

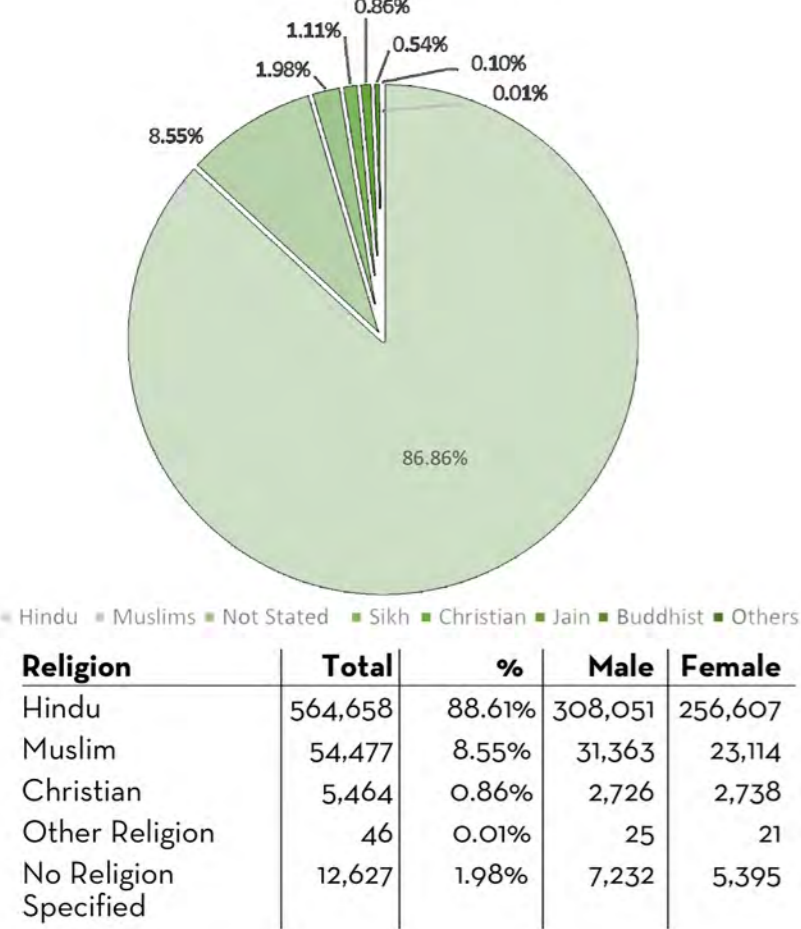
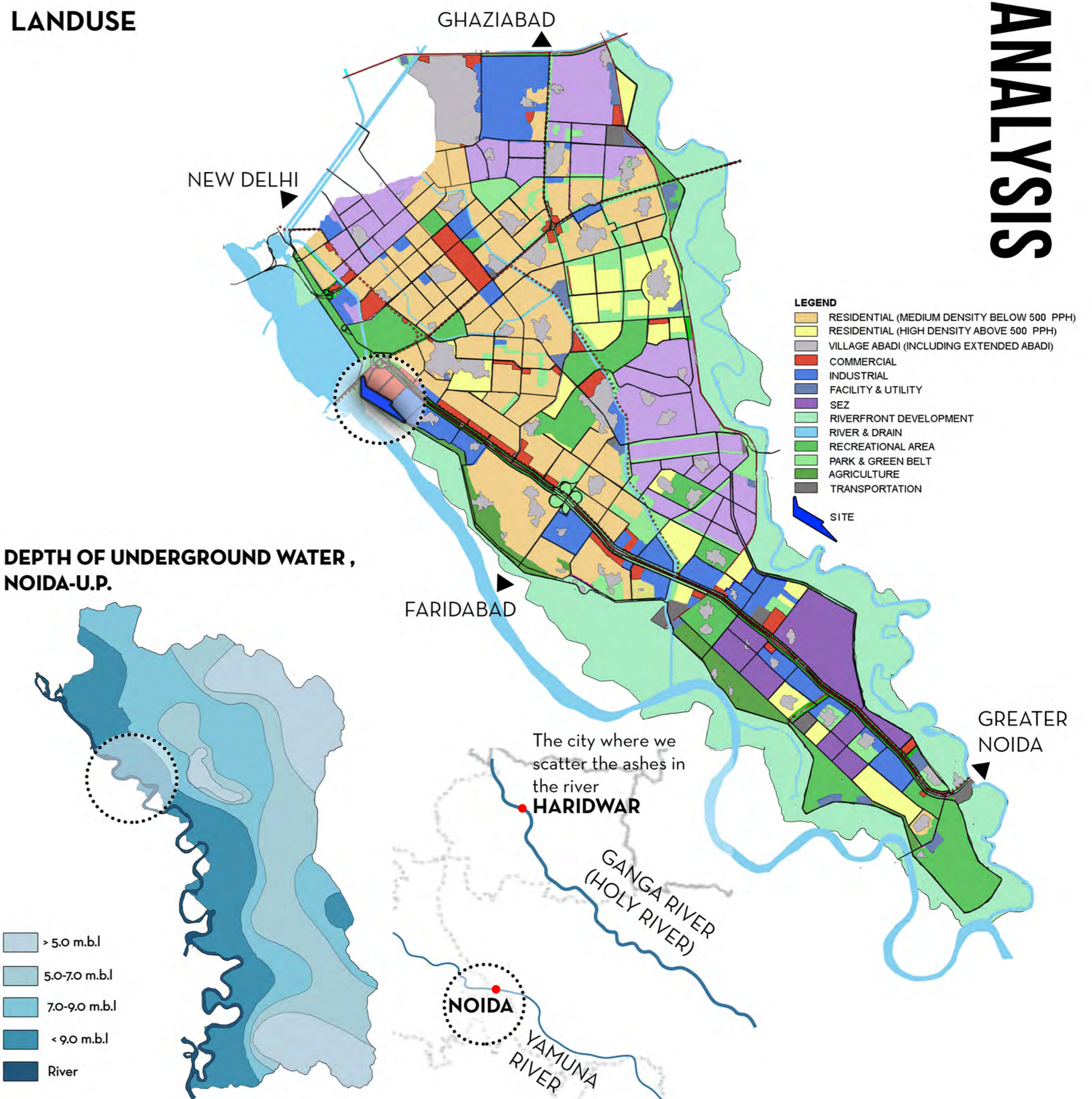
PROJECT INSPIRATION

"The only place where you can find equality is in the cemetery" - Evan Esar
 Cemeteries are manifestations to the past – to history, to our ancestors and to our cultural traditions. Every religion has specific and meaningful traditions and customs around death. However, the grief and remembrance of the dead remains almost the same throughout all cultures.
 India being the fastest developing, second-most populous country in the world, hosts an array of cultural and religious beliefs. In every culture, regardless of the rituals, the death of a close one is a time of utter grief. However, the existing scenario does not even acknowledge this need for space or landscape that offers solace of any kind in this time. The current system of considering cemeteries as a depressing abandoned landscape does more harm than healing for someone already suffering. Through the exploration of this thesis, we would try to understand how these landscapes currently work and how they can be evolved to be spaces of psychological ease rather than of mundane sadness arising from deathscapes.

SITE INTRODUCTION

The 64 Acres site is located near the river banks of the River Yamuna in Noida, Uttar Pradesh which is a part of the National Capital Region of India. The site is of an authorised Cemetery landuse, which currently is occupied by unauthorised shops and pet shelter homes. Surrounded by the major institutional and residential complexes, the site has a well knit connection to all the neighbouring cities. As one of the biggest site for a cemetery, it holds a lot of potential for designing the landscape. The existing site scenario shows us the poor utilisation and deplorable conditions of the site.

LANDUSE



POPULATION - NOIDA



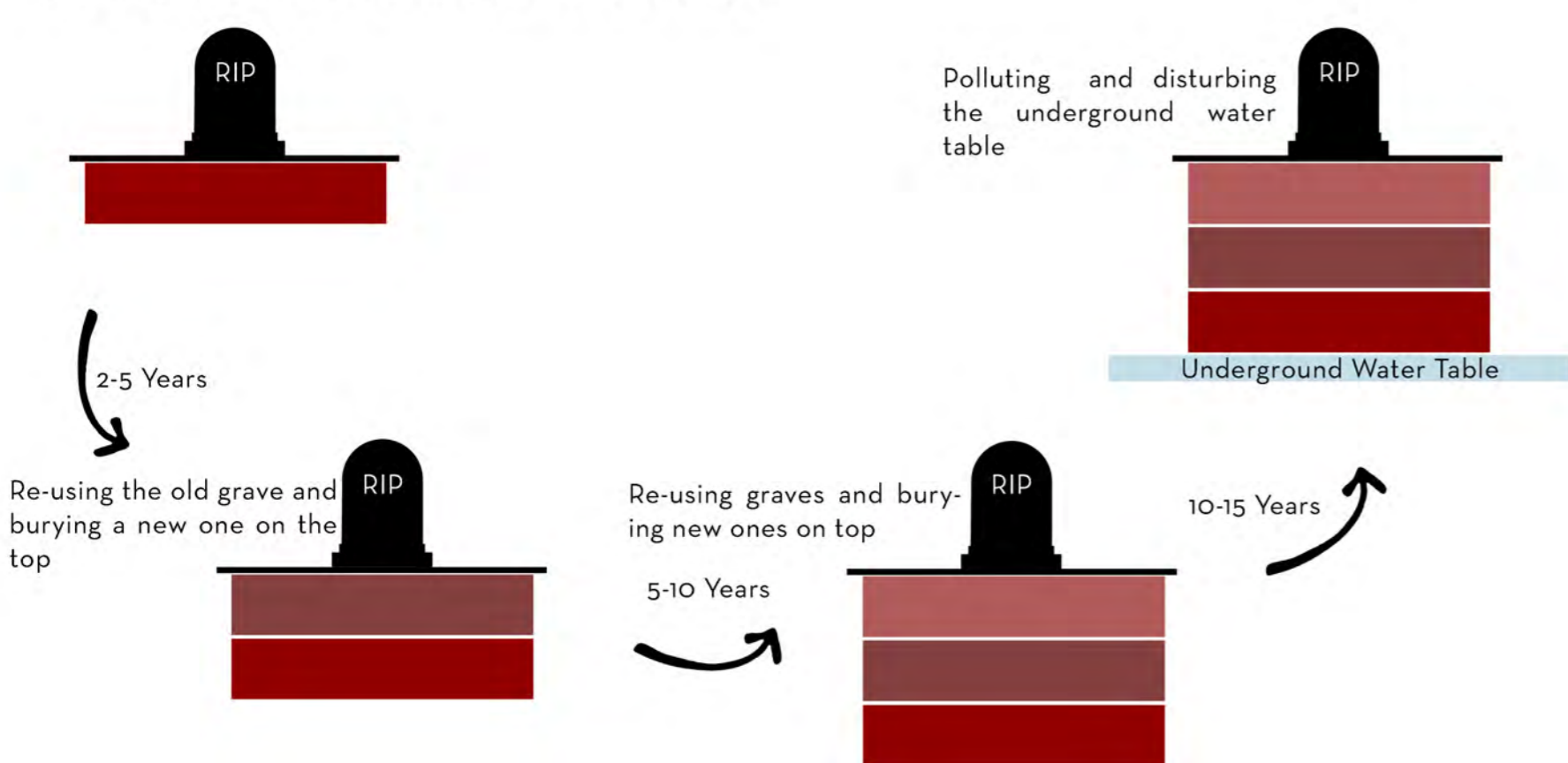
POPULATION - NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION



