

Author: Christine Hawley of Christine Hawley Architects
Research Output 3: North Osaka Station Redevelopment

Co-Author: Andrew Porter

Output Type: Design

Competition Design Entry for Building: North Osaka Station Redevelopment

Function: Station Redevelopment

Location: Osaka, Japan

Dates: June 2003 – September 2003

Area: 3 hectares

Design Shown in Exhibition: Osaka City Hall

Location: Osaka, Japan

Date: 2003

300 Word Summary

International Design Competition for North Osaka Station Redevelopment 2004.

Questions/Aims/Objectives

- (1) To acknowledge current economic need/historic context and provide a leisure/education facility framework for future development.
- (2) To address regeneration by developing urbanistically and historically relevant access/activity to an isolated inner city site, rendered derelict through inaccessibility and economic blight.
- (3) To create non-disruptive physical links to the city.
- (4) To establish a design linking cultural/commercial activity to an ecologically sustainable parkscape.

Context

The proposal is unusual in integrating micro/macro landscaping with medium density development, balancing an ecologically sustainable parkscape and physical construction, showcasing indigenous flora/fauna of historic regional importance.

Methods

Analysis

- (1) Analyses of the area's physical/functional characteristics, existing transportation modes, sustainability data, diurnal patterns of use and mobility, major corporate/civic activity, projected patterns of growth/decline and mapping of this data against demographic trends.
- (3) Analyses of existing recreation functions and potential for expansion or replacement.
- (4) Analyses of data on historical/existing indigenous (local/regional) flora/fauna/aquatic life.

Synthesis

- (1) The location/form/density of the design is determined by existing adjacencies and clear links to existing urban mass.
- (2) The design organization creates a commercial, cultural, institutional and industrial synergy.
- (3) The proposal increases site permeability on three levels and in four directions using through-routes for vehicular transport, rail terminus and surface connections for pedestrians/cyclists.
- (4) Water/vegetation/local ecology form a vital part of the design strategy creating a sustainable environment for local flora/fauna serving as an educational resource for visitors/local residents.
- (5) Building development works in tandem with landscaping proposals, in some conditions deliberately eroding boundaries.

continued next page

Dissemination

Publications: Christine Hawley, 'North Osaka Station Redevelopment', Osaka Station Competition Catalogue, Kenchiko Bunka (2003), pp. 71–73.

Exhibitions: Architectur y critica, Exhibition Osaka City Hall.

Esteem

Shortlisted from over 300 entrants.

Authorship

Christine Hawley was responsible for design and research; Andrew Porter was responsible for the production of the submission.



Image 1

General Description

The area is an isolated inner city site, rendered derelict through inaccessibility and economic blight, which has failed to attract investment through government driven development policy. The proposal seeks to acknowledge current the economic need and historic context and to address regeneration through a programme that develops access and activity relevant to the urban context.

