

# FESTIVAL CITY

KANSALAISTORI, HELSINKI, FINLAND, 15-31.8.2014

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MASTERS THESIS 2014

“We are living in a time of great upheaval. The big pen writes on. The great narrative unfolds itself on the page. Amidst the story, the little people are getting lost. The story has no name, no beginning and no end. The thematic complexities are seemingly endless. What could my role be within all of this? We need art more than ever. Art helps us to understand what is going on.”

Erik Söderblom - Director's Statement, Helsinki Juhlaväiköt 2014

Festival City is a hypothesis for an event architecture. Through the simple act of framing, Festival City offers the possibility for a space that can be freely interpreted by its participants in a moment of collective endeavour. As such, the *event* of the architecture is not through the whimsy of ephemeral programme, but the backdrop against which these events can occur. The architecture of Festival City becomes not only a limit to the forces of the city, but legitimizes and makes visible the collective ideals of the space contained within.

Festival City is a proposal for the heart of Helsinki Juhlaviirokot (Helsinki Festival). As the largest arts festival in Finland, Helsinki Festival attracts over 200,000 visitors every year in a yearly two week celebration dedicated to arts and music. The event is on a basic level, *talkoot*, a collective action of a community to contribute to a common purpose. The processes of the event are already imbued with a firm set of collective values and though by no means an informal organization, is truly an expression from the “bottom-up”.

Located in Kansalaistori (Citizens Square) in Helsinki, Finland, Festival City is the epicentre for festival events occurring all across the Helsinki. Over the course of the two week festival, a wide variety of programmes occur, creating a constantly changing landscape of art events in the park. Documented in the form of a space-time-masterplan, Festival City presents these events as tangible locations occupying specific times, creating a hypothetical city within a city that the participants are invited to help build. Within the condensed space of Festival City, activities such as opening a picnic blanket or playing guitar, take on a new significance. The project makes visible how even our seemingly small contributions can have an impact on the space of the city, and are on a most fundamental level the true essence of the city

The proposal calls for construction of a perimeter, not a perimeter as a barrier, but a perimeter of *thresholds*. Consisting of 130 monolithic blocks, Festival City delineates a perimeter and then pivots the individual blocks to create a multitude of openings with depth, opened doors. The gesture simultaneously separates and welcomes, creating a *limit* that intensifies the experience of the festival events within.

What is a city?  
Is it a web of roads?  
A collection of buildings?  
A theatre of power?  
Is it inevitable, beyond our control?

What if...  
We are the city  
We make the city  
Constantly changing, never the same  
Like us  
Lets build this city  
Welcome!

