



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

international
student
competition

THESSALONIKI
2014
award

ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI

Post Graduate Studies

Landscape Architecture

School of Architecture, Faculty of Technology
School of Agriculture, Faculty of Agriculture,
Forestry and Natural Environment
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Municipality of Thessaloniki
Ministry of Reconstruction of Production,
Environment & Energy

Landscape architecture
International Student Competition
THESSALONIKI 2014 award

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International
Student Competition
landscape architecture

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editorial note

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of our Postgraduate Program, the first in Landscape Architecture at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and among all Greek Universities, we announced in 2013 the International Student Competition on Landscape Architecture, Thessaloniki 2014 "Re-designing the cityscape from the forest to the seafront: Tritis Septemvriou Street".

The Postgraduate course is a Joint Program between the School of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering and the School of Agriculture, Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Environment, administrated by the former. It leads to an MLA two years Master degree Diploma in Landscape Architecture, recognized by IFLA, the International Federation of Landscape Architects and ECLAS, the European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools.

In the same context, the International Symposium "Landarch Competition, Thessaloniki 2014" has been organized, for the presentation and the Award ceremony of the competition, as well as the Exhibition of the winning projects at the City Hall of Thessaloniki.

The publication under the title "Landscape Architecture. International student competition. Thessaloniki 2014 Award", summarizes the whole effort and forms a memorandum to the successful completion of the first decade, 2003-2014, of the program, as well as a springboard and foresight for the next one.

We celebrate the transition from one decade to the next, from the present to the future, from the previous institutional context to a new one.

We celebrate the successful recruitment of the Greek society with landscape architects, experts on the design, planning and the rehabilitation of the Greek landscape, for its upgrade, the sustainable development and programming of the urban, rural and the natural environment.

Specialized technicians and geo-technicians in landscape and large environmental projects, dealing with all sort of projects and scales, such as urban design, natural resources management, transport, residential and touristic development, green infrastructure, ecological management etc.

We celebrate the joy that our graduates have given us through their achievements during their studies, with distinctions, scholarships, awards and finally as professionals, by their recruitment in the public and private sector as well as in the academic society.

We are glad for the work that has been carried out, either on a research basis with participations in conferences, or by the high-class design work that has been recognized and awarded in exhibitions and competitions.

The Landarch Competition, Thessaloniki 2014, summarizes our scientific aspects and the educational and research practices, and aspires to come into contact with Schools and Departments of Landscape Architecture all over the world.

It symbolizes our will to reward the excellence in the studies, and derives from our deep belief that landscape architecture, which is already being taught for the last 50 years by the two Schools of our postgraduate program, forms an applied field of comprehending and designing open space, especially useful nowadays in Greece.

With the experience of a past international student competition, the Robert Schmidt Prize 1993 carried out under the auspices of the German Ministry of Environment, in which the School of

Architecture and Thessaloniki were invited to participate, as well as the experience of multiple participations and distinctions of our post-graduate program, we organized the International Student Competition "Re-designing the cityscape from the forest to the seafront: Tritis Septemvriou Street".

It aimed at promoting landscape architecture projects within the context of a socio-ecological and perceptual approach, for regeneration, sustainability and upgrading of the urban environment.

The theme refers to a physical corridor, running from the slopes of Kedrinos Lofos to the seafront of Thermaikos Gulf, along with the adjacent urban sites or grounds of significant importance, such as the Waterfront Park, the City Hall and Museums, the International Fair and archaeological findings, the Universities.

Students were asked to: transform the existing urban landscape into a viable space for inhabitants and visitors, by taking into consideration the site's potential for re-establishment of the lost continuity, public life and perception, ecological upgrade, to design a new landscape coming out from the existing one in the base of the site's caring capacity, natural and cultural.

The challenge was huge, given the existing means and the economic difficulties the Greek University is currently facing.

It is the first time for the Greek University that an International Student Competition is established. It has been completed with great success and with much notable participation from other universities from France, Sweden, Germany, Slovenia, Canada, Great Britain and Greece.

We thank all who have trusted us:

To begin with, the Minister Mr Panagiotis Lafazanis, Ministry of Reconstruction of Production, Environment & Energy, YPAPEN, ex IPEKA, as well as the previous Minister, Professor Yiannis Maniatis, for their support by setting the competition under the auspices of the Ministry and the funding, through the Green Fund of the first two prizes.

Special thanks, to Mr Lafazanis for his positive respond to our invitation to honor us with his presence in the "Landarch Competition 2014" and the Award.

