

Ponce Urban Renewal Initiatives

PR-CRP-000005

Prepared for: Autonomous Municipality of Ponce



December 2023

Project Area

The project area falls almost completely within the zone considered as the First Order Zone of the Municipal Plan. This project area includes the Plaza de las Delicias and surrounding streets, Isabel, Reina, Marina, Cristina, Comercio Streets. This scope area includes complete street sections, pedestrian, and automobile areas, and, in Plaza las Delicias, the entirety of the public spaces in municipal properties. Excluded from this scope are any documentation of building facades or footprints adjacent to sidewalks, and/or on the public square.

Project Scope

The scope for this project, as defined by the municipality, entails "to renew the public spaces of sidewalks and "Plaza las Delicias". To do this, design efforts will be geared towards ensuring accessibility, providing a uniform aesthetic to the urban elements, analyzing existing trees and landscape elements, and the necessary improvements to Plaza las Delicias. Finally a landscape and sidewalk maintenance e plan shall be drawn up and provided to the municipality. As defined in the RFP for CRP0005, the scope of work consists primarily of:

- Streetlights
 - Historical streetlight (Restoration and Location Change)
 - New resilient streetlight (Similar in Design but energy efficient)
- Sidewalks Tiles & Aggregate Concrete Floor (Repair, replace, Deep Cleaning)
- Sidewalk Curb (Repair, replace, Deep Cleaning)
- Handicap Ramps (New, Change, Remove if necessary)
- Trees (Plan New, Replace and Trim)
- Urban Furniture (Trash cans, Bench, Bicycle Stand, bollards...)
- Transit Signs (Locations, Type of Pole, Graphic Design...)
- Studies and design to rehabilitate the public square, to improve the experience of citizens in the use of this public space

Project Phases

This project, although delivered as one project following the schedule in the following page, will be divided into four (4) construction phases. These are divided as shown on the diagram on this page.

- Phase I will include works in Plaza las Delicias, its four surrounding streets, and Isabel Street.
- Phase II includes works in Marina Street
- Phase III includes works in Cristina Street
- Phase IV includes work in Reina, Comercio and Villa Streets



AREA SCOPE

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Project Vision and Objectives

Ponce's Urban Center is a lively environment. There is a user base that maintains activity every day of the week at all hours. The plaza is surrounded by local shops, restaurants, public and private offices, and even, the school of architecture building for the Pontifical Catholic University of Ponce. Layered around the plaza, many other institutions give meaning, and urban life, to the immediate context. In addition to these, residences are infilled within this historic center, and only a few blocks away, make up most of the inhabited buildings.

Many buildings within this urban center have significant historical value. Because of past efforts, like "Ponce en Marcha", many buildings in this central district have been well preserved and add both a sense of local pride and touristic interest. And while past efforts have paid attention to the urban elements, such as sidewalk paving materials and urban furnishings, these have not aged well.

This project will re-envision ponce's historic center as one that honors and respects its heritage, accommodates contemporary urban issues, and prepares the city for the challenges brought about by population and climate changes to come. For this we have established a series of objectives and strategies to serve as guiding principles for this project.

Objectives

- Provide a uniform and simple urban aesthetic that helps highlight objects and architecture of historical value.
- Improve local user experience by adding useful programmed and unprogrammed spaces.
- Improve touristic potential by rethinking signage and highlighting spaces and places of historical value.
- Provide improved pedestrian accessibility and safety throughout the scope area.
- Incorporate sustainability and climate resilience practices as part of Re-Greening strategies and storm water management practices.

Strategies

Following project vision and objectives, we've established a set of principles to guide the design process in subsequent phases. These principles shall guide all aspects of design, from space planning and material selection.

Respect history, avoid historicism

Ponce's urban center is full of historically significant structures and spaces and preserving them will be paramount. But, as a living and thriving urban center, new interventions should add to this context, not by mimicking it, but by providing new solutions that layer onto the existing ones.

Legibility and Continuity

Design must strive to provide a uniform material palette that reinforces spatial continuity in the city center. Being of such importance in Ponce and the region, urban elements must help identify this area as a clear district, even though unique spaces, such as plazas and monuments might have their own identities.

Diversity and Adaptability

Ponce's city center if full of activity. Buildings around the main square have many diverse user types and hours of operations. A re-envisioned Plaza de las Delicias should provide new areas that provide diverse experiences that can adapt, without modification, to the myriad activities a space like this could host.

Accessibility and Safety

Providing a safe and accessible environment improves quality of life. Ponceños and visitors alike will benefit from an environment that ensures equal access and opportunities for all.

Nature is Infrastructure

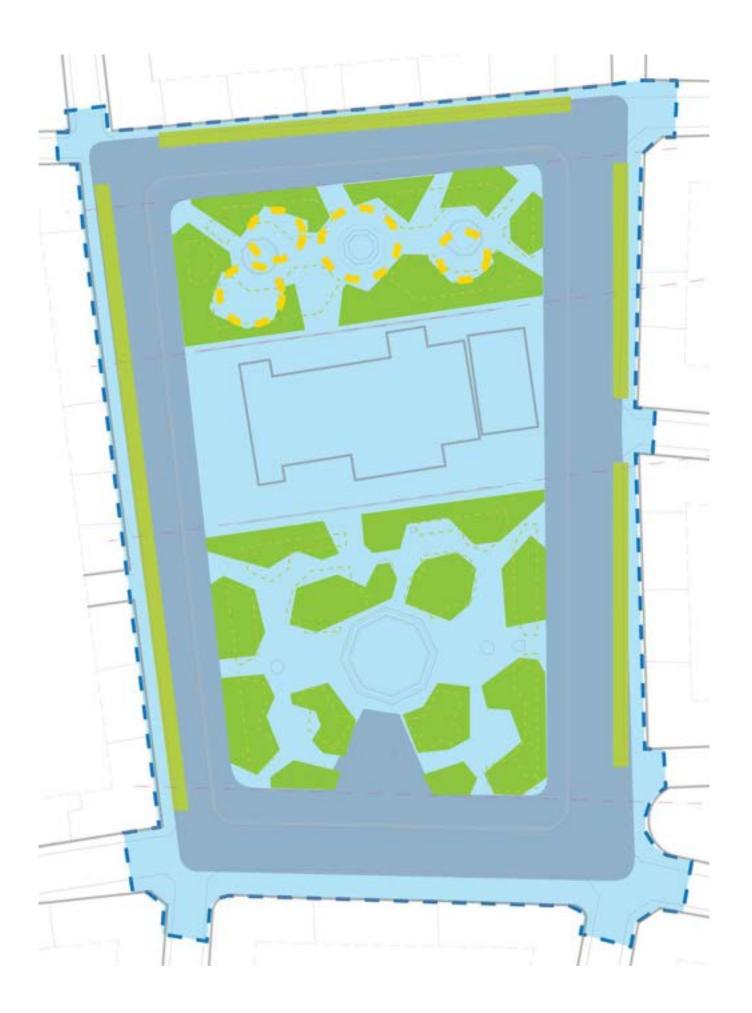
Re-Greening initiatives should go beyond beautifying. Soils improvements, thoughtful plant selection, and strategic tree planting can provide improved storm water management, lower ambient temperatures, and enhance the urban ecology.

Simplicity

As a principle, using simple materials and design solutions using quality materials will ensure that the implemented project does not compete with existing elements of historical value. Furthermore, simplicity in design and construction helps guarantee simplicity of operations and maintenance for the Municipality.



VISION **MISSION**



Plaza Las Delicias

Within the scope area the Plaza de las Delicias stands out as a unique place. It is both surrounded by and host to buildings of significant value and activity. In addition to the buildings, sculptures, and fountain, this square is host to many mature trees that form part of its identity. Because of the relationship between the square and its surroundings, we shall consider the Plaza, the surrounding streets, and the sidewalks across, as one <u>environment</u>.)

The following are special considerations to be addressed during schematic design. All other issues in the scope of work, like lighting and irrigation, must be addressed as well.

Programmatic Additions

The Municipality wanted to incorporate two new kiosks within the plaza environment. These have been eliminated from the scope and a virtual signage and way-finding component is being developed by the A/E team.

Additional programmatic areas should include open spaces that allow for a temporary stage and viewing area, a children's play area, and a new iconic sculptural or lighting feature.

Accessibility Improvements

Currently the plaza is surrounded by steps, creating a barrier to accessibility. Additional barriers include parallel parking on the plaza side of the street, and overgrown roots on opposing sidewalks. While traditional ramps and grade improvements can certainly improve these conditions punctually, a shared (street concep) could improve accessibility and safety for the totality of the Plaza environment.

Safety Improvements

Vehicular traffic around the plaza presents a significant threat to pedestrian safety, particularly in Marina Street, where double parking is a common practice. Limiting parking space and modifying some of the curb geometry to discourage illicit parking practices could improve safety and provide some needed space for improved sidewalks and re-greening initiatives.

Re-Greening initiatives

There are several Re-Greening initiatives that could potentially be implemented in the Plaza de las Delicias environment. Ornamental planting in the reconfigured planters within the plaza will be improved and species selection should incorporate planting for pollinators as an ecological enhancement. Lawn should only be kept in areas where human use is expected.

Sidewalk planting must be revised, and new planters dug up and built. There are old trees in sidewalks that have outgrown their planters, lifted sidewalks, and outlived their useful life as a street tree; these should be addressed in the most practical way. One option, if space is available, is to enlarge the planters containing these trees, and provide storm water management areas, like bioswales or rain gardens.

Paving Materials

Pavement in this zone should reflect its unique character and historic value. Currently there are several pavement types within the main plaza area with some being severely weathered and some only moderately, streets are mostly concrete and in a state of disrepair, and sidewalks suffer the same fate as the rest of the city center sidewalks. Repaving of the plaza perimeter, matching with the shared street components will be required to provide continuity.

ESIG

Streets

While each street has its very own specific conditions and situations that need addressing, there are several overall approaches that should be implemented throughout. In general streets and sidewalks show a consistent level of wear, which reflects a material that has outlived its useful life. The recommendations set forth are to be applied across the board and should serve as a base for specific design decisions to be considered for each street.

Sidewalk Paving

The existing sidewalks paving, if available, should be **(eplaced as needed)** This paving material seems to be of good quality, and where broken, the cause seems to be either a sub-base problem or some other external force. If unavailable, new paving alternatives should be presented.

Curbs and Curb Ramps

Throughout the scope area, curbs are in bad shape. Additionally, ramps for vehicular access to properties infringe in the walking area of the already narrow sidewalks. New curbs, with mountable types for vehicular access should be considered for all scope areas. Additional considerations should be taken in narrow corners where, typically, delivery vehicles and large SUV's mount the curb to make tight turns, this creates additional damage.

Accessibility

Narrow sidewalks with many interruptions provide limited accessibility opportunities. There is no space for ADA compliant curb ramps. Raising pavement at the intersections eliminates the need for curb ramps and provides a traffic calming device.

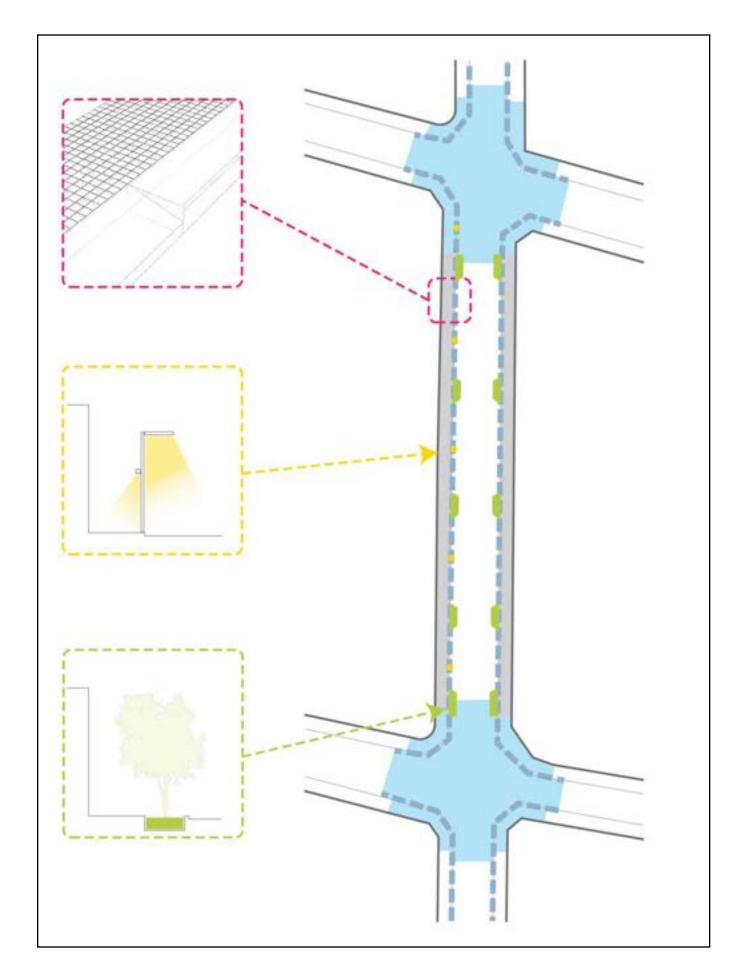
Re-Greening Opportunities

Regreening opportunities in narrow sidewalks are difficult without infringing in the vehicular right of way. Current tree planters are small and present signs of extreme soil compaction, some no longer have trees in them. The few trees found in the scope area streets present both unhealthy environments for the tree and safety and accessibility hazards in the sidewalk.

As both a Re-Greening initiative and part of a sidewalk decluttering, **Curb pull-outs** where a parking spot is eliminated and a planter is put in place, could provide the space needed for new trees to grow healthy and even provide spaces for storm water management.

Street and Pedestrian Lighting

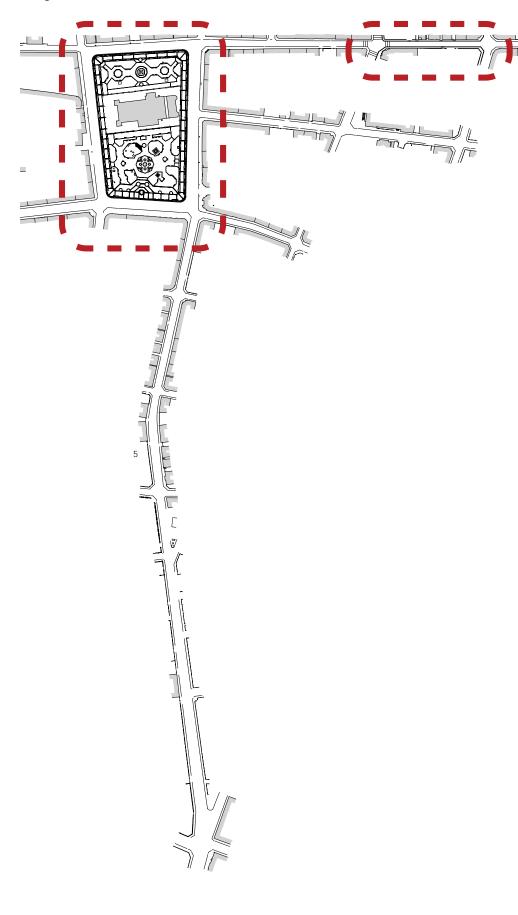
Currently there are several lamp styles around the city center. At first glance, these appear to have been installed as part of the improvements of the early 1990's. There's also some unused traffic lights. Some are broken, some are missing. As part of these efforts, new, simple, lighting posts, procured from a reputable manufacturer, and that can be easily repaired or replaced, should be specified for both pedestrian and a street lighting.





