





"Aphrodite" Thematic Route Ineia, Paphos, Cyprus

The "Aphrodite" thematic route spans approximately 2 km, extending from the western edges of Ineia village in the Paphos district to significant rock formations that offer panoramic views of Lara Bay and Akamas National Park, a designated "European Ecological Network Natura 2000" area.

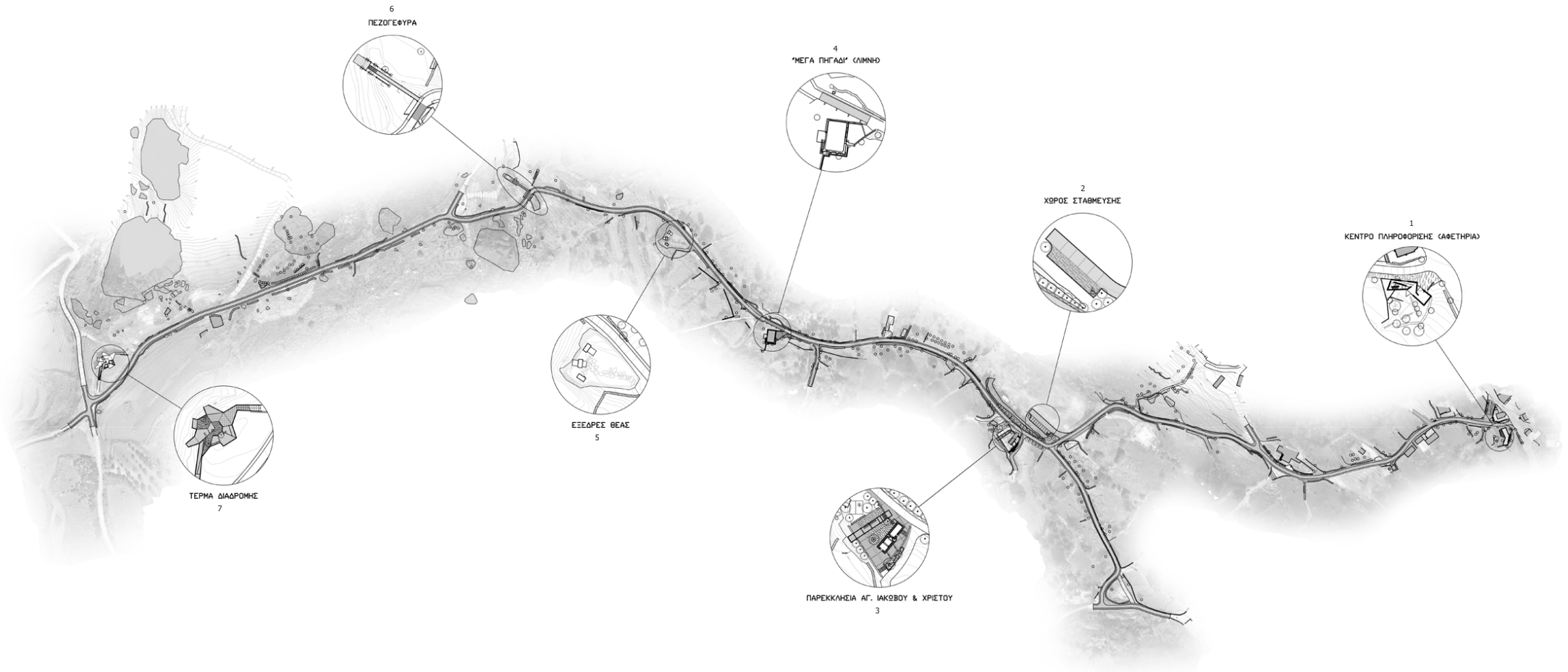
The project aimed to both improve the road, which was in poor condition, and create a connection between environmental, religious, and historical points of interest along a multi-cultural route. The primary goal was to shift the focus from vehicular traffic to pedestrian access, thereby enhancing the visitor experience.

Key design principles included:

- Preserving the route's existing relationship with the landscape and topography.
- Maintaining and restoring the dry-stone walls along the edges of the route.
- Ensuring that any new structures blend seamlessly with the surrounding landscape.
- Introducing plantings of local flora to enhance the area's greenery.

