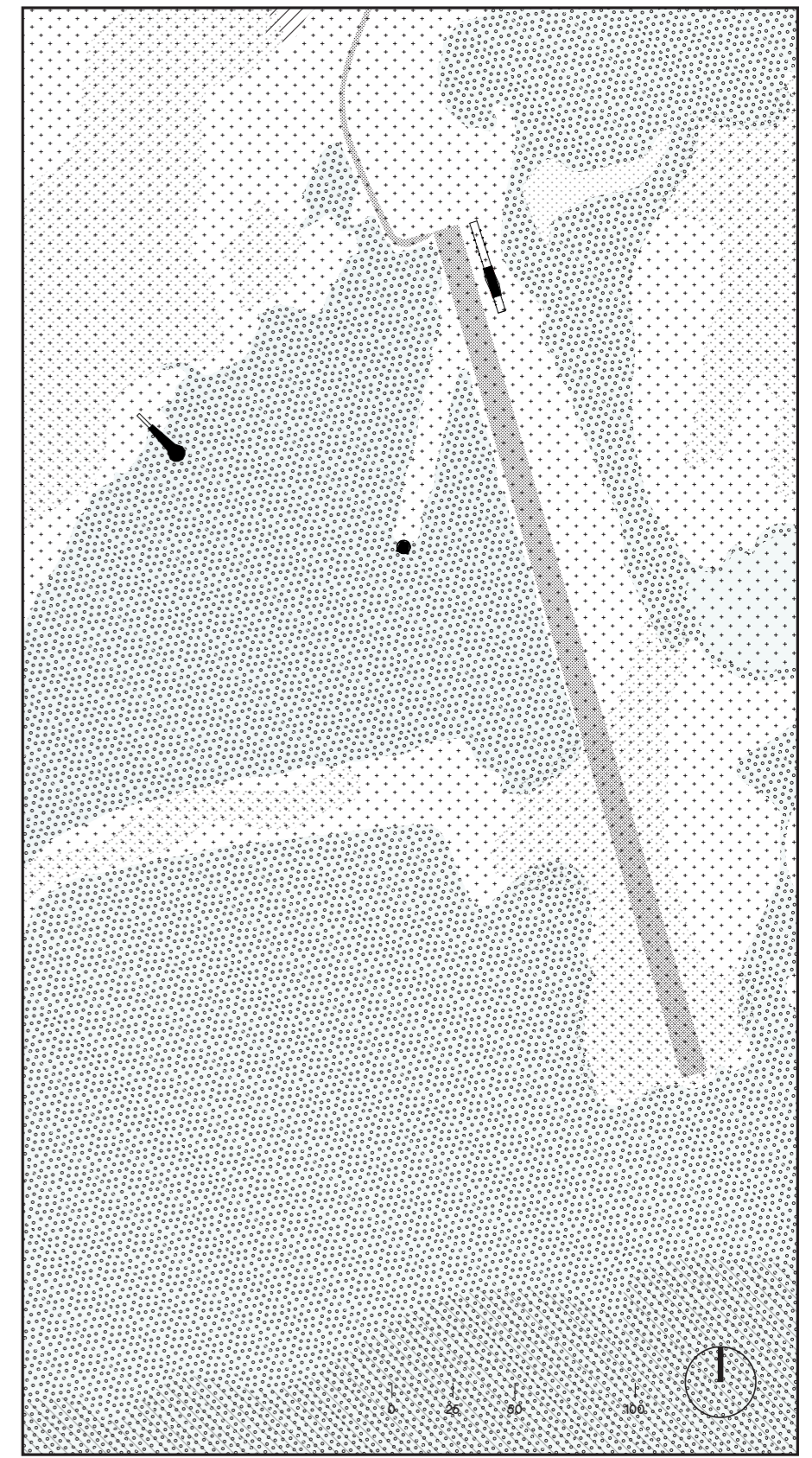
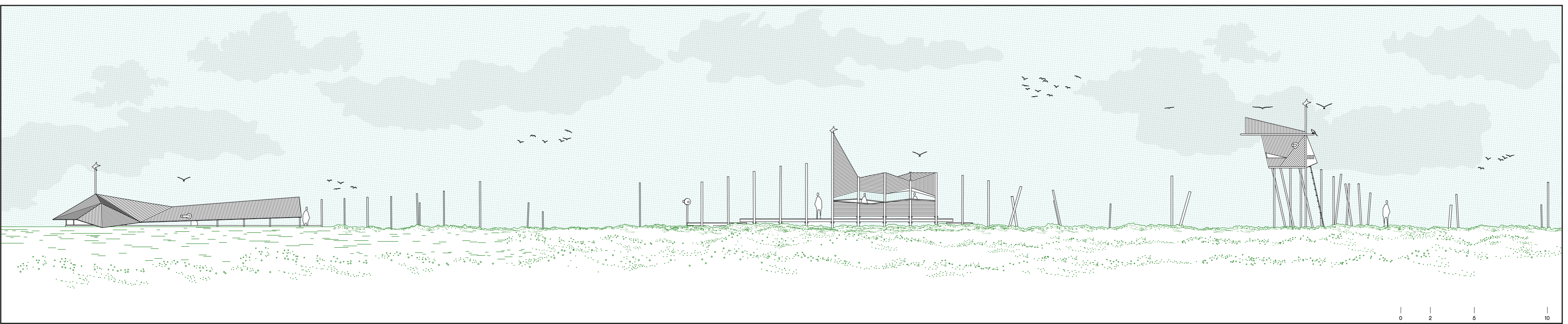


