

# THE OCEAN CLIMBER

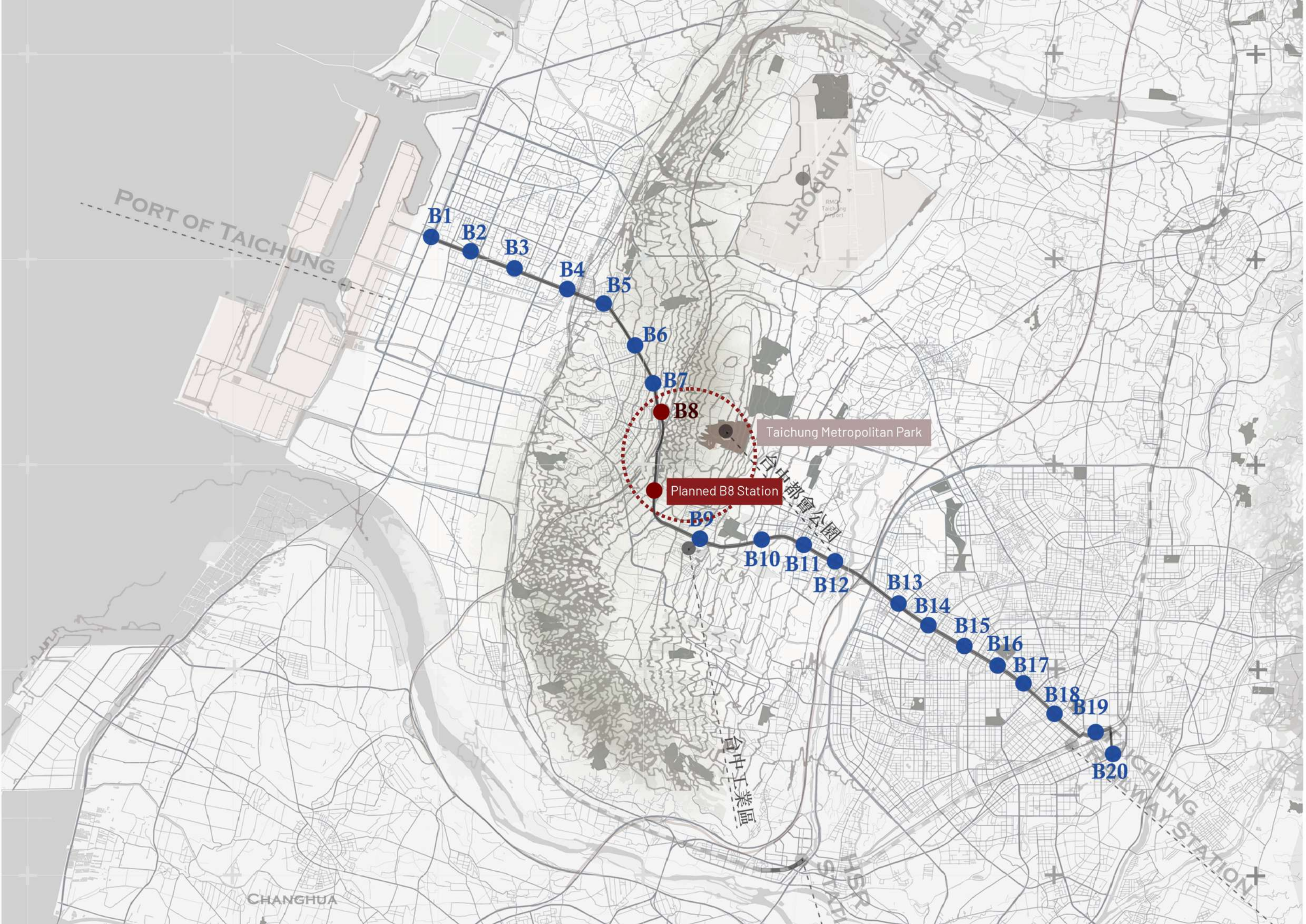
Reframing the Relationship Between the City and the Sea

## T a i c h u n g M e t r o B l u e

### From Taichung Station to Port

Starting from Taichung Railway Station, the project follows the urban axis of the Taichung MRT Blue Line westward, crossing the Dadu Mountain ridge and extending toward Taichung Port. More than just a transportation infrastructure project, this route serves as a critical interface for reintegrating urban functions and fostering a more balanced development between the mountain-side and coastal areas of the city.

Following the government's decision to cancel the originally proposed station, the alignment of the Blue Line and the development potential along its corridor were reassessed. Within this context, Station B8 was reintroduced into the plan and identified as a new node with significant potential for future growth and urban development.



PORT OF TAICHUNG

TAICHUNG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Taichung Metropolitan Park

Planned B8 Station

CHANGHUA

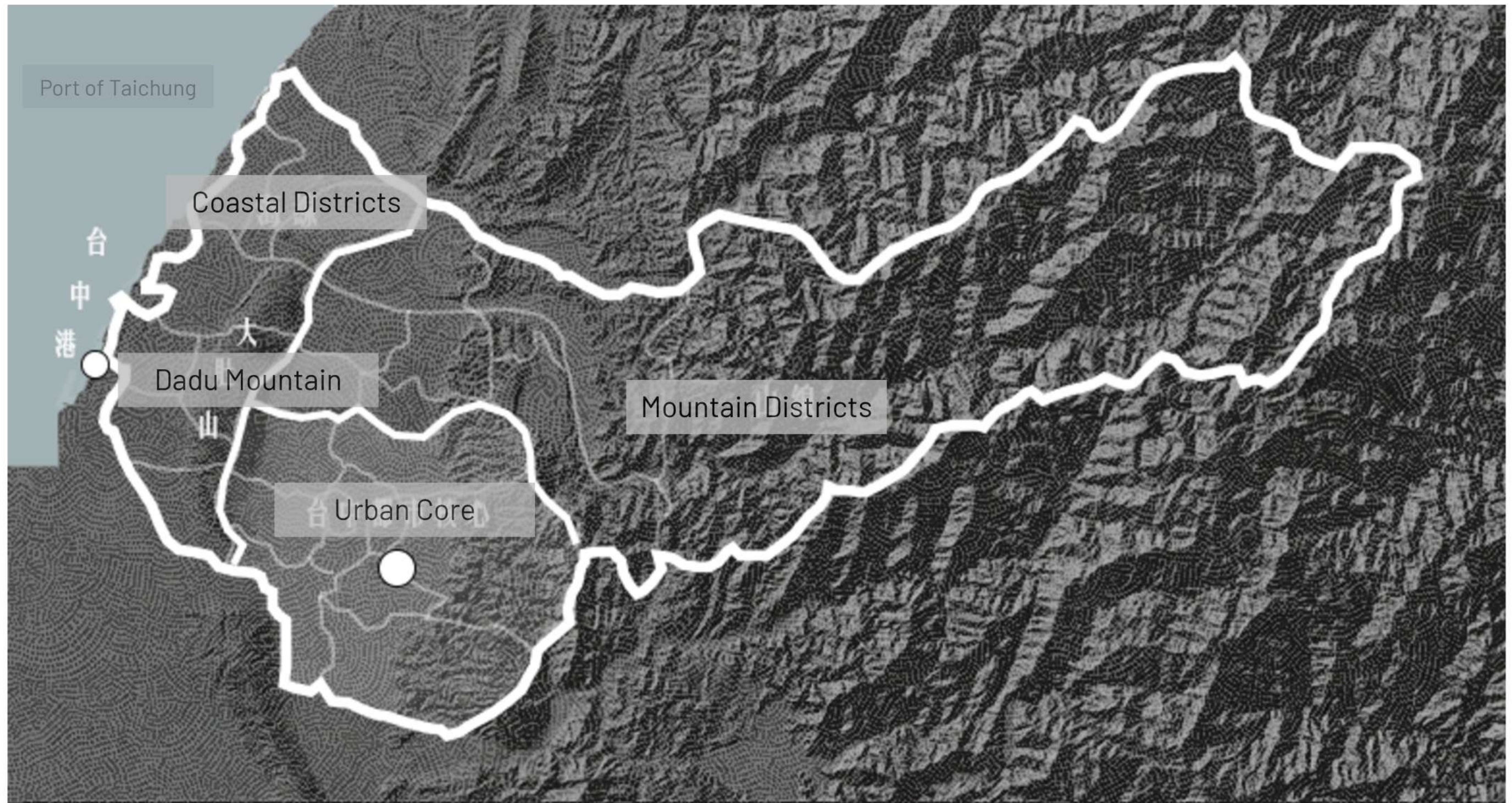
HSR SKYRAIL

TAICHUNG STATION

# Chapter 1

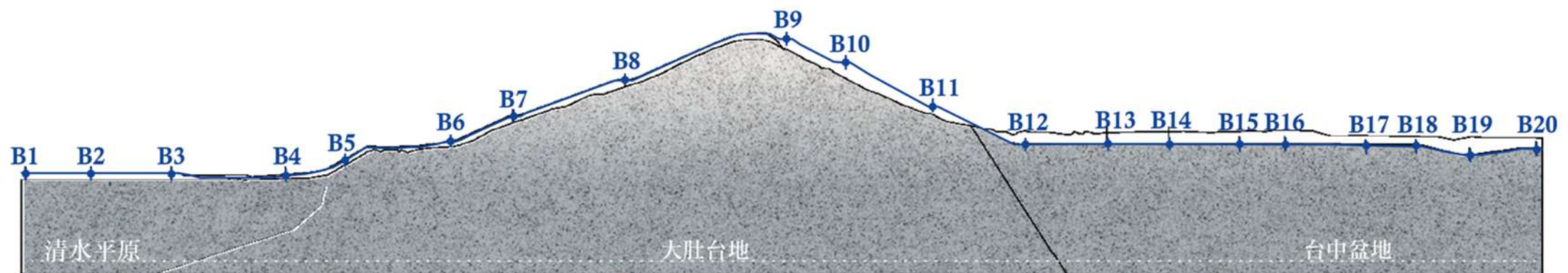
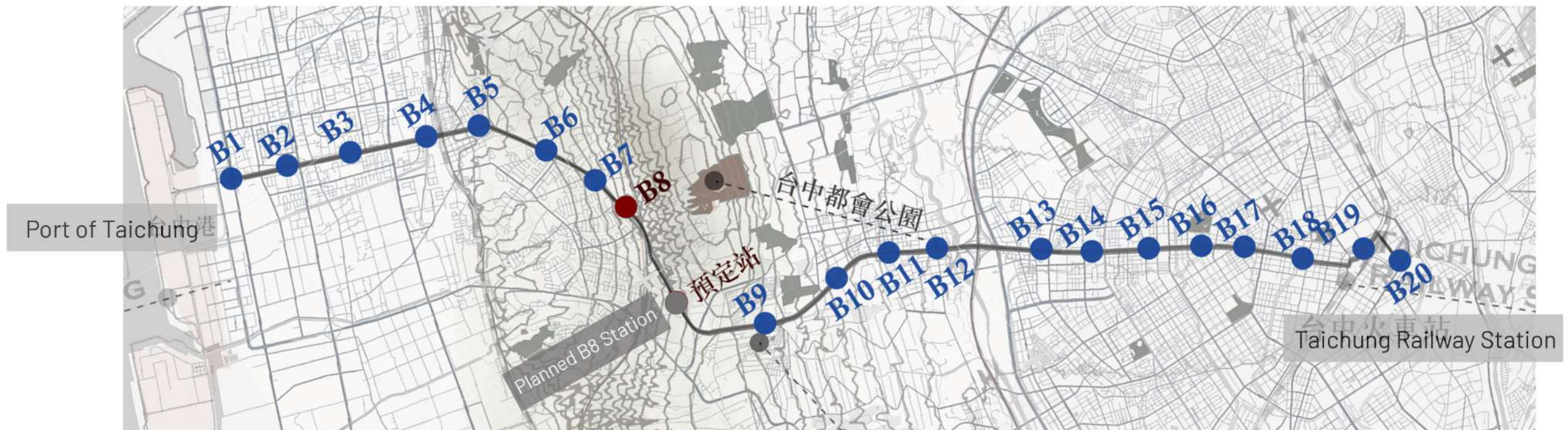
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Taichung: A City Between Mountain and Sea



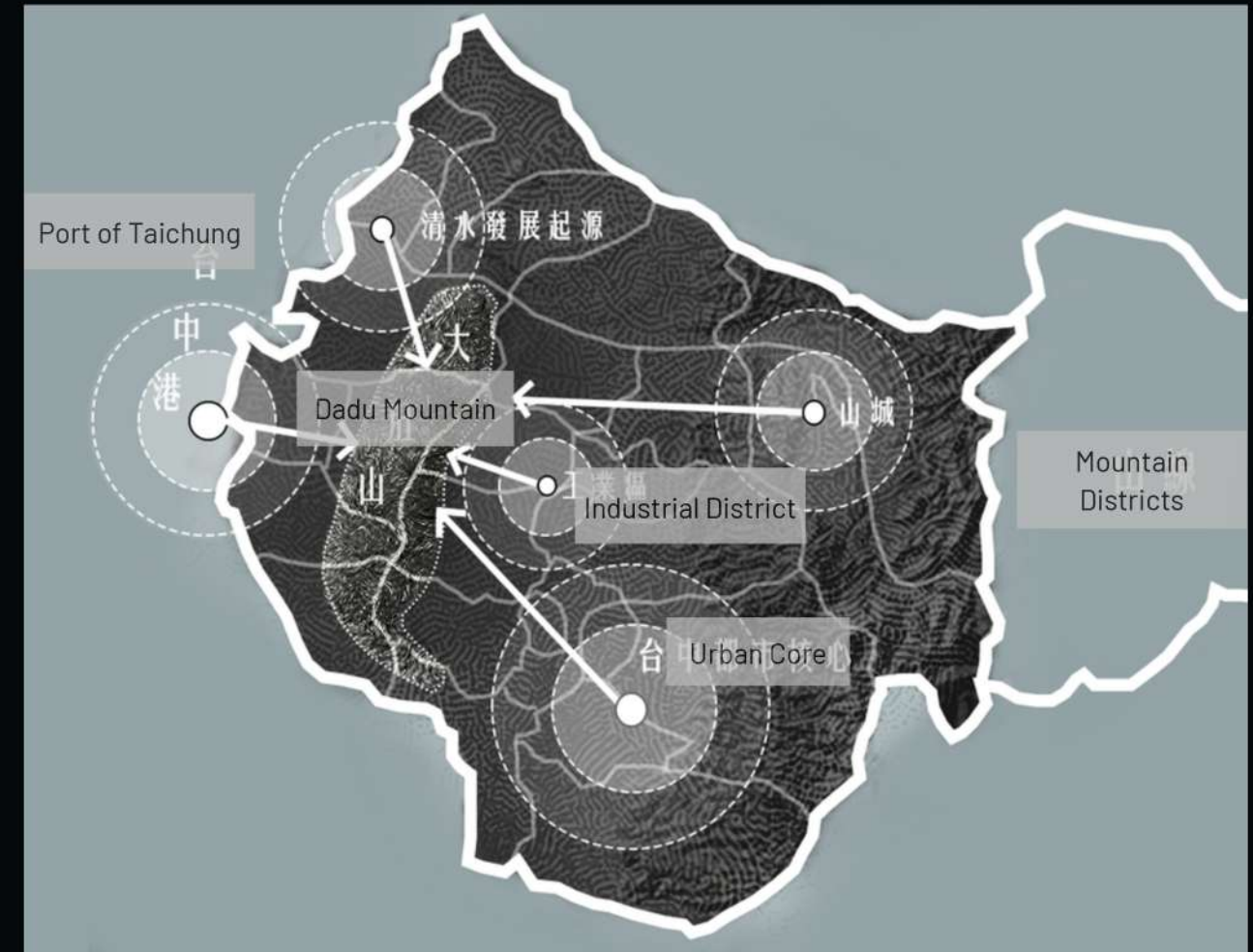
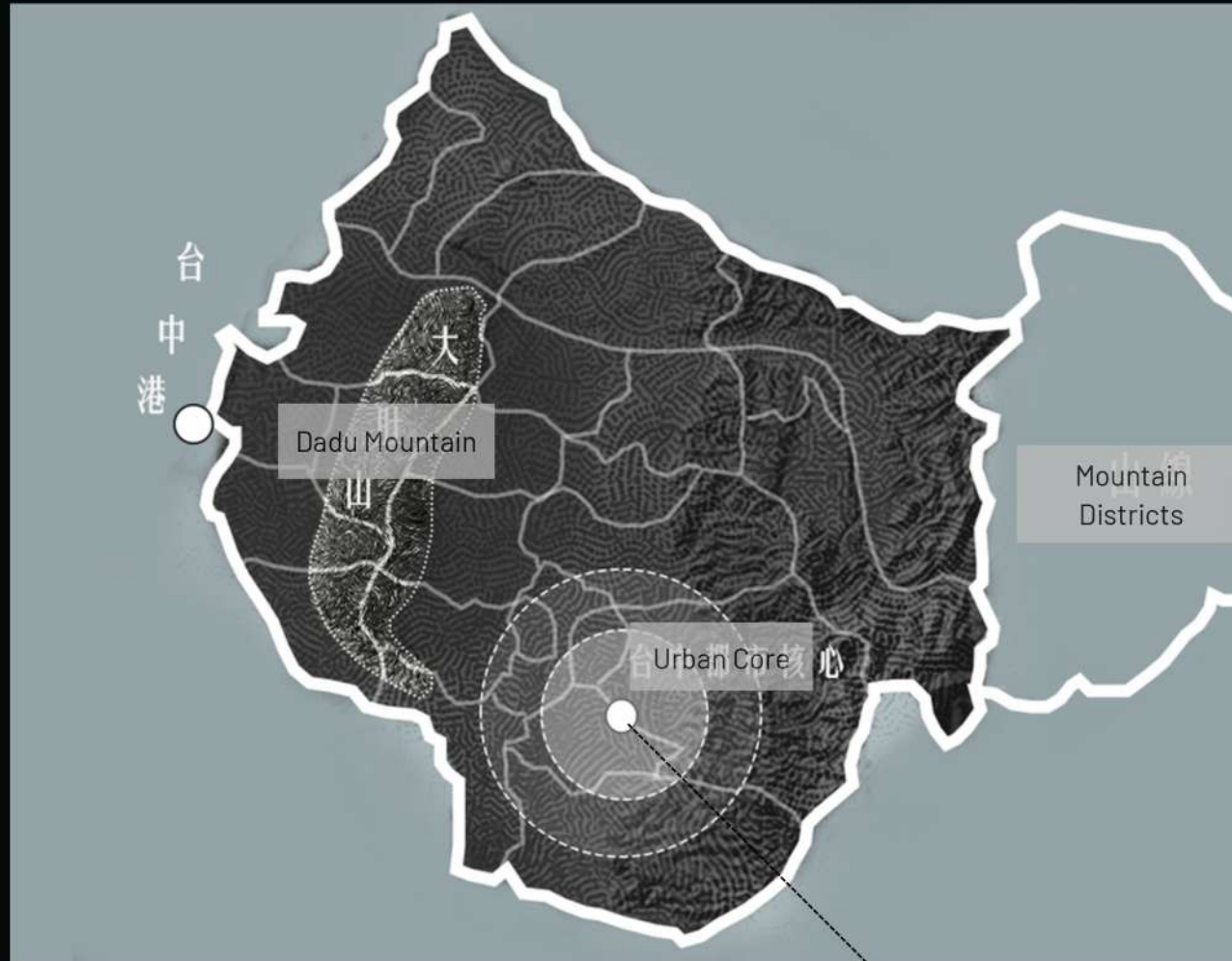
Since the 2010 county-city merger, Taichung has become a city shaped by both mountains and the sea. However, the mountain and coastal regions remain largely disconnected in everyday experience.

