

An aerial photograph of a city grid, showing a road that leads from the urban area into a forested area. The image is faded and serves as a background for the text.

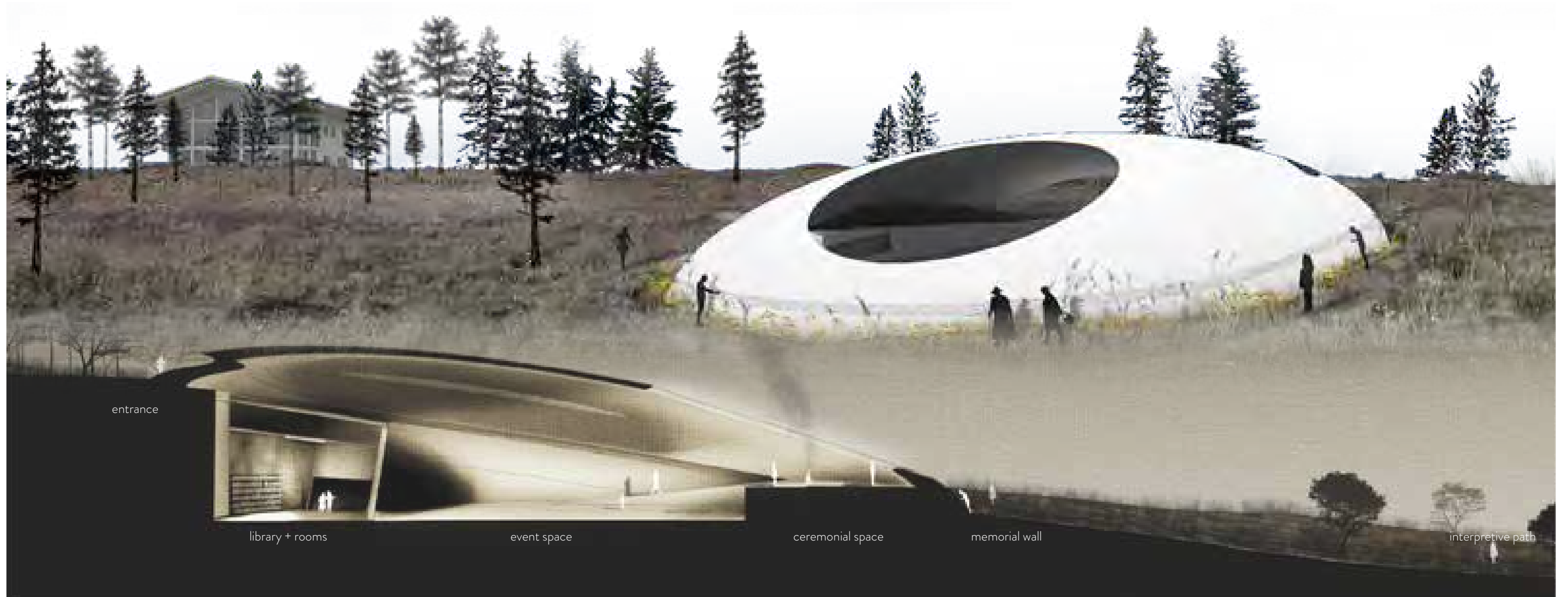
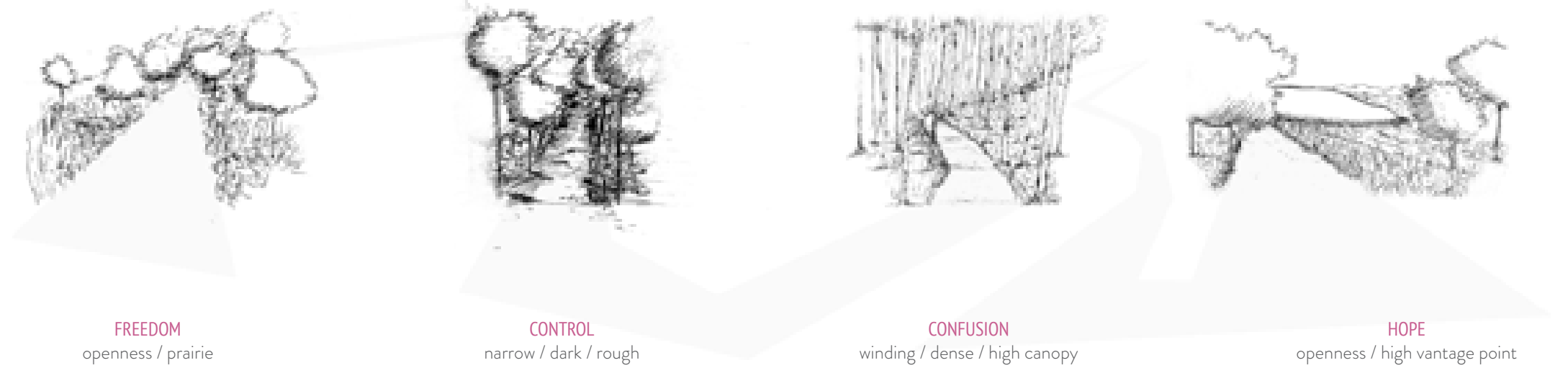
CARL VALDEZ

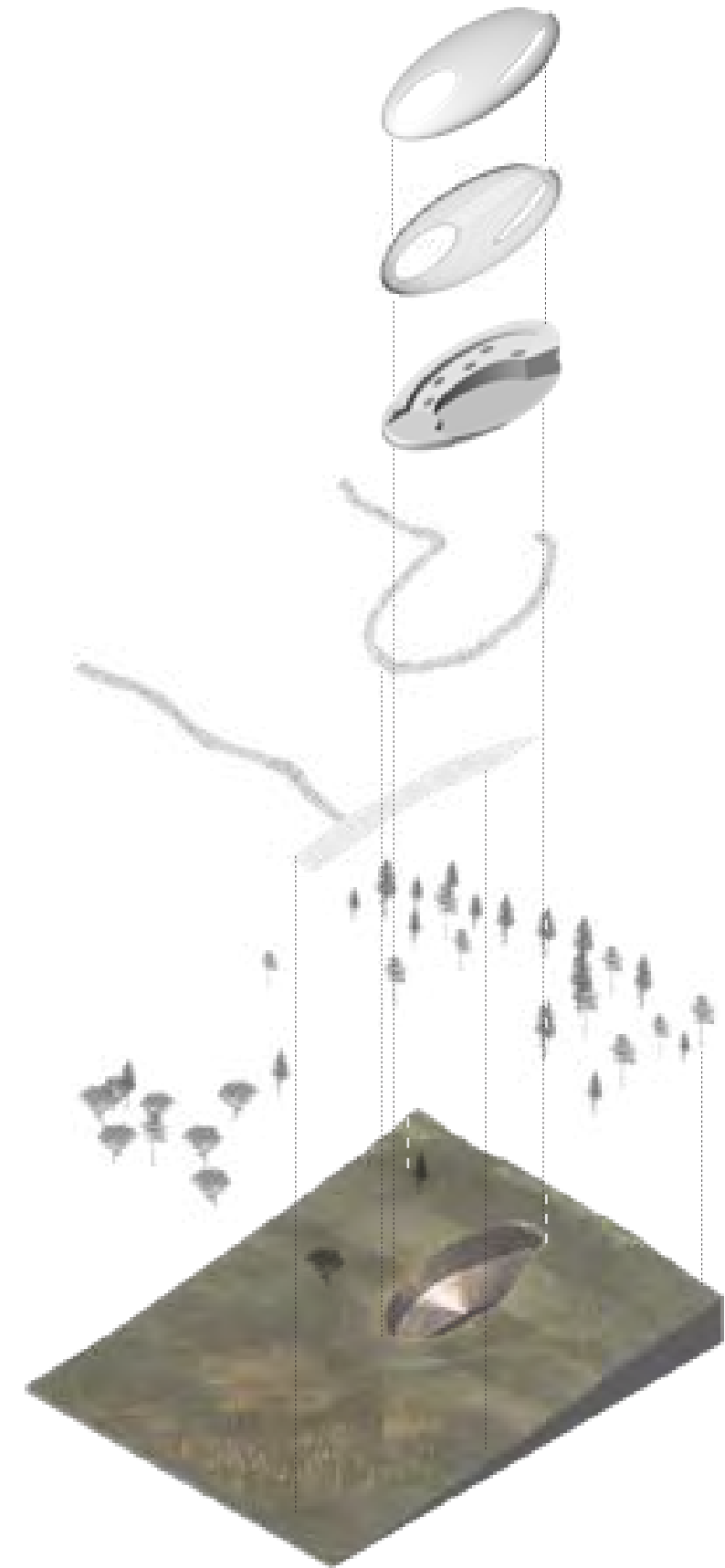
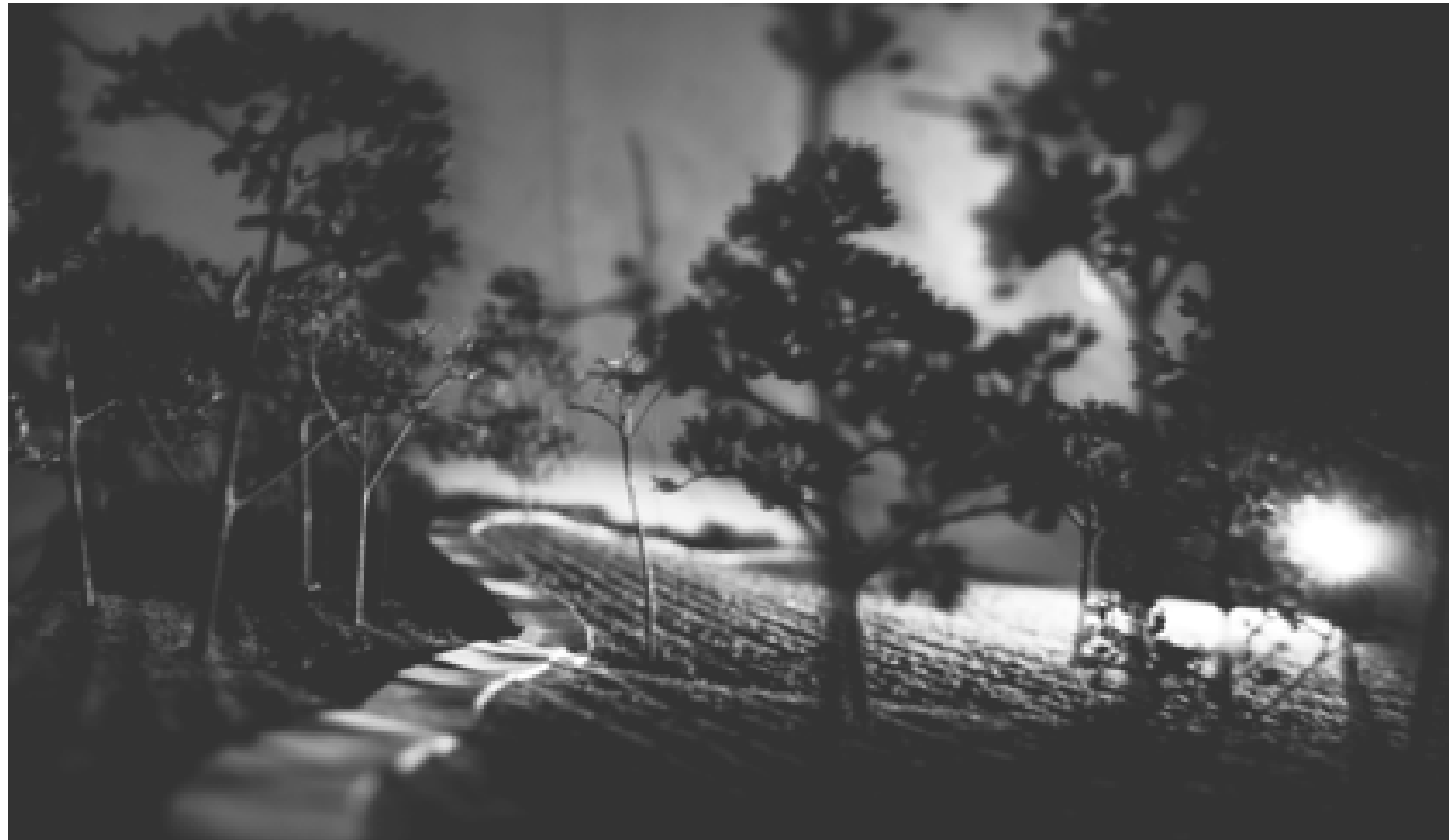
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE SELECTED WORKS

