

University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical faculty, Department of Landscape Architecture project selection primarily focuses on topics related to European urban environments, including climate change adaptations, mass tourism, and post-industrial areas. The projects selected exhibit a well-defined conceptual design that transcends mere aesthetic appeal and comprehensively examines the challenges confronting contemporary cities. The selected projects address critical issues such as rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and biodiversity decline, while proposing solutions for sustainable land utilisation, blue-green infrastructure, and urban resilience.

Notably, the "Dancing with Fellini" project in Rimini, Italy, exemplifies innovation in turbo tourism. This project critically analyses the strain mass tourism imposes on urban areas and the subsequent erosion of city centres. It presents a novel approach to harmonising local community needs with tourist attractions by introducing district centres and enhancing public spaces. The project's capacity to elevate public awareness and develop long-term strategies through creative methodologies served as a significant criterion for selection.

Furthermore, Rijeka, Jesenice, and Union EXPO projects aim to revitalise degraded spaces, transforming them into dynamic public areas or economic engines with a minimal environmental footprint. The selection process emphasised criteria such as innovation, thematic relevance, and the quality of presentations, both visual and textual. Each project was required to demonstrate a clear linkage between analysis, conceptualisation, and implementation, thereby contributing to establishing resilient, inclusive, and forward-looking urban environments.



SOCIAL AND ECONOMY

The open market as central public social place

TRANSPORT

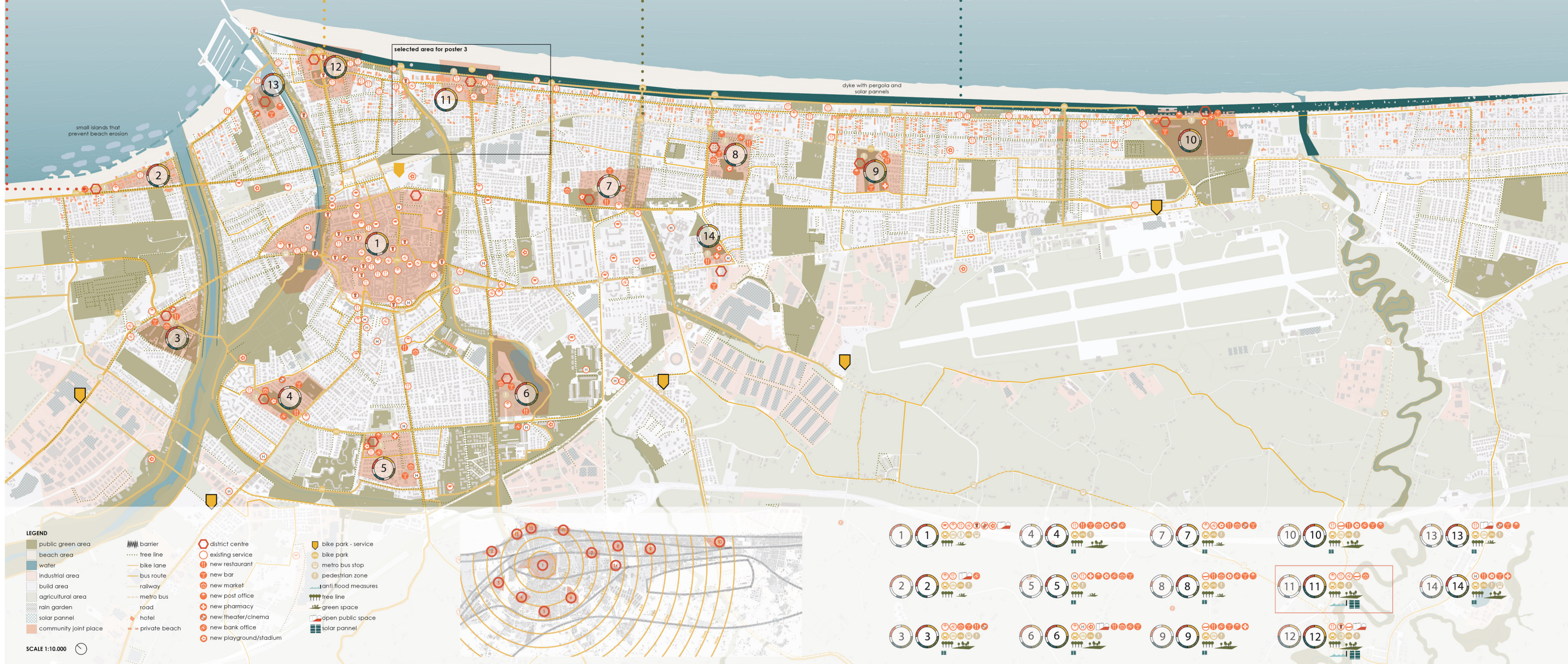
New pedestrian and bicycle zone closed for traffic

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

New multipurpose public park that connects the beach and market

WATER AND ENERGY

New pergola along the coastline, for providing shade and electricity



Country/City

Slovenia

University / School

University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical faculty, Department of Landscape Architecture

Academic year

2022

Title of the project

Rimini - Dancing to the Future

Authors

Hana Gačnik, Zala Janežič, Magda Merhar, Kristina Oražem

Title of the project	Rimini - Dancing to the Future
Authors	Hana Gačnik, Zala Janežič, Magda Merhar, Kristina Oražem
Title of the course	Studio 2, Le:Notre competition, 1st Place
Academic year	2022
Teaching Staff	Assist. Prof. Darja Matjašec, Assist. Nejc Florjanc
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Department of Landscape Architecture
University / School	University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty



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

The competition brief challenged students to address urban development issues in the context of climate change, mass tourism, traffic, and energy through spatial solutions. Participants were tasked with reimagining the future of Rimini across multiple scales (1:10,000, 1:1,000, and 1:100), seeking holistic strategies for a city whose historical centre has been physically disconnected from the coast due to accumulated sediment and expanding tourist infrastructure. A key focus was restructuring the coastal strip to mitigate climate effects, enhance biodiversity, democratize access to space, and strengthen the city's green system. The project Rimini - Dancing to the Future has received the 1st prize in the international student competition. The project reimagines Rimini through the poetic lens of Fellini's Amarcord, using his nostalgic vision to inspire a modern, community-oriented city. The project questions the city's centralised structure and proposes a network of "15-minute neighbourhoods," each with its own administrative, service, and public functions. These centres are connected through pedestrian- and cyclist-friendly streets, supported by an efficient public transport system. Barriers such as roads, railways, and rivers are overcome through urban design that prioritises social connection and environmental health. Green corridors reduce heat islands, and natural resources like sun and water are harnessed to create more self-sufficient, resilient communities. Public space is treated like a stage—designed to inspire life, dreams, and collective memory. As Fellini said, "Living a dream is like making a movie," so the project turns Rimini into a cinematic city of dreams.

Barcelona International Landscape Biennial

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AMARCORD "I remember..."



