

Karl H. C. Ludwig

COMPENDIUM OF

LANDSCAPE

ARCHITECTURE

& OPEN SPACE DESIGN

BRAUN

NOISE BARRIER

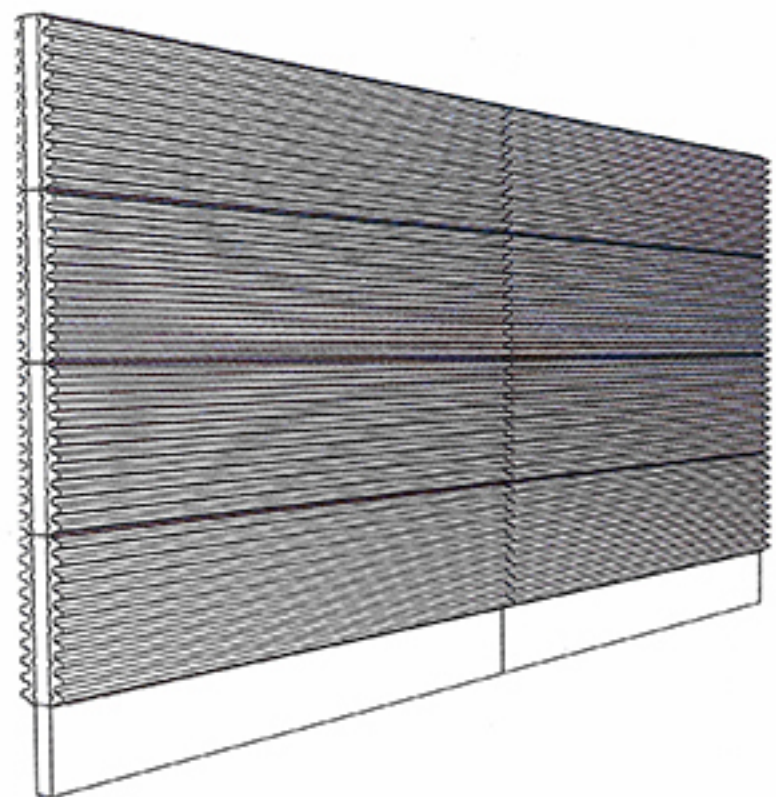
