

SENSORY TRAILS . NORMAFA . BUDAPEST¹

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The project focuses on the development of new approaches to the natural and cultural landscape of Normafa, a protected forest located in the XIIth District of Budapest which functions also as a public park for the residents of Hungary's capital. The concept proposes a series of sensory trails and site-specific interventions that create new dialogues to perceive the landscape through senses and perceptions. This solution can be considered as an instrument that utilizes senses as a method of approximation to the site by increasing the perceptions to the landscape through the connection of nature with multi-sensory experiences: scents, textures, sounds, tastes and scenes (Figure 1).

THE THREE MAIN PHASES

The project begins by introducing Normafa and its territory, analyzing the site and its natural and cultural background.

The second part, titled Sensory approach, introduces a theoretical framework dealing with the relationship between senses, place and landscape. This phase also identifies the natural and cultural elements of Normafa through sensory experiences: tactile experiences, soundscapes, sense of smell, aromatic landscapes and visual landscapes like seasonality, atmospheres, colors, scenic views and details.

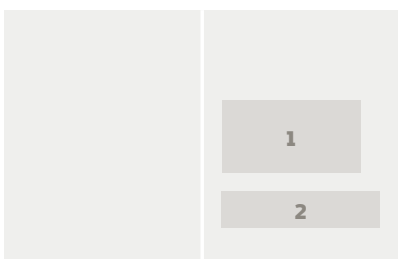
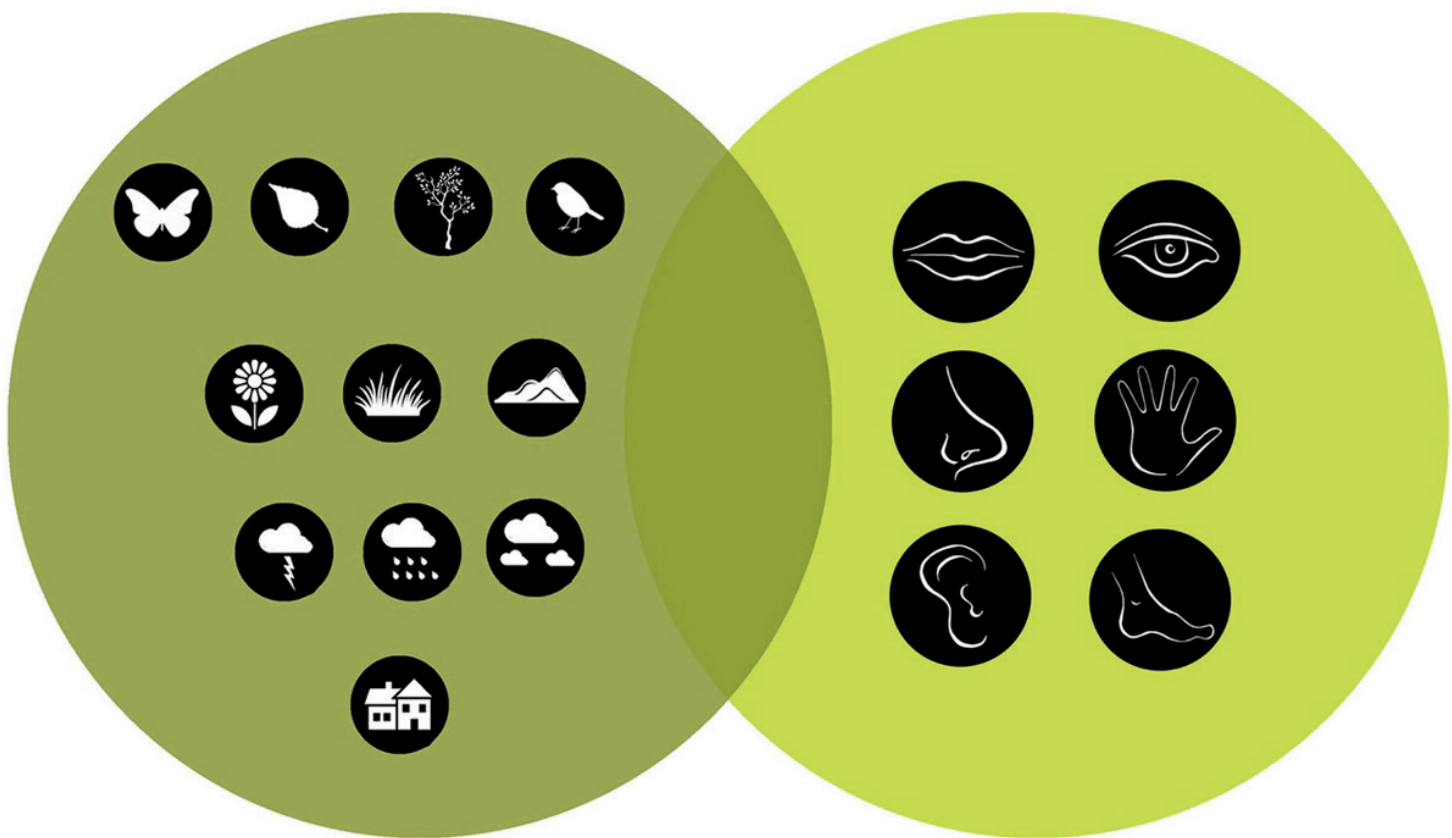
Finally, the third part is dedicated to the development of a landscape

