Neck of the Moon
A New World of Space Junks

Laika

Geostationary Orbit @ 35900km

Middle Earth Orbit

Van Allen Belt

Space Elevator

Cotopaxi Mountain in Ecuador   Orbital Gate

low earth orbit @ 2000km

Van Allen Belts

35,000km
height above sea level

10,000km

2,000km

5h

10h

15h

20h   24h
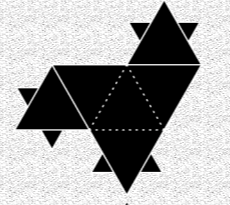orbital period

Proposal of a new Turris Babel connecting the Earth to orbital space.

Orbital Station Stage One

Laika Stage 01 Plan

Container

Robotic Arm

3D Printer   Telescope Parts

Metal Furnace

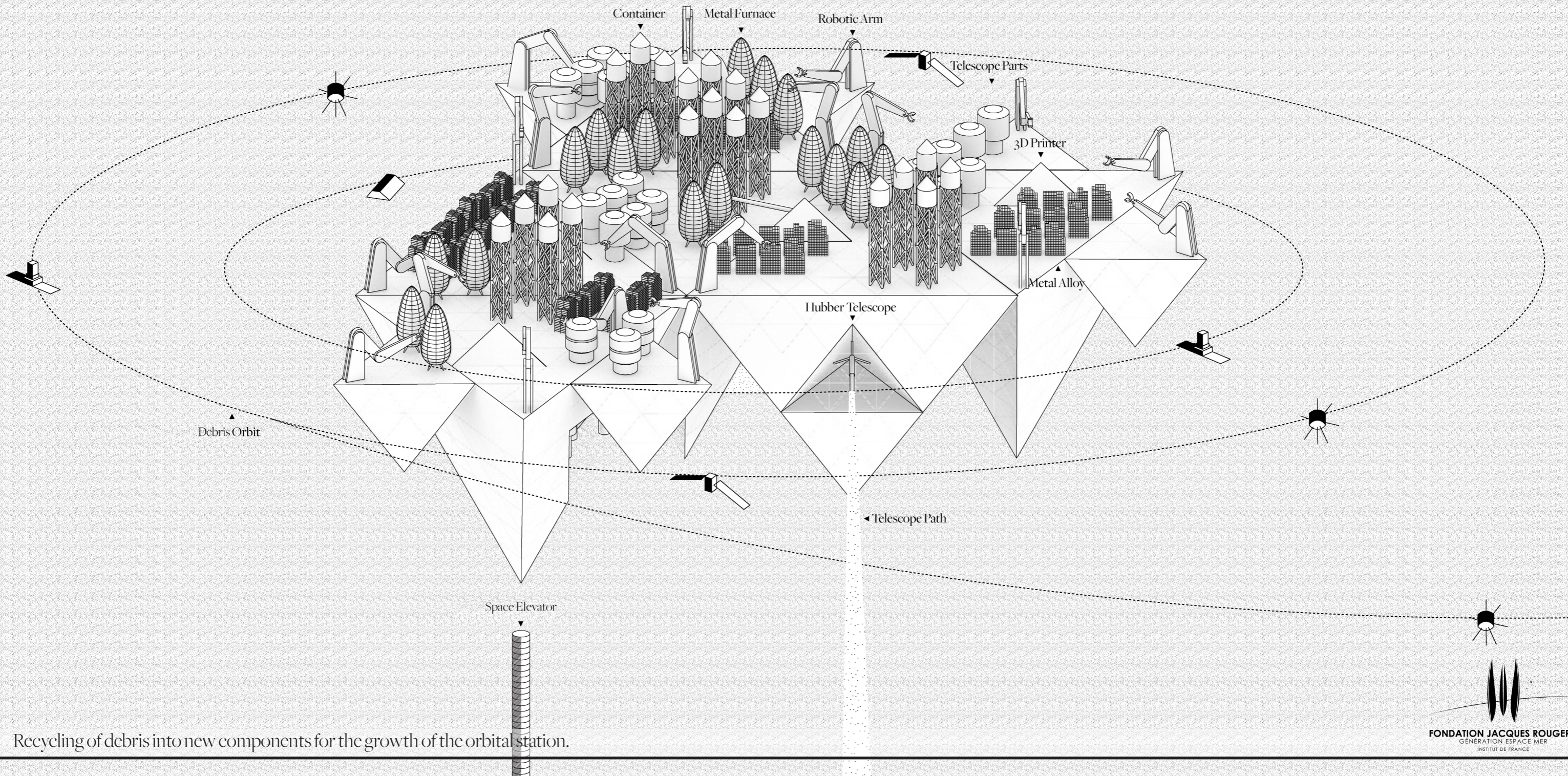Debris Orbits

Nubber Telescope

Telescope Parts

Space Elevator

15
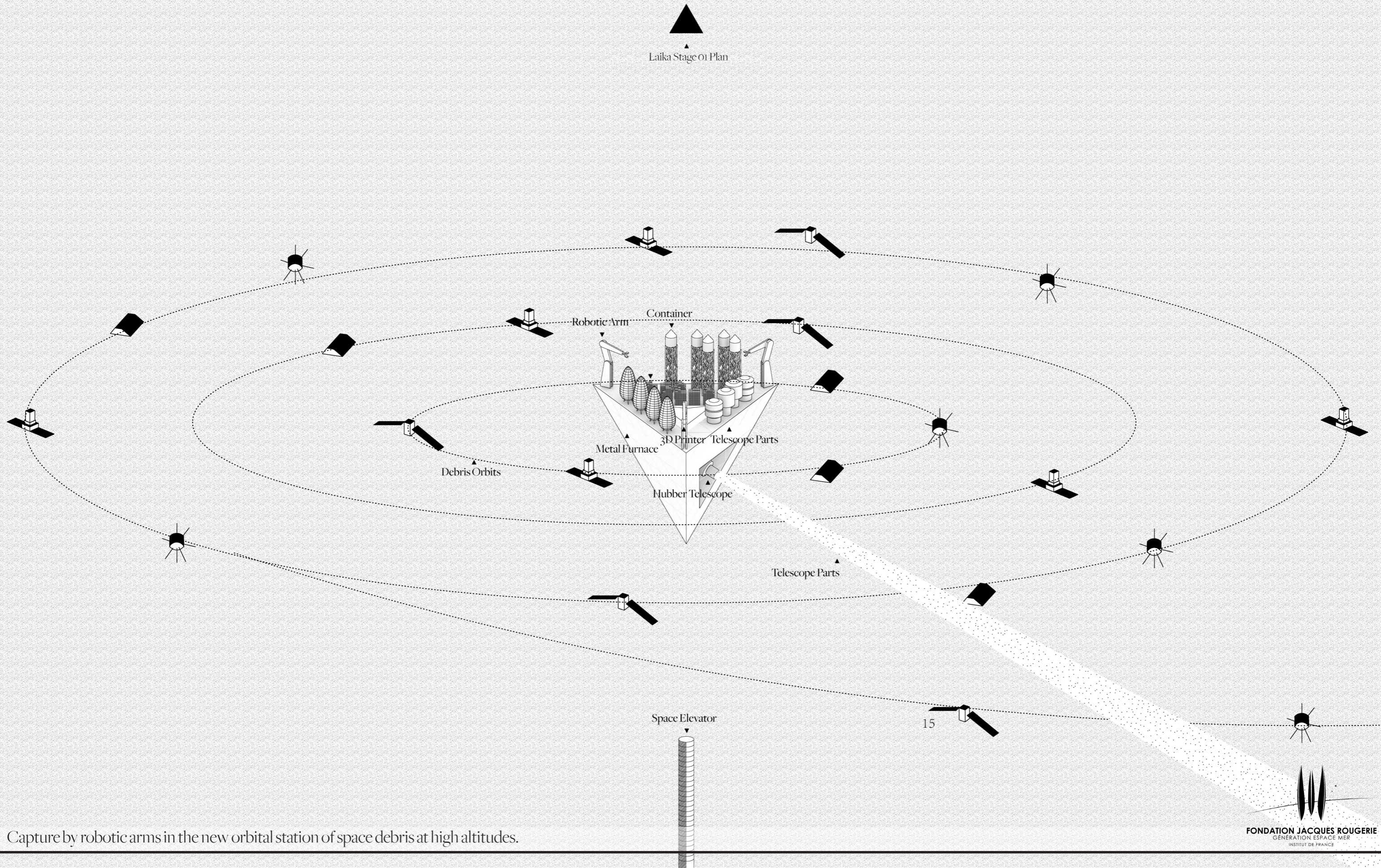
Capture by robotic arms in the new orbital station of space debris at high altitudes.

Orbital Station Stage Two

Laika Stage 02 Plan

Container

Metal Furnace

Robotic Arm

Telescope Parts

3D Printer

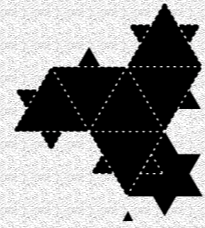Metal Alloy

Hubber Telescope

Debris Orbit

Telescope Path

Space Elevator

Recycling of debris into new components for the growth of the orbital station.

