

The badlands of Italy



Fase 1

landscape & material

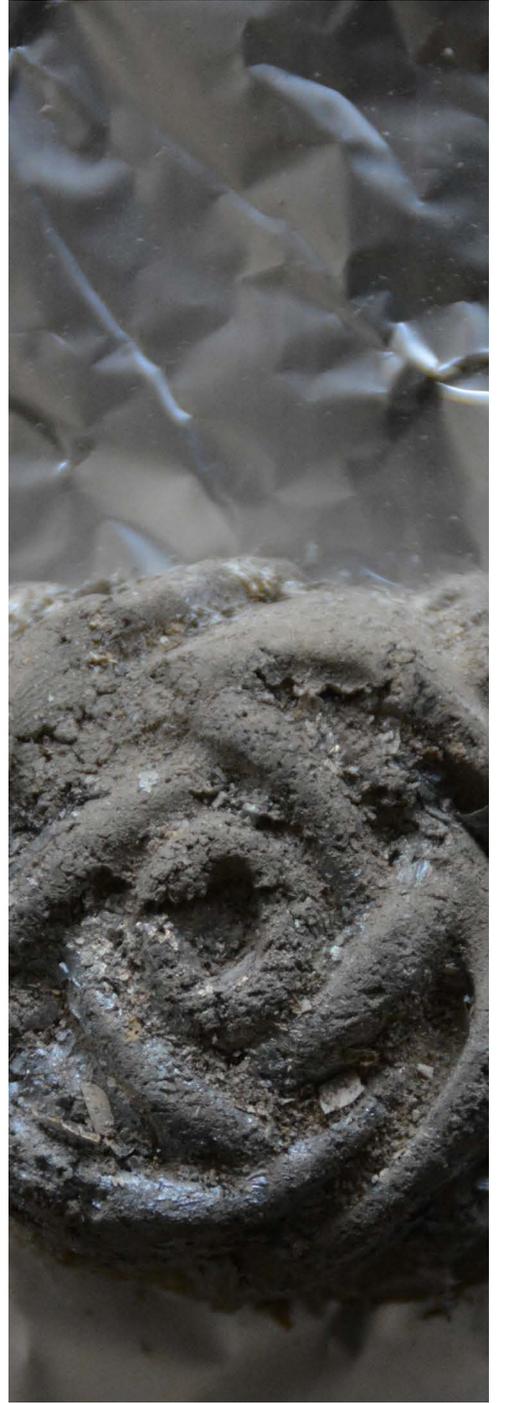
Calanchi is a material as old as the continent of Europe. An African continental plate pushed against the European plate, this resulted in the creation of the Alps. The landscape in Piemonte is a residue of the creation of the mountains. The terrain consists of an ancient plate that once was the seabed. Therefore the mountains hold a great amount of clay.

It even gets better because this clay material is a mix of fossils and traces of life. These fossils hold a great amount of minerals. Because of the combination with clay, the soil of the landscape is very fertile.

But erosion is everywhere, so also in calanchi mountain area. Clay is dissolvable in water, by rain and wind the landscape is in constant flux. By using the rich calanchi soil, dissolving it in water and baking it we created a promising material for further exploration.









