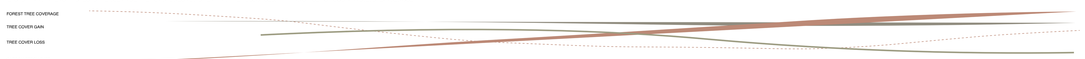
FOREST MANAGEMENT IN THAILAND

IN 2020, THAILAND HAD 16.9 MILLION HECTARES OF NATURAL FOREST, COVERING 33% OF ITS LAND AREA. THESE FORESTS ARE VITAL TO BIODIVERSITY, INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES, AND ACT AS A CRITICAL CARBON SINK. YET DESPITE THIS, THAILAND CONTINUES TO FACE HIGH RATES OF DEFORESTATION. IN 2023 ALONE, IT LOST 65.9 THOUSAND HECTARES, RELEASING 114 MILLION TONNES OF CO_2 INTO THE ATMOSPHERE. OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES, TREE LOSS HAS CONSISTENTLY OUTPACED REGENERATION, SHRINKING PRIMARY FORESTS AND FRAGMENTING ECOSYSTEMS. THIS ONGOING DECLINE REFLECTS MORE THAN JUST NATURAL OR ILLEGAL CAUSES — IT STEMS FROM A CENTRALIZED FOREST MANAGEMENT SYSTEM THAT LIMITS PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND LACKS TRANSPARENCY. FORESTS ARE SEEN AS EITHER SACRED ZONES OR EXTRACTIVE RESOURCES, WITH NO SPACE FOR SUSTAINABLE, BALANCED USE.



1938 FOREST ACT

THE FOREST ACT GRANTED FULL STATE CONTROL OVER FORESTS, DEFINED FOREST BROADLY AND INTRODUCED PROTECTION FOR RESERVED SPECIES LIKE TEAK AND ROSEWOOD, MARKING THE START OF LEGAL FOREST GOVERNANCE IN THAILAND.

1961 – 1981 LOGGING CONCESSIONS

AS PART OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS, THE GOVERNMENT ISSUED MASSIVE TEAK AND HARDWOOD LOGGING CONCESSIONS. FOREST COVER DROPPED FROM 50% IN 1961 DUE TO UNCONTROLLED DEFORESTATION.

1979 FOREST DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHED

THE ROYAL FOREST DEPARTMENT WAS PLACED UNDER THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE TO CENTRALIZE FOREST CONTROL, BUT FOREST LOSS REMAINED HIGH DUE TO WEAK ENFORCEMENT.

1989 LOGGING BAN

AFTER DEADLY FLOODS IN NAN PROVINCE, THE GOVERNMENT BANNED ALL COMMERCIAL LOGGING. ALTHOUGH DEFORESTATION SLOWED, NO SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WAS INTRODUCED.

1997 COMMUNITY RIGHTS

THE 1997 CONSTITUTION RECOGNIZED LOCAL COMMUNITIES' RIGHTS TO MANAGE FORESTS SUSTAINABLY. HOWEVER, ENFORCEMENT WAS WEAK AND OFTEN CONFLICTED WITH NATIONAL POLICIES.

2014 NCPO'S RECLAIM FOREST POLICY

THE NCPO LAUNCHED A POLICY TO RECLAIM 4.5 MILLION HECTARES OF ALLEGEDLY LOST FORESTS. IT DISPLACED MANY RURAL AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES.

2021–PRESENT — TOWARD FOREST MANAGEMENT

THAILAND BEGAN SHIFTING TOWARD PARTICIPATORY FOREST MANAGEMENT, WITH PILOT PROGRAMS SUPPORTING AFRO-STYLE MODELS THAT COMBINE LOGGING, REPLANTING, AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.

2019 NEW FOREST ACT

THIS LAW ALLOWED INDIVIDUALS TO GROW RESERVED SPECIES LIKE TEAK, PROMOTED LEGAL TIMBER USE, AND ENCOURAGED PLANTING OF ECONOMIC TREES SUCH AS EUCALYPTUS.

TREE COVER LOSS IN THAILAND

FROM 2001 TO 2021, THAILAND LOST 2.55 MHA OF TREE COVER, EQUIVALENT TO A 13% DECREASE IN TREE COVER SINCE 2000, AND 1.52 GT OF CO2E EMISSIONS.