TRAIL OF MEMORY

Term Winter 2017 | **Project** Haunted Houses : Healing Landscapes | **Location** Brandon, MB, Canada
Course Studio 4 individual project | **Instructor** Dr. Karen Wilson Baptist

The Trail of Memory, a conceptual idea of an interpretive path that subtly represents the history of the site using landscape design and vegetation through a journey, aims to serve as part of the survivors' healing process towards hope and release from all the scars left by the residential schools. A dome building with an open hole in the ceiling, will serve as the heart of the healing lodge. Along the walls of the building, names of the victims will be engraved and will serve as a memorial space for them. The space between the wall and the path will serve as a space for prayer and commemoration of the residential school victims. The design of the building aims to be a simple and subtle representation of hope and looking into the future by taking in the beauty of the surrounding landscape, looking away from the place where the school used to stand. Located inside the building is a museum where visitors can learn about the history of the Brandon Industrial Residential School, and a community centre for people, both survivors and visitors, can come together and help each other through the process of healing and reconciliation.





ECHOES OF THE VOID

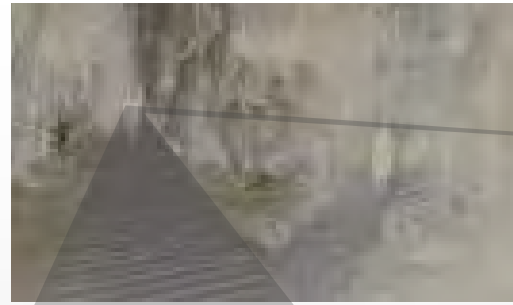
Term Winter 2018 | **Project** Regional Studio | **Location** Fort Qu'Appelle, SK, Canada
Course Studio 4 individual project | **Instructor** Brenda Brown, Ryan Coates, Rob Zonneveld

The site is an abandoned delta in Fort Qu'Appelle in Saskatchewan. The abandoned delta used to be part of Echo Creek that once flowed into Echo Lake before it was diverted to flow into Mission Lake in the 1980's. The delta used to be a source of living and a place for natural diversity. However, the diversion of the creek destroyed its ecosystem. A place once full of stories and life and was considered an important site in the community is now dead and abandoned. The concept of Echoes of the Void is to use the a strong narrative in developing a new connection between the abandoned delta and the people of Fort Qu'Appelle. The relationship of the people with the delta and the effects of its destruction to the community of Fort Qu'Appelle is analogous to the myth The Legend of the Qu'Appelle Valley by E. Pauline Johnson wherein the death of the young Cree protagonist's lover changed his perspective about the the 'beautiful vale'. The design aims to deliver an open interpretation of the different stories with the narrative as the common language, while subtly conveying the relationship between the destruction of the once important landscape and human interventions.

entrance



gravel path



opening



wetland

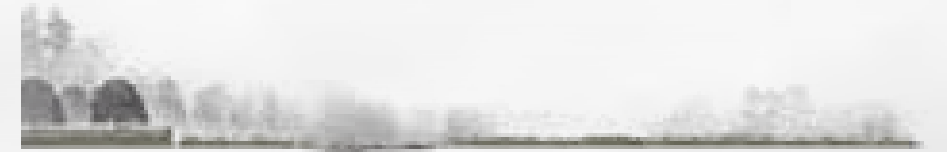


willow forest

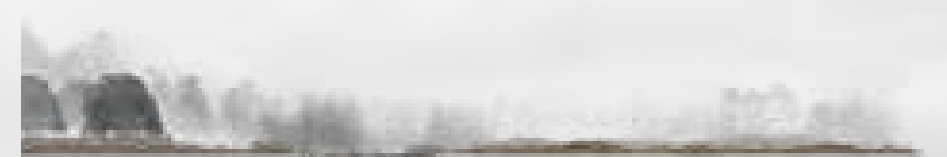
dark & mossy understory

viewing point

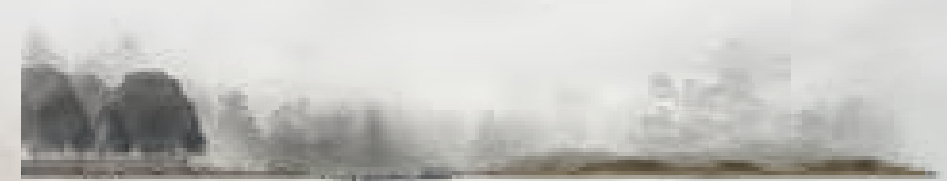
YEAR 1



YEAR 10



YEAR 20



small oxbow

abandoned meander



The 160 meter long wooden boardwalk leads to the main terminus of the interpretive wetland trail – a 10 meter high elevated platform overlooking Echo Lake and the rolling hills of the Qu'Appelle Valley. This stretch of the trail elevates the users upon the abandoned landscape revealing them to the beach ridge that lines up the lake caused by the deposition of sediments that destroyed the delta, as well as the significant relationship of people with water. The funnelling wind from the lake and the high elevation brings forth a sublime experience as you are revealed to life and death – a metaphor of the death scene in the myth wherein the lover's death causes the man to change his perspective about the beautiful valley. The design aims to deliver an open interpretation of the different stories, while subtly conveying the relationship between the destruction of the once important landscape and human interventions.



aspen forest

elevated platform

claud glass installation

wetland

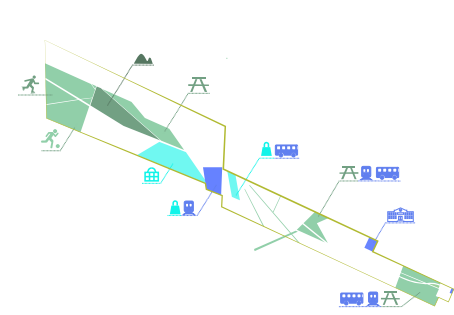
beach ridge

Echo Lake

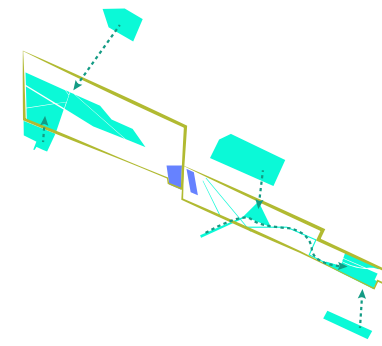
CONVERGENCE

Term Fall 2016 | **Project** Dwelling Precinct Life - Resilient City | **Location** Winnipeg, MB, Canada
Course Studio 3 group + individual project | **Instructor** Dr. Richard Perron & Leanne Muir

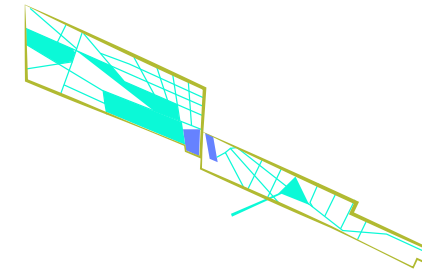
The project dealt with revitalizing the Weston and Dufferin Industrial railyards. These industrial areas served as important economic nodes of the city of Winnipeg. Neighbourhoods grew around them to house workers and businesses. However, as the city's economic focus shifted to other areas, the railyards have become a barrier that separates the north end to the rest of the city. The concept of Convergence imagines the site on two fronts which aims to provide a cultural, social, and economic center for the city, specifically for the north end that has been separated from the rest of the city because of this 'barrier'. This place will provide a place for Winnipeggers to come together, removing this divide that has been established by the industrial yards. The place will include sports and recreational facilities, food services, public markets, cultural spaces, and affordable residential and educational centres which will reconnect the north both to its surrounding neighbourhoods and to the rest of the city with the help of a new light rail system using the remnants of the old railyard that will connect to other important nodes in the city. Bike paths and a rapid transit system will also help improve the accessibility of the other from different parts of the city. The convergence of different cultures within the site will reflect the unique diversity of culture that the city possesses.