Key Plan

The New Plaza





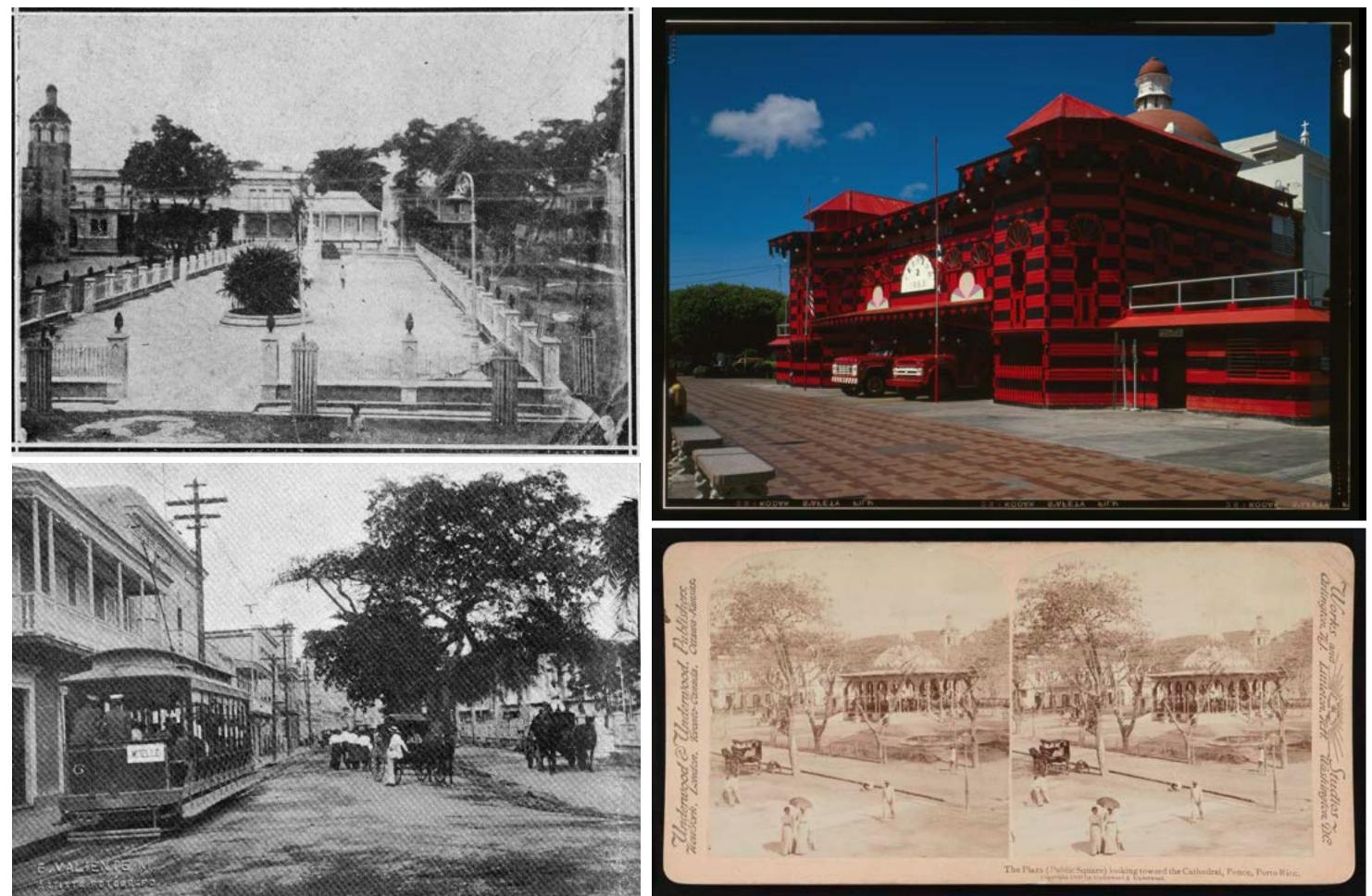
Typical Street and Intersection



UPDATE

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SCOPE AREAS



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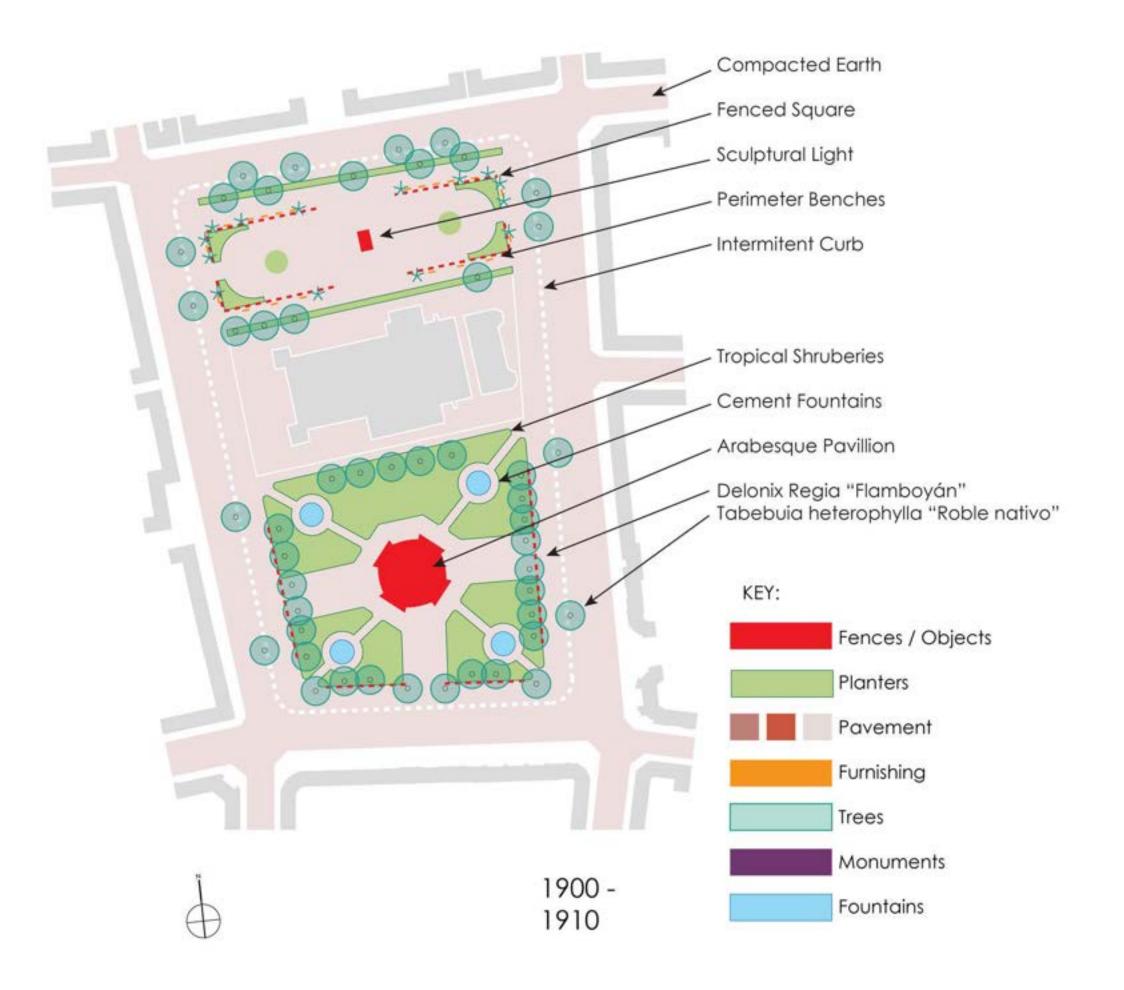
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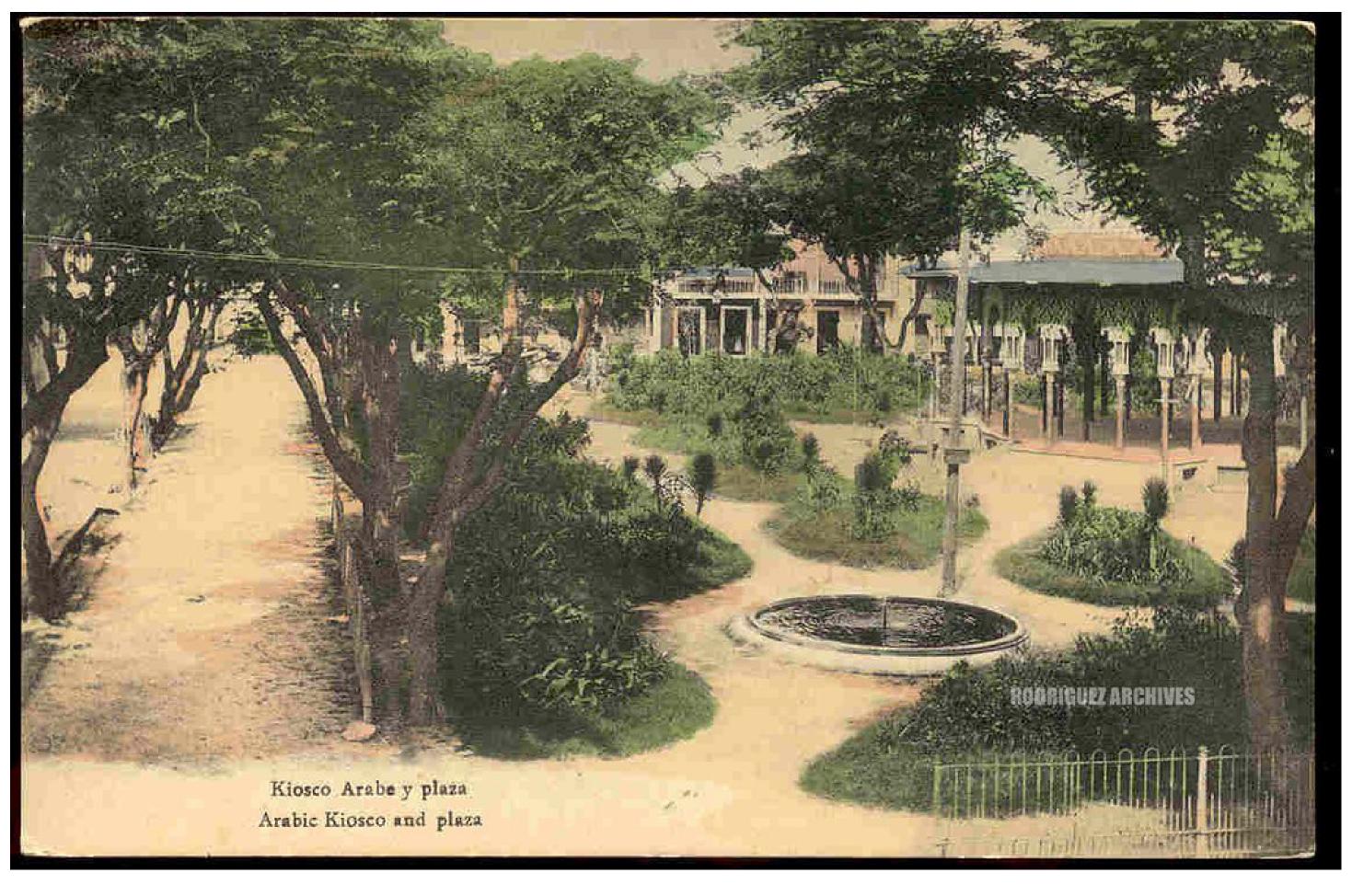
CHANGE HISTORY OF I PONCE PLAZ



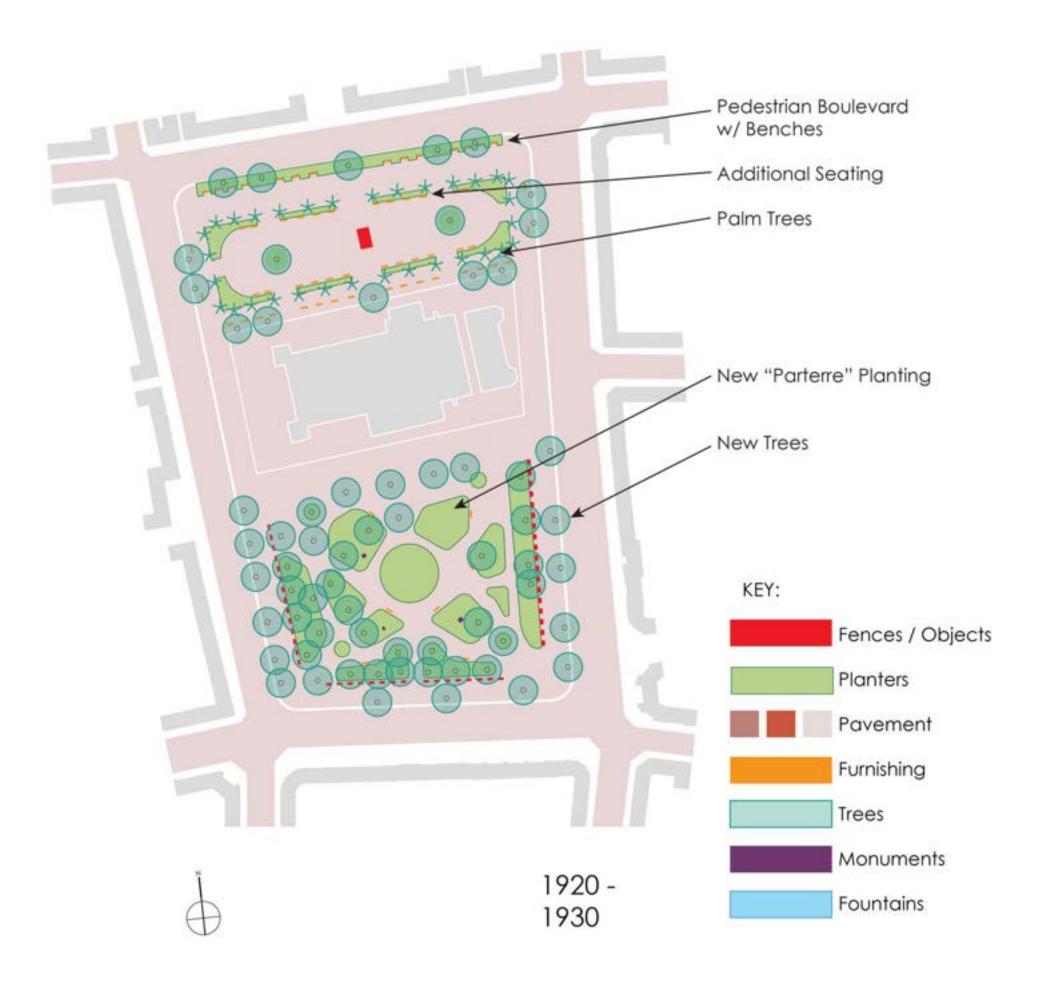
CHANGE HISTORY OF 1 PLAZA PONCE



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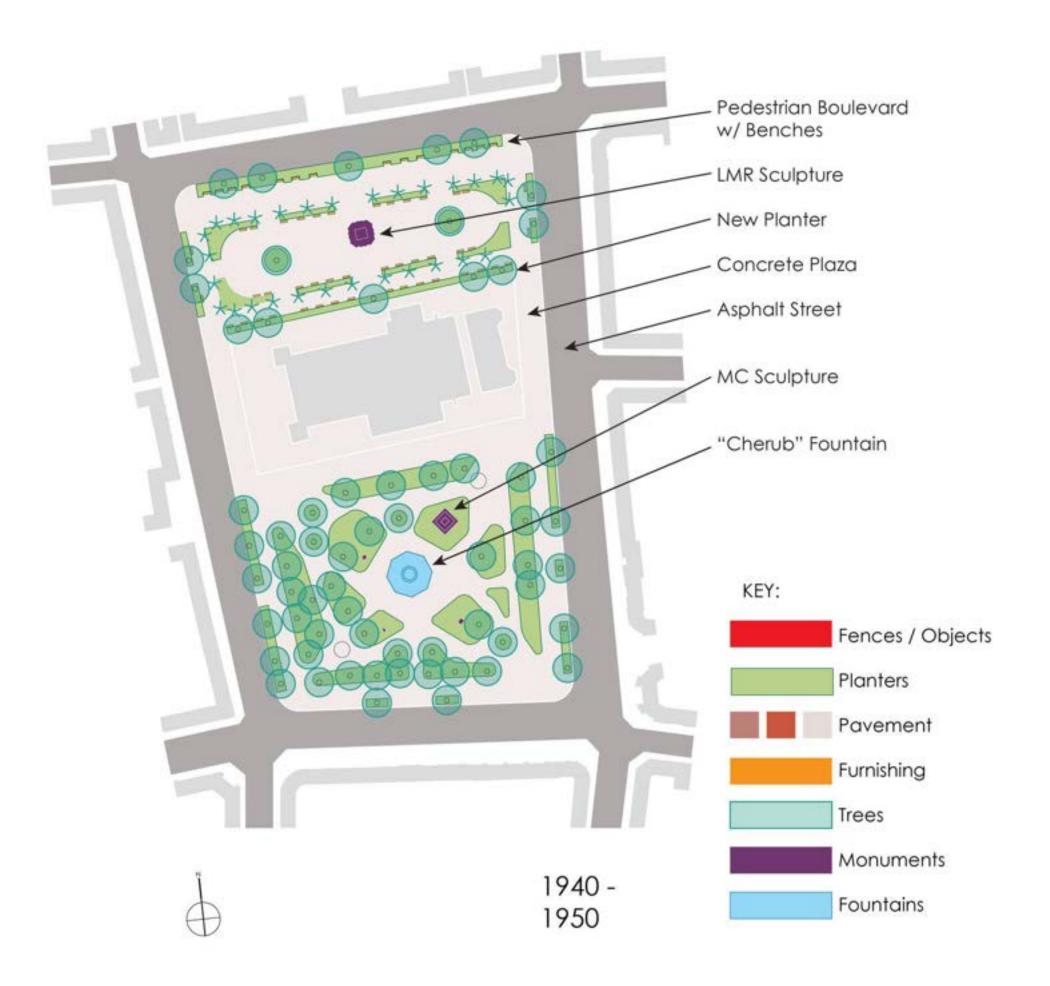
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CHANGE HISTORY OF PLAZA PONCE