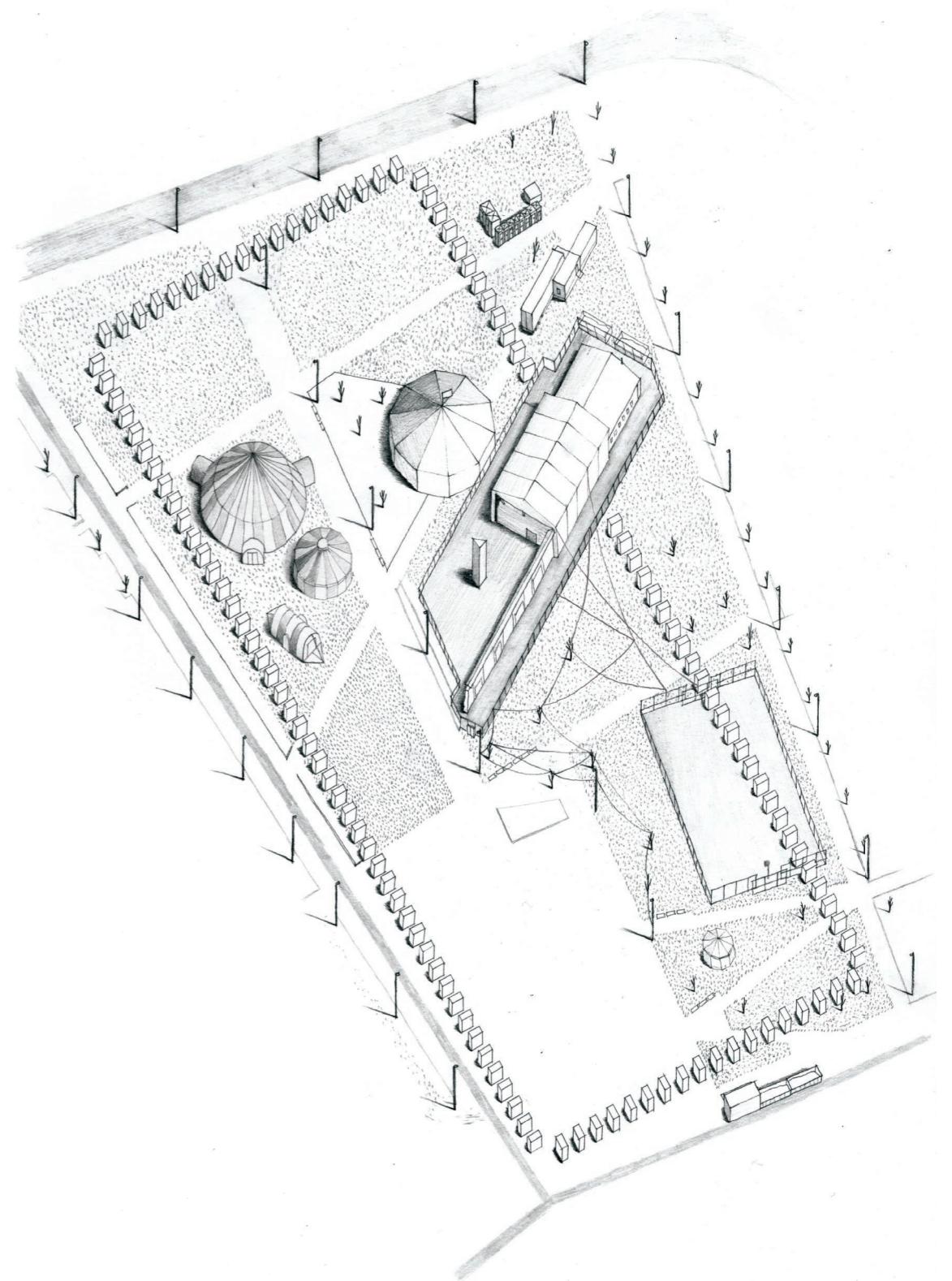




15-18.8.2014

Festival Center - Roskalava Paviljonki - Focus Nuutinen

