

SOLAR

PUNK

SAUNA

LAB

Évora Capital Europeia da Cultura 27

Mobile Hot & Cold Infrastructure for collective gathering

Solarpunk Sauna Lab is a mobile, experimental public infrastructure developed for Évora 2027 – European Capital of Culture and selected as part of the festival program 2027 in Évora and the Alentejo in Portugal. Combining heat, cold, water, renewable energy, cultural program and collective space, the project explores how climate-responsive infrastructure can become a social and cultural practice.

At its center is the development of a sauna and hot-and-cold structure that can temporarily inhabit different locations in Évora and the Alentejo. Conceived as a modular and transformable architecture, it adapts to urban squares, gardens and more rural environments. The structure evolves through research, experiments with local materials, collective building and use.

Uma iniciativa da União Europeia

SOLARPUNK SAUNA LAB

The project explores hot and cold infrastructure as a collective space of VAGAR, care, slowing down and encounter – a contemporary reinterpretation and experimentation of roman baths, hammams and popular bathing cultures as places of shared time, bodily presence and social equality. In Évora, with its Roman and Arab-influenced history, these references become a starting point for asking what a contemporary, post-fossil public bath could be.

SOLARPUNK IN PUBLIC SPACE

Gaining the energy to power the structure is not simply understood as a technical necessity, but as part of the architecture and the experiment itself. Solar generation, mobile battery storage and heating and cooling systems are being explored as visible components of the structure. The ambition is to operate as far as possible independently from existing energy infrastructure and to work with the potentials and assets identified on site. SOLARPUNK SAUNA LAB aims to display the relationship between sun, energy, heat, cold and spaces for collective use. In the cooler months, stored solar energy can support a warm social space for sauna sessions, gatherings and cultural activities. Under the intense heat of the Alentejo, the same structure could potentially transform into an infrastructure for shade, water, rest and cooling.

LIVING LABORATORY

SOLARPUNK SAUNA LAB is conceived as a living laboratory. The first phase therefore focuses on research in Évora and the Alentejo: understanding local climatic conditions, learning about local materials, knowledge and infrastructures while establishing relationships with local initiatives, institutions, craftspeople and communities.

From this research, the spatial system will be further developed and prototyped. A subsequent collective building phase brings together the core team, collaborators and potentially students from the University of Évora to construct and adapt the infrastructure on site. Once activated, the structure becomes both a public space and an ongoing experiment. Potentially moving between different locations, it can change its configuration and programme in response to each site. Knowledge generated through its construction and use feeds back into the architecture.

HOT & COLD / CLIMATE & CARE

The sauna provides an intentionally simple spatial situation: entering, changing, heating up, cooling down, gathering, watching, performing, waiting and resting. Around this sequence, additional spaces and stages emerge - steps, platforms, shade structures, water points and places for gathering and resting. The architecture therefore extends beyond the enclosed sauna and becomes a small temporary landscape in public space.

The structure itself is conceived as a spatial experience and playfully integrates experiments with local materials, direct and indirect (sun)light, solar energy infrastructure, shading, cooling and water systems. The sauna becomes a platform where the public shares heat, thoughts, time, connectivity and spatial experiences, enriched by cultural activities and artistic program to explore.

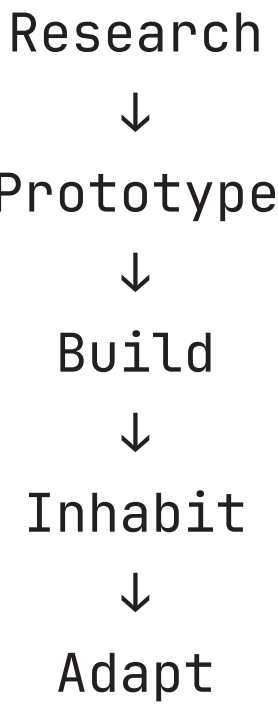
THE IDEA OF VAGAR

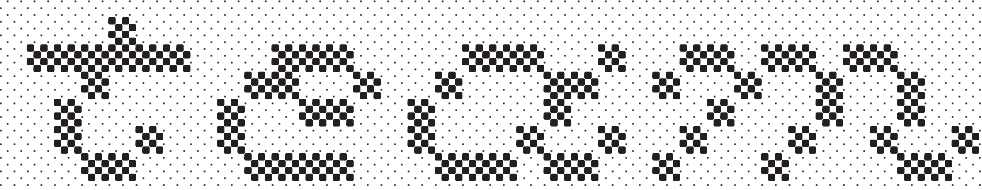
SOLARPUNK SAUNA LAB responds to Évora 2027's idea of VAGAR ⁽¹⁾ by building a platform to playfully (re)learn and experience the concept of slowness, collective gathering and places for rest. Ultimately the project asks a simple question: What could a public bath look like today if we designed it around renewable energy, climatic adaptation, collective ownership, cultural platforms and spaces for rest ? It proposes a small-scale prototype for a different kind of public infrastructure – mobile, adaptable, post-fossil and collectively inhabited.

