



Nearly a century and a half after Thomayer conceived the park, some of his intentions are still clearly sensed, some are lost due to the ephemeral nature of a living monument, and some are less appropriate to our time.

When first realized, Charles Square was a showpiece of the art of gardening, and of fashionable contemporary urban life. This value is no longer present - the richness of the range of trees and plants has reduced, the park is shabby, the essential framing corso trees and the highly decorative showpiece garden in the central section are no more, and social problems are evident.

Our project aims to reanimate the space for contemporary urban usage, to replant and reimagine the eastern Corso as a structuring and animating element, and to affirm the open green central views. We propose to enrich the arboreal heritage and secure its future, and to renew shrub and low layer plantations in a contemporary way that does not preclude reversibility for future generations. The people and events commemorated in the monuments will be interpreted in the surrounding landscape.

Spaces for sociability, connectedness and community are increasingly demanded in today's cities. Dynamised by the reinvented Corso, our project encourages social activity throughout the square. As a public facility enhancing the urban lifestyle, Thomayer's 'salon' is reinterpreted as 'lounge'.

The structure and values of the park will not change but the multiple subtle interventions of the project open a new regard, revealing the qualities of the square, its memory, and its history.

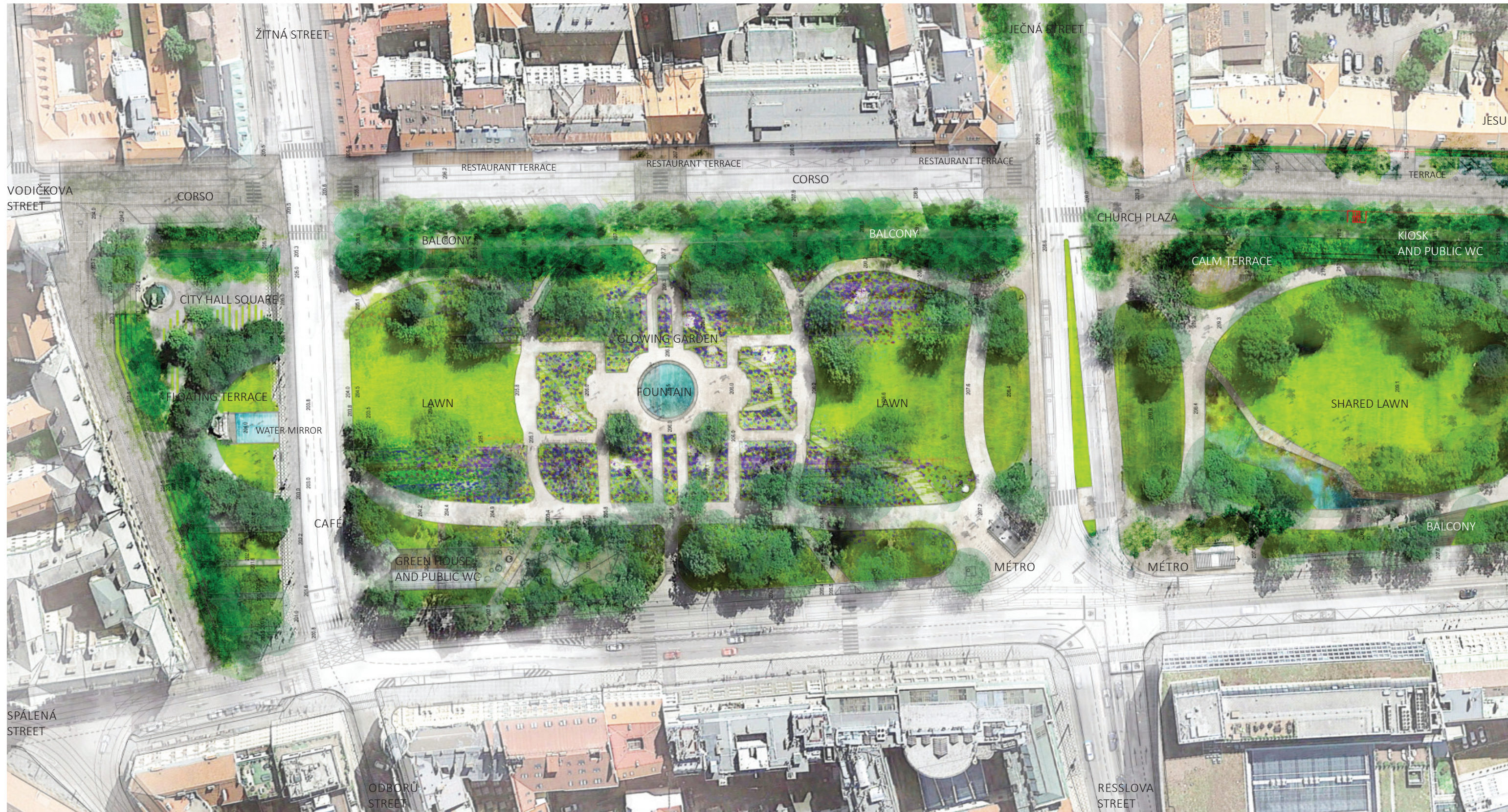
REVITALISATION OF CHARLES SQUARE

procurement procedure involving Competitive Dialogue 2017/2018

DESIGN PROPOSAL - FINAL BID

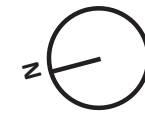
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MASTERPLAN OF CHARLES SQUARE 2025

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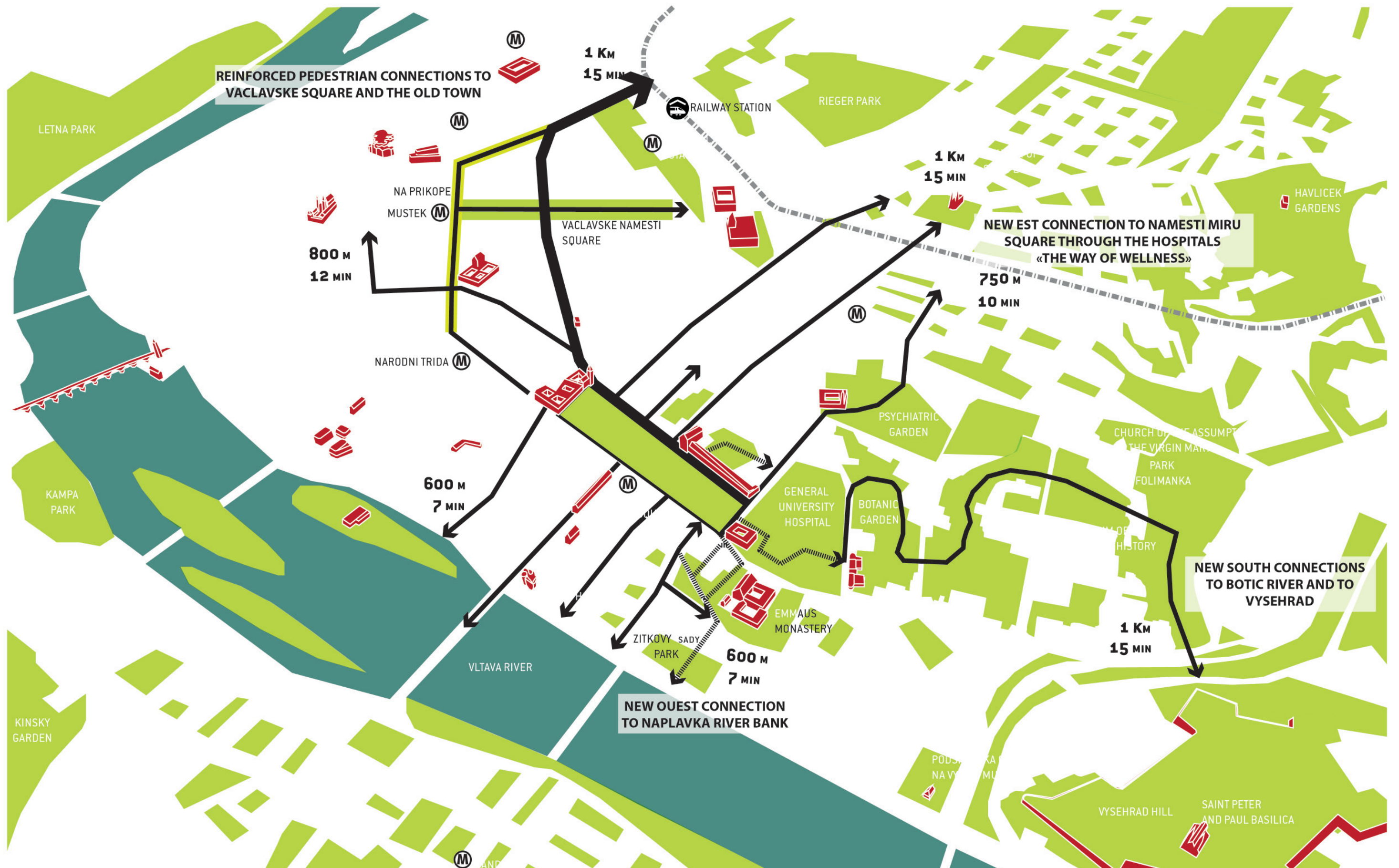
In 2025, the corso takes shape with the planting of the trees in spaces between those retained, and the renewal of the street in front of the Jesuit's Hospital.

The northern and southern ends of the park are opened up to views and physical access. Stepped terraces to the north, creating a square that can be crossed and used for events such as external exhibitions linked to the Town Hall. Concrete gradins and steps to the south, leading down to the Faustův Dům and accompanying a new accessible and shaded fresh terrasse with Roetzl's monument.

A colourful contemporary garden of grasses and perennial plants adds seasonal interest in the central section, fountains are renewed, monuments are highlighted, and a green amphitheater extends over the slopes to the south. At the western edge facing the Jesuit hospital, a kiosk with public toilets and a playground for small children is sited, and continued to the south edge with more adventurous playground forms for bigger children. A complex with the existing café renewed and completed with a greenhouse style flexible volume for gardening and associative actions is sited at the junction with Žitná Street.

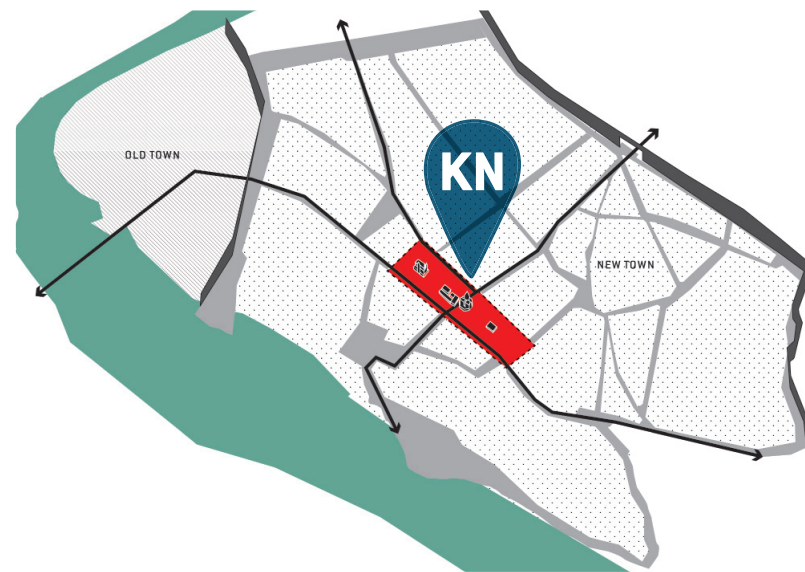


MAIN PATHS CROSSING NEW CONNECTIONS LINKING THE EXISTING GREEN SPACES

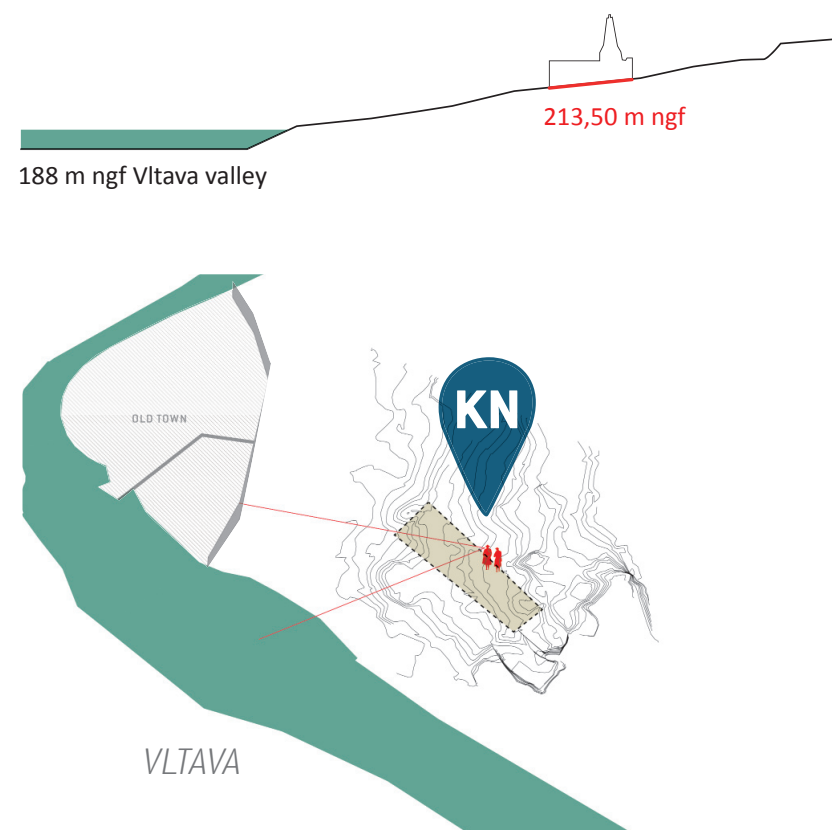


BROADER RELATIONS OF CHARLES SQUARE

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The square as a historical crossroads at multiple scales: that of the square, of the New Town, of surrounding parts of the city, and of the Prague agglomeration.



The situation of the square as a „balcony“ looking down to the river helps understand the configuration of the city center on the slopes of the Vltava river.

Affirming the identity of Charles square as a major green space in the heart of the city

We see the revitalisation of the Charles square as a major investment in Prague’s green infrastructure which will benefit locals and tourists alike, a leafy heaven in the bustle of city streets that will be safe and welcoming for all.

Revealing the natural geography:

It is important to think of the position of Charles Square in a natural landscape of great richness and variety: the east side of the Vltava River and its surroundings, as well as the southern fringe of the city center located on the hillsides of Botič Creek. This ensemble is one of the city’s most famous landscapes, still largely unknown to the general public, but belonging to the metropolitan identity of the city.

Charles Square as part of the metropolitan green structure:

The continental climate brings discontent in summer: very high temperatures contributing to the creation of heat islands. The central position of the place in the system of circulation on the scale of the city gives Charles Square an important role of a green lung and an oasis of softness relatively protected from noise and pollution.



The natural geography of the Vltava valley and the Botič affluent. The Prague metropolitan green structure.

REACTIVATING THOMAYER'S CONCEPT OF NATURAL-URBAN 'SALON'

The layers of time



6 Facilities for the future : A light layer that is resolutely contemporary, with lighting, cafés and other facilities to encourage park activities.

5 The Low Layer of planting : for shrubs and perennials, little or nothing remains of the original planting. All interventions to this layer are reversible, and we plant to reflect the tastes of our time, as did Thomayer in his time.

4 The Structure of the Tree Layer : a living layer with some original trees, in a process of decline. Retain any original trees in good health. Create a strategy to sustainably renew the tree layer to reflect Thomayer's composition, with chosen views and a rich mix of species.

3 The Circulation and Monuments: original monuments remain, and the general forms of Thomayer's design. Retain the monuments, and the flowing forms of the circulation with minimal adaptations, and identify new short cuts as clearly contemporary.

2 The Landform: much remains of Thomayer's rolling, gently enclosing landform in the central and southern parts of the park. Retain unless in conflict with sustainability for the future, in the form of water stockage.

1 The Deep Layer of the past: where archeological traces remain, leave untouched for future generations.

DESIGN CONCEPT

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The values to retain - the unifying heritage of Thomayer's concept of natural-urban 'salon' :

- A generous central parterre
- A protecting green frame
- A binding public corso
- Monuments with meaning

Heritage treatment and principles of renovation

- Looking, listening, understanding and exchanging
- A new regard revealing the qualities, the memory and the history of existing elements
- Reversibility and lisibility of new elements

The layers of time: Our approach to the renewal of the historical monument takes into account the differing lifetimes and resistance to change of these layer in a nuanced response that is different for each element.

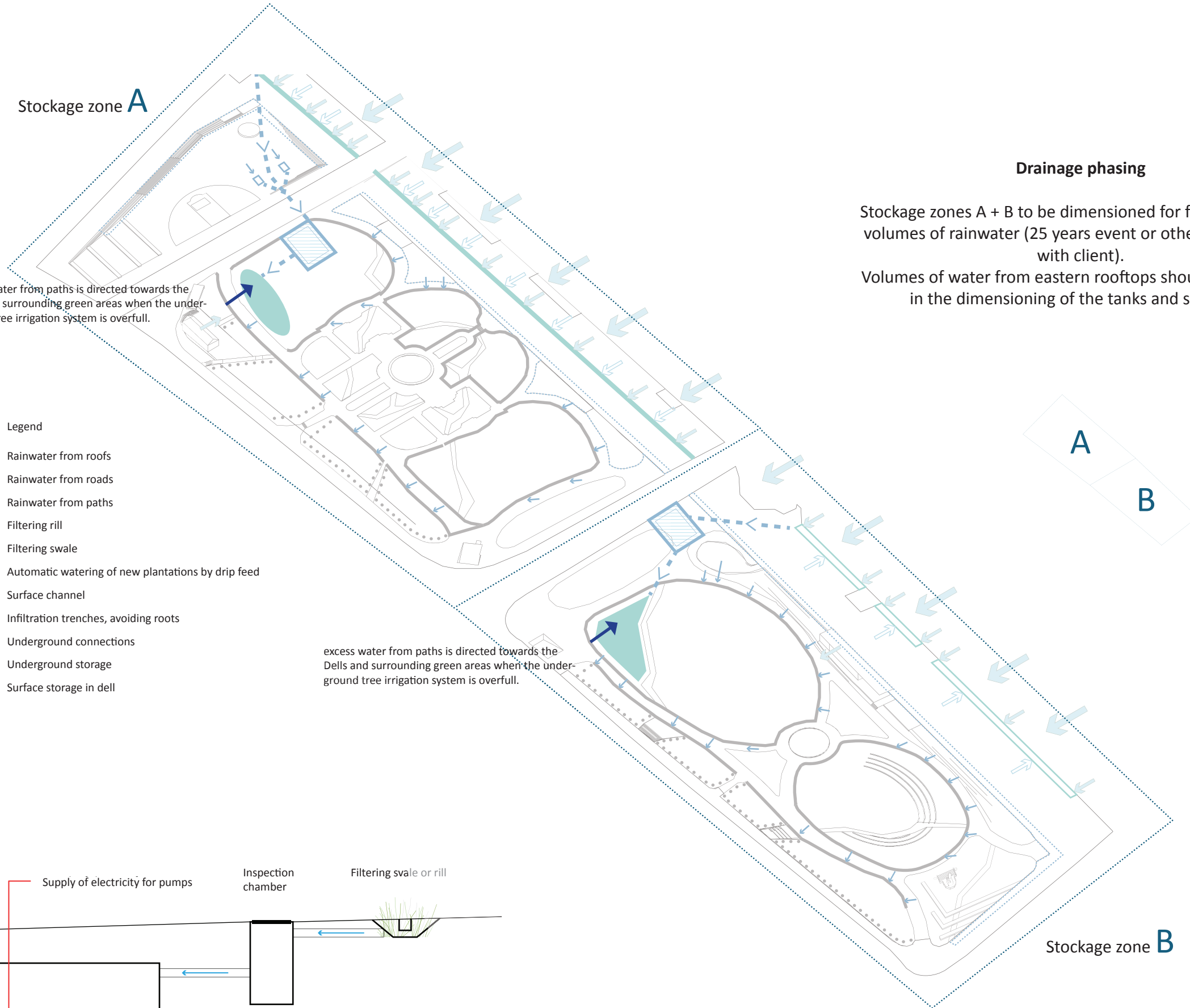
- Some elements are resistant to change, and the original history is buried deep in time
- Landform is slow to change, and trees live long lives
- Others layers on the surface have shorter lives, and change can be rapid and reversible

Design concept: Park for today - Thomayer's 'salon' is reinterpreted as natural-urban 'lounge'.

- Re-introducing spatial and functional flexibility / uses at several scales from metropolitan to local:
- Approach 'from facade to facade', revealing new views and new physical and visual connections between the park and its urban envelope
- Reactivating an urban intensity through the new corso
- Creating new porosities in the park for access and security
- Protecting and developing the park vegetation and 'genius loci' by revealing the natural slope with steps and the new hydrology concept and by developing the park's biodiversity and creating green links with other natural spaces.



The „bowl like“ Thomayer's landforme of the renewed central lawn is used as a reversible natural amphitheatre, in direct dialogue with the Corso.



Drainage phasing

Stockage zones A + B to be dimensioned for future potential volumes of rainwater (25 years event or other aim to agree with client).

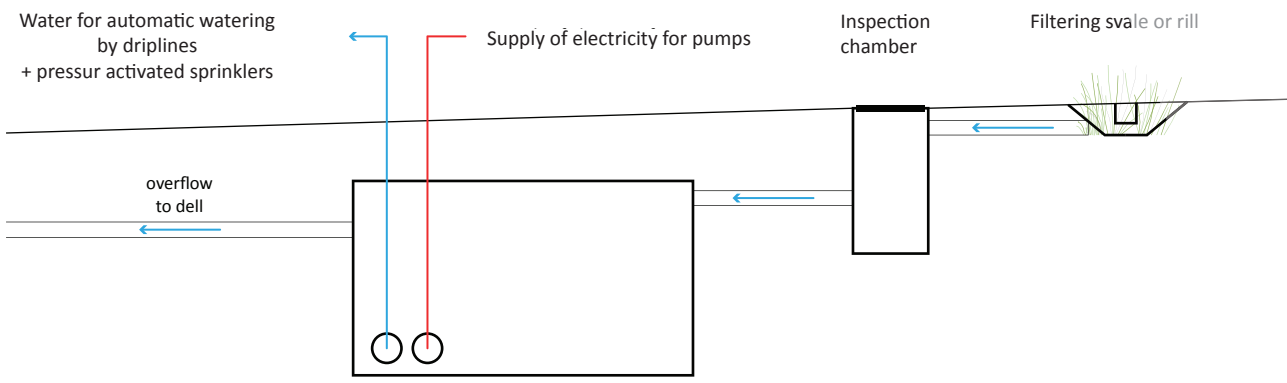
Volumes of water from eastern rooftops should be included in the dimensioning of the tanks and stockage.

excess water from paths is directed towards the Dells and surrounding green areas when the underground tree irrigation system is overfull.

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Legend

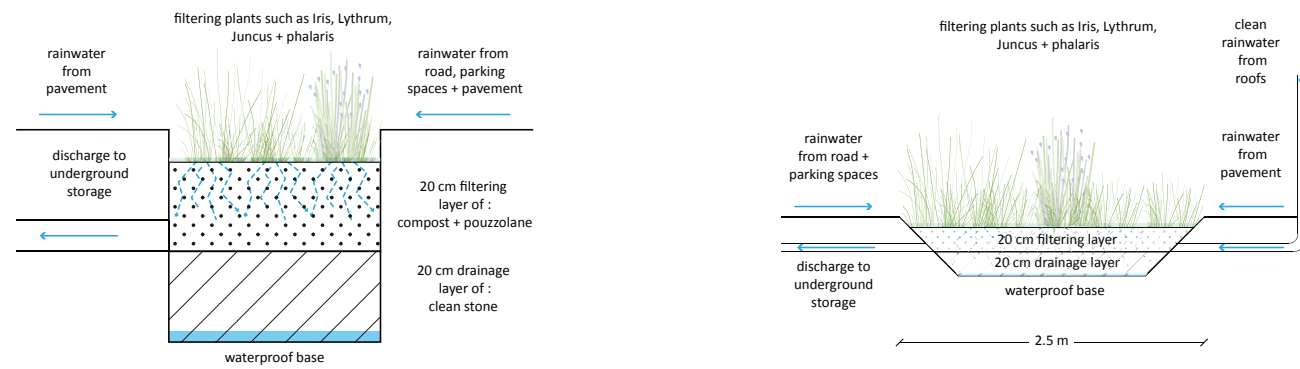
- Rainwater from roofs
- Rainwater from roads
- Rainwater from paths
- Filtering rill
- Filtering swale
- Automatic watering of new plantations by drip feed
- Surface channel
- Infiltration trenches, avoiding roots
- Underground connections
- Underground storage
- Surface storage in dell



Connections to and from underground storage

RAINWATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

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Detail of the filtering rill

Detail of the filtering swale

Revealing the natural slope of the square and enriching the living landscape of the park through the management of the natural outflow of the rain water.

The aims for the rainwater management for the park are:

- No discharge of water to city drains from within the public contract boundary, to the limit of the 25 year rainwater event.
- Recovering the rainwater from the road and pavements on the eastern edge (the Corso) and filtering in planted rills and swales to remove hydrocarbons and heavy metals,
- Gathering clean rainwater from surrounding building roofs along the eastern edge of the Square,
- Stockage & reuse of clean & filtered rainwater in underground tanks for watering plants and trees, calculated to allow watering during one month without rain,
- Stockage and infiltration of excess rainwater not needed for watering using landscape features – the 'Dells' – planted depressions that retain water, infiltrate excessive amounts, accept occasional flooding, and welcome a rich biodiversity,
- Directing water from the paths within the park to tree roots along the western mantle.