project that goes from large-scale design with the master plan of series of sensory-trails that connect with the landscape of Normafa, to small-scale design or object level, with the projection of specific sensory devices, designed as interpretative links to communicate unique experiences of the site for each user (Figure 2).

CONCEPTUAL STRATEGY

The conductive thread is designed as a linking element that travels across the different landscapes of Normafa, drawing a new reading of the site (Figure 3). The multi-purpose sensory devices, designed as the key approaching elements that emerge from the conductive thread, emphasize specific perceptual points along the route and create new dialogues between the visitor and the surrounding landscape (Figure 4). The design of the network system, links the different landscape characters of Normafa and integrates its existing path network. The linking gates are conceived as landmarks that connect the five sensory trails and provide information about the trails which are designed according to the criteria of human movement, making the walk feasible for visitors, running nearly in the same elevation level.

¹ Master diploma theses, Faculty of Landscape Architecture and Urbanism, Budapest, Master of Landscape Design and Garden Art MLA, 2016.

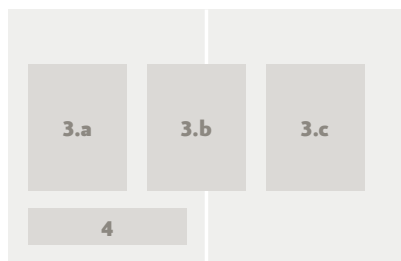
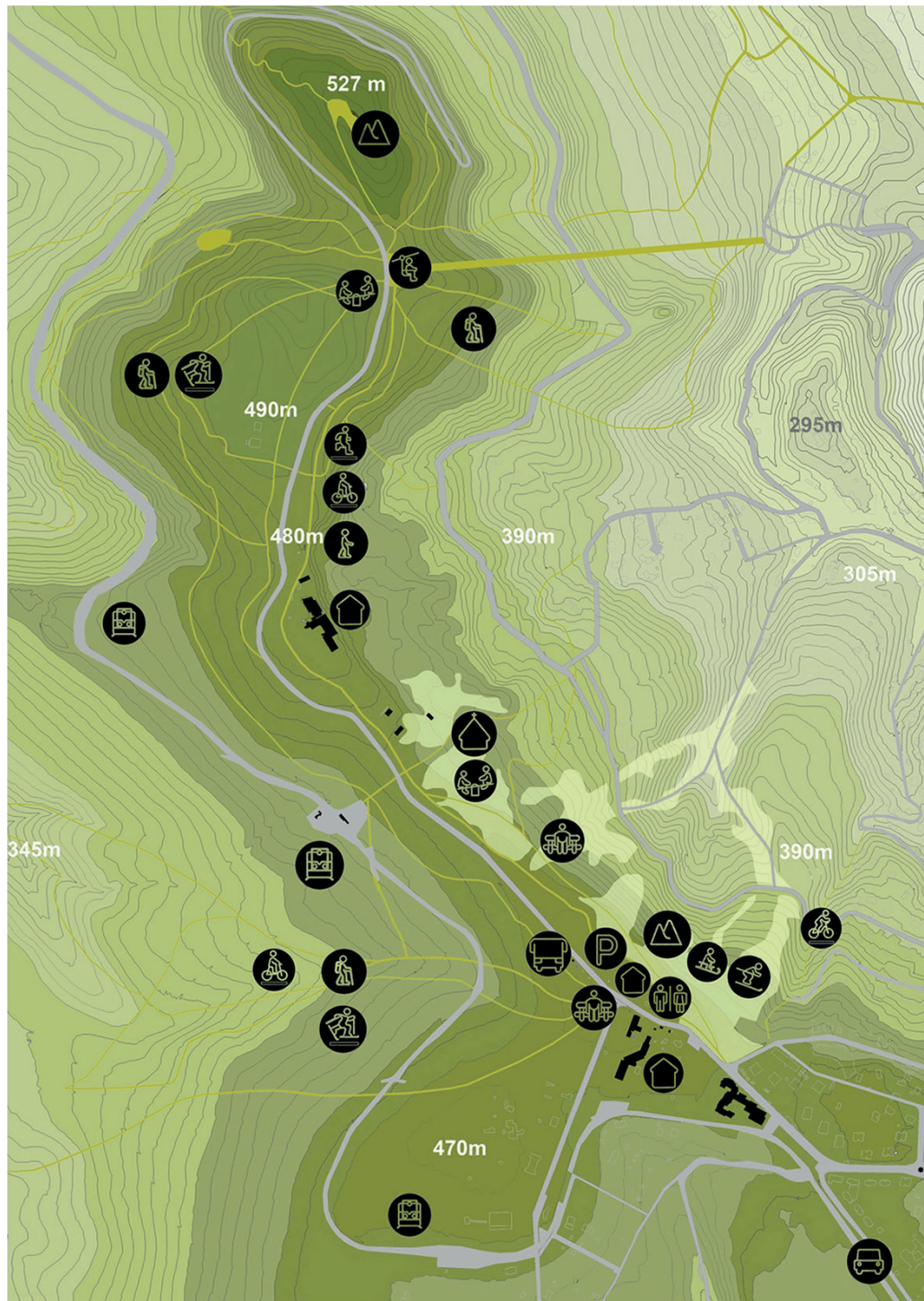
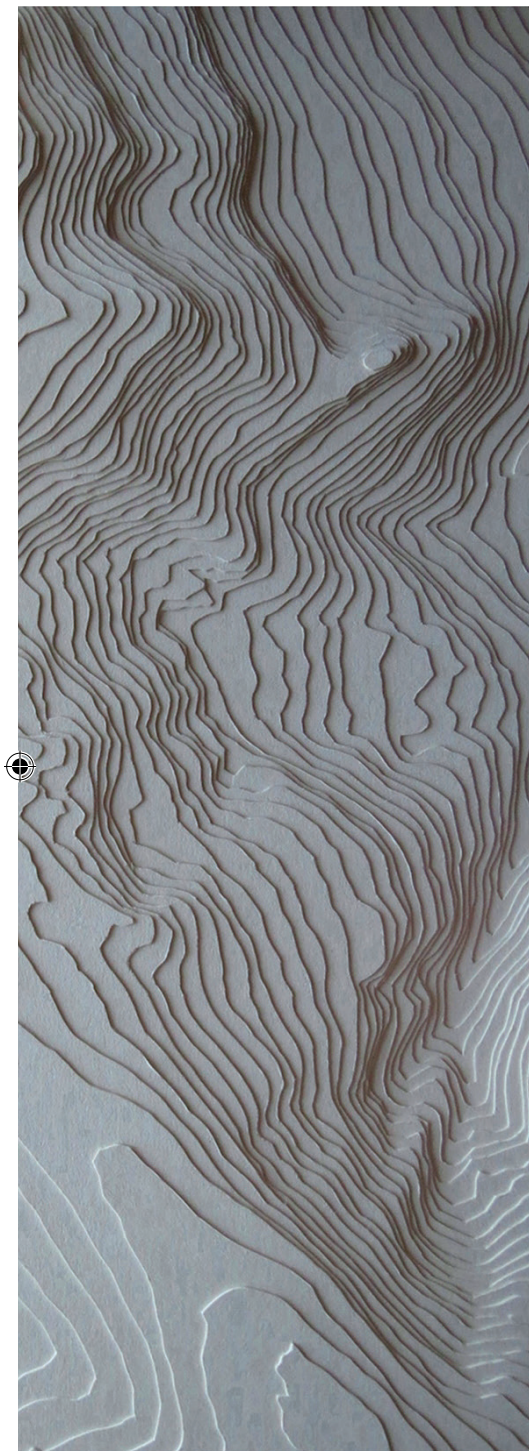


1. Figure: The highlighted natural and cultural elements perceived by the senses
(FIGURE IS DESIGNED BY THE AUTHOR)

2. Figure: Sensory devices emphasize

perceptual points along the conductive thread of the trail system
(FIGURE IS DESIGNED BY THE AUTHOR)





3. Figure: The five trails linking the functions and the natural potentials of the site
(FIGURE IS DESIGNED BY THE AUTHOR)

4. Figure: The sensory elements serve as an interpretive link to the natural and cultural elements of the landscape
(FIGURE IS DESIGNED BY THE AUTHOR)