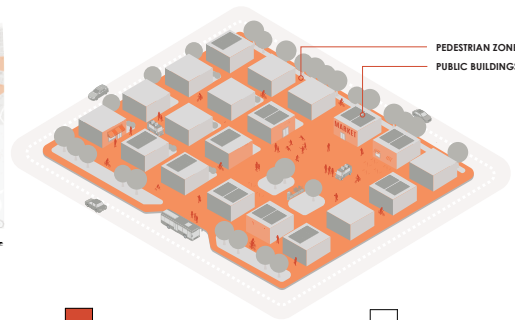
SOCIAL AND ECONOMY



Fellini is a synonym for strong community and good landscape connections. (SOC-ECON)



City social and economy division is strongly visible. (SOC-ECON)

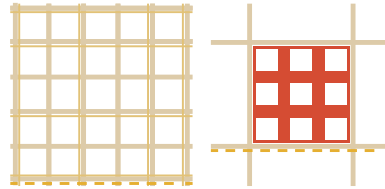


PEDESTRIAN ZONE
PUBLIC BUILDINGS

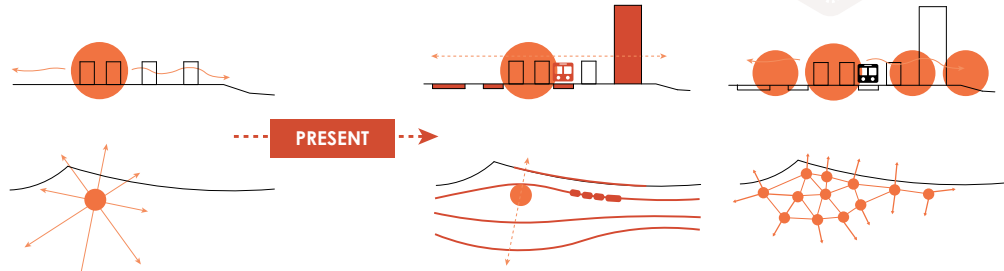


pedestrian zone
hotels
streets named after Fellini
buildings with social functions

All of this area is closed for traffic. Paving is in one level and the space is used as pedestrian zone. People here are walking and cycling freely. All of this area is meant for people to gather and socialize.



building
car lane
fast bus route
bicycle lane
pedestrian zone



PRESENT

Rimini used to be small enough that one city centre could fulfill people's needs. (SOC-ECON)

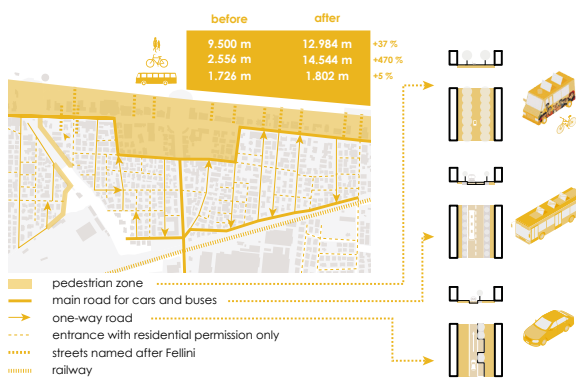
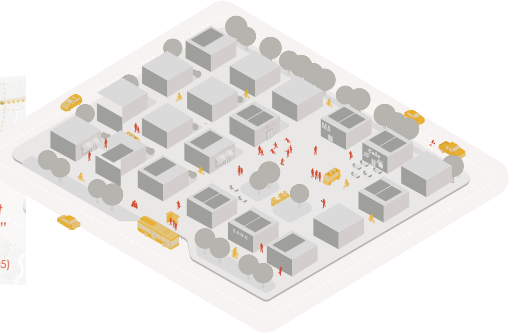
Now the barriers are dividing the city as landscape and city as place with good potential of strong community. (SOC-ECON)

There is a potential to develop Rimini's one main city centre to collection of districts. (SOC-ECON)

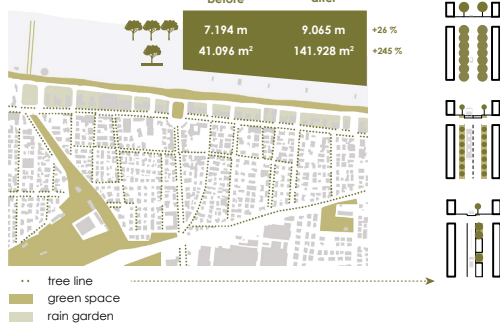
CONCEPT



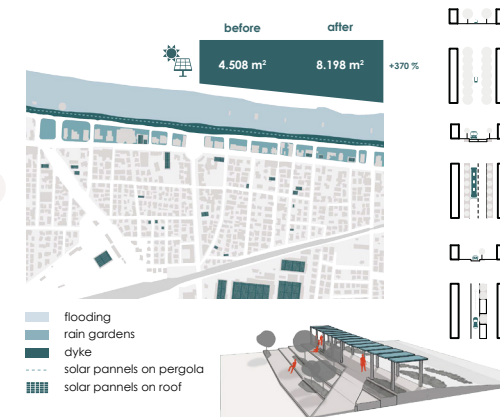
How is the community connection applied in space? (SOC-ECON)



pedestrian zone
main road for cars and buses
one-way road
entrance with residential permission only
streets named after Fellini
railway



tree line
green space
rain garden



flooding
rain gardens
dyke
solar pannels on pergola
solar pannels on roof

TRANSPORT



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

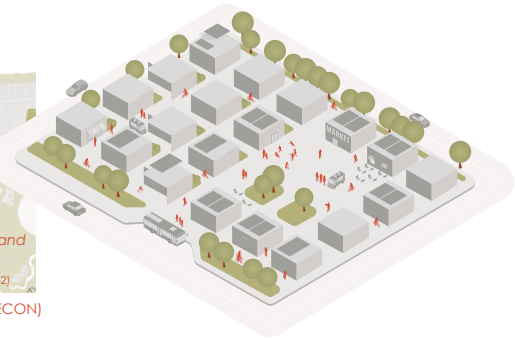


How does transport network connect with green infrastructure and people socializing? (SOC-ECON)



"People would gather on green patches under the shadows of trees and spent their family time in hinterland or on the beach." (SOC-ECON)

(Amarcord, 01:57:52)

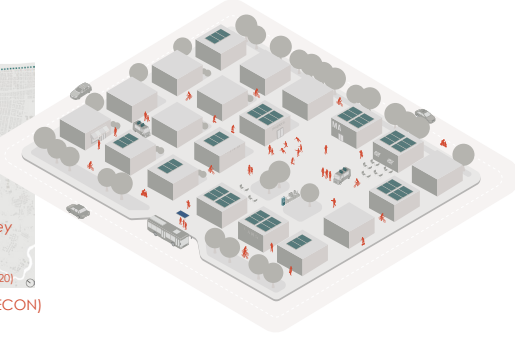


WATER AND ENERGY



"People were source of energy, they were enough to keep the city going." (SOC-ECON)

(Amarcord, 00:04:20)



City scale



Neighbourhood scale



Project scale



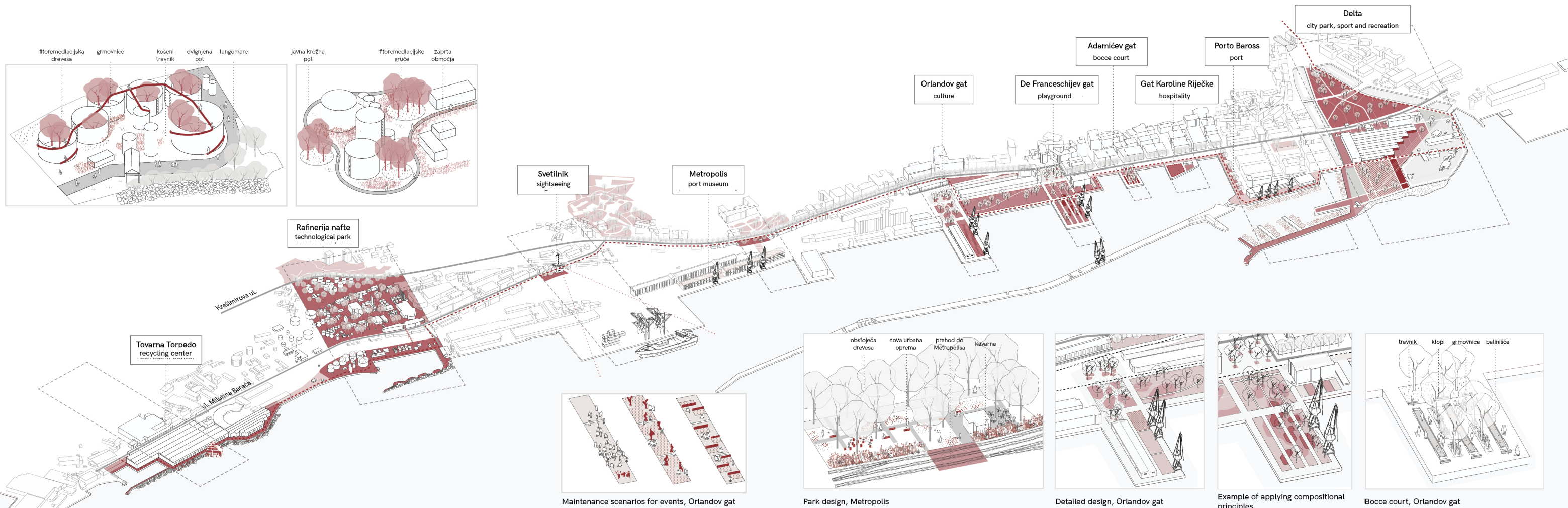
Exhibition installation: video projection on concept sketches (photograph: Sanja Prodan)



