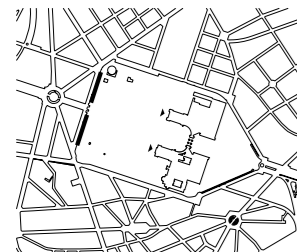


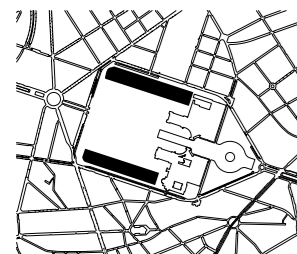
direct intervention



the park as it is now has a permeability problem - and insofar as people go there for the park itself, the bank is almost completely closed off, with unique and specific entry points that can be hard to find spontaneously. we propose a complete opening of the park to the public by removing the totality of the physical barriers surrounding it today, and the complete removal of cars from the surrounding streets - with only pedestrians, light mobility and public transports allowed.

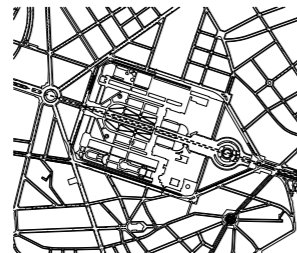


architecturally, the only intervention is the creation of two large spaces: the covered - but open, spaces will serve as a modern congregation space with a variety of uses: sports, markets, concerts, and anything else it can accommodate. spatially it will open the park to the city on its most important side - west, facing the city center and currently underused. it will house a coffee and restaurant, public toilets, and an information point. the museum entrances are redefined to better integrate them in the park.

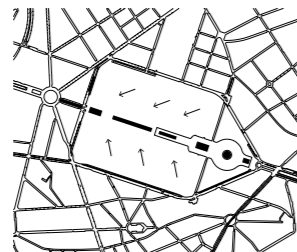


the north and southern banks of the park will remain occupied as they are today. functionally, they are the only occupied spaces today. their situation - on the edge of the park and close to their respective neighborhoods, puts them exactly where they should be to open the park to the inhabitants. with the removal of all the physical barriers and the transformation of the surrounding streets, they will serve their given purpose of attracting people to the park.

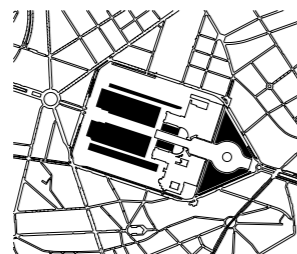
global reflection



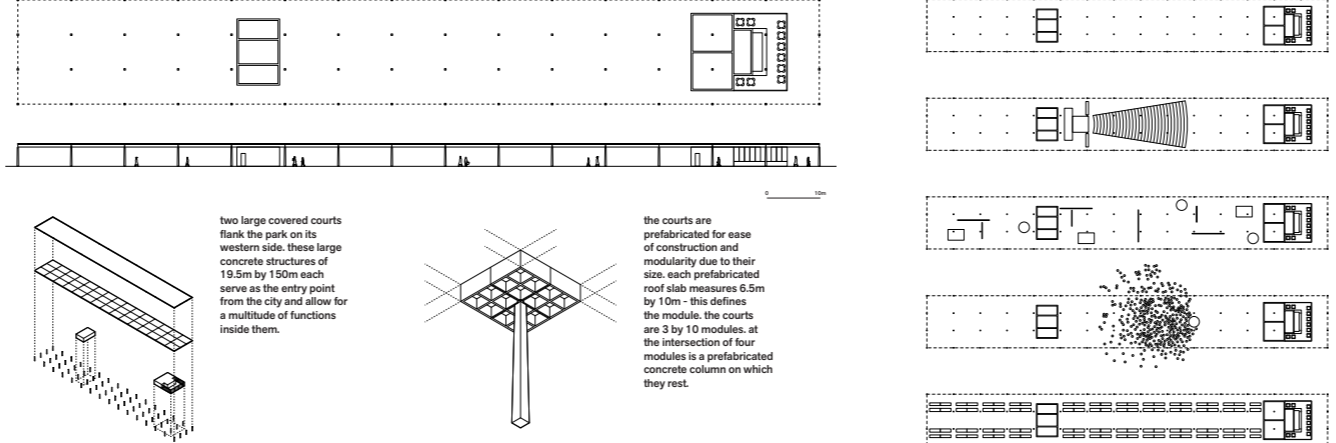
due to its position, the underground tunnel is bound to be rendered obsolete in the near future. the main arrival from the east completely bypasses it, and the park being inside the big belt of the city - where car usage will be further reduced in the future either through political or by economic necessity, its purpose can be questioned in the near future. we project the re-purposing of the tunnel into a storm water retention basin. the park being in a plateau, it will alleviate the bottom of the maelbeek valley from potential flooding in the event of extremely strong precipitations.