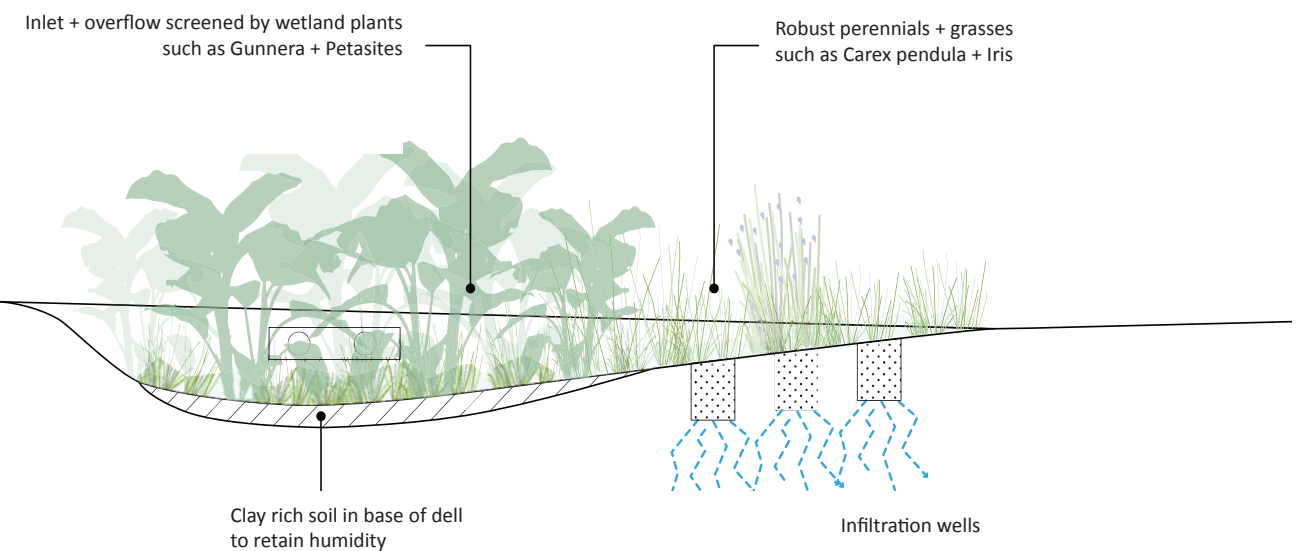
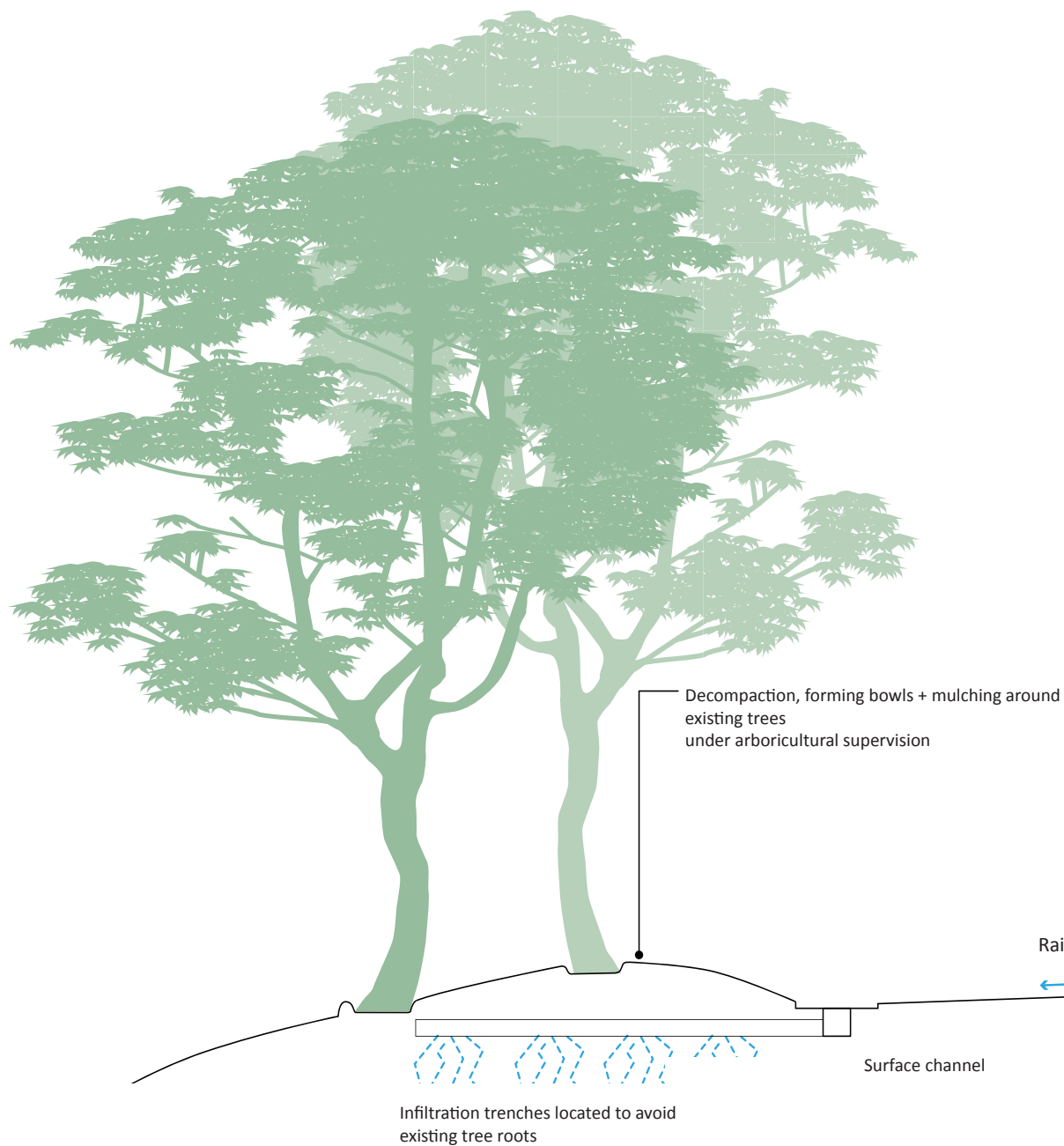
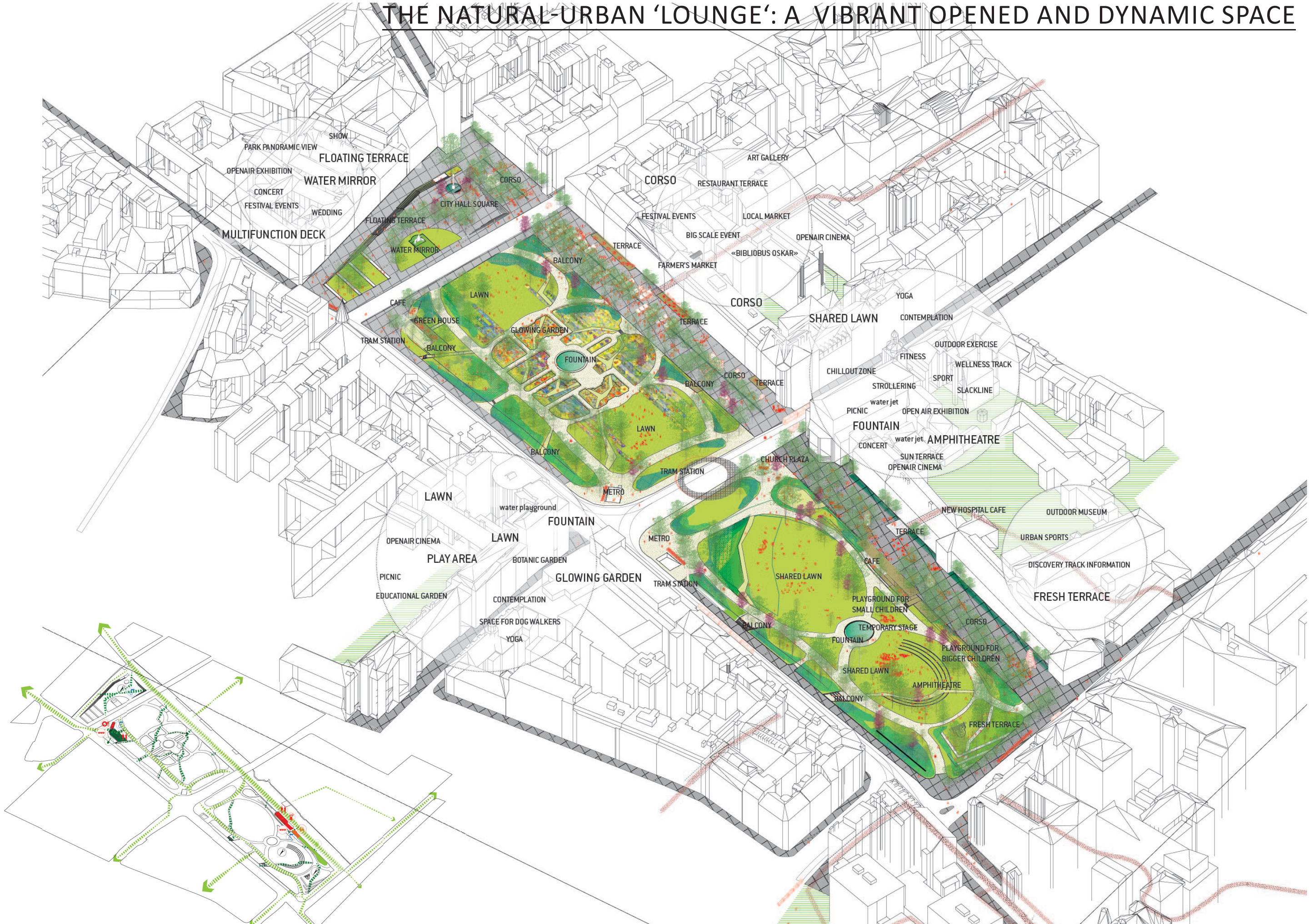


Diagram of dell and rainwater to roots of west mantle

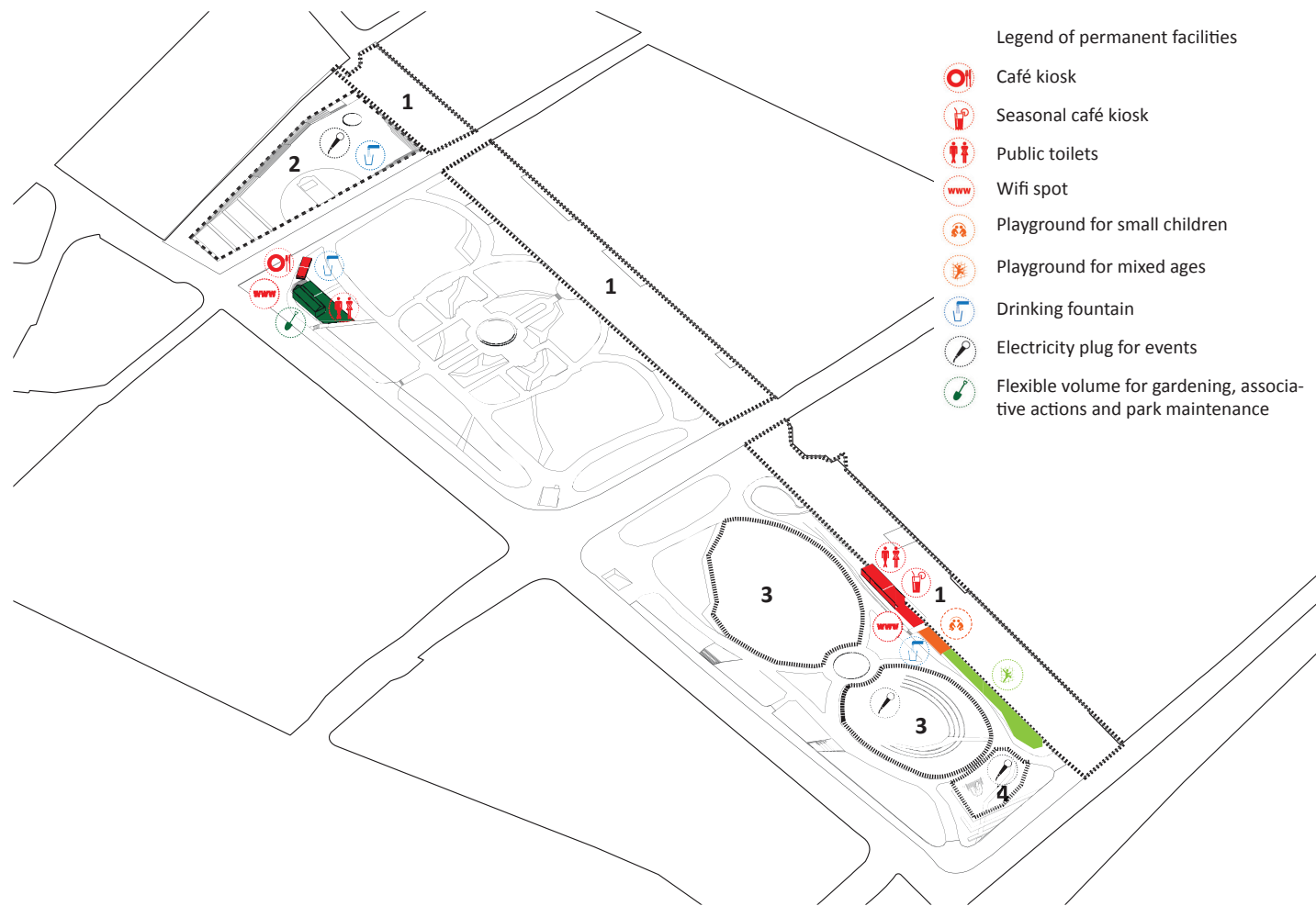
THE NATURAL-URBAN 'LOUNGE': A VIBRANT OPENED AND DYNAMIC SPACE



Pedestrian traffic scheme (see also p.12)

PROGRAMME AND FUNCTIONS OF THE PARK

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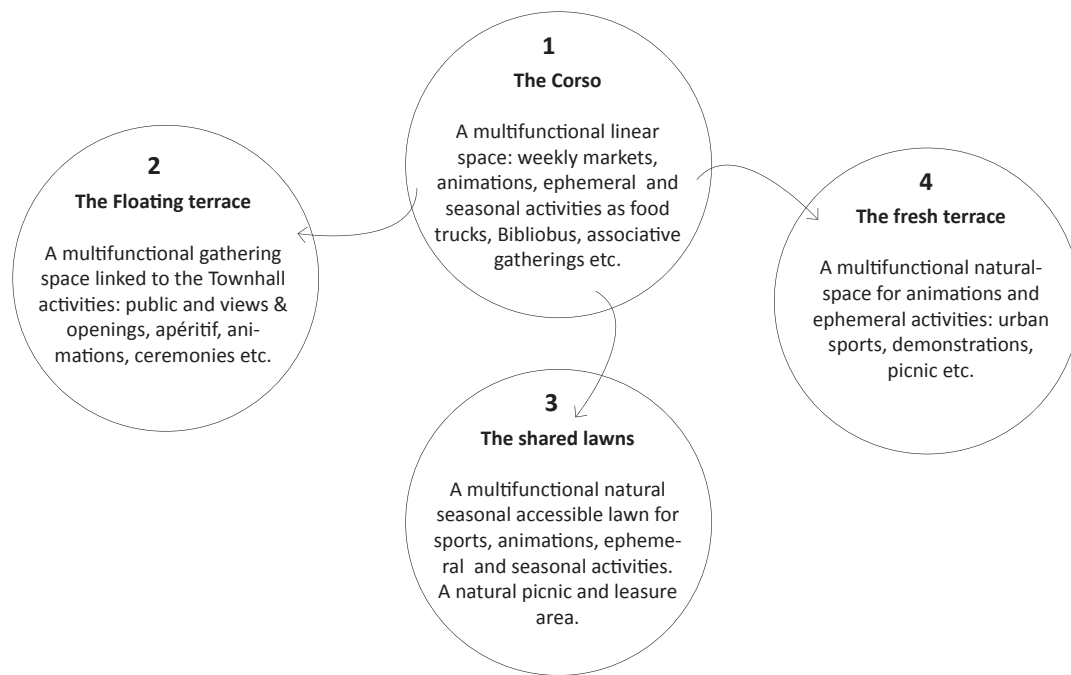


The permanent park facilities are concentrated in two strategic positions: at the north west entry and in the heart of the Corso in the southern part of the park.

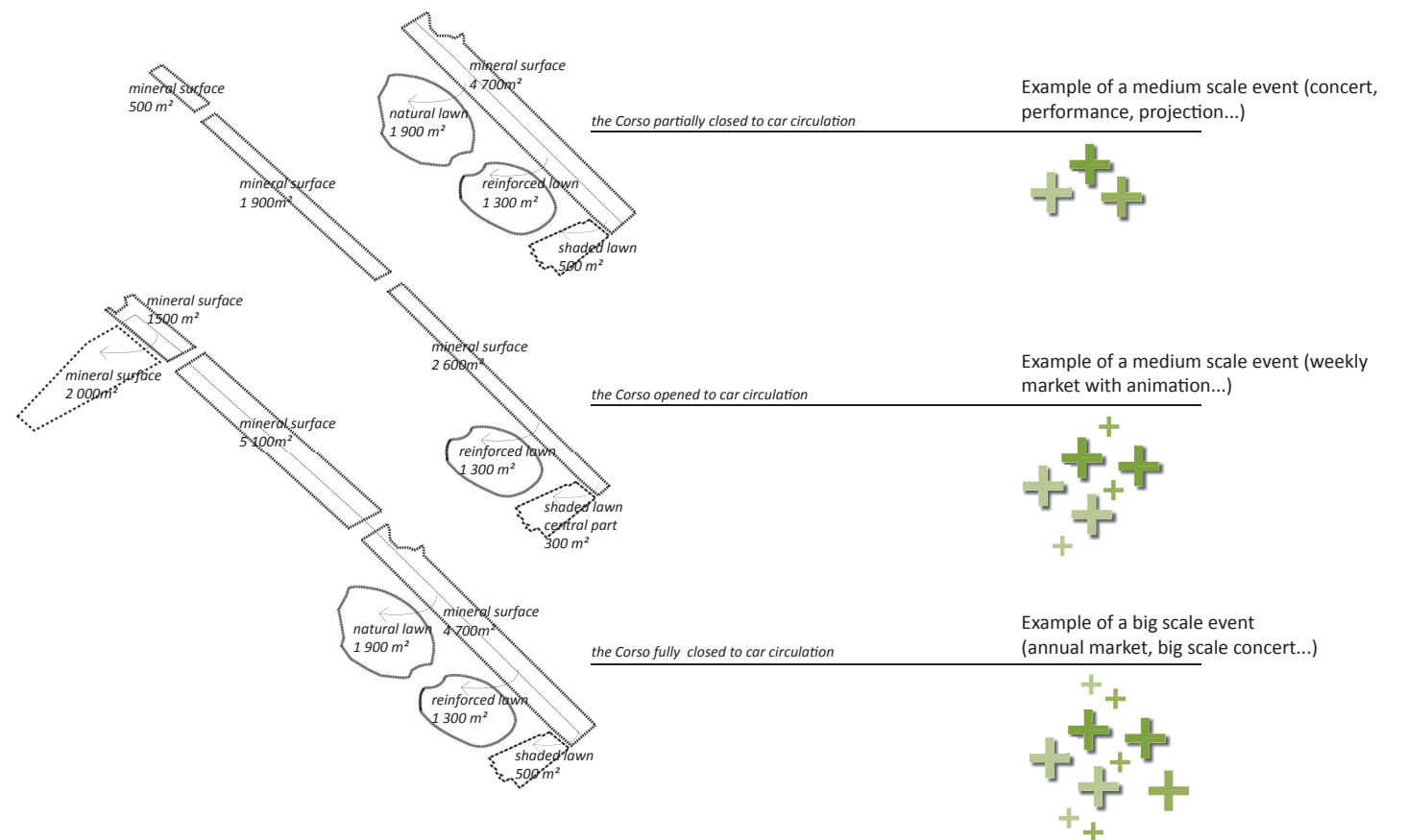
The project aims to create harmony between the natural context and the urban uses. The park is a flexible facility, with the permanent frame of the Corso, both ludic and institutional in its form, providing the setting for markets, exhibitions, street parties and other ephemeral events. The Corso is the major element for urban use of the square, offering up to 10 000m² of flexible mineral surface, and thus allowing to protect important vegetation areas from intensive urban use and circulation.

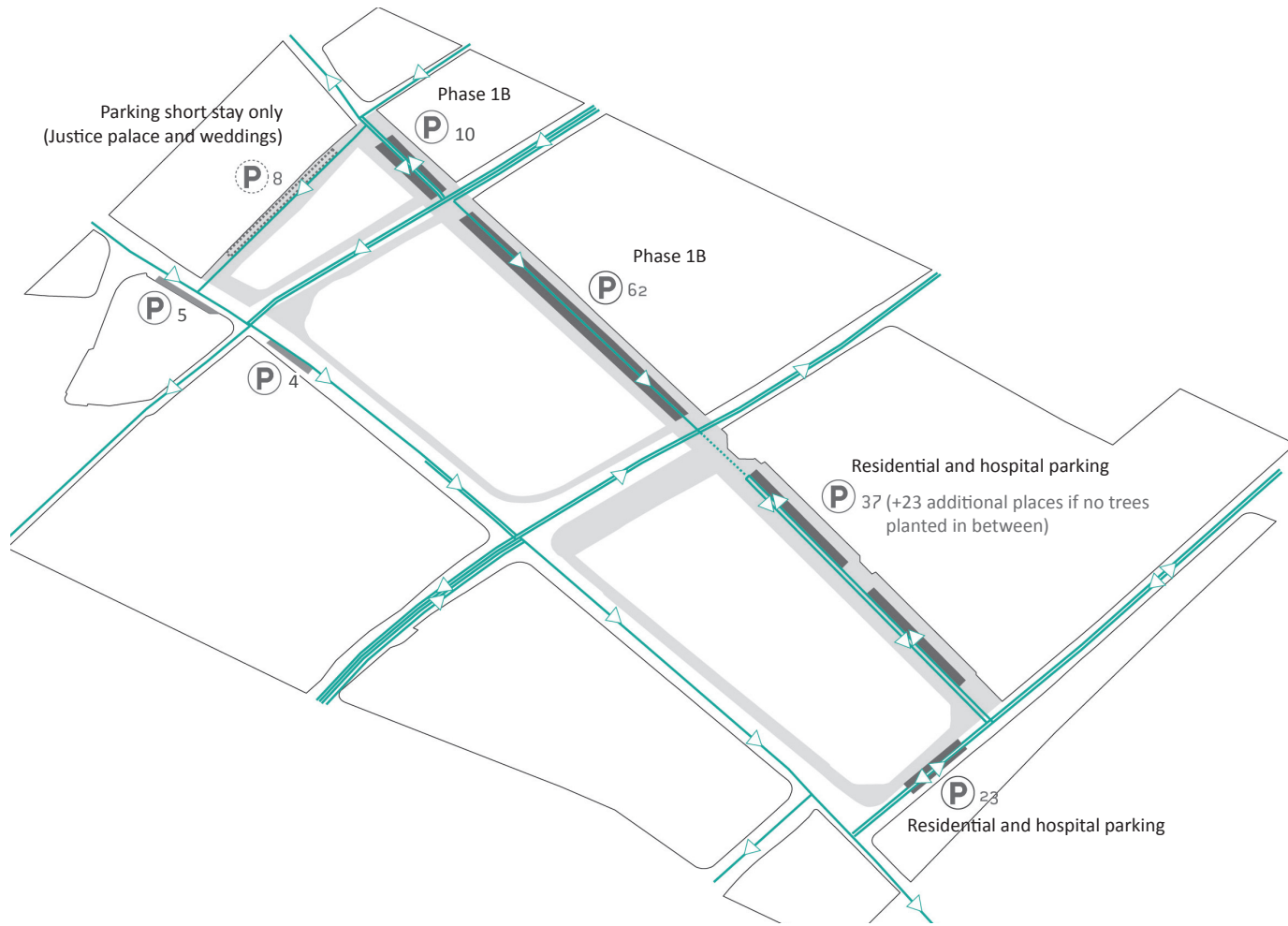
The Floating Terrace to the north is adapted to exhibitions and events linked to the Town Hall. The south Fresh terrace suits for urban sports, family picnics and animations. Fixed facilities are programmed to allow such events, such as underground temporary power supplies. Wifi is diffused from two points: the northern greenhouse with facilities for associations such as gardeners club to meet, and the kiosk-café to the south. Both are equipped with public toilet facilities, accessible for handicapped visitors.

The two shared lawns, one of which is reinforced with a stone layer to accept more intensive use, and equipped as an amphitheatre, are the site for larger events or simple relaxation.

