

Bichen Wang

PORTFOLIO

DESIGNING EXPERIENCES
ACROSS SPACE,
STORY AND PARTICIPATION.

.ABOUT

I am a spatial and experiential designer working across environment, storytelling, interaction, participation and visual communication.

With a background in landscape architecture and professional public-realm design, I am interested in how people experience, understand and connect with places.

HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DESIGN / MLA
WESTON & SAMPSON / DESIGNER II
BOSTON, MA

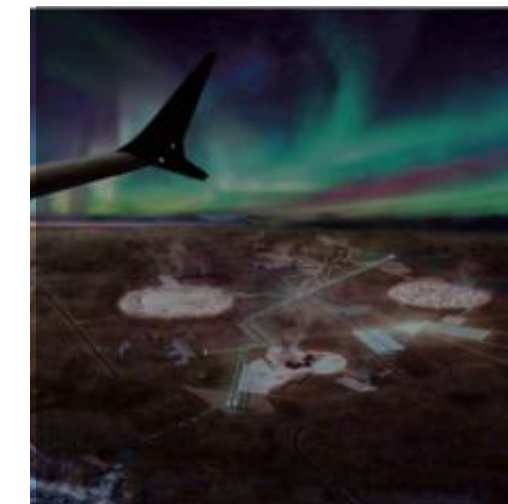
.SELECTED PROJECTS

1



THE SECRET GARDEN

2



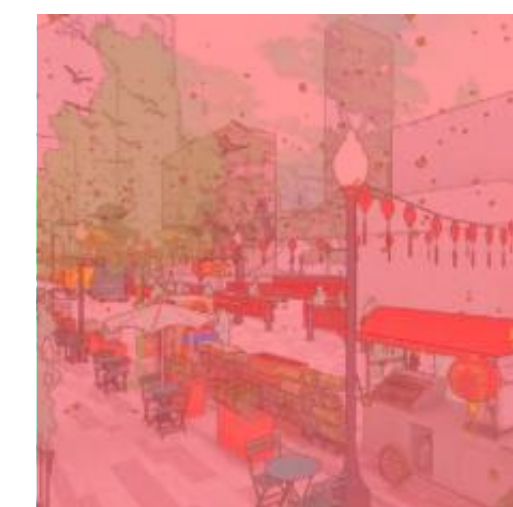
ICELANDIC FOODTOPIA

3



TADPOLE PLAYGROUND

4



BOSTON CHINATOWN

5



FLOODGUIDES

6



SPRING BROOK PARK REPORT

The Secret Garden explores how a physical environment can respond to human emotion, translating emotional signals into a personalized experience through image, sound and scent.

01 THE SECRET GARDEN

Can an environment respond to how you feel?

RESPONSIVE ENVIRONMENT / INTERACTION / SENSORY EXPERIENCE

WORKING INSTALLATION
3D PRINTING / LASER CUTTING
FRESH FLOWERS / CAMERA / DISPLAY
FANS / INTEGRATED ELECTRONICS



A RESPONSIVE ENVIRONMENT SHAPED BY EMOTION.

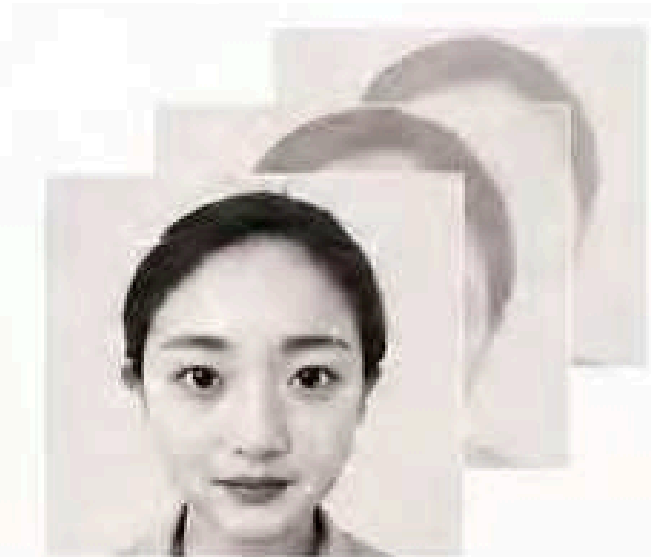
FACE → EMOTION → ENVIRONMENT

Facial Signal CAPTURE

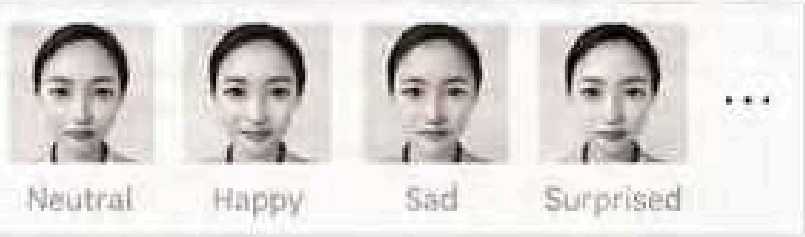


Camera captures visitor's facial expression in real time.