THE WHISPERERS OF THE QUIET STRIP



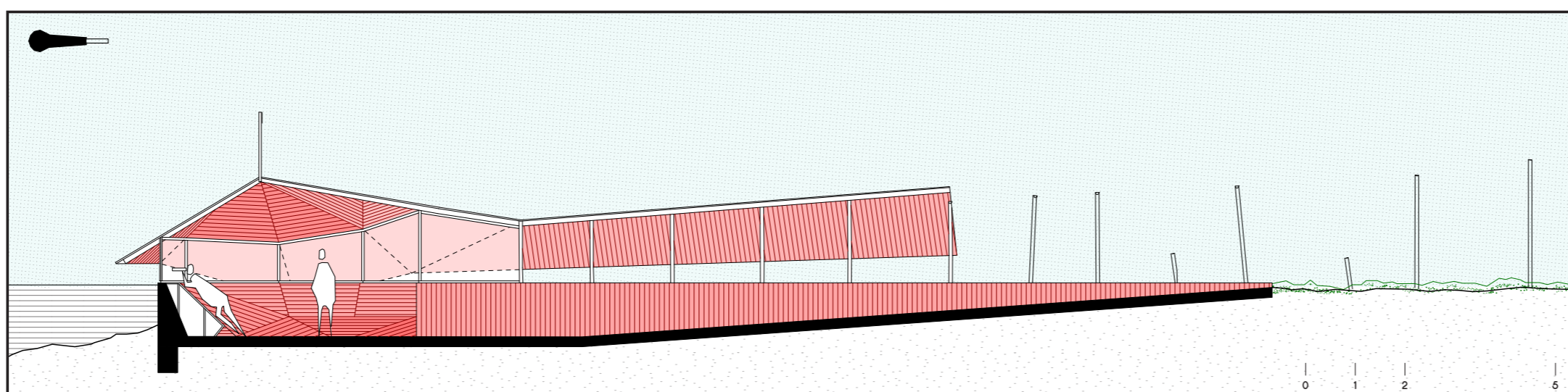
ONCE UPON A TIME, AT THE EDGE OF A QUIET LAGOON NEAR DJÚPAVOGUR, THREE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL CREATURES EMERGED FROM THE WATER.



THEY WERE NOT BIRDS, NOR BEASTS, NOR ANYTHING ANYONE HAD SEEN BEFORE.

