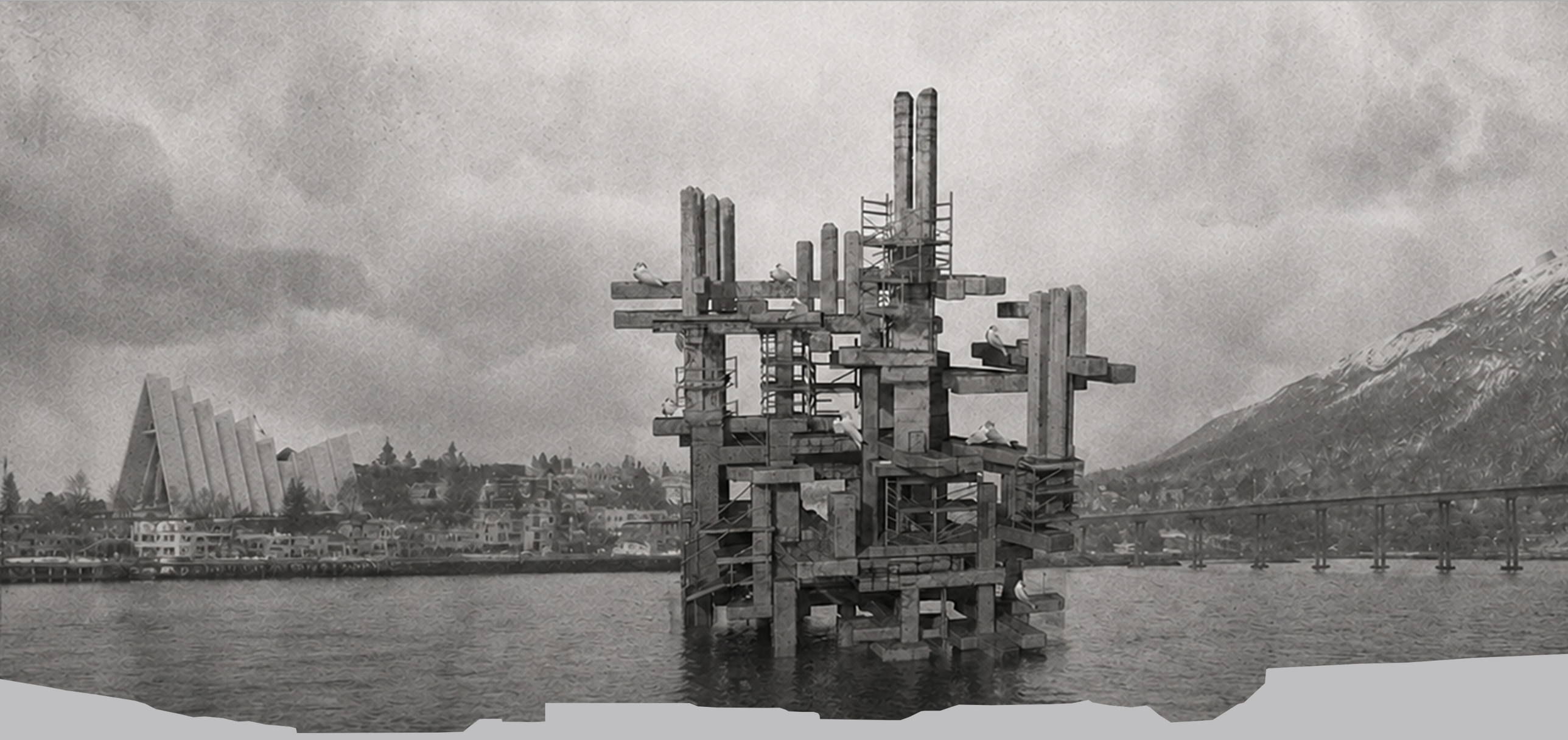
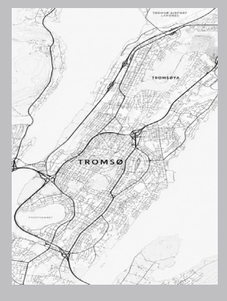