⁽¹⁾ VAGAR: “the full awareness that we, as humans, are always in relation with everything around us.”

Evora Cultural Capital 2027

SCHEMATIC REPRESENTATION OF THE PROCESS





MULTIDISCIPLINARY CONSTELLATION

The project brings together various disciplines from urban design, collective spatial practice, experimental architecture and artistic curation. Together with local stakeholders, collectives, and invited artists, the project will create a multidisciplinary working environment, fostering long-term knowledge exchange and strengthening local networks throughout the process. Ludwig and David have previously collaborated on several projects for NIEHLER FREIHEIT and THE CITY OF COLOGNE. Lorenz and David collaborate through their work with FLOATING UNIVERSITY BERLIN. Their work has received several awards, including the Berlin Award (2021), the New European Bauhaus Award (2023), and the Ammodo Architecture Award (2025).



DAVID NIL MORSI

David is an urban designer, artist and curator working on participatory urban practices and cultural space development. He has worked with planning offices, public administrations and cultural initiatives across Europe since 2017. His work focuses on bottom-up processes and the transformation of vacant spaces. He is deeply involved in the development of FLOATING UNIVERSITY BERLIN and curates urban labs and cultural projects, including CITY AS A STAGE for the EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE SKOPJE 2028.



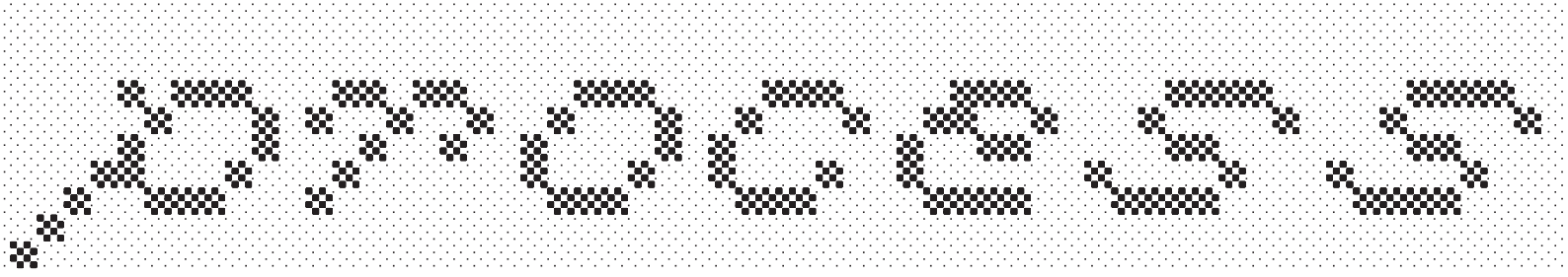
LUDWIG JAKOB LEDERER

Ludwig is a designer and artist based in Paris. He works in transdisciplinary constellations in Cologne, Berlin, Zurich, Stuttgart and Pristina with a focus on climate adaptation and environmental education. In his practice he brings things and people together and explores possibilities through public experiments. His latest Lab was presented on the ALGORITHMIC PATTERN CONFERENCE in Sheffield (2025), his ongoing project the KEIN GARTEN (2024) is part of the CLIMATE INNOVATION FOND by the City of Stuttgart and TNC EUROPE.



LORENZ KUSCHNIG LEFORT

Lorenz works at the intersection of architecture and art, with a special interest in collective spatial practice. As a founding member of FLOATING E.V., he has been planning experimental architecture as part of the FLOATING UNIVERSITY project since 2018. As part of POPTICUM, he also translates theory into practice by creating spaces that become collective experiences and open up a platform for the appropriation of space, thereby challenging established routines. His work combines design and hands-on construction, with a focus on participatory building processes, climate-related infrastructures, and bathing cultures.



2026

2027

July

August

September

October

November

December

January

February

March

April

May

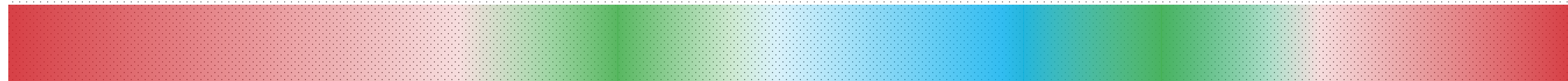
June

SUMMER

AUTUMN

WINTER

SPRING



hot & sun

transition

cold & rain

transition

Onsite

[Cultural Capital of Europe Évora 2027 → Dec.]



