

Textual Part

*a) a brief annotation of the proposal*

The Holocaust of the Roma and Sinti represents an open wound to the coexistence between various cultures, not only in the Czech context, but also in the European one. This rupture, which causes and consequences go far beyond the existence of the so-called Gypsy camp into the past and the present, can only be healed through the quest for a common dialogue. The proposal for the Memorial in Lety u Písku attempts to initiate a polyphonic dialogue through landscape and architectural means. It seeks to remind and reveal the individual layers, to understand the relationships between them and to further develop the diversity of the place, witness of this bent destiny.

*b) detailed description of the proposal, its individual aspects, sections and basic principles of the material and structural design*

The concept for the new Memorial restores the cultural and natural landscape that has been devastated in recent decades by a large-scale pig farm, whose machinery has in a way concurred the former labor camp. With few exceptions, **the design removes the pig farm facilities**, eliminating the environmental and mental burdens associated with them. **The vacated area frees space for the revitalisation of an extensive meadow**, which refers to a former pasture previously located on the premises. **Surrounding the Central Meadow, a main visitor's route connects all the different elements of the Memorial.** A softer access to the area is provided by a one-way road connecting both of the existing entrances to the site, with the parking resolved and aligning along. Each of the places on the journey is dotted with a simple bench to rest and an information board with a schematic map and information about each individual stops in three languages – Romany, Czech and English.

1) The **Lipeš pond** in the South of the complex, represents the place of forced cleansing at the arrival to the so-called Gypsy camp. **The demolition of the pig farm will remove a significant source of pollution and eutrophication of surface and subsurface waters. The proposal improves the stability of the water regime of this wetland and its affiliated streams** in regards to the retainment of a larger amount of rainfall in the Central Meadow area, also due to the cyclic connection and consolidation of the waterlogged natural belt between the meadow and the adjacent field. This latter draws the water from the wooded hill Babina above the camp to the alluvial valley of the Lipeš pond and the Krahulik stream, which springs from it.

2) The restored pedestrian path along the pond, which now leads through the road class one to the adjacent forest, gives access to the **stone quarry**. The natural processes gradually reclaiming back the mined part of the earth, covers the memory and the truth about the forced heavy labor which took place here, a labor building up the road embankment behind which the quarry is located. Further traces of mining in the form of smaller clusters of voids from extruded granite deposits or piled stone plains can be found in the forests near the former camp. **The breaking, crushing, transporting and repositioning of the stone by camp prisoners was reflected in the architectural language of the visitor centre**, located on the opposite side of the imaginary axis of the territory (the former central road of the demolished pig farm).

3) The **visitor centre**, the so-called **Living Monument**, creates a counterpoint to the quarry in the highest point of the buildable area and is a dominant feature clearly visible at distance. Similarly to the monument by sculptor Zdeněk Hůla for the temporary burial ground, it is designed as a free composition from different volumes. However, they are not fragments of a sphere, but structurally assembled similar masses, close to the block, differentiated by scale and orientation. **Together they form a cluster of concrete blocks reminding of the stone deposit and referring to the mining in the quarry and in the surrounding forests.** The building sits at the intersection of the main pedestrian road with the service one, following on the original forest path. The abstract concrete shell is carved solely by its front door; to the exception of the chapel and the residential units, the openings are only facing towards the inner courtyards. The individual block volumes contain the reception, the exhibition spaces, the café, the multifunctional room, the technical facility and the already mentioned chapel and two units intended for short-term residencies. The construction of the building can be phased through selected blocks. **The interior of the cluster is conceived as a "living space of the users"**. Rather than a financially demanding concrete sandwich or a thermal insulation held by

powerful forces, the use of a special system of internal insulation with an artistically conceived painting created by a Roma artist, is considered. **The implementation of a new segment of the forest should follow the construction of the Living Monument.**

4) **The area of the camp yard**, which was historically the oldest part of the complex, **was chosen as a reminder of the site of the concentration camp.** Just as the old military boots and the bare feet of the prisoners were digging into the clay of the courtyard and their tiny objects were disappearing in it, **the new Plateau is another layer to the palimpsest of this place's memory.** Archaeological probes uncovering the traces of the camp are cut into the water permeable concrete paved surface. The slab is also diagonally intersected by the remaining columns of the former pig farm fence, which mesh has been woven with flowers since 2014. **The Plateau is a symbolic tombstone to the victims, whose names are carved into the stone curb. This sacred pedestal will be the place for reminiscence and pious ceremonies.** With the mesh of the fence removed, the Plateau finally reconnects the previously divided area in which cut, roses symbolically grow. If the Plateau is the tomb, the visitor centre is its headstone.

