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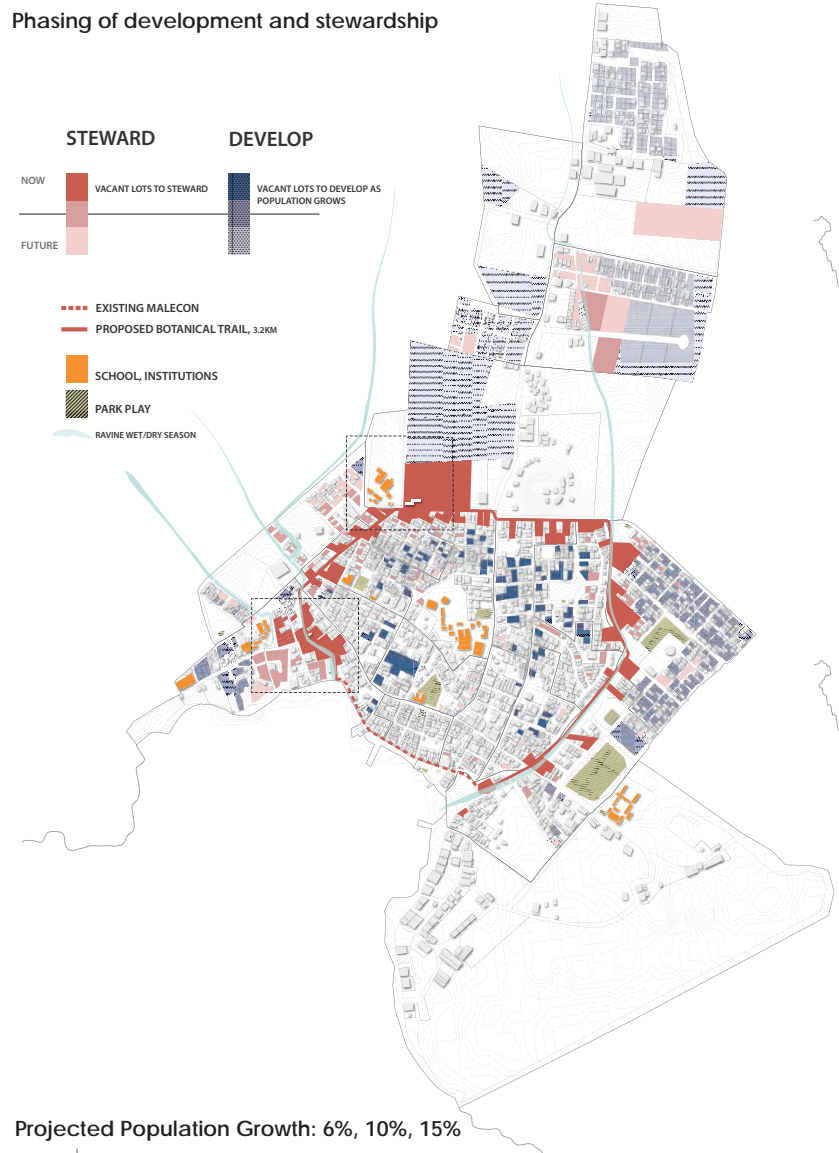
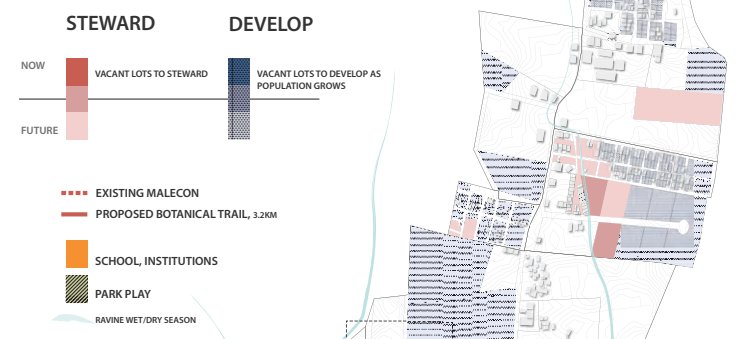
CITY TRAIL

Lucy Whitacre

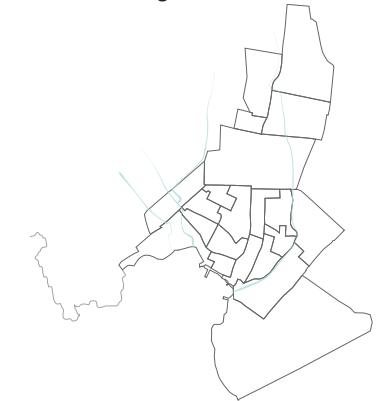
How can a trail protect biodiversity, disperse education, and cultivate stewardship? This project aims to activate and restore underused land in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno to create an urban botanical trail that promotes native plants through nursery nodes, engages the community and schools, and protects the island's biodiversity. The Galápagos Islands' fragile ecosystem is threatened by introduced species as well as development with growing population. Eradication efforts in park areas exist, leaving the inhabited area unprotected. Often residents are blamed for the environmental degradation yet this problem isn't addressed with proper education. Throughout the city there are overgrown vacant lots filled with debris. A city ordinance states that if a site remains abandoned for 10 years, the city can take ownership. It is in the GNP's best interest to cultivate the urban environment. Involvement with schools is central to this project as it provides opportunity for the curriculum to be coordinated with nursery-based community centers, allowing relevant subjects to be taught within the context of local and global environmental issues. It also harnesses existing programs by partnering with groups like the LAVA Kids and Young Park Ranger's Club to facilitate stewardship from an early age.

Site Strategy

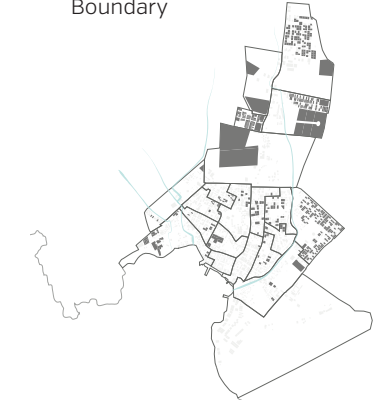
Phasing of development and stewardship



Site Analysis



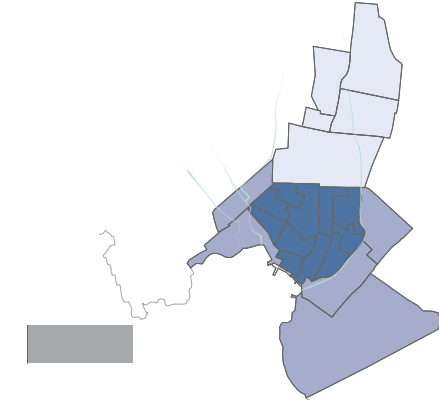
Puerto Baquerizo Moreño: Urban Boundary



Vacant lots: to develop



Schools and Parks



Future Growth

Botanical Trail Loop



Malecón



Ravines



Ravine: Adjacencies



Connection: Ave. Jaime Roldos



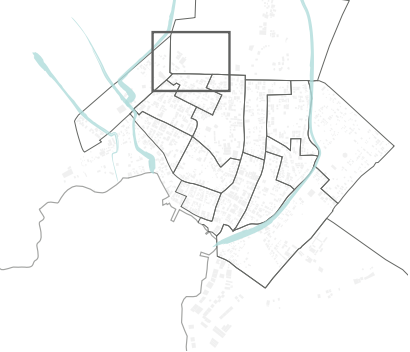
Future Development



Projected Population Growth: 6%, 10%, 15%



Colegio Ignacio Hernandez Lava Field Park, Nursery



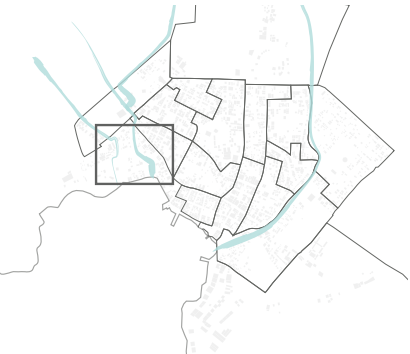
- high school
- vacant lots
- GNP park boundary