Ongoing

Pre-production

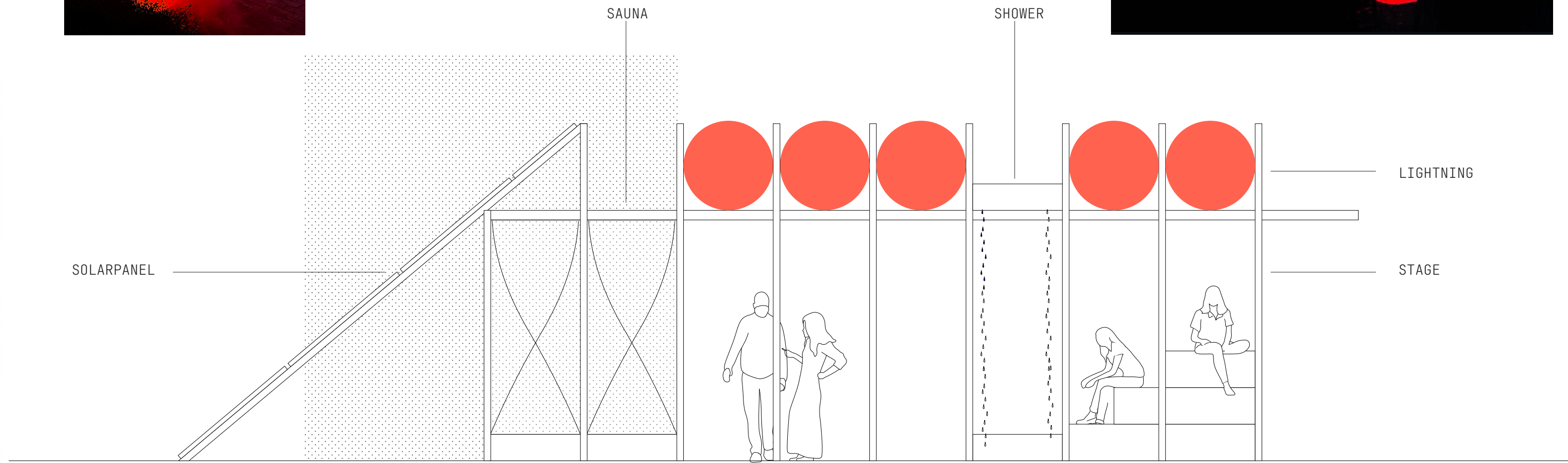
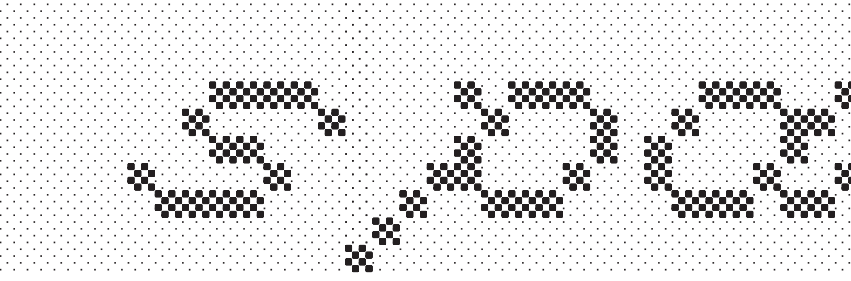
Spatial Experiments