Collective Strings - Memory Wall - Raksa Workshop

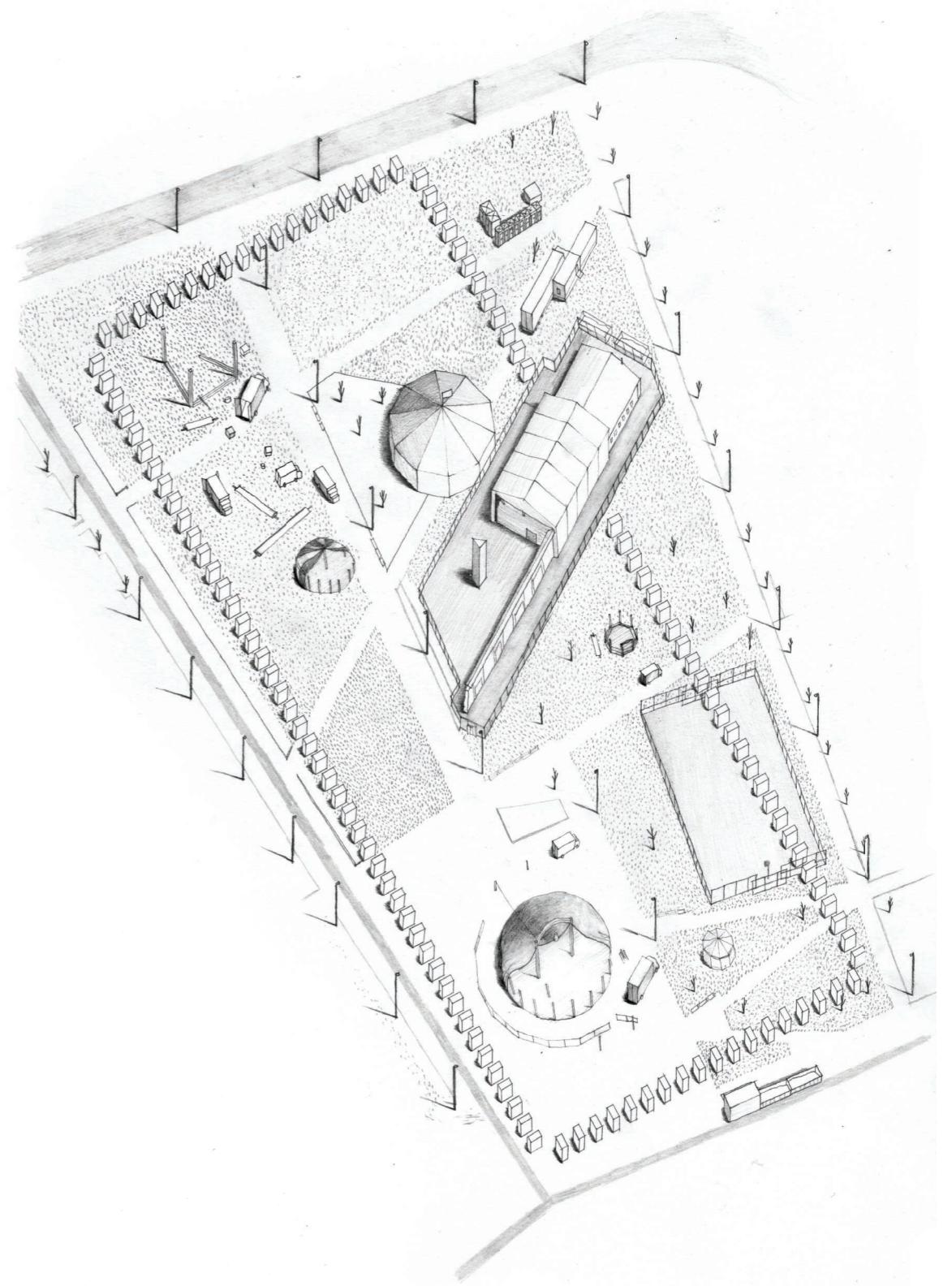


19.8.2014

Festival Center - Roskalava Paviljonki - Focus Nuutinen load out

