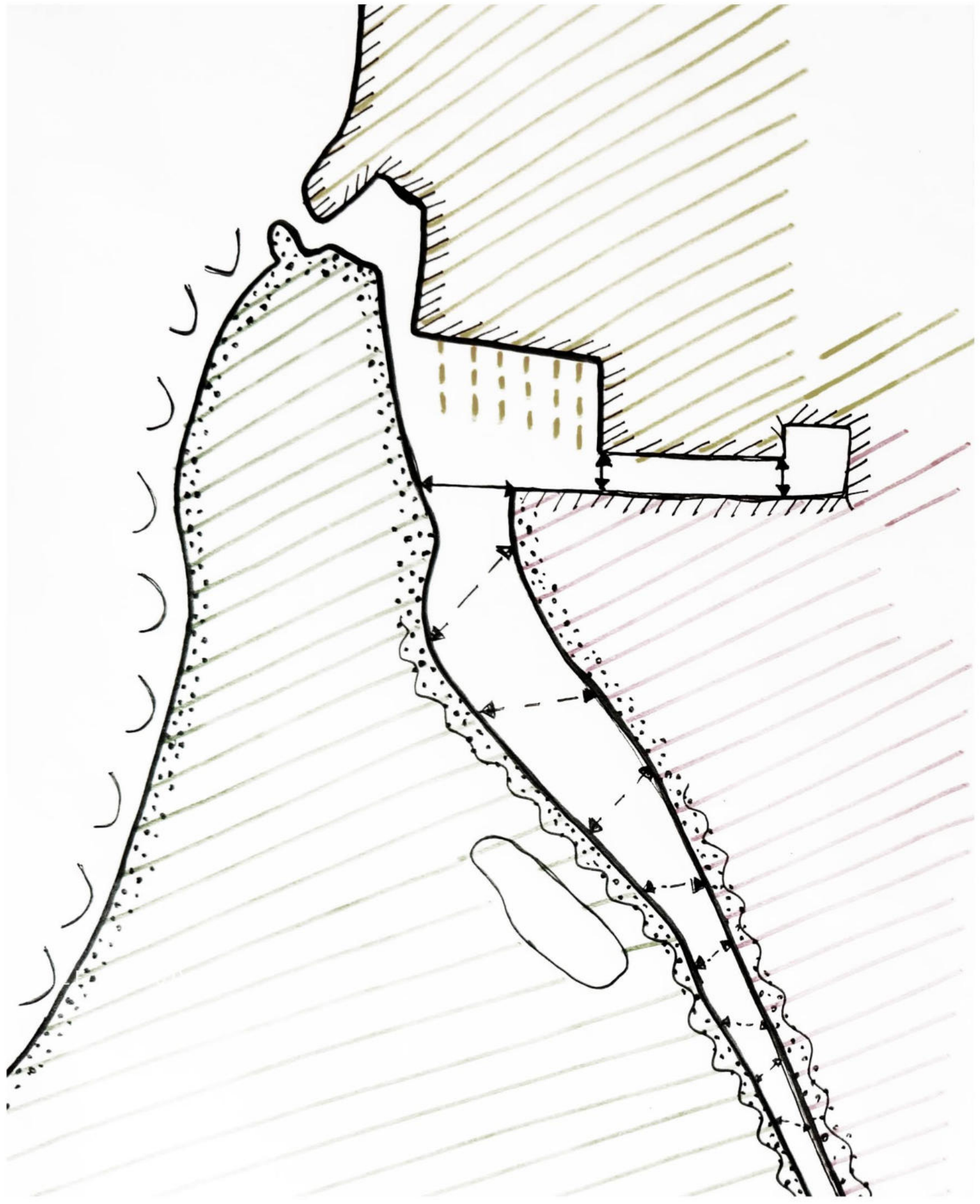
FROM BARRIER TO SEAM: RECONNECTING THE WATERFRONT

