

El Agua como lenguaje del territorio:

Water as the Language of the Territory:



Diseño del paisaje como herramienta de transformación

Landscape Design as a Tool for Transformation

The three projects selected to represent our school conceive landscape architecture as a situated, critical practice capable of addressing ecological degradation and constructing new territorial imaginaries. Located in central Chile, they emerge in contexts of systemic crisis: water scarcity, unregulated uses, biodiversity loss, erosion, and landscape deterioration. These challenges are addressed not through nostalgia, but through a design-driven commitment to regeneration. Water operates as both material and structure—its flow, retreat, and intermittence shape spatial logic, temporal rhythms, and adaptive strategies. These landscapes are understood as dynamic systems shaped by geography, hydrological fluctuation, human pressure, and climate variability. Rather than reinforcing dichotomies between conservation and access, the projects propose hybrid regimes where ecological restoration coexists with public use, environmental education, and cultural revitalization. Landscape is framed as infrastructure for socio-ecological cohesion. Memory and identity are activated not as heritage spectacle, but as affective tools—rearticulating vernacular practices, collective memory, and sensory landscapes. The goal is to foster recognition, attachment, and a renewed sense of belonging. These proposals position landscape design as a multi-scalar tool for ecological regeneration, territorial justice, and civic revitalization. They embody a pedagogical ethic in which landscape is both method and medium, allowing biophysical processes, social dynamics, and spatial form to co-evolve.



Country/City	Santiago, Chile
University / School	Central University of Chile
Academic year	2024
Title of the project	Master Plan – Cajón del Río Colina Park: Rediscovering and Enabling a Sclerophyll Foothill River Landscape, Colina, Metropolitan Region
Authors	Valeria Cartes Urrutia



Title of the project	Master Plan – Cajón del Río Colina Park: Rediscovering and Enabling a Sclerophyll Foothill River Landscape, Colina, Metropolitan Region
Authors	Valeria Cartes Urrutia
Title of the course	Final Degree Project
Academic year	2024
Teaching Staff	Ricardo Riveros
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Faculty of Engineering and Architecture School of Landscape Architecture Bachelor's Degree in Landscape Architecture
University / School	Central University of Chile

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

The pressure from informal activities —such as illegal dumping and forest fires— combined with the lack of control over recreational public use and issues like soil erosion and water scarcity, is rapidly degrading the landscape and biodiversity of a place of extraordinary richness in Central Chile: the Cajón del Río Colina (the Colina River Canyon). This area is now facing accelerated ecological deterioration that threatens its valuable natural heritage. Among rocks, streams, shrubs, and groves, the Cajón del Río Colina reveals a symphony of textures, sounds, and colors that invite a reconnection with the authentic and essential character of Chile's sclerophyll river landscapes.

The project proposes a multiscalar Master Plan, conceived as a sensitive fabric that harmonizes public use with landscape conservation along a 16-kilometer route averaging 350 meters in width. It is organized across hierarchical levels —from the territorial to the local scale— interweaving biodiversity and recreation through a system of enabling structures that respectfully adapt to the landforms and its rhythms. Each structure is defined based on landscape values, perceptual components, and ecological criteria, while considering legal restrictions and safety during river flooding events. Through this approach, the Cajón del Río Colina is consolidated as a territory where people can reconnect with the landscape while safeguarding its species and ecological processes. Conservation becomes a collective strategy —one that strengthens both the environment and society's commitment to natural heritage— ceasing to be an isolated act and instead becoming a shared responsibility embedded in daily experience.

Barcelona International Landscape Biennial

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ES Shelter "Rocks Between Dawn and Dusk"

Tent platform (2 people)

Observation tower

Safe campfire area

Tent platform (6 people)

Section A-A'

