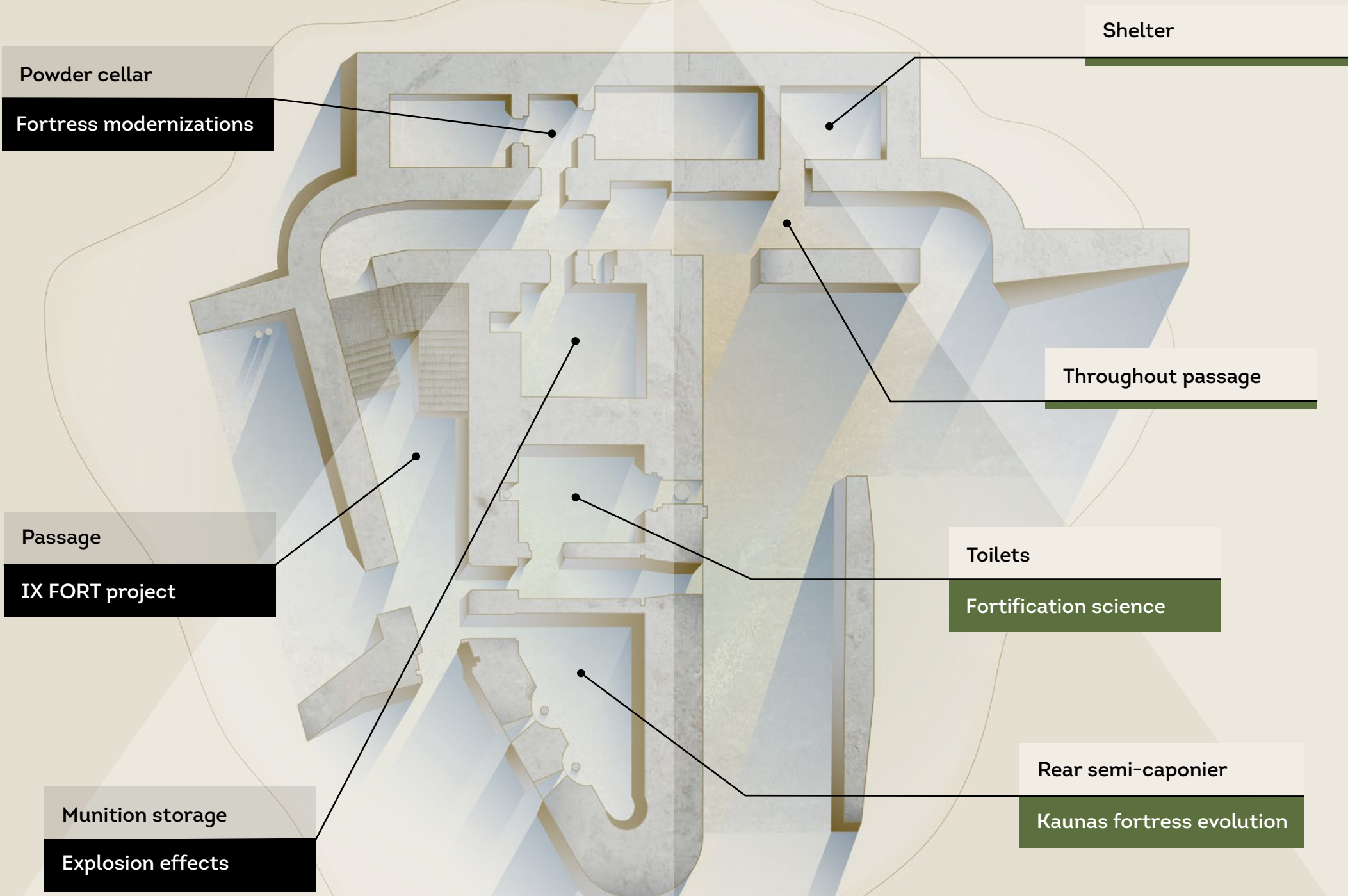


**KAUNAS
IX FORT
MUSEUM**

SEMI-CAPONIER



Shelter

Powder cellar

Fortress modernizations

Throughout passage

Passage

IX FORT project

Toilets

Fortification science

Rear semi-caponier

Kaunas fortress evolution

Muniton storage

Explosion effects

I - II FLOOR

EXPLICATION

Historical

Nowadays



Passage
Expo and education space

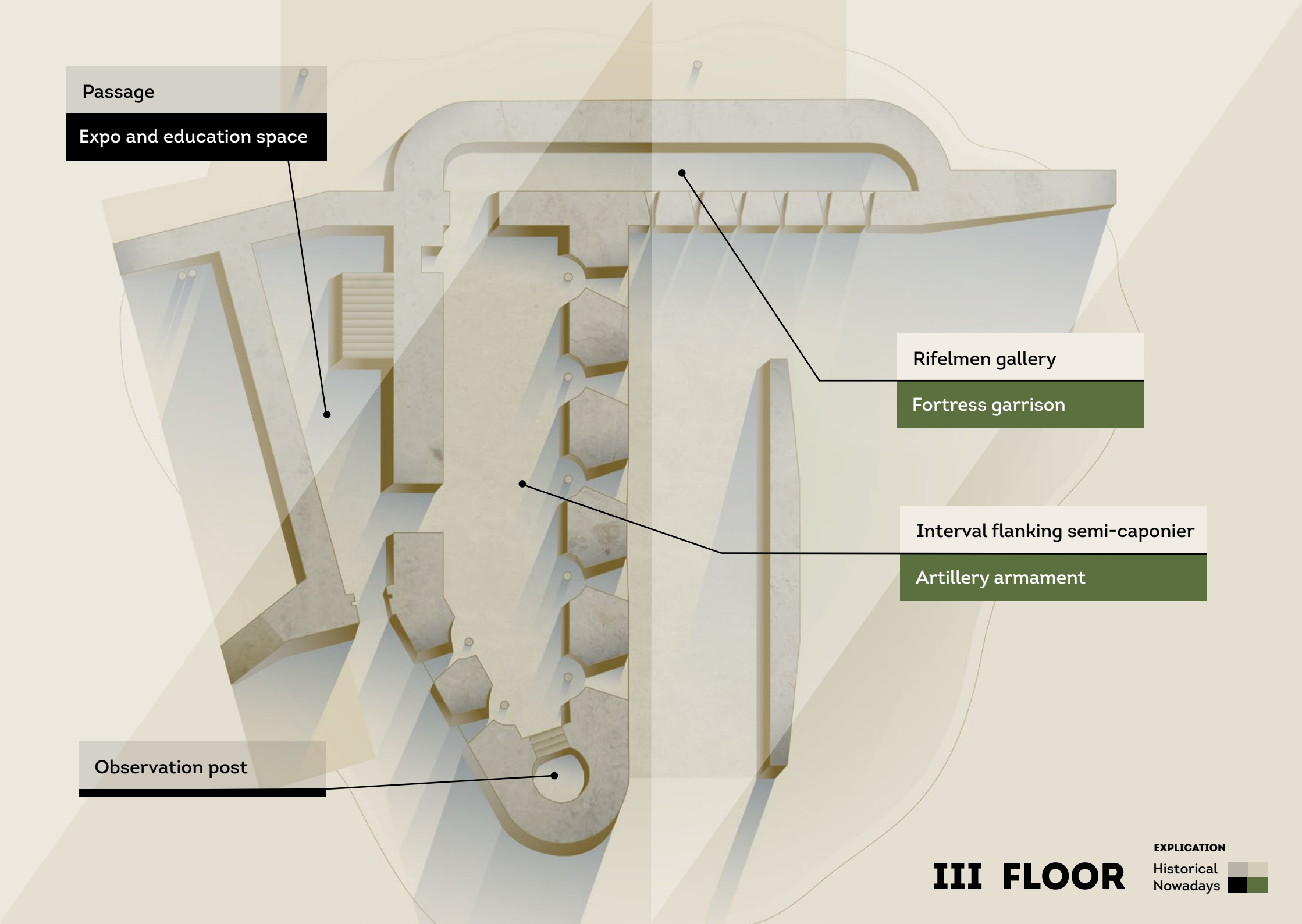
