EXPO-ISTANBUL:

Expo Center near the Istanbul Airport

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FAKULTA
ARCHITEKTURY
ČVUT V PRAZE

Diploma Project

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I. Introduction

The expo center, once a symbol of trade and cultural gathering, is now redefined by the needs of a globalized, innovation-driven world. In Istanbul, my home city, uniquely positioned between Europe and Asia—such a space holds both symbolic and strategic value. As Turkiye's economic and cultural capital, and one of the most visited cities globally, Istanbul is experiencing growing demand for venues that can host large-scale exhibitions, conventions, and trade events.

Existing expo centers in the city though usually active on the local showcases often fall short of the scale, accessibility, and flexibility required by contemporary events. Many are disconnected from the city or limited by outdated infrastructure. This project responds to that need with a proposal for a new, future-oriented expo center near Istanbul's GIA Airport—designed to reflect the city's evolving role as a hub for commerce, technology, and culture, while addressing existing infrastructural shortcomings and enabling easier access for international delegates, local communities, and industry leaders.

During the semester, I have proposed many different layouts and here you will see the final result. By creating a multifunctional, adaptive, and inclusive architectural typology, my project aims to not only meet logistical needs but also offer a platform for global connectivity. It envisions a space that reflects the energy and diversity of Istanbul—one that strengthens the city's global standing while enhancing the everyday urban pattern of this unique city...

II. Istanbul and the EXPO Scene

Istanbul currently plays a significant role in the regional and international expo scene, hosting a wide range of trade fairs, cultural exhibitions, and industry-specific conventions across sectors such as textiles, construction, technology, and tourism. The city's existing expo centers—like TÜYAP, Istanbul Expo Center (IFM), and Haliç Congress Center—serve as key venues for both domestic and global events. In this chapter we will dive deeper into the term EXPO, investigate Istanbul's stance and declare my proposal.


ifm
İstanbul Fuar Merkezi
İstanbul Expo Center

What is an EXPO?

An Expo is a dynamic event where businesses and organizations from various industries come together to showcase their products, services, and innovations. These events are designed to attract attention, drawing participants from various sectors without restrictions and aiming for highest attendance. It serves as a platform for networking, business promotion, and gaining potential customers. They can vary in scale from local to international, and often feature product demonstrations, sales, and industry-specific presentations. The goal is to create a vibrant environment where exhibitors and attendees can engage and share knowledge.

Expos are typically divided into trade/business exhibitions and consumer exhibitions. Trade exhibitions focus on networking, where companies showcase their products to build business partnerships. Consumer exhibitions are aimed at the public, allowing businesses to directly engage with customers and demonstrate their products and services.

An Expo Center is a large facility specifically designed to host such events. Typically spanning over 100,000 square feet, these centers offer expansive, high-ceilinged exhibition spaces made of materials like concrete and steel, allowing for a variety of setups, including booths, displays, and seating. In addition to the open exhibition floor, they often feature essential support services, such as storage areas, offices, concessions, congress areas etc. ensuring that both exhibitors and attendees have a pleasant experience.

Usually they are confused with convention centers. While both convention centers and expo centers host large-scale events, they serve distinct purposes. Convention centers are primarily designed for meetings, conferences, and professional gatherings, featuring auditoriums and breakout rooms. In contrast, expo centers focus on trade shows and exhibitions, offering expansive, flexible halls for showcasing products and innovations. Many modern venues combine both functions

2022 Dubai World Expo

RAI Amsterdam Convention Centre

Istanbul's EXPO History

Established in **1982** under the leadership of the **Istanbul Chamber of Commerce.** Located in Yeşilköy, near the former Atatürk Airport, IFM is part of the World Trade Center Istanbul complex and stands as **Turkey's largest exhibition venue.** The center encompasses **11 halls,** covering approximately **96,000 square meters of exhibition space,** and hosts around **100 national and international trade fairs annually across various sectors.**

Istanbul Expo Center has undergone substantial **renovations,** adding an additional 40,000 square meters to its existing halls. This expansion aims to accommodate the **growing demand for exhibition space** and to attract more **global events** to the city.
These developments underscore Istanbul's commitment to **enhancing its infrastructure to support the growing expo sector**, reinforcing its position as a key player in global trade and cultural exchange.

The **TÜYAP** Fair Convention and Congress Center, located in Büyükçekmece, Istanbul, was established in **1996 by TÜYAP Fairs and Exhibitions Organization Inc.,** following the company's steady growth since **1979.** As **Turkey's largest privately-owned exhibition venue**, it spans 145,000 square meters, with **120,000 square meters of indoor space across 14 halls and 25,000 square meters** dedicated to outdoor exhibitions.

İstanbul Expo Center

TÜYAP Expo Center

The Proposal

As the city continues to expand as a major international business and tourism destination, the demand for large-scale venues that are capable of hosting exhibitions, conventions, and trade shows has increased significantly. Recent expansions at the Istanbul Expo Center, including an additional 40,000 m² of exhibition space, signal the city's commitment to strengthening its event infrastructure is clearly on the table.

With its growing population and strategic location, Istanbul stands to benefit greatly from a new, state-of-the-art expo center—especially one situated near major transportation hubs for easier accessability. Such a facility would enhance accessibility for global participants, attract a wider range of international events, and foster the exchange of ideas and innovations. Through these developments, Istanbul clearly demonstrates its ambition to become a leading global hub for commerce, technology, and cultural dialogue.

In the light of the recent events, a brand new EXPO center could also be beneficial in terms of restoring the national reputation of Turkey as Istanbul is one of the most representative cities of the country. As the world EXPO's usually commence in many metropolitan cities, Istanbul not ever being one of them ignites the question of why, that is the main drive for this proposal. If there were to be an EXPO site, could Istanbul also become the host of one of the world EXPO's?

2025 Osaka, Kansai World Expo

2025 Osaka, Kansai World Expo
The Turkish Pavillion

III. The Analysis

The analysis begins with an extensive research for the decision of selecting the optimal site to showcase this grand complex as well as create a balance between public and global accessability towards the EXPO. The analysis continue after the selection of site to the surroundings and assets that affect the current situation of the site.

The Site

When the first EXPO Center in Istanbul IFM was built, it was purposefully designed next to the Istanbul Ataturk Airport which used to be the main airport in Istanbul. It would be easier to collect the visitors and exhibitors as it's an easy access as well as the public transportation as it is quite central, located in the Yesilkoy district of Istanbul. However, Istanbul Ataturk Airport was closed to scheduled flights in April 2019 due to conflicts with air traffic at Istanbul Airport, but the runways continued to serve cargo, maintenance/repair etc.

The current most active airport of Istanbul is the Istanbul Airport which was opened on 29 October 2018 for flights.It is considered as Turkey's largest infrastructure project, at the end of a record 42-month construction period. It hosted more than 250 million passengers in total in the five years since it entered service, Istanbul Airport reaches to 315 destinations around the world as of January 2024.

t is one of the busiest international airports, connecting visitors from all over the world and serves as a critical transfer point to Europe and Asia. This makes it highly convenient for attendees, exhibitors, and staff from different countries to access the expo center quickly and easily.Visitors flying in for the expo can arrive and immediately head to the venue, minimizing transit time. This ease of access will be particularly beneficial for short-stay visitors who need to make the most of their time in the city.

Exhibitors often bring large displays, equipment, and materials for expos. Being next to a major airport means quicker logistics, smoother transportation of goods (whether by air or ground), and less time spent on customs and delivery.

Istanbul Airport is well-connected to the city via public transportation, including buses, taxis, and the new metro line. This provides easy access for visitors from all parts of the city. The airport's integrated transportation network makes it easier to link the expo center to other key areas of the city, ensuring visitors have easy access to hotels, dining, and tourist attractions.

Atatürk Airport and IFM

Istanbul GIA Airport

The Site

Given the volume of travelers passing through Istanbul Airport, an expo center nearby would gain high visibility and popularity. The proximity to such a busy hub can attract spontaneous visitors, including business travelers and tourists who might decide to check out the expo during their stopover or before catching their flight.

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The area is situated in the district Arnavutköy, closer to the border created by the black sea. Because of the relatively new airport, this district is being revitalized and is now harboring many constructions for housing generally targeting the employess of the airport as well as people involved in the aircrafts.

The site to implement the proposed project was selected according to closeness to the sea for vista points as well as port logistics purposes. The greenery that is present also contributes to the overall charm of the area. The selected site is also not very close to the airport as it could cause disturbances to the visitors if it were that close. This way the visitors will also have a feel of reaching the destination but not experiencing the overall constant movement of the city has. Surrounding the area are some small mine and worksite businesses as well as a Coast Guard Command near the fuel port of the airport.

