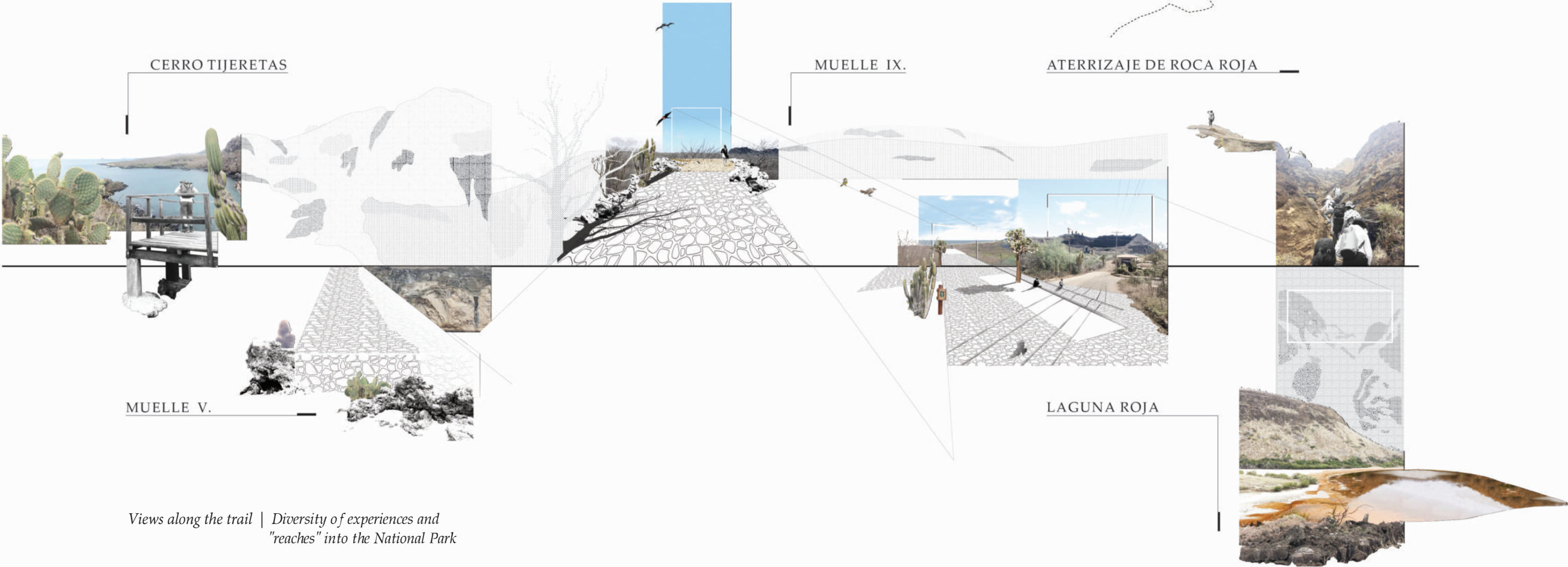
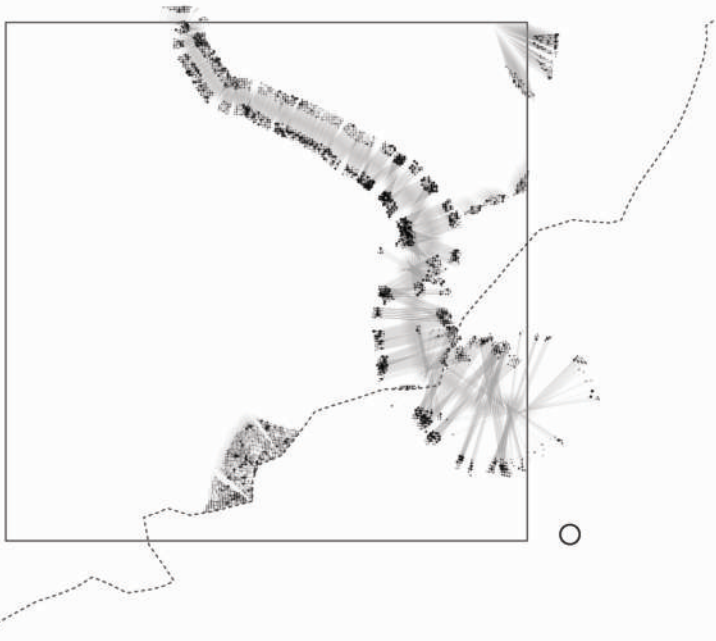


A particular lifestyle that assumes that living in Galapagos is fundamentally different and accepts the limitations associated with the archipelago's fragile natural system [is] the best and only way to facilitate the transition toward a more sustainable future.

