

SABRINA CARERI

BURP, MLA





Sabrina Careri
URBAN PLANNER +
LANDSCAPE DESIGNER

RESUME

PROFILE

As a detail-oriented landscape designer and urban planner, my work sits at the intersection of landscape architecture, urban design, design research, culture and ecological studies, and communications. Through my projects, I combine research, writing, visualization, and storytelling to communicate complex ideas and craft meaningful design narratives. Graphically, I enjoy exploring mixed-media approaches, blending analog and digital techniques. At the core of my work is a passion for ecological restoration, cultural landscapes, placemaking, and the role of design in fostering meaningful relationships between people, place, and nature.

This portfolio showcases a selection of academic projects, demonstrating these interests and my design process from early research and conceptual exploration through to detailed graphic representation. Since graduating, I've collaborated with research and design studios, landscape architecture firms, and professional organizations working as a freelance designer. My work spans built work, landscape visualization, publications, graphic design, exhibit graphics, communications consulting, and digital media. Additional professional experience can be found on my website and in my curriculum vitae.

SELECT EXPERIENCE

Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects
New York, New York
Landscape Architecture Intern
Summer 2026

Ecological Design Lab
Toronto Metropolitan University
Toronto, Ontario
Lab Manager + Communications Director
2021 - present

Canadian Society of Landscape Architects
Vancouver, British Columbia
Design Communications Consultant
2025 - present

The National Environmental Treasure
Vancouver, British Columbia
Design Communications Consultant
2024 - 2026

American Museum of Natural History
University at Buffalo
New York, New York
Workshop Lead: Telling Species Stories
June 2024 - November 2024

DiverCity Lab
Toronto Metropolitan University
Toronto, Ontario
Research Assistant
2019 - 2021

Urban Planning + Design Consultancy
Studio clients include: the Downtown
Brampton BIA; the Regional Municipality
of Durham and the Town of Ajax; the
Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts
Junior Planner
2020 - 2021

EDUCATION

Master of Landscape Architecture
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, BC
2021 - 2024

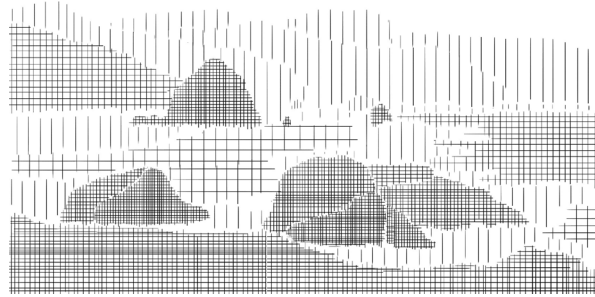
Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning
Toronto Metropolitan University
Toronto, ON
2017 - 2021

TECHNICAL PROFICIENCY

Adobe Photoshop
Adobe InDesign
Adobe Illustrator
AutoCAD

Autodesk Revit
Analog + Digital Drawing
Lumion
Microsoft Office

Model-Making
Rhino 3D
QGIS



PROJECTS

FASHION, DEATH, AND RE-BIRTH

06

REGENERATING MILAN'S DECOMMISSIONED
RAIL YARDS TOWARDS ECOLOGICAL,
SPIRITUAL, AND CULTURAL ATTUNEMENT

Graduate Thesis Project

EMERGENT PARK

20

RE-WILDING PLAY FOR LIFE TO FIND A WAY

Landscape Comprehensive Design Studio

CREATIVE CONFLUENCE

28

RE-IMAGINING THE CULTURAL PRECINCT -
HARMONIZING URBAN ARTISTRY WITH
URBAN NATURE

Architecture + Landscape Design Studio III

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FASHION, DEATH, AND RE-BIRTH

REGENERATING MILAN'S DECOMMISSIONED RAIL YARDS TOWARDS ECOLOGICAL, SPIRITUAL, AND CULTURAL ATTUNEMENT

Graduate Thesis Project

WINTER 2024

Faculty Supervisor: Sara Jacobs

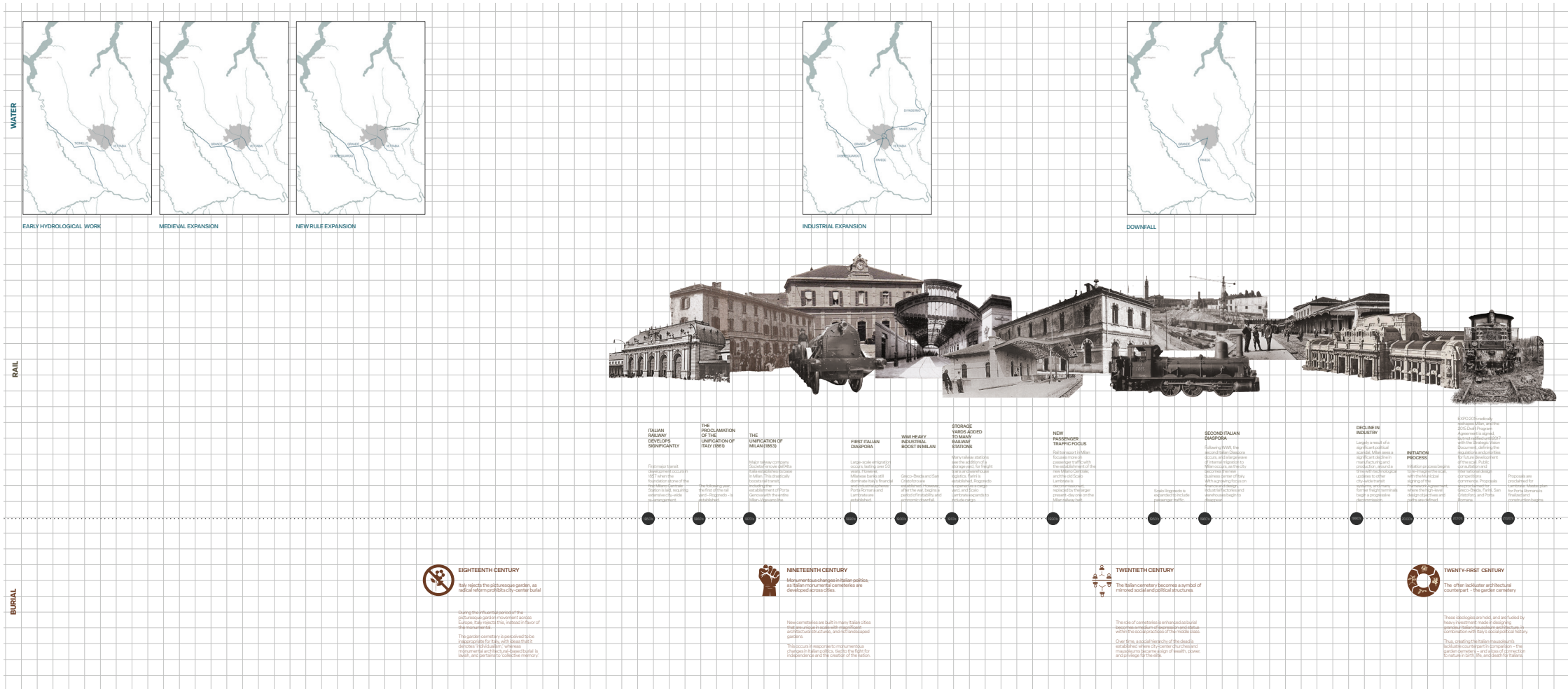
External Supervisors: Lacey Barr, Valeria Pagliaro

Fashion, Death, and Re-birth challenges the dominant practices used in designing landscapes of grief and memory, within the context of Italian cemeteries, to reveal new approaches better suited to provide healing and celebration, at two of Milan's decommissioned rail yards – Porta Genova and San Cristoforo. In establishing connections between the cultural significance of Italian architecture and Italian fashion, this project puts emotion and landscapes of personal and cultural significance - in this case, agriculture, water, and industry - at the center of storytelling and placemaking through design.

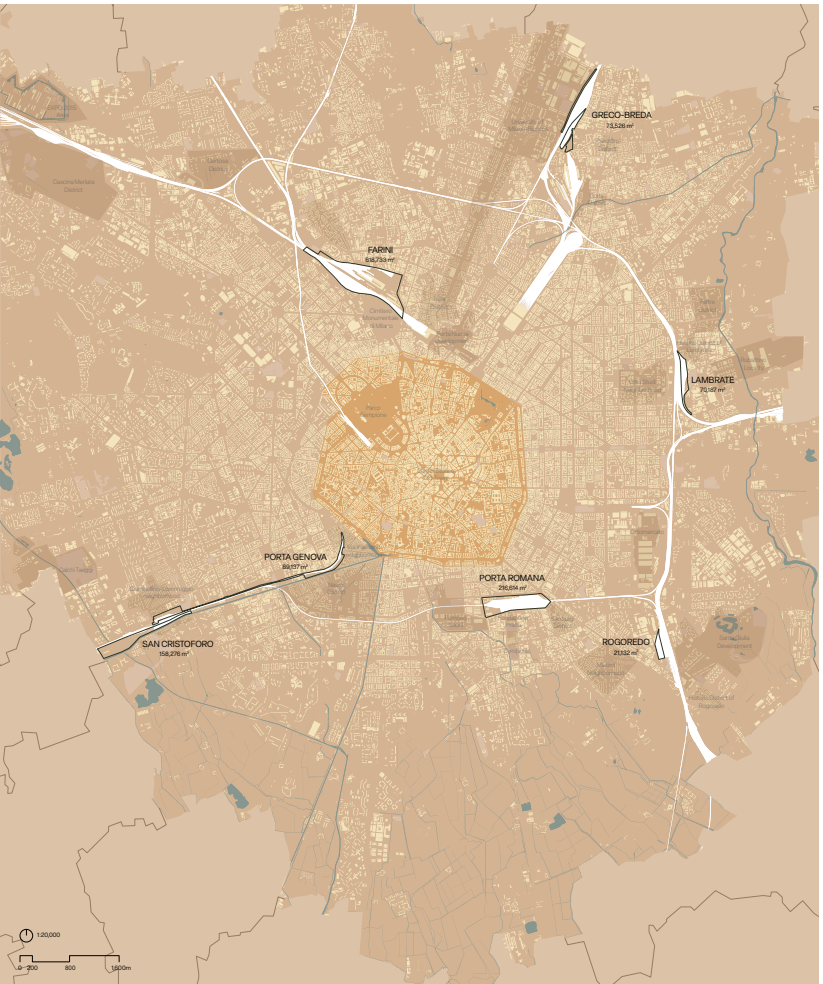
By designing for spiritual rejuvenation through experiences of culture and ecology at Milan's historic Naviglio Grande, in this project I position landscape design as a tool to which we can rekindle our innate human connection to nature through life, and in death.