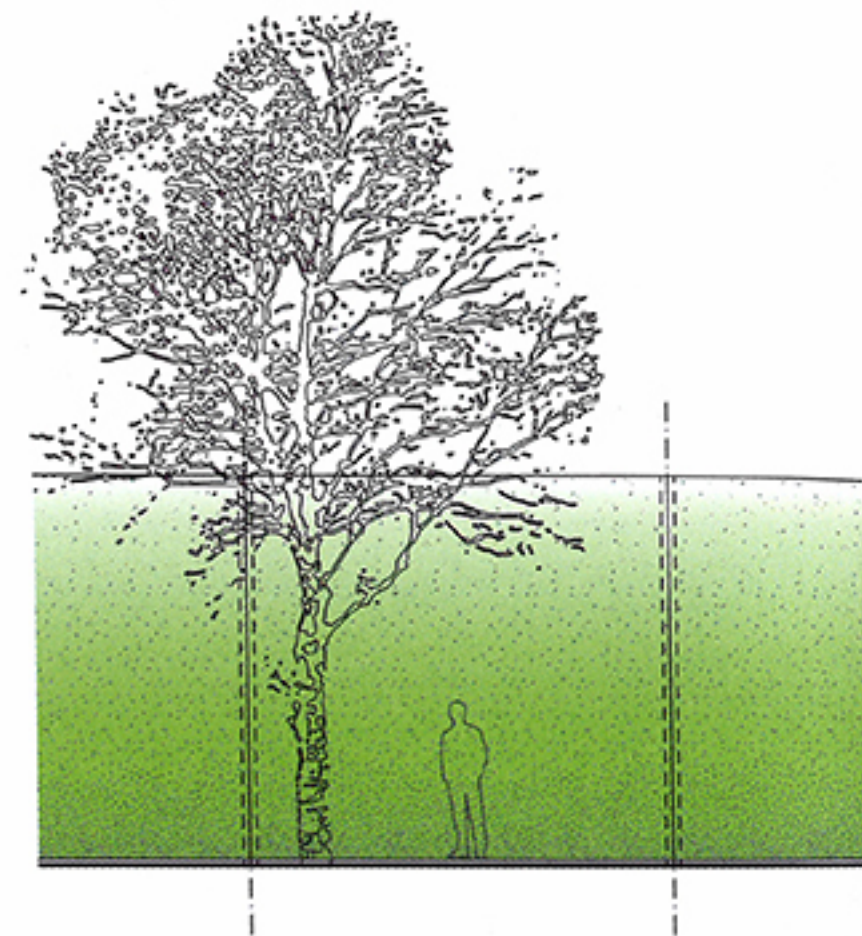
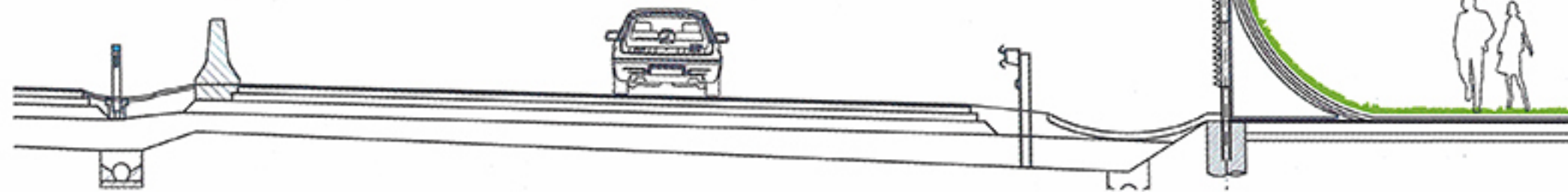
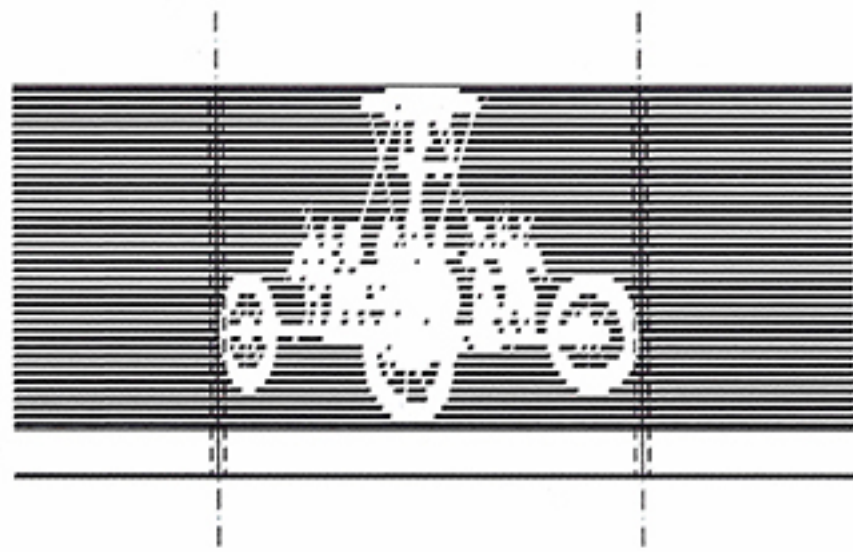
Address: anywhere along the highway

