



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.

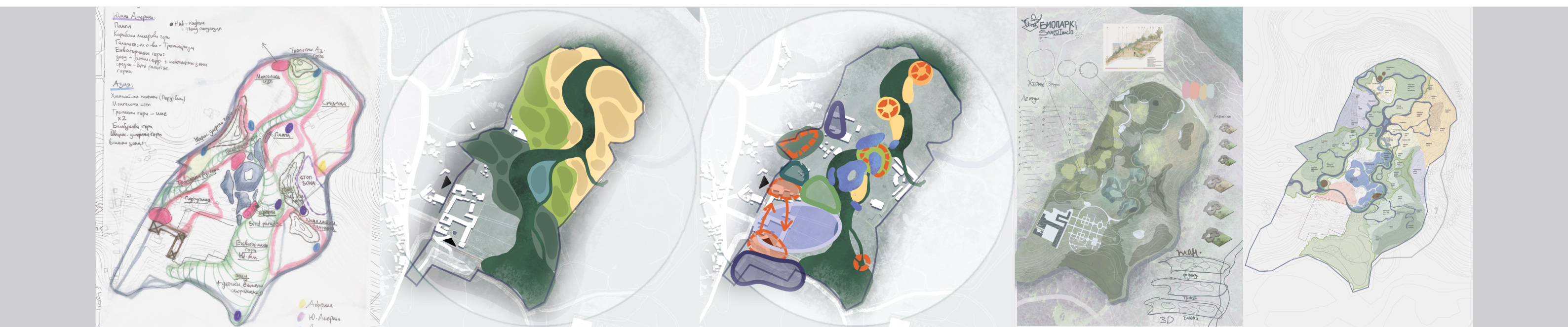
“Green tales” showcases parks which reach all the five senses of their visitors while telling them stories of rivers, railway stations, precious fairy-tale ecosystems, and their inhabitants. Our projects focus on sustainable forms of planning and maintenance with the application of technologies that save resources and energy, as well as enhancing biodiversity. “Biopark Santo Inácio” project near Porto and “Zootopia” project in Thessaloniki reimagine these two zoos as modern bioparks where nature and culture meet in a looping path through biomes representing global ecosystems. “Simulacrum” project proposes the creation of a parkland as part of a waterfront regeneration megaproject, while the combination of vegetation, new technologies and mirrors creates a balanced environment despite the prominent contrast between the story about past and present, real and unreal. The main task of the Green regenerations of Railway Areas in Sofia and Lille is to create a multifunctional thematic parks and related to the history of the industrial development of cities and their postindustrial transformation but also about the transformation of society.



View from East Asian cultural thematic area

Country/City	Sofia, Bulgaria
University / School	UACEG - University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy
Academic year	2024-2025
Title of the project	Biopark Santo Inacio- Transformation and Modernisation of an Existing Zoo
Authors	Viara Petkova Slavova

Title of the project	Biopark Santo Inacio- Transformation and Modernisation of an Existing Zoo
Authors	Viara Petkova Slavova
Title of the course	Special Use Park Project
Academic year	2024-2025
Teaching Staff	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. L. Arch. Env-Eng. Ml. Tanov, Assist. Prof. L. Arch. D. Dimitrov
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Department of Urban Planning, Landscape Architecture and Landscape Planning Master Program
University / School	UACEG - University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy



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

This project reimagines the Santo Inácio Zoo near Porto as a modern biopark where nature and culture meet. Based on the concept of biomes, the animal habitats are reorganized into ecological zones that reflect global biodiversity. Barriers between animals and visitors are removed to create a stronger sensory experience and support wildlife conservation.

The park experience takes place on four levels: ground-level paths alongside nature, elevated walkways offering views from above, underground routes for quiet discovery, and a cultural layer where themes connect local history, symbols, and ruins through storytelling. Cultural immersion is part of every zone, inspired by both nature and the human cultures linked to it. Each area becomes a themed space, blending plants, land, and built forms in a way that feels real and sensory, not artificial. The historic estate and gardens enrich the park's cultural story. More than just a zoo, the park becomes a living dialogue between species, landscapes, and cultures. It's a place where architecture blends into nature, and culture makes the natural world feel even more meaningful.

Barcelona International Landscape Biennial

Contact via email:
biennialadm@coac.net

Venue:
COAC - Col·legi Oficial d'Arquitectes de Catalunya
Carrer Arcs 1-3, 08002 Barcelona - Spain

BIOPARK 'SANTO INACIO'

Transformation and Modernization of an Existing Zoo

Area: 20 ha Porto, Portugal

GENERAL PLAN

Existing elements:

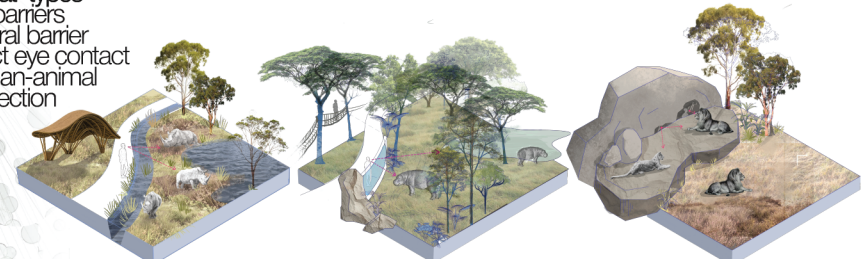
- 1 historic estate Quinta de Fieles
 - 2 historic gardens of the estate
 - 3 chapel "Santo Inacio"
- Project elements:
- 4 main entrance
 - 5 public service and artisan ensemble "Portugal"
 - 6 rope park
 - 7 children's playground
 - 8 tropicarium with cafe and rain-simulation
 - 9 cascading ponds
 - 10 service zone with isolation units, veterinary area, and water purification through bio-pools
 - 11 rice fields - thematic element
 - 12 rock complex with restaurant and hidden viewing platforms
 - 13 thematic observation tower with monkey interaction zone
 - 14 underground route "in the Cat Shelter"
 - 15 thematic East Asian complex
 - 16 elevated connection above ponds - access to lemur island
 - 17 research trail through rocks "Ancient Remains"
 - 18 hidden ancient jaguar viewing platform
 - 19 interaction zone
 - 20 parking
 - 21 suburban park - historic forest with valuable species
 - 22 water filtration, waste processing, and composting zone
 - 23 orchard

Public service hubs

- I East Asian Hub
- II Indonesian Hub
- III South Asian Hub with observation platform
- IV South American Hub
- V Tropicarium
- VI Andean Mountain Hub
- VII Portugal entrance zone
- VIII African rock complex
- IX Mongolian Slopes



Habitat types
- no barriers
- natural barrier
- direct eye contact
- human-animal connection



Habitat for the Black Rhinoceros is situated within the Tropical Asian Forest biome, utilizing a water moat as a natural barrier, while enabling direct visual contact through the concept of landscape immersion.

