

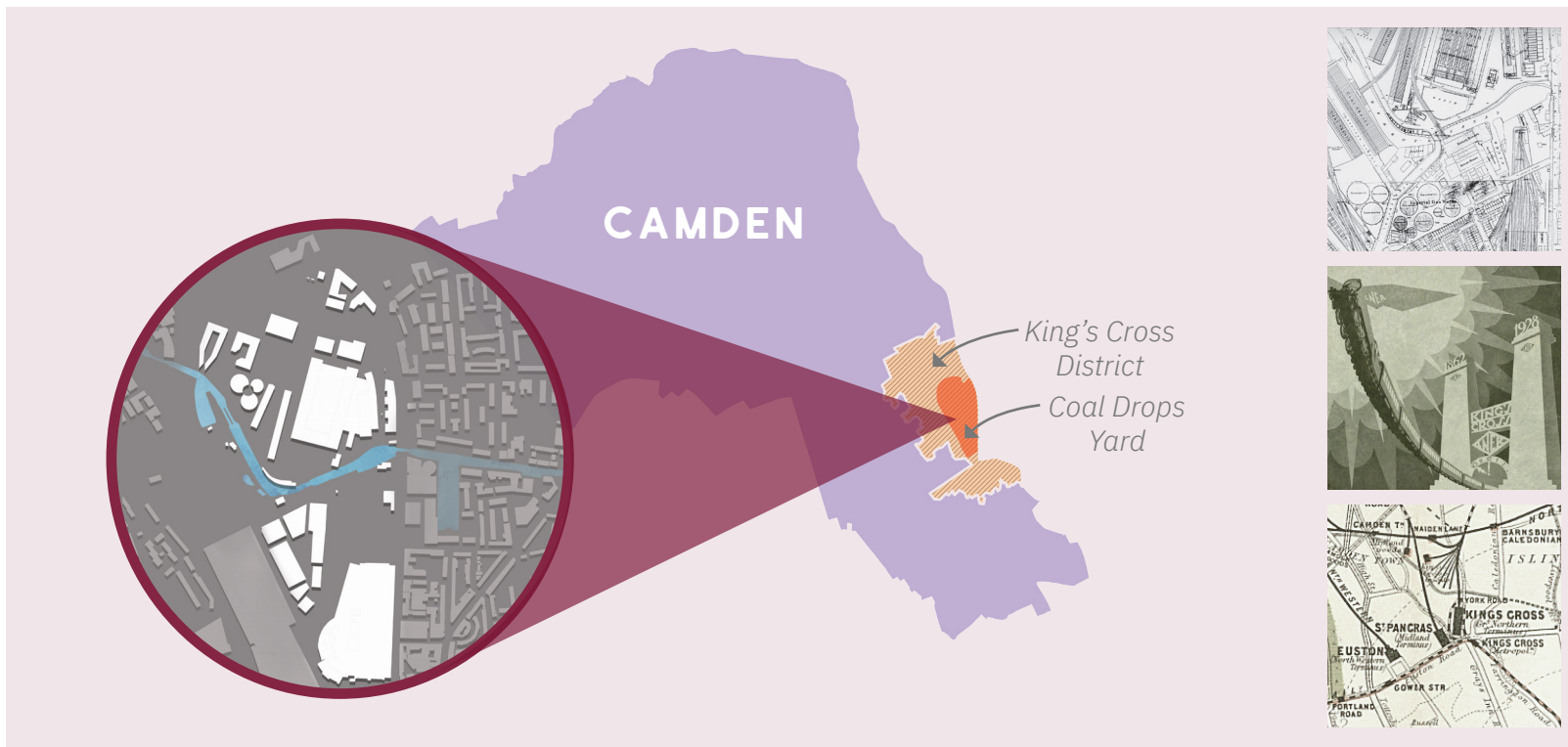


COAL DROPS YARD
LONDON'S CONNECTION TO THE WORLD :

King's Cross once contained two Victorian coal drops sheds, which functioned to receive coal from narrowboats along the Regents Canal. The only form of energy in the 1850s was coal, however, coal use was made obsolete by electricity. The coal drops were then re-purposed as warehouses, but after a large fire in 1985, many of the buildings were gutted. Riddled with abandoned warehouses, King's Cross became the hub vibrant night life. In addition, the year was 1986 when the rave scene came to prominence in London. Abandoned warehouses were the venues for partying to electronic music, and many British musicians were influential in the development of the underground electronic music scene.



