

YING ZHANG



Harvard Graduate School of Design, MLA I 2021
ying_zhang@gsd.harvard.edu

Amplification

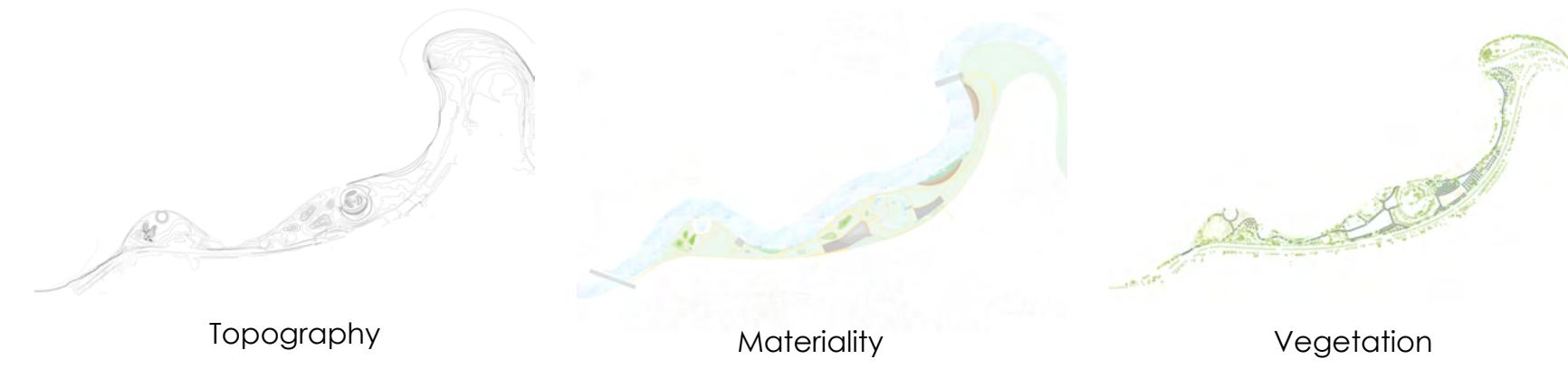
Charles River Reservation, Boston, MA

"I would not attempt to change the every pleasing natural character - I would take this present character and work it up."

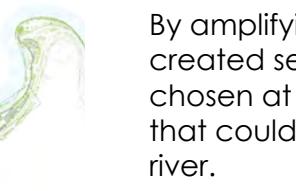
--Frederick Law Olmsted

The selected 55-acre segment of Charles River waterfront is one reach of a greater twenty-mile linear landscape along the river. The site is bounded at its western edge by the heavily trafficked Soldiers Field Road and Harvard's athletic complex.

In anticipation of a continued trajectory of improving water quality in this constructed basin, this project will focus on direct human interaction with the water as a way to negotiate between city and the river. The park will not be re-designed in its entirety. Rather, strategic moments of layered intervention from three different aspect: topography, materiality and vegetation for recreation and leisure will be woven into an evolving urban and hydrologic context.