Open Stage assemble - Cirque Aital assemble - Amber assemble

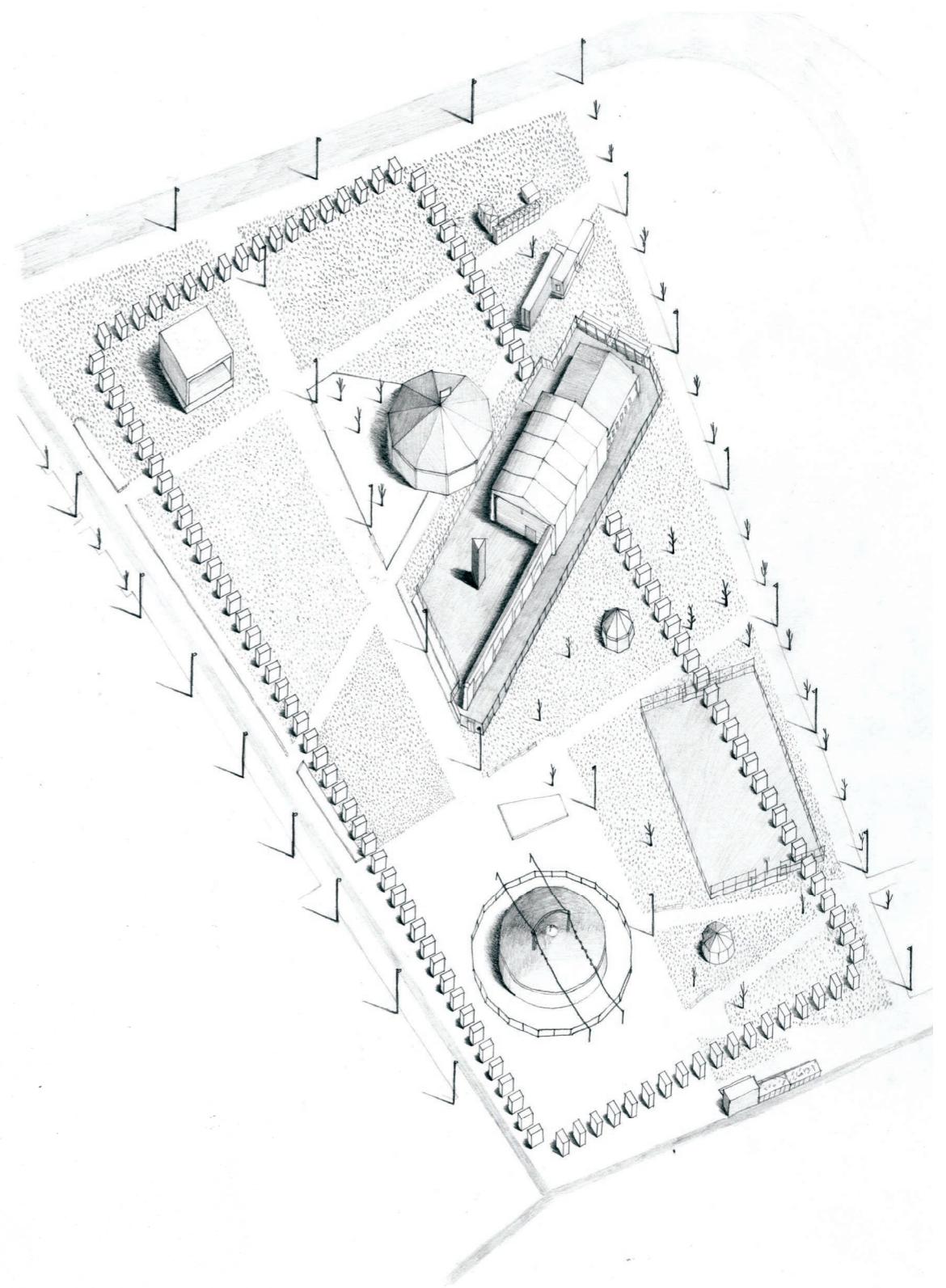
