

The Acropolis Necklace

Το Περιδεραιο της Ακροπόλης

Our proposal develops a continuous pedestrian ring navigating through historic downtown Athens, anchored around the acropolis. Dubbed the “Acropolis Necklace”, this new urban system provides a platform to experience and enhance: museums, archeological treasures, ecological relationships and the greater city of Athens.

The Necklace is an amalgamation of the linear character of the pedestrian greenway with mass transit access points and the events or pearls it meets along its course. Three concepts guide our design process: Freshness, Interface and Tangency. With the expansion and revitalization of Athens' public spaces as the primary goal, the greenway is a shaded, mainly pedestrian pathway, co-exiting with plantings, storm water collection, sunken gardens, tramways and bicycle lanes. It offers both residents and visitors freshness and greenery in an economical logic by emphasizing a soft approach to Athens city center around the Acropolis. In line with the scope of the competition, the territory along Panepistimiou Street and its adjacent public spaces form our principal focus area. Four additional zones, applying a lighter intervention, string together the remaining links of the necklace.

Not only a pedestrian greenway, the chain of the Necklace serves many functions including cooling the city during months of intense heat (freshness), promoting the sharing of public space (interface) and acting as a continuous active link between the city's historic identity, existing amenities and public spaces (tangency). A lofty canopy of linear pines and artificial shade structures cools the city and floats above a series of designed events of varying rhythms along the Necklace. Some of these micro-plazas promote views to the Acropolis, while others encourage relaxation and interaction between users. The tram stops add another rhythm, around which all active public programs will be concentrated, transforming them into urban service stations. This concentration of public space keeps the Greenway path development free, insuring its long-term identity as a fresh, interactive promenade.

The Acropolis Necklace creates for Athens a new centralized urban identity. This new system provides multiple platforms of experience and focus along an encompassing, city scaled, pedestrian greenway with tangential ecologically focused, multi-rhythmed event spaces.

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Το Περιδεραιο της Ακροπόλης

ΣΤΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΤΗΣ ΠΡΟΤΑΣΗΣ ΒΡΙΣΚΕΤΑΙ Η ΕΓΓΡΑΦΗ ΤΗΣ ΠΕΖΟΔΡΟΜΗΣΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΟΔΟΥ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟΥ ΣΕ ΕΝΑΝ ΕΥΡΗ ΣΥΝΕΧΗ ΠΕΡΙΠΑΤΟ, ΠΟΥ ΘΑ ΠΑΡΕΙ ΠΡΟΟΔΕΥΤΙΚΑ ΤΗΝ ΜΟΡΦΗ ΕΝΟΣ ΔΑΚΤΥΛΙΟΥ ΓΥΡΩ ΑΠΟ ΤΟΝ ΒΡΑΧΟ ΤΗΣ ΑΚΡΟΠΟΛΗΣ. ΑΥΤΟΣ Ο ΝΕΟΣ ΠΕΖΟΔΡΟΜΟΣ ΔΙΝΕΙ ΤΟ ΟΝΟΜΑ «ΠΕΡΙΔΕΡΑΙΟ ΤΗΣ ΑΚΡΟΠΟΛΗΣ» ΣΤΗ ΠΡΟΤΑΣΗ, ΤΟ ΕΘΝΙΚΟ ΑΡΧΑΙΟΛΟΓΙΚΟ ΜΟΥΣΕΙΟ ΠΑΙΡΝΟΝΤΑΣ ΤΗ ΘΕΣΗ ΤΟΥ ΚΟΣΜΗΜΑΤΟΣ.

ΤΟ «ΠΕΡΙΔΕΡΑΙΟ ΤΗΣ ΑΚΡΟΠΟΛΗΣ» ΣΥΝΔΕΕΙ ΔΙΑΦΟΡΕΣ ΧΩΡΙΣΤΕΣ ΓΕΙΤΟΝΙΕΣ ΤΟΥ ΚΕΝΤΡΟΥ ΤΗΣ ΑΘΗΝΑΣ, ΠΛΑΚΑ, ΚΟΛΩΝΑΚΙ, ΜΕΤΑΞΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ, ΜΑΖΙ ΜΕ ΤΟΥΣ ΑΛΛΟΥΣ ΑΡΧΑΙΟΛΟΓΙΚΟΥΣ ΚΑΙ ΚΥΡΙΟΥΣ ΔΗΜΟΣΙΟΥΣ ΧΩΡΟΥΣ ΤΟΥ ΚΕΝΤΡΟΥ ΤΗΣ ΠΟΛΗΣ. ΠΡΩΤΑΡΧΙΚΟΙ ΣΤΟΧΟΙ ΤΟΥ ΕΙΝΑΙ Η ΔΙΑΣΤΟΛΗ ΚΑΙ ΑΝΑΖΩΓΟΝΗΣΗ ΤΟΥ ΚΟΙΝΟΥ ΔΗΜΟΣΙΟΥ ΧΩΡΟΥ. Η ΠΡΟΤΑΣΗ ΘΑ ΠΡΑΓΜΑΤΟΠΟΙΗΘΕΙ ΣΕ ΠΡΩΤΟ ΣΤΑΔΙΟ ΣΤΗΝ ΠΕΡΙΟΧΗ ΠΟΥ ΑΦΟΡΑ ΤΟΝ ΔΙΑΓΩΝΙΣΜΟ. ΘΕΩΡΩΝΤΑΣ ΤΟΝ ΥΠΑΡΧΟΝΤΑ ΠΕΖΟΔΡΟΜΟ ΚΑΤΩ ΑΠΟ ΤΗΝ ΑΚΡΟΠΟΛΗ, Η ΑΠΟΠΕΡΑΤΩΣΗ ΤΗΣ ΘΑ ΧΡΕΙΑΣΤΕΙ ΤΗΝ ΕΛΑΧΙΣΤΗ ΔΙΑΡΡΥΘΜΙΣΗ ΤΟΥ ΣΥΝΟΛΟΥ ΤΗΣ ΛΕΩΦΟΡΟΥ ΑΜΑΛΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΝΟΣ ΚΟΜΜΑΤΙΟΥ ΤΗΣ ΟΔΟΥ ΠΕΙΡΑΙΩΣ.

Η ΠΕΖΟΔΡΟΜΗΜΕΝΗ ΕΝΩΣΗ ΤΟΥ ΛΟΦΟΥ ΤΗΣ ΑΚΡΟΠΟΛΗΣ ΜΕ ΑΥΤΟΝ ΤΟΥ ΦΙΛΟΠΑΠΠΟΥ ΟΦΕΙΛΕΤΑΙ ΣΤΟΝ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΗ ΠΙΚΙΩΝΗ. ΤΟ ΕΡΓΟ ΑΥΤΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΕΛΛΗΝΑ ΑΡΧΙΤΕΚΤΟΝΑ ΜΑΣ ΕΝΕΠΝΕΥΣΕ ΓΙΑ ΤΗΝ ΚΑΤΑΝΟΗΣΗ ΜΙΑΣ ΠΛΕΥΡΙΚΗΣ ΠΡΟΣΕΓΓΙΣΗΣ ΤΩΝ ΘΕΣΜΩΝ, ΤΗΝ ΙΚΑΝΟΤΗΤΑ ΕΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΚΕΨΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΠΑΡΑΔΟΣΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΗΝ ΤΕΧΝΗ ΑΠΟΚΑΛΥΨΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΤΟΠΟΓΡΑΦΙΑΣ.