Exhibition installation: Hartera (author: Doroteja Matic)



Exhibition graphics: the port (photograph: Sanja Prodan)



Country/City

Slovenia

University / School

University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical faculty, Department of Landscape Architecture

Academic year

2023 / 2024

Title of the project

A proposal for reuse of abandoned industrial areas in Rijeka, Croatia

Authors

Filipa Valenčić, mentor: prof. dr. Ana Kučan



Title of the project	A proposal for reuse of abandoned industrial areas in Rijeka, Croatia
Authors	Filipa Valenčić
Title of the course	Master thesis, recipient of the Faculty Prešeren Award
Academic year	2023
Teaching Staff	Ana Kučan (menthor)
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Department of Landscape Architecture
University / School	University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical faculty

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

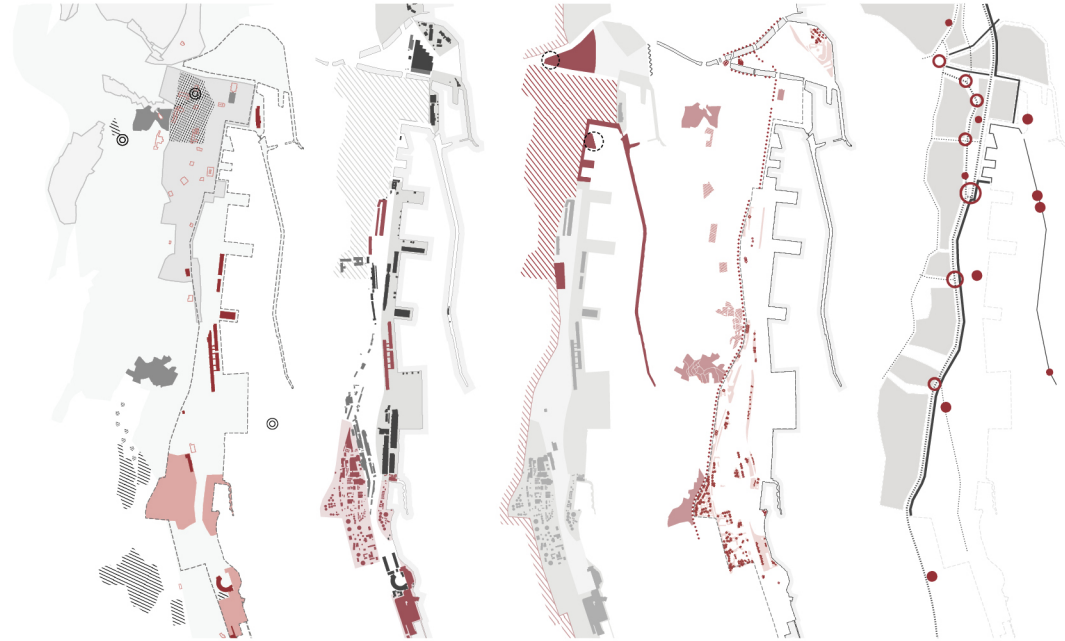
This Master's thesis explores the redevelopment of abandoned industrial areas along Rijeka's seacoast, which currently form a physical barrier between the city and the sea. These sites, though rich in potential, face challenges such as climate change impacts (flooding, sea level rise), pollution, and a lack of strategic urban planning. Demolition and new construction would be ecologically and financially demanding, making circular design—reusing existing materials—a key approach. The thesis proposes a flexible, adaptive strategy for transforming public space on former industrial land. Rather than a fixed masterplan, it outlines a design language based on spatial guidelines, compositional principles (syntax), and design elements (vocabulary) derived from on-site materials and patterns. This framework ensures visual coherence, allows phased implementation, and adapts to future spatial or economic constraints. Due to the presence of an active port, not all of the coastline can be opened to the public. Instead, designated “programmatic breakthroughs” introduce specific public uses and new interactions with the sea. A continuous promenade links these spaces, reconnecting the city with its coast. Eco-remediation and flood protection are integrated into the design through elements such as phytoremediation clusters and stormwater meadows. The compositional strategy draws from both the site's 19th-century heritage and its current condition. As part of the research, a multimedia exhibition was organized, which experimented with ways to document the current state of neglect, using spatial installations to reflect on the area's identity.

