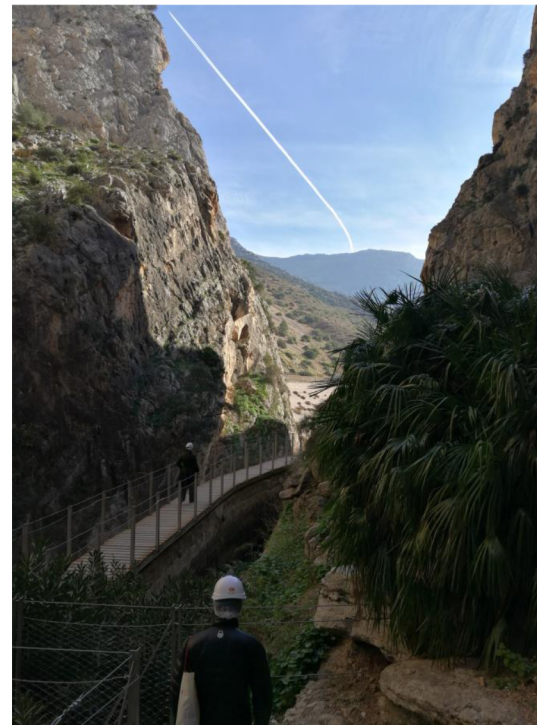
Two barren vertical rocks, very close to each other, create tension and play of light and shadow. The tension frames emerald water and creates a microclimate that reveals the “rain”.



Green vegetation in the first plan, turquoise water in the second, dry, yellow grass on the other side of the riverbank and waves of the mountains behind. The introduction to the El Caminito.



Steep hills are creating an oasis between the two. The structures make the vegetation alive. The path is low and creates preparation for the path of the pause, the wide walk through the nature.



Tension between rocks is strong, vegetation in the lower parts is rich, the path is becoming a bridge, but not connecting the two rocks together, but stretching between them, without attaching to particular side.



The view towards a rock, where the lower shadowed part is covered in vegetation, close to the view but far away to touch.



The walleye of the waves and the rest covered in carpeted vegetation and opening the view towards the gate and the bridge behind.



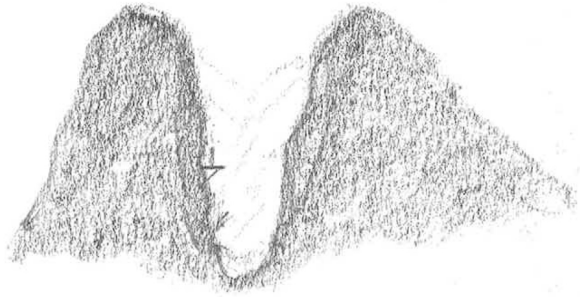
Two sides and two rocks show a tendency to connect, to become one, but the cut between is keeping them apart. The path is attached to its side of the rocks.



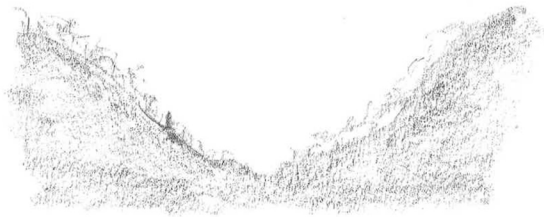
The vertical and yellow surrounding would not be accessible for man if not for that narrow walkway (the only horizon) following the rocks and revealing its shape while hiding the destination.



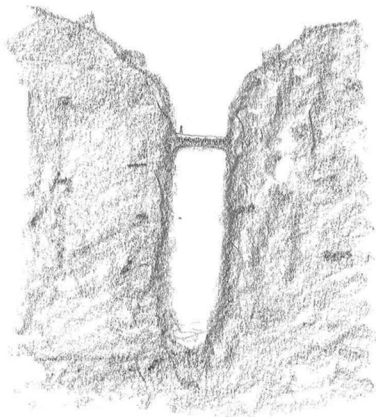
The thin bridge next to and above the thick one that became part of the landscape. The thick bridge is an aqueduct that transfers water from one town to the other, the thin one the people from one side to another. The bridge is framing the curve of the basing behind, becomes the gate of celebration and releasment, and allows continuing the walk to the other side, the other town.