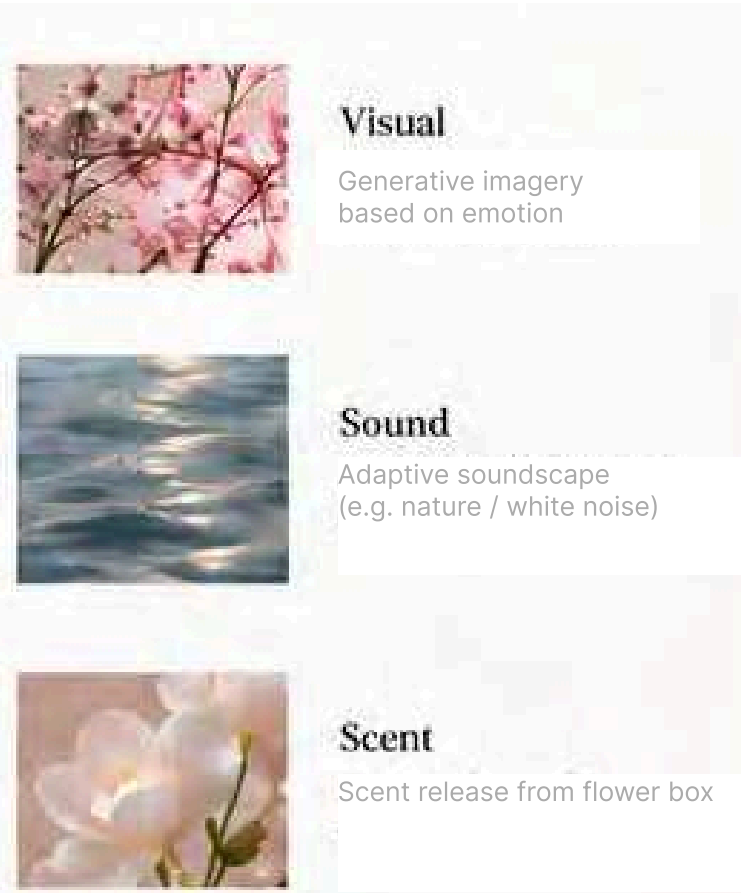
Analysis System RECOGNITION



AI model analyzes facial features and identifies emotional states (e.g. happiness, sadness, anger, etc.).



