



THREADS OF WATER

reinterpreting the traditional valencian garden in Cabanyal

BORJA GOSÁLBEZ MULET | AINARA QUILES DÍAZ

INSPIRELI AWARDS 2026 | URBAN DESIGN

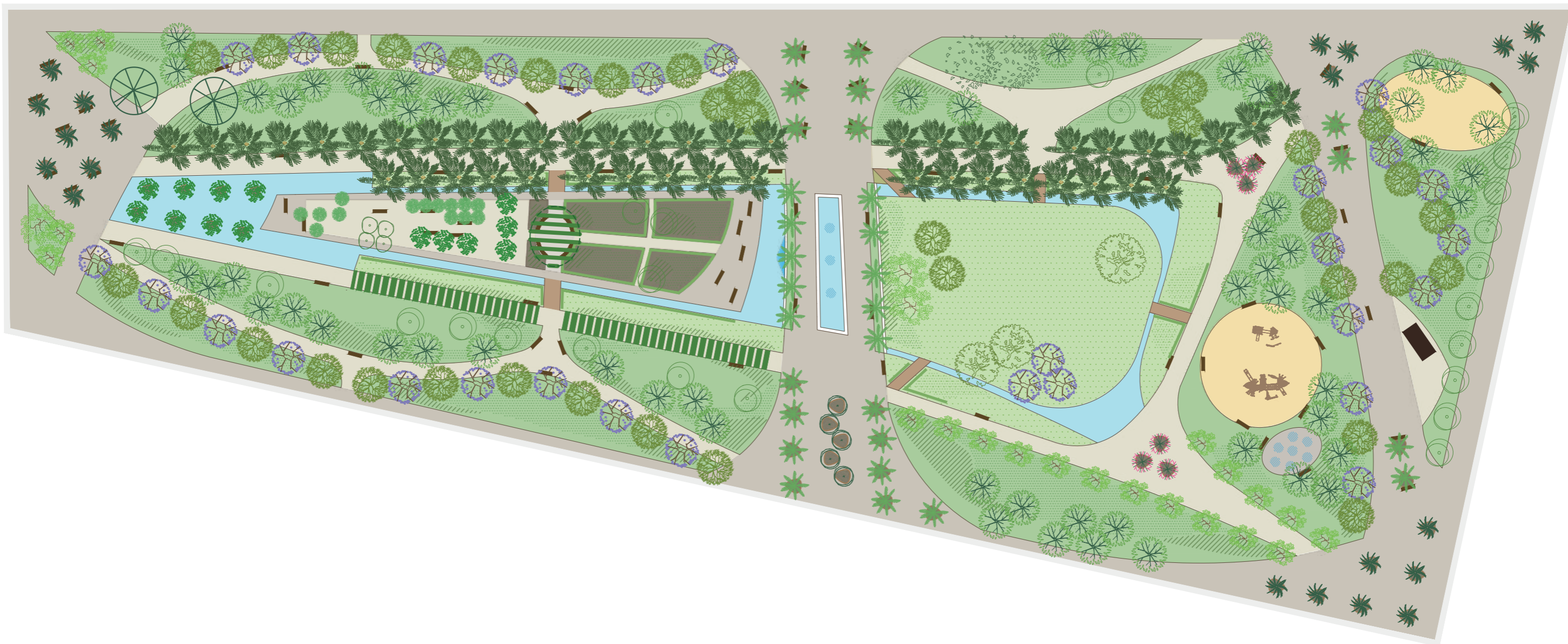
SITE AND CONTEXT



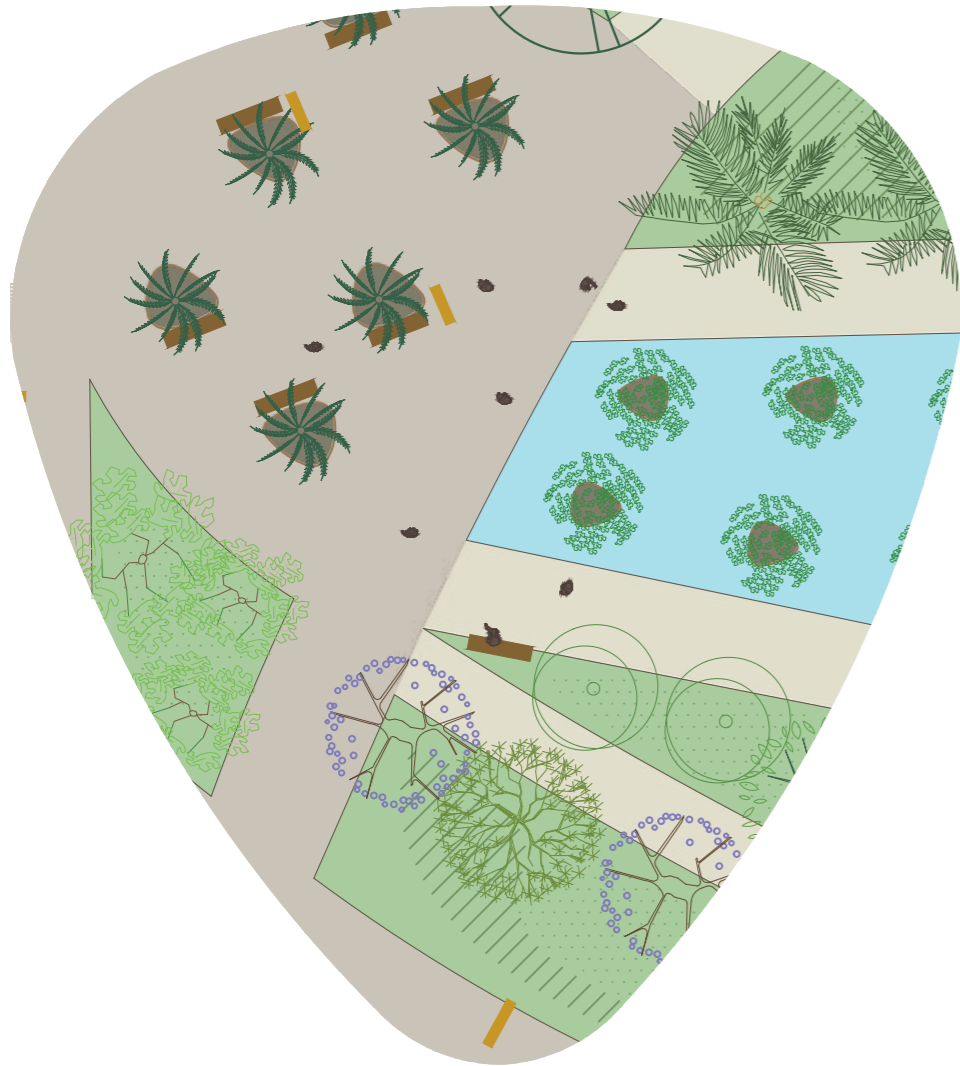
The project is located in the Cabañal neighborhood, a fishing community with deep historical ties to the sea, on the site of the former Neptune Gardens, just a few meters from the beach.