The habitat of the Pygmy Hippopotamus is set within the African Savanna biome. This animal is rehoused through specially designed glass panels embedded in artificial rock formations, along with an underwater viewing area, accessible via a subterranean tunnel, allowing visitors to observe the animal both above and below the water.

The habitat of the Lion, located within the African Savanna biome, allows for discreet observation through camouflaged viewing platforms built into a rock-structured water complex. The use of two-faced (one-way) glass ensures that the animals remain undisturbed, as visibility is granted only to the visitors.



Biome: Bamboo forests

The habitat hosts pandas and monkeys, with a visitor pathway made of decking, dynamically cutting through natural rock formations to enhance spatial experience. The design incorporates cultural immersion elements, enriching the educational and emotional engagement of visitors. The planting scheme includes tall tropical and subtropical species such as Cecropia spp., Bamboo, Albizia saman, and Azar spp., while the understorey is composed of ferns, orchids, and shade-tolerant herbaceous plants, ensuring a lush and immersive environment.

Biome: African savanna

The habitat brings together a diverse range of African savanna animals, including lions, giraffes, antelopes, sheep, zebras, meerkats, caracals, and others. Visitors move along metal grating pathways that traverse a sculptural rock complex housing both public facilities and discreet observation points. The landscape design immerses visitors in a culturally rich savanna experience, with tree species like Acacia senegal and Terminalia sericea, alongside dry grasses and shrubs like Combretum spp., Grewia spp., Ziziphus mucronata, and Senegalia mellera, while the ground layer is covered with drought-adapted grasses, creating an authentic and educational environment.

Andean mountain steppe

This Andean-inspired habitat features alpacas, llamas, guanacos, vicuñas, and Andean flamingos, offering visitors a unique blend of fauna and cultural storytelling. A contact zone with llamas allows for safe, up-close interaction. The "Ancient Remains" exploration route guides visitors along stone-paved paths, simulating an archaeological journey through the high Andes. The design incorporates cultural immersion, with authentic vegetation from the region.

Biome: Amazon Tropical Forests

"Bird paradise" is a second-level zone featuring metal grid flooring and aviaries enclosed with metal mesh that allow visitor access. Paradise birds move freely throughout the space, while water mist devices maintain high humidity, simulating the atmosphere of tropical rainforests. The vegetation is rich and diverse. The tree layer includes species such as Calceolaria, Bertholletia excelsa (Brazil nut), Eschweilera coriacea, and Dipteryx odorata. In the understorey and among the epiphytes and vines grow Philodendron spp., Monstera spp., members of the Bromeliaceae family, as well as Heliconia spp., Passiflora spp., and Ficus spp.. The ground layer features herbaceous plants such as Calathea spp., Maranta spp., and Costus spp., all contributing to the lush and authentic feel of this tropical environment.

Biome: Asian tropical forests



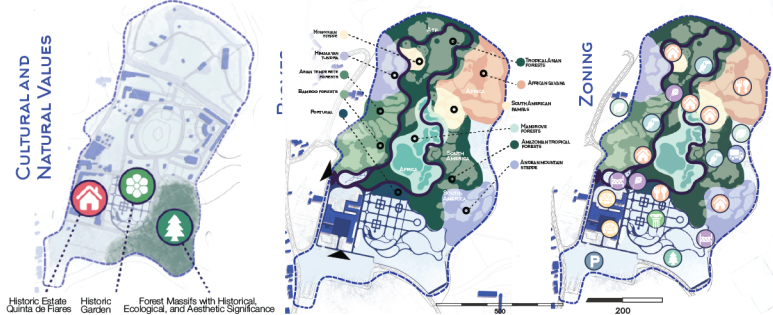
Visualisation:
Habitat of smoked leopard
- glass barrier
- direct eye contact
- hiding places for the leopard

300

CONTACT ZONES LOCATION AND SCOPE



CULTURAL AND NATURAL VALUES



CONCEPTION

Tropical forests along the main path

Goal:
- A sense of dynamism and spatial variety throughout the zoo
- Clear signage and orientation marking the main visitor route
- Shaded areas providing cooling and comfort

Elements:
- Tropical vegetation under existing trees
- Mist systems
- Aviaries with paradise and tropical birds
- Permeable (drainage) concrete

4 levels of perception

1 Ground level

- Tropical understorey vegetation beneath existing trees
- Mist systems for microclimate control
- Aviaries featuring birds of paradise and other tropical species
- Permeable drainage concrete for sustainable surface water management

2 Elevated level

- Rope structures / rope-based installations
- Metal bridges over the habitats
- Aerial connections reaching across the hills
- Stilted pathways / boardwalks on stilts
- Elevated sections of the main route, designed to meet accessibility requirements

3 Underground level

- Tunnels with visual connection to the habitats, aimed at establishing direct eye contact with the animals

4 Level - cultural immersion

- Integration of ancient cultural markers, architecture, objects, ruins, etc., into the landscape





Country/City	Sofia, Bulgaria
University / School	UACEG - University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy
Academic year	2023-2024
Title of the project	SIMULACRUM - Park Development of a coastal area - Bratislava
Authors	Lia Yankulova

Title of the project	SIMULACRUM - Park Development of a coastal area - Bratislava
Authors	Lia Yankulova
Title of the course	Special Use Park Project
Academic year	2023-2024
Teaching Staff	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. L. Arch. Env-Eng. Ml. Tanov, Chrief Assist. Prof. L. Arch. D. Manolova
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Department of Urban Planning, Landscape Architecture and Landscape Planning Master Program
University / School	UACEG - University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy