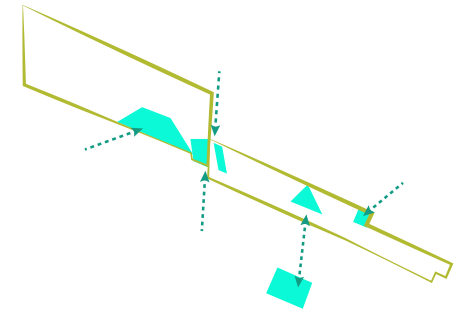
functions



green spaces



pedestrian + cycling



amenities



ECOLOGICAL



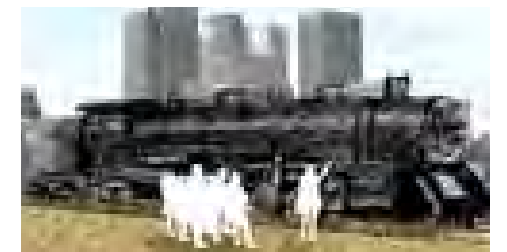
RECREATIONAL



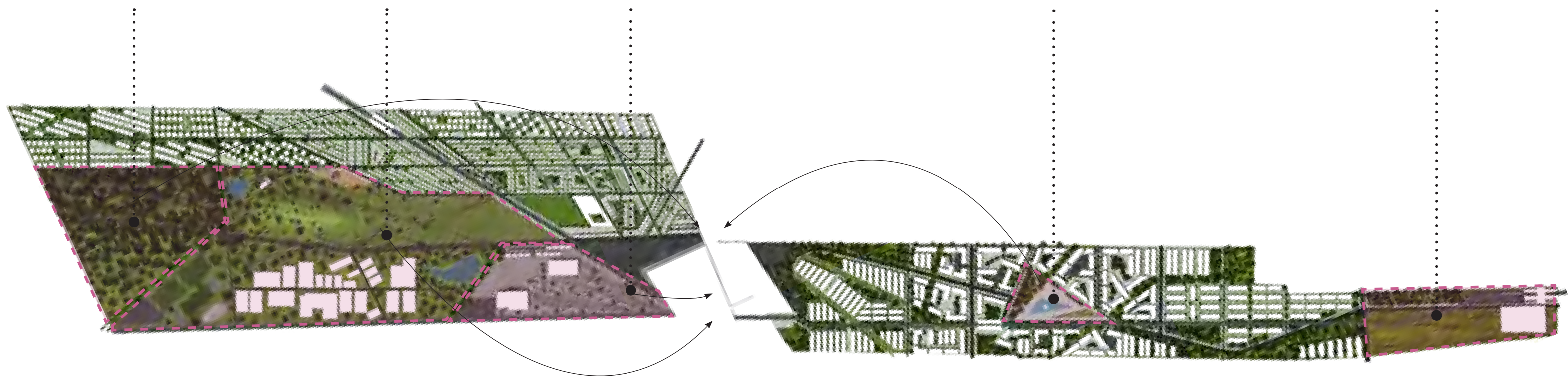
CULTURAL

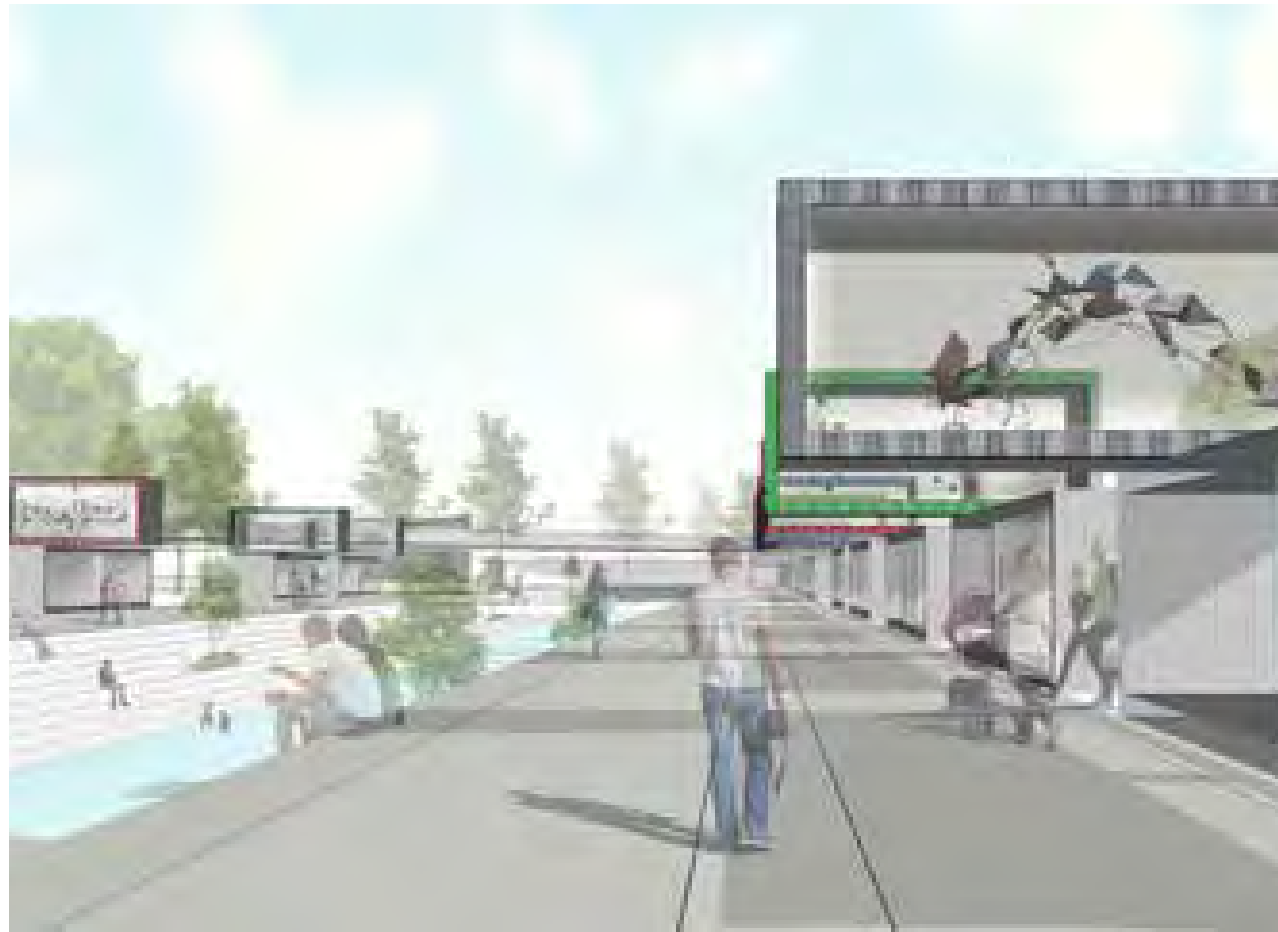


SOCIAL



EDUCATIONAL

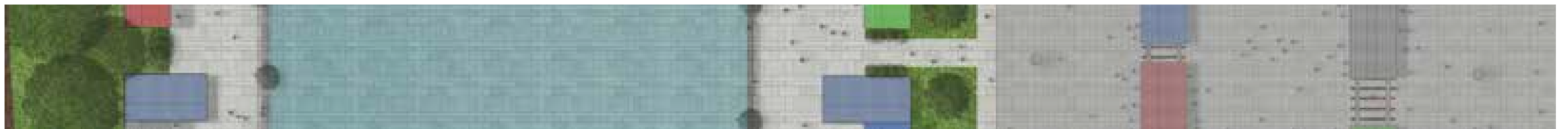




For the individual part of this project, I chose to focus on the design detail of the plaza that my group proposed. This will serve as a cultural hub for the city where remnants of old the old railyard will be preserved through the form of shipping containers that will house local businesses and parklets for shoppers. A water drainage feature with water flowing from the ecological area will serve as an attraction to the site. A public market which becomes indoor and outdoor depending on the season will be housed in an old railyard shop. Lastly, an 'active trail' will serve as a connecting / transitional space between the nearby industrial and forested areas. The site aims to have these spaces work together to encourage social cohesion and the celebration of Winnipeg's diversity.

CULTURAL 'ART BOXES'

'Art boxes' which are stacks of shipping containers containing art from different cultures within glass boxes. As shoppers walk along the promenade, these art pieces would be visible above them which would promote the diverse culture that the city has.

