ARK

ENTRANT NO. ULIC1603

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ARK is a critical response to the brief of 'connecting urban neighbourhoods' proposed by the Urban Land Institute competition. Although the narrative of the competition encourages strategies to activate the current context of the sub-tropical place befitting a 'New World City', this does not consider the rapid pace internet culture is changing today's society and the evolution of an invisible context influencing urban neighbourhoods.

As a variation, ARK does not answer how to connect the Brisbane City Centre and Fortitude Valley as a subtropical place with today's character. But instead, anticipates and bridges the contemporary focus area to a 'Future World City' through an urban ideology of contradiction between sub-tropical living and digital living.

Why is the picture of being outside, breathing in the fresh air and napping underneath the canopy of a tree always depicted in opposition with the image of resting lazily on the couch, watching Netflix and playing on your phone? If Sub-tropical culture and Digital culture are such opposing ideas, is Brisbane in it's "Great outdoor environment" destined to never be a city of future technological innovation? Is there an architectural method that could merge these two ideas to successfully define Brisbane as a 'Future World City'? Can it be a place where you can experience natural landscape and digital landscape in harmony?

ARK is the first part of an experimental highline prototype that can be duplicated inside Brisbane. Based on research, current residential investment and new laws in student accommodation have led the city to a hot housing market and a high number of apartment towers being built within both the CBD and Valley areas. Through observing the evolution of cities including Singapore, Tokyo and Sydney we can extrapolate these developments and positively anticipate for a taller Brisbane.

As proven from precedents around the world such as New York City and Paris. By lifting a public highline at levels above the ground plane, it would generate multitudes of potential including; releasing future congestion, preparation for a tower-based city, possibility of connecting into future skyscraper typologies, initiation of new social and cultural territories, a new day and night 'river of economy' and the revival of native green zones. It would define a new classification of sub-tropical public space.

Interrogating the contrasting cultures of "The Great Outdoors vs. The World Wide Web", we ask: "How can the planning of these programs compromise each other and simultaneously depict a character local to Brisbane architecture?" The polemical answer was to enable the sub-tropical programs to define space organically and the forms interpreting man-made culture to be planned as manipulations of the grid (in reference to the grid-like formation of Queensland suburbia and the manipulation of the louvred, blade-like character as seen in facades from Queenslanders to commercial towers in Brisbane). As the geometry of the unnatural slices through the programs of the natural six programs are born from this collision of cross-breeding.

Red Spiral Road – This red staircase creates a symmetrical grand descent onto Centenary Place directly facing the Thomas Joseph Byrnes statue. Stage One of this proposal must be on this site, because it signifies the beginning of Colonial Brisbane, with the blood red ascent into a future Brisbane of cultural compromise.

Theatre of a 100 Screens – Projecting a 100 different channels of viral videos, gifs and memes this space aims at pulling the attention of the public off their devices purely by replicating the information directly onto the rock-like landscape wall. Encouraging the public to integrate observation to an object more physical. During periods of festival including the State-of-Origin , all the screens could be played in conjunction as it evolves into a public amphitheatre gathering crowds of people together.

Ascent of Outdoor Intimacy – A hill, with a series of suburban fences strategically setout to create intimate spaces within an outdoor setting. It recreates the idea of being able to use technology privately, yet also being in a comfortable external environment. The highest point of the proposal, the scale of the fences frame a rare view of the contrasting elements of future courtyard and metropolis.

Blind Voids of Context – This space challenges the concept of being unaware of surroundings while surfing the internet/on your phone. The void enables a connection between the rushing cars of Wickham St and the elements of the sky. By sitting in-between these two elements, will the public appreciate and take instagram photos of this space, or will it largely be ignored?

Hall of Dual Intention – Every backyard requires a barbeque area! Thus, this is a collection of barbie grills and tables laid out as if in a food hall. These tables will have power plugs as the connection between eating and using the internet is almost taken as a given.

