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Everyday is Friday

At first glance, things often seem unclear while they are actually quite clear in relation to other things. This may be a perception that we usually encounter in everyday life. Something special can turn out to be banal and vice versa – somehow a joy of contradictions. By pursuing this way of seeing and from the perspective of a stranger in a foreign country, this project has emerged.

The underlying question is what impact the process of transformation to decentralised and sustainable energy production that we are currently facing, and which is a topic of the *Green New Deal*, will have on everyday life. Therefore, the project mediates between sustainable energy production, transformation of the landscape and contemporary housing in the countryside. The result is a figurative composition that creates a balance – at least for the moment. There is a street, a parking garage, a taller house, a lake, a longer house, a giant slope, a long staircase, a power house, the train tracks and the Hudson River. In the centre sits the lake, like a point of gravitation. It is a special lake that functions as an upper reservoir of a small hydroelectricity plant. In an everyday context, it can be seen as a banal lake. This significance is something to think about in a sleepless night. The surface of the lake reflects the electric lights in the house while the lake also produces the electricity to power these lights. Possibly in this state the constellation may find its completion. The overlapping themes become apparent and the different roles the lake plays for the project take on meaning.

The residential buildings share the same structural features but differ typologically. Both consist of two components that counterbalance light, material and the surrounding context to create spatial tension. The first component is heavy, enormous, durable and resilient. It creates a vertical dam adjacent to the lake and forms the supporting structure of the houses. It is made of cast concrete, rough, cold and raw and may evoke an infrastructural character. The counterpart is light, warm, precise and variable. A wooden construction shapes the apartments. These are quite simple in principle. Typically organised along long corridors they are mainly characterised by an enfilade along the facade. This creates two types of spatial relationships via two doors in each room, which are intended as one connection for the daytime and one for the night. Living together in these houses should be communal and neighbourly. The apartments in the longer house are connected by shared loggias, while the apartments in the higher house are joined more directly by large doors. The development seeks to establish contact with its neighbouring areas, which is symbolically expressed by a rainwater basin next to the road.