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SUBMITTAL FORM

BRIDGING LANDSCAPES

by

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BRIDGING LANDSCAPES

Ramlet el Bayda

Final Year Project
Jana Tabbara | 2015-2016

Department of Landscape Architecture
American University of Beirut

Advisor: Mehran Madani

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The completion of this final year project could not have been possible without the support and assistance of so many people whose names may not all be enumerated. Their efforts and contributions are sincerely appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.

Thank you for our design advisors; Dr. Mehran Madani, Mr. Yaser Abu Naser and Mr. Imad Gemayel; for the constant and endless support during the past year.

To all family and friends, who in one way or another, shared their support either morally, financially, physically, thank you.

Jana Tabbara

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01

INTRODUCTION



INTRODUCTION | Site Location

Ramlet el Bayda is located in Southern end of The Beirut corniche and it stretches along 1 km. It is known for Avenue de Charles de Gaulle promenade.

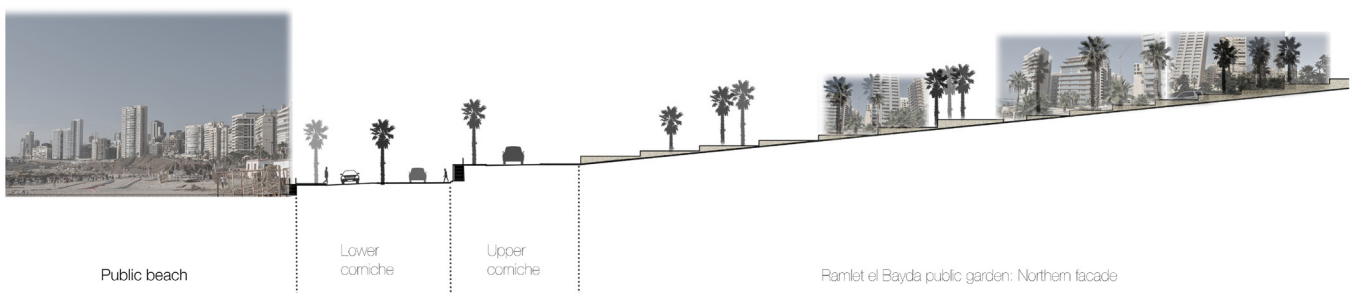
The sea promenade or “corniche” is becoming the heart of public meeting points of the entire overcrowded country, regardless of the religion and status. In summer, the beach is one of the most visited places in the city: it is where activities, gatherings and events are held. Moreover, Ramlet el Bayda is known to be the last sandy beach in Beirut open to the public.



Figure 1.1 | Context



Figure 1.2 | Overview



Section C-C
Scale 1:1250

Figure 1.3 | Section through the site



INTRODUCTION | History

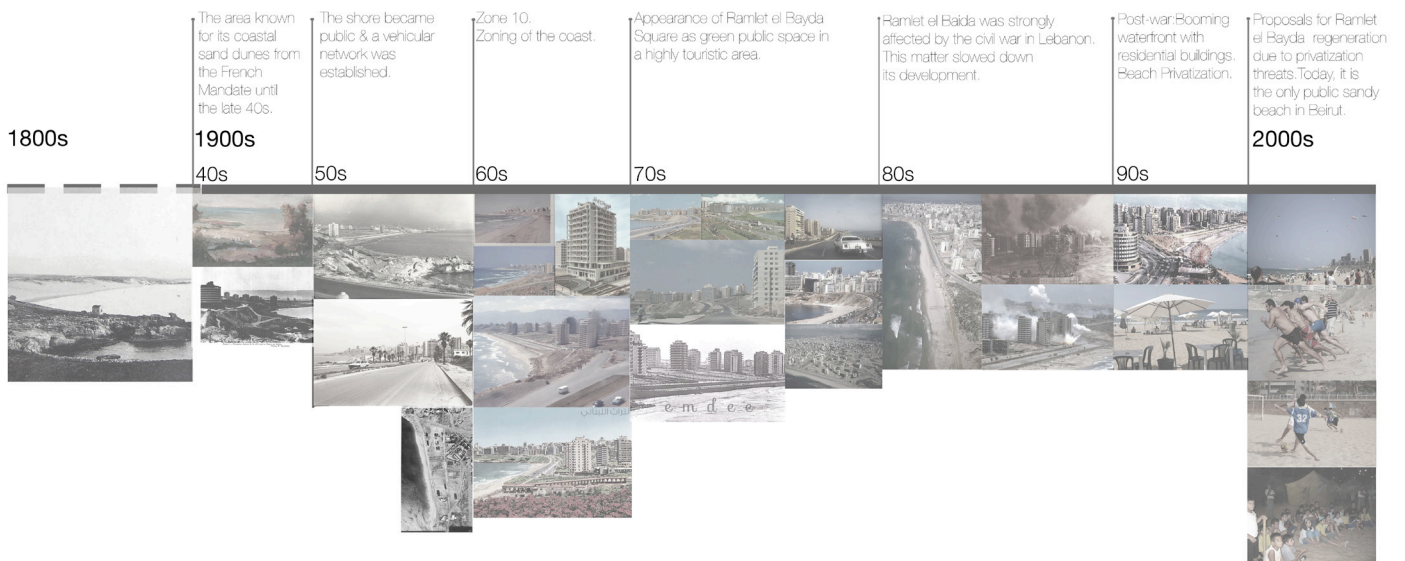


Figure 1.4 | Evolution of Ramlet el Bayda

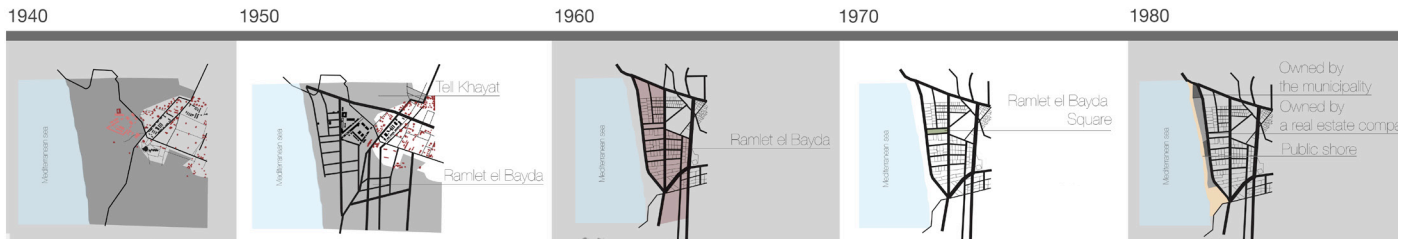
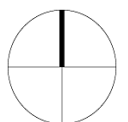


Figure 1.5 | Rapid urbanization of Ramlet el Bayda



INTRODUCTION | Contextualizing Ramlet el Bayda garden in Beirut

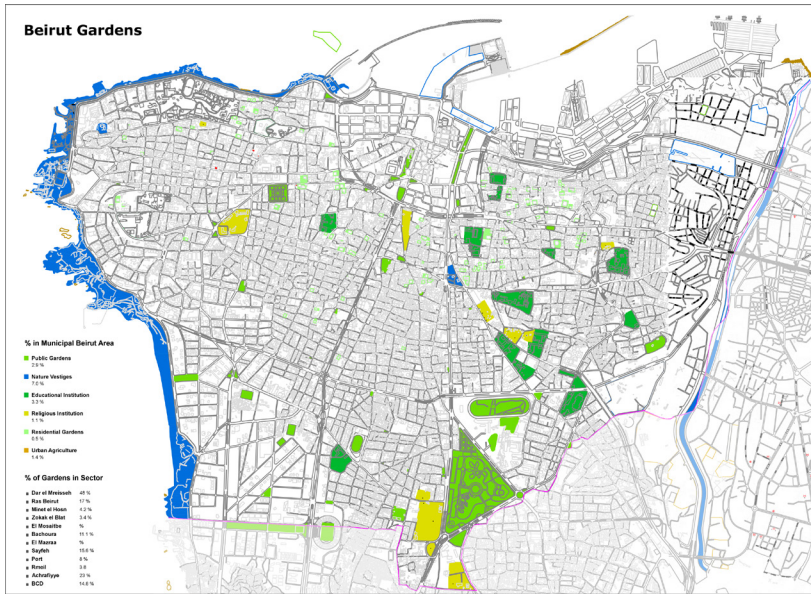


Figure 1.6 | Public gardens and openspaces in Beirut

With the rapid and uncontrolled urbanization, Beirut is left with very limited amount of green public spaces. Beirut green public spaces ratio is amongst the lowest in the world. In fact, it only covers 11% of the city. This promotes scenario unhealthy lifestyle.

The Ramlet el Bayda garden represents a small portion of the green spaces available. Horsh Beirut is known to be the biggest and makes up 72% of the total green areas.

Today, only four gardens are highly recognized and successful: Jesuites garden, Sanayeh garden and Mufti Khaled garden. The three of them cater for the needs of the residents regardless of the age .

Ramlet el Bayda Garden does not provide any of the programs . Thus, it is left under-used and under-appreciated.

Green Spaces of Beirut
 Ramlet el Baida Garden
 7,000 sqm

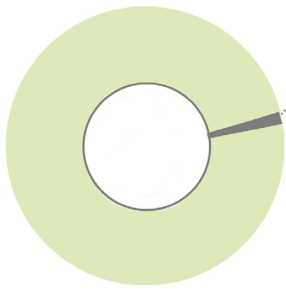


Figure 1.7 | Ramlet el Bayda garden in relationship to other green public spaces in Beirut



Figure 1.8 | Jesuites garden



Figure 1.9 | Sanayeh garden



Figure 1.10 | Mufti Khaled garden





Figure 1.11 | Neglected Ramlet el Bayda garden

02

SITE BOUNDARIES



SITE BOUNDARIES | Site of interest

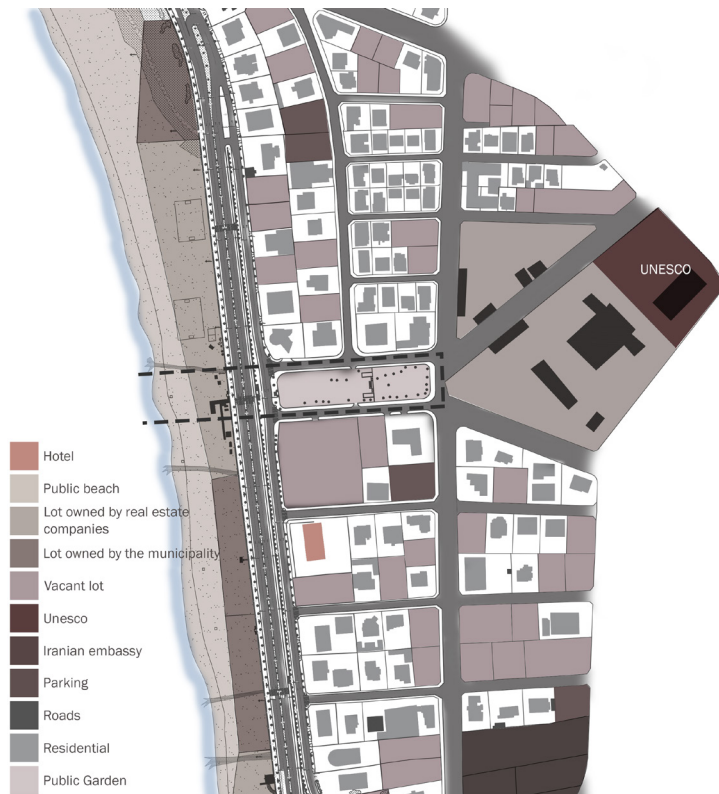


Figure 2.1 | Site boundaries in relationship to the context

The site chosen for further indepth analysis and the future intervention streches from the Ramlet el Bayda residential area all the way to the beach.

