



Cultural heritage in a virtual fantasy world

How Parity references Icelandic culture & history in Island of Winds

Parity

- founded in 2017 by María Guðmundsdóttir
- to make games that appeal to a **broader audience**
- employing a **diverse team** with diverse backgrounds
- Parity's first game is **Island of Winds**



ISLAND OF WINDS

Relying on our own cultural heritage

- we wanted to tell stories about women
- we also wanted to tell them in a world setting **we knew very well**
- and in a way that **hadn't been done** before (no vikings this time)
- this lead us to make Island of Winds




The Lonely Shepherd

Those cliffs are much too steep for you to climb on your own, yet you need to get up there somehow.



Figure out a way to help Erla



Erla is used to herding sheep all over these cliffs. How am I supposed to help her?



Island of Winds

- a computer game mirroring life in 17th and 18th century Iceland
- where **real life objects** gain a new **virtual life**
- where **art and craftsmanship** is celebrated (especially women's)
- where **mythical creatures** live
- and **folktales** are retold

A real life object in a virtual world!



Parity's Cooperation with The National Museum of Iceland

- 3D scanning of historical objects has been in progress at the museum
- Parity can use the scans in our game Island of Winds
- This means a lot to the team and our story
- Real life objects have their own history
- The “Álfapottur”, or elf pot has already been implemented in the game

The “Áflapottur” (elf pot)

- From 1400- 1600
- Copper pot with “ears” (1400-1600)
- Donated in 19th century
- National History Museum’s exhibit for 20 years
- 3D scanned in 2023
- From the elves to Island of Winds!

SARPUR Menningarsögulegt gagnasafn

ADILDARSÖFN | SÝNINGAR | ÞJÓÐHÆTTIR | TÖLVA

Öll söfn ▼ Öll aðföng ▼ Sláðu inn leitarorð... LEITA Um leit

Forsíða > Aðildarsöfn > Þjóðminjasafn Íslands > Pottur, óþ. notk.



SARPUR
Þjóðminjasafn Íslands

1 2 3

Panta mynd Mitt safn Veistu meira?

Heiti	Pottur, óþ. notk.
Ártal	1400-1600
Staður	Garður
Byggðaheiti	Ingjaldssandur
Sveitarfélag 1950	Mýrahreppur V-ís.
Núv. sveitarfélag	Ísafjarðarbær
Sýsla	V-Ísafjarðarsýsla
Land	Ísland
Gefandi	Sigríður Jónsdóttir 1837-1887

🔍 Nánari upplýsingar

Númer	2050/1882-8
Aðalskrá	Munur
Undirskrá	Almenn munaskrá, Fundaskrá, Lausafundur
Stærð	12,8 x 10,2 cm
Efni	Kopar
Tækni	Málmsteypa

