



Disclosed Nature for Urban Revitalization

Yisabu Memorial Park in Samcheok, Republic of Korea

Project Statement

The Yisabu Memorial Park is a project aimed at revitalizing an underdeveloped city by restoring its historical, cultural, and natural features that have been lost during the city's modernization process. It involves creating a park that serves as a connection to the past through a combined landscape and architectural design.

Entitled "Disclosed Nature," the project emphasizes the natural and historical characteristics of the site and its components. By revealing the site's topographical, hydrological, and geographical nature, Yisabu Memorial Park becomes an invaluable place where people can experience the story of Yisabu and the landscape of that time.

AREA / LOCATION
24,614m² / Samcheok, Gangwon-do, Republic of Korea

DESIGN / CONSTRUCTION
2018~2021 / 2021~2023

PROGAMME
Cultural Park,
Facilities for cultural activities and assembly



PREVIOUS SITE MAP



Project Narrative and Contents

HISTORY OF TRANSFORMATIONS

The site, located in Jeongla-dong, Samcheok, Gangwon-do, South Korea, was originally a small island near the eastern edge of Korea. In 512 AD, General Yisabu of Silla, an ancient Korean nation, set sail from this site with a fleet of ships to rule what is now Ulleungdo and surrounding islands, about 127 km from Samcheok. Over time, the site became land about 300 meters from the sea as the surrounding area of the small island was reclaimed for the construction of Samcheok Port and a cement factory. Many historical traces and stories of the site became isolated from the sea or buried in the ground or surrounded by roads and industrial facilities during the modernization process of the 20th century.

In the 2010s, Samcheok City re-discovered and re-examined the historical and cultural resources of the region that were forgotten in the process of modernization to promote regional revitalization projects through cultural tourism. As part of these efforts, it planned to turn Yukhyang-Mountain, where Silla General Yisabu departed in the past, and its surroundings into a historical and cultural memorial park. The project, which was launched in 2017 with Samcheok's first international design competition, was at last opened to the public in May 2024 after seven years of design and construction.

DISCLOSED NATURE

The Yisabu Memorial Park project, titled "Disclosed Nature," highlights the natural and historical characteristics of the site and its components. The project unveils three aspects of the site's nature: Topographical Nature, Hydrological Nature, and Geographical Nature. Yisabu Memorial Park aims to provide a place where people can experience the story of Yisabu and the landscape of the time through integrated landscape and architecture.

Disclosed Earth (Topographical Nature)

This part of the project reveals the historical topography of the site, which was once an island on the sea and has since been reclaimed. By excavating the existing earth, the project showcases the site's historical topography as a key element of the park.

Disclosed Sea (Hydrological Nature)

Additionally, the project reintroduces water to the recovered topography and incorporates water into architectural programs such as education, publicity, experience, and play/leisure related to Yisabu and his journey to Ulleungdo Island, thereby restoring and showcasing the hydrological nature of the site as it was when it served as the port of departure to Ulleungdo Island.

Disclosed Regionality (Geographical Nature)

The Yisabu Memorial Park project aims to showcase the indigenous landscape and geographical potential of the site. The project seeks to preserve the old temple, monument, and other historical remnants while incorporating regional coastal plants, rocks, and local blacksmiths' forging technology into the landscape facilities. By doing so, the site will be connected with the natural, cultural, and historical assets of the region, making Samcheok City an even more appealing place to visit.

Project Narrative and Contents

LANDSCAPE AS HISTORICAL EXHIBITION AND CULTURAL SPACE

The project also involves the integration of newly designed architecture and landscape with existing natural landscapes, led by landscape designers. The proposal includes creating indoor-outdoor programs and exhibitions by restoring the site to its original terrain and landscape, which used to be an island above the sea. The architectural programs for the park are divided into four masses across two levels. The park will offer indoor programs such as the Tourism Information Center, Yisabu Memorial Hall, Experience Center, and Composite Rest Area, as well as outdoor programs including gardens, rest areas, trails, and event spaces. This will transform the park into a large exhibition where visitors can appreciate the landscape in various ways.

Ultimately, the revitalized park will serve as a daily garden and cultural space for residents, an extraordinary experience for tourists, and a place to appreciate the historical landscape, contributing to the revitalization of the underdeveloped city.



History of Transformation

B.C 50 ~ A.D. 900

The site was originally an island near the eastern end of Korea and was where "General Isabu" of Silla, an ancient Korean state, first set sail to rule Ulleungdo.