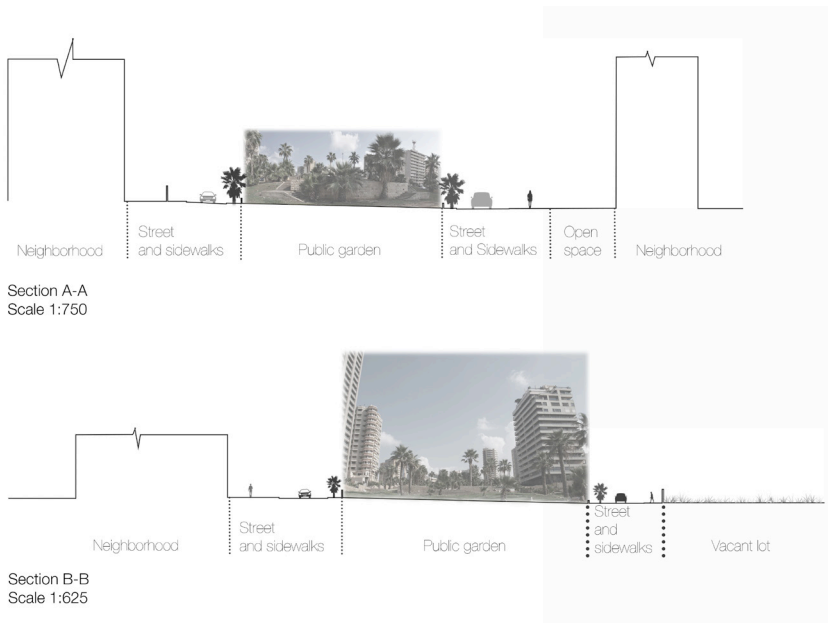
The site boundaries is comprised of three entities: the public garden, the road and the public beach.



Figure 2.2 | Chosen site in relationship to groundfloor land use



SITE BOUNDARIES | Site issues



There are two major issues that have been encountered on site.

On one hand, the public garden is disintegrated from the residential area.

On the other hand, there is an apparent physical division : The road separates both the beach and the garden. This leaves a break between upper and lower Ramlet el Bayda.

Figure 2.3 | Sections showing the garden in relationship to the neighborhood

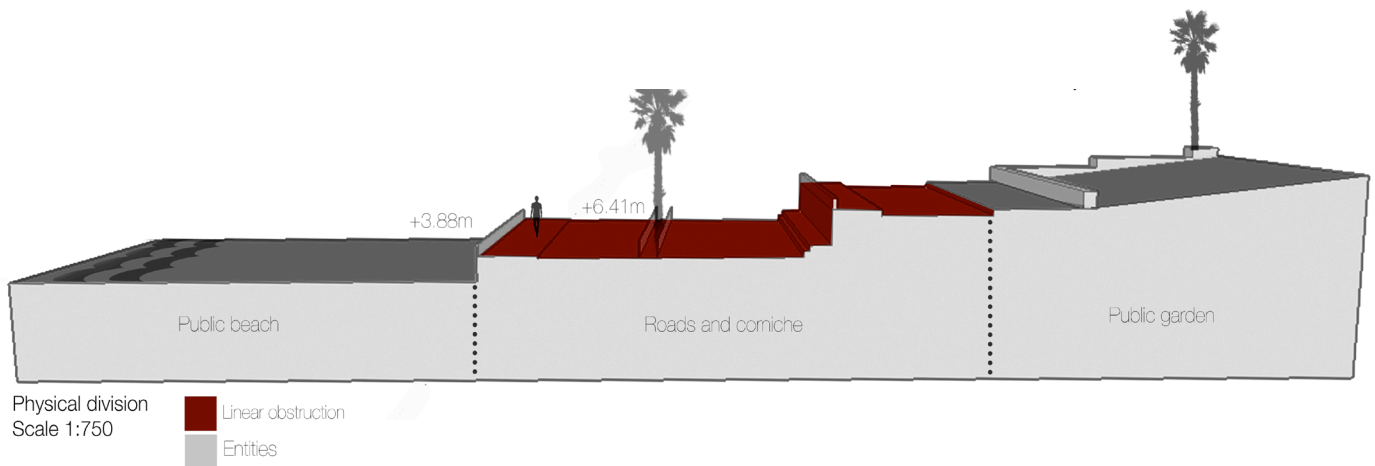


Figure 2.4 | Physical division on site

03

PROJECT STATEMENT



PROJECT STATEMENT | Project statement and theoretical support

Ramlet el Bayda is the last public beach in Beirut city. Over a decade, the garden has been neglected for unknown reasons. This leaves it deserted and lacking integration to its immediate surrounding.

Today, both the garden and the beach are disconnected making it difficult for pedestrian to access the site at ease.

This project aims on bridging this social and physical gap by extending the boundaries of the garden to create a dynamic and transitioning urban landscape.

It is important to create inviting places for people to enable the garden to as the core for pedestrian circulation flow.

Providing the site with a particular homogenous identity can solve the site issues. Three gradually transitioning platforms are provided to cater for the immediate surroundings: The intimate platform provides employees and residents with a buffered picnic area and the active platform provides the community with varied programs such as a kids play area, a dynamic beach entrance, a pool, etc. A core area, where markets and various festivals to take place, serves as a transition between both platforms.

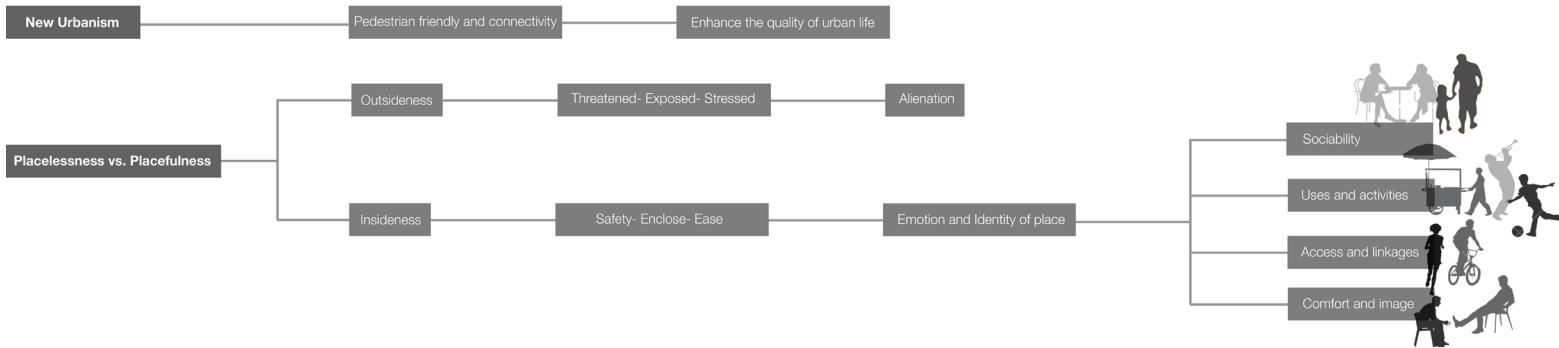


Figure 3.1 | Theoretical support: New urbanism and Placelessness

04

INVENTORY & ANALYSIS



INVENTORY & ANALYSIS | Users of the site

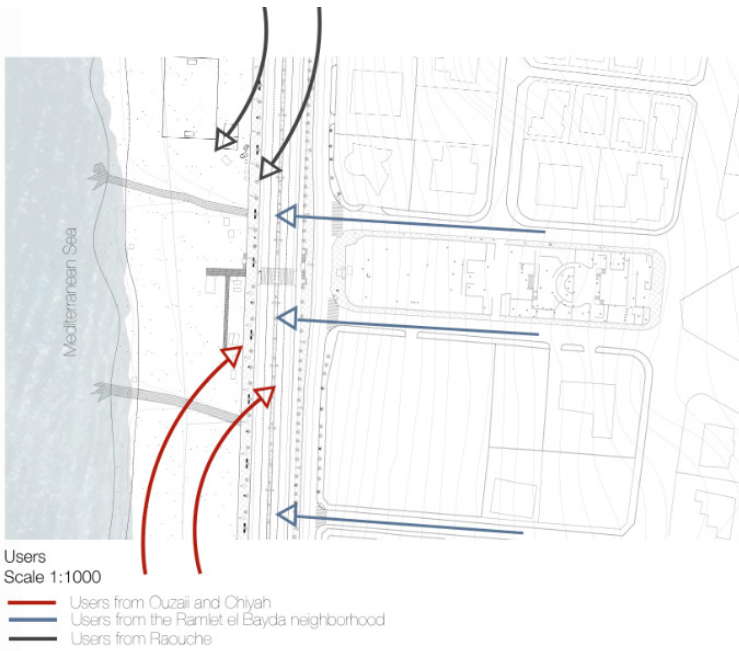


Figure 4.1 | Users of the beach

The majority of people attending the beach come from various areas of Beirut such as Ouzai, Chiyah , Raouche, and Ramlet el Bayda.

Also, most of the beach goers are from low-income background.