Pools of Insta-tenttion – The faux-bay like pool is intentionally located at the edge of the structure. This enables people to flaunt their bodies to something better than social media, the direct public eye. This pool embraces the psychotic evolution of self-marketing and attention seeking created from the internet.

Through all this academic language, how would this structure sustain itself?

What economic benefit would this give Brisbane?

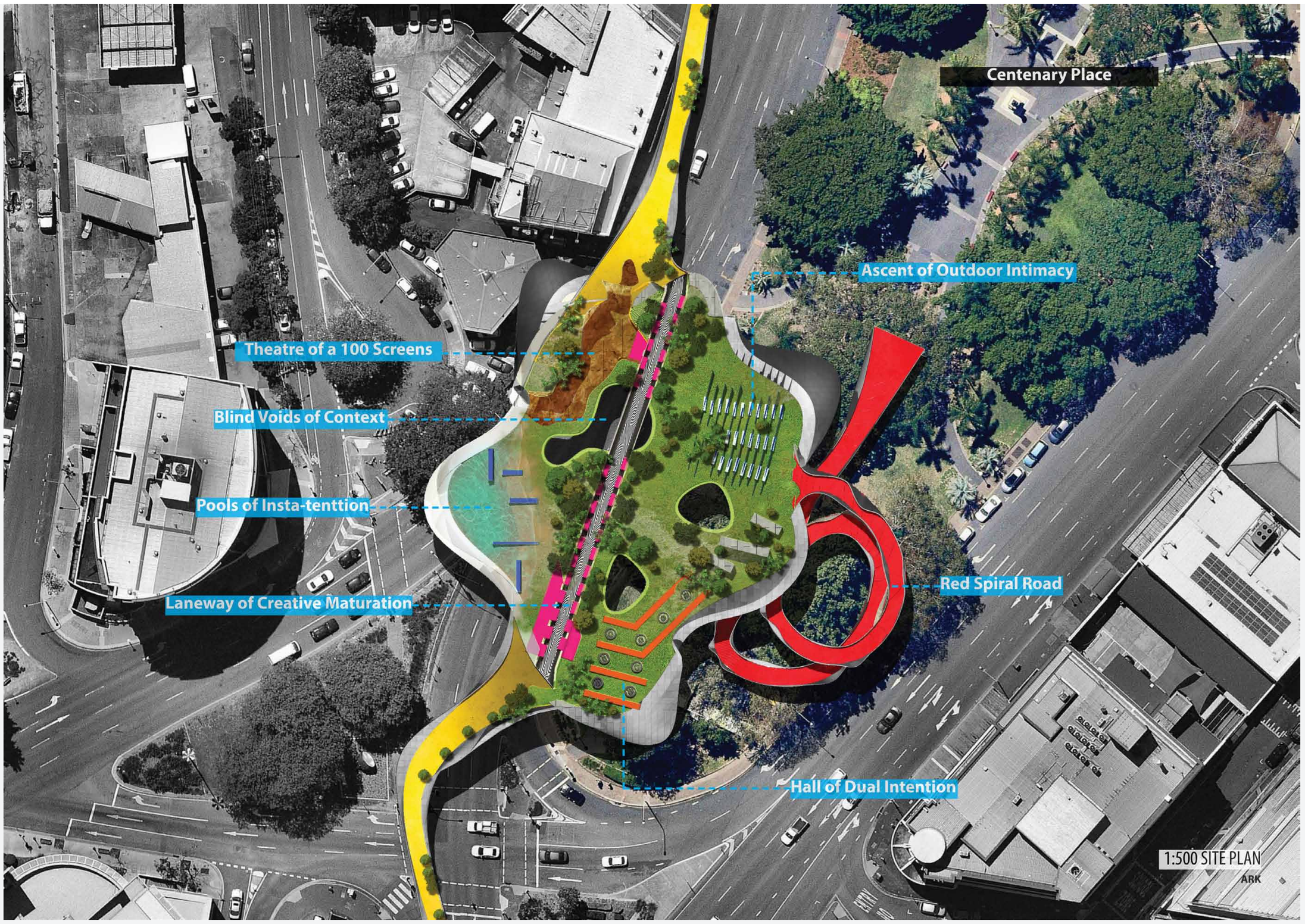
Does the negotiation of natural landscape vs. digital landscape create more than a new urban space?