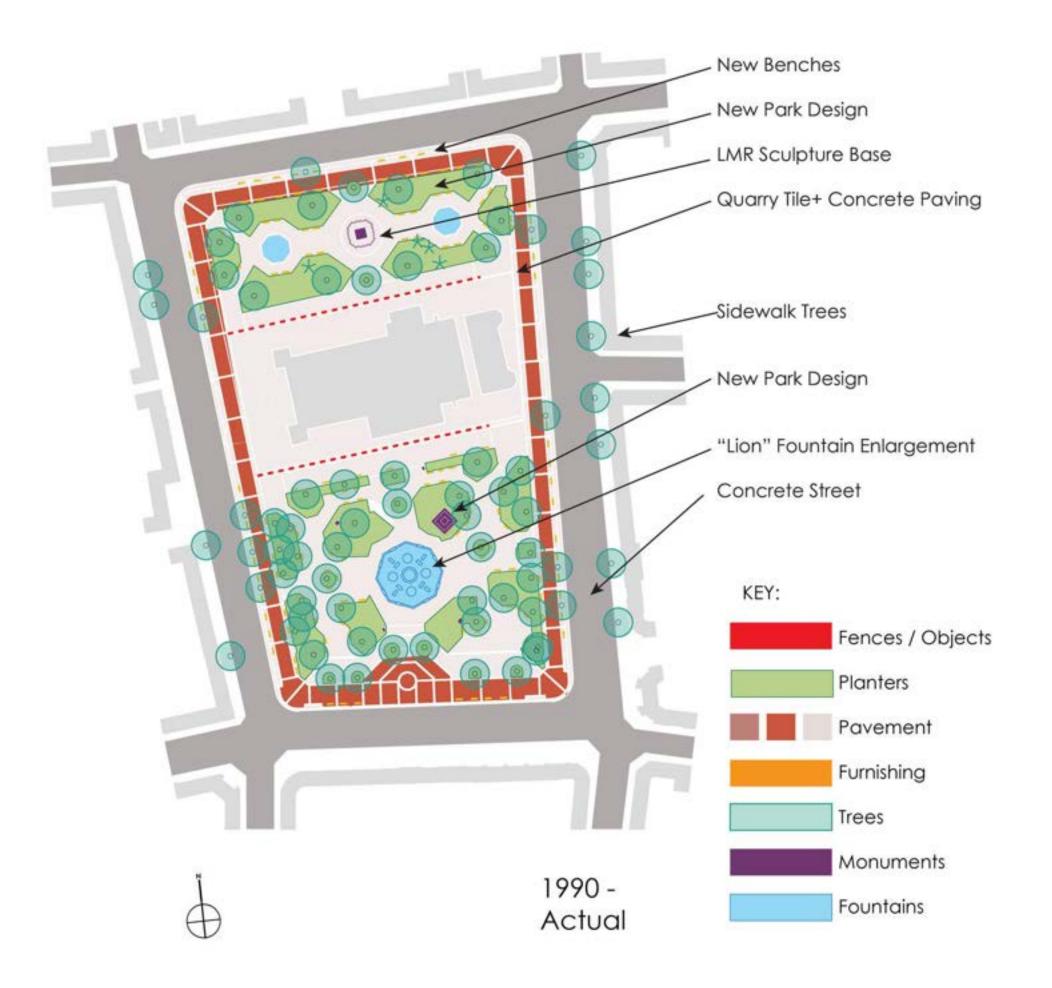
CHANGE - HISTORY OF PONCE PLAZA



CHANGE HISTORY OF PLAZA PONCE



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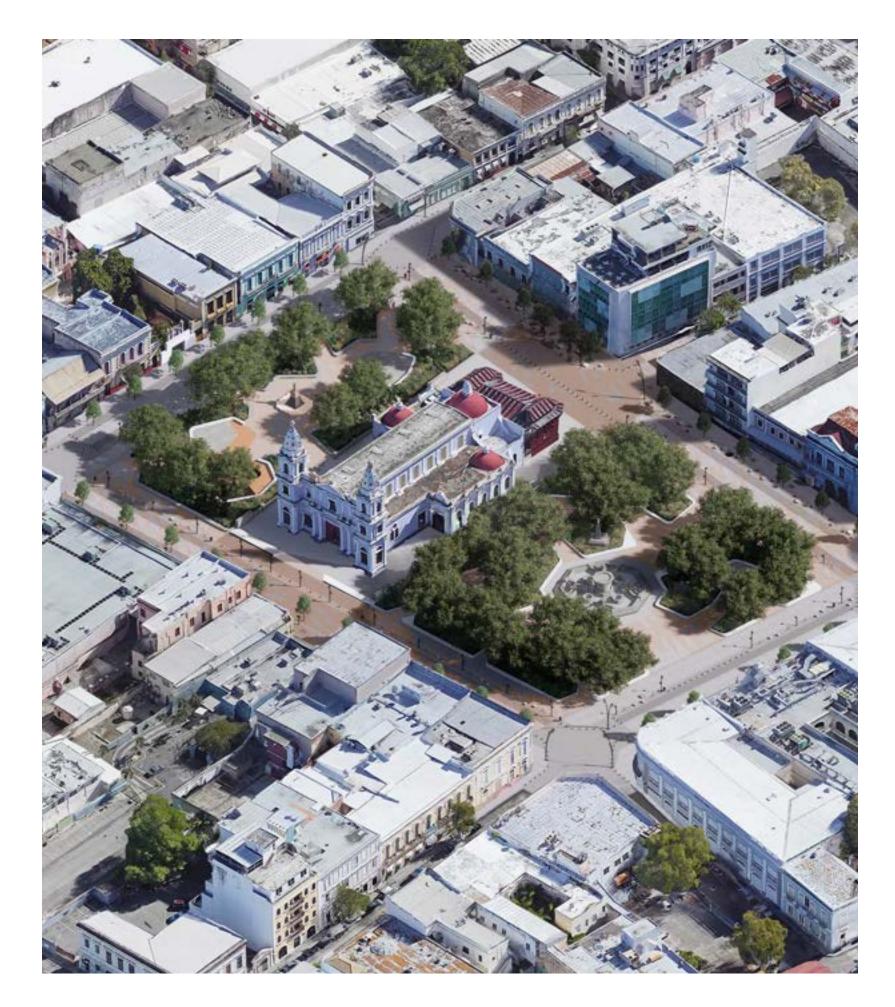




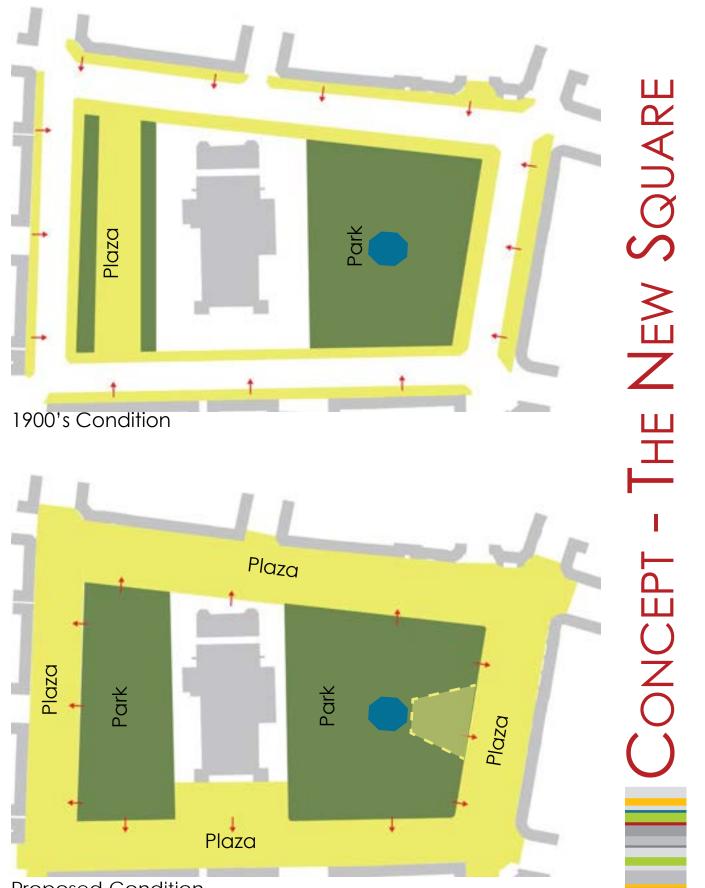


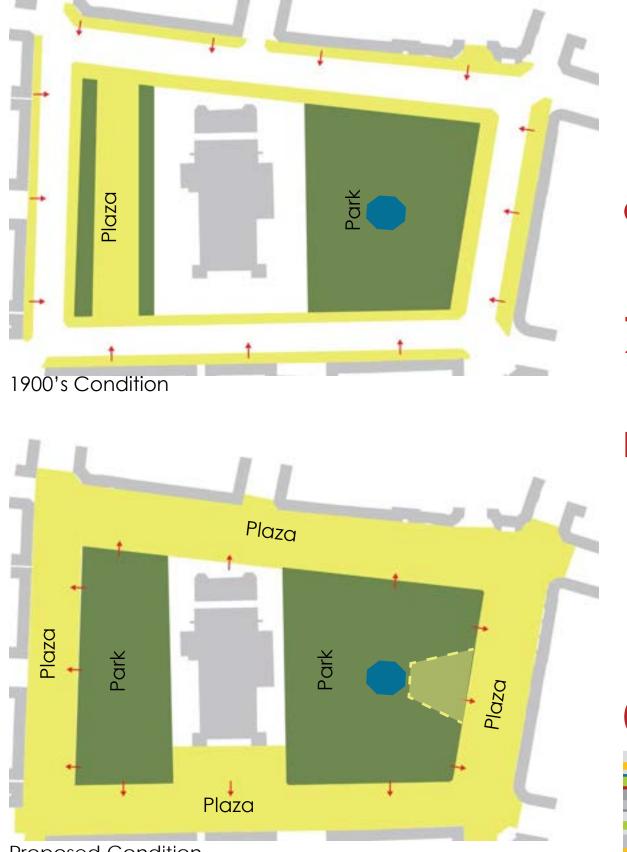
El inmenso gentio se estrujaba en Ponce, detrás del cadáver del insigne patriota, que fué recibido por unas 50.000 almas en las cercanías de la población.—El duelo desfilaba frente a la Plaza de las Delicias.—Fot. Valiente.

