



# A Different 'World of Perception'

Multi-sensory landscape for a visually impaired community

Country / City	UK/ Chelmsford
University / School	Writtle University College / Design
Academic year	2016 -2017
Title of the project	A Different 'World of Perception'
Authors	Ilbin Yoon





# PERFORMATIVE NATURE

Barcelona International Landscape Architecture Biennial

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SCHOOL PRIZE

X International Landscape Architecture Biennial

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## TECHNICAL DOSSIER

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Title of the course MA Landscape Architecture  
Academic year 2016 - 2017  
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### Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

Can you imagine losing your sight?

Unfortunately, everyone has a risk to lose their sight.

Blind Veterans UK is an organisation to help visually impaired people in their rehabilitation. The issue of blindness and visual impairment is important because not only is the number of visually impaired people not insignificant but it is expected that the trend for the number of people affected to be continually increasing. The biggest problem is that visual impairment can also be connected to mental disorder, mainly depression.

However, a lot of researchers have commented on the therapeutic effects of nature, particularly emphasizing that sensory experience can contribute to better mental health. Experiencing sensory natural space and gardening can contribute for visually impaired people to alleviating mental illness and to giving a positive view of nature. In addition, numerous researchers have proved the benefits of exposure to the nature. People can have mental therapy through 'outdoor adventure', further, positive result that adventure therapy could contribute to psychological resilience and social self-esteem. For these reason, the positive effects through experiencing sensory outdoor space were expected.

Consequently, through designing new outdoor spatial types to provide sensory elements, visually impaired people would have new healthy life.

For further information

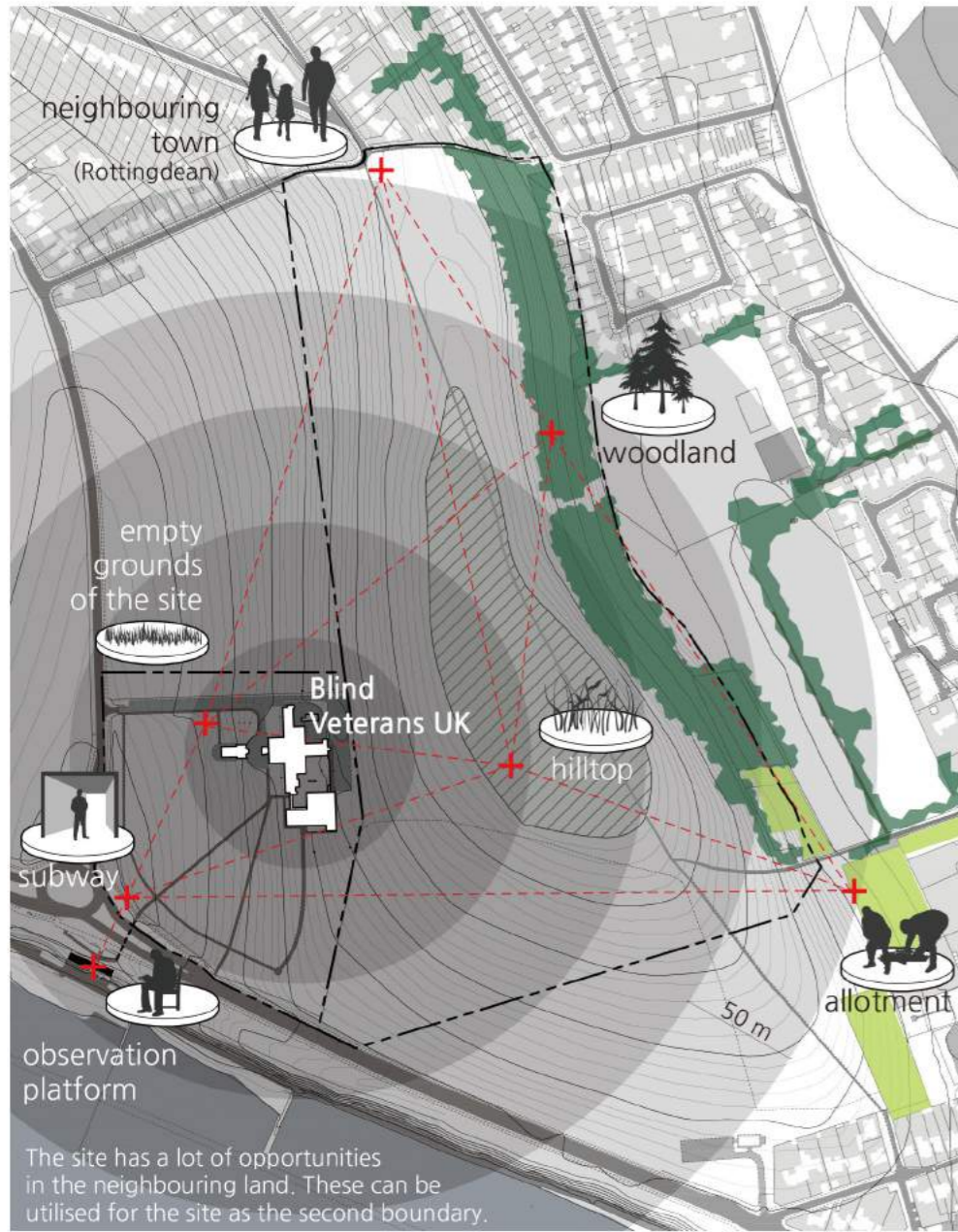
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Consult the web page <http://landscape.coac.net/>

