

# CONTESTED CIRCUMPOLAR / DOMESTIC TERRITORIES

## Territory as an Extension of Domestic Space

Claimed by the eight Arctic nations—Canada, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, United States—while also being the native territory to numerous Indigenous peoples, the Arctic embodies a complex, contested space in the 21st century. Territorial claims, resource extraction, climate change, and ongoing colonialism reflect the range of ways in which inhabitation has been imposed and negotiated in the last 100 years. Simultaneously, stories of daily life of inhabitants who call the Arctic home further reflect a richly heterogeneous cultural landscape at the forefront of accelerated transformations.

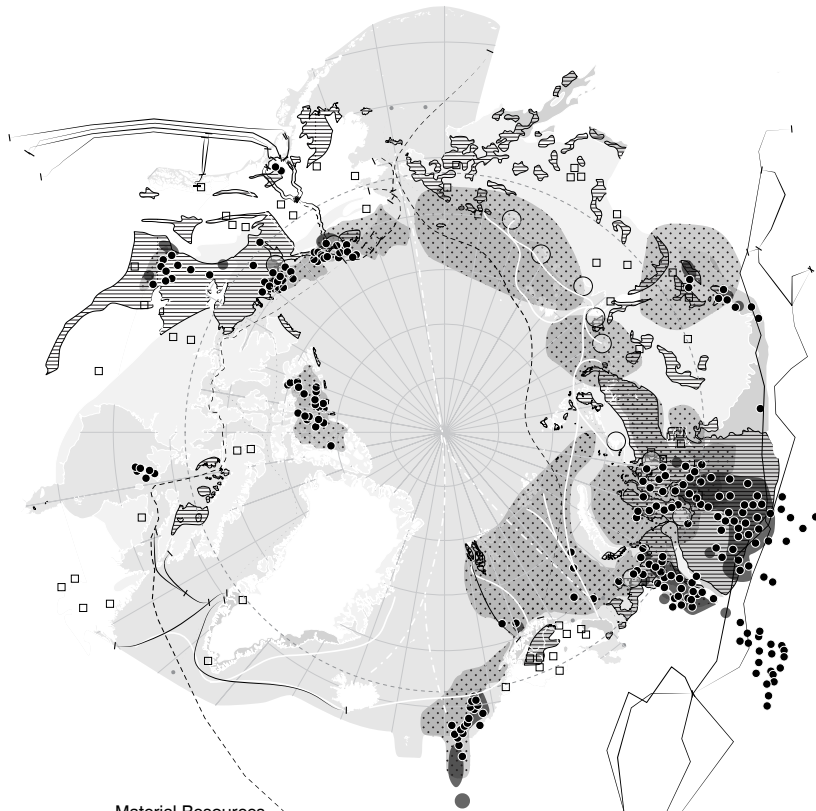
*Contested Circumpolar: Domestic Territories* presents eight narratives of inhabitation from each Arctic nation that reveals deep and complex connections between domestic space and the larger territory. The installation situates domestic life entangled with broader sociocultural, economic and geopolitical forces, and is presented as “core samples” capturing place-specific domestic-territorial linkages that are also emblematic of collective matters of concern in the Arctic. A series of rooms within each house juxtaposes the distinct artifacts and architectures of domestic life, while the visual narratives on the underlying cores expose the interlinked contexts that give shape to these domestic scenes.

Material culture, spatial practices, old and new technologies are depicted, as is evidence of a transforming region. The models further capture the full range of realities and urgencies surrounding the daily life and livelihood of Arctic inhabitants. At a local scale, the uniquely northern municipal infrastructures required to enable “modern” inhabitation are described. At a regional scale, the relationships between communities and land such as Indigenous subsistence practices are highlighted. At the transnational scale, the models document the by-products of globalization, and the dislocation and relocation of communities which this engenders.

## From mold to mines, from rooms to regions, circumpolar domestic space represents the frontline of transnational politics, Indigenous self-determination, and radical socio-environmental adaptation.

*Contested Circumpolar: Domestic Territories* was a collaborative project led by four primary researchers across three schools of architecture. It employed 8 student-researchers who were all compensated hourly through research funding sources in the university, arts organizations, and government organizations.

All drawings and models in this submission are by the design-research team. All exhibition / installation photographs are by Giorgio Lazzaro.



**Material Resources**

- Major river deltas ○
- Mineral exploration and extraction □
- Petrochemical exploration and extraction ●
- Prospective mining areas and reserves ▨
- Oil and gas production areas ■
- Continuous permafrost □
- Discontinuous permafrost ▨
- Thick sediment ▩

**Trading Routes**

- Northwest / Northeast Passage - - - -
- Arctic circle - - - -
- Existing cable system —|—|
- Projected cable system - - - -|
- Existing shipping routes —|—|
- Future central Arctic shipping routes ▨

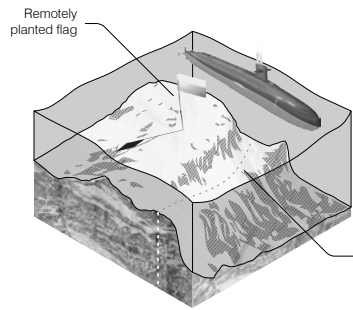


**Indigenous Families**

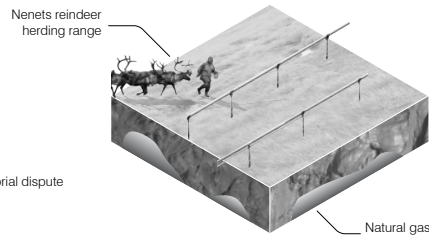
- Altai ▨
- Uralic-Yukagirian ▩
- Eskimo-Aleut ■
- Na Dene ■

**Territorial Claims**

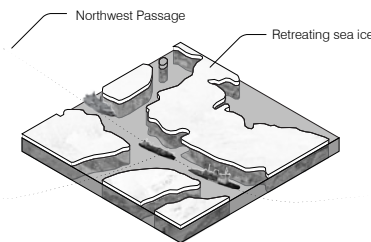
- 200 nautical mile line - - - -
- Arctic circle - - - -
- Disputed between adjacent territories ■
- Svalbard treaty area ▨
- Iceland-Norway joint zone □



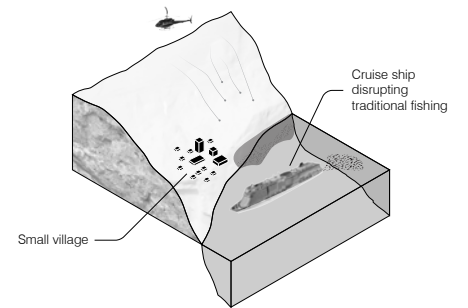
**Lomonosov Ridge**



**Yamalia**



**Northwest Passage**



**Tourism (Greenland)**



Kitchen, Inari, Finland.



