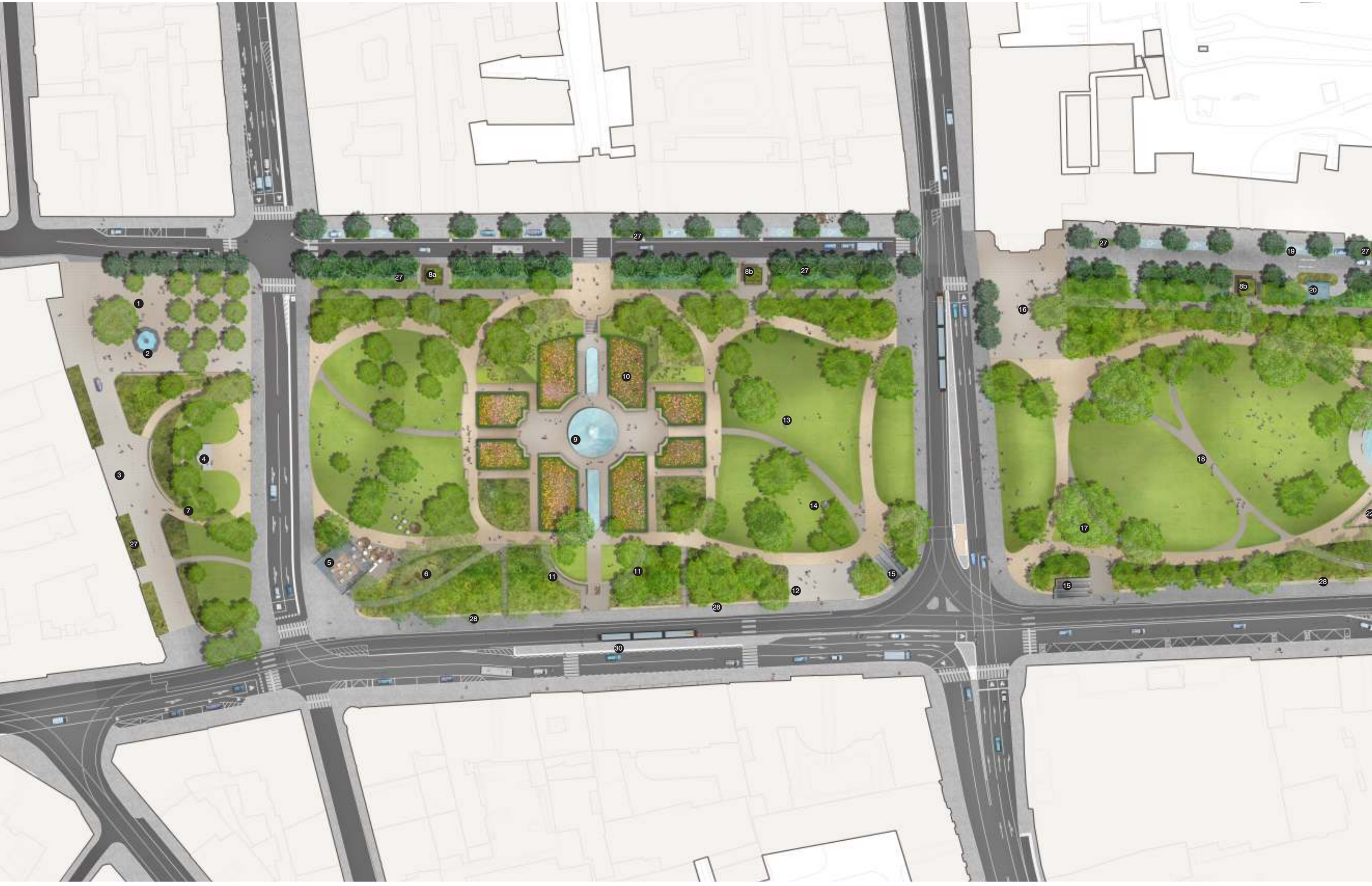
In its' heyday the transformation of Charles Square from civic square to landscaped park was a radical gesture suited to its time. Poor management, the introduction of new transport infrastructure and less formal attitudes to the use of public space have contributed to its' degradation.
Given its' historic importance as one of Thomayer's major works within Prague city centre, we can no longer be so radical. We need to make sensitive changes to the park's structure that acknowledge the changed world, the needs of the city and its' population. We need to bring its' main features and spaces up to date and into use.
Just as Thomayer was influenced by Alphand and landscapes such as the Parc des Buttes Chaumont, we respond by introducing a denser path network in the arabesque style that will remove the mud tracks and short-cuts through planted areas.
We wish to subtly rework the landforms to create better drainage and reintroduce some of Thomayer's original features in new forms to create bolder spaces. New stone benches and lighting integrated into the landscape will help protect newly planted areas and retained trees. We will provide safe flexible surfaces for play, events and performance, but also continue to provide quiet areas for calm enjoyment and contemplation.
Lastly, we wish to create better access to the park by introducing ramped routes up the steep slopes on its long west side. We wish to extend the park's influence by introducing planted tree lined promenades on its north and south sides, with the addition of balcony views, kiosks and underground parking on its long east side.
Our aim is to transform Charles Square into the city's flexible, comfortable living room where local people and visitors choose to spend time, socialise, relax and take time out from their busy lives to be in nature.

REVITALISATION OF CHARLES SQUARE

procurement procedure involving Competitive Dialogue 2017/2018

DESIGN PROPOSAL

Gustafson
Porter +
Bowman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MASTERPLAN OF CHARLES SQUARE 2025

Gustafson Porter + Bowman

m 1:1000

The new masterplan is a respectful update of the original Thomayer design, creating functional links to the 21st century city that surround it.
Visual permeability into the park has been improved by the removal of overgrown shrubs which are swapped for lower vegetation. New east-west path connections linked to new entrances replace the unplanned muddy paths.
Within the North Park, the historic square in front of the town hall has been re-instated, providing a suitably respectful setting for the New Town Hall.
The French formality of the central park space has been re-established by the introduction of seating height retaining walls, clipped hedges, crisply defined sloped embankments and an updated water feature. The current bistro café is upgraded, with a new children's playground close by.
The South Park is returned to its' original Jardin Anglais character. A grass amphitheatre replaces the tarmac, wrapping around an interactive water feature. A new playground is located to the south of it, freeing up historic sightlines.
Kiosks selling coffee and newspapers animate the east boundary of the park.

1 New Town Hall Plaza
2 Historic Fountain
3 Shared surface
4 Monument to V. Hálek
5 Bistro
6 Playground
7 Lawn
8a Public toilets
8b Kiosk
9 Formal reflection pool
10 Planting
11 Access ramp
12 Plaza
13 Lawn
14 Monument E. Krásnohorská
15 Prague Metro access
16 Church Plaza
17 Monument Karolína Svetlá
18 Lawn
19 Disabled parking
20 Lifts to underground car park
21 Interactive water feature
22 Mixed border planting
23 Monument J. E. Purkyne
24 Amphitheatre
25 Playground
26 Monument the botanist, B. Roezl.
27 Rain garden/Storm water planter
28 Long benches
29 Garden maintenance area
30 Existing tram stop

Charles Square as part of Prague

Charles Square as an integral part of New Town (southern district) – scale of 1:10,000

BROADER RELATIONS OF CHARLES SQUARE

Gustafson Porter + Bowman

EAST CONNECTION
WEST CONNECTION
UNDERGROUND CAR PARK LOOP

NEW PEDESTRIAN ACCESS ROUTE
EXISTING PEDESTRIAN ROUTE
CYCLE ROUTE

Cycle and pedestrian connection

Vehicle connections

Charles Square is in a strategically important location. Linking old and new town, it forms an important transport interchange. Our proposal looks to upgrade the park, removing barriers to access and use, and extending the park to meet the surrounding building facades. The revitalization has the potential to turn a tired looking green space into a catalyst for change, supporting the creation of a vibrant neighbourhood that people want to live, shop and work in.
Key to this is the removal of above ground parking, which will be replaced by an automatic underground parking system. This allows the extension of pavements in the south, east and north. Traffic calming with the introduction of tree lined avenues allows existing cafes and restaurants in the north-east of the square to spill out onto the wider pavements, animating the public realm.
Historic sightlines are re-introduced by re-siting of playground, and new squares create a respectful setting for important historic buildings.

ORIGINAL

Historic park 1884 (with significant buildings)

CURRENT

Current park

PROPOSED 2025

Proposed park layout 2025

PROPOSED 2050

Proposed park layout 2050 with new trees only

DESIGN CONCEPT

Gustafson Porter + Bowman

Just as Thomayer was influenced by Alphand, we respond by introducing a denser path network in the arabesque style that will remove the mud tracks and cut-throughs.
We wish to subtly rework the landforms to create better drainage and reintroduce some of Thomayer's original features in new forms to create bolder spaces. New stone benches will help protect newly planted areas and retained trees. We will provide flexible surfaces for play, events and performance, but also continue to provide quiet areas for calm enjoyment and contemplation.
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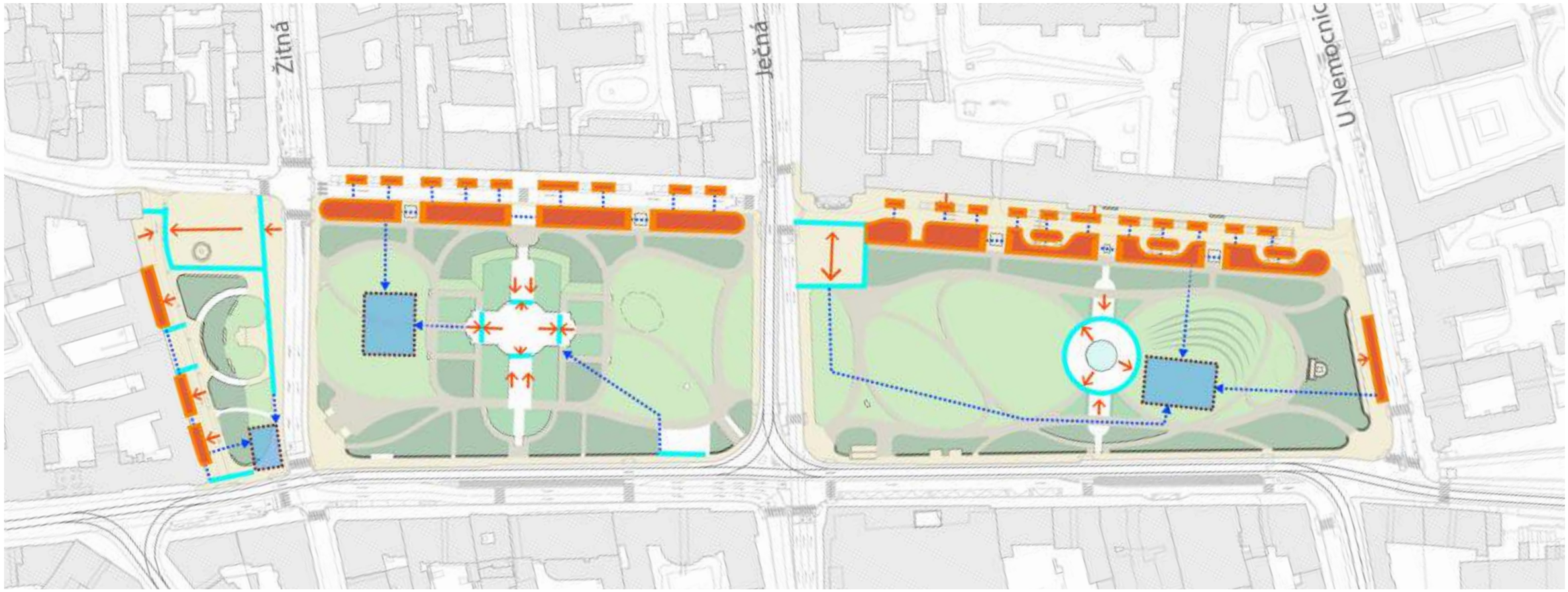
Parc des Buttes Chaumont, Paris by Jean-Charles Adolphe Alphand, 1864