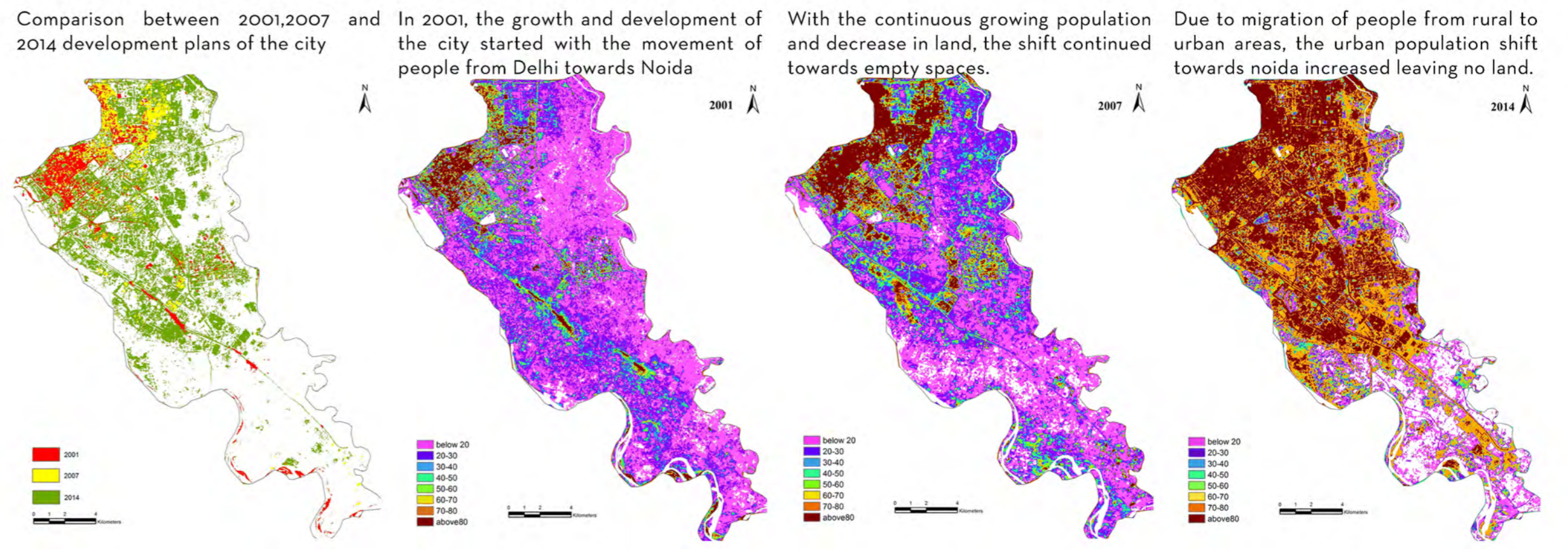
MORTALITY RATE



ANALYSIS OF THE GRAVES



GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY



CREMATION PROCESS - HINDU RITUALS



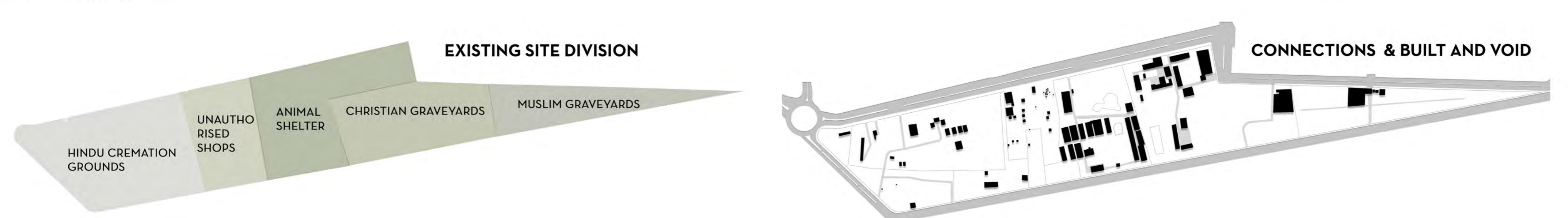
BURIAL PROCESS - MUSLIM RITUALS



BURIAL PROCESS - CHRISTIAN RITUALS



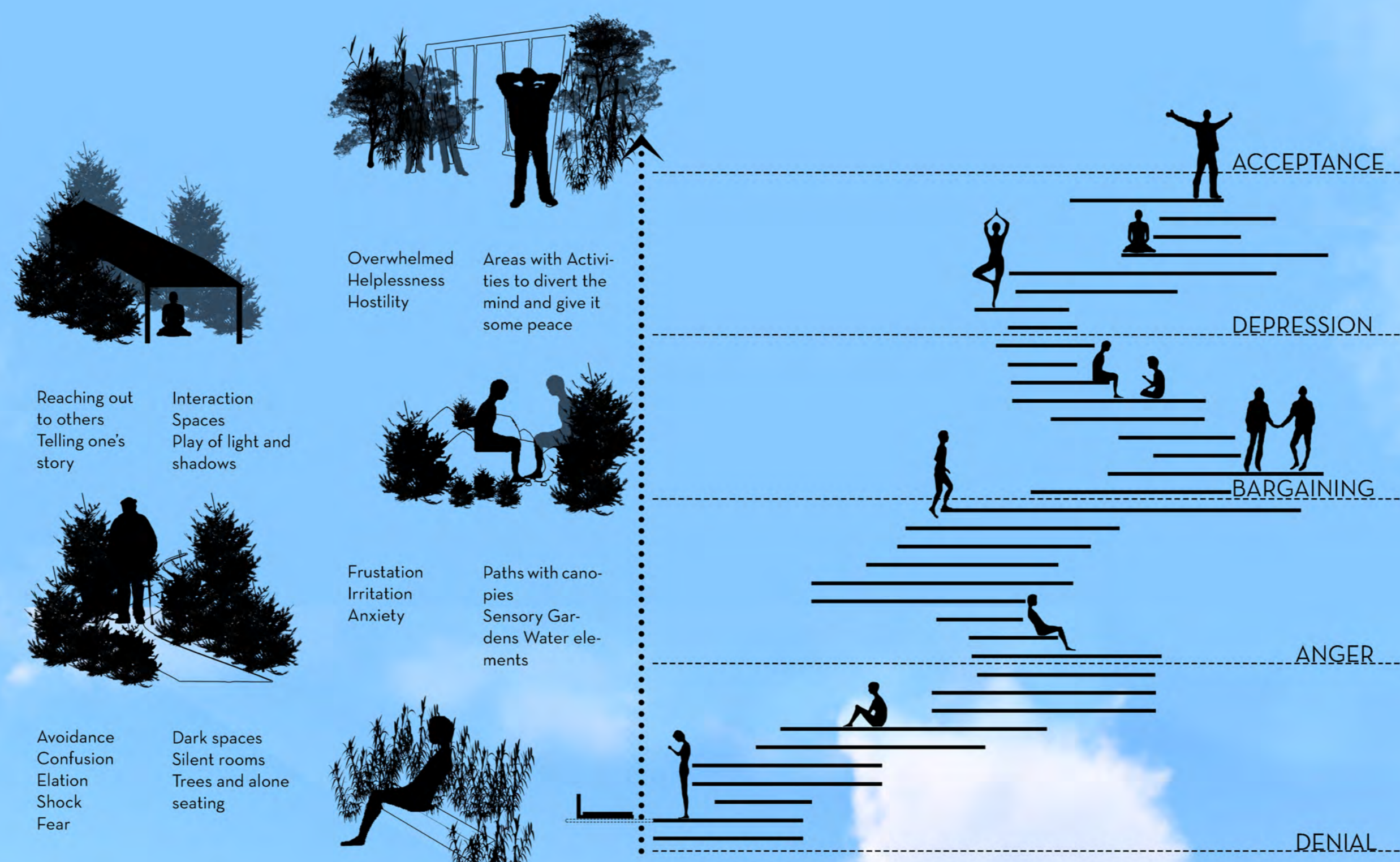
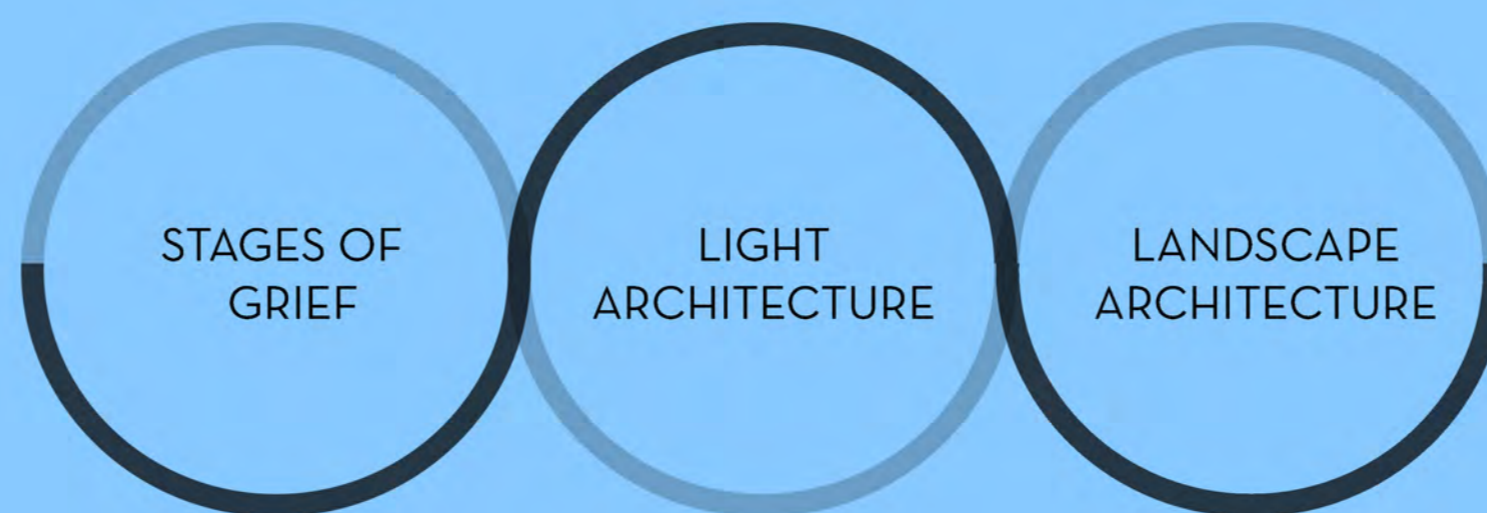
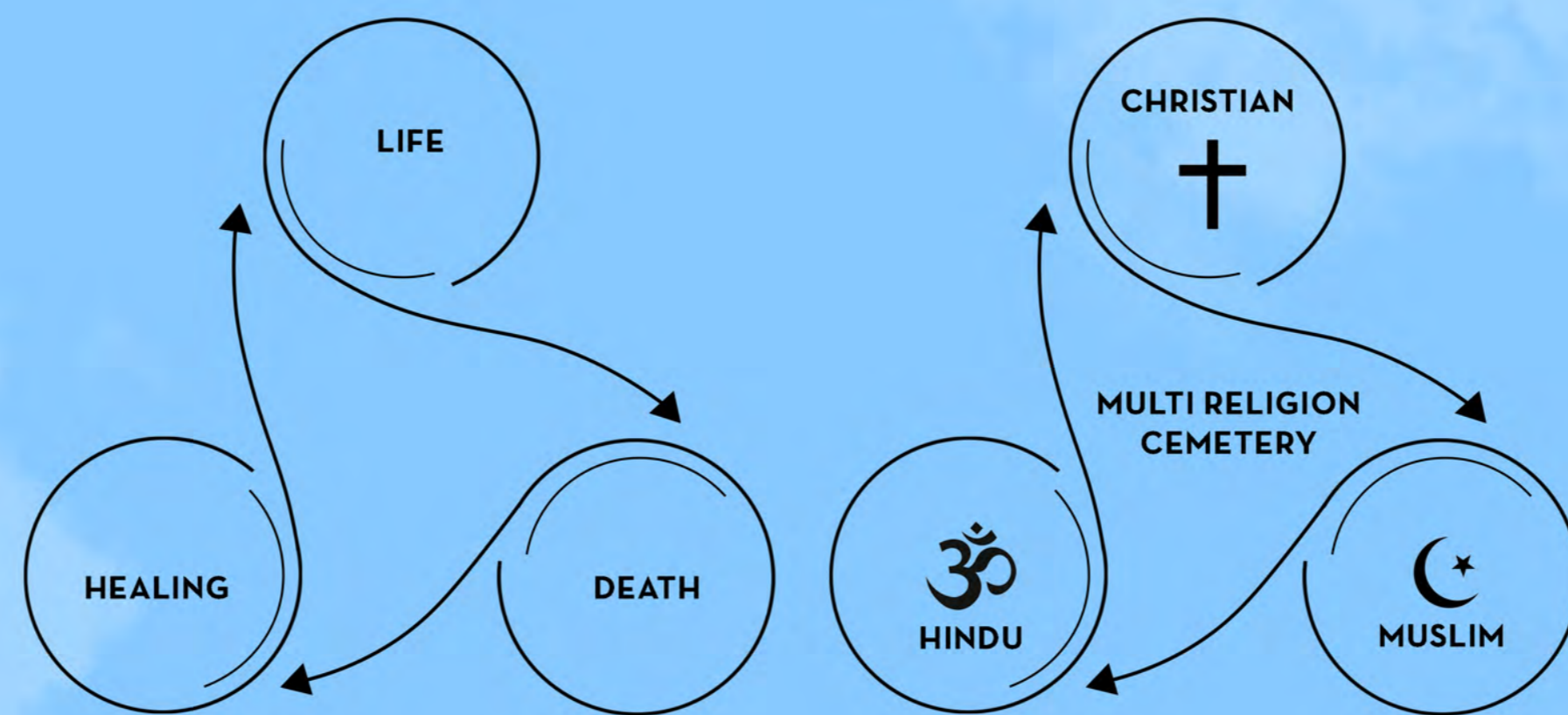
SITE ANALYSIS



SITE LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

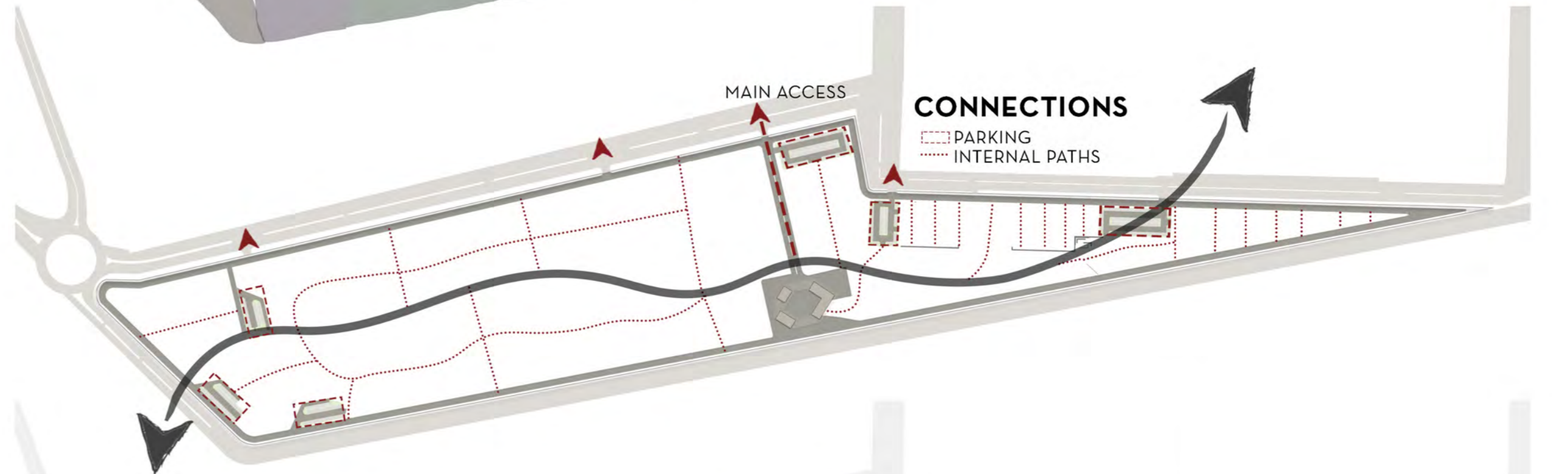
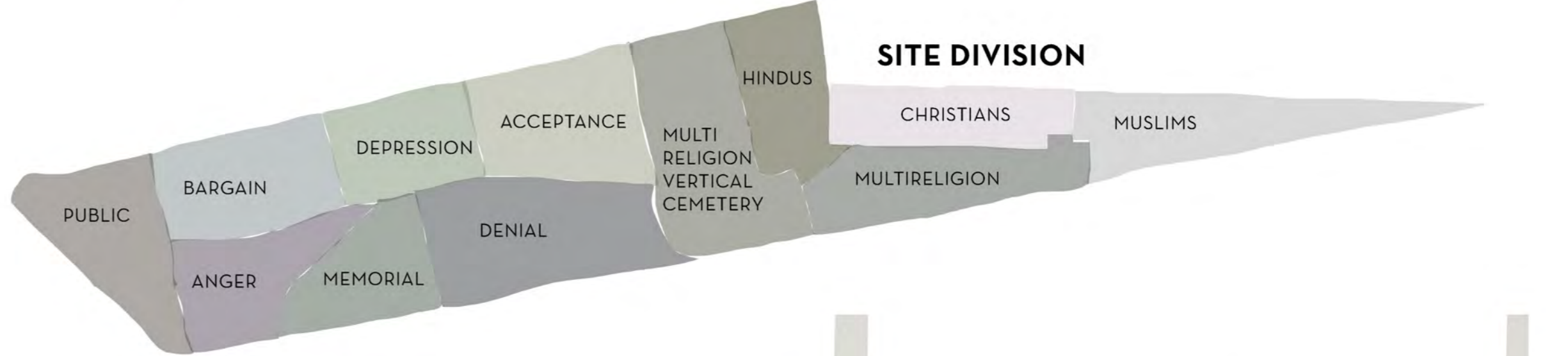
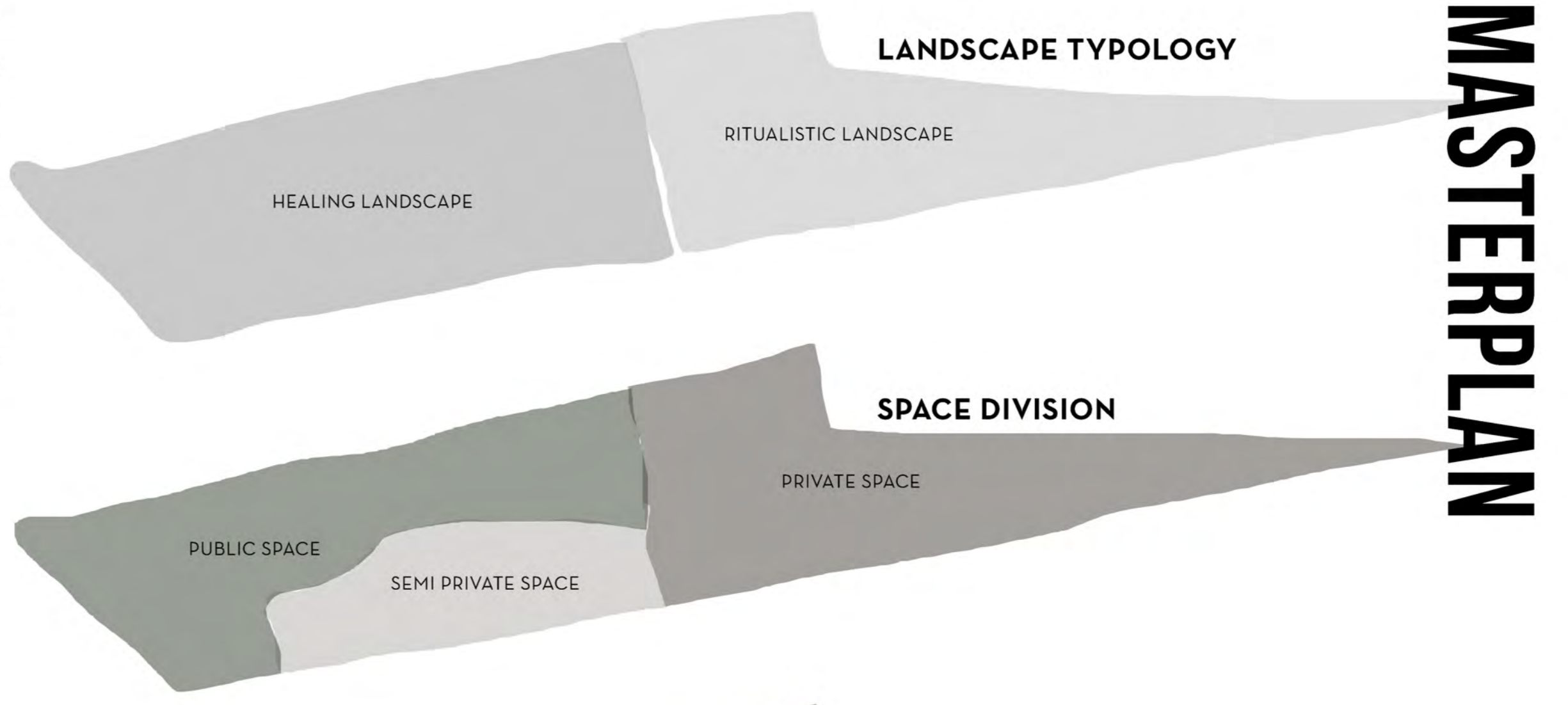


The aim of the project is to interpret the transitional phase of a person's life after the death of their loved ones and designing a therapeutic space for them to understand the loss and recuperate. The cycle in a person's life consists of life - death - healing. The cemetery is designed as a space with a special atmosphere that is characterized by nature, culture, multi-religions, grief, tranquility and transience. The five stages of grief that are denial, anger, bargaining, depression and then acceptance which a person goes through even if from different religion. The stages of grief and the play of light and shadow through the landscape helps a person walking from one end of the site to another to reach the acceptance level starting from denial and shock.