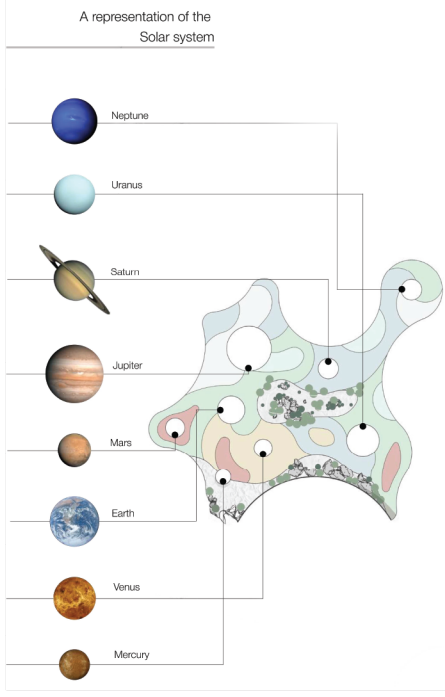
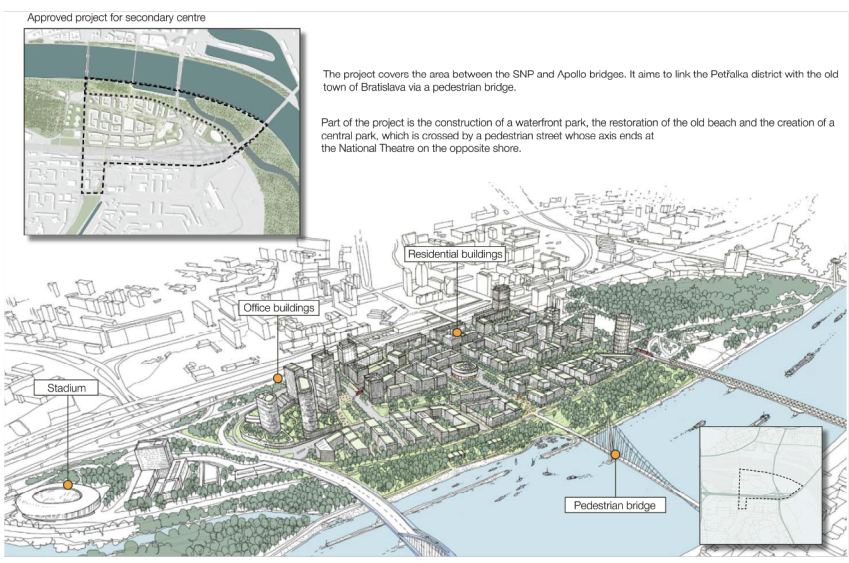
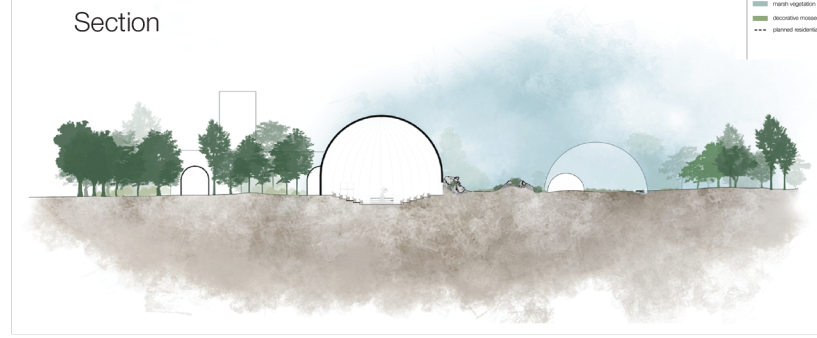
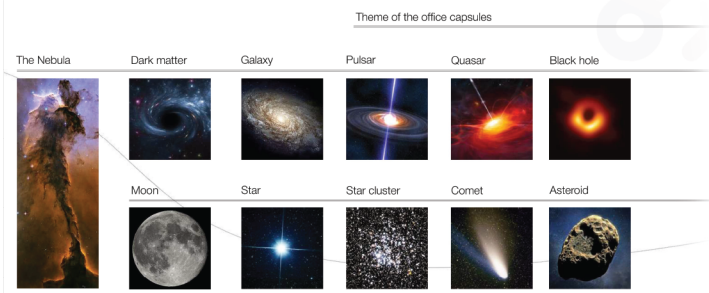
Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

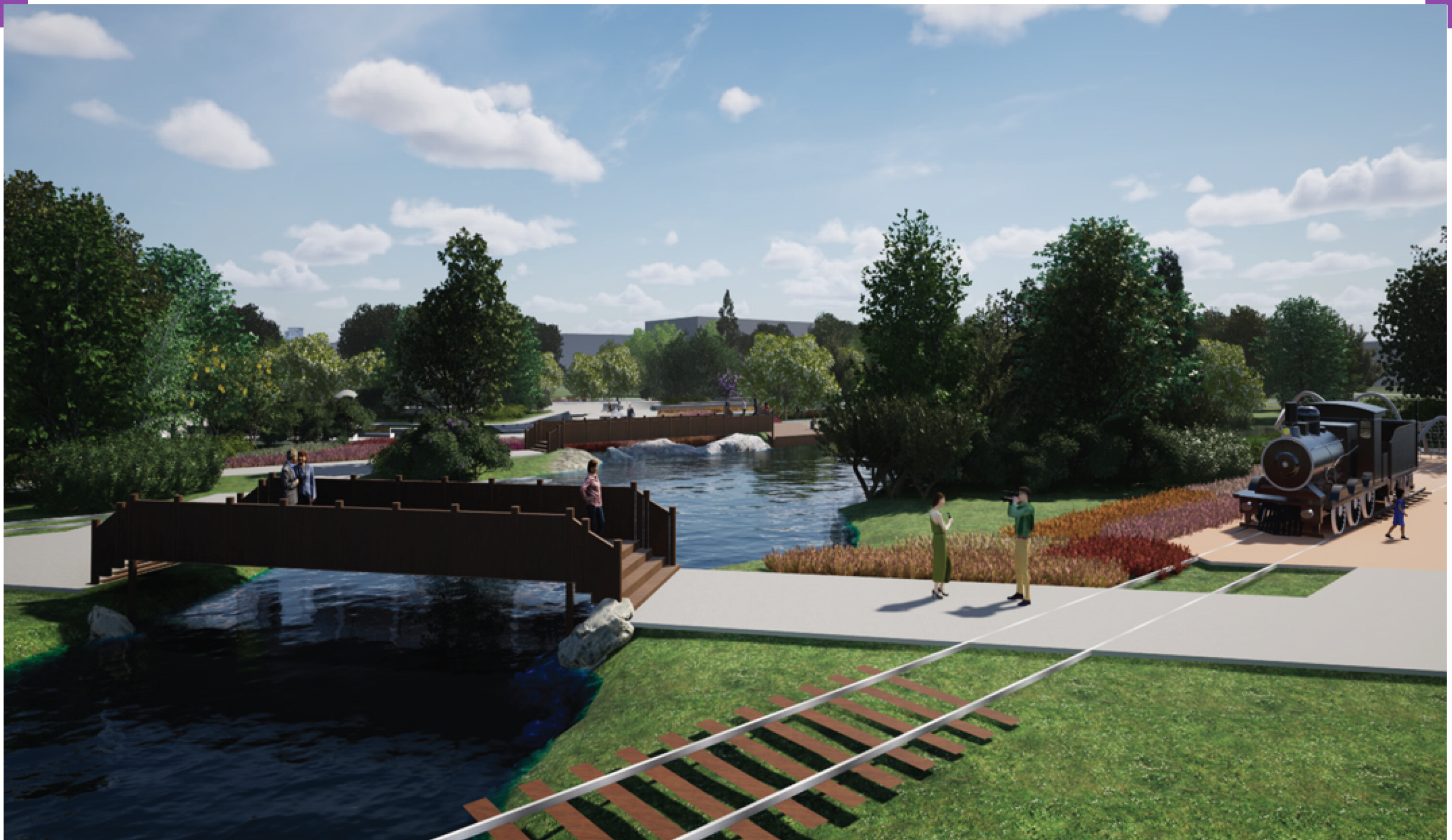
The project proposes the creation of parkland as part of a waterfront regeneration megaproject with offices, residential, buildings etc., while creating new recreational features and experiences unique to the area. The park concept develops two thematic lines- showcasing the natural beauty by recreating the natural appearance of the riverside from the past in order to stimulate the public's interest in nature and the city's history and integrating high-tech attractions - simulations and simulacra (attempting to recreate a non-existent reality) of different aspects of modern life, recreating the present. The second element of this are the mirrors in the art installations. They represent the unreal reality they reflect and are a meaningful buffer between what we see and what the park offers through technology. Today, simulated reality is more real than actual reality, which we no longer seek because of the time we spend behind entertainment screens. Hyperreality is born from the merging of media reality with our own without being able to distinguish our "real" worldview from the false one. The combination of vegetation, water, new technologies and mirrors creates a balanced environment despite the meaningful contrast between past and present, and real and unreal. The different natural and functional zones are simulations of sorts, interweaving into simulacra and uniting into one large simulacrum.

