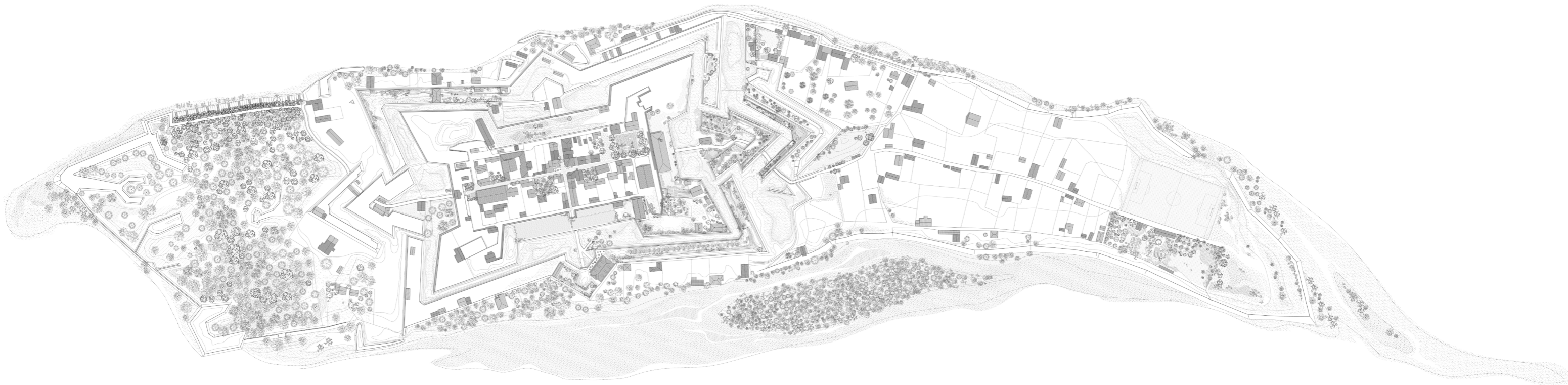




*The Lost Island of Ada Kaleh*

44°42'58"N 22°27'20"E



*Graphical reconstruction of the island collapsing information from a multitude of time frames  
Original dimensions of the drawing: 3100 x 914 mm*

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Country / City ..... Norway / Oslo  
University / School ..... Oslo School of Architecture and Design  
Academic year ..... 2019  
Title of the project ..... The Enchanted Gardens of Ada Kaleh  
Authors ..... Silvia Mihaela Diaconu

## TECHNICAL DOSSIER

Title of the project	The Enchanted Gardens of Ada Kaleh
Authors	Silvia Mihaela Diaconu
Title of the course	Master Diploma Project
Academic year	2019
Teaching Staff	Luis Callejas, Janike Kampevold Larsen & Tuva Maire Øvsthus (external)
Department/Section/Program of belonging	Institute of Urbanism and Landscape
University/School	Oslo School of Architecture and Design



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

Ada-Kaleh was an ancient island on the Danube, between Serbia and Romania, inhabited by a Turkish community descending from the old defenders of the Ottoman Empire. This landscape, described as an utopia with the qualities of an immense lush garden where people used to live in harmony, was destroyed and flooded by the Romanian communist government in 1970, leaving behind pieces of collective memory.

The island inspired stories, myths and exaggerations. The only trace left of this entire cultural landscape is an impressive archive of documents, paintings, surveys, and writings. The work, as a whole, is a celebration of this archive.

The project is a multi-layered unfolding of the archive, formulated as a series of attempts to augment the spatial imaginary of Ada Kaleh. It proposes an experimental recovery of the submerged island using investigation, curatorial work, graphic reconstruction, and fragmentary architectural interventions.

These methodologies respond to the identity of the site and its remembrance, creating an alter-ego of the island.

The name of the project references Ferdinand Bac's "Jardins Enchantés" - a book about an imaginary journey through 36 gardens inspired from his own designs. This is the departure point of the project, because it illustrates a highly unexplored connection between physical and imaginary space, that have the potential to enhance and expand each other. The project is an investigation on how spatial narratives and artistic curation could contribute to conveying the essence of cultures in peril. It experiments with the intertwining of cultural production and cultural preservation processes.