Topography



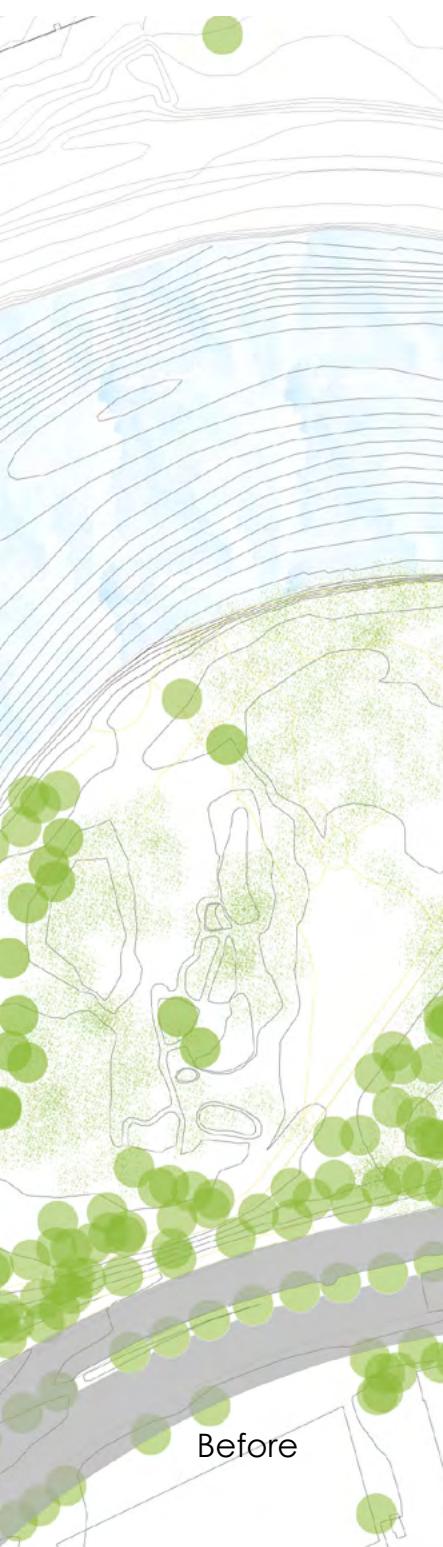
Before



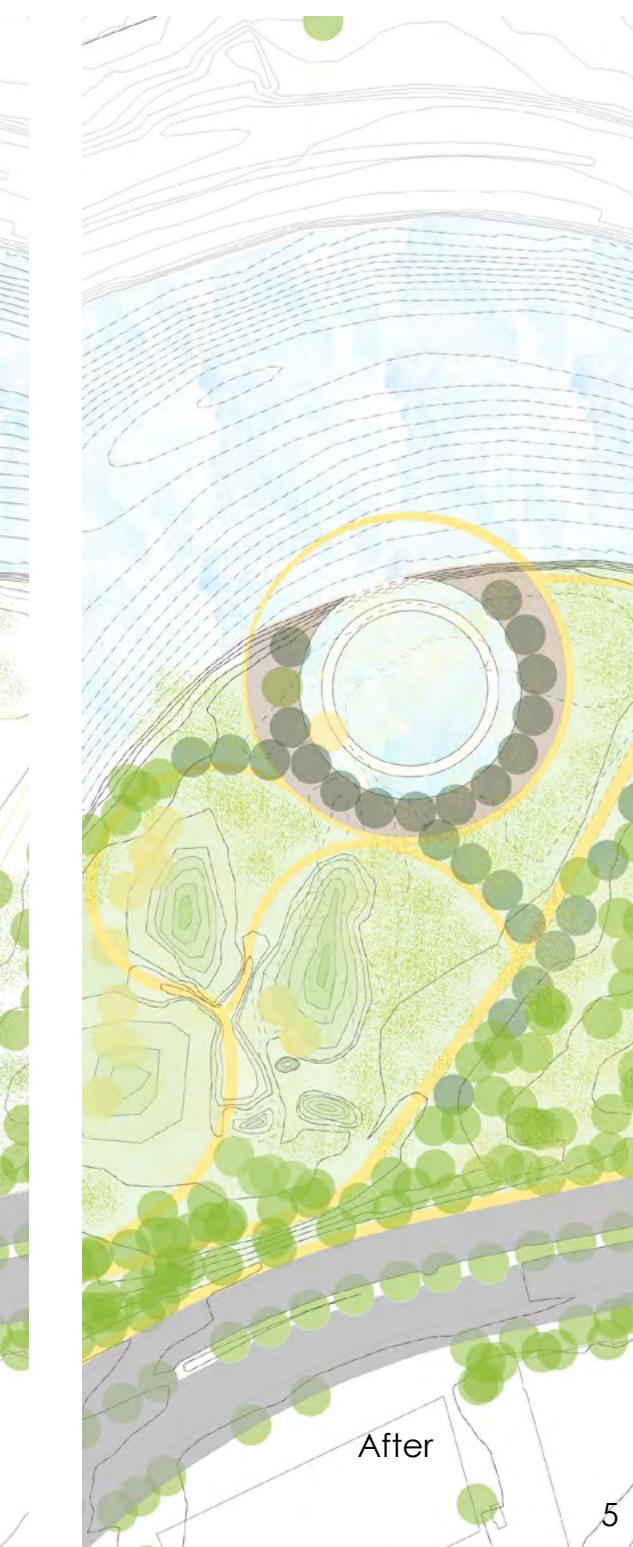
After



By amplifying the topography that already existed on the site, I created several mounds and a pool for public leisure. The pool is chosen at this water edge for the effect of the splashing waves that could produce when canoes pass by on the connecting river.



Before



After

Materiality



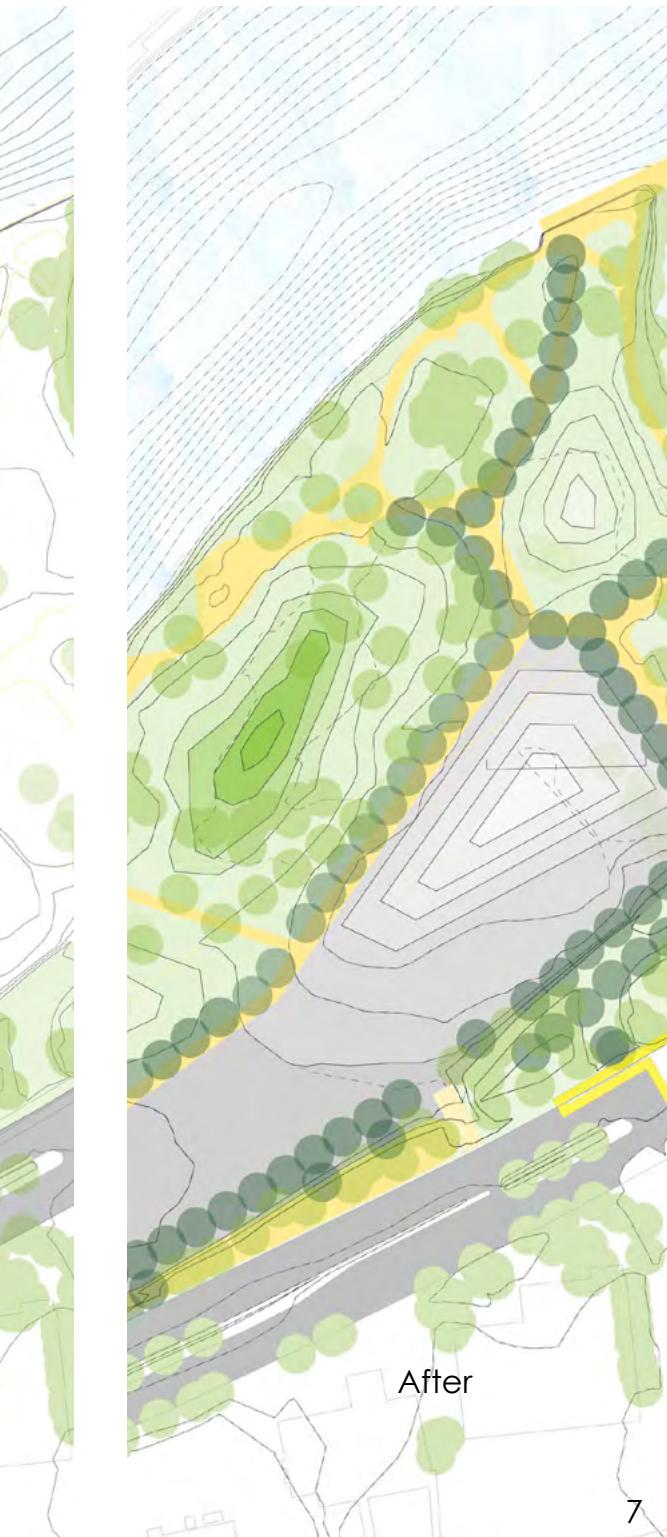
Before



After



The already existing parking space is transformed to a small public plaza in order to increase the social interaction of the nearby neighborhoods. At the same time, the sunken plaza could also collect rain water during storm, which adds more attractions to the space.



Vegetation



By managing the vegetation strategy, I directly altered the water edge and brought wetland marshes to the site. Also, trees are planted in a certain way that at the same time keep their original characteristics and also make a distinct constrictions among different area.



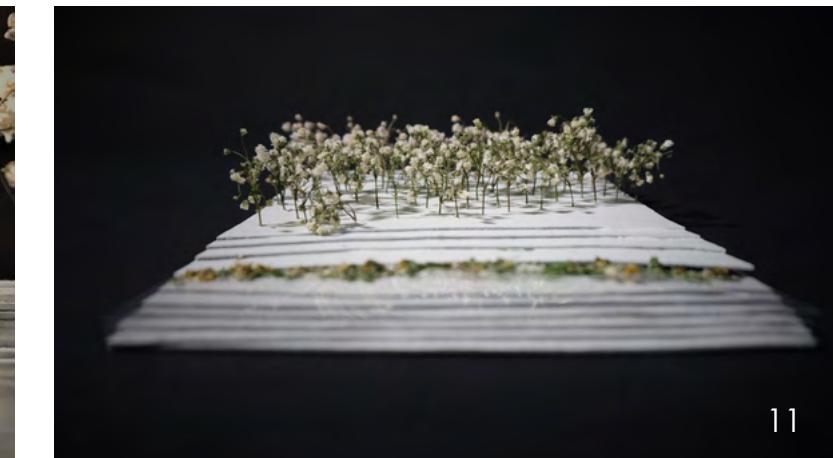
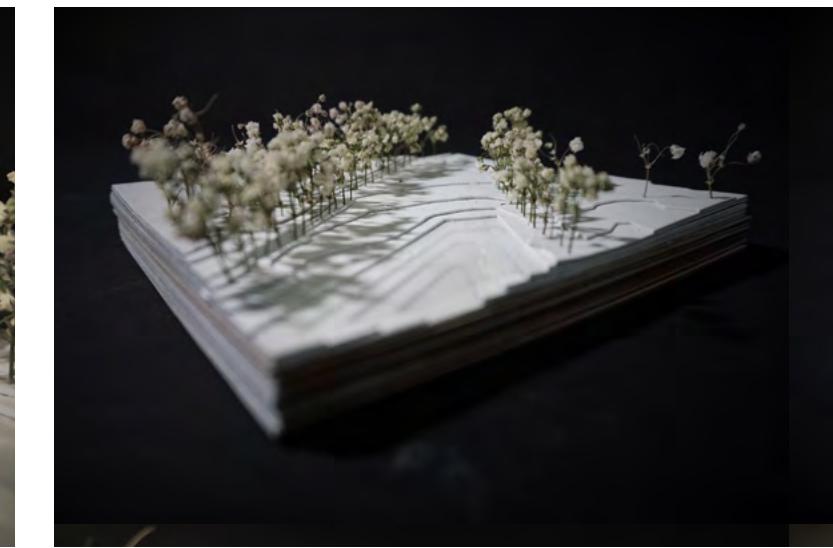
Section I