THE EXO PROJECT



Country / City Canada, Guelph
 University / School University of Guelph
 Academic year 2019 - 2020
 Title of the project The EXO Project
 Authors Sharon Megan Wong

TECHNICAL DOSSIER

Title of the project	The EXO Project
Authors	Sharon Megan Wong
Title of the course	BLA Capstone Design Studio
Academic year	2019 - 2020
Teaching Staff	Prof. Nadia Amoroso and Prof. Sean Kelly
Department/Section/Program of belonging	School of Environmental Design and Rural Development
University/School	University of Guelph



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

The EXO project seeks to design and innovate with nature to elevate people's awareness of and connection to the natural world, by placing nature's treasures in the heart of London. The site is situated alongside the King's Cross Railway in London, England, which serves as a connection from London to the rest of Europe. However, the location directly exposes the site and areas in proximity to high levels of noise pollution. As part of my thesis research, I investigated soundscape design and noise mitigation in urban settings. In my research findings, biophonic sound was found to possess healing impacts on humans and fauna alike. Mitigating noise, while preserving sounds of nature and producing captivating soundscapes became a focal point in the EXO Project. The nature escape brings better access to healing landscapes for the people, ranging from locals with high stress jobs to worn out tourists after a long day of exploration. By incorporating an accessible 'third room' framework for social engagement, leisure, and psychotopia, The EXO Project serves as a sensory wonderland for nature lovers, those who have limited access to nature, and those who have lost their connection to the earth's gifts. The park draws from principles of art and music in nature to emphasize the need for protecting the earth, improving environmental consciousness.

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CLIMATE CHANGE AGAIN

11th International Biennial Landscape Barcelona

Barcelona September 2020
SCHOOL PRIZE

MASTERPLAN



GOALS



1. Design and innovate with nature to elevate people's awareness and connection to the natural world, by placing nature's beauty in the



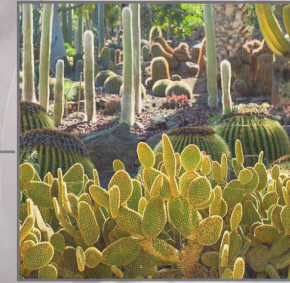
2. Creating a sense of place within Coal Drops Yard through soundscapes and art installations.



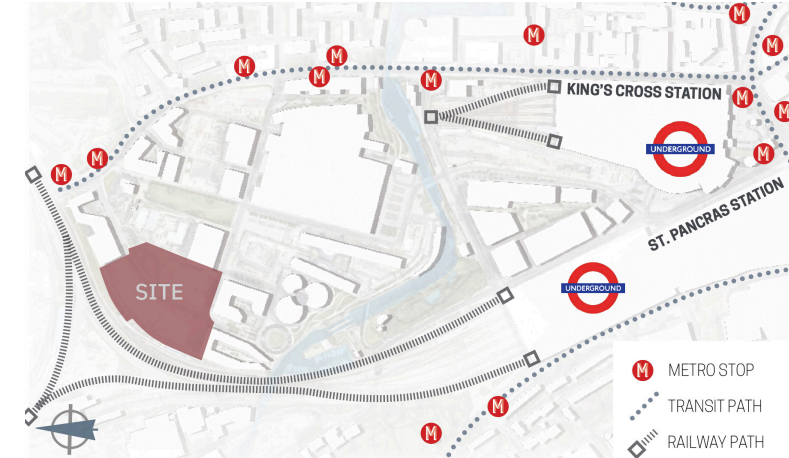
3. Repurposing an industrial site through community programming, promoting education of art and nature to advocate for environmental protection



4. Designing better access to healing landscapes for the people, by incorporating the accessible 'third space' concept for social engagement, leisure, and psychotopia.