Several points of interest along the route have been identified and improved, with new additions to better serve visitors. These include:

- *Visitors Centre*: Providing information about the route, the village, and the region.
- *Landscaping of the surrounding area of the two 12th-Century Chapels*: Enhancing the area around these historic chapels, with restoration work overseen by the Department of Antiquities.
- *Colonial-Era Stone-Built Tank*: Preserving the existing stone-built tank and slightly shifting the road to the north to restore space around the structure.
- *View Points*: Creating spaces with structures that frame points of interest along the route.
- *Nature Observation Deck*: Located where the route meets an existing stream, offering a spot for visitors to enjoy the natural surroundings.
- *End of the Route-Rest Point*: Positioned at the end of the route, featuring viewing points that offer breathtaking views of Lara Bay and Akamas National Park.



legend

1. Visitors Centre
2. Parking Area
3. Christ & Saint Jacob's Chapels
4. "Mega Pigadi" Tank
5. View Points
6. Nature Observation Deck
7. End of the Route: Rest Point





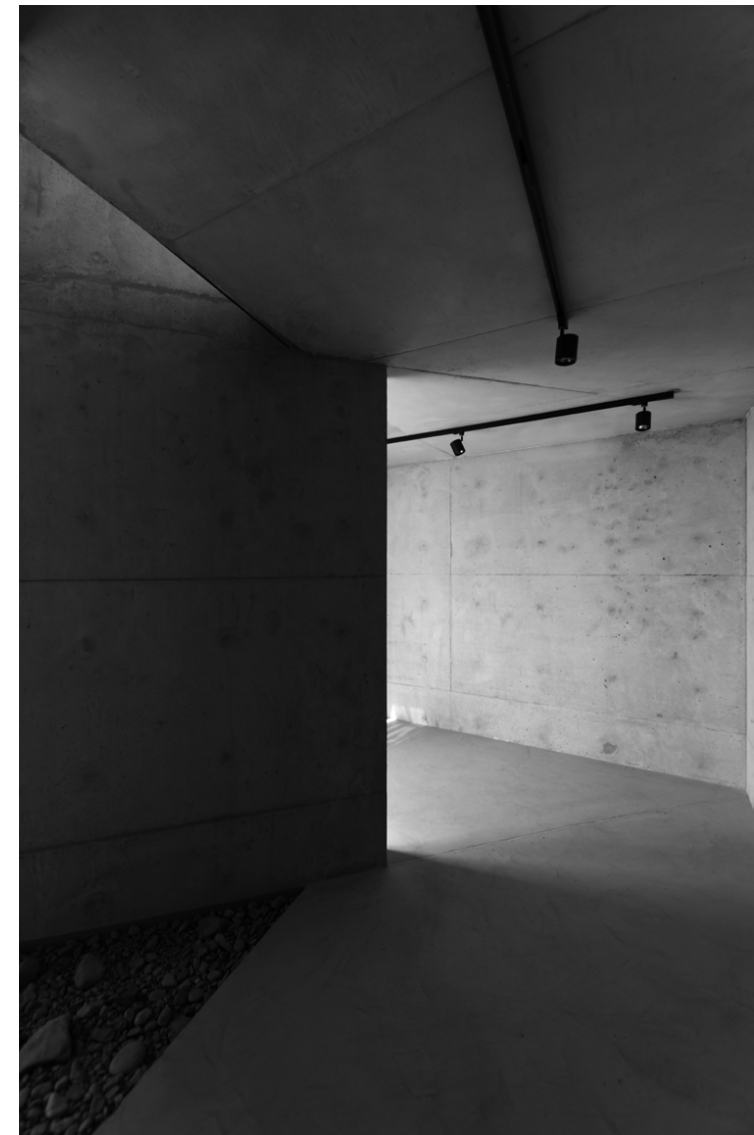
View from the west.