COMPONENTS OF NET CHANGE IN TREE COVER IN THAILAND

FROM 2000 TO 2020, THAILAND EXPERIENCED A NET CHANGE OF 94.4 KHA (0.38%) IN TREE COVER

TREE COVER IN THAILAND

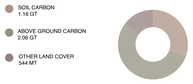
AS OF 2010, 32% OF THAILAND LAND COVER WAS TREE COVER WITH >30% CANOPY DENSITY.

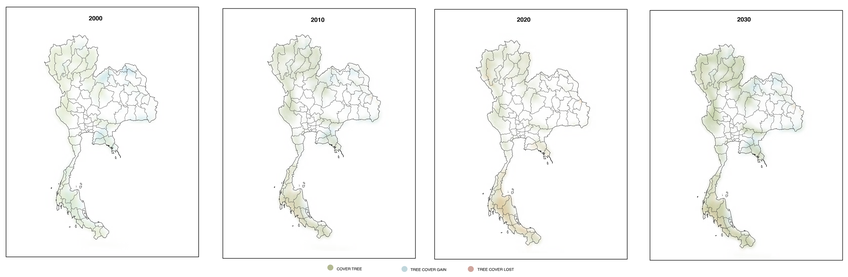
NATURAL FOREST IN THAILAND

AS OF 2020, 35% OF LAND LAND COVER IN THAILAND WAS NATURAL FORESTS AND 3.8% WAS NON-NATURAL TREE COVER.

CARBON STOCK IN THAILAND

THAIALND HAS A TOTAL CARBON STORE OF 3.77 GT, WITH MOST OF THE CARBON STORED IN BIOMASS.



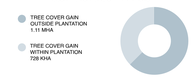


FOREST LOSS IN NATURAL FOREST IN THAILAND

FROM 2001 TO 2023, 70% OF TREE COVER LOSS IN THAILAND OCCURRED WITHIN NATURAL FOREST. THE TOTAL LOSS WITHIN NATURAL FOREST WAS 174 KHA, EQUIVALENT TO 79.1 MT OF CO2E EMISSIONS.

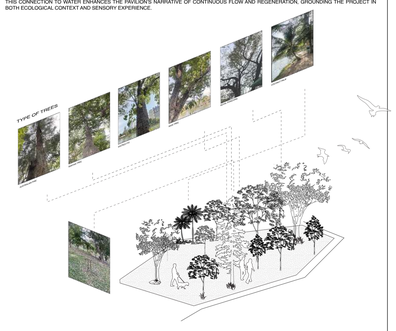
TREE COVER GAIN OUTSIDE PLANTATIONS IN THAILAND

IN THAILAND BETWEEN 2000 AND 2020, 60% OF TREE COVER GAIN OCCURRED OUTSIDE OF PLANTATIONS.

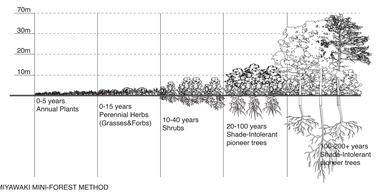


SITE ANALYSIS
LUMPHINI PARK

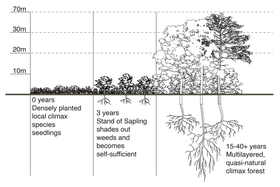
THE SITE IS SURROUNDED BY A VARIETY OF EXISTING TREES, WHICH I CATEGORIZED BY SIZE TO UNDERSTAND THEIR CONDITIONS AND POTENTIAL FOR SELECTIVE USE. THIS HELPED INFORM THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MATERIAL SOURCING AND FOREST IMPACT. THE SITE ALSO FACES A WATER BODY, CREATING A CALM NATURAL ATMOSPHERE AND OFFERING ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS SUCH AS PASSIVE COOLING AND HUMIDITY CONTROL. THIS CONNECTION TO WATER ENHANCES THE PAVILION'S NARRATIVE OF CONTINUOUS FLOW AND REGENERATION, GROUNDING THE PROJECT IN BOTH ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT AND SENSORY EXPERIENCE.