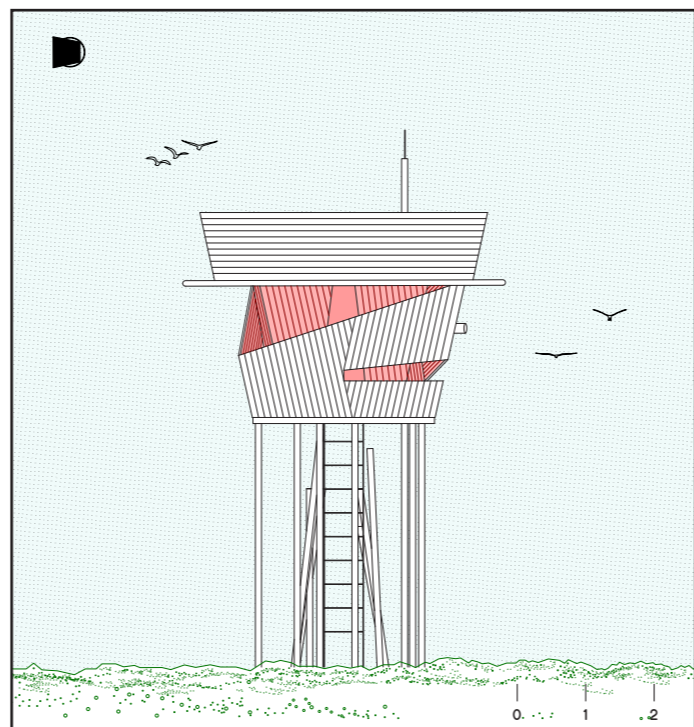
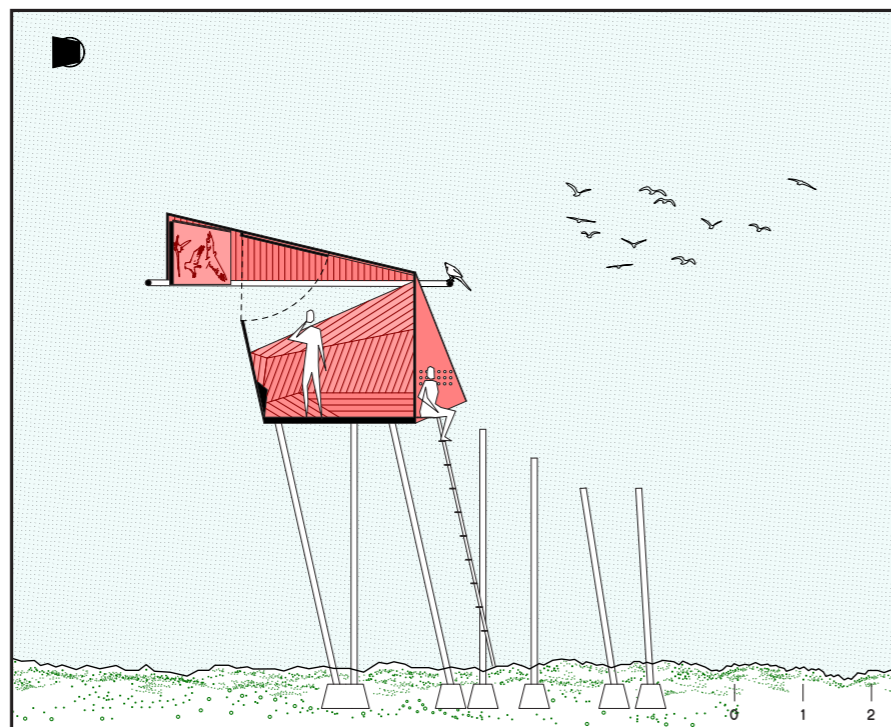
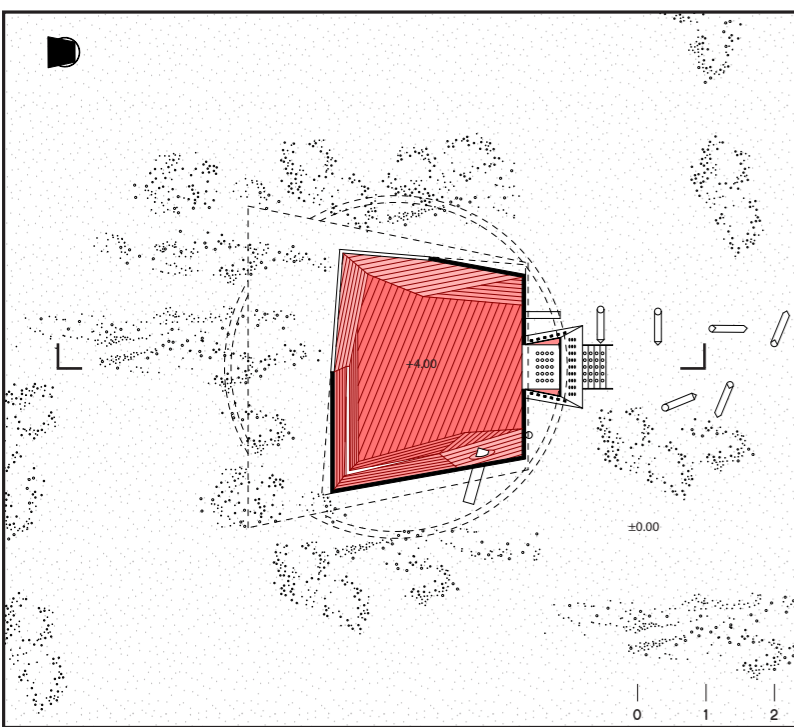
THEIR LONG POLES—PARTS OF THEIR OWN BODIES— HELPED THEM MARK THEIR PRESENCE AND SETTLE IN DIFFERENT POSITIONS. SOME VILLAGERS EVEN SAY THEY HAD SEEN THE CREATURES MOVE, APPEARING IN DIFFERENT SPOTS ALONG THE LAGOON.