For further information  
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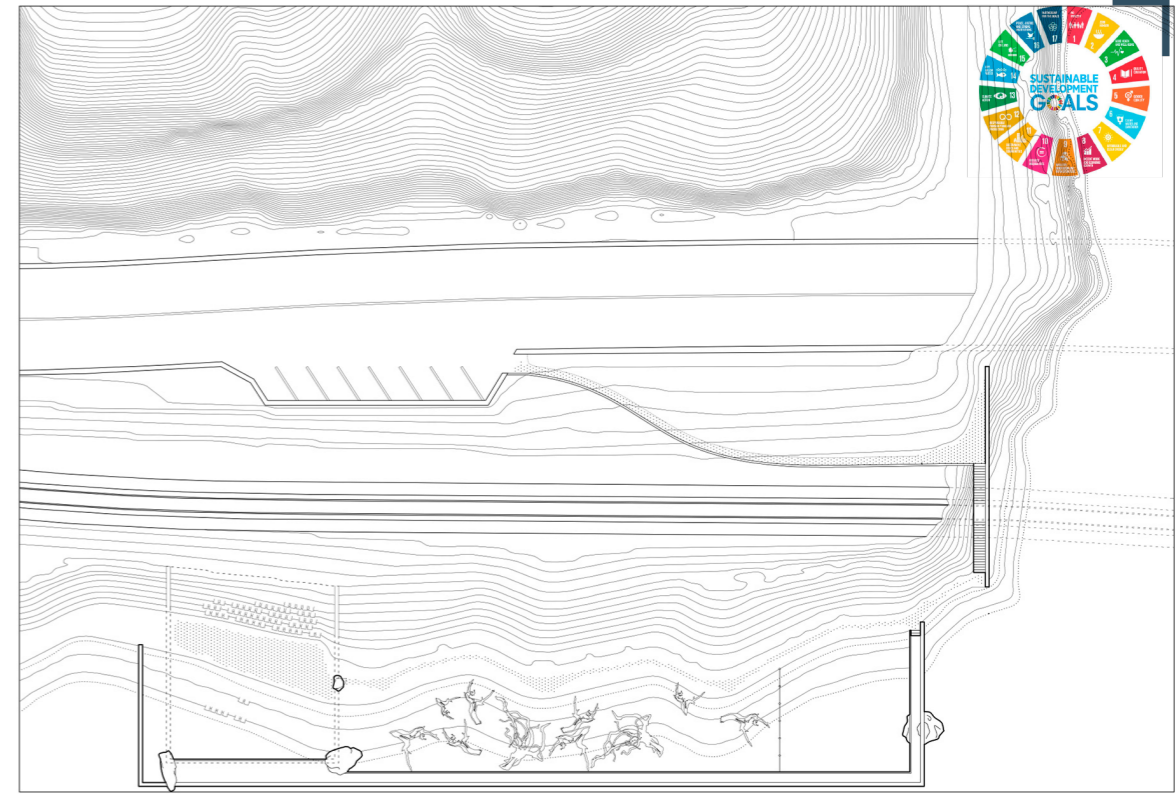