SPACE ()UBLI S STREET



Concept Diagram

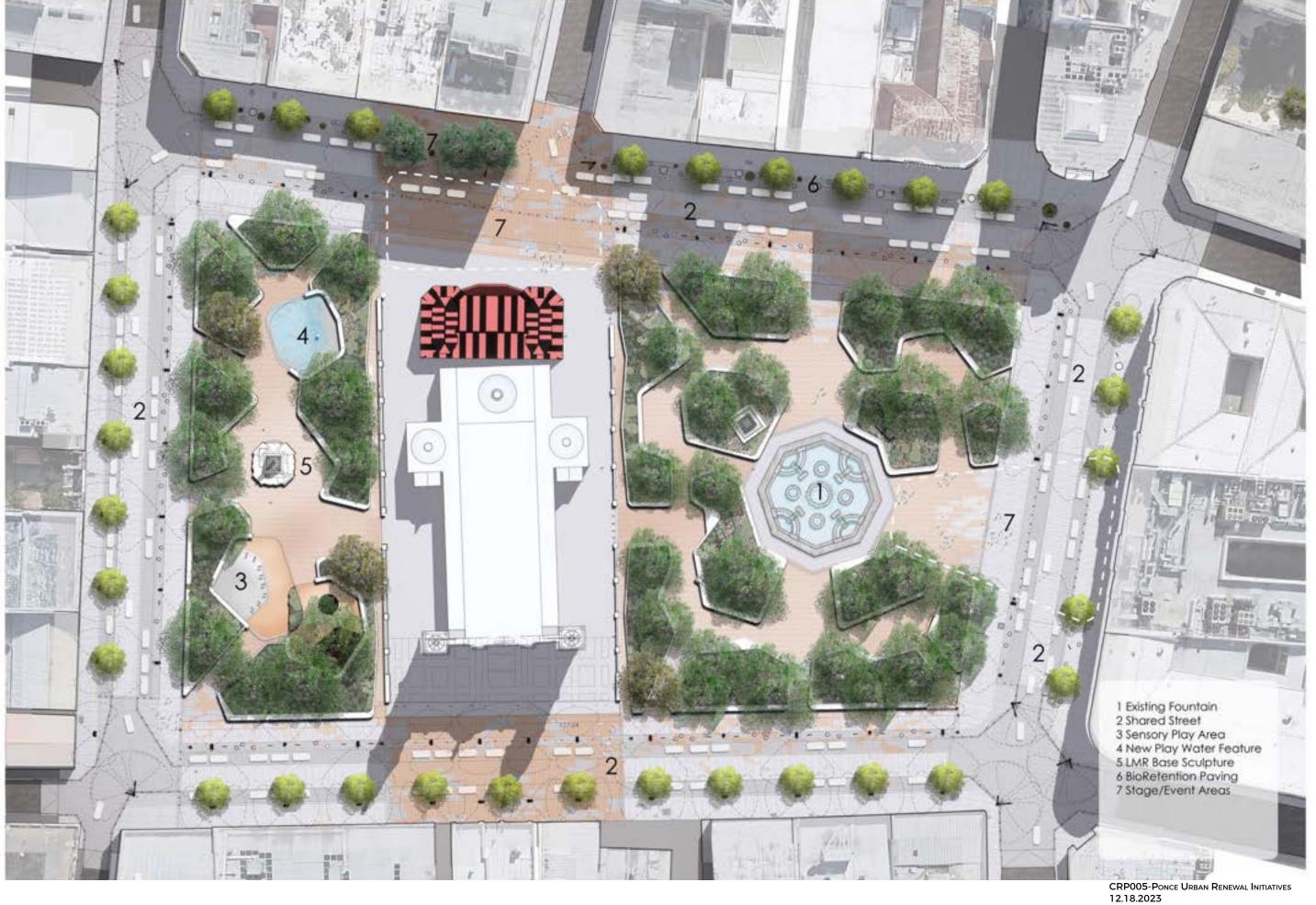




Proposed Condition

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ONCEP-



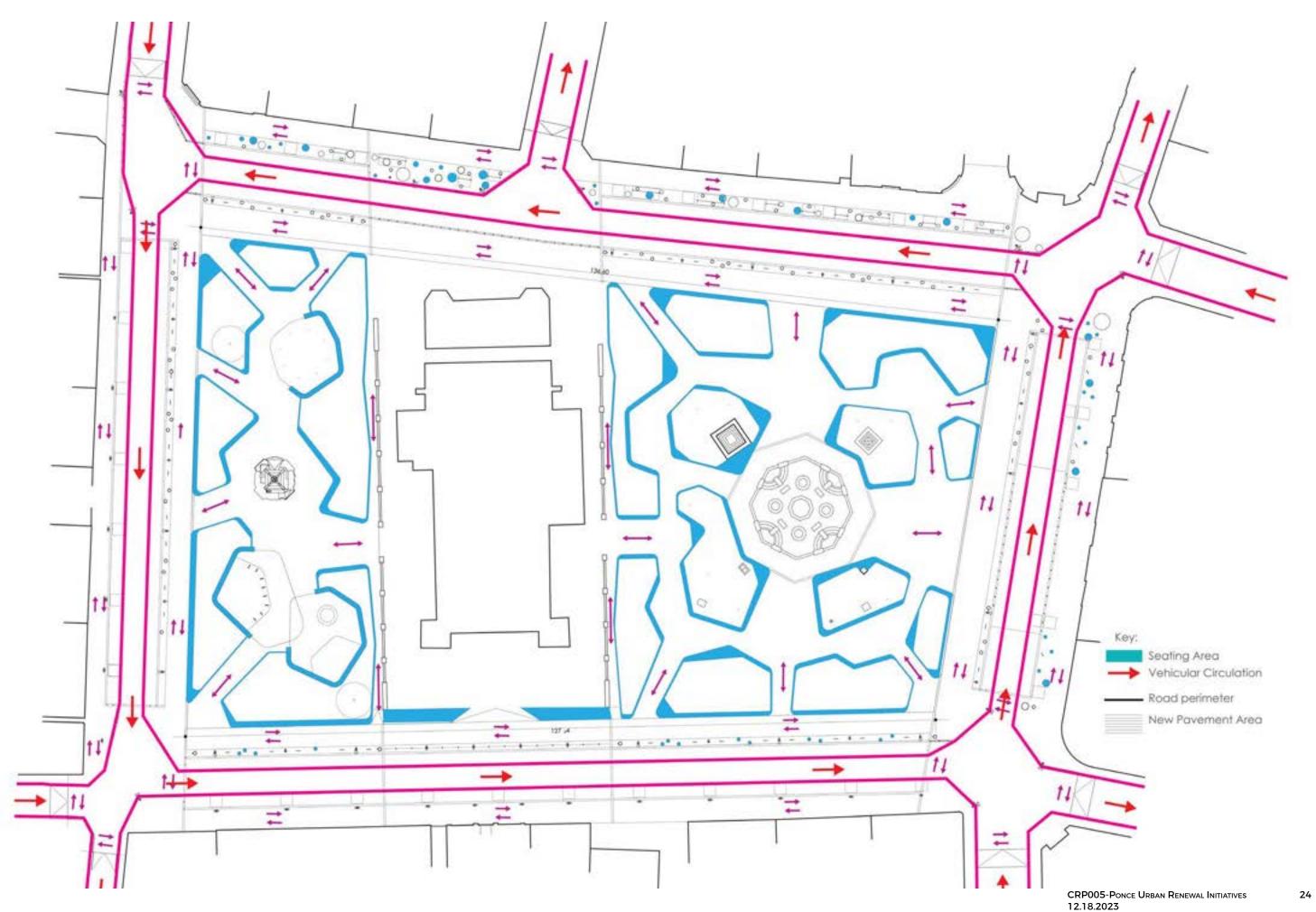
UPDATE

THE NEW SQUARE



MARINA STREET VIEW

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CIRCULATION AND SEATING



LMR PARK VIEW



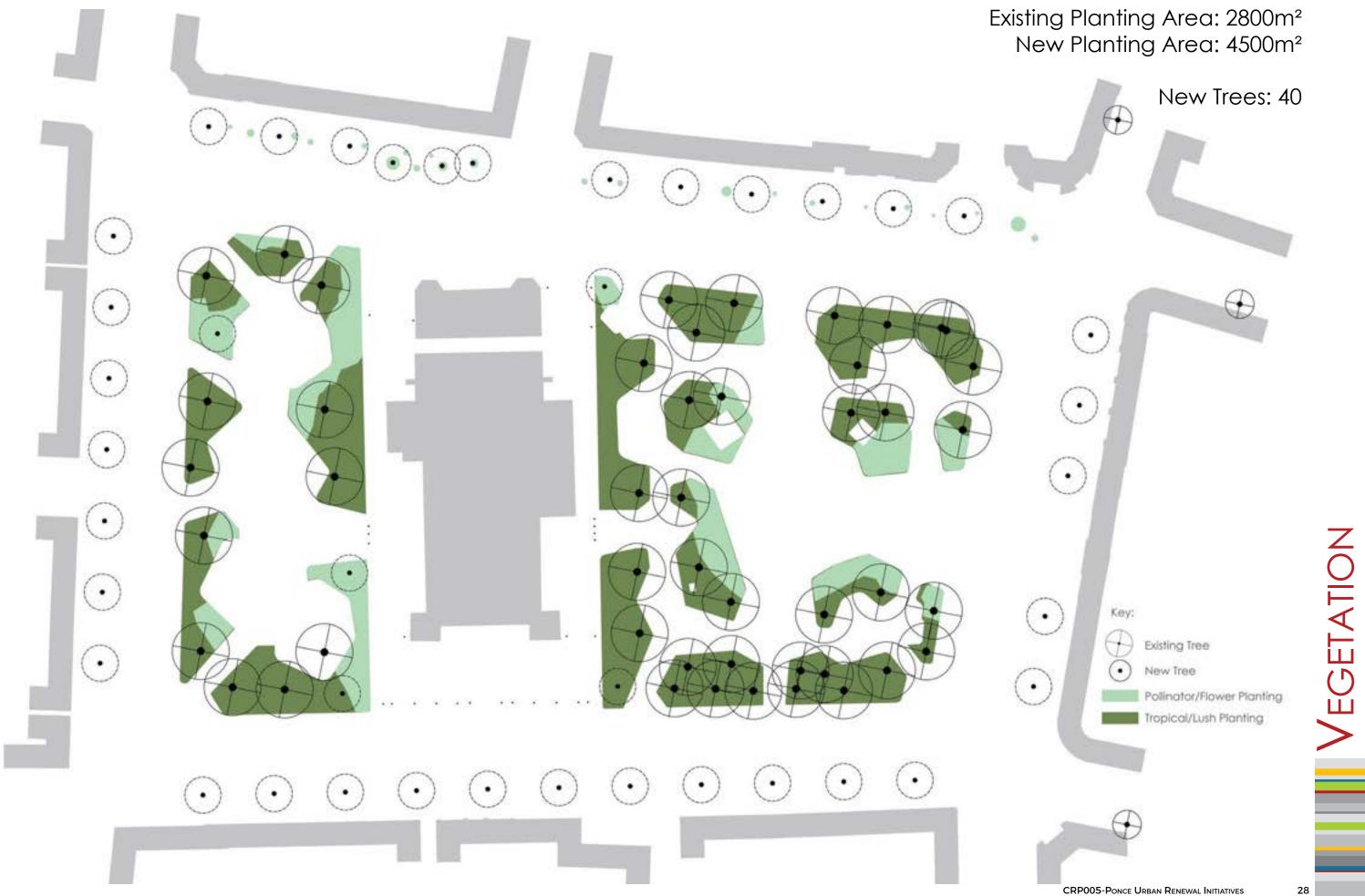
Programmatic Areas

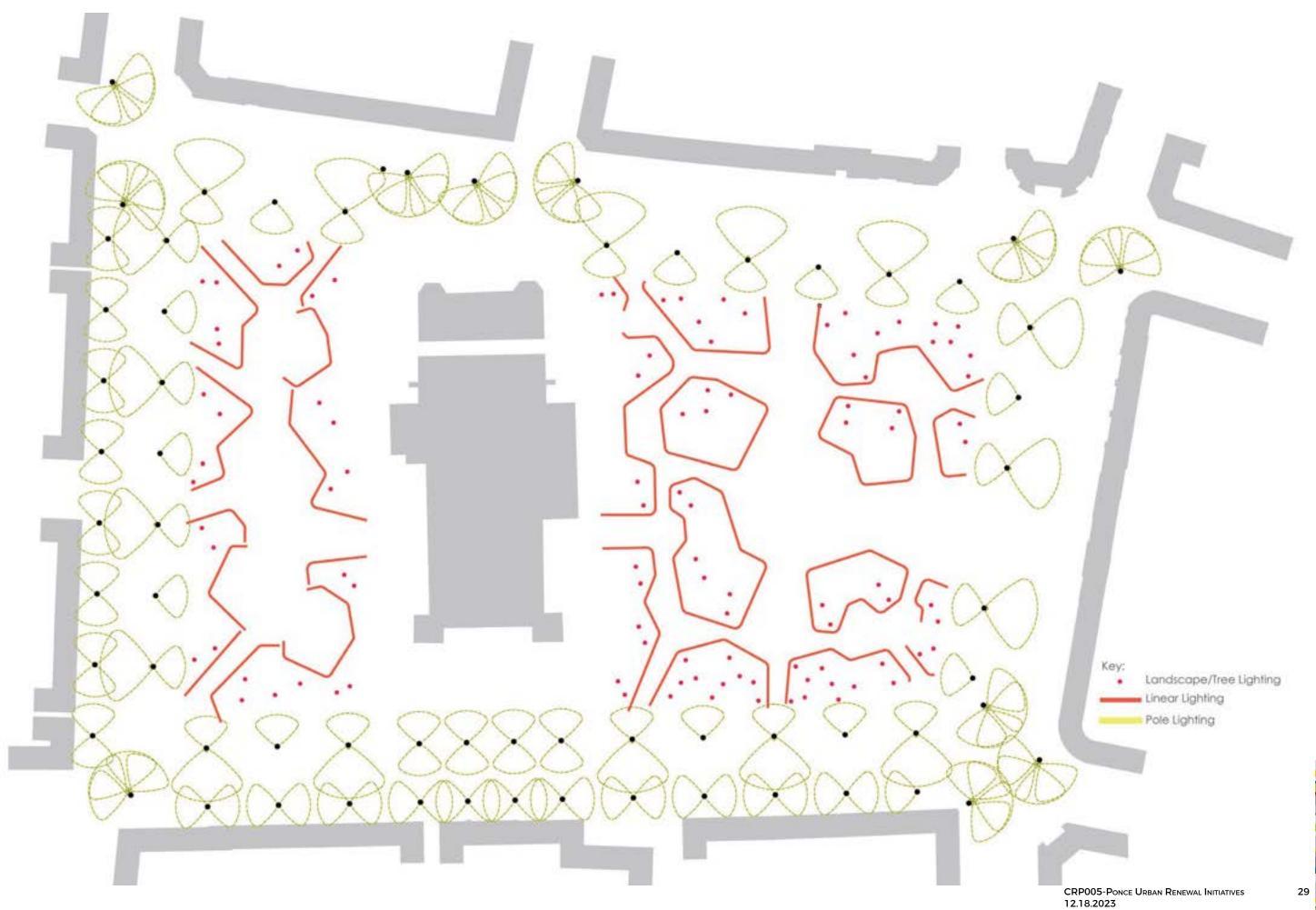


DEGETAU PARK VIEW

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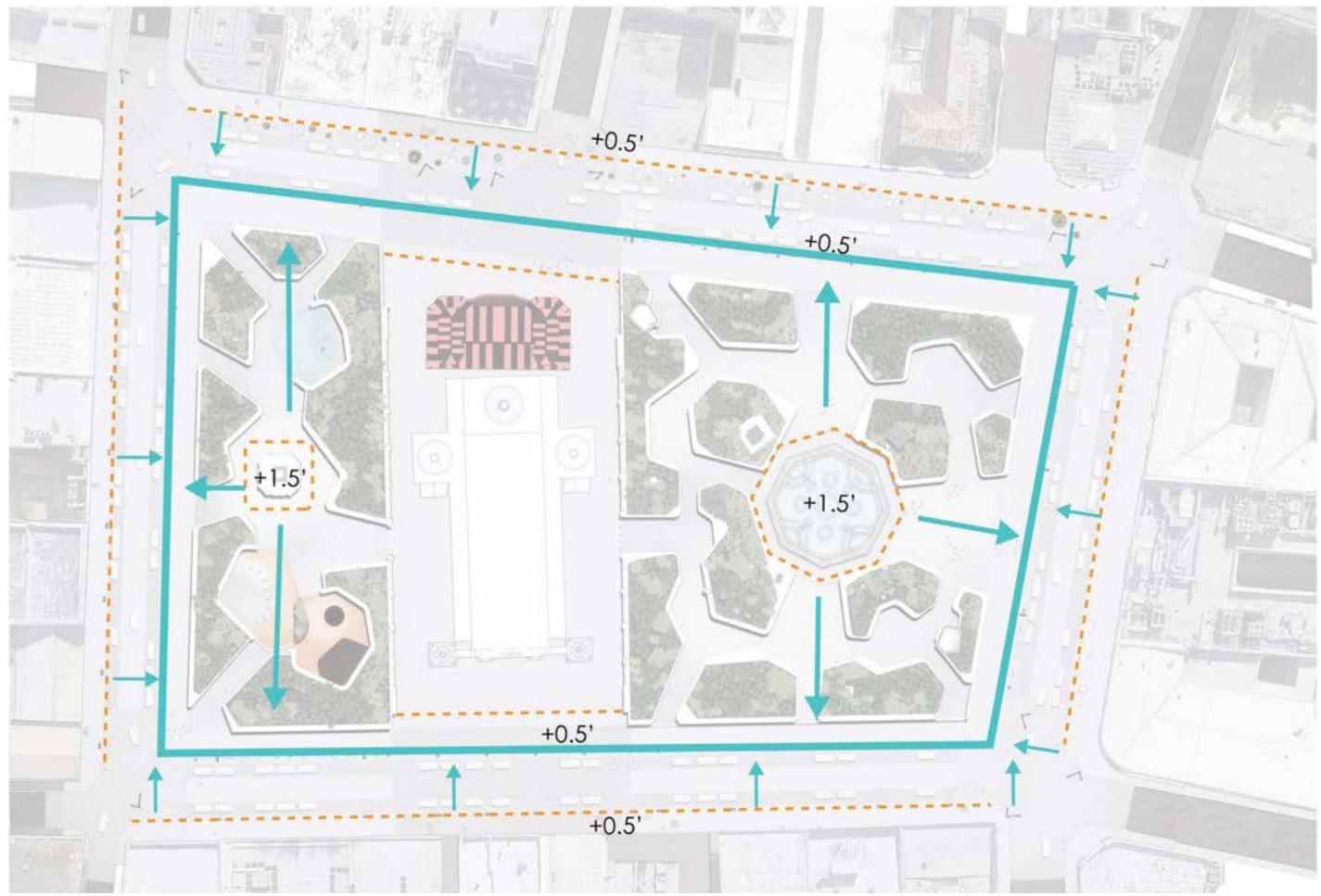