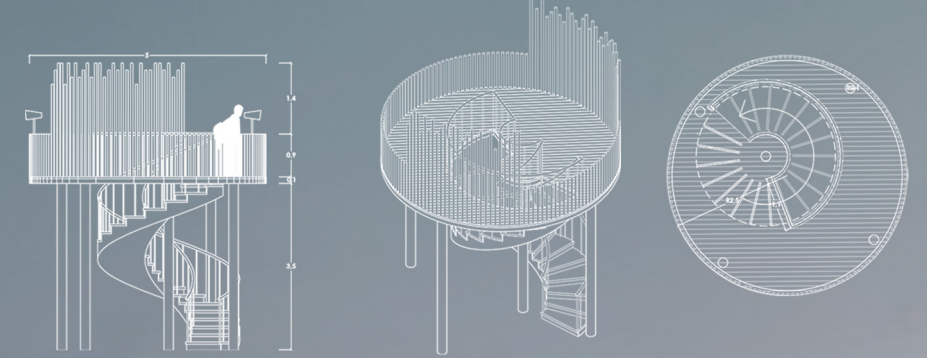
General technical plan



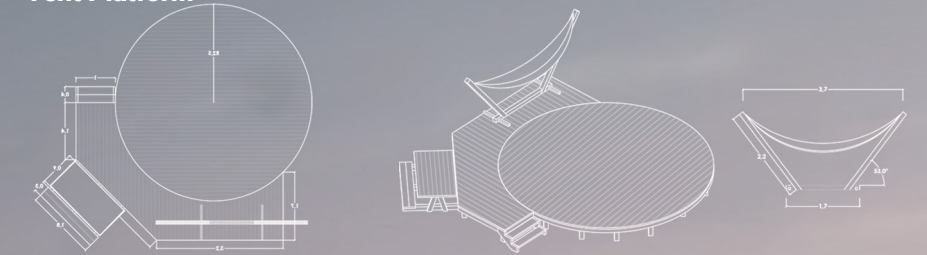
Legend

- 1 - Main trail
- 2 - Main entrance
- 3 - Secondary entrance
- 4 - Tent platform
- 5 - Observation tower
- 6 - Service area
- 7 - "Safe Campfire" zone

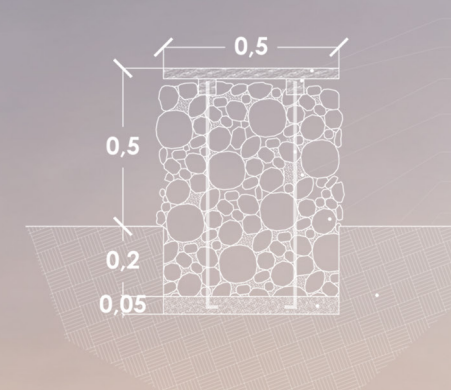
Observation tower



Tent Platform



Construction Detail "Pirca Shelter"

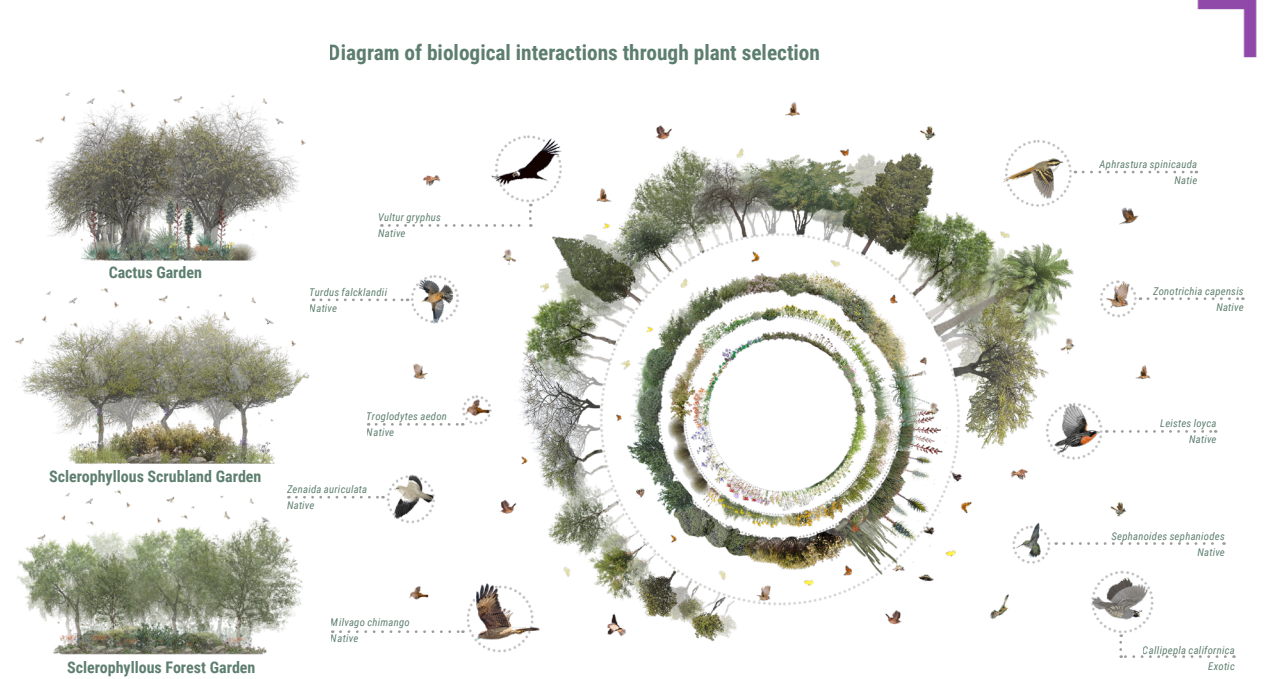
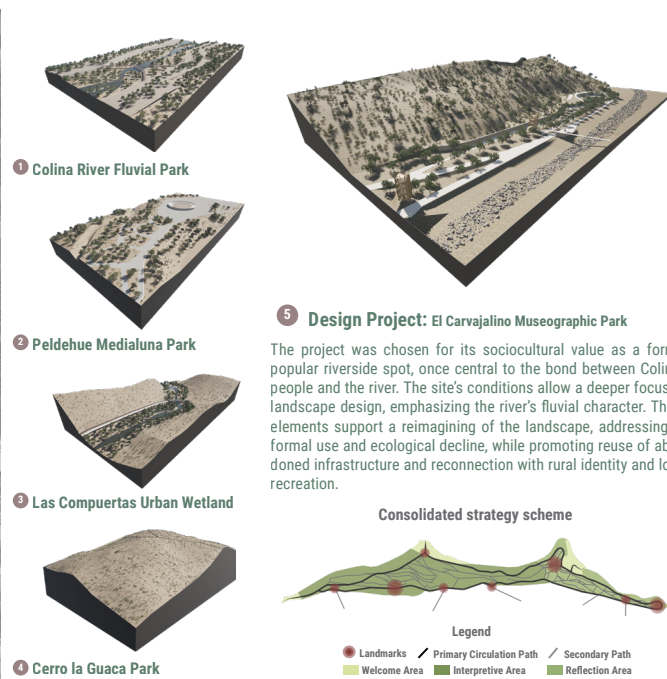