## The Blue Line: Reconnecting Taichung with the Sea



The Blue Line is not simply a transit corridor; it is an opportunity to redefine the relationship between the city, the mountain, and the sea.

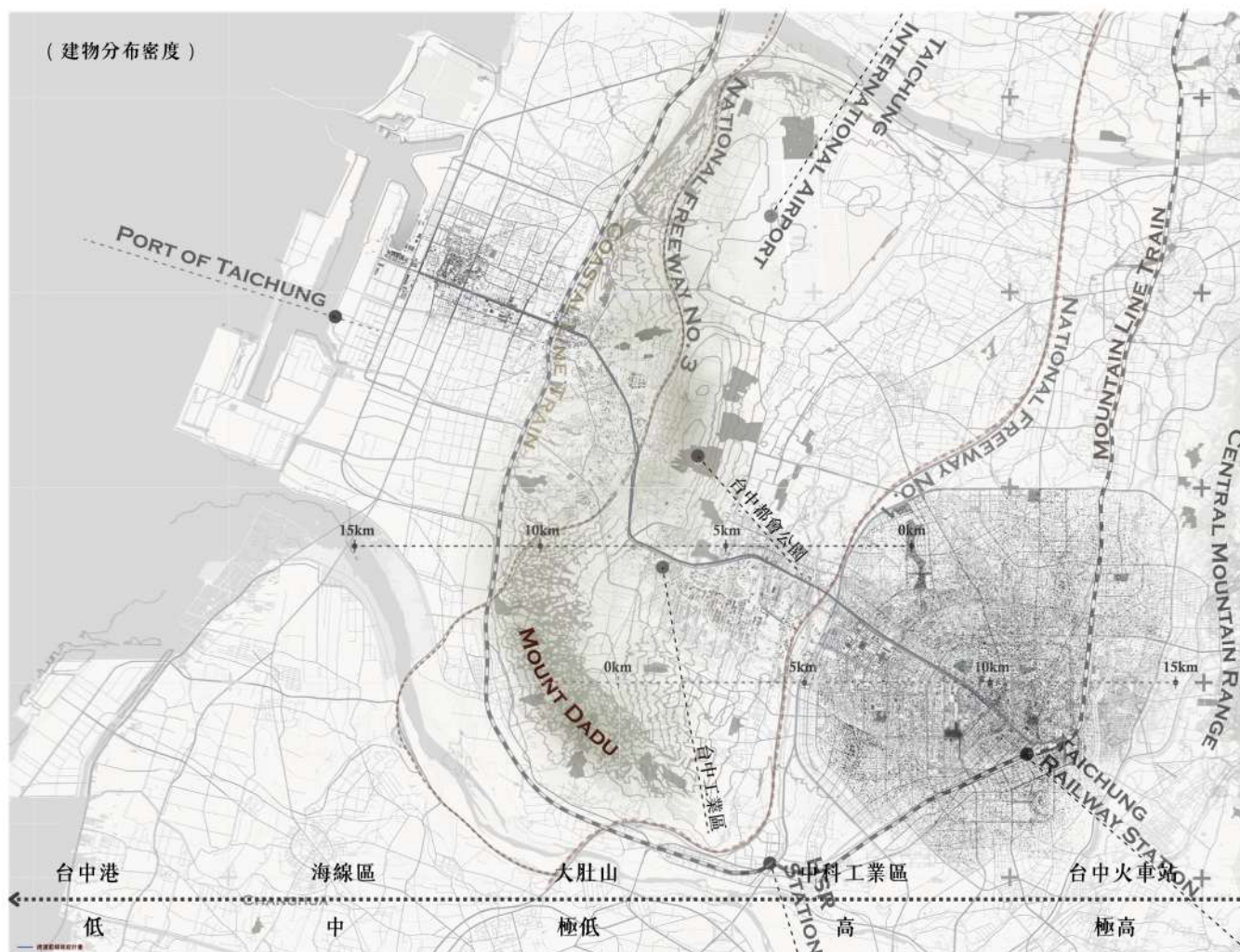
In the collective perception of Taichung residents...



For many, Taichung extends only this far.

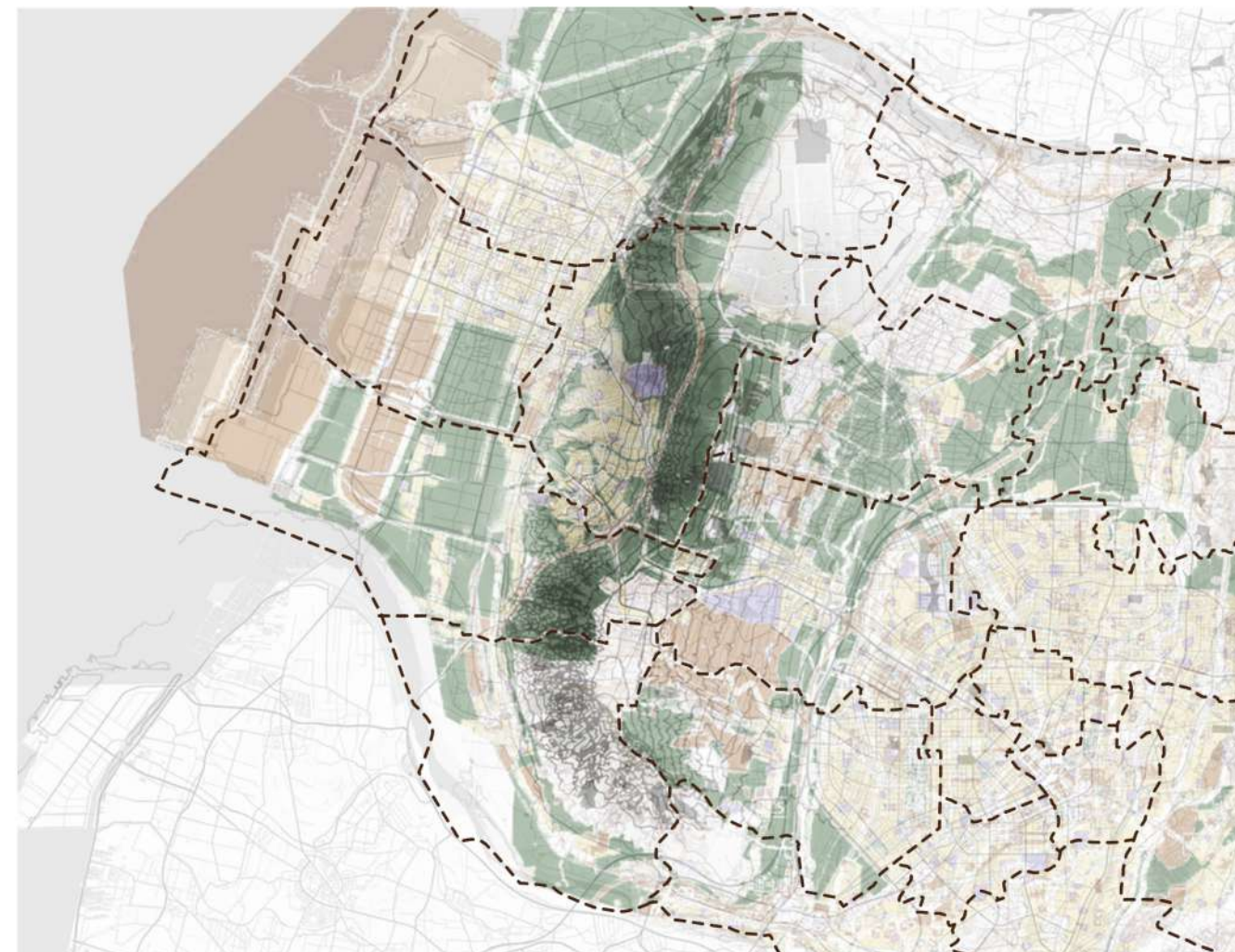
Urban expansion has increasingly positioned Dadu Mountain as the edge of multiple development zones rather than a connector between them.

## Urban Density Distribution Across Taichung



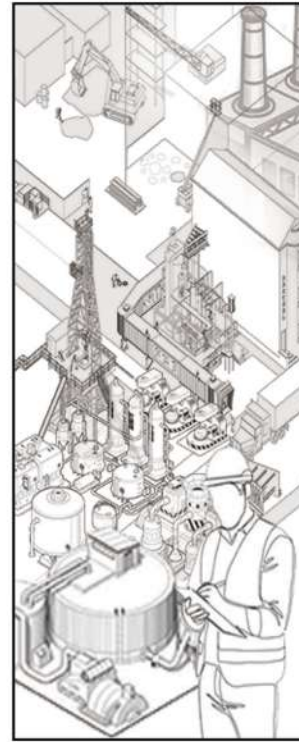
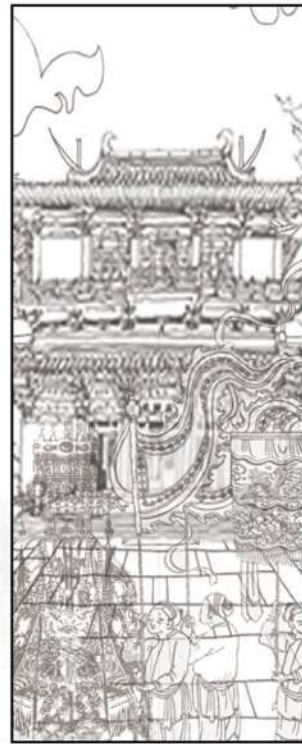
Acting as a geographic barrier, Dadu Mountain has shaped an uneven urban condition. While population and urban functions concentrate on the eastern side, the coastal districts and port areas to the west remain comparatively dispersed, creating a spatial imbalance between the mountain and the sea.

## Land Use and Administrative Boundaries of Dadu Mountain



Protected by extensive conservation regulations, Dadu Mountain has remained largely undeveloped. Rather than functioning as an active urban landscape, it has become an in-between territory within Taichung's metropolitan structure, separating the city from the coast.