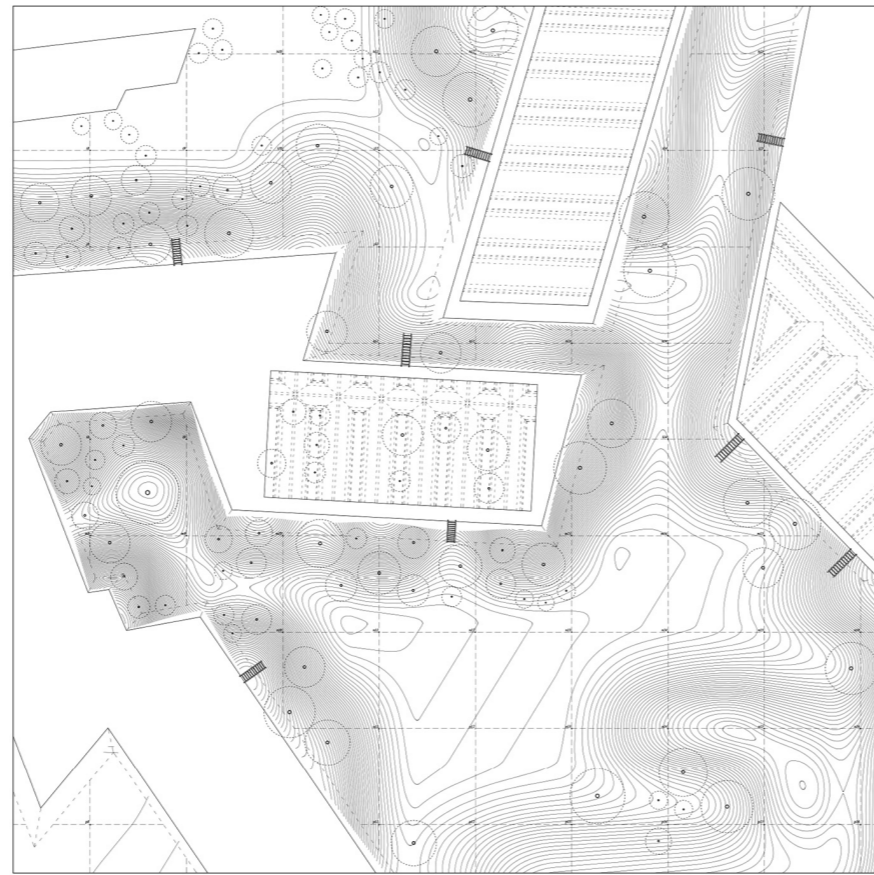
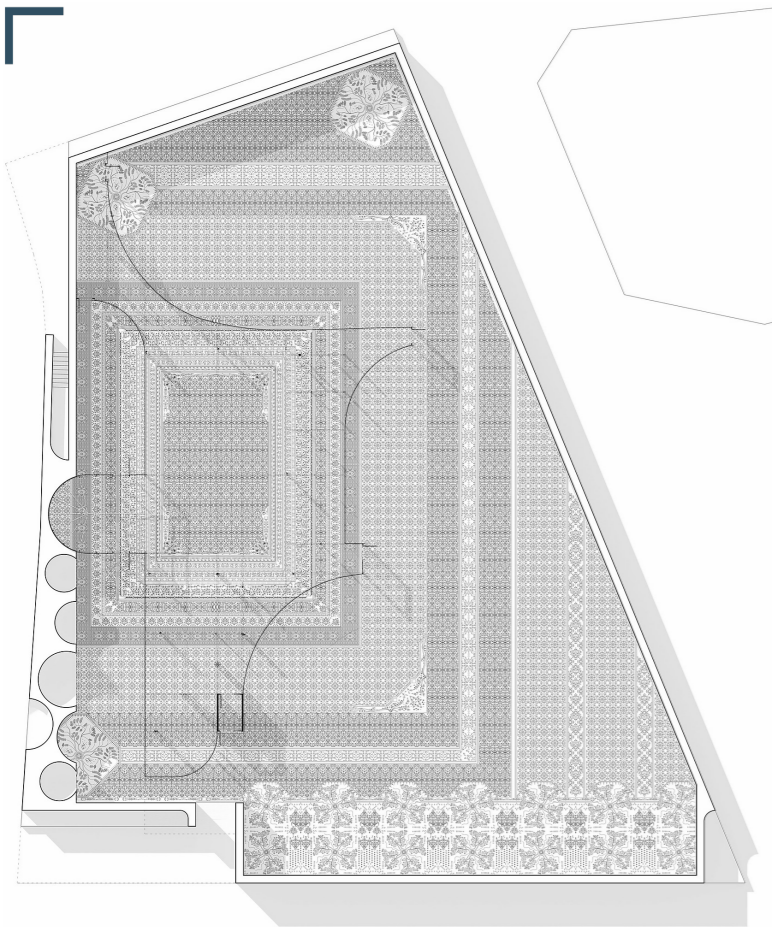


