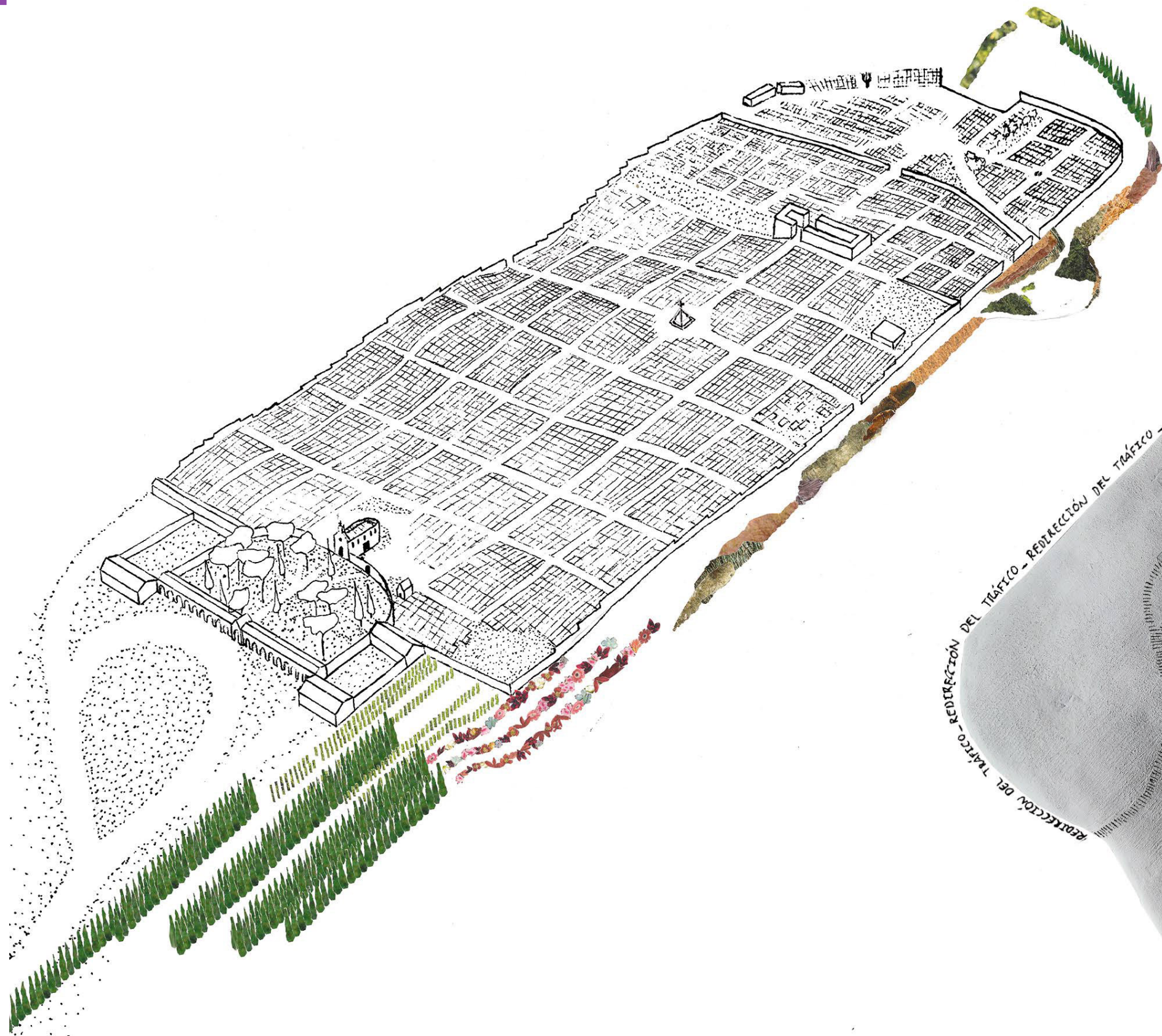


Design process model by Nicolás Martín (student) and pre-study plan by Lucía Pescador (student)

Municipal cemetery of Toledo (Spain)

Please provide a 250-word text explaining the selection criteria used to choose the five projects representing the school in the Ribas Piera Prize. Detail the aspects evaluated, such as conceptual quality, innovation, thematic relevance, technical resolution, or any other criteria considered in the selection process with a single image, characteristic of the academic process, to accompany the text.

Contemporary urban cemeteries on Spain have generally evolved into sterile infrastructures of concrete sidewalks and asphalted streets—over-urbanized open spaces that resemble suburban road-based urbanism more than places suited for farewells and the reencounter with our memories and emotions, which they ought to be. The municipal cemetery of Toledo is currently experiencing a lack of space for new burials and a decline in its landscape qualities. Its location within the territory is privileged: it sits on a hill that separates the two riverbanks of the Tagus River and looks out toward the historic city. Its expansion presents an opportunity to reverse the environmental degradation it has suffered through successive extensions. Students, as explorers, are tasked with expanding this site with a hybrid facility operating on two scales, grafted into the territory and stitched together by the urban landscape. This includes rainwater collection, greenhouses for flower cultivation, burial spaces, and a chapel. The arrival experience, the paths, topography, landscape, history, soil structure, water, construction systems, major and minor infrastructures, the material and the immaterial—these are the essence of a project developed over a semester. The selected projects are those that best represent the diversity of work developed in the studio and stand out for their stronger integration into the existing landscape, their sensitivity, and their plausibility in contributing to the construction of a better city.