Observation post

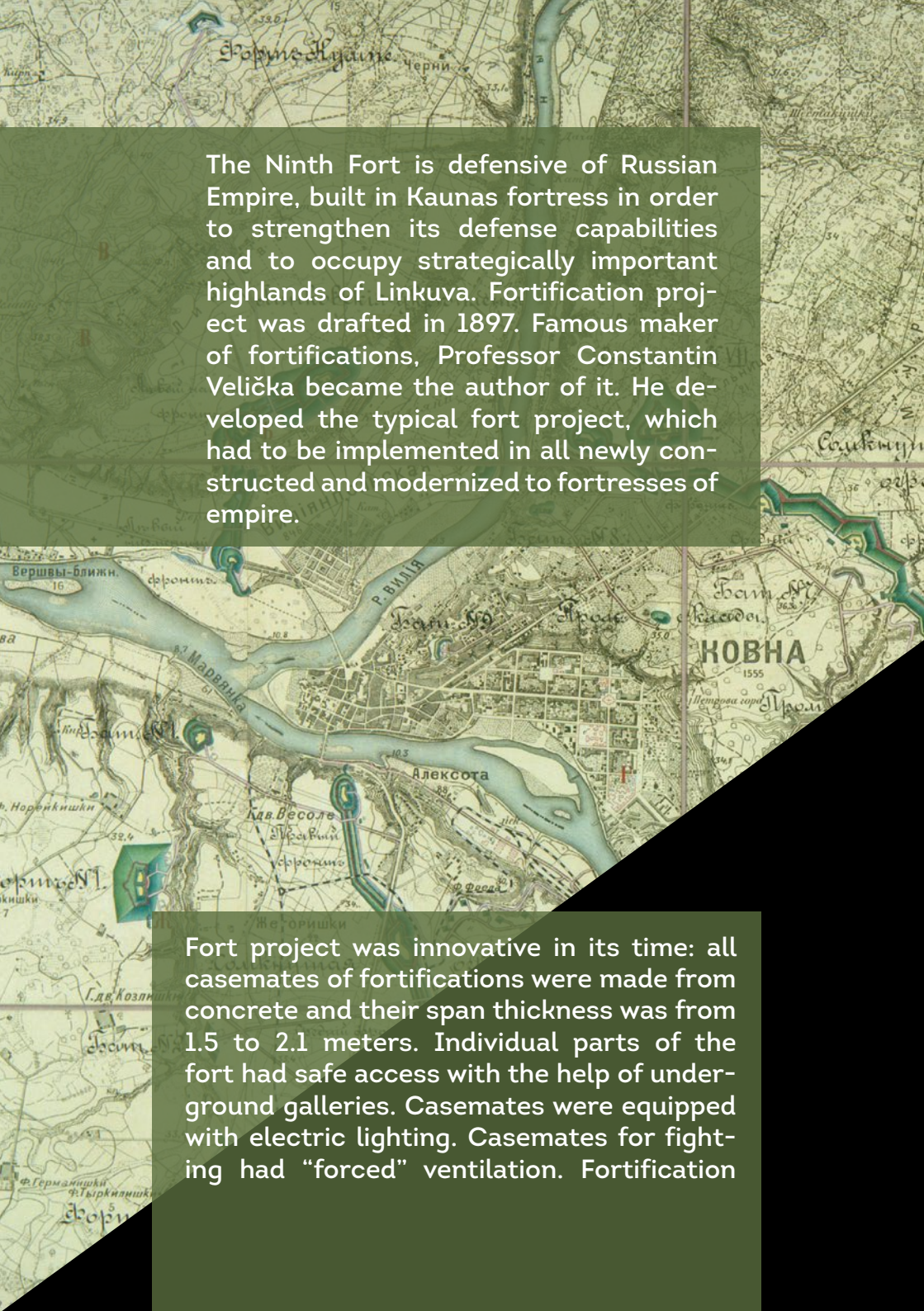
Riflemen gallery
Fortress garrison

Interval flanking semi-caponier
Artillery armament

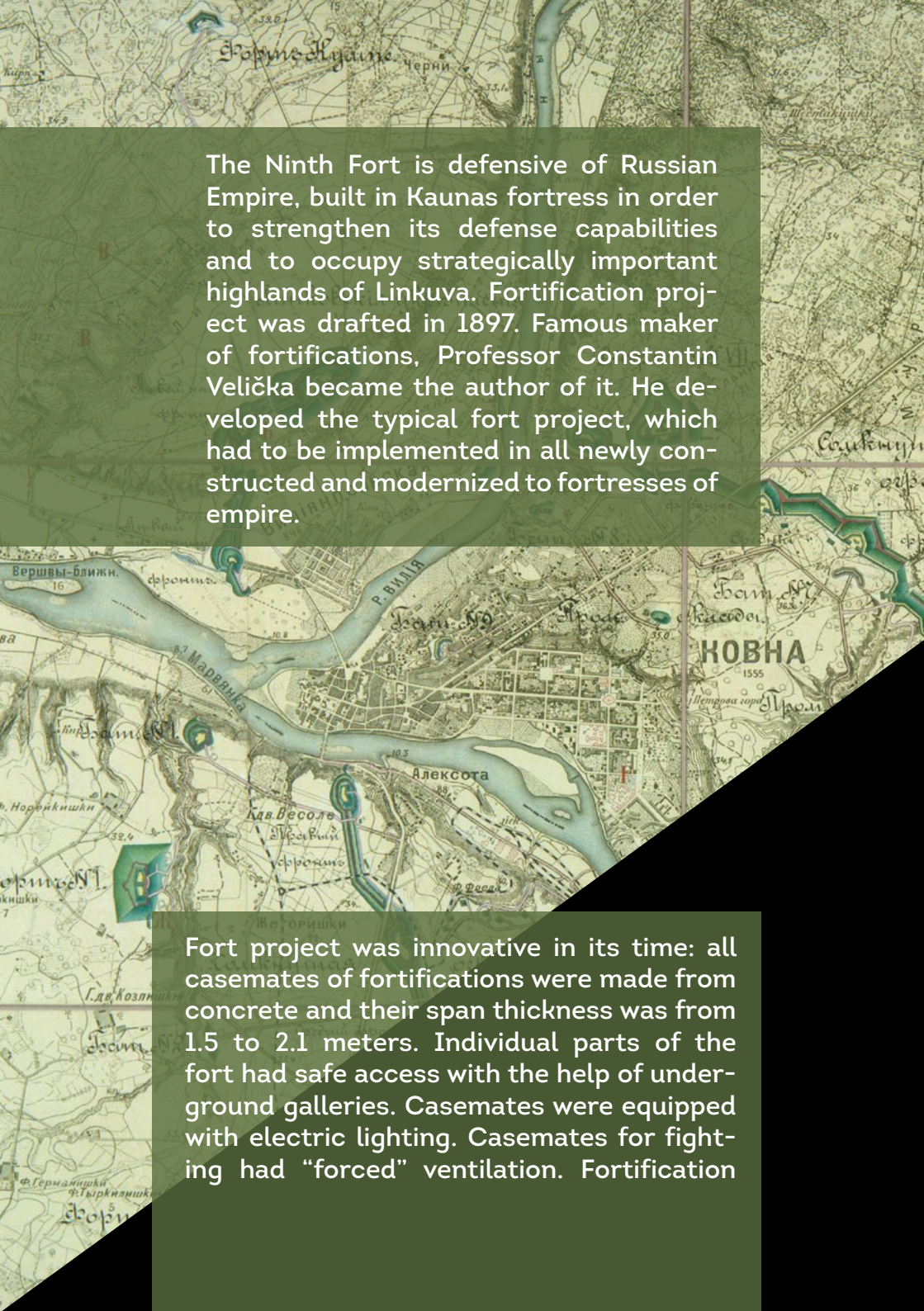
III FLOOR

EXPLICATION
Historical
Nowadays

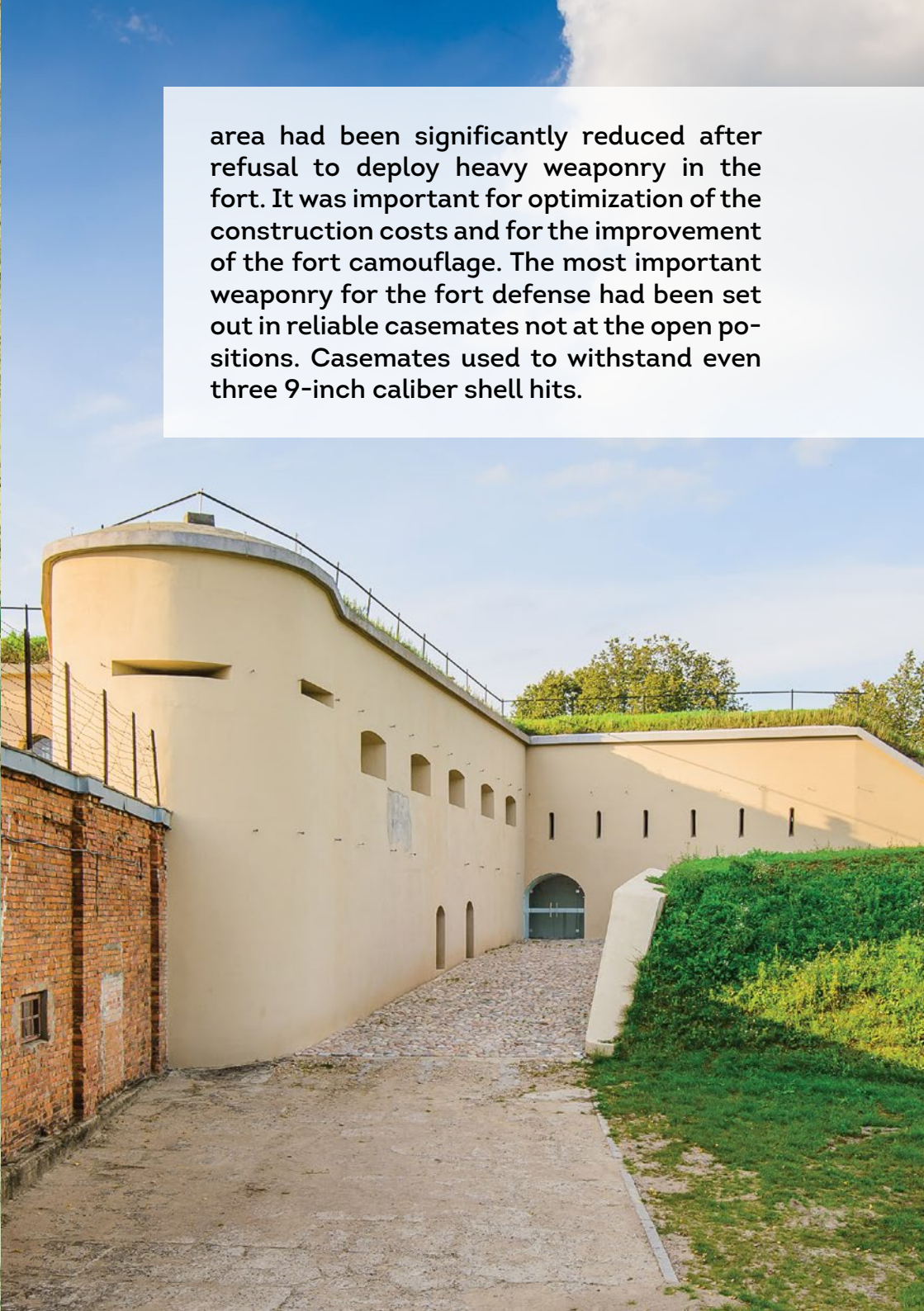


A historical map of Kaunas, Lithuania, showing the city's fortifications. The map is detailed, with various fortifications marked in green and blue. The city name 'КОВНА' is visible in the center. The map is overlaid with a green semi-transparent box containing text.

The Ninth Fort is defensive of Russian Empire, built in Kaunas fortress in order to strengthen its defense capabilities and to occupy strategically important highlands of Linkuva. Fortification project was drafted in 1897. Famous maker of fortifications, Professor Constantin Velička became the author of it. He developed the typical fort project, which had to be implemented in all newly constructed and modernized to fortresses of empire.

A historical map of Kaunas, Lithuania, showing the city's fortifications. The map is detailed, with various fortifications marked in green and blue. The city name 'КОВНА' is visible in the center. The map is overlaid with a green semi-transparent box containing text.

