

**UNCOVERING LANDSCAPE :
A NARRATIVE OF FORGOTTEN SPACE**

by

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Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements
for the degree of Master of Architecture

at

Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia
June 2016

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keywords

*inbetween, instrument of focus, time, understanding of
landscape, local specificity*

ABSTRACT

The thesis is an investigation of inbetween landscapes and seeks to develop an understanding of them. The inbetween is fluctuant, typically misunderstood and underutilized as a result. Particularly in cities such as London, these landscapes are being eroded away due to the pressure of urbanization. These landscapes are often viewed as leftovers, remnants of an industrial past or a post-industrial present.

The trajectory of these spaces is uncertain and with the mounting pressure of urbanization action must be immediately taken. To develop an understanding is critical for their existence, fostering the ability to occupy a productive position with the urban fabric.

The disparate Lee Valley Regional Park in East London will act as the testing ground, seeking to develop an understanding that embodies the specificity of the local while simultaneously in dialogue with London. Architectural instruments will act as catalyst, internally and externally focusing landscapes, provoking our sense of discovery and prompting us to uncover the local.

This process evolves over time, deepened by our experiences and memories of place.

*Curiosity is the key; seek and one shall find a mystery,
discover the unknown.*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To my family, for always supporting my endeavors with encouragement and passion, for allowing me to become the person I am today.

To my lovely studio mates who have provide late night comic relief and thoughtful insight.

To Bruce and Dorothy Rossetti for the Rossetti Scholarship which fostered a continuous research project, one that merges my fascination of human engagement within the everyday with my love of nature.

To Susan Fitzgerald and Brian Lilley for being continuously a part of the journey, supporting me through all the chaos and calm.

To the collective.

To Judy Ling Wong for inspiring me with your insightful wisdom, and rigorous passion.

To Sue Amos for your dedication and commitment to the community, and for inspiring generosity within all of us, as you provide so much of your own.

The National City Park London Foundation for inspiring a generation of dreamer and doer, starting a movement that has unlocked unlimited potential.



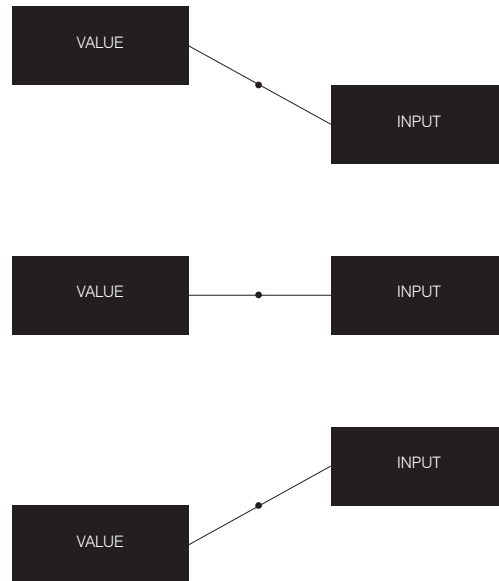
Age 8, adventuring to the pond.

Memory, the act of recalling, recollecting disparate pieces. The more worn a memory becomes the less truthfully we are able to remember the actual experience and events.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Nature: An Oasis

Growing up in a rural community fostered a love for nature from a young age. I developed a strong relationship with it throughout my childhood, going on long walks in the forest and swimming for endless hours in the lake. At that age I could not imagine not being outside and playing with my friends late into the evening. As I got older my family began moving around quite often, yet nature served as a constant no matter where we lived. Looking back, I began to realize how we inhabited nature and our relationship changed with it from west to east in Canada. In the west, the culture was one with the outdoors, nature integrated into the daily life, with us going to the park for an evening picnic or a long walk on the weekend. When we moved to the east this all changed, nature became an event, something save for the weekend or summer holidays. My relationship once again shifted when I moved to a large city, a place that was unfamiliar to me both in function and in form. Initially it was a shock, but as I began to settle, thoughts of frolicking in the forest seemed as though a memory of a distant past. The longer I lived in the city, the more intensely I began to crave nature, seeking it out at every possible opportunity. To my surprise, there was nature in close proximity to me, waiting to be discovered, uncovered by those who sought it out. I had not even been aware of what was surrounding me, as though it was a treasure, to be unveiled over time. As I became more in tune with the local, this sense of discovery and delight filled me again, just as it had in my childhood.



Finding the balance between input and value of green. If green has less value compared to its input, than the space tends to decay over time and is under threat. If the relationship is balanced, the green is neutral, but still remains under threat. If the value is higher, the green is well utilized and maintained as usually is more secure within its community

How do we ensure the legacy of greenspace and the security of green within an urban environment

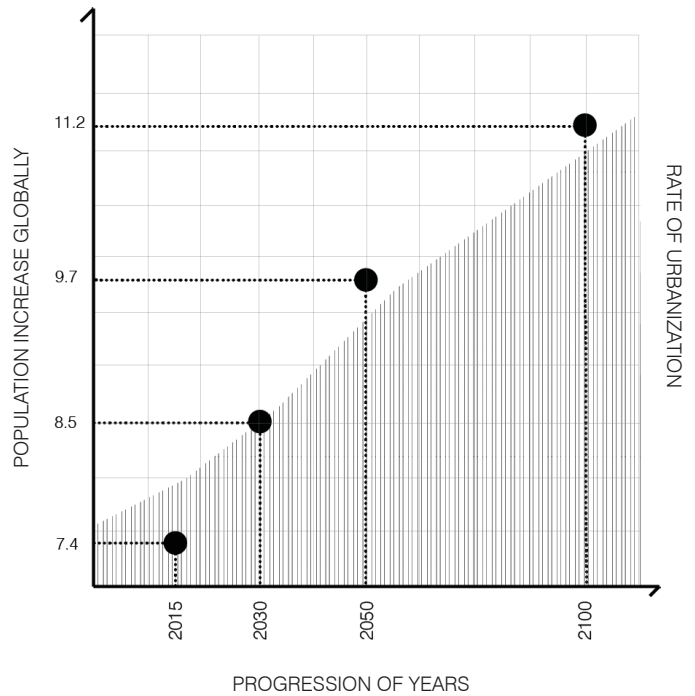
Increased Housing + Increase Greenspace
=? (Inconceivable in the current city)

Landscape Decay

If we are to imagine living in a city that no longer has nature in it, we must ask ourselves what quality of life might we have? This might seem like an unthinkable idea, but it all well could be a reality. If this idea is too extreme we might consider nature being only on the peripheral edge of the city, removed from the dense urban core, inaccessible to most. Just as the visible and known landscapes are slowly disappearing from our cities, the invisible and forgotten landscapes are fleeting with rapid haste, disappearing with few ever realizing they are gone. To accommodate unprecedented pressures of urbanization an erosion of visible and invisible green is currently taking place in many cities. Alongside the loss of green, the division between built and unbuilt fabric space is diminishing, decaying the network of the in between.

In between spaces are critical to the development of the city, as they tend to serve as zones of infrastructure and overflow as well as devices of social and cultural cohesion with their use as productive and active urban elements. If we can understand these landscapes we are more inclined to protect them, with us acting as their voice and allowing them to become more formalized spaces. Through developing our relationship with landscapes, we are able to prevent further decay and foster these landscapes into a positive perpetual cycle of integration with in the urban fabric. Yet if we misunderstand or do not understand the landscape in any capacity it will continue to decay, leading to it becoming underutilized and derelict creating a case for development, primarily unscrupulous in most cases.

According to the United Nations World Population Prospect The 2015 Revisions "The world population is projected to increase by more than one billion people within the next 15 years, reaching 8.5 billion in 2030, and to increase further to 9.7 billion in 2050 and 11.2 billion by 2100" This was previously revised from the 2014 Population Prospect which has projected the population to be 9.1 billion in 2050.



Population increase from 2015 to 2100, projected by United Nations; data from the United Nations, 2015.

Urbanization

Many global cities are facing mass population shifts from the rural to the urban. If the population continues on its current trajectory by 2050 more than 70 percent of the population will be living in cities, with a perceived population of nine point seven billion inhabitants globally.¹ In order to accommodate these increases, cities have the option to intensify their urban fabric, making it more densely populated or expand the boundaries of the city as a form of urban sprawl to meet the needs of their citizens. Density is a common response, in order to achieve this required space in between landscape are used as the land tends to be cheap and it lacks the voice of resistance which more formalized sites tend to have. The large swatches of in between space that are presently most desirable for development are (post) industrial landscapes or spaces that are industrial in nature. Some of these landscapes are abandon or derelict well other simply do not function in the same capacity as they once did, as we moved into a post industrial era.

As these space continue to disappear what will be the fate and trajectory of the city. The future and vitality of the city is dependent on its evolution, one that is adaptive and responsive to its citizens as well as global resources and necessities.² As society continues to urbanize we must inquire how to utilize both new and existing fabric to accommodate (non) nature within an urban context.

1 United Nations, World Population Prospect: Key Findings & Advance Tables. The 2015 Revisions, 2015, 2, http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/publications/files/key_findings_wpp_2015.pdf.

2 Andy Thornley, The Crisis of London (London: New York: Routledge, 1992), 195.



The Inbetween, used as a means to describe the area of intervention, one that is neither this nor that. In a state of flux between conditions, a space of mediation, of dialogue.

Protected view of London, moving into the green; images from the Guardian, 2015.

Greenspace Pressure

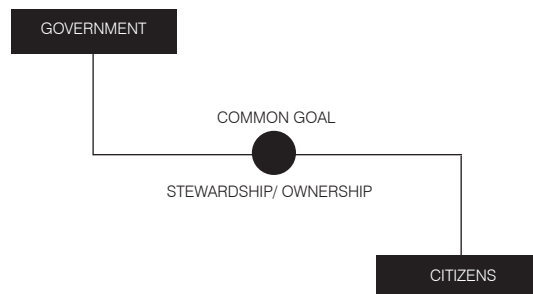
The future of cities is a fine balance between the past and present, with respect to the unknown and ever changing future. In between spaces play a vital role within the development of society, creating cohesion socially and culturally. In many instances these spaces have decayed, been privatized, or developed due to the pressures of urbanization.

These landscapes, especially the ones of a post industrial nature tend to be the first to succumb to the pressures of urbanization, as the majority of cities lack available or desirable land. Post industrial landscapes tend to be the most vulnerable as they lack a voice within the context of the city, being seen more as development potential rather than as productive component of the built fabric. Many of these landscapes will disappear in the coming years from the urban realm if action is not taken. This erosion contributes to the large disconnect between citizen and the natural environment, an cycle that has been continuously taking place within our cities. If action is not take me might face a fairly bleak future, one where nature has little or no value.

Framework of Intervention

The quality of life within the urban environment will significantly decay if these in between spaces are developed or left to decay. A framework of intervention need to be introduced in order to secure the future of these space. The intervention is about fostering an understanding of these landscapes both in terms of our positions with them as well as their position within the

With the growing population density parks become more valuable to their community. If these parks are removed the public suffers and this negatively impacts community. This tends to happen in boroughs with levels of incomes, where funding is allocated to other services and parks become underfunded, leading them into a cycle of underfunding, underuse, decay, and non-existence/ development in the worst case scenarios. Population groups who benefit most from exposure to nature and developing a relationship to it tend to have the worst access to it.



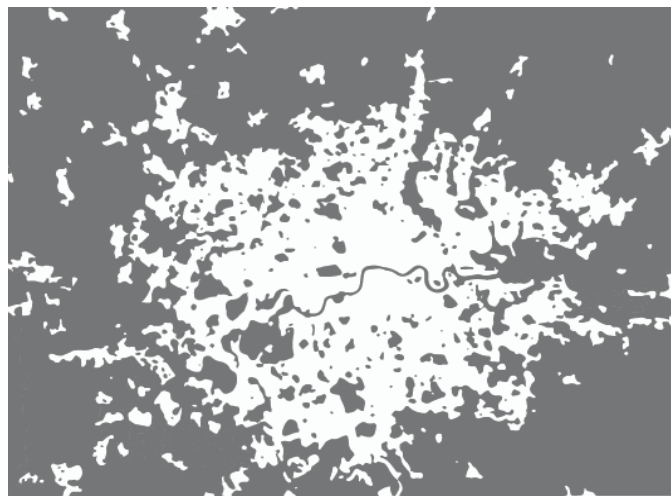
Working towards the common goal of stewardship in order to secure the future of parks requires input both from the government, with a top down approach and from citizens in a bottom up approach. With both entities working towards a common interest, an investment is made both physiologically and psychologically.

larger discussion of green. To foster an understanding of the landscape, first we must discover the landscape, and this is done with a familiarization with it. Then we must allow people to uncover the landscapes, finding places, functions, or activities that were not initially apparent. This discovery and uncovering works both at the level of the citizen with a specificity to the site and the local, as well as at the level of the government. With these two bodies working together, the common goal of stewardship and ownership can be achieved, giving voice to the landscape and creating a robust landscape that is adaptive to current and future contexts.

If we love what we enjoy. We will protect what we love.³

As citizens if we are able to enjoy these landscapes we will love them and ultimately we will protect these space as we form relationships with them, fostering a level of stewardship. A relationship is to be established, one that addresses both the physiological and psychological dialogue we have with nature, in the context of the city. If a shift in the public value does not take place, the in between will continue to be under imminent threat and is unlikely to remain apart of the urban fabric. Looking at the cycle of decay, a conclusion can be drawn that if these space are activated they will become more well utilized, perpetuating a positive cycle which engrains them into society. Therefore an understanding of the landscapes is required in order to positively change these space from voiceless and forgotten places into vibrant and thriving landscapes.

3 Judy Ling Wong (UK Director of the Black Environmental Network (BEN) and Member of the Greater London National Park City Steering Committee 2015), in person conversation, December 21, 2015.



London has experience significant population flux over its history. London experienced significant growth with the Industrial Revolution and peaked at 8.6 million inhabitants in 1939 with the onset of the World War Two. In 2015 London will again reach it population peak and continue to exponential grow over the coming year. By 2030 the projected population of London will be 10 million inhabitants and will continue to grow in population over the coming years. The largest population growth took place in the eastern boroughs of the city, Tower Hamlets, Hackney, and Newham. (According to the 2011 census)

London inhabitation density in 1800; data from Atlas of London, 1968.

London inhabitation density in 1958; data from Atlas of London, 1968.

London - An Urban Metropolis

London became the testing zone for the thesis with its significant historical urbanization, shifting its population from the rural to urban environment during the Industrial Revolution⁴, as well as its fluctuating population and the large scale issues it which it currently faces such as the affordable housing crisis.⁵ The urban fabric and its development as an amalgamation of a series of towns and villages over time to form Greater London. Also influenced my selection as London can be conceived as a series of layers, continually overlapping, creating connections as well as a disconnection within the city. As the city developed, its sprawl was contained and constricted by the Green Belt, leading to a clear division between the urban and the rural. Another characteristic of London was its socio-economic divide between its affluent West and deprived East and well as between the North and South of the city.⁶ These factors have influenced the interventions and approach with London acting as the lens of exploration.

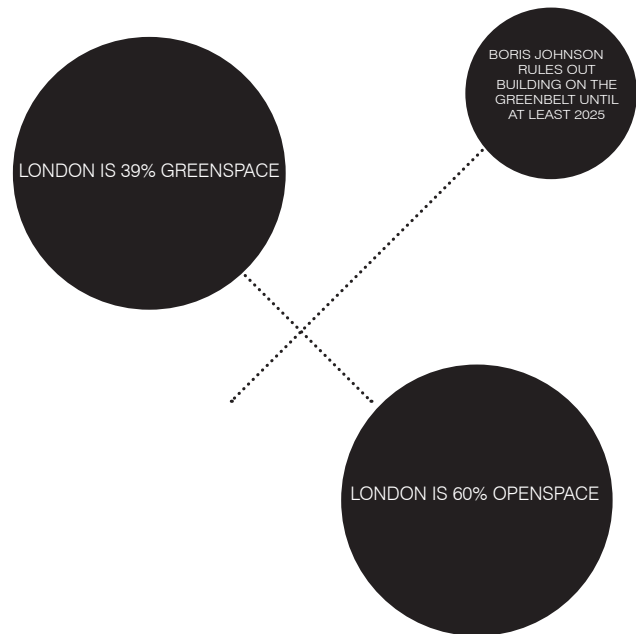
With an anticipated population of 10 million by 2017 and steady increasing, the value of green space needs to be as important as built space. Greater London is designated as 60 percent openspace and 39 percent of being greenspace,⁷ for those living in London this number might seem extravagant, but with a dense core

4 Susan Lasdun, *The English Park: Royal, Private, Public - Parks Under Threat* (London: Andre Deutsch, 1991), 190.

5 Cherry Bridget, Charles O'Brien, Nikolaus Sir, *London. 5, East* (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 2005), 109.

6 Michael Pacione, *Britain's Cities: Geographies of Division in Urban Britain* (London; New York: Routledge 1997), 180.

7 Greenspace Information for Greater London, 2015, <http://www.gigl.org.uk/our-data-holdings/keyfigures/>



The pressures in which greenspace faces are at a threshold, on that has the potential to change the trajectory of the city.

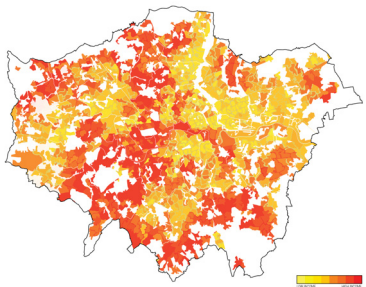
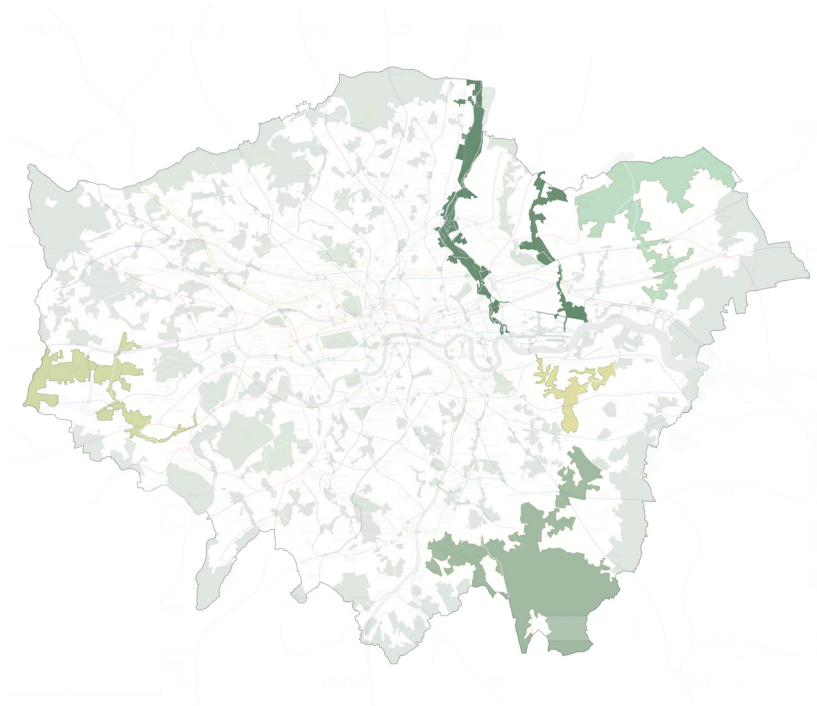
Cyclical progression towards development of greenspace in relation to use; data from UK Census, 2011.

and a more dispersed edge that is the reality. Yet to the majority of Londoners do not perceive the city as having an abundance of greenspace as it not is locally accessible.

In many areas of the city where landscapes are not readily accessible, they continue to erode and decaying as they lack the activator required to sustain them. The thesis will examine these landscapes with the intention to create an understanding through facilitating a discovery and uncovering both at the scale of the community and the city.

Thesis Question

Can architecture be used as an instrument of understanding to uncover and discover landscapes with the context of the inbetween and forgotten.



(right to right) London as a city from a satellite, London as a city of built space, London as a city of unbuilt space, London as an belt of green, London as a distribution of wealth, London as a deficiency in access to nature, London as a forgotten space.

CHAPTER 2: LONDON'S LEGACY

City in Situ

London acts as an ideal testing ground for the thesis as it currently faces rapid rates of urbanization. London is currently unable to sustain its population growth, and as a result is facing an affordable housing crisis which it is unable to satisfy. Contributing to these issues London is facing a deficit of available and usable land for development within its boundaries. The city has responded to the pressures of urbanization by relinquishing public and green space for development or means of privatization to accommodate the increased population. Large swathes of green are being nibbled away, in order to accommodate the exponential population growth..

Gentrification by Postal Code

Gentrification has been a constant force within the city, a force of displacement, washing areas of identity and culture to make way for the perceived 'new and better'. James Cheshire referenced the tube in the project *Lives on the Line : Life Expectancy at Birth & Child Poverty as a Tube Map* as a gauge of life expectancy, moving between the East and West division of the city primarily and North and South secondarily. With each stop on the tube, the life expectancy of its inhabitants decreases significantly as one moves east with the city.⁸ This socio-economic divide has been present throughout history and has impacted the development of the city, in present day the east has

8 James Cheshire, Spatial.ly - Visualization, Analysis and Resource, *Lives on the Line*, <http://spatialanalysis.co.uk/2012/07/lives-on-the-line/>, accessed January 15, 2016



Greater London as a city from a satellite
Greater London as a city of built space
Greater London as a city of unbuilt space

become a popular area for development as the land is relatively affordable.⁹ “The link between life expectancy and deprivation is well established,”¹⁰ and this evident throughout London. Connection with public transportation networks has been steadily improving in the east, making it a desirable place to be, with waves of gentrification moving through well established communities. As the east has been quite deprived over time many of their greenspace have lacked funding and have been eroded and decay from the urban fabric.