ANALYSIS SCALE 1:2000



CONCRETE WATERFRONT EDGE

UNSTRUCTURED GREEN EDGE WITH STONE COASTAL EDGE

UNFRIENDLY SECONDARY EDGE

DISCONNECTED EDGE

CHANNEL ACTING AS A BARRIER BETWEEN THE THREE AREAS

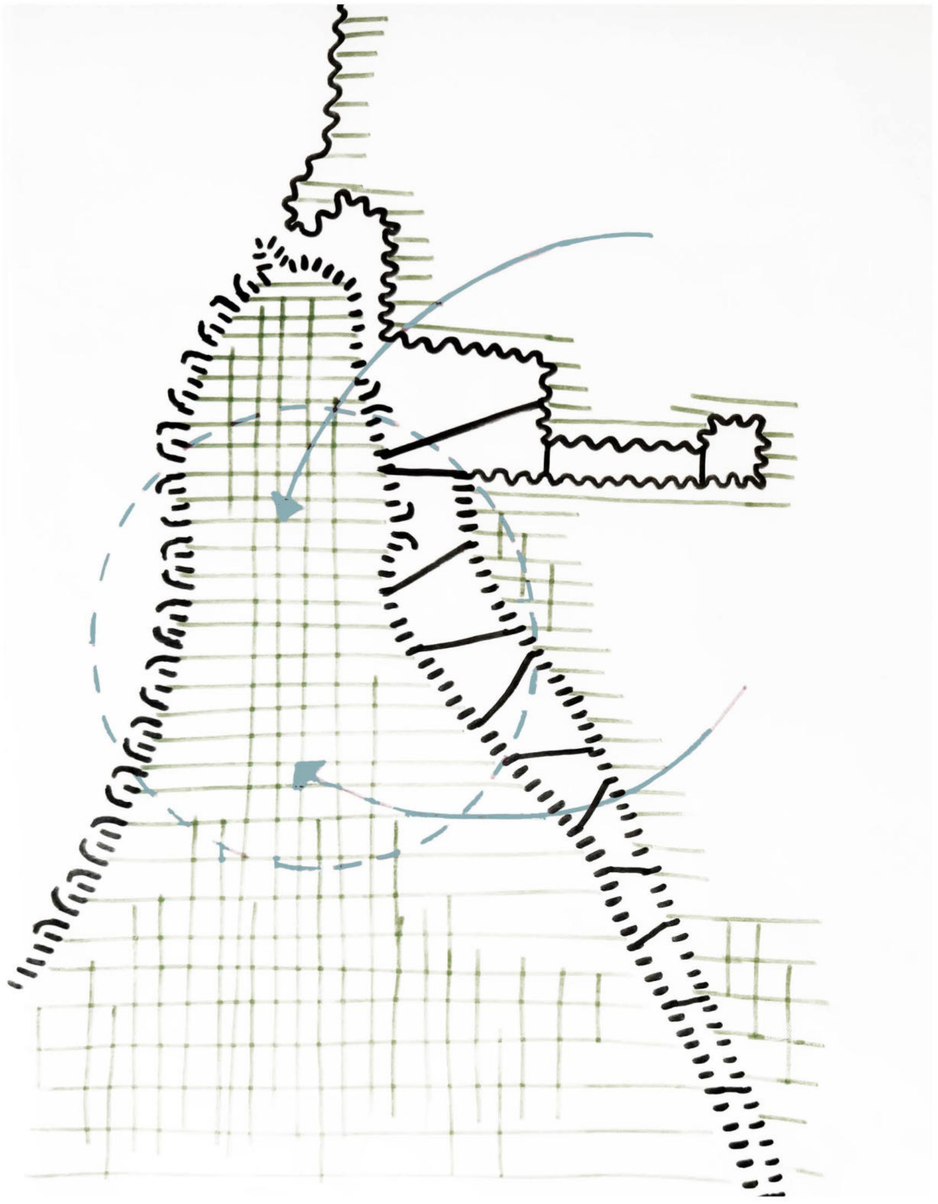
DISCONNECTED EDGE WITH POTENTIAL ACCESS

UNUSED GREEN OPEN SPACE

RESIDENTIAL AREA

SPORT AND LEISURE CENTRE (PARKING)

DETAILED STRATEGY SCALE 1:2000



ECOLOGICAL COASTAL BUFFER WITH FLOOD PROTECTION

WOODEN WATERFRONT PLATFORMS

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES OVER THE CHANNEL

PARTIAL TRANSFORMATION OF HARDENED WATERFRONT EDGES

LOW–HEIGHT, LIGHT–CONSTRUCTED SOCIAL ZONES WITH PARK FUNCTIONS

NATURE–CONNECTED SOCIAL ZONES WITH ECOLOGICAL IMPACT

PRIORITY COASTAL ZONE (INTEGRATION ANCHOR)

LOCATION

The selected project area is located in Malmö, at the meeting point of the sea, a canal and three urban zones with clearly differentiated functions: a residential area, a sport and leisure complex, and an underused green peninsula. Despite their proximity, these zones remain spatially and functionally disconnected. Hard waterfront edges and the canal itself operate as physical and perceptual barriers, fragmenting public space and limiting everyday access to the water.