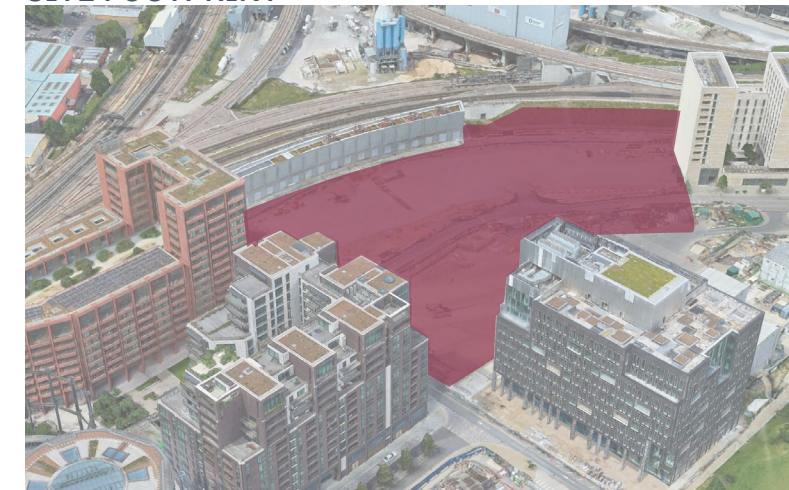
TRANSIT ACCESS



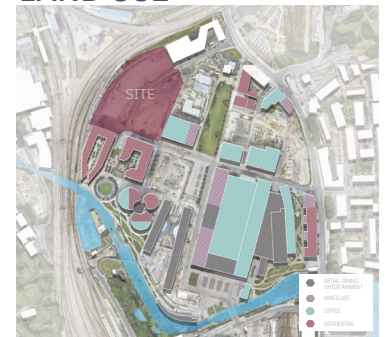
GREEN SPACE



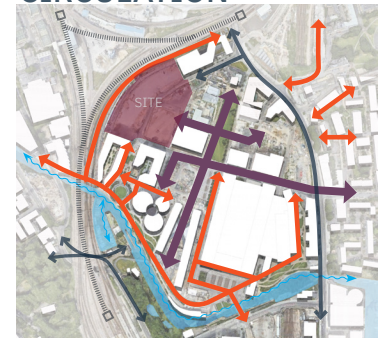
SITE FOOTPRINT



LAND USE



CIRCULATION



VISION

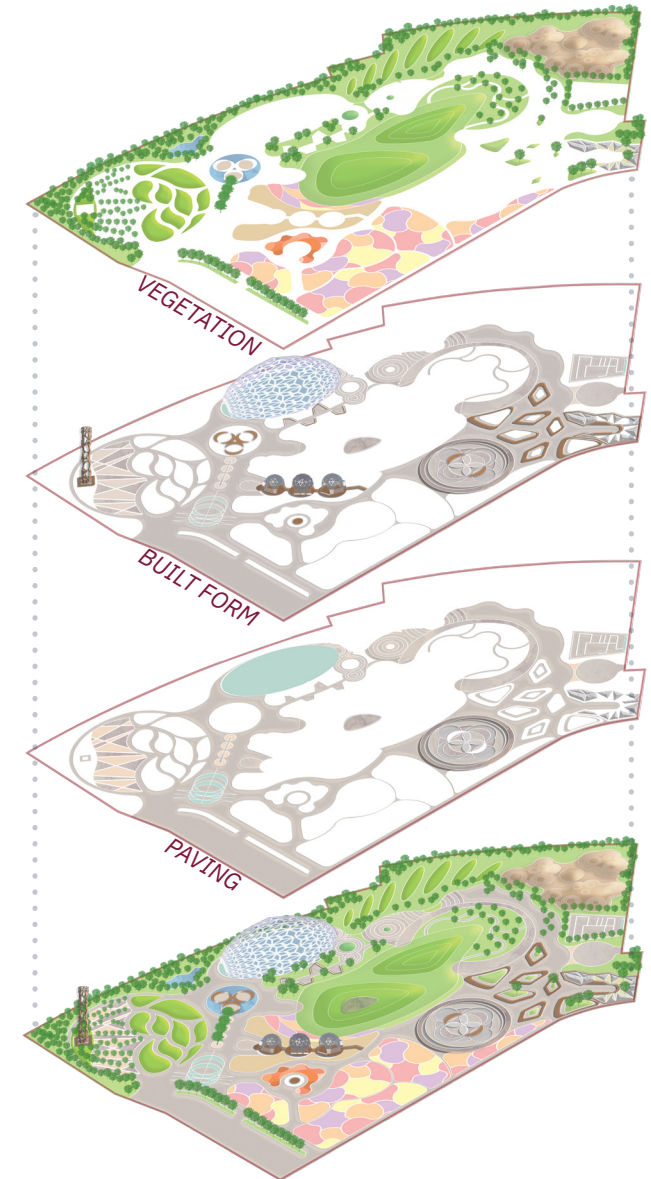
The EXO project seeks to elevate awareness of and facilitate stronger connections with the natural world, by placing nature's uplifting presence in the heart of London. The nature escape brings vibrance to the highly gentrified location which bears historic roots in industrial labour to arrive at a seismic shift in society. The EXO is a sensory wonderland for nature lovers, those who have limited access to nature, and those who have lost their connection to the earth's gifts. The park uses principles of art and music in nature to emphasize the need for protecting the earth, improving environmental consciousness.