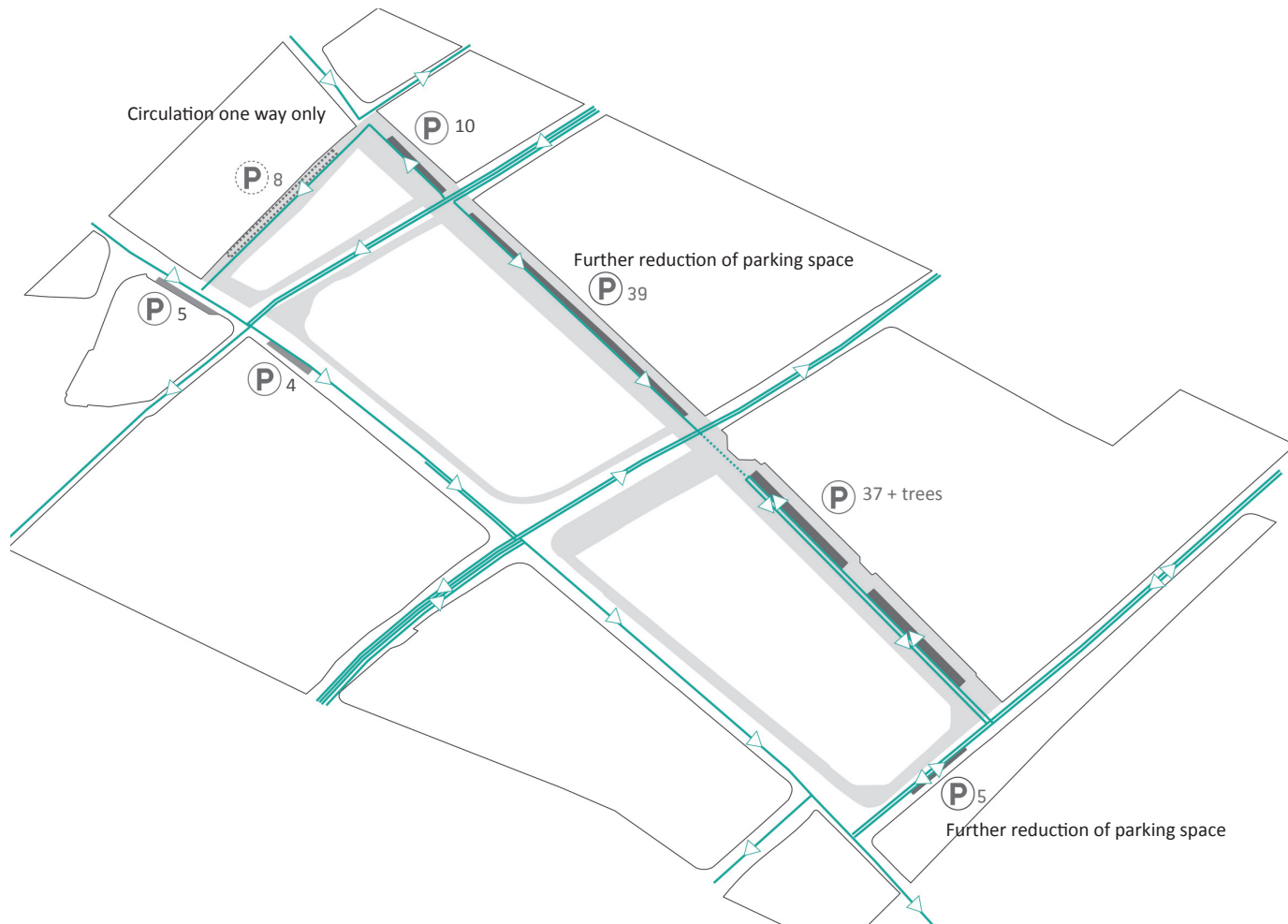


The flexible spaces of the park framed and distributed by the Corso providing the setting for different scales of public and associative actions and events





Circulation of vehicles and parking 2025

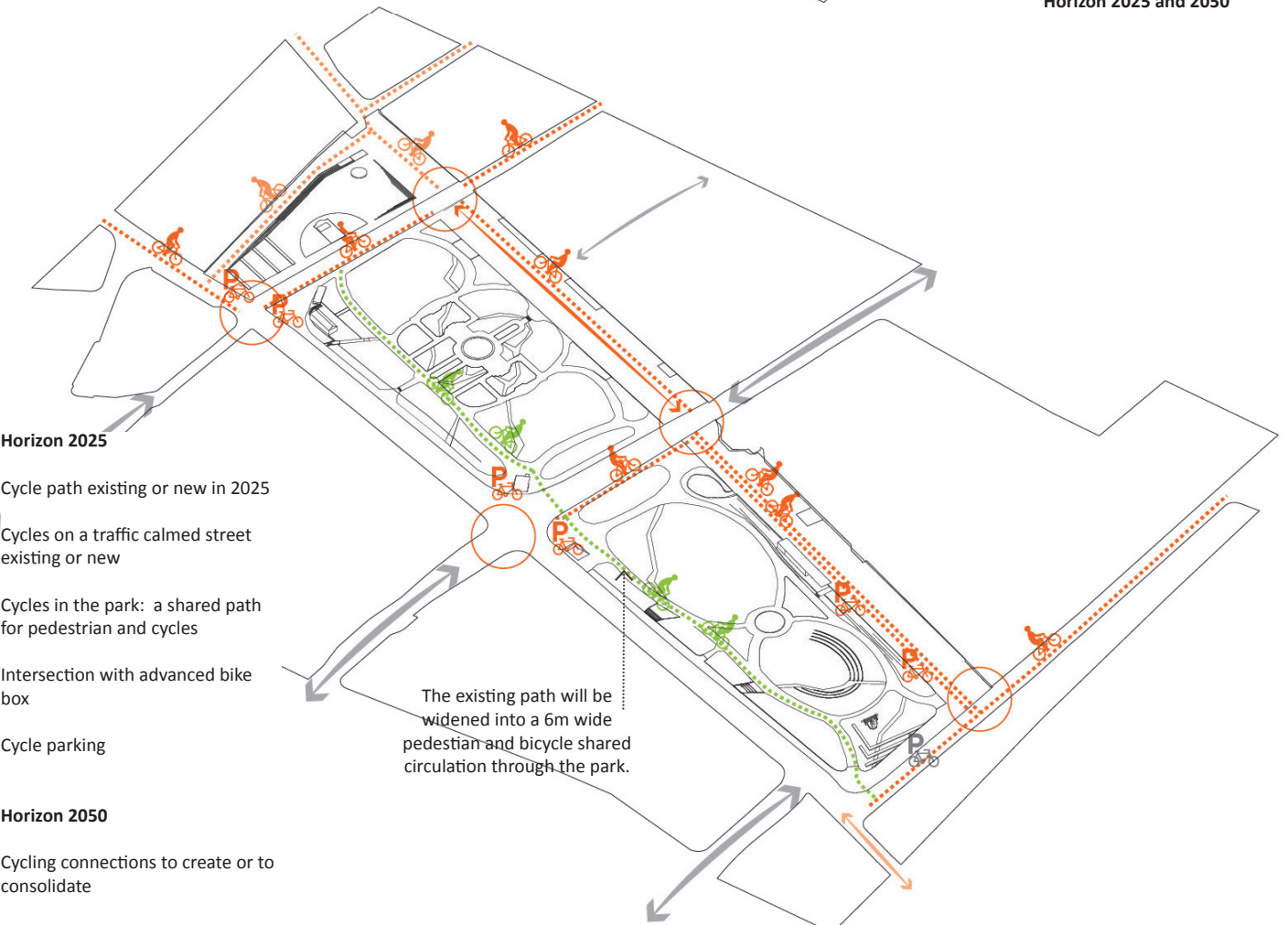


Circulation of vehicles and parking 2050



The two existing vegetal islands on the sides of the Ječná street will stretch closer together to emphasize the continuity of the park. The main pedestrian circulation between the metro and Ječná street leads through the park, on widened existing path.

Circulation of pedestrians Horizon 2025 and 2050



The existing path will be widened into a 6m wide pedestrian and bicycle shared circulation through the park.

Circulation of bicycles Horizon 2025 and 2050

TRANSPORTATION IN CHARLES SQUARE

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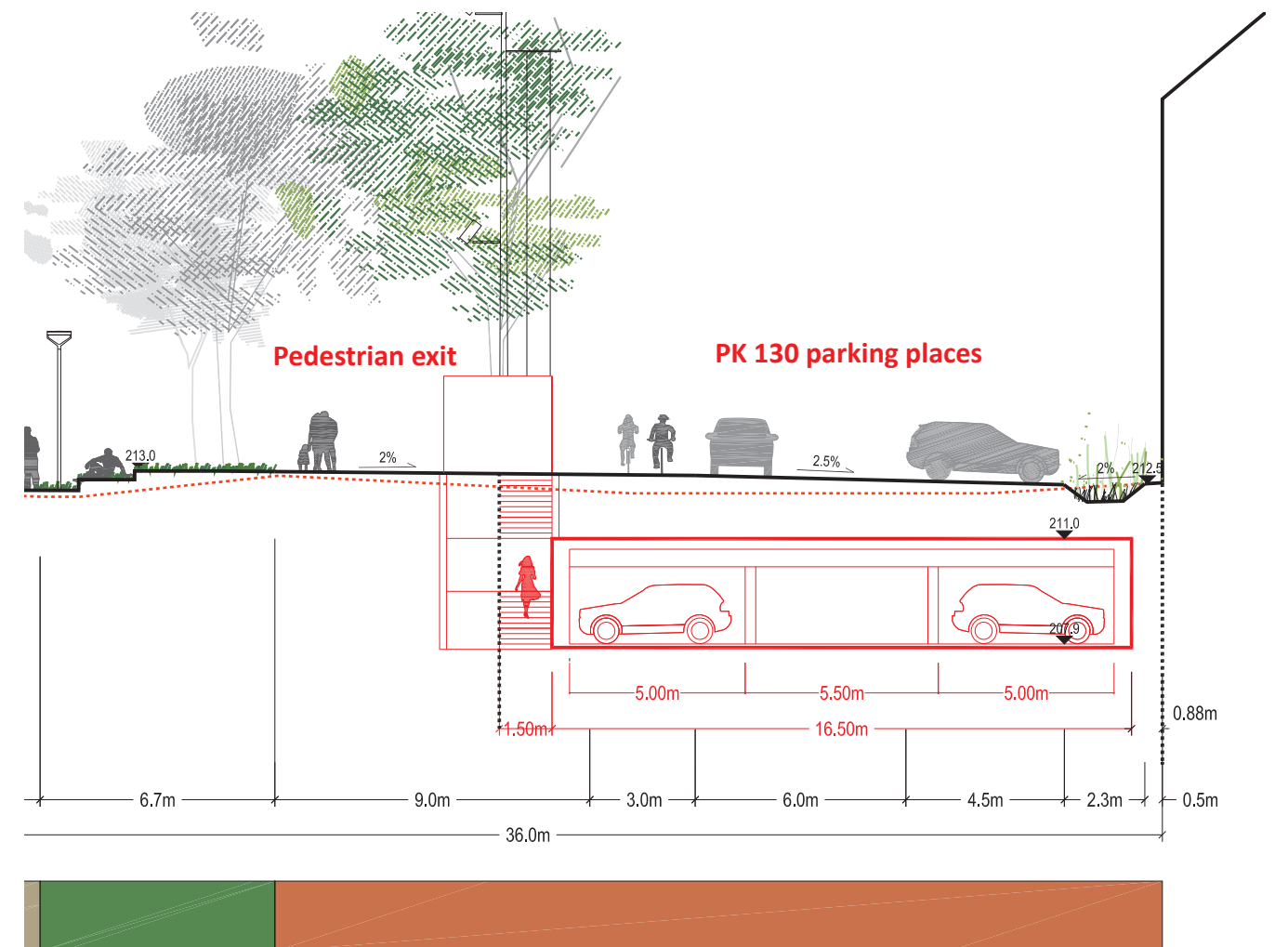
In line with current urban trends, the project is about winning space for people, and devoting less space exclusively to car parking at all times. Flexible parking spaces can host other uses at certain times. Pedestrian circulation in the park becomes more porous and a wider path on the ouest side is proposed as a shared circulation pedestriand + cycles.

The Corso has a double role – it irrigates and distributes circulation towards the park, and by its intense useage, protects other more fragile areas within the centre. The flexibility of Corso can responde to an eventual evolution of parking needs.

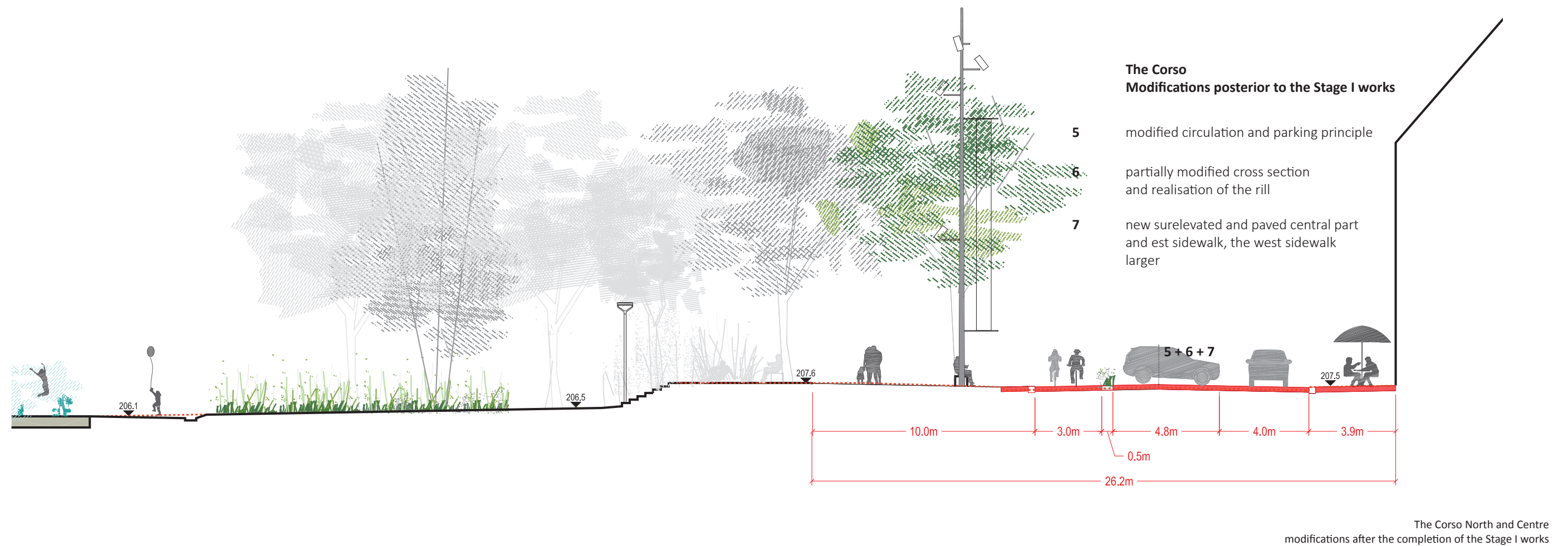
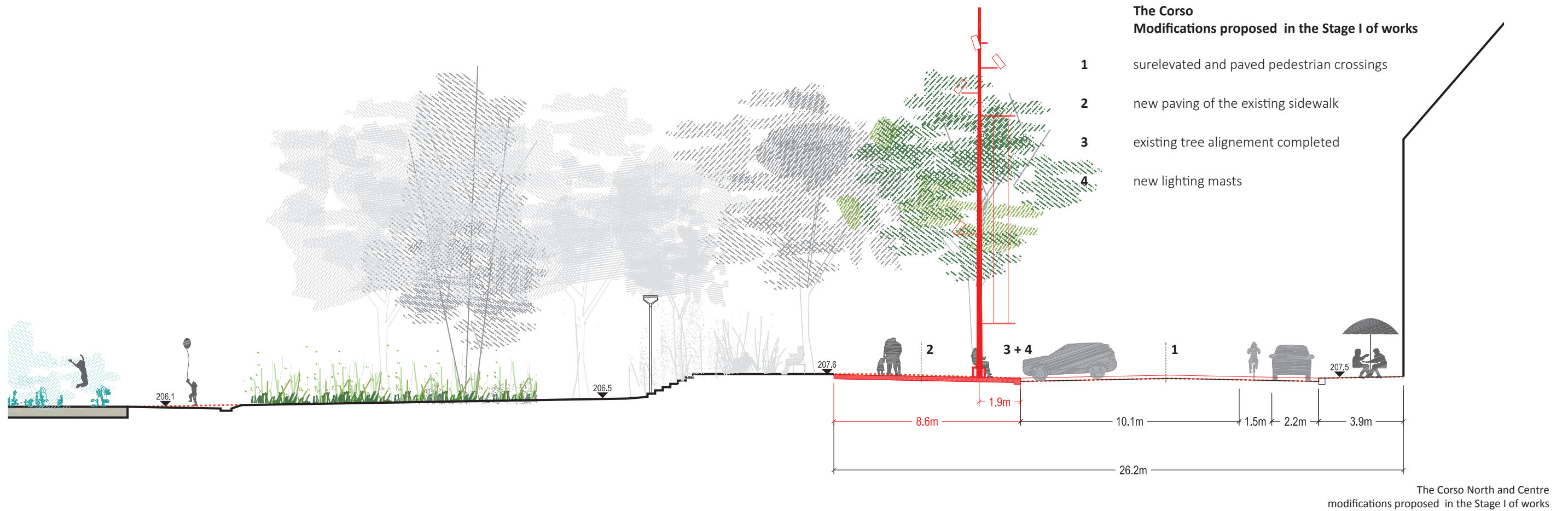
An underground parking of approximately 130 places is possible under the south part of the corso. Situated between the trees and the historical façade, the parking can be realised without the necessity of cutting the trees. The actual and future car parking space needed can be however provided only by existing surface places, without any need to build the underground objects. The entry and exit ramps are aligned, in order to minimise percieved blockages in the streetscape of this urban link which will become a more important link to the east.



Possible integration of an underground parking horizon 2050 / Section 1-1 / Scale 1:1000

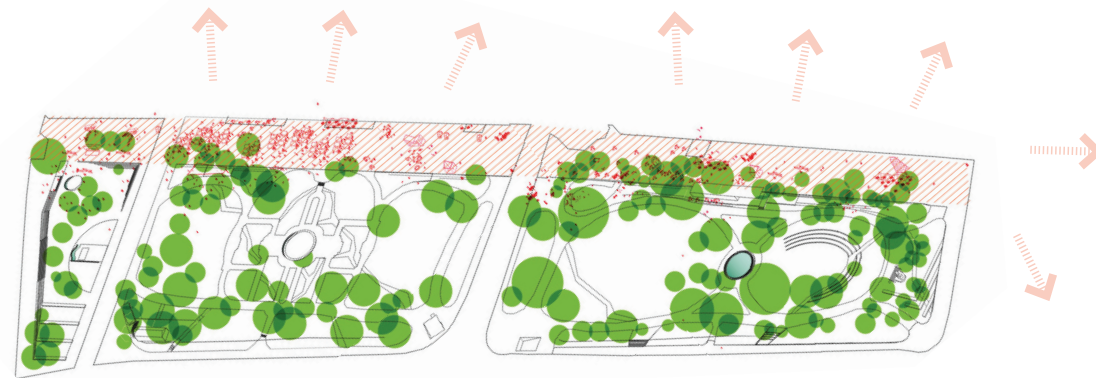


Possible integration of an underground parking horizon 2050 / Section 1-1 / Scale 1:200



PHASING OF THE REVITALIZATION OF CHARLES SQUARE

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Current measures
(from 2018 to 2023)

Works are phased to always keep a significant portion of the park opened to the public. This helps to maintain the fauna presently existing in the park during the construction. Two vegetation periods will be necessary.

Current measures to improve the existing situation (from 2018 to 2023)

Regenerating the park vegetation to be kept, including the decompaction of lawns (spiking, sanding, and top dressing). Saving trees by decompaction and protection of root zones. Initiating shared planting and maintenance activities with inhabitants.

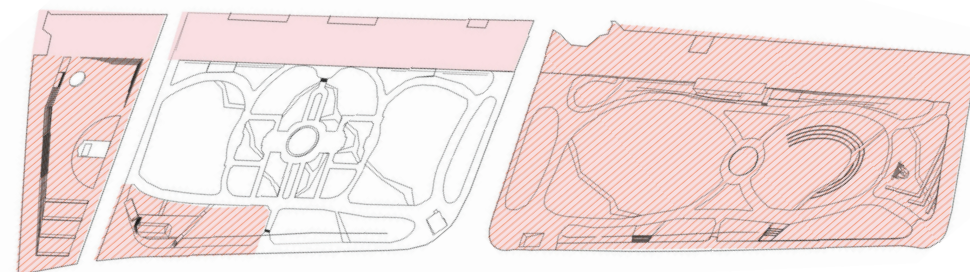
Initiating activities in the park and on the future corso and develop activity links with the Botanical Gardens, the hospitals and the Naplavka river bank.

Horizon 2025 works phasing

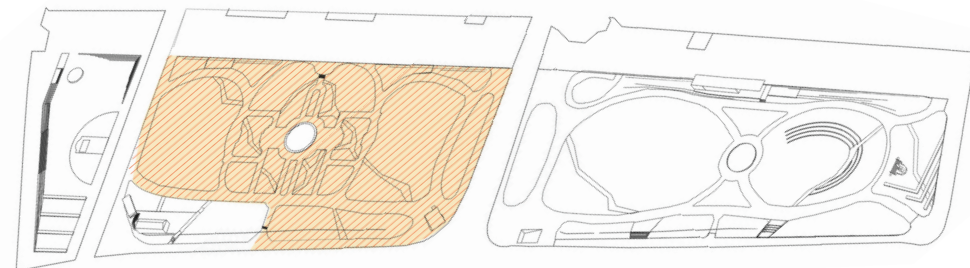
2023- 2024: Realisation of the north and the south part of the park including the corso (2023), the greenhouse and the cafés (2023-2024) This is to rapidly activate the southern part of the park and offer a new perception of the square from its main pedestrian entrances. During this period, the central part that is in a relatively good shape stays open to the public.

2024: Realisation of the central part. The modifications posterior to the Stage I works of the Corso may be included in this phase.

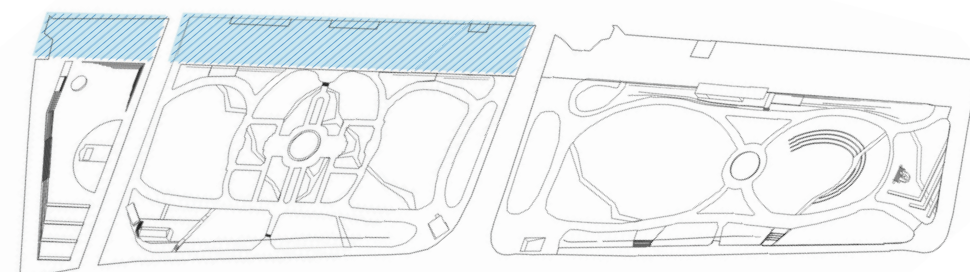
(2023 - 2024)



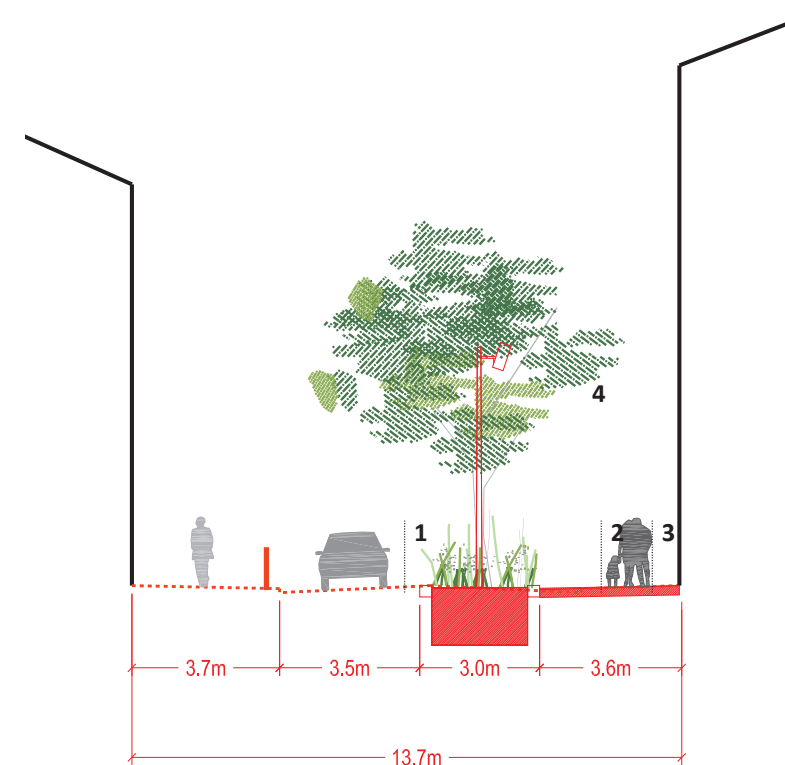
(2024)



The Corso North and Centre modifications after the completion of the Stage I works

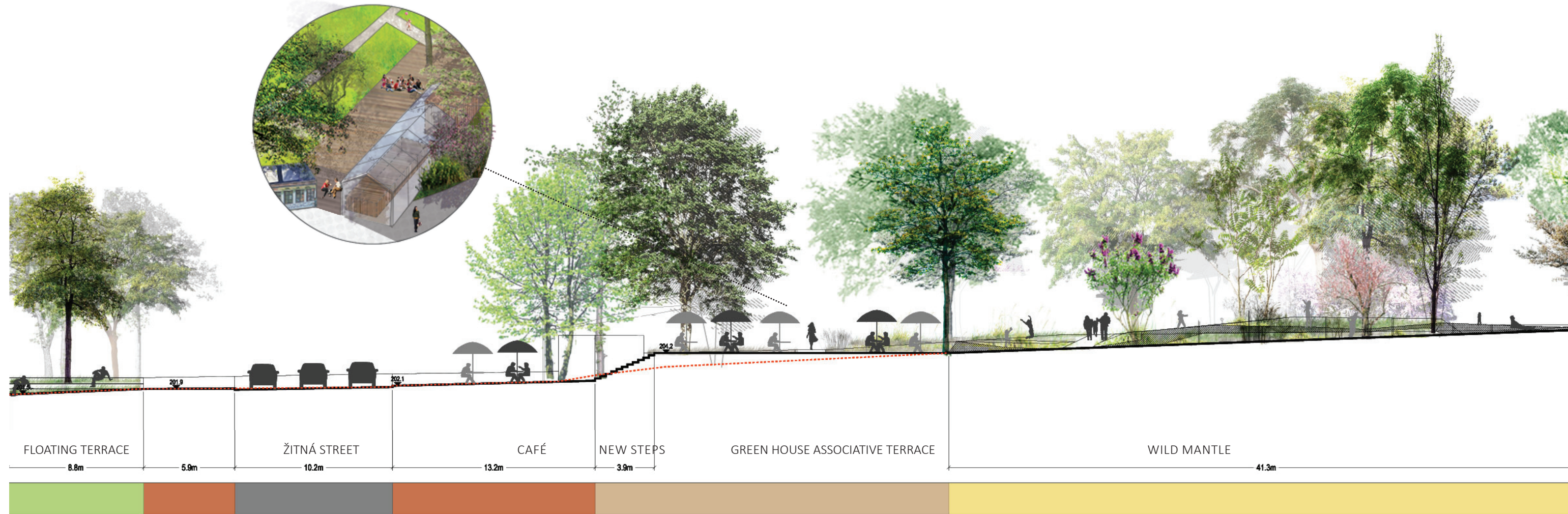


The possible continuity of the Corso North through the Vodickova street



- 1 the existing circulation width is restricted to minimum
- 2 the space is won for a new tree alignment and vegetal parterre
- 3 new paving of the existing sidewalk identical to the one of the Corso
- 4 new lighting masts decline the design of the high masts on the Corso