Memory Wall - Raksa Workshop



20-25.8.2014

Festival Center - Roskalava Paviljonki

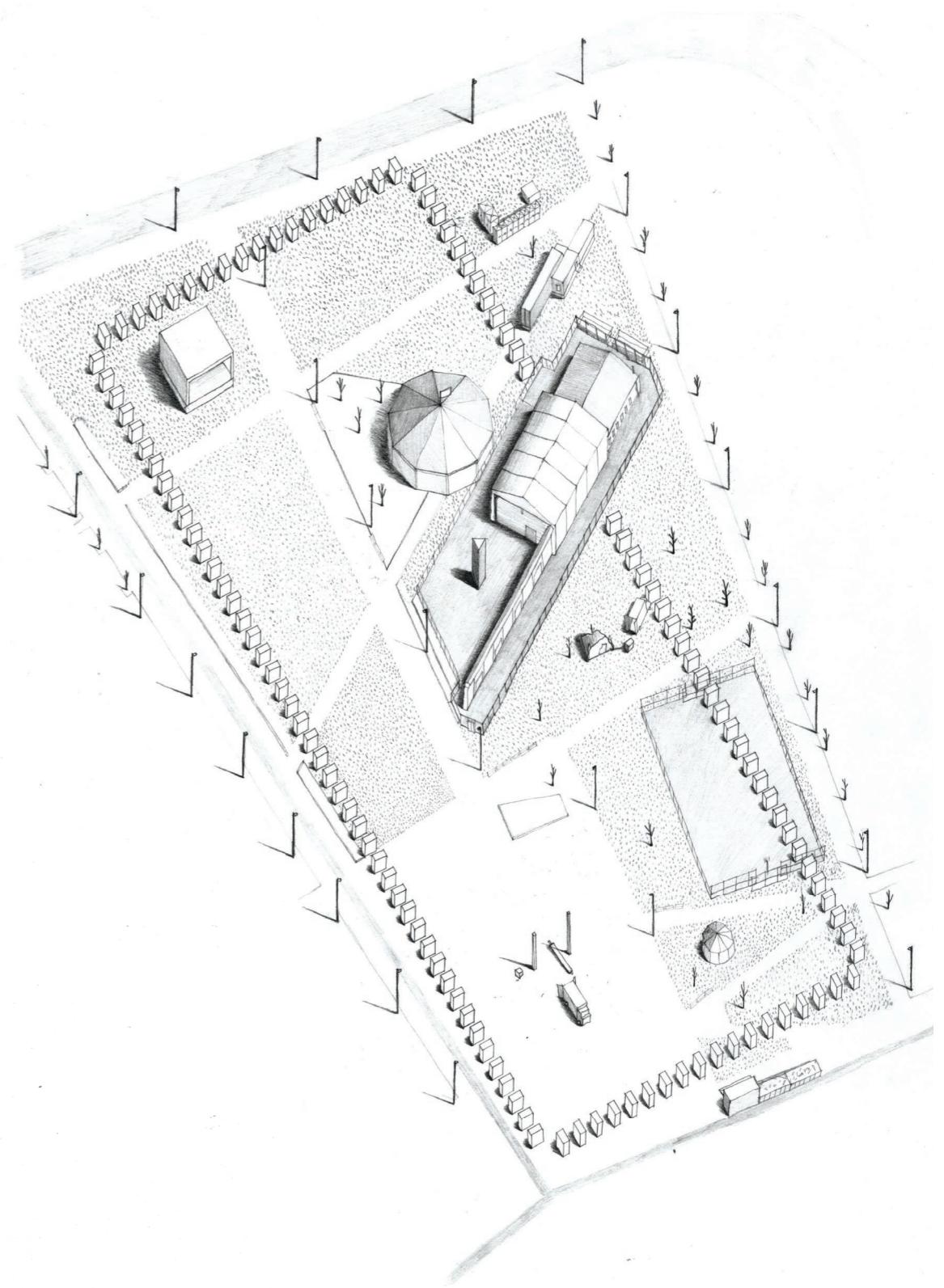
Open Stage - Cirque Aital - Amber