The site was chosen as a representative example of a contemporary urban coastal threshold, where water and infrastructure divide the city instead of connecting it. The area reveals a clear conflict between the natural value of the waterfront and its current infrastructural and technical character.The strategic objective of the project is to reinterpret this fragmented boundary as a spatial seam — a continuous, inhabitable structure that reconnects the separated zones into one coherent urban landscape system. Rather than introducing new building density, the strategy focuses on spatial continuity, public accessibility and ecological performance.

The main strategic principle is the differentiated transformation of edges: while some waterfront sections are strengthened to protect the city from flooding, others are deliberately softened to enable contact with water, social activity and ecological integration. Through this approach, the former barrier becomes an active connective layer between the sea, the canal and the urban fabric.

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SCALE 1:2000

The project transforms a fragmented coastal edge into a continuous, inhabitable urban seam that reconnects three previously separated urban conditions: the existing housing area, the sports and leisure centre and the natural peninsula.

The intervention is structured as a system of transversal public connections that dissolve the canal edge while elevating and protecting the seafront line. Channel boundaries are softened through descending wooden platforms that gradually bring public space down to the water level, while the coastal edge is secured by an elevated wooden boardwalk forming a protective, walkable threshold between land and sea.

The peninsula is redefined as a low-intensity ecological park and experiential landscape. A grid of light, modular pavilions and viewing towers creates a sequence of public micro-destinations embedded within a system of meadows, high greenery structures, mixed pavilion greens and wetland retention areas. These elements structure movement, views and ecological processes while maintaining the open, natural character of the site.

Water retention ponds and irrigation channels operate as a nature-based infrastructure, supporting biodiversity, microclimate regulation and landscape hydration in accordance with Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) principles.

The project introduces a low-intensity public program composed of light pavilion structures, recreational facilities and ecological landscape infrastructure. No residential program is proposed in order to preserve the natural character of the coastal threshold and maximise ecosystem services.

The former hard port edge is reinterpreted as an ecological green marina, integrating soft surfaces, vegetation and public accessibility into the waterfront structure.

LANDSCAPE STRUCTURE

- Open park meadows
- Mixed pavilion green
- High green structure
- Wetland & retention

WATER STRUCTURE

- Retention ponds
- Water irrigation connections

ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS

- Low-rise modular pavilions with green roofs
- Low-rise viewing towers
- Ecological green marina

MOBILITY & PATHS

- Main pedestrian & wooden connections
- Secondary park paths
- Bicycle route
- Context vehicle & bicycle street
- Viewing platforms
- Hardened pavilion forecourts

EXISTING ELEMENTS

- Existing housing area
- Existing sports & leisure centre

WOODEN EDGES & PLATFORMS

- Elevated coastal wooden boardwalk with protective coastal green underlay
- Channel descending wooden platforms

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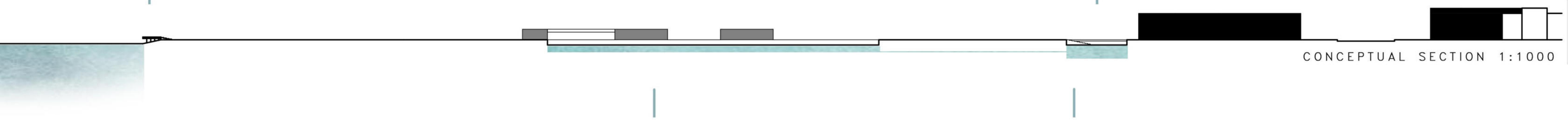
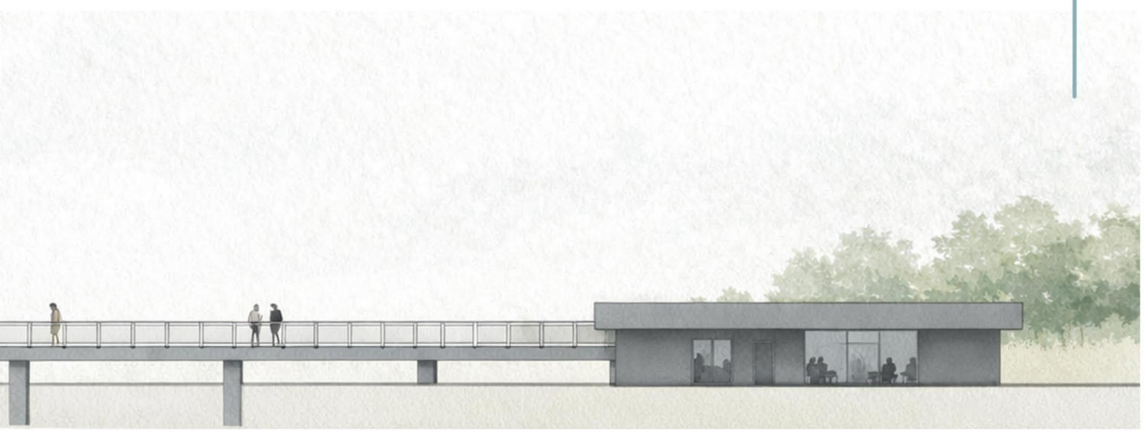
ELEVATED COASTAL THRESHOLD
SECTION 1:200