Isometric View "Pirca Shelter"



- Specifications - "Pirca Shelter" Detail
- 1 - Planed dry pine wood board 1" x 2"
 - 2 - Planed dry Radiata pine wood 2" x 2"
 - 3 - Ribbed steel bar 10 mm
 - 4 - Mortar
 - 5 - Slope rockfall stones from the site
 - 6 - 50 mm leveling layer
 - 7 - Natural ground





Title of the project	Resignifying of an abandoned sclerophyllous riparian Landscape - Colina river . Colina, Metropolitan Region, Chile
Authors	Cristian Flores Pavez
Title of the course	Final Degree Project
Academic year	2024
Teaching Staff	Ricardo Riveros
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Faculty of Engineering and Architecture School of Landscape Architecture Bachelor's Degree in Landscape Architecture
University / School	Central University of Chile



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The Río Colina (Colina River), a silent witness to popular leisure activities and its subsequent transformations, now faces progressive degradation due to water scarcity, informal recreational use, gravel extraction, and urban-rural pressure. This has devalued a fluvial landscape historically tiedlinked to collectivecommunity memory—especially in El Carvajalino, where remnants of leisure practices persist in precarious conditions. This project asks: how can we revalue this sclerophyll river landscape –typical of central Chile– in a peri-urban context, balancing ecological protection with conscious enjoyment?

Landscape design is proposed as a tool to reconnect culture, territory, and nature. The project is structured through a non-linear museographic script that transform neglect into a narrative device and memory into a sensory experience—through walking, touching water, and rediscovering paststraces. It activates the urban-rural-natural interface, re-signifies and repurposes abandoned infrastructure, and formalizes informal recreational use by creating a democratic, safe, and ecologically coherent public space. The park is conceived as an open system of relationships—where water, land, bodies, and traditions interact freely. In doing so, the project reactivates the landscape’s capacity to produce collective memory, recognizing the life paths, childhoods, and practices of local communities. It becomes a space of intergenerational encounter that strengthens local identity, belonging, and sustainability.