5) The **burial ground** with the memorial by sculptor Zdeněk Hůla is newly accessed by a footpath through the forest, connected to the Eastern part of the visitor's route, which used to originally lead to the former camp. On the Eastern edge of the site, the wall formed by the young spruce wood will be removed. Similarly to the Southern edge, the area will be completed with dispersed new oaks, aiming to **create a closed intimate clearing in the forest**, protected from the road and its parking. We recommend the removal of the irrigation system. The grass mixture (enriched with low flowering herbs) intended for shade for local habitats of acid oak forests has the capacity to naturally grow in this location and will further add to the strong atmosphere of the place.

6) As a **memento** of human indifference, which to this day stands behind the relativisation and negation of the suffering of prisoners in the so-called Gypsy camp and hence also the initiation of **the pig farm** itself, the proposal **leaves some of its small fragments. Five repeating ramps** which transported pigs to the slaughterhouse at the Western edge of the now emptied meadow, and eventually the "turnstile" at the main entrance gate used for the same purpose, **reveals and stands as a proof to the monumental scale of the former site that has been dishonouring the victims of the Roma and Sinti Holocaust for decades.**

*c) a description explaining principles of site sustainability, including site maintenance and care for the neighbouring landscape, water and waste management, etc. with an attention to minimising all operating costs and environmental impacts*

**In terms of the landscape perspective, two levels** of different required treatments are to be distinguished. On one hand lies **a system of communities close to nature**, and on the other, the understanding of **traditional elements of our own rural landscape.** The sustainability of all elements requires, first and foremost, a work with the species and cultures, which have a natural or a potential occurrence under existing habitat conditions. Once established and with appropriated initial care, they should function without intensive human intervention and energy inputs. **The natural framework** presents a successive site of a hygrophilous belt at the threshold between the central meadow and the surrounding fields, and hygrophilous and wetland biotopes around the pond and stream waters. After the removal of the waste pond, we propose their interconnection and

consolidation. It is important to preserve all levels of the vegetation: the herb–grass, shrub as well as the tree systems. In the future, these places are planned to be non–intervention areas.

**The traditional rural landscape elements** are forests, meadows and solitary trees.

**The new segment of the forest near the Memorial**, will have a high level of representation of tree species, with a predominance of deciduous trees (winter and summer oak, birch, hornbeam, field maple, buckthorn) over the coniferous ones (pine).

The design envisages the planting of various ageing trees in a combination of forest seedlings and older garden sprouts for a faster effect on the landscaping. It works environmentally with the local habitat of acid oaks and oak groves, completed by an appropriate herbaceous–grassy undergrowth. For the visitor and the landscape, it offers a permeable, colourful and diverse forest.

**The Central Meadow** represents an extensive herb–grass community of the local biotope of mesophilic oat meadows. To reduce maintenance as well as to present an attractive demonstration of natural management of the cultural landscape, the design offers the possibility of managed grazing of the permanent grassland. It is a non–intensive method through the grazing by sheep brought only twice a year, in defined areas of the meadow.

The landscape is completed with **solitary trees and draws**. Lower in the more humid locations of the meadow, species of ash–alder meadows (milk and sycamore maple, brittle willow, alder, ash, bird cherry) will be planted. Above the water–logging boundary, acidic oak forests and oak–hornbeam species will be applied (see the segment of the new forest).

**From an architectural point of view**, the sustainability of the proposal is perceived both in connection to **the recycling of a part of the material from the demolition work of the pig farm** and with regard to **minimising the energy required for the running and maintenance of the new building**.

The first is related to **the use of the inert recyclate** for the base and abrasion aggregate layers of the new roads and structures, or as additive for the new concrete structures.

The second concerns the materiality, construction–technique and energy–technology design and the quality of the execution. Whether it is the new network of roads made of mechanically reinforced aggregate, the concrete blocks of the Living Monument, the concrete slab or the new furniture, the proposal is always designed with regard to **durability and the natural ageing** of the material. This also relates to the thermal insulation layer, which, as part of the interior of the building, reduces the impact of potential vandalism and possible natural pests on the exposed exterior.

Although the new visitor centre is planned to run fully only during opening seasons, the **emphasis is put on maximising self–sufficiency and energy efficiency of the building**.

Despite the fragmentation of its structuralist form, there is a clear attempt to reach a compact shape of this cluster of concrete blocks. All rooms, where it is needed, such as the cafeteria, the multifunctional room, the office and the accommodation units, have windows oriented towards the South, with possible shading provided by the other neighbouring volumes or the vegetation present in the courtyards. The other spaces are oriented towards the North to obtain diffuse light (exhibition spaces) or towards the shade gained by the future segment of the forest (chapel) or are without windows (storage spaces and technical facilities).

The building will be connected to the existing engineering network through a low voltage link to the remaining electric station in the Southern part of the premise and running to the LV line near the demolished last hall of the former pig farm.