Storm water planter and rain garden

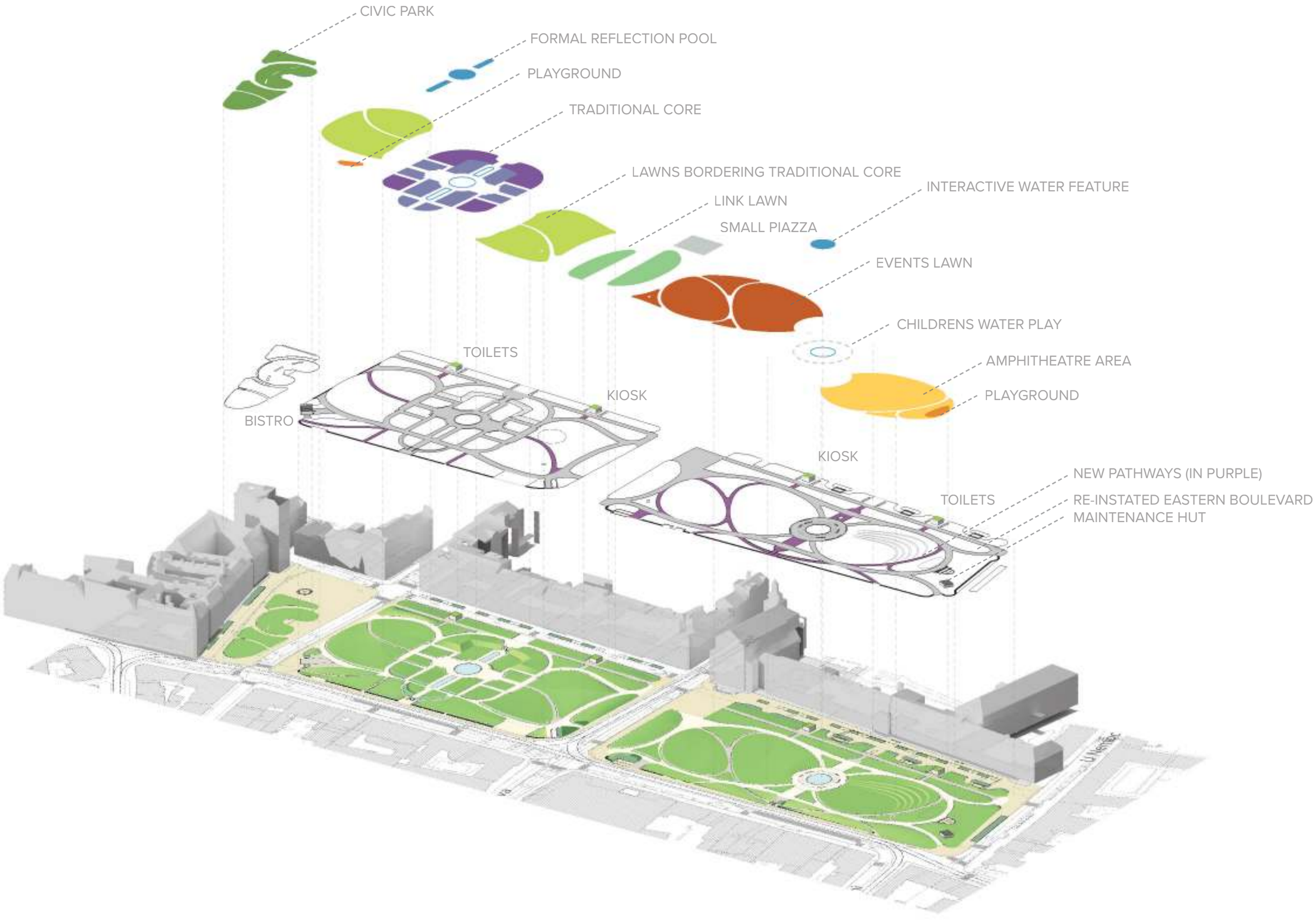
RAIN GARDENS
SLOT DRAIN
FALL
PERMEABLE SURFACE
SEALED SURFACE
WATER TANKS
UNDERGROUND CONNECTIONS

RAINWATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Gustafson Porter + Bowman

Storm water planter

Sensitive management of rain water will increasingly form an indispensable part of park and public realm design to mitigate problems associated with increased flooding and drought in sealed city areas.
As part of the renovation of Charles Square, the rainwater management strategy is three-fold:
Firstly, all existing sealed path surfaces within the park will be replaced with porous paving, which allows the infiltration of rain water. Secondly, the stone pavements framing the water features, and the new squares will be intersected by slot drains which will channel rain water into underground retention tanks.
Lastly, new pavements around the park will fall towards storm water planters. These will be connected to the underground retention tanks. The water from these tanks will be stored and re-used for irrigation during dry spells.


CIVIC PARK
FORMAL REFLECTION POOL
PLAYGROUND
TRADITIONAL CORE
LAWNS BORDERING TRADITIONAL CORE
LINK LAWN
INTERACTIVE WATER FEATURE
SMALL PIAZZA
EVENTS LAWN
CHILDRENS WATER PLAY
AMPHITHEATRE AREA
PLAYGROUND
TOILETS
KIOSK
BISTRO
KIOSK
NEW PATHWAYS (IN PURPLE)
TOILETS
RE-INSTATED EASTERN BOULEVARD
MAINTENANCE HUT

PROGRAMME AND FUNCTIONS OF THE PARK

Gustafson Porter + Bowman

A park has many layers. There is the day to day function of a park, with its' interactive water feature, flower beds, play grounds, bistro, café kiosks and flexible planted space.
But it is important that this everyday layer can be transformed to create special events which reinvigorate the park and draw visitors from further away. These could be specialist markets, jazz concerts, outdoor cinema screening, community events, yoga in the park, poetry readings and theatre performances. The new amphitheatre lends itself to seated events, coupled with temporary staging. The newly created piazzas in front of the historic church and the New Town Hall can host events that require hard-standing. These could be wedding parties, community table top sales or a local farmers market.
If managed correctly, event income can be an important contribution to the maintenance budget of a park.