# CLIMATE CHANGE AGAIN

11th International Biennial Landscape Barcelona

Barcelona September 2020  
SCHOOL PRIZE





02

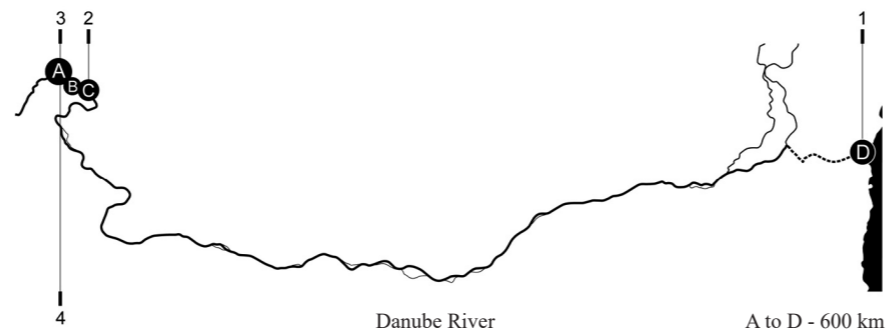
03



01

Intervention	Artifact	Location
01 The Embroidered Garden of Delights	the carpet	D. Constanta
02 The Garden of Deceit	the transplanted fortress	C. Simian Island
03 The Water Garden	the old wharf	A. 44°43'15"N 22°27'07"E
04 The Garden of the Giants	the void in the landscape	A. 44°42'40"N 22°27'19"E B. The Iron Gates Power Plant