Horizon 2025 works phasing
(2023-2024)

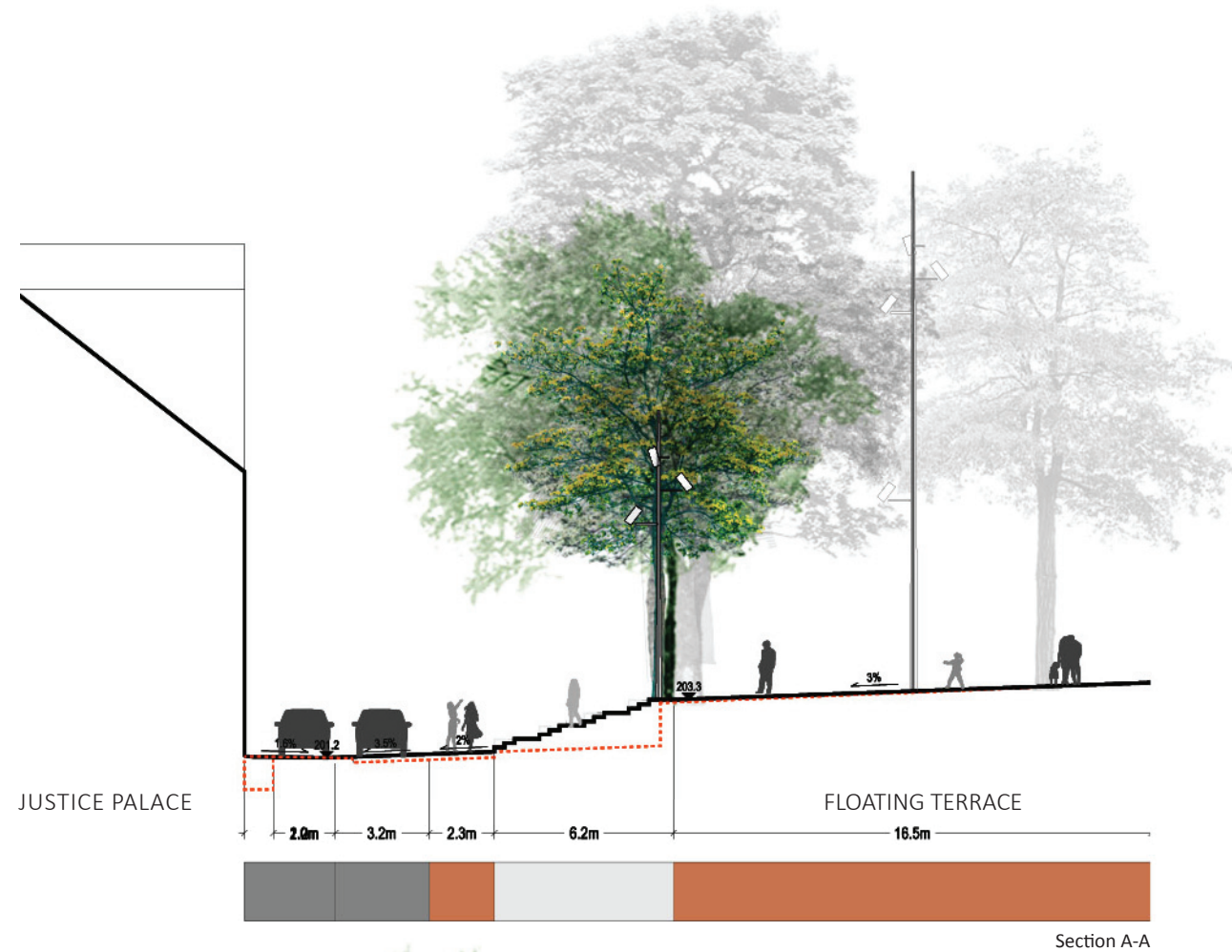


Section B-B

Section C-C

LONGITUDINAL SECTIONS A-A, B-B, C-C, D-D

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





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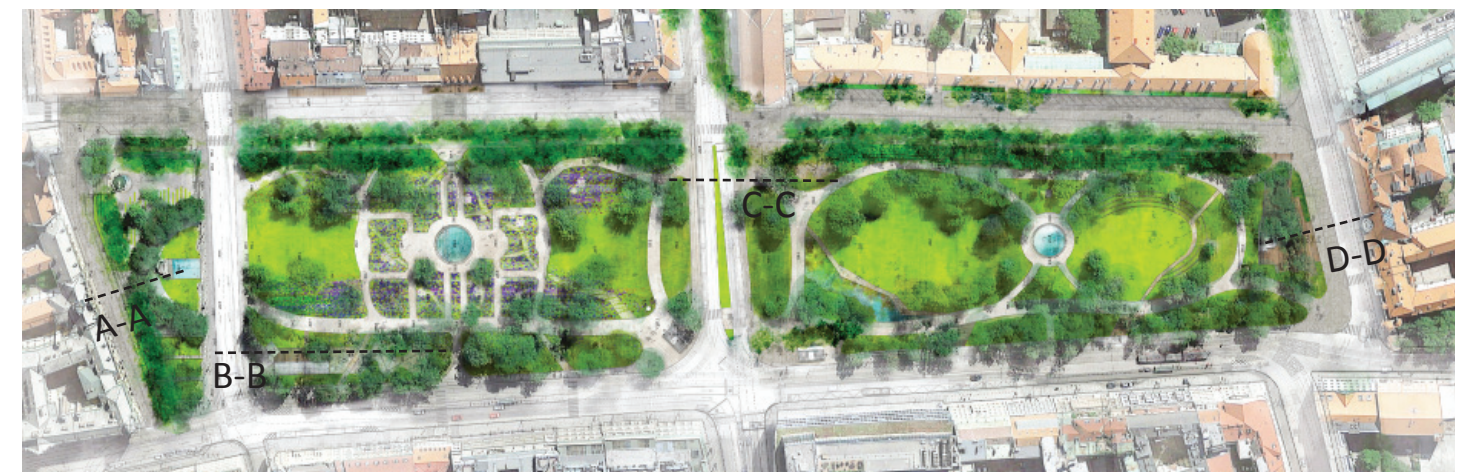
From facade to facade, our approach seeks to revealing new views and new physical and visual connections between the park and its urban envelope.

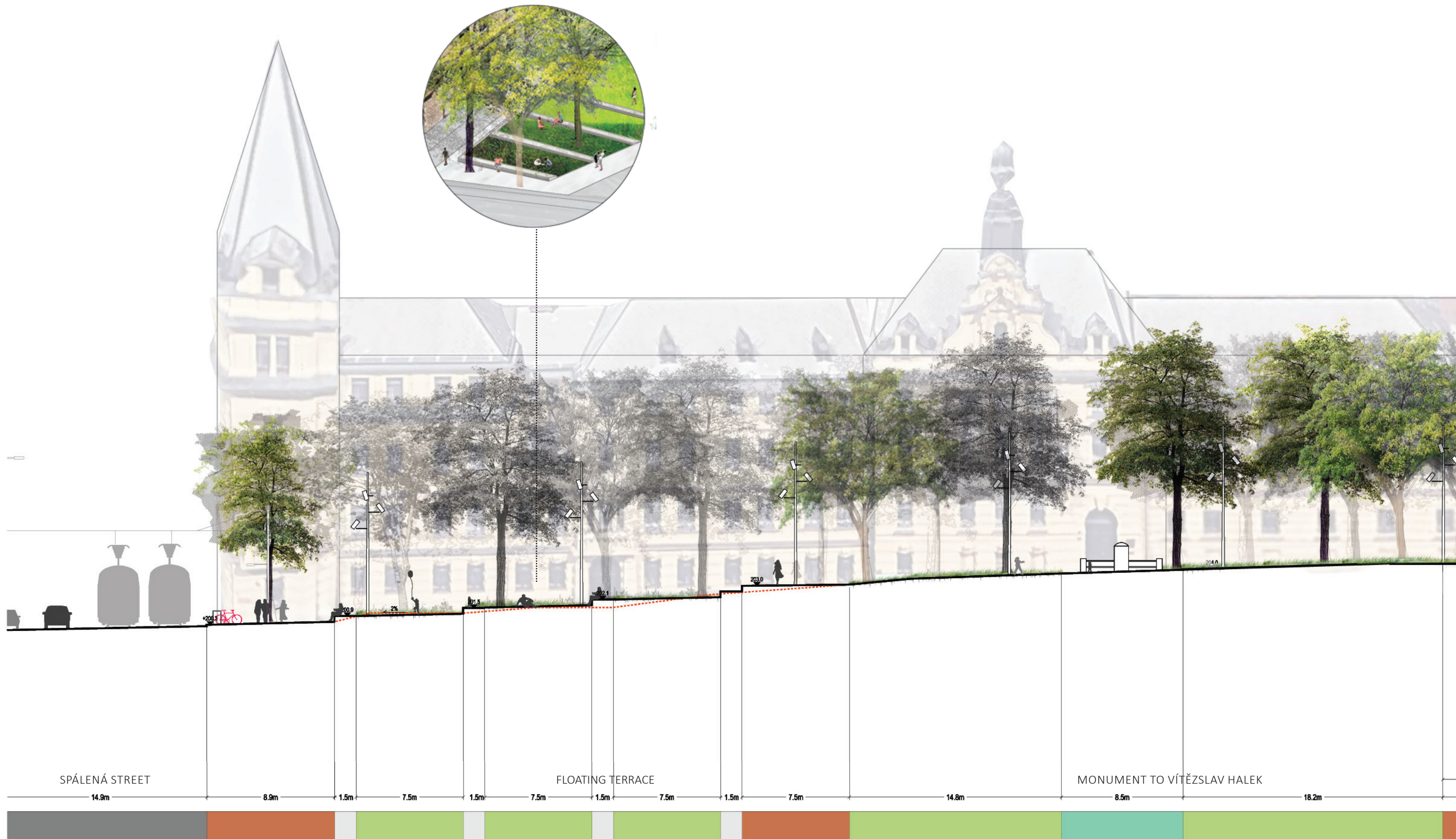
This means seeking a careful balance between retaining some of the enclosure that is currently seen as key to Thomayer's concept, and reaffirming the square as an urban lounge in the city, which was very much a feature of the Parisian squares which were Thomayer's inspiration.

Increasing physical links between the park and the city, particularly in the diagonal directions, is important, for instance for the Fresh and Floating Terraces. Creating views under the canopy of existing trees, but above the shrub layer, gives glimpses of facades whilst retaining green borders to the internal perceptions.

LEGEND

	Road surface (granite pavement or macadam)		Water features
	Granite pavement		Shock absorbing surface
	Wooden deck		Lawns
	Concrete steps		The wild mantle plants





CROSS SECTION E-E

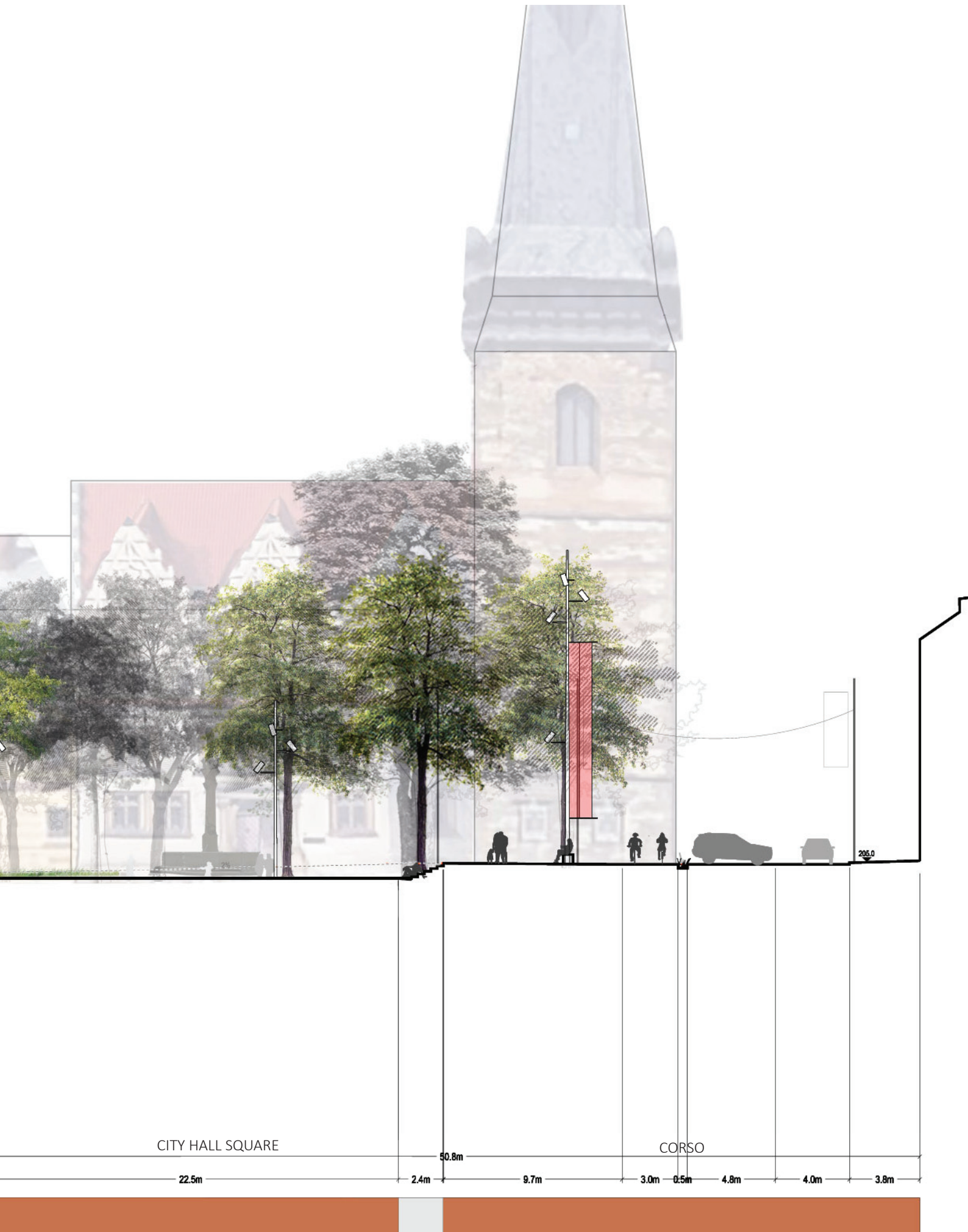
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





Revealing the natural slope

The natural slope of the site is revealed by opening views with horizontal steps in the corners of the Fresh Terrace and the Floating terrace, and by making visible the natural water flow towards the south west corners, with the Dells.

Part of the sustainable water management system, these depressions stock and retain water after extreme weather events, and are planted with water loving plants which can sustain periods of dryness.



LEGEND

	Road surface (granite pavement or macadam)		Water features
	Granite pavement		Shock absorbing surface
	Wooden deck		Lawns
	Concrete steps		The wild mantle plants



Section E-E



CROSS SECTION F-F

AGENCE TER TEAM

m 1:250

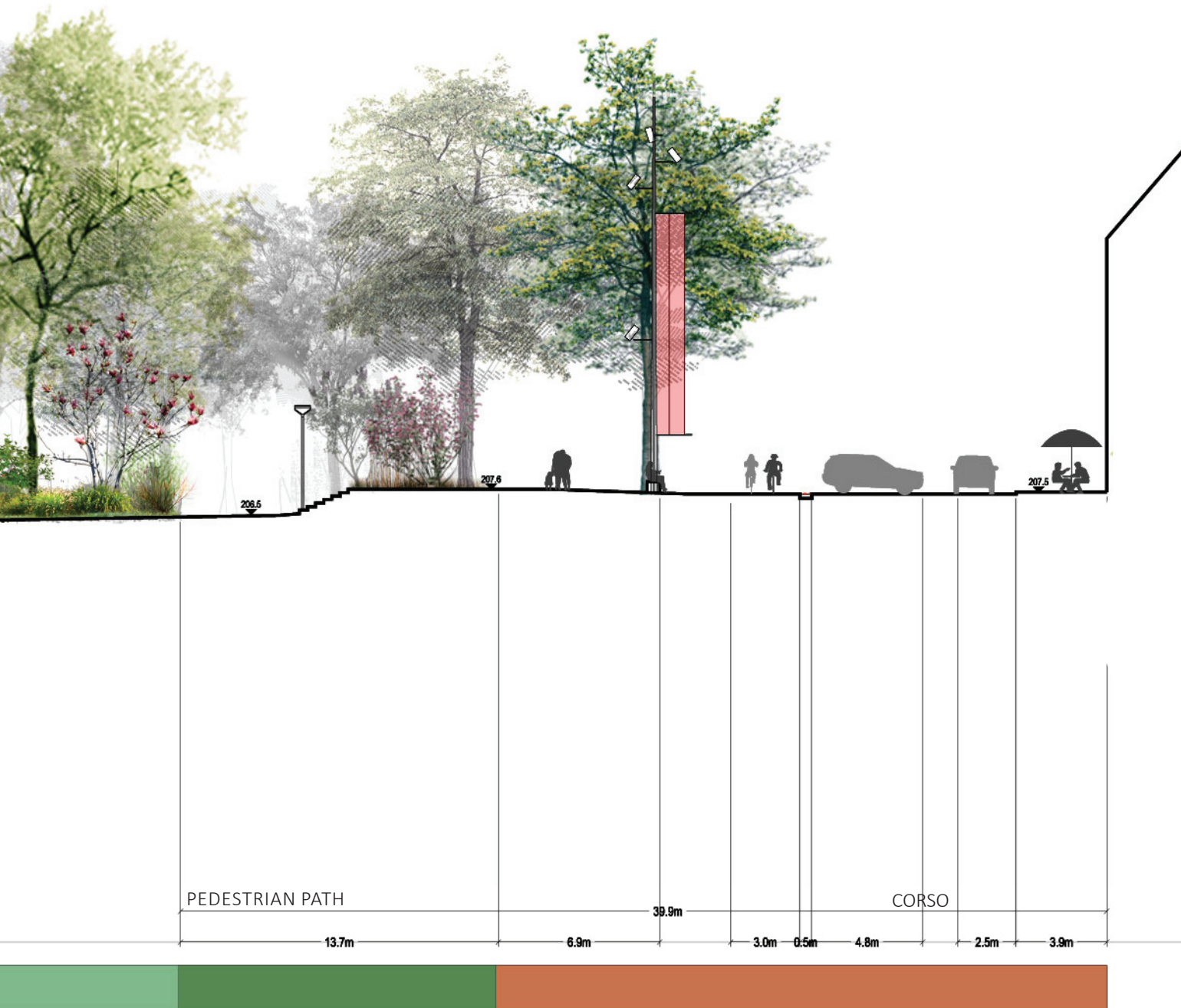
Protecting the vegetation of the park

The Corso is a flexible and generous mineral surface, a balcony overlooking the park and communication with the park through openings and linear steps in the wild mantle.









This powerful concept allows to concentrate the 'urban' functions of the square, and to canalise the people's flow into the areas of the park equipped for an intensive use. The Corso protects the park vegetation and biodiversity.

In the east mantle with many direct transversal connections with the park, the vegetation will be protected by installing temporary wooden fences of 60cm high (see the image p.43.)

In the west mantle where the transversal connections with the park are localised to several points, a permanent wooden fence 150cm high is installed inside the shrub layer. (see the image p.36.)



LEGEND

	Road surface (granite pavement or macadam)		Water features
	Granite pavement		Shock absorbing surface
	Wooden deck		Lawns
	Concrete steps		The wild mantle plants



Section F-F



CROSS SECTION G-G

AGENCE TER TEAM

m 1:250









Creating new porosities for access and security is a priority.

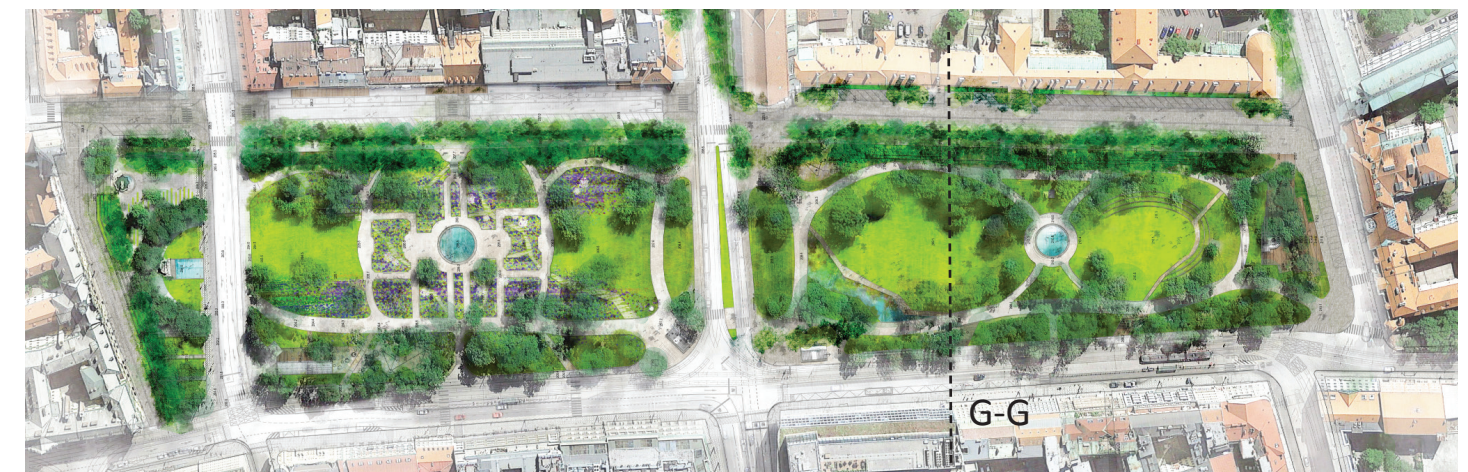
Careful modelling of the Wild Mantle allows Thomayer's sense of enclosure and framing to be achieved, whilst creating a few more physical openings, and a large number of diagonal vision corridors that give views above 1m high, and avoid hiding places.

The eastern Mantle is made particularly porous in the south, in front of the hospital, with many steps down formalised between low plantations, and the retention of existing trees - there is high visual permeability here. This is to respond to the need for circulation from the car parking areas, and also to encourage activities in this part of the park.



LEGEND

	Road surface (granite pavement or macadam)		Water features
	Granite pavement		Shock absorbing surface
	Wooden deck		Lawns
	Concrete steps		The wild mantle plants



Section G-G



CROSS SECTION H-H

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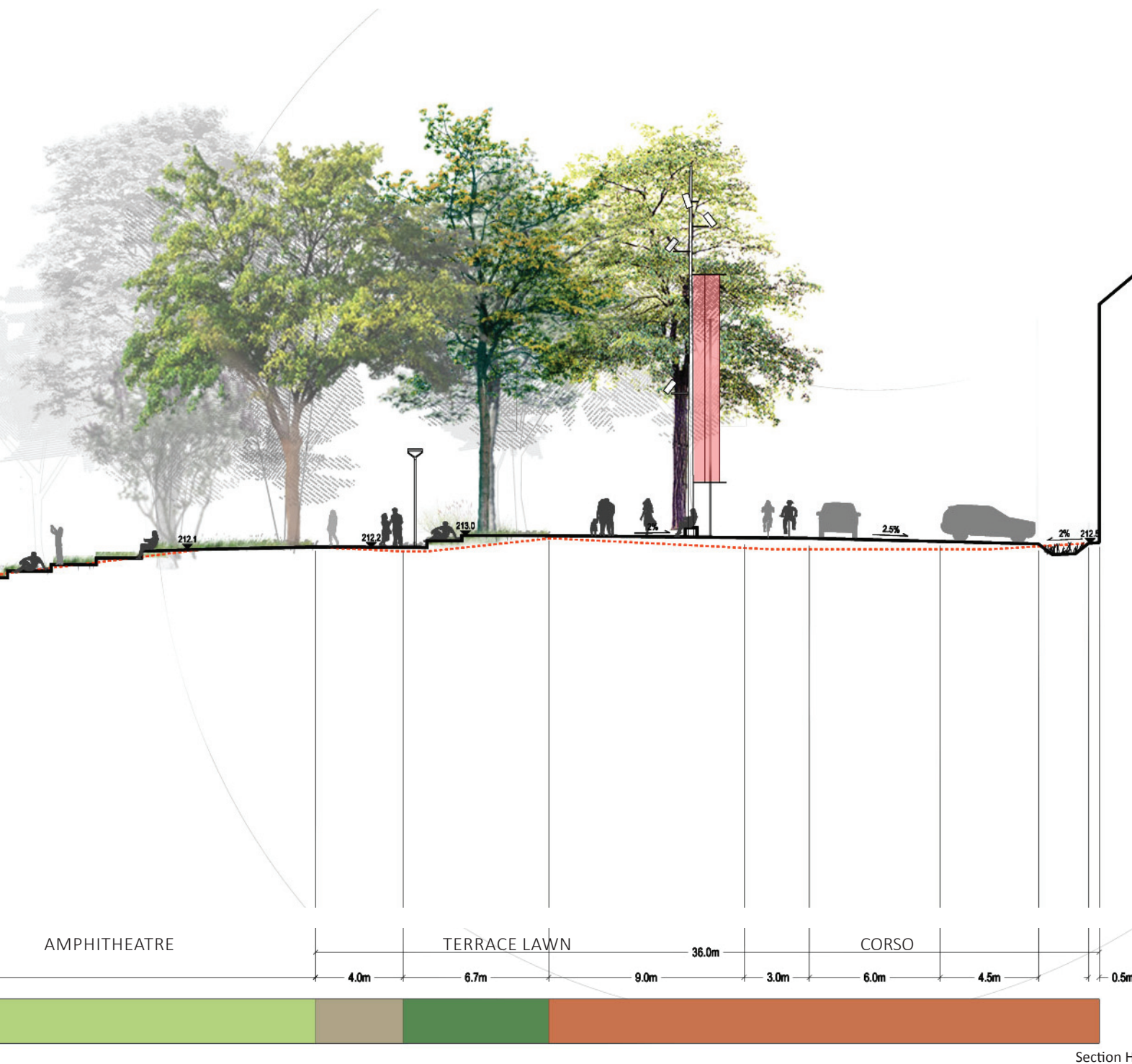
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Developing the park's biodiversity and creating green links with other natural spaces is encouraged in the different layers of plantation.









