

Essays on a woman's Path, in four movements.

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Master Thesis 2020

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Presentation Film: please visit manonmottet.ch

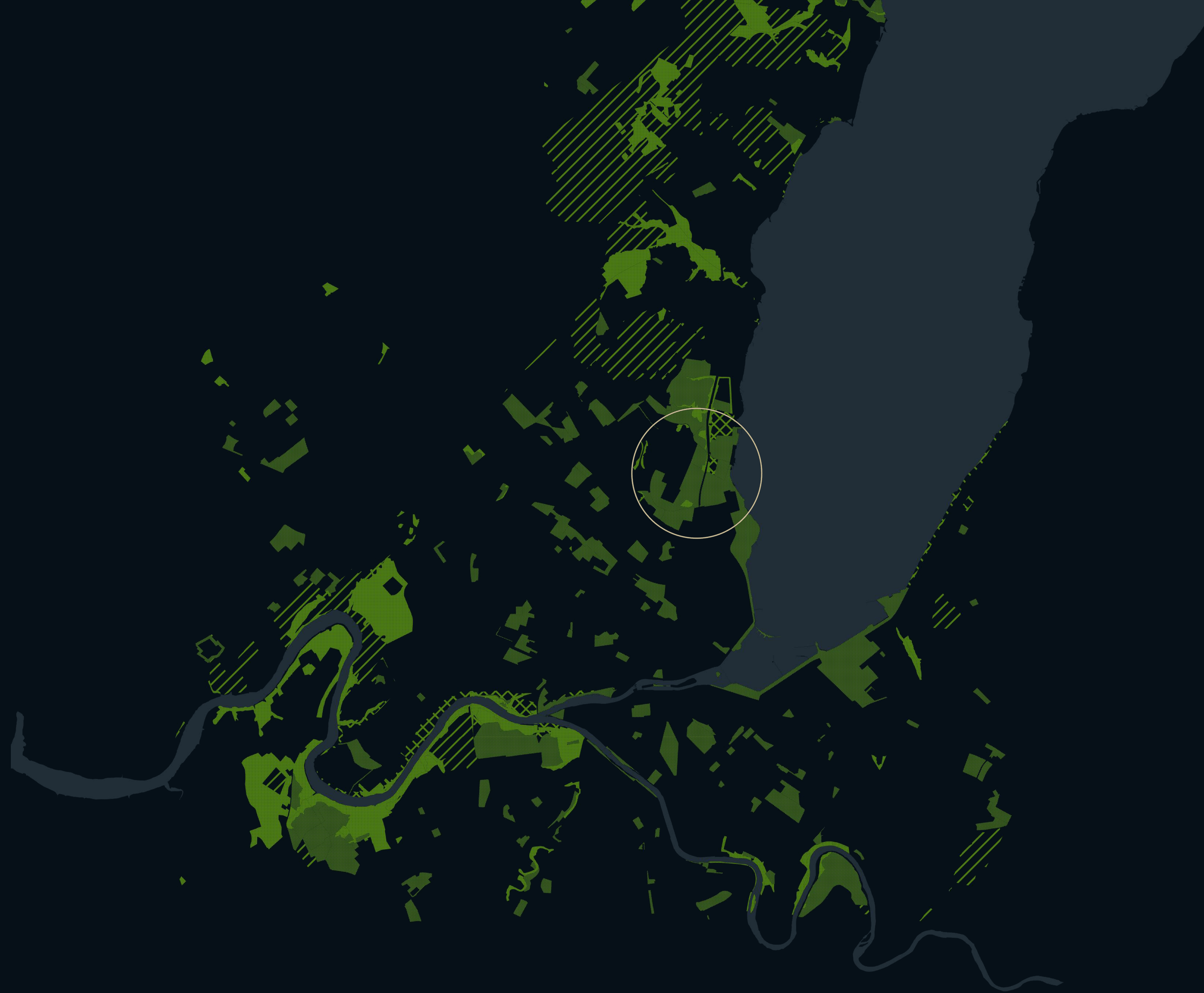
My dear, my sister, come with me on this path.
We will, below earth, meet the forgotten queens.
Step by step, let's encounter
The women that walked, walk
And will walk.

The Jardin des Nations in Geneva is composed by a mosaic of functions and infrastructures. Public parcs, international ground and associations, the passing train rail, roads, the botanic garden, all cohabit on the north edge of the city. This heterogeneous character and the resulting inaccessibility accentuate the divergences between the Nations district and the Geneva. It is a space of in-betweens, where the public urbanity meets the enclosed representative built entities.



Building Footprint

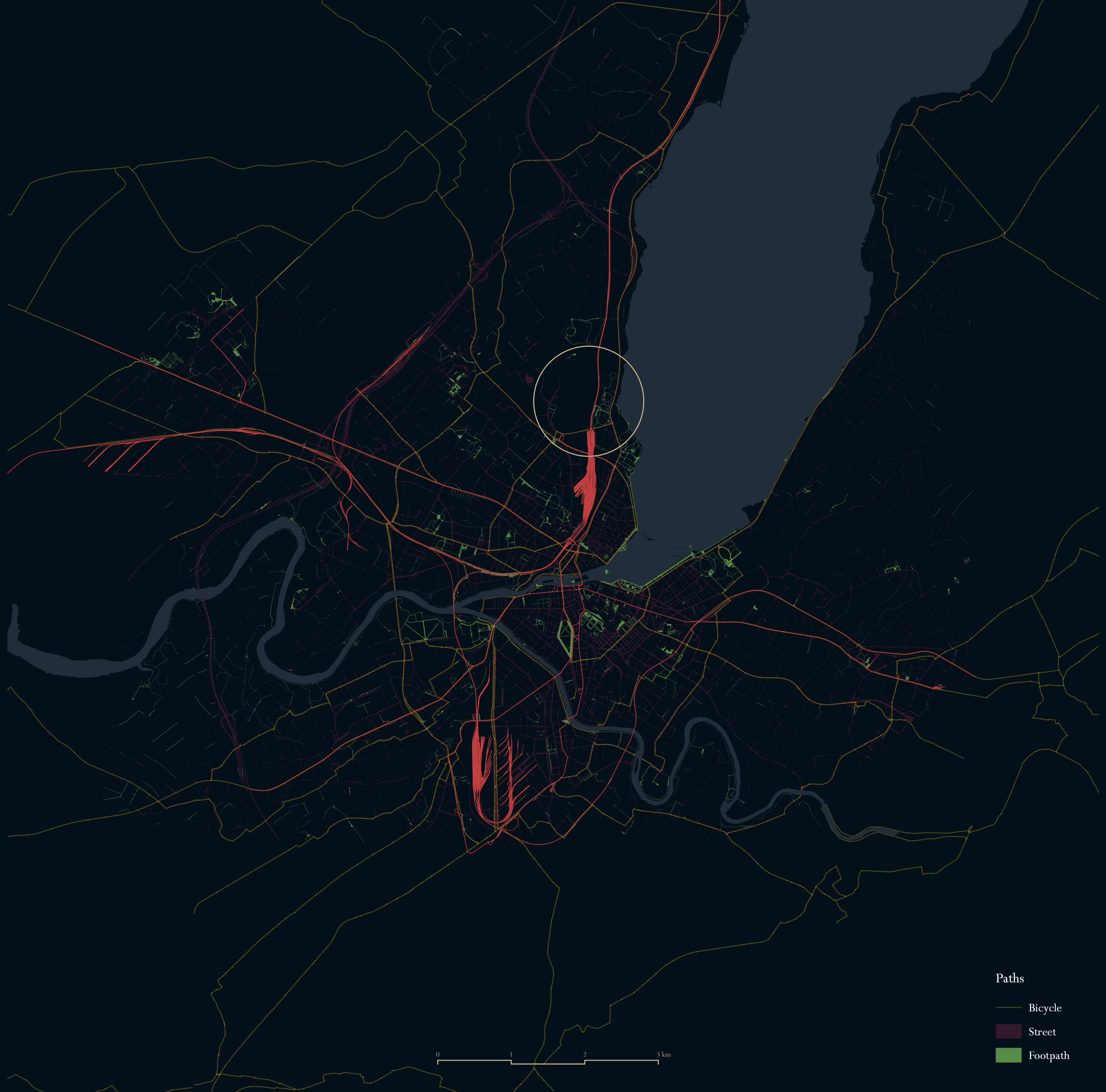
- Existing
- Projected



Green Areas

- Green Zones
- Forest
- Agriculture
- Protected Zones

0 1 2 3 km



Paths

- Bicycle
- Street
- Footpath

0 1 2 3 km





Property

-  Confederation
-  Geneva State
-  Geneva City
-  Commune
-  FIPOI
-  Foreign State
-  Internationale Organisations