# Multiple Landscapes Within One City



Taiwan Strait

Wuqi

Dadu Mountain

Xitun

Central Mountain Range

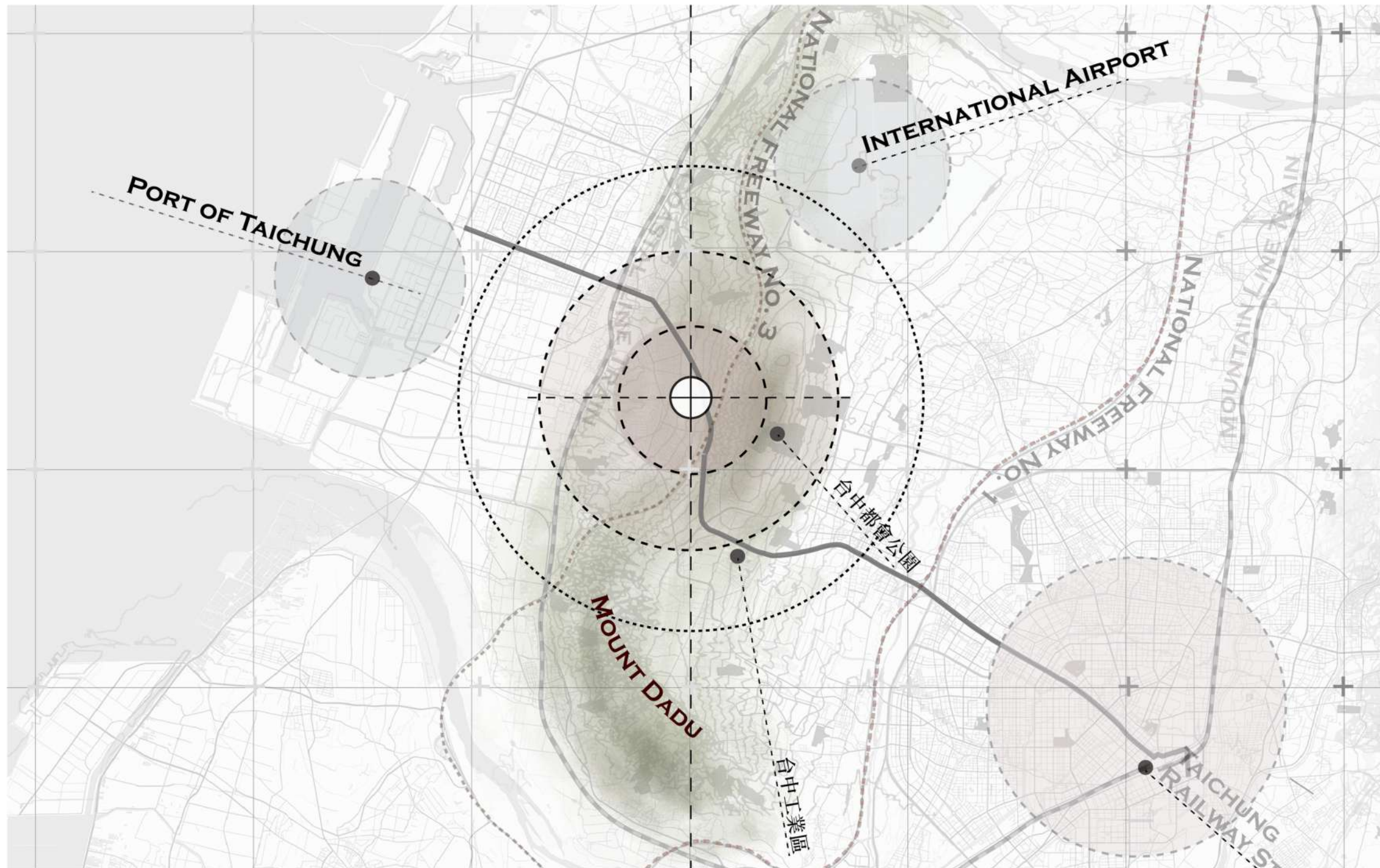
Port Culture

Industrial Landscape

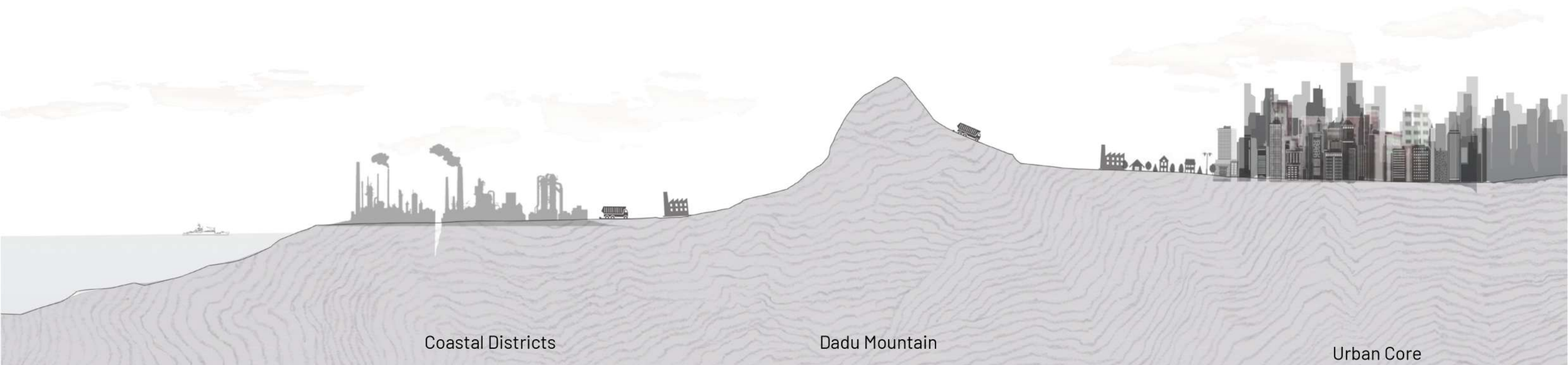
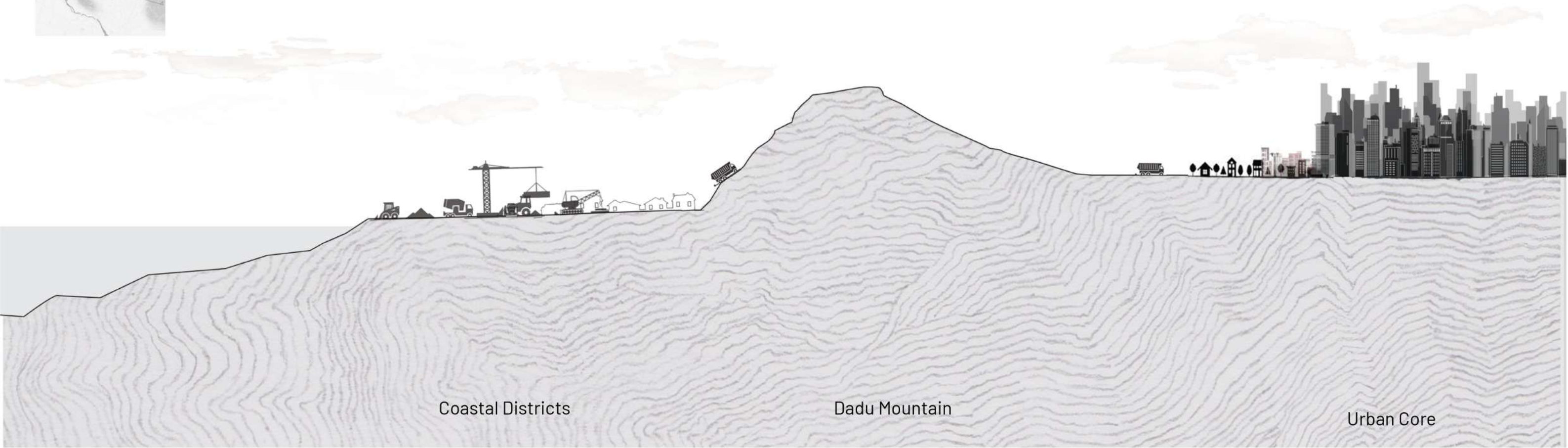
Natural Landscape

Urban Core

## Port – Airport – Industrial Zone – Urban Core



Situated between the port, airport, industrial zone, and urban core, Dadu Mountain occupies a strategic yet overlooked position within Taichung. Rather than treating the mountain as a barrier, the project reimagines it as a connective landscape capable of re-establishing relationships between the city and the sea.



## B8 Station: A New Node on the Blue Line



Located at the intersection of the port district, industrial zones, ecological landscapes, and metropolitan infrastructure, B8 Station occupies a unique position along the Taichung Metro Blue Line. Rather than serving solely as a transportation stop, the station is reimagined as a gateway to Dadu Mountain and a new interface between the city and the sea.

# Chapter 2

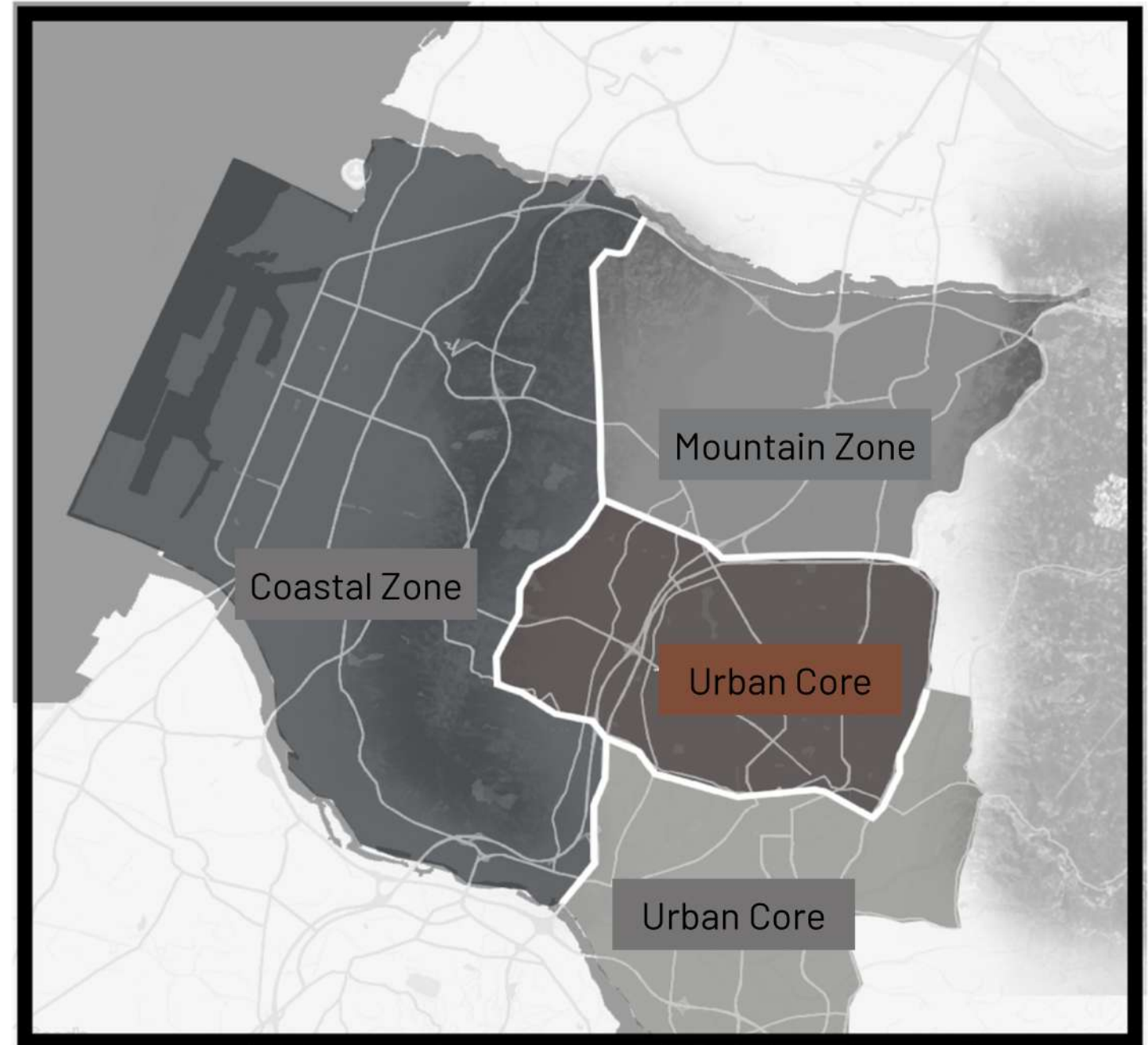
Reframing the Relationship Between the City and the Sea

2020



Taichung Today

Dadu Mountain continues to separate the urban core from the coastal districts. As daily life concentrates within the city center, the sea has gradually disappeared from the collective perception of the city.

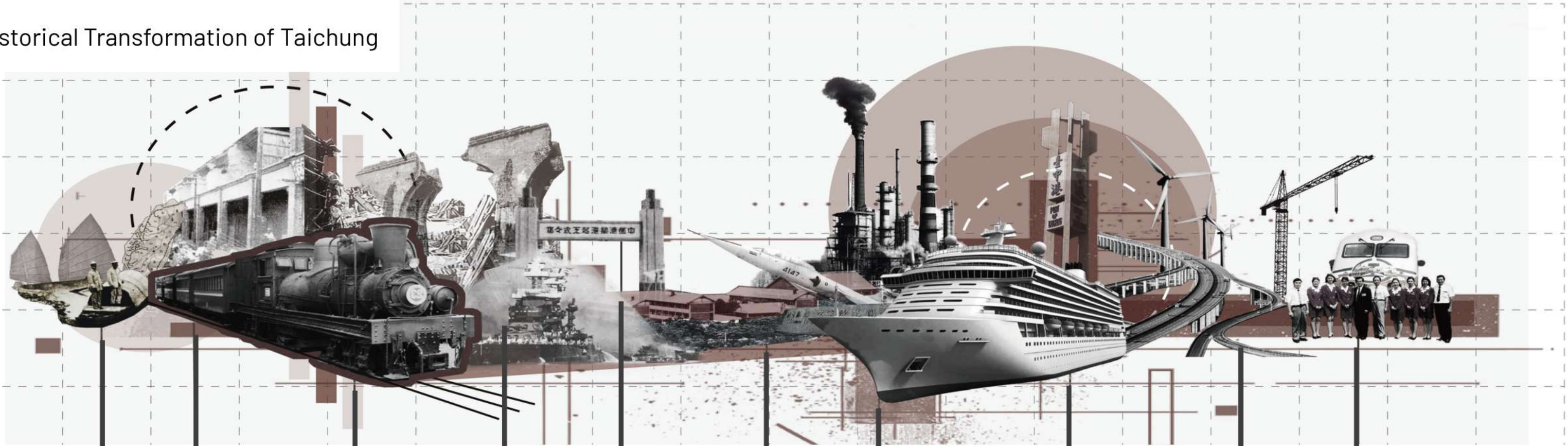


# Port-City Distance Analysis



Compared with many port cities, Taichung Port is located farther from the urban core, with Dadu Mountain acting as a physical barrier between the city and the sea.

# Historical Transformation of Taichung



清代

Pre-1908  
Early Coastal Settlements  
Fishing villages and agricultural communities developed along the coastline.

1908

1922

1935

1935  
Urban Expansion after the Earthquake  
Reconstruction accelerated development on the eastern plain and reinforced the inland urban core.

1937

1955

1955  
Industrialization  
Industrial facilities and manufacturing districts emerged, strengthening Taichung's economic growth.

1970

1970  
Port of Taichung Development  
The construction of Taichung Port transformed the western coast into a major industrial and logistics hub.

1976

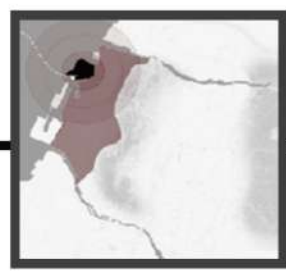
1976-1978  
Infrastructure Expansion  
The opening of major highways further concentrated urban development in the city center.

1978

1998

2020

Today  
A Divided Urban Structure  
Taichung has evolved into three distinct territories:  
Urban Core - Dadu Mountain - Coastal Districts



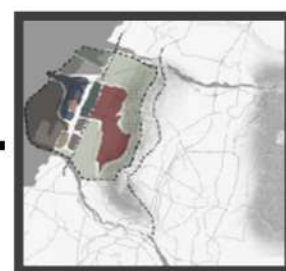
Coastal Settlement  
Development  
concentrated along  
the coastline.



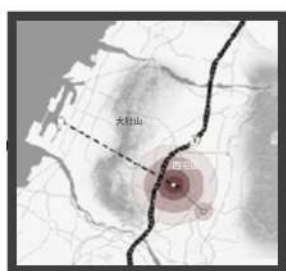
Railway Corridor  
Urban growth shifted inland  
following the railway.



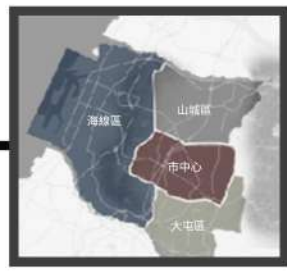
Eastern Urban Expansion  
The eastern plain became  
the primary development  
area.



Port Development  
Industrial and port-related  
activities expanded along  
the coast.



Highway Era  
Regional accessibility  
improved, reinforcing the city  
center.