González et al. (Rethinking the Galapagos Islands, 2008)



Views along the trail | Diversity of experiences and "reaches" into the National Park

Country / City	Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, San Cristóbal Island, Galápagos Islands, Ecuador
University / School	University of Pennsylvania / School of Design
Academic year	2017 - 2018
Title of the project	The Tortoise's Neck : Extending or Retreating Island Life at the Edge (San Cristóbal Island, Galápagos Islands, Ecuador)
Authors	Luke van Tol





PERFORMATIVE NATURE

Barcelona International Landscape Architecture Biennial

September 2018 **Barcelona**

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08028 Barcelona-Spain

TECHNICAL DOSSIER

Title of the project	The Tortoise's Neck : Extending or Retreating Island Life at the Edge
Authors	Luke van Tol
Title of the course	Fantasy Island : Galápagos Archipelago
Academic year	2017 - 2018
Teaching Staff	Karen M'Closkey
Department/Section/Program of belonging	Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning
University/School	University of Pennsylvania School of Design

Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

No place on earth is more famous for its biodiversity and scientific significance than the Galápagos Islands. It is the first designated ecotourism destination, a strategy designed to protect nature by making a strict boundary between human inhabitation and wild conservation areas. Local human populations have little access to the National Park because visitation requires a hired guide. Consequently, the value of the park for residents is limited to financial gain for those involved in tourism. As tourism increases, so does the population needed to support it - Puerto Baquerizo Moreno will fully saturate its urban boundary in twenty years. The ecological and economic performances of Galápagos nature are increasingly at odds. Now is the time to contemplate extension or retreat at the town's edges.

This project explores the creation of an experiential trail along the edge of the urban-park boundary. It is conceptually and methodologically inspired by one of the island's most famous inhabitants: the Galápagos tortoise. The neck of this species is theorized to have evolved differently in accordance with the particularities of each island. On 'greener' islands, with an abundance of resources, tortoises have shorter necks whereas, in arid environments, the saddleback carapace structure is thought to be an adaption to increase vertical reach to browse taller vegetation. Examining the edge conditions between human-occupied zones and conservation areas on San Cristóbal Island, this project explores adaptations with different "reaches" into the park - a "New Malecón" - providing vantage points and platforms for residents who cannot enter the conservation zones.

For further information

Máster d'Arquitectura del Paisatge -DUOT - UPC

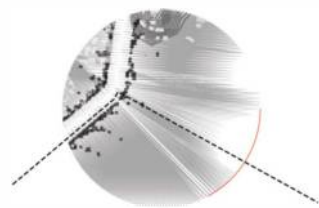
T: + 34 93 401 64 11 / +34 93 552 0842

Contact via email at: biennial.paisatge@upc.edu

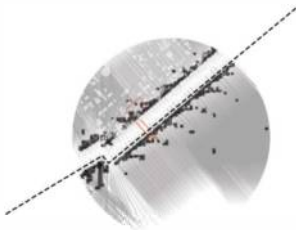
Consult the web page <http://landscape.coac.net/>



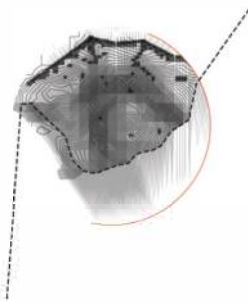
Indicator cacti species replace unceremonious Park edge markers