Orbital Station Stage Three

Laika Stage03 Plan

Telescope path

Container

Metal Furnace

Robotic Arm
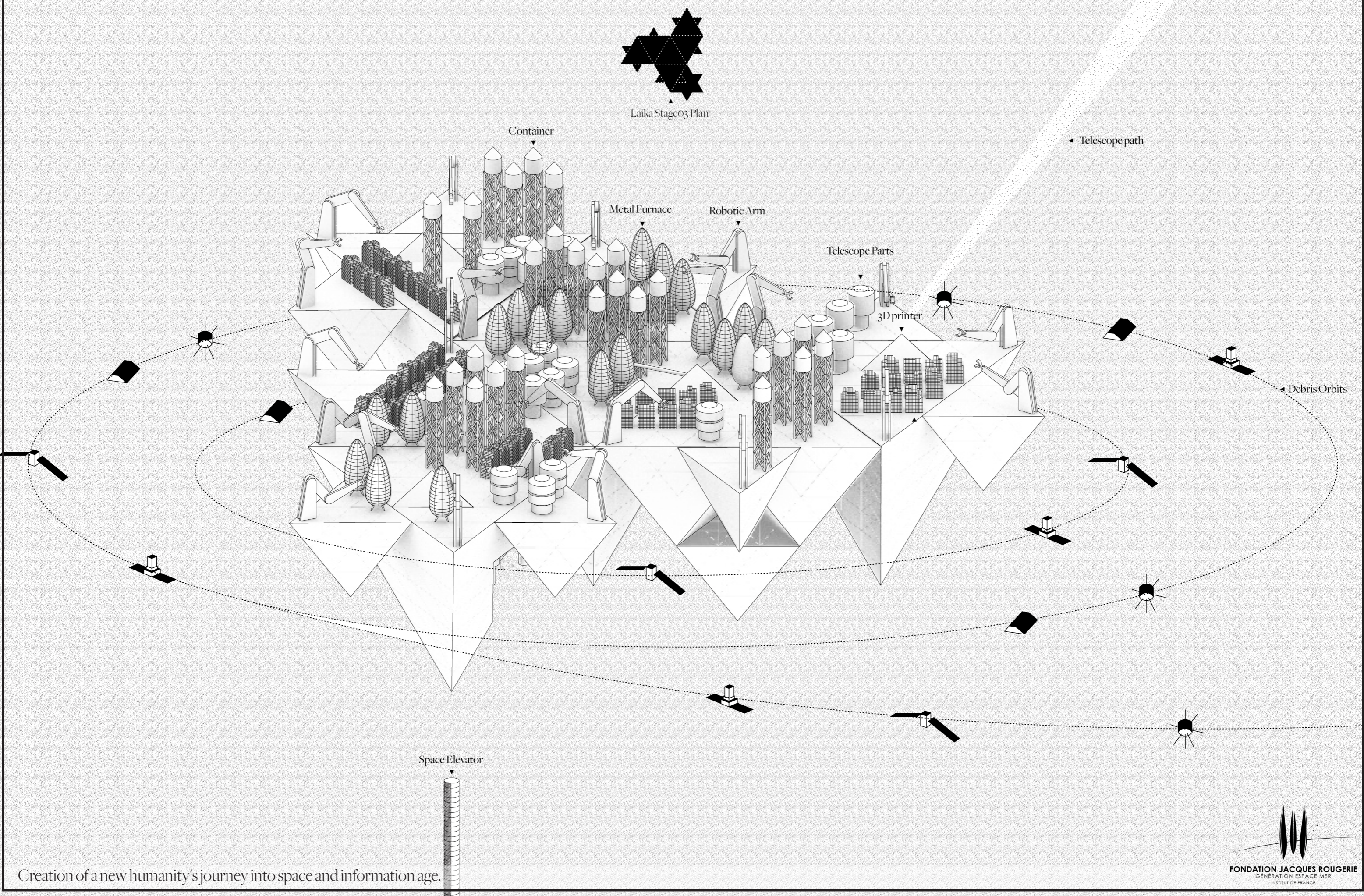
Telescope Parts

3D printer

Debris Orbits

Space Elevator

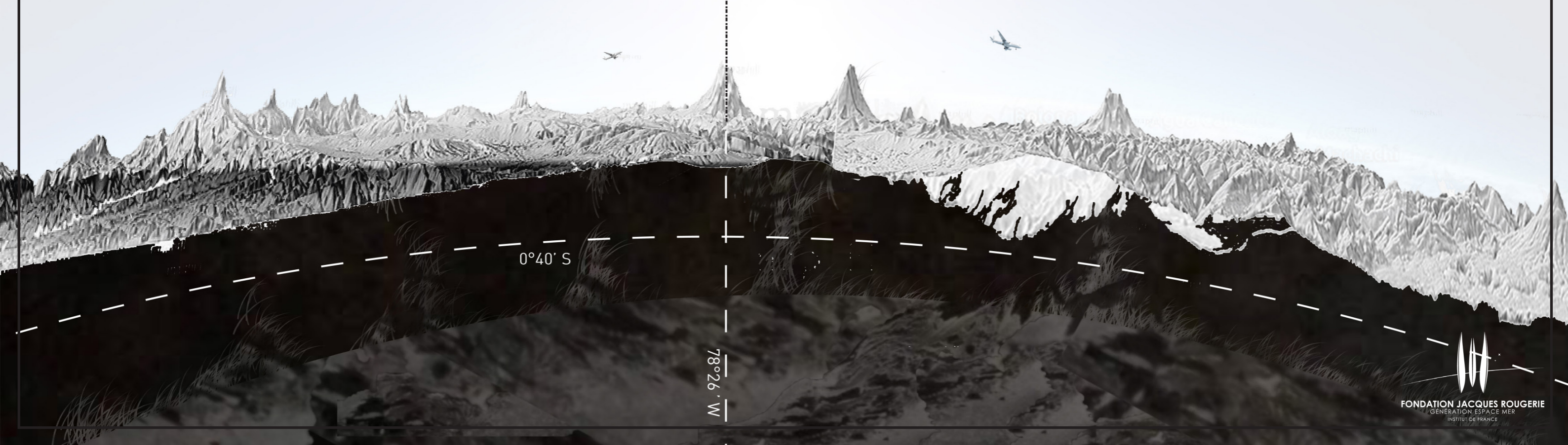Creation of a new humanity's journey into space and information age.

