



Cold Hawaii Inland – a module-based building system from micro to macro
Cold Hawaii Inland – et modulbasert byggesystem fra mikro til makro

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Location: **Thy, Denmark**

Architects: **3RW arkitekter**

Client: **Thisted Municipality**

Status: **Second Place, Competition (2018)**

Type: **Landscape**

Size: **70 000 m²**

Programme: **modular shelters (with picnic areas, changing facilities and rest rooms); a pedagogical water laboratory; a Finnish sauna; a youth club; a boat club with kitchen and gym; an art exhibition space; a viewing tower; a kayak hotel; and marina promenade facilities**

Collaborators: **Labland Architects (landscape architecture), Rambøll (engineering), Rasmus Johnsen (local expert on watersport), and Troels Schwarz (graphic identity)**

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Project Text

***Cold Hawaii Inland* is an invited competition for the design of a series of sites along a coastal area in Denmark with modular building structures acting as windbreakers and gateways for the active use and enjoyment of the coastal landscape. Together with Labland Architects (landscape architecture), Rambøll (engineering), Rasmus Johnsen (local expert on watersport), and Troels Schwarz (graphic identity), 3RW arkitekter (architecture) is part of 'Team LabLand', one of five teams chosen to participate in the competition.**

Cold Hawaii is a surf colony on the Western coast of Jutland, which has become a national success project creating life and tourism at the many surf spots along this strip. The competition for *Cold Hawaii Inland* constitutes a new phase in this endeavour, developing the innermost areas of the region along the calmer, Limfjord area. Team Labland came second in the competition.

Cold Hawaii Inland includes 10 different sites, each with a varying programme, urban situation and exposure to the environment. From desolate dunal landscapes to sites in urban peripheries, the main function of the architectural interventions is to connect users to the water and facilitate leisure and sports activities. A variety of module typologies house programmes including changing facilities, picnic area, rest rooms, a pedagogical water laboratory, a Finnish sauna, a youth inn, a boat club with kitchen and gym, an art exhibition space, a viewing tower, a kayak hotel and marina promenade facilities.

Throughout the proposal, the architecture acts as windbreaker, allowing users to dwell in the modules despite strong gusts and observe the surfers on the water. Designed as modular buildings with a thick protection against the wind, the structures open up to the landscape. The modules bring people and places together through the potentials and stories of each site and its landscape. Depending on programme, they are designed as flexible units able to become open-air structures, closed buildings or to host glass modules with storage, changing facilities and other services.

The structures use a wood-based modular construction system that can be mass-produced and assembled in different ways at the various sites along *Cold Hawaii Inland*. Three different modules were requested; for each module, the team developed a building system in contemporary timber that can also be used for the project's other building types. We aimed at creating a common expression that bound all sites of *Cold Hawaii Inland* together, in opposition to standalone iconic buildings. The approach relies on a locally adapted family of form, where buildings are assembled and modified at different locations to support their respective programmes.

Historically, the structures built in the Scandinavian coast have been developed using a building and material system tailored specifically to withstand the area's climate, while being flexible for changes in use. The main construction material used here is wooden beams, which are raised to form a roof rack. Still today, this type of assemblage is optimal for the creation of large open spaces, as it provides an open and flexible construction system that can be extended as needed. The method also requires an exterior coating that protects the wood structure from undesirable wind and weather. Such building principle can be traced back to the first long houses built in the Viking age, as well as to most Nordic wooden churches, stables and boat houses. Users' encounter with the nature of Thy is mediated with a simple building technique that shields them from hostile winds and temperatures.