first phase of the path



second phase of the path



third phase of the path

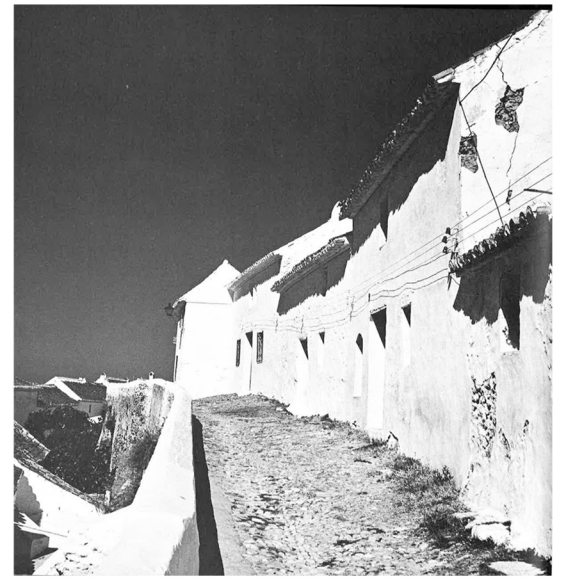
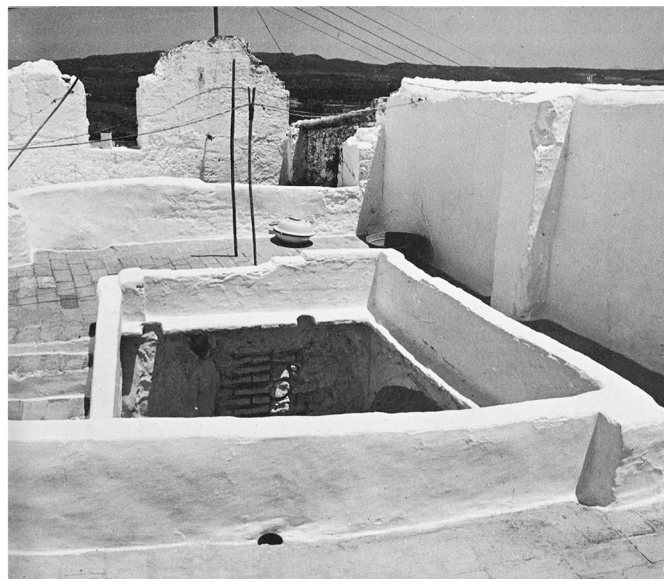
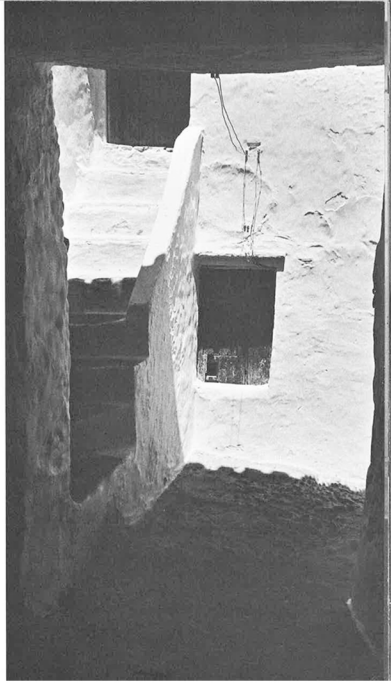
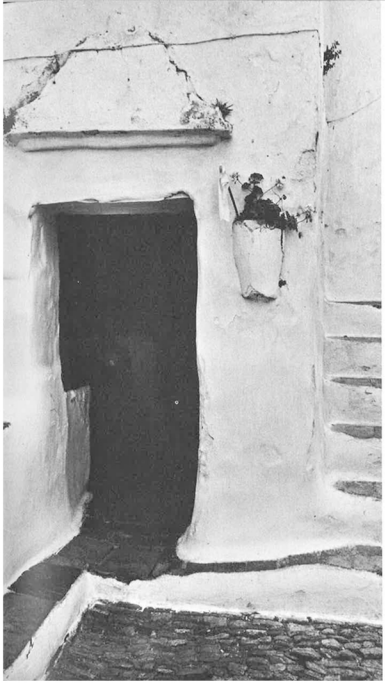
VILLAGES OF ANDALUSIA

The communities in southern Spain are united by common climatic and geological factors leading to similarity in construction materials and techniques.

