

CULTIVATE



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for international garden festival in métis

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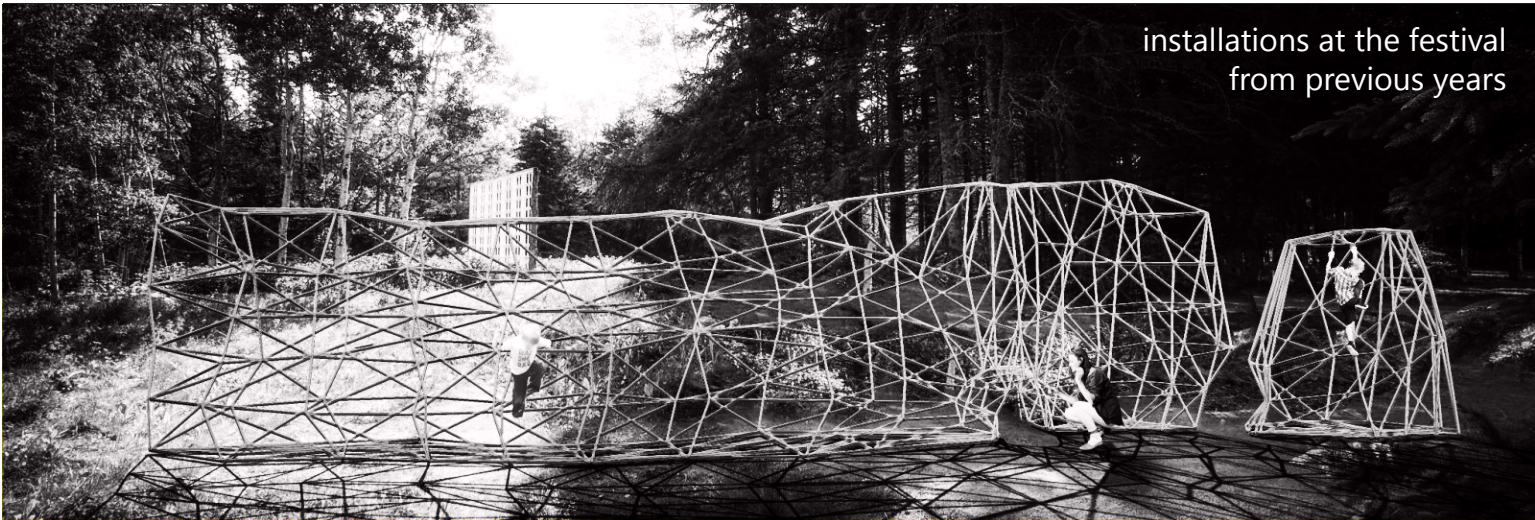
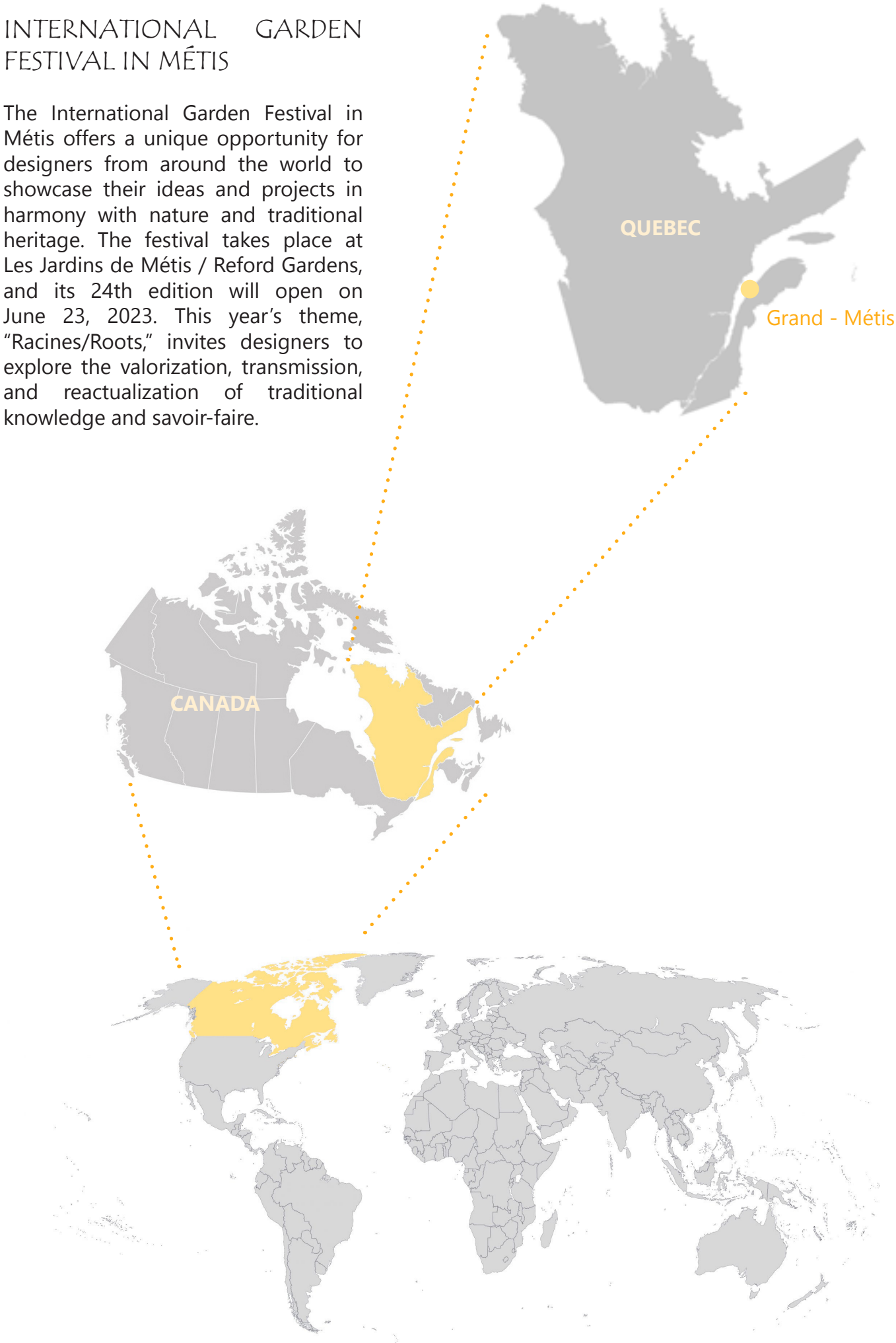
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INTERNATIONAL GARDEN FESTIVAL IN MÉTIS

