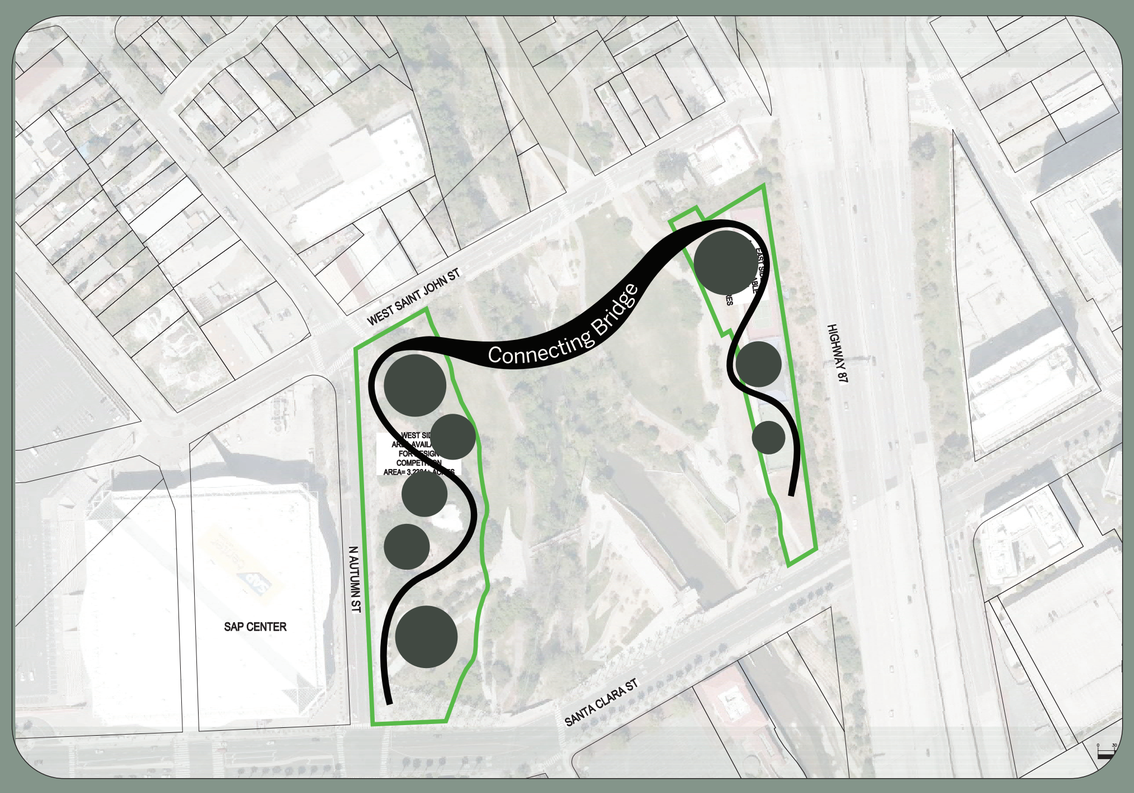
THE GROVE

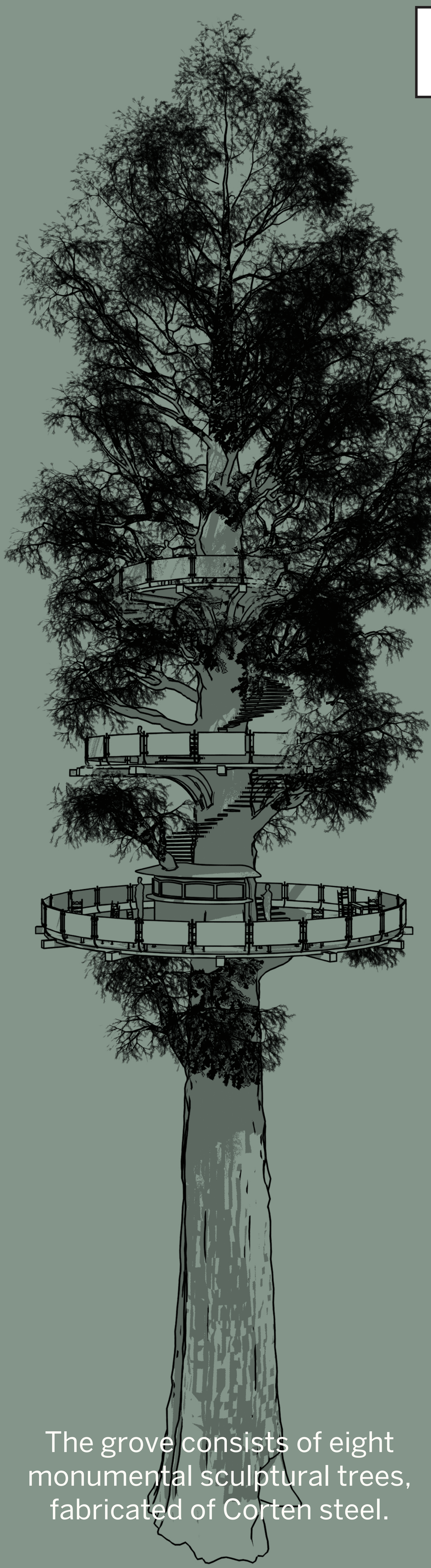
The monumental redwood grove flourishing in the heart of San José consists of dells and meadows, shady sanctuaries and sun-speckled playgrounds. These are all connected by a series of sinuous bridges, treetop observation decks, and elevated gardens that offer the public spectacular and adventurous views of the Santa Clara Valley, as well as intimate spaces for connection and recreation. Throughout Arena Green Park, sculptural sequoias of various dimensions create a breathtakingly spacious multilevel gathering place in the midst of the contemporary urban center. At 200', the largest of these trees is the tallest sculptural installation in the world.

A majestic tribute to the giant trees of Northern California, the grove consists of eight monumental sculptural trees, fabricated of Corten steel and surrounded by lush sprays of fiber-optic boughs, in addition to living saplings whose growth over the years ensure a compelling and ever-changing environment. Creating an east-west connection across the site, a wide bridge spans Arena Green parallel to West John Street. This bridge and the accompanying network of skywalks and treetop structures will integrate with the flora of the park site, with strategic inclusions for horizontal and vertical plantings and skyward spaces for arts performances and spectacular social gatherings.

A small-scale replica of the grove on the site floor, along with a climbing wall and other imaginative recreational features, presents a compelling and innovative play space with a distinctly Norcal aesthetic. Elevators, slides, caves, and spiral staircases provide access from within the trunks of the massive fabricated trees, the better for exploring this futuristic grove that is part human ingenuity and part organic matter. Restaurants and cafes inhabit some of the larger trunks; others hold rotating art galleries, craft stalls, and technology exhibitions.

Implementation of LEED building practices and solar and rainwater harvesting ensure net zero energy use, and the sculptural redwoods' fabricated steel skin is designed to allow light to penetrate through a woven pattern of windows and peepholes that echo the soft creases and striations of Sequoia Sempervirens bark. Light is emitted through these striated windows, and from the scintillating fibre optic redwood needles, throughout the evening, and the site is aglow with bright sequoias reaching high into the night sky, beacons of technology and ecology in the heart of Silicon Valley.