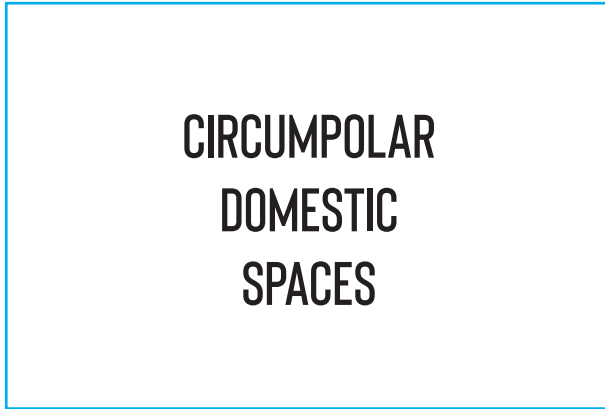
Dining Room, Norilsk, Russia.



Kitchen, Nuuk, Greenland.



Bedroom, Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada.



Shed, Utqiagvik, Alaska, USA.



House, Kiruna, Sweden.



Kitchen, Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway.



Living Room, Norilsk, Russia.



Reindeer herding, Inari, Finland.



Karahnjukar hydropower plant, Iceland.



Incinerator, Nuuk, Greenland.



Sealift, Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada.



Oil field, North Slope, Alaska, USA.



Iron ore mine, Kiruna, Sweden.



Mega cruise ship, Longyearbyen, Norway.

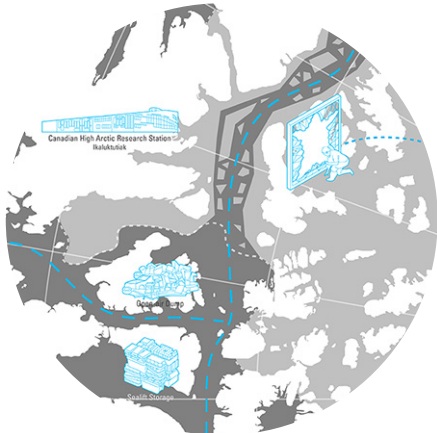


Open nickel mine, Norilsk, Russia.

CONTESTED CIRCUMPOLAR



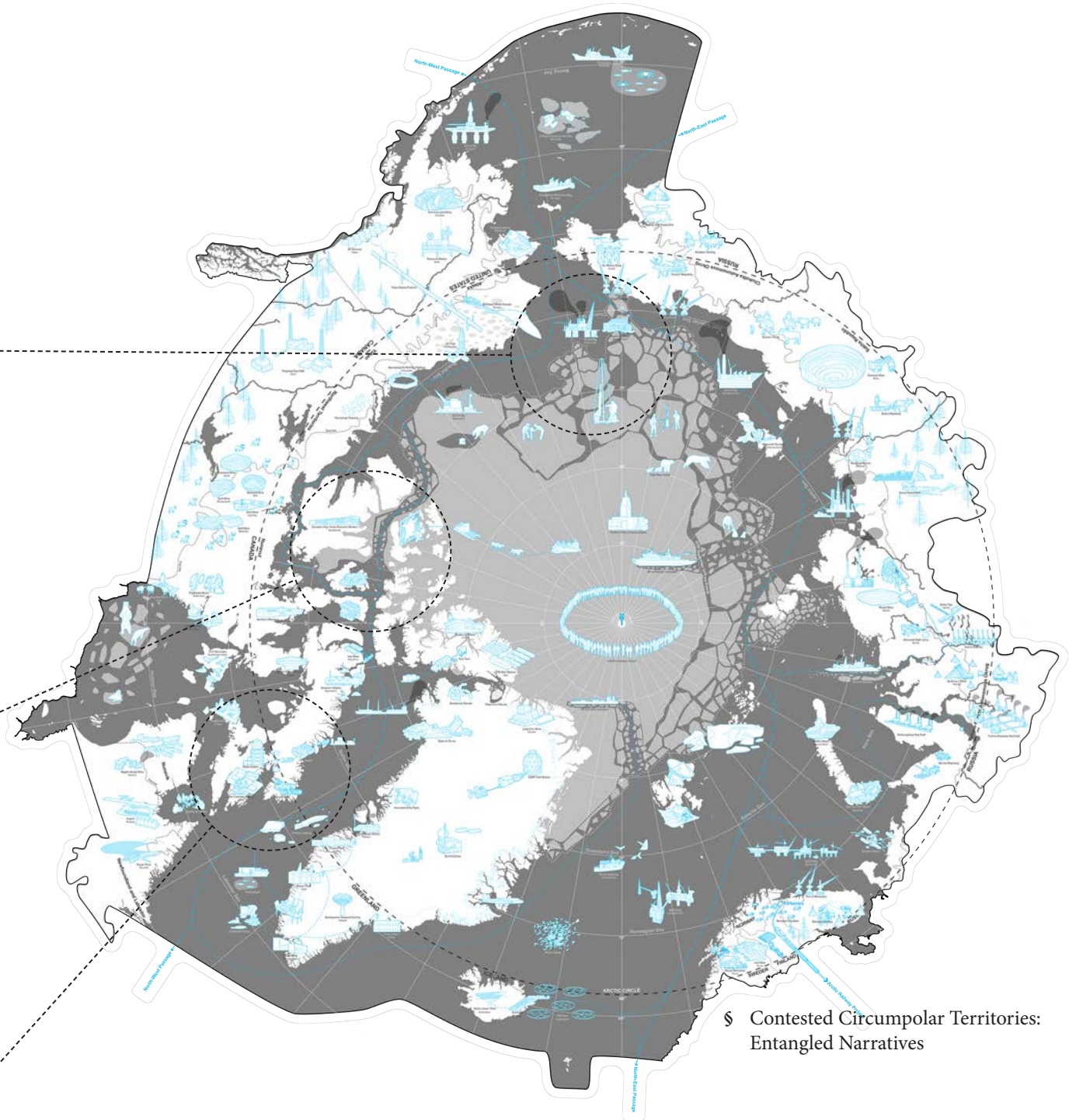
resource extraction, scientific research, hunting.



traditional life, research station, waste, logistics.



overcrowded houses, waste management, military.