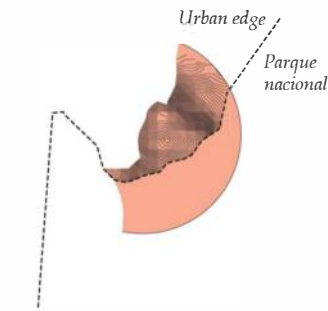
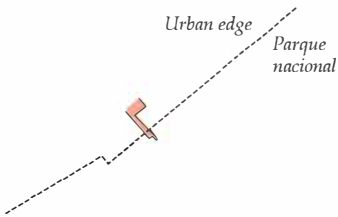
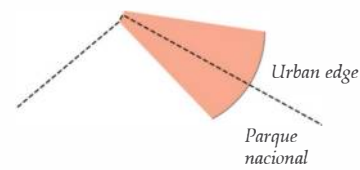
Disturbance radius within park



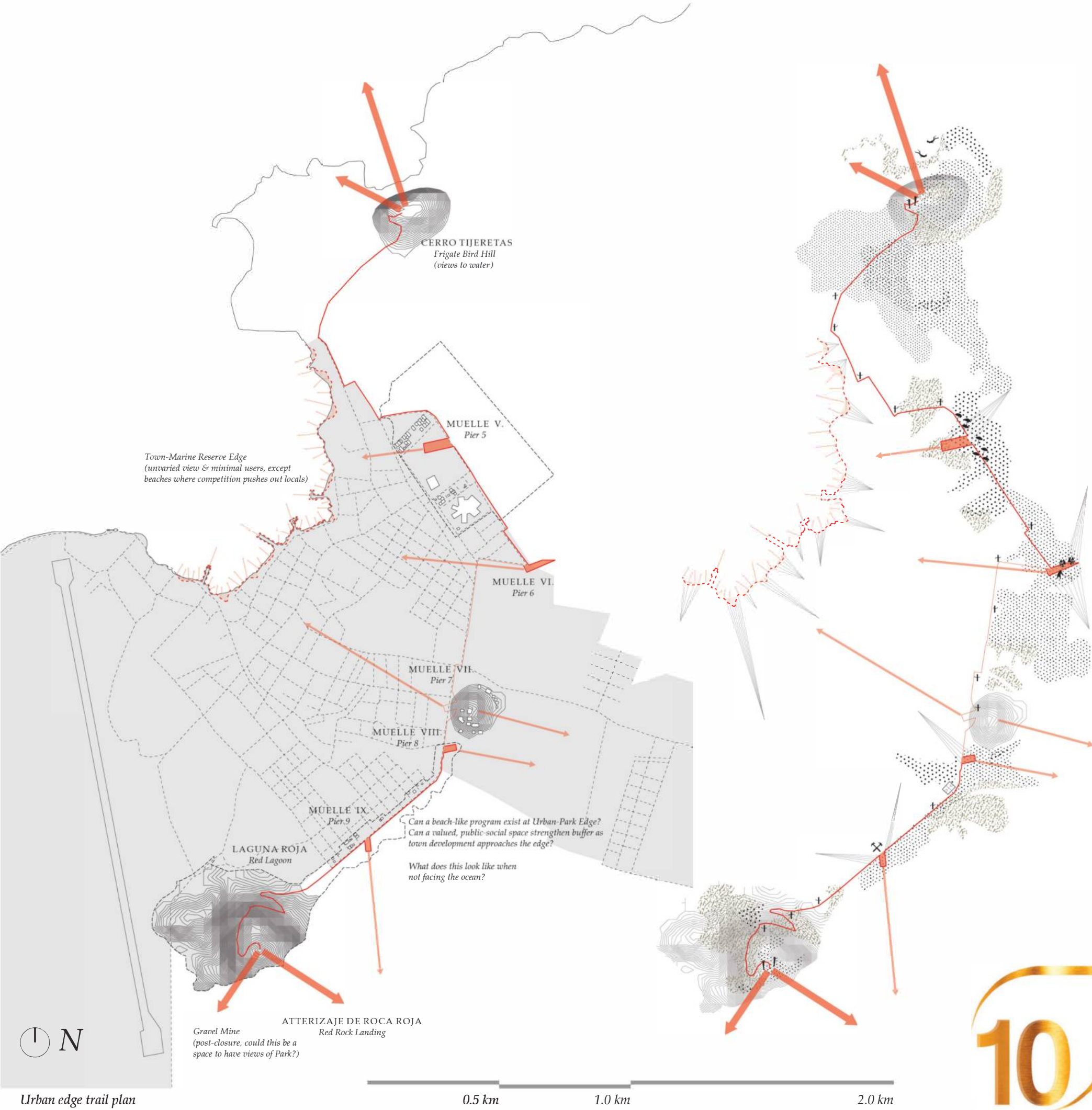
Introduce highpoint within vacant land to extend out to park