The International Garden Festival in Métis offers a unique opportunity for designers from around the world to showcase their ideas and projects in harmony with nature and traditional heritage. The festival takes place at Les Jardins de Métis / Reford Gardens, and its 24th edition will open on June 23, 2023. This year's theme, "Racines/Roots," invites designers to explore the valorization, transmission, and reactualization of traditional knowledge and savoir-faire.



THEME 2023: ROOTS

The theme of “Racines / Roots” reflects the current era, characterized by the digital age, globalization, and rapid technological advancements that profoundly change our relationship with time, the physical world, and each other. It rejects the disconnected vision imposed by the industrial revolution and instead seeks nourishment from our shared heritage. The theme counters the forces of homogenization inherent in globalization and embraces the concept of “globality” coined by Martinique poet and philosopher Édouard Glissant (1928-2011). It encourages a return to the essence by incorporating native plants, local materials with limited environmental impact, and traditional construction methods combined with a contemporary vision that encompasses both regional communities and ecosystems. “Racines / Roots” aims to challenge the status quo and create innovative, human-scale environments that transcend generations and disciplines.

HOW DOES YOUR PROJECT TACKLED ROOTS?

The garden showcases the gradual severing of our once close relationship with the land and its soil. We are putting on display the absurdity of industrialized agriculture, which results in artificial and monotonous landscapes that are unsustainable in the long run. As the path is blocked by a scenery of destruction the visitor has only one option, which is to return the same way, back to the roots.

