



Neochorion Cemetery

A Stop or The Destination?
Seeking for Answers in Pelion Landscape



Country / City **Greece / Thessaloniki**

University / School **Aristotle University of Thessaloniki / Joint Postgraduate Program of Landscape Architecture - Technical School & Agriculture**

Academic year **2019-2020**

Title of the project **Neochorion Cemetery. A Stop or The Destination? Seeking for Answers in Pelion Landscape**

Authors **Styliani Margkarian - Athanasiadou / Alexandros Bantogias**

TECHNICAL DOSSIER

Title of the project	Neochorion Cemetery. A Stop or The Destination? Seeking for Answers in Pelion Landscape
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Title of the course	Architectural design and Landscape
Academic year	2019-2020
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Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

Our project location, the Cemetery of Neochorion, is located in Pelion, a mountain region in the central Greece. The nature seems to be almost untouched by human and the villages are built in a traditional, almost picturesque way, making it challenging to interfere in the existing landscape.

The design was based mainly on the existing natural elements such as terrain relief, plants and streams. The element of water was connected with the creation of small lakes and raingardens, which both follow the terrain relief. As we go down the pathway to the cemetery the water is moving, while when we reach the cemetery the water has a more static character. The flow and immobility of water is mentally linked with the idea of life and death, which helps the visitors to understand better the place they are stepping on.

The preservation of the forest was also something important for us, since it holds the cemetery square and consists of memorial trees. For the suggested plants we chose those that already existed in the area of Neochorion, or that were capable of surviving in the conditions of this specific area. Cypress is, also, used all along the pathway as an element which foreshadows the walker for the existence of a cemetery at the end of the path since the specific tree is connected with death and the cemeteries by Greek mythology.

