

In *Tlon Uqbar Orbis Tertius*, Jorge Luis Borges writes about our infinite perspectives and how they shape reality. He says there isn't only one coin, but that there are as many as there are people perceiving it. The Buffalo Bayou Cistern shares this quality with Borges' coin.

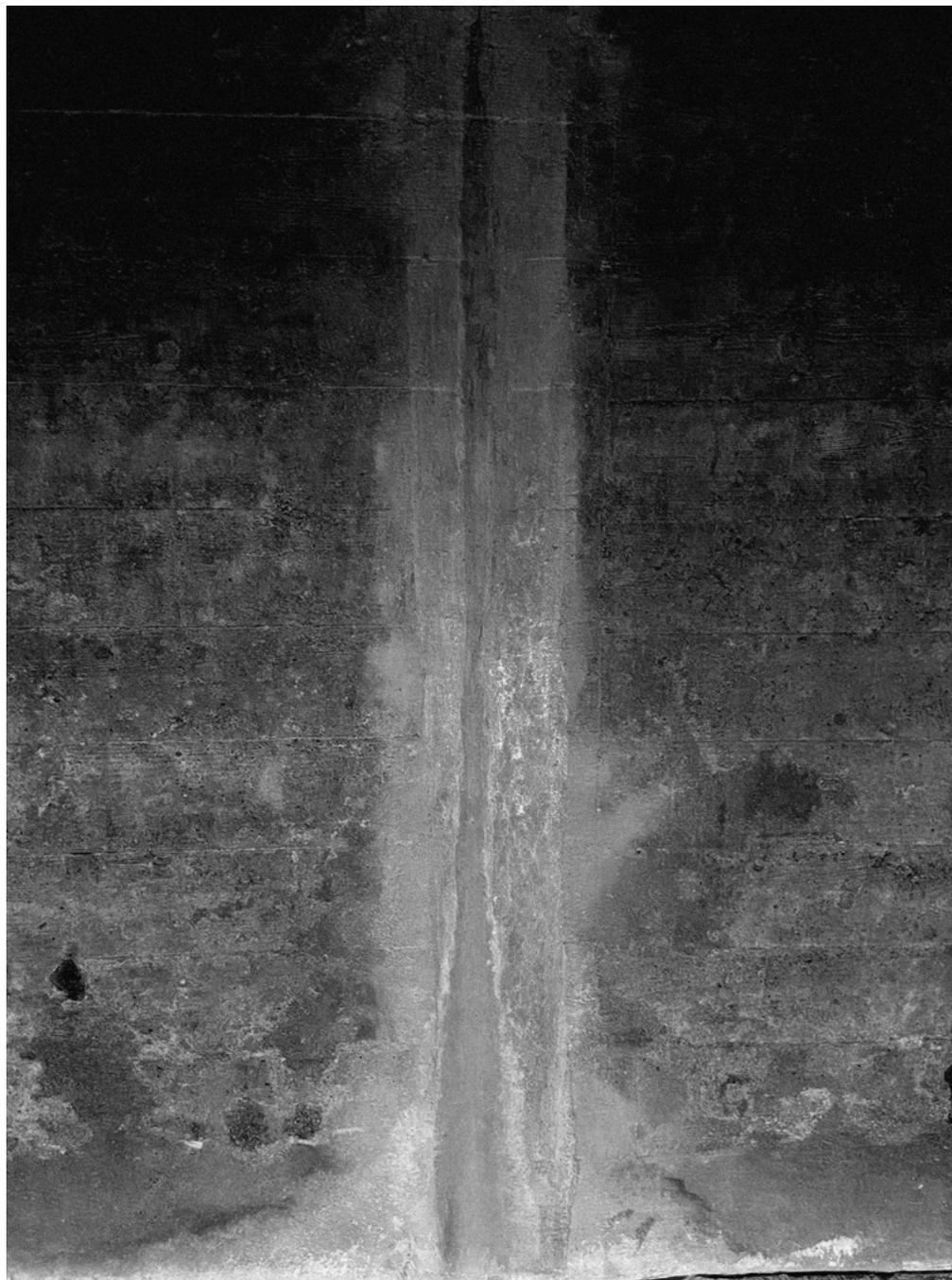
The Buffalo Bayou Cistern was built in 1920 as a drinking water reservoir. After a crack formed in its retaining wall, plans were drafted to demolish the obsolete cistern. It all changed when an engineer descended into the space for a routine inspection. At that moment, a new cistern was born.



Many Faces



Many Faces



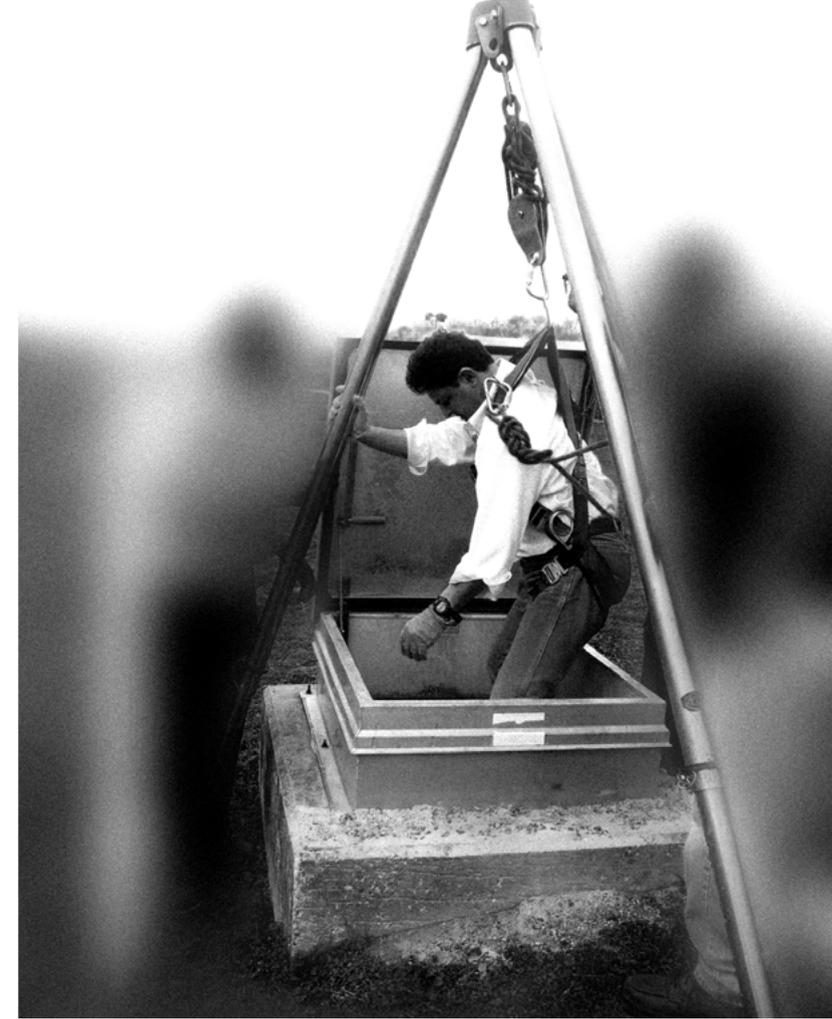
The Crack



The Hatch the Engineer descended from



Rosemarie, the Cistern's Gatekeeper

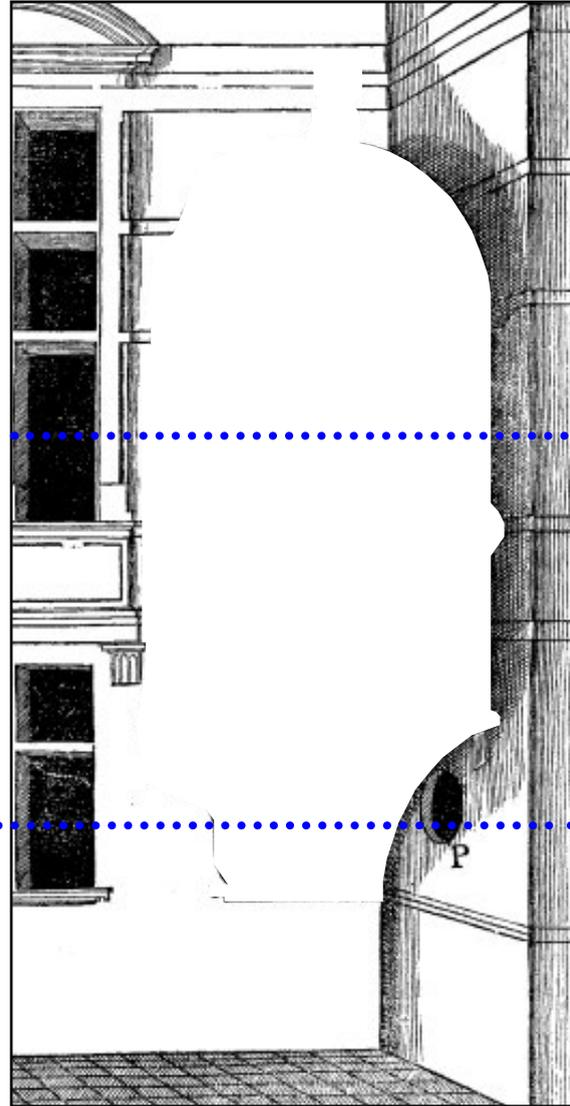


The Engineer

As a piece of infrastructure, the Buffalo Bayou Cistern was built and situated pragmatically, from a performative perspective. The surrounding urban networks, therefore, fail to connect it to its surrounding context.



*King Henry II
of France*

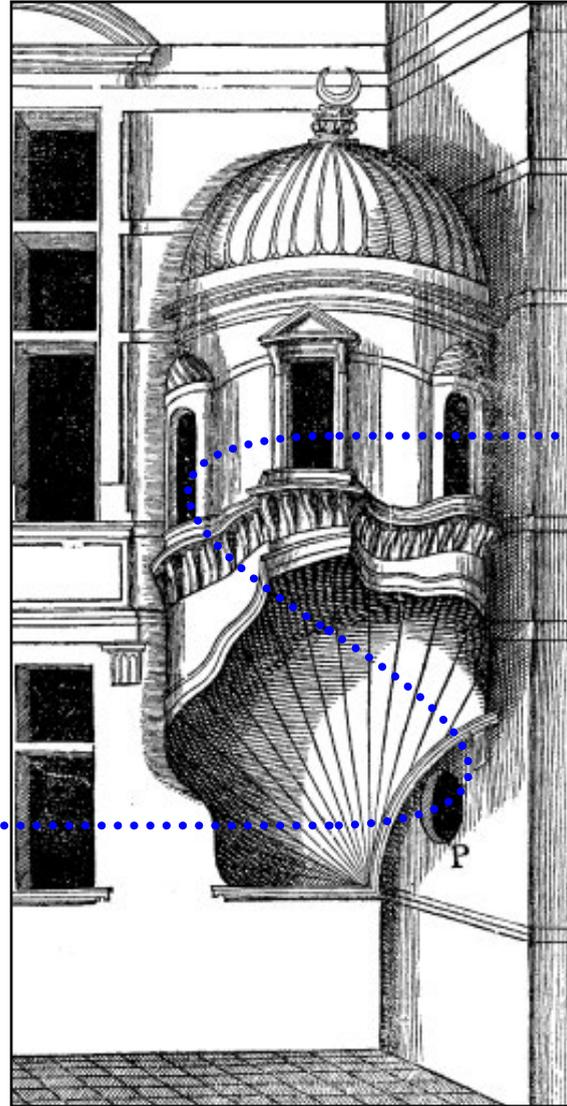


Diane de Poitiers

King Henry II and his mistress, Diane de Poitiers, faced a similar dilemma. Physically separated in their Château in France, their secret relationship was unfulfilled.



*King Henry II
of France*



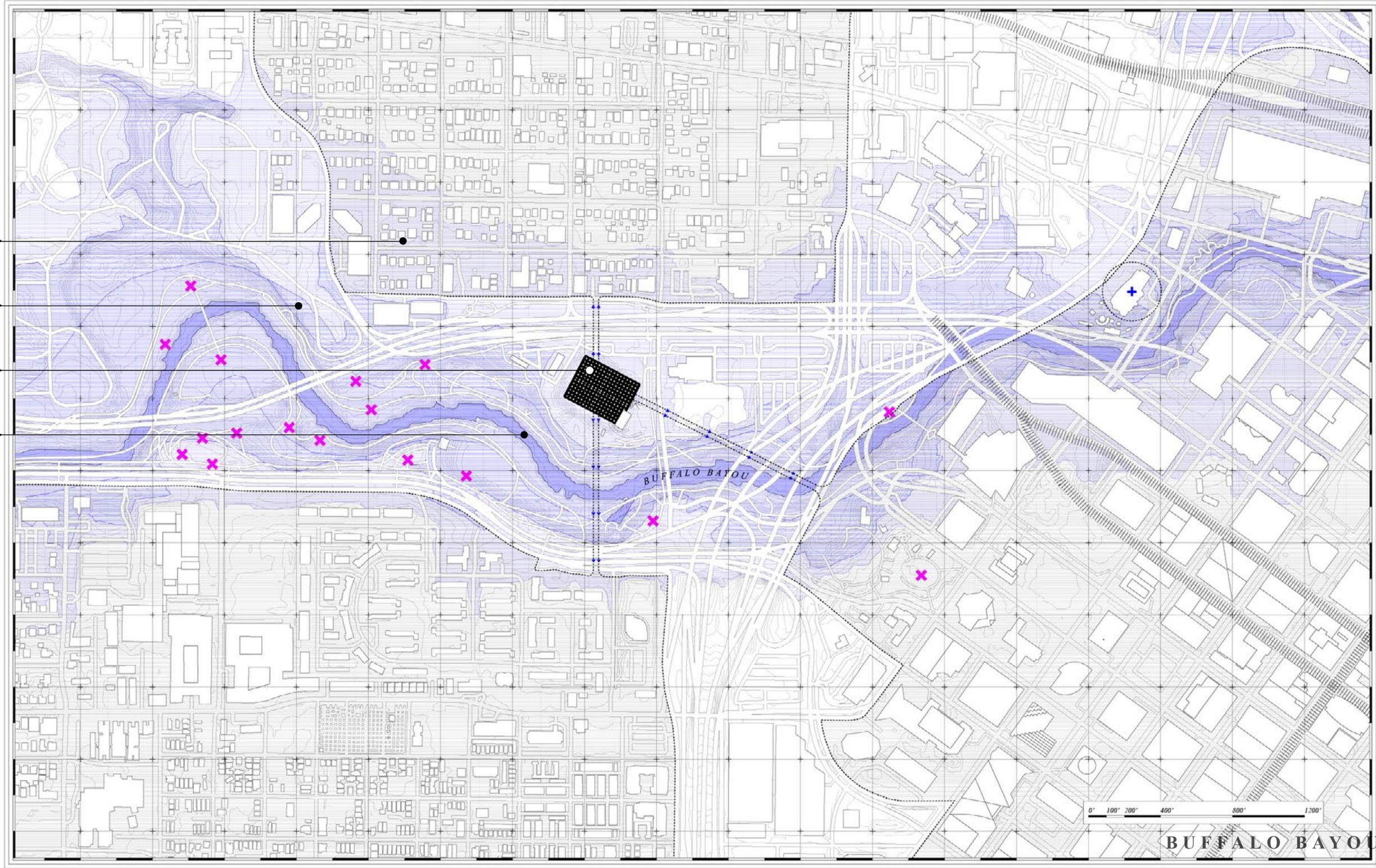
*Trompe d'Anet,
by Philibert d'Lorme*

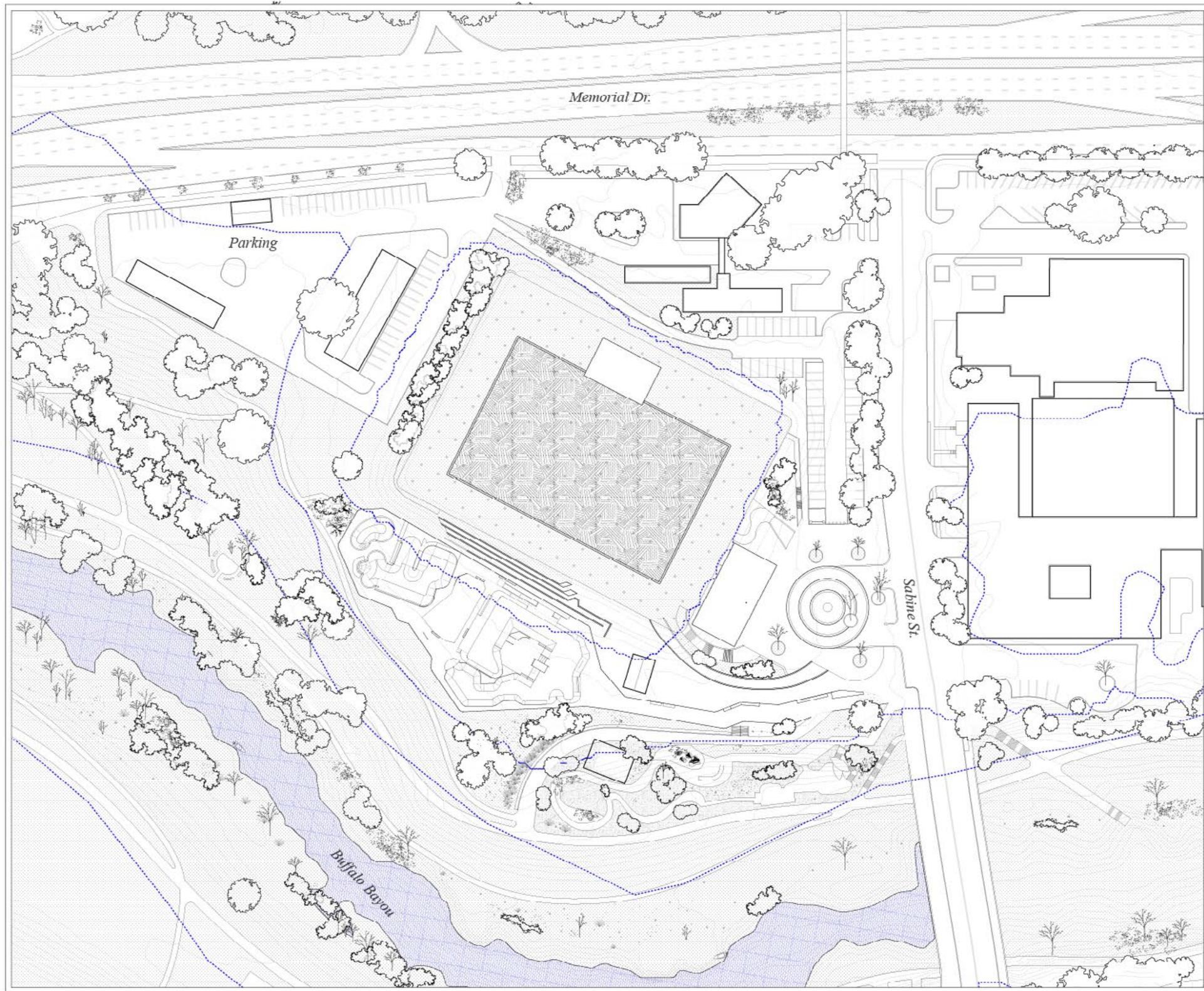


Diane de Poitiers

Their architect, Philibert d'Lorme proposed a *trompe*: a volume nested in a corner, disguising a secret stair that finally connected the two lovers again. The *trompe* became the physical manifestation of the reconnection of the two lovers.