Barcelona International Landscape Biennial

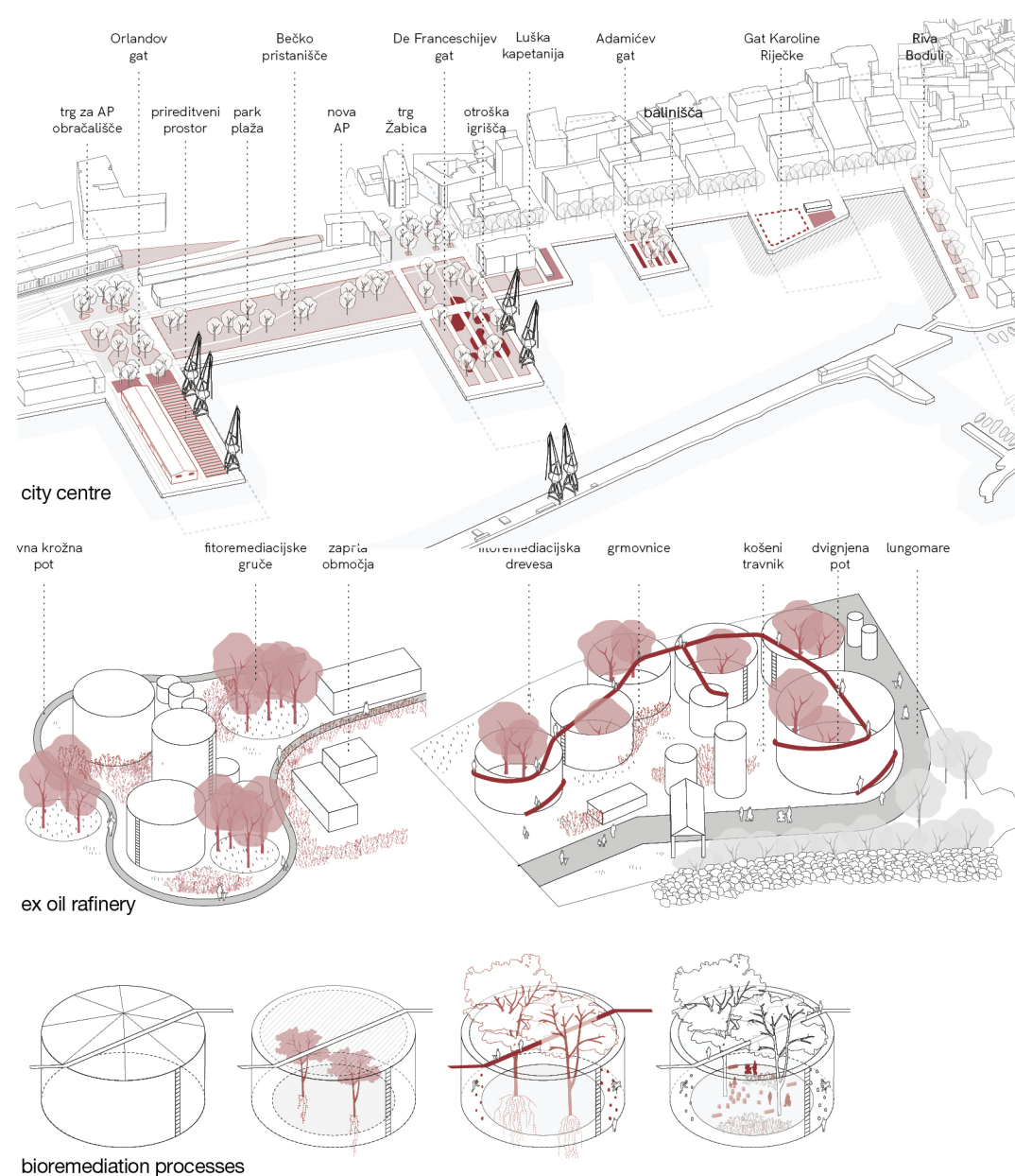
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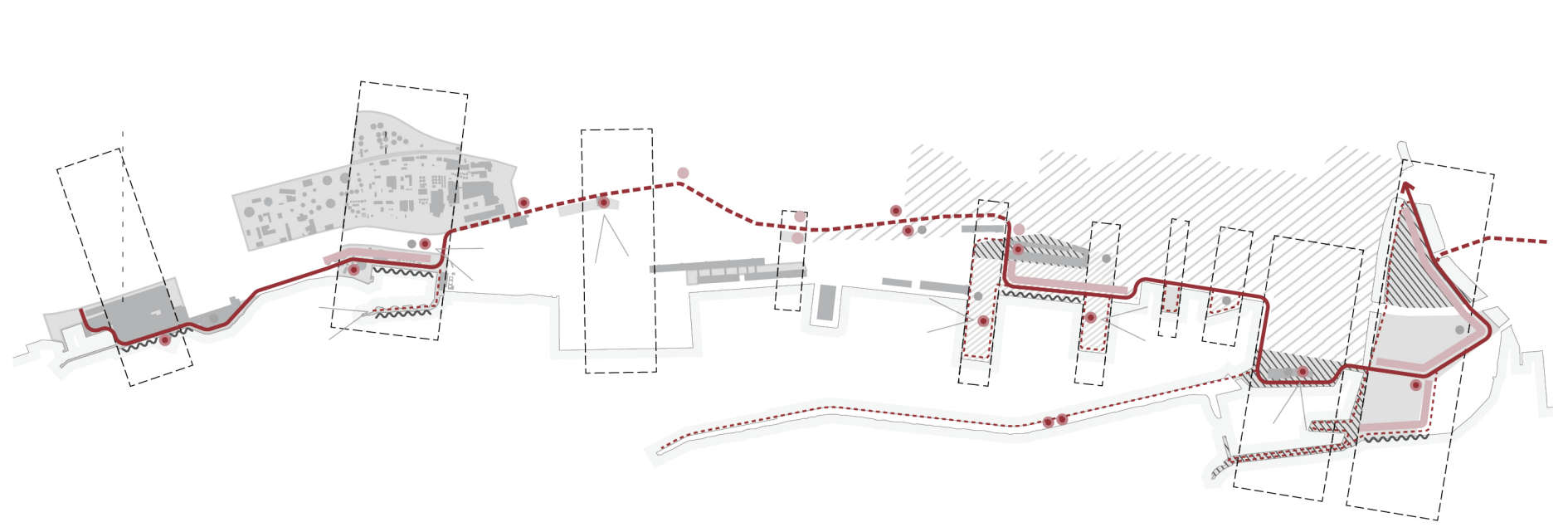
SPATIAL ANALYSIS



DESIGN EXAMPLES

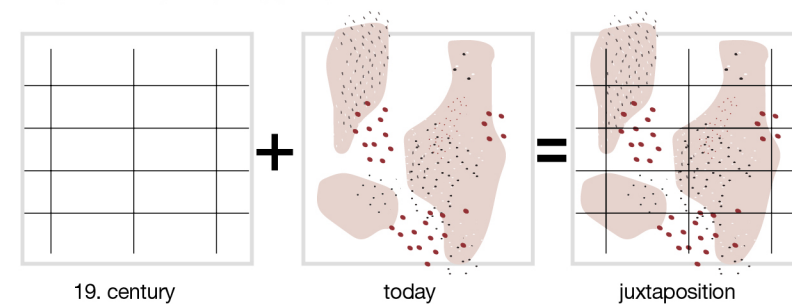


NEW CONNECTIONS

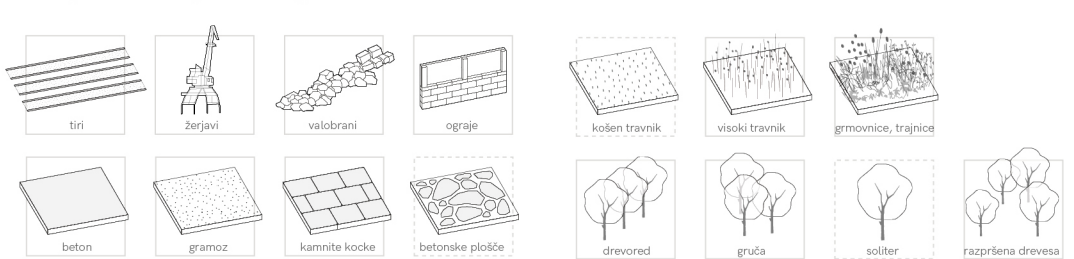


VISUAL LANGUAGE

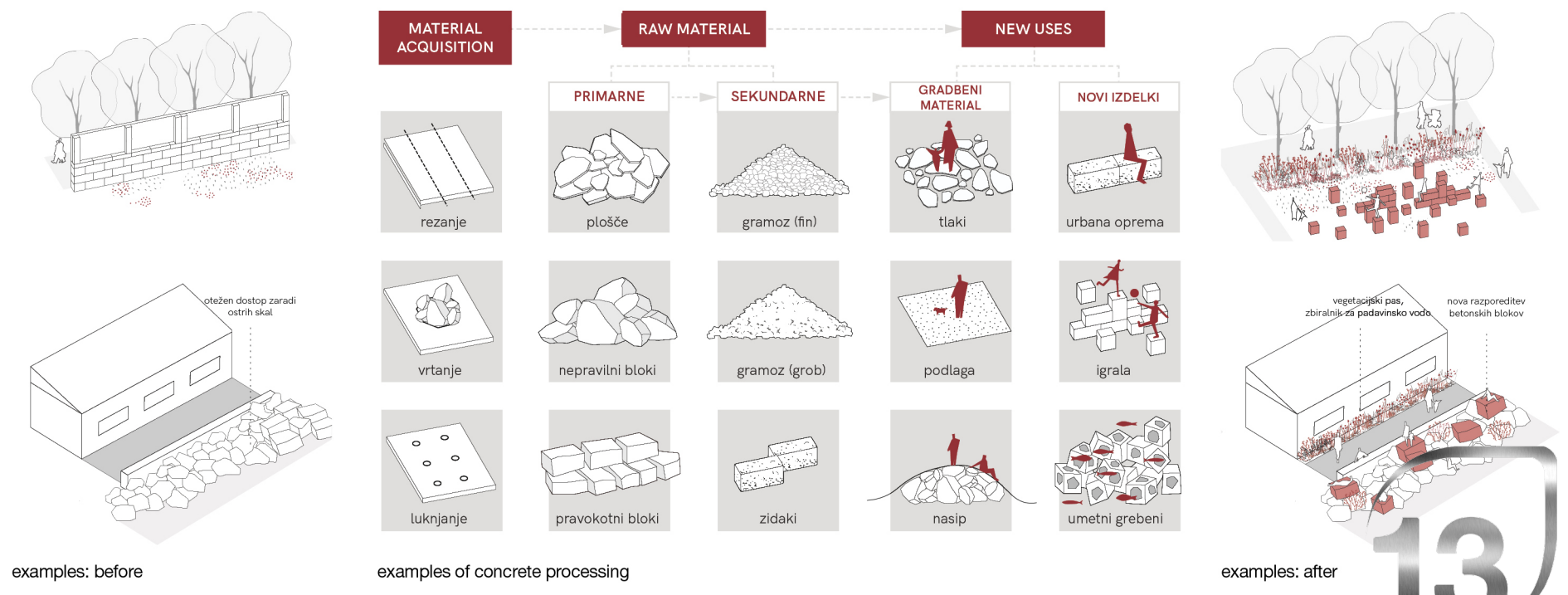
compositional principles (syntax)