Plan
 Colegio Ignacio Hernandez Lava Field Park sits on the edge of the current urban fabric. The adjacent high school students can become stewards of this nursery and park space. This plan activates a large vacant lot previously filled with debris to create a park that offers shade and gathering space, highlighting the ever-present lava rock. Across the street is the hybrid nursery community center classroom. Native and endemic species are grown in the nursery from cuttings and propagation and then distributed along the botanical trail loop, growing the native network.



View From Lava Park into the nursery classroom

Barrio Bajo Nursery Park



Plan
 Barrio Bajo Nursery Park is along one of the town's ravines and adjacent to the ocean and Malecón. This nursery community space similarly grows native species for community members, encouraging engagement and education. A terraced grading system of cuts and low walls opens up the narrow, channelized ravine. The neighboring elementary school will be able to coordinate their curriculum with this amenity. These nodes along the botanical trail loop facilitate the spread of native plant species while providing the community with shade and places to gather.



View from the terraced ravine into the community greenhouse

Vacant Lot Typology



Shade Relief



Ravine Stabilization



Cultural: Demonstration, Endemic



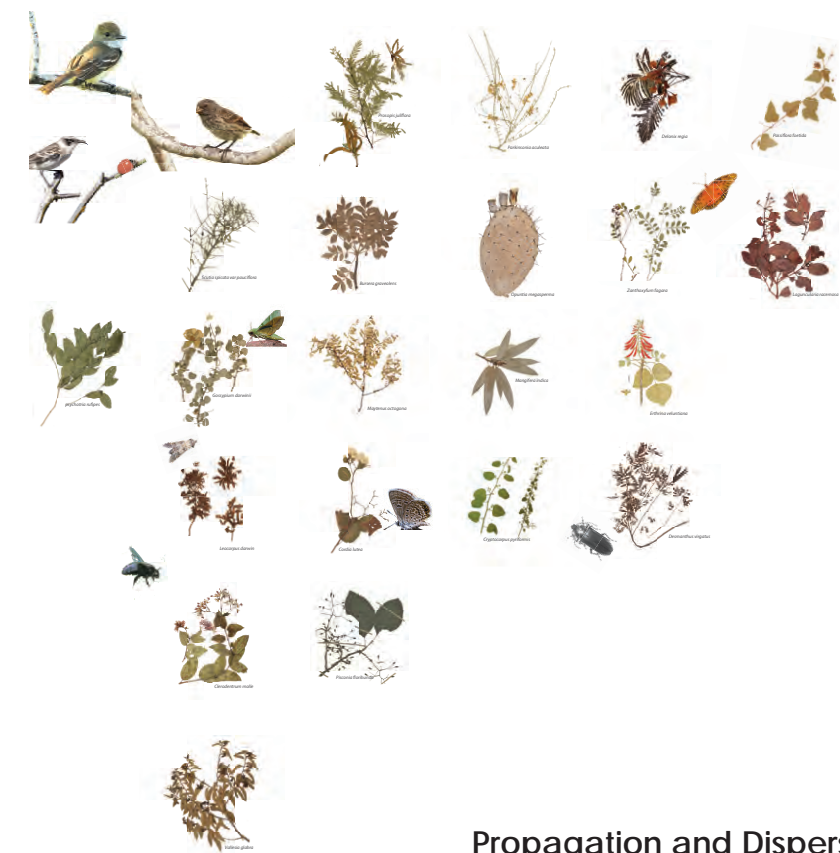
Seasonal Interest, Living Fence

These vacant lot typologies demonstrate the potential for the native plant network in town to grow to other vacant lots along the botanical trail loop and beyond. They range in programming, quality, and planting depending on their area and context. This network of natives within the urban setting grows with local stewards and strengthened relationships between the city and the park.

