

## Arctic Present. The case of Teriberka

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### 1. Introduction. Landscapes of Consequences

When we consider the landscape as an endless process, where Nature and Culture act as parts of the same process – an image of a constantly changeable and changing Machine of the Land comes to mind (Butler, in Deleuze and Guattari, 1972). All the parts of this Machine are mutually influenced and are interconnected into the non-hierarchical loops. Some of the reactions run immediately after certain actions and the others need time to happen. Each of these changes could cause rather extreme consequences or have just a slight effect. This system never comes back to the same condition twice, it is constantly evolving. To describe every new form, one would not be able to simply paraphrase the existing urban terms, as the classical conceptions are not capable to articulate them. The linear development Nature – Culture – Anthropocene is not applicable to such characterization. Nevertheless, the causes and the following consequences as the stages of this evolution could be defined and valued in a certain way.

#### 1.1

The landscape of a country is always a playground for the political events. Even so in the disposal of Russia, there is a huge territory, almost all the landscape of the country has undergone many significant changes as a consequence of evolving political and strategic interests over the past century. The landscape platform together with the population distribution was involved in many changes caused by the "grand political redesign" (Koolhaas, 2017).

The land practically "serves" the country – resulting in the pathological changes caused by the imbalanced use (polar conditions: abuse and disuse). The exploitative treatment of the land comes from its endless size as well – where there are plenty of unexplored spaces, rich with the different kinds of resources, none of them is perceived as irreplaceable and unique and worthy to treat it with care.

#### 1.2 *The Great Russian North*

Though the northern territories are defined with the extreme conditions, they were articulated as being of the extreme importance due to their abundance of resources. The beginning of the 20th century was determined by the heavy industrialization processes in the country which moved further based on the planned economy. In order to overcome the gap in relation to the western world, to rapidly explore and industrialize the land and to provide it with the necessary resources the whole territory was redefined as a huge machine, which has to work coherently to achieve the ultimate goals. The North had to become the main provider for this program. Therefore the Northern pioneer cities were established to maintain the enormous masses of a workforce, resettled from all over the country.

#### 1.3 *Security*

The notion of the "border zone" defines the special status of the perimeter land of the Russian state by precise restrictions on access and the land use. Meanwhile, it is worth to mention the varying nature of such regulations and to consider the constant shift in their

breadth and restrictions. Historically the settlement structure in the border areas reasonably achieved higher density due to the economic and cultural exchange with the bordering countries (traditionally this territory was under the responsibility of the Ministry of Finance). The coastline settlements were naturally established during the process of the land development from the sea-side and they were sea-oriented (in terms of the resources and means of transportation).

In the 20th century the border zone has become a “frozen belt”, which caused the “operated thinning” of the territories situated at the ground borders (by the forced evacuation to the other settlements in the inner lands) and placing the new counterpoints (in fact military bases) at the coastline in order to control the situation.

With the collapse of the USSR, the border regulations were temporarily suspended and the width of the border zones had shrunk to 15 km. Moreover, their oversight was given to the regional administrations, which caused the monopolization of the resources (especially where fossil fuels and natural sea resources are concerned).

Just recently (2009) the closed formation state was repealed in Teriberka and some other settlements at the Kola Peninsula. Nevertheless, the coastline 12 nautical miles remain in the status of the territorial waters (1982, United Nations Convention). This status presupposes the existence of certain special regulations in use. This means, that the coastline location affects the economic, cultural and everyday life of the settlement. Teriberka was established as a sea-based settlement, oriented on the use of the sea resources and oriented at the international trade and connections. Nowadays the settlement has become introverted and shifted its orientation towards the land. Consequently, it was deprived of its main defining source, - the waterscape, remaining remote and in the lack of basic infrastructure and ground transportation facilities.

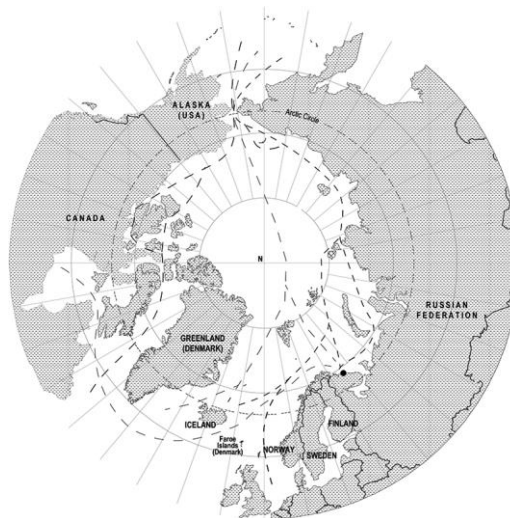


Figure 1: Teriberka on the world map

#### 1.4 Forever ephemeral

The North nowadays is balancing between the thinning epidemic after the great progress [failure] of XX century and the new models of present Petropolis utopia (White and Sheppard, 2008). In the contemporary conditions driven by the market economy and the age of advanced technology, the land is rated by its profitable value and with no regard to the essence of the land. Present trends illustrate increased human dependence on natural resources and maintenance of the ecological balance, though it has already become an unattainable goal.

