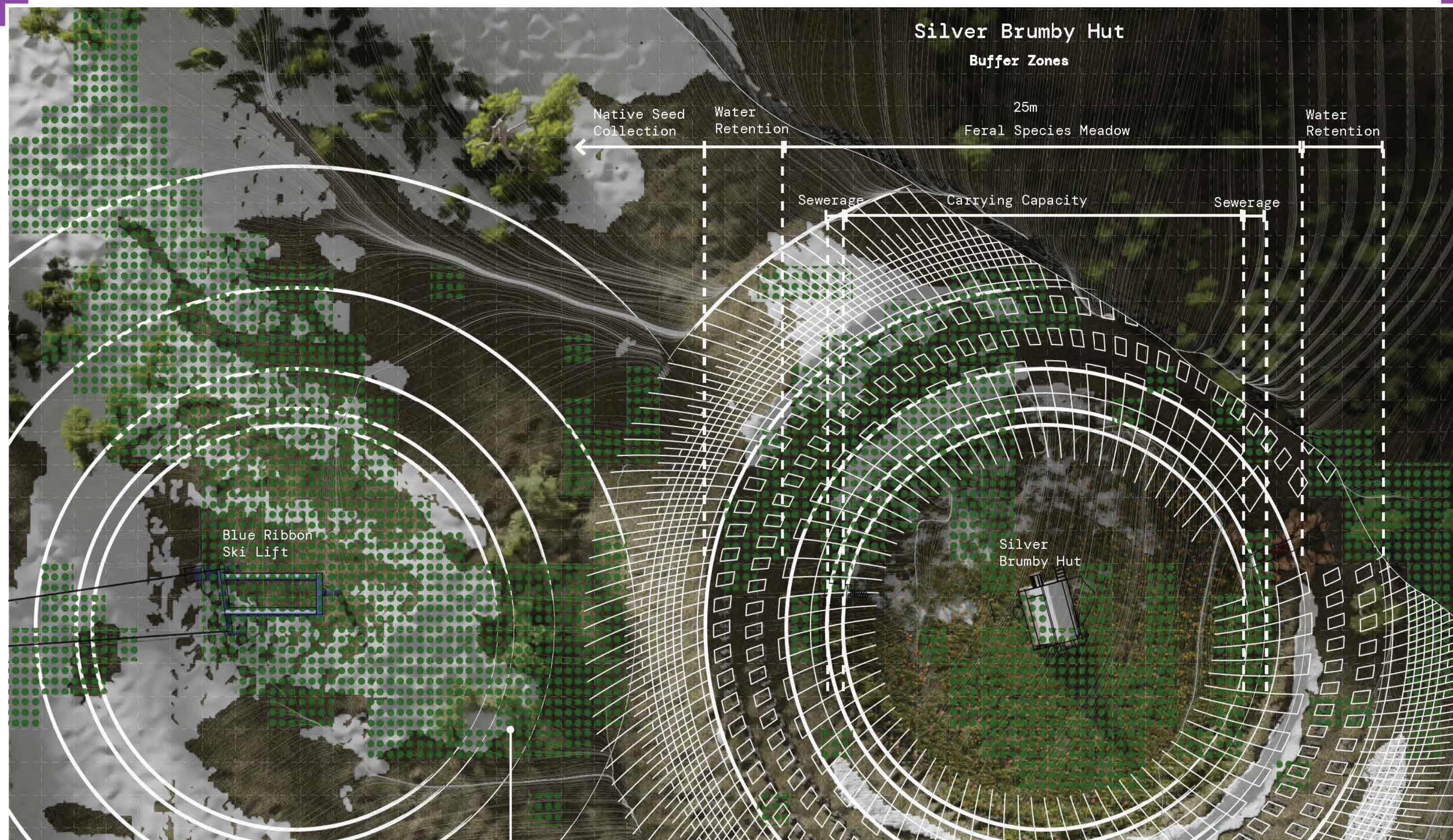




The nominated projects were selected from the Master of Landscape Architecture at RMIT University. These capstone projects represent a year-long, independently-driven enquiry, in which students critically investigate pressing contemporary and future challenges through the lens of landscape architectural design. Projects were selected based on their design quality, innovation, contemporary relevance, and resolution. Each demonstrates a clear and coherent design vision, spatial intelligence, and sensitivity to material, ecological and socio-cultural contexts. Innovation was a defining quality, with students developing novel methods, frameworks, or representational techniques to extend the boundaries of landscape architectural thinking and practice. Thematically, the selected projects engage with urgent issues such as climate adaptation, material responsibility, urban transformation, and socio-ecological justice, positioning landscape architects as active agents of change. Technical resolution was also a key consideration, with short-listed projects displaying a high level of design refinement, analytical rigour, and communicative clarity. As a body of work, these projects exemplify the potential of design research to interrogate and expand the discipline of landscape architecture, and to propose creative, critical and impactful contributions to the built and living environment.

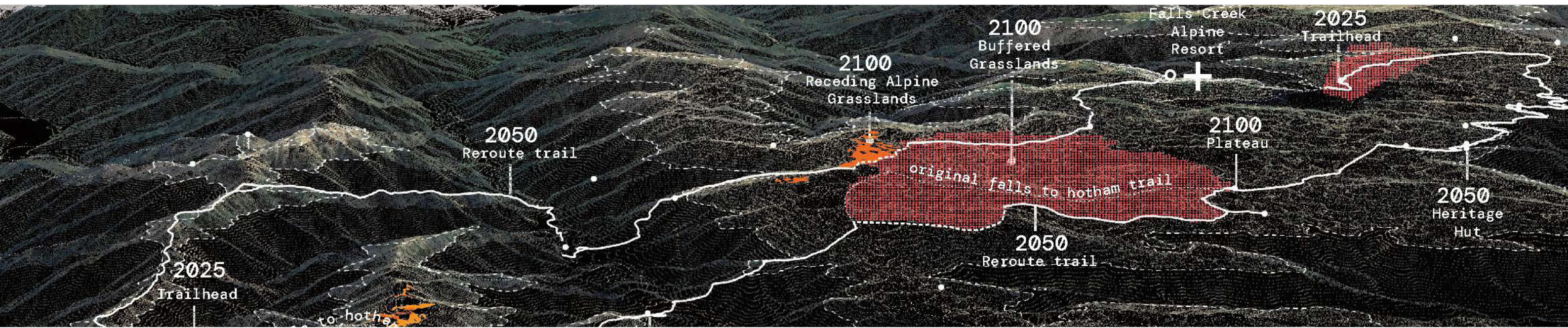
2050

2100



Country/City	Melbourne, Australia
University / School	RMIT University
Academic year	2024
Title of the project	Feral Futures: Tools and Tactics to Regenerate Alpine Sky-Islands
Authors	Emma Croker