The Site from Satellite View

Context with GIA Airport

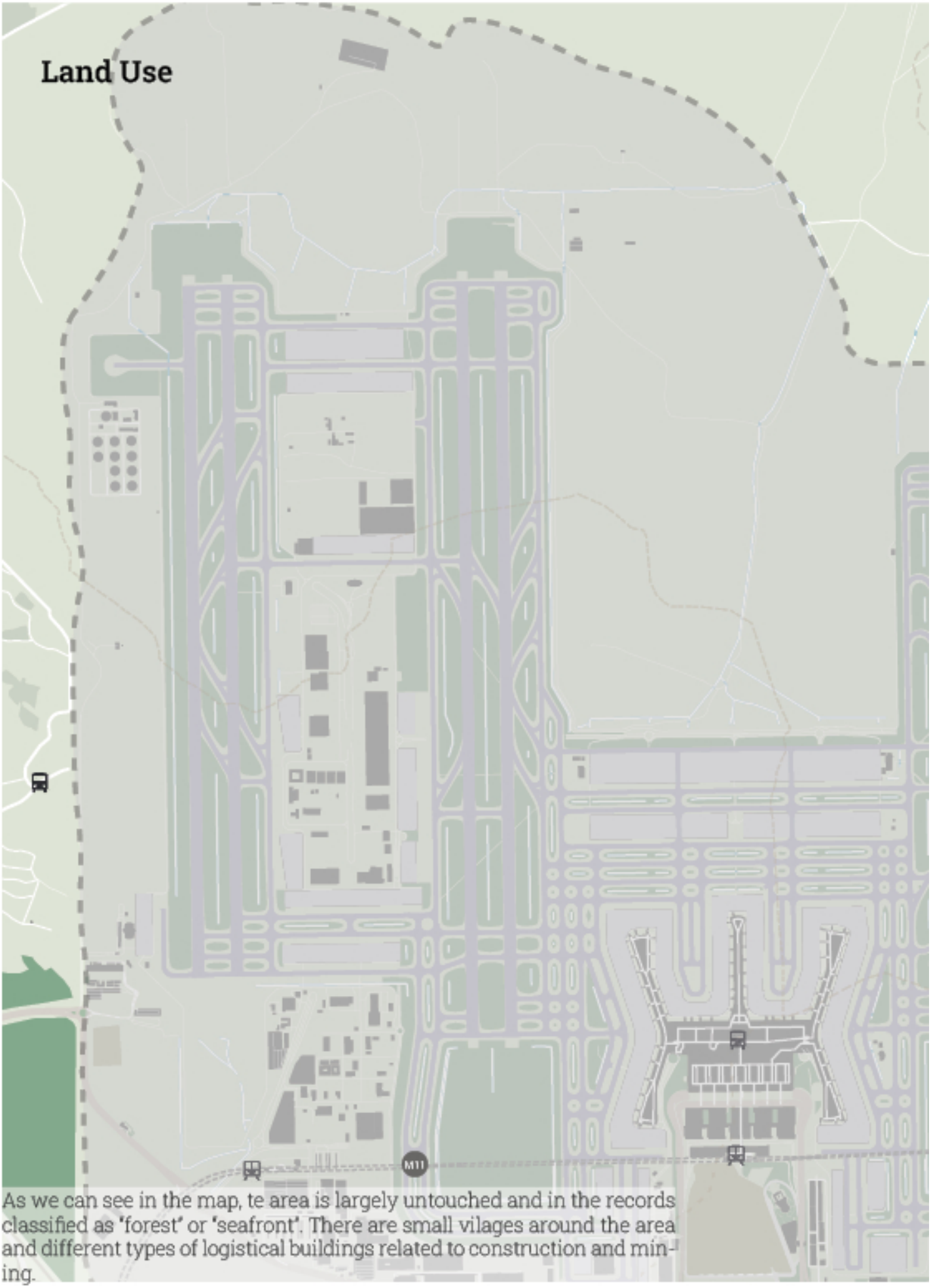
The Evolution

2005: Site covered in water

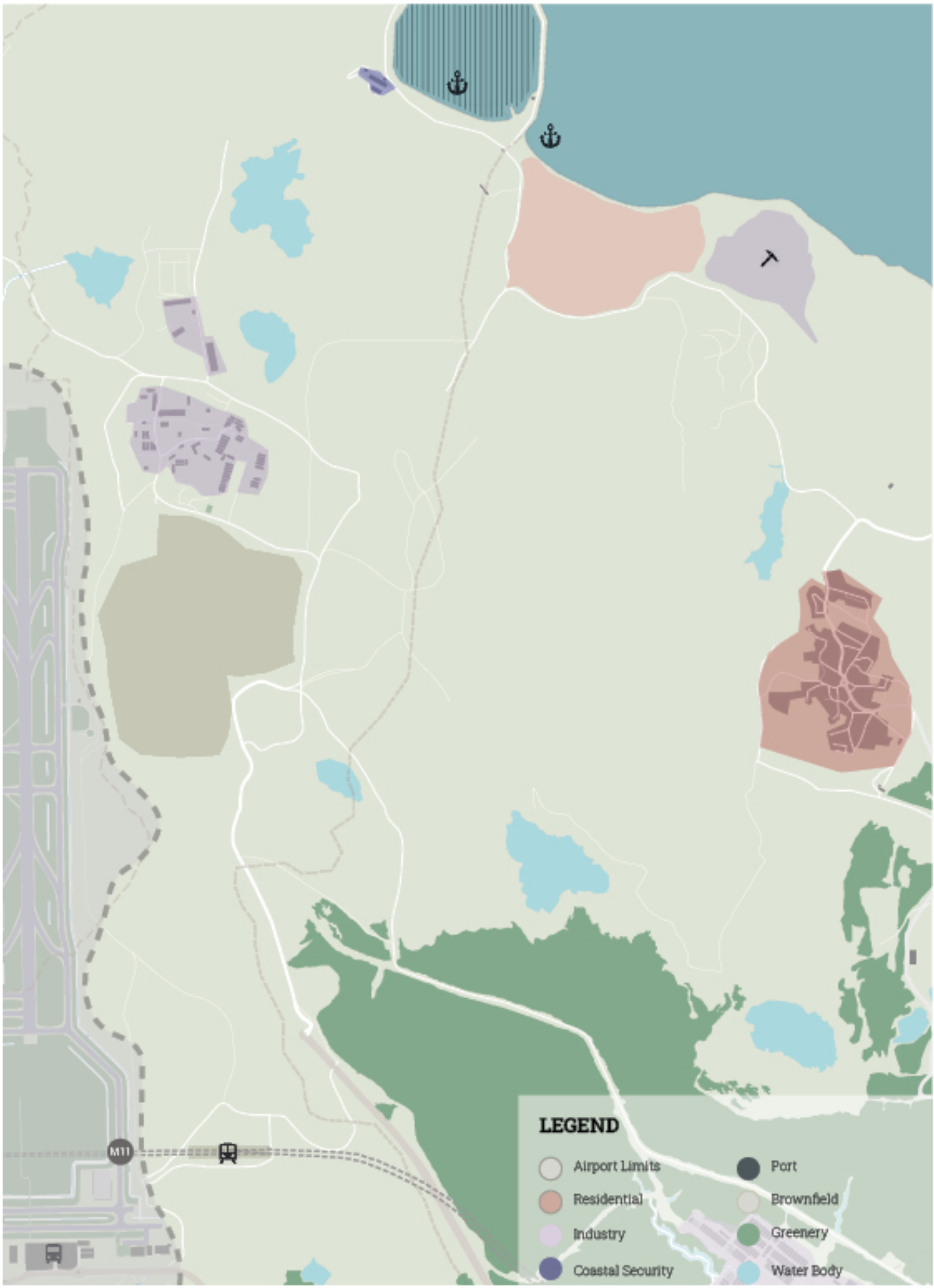
2013: Changes in the coastline

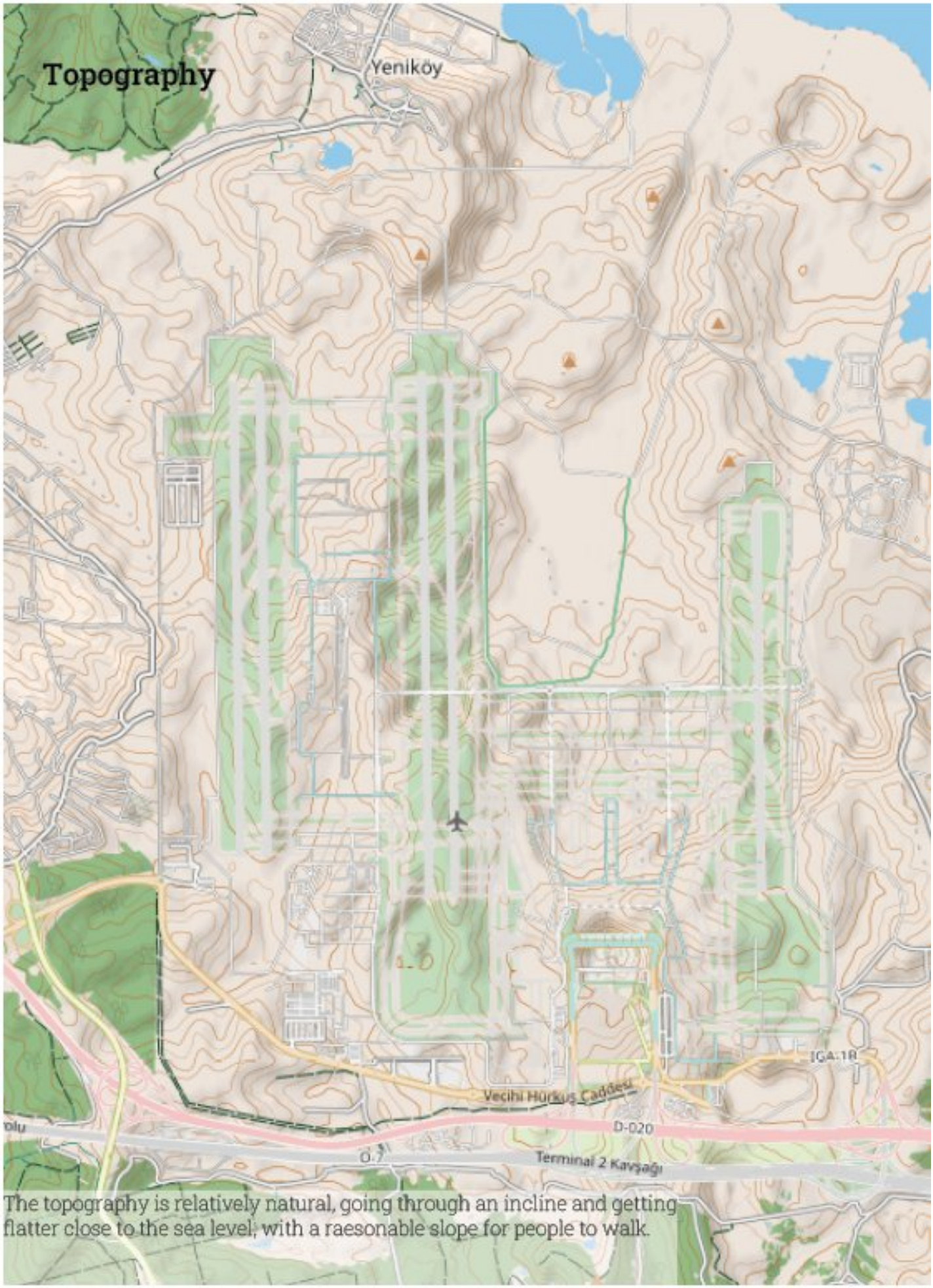
2018: GIA Airport was completed

2024: Present



As we can see in the map, te area is largely untouched and in the records classified as 'forest' or 'seafront'. There are small vilages around the area and different types of logistical buildings related to construction and mining.


M11
LEGEND
Airport Limits
Residential
Industry
Coastal Security
Port
Brownfield
Greenery
Water Body



The topography is relatively natural, going through an incline and getting flatter close to the sea level, with a raesonable slope for people to walk.

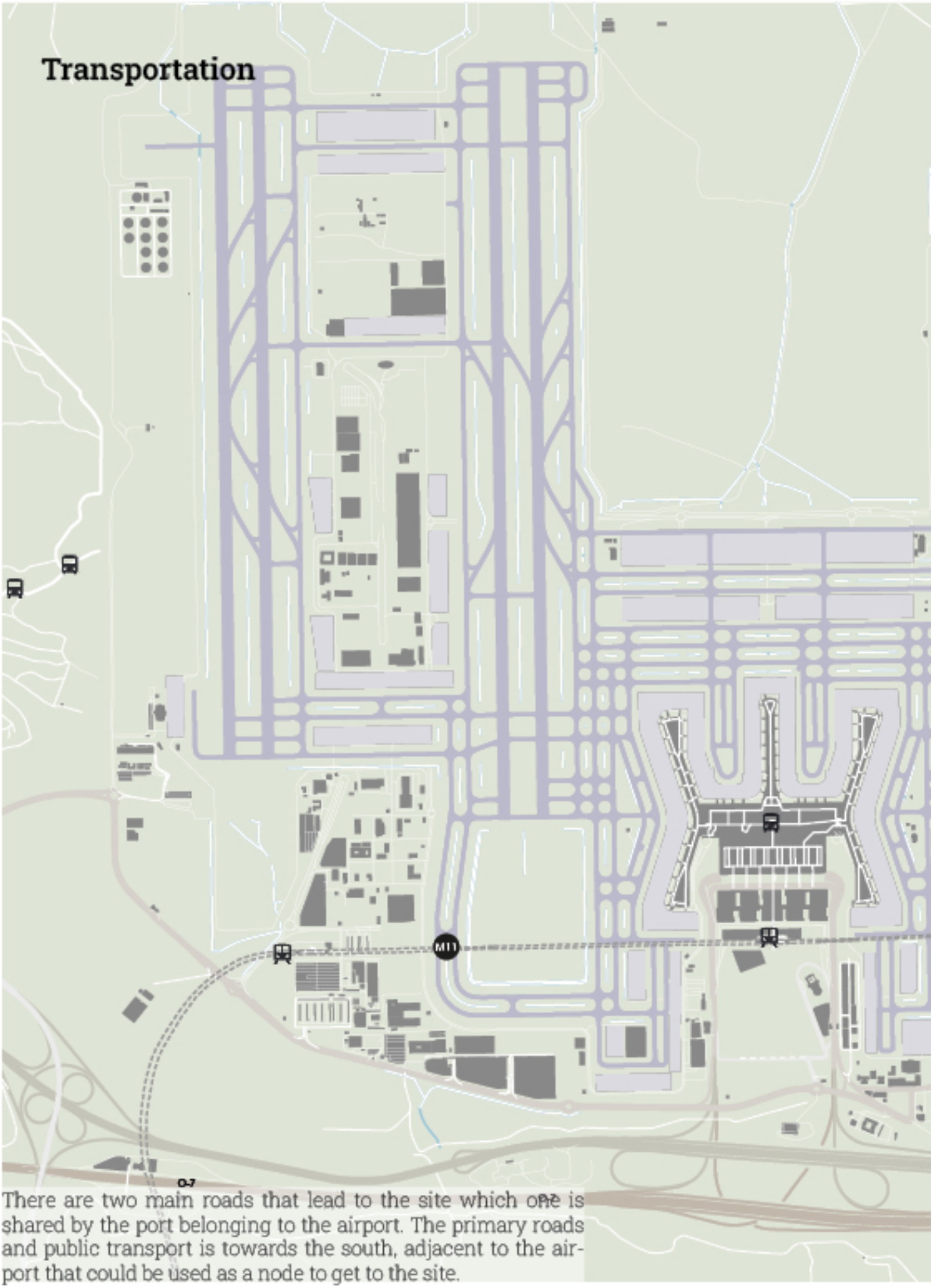

Akpınar
İhsaniye
O-020
O-7 Kuzey Marmara Otoyolu
Odayeri
Odayeri Kavşağı

Built Area

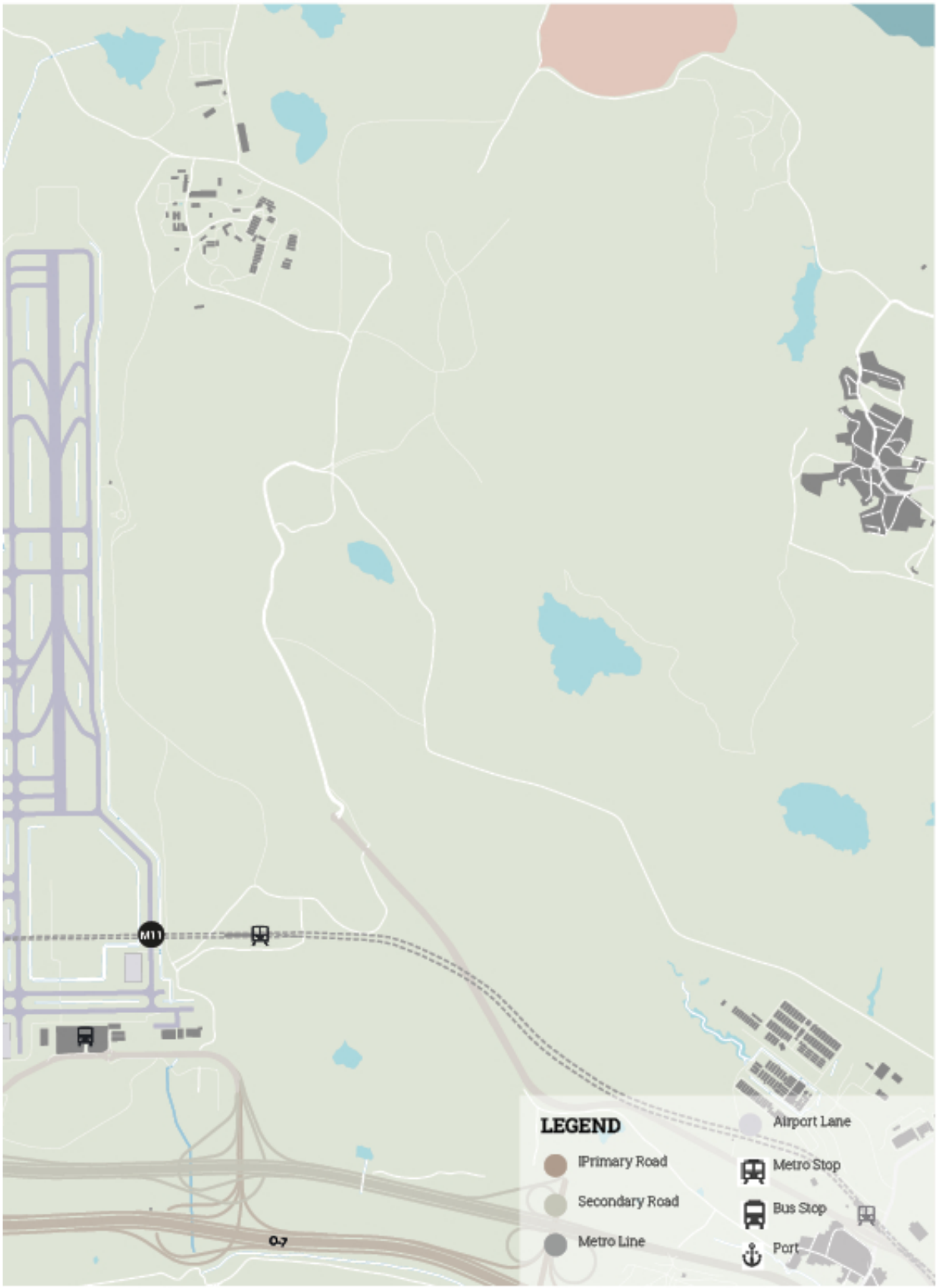
There is not much built area near the site, just a few villages and some small industries usually associated with mining and construction logistics.


LEGEND
Important Building
Paving
Built

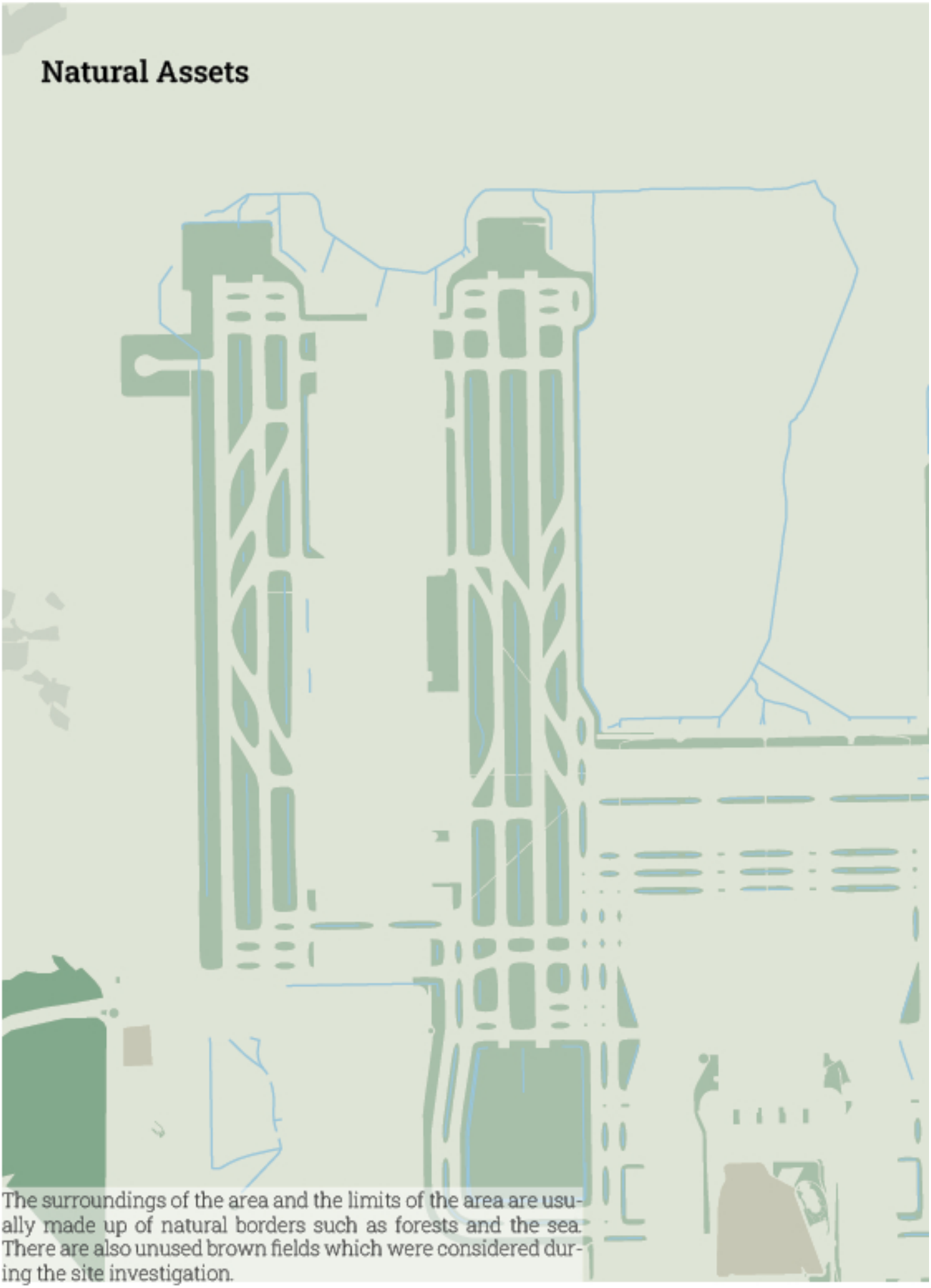
Transportation



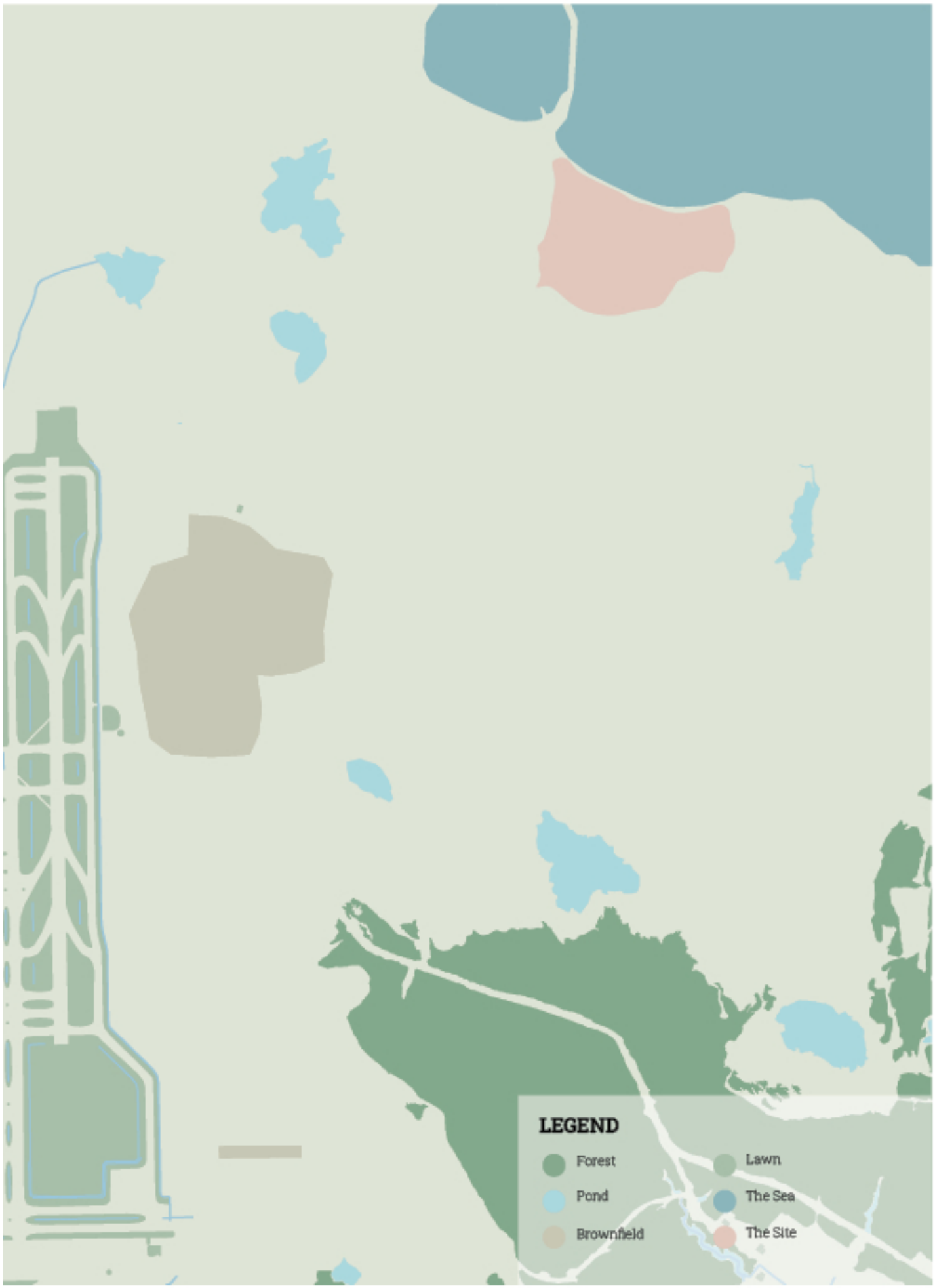
There are two main roads that lead to the site which one is shared by the port belonging to the airport. The primary roads and public transport is towards the south, adjacent to the airport that could be used as a node to get to the site.