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

Spain / Toledo
University of Castilla-La Mancha / Toledo School of Architecture
2023/24
East Hillside Cemetery
Irene Martín Lucendo



Title of the project	East Hillside Cemetery
Authors	Irene Martín Lucendo
Title of the course	House of souls. Extension of Toledo's Municipal Cemetery / Architecture and Urbanism design studio VIII / 5th course
Academic year	2023/24
Teaching Staff	José Aguado+Alfonso de la Azuela (building and structural systems), Lorenzo Gil + José Ramón G. de la Cal (architectural design), Carmen Mota (Urban design), Adelaida del Puerto (sustainability and facilities, Lola S. Moya (landscape)
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Department of Architecture / Bachelor in Architecture UCLM
University / School	University of Castilla-La Mancha / Toledo School of Architecture

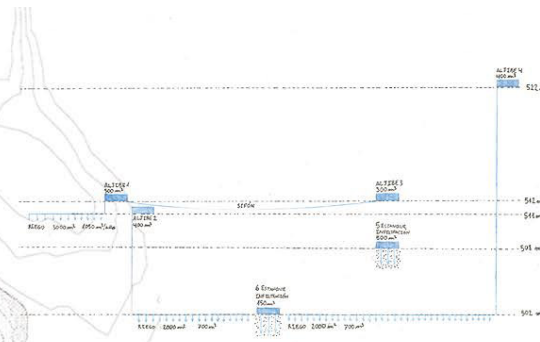
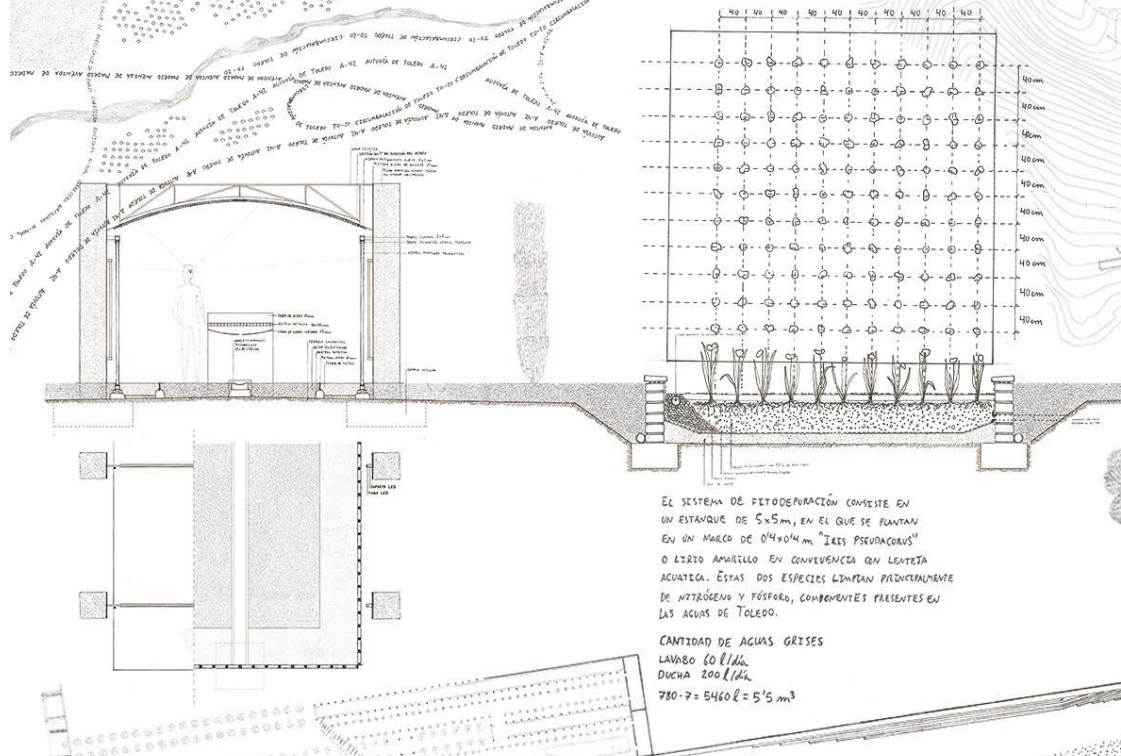
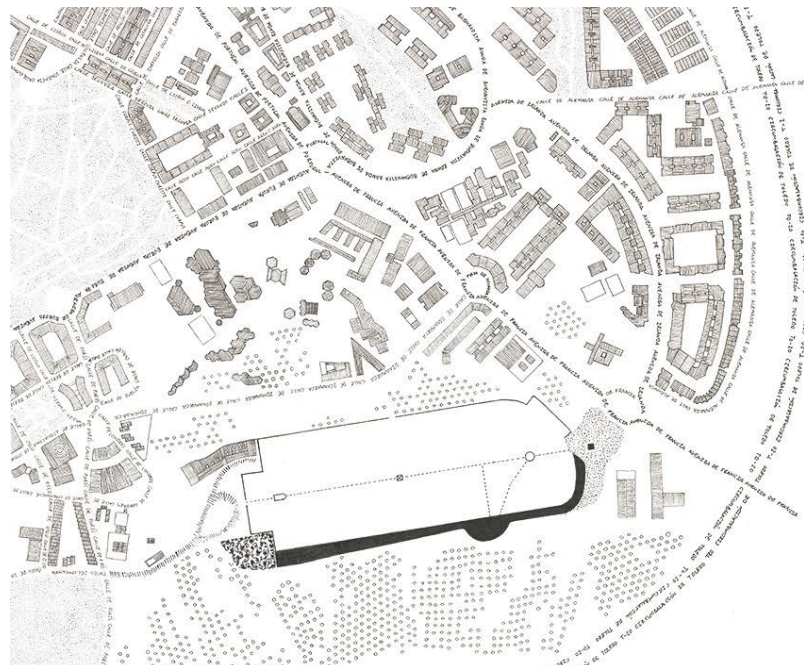
Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