Title of the project	Feral Futures: Tools and Tactics to Regenerate Alpine Sky-Islands
Authors	Emma Croker
Title of the course	Landscape Architecture Design Research Project B
Academic year	2024
Teaching Staff	Elise Northover & Dr Maj Plemenitas
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Master of Landscape Architecture
	School of Architecture and Urban Design
University / School	RMIT University



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

Feral Futures explores how data-driven design can support climate resilience in Australia’s alpine bioregion. As the snowline retreats and alpine grasslands become fragmented into “sky islands,” the region faces mounting tensions between ecological preservation, trail tourism, and the collapse of snow-dependent resort economies. Traversing this terrain, the Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing presents a unique opportunity to reimagine infrastructure, regenerate alpine ecosystems, and reframe the region’s future.

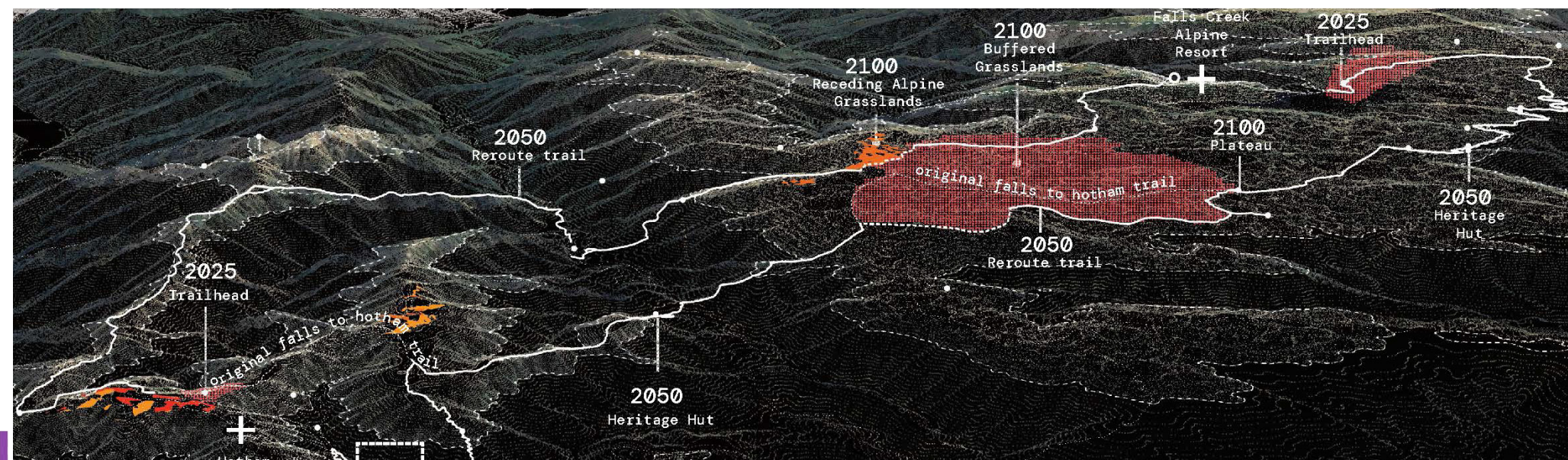
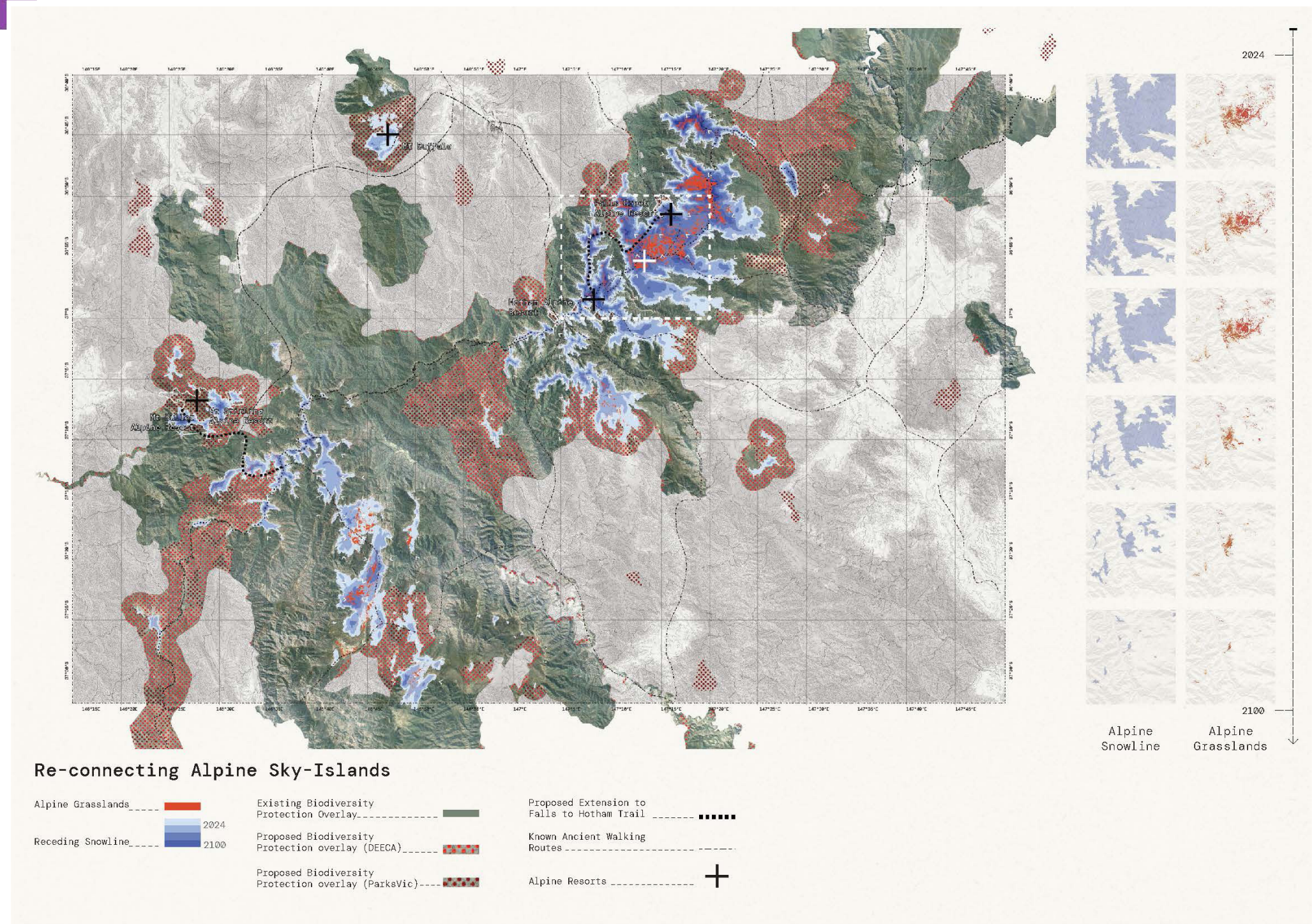
The project tests tools such as real-time environmental sensors and erosion-deposition simulators to inform trail redesign and ecological restoration. Hiking routes are shifted and extended to connect alpine resorts, while ski lifts, heritage huts, and trailheads are reimaged as active nodes in grassland regeneration. Modified topographies create microclimates suited to native alpine species, while sloped seed-catching boardwalks control invasive spread and promote resilience. Scientific monitoring of carbon dioxide, soil moisture, and temperature is embedded within the trail infrastructure to track ecological shifts over time, allowing for adaptive management.