Models



Section II



Miniature of Nature

Carleton College, MN



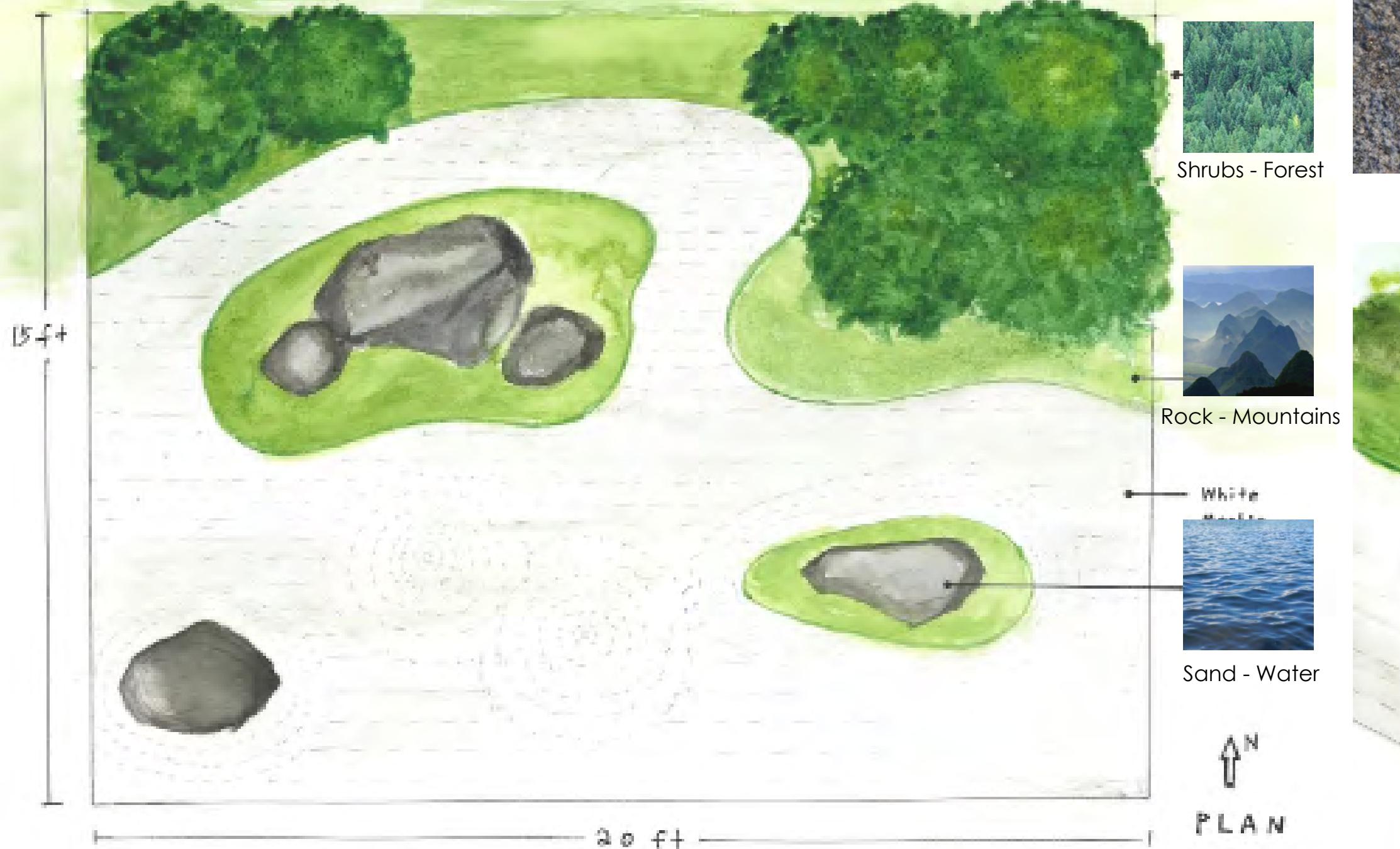
Ying Zhang | MLA I | GSD



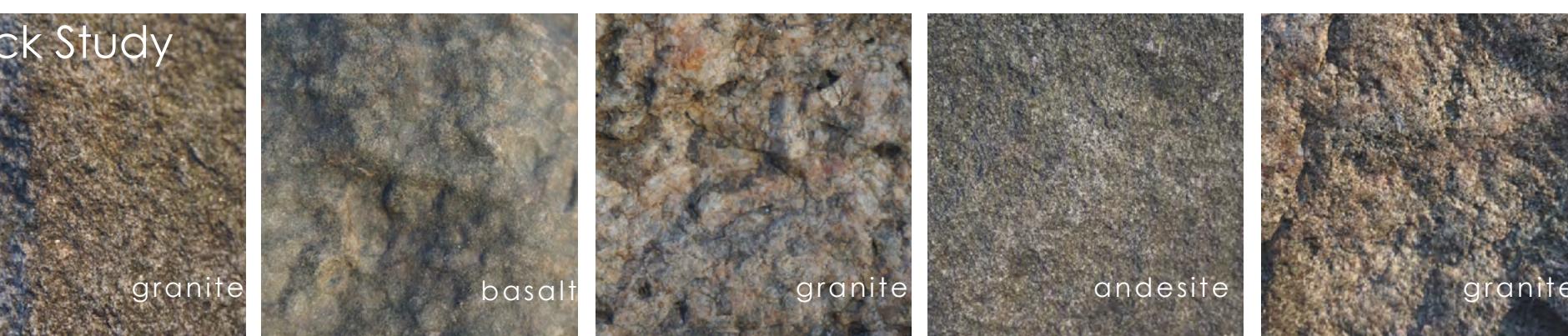
As the words stressed in 'Sakuteiki' (the first manual of Japanese gardening,) "Visualize the famous landscapes of our country and come to understand their most interesting points. Recreate the essence of those scenes in the garden, but do so interpretatively, not strictly," a garden is created to be a work of art that extracts a certain aesthetic essence from nature.

Tracing back Minnesota's geologic history and thinking about its characteristic post-glacial landscape, I decided to recreate the essence of MN's lake scene in the garden, as it is also known as "Land of 10,000 lakes."