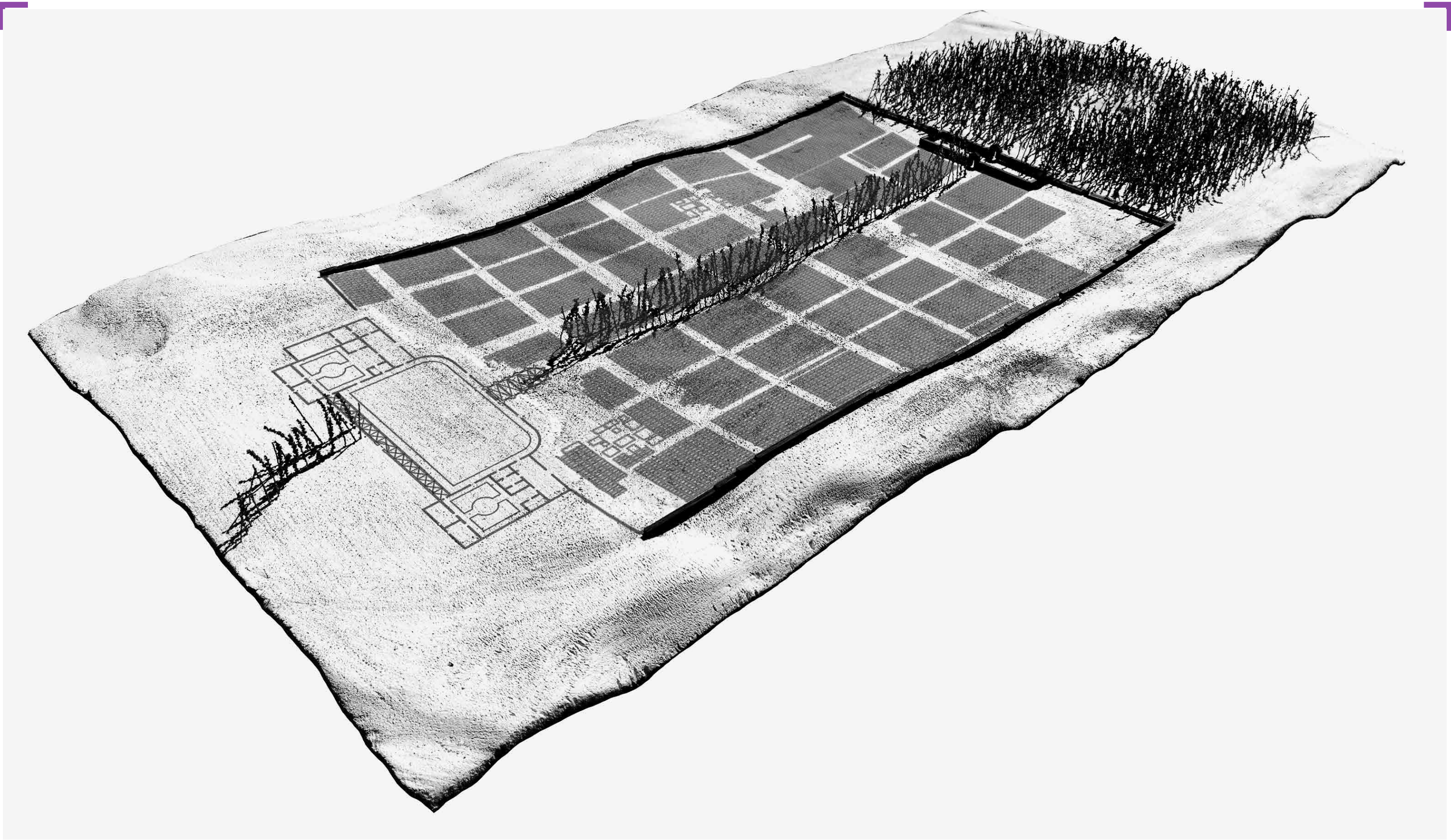
The cemetery extension project is conceived as a trench excavated beneath the path of Paseo de San Eugenio, adjacent to the western edge of the existing cemetery. The excavated earth is used to form a mound that crowns the main axis of the original cemetery and serves as both an acoustic and visual buffer between the burial grounds and the city. Due to its monumental character and elevated, dominant position, the original cemetery emerges as a kind of acropolis overlooking the city. In response, the design adopts a strategy of submersion—a reverent gesture toward the existing site. Located on the slope of a hill, the intervention addresses the risk of flooding through two rain gardens that collect and infiltrate excess surface water. The trench's side slopes are stabilized with a planting of herbaceous species whose root systems act as natural soil reinforcement, mitigating erosion. To support the landscape's irrigation, a system of cisterns is designed to capture runoff. These are configured to operate through gravity or interconnected vessels, avoiding the need for mechanical pumping. The cisterns also supply water to the greenhouses, which provide flowers for the cemetery. Constructed with amorphous silicon panels, the greenhouses are capable of generating up to 100 kWh/m² under normal conditions—meeting the project's energy demands sustainably. Greywater from cemetery facilities is treated through a phytoremediation pond. This water feature, planted with emergent vegetation, becomes not only an ecological system but also a contemplative space —inviting visitors to pause and reflect.

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Country/City

Spain / Toledo

University / School

University of Castilla-La Mancha / Toledo School of Architecture

Academic year

2023/24

Title of the project

Wall, threshold, forest. Toledo cemetery expansion.

Authors

Pablo José Palacios Rodríguez



Title of the project	Wall, threshold, forest, Toledo cementery expansion.
Authors	Pablo José Palacios Rodríguez
Title of the course	House of souls. Extension of Toledo's Municipal Cemetery / Architecture and Urbanism design studio VIII / 5th course
Academic year	2023/24
Teaching Staff	José Aguado, Alfonso de la Azuela, Lorenzo Gil, José Ramón G. de la Cal, Carmen Mota, Adelaida del Puerto, Lola S. Moya.
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Department of Architecture / Bachelor in Architecture UCLM
University / School	Department of Architecture / Bachelor in Architecture UCLM