ΤΡΕΙΣ ΕΝΝΟΙΕΣ ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΟΥΝ ΑΥΤΗ ΤΗΣ ΠΡΟΤΑΣΗ : ΕΦΑΠΤΟΤΗΤΑ, ΦΡΕΣΚΑΔΑ, ΔΙΑΣΥΝΔΕΣΗ.

ΤΟ «ΠΕΡΙΔΕΡΑΙΟ» ΣΥΝΤΙΘΕΤΑΙ ΑΠΟ ΤΟ «ΝΗΜΑ» ΚΑΙ ΤΙΣ «ΧΑΝΤΡΕΣ». ΤΟ «ΝΗΜΑ», ΑΠΟΚΑΛΟΥΜΕΝΟ «GREENWAY» (Ο ΠΡΑΣΙΝΟΣ ΔΡΟΜΟΣ), ΕΙΝΑΙ ΕΝΑΣ ΣΚΙΑΣΜΕΝΟΣ, ΦΥΤΕΥΜΕΝΟΣ, ΜΕΡΙΚΑ ΥΔΡΑΓΩΓΗΜΕΝΟΣ ΠΕΖΟΔΡΟΜΟΣ ΠΟΥ ΔΙΑΣΧΙΖΕΙ ΤΙΣ ΛΕΩΦΟΡΟΥΣ ΤΗΣ ΠΟΛΗΣ ΔΙΠΛΑ ΣΤΙΣ ΓΡΑΜΜΕΣ ΤΟΥ ΤΡΑΜ ΚΑΙ ΤΟΝ ΠΟΔΗΛΑΤΟΔΡΟΜΟ. ΠΡΟΣΦΕΡΕΙ ΣΤΟΥΣ ΚΑΤΟΙΚΟΥΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΠΙΣΚΕΠΤΕΣ ΦΡΕΣΚΑΔΑ ΚΑΙ ΠΡΑΣΙΝΑΔΑ ΑΝΑΔΥΚΝΕΙΟΝΤΑΣ ΜΙΑ ΗΠΙΑ ΠΡΟΣΕΓΓΙΣΗ ΤΟΥ ΚΕΝΤΡΟΥ ΤΗΣ ΑΘΗΝΑΣ ΓΥΡΩ ΑΠΟ ΤΟΝ ΒΡΑΧΟ ΤΗΣ ΑΚΡΟΠΟΛΗΣ. ΟΙ «ΧΑΝΤΡΕΣ» ΔΙΑΜΟΡΦΩΝΟΝΤΑΙ ΣΑΝ ΑΥΘΕΝΤΙΚΑ ΓΕΓΟΝΟΤΑ ΑΡΧΙΤΕΚΤΟΝΙΚΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΟΠΙΟΥ ΕΝΙΟΤΕ ΕΝΙΣΧΥΟΝΤΑΣ ΤΑ ΥΠΑΡΧΟΝΤΑ ΣΗΜΑΝΤΙΚΑ ΚΤΙΡΙΑ ΚΑΙ ΔΗΜΟΣΙΟΥΣ ΧΩΡΟΥΣ ΤΟΥΣ. ΣΑΝ ΜΙΑ ΤΟΜΗ ΣΤΗΝ ΙΣΤΟΡΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΠΟΛΗΣ, ΕΞΑΣΦΑΛΙΖΟΝΤΑΣ ΣΥΝΕΧΗ ΚΑΙ ΕΝΕΡΓΗ ΔΙΑΣΥΝΔΕΣΗ ΤΩΝ ΜΕΙΖΟΝΤΩΝ ΣΤΟΙΧΕΙΩΝ ΤΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΡΟΣΦΕΡΟΝΤΑΣ ΧΩΡΟΥΣ ΠΟΥ ΑΝΤΑΠΟΚΡΙΝΟΝΤΑΙ ΣΤΑ ΣΥΓΧΡΟΝΑ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΑ ΚΑΙ ΟΙΚΟΛΟΓΙΚΑ ΖΗΤΗΜΑΤΑ, ΤΟ «ΠΕΡΙΔΕΡΑΙΟ» ΜΠΟΡΕΙ ΝΑ ΠΑΙΞΕΙ ΕΝΑ ΒΑΣΙΚΟ ΡΟΛΟ ΣΤΗΝ ΑΝΑΒΑΘΜΙΣΗ ΤΩΝ ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΚΩΝ, ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΤΙΚΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΤΕΛΙΚΑ ΚΑΙ ΑΚΙΝΗΤΩΝ ΑΞΙΩΝ ΤΟΥ ΚΕΝΤΡΟΥ ΤΗΣ ΑΘΗΝΑΣ.

ΣΤΗΝ ΟΔΟ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟΥ Ο ΠΕΖΟΔΡΟΜΟΣ - «GREENWAY» - ΑΠΑΡΤΙΖΕΤΑΙ ΑΠΟ ΤΡΙΑ ΠΑΡΑΛΛΗΛΑ ΦΥΣΙΚΑ ΣΤΟΙΧΕΙΑ : ΕΝΑ ΥΓΡΟ ΚΑΝΑΛΙ ΓΙΑ ΣΥΜΒΟΛΗ ΣΤΗΝ ΑΠΟΡΡΟΦΗΣΗ ΤΩΝ ΟΜΒΡΙΩΝ ΥΔΑΤΩΝ, ΕΝΑ ΓΡΑΜΜΙΚΟ ΔΑΣΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΝΑ ΠΛΑΚΟΣΤΩΤΟ ΜΟΝΟΠΑΤΙ, ΕΚΦΡΑΖΟΝΤΑΣ ΤΗΝ ΑΠΛΟΤΗΤΑ ΤΗΣ ΣΥΜΒΙΩΣΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΦΥΣΗΣ ΜΕ ΤΟΝ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΜΟ ΣΕ ΟΛΕΣ ΤΙΣ ΜΟΡΦΕΣ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗΣ ΑΣΤΙΚΟΠΟΙΗΣΗΣ.