# CONTEXT



# SITE

Location: Greenways, Ovingdean, East Sussex, UK  
 Site Area : around 45,000 m2 (Ground floor area\_around 2,600m2)



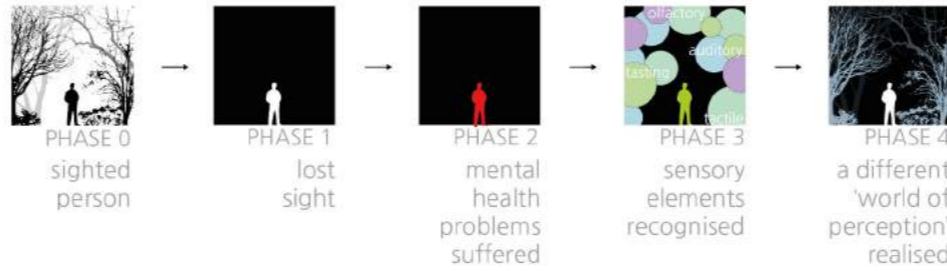
Blind Veterans UK was established in 1919 with small committee in London for visually impaired people who were retired soldiers. The organisation created purpose-oriented building for training and rehabilitation at the site in 1938. The concept of building was providing easier wayfinding through simple spatial structure for visually impaired people. Furthermore, the grounds also pursue the same concept for wayfinding, and except for some benches, handrail and path, the site has only a lawn field. The grounds provide outdoor walking as an activity, but, there is no opportunity for a multi-sensory experience or social activities. Moreover, the site is located on a stiff topography which fragments the landscape and prevent the public's access through the neighbouring land. However, the site could benefit from the local landscape context including grassland, woodland, and coastal habitat. Accordingly, this project aims to improve mental and physical condition of visually impaired people through multi-sensory experience in the garden, further, the project proposes socialisation points in the site and the neighbouring lands.



# CONCEPT

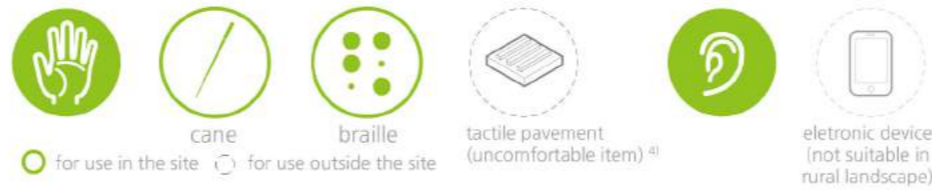
This project can help not only visually impaired people to relieve their mental problems through sensory elements, but also can make them realise that they are not in a pitchblack world but live in a different 'world of perception'.