Present Condition  
Taichung is structured around  
three distinct territories:  
Urban Core / Dadu Mountain /  
Coastal Districts

# Changing Relationship with the Coast

1930s



Gaomei Beach as a Public Bathing Area

1932



Daan Beach Bathing Area Opens

1967



Gaomei Lighthouse Completed

1976



Completion of Port of Taichung

1980s



Coastal Engineering and Shoreline Modification

2004



Industrial Pollution and Beach Closure

2006



Gaomei Wetlands Established

2020s



The Coast as a Destination Rather Than a Daily Landscape

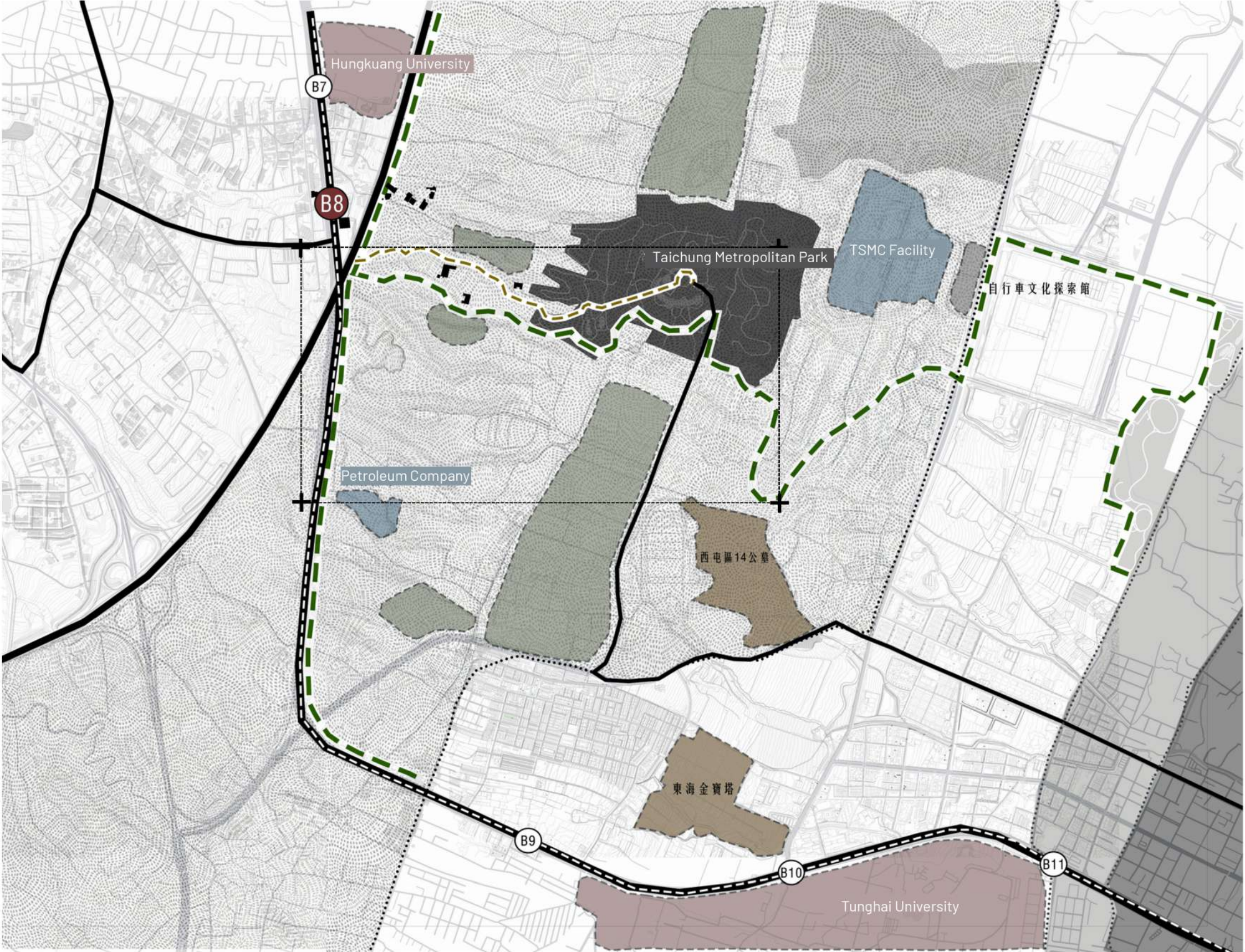
# Biophilia



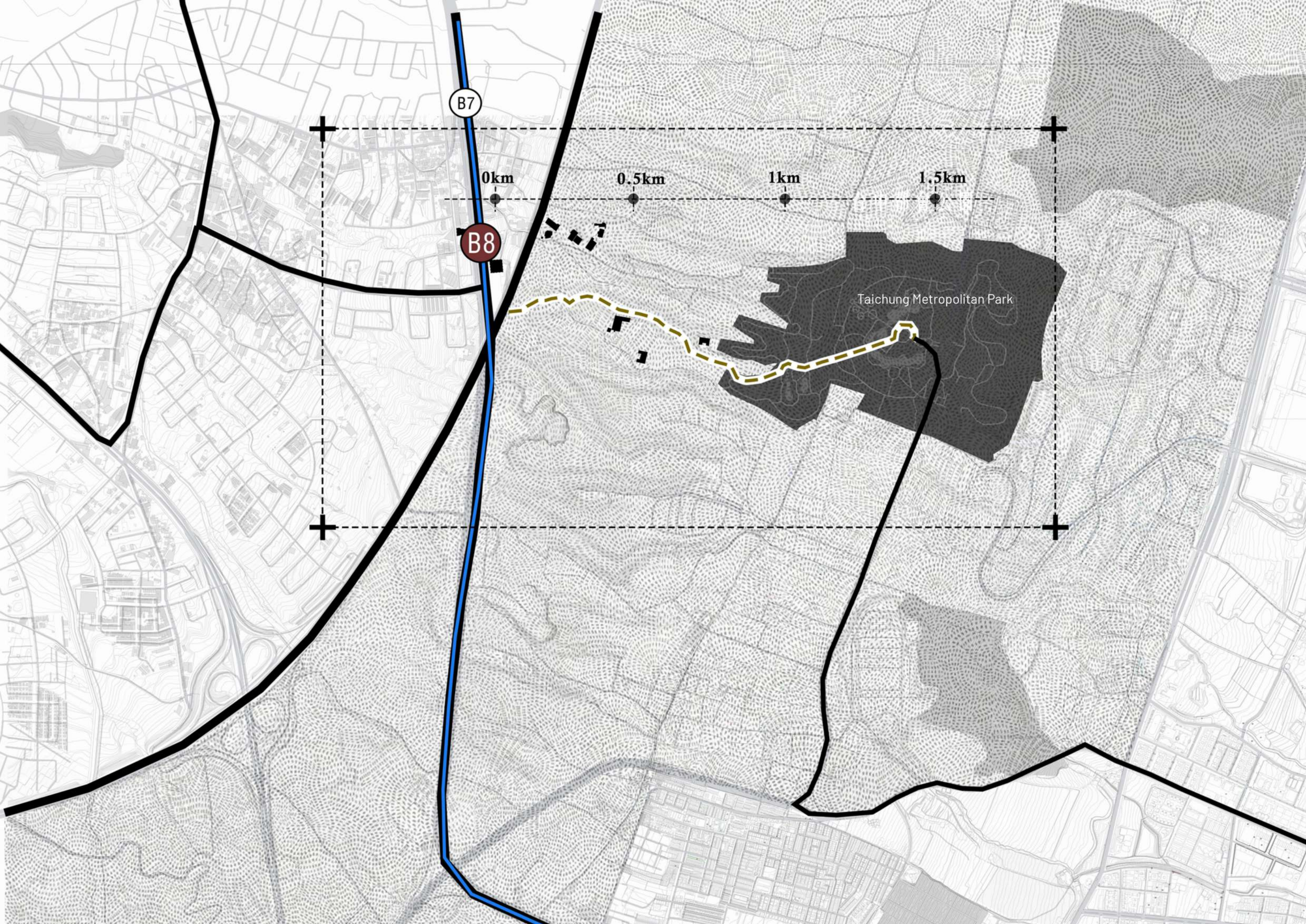
## Biophilia

Biophilia describes the inherent human affinity for nature and living systems. Yet as industrialization accelerated urban development, natural landscapes were increasingly replaced by built environments, weakening the relationship between people and the natural world.

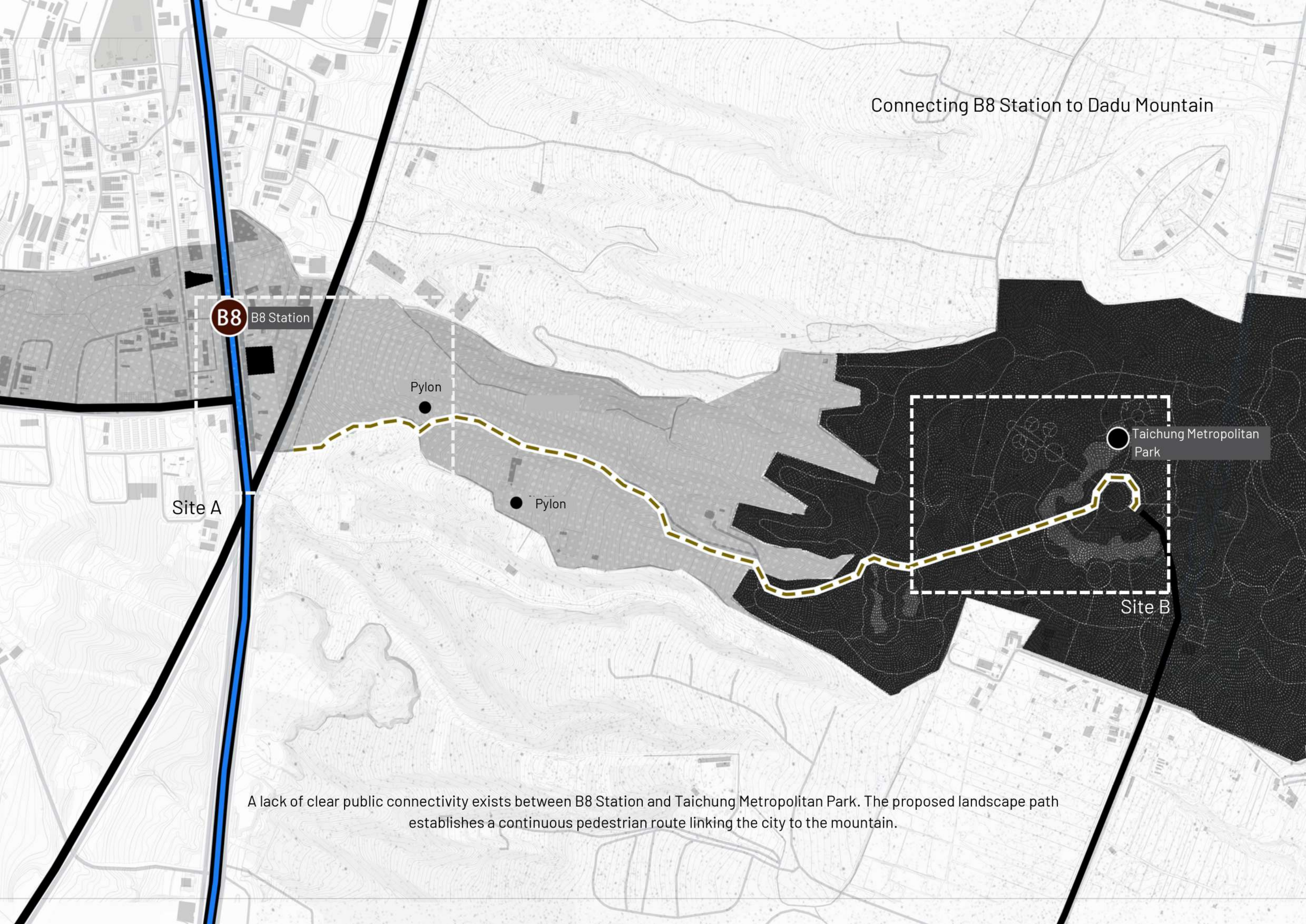
Dadu Mountain is no longer conceived as a boundary, but as the foundation for a new urban framework connecting the city and the sea.



- Agricultural Land
- School
- Cemetery
- Factory



# Connecting B8 Station to Dadu Mountain



B8 B8 Station

Pylon

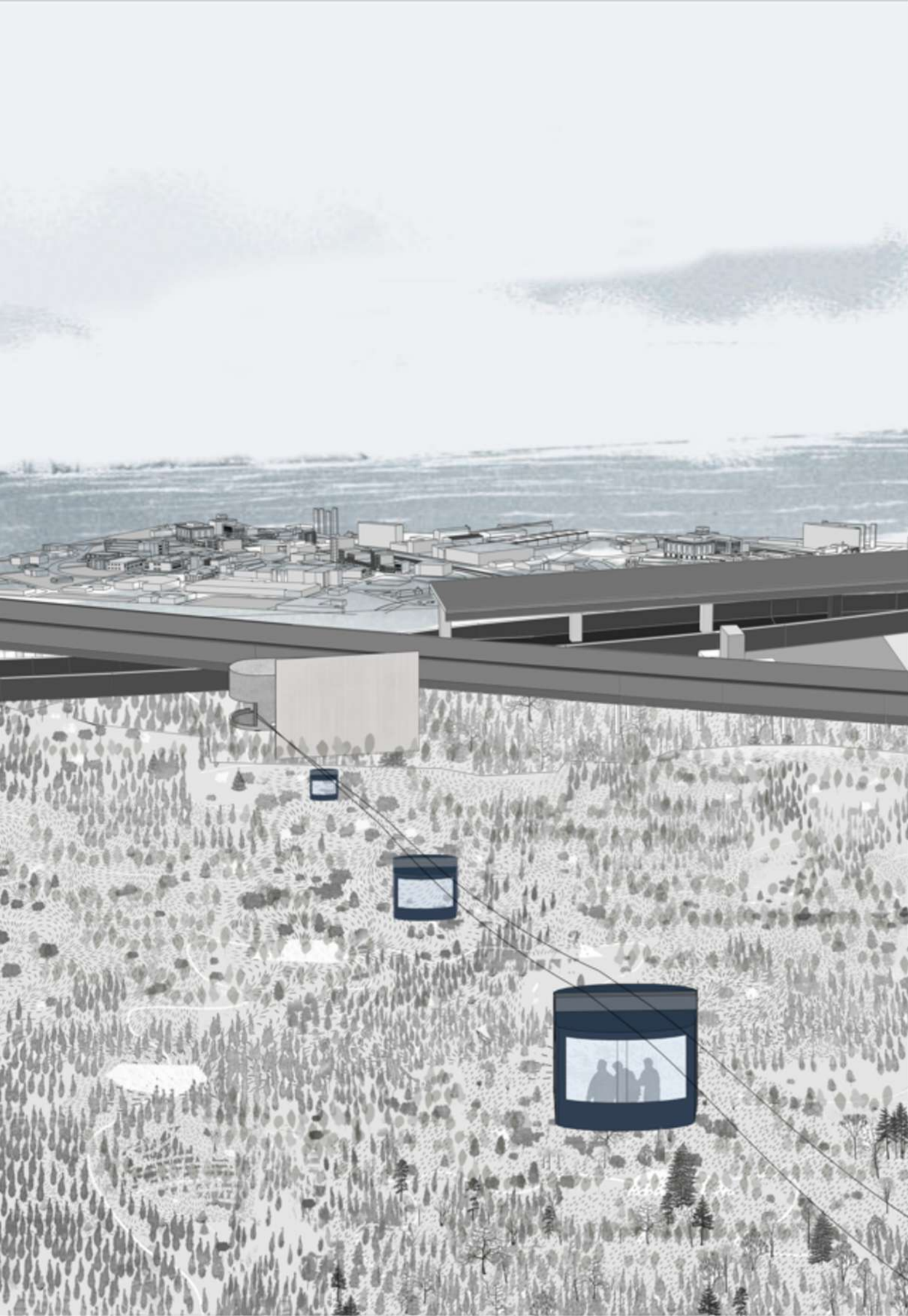
Pylon

Site A

○ Taichung Metropolitan Park

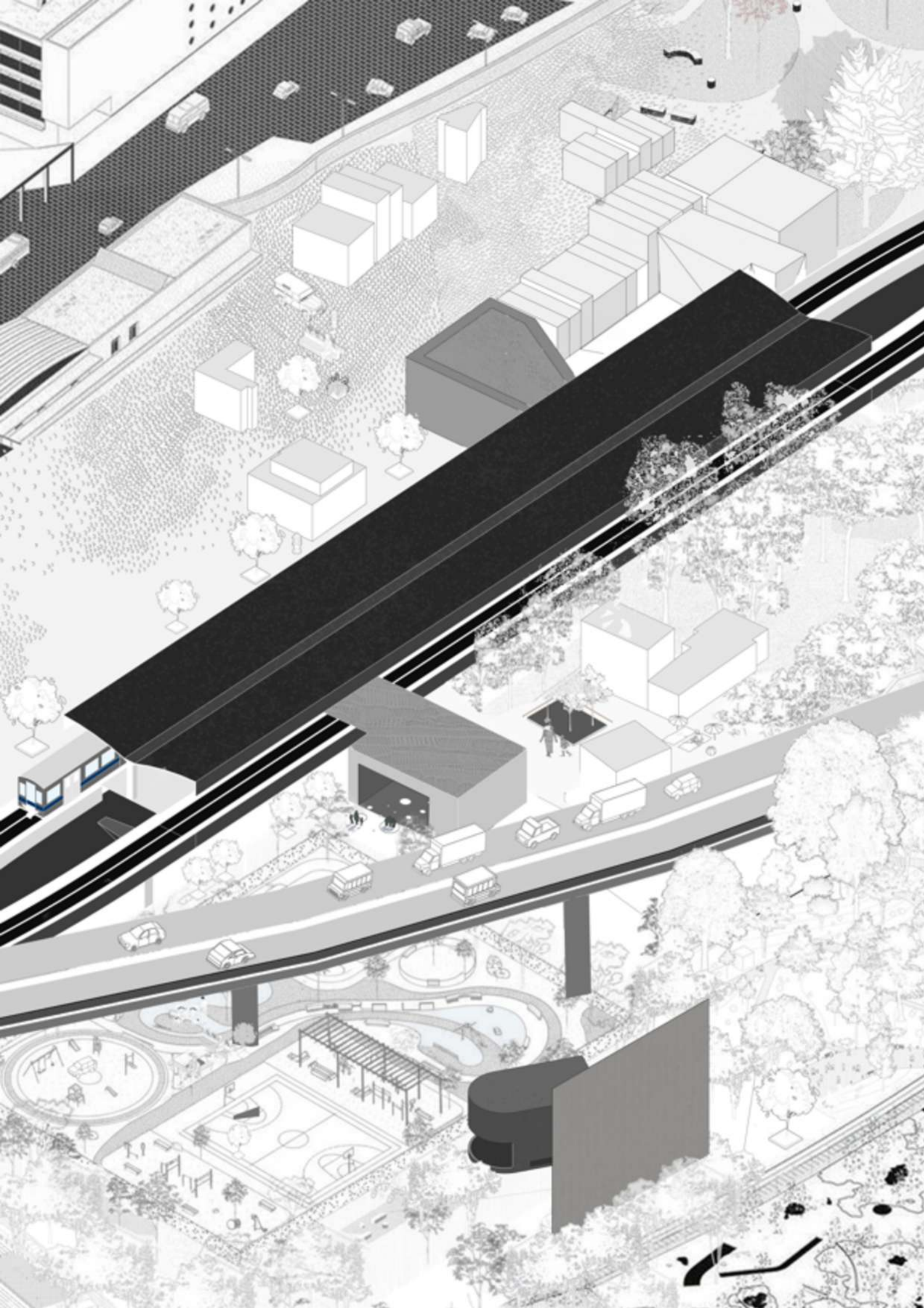
Site B

A lack of clear public connectivity exists between B8 Station and Taichung Metropolitan Park. The proposed landscape path establishes a continuous pedestrian route linking the city to the mountain.

