

COME, REST

Collective castle-surfing in Drosendorf

Rural Co-Habitation with other animals

Maria Fedykiy, Lauren Janko, Clara Kessler, Jan Köppers, Lukas Pielsticker

1 INTRODUCTION

Who owns the sky?

Where do we choose to nest?

Who do we share our world with?

And how do we communicate?

Overlapping paths, multi-used hallways, and intersecting stories: Envisioning a multi-species society in which both individuals and collectives live and thrive together in an environment, that provides benefit for both parts, exploration and discovery are part of the journey.

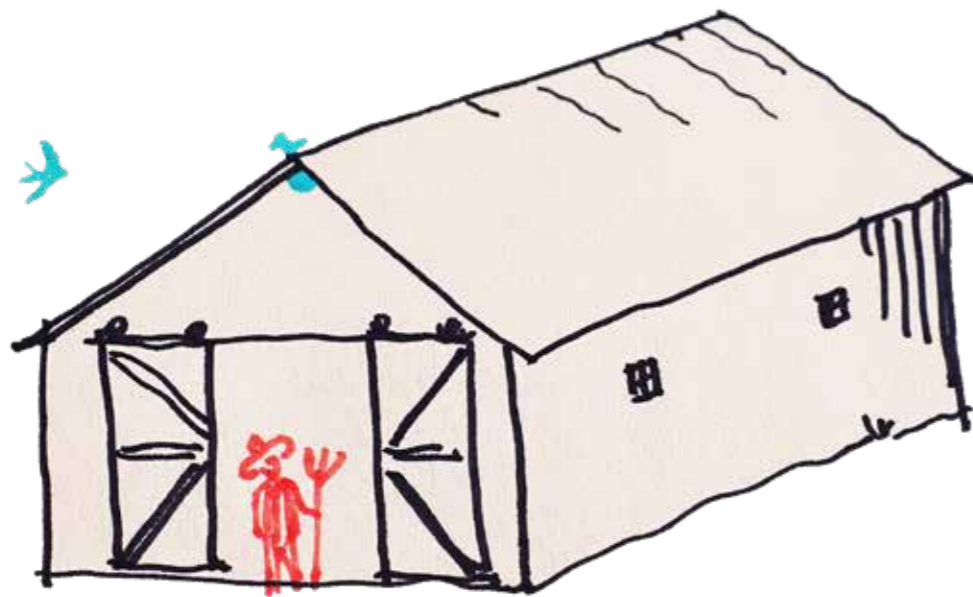
Exploring the dimensions and spatial manifestations of the complex connections between two species living together in the castle of Drosendorf, the question of how we are nesting and living in a shared structure arises. Focusing on the two main aspects of spatial and sound-related conditions of our co-habitation, we tried to investigate the spatial conditions of our surroundings, identify possible areas of conflicts, and learn about the architectural specifics of our built structures.

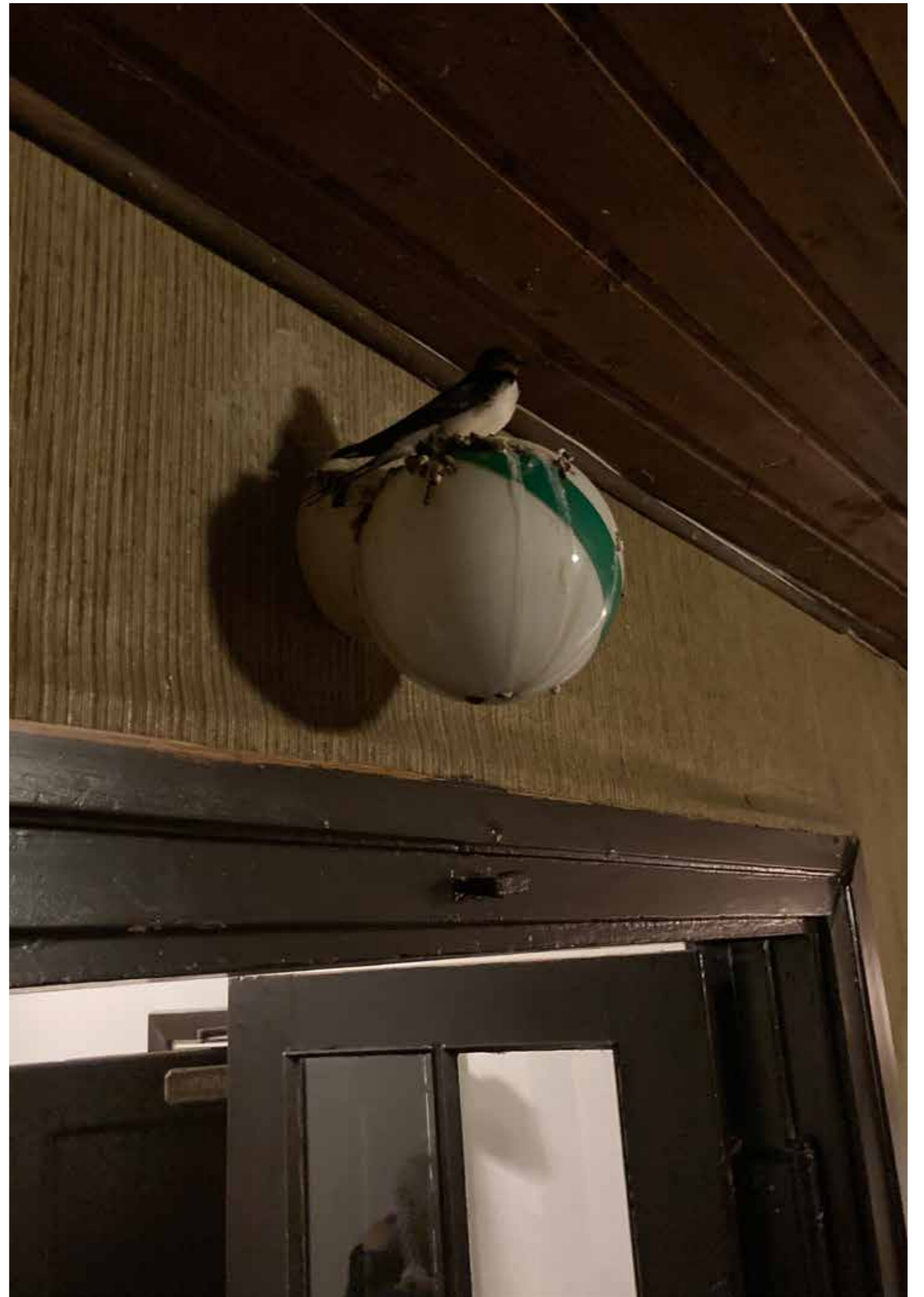
Not only do the flying paths of our friends create a constant movement in the sky around us and cover the sky with a web of flying patterns – they also play a major role in the biodiversity and environmental aspects of our surrounding. By building a kinetic nest around the castle that we all live in together, they are pulling us into the future - and we are following them.