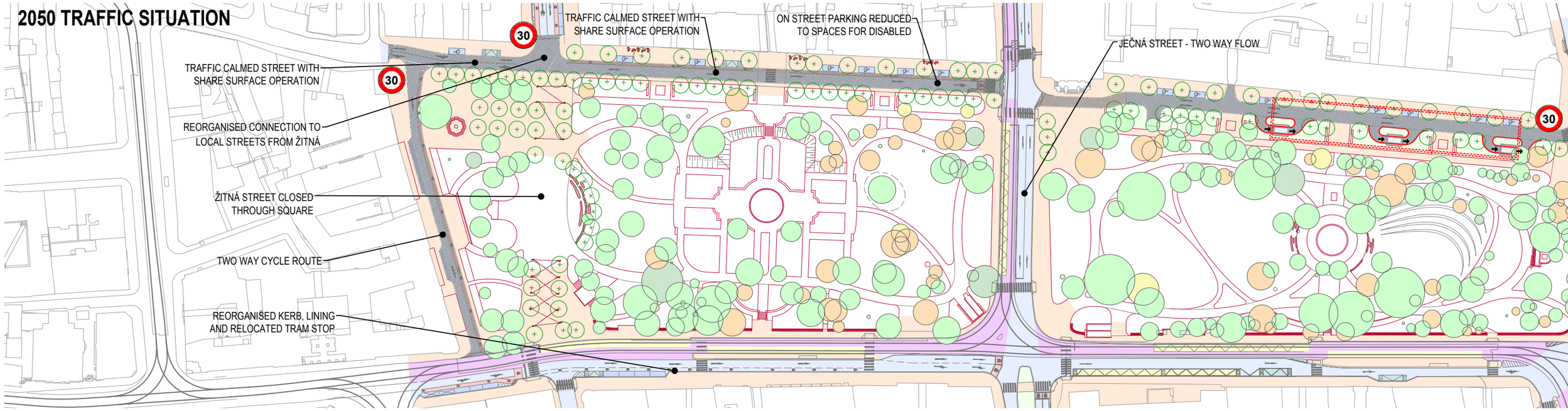
Big Marque

Seasonal Market Festival - 19 stalls
Could expand into New Town Hall Plaza

Performance Space - 2800 pers

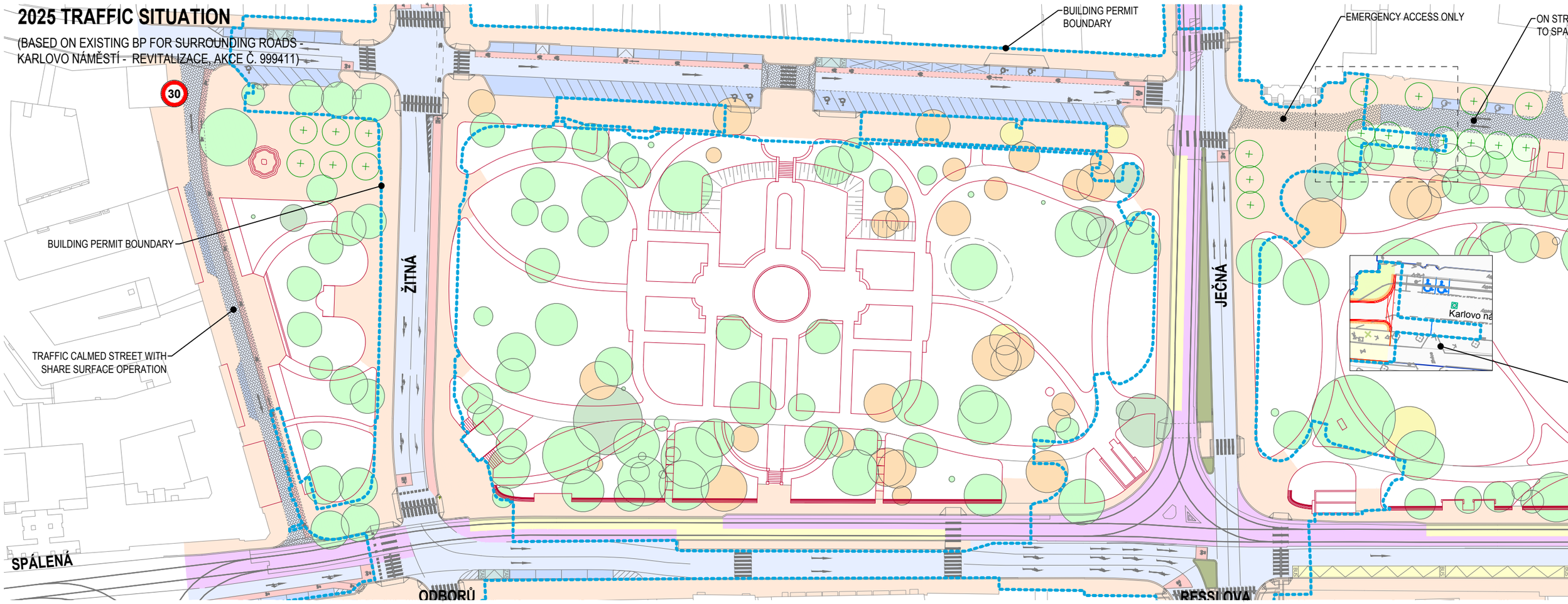
Amphitheater - 300pers seating / 700pers lawn

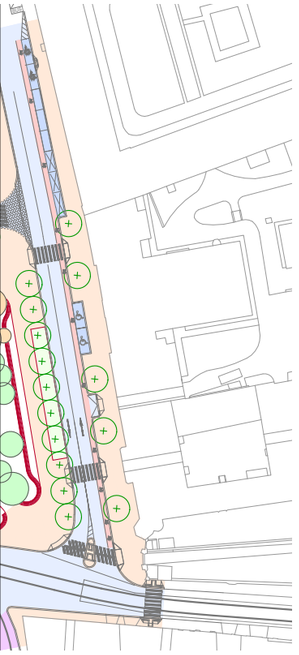
2050 TRAFFIC SITUATION

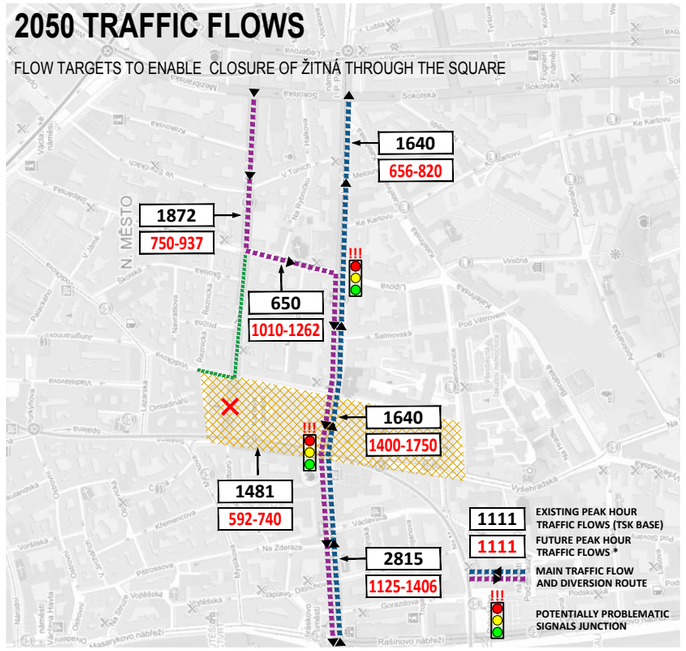


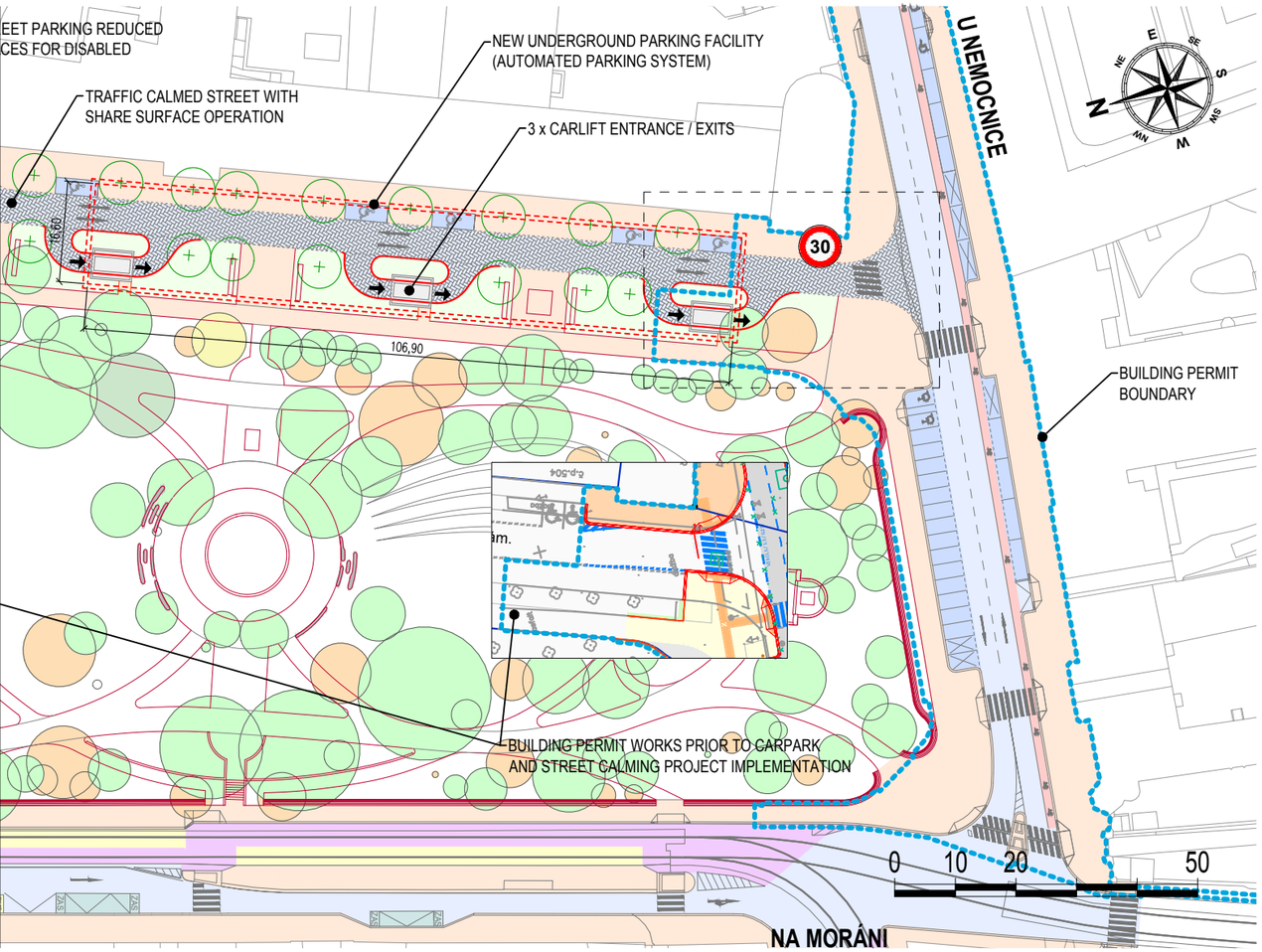
2025 TRAFFIC SITUATION

(BASED ON EXISTING BP FOR SURROUNDING ROADS - KARLOVO NÁMĚSTÍ - REVITALIZACE, AKCE Č. 999411)









TRANSPORTATION IN CHARLES SQUARE

Gustafson Porter + Bowman

One of the prime concern for the park is traffic calming to the surrounding roads to create better links between park segments, improve access to the park, and allow the park to breathe.
As part of this strategy, surface parking, except for disabled parking, has been replaced by an underground, fully automated parking facility. This facility is needed to allow the streets to be reduced in width and the surface of the street to be raised, in order to create a single level, shared surface for pedestrians, bicycles and vehicles with improved access to the park. The widened pavements of the new shared surface allow existing restaurants and cafes to spill out onto the pavements, adding to the vibracy of the neighbourhood. Access for emergency vehicles, as well as delivery access will be retained. Stage 1 works will not be affected by the proposal. However, should the municipality decide not to move forward with the underground parking , the park will still function and the road junctions will remain as shown on the inserts.
Assuming existing traffic levels can be sufficiently reduced in the future, it would be possible to close Zitna street to traffic. This would allow better connection of the north and central parks and provide hard standing for markets and events below an avenue of trees.