Access and proximity to greenspace are unequally distributed across the population. The most affluent 20% of wards in England have five times the amount of greenspace compared with the most deprived 10% of wards. Furthermore, people who live in the most deprived communities are ten times less likely to live in the greenest areas than people who live in the least deprived communities.¹¹

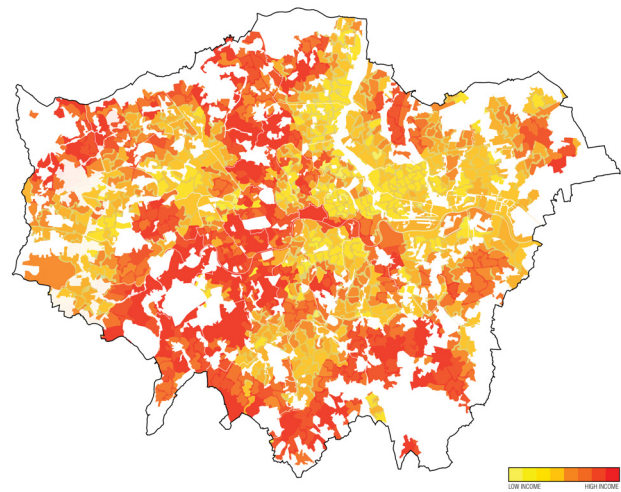
Landscape Leftovers

Post Industrial and Industrial landscapes tend to be viewed as the most developable landscapes within London. These spaces lack a voice, as they are underutilized and forgotten, making a case to be developed. They are the product of unscrupulous development, with little regard for their context and the impacts locally and globally. The end result is primary for financial gain, with little consideration to the social, cultural, ecological, and environmental impacts caused by their loss. In many

9 James Cheshire and Oliver Uberti, *London - The Information Capital* (Great Britain: Particular Books, 2016), 266.

10 Anne Milton (Public Health Minister) <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-18917932>, accessed February 24, 2016.

11 Public Health England, *Local Action on Health Inequalities: Improving Access to Greenspace*, 2014, 14 https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/355792/Briefing8_Green_spaces_health_inequalities.pdf.



Greater London as a belt of green; image from The Information Capital by James Cheshire.

Distribution of wealth in the City of Greater London, with a diversion of the majority of wealth concentrated in the west, following historic trends of an impoverished east and a wealthy west.

Greater London as areas of deficiency in access to nature, data from Greenspace Information for Greater London CIG.

cases these landscapes are economically viable within a constricted environment, making it easy to be developed as they lack a sense of stewardship and ownership from the public. In our current society these spaces have the potential to create meaningful spaces of interaction between humans and nature, they just need to be uncovered and discovered in order to be integrated and understood to once again be inhabited.

Increasingly, local authorities are facing financial pressure to sell greenspace in order to generate income and save money. There is also often pressure placed on local authorities to develop more land for housing or other facilities to accommodate projected population growth.¹²

For example from 2009 - 2012, London councils raised 69 million pounds from the sale of open public lands; the largest portions was made up by the sale of playing fields.¹³

In an urban, green provides the most frequent opportunities for human interaction with nature, clean air, and the natural world. Despite a wide and vocal acknowledgment of their ecological, social, medical, and economic benefits, the protection, conservation and even existence of urban parks, gardens, public recreation fields, and peripheral greenspace is by no means assured.¹⁴

One of the greatest threats to existing urban greenspaces is, ironically, the force that ensures their value: population density.¹⁵

12 Andrew Ross and Michael Chang. Supported by Planning Healthier Places, Report from the Reuniting Health with Planning Project, (Rep. Oldham: RAP Spiderweb, 2013), 14. http://www.tcpa.org.uk/data/files/Planning_Healthier_Places.pdf.

13 Ed Davey, "Parks, playgrounds and pitches sold by London councils", BBC, March 08 2012, <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-17250159>

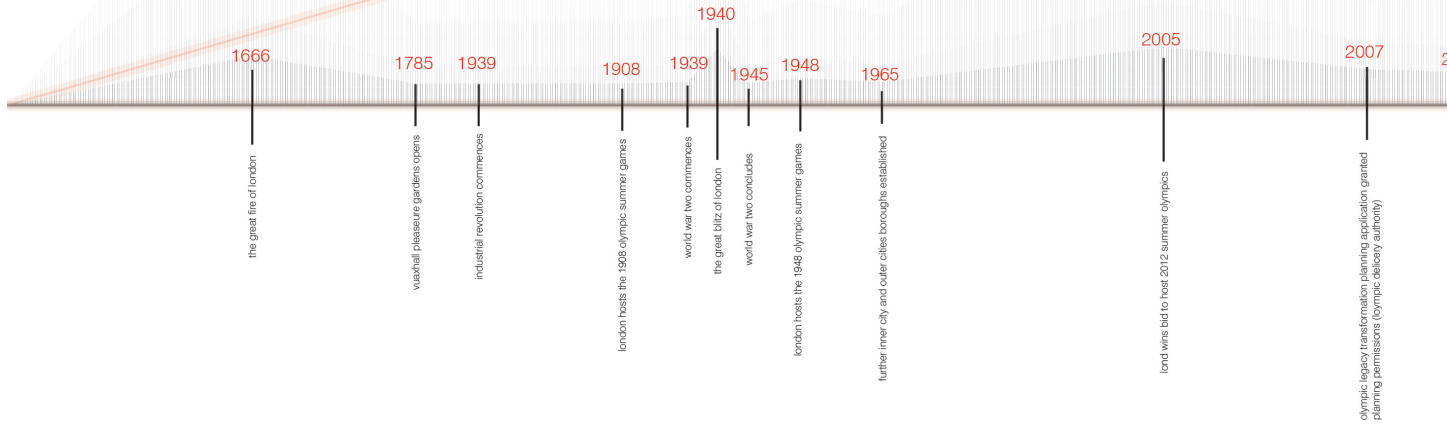
14 Katy Layton-Jones, *National Review of Research Priorities for Urban Parks, Designed Landscapes, and Open Spaces*, Final Report, English Heritage, 2014, 60. http://services.english-heritage.org.uk/ResearchReportsPdfs/004_2014WEB.pdf

15 Ibid.

formative events



english landscape



queen elizabeth olympic park
succession of landscapes

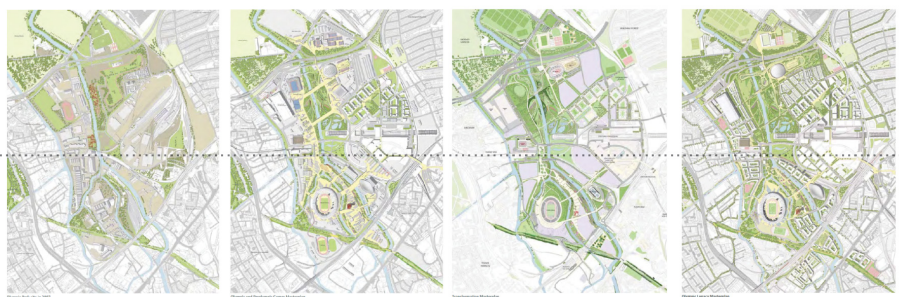
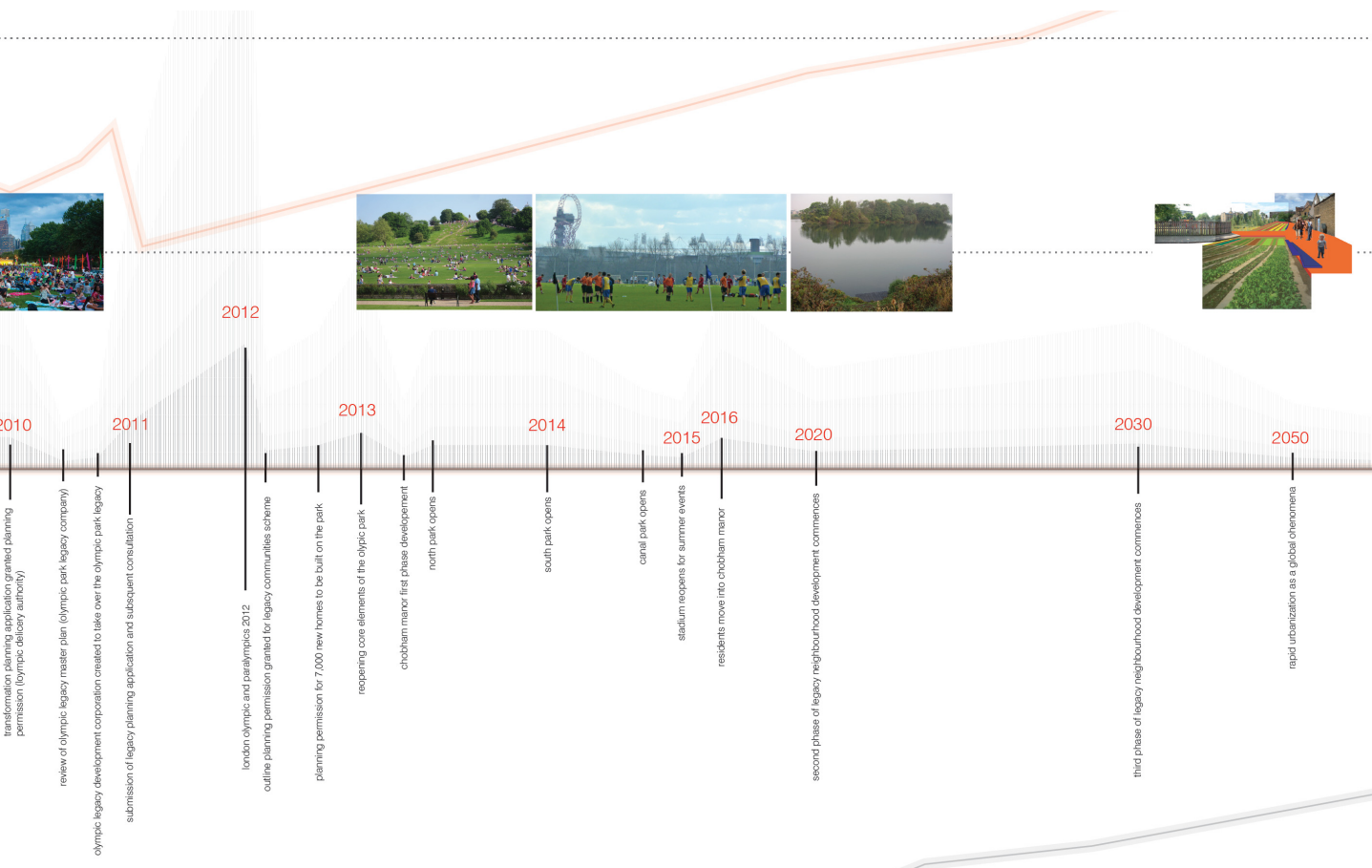


london olympic legacy plan

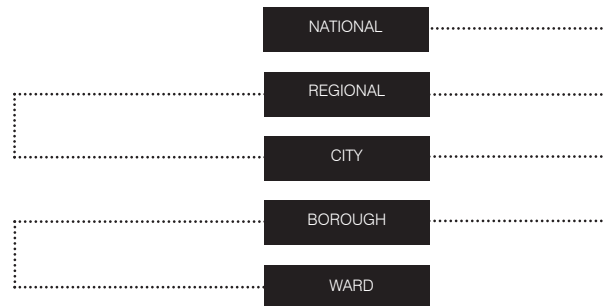
lea valley transformation



The shifting role and value associated with green in London in relationship to time, space, and associated value.



LAND USE	AREA (HA)	PERCENTAGE
Parks And Gardens	9207	5.77%
Natural And Semi-natural Urban Greenspace	8859	5.56%
Green Corridors	5671	3.56%
Outdoor Sports Facilities	10718	6.72%
Amenity	6575	4.12%
Children And Teenagers	72	0.05%
Allotments, Community Gardens And City Farms	995	0.62%
Cemeteries And Churchyards	1390	0.87%
Other Urban Fringe	12893	8.09%
Civic Spaces	74	0.05%
Other	3063	1.92%
Unknown	2601	1.63%
Total:	62118	38.96%



Green allocation for Greater London, 2015, chart from Greenspace Information for Greater London (GIGL)

Hierarchy structure in terms of park management in the United Kingdom

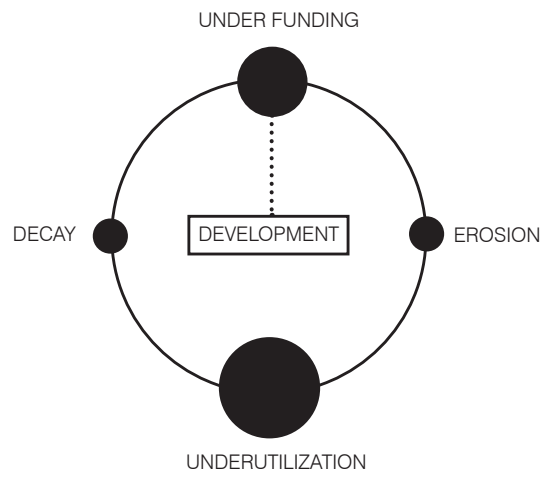
Green: A Convenient Solution

With almost 90 percent of the population using and valuing parks and greenspaces, their influence upon our quality of life is incontrovertible.¹⁶

Even though green plays such an important role in society, it seems to lack a quantifiable value, therefore making it difficult to protect. The governing body of Greater London is a decentralized model of local authorities, with each borough responsible for addressing the needs of their citizens as well as appropriately forming budgets and expenditures. Greenspaces are managed on a borough to borough basis and lack a consistency in their role and value overall in the city. In some boroughs greenspace is a priority, but there is not an equal emphasis on it throughout the city as green tends to lack the advocacy require to maintain it as a priority. With this unequal emphasis, the quality of greenspace has rapidly decreased in some borough, placing it into a state of decay and erosion. Some parks have been saved from alternative funding sources such as the Heritage Lottery Fund, or Friends groups who have emphasized the value of green and been able to revitalize and remediate these spaces. With the classification and designation of parks occupying a more formalized role within the city, we are left to wonder what the role of the inbetween is and how it might be valued.

Just as the role of landscape has change over time, the use greenspace has also shifted from being a place of leisure to a place which is primarily recreationally focused. With many small developments compounding over

¹⁶ CABE SPACE, *Urban Green Nation: Building the Evidence Base*, (London: CABE, 2010), 4. <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110118095356/http://www.cabe.org.uk/files/urban-green-nation.pdf>.



Cyclical progression towards development of greenspace in relation to use.

time have created large impacts within the urban fabric and specifically on the quality of greenspace. These developments have eroded these space, decreasing the usage, activities, and function. With decrease levels, many of these landscapes become underutilized and in turn tend to receive less funding for maintenance and upkeep as they are no longer regard as an urban necessity.

This erosion has caused great disconnection between landscapes as they are isolated from one another, leading to an isolation between citizens and nature. This disconnect is perpetuated in modern society and will continue to increase unless some positive action is taken.

Future for London's Forgotten Landscape

With open space at an unprecedented premium, the case for new building, or even sculpture, in parks, calls for more circumspect consideration than ever. The undervaluing for parks has also lead to pressure on councils to release parkland for other purposes, notably roads, public housing, and private development. Hyde Park, for example, has been assiduously nibbled away by the road widening. Paradoxically, the more environmentally important a site, the lower the value of its lands. A report but the Friends of Earth found that the cheapest place to build a motorway is through a public park.¹⁷

What is the future of London parks, with a decaying green fabric in the city action must be taken to secure a future for theses space. Over the past years our relationship with parks has shifted with the adoption of infrastructure with the green. Without activation these spaces will remain underutilized and derelict, resulting in a continuous dissolve. Shifts both social and cultural must take place from the citizens as well as economically and environmental from the level of the governing body

17 Susan Lasdun, *The English Park: Royal, Private,Public - Parks Under Threat* (London: London : Andre Deutsch, 1991), 190.



London National Park City, a proposal put together by the National Park Cities - United Kingdom Steering Committee, lead by Daniel Raven - Ellison; map from National Park City London

in order to implement a meaningful change. The success of this change would allow these landscapes to gain a voice, and place them within the overall discourse of green. Currently we are at an apex where action must be taken, a choice that has the opportunity to change the trajectory of the city.

Projective Futures

A projection of the future can be made, one that continues on our current trajectory of development, the results; A Grey City, one that lacks an emphasis and importance on the quality of greenspace and its role within the city. The other a trajectory would stress the importance of green within the city, an allow us to claim a broader definition on how we might classify landscapes. In this broadened definition the in between would contribute to the green fabric of the city, being integrated into the large network both in terms of infrastructure but also with cultural and environmental significance. Our understanding of these space would allow us to integrate them, and also inhabit them in a meaningful manner, one that is conscious of the local but also reflective of the large whole. This projection would create a new landscape, one that changes and evolves, embodying notions of familiar and unfamiliar. These projection place an emphasis on the present day, as a society we have reached a threshold where a decision must be made, changing the trajectory and creating a future where the outcome is uncertain and influx.

Fiction is the impetus to architecture. Imagination is an upstream process towards making the fake become real. The fiction that architects write, as an inspiration for and a response to culture, forecasts the fabrication of cities, which marks history. To advance culture, architects must embrace the power of unrealized ideas and nurture wild propositions. By realizing the seemingly unimaginable, architects lay down a new



London as its protected park vs London as a National Park City; data from National Park City London and Greenspace Information for Greater London (GIGL).

milestone of tangible realities.¹⁸

A Grey Future?

As a society might we imagine a city without parks, without green space. What is the characteristic of this city, how does a citizen inhabit the city without nature. A city without green is equivalent to a body without lungs, unable to 'breathe', suffocated by the functions of its own organism. With the increase rate of urbanization, much of the green will continue to disappear if there is not a public value be it economic, social, cultural, environmental, etc; to be associated with. As a society the short term solution is the most appealing as a consumption culture, one which value the 'cheap and easy', placing little to no value on the long term assets, services, and goods. A paradigm shift is inevitable in terms of the future city and its occupation and uses.

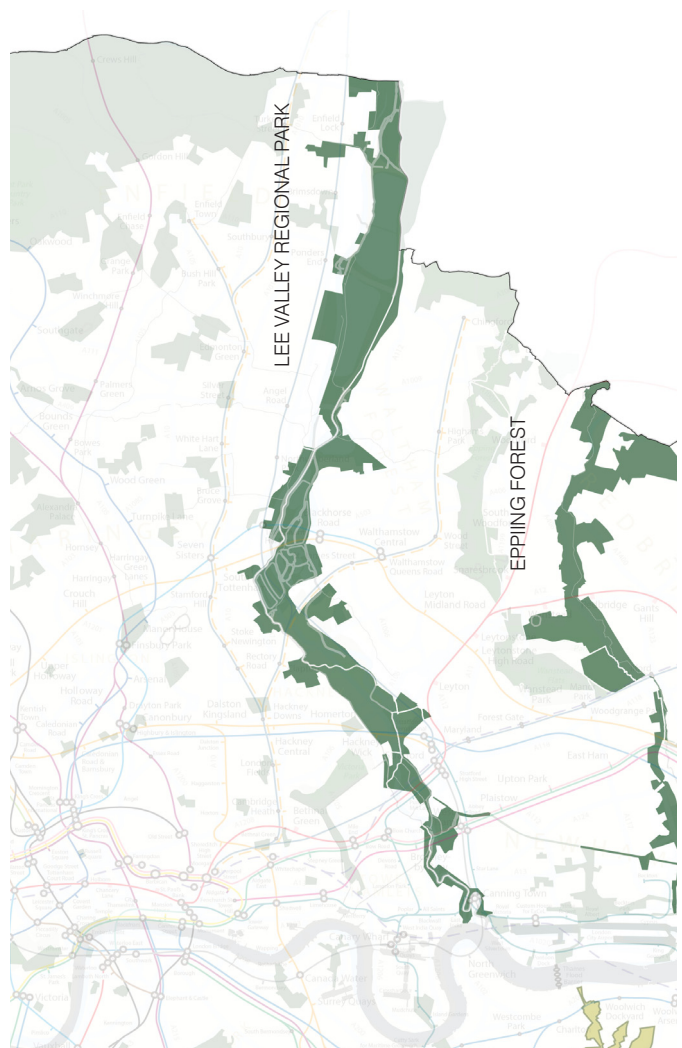
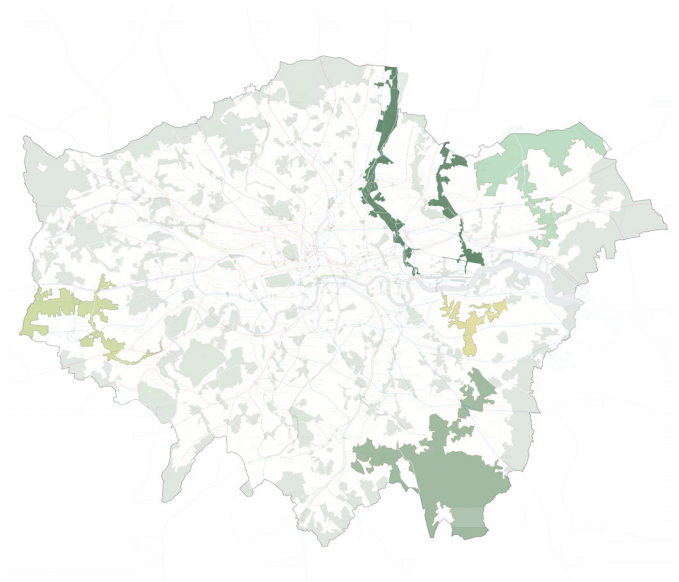
A Green Future?