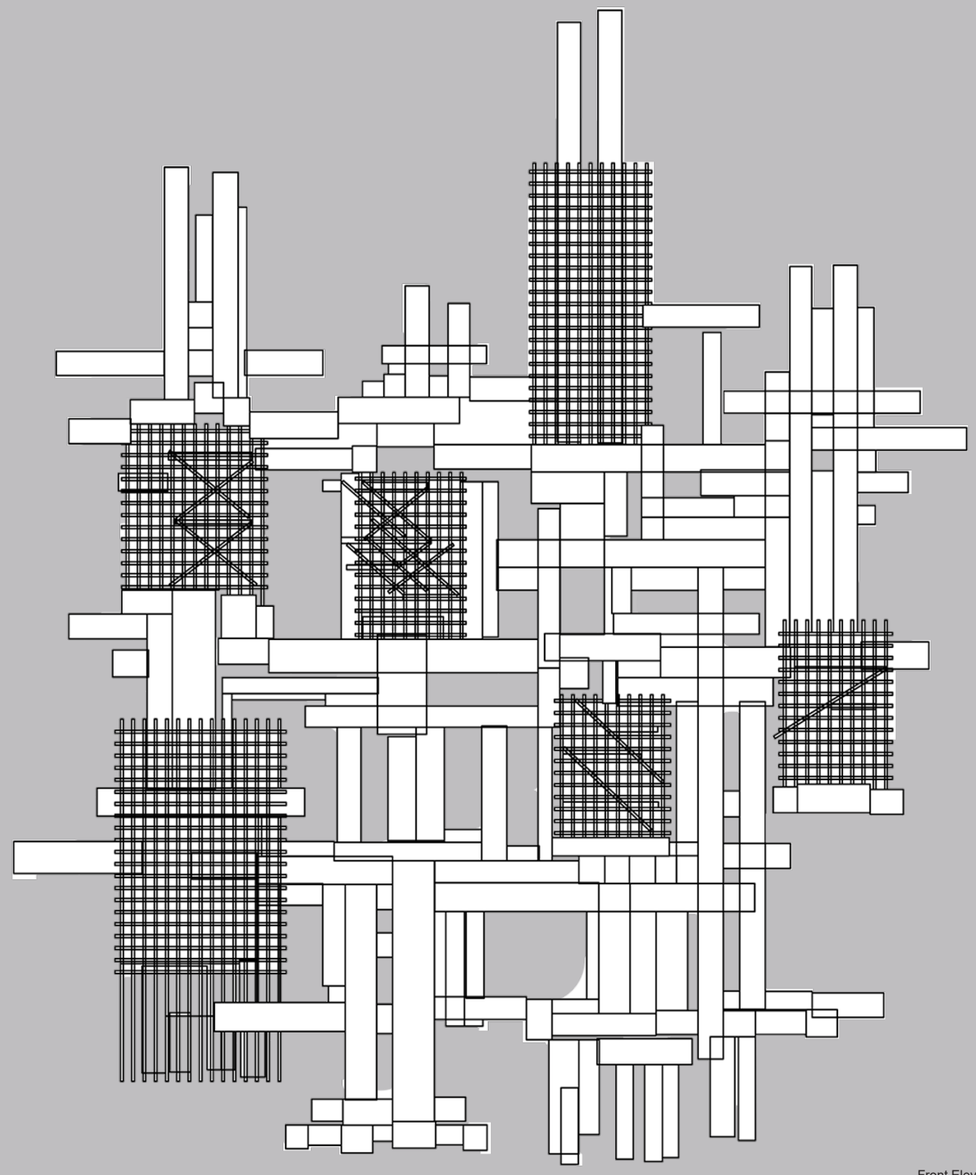




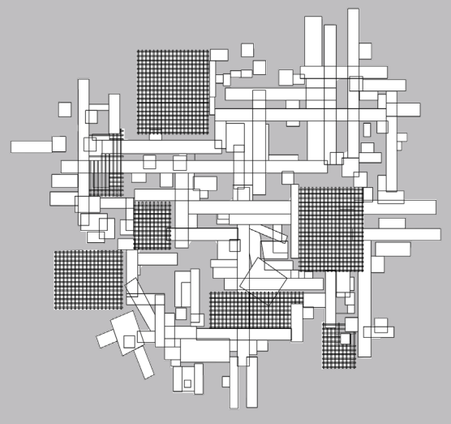


# False Terrain

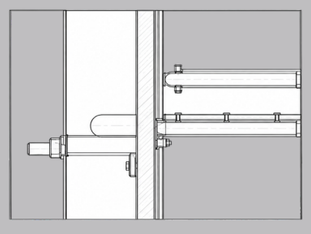
LOCATED AT ALTI NERSTRANDA, TROMSØ — 69.64620° N, 18.95447° E, FALSE TERRAIN CREATES A NEW VERTICAL HABITAT ALONG THE WATERFRONT, GIVING KITTIWAKES A DEDICATED SPACE TO NEST WITHIN THE URBAN LANDSCAPE.

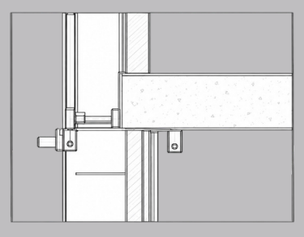


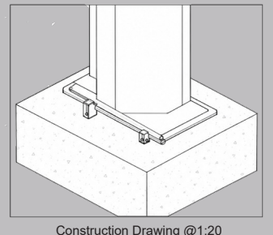
Front Elevation @1:50



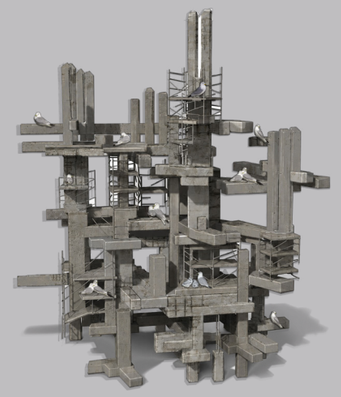
Plan @ 1:150







Construction Drawing @1:20







# False Terrain

Where infrastructure becomes landscape, and structure becomes habitat — creating a new vertical world for kittiwakes.

We don’t see the kittiwake as a guest who has overstayed, but as a resident whose address changed. At Alti Nerstranda, the colony moved from the sea cliffs to the shopping centre’s ledges because the building already behaved like a cliff. Its eastern, harbour-facing elevation looks across Tromsøysundet toward the mainland, and every deterrent has only pushed the birds a few hundred metres along the same façade. We don’t think the answer is to move them further.

Our structure does not disguise itself as nature. It remains visibly scaffold, formwork and falsework — construction that is never struck. The kittiwake claimed this façade without permission, so the structure concedes a home rather than offering one.

Thin cantilevered shells of geopolymer concrete, made from local industrial waste, reduce embodied carbon while echoing the mineral character of the basalt cliffs and SALT peaks. Left unsealed, they weather with lichen and salt spray, gradually becoming part of the landscape.

Raised on stilts in the harbour at the height of the existing nests, the structure takes the same wind, salt and exposure as the cliffs. The shopping centre remains unchanged; what changes is that its eastern façade formally holds the colony it already houses.