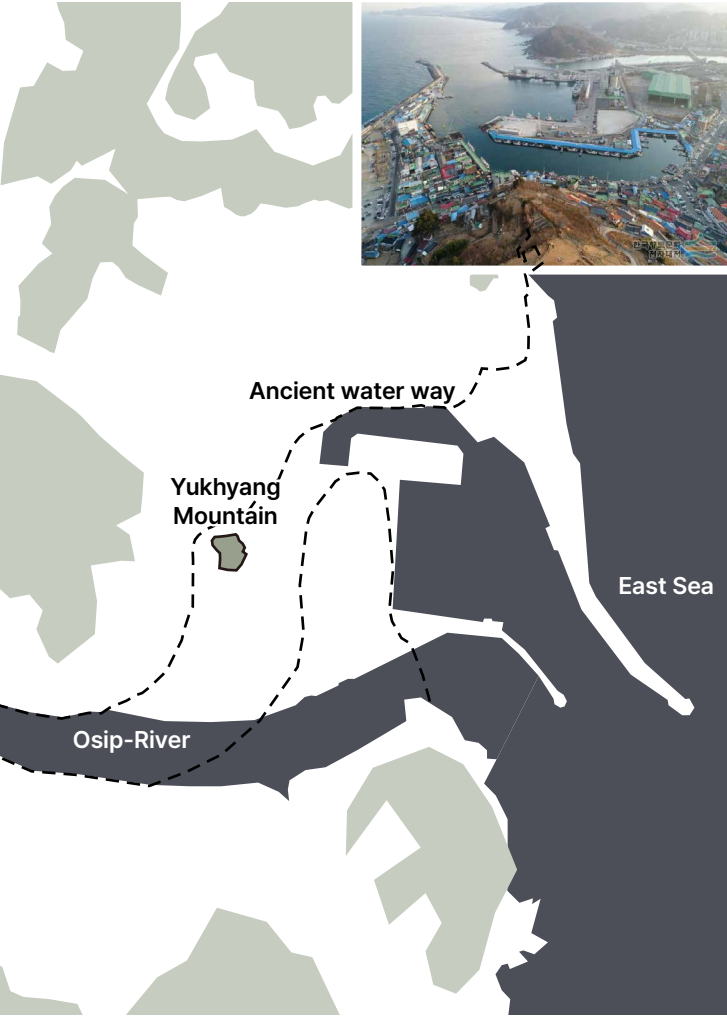
1930s ~ 1980s

In 1938, the site was reclaimed to build a cement factory and port during the Japanese colonial period. Additionally, due to the waterway change construction that was carried out twice to reclaim this area, the river that passed in front of the site was strengthened.



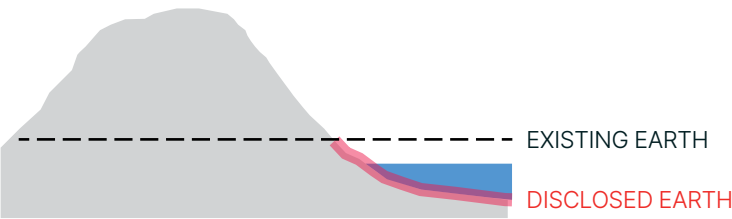
2024 (NOW)

As a result of reclamation and waterway change construction, the site became land about 300m away from the sea, and traces that proved history were buried underground.

