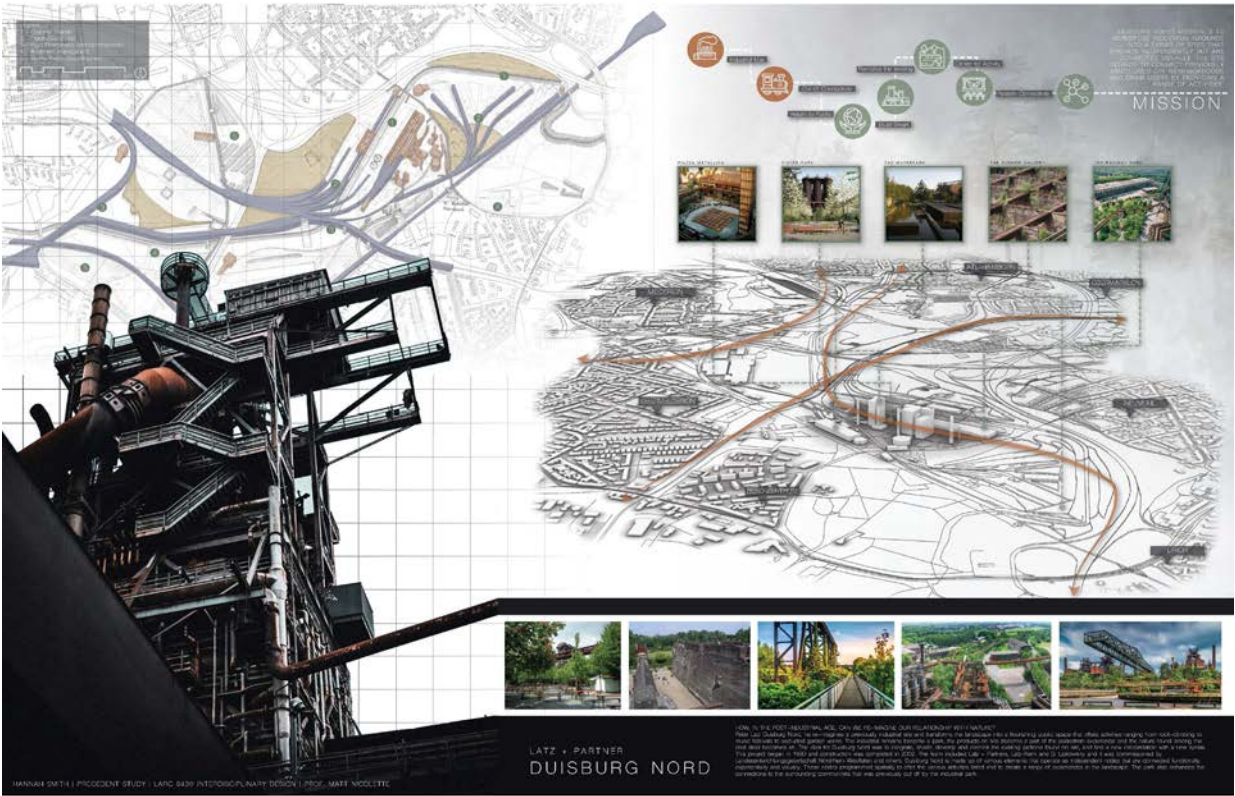
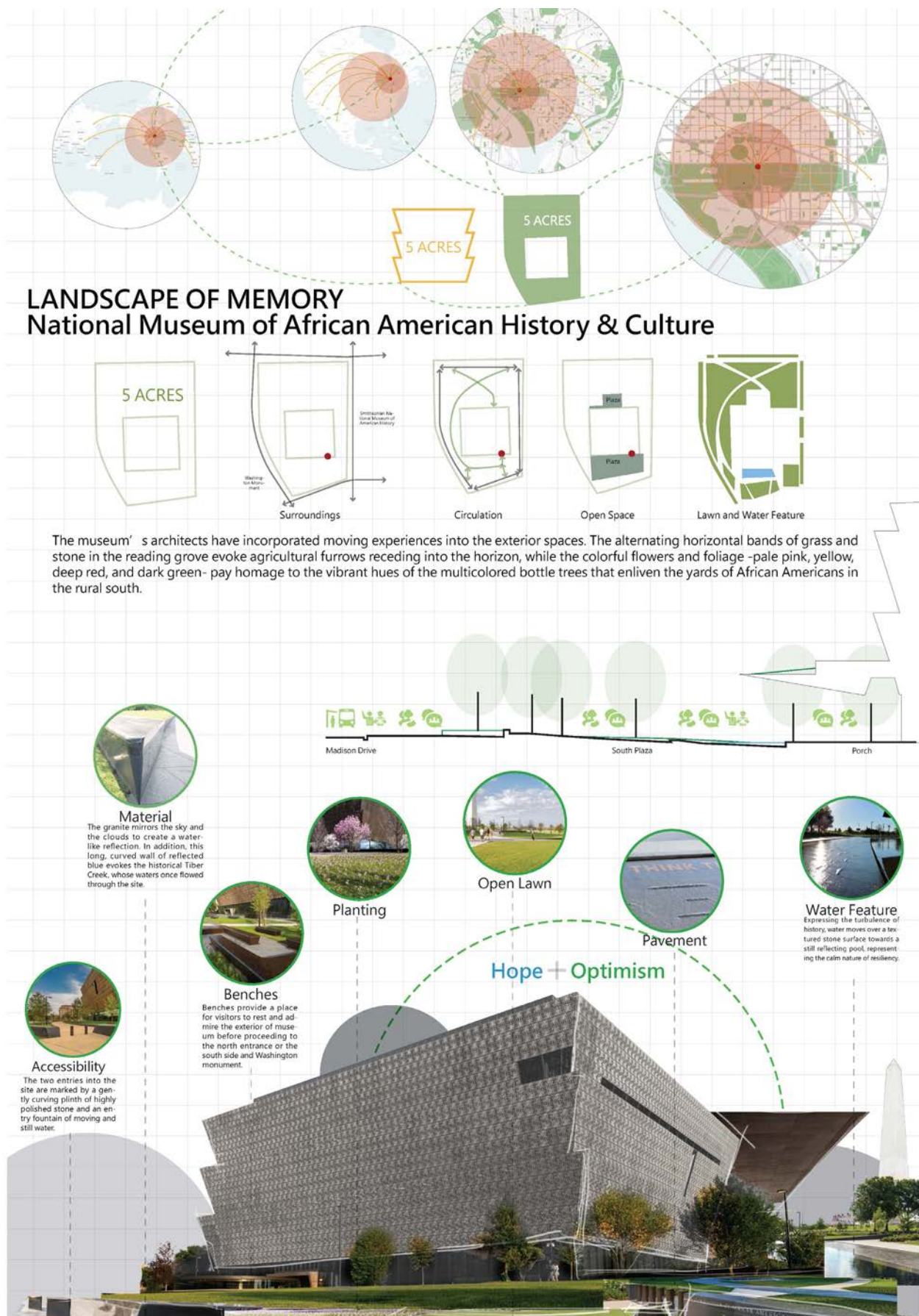


