

TECHNICAL DOSSIER

Title of the project Touristic Connections and Reflections in Platanias, Crete: Re-weaving the Urban Fabric through Play.
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Title of the course Diploma Thesis
Academic year 2020-2021
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Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

The project explores the emergence of an urban incubator by establishing unexpected connections between play and suburban fragments, altering the spatial character of mass tourism in Crete. Platanias, a coastal region in Crete, features a linear landscape dominated by hotels, shops, and restaurants. The investigation reveals two contrasting residential areas: an initial hilltop acropolis and a modern extension along the coastline. These areas are oriented towards the main arteries of the Road and the Beach. The dominance of mass tourism in Northern Crete relies on the region's diverse identities and options. Visitors can find familiar experiences at American diners, sushi places, or Scandinavian bars. However, they remain tourists seeking consumption and entertainment. To address this, the project introduces play and playfulness as tools to understand, analyze, and partially reconstruct the theme park-like environment. French sociologist Roger Caillois examines four types of play - competition, chance, simulation, and vertigo - showcasing how playfulness can bypass dominant narratives and redefine the relationship between possibility and limit. Just as behaviors and meanings in cities are in constant flux, design processes can embrace non-functional, fleeting, and uncertain elements. Through unexpected correlations between play and suburban fragments, a new intermittent spatial mechanism emerges, reinterpreting the existing site conditions. Critical points and paths are redefined, and structural elements and landscapes frame a playful design that organizes or dialectically reverses symptomatic aspects.

For further information

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12th International Biennial Landscape Barcelona