Boschivo Degli Alberi Sacri a place for reflection at the flowered lawns, towards the Landform Mausoleum - Mausoleo in Terra



Triple timeline graphic, summarizing the historical contexts of burial in Italy, as well as rail transport and the Navigli water system of Milan

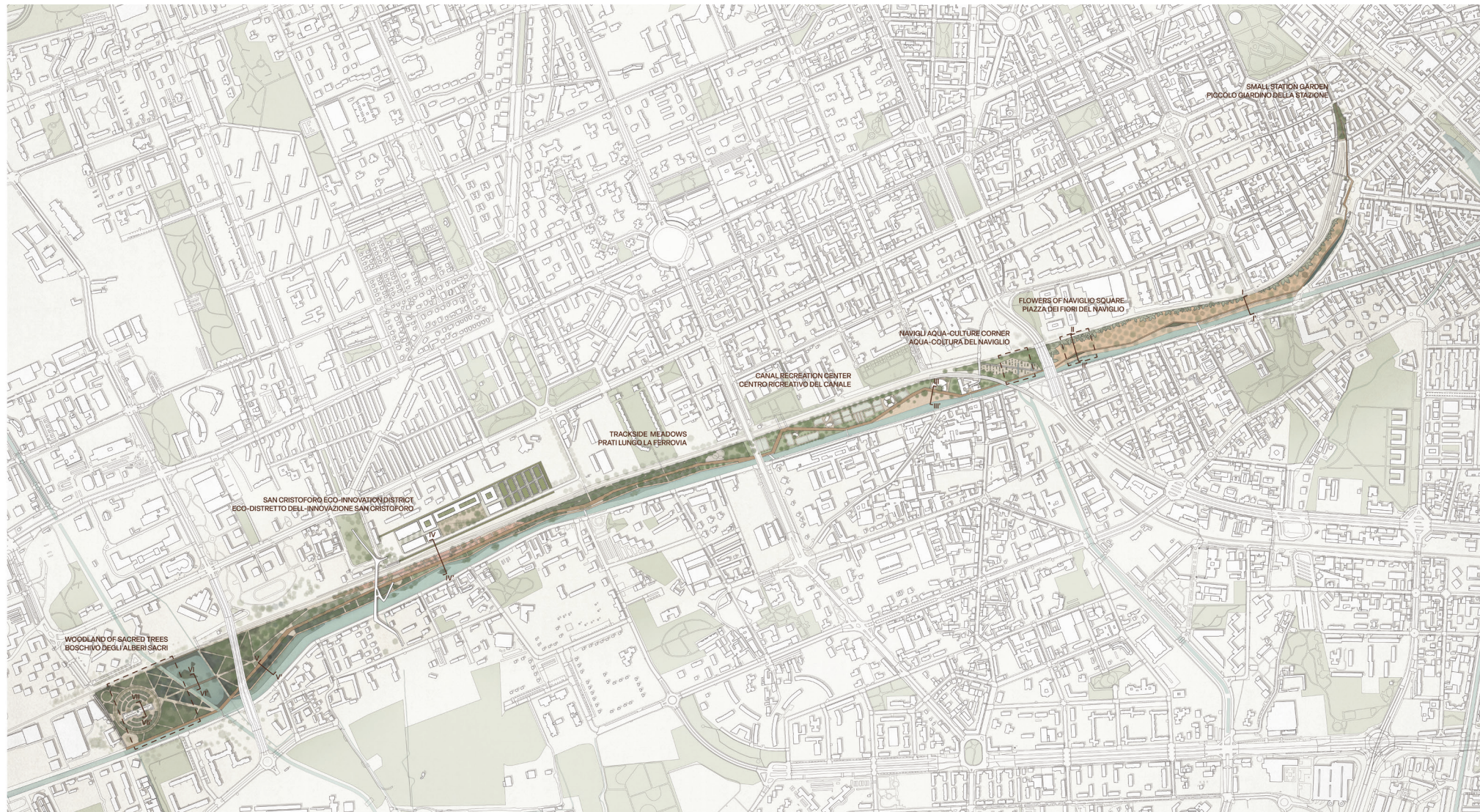


Scali Ferroviari di Milano, municipal context map

Italy's historic aspiration for "monumentality" has been shaped by a variety of societal and cultural factors that trace back to the Middle Ages. This led to the creation of Italy's iconic mausoleums, and losing cultural ties to natural systems in burial practices.

Since Milan's reclamation of the rail yards in the 1990s, extensive discussions have surrounded the transformation of the 1.3 million m² brownfield, made of seven decommissioned rail yards. Once a symbol of industrial prosperity, these sites reflect Milan's shift away from industry and the social and cultural upheavals of the past century.

The Navigli is a historic water system of six canals, once connected around the city center. Originally a medieval moat, they became fully functional during Milan's industrial era, but by the early 1900s, when rail transit replaced waterways, these urban canals were soon buried – except for the Naviglio Grande and Naviglio Pavese.



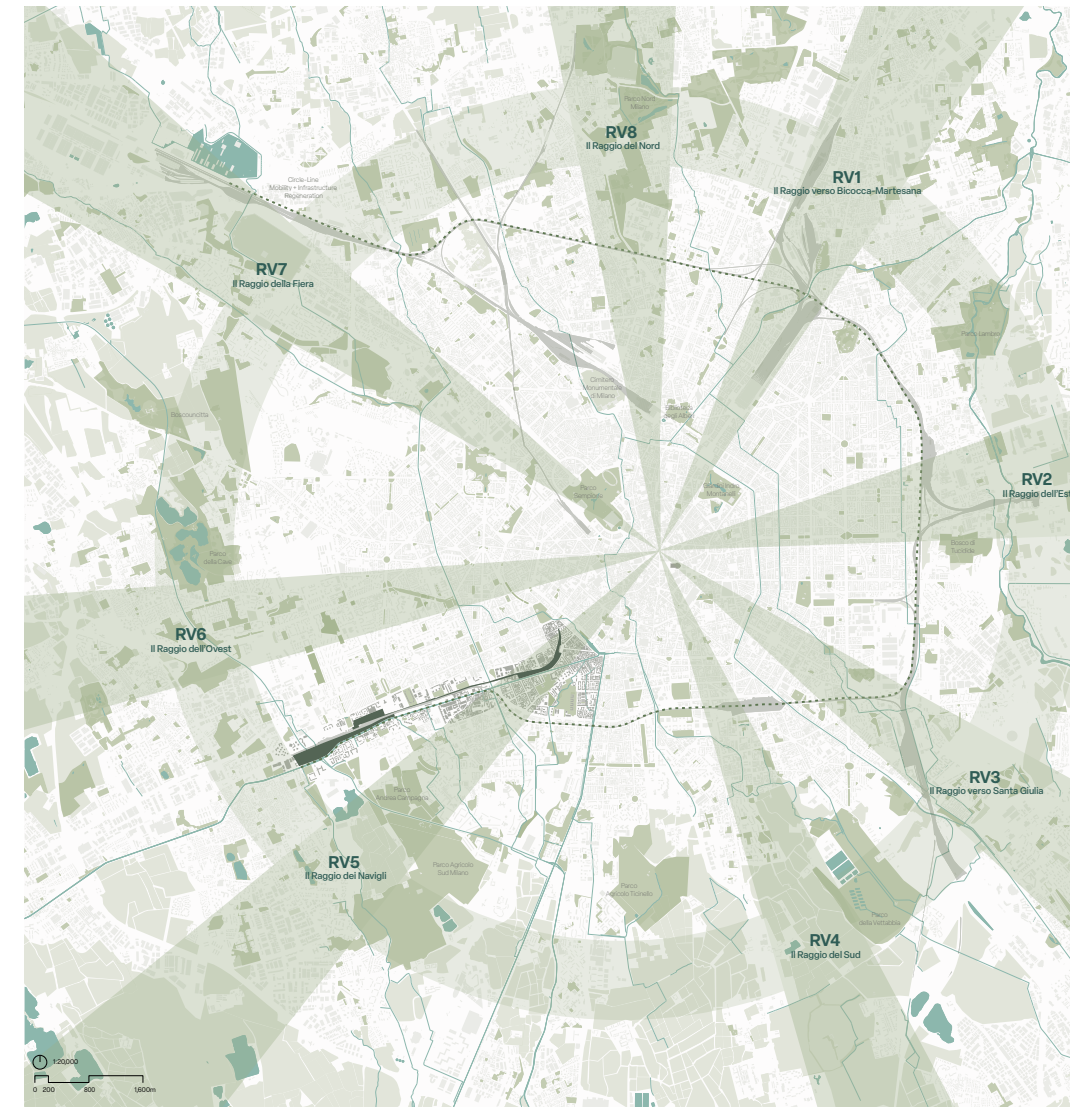
PORTA GENOVA - SAN CRISTOFORO MASTER PLAN
1:4000



Scali Porta Genova and San Cristoforo, a place for ecological, spiritual, and cultural harmony, rendered master plan

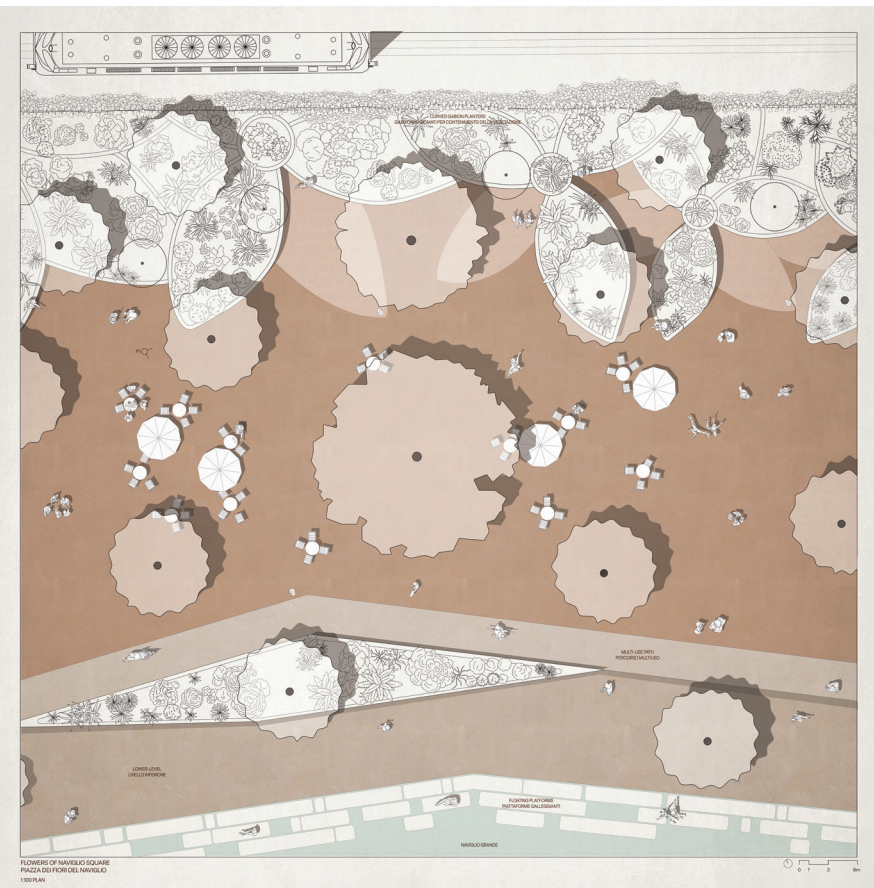
The design aims to foster ecological, spiritual, and cultural attunement by creating opportunities for these pillars to intersect. My approach intends to decentralize the Navigli, and to enhance existing site conditions by extending them, rather than introducing new typologies.