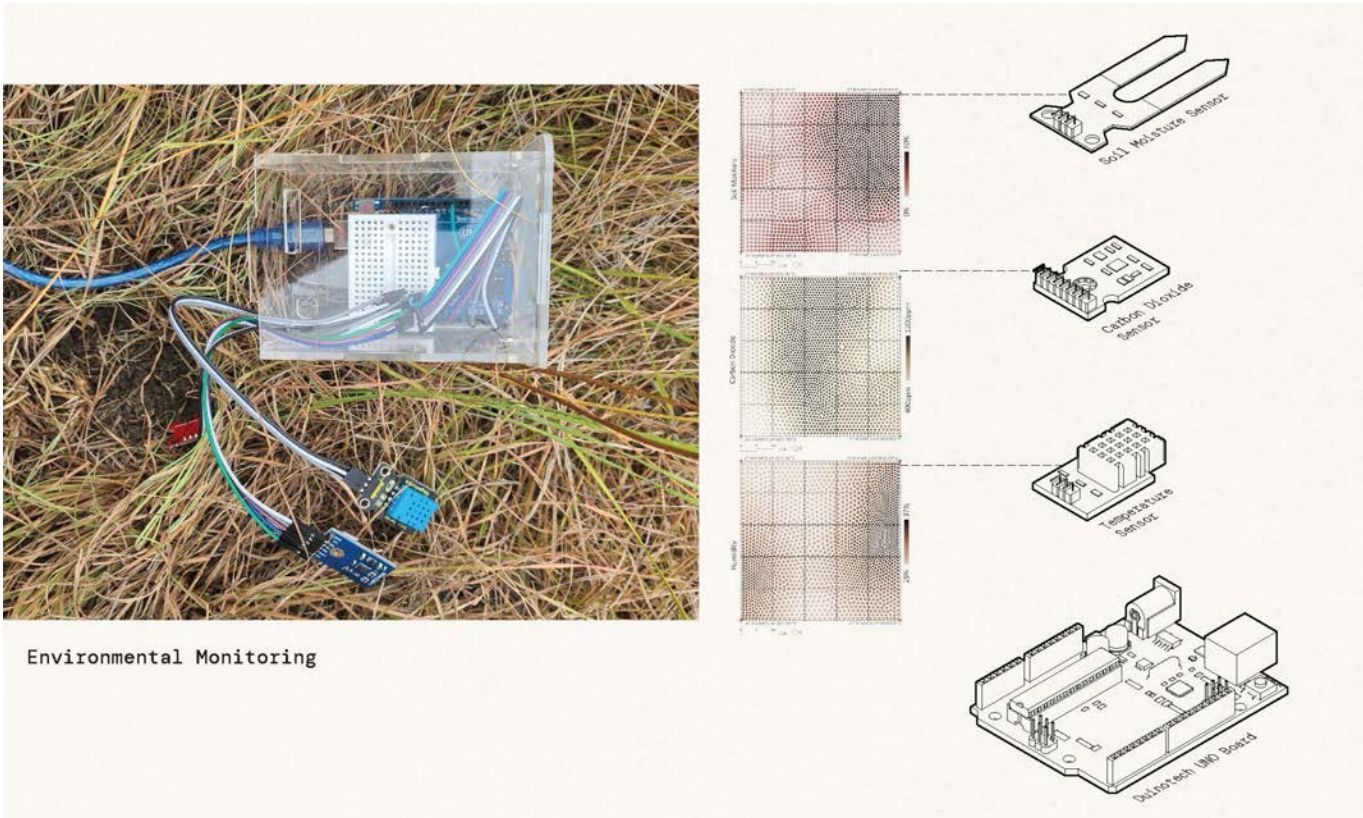
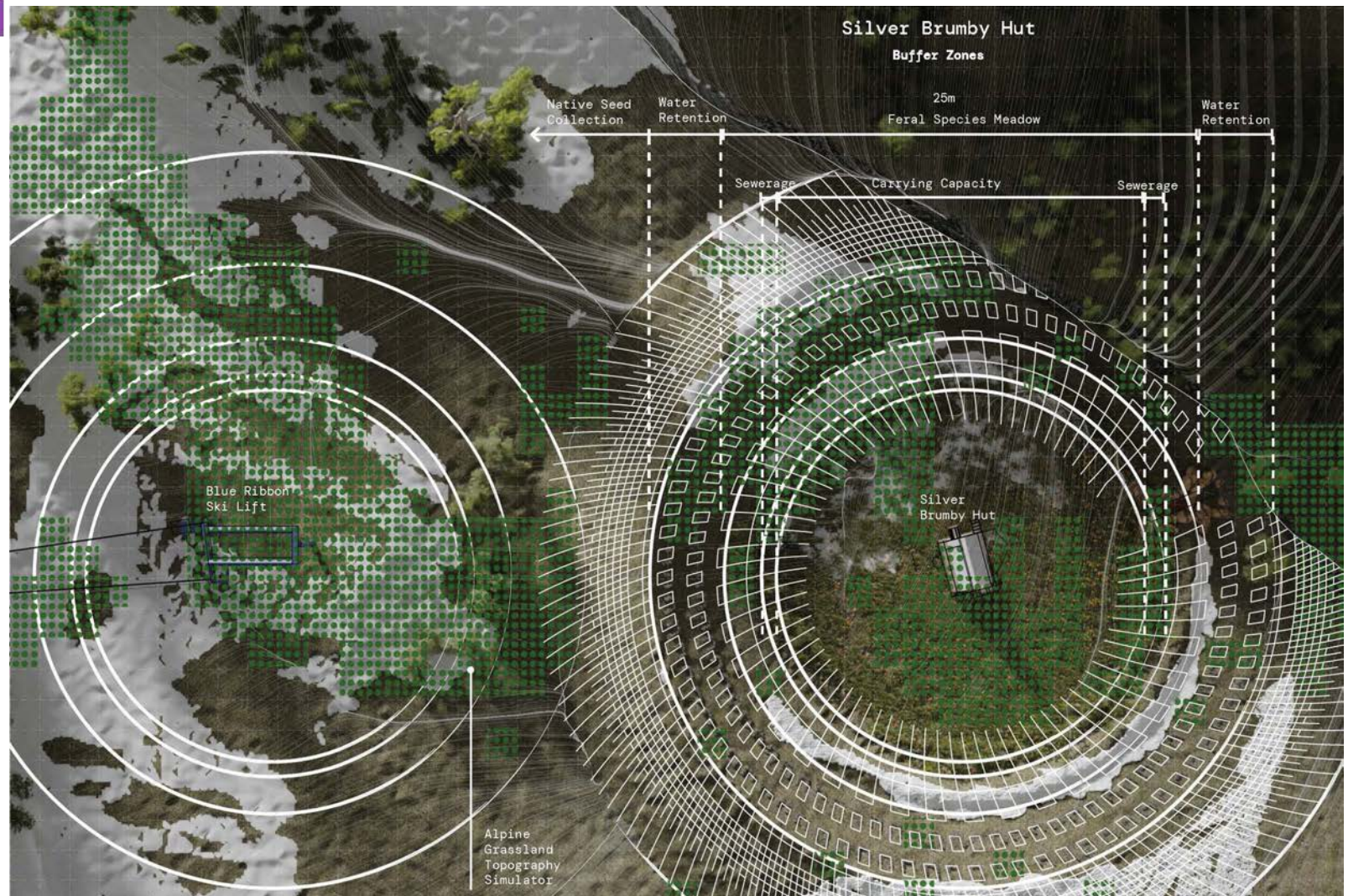
Feral Futures demonstrates how landscape architecture can integrate environmental data and site-responsive design to address complex climate challenges. It proposes a replicable model for regenerating vulnerable ecosystems while supporting new economies in post-snow alpine regions.