Neck of the Moon

A New World of Space Junks

"Orbital debris poses a risk to continued reliable use of space-based services and operations and to the safety of persons and property in space and on Earth," observe NASA and the European Space Agency. What is space debris? Space debris is the collection of defunct objects such as satellite explosions and collisions, spent rocket stages, old satellites and fragments from disintegration, that orbit around Earth. It is the material byproducts of the Space Age and the Information Age, which poses collision risks with operational space objects. This problem is especially significant in geostationary orbits, where satellites cluster over their primary ground targets and share with space debris the same orbital path. At that height as well, orbital debris will normally continue circling the Earth for centuries or more. New satellites are continuing to be launched at a growth rate of over a hundred each year and most of these launches will contribute to increase the risks and detrimental effects of Earth's orbiting junkyard.

The project proposes to clean up the orbital environment by compacting targeted space debris into a new satellite planet that orbits the Earth. Rather than displacing the debris to a lower altitude, a large tug with a robotic arm approaches and compacts large objects at high altitudes. In a continuous development from atom to nebula, the compacted mass grows organically into planet Laika, the earth's second moon. For Laika was appropriately a stray creature that orbited the earth; its cyborg namesake was similarly once propelled from the earth. They have a vital generative role in humanity's journey into the space and information age. We are Odysseus as we travel collectively from ape to human and eventually, after leaving the planet, to starman-angel.
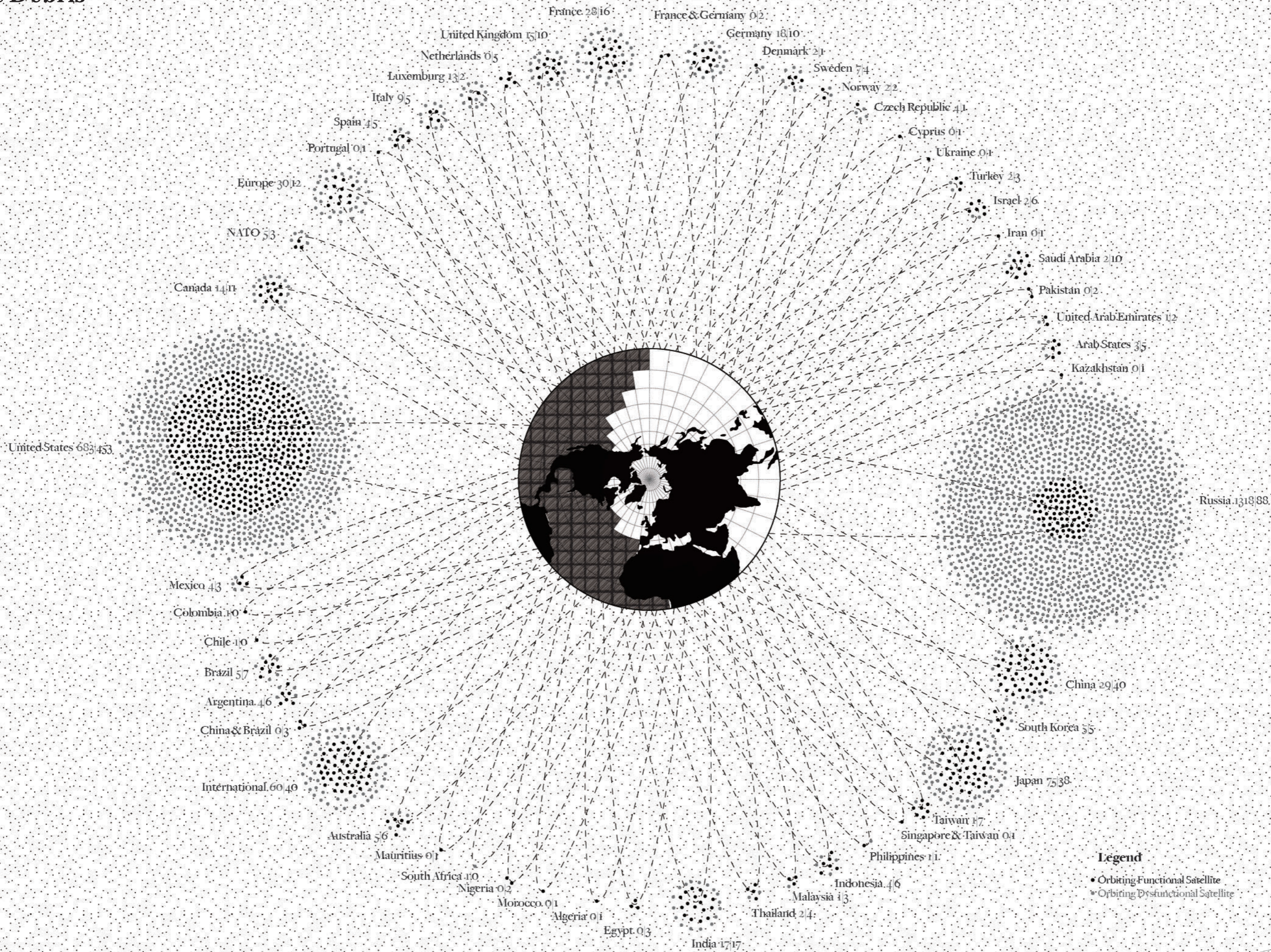
An umbilical line ties Laika to the Earth, and more precisely to the belly of Cotopaxi in Ecuador. The cordon is a space elevator that connects the newly formed planet and supplies it with materials from the earth. It also beams the solar energy captured by Laika to earth. The space elevator ducks into the crater of the splendid Cotopaxi volcano, which presents itself as an isolated gorgeous cone covered with snow seen from all perspectives. The project's holistic vision finds in this peak of the earth its best grounding. It