The access to water is resolved through the connection to the nearby waterworks. The waste will be discharged into the infiltration polder of the new segment of the forest, after being cleaned by a domestic wastewater treatment plant. The reuse of purified water will be examined in a possible follow–up study, as well as a potential application of a flat–plate heat pump and a hot–air heating/cooling system with heat recovery.

*d) answers to questions given by the jury in the invitation to participate in the second round of the competition*

*• In your design, you have the opportunity to submit a proposal for gradual implementation so that the limit of investment costs for the 1st phase of construction of the memorial is respected. The design of the memorial is closely connected with a proposal for a new adjoining landscape. For this reason, the proposal will change significantly over time. How will the area look like after the 1st phase of construction – after the opening of the memorial? How will the proposal look like after 10 and after 20 years?*

**Considered sequence of the interconnected architectural and landscape aspects:**

1/ demolition of the pig farm with the exception of few remaining relics, the Plateau reminding the so-called Gypsy camp; consolidation of the waterlogged natural belt between the meadow and the adjacent field, planting of the rose bushes on the Plateau

2/ one-way communication with parking along, path around the forest, new path towards the burial ground, first phase of construction of the Living Monument blocks, alteration of the service road going towards the Monument; the new segment of a composed forest around the Monument, planting of the trees along the line of the parking and nearby, thickening with trees around the clearing of the cemetery

3/ second phase of construction of the Monument blocks, completion of the circulation path around the central meadow, a new access to the pond, new crossing across the road class one and new access to the quarry; meadow foundation and sowing, treatment of vegetation along new paths

*• The project of the Memorial will be coordinated along the exhibition project. What is your idea on working with the team that will manage the exhibition of the memorial? To what extent do you consider it possible to amend the proposal on the basis of this cooperation?*

The starting point of the competition proposal is the search for possibilities for a common dialogue that should be initiated by this competition, not an ending result. The spatial solution of the exhibitions is open to further discussion, it is possible to change the size and number of the defined blocks for exhibition purposes, and the phasing of their construction. We look forward to the cooperation on the development of the project and we believe that we will become an important part of the realization team. If the project is to achieve a successful outcome, there is probably no other way ...

*• In which parts of the submitted proposal of the site should the individual themes of the memorial, contained in the competition brief, be presented?*

The given themes in the memorial brief are intertwined throughout the project in various forms. It is possible to distinguish three basic levels – **1) particular stops in the landscape within the outdoor exhibition, 2) indoor exhibition in the visitor centre and 3) space for accompanying programmes, short-term exhibitions or residencies.**

The first level leitmotif is **the So-called Gypsy camp in Lety u Písku**, to which the overall concept of the memorial complex relates to. This contextual level of the outdoor exhibition, based on the

passing through the carefully selected points in the landscape associated with the history of the camp, is crucial for the understanding of the spatial, architectural and landscape relations (quarry, road, pond, meadow, forest boundary) and its individual layers (historical traces and new intervention). Equally important is its commemorative character (Plateau for commemorative ceremonies, the burial ground with an existing memorial and others).

Some of the stops in the landscape also touch on the topic of **the Situation after the return of Roma and Sinti survivors**. These are the physical remains and references to them (the remaining posts of the fence and roses on the Plateau, the monument by Zdeněk Hůla or the small relics of the pig farm).

The other two levels develop mainly through the so-called Living Monument. The indoor exhibition presents a broader historical and social context summarising all the themes of the memorial (in addition to the already mentioned, also the last of the assigned themes **the Situation of Roma and Sinti from the First Republic to the end of the World War II**). However, it should not remain only at the level of looking back. That liveliness, mentioned in the title of this part of the Memorial, is related to the intention to make it a scene for active discussion on the current topics of multicultural coexistence. For this purpose, the indoor permanent exhibitions should also be extended by temporary ones, and with the other premises intended for the implementation of an accompanying cultural and educational programme, for informal meetings, including possibilities for short-term residencies for historians, artists or other actors.

*• During the working process for the project (in the phase of project preparation and implementation), the client will require intensive communication and close cooperation with the survivors' representatives. How do you envisage the cooperation with the survivors? Where do you see the greatest scope for cooperation with them? Which concrete elements, architectural details would you like to consult already with the survivors?*

The concept of the project is clearly open to a dialogue with the survivors. In addition to the content of the exhibitions itself, we intend to invite for direct cooperation in the interior design of the Living Monument as to enrich the space itself. It is conceived as a "living space of the users", which opens a discussion about the Roma themes of its interior paintings or the character of its interior furnishings. We also expect an active dialogue on the design of the reminiscing names of the victims cut into the stone border of the paved surface above the former camp courtyard. We would like to invite the survivors to participate in the planting of the new segment of the forest, which is also a part of the Memorial.