Ultimately, the proposal is envisioned as a path for spiritual rejuvenation, through acts of engaging in culture with community, and engaging with nature through restored ecology. My design is a love letter to my Italian heritage; a longing for the cultural roots I feel distant from.



Raggi Verdi Map - Milan's Blue-Green Vision

My project aligns with Raggi Verdi, a 2005 vision adopted by Milan that establishes eight ecological connections from the center of Milan with its green belt. The Porta Genova - San Cristoforo rail yards sit between RV 5 and RV 6 and is the southern-most end to the future city-wide mobility corridor.

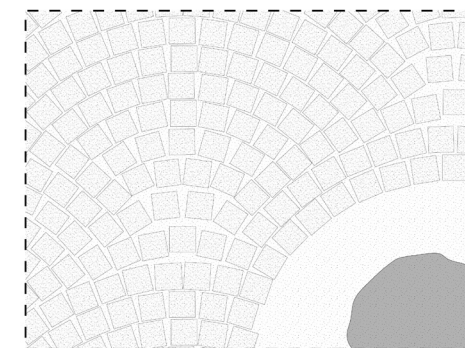


Piazza dei Fiori del Naviglio detail rendered plan

The Piazza Dei Fiori Del Naviglio was envisioned as a traditional Italian piazza which can accommodate for large events, and the great number of tourists that frequent Porta Genova, due to the historic Navigli District. Porta Genova often hosts two culturally significant events - the monthly antique Navigli flea, as well as smaller design installations during design / fashion weeks.



P1 - Piazza dei Fiori del Naviglio during design week



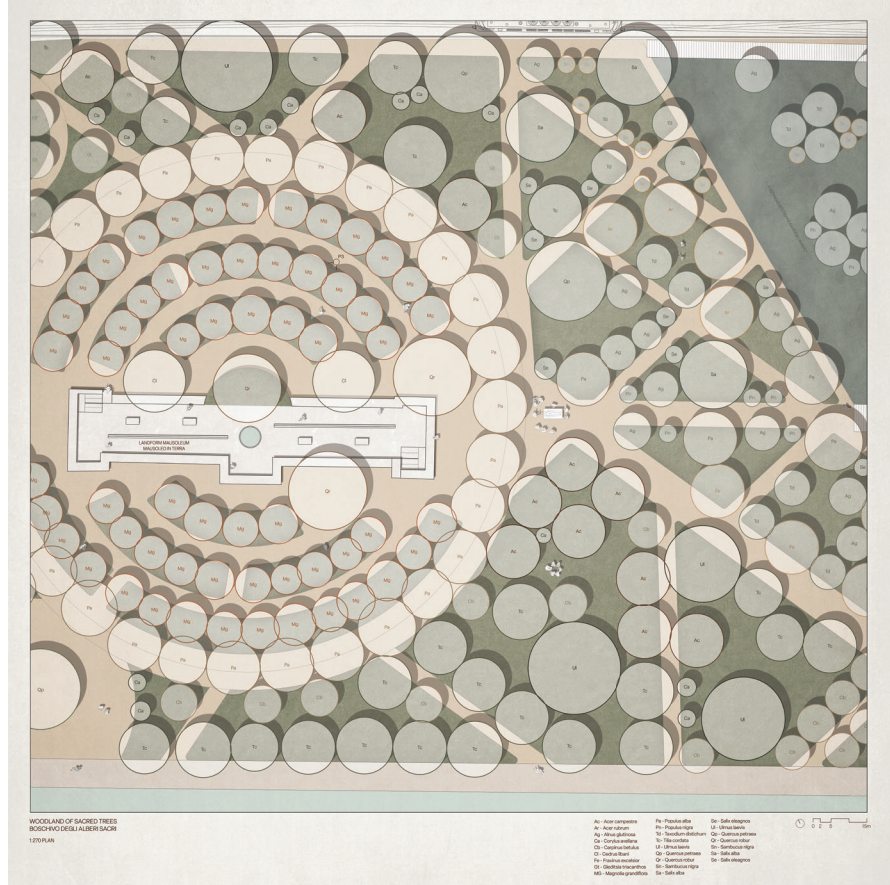
Piazza dei Fiori del Naviglio paving detail



Piazza dei Fiori del Naviglio section through the widest area during the Antique Navigli Flea