is also claimed that Cotopaxi means "Neck of the Moon" in an indigenous language. Cotopaxi had already impressed the geographer Alexander von Humboldt in his nineteenth century travels to tropical America. He wrote: "We may consider this colossal mountain as one of those eternal monuments, by which nature has marked the great divisions of the terrestrial Globe." It is with the help of mountains that the project pursues the will to connect the internal, external and aerial layers of the Earth, to articulate cosmic, topographical, climatic and vegetal features of the surface of the Earth, and to analyze the interaction between the features of landscape and the imaginations of people, including scientists and artists. "It is not with rockets, Sputniks or missiles that modern man will achieve the conquest of space," observed Yves Klein, "It is by means of the powerful yet peaceful force of his sensitivity that man will inhabit space." Our storytelling explores what it means to be embodied in high-tech space junk worlds.
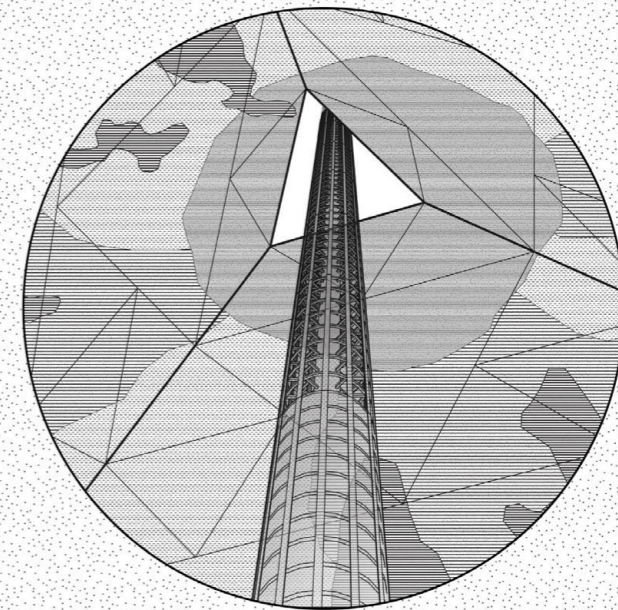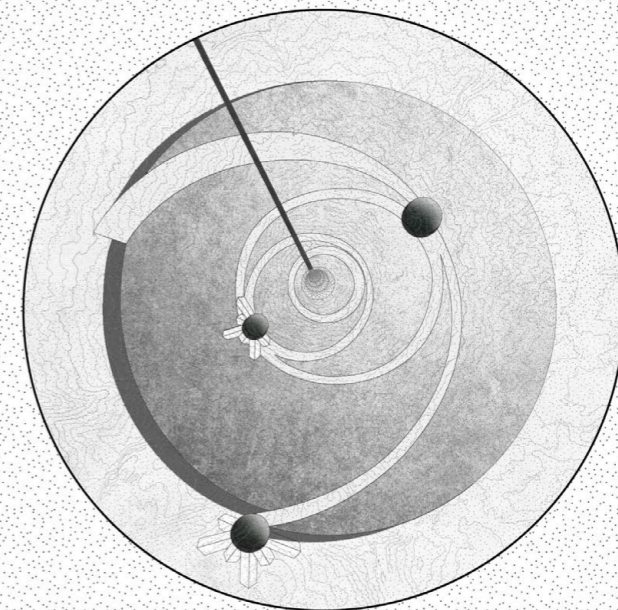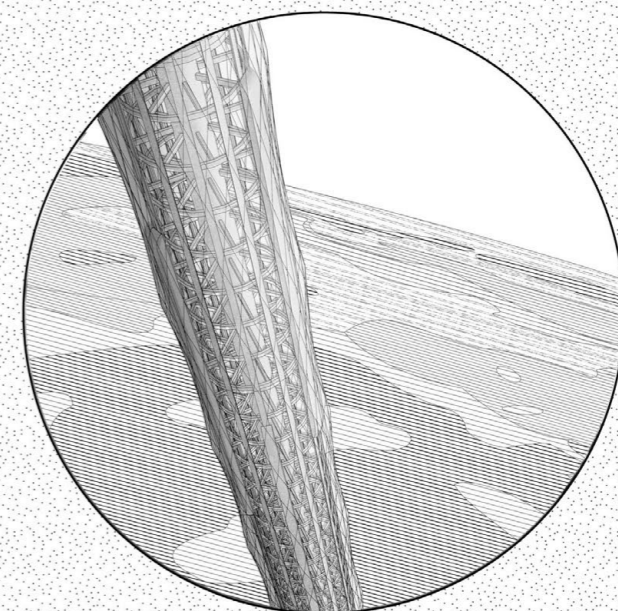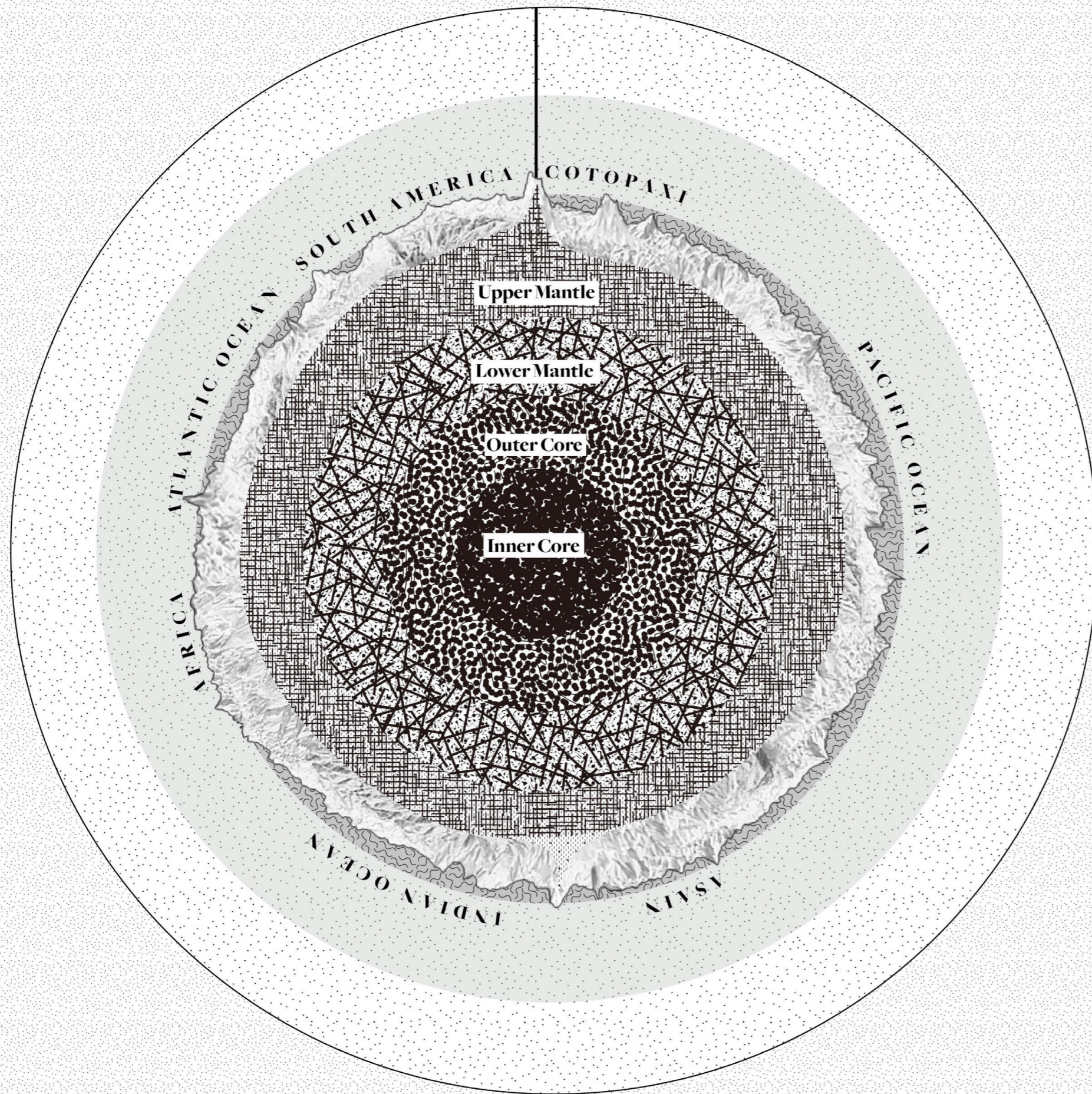
0°40' S

