



Fig. 6: Upper Station, 1978

Fig. 7: Cable Car, Mtatsminda 1970s

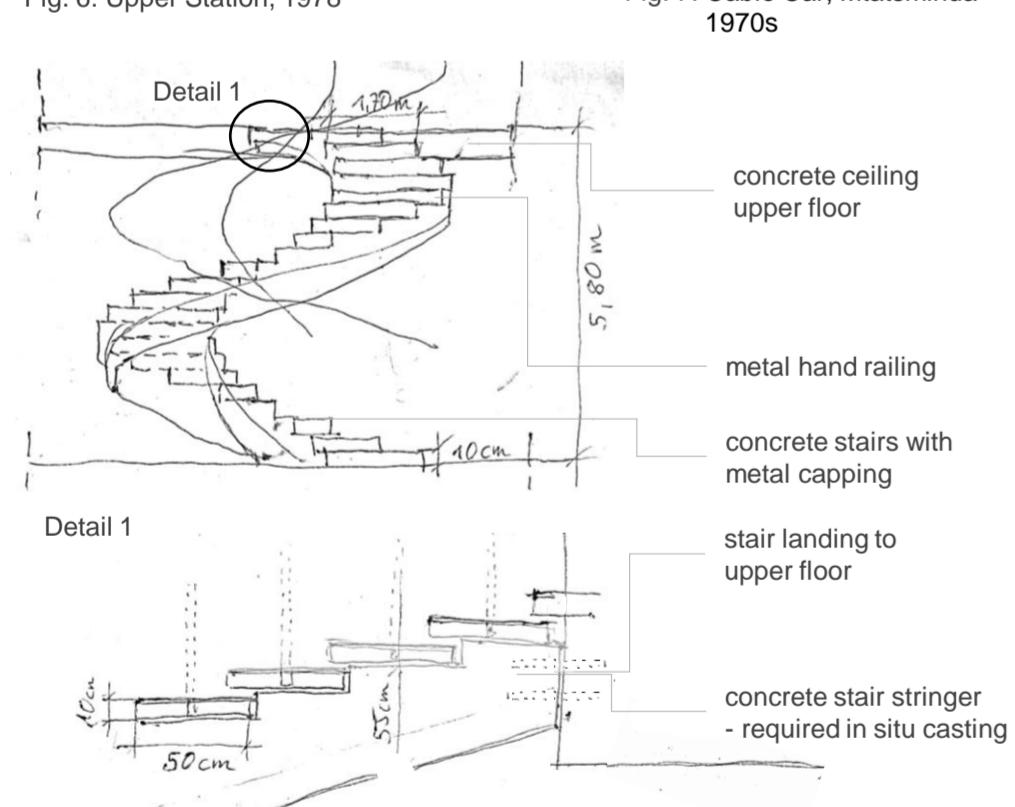


Fig. 8: Drawing of stair detail



Fig. 9: Informal re-use of lower station

Fig. 10: IDP inhabited upper station in Vazisubani.

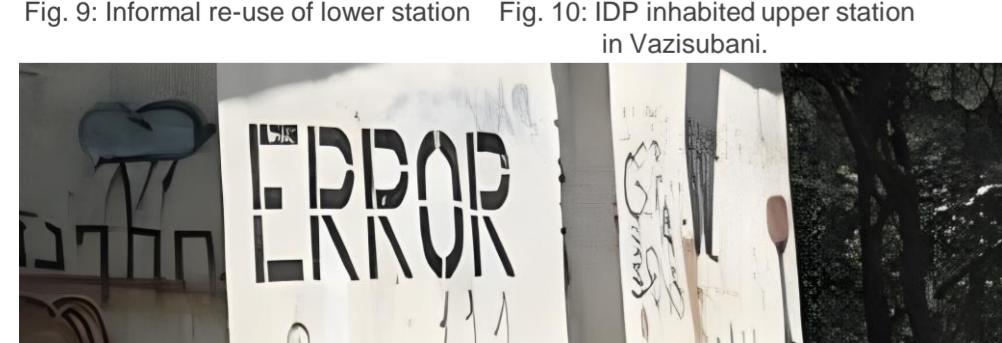


Fig. 11: Graffiti interventions of the Upper Station



Fig. 12: Side View of the Upper Station

BRIEF BACKGROUND OF THE STATION

The Nutsubidze Street–Lisi Lake line opened in 1978 to provide access to Lisi Lake's recreational areas. Hidden within a dense pine forest, its monolithic concrete structure remains largely out of sight. After the **Soviet Union's collapse**, inconsistent governance and frequent power outages accelerated its decline. Today, the construction of residential buildings along the route between the lower and upper stations has rendered the cable car infrastructure **completely nonfunctional**.

ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

The Upper Station, blending **Constructivist and Brutalist influences**, is characterized by reinforced concrete, geometric simplicity, and a cantilevered, boxy form, emphasizing function, horizontality, and mass. Reflecting Soviet **ideals of technological progress** and collective mobility, it now stands neglected. A prominent **exterior spiral staircase** connects the levels, creating a sense of movement and vertical dynamism, a **recurring architectural motif in Tbilisi's vernacular landscape**.

CONCEPT: REUSE AND NETWORKS

As abandoned infrastructure, cable car stations across diverse neighborhoods are **connected by function and typology**, offering a unique opportunity for **rotating exhibitions**. Reusing the Cable Car Station could initiate links between these undetermined structures. Consisting of two large, high-ceilinged rooms, the building is ideal for displaying large-format artworks. Minimal modifications would preserve its functional character, adding a transparent enclosure to the lower rooms and creating a **café and a Co-working space** on the upper terrace, revitalizing the site while respecting its architectural identity.



Fig. 5: Map of decommissioned stations



REFERENCES

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FIGURES

Fig. 4: Levan Tsertsvadze, "Relinquished Series – Twirls & Soviet Swirls." Photograph, via Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA 4.0).
 Fig. 5: Map of decommissioned stations. Base map © OpenStreetMap contributors.
 Fig. 6: Edisherashvili, Sergey. 1978. Cable Car: Nutsubidze – Lisi Lake, Tbilisi, Georgia. Photograph, National Archive of Georgia
 Fig. 7: Fig. 7: Dezidor. Tbilisi Ropeway to Mtatsminda Park. Photograph. Wikimedia Commons. CC BY 3.0.
 Fig. 10, 11: Harris-Brands, Suzanne. 2016. Upper station in Vazisubani and Lisi Lake, Tbilisi. Photograph, author's archive.

All other photographs and drawings by the author.