0 200 400 600 800 1 000 m





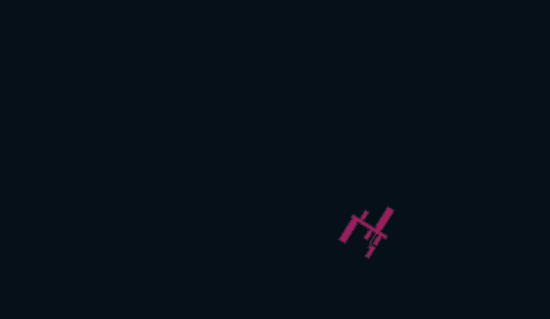
Typologies

- Mansion
- Related Property

Choosing a woman's lens to observe the perimeter revealed yet another in-between layer. Composed by historical figures, the evolution of feminism and its related appropriation of space, it also touches the urgent question of the woman's body in the public sphere or the importance of daily and long-term care work. The reading of the Jardin des Nations around those elements synthetized in the four topics of care work, invisibility, presence and accessibility.



Women's associations



1940s - Interwar Liaison Subcommittee in Geneva

1946 - Creation UN Status of Women Commission, after the fight for an Equal Right Treatsince 1926

1976-1985 - UNO Women's Decade

8 mars 1984 -World Feminin Association in support to World Disarmament Campaign

1910ies-20ies - Feminism, League of Nation and l'Esprit de Genève

1920ies-40ies - Interwar feminism, Internationalism and feminism, the rise of a global consciousness

1975 - Urban interventions and protest actions by the MLF for abortion right and contraception

1st Mai 1976 - MFL (Mouvement de Libération des Femmes) squatted the Café Papillon for 3 month, until the destruction of the building by the city of Geneva

1975 - MFL Interrupting the Conseil National (95% mens) debate on abortion

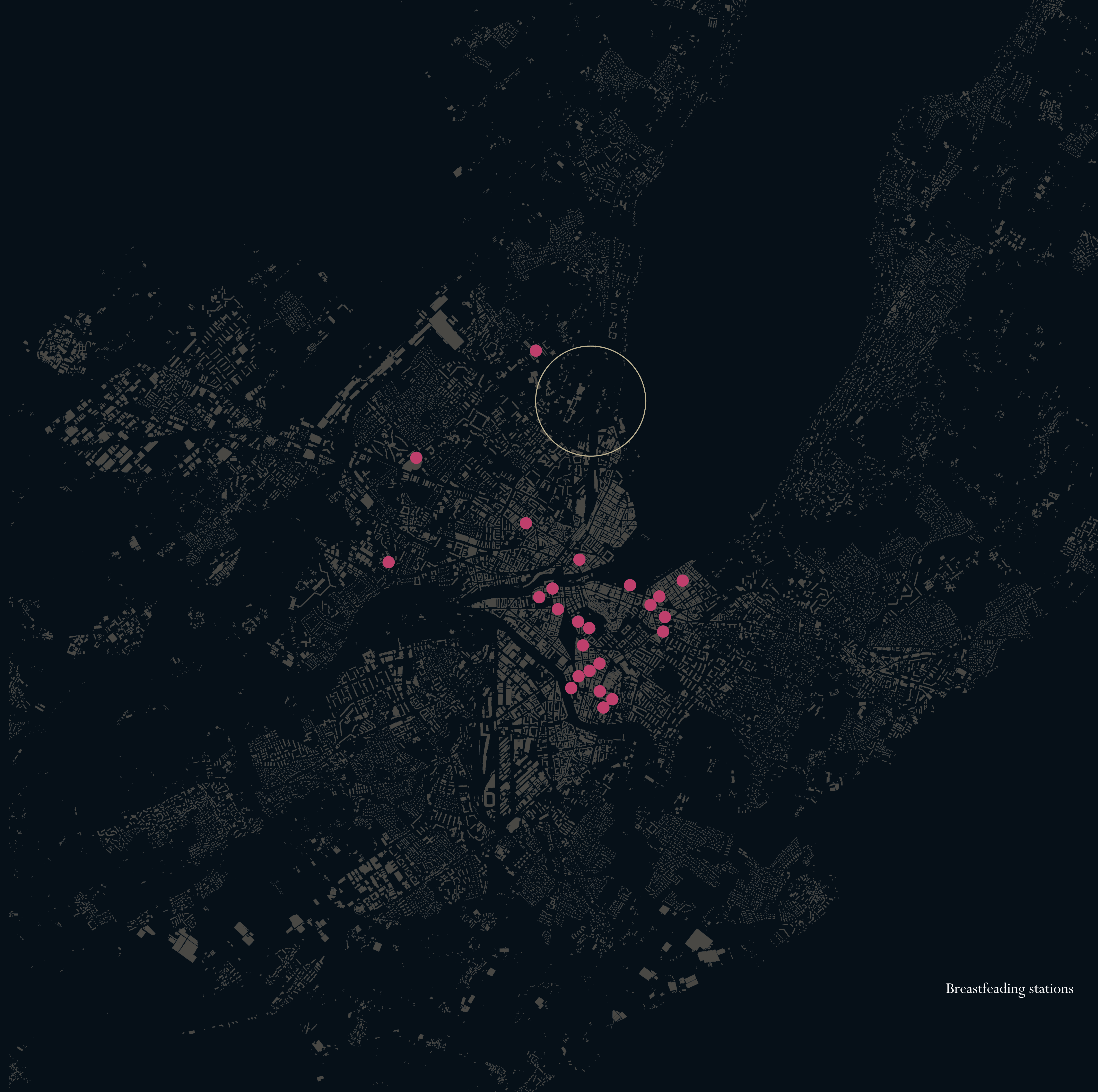
14st June 2019 - National Feminist Strike

Septembre 2020 - Collège de Pinchat manifestation against 'shame t-shirt'

Manifestations

Place/Path

Unknown location



Breastfeeding stations

The first step was an embodiment of the path. Linked to the women I met during my research and the feminism notions I encountered, I choreographed rituals of care work, history re-reading and rising up. This approach constructs a moving landscape that tunes together the forgotten figures of the past, the feminist fights for rights and equality and the recognition of care work inherent to women's role in patriarchy with a tangible presence of a body in the public realm.