78°26' W

Space Debris

France 28 16
France & Germany 0 2
United Kingdom 15 10
Germany 18 10
Netherlands 0 5
Denmark 2 1
Luxemburg 13 2
Sweden 7 4
Italy 9 5
Norway 2 2
Spain 4 5
Czech Republic 4 1
Portugal 0 1
Cyprus 0 1
Europe 30 12
Ukraine 0 4
Turkey 2 3
NATO 5 3
Israel 2 6
Iran 0 1
Saudi Arabia 2 10
Canada 14 11
Pakistan 0 2
United Arab Emirates 1 2
Arab States 3 5
Kazakhstan 0 1
United States 683 453
Russia 1318 88
Mexico 4 3
Colombia 1 0
Chile 1 0
Brazil 5 7
China 29 40
Argentina 4 6
South Korea 5 5
China & Brazil 0 3
Japan 75 38
International 60 46
Taiwan 1 7
Singapore & Taiwan 0 4
Australia 5 6
Philippines 1 1
Mauritius 0 1
Indonesia 4 6
South Africa 4 0
Malaysia 1 3
Nigeria 0 2
Thailand 2 4
Morocco 0 1
Algeria 0 1
Egypt 0 3
India 17 17

Legend
• Orbiting Functional Satellite
• Orbiting Dysfunctional Satellite

Space junks will constitute a new resource for the growth of the orbital station.

Space Elevator

Labels on main diagram: SOUTH AMERICA · COTOPAXI · ATLANTIC OCEAN · PACIFIC OCEAN · AFRICA · INDIAN OCEAN · ASIA

Interior labels: Upper Mantle · Lower Mantle · Outer Core · Inner Core

Transportation of goods, material and people from the center of the Earth to orbital space, generating a vertical landscape panorama.

