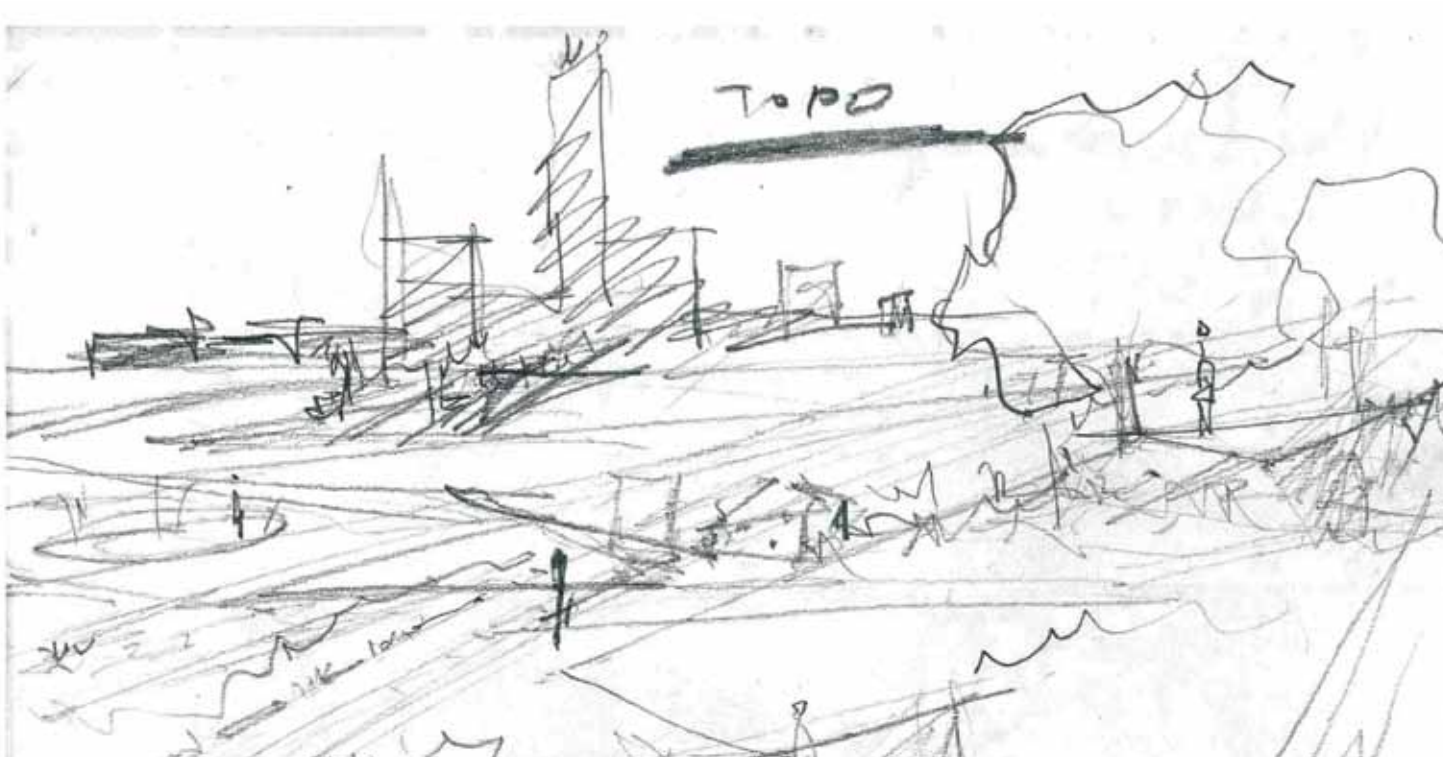


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About me and this portfolio

My understanding and focus in landscape architecture varies with my personal experience which involves frequent shifting in geographic locations and lifestyles. City after city, coast to coast, I experienced environment with landscapes and people of which one could be absolutely different from the other. Time and space, not only is the immortal theme of landscape architecture, but also works as the coordinate of one's life trail.

I was born and raised in Shanghai. I remember growing up running down the old narrow winding lanes shaded by brick apartment buildings which were very close to each other. People used to hang their clothes out in those buildings which resembled colorful flags. And I also remember seeing hundreds of new high-rises getting built, malls opening up, streets widened. I watched the urban space change as I grew. And the change of environment were usually accompanied by the change of people's lifestyle.

Being a part of the changes happening to my home city, I myself made the change of my own life by traveling overseas to European countries and the United States during high school and had the very first dramatic experience involving geographic and cultural shiftings. Spending condensed time in a foreign land as a guest fascinated me and provoked the curiosity which further drove me to the decision of going to the United States for college. Therefore, I flew to Illinois after graduation from high school in 2008 and started my life as a college student in America, which was a completely different experience and double role changing. First of all, I changed from a kid who was always under her family's protection to a college student who needed to be highly independent. Second, my social role switched from a resident of familiar environment to a guest of a totally strange foreign country. The change in geographic location and lifestyle meant change in points of view and perspectives for the world around me. In college, I met many lovable people from almost everywhere, whom became a part of my life in the United States and occasionally shared the links to my life back in Shanghai through travel or just simply by chatting about family and the past, usually accompanied by lots of nostalgia.

Life in the United States was a lot different from Shanghai for I mostly live on campus and only traveled over breaks. But the environment and landscapes has a lot to do with this change in my lifestyle. Champaign-Urbana is a twin city where the air is more earthy rather than industrial. There are not that many vertical concrete but more many large trees which provide shade in summer and turn into beautiful colors in fall. People take their time and give greetings regardless if they know the person at all. Here was when I started to spend more time outdoor and it did not have to have anything to do with shopping or traveling to another distant destination on a fuel-based

means of transportation tool. I would do things like jogging down to the arboretum just to watch the sunset or spending the entire afternoon on the quad either sketching or enjoying the sun.

This educational experience brought me closer to nature than I ever had been and slowed down my life in general, which left me more time to reconsider the space and the time I spend within the space, on both personal and professional level. When I lived in Shanghai, I considered landscape architecture mostly artificial and see more programming and infrastructure than the natural landscape itself including topography, hydrology and vegetation, etc.

Nevertheless, after getting into college, I started to see and actually feel more nature by taking landscape architecture classes but mostly by experiencing nature, some through field trips, some simply by looking at the endless prairie while taking a bus trip to Chicago. Overall, I started to consider this great switch in my geographic location and lifestyle more and more worthy and exciting rather than overwhelming.

At first, I felt that I was a lost individual who lived in the gap of two societies and caught up in the middle of two cultures, two space, which was most of the time, confusing and frustrating. However, the experience and the diversity of it could be precious over time. These days I fly like a bird to different cities by myself as I am so used to the changes and enjoy my own adventurous spirit whenever I go to a new place. I will close my eyes and listen to the sound of the wave hitting the seashore at Point Reyes, climb up a cliff at Yosemite, wander through the historic trail of Boston. When I go back to my hometown Shanghai over breaks, I read the city with a whole new perspective. Wherever I go, with companies or by myself, I tried hard to enjoy every minute of it and found something new to my understanding. Overall, I found the tranquility and peace of mind within my enthusiasm and passion for landscape and life.

Every step I left on the trail I remembered and carried it on to my future journey so I gain my power and faith as a vibrant spirit. Like this I will keep exploring the unknown and embracing whatever life brings me.