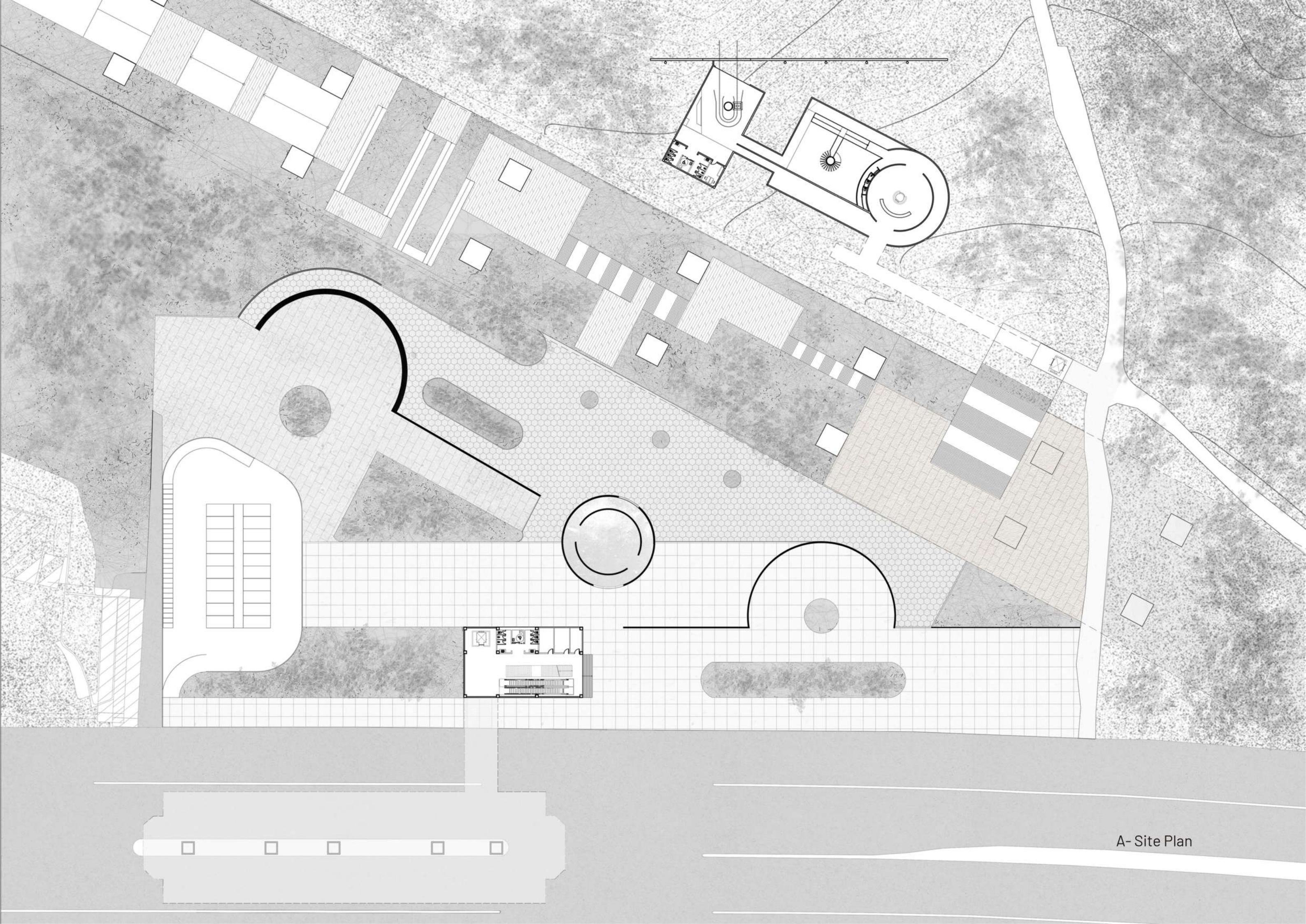


### Cable Car: Crossing Dadu Mountain

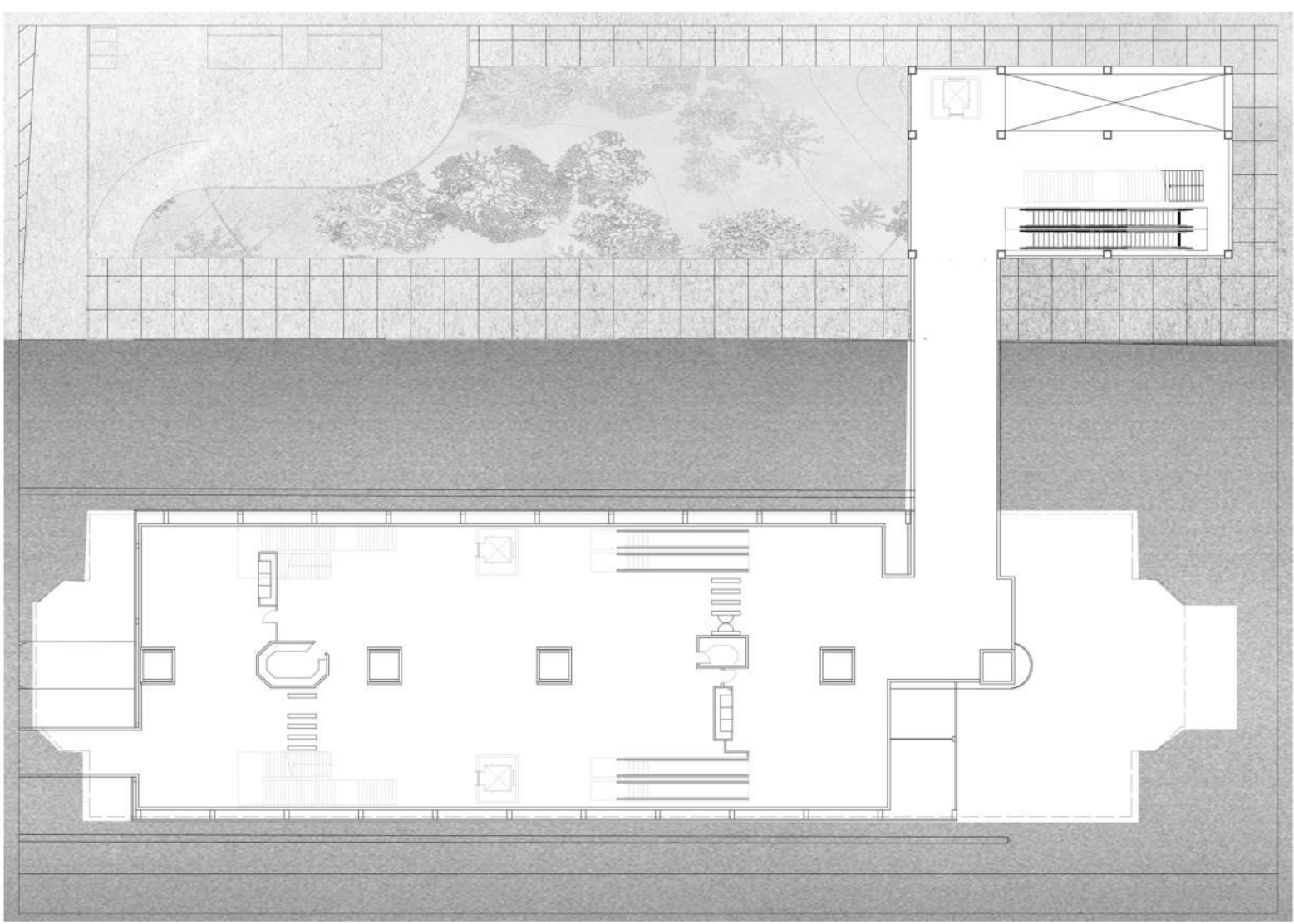
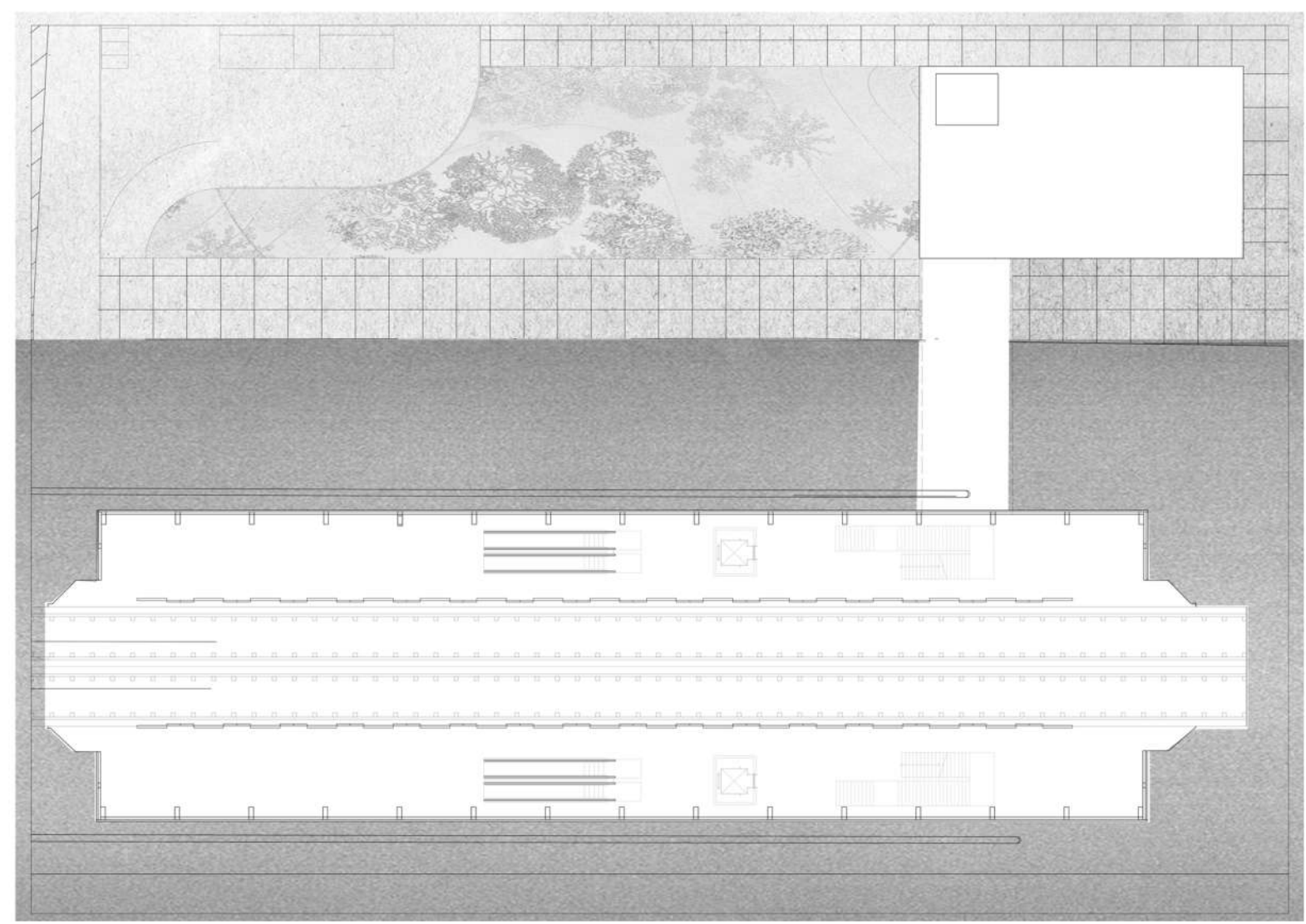
To efficiently connect the eastern and western sides of Dadu Mountain, the project introduces a cable car system as a new mode of mobility.