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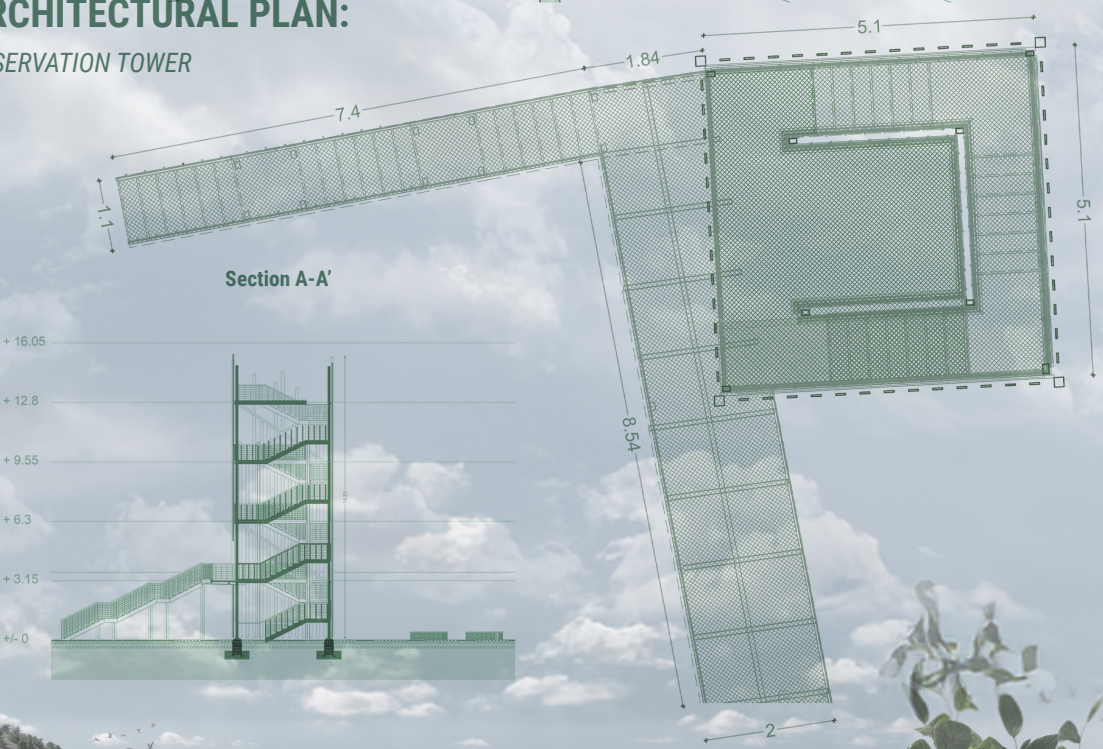
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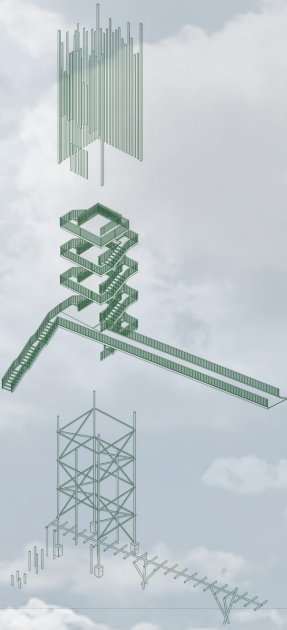
ARCHITECTURAL PLAN:
EL CARVAJALINO MUSEUM SPACE