2 DISCOVERING MULTI-LAYERED CONNECTINGS OF SPECIES

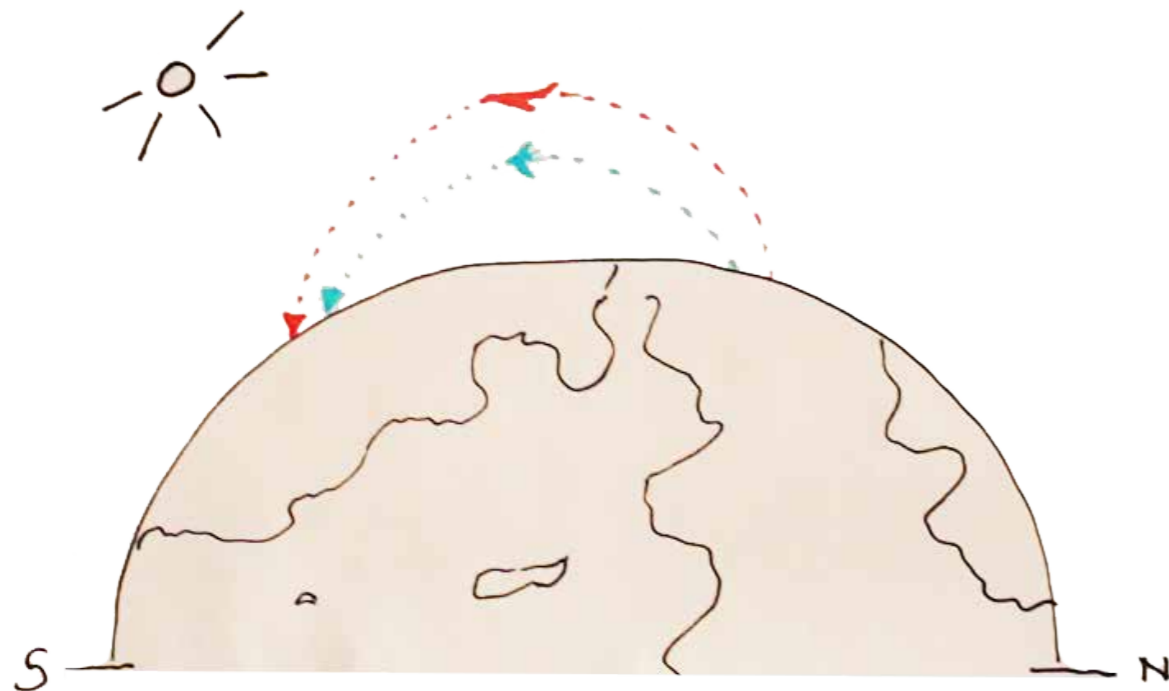
Since arriving in the castle, our friends have been an omni-present companion; guiding and following us simultaneously during our explorative tasks.

With our flying neighbors - *aka creatures we share our living area with, but whose presence we did not choose* - we do not only share our habitat of living, but also a long path of history. Named after the barn as a man-made structure and architectural typology, even their biological name indicates the significance of our long-term relationship.





Another aspect, that both our species share, is the act of travelling and therefore changing our location according to the seasons of the year. Especially in Drosendorf, a typical “Sommerfrische” town that experiences a substantial change in population numbers and therefore an enormous rise in population during the spring and summer months. But that fact is not only true for our species that is coming here for holidays and relaxation, but also for our flying friends, that come here for mating, nesting and reproducing. In that way, both of our species can be considered not as couch-surfing, but castle-surfing.



Die Burgen, Stifte und Schlösser des Waldviertels laden ein...

Niederösterreich
...wo Ferien noch Ferien sind!