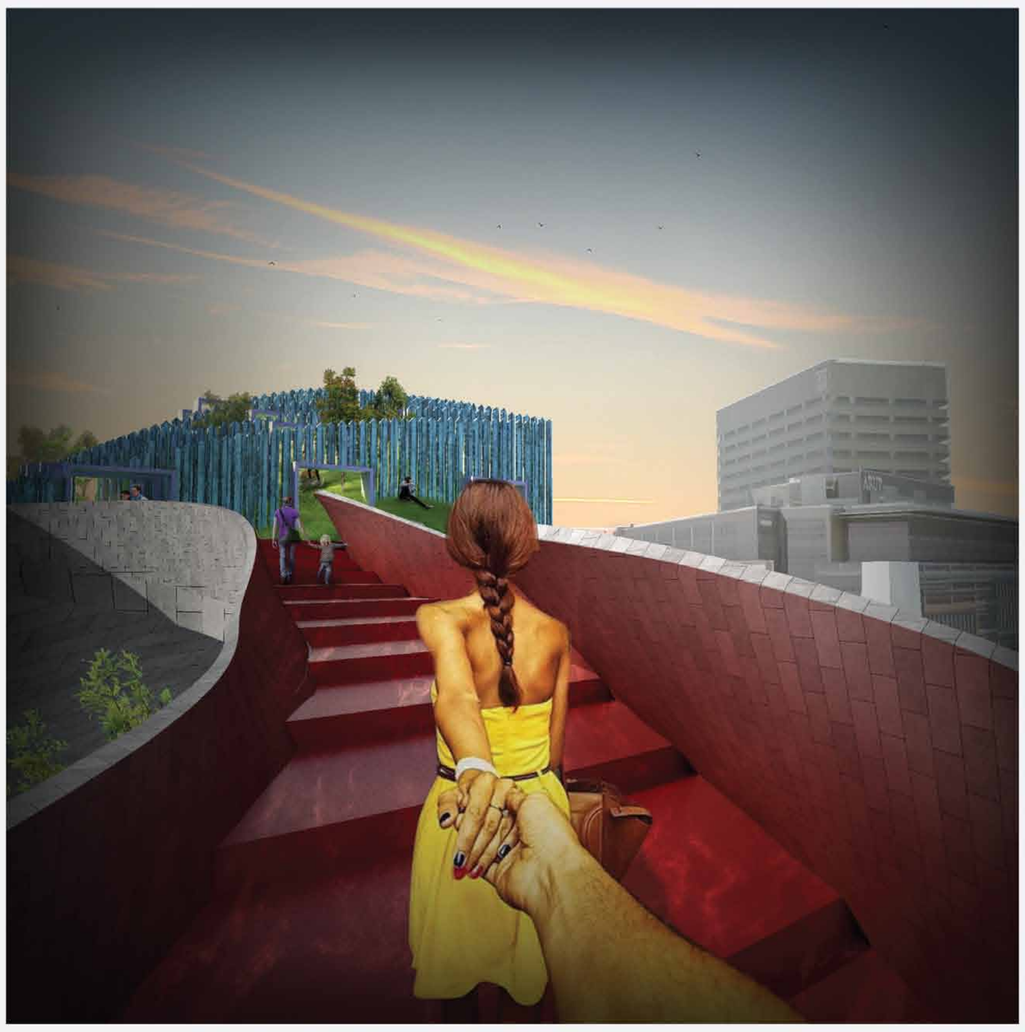
Beyond the creation of these contrasting ideas, the project has created an environment uniquely Future-Brisbane with it's subtropical-digi-scape. The intention, is to exploit this new typology of public space as a tool to attract start-up businesses and innovative characters to manifest an unfamiliar brand of living, where office spaces have a strong outlook to what is essentially a contemporary civic garden.