Plan



Rock Study



Plant Study



Japanese Garden Juniper
Juniperus procumbens



Partial to Full Sun



Deers do not eat

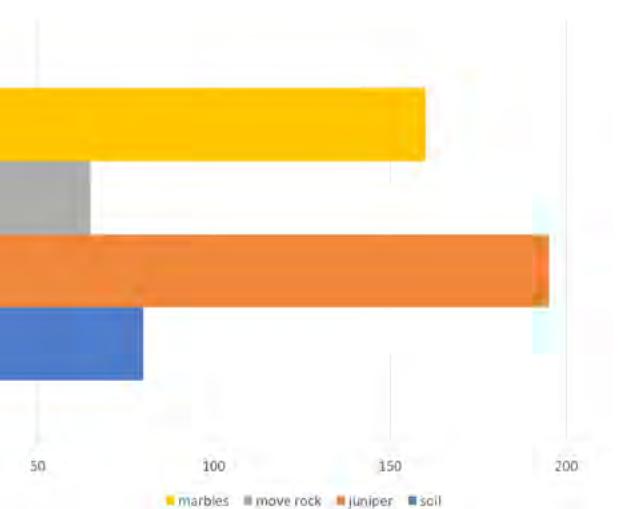


1' wide, 6' tall



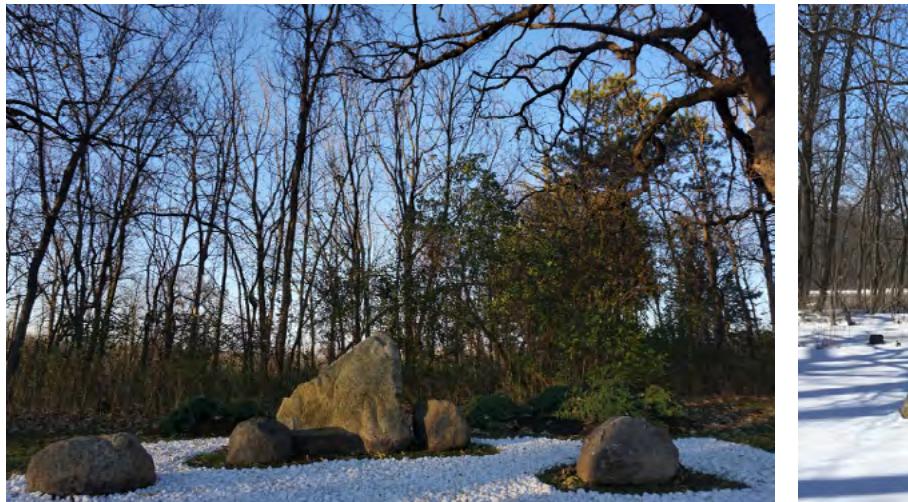
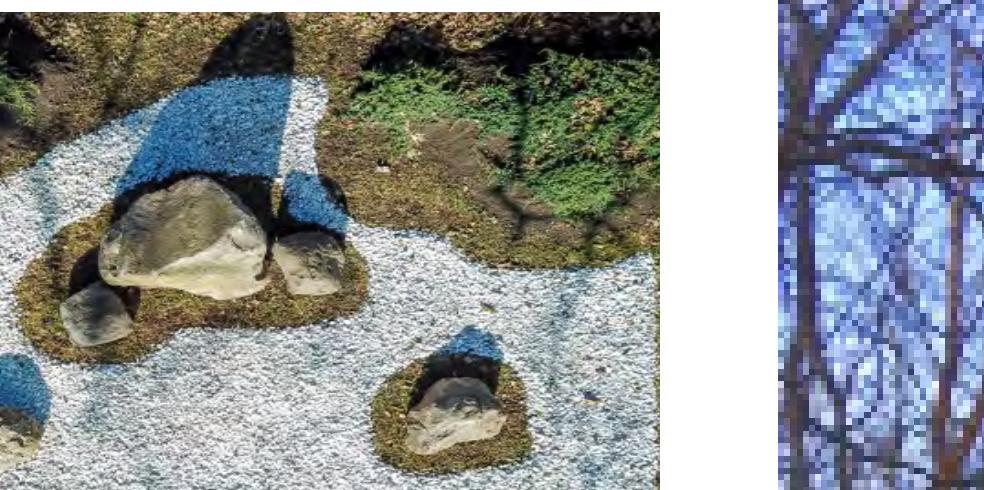
Moist, Well-drained Soil