GENERAL PLAN

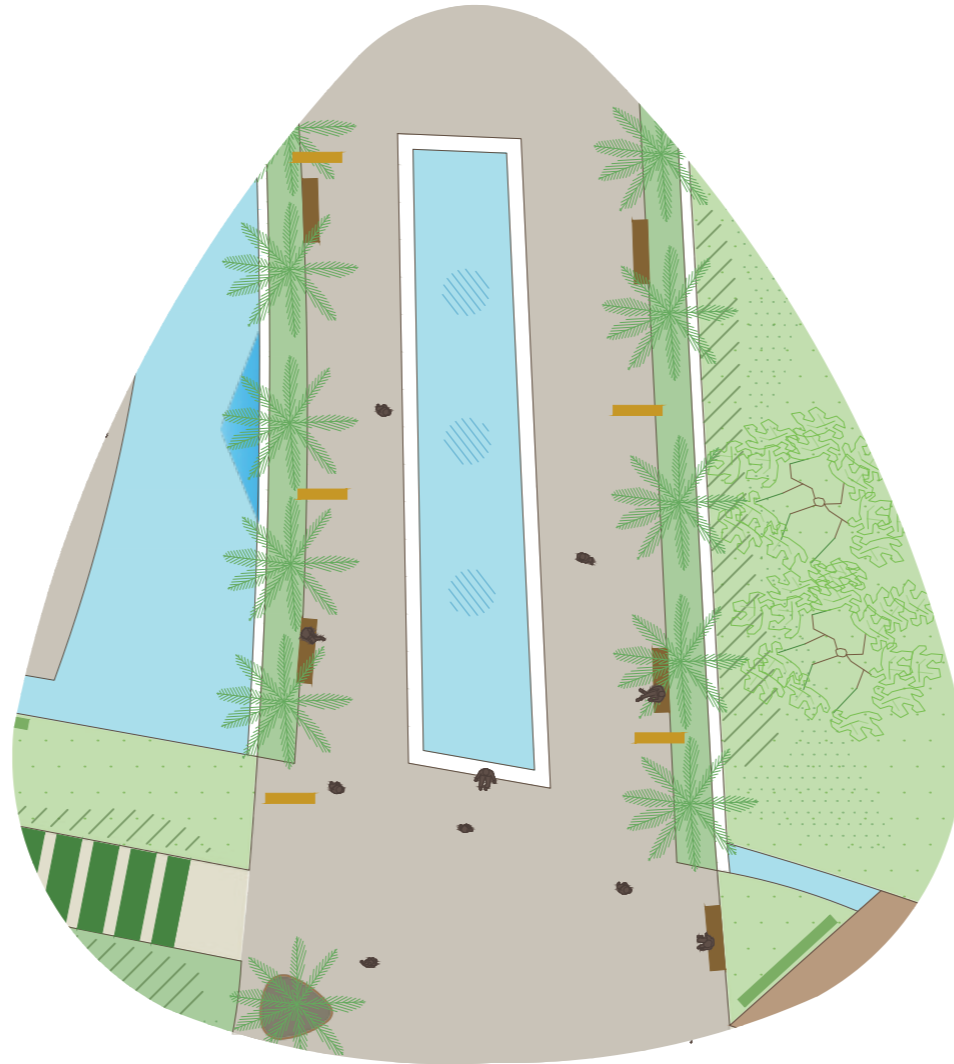
0 10 25 50m E 1/750 N



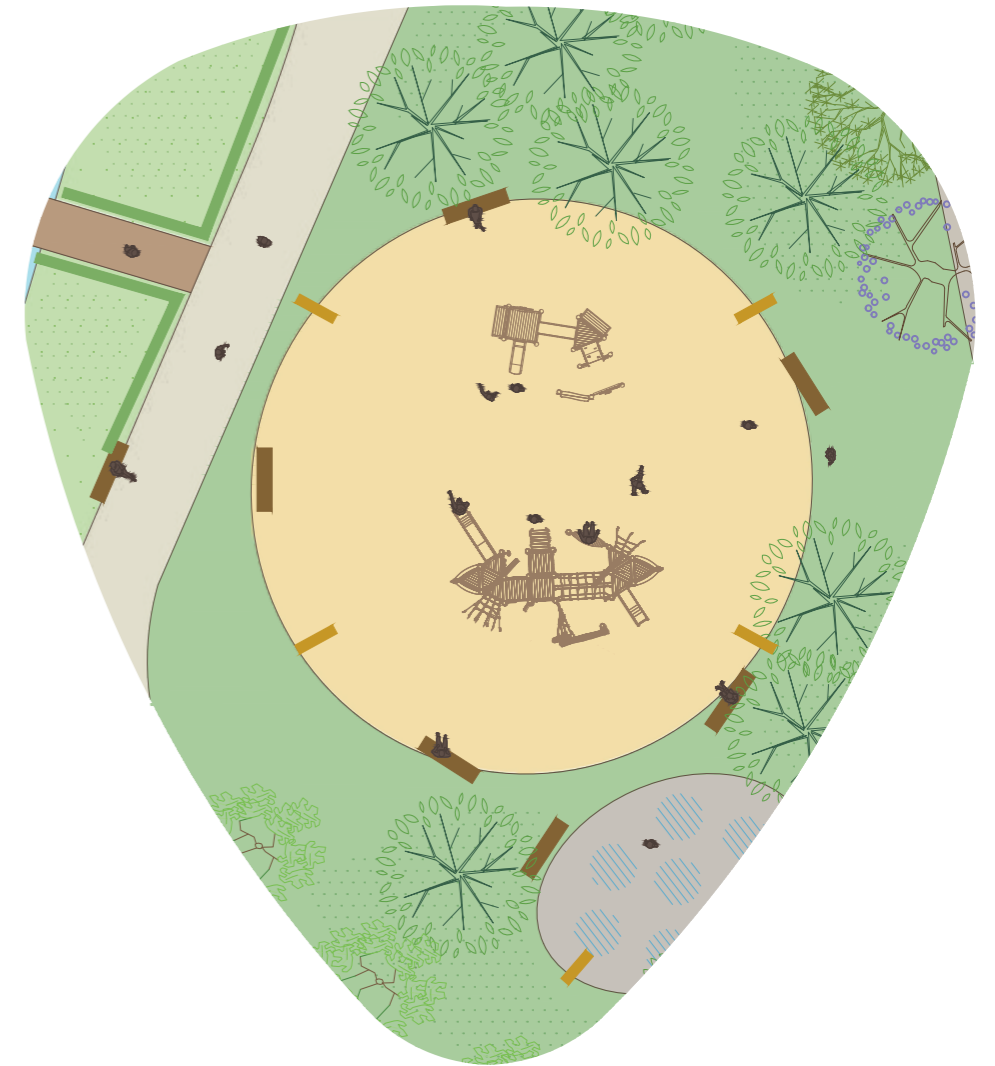
DETAIL ZOOM-INS



NORTH PLAZA AND POND

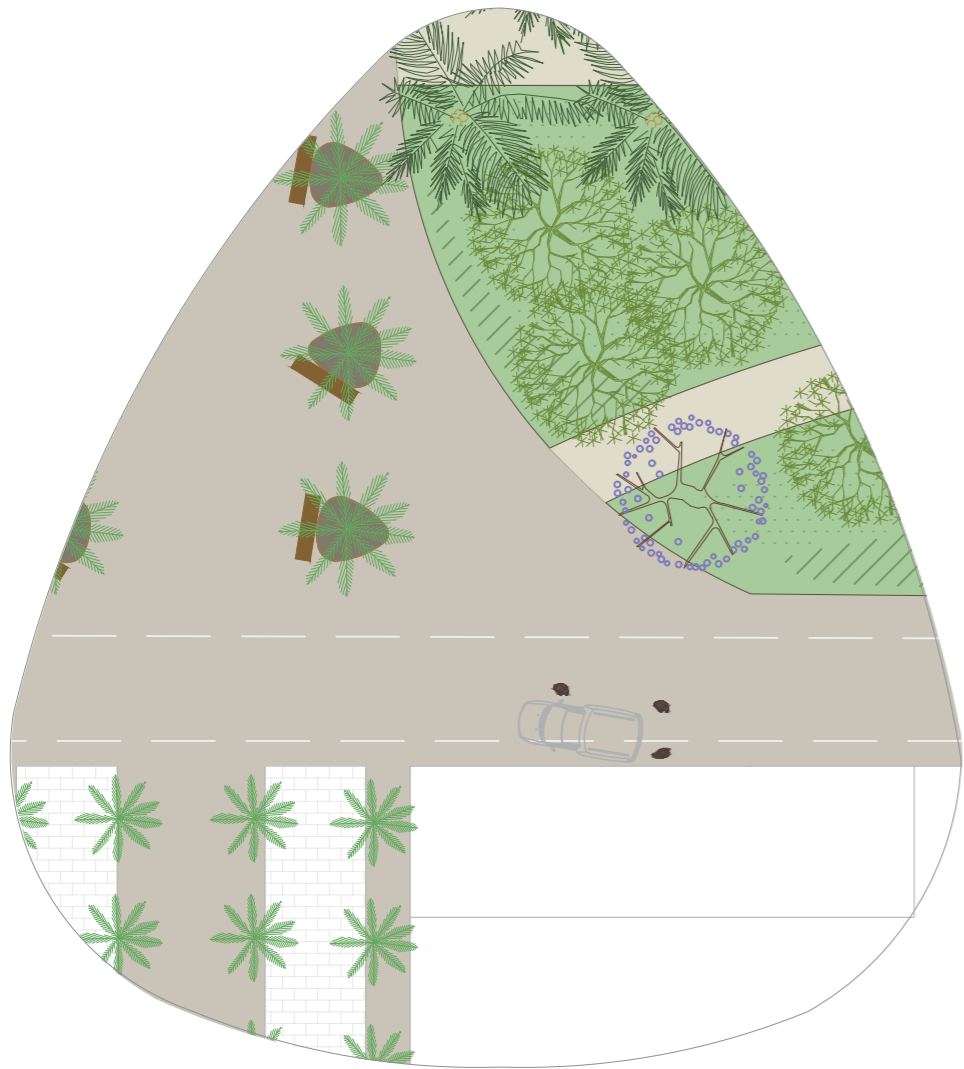


FOUNTAIN AND CENTRAL PLAZA

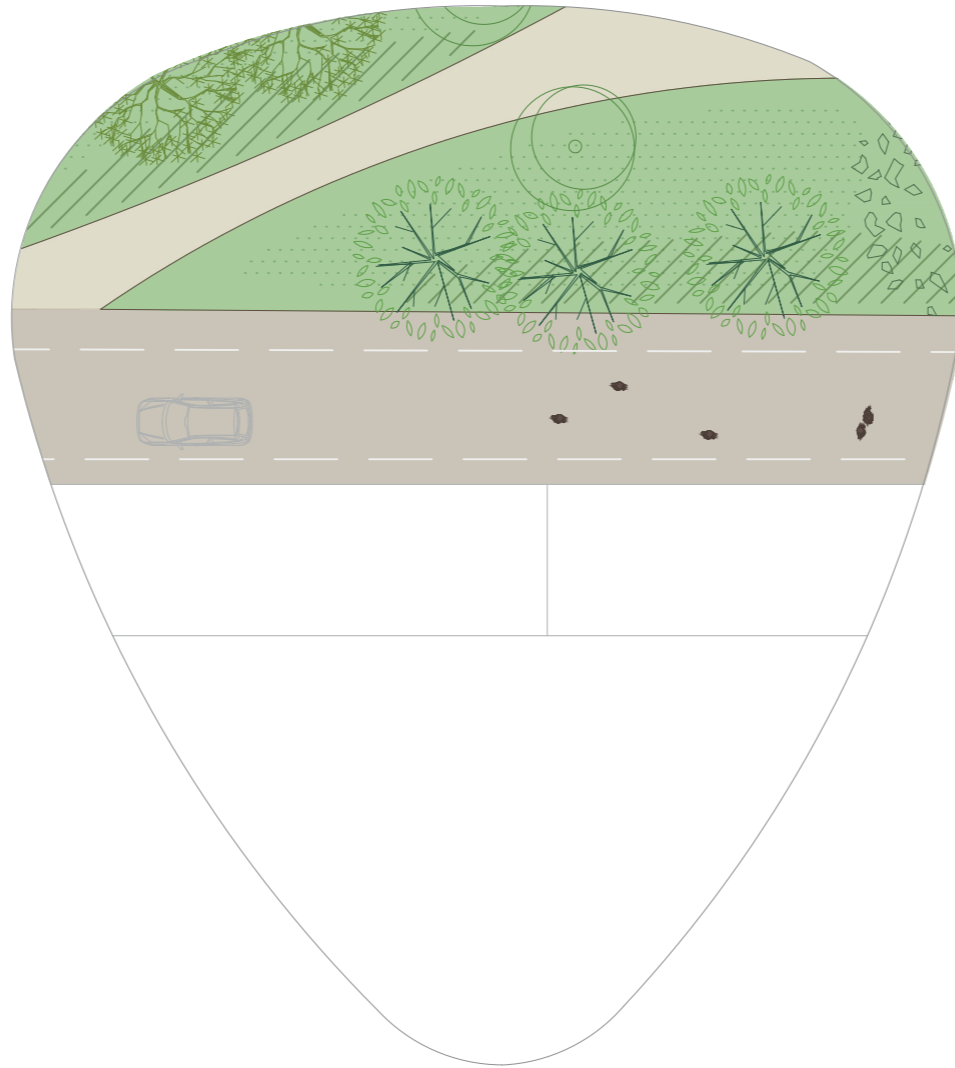


PLAYGROUND AREA

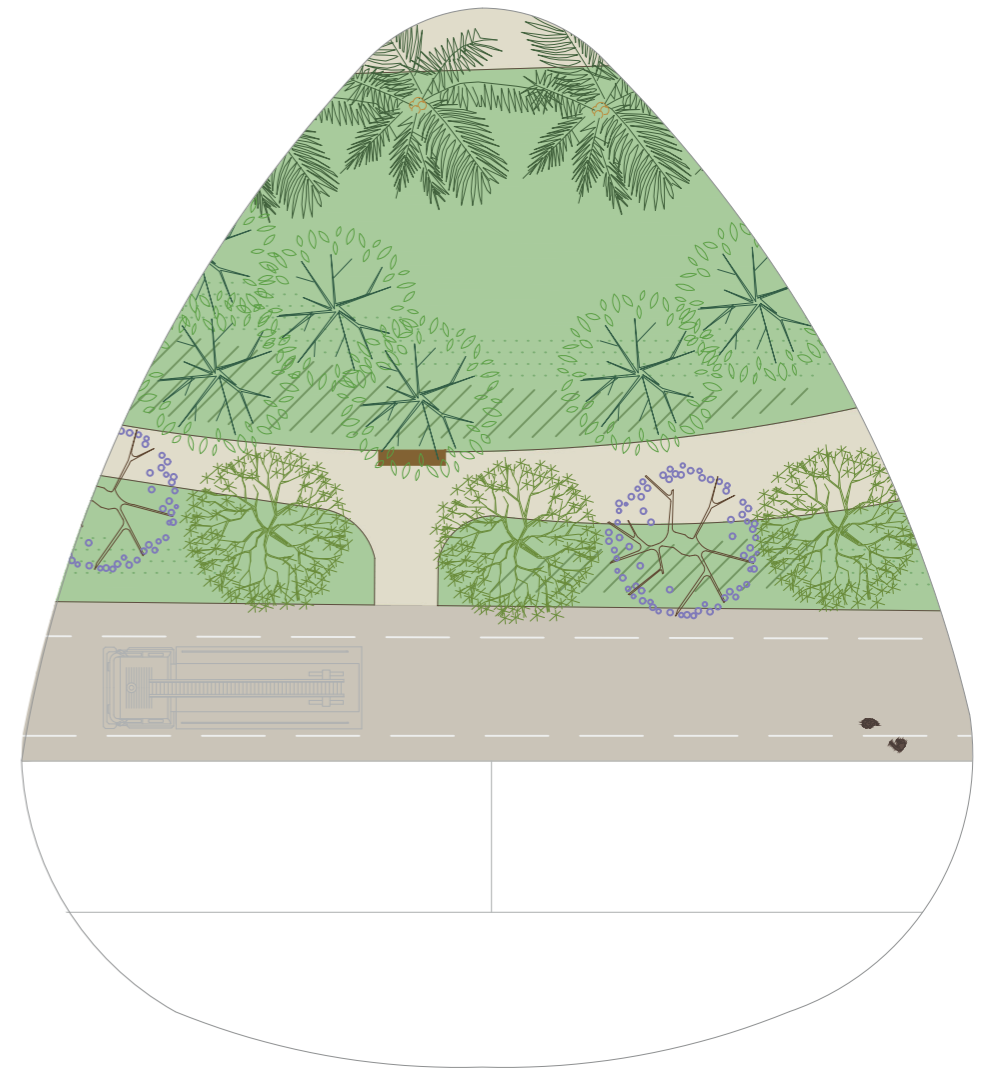
RELATION WITH EXISTING STREET



LOADING / UNLOADING SPACES



PEDESTRIAN PRIORITY

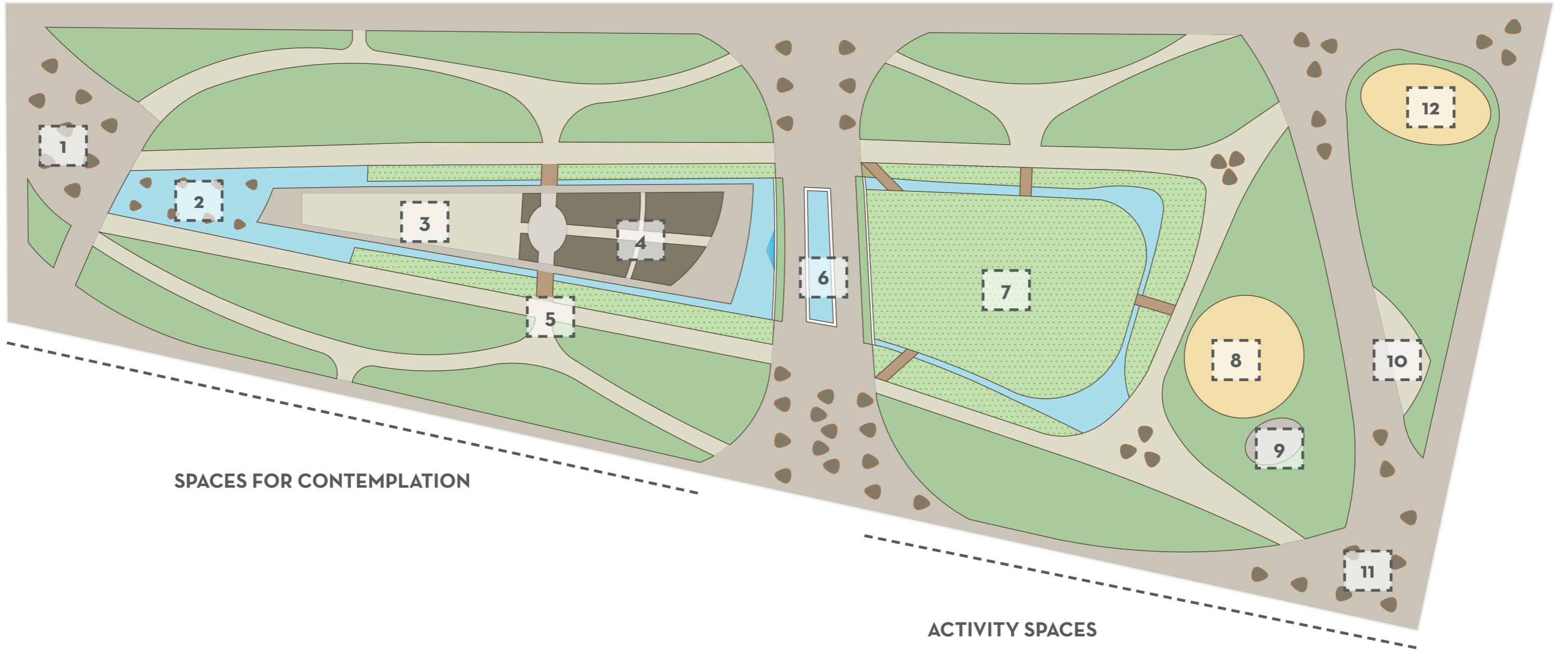


EMERGENCY SERVICES



SPACE PROGRAM

0 10 25 50m E 1/750 N



SPACES FOR CONTEMPLATION

ACTIVITY SPACES

1| NORTH ACCESS PLAZA

2| ORANGE TREE POND

3| CITRUS GARDEN

4| FLOWER GARDEN

5| PATHWAY WITH A PERGOLA

6| CENTRAL PLAZA

7| GREAT LAWN

8| PLAYGROUND

9| WATER GAMES

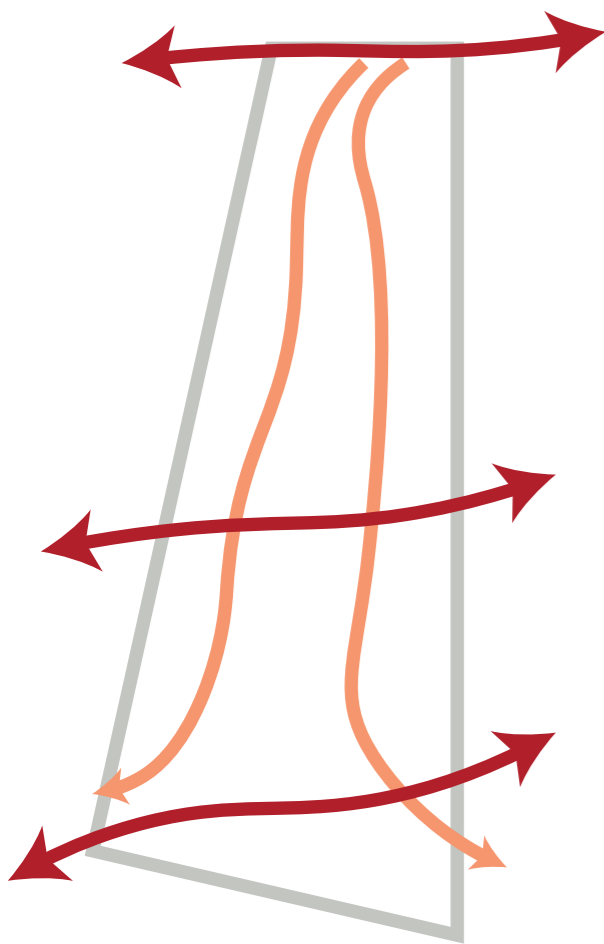
10| KIOSK-BAR

11| SOUTH ACCESS PLAZA

12| DOG AREA

DESIGN STRATEGIES

transverse connectivity and a bifurcated longitudinal axis



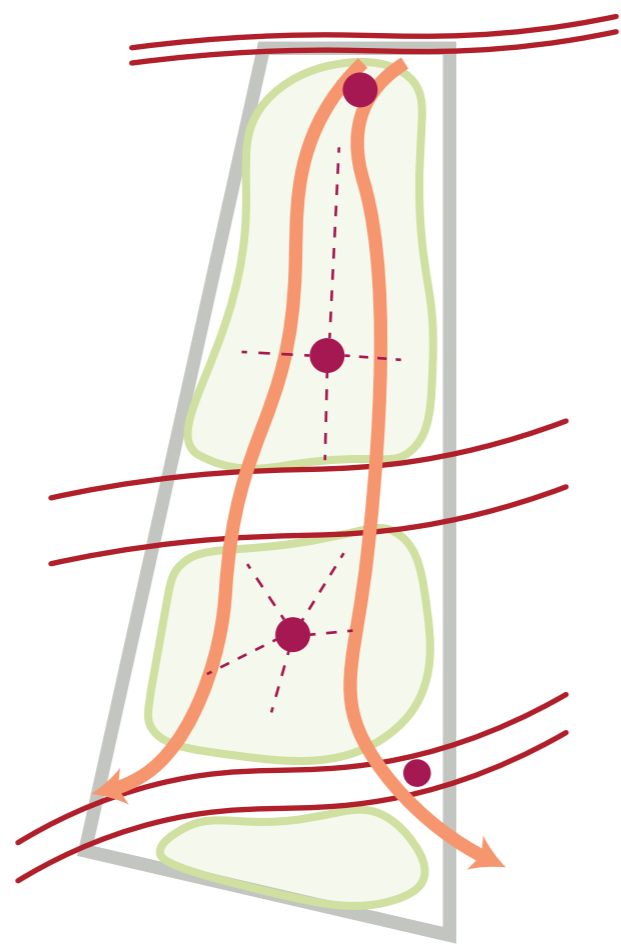
PATH HIERARCHY