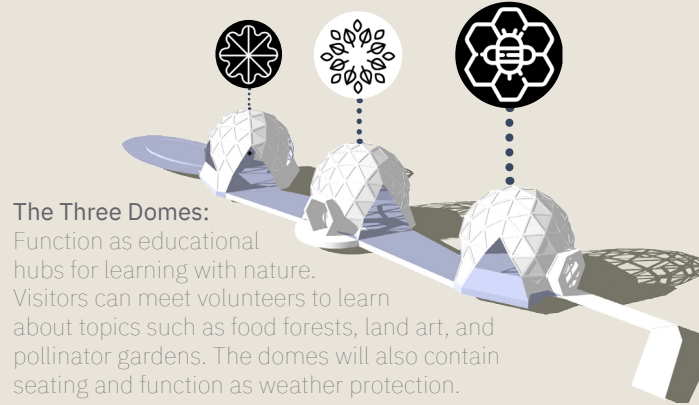
ZONES

1. THE PEARL GATEWAY
2. PROJECTION PLACE - EVENTS/ FLEXIBLE SPACE
3. DESERT DUNES - SOUNDSCAPE EXPLORATIONS
4. FOUND MOUNDS - PLAY AREA, VEGETABLES AND HERBS
5. EXO NEST - COMMUNITY VENUE AND LEARNING SPACE
6. WAVY WALK - URBAN GROVE PARK
7. ENTOTUNNEL - INTERACTIVE STRUCTURE
8. RESONANCE WATERS - FOUNTAIN AND POND
9. HIGHER FREQUENCY VIEWPOINT - BIRD'S EYE VIEW
10. THE THREE DOMES - INFO, EDUCATION, ART SPACE
11. BUZZING GARDEN - POLLINATORS PARADISE
12. PARAMETRIC PLAZA - GATHERINGS & PERFORMANCES
13. THE SEATED PIGEON - RELAXATION SPACE
14. TRUE NORTH GATEWAY



SITE PROGRAM

The EXO Project seeks to create a sense of place for people, to enhance the lives of visitors by restoring the connection of humanity with nature. The ecological value of the site is of importance, as the project advocates for environmental awareness and protection. Each zone functions to accomplish this goal in some way, while being a place that people will look forward to revisiting. Thus, the site programming contains flexible spaces and areas that evolve, as nature does.



VEGETATION SELECTION

Site conditions were considered throughout the design process, with a large green buffer adjacent to the rail line to mitigate noise pollution, but more importantly, visually mask the source of the noise pollution on site, along with a strong emphasis on creating pollinator habitat.