The historical nomadic nature of settling is back, but in a new nature of invisible exurban landscaping, driven by hydrocarbon resources and operated by machines (White and Sheppard, 2008). The tendency of relocations from uninhabitable north sites runs parallel to an official abandonment of the settlements, partially maintaining just a few strategic ones. The consequences of such trends are already visible, but the real effects will present themselves in the nearest future. The new explorations are realized in a nomadic way with constant relocations and temporary structures. This, on the one hand, thins the land and the urban structure, and on the other creates new transformations which lead to the vitally important re-urbanization of the land, gradually erasing the traces of the previous interventions. But whereas the fossil fuels based nomad urbanism with its exploitative nature destroys the natural forms and cycles (both land- and waterscapes) with no possibility for recovery, there are still the other rational and responsible ways of further development of these territories.

## 2. The impossibility of the North

Arguing from the geopolitical criteria, fighting for the North nowadays makes sense like it had never done before. Nevertheless, the question of fighting for the human presence in the North remains open.

There is no doubt, that keeping the constant settlement in the North is unprofitable, it demands lots of resources and energy and constantly meets with the new problems.

Does this edge of the Earth correlate with the notion of Freedom and open possibilities? Does it have enough power to confront the feeling of remoteness and the state of abandoned? Does it turn at some point into the endless North with forever high hopes?

“Russian North was developed and domesticated on a disgustingly different basis by the people with the different mind. Arguing economically, it is unprofitable, and everyone understands it, therefore already with its existence Russian North refutes the liberal way of thinking.” (from the Felix Razumovsky interview for the Anastasis magazine)

## 3. Barents Region

Considering the Land is not the territory of a certain state, but rather the coexisting place of certain communities, which share common interests and have to deal with the same issues, invites reconsideration of the notion of the state borders and an introduction of the different regulations of borderlands.

In the Land with open borders live the people with open minds. In this project, Barents Region evolves in a self-sustained Land, based on the special economic regulations. As an important world stakeholder, it takes part in controlling the situation in the Arctic.

**New Blue Economy** is established in the network of the coastline settlements of the Barents Sea and the White Sea. Providing the rural areas of Finnmark and the Kola Peninsula with the strong water and air connections aims to deal with the remoteness and support the economy, as well as establish new cultural interactions. As a part of special economic agreements and cooperation, a visa-free zone needs to be set up in certain towns and villages. This dispersed structure of the network of compact units promises to become a strong alternative to urban sprawl.

Thinning settlements are becoming highly unprofitable and hard to maintain in the traditional way, especially the remote ones. When the settlement acquires the newly small scale it is in need of re-organization and re-establishing basic life principles. This project suggests to turn them into autonomous functioning. While remaining dependent on the weather and natural environment conditions, they shall adapt to such vibrant seasonality and profit from it where possible. Sufficiency is the key aspect (the driver) of the new lifestyle. By providing the

communities with the minimal necessary, each settlement finds its own balance of communal and individual demands.

Settlements are like islands, nodes of a decentralized network. Being maximally self-sustained, they strive not only for surviving in severe Arctic conditions but also to accumulate the strength of the communities. In order to keep and develop the in-land and international connections, localities (each one as an independent member) use such instruments as cultural festivals, sports competitions, discussions, open forums, celebrations, involving their neighbors from the Region to participate.

Aiming to support the national identities on the one side and to promote the cross-national communication on the other side the local Barents radio network shall be established. Led by the locals from the different corners of the Region, it shall broadcast the local news and programs in different languages and dialects, as well as the language lessons, folklore, and contemporary music. The wind turbine aerostats shall identify the villages physically and provide them with the radio waves receiver, thereby creating the necessary engagement between local residents of the coast and the events associated with the Region.

Teriberka being the part of this network shall become globally open and site-oriented simultaneously.