A Park as the Connector  
Linking the Metro Station and Cable Car



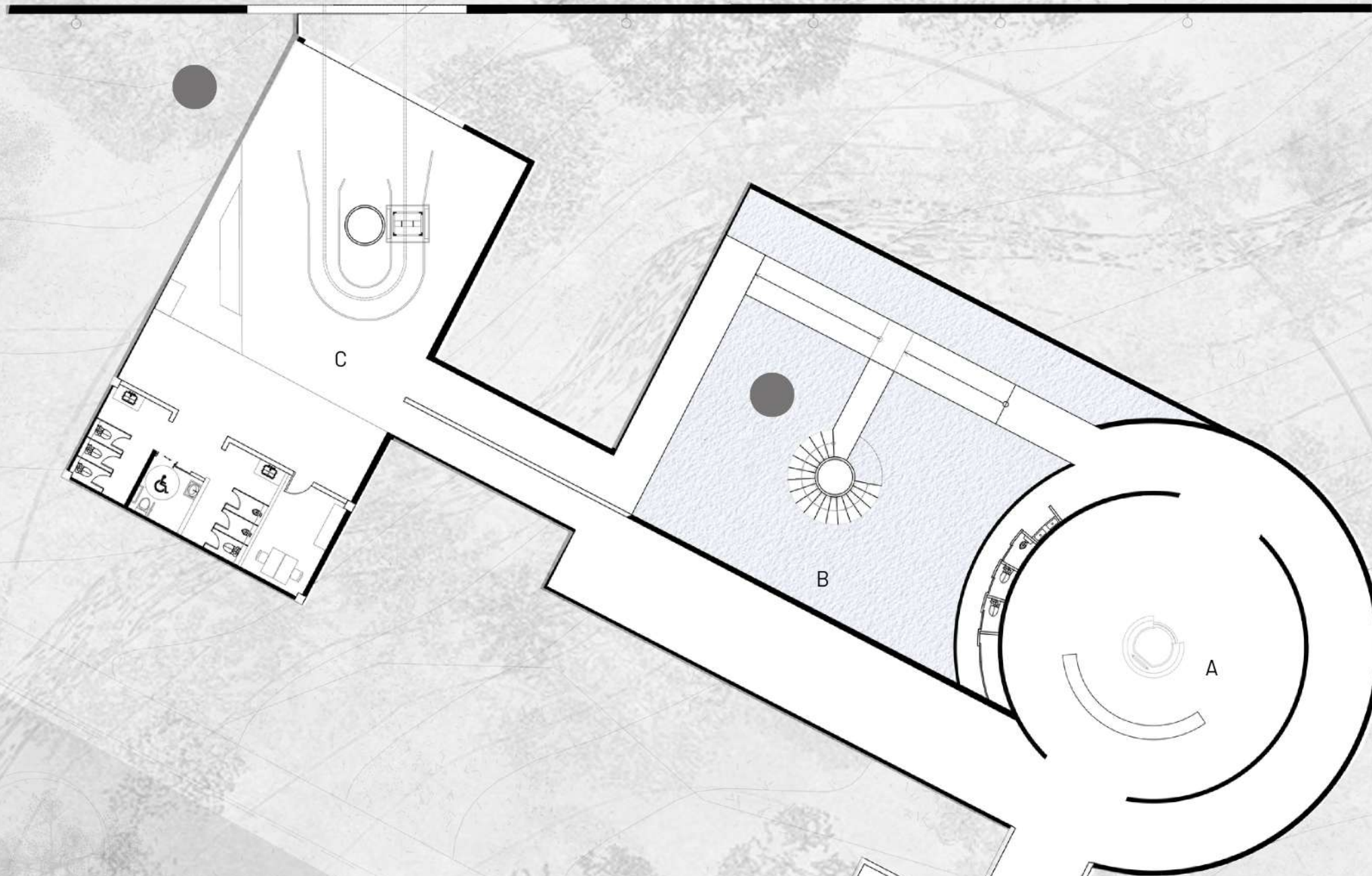
A- Site Plan



B8 Metro Station - Floor Plan

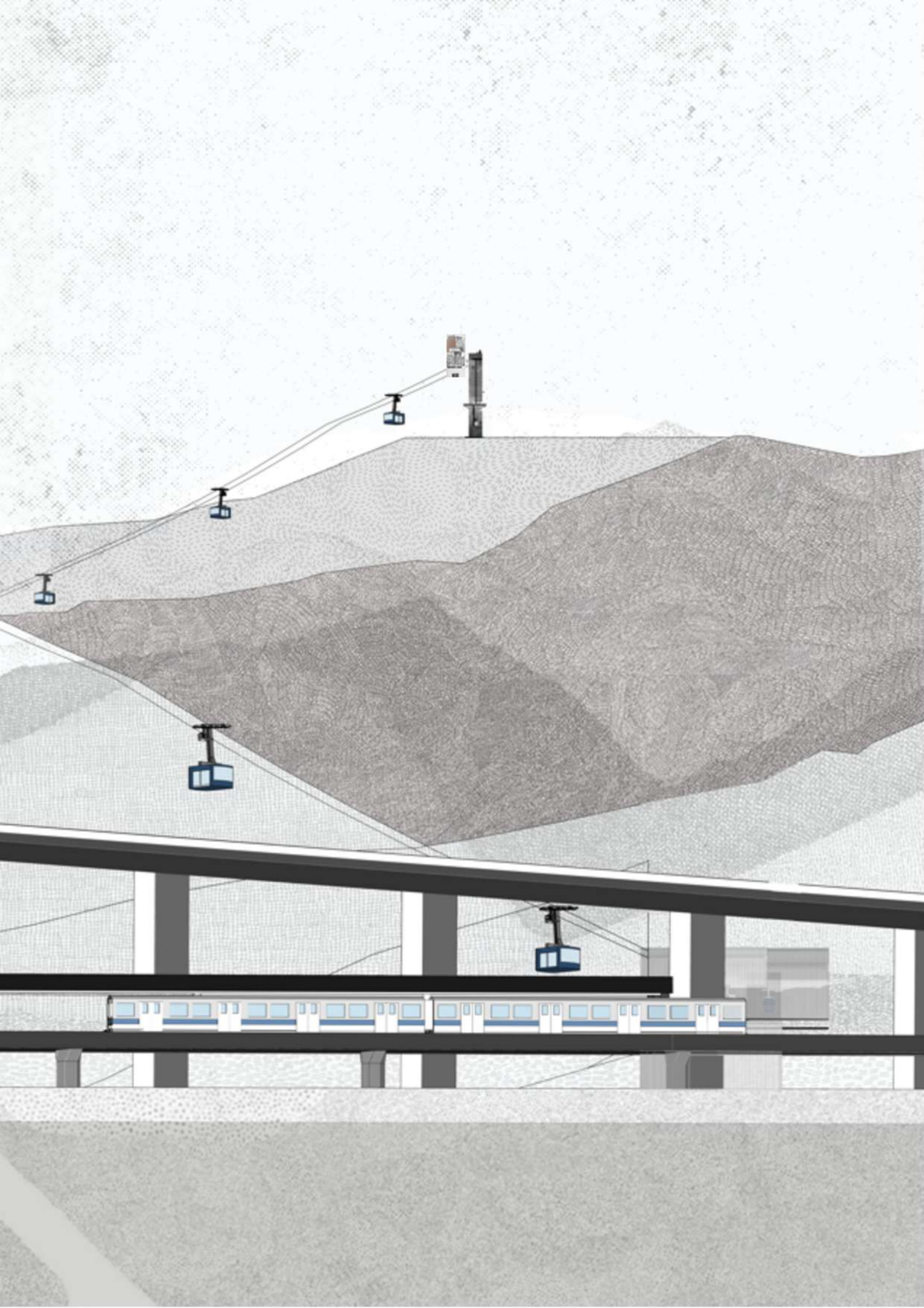


From the metro station, a park path gradually leads uphill, with the observation tower serving as a distant landmark that guides visitors toward the mountain.



- A. Ticketing Area
- B. Concourse
- C. Cable Car Boarding Area

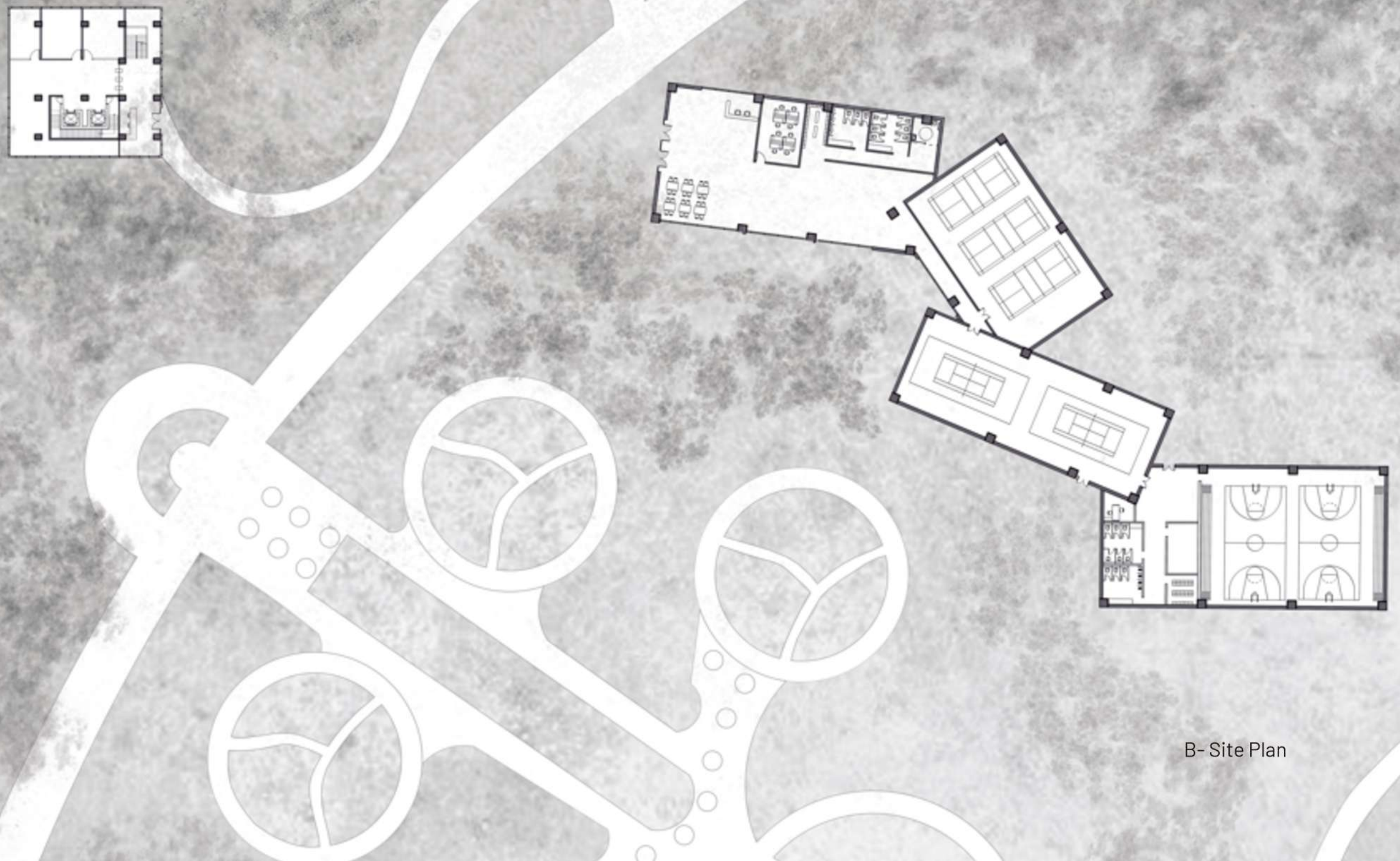
Cable Car Station A - Floor Plan



During the ascent, the tower serves as a distant landmark, guiding views while revealing the changing terrain and landscape.



Standing above the park, the observation tower serves as a vertical gallery, guiding visitors through the historical development of Taichung.



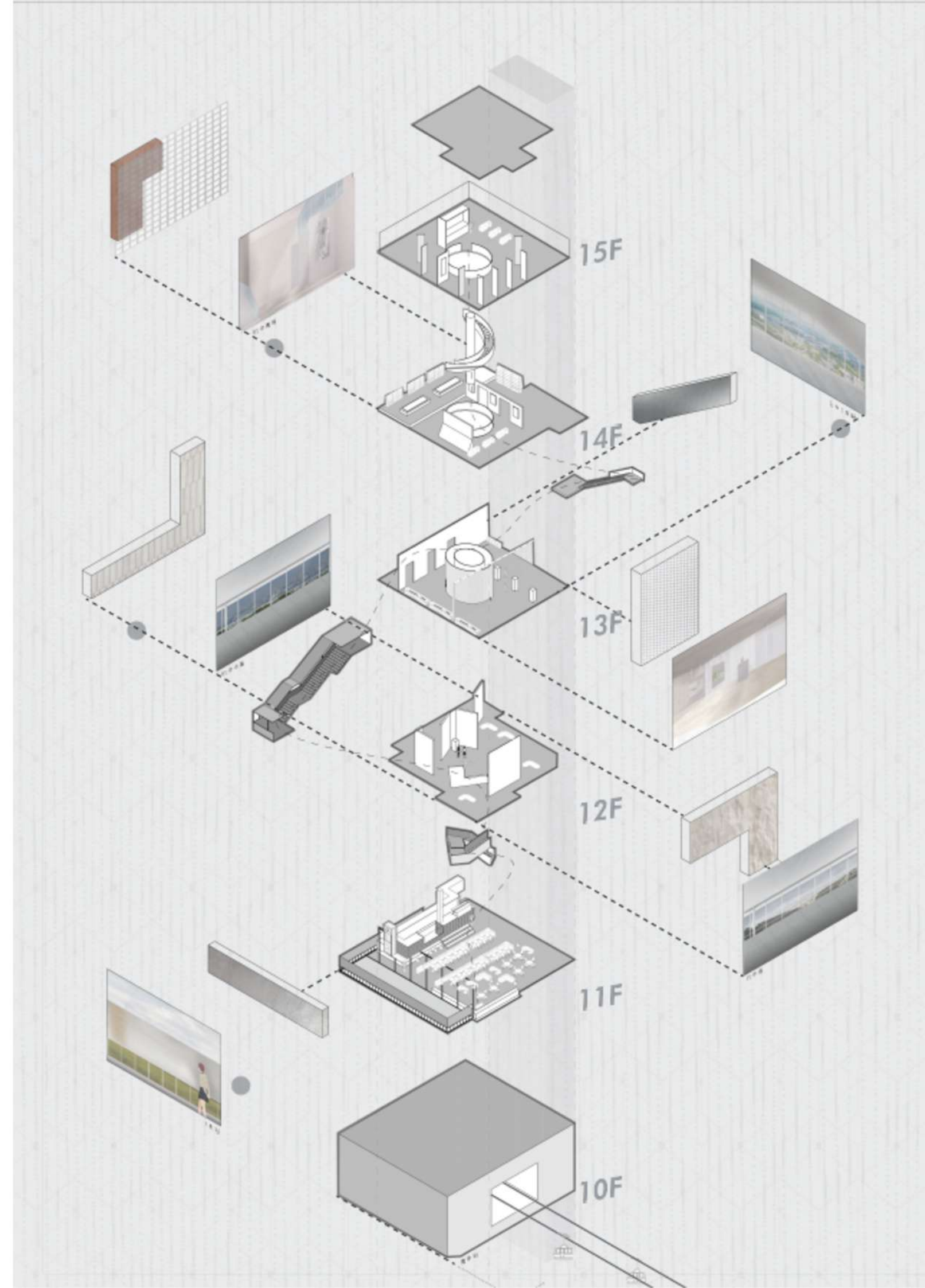
B- Site Plan

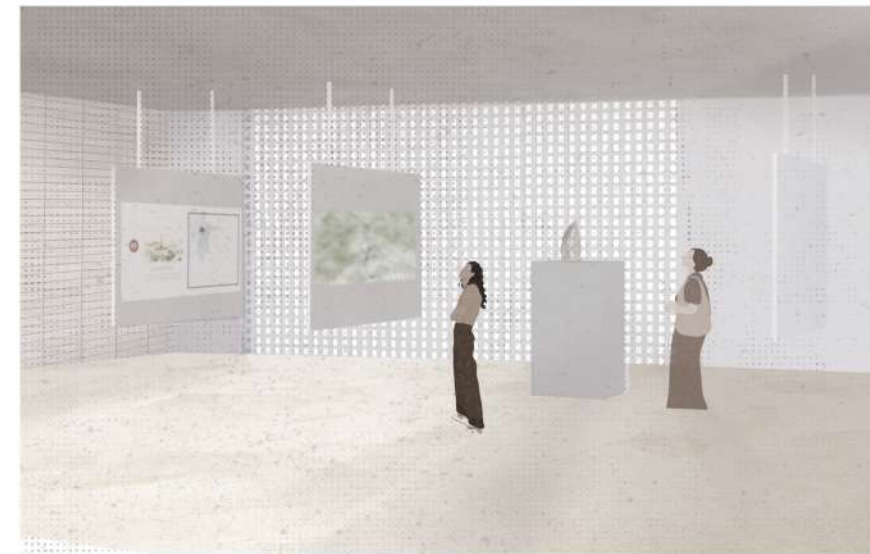
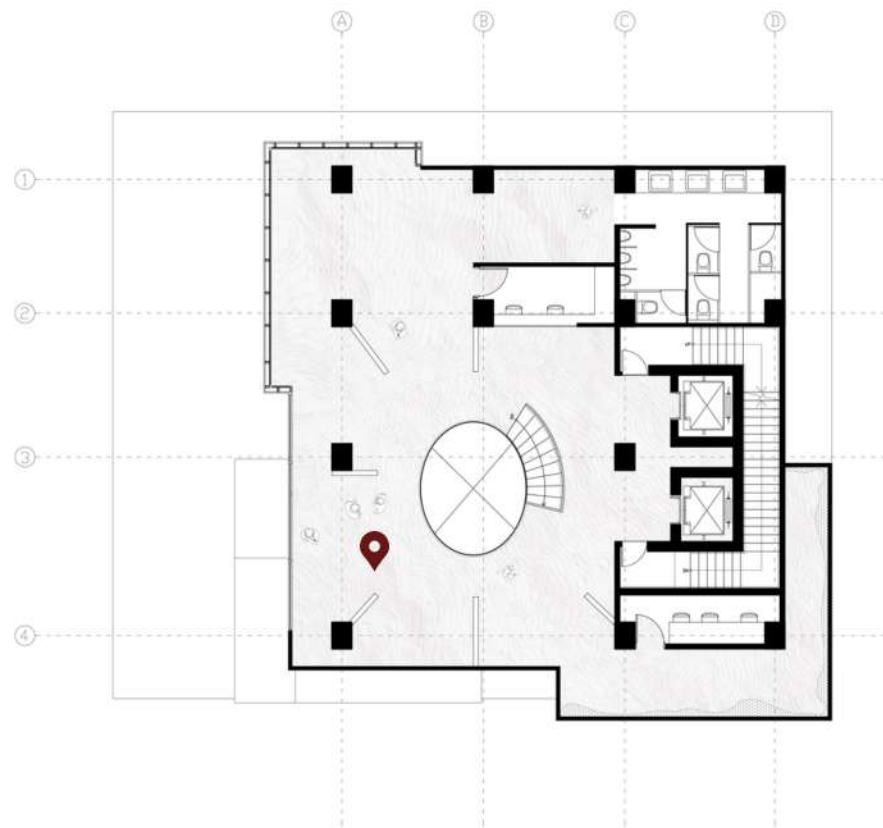
## A Vertical Museum of Taichung

Rather than functioning solely as an observation tower, the project is conceived as a vertical museum. Each floor is associated with a specific landscape, combining exhibition and framed views to reveal the historical, geographical, and cultural layers of Taichung. Through a gradual descent, visitors rediscover the relationship between the city, the mountain, and the sea.