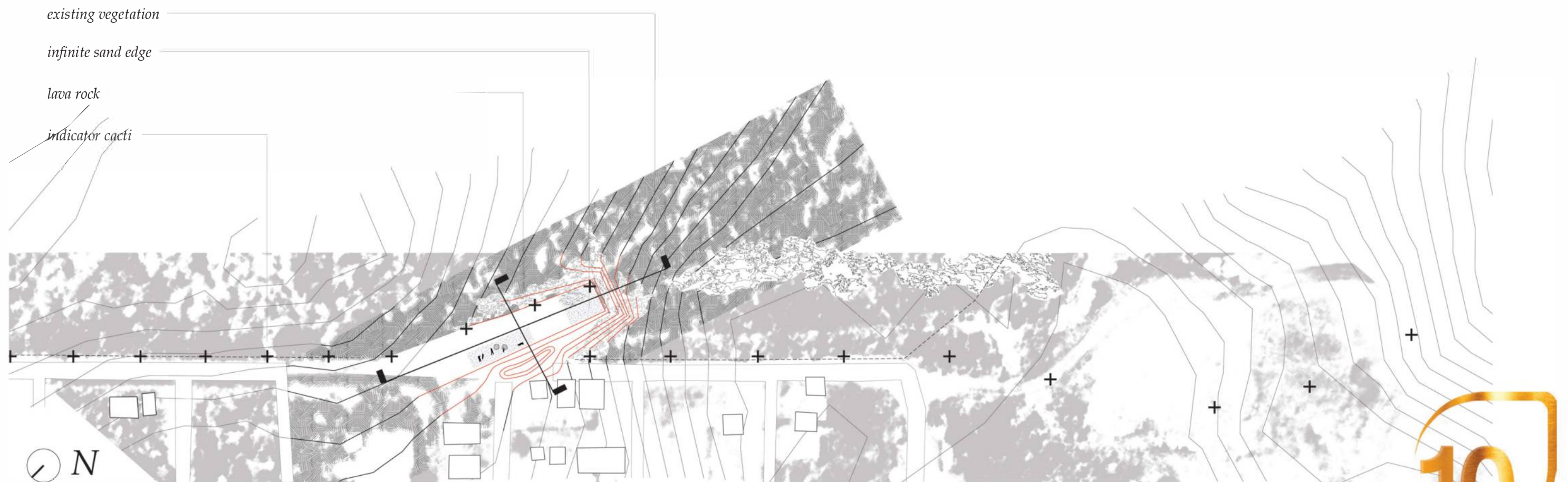
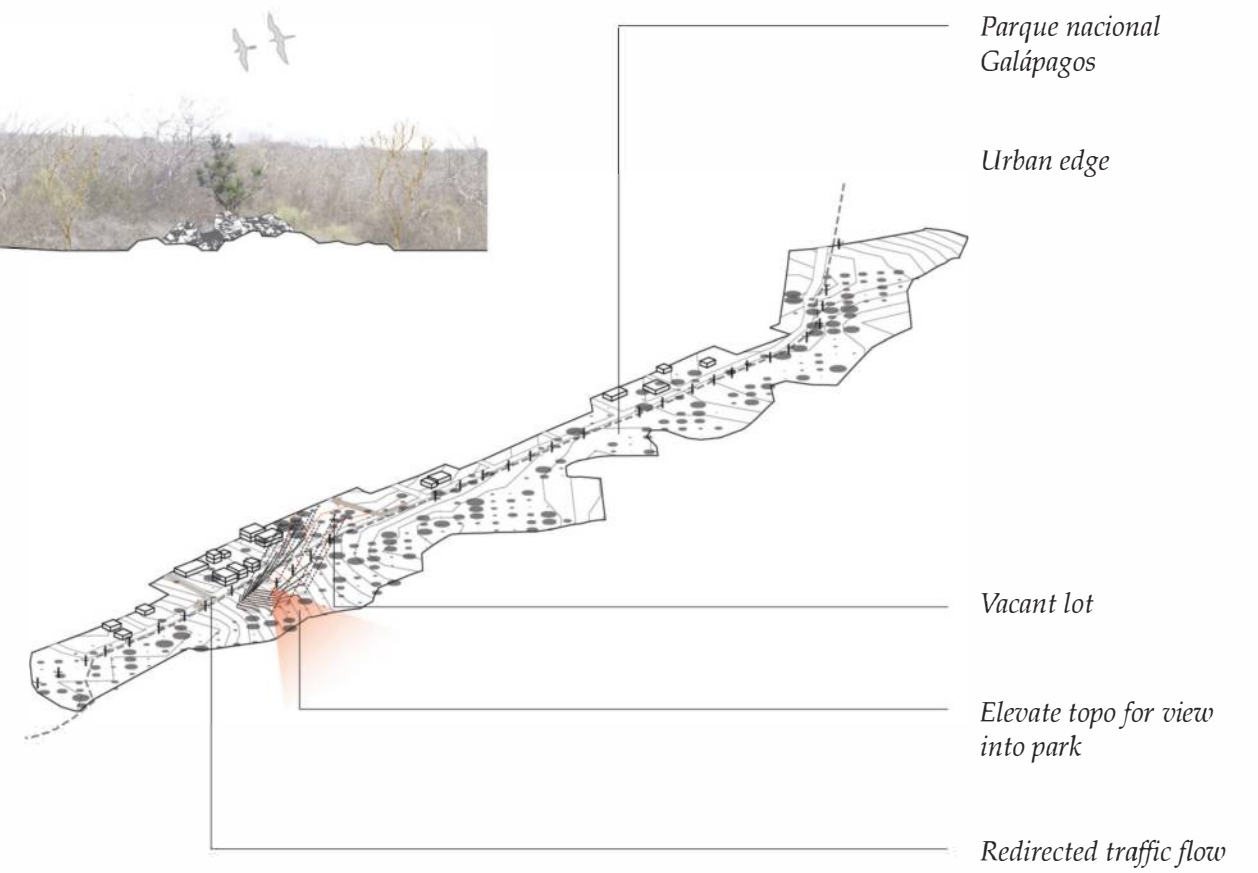
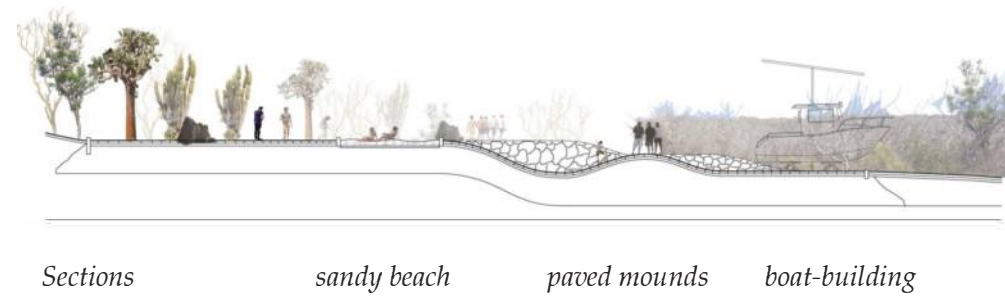


Existing highpoint within vacant / mine land



'White space' as space for intervention







A key stop along this future trail is a speculation on what might happen once the gravel mine on the edge of town closes. Post-closure, the mine will not easily fit the designations of urban, rural, or conservation areas; it should be conceived, instead, as a new nature full of possibilities.