DARK AND SLENDER, WITH LEGS AS THIN AS REEDS AND EYES THAT GAZED OUT OVER THE WATER, THEY SOON EARNED A NAME AMONG THE VILLAGERS.

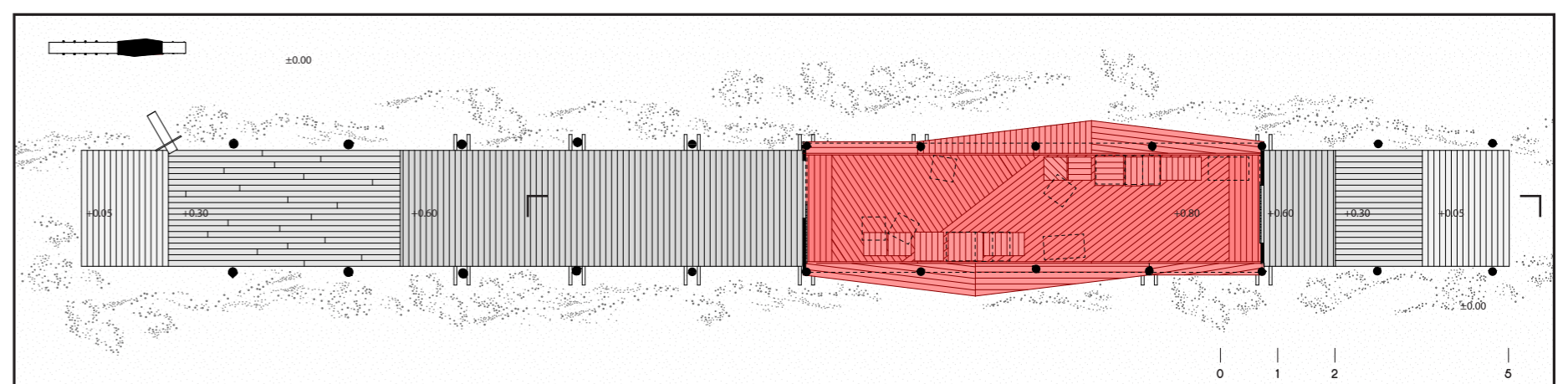


EACH CREATURE HAD ITS OWN SPECIAL WAY OF SEEING THE WORLD. ONE CROUCHED LOW TO THE GROUND, PEEKING ALONG THE GRASS WHERE BIRDS DANCED AND PLAYED.

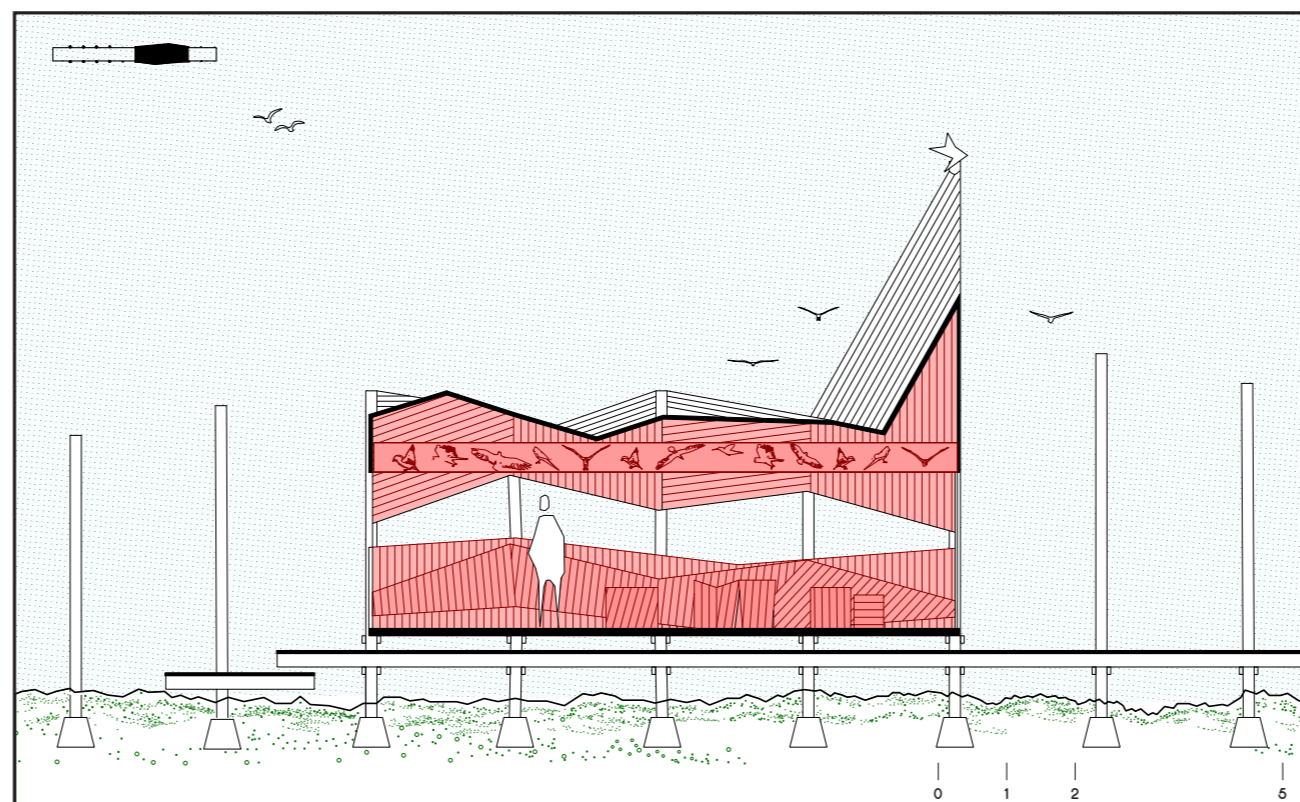
THE WHISPERERS OF THE QUIET STRIP FOR THEY CHOSE TO REST ALONG AN OLD ABANDONED LANDING STRIP WHERE AIRPLANES NO LONGER CAME.