- 500 Year Flood Plain
- 100 Year Flood Plain
- Buffalo Bayou Cistern
- Waterway





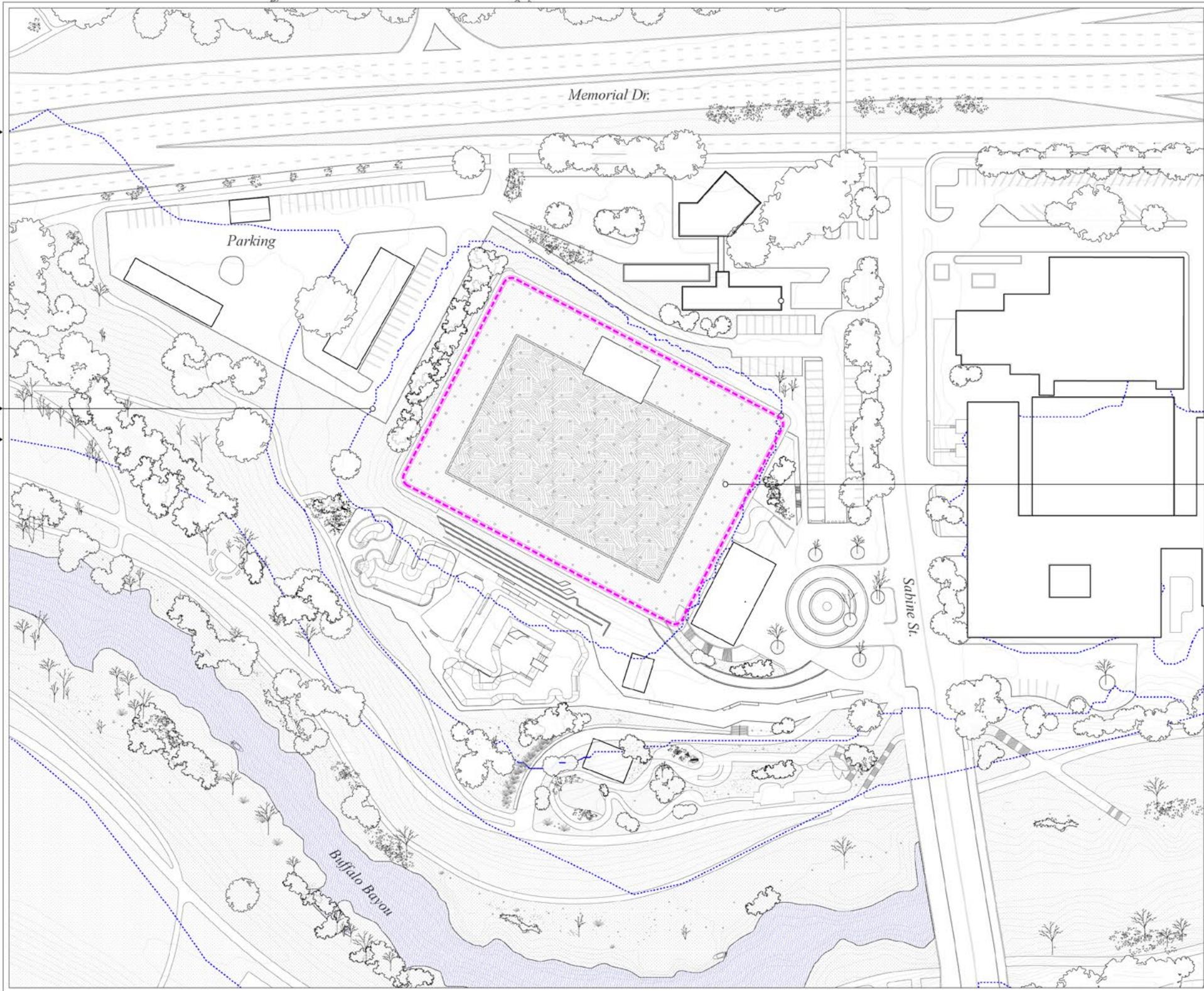
The networks surrounding the Buffalo Bayou Cistern are broken because they fail to connect it to its surrounding elements. Those elements are the following

Existing Conditions

100 Year Floodplain

500 Year Floodplain

Waterway



Buffalo Bayou Cistern

Existing Conditions

100 Year Floodplain

500 Year Floodplain

Waterway



Waterworks Office

Fonde Community Center

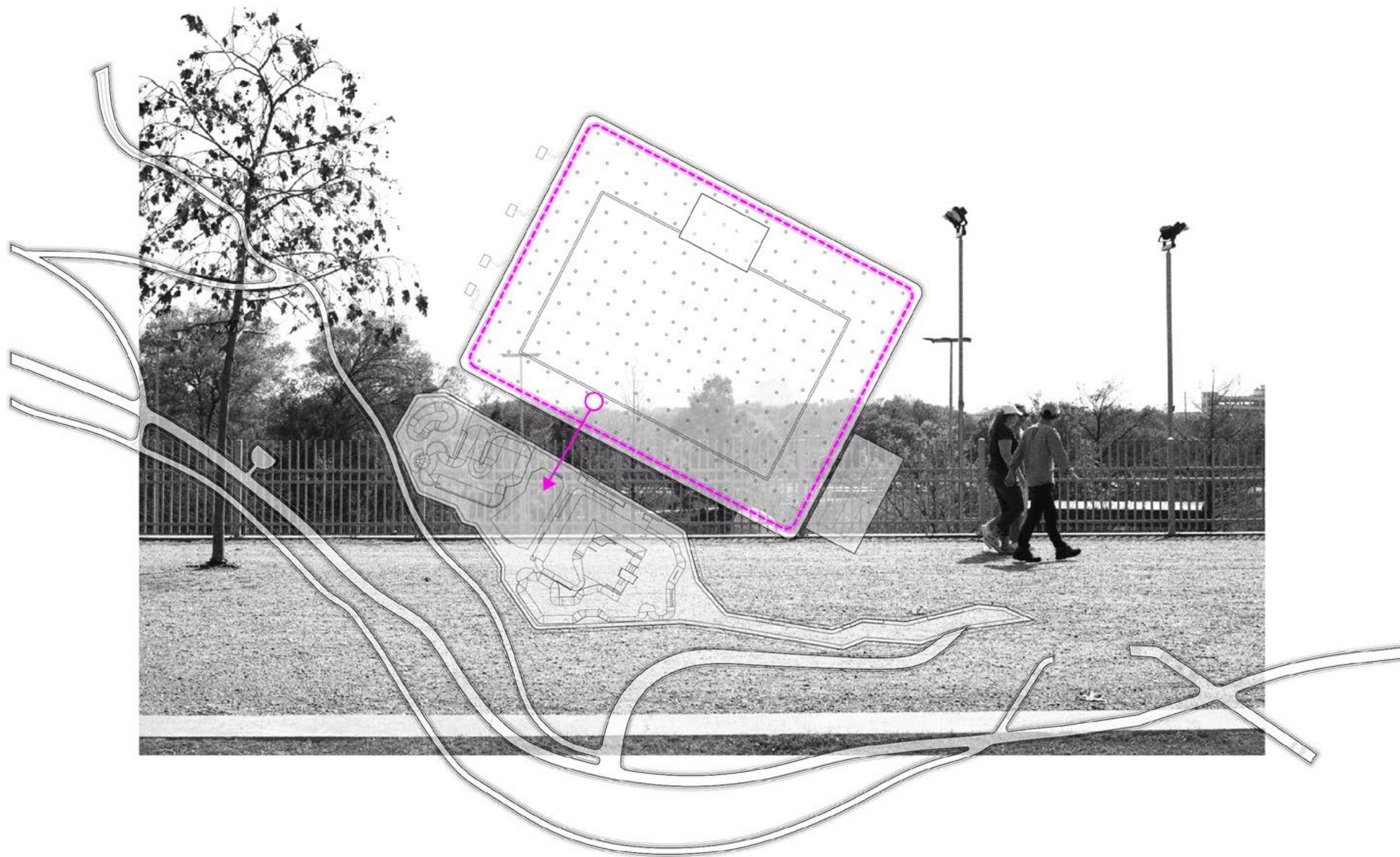
"Marquis Lofts on Sabine"

Buffalo Bayou Cistern

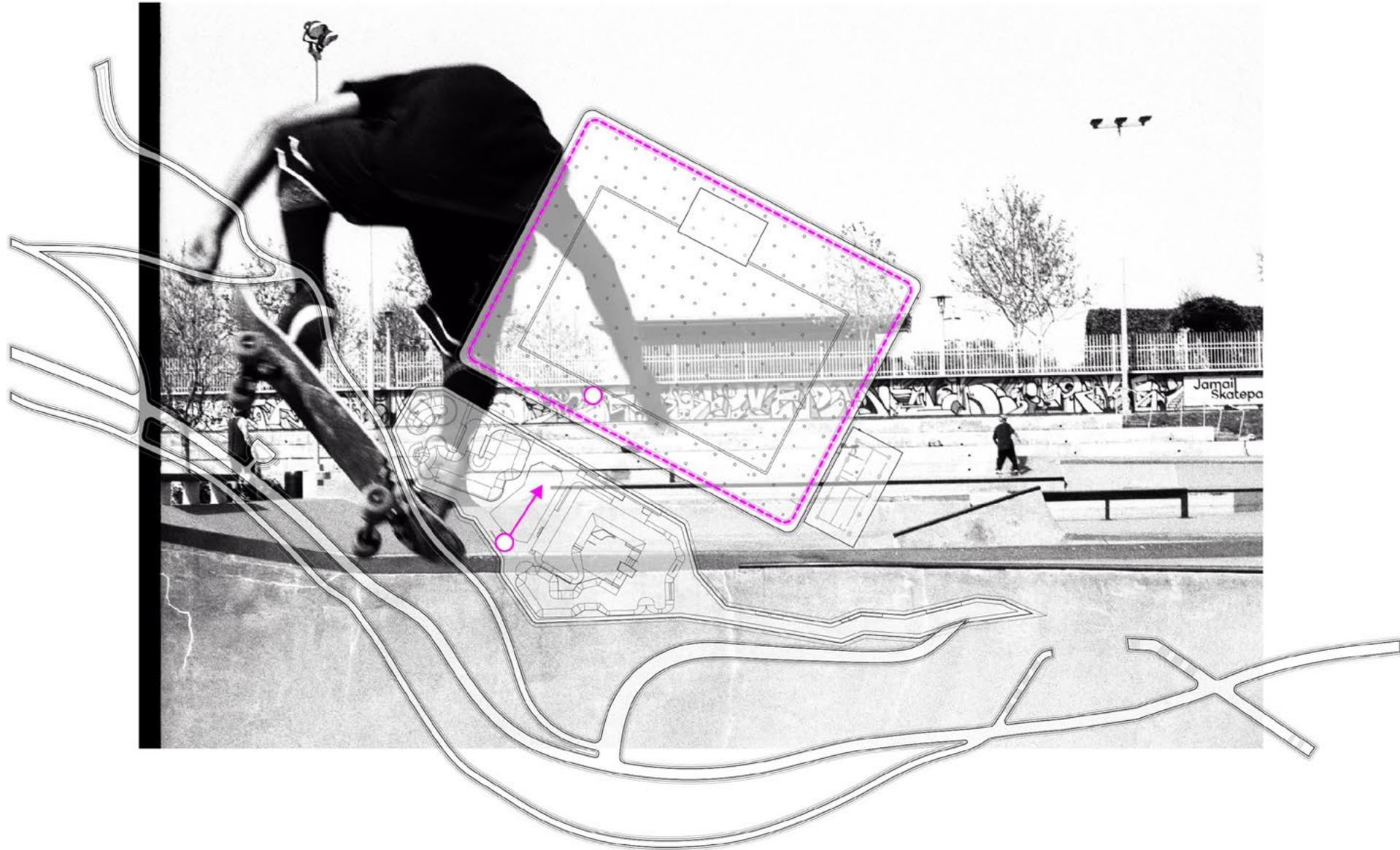
Bike Rental & Visitor Center

Lee & Joe Jamail Skatepark

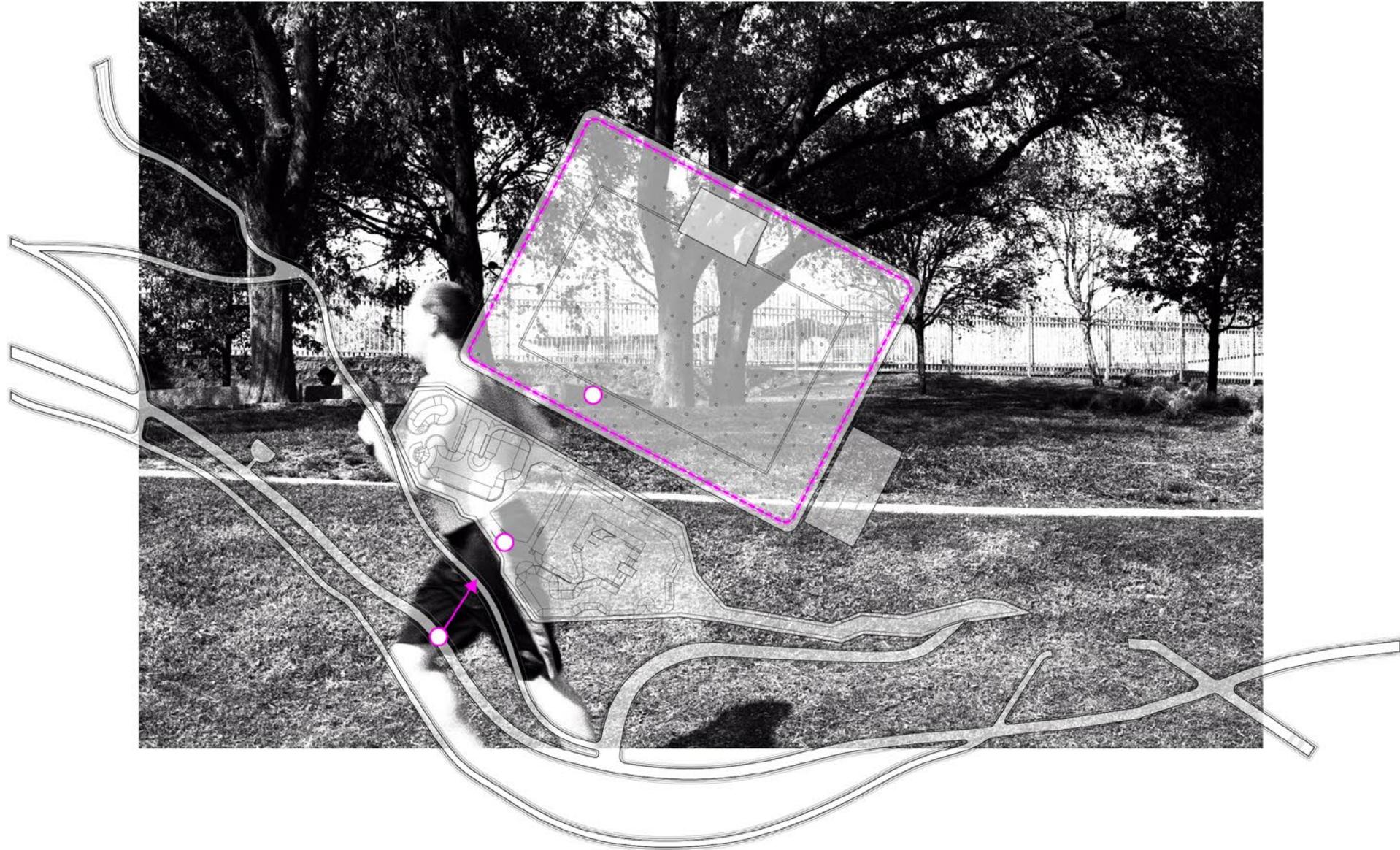
Disconnected Elements



Standing on top of the cistern, one is completely unaware of the skatepark below.