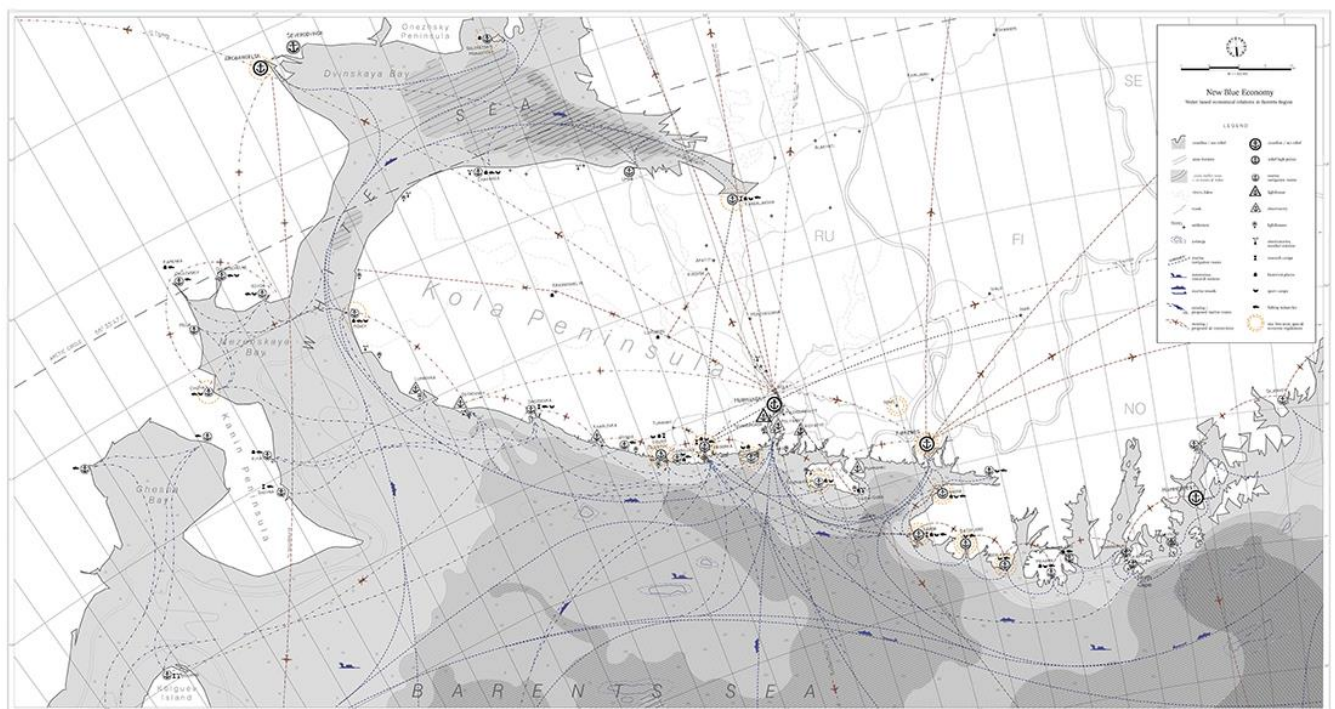


Figure 2: New Blue Economy. Water-based economic relations in Barents Region



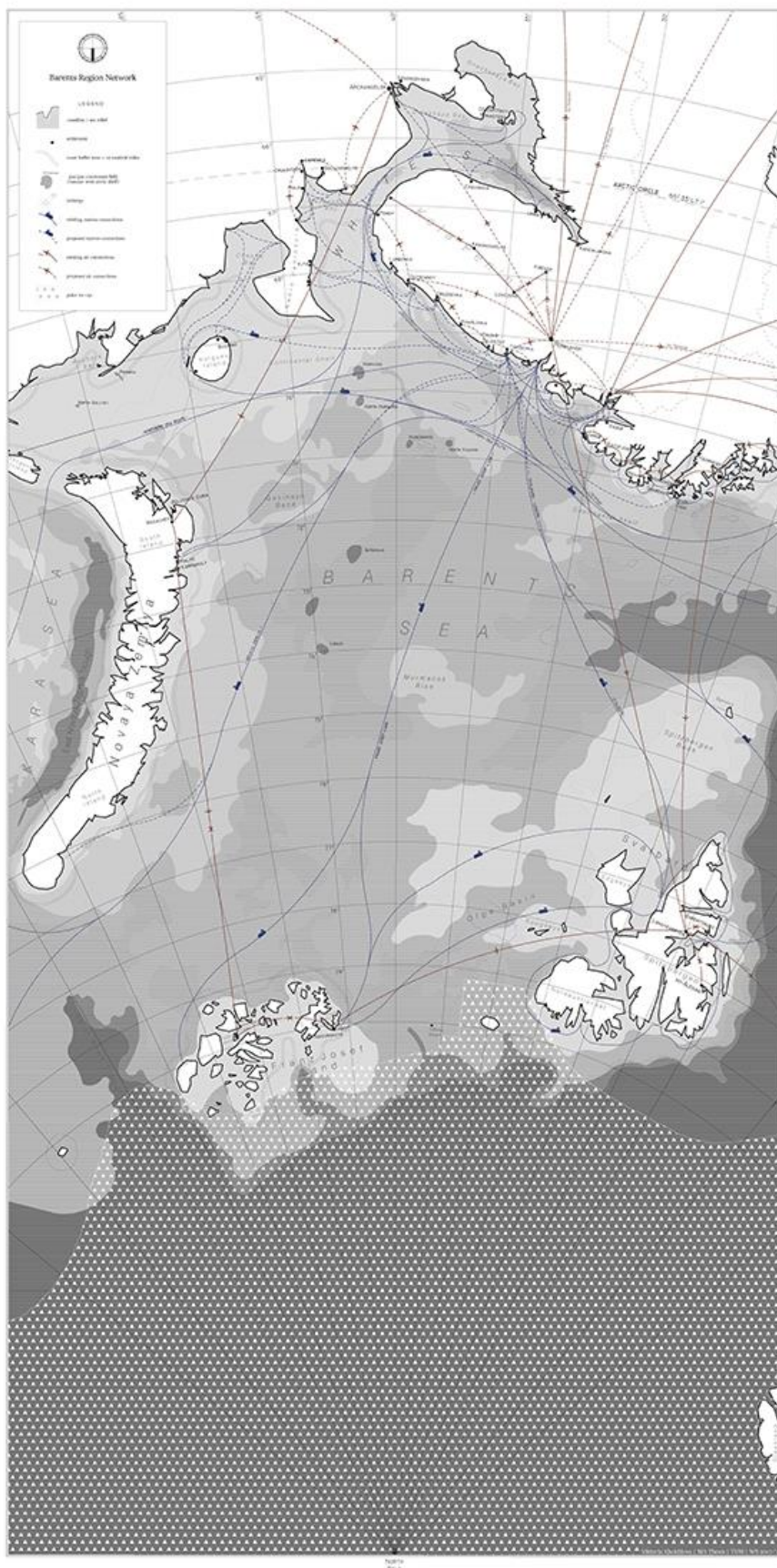


Figure 3: Barents Region Network



*Figure 4: Teriberka. View from above. Para-kites are harvesting the wind energy*

## 4. Research Camp Teriberka

### 4.1 Learning the Land

Special restrictions on access in recent decades have provided the coastline of Kola Peninsula with the relative safety in terms of social life and more importantly have preserved the landscape and nature. Meanwhile, the Land which once was thoroughly studied has recently undergone another set of crucial changes as a result of human actions, Soviet times experiments, global oceans or selected animals species transformations.

Aiming to meet the healthy balance between the natural environment and the artificial elements as a continuation of the landscape, the area around the settlement proposed to be turned into the research camp.

To be able to act sufficiently and responsively the specialists would have to diagnose the landscape and the waterscape simultaneously. International research groups would work on the contemporary Arctic exploration in the time of change. Together they shall identify the issues and work on solving them. The existing weather station, which captures the climate changes at the Barents coast, in project enlarges and turns into an observatory, which controls the contemporary Arctic changes. Collaborative teams of specialists, with such professionals among them as historians, geologists, biologists and microbiologists, oceanographers, ecologists, meteorologists and others, will seasonally undertake experimental supervision in the field. Each migrating research module shall be publicly accessible.

New technologies are being tested to find the most appropriate ones for the place. Companies are welcome to test their pilot projects and to contribute to the stable development of the village. In order to maximally profit from the geographical location and overcome the negative factors of the remoteness, the implied projects are to profit on modifying the basic service facilities into responding efficiently and creatively to the climate, as well as to integration in the public.

With an immense abundance of wind, there is considerable potential for the Kola Peninsula coast to live autonomously based on renewable energy. Once deployed, the para-kites system would serve for the dynamic and publicly accessible process of harvesting the wind energy in the Arctic and in Teriberka particularly. Unlike the contemporary large-scale wind infrastructures, this system answers the dynamic character of the tundra landscape – it may become an energy icon and the visualization of the village nomadic idea.

Interactive and responsive programs shall involve both residents and visitors in order for them to contribute to the research programmes – by using domestic services (such as



electrical, heating, water and sanitation supply systems, transport connections), as well as enjoying the sport and leisure activities.

The results of such experiments, as well as the process, are available at the open data centers situated in both Teriberka and Lodeynoe and are discussed and negotiated with the locals publicly. Thus the whole process tends to be maximally transparent and will be sure to generate a public awareness, discussion and efficient communication of Teriberka future plans.