Fort project was innovative in its time: all casemates of fortifications were made from concrete and their span thickness was from 1.5 to 2.1 meters. Individual parts of the fort had safe access with the help of underground galleries. Casemates were equipped with electric lighting. Casemates for fighting had "forced" ventilation. Fortification

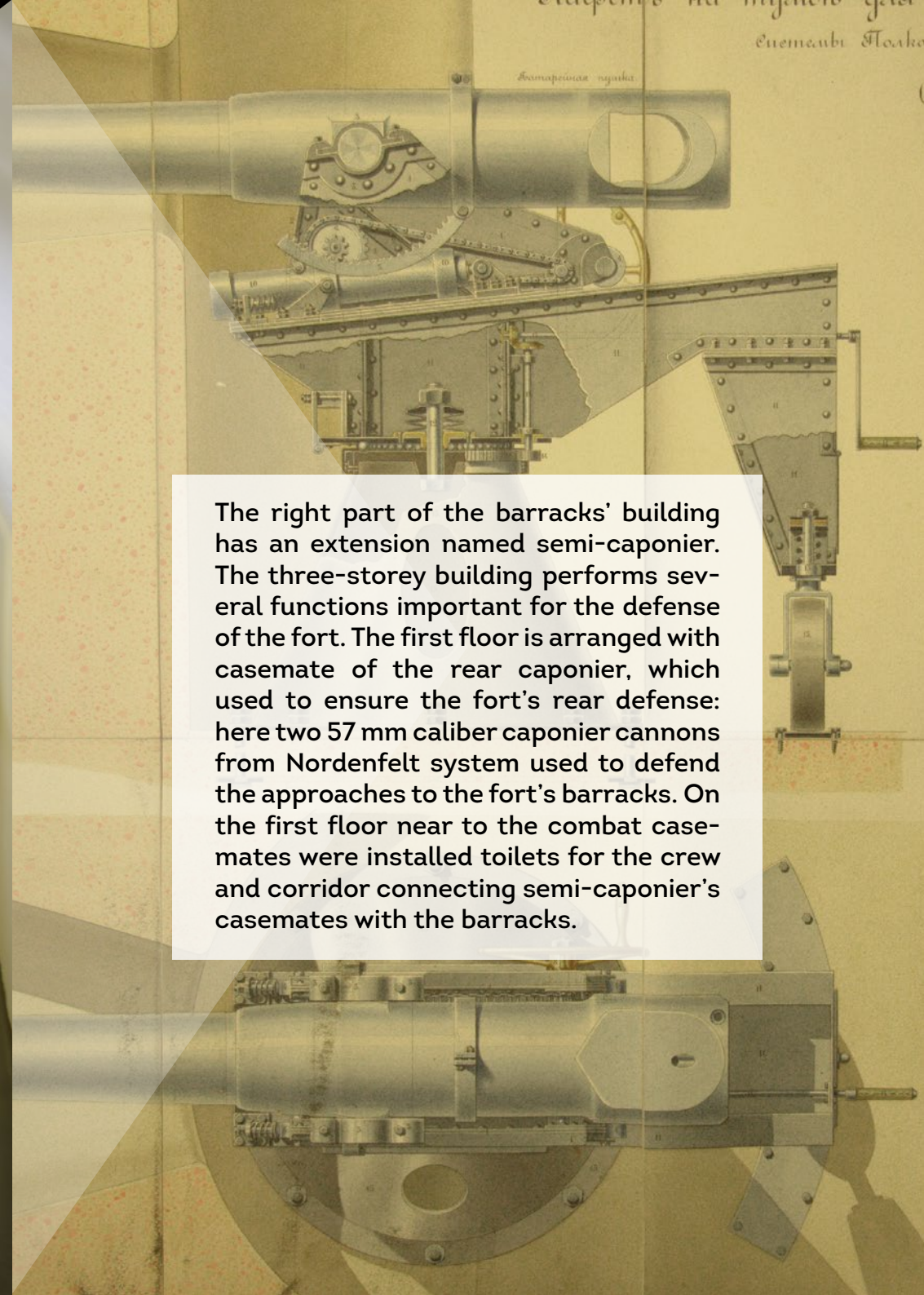
A photograph of the Ninth Fort in Kaunas, Lithuania. The fort is a large, circular concrete structure with a flat roof and a brick base. It is surrounded by a high concrete wall. The fort is built on a hillside, and the surrounding area is green and grassy. The sky is blue with some clouds.

area had been significantly reduced after refusal to deploy heavy weaponry in the fort. It was important for optimization of the construction costs and for the improvement of the fort camouflage. The most important weaponry for the fort defense had been set out in reliable casemates not at the open positions. Casemates used to withstand even three 9-inch caliber shell hits.

The largest building of the fort is two-story barracks for the fort crew accommodation. Quarters of the soldiers and officers, a kitchen, electric power plant and toilets were equipped in the casemates of the barracks. Embrasures were equipped in the few casemates and near the berths of the soldiers, behind the wooden wall artillery guns had stood. The Ninth Fort was armed with 28 lightweight cannons, fourteen 57 mm caliber caponier cannons, 4 copper mortars and 4 machine guns.