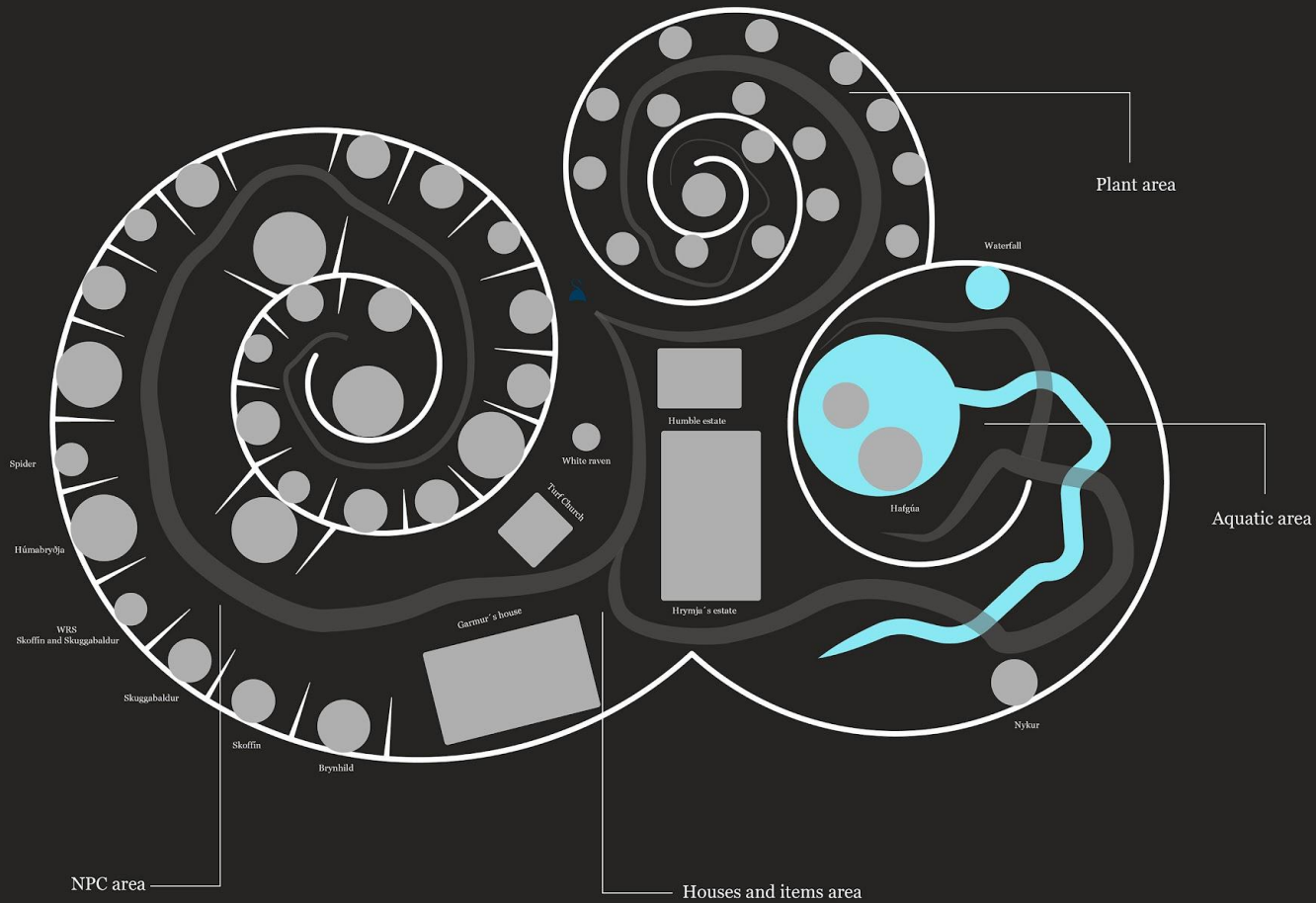
Lýsing



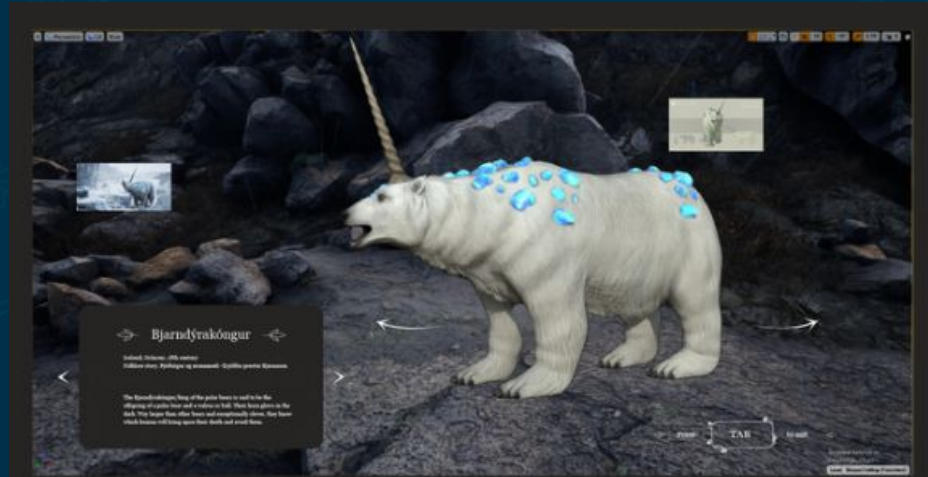


Our own in-game museum

- Outdoors museum with walls made of rock
- Items appear after player has seen/encountered them
- Deeper insight to the lore outside IOW
- Deeper insight into the design process of IOW



(Screenshot from a design document)



Upon pressing “e” you will enter this view. Bjarndýrakóngur in 3d is taking the main stage, behind him there are both a screenshot from in game and a concept art image. To view those images the player can press the arrows on both sides of the museum tag in the left corner. If the player wants to rotate the bear that would be possible with the mouse. To exit the player can press TAB.

Bjarndýrakóngur

Iceland, Grímsey, 18th century

Folklore story, Þjóðsögur og munnmæli -Eyjólfur prestur Bjarnason