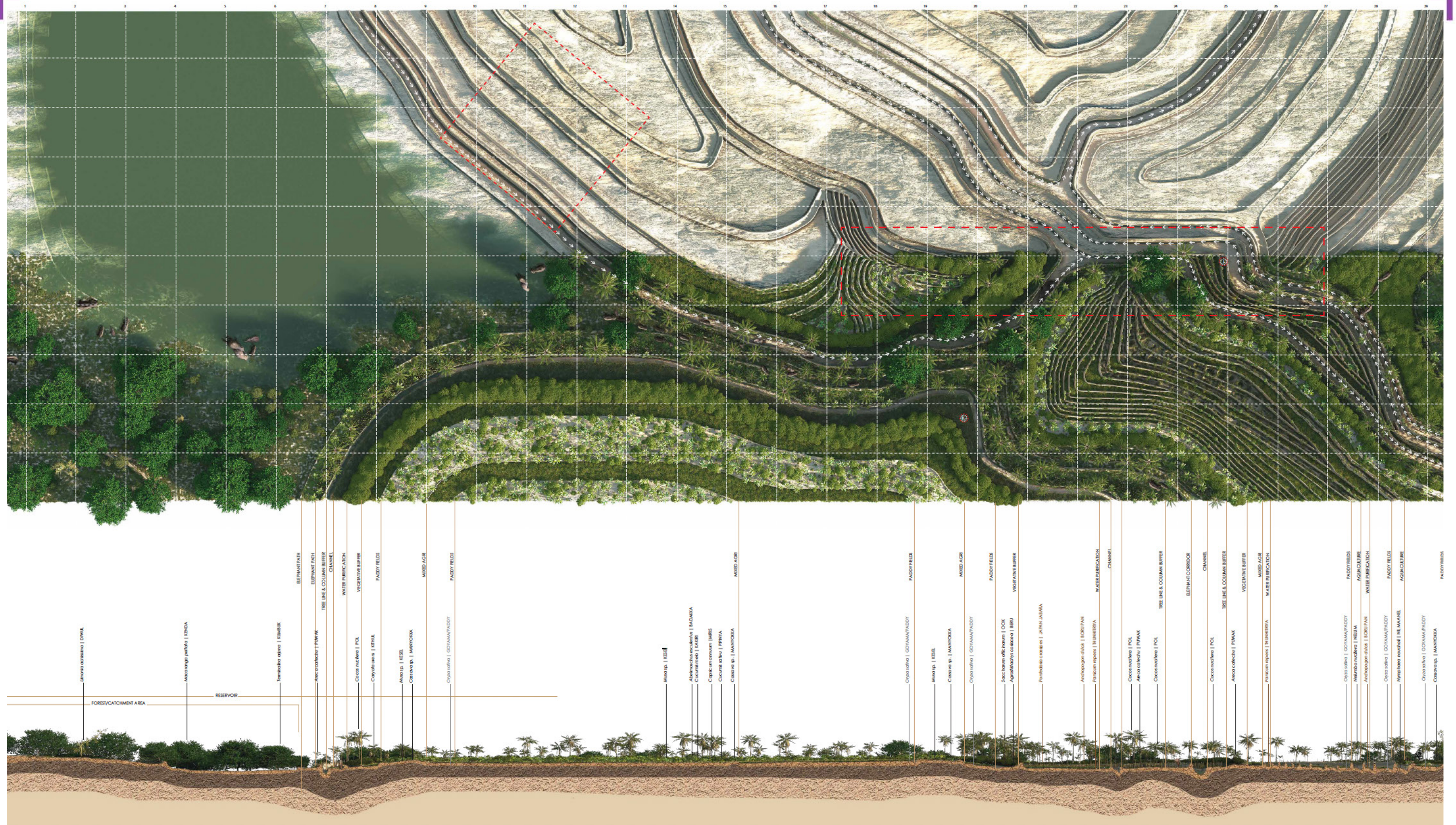
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Country/City
University / School
Academic year
Title of the project
Authors