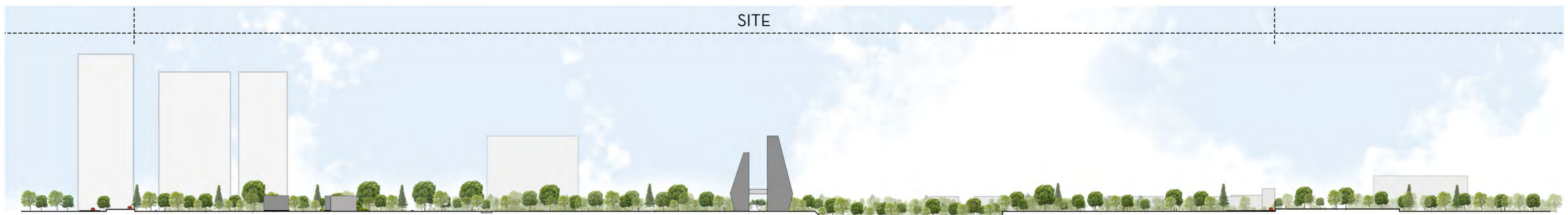
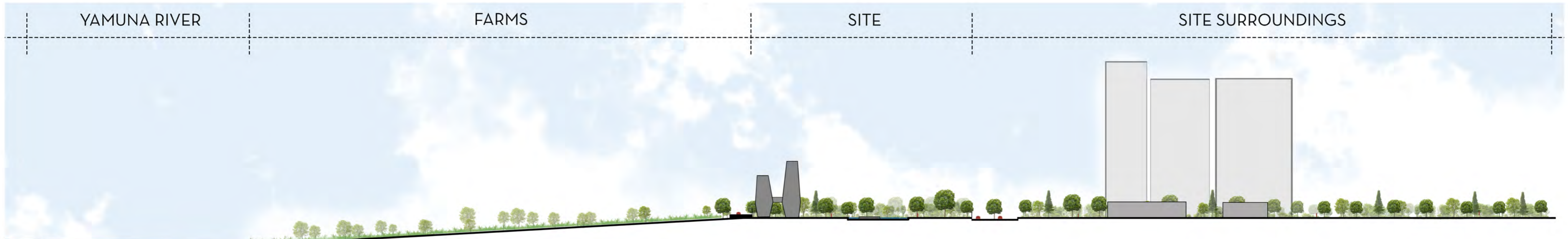
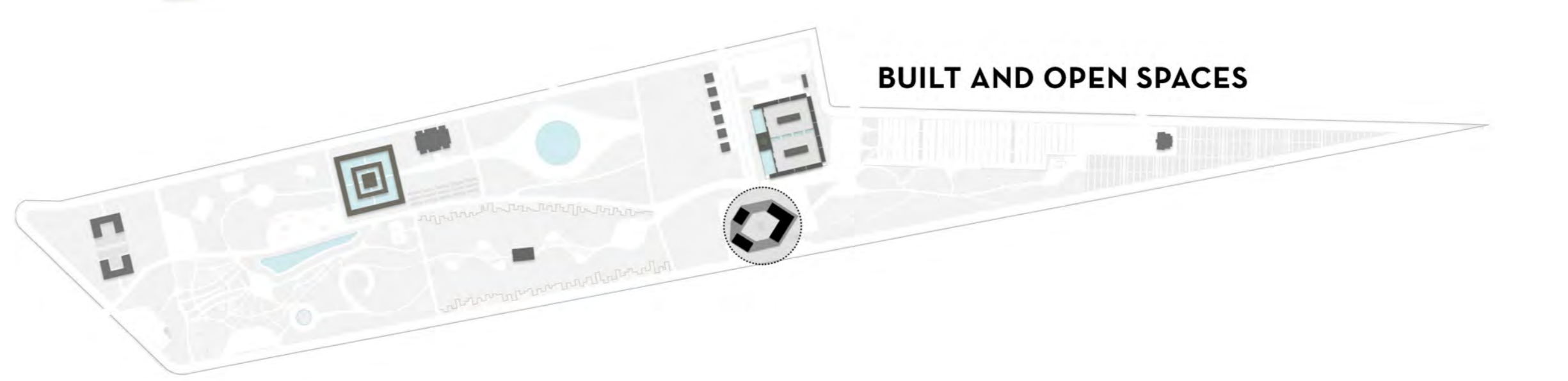
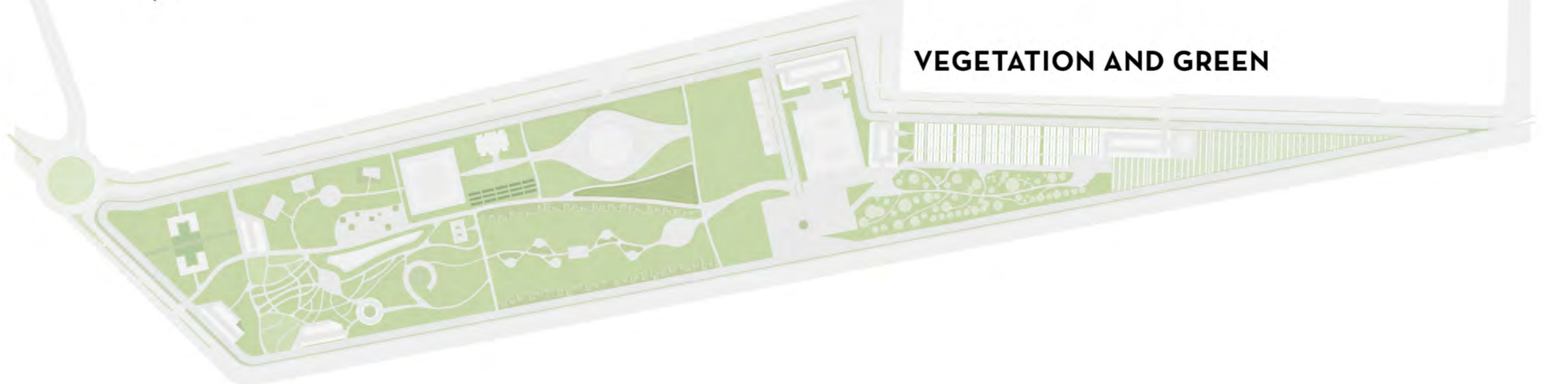
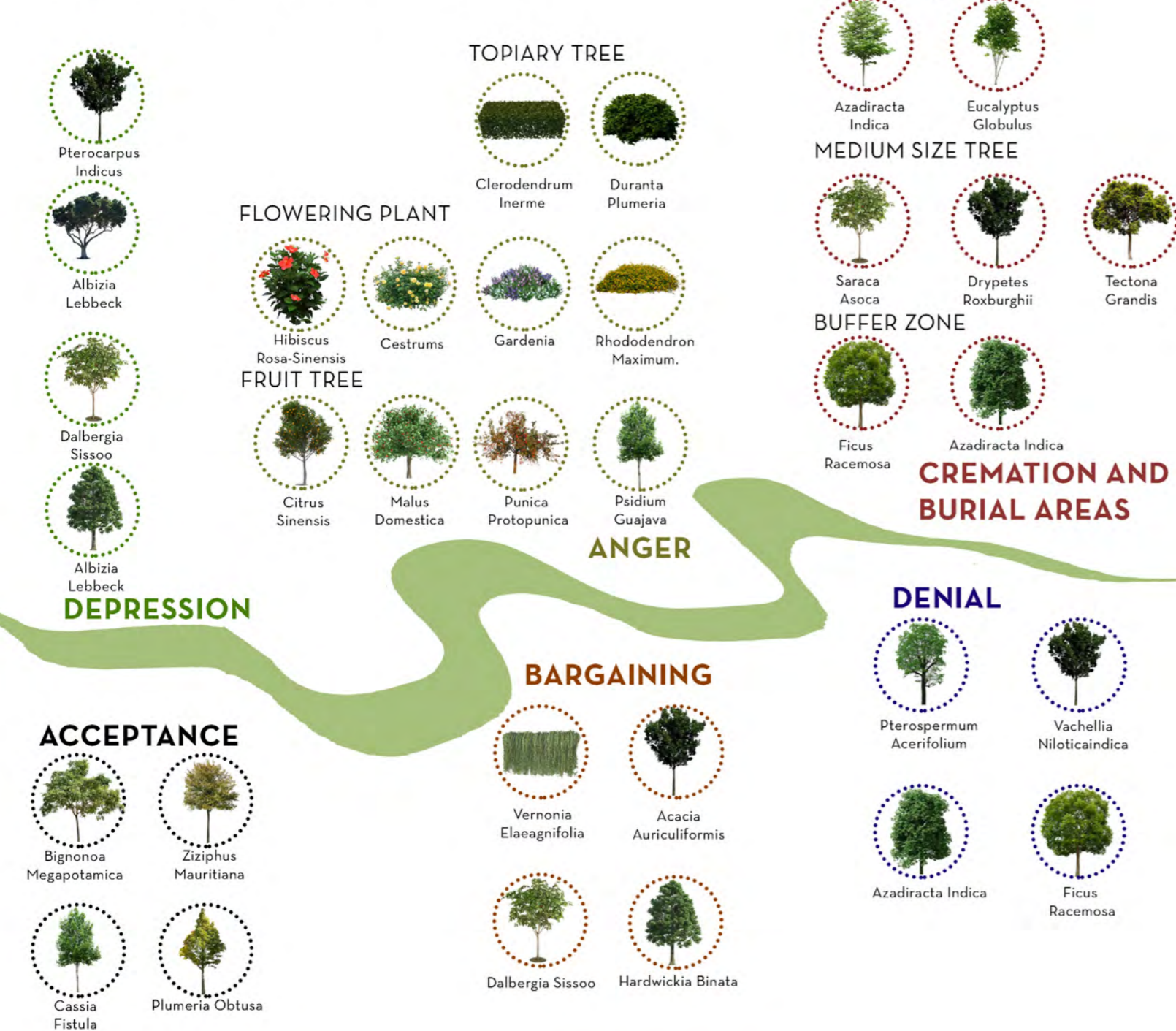


The site is interconnected with the two types of landscape i.e. Healing Landscape and Ritualistic Landscape with a vertical landmark in between. The privacy for different religious rituals have been kept in mind while designing the ritualistic landscape. However, the healing landscape serves more as a public gathering space where the landscape transforms to take into account different phases of grief that a person goes through. Through the site divisions, the right most side is the grieving space where we have the graves to have a peaceful environment for everyone. And on the left is basically the healing process through the landscape. The various types of vegetations give different type of feelings and impressions to the different emotions. The horizontal connection gives a free will to the people to walk through one end of the site to another passing through all kinds of emotions and sentiments.

SCHEMATIC SECTIONS



LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGY



LEGEND

- MUSLIM GRAVE
- MOSQUE
- ENTRANCE FROM MUSLIM GRAVES
- CHRISTIAN GRAVES
- BIO- DEGRADABLE GRAVES
- ENTRANCE FROM CHRISTIAN GRAVES
- ENTRANCE FROM VERTICAL CEMETERY
- VERTICAL CEMETERY
- HINDU CREMATION
- SHOPS
- ENTRANCE PLAZA
- LANDSCAPE FOR DENIAL
- MEMORIAL WALLS
- COLUMBARIUM
- WATER FEATURE
- SENSORY GARDEN
- LANDSCAPE FOR BARGAINING
- YOGA AND MEDITATION CENTRE
- LANDSCAPE FOR DEPRESSION
- LANDSCAPE FOR ACCEPTANCE
- DORMS
- PARKING



Reformation of the existing Muslim burial ground takes the site from a chaotic open ground with random graves to a somber landscape aesthetic which provides a respectable place for the departed and their loved ones.

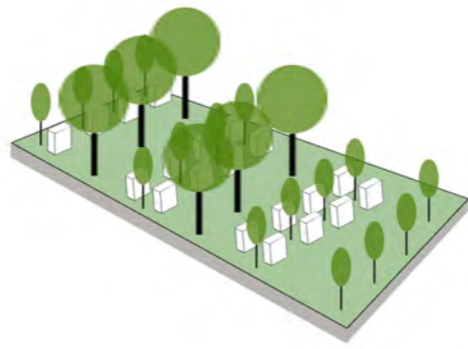
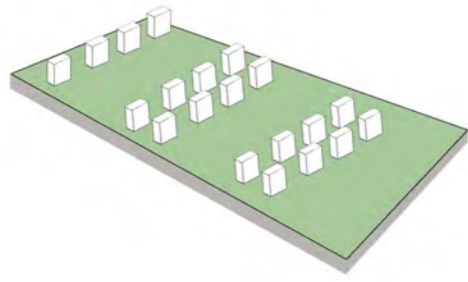
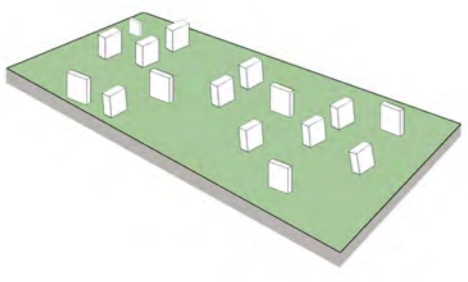
The Muslim cemetery houses space for a mosque and the burial ground to process the burial rituals. The mosque is a place where they can have their last prayers. The headstones in same material completes the idea of giving an individual identity to the place. The landscape serves as a subtle backdrop filtering out the surrounding noise with height difference of the tree species and also defining a space between the huge ground. The burial ground offers a peaceful resting place for the dead and one where their loved ones can bid the final farewell.

STRATEGY DIAGRAM

Unorganised Existing graves

Organised and planned graves giving an identity

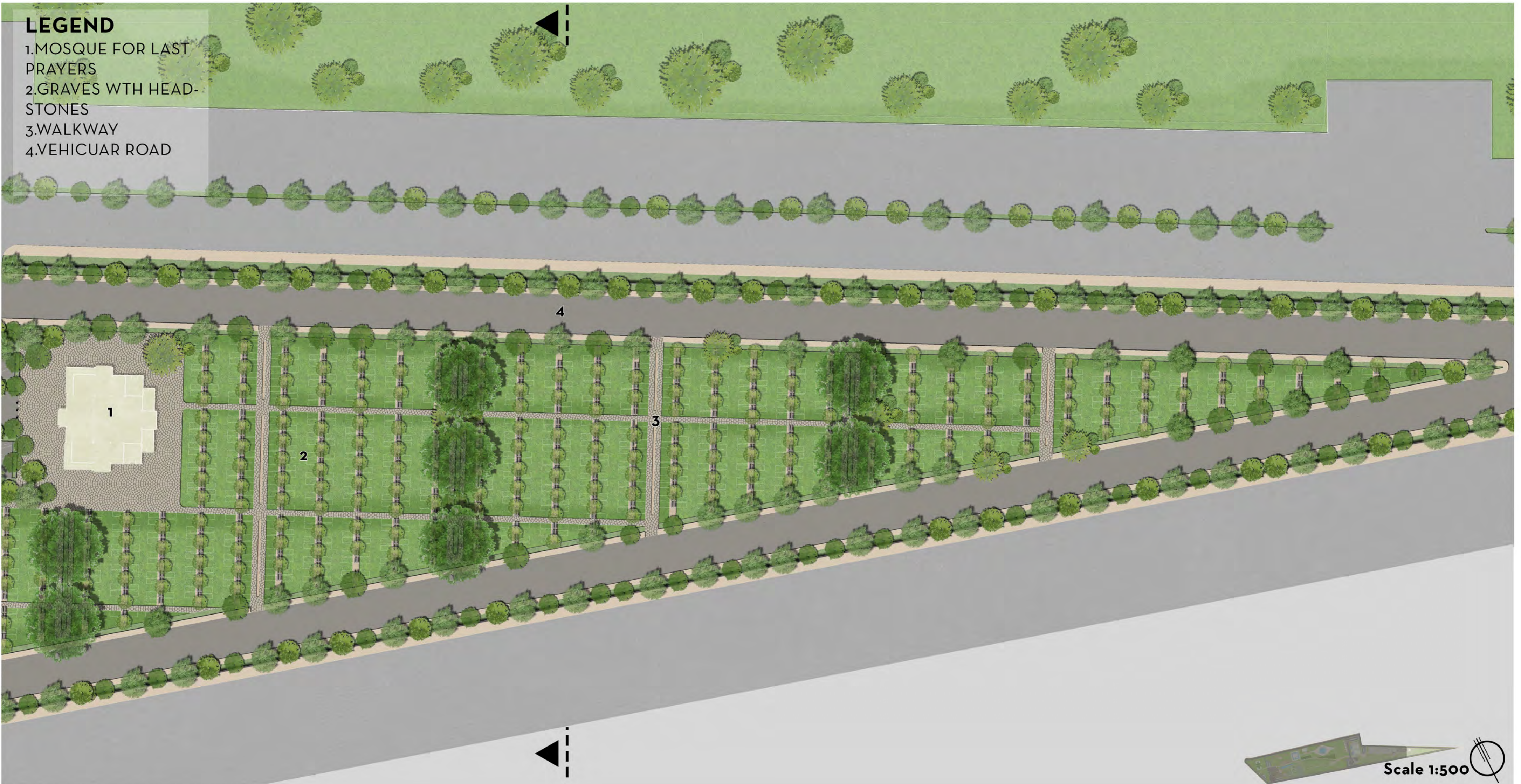
Space definition through the different heights of the trees



MUSLIM GRAVES

LEGEND

- 1. MOSQUE FOR LAST PRAYERS
- 2. GRAVES WITH HEADSTONES
- 3. WALKWAY
- 4. VEHICULAR ROAD



Scale 1:500

SECTION

ROAD

GRAVES

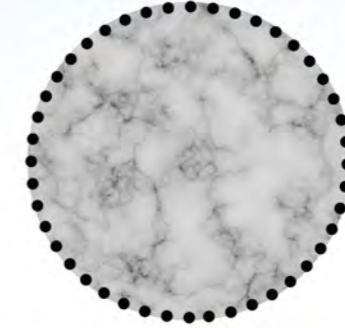
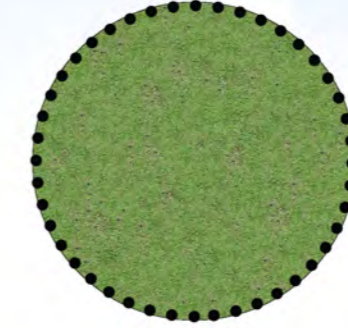
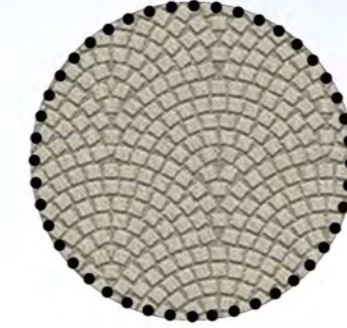
ROAD