Concerning the trees, augmenting tree cover to the east along the Corso, and diversifying the species mix supports resilience and a mix of fauna - trees providing pollen for honeybees being particularly favoured. The structure of the planting provides connections with the city, and shaded walkways to encourage summer use (new trees will be planted in the 2050 horizon i Vodickova, U Nemocnice and Na Morani streets).

The shrub and perennial layers are rich in different plants, and particularly in the Mantles, berrying shrubs encourage birdlife, the floral grasslands are feeding grounds for insects and butterflies, and the wetland areas of the dells are particularly rich habitats for a range of fauna such as frogs, dragonflies, etc. .

Sustainable water management reuses water for irrigation, and discharges excess run-off to stockage and infiltration, rather than drains.

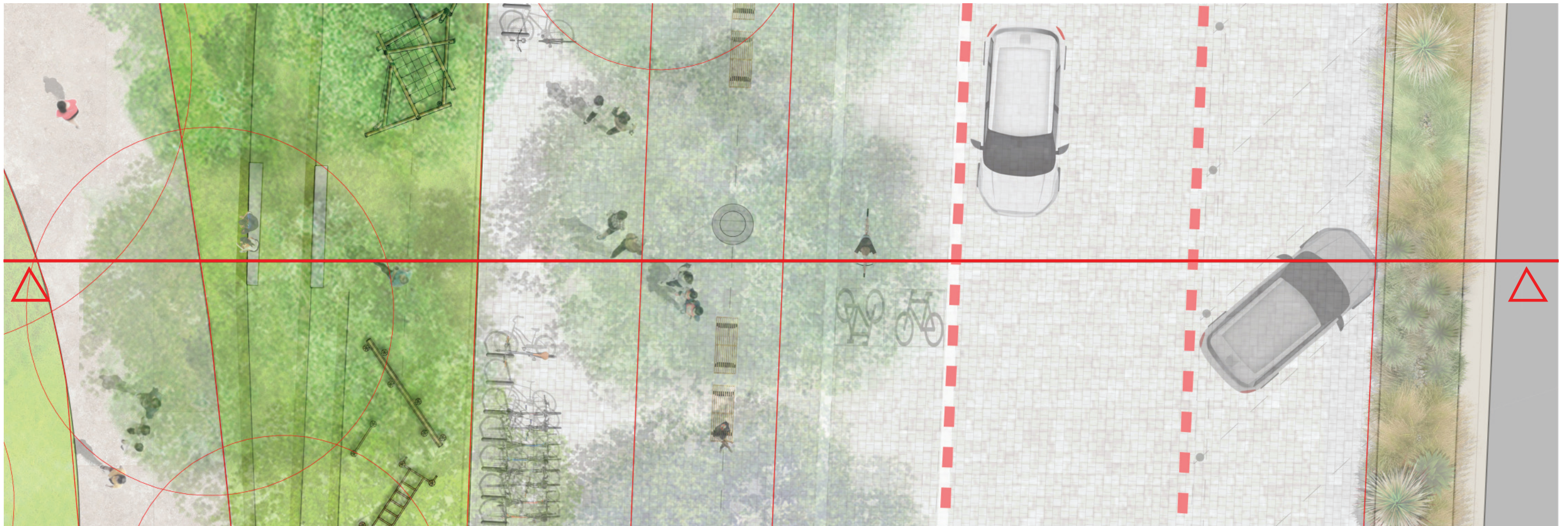
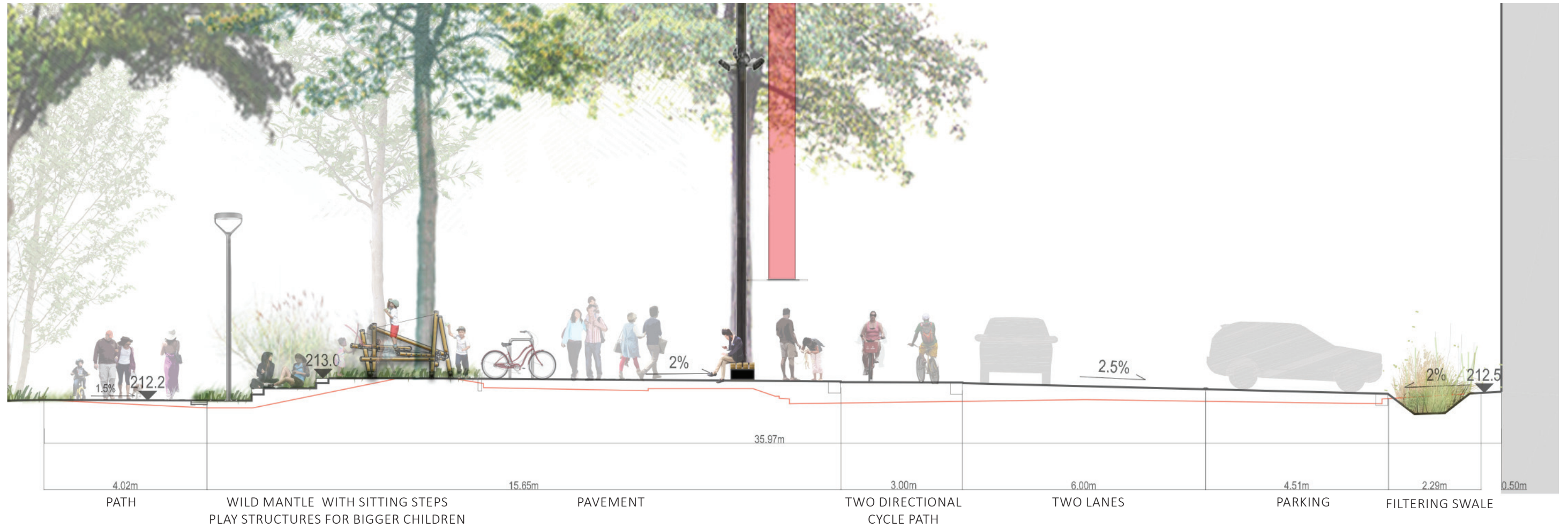


LEGEND

	Road surface (granite pavement or macadam)		Water features
	Granite pavement		Shock absorbing surface
	Wooden deck		Lawns
	Concrete steps		The wild mantle plants



Section H-H



SECTION AND PLAN DETAIL 1

AGENCE TER TEAM



m 1:100

The materials and surfaces

The palette of mineral and hybrid mineral and vegetal surfaces is adapted to the multiple ambiances and uses of the square. The urban space is marked by the granite 'Prague' pavement. The use of a grass joint creates a more hybrid urban-vegetal surface.

A resine bound aggregate is chosen for the park paths: a comfortable and supple walking and jogging surface, in contrast to the hard stone paving.

Different types of concrete sitting steps and slabs allow a direct contact with the natural ground, as well as diversified ways of use: a comfortable coffee pause as well as outdoor exercise of family picnic.

The use of a neutral coloured bould aggregate to surface the historical outlines of Thomayer's paths, contrasting with the prefabricated concrete paths cutting across the park on well used desire lines, makes it very clear what is the original historical monument, and what are the contemporary additions.



The traditional Prague granite pavement merges into the green areas with grass - filled joints.

Corso

Granite pavement // Granite kerb border // Light grey color



City hall square

Granite pavement with grass joints // Granite kerb border // Light grey color



A different vocabulary for the curved paths of Thomayer and the informal paths that acknowledge traditional shortcuts.

Paths in the park

Resine bound aggregate // Metallic border // Light beige color



Informal paths in the park

Prefabricated concrete slabs on gravel or grass // Light grey color



The wooden decking rests lightly on the natural soil and allows the vegetation to pass through. The concrete blocks outline natural terraces in a urban ambience and allow a comfortable pause.

Balconies and terraces

Wooden deck // Brown and grey color



Floating terrace and fresh terrace steps

Prefabricated concrete elements // Light concrete colors



The green steps alternating grass and concrete seats merge into the mantels and the lawns and underline the natural slope.

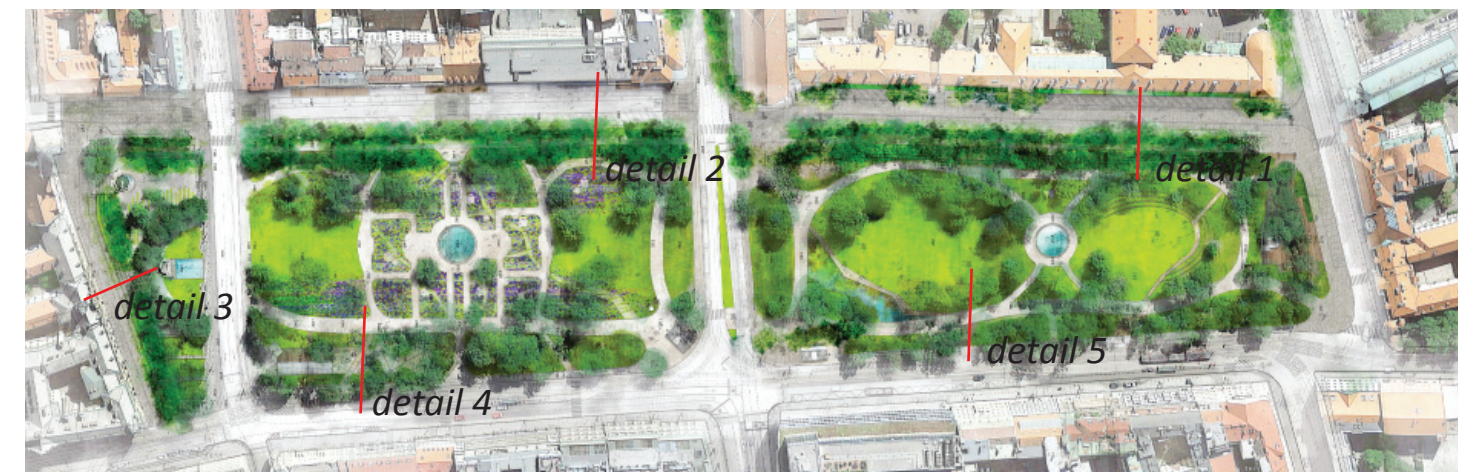
Corso steps

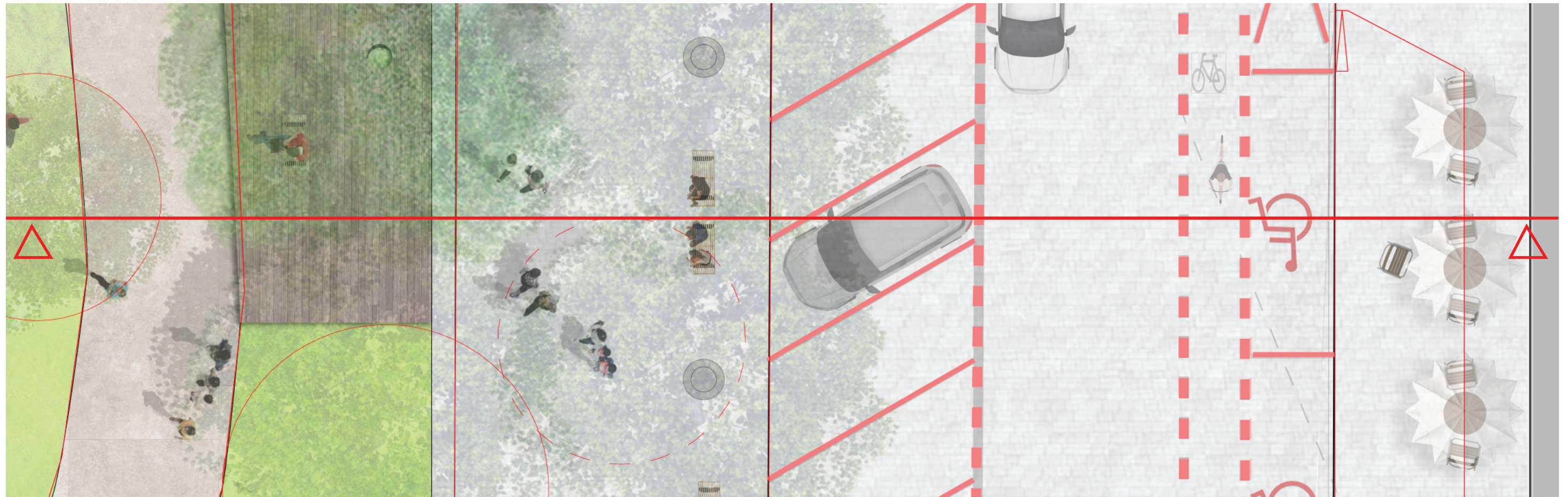
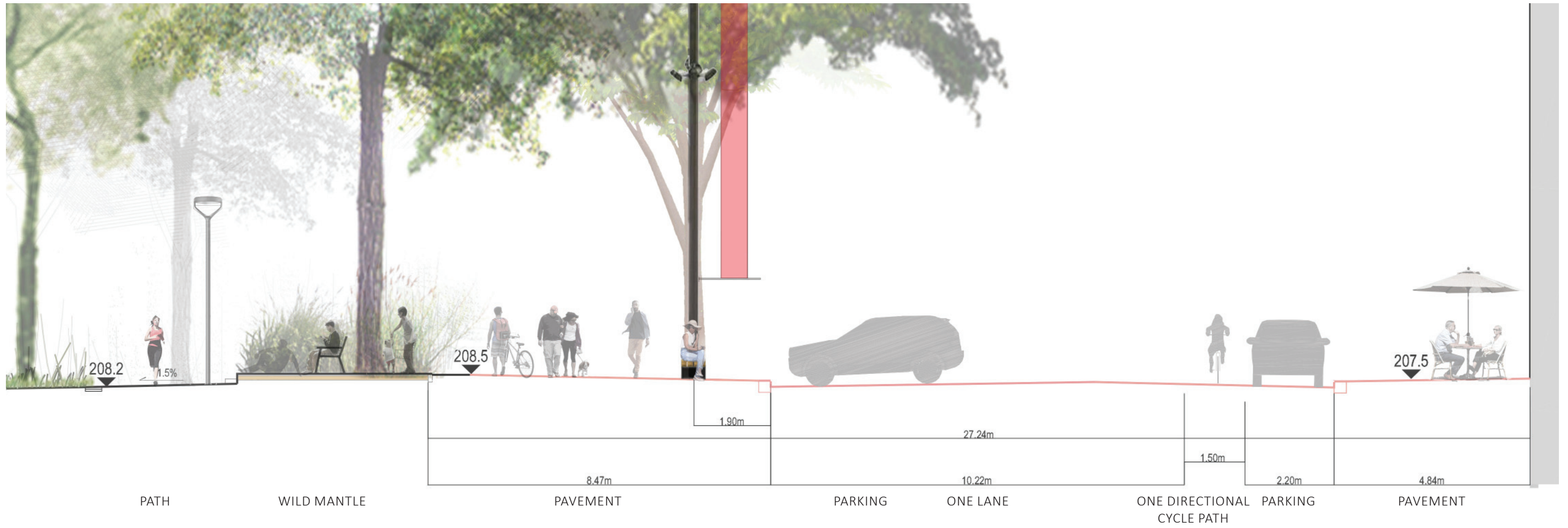
Grass surface with prefabricated concrete step // Light concrete colors



Amphitheatre

Prefabricated concrete seat with grass terraces // Light concrete colors





SECTION AND PLAN DETAIL 2

AGENCE TER TEAM



m 1:100

The lighting concept

A unique and unified colored range will be used for the square: a warm white basis with accents of gold, apricot, parme, raspberry and ruby.

The Corso is stongly illuminated with high masts which create a monumental late-night walk with a unique light atmosphere. These high masts emerge above the trees and emphasize the vegetal canopy. The heart of the park is discretely underlined with warm pastel colors (3000 K), compatible with the night wild life. Colored spotlights outline leaves, vegetal formes, benches...

A renewed image with colored accents is proposed for the surrounding historical buildings, in the continuity with the heart of the park.



Colored accents for surrounding historical buildings



Colored accents in the heart of the parc.

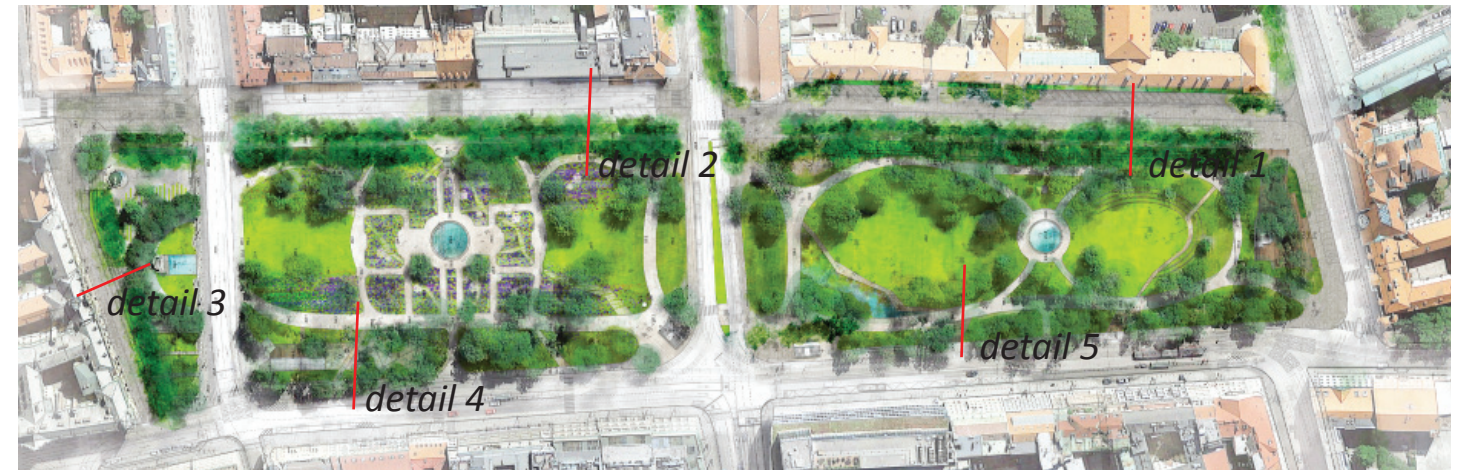


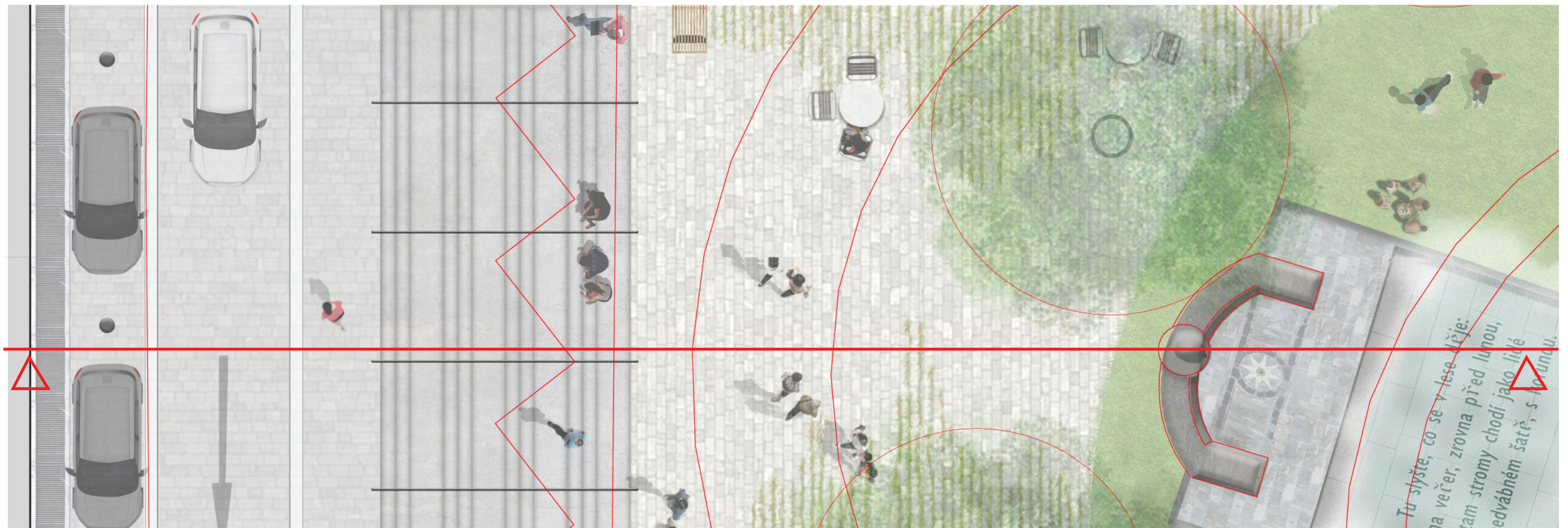
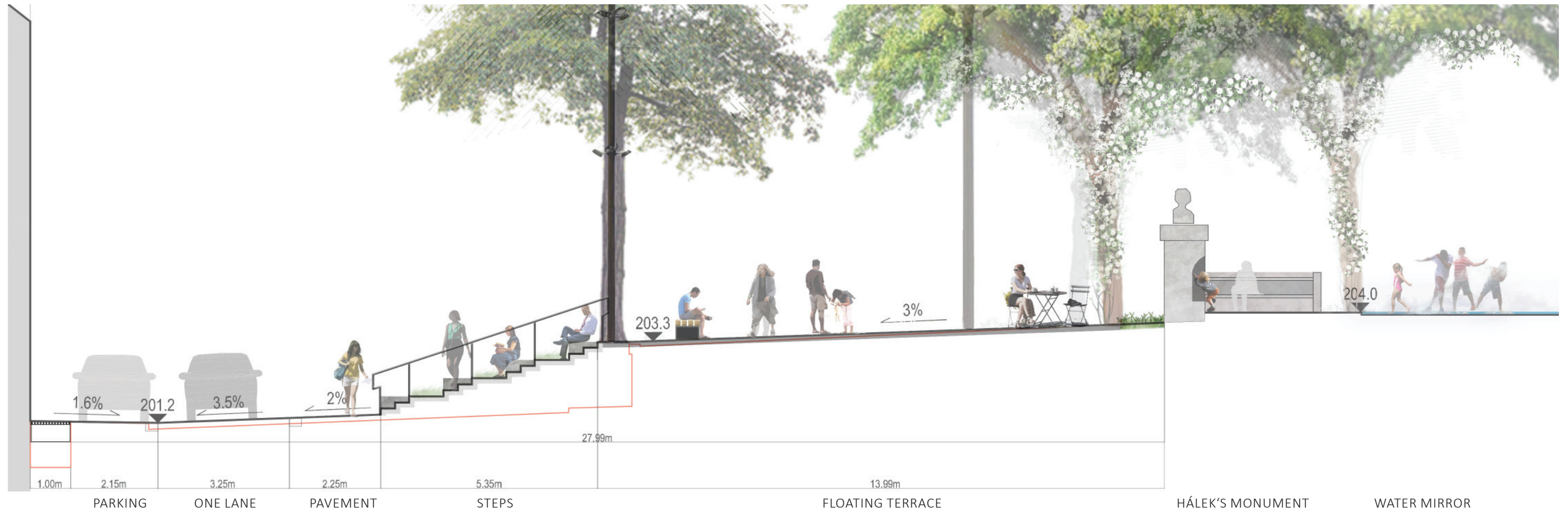
A minimal level of lighting for a secure passage through the parc

The heart of the parc is discretely underlined with warm pastel colors

The corso is stongly enlightened.