Barcelona International Landscape Biennial

Contact via email:
biennaladm@coac.net

Venue:
COAC - Col·legi Oficial d'Arquitectes de Catalunya
Carrer Arcs 1-3, 08002 Barcelona - Spain





Country/City

Sofia, Bulgaria

University / School

UACEG - University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy

Academic year

2023-2024

Title of the project

Green Regeneration of Railways Areal In Sofia

Authors

Nicol Spasova

Title of the project	Green Regeneration of Railways Areal In Sofia
Authors	Nicol Spasova
Title of the course	Special Use Park Project
Academic year	2023-2024
Teaching Staff	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. L. Arch. Env-Eng, Ml. Tanov, Assist. Prof. L. Arch. D. Dimitrov
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Department of Urban Planning, Landscape Architecture and Landscape Planning Master Program
University / School	UACEG - University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy



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

The development is a project for green regeneration of the railway area between two railway stations in the Bulgarian capital Sofia. Considering the role of the area as a former important transport, logistics and industrial centre, the main task of the project is to create a multifunctional thematic park for recreation and services related to the history of the industrial development of Sofia. Another important task is to overcome the spatial barrier of the railway infrastructure and transform the area into a linking element for the surrounding residential areas.

The concept of the park is developed as a historical narrative of man's achievements from the past through to the present with an eye to the future with museum exhibitions, technology laboratories and cultural and art facilities in the open air and in the old halls. The main routes in the park follow this narrative and reveal successive displays of machinery, equipment and vehicles from the industrial age, laboratories and installations of modern eco-technologies and sustainable practices, as well as environments for self-discovery and self-improvement, and for art and culture.

At the level of form-shaping, a contrasting opposition between linearity and landscape is expressed, symbolizing the two opposing elements of industry and nature.

Barcelona International Landscape Biennial

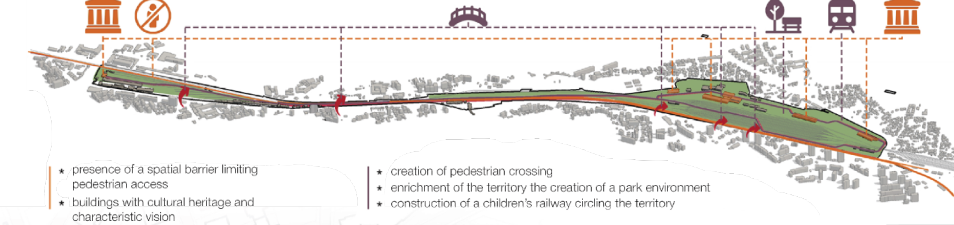
Contact via email:
biennaladm@coac.net

Venue:
COAC - Col·legi Oficial d'Arquitectes de Catalunya
Carrer Arcs 1-3, 08002 Barcelona - Spain