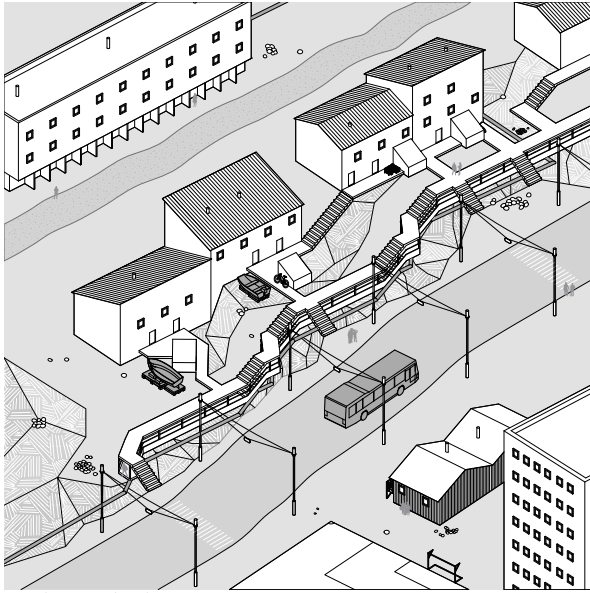


§ Contested Circumpolar Territories:  
Entangled Narratives

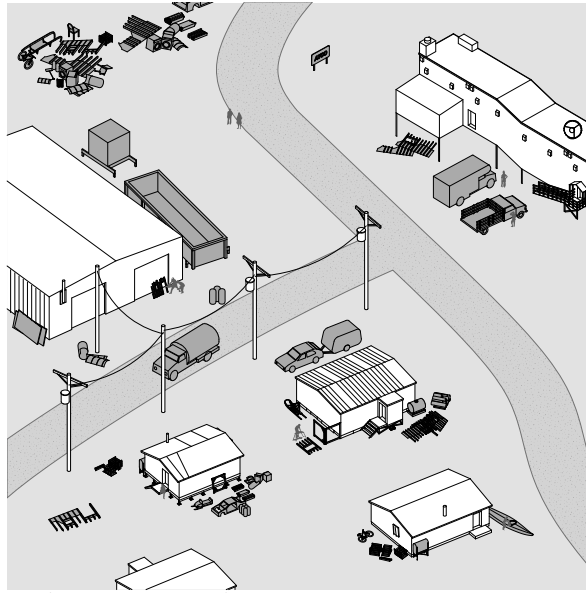


§ 8 Nations as Domestic-Territory cores arranged as a Circumpolar Council.

CONTESTED CIRCUMPOLAR

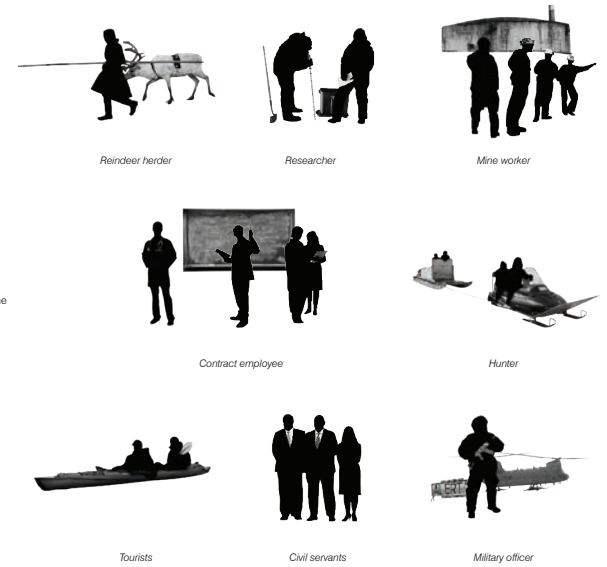
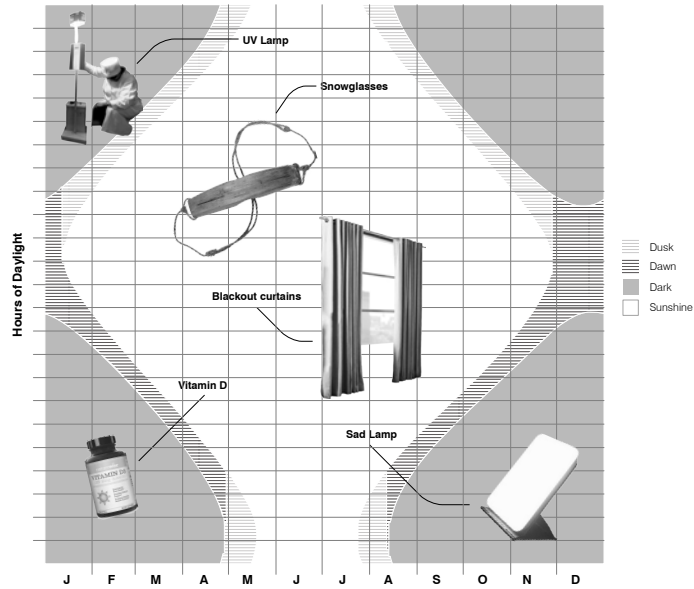


Nuuk, Greenland



Resolute, Nunavut, Canada

§ Understanding the role of infrastructure and land in urban Arctic.

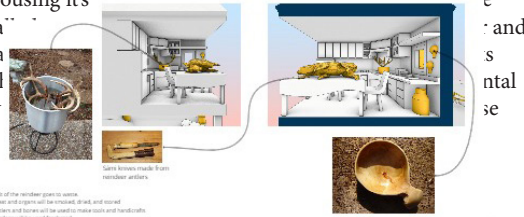


§ Understanding daylighting and actors unique to circumpolar domestic life.

Interview with Runa Sværd, planner, Nuuk, Greenland

Runa Sværd 0:00

Complex called the radio mountain translated the whole complex is with the larger blocks of flats and the terrorist housing in the middle and then you have this this part and this particular part is very sought after because it's from being social housing it's been sold off to private and a lot of them are owned by the I think it's called is it called ca... I can find out how many there actually are and they contain each of them because I think they are owned by the government here. So the very words.



Interviewer 1:17

And do so would you see and maybe

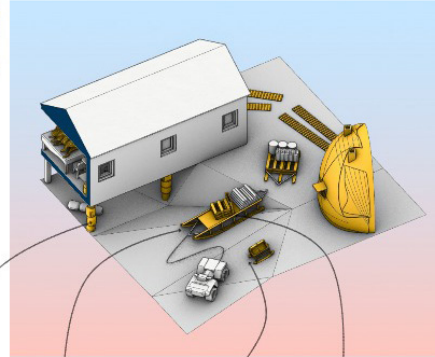
Runa Sværd 1:30

I would say that it's pro...



Interviewer 1:38

Okay, it's in new as you probably mean population is indigenous and color the both ownership and rental in the same it's, it would Danish quarter.



Unknown Speaker 2:07

This is not this is not a typical Danish... details on this would be interesting... up speaking to you. Is these for... Do you know these



Runa Sværd 2:32

storage it's not waste coll... you can see the waste on brown ones in front of the green. That's the waste. So these shirts as as you might know from Canada, storage is a big thing. Because of these seasonal activities whether it's or skiing storage is one of the things that we always say is never enough makes a European dwelling different from an optic that's the need for storage and also the entrance you need a large insurance for all the shoes and yes, we were so when Danish architects come here because it's mainly Danish and we will always tell them that that's that's specific needs such as more storage and a large entrance.