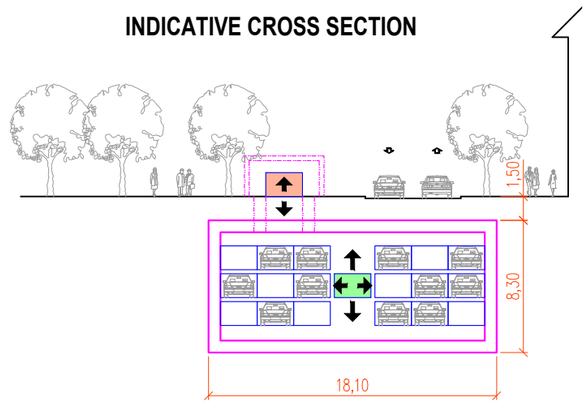
PROPOSED AUTOMATED UNDERGROUND PARKING FACILITY (APROX. 275 PS)

AUTOMATED PARKING SYSTEM WÖHR MULTIPARKER 740

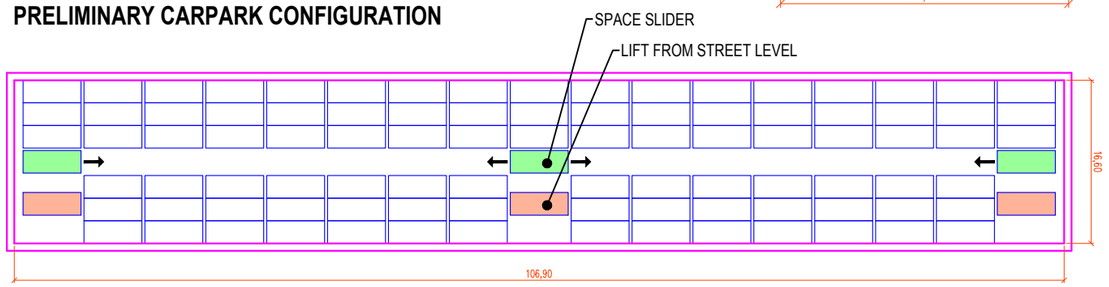
- CONSTRUCTION DEPTH*:
  8,3m VS **16,0**m FOR ORTHODOX PARKING (275 PS)
- CONSTRUCTION VOLUME:
  12.100m^3 VS **26.600**m^3 FOR ORTHODOX PARKING
- REDUCED IMPACT ON EXISTING SERVICES
  (GAS, WATER, SEWAGE, ELECTRICITY, ETC)

  * EXCLUDING 1,5m GROUNDCOVER

INDICATIVE CROSS SECTION



PRELIMINARY CARPARK CONFIGURATION



EXISTING TREES TO BE KEPT
Value 1 : Great Value
Value 2 : Supreme Value
Value 3 : Average

TREES TO BE KEPT IN 2025,
PARTIAL REPLACEMENT BY 2050
Value 4 : Supportive
Value 5 : Reduced vitality

PROPOSED TREES
TREES TO BE REMOVED

Trees replanting strategy 2025

TREES TO KEPT
Value 1 : Great Value
Value 2 : Supreme Value
Value 3 : Average

PROPOSED TREES
TREES TO BE REMOVED

Trees replanting strategy 2025

PHASING OF THE REVITALIZATION OF CHARLES SQUARE

Gustafson Porter + Bowman

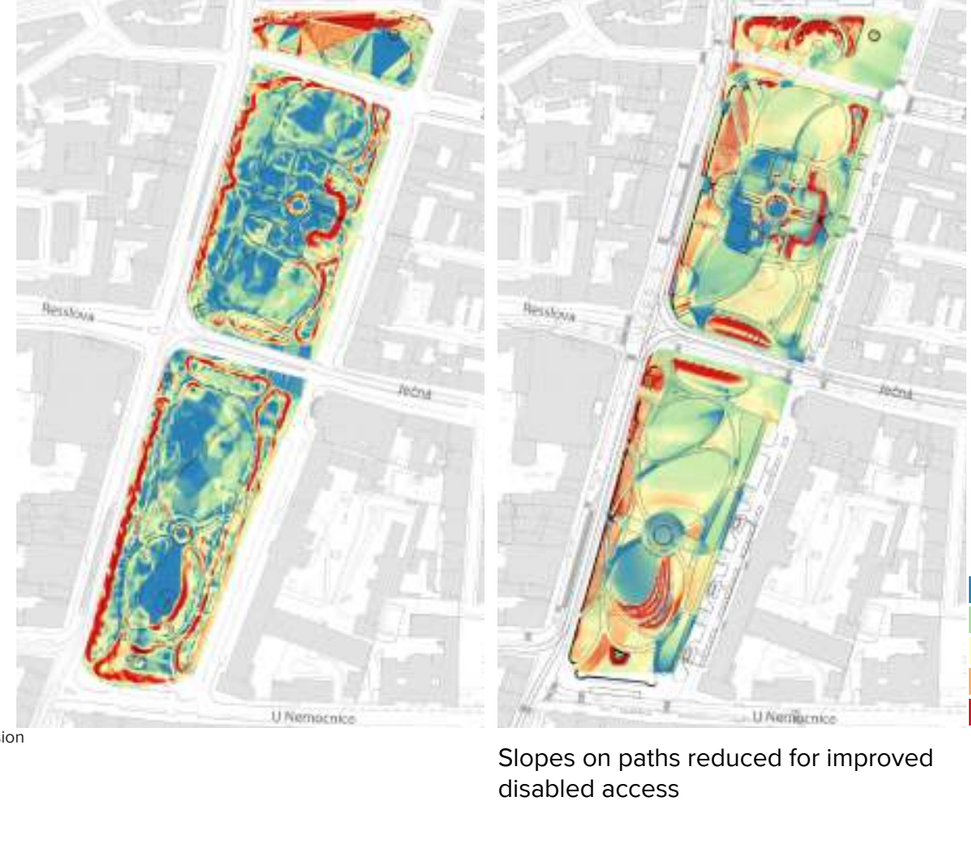
PHASING

Proposed phasing

In order to allow continued use of the park, we have suggested a phased construction.
The south segment of the park is to be constructed first, while the central and north segments can remain operational. The below ground parking garage can either be constructed concurrently with the south segment, or on completion of the central segment. It is envisaged that pavement improvement works to the south, and installation of the north park would follow. All these stages should be consecutive and be completed prior to 2025. Tree removal, except above the car park garage, will be limited to trees that are in in the poorest of health. Lastly, stages 3 a and b are to be completed between 2025 and 2050. In addition to the new shared surfaces, a programme of staged replacements will replace trees that have come to the end of their life as part of ongoing maintenance. It is important that trees are not removed all at once, but over a longer time period, to avoid large gaps in the tree canopy and introduce a better age structure through staged re-introductions.

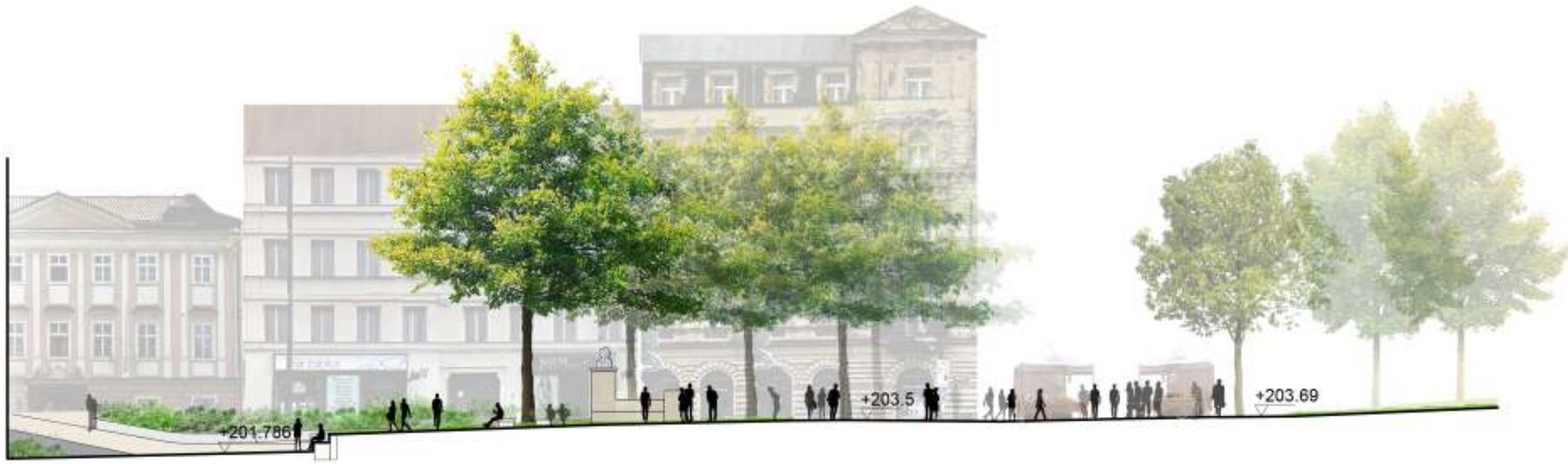
EXISTING CONDITION

PROPOSED SLOPE MODIFICATION



Slopes on paths reduced for improved disabled access

Section A-A‘



Shared surface - seating wall | Mixed border planting | Benches | Monument to V. Hálek | Pavement | Road | Cycle paths | Pavement | Lawn area

Section C-C‘

Shared surface - seating wall | Pavemen

Section B-B‘

Shared surface | New Town Hall plaza with historic fountain and column | Pave-ment | Road | Cycle path | Pavement