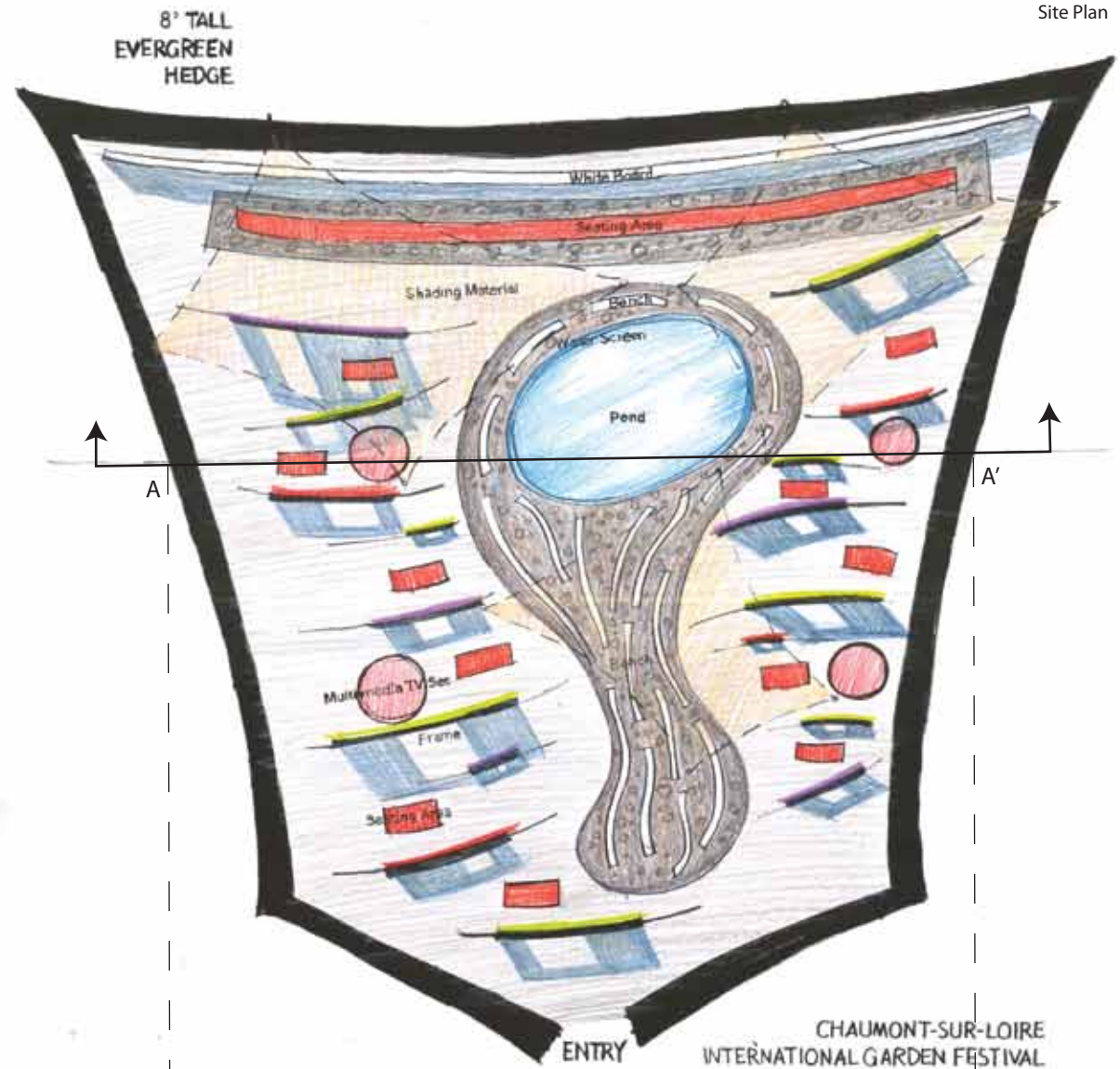
Thus this portfolio is done by chronological order as I consider it as an reflection of each stage of my life that varies once in a while with study and life experience. The works include selections from sophomore studio classes to the latest work from Junior year and summer internship at EADG, which vary in style, approach, and hopefully sophistication.

Chaumont-Sur-Loire International Garden Festival
Body & Soul Garden | Chaumont-Sur-Loire, France
 LA233 Fall 09' Fundamental Studio
 Individual Work

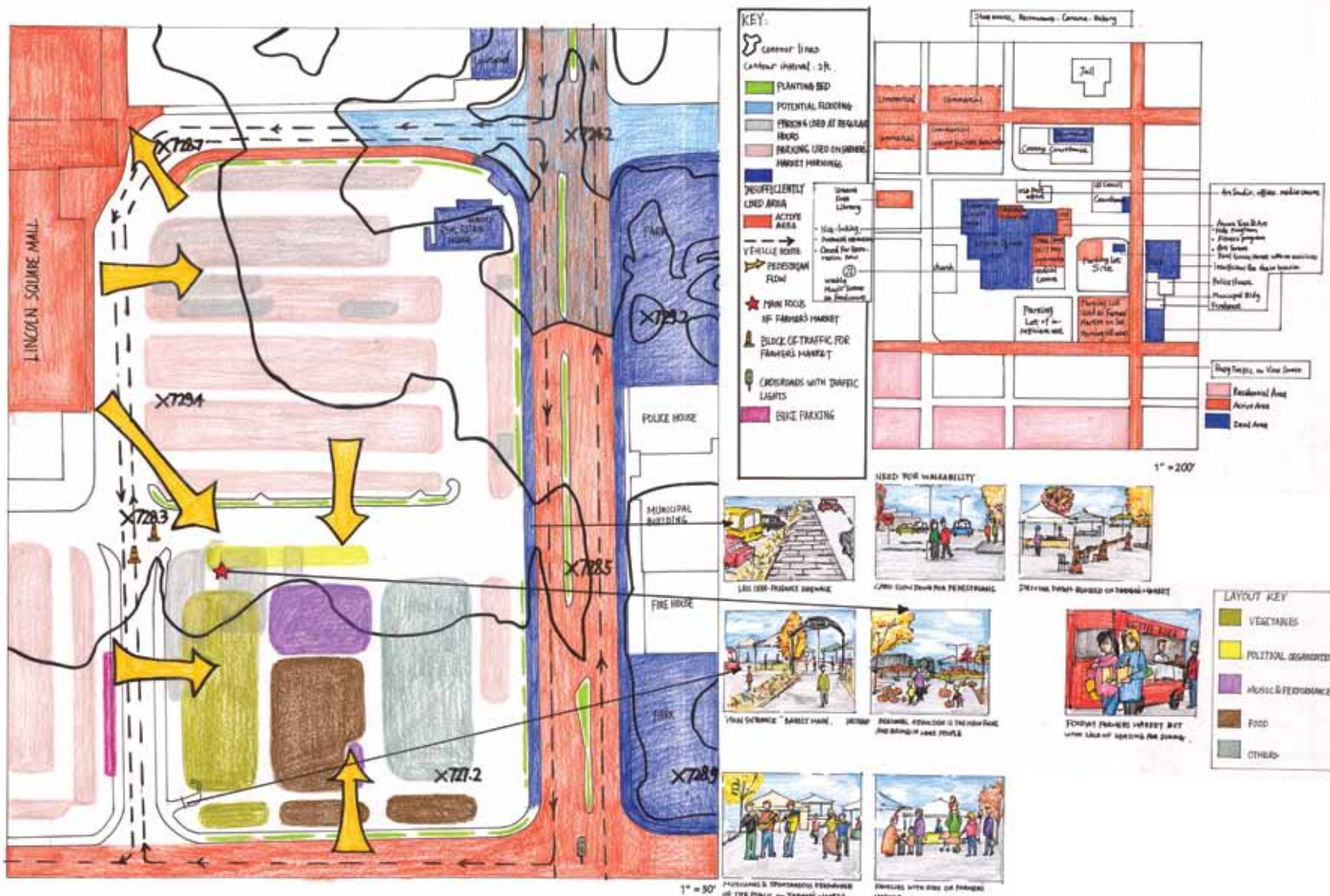
This was the first design studio project which familiarized me with traditional means of design presentation including hand rendering, lettering, using scales and graphic pens. This project also inspired me in sense of developing design concept and schemes. The design tries to create a contemporary garden space that makes people associate their movement with their thoughts by opening up options of moving in aspects of speed, direction, etc.



The Frames



Section 1"=8'

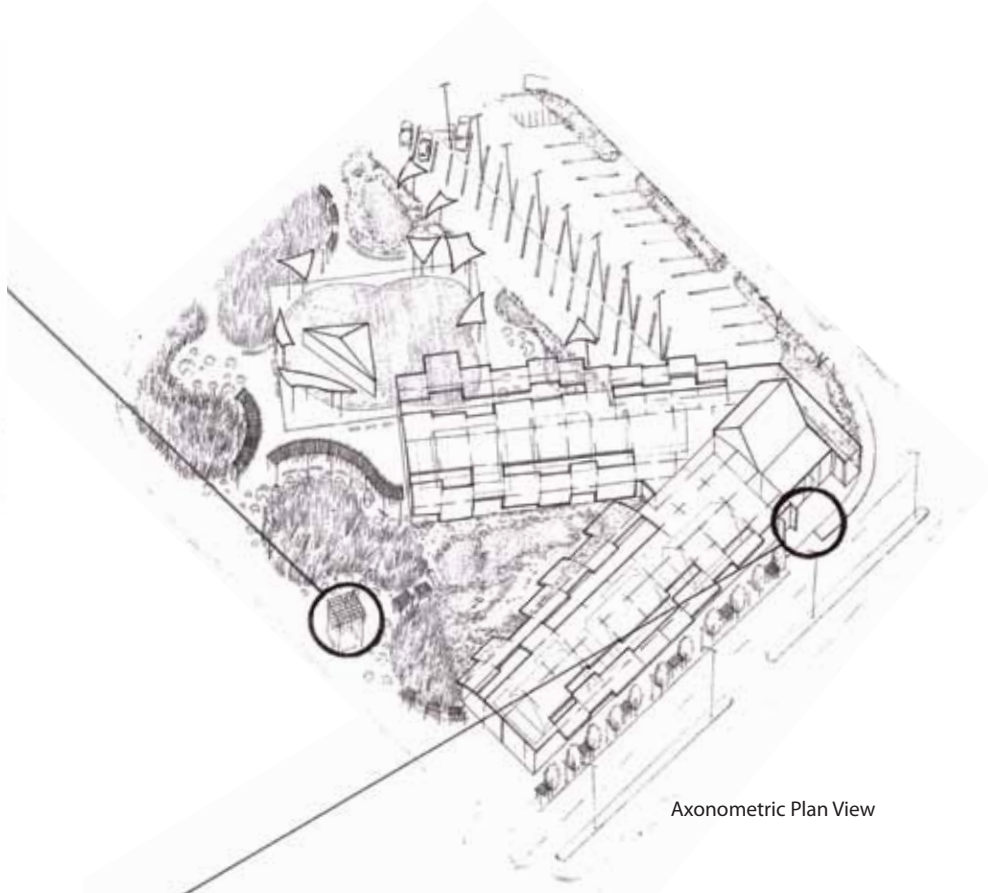


Lincoln Square Mall Park | Urbana, IL
 LA233 Fall 09' Fundamental Studio
 Individual Work

The site is located in downtown Urbana in front of the Lincoln Square Mall. The design goal was to create a hot spot for downtown Urbana in aspect of urban planning. This project also introduced problematic sites with issues of safety, flooding, etc. I learnt to design with limitations from site conditions and developed the skills of site observation and analysis.