- main
- secondary

they will feature different materials

CROSS-AXLE SYSTEM AND LONGITUDINAL CONNECTING RING

the paths connect different areas



2 BIG AREAS WITH DIFFERENT USES

- areas

REINTERPRETING THE TRADITIONAL VALENCIAN GARDEN

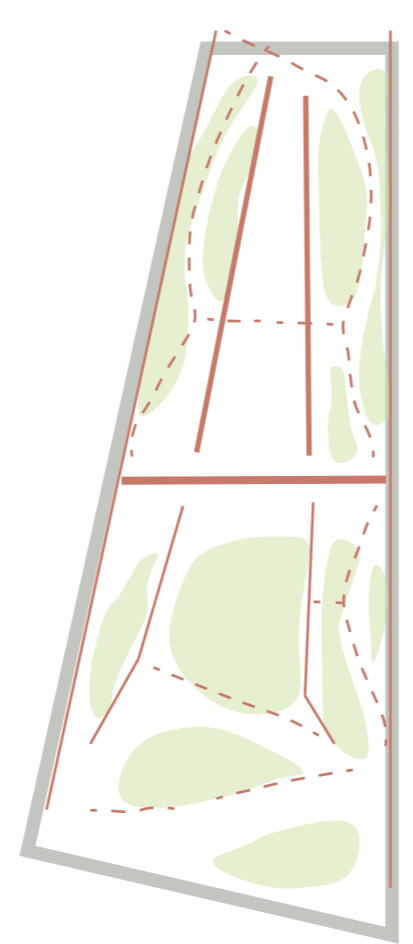
contemplation spaces

neighborhood

transition from neighborhood-private uses to more urban and public ones in the southern half of the park.

public

activity spaces

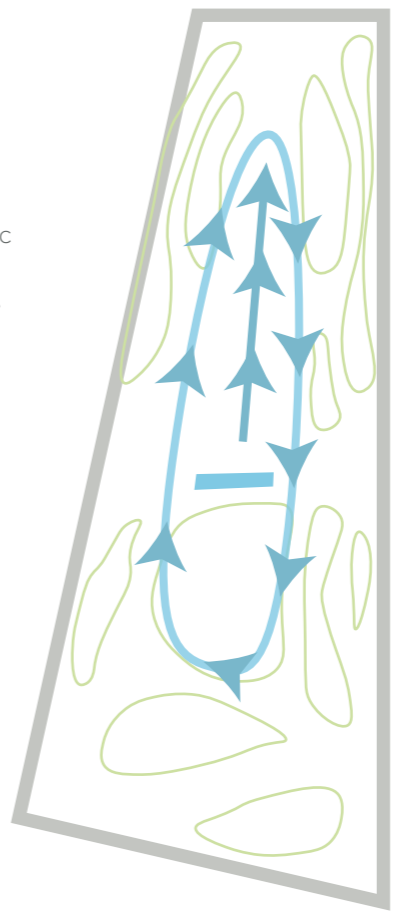


BORDER RING

INTERIOR RING: SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL USES

SUBTLE CURVES AND LINEAR LINES

a perimeter hedge that acts as a natural screen to block out the noise from outside



WATER SYSTEM ALONG THE LONGITUDINAL LOOP PATHS

THE PARK'S CENTRAL CORE, SEPARATED BY A DOUBLE RING: GREEN SPACES AND A WATER FEATURE

Deciduous tree screens that allow for light permeability: sunlight in winter months and abundant shade in the summer and spring.