PERMEABLE PAVERS

GRASS

MARBLE

ASPHALT



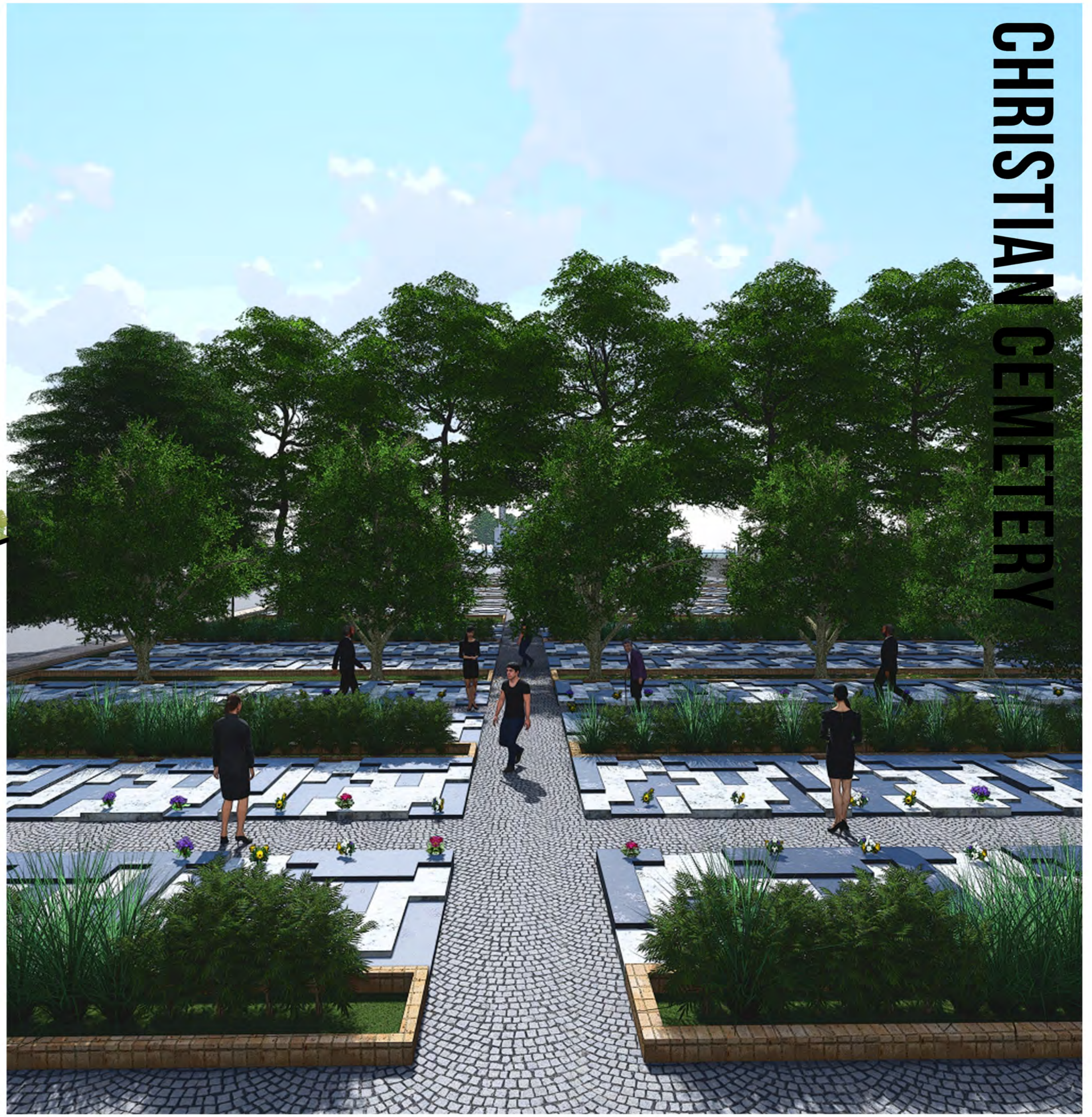
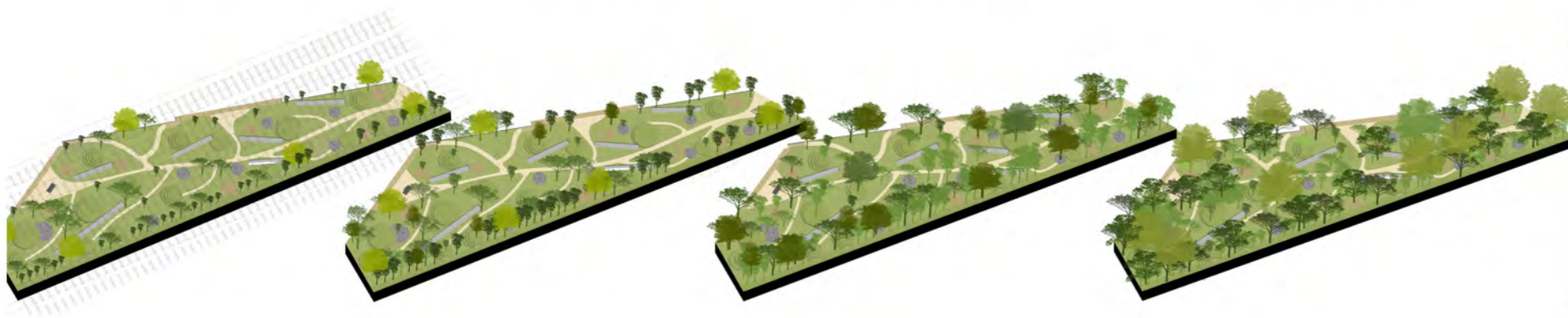
The existing disorganised and chaotic Christian burial grounds demand for a composed and tranquil background to depart their loved ones with unhindered ride. The Christian Cemetery has a large open burial ground which has been layered with the bushes and various different heighted tree species creating a visual and sound barrier. Creating an identity for the Christian graves through the different materials and approach for the graves.

The sustainability of the design offers a new form of burial ground with the biodegradable graves also called Capsula Mundi which involves the process of growing tree species by the decomposition of the loved ones. It has been designed keeping in mind the idea of a peaceful burial ground where their loved ones can bid the final farewell.

STRATEGY DIAGRAM

BIODEGRADABLE GRAVES - CAPSULA MUNDI

0-1 Years 1-5 Years 5-10 Years 10-15 Years



LEGEND

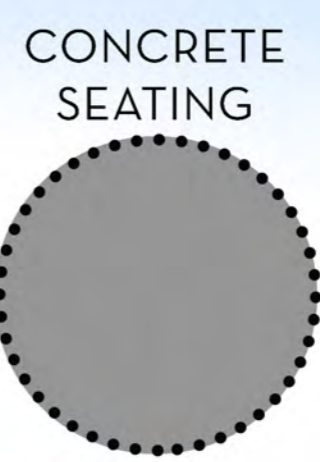
- 1. GRAVES
- 2. BUSHES
- 3. HIGH TREES
- 4. SEATING
- 5. SMALL MOUNDS
- 6. TREE PIT
- 7. PARKING



Scale 1:500

SECTION

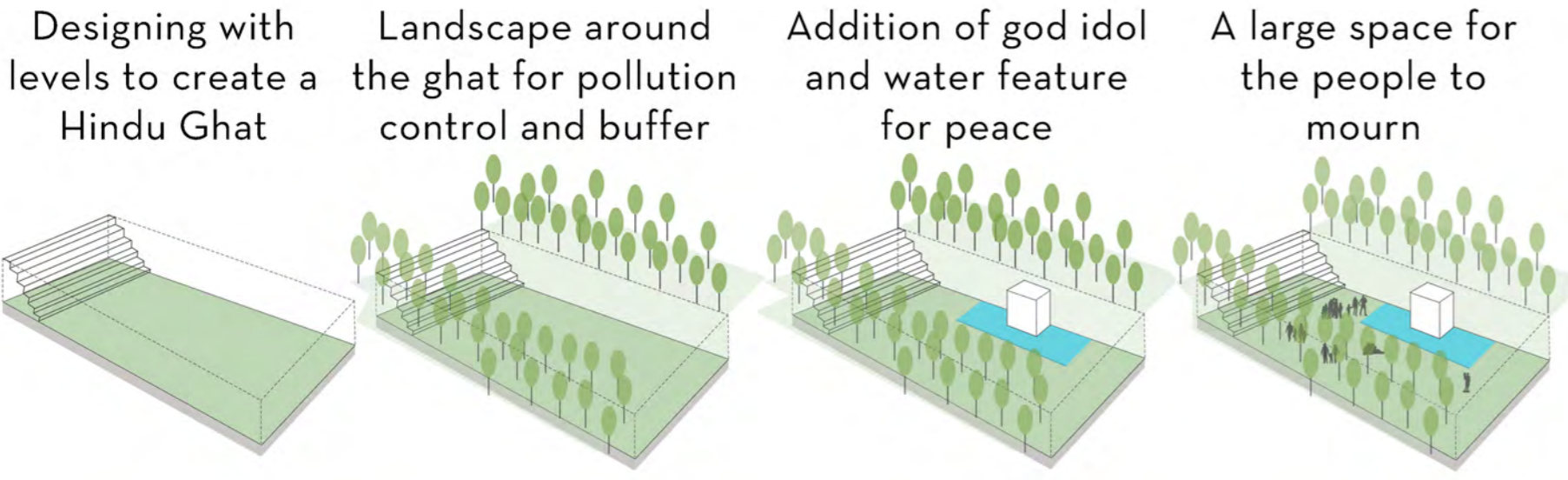
ROAD BIO-DEGRADABLE GRAVES CHRISITAN GRAVES ROAD



Hindu Ghat is a levelled space on the edge of a river where Hindus cremate their dead. The existing scenarios show us that the first impression of the place is not very satisfactory.

Thus walking through the Hindu's cremation ground, the strategy is to design a barrier free Ghat or a levelled space with the requirements of the hindu rituals. The huge plaza is designed to cater a lot of men who visit the cremation grounds for the loss of their loved ones. The sustainability factors which have been taken into account for the pollution of the natural environment are the layers of the landscape surrounding the ghat to absorb the fumes of the cremation and the artificial water pond where people can give away the ashes of their loved ones.

STRATEGY DIAGRAM



HINDU CREMATION

LEGEND

- 1. STEPS FOR GHAT
- 2. RAMP
- 3. WATER FEATURE
- 4. PLATFORM
- 5. CREMATION SPACE
- 6. GOD IDOL
- 7. SHOPS
- 8. EXPANSION AREA
- 9. PARKING
- 10. MAIN VEHICULAR ACCESS



SECTION

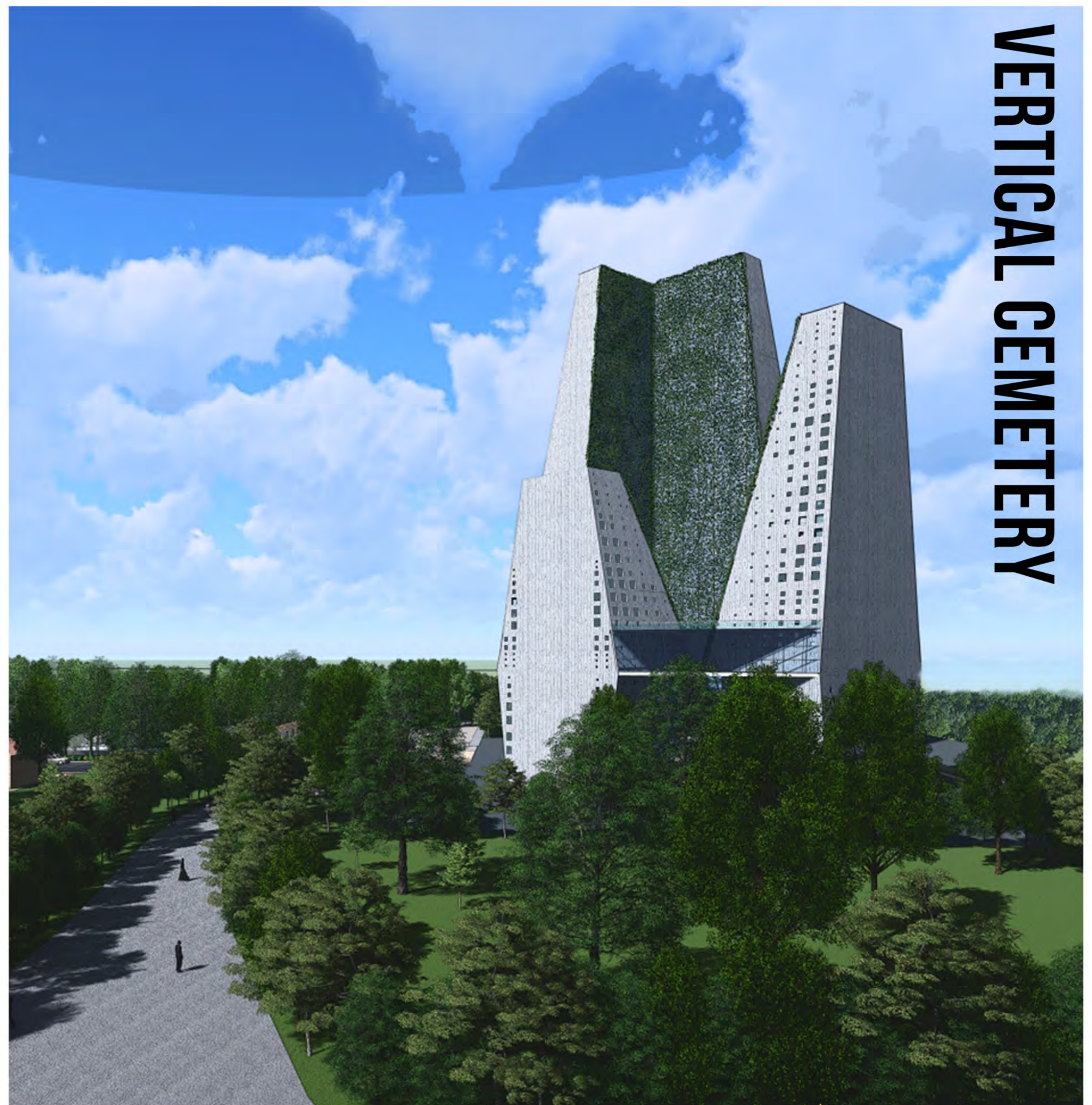
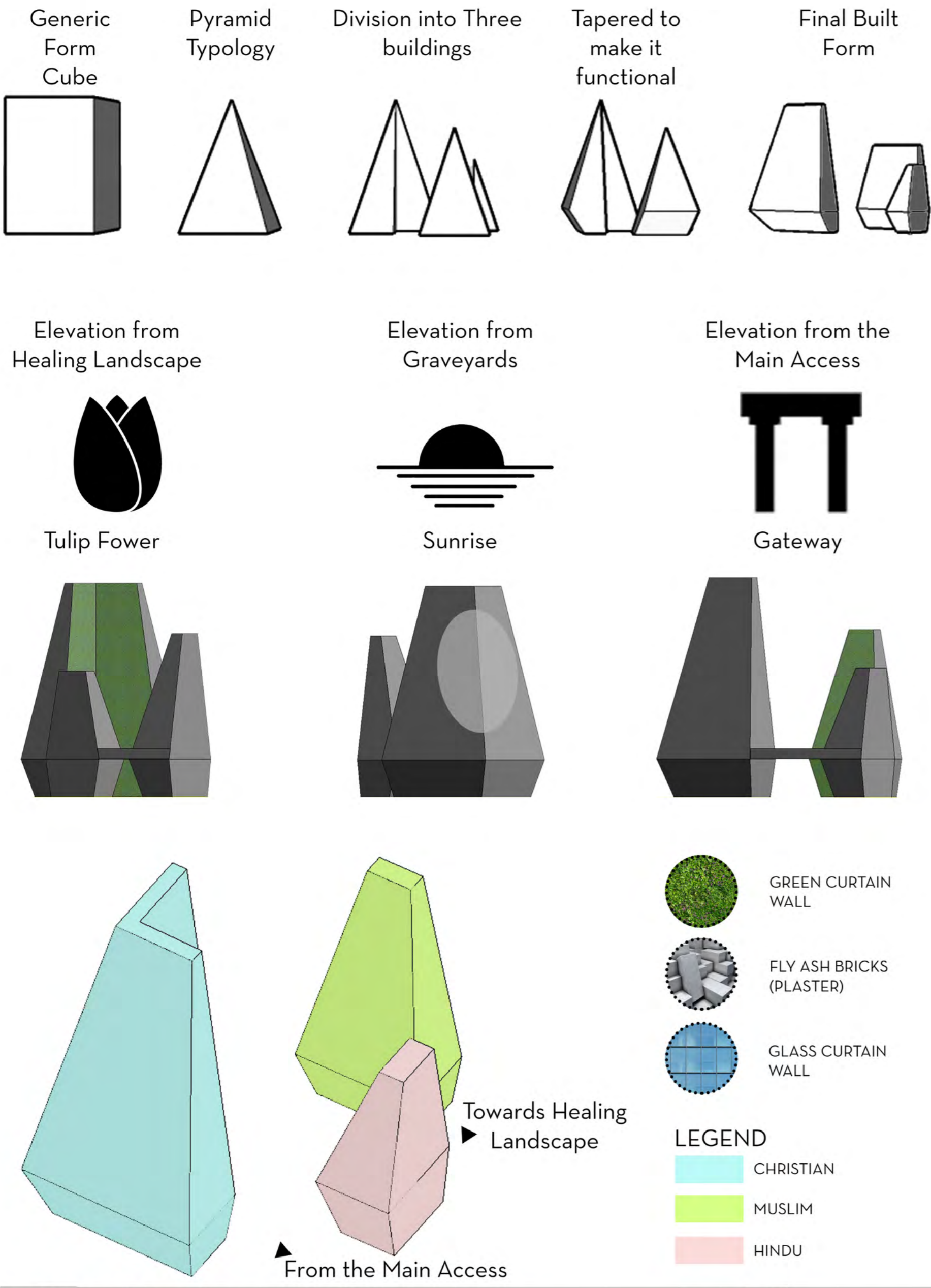
PATH ENTRANCE PLAZA SHOPS ROAD HINDU CREMATION ROAD



VERTICAL CEMETERY

This project explores a new way of dealing with the spatial constrain for urban cemeteries while expressing a unique approach to life and death. Rather than hiding from the city, this structure offers an open public space that forms an efficient mutual relationship between architecture and technology in order to reform the cemetery typology from passive and symbolic to active and informative. The idea of the form of the building arises from the Egyptian Pyramids which house the dead and finally, the built form adds to a more useable and functional form. The project memorializes the deceased through the introduction and manipulation of light and nature. Each of the three built forms are designed to provide a public as well as a private space for the different religions.