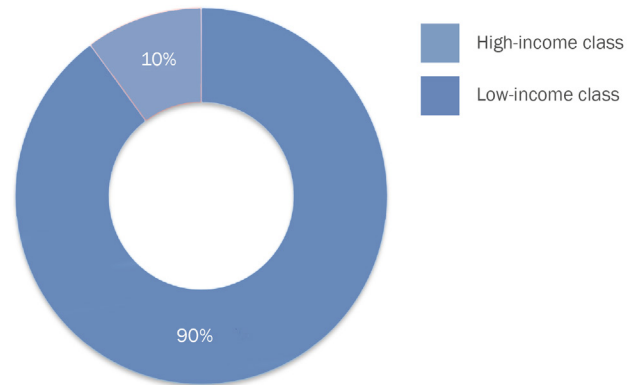


Figure 4.2 | Socio-economic status of beachgoers

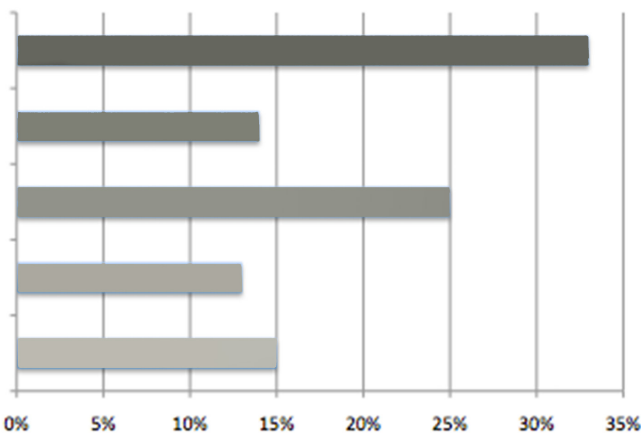


Figure 4.3 | Neighborhood visitors

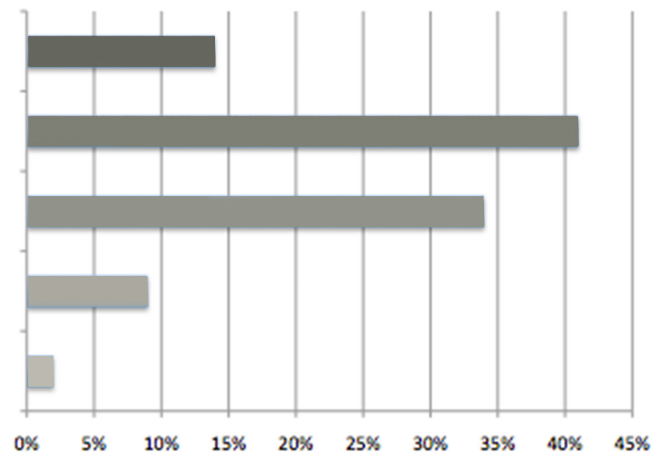
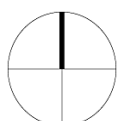


Figure 4.4 | Beach visitors

- 0-14 yrs
- 15-24 yrs
- 25-54 yrs
- 55-60 yrs
- 60+ yrs



INVENTORY & ANALYSIS | Activities on site

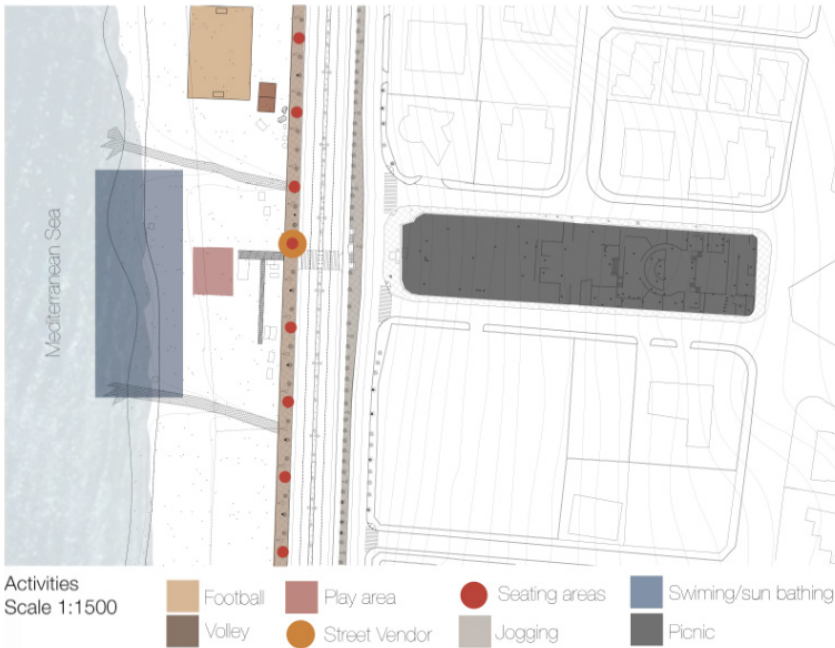


Figure 4.5 | Activities

The majority of the site users attend the beach due to the concentration of activities along the corniche and the beachside.

The type of activities changes according to seasonality. Therefore, the garden is left as black hole.

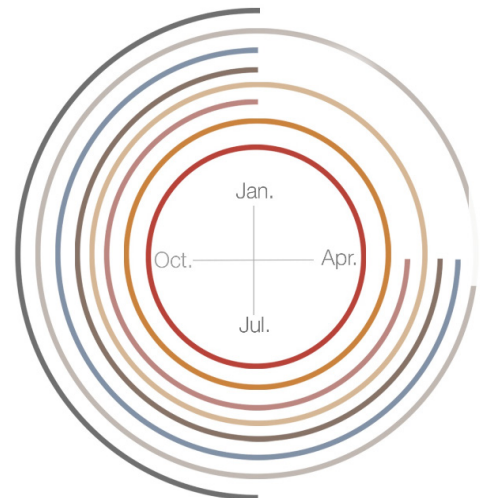
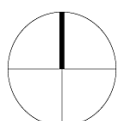


Figure 4.6 | Change of activities with seasonality



INVENTORY & ANALYSIS | Network

The following axonometric points out the general network of Ramlet el Bayda. It includes the different flows of pedestrian movement, the circulation of the area in general and within the park, the accessibility in terms of pedestrian access and the different types of entrances and transitioning stairs and lastly, the connectivity.

There is a very limited pedestrian circulation and accessibility due to the many changes in levels and the presence of various urban features such as stairs, walls, etc.

Therefore, people coming from the neighborhood have trouble accessing the beach.

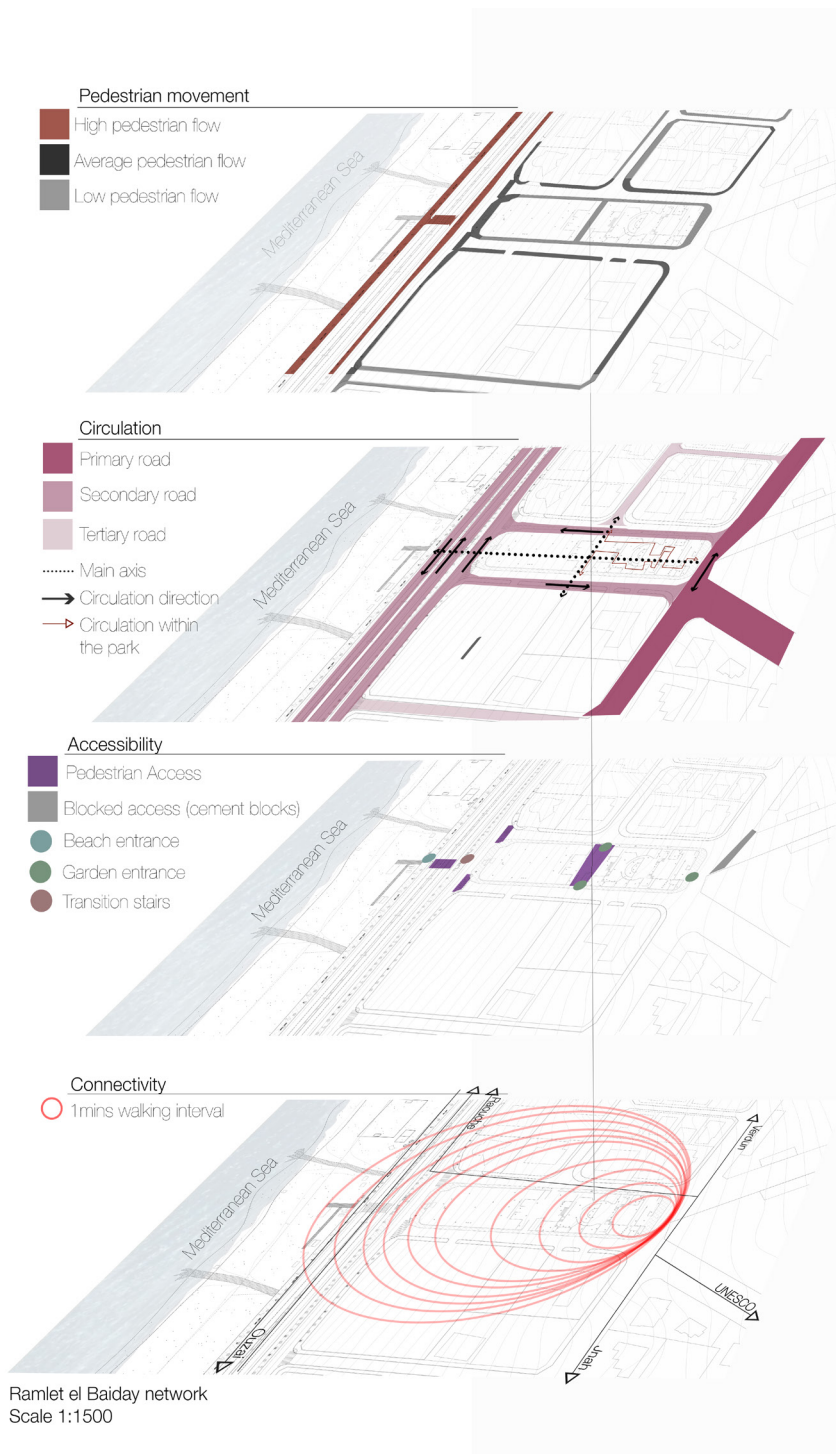
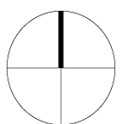
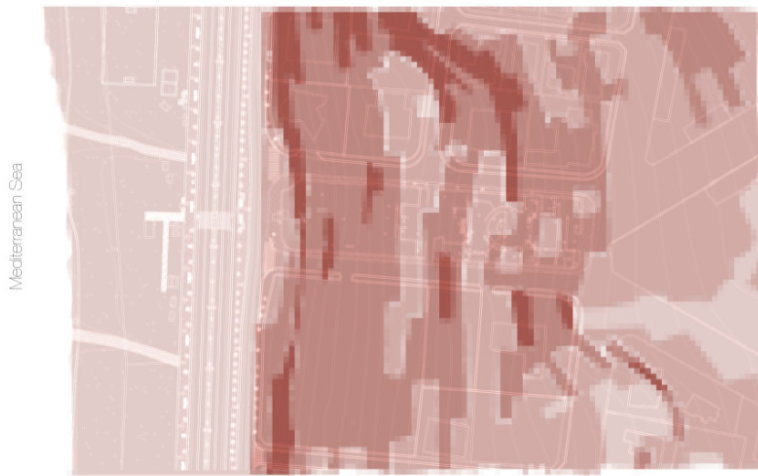


Figure 4.7 | Ramlet el Bayda pedestrian network



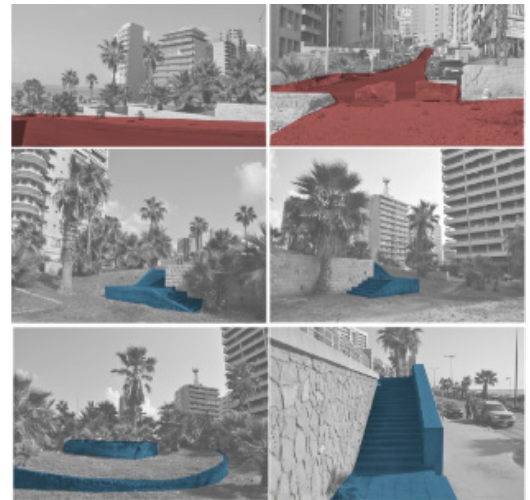
INVENTORY & ANALYSIS | Network



Slope analysis
Scale 1:1500

0% - 5%: Almost flat	10% - 15%: Bicable
5% - 10%: Walkable	>15%: Too steep for pedestrians