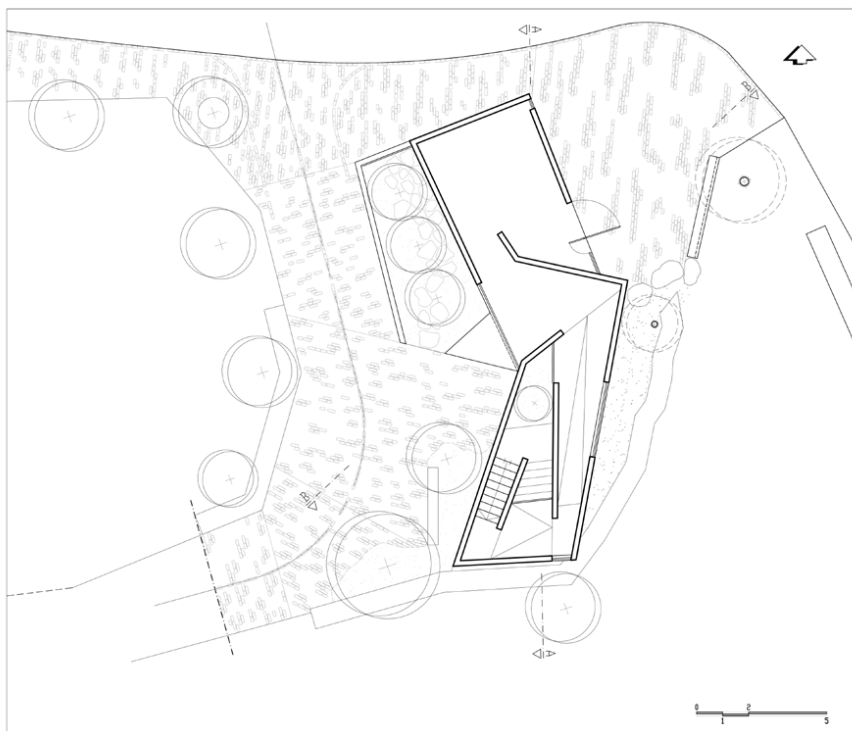
Entrance at the upper level.



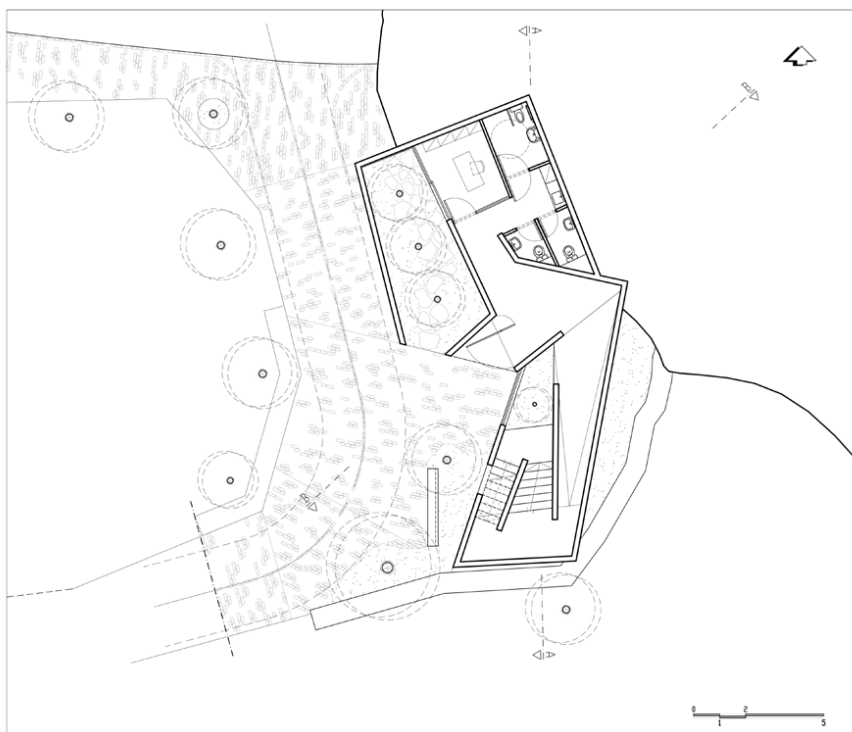
View from the south. A small plateau is formed in front of the lower-level entrance.