Because of different site conditions, a variety of forms developed: difficult site required a free plan that would bend to every natural condition: the hillside needed a responsive terracing; and the valley location demanded a tight form, in order to free valuable land for farming.

In addition to the typical Andalusian village, there are two underground communities of special interest. Village of Guadix takes advantage of the earth as insulator and protector and, further, sculpts its unusual natural environment to create a total form of great plasticity, accentuated by clustered chimney forms. The underground community at Cuevos del Amontagna is composed of horizontal tiers of cave dwellings carved into the rock formations.

Villages in the Sun
Myron Goldfinger



RONDA

The terraced structure with a view towards the valley and the mountains in the second plan that are disappearing in the distance.

Objects on top of the fortress extrude their floor to be able to rely on the ground. The pattern of different patches is creating an infinite carpet spreading beyond the mountains out the horizon as we know it.

The edge is vertical and becomes a pot, holding its vegetation and the borders. The carpet is suddenly falling, revealing what it is made of and creating new condition, that can only be observed, but not experienced. The structure has been left to the nature, to create new borders and new corners. The wall of the fortress is lower than the city, the path of protection, that creates niches.

The narrow path between buildings are creating shadowed, almost covered conditions, shelters.







RITUAL

- 04.50 AM - waking up in the cell
- 05.30 AM - prayer in the darkness
- 06.20 AM - breakfast
- 07.00 AM - new prayer (celebration of the day)
- 07.30 AM - lectio divina → personal prayer
(church, chapel, cell)
- 09.00 AM - terce and mass
- 10.00 AM

comes down to earth

EARTH

- 10.00 AM - labour
- 01.00 PM - reminding of the creator
- 01.15 PM - dinner
- 02.00 PM - service
- 02.30 PM - work
- 04.30 PM - work over
- 05.00 PM - SERVICE
- 05.30 - 07.00 PM - lecture
- 07.00 PM - back to Sinai
- 08.00 PM - service (7th)

SILENCE until the next morning



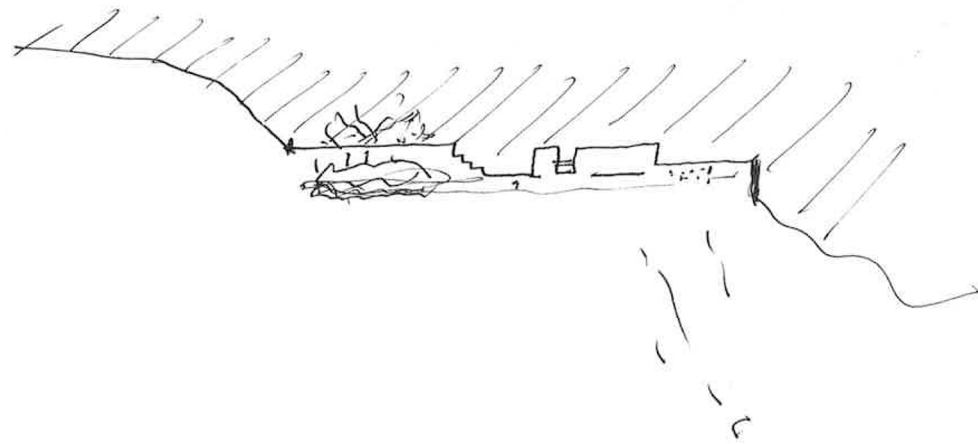
where the rain goes



PROPOSAL

Monastery in Andalusia that offers stability/shelter from the world of movement to Benedictine monks and ordinary people.