Laneway of Creative Maturation –The Laneway of Creative Maturation is a continuous public laneway cleaving into the landscape with flexible office-spaces-in-residence. The program of these workshops would encourage experimental ideas, or products aiming for viral growth. By creating an ecosystem of startups, this structure would not only inspire tourism but as Queensland aims to be a stronger tertiary presence, this space would be the perfect breeding-ground for premature concepts to evolve into world-changing ideas.

If Sydney is the city of business. Melbourne the city of art. We believe Brisbane can be redefined as the city of innovation. The 'Silicon Valley' of Australia.

If successful, this prototype can be expanded where it would start in the Valley Malls Precinct and end on Queen Street opposite the Casino acting as the triumphant frontage Brisbane always wanted. In the end, have we created the most Brisbane of architectural super-form within the city? A glamorised lawn perfect for the Modern Suburban Queenslander inside the heart of the city.

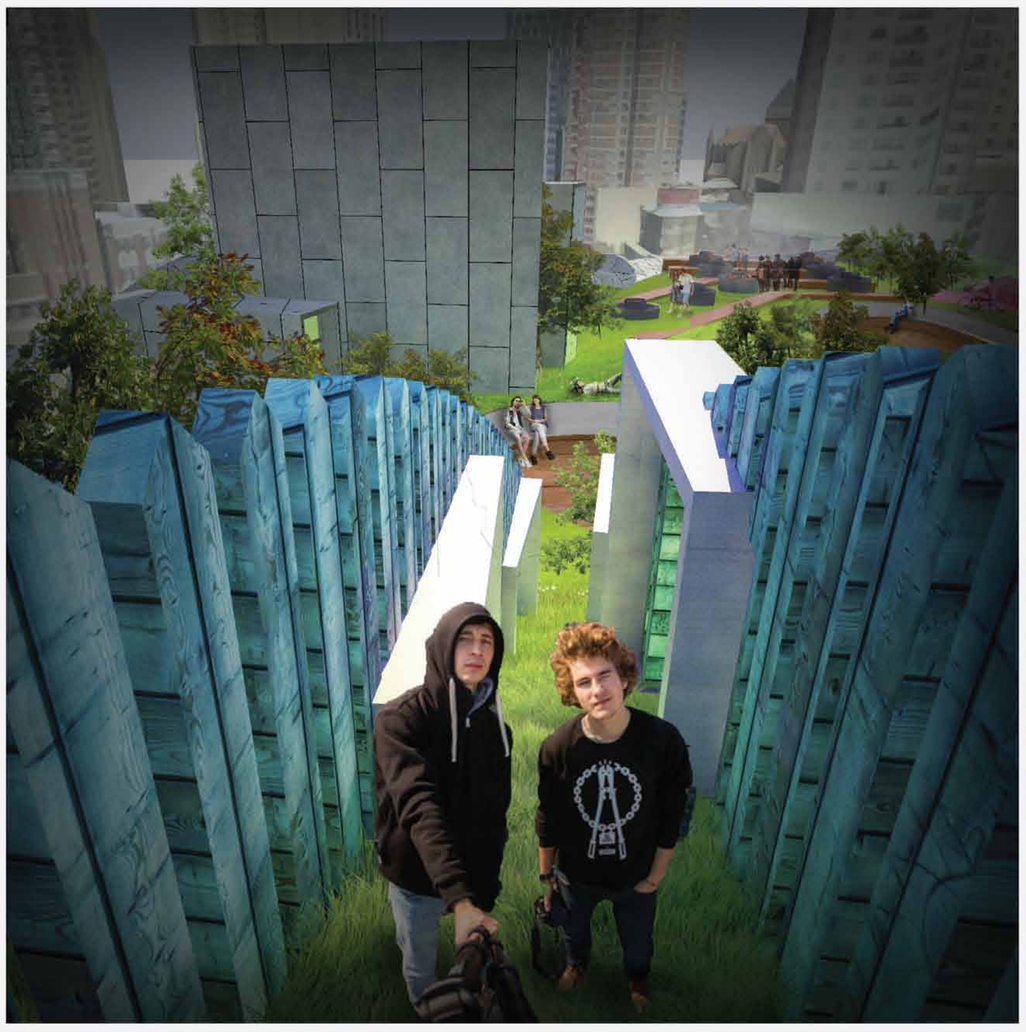




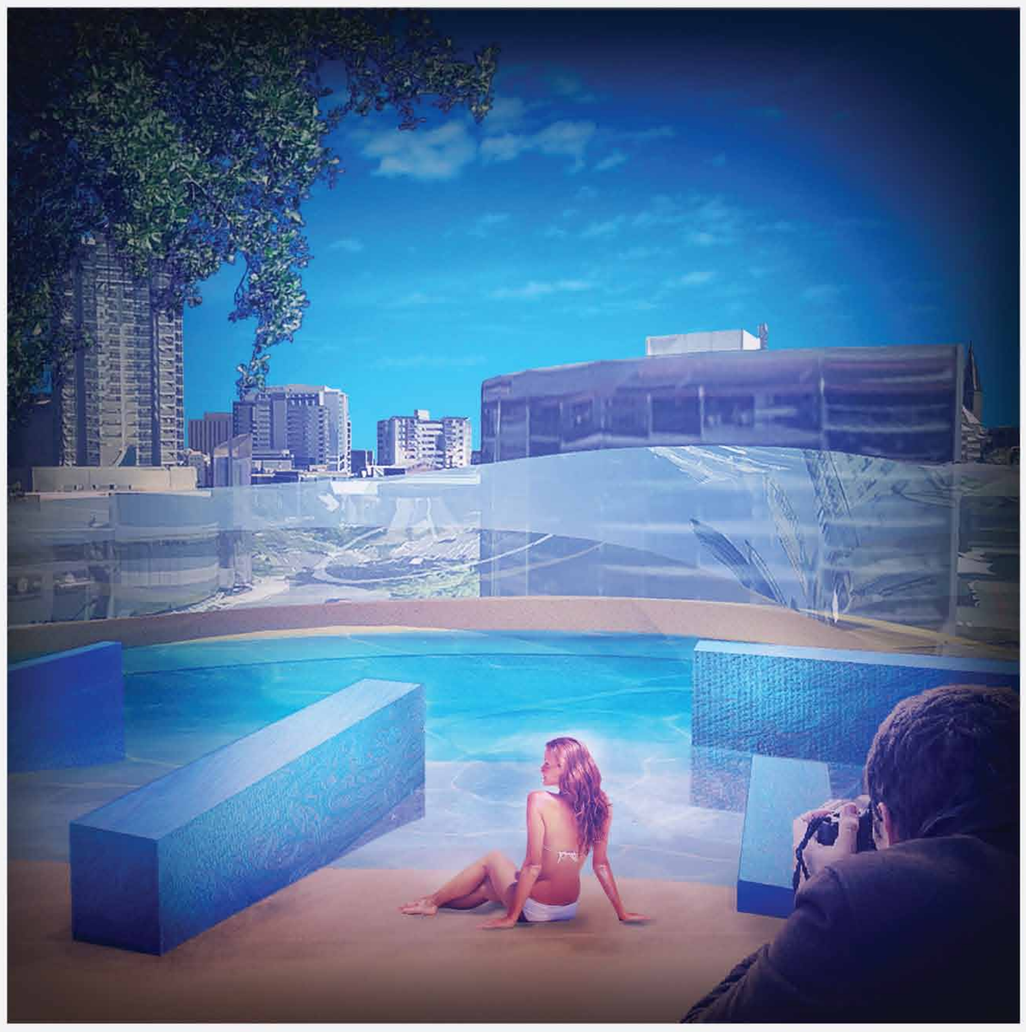
HOW CAN THE ENTRY SEDUCE?
RED SPIRAL ROAD