Now imagine the city as a park. What a wonderful place to be, for cities this seems as though a faraway dream, something only a 'new' city might be able to achieve and incorporate into its urban fabric from the start. A city as a National Park is a notion that London is currently faced with, a ward based decision which has caused tensions and division amongst public opinion.¹⁹

Benefits would include a strengthen connections between

18 Jimenez Lai, *Citizens of No Place: An Architectural Graphic Novel* (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2012), 12.

19 Sir Terry Farrell, *London National Park City Proposal*, National Park City, accessed November 2015, [http://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/nationalparkcity/\(Full+Tabloid+Design\)+Greater+London+National+Park+City+Proposal.pdf](http://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/nationalparkcity/(Full+Tabloid+Design)+Greater+London+National+Park+City+Proposal.pdf).



The future is now, the past and the present a mere figure conceive amongst ourself. How do our actions in the now directly impact the then.

The Lee Valley Regional Park, a forgotten landscape, one of many in East London.

citizens and nature, enriched biodiversity, conserving and enhance natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage and well as improving health and wellbeing of society.²⁰ A new dialogue is formed for the future with how the green might be utilized and programmed, reforming a contemporary relationship with nature, one that intrinsically relies on the power of the citizen in shaping the development and decisions of the city. Other visions for the Green City could include coupling infrastructure with systems of active transportation in green corridors integrating the parks into the transportation network as well as integrating the parks into the everyday through fostering activities and functions of the city.

The concept of the Green City is the vision for the city, a motivation to strive for something larger than just a singular intervention, project, or strategy. These instruments of activation act as a catalyst for this initial stage, with the thesis being the starting point, viewed as a strategic system of implementation, taking place over time and allowing for resonance to build and resiliency to be embodied within.

This intervention is viewed as “one vision to inspire a million projects”²¹

20 Katy Layton-Jones, *National Review of Research Priorities for Urban Parks, Designed Landscapes, and Open Spaces*, Final Report, English Heritage, 2014, 60. http://services.english-heritage.org.uk/ResearchReportsPdfs/004_2014WEB.pdf

21 Sir Terry Farrell, London National Park City Proposal, National Park City, accessed November 2015, [http://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/nationalparkcity/\(Full+Tabloid+Design\)+Greater+London+National+Park+City+Proposal.pdf](http://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/nationalparkcity/(Full+Tabloid+Design)+Greater+London+National+Park+City+Proposal.pdf).



A walk on the River Lea in the Lee Valley Regional Park; photograph by @nommyb, 2015.

A walk on the River Lea in the Lee Valley Regional Park ; photograph by @nicknjm, 2015.

Walking along the Lee, many people pass along on their bicycles, with their dogs and small children. I sit down and begin to draw, sketching the wisping landscape flowing in the wind. Stationary in a place of movement, people continue to pass, moving through but never stopping to take it all in. What if there was a space where people could stop, slow, a change of pace in the park, would it influence and change our relationship to this place, connect us to our space. I continued to sketch and ponder this thought, wishing I could sip a coffee and contemplate it a bit longer.

CHAPTER 3: FRAMEWORK

Park as Path: Path as Procession

The park should not be about the Sunday but rather the Monday.²²

The park acts as large scale pathway with a variety elements and programs which puncture our experience of the space. One can imagine going to the park for a leisurely walk on a Sunday afternoon, meeting up with friends to have a picnic, or catching a quick match of football mid week. The park simultaneously facilitates all of the activities well maintaining its overall composition and structure. The park can be about the everyday or the event, acting as a path that is altered by the temperature, the weather, the season, the company we keep or do not keep amongst many other factors both internal and external.

Within the urban fabric they must have value to society, and this value is realized and fulfilled by activation of place. Most parks within the urban are quite formalized, with acting bodies ensuring their continued existence, yet this is not always the case and some parks such as the Lee Valley Regional Park or Colne Regional Park lack this formalization and presently are under threat because of this. We must activate places like the Lee Valley Regional Park so they can continue to be apart of the urban fabric and embed themselves as productive components. Though developing an understanding of these landscapes we unlock their potential to be inhabited by society and we aid in the development of their voice.

²² Jan Gehl. "Livable Cities for the 21st Century." Medjuck Building, Dalhousie University, Halifax. 31 May 2016. Lecture.



Simultaneous Time and Place - various activities, Templehof Airport, Berlin

Simultaneous Time and Place, Gleisdreieck Park, Berlin

Simultaneous Time and Place - various activities, Burgess Park, London

Eventually these landscapes will be able to function on their own as independent green entities, yet they will be strengthened when apart of a larger network. These space must be evaluated both upon their present and historical values, well simultaneous looking to their future use and role. In between and forgotten landscapes were chosen as the medium of study, as they tend to be the more at risk in terms of development and have the potential to have the greatest impact within the context of London.

The outcome is to develop a strategy that facilitates a greater understanding of a landscape, one that is about discovering and uncovering landscapes through narratives and procession. These narratives are in dialogue with nature, developed over time as a series of experiences, being both psychological and physiological, amalgamating as memory.

Within the context of London, this investigation and experimentation will be conducted on a (post) industrial landscape in East London. The Lee Valley Regional Park (LVRP), a 26 mile long park has been selected as it begins on the north-eastern banks of the Thames, passing through multiple borough of London, continuing through the greenbelt and into the hinterlands. This site offers endless opportunity as it moves between a dense urban fabric towards a dispersed rural fabric as well as across a diversity of socio-economic and ecological thresholds.²³ The LVRP is a park by name but is not a park in essence, but rather can be viewed as a disconnected landscape with bits and pieces of functional and abandon industry

²³ Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, *Nature & Wildlife*, accessed January 16, 2016, <https://www.visitlee valley.org.uk/en/content/cms/nature/nature-wildlife/>.



Expedition to the East Pole; Matthias Jung, digital collage, 2015.



Buffalo Water Park; Alex Roulette, oil on canvas, 2011.

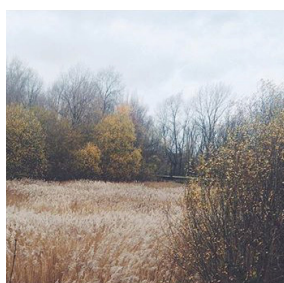
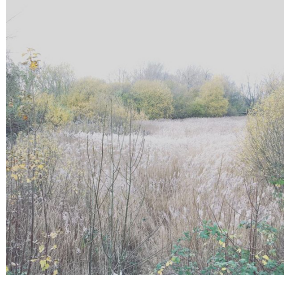
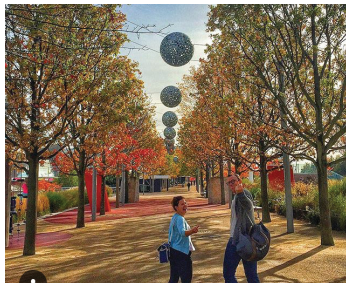
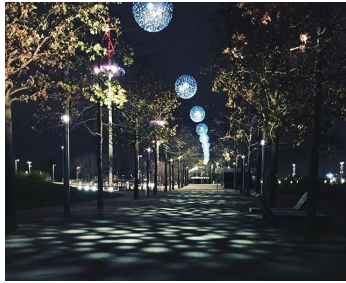
enveloped within a decaying green ribbon.

Understanding Landscape

The experience of the LVRP is both from my personal perspective, one that took place in various visits to the park as well as from secondary experience from the perspective of locals, citizens, and visitors. As the park is quite lengthy, secondary experience has been essential to the progression of the thesis in order to understand the landscapes and one's experience of it over time. Swaths of the Lee Valley Regional Park were studied from the perspective of its users and surrounding community throughout the various seasons and within different periods of the year. These studies looked at the type of activities and functions that the park served as well as the reoccurring views and places that users captured. Specific landscapes and features became consistent destinations, acting as places of attraction in the park. These overlapping zones were of interest, and revealed specific points of activation and their contributing factors to the park such as lookouts and vistas, gathering spaces, specific activities and events as well as diverse landscapes conditions and qualities which perforate the fabric of the park.

Factors

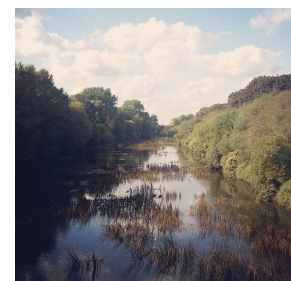
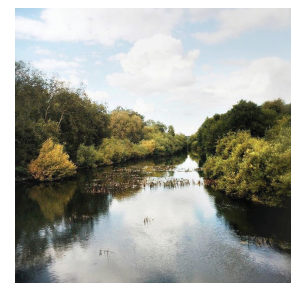
Time, experience and memory influence our relationship with nature and how we conceive and proceed with it. Time acts as a structuring element, altering our experience, composing our memories. A space is just the same as the day before but our



QEOP (top to bottom)
 @katelewers
 @sandu.the.best
 @notgavin
 @liliacuciuc
 @jin_blossoms
 @sebastianmoody100

Middlesex Filter Beds
 @sukidhanda
 @partidoalt0
 @chazwut
 @lukaskurik
 @hollilah

Hackney Marshes
 @jamesrossphotography
 @bronte_m
 @nickarin



QUEEN ELIZABETH OLYMPIC PARK

MIDDLESEX FILTER BEDS NATURE RESERVE

HACKNEY MARSHES LEA NAVIGATION

Position in Relation to Landscapes.

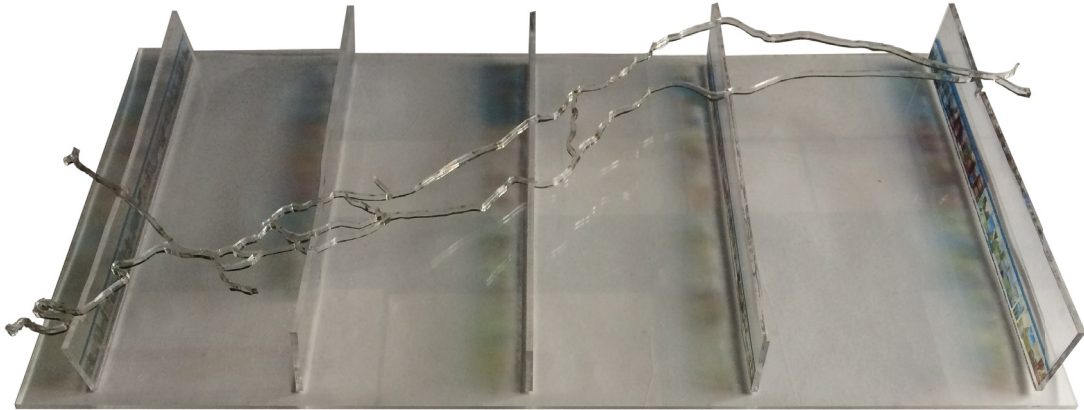
Within the park specific locations became destinations or focal points, an photographic attraction. Nature and man-made features became the essence of the space. To understand the consistency and the interest of the viewers these images were bisected through the various seasons and time and day.

experience in this day will always be different, being written over and over again, until we can no longer perceived the memory as a singular event but one that is layered.

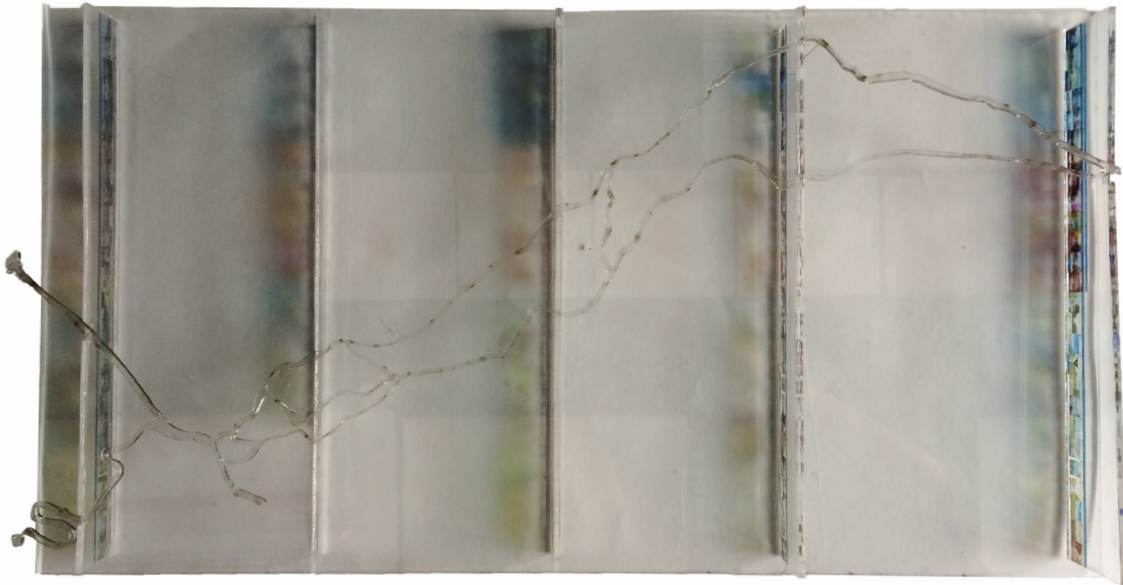
Time (A Day, A Month, A Year - Seasons)

Time is a key element and is allows for the programs, functions, and activities to change and evolve as they develop, responding to the needs of both human and nature. With the instruments of interpretation acting as a catalyst the proposal will gain traction over time, perpetuating the cycle of activation, rippling through the city, creating a resonance with the community and the borough as well as at the level of the city and beyond. This allows for an understanding of landscapes which is deeply rooted within its context of the 'here and now' as well as the future allows us to cross dimensional boundaries. These interventions allow us to imagine a magnitude of programs and activities to inhabit them over the course of their lifetime. Changing and fluctuating to accommodate and respond to their context. With each passing day, month, and year our understanding of the landscape will deepen, sometimes what we had previously thought or assumed will be altered, and ultimately how we experience the park will be shifted. We will start to notices that the leaves on the tree changed later this year compared to the park or that the water level is significantly lower this month compared to the last or even that one day te raspberries are ready to eat.

The park is a dynamic and active space, creating an identity and anchoring its place within the fabric of the city. If the park become apart of the mundanity of the everyday, what is reveal is the constant state of flux that



Dialogue of Time and Movement within the Lee Valley Regional Park



Dialogue of Time and Colour within the Lee Valley Regional Park



Experience of park from secondary perspective, Lee Valley Park; photographs by @mitasandco, @hanipot61, @jean_fullerton, @zoedoz, 2015.

nature is never stagnant. One where the leaves on the tree are no longer static, pushing up towards the sun before falling for the colder seasons.

Experience

Our senses and how we experience nature is intrinsic in our relationship to it and our feeling towards it. Many of my first encounters with nature were formed within the nurturing embrace of family, with memories of adventuring through the forest or playing at the park. These memories have acted as the formative experiences in developing my personal relationship with nature. Experiences are filled with a moment or detail which has penetrated its way into the mind. In some cases these experiences were made upon the first and possibly only visit, therefore these landscapes must be applicable both for the frequent citizen and the infrequent visitor, allowing for all to experience nature.

Therefore creating a series of experiences, which connect people to nature as well as to their place is needed to help mediate and establish a lifelong relationship. This relationship is fostered through a series of activities and our engagement with landscape. The park can be viewed as a path, one that leads us upon a journey, one where the destination is sometimes known and other times not. If the path is chosen or forced the experience is altered with each pace forward, consciously and unconsciously. The park is an element that can be both formalized with a widening of its position in landscape and choice when created as an independent crossing or erosion of the land. This experience is formulated as a pathway of experience to enrich our understanding of landscape.



Displacement of London Underground - the tube as path; images from the Guardian, 2015.

The more in tune we are with the landscape, the richer our understanding and appreciation for it is.

A wind sprang up; the golden leaves, in gusts, darted off in midair, spinning. Marcovaldo still thought that, behind him, he had the green thick tree, when all of a sudden- perhaps feeling himself unsheltered in the wind - he looked back. The tree was gone: there was only a thin stick, from which extended a monstrosity of bare stem, and one last yellow leaf at the top still. In the light of the rainbow everything else seemed black: the people on the sidewalks, the facades of the houses that served as a backdrop; and this black, in midair, the golden leaves twirled, shining, hundreds of them; the hundreds of hands, red and pink, rose from the darkness to grab them, and the shouts; and it detached even the last leaf, which turned from yellow to orange, then red, violet, blue, green, then yellow again, and then it vanished.²⁴

Memory

How one remembers a place, a space, activity or event becomes critical in how they perceive a particular happening in terms of their memory.²⁵

The first time one recalls a memory, it is most true to the events and experience. As we continue to recall the memory, it comes more distant, fading away with a mind filling in the blank details. The memory is significant to your experience, with two people having the same sequence of event but recalling them in a very different manner. The memories in many ways are related to the path, the more often the path is travelled the easier it is to remember, eventually we stop thinking about it as a series of directions and it becomes second nature, where our bodies lead and our mind follows.

Experiencing something from the perspective of another

24 Italo Calvino, *Marcovaldo or the Seasons in the City - The Rain and the Leaves* (London: Vintage Press, 2001) 83.

25 Jeffery M. Zacks and Barbara Tversky, *Event Structure in Perception and Conception*, *Psychological Bulletin*, Vol. 127(2001):03-21, 216, https://www.tc.columbia.edu/faculty/bt2158/faculty-profile/files/versky_Eventstructureinperceptionandconception.pdf.



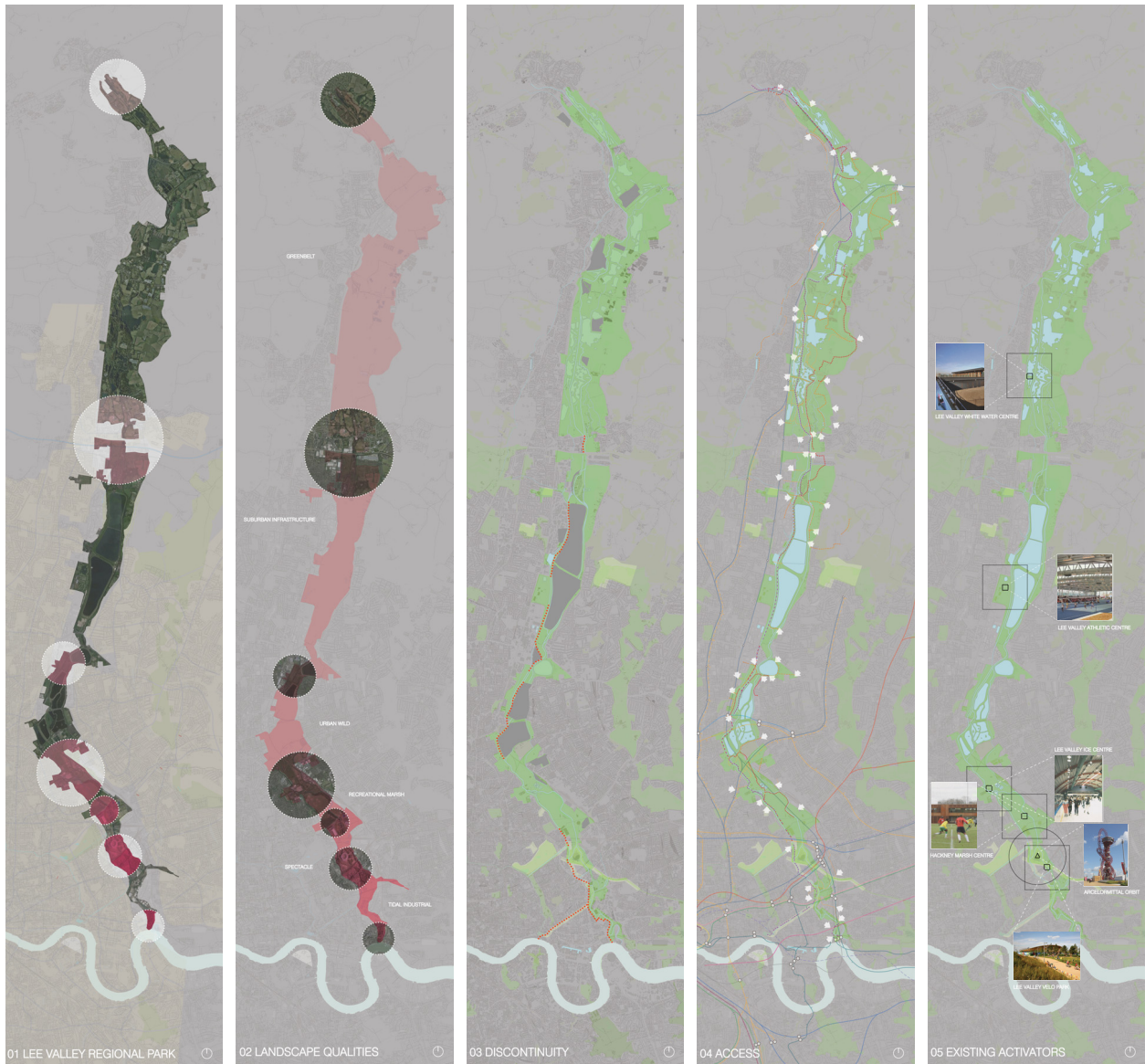
Alter Bahnhof Video Walk; Janet Cardiff and Georges Bures Miller, mixed media, 2012.

is not something we readily have the ability to be apart of. With psychogeography we are lead to have an experience which is guided from the perspective of another, with us experiencing a place/ or path both presently as well as retroactively in the past.