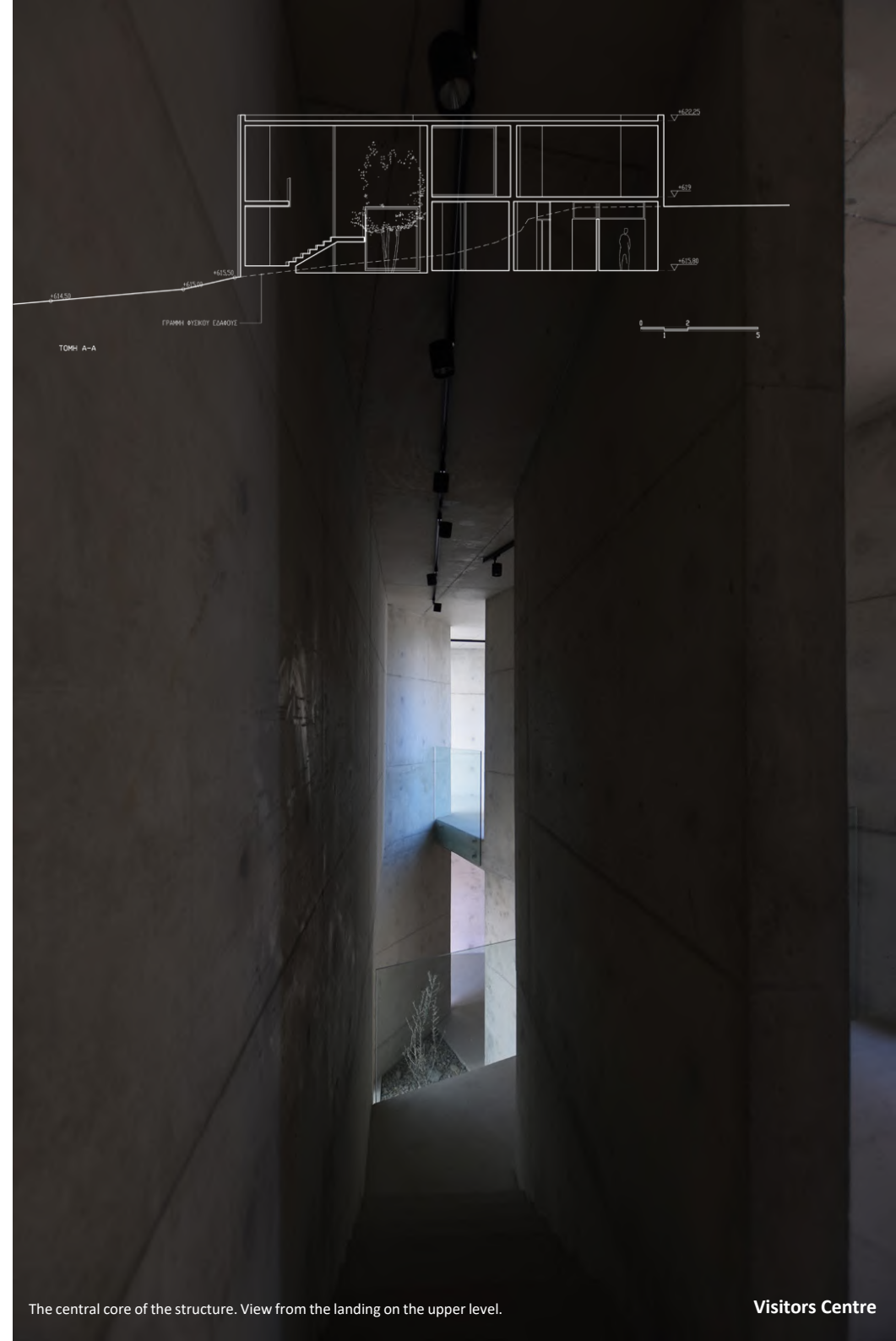
Just before the exit at the lower level...