WHAT WOULD INNOVATION LOOK BELOW A PARK?
LANEWAY OF CREATIVE MATURATION

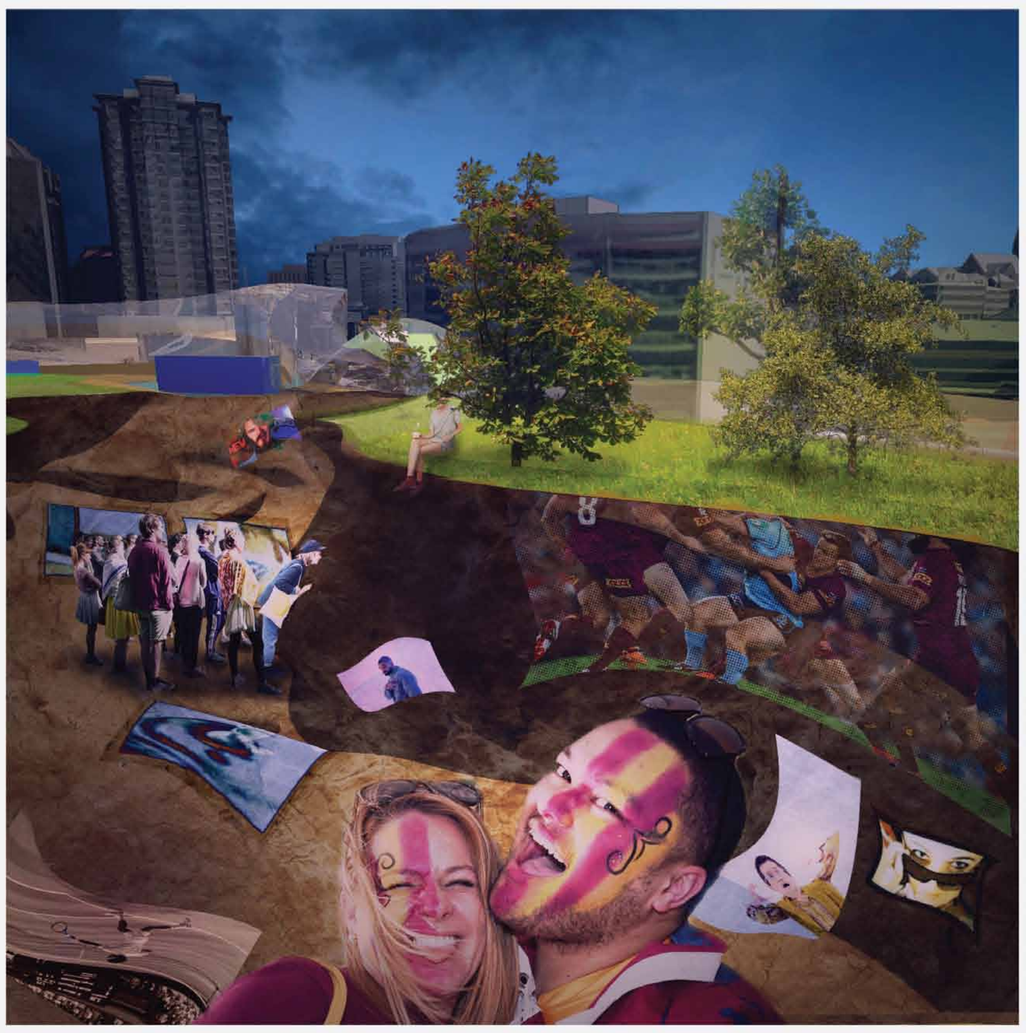
PERSPECTIVES
ARK



HOW WOULD WE SEE THE CITY DIFFERENTLY?
ASCENT OF OUTDOOR INTIMACY



HOW WOULD THIS AFFECT MARKETING?
POOLS OF INSTA-TTENTION



WHERE WOULD PEOPLE GATHER IN THE FUTURE?
THEATRE OF 100 SCREENS

WHEN DID THE ADVENTURE START?
CENTENARY PLACE

CONTEXT

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"[A city] Needs to be brave if it wants to build the equivalent of new cathedrals and parks.