We thank the Deanery of the Faculty of Engineering and especially the Dean, Professor Konstantinos Katsambalos for his sincere support, during all the stages of the Competition, as well as to our Program over time.

Thank you for the funding of one prize and the distinctions that the Dean will attribute.

Many thanks, to the Rector Professor Panagiotis Mitkas, who honors us with his presence at the Award, and his full support through the Research Committee, both for the Competition and the Symposium.

We thank the Municipality of Thessaloniki and especially the Mayor Yannis Boutaris for his co-operation in the Competition, which we hope will be proven useful for the city.

Also, for the grant of access to the Conference Room of the Municipal Council for the transaction of the Symposium and the Award of the winning teams.

Most of all we thank our dear colleagues of the Greek and the International Jury of the Competition for their valuable contribution and their high quality preparation and assessment of the competition: Ioannis Tsalikidis, Georgios Papakostas, Georgios Zoidis, Aleka Karadimou - Gerolympou, Sotirios Tsiouris, Magda Pitsiava, Maria Tratsela, Konstantinos Varotsos, Michael Corajoud, Simon Bell, Valerio Morabito, Robert Holden, together with the undersigned.

Unfortunately the landscape has lost Michel Corajoud, “Le paysage a perdu son Corajoud”, as we were informed during the assessment phase of the competition in October 29 2014. We have lost not only a judge, but a friend and a teacher, the great Landscape Architect honored with the Grand Prix du Passage and the Grand Prix d’I Urbanism, France.

The memorandum to him, during the Symposium, is only a minimum tribute to his immense work and whatever each one of us owes to him, especially those of us who had the chance to be one of his students.

We also thank the Technical Committee who has supported this venture, executives and the graduates of our Master Program: Anastasia Papadopoulou, Anastasia Mavridou, Eleni Athanasiadou, Vasilis Charistos, Efthymis Charalampidis.

We congratulate the awarded students and thank all the students from various Landscape Schools and Universities who have honored us by taking part in this Competition.

With the results of the Competition, we hope to have contributed in landscape architecture theory and practice with projects, proposed as society projects, projects of art and culture, upgrading the urban environment and the life quality, designing the contemporary city scale metamorphoses. Especially for the landscape of Thessaloniki, it is not the first time, as the contribution of the Master Program in Landscape Architecture has been very valuable so far, with numerous applied projects, scientific and design work for the redesign of the urban landscape. I mention the “Landscape Architecture – 100 Projects for the city – Thessaloniki 2012”, the Strategic and Operational Plan for the City and the Sheik-Sou of OR.TH., the Organization of Planning and Environmental Protection of Thessaloniki.

We believe that the 50-year contribution of our University in the architecture of the urban landscape of Thessaloniki form a springboard for the formation of a local policy according to the modern needs of sustainable development and the increasingly demanding perspective of the urban environment.

Maria Ananiadou - Tzimopoulou

Emeritus Professor, School of Architecture, AUTH



Intervention area

Operational area, 2017-2020
Operational area, 2021-2024
Operational area, 2025-2028

0 20 40 60 80 100 1/2000

Legend

Architectural and Urban Planning Department
Faculty of Architecture, University of Architecture, Art and Design
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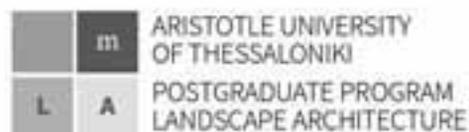


Re-designing the cityscape from the forest to the seafront:

Tritis Septemvriou Street

International student competition 2014
Thessaloniki, Greece

landarch-competition2014.web.auth.gr



School of Architecture - Faculty of Engineering
School of Agriculture - Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry & Natural Environment



competition's brief

International Student Competition.
Landscape architecture, Thessaloniki, Greece, 2014
landarch-competition2014.web.auth.gr

Re-designing the cityscape from the forest to the seafront:
Tritis Septemvriou Street.

Introduction: the theme

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary for the establishment of the first academic program in Landscape Architecture in Greece (2003-2013), the Post-Graduate Program in Landscape Architecture at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki announces an international student design competition, on the subject of the re-synthesis of the cityscape of Thessaloniki's Tritis Septemvriou Street. The Program in Landscape Architecture is offered by the School of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, and the School of Agriculture, Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Environment of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, administrated by the former.

The competition is under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change and in collaboration with the City Council of Thessaloniki.