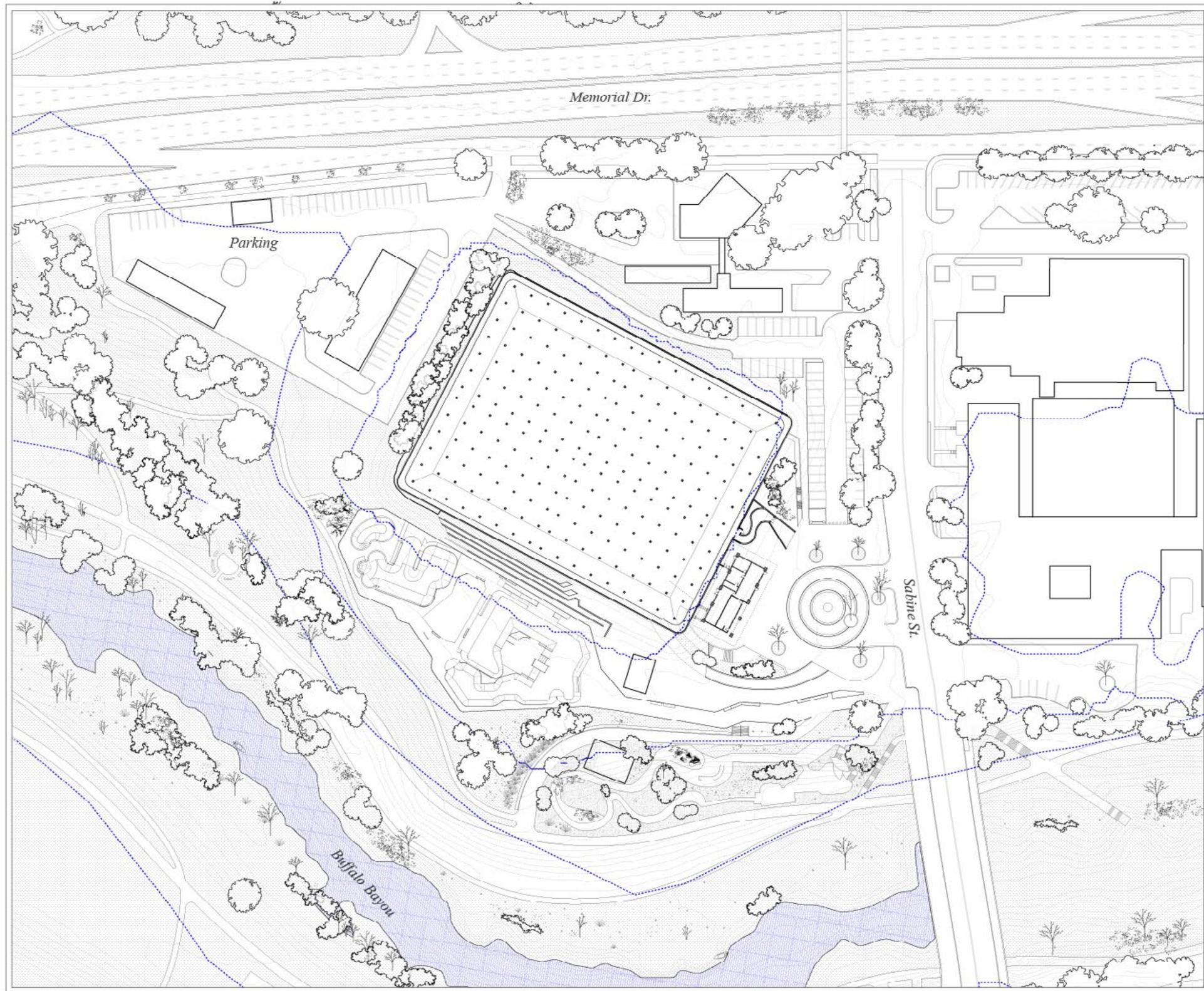


An oppressive fence marks the impermeable edge between one space and the other.



Pedestrians and runners have no awareness of the skatepark and cistern above.

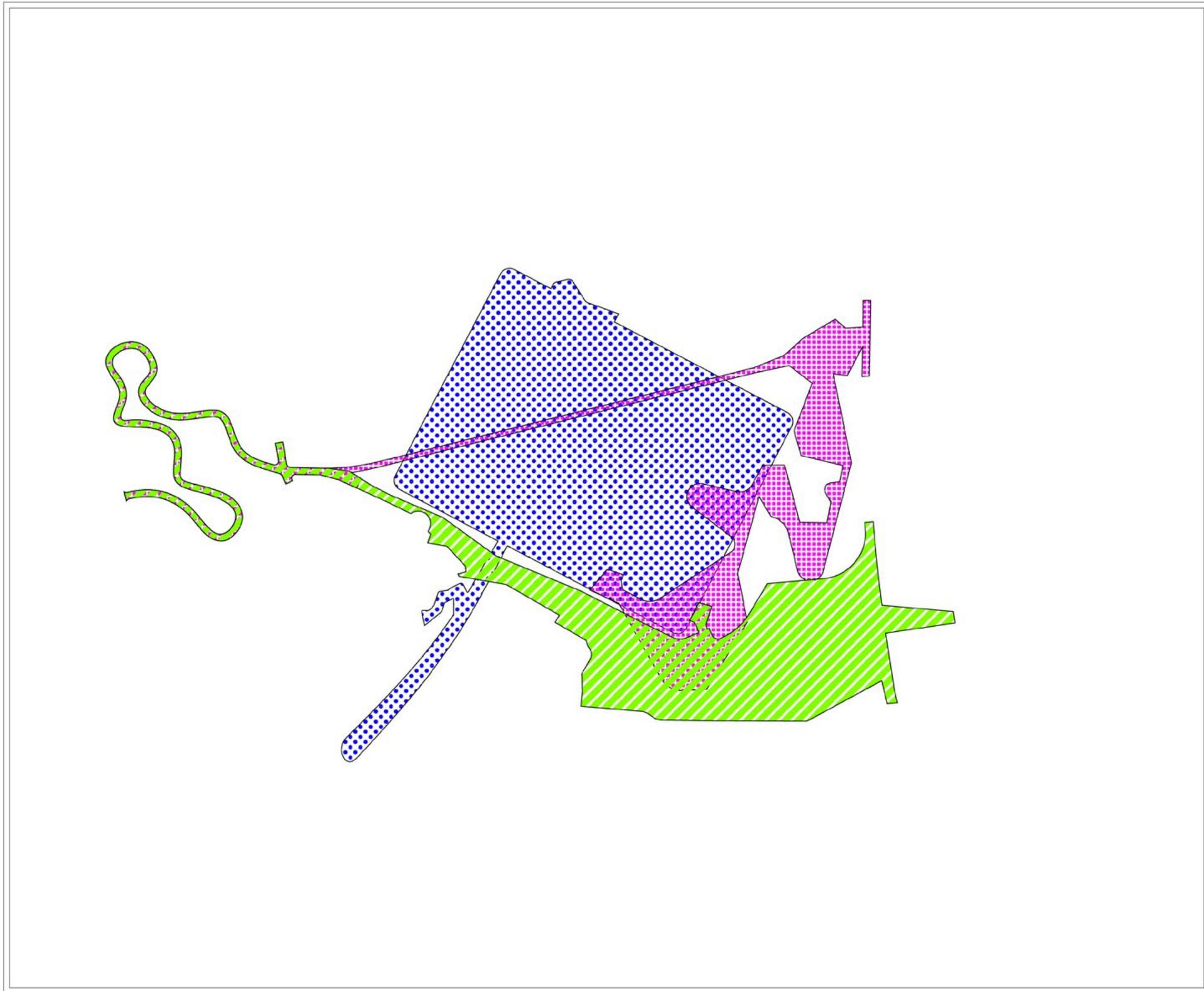
This thesis emerges as a series of interventions that **reconnect the broken networks surrounding the Buffalo Bayou Cistern**. These new interventions make the disparate elements that surround it **once again aware of each other**.