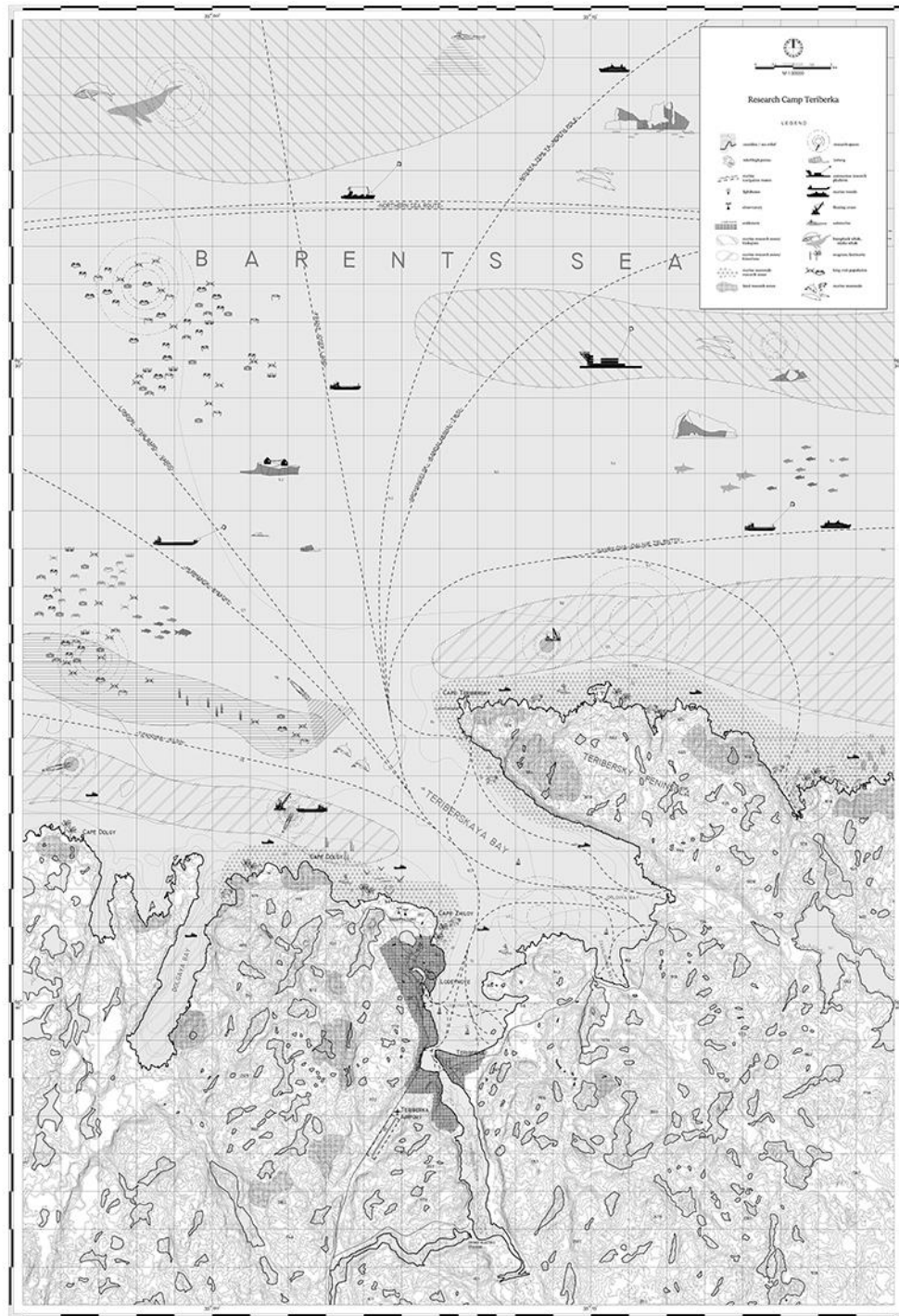


Figure 5: Research Camp Teriberka

## 4.2 Potential

With the innovative technologies implied in unique Arctic eco-system, there is considerable potential for Teriberka to become the highly prominent knowledge base in Russia and a model for future regional planning of Kola Peninsula conglomeration.

Taking into consideration the perspective of the international cultural exchange, the village might turn into an important communication center between the different nations. Sharing the knowledge about the traditional industries, natural cycles, and resources and traditional lifestyle, they spread it further to the newcomers and the next generations.