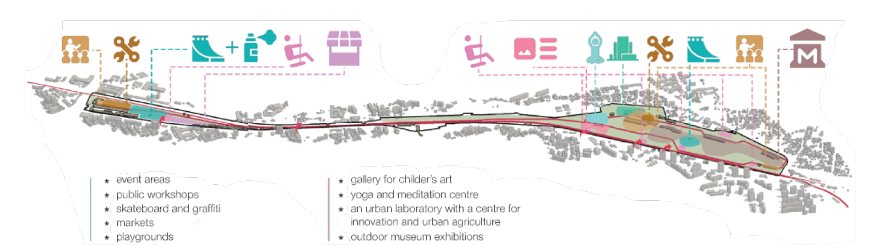
LOCATION



Concept of the whole territory



Functional zoning of the whole territory

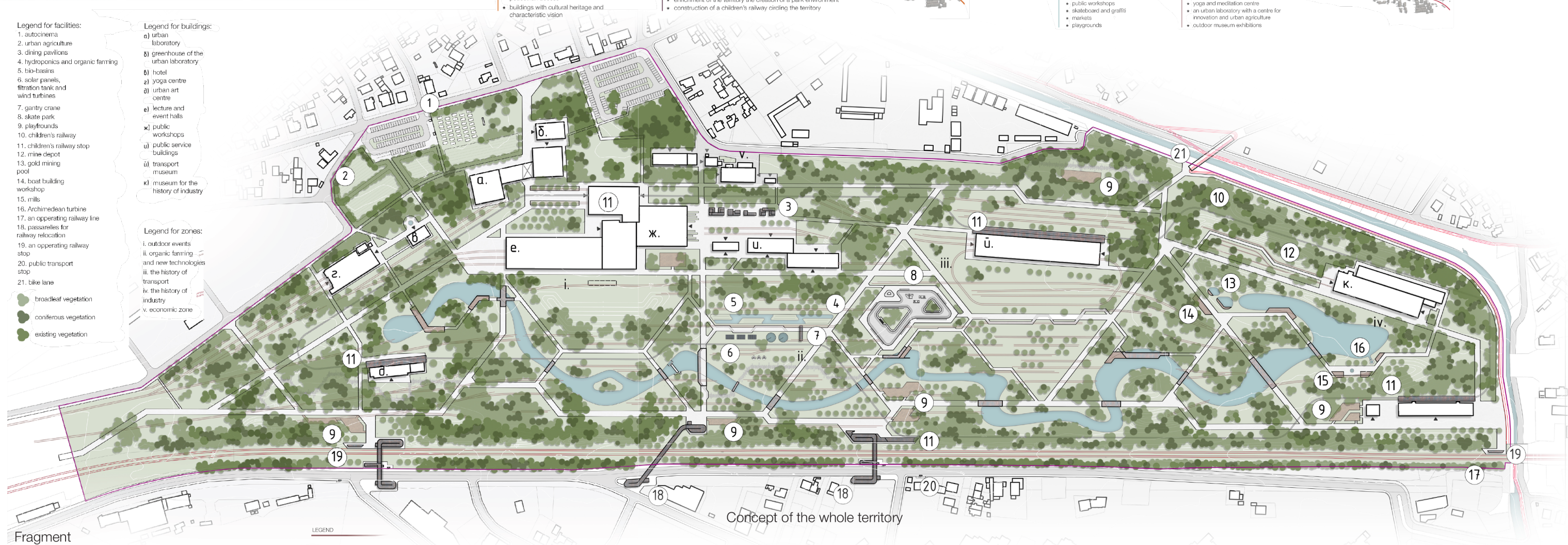


- Legend for facilities:
1. autocinema
 2. urban agriculture
 3. dining pavilions
 4. hydroponics and organic farming
 5. bio-basins
 6. solar panels, filtration tank and wind turbines
 7. gantry crane
 8. skate park
 9. playgrounds
 10. children's railway
 11. children's railway stop
 12. mine depot
 13. gold mining pool
 14. boat building workshop
 15. mills
 16. Archimedean turbine
 17. an operating railway line
 18. passerelles for railway relocation
 19. an operating railway stop
 20. public transport stop
 21. bike lane

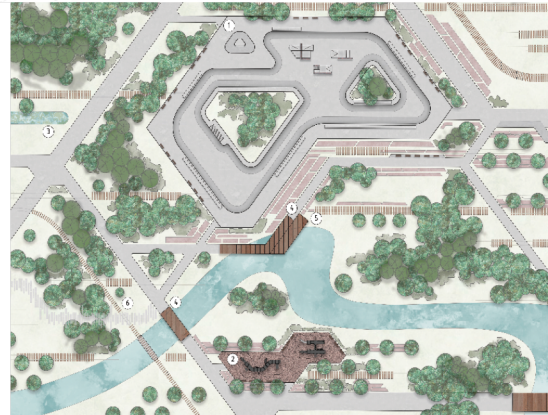
- Legend for buildings:
- a) urban laboratory
 - b) greenhouse of the urban laboratory
 - c) hotel
 - d) yoga centre
 - e) urban art centre
 - f) lecture and event halls
 - g) public workshops
 - h) public service buildings
 - i) transport museum
 - j) museum for the history of industry

- Legend for zones:
- i. outdoor events
 - ii. organic farming and new technologies
 - iii. the history of transport
 - iv. the history of industry
 - v. economic zone

- broadleaf vegetation
- coniferous vegetation
- existing vegetation



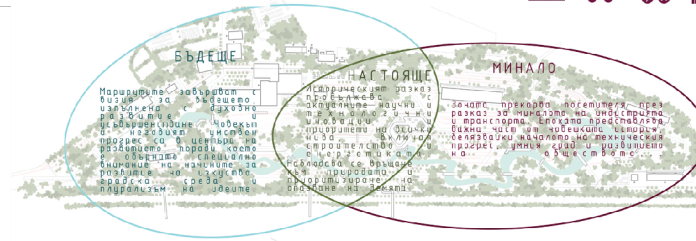
Fragment



FUTURE - self-discovery, culture and art

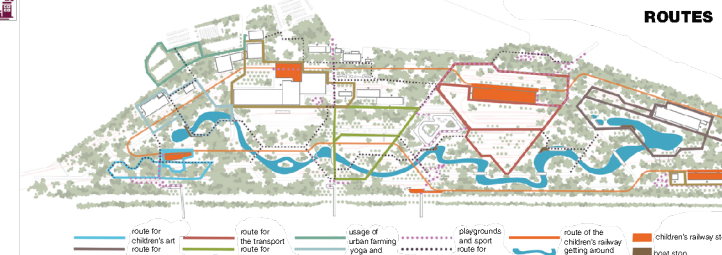


PAST - exposition of industry and transport

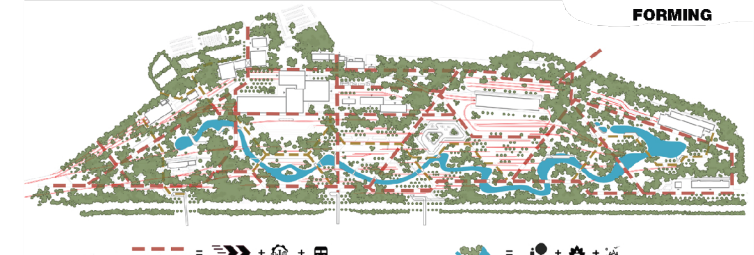


PRESENT - presentation of eco-technologies and sustainable

ROUTES



FORMING





Country/City Sofia, Bulgaria
 University / School UACEG - University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy
 Academic year 2024-2025
 Title of the project Zoolympia
 Authors Kristiana Karneva, Sofia Stamenova

Title of the project	Zoolimpia
Authors	Kristiana Karneva, Sofia Stamenova
Title of the course	Special Use Park Project
Academic year	2024-2025
Teaching Staff	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. L. Arch. Env-Eng. Ml. Tanov, Assist. Prof. L. Arch. D. Dimitrov
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Department of Urban Planning, Landscape Architecture and Landscape Planning Master Program
University / School	UACEG - University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy



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

Zoolympia is a modern zoo project that merges ecological diversity with Greek mythology to create an immersive, educational journey. The zoo unfolds as a looping path through biomes representing global ecosystems—each paired with a Greek deity symbolizing its spirit and values. Visitors begin at a small „Greek” village, where Aphrodite, goddess of beauty and harmony, presides over a space of artisanal shops and handmade products. The route continues to the Coastal Biome, under Poseidon, featuring water-loving birds. The Tropicarium, governed by Dionysus, showcasing species from South America, Africa, and Asia. Next, the Prairie and Wetlands, under Hera, focus on biodiversity and harmony in grassland and marsh environments. The Savanna Biome, ruled by Zeus, features a Safari zone with iconic grazing species, but Desert Biome, under Ares, emphasizes resilience and survival. In the Mountain Biome Hermes guides visitors along elevated paths and scenic lookouts through alpine vegetation. There lies the Underworld, governed by Hades, housing reptiles and amphibians in cave-like enclosures. The journey concludes in the Forest, watched over by Artemis, where shaded paths and a petting zone offer gentle interaction with wildlife. Public service hubs with traditional architecture for the respective regions have been created in all biomes.