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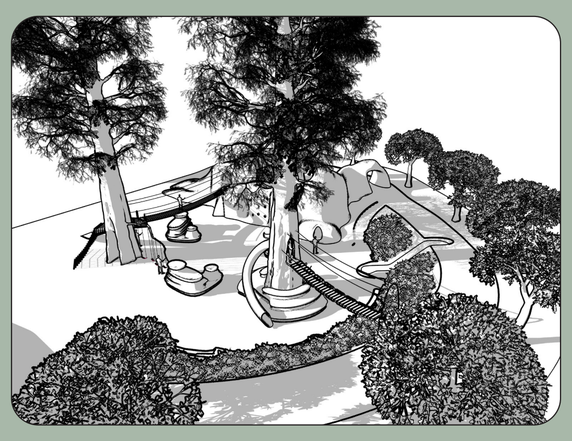

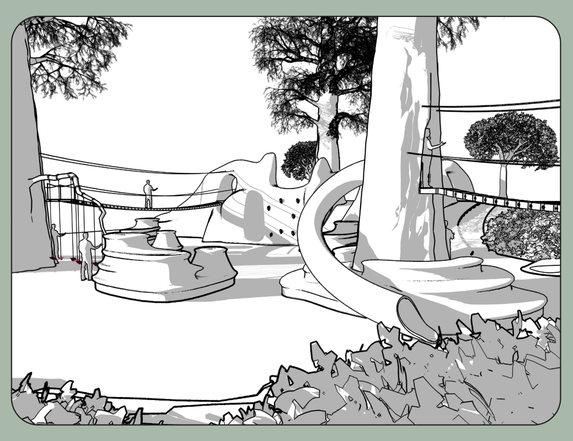

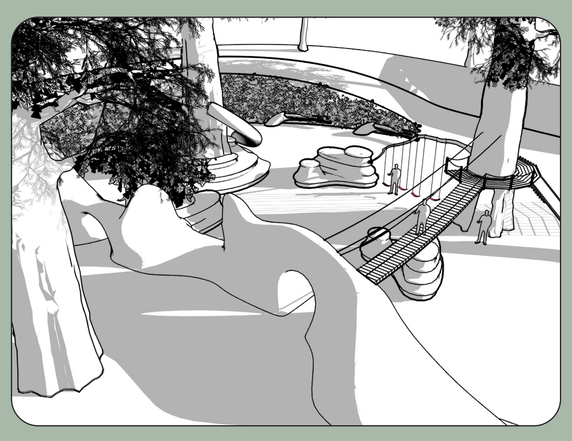