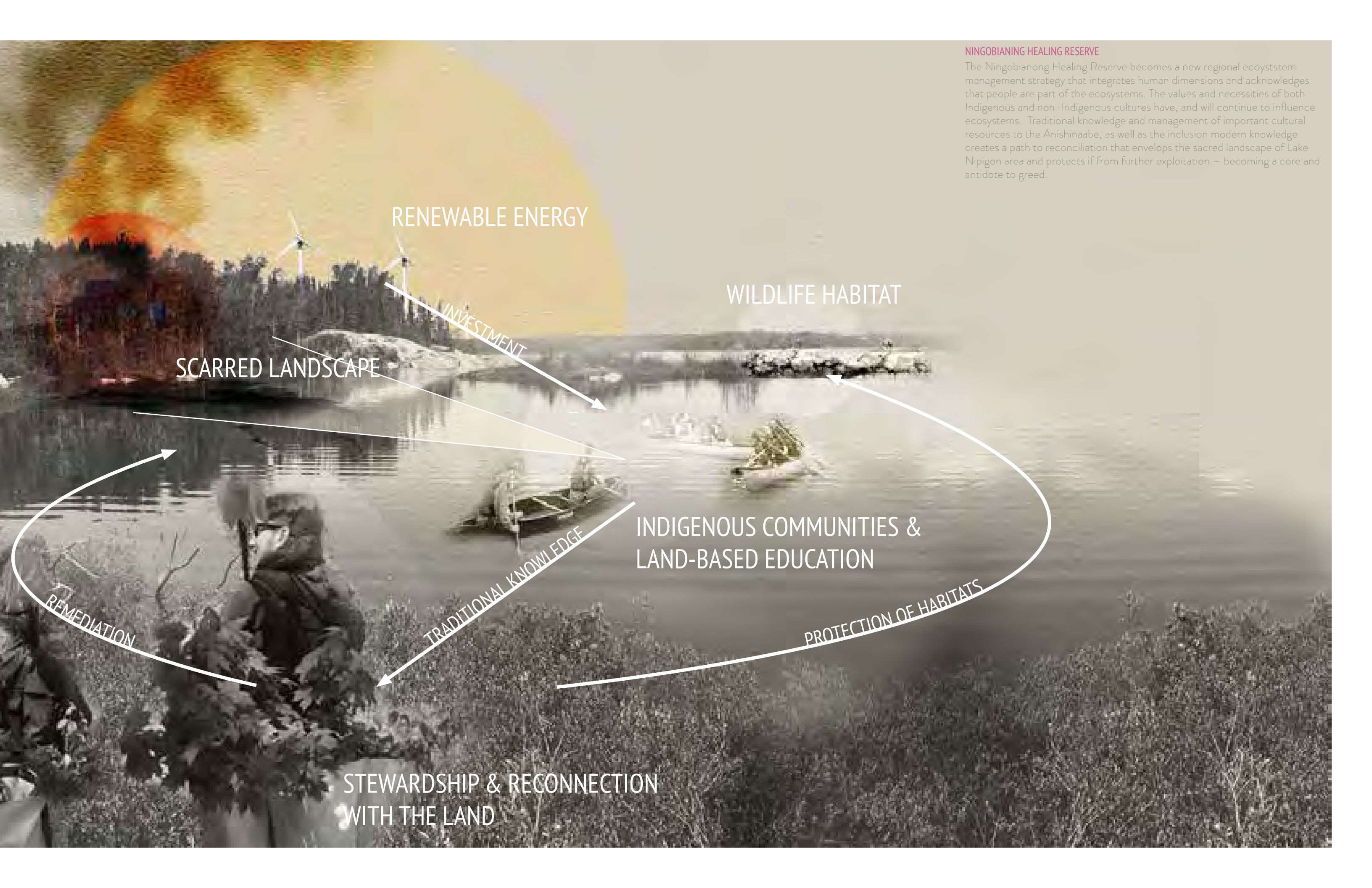


SACRED + SCARRED

Term Fall 2018 | **Project** Regional Studio | **Location** Thunder Bay District, ON, Canada
Course Studio 3 individual project | **Instructor** Dr. Marcella Eaton

This project involved the study of the district of Thunder Bay, located on the northern shore of the largest freshwater lake in the world, on a regional scale and analyzing its history, networks, geology, and demographics among many others through various methods such as GIS mapping, site visits, and the use of books and other research materials. The research and analyses of the region included the rich history and culture of the Anishinaabe in the region peoples in the region and how they have become attached with its landscape. The project heavily focused on the dependence of the region on industrial activities especially resource extraction and how this has started to not only the environment, but also social and cultural layers. The pollution of the landscape have brought forth alarming conditions within the regions and have greatly affected its people, especially Indigenous communities - a manifestation of the the sixth fire of the Anishinaabe's Seven Fires prophecy. The exploration looked into integrating traditional knowledge and its sacred treatment of the land into the modern context as a way to counteract the scarring of the landscape within a region of slow demise.





NINGOBIANING HEALING RESERVE

The Ningobianong Healing Reserve becomes a new regional ecosystem management strategy that integrates human dimensions and acknowledges that people are part of the ecosystems. The values and necessities of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultures have, and will continue to influence ecosystems. Traditional knowledge and management of important cultural resources to the Anishinaabe, as well as the inclusion modern knowledge creates a path to reconciliation that envelops the sacred landscape of Lake Nipigon area and protects it from further exploitation – becoming a core and antidote to greed.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

WILDLIFE HABITAT

SCARRED LANDSCAPE

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES &
LAND-BASED EDUCATION

STEWARDSHIP & RECONNECTION
WITH THE LAND

INVESTMENT

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

PROTECTION OF HABITATS

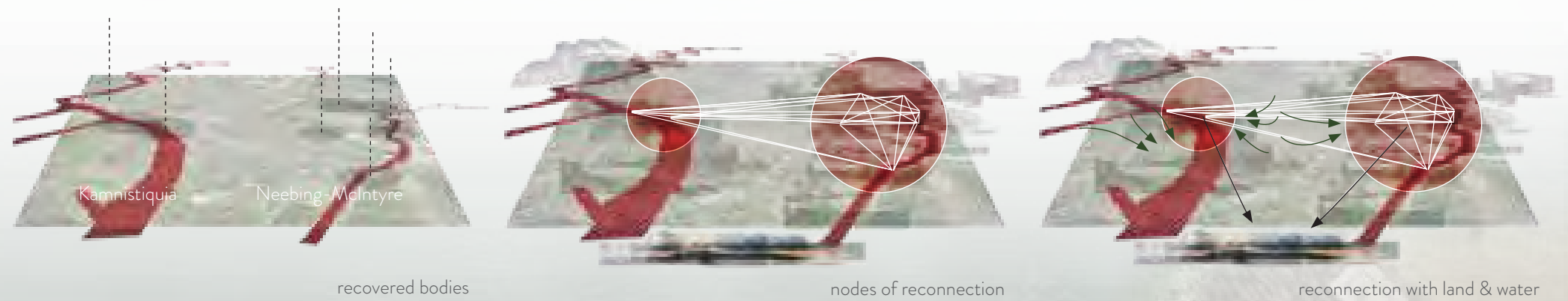
REMEDiation

RIVER OF TEARS

Term Winter 2019 | Project Urban Studio | Location Thunder Bay, ON, Canada
 Course Studio 4 individual project | Instructor Dr. Alan Tate

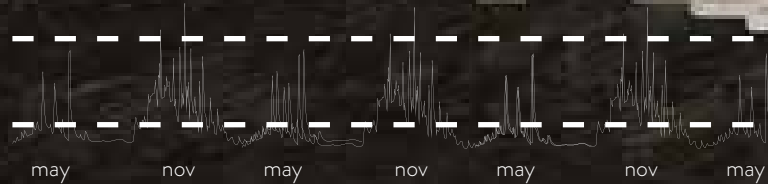
The River of Tears Memorial Park aims to commemorate the lives of the Indigenous kids of Thunder Bay that have died or gone missing within its vast network of waterways, as well as remove the notion that the rivers of the city have become places for death and violence by reconnecting the community back to the water and revealing its importance - water as life. The memorial park aims to invite people in through a plaza and gathering space, offer a public-to-private transitional place of journey to the water where visitors could interact with it and allow for memorial ceremonies & rituals, and lastly, reveal a secluded place for people to be isolated from the city and contemplate. A series of Northern Pin Oak marker trees located on the other side of the floodway from the memorial aims to represent the lives of the children that have been taken away. A water feature that leads the eye to the marker trees across the water framed by native prairie grass aims to add a temporal element to the memorial by working with the seasonal change in water levels, creating a space for people that adapts with the regular flooding within the site.

FRAMEWORK



Most of the Indigenous children who have gone missing within the city's waterways went missing in the months of May and November. This story is subtly revealed through the water feature located at the highest point of the park which aims to be a dynamic gathering space and a play area that works with the conditions of the floodway's rising and receding water levels. The

months when the water level is the highest in the floodway coincides with the months of the year the children have gone missing. A catchment basin at the end of the rill adjacent to the water collects water from the floodway. At low water levels, the feature is a seating area. During high water levels, it becomes a water feature, creating a temporal element to the space.