Upper Floor Plan



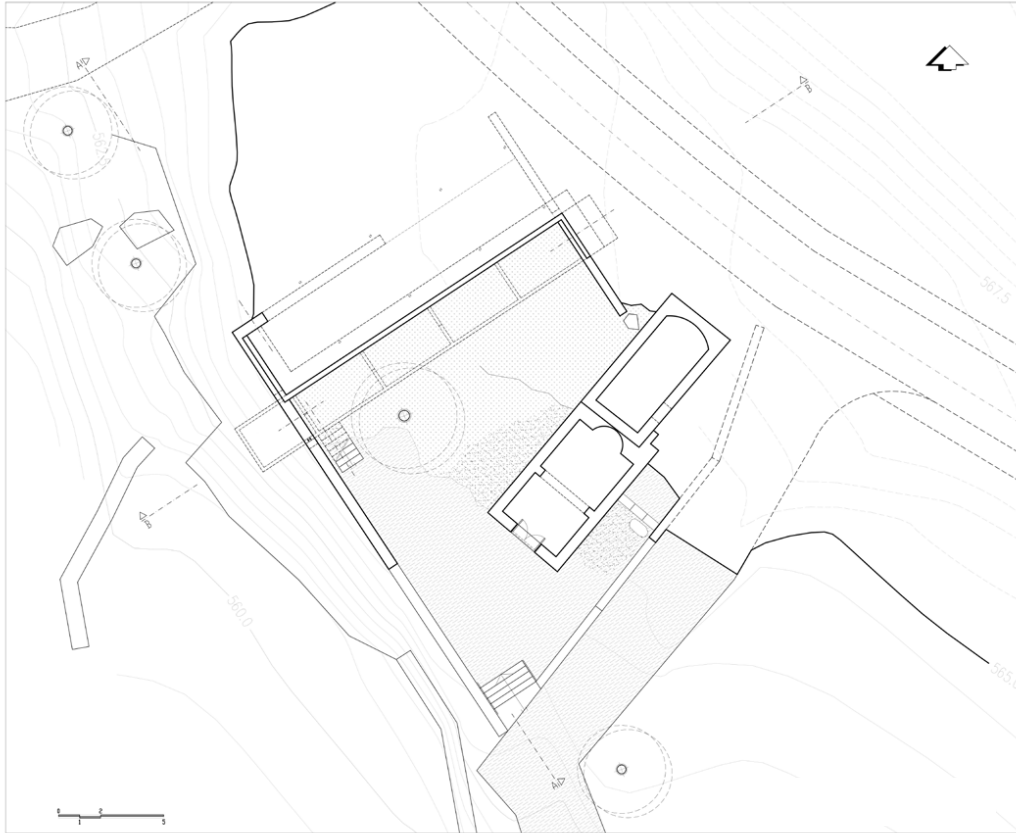
Lower Floor Plan



The central core of the structure. View from the landing on the upper level.



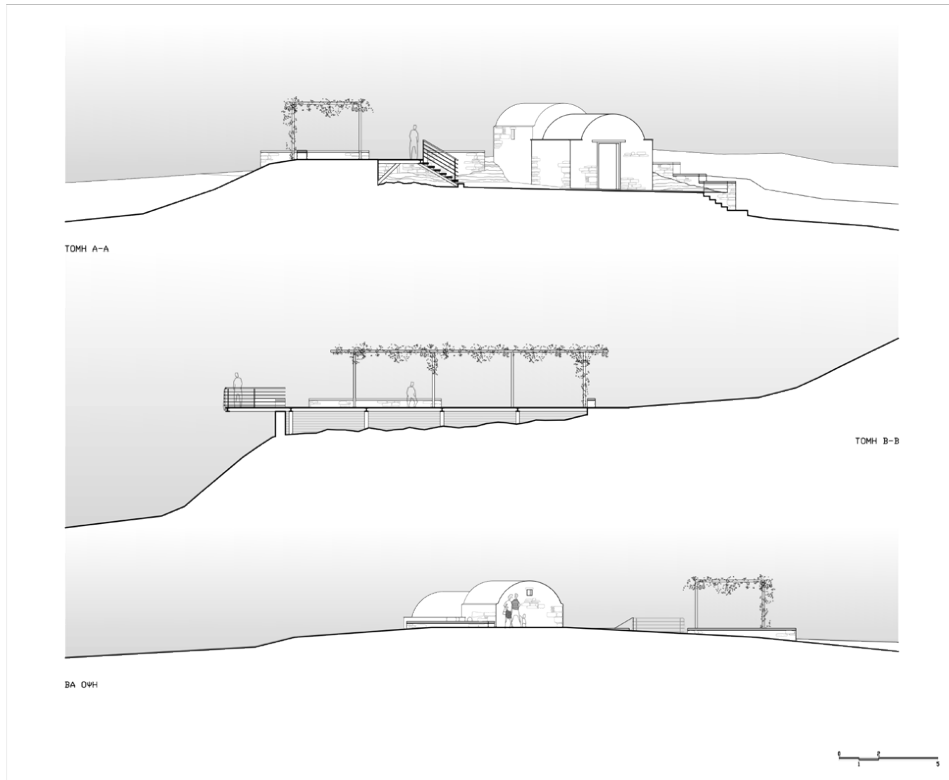
Looking upwards from within the central core.