04

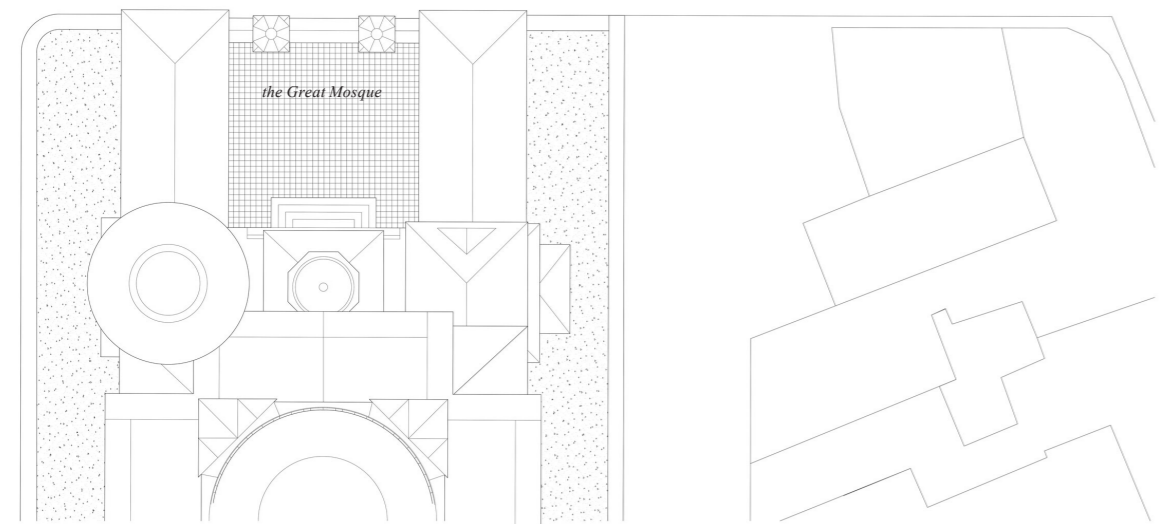
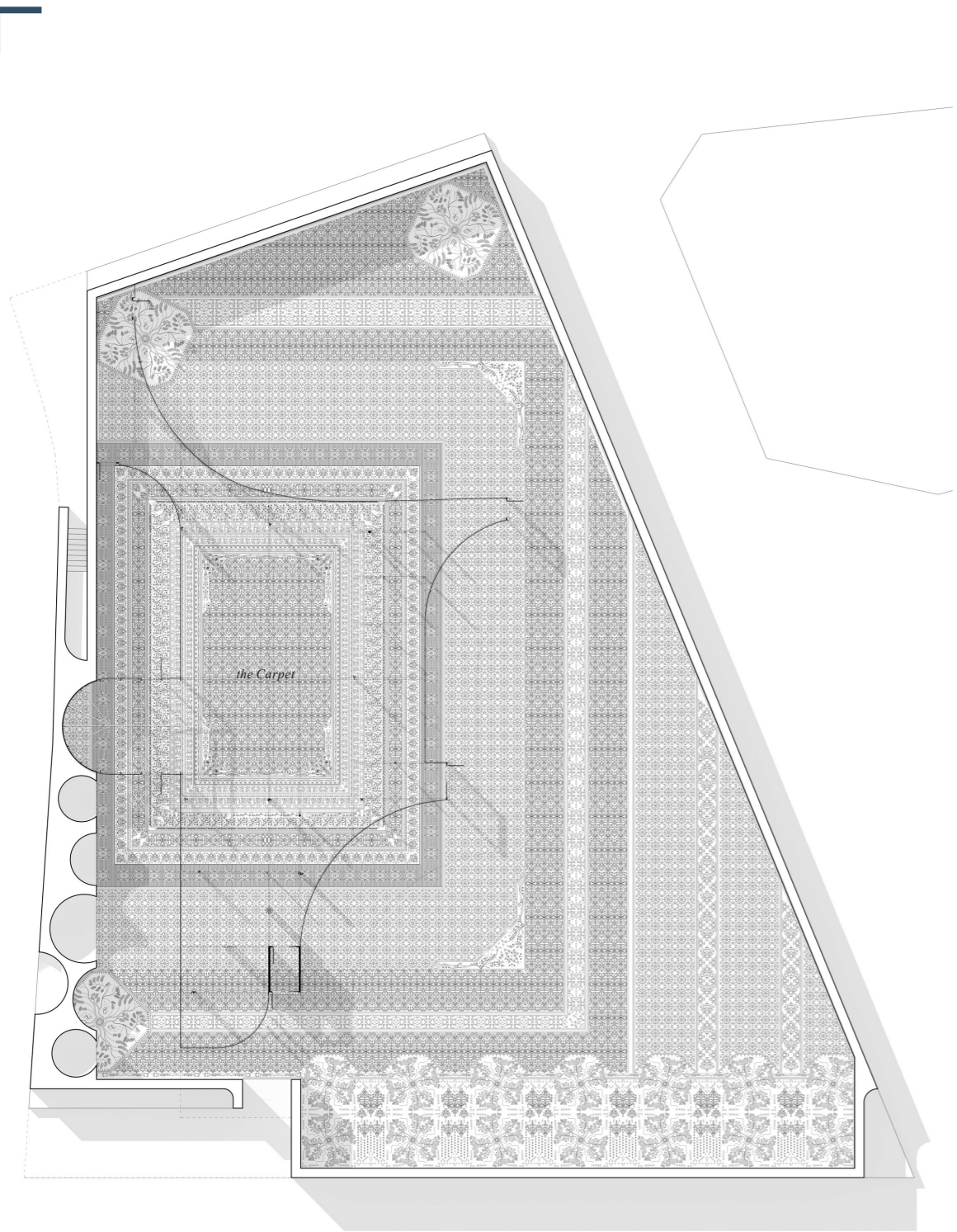


Since the destruction of the island, the community has been displaced and the artifacts have been hosted in new locations. The project proposed punctual interventions in each of these locations, using transplant and interpretation as design methods. Knowledge gained from "learning" the island is applied in these sites. They become test grounds for re-learning sustainable landscape principles of water management and efficient land exploitation that were extensively used by the community of the island.

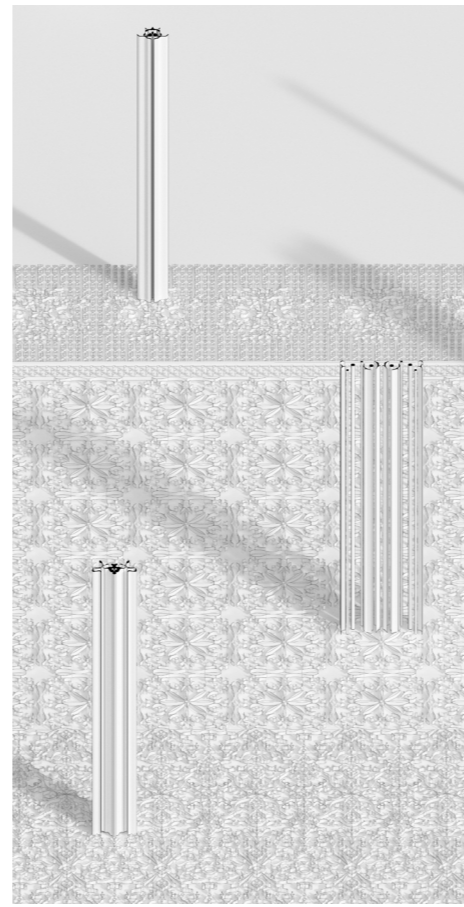
Bottom left and right: Photographs from the island.  
Source: private collections of the former inhabitants