All shelters have a protective side and an open side, with the protective fold always placed against the wind direction, to allow the open side to be used for meeting place, contemplation and sleeping. The most distinct building element is the saddle roof, which gently guides the wind over the structure to create shelter on the opposite side. The lee side lifts up to increase the inner space, enabling the different functions that the shelter will accommodate. At the main entrance, the fold lifts up to make the entrance visible and welcoming. In most situations, users both see the building and enter



Project text (continued)

it from its protective side. The protective side is made of large clean surfaces, which suggest a public aesthetic and clearly indicate the structure's programme. The open side of the building is made of light, transparent materials that contrast the heavy protective side. Materials used include polycarbonate – a strong, durable, translucent material – and frosted glass walls. At clubhouses and meeting rooms, a wall with double glass doors is mounted; this element provides flexibility throughout the year. Polycarbonate is also used as walls in the toilet modules, and as screens where there is a bath. Toilets and urinal polycarbonate walls' top are perforated to obtain ventilation – similar strategies of openness are used to ensure a constant airflow through the storage modules. All modules are thoroughly waterproof, and – when possible – are raised from the ground, minimizing their footprint impact with immediate soil.

The modules must provide better facilities and simplify users' (surfers, windsurfers and other water sports persons) access to the lake. We focused on creating family-friendly rooms and improving accommodation for both children and adults, so that the sites become more attractive to people of all ages, sport practitioners or not. This aim is achieved with the design of wind-oriented volumes that frame the area. Additional elements such bridges or decks stretch out and transform into play surfaces for children or training surfaces for adults, while equipment modules can be added when storage is needed.

As part of the project, a design manual and new graphic identity for the sites was developed, based on the special features of Thy: from the coastal landscape, the geology, and the biotopes in marine ecology, to the meeting with the building, city and industry.

Cold Hawaii Inland's context, history and site

Cold Hawaii is known and recognized for its water sports conditions around the world. Many Europeans, Danish and North German people in particular travel to the area, and some settle at the west coast, as the quality of this water sports milieu is remarkable. Their profile can be simplified to a combination of four values: readiness for change, timeliness, diligence and perseverance. These values are prerequisite for anyone engaged an activity that depends to a great extent on the weather. If one doesn't commit to them, it will prove difficult and often impossible to practice water sports. We believe that a symmetry exists between approaching both water sports and *Cold Hawaii* and *Cold Hawaii Inland* projects with these values.

We like to think of the west and east coasts as opposed chains in a DNA branch defining water sports activities in Thy, as the two coastlines both exclude and complement each other. Some refer to them as "the harsh west coast" and "the gentle east coast". The west coast is colder, more angular, harder and programmatically simpler (it is too dangerous for several water sports), while the east coast is warmer, lighter, softer, calmer, safer, and offers more varied services.

The prerequisite for the existence of *Cold Hawaii Inland* was of course *Cold Hawaii*. Nothing really existed along the coast – which sharp shore lines and waters were perceived as dangerous – before *Cold Hawaii's* surfing spot was discovered. In the 1980's, German surfer Christian Dach, brother to the legendary surfer Jürgen Dach, stumbled by coincidence over the bay down Ørhagevej, and immediately identified an area with top class surfing conditions. And so, the first surfers came to Thy, to this place they still consider one of the wildest in Northern Europe.

Today, as consequence of the site's exploding popularity, most people know that *Cold Hawaii* is not limited to the renowned Klitmøller spot, but includes a series of thirty surf sites. They stretch from Vigsø in the north (east) to the tip of



Project text (continued)

Agger Tange in the south. A heterogeneous crowd can now be found on the beaches and waves, as the infrastructures generally improved. The access to the water has been facilitated and instructors settled around – it is no longer a spot reserved to the sport's elite.

The Limfjord coast in Thisted Municipality presents a different character. To the west, Amtoft Harbor leads to a wide and open portion of the fjord, which provides good conditions for sailing (at all levels, recreational to competitive training). To the east, it is bordered by the Amtoft Vig area, also dubbed Road House Creek, which is an exceptional site for kite surfing on flat water. Likewise, in Thisted, a variety of spots can be found. Starting on the south-facing coast with the Synopal Harbor, where the old mooring plant creates fresh water and thus provides a good area for wakeboarding, it is furthered to the east where Bredning, as Amtoft, provides ideal sailing conditions. There are small green bays and coves for swimming, and warm water portions that are perfect starting routes for rowers and kayakers (as in Doverrodde), while in the south Vilsund offers the opportunity to scuba-dive. Water and jet skiing are tolerated. Finally, Thy's Cablepark, a 2013 initiative, is an example of the desired vision for Thisted Municipality, with the Limfjord coast seen in relation to *Cold Hawaii*: water sports on the west and east coast of Thisted Municipality are here treated as two sides of the same case.