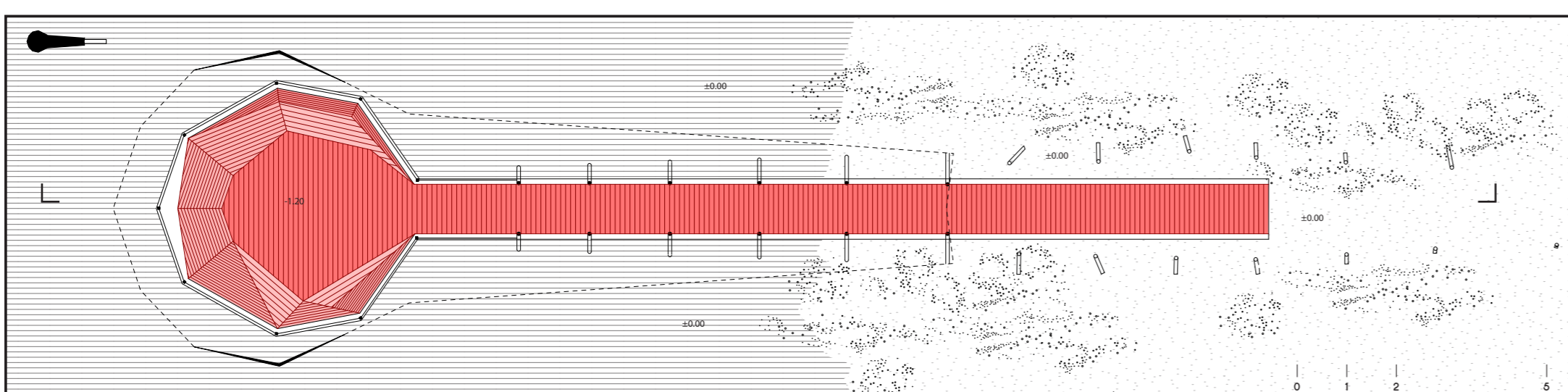
ONE STOOD PROUDLY ABOVE THE SHIMMERING WATER, WATCHING THE BIRDS SKIM AND SPLASH JUST BENEATH ITS FEET.



AND THE TALLEST LIFTED ITS GAZE TO HORIZON, WHERE BIRDS SOARED AND VANISHED INTO THE CLOUDS.



PEOPLE SOON LEARNED THAT THE THREE CREATURES HAD COME FOR A REASON: TO HELP EVERYONE SEE THE HIDDEN WONDERS OF THE LAGOON. FAMILIES STEPPED INSIDE THEIR QUIET, GLOWING BELLIES TO WATCH BIRDS NESTING, FEEDING, AND FLYING THEIR ANCIENT PATHS.



STILL AND CALM SO AS NOT TO FRIGHTEN THE WILDLIFE, THEY OBSERVE THE WORLD THROUGH THEIR LONG, NARROW EYES. PATIENT COMPANIONS TO THE BIRDS, SILENT GUARDIANS OF THE LAGOON, THEY REMIND EVERY VISITOR THAT THE WORLD IS FULL OF MAGICAL CREATURES.