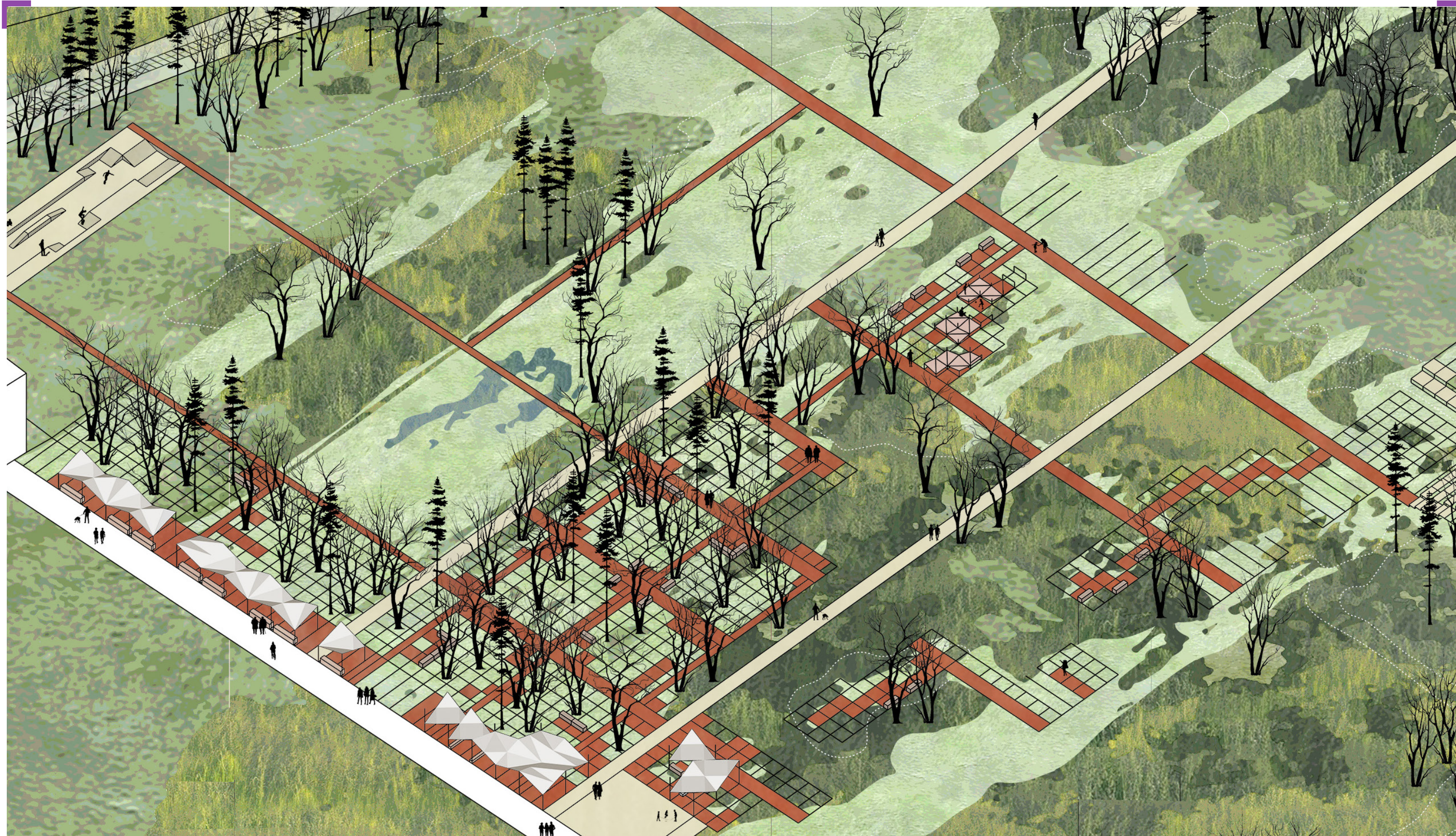


design elements (vocabulary)



CIRCULAR DESIGN





Country/City Slovenia
 University / School University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty, Department of Landscape Architecture
 Academic year 2022 / 2023
 Title of the project Changing Corrosion
 Authors Ana Pilko, Katarina Poklukar

Title of the project	Changing Corrosion
Authors	Ana Pilko, Katarina Poklukar
Title of the course	2023 IFLA Europe Student Competition, 3rd place
Academic year	2022 / 2023
Teaching Staff	Assist. Prof. Darja Matjašec
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Department of Landscape Architecture
University / School	University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty



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

In a post-industrial world, cities built around the metallurgical industry face significant challenges. The project addresses such issues in the urban area of Jesenice, where a fragmented urban structure with a lack of accessible and connective public space fails to support the existing functional centers of the city, and also encourages the use of cars over walking and cycling. The connectivity of habitats and diversity of species have been devalued, resulting in a loss of ecosystem services, reduced resilience to climate risks, and a poorer quality of life.

Our site is a lost landscape, situated in the heart of the urban area, between the historic, cultural, and administrative centers. It holds the potential to create a cohesive urban central area designed for people, rather than cars, thereby significantly enhancing the quality of life. The urbanization and emissions from the metallurgical industry have led to serious air and soil pollution, with alarmingly high levels of heavy metals now affecting the valley. This reality calls for the swift establishment of a green infrastructure system that effectively cleans pollutants, restores habitat connectivity, and supports adaptation to climate change. Our innovative modular design is highly adaptable, allowing for phased implementation across various locations while creating diverse environments to meet a range of needs.

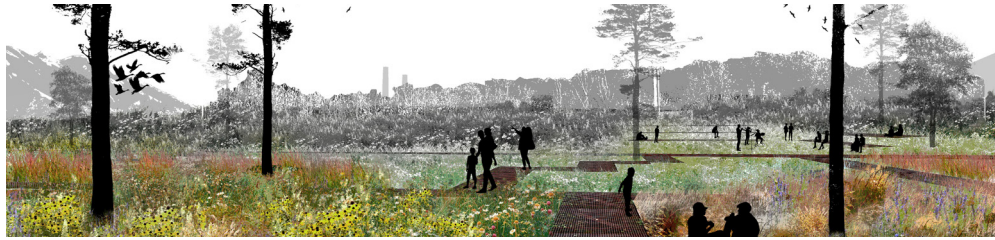
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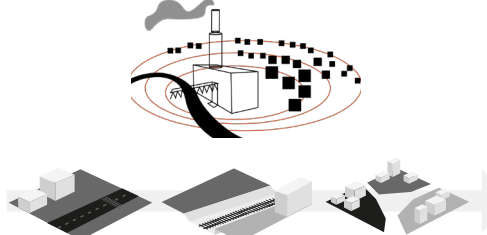
CHANGING CORROSION

Modular Solution for a Lost Post-industrial Site



RESPECTING THE HISTORY: CORROSION AS DECAYING IRONWORKS
 DYSFUNCTIONAL URBAN STRUCTURE → REDEFINED CENTER AS A CONNECTIVE AREA

The city originates in the medieval formation of settlements around ironworks. This results in a fragmented urban structure today.