26.8.2014

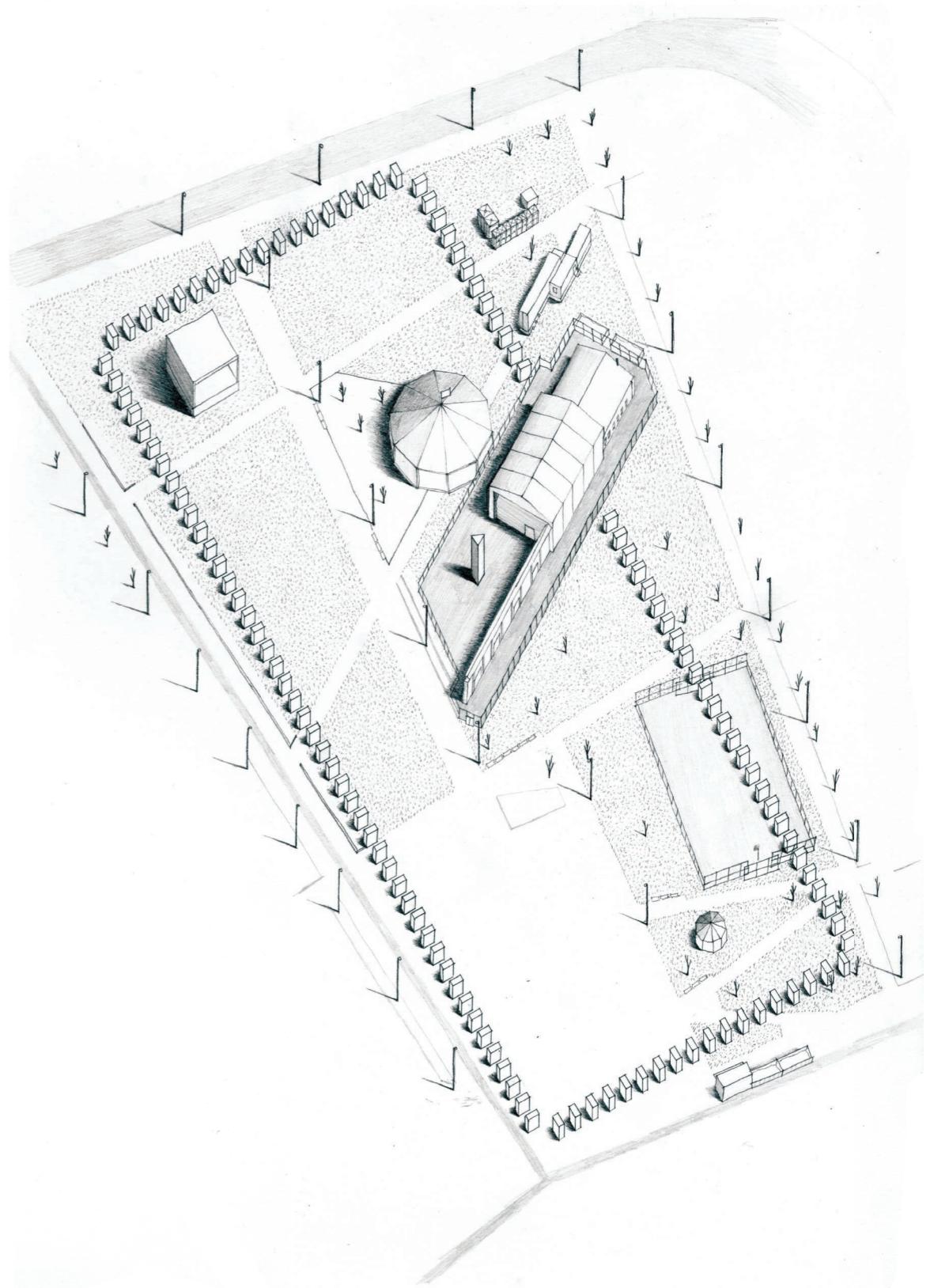
Festival Center - Roskalava Paviljonki - Cirque Aital load out