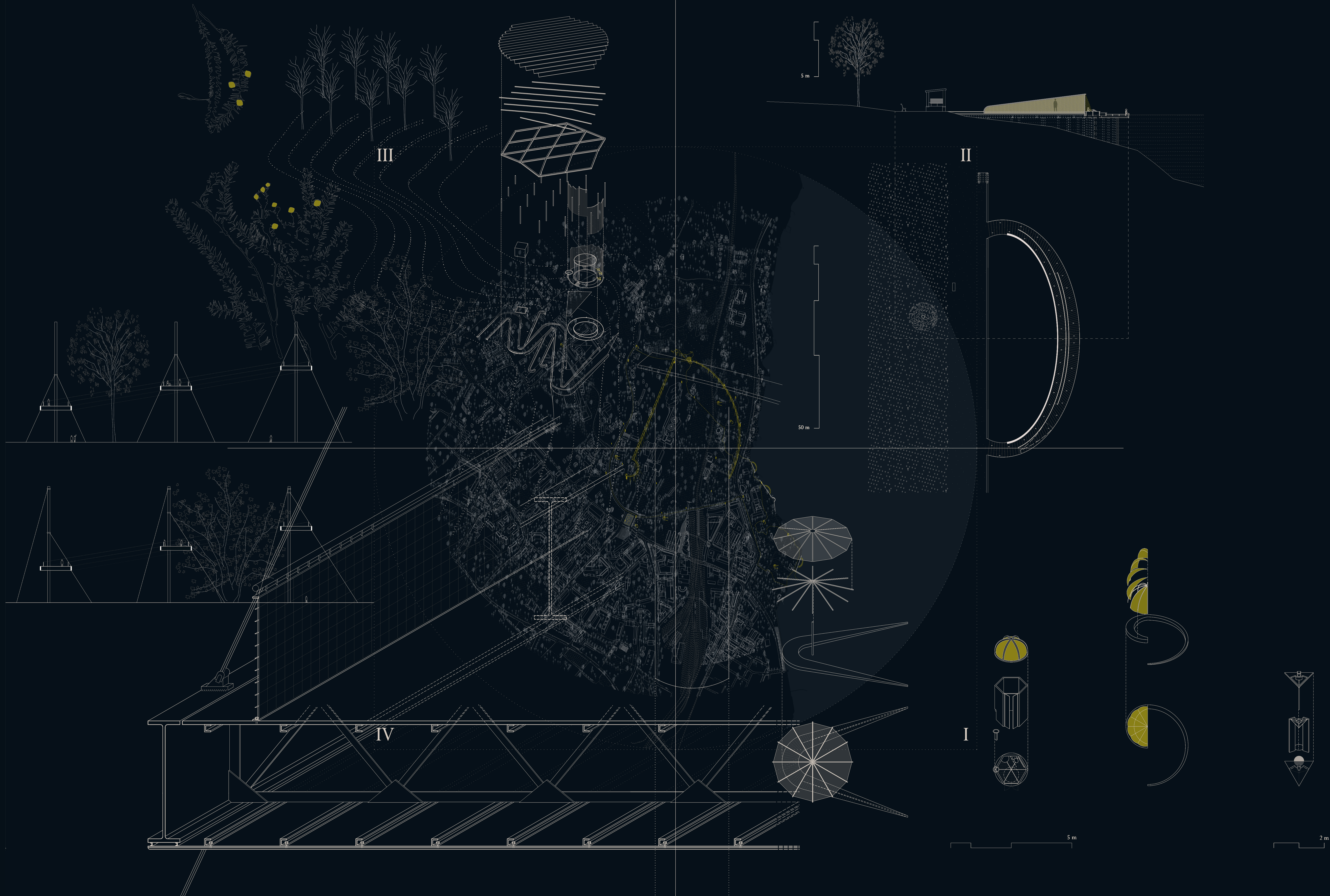
The topics of care, invisibility, presence and accessibility reach beyond solely women. They address all minorities and un-seen groups. Their quality as general topics allows proposals for other spaces essays. Enough structured to be recognized as public spaces, their programmatic is reduced to common essential needs. Their materialization offers variations on space perception, shifting the relation between the bodies and the public sphere. They aim to not reproduced an imposed traditional gendered vision on the urban landscape.