- Sehenswürdigkeiten
- Bezirkshauptstädte
- B Böhmerwaldstraße

SALZBURG

Enns

Grein

Autobahn

Ybbs

Maria Taferl

Melk

St. Pölten

Schallaburn

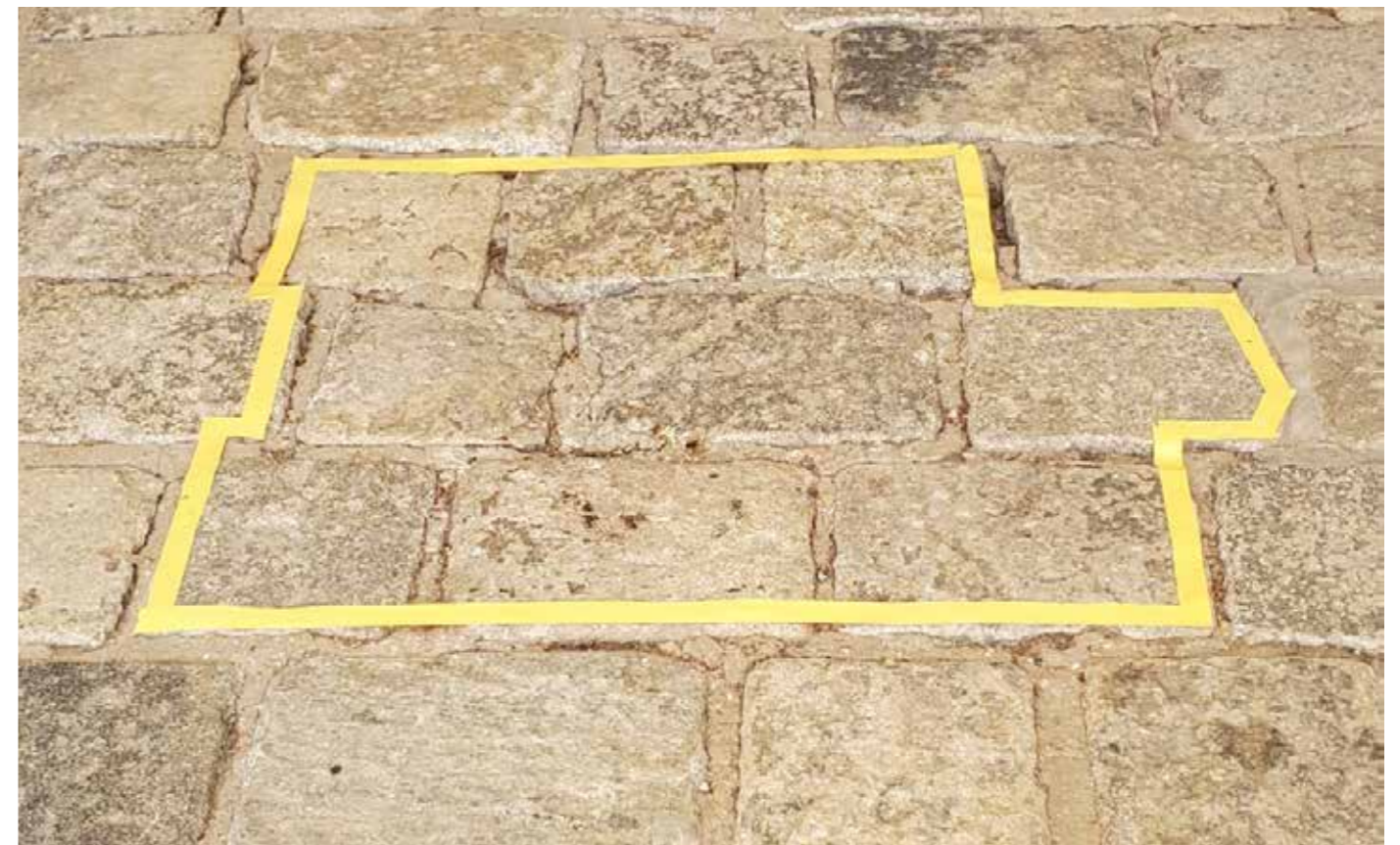
WIEN



The relationship between knowing and unknowing of co-habitation processes, we began to think about how we even notice the presence of other species. The two main aspects of perceiving their company, are the visual and the sound-related aspects. So we started to investigate not only the physical, spatial conditions of our shared habitat and how they are related to each other, but also the cultural and emotional aspect of communicating and co-habiting together for a very long time.



Through an artistic intervention, these various ways of interaction and communication between our species shall be tackled. The installation deals with the visual presence of our neighbours and the sound-related aspects of our cohabitation: We see their flying patterns up in the sky, on the facades we can see their nests and houses, and on the floor, we can spot traces of them as an indicator that we aren't the only species living in the castle. Furthermore, the topic of communication and language also play a big role in our artistic approach.