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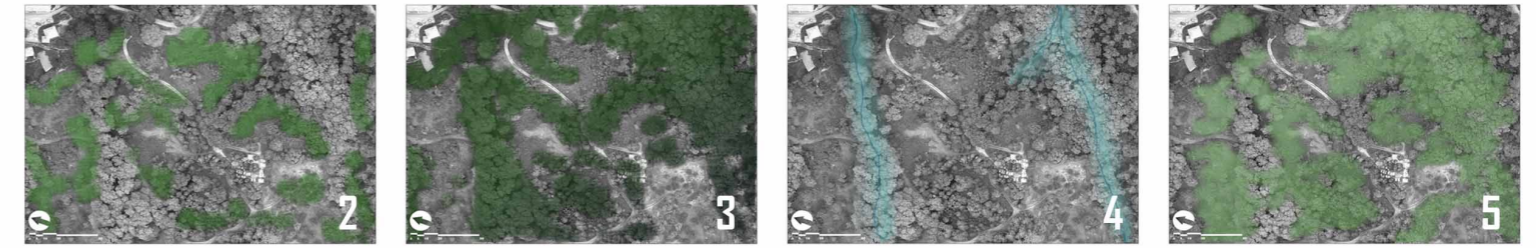
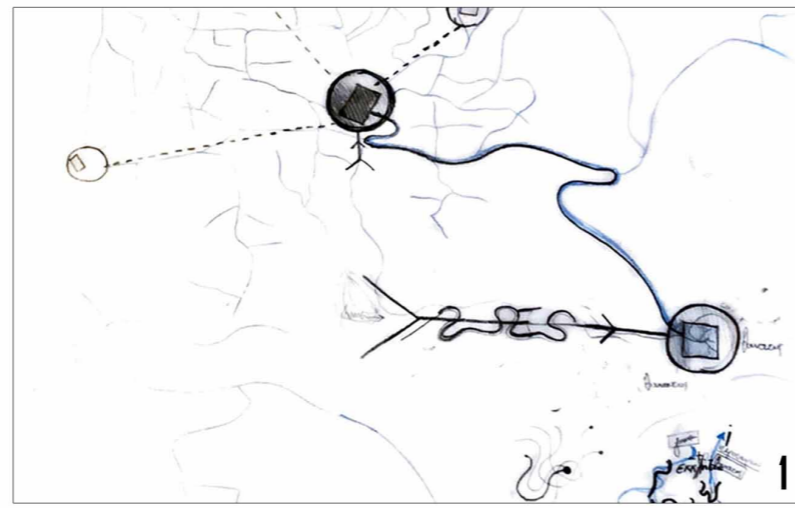
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