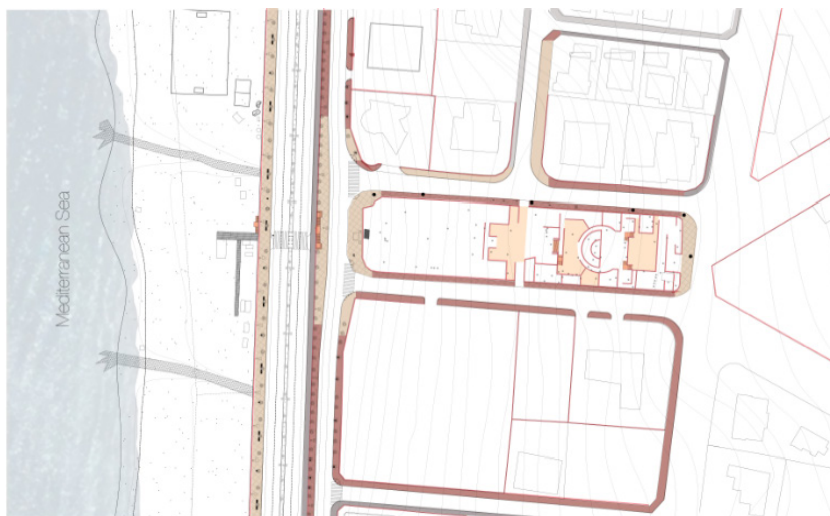
Figure 4.8 | Slope analysis



Vertical & horizontal circulation
Scale 1:1500

Vertical
Horizontal

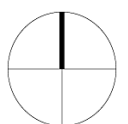
Figure 4.9 | Horizontal and vertical circulation



Features
Scale 1:1500

>4m sidewalk	Platform	● Electric poles
3m-3.5m sidewalk	Stairs	■ Pit
2.5m-3m sidewalk	Walls	

Figure 4.10 | Urban Features



INVENTORY & ANALYSIS | The island effect



The garden is like a green oasis in the middle of an urban setting. The island effect is emphasized by the obstructing facades that serve as a barrier for visual connection.

This matter supports the disconnection of the garden not only with the beach but to its surrounding as well.



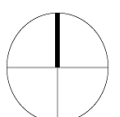
Vegetation Scale 1:1500
 ● Washingtonia Robusta
 ● Algea
 ● Wild condensed vegetation
 ● Wild Scattered vegetation
 ● Green island

Figure 4.11 | Vegetation



Views Scale 1:1500
 ● View from the lower corniche towards the garden
 ● View of the garden from the beach
 ● View of the garden facades
 ● Viewsheds in the garden
 ● View of the garden from a building

Figure 4.12 | Visual connection



INVENTORY & ANALYSIS | Surveillance



There is a strong active surveillance on the upper part of the site which brings discomfort to the area because it is constantly being monitored.

Garden visitors gather mainly where there is shade and where the trees hide them from any type of surveillances.

Safety
Scale 1:1500

- Security cameras
- Security guard
- Watchman
- Life guard

Figure 4.13 | Surveillance type



Figure 4.14 | Shade



INVENTORY & ANALYSIS | Conclusion

By overlapping the surveillance and activities, I was able to analyze the social pattern: people are mostly concentrated on the beachside due to the different triggered senses that emerge from the different types of activities.

In conclusion, due to its proximity to a gathering hub, the Ramlet el Bayda garden is a potential space that could be turned into a place.

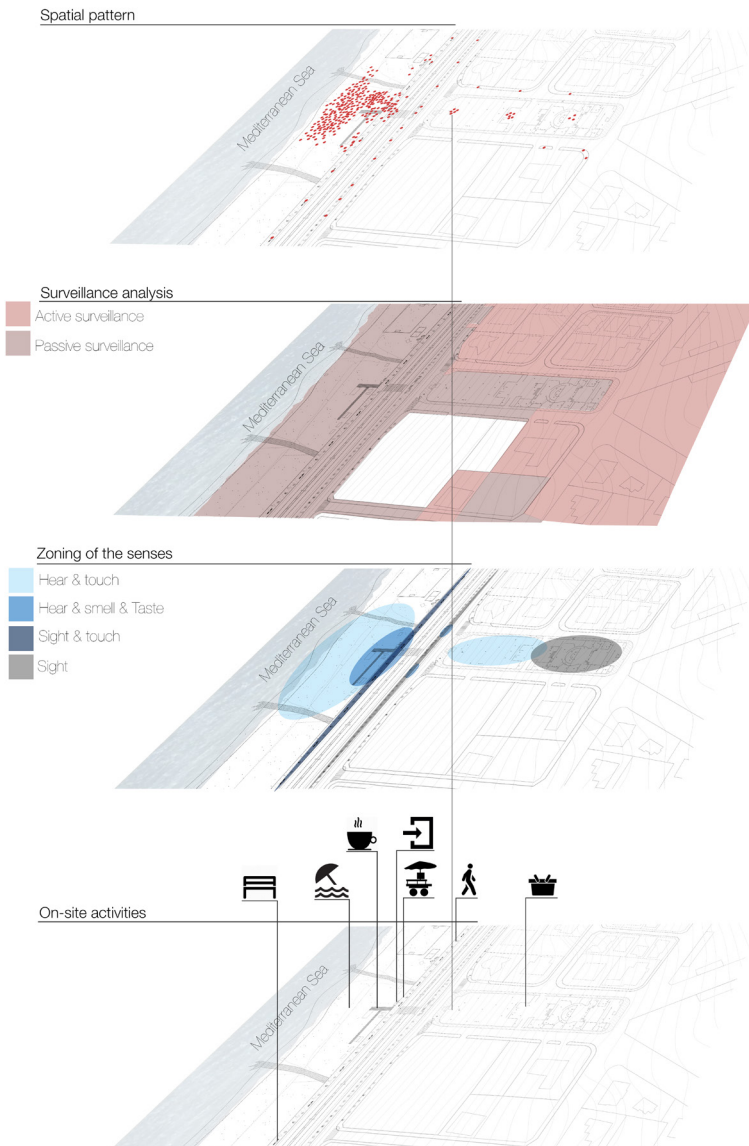


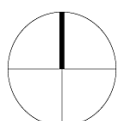
Figure 4.15 | Analysis axonometric



Potential areas for public place
Scale 1:1500

- Existing public space
- Potential public place
- Existing public place

Figure 4.16 | Potential place



05

PRELIMINARY CONCEPTS



PRELIMINARY CONCEPTS | Three ideas

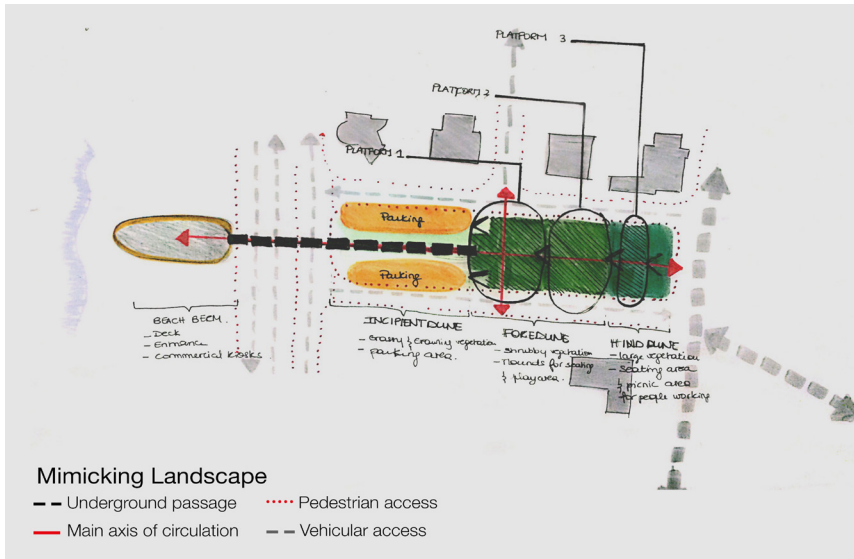


Figure 5.1 | Concept diagram 1: Mimicking landscapes

Ramlet el Bayda was once known for its abundance in coastal sand dunes: hence its name *white sands*. Due to the rapid urbanization these dunes no longer exist. Therefore, this concept is about bringing them back.

This concept disregards the integration of the garden to the neighborhood. It only focuses on the garden/beach link through an underpass.

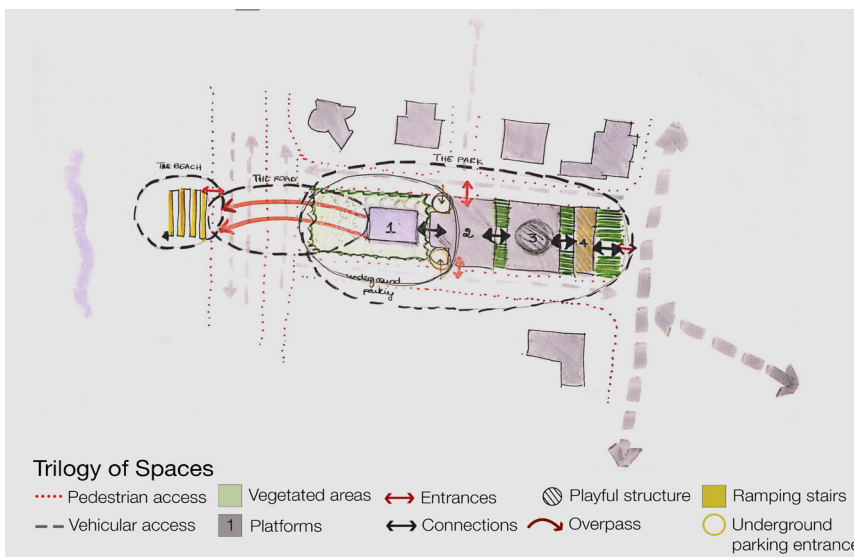


Figure 5.2 | Concept diagram 2: Trilogy of spaces

This concept is about creating three interconnected platforms: The beach, the road and the garden. Every platform or scenario introduces the users to several experiences based on triggering the different senses.

This concept also disregards the link to the surrounding neighborhood. It only provides an overpass linking the garden to the beach.