Therefore Teriberka and the Barents Region turn to become more attractive to the Russians so that they would wish to visit the Land, learn from it, send the children to study there. The last comes from the notion of education in Russia as a migration factor. To provide their children with the proper education parents are ready to move to another better place – or, if possible, to arrange such migration just for a child. The school thus acts as an institution which brings generations together, accumulates the knowledge from the variety of scientists contributing to the research process, organize an exchange of the knowledge between the pupils from different parts of the country and involves in teaching process the local knowledge about the place. Moreover being publicly open, it shares the knowledge with the visitors and teaches them about the delicate ecologies and their preservation. With such instruments as summer/winter camps, it involves even more students into the cross-cultural process of experimenting, giving an opportunity to manage real-life issues: energy supply, transport (land, water, air), resource use, et cetera.

As a result of all these tactics, tourism in Barents Region, among its other qualities, would gain the intellectual direction.

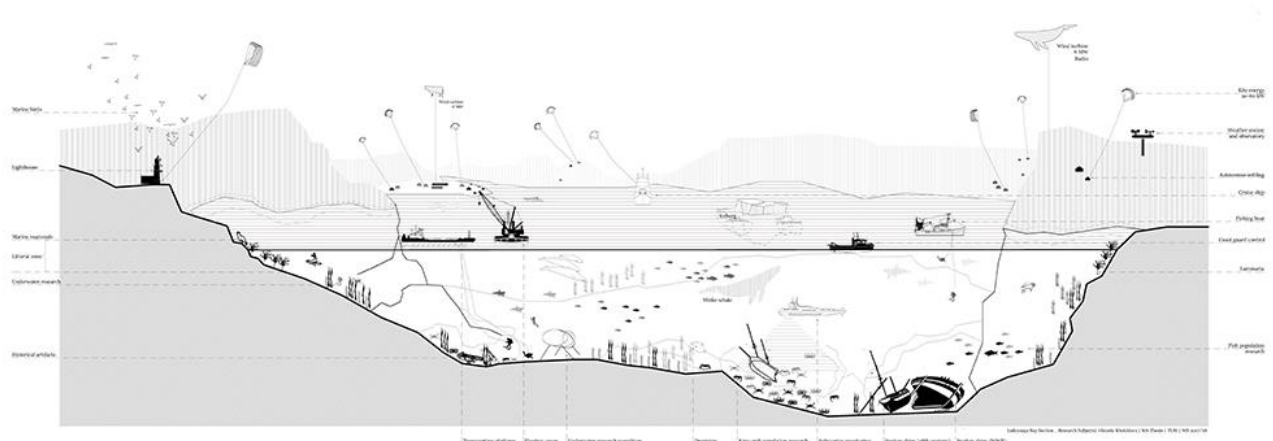


Figure 6: Lodeynaya Bay section. Research subjects

## 5. Nomadic Nature

In the Land of eternal light and eternal night, where the oceans control the weather and the natural cycles, provide with food and energy, the lifestyle is totally based on Nature. Its already vibrant life character is overlapped with the range of human activities, celebrations, festivals and other forms of collectivity.





Figure 7: Year events calendar. Occupation of the space

The physical structures are devoid of an importance for the nomadic camp.

Space may be transformed intellectually, programmatically, technically, atmospherically, mythically - the physical is not a constant. Temporal life-supporting structures play the biggest role for such settlements. For Teriberka and Lodeynoye, as for the water-based localities in the remote North, the prior facilities are transportation, energy and heating systems, water and food supply. Decentralized autonomous network, based on the block-chain peer-to-peer principle (Phi, Strelka Institute, 2017), shall manage the resources consumption in the villages. Thus it shall enable people to explore potential effects of decentralized energy, currency, and governance on their lives while being not anchored to the place.

In the project, space becomes expressed by the routine rituals and traditions, in other words, the necessary domestic everyday activities, which are tied to the lifestyle of the Russian North so inseparable, that they shape the architectural environment. The facilities are intended to fulfill the following desires: fisherman daily routines, weekend escape possibility (dachas), public banya and water culture center, private family banyas, farming (the greenhouses to fully benefit from the solar activity in summer time), a tavern (in Russian tradition the one should never be alone), tea rooms, organized outside places for communication or contemplation, a health resort on the sandy coast (rehabilitation center to recover from the "normality" for the visitors, based on the local polyclinic). Apart from them,

there shall be facilities intended to recover once decayed but still desired community public establishments, as well as those supporting the existing collectivity forms, such as church parish, school and kindergarten, house of culture, community club (allowing all the different activities from the disco and theatre to the weekly roundtables and sports). All these centers of activities and local life in the villages are aiming to provide the residents and visitors with the clearly traditional and necessary forms of interactions and engagement with the landscape.