Barcelona International Landscape Biennial

Contact via email:
biennialadm@coac.net

Venue:
COAC - Col·legi Oficial d'Arquitectes de Catalunya
Carrer Arcs 1-3, 08002 Barcelona - Spain



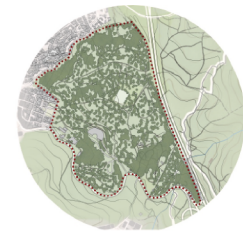
Location



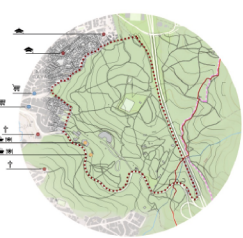
Public transport connectivity



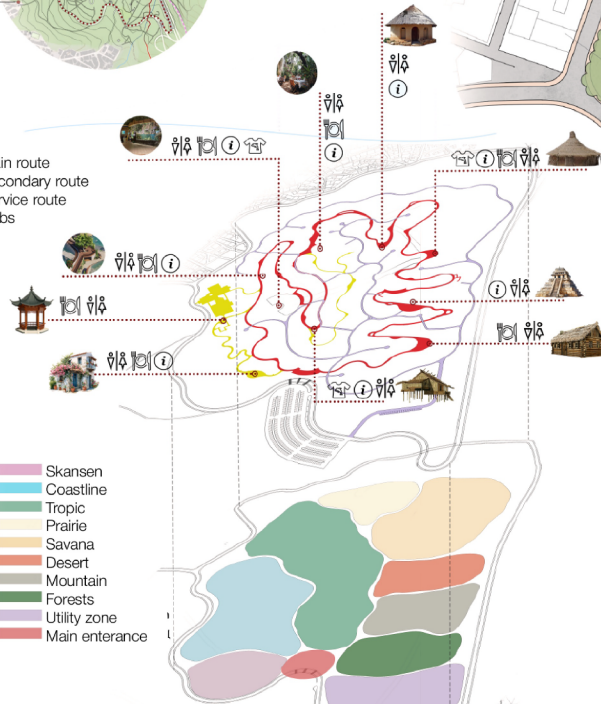
Existing vegetation



Site Analysis



Main route
Secondary route
Service route
Hubs



General plan

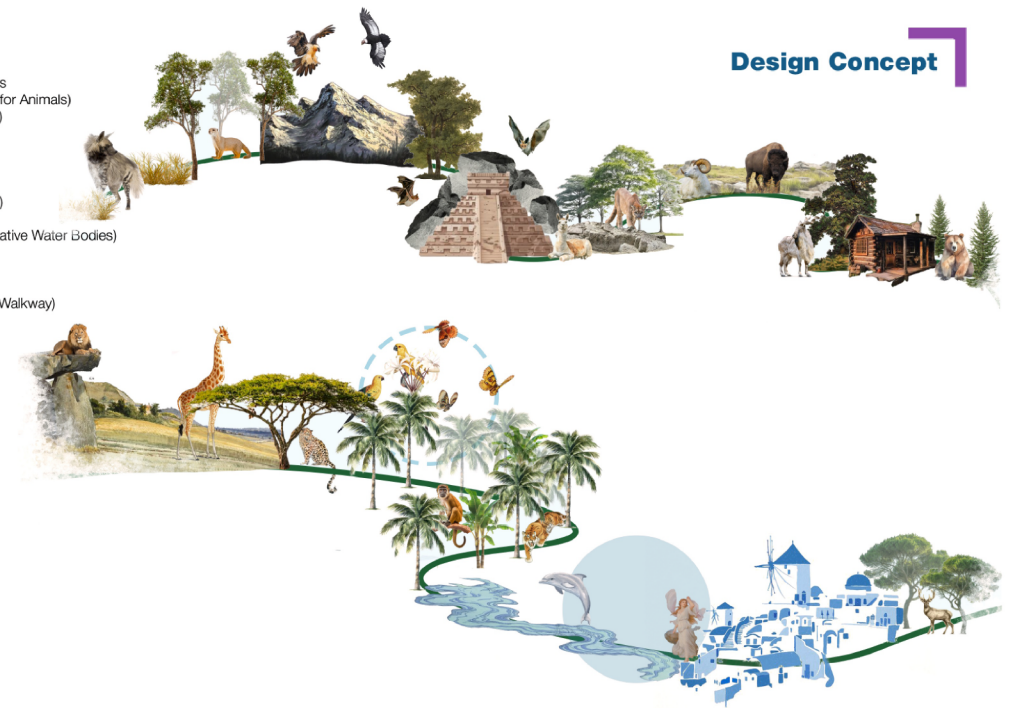


- Public Amenities Buildings
- Animal Facilities with Visitor Access
- Animal Facilities without Visitor Access
- Animal Shelters (or Shade Structures for Animals)
- Service Buildings (or Utility Structures)
- Tropical House / Tropicarium
- Aviaries
- Primary Pedestrian Paths
- Secondary Pedestrian Paths
- Service Route (or Maintenance Route)
- Vehicular Network / Road System
- Ornamental Water Features (or Decorative Water Bodies)
- Children's Playgrounds
- Turf Areas outside Animal Enclosures
- Turf Areas within Animal Enclosures
- Rope Course (or Elevated Adventure Walkway)
- Emergency Route

- Existing Vegetation
- Proposed Vegetation
- Building Entrance
- Main Entrance
- Service Entrance
- Visitor Entrance & Ticketing Center
- Visitor Hub / Orientation Node
- Parking Area
- Specialized School
- Education Center
- Research and Conservation Center
- Administrative Building
- Amphitheater
- Aquarium
- Safari Zone
- Veterinary Center
- Animal Quarantine / Isolation Facility

- Green Area
- Habitat
- Water Surface
- Washed Concrete
- Decking
- Rocks / Stone Elements
- Habitat Rock Barrier with Inward Slope
- Habitat Fence Posts
- Protective Mesh / Safety Net
- Retaining Wall with Inward Slope
- Viewing Platform - Glass
- Pergola
- Staircase to Upper Level
- Viewing Platform (Upper Level)
- Viewing Platform
- Animal Building
- Service Route
- Safety Railing / Guardrail
- Tropicarium
- Path at Ground Level
- Elevated Path
- Facility / Venue
- Public Amenities Building

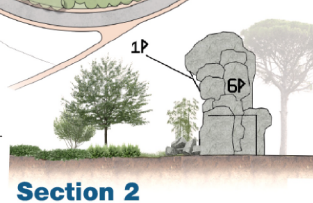
Design Concept



Section 1



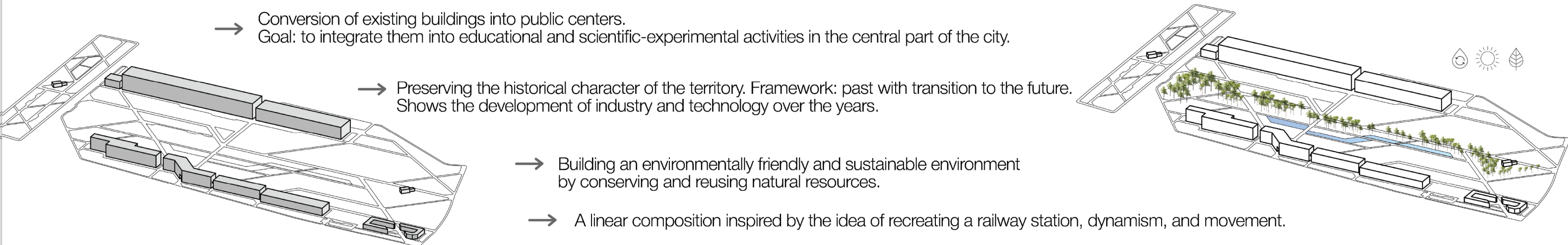
Section 2





Country/City Sofia, Bulgaria
University / School UACEG - University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy
Academic year 2023-2024
Title of the project Conversion of a railway station into a science and technology complex
Authors Victoria Manolova