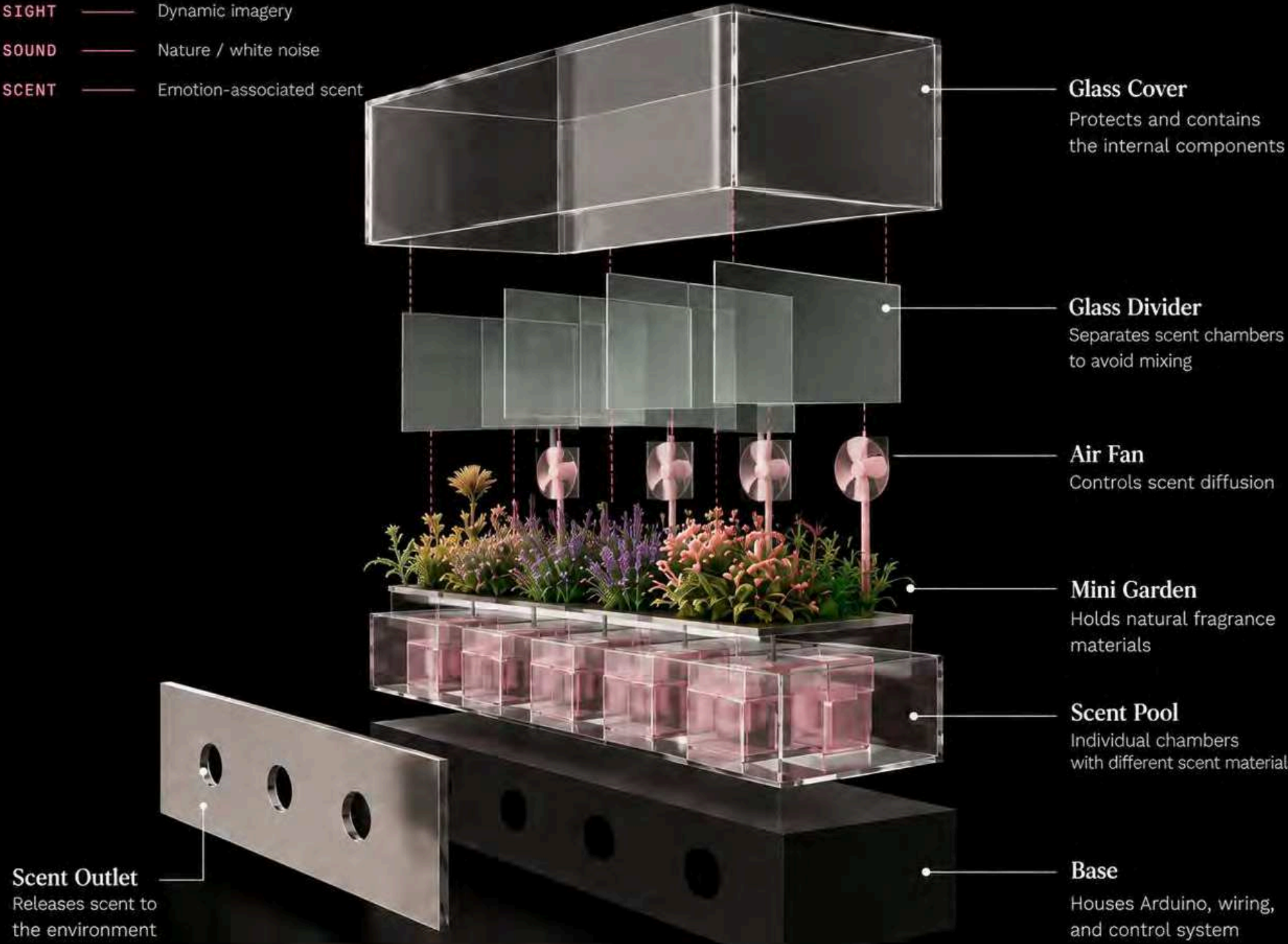
Dynamic Environment MULTISENSORY OUTPUT



(Emotion is translated into three sensory outputs—image, sound and scent—through a real-time responsive system.)

01 / THE SECRET GARDEN

SENSORY SYSTEM



FROM SIGNAL TO SENSATION

Technology becomes meaningful when it disappears into the experience.



01 / APPROACH

02 / RECOGNITION

03 / INTERPRETATION

A visitor encounters the completed installation as emotion recognition quietly transforms into image, sound, movement and scent.
HARVARD. GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DESIGN. GUND HALL



01 / SCENT IN MOTION

Fresh flowers and concealed fans turn scent into a spatial experience. Airflow gently carries fragrance toward the visitor, making an invisible sensory layer physically present.

02 / BUILT AS A WORKING SYSTEM

The installation was physically fabricated and assembled using 3D-printed and laser-cut components, integrating fresh flowers, fans, camera, display and electronics into one working prototype.



03 / A LIVING INTERFACE

Flowers become part of the interface rather than decoration. Light, movement and fragrance shift together, translating digital emotion recognition into something visitors can see, hear and sense.