The territory between the two settlements, at the plot of the former seaport, in this project takes an important meaning. One part of it turns into the service area managed by the research center, controlling the water treatment facilities, waste collection (grading, compacting and preparing for sending to the mainland for further recycling), the workshops for the ships reparation and upgrade, fuel station. The other part serves as an international port - the water gates to the settlement. Lead by the ministry of defense, it provides the cargo and passenger port with the border control, banking facilities, and money exchange, marketplace, as well as the hotel, tavern, and the fishermen dock.

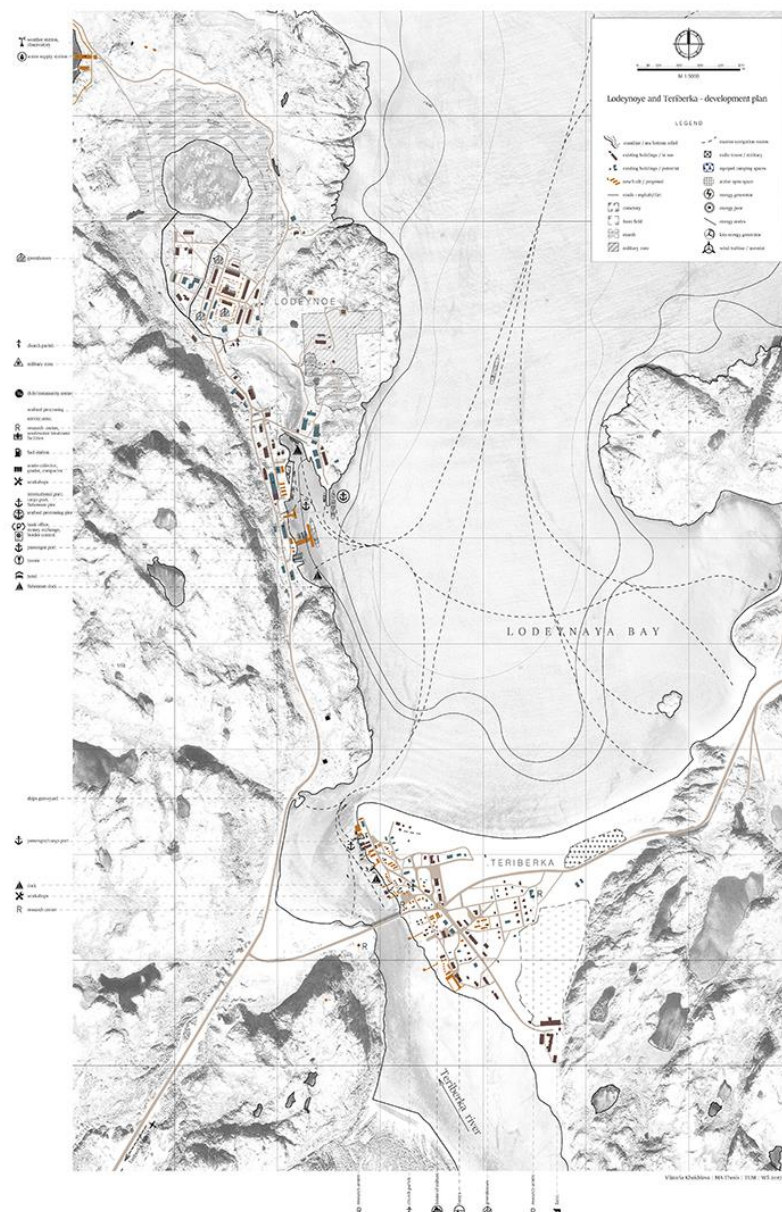


Figure 8: Lodeynoye and Teriberka – development plan

## 6. A manifesto for tomorrow: Teriberka “all inclusive”

Why would space like to exclude?

The healthy and sexy way for such a small settlement is to be inclusive for the society based on the shared values and equality.

Teriberka includes everyone to be the part of one big family, always together, sharing all the best, all the worst.

Teriberka is not a number of the divided territories,

Teriberka is a land and a common space.

All the residents know each other and play a certain role in each other's lives.

The one who comes to visit this land - comes with the respect to the land first, as well as to the people who live there.

The space in Teriberka is so well conceived that provides everyone with the equal possibilities for the further development.

There is no place for superficial and disengaged relations in Teriberka.

The environment in Teriberka enables interactions and gives an inspiration, promoting the development of the culture.

## 7. Forever ephemeral

Once experienced the thinning of the overbuilt physical structure, Teriberka turns back to the dynamic lifestyle. Unlike the settle towns with constantly increasing demands, Teriberka is in need of the principles and structures capable to vary in scale or to be moved whenever needed - intellectually and physically.

Teriberka physically has a potential to grow in size temporally - to maintain some ephemeral functions, events, seasonal activities. Abandoned spaces are enabling this transformation.

The everyday life of the residents goes its own way.