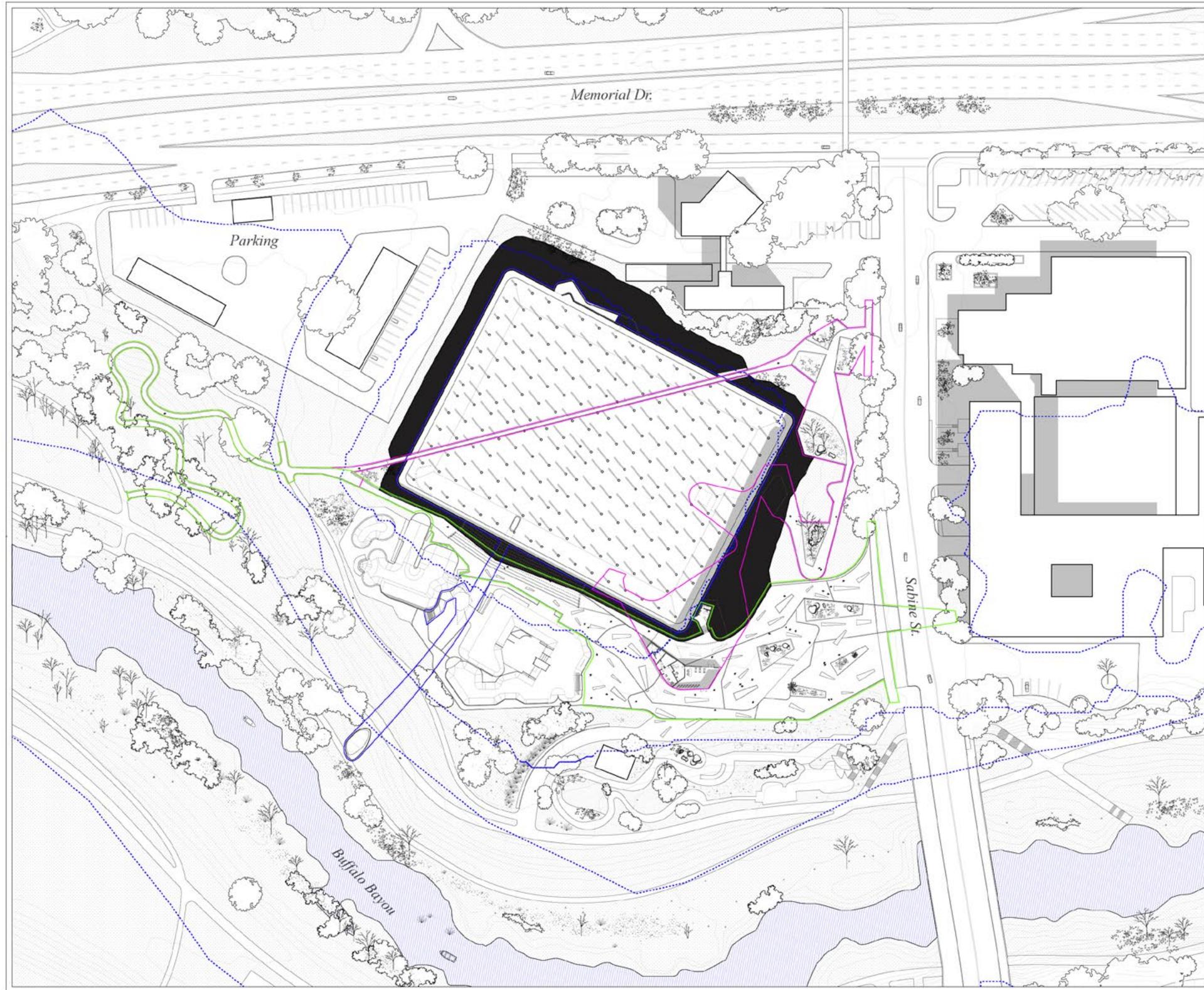
Existing Conditions



Interventions



Interventions

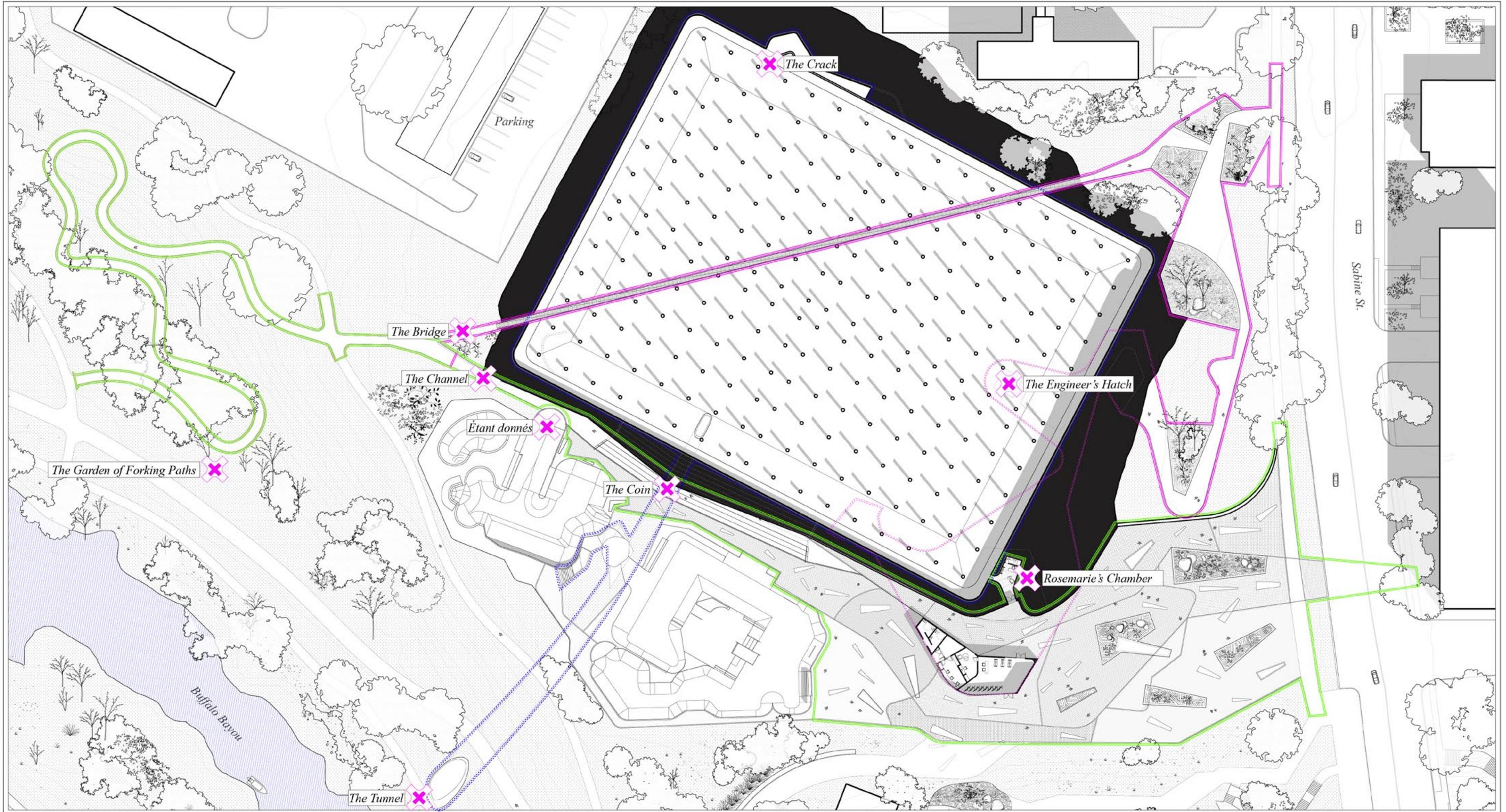


Interventions

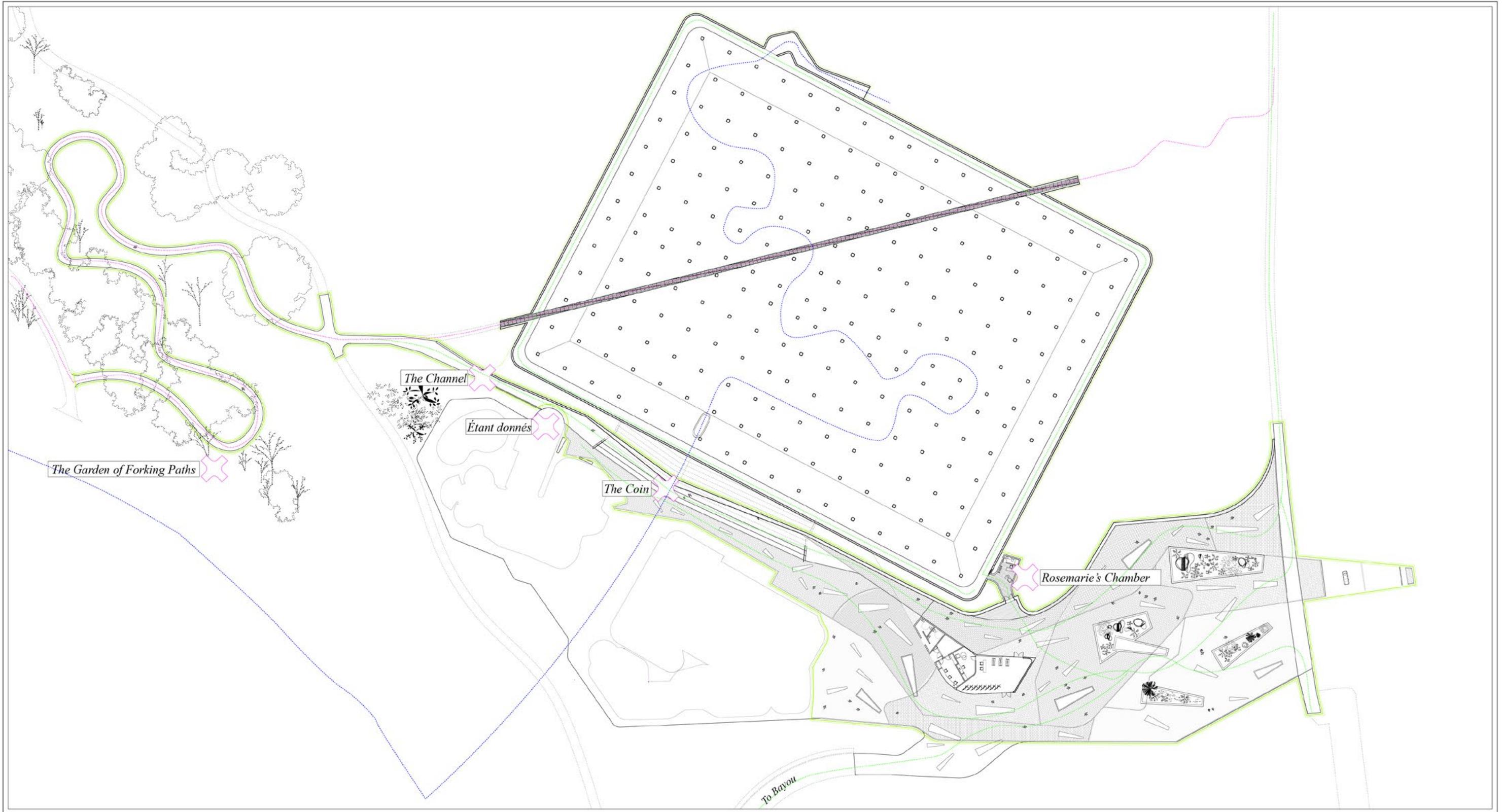


Interventions

Three main interventions are situated to reconnect the disparate elements surrounding the Buffalo Bayou Cistern. These are **The Channel**, **The Tunnel** and **The Bridge**. Meaningful events such as The Crack and The Engineer's Hatch emerge as markers of an untold story.