The municipality of Thisted's ambition to connect all North Sea activities across Thy, in order to develop the site into a national centre for water and outdoor activities, is truly unique. The opportunity of thinking across the entire set of punctual experiences and activities along the fjord is intrinsic to the significant growth of the area. It is thus important that *Cold Hawaii Inland* is thought of as a whole that builds on – and interprets – what already exists on site. Natural areas along the coast are some of the main attractions in Thy; our project aims at making them more accessible and better communicated in a broader context. Access to these sites becomes an experience focused on users, nature and materials. We want to restore nature along the coastal landscape – connect the vision for Cold Hawaii Inland with nature and tourism along Limfjorden.

Our wish is to create new frameworks by interpreting the existing, scenic foundations that the district of Thy has already built. We don't intend to populate the coast with big or spectacular objects. The aim rather is to define and provide the best frameworks for a dynamic and healthy life at the coast, and to strengthen such lifestyle within the municipality. A strong coastal concept must unite local inhabitants and tourists. It must also provide the basis for robust and simple architecture interventions that give access to water, while solidifying the aforementioned frameworks for an active life in Thy. Our project should respect the local environment, as well as strongly involve users in the near future, in order to foster a user's relationship with the site that is anchored locally - both for citizens and visitors from the outside. This is why we don't wish to create anything big or spectacular, but rather focus on integrated, customised infrastructures.

Today, the full use of this potential has become the very core of Thisted municipality's vision. It has set its character. As said, inhabitants of Thy's region and visiting tourists have significantly modified their attitude towards nature and its related activities in the past ten years. Their perception shifted from indifference to attachment, as they now understand how these natural conditions constitutes the large part of a valuable experience in Thy. Most have found a renewed pride to be affiliated with the area.



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A module I in the landscape; copyright 3RW arkitekter and Labland Architects



Søbadet; copyright 3RW arkitekter and Labland Architects



Øsløs; copyright 3RW arkitekter and Labland Architects



Example of an open plan module; copyright 3RW arkitekter and Labland Architects



Øsløs; copyright 3RW arkitekter and Labland Architects

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New public path and space at Sydnhaven; copyright 3RW arkitekter and Labland Architects



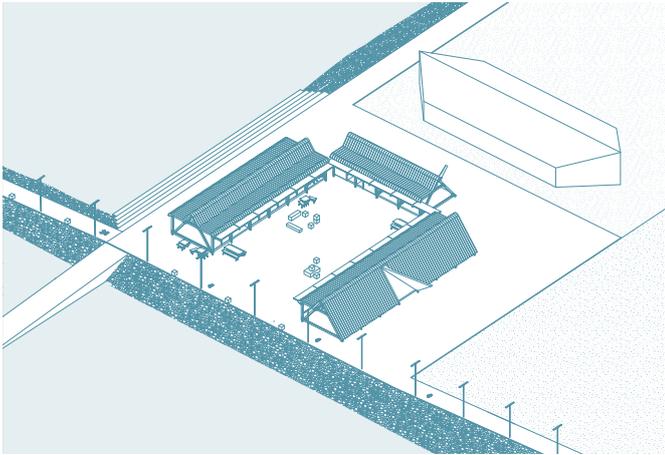
Synopal new water sports recreation area; copyright 3RW arkitekter and Labland Architects