LIGHTING

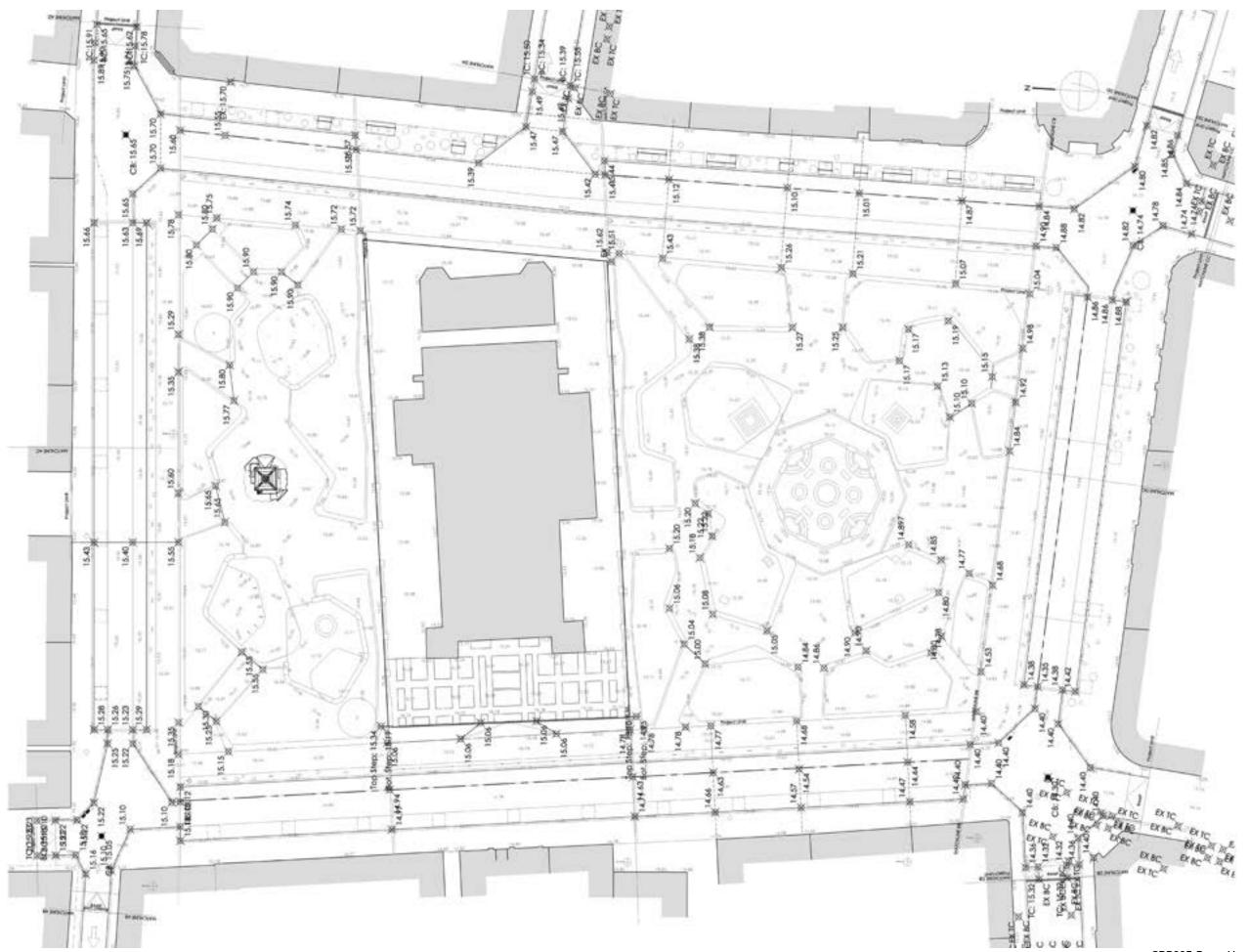


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DEGETAU PARK NIGHT VIEW



ONCEPT ()GRADING



GRADING

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UPDATE

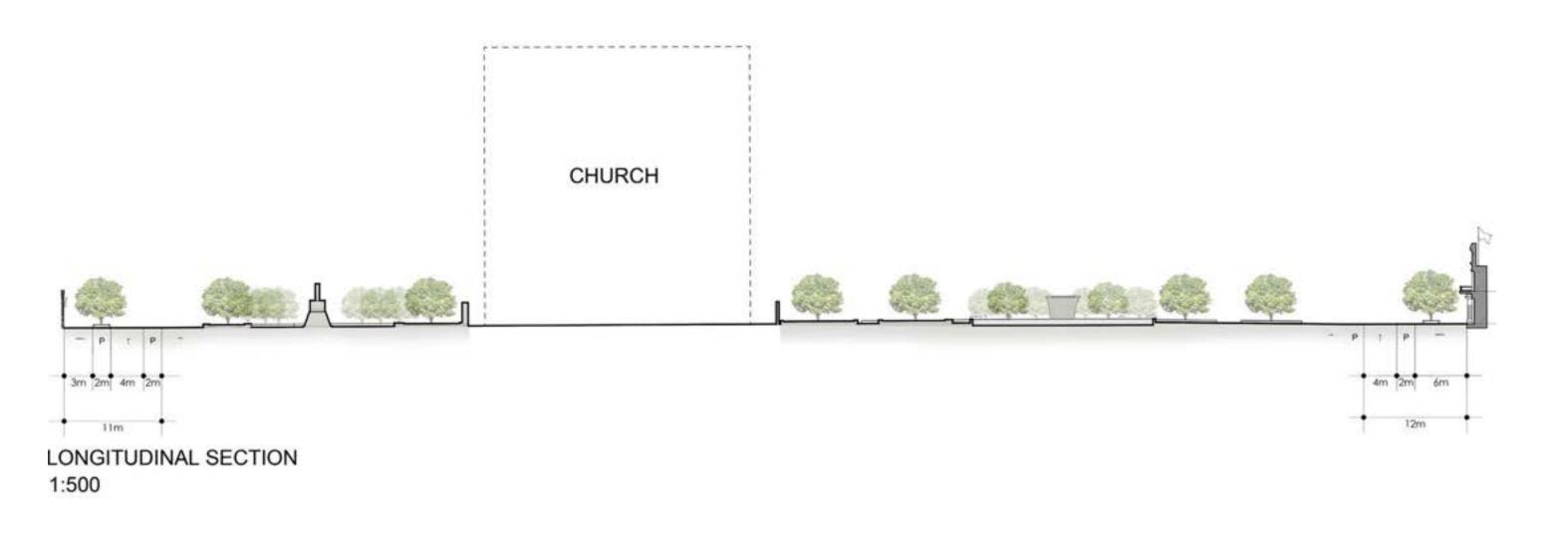


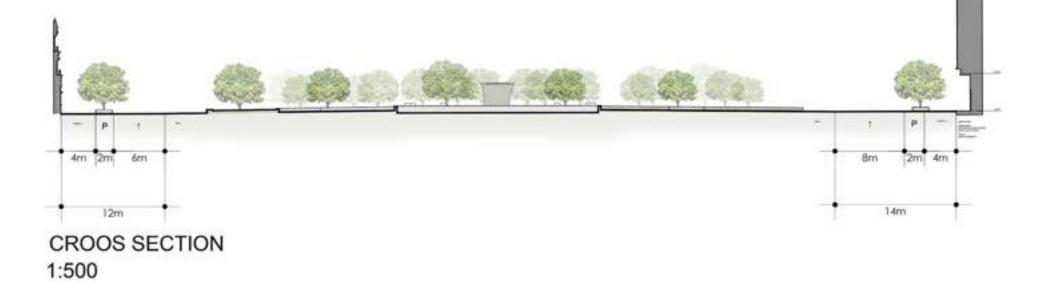
CHURCH PODIUM



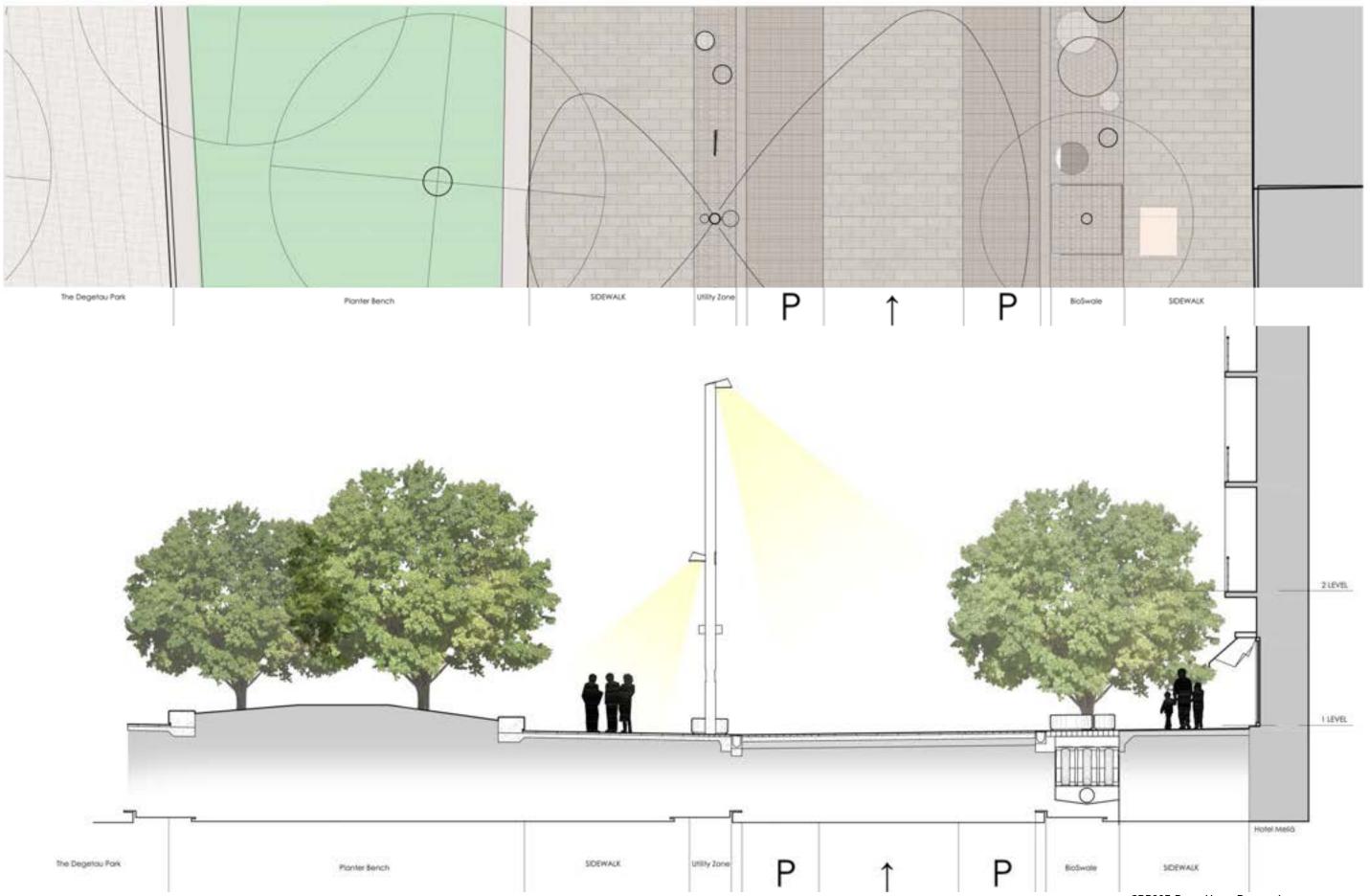
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CHURCH PODIUM

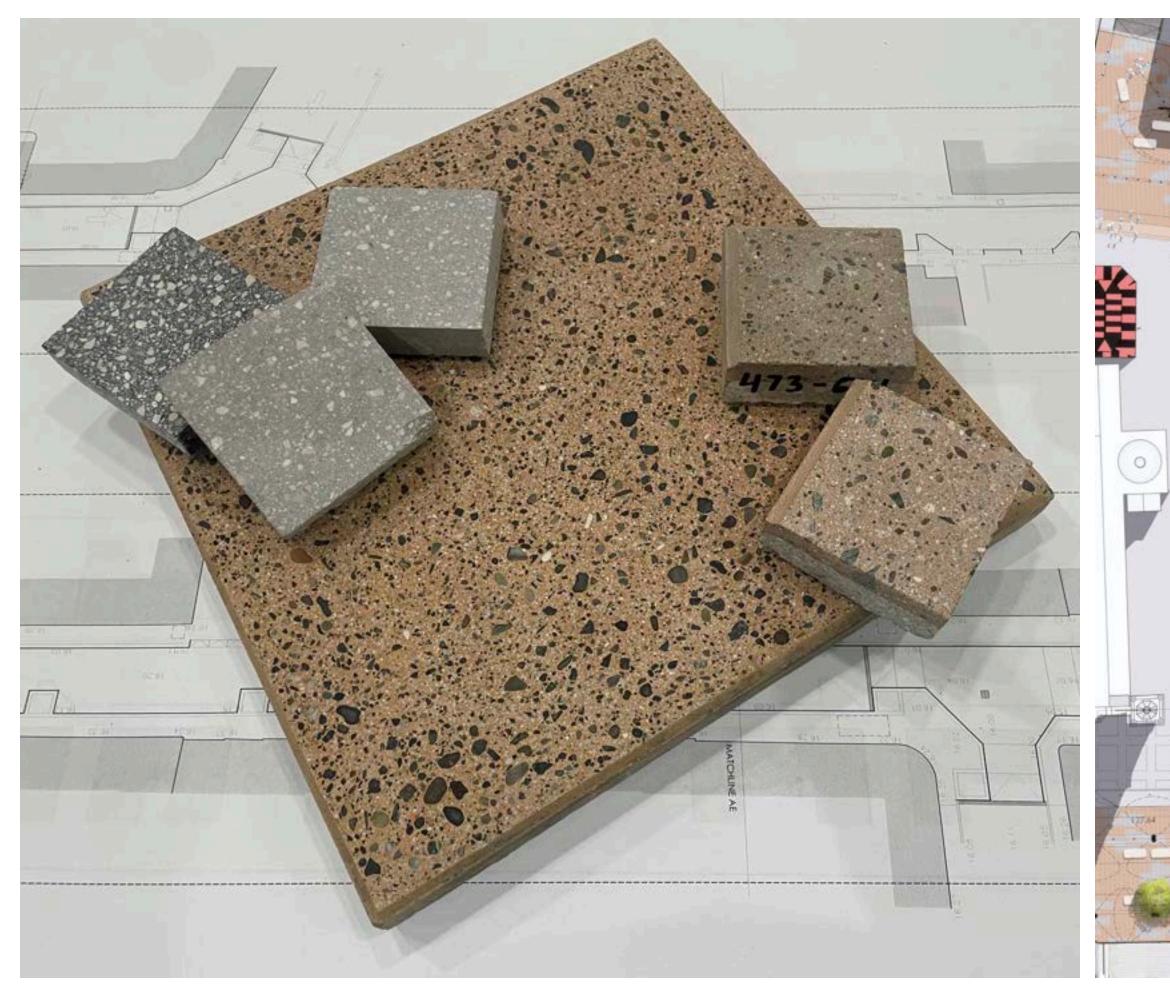








ARINA STREET PAVING Ś



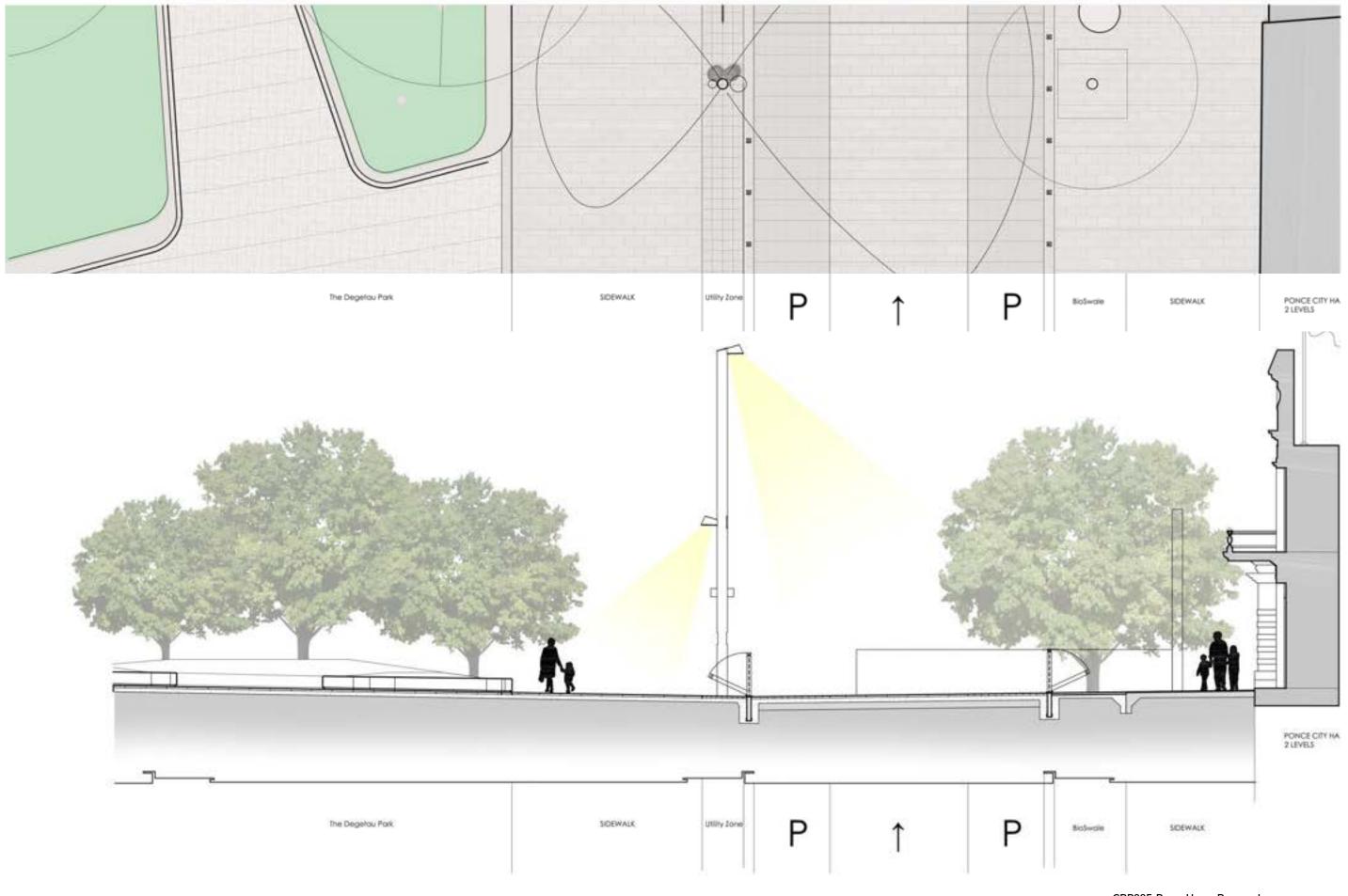


PAVING - COLOR

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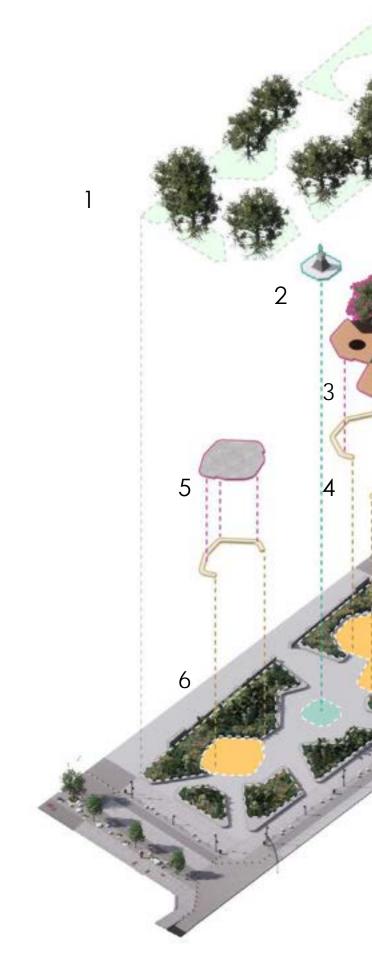


MARINA STREET VIEW



PAVING Getau Street ш







LMR PARK 40

- 1 Existing Trees 2 LMR Base Sculpture
- 3 Sensory Play Area 4 Prefabricated Sculptural Bench 5 Play Water Feature

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- 6 Ornamental / Ecological Planting



STREET VIEW FROM ISABEL



The rehabilitation of Ponce's most important public space brings about an opportunity to underline the historical relevance of former statesman Luis Muñoz Rivera by readdressing its monument in conceptual, contemporary terms.