Interventions



The Garden of Forking Paths

The Channel

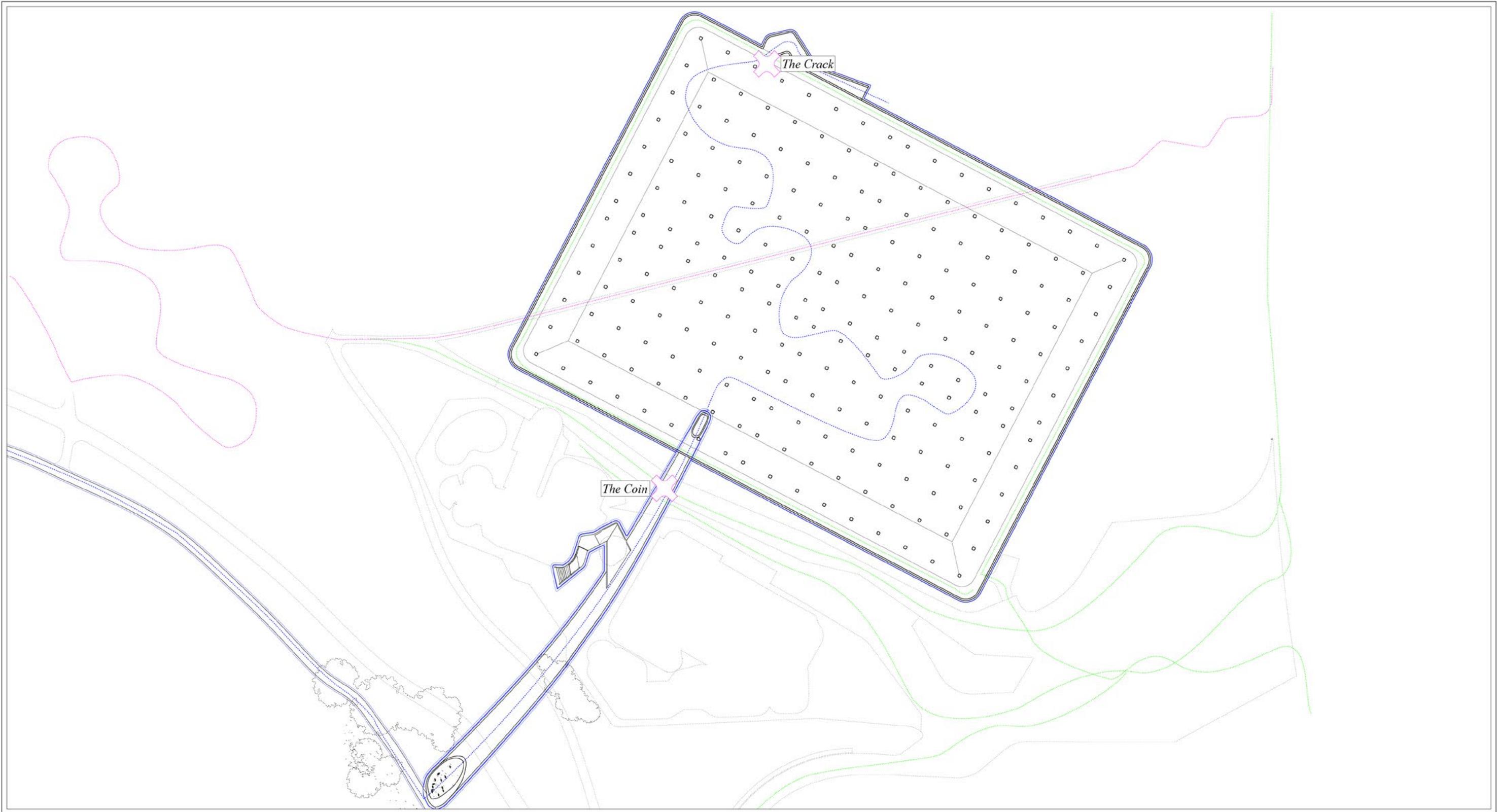
Étant domés

The Coin

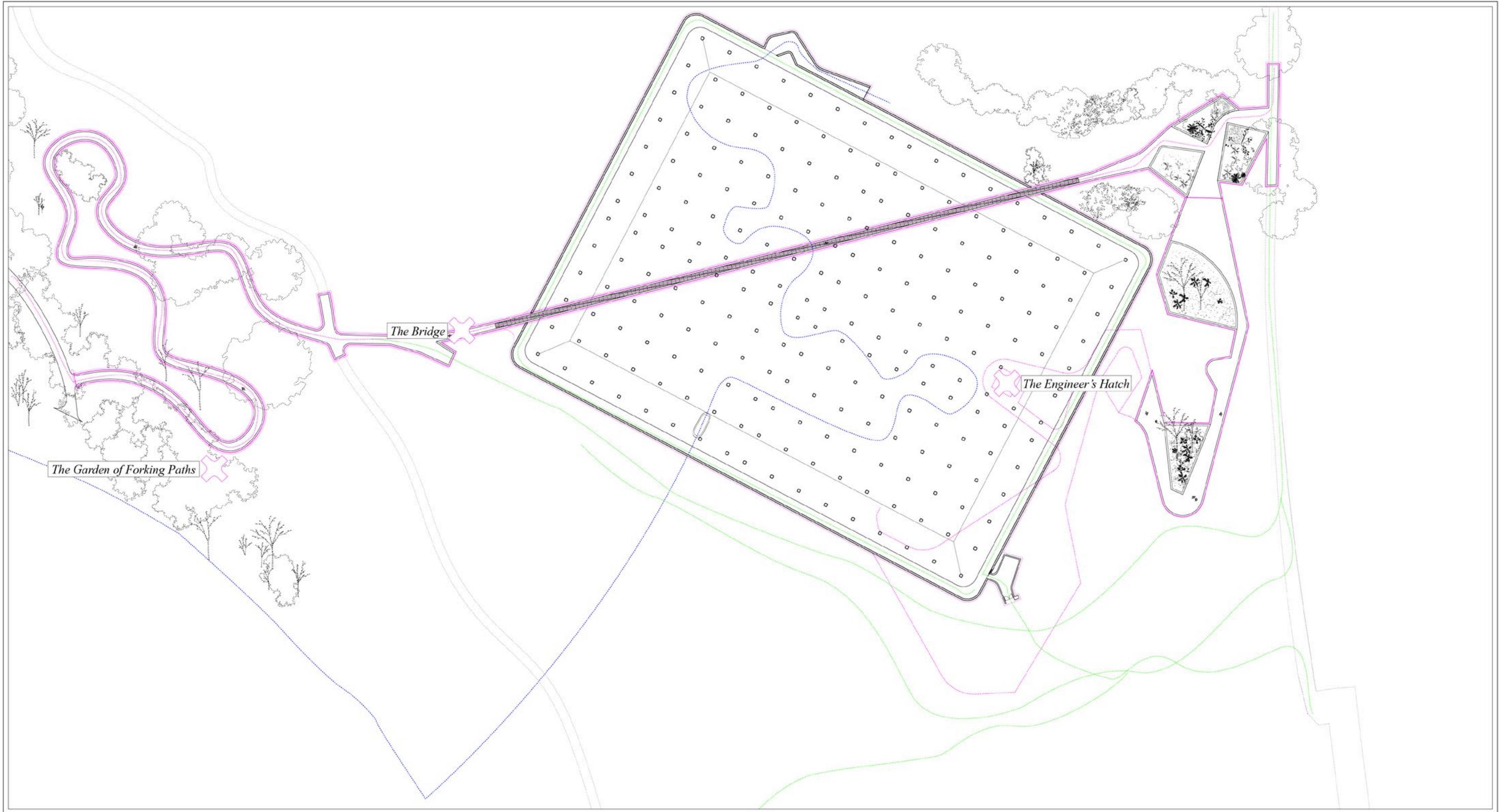
Rosemarie's Chamber

To Bayou

The Channel



The Tunnel

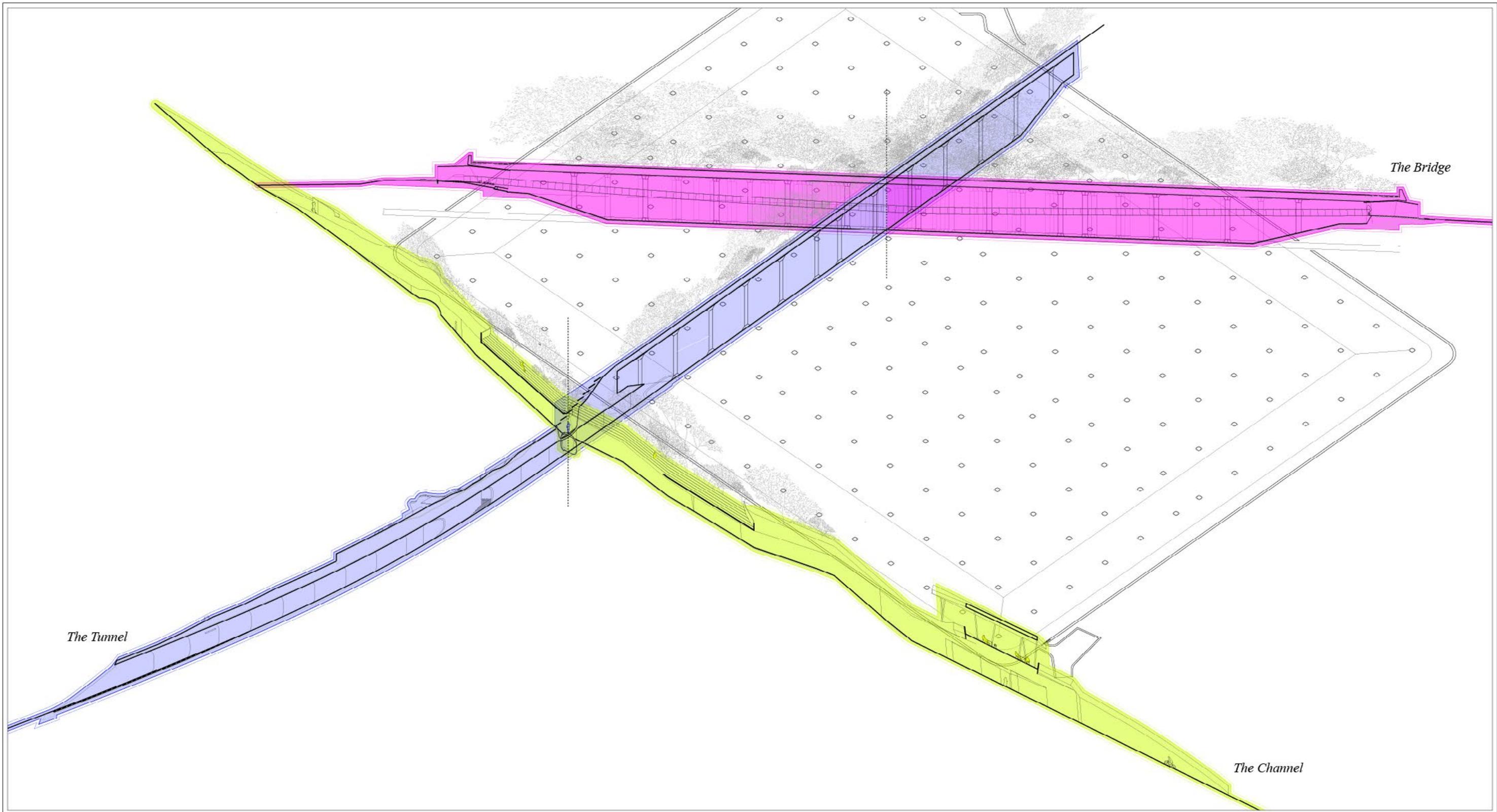


The Garden of Forking Paths

The Bridge

The Engineer's Hatch

The Bridge

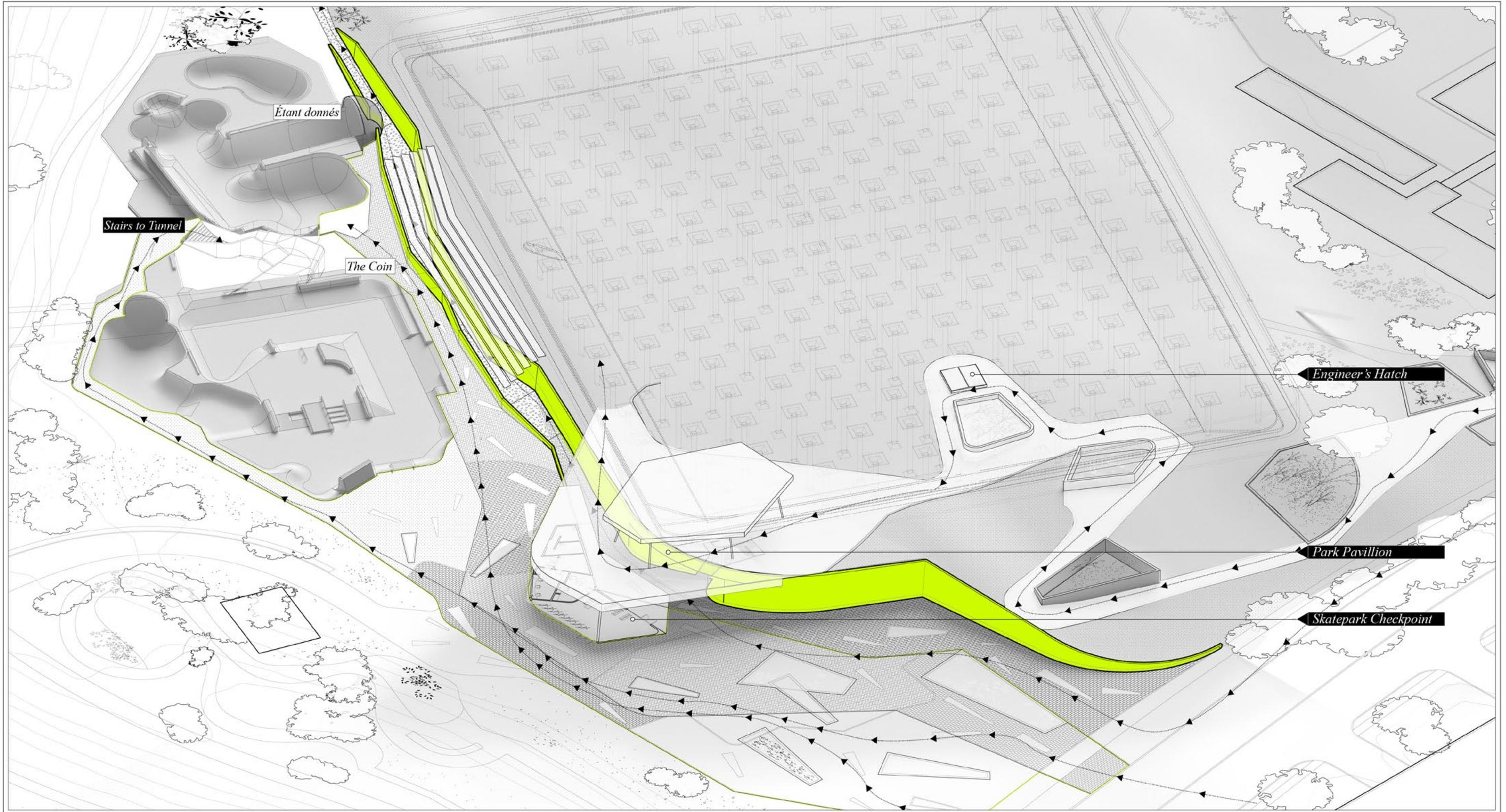


The Bridge

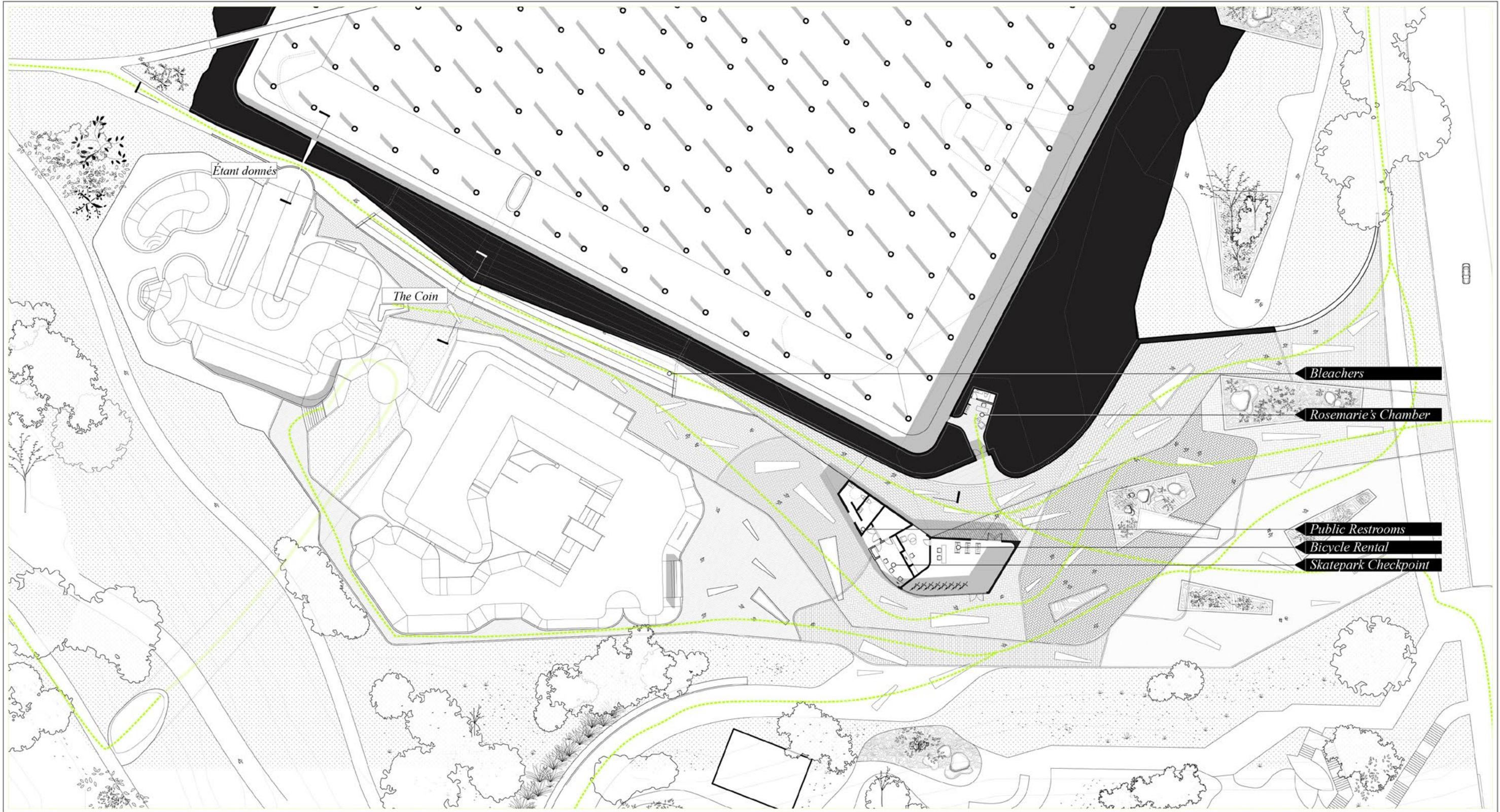
The Tunnel

The Channel

Intersections



The Channel



Étant donnés

The Coin

Bleachers

Rosemarie's Chamber

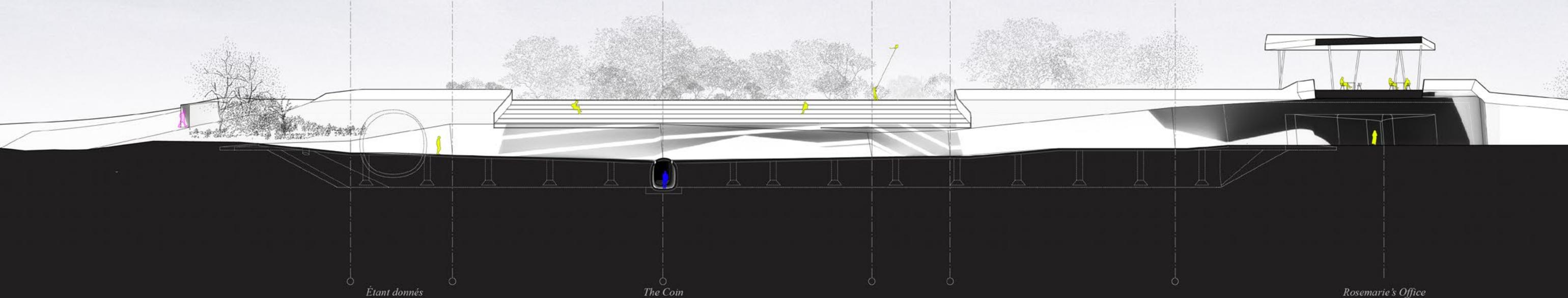
Public Restrooms

Bicycle Rental

Skatepark Checkpoint

Garden of Forking Paths

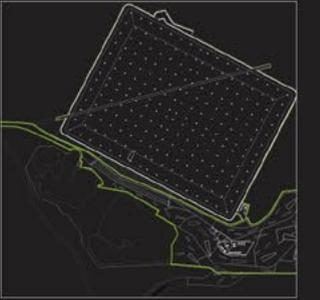
Sabine St.