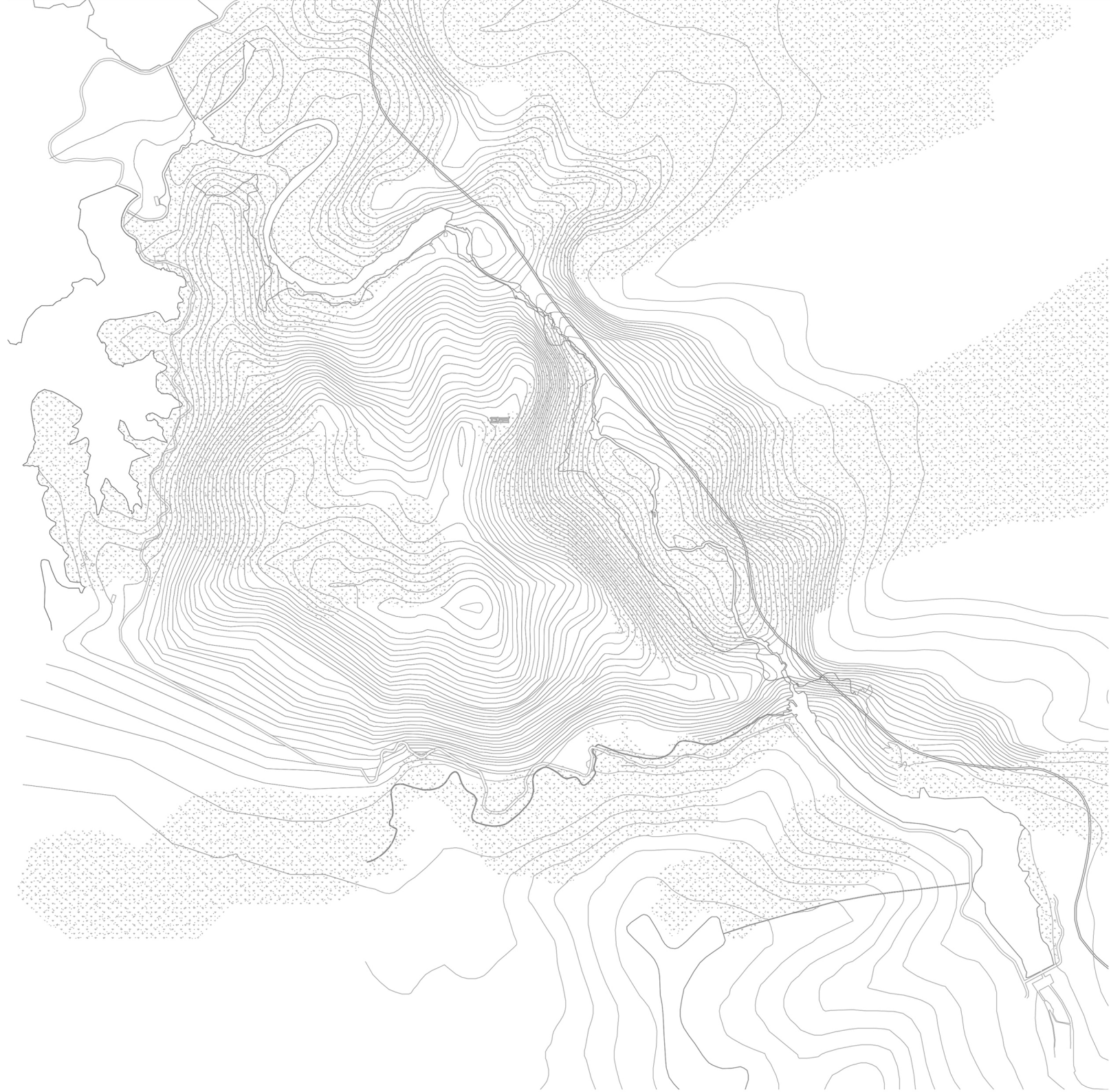
STABILITY ON SITE

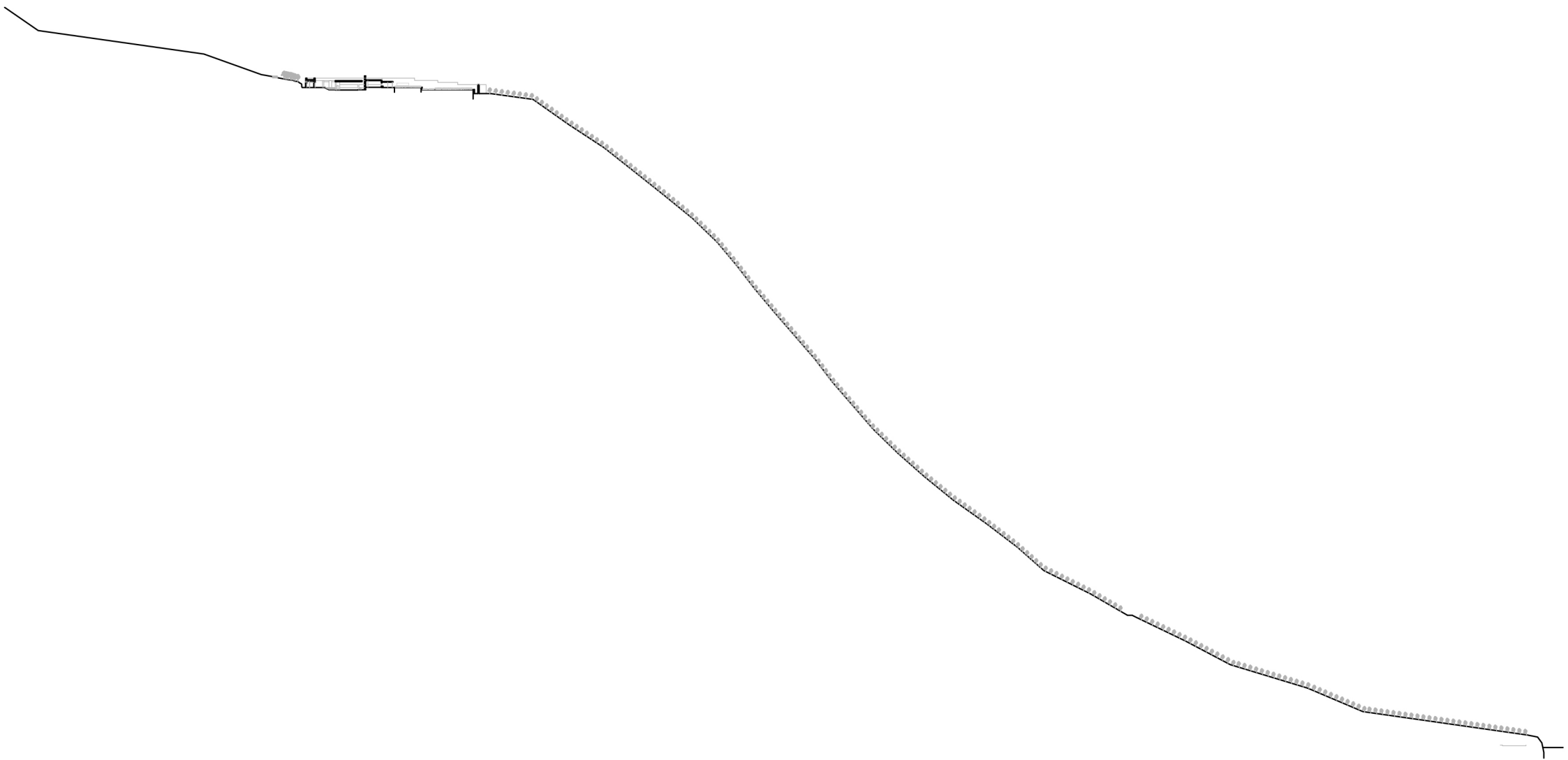
Movement on the site is defined by movements of train, water and the walkway.

The aim is to find relationship between the route which has been seen as a ritual of movement and the monastery as ritual that is standing still.