Section D-D‘

Playground

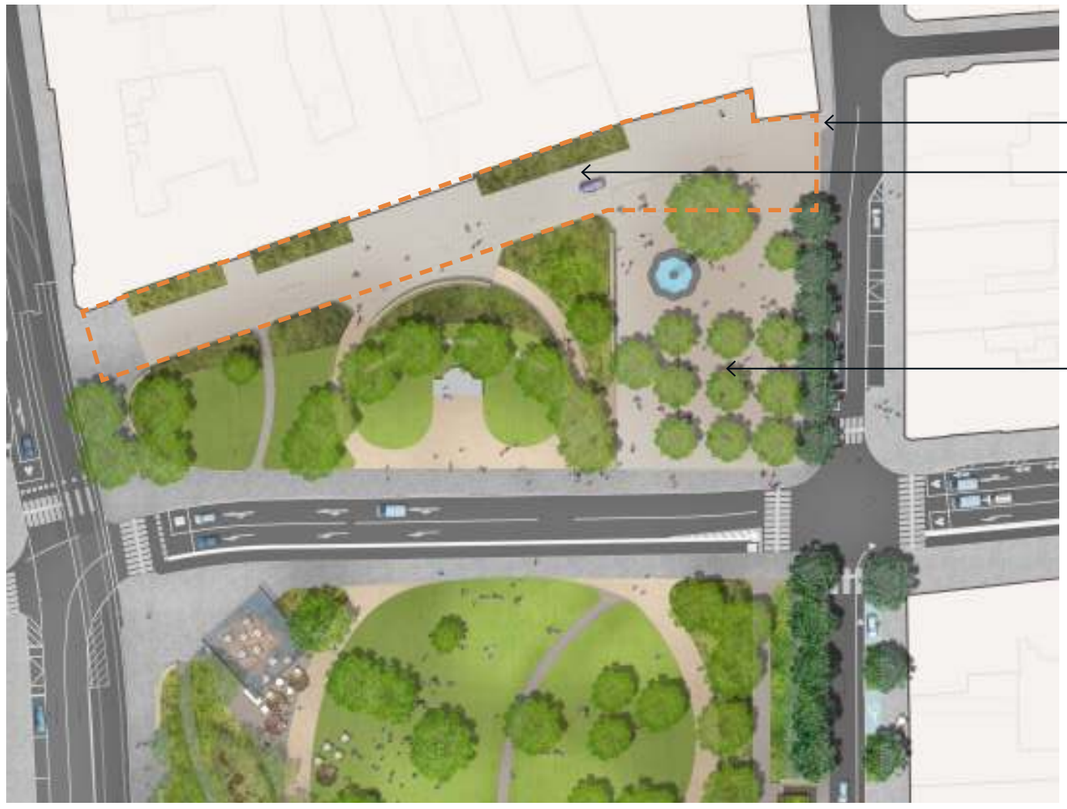
LONGITUDINAL SECTIONS A-A, B-B, C-C, D-D

Gustafson Porter + Bowman

Section A-A: The current maintenance and parking street is replaced with a shared surface road, with space for parking limousines for functions between planted borders. A new retaining walled bench at street level creates a resting place. New stepped and ramped paths with benches reintroduce Thomayer's layout and anticipate the closure of Jitna street and the connection to the rest of the park.
Section B-B: The New Town Hall piazza reintroduces an important feature of Thomayer's plan and will connect this important building to the rest of the park. Functions such as Wedding receptions, community events, and markets can spill out from the Town Hall and make connections to the Park.
Section C-C: Zetna Street is retained with its' important tram and vehicle connections. A new Piazza and shared surface street will allow the façade of the Church of St Igantius to be better appreciated and connect out towards the Park.
Section D-D: The wide pavements are planted with an avenue of trees, with storm water planters and a long retaining bench on the park side for meeting and resting outside the hospital. Disabled parking is retained on the south side.

Section E-E‘

New Town Hall plaza with historic fountain and column | Planting | Ramp | Bench
Planting in the background | Ramp | Planting | Stair-case



Shared surface

Parking space for municipal events

New Town Hall plaza with historic fountain and column

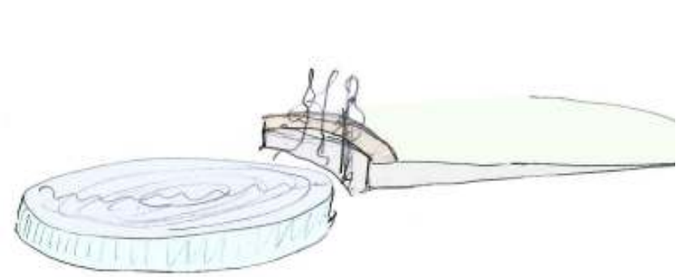
CROSS SECTION E-E

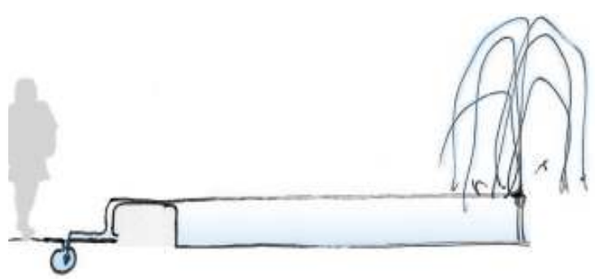
Gustafson Porter + Bowman

Karlovo Nam North is turned into a shared surface street in which the current sheet piling and maintenance containers are removed and new planted borders and benches create a pedestrian friendly context that link the New Town Hall and civic buildings to the park.
The proposal reduces the impact of the level change, by the introduction of long retaining wall and bench with a ramped path to the east and a stepped path to the west. Around the original memorial position we were able to reintroduce Thomayer's original path layout.
The New Town Hall Piazza and minimal parking for limousines allows space for civic functions, weddings, community events and markets. The existing fountain is retained in its original position to form the foreground to photo opportunities looking towards the New Town Hall.

Section F-F‘

Planting





Water flows over the edge into a slot at pavement level

CROSS SECTION F-F

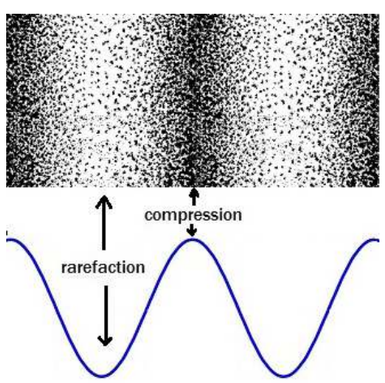
Gustafson Porter + Bowman

The main axis through the North Park retains Thomayer's original path layout amongst large planted beds of colourful flowers. The west balcony and grass slopes to the east are restored. To help protect the flower beds and to create a sequence of water tables, we have lifted their forms with a continuous stone bench, providing plentiful seating without the need for additional park benches.
The large pre Thomayer central basin retains its fountain and stone edge but is again lifted out of the ground to allow water to spill over its edge and into a continuous slot at pavement level. The raised stone water tables to either side have the same detail but can be switched off to create a stone plinth for temporary sculpture installations.
The formal planting beds can be developed in a number of ways, dependent on funding for maintenance and special events. A permanent scheme of flowering shrubs and perennials with vibrant flower colours could be a pemanent feature located in borders of evergreen hedge. Alternatively, a continuously inventive planting scheme could become a yearly seasonal event created by artists and horticultural experts.

Raised stone water table

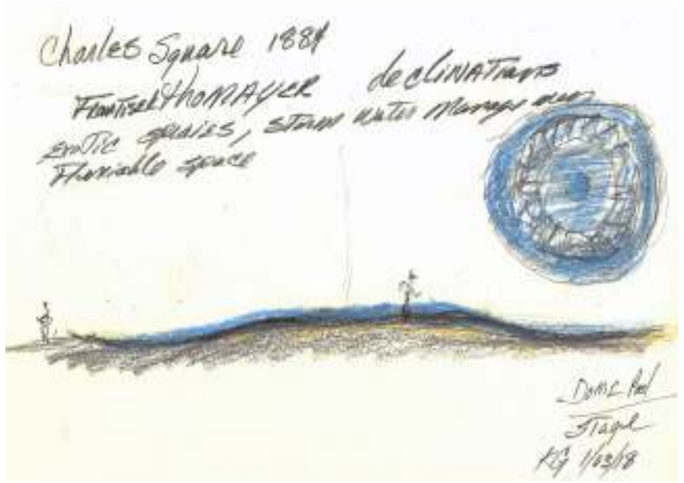
Section G-G‘

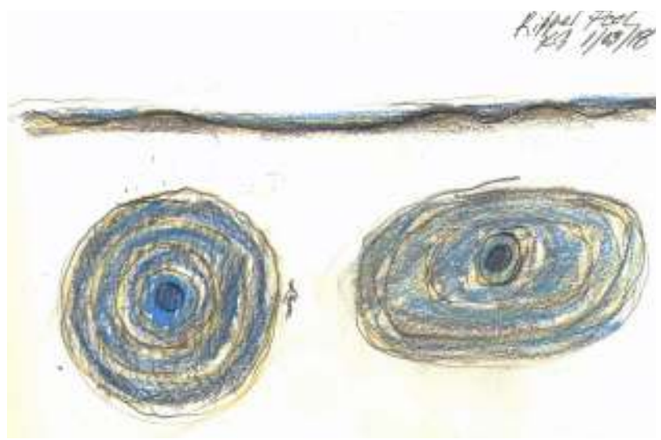
Reference images: ripple pool and scrim



Water feature concept - Ripples

Shared surface





CROSS SECTION G-G

Gustafson Porter + Bowman

The main axis through the South Park retains Thomayer ’s original visual axis but allows it to extend as a major pedestrian route to the park’s eastern edge. The central fountain is lifted out of the ground and spills into a sequence of rippled and sculpted rivulets that allow it to become a play feature in summer. This will allow the asphalt playground to be replaced by a large grass amphitheatre and an all-weather play area to the south.
Immediately to the east and west of the play fountain are two seating areas set amongst less formal perennial planting schemes with an exuberance of flowers in pastel tones and ornamental grasses in summer and seed heads that catch the frost in winter. These areas will allow parents to socialise whilst their children play.
The east end of the axis connects to the new tree lined promenade that parallels the shared surface Karlova Nam. It is accompanied by a continuous planted storm water planter, plentiful benches and numerous connections between the park and the street that extend the park’s influence up to the façade of the historic clinic.