Interviewer 3:58

Would you say that there is maybe some questions about the interior. Would you say that there are qualities distinct to a Greenlandic interior and what would those qualities be? Is it the size of a room as you talked about an entry being larger, and the shed as a storage space for all seasons for fishing is very useful. Are there other kinds of interior qualities that are distinctive among Greenlanders and Greenlandic in your observations?

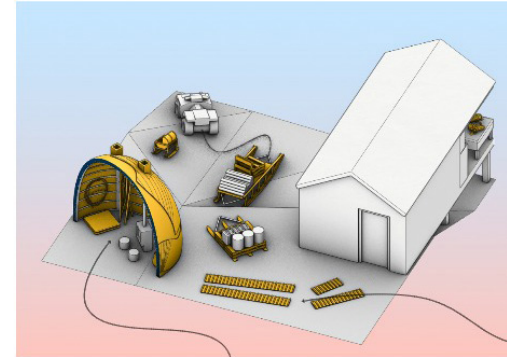
Interview with Shirley Tagalik, Arviat, Nunavut, Canada

Interviewer 33:02

What would you say defines domestic life in Arviat? Is it the house? Is it going out on the land? We recognize that the domestic isn't always only the house or uniquely to house, so I'm curious to hear your thoughts are on that.

Shirley Tagalik 33:24

So for Arviat, it would definitely be family, family and extended family, and the activities that family are involved in. And so for some families that is going out on the land. other families may seldom go out on the land. You know, I remember teaching junior high kids in my early years in Arviat it and was stunned to find out that they've never left a community because some families are so big, that you don't have the wherewithal to haul your kids on the land. But it's the idea that, you know, culturally, family is everything and that your obligations to family are still expected and practice. So my son in law would get nervous, if they hadn't come to visit me, you know, in a day. The obligation is alright, at least once a day. COVID with in that you're that you're checking on elders arising food with people really, that you know, t of how many reads in this community live. ren. So our children also visit and surround and out of each other's houses all the time definitely in the south, but probably even in ble disease capital of Nunavut.



community or region? For were talking about Arviat that welcome people. I don't know if I or practices that are quite, that are sort of ?



here is a lot of visiting. Many of us s arrive at your door, you always offer n. And, and there are many, many times ance very openly. So, you know, you, you may see fresh caribou, we're cooking up a pot, and d, and so people will just drop over. In the e definitely if there's an event or you know, ill be invited in to share food, but, but even ple, if they drop over, you'll say, Oh, you know, stay know, the welcoming aspect includes providing available, and, and, you know, that could extend ying on a visit or after you share a meal, people will spontaneously start playing games. So, really, that social interaction piece can be very spontaneous. But, but it sort of follows this pattern where, you know, you share what you have, you really take time

§ Interviews and Collage as collaborative remote research and working methods.



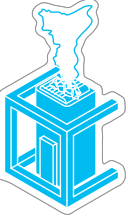


§ Exhibition view of Contested Circumpolar: Domestic Territories at 2021 Venice Biennale in Architecture.

# CONTESTED CIRCUMPOLAR

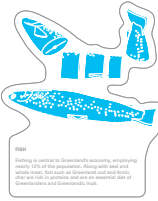
## SUINA

In the 1980s, new apartments provided for mining employees were erected on the traditional Swedish houses. However, they were often converted to storage depots for cars. A large public square was built around it in 1971 to create a new public square intended to serve as a social gathering by citizens.



## FISH

Fishing is central to Greenland's economy, involving nearly 1/3 of the population. Along with seal and whale meat, fish is the main source of protein and one of the most important food products for the island.



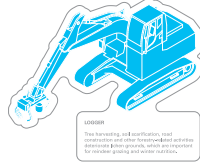
## COMMUNICATIVE CONNECTION

Large satellite dishes and weak connections, remote areas in Arctic communities pose a challenge for communication. The development of an alternative for satellite-based mobile communications continues to be tested.



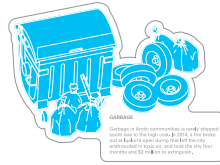
## AGRICULTURE

The diversity of vegetation, soil conditions and other factors prevent and restrict crop growth, which encourages the raising of reindeer herds.



## WASTAGE

Wastage in construction is one of the most significant factors for high prices. It is a factor that makes it more difficult to build affordable housing in the Arctic. The use of local resources and 3D printing is an attempt.



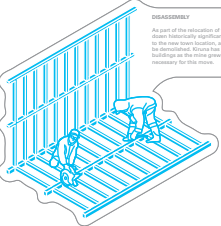
## SHEDDED PLANT

Up to 80% more energy is required to heat energy in the Arctic. In the long run, the use of renewable energy sources is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic. The use of local resources and 3D printing is an attempt.



## DISASSEMBLY

As part of the relocation of the town of Umanu, some historically significant buildings will be moved to the town of Umanu. The buildings will be dismantled. Umanu has been established as the new town. The buildings will be moved to the new town. The buildings will be moved to the new town.



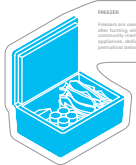
## BLINDOUT CURTAINS

Blindout curtains are installed in many parts of the town of Umanu. The curtains are used to prevent the sun from shining into the town. The curtains are used to prevent the sun from shining into the town.



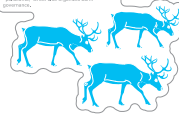
## FREEZER

Freezers are used to store frozen country food after hunting, which is often shared among family and community members. Freezers are used to store frozen country food after hunting, which is often shared among family and community members.



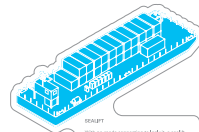
## REINDEER

Reindeer herding occurs both in tundra and forest areas with a great diversity of vegetation. Reindeer herding is a traditional activity in the Arctic. Reindeer herding is a traditional activity in the Arctic.



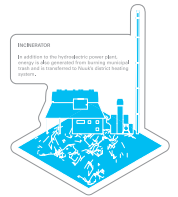
## SCULPT

With an increasingly limited number of artists, there is a need to create new art. The use of local materials and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic. The use of local materials and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic.



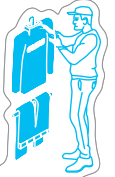
## RECREATION

Recreation is an important part of the life of the Arctic. The use of local resources and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic. The use of local resources and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic.



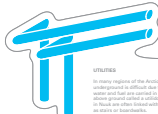
## MAKER'S UNIFORM

The town of Umanu, like so many regions of the Circumpolar North, uses its resources to mining. Recently the buildings of the town began to be sold to the mineral extraction. The government owned mining company, KAM, is investing 6,000 people in the town of Umanu, to enable mining to continue.