Traditionally, monuments have been conceived to generate awe and respect, usually honoring prominent figures with an imposing statue placed high up, over a base and surrounded by barriers that, more than often, distance onlookers. In Ponce, for example – and for decades - Muñoz Rivera's effigy has been bounded by a fenced-in, grassy planter.

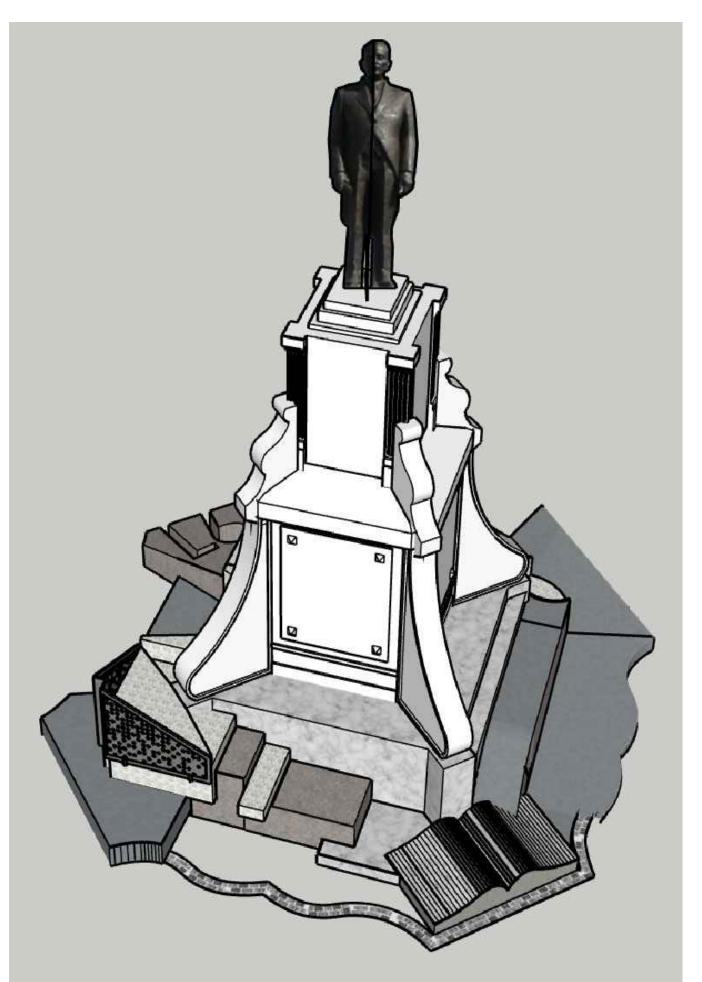
Detachment from personalities that were deemed worthy in the past is nowadays furthered by historical reinterpretations that re-evaluate their doings and achievements in the light of current gender, race, and inclusiveness concerns. Recent controversies bear witness to it in the United States (on the issue of Confederate heroes and slavery), and in Puerto Rico (on the subject of Ponce de León as oppressor not conqueror not hero). Related disagreements have led to public debate and angry disputes, culminating in toppling off several statues.

In tune with our time – within its preexisting, curvilinear footprint, Muñoz Rivera will be "freed" from its constructing plinth, and honored with a sculptural, multileveled base that will invite passersby to come close to the statesman's statue, and climb, lie, jump, preach or deliver a speech, or just rest next to the monument. The base will be built in cast stone with an unpolished terrazzo finish, sporting different colors. Key dates and names of significant works by Muñoz Rivera will appear in a bronze "ribbon" inserted at floor level, its shape following the former base's footprint:

1859 Nace
1868 Grito de Lares
1887 Partido Autonomista
1890 La Democracia
1893 Amalia Marín
1897 Carta Autonómica
1899 Partido Federal
1898 Luis Muñoz Marín
1904 Partido Unión
1911 Comisionado Residente
1916 Fallece

Books quoted: Quia nominor Leo; Nulla est redemption; Paréntesis; Sísifo; Vox Populi.

An additional plaque could be added acknowledging the city's 2024 plaza rehabilitation.



UPDAT LMR MONUMENT SCULPTURE



LMR PARK VIEW

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LMR Park View



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LMR Park View

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1 Existing Trees 2 Domingo Cruz Cocolía'''' Statue 3 Juan Morel Campos Statue 4 Monument to the heros of the "Polvorin" 5 Blind Justince Statue 6 Planter Seating 7 Ornamental / Ecological Planting DEGETAU PARK

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DEGETAU PARK



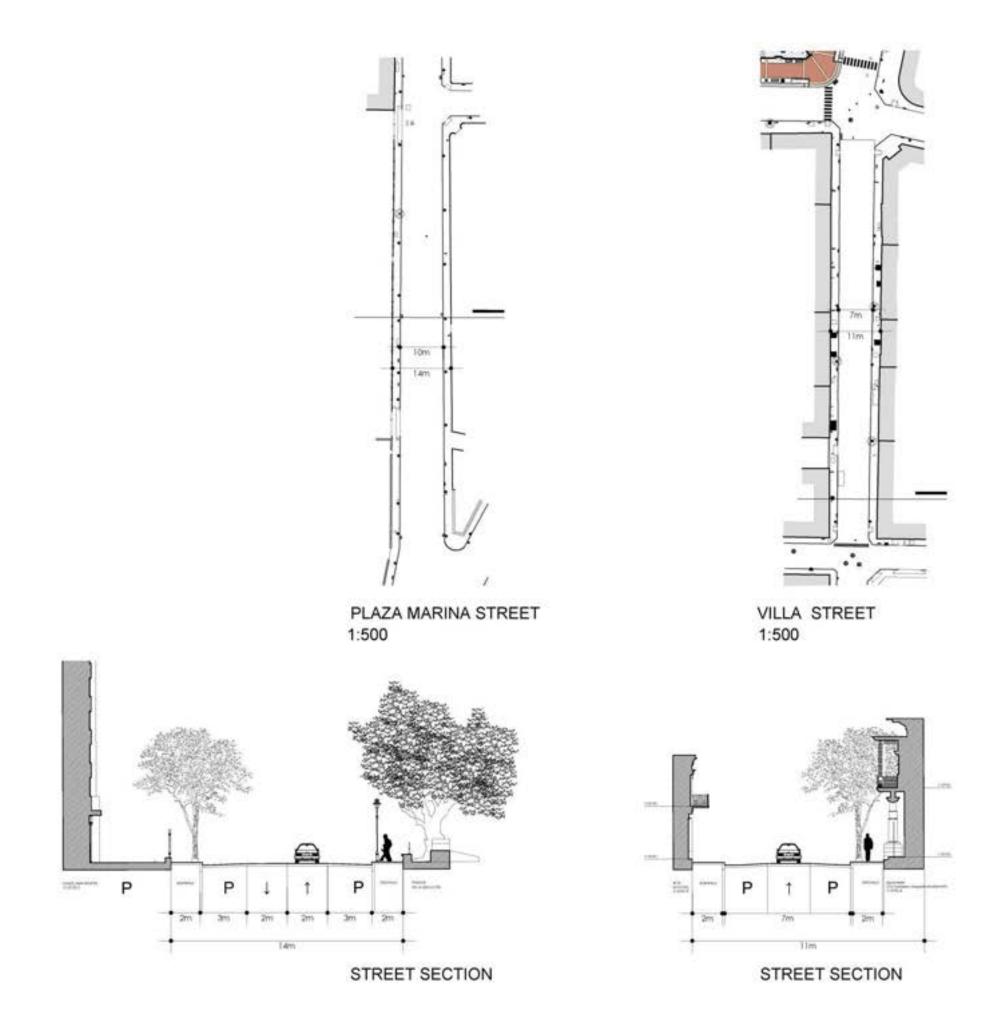
EVENT GETAU STREET



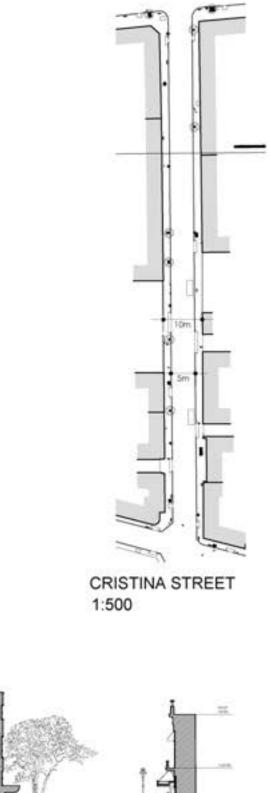
STAGE SETUP EGETAU STREET





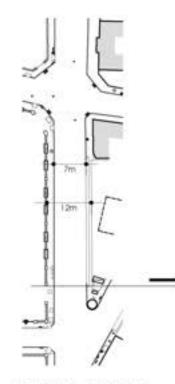




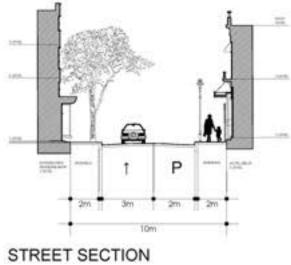


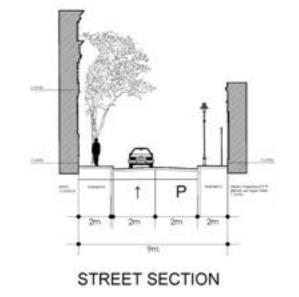


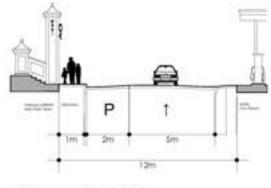
COMERCIO STREET 1:500



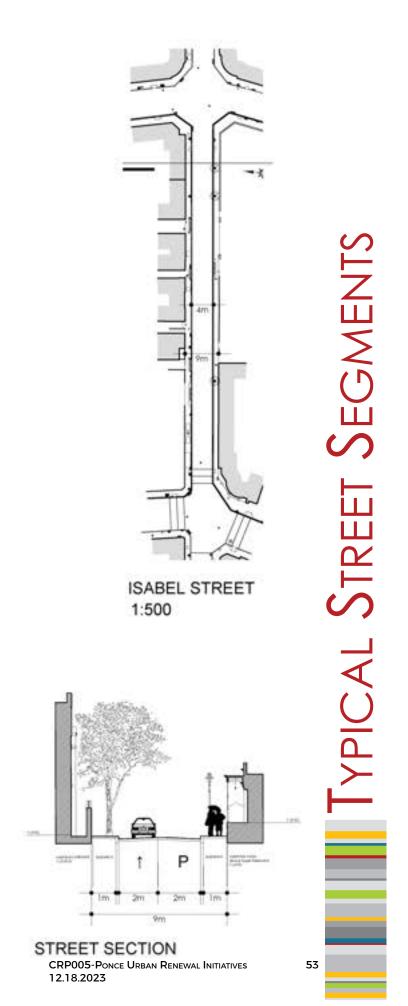
MARINA STREET 1:500







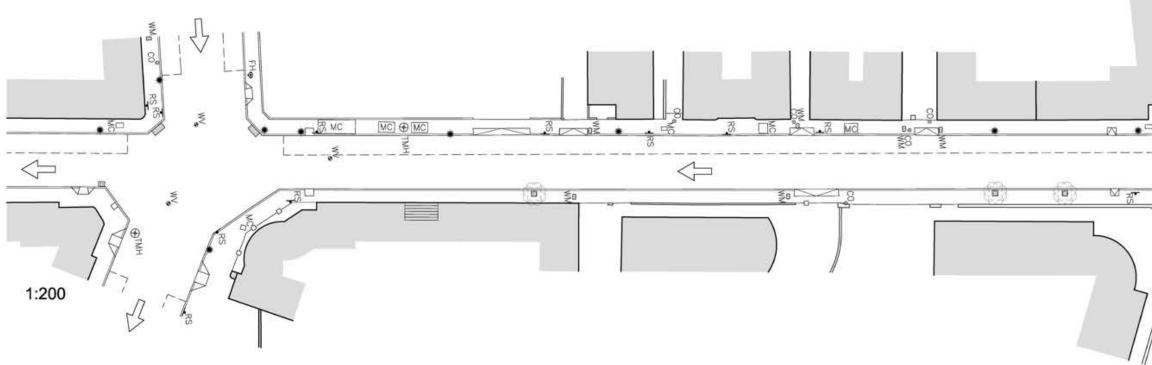
STREET SECTION

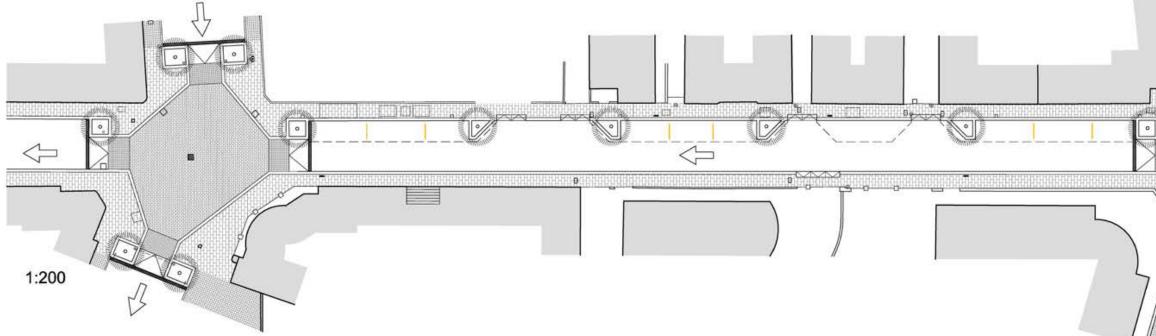


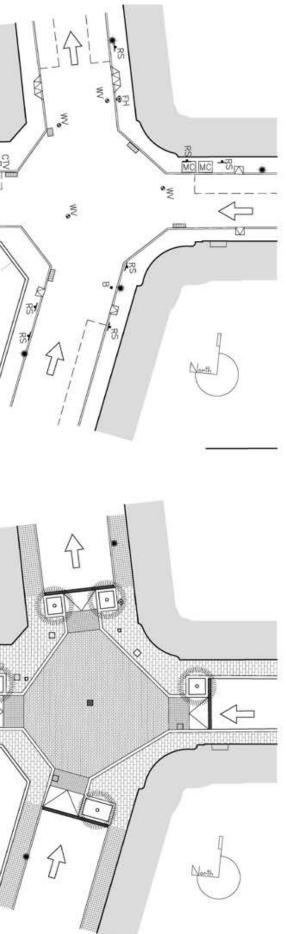


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ISABEL STREET PLAN

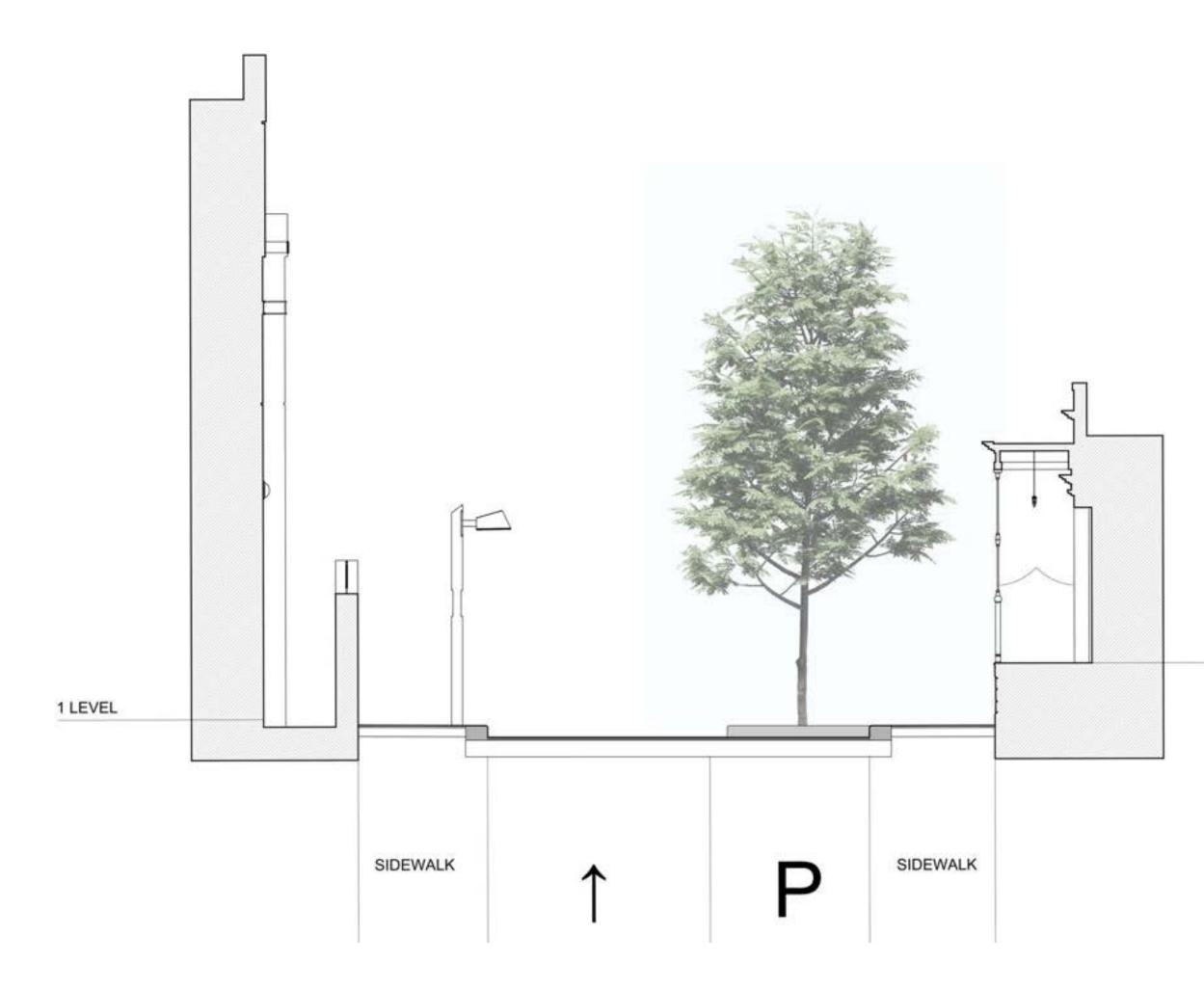






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COMPARATIVE FLOOR PLANS ISABEL ST.