Whenever it is needed, they could welcome the visitors - the landlords might provide them with the necessary facilities. By renting a plot or a building they grant the conditions: from electricity and water supply to meals, WC and shower (or more likely banya) and leisure. Implementing the high and low technologies they manage to extract the necessary resources from Nature and make living from it.

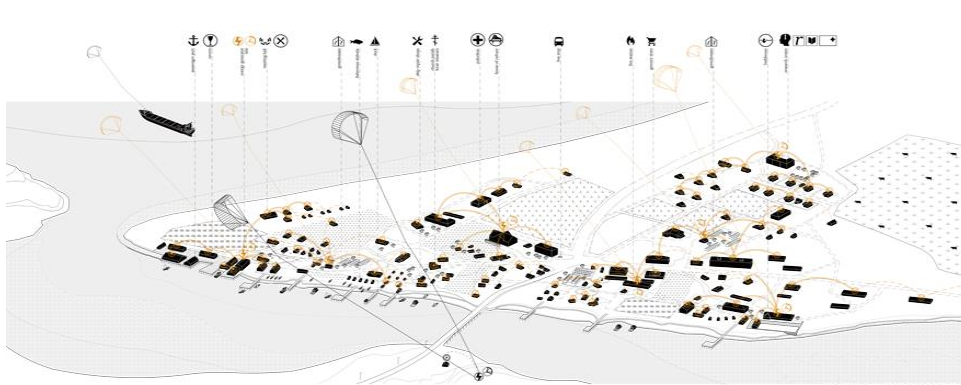


Figure 9: Axonometric view of the Teriberka village showing the block-chain energy scheme



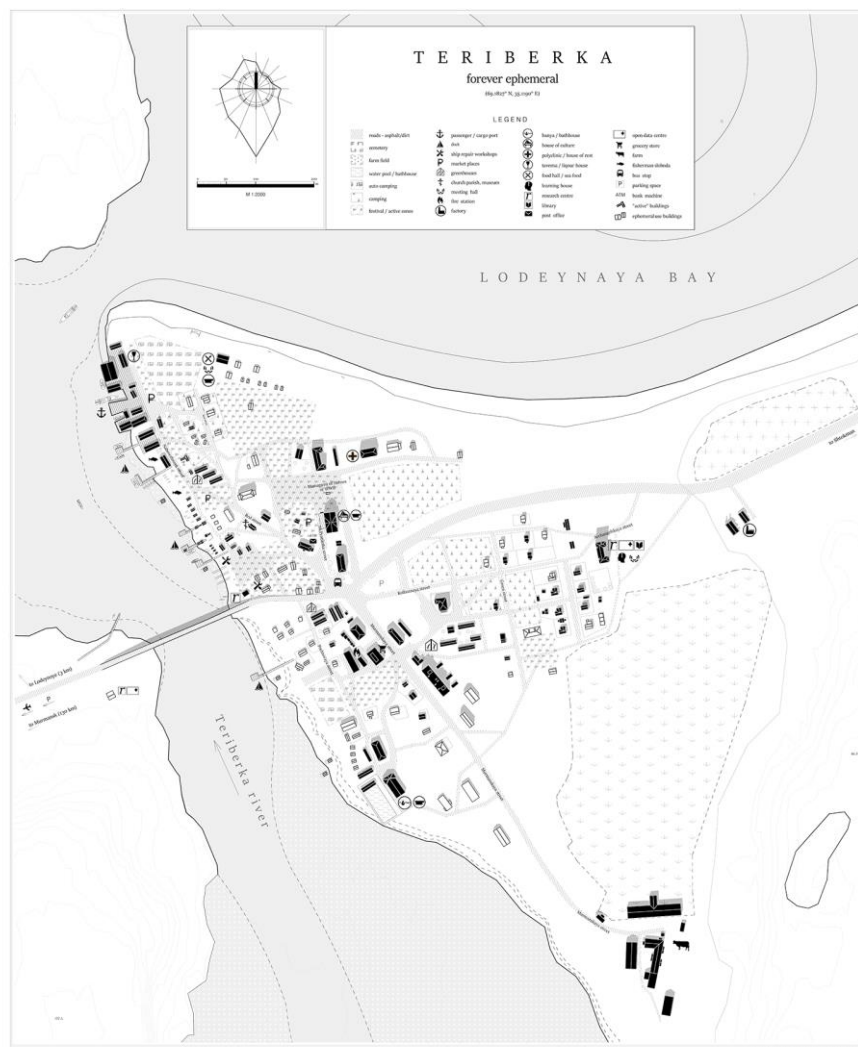


Figure 10: Teriberka forever ephemeral – development plan

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