Melbourne, Australia
RMIT University
2024
Selectively Permeable Landscapes
Erandee Ranasinghe

Title of the project	Selectively Permeable Landscapes
Authors	Erandee Ranasinghe
Title of the course	Landscape Architecture Design Research Project B
Academic year	2024
Teaching Staff	Dr Maj Plemenitas
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Master of Landscape Architecture School of Architecture and Urban Design
University / School	RMIT University



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

This project explores how landscape architecture can foster coexistence between traditional foodscapes and wildlife in Sri Lanka's Dry Zone, where increasing human-elephant conflict poses significant ecological and cultural challenges. As informal settlements and agricultural expansion encroach upon natural habitats, elephants are forced into closer contact with rural communities, often resulting in crop damage, fatalities, and deepening tensions.

Focusing on the cultural and economic importance of rice cultivation, the project investigates how sustainable agricultural practices and strategic design interventions can support both human livelihoods and elephant habitat needs. Through landform manipulation, planting strategies, and habitat restoration, it proposes a series of spatial solutions to reduce conflict and encourage coexistence.

Design strategies include creating buffer zones, adaptive field boundaries, and restored corridors that allow safe elephant movement while protecting farmland and villages. These interventions are sensitive to the rhythms of agrarian life and local ecological patterns, positioning landscape architecture as a mediator between development and conservation.

By reimagining the agricultural landscape as shared space rather than contested territory, the project demonstrates how design can support ecological resilience, cultural continuity, and peaceful coexistence in one of Sri Lanka's most biodiverse yet vulnerable regions.

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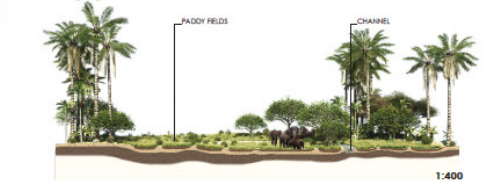
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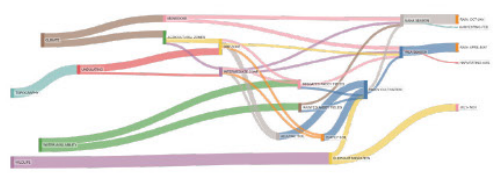
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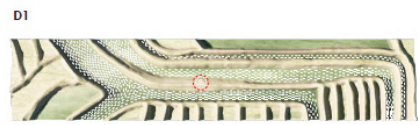
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D1