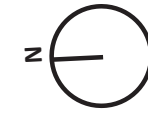
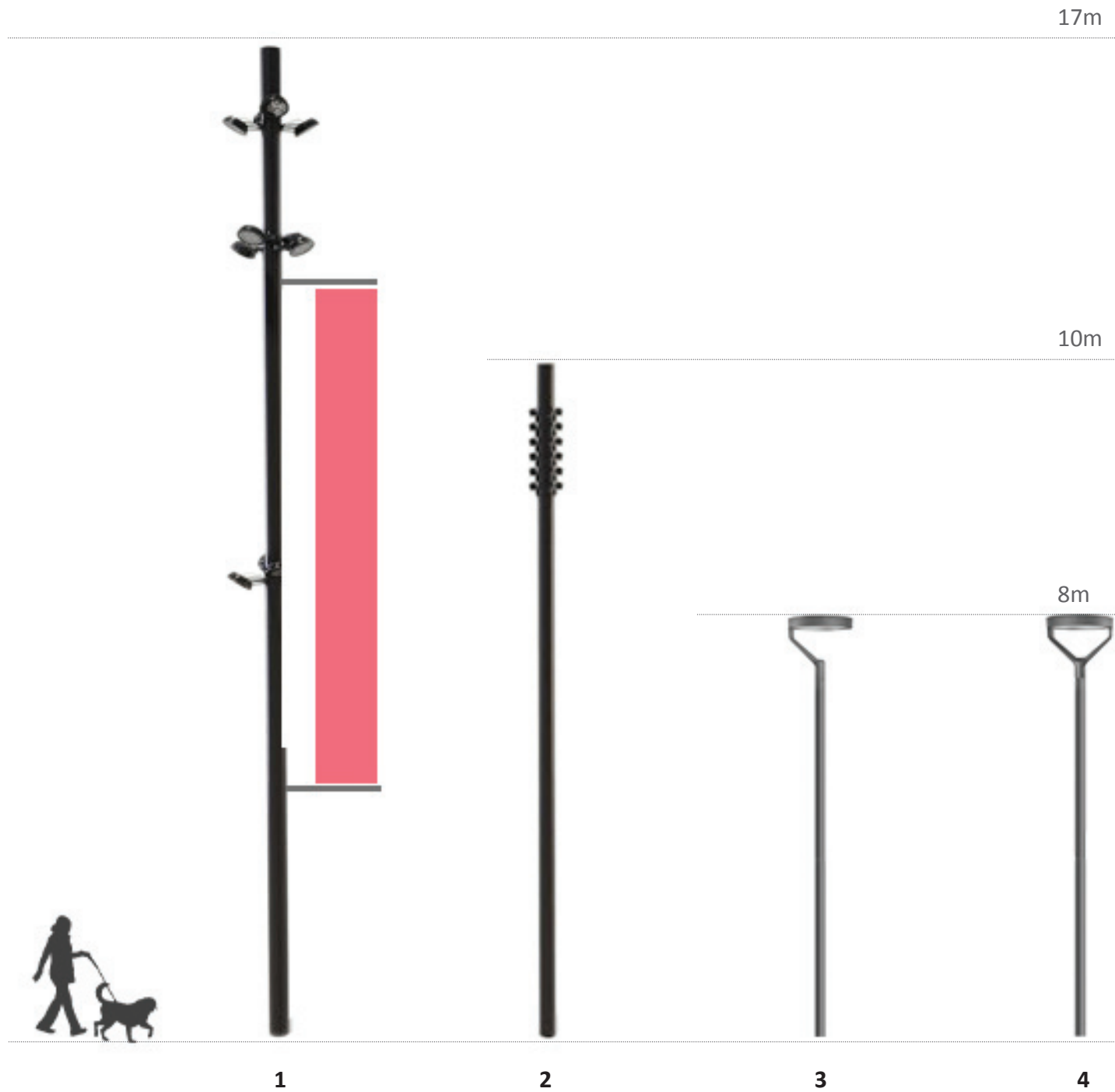
Nighttime section across the park, the central garden creates a dark setting for the illuminated monuments





SECTION AND PLAN DETAIL 3

AGENCE TER TEAM



m 1:100

The lighting material

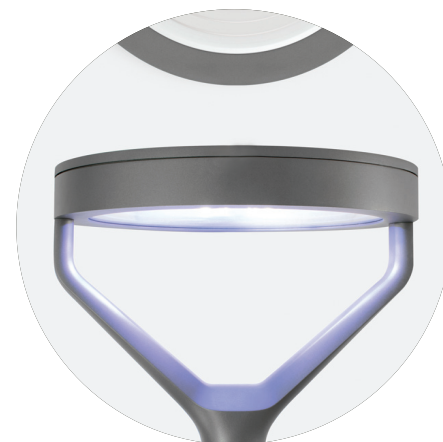
The corso is equipped with seventeen metres high LED sources masts. Each of them provides lighting for the full width of the corso and carries a vertical banner with changing information. The high masts will be implanted in the first phase of the works, so as to prefigure the corso since the very beginning.

Simple modern lines of lighting are proposed within the park. Middle high masts of eight metres LED sourced border the paths so as to provide a minimal level of lighting for a secure passage through the parc.

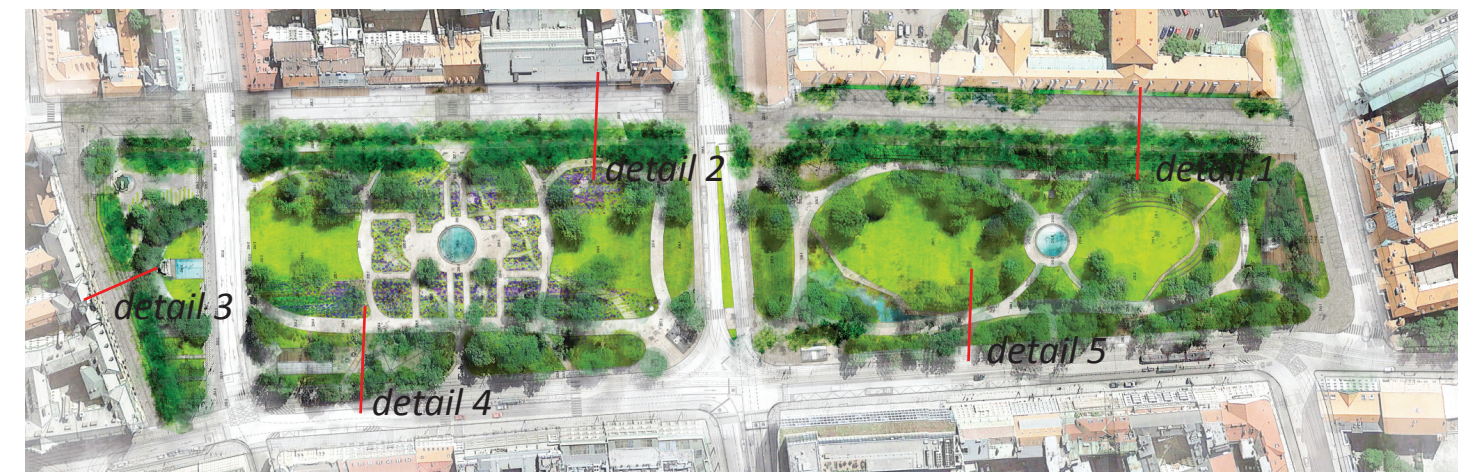
- 1 the high mast for the Corso with vertical banner
h=17m
- 2 the high mast for the south and north streets in continuity of the Corso masts
h=10m
- 3 The medium mast for the park
h=8m
- 4 The medium mast for the park / alternative
h=8m

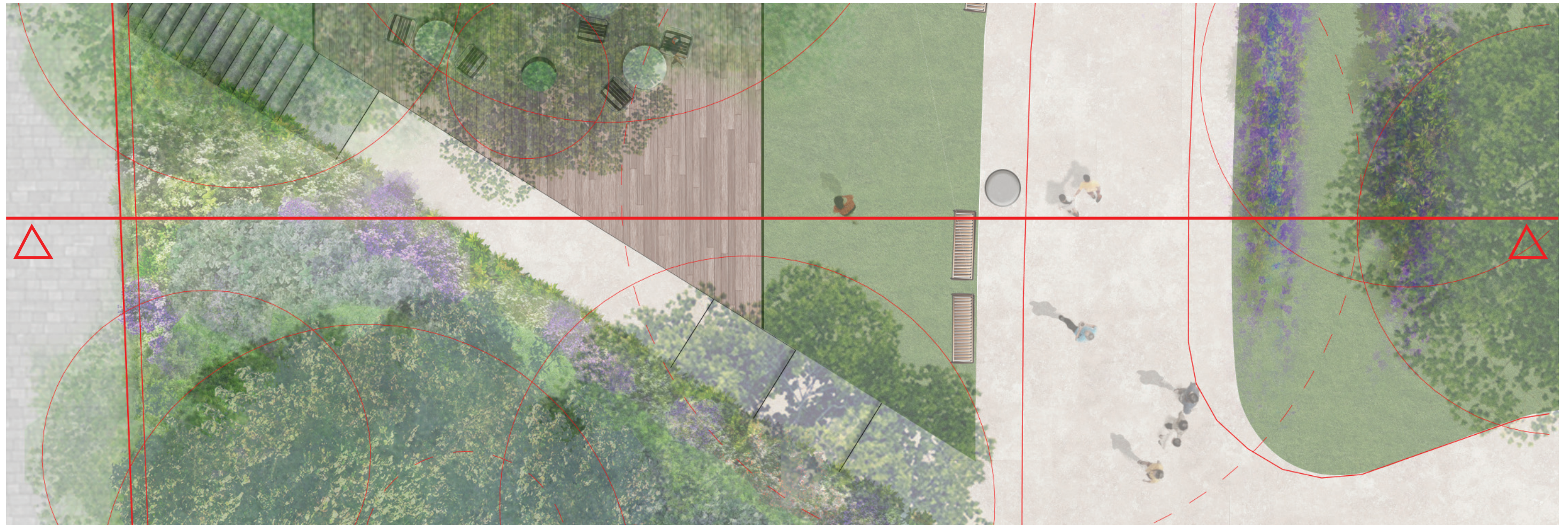
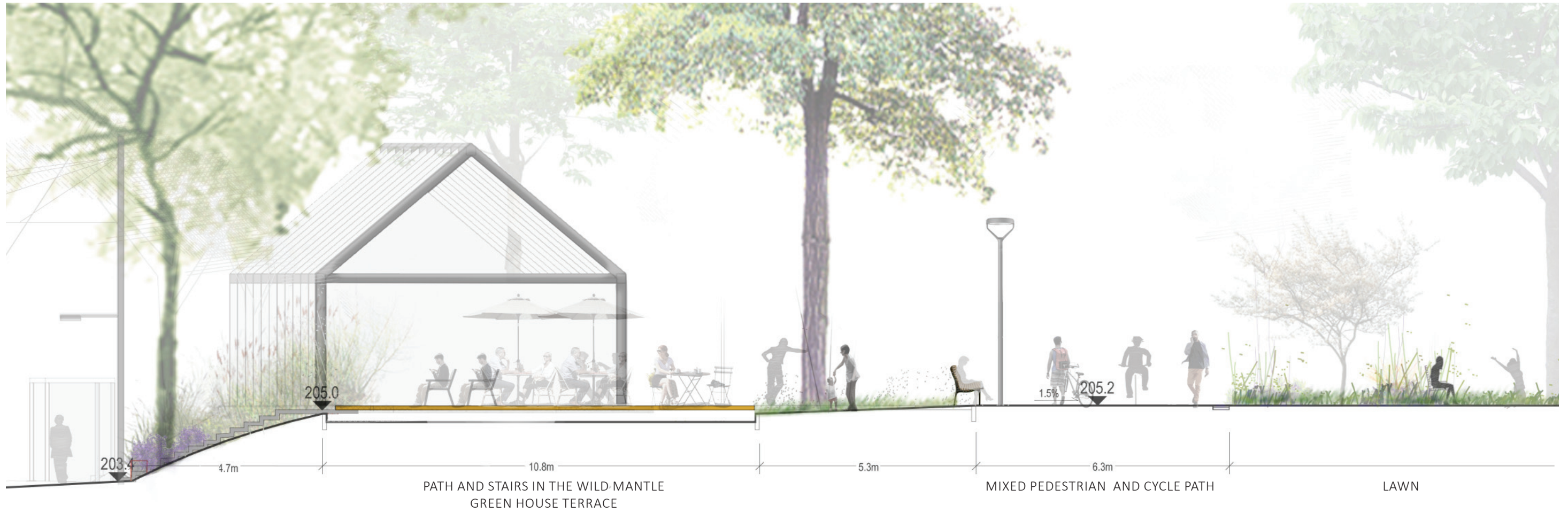


Detail of the vertical banner



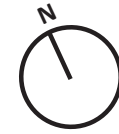
A LED ring can be incorporated into the lighting source for a colored touche and ambiance





SECTION AND PLAN DETAIL 4

AGENCE TER TEAM



m 1:100

The street furniture

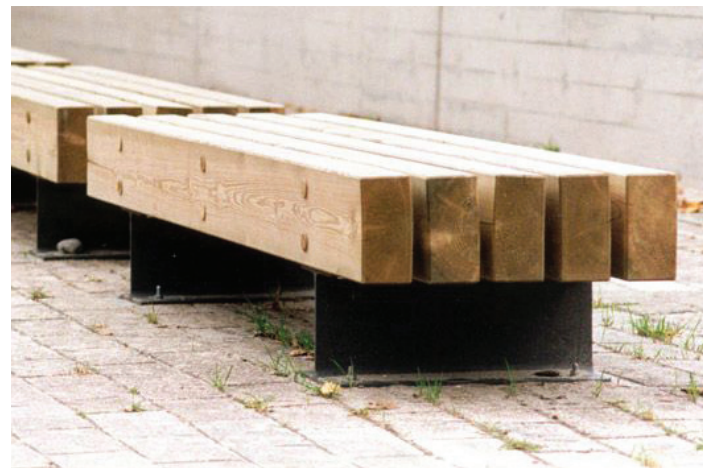
The street furniture within the park is the „Prague furniture“ designated for use throughout the city. The benches and waste bins are positioned to face into the centre of the park, on the longitudinal sides. No benches will be situated within the main visual axes of the park.

The „Prague furniture“ palette will be completed with recycling bins, bicycle stands and drinking fountains. The benches can be completed with chairs and high chairs, designed in the „Prague furniture“ style.

On the Corso simple wooden benches allow seating facing both ways, and adapt well to event installations and events. A concrete bench can be considered as alternative , particularly on the Floating Terrace.



Park - Prague street furniture



Corso- simple wooden benches



Corso alternative - concrete benches (not estimated)



Drinking fountain



Fixed and retractable anti ram bollards



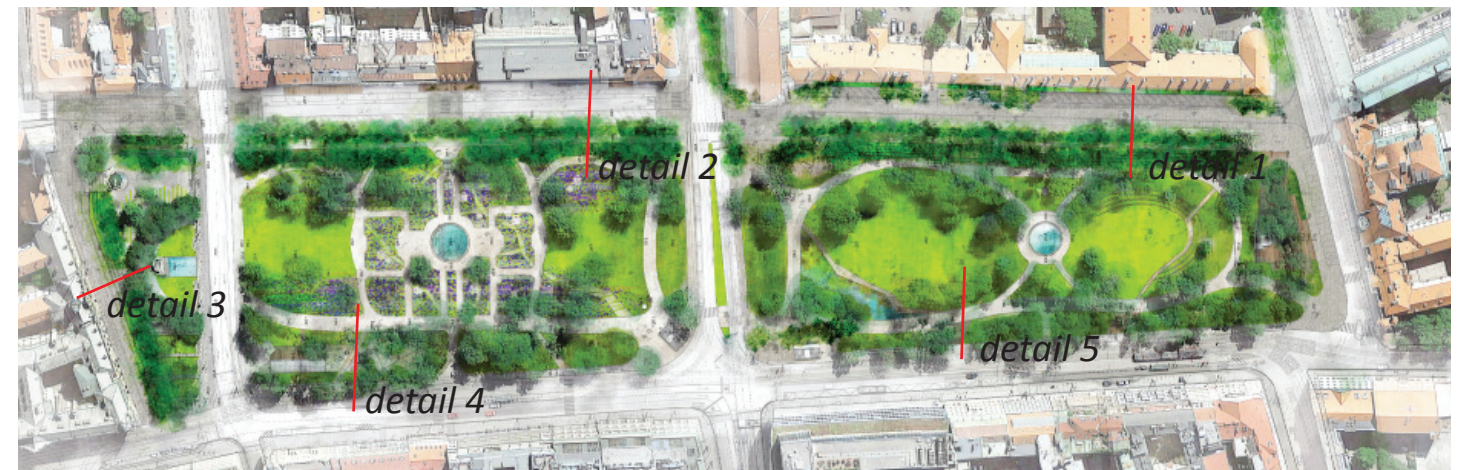
Steel disks marking the parking spaces

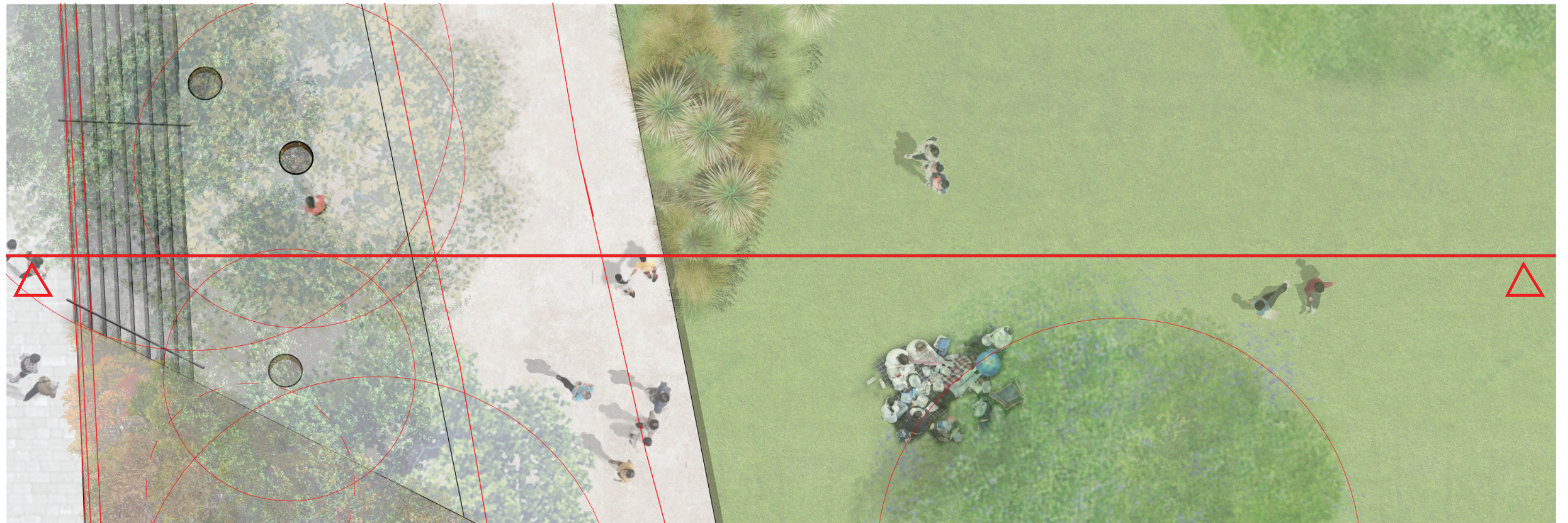


Park alternative to benches- wooden chairs



Park alternative to benches- wooden high chairs





SECTION AND PLAN DETAIL 5

AGENCE TER TEAM



m 1:100

Children playgrounds

In front of the Jesuit college, on a calm balcony overlooking the park, a play area for little children and their parents is located in direct connection with the kiosk café and the Corso. Shaded with the existing trees and protected with a metal fence, the playground offers 100m² of surface for play and resting areas for parents. A drinking water fountain will be located either on the playground area or on the kiosk - café terrace.

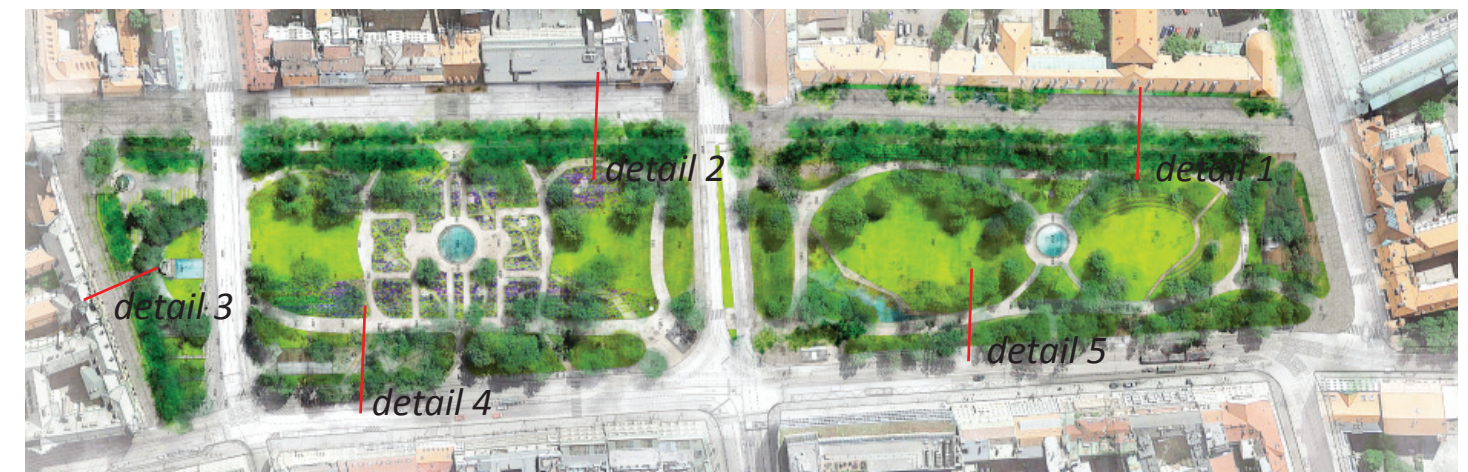
A suspended play area for bigger children prolongs the little children's playground to the south, and merges into the wild mantle. It is a playground perched under the tree canopy, an invitation to experience, to touch, to smell, to dream and to invent... The Fresh Terrace edges it from the south, creating a opportunity for picnic and sports for all generations.



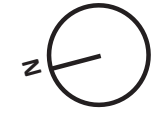
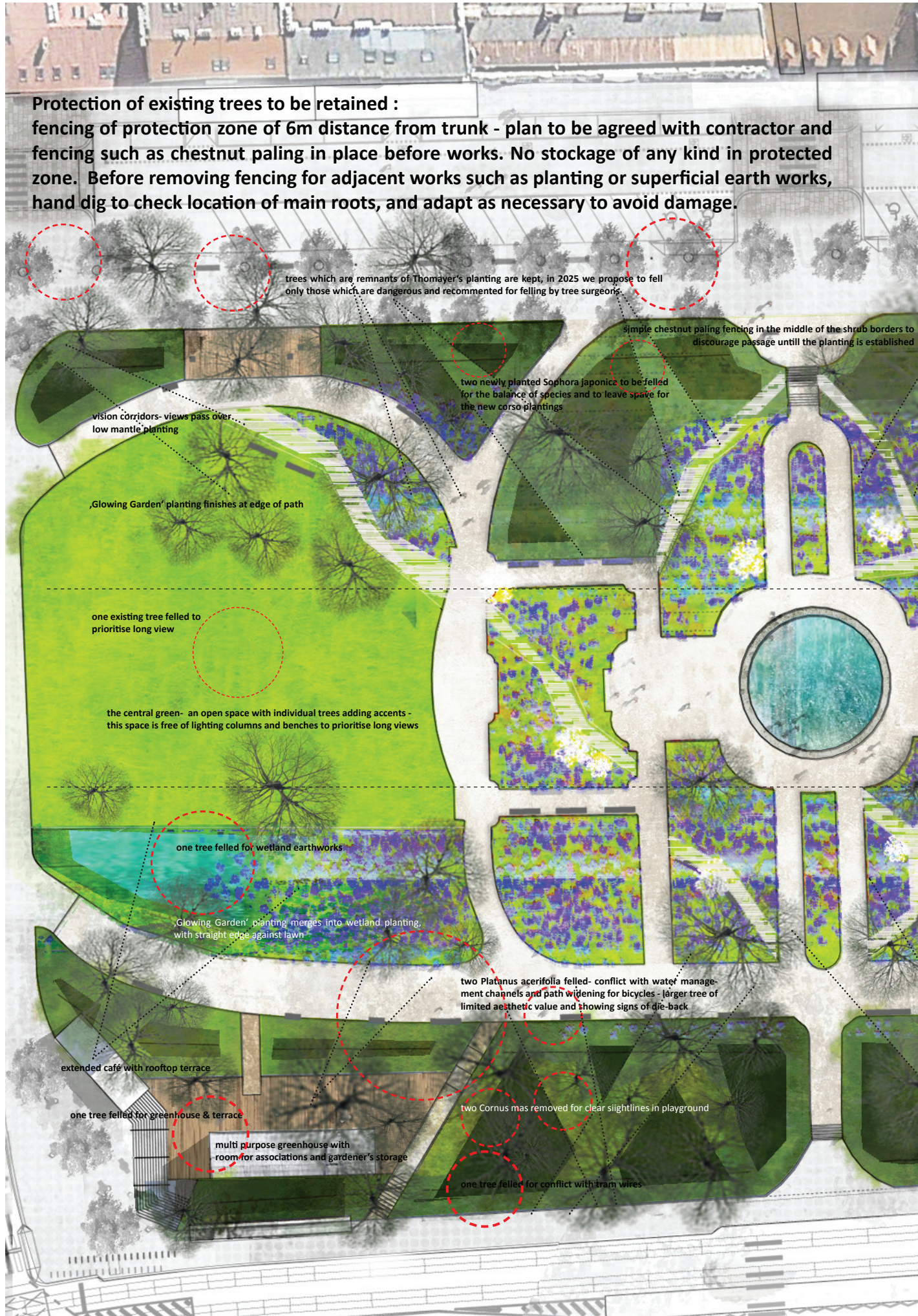
Play area for little children ambiance