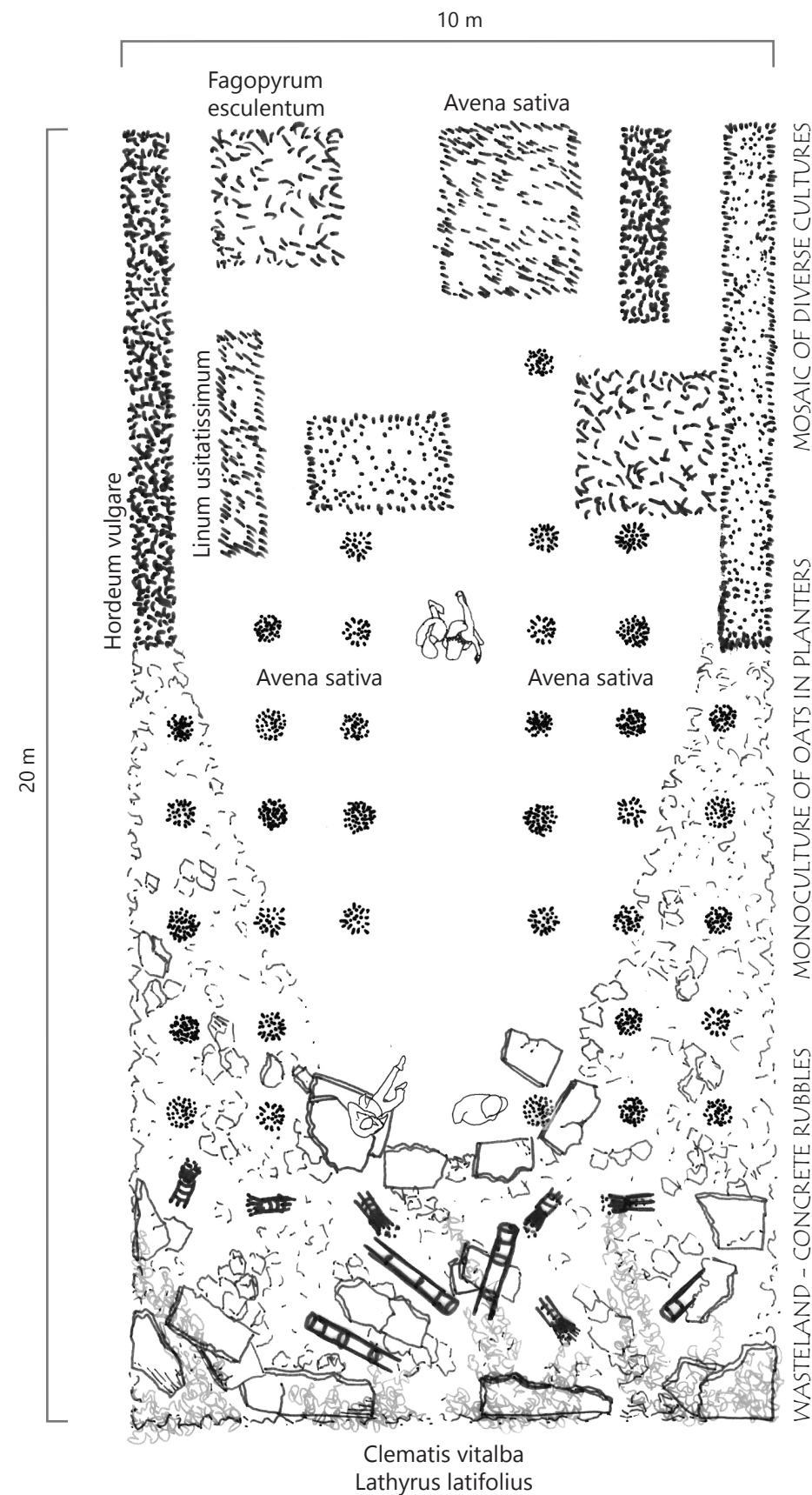
CULTIVATE

Over the centuries we have moved away from the original meaning of cultivation, which was to take care for the land to in turn receive nutrition from it. Today, as a result of its extensive exploitation, one walks through the countryside surrounded by monocultures growing in unhealthy soil that can no longer sustain the crops without artificial fertilizers and intensive irrigation.

As we walk through the garden, the vegetation transforms from diverse and growing in small fields, to increasingly homogeneous, pot-bound and raised high above ground on pedestals.

The process of disconnection from nature culminates at the end of the path. We find ourselves face to face with a scene of fallen planters in the midst of construction waste, slowly being overtaken by climbing plants. This is to give us a glimpse of the future we are heading towards unless we turn around and readopt a more respectful and caring approach to the land. Nature will ultimately find a way to survive and regain ground, the question is will it still welcome the human kind.