SHRUBS/ WOODLAND EDGES	
<i>Acer campestre</i> field maple	<i>Salix caprea</i> goat willow (male forms best)
<i>Ailaria petiolata</i> garlic mustard	<i>Santalis europaea</i> santal
<i>Allium ursinum</i> ramsons	<i>Silene dioica</i> red campion
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i> columbine	<i>Silene latifolia</i> subsp. <i>alba</i> white campion
<i>Ballota nigra</i> black horehound	<i>Smyrniololium alexanders</i> †
<i>Berberis vulgaris</i> barberry †	<i>Sorbus aria</i> common whitebeam
<i>Bryonia dioica</i> white bryony	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> rowan, mountain ash
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i> common box	<i>Sorbus torminalis</i> wild service tree
<i>Campanula trachelium</i> nettle-leaved bellflower	<i>Stachys officinalis</i> betony
<i>Clematis vitalba</i> old man's beard, traveller's joy	<i>Stellaria holostea</i> greater stitchwort
	<i>Symphylotum officinale</i> common comfrey

WILDFLOWERS

<i>Angelica sylvestris</i> wild angelica
<i>Artemisia maritima</i> sea purslane
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i> common box
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i> heather, ling
<i>Campanula glomerata</i> clustered bellflower
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i> cornflower †
<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i> greater knipweed
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> common hawthorn
<i>Ficaria verna</i> yellow pimpernel
<i>Erica cinerea</i> heath
<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i> hemp agrimony
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> common fennel †

TREES

The trees on site will include:
Cordyline australis, *Beaucarnea recurvata*, *Ceanothus*, *Platanus x acerifolia*, *Fraxinus alnus*, *Dysois onitiformis*, *Bulba catarinensis*, *Castanea sativa*, *Trachycarpus fortunei*, *Phoenix Reclinata*



PAVING PALLETTE

There is no vehicular access onto site, however there is a parking lot to the east. There is bike access and plenty of bike racks on site, which is not only carbon free, but reduces noise pollution. The EXO Project bathes the senses with nature, to allow for a connection with the natural world.