The right part of the barracks' building has an extension named semi-caponier. The three-storey building performs several functions important for the defense of the fort. The first floor is arranged with casemate of the rear caponier, which used to ensure the fort's rear defense: here two 57 mm caliber caponier cannons from Nordenfellt system used to defend the approaches to the fort's barracks. On the first floor near to the combat casemates were installed toilets for the crew and corridor connecting semi-caponier's casemates with the barracks.

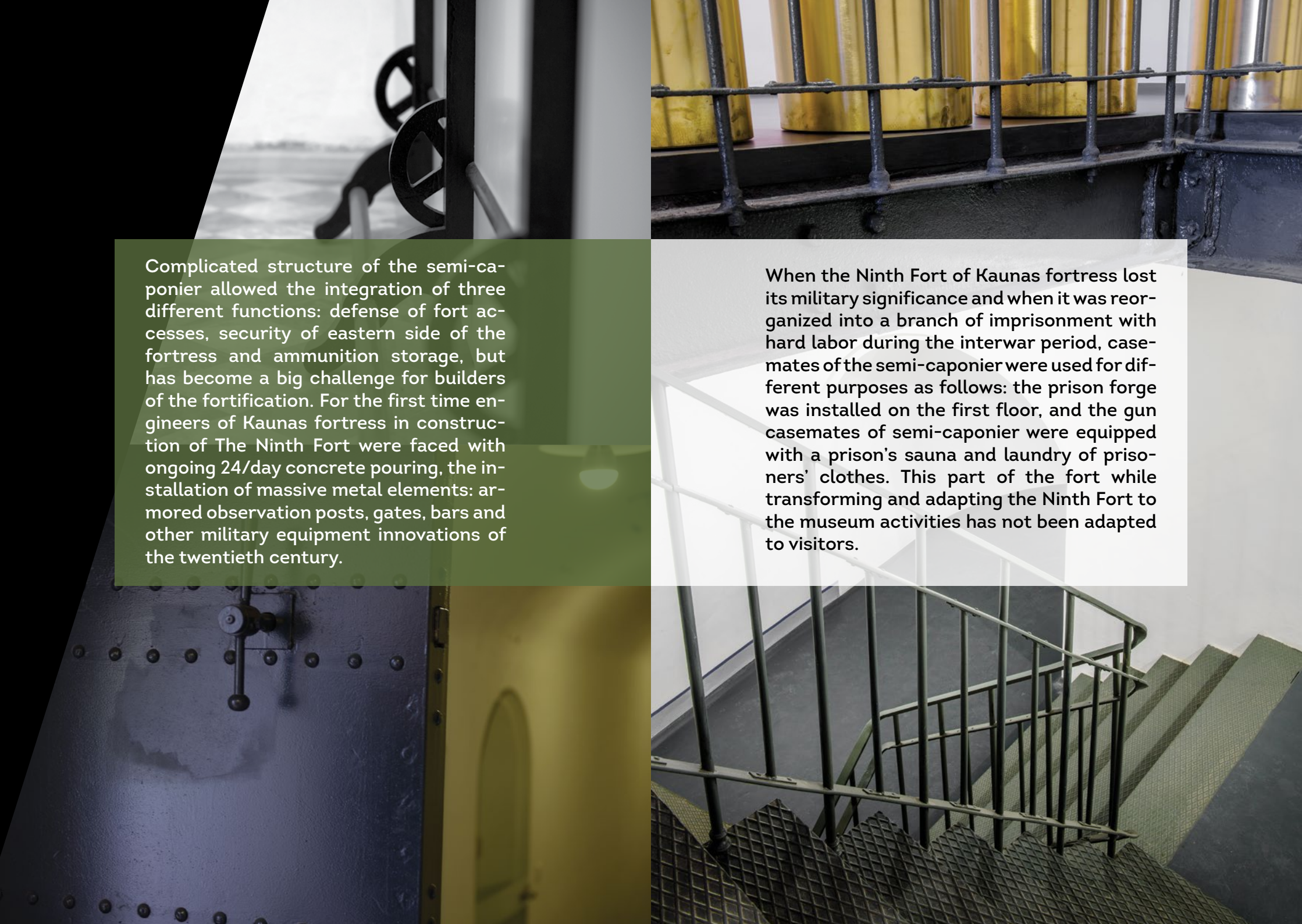




Ammunition depot, crew shelter and protected exit to the open defensive positions designed for infantry is on the second floor of caponier. Three casemates of ammunition depot used to store the stocks of gunpowder and shells for fort gunnery and were located deep underground for the maximum security reasons.



The third floor of the building is casemates of interval flanking semi-caponier designed for five 87-mm caliber guns with casematic gun mounts of Durlacher construction, for one machine gun or floodlight and observation post. Here also is equipped a small gallery for the infantry. Because of these casemates the Ninth Fort was able to effectively strafe the space of right flank at the distance of six and a half kilometers, blocking the enemy possibilities to storm the fortress at Ukmerge highroad and Neris channel.



Complicated structure of the semi-caponier allowed the integration of three different functions: defense of fort accesses, security of eastern side of the fortress and ammunition storage, but has become a big challenge for builders of the fortification. For the first time engineers of Kaunas fortress in construction of The Ninth Fort were faced with ongoing 24/day concrete pouring, the installation of massive metal elements: armored observation posts, gates, bars and other military equipment innovations of the twentieth century.