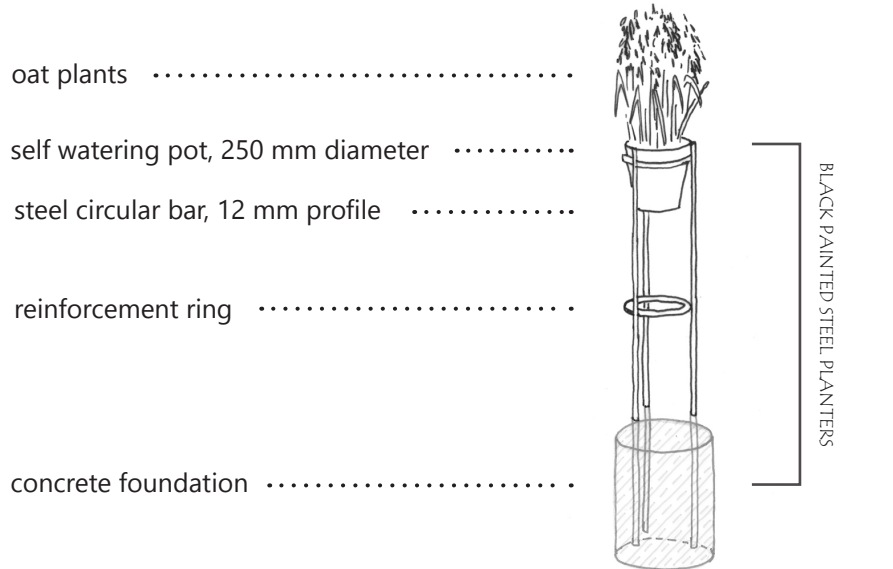


/Cultivate/ holds up a mirror to us as a society that has come to prioritise profit over provision and quantity over quality. Over the centuries we have moved away from the original meaning of cultivation, which was to take care of the land to in turn draw nutrition from it, to its exploitation that only focuses on maximizing yield by using progressively more artificial fertilizers, pesticides and technological innovations.

Today one walks through the countryside surrounded by monocultures growing in unhealthy soil that no longer can sustain crops on its own due to longterm misuse and the consequent degradation. The same trend can be observed in parallel in the increasing market concentration in various industries. Small businesses of skilled artisans are being driven out by large corporate institutions taking over the market. We are thus witnessing not only the destruction of the landscape but also the disappearance of culturally rich traditional craftsmanship that until recently played a vital role in forming the identity of different culture groups and which is a crucial emotional anchor for these in the environment and time.

The unsustainability of this system is evident and it will inevitably end in collapse. But it's not about the environment or nature. Nature will find a way to survive. The question is will it still welcome the human kind.