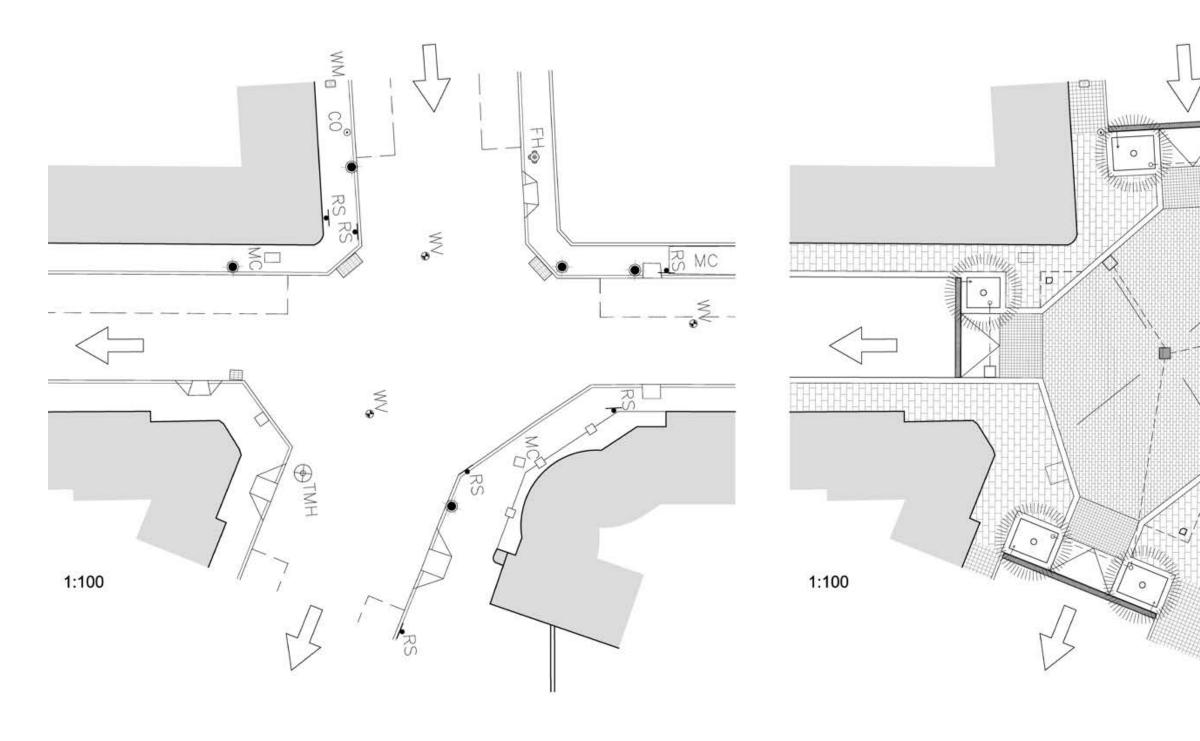


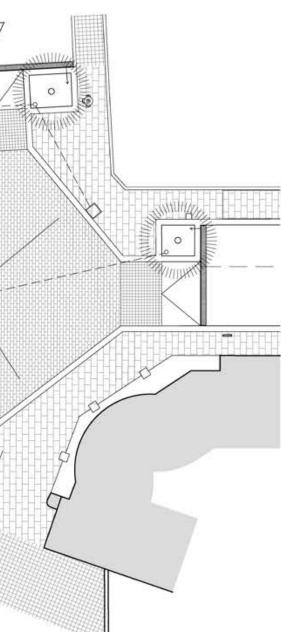


ISABEL ST. SECTION



INTERSECTION PLAN





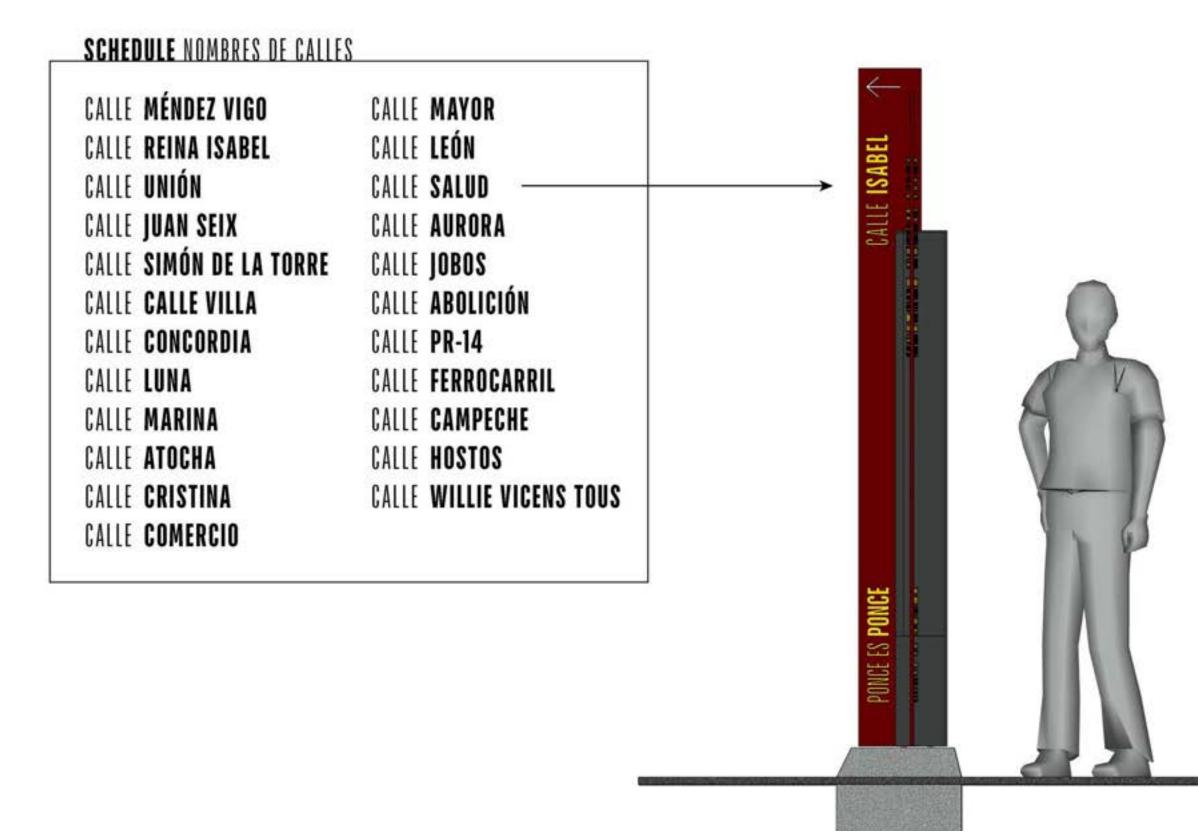
INTERSECTION COMPARATIVE FLOOR PLANS



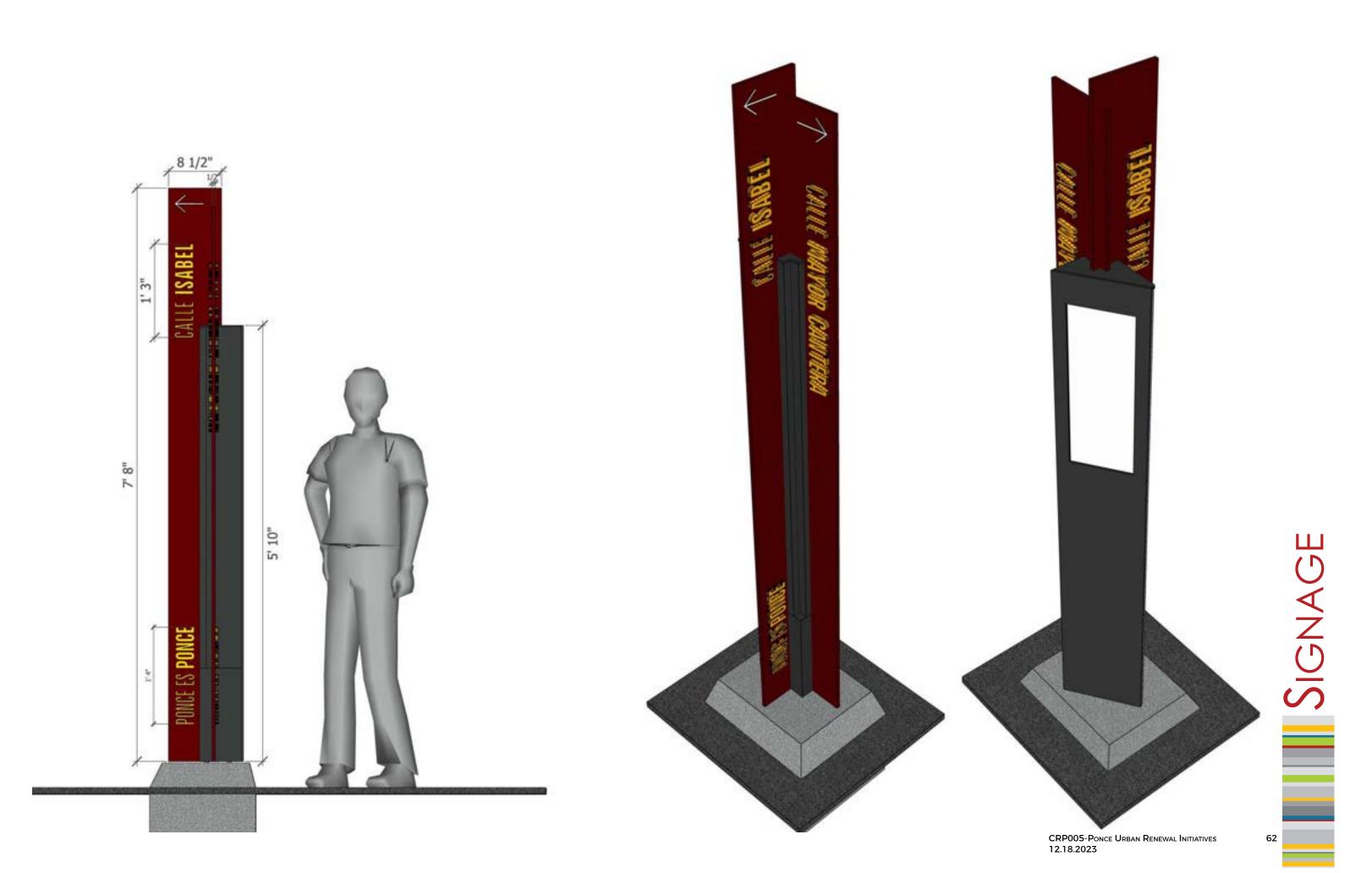
RAMP SECTION

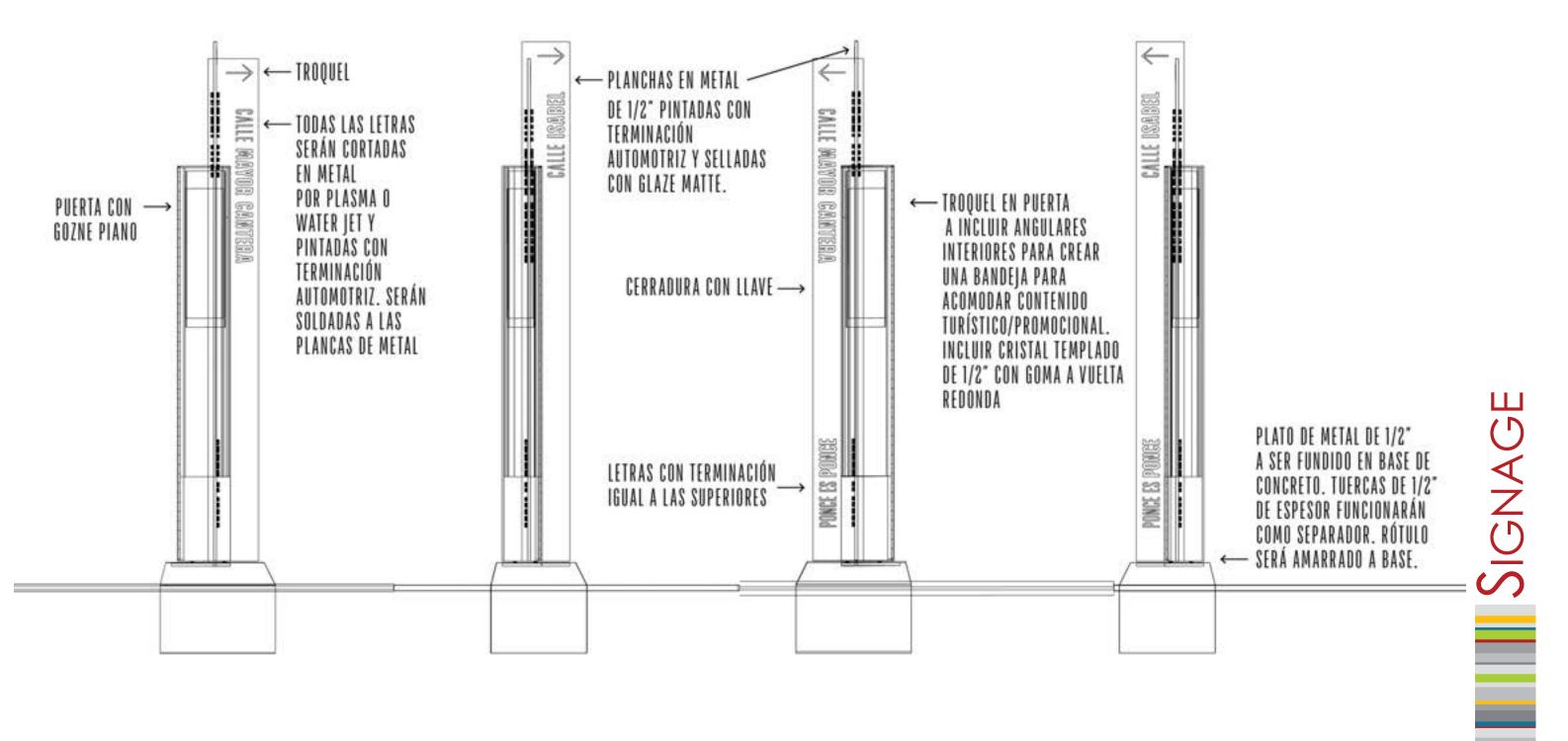






SIGNAGE





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PAVING

TERRAZZO PAVERS

The plaza hardscape will be terrazzo pavers similar to the ones found around all of the city environment. When properly manufactured and installed, can withstand constant traffic of both vehicles and pedestrians. Implementing different layouts and textures will help distinguish between pedestrian accessible areas and the vehicle line of way. These different materials will also help create different zones throughout the site such as utility zones and user leisure and seating areas.