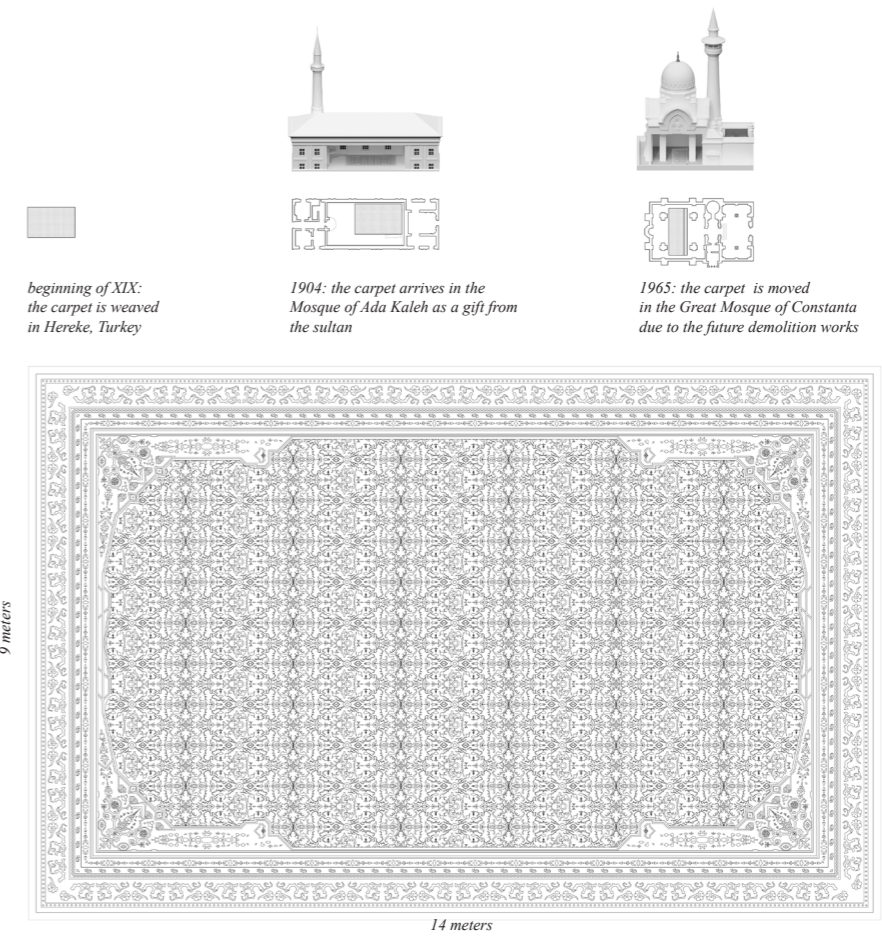




Plan of the Embroidered Garden of Delights. Location: Constanta (D)