ICELANDIC FOODTOPIA

Landscape conservation through futuristic food hub modules

FROM TERRITORY TO SYSTEM

GEOTHERMAL ENERGY



FOOD PRODUCTION

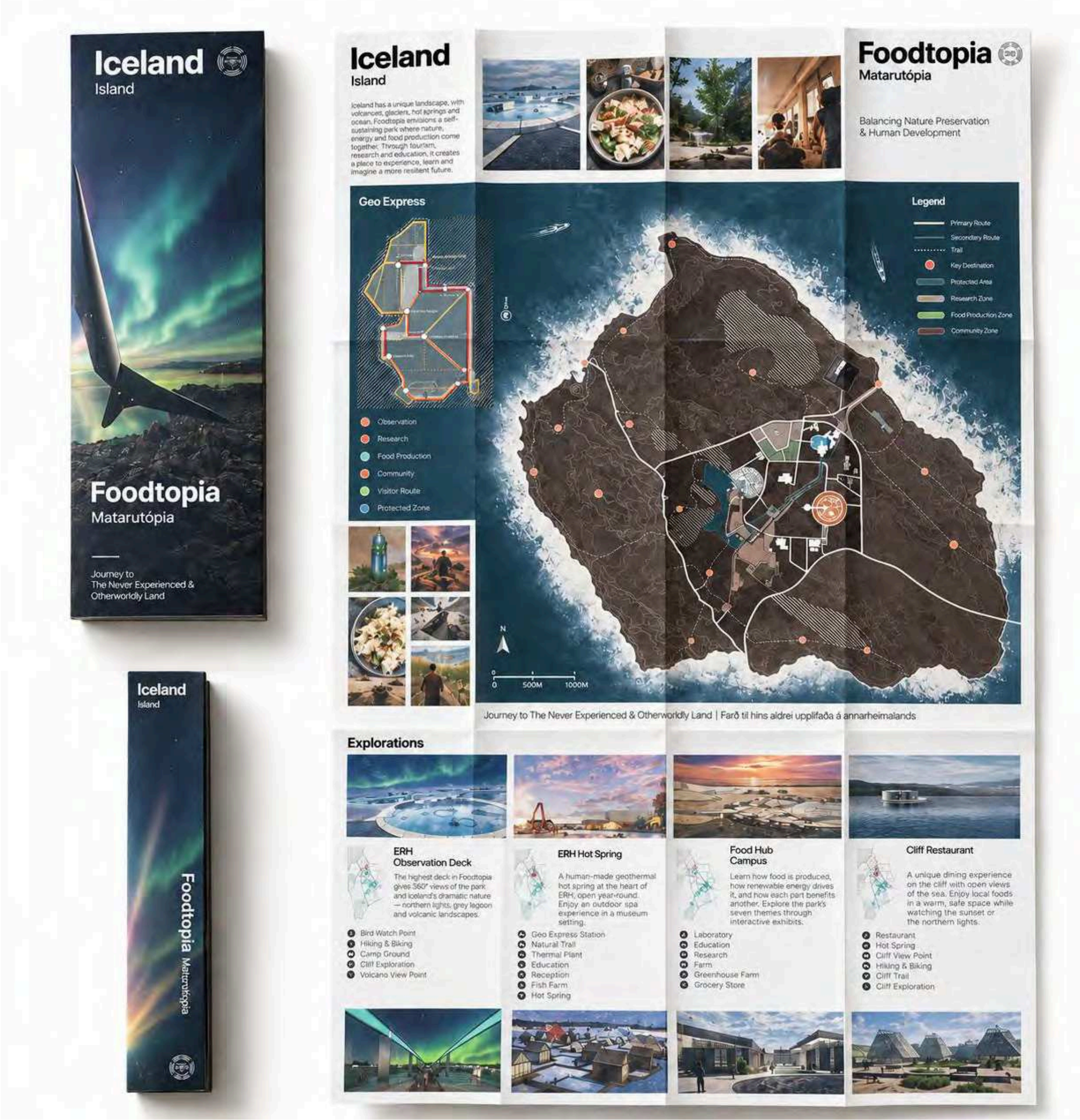


RESEARCH + EDUCATION



TOURISM + LIVING

REYKJANES, ICELAND / HARVARD GSD / 2022

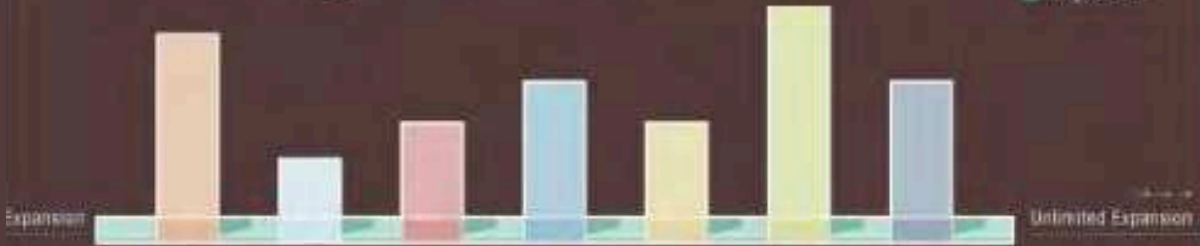


DESIGNED, PRINTED & PRODUCED
A physical visitor guide created at the scale and format of a U.S. National Park brochure.