ΤΡΕΙΣ ΡΥΘΜΟΙ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΩΝ, ΑΡΧΙΤΕΚΤΟΝΙΚΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΟΠΙΟΥ, ΟΙ «ΧΑΝΤΡΕΣ», ΟΡΙΖΟΥΝ ΤΙΣ ΔΙΑΦΟΡΕΣ ΚΛΙΜΑΚΕΣ ΣΥΝΔΙΑΛΛΑΓΗΣ. ΟΙ ΔΥΟ ΚΑΙΡΙΟΙ ΚΟΜΒΟΙ ΤΗΣ ΟΔΟΥ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟΥ ΑΝΑΔΕΙΚΝΥΟΝΤΑΙ ΜΕΣΩ ΑΡΧΙΤΕΚΤΟΝΙΚΩΝ ΤΟΠΙΟΥ ΔΙΝΟΝΤΑΣ ΤΑΥΤΟΧΡΟΝΑ ΔΥΝΑΤΟΤΗΤΑ ΑΜΕΣΗΣ ΘΕΑΣ ΤΟΥ ΒΡΑΧΟΥ ΤΗΣ ΑΚΡΟΠΟΛΗΣ. Ο ΔΕΥΤΕΡΟΣ ΣΕ ΣΤΙΞΗ ΡΥΘΜΟΣ ΑΦΟΡΑ ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΑ ΔΙΑΣΚΟΡΠΙΣΜΕΝΑ ΓΕΓΟΝΟΤΑ ΣΤΟΝ ΠΕΡΙΠΑΤΟ ΠΟΥ ΔΗΜΙΟΥΡΓΟΥΝ ΠΑΥΣΕΙΣ ΞΕΚΟΥΡΑΣΗΣ Η ΔΙΕΓΕΙΡΟΥΝ ΕΝΑΥΣΜΑΤΑ ΟΠΩΣ, ΓΙΑ ΠΑΡΑΔΕΙΓΜΑ, ΤΑ ΑΡΧΑΙΟΛΟΓΙΚΑ ΥΠΟΣΤΡΩΜΑΤΑ Η ΥΠΑΙΘΡΙΕΣ ΕΚΘΕΣΕΙΣ ΣΥΓΧΡΟΝΗΣ ΚΑΛΛΙΤΕΧΝΙΚΗΣ ΠΑΡΑΓΩΓΗΣ. ΕΝ ΤΕΛΕΙ ΟΙ ΣΤΑΘΜΟΙ ΤΟΥ ΤΡΑΜ ΣΥΝΙΣΤΟΥΝ ΤΟΝ ΤΡΙΤΟ ΡΥΘΜΟ, ΣΥΓΚΕΝΤΡΩΝΟΝΤΑΣ ΟΛΕΣ ΤΙΣ ΑΣΤΙΚΕΣ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΕΣ, ΥΠΑΡΧΟΥΣΕΣ ΚΑΙ ΜΕΛΛΟΝΤΙΚΕΣ : ΠΕΡΙΠΤΕΡΑ, ΕΝΟΙΚΙΑΣΗ ΠΟΔΗΛΑΤΩΝ, ΕΚΔΟΤΗΡΙΑ ΕΙΣΙΤΗΡΙΩΝ ΘΕΑΜΑΤΩΝ, Η, ΓΙΑ ΠΑΡΑΔΕΙΓΜΑ, ΤΗΝ ΠΡΟΤΑΣΗ ΗΛΙΑΚΗΣ ΑΣΤΙΚΗΣ ΠΡΙΖΑΣ «ΑΚΤΙΝΑ» ΤΩΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΩΝ ΜΕΛΕΤΗΤΙΚΩΝ ΟΜΑΔΩΝ CITY INDEX ΚΑΙ ENERGIZER. ΑΥΤΗ Η ΣΥΜΠΥΚΝΩΣΗ ΠΡΟΣΒΛΕΠΕΙ ΣΤΗ ΔΙΑΦΥΛΑΞΗ ΤΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΚΟΥ ΦΥΣΙΚΟΥ ΧΑΡΑΚΤΗΡΑ ΤΟΥ «ΠΕΡΙΔΕΡΑΙΟΥ».

The Acropolis Necklace

Το Περιδεραιο της Ακροπόλης



At the center of this proposal, the Panepistimiou street landscape and urban development stands as part of a continuous pedestrian promenade, progressively creating a ring around the Acropolis. This new, pedestrian way will be known as the “Acropolis Necklace”, with the Archeological Museum of Athens as the pendant.

The Necklace links together current, desperate areas and districts of city center: Plaka, Kolonaki, Metaxourgeio, as well as other archeological sites and major public spaces. The primary goals of the Necklace are to create an expansion and regeneration of Athens common public spaces while linking all of its components.

The Necklace will first be realized on the part directly concerned by the competition. Taking into consideration the already landscaped part at the bottom of the Acropolis, the realization of this «loop» will nevertheless ask for minimal development of the whole Amalias avenue and part of Pireos street.

The latest major urban changes of Athens took place before the city hosted the 2004 Olympic Games. It was an opportunity to improve public transport and general infrastructure, to create pedestrian streets and try to move back the «nefos», that brownish smog hovering over the town. Athens began to breathe a little better; some speak of a westernization of the city.

Our proposal continues these efforts of breathing maximization while renewing the ancient tradition of walking; walking here is meant as a time to meet, discuss and think, reviving the spirit of active slowness, considering it as the most appropriate scale to open the mind, be able to observe, interact.

The redevelopment of the Acropolis to Philopapou hill pathways, between 1951 and 1957, is due to Dimitris Pikionis. This great Hellene architect's work has inspired us on three issues: his comprehension of a non-frontal relation with institutions, his capacity to revisit tradition and his art of revelation of topography that Frampton has described as «sentimental».

Three concepts guide the proposal: tangency, freshness, and interface.

The thread of the Necklace is called the «Greenway». This shaded, possibly irri-

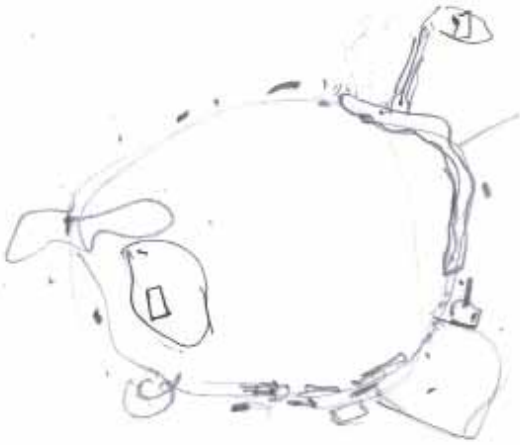


Dimitris Pikionis architect : views of the Acropolis to Philopappu hill pathways works, 1951 -1957

gated, planted, pedestrian pathway travels through the avenues, coexisting with the tramway as well as the cycling lanes. It offers residents and visitors both freshness and greenery in an economical logic by enhancing a soft approach of Athens city center around the Acropolis. Genuine architectural and landscaped events form new «beads» or reinforce the existing major buildings and public spaces connection assured by the Necklace.

In summary, the Necklace is the continuous Greenway and landscaped architected events that stimulate the formation of a contemporary imagination of the city. For this circular frame aims both to allow a global land valuation and highlighting some remarkable buildings, the proposal assuming that way a political dimension.

The following paragraphs clarify the project's objectives highlighting the three main scales of design. First are defined the project larger scale concepts. In the second part are developed conceptual choices into the smaller scale spatiality of the «Greenway», beginning to address materiality. The third part focuses on detailing, offering both a «manual» of concepts and an overview of transversal themes of the project.



Necklace concept sketch

THE « NECKLACE » I: Athens in mild slope.

The Necklace is both a circular cut in the history of the city, and the proposal for a new public space, attentive to contemporary concerns in meetings, mobility and biodiversity.

This loop will follow existing roads located at the lower levels of the city. This encirclement by the hollow affects the search for economy of means while promoting effortless walking at the same time.

Nevertheless, height differences do exist. At best, the project will reveal them; sometimes, they will be slightly accentuated. This topographic sensitivity aims to create more breathing space, specific sequences being designed for a full view on the Acropolis rock and the Parthenon.

Developments of high points will play on an already existing weakening of axial vision (i.e. the street that connects directly Omonia to Acropolis). The aim of the project is not to provide direct, frontal trenches but rather to encourage institutions approach by tangent. This approach rejects direct confrontation between people and power authority, here represented by the institutions, by offering a softer and slower familiarization of one another, reflecting the non-axial discovery of the Parthenon on the Acropolis.

Five urban contexts have been identified, completed by the alley leading to the Archaeological Museum. The Necklace's adaptability to each context is determined by careful observation of the site, taking into consideration the existing urban landscape's specific characteristics. Two of these sequences belong to the competition area: Amalias and Panepistimiou. They are adjacent to important institutions of Athens: Parliament first, and the National Park, but also important archaeological remains such as the Roman arch of Hadrian, a Temple of Olympian Zeus (Zeus columns), and the recently discovered Roman baths, since then placed under shelter. The Archaeological Museum is also at a short distance from the northern part of Panepistimiou. In the first one (Amalias), some spatial aeration exists, thanks to



Transformation of the Kleanthis and Schaubert city of Athens 19th century axial proposed masterplan through the tangency approach

presence of the national park. On the contrary in the second one (Panepistimiou), we are at the heart of urban congestion. That is the reason why in this part, the Necklace takes its full expansion and meaning.