FORM OF THE BUILDING

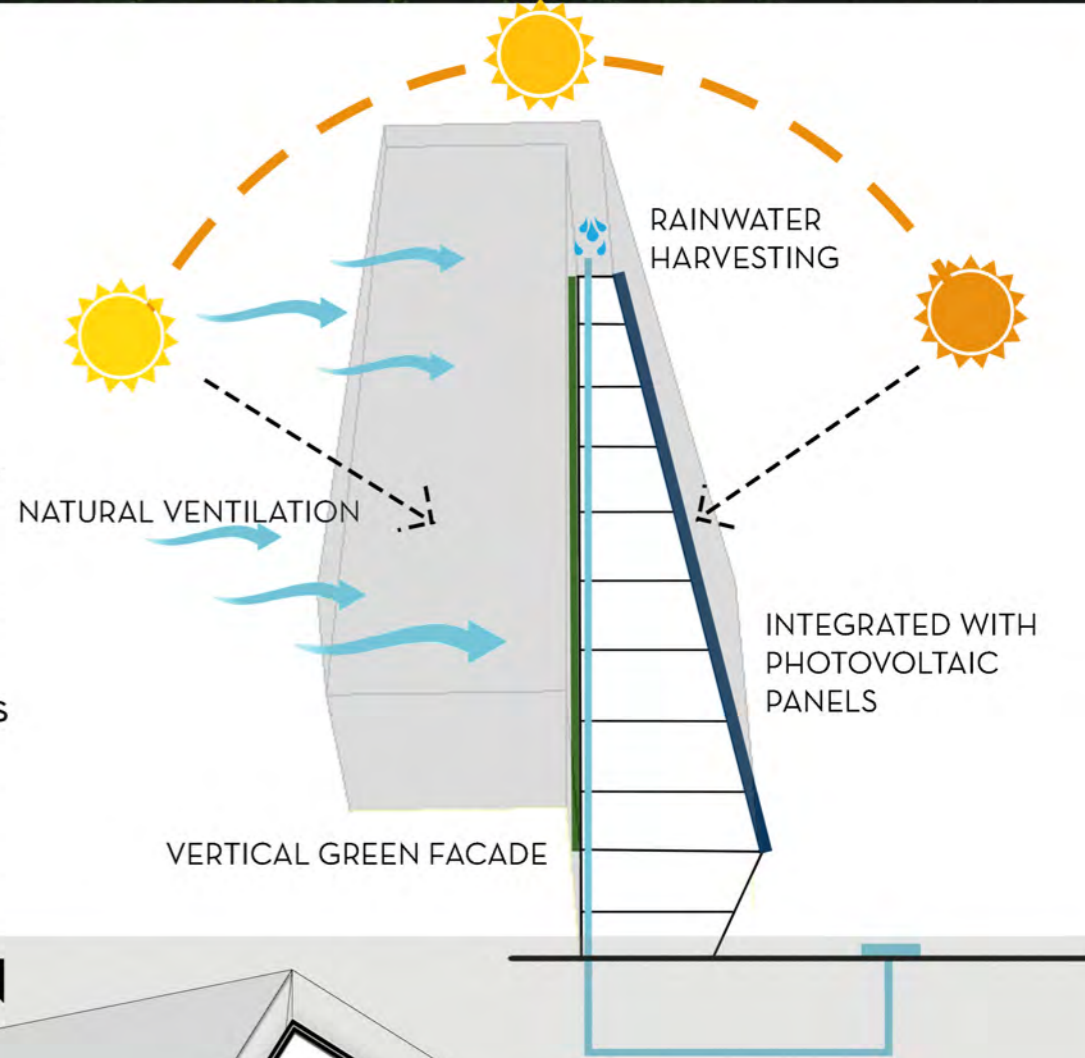


REDUCED ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS

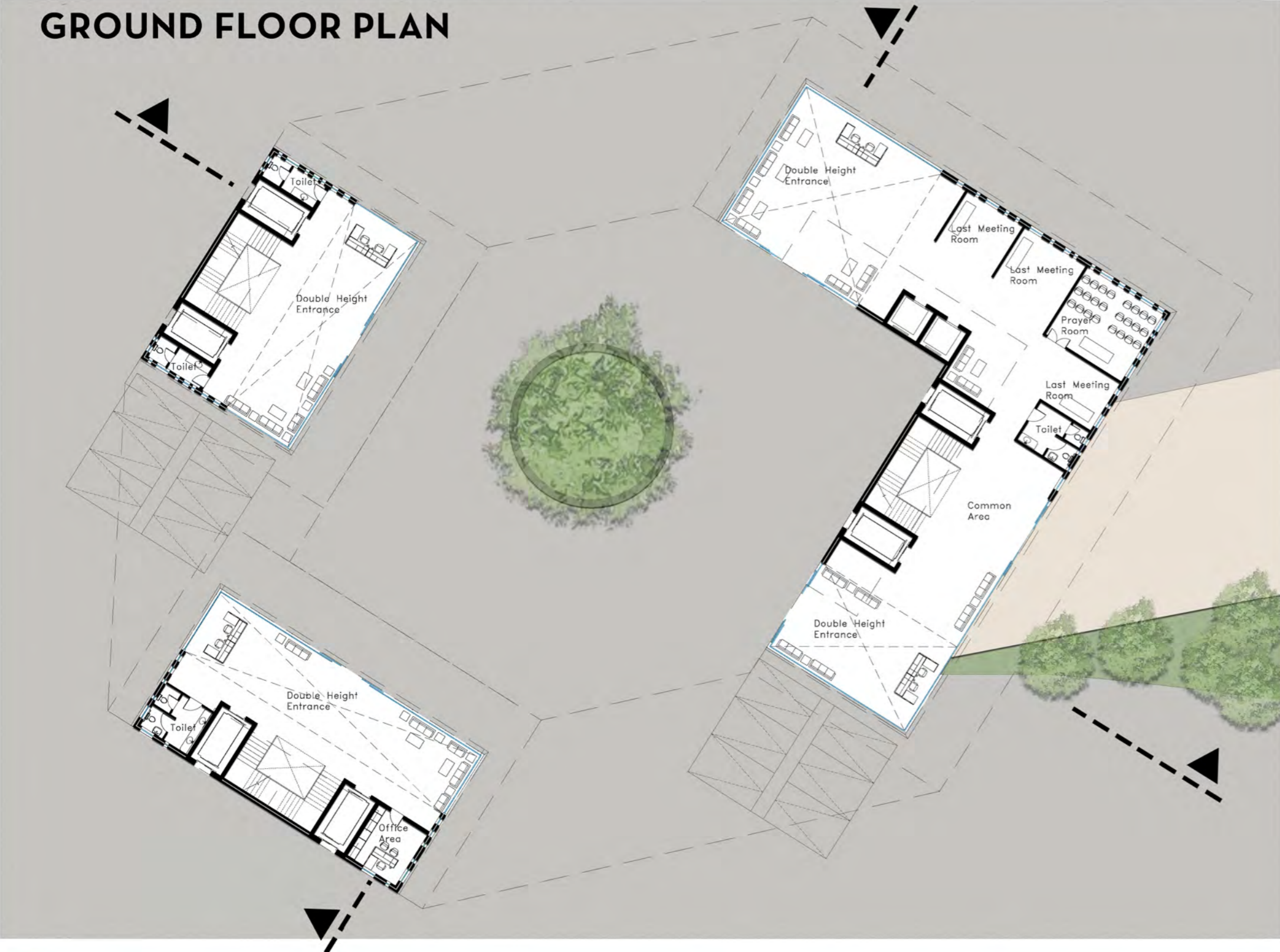
Bioclimatology, in architectural terms, is the relation between the form of a structure, and its environmental performance in relation to its external climate.

Our aim is to:

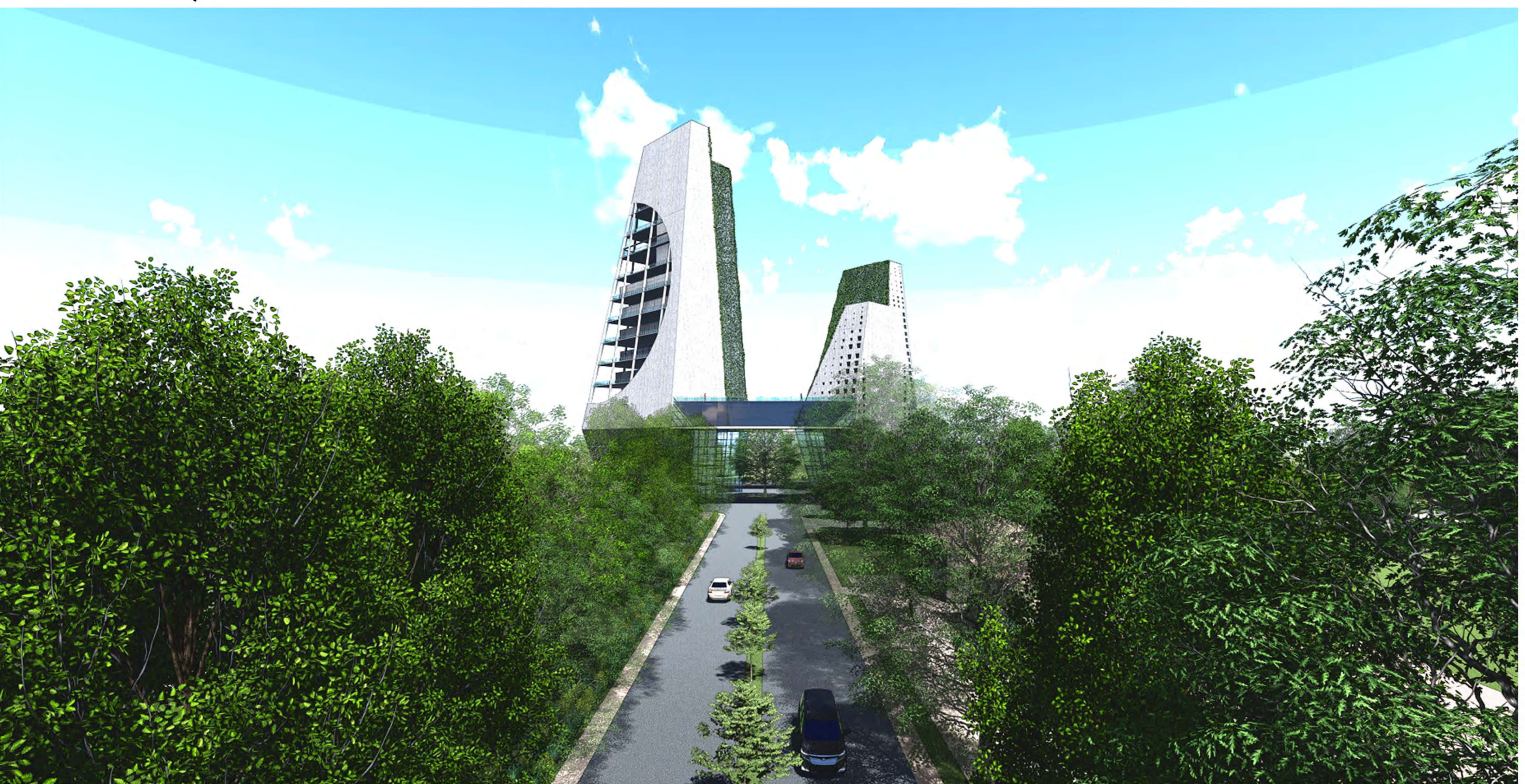
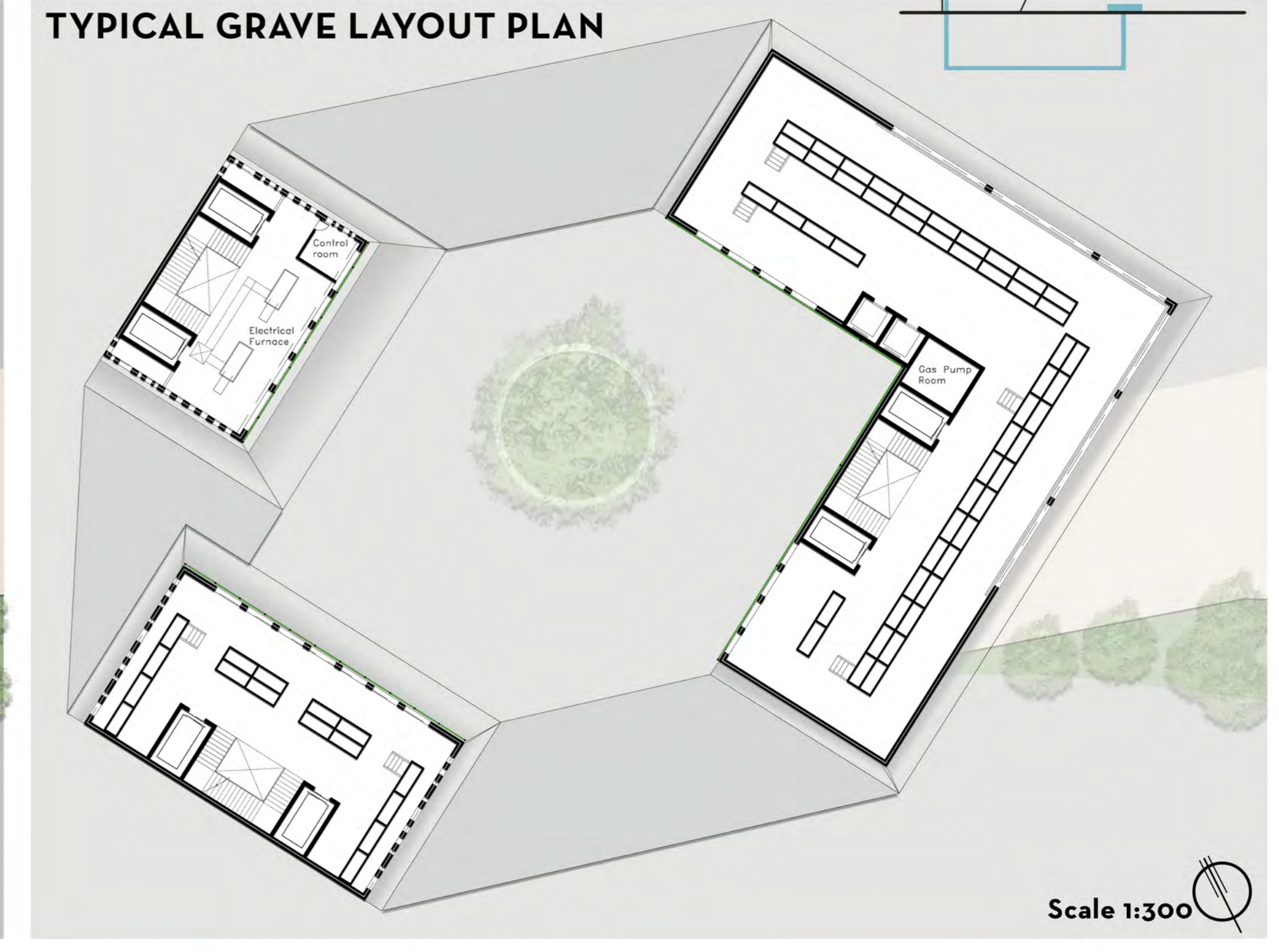
- Achieve thermal protection of the building (through thermal insulation, airtightness).
- Install photovoltaic panels to take advantage of solar energy in winter.
- Reduce the transmission of heat from the sun by providing Vertical green facade.
- have the proper use of the building materials' characteristics (thermal mass, reflectivity, absorbcency, etc.) and use of local materials for economical benefits.
- Promote Rainwater harvesting for easy irrigation of the site.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



TYPICAL GRAVE LAYOUT PLAN

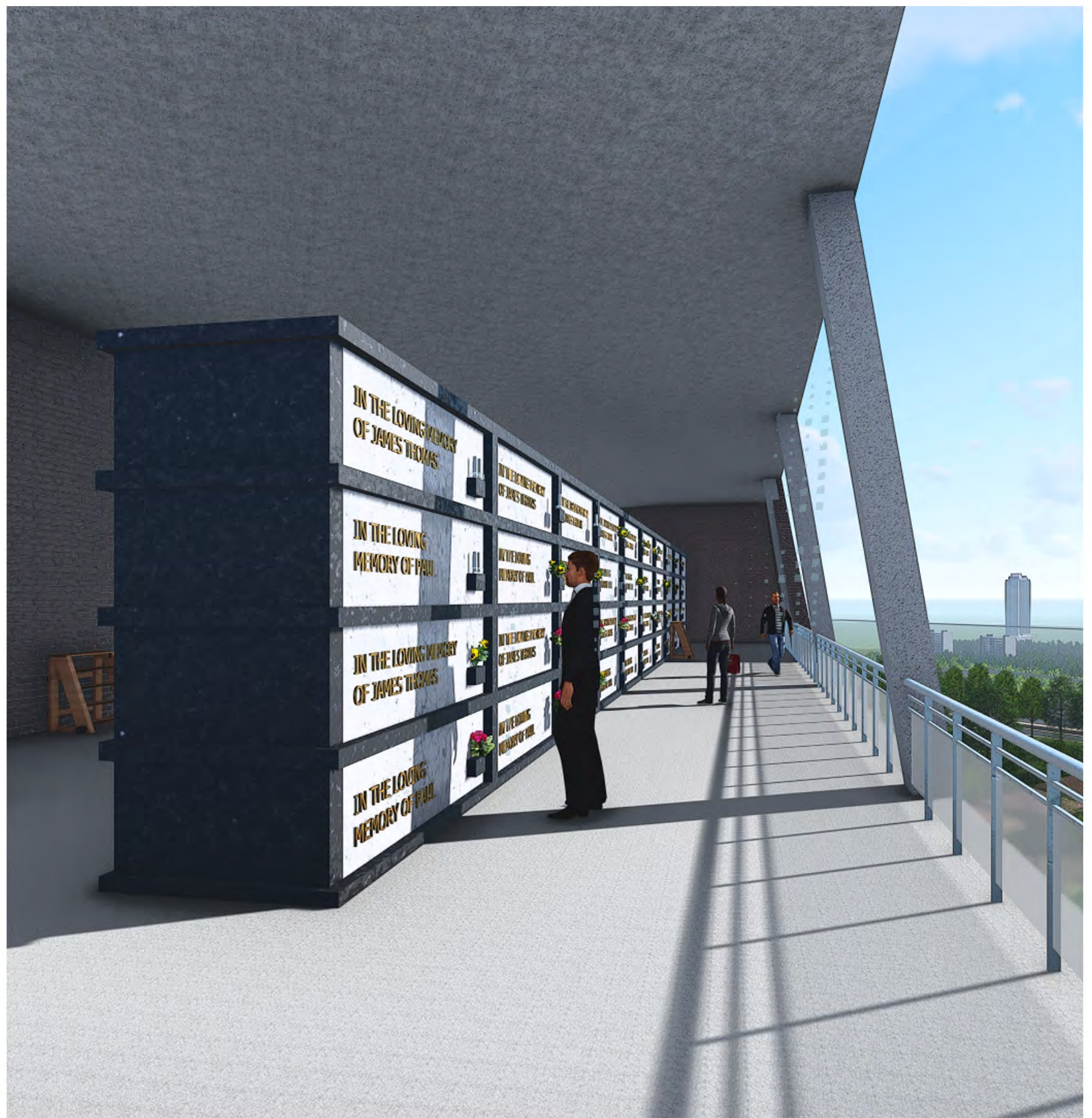
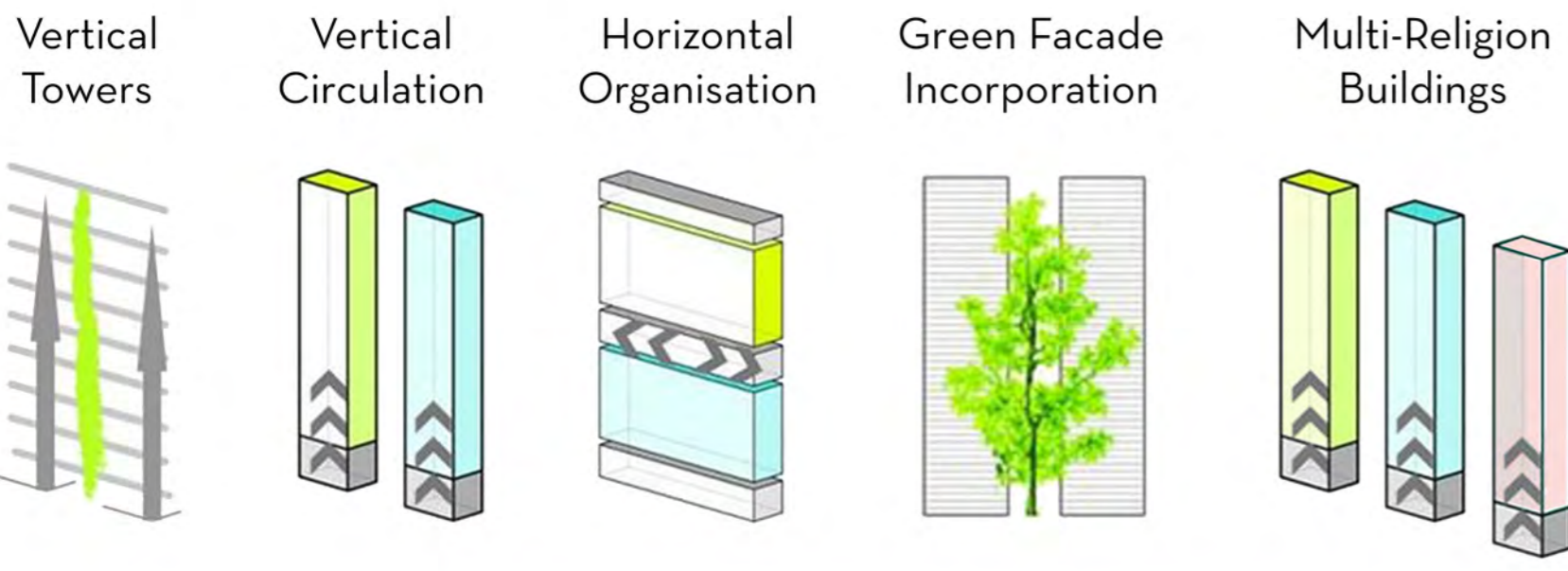