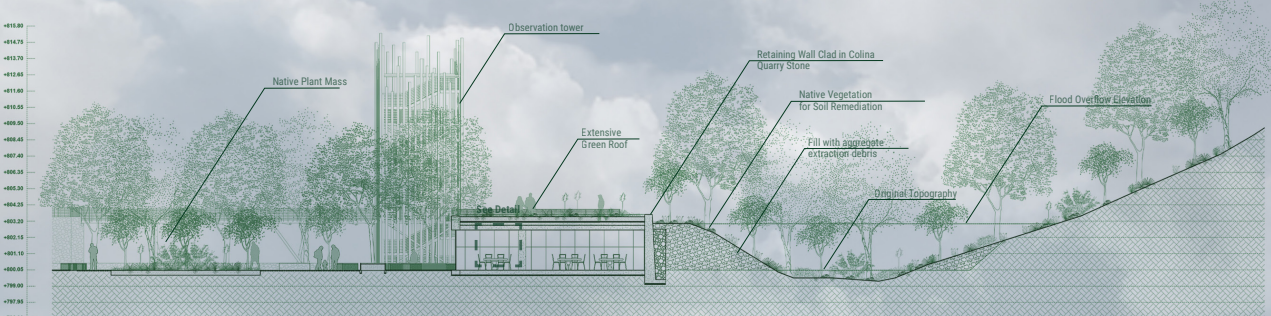
ARCHITECTURAL PLAN:
OBSERVATION TOWER



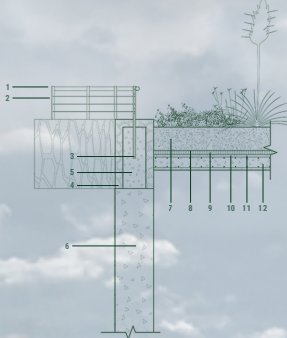
Isometric view of observation tower



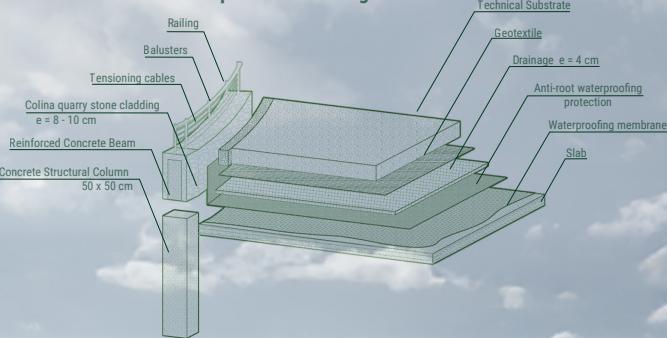
Section B-B'