When the Ninth Fort of Kaunas fortress lost its military significance and when it was reorganized into a branch of imprisonment with hard labor during the interwar period, casemates of the semi-caponier were used for different purposes as follows: the prison forge was installed on the first floor, and the gun casemates of semi-caponier were equipped with a prison's sauna and laundry of prisoners' clothes. This part of the fort while transforming and adapting the Ninth Fort to the museum activities has not been adapted to visitors.

The situation changed after the receipt of European Union funding for the project named "Development of diversity of the tourism services of the Ninth Fort of Kaunas Fortress", during which it was decided to restore the casemates of semi-caponier and to install there exhibitions of concrete fortifications of Kaunas fortress and artillery history paying attention to their historical purpose.

Today the semi-caponier of the Ninth Fort is a restoration carried out on the basis of long-term research, which aims to replicate interiors and facades of the casemates built in 1913, as well as the interior equipment details and weaponry. Such complex restoration works are performed in forts of Kaunas fortress for the first time.



Museum exposition of the semi-caponier is a complex history about the ongoing development in twentieth century of Kaunas fortress in order to preserve the resistance of strategically important fortress vs. the new model of artillery weaponry and to equip it with modern fortifications.

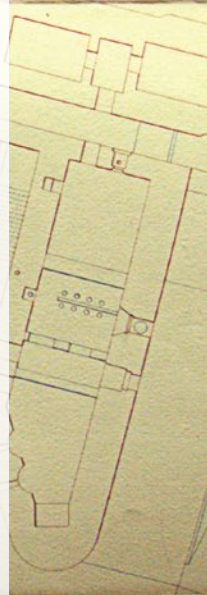


и крѣпости.

орудійной стрѣльбѣ по промежулкамъ и
формѣ у сражѣ. Куляне.

Министерство военныхъ делъ
Кавказскаго Крайняго Вѣдѣнія
въ 1864 году. С. Петербургъ.
Изданіе 1864 года.

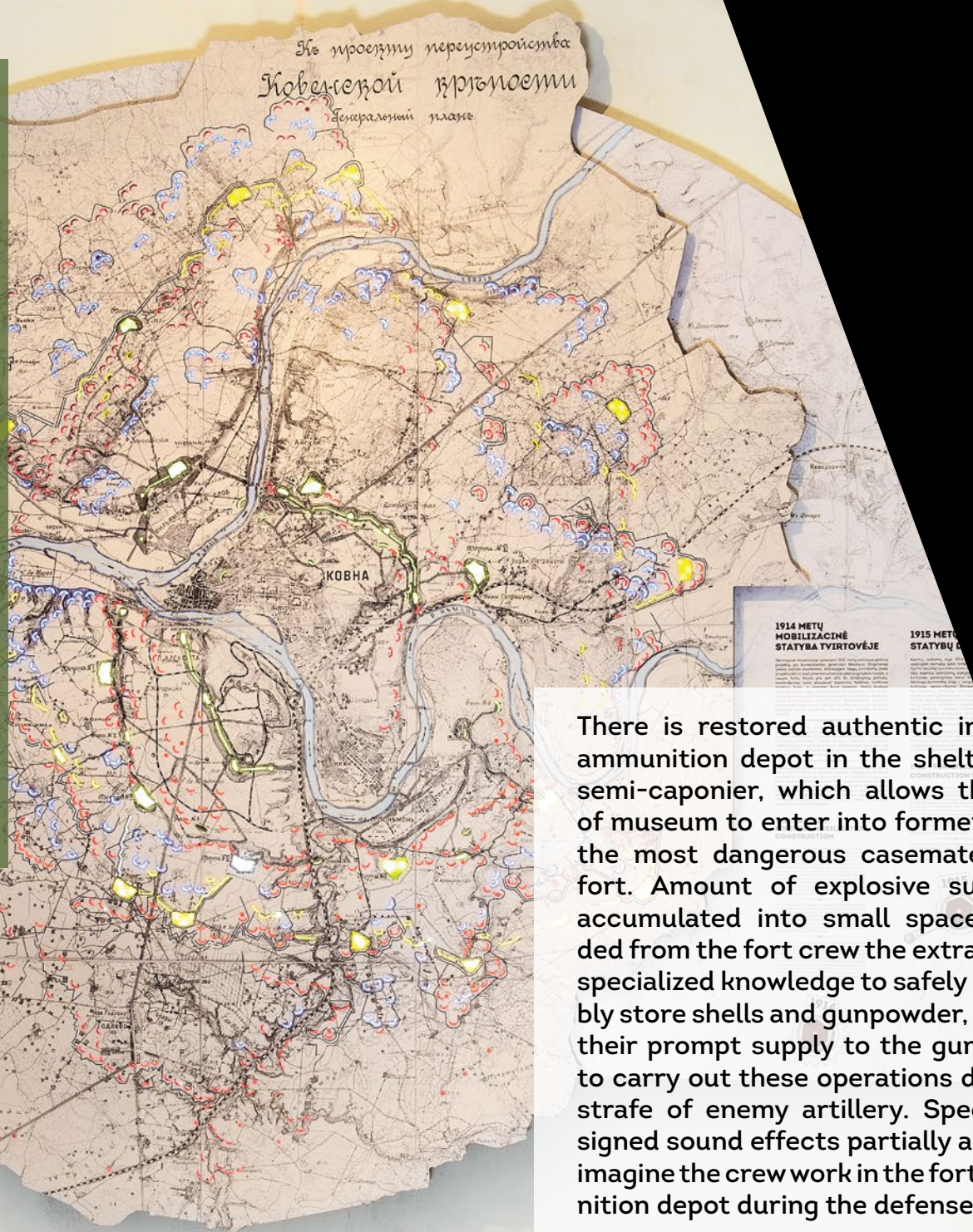
In the last years of nineteenth century the fortress engineers said goodbye to clay brick used for several centuries in the fortification and switched to a new model of construction material - concrete, which is used in construction of fortifications. It was a really big challenge. There was a need to master innovative concrete pouring process, to understand the revolutionary new model projects of fortifications and to learn to work in the conditions of accelerating evolution of technology. The project of the Ninth Fort in the construction process of the fort was repeatedly corrected few times because of evolving technologies and permanent fortification science progress, and before finishing the fortification on the tables of engineers-board professionals of Kaunas fortress were already put the latest drawings of forts of Kaunas fortress.