Currently, this great artery of Athens that the competition proposes to re-think is not in pedestrian continuity with the landscape and mineral promenade bottom of the Acropolis, hence the idea to connect the avenues concerned by the competition with this walk in an initial stage. In a second stage, the connection of Omonia square to the existing archeological sites boardwalk is planned, thus making a loop, by touches of development that will be light but still designed for pedestrian comfort and fresh spaces creation. That planning includes upgrading of Pireos street and a possible extension of the tramway and the cycle lane to the Monastiraki subway station.

The «Acropolis Necklace», aims to extend the visiting scope of visitors, which today is mostly limited to the Acropolis hill and Plaka traditional neighborhood. While you might first think of the Necklace as a clasping, it is rather a deep breath, a dilation of shared space of the city. By bringing tourists to areas of Athens they forsook so far, the Necklace's interface facilitates meetings between residents, inhabitants and non-resident. Beyond, this interface embodies the connection between all other fragmented unconnected pedestrian parts of Athens. In other words, it gives an overall coherence to the cultural richness of the city.

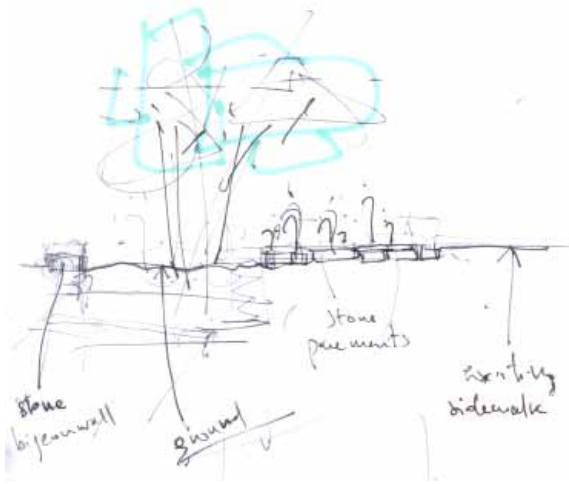
By creating regular visual stimuli, the Necklace will finally have for function to keep alive townspeople curiosity, to avoid boredom and to fight against urban monotony. Being a section in the city's history and a continuous active link between pre-existing elements, offering public spaces concerned with contemporary social and ecological challenges, keeping the eyes wide open by conducting regular visual events, the Necklace may play a role in upgrading economic, cultural and finally estate property in Athens city center.

THE NECKLACE II: a «thread» and its «beads»

The Necklace's thread is the Greenway. It is in fact a linear urban garden reserved for pedestrians. At its maximum it consists of three parallel elements: a water channel, a «forest», a paved promenade. This juxtaposition between liquid, vegetal and mineral raw elements reflects the «symbiosis» between nature and culture that has always existed in the ratio of Hellenic landscape.

Greenway function is twofold. The first is to cool the area during months of intense heat by creating a continuous shade, achieved by planting diverse species and implanting a channel by rainwater recovery. Selected plant species (mainly trees whose foliage is a natural roof above, but also some low shrubs) and ground floor are likely to return to the city animal and volatile species being scarce.

The second function is to reevaluate and promote the sharing of public space, a space where Athenians are likely to meet and discuss with both resident and non-resident Athenians. The greenway's intention is to encourage active slowness and exchange, reference to Socrates, for whom walking stimulated thinking is explicit.



The New York Highline could also serve as an example, not though for its super elevation but for its linear and restrained garden form. Indeed, the matter is so to separate the Greenway from other parts of the road, which may be reserved for trams, cyclists, and even other pedestrians. This separation is compatible with transitions between different forms of traffic, from slower to faster.

This Greenway's distinction (including use of different materials, like stones in concrete) serves the concept of "interface". In social geography definitions, interface is a bounded space, a buffer zone between at least two elements, which enables networking, exchanges and interactions. People to put in situations of "co-presence" are Athenians and tourists, Greek and foreigners, but also inhabitants of different bordering districts.

Interfaces are also spaces of contact between society, environment, nature and culture. They promote positive confrontation between tradition and modernity, East and West, as well as past and present discoveries. In other words, we see interfaces as spaces of accomplished progress. In this way, it is to take the measure of what represent the city of Athens, and to honor it.

Adaptability

Following diverse urban contexts, the Greenway is adapted, a forest or a simple linear shaft alignment, water may be present or eclipse, the pedestrians reserved area itself may be more or less large.

We identified six urban context sequences, three of them being integral parts of the competition area, starting from the Acropolis:

- The already pedestrianized pathway surrounding the Acropolis and archeological sites, running partially on Dionyssiou Aeropagitou Street, off competition area.
- The Southern part of Amalias avenue, off competition area.
- The Northern part of Amalias avenue from Zappeion tram terminal to Syntagma square.
- Panepistimiou street running from Syntagma square to Omonoia square.
- The part of Patisson Street from the Archeological Museum to Panepistimiou Street next to Omonoia square
- Pireos street from Omonoia square to Monastiraki area, next to the end of the already pedestrianized path, off competition area.

In the first one the proposal may introduce a minimal design in existing pathway in order to include a cycle lane.

The southern part of Amalia Avenue, which runs not the park, will be developed, to insure continuity between the parties involved in the competition and the already pedestrianized part at the bottom of the Acropolis. This part will maintain intense car traffic: a barrier of low vegetation is proposed to improve pedestrian comfort. A small grove also mark the beginning of the Greenway, which then exist dashed before spreading at the National Garden.

The sequence involved in the North of Amalias Avenue has different characteristics, including the presence of the National Botanical Garden. The Greenway will run along the garden, extending its green surface, stretch toward the center of the city, before becoming a forest in a transition with Panepistimiou Street. In this section, where an ancient Roman bath has been found, will be maximized the opportunities to come in contact with the archaeological city substratum, preserved because of the absence of the subway works construction.

On Panepistimiou street, the Greenway achieves its full expansion, corresponding to the strategic situation of that sequence and its high concentration of typical elements of Athenian urbanity: continuous façades on both sides including many «stoas» and passages, the presence of large institutions (the Academy, the University, the National Library) as well as high density of service activities or the presence of churches. The width space for greenery is enlarged in order to obtain a «linear forest», the pedestrian path space is maximized associated to the north bank sidewalk and recovery of rainwater enables also a channel between said continuous forest and the Tramway route.

From the Archaeological Museum to Panepistimiou street, our project proposes the transformation of Patission street into a two sides planted alley, renamed the Parthenon alley, pedestrians walking in the center of the only remaining axial view of the Acropolis. To allow clearance of the center of the road, buses may borrow exclusively on that sequence the tram lanes.

Finally, on Pireos street, due to predicted high traffic maintenance, only the north-eastern sidewalk is privileged and enlarged in order to insure walking continuity with Omonoia square, the Greenway being implemented as a thin cord. As in the south part of Amalias avenue, low vegetation may be added, which protects acoustically and visually pedestrian promenade from cars. In case of feasible car traffic reduction, the proposal introduces the possibility to extend the cycle lane, or even the tram route to the Monastiraki subway station area, allowing maximization of infrastructures looping and contributing to increase value of the most neglected neighborhoods of Athens.