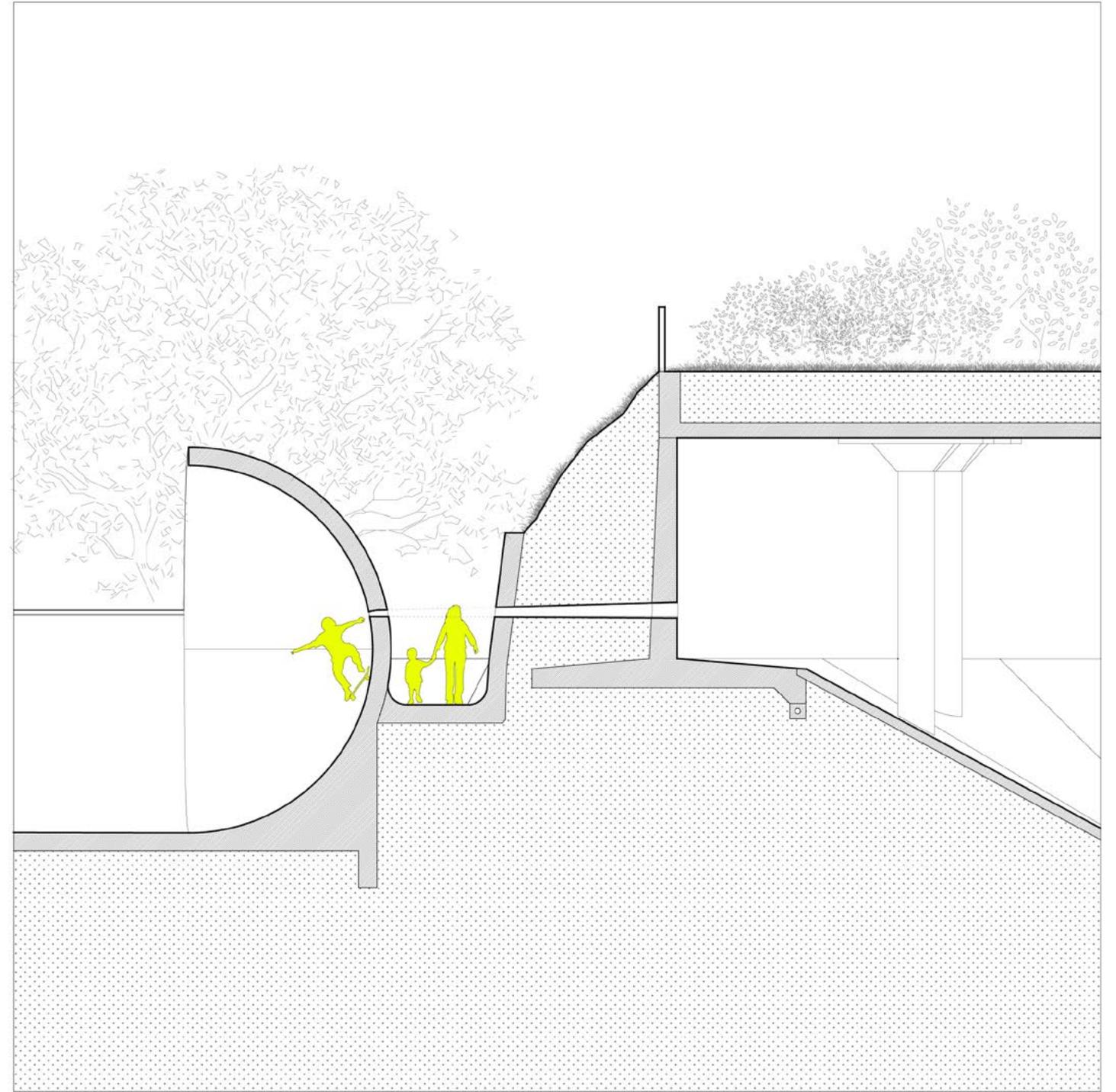


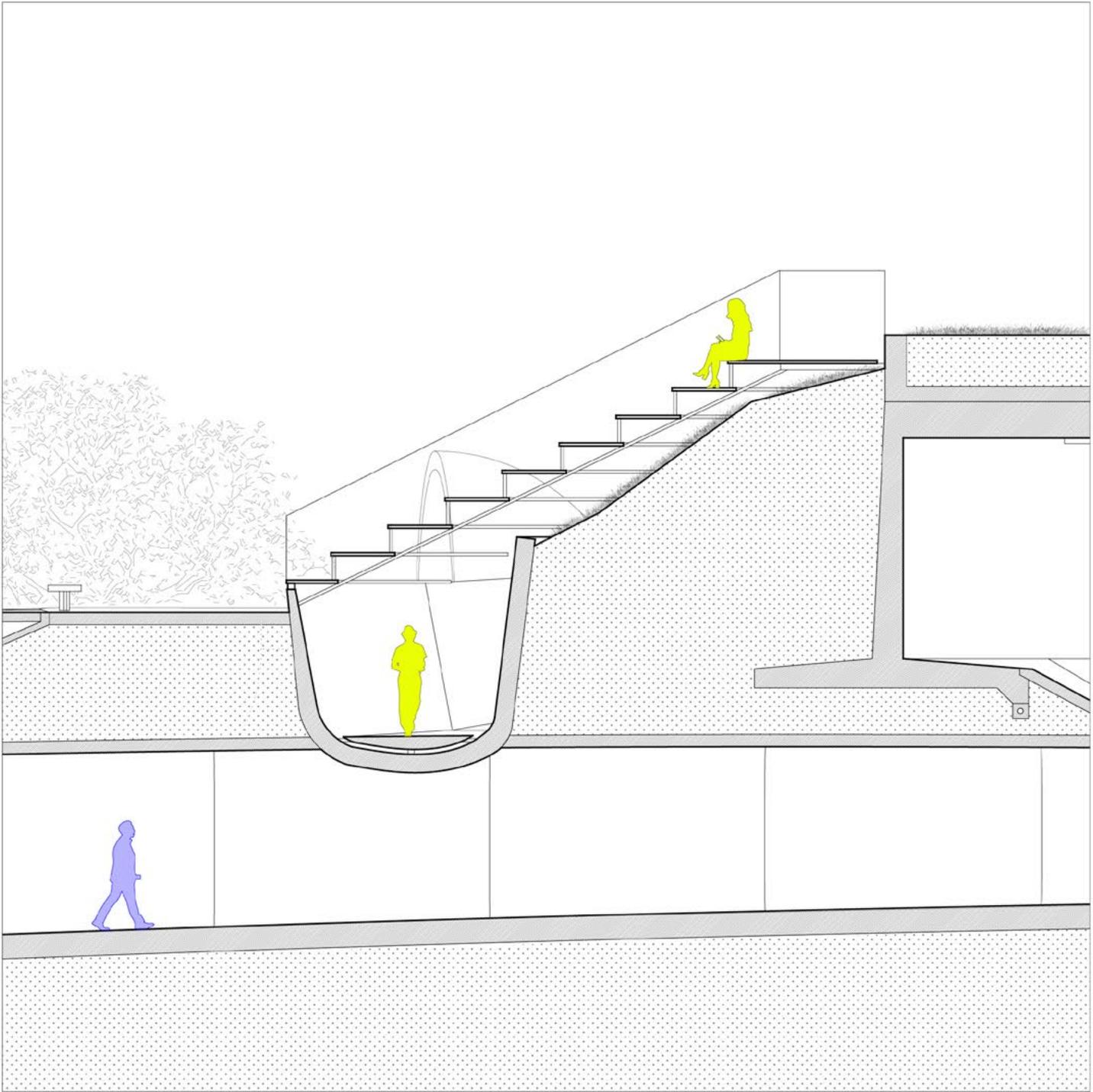
Étant donnés

The Coin

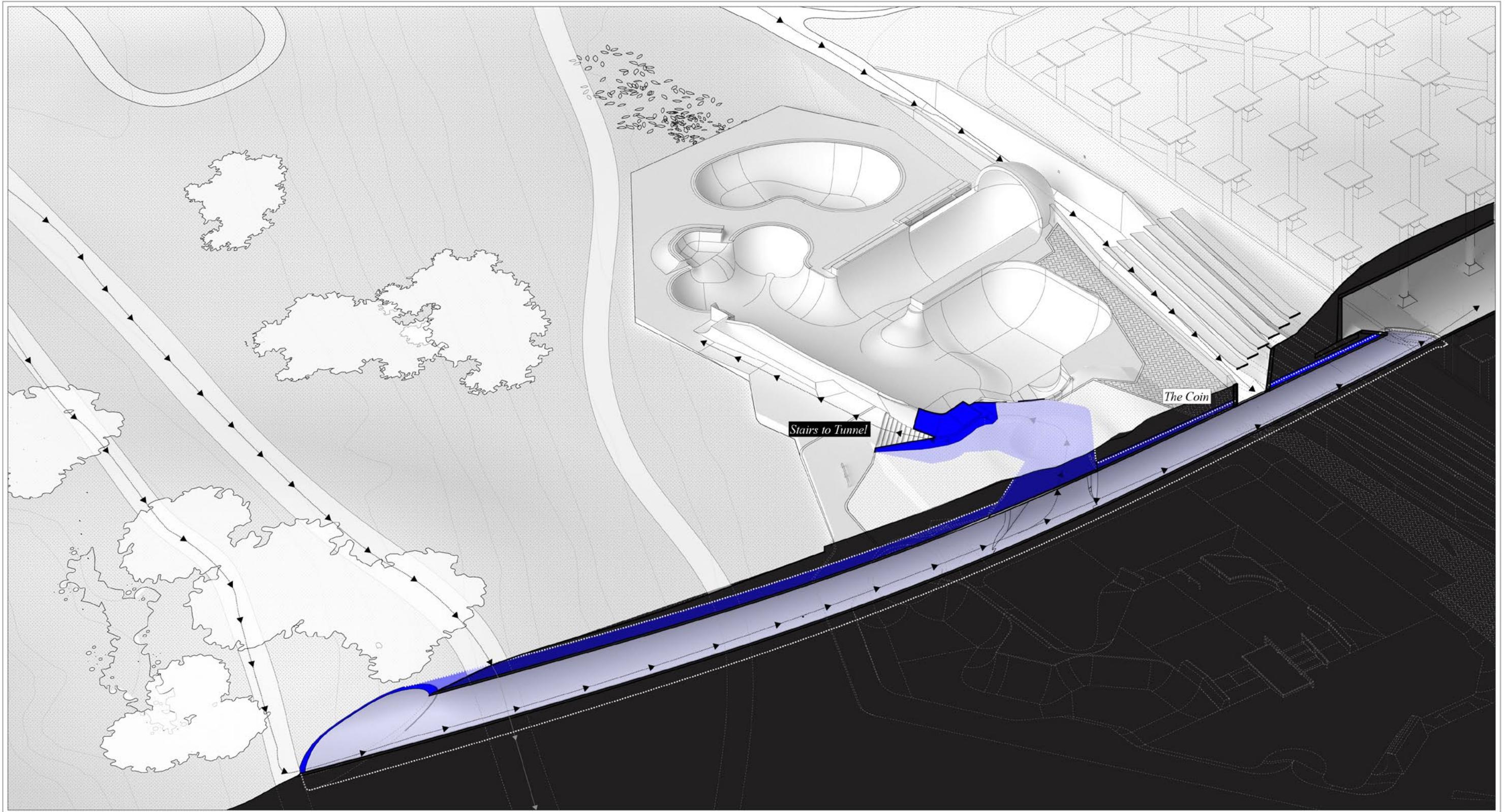
Rosemarie's Office







The Coin



The Tunnel

▼ 500 Year Floodplain

▼ 100 Year Floodplain

▼ Waterway

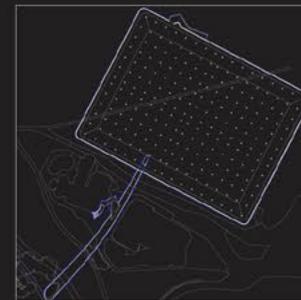
Special Event

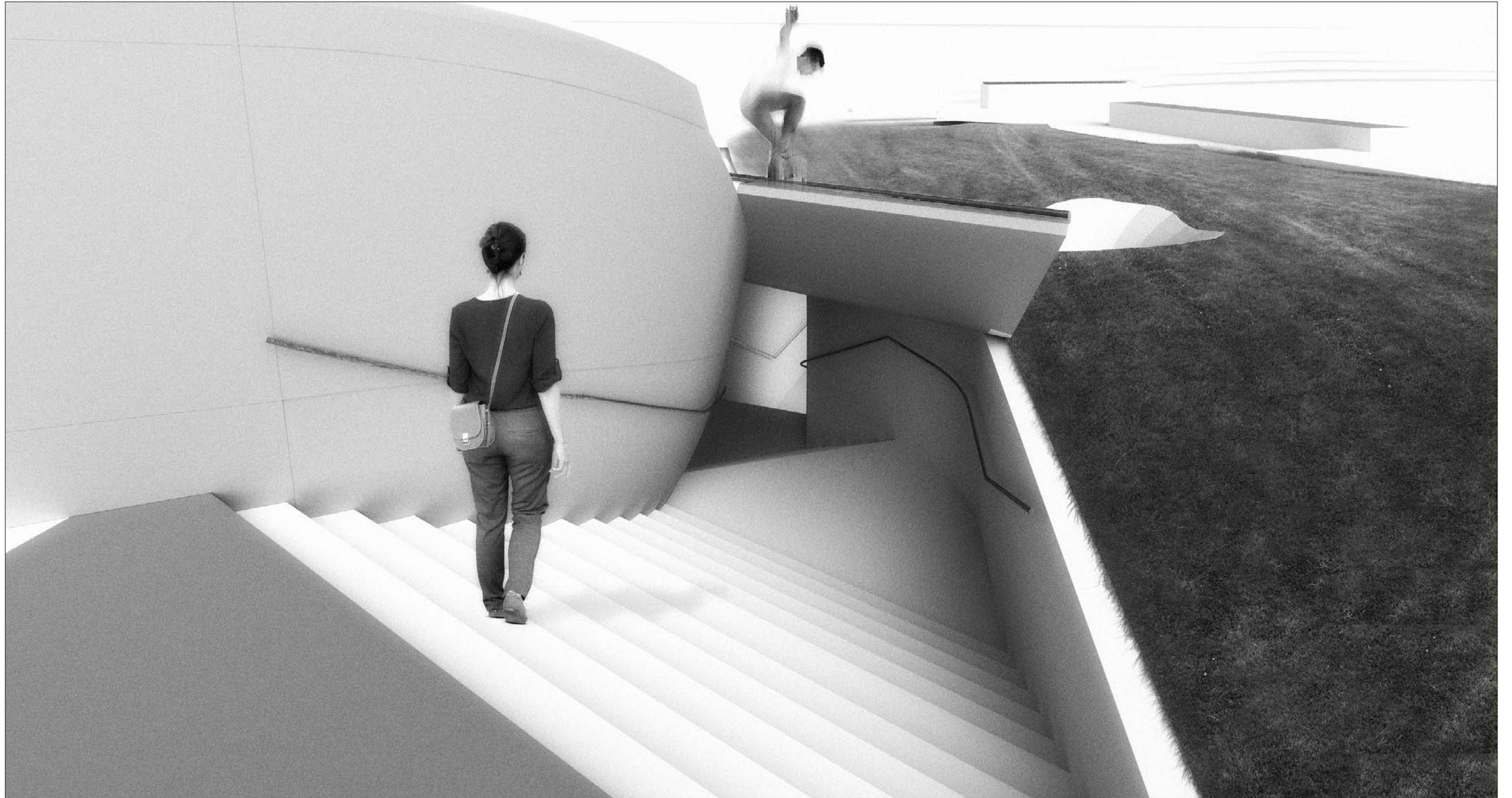
Time Passing

Special Event

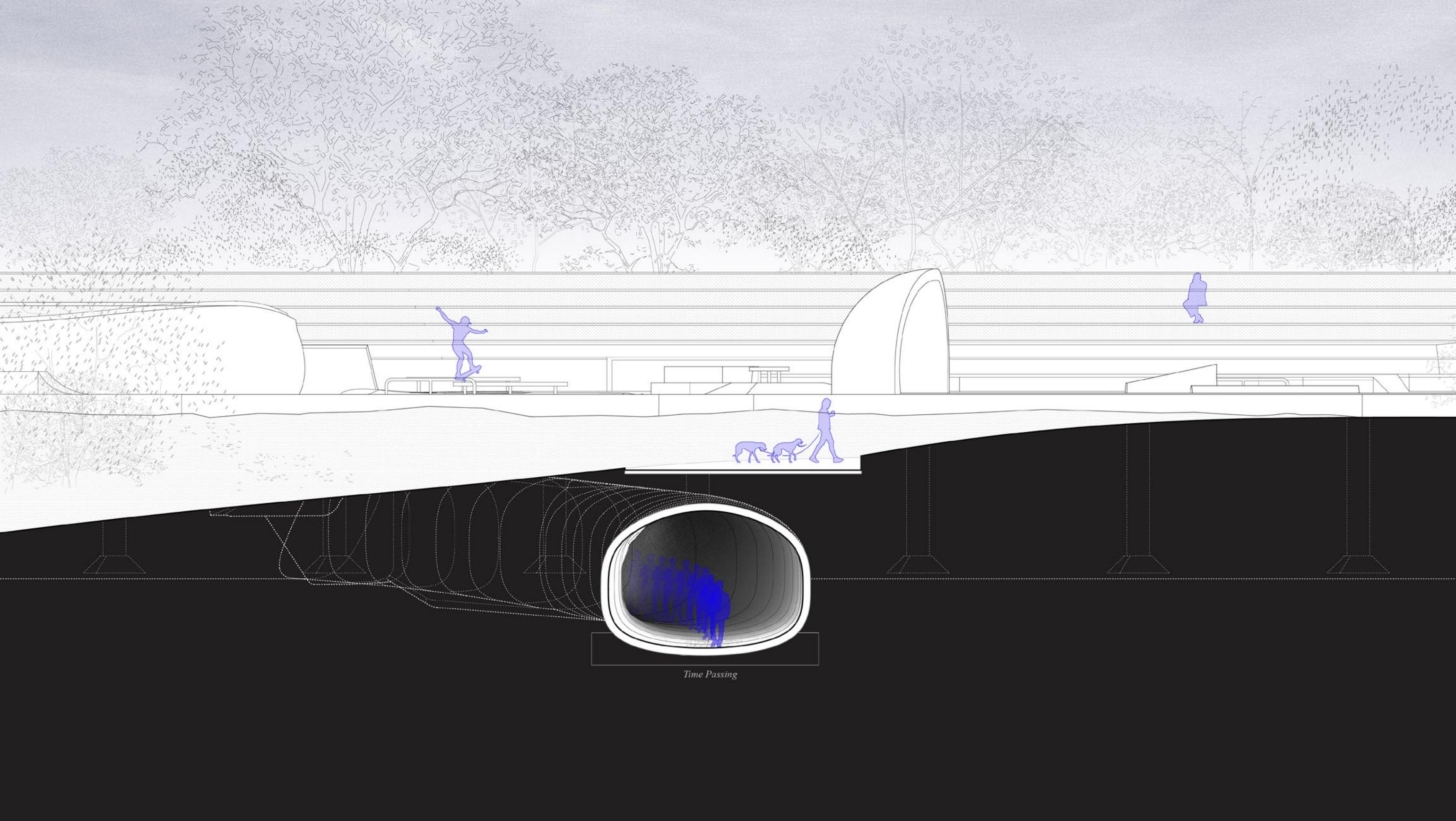
The Coin

Special Event

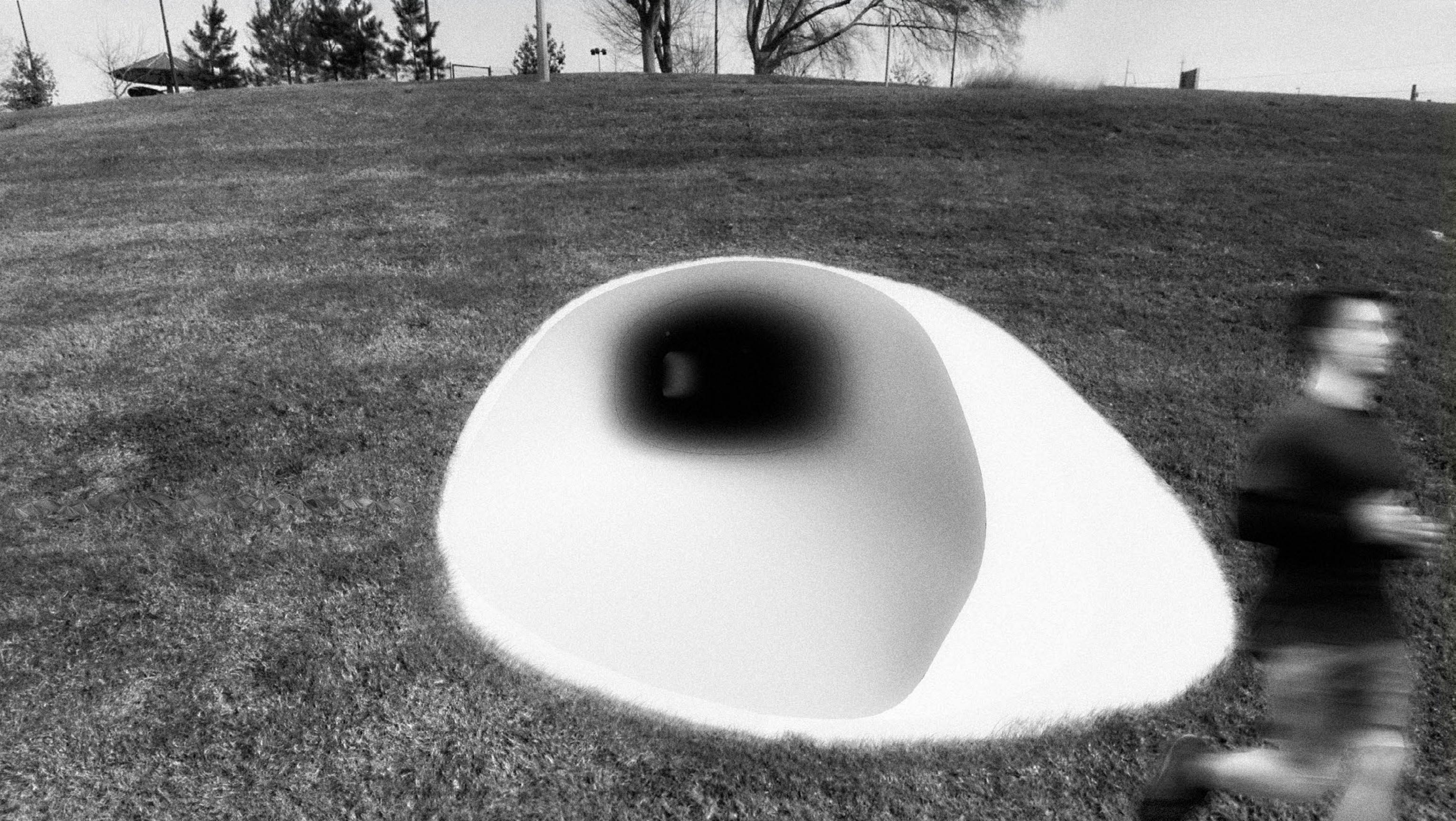




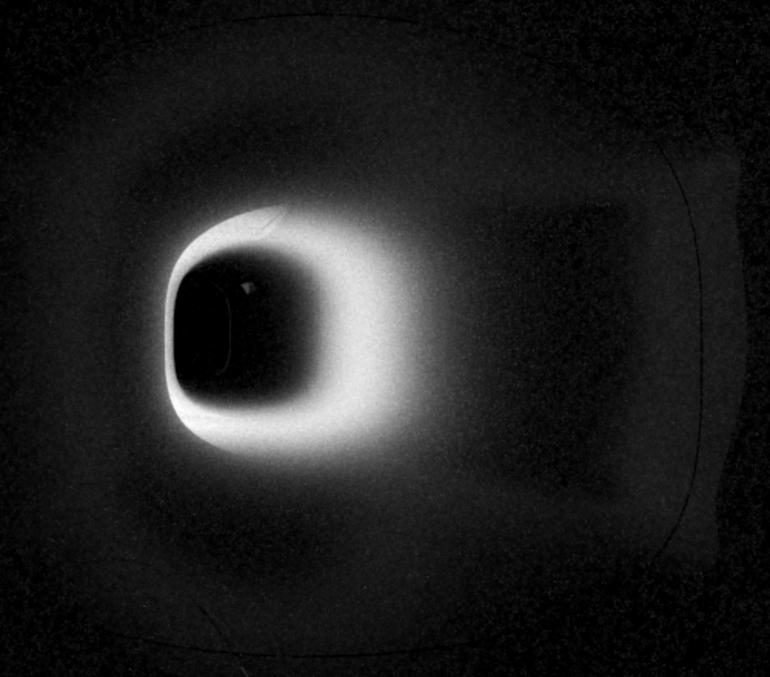
Meeting of Curious Pedestrian and Skateboarder