Budget - \$500



Implementation





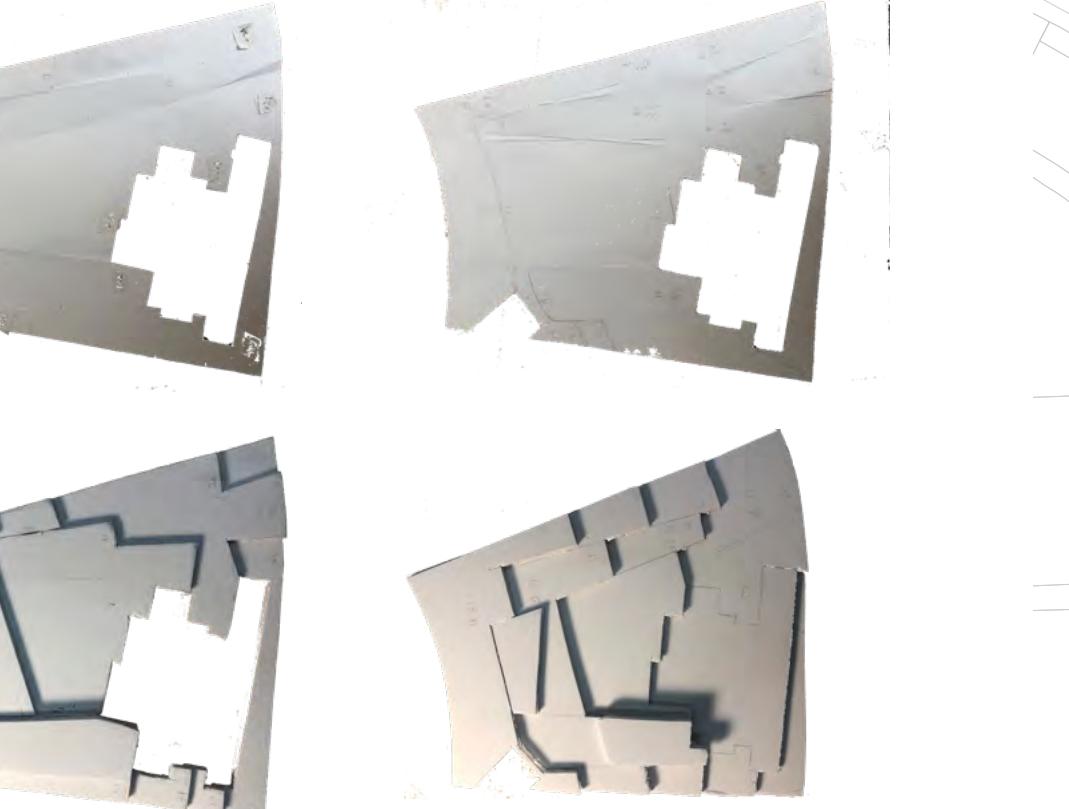
Interaction

Boston City Hall Plaza, Boston, MA

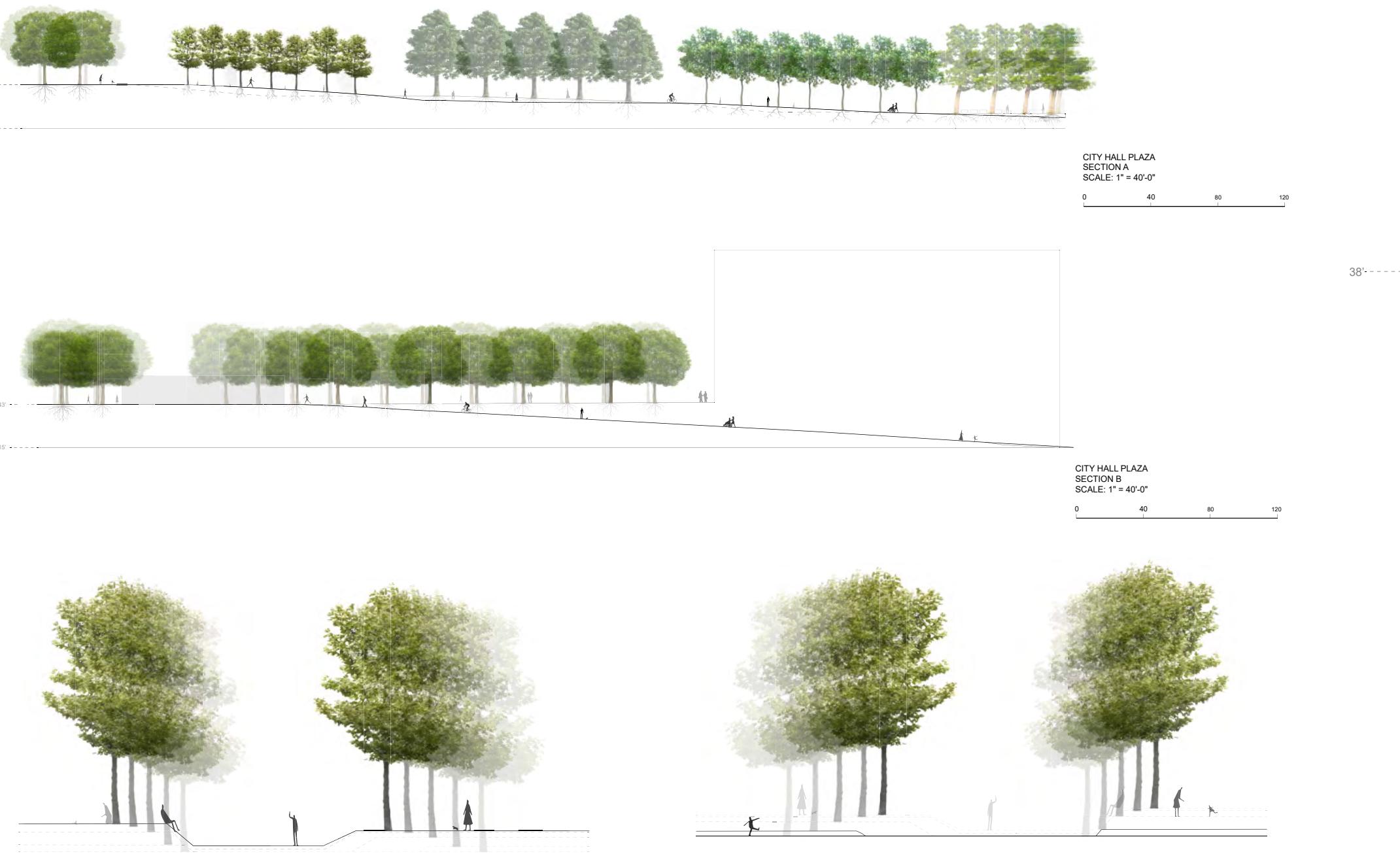
City Hall Plaza is geographically central in downtown Boston; it intermittently hosts large gatherings (such as festivals and celebrations for sports victories). However, beyond programmed events and activities, the plaza is no longer central to the public imagination of Bostonians as a noteworthy public space.

In response to the current problem of the City Hall Plaza, I explored the topographical typology and decided to apply the "double deck" feature in order to both keep the publicness and privacy of the space and increase the connectivity and accessibility between each connecting point with the City Hall and the street. The planting strategy is designed in accordance to the topographical typology: trees are planted on the side of pronounced slopes and the density and the sizes of the trees are varying according to the change of the slope.