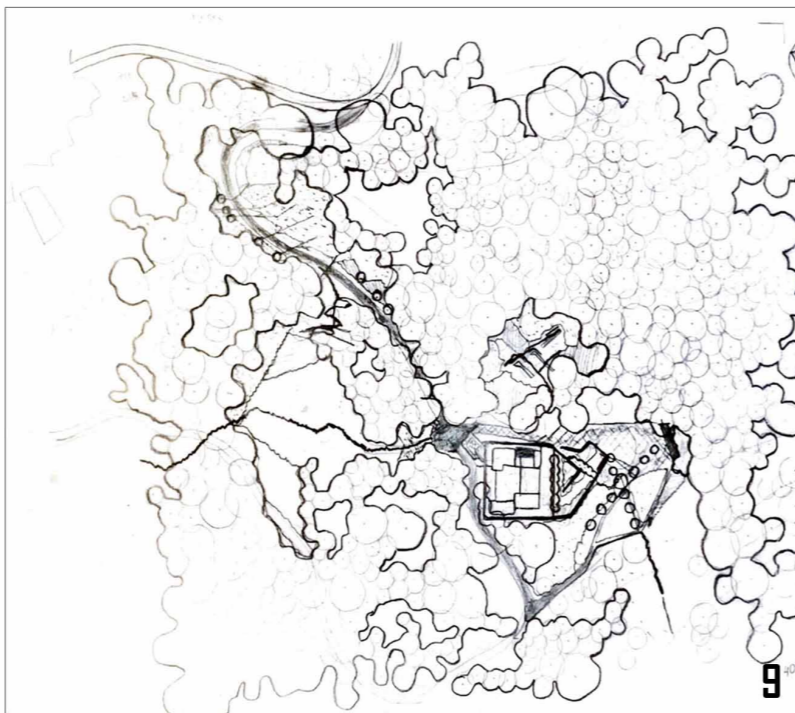
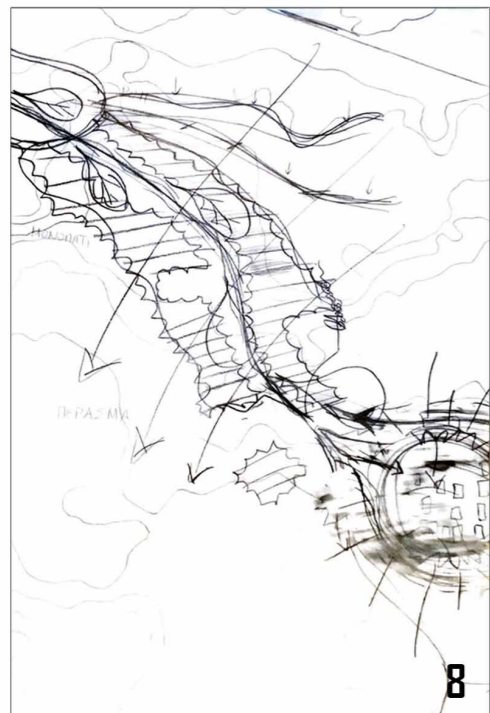
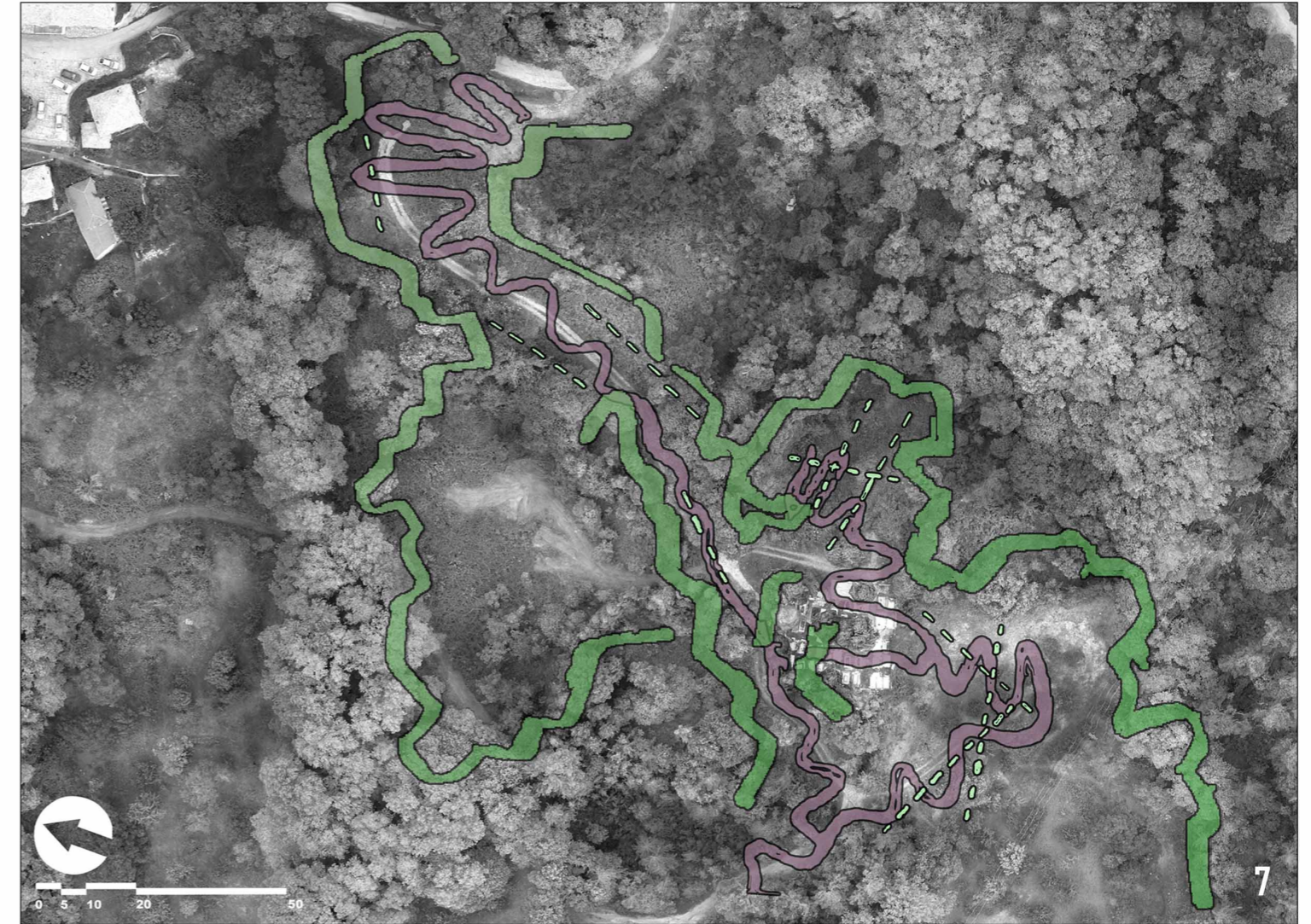
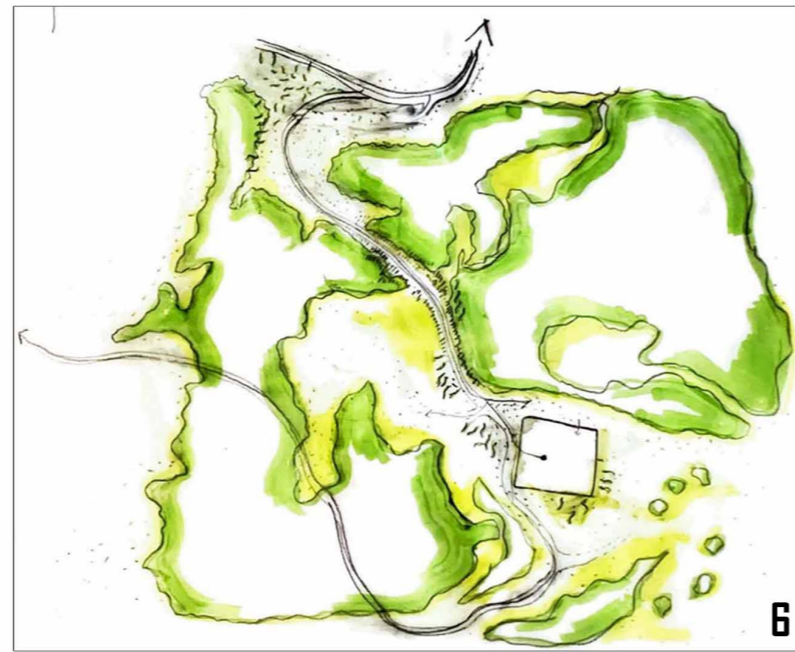