The purpose of the project is to apply verticality into cemetery typology. Verticality provides opportunities to bring cemeteries back to the urban district. While urban cemetery makes it possible to mix city functions and encourage daily visits to the burial, which benefits people's attitude towards life and death.

The final design result is a proposal of urban vertical cemetery, providing enough memorial space for the citizens with a fair price and kind atmosphere. It is not only a place for the dead, but also a vertical park where daily life could happen.

The facade when seen through different angles portrays different meanings. Incorporation of Vertical burial, green walls and solar panels leads us towards a sustainable approach.

STRATEGY DIAGRAM



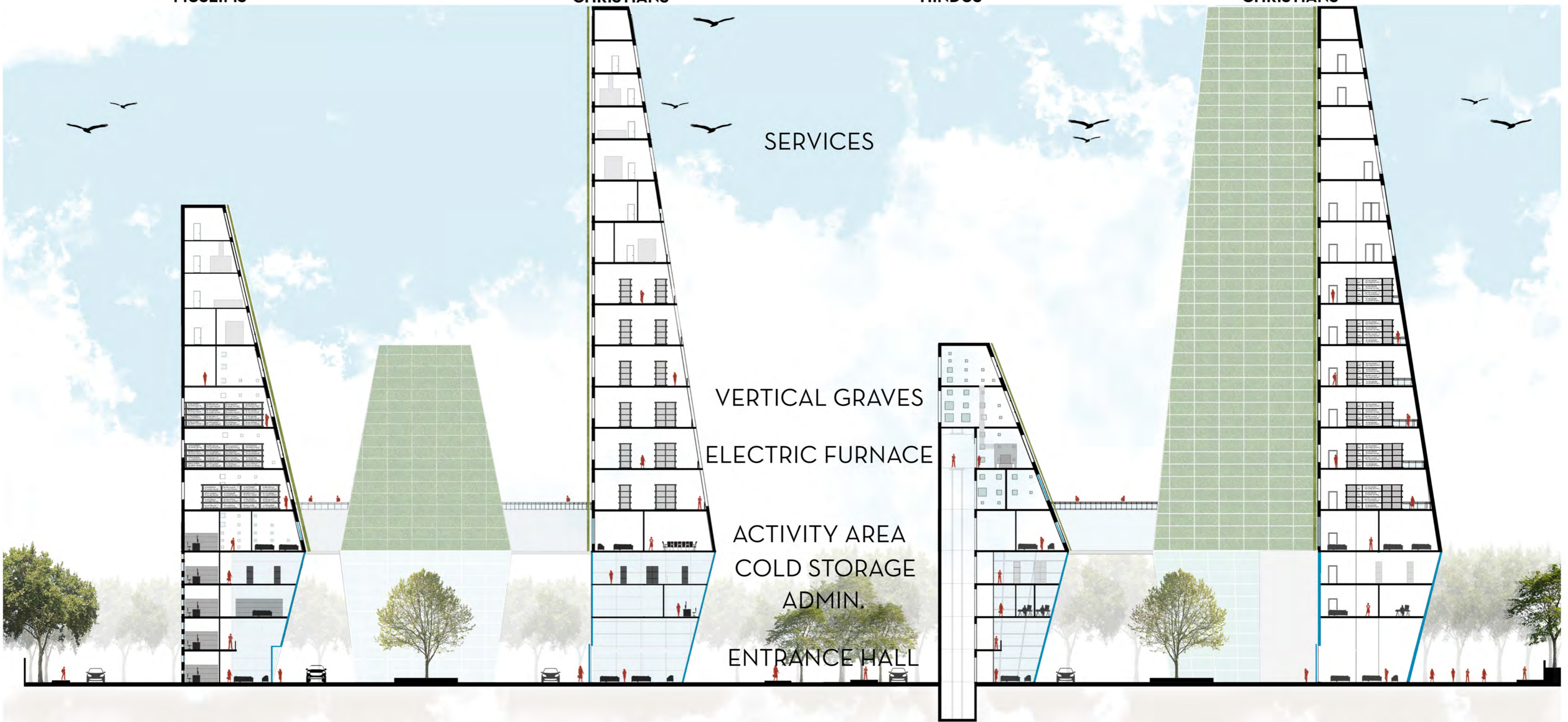
SECTIONS

MUSLIMS

CHRISTIANS

HINDUS

CHRISTIANS



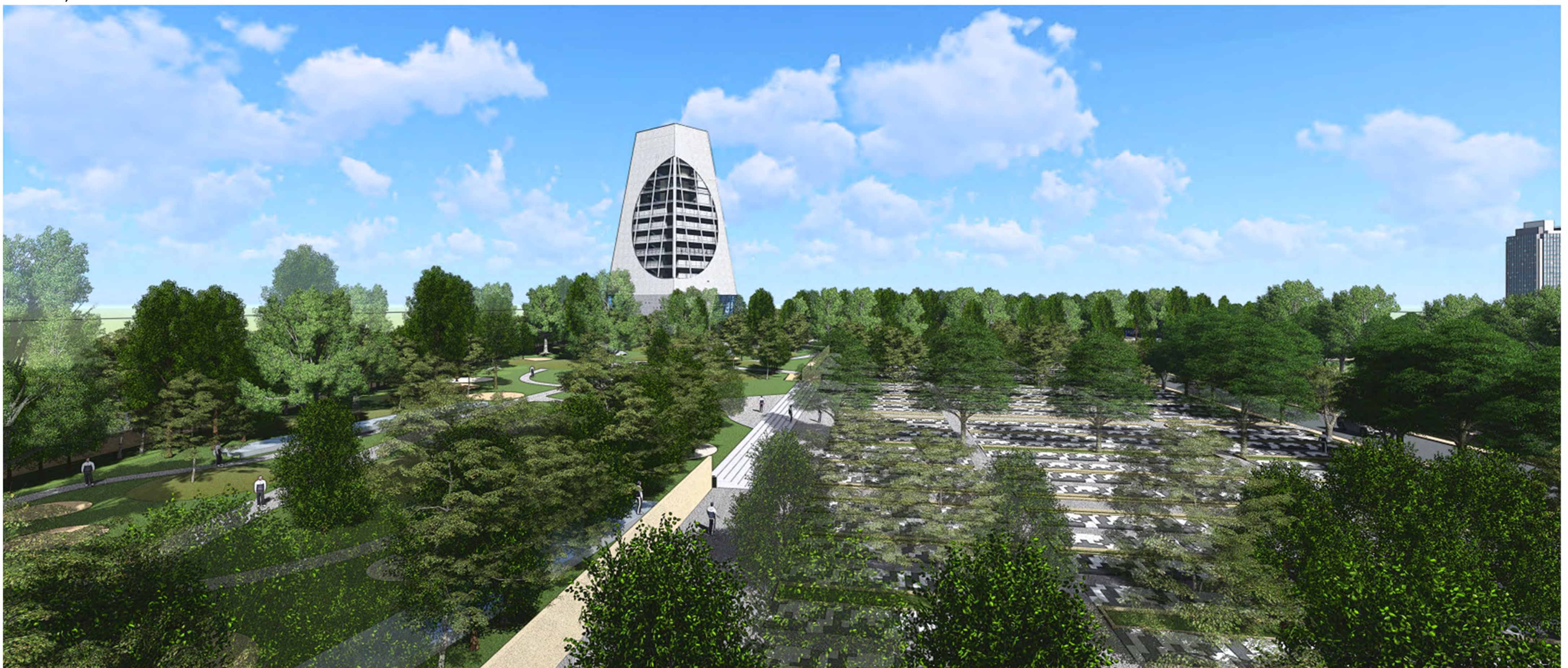
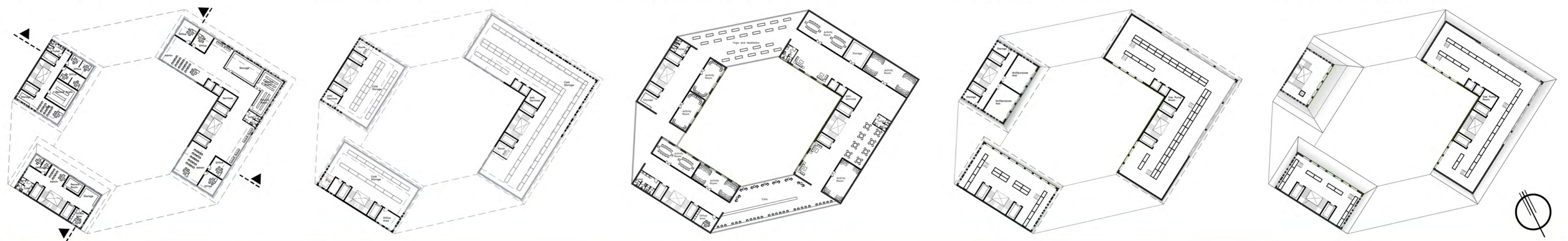
SECOND FLOOR PLAN

THIRD FLOOR PLAN

FOURTH FLOOR PLAN

FIFTH FLOOR PLAN

TYPICAL FLOOR PLAN

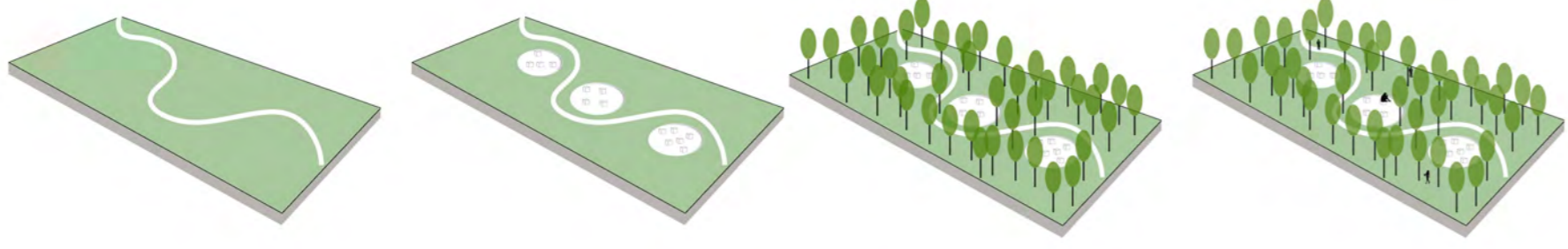


As we start walking towards the Healing part of our Landscape, the first emotion we come across is Denial. Denial is a common defence mechanism that buffers the immediate shock of the loss, numbing us to our emotions. We block out the words and want to hide in a dark place until we come out of this emotion. For most people experiencing grief, this stage is a temporary response that carries us through the first wave of pain.

Thus walking through the landscape, the strategy is to design an isolated space using trees as a buffer between the different spaces for minimal human interaction. A dark room for people who pass through it, notice a ray of light and hope coming from the other end of the built form to leave the emotions such as fear, shock and avoidance behind with the darkness of the room.

STRATEGY DIAGRAM

- Creating a Path through the greens
- Division of spaces
- Using Landscape as Buffer between different spaces
- Designing shaded areas for peaceful and clear emotion



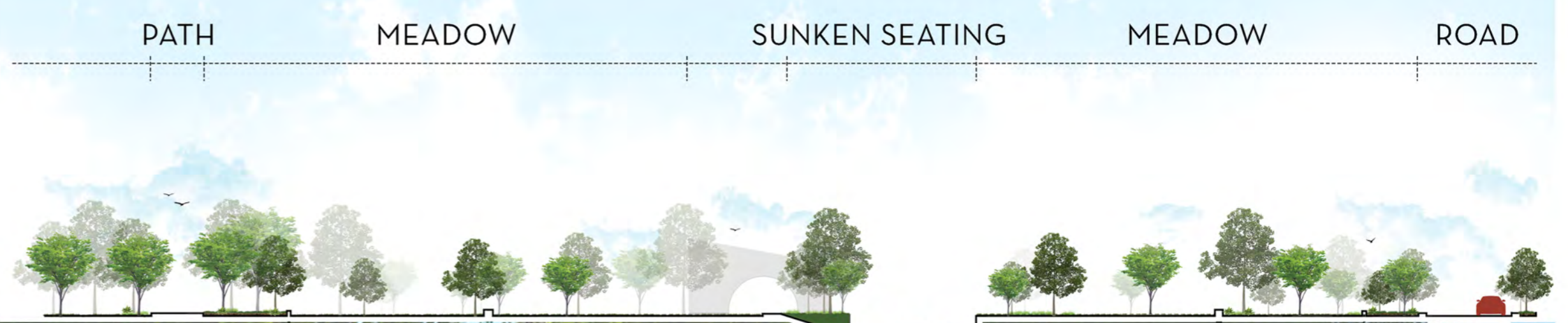
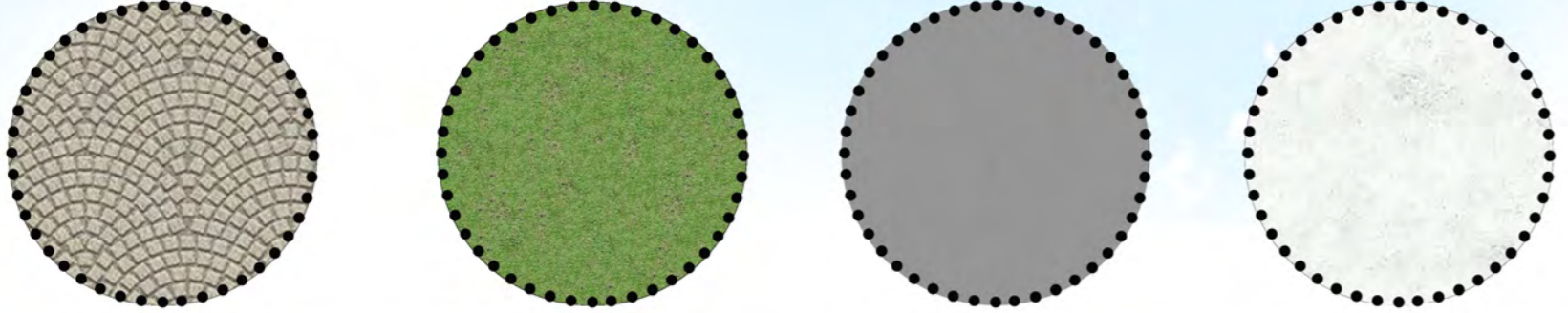
LEGEND

1. BUFFER BETWEEN DENIAL AND ACCEPTANCE
2. SUNKEN SEATING
3. DARK ROOM
4. INSTALLATION
5. SEPARATE SEATINGS



SECTION

- PERMEABLE PAVERS
- GRASS
- ASPHALT
- WHITE CONCRETE

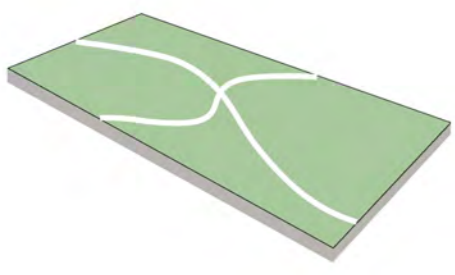


After the phase of denial a person suffers from the emotion of Anger. The loss of a closed one leads to blockage of senses of a person and therefore is not able to understand anything and ends up being angry for the loss.