Psychogeography begins to evaluate memory and its impacts on the development and perceptions of our memory. Janet Cardiff acts as a situationists within modern culture, mending together fiction and reality with experience and memory. Working with her partner George Bures Miller, they developed a guided walk for the series of dOCUMENTA (13) at the Alter Bahnhof train station. This video is an experience through the old Alter Bahnhof train station in Kassel, Germany, where we are invited to view the video well simultaneously walking through the station along with the guided film.²⁶ Moving through the station is a form of choreographed motions, one that immerse the viewer with the digitally constructed environment well simultaneously involved with the physical environment of the present.

This layering between elements contributes to an experience of that place as well as the memories we have of it. Similarly when one is emerges within nature, layers of both reality and fiction are interwoven into our experience of place, a place of imagination and discovery. These dialogues between our understanding over time and the experience that penetrate our being are essential in order to establish an understanding of landscape that is meaningful and profound.

²⁶ Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller, *Walks - Alter Bahnhof Video Walk*, accessed March 02, 2016, <http://www.cardiffmiller.com/artworks/walks/bahnhof.html>.



Lea Valley Regional Park, dispersed as a series of isolated elements, 2015

These factors shape our understanding and are influenced by the narrative and procession which is created with the path. The path itself is an amalgamation of the routes and movements we take and are not bound by the physical marking of the earth.

CHAPTER 4: IMPLEMENTATION

The Testing Ground

Lee Valley Regional Park

The frameworks which embodies an understanding of landscape could be implemented in many situations, yet a large scale area in East and North London and beyond was selected as it encompasses a strong diversity of landscape qualities, socioeconomic conditions as well as population density moving from the South to North as well as East-West. This continuous corridors is one of a series of linear greenspaces within London that are presently under threat of decay and development with the rising pressures of urbanization to fulfill affordable housing demands. With a lack of inherent value and funding for green, the Lee Valley Regional Park has been selected as it is under imminent threat.

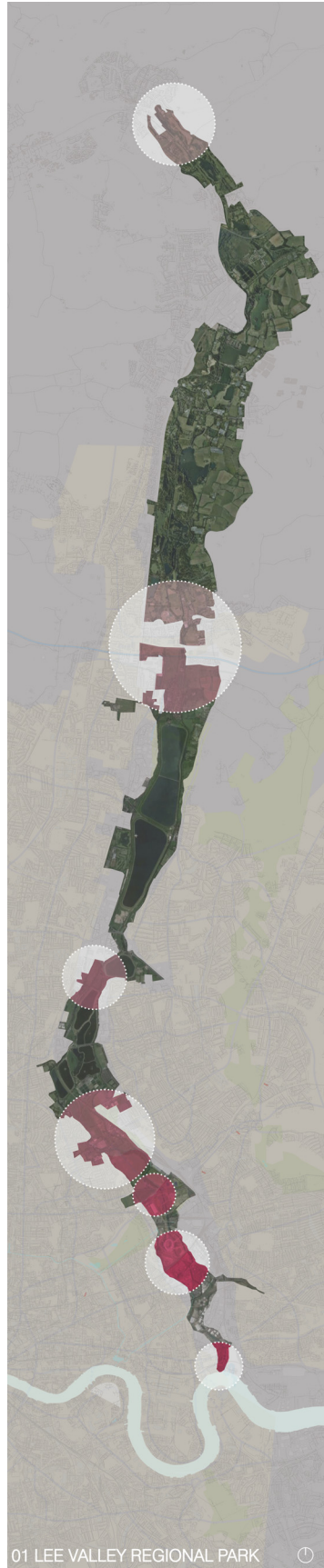
The Lee Valley Regional Park has changed throughout time with changes from its nature state to one that was industrialize characterized to again nature. The majority of the park has been erode away with the development. The park contains a variety of landscapes typologies, varying from landscape that are agriculturally focused, to industry based, as well as historic grazing lands, and present day recreational space.

Landscapes Qualities

The landscapes of the Lee Valley Regional Park are quite varied, as one travels from the most southern portion towards the north the landscapes is of distinct zones that are created both through natural composition as well as

The Park as a series of components, defining them amongst the landscape, dispersed along the pathway.

The Park as a series of landscape qualities, depicting the overall zones within the park.



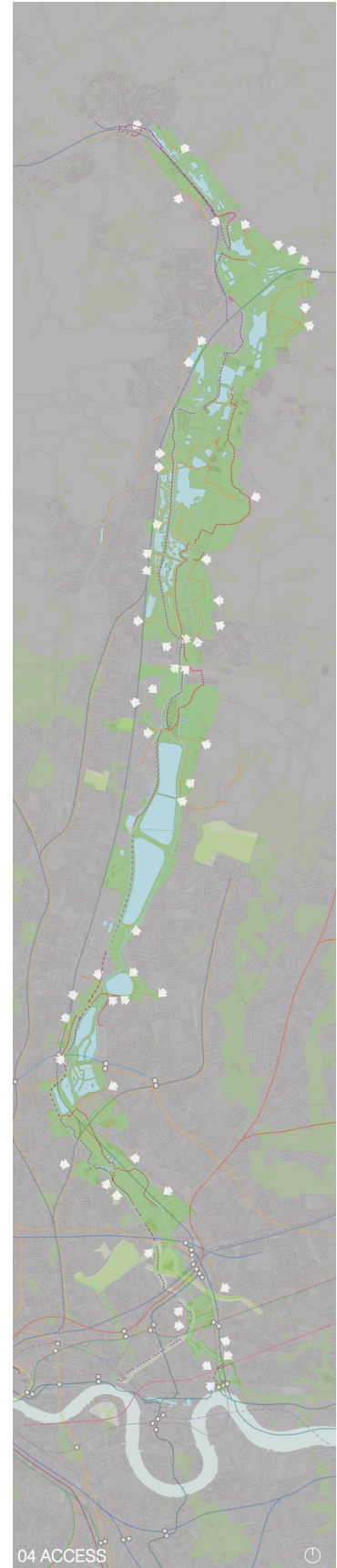
dictated by the management priority of each borough.

In the South as the park passes through Tower Hamlets and Newham it is of the character of the '*Tidal Industrial*' area as this space is a mixture of the industrial and post industrial wastelands sites as well as zones of blue and green infrastructure. The '*Spectacle*' is just north of these and includes the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, a park that has presence as a global park as well as a city park in the context of London. Hackney Marsh composes the next zone of the park, the '*Recreation Marsh*' a marsh land whose primary purpose is for recreation, hosting the largest series of continuous football pitches in the European Union. Considered as part of the northern extents of the Olympic Zone, some revitalization has occurred in this area as apart of the Olympic Development Authority (ODA). This space had been a large area for grazing as well as apart of the waterworks with historical filter beds still remaining. During World War II much of the rubble from the bombings in London were brought to the Marshes to raise the field to protect from flooding.²⁷ The '*Urban Wild*' an area characteristic for its concentration of wildlife and rugged characteristic contains a large series of reservoirs and publicly inaccessible spaces. Passing through Hackney, Harginey, and Waltham Forest the value of greenspace is visibly characterized as one passes between borough with elements with lack and emphasis. The proceeding area is classified as the '*Suburban Infrastructure*' and areas that are underutilized by its citizens are large portions are

27 Olympic Delivery Authority. *By River, Fields and Factories : The Making of the Lower Lea Valley : Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Investigations on the Site of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games - Wessex Archaeology Report* ; no. 29 (Salisbury : Wessex Archaeology, 2012.) 24.

The Park as a series of Disconnection caused by a division of publicly and privately accessible land.

The Park as a series of pathways and access/ entry point



not publicly accessible with a primary focus on green and blue infrastructure. The most northern area of the park area characteristic by the Greenbelt and large swaths of forest and lakes, this area references as '*Greenbelt*'.

Disconnection

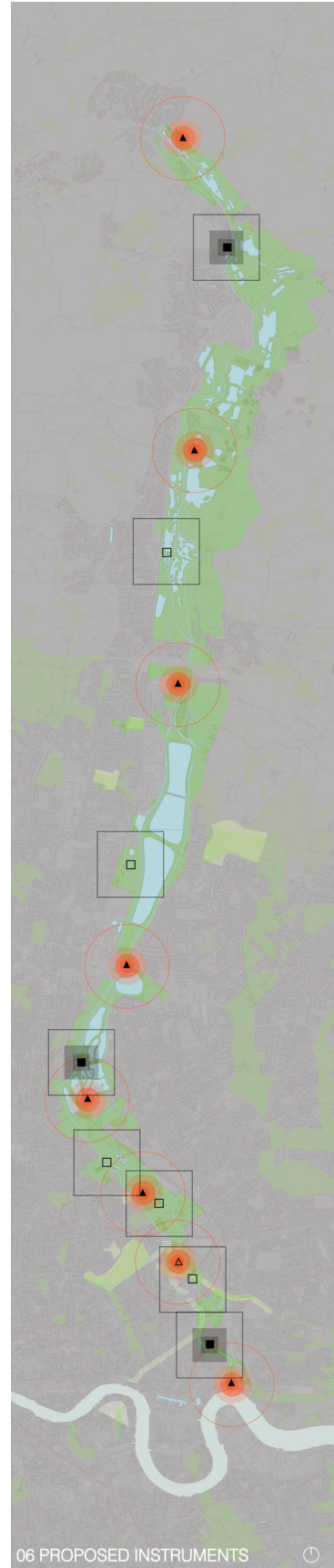
As large portions of the park are disconnected and need to be reconnected. Creating a continuous path is an important factor as it would provide the cohesion required to re-establish the green network that previously existed in this space. This disconnection is created by a series of periphery and boundary challenges as well as a large area of privatized land and park space embedded with the LVRP. With large areas of privatized or limited access landscapes contained within the park, the continuity of the space begins to decay. These privatized spaces are denoted in grey, and primary house industrial and post industrial landscapes.

Access and Path

In many instances the LVRP has limited entry and access points into the park itself. This contributes to the disconnect that is experience throughout large swaths of the landscapes. The paths of the park are pushed to the peripheral edge of the landscape or beyond the boundaries of the park, perpetuating a disconnect as the path and the park are not in continuity This disconnection is amplified is by the decay of the landscapes, contributing to both a physiological and psychological distance between the human and nature within the park, as well as between wildlife and nature.

The Park as a series of existing activator, examining the horizontal and vertical network of building influence the programs and activities of the space.

The Park as a series of proposed activators, tying into the existing network of buildings, connecting as a series of place, in dialogue with one another.



Existing Activators

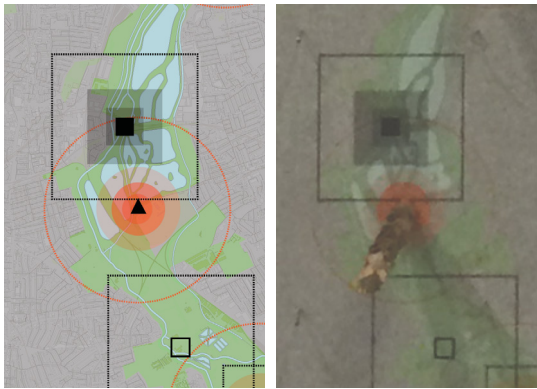
Over the span of the Lee Valley Regional Park a series of buildings with varying programmatic functions exist, from the Olympic stadium in the south to the Ice Rink in the Marshes and the Athletics Complex in the north. These buildings help provide activity and function to the park, yet with large distances spanning between these spaces a disconnect is created within the park. In the park there is a series of horizontal building that encompass both social and cultural programming as well as recreational space and a vertical building which acts as a landscape vista. A new layer of activators will be implemented chronologically in the parks, connecting the fabric of the south and working towards the north. These buildings will respond to the local communities which surround them as well as connect into the large systems of the park.

Proposed Activators

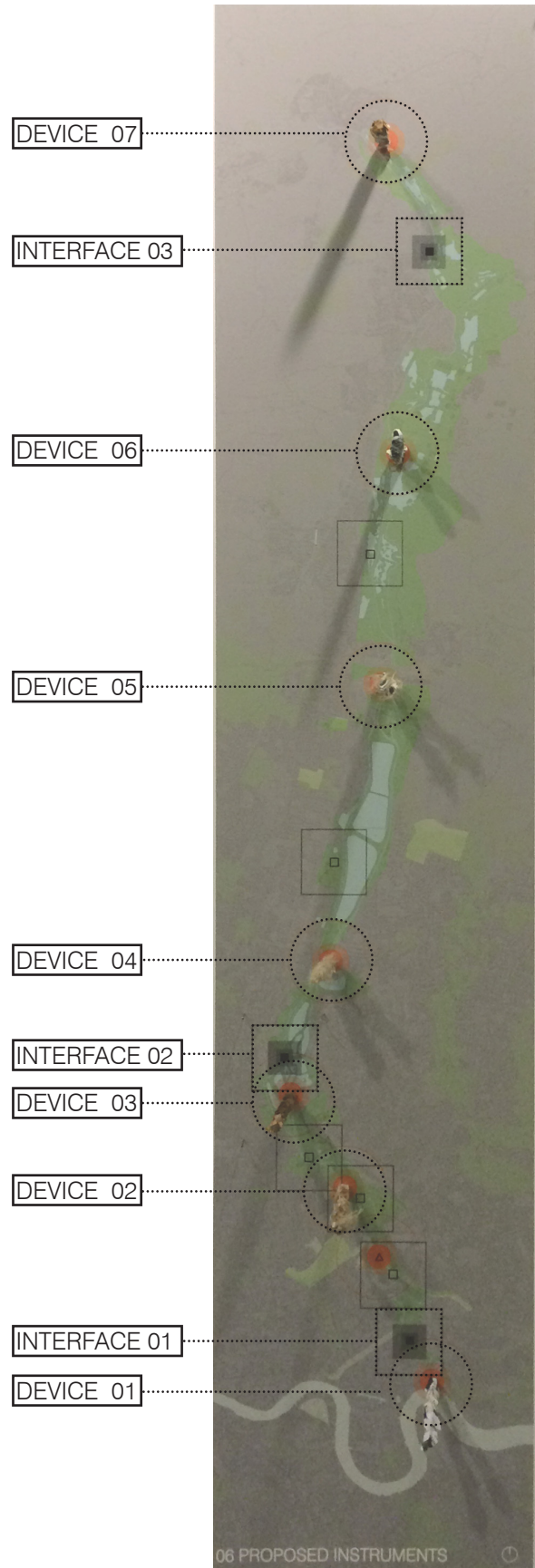
The proposed new layers of activators will contribute to the elements of the parts and the characterizing zones, taking into account idea of cohabitation between humans and wildlife. These activators will tie into the existing network, building upon the horizontal and vertical grain of existing spaces. The horizontal spaces will continue to embody ideas of community acting as a hub of activities and programs. The vertical space frames views within the landscape, creating a network of synthesized high space.

Interface

The use of the Interface will be determine from the local programming of the park, collecting the disparate elements and focusing them into a common space. This is the basis



The instruments of activation, a series of seven Devices and three interface, tying into the existing network and developing up it to create space both for the mundane everyday and the spectacle of the event. A tandem strategy with each entity functions on their own, yet when paired together greater potential is unlocked. Spaces to foster an understanding of landscape through discovery and uncovering.



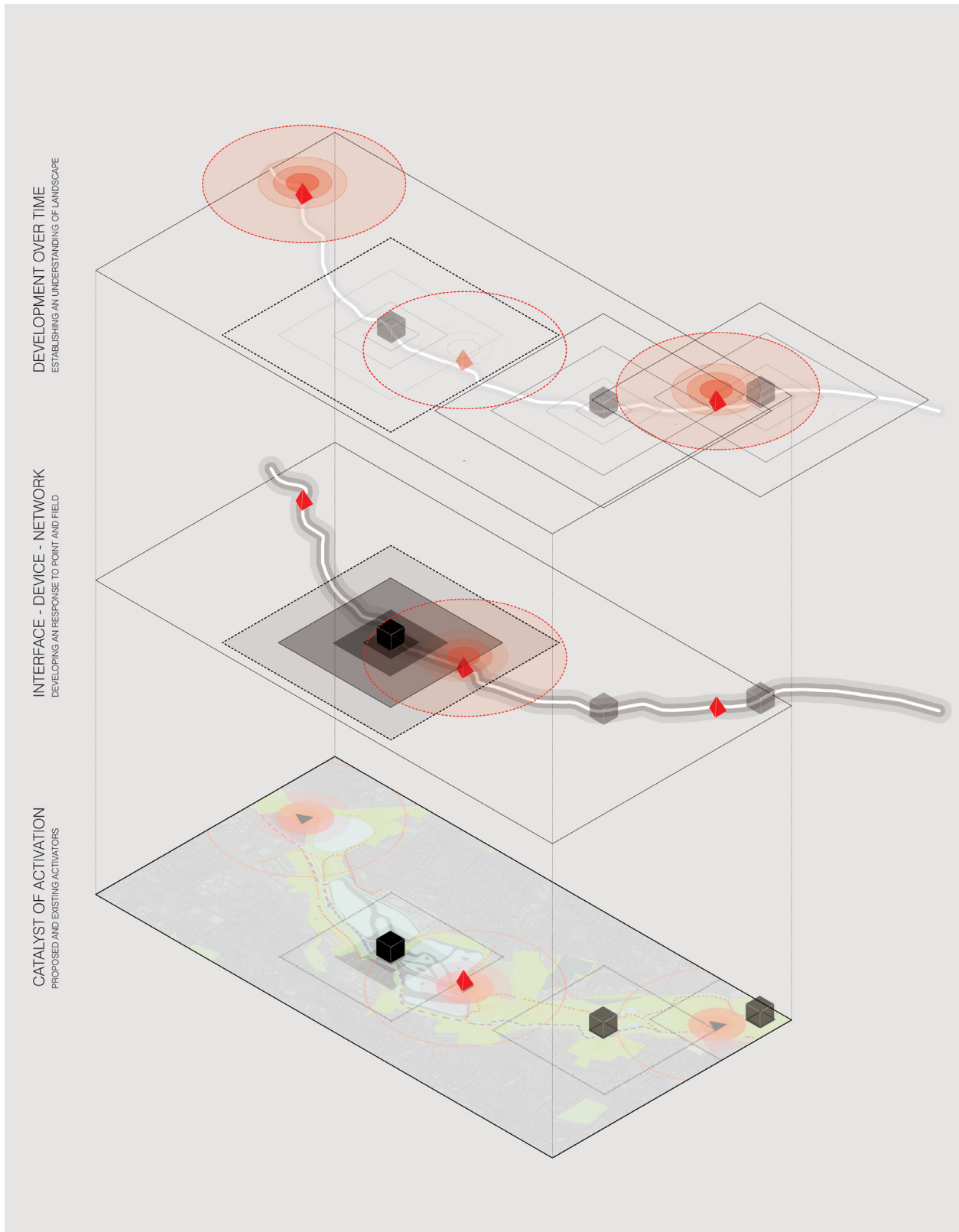
of the interface, an instrument that allows for an internal focusing of landscapes, creating a lens which facilitates an uncovering of the local and the program and places that surround it. The Interface embraces the indeterminacy, with its flexibly programmed spaces, allowing for singular space to host a variety of functions, such as a place for the market on a Saturday, a place for gathering and knowledge exchange on Tuesday, and a yoga studio on Wednesday afternoon. This allows the community to be actively engaged with the building as well as the landscape which surrounds it as a sense of stewardship is fostered.

Device

The vertical spaces will act as externally focusing elements, moving on through the landscapes as a vertical procession. Creating an experience that understands the landscapes as a part of the dialogue, with various discoveries as one moves along the axis. Views are framed, encompassing the landscape with this instrument and fostering an understanding of landscape and our role within it. With the framing one begins to realize our position and placement within it. Moments within the device are promoted to connect directly with nature, while others are created in order for us to realize our position within nature and for us to acknowledge the required respect for it.

Elements of the Park

The park is conceived as a woven tapestry, with a series of elements that perforate the fabric defining the characteristics of each area and the zoning. The Lee



DEVELOPMENT OVER TIME
ESTABLISHING AN UNDERSTANDING OF LANDSCAPE

INTERFACE - DEVICE - NETWORK
DEVELOPING AN RESPONSE TO POINT AND FIELD

CATALYST OF ACTIVATION
PROPOSED AND EXISTING ACTIVATORS

The network of activation, initialized by the catalyst of the Reservoir Interface and Device. A development over time, as one instrument is integrated in the landscape another one is built, creating an evolving and dynamic relationship to the overall expression of green.

Valley Regional Park Authority has established that the park is for both recreation and wildlife, fostering a sense of cohabitation between these two use groups. Specific areas have also been programmed to these user groups to foster activities and function. The fabric of the park has been divided into five elements each embodying their own series of programs, functions, and users.

Wildlife

Wildlife has acted as a largest mandate of the park, creating environments that foster and support wildlife as well as providing a diversity of landscape types from woodlands to open fields to marshes, wetlands, reserves and reservoirs. This diversity supports a wide range of birds, mammals, and insects who are an integral user of the park.