It aims at promoting landscape architecture projects within the context of a socio-ecological and perceptual approach, for regeneration, sustainability and upgrading of the urban environment.

The theme refers to a physical corridor, running from the slopes of Kedrinos Lofos to the seafront of Thermaikos Gulf, along with the adjacent urban sites or grounds of significant importance, but fragmentarily attached to it: Waterfront Park and Promenade, City Hall, Archaeological Museum, Museum of Byzantine Culture, International Fair, Military Headquarters, Early-Christian archaeological findings, two University Campuses, Underground station, Sports Museum, sport fields, the Hortatzidon stream, and Kedrinos Lofos.

Students are asked to develop planning ideas and innovative design proposals in order to reform the landscape image, upgrade the environmental qualities and values, enhance the unique landscape identity and promote sustainability. The final goal is to transform the existing urban landscape into a viable space for inhabitants and visitors, by taking into consideration the site's potential for: re-establishment of the lost continuity by eliminating space fragmentation, public life and perception, ecological upgrade, and implementation of sustainable environmental practices.

It is important to assess the quality of the proposals on the basis of the following three criteria:

- Landscape architectural quality
- Quality of urban living
- Environmental awareness

framework in progress

1st PRIZE

Timothee Verdeau

Master in Landscape Architecture

Agrocampus Ouest – Institut National d’Horticulture et Paysage, Rennes, France

Gabrielle Lamontagne

Master in Ecology: Organism Biology and Ecosystem

Université Bordeaux I, Sciences et Technologies, Bordeaux, France

Clement Jaffre

Master in Agronomy

AgroParis Tech, Institut des sciences et industries du vivant et de l’environnement, Paris, France

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Reinventing the city, regenerating a territory, reclaiming a street is part of a global scale.

Transformation processes are complex and are part of a long-time space continuum: an open temporality that goes beyond the decision time.

Our posture is decidedly focused on the appropriation of this long-time space continuum in the regeneration of the street, it combines short and long terms interventions within the same area by combining landscape and time. The landscape should serve as a political lever in the territorial transformation, time as programmatic tool for the establishment of a real spatial strategy. Creativity and innovation in the answers must now afford to continue to evolve public space no matters the economic environment.

From the image of forestry, we chose to mark time continuum, especially the long time continuum through tree growth. This is to provide a foreshadowing landscape which immediately liven up the site and encourage its appropriation without sealing his fate instantly.

Framework in progress may a. foresee courses of action that gradually rebalance the sharing of the street, b. stimulate and activate a process of urban reclaiming through sports, cultural and social events, and c. suggest flexibility adapted to times of crisis, both in space and in time.

FROM THE FOREST TO THE SEAFRONT

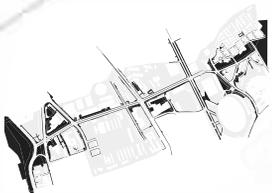
At the foot of the hills, the Macedonian metropolis is built on a particular geography between land and sea. The strategic position of Thessaloniki, facing the Thracian Gulf, made a multicultural landscape city reflecting its complex history and witness the diversity of its inhabitants.

Embracing the coastline, the city's urban form has developed in a crescent-shape constrained by a marked topography. Broad urban roads traced since the fire of 1917 follow the coastline according to an amphitheatrically logic and lead from residential and business districts to the far trade areas and the Aristotle University. Tritis Septemvriou is one of few streets facing the sea. Spanning 1650 meters long, it connects the city to its two natural boundaries - the forest and the sea at the narrowest point of the urban fabric. It marks the meeting point between the historic city in the north and the modern and residential city, in the south. The morphology of the street's urban fabric is characterized by large urban blocks unlike the rest of the city's urban fabric which is dense, complex and detailed. The structure of the street and of its reach-across are today an overlaid network that leave little room for human scale public spaces. The grip on the waterfront promenade at the bottom of Tritis Septemvriou street is a real precursor of reclaiming public space from the sea. This walk designed by Franco-Greek architects Nikiforidis and Camos acts as a platform and a pedestrian link at the city scale. This perfectly horizontal plateau, totally devoid of any obstacle, directly responding to the sea is a base for Tritis Septemvriou street. This joint plays a pivotal role in the citywide.

The layout of Tritis Septemvriou Street is a great opportunity to redefine and re-enable these large spaces which articulate connections between historic and modern city, and the relationship from the forest to the sea front.