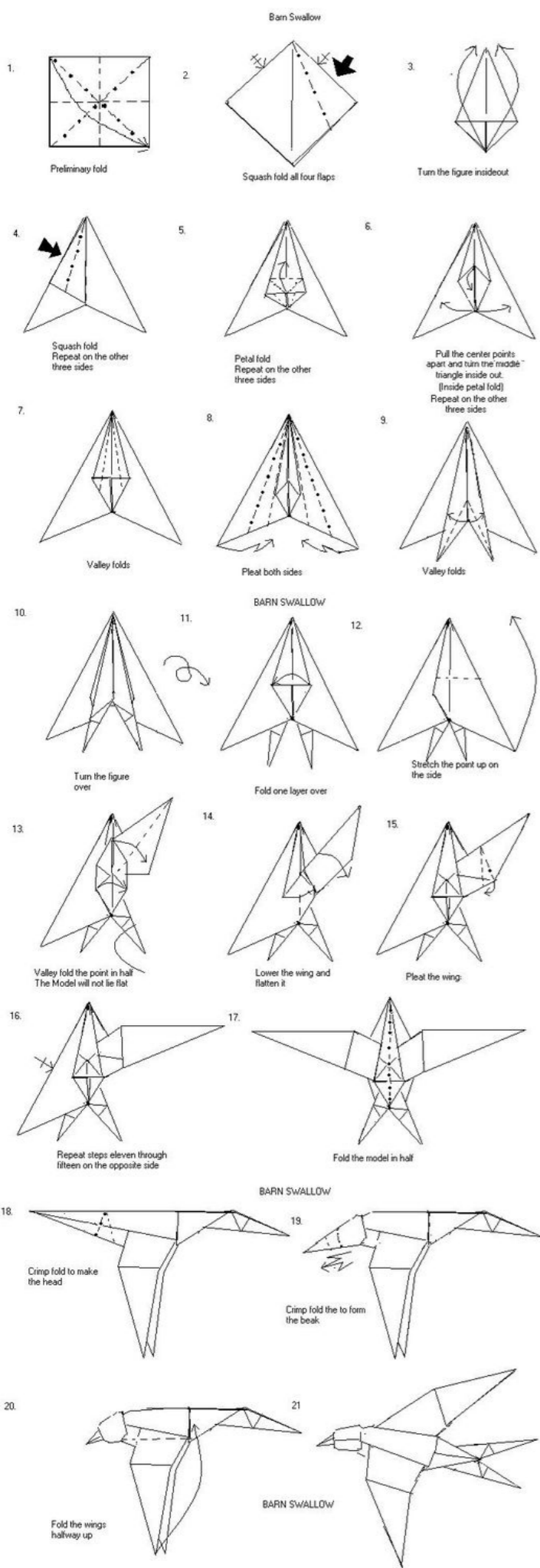


3 CHOICE OF EXHIBITION SPACE AND MATERIALS

For exhibiting our research and artistic approach, we decided on the main entrance situation to use as display, because it represents one of the main spaces which we share and inhabit together. By that choice, both species of the project can be active players in our presentation and even play a physical part of the installation. So we are not only co-habiting but also co-presenting.

video: co using entrance





Cut here.

Since co-habitation also means learning from each other, we realized that one of the main things we can see in them as an inspiration, is the fact they are also good at using natural resources as building materials and even preferring re-building in comparison to building new structures. To stay in line with that ecological approach of building, we tried to use as many recyclable material for our artistic installation. By adding a description on how to build a origami-paper version of our friends on the backside of each of our printed posters, the paper can be re-used and transformed into a lovely little souvenir to remember our week in Drosendorf.





4 SPATIAL CONDITIONS / NESTING AND HOUSING

EX-CHANGING ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICES AND CHANGING PERSPECTIVE

For the first part of our installation, we tried to explore the spatial conditions of the surroundings of both our species with the main goal of trying to change our perspective in terms of architectural practice. First, we looked at aspects in our spatial approaches, that show similarities, overlap, or share the same techniques. Soon we realized, that both species share the needs of creating a nest for comfort, protection, resting, sleeping, and reproducing. By studying and comparing both our nesting situations, the first thing we realized was the major contrast in terms of size and dimension of our built environments. Starting from that, we decided to try to some physical experiments of nest-building.