Recreation

Recreation perforates the park through creating the most secure network of spaces within the park, with whole areas of the park dedicated to recreational activities such as football and cricket, as well as provide a series of recreational buildings throughout. A real importance is placed upon this program. Many spaces within the park lack integration between programming, and creating isolation between programs instead of fostering development and opportunity for cross programming and dynamic relationships.

Social and Cultural

Social and Cultural fabric is quite present in the city. In some areas these activities are more formalized with designated divisions of spaces and activities, and in other

HORIZONTAL GRAIN

THE INTERFACE

The interface, a instrument of internal and external focus, bringing together the landscape and its program with the community. A light prism. Plenty with light, dispersing into a spectrum of visible components.

An indeterminacy, responding with a flexibility to develop over time and with our understanding of landscape. Once a space for you, and now a place for we.



VERTICAL GRAIN

THE DEVICE

The device is rooted in its place, emerging from the earth, elevating its context into the sky. A reflection of its present conditions, altered over time. A place for people, a place for wildlife, a space to interact, a space to view

A beacon in the landscape, a means of wayfinding, a barometer for time. Adaptive with the seasons, the months, the periods, the day. Revealing and uncovering landscape through memory, each visit being one and of its own.



The grain of the park, one that glides along the earth horizontally, pulling us across it and linking us to the sky, much higher than we had ever thought we might be in this place.

areas this fabric is quite informal and their user are more community driven. This is particular true as one moves north within the park, social spaces tend to be looser in nature and support a diverse range of activities with many cross programming initializes. The cultural fabric of the park tends to be more formalized throughout yet still supports a diversity of programs, tending to be community driven.

Active Transportation

Active Transportation is been an integrated into the flow of the park, yet the existing network is quite disconnected. Access into the park from the east and west is quite limited as the river serves as a barrier fostering disconnection for large areas of land. This network is primarily used as a walking network but looks to expand upon the existing presence of cycle to incorporate the network as a form of cycle infrastructure, coupling programs to foster a relationship to place as well as a connection with nature well providing a isolated bikeway free of vehicular traffic, similar to other

Agriculture

Agriculture has been a function that at one point in the history of this park was quite present, but currently has been pushed to the peripheral edge of the site and does not have such a large impact on the overall function of the park. Within the centralized zones of the park agriculture takes on a more active role, in the form of allotments and community gardens.

● SOCIAL/ CULTURAL

Social and Cultural fabric is quite present in the city. In some areas these activities are more formalized with designated division of spaces and activities, and in other areas this fabric is quite informal and their user are more community driven. This is particular true as one moves north within the park, social spaces tend to be looser in nature and support a diverse range of activities with many cross programming initializes.



● WILDLIFE

Wildlife has acted as a largest mandate of the park, creating environments that foster and support wildlife as well as providing a diversity of landscapes types from woodlands to open fields to marshes, wetlands, reserves and reservoirs. This diversity supports a wide range of birds, mammals, and insects who are an integral user of the part.



● RECREATION

Recreation perforates the past through creating the most secure network of spaces within the park, with whole areas of the park dedicated to recreational activities such as football and cricket, as well as provide a series of recreational building throughout a real importance is place upon this program.



● AGRICULTURAL

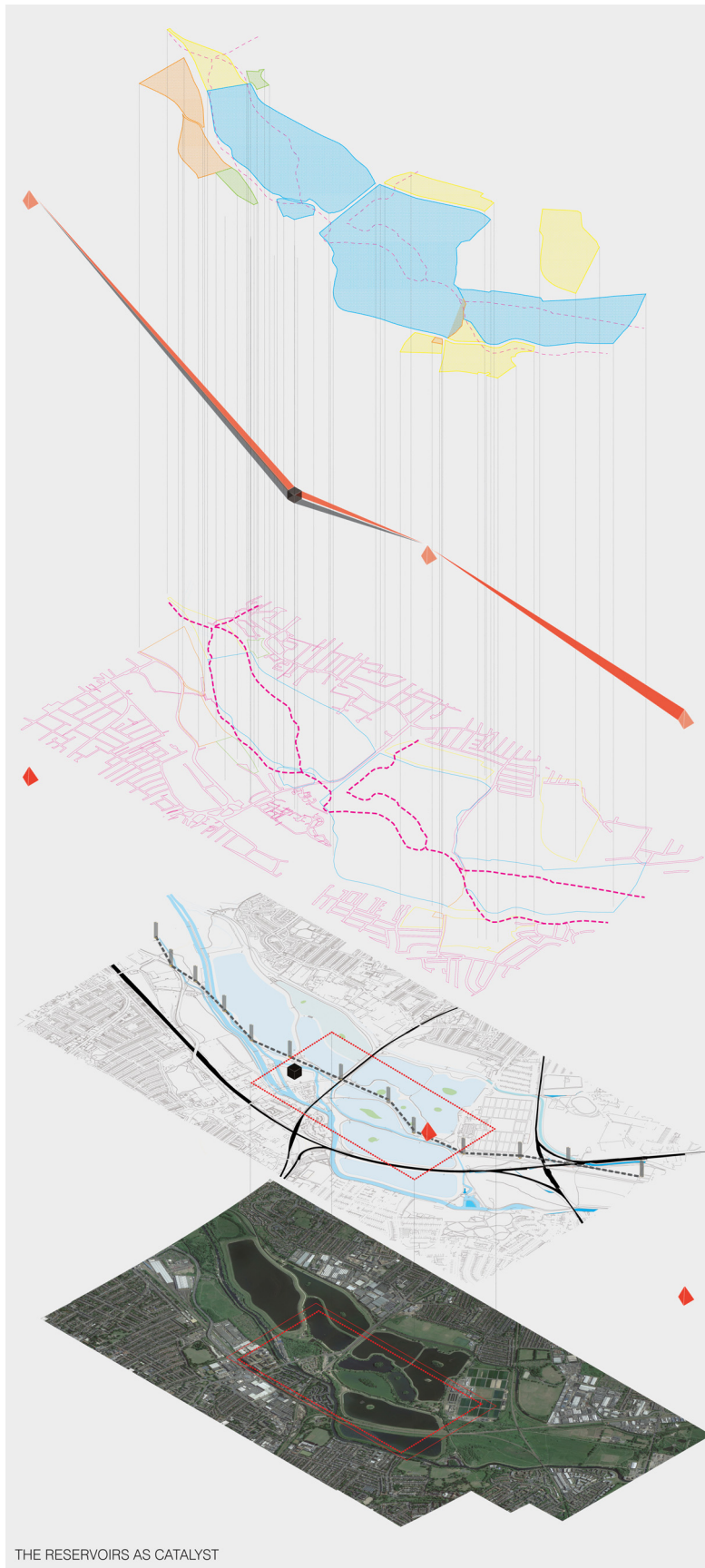
Agriculture has been a function that at one point in the history of this park was quite present, but currently has been pushed to the peripheral edge of the site and does not have such a large impact on the overall function of the park. Within the centralized zones of the park agriculture takes on a more active role, in the form of allotments and community gardens.



● CIRCULATION

Active Transportation is been an integrated into the flow of the park, yet the existing network is quite disconnected. Access into the park from the east and west is quite limited as the river serves as a barrier fostering disconnection for large areas of land. This network is primarily used as a walking network but looks to expand upon the existing presence of cycle to incorporate the network as a form of cycle infrastructure, coupling programs to foster a relationship to place as well as a connection with nature well providing a isolated bikeway free of vehicular traffic, similar to others.





THE RESERVOIRS AS CATALYST

The Reservoirs, a study of the local circulation as pathway, viewplanes and framed activities, elements of program, exploring the urban fabric.



The Reservoirs, acting as catalyst, the Interface 02 and Device 03 in situ, in dialogue with the local, developing from the context in which they occupy; Derived from Bing Maps, 2015.

Site of Activation - The Reservoirs

A series of great reservoirs threads up the valley, extending from Walthamstow to Enfield and though man made they are acquiring a charm of their own as trees grow round them and on their little islands – they are becoming nature reserves for large numbers of birds and the resort of privileged fisherman. These areas are a great open-air lung to the crowded East End – their preservation is essential...Every piece of open land should be welded into a great regional reservations.²⁸

As Patrick Abercrombie stated in the later 1940's the importance of the greenbelt and its necessity for appropriate planning, securing green within the city. He viewed the Lee Valley as having great opportunity as it lead from the countryside of Essex and Hertfordshire to the slums of the East End, referencing it as a piece of constructive, preservative and regenerative planning means. The Lee Valley in its current capacity has been eroded way and lacks the vision it once possessed.²⁹

With a lack of activators in the immediate area, and deprived of nature, the reservoirs which border portion of the Lee Valley Regional Park was largely inaccessible to the general public with the accessible area decay and erodes from under use as well as underfunding.

With Heritage Lottery funding the Reservoirs will be publicly accessible creating a huge opportunities to reconnect the public with nature, with a endless potential

28 Laurie Elks, "The Lee Valley Regional Park: A Historic Perspective," *Hackney History, the journal of the Friends of Hackney Archives*, Volume 14, (2008): 01, <http://www.learmarsh.com/LVRPA/pix/Laurie%20Elks%20on%20History%20of%20LVRPA.PDF>.

29 Laurie Elks, "The Lee Valley Regional Park: A Historic Perspective," *Hackney History, the journal of the Friends of Hackney Archives*, Volume 14, (2008): 01, <http://www.learmarsh.com/LVRPA/pix/Laurie%20Elks%20on%20History%20of%20LVRPA.PDF>.

SEVEN SISTERS

BOROUGH OF HACKNEY

BOROUGH OF HARGINGEY

TOTTENHAM

TOTTENHAM HALE

MARKFIELD RECREATION GROUND

SOUTH TOTTENHAM

UPPER CLAPTON



The context, the conduit of the community, driving the activities, programs and functions of the community. A reflection of the local, specificity to the site, responsive and adaptive, understanding of the landscape through a reading of the area.



**BOROUGH OF
WALTHAM FOREST**

WALTHAMSTOW

LEYTON

BLACKHORSE ROAD STATION

STONEYDOWN PARK

DOUGLAS EYRE PLAYING FIELDS

RESERVOIR NO. 04

COMMORANT ISLAND

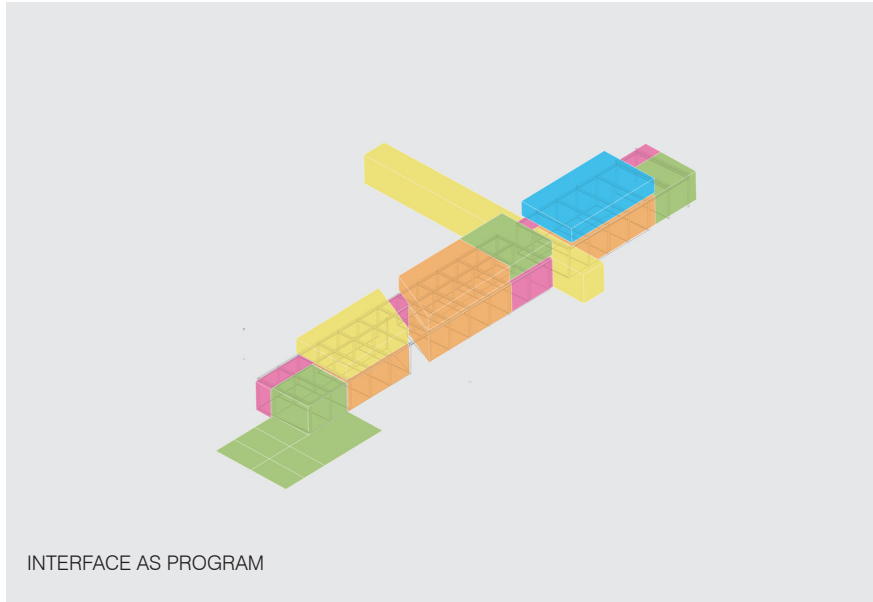
RESERVOIR NO. 05

THAMES WATER TREATMENT

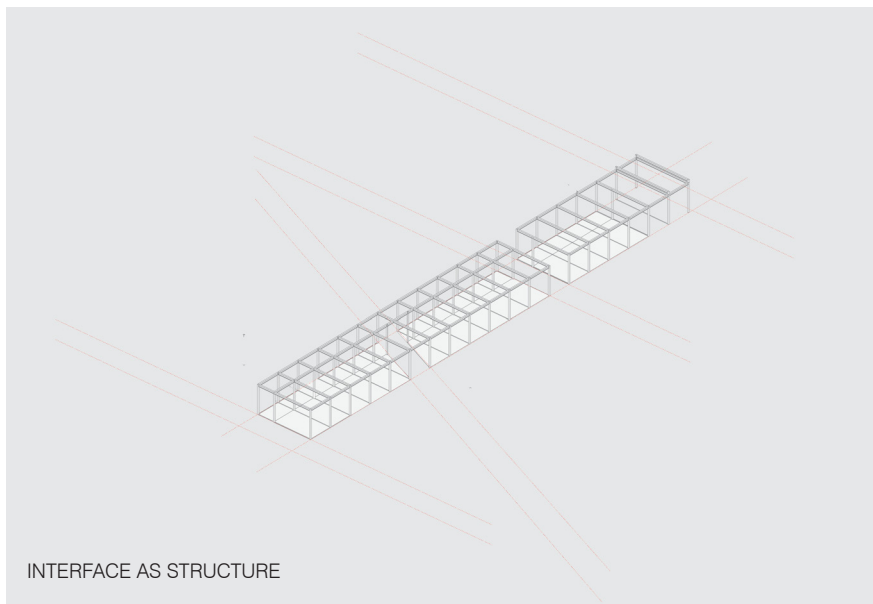
ST. JAMES PARK

CHESHIRE FIELDS

LOW HALL FARM



The Interface as Program; a place of indeterminacy, one that is changed and altered over time, responsive to the context it is situated within, adaptive to the needs and requirements of its community, a hub of activities, synced with the everyday.



The Interface as Structure; a series of frames marching upon the landscape, plenty with functions, altered by program, sliced and splayed to make way for conditions of landscape.

for new engagements between humans, wildlife and the natural environment. This unfamiliar place is set in the familiar context of Tottenham's portion of the LVRP and is the first step in developing a continuous infrastructure for the in between.

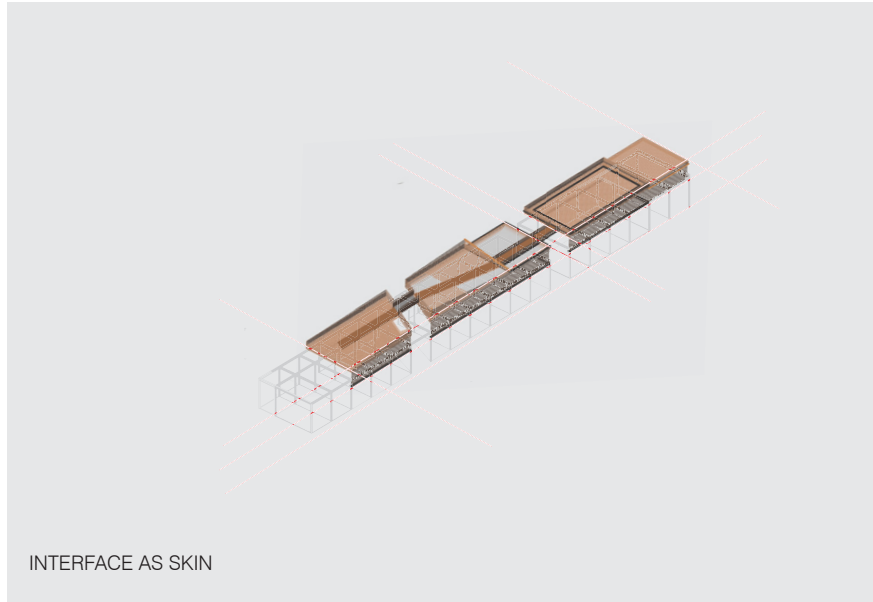
Train lines run parallel on its peripheral edge as well as the double carriage way creating an east west connection. As the tube creates a disconnect within the city, the idea of connection became important, connection citizens to place as well as create a relationship with nature. Active transportation existed as a fragmented element within the park, so building upon this disconnected network to create a continuous one came essential to the activation required to sustain parks.

Principles of the Interventions

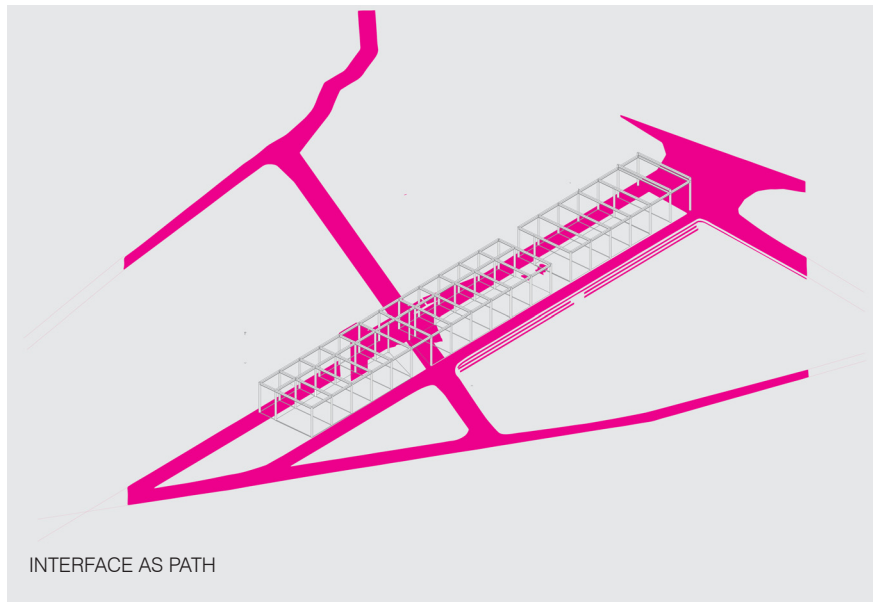
The instruments will facilitate an understanding of landscape through a series of principles which enrich our spatial presence. The interpretation of landscapes will become clearer, leading to an deepening rooting in place by responding to the specificity of the local. These elements are synonymous, acting together to create a whole greater than the sum of parts. Experience, time and memory solidify the understanding, formulating our interpretation of the environment which surrounds us.

Landscape Interpretation

Each principle contributes to the overall understanding of landscape, one that is altered and enrich by experience and over time. These principles are responsive to changing, just as though our understanding of landscapes and its



The Interface as Skin; a perforated metal veil upon a operable glass facade, one that is responsive to the programs and activities of the space as well as solar orientation. A vertical accession, giving rise to configurable space or a rotated tilt, to bridge an in between condition.



The Interface as Path; a network, gliding through the building, weaving beneath it, or upon it, a series of opportunities, a choice in how one might occupy the landscape and their movement through it.

function is adaptive based on context and condition.

Structure

Structure in each of the instruments is use as an ordering element, acting as a measure of use. In the device, structure is used as a plate, stacking upon on another to create dynamic and intricate space, expanding and compressing in response to human and non-human programming. The structure is extended and eroded at points with an emphasis on experience. In the interface, structure acts as a series of frames with the landscapes, framing experience and giving way to landscape.

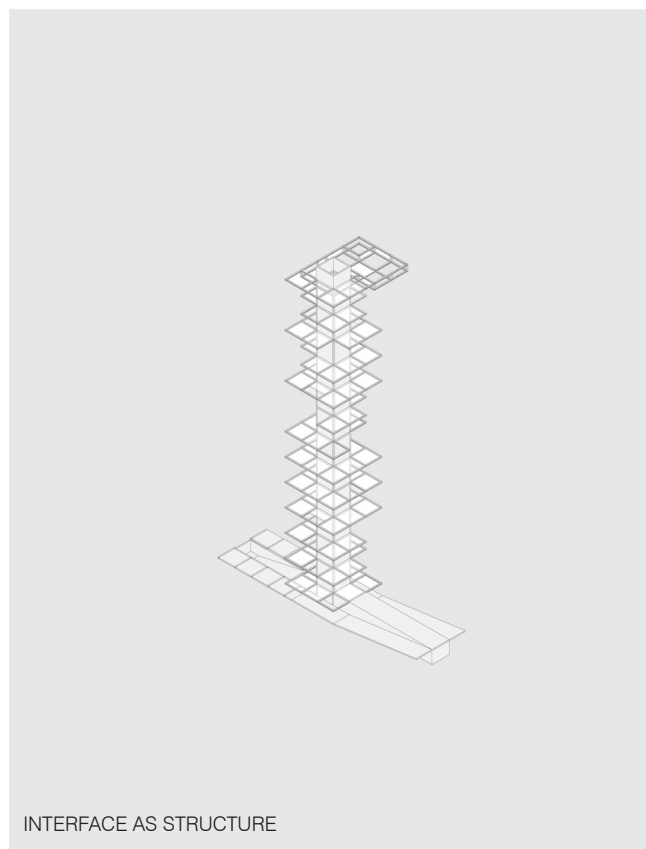
These structural frames are developed with the ability to house a variety of free plan activities as there is the flexibility to add and subtract from the structure as the function and programming of the building are altered over time. Structural frames acted as bay, with the ability to be added upon horizontally and vertically, facilitating an endless amount of configuration and compositions for the instruments.

Program

Programming is ever evolving in each of the instruments. Just as landscapes and our perception of use if altered over time, program is regarded in the same way. Specifically in the interface, program inhabits the structural bays yet is not fixed. This allows the community to take ownership of the space, allowing for a bike repair to exist as a current use, but for the programming to be altered to accommodate a magnitude of others possibilities. This flexibility allows the interface to develop with its community and for it to become a space of programmatic diverse activities, in

The Device as Program; stable within its environment, responsive to the local, incorporating the landscapes and its activities as a series of view plane, borrowed views from below, and connecting a network of green.