GENERAL PATTERN OF PRIMARY WATER LEVELS

+187 m
highest point
 +185 m
maximum water level (spring & fall)
 +183 m
minimum water level (summer & winter)



MAIN PATH + LAWN AREA



WATER FEATURE + RED TREES



STEPS + RILL



LOOKING BACK

HETCH HETCHY AQUEDUCT PARK

Term MLA Thesis + Practicum Project | Location Menlo Park, CA, USA

Research Adviser Dr. Karen Wilson Baptist | Internal / External Adviser Brenda Brown / Alexandra Boese

The park is designed to be experienced on a pedestrian level with various site elements and distant views working with each other to create a meaningful experience that unfolds the history and importance of the Bay's tidal marshlands. As one walks towards the Bay using a series of paths and boardwalks, the dynamic forces of the water reveal the shifting coastline through overlapping timelines and how materials reacts to its slow but certain movement inland. The rusty metal on the aqueduct pipes, the decaying wood planks of abandoned salt pond infrastructure and farm houses, the wires and poles of nearby power lines, and the diverse plant life of California's coast - as these materials respond to the Bay water, the landscape changes - becoming the chronograph itself. And as the chronograph is revealed, curiosities are heightened, raising awareness about the Bay, the tidelands, and the rising sea levels.



existing public access



existing industrial elements



proposed access / paths



pedestrian / community engagement

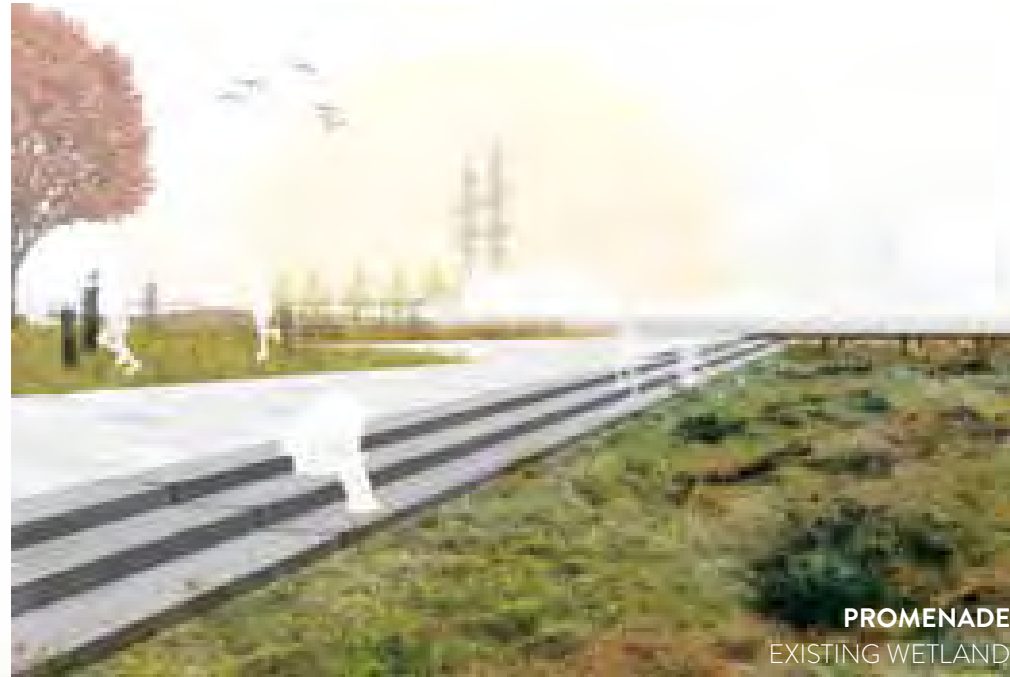


chronograph / wetland





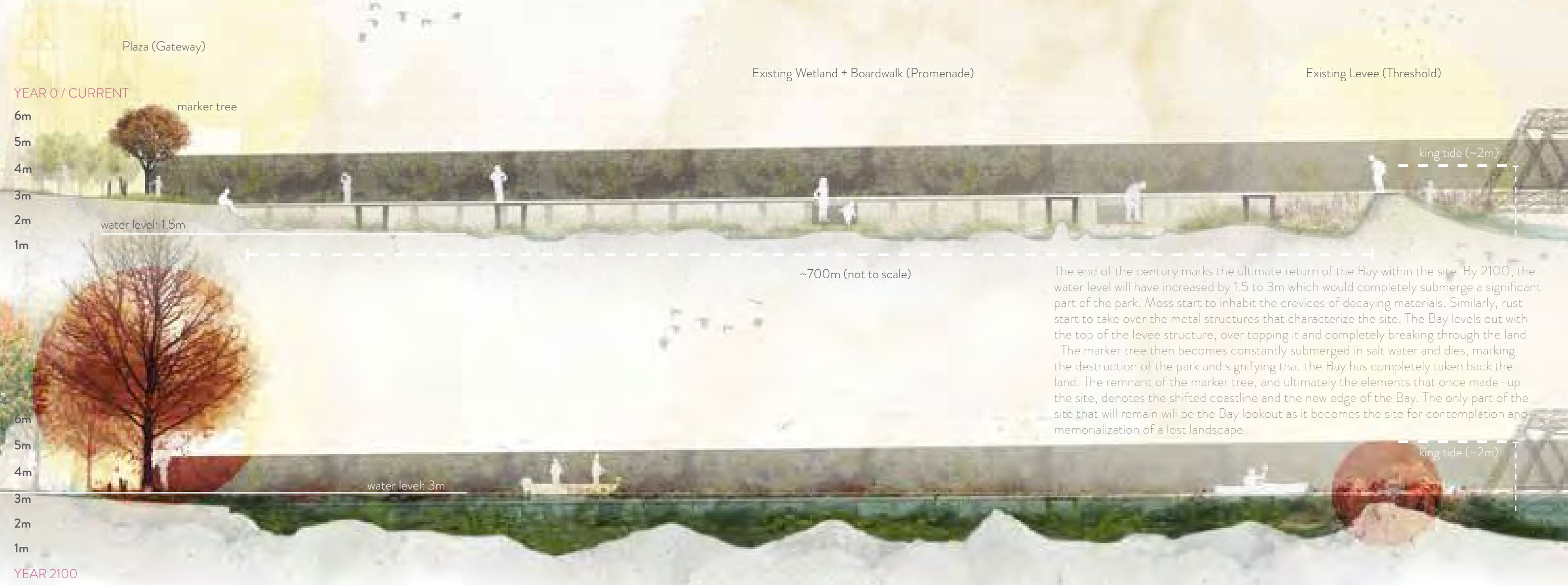
GATEWAY
WINDING PATHS + MEADOW



PROMENADE
EXISTING WETLAND



THRESHOLD
EXISTING LEVEL



The end of the century marks the ultimate return of the Bay within the site. By 2100, the water level will have increased by 1.5 to 3m which would completely submerge a significant part of the park. Moss start to inhabit the crevices of decaying materials. Similarly, rust start to take over the metal structures that characterize the site. The Bay levels out with the top of the levee structure, over topping it and completely breaking through the land. The marker tree then becomes constantly submerged in salt water and dies, marking the destruction of the park and signifying that the Bay has completely taken back the land. The remnant of the marker tree, and ultimately the elements that once made up the site, denotes the shifted coastline and the new edge of the Bay. The only part of the site that will remain will be the Bay lookout as it becomes the site for contemplation and memorialization of a lost landscape.