View of the water feature

Section H-H‘

Pavement	Road	Tram stop	Tram route	Pavement seating	Woodland planting	Path	Grass area - performances & installations	Amphitheatre	Planting	Path	Kiosk/ public Toilet

Space for temporary events

Les Jardins de l’Imaginaire, Terrasson

Heveningham Hall Amphitheater, Suffolk

Playground Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

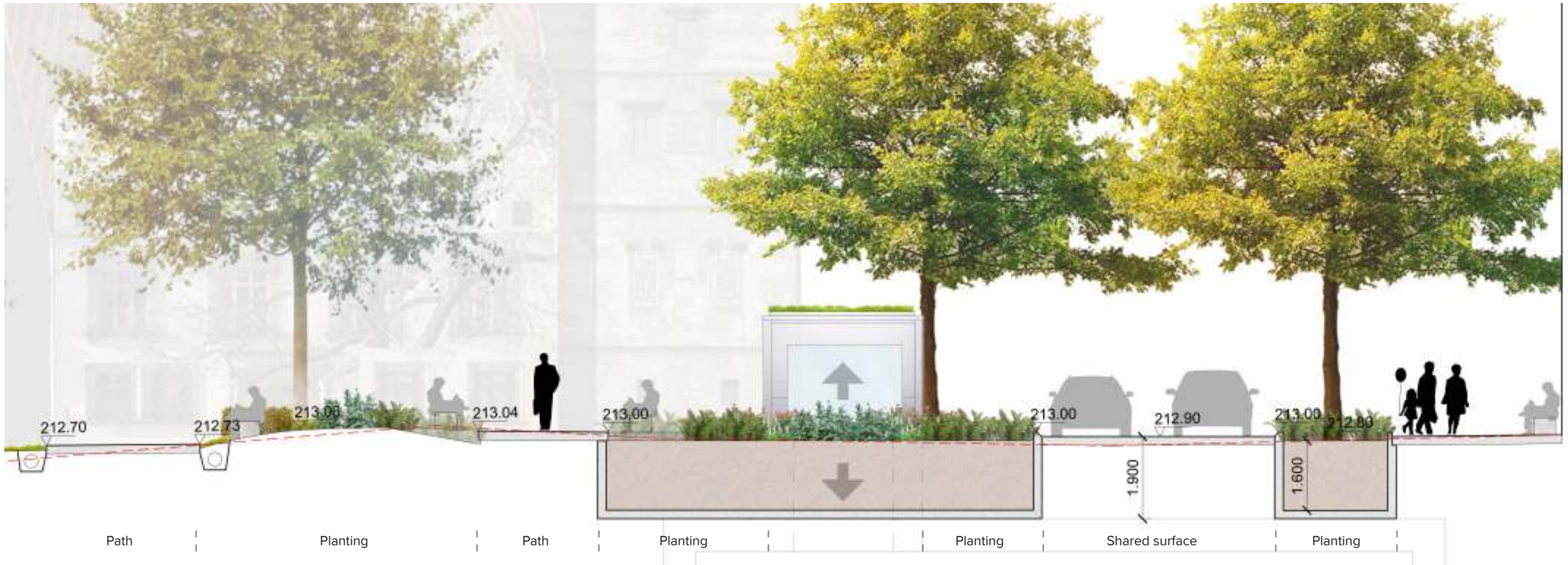
CROSS SECTION H-H

Gustafson Porter + Bowman

Shared surface

Playground Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

The asphalt plaza and playground are replaced by a large bowl like amphitheatre with a sequence of grass terraces that catch the sun throughout the day. This will restore this neglected part of the park to Thomayer's original concept of a Jardin Anglais but with a new programmatic function.
The amphitheatre with sloped form creates a wonderful living room for families to spend time outside, close to their homes. They can have a picnic whilst children play in the fountain to the north or in the small playground to the south, tucked among the dappled shade of trees.
The amphitheatre can also function as a performance space with the inclusion of powerpoints and flexible lighting that can be adapted to create a special atmosphere in the evenings.



SECTION 1

Existing situation in red dashed line

SECTION AND PLAN DETAIL 1

Gustafson Porter + Bowman

Avenue of trees frames shared surface

Automated underground car park entrance

Underground car park

N

m 1:100

Existing situation in red dashed line

SECTION 2

SECTION AND PLAN DETAIL 2

Gustafson Porter + Bowman

Introduction of Shared Surfaces allows cafes and restaurants to spill out onto the pavement

An off-the-shelf kiosk structure with glass facade could be modified

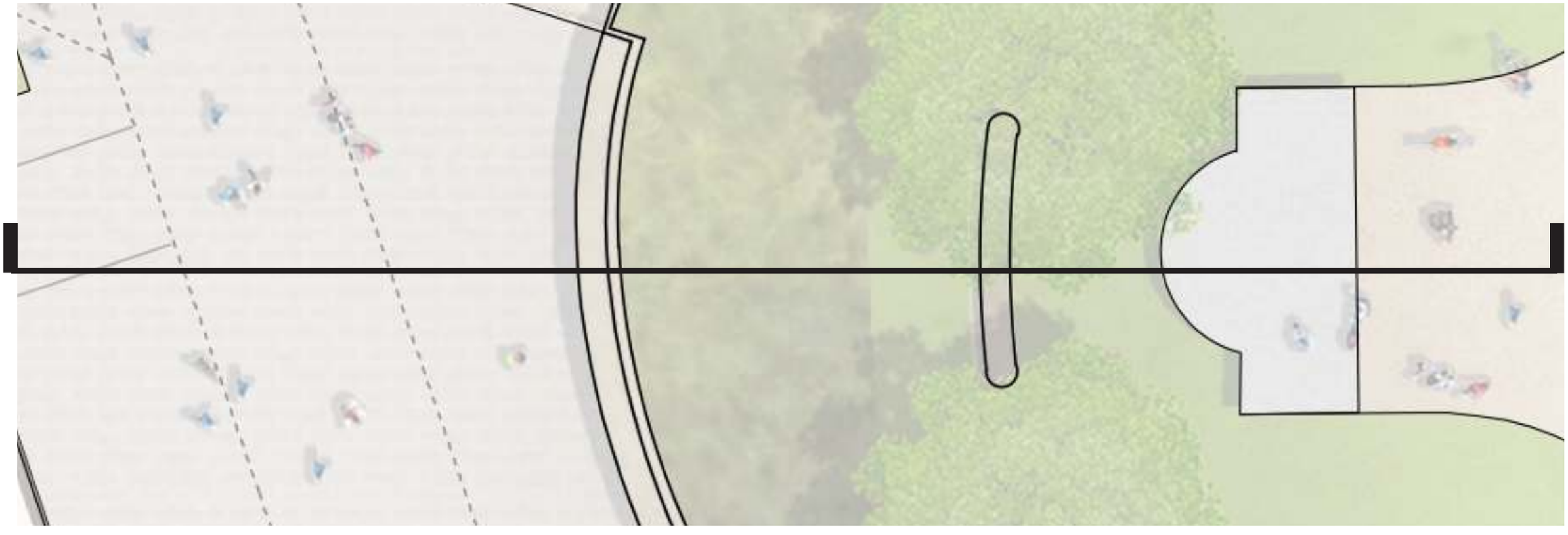
inspired by the beauty of Czech glass artistry

with coloured glass as part of the ‘2% for Art’ strategy

m 1:100

SECTION 3

Existing situation in red dashed line



SECTION AND PLAN DETAIL 3

Gustafson Porter + Bowman

Shared surfaces

Seating wall

V. Hálek monument

Temporary art installations

m 1:100

SECTION 4

Existing situation in red dashed line

SECTION AND PLAN DETAIL 4

Gustafson Porter + Bowman

Woodland planting along west boundary

Outdoor Cafe

m 1:100

SECTION 5

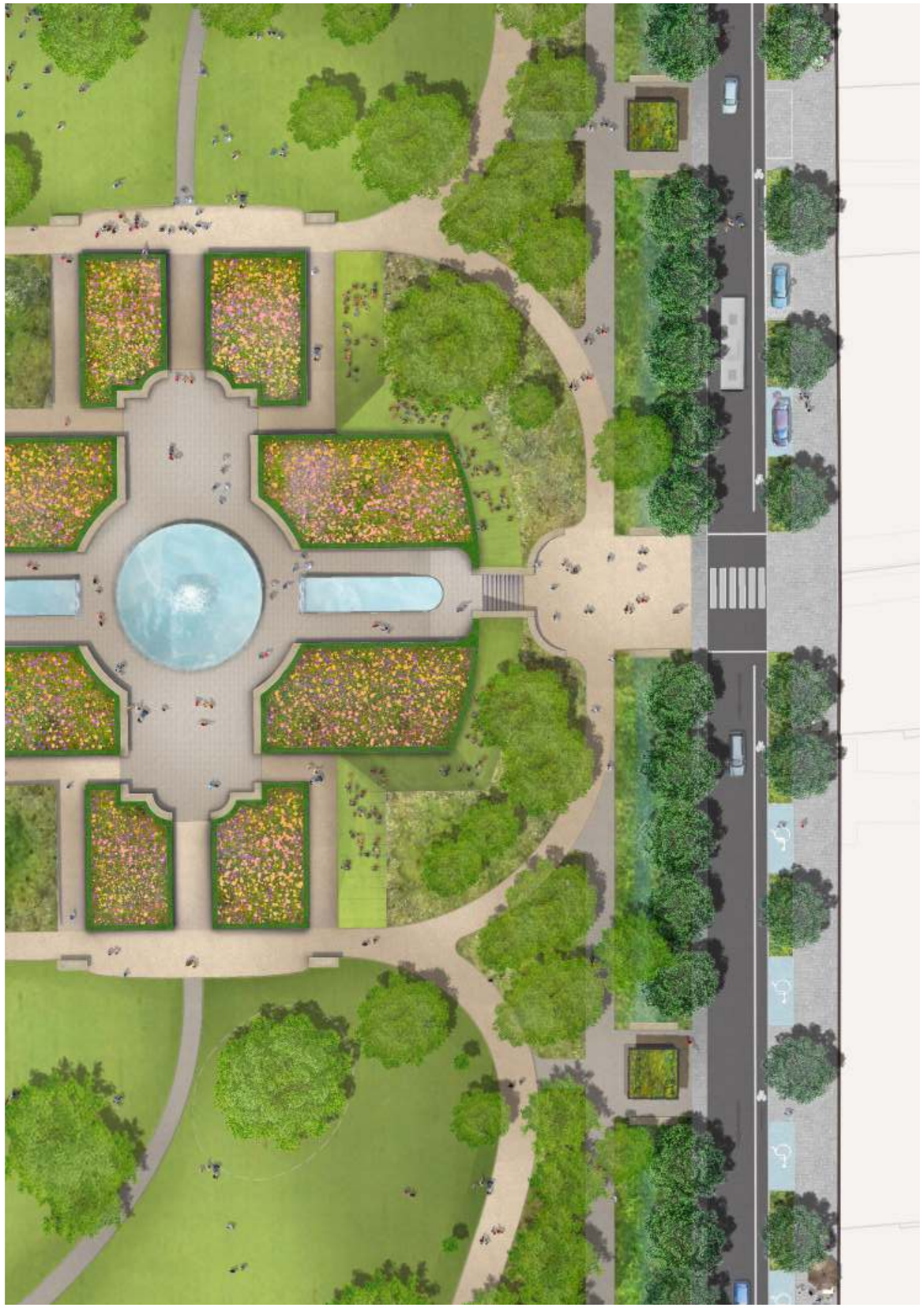
Existing situation in red dashed line

SECTION AND PLAN DETAIL 5

Gustafson Porter + Bowman

Woodland planting
along west boundary

Colour planting accents



LANDSCAPING DESIGN OF THE PARK 2025

Gustafson Porter + Bowman

N

1:500

In order to extend the park's influence and achieve the future tree lined promenade on its east side, we need to introduce an automated underground car park with its' car lifts, avoiding the need for unsightly car ramps. This allows the removal of all surface parking around the edge of the park other than for the disabled. It will allow traffic calming measures to be introduced over time and allow the north and east sides of the park to become pedestrian priority areas that will make the park more inviting and accessible.
The historic fountains in the centre of the north and south areas will be adapted and restored to become attractive areas of interest and life. The north fountain is the centre of a new exhibition garden surrounded by stone benches.
Ailing trees will be removed from the central park area, opening up long views to the surrounding built skyline. On the edges of the park, unhealthy trees will be removed and replaced to reinforce the woodland frame that creates the park's illusion of calm. Small plazas will be opened up in front of the New Town Hall, the University and the Church of St Ignatius, helping to make their facades more evident.