Barcelona October 2023

SCHOOL PRIZE

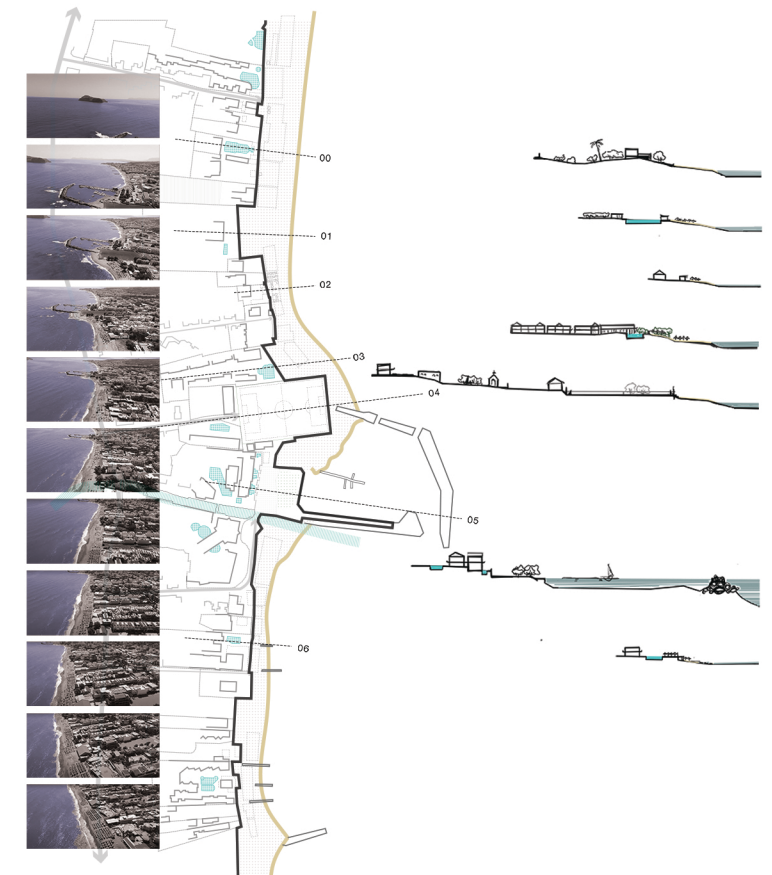
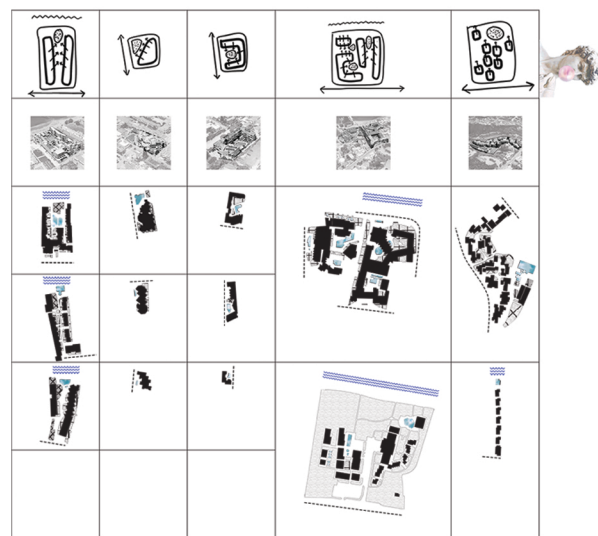
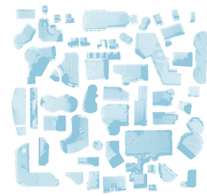
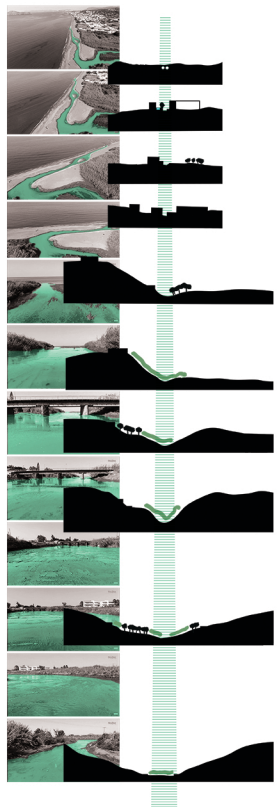
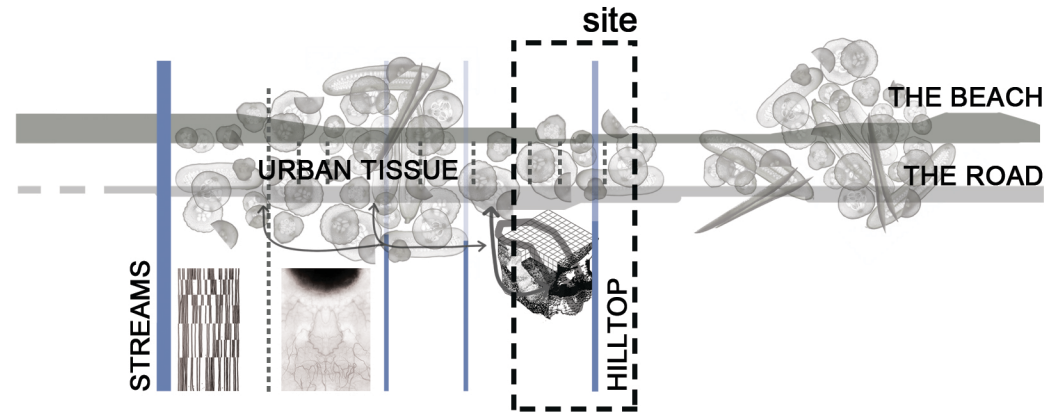
a. database

Introducing the "ark of tourism".

The small coastal town of Platanias, situated in the popular tourist region of Crete, features a consistent linear arrangement of hotels, shops, and restaurants, creating a homogeneous landscape. When examining the factors contributing to the development of this hybrid location, two contrasting residential areas emerge:

- an original spatial core situated atop a hill,
- complemented by a contemporary extension that stretches along the coastline.

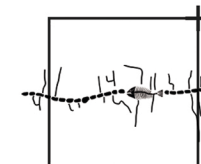
Both of these areas are oriented towards the main "backbones" of the urban ensemble: the Road and the Beach.



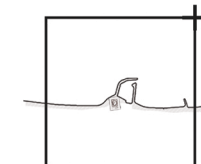
STREAMS
The inactive flows of water.



URBAN TISSUE
The hotel plankton.



THE ROAD
The "backbone" of informal public space.