Green roof detail

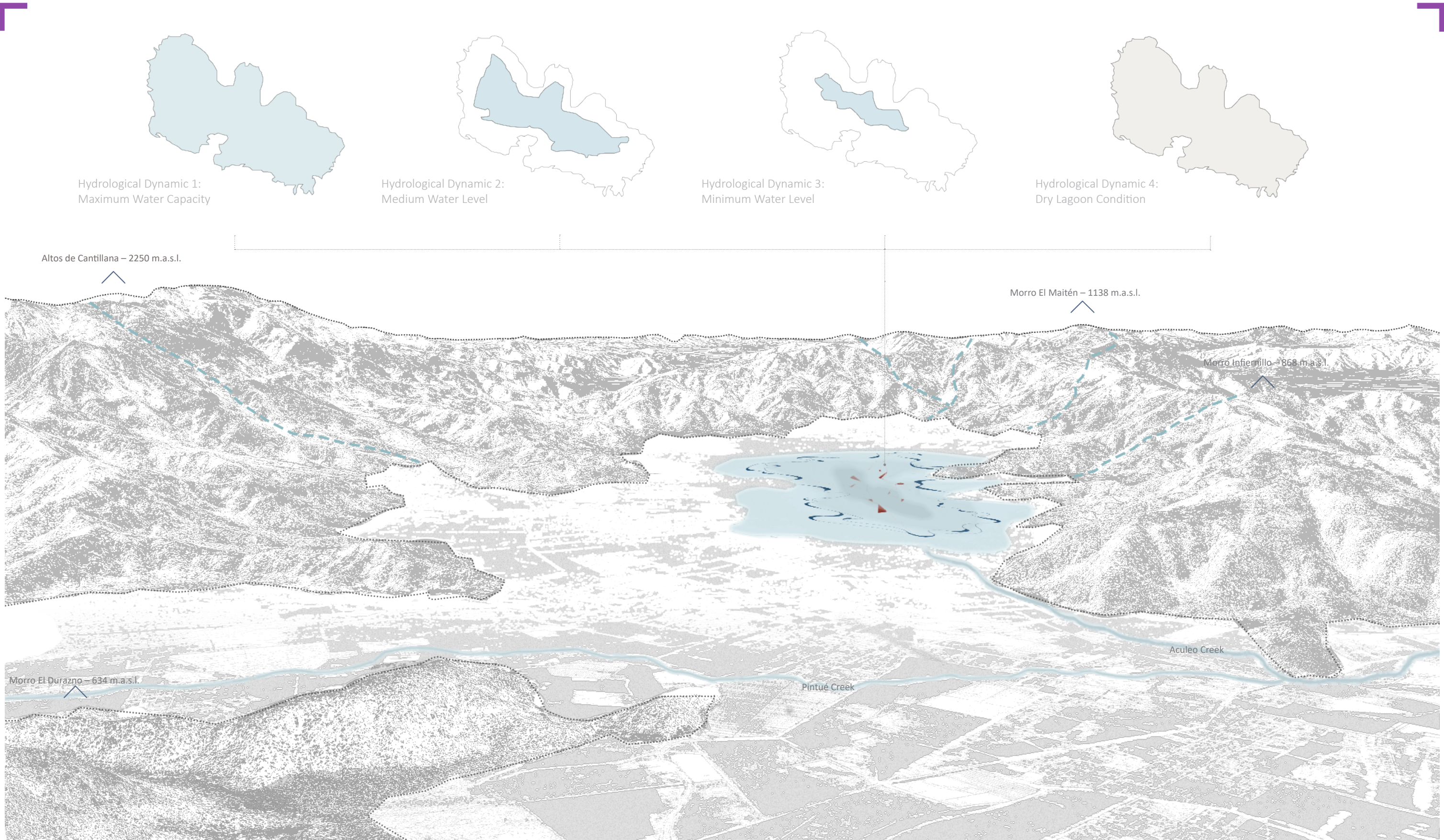


Exploded detail of green roof



- Legend
- 1. Railing
 - 2. Balusters
 - 3. Tensioning cables
 - 4. Colina quarry stone cladding e = 8 - 10 cm
 - 5. Reinforced Concrete Beam
 - 6. Concrete Structural Column 50 x 50 cm
 - 7. Technical Substrate
 - 8. Geotextile
 - 9. Drainage e = 4 cm
 - 10. Anti-root waterproofing protection
 - 11. Waterproofing membrane
 - 12. Slab





Country/City	Santiago, Chile
University / School	Central University of Chile
Academic year	2024
Title of the project	Ecological Park – Laguna de Aculeo – Paine, Metropolitan Region, Chile.
Authors	Valentina Walder Risco



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Laguna de Aculeo (Aculeo Lagoon): Fluctuating Landscape. Located in Central Chile, Aculeo lagoon completely dried up in 2018 after years of overexploitation of its resources, lakeshore privatization, and a prolonged drought associated with climate change. This drastic water fluctuation, beginning in 2010, led to the loss of traditional uses: tourism vanished, summer homes were abandoned, local fishing collapsed, and public access was restricted.

This project proposes the creation of an Ecological Park in response to the socio-environmental crisis, recognizing water dynamics as a territorial structuring force. The design adapts to four water scenarios —from a full lagoon to total dryness— through a flexible system of paths and public spaces (viewpoints, piers, walkways, beaches) that appear or disappear according water levels. Vegetation acts as an ecological indicator: espinal (thornbush) shrubland colonizes the dry edge, cosmopolitan weeds settle in muddy areas, and palustrine species reemerge with water. The project aims to recover the lakeshore for public use, restore ecosystems, manage recreation, promote environmental education, and highlight both scenic beauty and water dynamics in harmony with the landscape. It proposes to inhabit change—building a resilient, accessible, and ecologically conscious landscape that fosters conservation, education, and a renewed relationship between people and water, moving beyond a static view of its fluctuations.

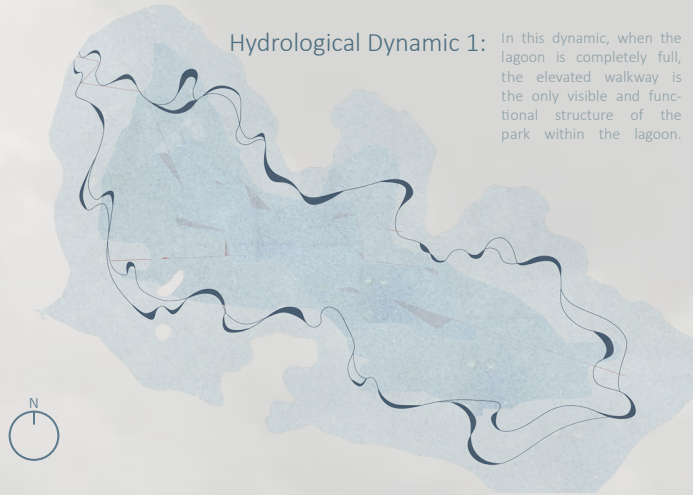
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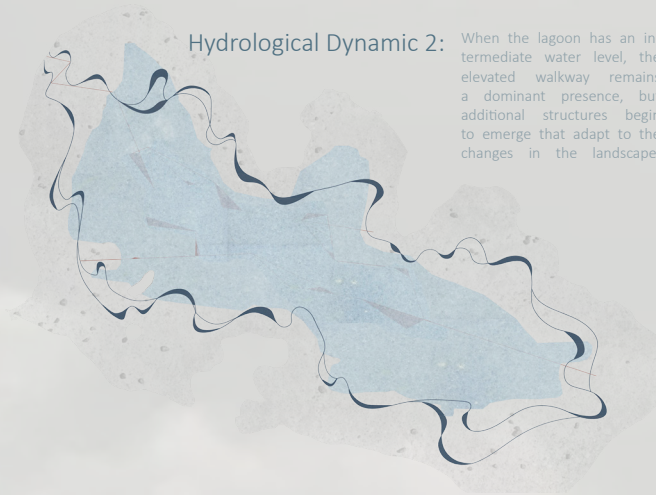
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Master Plan: Ecological Park

