Ailbhe Cunningham & Daniel Haarhoff

Shelter for Humans

It is only once we leave the sheltered so called civilised life that we come to truly appreciate the simplest of things. A place out of the wind, rain and snow. A place to spend the night.

A place to feel safe.

This is what our shelter shall provide, while also harmonising to the largest degree possible with the beauty of Tara National Park. Given the availability of engineered materials and prefabricated dwellings it has become an active act of architecture to utilise more basic – more human – forms of construction.

The cabin’s design will therefore be governed not only by the need for shelter, but also by the dictate of nature as well as the limits of human-scale construction.

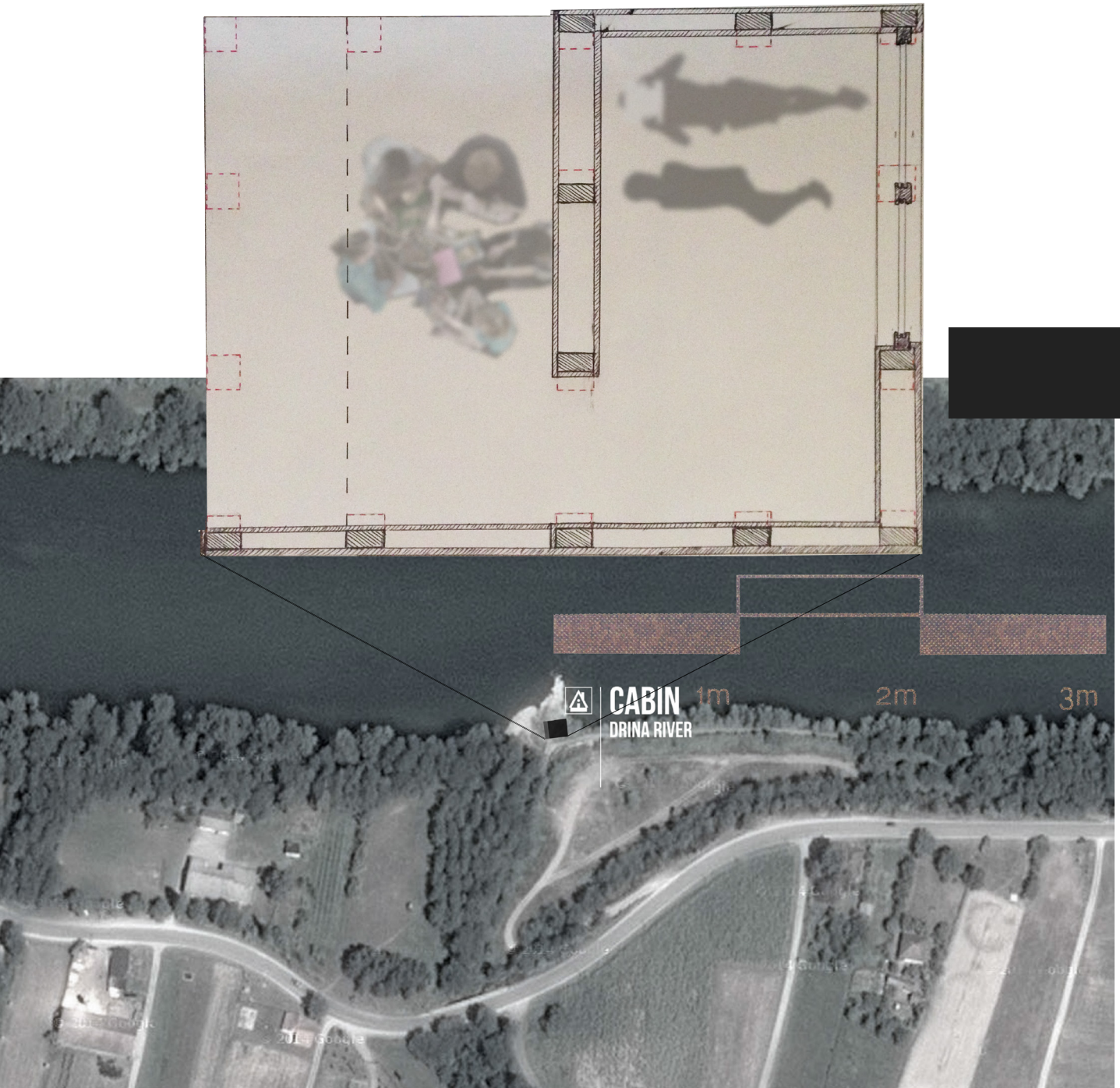
A life of cycles

Our wanderous life is substantially influenced by our mother sun.

Coming to a rest at night we gather to share food and enjoy the last rays of her warmth.

Feeling safe in our home for the night we arise well rested to the first glow of the rising sun. The cabin will be a reflection of this rhythm.

A west-facing patio captures the setting sun while the east-facing window lets the sunrise call us forth to action.



Down by the River

One foundation of MEDS is providing students with opportunities to not only learn construction skills, but also apply them to full-scale, real-world problems.

The participants will therefore spend the first three days learning the essential skills that will enable them to build this cabin.

To enhance this learning process the participants will build the infrastructure needed on-site. This will include workbenches, seating and a large shade structure to protect us from the summers heat. These can later be disassembled and used elsewhere.

Day to day work

Maintaining the proven ratio of one tutor to seven participants this workshop will be open to 14 participants.

Since construction alone will only be able to fully occupy roughly 8-10 participants at a time we will provide ample opportunities for the remaining members of the team to learn and express themselves.

Side projects might include the construction of goldsworthies, earth stoves and furniture.

While a limited amount of work could be done off-site, the nature of this project will require daily transport to and from the site.

This necessitates arrangements for sufficient food and water during the day as well as tool storage and or transport.

Construction will follow traditional methods. No brackets or other metal fixtures will be used, instead we will focus on proper joinery.

The siding, decking and roofing will be all wood. The roof and sides using beveled boards.

Tools and Materials required depends heavily on the nature of the site and availibility of materials. The following is therefore on ly a basis for futher discussion with the organsisers.

Core materials needed:

- 30m of 15cm x 15cm lumber
- 80m of 2x4 for framing
- 12 sqm of deck
- 50 sqm of siding
- 15 sqm of roofing
- 2m x 1m window
- 600 torx minimum

The following materials are more flexible or even optional:

- foundations
- insulation
- assorted boards, framing, nails for training in the first days
- 20 sqm canvas
- 100m rope
- paint

Tool requirements are a reflection of the educational nature of this project. Participants having to wait extended periods of time for tools is a clear no-go.

- hammers, hand-saws, chisels, tape measures, squares at least 8 of each
- 3x cordless drill/driver
- cordless hammer drill
- miter saw
- generator
- shovels, spades for foundation