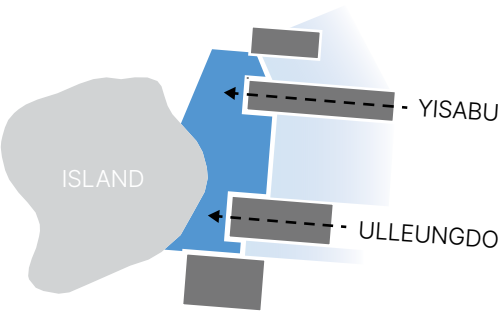


Concept

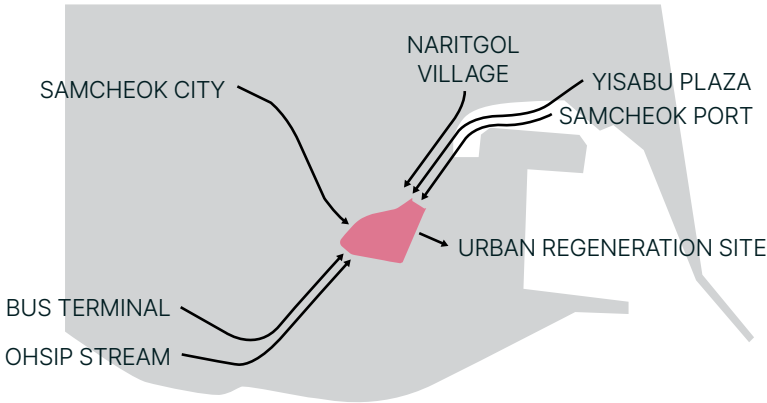
DISCLOSED EARTH
TOPOGRAPHICAL NATURE



DISCLOSED SEA
HYDROLOGICAL NATURE

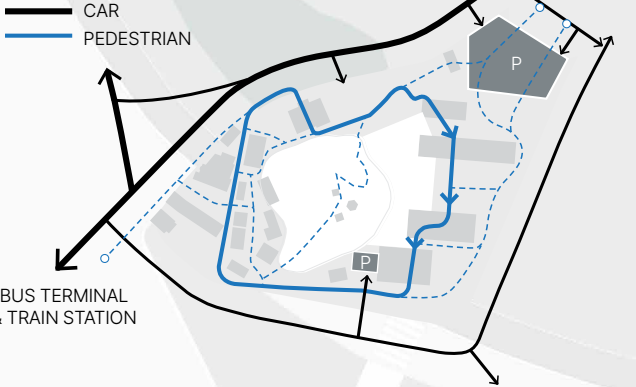


DISCLOSED REGIONALITY
GEOGRAPHICAL NATURE



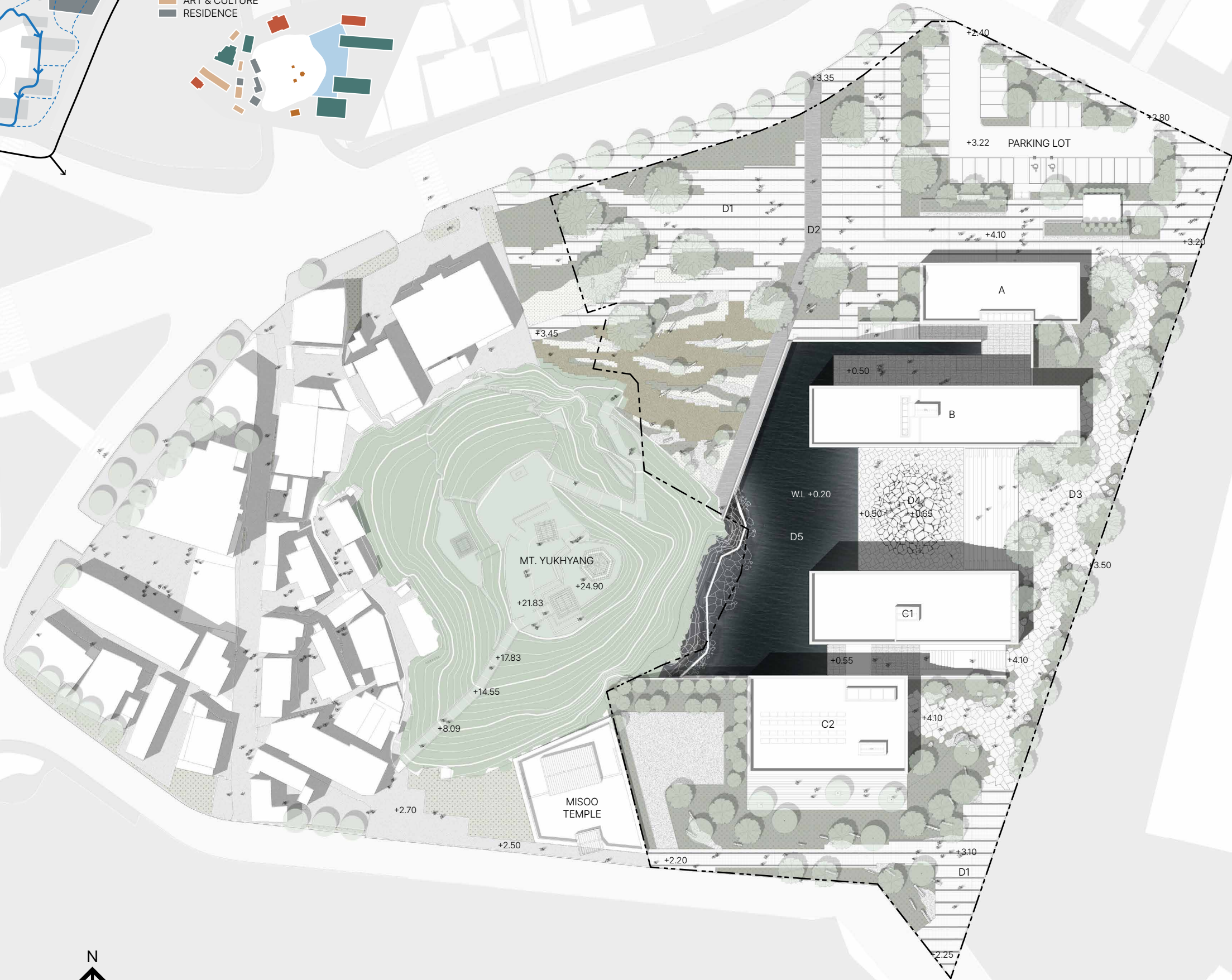
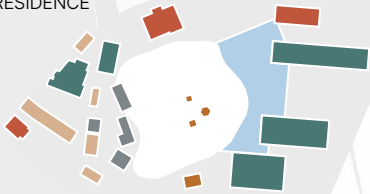
Master Plan