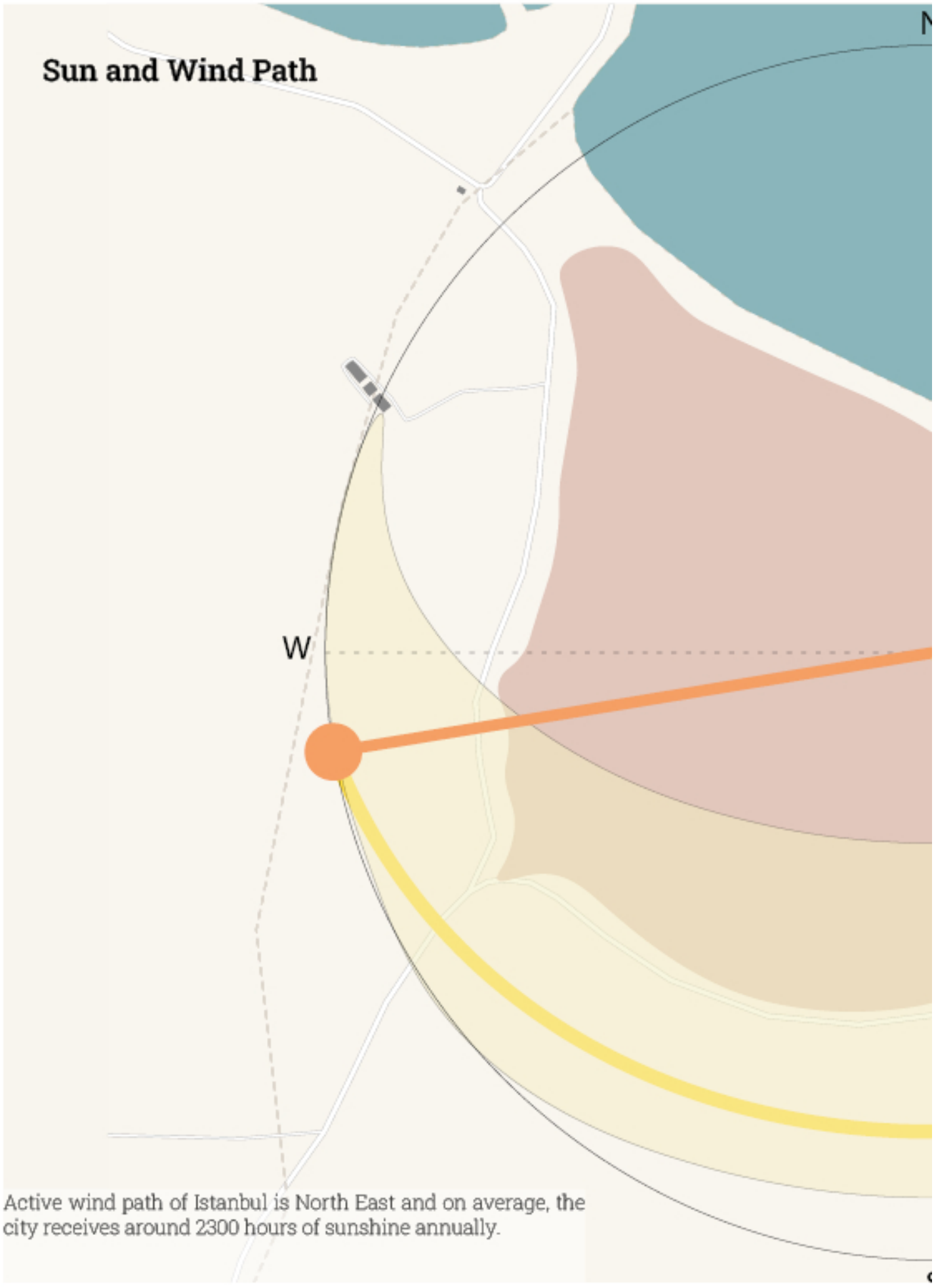

M11
07
LEGEND
Primary Road
Secondary Road
Metro Line
Airport Lane
Metro Stop
Bus Stop
Port

Natural Assets

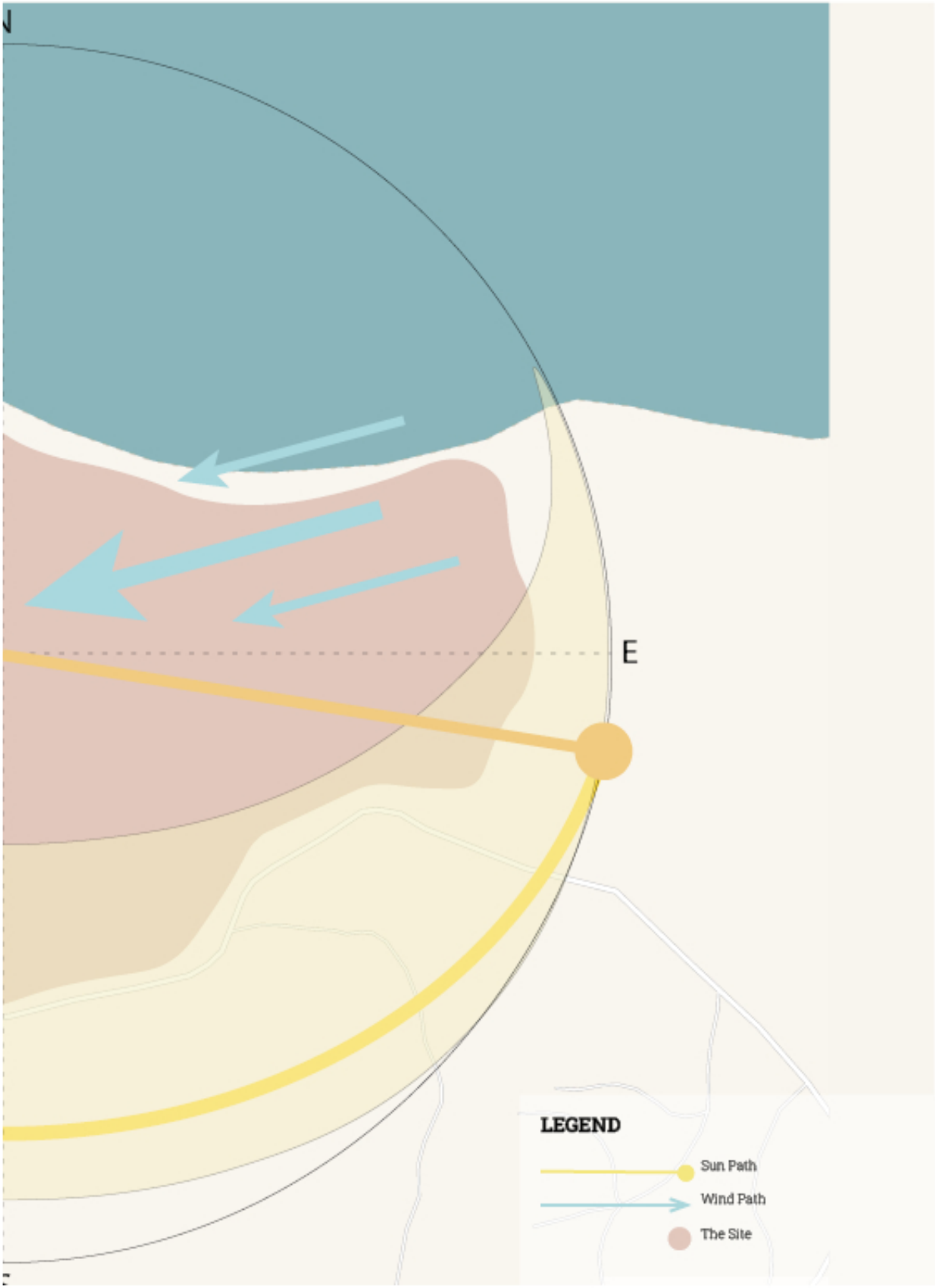


The surroundings of the area and the limits of the area are usually made up of natural borders such as forests and the sea. There are also unused brown fields which were considered during the site investigation.


LEGEND
Forest
Pond
Brownfield
Lawn
The Sea
The Site

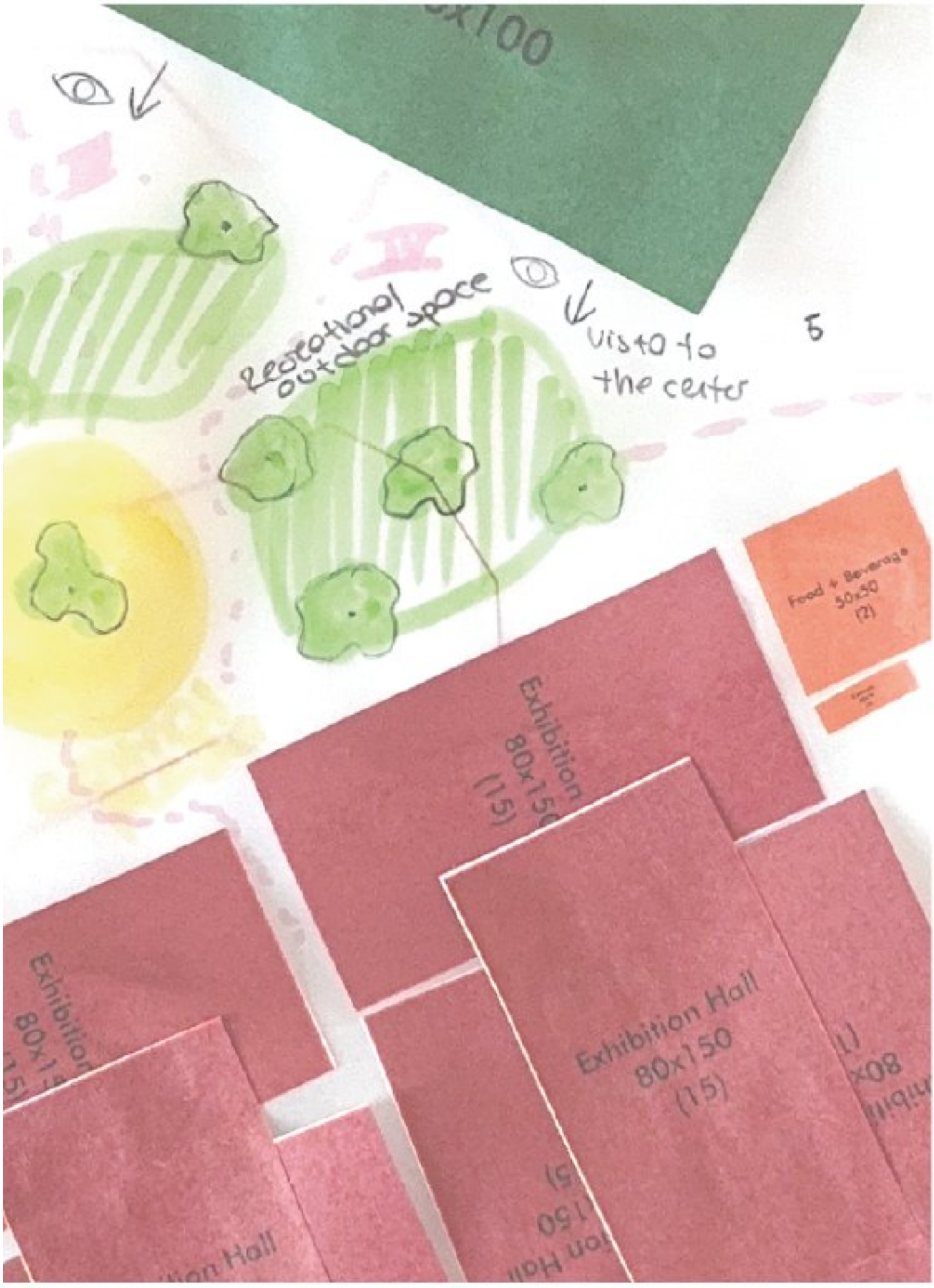


Active wind path of Istanbul is North East and on average, the city receives around 2300 hours of sunshine annually.


N
E
LEGEND
Sun Path
Wind Path
The Site

III. The Concept

The concept is the main proposal, the main idea of my project. It starts to get deeper into my vision of an EXPO that is in Istanbul. This section includes the program and the organisation of spaces within the site as well as defining the users who will be creating the circulation.


Recreational outdoor space
Visto to the center
Food + Beverage 50x50 (2)
Exhibition Hall 80x150 (15)

Reference Projects

Expo 2020 Dubai, showcased a masterfully designed site that emphasized connectivity, cultural exchange, and sustainability. The master plan, developed by the American architecture firm HOK, featured a **radial layout centered around Al Wasl Plaz**. This radial configuration was inspired by traditional Arabic souks (**marketplaces), facilitating efficient pedestrian movement and fostering spontaneous interactions among visitors.** Larger pavilions were strategically placed along the perimeter, while smaller **exhibition spaces clustered closer to the center,** enhancing accessibility and engagement.

The Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, completed in 1978, is a seminal work by Norman Foster that exemplifies the High-Tech architectural movement. The building was conceived as a **single-span structure, measuring approximately 135 meters in length.** Its design integrates all functions—gallery spaces, offices, and services—within a unified, flexible enclosure, embodying Foster's concept of **"universal space."** The building employs a prefabricated steel **lattice framework**, creating a clear-span interior without internal columns.

The SEC Armadillo, originally known as the Clyde Auditorium, is a landmark auditorium in Glasgow, Scotland, designed by Foster + Partners and completed in 1997 and accommodates up to **3,000 attendees.** The building's distinctive form comprises a series of interlocking, **ship-like hulls clad in reflective aluminum panels.** This design pays homage to Glasgow's shipbuilding heritage, with the **overlapping shells creating a dynamic, sculptural profile** that has become emblematic of the city.

DUBAI WORLD EXPO

Sainsbury Centre

Glasgow 'Armadillo'

Reference Projects

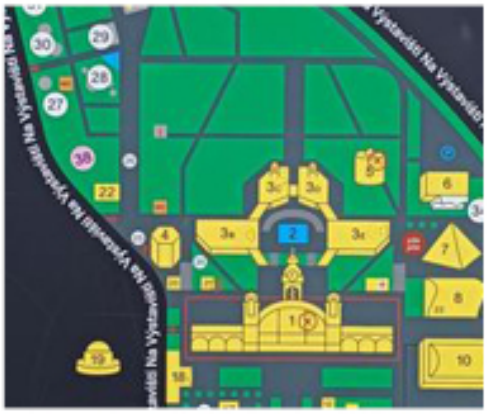
Paris Expo Porte de Versailles is one of **Europe's largest exhibition centers,** strategically located in the 15th arrondissement of Paris. Its exceptional accessibility is largely due to an **integrated transportation network situated directly beneath and around the venue, facilitating seamless connectivity for millions of visitors annually.** The Porte de Versailles station on Line 12 provides direct underground access to the venue, this comprehensive transportation infrastructure not only supports the logistical needs of large-scale events but also underscores the **venue's commitment to sustainable and efficient urban mobility.**

The Prague Exhibition Grounds (Výstaviště Praha), established in 1891 for the General Land Centennial Exhibition, is a historic venue located in the Bubeneč district of Prague. Over the years, it has evolved into a **multifunctional complex hosting exhibitions, cultural events, and leisure activities.** The grounds are thoughtfully divided into upper and lower sections, facilitating intuitive navigation and visitor flow. **Lower Section features the Křižík Pavilions (B, C, D, E) arranged around the Křižík Fountain**, creating a **cohesive and accessible exhibition space.** Recent renovations have enhanced pathways, lighting, and signage to improve circulation and safety.