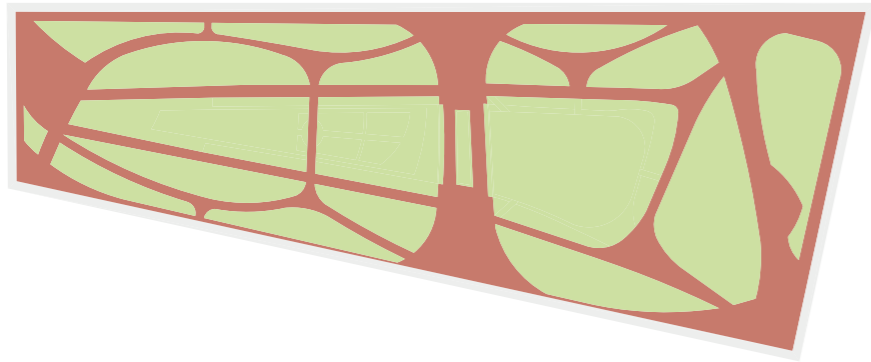
FORMAL INTEGRATION OF WATER AND GREENERY

COMPOSITION AND OVERALL DESIGN

ELEMENTOS FORMALES

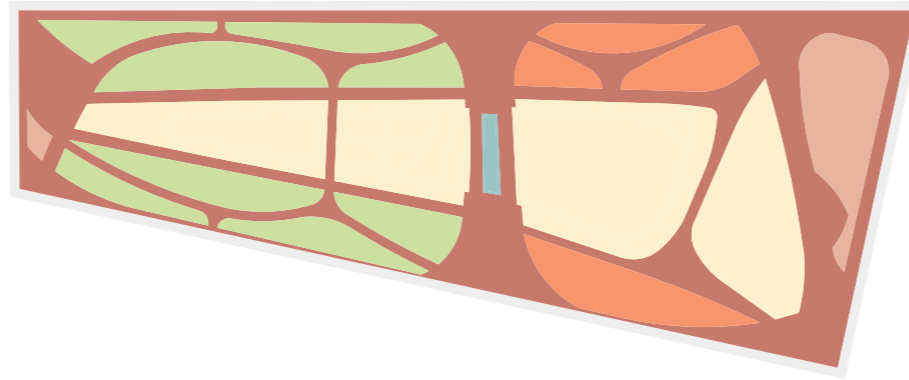
BACKGROUND | FIGURE

The proposal is based on a figure-ground interpretation in which green serves as a continuous background against which the paths are superimposed. The absence of vegetation is the ground; the paths are the figure.



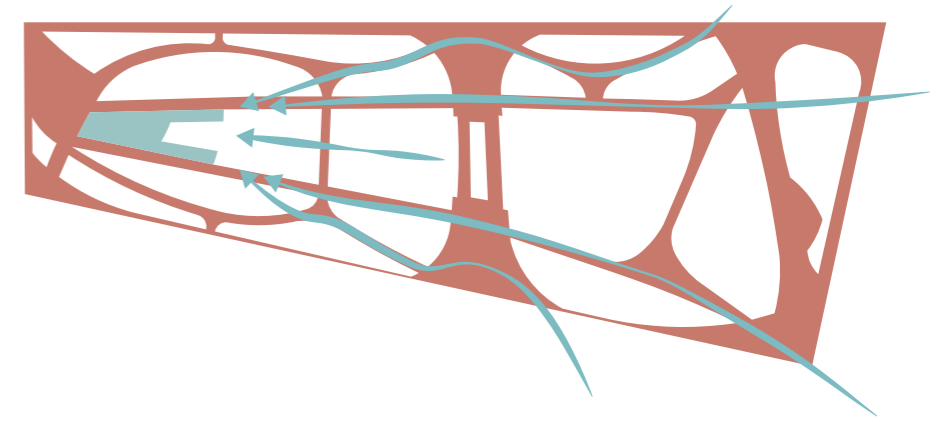
ASYMMETRICAL BALANCE

The composition exhibits an asymmetrical balance: the two halves (both along the east-west axis and the north-south axis) are not symmetrical with respect to each other, but they maintain a balance in terms of visual weight and function that ensures the cohesion of the whole.



FOCAL POINT

The project features a distinct focal point: the orange tree pond, toward which several paths visually converge and which serves as the centerpiece of the design.

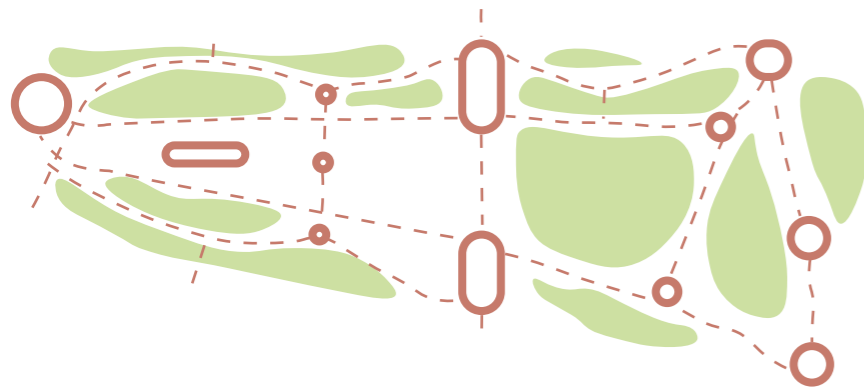


PATHS AND AREAS

DEFINICIÓN DE LOS ELEMENTOS DEL CAMINO

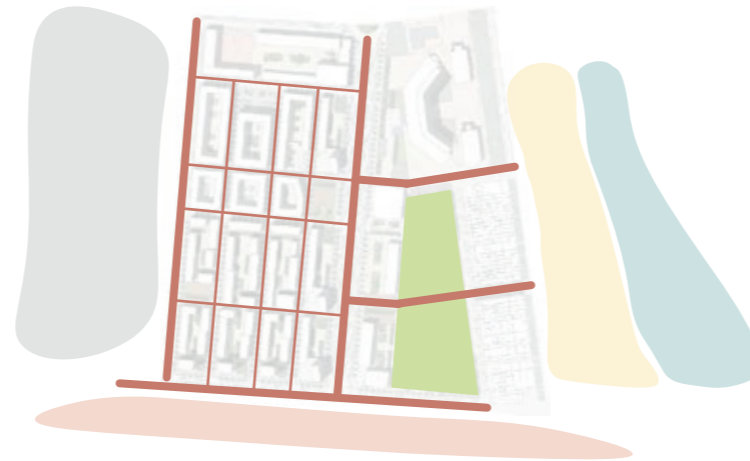
CIRCULATION

The paths serve a structural function: the main network connects the western part of the park to the waterfront, while the secondary paths provide alternative routes for aimless exploration. The layout reflects both the internal circulation routes and key gathering spots.



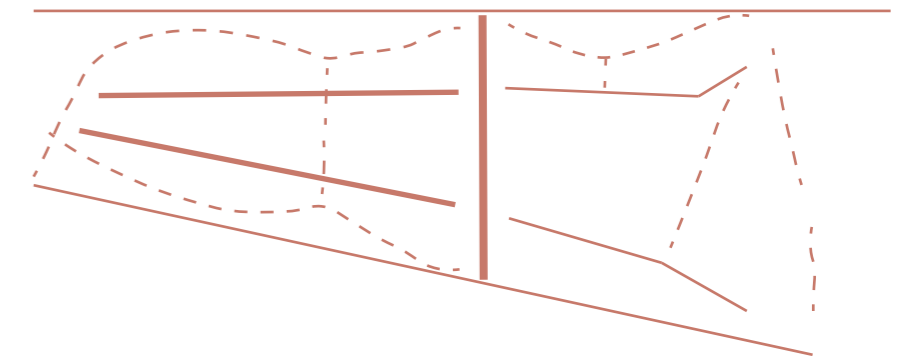
DESIGN AND URBAN CONTEXT

The proposal formally integrates with its context through three strips running parallel to the historic layout of the Cabanyal neighborhood—two for roads and one for water—which reflect the neighborhood's urban logic. A central road running perpendicular to these strips serves as the main axis connecting the neighborhood to the waterfront.



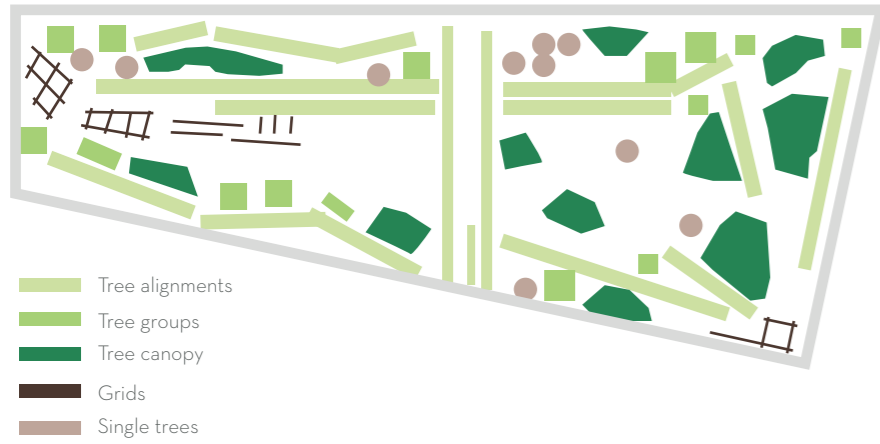
GEOMETRY

The paths feature subtle, gradual changes in direction, which are dictated by the approach to the park's various areas. Two of them are located at the edges, defining the boundaries of the complex, while the other two are situated in the interior and connect the central space.