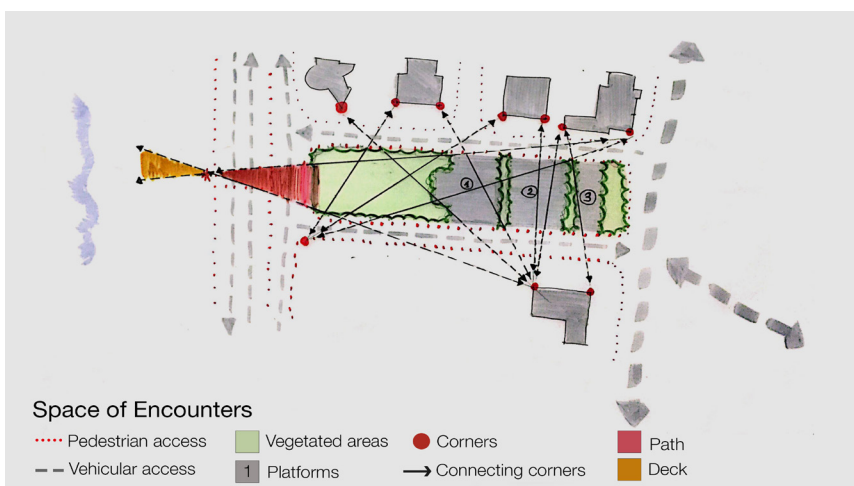
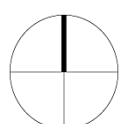


Figure 5.3 | Concept diagram 3: Spaces of encounter

Finally, Spaces of Encounter focuses on linking the corners of the buildings that will cut through the garden. These linkages will enable walkability, visual connectivity and accessibility.

Here, the garden is integrated in its immediate surrounding.

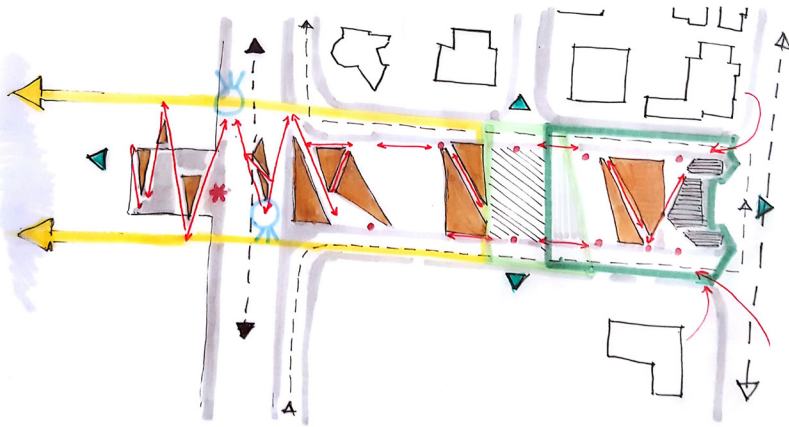


06

FINAL CONCEPT



CONCEPT | Bridging landscapes



Concept | Outcome

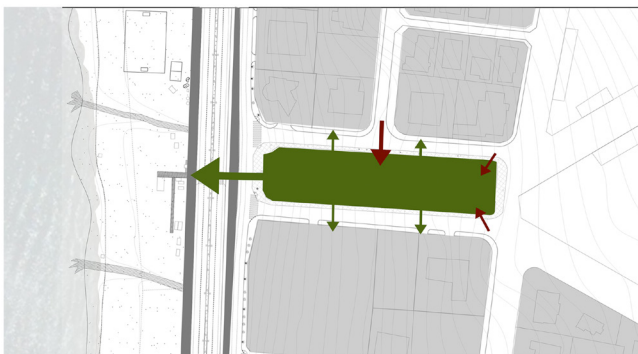
The aim of the design is to attract people by providing different experiences through the senses.

- Dunes
- Extending garden
- Intimate platform
- Core area
- Vehicular access
- View points
- Main axis
- Beach entrance
- Buffer
- Multi-functional and transitional area
- Entry points
- Pedestrian access

Figure 6.1 | Concept diagram

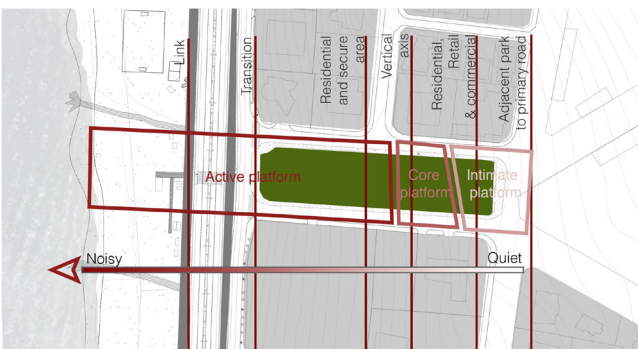
The final concept is merging both Trilogy of Space and Spaces of Encounter. The final product focuses on bridging both the garden and the beach. It is important to transform the garden into a place and reintegrate it within the area.

The outcome of this concept helped me define platforms to spread different experiences by triggering the missing senses along upper Ramlet el Bayda . Creating a dynamic and transitioning landscape will serve as a core to allow pedestrians to circulate along the site.



Concept | Conectivity

Extending the garden and connecting it to the immediate surrounding as well as the beach.

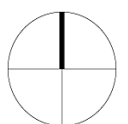


Concept | Platforms

The platforms were chosen according to the increasing noise on site.

The functionality of the space changes accordingly.

Figure 6.2 | Concept



FINAL CONCEPT | Additional graphics

Merging both the urban fabric and the organic dunes have lead to geometric sand dunes shapes that are used in the design to remind visitors of the abundant coastal sand dunes that used to exist in the area.

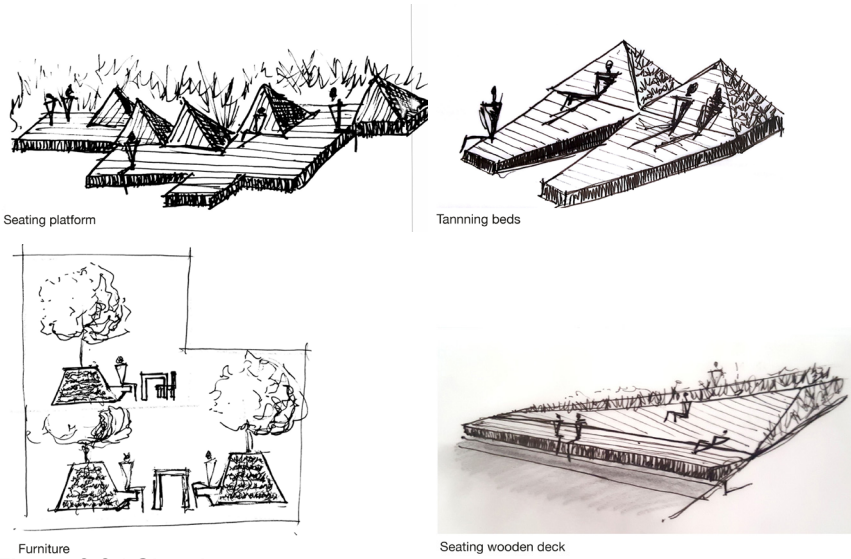


Figure 6.3 | Sketches

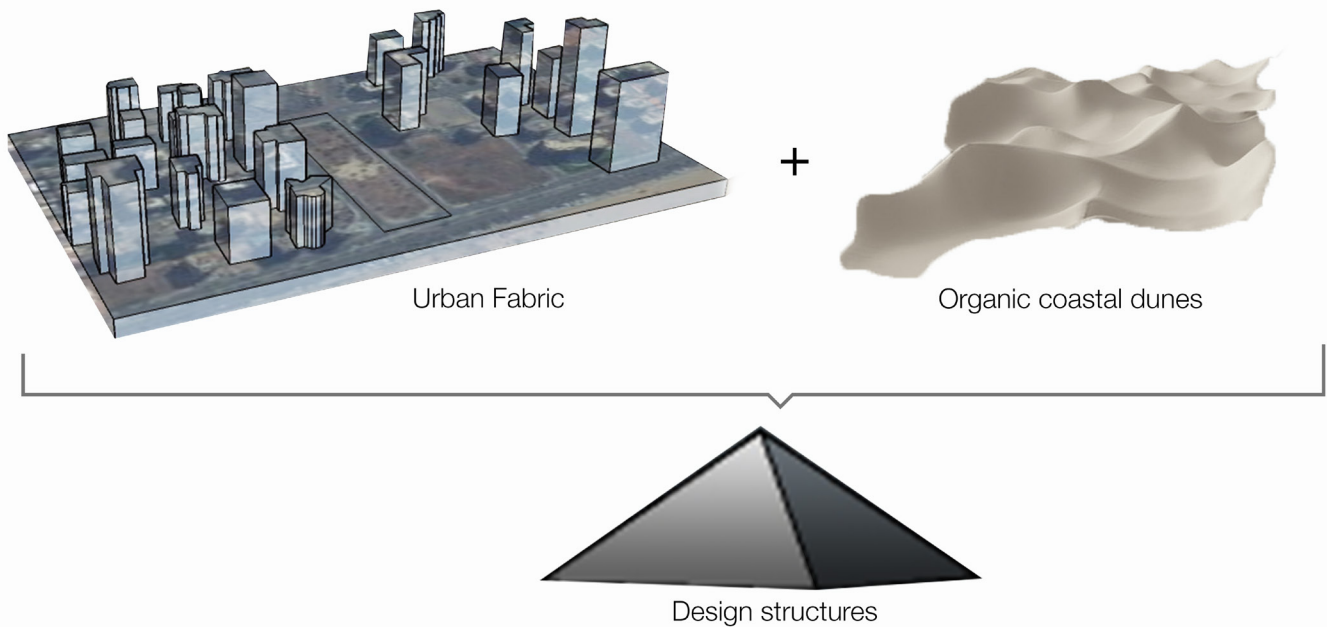
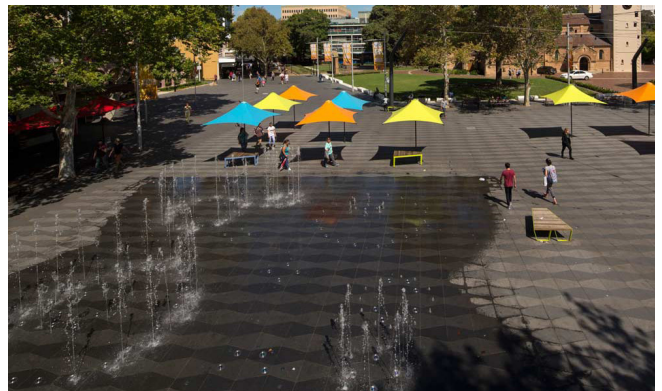
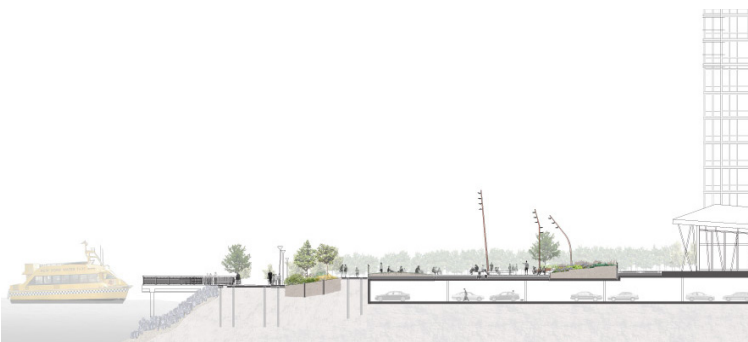
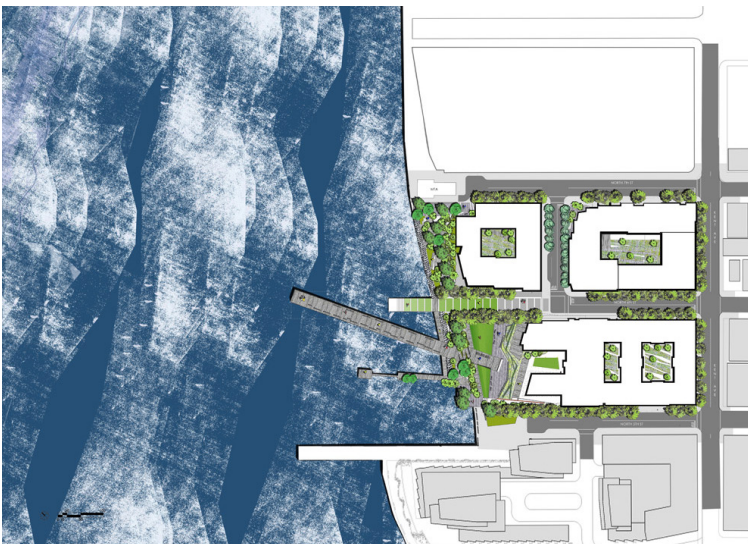


Figure 6.4 | Design structures concept

SCHEMATIC DESIGN | Mood board





EDGE PARK W Architecture

Location: Brooklyn, USA

Summary: The Edge Park seeks to bring people to the river and link the ecosystem with the fabric of the community. The design emphasizes the confrontation of forces at the water edge and encourages public use.