The ultimate objective is to propose a solution to combat common phases and problems which visually impaired people can experience with their mental health.



# STRATEGY

WAY-FINDING increase self-esteem through simple structure for way-finding



# SENSORY ELEMENTS

reduce depression through sensory experience



# GARDENING

change sedentary habit for health care through gardening



# SOCIALISING

combat loneliness through socialising



# PLACE ATTACHMENT

encourage place-attachment through typical landscape design which can help remind people of their memories



# NEIGHBOURING LAND PLAN



- A. playground park**
  1. playground
  2. sand play area
  3. pergolas
  4. connecting path to neighbouring village
- B. hilltop park**
  5. aeolian equipment
  6. grass field with rock
- C. allotment**
  7. allotment
  8. border hedge
  9. connecting path to neighbouring town
- D. valley park**
  10. timber bench
- E. woodland trail**

- F. valley trail**
- G. natural stone trail**
- H. linking deck**
- I. coastal landscape platform**
- J. sensory trail (Blind Veterans UK)**



# SENSORY PLAN



## A. main path (exposed aggregate concrete)

1. signage point
2. touching hedge area
3. connecting path to the coastal landscape platform

## B. bridge (timber)

4. deciduous trees
5. evergreen trees

## C. gardening zone (timber)

6. gardening table
7. rest area
8. flower border

## D. wall (exposed aggregate concrete)

9. rainwater fall point
10. timber bench

## E. cave (natural stone)

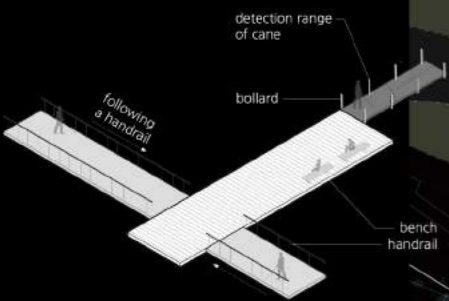
11. connecting path to the natural stone trail