LANDSCAPING DESIGN OF THE PARK 2050

Gustafson Porter + Bowman

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As the traffic calming measures around the Parks perimeter take effect, the next major move is to close Zitna Street allowing the isolated north edge of the park and the New Town Hall to be linked to the rest of the park. Events in the Town Hall can spill out into its small plaza with a grid of trees, and into the new open plaza that has been won from the street. This will be the ideal location for regular specialist craft and food markets that can help revitalise the area.
As some of the older trees continue to decline they can be removed from the centre of the park's lawn spaces. Where their composition helps enhance picturesque views where they will be replaced with new trees. Those in the perimeter woodland will be removed and replaced. Edges will be planned to have predominantly native trees that will enhance the newly planted woodland habitat that will encourage wildlife and a more biodiverse park and city centre.

1 View of the central park with the formal reflection pool

View of the central park with basin (1930s)

View of the central park with basin (2018)

VIEW OF THE LAWN BORDERING TRADITIONAL CORE

2 View of the lawn bordering traditional core

PLANTING STRATEGY

Following on from the feedback during workshop III, we have responded by giving an indication of how we would further develop the planting during the next stage of design if we were chosen to continue.
We have introduced a greater differentiation of the vegetative structure, using shrubs in a structural way to create garden rooms.

In the north park, shrub planting defines two garden rooms centred around the historic monuments. A trimmed hedge encloses the piazza in front of the town hall, echoing the former planting framing the historic square that existed in this place.

The woodland character in the west of the site has been strengthened. Here, shade tolerant woodland shrubs, ferns and perennials define the space, with flowering plants delivering colour highlights along the entrances. Planting is protected by low metal trip rails that prevent short-cuts. We have kept the majority of the planting here below 1.5metres tall to enable good sightlines between park and road.

Along the east path, the vegetation is characterized by the tall grasses, sedges and shrubs that form part of the sustainable urban drainage system. They have been chosen to tolerant short periods of immersion during heavy rainfalls. The path along the east appears to emerge, slightly raised, from these tall grasses. As the surrounding road is elevated above the park, the sightlines into the park are maintained despite the taller plants.

Once inside the park, tall and medium sized shrubs frame all path entrances, forming arabesque patterns in the manner of Alfonse and Thomayr. The shrubs give definition to the entrance sequence, with rooms framed by tall vegetation leading to paths that open up to wide open lawns. Openings in the vegetation both north-south and east-west allow good sightlines across the spaces. Clearly defining a series of sub-spaces within each park segment, the shrub planting allows for better definition and more varied and flexible usage of the various park segments.

The new water feature art piece in the central garden is framed by perennial and low shrub planting in vibrant colour combinations, creating a truly iconic focal piece to Charles Square.

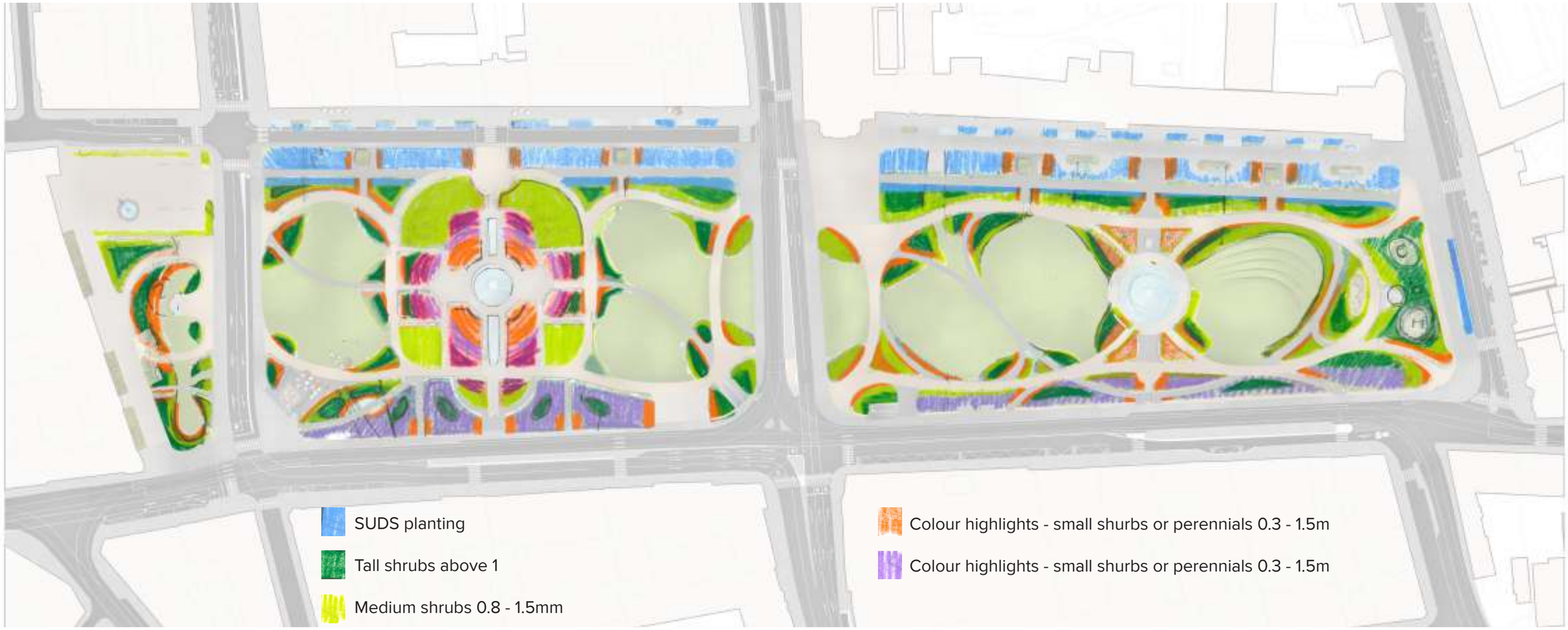
The planting in the south garden will be looser, in more subtle subdued colours, in line with the Jardin Anglais character of this space. Woodland planting encloses a new community building and maintenance hut in the south of the site.

Plant selection throughout the park will favour plants that provide food sources such as nectar and pollen to promote biodiversity in the park.

Path flanked by tall grasses along the east park boundary

Vibrant planting surrounding the water feature in the central park space

PLANTING PALETTE

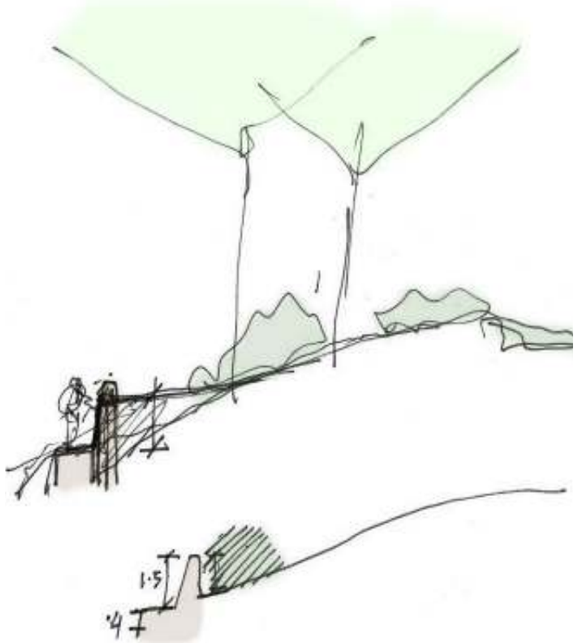


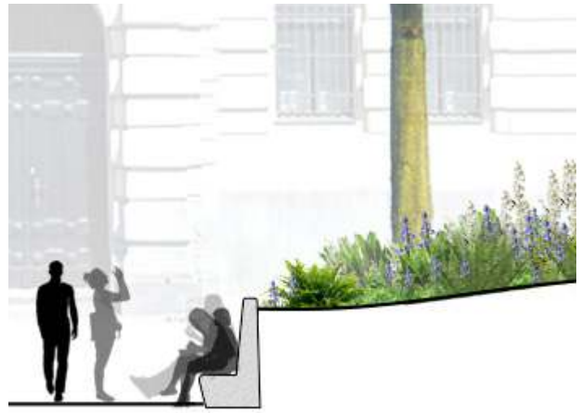
Low woodland planting below existing trees maintains sight lines