The Device as Structure; plates stacked upon on another, moving up towards the sky, framing framing views though accession. Erode away to make way for program, guided by the path, and its movement through the landscape.



dialogue with the community and with landscape.

Skin

The cladding attached onto the instrument, responsive and reactive to the programming and pathways it contains. With a flexibility both in operation and porosity the skin is adapted to be supportive of the activities and their functional needs as well as to the environment and its context. In some cases the facade of the building is dynamic in its placement, displacing both horizontally or vertically. In other cases the density of the facade is altered to frame view planes and activities, responding to specific needs of the local. This creates a diversity in facade conditions that allow it to be responsive to the landscapes and our understanding of it.

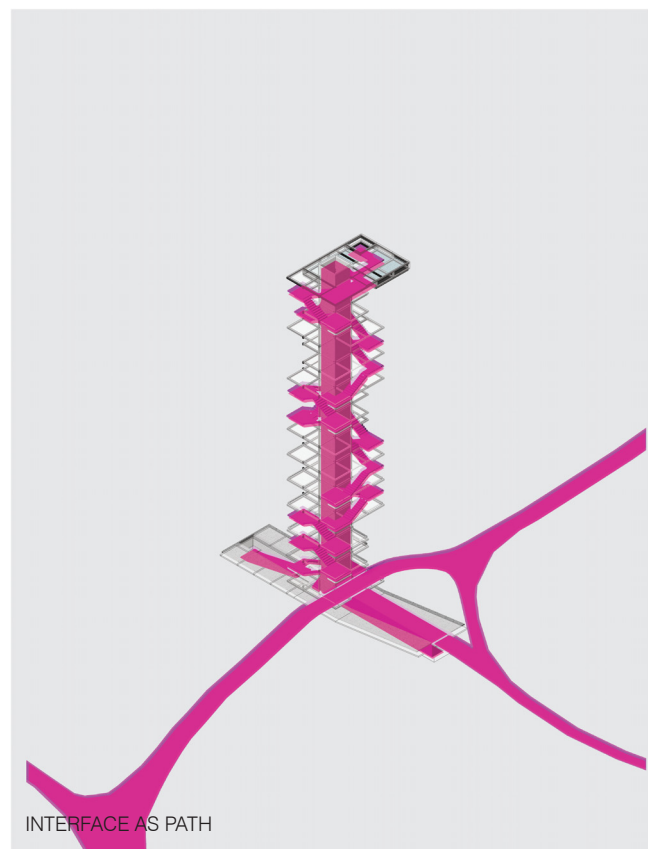
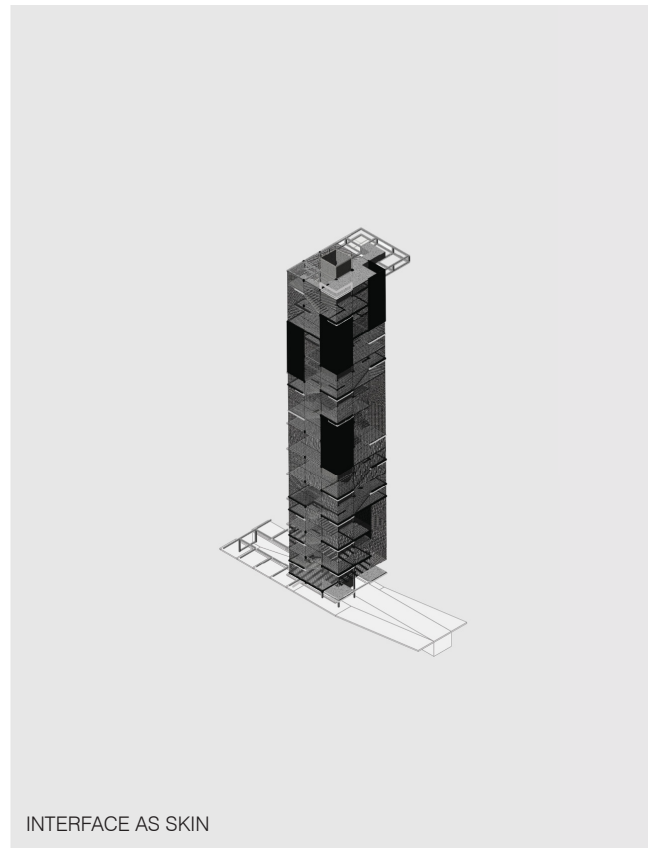
Path

Path acts as the networks, connect landscape and instruments into an evocative procession based experience. This experience is altered over time and through choice, one way chose to follow a particular path or is required to follow a chosen pathway, if it is the only means of passage to their destination. The path embodies an essence of discovery, with us moving along a designated route or upon on we create through the landscape, as we chose to navigate an independent procession.

These paths are components of landscapes and enrich our experience of it. When the path intersects an instrument the procession is altered, passing through or alongside and creating a series of moments of uncovering

The Device as Skin; stable within its environment, responsive to the local, incorporating the landscapes and its activities as a series of view plane, borrowed views from below, and connecting a network of green.

The Device as Path; leading one across the landscape, developing a dialogue of being upon, remaining beside, and diving into. Pulled across and ascending the vertical plains of the unknown. Accessing a new space within a familiar place. A material language of passage and pause, inviting us to stay or to continue upon the way. A choice as one moves though, leading to the apex, a place where connection is visible.

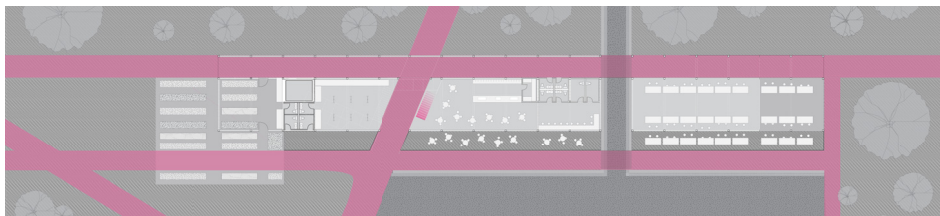
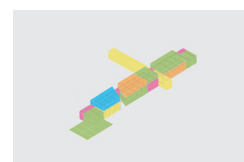
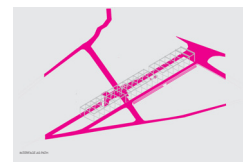
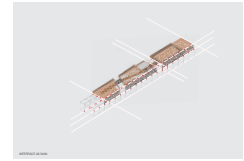
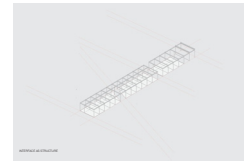
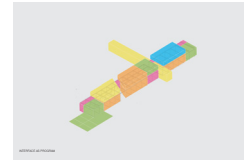
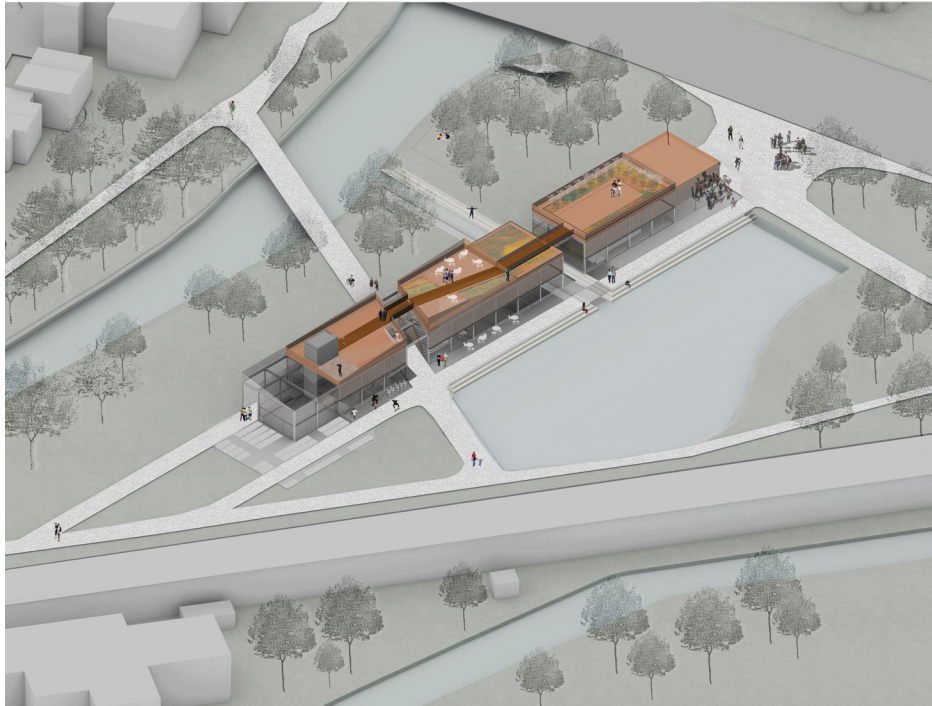
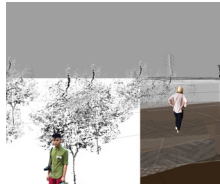
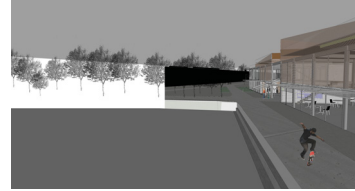


of landscapes and our relationship towards it. In the case of the device, the pathway is carried vertically through the building, raising us upon the landscape, facilitating discovery from an unknown perspective. Landscape is incorporated in the programming of the building, framing activities and views of the land with an experiential procession.

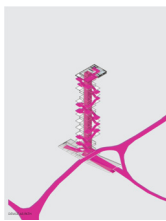
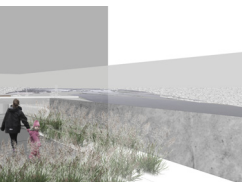
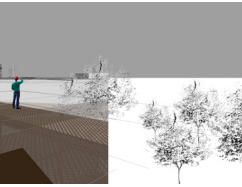
The Journey

Now you must go on a journey, one of many, along a curated pathway, leading south from the interface to the device, and east from the device to the urban. The journey is one that pulls us along the landscape and up through built form, providing places to remain and place to pass through. Creating a connection between the earth and the sky we are passed between these elements, experience London as a network of green, rather than grey. This new network of synthesized high space is visually linked, connect within this band of green, marching upon the landscape. We view from one to the next, planning out our pathway, altering as required.

A JOURNEY MOVING FROM THE URBAN INTO THE GREEN DISTANCE AND REVEALING THE PRIVATE AREAS OF THE PARKWAY TO MAKE A UNIFORM AND HARMONIOUS



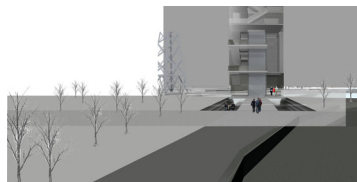
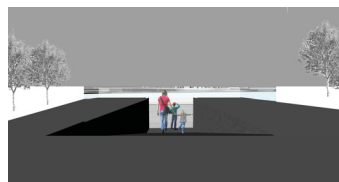
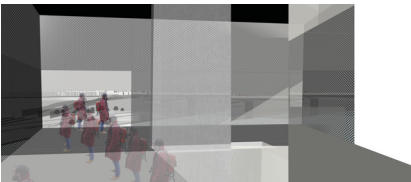
The overall, a complete view, one where the journey is evident, leading us through the landscape, alongside the interface to its apex, descending from the device to the earth in a fluid motion, and returning to the hardscaping of the urban, a singular journey amongst an endless opportunity.

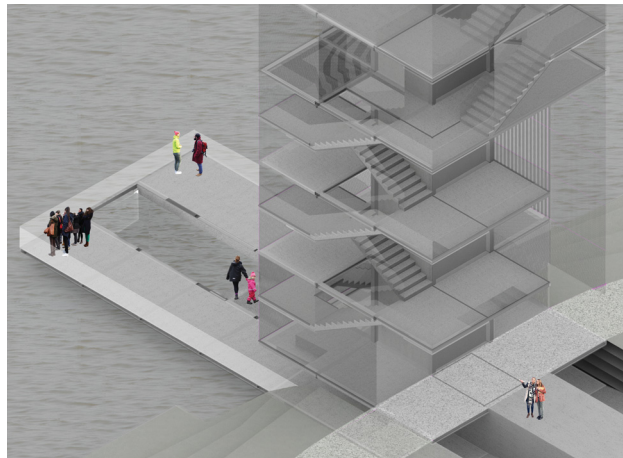
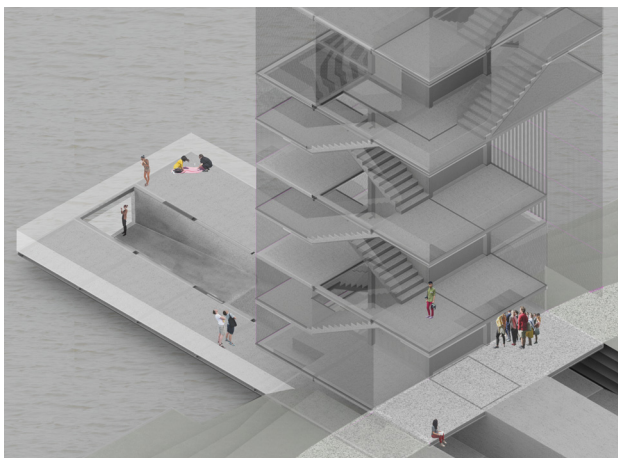
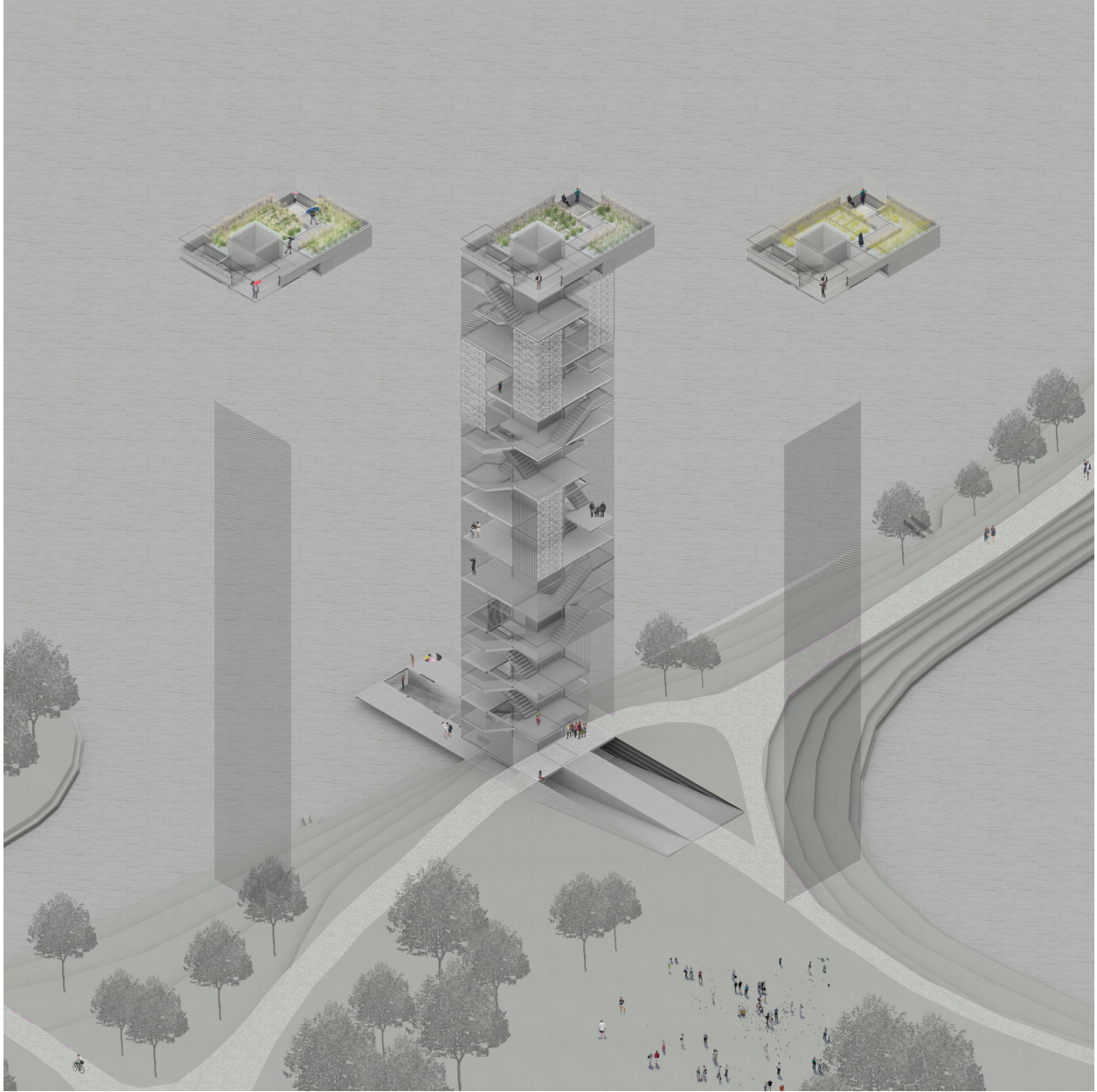


A JOURNEY MOVING FROM THE URBAN INTO THE GREEN. PARALAX: MOVING TOWARDS THE DEVICE, AN INSTRUMENT OF LANDSCAPE INTERPRETATION.



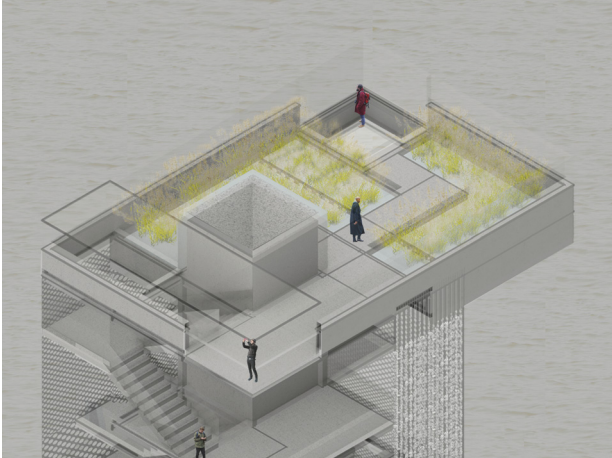
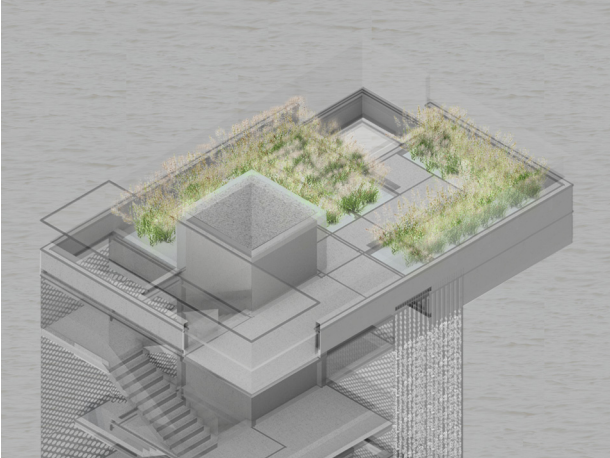
A JOURNEY MOVING FROM THE URBAN INTO THE GREEN. DISTANCE AND REVEAL: MOVING TOWARDS THE DEVICE, AN INSTRUMENT OF LANDSCAPE INTERPRETATION.