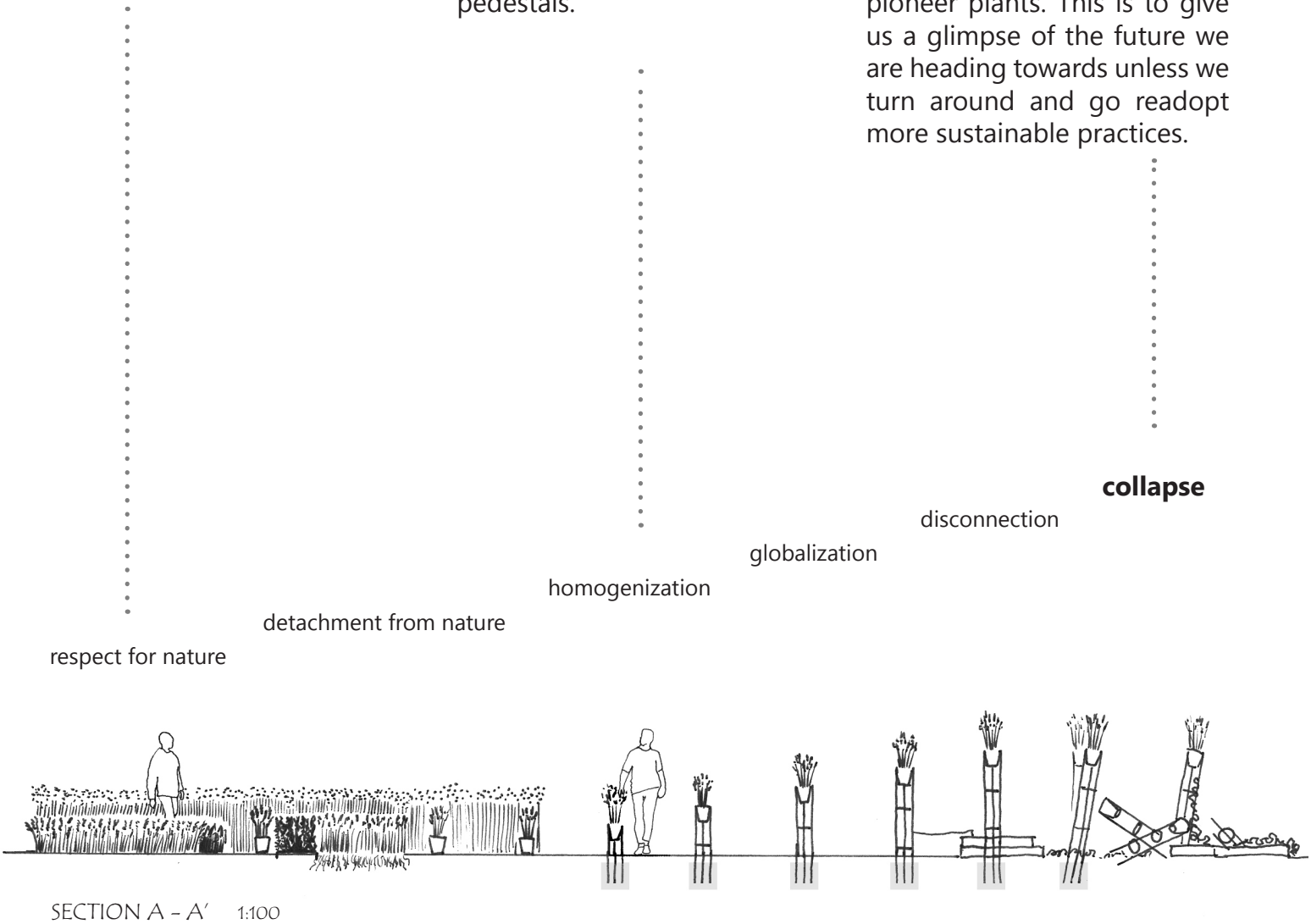
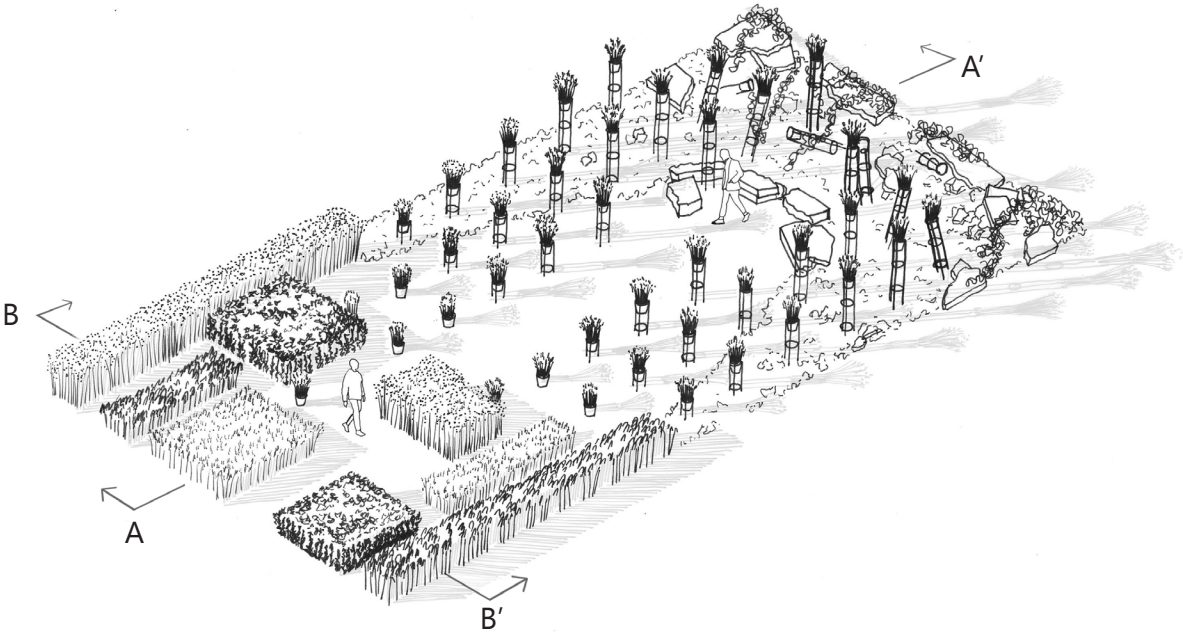
PLANTER SCHEME



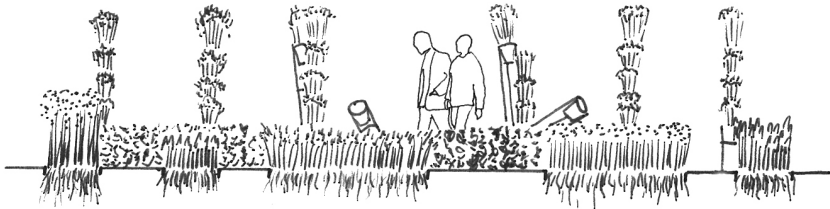
The installation reminds us of our past, represented by a mosaic of different cultures with pieces of land that are left fallow to regenerate.

As we walk through the garden, the crops transform from diversified and naturally growing to increasingly homogeneous, pot-bound and raised high above on pedestals.

The end of the path blocked by mounds of construction waste and rocks and we face a scene of fallen pedestals and pots in their midst slowly being overtaken by weeds and pioneer plants. This is to give us a glimpse of the future we are heading towards unless we turn around and go readopt more sustainable practices.



SECTION A - A' 1:100



SECTION B - B' 1:100