ACCESS & CIRCULATION



FACILITY PLAN

- EXHIBITION & EXPERIENCE
- TOURIST SERVICE
- CONSERVATION & RESTORATION
- ART & CULTURE
- RESIDENCE



A TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER

B YISABU MEMORIAL HALL

EXPERIENCE CENTER

C1 NORTH WING

C2 SOUTH WING

PARK

D1 ENTRANCE PLAZA

D2 TRACE OF ANCIENT WALL

D3 STONE PROMENADE

D4 STONE PLAZA

D5 YUKHYANG-JI

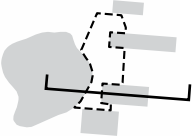
SCALE : NONE

0 10 20 50m

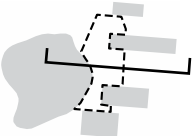
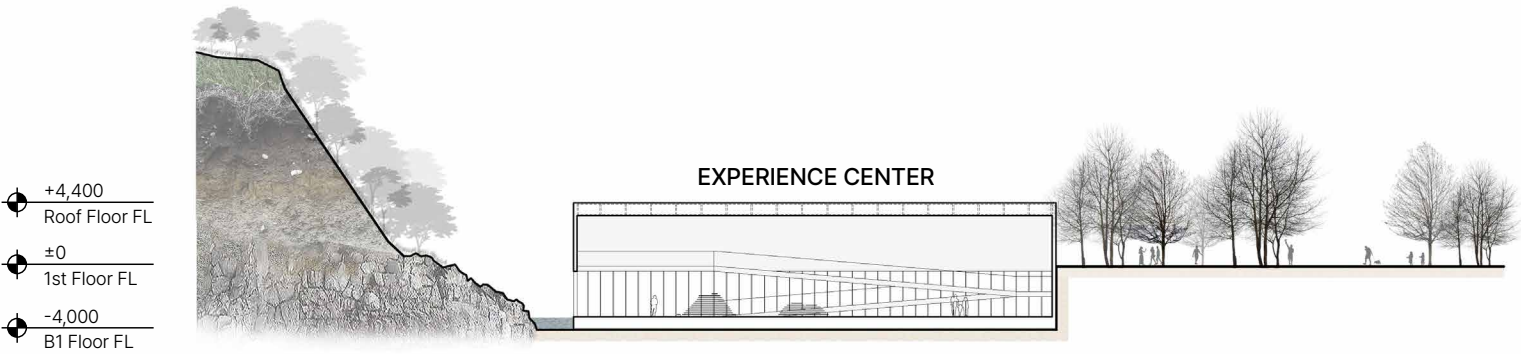