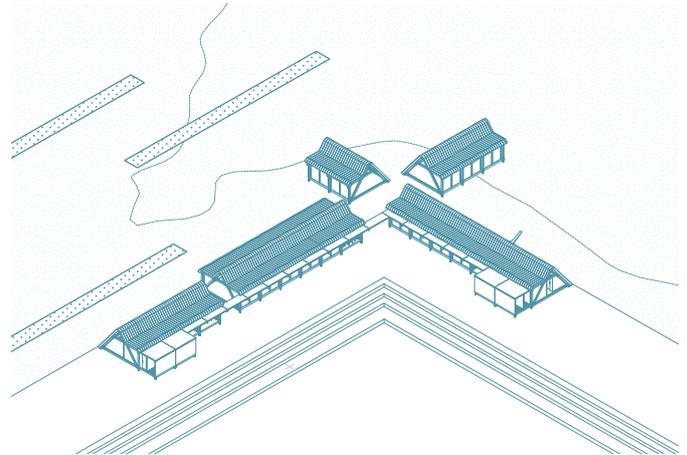
A new circular sauna at Søbadet; copyright 3RW arkitekter and Labland Architects

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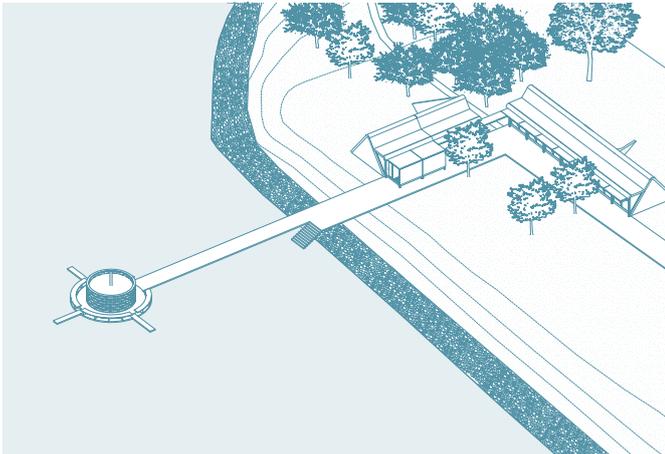
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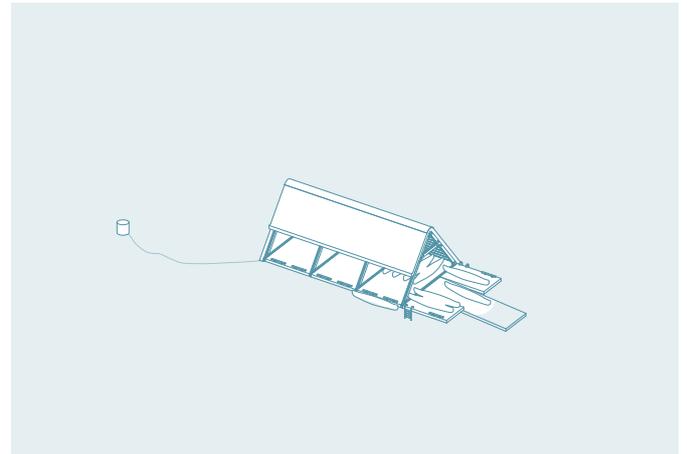
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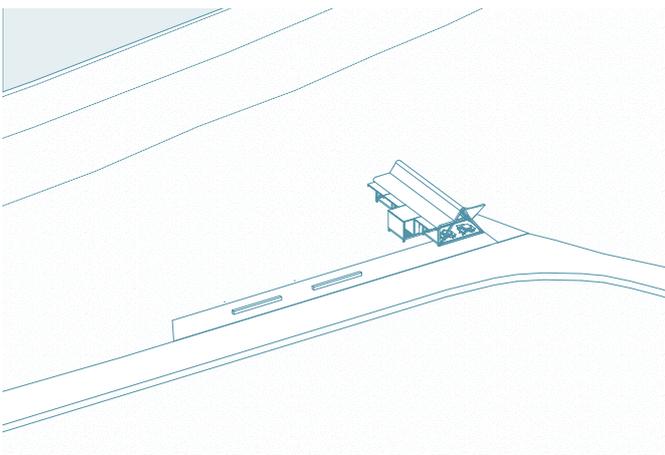
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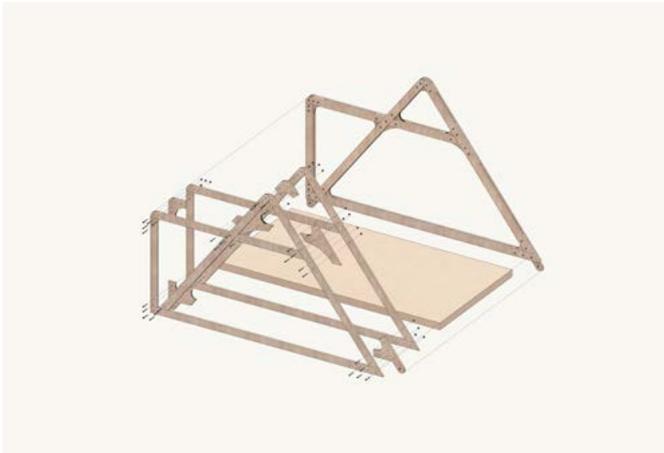