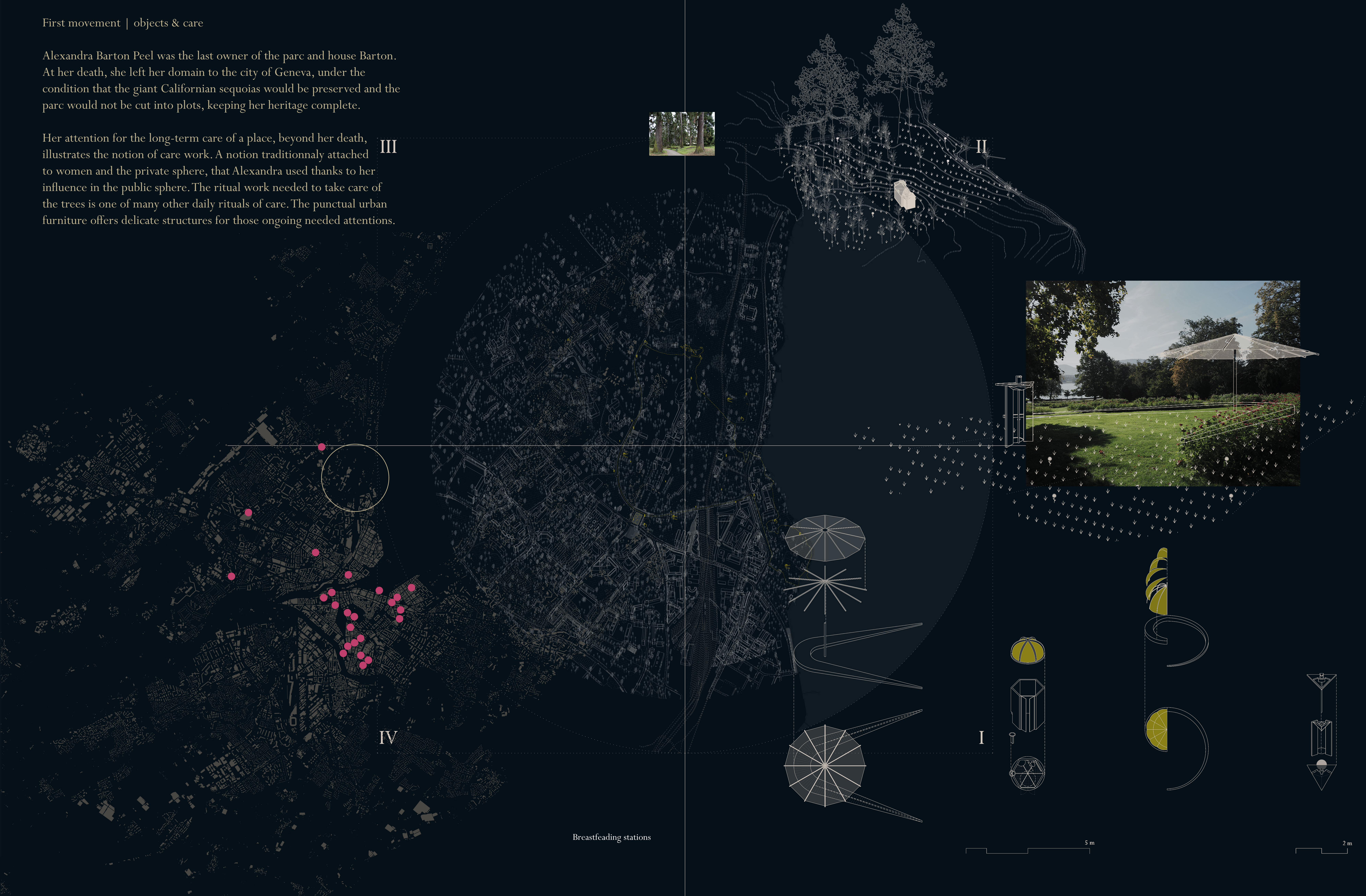






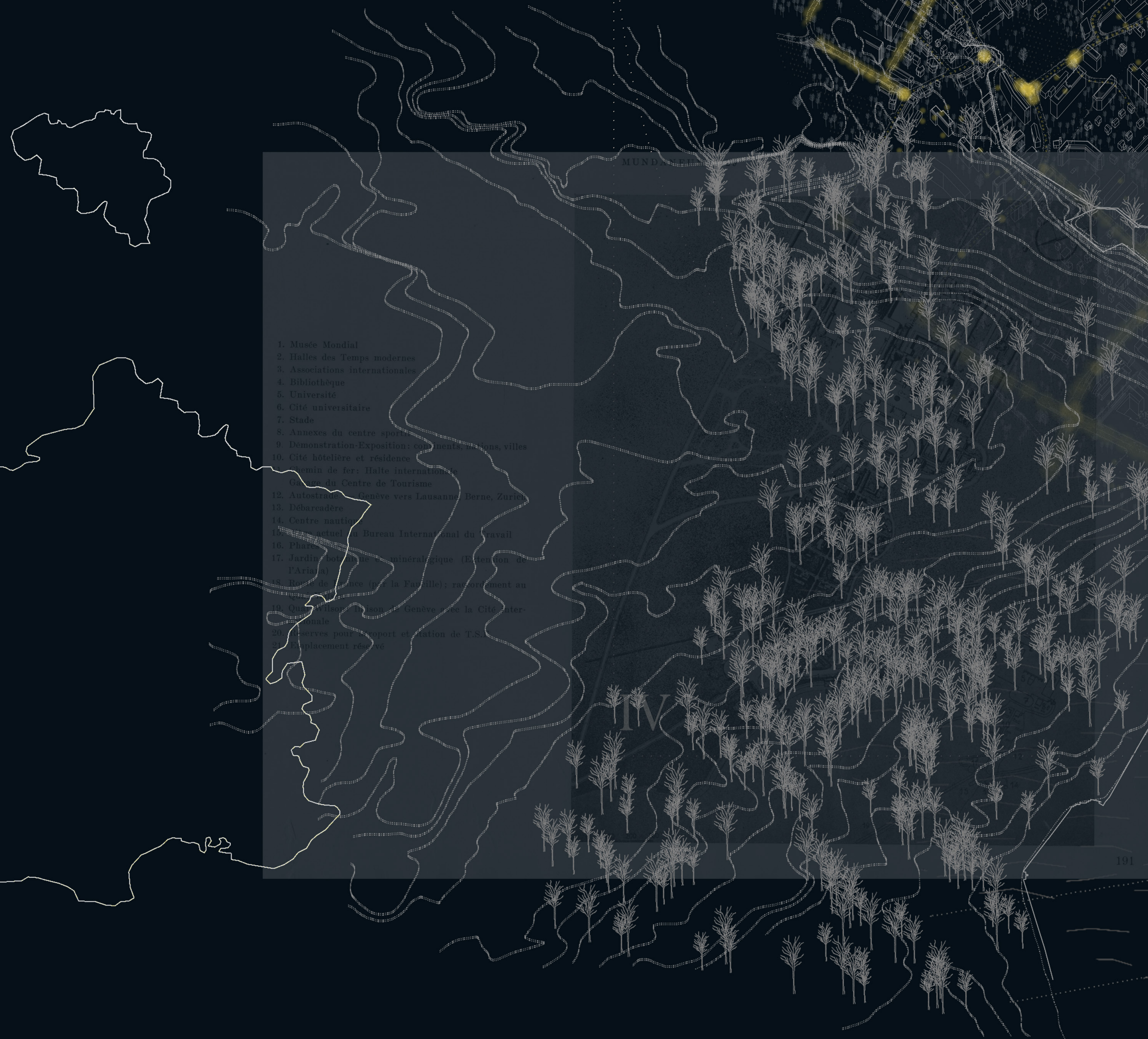
Alexandra Barton Peel was the last owner of the parc and house Barton. At her death, she left her domain to the city of Geneva, under the condition that the giant Californian sequoias would be preserved and the parc would not be cut into plots, keeping her heritage complete.

Her attention for the long-term care of a place, beyond her death, illustrates the notion of care work. A notion traditionnaly attached to women and the private sphere, that Alexandra used thanks to her influence in the public sphere. The ritual work needed to take care of the trees is one of many other daily rituals of care. The punctual urban furniture offers delicate structures for those ongoing needed attentions.



Charlotte Perriand and Léonie Lafontaine never met. Charlotte Perriand was a French architecte, designer, socialist and communist, among other things. Léonie Lafontaine was a Belgian feminist, pacifist and internationalist, among other things. They evolved beside men that worked on the 1927 Cité Mondiale project, a respond from an internationalist point of view to the competition for the League of Nation building in Geneva. Even if both women were considered in their domain, their names remain less visible than the one of their co-worker or brother. Still, they both embodied, through their works, the ideals of socialism, internationalism and pacifism inherent to the Cité Mondiale. The enactment of a fictional epistolary meeting between those two women imagines a missed history chapter.

The second movement touches the question of women’s visibility in history and public institutions, as well as in public in general. To find freedom spots in the public space, where visibility is not a harmful tool, is the approach proposed in the passerelles, that offers an anonymity through their translucent edge.