## UTILITIES

In many regions of the Arctic, utility pipes underground without heat is a common problem. The use of local materials and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic. The use of local materials and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic.



## GLASSWARE

The use of glassware is a traditional activity in the Arctic. The use of local materials and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic. The use of local materials and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic.



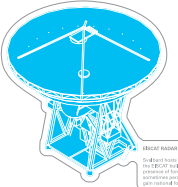
## TENT

Some of the most important tents are used in the Arctic. The use of local materials and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic. The use of local materials and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic.



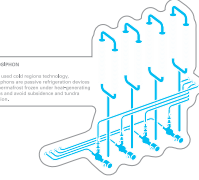
## REAR FAN

Rear fans are used in the Arctic. The use of local materials and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic. The use of local materials and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic.



## HERMISTOPHON

Hermistophons are used in the Arctic. The use of local materials and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic. The use of local materials and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic.



## JERRICAN

Gas is essential for life in isolated communities, both for transportation and heating. The use of local materials and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic. The use of local materials and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic.



## REAL SKIN DRINKING

Real skin drinking is a traditional activity in the Arctic. The use of local materials and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic. The use of local materials and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic.



## AN ANTI-ICEBERG BED

Anti-iceberg beds are used in the Arctic. The use of local materials and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic. The use of local materials and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic.



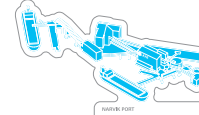
## LEGITIMATE EARLY BIRTHING DEGREE FAN

Legitimate early birthing degree fans are used in the Arctic. The use of local materials and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic. The use of local materials and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic.



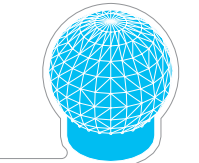
## SHIRT FOOT

Shirt feet are used in the Arctic. The use of local materials and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic. The use of local materials and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic.



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## DAY LIGHT LAMP

Lack of sunlight during the long winter months means that artificial sources of light are needed for equipment operation. "Artificial light" is an essential requirement for children growing up in circumpolar communities.



## SHIRT FOOT

Shirt feet are used in the Arctic. The use of local materials and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic. The use of local materials and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic.



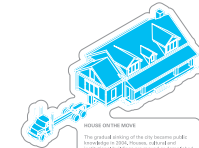
## REINDEER ANTLES

Reindeer antles are used in the Arctic. The use of local materials and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic. The use of local materials and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic.



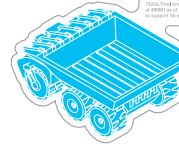
## HOUSE ON THE MOON

House on the moon is a traditional activity in the Arctic. The use of local materials and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic. The use of local materials and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic.



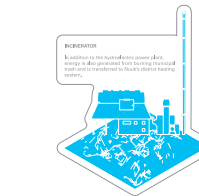
## INVESTMENT

Investment is an important part of the life of the Arctic. The use of local materials and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic. The use of local materials and traditional techniques is one of the most important factors for the development of the Arctic.



## RECREATION

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§ Domestic and Territorial "objects" as circumpolar footnotes.



Inari, Finland.



Reyðarfjörður, Iceland.



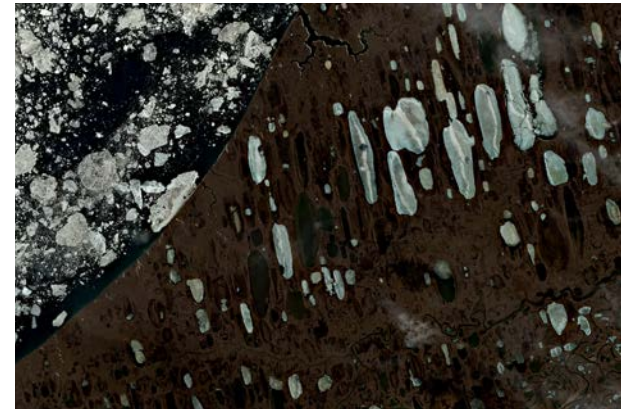
Nuuk, Greenland.



Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada.



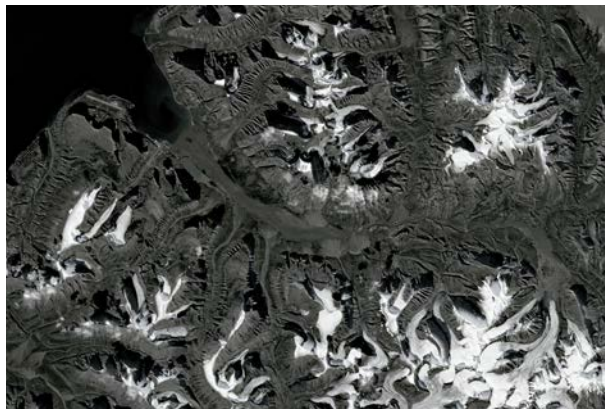
**CIRCUMPOLAR  
LANDSCAPES**



Utqiagvik, Alaska, USA.



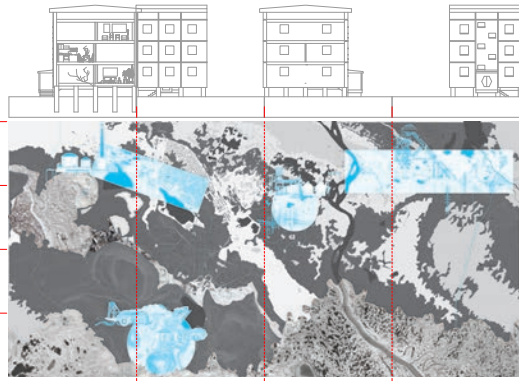
Kiruna, Sweden.



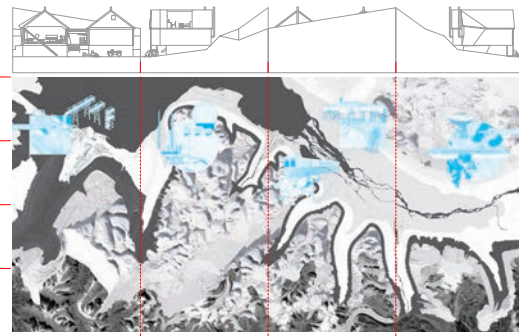
Longyearbyen, Norway.



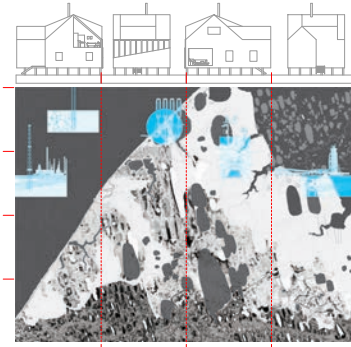
Norilsk, Russia.