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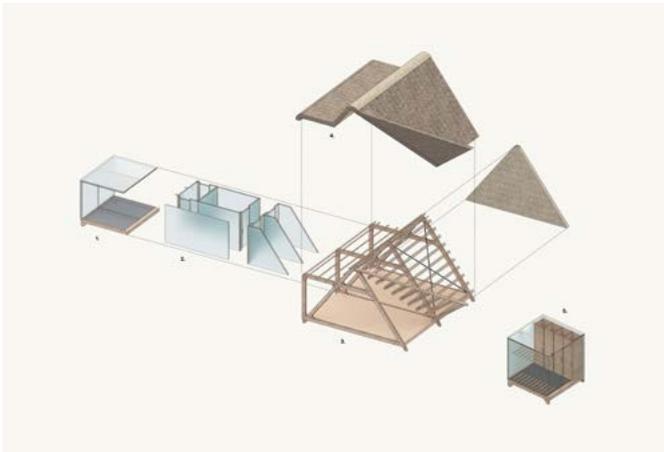
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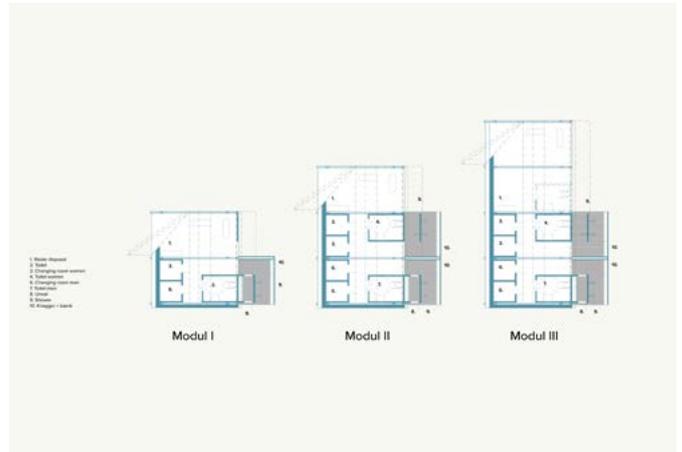
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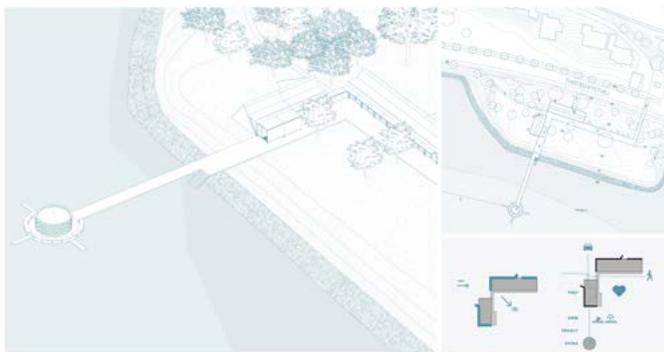
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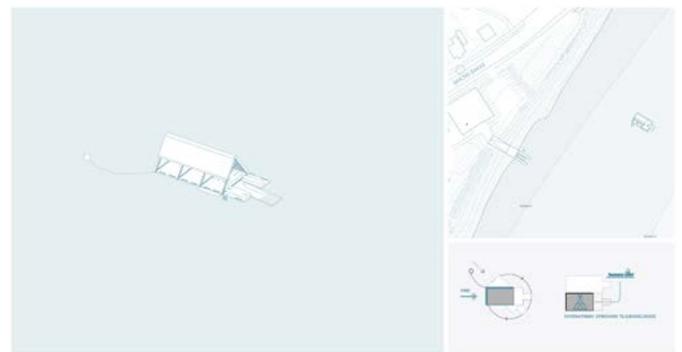
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Plans of 3 different modules (I, II, III); copyright 3RW arkitekter and Labland Architects