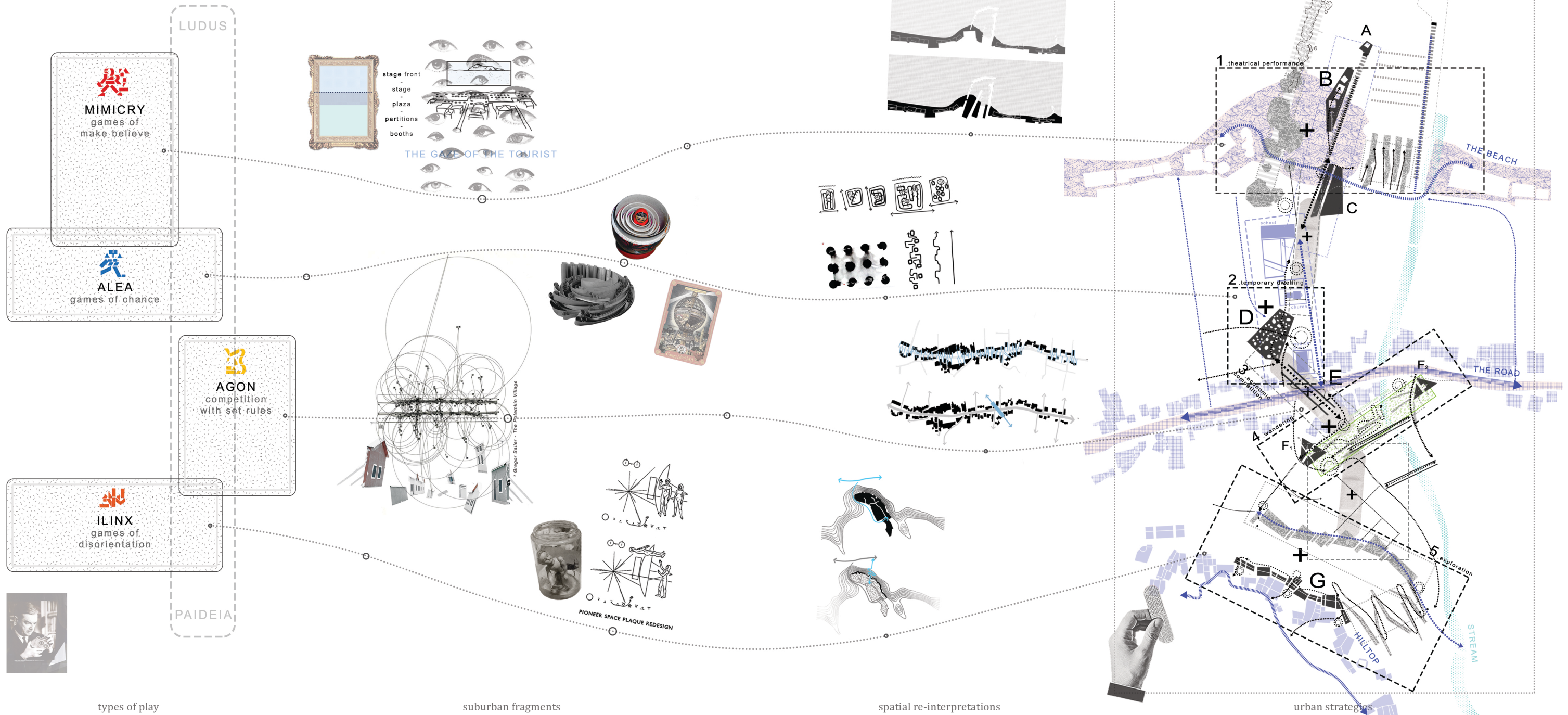
THE BEACH
The theatrical curtain of summer vacations.

b. scenarios

Interpreting “play” as rhythm and arrhythmia.

The concepts of play and playfulness as valuable tools for comprehending, examining, and partially reconstructing the aforementioned Disney theme park. French sociologist Roger Caillois explores four categories of play: competition, chance, simulation, and vertigo. He demonstrates how playfulness enables us to circumvent the dominant narratives of a place and redefine the relationships between possibility and limitation.

Consequently, by establishing unforeseen connections between different types of play and suburban fragments, a novel transverse, zig-zag, intermittent spatial mechanism emerges. This mechanism reinterprets and recontextualizes the existing conditions of the site.