The International Congress Center Dresden (ICD) is a modern, terraced facility located on the banks of the Elbe River, adjacent to Dresden's historic Old Town. ICD offers a versatile environment for conferences, exhibitions, and cultural events, accommodating up to **6,800 visitors across four levels.** A **central feature is the expansive main hall, covering over 1,165 m² and seating more than 1,300 attendees. Five additional halls on the ground floor total 3,600 m² and can be combined to accommodate up to 4,150 participants, allowing for adaptable event configurations.** Spacious **foyers and lounges are strategically placed to facilitate networking and informal gatherings,** enhancing the attendee experience.

Port de Versailles

Prague Vystaviste



Dresden Congress Centre

The Program

To derive the program, I have underwent extensive research about EXPO centres around the world to determine the type and area of the spaces needed to create an optimized solution, replying to the need of the concept but also altering certain things to Istanbul's urban pattern and lifestyle. The spaces that were proposed are:

I. Exhibition Halls

II. Main Stage

III. Conference/Seminar Rooms

IV.Registration

V. Offices

VI.Press Lounge

VII.Refill-Refuel

VIII. First Aid & Security

IX. Restrooms

X. Hotel

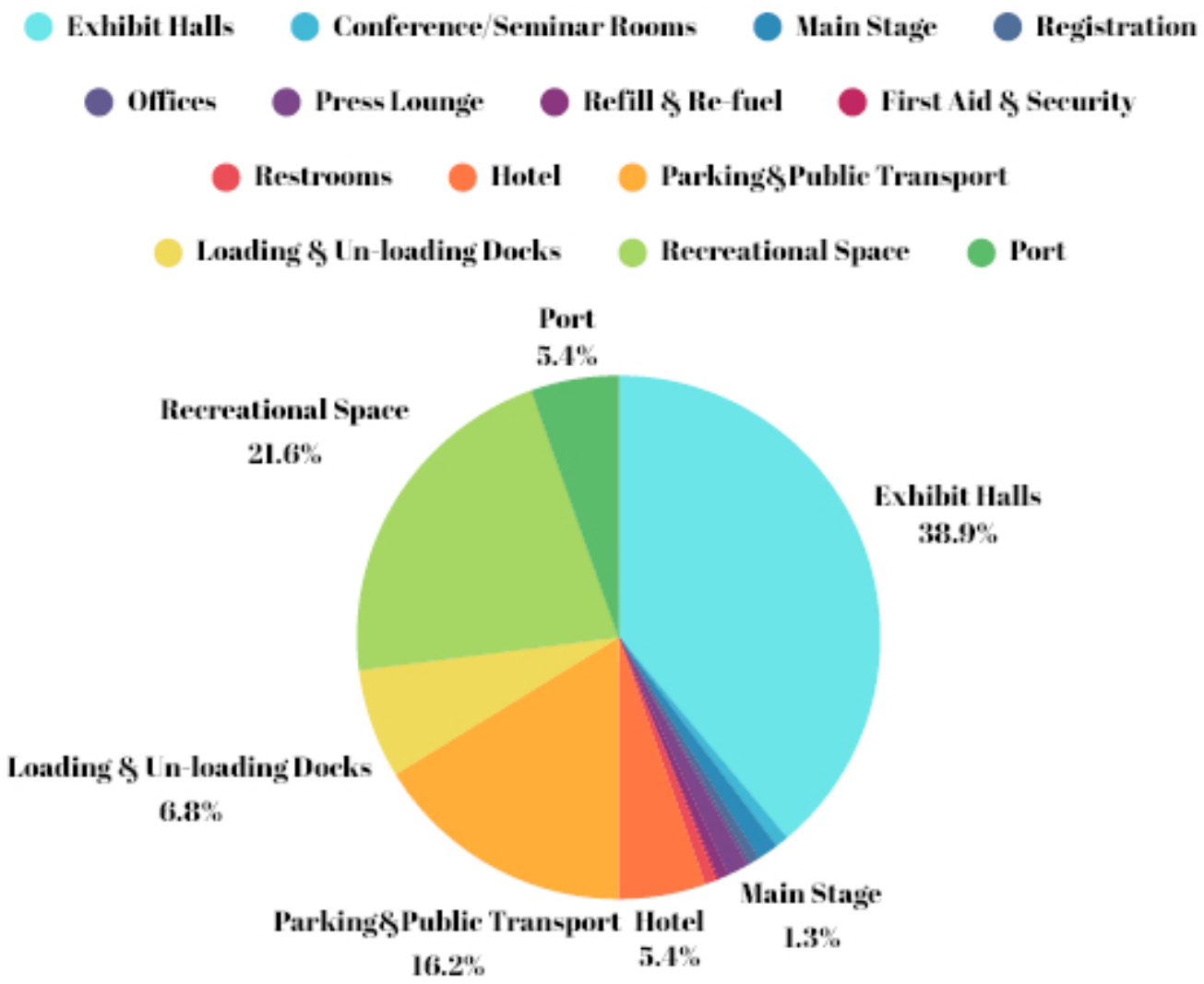
XI. Parking & Public Transport

XII. Loading & Unloading Docks

XIII. Recreational Space

XIV. Port

Total Area of Site: 35 Ha



Percentages of Spaces according to m2

The Users

From the derived program, we can start by defining the users of an EXPO Center. From the start to finish to the active and to the inactive many people are mobile in a vast complex like this and have their own slots in which they create the circulation:

I. The Administration: Full time workers who are here everyday of the year.

II. Exhibitors: Who are here to showcase their products, events, achievements etc. They are only here when the time of the EXPO and are the ones who install their own equipment and stalls inside the halls.

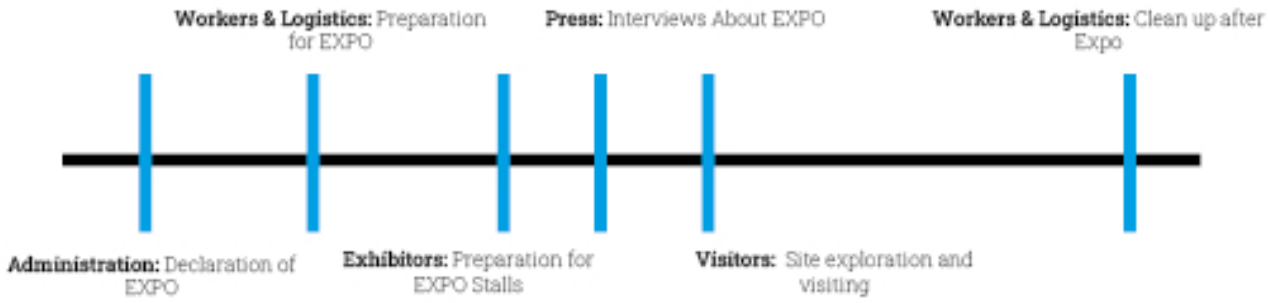
III. Press: They are here starting a few days from the expo to get interviews and a first look to publish and spread. They usually have their own lounges to have private conversations with the exhibtors.

IV: Visitors: They are the ones that create the most circulation. after the press days the public days start and after that till the end of the expo the terrain is accessible with the proper entry tickets. They can be locals or even international visitors. This expo was also planned closely connected to the airport, so that it would be easier access for the visitors. They can also stay at the on site hotel that is provided.

V: Workers: They take care of the maintenance of the expo terrain year round.

VI: Logistics: These people take care of the loading and unloading of the necessary equipment and stalls for the exhibitors to use during the on-going expo days.

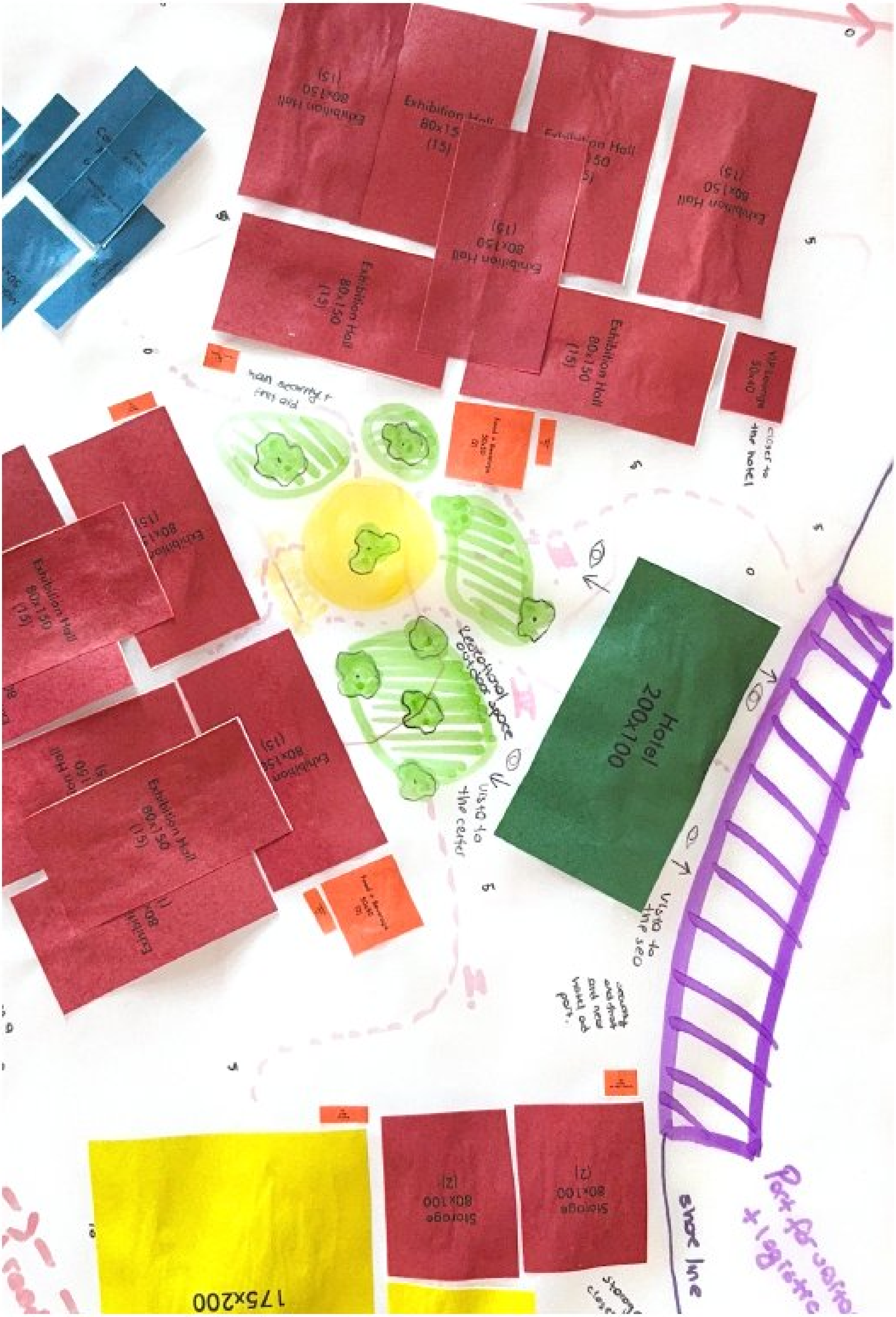
Estimated Total of Users: 25.000-30.000 people



Timeline of an EXPO

Layout Investigation

After establishing a certain framework with the site, the possible transportation routes and the users it was time to layer them all together. Throughout the semester I have tried several variations on how na EXPO could be spread out to this 35 ha site and make it an enjoyable experience for people instead of being intimidated from these vast volumes.



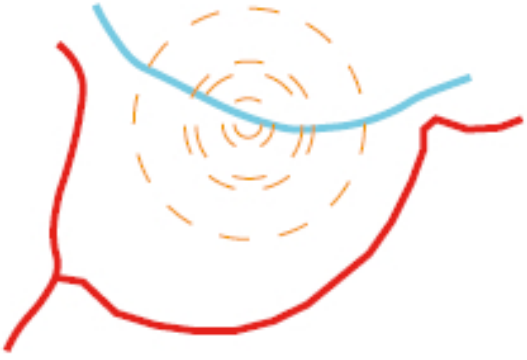
Exhibition Hall
80x150
(15)
Hotel
200x100
Storage
80x100
(2)
175x200
shore line

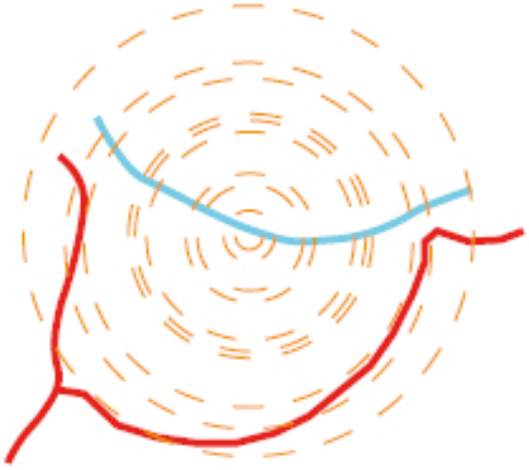
The Concept Diagram

While meddling with shapes for the layout certain criterias were taken into account. First was the shape of the site. It is relatively on the circular side. Later the site was broken into two different sections: The Pedestrian area and The Vehicle Area. This way there was a clear separation to make sure people have an enjoyable experience within the site, relatively away from the public transport or logistics movement.If we go back to the radial movement, it was continued throughout the end of the natural border of the sea.

The radial system is the basis of everything that is important to an expo center which are navigation-direction-orientation. The radial system enhances the easier navigation, the central building helps with the orientation and the carefully placed halls with adequate amount of walking and green space gives you hints of your direction. All of these key words along with this radial system creates the basis of my proposal.

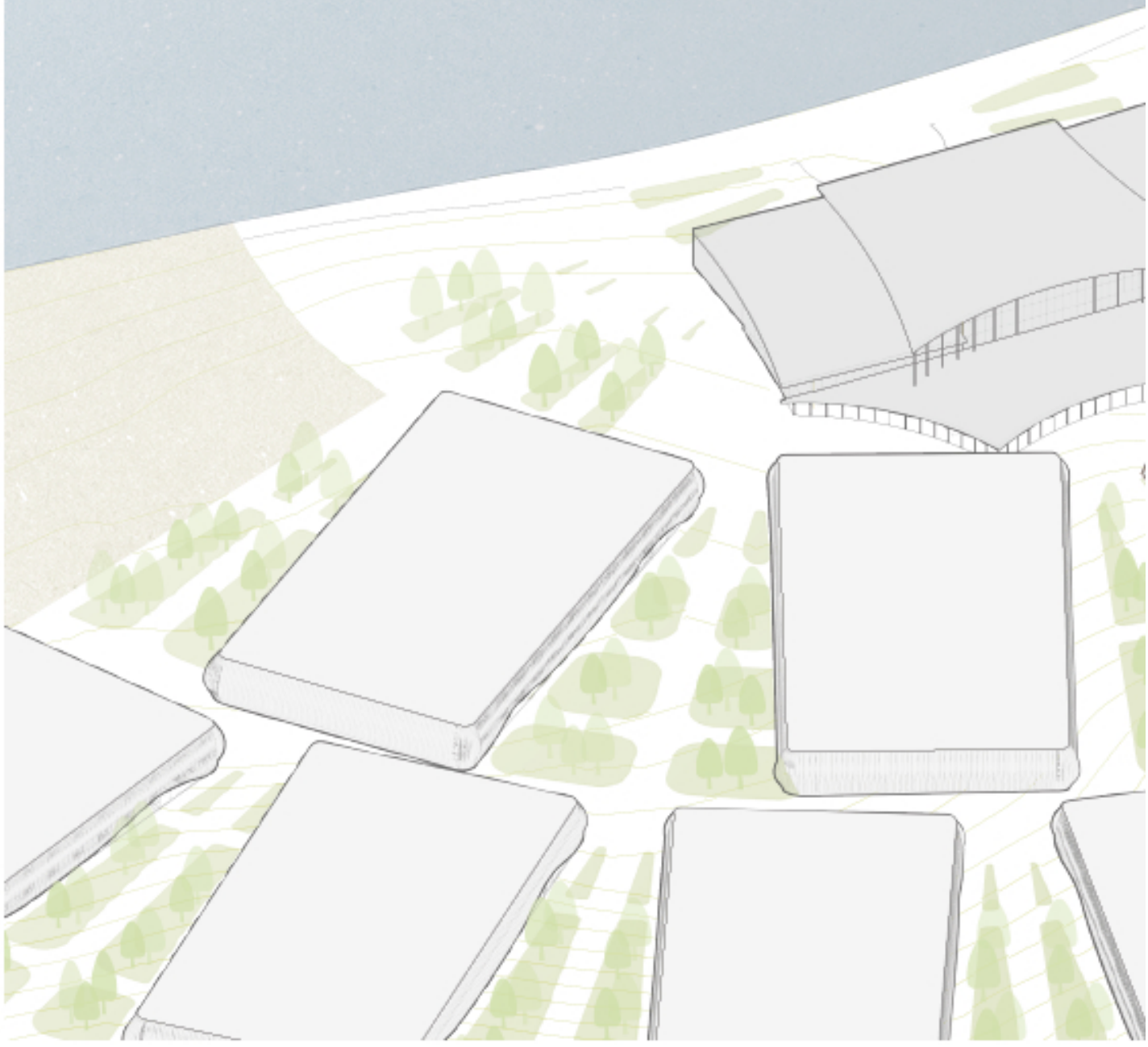
The organic shape of site with the radial system does not always align well. For this reason, the un-usable areas are part of the forestation initiative of the site. As it is a big project there are certain initiatives to create a more eco-friendly environment and create some permeability and air quality with this method.