Play area for bigger children ambiance



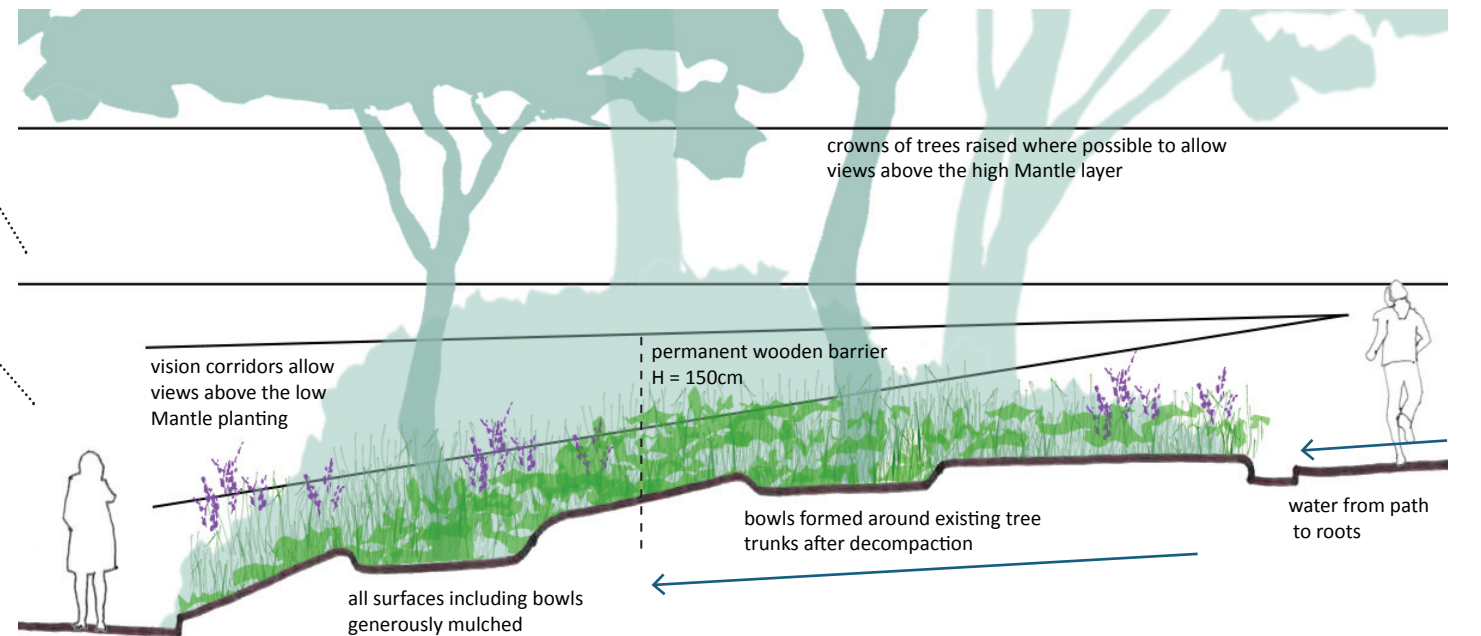
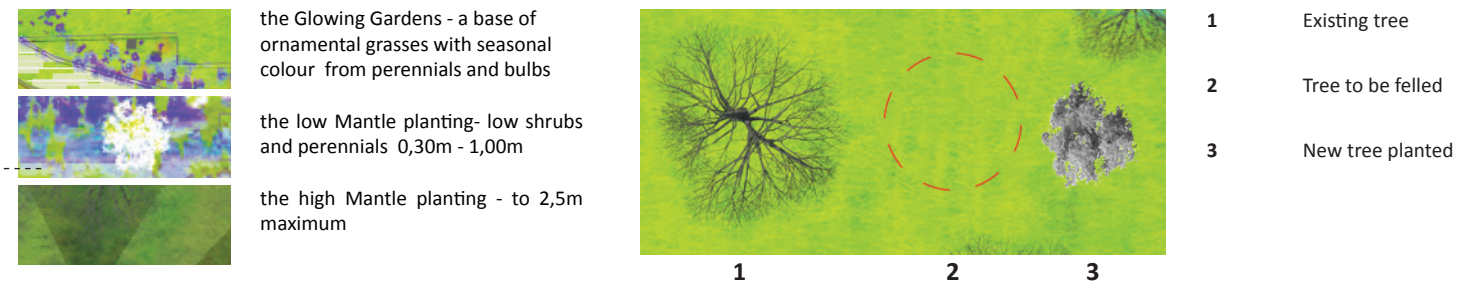
LANDSCAPING DESIGN OF THE PARK 2025



m 1:500

Treatment of the mantle aims to retain the framing screen of Thomayer, whilst creating diagonal view corridors above the low mantle at 1m. In addition, crown raising of the trees will enhance perceptions of the Square 'façade to façade'. Planting will diversify the existing palette, with a percentage of evergreens in the shrub mix, some winter accent colours from Hamamelis, and a mix of grasses and perennials in the inside borders. In the sunnier corners, a mix of species and repeat flowering dwarf cultivars of Lilacs will provide scent and flowers for longer.

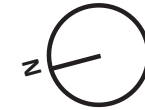
A contemporary interpretation of Thomayer's decorative parterre is traversed by informal paths allowing closeness to the plants, and even gardening by the public, as seen in Central Park, New York. Working with the Botanical Gardens can help to source a rich mix of different plants suited to the climate and the historical context, including outdoor orchids planted around the Discovery Deck, with its statue of Roeszl, who named many orchids.



Tree planting principles

LANDSCAPING DESIGN OF THE PARK 2050

AGENCE TER TEAM



m 1:500

Tree management - as a first stage, the priority is to take care of the existing trees by decompaction, to preserve the maximum of the historical heritage. It is important for public perceptions that the first stage of the park's revitalisation is not wholesale felling. A maximum of existing Corso trees will be retained, with the new plantations of either Robinia pseudoacacia, or Gleditsia 'Inermis', similar in form, if the Robinia is seen as too invasive. The entire Corso should be replanted within 15-20 years.

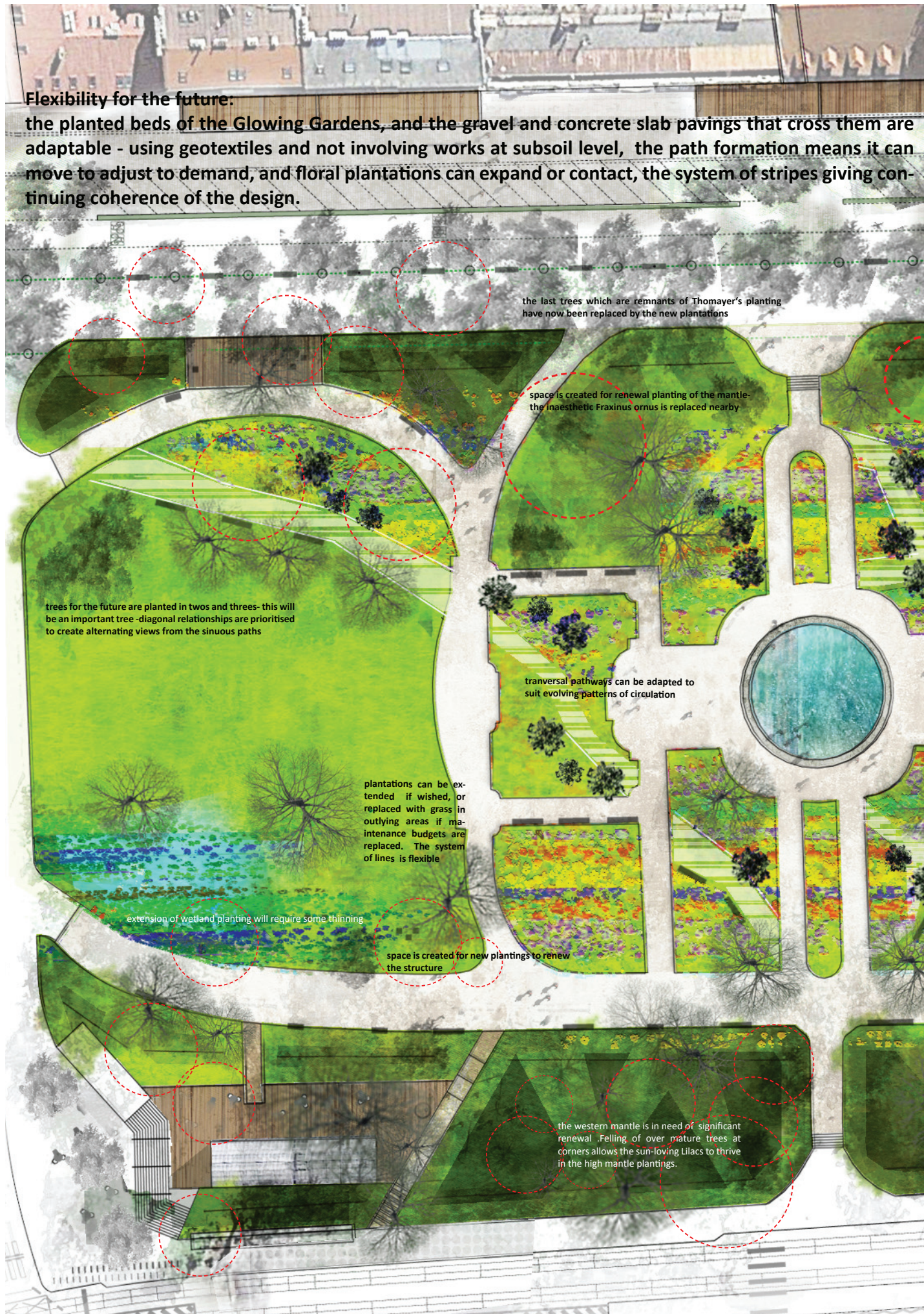
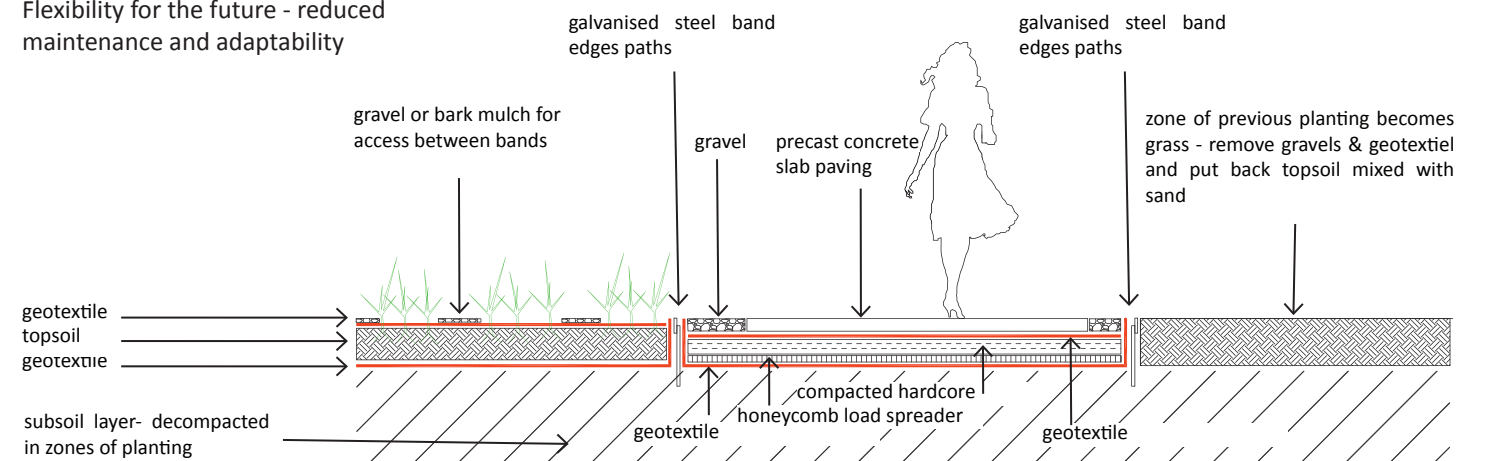
To rediscover Thomayer's diversity, replanting in the rest of the park should be with diverse species, avoiding the current dominance of Sophora japonica. A programme of phased felling and replantation should take place over 10 years, as the public confidence grows. The aim is to create a mixed age tree cover with new specimen trees in the central green, positioned to take the place of special trees such as the historical Plane tree, when they are no longer viable.



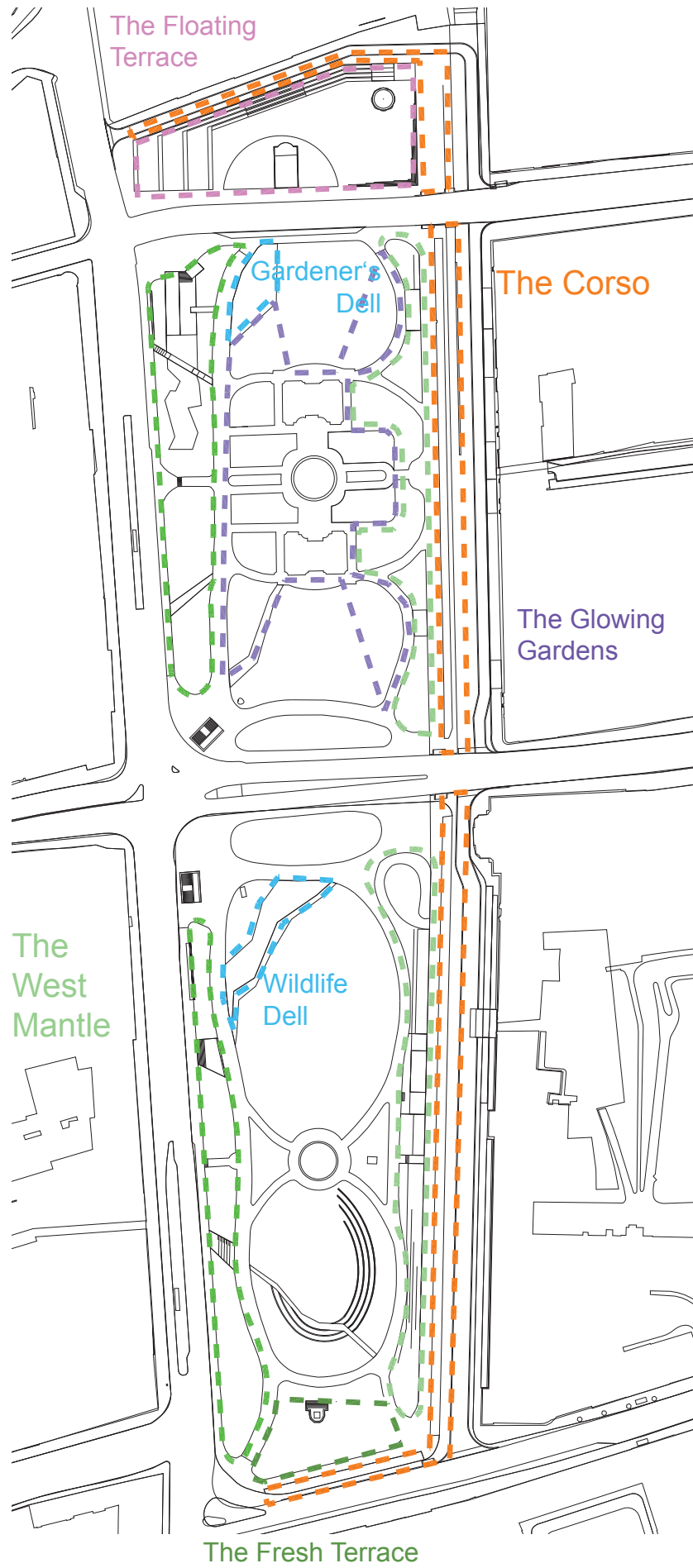
the Mantle West - height added by Sophora & Robinia to balance Corso - canopies form a mass
 the Central Green - alternation of single trees or small single species groups in generally open space
 the Mantle East - diverse mix of trees forming a mass with the Corso
 the Corso - formal double alignment of single type of tree

Tree planting principles - understanding Thomayer's intentions and moving towards a more balanced structure

Flexibility for the future - reduced maintenance and adaptability



Locations of types of plantations



The Floating Terrace - spring bulbs in grass & climbing plants in trees



The East & West Mantles -enriching existing planting with long flowering, dwarf cultivars of Lilac, evergreen & native flowering shrubs, and perennials & grasses in lower levels



The Wetland Dells



The Fresh terrace - shade loving plants such as Hostas, Hellebores, Ferns and Orchids



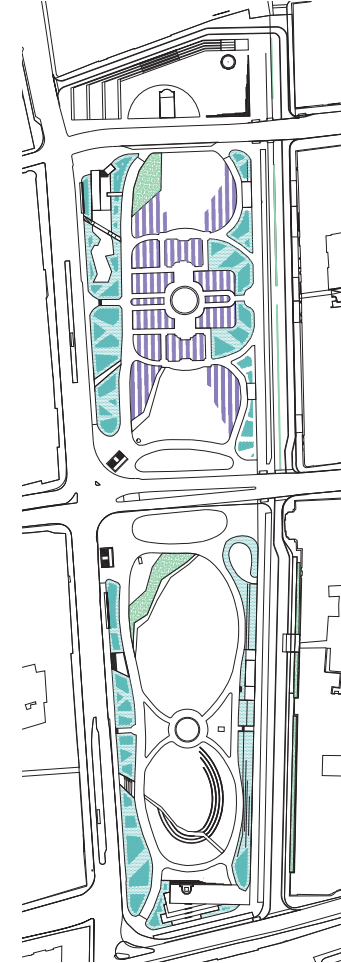
Trees to be felled and planted in 2025



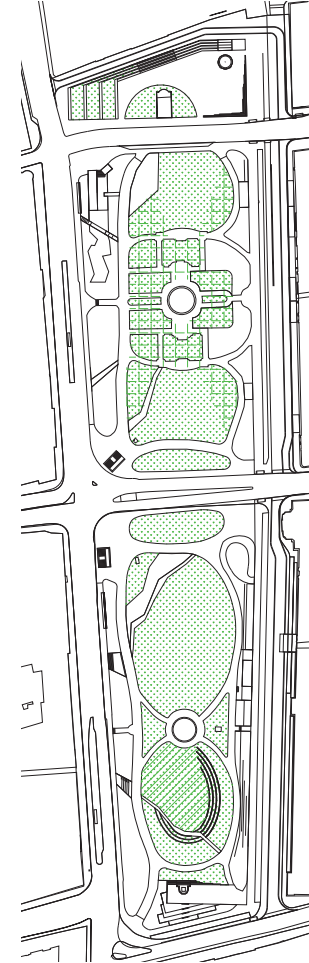
Trees to be felled and planted up until 2050



Intermediate layer of shrubs, grasses and perennial plants



Ground layer of lawns



Legend

- trees to keep
- trees to fell in 2025
- trees to fell in between 2025 & 2050
- trees planted in 2025
- trees planted between 2025 & 2050
- ▨ wetland plantations
- ▨ shrubs, perennials & grasses in the Mantle
- ▨ higher layer of Mantle shrubs
- ▨ maximum extent of decorative planting
- ▨ decorative planting merges into lawns
- ▨ lawns
- ▨ lawns with stone reinforced soil

A CONTEMPORARY INTERPRETATION OF THOMAYER'S INTENTIONS

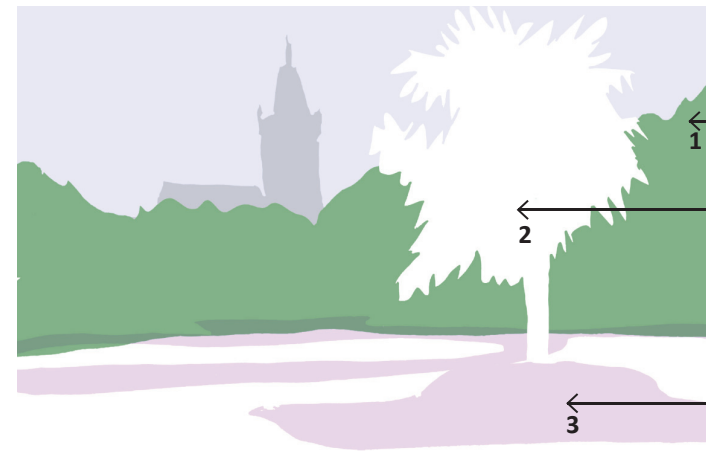
SOUČASNÁ INTERPRETACE THOMAYEROVA NÁVRHU

Main features of Thomayer's garden

- 1 Trees and mantle enclose garden framing view of tower - the overall vegetation mass is retained in the Mantle, with views through for security and perceptions of façades
- 2 Striking individual feature plants of 3-5m in height - such as Magnolia stellata in the contemporary style
- 3 Flat drifts of bright colour were created in Thomayer's day with seasonally changing annual plants - interpreted for today in stripes of grasses, perennials and bulbs, with informal pathways running through the beds



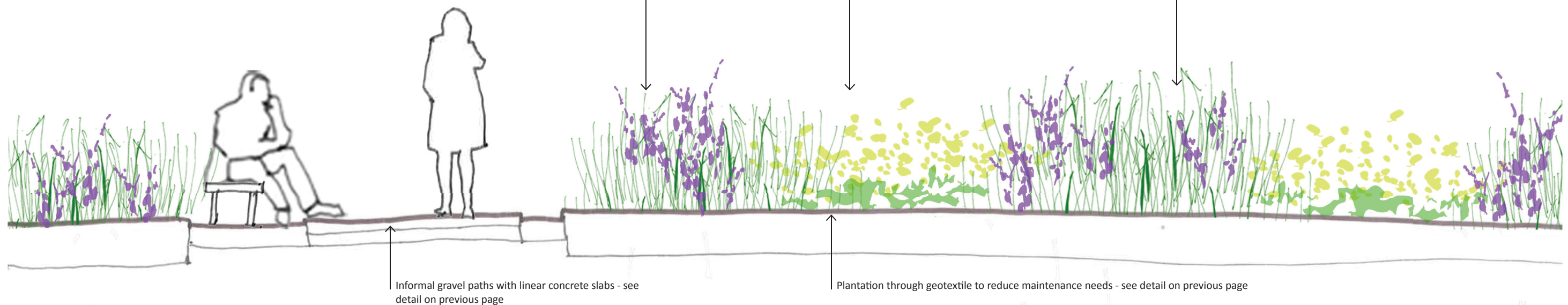
Postcard circa 1900



Seasonal accents of colour such as Roses, Alliums, Iris & Salvias

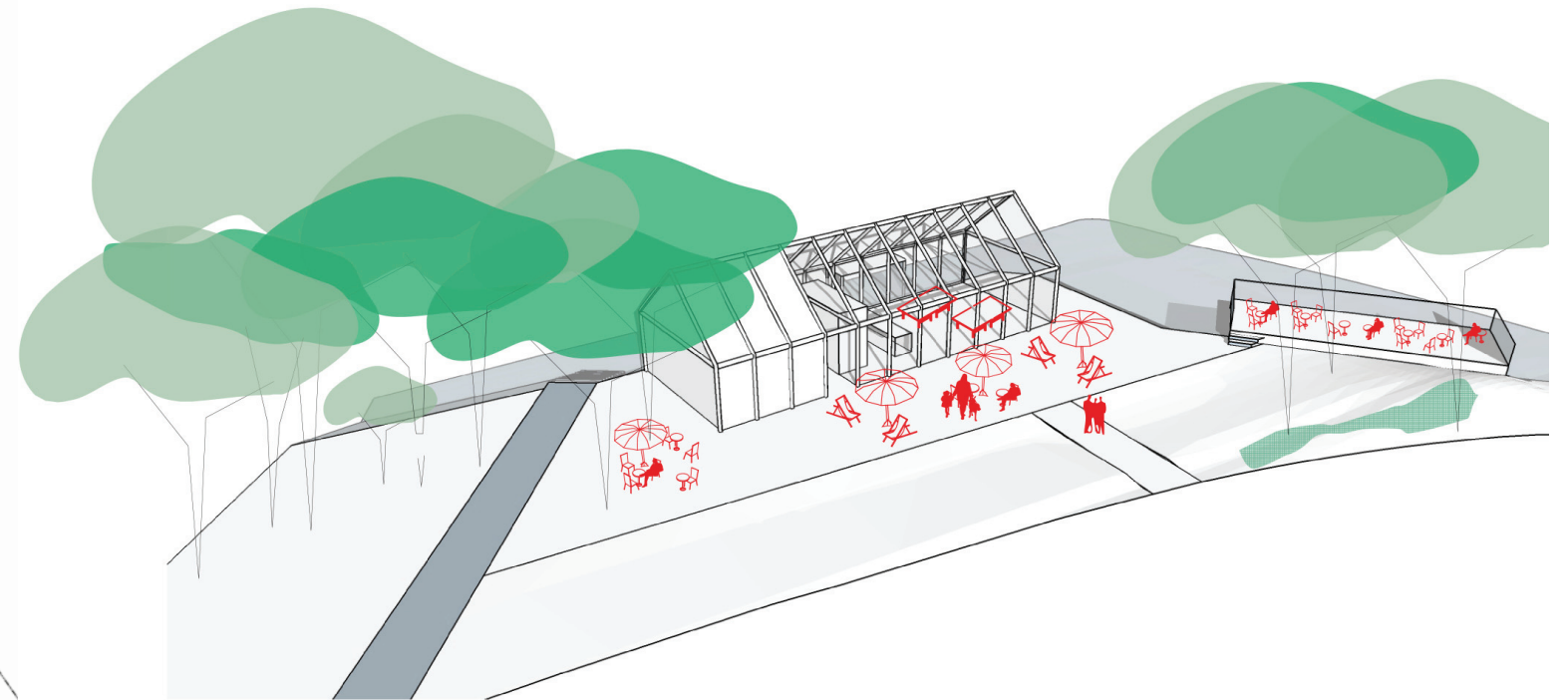
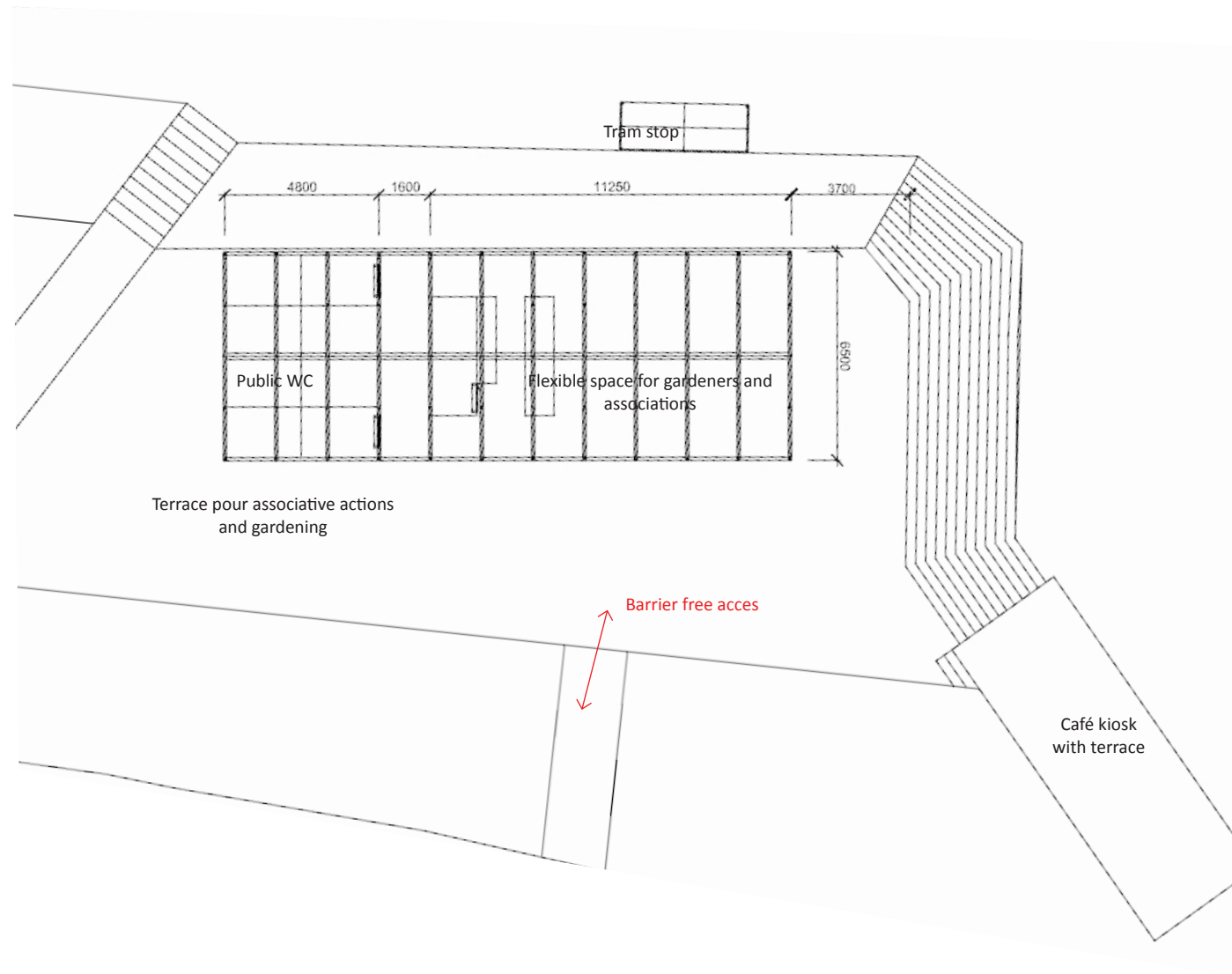
A succession of flowering bulbs in ground cover

Base of grasses such as Deschampsia, Penisetum & Panicum



THE NORTHERN CAFÉ AND THE GREEN HOUSE

SEVERNÍ KAVÁRNA A SKLENÍK



The greenhouse terrace is used as complementary demonstrative space for the associative and pedagogical activities.