Lower Level Plan



View from the southwest. Two levels are visible: to the right, the yard in front of the chapels; to the left, the deck and the trellis pergola at street level.



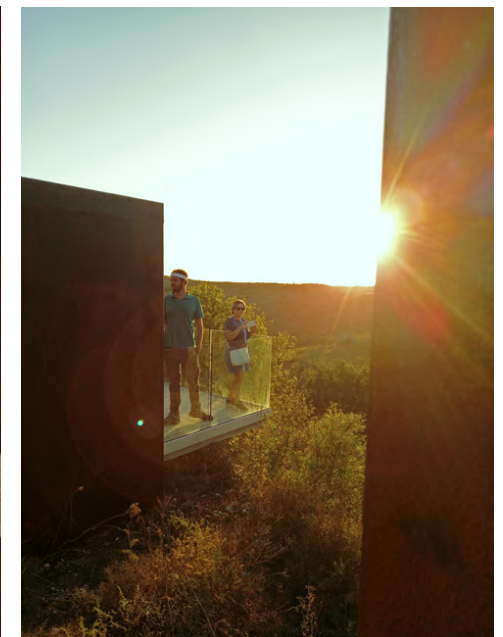
Sections



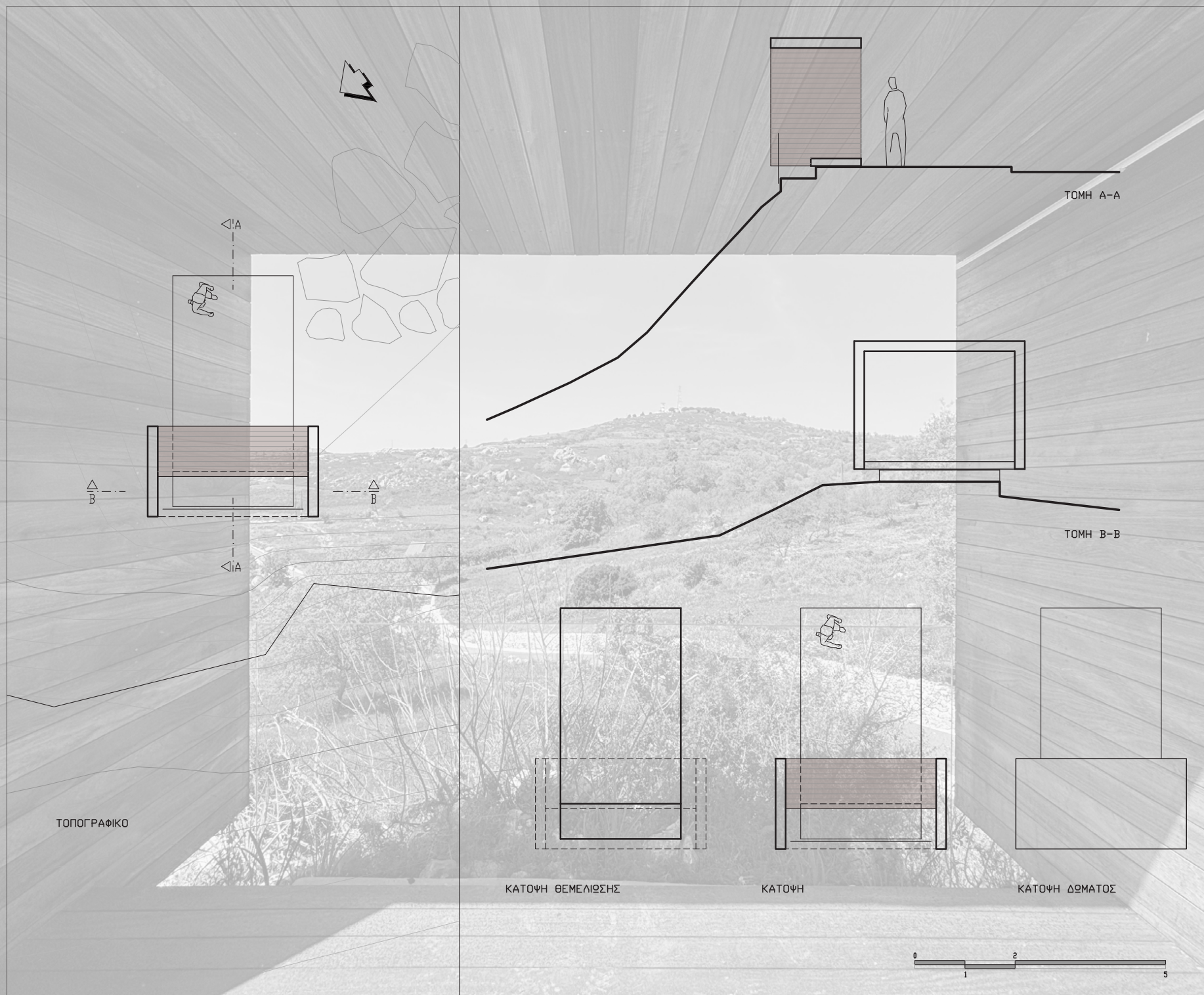
When the bedrock was uncovered during earthworks, the plans were revised in order to incorporate it into the design. The adjacent deck also serves this intention.