DESIGN STRATEGY:
 The products of corrosion stay on the surface and protect it. Equally, the history of the site stays apparent in the plan, preserving its character.



REFLECTING THE PATINA OF THE AREA
 using patterns of corrosion in the development of the plan



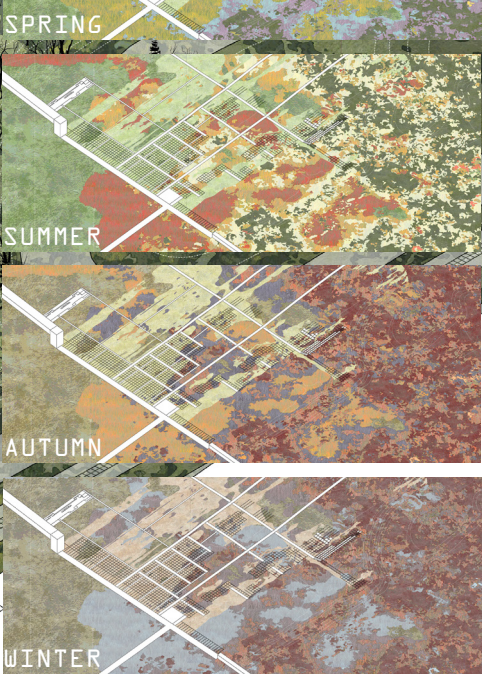
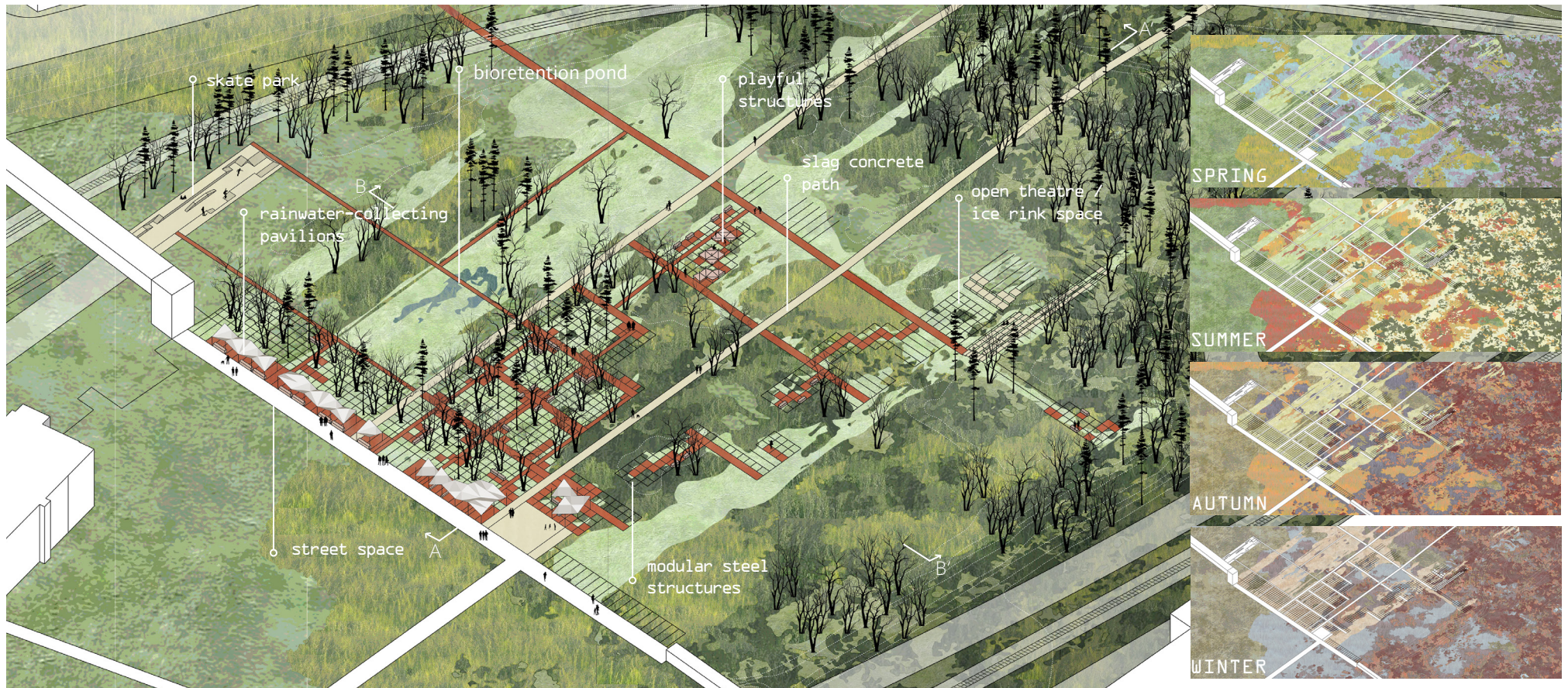
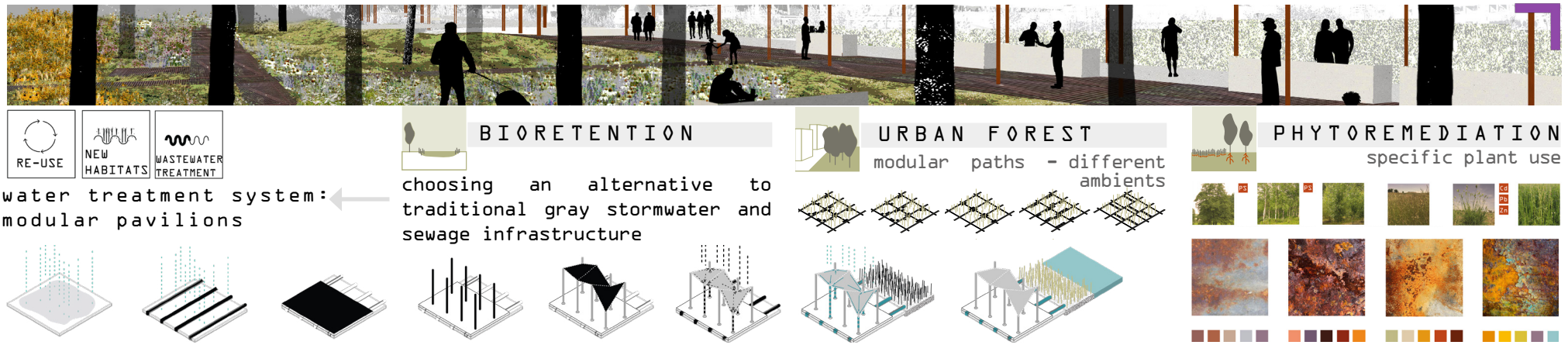
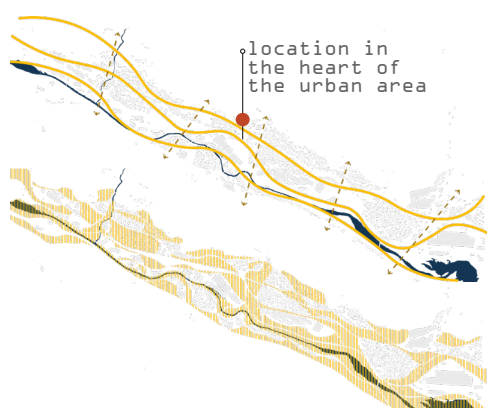
CARING FOR ECOSYSTEMS:
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Urbanisation processes and metallurgical industry emissions have led to air and soil pollution with critically increased levels of heavy metals in the valley today.