Title of the project	Conversion of a railway station into a science and technology complex
Authors	Victoria Manolova
Title of the course	Special Use Park Project
Academic year	2023-2024
Teaching Staff	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. L. Arch. Env-Eng. Ml. Tanov
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Department of Urban Planning, Landscape Architecture and Landscape Planning Master Program
University / School	UACEG - University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy



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

This project is a story about the transformation of the large freight station in Lille, France, into a post-industrial educational, cultural and a research center for modern sustainable technologies. But also a story about the transformation of society and the change in individual choice of each of its members, following one of the many parallel life paths and alternative destinies - one of the many parallel tracks.

The new urban park in the central part of the city is an important element of the green system, providing a pedestrian connection between the surrounding urban areas and serving their recreational needs.

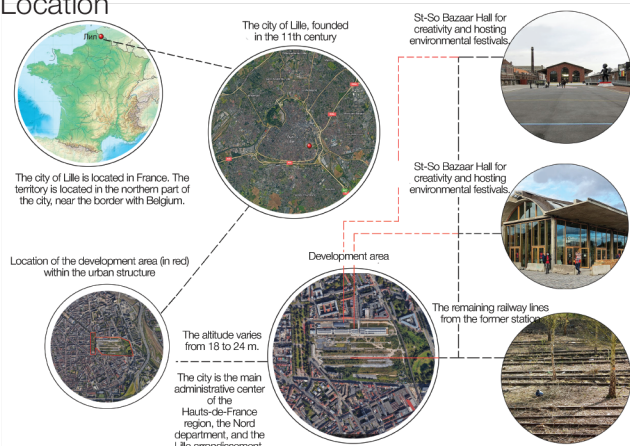
Given the concentration of educational and cultural institutions in the area, the park is well suited to a functional profile linked to industrial heritage, science, innovation, and modern technologies in the fields of sustainable development, environmental protection and restoration, agricultural practices.

Barcelona International Landscape Biennial

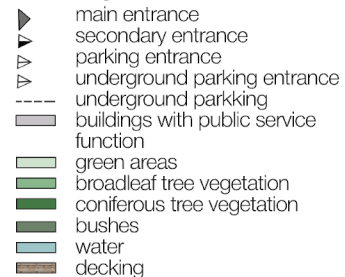
Contact via email:
biennialadm@coac.net

Venue:
COAC - Col·legi Oficial d'Arquitectes de Catalunya
Carrer Arcs 1-3, 08002 Barcelona - Spain

Location



LEGEND

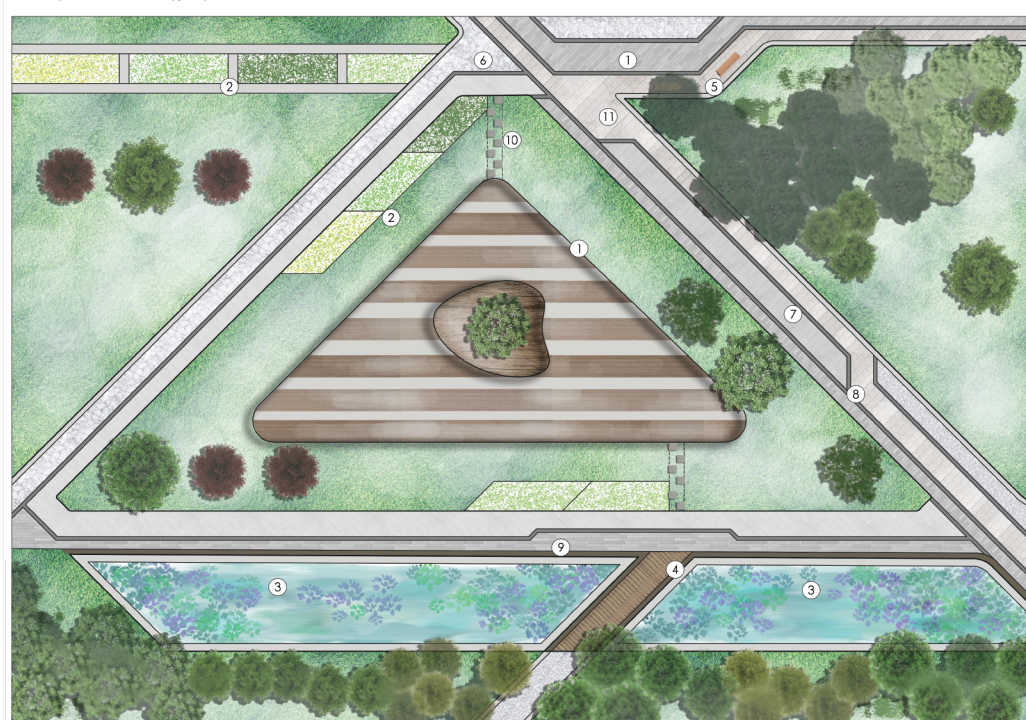


1. Children's cultural center
2. Center for applied arts
3. Center for architecture and urbanism
4. Storage room
5. Restaurants
6. Historical museum
7. Playground for disadvantaged children
8. Exhibition of architectural elements
9. Barbecue area
10. Area for outdoor activities and events
11. Dormitories
12. Soil microbiology laboratory
13. Plant biotechnology center
14. Ecology and health center
15. Agricultural markets
16. Open areas for growing vegetables
17. Open areas for growing herbs
18. Cafés
19. Playground for children up to 3 years of age
20. Playground for children aged 3 to 12 years
21. Event area at the children's center
22. outdoor fitness area
23. parking lot (20 parking spaces)
24. underground parking lot
25. bus stop
26. Water areas with vegetation
27. Grass areas with decorative grasses
28. Exhibition carriages
29. Decking
30. Elevated metro
31. Large meadow for events and summer cinema
32. Connection to green wedge