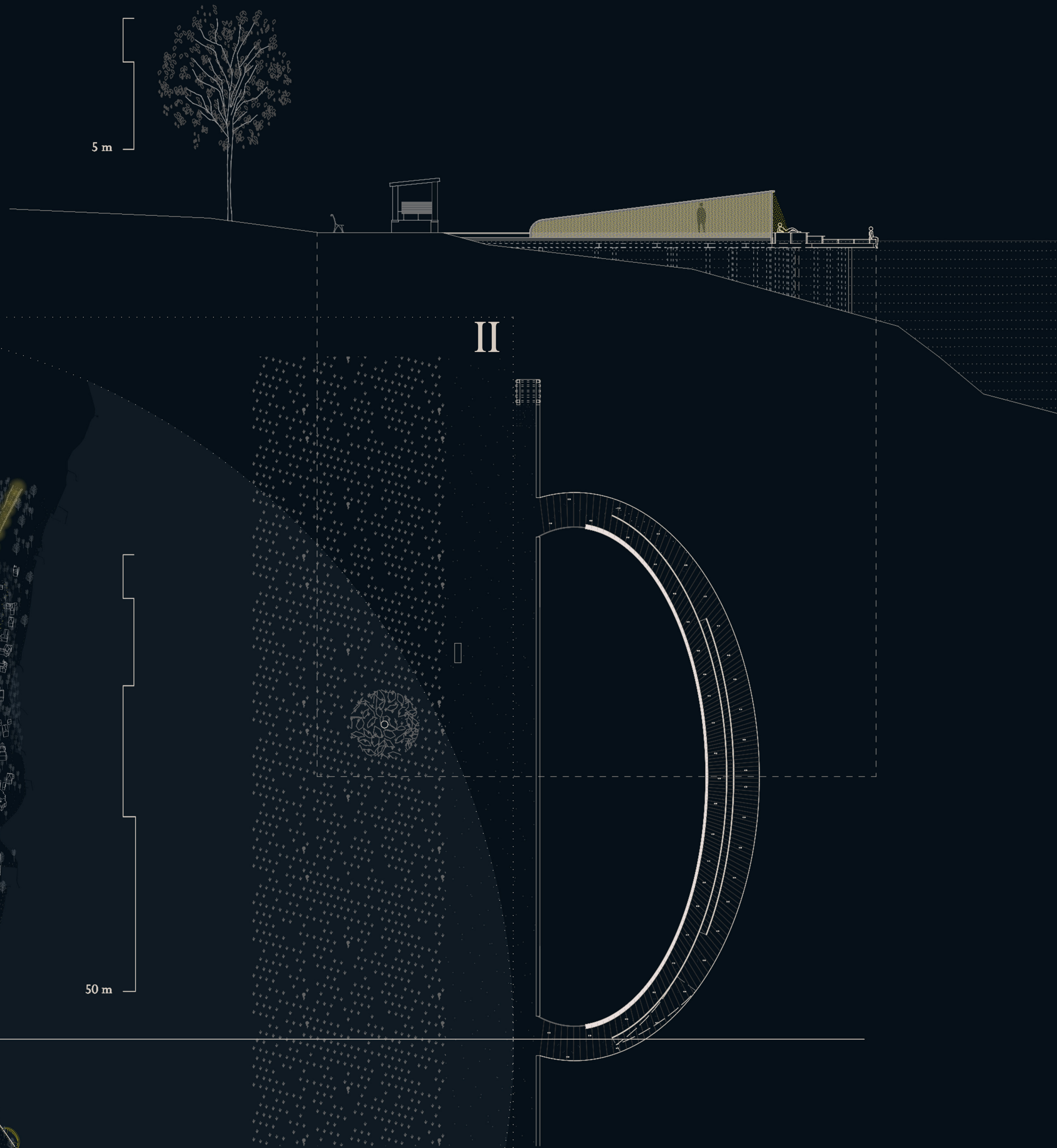


III

I



II



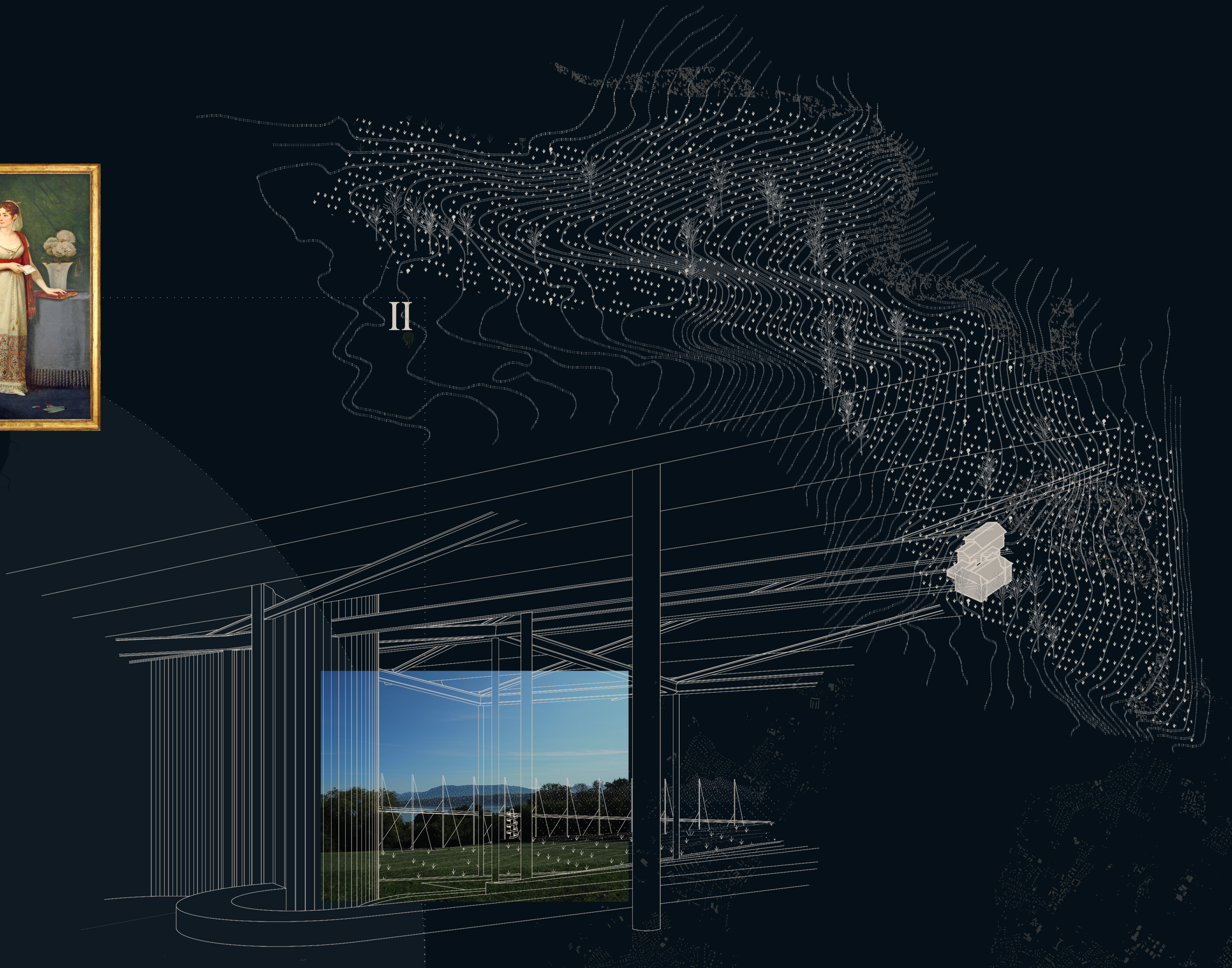
Third movement | witch hut & presence

Joséphine the Empress lived for a short time in the Penthes Castle. She possessed the biggest collection of exotic plants in her Malmaison domain, in France, and the herbarium she commandited is still conserved in the Jardins botaniques de la ville de Genève archives today. Among other plants, she is the woman that imported Mimosa in Europe from Australia. Her wealth and resulting freedom in space and time allowed her to have a presence in the scientific field and to research her interests.

The question of presence, of occupying space and the right to do so is address in the third movement. This topic is also linked to the space women occupied for their voices to heard. From the domain-mansion typology of women wealthy and free enough to be remembered, the space occupied by the first wave of feminism at the beginning of the XXth century was more abstract. Acting on the writing of laws and decrees, women such as Alice Paul and Magery Corbett, to only name two, fought for women's right and equality. Working with an international point of view on an institutional level with the League of Nations (the former United Nations entity), the space occupied by women drifted towards the public sphere.

The feminism of the 70ies took over the streets. Squats, actions in the public sphere marked a strong appropriation of the city by women. Today, feminism manifestations follow this heritage and approach topics such as the reformation of the woman's collective body perception, the attached patriarchal values it presupposed and the related mentalities changes it needs.

The proposed witch hut functions as a counterpoint to the Place des Nations, where expression and presence take place in an in-between space of privacy and publicness. Reaching back to simple elements of the protecting roof, the theatre ramp, the open stage and an enclosed room, the pavilion proposes an alternative to manifestation and larger group meetings.



- WHO - PMNCH
- YWCA
- Association Apasie
- Association PACTE
- WILPE NGO CSW
- Association Face à Face
- Association Lestime
- Association F-INFORMATION
- Association Camarade
- Association Viol Secours - Genève
- THRIVE
- WWSF - Fondation Sommet Mondial des Femmes
- Association VoieF - Espace de formation pour les femmes - Genève
- Centre de consultation spécialisée dans le traitement des séquelles d'abus sexuels et d'autres traumatismes
- Association découvrir Femmes Africa Solidarité
- Association Arcades Sages-Femmes
- AGFDU - Association Genevoise de Femmes Diplômées des Universités
- SOS FEMMES - Boutique les Fringantes
- Groupe Égalité-égalité les Verts
- Groupe Égalité entre femmes et hommes du Parti socialiste genevois
- Association PDC Femmes Genève
- Fondation genevoise pour le dépistage du cancer
- Maison de naissance 'La Roseraie'
- CDF - Couleur de Femmes - Genève
- Association Lyceum Club de Genève
- Les genevoises PLR
- SOS FEMMES - Consultation sociale
- Career Women's Forum
- SOS FEMMES - Label Bobine
- AVVEC - Aide aux victimes de Violence en Couple
- Association Campaign
- Soroptimist International Europe
- Association les Vernets d'Arve