PLAZA + PERGOLA + RESTORED NATIVE GRASSLAND
gateway

existing overhead
power lines

plaza open space

aqueduct pipes

native grass area

BAY LOOKOUT
threshold

rail bridge swing structure

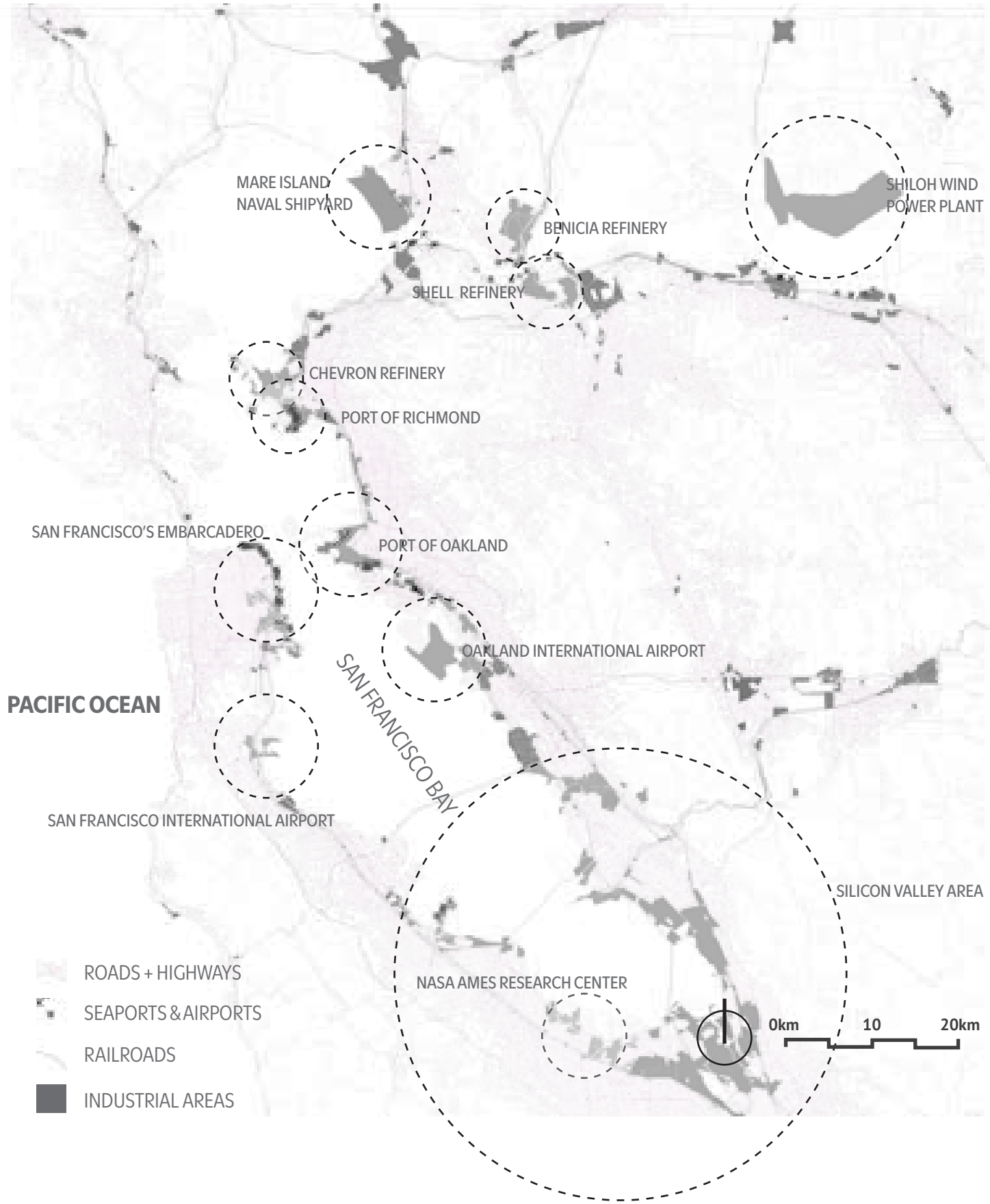
Dumbarton Highway Bridge

Dumbarton Rail Bridge

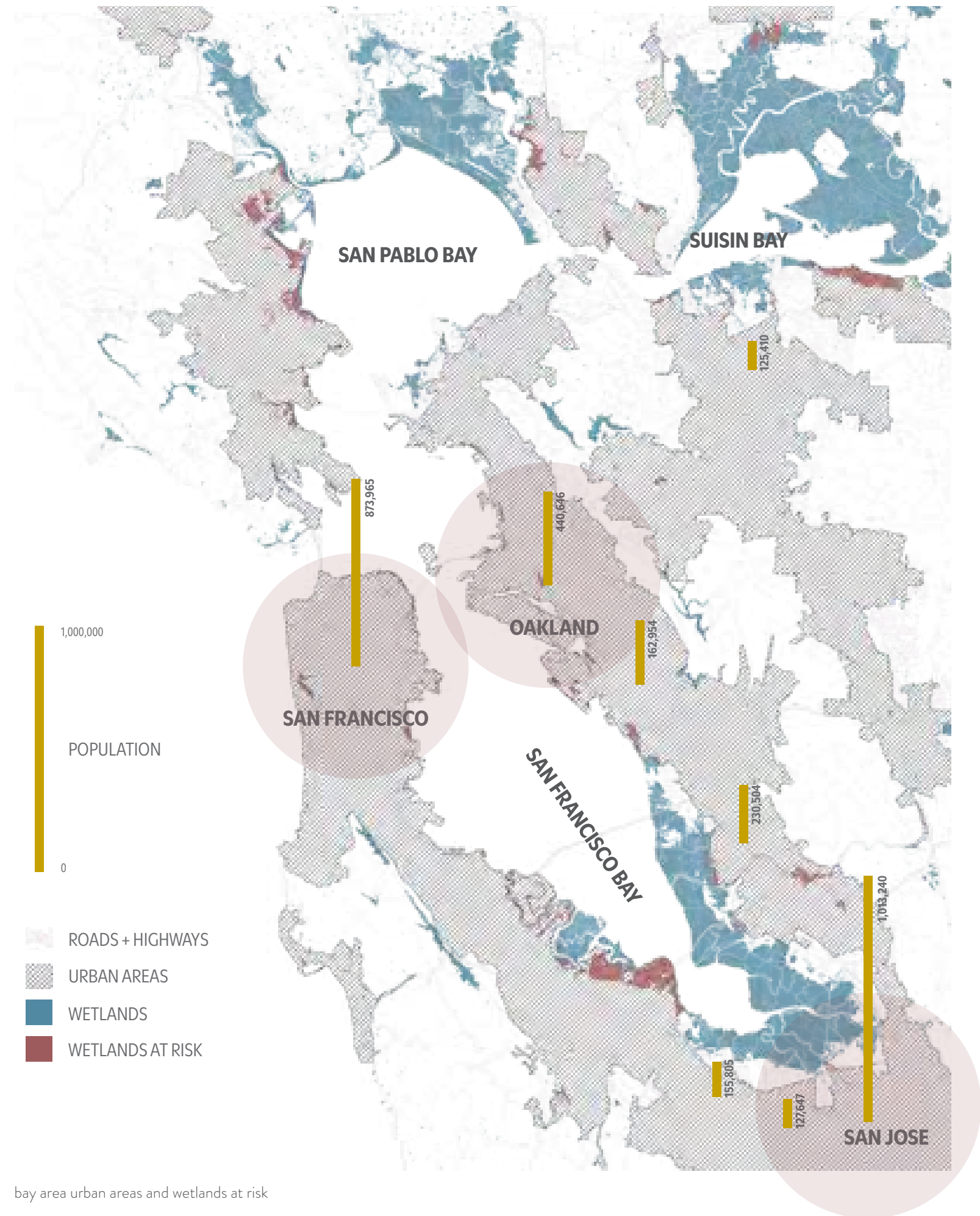
aqueduct pipes

rail bridge remnants from 1998 fire





bay area roads, rails, highways, ports, airports and industries