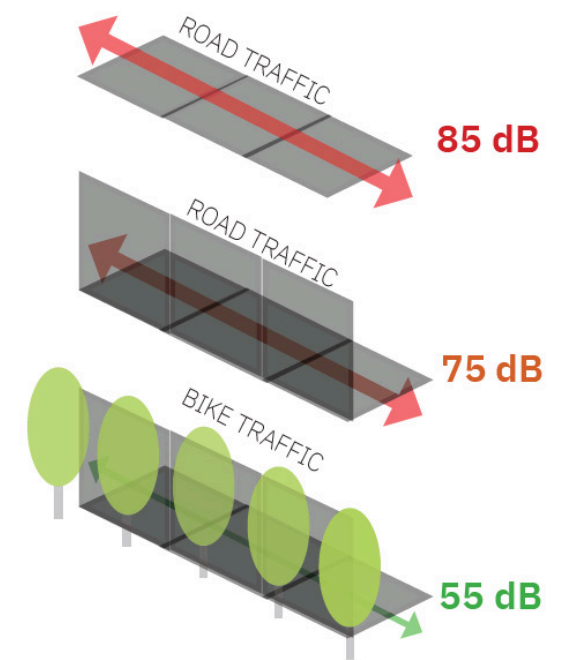


CIRCULATION THROUGH ENTOTUNNEL

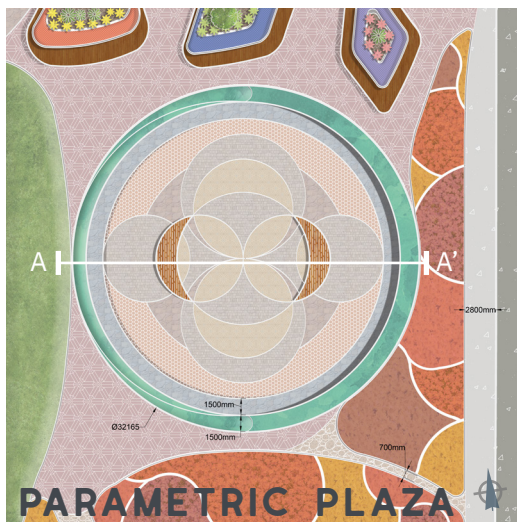


ENTOTUNNEL INTERIOR

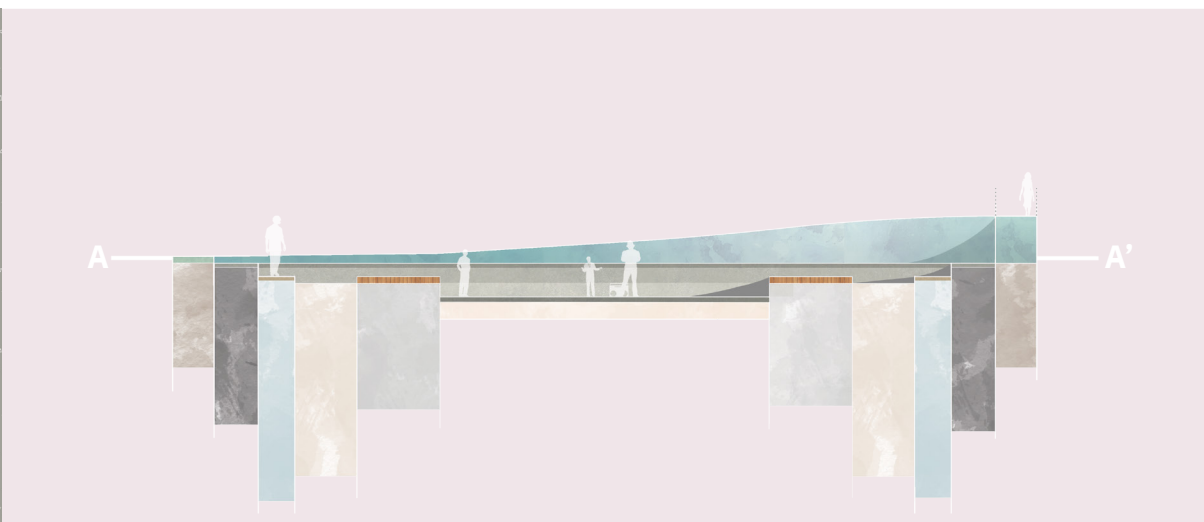
The ENTOTUNNEL is the central node of the EXO Project, visitors can experience art, nature and sound within and atop the structure. There is bike storage and lighting features in the tunnel, along with 2 installation spaces and a permanent wall installation, hollow chiming balls that produce a gentle ringing sound inspired by Eastern meditation tools.



SENSORY AWARENESS
There is priority bicycle access with ample of bike storage on site, which is not only carbon free, but reduces noise pollution. The EXO Project bathes the senses with nature and through nature to allow for a strengthened connection with the natural world.