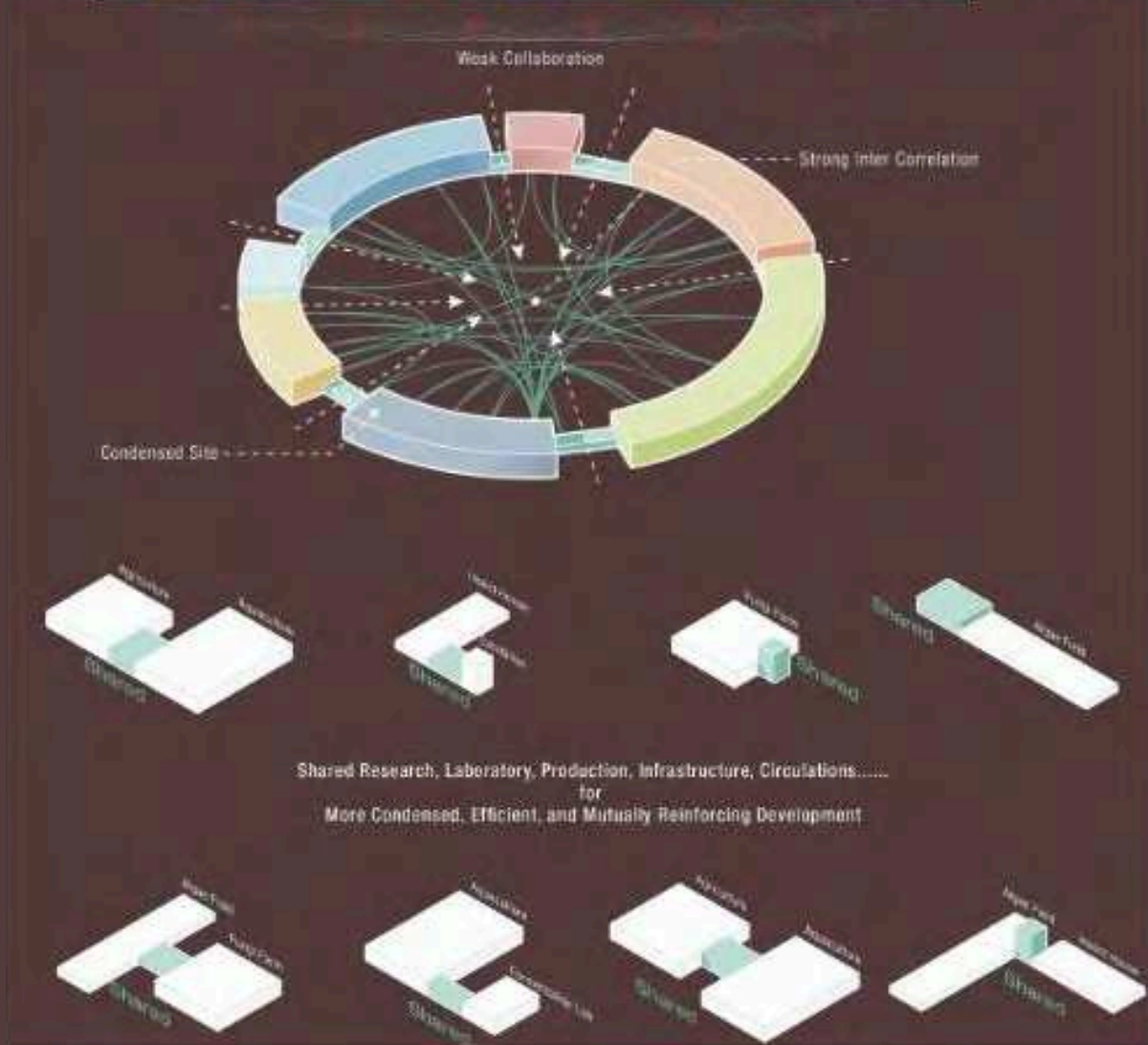
01 / PROGRAM RELATIONSHIPS



02 / COLLABORATION LOGIC



03 / SPATIAL MODULES



FROM SYSTEM TO TERRITORY

Program relationships shape a connected network of food, research, learning and living.



PROGRAM → PLACE

A flexible kit of spaces translates different programs into distinct experiences.



A CONNECTED LANDSCAPE

Programs unfold across the site as a continuous journey of production, learning, living and exploration.



A DISTINCT ATMOSPHERE FOR EACH PROGRAM.

FOOD + RESEARCH HUB

An open civic environment where production, research and everyday life intersect.



GREENHOUSE COMMUNITY

Food production becomes visible, social and part of the visitor experience.



Tadpole Playground

Designing with children to transform community voices into play.

01 / LISTEN

Children imagine, draw and build their ideas through hands-on workshops.



02 / SYNTHESIZE

Community voices reveal shared priorities for access, play, nature and safety.

01

THE SECRET GARDEN

The Hills

Layered play structures create varied elevation and exploration, inviting children to climb, hide, and discover.

PLAYGROUND EXPLORATION

01 / 03

02

THE SECRET GARDEN

Sliding Through Time

Fluid paths and dynamic play elements guide children through a journey of movement, connection, and imagination.

PLAYGROUND EXPLORATION

02 / 03

03

THE SECRET GARDEN

Play to the Max

An inclusive and open play space that encourages social interaction, active play, and endless possibilities.

PLAYGROUND EXPLORATION

03 / 03

01

THE SECRET GARDEN

Site Amenities and Safety Features

More benches—shade and reading spots

Need dedicated stroller parking

I think it is important that the playground is enclosed

Want an area for parents in the playground

02

THE SECRET GARDEN

Play Value

Introduce more accessible play options

More swings and slides!

Play spaces that are raised into the air

Toddler play spaces

03

THE SECRET GARDEN

Ecological and Historic Value

Kind of empty—needs more trees, more diverse plants

More trees!

Cultural elements help illustrate pre-colonial history

Kids need to connect with natural surroundings

03 / Tadpole Playground

03 / EXPLORE

Three design directions translate those priorities into distinct play experiences.

01

THE SECRET GARDEN

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PLAYGROUND EXPLORATION

02 / 03

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Play to the Max

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PLAYGROUND EXPLORATION

03 / 03

FROM THEIR IDEAS
TO A PLACE TO PLAY.

FROM VOICES TO PLACE.

Community ideas become an inclusive landscape for play, nature and discovery.



03 / Tadpole Playground

PLAY UPWARD

Climbing, sliding and elevated play create new ways to explore.



PLAY WITH NATURE

Planting and pathways turn nature into part of the play experience.



PLAY TOGETHER

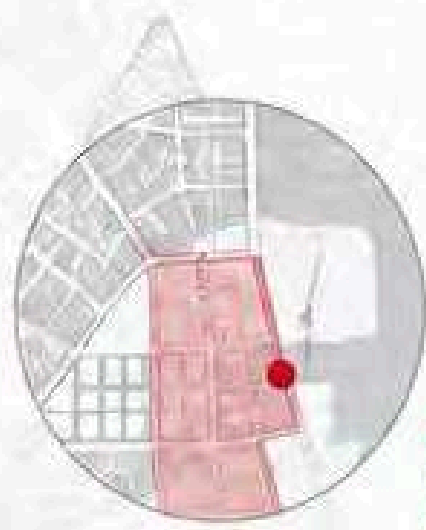
Inclusive spaces support different ages, abilities and ways of playing.