GREENERY AND LANDSCAPING: COMPOSITION

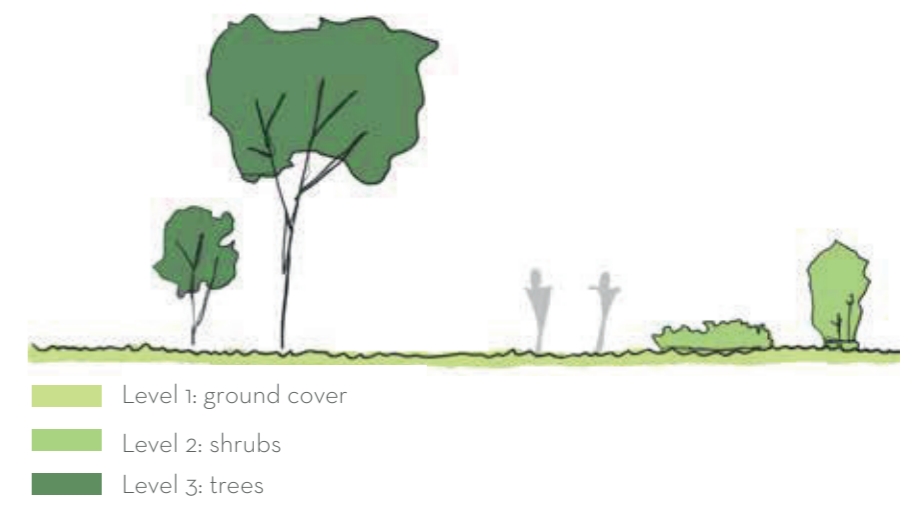
GREEN STRUCTURE



EXISTING VEGETATION



SECTION SCHEME



PLANTING DESIGN



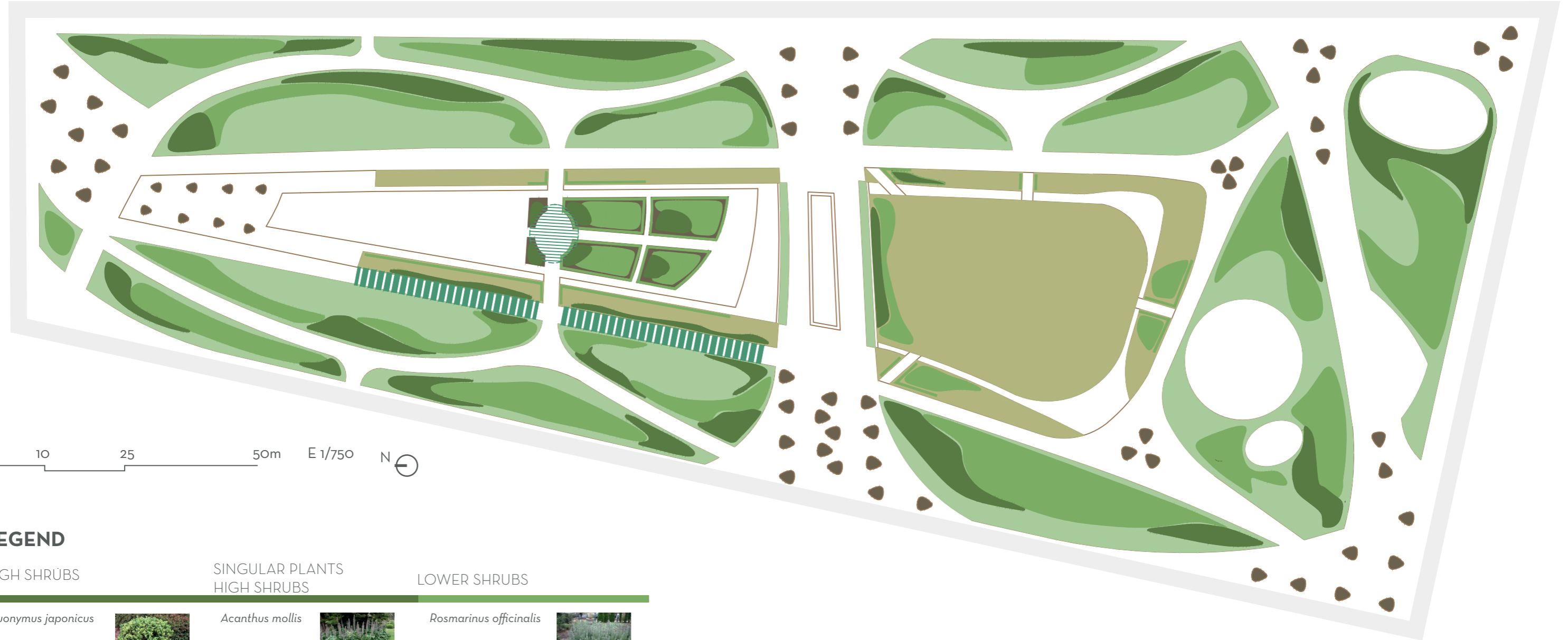
LEYENDA

- Tree alignments
- Tree groups
- Tree canopy
- Grids
- Single trees


























The proposal retains the existing double row of palm trees as a defining feature of the site, as well as the two *Ficus* trees located further north in the park and the two *Eucalyptus* trees to the east. Groups of trees are added throughout the park, consisting mainly of three species; in the southern area, mass plantings of irregular composition predominate, providing vegetation density and contrast with the geometry of the paths.



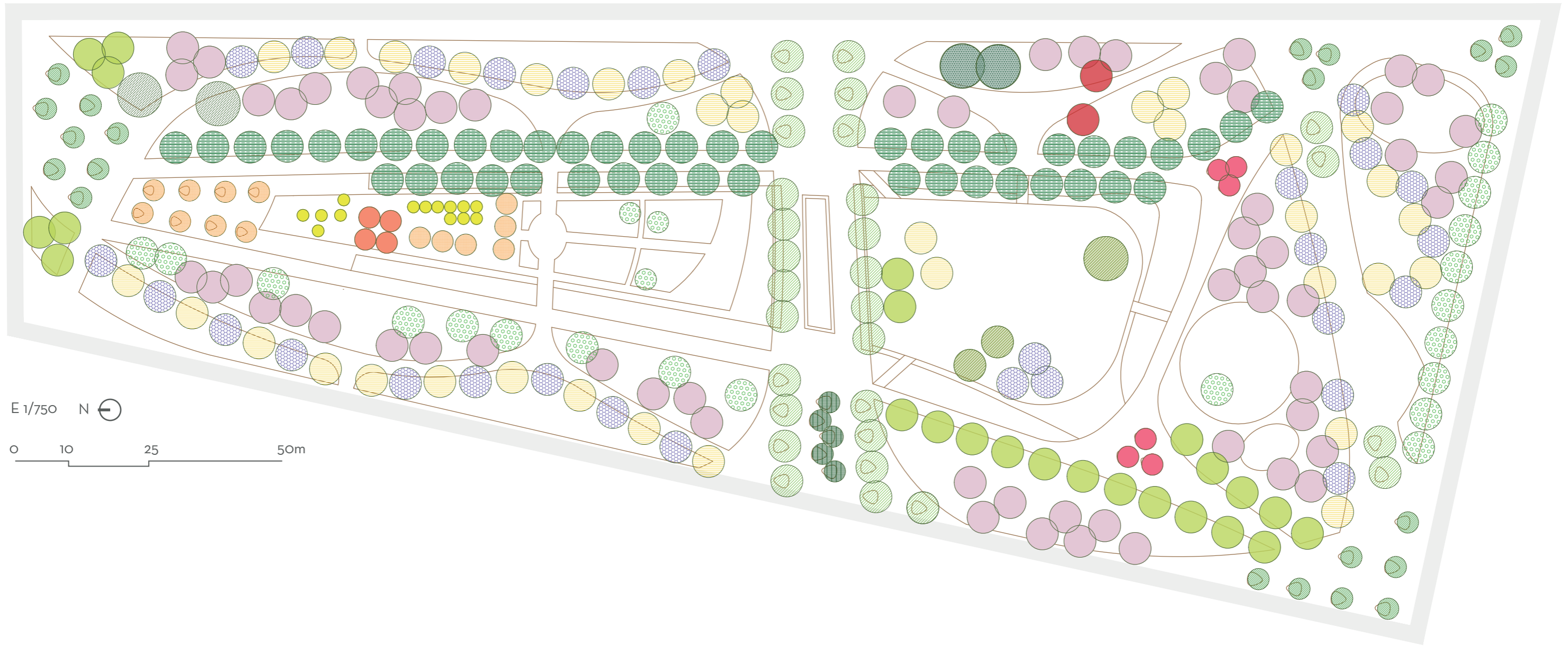
SHRUB LAYER: PLANT SELECTION



LEGEND

HIGH SHRUBS	SINGULAR PLANTS HIGH SHRUBS	LOWER SHRUBS	FLOWERS	VINES	GROUND COVER
<i>Evonymus japonicus</i> 	<i>Acanthus mollis</i> 	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> 	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i> 	<i>Agapanthus africanus</i> 	<i>Hedera helix</i> 
<i>Nerium oleander</i> 	<i>Euphorbia characias</i> 	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i> 	<i>Clivia miniata</i> 	<i>Lantana camara</i> 	<i>Vinca minor-major + paspalum notatum</i> 
<i>Myrtus communis</i> 	<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i> 	<i>Thymus vulgaris</i> 	<i>Lilium candidum</i> 	<i>Jasminum</i> 	<i>Cynodon dactylon + trifolium repens</i> 
<i>Chamaerops humilis</i> 		<i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 	<i>Rosa canina</i> 		
<i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i> 		<i>Lavandula stoechas</i> 	<i>Rosa grandiflora</i> 		
					MULCHING 