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Manifestations

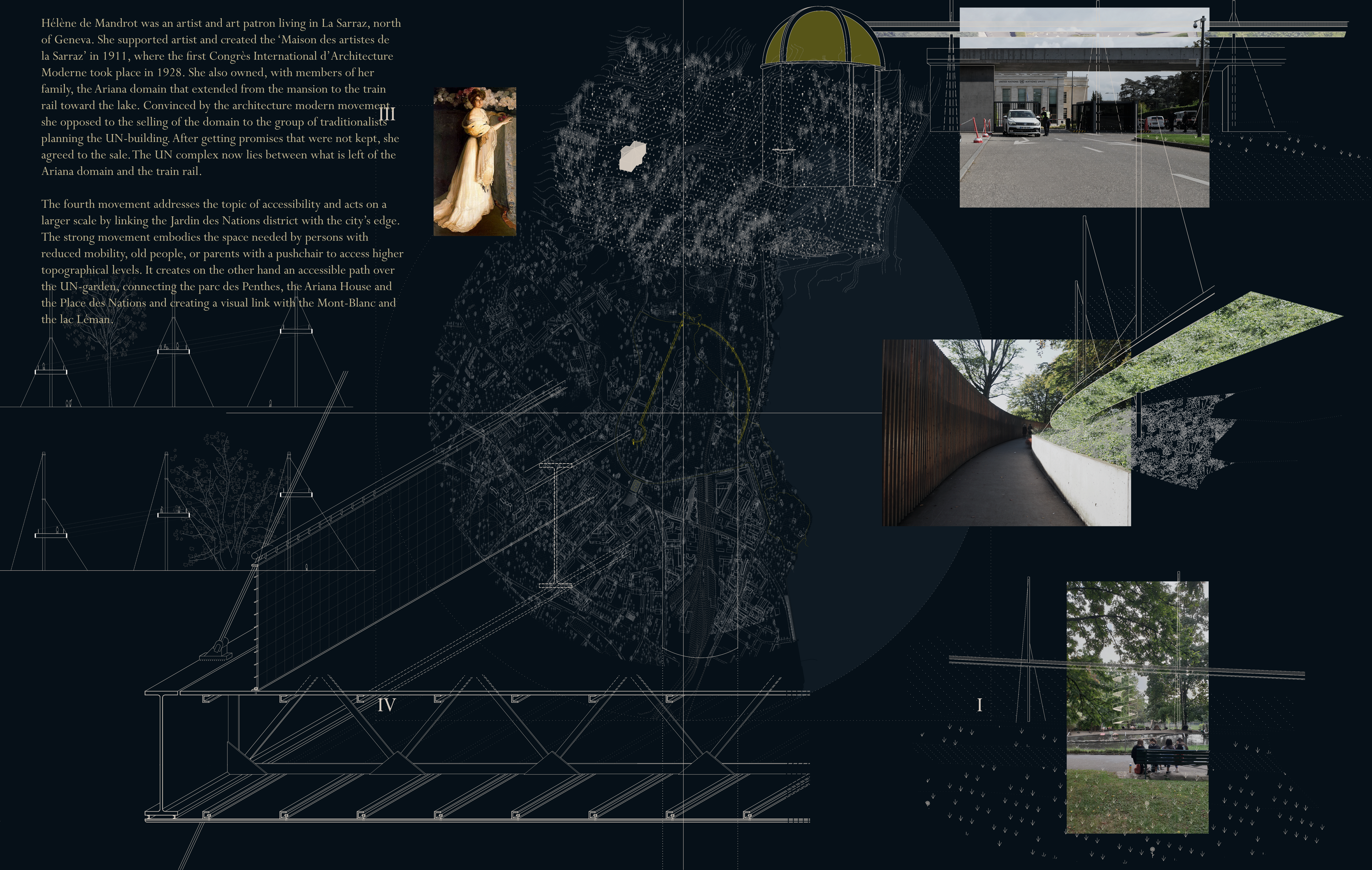
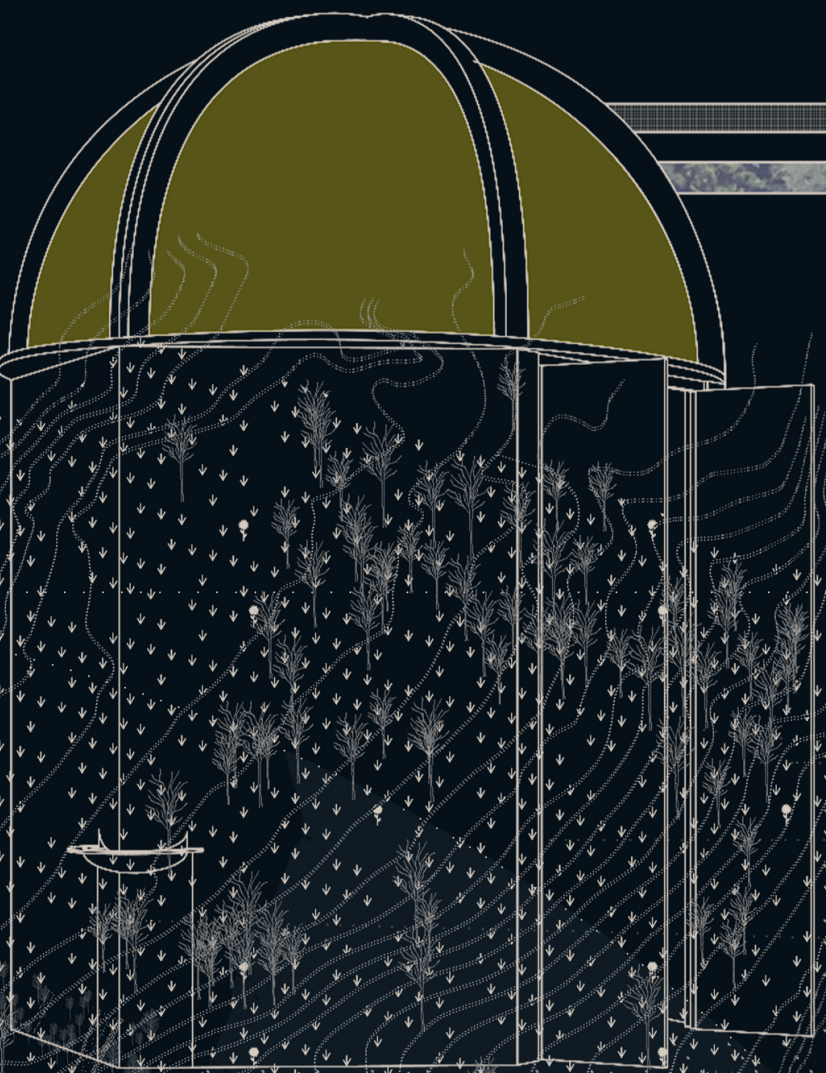
Place/Path