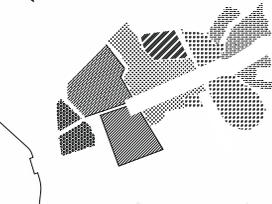
STREETSCAPE

The street public realm is primarily offered to road traffic. Very thin sidewalks are the only relics of shared public space despite sometimes the impressive width of the street. The long process of urban verticalization has led to a closure of building outdoor areas. The balance with open public spaces is completely unstable. However, the area that could potentially be reopened is important. Street recapture process must be based on a more balanced sharing of spaces. Public space is must release within the large urban blocks.



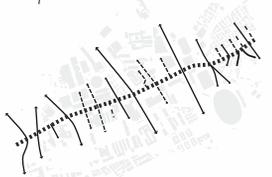
CLUSTERS

Urban blocks that make up Tritis Septemvriou street are clusters, i.e. autonomous entity which corresponds to specific business sectors and have few connection with their immediate environment, especially with public space of the street. Yet these clusters forge the street identity. It is not simply a question of reconnection by breaking clusters' edges, but rather to connect clusters to their environment through the street. Public space would become the binder, the contact point between clusters.



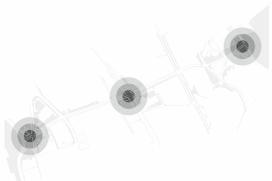
REACH ACROSS

The nature of the urban fabric, relatively sparse and mainly composed of large low-buildings, channels traffic into only four cross streets. They link the old with modern Thessaloniki districts. The idea is to analyse existing fabric and spot shapes that foreshadow future crossings or pedestrian alleys. We exploit them and make them visible. Multiply these hooks allows to conceive the new landscape frame across the city.



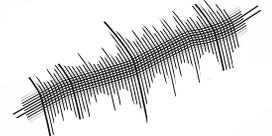
NODES

On this urban axis, three areas have a structuring role across the city - the waterfront, the university place and the uplands park. They balance between the center and both ends of the street. These nodes are real geographical hooks, they provide a base, a foundation to the frame.

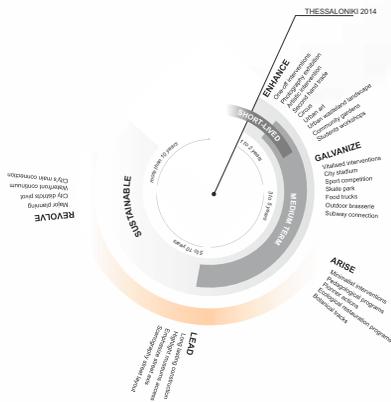


FRAMEWORK

The frame links, in a regular and stratified way, the forest and the waterfront. This frame settles itself as a precursor of the street transformation process - a tangible base to urban regeneration. Defined by a fine mesh: the scale of the human being. It constitute the framework and the fundamental part of the street. A structural framework that gives rise to an array of apertures, micro-places that enhance the street with singular events.



ESPACE OUVERT DISPONIBLE



CONCEPT PLAN

Process
Our strategy fits into territories transformation process whose time is essential. We rigorously define steps that guide the re-design cityscape. Streetscape that find a continuity in the public space. Here, the tree framework settles as a precursor process. It will support the street re-development by evoking a long tempo, through the growth of trees.