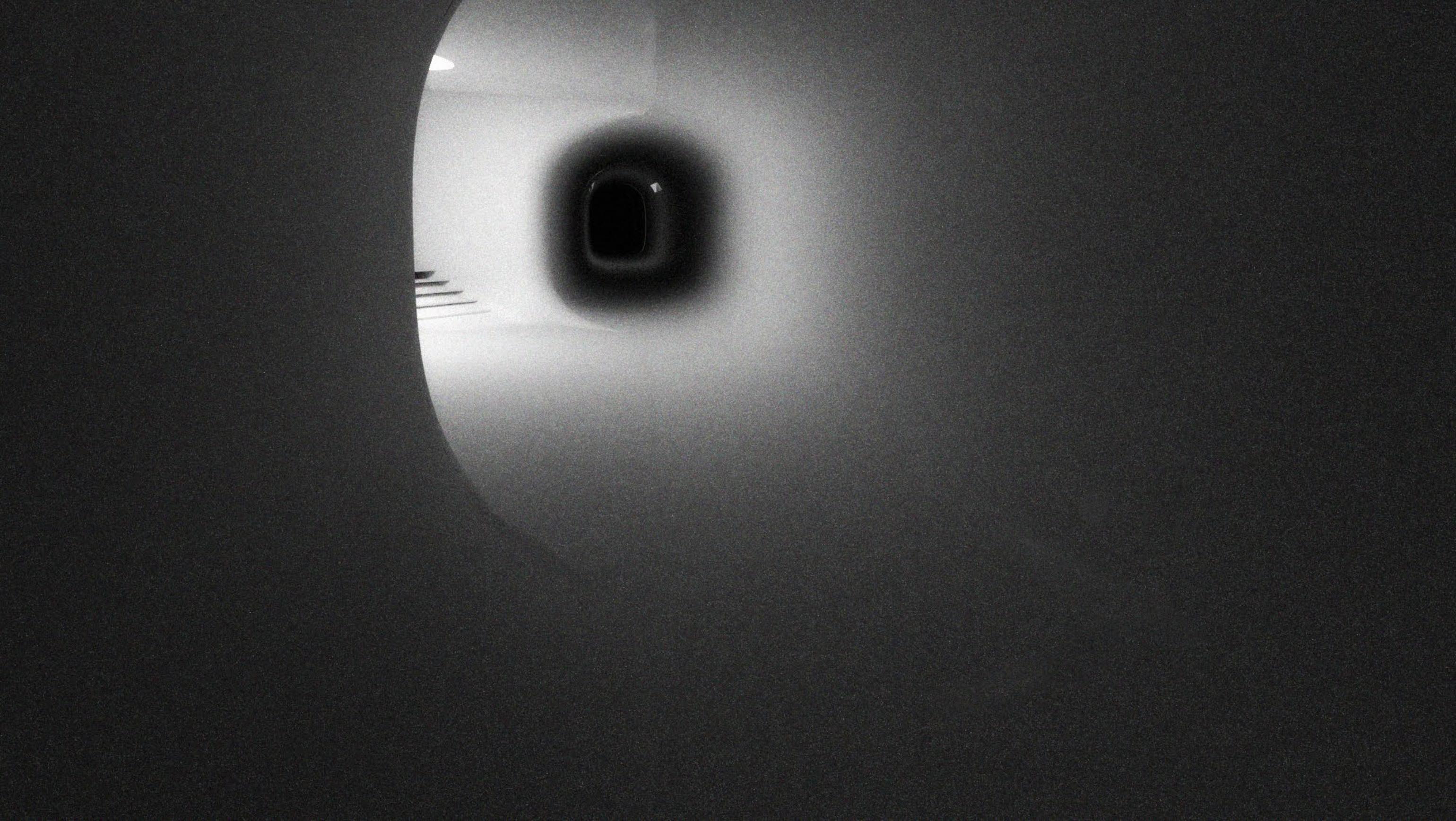
Time Passing

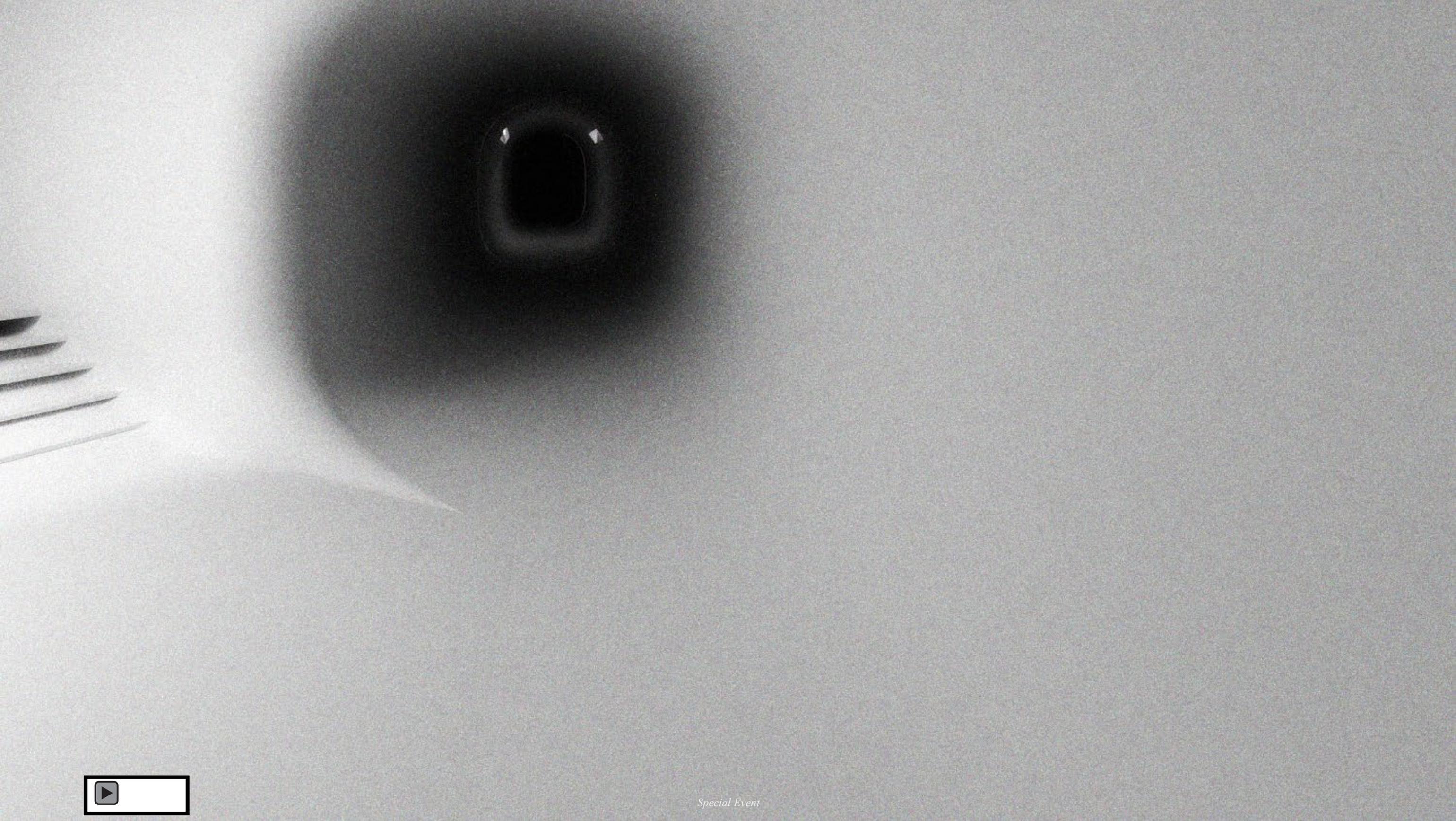












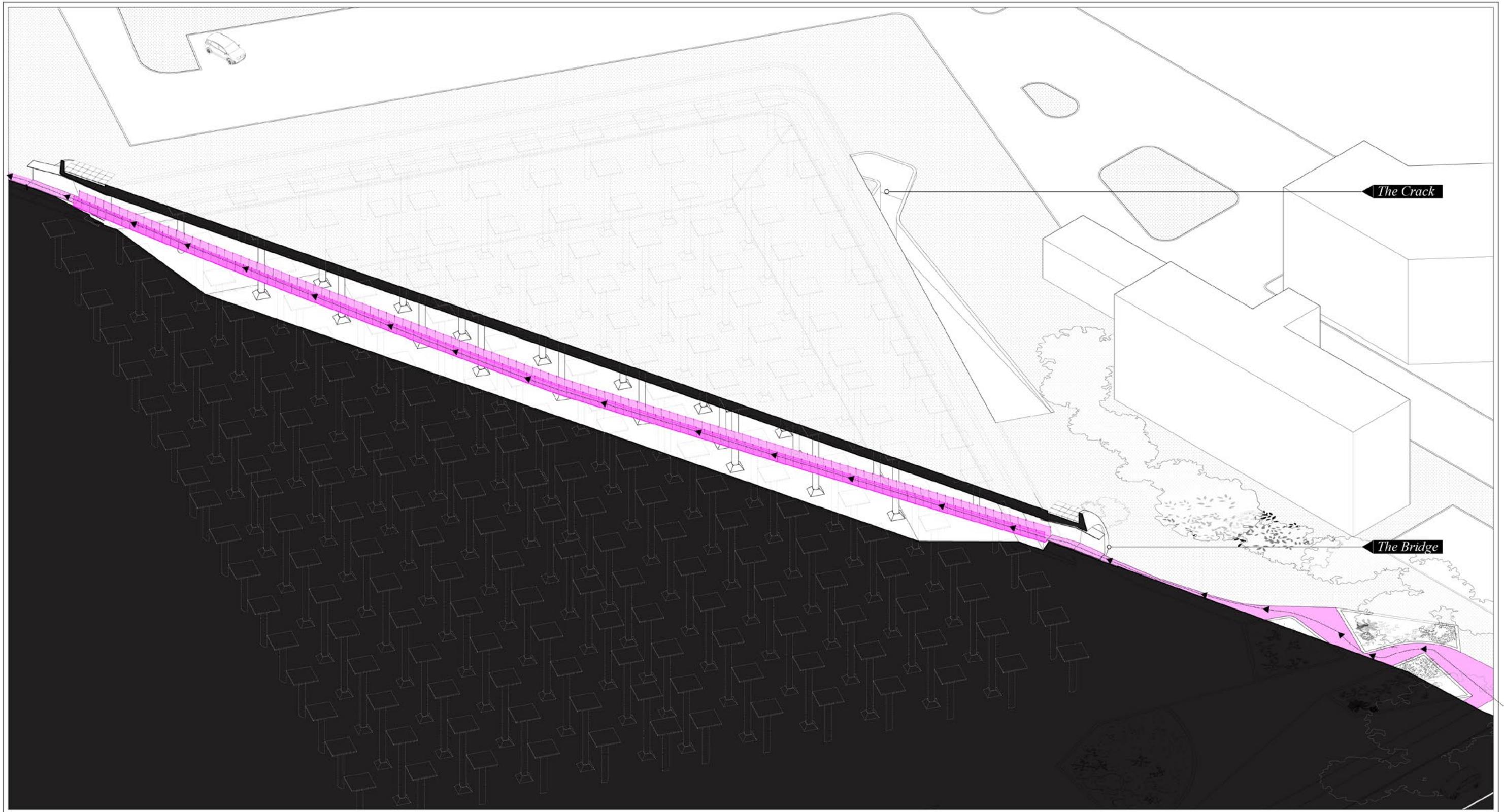
Special Event

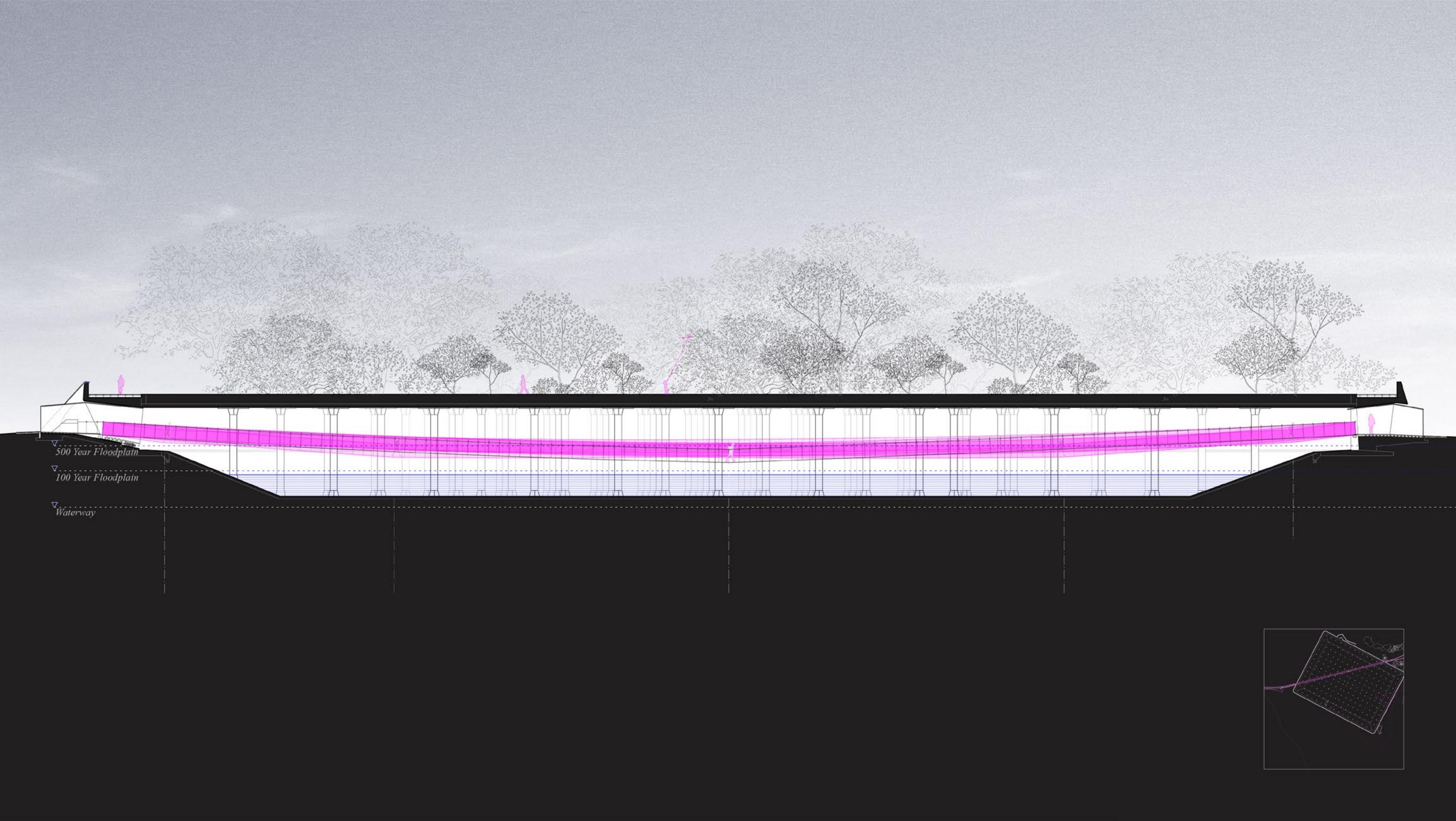








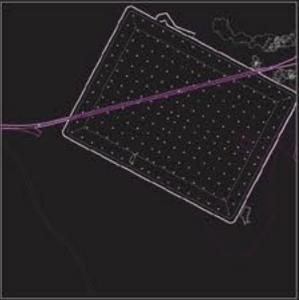




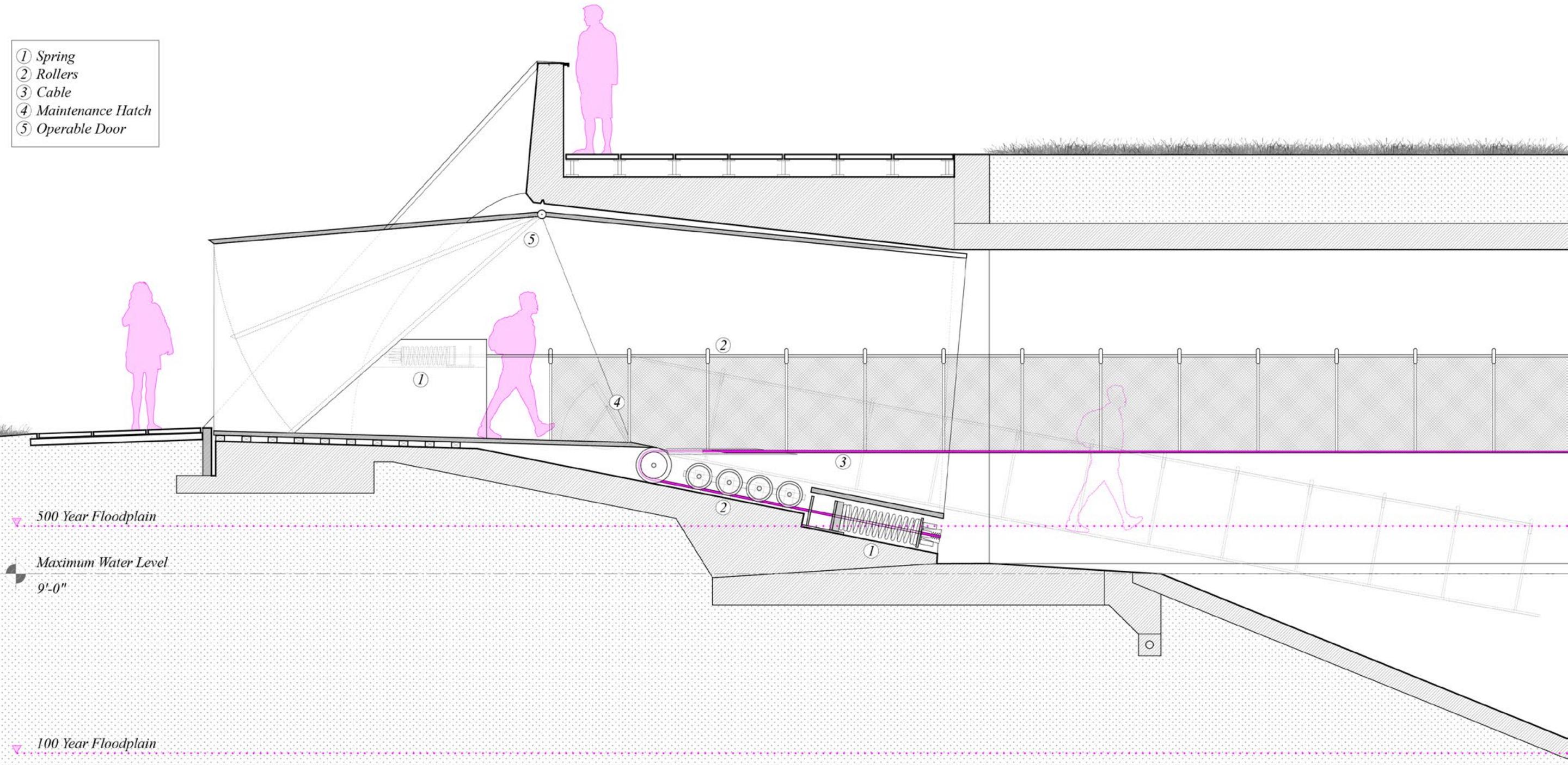
500 Year Floodplain

100 Year Floodplain

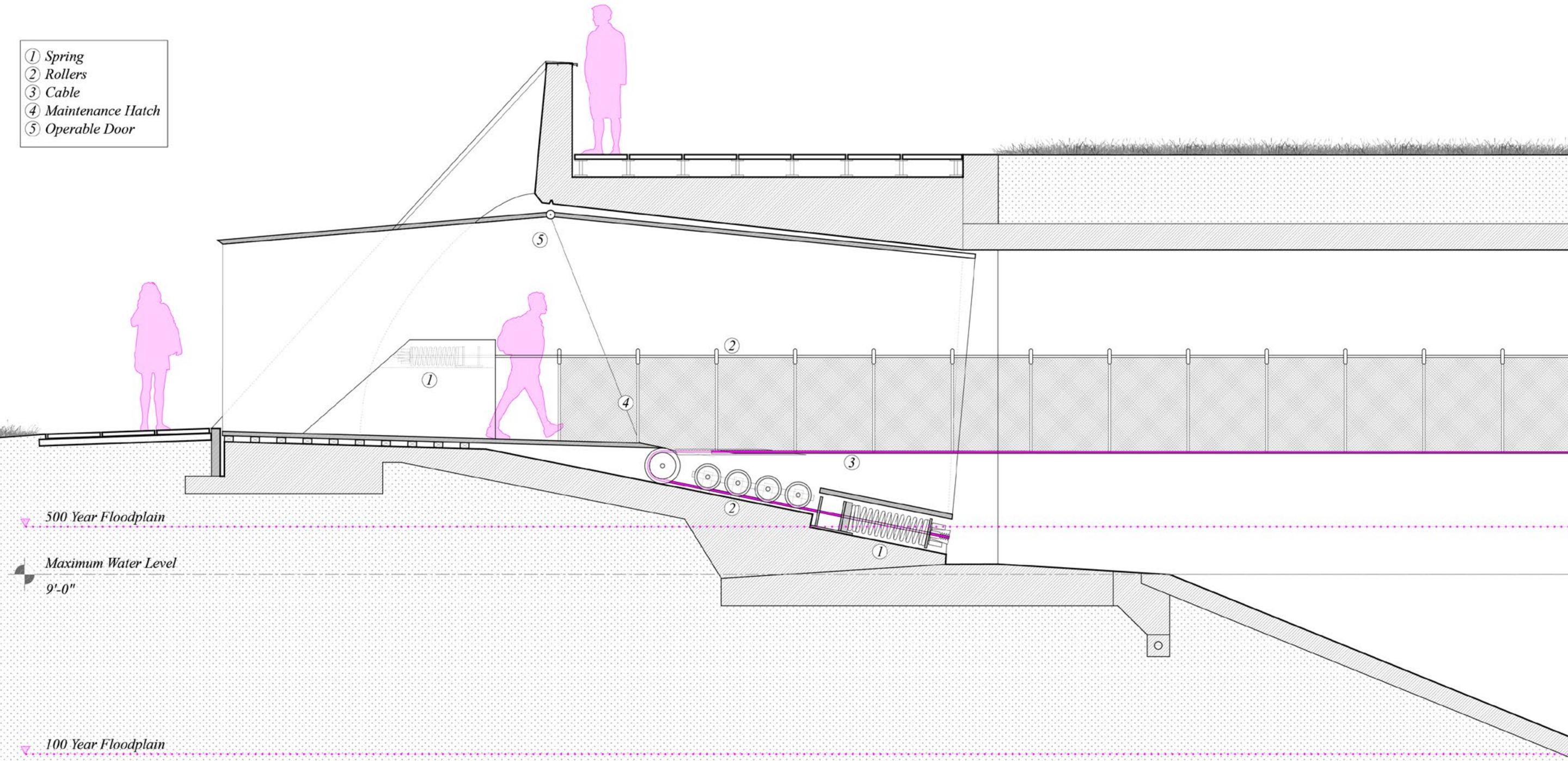
Waterway



- ① Spring
- ② Rollers
- ③ Cable
- ④ Maintenance Hatch
- ⑤ Operable Door