Three distinct structures share a common geometry, offering different spatial and experiential interactions between the user and the space.



Left: Framing the view through horizontal slits.
Right: An overlook suspended over the cliff's edge.



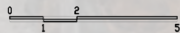
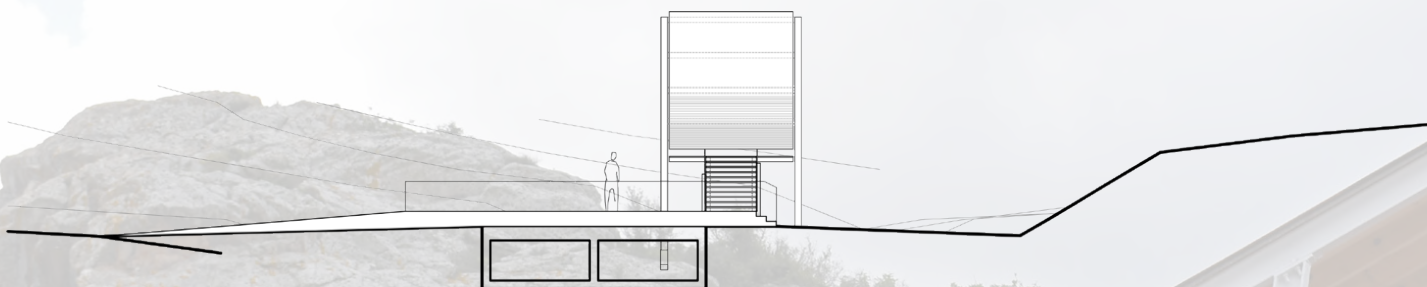


Falling behind, looking at fellow hikers from Viewing Platform 2. The dry-stone walls on both sides of the path are reconstructed.



Site Plan

A footbridge over the ravine, bypassing the main trail, acting as a "gateway" to the opposite hillside. Fully reversible structure (steel, wood, copper).





The trail continues within this structure, meandering, unfolding, ending in viewing balconies , and providing shelter - a place to pause and recharge before returning...