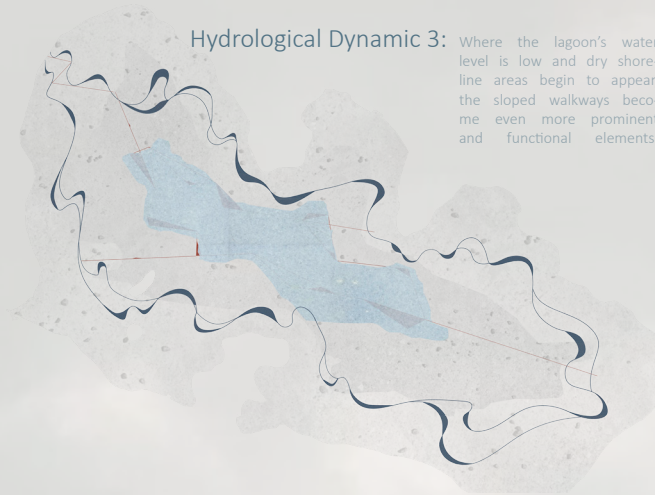
Hydrological Dynamic 1: In this dynamic, when the lagoon is completely full, the elevated walkway is the only visible and functional structure of the park within the lagoon.



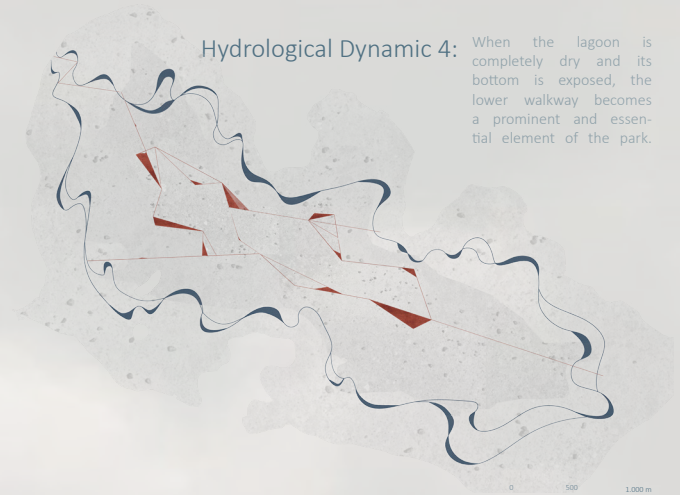
Hydrological Dynamic 2: When the lagoon has an intermediate water level, the elevated walkway remains a dominant presence, but additional structures begin to emerge that adapt to the changes in the landscape.



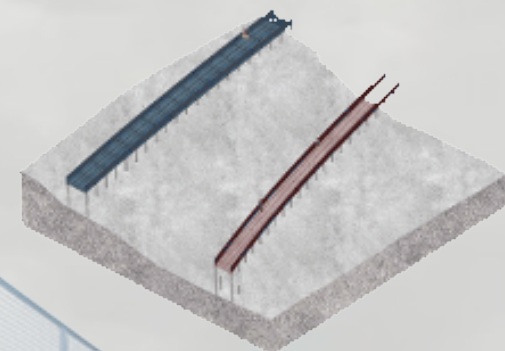
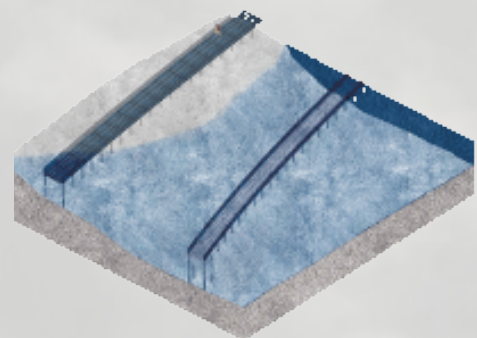
Hydrological Dynamic 3: Where the lagoon's water level is low and dry shore-line areas begin to appear, the sloped walkways become even more prominent and functional elements.