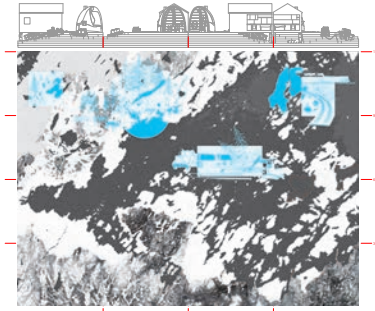
Norilsk, Russia



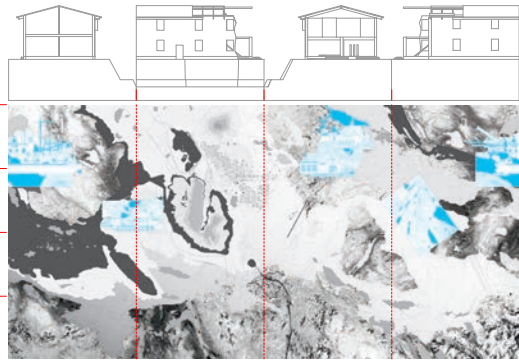
Longyearbyen, Norway



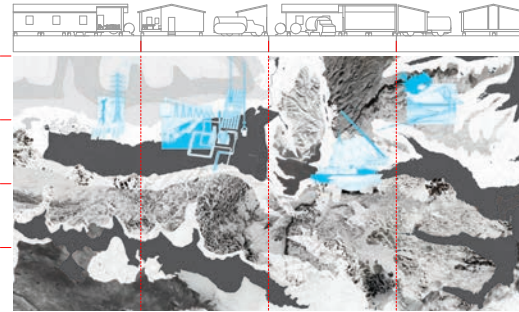
Utqiagvik, USA



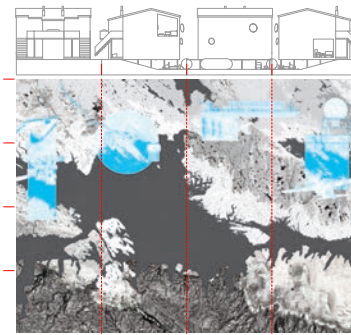
Inari, Finland



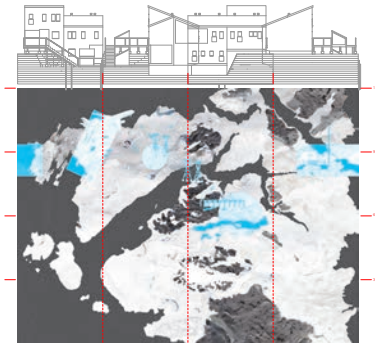
Kiruna, Sweden



Reydarfjordur, Iceland



Iqaluit, Canada

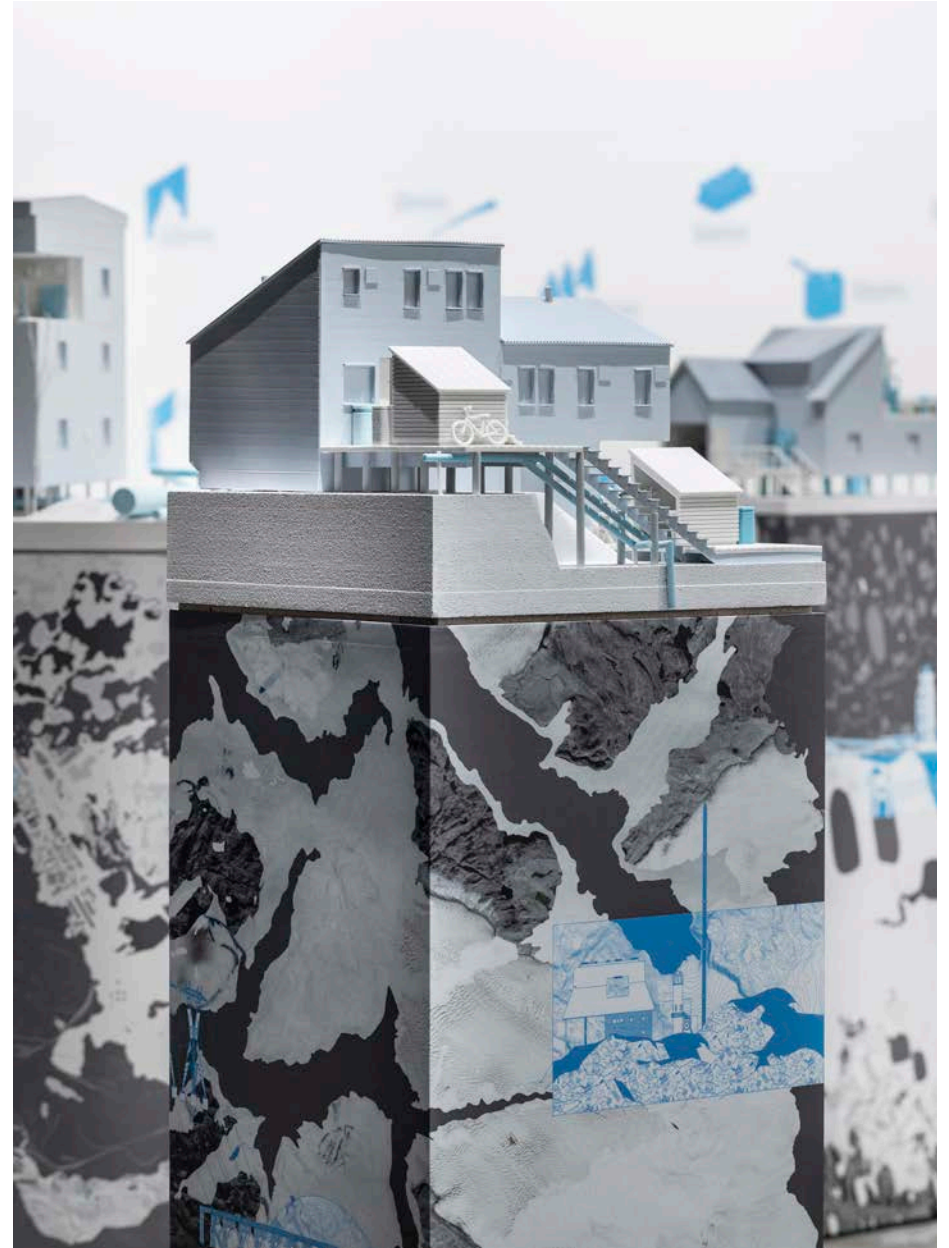


Nuuk, Greenland

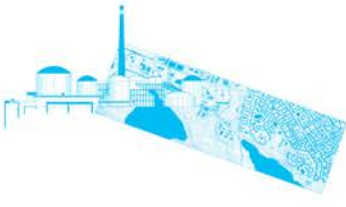
§ Domestic-Territory cores unrolled to reveal entanglement of scales.