Landscape design: Christ. Christ. associated architects

Completion: ongoing. **Height:** 4.50 m each

Client: Fa. Asfinag, Austria

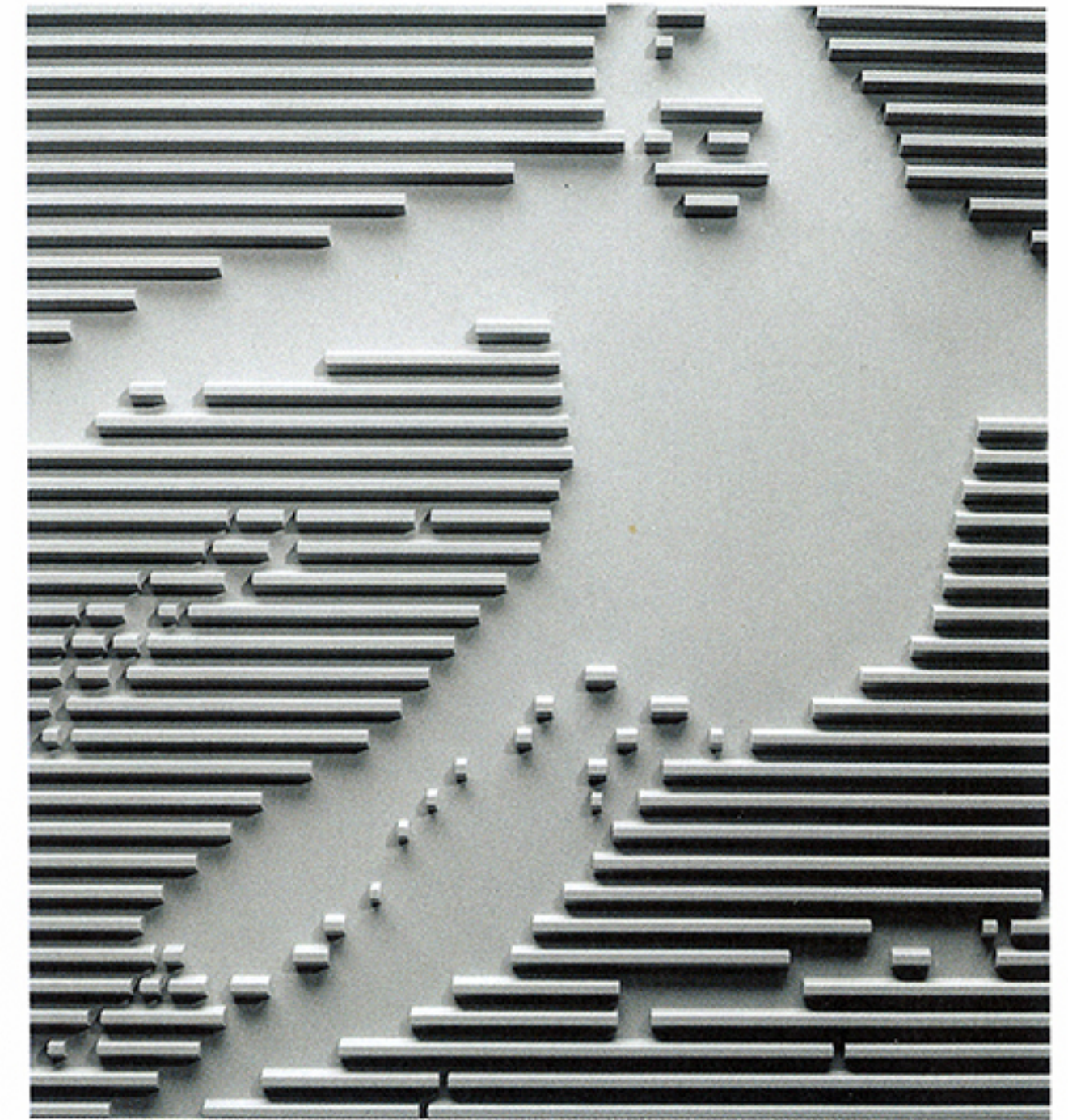
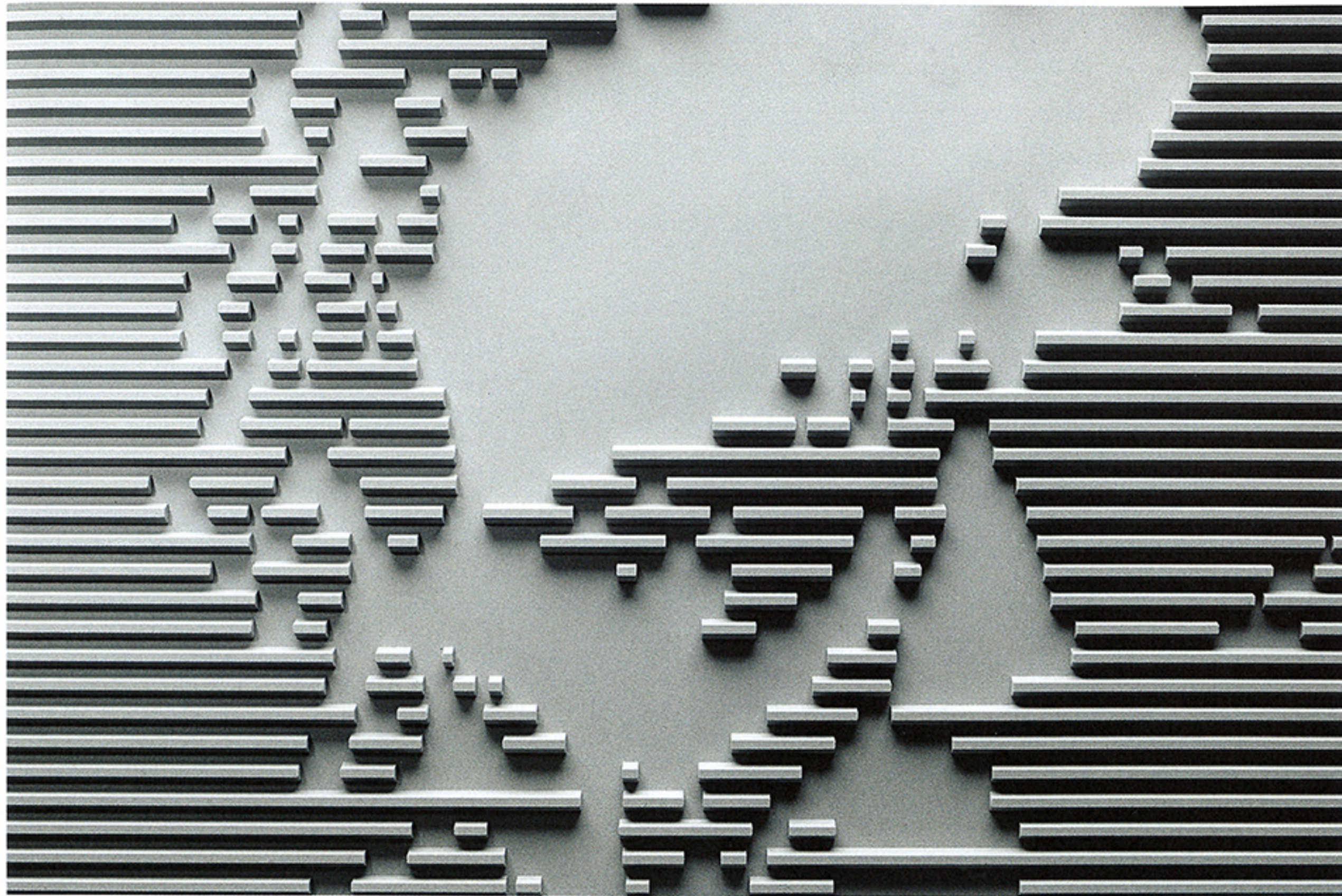
The brown signs next to highways in France and the German-speaking countries are rather unimposing. They usually point out the sights that drivers rush passed quickly without noticing. This project is based on the concept that pictures say more than a thousand words, visualizing touristic information signs, anchoring the attraction in the mind map of the person who drives by them. Who says that practical things cannot be beautiful?



The typical brown and white touristic information signs were developed in the 1970s in France and have since spread to the neighboring German-speaking countries. They inform drivers of more or less well-known sights. However, in some areas, the view of the sites is blocked by noise protection walls. These provide necessary acoustic insulation and can absorb from five to 15 decibels. To accomplish this, they must be of a certain length, which is visually monotonous and tiring. The architects recognized the potential of the unadorned serially manufactured walls as canvases that can be designed to offer stimulation during long drives.

The shadows resulting from leaving out parts of the horizontal wave structure create relief images. This way works

of art can be created without affecting the functionality of the highly efficient noise protection walls. The images not only serve an esthetic function by offering welcome relief for the eyes, but also complement the information signs by adding visualizations of the concerned touristic attractions and thus more information. At the same time, they enhance the basic purpose of the information sign of attracting tourists and highlighting the special features of the region. In some instances, these reliefs may even entirely replace the old signs and the sound protection wall becomes the sole carrier of touristic information, creating a strong bond between the streets and their surroundings.



Section of the noise barrier. Idea schema. Example of wall portrait of a renowned person. Wall detail of a skier. Advertising a ski region. Visualization. Credits: Thomas Herrmann, Stuttgart