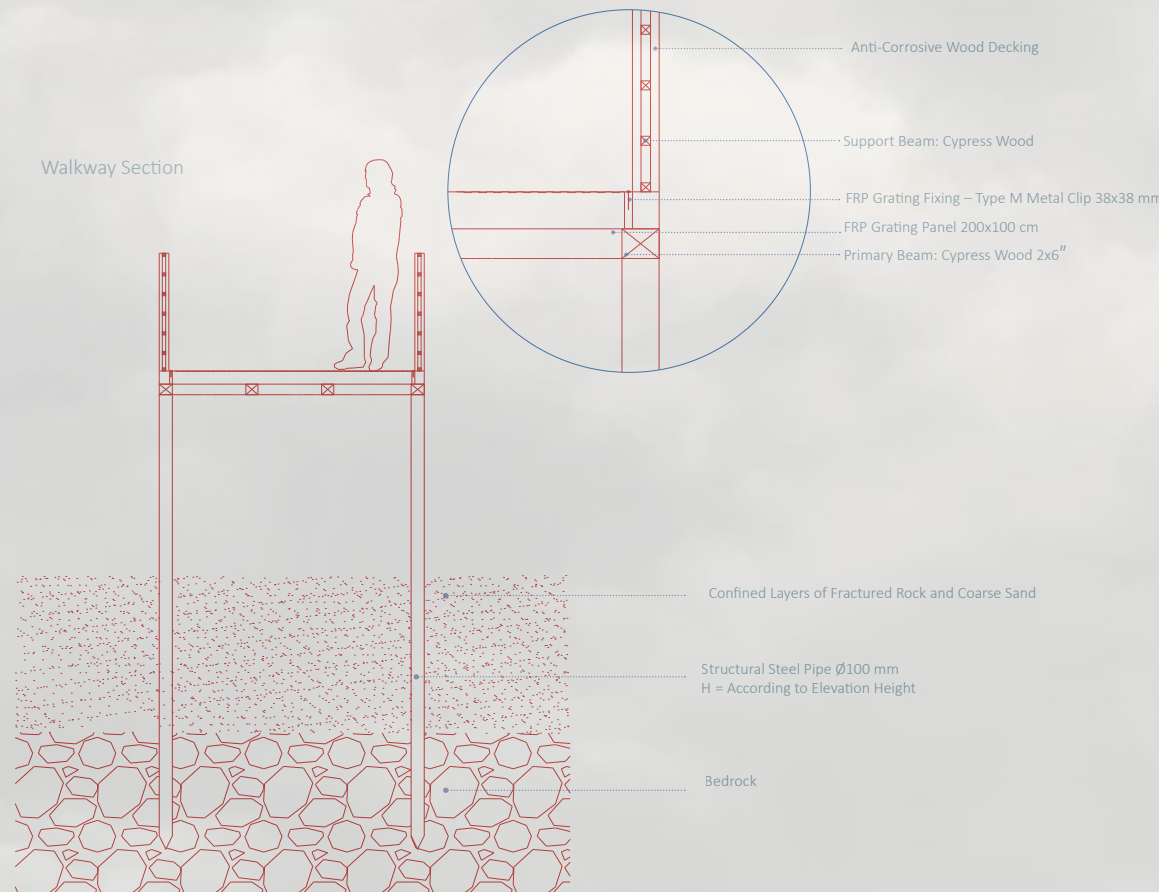
Hydrological Dynamic 4: When the lagoon is completely dry and its bottom is exposed, the lower walkway becomes a prominent and essential element of the park.



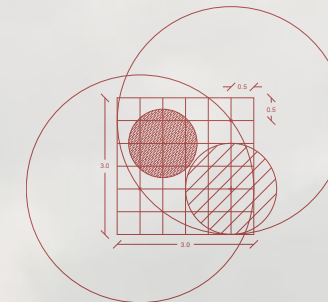
Materiality in Connection with Water



Walkway Section



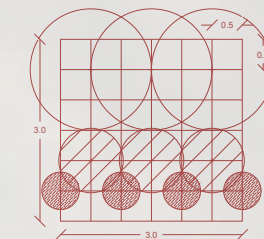
Planting Plan: Thorny Shrubland



Species Legend

- Vachelia caven*
- Bacharis linariis*
- Colliguaja odorifera*

Planting Plan: Wetland Edge Vegetation



Species Legend

- Juncus procerus*
- Schoenoplectus californicus*
- Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*