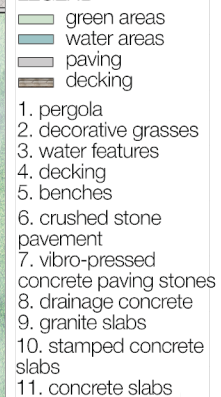
FUNCTIONAL ZONING



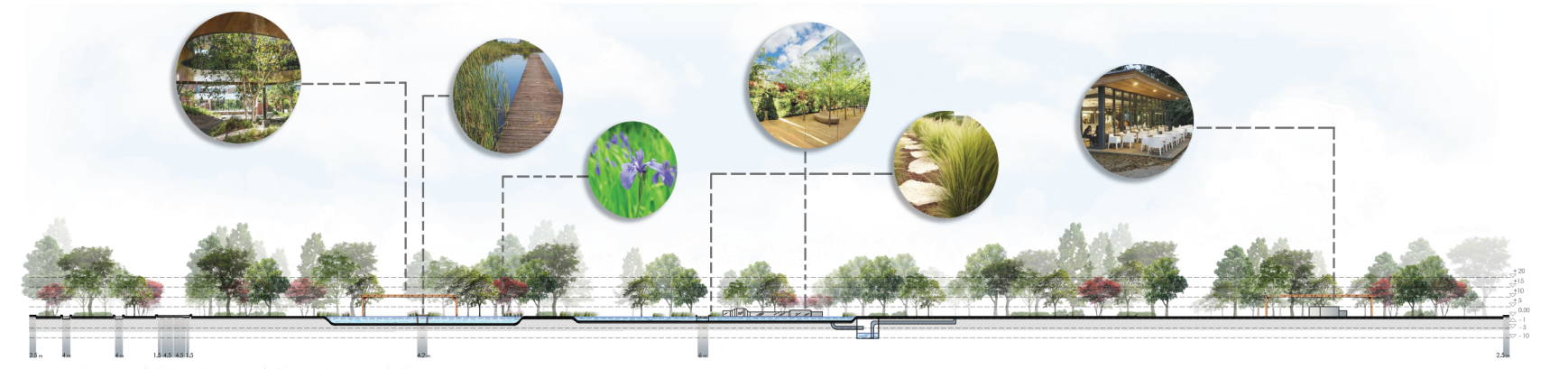
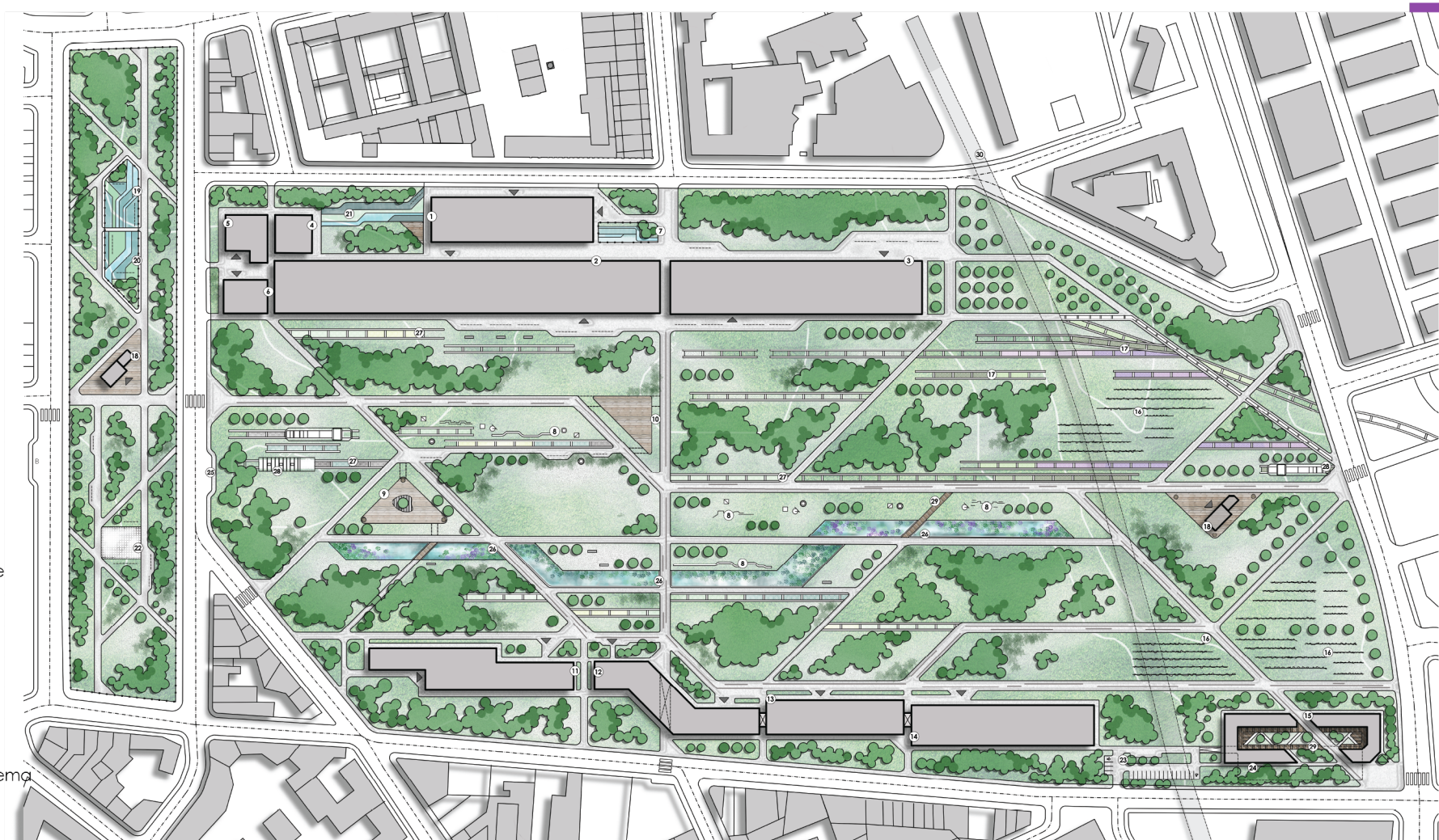
FRAGMENT - BBQ ZONE



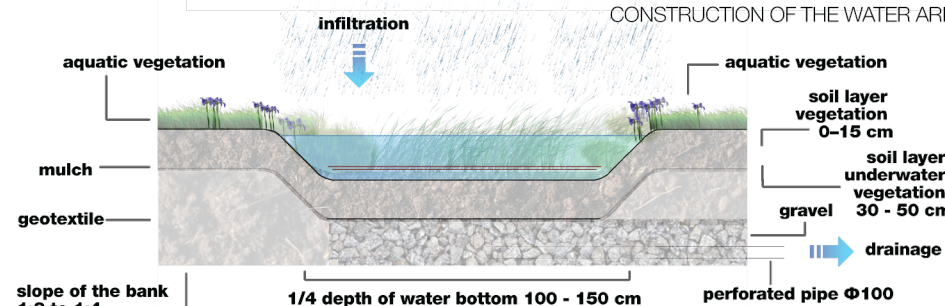
LEGEND



1. pergola
2. decorative grasses
3. water features
4. decking
5. benches
6. crushed stone pavement
7. vibro-pressed concrete paving stones
8. drainage concrete
9. granite slabs
10. stamped concrete slabs
11. concrete slabs



CONSTRUCTION OF THE WATER AREA



PLANTS USED FOR WATER PURIFICATION