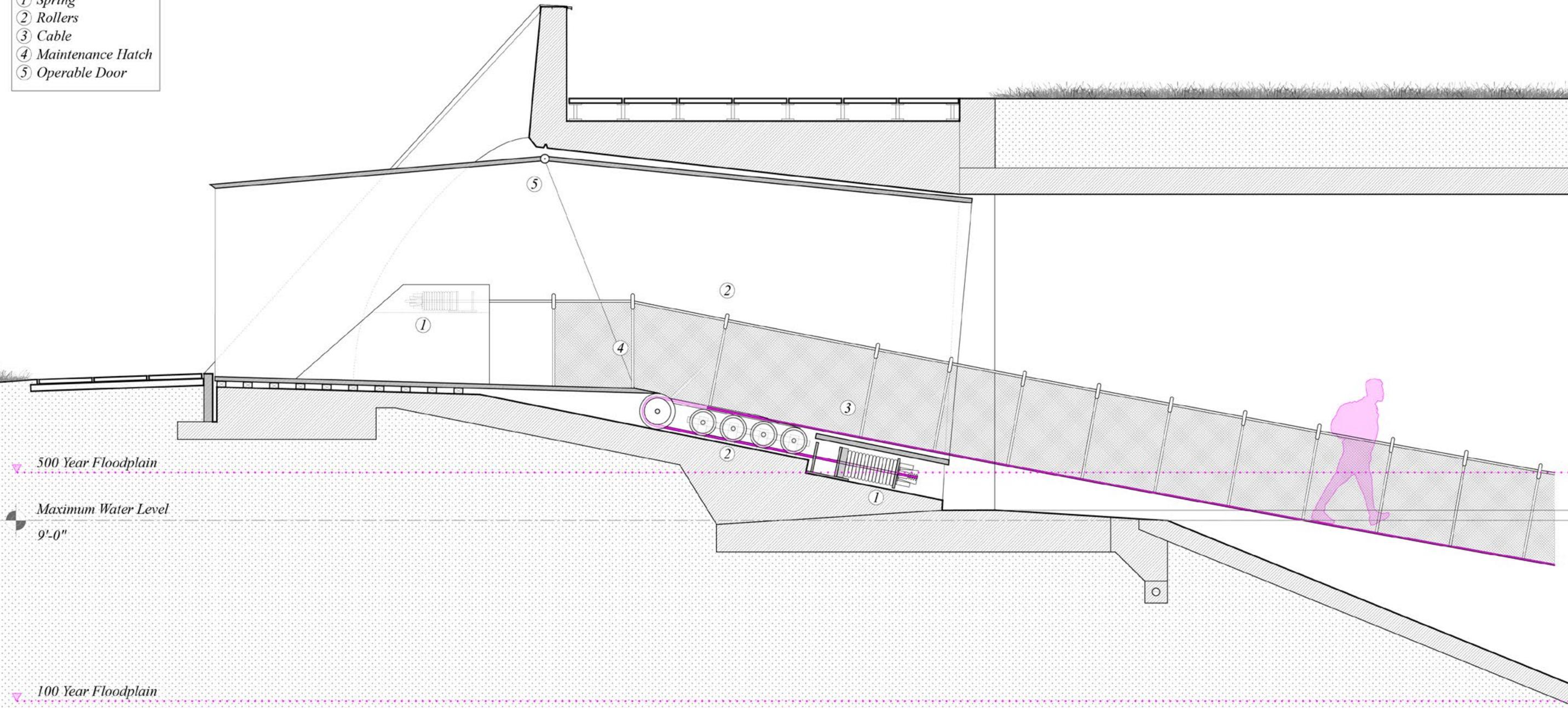


- ① Spring
- ② Rollers
- ③ Cable
- ④ Maintenance Hatch
- ⑤ Operable Door



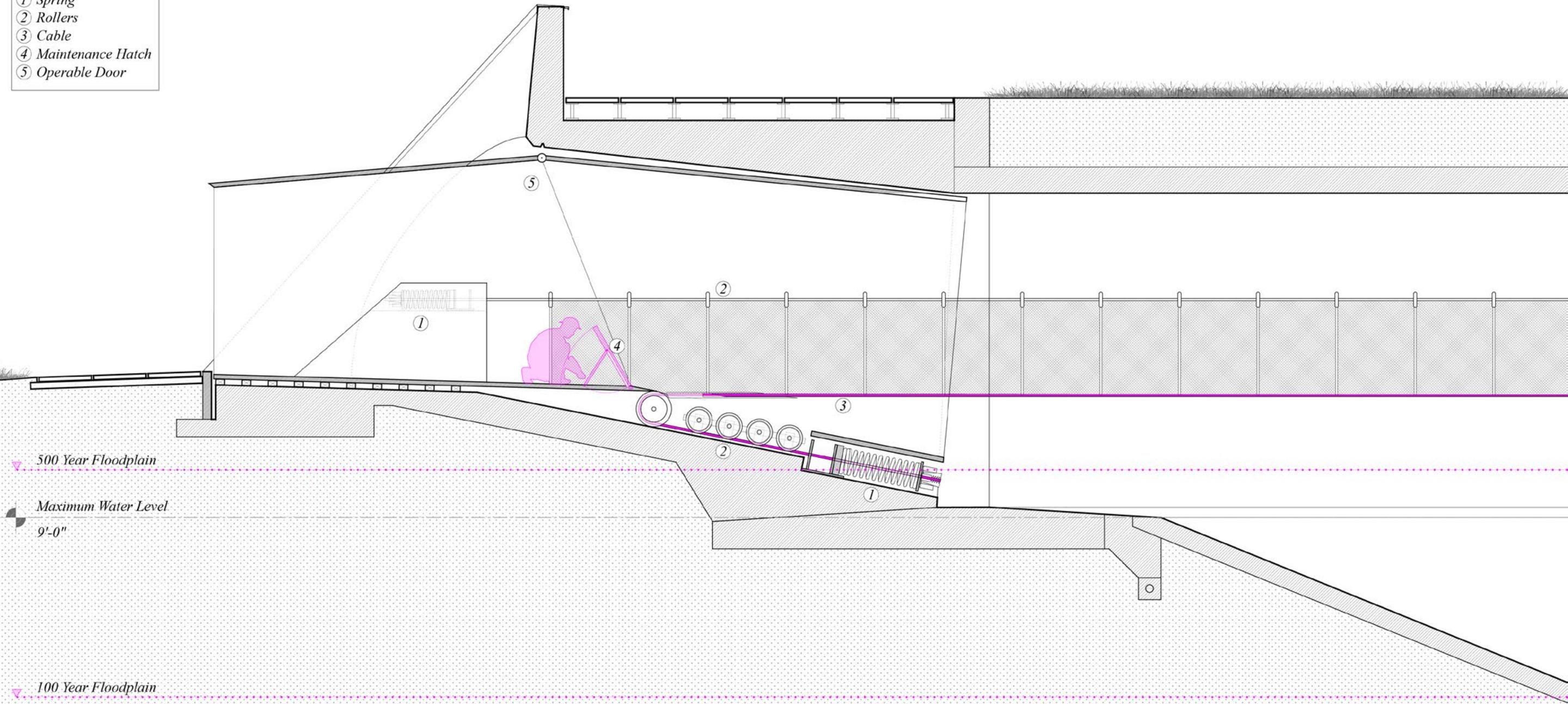
Relaxed State

- ① Spring
- ② Rollers
- ③ Cable
- ④ Maintenance Hatch
- ⑤ Operable Door



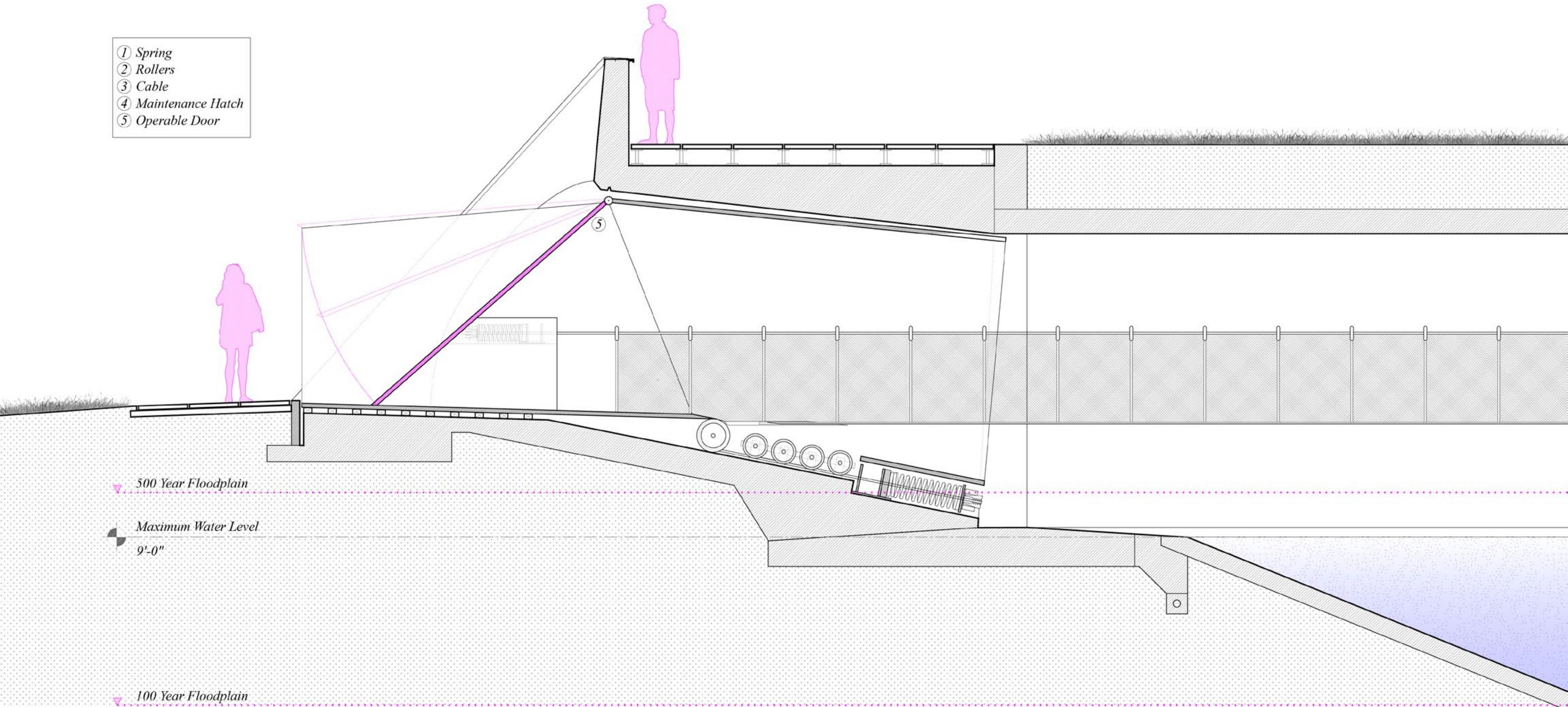
Deflected State

- ① Spring
- ② Rollers
- ③ Cable
- ④ Maintenance Hatch
- ⑤ Operable Door



Maintenance

- ① Spring
- ② Rollers
- ③ Cable
- ④ Maintenance Hatch
- ⑤ Operable Door



Flooding Event