The greenhouse offers a flexible space federating the residents and the children around the gardening activities in the park.



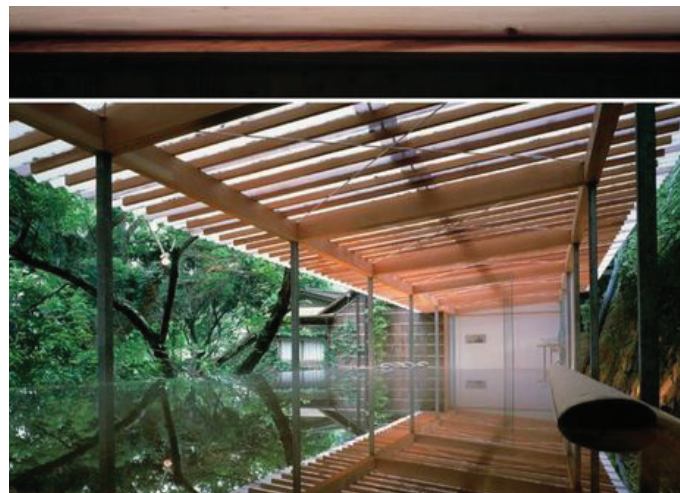
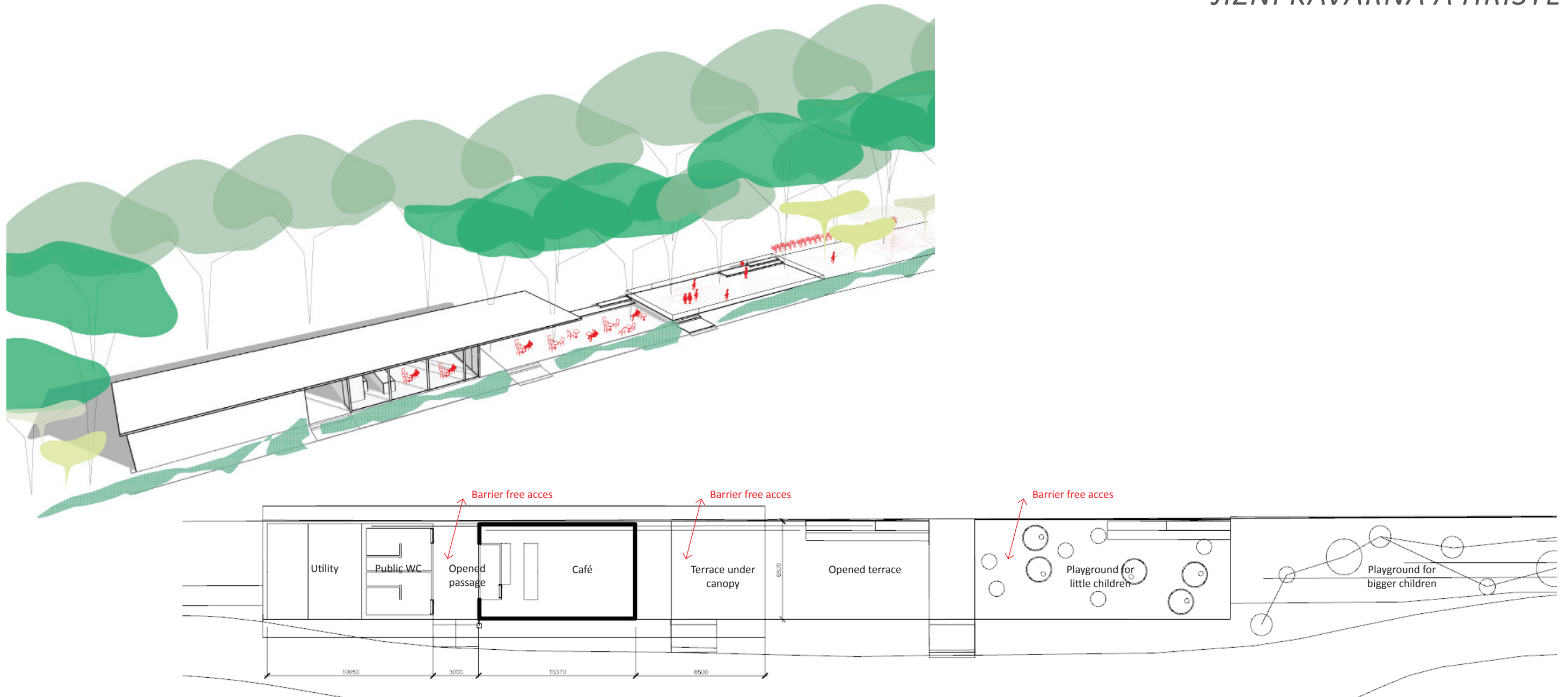
The existing kiosk with its terrace perched in the tree canopy is renewed and expanded, and used as a café.



Wooden clad facades for all utility volumes in the park.

THE SOUTHERN CAFÉ AND THE PLAYGROUNDS

JIŽNÍ KAVÁRNA A HŘIŠTĚ



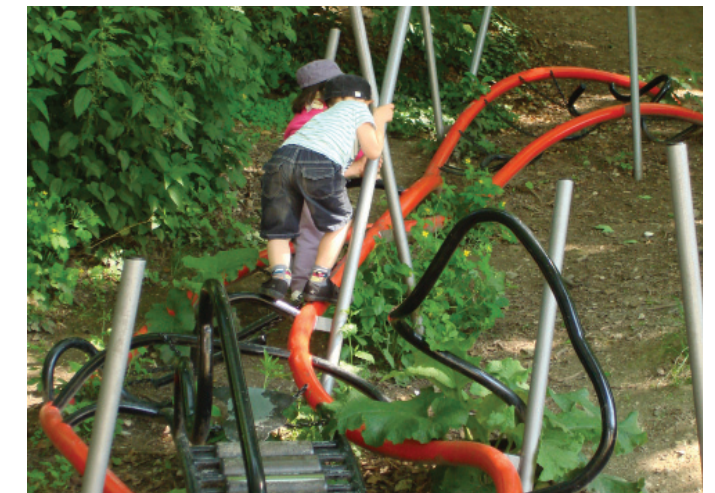
A light wooden roof see-through structure sloped towards the Corso frames a beautiful view on the park



Existing trees grow through the terrace and through the canopy



The playground for little children is a protected area connected to the Corso, to the park and to the terrace.



The playground for bigger children is a surelevated 'parcours' in the vegetation animating the south east corner of the square



THE CORSO

KORZO



Reactivating an urban intensity through the new Corso

The renewal of the Charles square is not only a question of 'creating an urban square' and 'saving the park'. It is first of all a question of creating a new urbanity.

Reactivating Charles Square from facade to facade, we introduce the Corso as an evolutive public space, a generous mineral surface ready to host divers uses and different scales of events, from a simple occupation of its pedestrian sequence to its whole extention.

It is also a demonstrative space of a new peaceful urban outdoor life, active, changing, inclusive and natural.

The creation of the Corso may be subject to several time horizons. The first step to the Corso is a renewed generous sidewalk linking the east mantle of the park. The circulation on the east side of the square being progressively calmed, a scenario of closing partially or completely the street for events gives it a great potential of flexibility.

The flexibility will be also be encouraged by a new spatial fluidity and flatness of the surface without obstacles. The alignment of robust benches, trees and lighting masts protects the pedestrian only part of the Corso from illegal parking. Retractable anti ram bollards protect the pavements at the crossings.



THE NORTH ENTRANCE TO CHARLES SQUARE SEVERNÍ VSTUPNÍ PROSTOR KARLOVA NÁMĚSTÍ



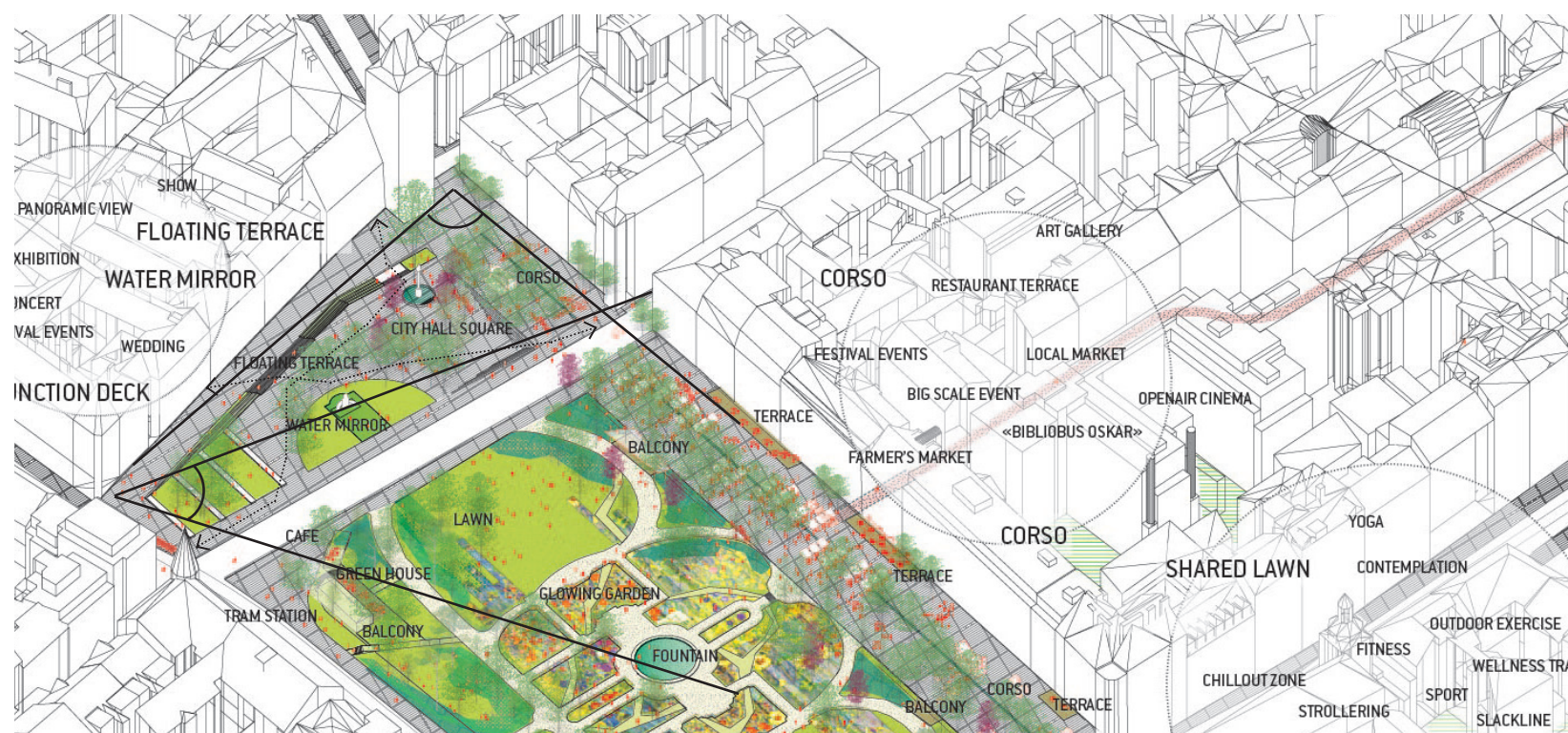
The Floating Terrace

The north entrance to the square reveals the beauty and the meaning of a 19th century monument. An access on all sides allows appreciation of this beautiful three dimensional object which rediscovers its function as urban street furniture. In front of his monument, one of Hálek's poems is engraved into a stone „carpet“ covered with a thin water and mist layer on sunny days.

The Floating Terrace offers a **large visual opening** at the north entrance of the square from Spálená street, disclosing the real dimension of the square and revealing Hálek's monument in a central position. The new opened slope with concrete sitting steps offers visual and physical access to the beautiful historical facades.

A **spatial continuity** for the pedestrians is necessary in order to activate the north entrance of the square. The Court of Justice building and the Town hall become again part of the Charles Square through a new pedestrian connection: the concrete sitting steps will replace the existing wall between the street and the central area.

From the north, a large paved area unifies the space of a renewed City hall front fit for diversified uses: exhibitions, openings, wedding receptions, etc.



THE SOUTH ENTRANCE TO CHARLES SQUARE

JIŽNÍ VSTUPNÍ PROSTOR KARLOVA NÁMĚSTÍ

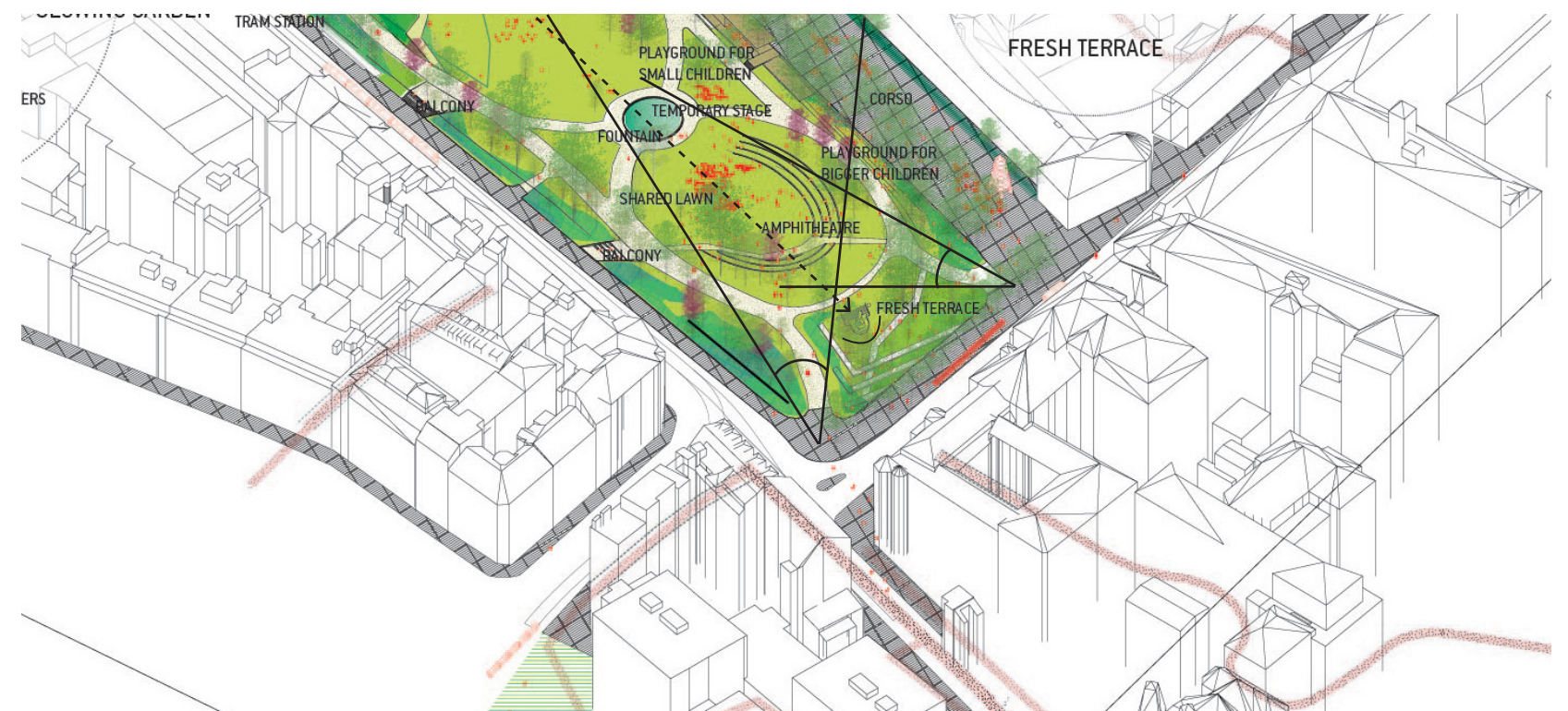


The Fresh Terrace

The Fresh Terrace is a leafy welcoming natural space. It is shaded and protected with the existing and newly planted trees. Roezl's monument is set in the middle of a rich grass parterre. The medium height vegetation, including evergreens, provides a dark green background for the statue when seen from Thomayer's central axis, so the natural outline of the monument seen from the main axes of the park is retained. The tree layer is de-densified so as to offer a clearing with the view of the Roezl's sculpture.

Opening views under the tree canopy invites access from the edges of the square, as well as the discovery of the lesser known New Town.

The natural slope is levelled with horizontal steps to reveal the topography of the south mantle. The use of identical concrete sitting steps on both sides of the square, albeit in a different ambiance, provides a continuity of perception and offers a new perception and setting for the two main monuments of the park. Imprints of species discovered by Roezl will be engraved into the concrete horizontal steps.



THE GLOWING GARDEN

ZÁŘÍCÍ ZAHRADA



The „Glowing gardens“
Awaking the senses in a ephemeral living ambience



Creating a new image of Charles square:
Land art artistic installations will find place in the flower beds, creating an ephemeral outdoor art gallery.

THE SHARED LAWNS

POBYTOVÉ LOUKY



The shared lawn
A generous inclusive natural space adaptable for events, for urban sports or simple relaxation

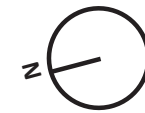


Creating a new image of Charles square:
The shared lawns, the amphitheatre and the corso terraces provide generous settings to all sports, as well as a demonstrative space for emerging sports - a captivating urban show for spectators of all ages.



MASTERPLAN OF CHARLES SQUARE 2050

AGENCE TER TEAM



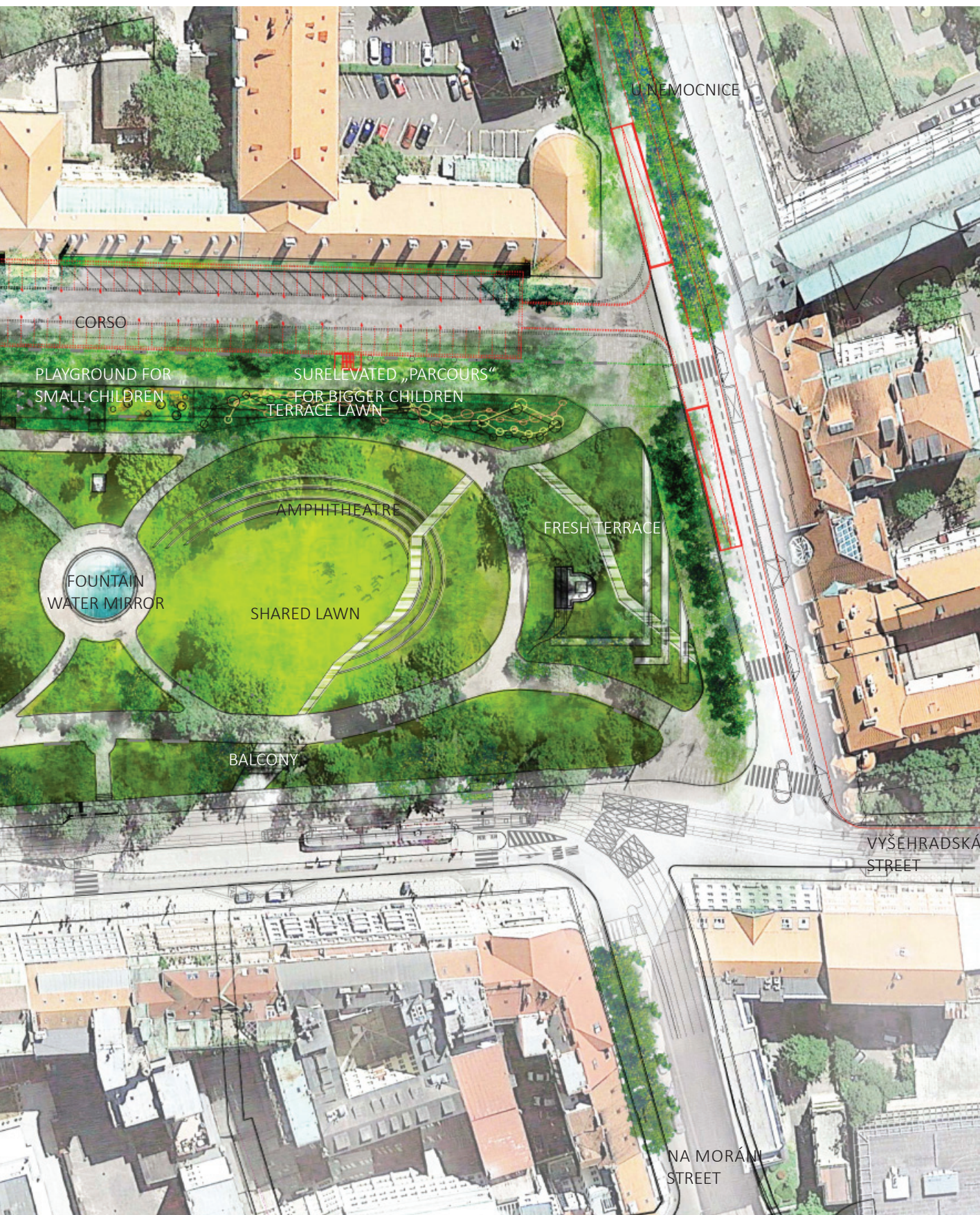
m 1:1000

In the 2050 Masterplan, the development of the Corso has progressed, and the entire eastern edge of the park can be closed to traffic as required for events. New physical links through the hospital gardens and the Emmaus monastery are achieved, linking the Charles square to the hillsides of Botič creek.

The renewal of the tree layer has progressed, with roughly one third of the existing trees having been felled and replaced. A new alignment to the south emphasizes the links to the east.

Charles Square progressively becomes a major Prague outdoor gallery hosting artistic installations such as land art in Floating Terrace, big scale photographs and posters on the façade of the Jesuit hospital, and a major elevated artistic object in the center of the square. Shown in our proposal as a ring of light and mist floating above Ječná street, this object should be designed by a leading international artist and will signal the urban renewal of the square. The special artistic budget available will make that possible.

A possibility of a new opening of the metro entrances on the park, with a direct view of Saint Ignatius may be another interesting opportunity to emphasize the identity of the public transport space on the square.



AGENCE TER TEAM

AGENCE TER

HENRI BAVA

HELEN STOKES

JINDRISKA SCHIFF

BREAK POINT ARCHITEKTI

TOMÁŠ VESELÝ

MARTIN HAJNÝ

DIANA SALAHIEH

HBH PROJEKT

PETR SABADÁŠ

PETR SKŘIČKA

PHYTORESTORE

JULIEN DOUESNARD

CONCEPTO

FANNY GERARD