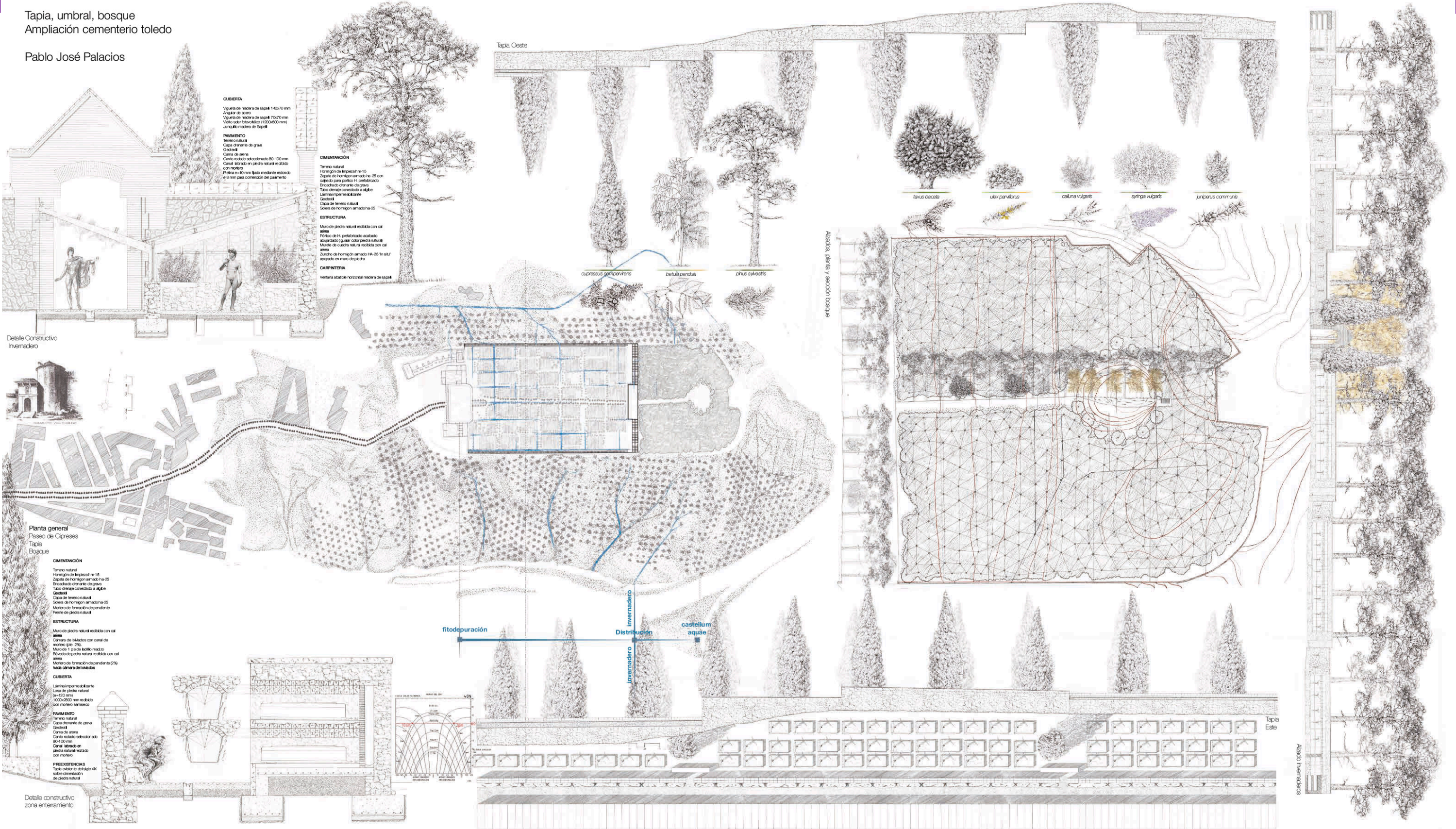
Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

The extension of the Toledo Cemetery is conceived as a serene continuation of the city of the dead—a place where time seems to pause, and silence takes on form. The original boundary wall is preserved as a trace of what has been lived, while a new wall rises, reminiscent of the old fortifications that once expanded the city of the living. A cypress-lined axis guides the soul's passage, echoing the ritual of farewell, and leads toward a sacred grove where the tree—with roots anchored in the earth and branches reaching skyward—becomes a symbol of union between worlds. There, water springs gently from a chapel located at the threshold between life and death—calm and unceasing, like a whisper offering solace. This fountain nourishes not only the landscape, but the spirit as well, bringing harmony to a space defined by absence. The project draws inspiration from ancient artificial forests—born of the desire to reconcile the built city with nature. Here, there are no rigid gardens or proud geometries: the land flows in soft depressions and gentle hills, the trees gather as if they had grown freely, and water traces hidden paths through the terrain. Architecture is not ornament, but a silent and essential presence. The trees, far from exotic spectacle, are native to Toledo—grounded, enduring, and true to their origin. Thus, this “modern forest” is born: a place where grief becomes contemplation, and death enters into peaceful dialogue with beauty.

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Title of the project	A cemetery turned into a garden
Authors	Maria del Carmen Ortiz de la Cruz
Title of the course	House of souls. Extension of Toledo’s Municipal Cemetery / Architecture and Urbanism design studio VIII / 5th course
Academic year	2023/24
Teaching Staff	José Aguado, Alfonso de la Azuela, Lorenzo Gil, José Ramón G. de la Cal, Carmen Mota, Adelaida del Puerto, Lola S. Moya.
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Department of Architecture / Bachelor in Architecture UCLM
University / School	University of Castilla-La Mancha / Toledo School of Architecture

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

The proposed cemetery extension in Toledo seeks an organic and replicable form of growth, anchored to the original western boundary wall. The intervention is articulated in three phases: First, series of horizontal terraces are created, adapting to the natural topography while minimizing contact with the existing slopes. These platforms emphasize the geometry of the site, varying in width and height to function as viewing points or open plazas. They are connected by access paths that blur the boundaries between the new extension and the pre-existing structure, fostering continuity and dialogue.

Second, a 3x3 meter grid is introduced to organize circulation and define the burial system, which consists of 50x50 cm. urn plots. This configuration allows families to deposit ashes in a simple and natural manner, in direct contact with the earth. The metal framework that defines the grid also acts as a pergola and greenhouse, providing shade and visual rhythm to the landscape.