These things cannot be properly analysed economically."

- Richard Rogers

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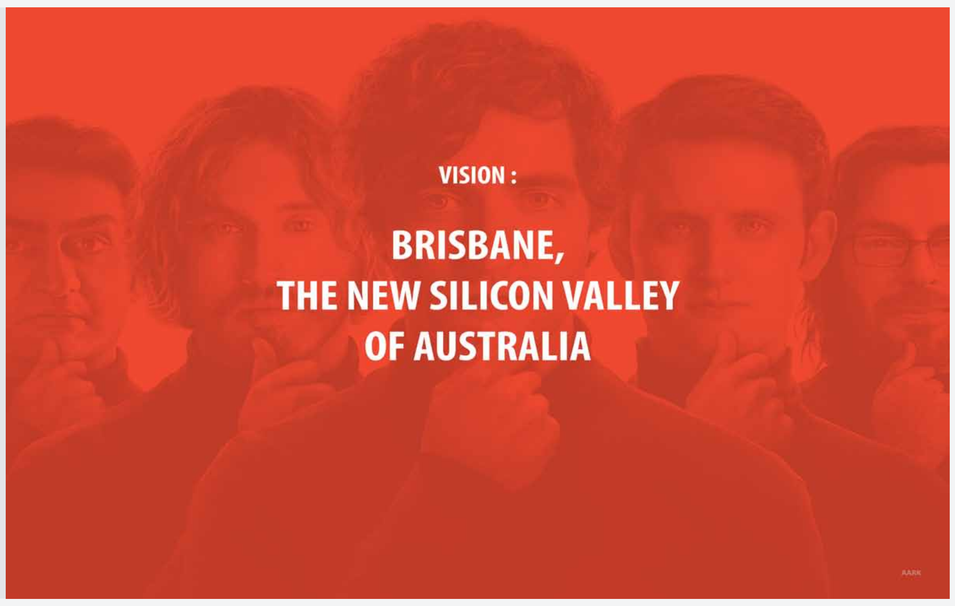

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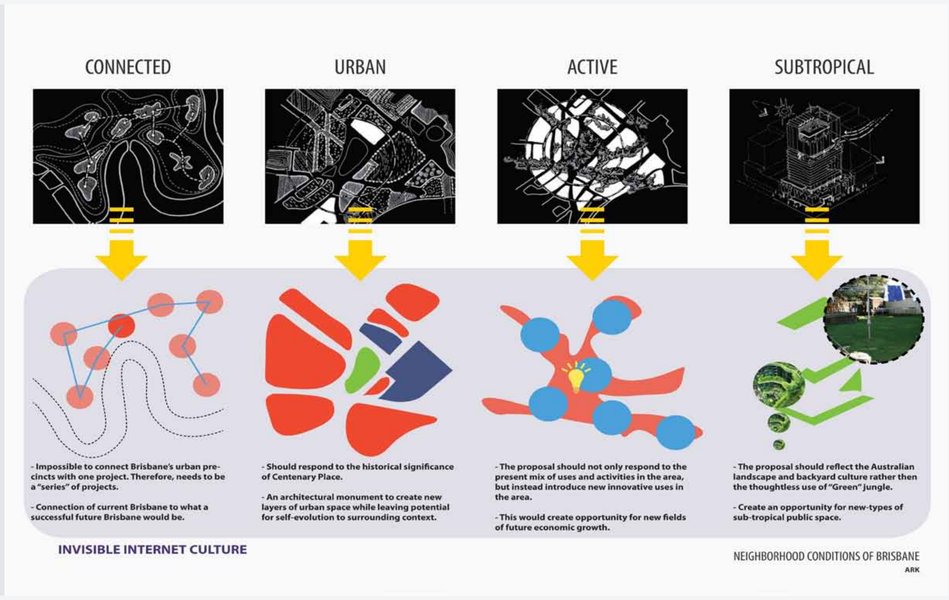