Neochorion Cemetery

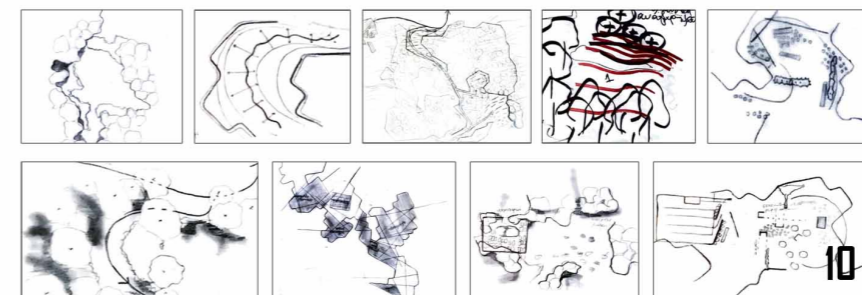
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Cemetery is called the space intended for the burial of the dead. This space, and its adjoining, are arranged, placed and separated on the terrain relief from boundaries that exist. Boundaries, as semiotic elements, can be natural, constructed-structured or imaginary and they define the continuity or discontinuity of the individual spaces. Occasioned by this architectural theoretical principle, an attempt was made on deciphering, deconstructing and understanding the wider landscape of cemeteries in Neochori, Pelion, as the starting point for the design. Furthermore, the innate question that was born to us about its 'users' (as these are the living relatives, the dead and the visitors of the place) prompted us to the unexpected but necessary, for the design process, search for the answer if this space is a STOP or a DESTINATION. Based on this question if space is used as a stop users return to everyday life, it is just a passage for them. While for the dead it is a destination as they return from there where they began, according to the ancient greek phrase 'Χοις εις και εις χοιυ καταλευσε'. Finally, the landscape itself creates boundaries and is a tool for design with the patterns of natural elements (vegetation, relief, materials) to play the dominant factor.



Site Analysis & Concept Process
Studying the natural and structured environment of the cemeteries of Neochori, Pelion, in relation to the wider landscape (images 2-6) but also in relation to the village of Neochori itself (image 1) so that its results to reconcile with the conceptual idea and the search for the role of the cemetery (image 7-10).





Masterplan

Cemetery of Neochorion Village

Legend

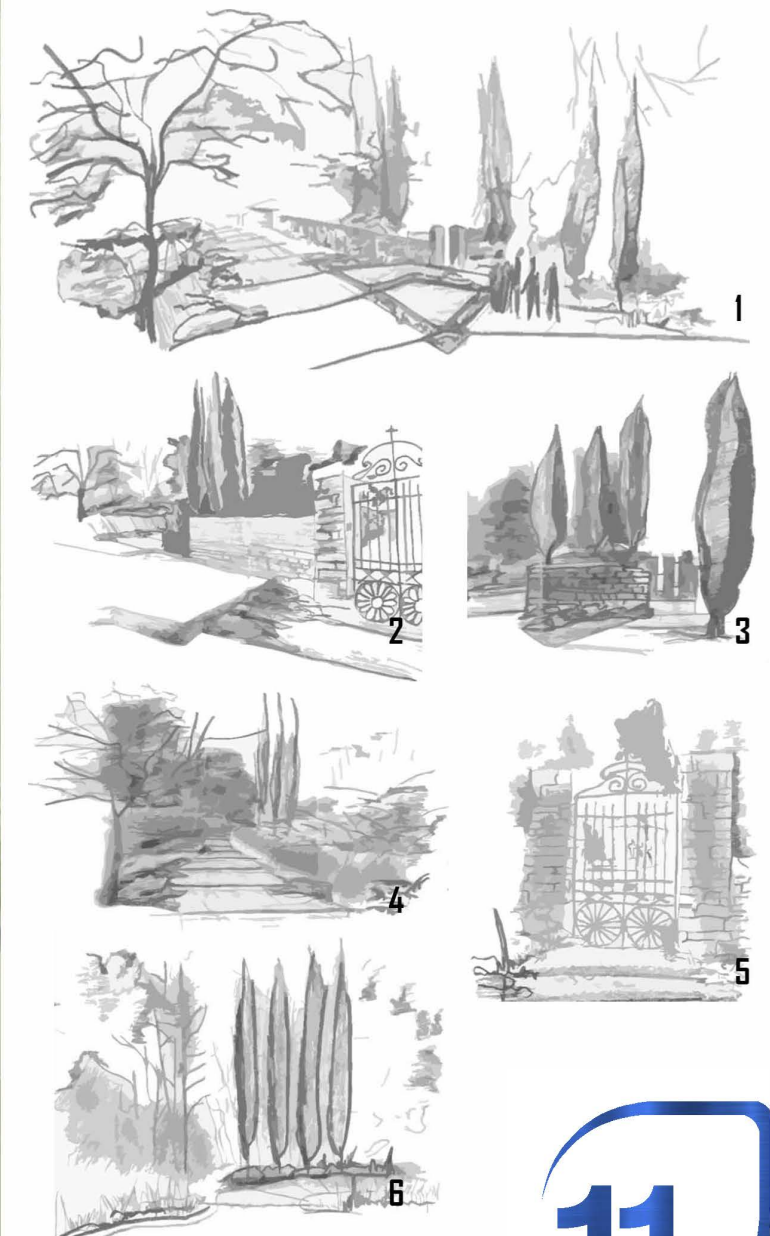
- a** Main Entrance
- b** Observatory of Nature
- c** Cemetery Square
- d** Cemetery Backyard
- e** Memorial Rest area - Raingarden
- f** Cemetery