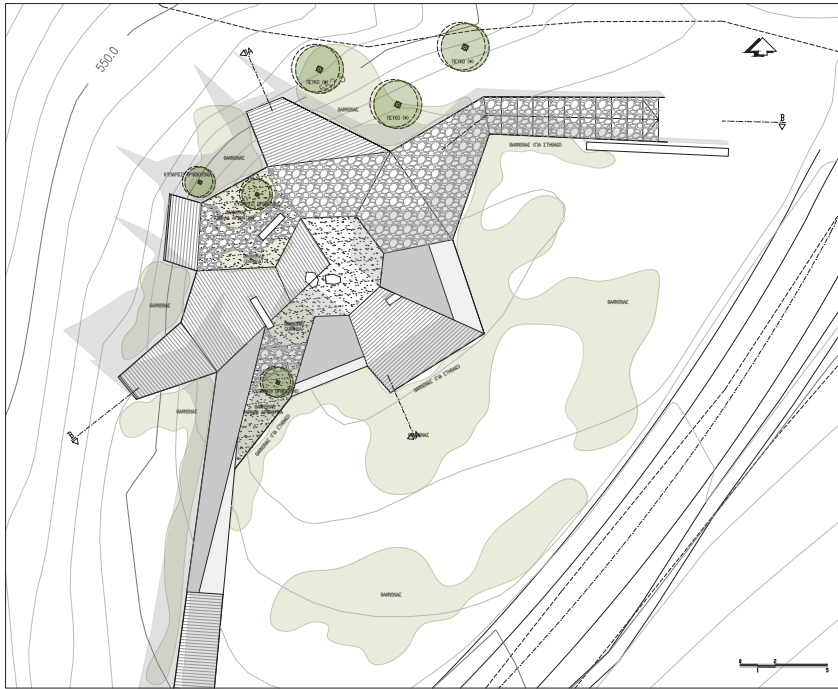
End of the Route: Rest Point



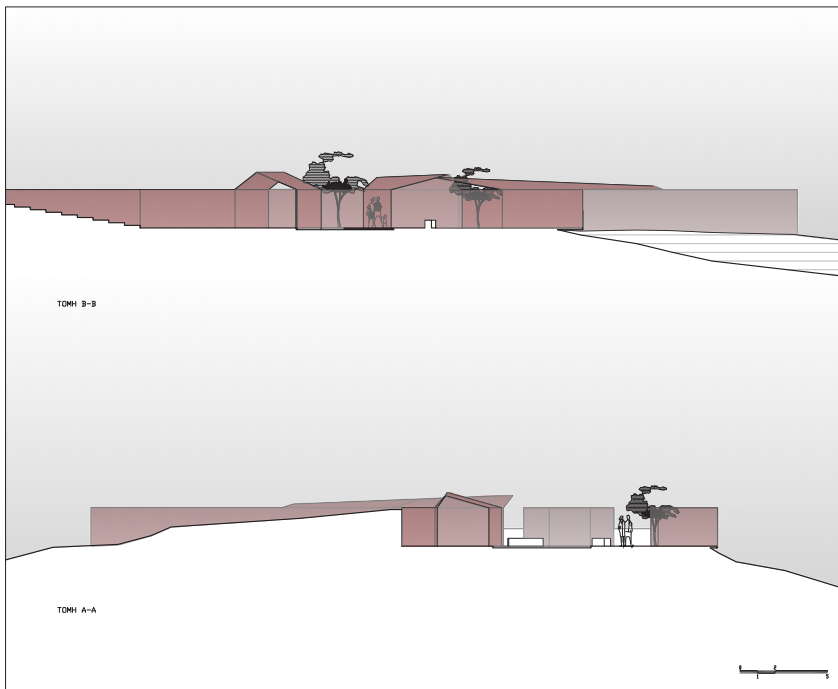
Left: The structure viewed backwards. Wood, locally sourced stone, soil, weathered steel (corten steel)...all integrated into the natural landscape.
Right: The view at the end of the trail. A glimpse of the horizon, the sky, and the sea.



End of the Route: Rest Point



Plan



Sections



Wood - stone - steel - earth...



Merging architecture with earth and sky.



Pre-existing condition. The concrete road was in poor shape. Its improvement and the connection of key environmental and historical landmarks were the main targets.



Natural rock formations and terrain "obstacles" defined the route's boundaries.



A structure within nature. Over time, surrounding vegetation is expected to embrace the structure, further integrating it into the landscape.