## F. sensory adventure zone (corten steel)

12. sensory circle
13. sensory trail

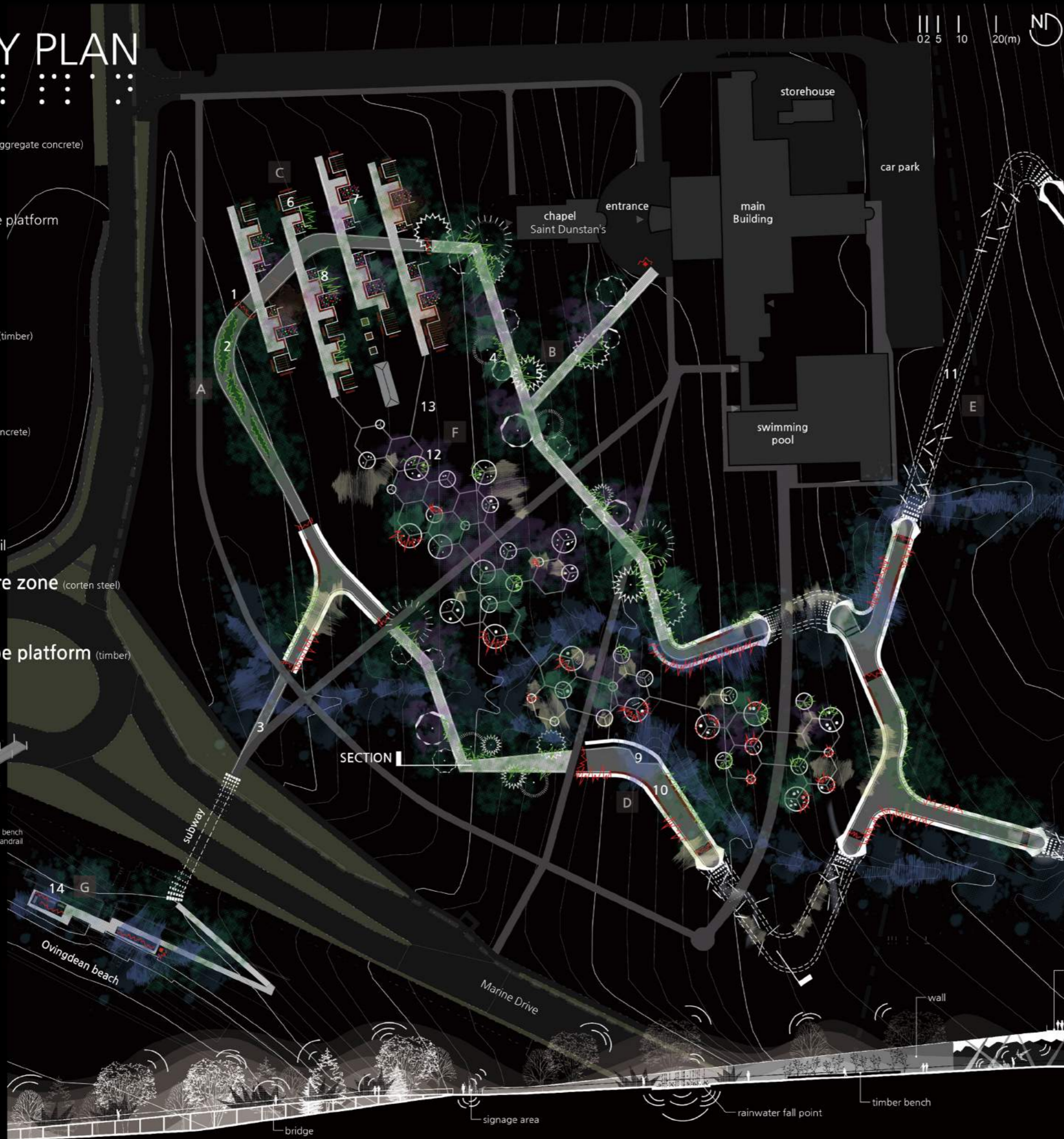
## G. coastal landscape platform (timber)

14. touching sand area



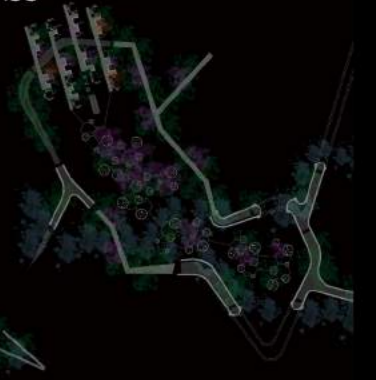
For different levels of adventure, each different path types can be introduced.

- path with handrail (easy for way-finding)
- path with bollard (difficult for way-finding)
- linking deck (rest area + connecting different paths)