BOSTON CHINATOWN

Designing streets as spaces for access, culture and community.

Streets and sidewalks improvements in Boston's Chinatown focus on better accessibility, safer pedestrian movement, and a stronger sense of cultural identity. The design process combines site analysis, spatial testing, and community input to create a more vibrant and inclusive public realm.



A MORE
ACCESSIBLE
VIBRANT
INCLUSIVE
CHINATOWN

FROM ANALYSIS TO DESIGN

- 01 UNDERSTAND** Existing conditions, accessibility + movement → **02 TEST** Street improvements through spatial scenarios → **03 TRANSLATE** Technical ideas into clear public-facing visuals



PEOPLE + CULTURE + PUBLIC SPACE

FROM COMMUNITY VOICES TO PUBLIC SPACE.

Community engagement informs a more accessible, welcoming and distinctly Chinatown public realm.

LISTEN
ENGAGE
TRANSLATE
VISUALIZE

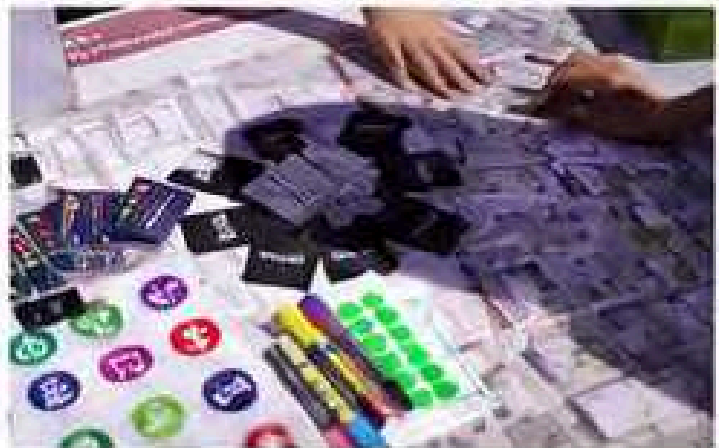
A STRONGER
CHINATOWN
TOGETHER



- 01 LISTEN**
Public meetings + stakeholder conversations

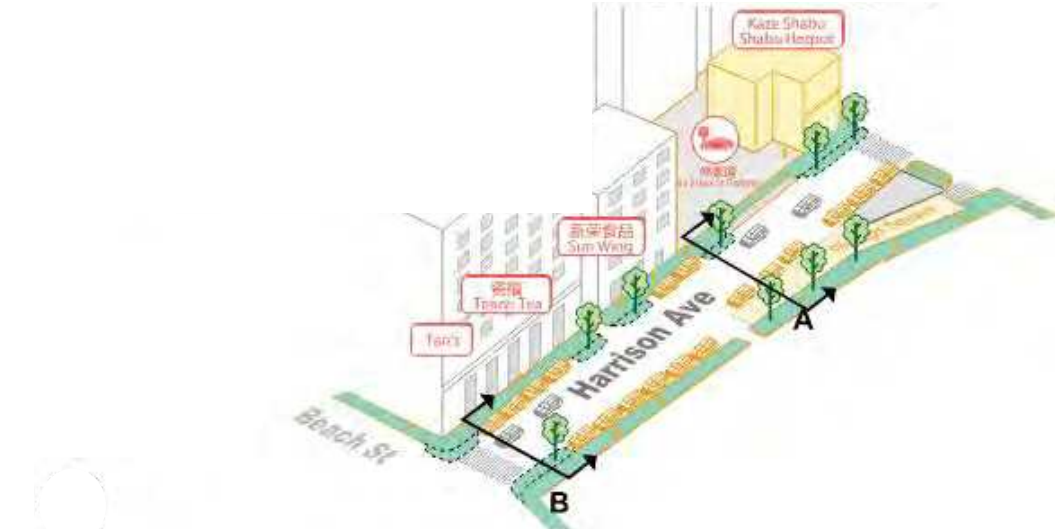
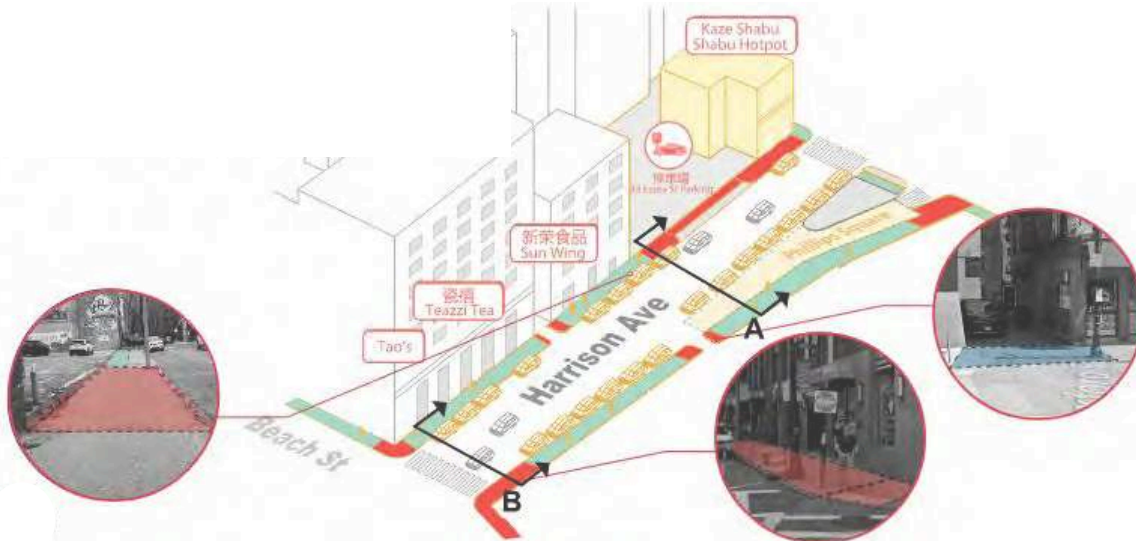