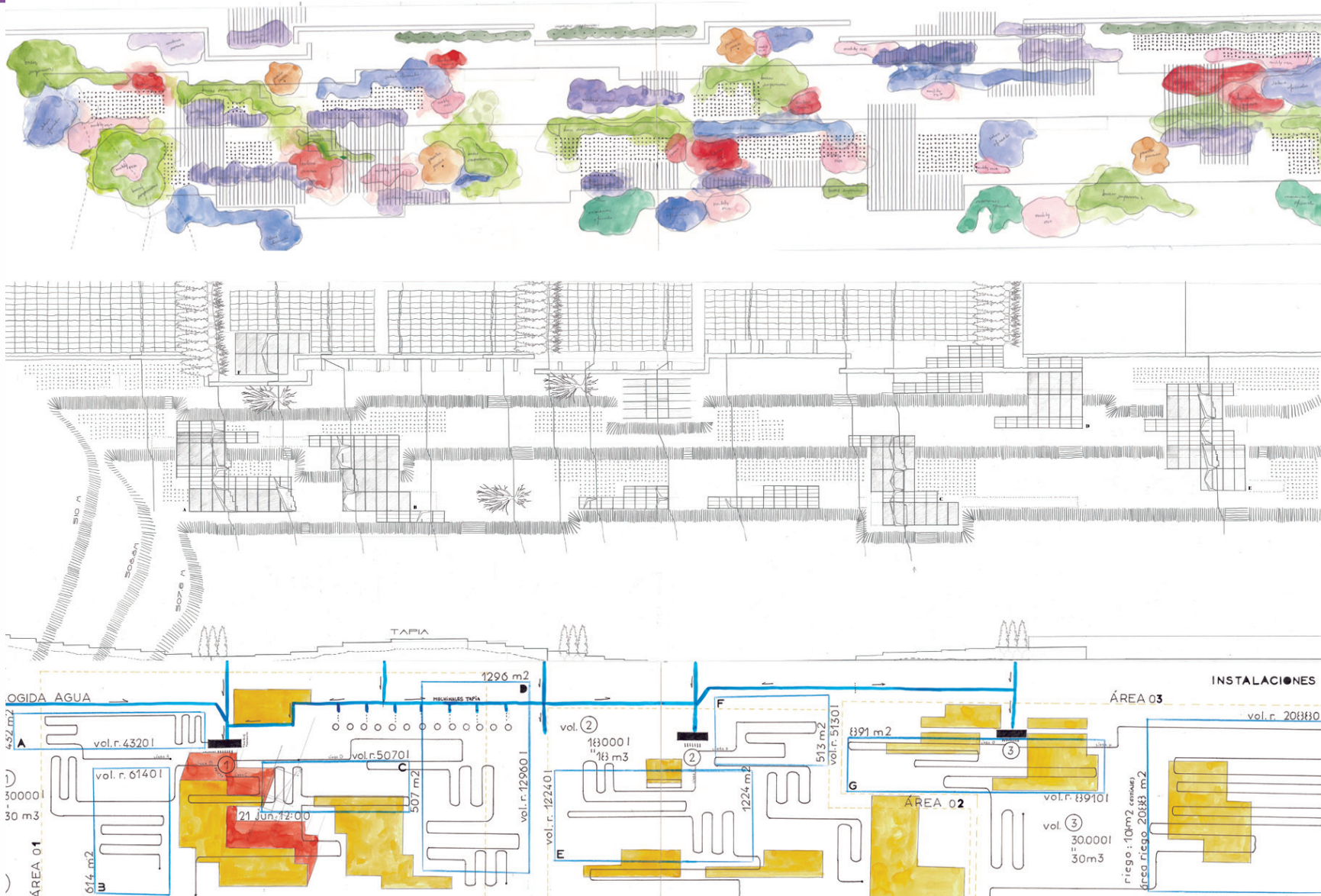
Finally, the third phase focuses on native vegetation, including cypress trees, ironwood, and wisteria, which bring color, fragrance, and symbolic meaning. Drought- and climate-resistant species are carefully selected to mark the passage of time and enrich the space with a sense of memory and serenity. Climbing plants and shrubs are proposed to line the paths and resting areas, creating a vibrant, welcoming atmosphere. Wisteria, in particular, adds beauty and scent to shaded zones.

This intervention aims to transform an undefined terrain into a place of remembrance—where harmony, nature, and reflection converge.

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El cálculo del agua:

ÁREA CÁLCULO = 23.667m²
 Volumen lluvia Toledo = 342 L/m²
 Agua recogida = V lluvia * A cal = 8000 m³ aprox
 Pérdida por infiltración (15%)

Volumen agua disponible = Agua recogida * 0,85 = 6800 m³

Volumen riego invernadero en Castilla- La Mancha = 0,35 m³/ m²/ año

Área invernaderos = 2204 m²
 Área pérgolas con glicínias = 503 m²
 Consumo agua glicínias = 0,365 m³/ m²/ año

Volumen de riego del proyecto = Volumen riego * área * época de riego

V riego inv = 322 m³/ año
 V riego pérgolas = 77 m³ año

Riego por goteo:

Por el volumen longitudinal del proyecto, se decide dividir las zonas de riego en 3 áreas, vinculadas a las recogidas de agua del cementerio, posteriormente trasladadas a los aljibes, ubicados en la zona más elevada del proyecto, permitiendo el riego por gravedad.

Volumen riego por goteo = 10 L / m² / semana

Volumen total riego por goteo:

Riego área 1 = 2849 m² * 10 L / m² = 30m³ semana (aprox)

Si consideramos que el aljibe debe tener agua durante un mes, en caso de que haya llovido:
 Volumen aljibe 1 = 30 m³ / semana * 4 semanas = 120 m³ /mes

Riego área 2 = 1737 m² * 10 L / m² = 18 m³ semana

Volumen aljibe 2 = 18 m³ / semana * 4 semanas = 72 m³ / mes

Riego área 3 = 2979 m² * 10 L / m² = 30 m³ / semana

Volumen aljibe 3 = 30 m³ / semana * 4 semanas = 120 m³ /mes

Considerando la necesidad de riego del jardín durante una época seca de 5 meses, calculamos el volumen de riego del jardín.

Volumen riego anual = 120 m³ / mes * 5 meses + 72 m³ / mes * 5 meses + 120 m³ / mes * 5 meses = 1560 m³ / año

Volumen total riego:

V tot riego = invernaderos + pérgolas + jardín
 V tot riego = 322 + 77 + 1560 = 2000 m³ / año < 6800 m³ (vol agua disponible)

Un invernadero autosuficiente:

Al emplear cubiertas inclinadas en los módulos de invernaderos, se plantea la recogida del agua de lluvia de las mismas mediante canalones, para su posterior recogida en un aljibe, vinculado a cada módulo del proyecto, de manera que se disponga de agua durante todo el año y poder autoabastecerse.