Директоръ
Инженеру
Каунаскаго
Форта

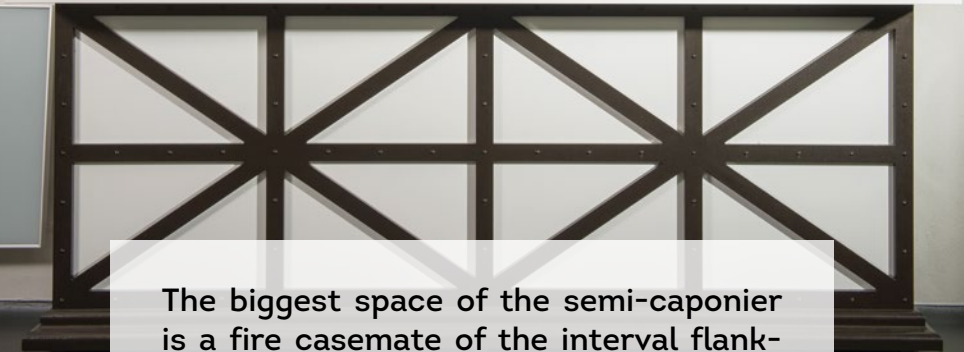
Министръ
Вѣдѣній

Semi-caponier's exposition of the Ninth Fort tells us about the concrete role in the fortification and evolution of fortifications occurred in the twentieth century, when aesthetically beautiful stone facades of buildings were left in the past giving a way to rational decisions. There was presented not only the Ninth Fort's project by using historical drawings, plans and layouts but also the forts of Kaunas fortress of the most recent project from 1912, forts' groups, defence points and other fortifications. Grandiose construction project of the second ring of forts of the Kaunas fortress started in 1913 and has a great historical significance, although the construction of most of these objects was not completed. For this reason, this project is displayed in details in this museum exhibition. Diversity of all objects built and being constructed nowadays in Kaunas fortress reflects the huge interactive map of Kaunas Fortress evolution.



There is restored authentic interior of ammunition depot in the shelter of the semi-caponier, which allows the visitor of museum to enter into formerly one of the most dangerous casemates of the fort. Amount of explosive substances accumulated into small space demanded from the fort crew the extra care and specialized knowledge to safely and reliably store shells and gunpowder, to ensure their prompt supply to the gunnery and to carry out these operations during the strafe of enemy artillery. Specially designed sound effects partially allow us to imagine the crew work in the fort's ammunition depot during the defense time.

The third floor of the semi-caponier is a space of educational activities and temporary expositions, exposition of the history of Kaunas fortress' artillery and the narrow rifle gallery, telling us about the crew of this fortress. The spacious corridors have installed equipment and art gallery hanging system allows access to the broadcasted here documentary film "Kaunas Fortress" directed by Rimas Bružas and to see eleven unique photos of Kaunas fortress artillery. Museum visitor or participant of educational activities sat down on a gun powder box or large caliber mortar's muzzle is like going back to the history of Kaunas fatal times, when the political objections of empires have been solved by means of military force, and any army movement path from east to the west (or in the opposite direction) was inexorably built over Kaunas.



The biggest space of the semi-caponier is a fire casemate of the interval flanking caponier. Today it accommodates artillery exposition of Kaunas fortress. Eleven main systems of fortress artillery: from small-caliber 57 mm caponier cannon to the enormous 10-inch caliber marine cannon are depicted in accurate 1:10 scale models. Near at hand once stood 87 mm caliber lightweight cannon with casematic Durlacher gun mount is now also restored with the original scale and has operating control mechanisms. Through the open embrasures of the semi-caponier uncloses a beautiful view to the fort's right wing, and roaring nearby highway Klaipeda - Vilnius speaks about the fact that the semi-caponier's casemates of the Ninth Fort is an unique historical area maintaining status of strategic importance object.





We invite you to familiarize yourself with Kaunas **IX fort** museum and its expositions.

The museum's opening hours

1 April - October 31: I, III-VII 10-18 h.

1 November - March 31: III-VII 10-16 h.

Museum is closed on public holidays.

KAUNAS IX FORT MUSEUM

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