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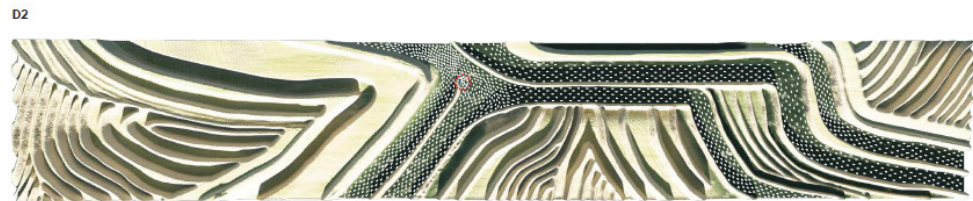
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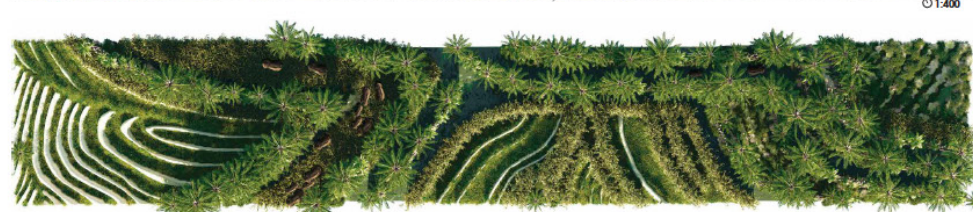
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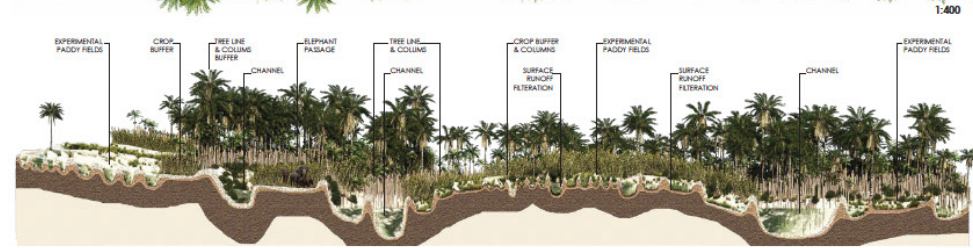
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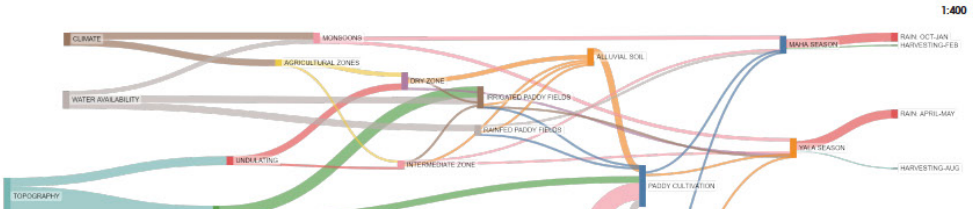
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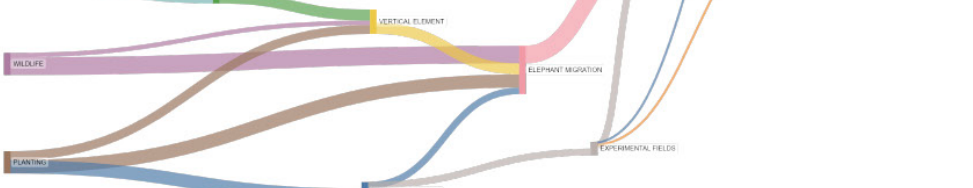
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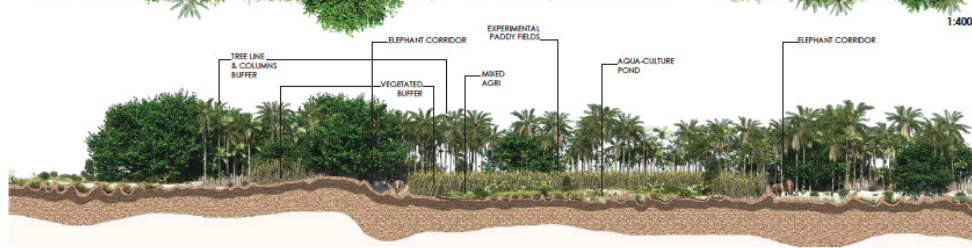
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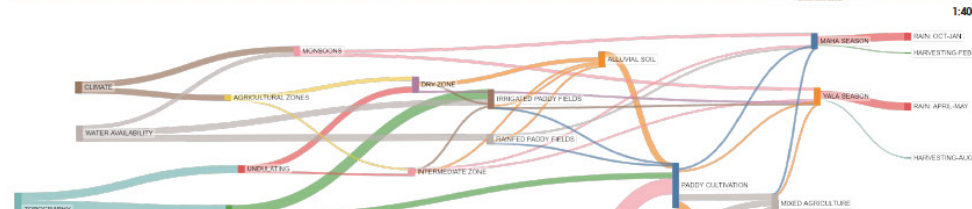
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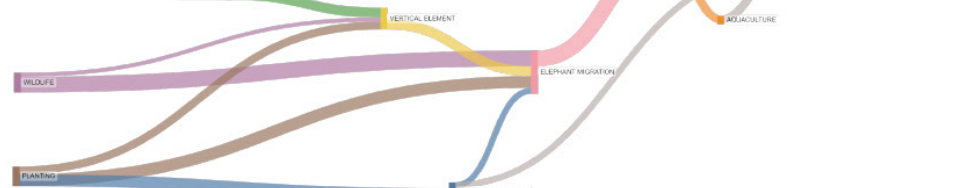
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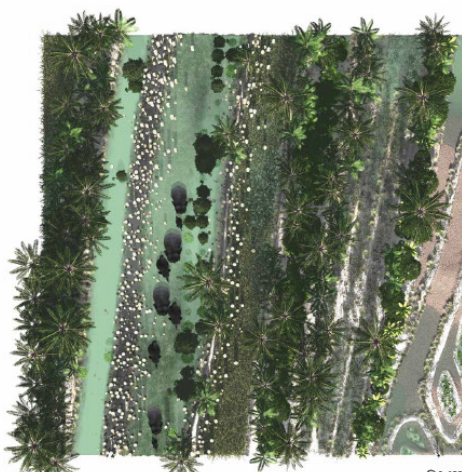