the structural axis of the park is kept - as it dictates everything, the tunnel now channeling rain waters, we propose a series of ponds that will act as retention basins and control the flow of water towards the bottom of the valley. the topography of the park itself will serve as a depression where water will naturally flow towards the middle of the park. in the event of extremely strong storms, the ponds will overflow and parts of the park will become a natural swamp - redefining the role of the park in the inevitable near future.



while the structure of the park will remain the same, and will keep its formal aesthetic - we propose to re-purpose the vast surface towards a completely natural park, by replanting native species, letting the plants grow to their natural condition, and removing all of the existing grass and replacing it with tall growing grass, the park will become a true oasis where people can take shelter during extreme heat waves and dry periods. not only will the park regain a semblance of biodiversity, it will act as a true congregation space in the turn of a climate change.



due to their large size and openness, the courts function as a congregation space for many different uses. in the following diagrams a series of possibilities is shown, such as a layout for a concert, an outside art exhibition, a congregation or a market. the two courts can either function as symmetrical and therefore double the capacity of each function, or each might operate independently.

the only permanent functions of each court are public bathrooms on both, a coffee on one side and a general information stand on the other - which can work with the park museums to offer tickets and information for potential visitors at the entrance of the park.



1. **plaza**
the main plazas mark the entrance to the park - both west and east. the stay for the most part minimal, but with draining pavement to allow for the overflow of water to seep to the periphery. they are shaped so as to create a temporary retaining basin during extreme rainfalls.

2. **footpaths**
most footpaths are kept in their original position - but are made narrower. most of the paths today are more than ten meters wide, this is reduced to allow even more space to the wild gardens now growing in the park.

3. **periphery**
the main plazas mark the entrance to the park - both west and east. the stay for the most part minimal, but with draining pavement to allow for the overflow of water to seep to the periphery. they are shaped so as to create a temporary retaining basin during extreme rainfalls.

4. **schuman**
the west entrance is transformed to become the 'place des échanges' - one of the two main entry points to the park. mineral and vegetal come together to crystallize the proposal's intentions. the water flows outwards from the park and brings together the park, the city, and itself.



botanical list of belgian native species edible - medicinal - pollinator

perennial station for dry environment
flowered meadow and sustainably managed
height between 20cm and 150cm

apocynum cannabinum
arctium lappa
caltha officinalis
dianthus barbatus
hypericum perforatum
leucanthemum vulgare
malva sylvestris
pimpinella saxifraga
silybum marianum
taraxacum officinale
valeriana officinalis

perennial station for wet environment
wet garden
height between 150cm and 180cm

agrostis capillaris
arctium lappa
caltha officinalis
dianthus barbatus
hypericum perforatum
leucanthemum vulgare
malva sylvestris
pimpinella saxifraga
silybum marianum
taraxacum officinale
valeriana officinalis

tree and shrub station
dry/semi meadow and public space
height between 150cm and 180cm

acer campestre
corylus avellana
fraxino excelsior
malva sylvestris
salix alba
salix caprea
cornus mas
cotoneaster integerrimus
morus nigra
rubus fruticosus

