Mahalakshmi park- site analysis - vegetal structures and topography

Here the official edges of a portion of the Mahalakshmi park. The following work consists in adapting these lines to the reality of the site. The first part of the work was to analyse the existing vegetation of which three major atmospheres have been identified.

- Luminous area
  - Full of cashew trees creating low masses surrounded by high and dense palmera tree lines.
- Mixed area
  - Old cashew fields overrun by spontaneous plants such as work trees and neem trees. Closer spaced and various shades.
- Wooded area
  - Shady and cooler space, essentially composed by work trees. Ground cover made of mullu/wait-a-minute and jasmin bushes.

Aurovillian bunds are part of the memory of the land. They tell how pionneers manage landscape in order to make it fertile and livable. To emphasize the history of the land, we pursue the work and re-interpret them in a contemporary way.

The water flows from NW to SE. Small ground movements increase the flow speed. In the north it guides water to the crown. From deepanam, water concentrate in the south of healing center.

Our first project intention is to manage water on the site. Little bunds will be placed to slow down water-flow and make it percolate on the site. Conversely, ponds are made to collect water and keep it visually on the site. Bundings are walkable as a whole circulation system.

Water bunding system, a network to discover the park
This portion of the Mahalakshmi park is surrounded by different units: Deepanam School, Arka, Library and Healing Center (under construction both). It’s a real potential for the public to meet in the park.

Three major entries make a connection between the park and the road network. Entries and links are necessary from the park to the city in order to keep a porosity and avoid spacial exclusion.

Deepanam extension map (hypothesis)

Deepanam school has an extension project. New buildings are built along the park. A new physical and pedagogical link is developed. Limits of the park are removed, sports area and playgrounds become disolving the buffer zone limits.

Cultural zone extension map (hypothesis)

While the city is growing, the park is kept as a pleasant green space. Buildings are organised around the paths of the park. The ponds along the galaxy path are transformed in wastewater tanks.
The Galaxy path is the main walkway. It is materializing the lines of the Galaxy of the Master Plan and passes through the different atmospheres. The path widens into small plazas which allow rest and discussion along the way.

In the evening, subdued light systems lead the walker through the park without disturbing the wildlife.

At night, the park can welcome some events or creations. Plazas become artistic scenes.
Wooded parc, wild and TDEF species

Nowadays
The wood is composed by many work tree. Too homogeneous and monotonous for the walk, the project need to change them.

Transition
Progressively, work tree wood would be thinned out by cutting some trees. They will be replaced by TDEF species.

Some TDEF species
After many years of management the wood will become a new forest, rich, dense diversify, trying to re-introduce the original forest of the land.
The new bunding network connect the different parts of the park, where you can discover many species and learn about them.
The new atmosphere become a sanctuary for animals, that you can discover without destroy it.

Cross section zoom on the link between bunding and new wild life.

View of the futur wood, more dense and shady
The central event of this garden are 4 ponds collecting the water flow from above. During the monsoon, they're filling up, keeping the water visible few weeks thanks to a layer of clay. For a short time, plants and animals are creating an ecosystem. Water disappearing, a new vegetation can grow.

From a covered path, we discover an open space brighten up with many species named by The Mother. Spiritual atmosphere or Vital patience expand its beautiful color and the few water ponds refresh the atmosphere.
Dry garden, luminous and open space

Fairy land, where children of the school can experiment, learn and play in their own space of the park.

Dry atmosphere:
Succulents and cacti species.

Low plantation come along the passing-by, and let the sight discover the cashew clumps.

Mounds are closer, creating a narrow and shady path toward the Mahalakshmi Garden.

Fairy land, where children of the school can experiment, learn and play in their own space of the park.