*• In the light of the proposal you have submitted, what is your idea of the course of annual ceremonies of reverence on the site?*

The central space for the reverent ceremonies on the site is the place of remembrance of the so-called Gypsy camp, the Plateau defining the area of the former camp courtyard. The annual commemorative acts will build on those already existing, initiated by the association Konexe. Their focus will be the symbolic space of the removed fence around the pig farm complex with the newly planted bed of roses.

## Annexe - EXPERT INVESTMENT COST ESTIMATE

*/The phasing does not represent a long-term construction timeline, but its proposes a phasing solution for implementation according to the investor's financial possibilities/*

### EXPERT INVESTMENT COST ESTIMATE - 1ST PHASE OF CONSTRUCTION

	unit	numbers of units	cost per unit	total cost
<b>reminder of the so-called Gypsy Camp - the PLATEAU</b>				
concrete slab incl. the substrate used from recycled material from the demolition work	m3	270	3,500 Kč	945,000 Kč
granite curb incl. substrate	pc	300	1,200 Kč	360,000 Kč
hand chopping/manual carving into stone of the victim's names incl. gilding	letter	2000	180 Kč	360,000 Kč
consolidation and conservation of archaeological findings	total	1	200,000 Kč	200,000 Kč
<b>landscaping and vegetation</b>				
planting of the bed of roses on the Plateau	pc	5	550 Kč	2,750 Kč
<b>pig farm area</b>				
cleaning and preservation of the remaining small relics of the pig farm	m2	200	500 Kč	100,000 Kč
<b>total 1st phase</b>				<b>1,967,750 Kč</b>

### EXPERT INVESTMENT COST ESTIMATE - 2ND PHASE OF CONSTRUCTION

<b>new building facilities - 1. phase of construction of the Living Monument blocks</b>				
<b>Visitor centre building</b>				
architectural volume	m3	1500	10,750 Kč	16,125,000 Kč
temporary exhibition display at polyfunctional space, equipment	total	1	1,500,000	1,500,000 Kč
<b>other facilities</b>				
outdoor furniture	total	1	150,000 Kč	150,000 Kč
<b>landscaping and vegetation</b>				
Segment of a composed forest around the Living Monument	m2	6000	700 Kč	4,200,000 Kč
Planting of trees along and around parking	pc	100	3,450 Kč	345,000 Kč
Tree and bush thickening around the burial ground to create a clearing	pc	50	2,760 Kč	138,000 Kč
<b>Infrastructure</b>				
one-way road {mechanically reinforced aggregate} with aligning parking and sidewalk, connected to the existing asphalt road				
sidewalk	m2	<b>930</b>	1,200 Kč	1,674,000 Kč
parking lane	m2	<b>1140</b>	1,800 Kč	1,368,000 Kč
main road	m2	<b>1430</b>	1,800 Kč	2,574,000 Kč
path along the forest	m2	<b>1300</b>	1,800 Kč	2,340,000 Kč
new footpath to the burial ground	m2	<b>206</b>	1,800 Kč	247,200 Kč
revitalisation of the service road to the Monument	m2	<b>320</b>	1,800 Kč	576,000 Kč
engineering network - LV connection up to 50 m	total	1	100,000 Kč	100,000 Kč
engineering network - water connection up to 50 m	total	1	50,000 Kč	50,000 Kč
<b>total 2nd phase</b>				<b>31,387,200 Kč</b>

### EXPERT INVESTMENT COST ESTIMATE - 3rd PHASE OF CONSTRUCTION

<b>new building facilities - 2. phase of construction of the Living Monument blocks</b>				
<b>Visitor centre building</b>				
architectural volume	m3	1500	10,750 Kč	16,125,000 Kč
exhibition display, equipment	total	1	6,000,000	6,000,000 Kč



<b>other facilities</b>				
outdoor mobilier/furniture	total	1	150,000 Kč	150,000 Kč
<b>landscaping and vegetation</b>				
Meadow implementation and seeding	m2	40000	150 Kč	6,000,000 Kč
Vegetation revitalisation around the new footpaths	pc	50	5,000 Kč	250,000 Kč
Removal of the existing irrigation system and implementation and seeding of the grass-herb foundation on the cemetery clear	m2	2000	300 Kč	600,000 Kč
<b>Infrastructure</b>				
completion of the communication belt around the central axis	m2	<b>900</b>	1,800 Kč	1,620,000 Kč
access to the pond area	m2	<b>150</b>	1,800 Kč	270,000 Kč
crossing of the road class one	m2	<b>35</b>	550 Kč	19,250 Kč
access to the quarry	RM	<b>60</b>	1,800 Kč	108,000 Kč
			total 3rd phase	<b>31,142,250 Kč</b>