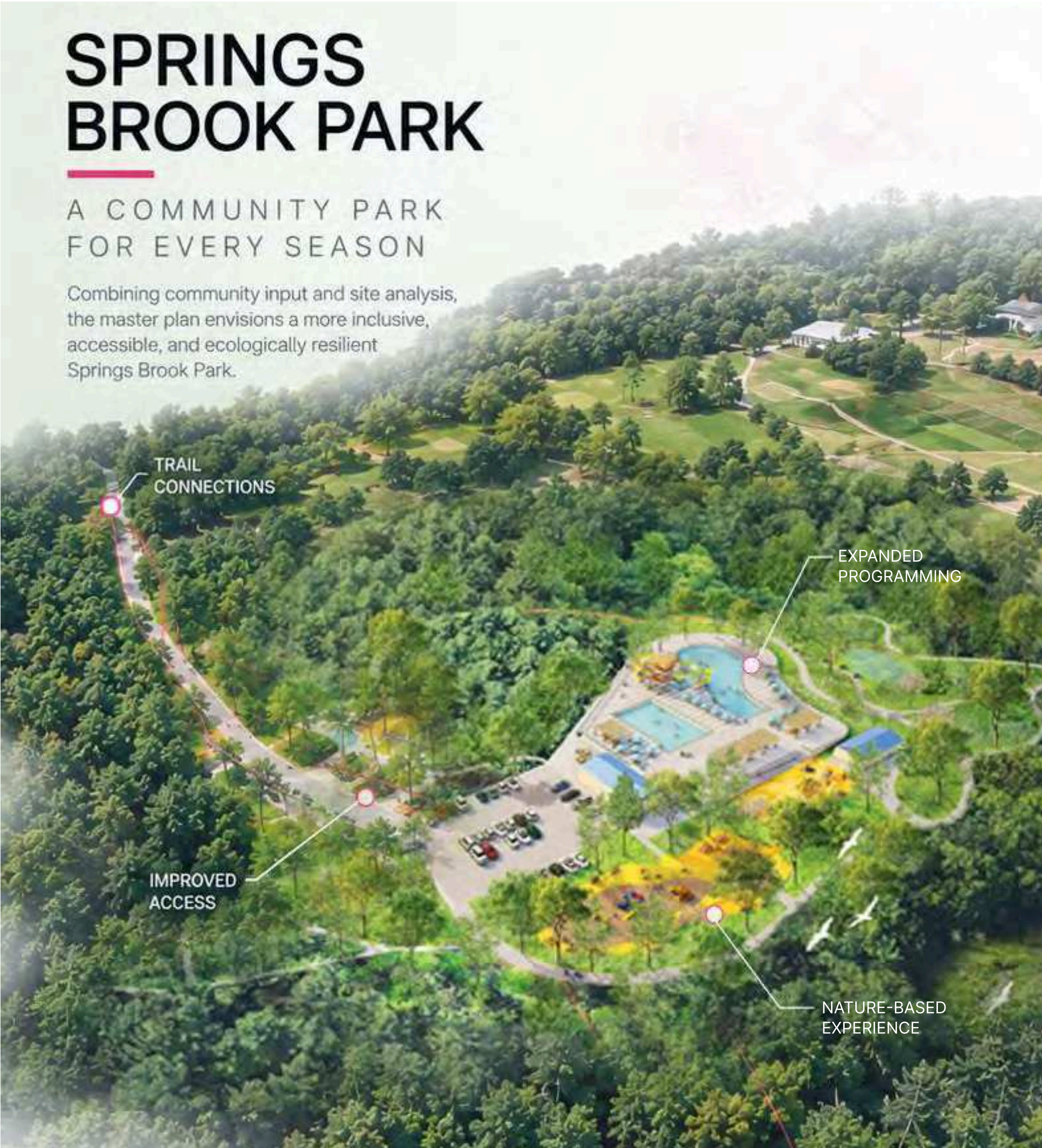
- 02 ENGAGE**
Interactive mapping + community feedback