Problem: The waterfront has been dominated by industry and its relics for centuries making it off limit to the public.

Solution: New zoning changed the public interface with the water's edge by increasing density and emphasizing access.

Design Approach: New Urbanism: connections, walkability, blurring boundaries between land and water to benefit the community.

Elements of Design: Pedestrian greenway, sloping lawn, piers reach the water from within the park and stone river bank contrasts with concrete bulkhead.

Users: Residents

Considerations: Ecological and Community



AUTOBAHN HIGHWAY

Private company

Location: Hamburg, Germany

Size: 242800 sqm

Summary: Hide the highway underground and cover it with green space to reconnect a divided city.

Problem: Busiest highway divides the city in two.

Solution: restitching the neighborhoods through green spaces and reduce noise pollution.

Design Approach: Green network.

Elements of Design: Open meadows, woods, bikes paths, community gardens, tree-lined squares, etc.

Users: Residents.

Considerations: Sustainable design and healthy living.

07
DESIGN
DEVELOPMENT



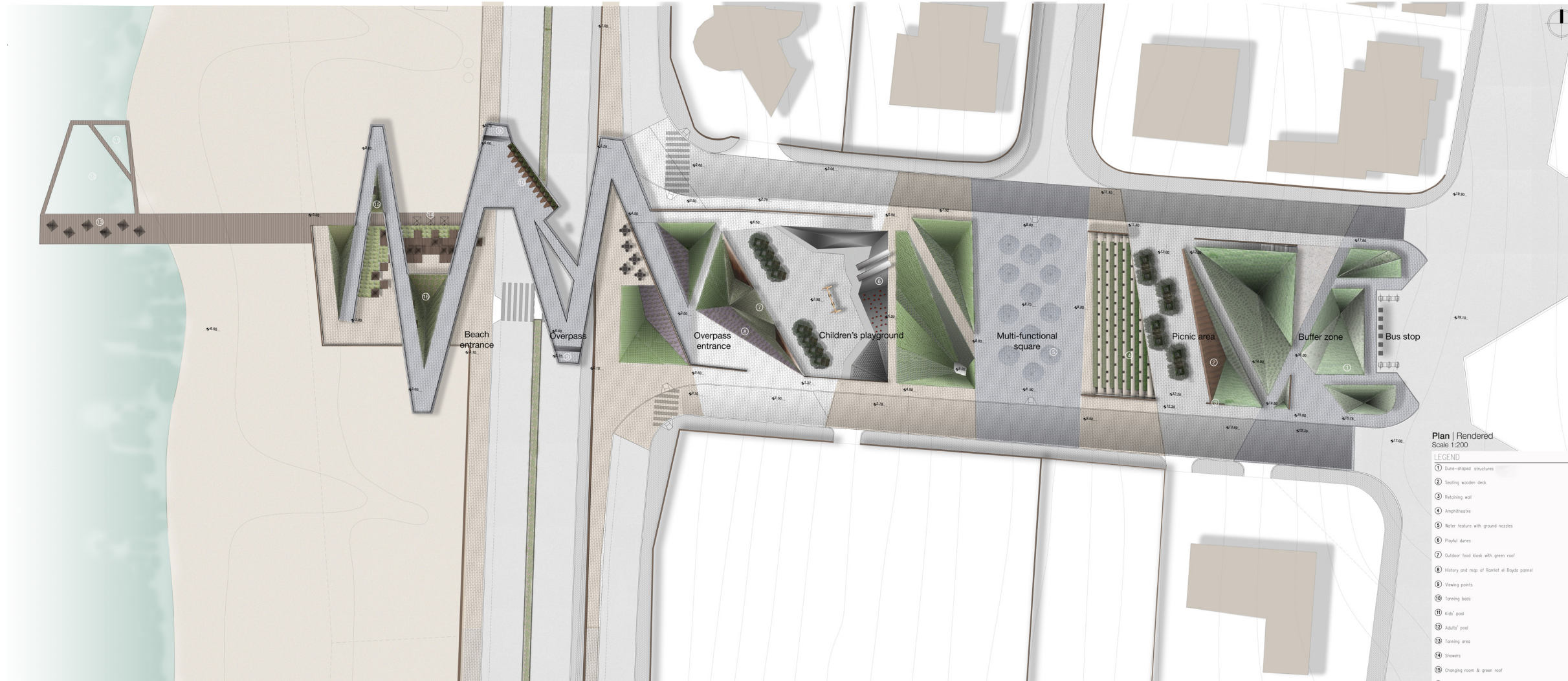


Figure 7.1 | Rendered plan

Beirut lacks public open spaces. This simple approach that revolves around placefulness and new urbanism can be applied to other remnant gardens in the city.

The design deals with transforming the garden from an abandoned space into an integrated place. Moreover and aims on enhancing the quality of urban life.

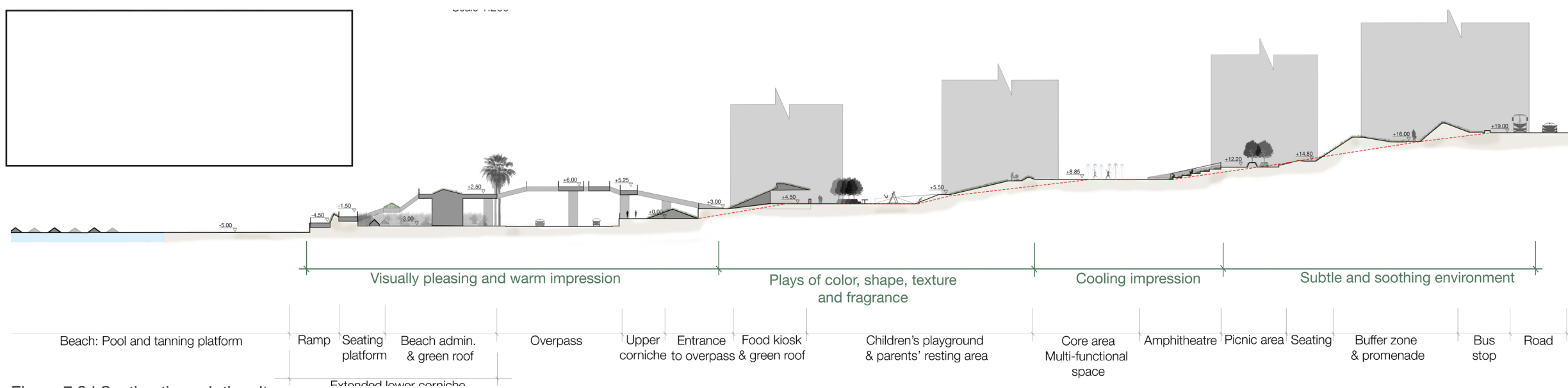
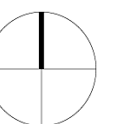