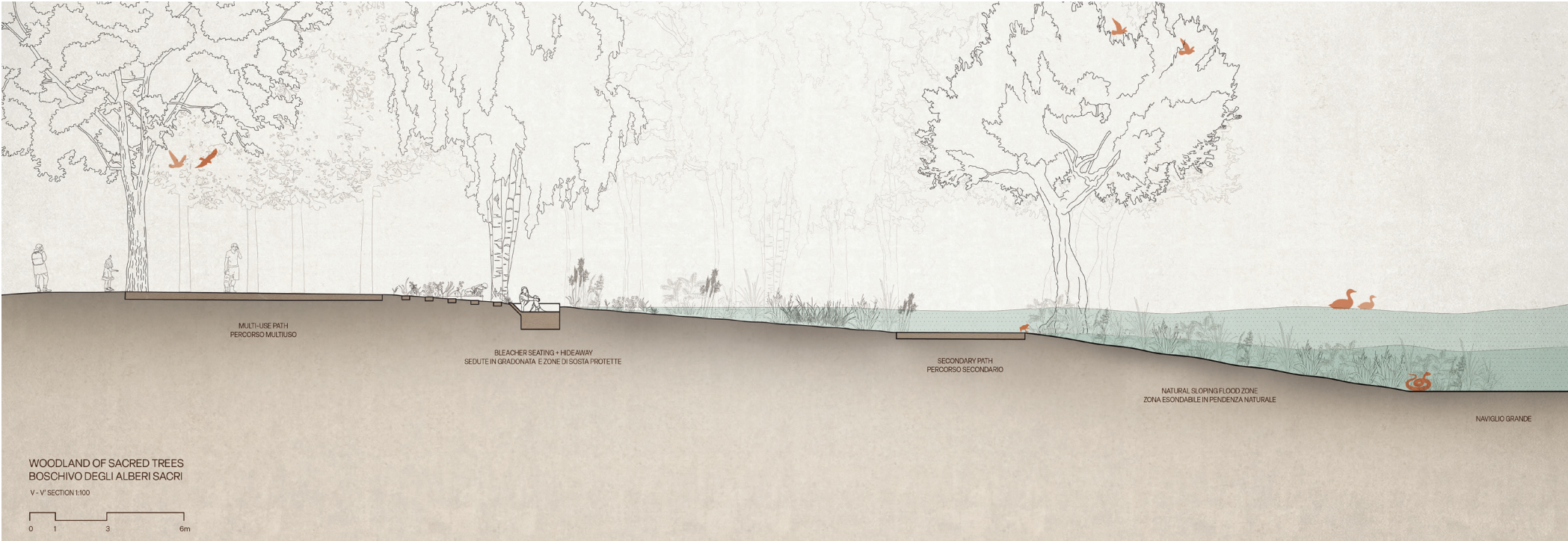


Piazza dei Fiori del Naviglio section through the narrowest area

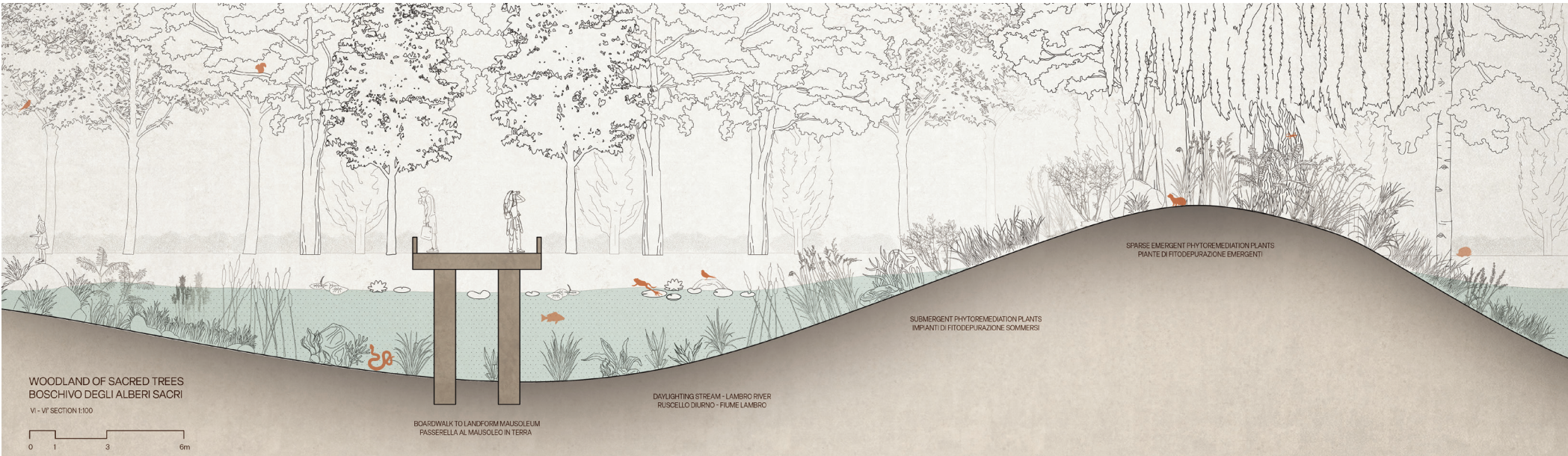


Boschivo Degli Alberi Sacri detail rendered plan

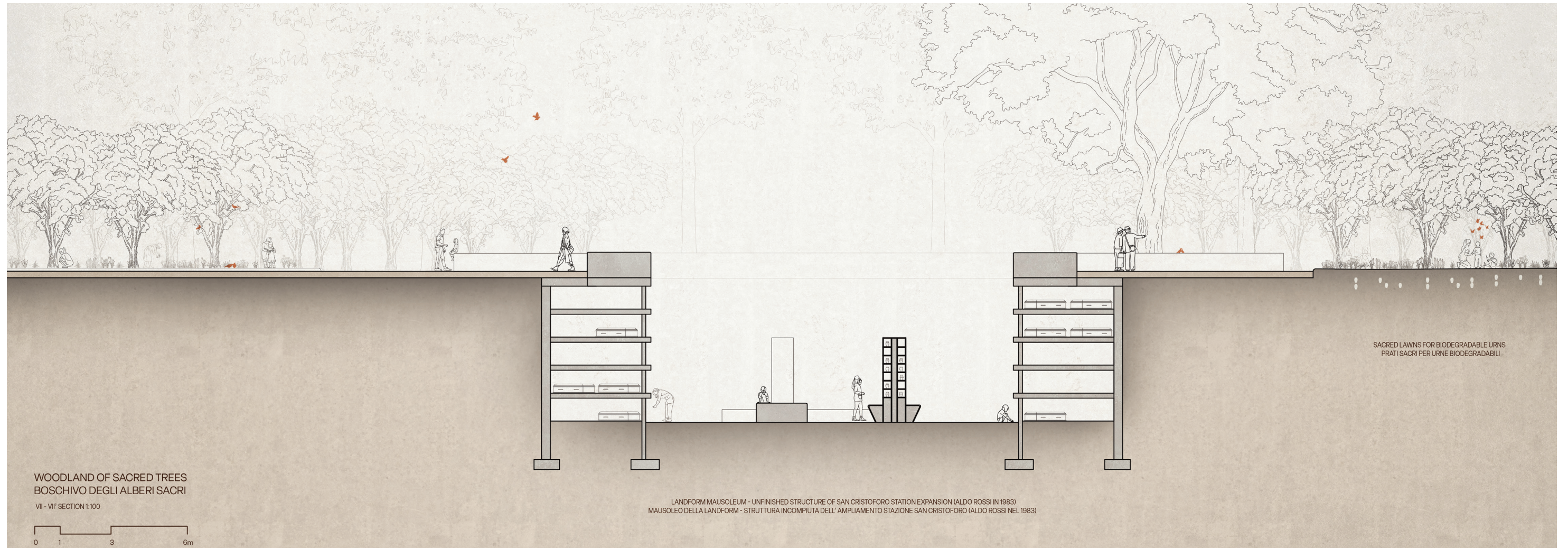
The Boschivo Degli Alberi Sacri houses a phytoremediation wetland within a typical Lombardy woodland habitat, and is centered around the Landform Mausoleum - Mousoleo in Terra. This space was designed with a focus on particular tree species which hold heavy cultural significance, celebrating Milanese landscape heritage.



Section through the Boschivo Degli Alberi Sacri to the Naviglio Grande



Section through the Boschivo Degli Alberi Sacri at the phytoremediation wetland



Section through the Boschivo Degli Alberi Sacri at the Landform Mausoleum – Mausoleo in Terra

The Landform Mausoleum re-imagines Italian monumental design by using the footprint of an unfinished station into the ground, to create crypts and niches. This approach utilizes existing infrastructure, conserving land and symbolically reconnecting individuals with the earth. Centered on storytelling through design, it represents a transition and journey into the afterlife, by embodying renewal through descent and ascent.

EMERGENT PARK

RE-WILDING PLAY FOR
LIFE TO FIND A WAY

Landscape Comprehensive Design Studio

WINTER 2023

With James Gray & Shruti Misra

Emergent Park, located in Vancouver's Olympic Village, presents an opportunity to envision new ways of thinking about re-wilding cities in the context of waterfront design. Initially inspired by the present-day resilient urban plant and animal species, our proposal utilizes innovative "cracked" typologies across varying scales of design, to foster opportunities for exploration and the emergence of life.

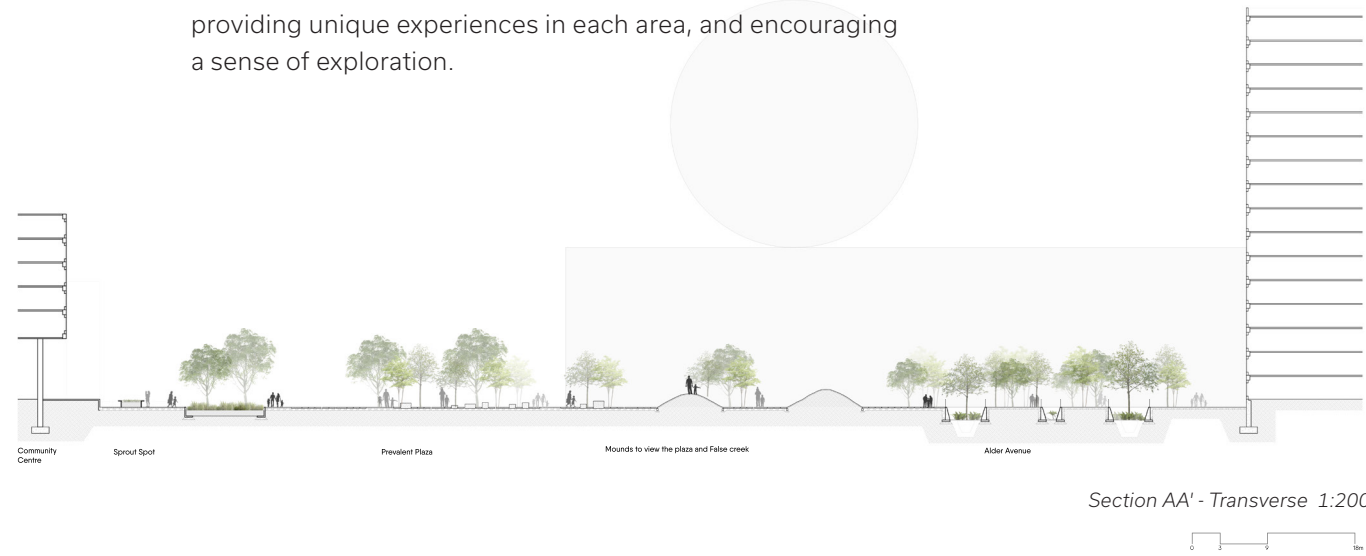
These typologies and design principles were applied to programming and topography on a larger scale, and then material and planting on a smaller scale. The aim is to continuously craft unpredictable experiences that await discovery in the cracks at Emergent Park.



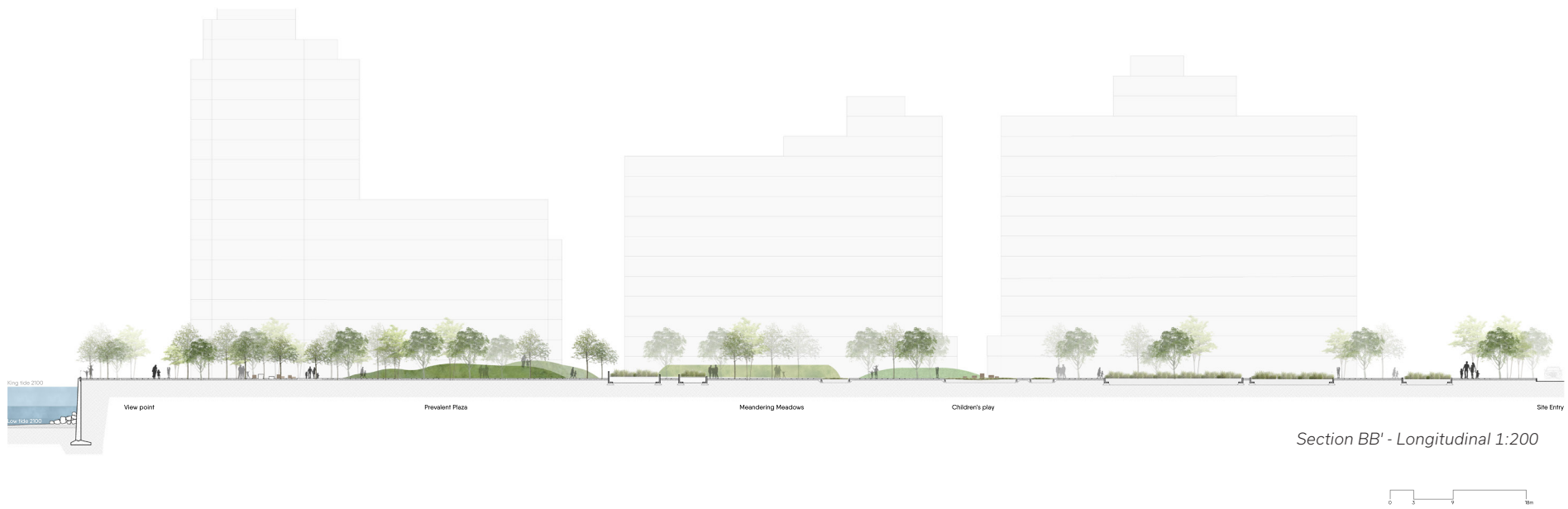
Meandering Meadow, Facing North



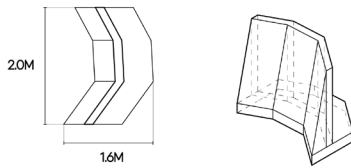
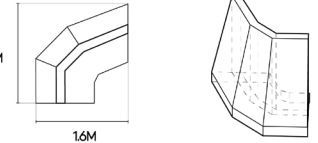
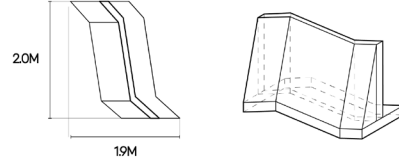
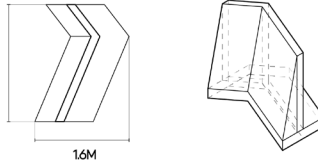
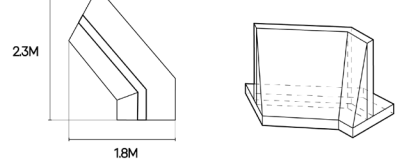
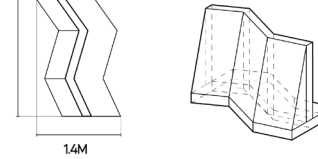
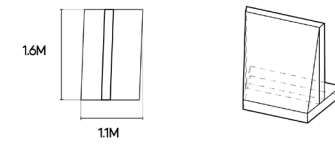
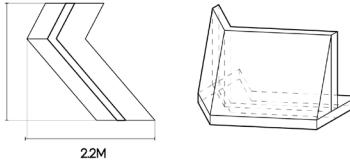
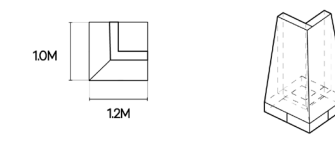
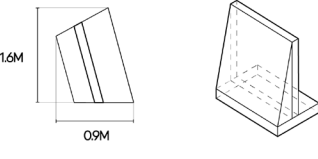
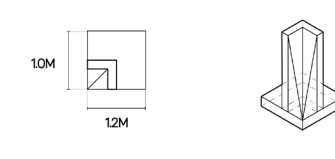
At the largest scale, Emergent Park functions as a crack within the urban fabric, where large trees grow from the cracks in concrete, and every niche is full of life. Through programming, the larger scale site design is intended to promote a sense discovery, using seven thematic zones, providing unique experiences in each area, and encouraging a sense of exploration.