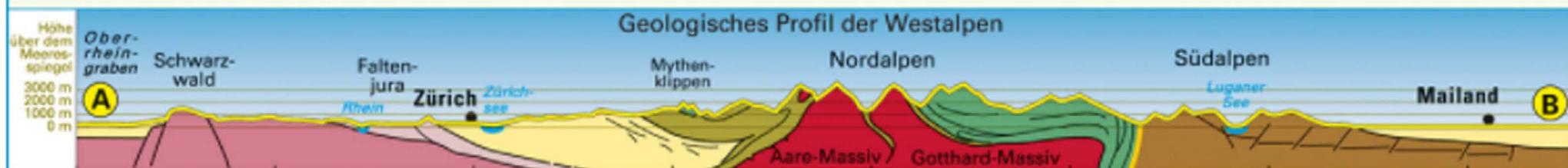
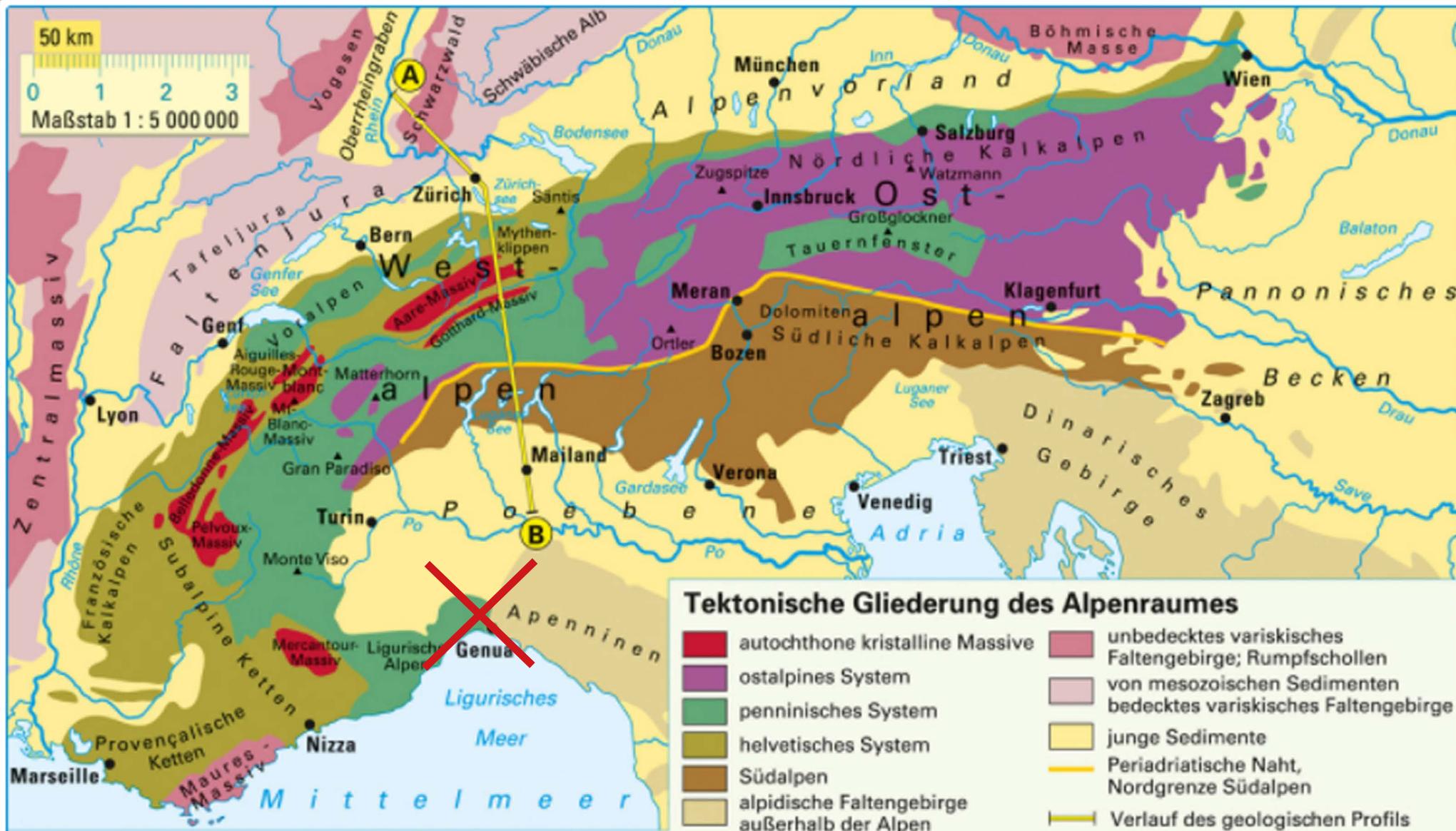
Fase 2

research & context

The calanchi mountain landscape is on the list of protected areas. Over time farmers cultivated parts of this landscape by growing a various pallet of plants on it. The roots of the plants hold the soil substance together, hereby they are stopping the erosion process that is typical for the area. Also the richness of minerals and fossils is reason that the area is highly interesting for paleontologists.

The landscape was also a subject of inspiration in the art world, especially for a local Italian painter. His lifes work is about the Calanchi mountain area, in which he made lager format paintings to symbolize the monumental value of this natural phenomenon.

The funny thing is that when you stay on the mountain were I was, you don't notice the Calanchi at all. It's there all around you, but only visible when you are standing on the edge.







**Calanchi research lab.
'the on wheels edizione'**



Fase 2.2

the experience

We wanted to work with the material but still respect the historical value of it. The overwhelming landscape was not visible on top of the mountain. So we didn't notice something that surrounds us.

To give more insight in the history, visibility and opportunities of the material we decided to create a lab-setting experience on top of the mountain.

This permanent installation tells a story about the Calanchi landscape through the ages. Around this object we created a little settlement, suggesting the feeling that some researcher just left the stage.

The settlement refers also, as a small joke, to the Italian bureaucracy. It's almost impossible to build anything without waiting for a permit for a year. So we decided to put it on wheels as an ever moving parade object, that is permanent. This could even be the start of a bigger plan, to create a family of structures all on wheels.







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