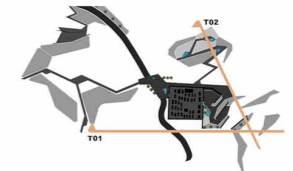
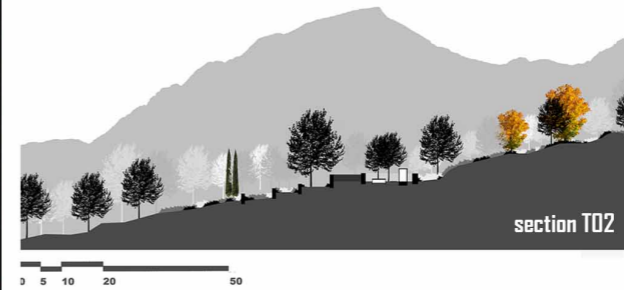
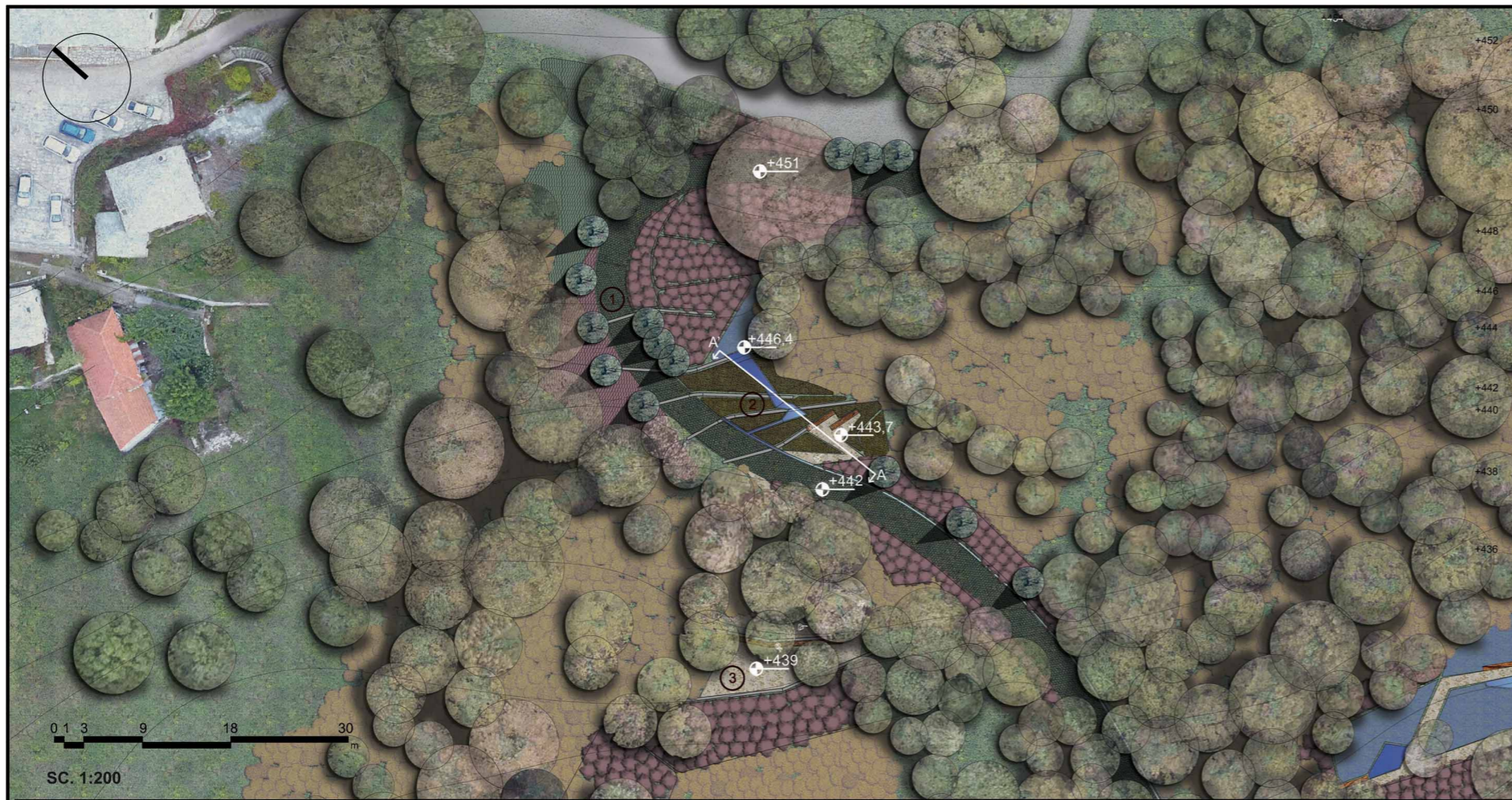
Hard Materials