Pergola with Seating & Children's Play Structure



Axonometric Plan View



Greenhouse Cafe



Green house and Bus Stop



Play Structure & Lighting



Winter Dynamics



Central Pond & Deck



Site Plan & Cross Sections

Jiading Eco Park Design Competition | Shanghai, China
 Summer 10' EADG Internship
 Group Work
 Designers: Alan Johnson, Matt McGinley, Carlos Silva

This was my first internship as a design assistant at a big international firm back home in Shanghai. It was an extraordinary experience working with designers from the U.S and Europe. I learnt a lot of things that had not been taught at school. The team worked on a schematic design for an Eco Park in the suburb of Shanghai. I participated the whole process from meeting the client till the final presentation. For the design, I developed several analysis diagrams, did all the auto CAD work and rendered all the sections, several blow-up site plans for the garden rooms. At the end, I helped translating the final document into Chinese. It was a precious learning and practicing experience, which got me a better idea about the profession and scope.

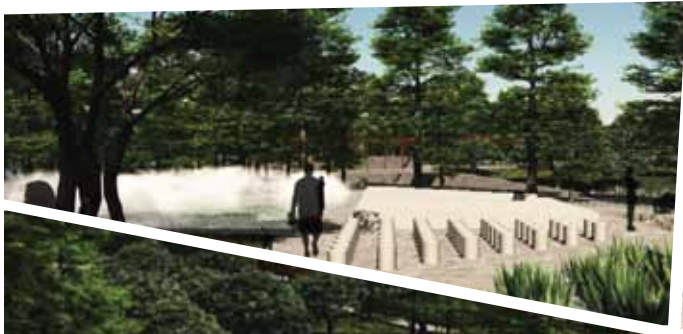


Site Inventory & Analysis



Site Inventory & Analysis
 (Rendering by graphic support)

Tangram Plaza



Bamboo Garden



Market Plaza

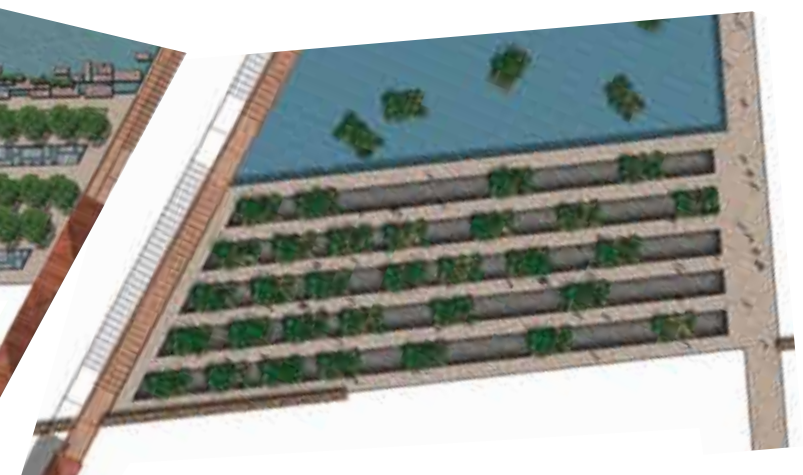
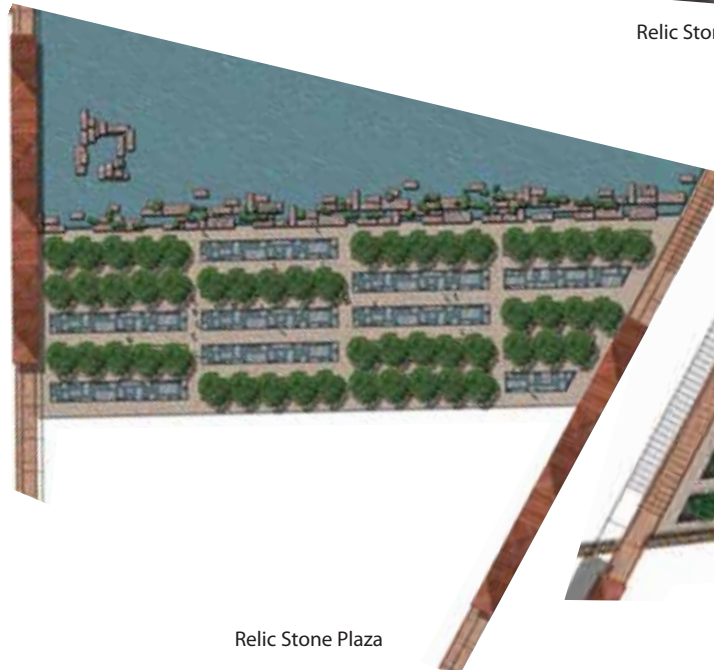
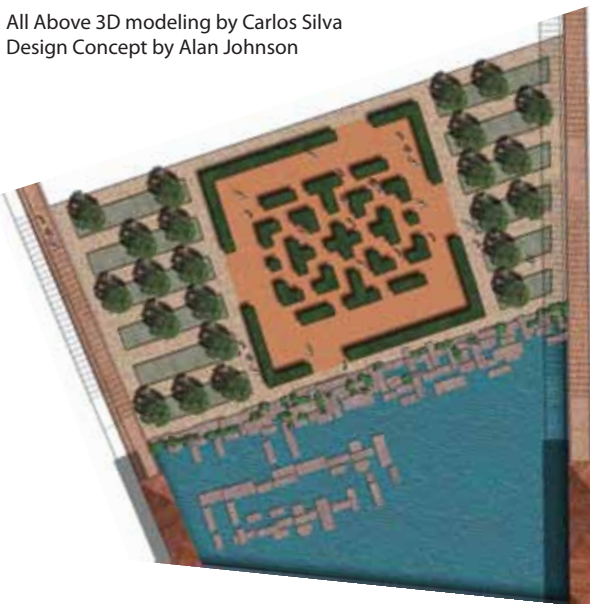


Children's Maze Garden

All Above 3D modeling by Carlos Silva
Design Concept by Alan Johnson

Relic Stone Plaza

Field Plaza



Children's Maze Garden

Relic Stone Plaza

Field Plaza

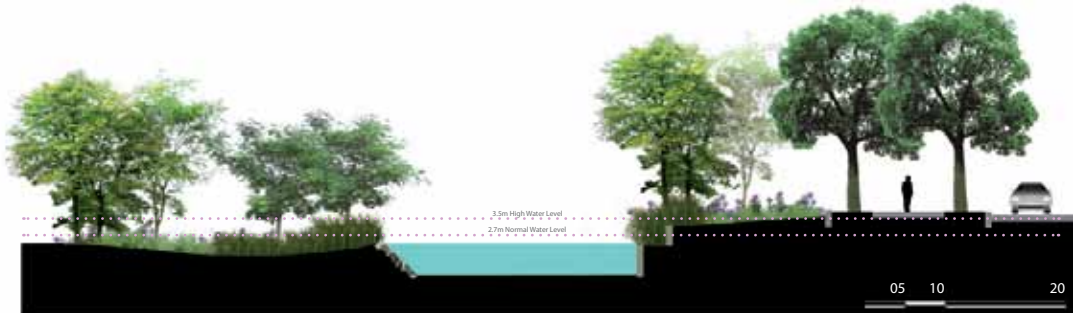


Water feature was a key design focus on the site. The existing canal is not functioning ecologically or as any social assets with high value. I participated the study of the canal system and did section drawings for the proposed canal design, including the diverse embankment and water treatment system.