Figure 7.2 | Section through the site



DESIGN DEVELOPMENT | Sections

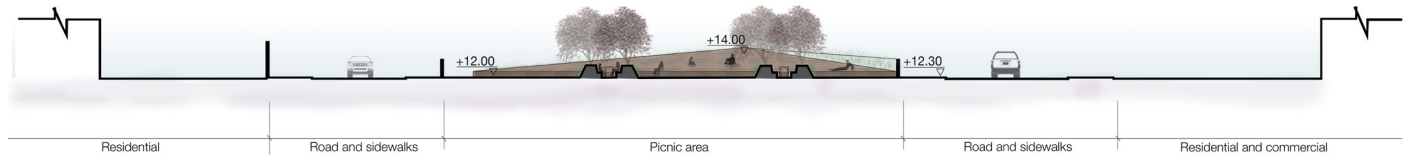


Figure 7.3 | Section through the picnic area

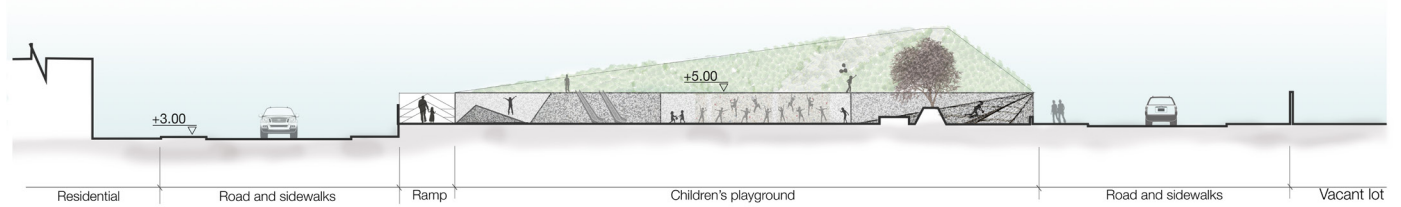


Figure 7.4 | Section through the playground

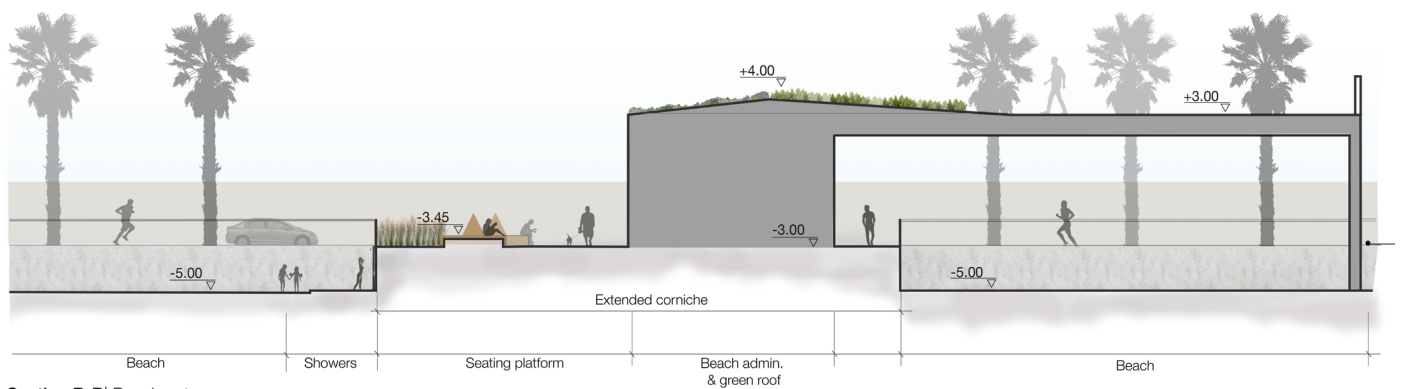


Figure 7.5 | Section through the beach entrance

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT | Perspectives

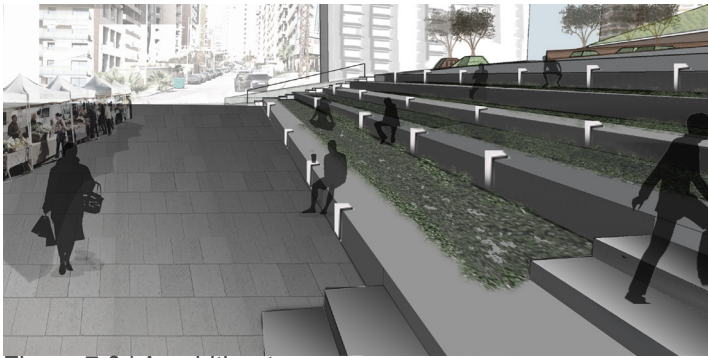


Figure 7.6 | Amphitheatre

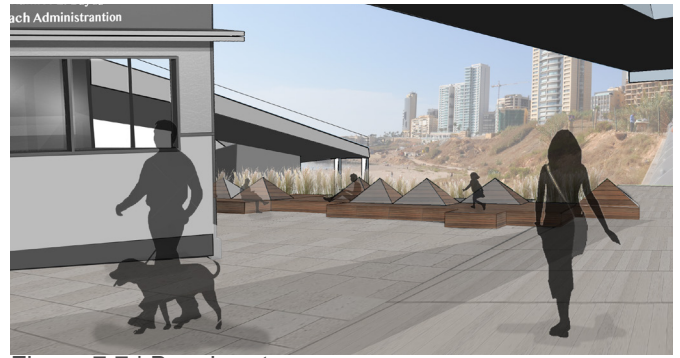


Figure 7.7 | Beach entrance

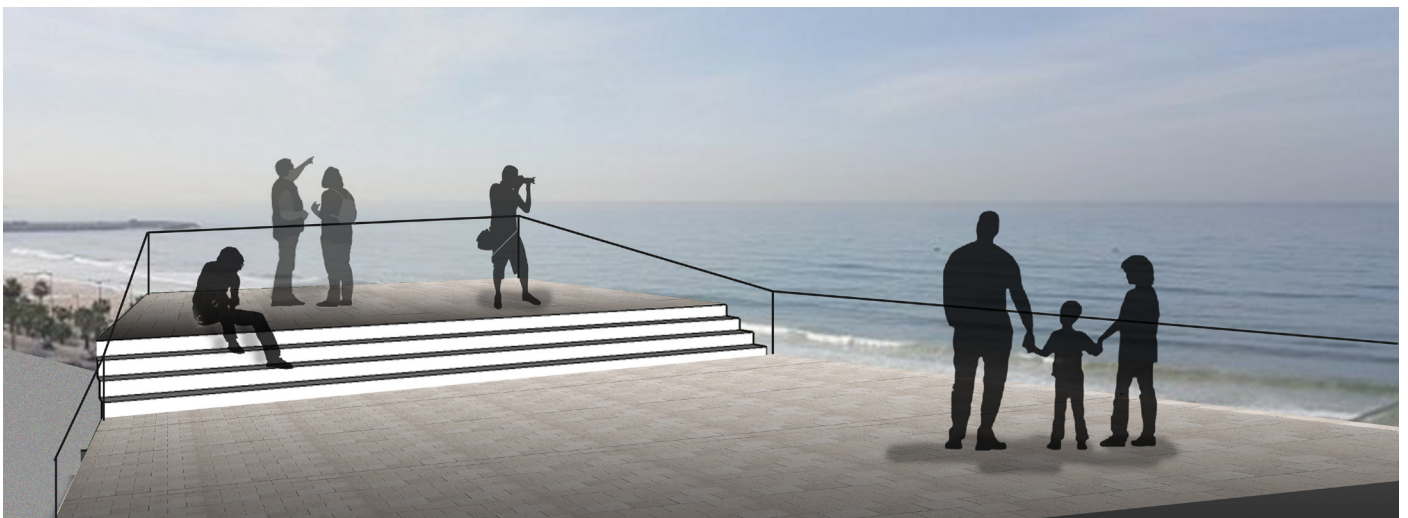


Figure 7.8 | Southern viewing platform



Figure 7.9 | Overpass above the beach

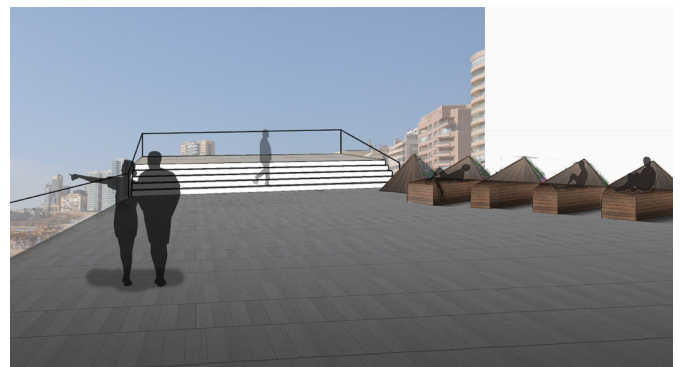


Figure 7.10 | Northern viewing platform and tanning beds

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT | Perspectives



Figure 7.11 | Multi-functional square

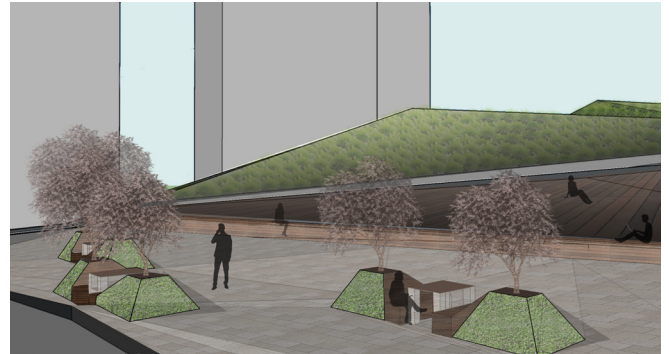


Figure 7.12 | Picnic area

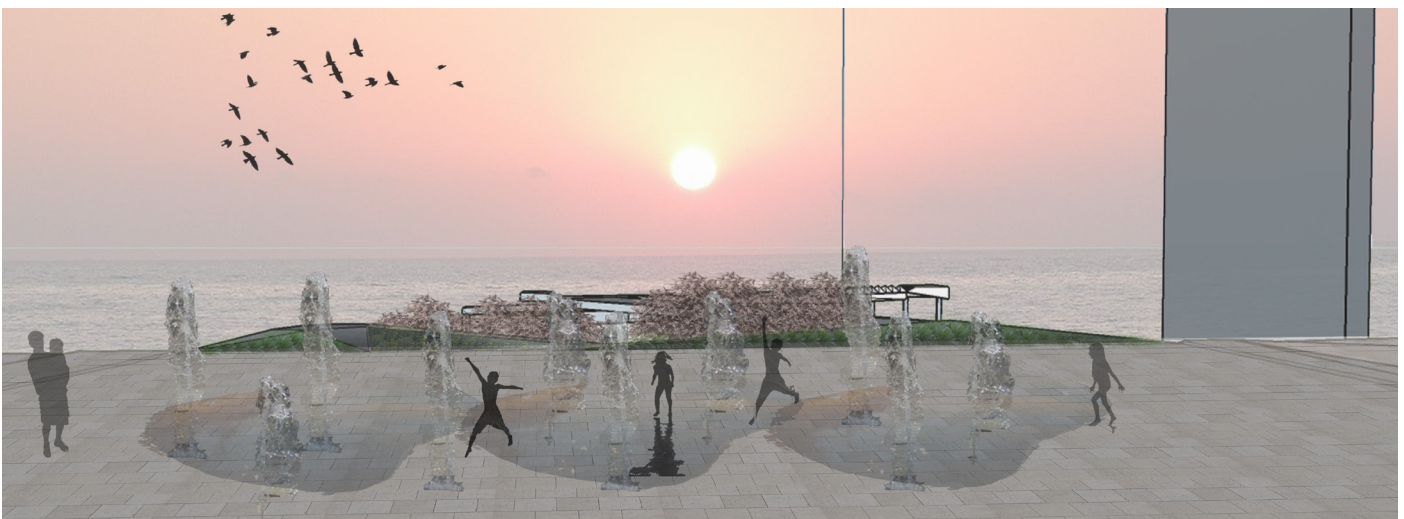


Figure 7.13 | Multi-functional square



Figure 7.14 | Pool



Figure 7.15 | Upper corniche

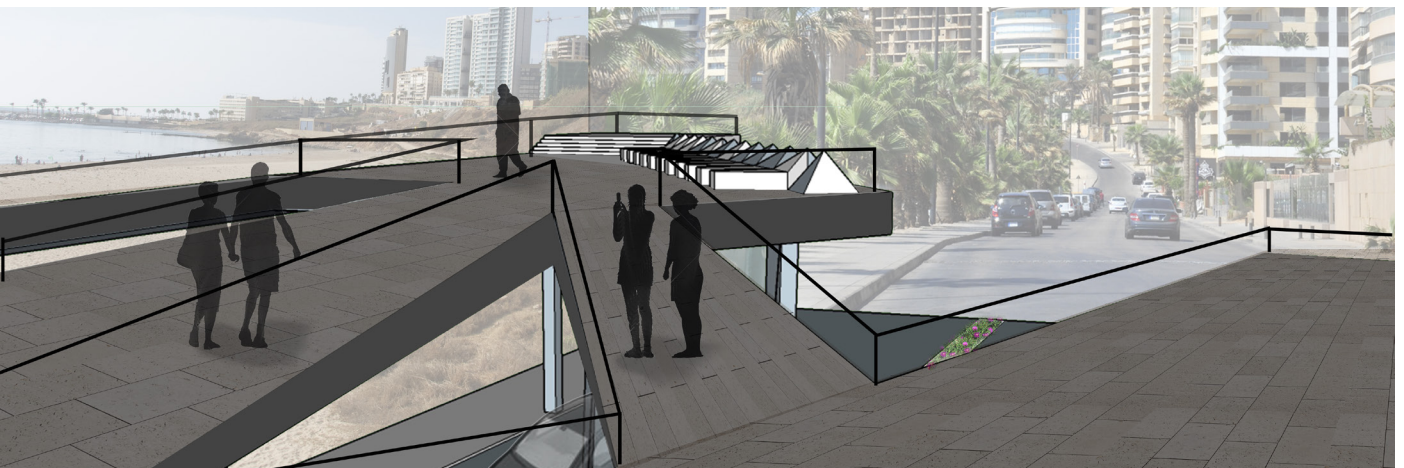
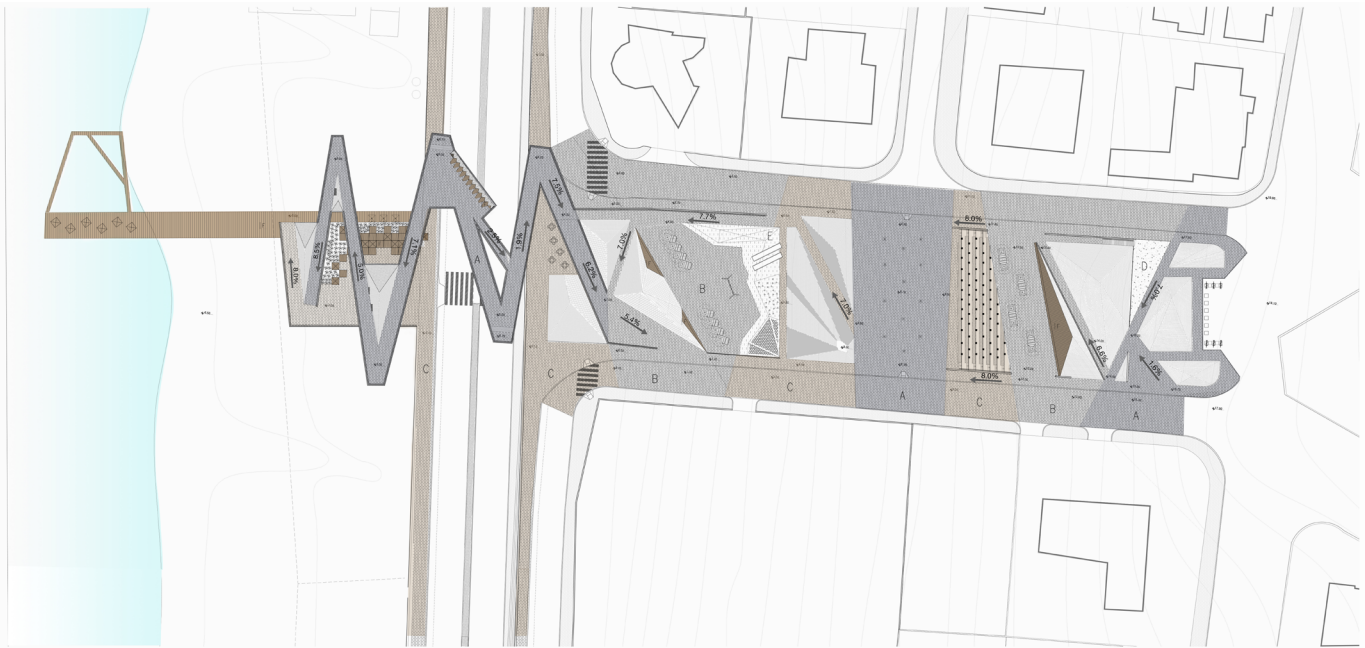


Figure 7.16 | Overpass overview

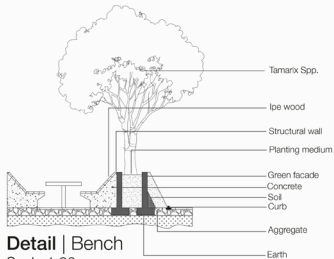
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT | Details



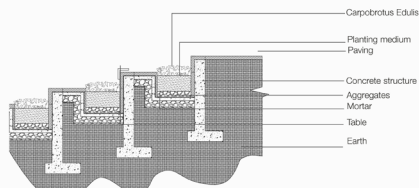
Plan | Hardscape
Scale 1:500

MATERIAL SCHEDULE

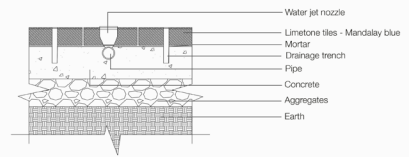
SYMBOL	MATERIAL	LOCATION	COLOR	DIMENSIONS	APPLICATION
[Symbol]	LIMESTONE PAVERS	BUFFER ZONE, CORE AREA AND OVERPASS	MANDALAY BLUE	30CM X 30CM	SLIP RESISTANT
[Symbol]	LIMESTONE PAVERS	PROMENADE, OVERPASS ENTRANCE	LIGHT GRAY	30CM X 30CM	INTERMEDIATE COLOR