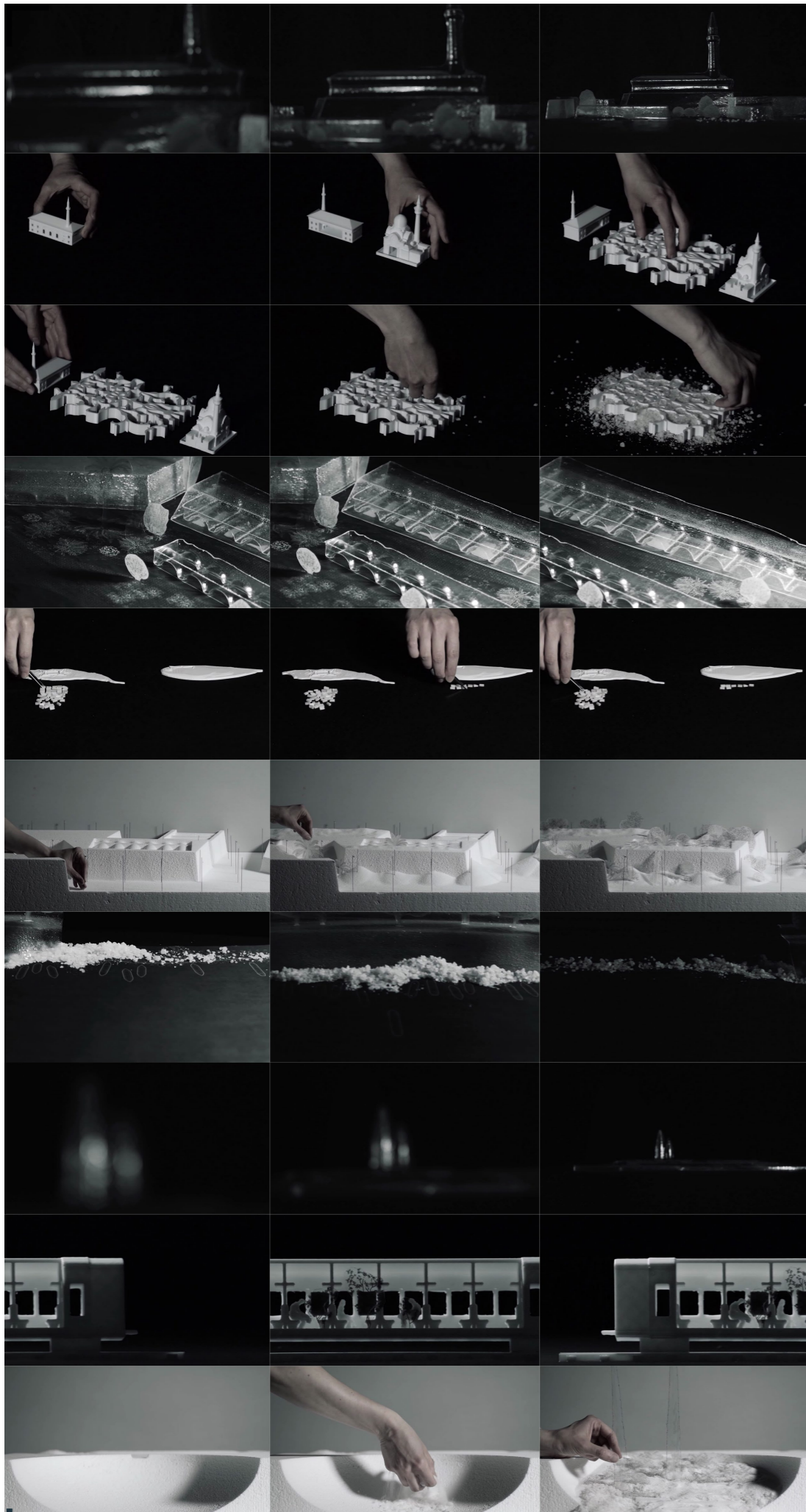


Detail: The garden grows from the carpet



01. The Embroidered Garden of Delights  
an enclosure protecting the carpet, that recreates the collective memory and atmosphere of the island through vegetation and offers the host city a new public garden.





The film was used as a poetic tool to jump from the imaginary space of the island to the proposed interventions, critically visualizing all the steps of the process.



### 02. The Garden of Deceit

a light and scenographic landscape intervention on the fragment of the old fortress transplanted on Simian Island in 1968. The goal is to frame the ruin as a transplanted ground and to establish a space for experimental agricultural techniques learned from the island and to test the resilience of new plant species (referenced in myths and stories about Ada Kaleh) in the changing climate.

### 03. The Water Garden

-a device for isolating the area of the river where the old wharf used to be. It exposes the water level variations and orients the viewer towards the emptiness that replaced the island.

### 04. The Garden of the Giants

-sited across from the water garden, this large brutal semisphere isolates an iconic fragment of the island defined in memories by three cypress trees.