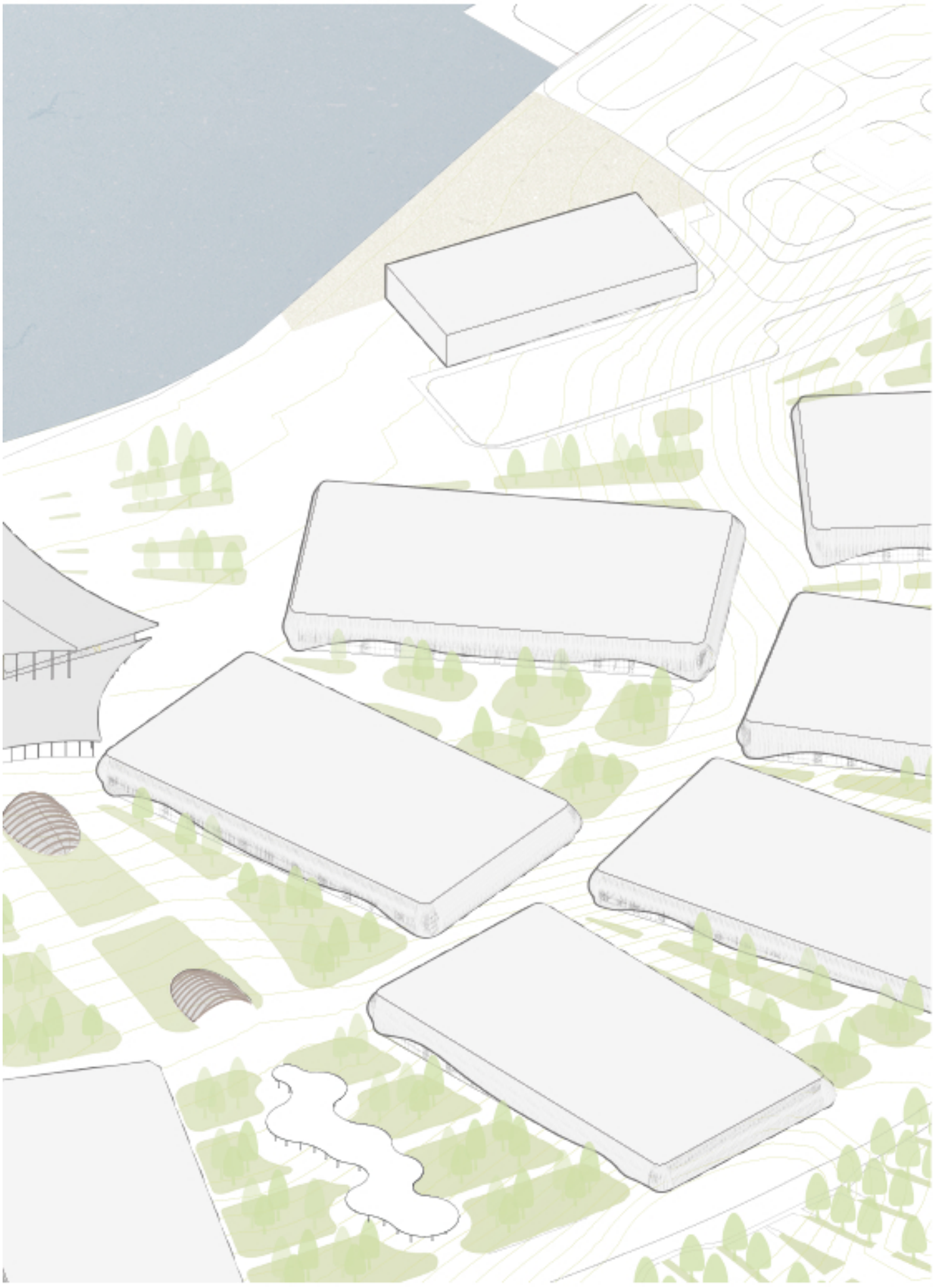




IV. The EXPO Istanbul

After the establishment of the concept and the radial system, we can finally execute the masterplan on the site fully. EXPO Istanbul aims to create a space where people can enjoy being on these grounds despite having larger scale masses surrounding the area which might appear intimidating at first. It is planned to optimize the walking distances and create an enjoyable experience for the users regardless of their reasoning to be there. Whether you arrive to the green parking lot with your car or the bus stop let's you out at the main street or the metro station that directly leads you to the main building. This green "fan" encapsulates you into this portal where you enjoy the charm of Istanbul, being so close to the sea.