## A Vertical Museum of Taichung

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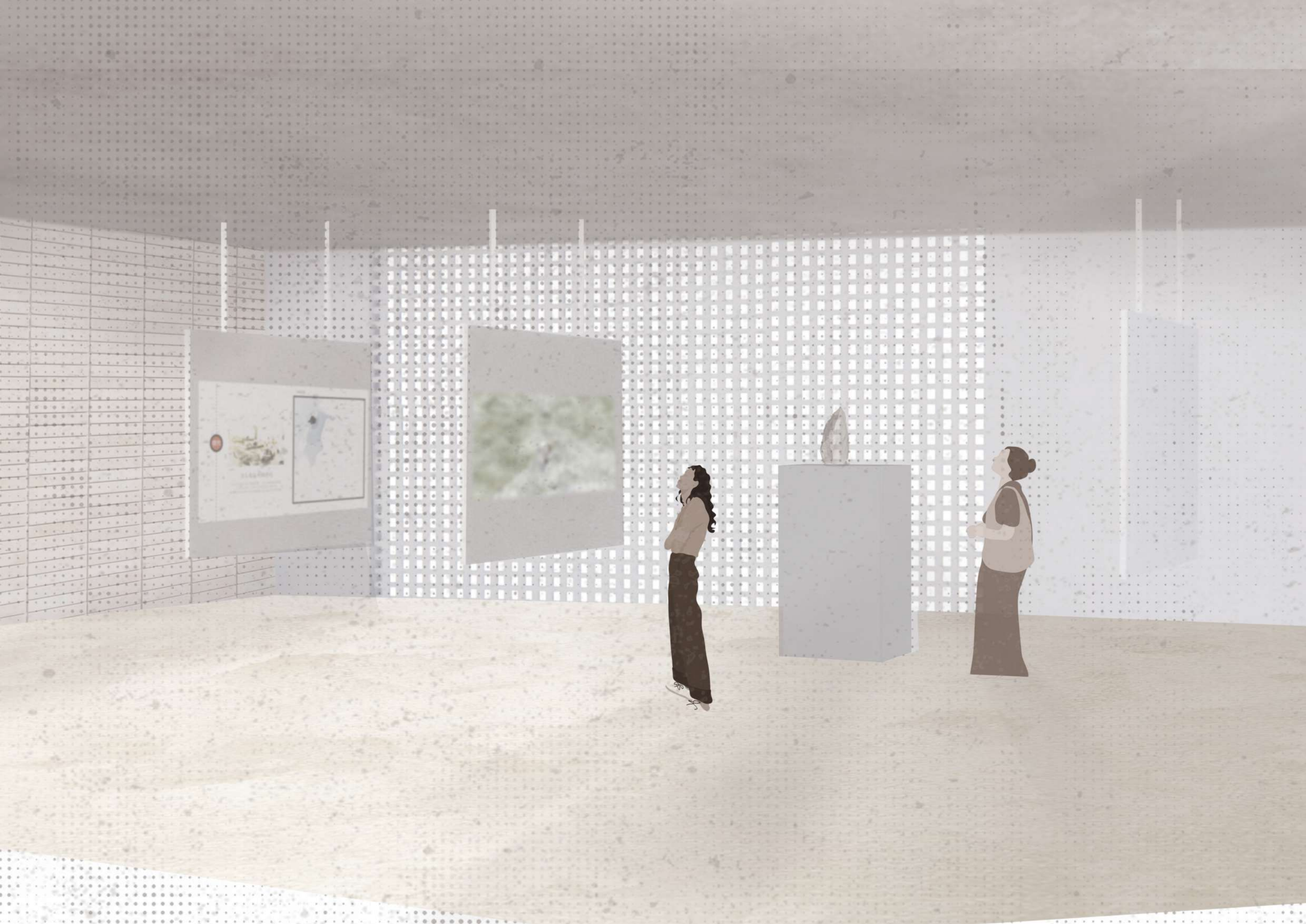


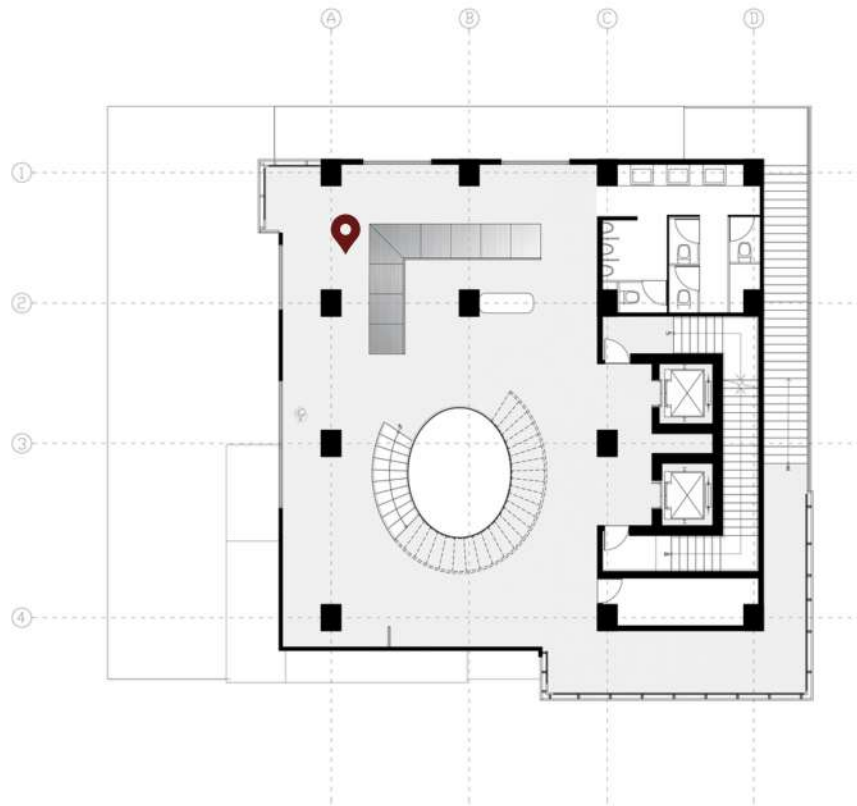


### 15Floor Plan— Qingshui

#### Associated Landscape: Qingshui

The journey begins with Qingshui, where the historical origins of Taichung's development are introduced. Framed views toward the landscape are paired with exhibitions, allowing history and territory to be understood together.



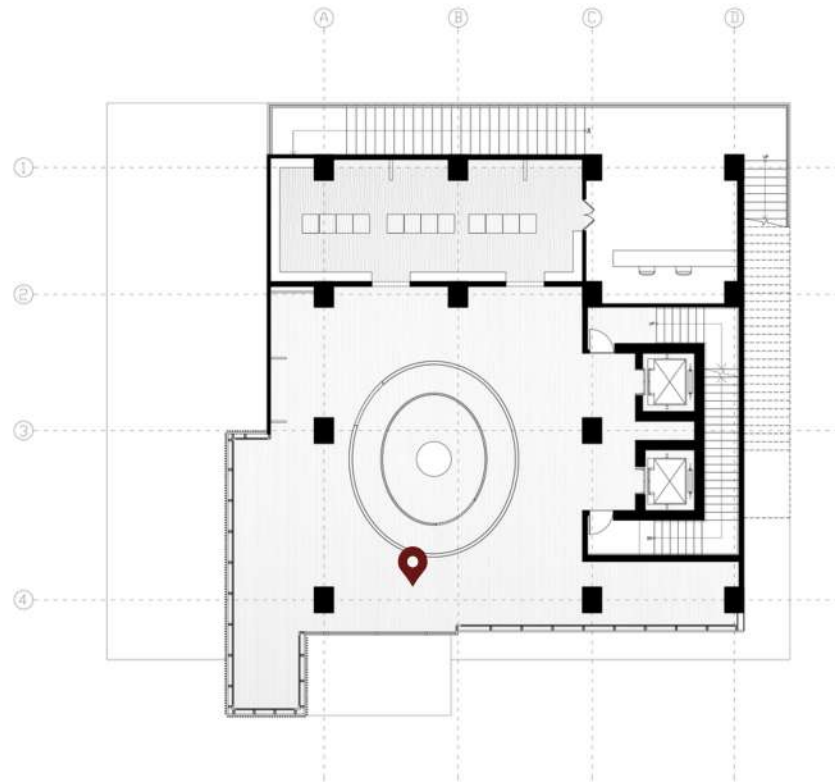


14Floor Plan – Taichung International Airport

Associated Landscape: Taichung International Airport

High-level openings frame aircraft arriving and departing from the airport. The exhibition explores mobility and infrastructure while connecting visitors to the surrounding landscape.



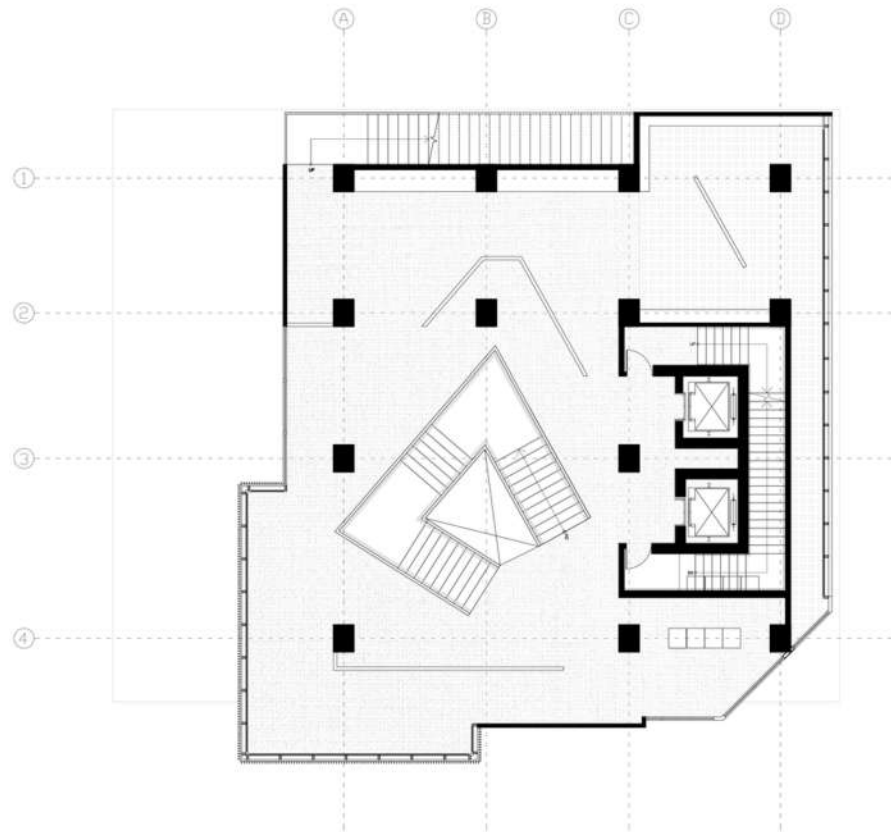


13F – Taichung City Center / Central Taiwan Science Park

Associated Landscape: Taichung City Center / Central Taiwan Science Park

Perforated metal screens filter views of the city and science park. Visitors pause within the exhibition space while gradually discovering the urban landscape beyond.

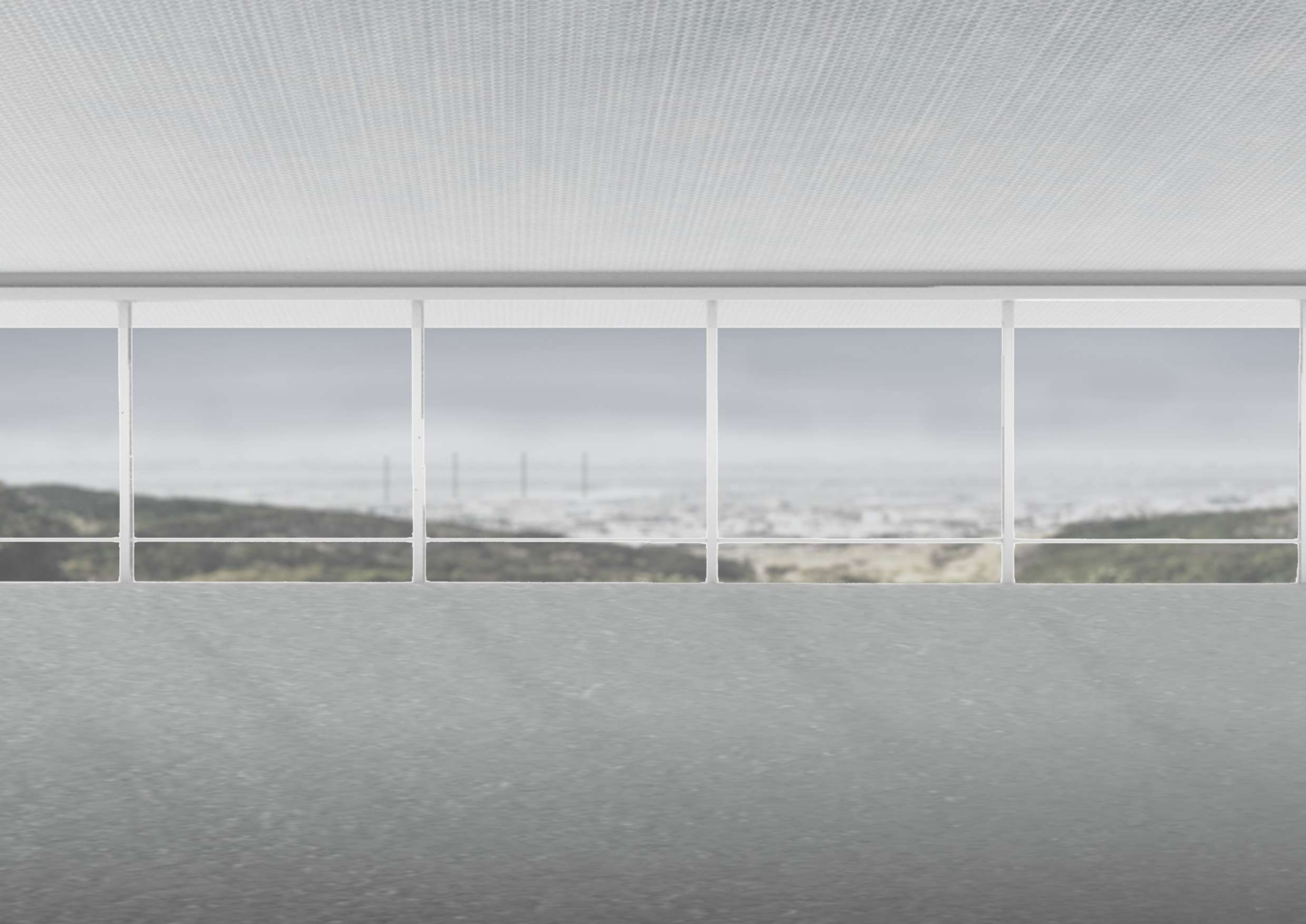


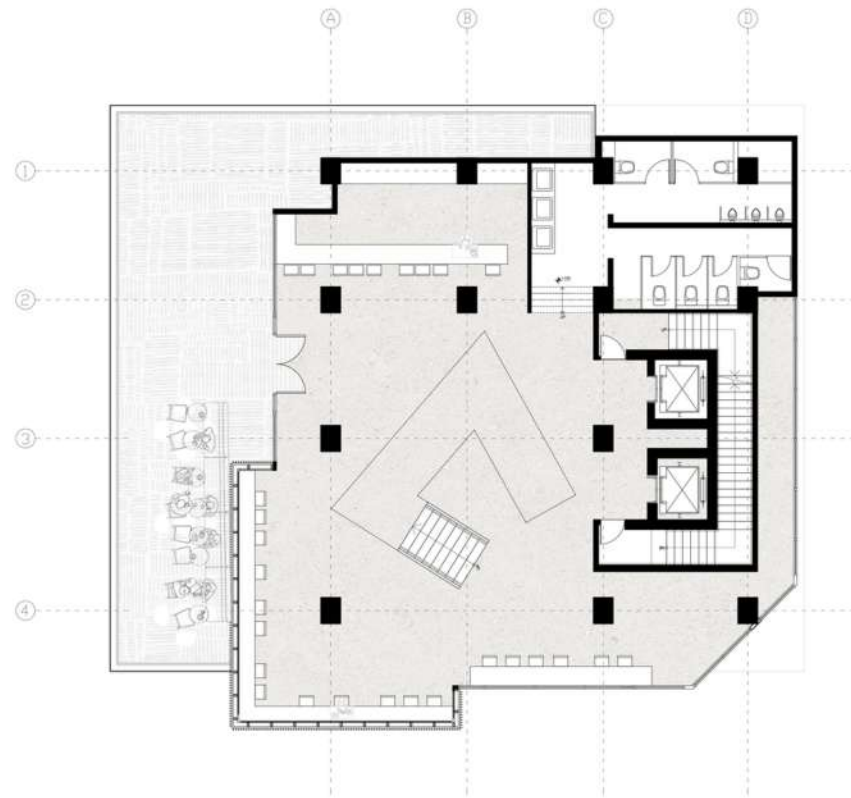


## 12F – Port of Taichung

### Associated Landscape: Port of Taichung

As visitors continue their descent, distant views of the coastline and port gradually emerge, reintroducing the presence of the sea within the experience of the tower.