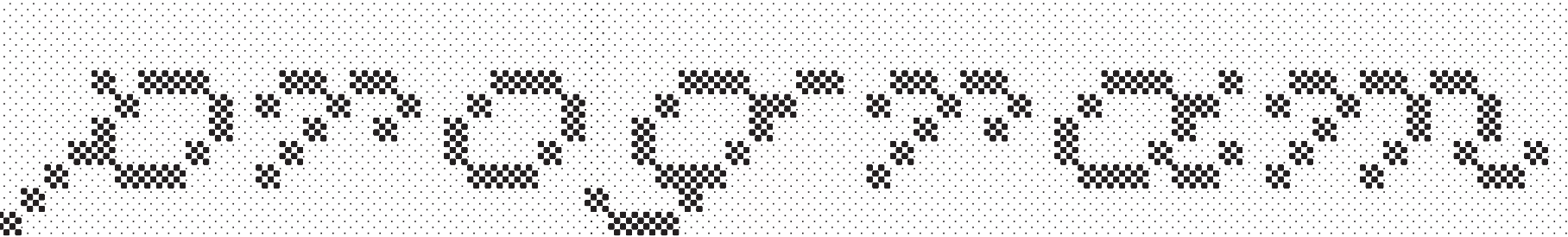
Research

Documentation

Concept Development

Artistic Curation

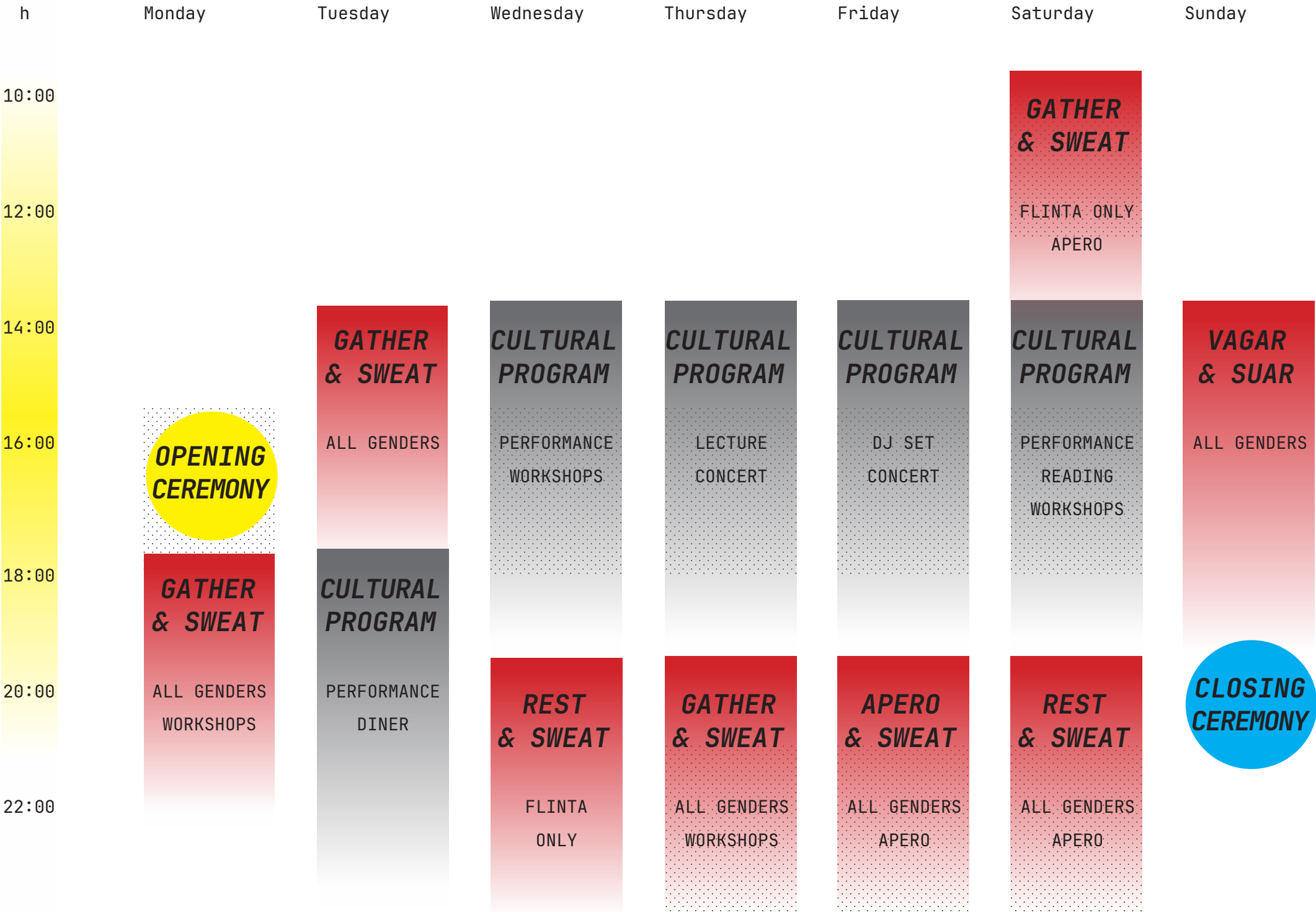




SOCIAL AND CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

During the festival, the structure will operate as a cultural platform. Performances, readings, sound works, conversations, collective gatherings, performative meals and other formats can emerge around and within it. These will be curated as a mixture of multidisciplinary local and international artists, who will be invited to participate in this process. Focusing on the topics of VAGAR ⁽¹⁾ and on the idea of an ongoing lab, invited artists will be included in the production process and engage interactively, allowing the structure and program to constantly influence each other. The curation and selection will be developed throughout the research and encounters with artists, neighbours, students, initiatives and other collaborators in Évora and the Alentejo.

CONCEPTPAPER SOLARPUNK SAUNA LAB 2027



APPROACHED ARTISTS (in conversation)

William Cardoso, Jan Kosłowski, Ufuk Cam, Garance Maurer, Signal ST, Paula Hartmann,...