Interfaces

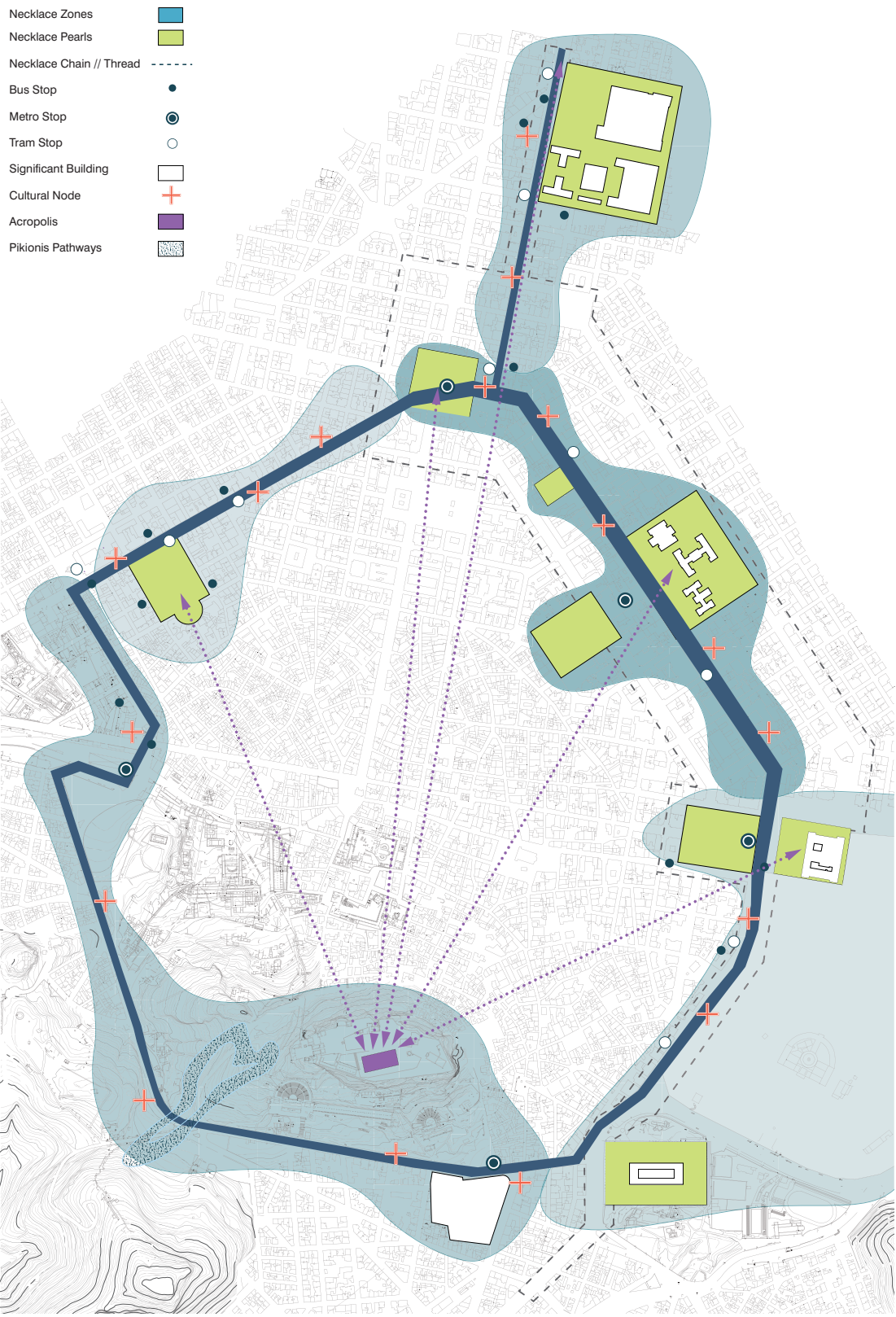
Three rhythms of programmatic, architecture and landscaped «beads» define different scales of exchange stimulation.

The two principal sequences of the Panepistimiou development will be highlighted by major «architecture landscaping», allowing simultaneously direct views to the Acropolis:

The «Trilogy Amphitheater» in front of the National Library, the Academy and the University, and the «Greenhill» at Omonoia square. These events, designed as «urban theaters» take the form of successive «platforms», in reference to both the ancient Greek theater and the cultivated terraces marking the Hellenic landscape. Their design implement at the same time the tangential approach to institutions mentioned above.

A second freely disposed rhythm concerns «events» scattered throughout the Greenway itinerary. These events take different names, according to their use characterization. They are present on both parties involved in the competition and in extension. Their advantage is then to allow adjustments and valuations cheaply. When creating stimuli, we call these events interstice «paliers», in reference to 1920's Chicago School sociologist Frederic M. Thrasher. By confrontation between disparate materiality, the goal is to encourage reflection and to make feel the coexistence in the city, both past and present wealth, that of different social strata, to expose the fullness of Athens. Indeed, in relevant parts in competition, the Greenway will both promote archeological remains more or less left to abandon, as well as open the minds to outdoor contemporary art exhibitions. Its layout will encourage a journey through history, from antiquity to most recent productions.

The tram stops - including the one in front of Dikeosynis square - constitute the third rhythm, around which all active public programs will be concentrated, transforming them into «urban service stations». Their design develops the juxtaposition principle of the Greenway, allowing artificial and natural canopies to shelter all urban needs, existing or to come: public cycle rent, moved kiosks, information terminals, cultural events ticketing offices or, for example, the «solar urban plug» project called «AKTINA» recently developed by a Greek team in Elefsina. This voluntary public space activities congestion allows keeping the Greenway path construction developments free, assuring its freshness walking promenade main identity.