Elevation and Section
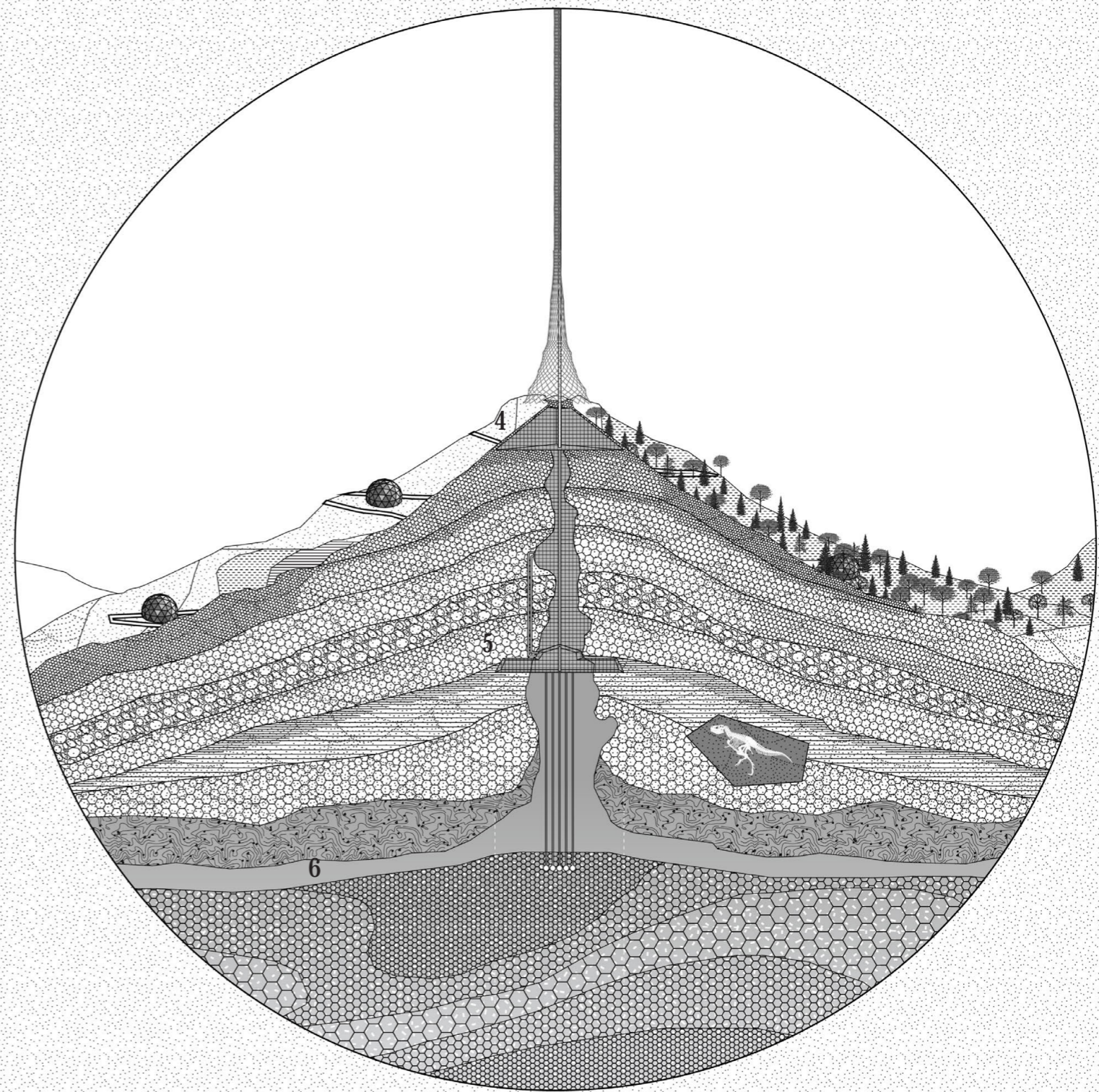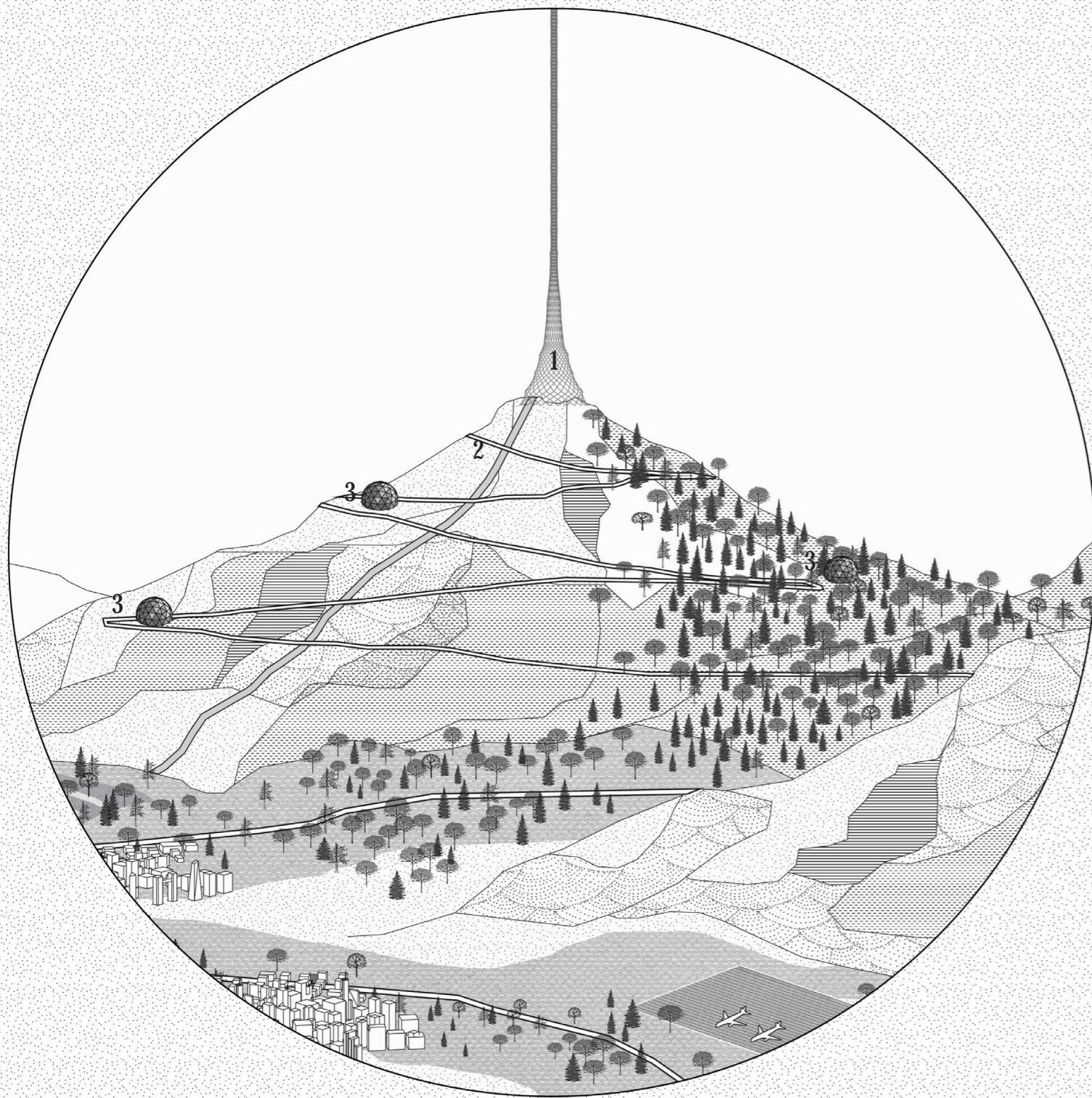
1. Space elevator   2. Helicoïdal path   3. Stations   4. Orbital gate   5. Geothermal station   6. Lava

FONDATION JACQUES ROUGERIE
GÉNÉRATION ESPACE MER
INSTITUT DE FRANCE

Orbital Gate