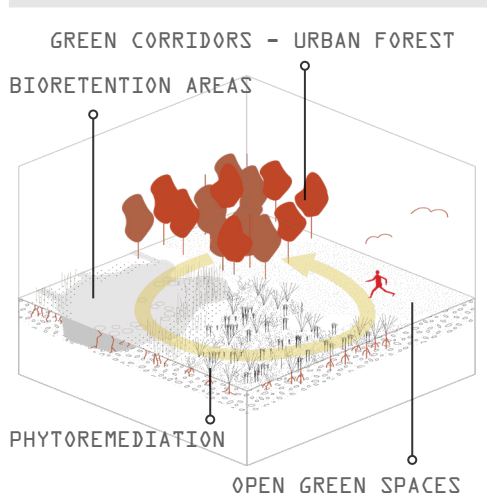
sources of water and air pollution:



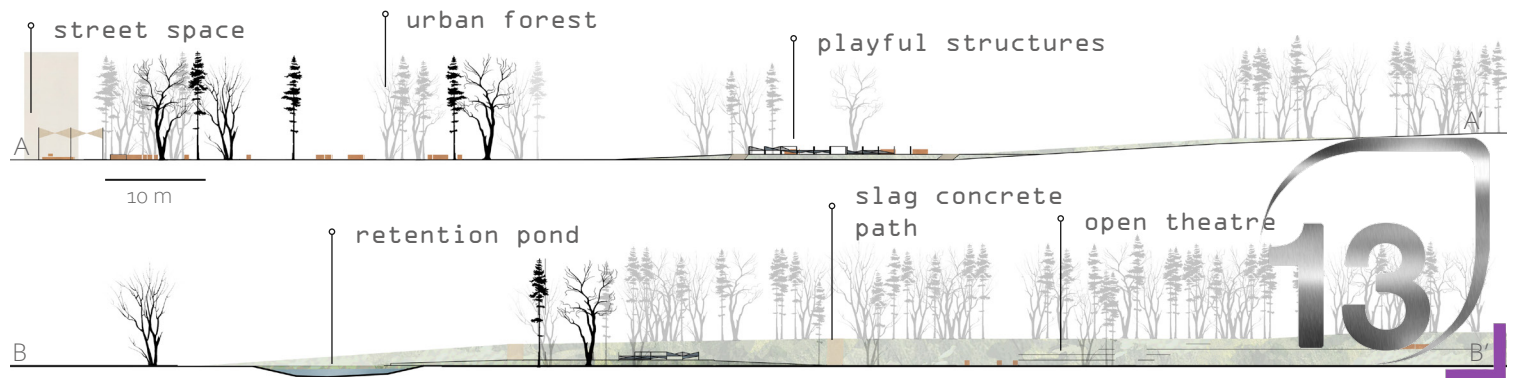
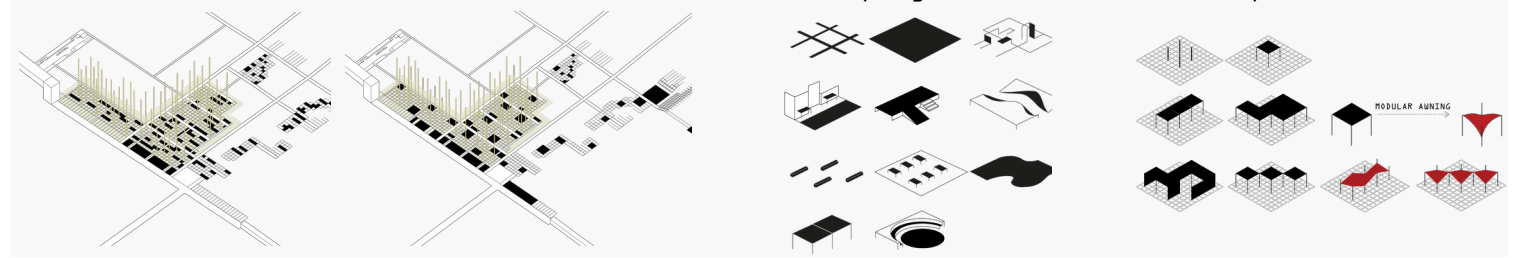
proposed green system:
 connecting ecological corridors and limiting the dispersal of pollutants from their sources



TURNING NEW CONNECTIVE CENTER INTO AN ECOLOGICAL OASIS
 GREEN CORRIDORS - URBAN FOREST
 BIORETENTION AREAS
 PHYTOREMEDIATION
 OPEN GREEN SPACES



modular structure of design:
 modular paths - different ambients
 multiuse program
 modular pavillion





Country/City Slovenia
University / School Department of Landscape Architecture, Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana
Academic year 2022-2023
Title of the project UNION EXPO
Authors Anja Gregor, Taylor M.Griffith, Izabela Verce / Isabela Karlin Čoh, Rosana Arifin

Title of the project	UNION EXPO
Authors	Anja Gregor, Taylor M.Griffith, Izabela Verce / Isabela Karlin Čoh, Rosana Arifin
Title of the course	Landscape Planning 2
Academic year	2022/23
Teaching Staff	Assist. Prof. Darja Matjašec, Assist. Nejc Florjanc
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Department of Landscape Architecture
University / School	Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana



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

The project prominently features a high-quality open public space, demonstrating a commitment to excellence in sustainability and design. Ljubljana is increasingly experiencing the negative effects of climate change. The city centre, commercial and industrial zones are overheating, flooding is becoming more frequent, and the water retention capacity is diminishing. In this context, we investigated the potential for redeveloping the area of the former Union Brewery in Ljubljana. Relocating the production facility will enable the creation of a new residential, educational, and cultural district that is well-connected to the centre of Ljubljana. The project aimed to develop a programmatically diverse, sustainable, and heavily greened urban space that, despite its high building density, would enhance living conditions and contribute to the city's adaptation to climate change. The design incorporates a grid structure that connects the complex of buildings, establishing visual unity while emphasising their diversity. The central motif is the use of circle units, arranged in a grid to create an organic whole with varied functions that also enhance the area's green factor. Features such as vegetation, water elements, rain gardens, and green roofs help improve the microclimate, increase biodiversity, and facilitate water retention and filtration. The result is a structured yet dynamic landscape featuring a diverse range of high-quality green environments.

Barcelona International Landscape Biennial

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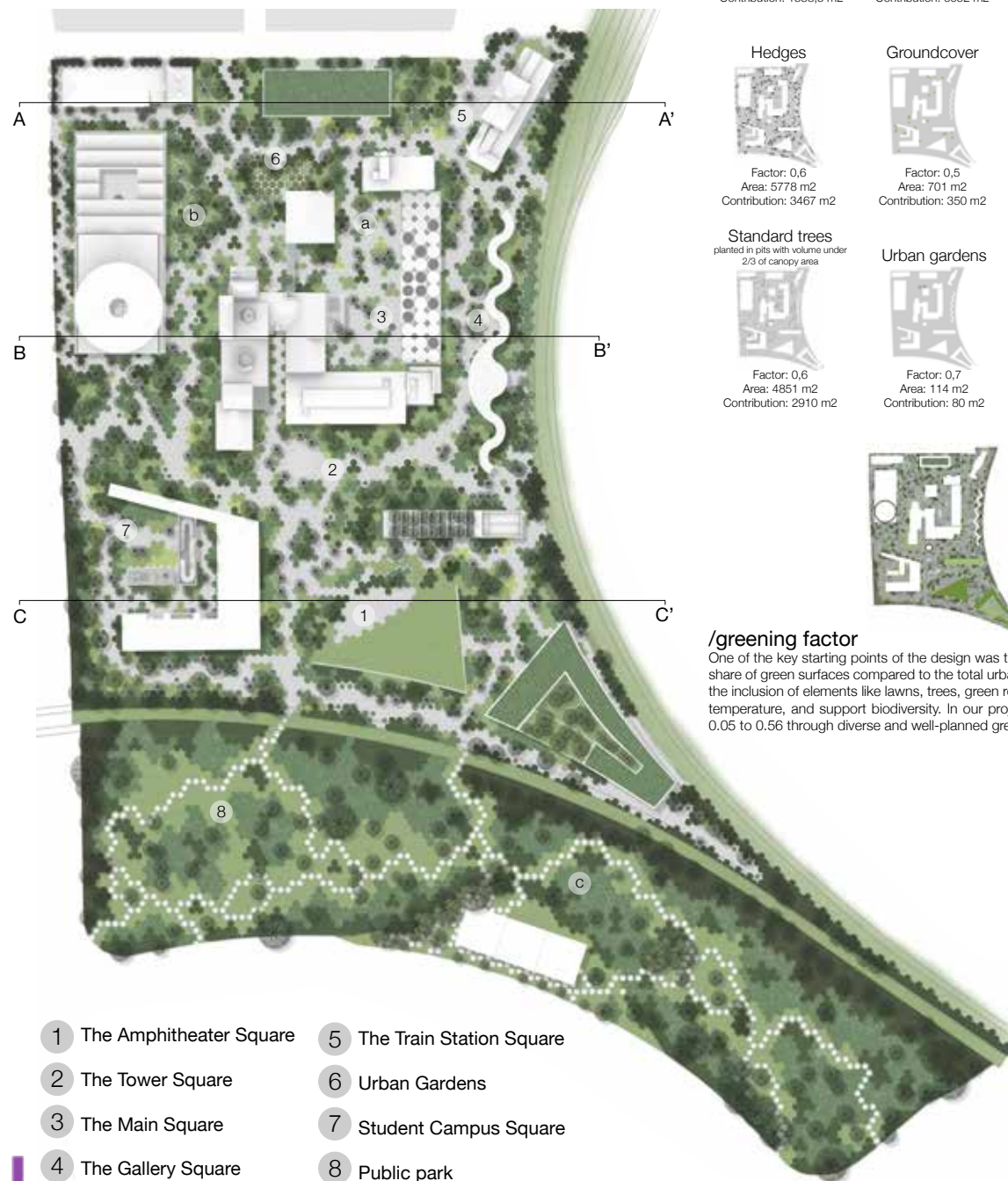
UNION EXPO