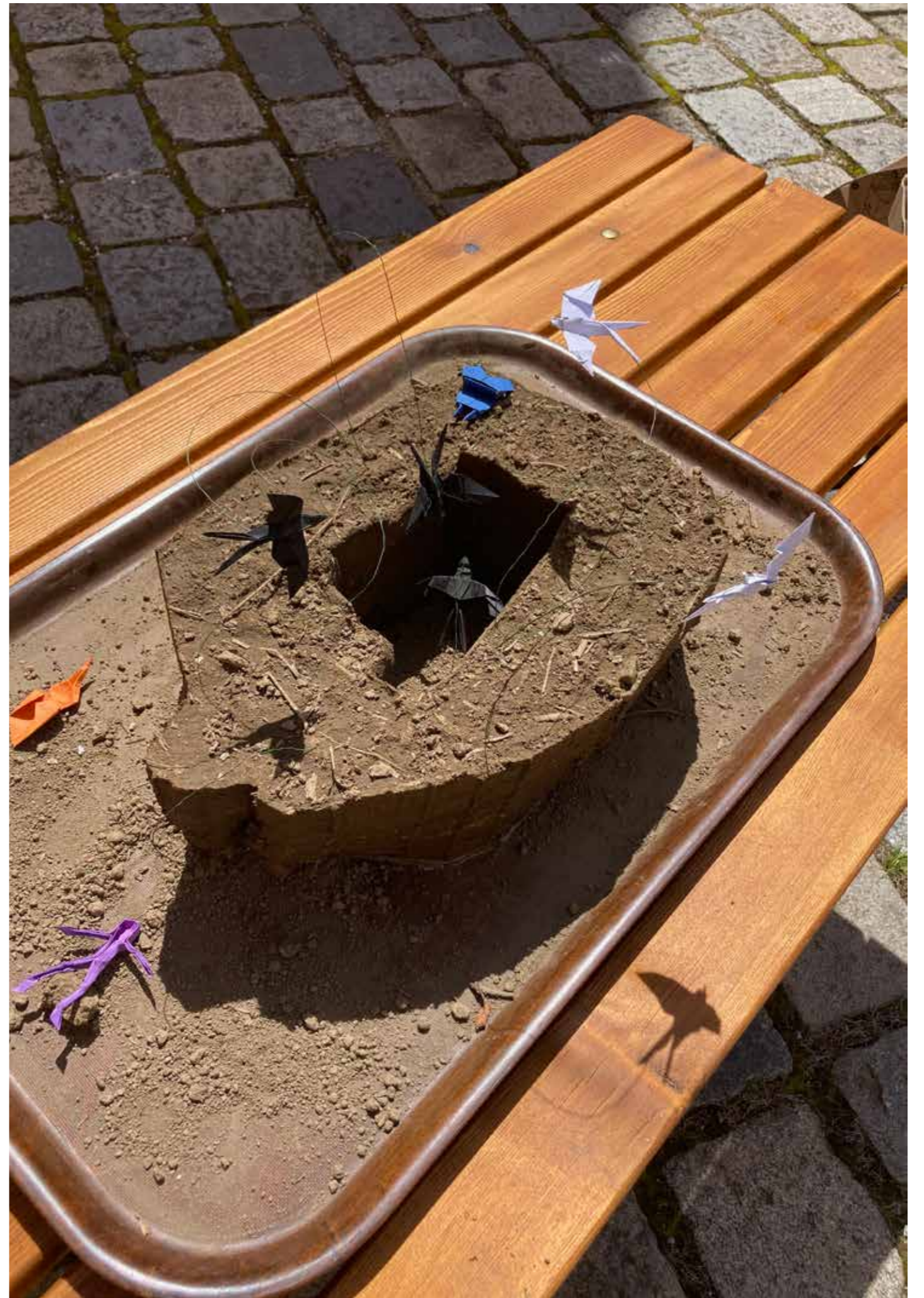


Playing with the exploration of taking each other's perspective, a small-scaled, visual representation of the castle represents our shared home and habitat. Made out of a mixture of naturals like hey and clay, it represents our first approach of imitating their building technics and way of nesting. Being translated in our species-specific design language and typology of a castle, we tried to build the shape of our collectively inhabited home, but by using the materials of another species.