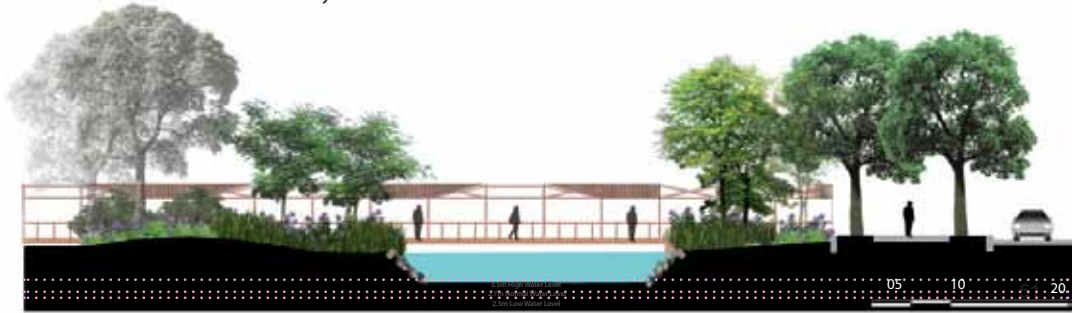
Bank Enhancement



South Canal



South Canal with Covered Walkway



North Canal



Well Fountain



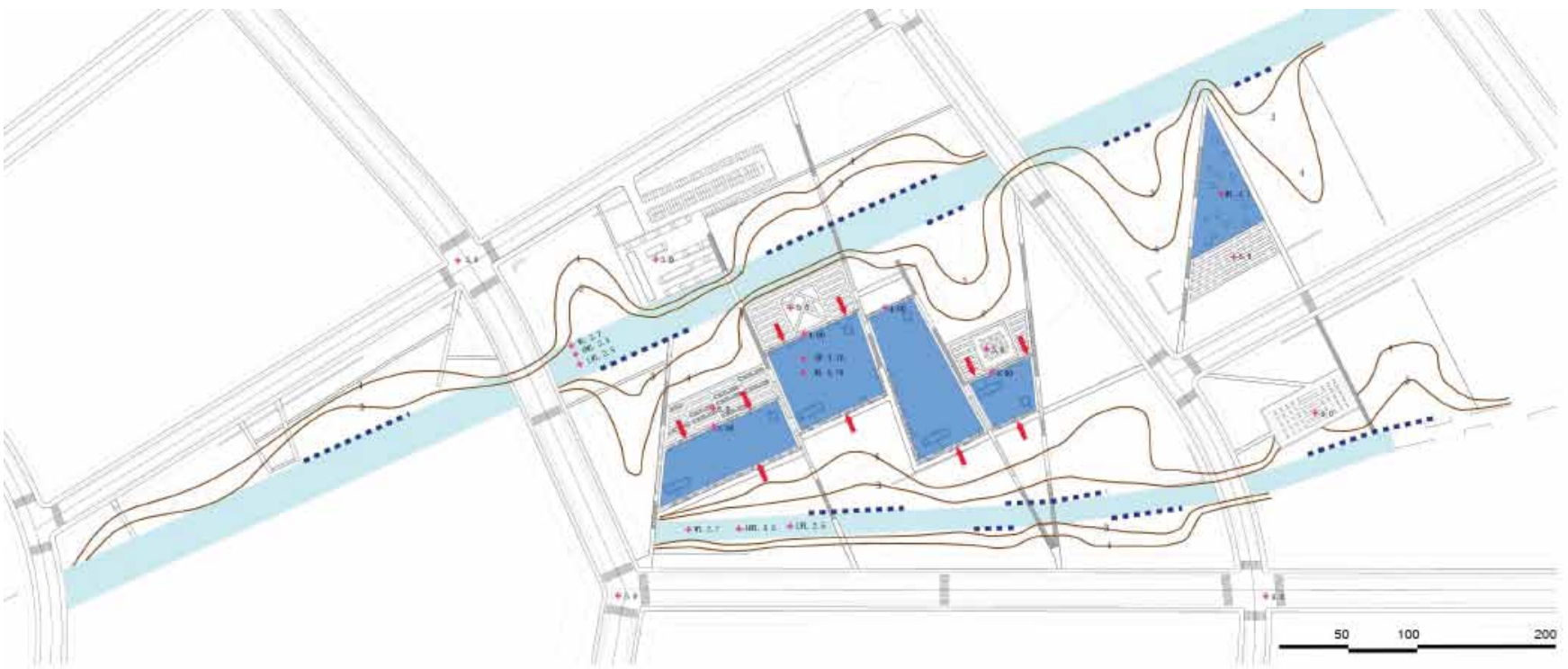
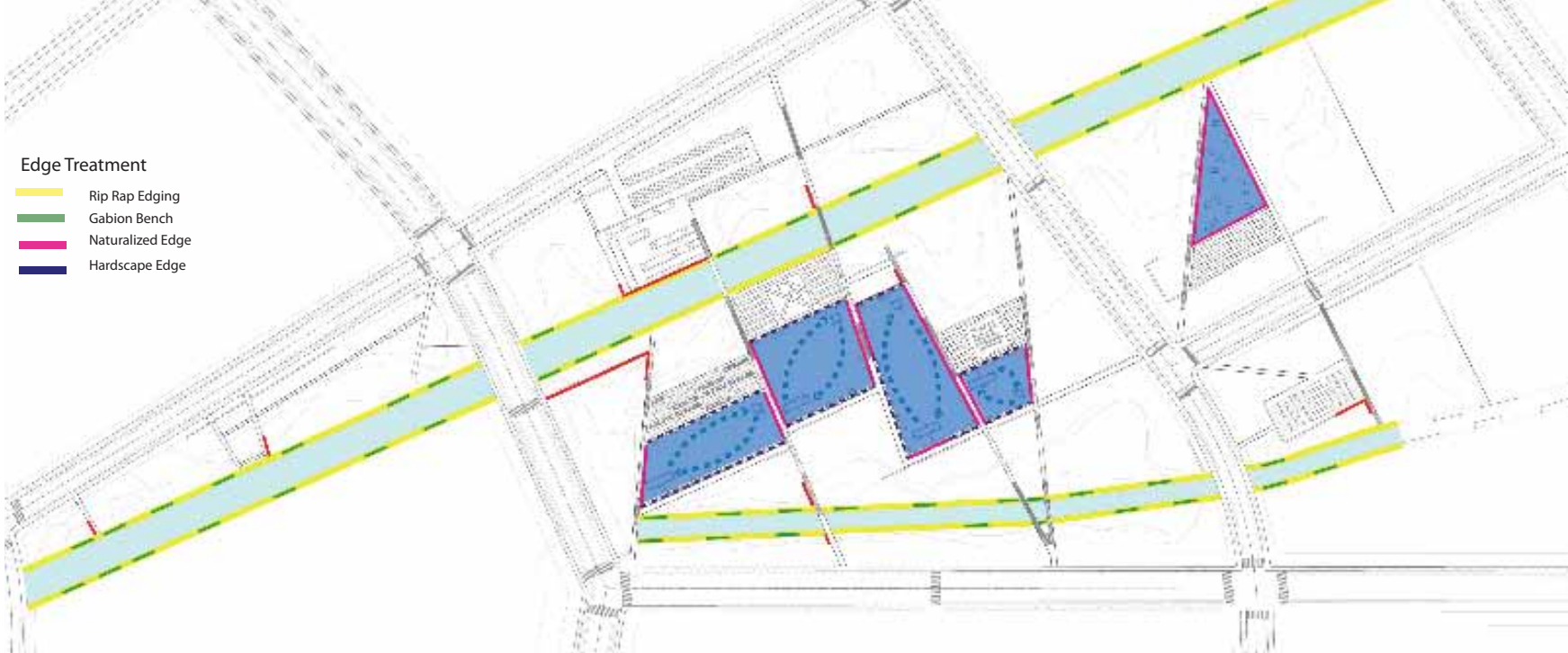
Return Outfall



