

The Pier


Oficina: KAVAKAVA ARHITEKTUURIBÜROO (Siiri Vallner, Indrek Peil)

Lugar: Kalarand, Tallinn, Estonia, 2011

Fotografías: Margit Argus, Siiri Vallner, Grete Veskivali, Kaido Haagen

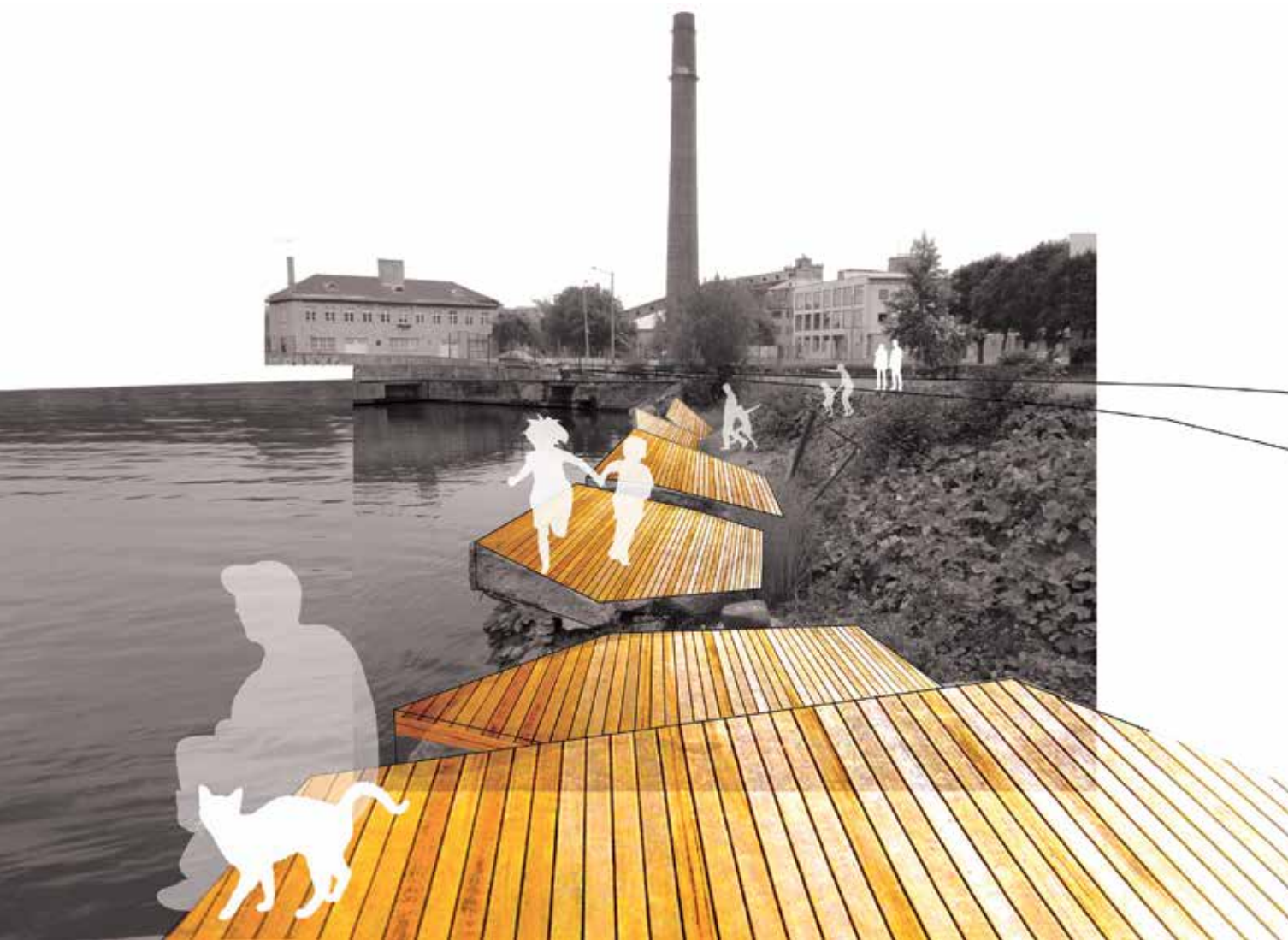
Located in a quieter part of the generally busy port in Tallinn, Estonia, the pier was entirely site specific; however, it is conceivable that it could have been situated in other similar locations. Siiri Vallner had been observing the crumbling pier for several years until she had the opportunity to propose a project for the 2011 urban installation festival: Lift11. Rather than a more involved design, which might have distracted from the geological beauty of the cracked concrete slab, Vallner covered each piece with wooden decking. The result was a fragmented and undulating surface that transformed an abandoned space into a place for sitting, sunbathing, and play.

Such a poetic solution invites interpretation. This reminds me of a walk I took a decade and a half ago along the East River in New York, working my way through a decaying industrial landscape. Hopping from the concrete chunks of deteriorating wharfs to the large boulders of break walls and clambering around fences at the water's edge was a complete adventure, but I remained constantly in sight of the shiny Manhattan towers. As I scrambled along, I couldn't help thinking that it was unfortunate that the waterfront could not be enjoyed by more people. As many cities face the need to transform their post-industrial waterfronts for new purposes, many have turned to upscale residential developments and shopping experiences: solutions that foreclose other possibilities. Vallner's Pier both celebrated the potential of the existing site and was (maybe unintentionally) critical of the massive interventions that would open up the waterfront only to people who could afford the gentrified amenities.