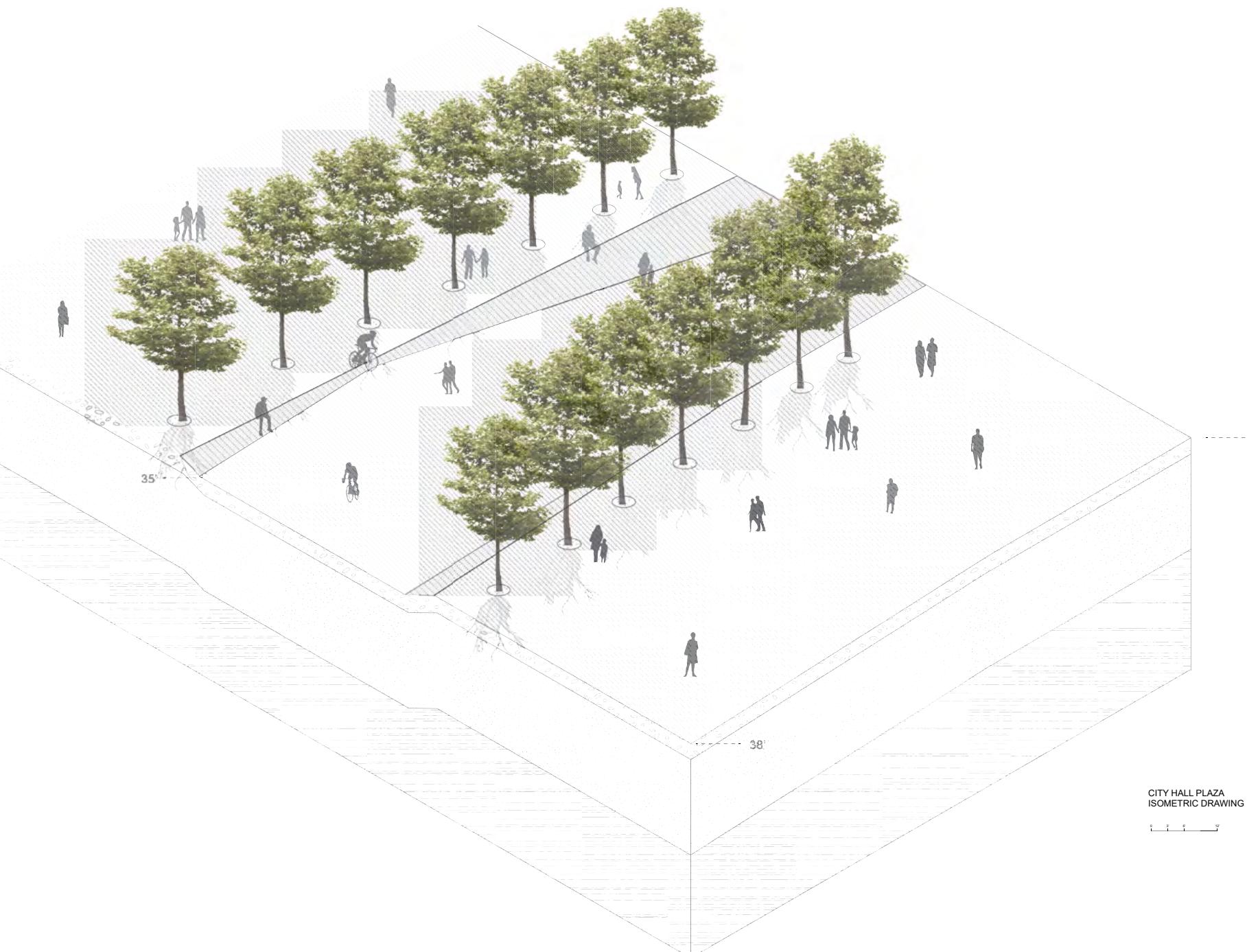
Typology



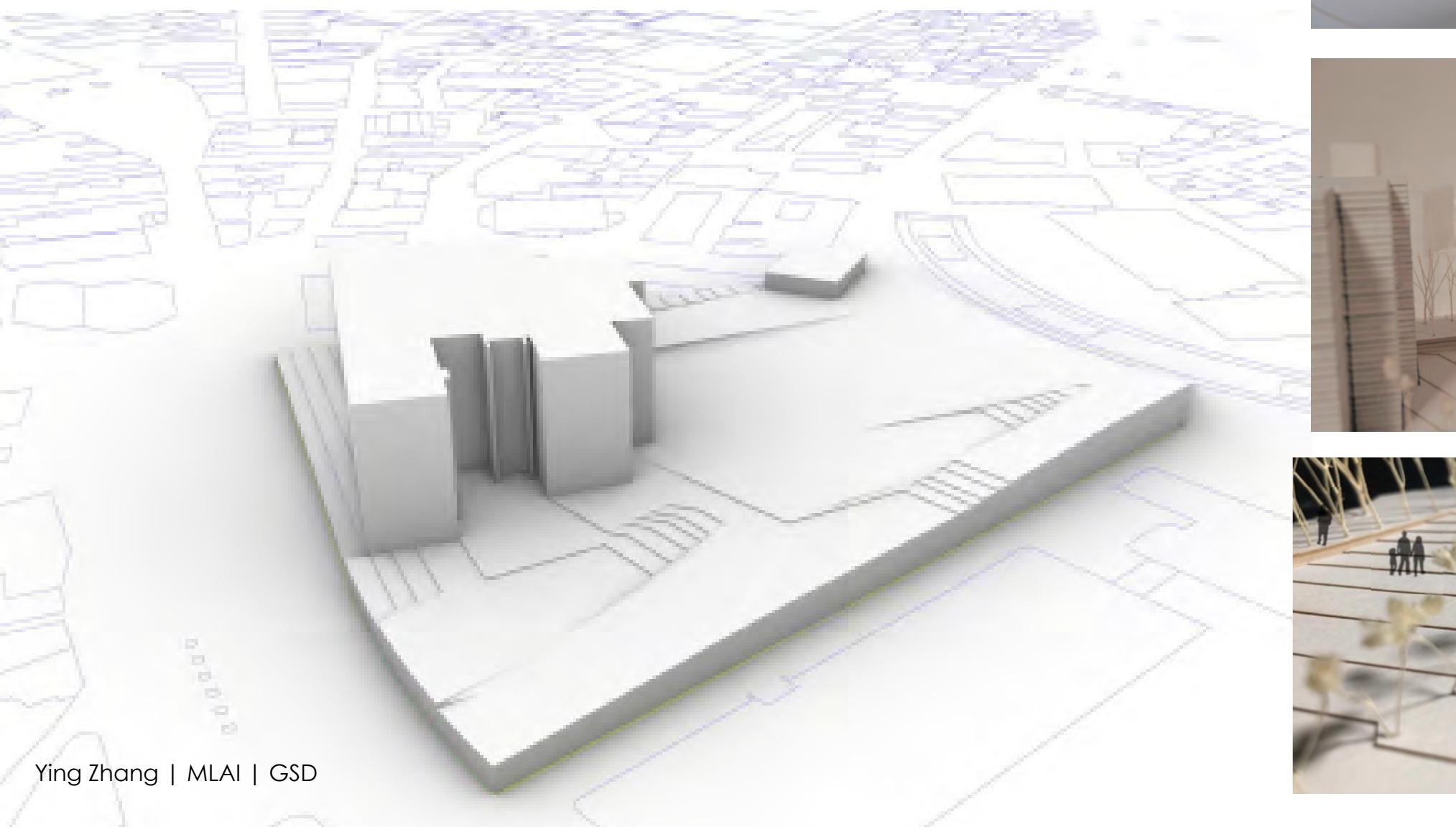
Sections



Axon

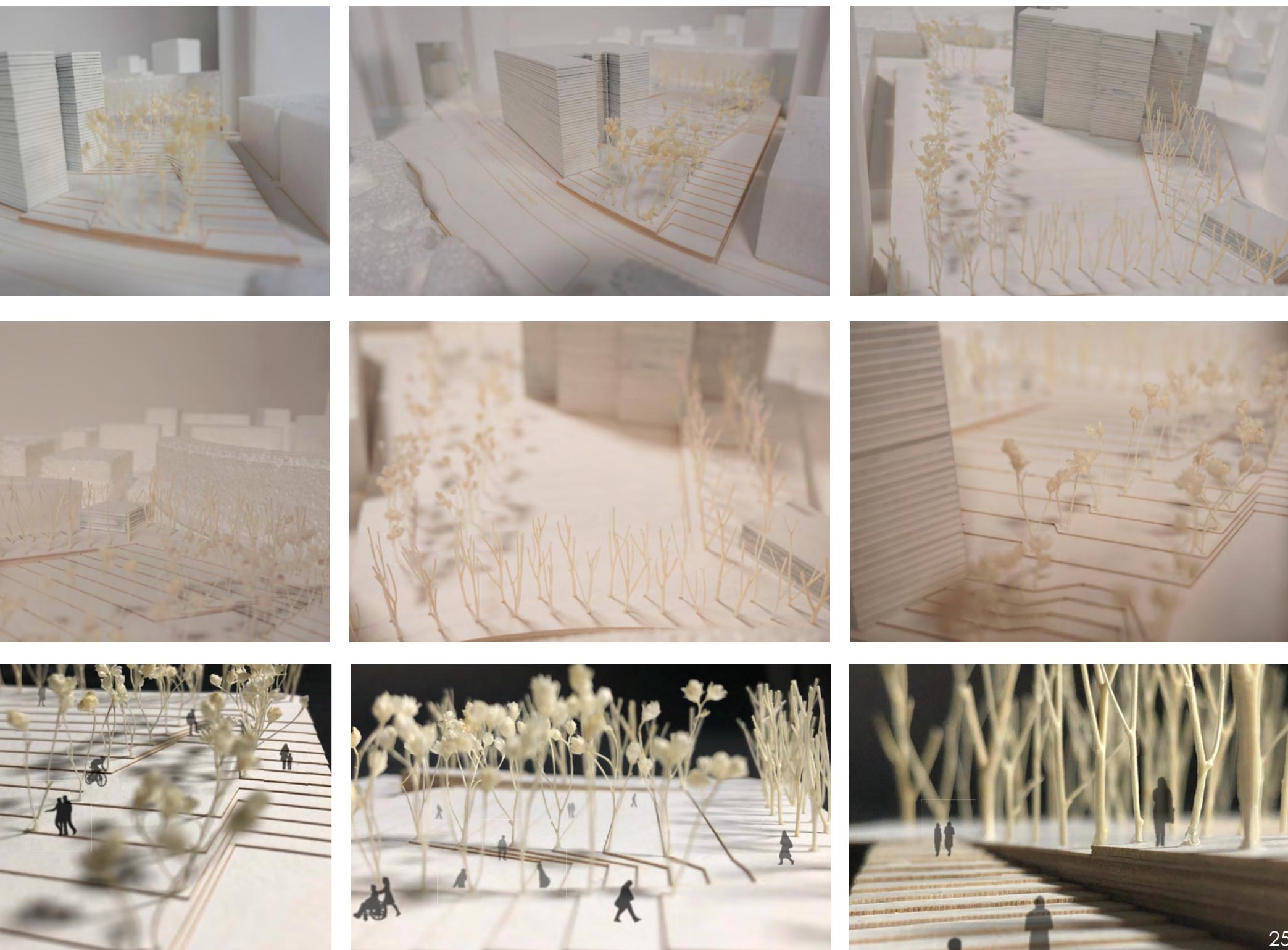


The major design strategy is to resolve the differences in topography, providing a continuous surface that could both serve for both public and private usages. By applying the technique developed from folding paper, I created a double-deck structure that people would experience various topographical experience when walking on it. The plantation is also designed along the structure with different density indicating different slopes. The central area is left for public gathering, for the City Hall Plaza often holds big events. The connection between the subway station and the entrance of the City Hall building is also maintained at the same height, which makes the building more accessible to the public.