Water Self-cleaning System of Central Lake

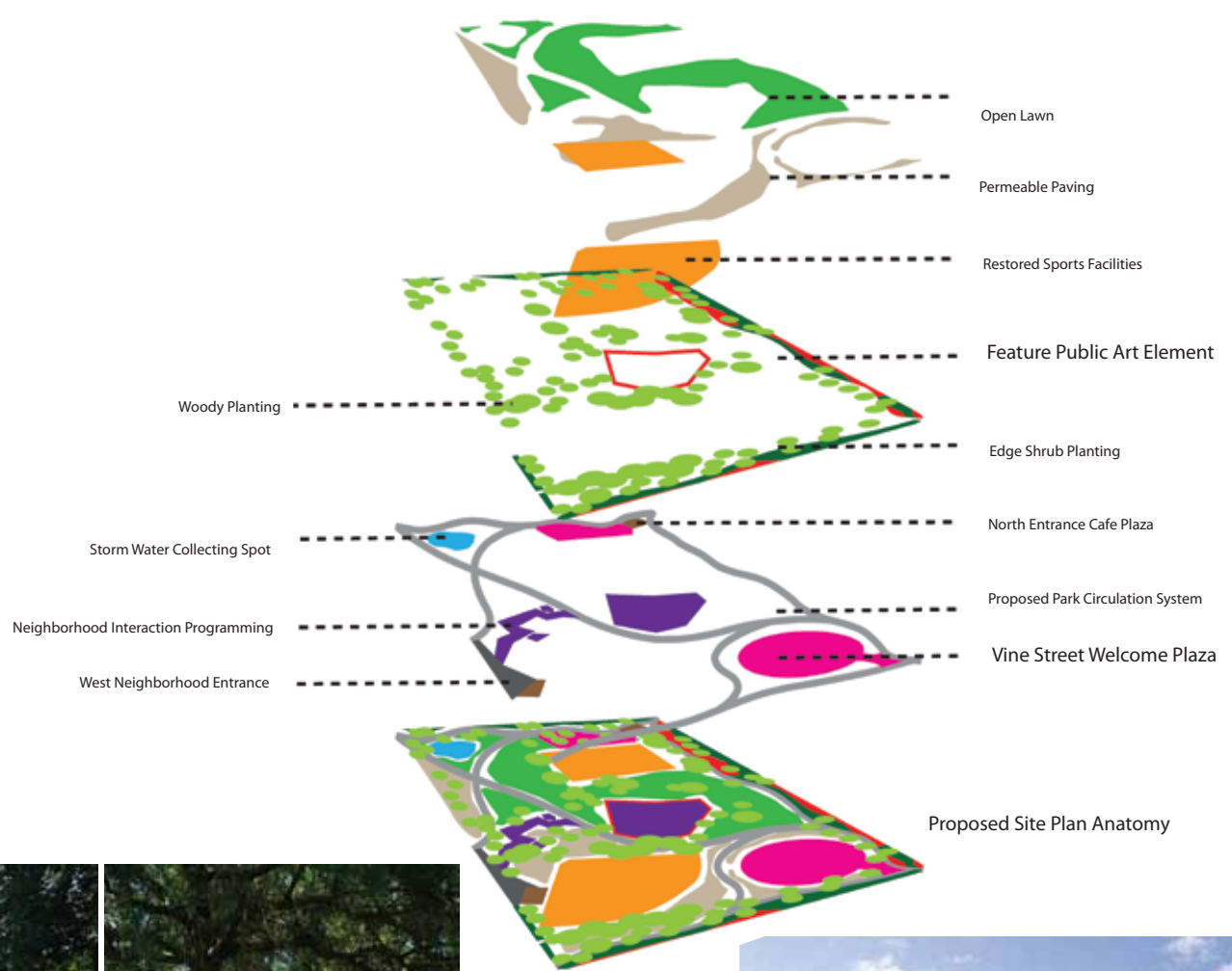
Improved Canal Section





Blair Park Restoration | Urbana, IL
 LA335 Fall 10' Community Design Studio
 Individual Work

This first project of junior studio asked to redesign the Blair Park in Urbana neighborhood for better functions and creating gathering and recreation spot for the neighborhood. After my internship in EADG, I tried to use some of the skills I picked up in the office in this project such as using photoshop for redering. The design got rid of the previous excessive sports facilities and created more hiearchies within space, proposing new uses and programming on the site. At the same time, the design tries to be as sustainable as possible by using local materials and materials of low maintenance. For instance, the children's playground "The Discovery Belt" is an innovative playground basically composed of waste materials like dead wood, hay, sand and mud, which allows the kids to discover and find their own innovations during the process of playing.



Discovery Belt



New Sidewalk



Proposed Construction Materials

Legend

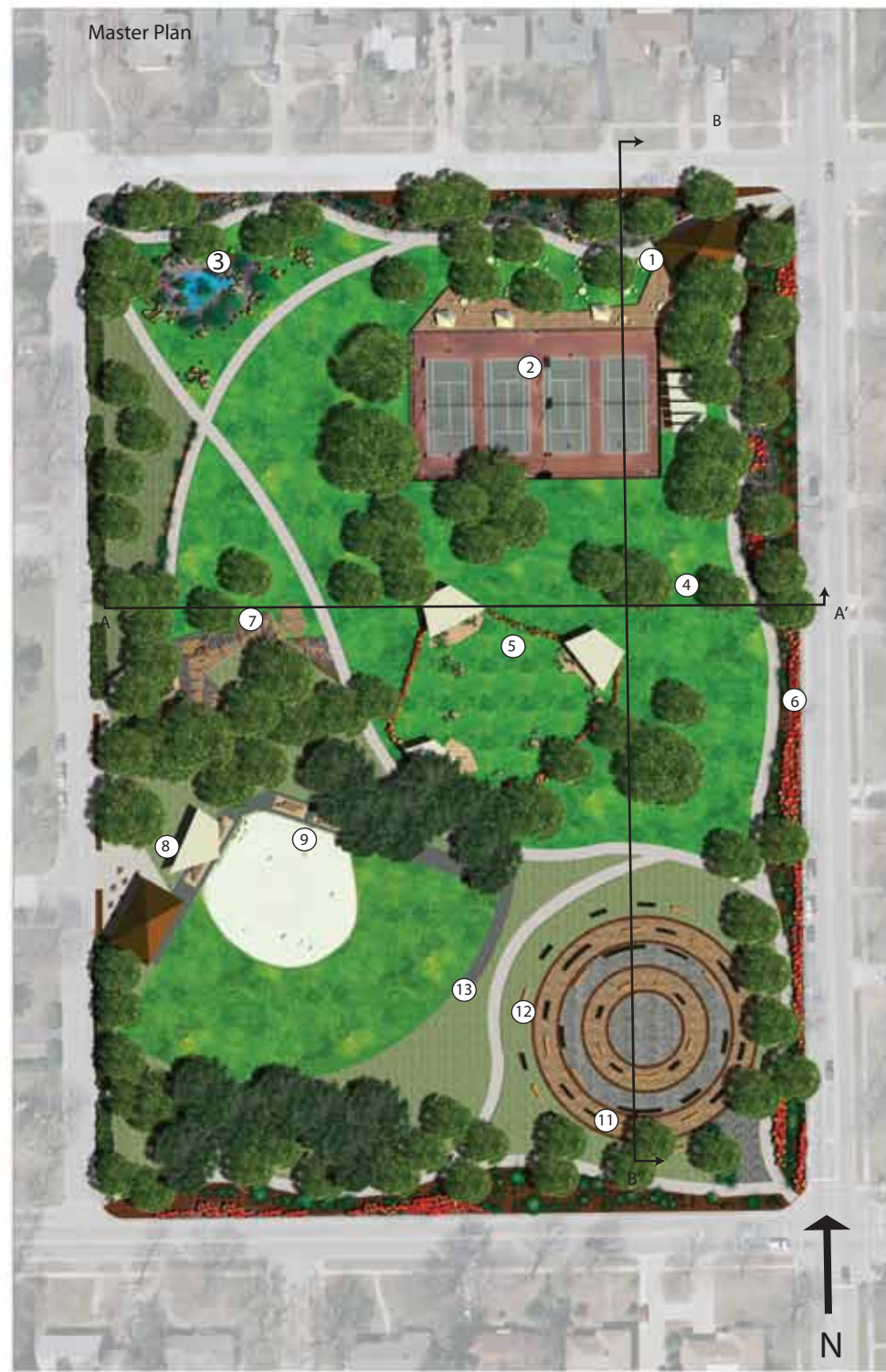
- ① Cafe Plaza with Movable Seating and Wood Patio
- ② Remaining Tennis Court with Restored Pavilion
- ③ Rain Garden with Interactive Big Rocks
- ④ Open Lawn
- ⑤ Dog Park with Big Rocks and Shelter Fenced by Feature Colored Pole
- ⑥ Feature Colored Pole Art
- ⑦ Discovery Belt Playground
- ⑧ Pavilion with Restroom and Facilities for Baseball Diamond
- ⑨ Restored Baseball Diamond
- ⑩ Welcome Plaza with Gabion Seating and Feature Walls and Pavings
- ⑪ Feature Red Gravel Paving and Shrub Planing
- ⑫ Sidewalk and Bike Path
- ⑬ Permeable Paving