STUDENT WORK HIGH- Precedent, Research, and Analysis





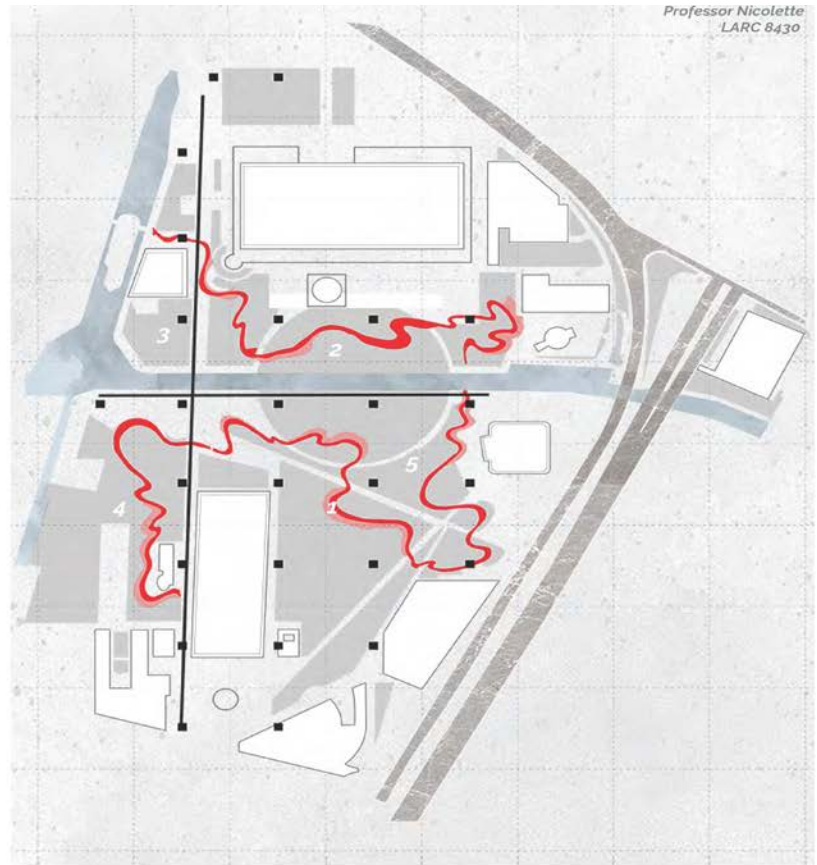
PARIS, FRANCE

On its completion in 1987, Parc de la Villette astounded Parisians with its Avant guard style and loud, red architecture. Constructed on a decommissioned cattle yard and slaughterhouse in the northeastern corner of Paris, the park represented a new strategy of urban organization; one based on culture rather than nature.

In the 1870s, Barron Hausmann shifted the wealth of Paris to the west, isolating the working class on the eastern side. This rift and isolation of the industrial trade continues to this day, as the Northern and Eastern peripheries of Paris remain largely industrialized. To counteract the ongoing class segregation, Parc de la Villette was constructed to mediate social and cultural differences.

Bernard Tschumi, the architect and designer, sought to create a new urban image by developing a new identity for the park. By rejecting the traditional open lawn in favor of a more programmatic approach, Tschumi constructed a formal, premeditative scheme. With its themed gardens and central architectural elements, the park was intended to be a meeting point.

The park itself is organized around a grid of nodes, or follies. Major path routes in and around the park connect these follies with surfaces, or areas of distinct program. The Cité des Sciences is one such surface. As the only structure completed prior to the park revitalization, the museum's focus on discovery reflected a crucial step towards the rethinking of nature versus culture.



Professor Nicolette
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"Park de la Villette was designed to improve the city's physical and economic health by providing a learning environment based on interactive engagement."



1867
Cattleyard opens

1971
Train travel lessens
through future park

1973
Cattleyard closes

1981
Cite des Sciences
breaks ground

1982
Parc de la Villette
competition begins

1983
Competition closes

1986
Cite des Sciences
is completed

1998
Park opens
to the public