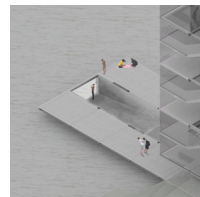
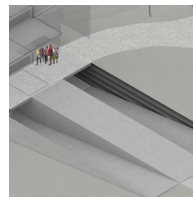
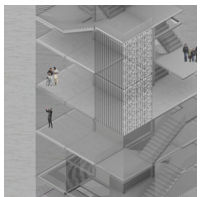
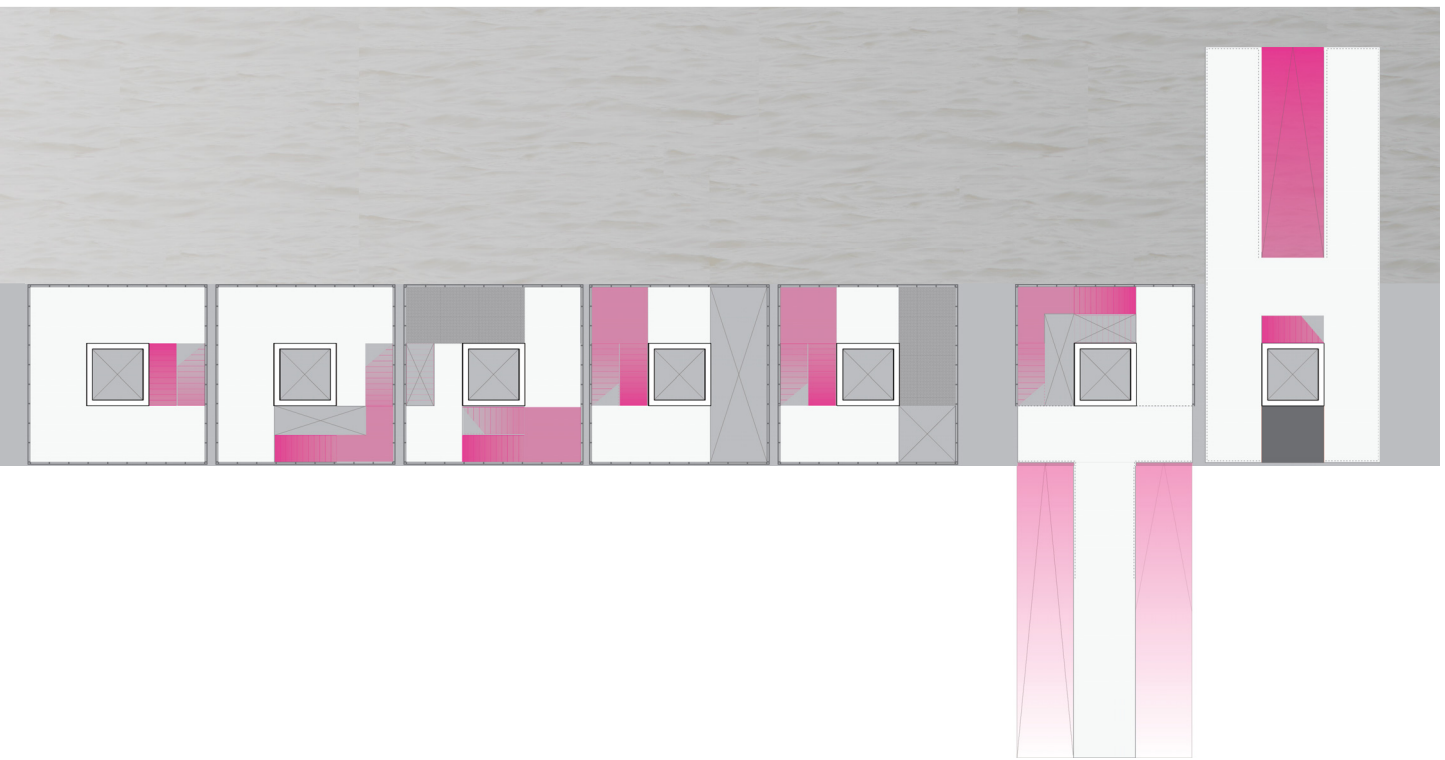


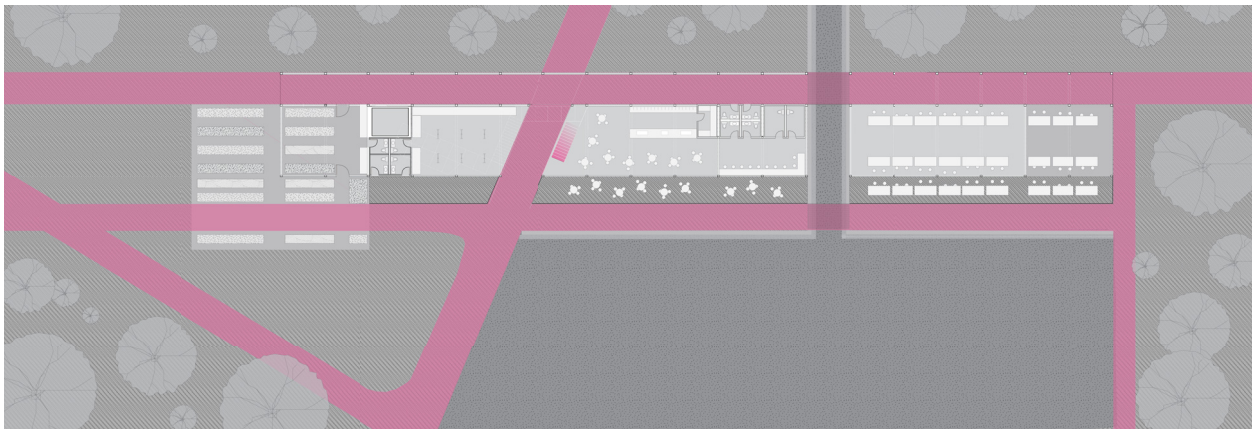
The device, a beacon with the landscape, a way finding element, a element of orientation, creating a network of connection between citizens and landscapes. A means of understanding landscape through vertical displacement, re-orienting one with their context. A seasonality to the experience, altered over time.





A series of oscillating plates stacked amongst one another, shaped and informed by viewplanes, activities, and the procession, the path as a dialogue between these elements, guiding us through an experience.

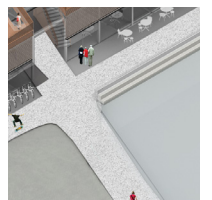
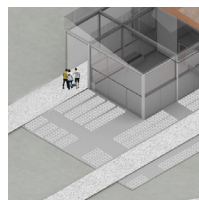
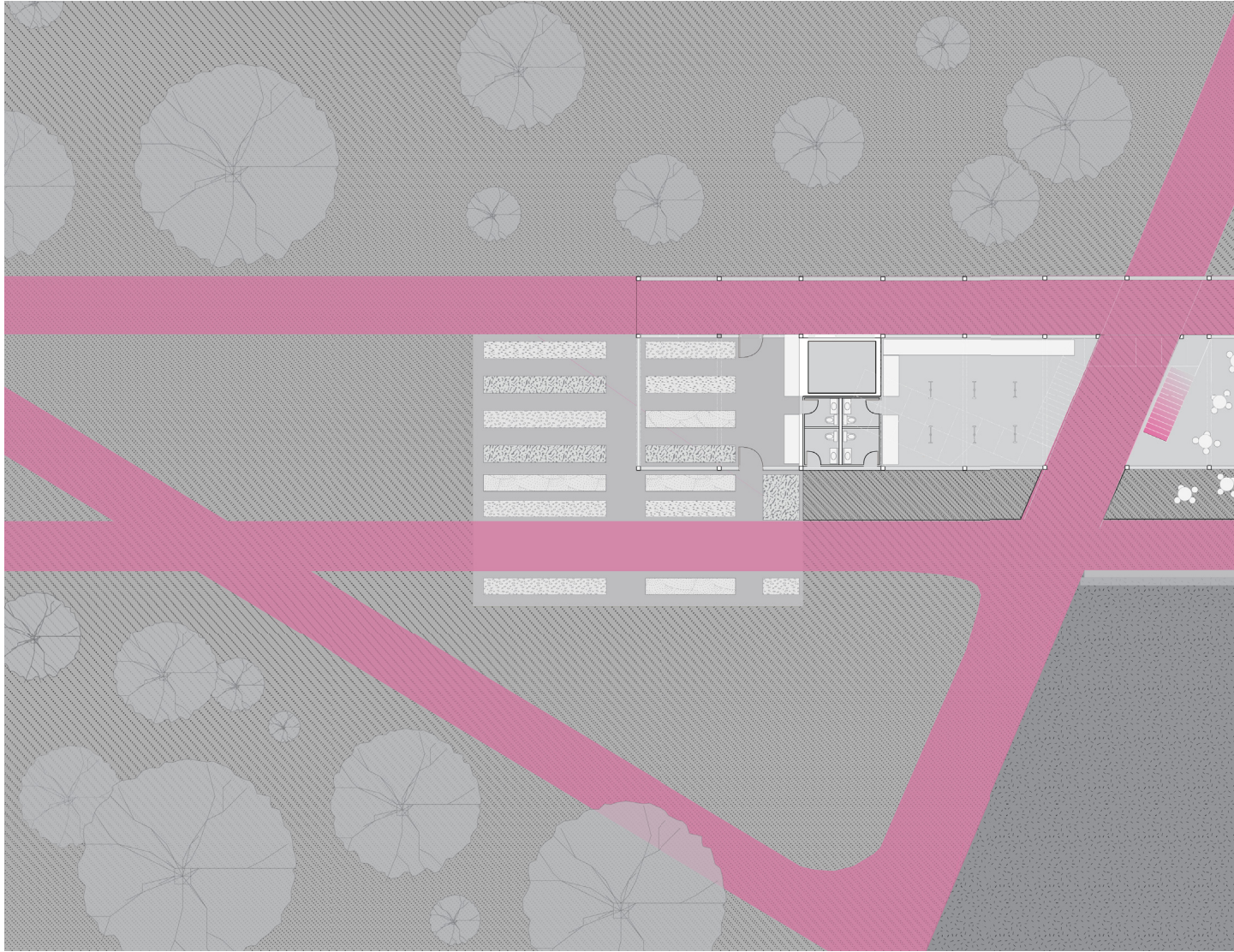




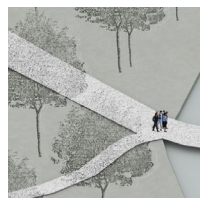
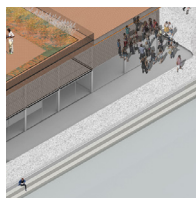
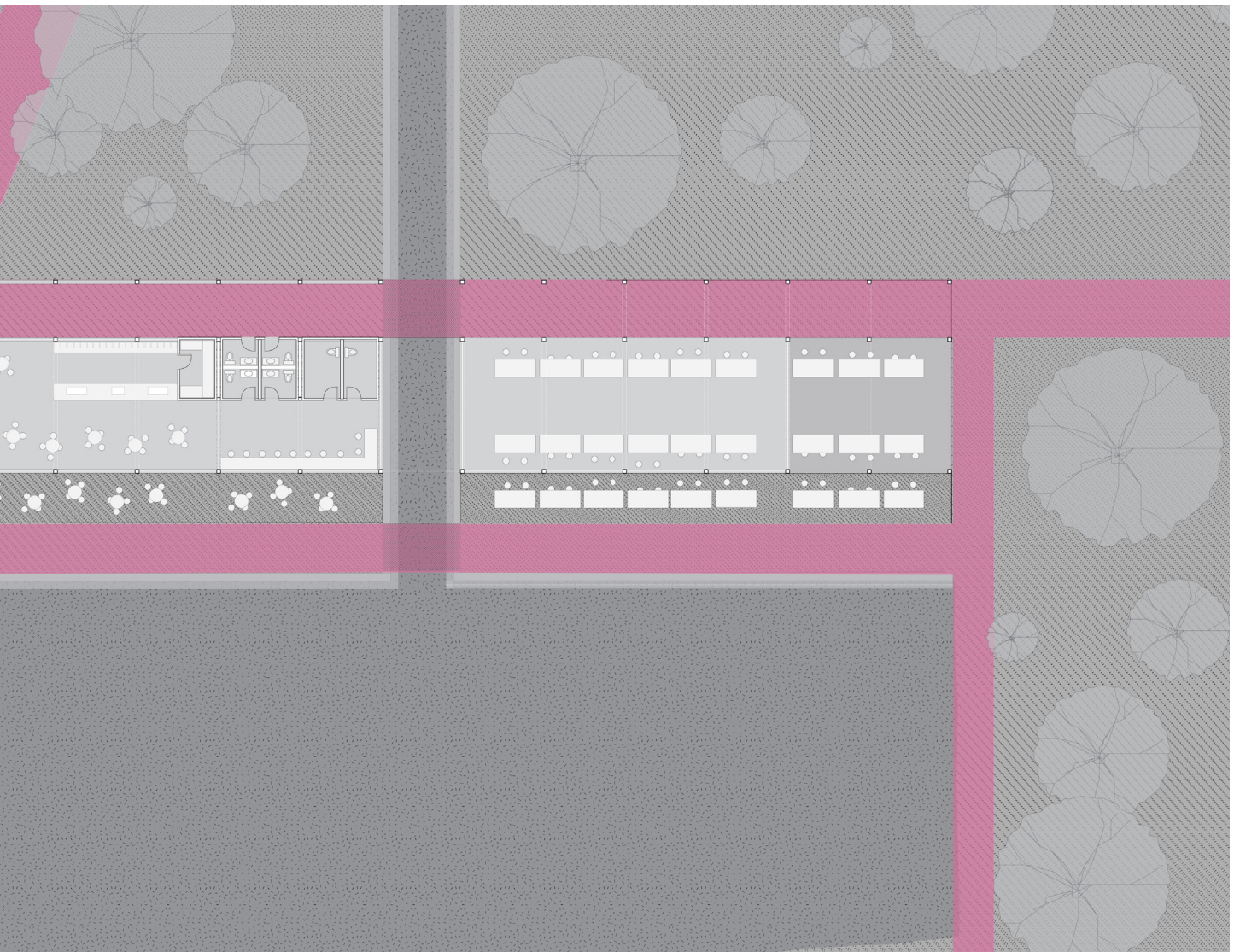


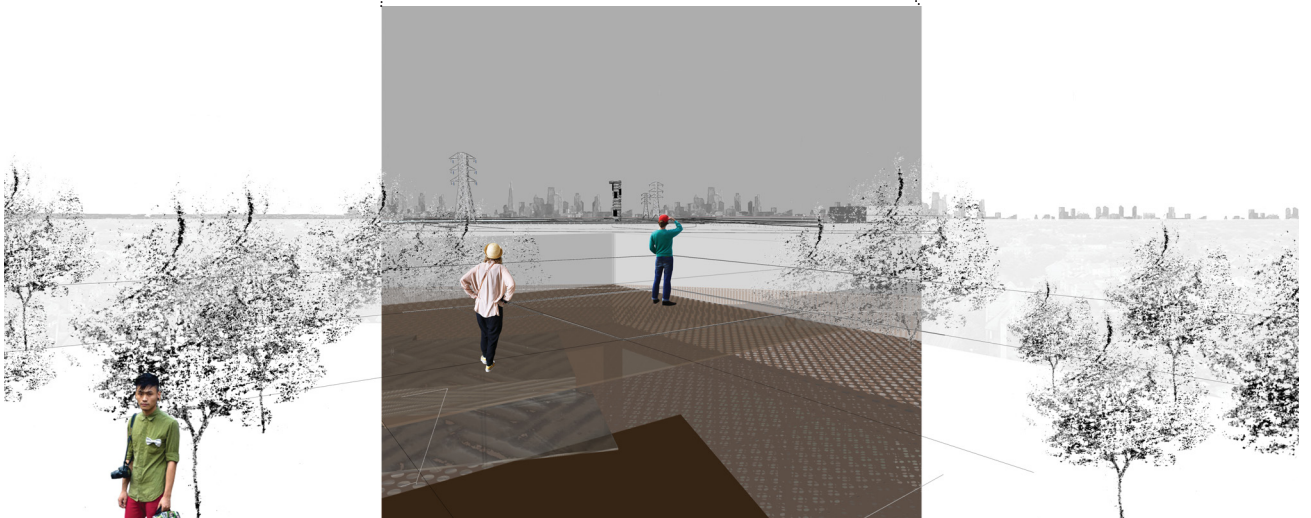
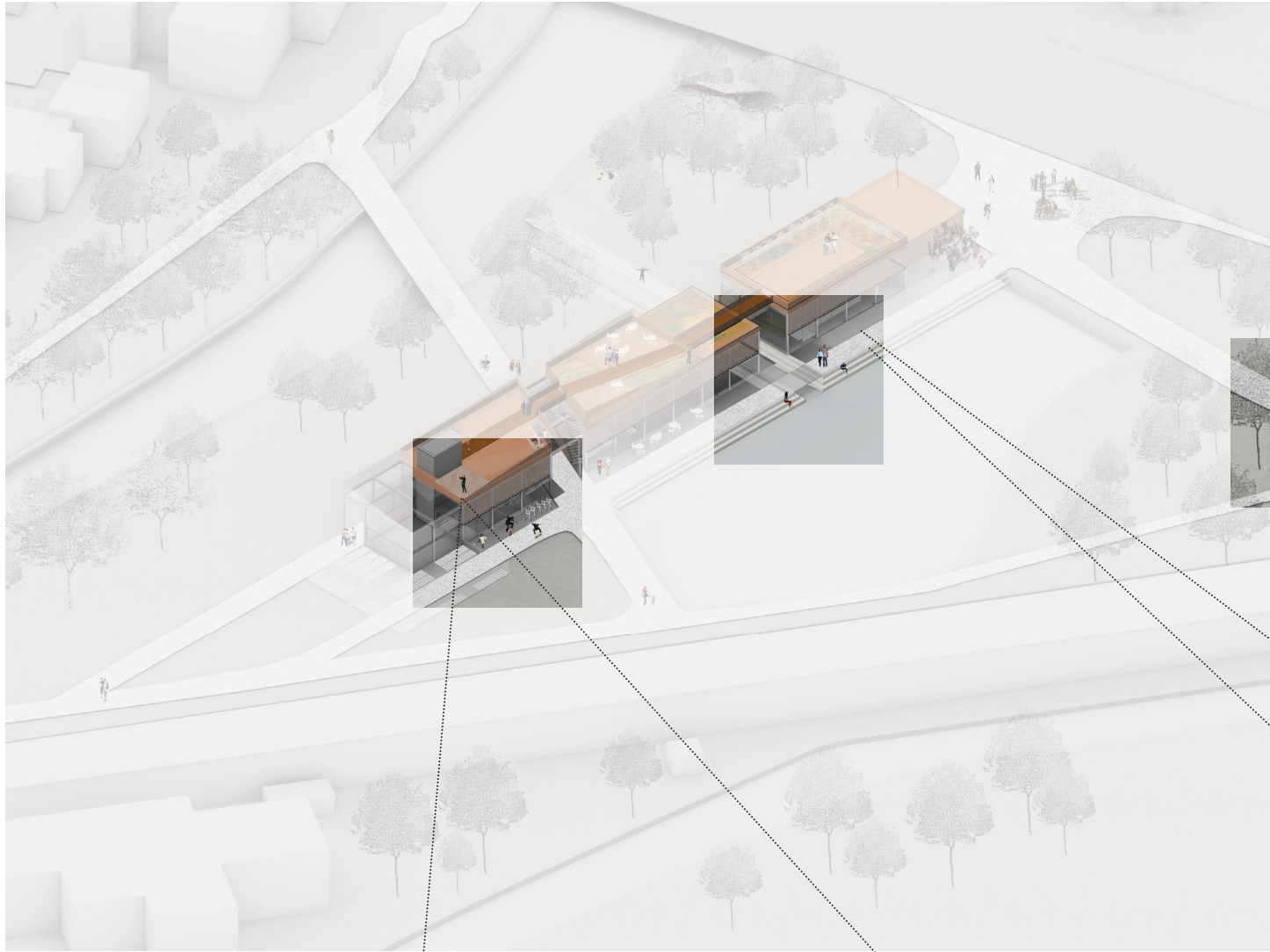
The interface, derived from its community, the context in which it is situation within, a lens acting as both a focusing element internally and externally, connecting disparate elements of the local with one another, contained within the place, yet threading into the land, the citizens, and the environment



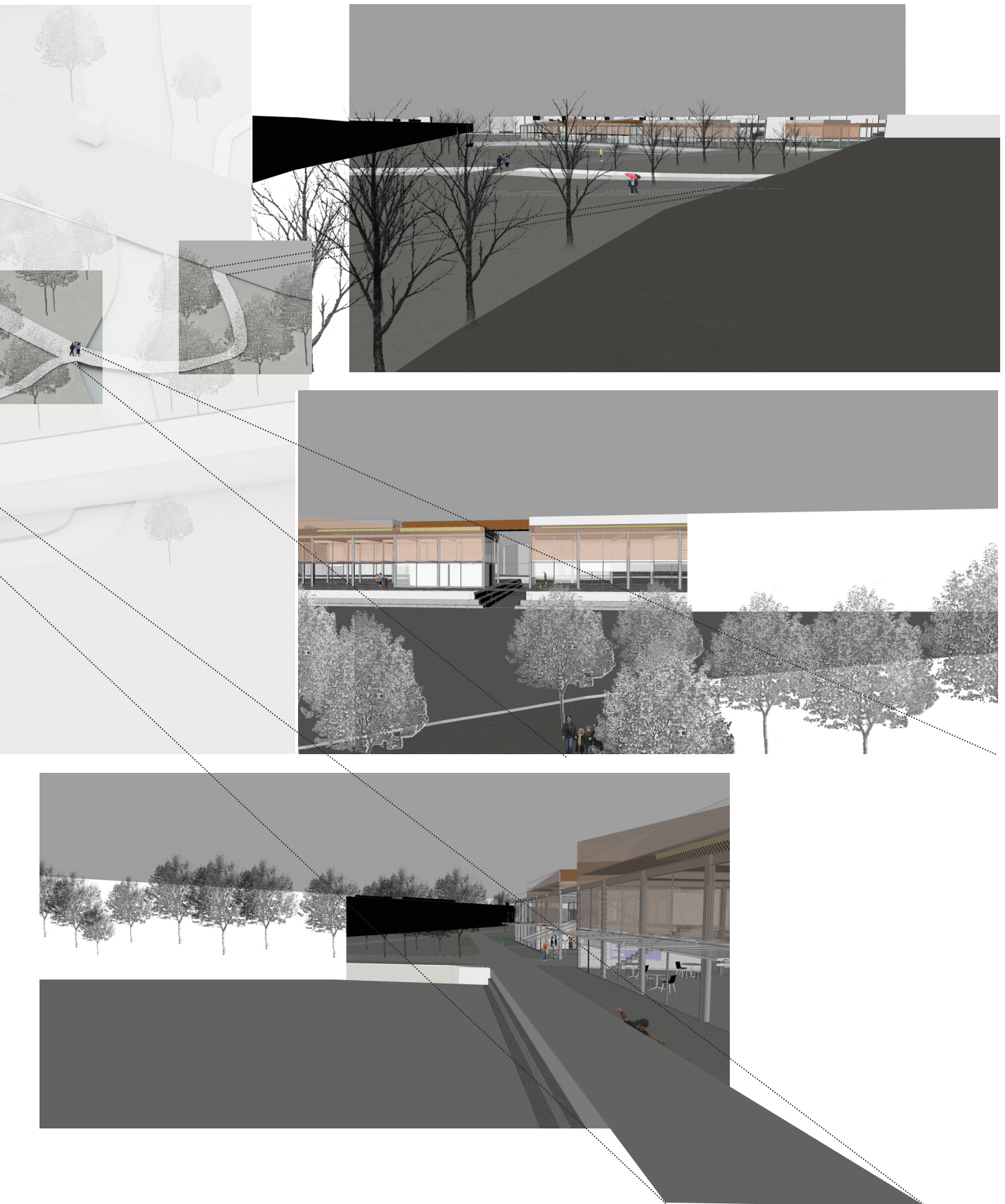


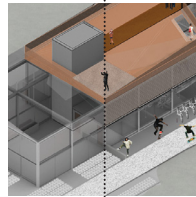
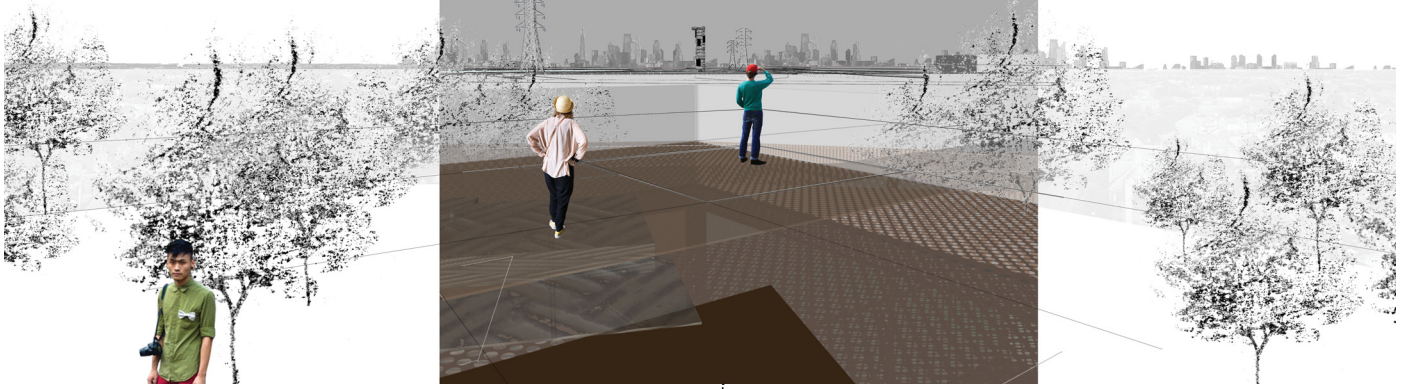
The interface, conceived of as a series of moments, lapped over one another. A program that is indeterminate, having the ability to change over time, evolving alongside the community and the landscape, changing each time to foster a deeper sense of stewardship.