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IDEA

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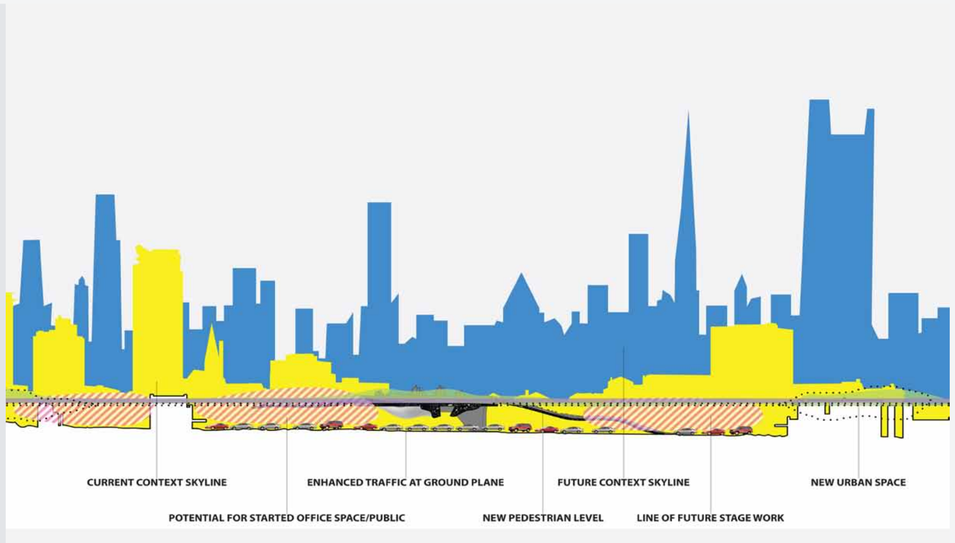
STAGING DIAGRAM
ARK



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FUTURE CONDITIONS
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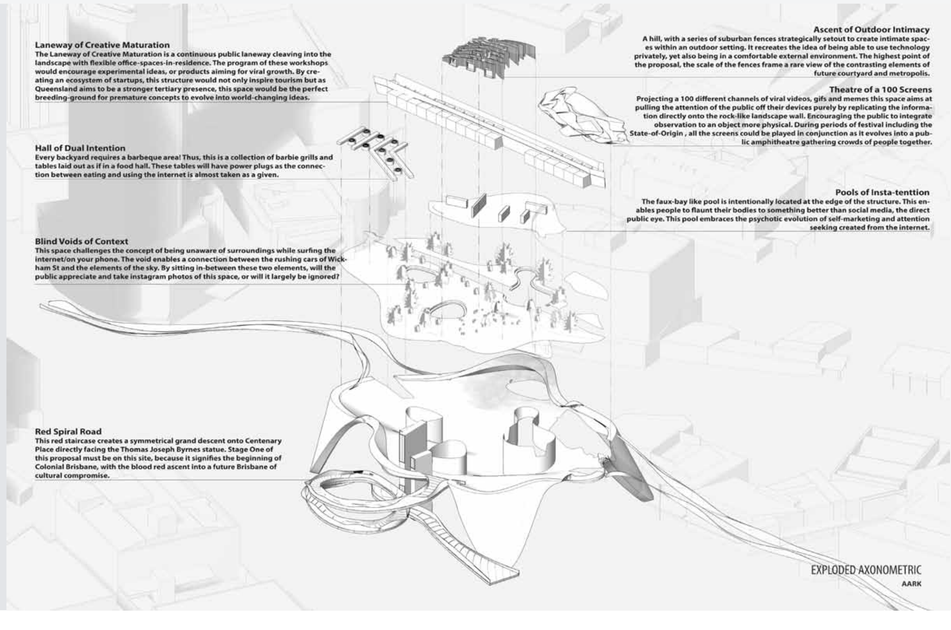

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EXPLODED AXONOMETRIC
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