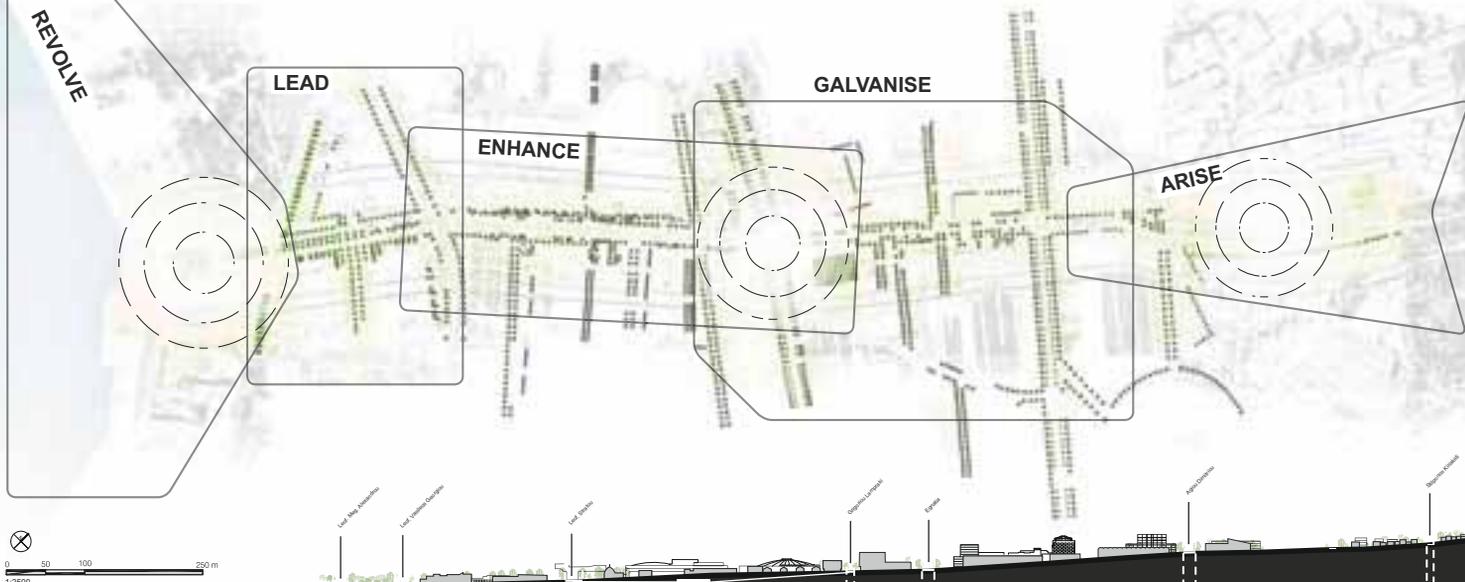
Framework system
The structural framework that project blanks becomes the connecting element between the different sequences of the street. Designed in a regular and stratified way, the frame provides a tangible structure defining here and there shared micro-site. It is the support for appropriation and urban regeneration. The architecture of the frame is complex: a primary

structure accompanies the linear of the street giving its continuity across clusters. A second degree, more extensive, reveals inside out clearances. This second structure is hanging on both sides of the street and prefigures the limits of new spaces to be invented. It initiates a process of complexifying the streetscape organized along a dual-layer frame.

Landscape strategy
The landscape strategy plays with textures, ambiances and planting density variations. This strategy surrounds available areas and restore local vegetation from natural ecological systems of Central Macedonia (Grewk, Macedonia). The different species are organized according to blocks with variable planting density, providing, right after planting, green rooms. These new volumes bring the site into life without however being obliged to compose immediately all

linear. It commits these new volumes in a granted transformation process. This background landscape is the first action on the ground, a first layer, a grip.

Actions
The heterogeneous urban fabric encourage a coherent and targeted intervention throughout the street. This landscape recovery is organized around five major intentions: **ARISE**, **GALVANISE**, **ENHANCE**, **LEAD** and **REVOLVE**, reflecting a dynamic transformation through space and time. Interventions that are resulting go from the more minimalist (or even short-lived action) that aim to encourage nestling pedestrian nearby to more consistent actions such as the arrival of the subway at University Square. All these actions must follow the time evolution of the tree framework.





ARISE

On the upper part of Titos Septemvriou Street, Shekou forest extends into the cityscape through the park softly redeveloped. Emphasis is given to improve ecological qualities of natural habitats: the wooded area following on from the forest, the riparian vegetation of the stream, Hortalizodon, a mediterranean meadow with scattered shrubs. It widens the streetscape around. The structuring frame begins here with a simple line of trees that reach on the residential area (A).