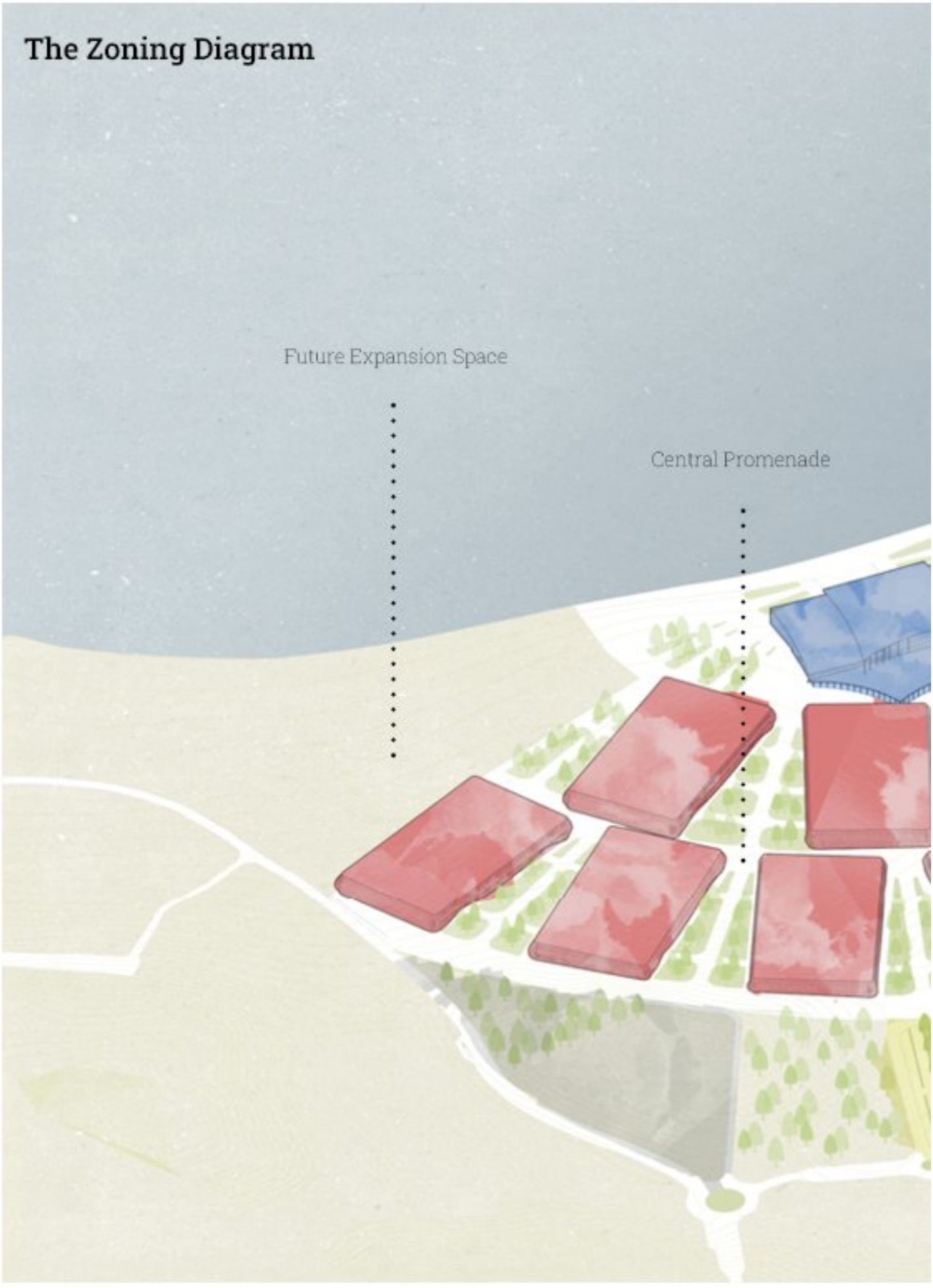


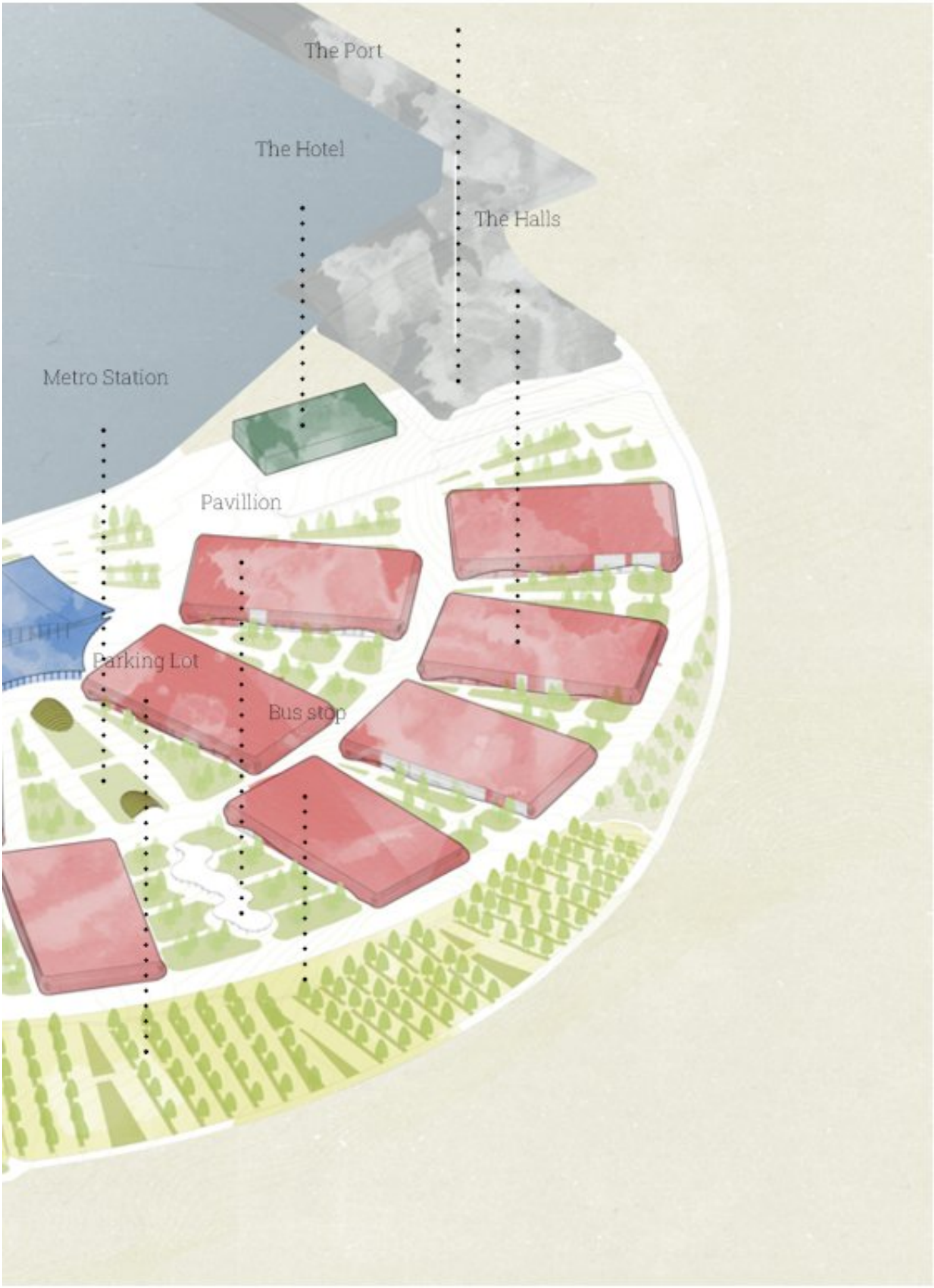


The Masterplan

The Masterplan Axonometric View

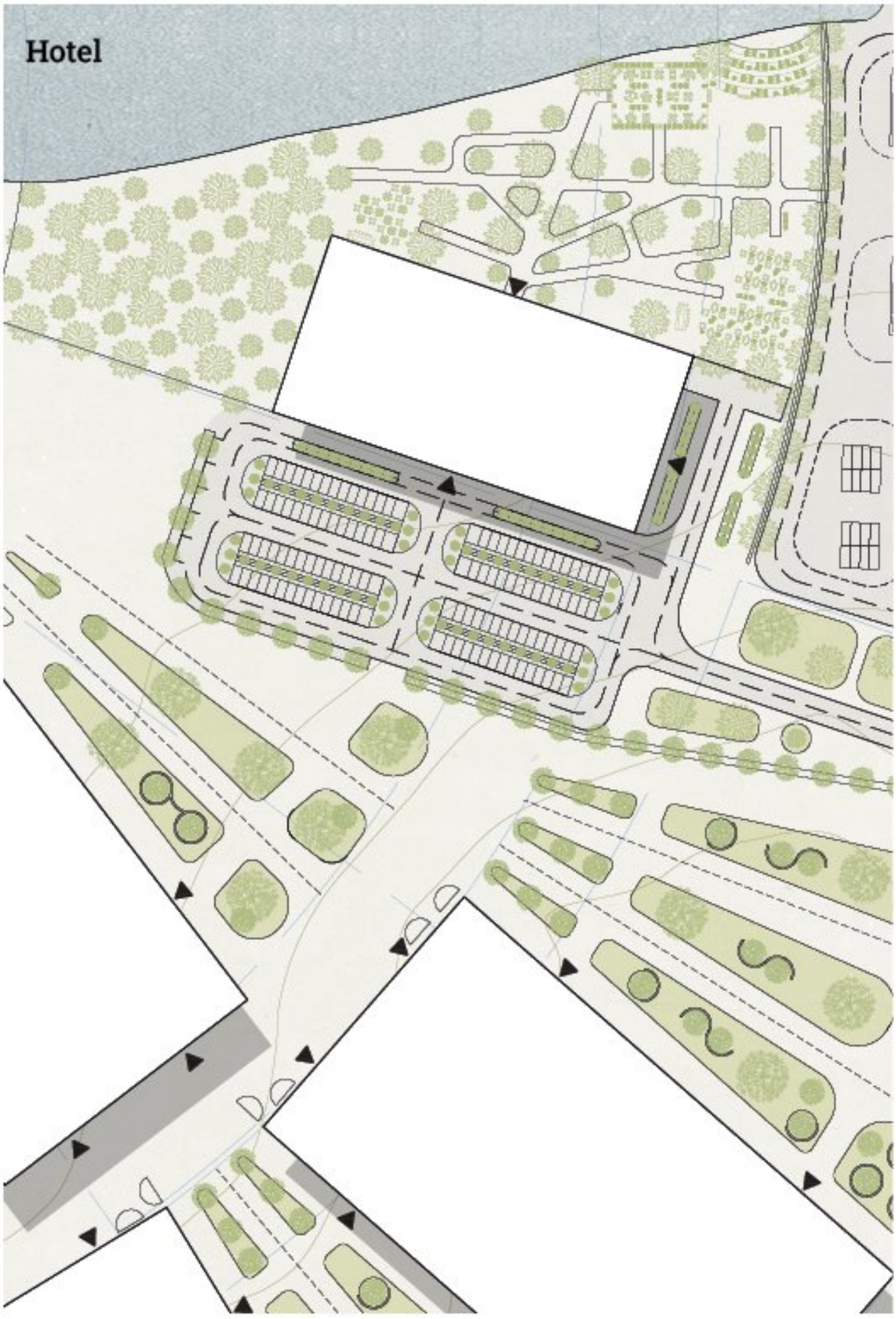
The Zoning Diagram



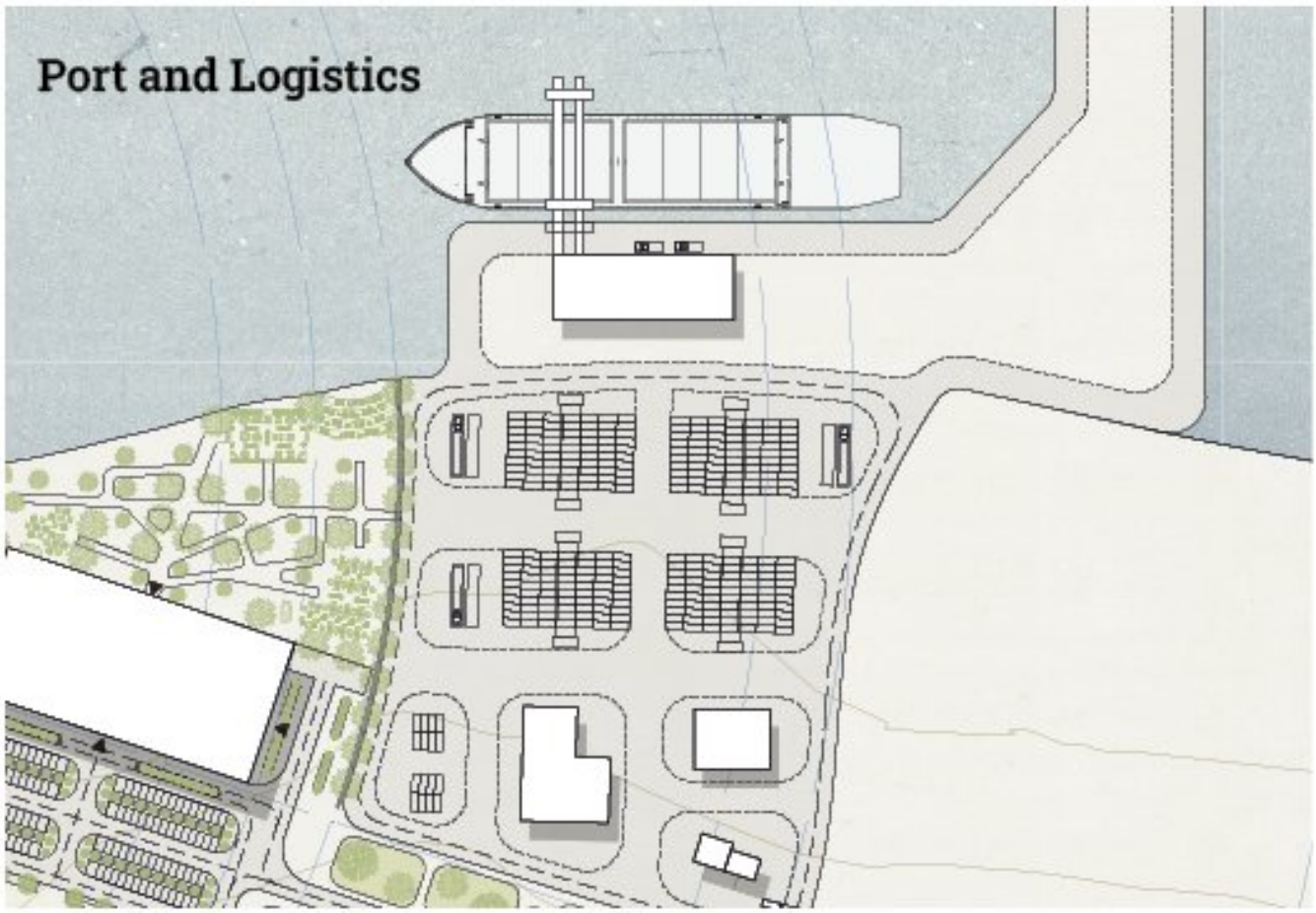

The Port
The Hotel
The Halls
Metro Station
Pavillion
Parking Lot
Bus stop

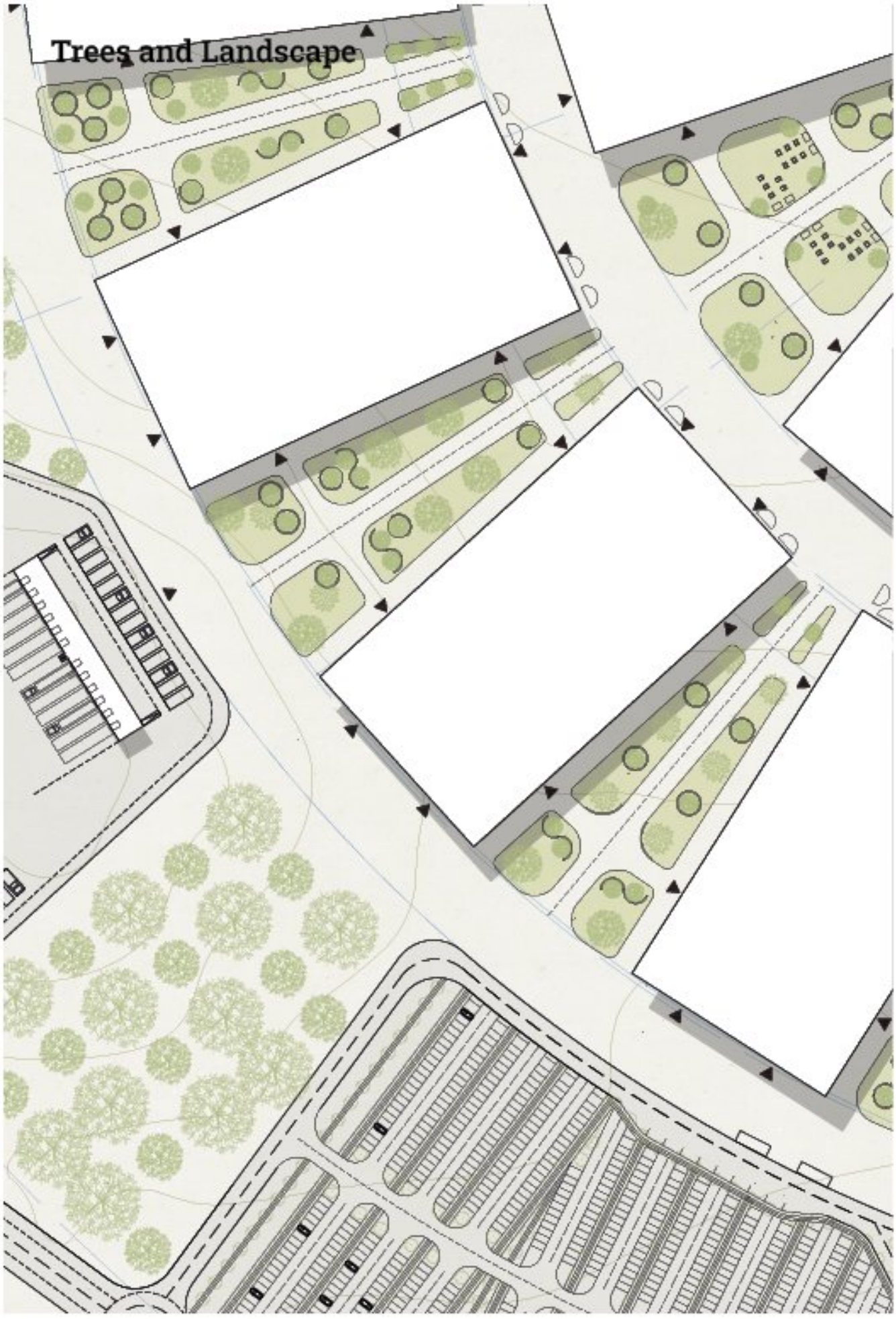

Transportation
Transportation can be achieved both by pubic and private methods. The car park is in the shape of a belt and incorporates greenery for a smaller carbon footprint to lower emissions. For public transport there is a bus station incorporated into the car park along with taxis. Lastly, the metro station is located directly at the center for easy access.