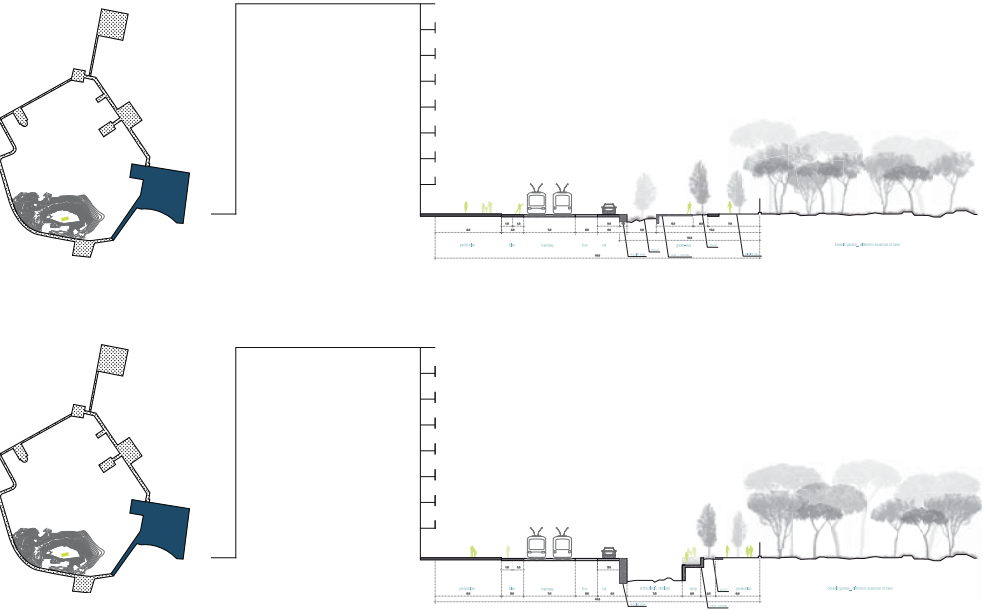
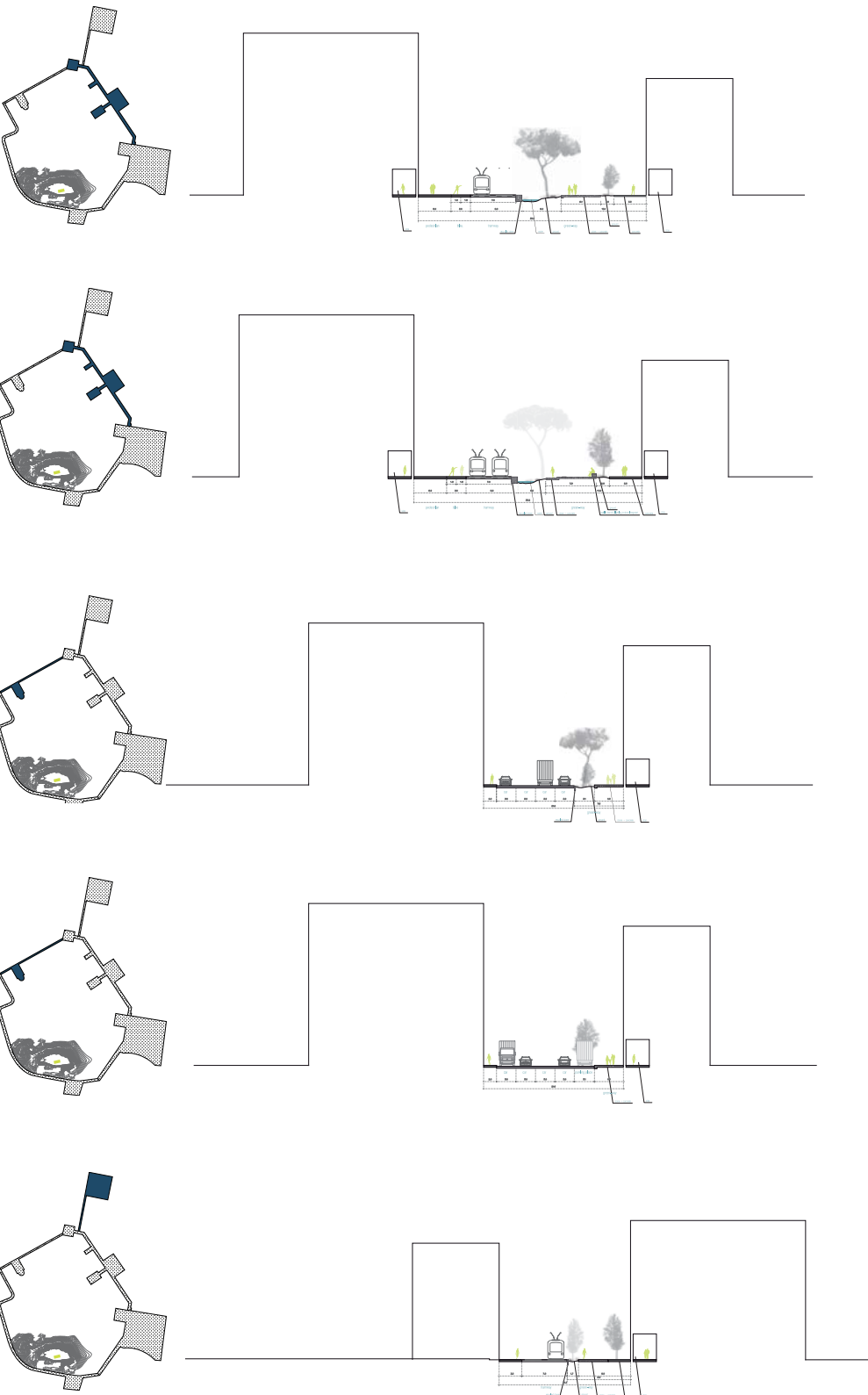


The Acropolis Necklace Concept Plan

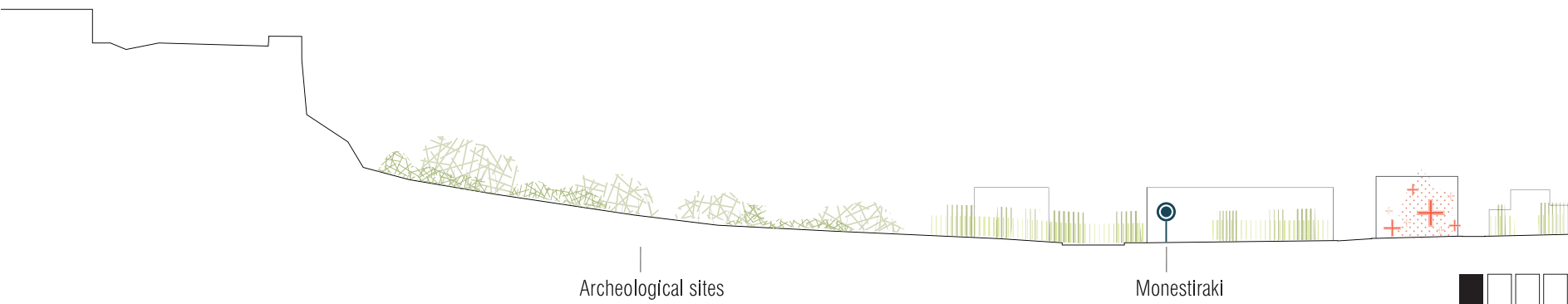
Pearls of the Necklace



Necklace Street Typologies



- Metro Stop
Tram Stop
Cultural Node
Canopy
Storm Water Retention
Significant Building