Section AA' - Transverse 1:200

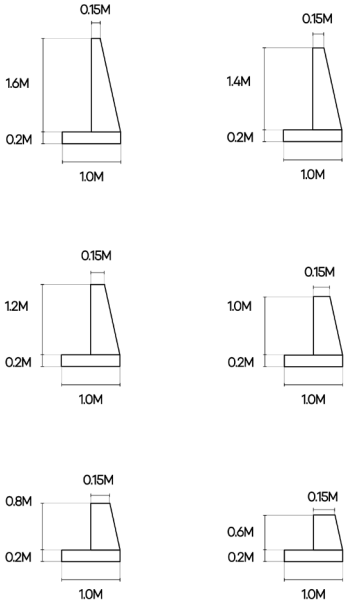


Section BB' - Longitudinal 1:200

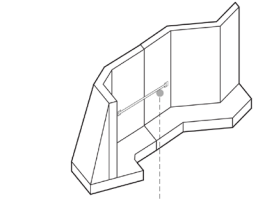
Modular system designed for the construction of the articulated edges Scale 1:50	F. 
A. 	G. 
B. 	H. 
C. 	I. 
D. 	J. 
E. 	K. 

At an intermediate scale, a sense of spontaneity is created using irregular forms, which fall under the categorization of five varying crack typologies, constructed by an intricate modular system designed by the team.