Ying Zhang | MLA I | GSD

Model



Yellow

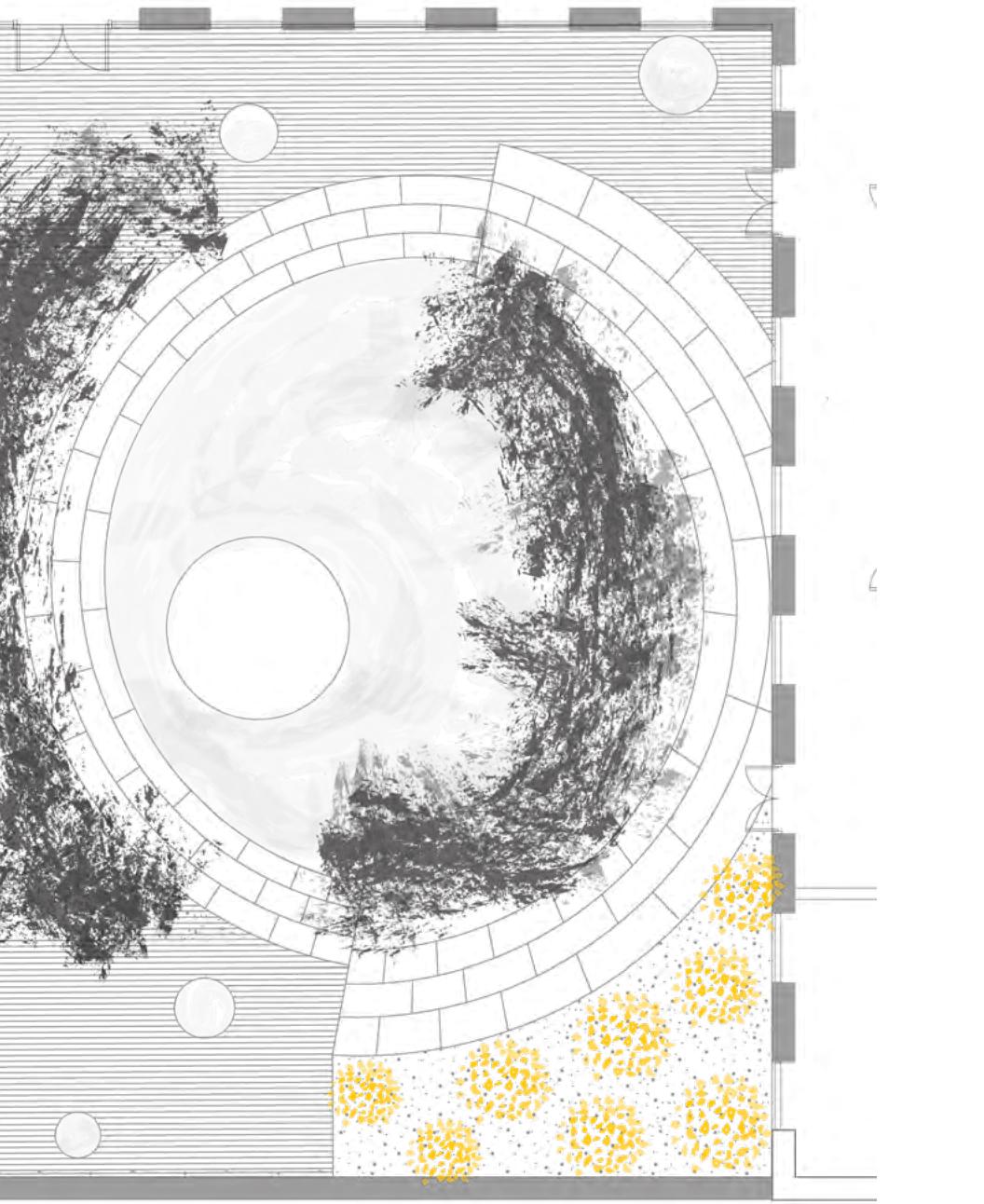
Courtyard, Boston

Courtyard gardens are an enduring landscape type for design speculation and invention. Because they are enclosed, courtyards express autonomy from the surrounding architectural context, yet are still subject to larger effects of the local environment.

This exercise explores tensions between "type" and "time," using a hypothetical courtyard in Boston to understand the common conditions of a formal structure in order to exploit the full range of expressive possibilities offered by landscape materials under the extreme climatic conditions of New England at different moments of the day and year. There is no given "program" for this courtyard other than landscape itself. The given typical time is Oct, 25th at 10:58pm and the motif is "yellow."