Archeological sites

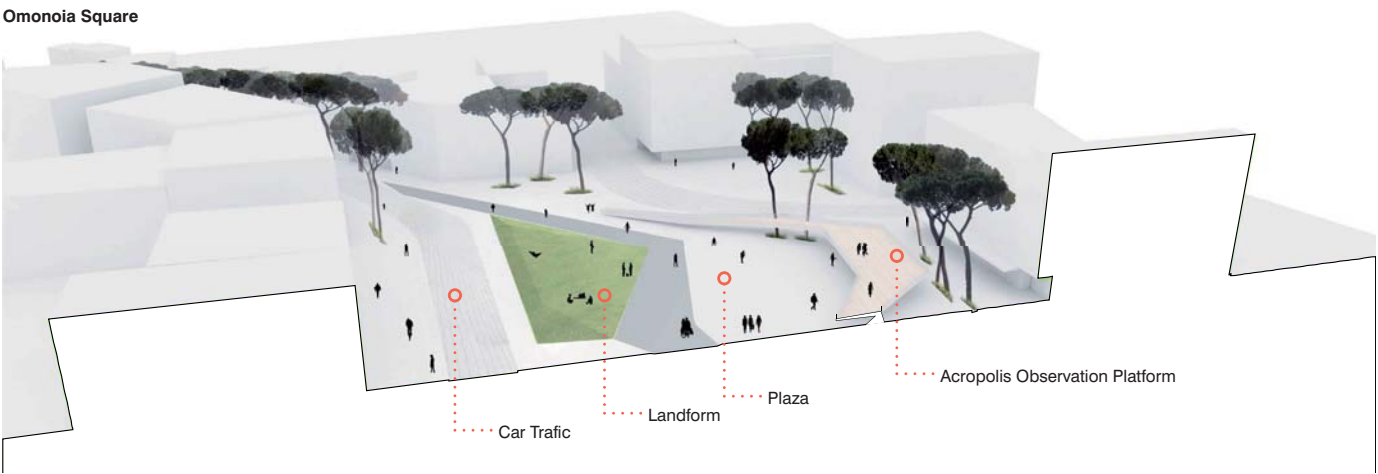
Monestiraki



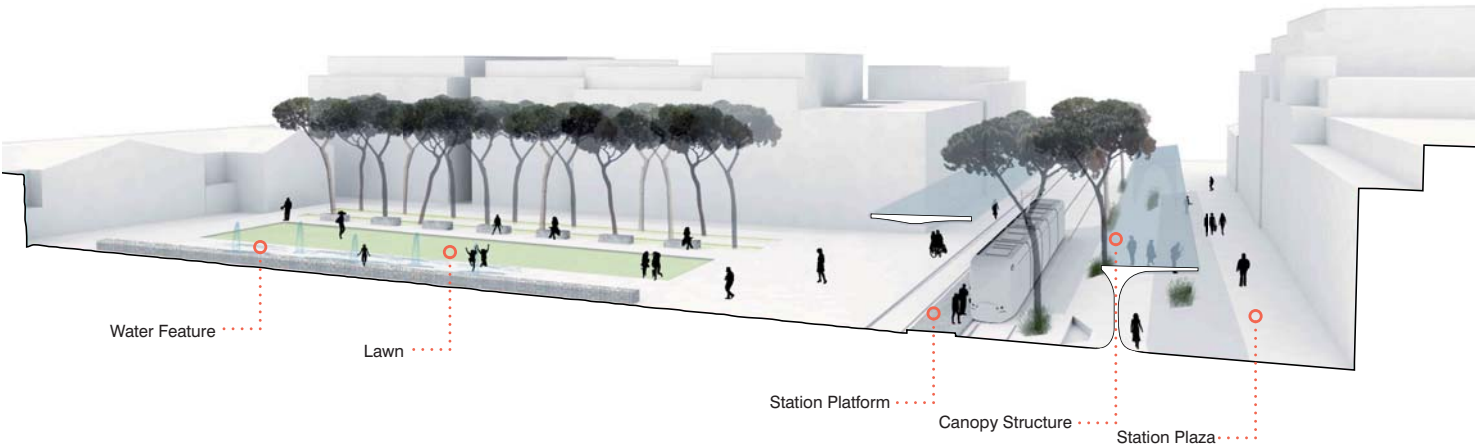
Greenway Plan 1:2000



Omonoia Square



Justice Square



Pireos

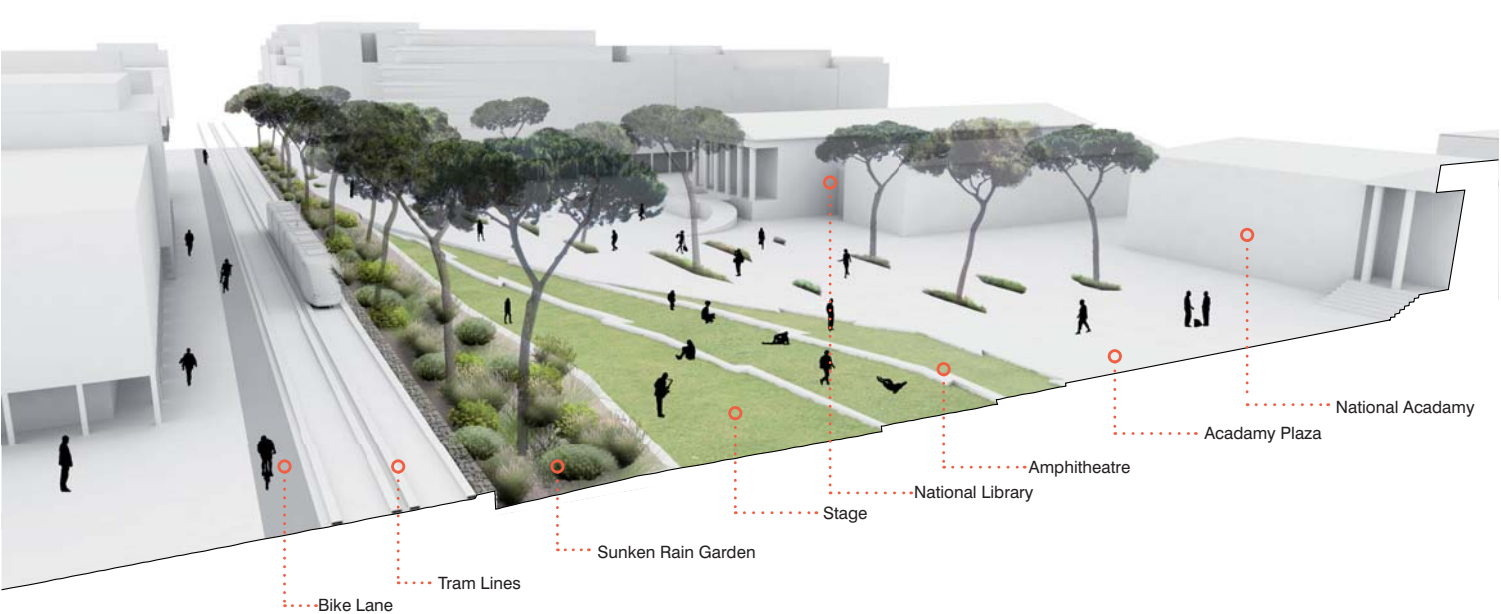
Omonia



Standard Street Section



Athens Trilogy



Forested Promenade

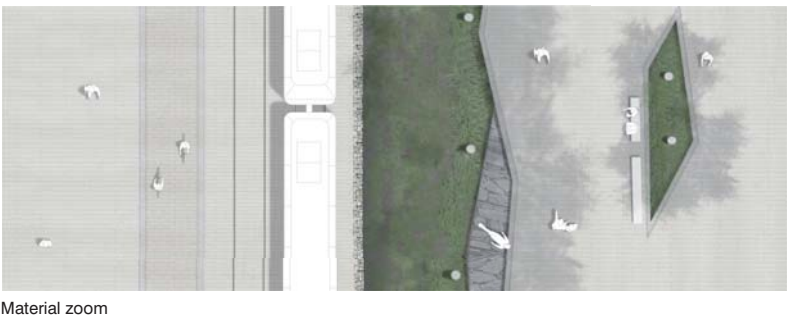
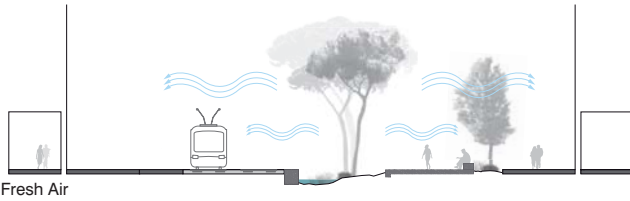
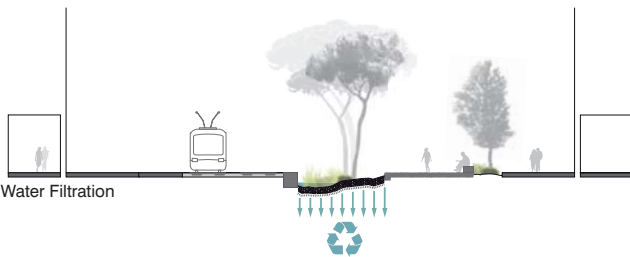
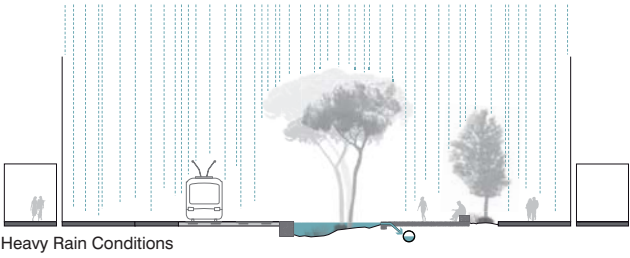
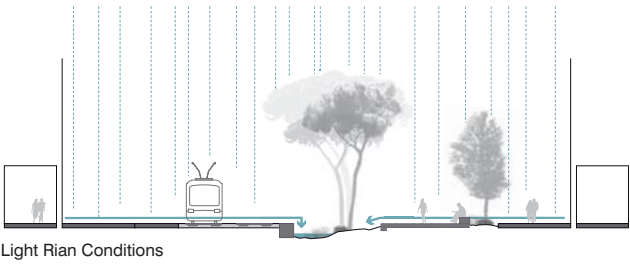
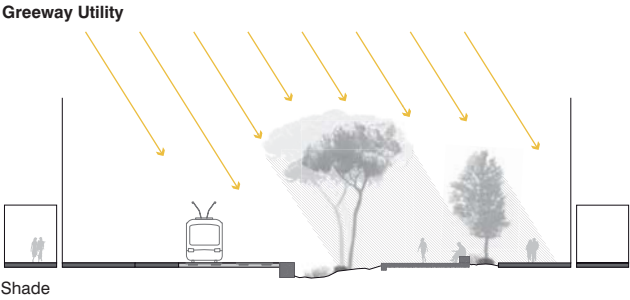