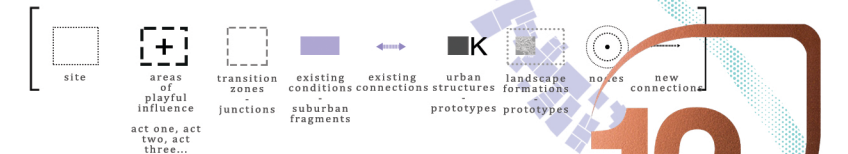


types of play

suburban fragments

spatial re-interpretations

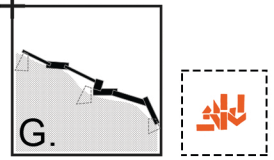
urban strategies



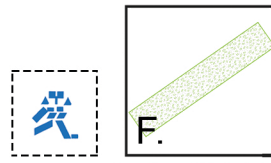
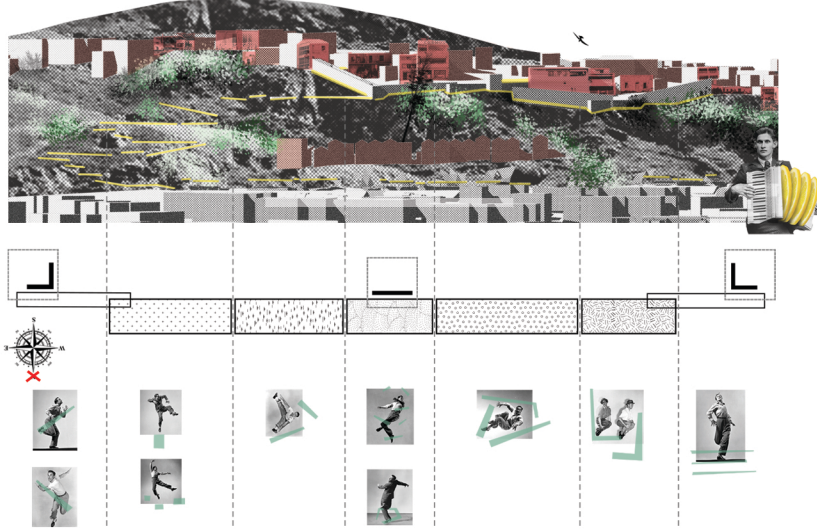
c. a new urban incubator

Establishing a new coherent fragmentation.

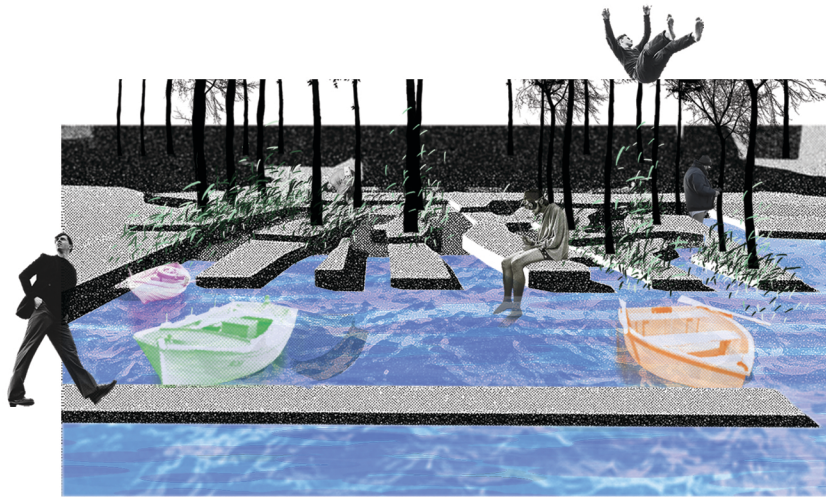
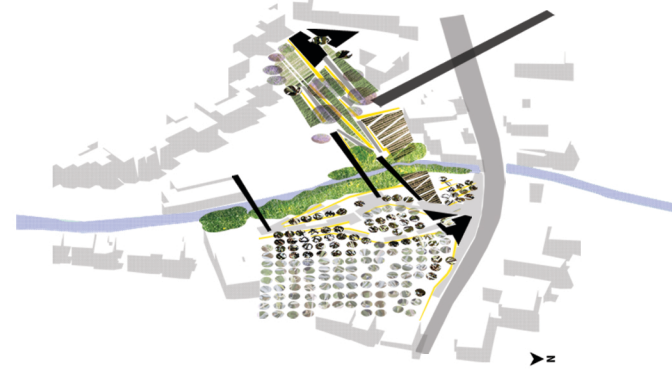
Within the intermediate spaces, which currently exist in a dormant state in terms of their functions, forms, topographies, and temporal aspects, critical points and pathways are redefined and enclosed by urban structures and landscape formations. This results in the creation of a dynamic and playful design that either organizes the existing symptomatic elements or dialectically reverses them.



The terracing of the hillside.



Garden District.



The seaside puppet theater.