- 03 TRANSLATE**
Feedback becomes design priorities

04 VISUALIZE





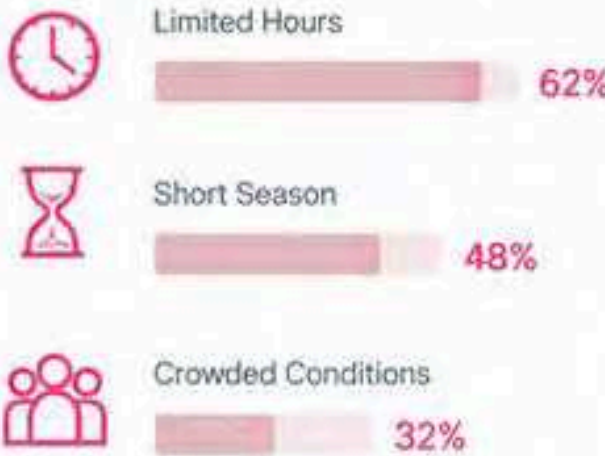
WHAT WE HEARD

We analyzed 374 survey responses to understand how people use the park, what limits their experience, and what they hope to see in the future.

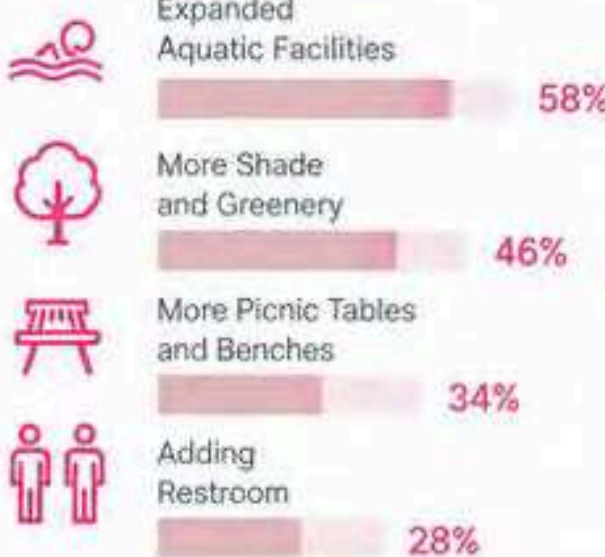
VISIT FREQUENCY (Q1)



KEY CONCERNS (Q7)



WHAT PEOPLE WANT (Q8)



SELECTED COMMUNITY VOICES

"More shade and trees would make the park so much more enjoyable in summer."
— Resident

"A wider path system would be great, especially for strollers and older visitors."
— Resident

"We love the park, but wish the pool could be open longer in the year!"
— Resident

FROM INSIGHT TO OPPORTUNITY

Design responses for a more inclusive, resilient, and vibrant park.

SWIM

OPPORTUNITIES The pool is only open 8 weeks throughout the year. There's an opportunity for creating more year-round uses and for improved engineering and landscaping to reduce future maintenance.

CONSTRAINTS The size, depth and water clarity of the pool create a larger need for the guards. High maintenance cost is a big financial constraint. High maintenance at the pool also poses technical constraints for engineering.

ACTIVE SPORTS

OPPORTUNITIES The site has existing well-used active sports fields. However, the baseball field is very underused. There's an opportunity for enhancing the park with more active program and uses.

CONSTRAINTS Limited parking to support the active sports program demand.

PARKING AND GATEWAYS

OPPORTUNITIES There's a well-established access and parking point at west entrance so there's an opportunity to enhance the gateway experience such as increasing parking capacity to support active sports, as well as create park side, adding signage and other user orientation.

CONSTRAINTS Adjacent building environmental resource area and the VA facilities boundary.

PLANTING

OPPORTUNITIES There's opportunity for replanting and invasive species treatment at the west park entrance. Certain areas of the park also have opportunities for rehabilitation and restoration.

CONSTRAINTS Invasive species are showing along the edge of woodlands and fields.

ECOLOGY AND HABITAT

OPPORTUNITIES The site has strong ecological foundations. The majority of the site is covered by healthy mixed forest and wetland. An interconnected stream runs through a riparian zone of the baseball field. There's an opportunity for habitat and stream bank enhancement.

CONSTRAINTS Characterization of wetlands is ongoing. Locating a stream bed, higher ground, riparian zone, and tree corridors.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

A STRONGER, MORE INCLUSIVE SPRINGS BROOK PARK



MORE YEAR-ROUND USE



BETTER ACCESS



MORE PROGRAM DIVERSITY



STRONGER CONNECTION TO NATURE