SECTION

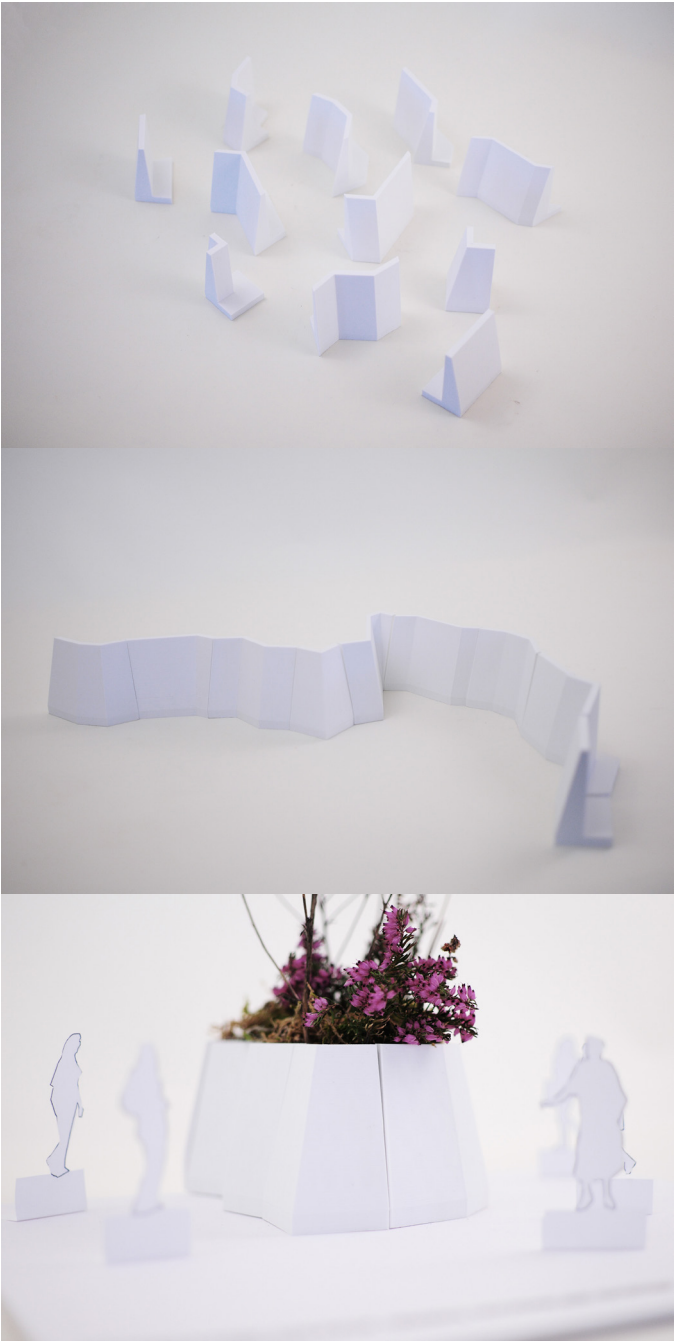


CONNECTION

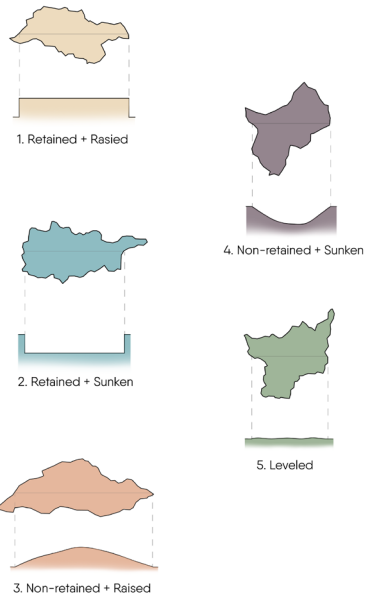


Solid steel base connector with steel pins

Concrete Module Legend

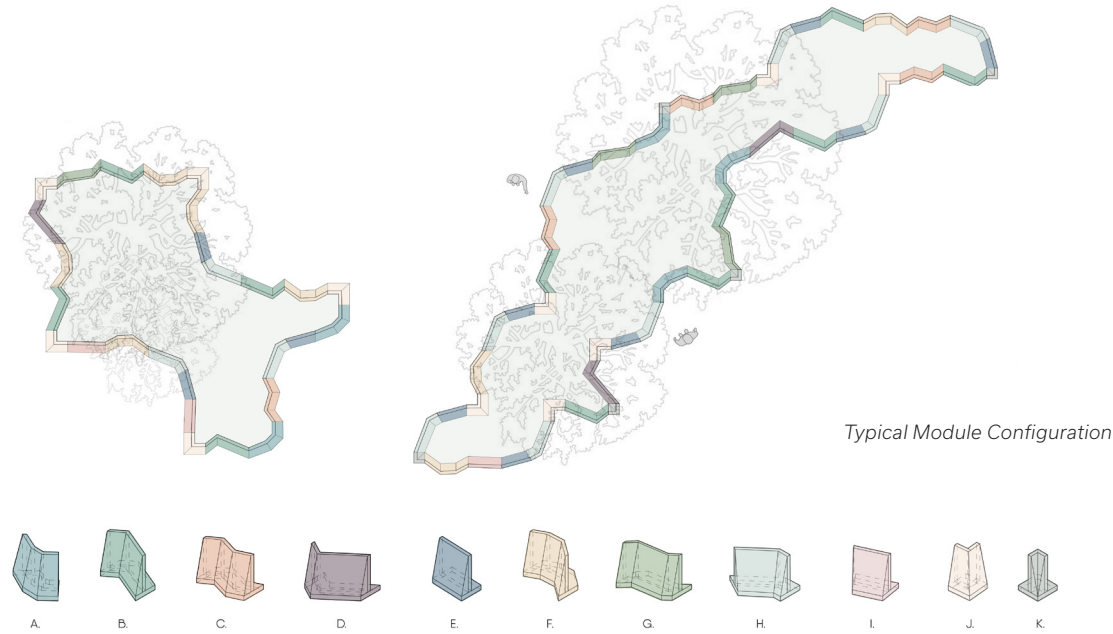


Concrete Module 3D Printed 1:50



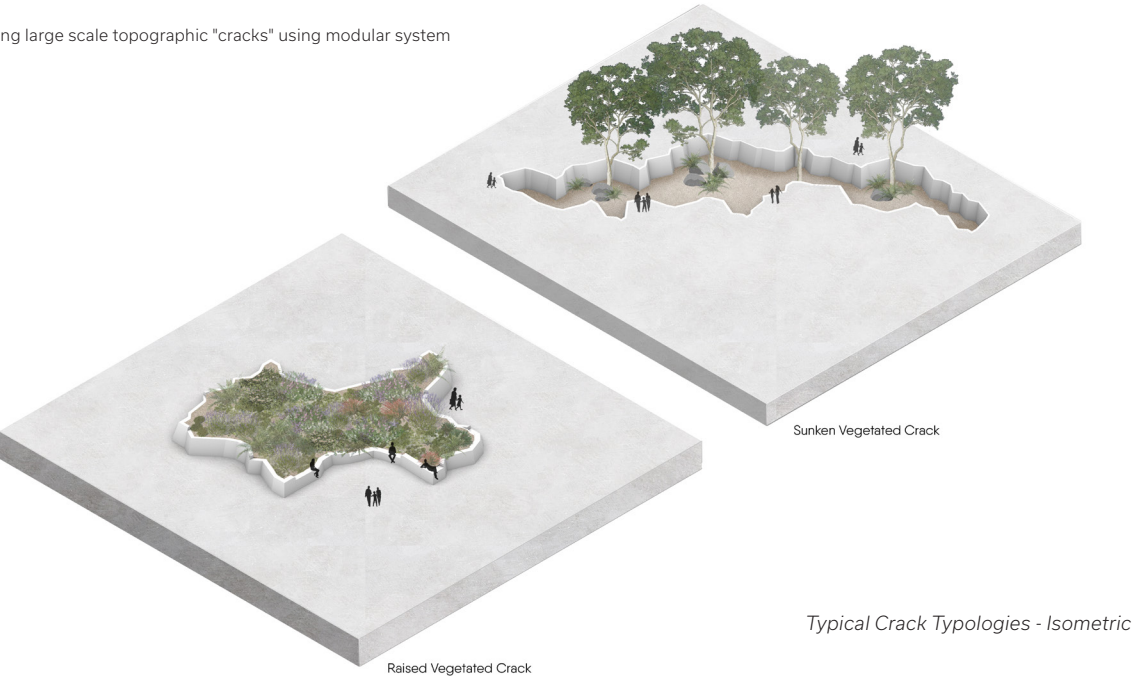
Crack Typologies Diagram

Using modular system to construct retained vegetated mounds / depressions



Prevalent Plaza, Facing North

Creating large scale topographic "cracks" using modular system



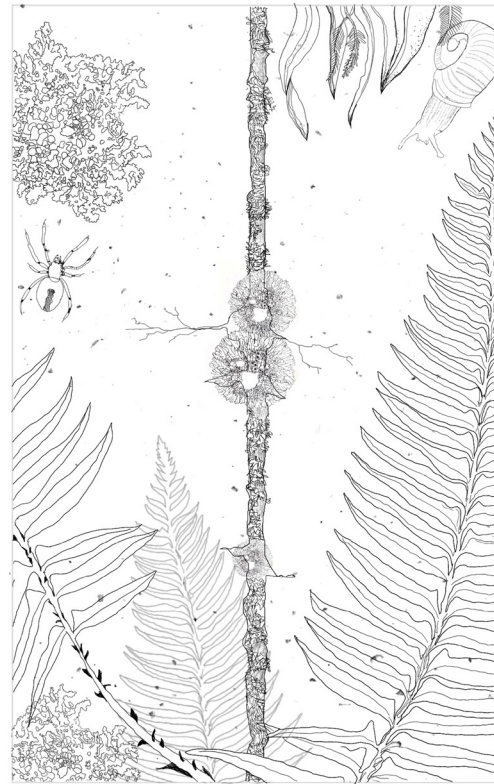
Alder Avenue, Facing North



2023



2040



2050

Exploring Temporality Through the Life Cycle of a Crack

At the smallest scale, the materials are intended to weather and create nooks that are inhabited by microorganisms, as well as various urban plant and animal species.

This is accomplished through the strategic use of material that will crack over time, in combination with a planting schedule made of highly resilient urban vegetation.



PLAN
1:30



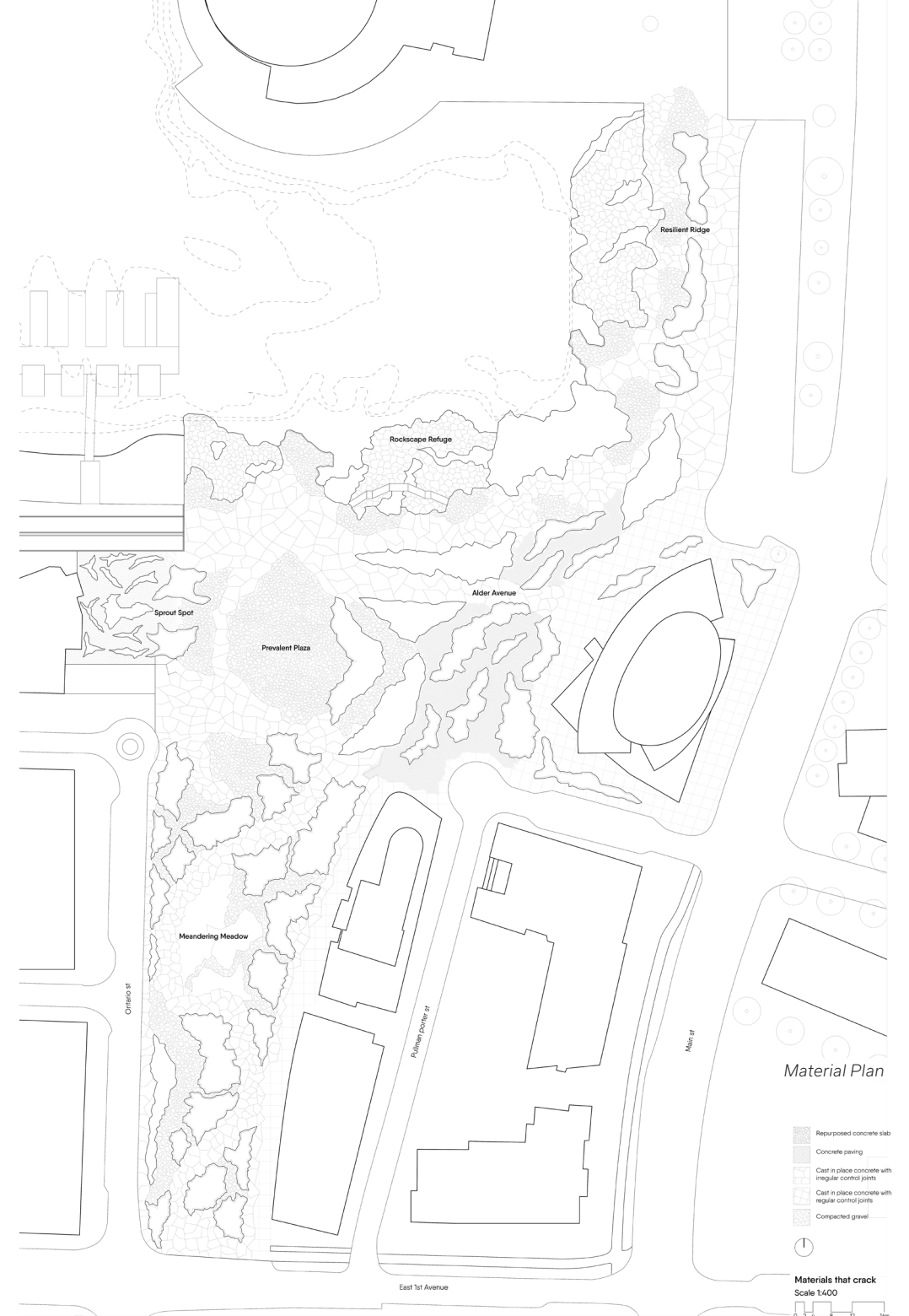
CIP concrete paving

Concrete seating attached to module using SS angle

SECTION
1:30

0 0.25 0.5 1m

Meandering Meadow - Elevated Planting Details



Material Plan

Repurposed concrete slab
Concrete paving
Cast in place concrete with regular control joints
Cast in place concrete with regular control joints
Compacted gravel

0 2 4 8 12 16m

Materials that crack
Scale 1:400

CREATIVE CONFLUENCE

RE-IMAGINING THE CULTURAL PRECINCT - HARMONIZING URBAN ARTISTRY WITH URBAN NATURE

Architecture + Landscape Design Studio III

FALL 2022

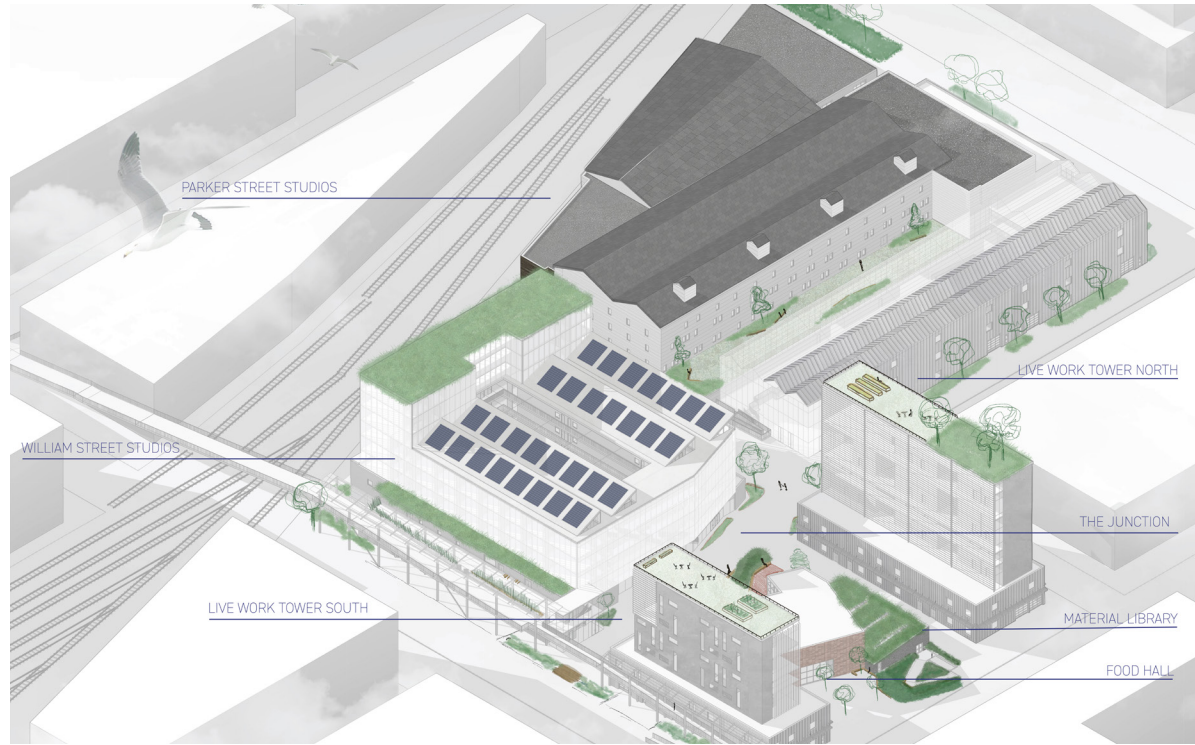
With Lauren Johnson & Bronte Mutukistna

Located in the False Creek Flats area of Vancouver, the cultural precinct is home to the beloved Parker St. Studios, where over 200 local artists are based, in addition countless other businesses that provide essential goods servicing greater Vancouver.

Our design process was inspired by the citywide appreciation for local art and small businesses, an admiration that converges at Cultural Precinct, alongside the recognition of limited access to urban nature for the residents of this area. By fusing artistic expression and green space at the forefront of design, this project proposes a new concept that preserves the unique architectural forms and interior of Parker St. Studios, all the while revitalizing the creative heart of the city.