Therefore, in order to achieve the effect of yellow. I am devising surfaces with different materiality including rugged rocks, water surface and wooden boardwalk, etc, which have different capabilities to catch the yellow leaves in fall. The variation of the surface appearance creates a warm and comfortable courtyard environment where people could experience the seasonality and the materiality of nature.

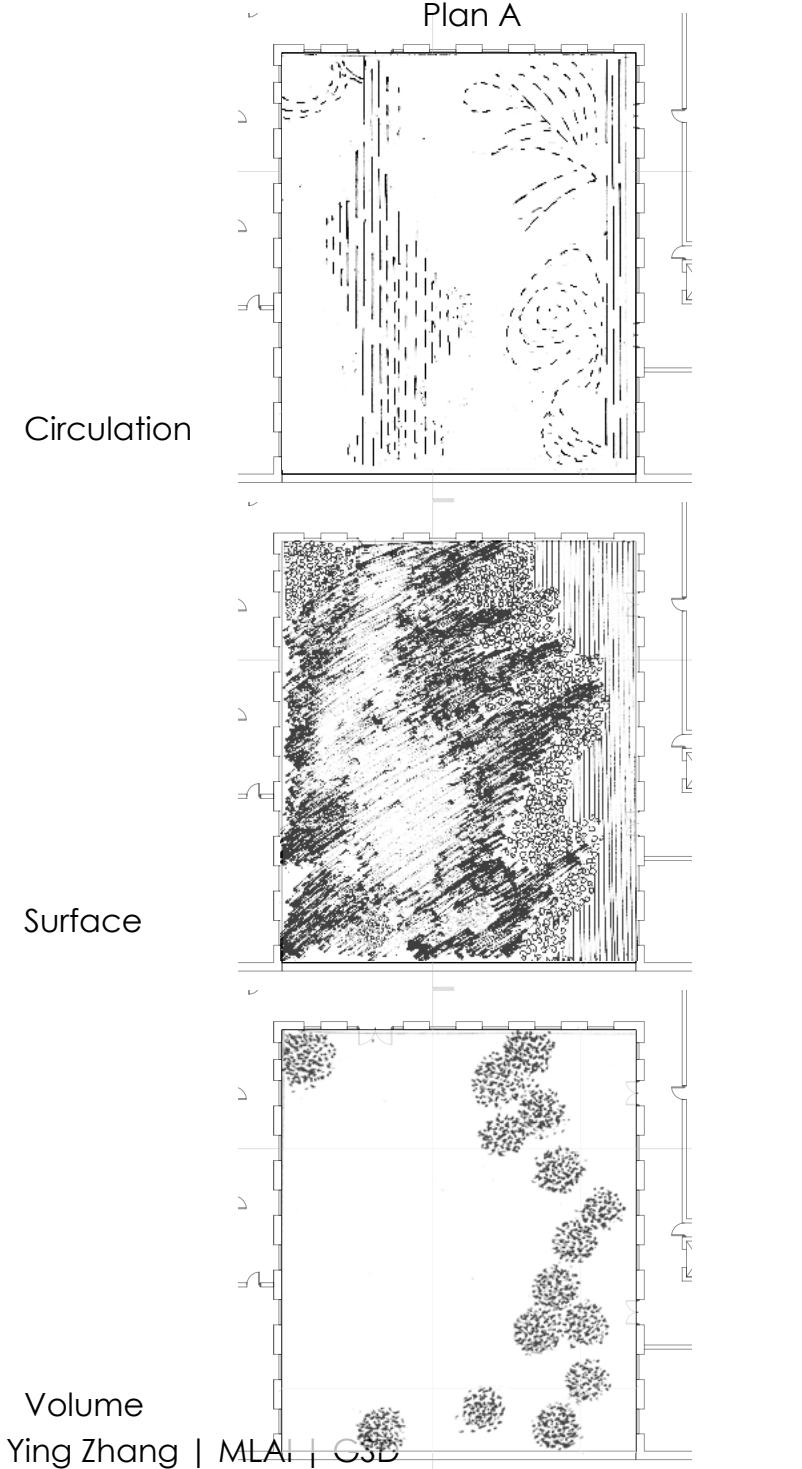
Plan



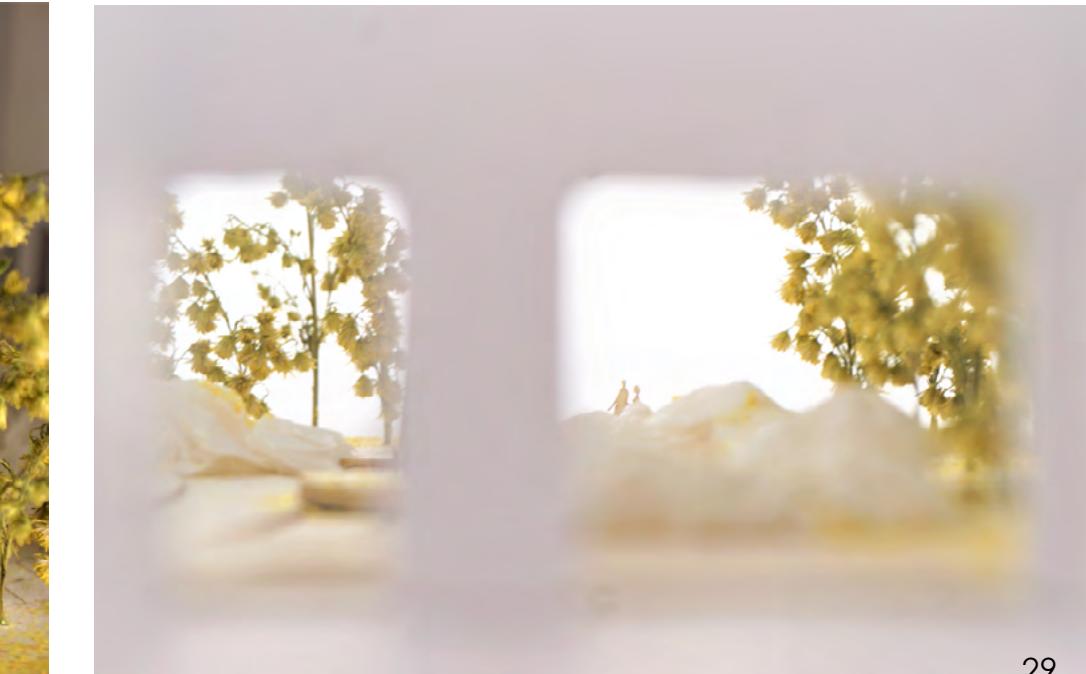
Model



Pattern Study



Model



Tradition

Carleton College, MN

The history project aims to study the characteristics of Song Dynasty official kiln Ru Ware pottery and its overall minimalist aesthetic

The final project aims to create a ceramics set for Japanese tea ceremony by integrating both ancient Japanese patterns and modern shape design



Gerund

Carleton College, MN



Ying Zhang | MLA1 | GSD



Being inspired by Claes Oldenberg, the sculpture conveyed a motion of pouring, by imitating mundane objects (French Fries) that elicited ridicule.

The sculpture showed the connection between different materials, interior and outside space under a common theme of rainy days

Connection