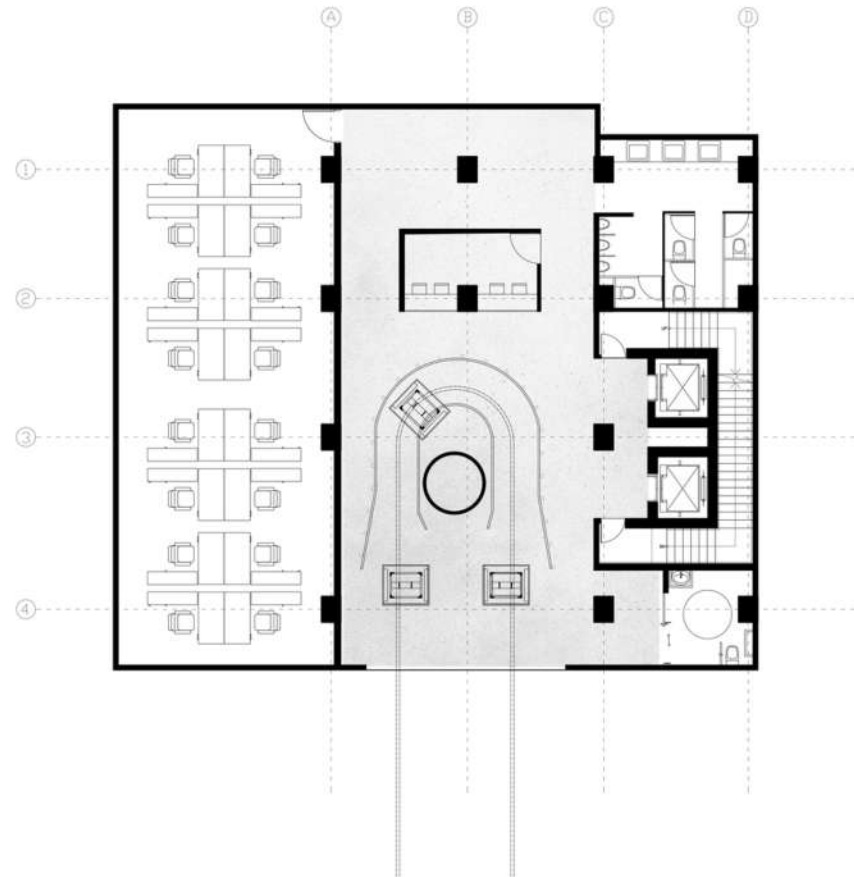


## 11F – Port of Taichung

Associated Landscape: Port of Taichung

The exhibition space transitions into an observation area. With each step, the sea becomes more visible, transforming the act of viewing into a rediscovery of the coastline.

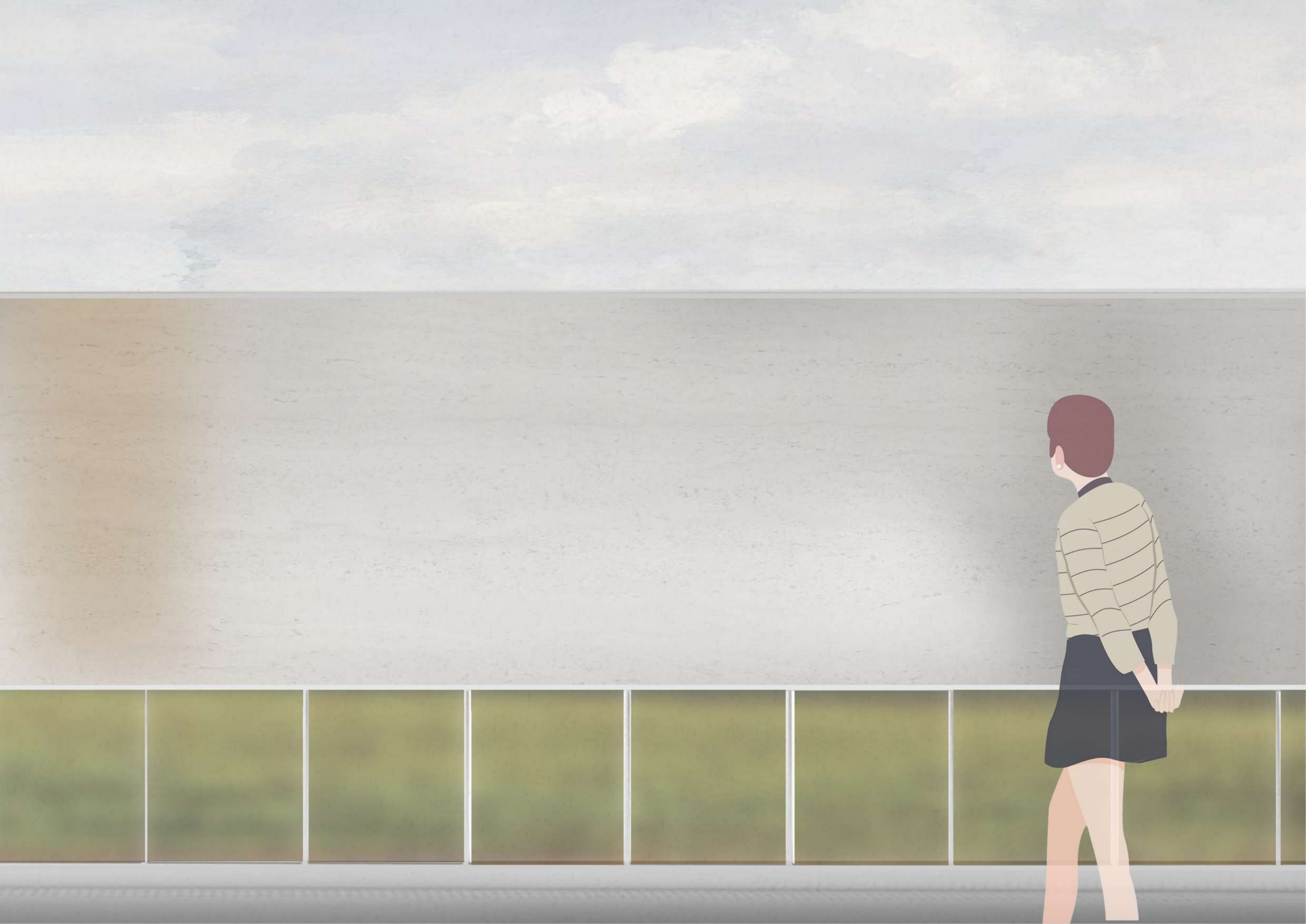




## 10F – Dadu Mountain

Associated Landscape: Dadu Mountain

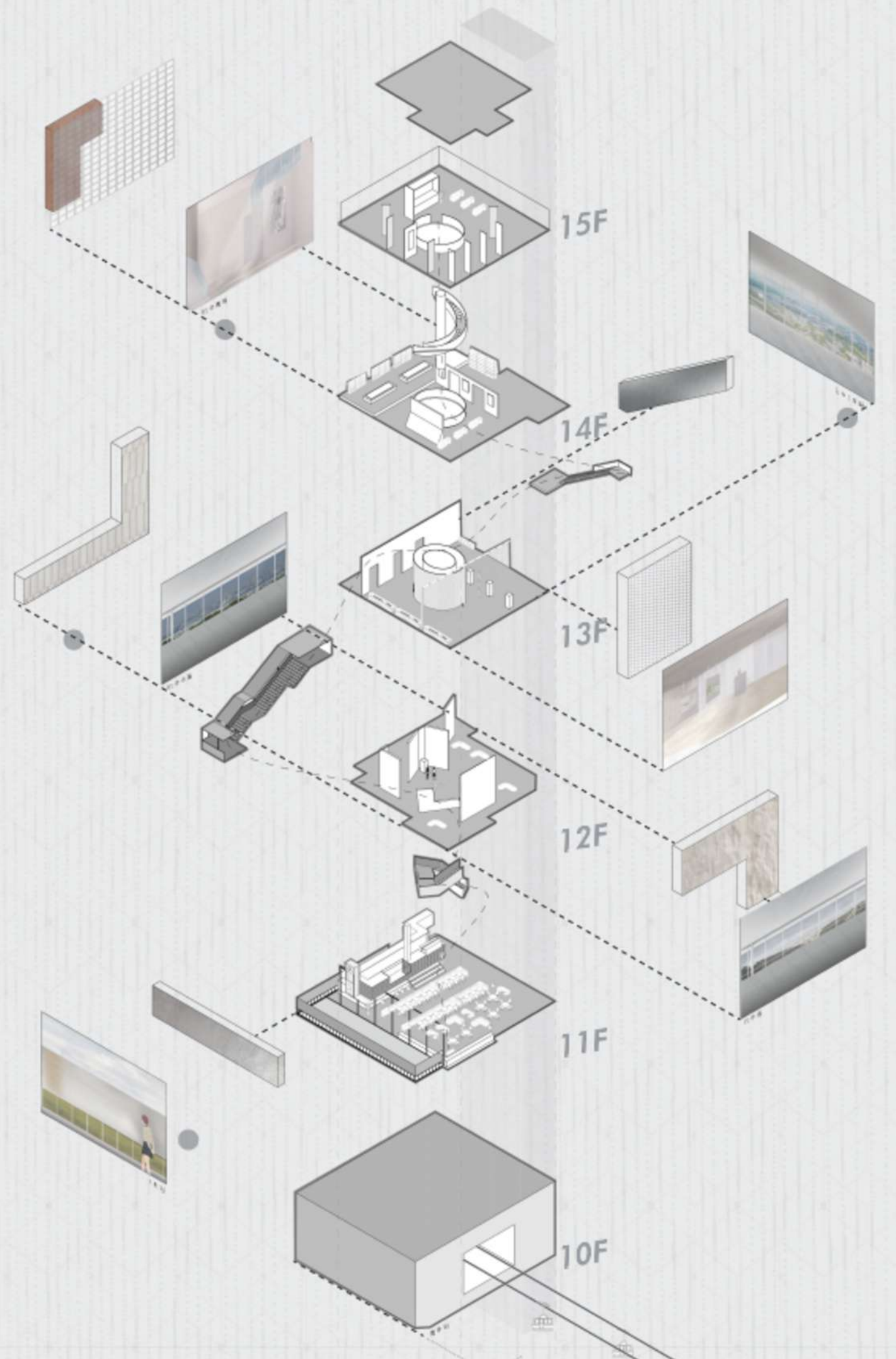
Looking back toward Dadu Mountain, visitors are encouraged to reconsider the relationship between the city and its landscape, becoming aware of the mountain's role within Taichung's urban structure.





As visitors descend, the observation tower becomes a tool for reading Taichung. Its changing material language corresponds to different landscapes across the city, transforming orientation into an act of interpretation.

At the mountain's base, the cable car station aligns with the distant horizon. The sea, once absent from everyday urban perception, gradually reappears, reconnecting the city with its coastal identity.





○ Qingshui District

○ Taichung International Airport

○ Port of Taichung

○ Port Industrial Area



○ Industrial Area

○ Taichung City Center



The awareness of the sea gradually returns along the journey back.

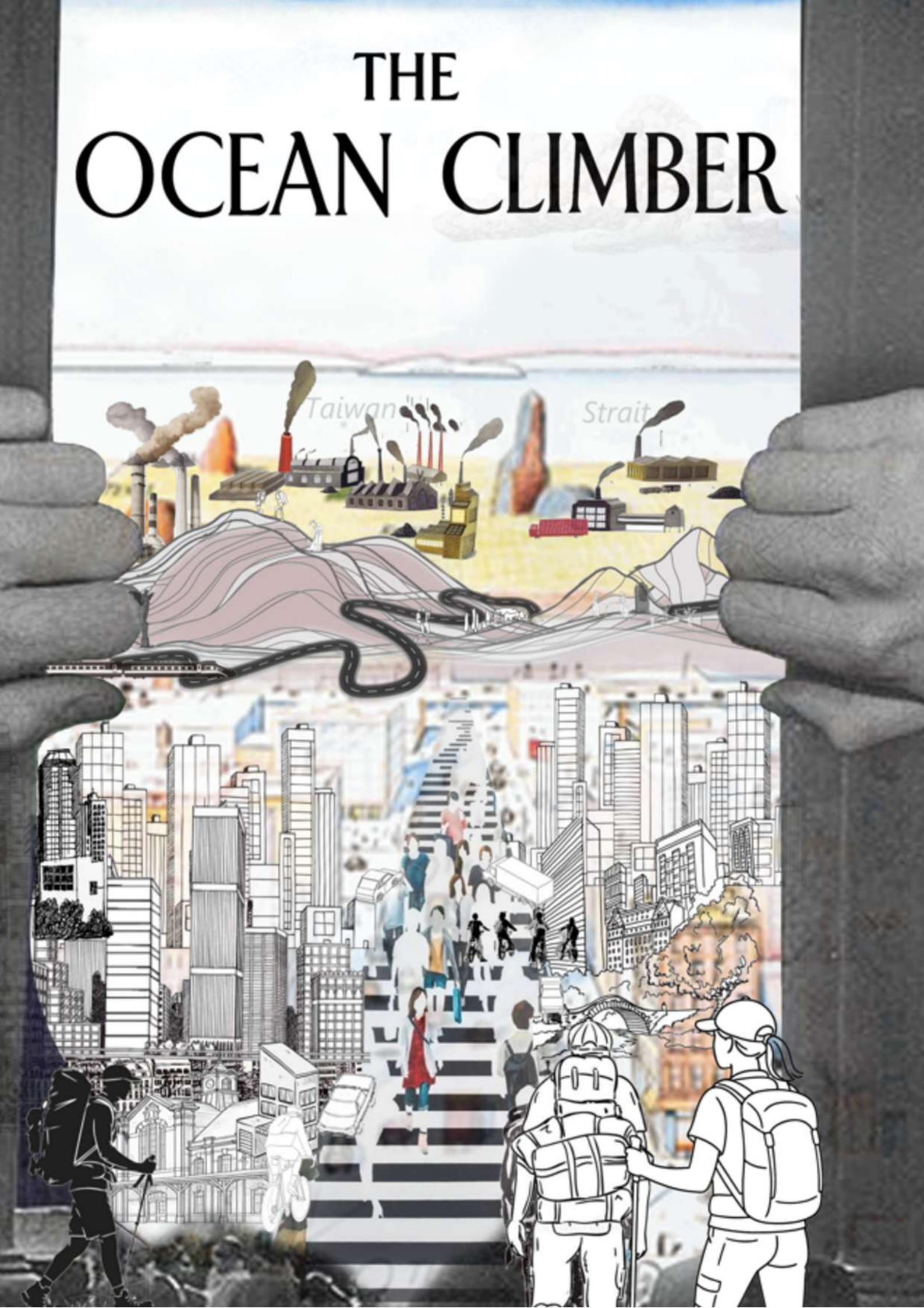
Seen from Shalu, Dadu Mountain defines the boundary between the city and the sea.





Looking back toward Dadu Mountain from the city, the presence of the sea becomes perceptible once again.

# THE OCEAN CLIMBER



A journey that reintroduces the sea into the collective perception of the city.