TREE LAYER: PLANT SELECTION



-  *Albizia julibrissin*

-  *Citrus limon*

-  *Citrus sinensis*

-  *Cupressus sempervirens*


-  *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*

-  *Ficus macrophylla*

-  *Jacaranda mimosifolia*







-  *Melia azedarach*




-  *Metrosideros excelsa*

-  *Morus alba fruitless*

-  *Phoenix canariensis*

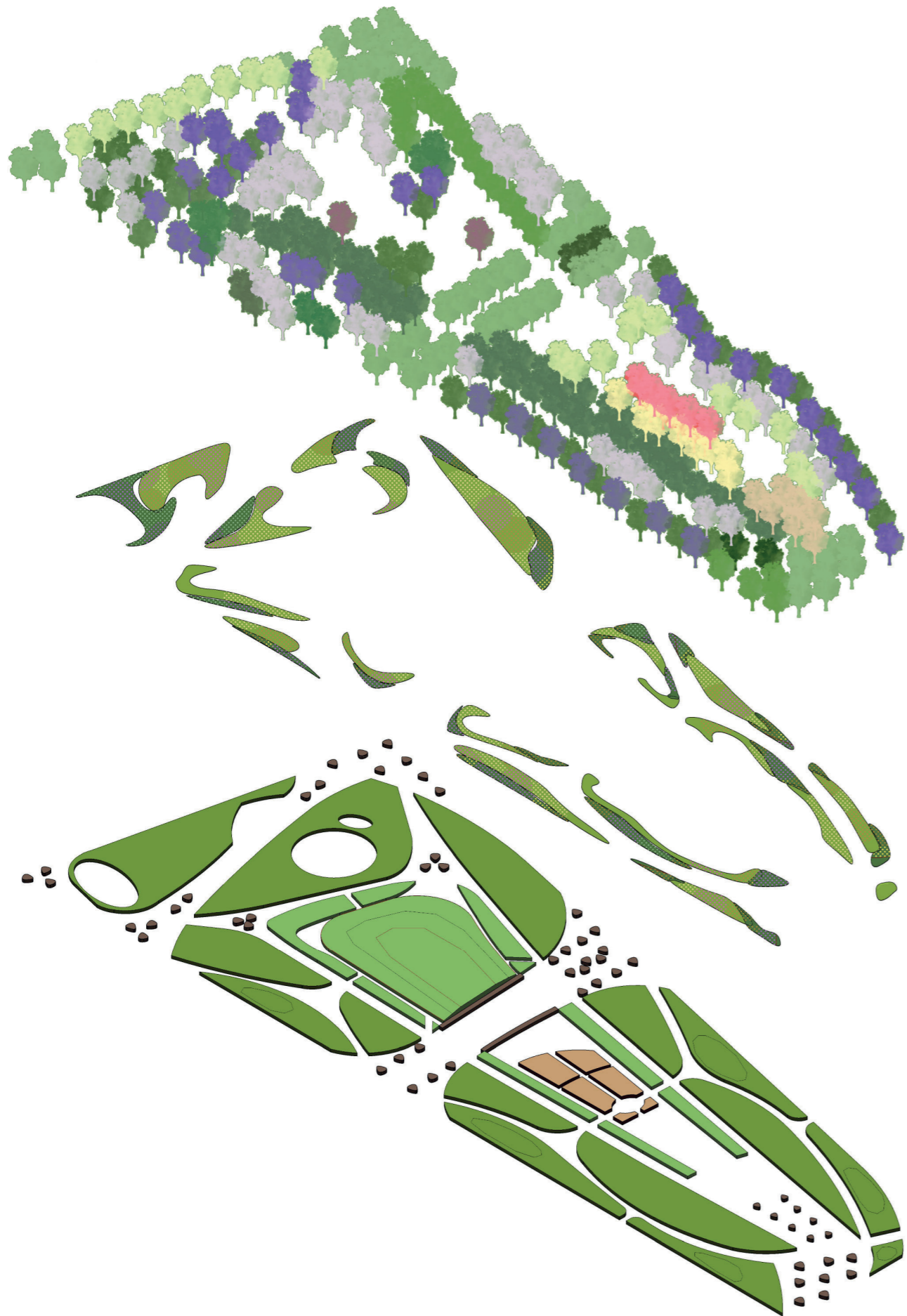
-  *Punica granatum*


-  *Schinus molle*

-  *Styphnolobium japonicum*

-  *Tipuana tipu*

-  *Washingtonia filifera*


-  *Washingtonia robusta*


SEASONAL CHANGES 1

SPRING



SUMMER

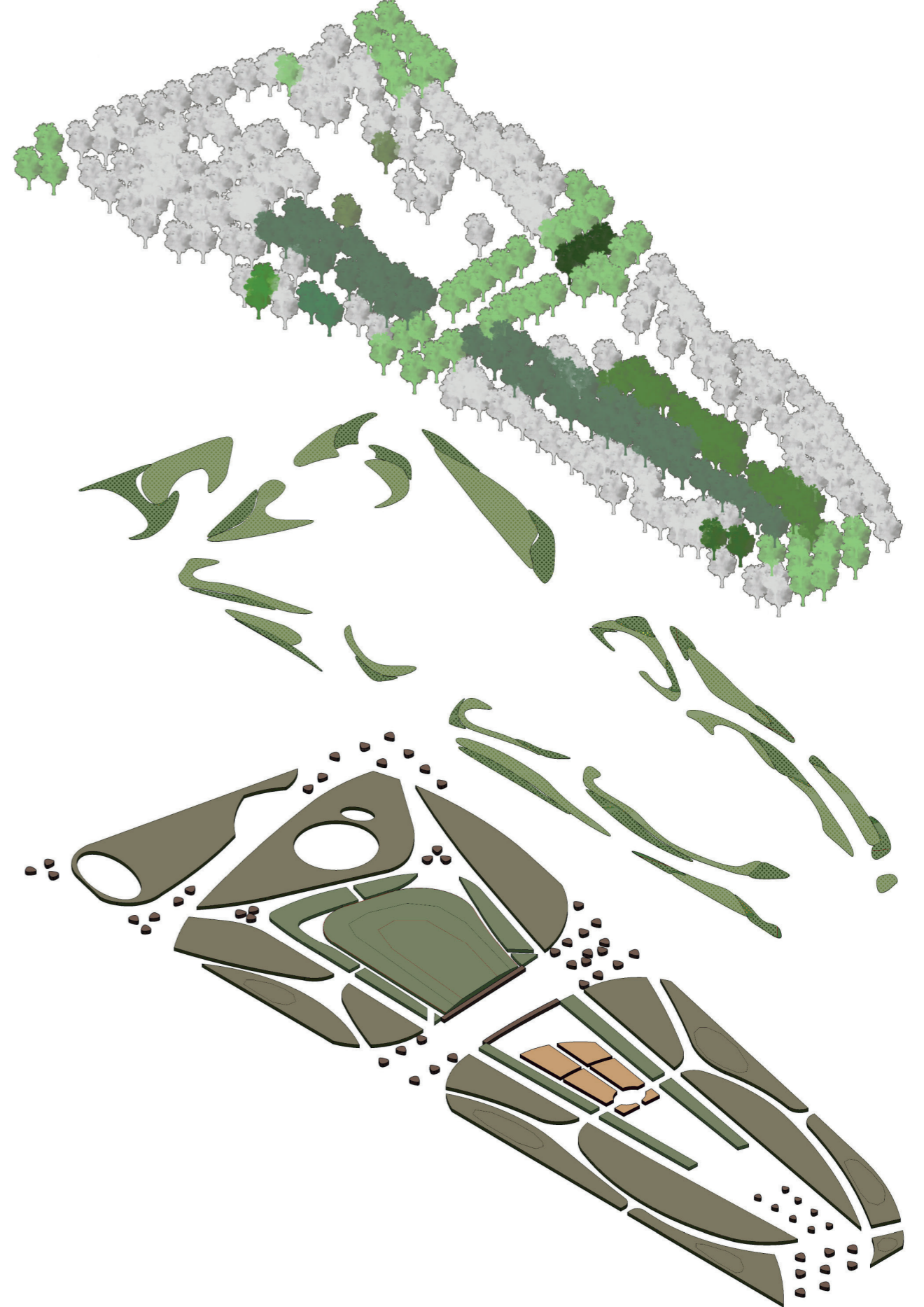


SEASONAL CHANGES 2

AUTUMN-FALL

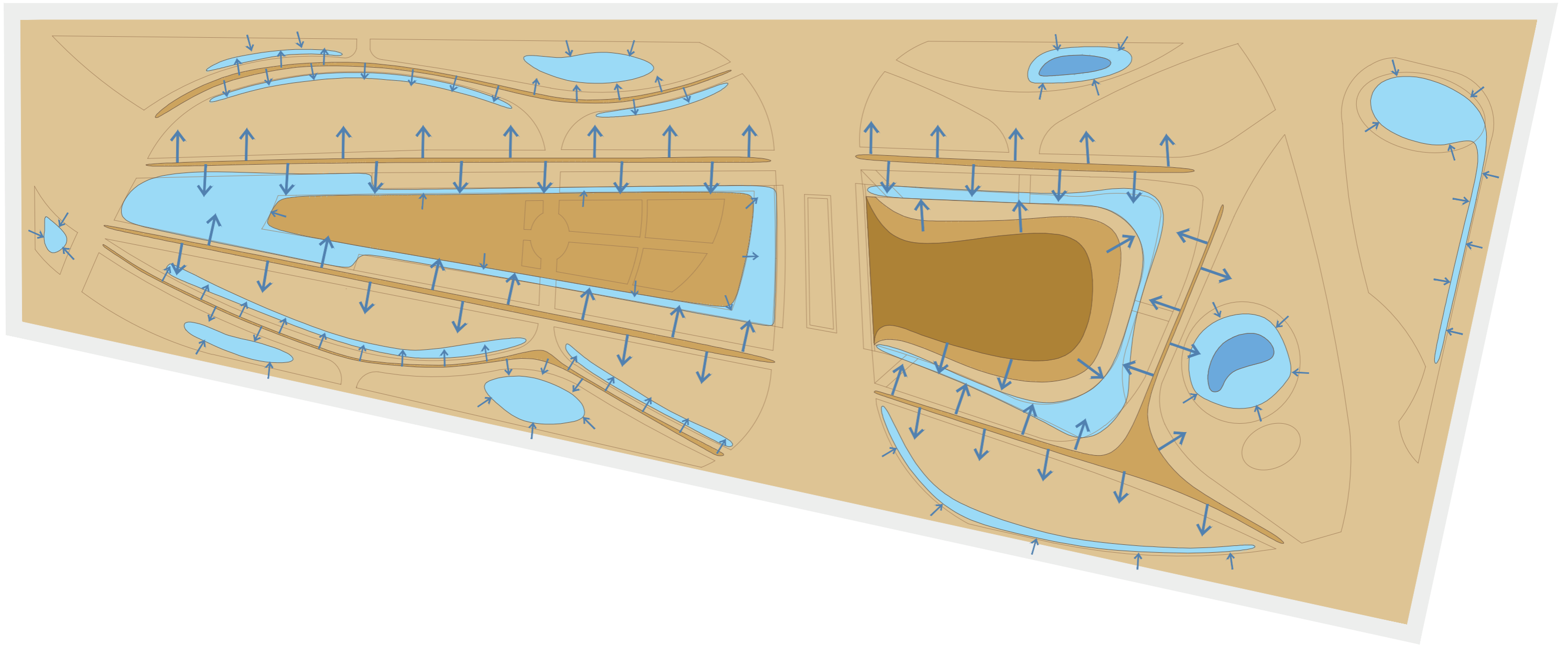


WINTER



VEGETATION TECHNICAL TABLE

BOTANICAL NAME	TYPE	BLOOMING PERIOD	FLOWER COLOR	TOLERANCE TO SALINE ENVIRONMENTS
<i>Euonymus japonicus</i>	Shrub	Spring		High
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Shrub	Spring-Fall		High
<i>Myrtus communis</i>	Shrub	Summer		High
<i>Chamaerops humilis</i>	Shrub/Palm tree	Spring		High
<i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i>	Ground cover	End of Summer-Fall		Average
<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	Ground cover	Spring-Summer		Average
<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	Shrub	Winter-Spring		High
<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	Ground cover	Fall		Average-High
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Shrub	All year long (peak Spring)		High
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Shrub	No interesting blooms		Average
<i>Thymus vulgaris</i>	Shrub	Spring-Summer		High
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Shrub	Summer-Fall		Low
<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	Shrub	Spring		High
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	Shrub	Spring		Low
<i>Clivia miniata</i>	Ground cover	Spring		Low
<i>Lilium candidum</i>	Ground cover	End of Spring-Summer		Average
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Shrub	Spring-Summer		Average
<i>Rosa grandiflora</i>	Shrub	Spring-Fall		Average
<i>Agapanthus africanus</i>	Ground cover	Summer		High
<i>Lantana camara</i>	Shrub	Spring-Fall		High
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Vine	Spring-Summer		Average-High
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Vine and Ground cover	No interesting blooms		High
<i>Bougainvillea</i>	Vine	Spring-Fall		High
<i>Jasminum spp.</i>	Vine	Spring-Summer		Average
<i>Vinca minor</i>	Ground cover	Spring		Average
<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	Tree	Summer		Average
<i>Citrus limon</i>	Tree	Spring		Average-High
<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	Tree	Spring		Average-High
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Tree	No interesting blooms		High
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	Tree	No interesting blooms		High
<i>Ficus macrophylla</i>	Tree	No interesting blooms		High
<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	Tree	Spring-Summer		Average
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Tree	Spring		Average
<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i>	Tree	End of Spring-Summer		Very High
<i>Morus alba 'Fruitless'</i>	Tree	No interesting blooms		Average
<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	Tree/Palm tree	No interesting blooms		High
<i>Punica granatum</i>	Tree	Spring-Summer		High
<i>Schinus molle</i>	Tree	Spring-Summer		High
<i>Styphnolobium japonicum</i>	Tree	Summer		Average
<i>Tipuana tipu</i>	Tree	Summer		Average
<i>Washingtonia filifera</i>	Tree/Palm tree	No interesting blooms		High
<i>Washingtonia robusta</i>	Tree/Palm tree	No interesting blooms		High



LOW POINTS

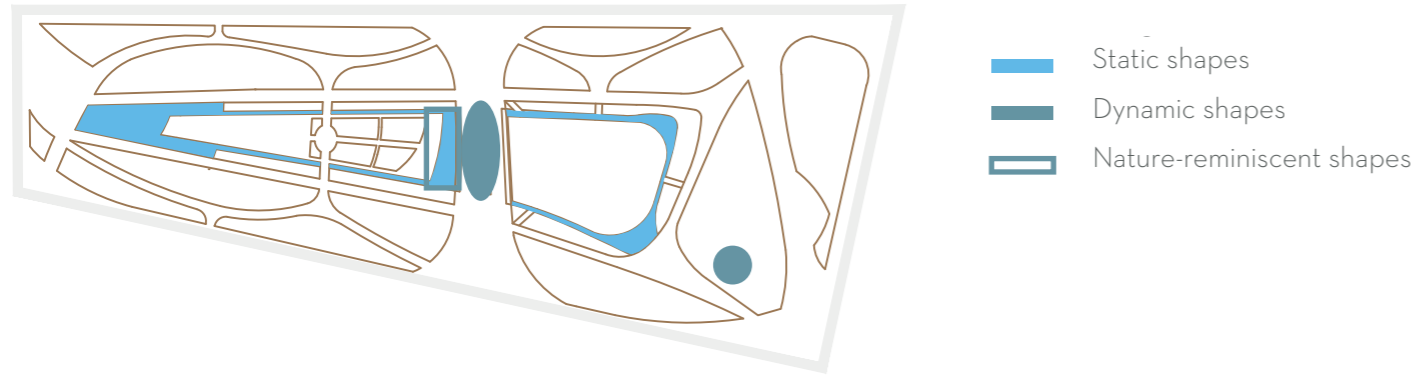
HIGH POINTS

IN LINE WITH THE FORMAL AND VOLUMETRIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE VALENCIAN GARDEN, OUR PARK IS CONCEIVED AS AN INTERVENTION INVOLVING MINIMAL EARTHWORK, PRESERVING THE FLATNESS OF THE SPACE, AND MODIFYING ONLY SPECIFIC AREAS FOR WATER RETENTION AND INFILTRATION, OR FOR ORNAMENTAL PONDING. SIMILARLY, SLIGHTLY ELEVATED POINTS ARE DEFINED ALONG THE PATHWAYS (CONVEX SECTION) THAT DETERMINE HOW WATER DRAINS THROUGH TRANSVERSAL SLOPES TOWARD LANDSCAPED AREAS, DRAINAGE DITCHES, AND CANALS, PREVENTING PUDDLING ON THE PATHWAYS AND ENSURING ACCESSIBILITY AT ALL TIMES.