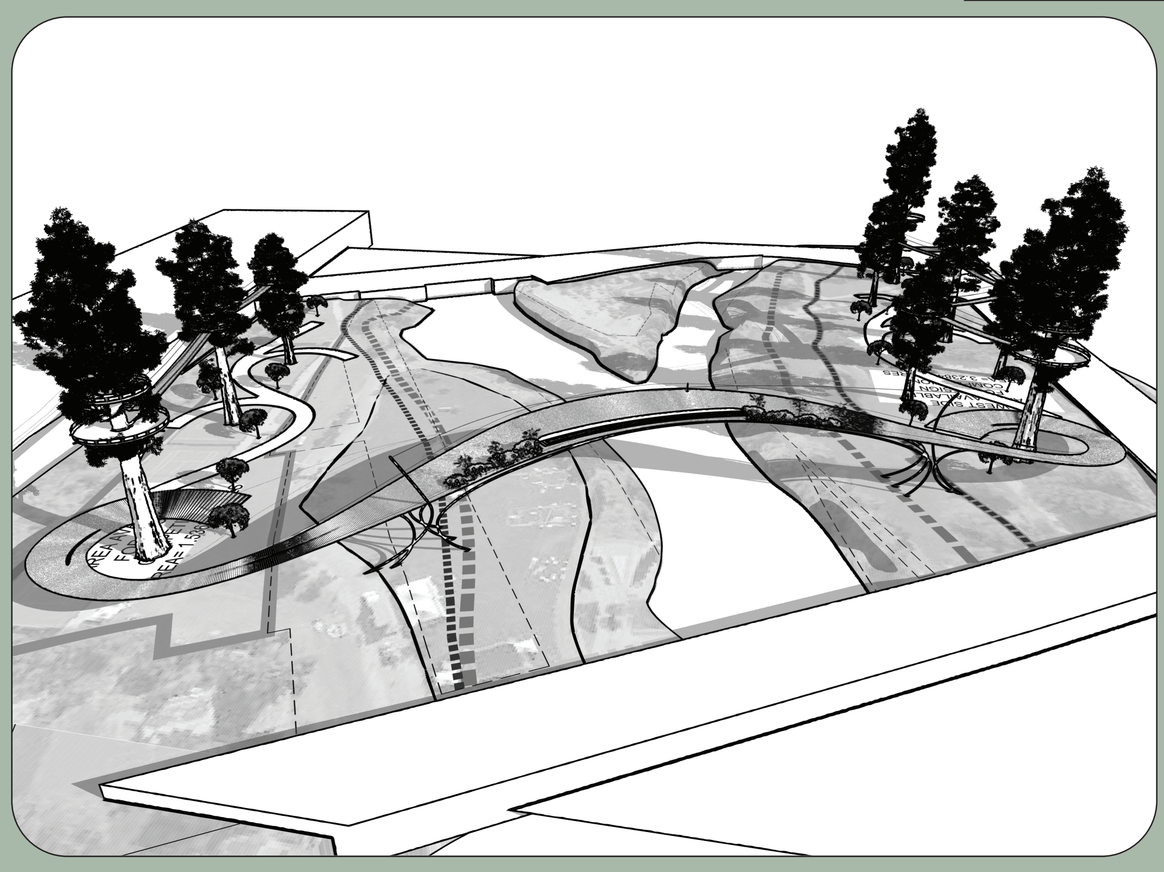
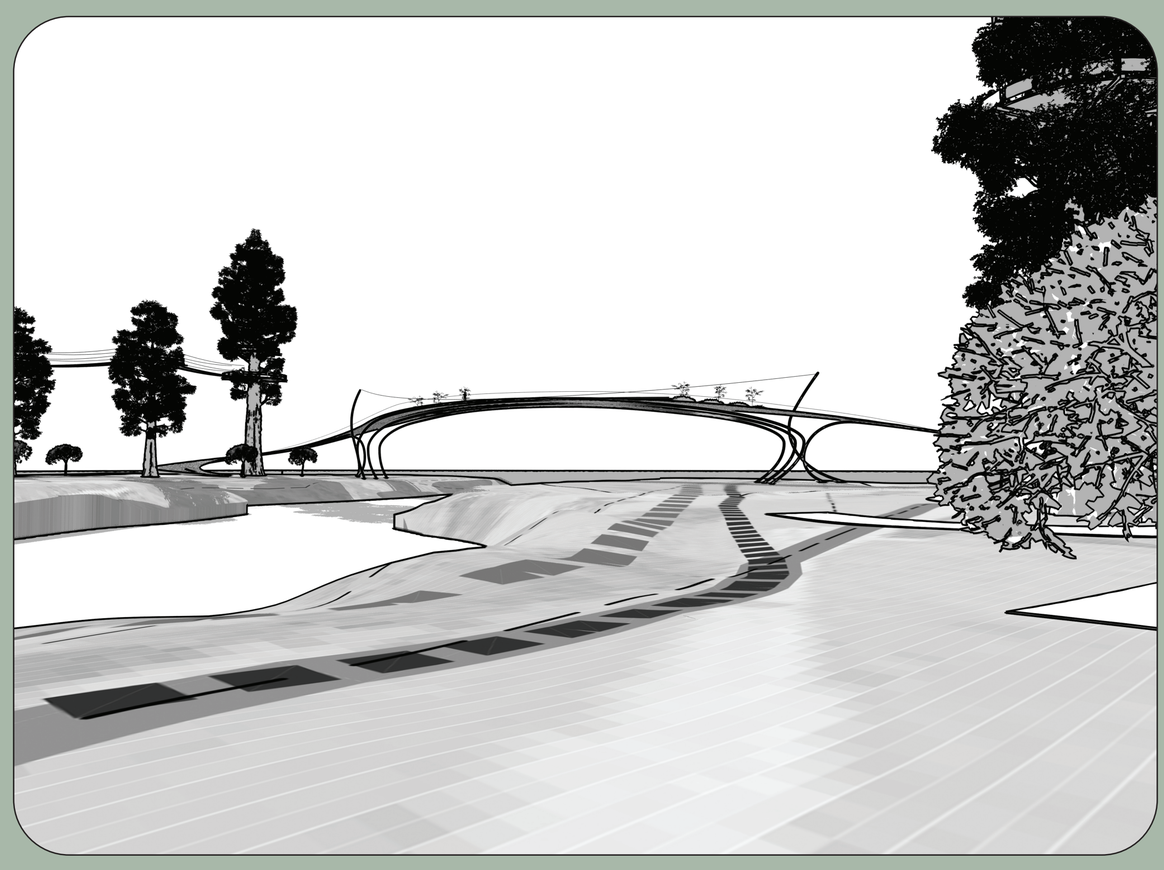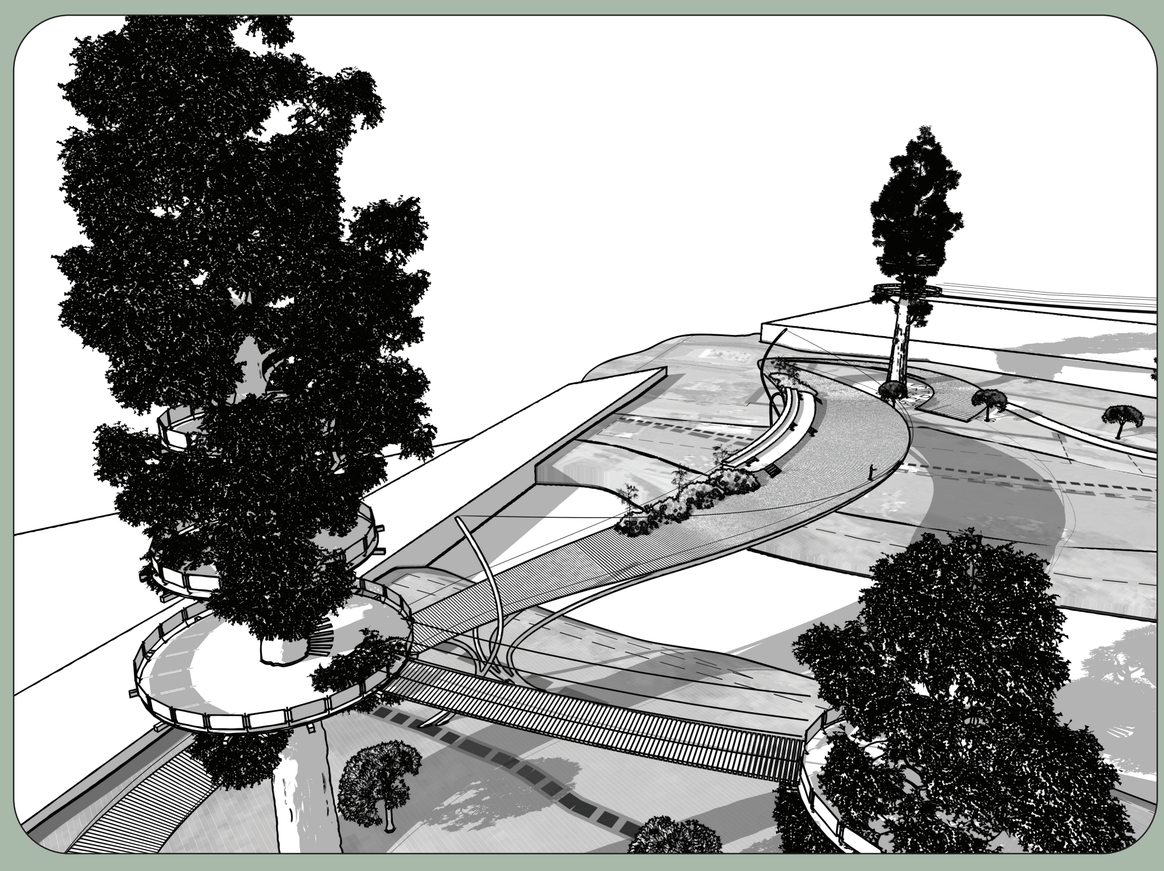