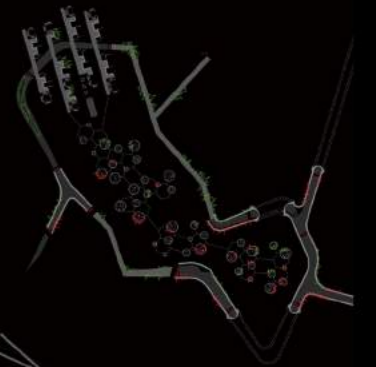
## olfactory sense

- woody notes
- fresh notes
- floral notes
- oriental notes



## tactile sense

- hard materials
- soft materials



## auditory sense

- wind in the trees & grasses
- rainwater flowing
- artificial sounds



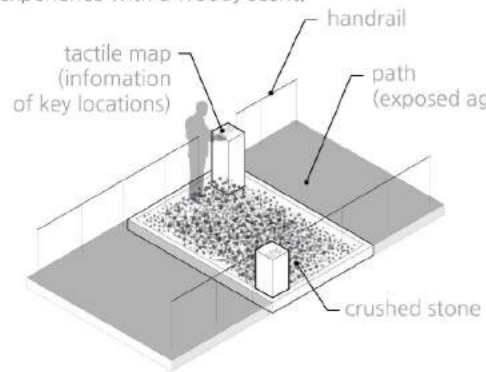
## optic sense

- transition of intensity sunlight
- penetrating sunlight

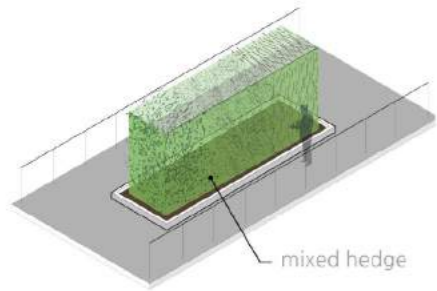


## PATH

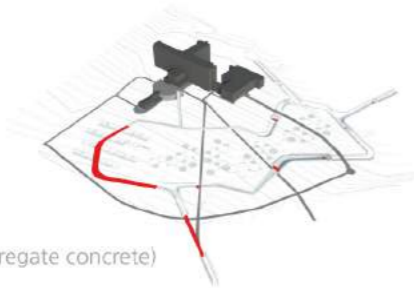
Tactile maps can help visually impaired people to navigate the site. Mixed hedge can provide a diverse tactile sensory experience with a woody scent.



tactile map can be used for sensory navigation

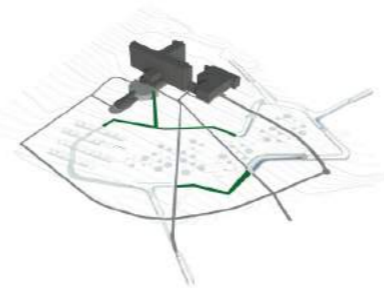


mixed hedge can be used for diverse tactile sensory experiences.



## BRIDGE

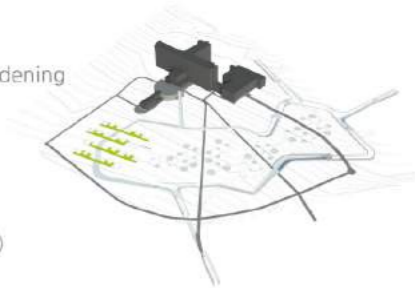
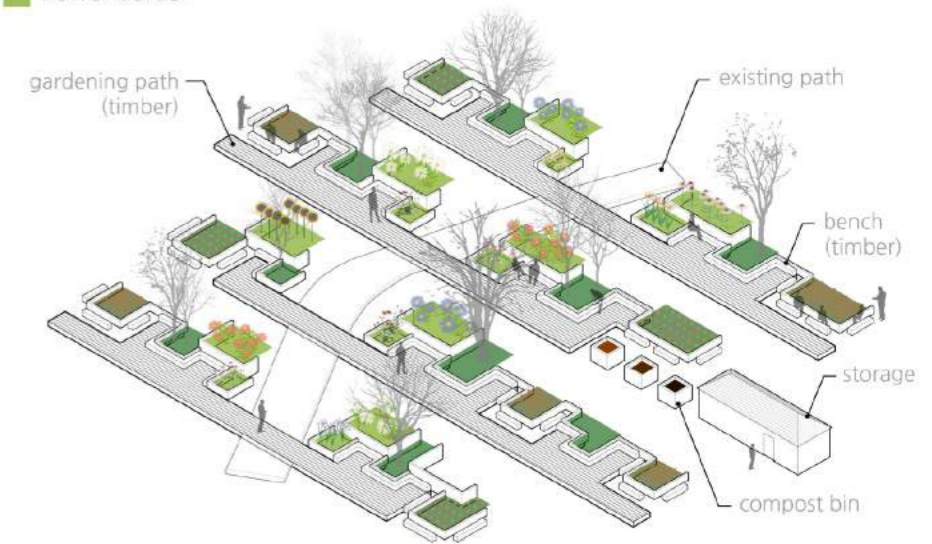
The raised bridge allows visually impaired people to enjoy the treetop environment. They can feel differently and experience the textured cones from the bridge.