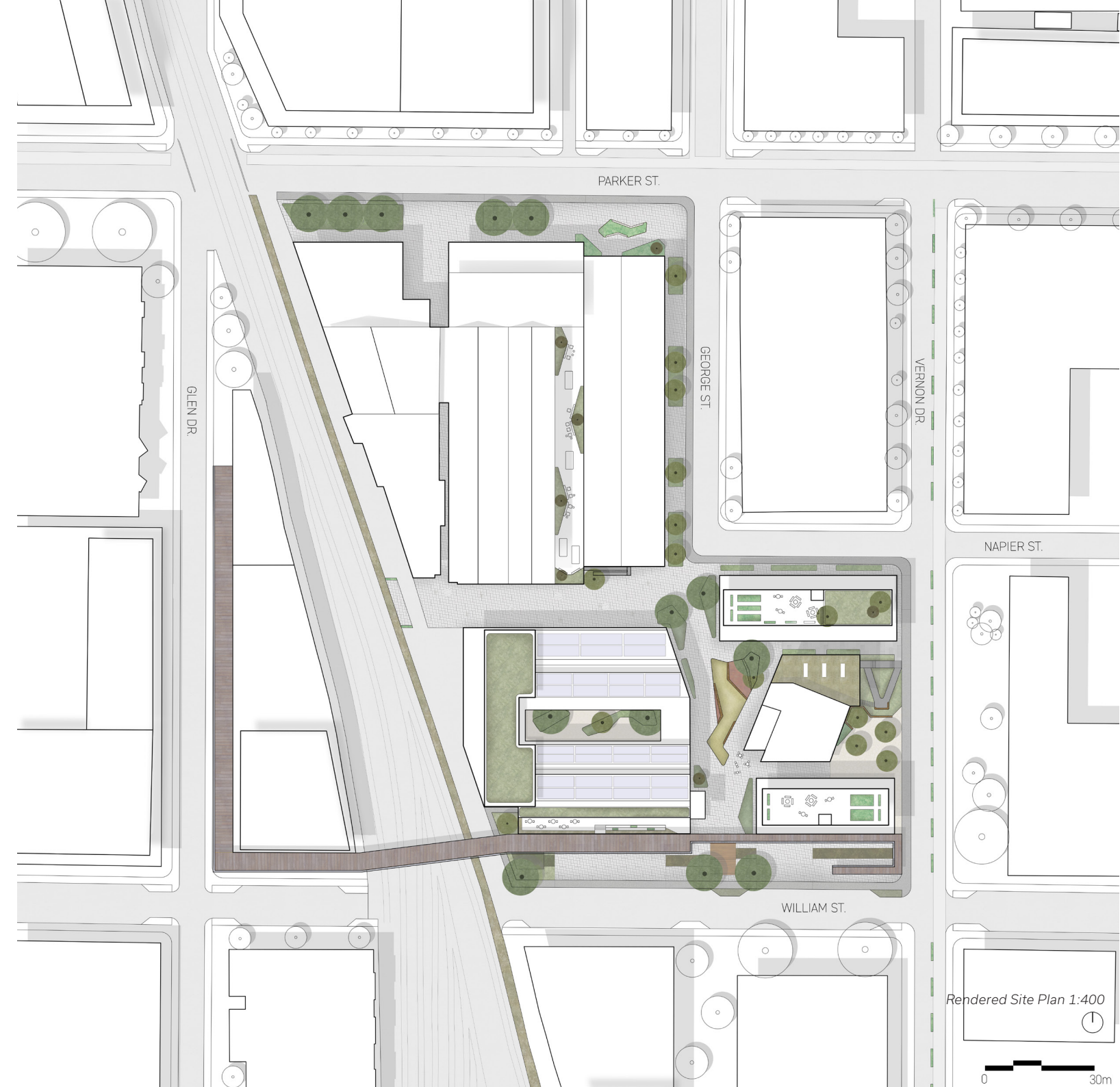
Material Library Interior



Rendered Site Axonometric

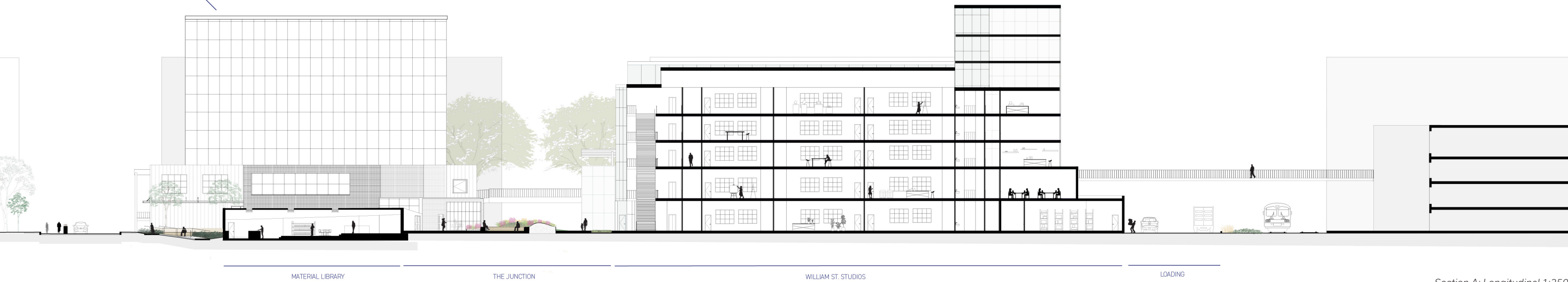
Through the design of a series of buildings housing a mix of studio spaces, industrial units, retail, and live-work opportunities, this design for the cultural precinct brings forward a multi-use district of innovation.

The Junction sits at the heart of the design, acting as the central node of the project, where art and nature coalesce. Decisions to materials were made for the building facades to provide adequate density, while still producing an inhabitable, porous, and ecologically- and culturally-rich public realm.