WATER SYSTEMS

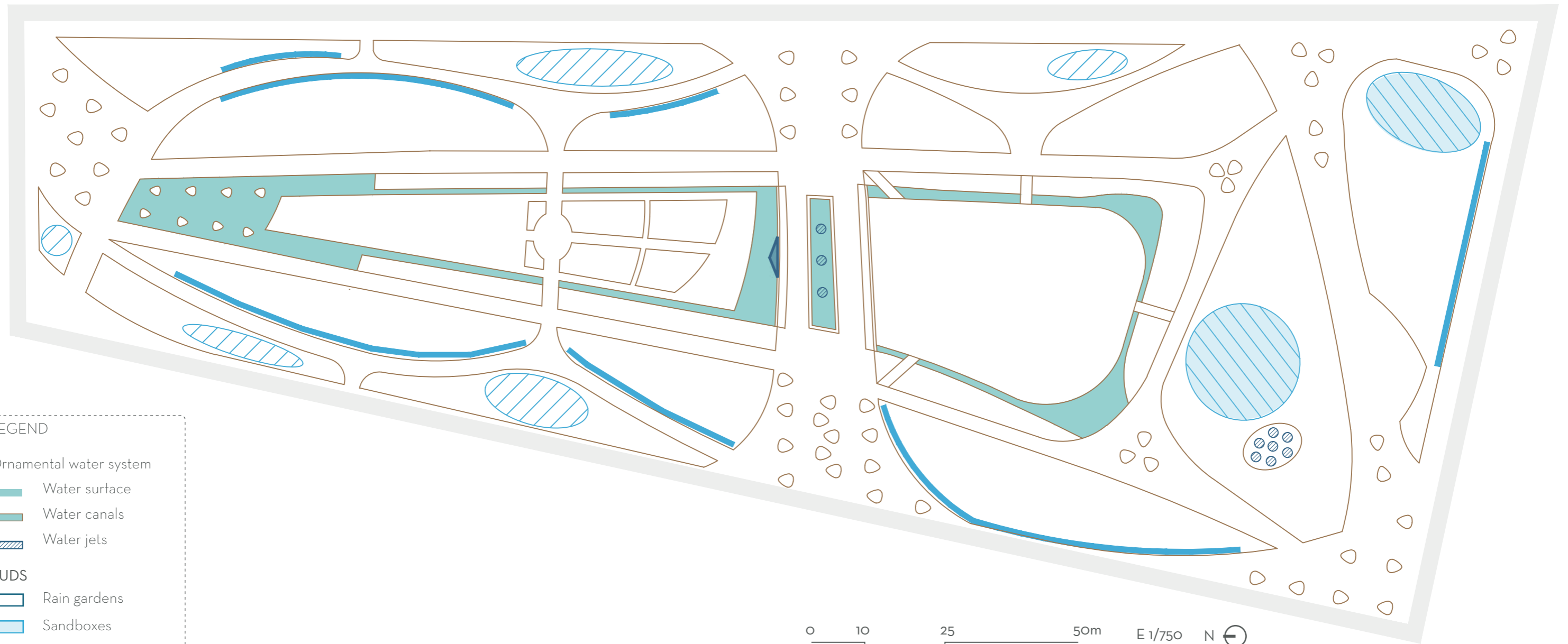
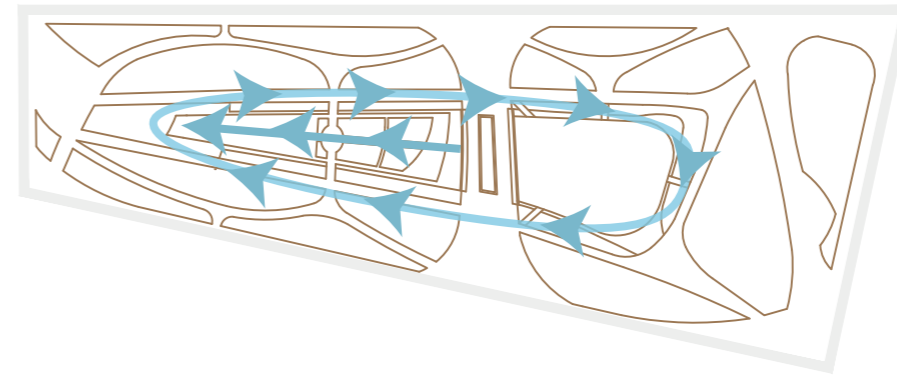
SHAPES OF WATER

Water is the central feature of the project, primarily through a linear pond that runs along the edge of the park and defines it as a central landscape element. Despite its predominantly static nature, the system includes two water inlets that introduce dynamism into the composition



WATER CIRCULATION

Water features are incorporated into the design in two distinct ways: the waterfall located in the center, which mimics a natural form and serves as a landscape landmark, and the fountains near the children's play area, which incorporate water as a playful and sensory element.



LEGEND

Ornamental water system

- █ Water surface
- █ Water canals
- ▨ Water jets

SUDS

- Rain gardens
- Sandboxes
- Drainage ditch

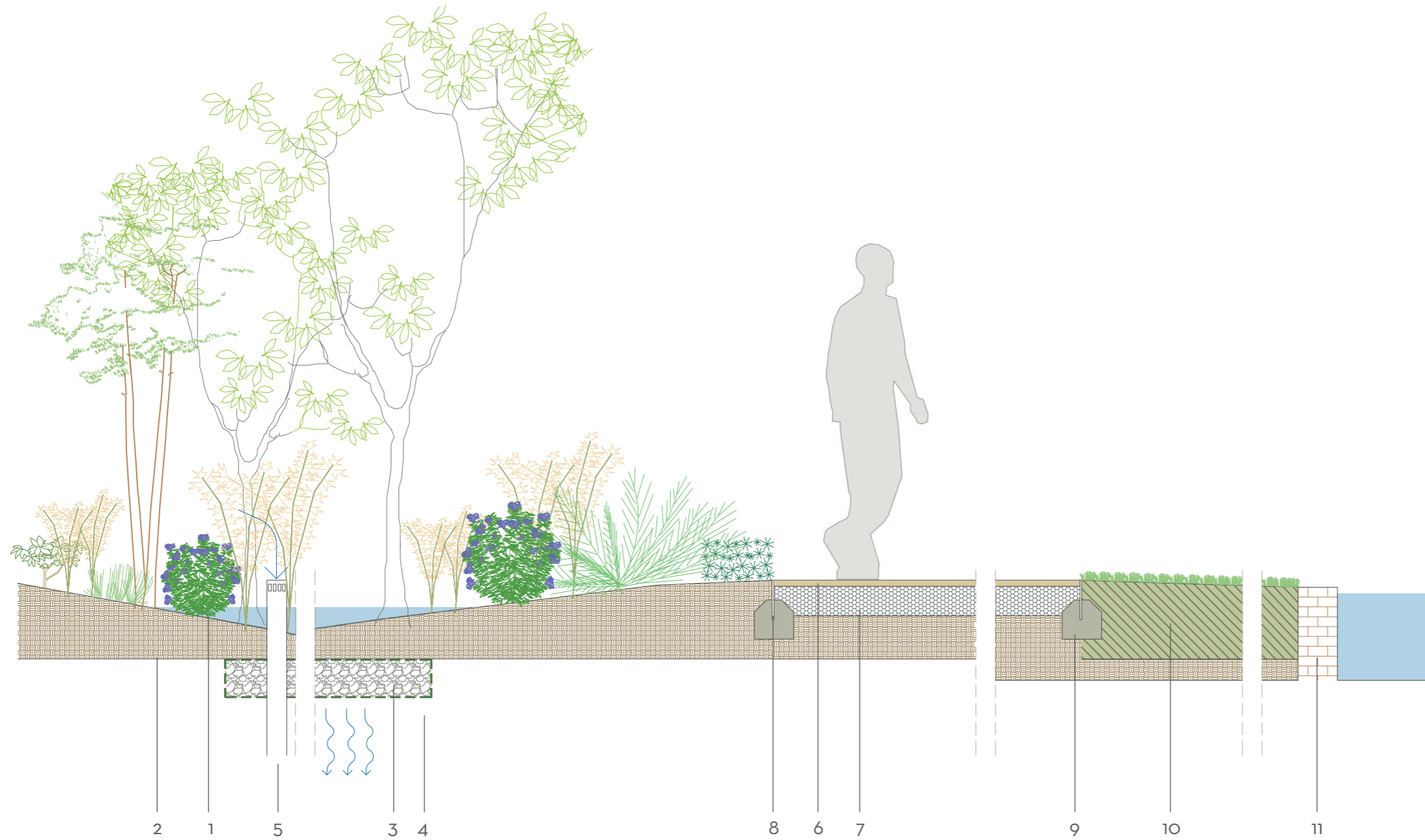


CONSTRUCTIVE SECTION: SUDS

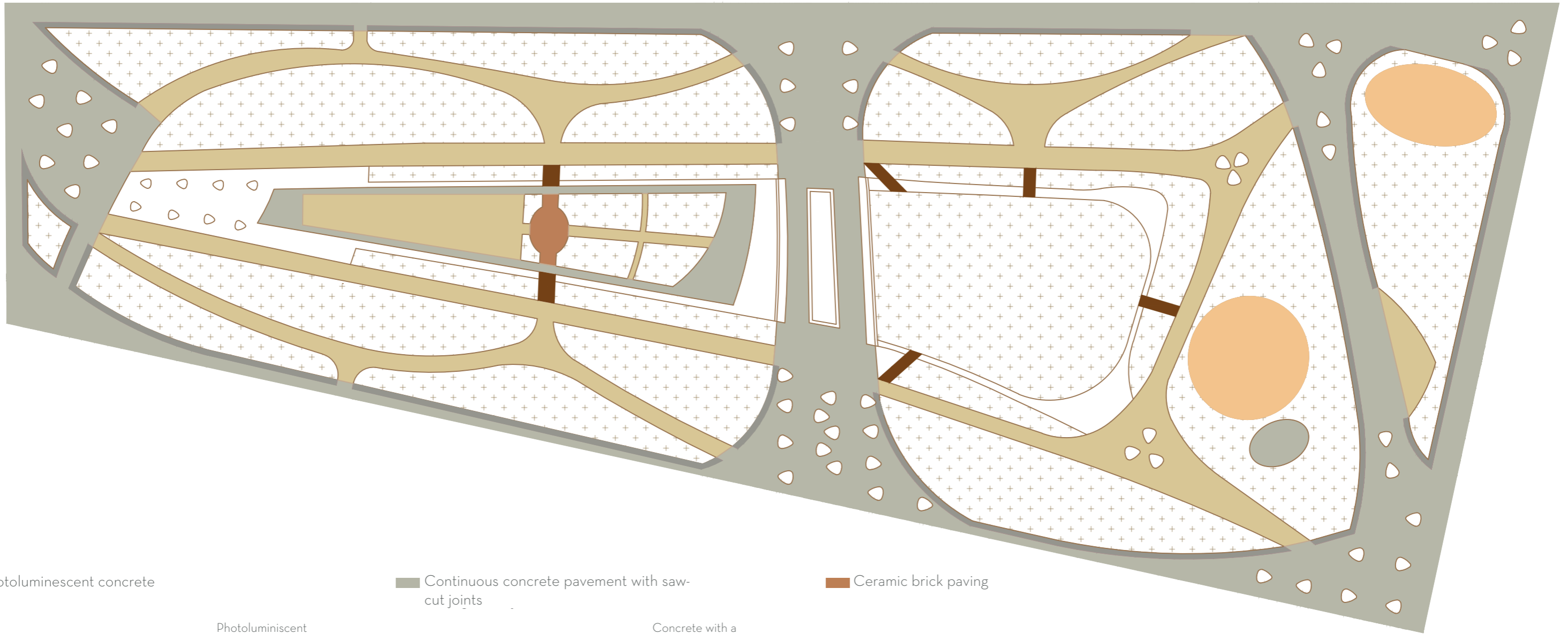
SUSTAINABLE URBAN DRAINAGE SYSTEM

RAIN GARDEN LEGEND

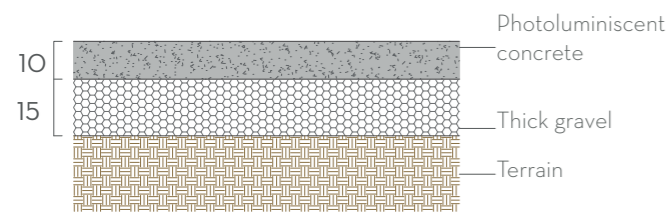
1. Pond - water surface
2. Topsoil
3. Gravel
4. Geotextile
5. Spillway
6. Sand - earthen pavement
7. Crushed stone - subbase
8. 1 cm steel plate - perimeter edging
9. Concrete slab - 20 cm concrete base
10. Topsoil
11. Ceramic brick wall/retaining wall