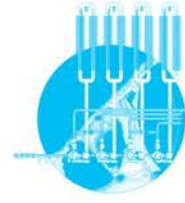
§ Reyðarfjörður, Iceland represents a worker camp for aluminum smelting and the larger.



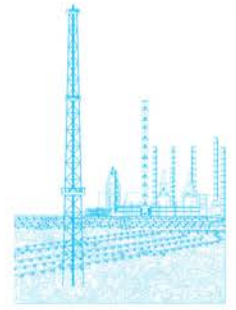
§ Nuuk, Greenland represents the long modern housing blocks developed in the 1960s.



Norilsk, Russia



Utqiagvik, USA



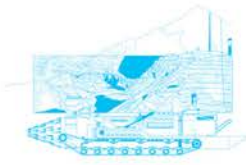
Longyearbyen, Norway



Inari, Finland



Kiruna, Sweden



Iqaluit, Canada



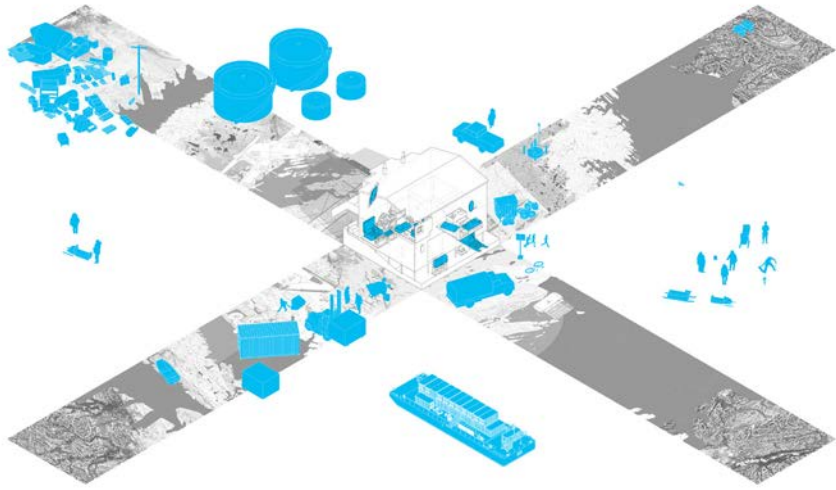
Reydarfjörður, Iceland



Nuuk, Greenland



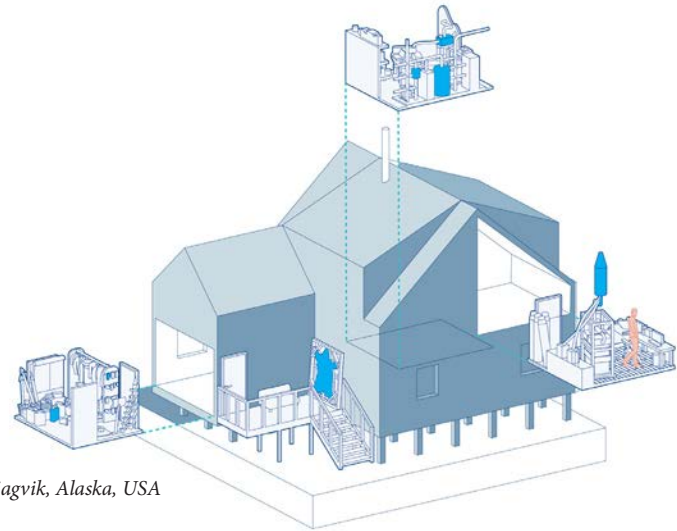
§ Circumpolar territorial narratives.



Domestic Territories of Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada.

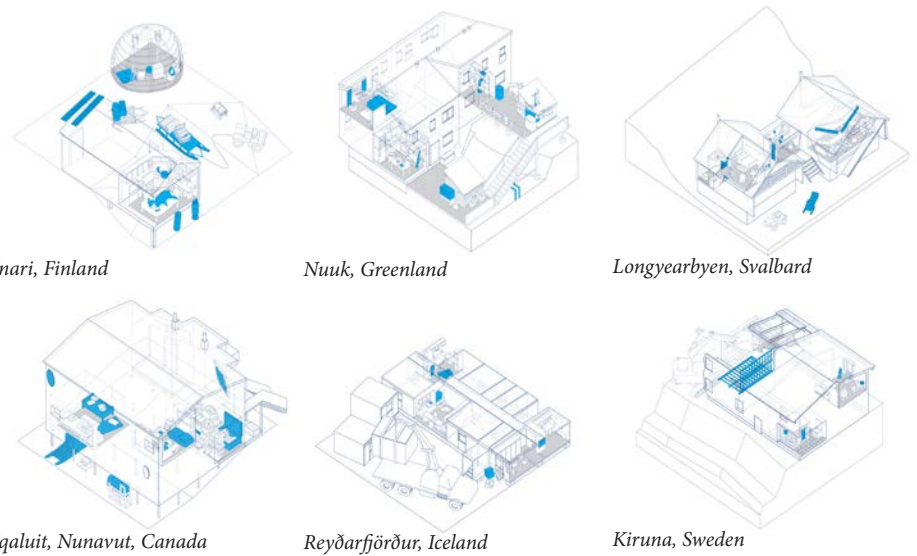


Domestic Territories of Norilsk, Russia.



Utqiagvik, Alaska, USA

Articulating select “rooms” to reveal domestic life.