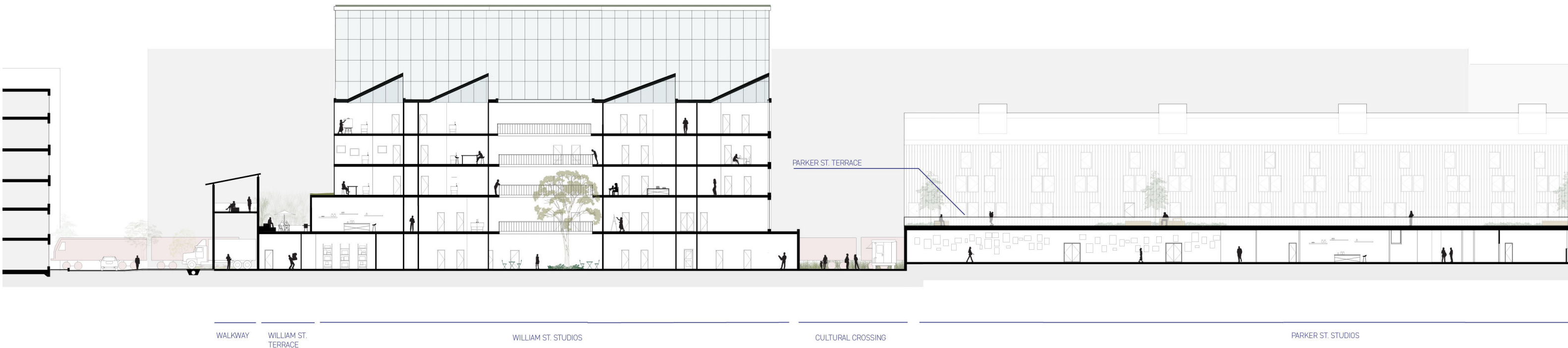


Rendered Site Plan 1:400

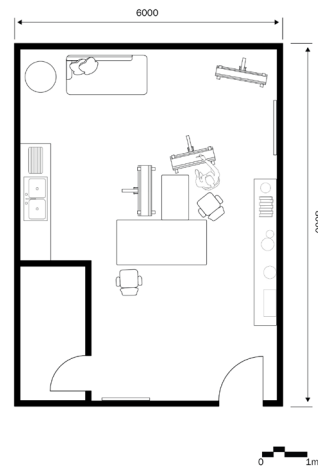
SOUTH LIVE WORK TOWER



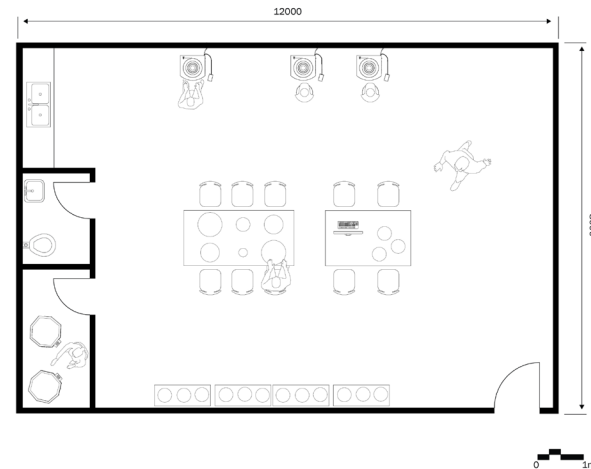
Section A: Longitudinal 1:250



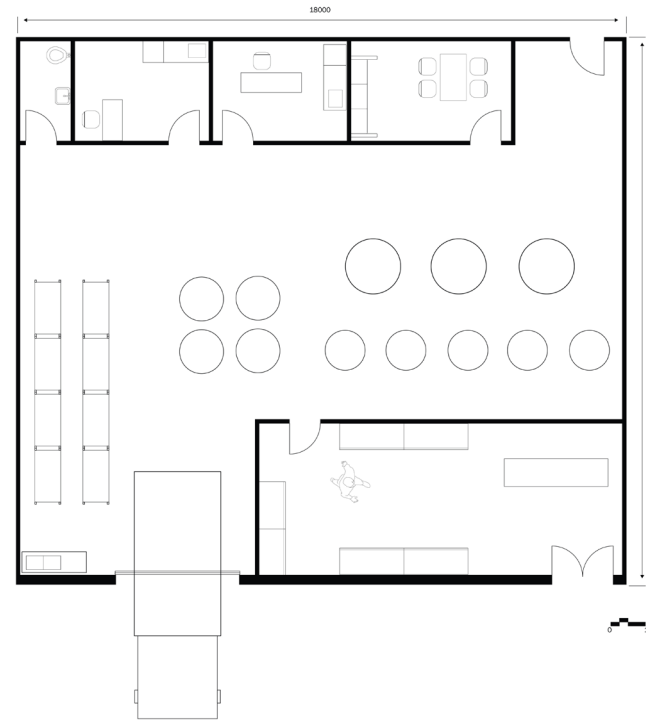
Section A: Longitudinal 1:250



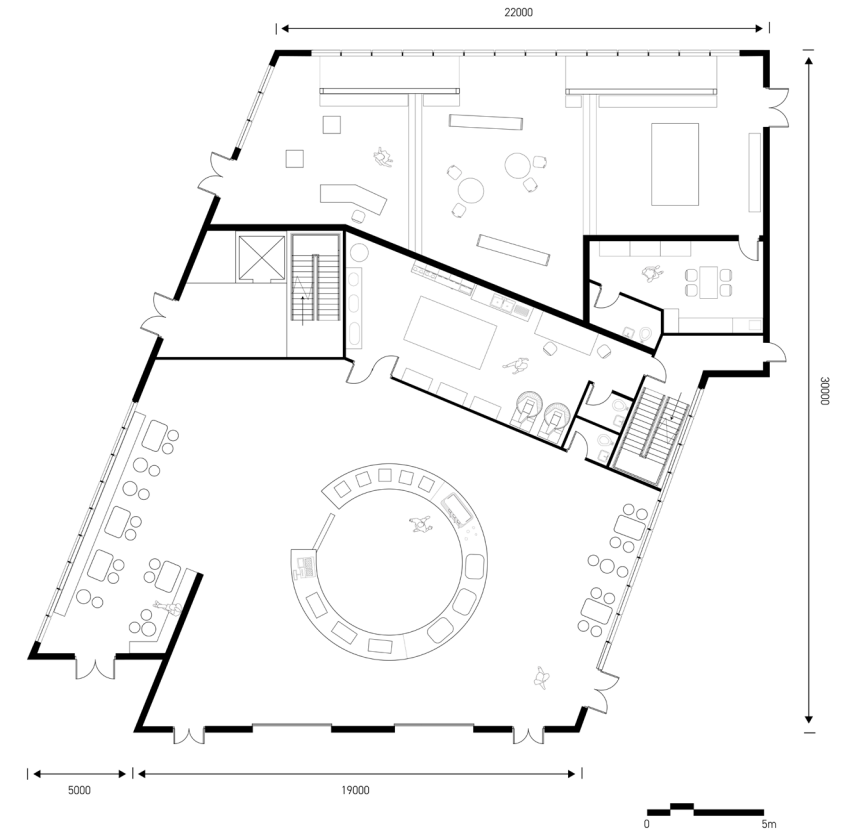
Single Small Studio 1:50



Shared Large Studio 1:50



Light Industrial + Retail 1:75



Material Library + Food Hall 1:100

Interior Design - Typical Unit Plans

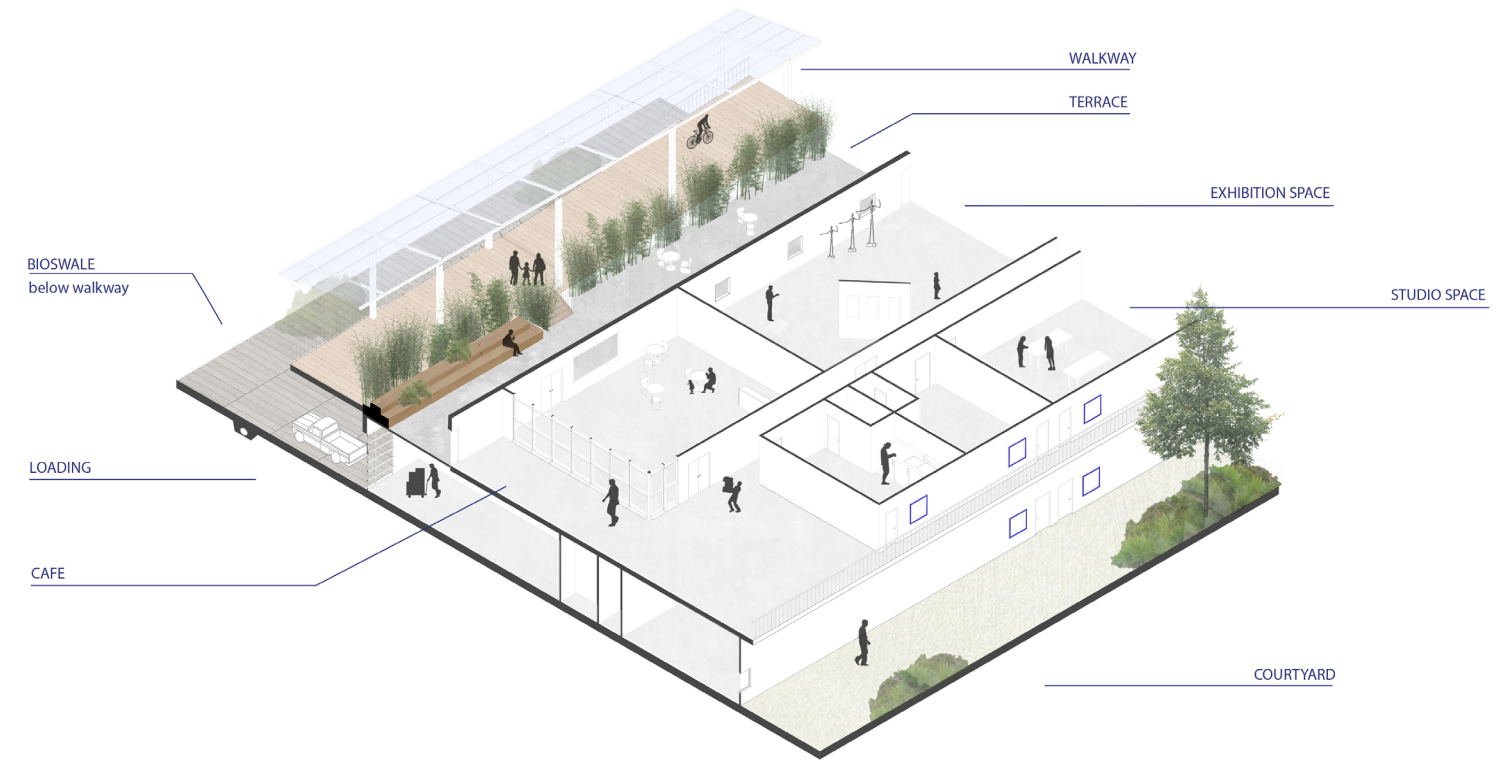
Our team included typical interior configurations in the proposal for the various types of units across the site. These design considerations played a crucial role in ensuring that interior spaces are not only visually pleasing, but are also designed to meet their intended purpose effectively for the people who may live and work within them.

The Material Library and Food Hall aim to activate the Junction and create a destination for individuals across the city. The Material Library is a landform building, and houses innovative materials allowing for exploration and discovery, symbolizing the arts and culture that are central to the Precinct. The Food Hall is a one stop shop for dry goods and hot foods to better support local artists and residents.



1000 Parker St. Studios Atrium

As part of the new design, the iconic Parker St. Studios building will undergo architectural upgrades to improve performance, while still preserving its unique character. The design includes an addition along George St., providing the artists with new studio spaces, as well as a new public glass atrium for them to convene and share their work.



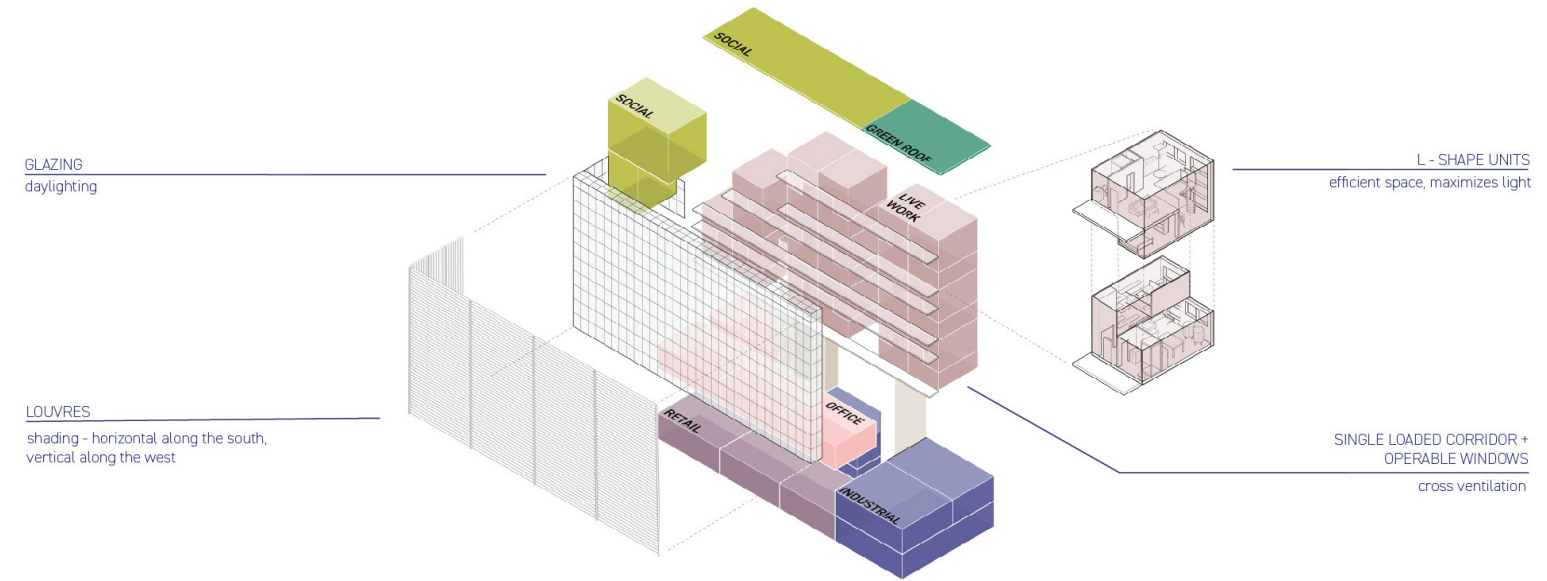
Section Axonometric - William St. Studios Public Walkway

William St. Studios will be an all-new building composed of a mix of studio and retail spaces. The building develops a duality in providing both an inward focused and outward looking design. It features private moments for artists, as well as a pedestrian bridge with commercial opportunities, integrated into the building on the second floor.



The Junction Central Node

The Junction serves as the central public hub, located across from the Material Library and Food Hall. Designed to accommodate large gatherings and events, it features a central mound accented with seasonal planting, surrounded by seating. This area acts as a destination, while also facilitating movement throughout the Precinct.



Exploded Axonometric - Live-work Towers

The final addition to the Precinct, will be the all-new live-work towers. These high-rise buildings provide more affordable housing options for local artists and for the community. The buildings feature green-roofs, joint community spaces, and innovative architectural design strategies that optimize the building performance and thermal comfort.

THANK-YOU

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To explore more of my design projects, view my photography,
and learn about my creative journey, please visit:

sabinacareri.com