Amber load out - Pomppulinnat



27.8.2014

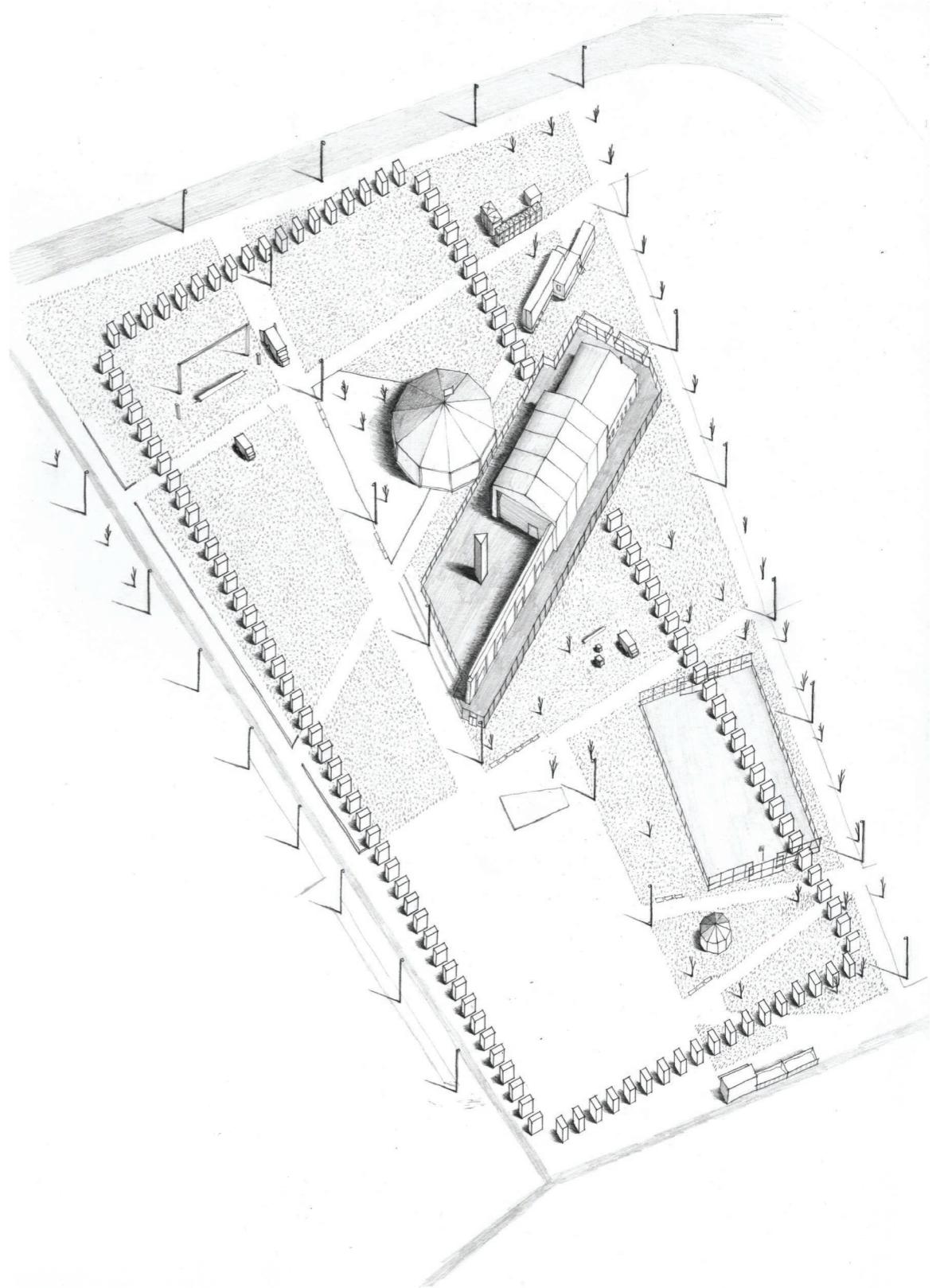
Festival Center - Roskalava Paviljonki - Open Stage - Pomppulinnat



28.8.2014

Festival Center - Roskalava Paviljonki - Stage Out - Pomppulinnat load out

Leffapiknik assemble



29-31.8.2014

Festival Center - Roskalava Paviljonki - Leffapiknik