- road
- cobblestone
- stone
- pebble
- wooden seats
- retaining wall
- cemetery wall

Soft Materials

- existing trees
- existing shrubs
- shrub planting 1
- shrub planting 2
- shrub planting 3
- annual planting
- raingarden planting





LEGEND	USES		HARD MATERIALS		PLANTING		Cemetery Entrance Masterplan
	1. PATHWAY TO CEMETERY	ROAD ASPHALT	EXISTING	SUGGESTED	PLANT LAND COVER	PLANT LAND COVER	
	2. RAINGARDEN	PAVEMENT	PLANT LAND COVER	MIXTURE OF SHRUBS	MIXTURE OF SHRUBS	TREES	
3. NATURE OBSERVATORY	PEBBLE	TREES	HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS	HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS	HYDROPHYLLIC		
OTHER ITEMS		SEATS					
		RETAINING WALLS					
		LAKELIKE WATERFALL					
		WATER CHANNEL					

a/a	Evergreen	Deciduous	Plant Category	Botanical Name	Characteristics	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1			Tree	Platanus orientalis	Waterphillic												
2			Tree	Castanea sativa	Wildlife-friendly												
3			Tree	Cupressus sempervirens	Mental connection to cemeteries												
4			Tree	Rubus idaeus	Therapeutic and eatable plant												
5			Shrub	Rubus ulmifolius	Therapeutic and eatable plant												
6			Shrub	Arbutus andrachne	Wildlife-friendly												
7			Shrub	Phytolacca decandra	Poisonous plant												
8			Shrub	Daphne gnidium	Poisonous plant												
9			Shrub	Pteridium aquilinum													
10			Annual & Perennial	Cyclamen graecum													
11			Annual & Perennial	Mentha spicata	Mental connection to cemeteries												
12			Annual & Perennial	Viola odorata													
13			Annual & Perennial	Veronica chamaedrys													
14			Annual & Perennial	Cardamine bulbifera													
15			Annual & Perennial	Vinca herbacea													
16			Climbing plant	Clematis viticella	Wildlife-friendly												
17			Climbing plant	Hedera helix subsp. helix													
18			Climbing plant	Parthenocissus quinquefolia													
19			Climbing plant	Clematis vitalba	Wildlife-friendly												