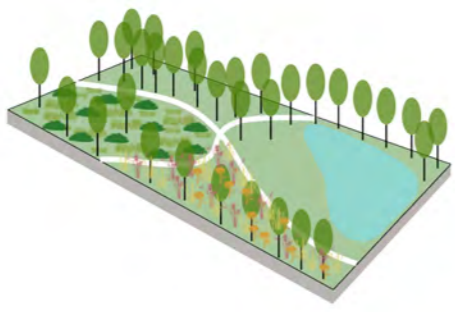
Thus, walking through the landscape and memorial walls, a person tries to escape from anger and tries to rejuvenate his/her senses. The strategy aims to refresh his/her perception by feeling the 5 senses again through a sensory garden. The garden involves Flower bed to look at, Topiary garden to touch, Herb Plantation to smell, Fruit trees to taste and water feature to hear a peaceful sound. Thus, creating a therapeutic garden to stimulate the senses. Memorial is another way to re-connect the people from their losses with different memorial spaces.

STRATEGY DIAGRAM

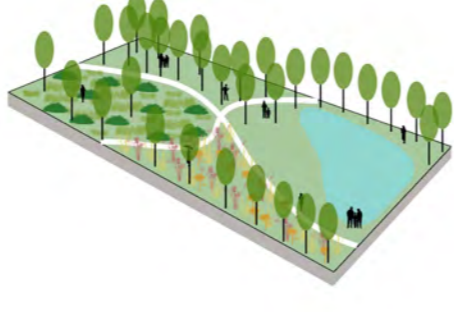
Creating a Path through the greens



Division of spaces



Designing to rejuvenate the senses



LEGEND

- 1. COLUMBARIUM
- 2. OPEN MEMORIAL
- 3. SEMI OPEN MEMORIAL
- 4. MEMORIAL
- 5. INSTALLATION
- 6. WATER FEATURE
- 7. FRUITS TREE PLANTATION
- 8. TOPIARY GARDEN
- 9. FLOWER BED
- 10. HERBS PLANTATIONS
- 11. PARKING



SECTION

OPEN MEMORIAL SEMI-OPEN MEMORIAL OPEN MEMORIAL MEMORIAL HERBS PLANTATION TOPIARY GARDEN



The feeling of helplessness can cause us to react in protest by bargaining, which gives us a perceived sense of control over something that feels so out of control. The person tries to reach out other people with the same emotional status. He/She wants to tell their stories and share their emotional breakouts.

Thus walking through the landscape, the strategy's objective is to create some shaded shelters for the people to visit and share the story with the ones they could relate to. The various kinds of seatings provided helps the person to choose the exact setting with reference to their mindset and come out of the pain. The stone seating, pergola seating and the pavilions are design with a play of light and shadow.

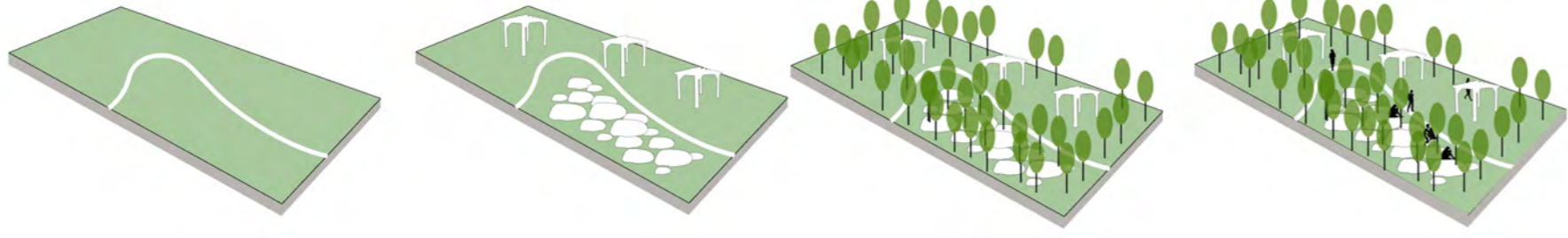
STRATEGY DIAGRAM

Creating a Path through the greens

Division of spaces

Providing Shading through the landscape

Designing an interactive space with a play of light and shadow



BARGAINING

LEGEND

1. PERGOLA SEATING
2. STONE SEATING
3. PAVILION SEATING
4. STEPPING STONES
5. INSTALLATION
6. BENCHES
7. PARKING



SECTION

PERMEABLE PAVERS

METAL SEATING

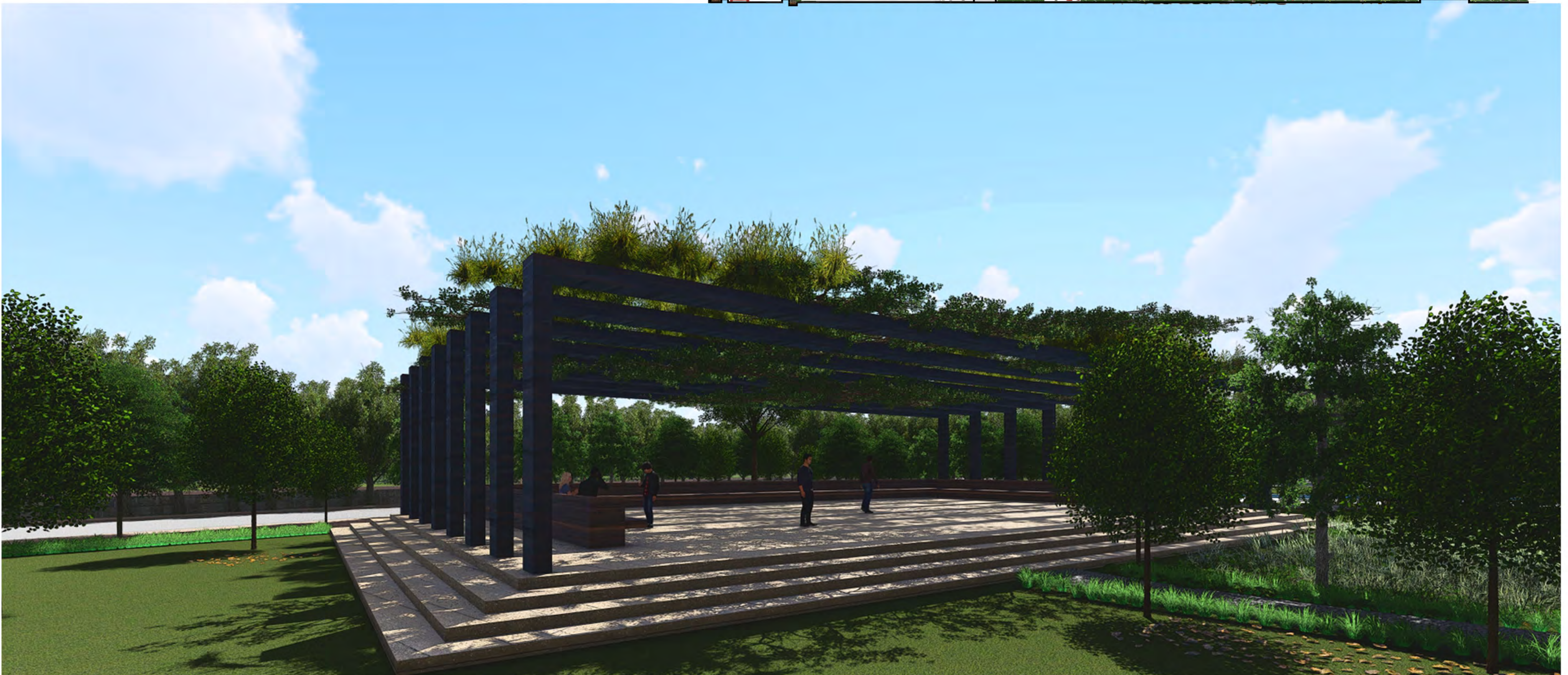
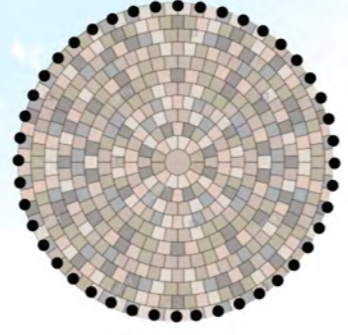
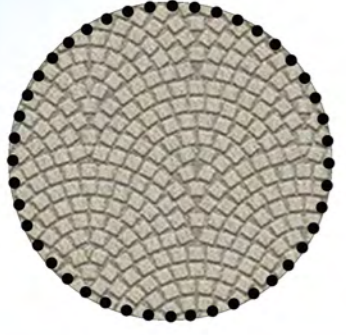
WOODEN PANELS

HIGHLIGHTER PERMEABLE PAVER

ROAD PERGOLA SEATING

STONE SEATING

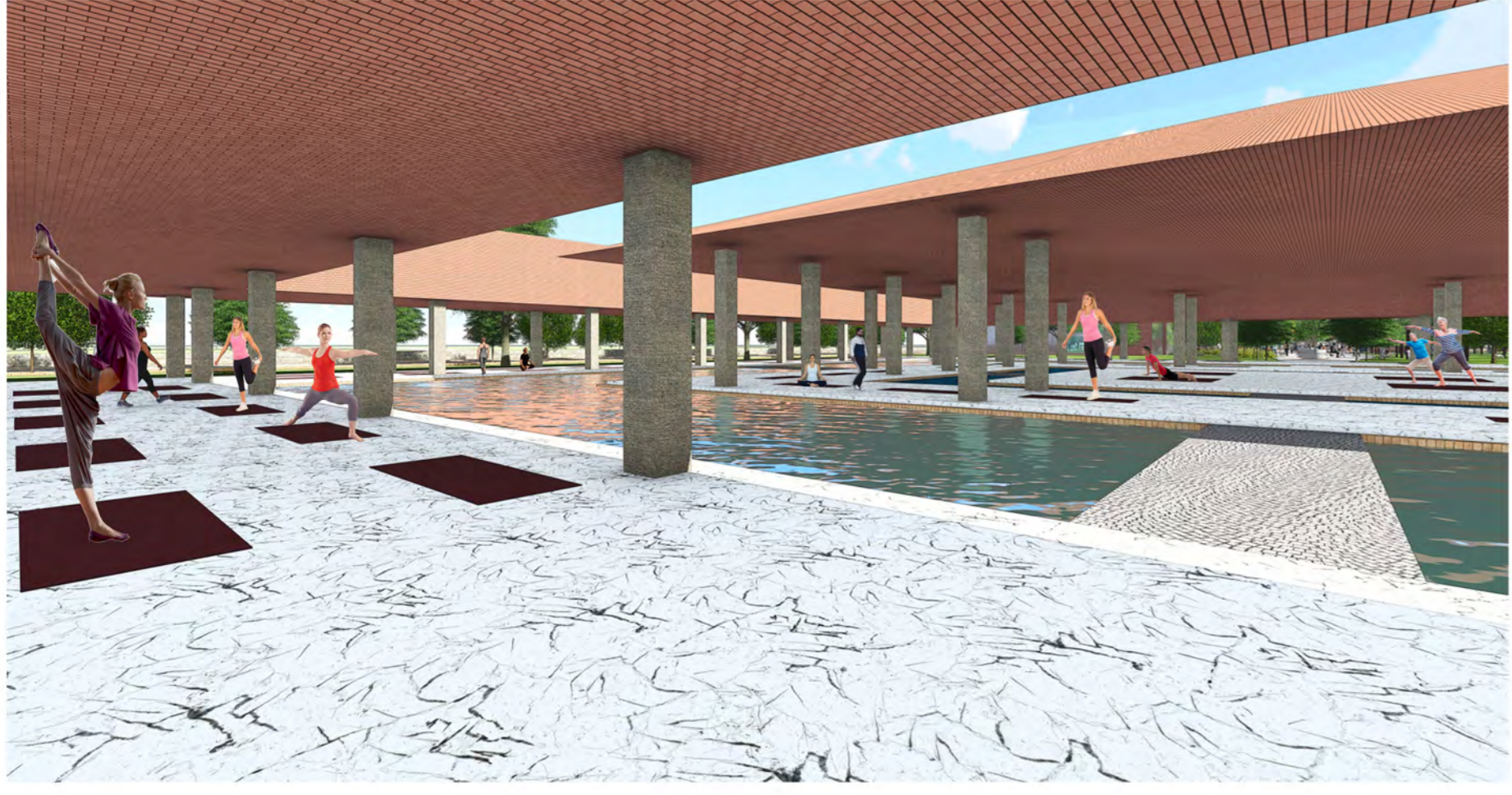
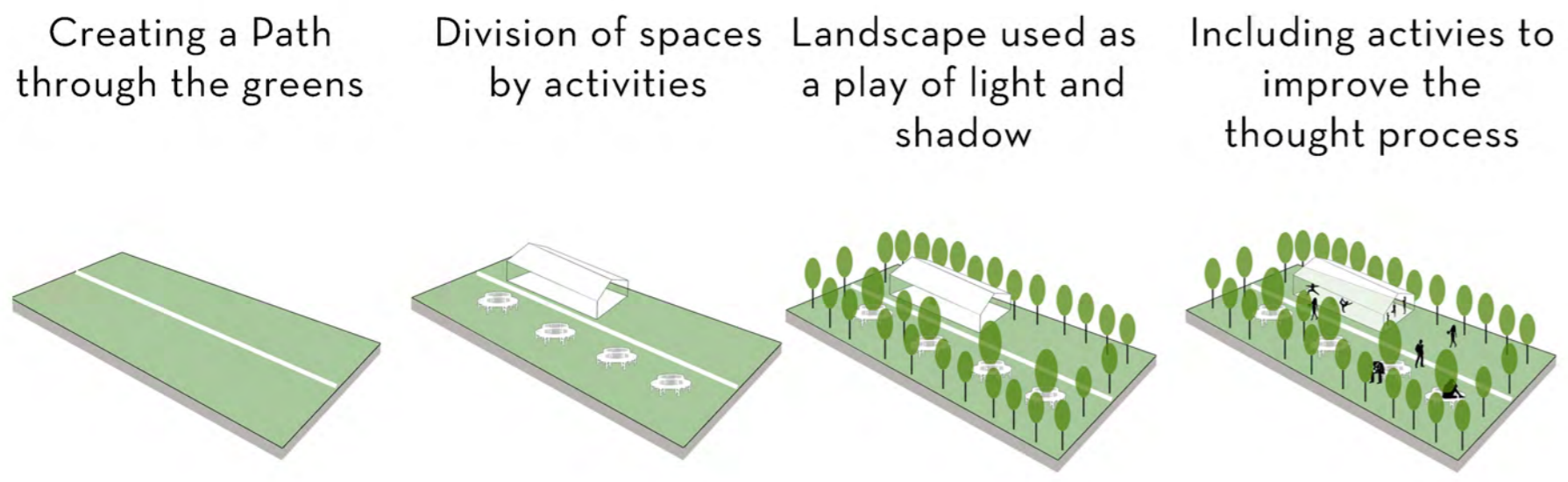
PATH



During the experience of processing grief, there comes a time when our imaginations calm down and we slowly start to look at the reality of our present situation. Bargaining no longer feels like an option and we are faced with what is happening. This is the stage of Depression. The person starts to feel helpless at this stage and his mind is trying to cope up with the outside world.

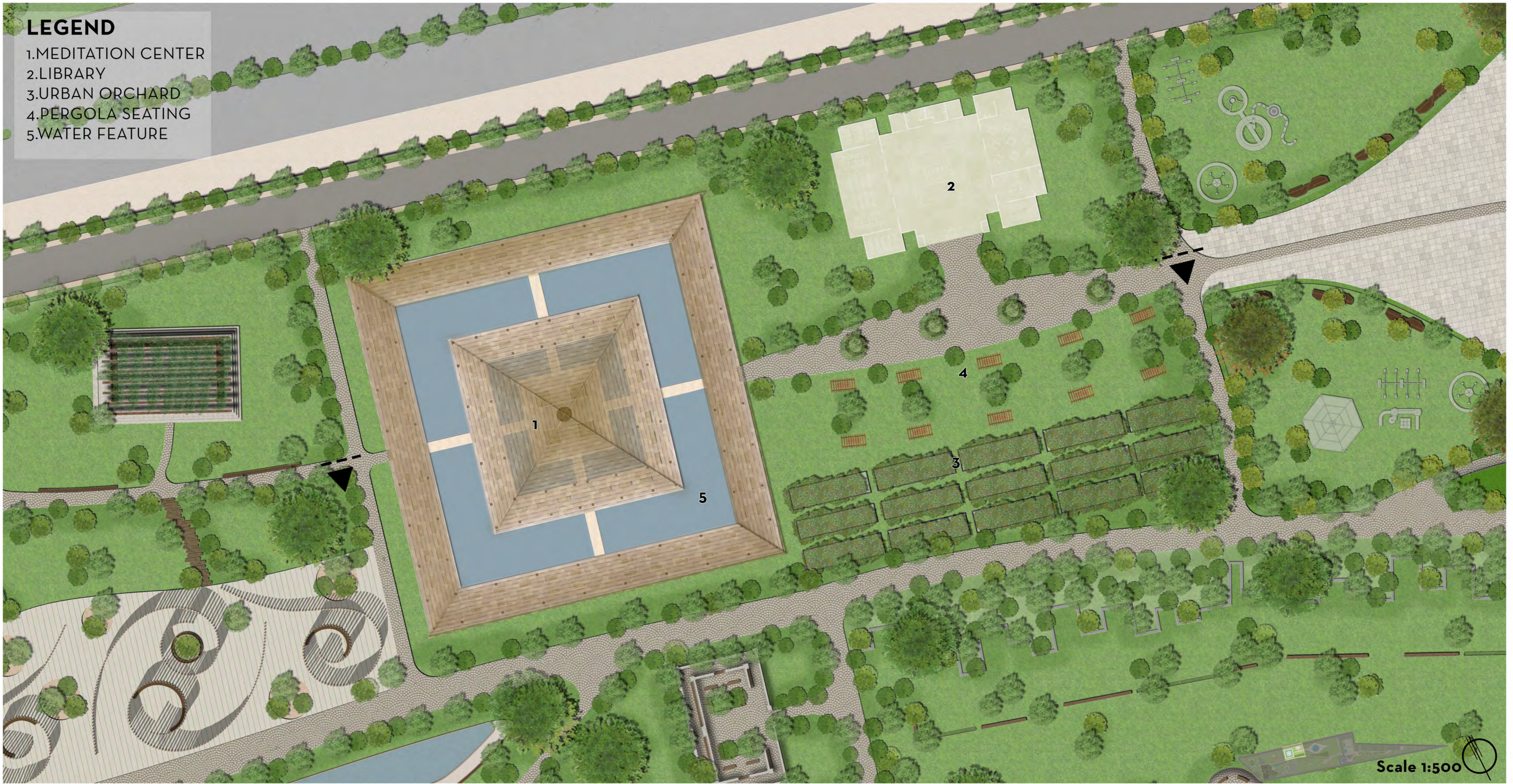
Thus walking through the landscape, we tried to incorporate various activities like Yoga and Meditation centre, Library, Pet shelter and Urban Orchards to manage and calm down a person's mind and emotions. The trees, water feature and different types of seatings are a way for the people to interact with others and to forget about their sad emotions.