/situation

The project is located in Ljubljana, on the site of the former Union brewery and addresses the revitalization of this industrial area, exploring its transformation into a vibrant urban space with residential, cultural, and educational functions. The landscape design was developed in collaboration with architects and is based on their proposed architectural situation and urban design concept.

/master plan



- 1 The Amphitheater Square
- 2 The Tower Square
- 3 The Main Square
- 4 The Gallery Square
- 5 The Train Station Square
- 6 Urban Gardens
- 7 Student Campus Square
- 8 Public park



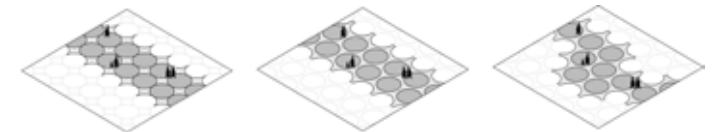
Permeable paving Factor: 0,1 Area: 15385 m2 Contribution: 1538,5 m2	Lawn surface Factor: 0,4 Area: 15130 m2 Contribution: 6052 m2	Water elements Factor: 0,2 Area: 14 m2 Contribution: 7 m2	Rich planting of perennials Factor: 0,7 Area: 12424 m2 Contribution: 8697 m2
Hedges Factor: 0,6 Area: 5778 m2 Contribution: 3467 m2	Groundcover Factor: 0,5 Area: 701 m2 Contribution: 350 m2	"Natural" vegetation Factor: 1 Area: 3006 m2 Contribution: 3006 m2	Standard trees planted in pits with volume exceeding 2/3 of canopy area Factor: 0,8 Area: 2526 m2 Contribution: 2021 m2
Standard trees planted in pits with volume under 2/3 of canopy area Factor: 0,6 Area: 4851 m2 Contribution: 2910 m2	Urban gardens Factor: 0,7 Area: 114 m2 Contribution: 80 m2	Green walls Factor: 0,6 Area: 14000 m2 Contribution: 8400 m2	Intensive and Extensive Green roofs Factor: 0,8 and 0,3 Area: 888 and 638 m2 Contribution: 710 and 205 m2
 Contribution of green spaces: 38,673 m2 Total area: 69,490 m2 Greening factor: 0.56			

/greening factor

One of the key starting points of the design was the greening factor, an indicator that measures the share of green surfaces compared to the total urban area. It promotes greener cities by encouraging the inclusion of elements like lawns, trees, green roofs, and walls. These improve air quality, regulate temperature, and support biodiversity. In our project, we increased the initial greening factor from 0.05 to 0.56 through diverse and well-planned green infrastructure.

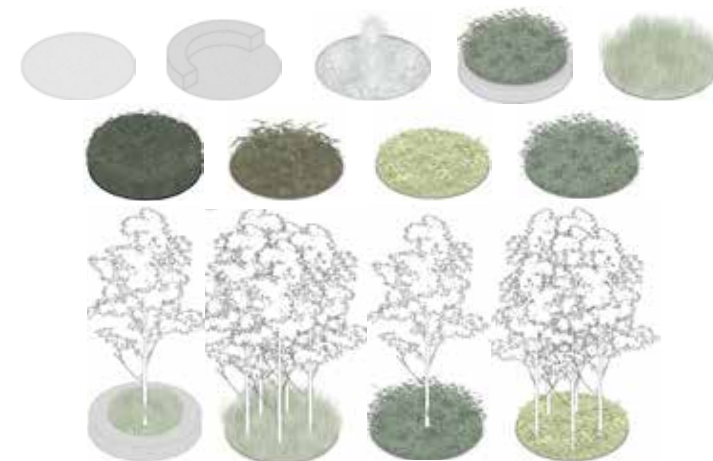
/forming the grid

The grid and network of circles were adapted to a human scale.



/connecting the circles

Connections follow the lines of the grid and enable organic structures within the space.



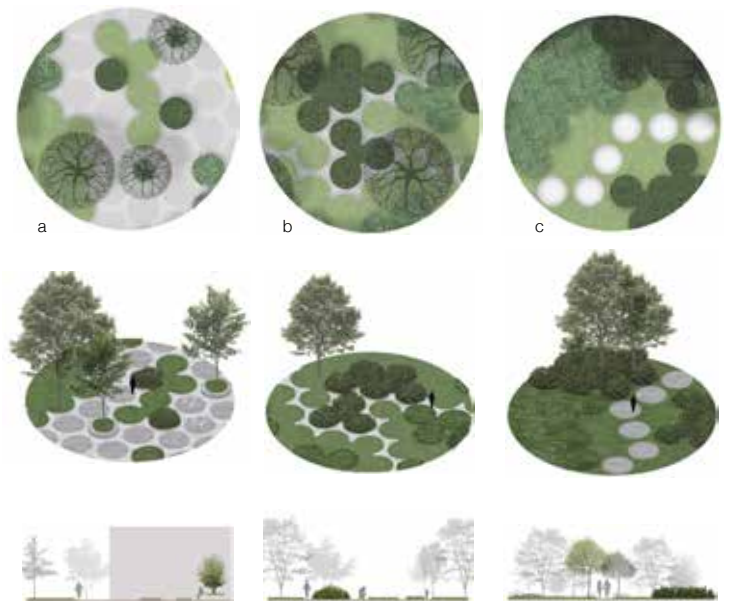
/defining the circles

Defined programs for the circles enable diversity throughout the entire area. Categories include natural and dense vegetation, carpets of ground cover plants, shrubs and perennials, water elements, and rain gardens as the basic layers, with their appearance clearly defined.



/landscape design

The final design for the revitalization of the Union area is based on the use of a grid as the central design element, establishing a clear spatial structure and organization. The grid connects diverse buildings, creating a harmonious blend of art, architecture, and functionality, while enabling pleasant transitions and encouraging interaction among users. The design is anchored by circles with specific programs that increase greenery, improving microclimate, air quality, and biodiversity.



/forming ambients

Connected circles form intertwined structures with distinct programs shape diverse ambients. The more urban, are mostly positioned near buildings and form small plazas and social spaces, while the greener circles, with lush vegetation, offer nature within the dense urban fabric.