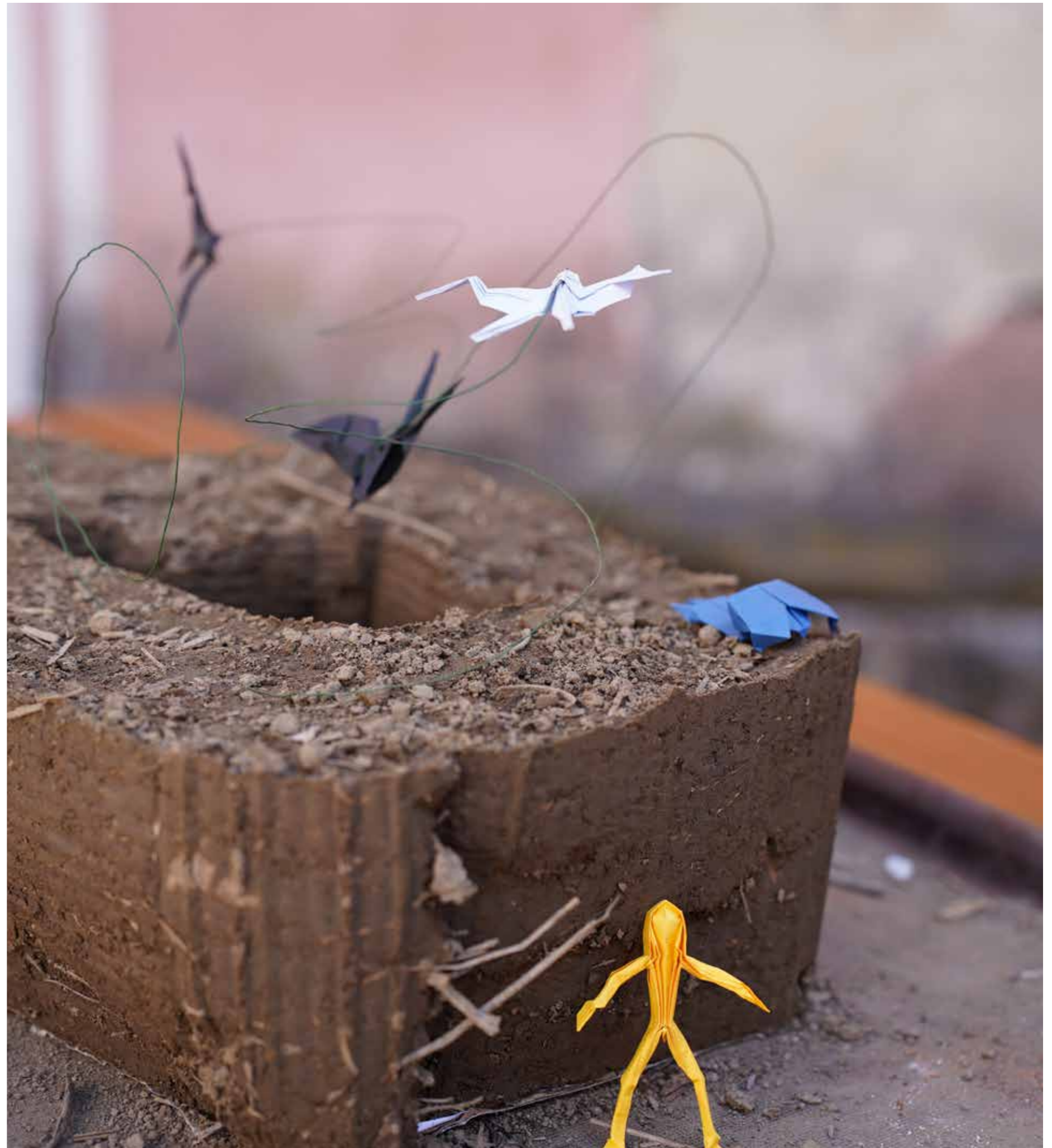






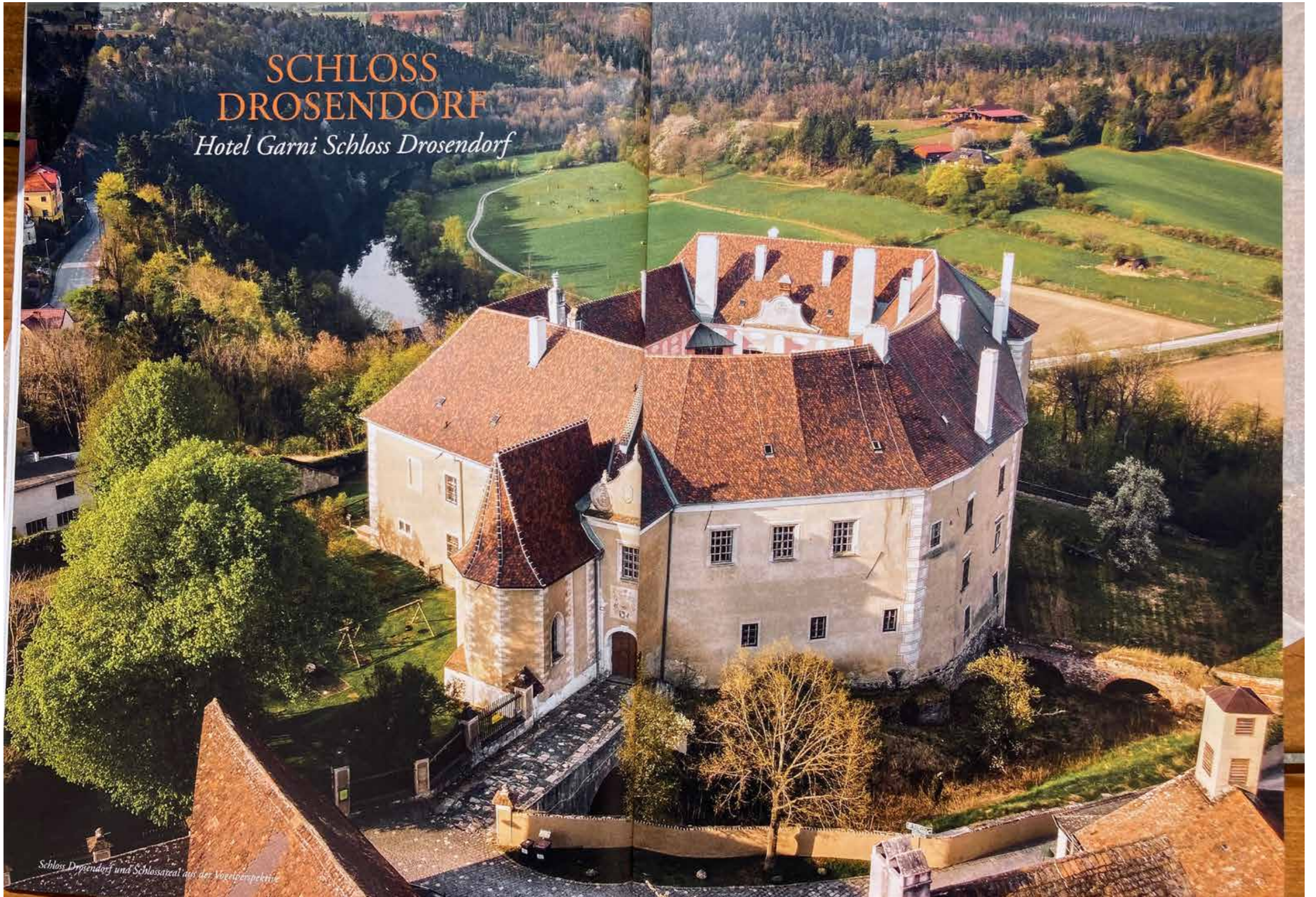


Also, by seeing the castle from above and even being able to circle around the built structure, we can try to imitate the flying experience of our little friends and discover Drosendorf through their eyes. The aim was to challenge our way of perceiving the castle and think about our relation to our built environment and which whom we share it. By adding a movable, kinetic part to the static part of the model, the moving and flying pattern of our friends shall be emphasized and appreciated.



SCHLOSS DROSENDORF

Hotel Garni Schloss Drosendorf



Schloss Drosendorf und Schlossareal aus der Vogelperspektive

Accompanied by a much bigger structure made out of moving boxes, the second structure visualizes our very structural-architectural approach as architecture students, trying to build a home belonging to another species. The approach to the construction of the nest in a manner typical for our species, involves using formwork techniques with a corresponding substructure, like those used in concrete construction. This is a very material-intensive process, as the supporting structure is dismantled at the end and typically not repurposed. In contrast the approach of our friends, so the collection and assembly of clay clumps is a time-consuming but resource-efficient process.