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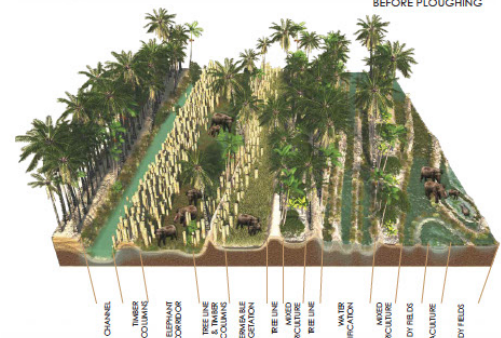
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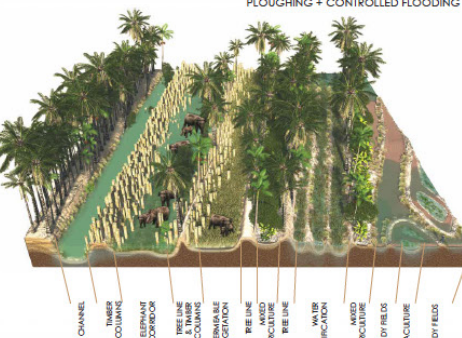
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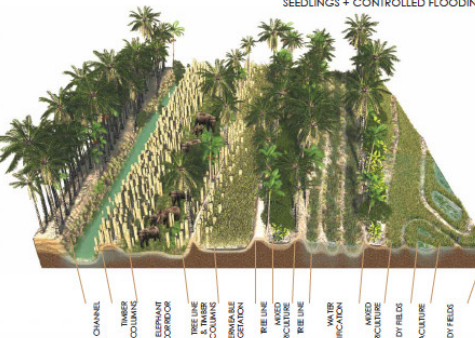
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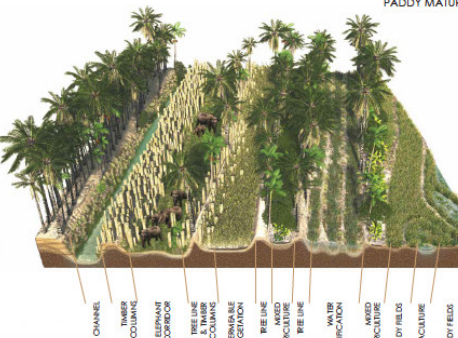
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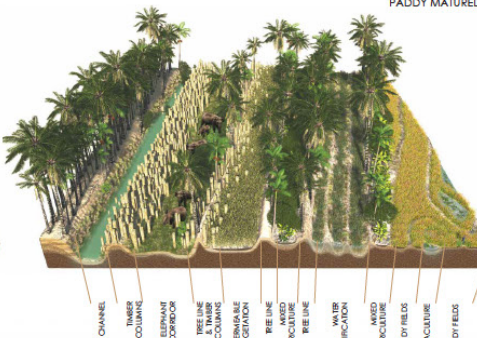
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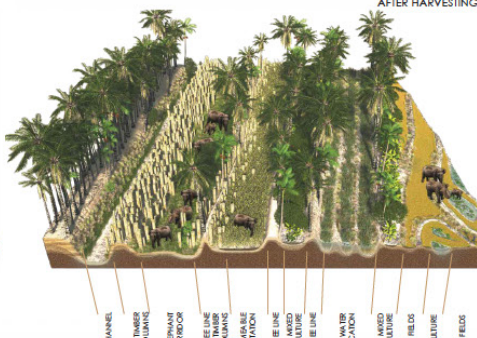
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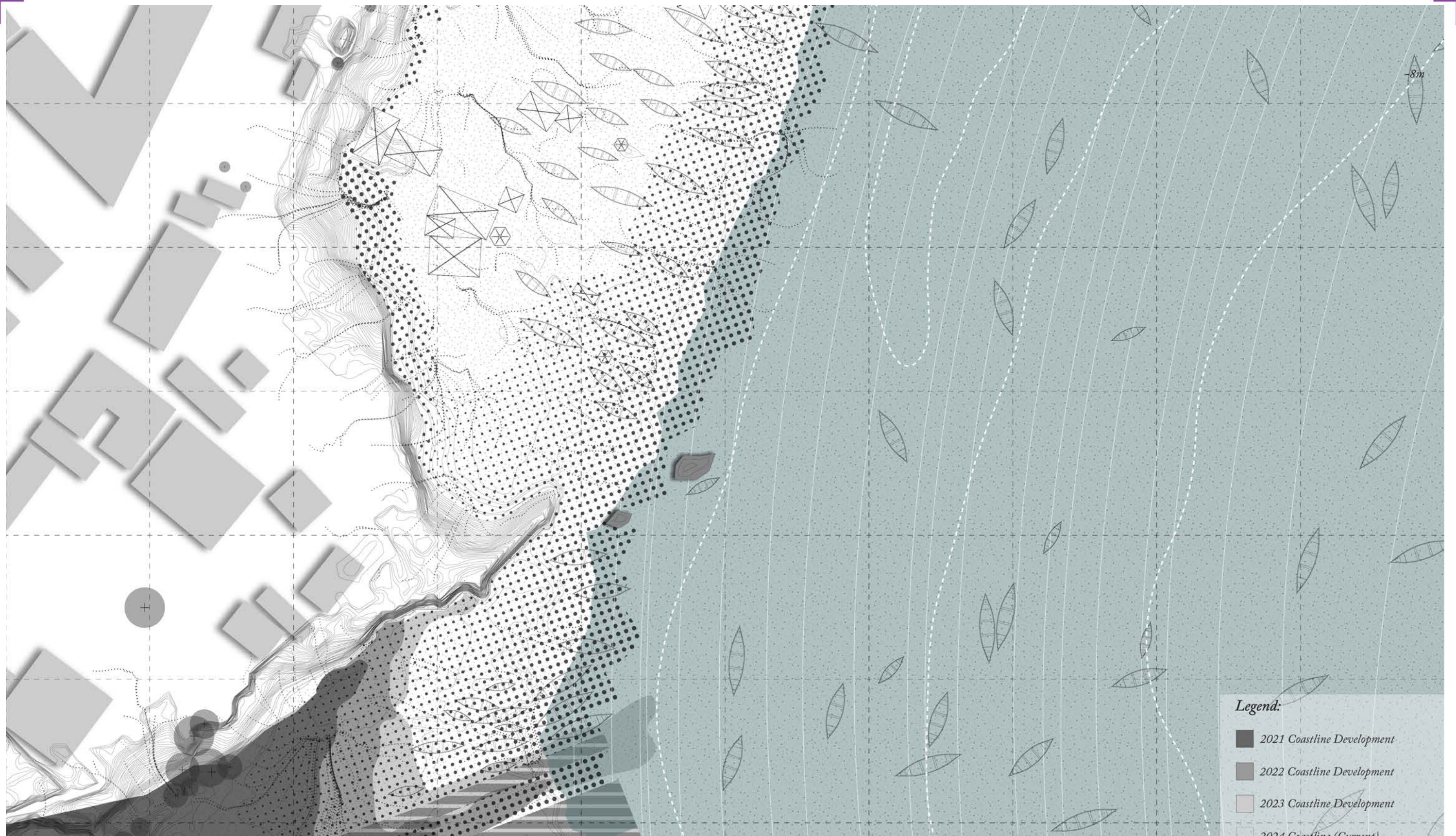
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Country/City	Melbourne, Australia
University / School	RMIT University
Academic year	2024
Title of the project	Drift, Debris & Drowned
Authors	Haosheng Liang