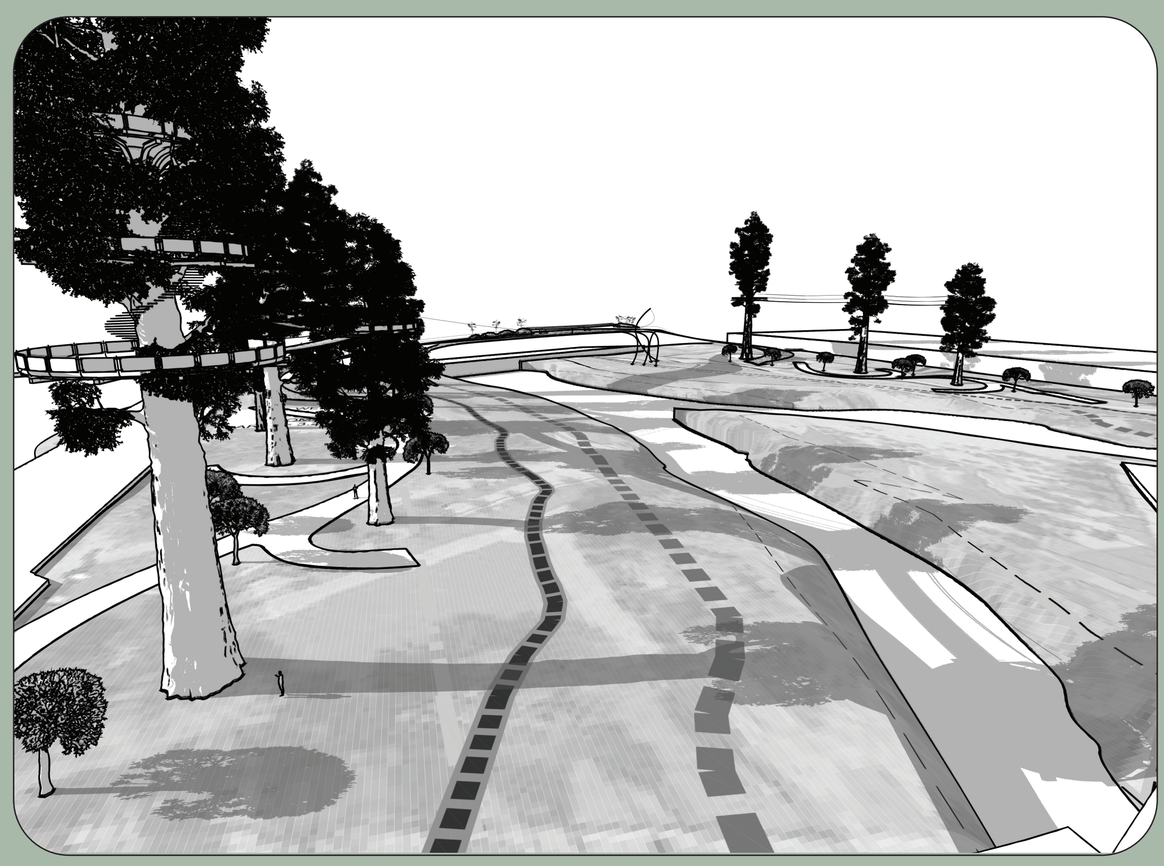
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