Módulo 1 (ejemplo tipo):

Área cubierta = 6 * 3 * 9 m = 162 m²

Volumen lluvia Toledo = 342 mm / m² / año

Volumen lluvia en la cubierta:

V lluvia cub = 162 m² * 342 L / m² / año = 55 m³ (vol agua recogido)
 si consideramos una pérdida del agua de lluvia del 15 %:

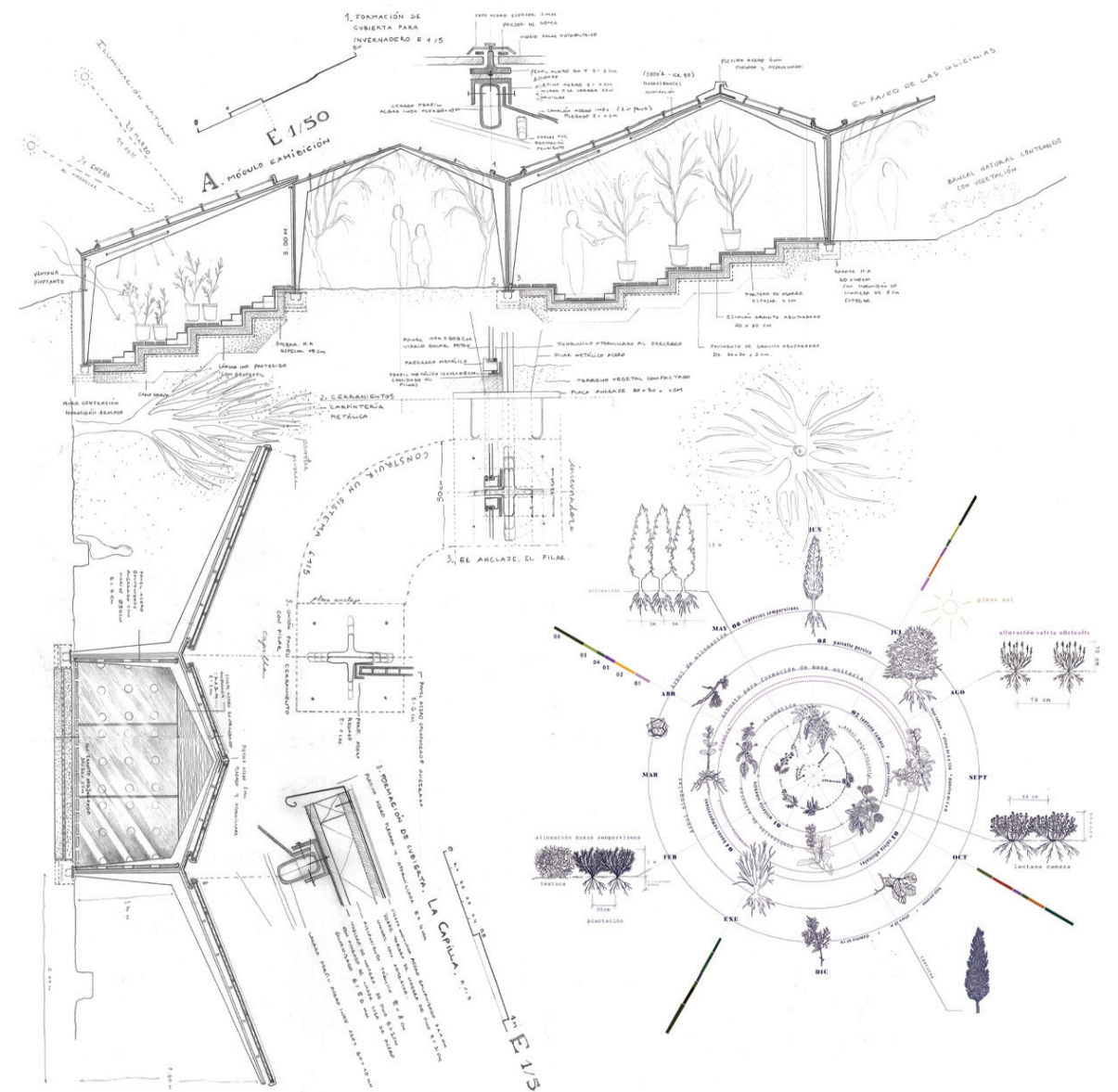
V agua recogido = 55 m³ * 0,85 = 46 m³

V riego invernadero = 350 mm / m²

Área riego = A inv + A pasos + A cultivo = 122 m²

V riego = A cultivo * V riego = 18 m³

18 m³ < 46 m³ (volumen aljibe) = autoabastecimiento



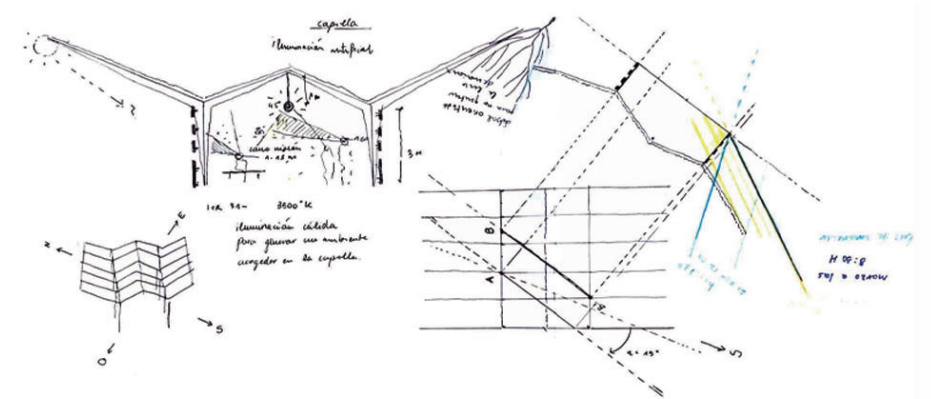
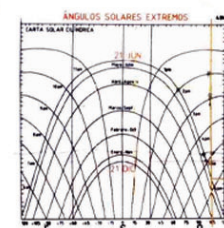
Carta solar:

Estudio sombra invernaderos

21 de junio a las 12.00h a= 15, hs= 73°
 21 de diciembre a las 12.00h a= 15, hs= 27°

Iluminación invernaderos: 3000 °K ICR-90 luz blanca sol

Iluminación capilla: 3500 °K ICR-51 iluminación cálida





Country/City

Spain / Toledo

University / School

University of Castilla-La Mancha / Toledo School of Architecture

Academic year

2023/24

Title of the project

Along the path, a new cemetery

Authors

David do Amaral Losada



Title of the project	Along the path, a new cementery
Authors	David do Amaral Losada
Title of the course	House of souls. Extension of Toledo's Municipal Cemetery / Architecture and Urbanism design studio VIII / 5th course
Academic year	2023/24
Teaching Staff	José Aguado, Alfonso de la Azuela, Lorenzo Gil, José Ramón G. de la Cal, Carmen Mota, Adelaida del Puerto, Lola S. Moya.
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Department of Architecture / Bachelor in Architecture UCLM
University / School	University of Castilla-La Mancha / Toledo School of Architecture

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

The cemetery is extended through a simple yet thoughtful intervention. The new addition unfolds along a new street that runs parallel to the existing cemetery, positioned below a hillside populated with ancient olive trees. The intervention intercepts two major runoff channels, creating a series of ponds. Rainwater is filtered through underground cisterns and directed toward a flower garden, enclosed by a stone wall from which the water gently emerges. This water irrigates the cemetery's vegetation, and from this garden, flowers are gathered to honor loved ones. Along the path of the new cemetery, olive trees accompany the natural burials, which are subtly marked by gentle hollows in the terrain. These depressions provide a sense of intimacy around each burial, improve conditions for flower growth, and offer protection from the summer sun.

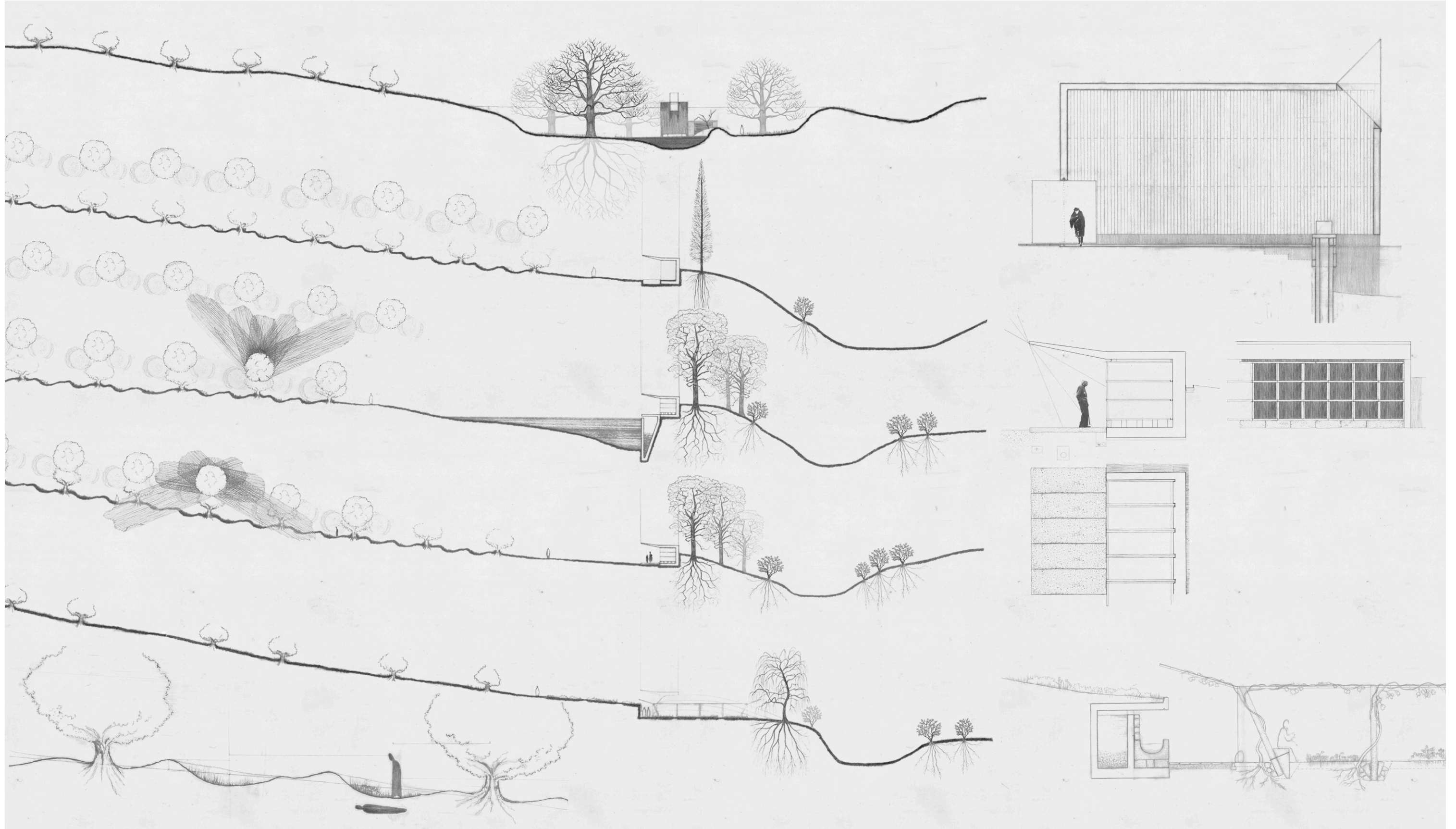
On the opposite side, a linear axis of niches unfolds along the entire route, perceived as a continuous barrier—understood as a borrowed landscape, static and immutable, with a backdrop of twisted tree masses in shades of grey and bluish green. The path is conceived as a scenographic device, a spatial threshold that defines the boundary.