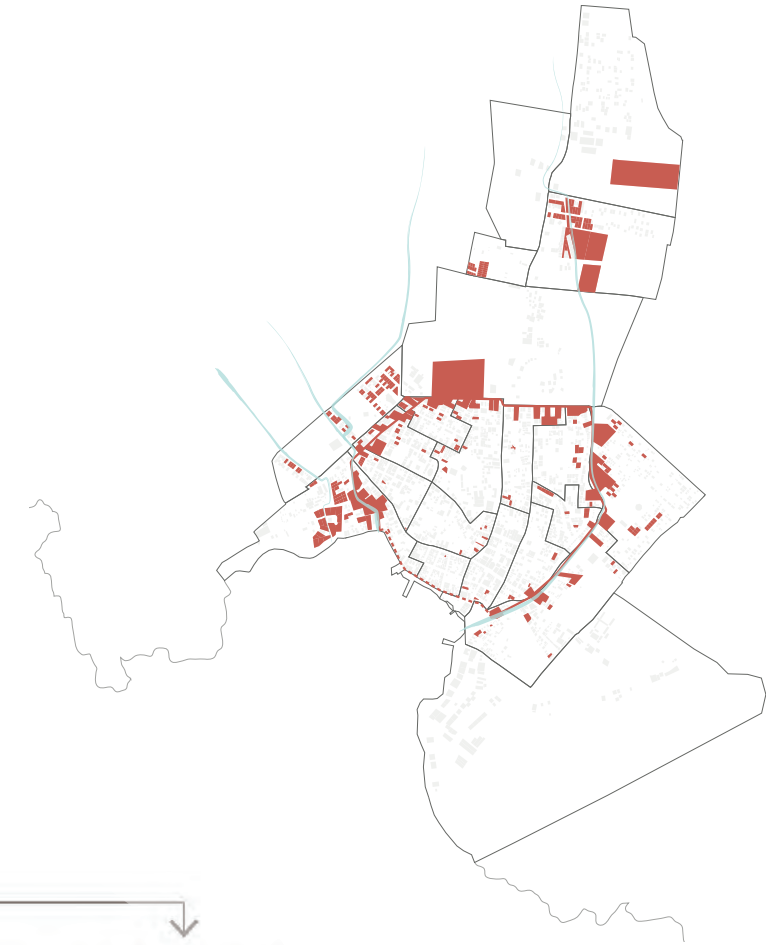


Bird Habitat

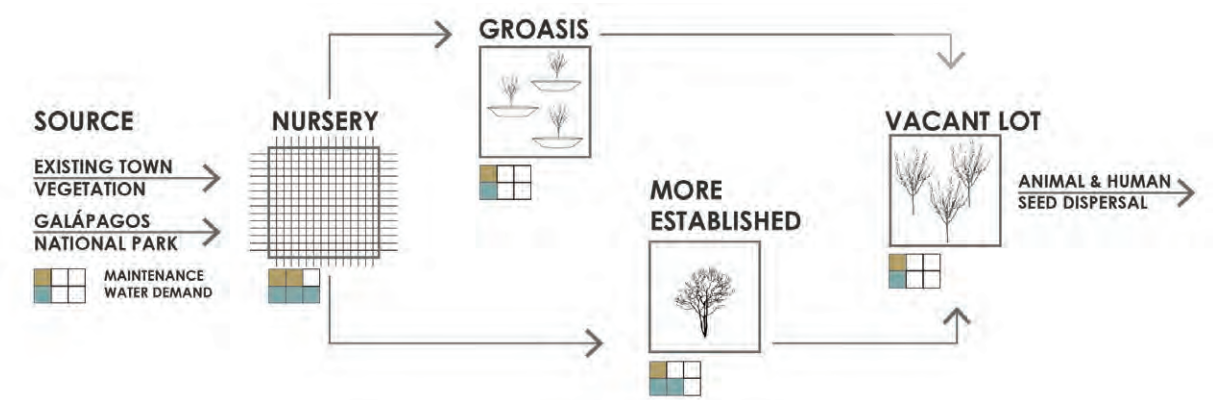
Material Palette



Phasing: Botanical Loop & Growing Native Network



Propagation and Dispersal

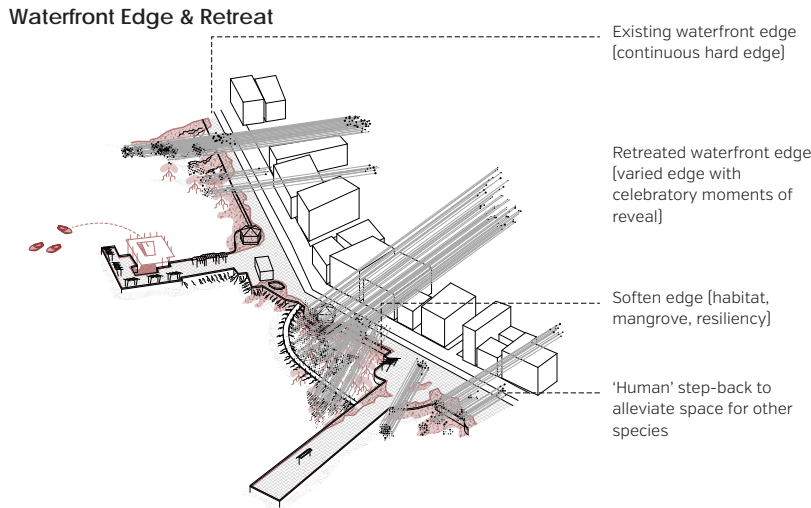
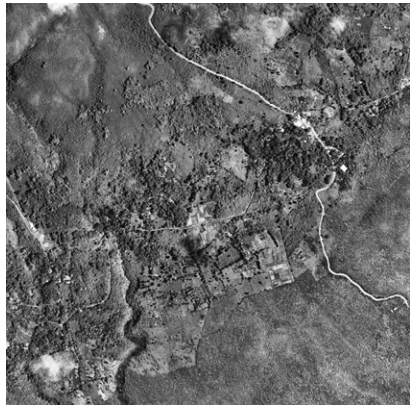


THE TORTOISE'S NECK

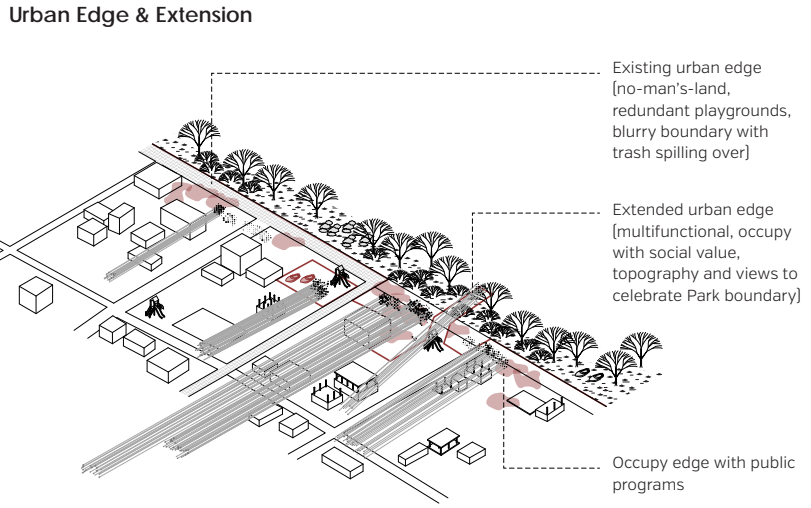
Luke van Tol

The Galápagos Islands are the first designated ecotourism destination, a strategy designed to protect nature by making a strict boundary between human inhabitation and wild conservation areas. Local human populations have little access to the National Park because visitation requires a hired guide. Consequently, the value of the park for residents is often limited to those involved in tourism. As tourism increases, so does the population needed to support it—Puerto Baquerizo Moreno could fully saturate its urban boundary in just twenty years. The ecological and economic values of Galápagos nature are increasingly at odds. Now is the time to contemplate extension or retreat at the town's edges. This project explores the creation of an experiential trail along the edge of the urban-park boundary. It is conceptually inspired by one of the island's most famous inhabitants: the Galápagos tortoise. The neck of this species is theorized to have evolved differently in accordance with the particularities of each island. On 'greener' islands, with an abundance of resources, tortoises have shorter necks whereas, in arid environments, the saddleback carapace structure is thought to be an adaption to increase vertical reach to browse taller vegetation. Examining the edge conditions between human-occupied zones and conservation areas on San Cristóbal Island, this project explores adaptations with different "reaches" into the park—a "New Malecón"—providing vantage points and platforms for residents to view the conservation zones.