STRATEGY DIAGRAM

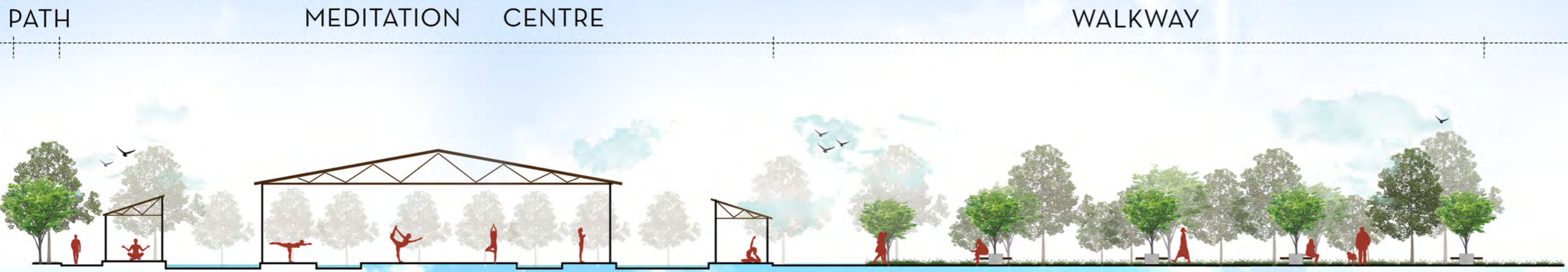


LEGEND

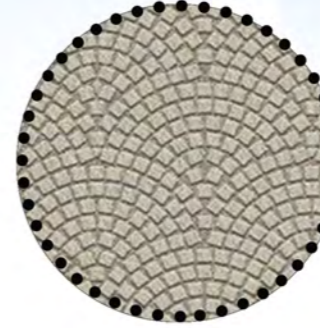
- 1. MEDITATION CENTER
- 2. LIBRARY
- 3. URBAN ORCHARD
- 4. PERGOLA SEATING
- 5. WATER FEATURE



SECTION



PERMEABLE PAVERS



GRASS



CLAY ROOF TILES



After transcending through this turmoil of emotions and addressing the grief inside we finally reach the stage of acceptance for ourselves and the ones we've lost. The person is no longer resisting the reality of the situations, and they are not struggling anymore to cope up with it.

Thus walking through the landscape, the strategy finally aims at creating a recreational and open public landscape for the people to relive the way they used to. The large plaza is punctuated with varied exotic and flowering tree species to emulate the idea of returning to a happy fulfilled state of mind. Strategic placement of landscape elements like play area for kids and water feature aid the overall experience of a person finally breaking out of his/her mental inhibitions of grief.

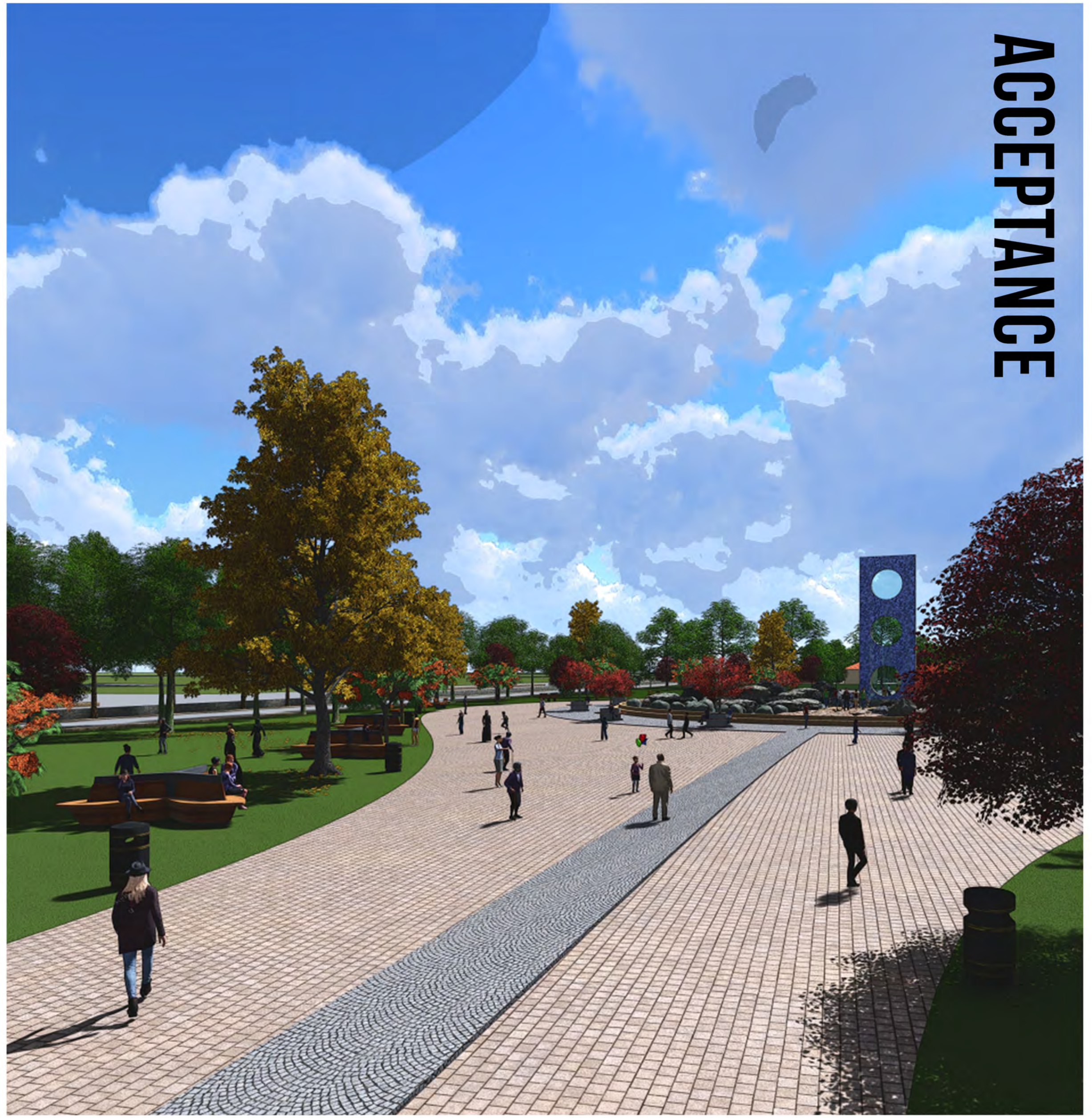
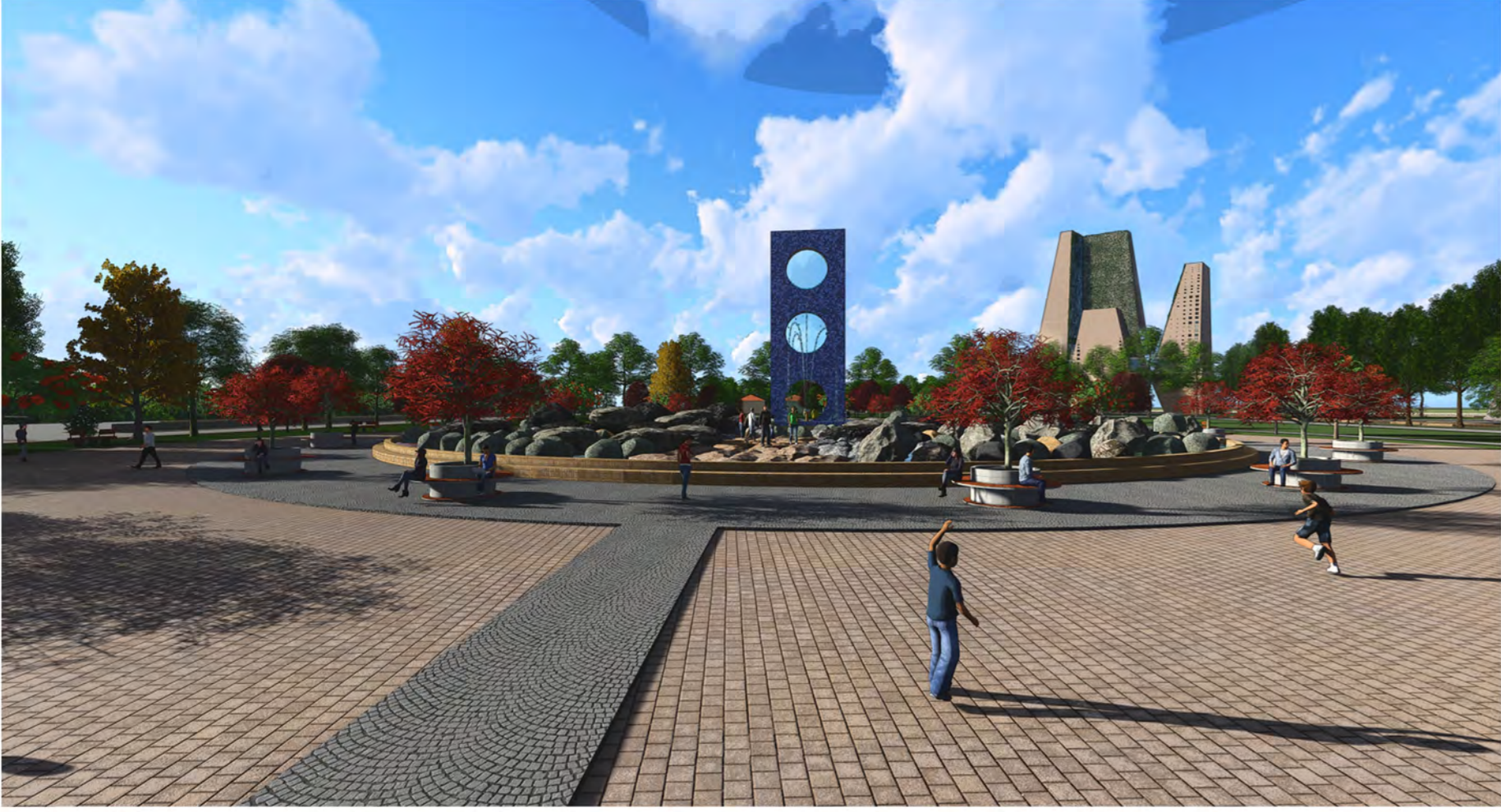
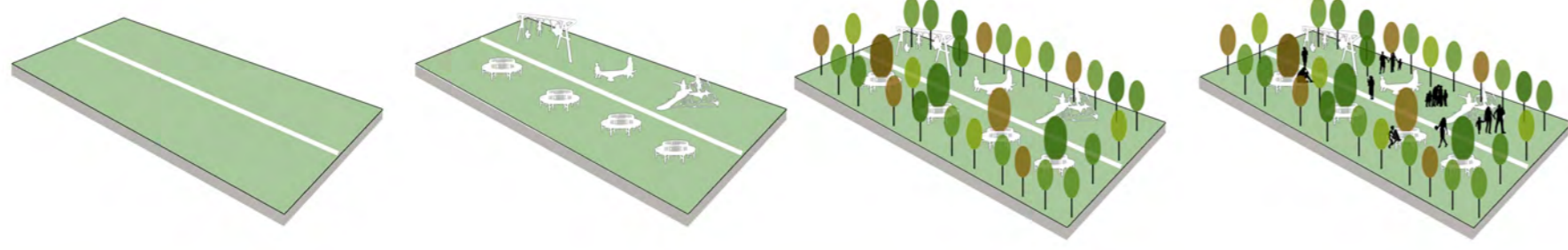
STRATEGY DIAGRAM

Creating a Path through the greens

Division of activities

Use of flowering and colourful trees

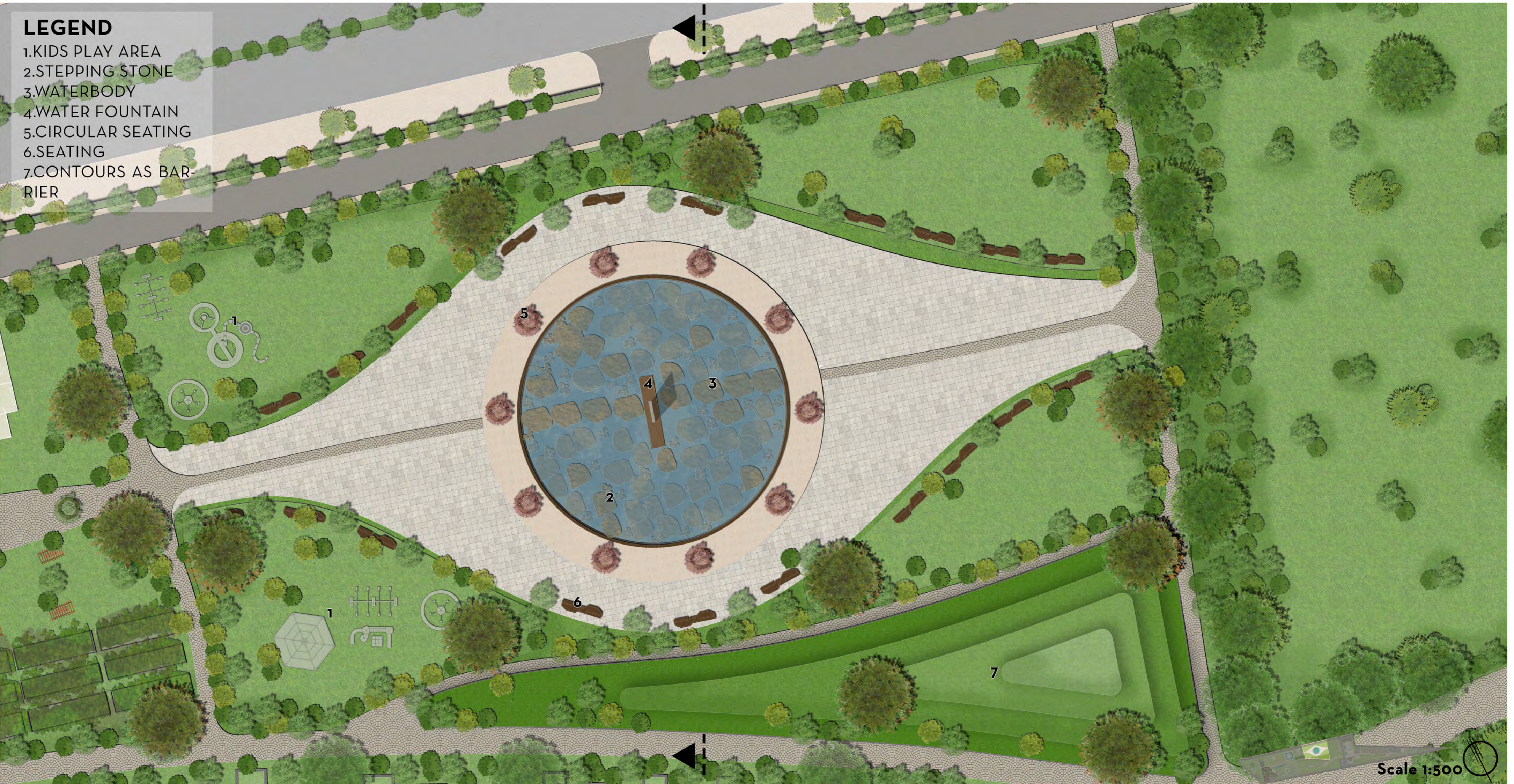
Designing a cheerful and joyful space



ACCEPTANCE

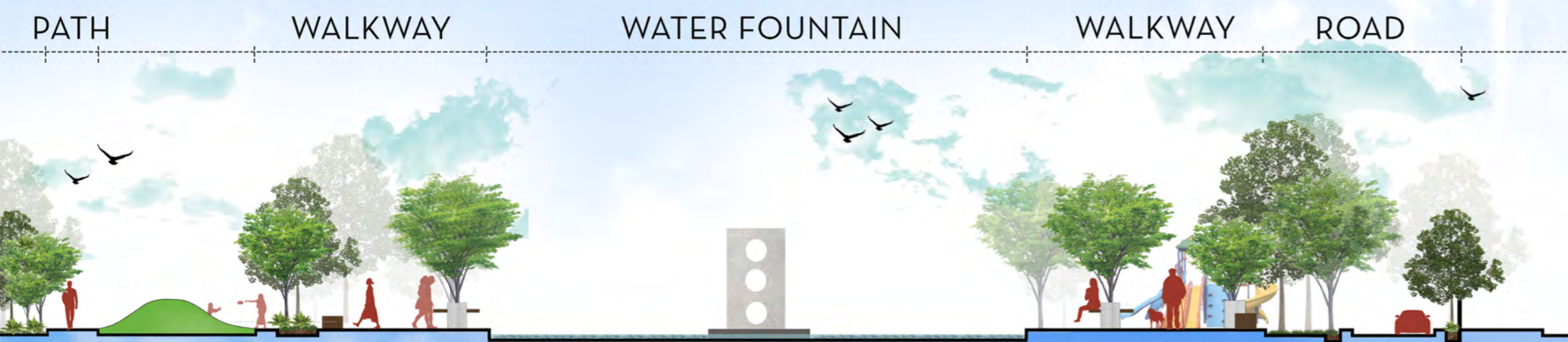
LEGEND

1. KIDS PLAY AREA
2. STEPPING STONE
3. WATERBODY
4. WATER FOUNTAIN
5. CIRCULAR SEATING
6. SEATING
7. CONTOURS AS BARRIER



Scale 1:500

SECTION



PERMEABLE PAVERS

GRASS

STONE

TILE