DISSOLVING THE CHANNEL EDGE
SECTION 1:200



CONCEPTUAL SECTION 1:1000



PAVILION AND VIEWING PLATFORM

RECREATIONAL WATER TERRACES

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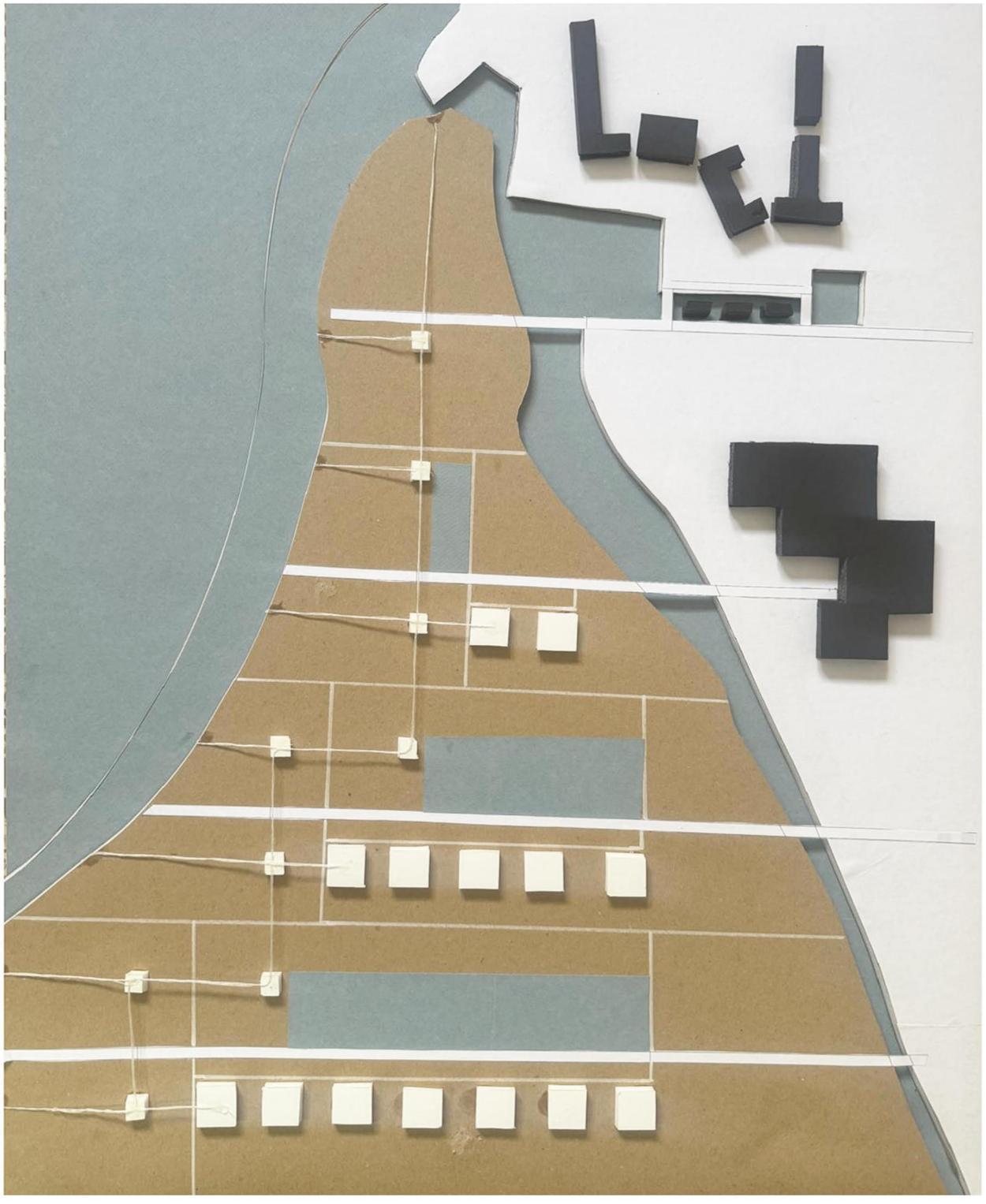