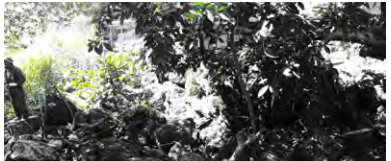
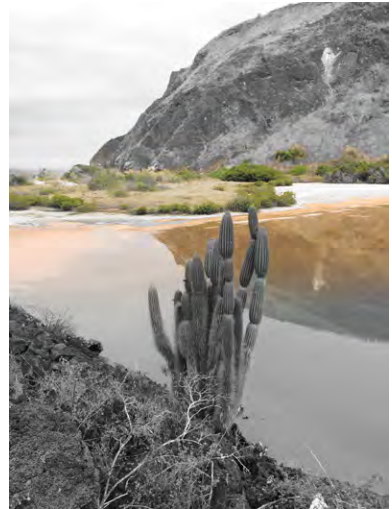
Extending or Retreating Island Life at the Edge



Conceptual Push and Pull



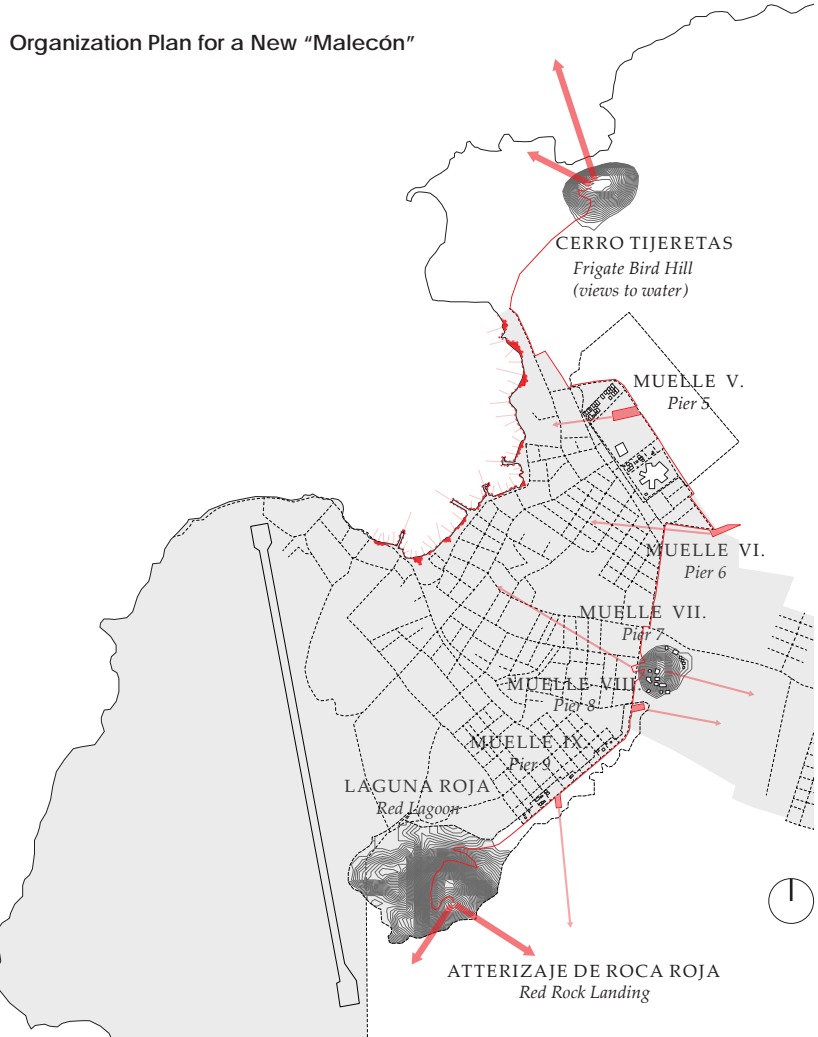
Diversity of Experiences



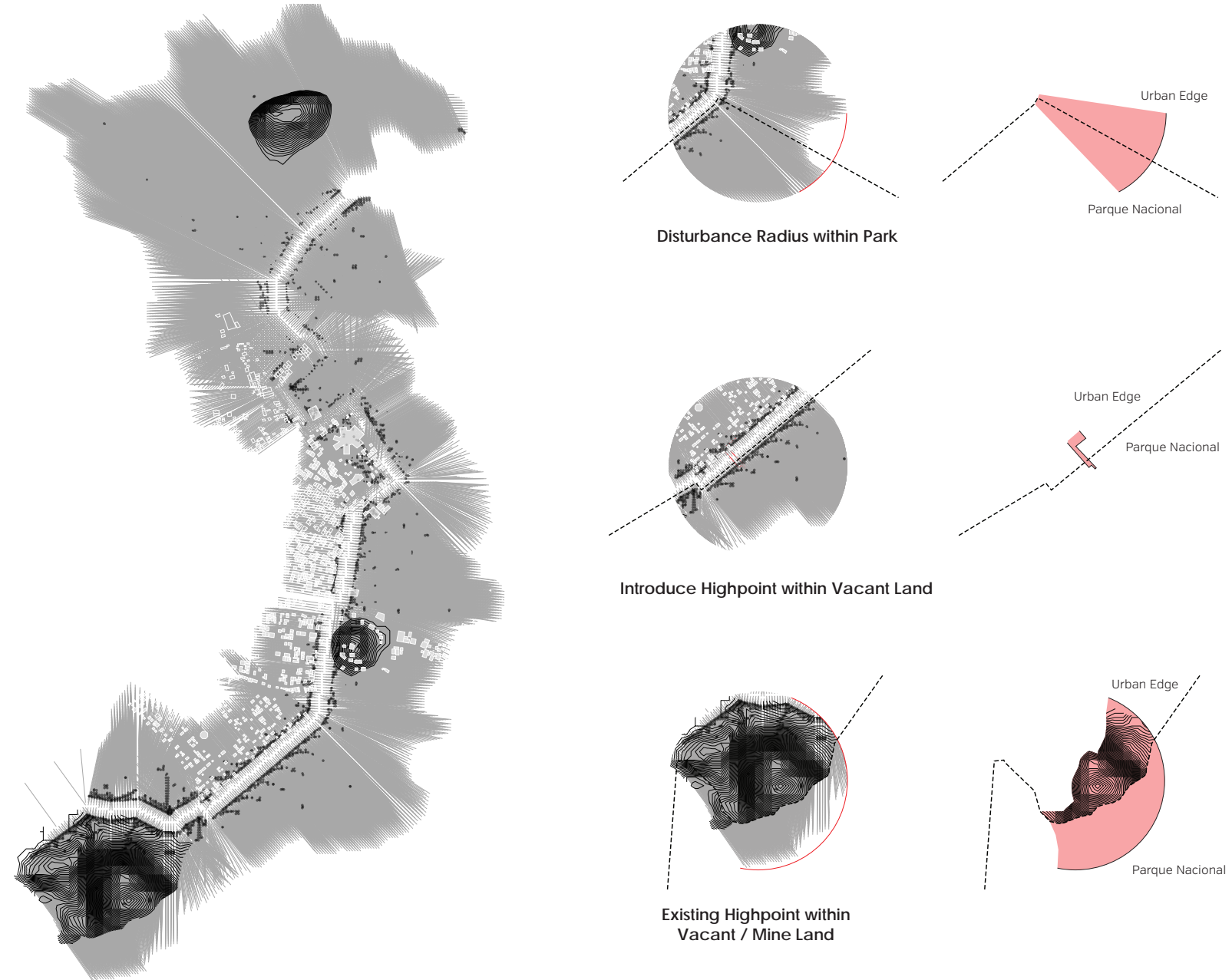
Diverse experiences at Cerro Brujo

Potential diverse experience at urban edge

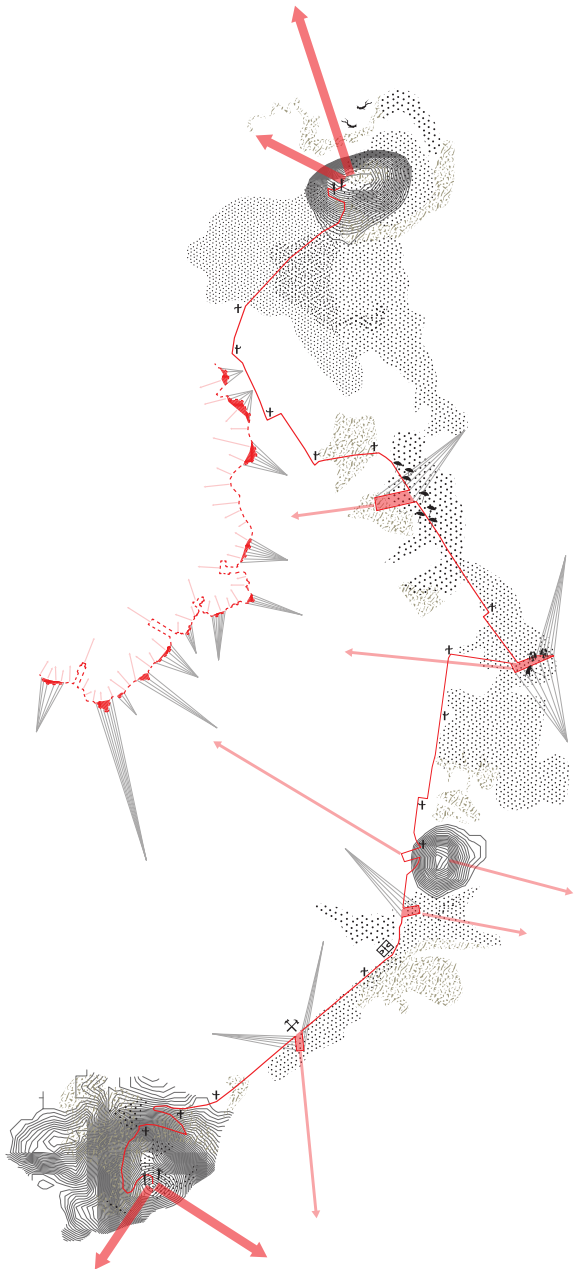
Organization Plan for a New "Malecón"