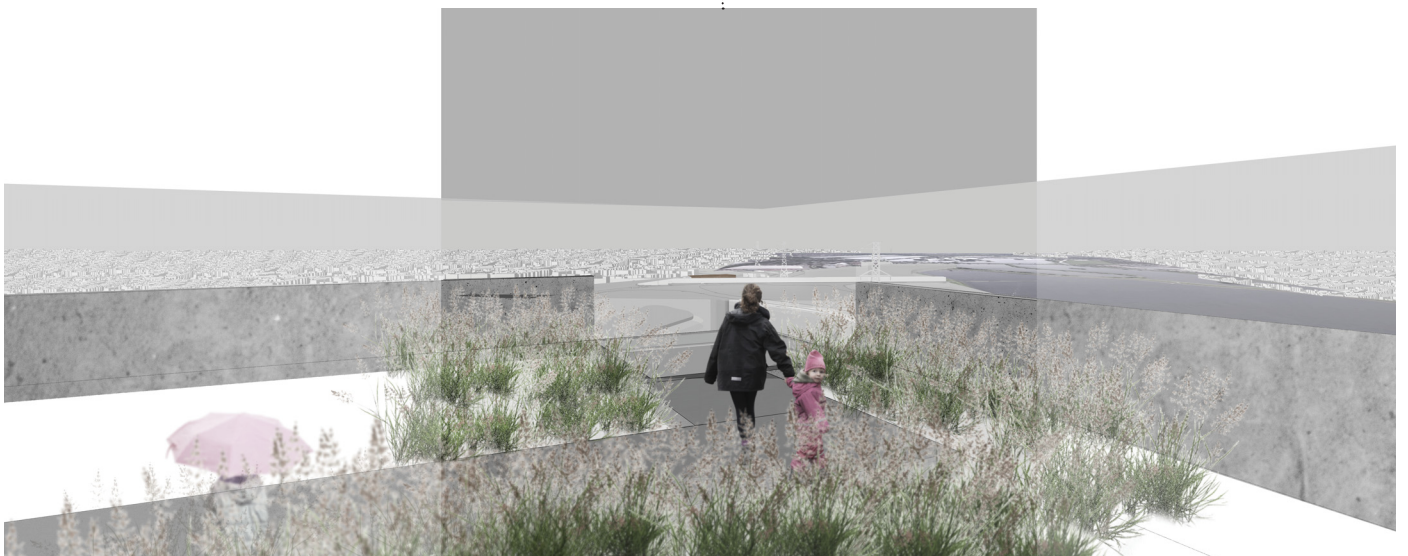
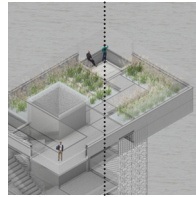
Procession through the Interface, a sequence of motion along the pathway, experience and interaction with programmatic elements, from the urban to the green, an entry in the larger dialogue. The interface as a externally encompassing form within the landscapes, projecting activities through a focused lens.

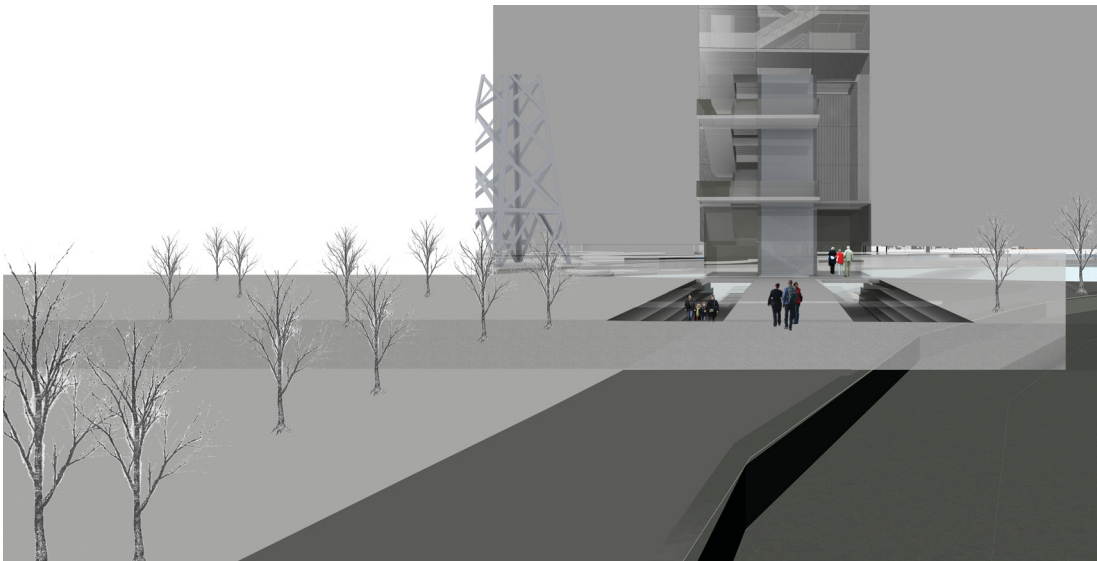
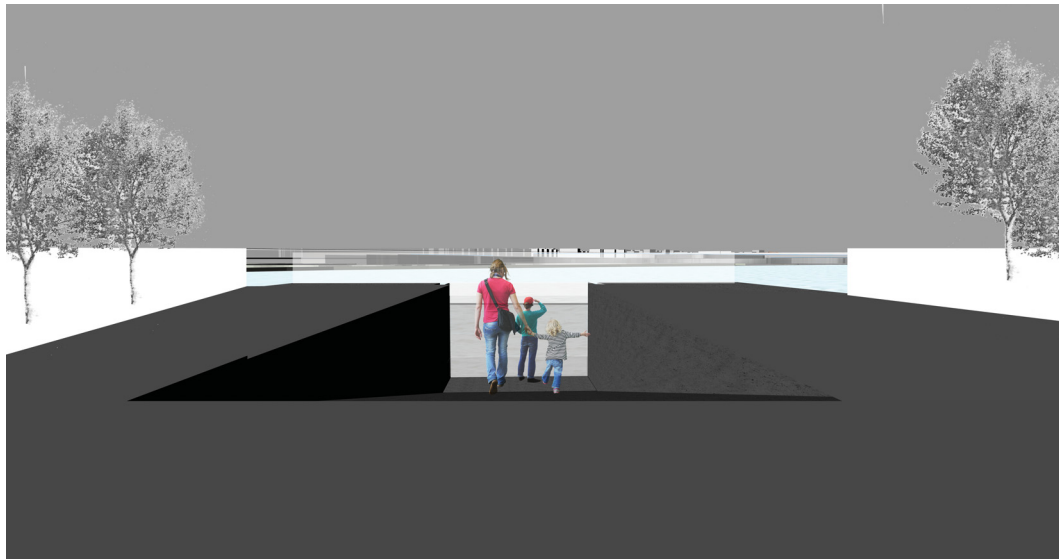
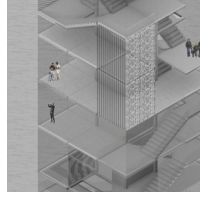
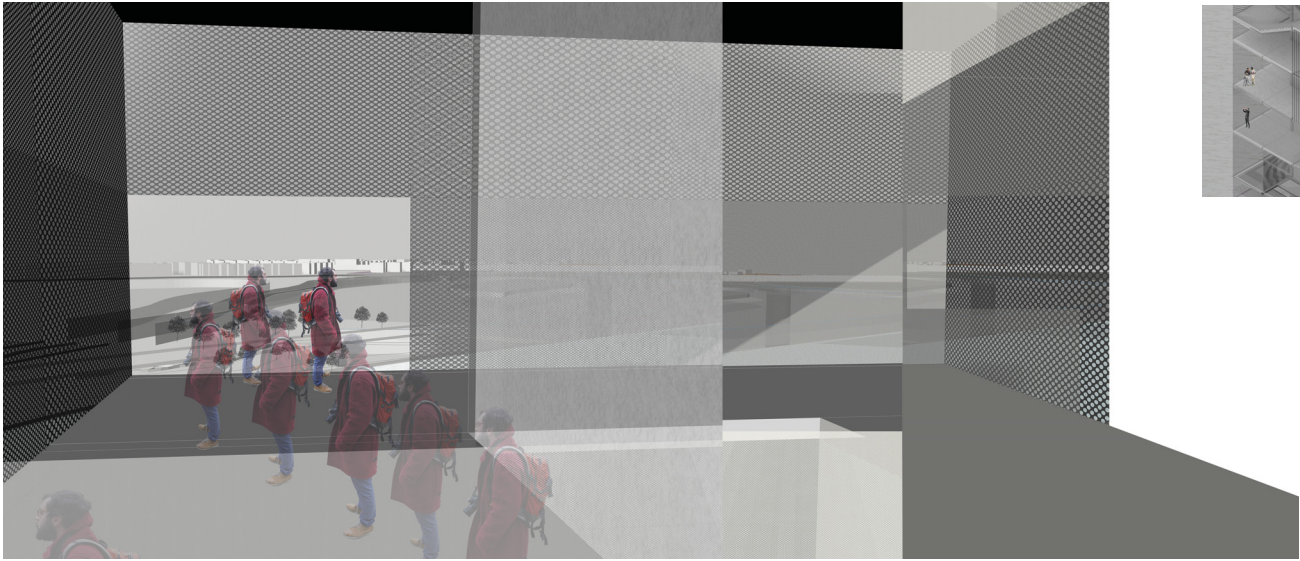




INTERFACE 02

DEVICE 03







A procession, moving south from the Device towards the urban, reclaiming the landscapes, incorporating it as part of the everyday. A bound from soft green to the hard grey, a stark transition.





A journey, moving from the urban into the green. Distance and reveal, moving towards the device; an instrument of landscape interpretation.

CHAPTER 5: A BEGINNING AND END (ITERATIVE FUTURES)

The Project as a Catalyst of Imagination

The instruments of interpretation are viewed as catalyst for the larger project, one that is iterative in nature, one that is not bound by a series of defining rules, but principles that are flexible and adaptable based on place and time. With the role of landscape constantly shifting, the interventions respond to the specificity of place and create a dialogue with the context of the city, as well as within a global context.

The essence of the instruments are transferable, assembling themselves as a theory that could be implemented in many other locations of the between and forgotten. These instruments could assemble themselves in a difference composition and configurations, as they are in dialogue with the local context and its role. The typological response of the particular interventions is in relation to the locality of the instrument, and the specificity of place. With the essence of the instrument would remain, provoking our curiosity and discovery allowing us to uncover an understanding of landscape.

Protecting these spaces for the now, so we can enjoy them everyday well also securing them for the future. These spaces have the ability to be used as highly productive space supporting social, cultural, recreational, agricultural, and wildlife activities. The potential of these landscapes is unbound as they could be used as components of infrastructure as well as agriculture.

The Lee Valley Regional Park simply acts as a piece of a fundamentally larger dialogue one that desperately needs to be address. We must view this place as a space that has the ability to change over time, one that adaptive and responsive to society.



Age 4, a discovery



Age 21, a discovery

In the specific case of the Lee Valley Regional Park, some areas of the park have already been reserved as fluvial planes but with rising water levels and hardscaping with the urban these space have the ability to act significantly within our cities. Also much of the Lee Valley Regional Park is composed of arable land, therefore in the future with mounting pressure of food security, we will have the potential to utilize such spaces .

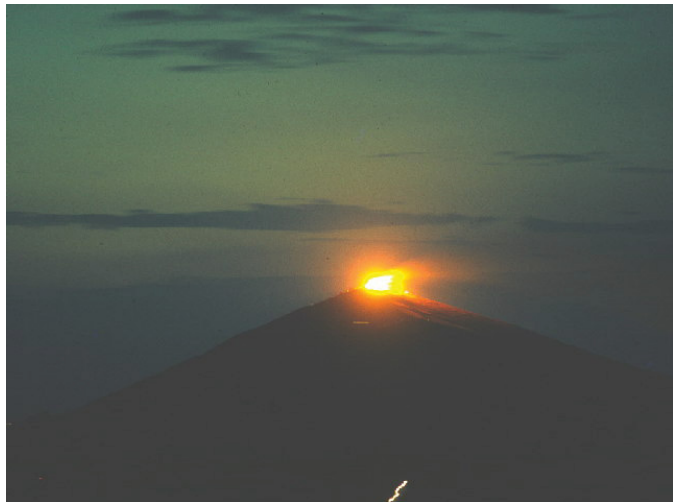
The indeterminacy of program allows for shifting to take place over time, with the Interface have a more rapid cycle as components can be plugged in and out, where as the device would act more slowly. With food insecurity, vertically programmable space have the potential to change from recreationally based agriculture into more intensive means, possibly becoming an testing ground for vertical planting or green facades. The device also have the potential to be turned over to nature, fully embodying their environment. With the instruments of interpretation derived from the local, with the specificity of each place influencing the interface or device, this evolution if also applicable to our dynamic understanding of landscape.

Therefore with the thesis I am inviting you to remain in the landscape and develop an understanding of, to spend time in it, have experience with it and making memories of it. As Judy Ling Wong once said if people enjoy the landscape they will love it, and if they love it they will protect it.³⁰

30 Judy Ling Wong (UK Director of the Black Environmental Network (BEN) and Member of the Greater London National Park City Steering Committee 2015), in person conversation, December 21, 2015.



Landscape beacon, a basket of fire used to signal between long distance used for many centuries, replica of the original used in 1588 to warn London after the Spanish Armada was spotted; images from Geograph of the Thorncombe Beacon by Philip Halling, 2012.



Landscape beacon, view of a signal fire lit on top of the hill; image from Geograph of the Worcestershire Beacon by Bob Embleton, 1981.

APPENDIX

Typological Investigations

Follies

Castle Howard Pyramid, North Yorkshire, England.

Wychbury Obelisk, Hagley Park on top of Wychbury Hill in Hagley, Worcestershire, England.

Beacons

Thorncombe Beacon

Worcestershire Beacon

Towers

Observation Tower in Jurmala, Latvia by ARHIS.

The Forest Tower in Bostoren, Schovenhorst Estate, The Netherlands by SEArch Architects.

Der Indenmann in Lucherberg, Germany. Designed by Maurer United Architects.

Viewingtower at Vecht Riverbank in Dalfsen, The Netherlands by Ateliereen Architecten.

Processional Investigations

Horizontal Displacement

The Moses Bridge in Halsteren, The Netherlands by RO&AD Architects.

Bruce and Dorothy Rossetti Scholarship

Investigations in London, England and Berlin, Germany



Castle Howard Pyramid, North Yorkshire, England.



Wychbury Obelisk, Hagley Park on top of Wychbury Hill in Hagley, Worcestershire, England.



Fire Beacon, United Kingdom



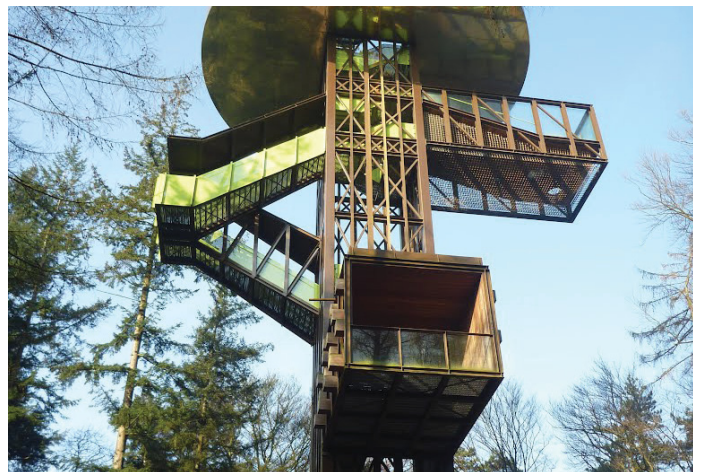
Fire Beacon, United Kingdom



Observation Tower in Jurmala, Latvia by ARHIS.

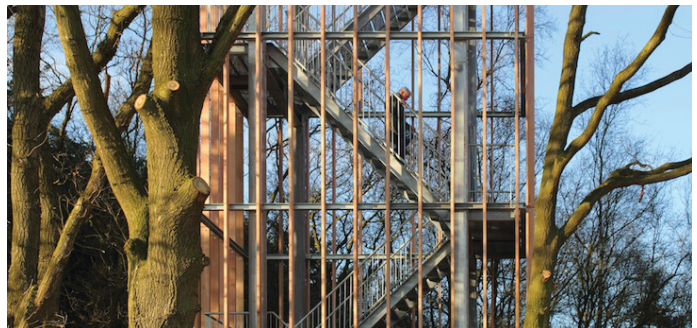


The Forest Tower in Bostoren, Schovenhorst Estate, The Netherlands by SEArch Architects.





Der Indenmann in Lucherberg, Germany. Designed by Maurer United Architects.

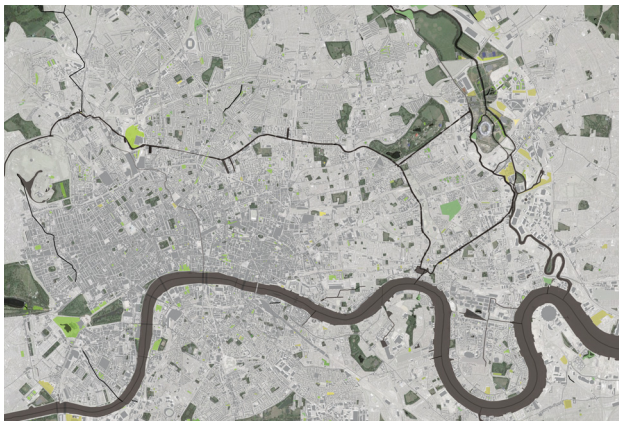


Viewingtower at Vecht Riverbank in Dalfsen, The Netherlands by Ateliereen Architecten.





Seasonality of an introduced landscape feature, the chaos and the calm; image of Moses Bridge by RO&AD Architecten from ArchDaily, 2011.



Bruce and Dorothy Rossetti Scholarship

Landscape as Productive

Examining the social and cultural value of productive urban landscapes as a means of investigation for projective urban futures.

London, England + Berlin, Germany

The “productive” is defined as an adaptable and flexible urban fabric that is socially, culturally, ecologically, and agriculturally responsive and resilient to the conditions within cities.

The research investigates the role of productive urban landscapes in terms of their social and cultural values. Building upon research conducted in Havana, Cuba, London and Berlin were examined to gain a greater understanding and insight into the appreciation of landscapes within the European context. These cities represent progressive viewpoints towards an model of landscape and urban integration, establishing a framework of projective operation. parks, gardens, and urban greenspace were specifically explored as a series of case studies for the development of a landscape framework; one that currently does not exist within our typical urban environment.



Made possible from the generous support of the Bruce and Dorothy Rossetti and their scholarship available through Dalhousie School of Architecture.

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