bay area urban areas and wetlands at risk

OTHER / ADDITIONAL WORKS



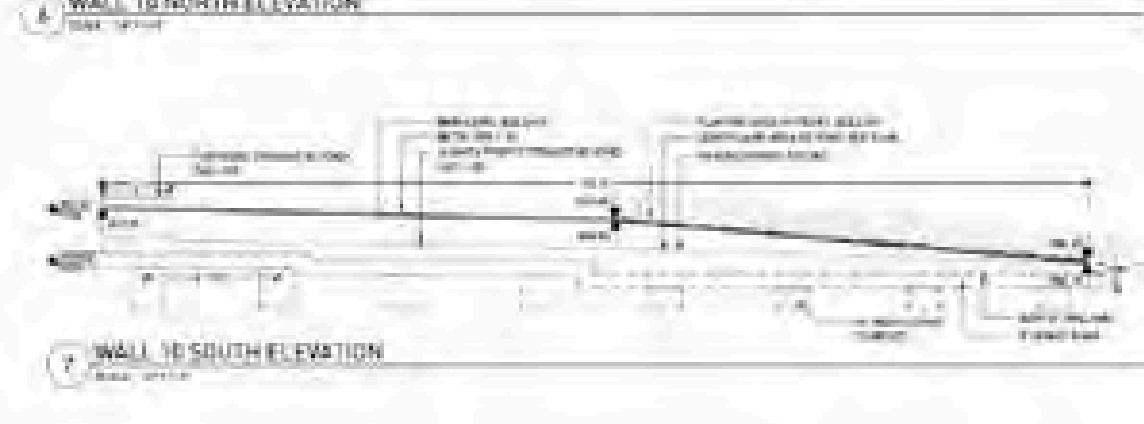
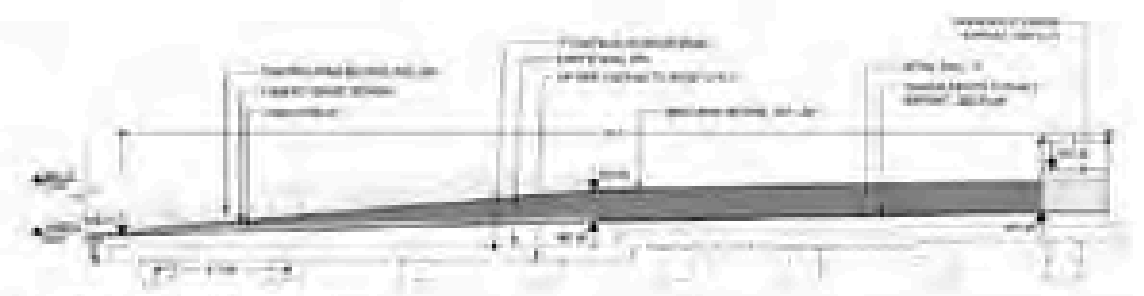
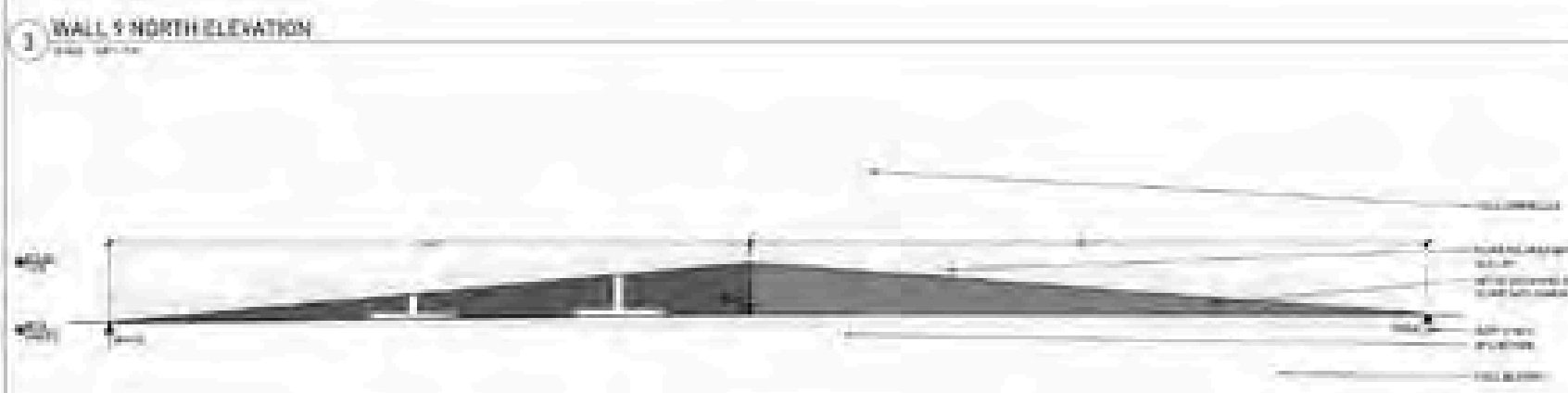
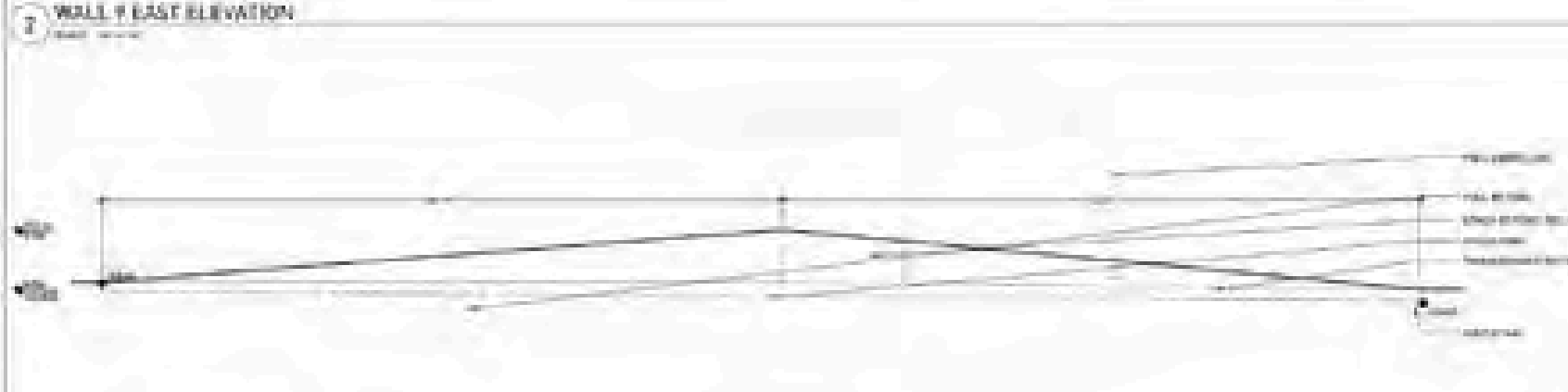
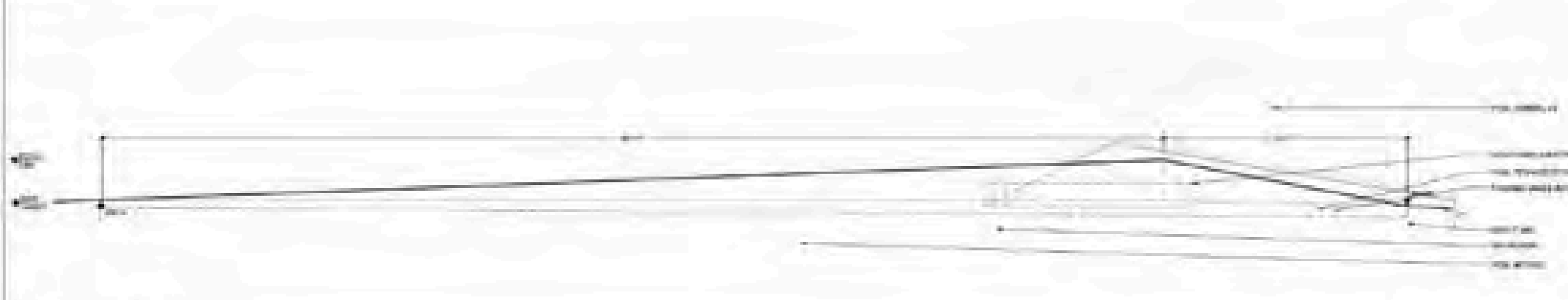
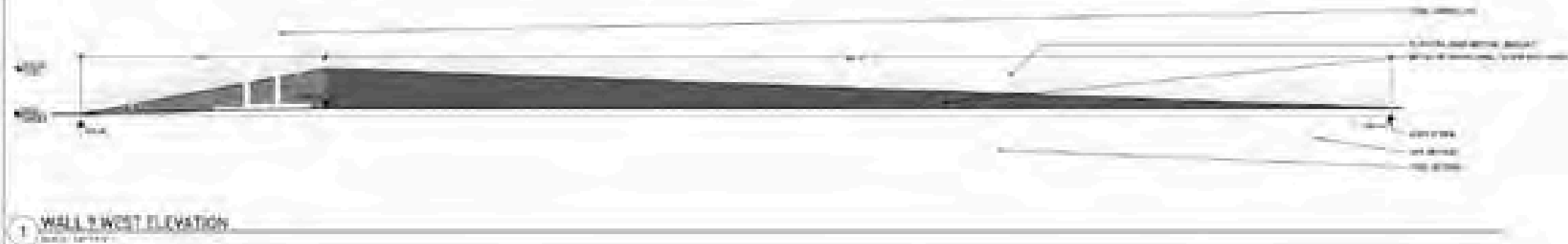
VIMY RIDGE MEMORIAL COMPETITION
Carl Valdez (w/ Desiree Theriault, Matt Peters, Kathryn McCudden)