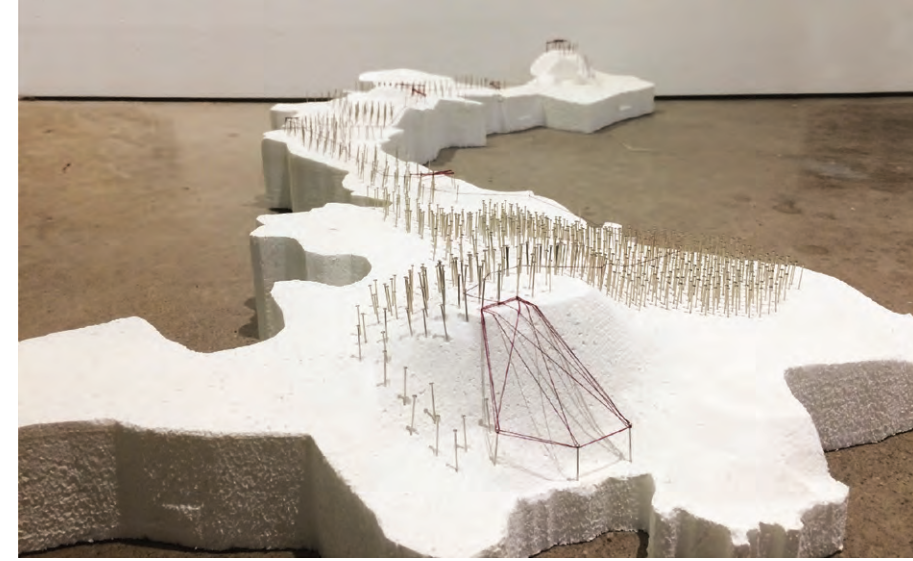
Identifying Intervention Locations



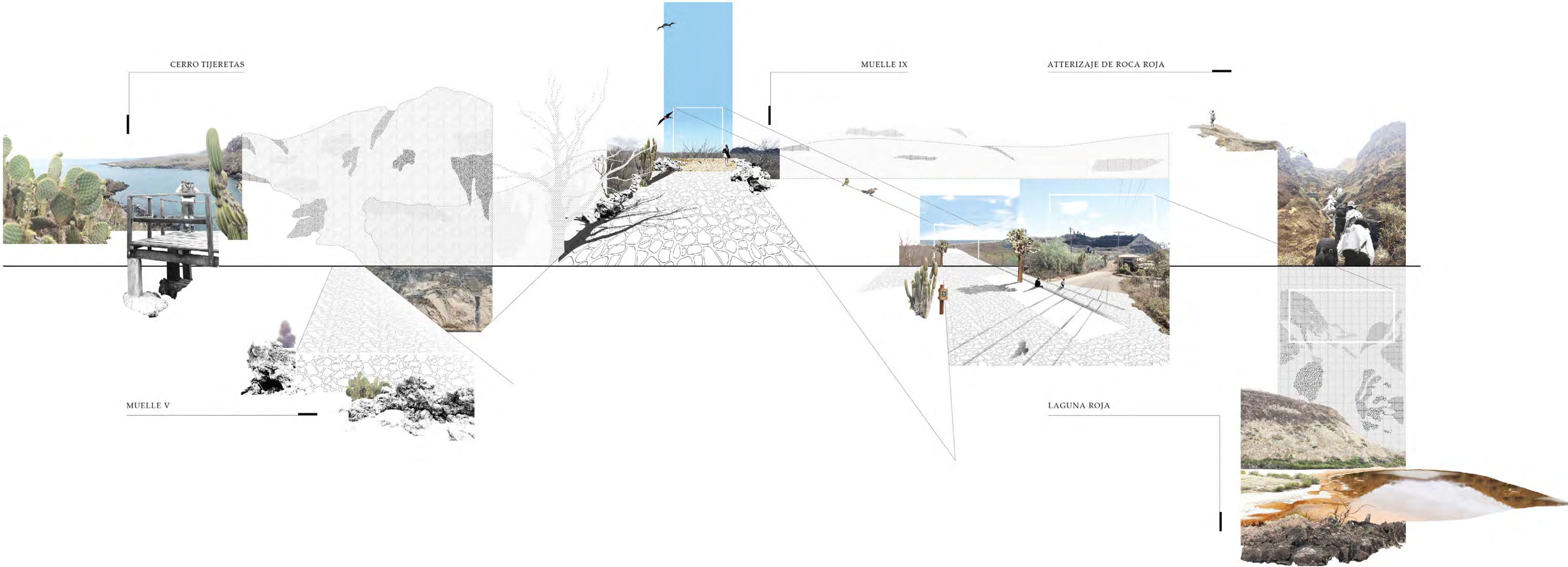
Identifying Intervention Locations



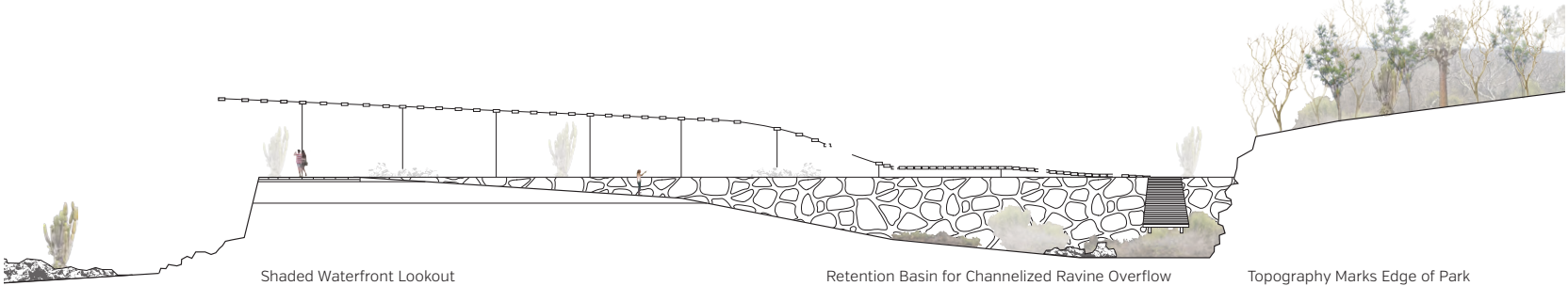