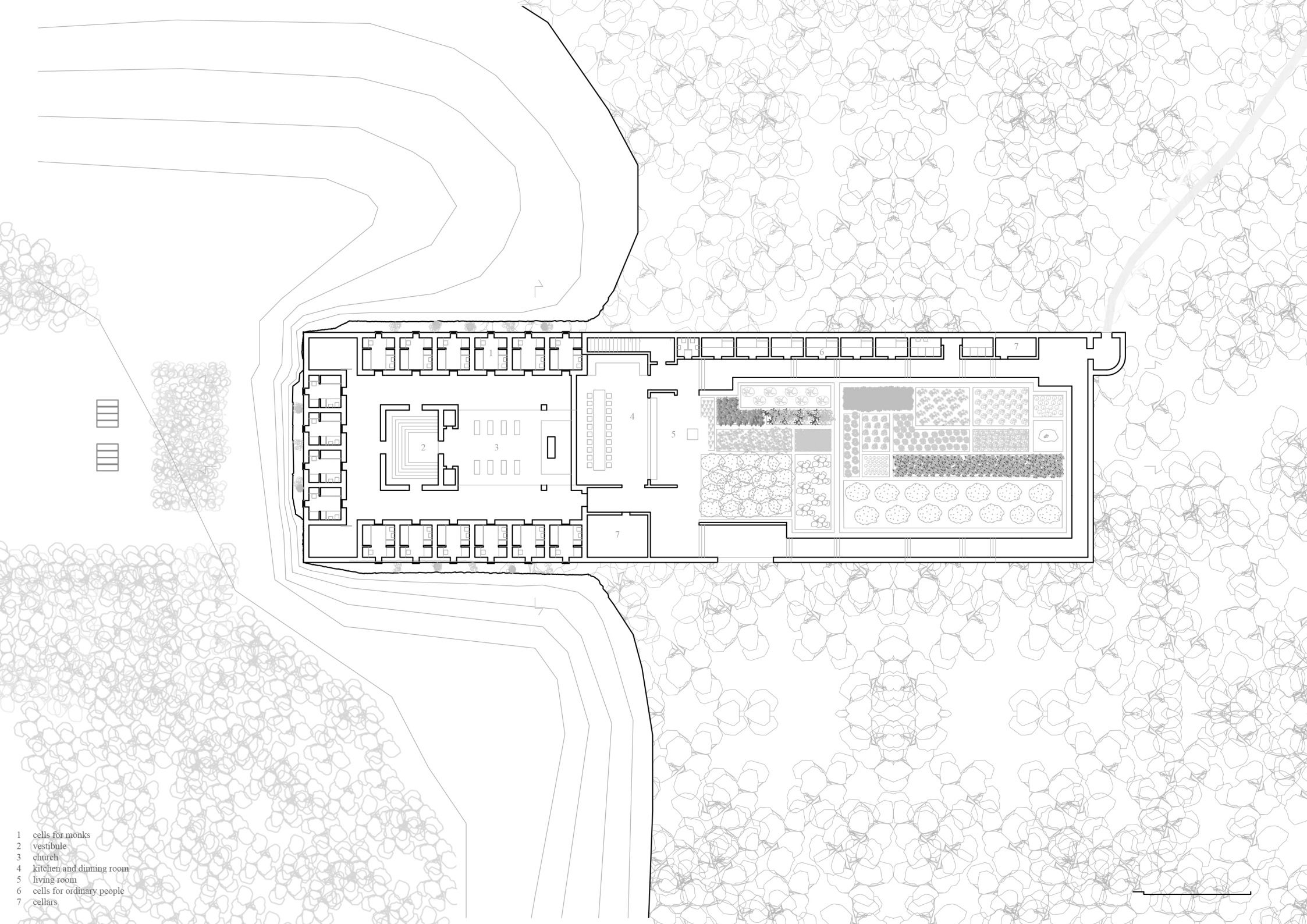
The landscape has been seen as waves of green carpet that are penetrated by barren rocks that are rising and forming different shapes.

The wide zone/phase of the rest is situated between two gate structures formed by rocks. The monastery stands in that zone, on a plateau, towards the movement, oriented to the east.









- 1 cells for monks
- 2 vestibule
- 3 church
- 4 kitchen and dining room
- 5 living room
- 6 cells for ordinary people
- 7 cellars