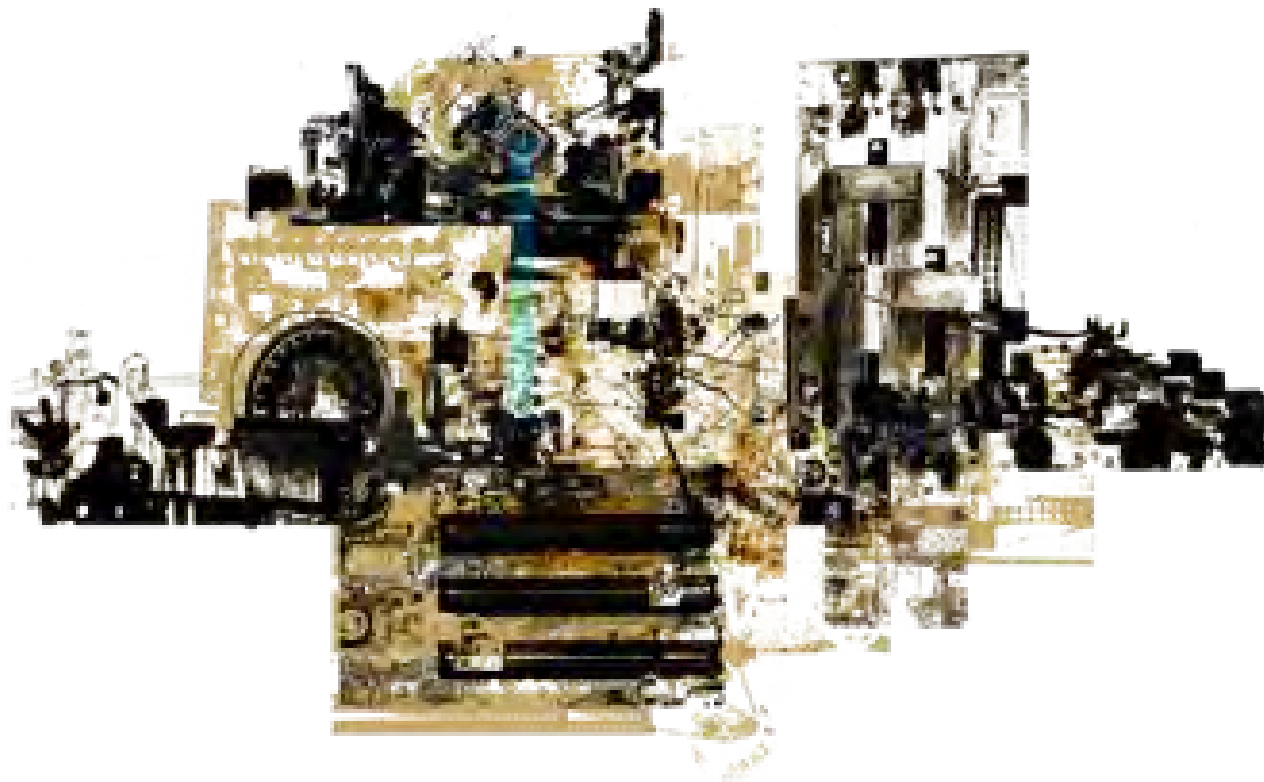




SECTION & DETAIL DRAWINGS

AUTOCAD

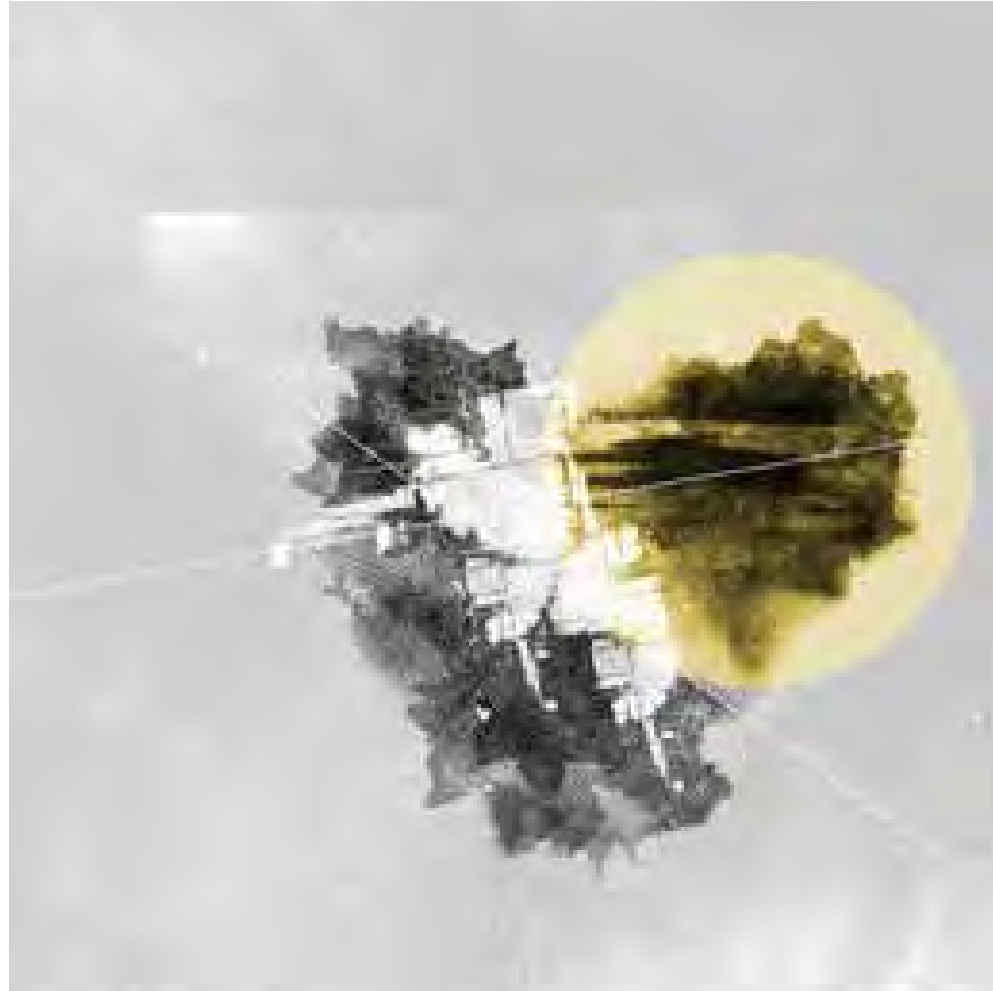


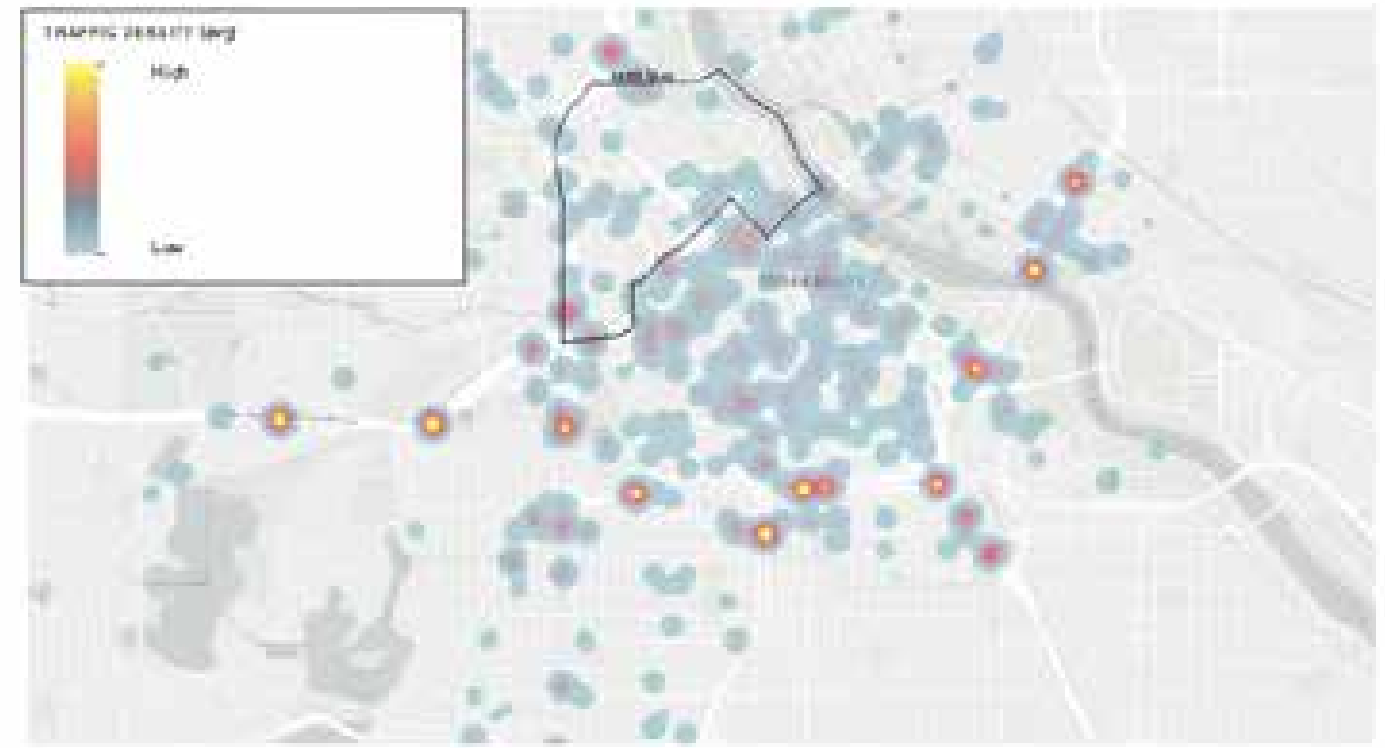


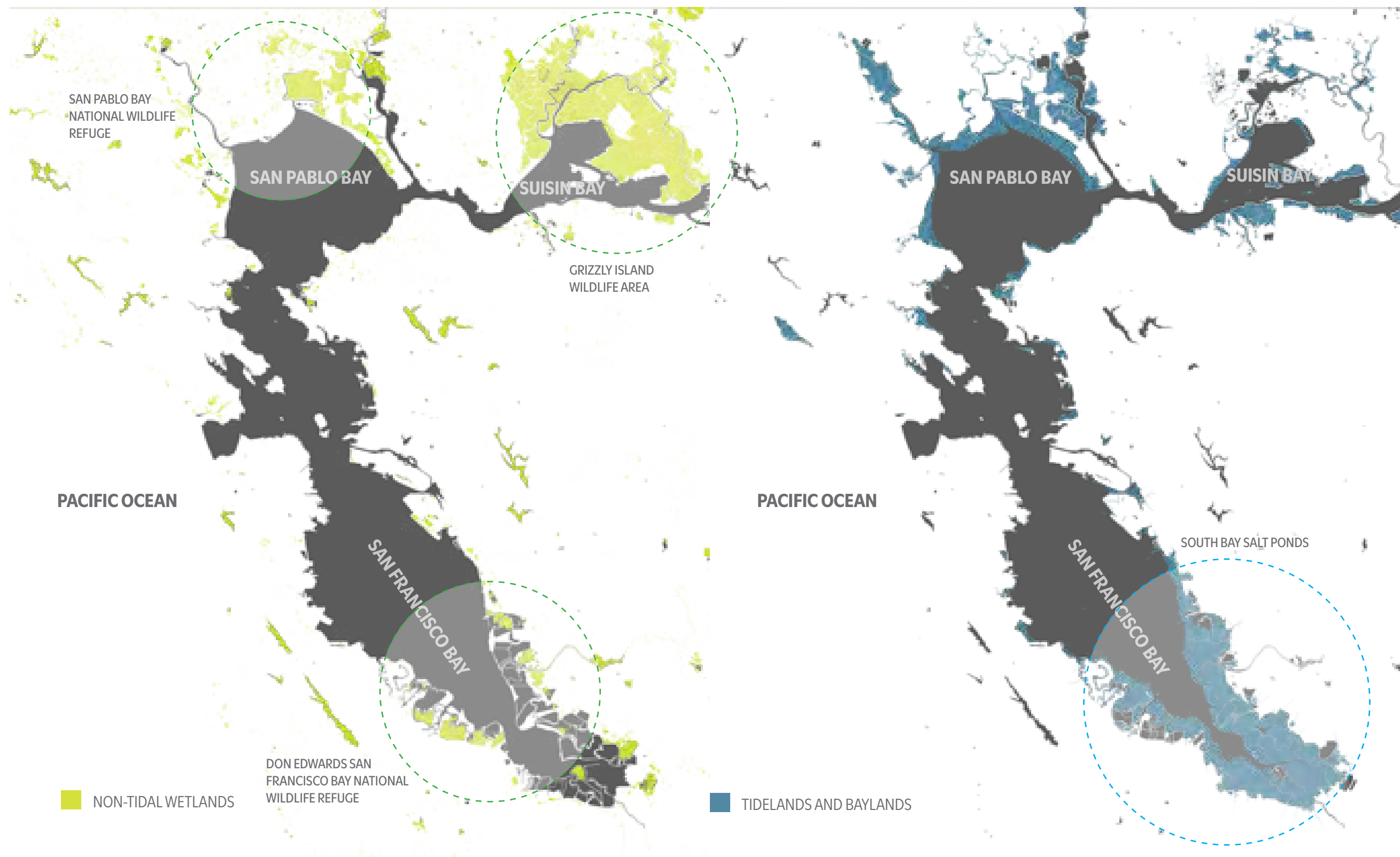
THE EMERGING CITY
Carl Valdez (Thesis + Practicum)



VANISHING SHORES
Carl Valdez (Thesis + Practicum)







WETLAND / TIDELAND INVENTORY
Carl Valdez (Thesis + Practicum)

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