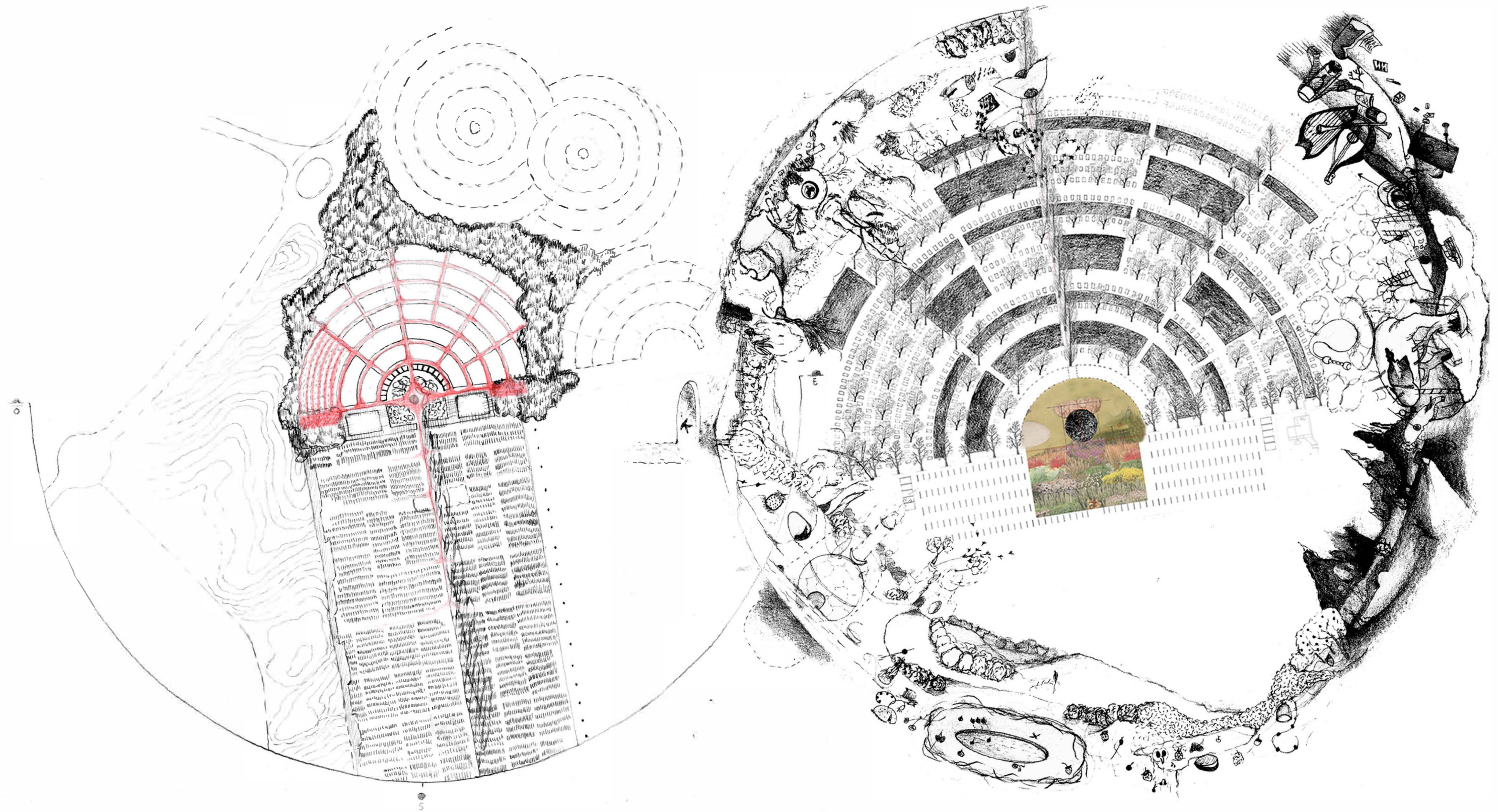
Eventually, the path descends into a broad depression, shaded by majestic trees. One walks across a field of dry leaves, forming a soft carpet of autumn colors. In the distance, another pond becomes visible. As one draws closer, a chapel emerges from the water—offering a dual evocation of decay and eternity, something intentionally incomplete, yet deeply moving.

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Country/City	Spain / Toledo
University / School	University of Castilla-La Mancha / Toledo School of Architecture
Academic year	2023/24
Title of the project	Underworld
Authors	Patricia Torres Muñoz



Title of the project	Underworld
Authors	Patricia Torres Muñoz
Title of the course	House of souls. Extension of Toledo's Municipal Cemetery / Architecture and Urbanism design studio VIII / 5th course
Academic year	2023/24
Teaching Staff	José Aguado, Alfonso de la Azuela, Lorenzo Gil, José Ramón G. de la Cal, Carmen Mota, Adelaida del Puerto, Lola S. Moya.
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Department of Architecture / Bachelor in Architecture UCLM
University / School	University of Castilla-La Mancha / Toledo School of Architecture

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

The project is located in the northern sector of the city of Toledo, serving as a landscaped culmination to the cemetery's longitudinal axis framing a direct visual connection with the city's historic center. Graves, niches, and columbaria are arranged in a semi-radial layout around a central garden—a verdant memorial space that includes a cenotaph honoring victims of gender-based violence and a communal flower cultivation area. This spatial geometry is conceived both for its symbolic resonance and its capacity to orient the project's focus evenly across across the intervention. Architectural and landscape elements follow a cohesive logic: the built structures—niches, columbaria, and greenhouses—adopt the catenary arch as a formal and structural strategy, optimizing material use and offering tectonic lightness. These pavilion-like structures vary in height depending on their proximity to the central garden and cenotaph, and alternate with in-ground burial areas. Their walkable roofs preserve open sightlines and encourage continuous interaction with the landscape. Planting design is based on the interplay of form and color, creating a coherent visual rhythm across all gardened areas. Structural and filler plant species are composed within a repeated planting matrix that ensures ecological and aesthetic continuity. The nursery is forganized into two systems: trees are planted directly in the ground, while flowers grow in modular, prefabricated planters. The trees are later transplanted to reforest under-vegetated areas of the cemetery and the city, reinforcing a regenerative landscape strategy. In this way, nature not only accompanies but actively transforms the visitor's journey through the cemetery.

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