Section A

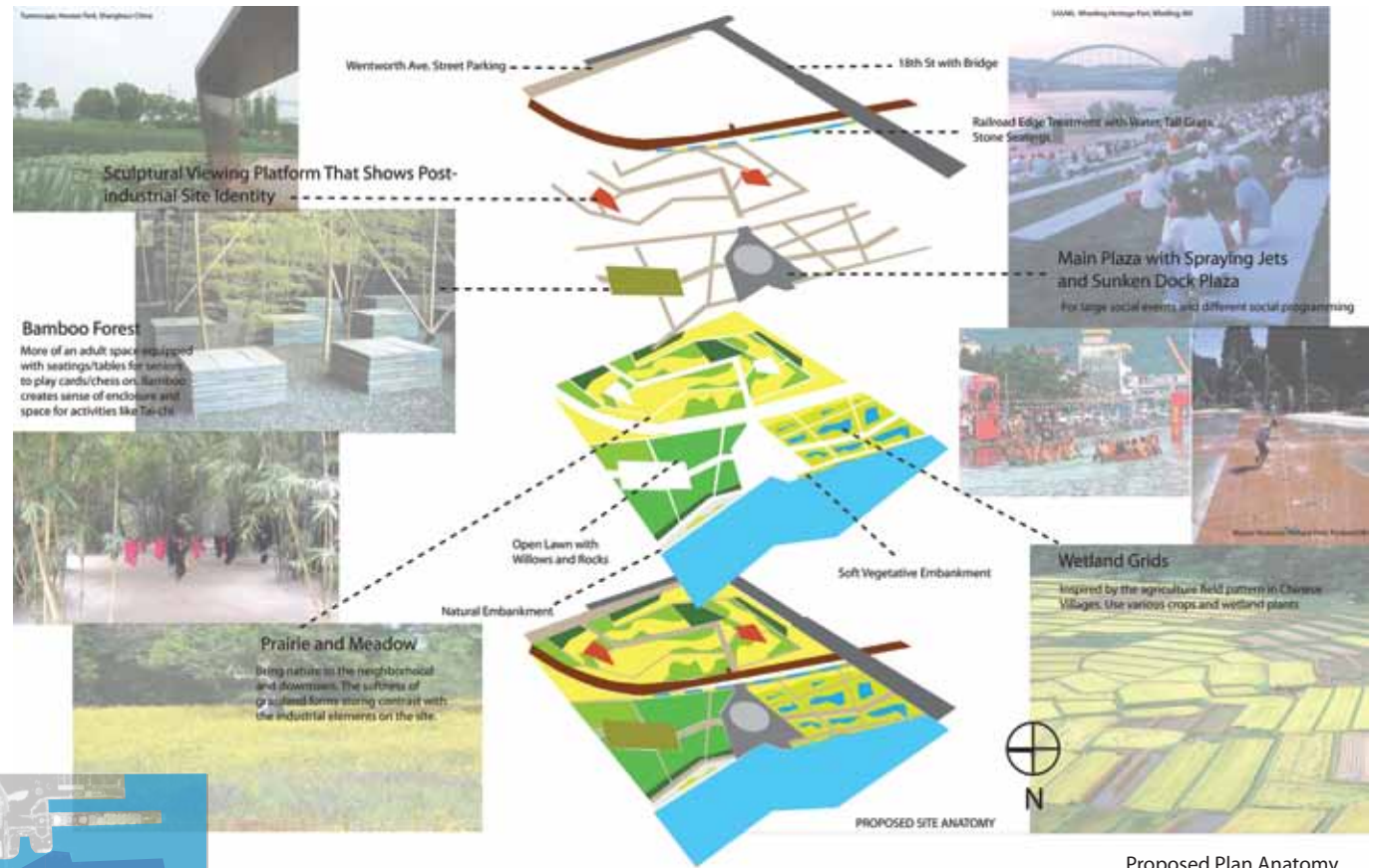


Section B



Ping-tom Park Expansion | Chicago, IL
 LA335 Fall 10' Community Design Studio
 Individual Work

Ping-tom Park Expansion was a project accomplished for LA335 Fall 10' semester. The site is located in Chicago Chinatown by Chicago River. The design was supposed to expand the Ping-tom Park based on its existing conditions and the needs of the Chinatown neighborhood society. Focus of the design lay on creating convenient connection, safe and enjoyable space for gathering and leisure, spots of attraction and an embodiment of the unique Chinatown culture. The style of the expansion part was supposed to be consistent with the built part.



Proposed Plan Anatomy

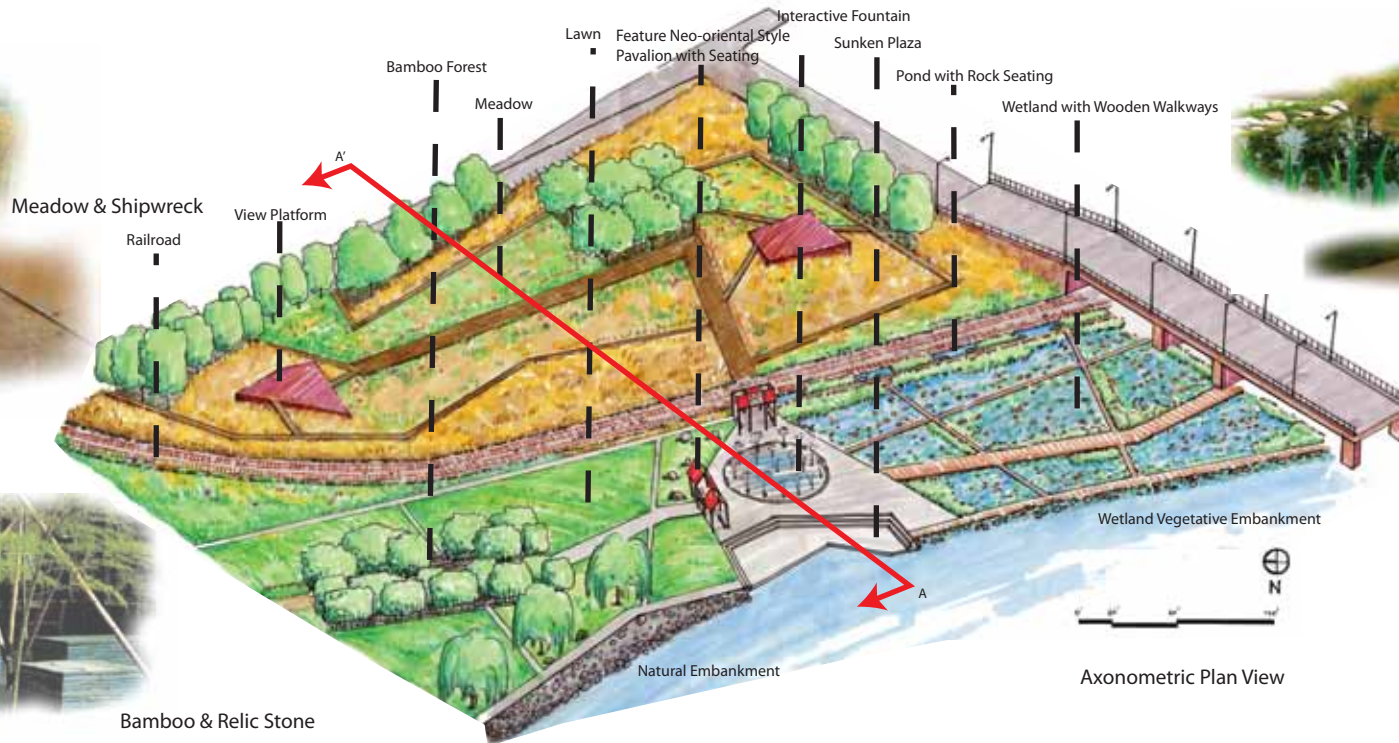
Site Analysis



Riverfront is basically used as industrial site, which is not visually inviting or environmentally pleasant. It makes the site the only and really crucial spot for open green space which brings nature into the neighborhood and improves the social well-being.

Chicago Water Taxi comes by the site approximately every 10 minutes. It well connects the site to the Loop commercial and business area as a means of public transportation and brings tourism potential to the site. For more information of the water taxi: www.chicagowatertaxi.com





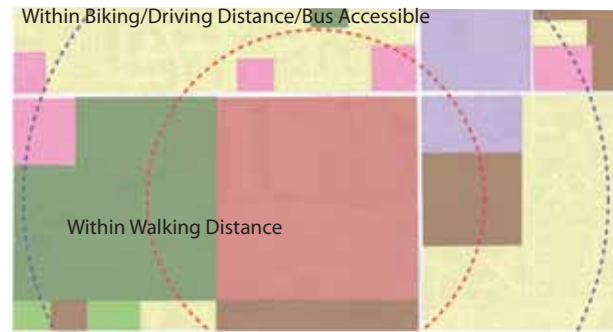
Pell Farm New Community | Urbana, IL
 LA355 Fall 10' Community Design Studio
 Group Concept & Individual Work

Pell Farm New Community was the final project for LA355 Fall 10' semester. The site is located in Urbana neighborhood on the cross intersection of Windsor rd. and Philo rd, right adjacent to the Meadowbrook Park. The project was to build a self-sustained community for the area in year 2050. The goal of the design was to create a sustainable neighborhood and to propose a more sustainable lifestyle by making the right design decisions such as increasing walkability and keeping the balance between human activities and nature.

The design solution, based on study of the soil and existing topographic conditions, created a bio-retention system that loops around the whole site and restores on-site storm water. The pattern of the neighborhood transits from a formal uniformed circle into an organic pattern that fits well into the natural environment. The concept was to respect the existing earth and natural pattern of the site and put nature as the priority to hardscape like roads and houses.



Hydrology Analysis
 Scale: 0, 400, 800, 1,200 Feet
 North arrow pointing up.