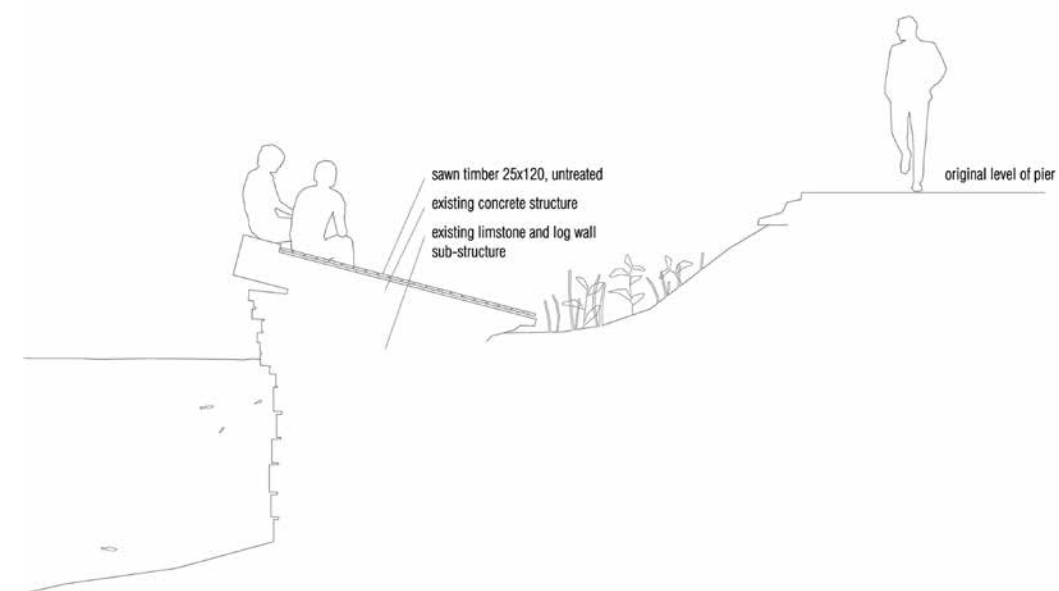
Vallner, who won the Union of Estonian Architects' first Young Architect Award in 2008, established her firm Kavakava in 2002 with Indrek Peil. They run a small office and work collaboratively with other practices for larger projects. Most of their work results from competitions for public and institutional clients. They first gained recognition with their 2003 Museum of Occupations in Tallinn, and in 2013 were awarded a State Culture award by Narva College at the University of Tartu. 



La instalación y su entorno



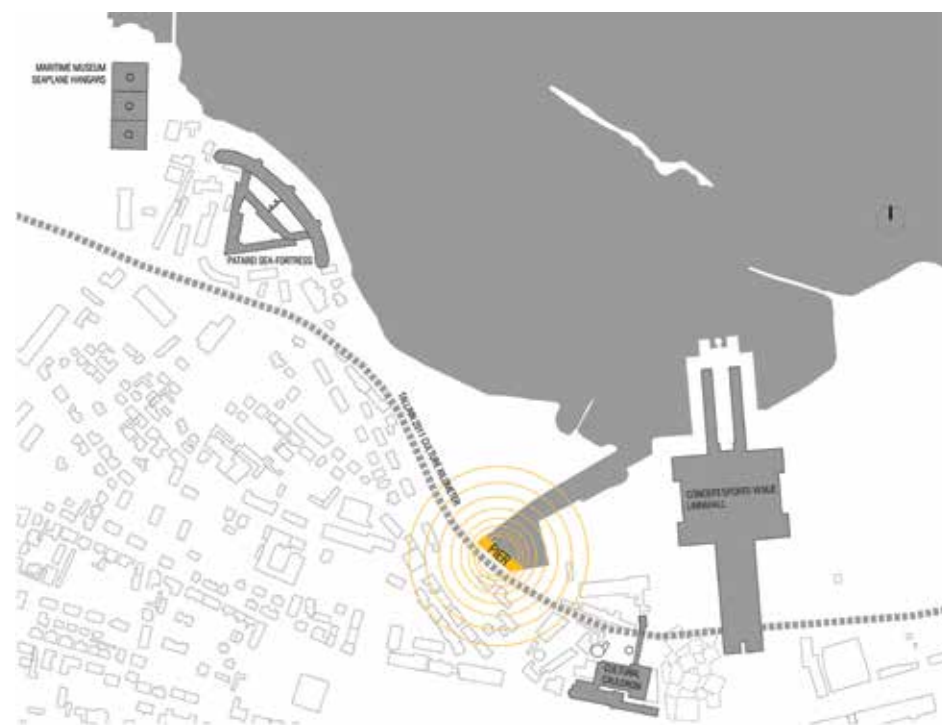
Dibujos de la propuesta



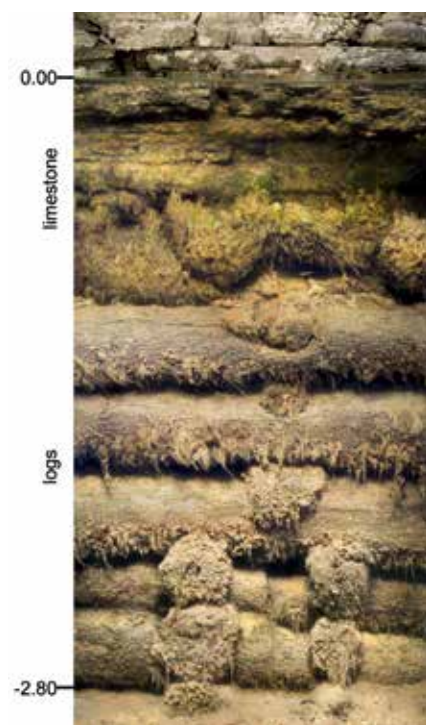
Sección transversal de la propuesta



La instalación en uso



Localización



Corte del terreno



Actividad en la instalación