[Symbol]	LIMESTONE PAVERS	BEACH ENTRANCE AND TRANSITION AREA	BEIGE	30CM X 30CM	UNIFORMITY
[Symbol]	GRAVEL	BUFFER AREA	GRAY	N/A	TEXTURE
[Symbol]	RUBBER SURFACES	CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA	SHADES OF GRAY	N/A	SAFETY
[Symbol]	IPS WOOD	FURNITURE AND BEACH DECK	RED-BROWN	1.20M X 1.20M	DURABLE AND RESISTANT



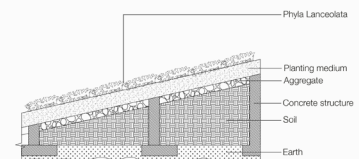
Detail | Bench
Scale 1:20



Detail | Amphitheatre
Scale 1:20



Detail | Water jet nozzle
Scale 1:10



Detail | Bench
Scale 1:20

Figure 7.17 | Hardscape details

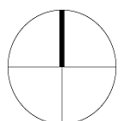
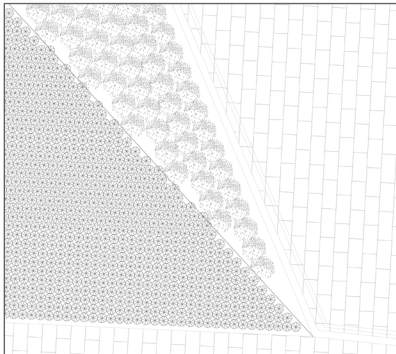
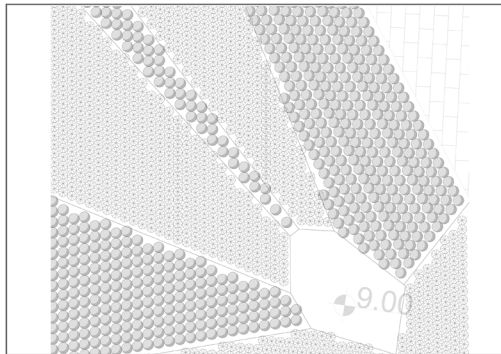




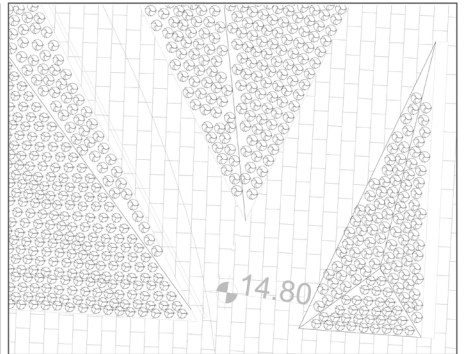
Figure 7.18 | Softscape details



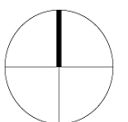
Zoom-in | Overpass entrance
Scale 1:100



Zoom-in | Children's playground
Scale 1:100



Zoom-in | Buffer
Scale 1:100



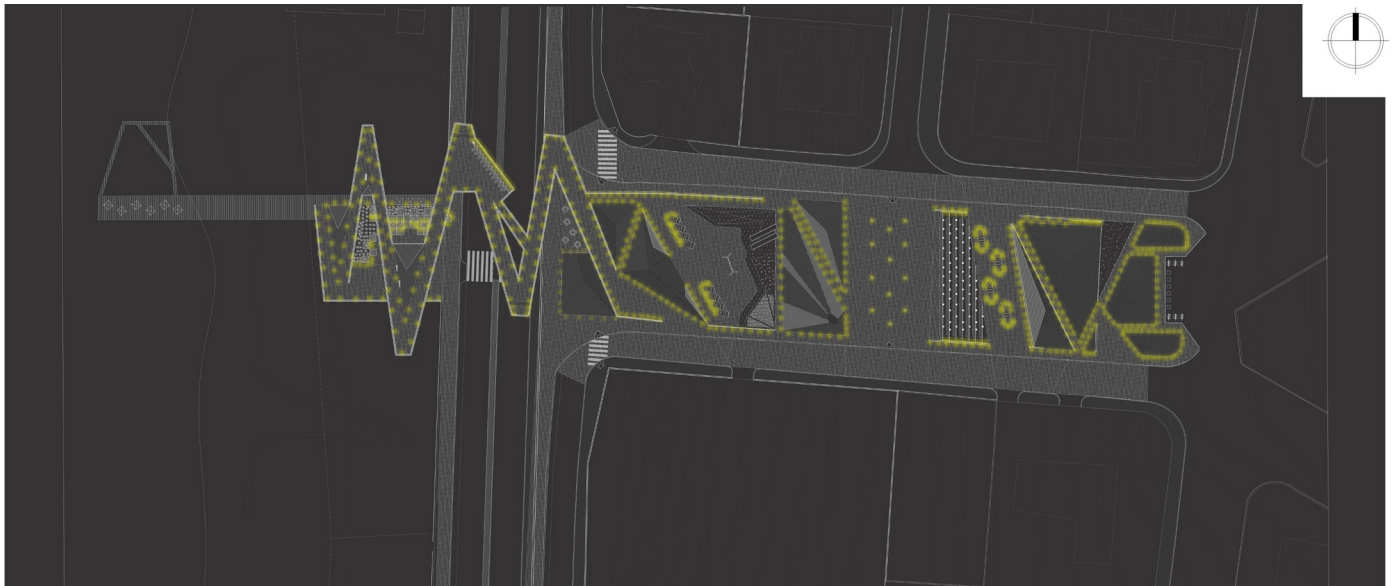
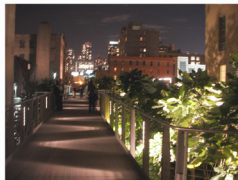


Figure 7.19 | Lighting plan



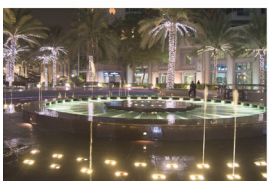
Mood | Path Light



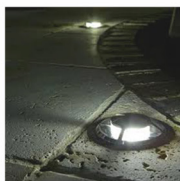
Mood | Floating bench



Mood | Lower overpass lighting



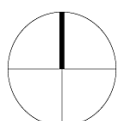
Mood | Water feature lighting



Lighting fixture



The lighting aims on creating a particular atmosphere at night. The lighting mood chosen focuses on highlighting the pathways between the different planting structures. This will provide a safe environment for visitors and guidance within the designed site.



08

REFERENCES



REFERENCES

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