Land Use Analysis



Road Hierarchy and Traffic Analysis

- Residential
 - Commercial
 - Community Facility and Service
 - Farmland
 - Park
 - Neighborhood Space
 - Site
-
- Main Driveway
 - Secondary Driveway
 - Hiking/Bike Trail
 - Bus Stop



Wetland and Neighborhood Path



Wetland Broadwalk and Interactive Feature





Section B



Section A



Legend

- Meadowbrook Park
- Conifer Groves
- Wetland Trees
- Wood Broadwalk
- Wetland Shrub
- Wood Deck
- Wood Bridge
- Bioswale with Natural Embankment
- Large Single-family Home
- Main Driveway with Perennial Shrub
- Prairie Grass
- Multi-family Homes
- Soft Path
- Meadow
- Deciduous Trees

0' 50' 150' 300'



Community Wetland Blow-up Section Plan



Master Plan

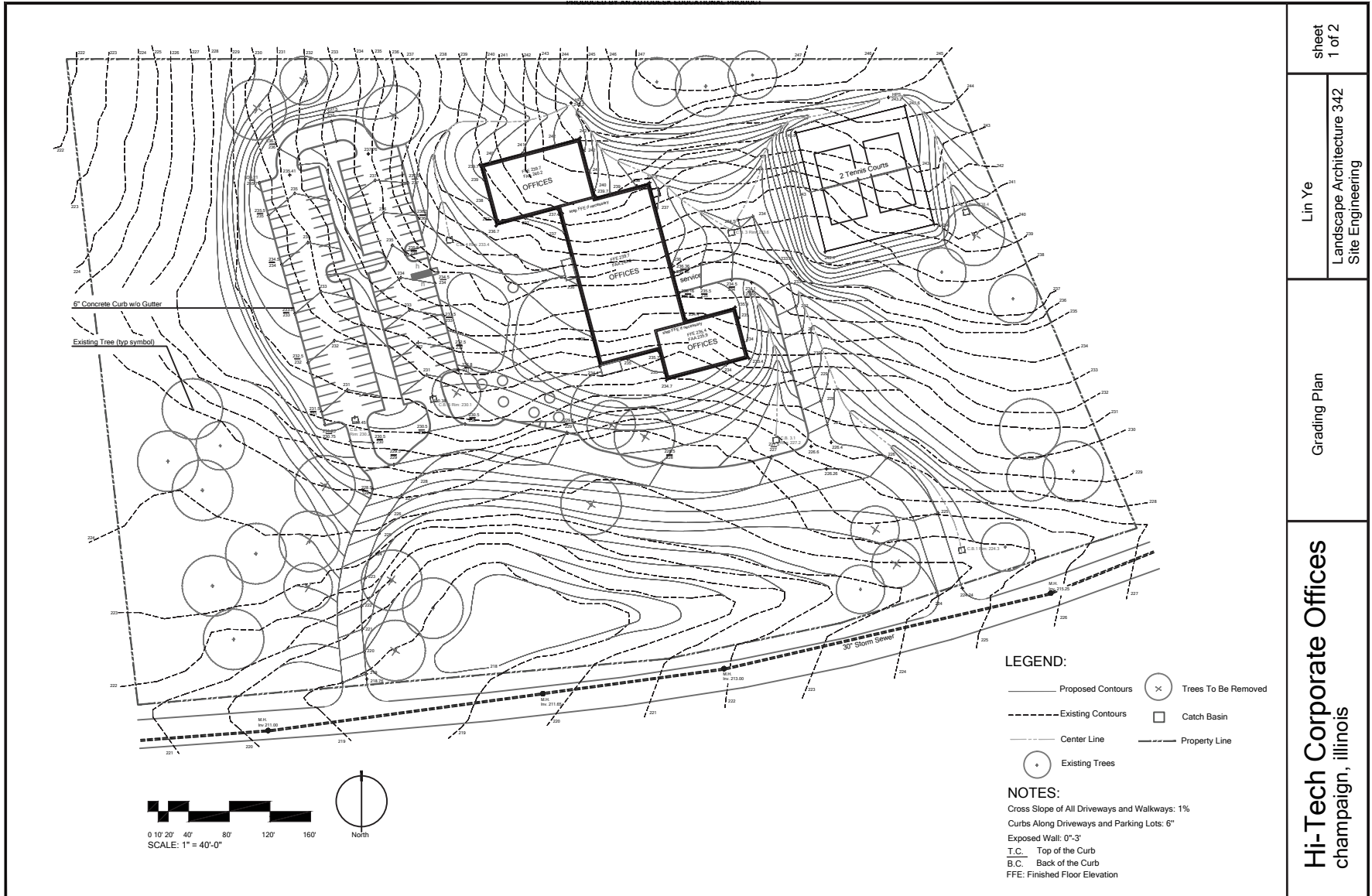
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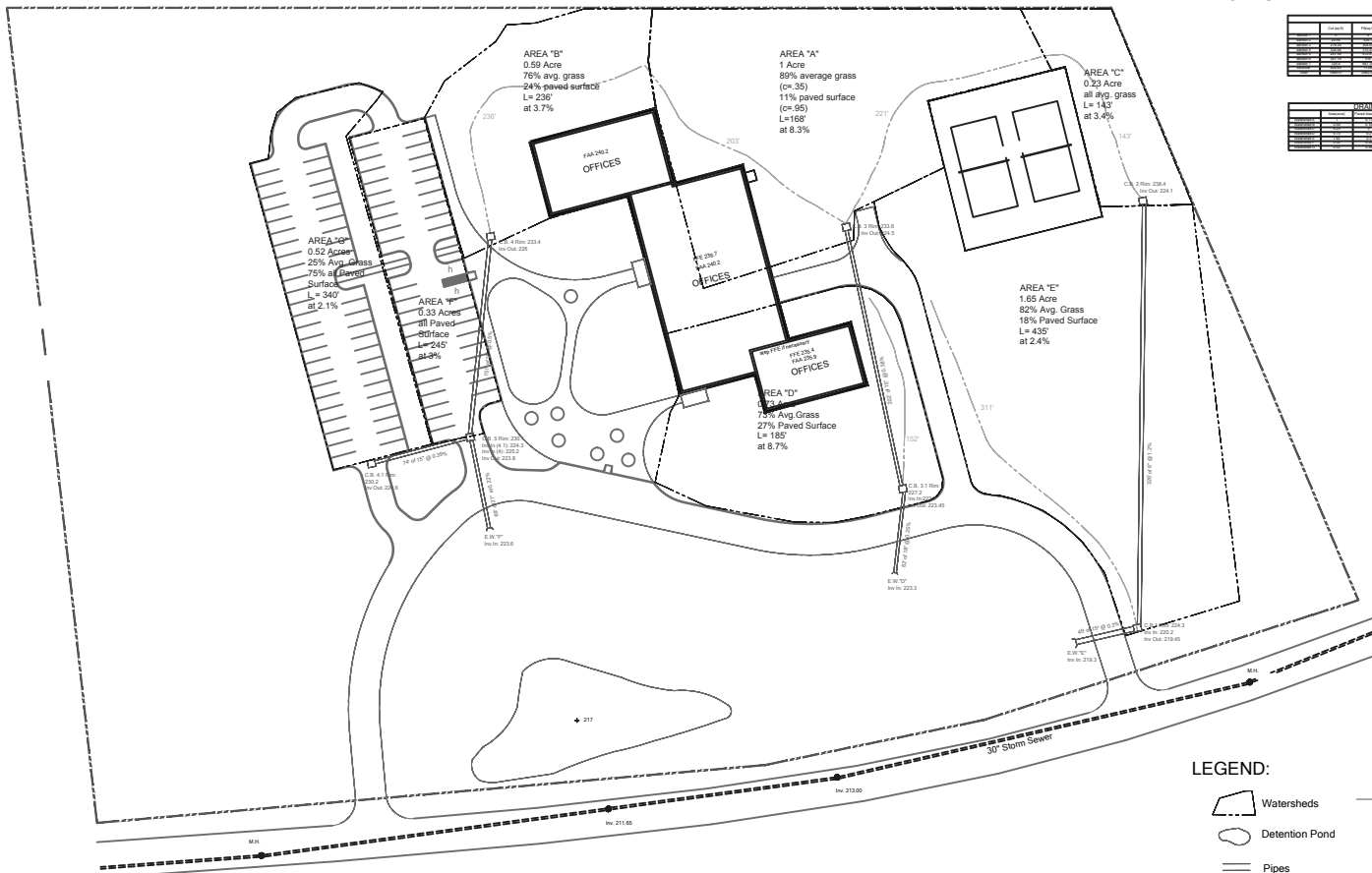
- | | | | |
|------------------|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Detention Pond | 5 Farmland & Orchard | 9 Small Single Family Housing | 13 Central Plaza |
| 2 Hill | 6 Community Centre | 10 Multi Family Housing | 14 Community Garden & Playground |
| 3 Prairie Grass | 7 Vegetable Garden & Farm | 11 Downtown Lofts | 15 Bioretention System |
| 4 Woodland | 8 Large Single Family Housing with Individual Yard | 12 Apartment Complex | 16 Wetland |



0 450' 900' 1800'

This project is a work sample from my site engineering class which helped me understand design in engineering aspect. It had a big influence helping me understand space in a 4 dimensional perspective and also start to consider practical issues about drainage and topography. It was a big progress in schematic design as I would really start to relate the design concept with site conditions and come up with more feasible and more sophisticated design solutions.