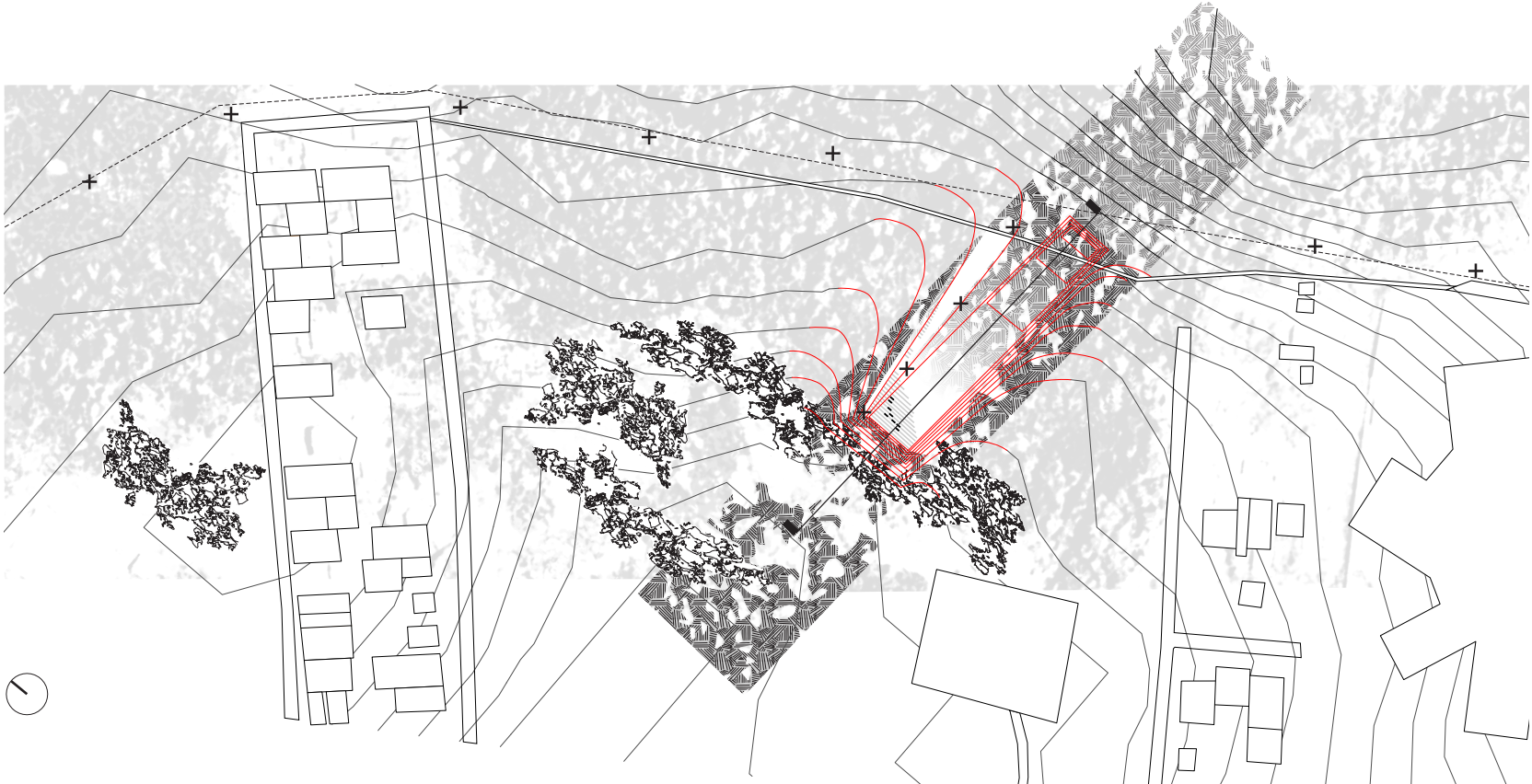
Indicator Cacti Species as Celebratory Markers



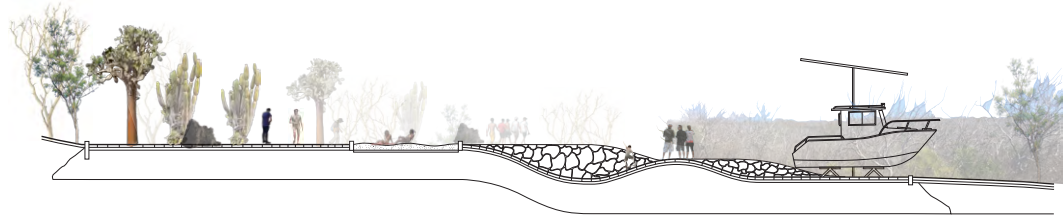
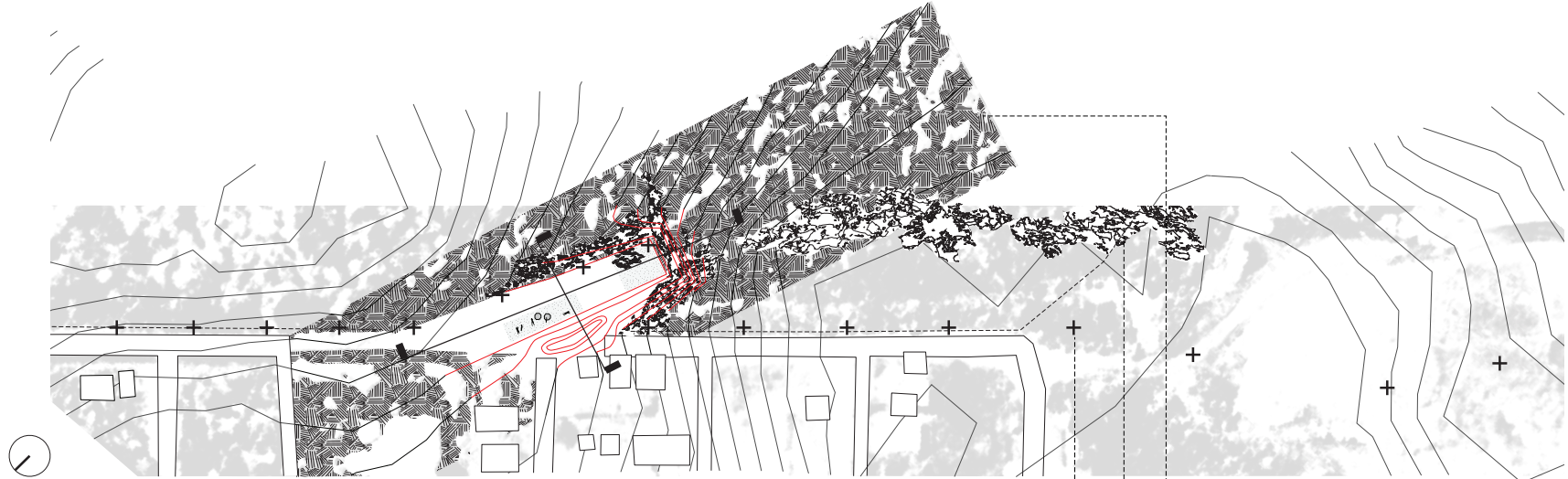
Views Along the Trail