Central Public Space

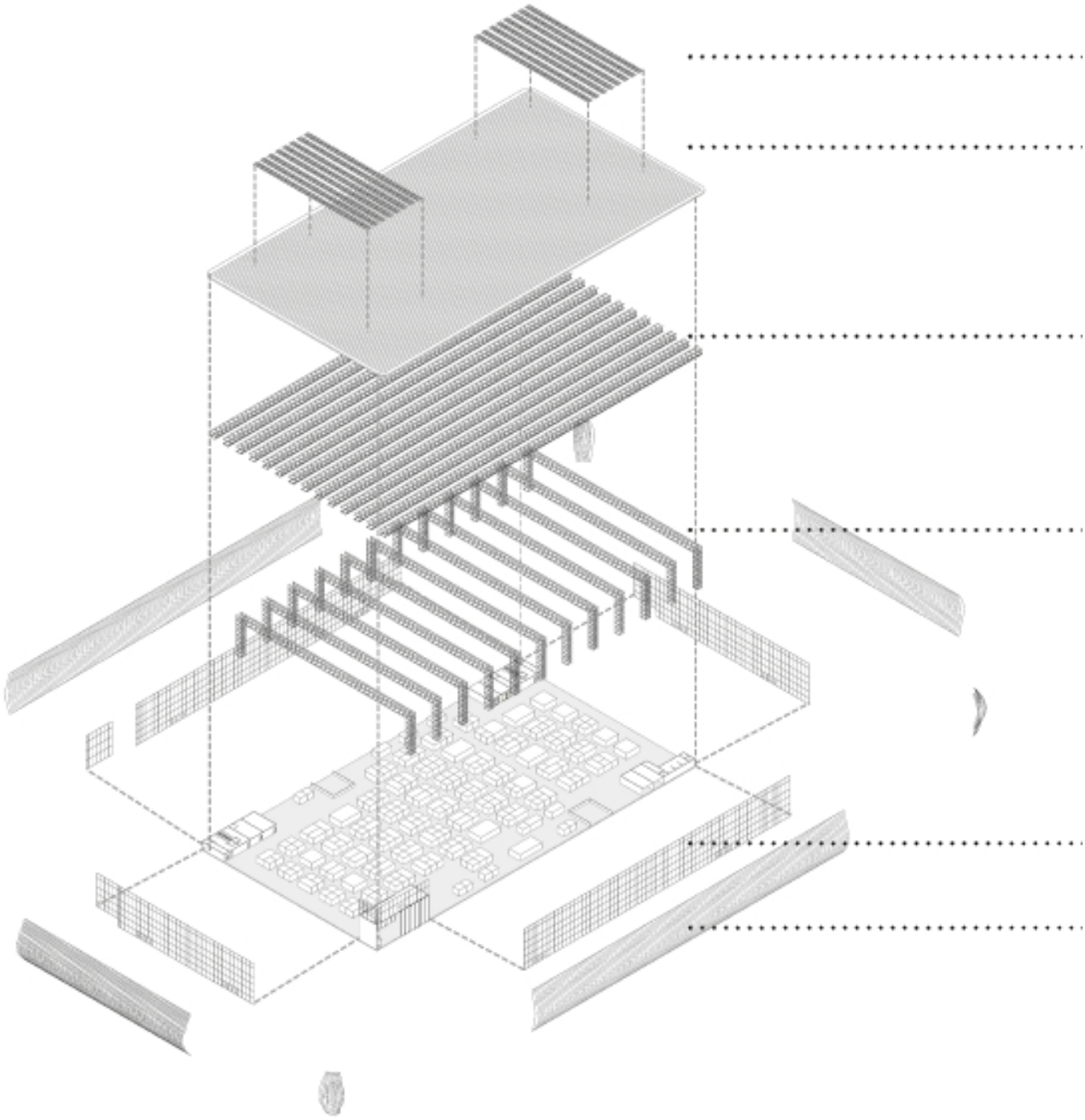

Hotel


Main Promenade


Port and Logistics


Trees and Landscape

The EXPO Halls



Exploded Diagram of an EXPO Hall

Solar Panels

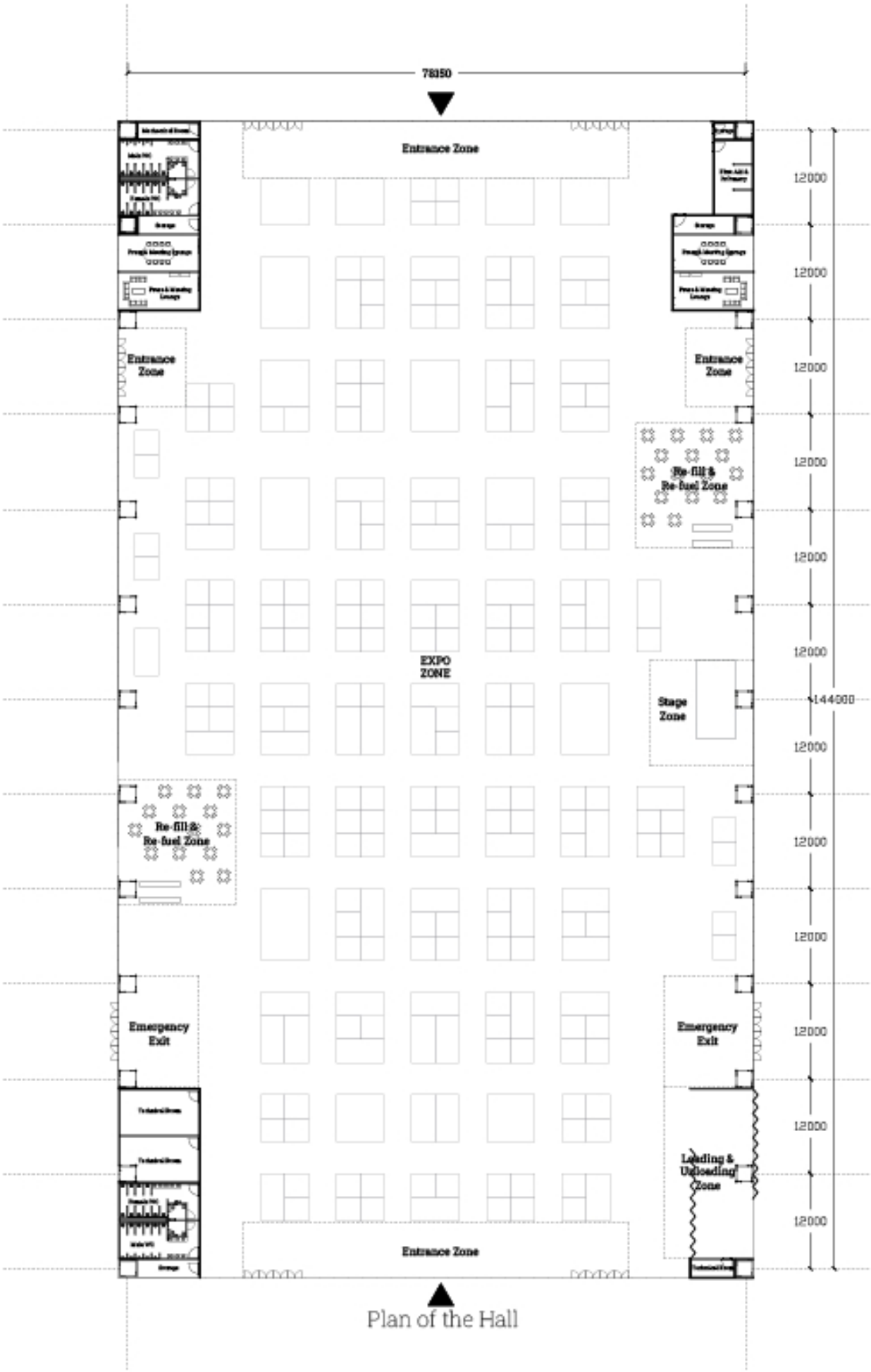
Metal Cladded Roof

Horizontal 2x2 m Truss

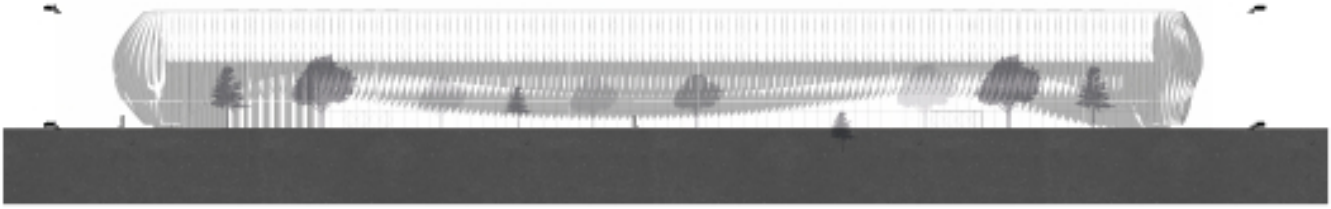
2x2 m Lattice Truss

Glazed Glass

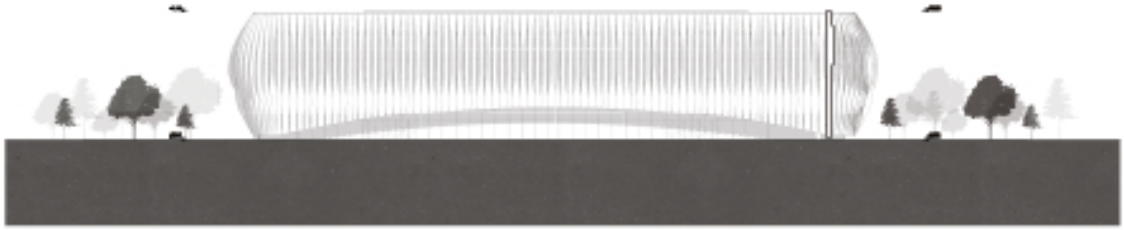
Aluminum Twisted Facade Element



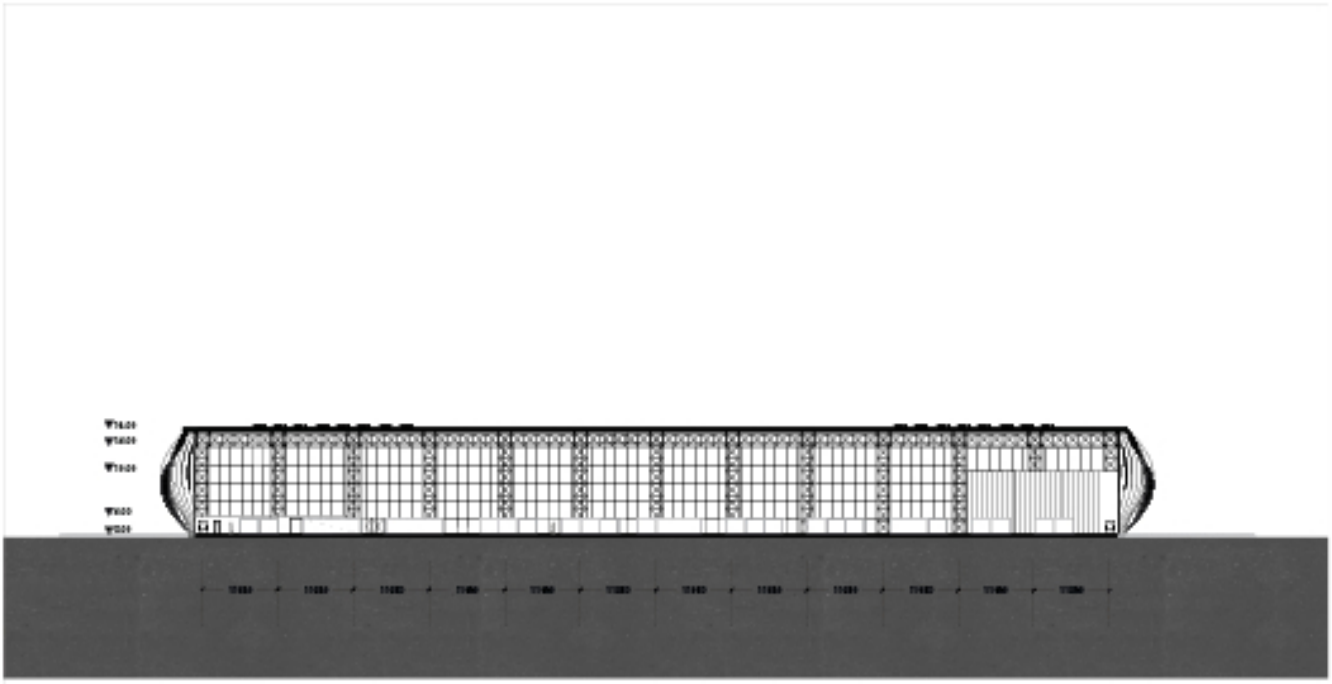
Plan of the Hall



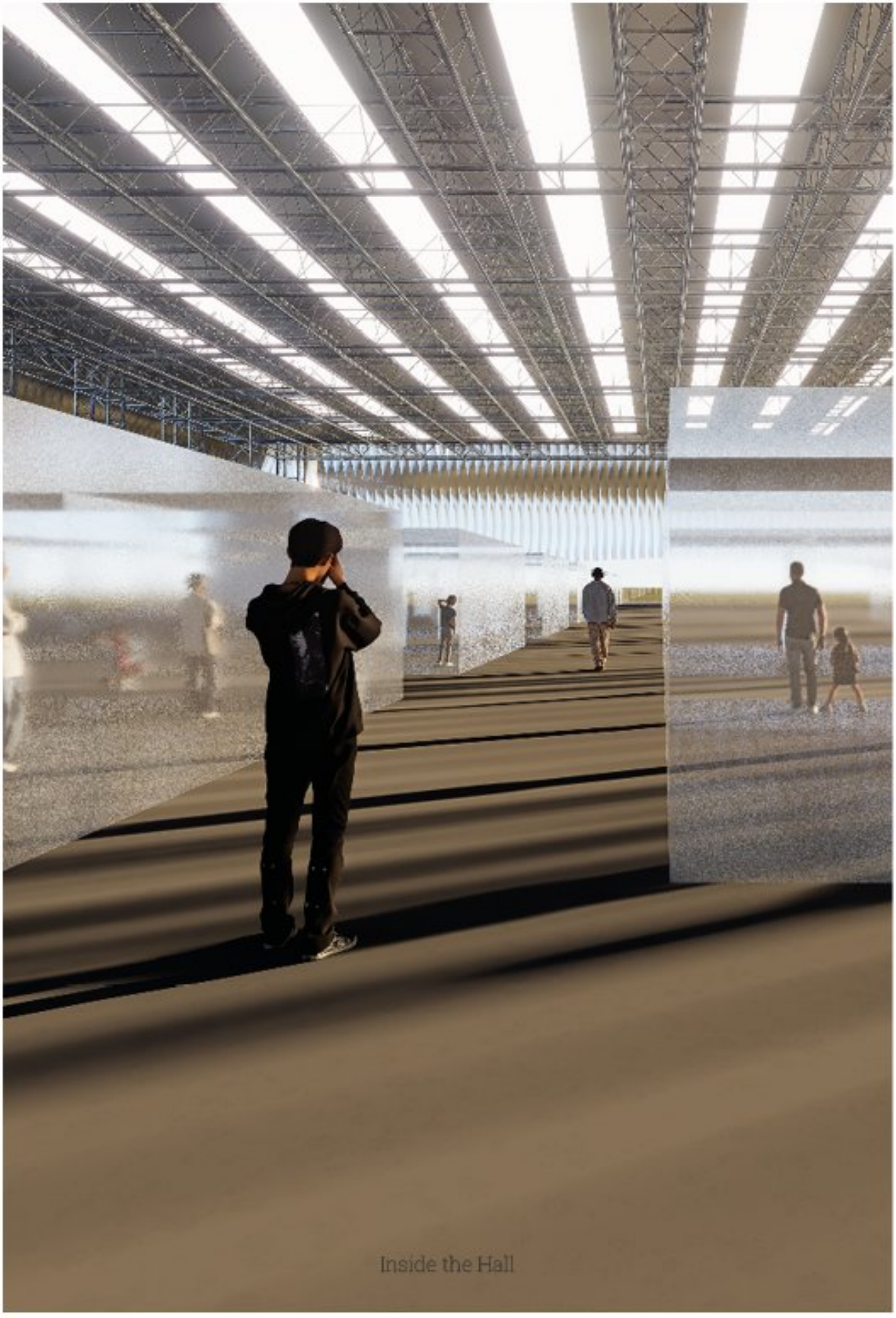
East Elevation



North Elevation



Section of the Hall



Inside the Hall

Istanbul receives approximately 2,185 hours of sunshine annually, translating to about 6 hours per day on average . The average global solar irradiance in Istanbul is around 1,500 kWh/m²/year .

Each EXPO hall has dimensions of 80 meters by 150 meters, totaling 12,000 m² per hall. With 12 halls, the combined roof area is:

12 halls × 12,000 m²/hall = 144,000 m²

Assuming 20% of the roof area is allocated for solar panels:

144,000 m² × 20% = 28,800 m²

Using the average solar irradiance of 1,500 kWh/m²/year:
28,800 m² × 1,500 kWh/m²/year = 43,200,000 kWh/year

This is the total energy that can be generated annually from the allocated solar panel area. Assuming the use of 300-watt panels:

300 W × 1,000 = 300,000 W (or 0.3 kW) per panel
Each panel generates approximately 0.3 kW × 6 hours/day × 365 days/year = 657 kWh/year.
To meet the annual energy generation target:
43,200,000 kWh/year ÷ 657 kWh/panel/year ≈ 65,700 panels

A rough estimate for energy consumption of large convention centers:

~200–400 kWh/m²/year depending on HVAC, lighting, event load, etc.

Let's assume 300 kWh/m²/year for the center

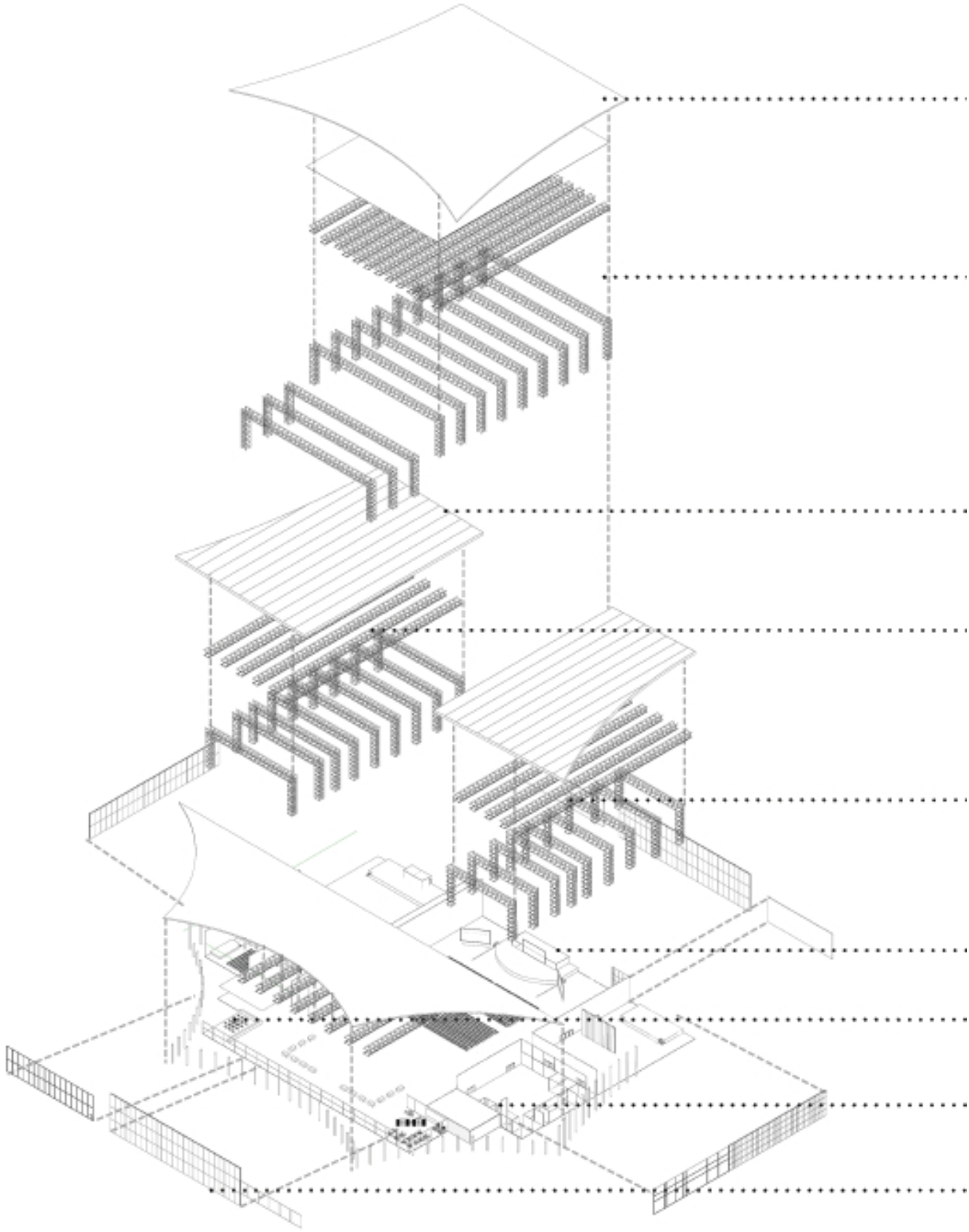
Building area: 80 × 150 m × 12 halls = 144,000 m²

Estimated energy use: 144,000 × 300 = 43.2 million kWh/year

With 13.4 million kWh/year produced panels can realistically cover ~31% of the EXPO Center's electricity demand.