Subtle planting in the south park creates a diversity of experiences

EDGE CONDITIONS - WEST SIDE

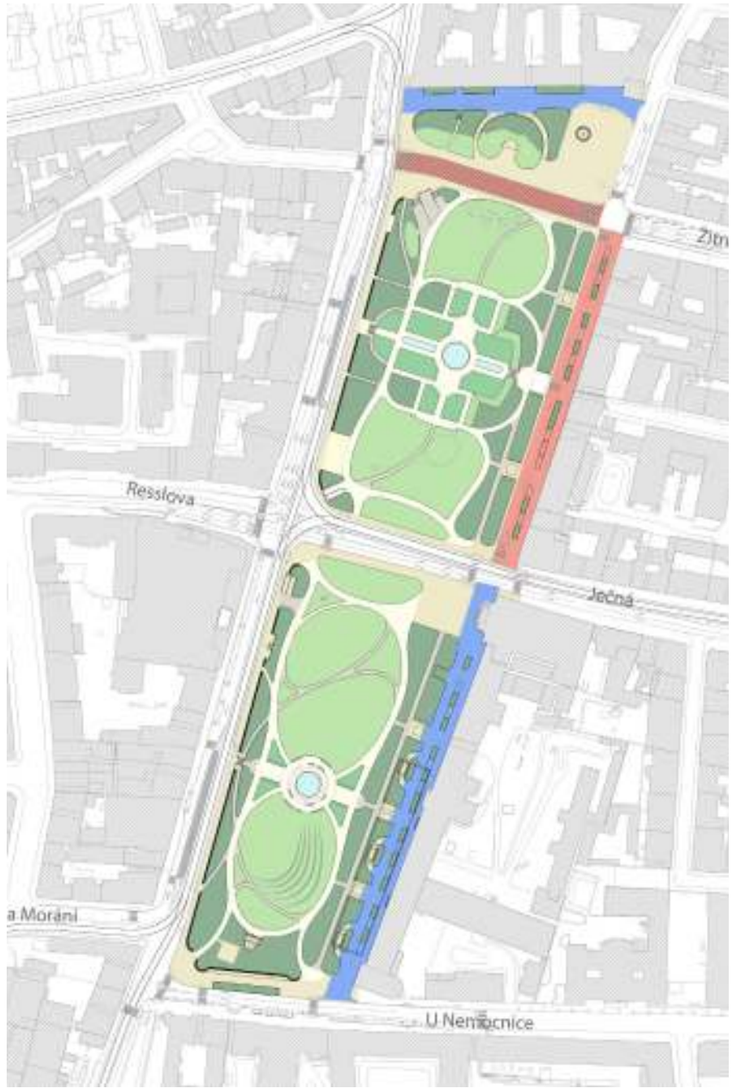
The west edge of the park contains a steep wooded bank that descends to the busy commercial street and transport interchange full of movement. To some extent the park needs to be protected from this frenetic energy with a bolder walled bench with large clear openings to the park.
We have created four new entrances to the park. In addition we have paid particular care to provide new easily accessible ramped routes that formalise desire lines. The tall overgrown shrubs and hedges will be replaced with a more biodiverse native woodland planting that will include shade tolerant perennials and encourage wildlife.
Just as we have opened up and enlarged the small piazzas in front of the New Town Hall and St Ignatius, we wish to introduce a small plaza that opens on to the classical façade of the University. With ample seating, its' position next to the main metro station will create a space for staff and students to meet and gather, before crossing the road and entering the University.

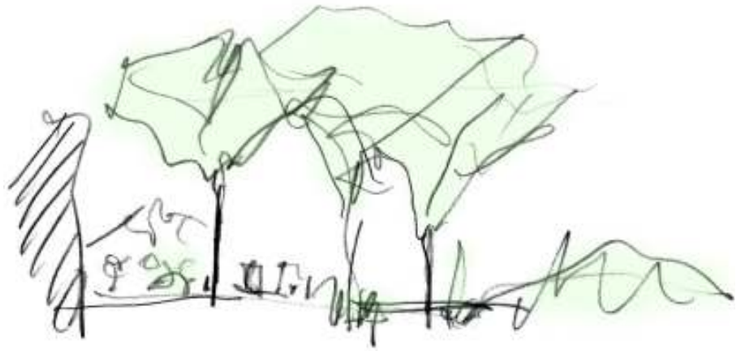




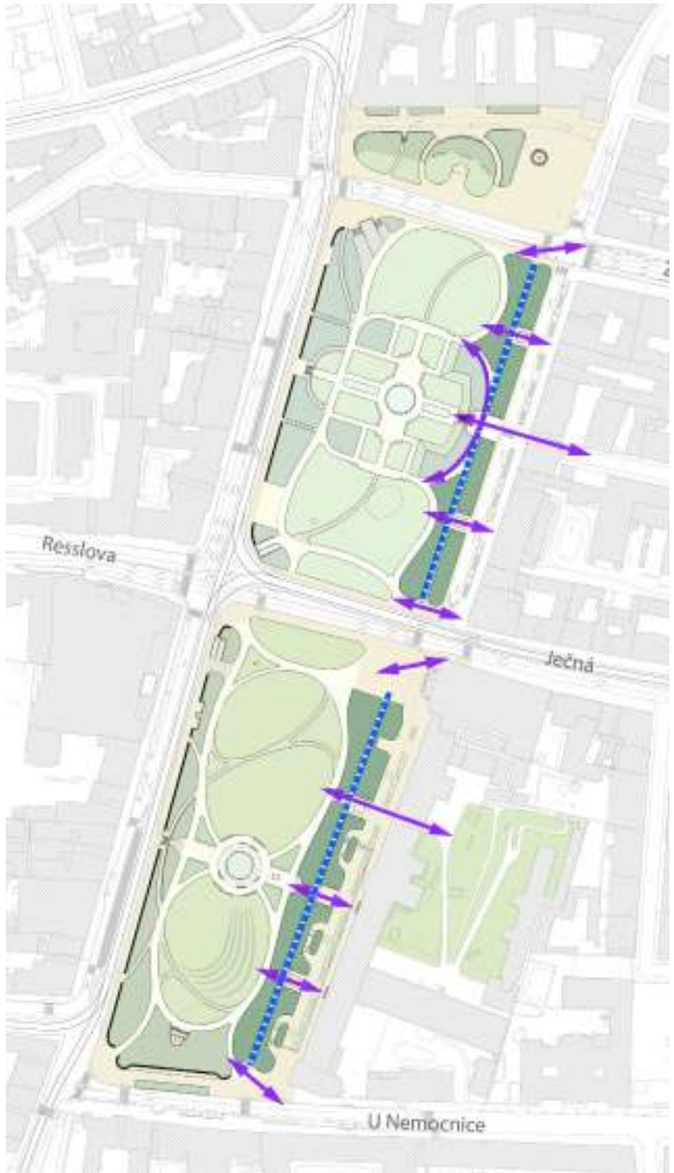
EDGE CONDITIONS - EAST SIDE

The new north-south promenade and shared surface route on the park's east side creates a promenade for social interaction that connects the park to the daily lives of local people. The promenade contains five new entry points into the park, with four kiosks. This leaves two existing central entry points free for clear vistas across the park. Two central routes connect to interior courts and roads within the urban blocks.
Two kiosks provide w.c. and two kiosks could supply food and beverages, newspapers and flowers. These will all have balcony views of the park. Given their elevated position, they will be well observed.
The promenade that links them is partly built above an underground car park that allows the majority of parking to be removed from the street. This leaves the shared surface area to contain disabled parking and delivery bays between planters.
The hard surfaces of the shared surface road and promenade will drain into a continuous storm water planter that in turn connects to the large water reservoirs that can provide irrigation during the dry summer months.

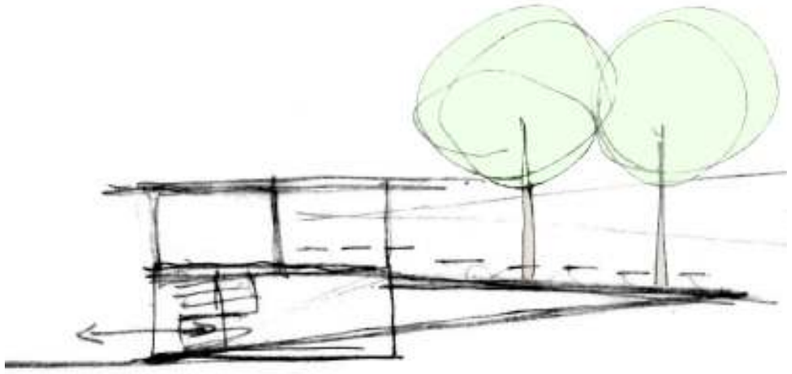




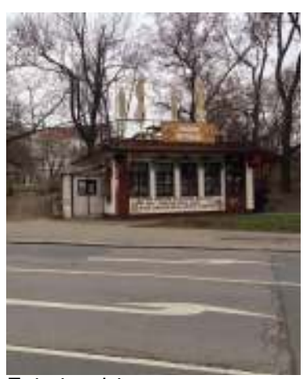
- SHARED SURFACE 2025
- SHARED SURFACE 2050
- PEDESTRIANIZED SURFACE 2050



BUILDINGS IN THE PARK - KIOSK, BISTRO, TERRACE, TOILETS



The introduction of shared surfaced roads and piazzas on the park's north and east edges will encourage an interaction between existing buildings and the life of the park. Within the park we have placed kiosks along the new east edge promenade where they have a balcony view but do not impose themselves on the interior view corridors across the park.
The existing Bistro on the west corner of Jitna Street needs to be upgraded to allow its operation at both street and park levels. With the closing down of Jitna Street to vehicular traffic we can create a terrace with views towards the River Danube. With the creation of a new diagonal ramped entrance to the park through the woodland we can introduce a large wide terrace accessed by steps from Jitna to a glazed pavilion above the current Bistro that looks out in all directions and addresses the park.
On the south west corner adjacent to the Faustus House in another area of woodland a new maintenance shed and yard can be fenced and hedged to be invisible from the adjoining streets and paths. The creation of paths and small buildings in the woodland edge will increase permeability leading to a reduction in anti-social behaviour.


Existing bistro

Bistro terrace

Public toilets

Location of buildings in the park

LIGHTING CONCEPT

Good quality lighting is needed along the main paths of Thomayer's path network. These will vary between pole lights along the major four metre wide routes along the edge of the east and west wooded areas, to low level bollard lights along secondary paths. The east shared surface road and promenade should also have good levels of light to give this edge a friendly feel.
The two water features at the centre of each park area will require specialist feature lighting that allows the water to reflect the landscape that surrounds them but also highlight the falling water around each features perimeter. This will establish well functioning spaces at the heart of the park removing the sense of danger that people experience in the current park.

MASTERPLAN OF CHARLES SQUARE 2050

Gustafson Porter + Bowman

2050 sees the full realisation of the park renewal.
Surrounding roads have been calmed, use of private vehicles has been reduced and replaced by increased use of public transport and bicycles. Access to the park and between park spaces has been simplified. Historic buildings and monuments are given the significance they deserve by the incorporation of new squares. Zitna has been closed to traffic, enabling community events and markets to be held there.
The tree canopy layer has been re-invigorated by selective replacements over a minimum of 25 years and replacement with contract grown trees originating from the historic tree stock, with more biodiverse planting to the park's edges.
Better urban connections, increased use of the park and better overlooking of the park have reduced anti-social behaviour. The newly programmable spaces have allowed the community to come together and have made the neighbourhood a desirable place to live in.