Site Section

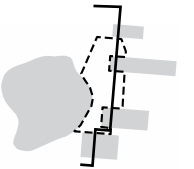
Section A - A'
Scale : 1/600



Section B - B'
Scale : 1/600



Section C - C'
Scale : 1/600



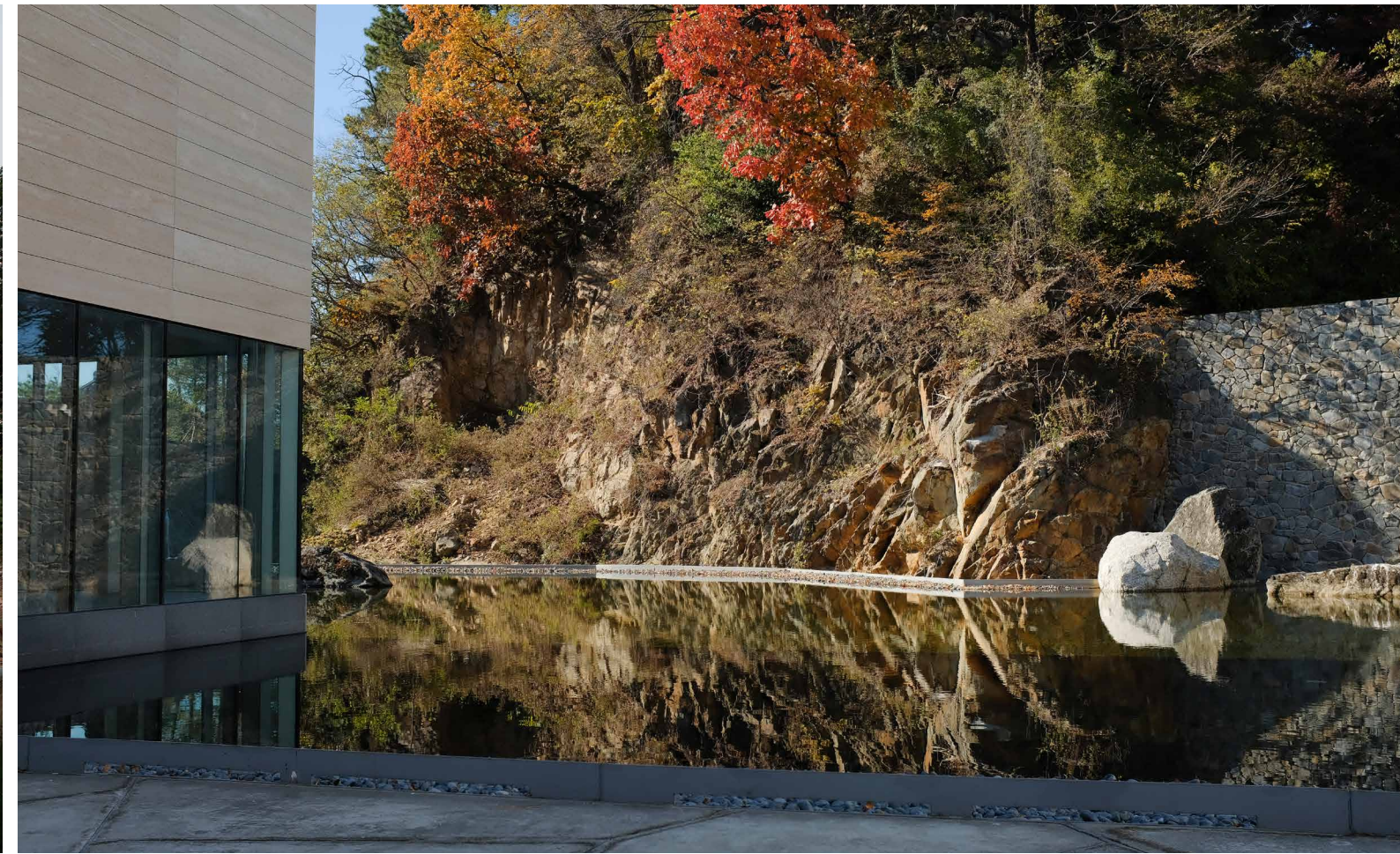




The nature of the site was designed to be an important exhibition through the segmented arrangement of architectural mass and is appreciated in various ways.









NATIVE SPECIES OF ULLEUNGDO

The design reflected the vegetation of Ulleungdo, which evolved to adapt to poor environments such as strong sunlight, narrow land, and strong winds, by using vegetation of wild and diverse textures different from urban vegetation to realize natural scenery.



① Silver grass
Miscanthus sinensis



② Seashore spatulate aster
Aster sphathulifolius Maxim.



③ Ulleungdo stonecrop
Sedum takesimense Nakai.



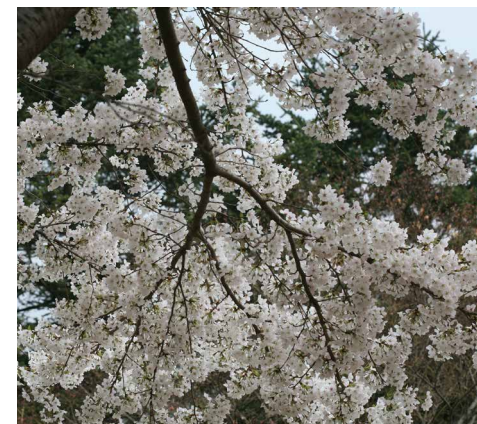
④ Ulleungdo thyme
Thymus quinquecostatus var. japonicus H.Hara



⑤ Songak (Songak ivy)
Hedera rhombea (Miq.) Siebold & Zucc. ex Bean

NATIVE SPECIES OF SAMCHEOK and MT. YUKHYANG

To connect with the surrounding area, tree species near the site, major tree species in Yukhyang Mountain, and local tree species were used. The site was designed with consideration for not only the growth of the plant but also the identity of the site.



① Korean flowering cherry
Prunus x yedoensis Matsum.



② Sawtooth oak
Quercus acutissima Carruth.