Cinema Rex

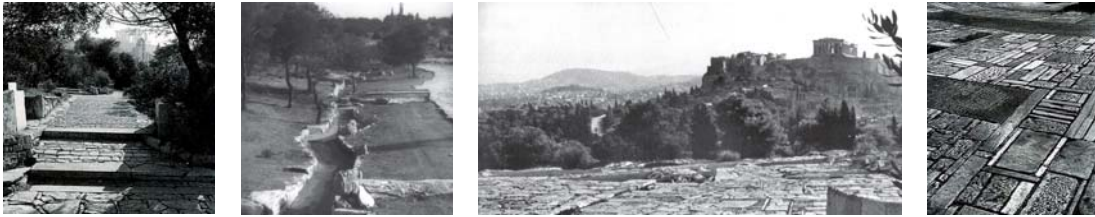
Panepistimiou

Trilogy





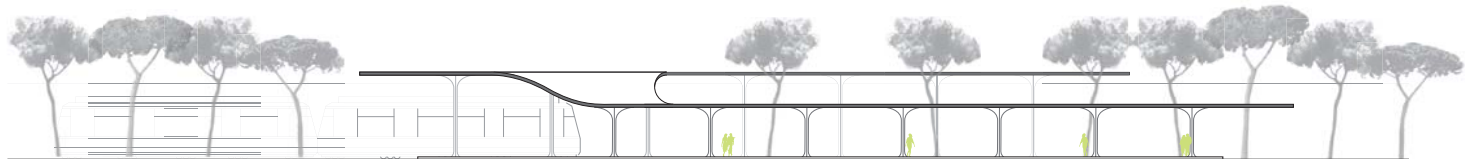
Pikionis' Acropolis Paths



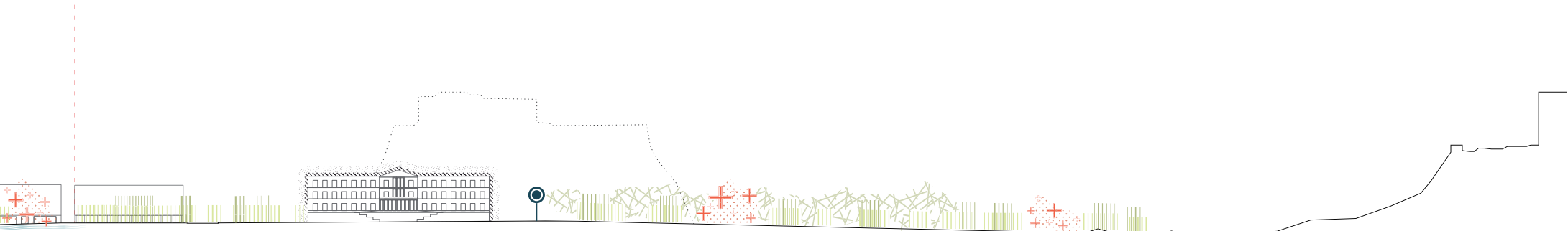
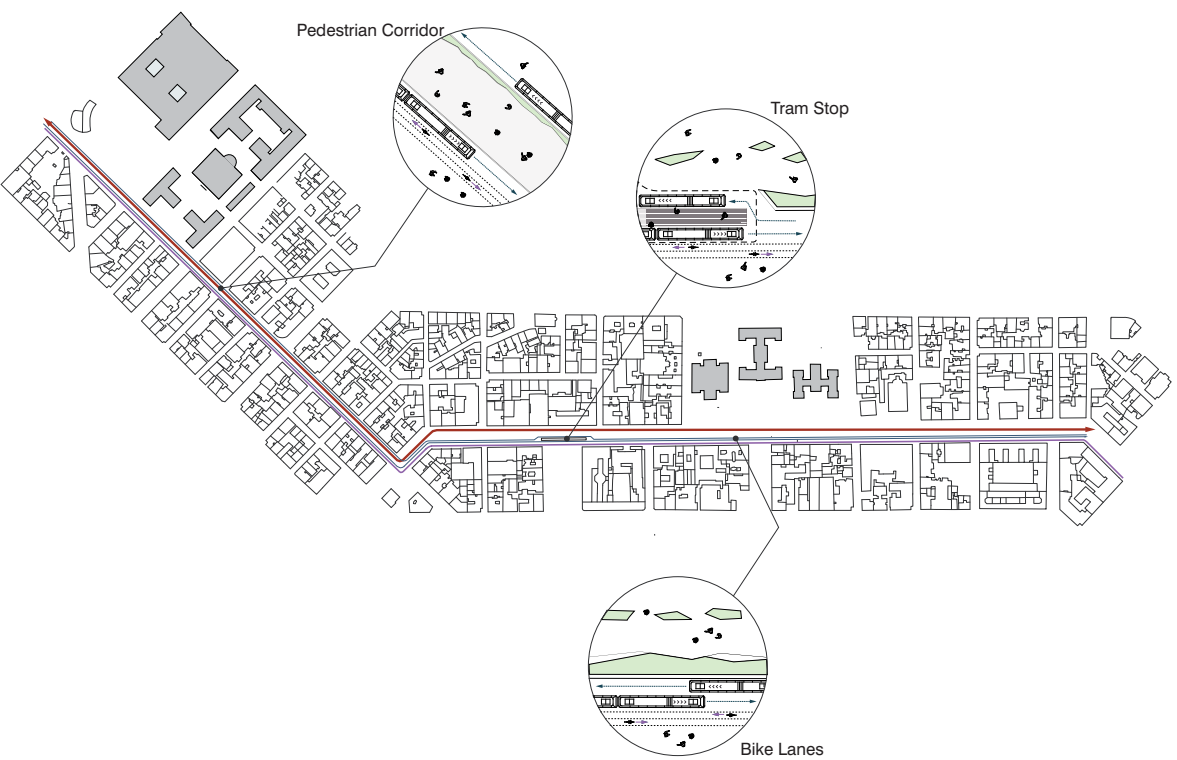
Tram Station Canopy



Tram Station Canopy



Transit Map



Parlement - Sydagma square

National park

Amalias