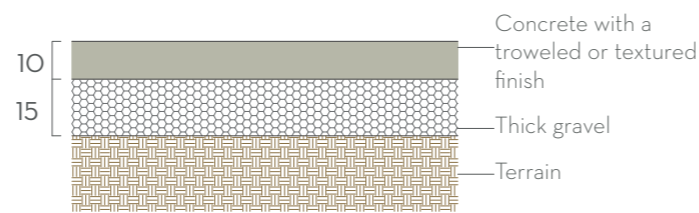
PAVING



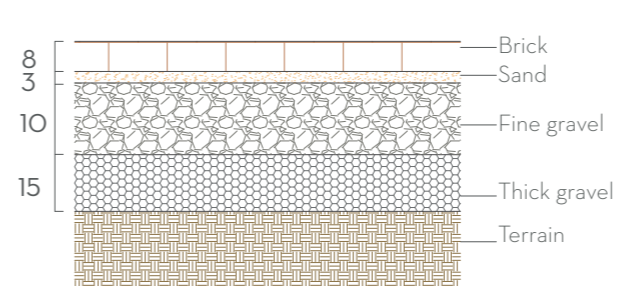
Photoluminescent concrete



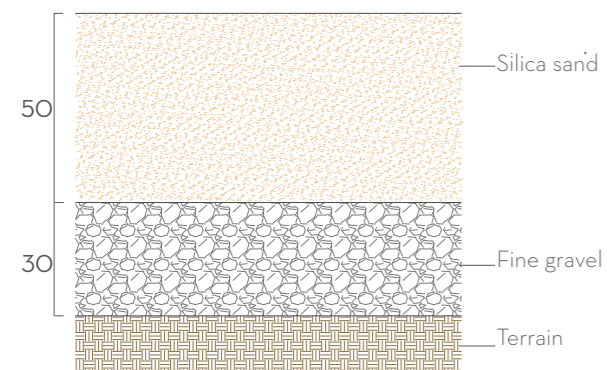
Continuous concrete pavement with saw-cut joints



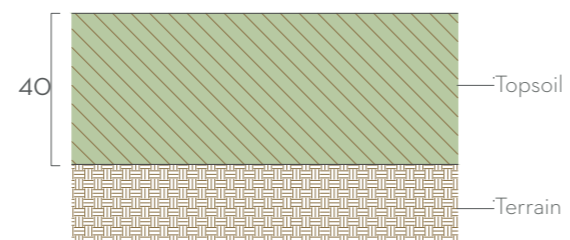
Ceramic brick paving



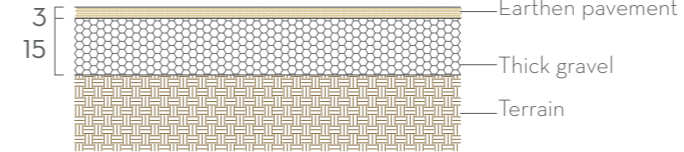
Sandbox



Topsoil



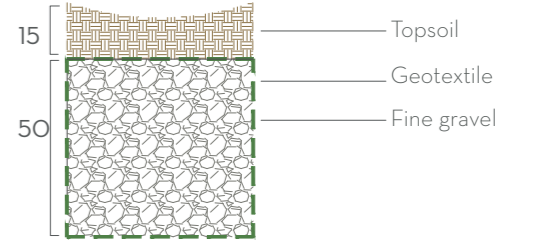
Ecologic natural earthen paving



SPONGE PARK +- 70%

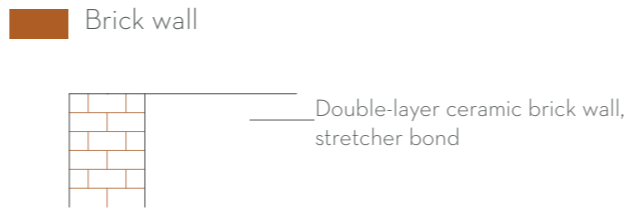
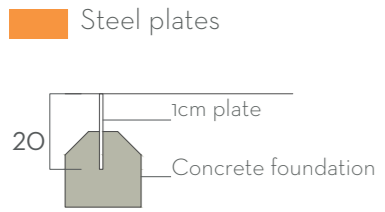
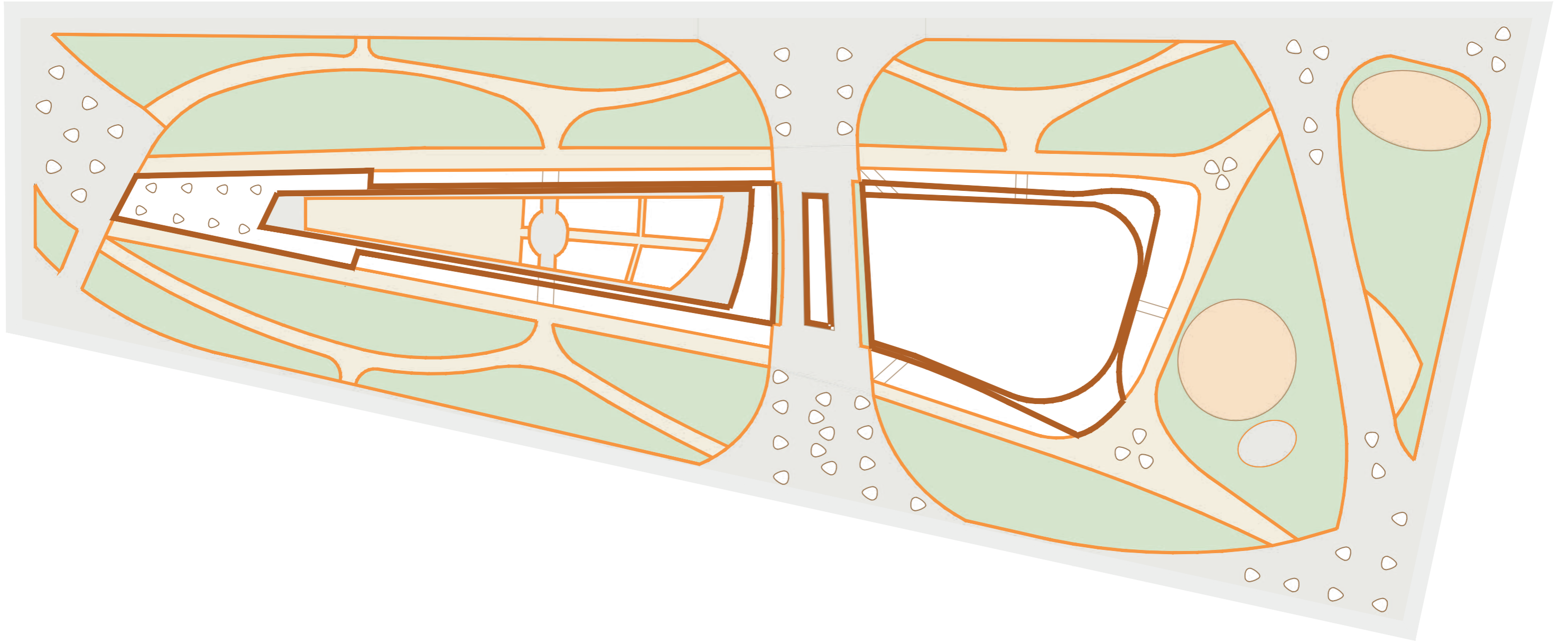
Sealed surface	7.263,5 m ²
Permeable surface	15.290,0 m ²

Drainage ditch



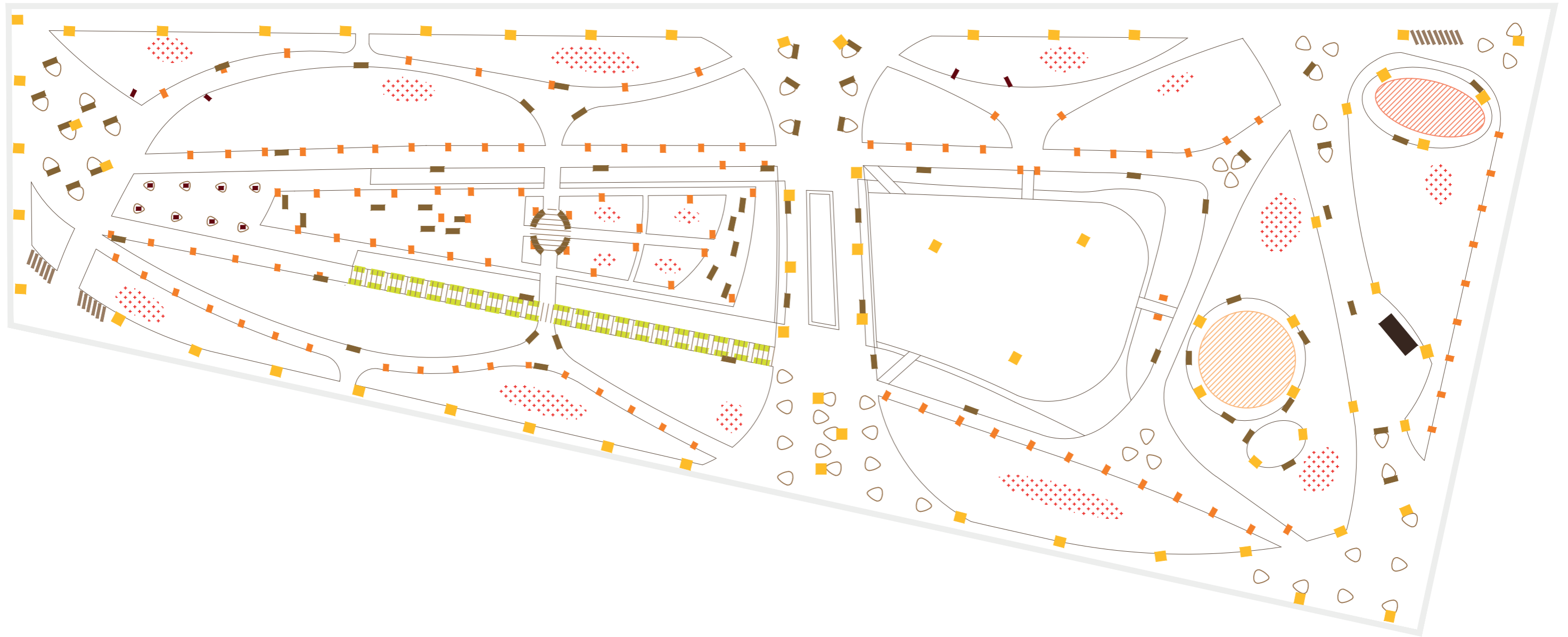
CURBING

0 10 25 50m E 1/750 N



URBAN FURNITURE AND LIGHTING

0 10 25 50m E 1/750 N



LEGEND

- Pergola
- Children's park
- Dog park
- Benches, seat posts, fountains, and trash cans
- Bar-kiosk
- Bike rack
- 5m streetlight
- 1m beacons
- Uplight-accent lighting
- reed-stakes lighting
- LED strips integrated in the pergola's structure

URBAN INSERTION

0 10 25 50m E 1/750 N



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