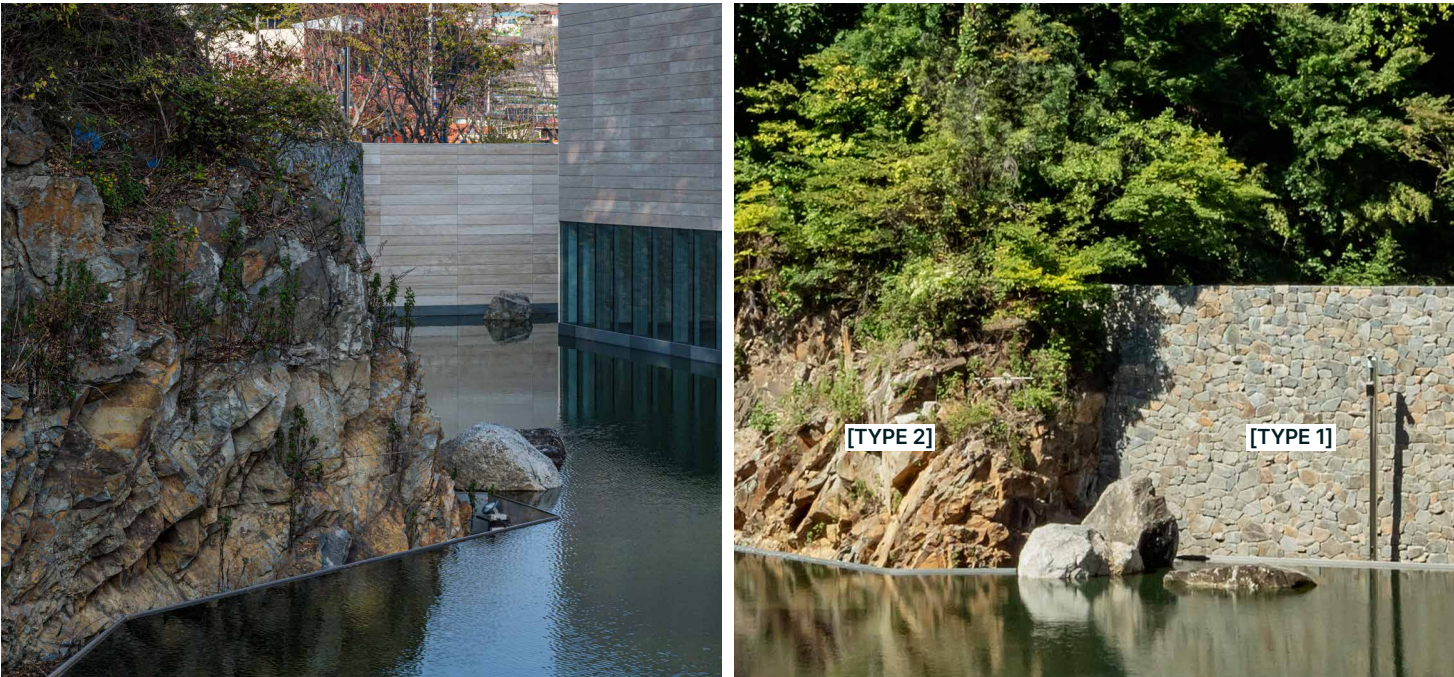
③ Zelkova serrata
Zelkova serrata (Thunb.) Makino