Total amount of electricity generated

The Main Building



3-D Perspective Section

..... Metal Curved Roof

..... 2x2 Lattice Load Bearing Truss

..... Metal Cladded Roof

..... 2x2 m Lattice Load Bearing Truss

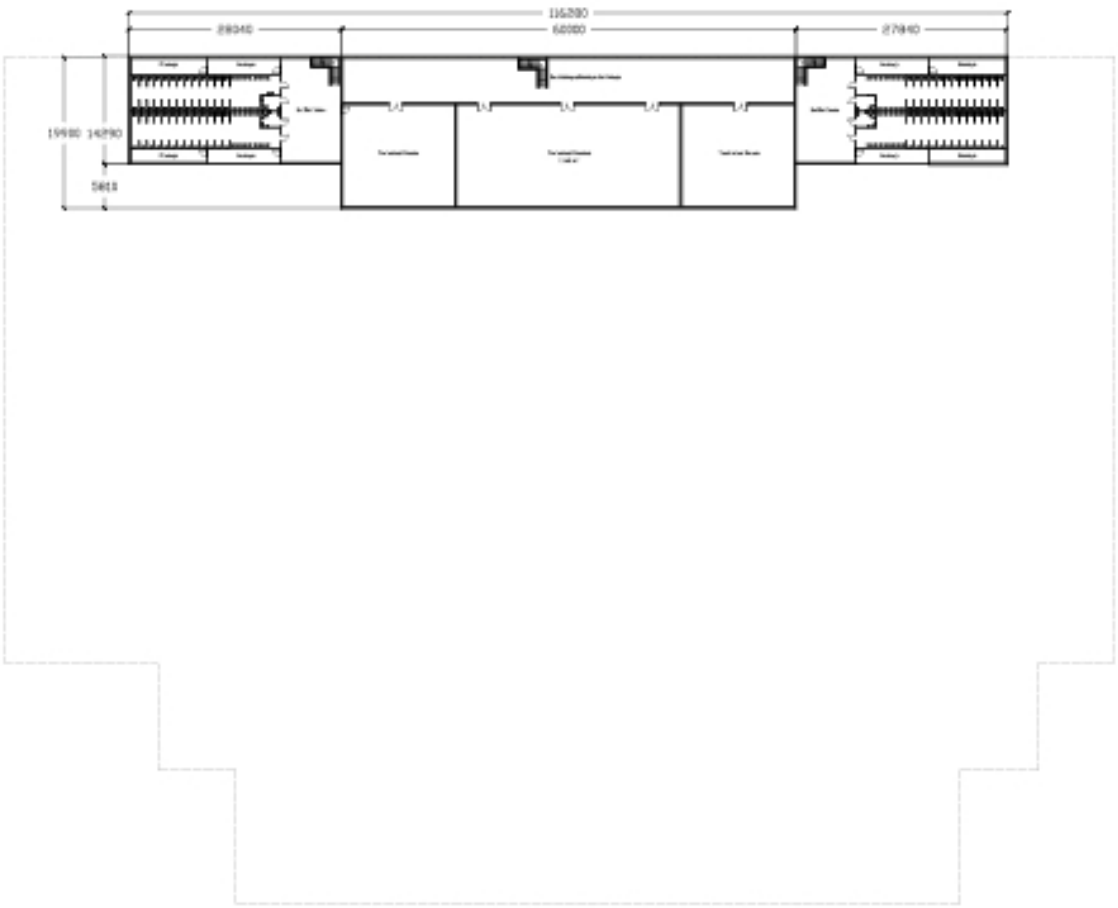
..... 2x2 m Lattice Truss

..... Main Stage

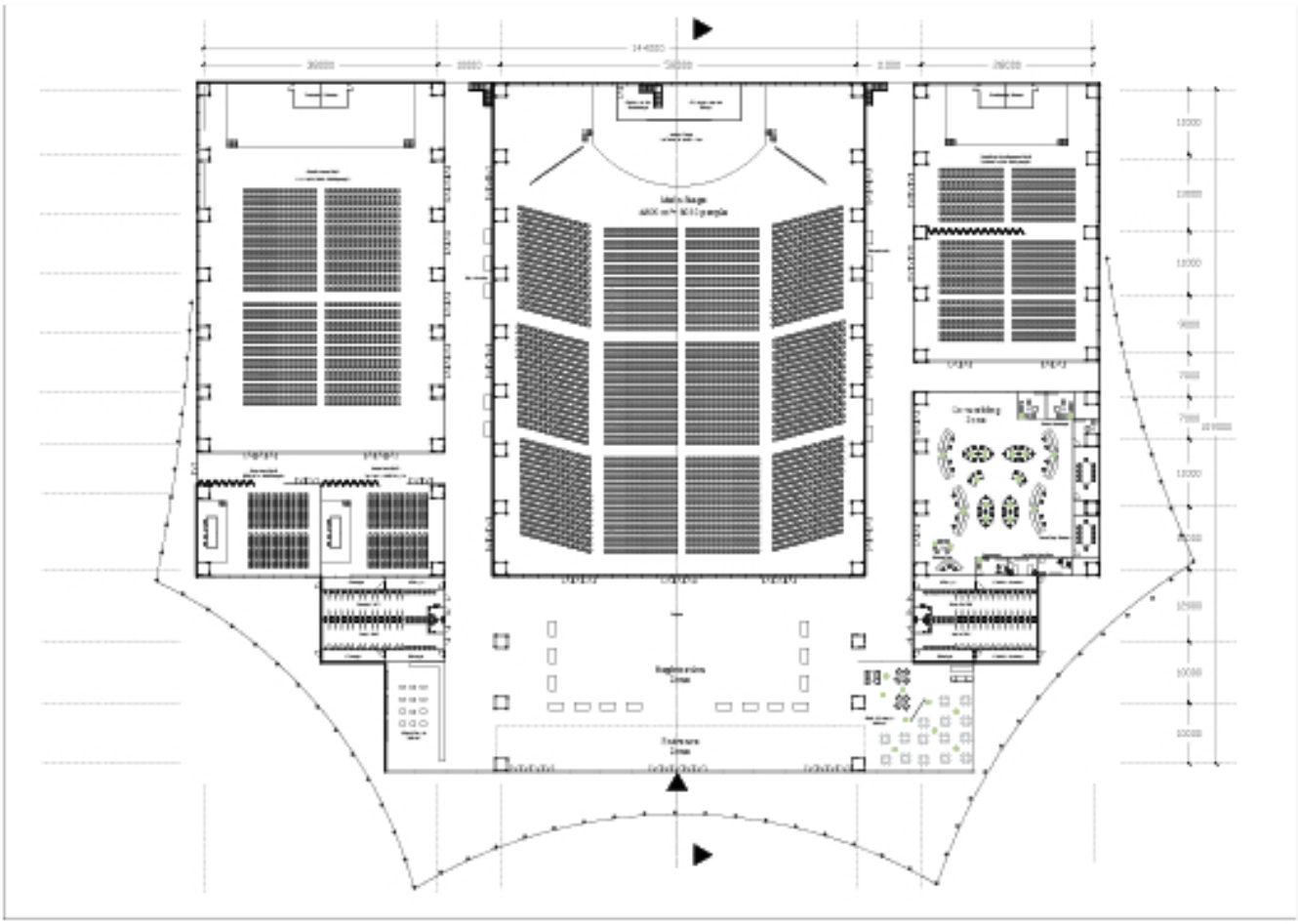
..... Cloakroom

..... Cafe

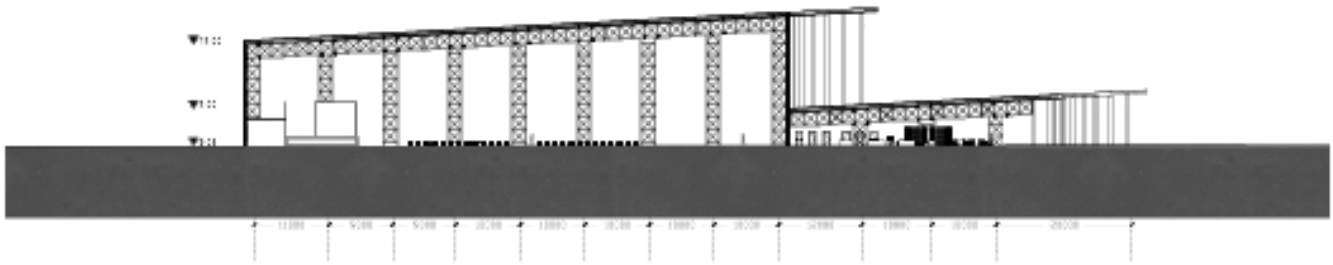
..... Aluminum Insulated Panels 2.5 x 5 m



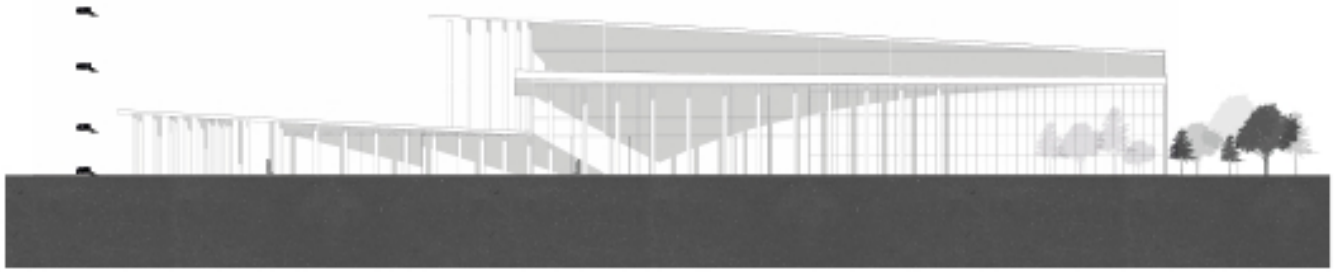
Basement Floor Plan



Ground Floor Plan



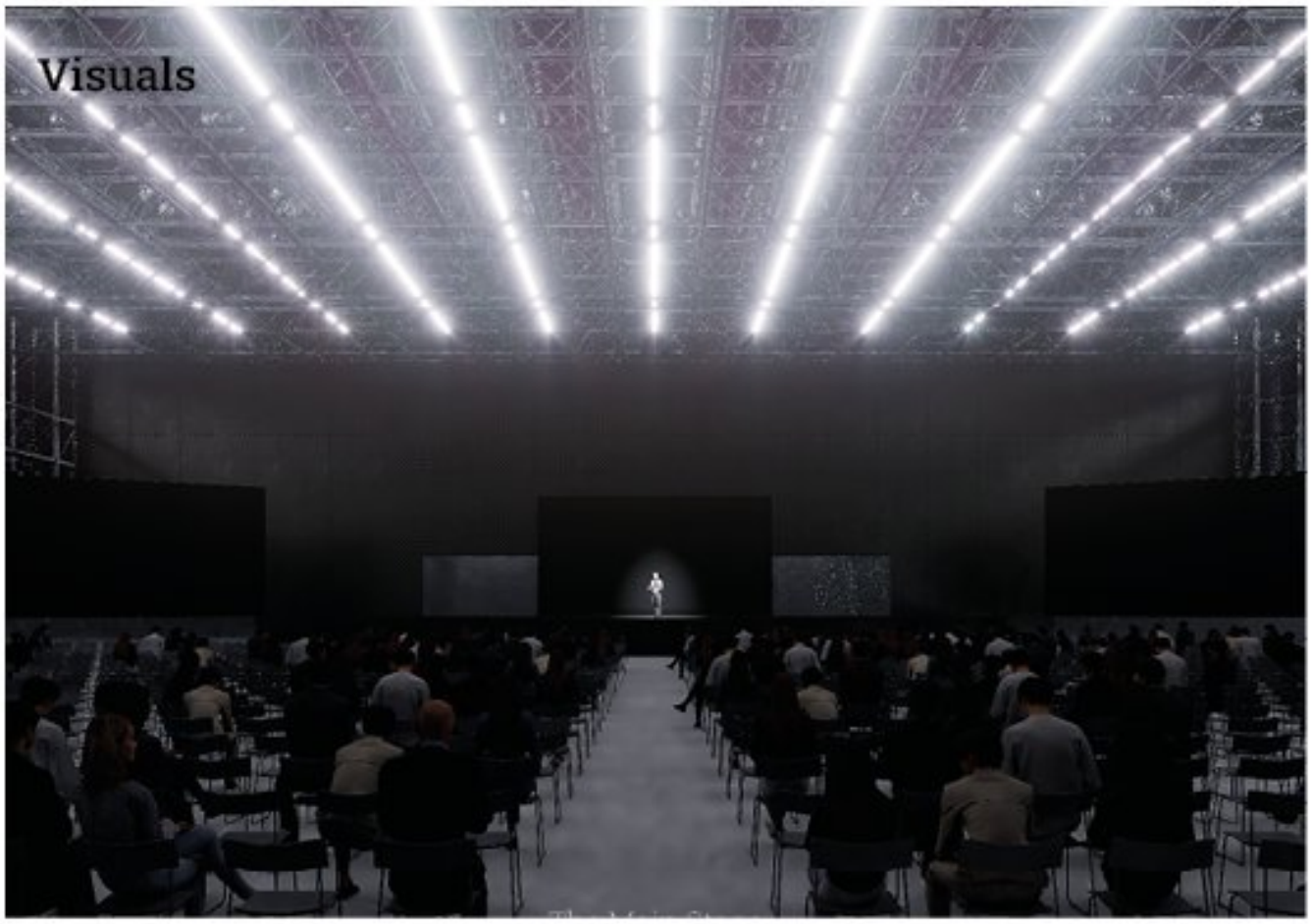
Section of the Main Building

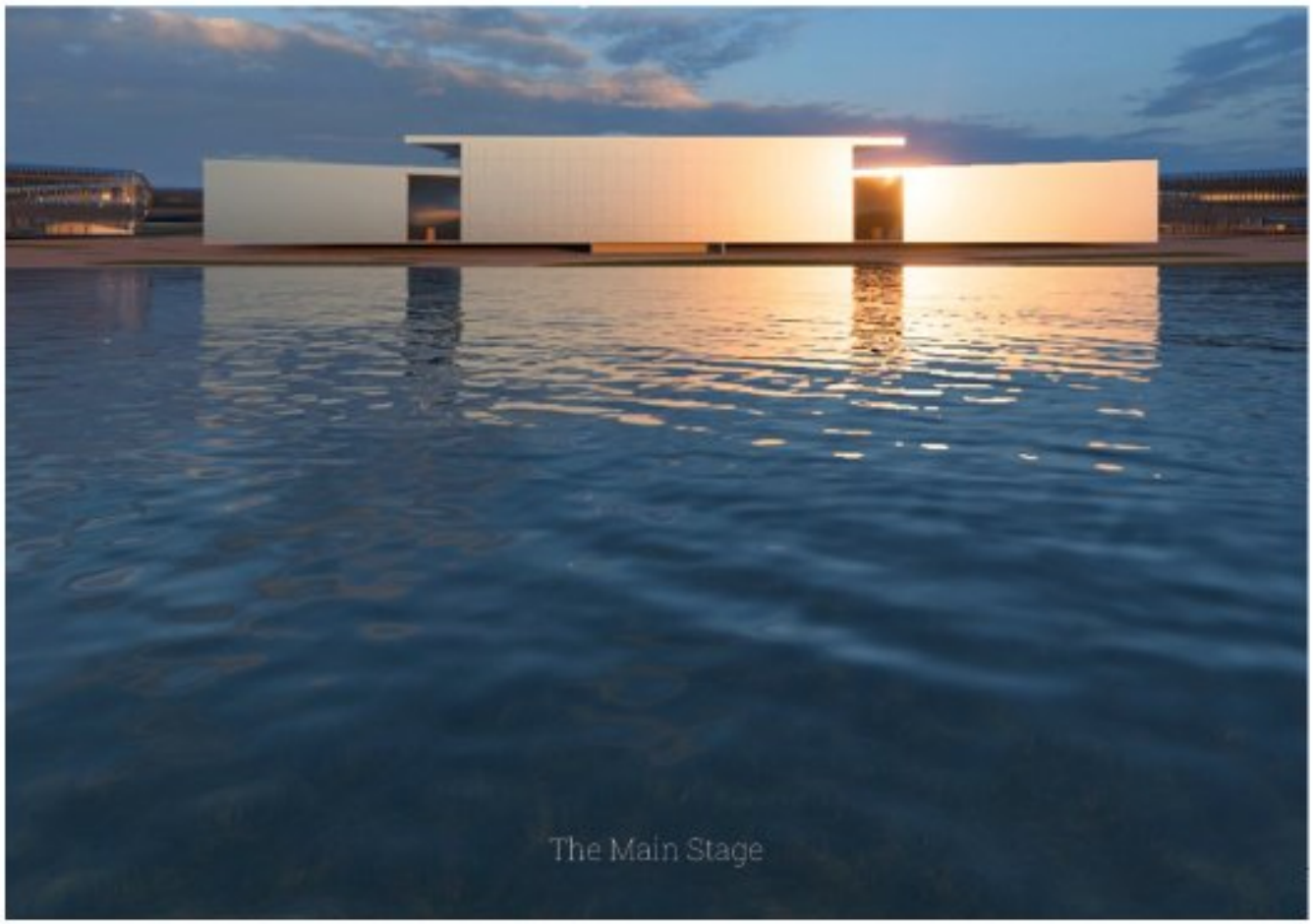


East Elevation

North Elevation

Visuals






The Main Axis


The Pavillion

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CZECH TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE
Faculty of Architecture

International Office
Thákurova 9, 166 34 Prague 6, Czech Republic

Czech Technical University in Prague, Faculty of Architecture

DIPLOMA PROJECT APPLICATION FORM

Name and Surname: Idil Baydak

Date of Birth: 23.10.2001

Academic Year / Semester: S.S. 2025

Department Number / Name: Architecture and Urbanism

Diploma Work / Diploma Project Supervisor: Henri Hendrikus Achten

Diploma Work / Diploma Project Theme – title in English language:

Expo Center near the Istanbul Airport, Istanbul / Turkey

Signature of the Diploma Work / Diploma Project Supervisor:

The Student´s Declaration:
I declare that I have fulfilled all the diploma work / diploma project initiation requirements stipulated by the "Study Plan" and "Study Rules" at the Faculty of Architecture, CTU in Prague.

In Prague on 20.03.2025 Signature of the Student

CZECH TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE
Faculty of Architecture

International Office
Thákurova 9, 166 34 Prague 6, Czech Republic

CTU
CZECH TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE

Czech Technical University in Prague, Faculty of Architecture

ASSIGNMENT of the Diploma project

Master degree

Idil Baydak

Date of Birth: 09.10.2001

Academic Year / Semester: SS 2025

Department Number / Name: Architecture and Urbanism

Diploma Project Tutor: Henri Hubertus Achten

Diploma Project Theme:

See the Application Form for DP

EXPO center near the Istanbul Airport, Istanbul/Turkey

Assignment of the Diploma Project:

1/description of the project assignment and the expected solution objective

2/description of the final result, outputs and elaboration scales

3/list of further agreed-upon parts of the project (model)

To this list further attachments can be added according if necessary.

Design of new Expo Centre; detailed program in diploma seminar.
Plans, sections, facades (scale 1:500 – 1:2000)
Urban master plan of the area (1:2000)
Scale model (1:1000 – 1:2000)

Date and Signature of the Student: 20.02.2025

Date and Signature of the Diploma Project Tutor: 20.2.2025

Date and Signature of the Dean of FA CTU:

CZECH TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE
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Thákurova 9, 166 34 Prague 6, Czech Republic

CZECH TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE

AUTOR, DIPLOMANT: Bc. Idil Boyalak
AUTHOR OF THE DIPLOMA WORK / DIPLOMA PROJECT
Academic Year 2024/25, LS Semester

TITLE OF THE DIPLOMA WORK / DIPLOMA PROJECT (IN CZECH LANGUAGE): Výstaviště pobliž Istanbulského letiště

TITLE OF THE DIPLOMA WORK / DIPLOMA PROJECT (IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE): Expo center near the Istanbul Airport

LANGUAGE OF THE DIPLOMA WORK / DIPLOMA PROJECT: English

Diploma Work / Diploma Project Supervisor	Ústav: Department 15116 prof. Dr. Henri Hubertus Achten
Diploma Work / Diploma Project Opponent	Pavel Špringl
Key Words (Czech)	Expo, Istanbul, public
Annotation (Czech)	Cílem tohoto projektu je navrhnout nové istanbulské EXPO centrum v podobném smyslu jako to předchozí, které se rovněž nachází v blízkosti letiště. Projekt analyzuje současnou lokalitu a navrhuje všechny pro i nemoty výstavních hal a hlavní budovy.
Annotation (English)	The scope of this project is to design Istanbul's new EXPO center in a similar sense to the previous one which was also located near an airport as well. The project analyses the chosen site plan as well as the designs of expo halls and a main building.

The Author's Declaration
I declare that I have elaborated the submitted diploma work / diploma project independently and that I have stated all the used information sources in coherence with the "Methodological Instruction for Ethical Preparation of University Final Works".
(The complete text of the methodological instruction is available for download on http://www.fa.cvut.cz/En)

In Prague on 25.05.2025 ..... Signature of the Diploma Project Author

This document is an essential and obligatory part of the diploma project / portfolio / CD.

Special Mentions...

Firstly, I would like to thank my professors Prof.Dr Henri Hubertus Achten and Ing. arch. Jiří Pavlíček for guiding throughout the diploma process and enriching me with their experiences and perspectives on every step.

Same amount of regards go to my Professor Radmila Fingerova and Ing. Jan Valentin from the transport faculty for assisting me in the different aspects regarding my project.

Lastly I would like to thank my dearest family and many special mentions that have supported me throughout this project. Thank you and and I devote this project to all of you...

Kateryna Natalchuk
Ronit Doshi
Aslı Uzunoğlu
Arita Kingji
Priyansh Sharma
Nadja Mladenovic
Pavel Jaroscak
Murat Işık


EXPO
ISTANBUL