Muelle V : Pulling to the Water



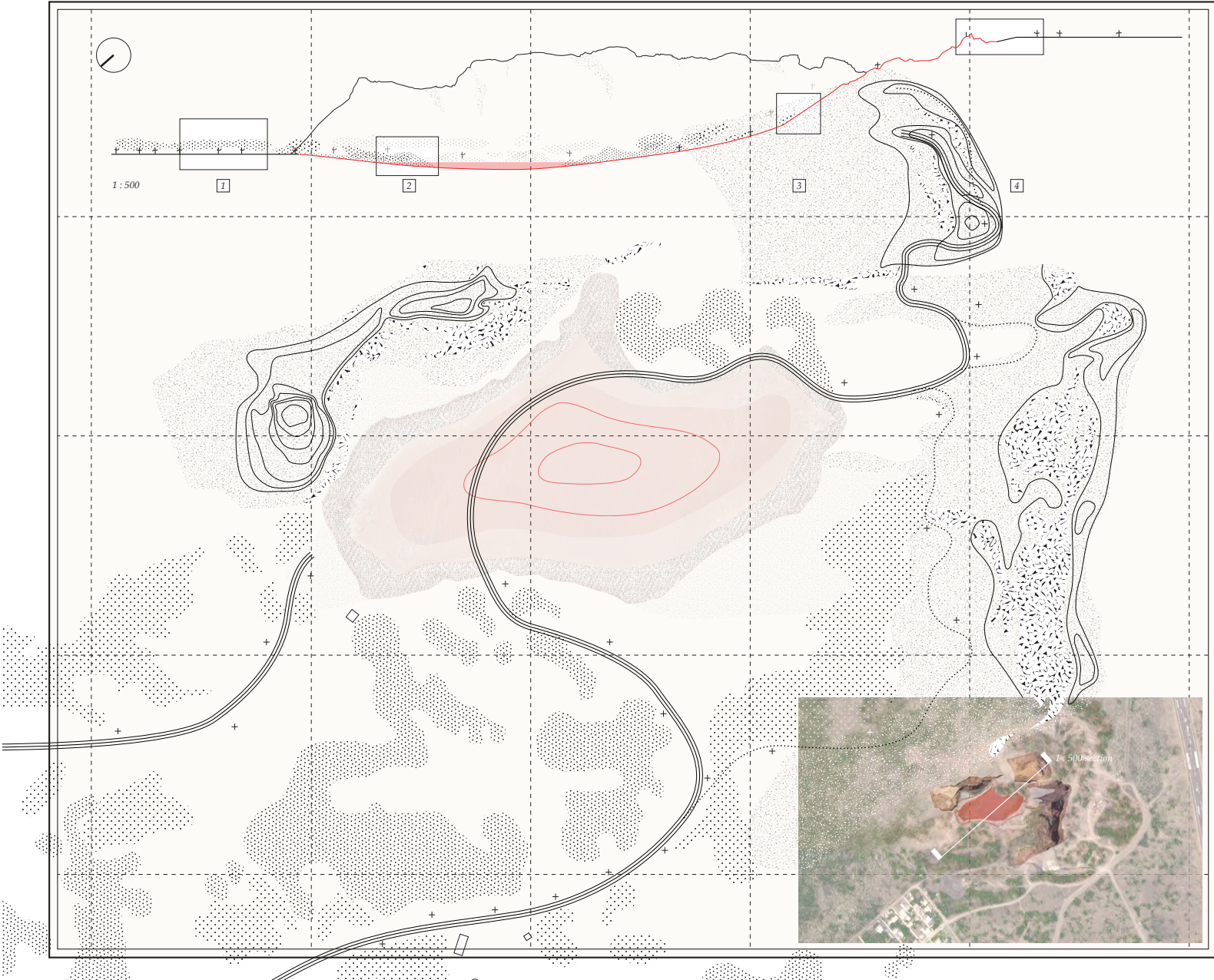
Muelle IX : Pushing into the Park



- - - Existing Vegetation
- - - Lava Rock
- - - Indicator Cacti



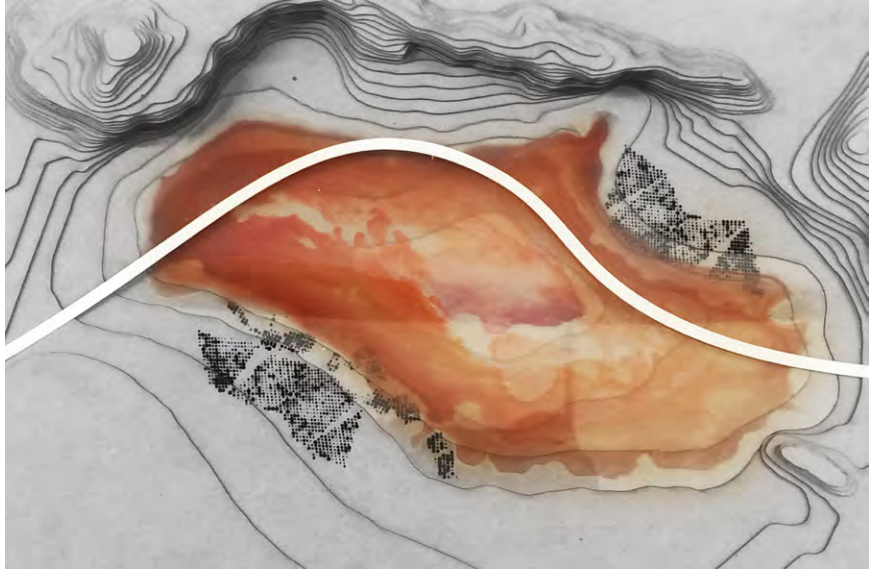
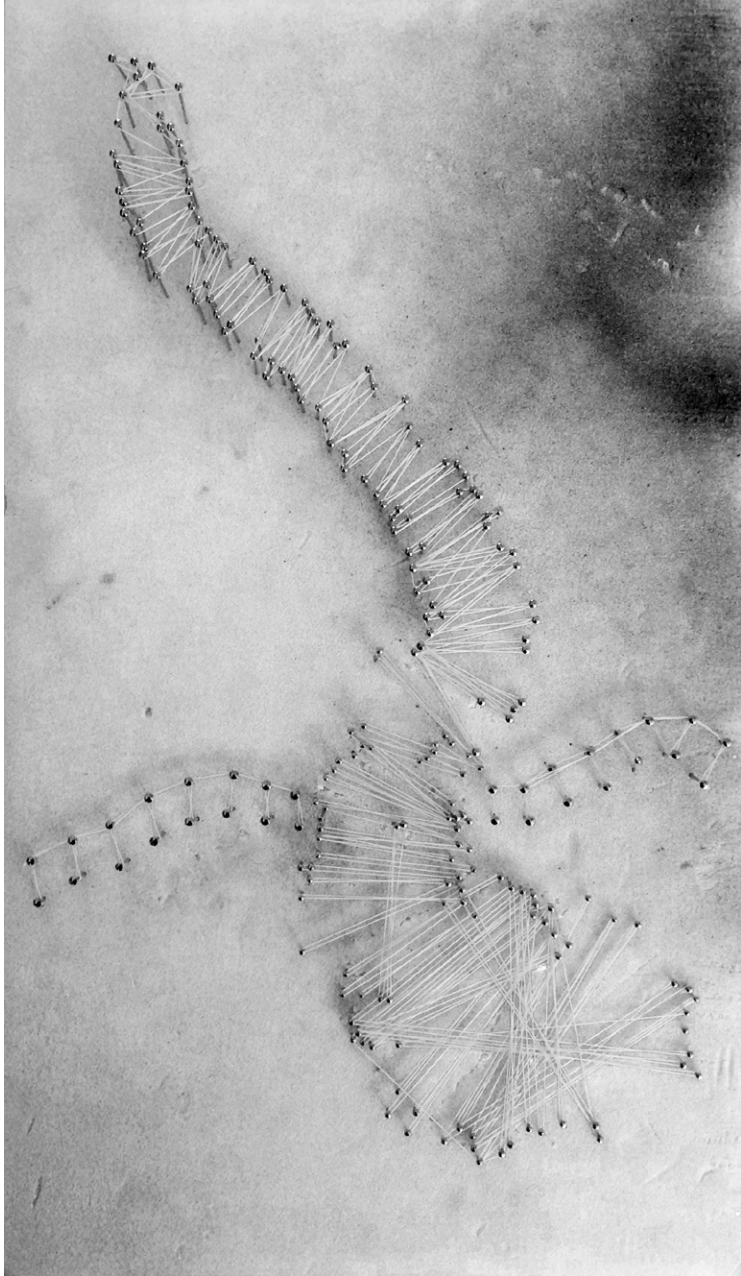
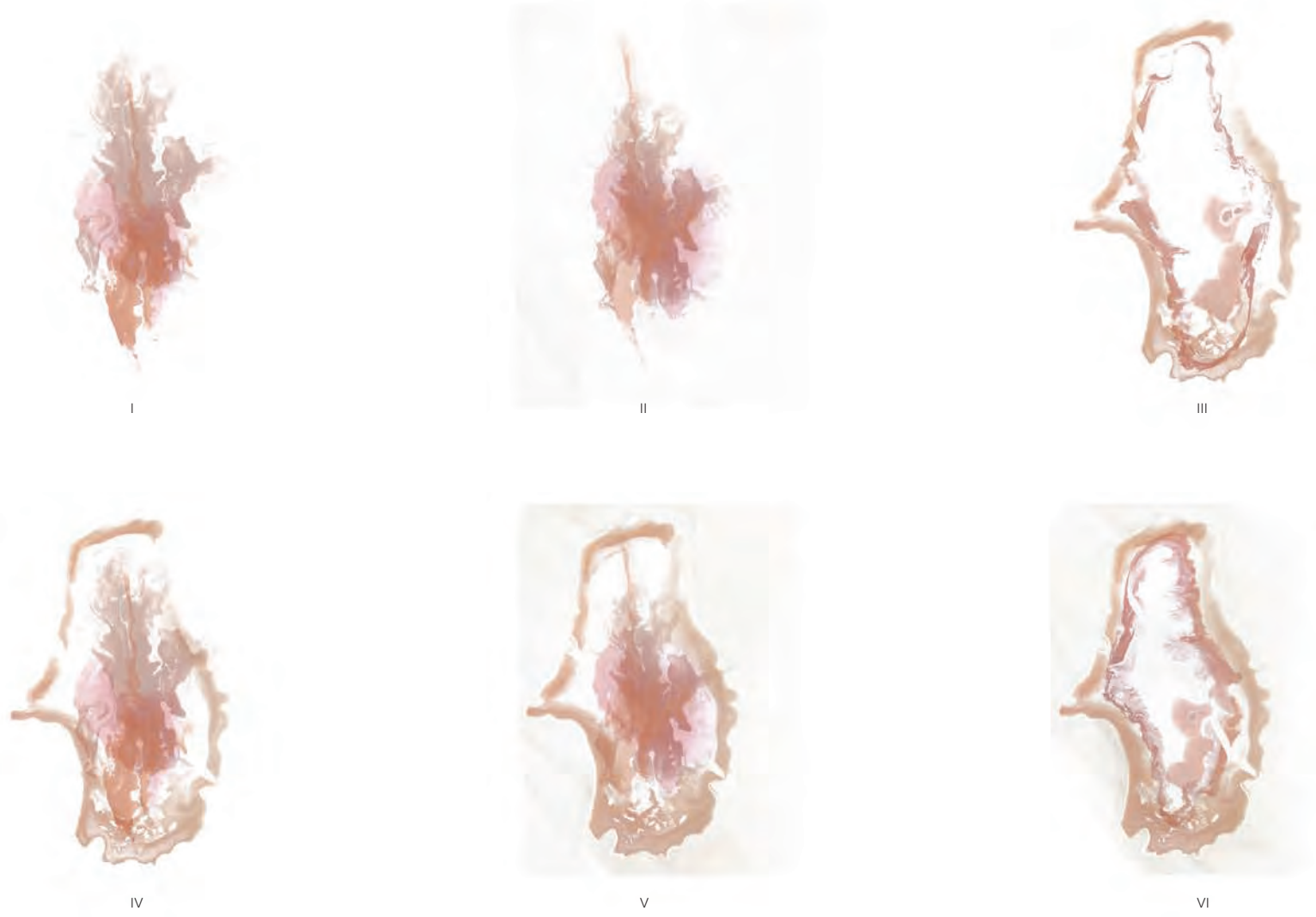
Atterizaje de Roca Roja & Laguna Roja



Sequential Section



Study Models



"[A]nimals on separate islands ought to become different if kept long enough apart with slightly differing circumstances."

C.R. Darwin [Notebook B: [Transmutation of Species], 1837-1838]

"A particular lifestyle that assumes that living in Galápagos is fundamentally different and accepts the limitations associated with the archipelago's fragile natural system [is] the best and only way to facilitate the transition toward a more sustainable future."

González et al. [Rethinking the Galápagos Islands, 2008]