The Bjarndýrakóngur/king of the polar bears is said to be the offspring of a polar bear and a walrus or bull. Their horn glows in the dark. Way larger than other bears and exceptionally clever, they know which human will bring upon their death and avoid them.



The art & craft - costume

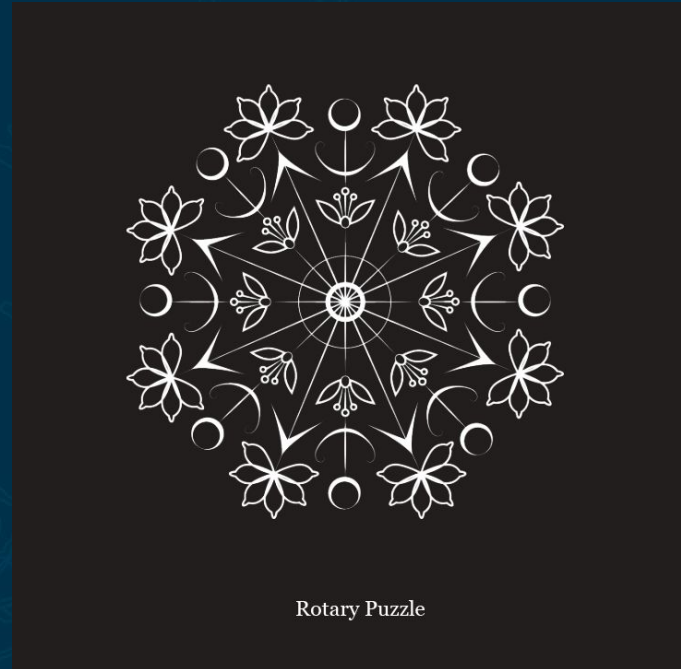
- Brynhildur's clothes
- "Faldbúningur"
- "Skotthúfa", "stokkabelti"
- Icelandic stitchwork
- Full length skirt was a technical issue





The art & craft - User Interface

- Elements of our UI based on stitchwork
- “Baldýringar”, “Blómstursaumur”, etc.
- Has not been used in UI design before





ISLAND OF WINDS

New Game

Load Game

Options

Quit Game



Save Game



1

Dreitill

15:48:50 | 2023-06-23
2:35:38

X

2

Dreitill

10:13:01 | 2023-05-22
2:29:48

X

3

Gorge

17:59:02 | 2023-04-07
2:12:29

X

4

Empty Slot

X

Back

Mythical creatures and folklore





ISLAND OF WINDS

MYTHICAL CREATURES

SKOFFÍN





ISLAND OF WINDS

MYTHICAL CREATURES
HAFGUEA







ISLAND OF WINDS

Thank you!