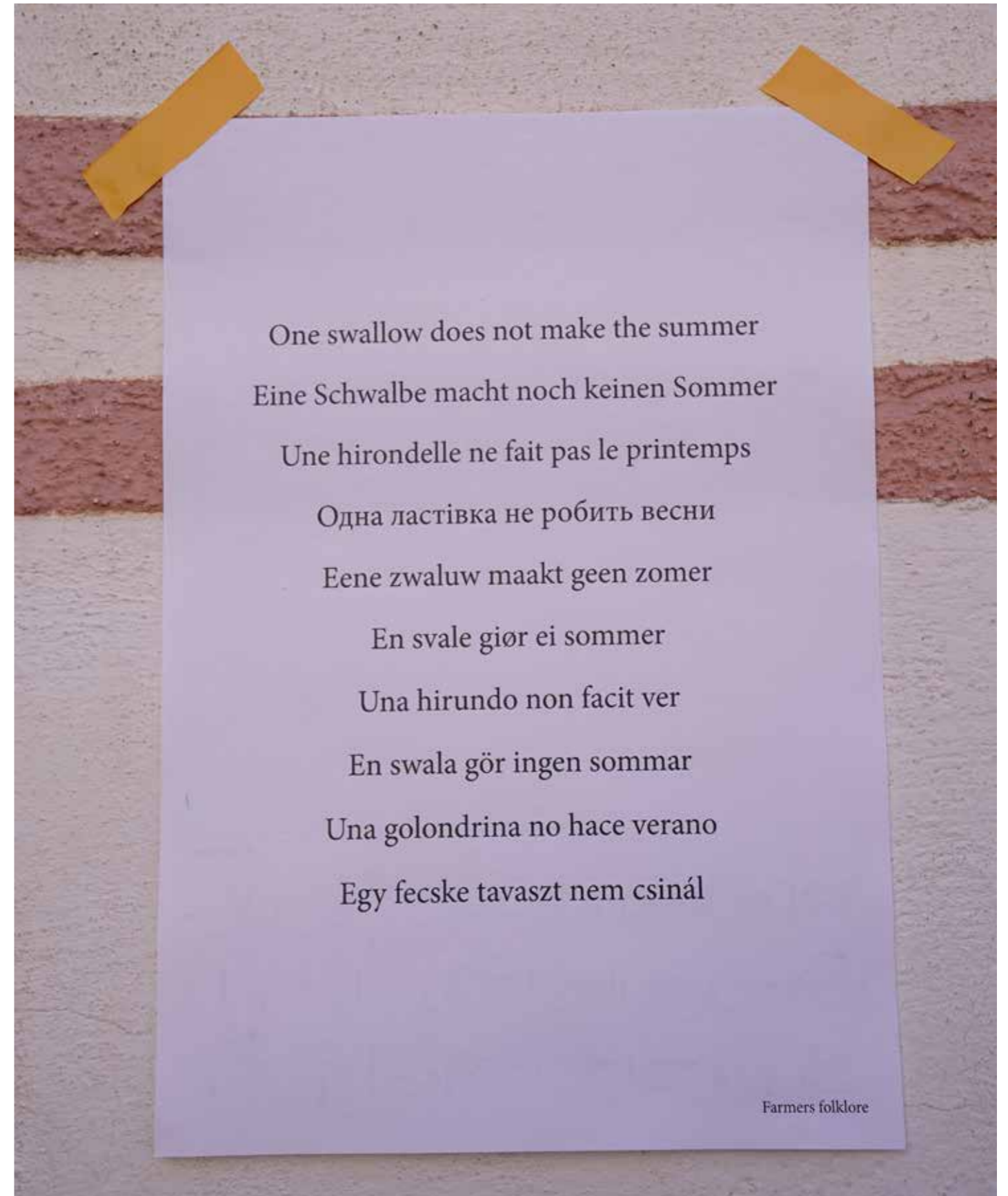
Beginning with the underlying structure of the circular design, we pretty fast reached our limit of capability and skills regarding the task of building a nest. Our technical-architectural way of working is clearly visible, and showed us the differences of scale, material and form in our spatial nesting situations. Especially with the materials of just naturally occurring resources available, we experience first-hand failure in nest-making.



5 SOUNDSCAPES AND LANGUAGE

DIFFERENT WAYS OF COMMUNICATION, BUT SHARED SPACES

The way that our flying roommates communicate with each other, can be heard all day long in and around the castle: Their singing, chirping, and mating calls are shaping the specific soundscape of the town and is one of the main ways, we can hear and therefore even feel their presence. Also, in our spoken and written language, which presents our main way of communicating with each other, there are a lot of stories, poems, proverbs and folklore sayings that deal with our historically anchored co-habitation. The large number of these written texts and sayings demonstrate their historically important situation and deeply rooted connection between our species, that exist in multiple languages and cultural contexts.



By adding and overlapping the physical reality of the castles entrance situation with written expressions, folkloric sayings and poems that deal with our long-lasting friendship, we want to visually express the deeply rooted, long-lasting companionship of our species and their importance in our way of communicating.



Ластівка весну починає, осінь накликає.

Farmers folklore, ukrainian

The swallow starts spring, summons autumn.

Ластівка день починає, а соловей його кінчає.

Farmers folklore, ukrainian

The swallow starts the day,
the nightingale ends it.