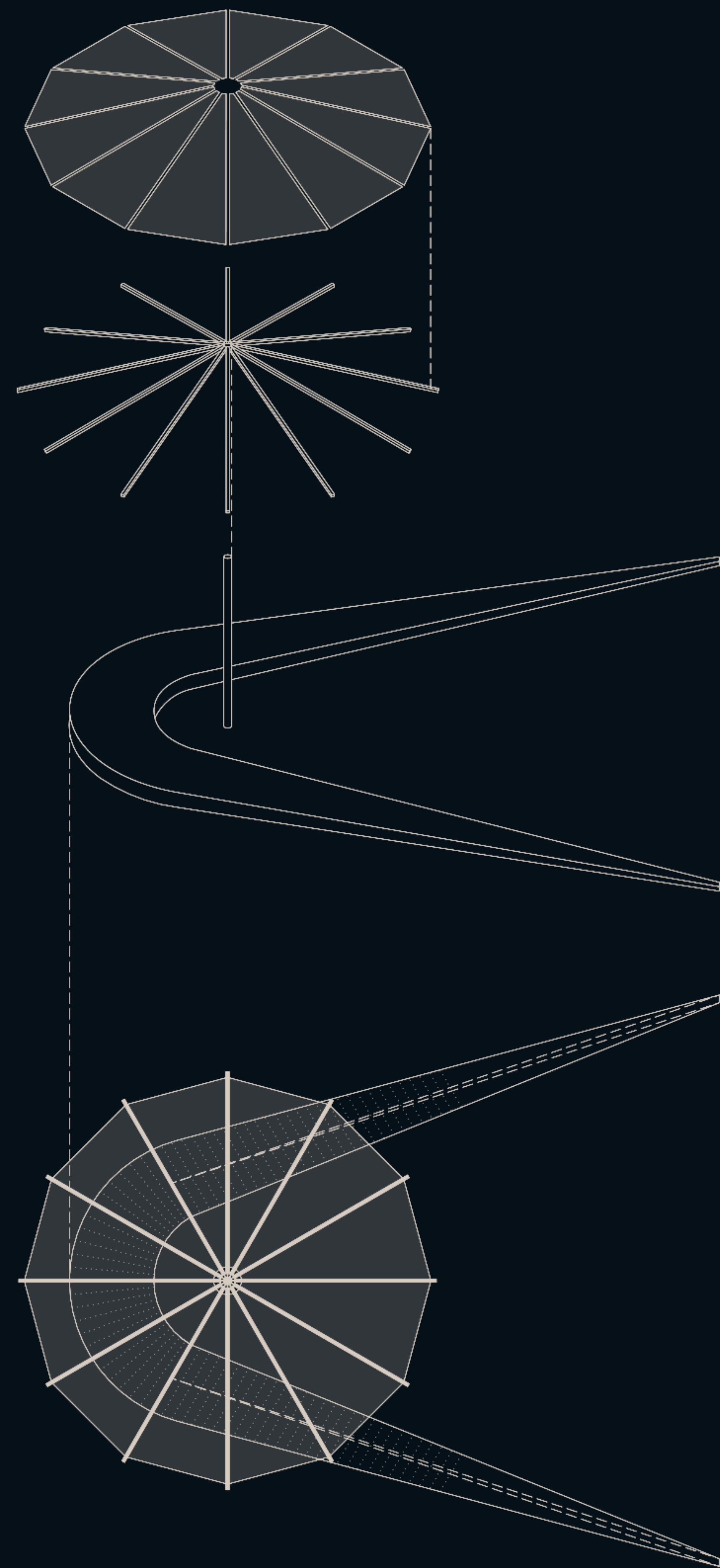
Unknown location

Women's associations

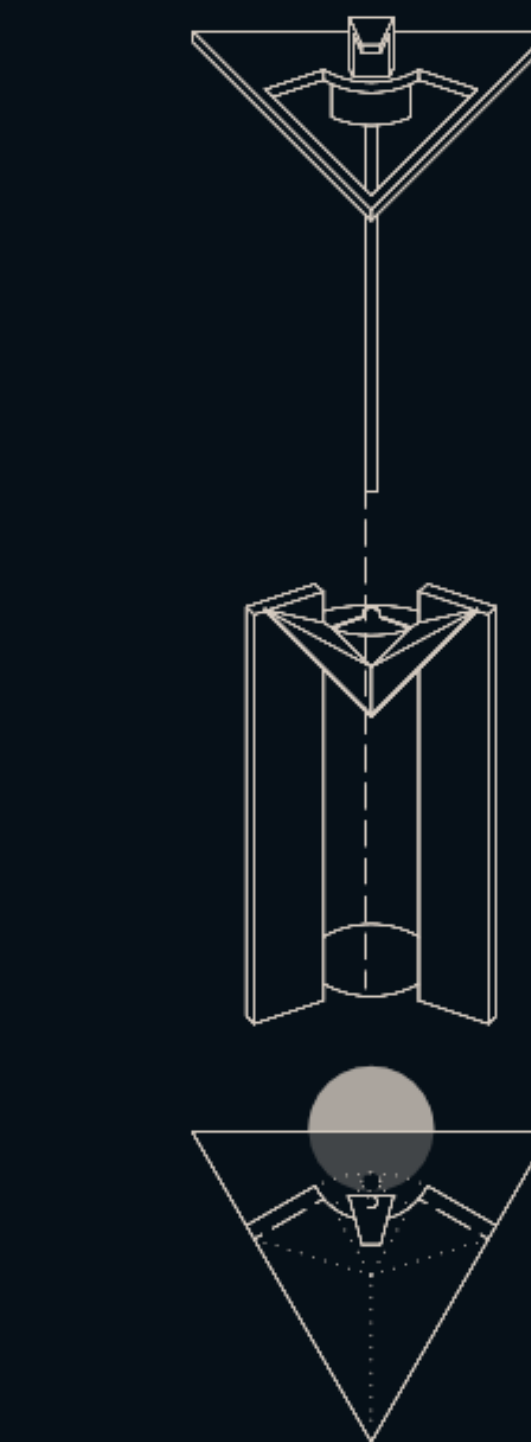
Hélène de Mandrot was an artist and art patron living in La Sarraz, north of Geneva. She supported artist and created the ‘Maison des artistes de la Sarraz’ in 1911, where the first Congrès International d’Architecture Moderne took place in 1928. She also owned, with members of her family, the Ariana domain that extended from the mansion to the train rail toward the lake. Convinced by the architecture modern movement she opposed to the selling of the domain to the group of traditionalists planning the UN-building. After getting promises that were not kept, she agreed to the sale. The UN complex now lies between what is left of the Ariana domain and the train rail.

The fourth movement addresses the topic of accessibility and acts on a larger scale by linking the Jardin des Nations district with the city’s edge. The strong movement embodies the space needed by persons with reduced mobility, old people, or parents with a pushchair to access higher topographical levels. It creates on the other hand an accessible path over the UN-garden, connecting the parc des Penthes, the Ariana House and the Place des Nations and creating a visual link with the Mont-Blanc and the lac Léman.