## GARDENING

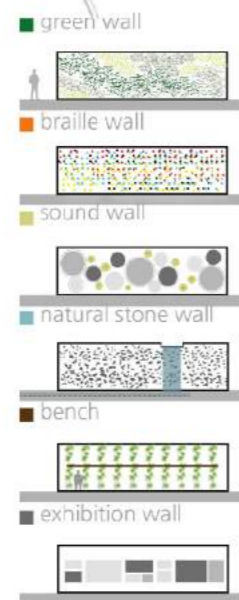
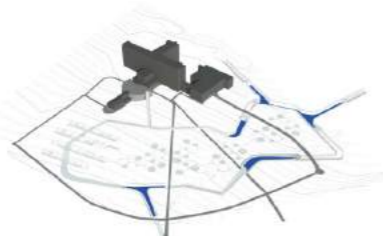
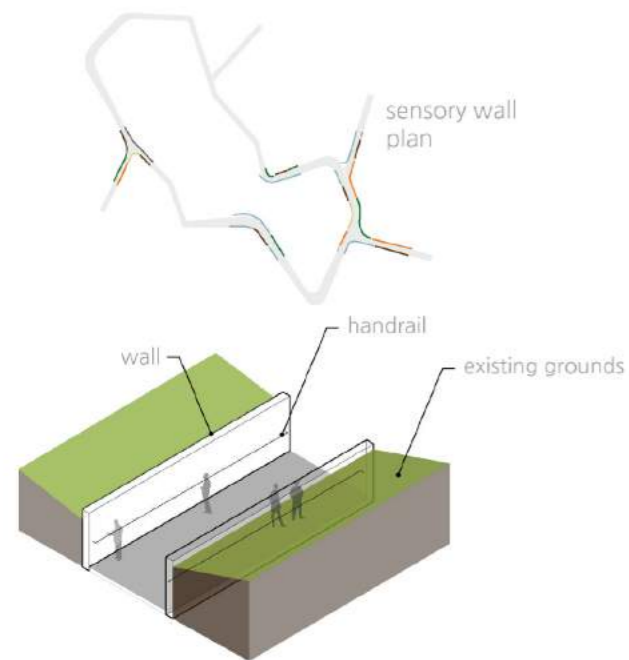
People who have visual impairment can learn gardening skills at the learning table. They can also rest under a tree. Furthermore, the flower border will give an auditory sensory experience.

- gardening table (for gardening education)
- rest area
- flower border



## WALL

In order to create a more user-friendly path which has a gentle slope, a retaining wall is needed due to the change in level. This provides many opportunities for sensory elements to be integrated in to the walls.