PARAMETRIC PLAZA



PUBLIC ART

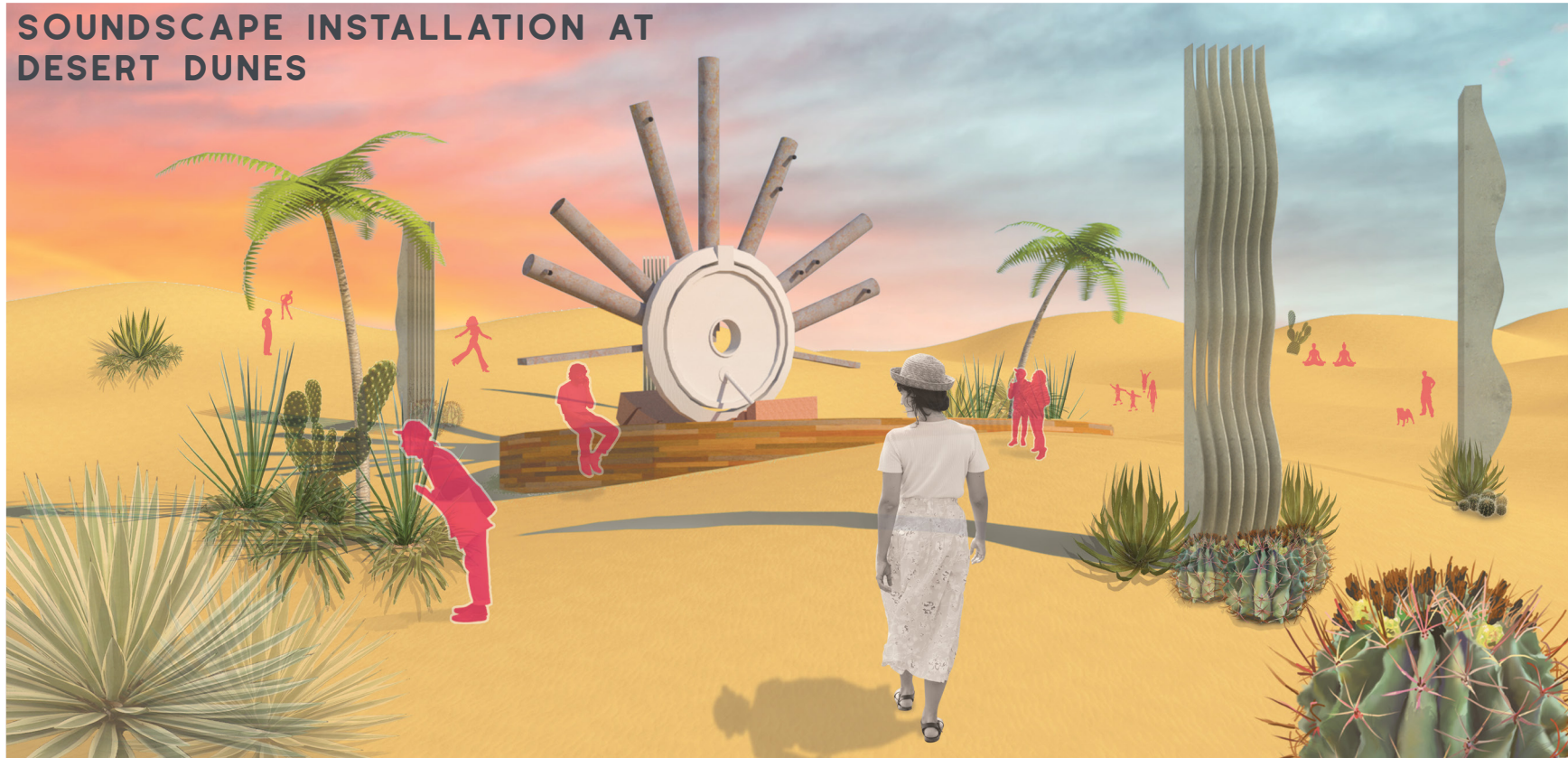
The EXO Project will collaborate with local artists to erect temporary public art, along with permanent art installations around the site. Central Saint Martins is minutes from the site, thus students and artists alike will have a venue for experiments and creations to be experienced by the community. There are various headquarters of highly regarded tech giants, such as Google and Samsung in close proximity of the site, many of whom will be enjoying the place, thus, an additional community project may be to work with local tech companies to develop virtual public art, which is a rapidly evolving medium of art.

PUBLIC ART MAP



- TEMPORARY ART INSTALLATION
- PERMANENT ART INSTALLATION

SOUNDSCAPE INSTALLATION AT DESERT DUNES



DESERT DUNES

Each zone is seen as an opportunity for a differing planting style, thus, the assortment of plants are highly diverse. The site is located in a plant hardiness Zone 9A, with strong sun exposure. Inspired by the singing sand dunes of the Mojave Desert and Mediterranean planting design, the Desert Dunes contains soundscape elements scattered throughout the zone. The rendered public art is an instrument for the natural element of air to captivate visitors by engaging various senses. The vibrational harmonies are exhibited to pique interest and invoke exploration within an urban setting.