6 VISUALIZATIONS OF THE POSSIBILITIES OF CO-HABITATION

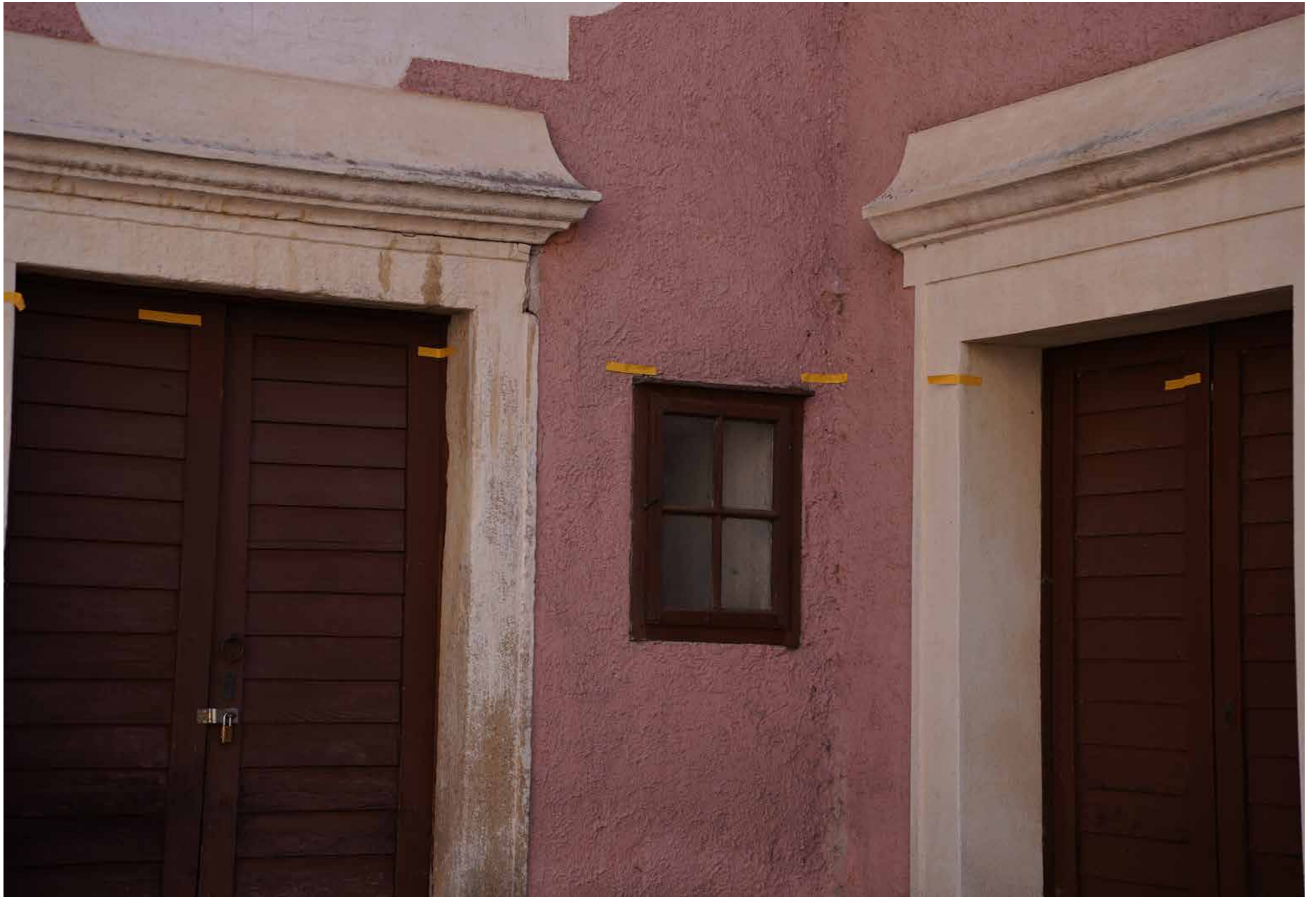
LIVING ON TOP AND UNDERNEATH OF EACH OTHER

To visualize the spatial opportunities of the castle of Drosendorf regarding the structures, proportions and dimensions of it, coloured tape is being placed at the high of 2 meters. By that intervention, the vertical space emerges to a multi-layered area of different uses for different species and draws attention to the possibilities of living not only next to, but also under and above each other in a three-dimensional space. The taped line you all can see visualizes the border of our environments, in which we move: For our species, the 2 meter mark is pretty much the limit on used spaced; for our neighbours it is where they start building. Since it is situated right on the edge of the overlapping of our spaces in that way, our two species perfectly complete each other's habitats without disturbing one another.





Also, the lines draw attention to how big our species is building their 'nests' in comparison to our body size, without thinking about leaving space for other species, that could easily be integrated in the structures of our built environment. It also tackled the discussion on giving up comfort for other species and to ask much of our built space could be considered even luxury.







7 END STATEMENT

To sum up our experiences of the week, we learned that we not only have a much greater impact on each other that we could even imagine and influence our ways of living, but also that there are aspects of our co-habitation where we can even benefit from each other's presence. With our project, we aim to raise awareness to the overlapping needs and paths of our species and how easy it is to co-habit next to each other, if both parts are willing to give up some of their very largely calculated spaces of living. Even if there are possibilities of conflicts and differences in our built and social environments, a multi-species society is not only a possibility, but also an opportunity.





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