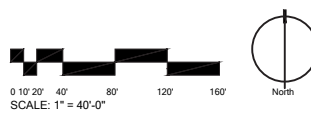




NOTES:

Dist. No.	Area	Permeability	Impervious	Runoff

Dist. No.	Area	Permeability	Impervious	Runoff



LEGEND:



SketchBook Work #1 | Guizhou, China
Summer 2009 Field Trip with Shanghai Artist Wei Li

I fell in love with traveling since my first oversea tour to Europe. Travel allows me to explore places and people that are unknown and different, which opened up my mind and broadened my experience at great extent. Some of the trips I take with artists back home whom go to the most beautiful natural and cultural landscapes for inspirations, some others I go with the university as a part of the landscape architecture curriculum, the others I go on by myself, relying on maps and internet, I'd go explore a completely unfamiliar city or area by myself on a break from school. I bring my camera and sketchbook with me wherever I go so I can record what really inspired and amazed me. Those, then became a part of my knowledge database and has been giving me lots of inspiration for design and life.

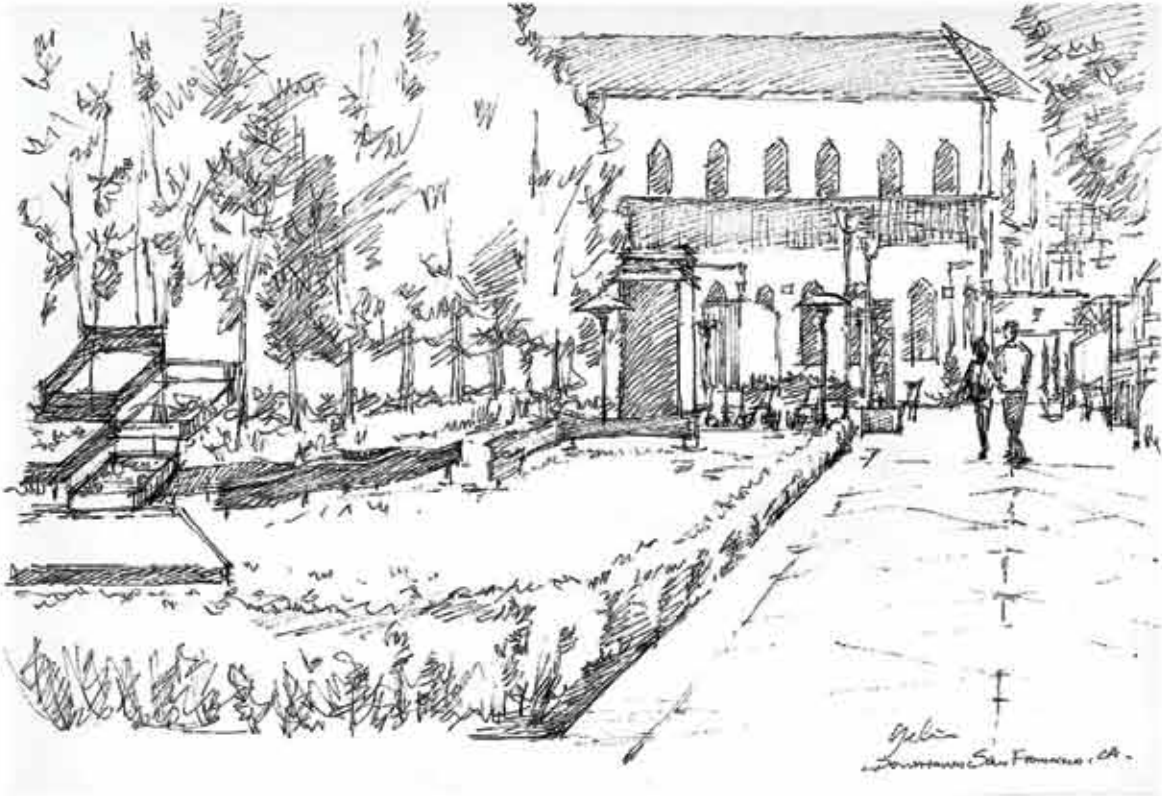
Here are some work selections from my sketch book of which the media are either pencil or ink pen. They are categorized by geographic locations as well as the time by which they were done.

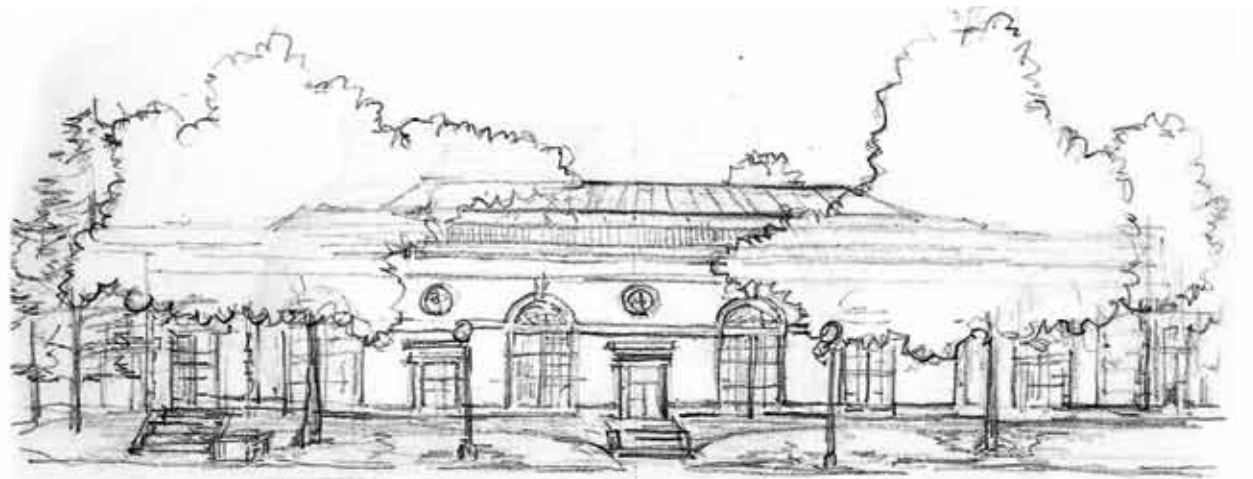


*Yehin
village in Guizhou, China*

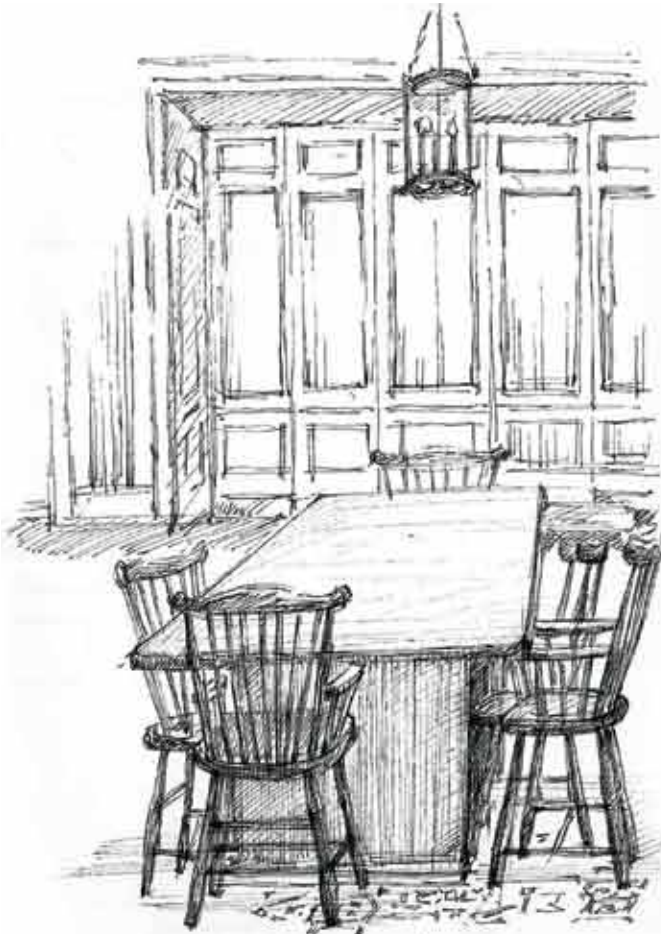


*Yehin, NOV.12, 2009 40 min
Ethnic tribe huts in Guizhou, China*





Lia Ye. Sep. 18, 2009



Yelin Oct. 10, 2009 20min
Chairs in the Union



Lia Ye Temple and
Inside View
Oct. 7, 2009 30min



Yelin Oct. 10, 2009, 35 min.
Applied Technology For Learning in
the Science Center - 600 S. State St. Champaign, IL