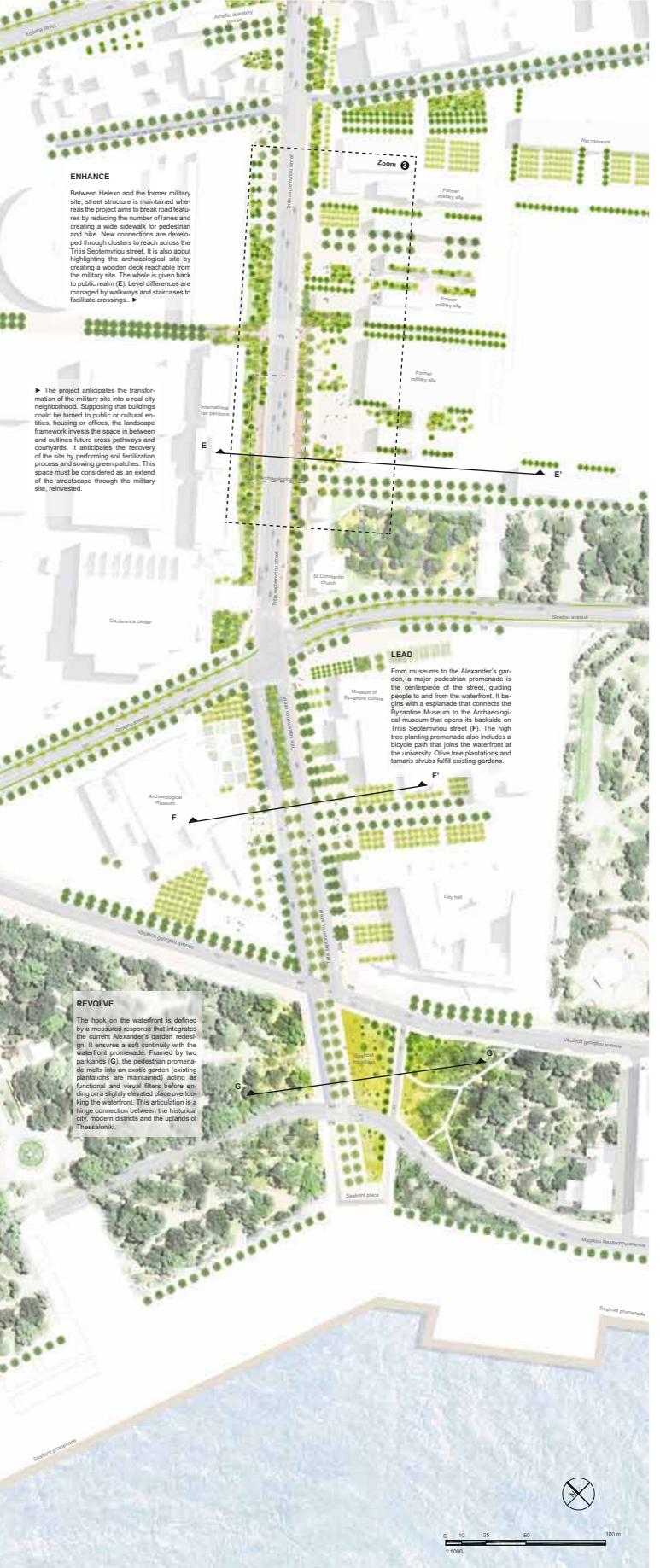
Continuity is achieved by creating a place across Stiponio Korakidi street. The ground is upgraded and sports fields are shifted to expand the public space. Thus, large planted dishes set up suggesting the forest above (B).

GALVANIZE

The University area nearby sports facilities clusters is conducive to the development of a large range of activities, from short-lived to more sustainable events. The project aims to take advantage of this potential through the development of wide walkways, green zones which support different activities (playgrounds, cistadium, skatepark, etc) and a public park connecting both the hospital and the other side of the university complex to Titos Septemvriou Street (C). Buildings are all linked to public space thank to tree-lined walkways.

REVOLVE

The hook on the waterfront is defined by a measured response that integrates the current Alexander's garden redesign. It ensures a soft continuity with the waterfront promenade. Framed by two parklands (G), the pedestrian promenade melts into an exotic garden (existing pasticcios are maintained) acting as functional and visual filters before ending on a slightly elevated pilot overlooking the waterfront. This articulation is a hinge connection between the historical city, modern districts and the uplands of Thessaloniki.



ENHANCE

Between Hektosa and the former military site, street structure is maintained whereas the project aims to break road features by reducing the number of lanes and creating a wide sidewalk for pedestrian and bike. New connections are developed through clusters to reach across the Titos Septemvriou street. It is also about highlighting the archaeological site by creating a wooden dock reachable from the military site. The whole is given back to public realm (E). Level differences are managed by walkways and staircases to facilitate crossings.

The project anticipates the transformation of the military site into a real city neighborhood. Supposing that buildings could be turned to public or cultural entities, housing or offices, the landscape framework invests the space in between and outlines future cross pathways and courtyards. It anticipates the recovery of the site by performing soil fertilization process and sowing green patches. This space must be considered as an extend of the streetscape through the military site, reinvited.

LEAD

From museums to the Alexander's garden, a major pedestrian promenade is the centerpiece of the street, guiding people to and from the waterfront. It begins with an esplanade that connects the Byzantine Museum to the Archaeological Museum that opens its backside on Titos Septemvriou street (F). The high tree planting promenade also includes a bicycle path that joins the waterfront at the university. Olive tree plantations and tannery shrubs fulfil existing gardens.