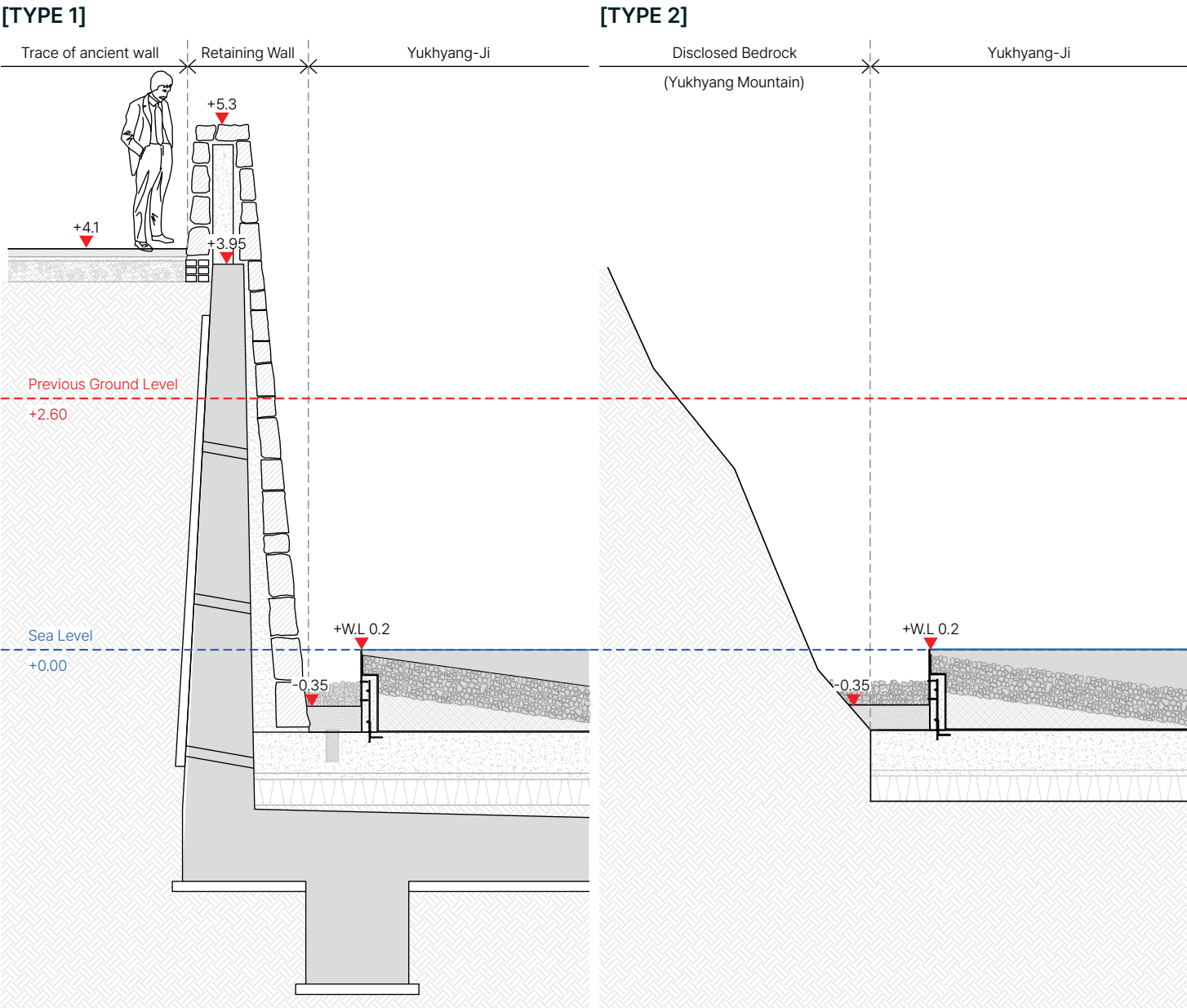




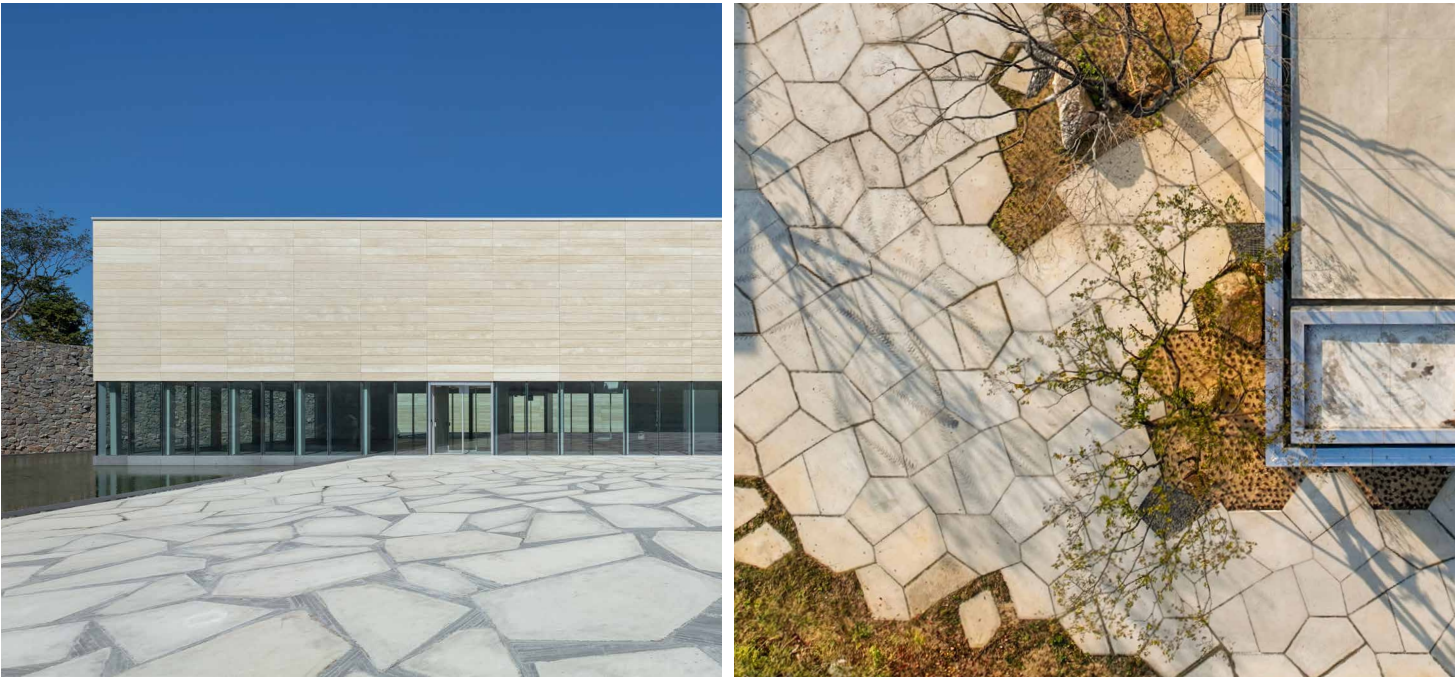
RECOVERED TOPOGRAPHY & LANDSCAPE



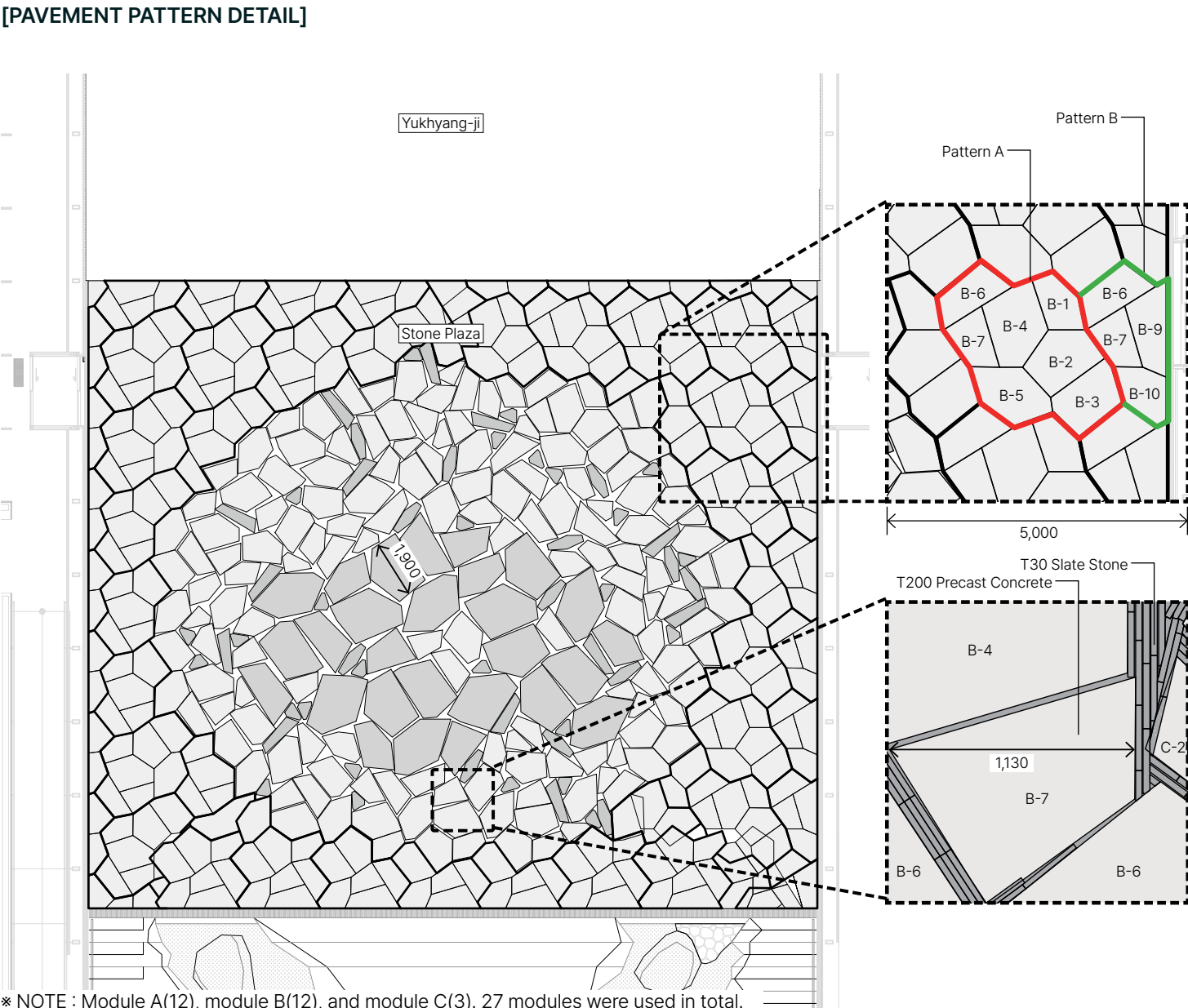
Topography and bedrock were dug out up to the sea level (TYPE 2), and existing rampart was restored to reveal the locality of the site (TYPE 1).



SPECIALIZED PAVEMENT DESIGNED IN STONE PLAZA



The irregular arrangement of large-scale polygonal precast concrete pavement modules reveals the relationship between recovered topography, bedrock, and newly created plazas.





COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL DESIGNER

The landscape facilities incorporate the local blacksmiths' forging technology, linking the site with the valuable natural, cultural, and historical assets of the region that already exist in the vicinity of the site.