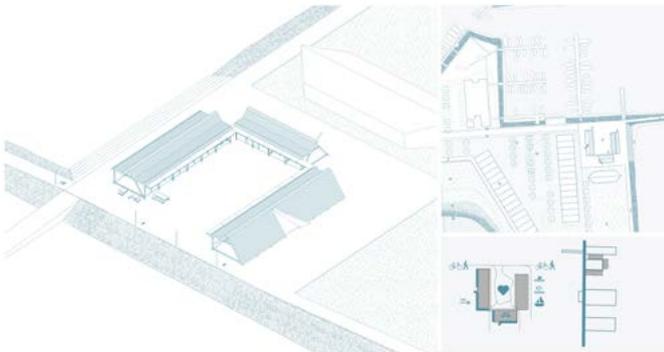


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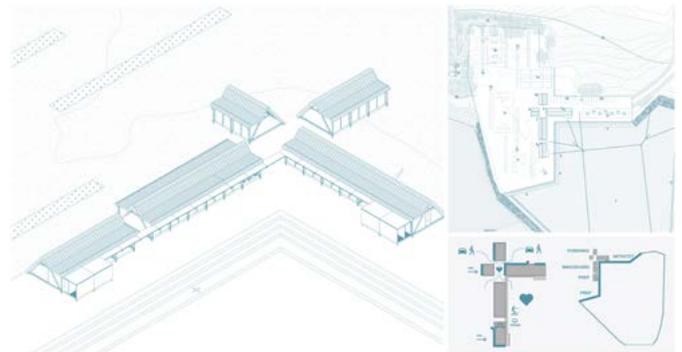


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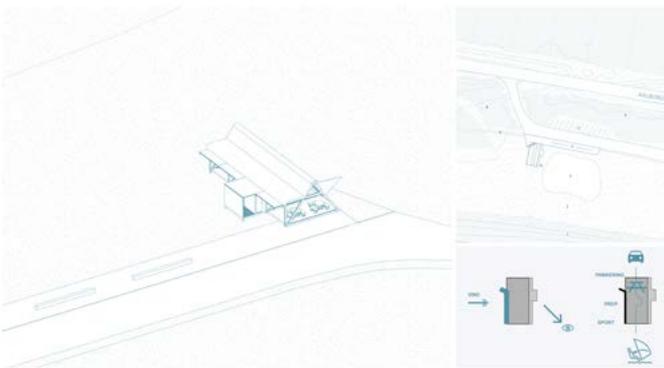
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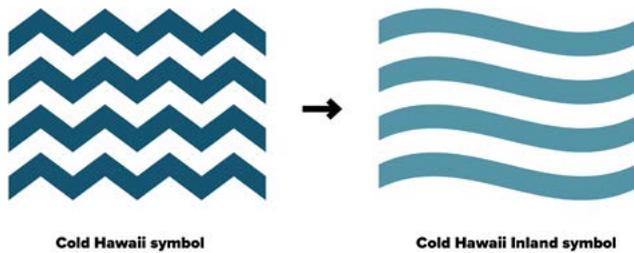
Graphic identity



New graphic identity and experience of Cold Hawaii Inland by Troels Schwarz; copyright 3RW arkitekter and Labland Architects



Cold Hawaii Inland Snapchat geofilter by Troels Schwarz; copyright 3RW arkitekter and Labland Architects



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