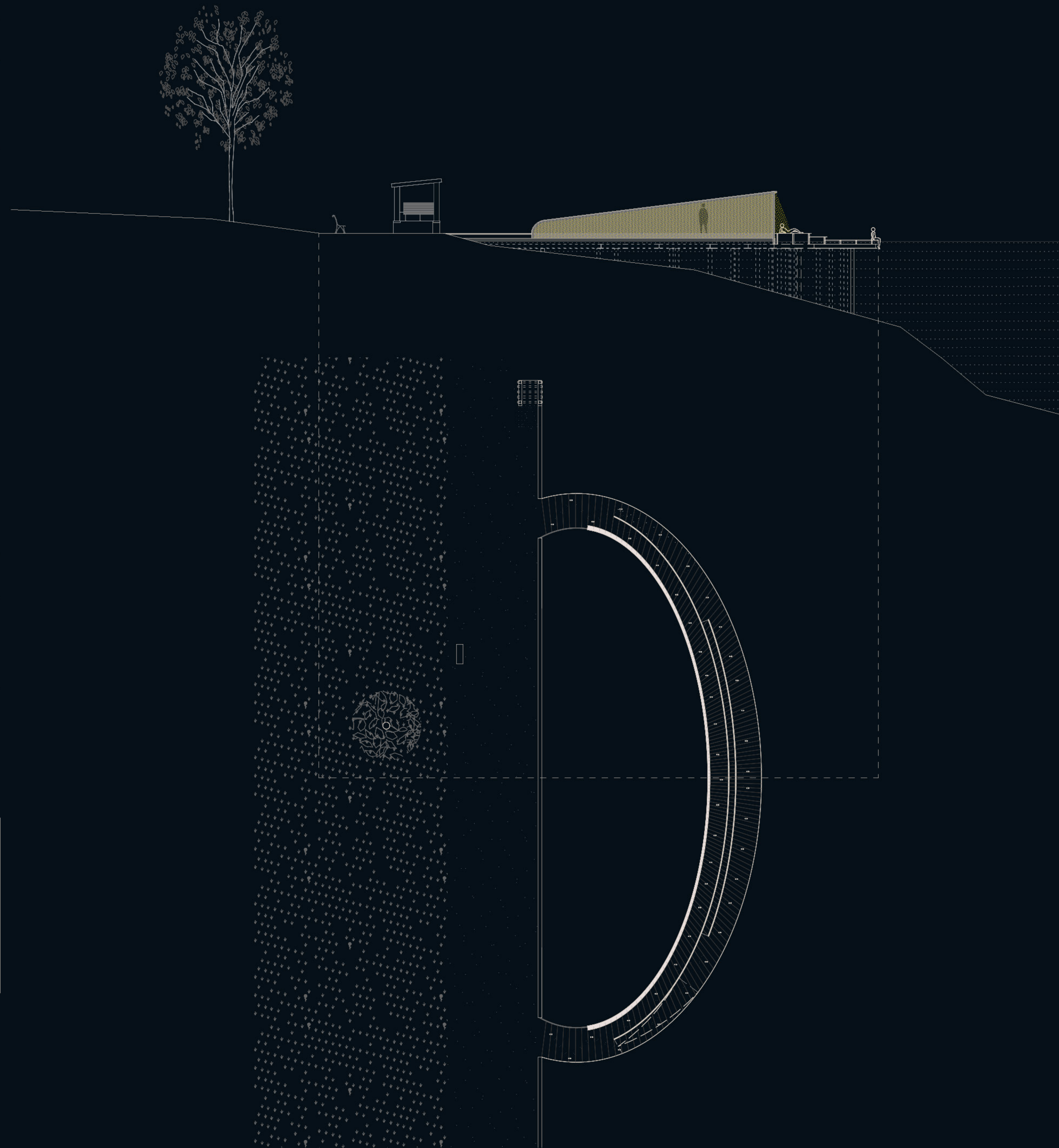
5 m

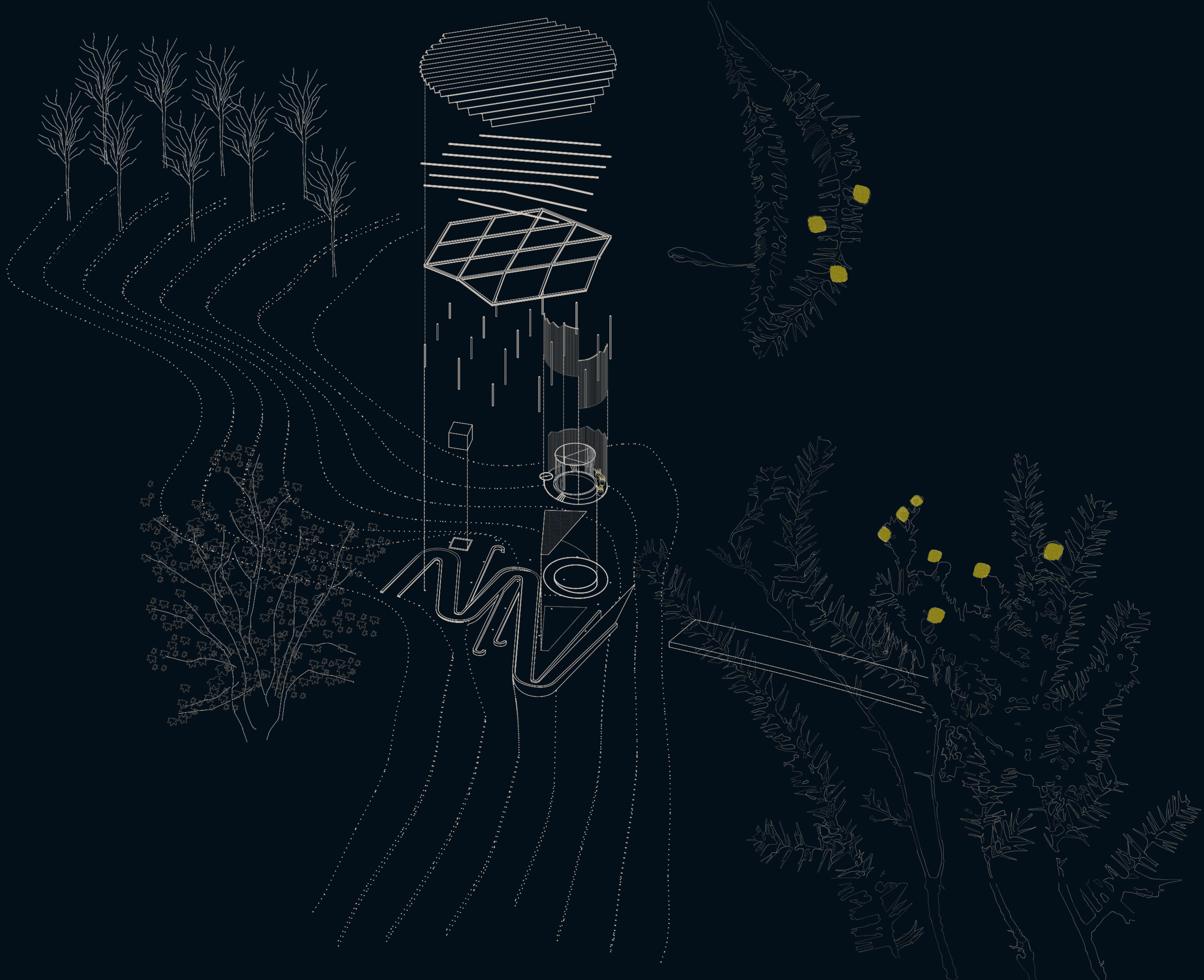


2 m

5 m

50 m







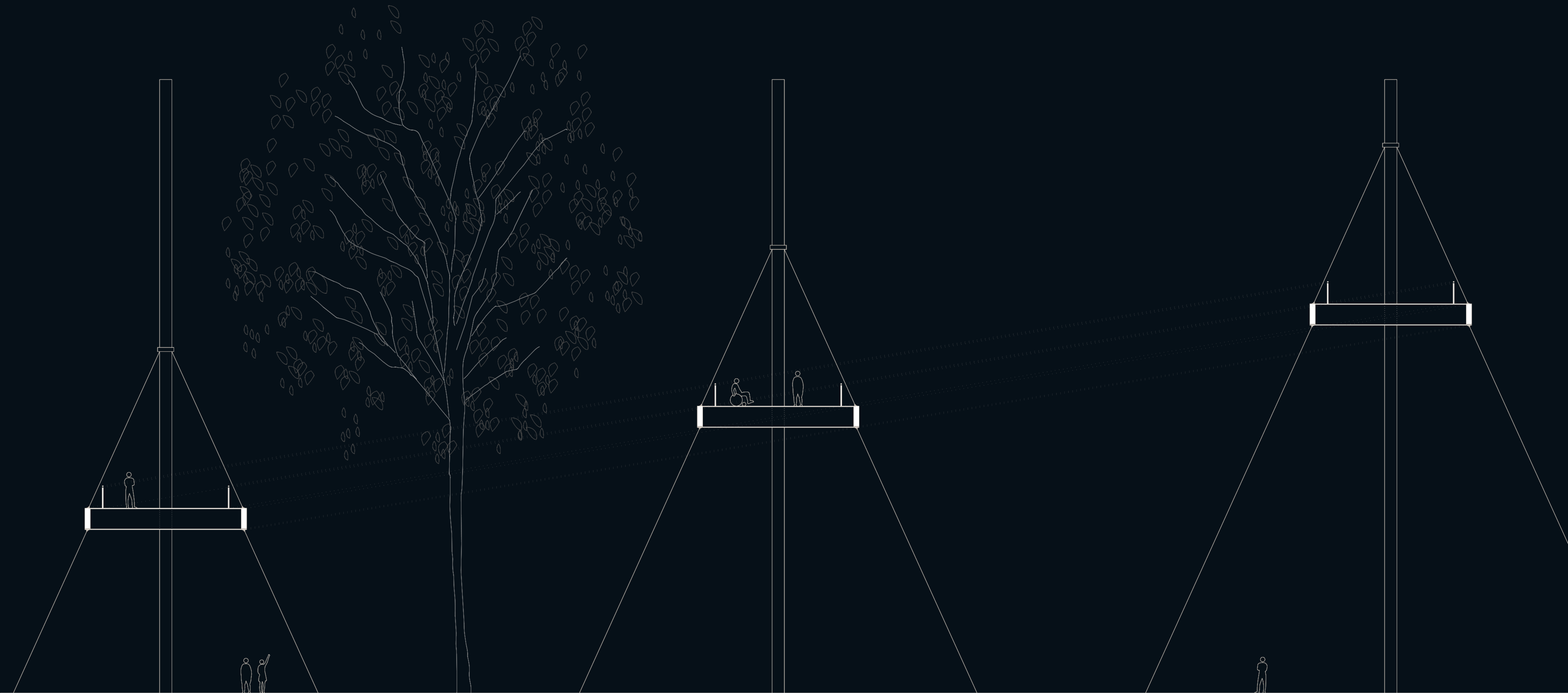
public toilets

summer garden Mimosa

winter garden Mimosa

open stage

sitting area



tension cable

railing

metallic grid 100/100

HEA profile 1000/300

welded steel Truss

C profile 50/60