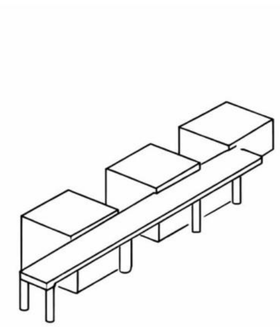

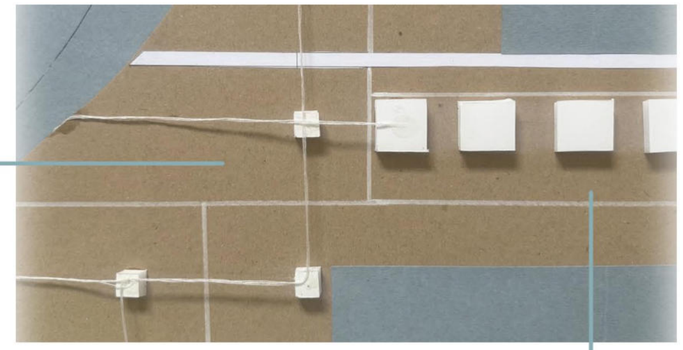

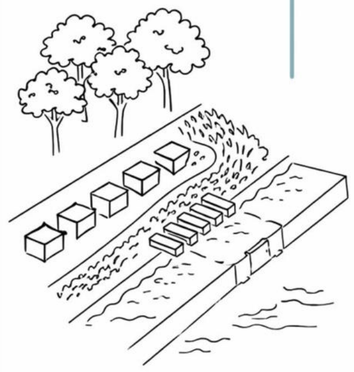

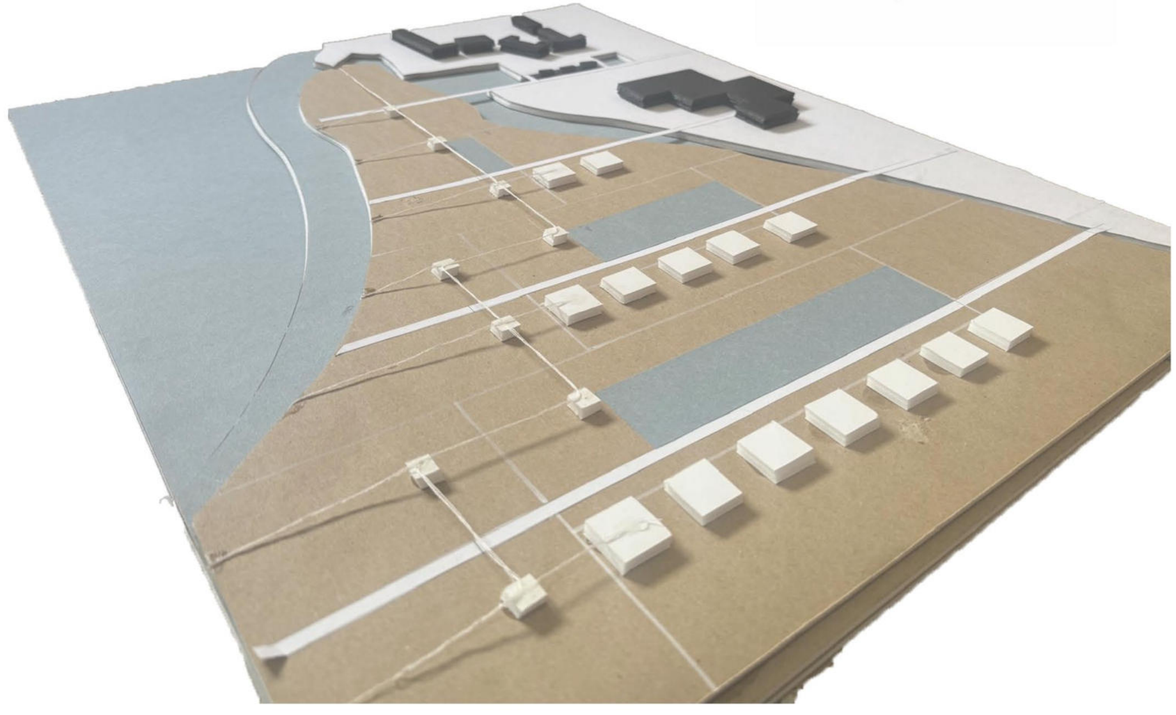

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