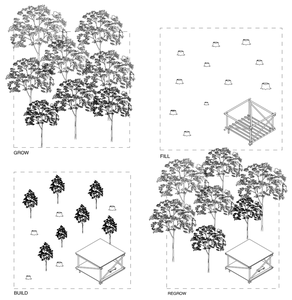
NATURAL VEGETATION SUCCESSION

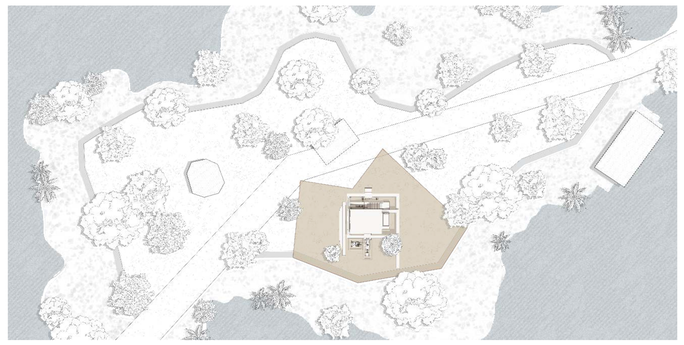


MIYAWAKI MINI-FOREST METHOD



PRE - DURING - POST EXPO 2035





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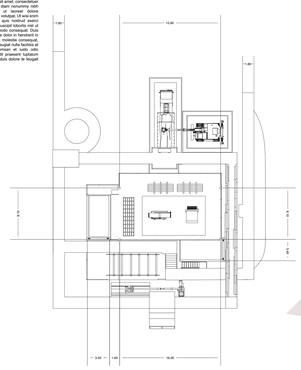

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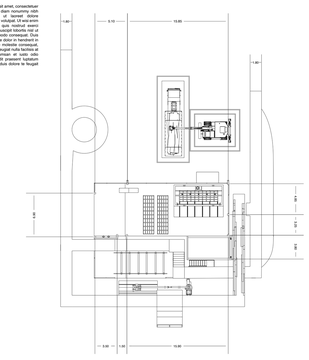

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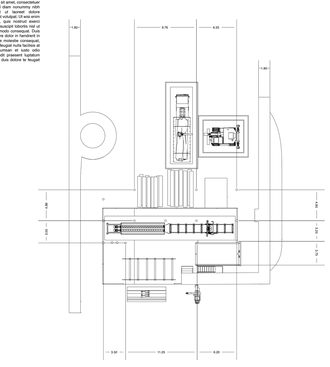

FIRST FLOOR

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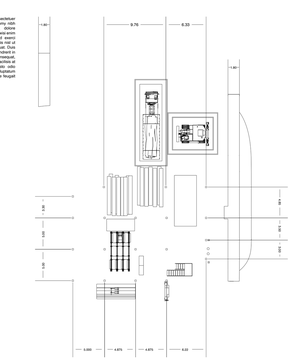
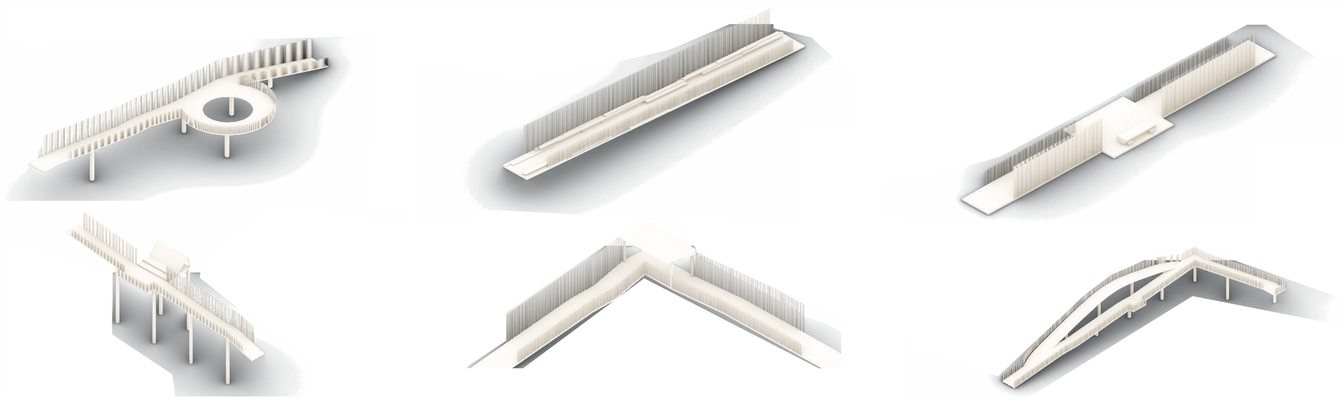


FOREST MANAGEMENT IN THAILAND

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