## CAVE

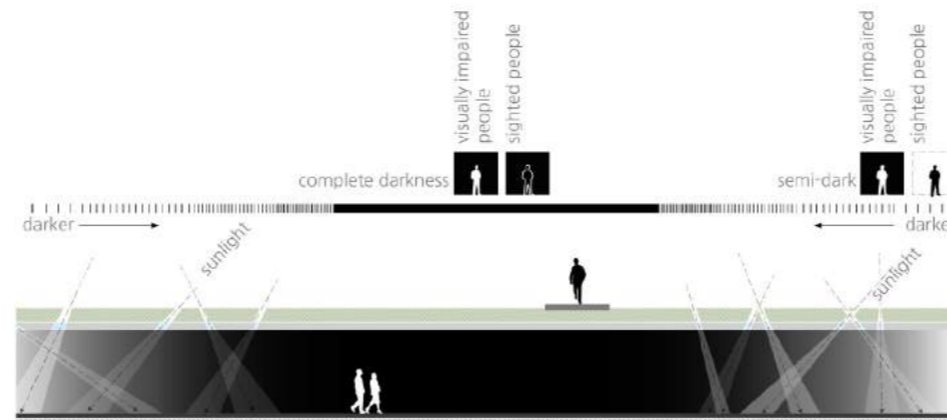
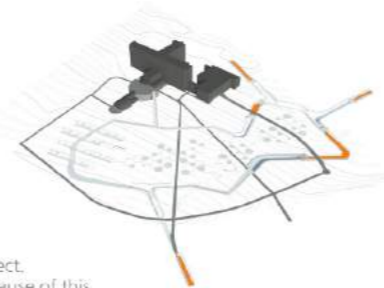
A cave has the power to change optic and auditory sensory stimuli. Furthermore, some visually impaired people can detect sunlight intensity. Through restricted sunlight in the cave, they can experience optic stimulation withdrawal.

echo effect

Sounds can be changed in the caves due to the echo effect. People can get a different auditory sense experience because of this.

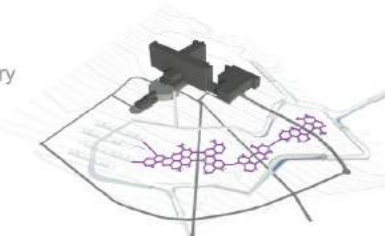
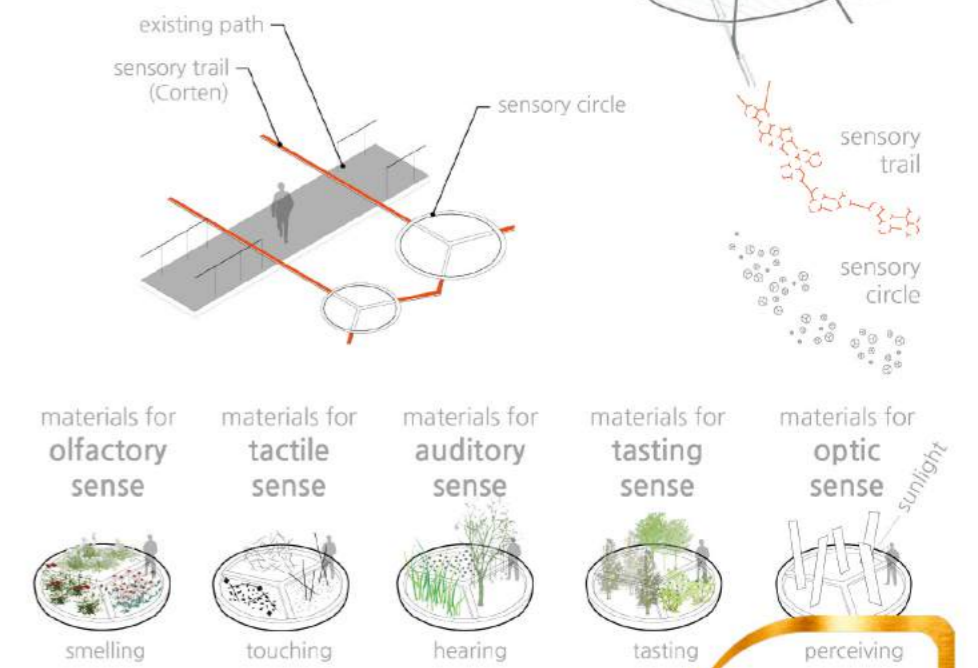
blind effect

Sighted people also can lose their sight in a cave. Therefore, they can experience things from a visually impaired person's point of view.



## SENSORY ADVENTURE

Visually impaired people can experience multi-sensory elements in this area. The trail is separated from the existing path.



# ZONING & PROGRAM