Title of the project	Drift, Debris & Drowned
Authors	Haosheng Liang
Title of the course	Design Research Studio 7
Academic year	2024
Teaching Staff	Dr Alice Lewis
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Master of Landscape Architecture
	School of Architecture and Urban Design
University / School	RMIT University



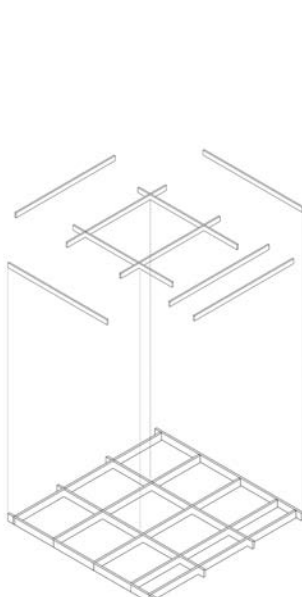
Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

This project uses speculative narrative and critical design to examine the ecological and cultural consequences of fast fashion waste exported from overproducing countries to Ghana. Responding to the environmental degradation and social inequities caused by global textile overconsumption, it constructs a fictional but plausible future scenario in which adaptation arises through collapse. Grounded in critiques of neocolonial consumption and extractive economies, the project envisions an alternative infrastructure shaped by material survival. Through design fiction, it proposes how communities might repurpose waste textiles in the face of systemic failure, transforming environmental crisis into a catalyst for new forms of resilience. Drawing from the lived realities of waste economies and informal labour, the narrative explores how landscapes of accumulation might become sites of innovation, care, and resistance. By confronting the material consequences of consumer culture, the project challenges landscape architecture to grapple with ethical responsibility at a planetary scale. It asks what futures are possible in the aftermath of excess, and who has the agency to shape them. ‘Drift, Debris & Drowned’ positions design not as a solution to be imposed, but as a medium for revealing structural injustices and imagining futures that emerge from within them.

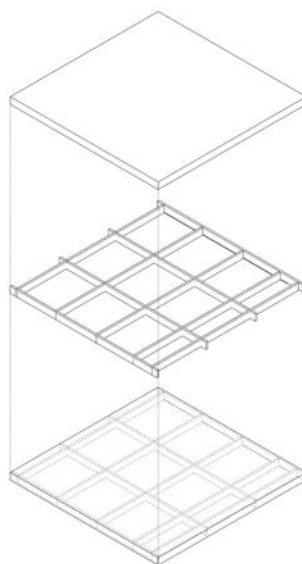
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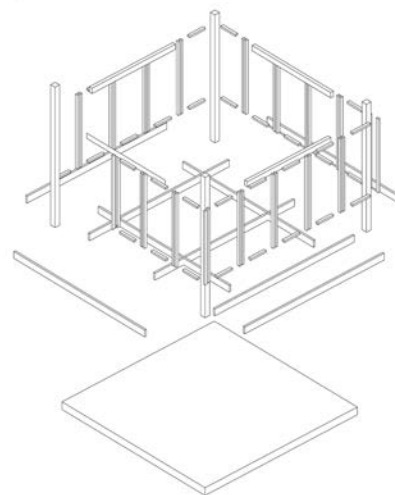
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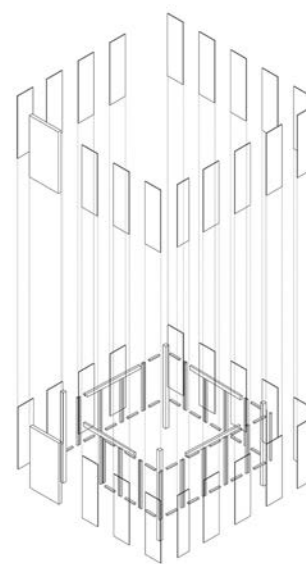
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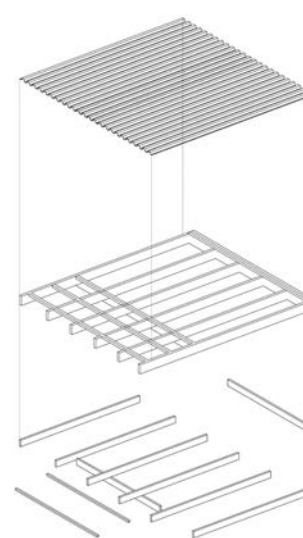
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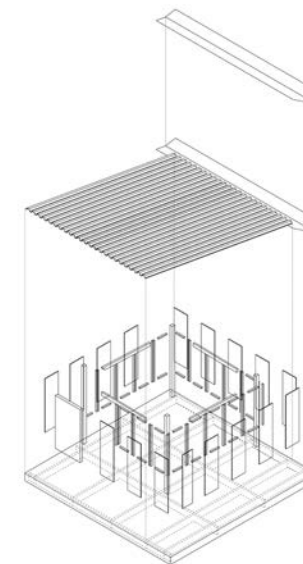
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