Inari, Finland

Nuuk, Greenland

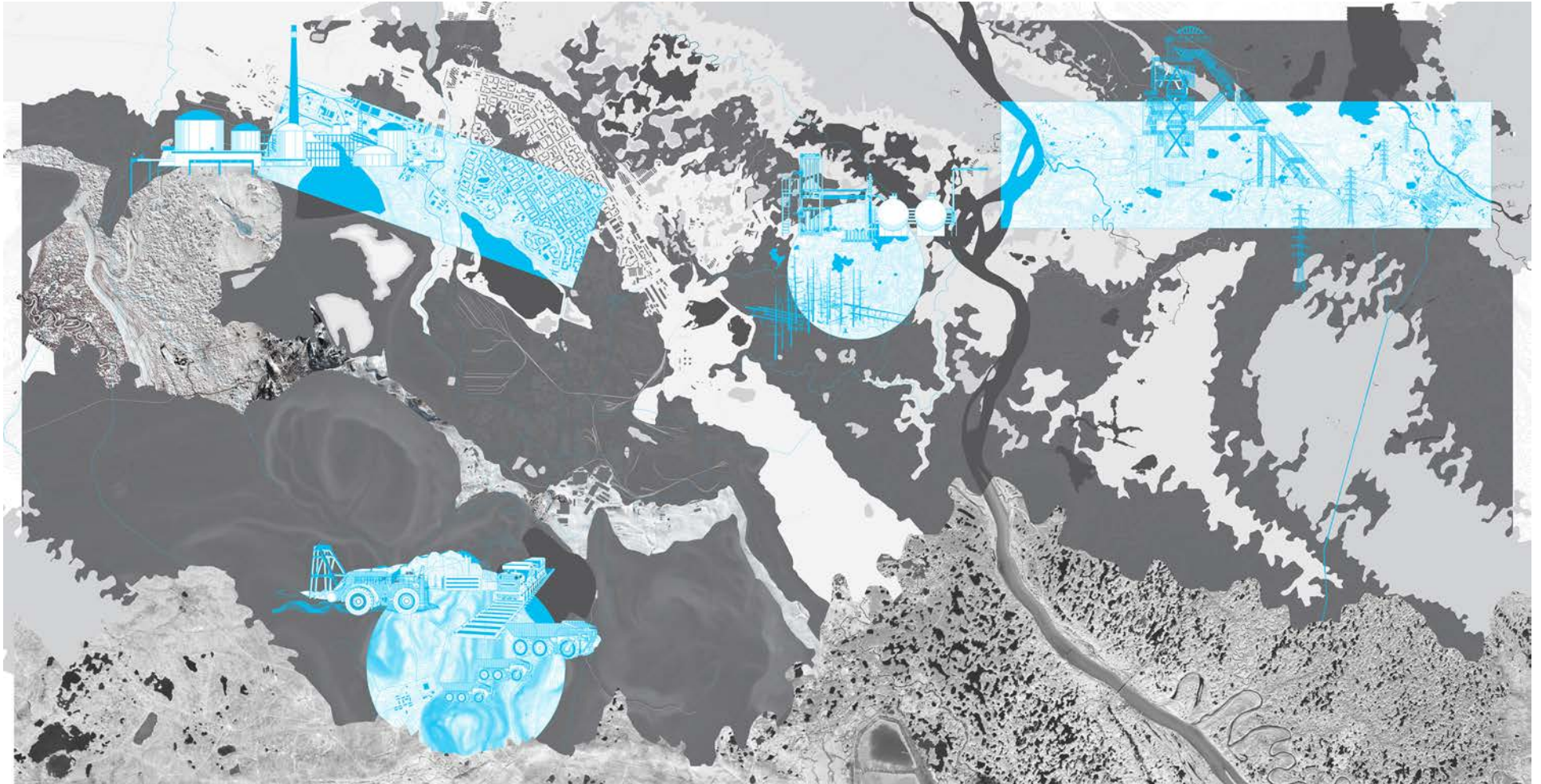
Longyearbyen, Svalbard

Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada

Reyðarfjörður, Iceland

Kiruna, Sweden

Domestic “footnotes” for each model.

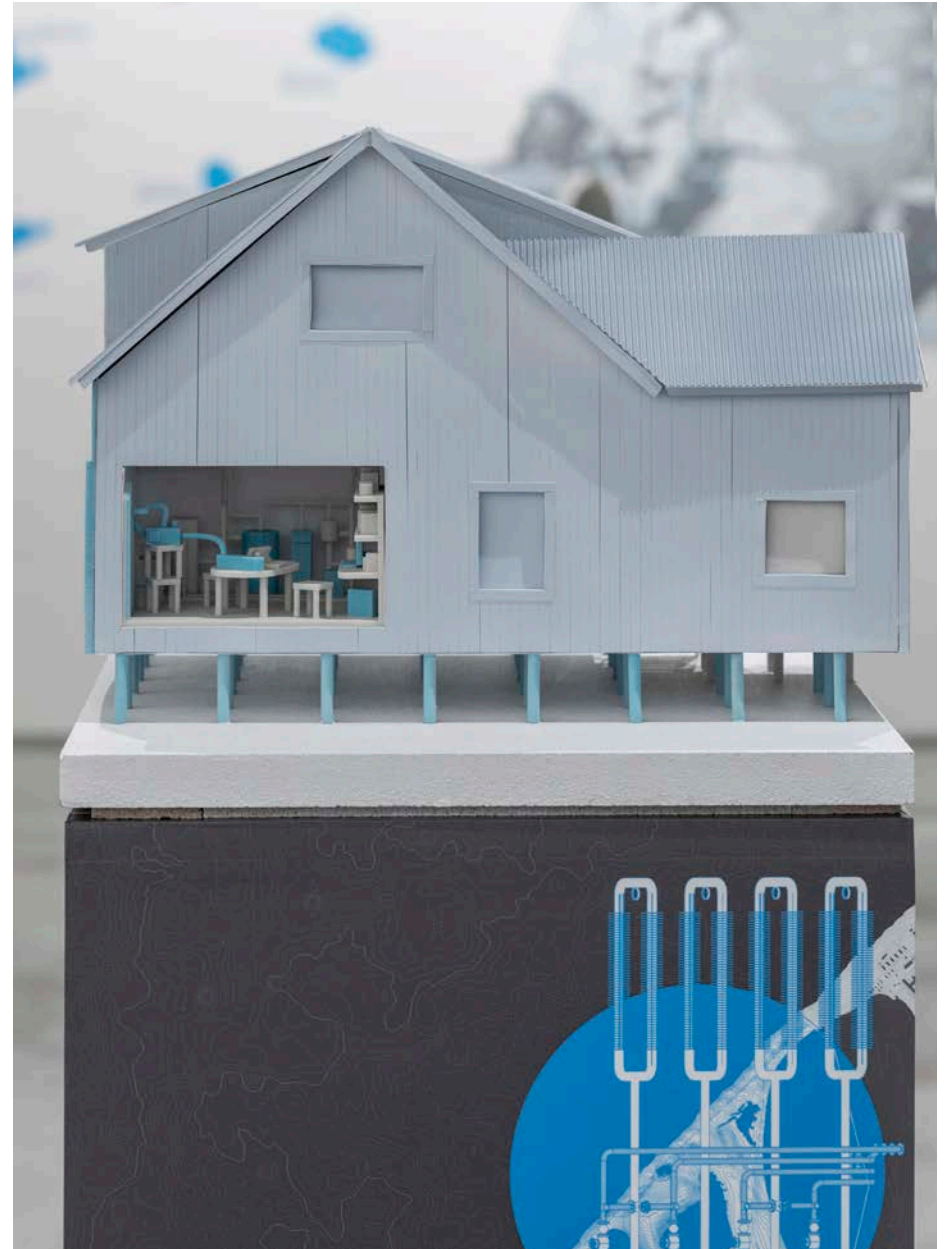


§ Territorial narrative composites.  
Norilsk, Russia.





§ Utqiagvik, Alaska represents housing along the permafrost and the front lines of climate change.



§ Exhibition views of models for Utqiagvik and Inari.



§ Exhibition view with Nuuk, Norilsk, Reyðarfjörður domestic-territory cores.