COLORED CONCRETE

Where vehicular traffic is expected and in several key areas of the square, colored concrete will be cast in place. These will be color coordinated with the terrazzo paver colors. Exposing aggregates and sealing will provide additional textural opportunities





Furnishings

Urban

AND

ETATION

VEGE

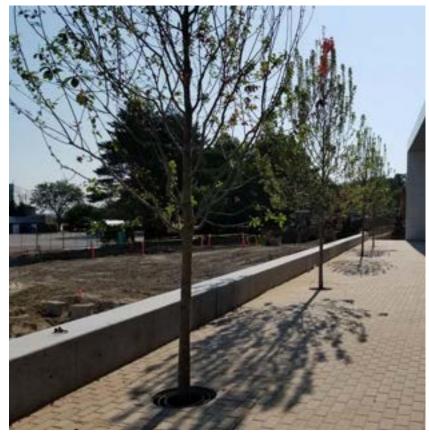
LIGHTING

MATERIALS

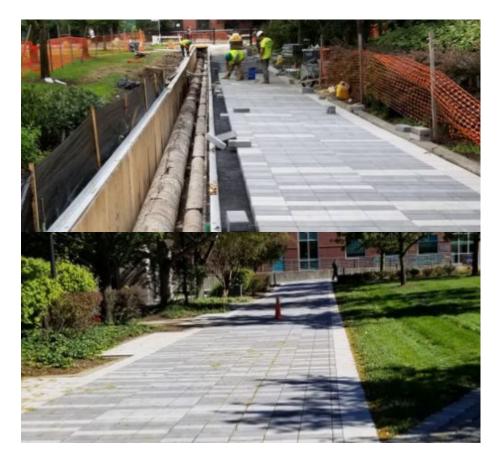
PAVING

TREE GRATES AND UTILITY BOX COVERS **WUNDERCOVERS**

Vegetation on-site needs soil to grow and water permeability, hence the need for tree grate implementation. WunderCovers tree grates are being proposed on site for their ability to blend seamlessly with paving on site, making them almost undetectable. These permeable pavers, concrete or hybrid covers allow for expandability of the tree base and adequate water permeability. All tray metals are made from galvanized stainless steel. Additional to tree grates, this system provides solution to cover all sorts of unsightly utility and storm water covers with any type of paving.



WUNDERCOVERS

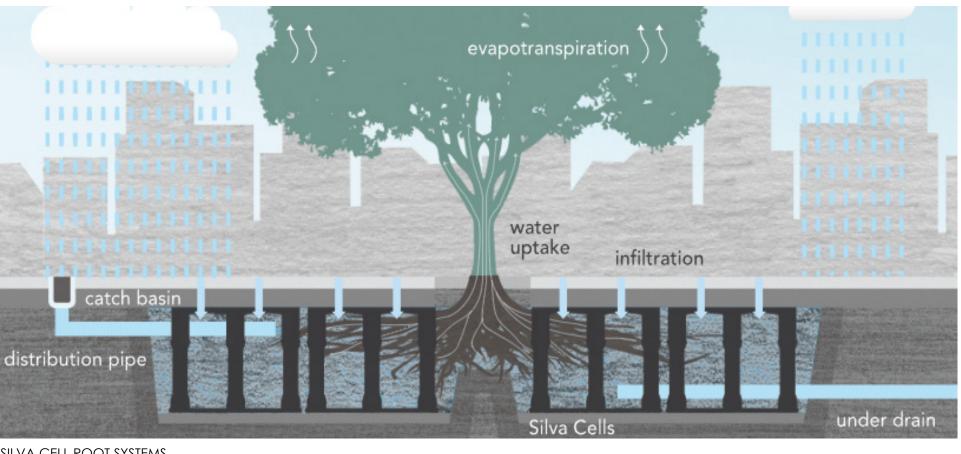


WUNDERCOVERS UTILITY COVERS

Root System SILVA CELL

Given the proposed vegetation on-site, we have considered measures to deter root damage on the proposed paving. Silva Cell is a suspended pavement system that uses soil volumes to support large rooted tree growth and also provide storm-water management through evotranspiration and interception. Implementing the Silva Cell system also means better water quality benefits from storm-water runoff. Vegetation also sequesters dissolved nutrients, hydrocarbons and TSS or Total Suspended Solids ,therefore enhancing the quality of storm water runoff that may later be collected.

Implementing such a system will provide for better tree health and longer useful life while deterring sidewalk damage.



SILVA CELL ROOT SYSTEMS

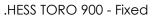
Furnishings URBAN LIGHTING VEGETATION AND MATERIALS

STREET FURNISHINGS

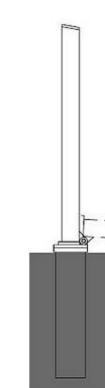
BOLLARDS .HESS TORO 900

Bollards are essential to any site without a clear curb that differentiates the sidewalk curb from the street. For several project areas, bollards shall be removable or collapsible; giving the opportunity for the site to host different programming throughout year. This will allow space to be versatile and provide diverse spatial layouts. The sleek design of both bollard would allow for seamless implementation within the proposed design. Made from hot dipped galvanized steel, these will serve as a strong barrier between the vehicle line and pedestrian space.









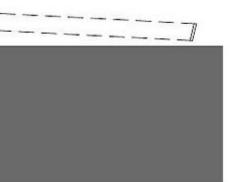
.HESS TORO 900 - Collapsible



Bike Rack BOLA BIKE RACK LANDSCAPE FORMS

Bike racks provide cyclists with an adequate space to park their bikes and also deter from haphazard bicycle parking throughout plaza space intended for pedestrian use. The sleek Bola bike rack design is an artful solution for bicycle safety and storage that could also provide pedestrian protection from vehicle lines. The stainless steel design is intended to blend seamlessly with other site furnishings.

BOLA BIKE RACK



CRP005-PONCE URBAN RENEWAL INITIATIVES 12.18.2023

S Vegetation and Urban Furnishing LIGHTING MATERIALS

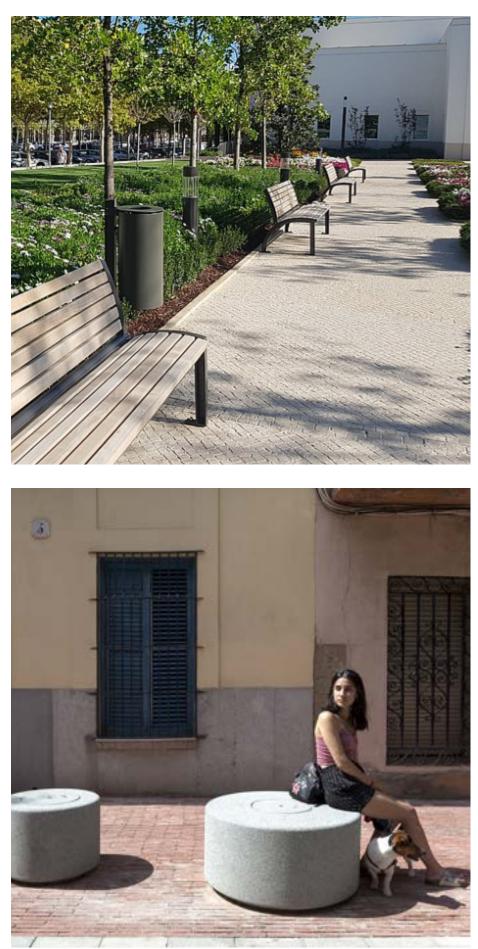
STREET FURNISHINGS

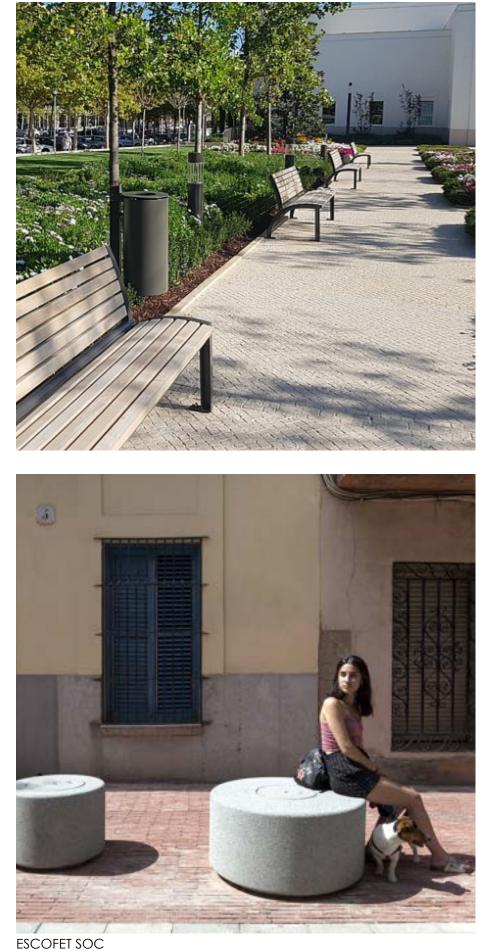
Trashcans .HESS PUNTO 700

Littering and vandalism are one of the biggest threats to public space. Therefore we have proposed these elevated metal trashcans that blend unobtrusively with the sites proposed architectural design. The steel material of the trashcan ensures a long lasting furnishing. The receptacle has a wide enough mouth for trash, yet not wide enough for spillage. They also allow for liner access.



.HESS PUNTO 700





Benches/Seating ESCOFET PUSH OR SOC

The push and soc bench from Escoffet provide a versatile furnishing that doubles as a bollard or boundary between traffic lines and pedestrian paths. The benches are precast out of concrete and mounted in place to give a floating illusion. The sleek design of the benches allows them to blend with the surrounding design without giving away their multipurpose functionality. Given their raised positioning, they allow for lighting implementation on the bottom which add to space visibility and safety.



ESCOFET PUSH

Urban Furnishings MATERIALS LIGHTING VEGETATION AND

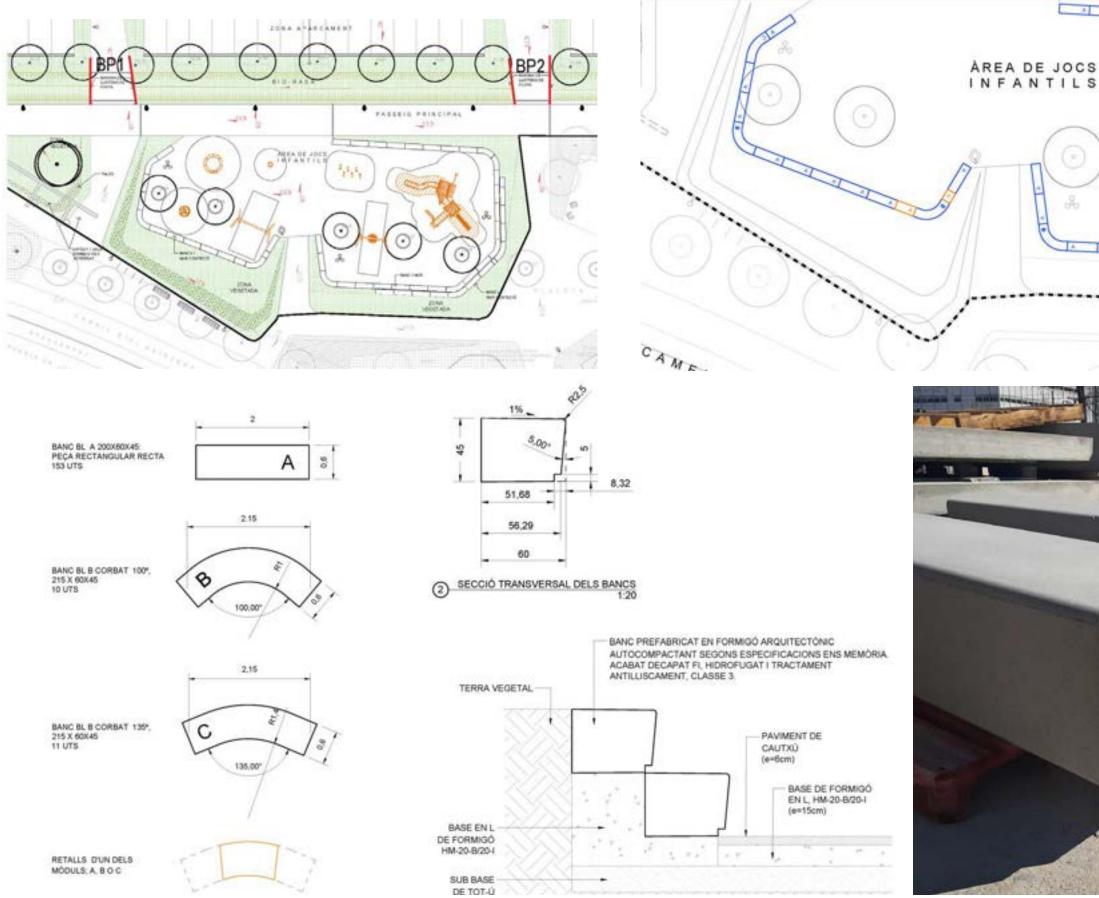
CRP005-PONCE URBAN RENEWAL INITIATIVES 12.18.2023



LIGHTING VEGETATION AND URBAN FURNISHINGS MATERIALS

STREET FURNISHINGS

Prefab Benches

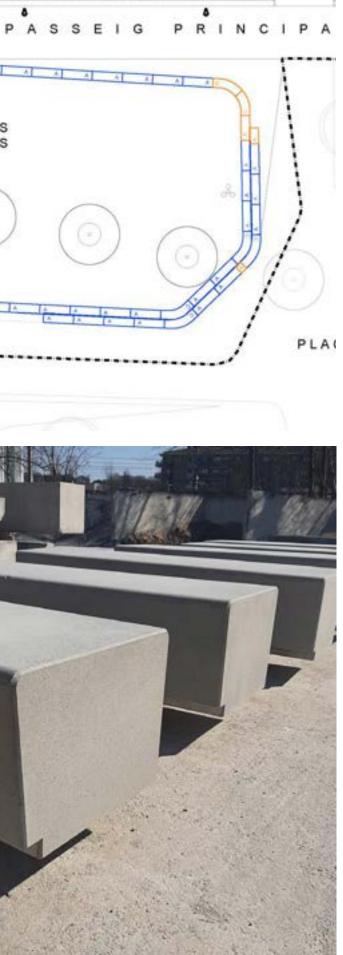


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STREET FURNISHINGS

Prefab Benches





CRP005-Ponce Urban Renewal Initiatives 12.18.2023

Furnishings Urban AND EGETATION >LIGHTING MATERIALS

SITE LIGHTING

STREETLIGHTS LUMENPULSE LUMENICON

Designing with end-users in mind, we are proposing the implementation of lumenpulse streetlights. Providing adequate lighting to our site will create a safe environment and provide a space for the community to enjoy at all hours of the day. The sleek design of the lumenicon allows it to blend seamlessly with the proposed design of the plaza. The model comes with a variety of lantern sizes and lenses which help determine the scope of light provided.



LUMENPULSE LUMENICON



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and Urban Furnishings MATERIALS LIGHTING VEGETATION

SITE LIGHTING

PARKLIGHTS LUMENPULSE MOBILIA COLUMNS

The Mobilia Columns and Bollards are already gracing a number of sites and areas with their streamlined and contemporary design. Mobilia fixtures are life-centric, customizable lighting tools for every site and area. Their round and square forms integrate effortlessly with surrounding architecture, public squares, walkways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and landscape designs. Essential standards of any outdoor lighting design, Mobilia upholds Lumenpulse's highest standards and those who design with it.





LUMENPULSE MOBILIA COLUMNS



LUMENPULSE MOBILIA BOLLARDS



Both Mobilia fixtures will be used to illuminate Luis Muñoz Rivera Park and Degetau Park. For more security and remarks the greetings areas we proposed to be located strategically the Lumenpulse Mobilia Columns through the Parks while the Mobilia Bollards, they will be installed inside the planter's benches to highlights the Trees. S

Furnishing

Urban

AND

VEGETATION

LIGHTING

MATERIALS

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

PLAYSCAPE LANDSCAPE PLAY STRUCTURES

The site design features interactive playscapes such as the Vibrachime and water features. The Vibrachime is a sculptural and sensory piece that invites users to interact with the site while creating music. Water features are always fun, incorporating water in design aides in heat island mitigation and encourages users to interact with different elements of the park. Also, we incorporate a friendly pet's area, its include a lawn turf space for dogs to play.







AQUATIX - LED ARCH JET

VIBRACHIME



AQUATIX - LED MINI PILLAR



AQUATIX - SIDE WALL FAN SPRAY



AQUATIX - LED BUBBLER



LAWN TURF

Vegetation and Urban Furnishings LIGHTING MATERIALS

PLANTING LIST





CORDIA SEBESTENA (CS)











MURRAYA PANICULATA (MP)



JATROPHA INTEGRINA (JI)



LAGERSTROEMIA SPECIOSA (LR)

LIGHTING VEGETATION AND URBAN FURNISHINGS MATERIALS



PLANTING LIST







COSMOS SULPHUREUS



DIETES BICOLOR



ANTANA CAMARA



Materials Lighting Vegetation and Urban Furnishings

PLANTING LIST

















MUHLENBERGIA CAPILLARS







Lighting Vegetation and Urban Furnishings MATERIALS