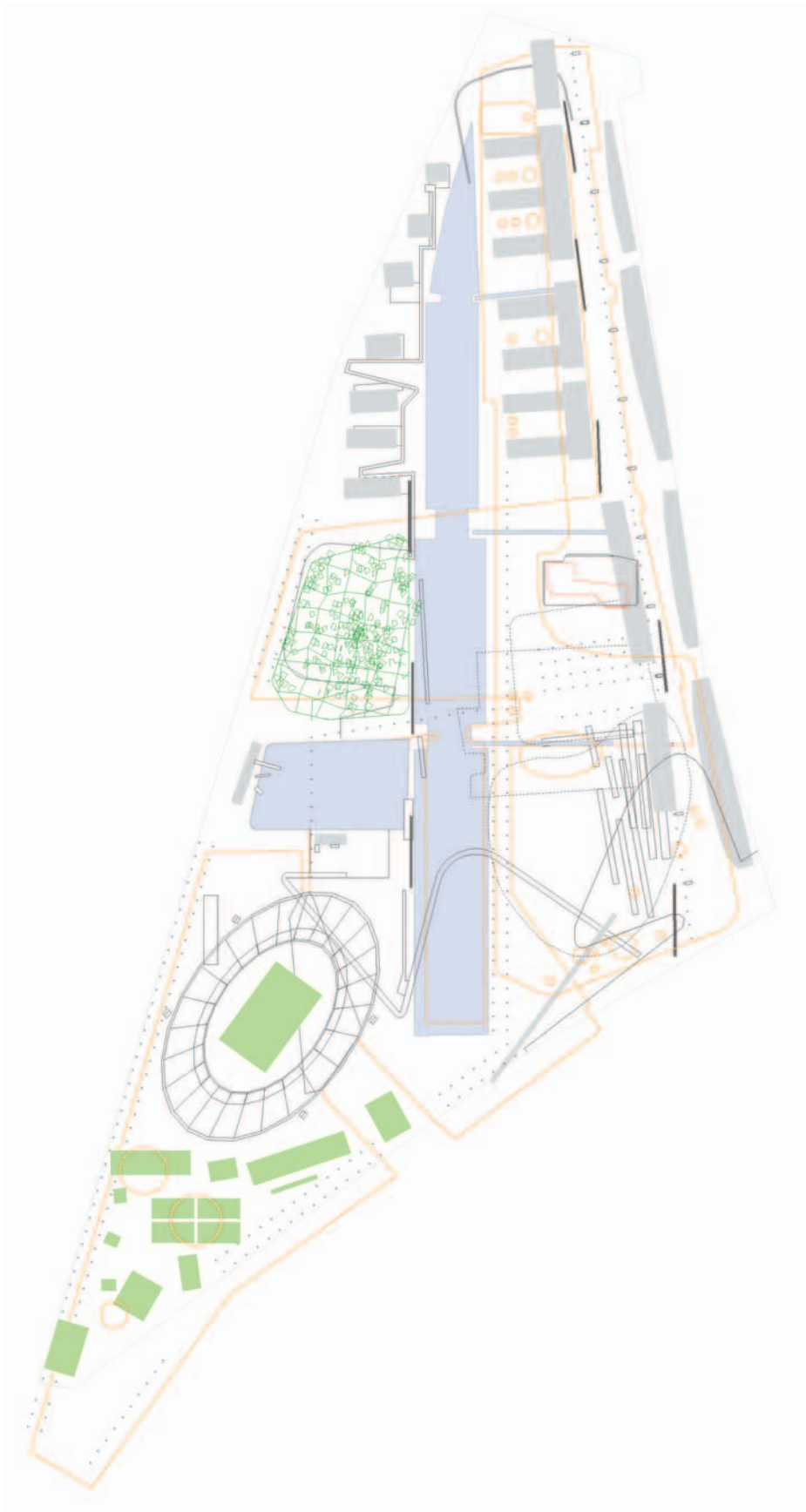


Image 2

Research Questions/Aims/Objectives

- (1) To provide a leisure/education facility framework for future development.
- (2) To develop access and activities urbanistically and historically relevant to an isolated inner-city site.
- (3) To create non-disruptive physical links to the city.
- (4) To establish a design linking cultural/commercial activity to an ecologically sustainable parkscape.

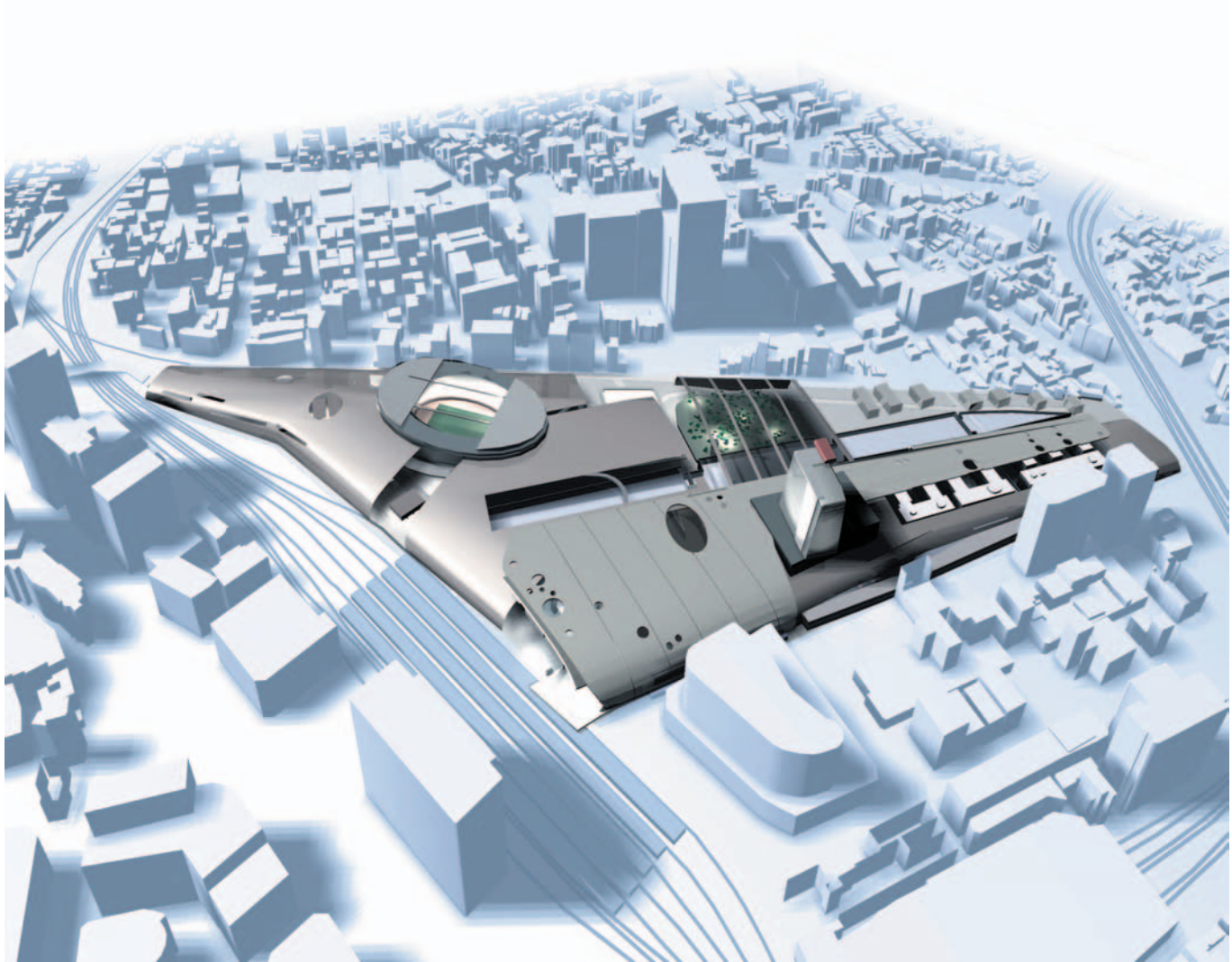


Image 3

Research Context

The proposal is unusual in that it integrates micro and macro landscaping with medium density development, striking a deliberate balance between an ecologically sustainable parkscape and the physical construction. The scheme stresses the importance of the parkscape for showcasing indigenous flora and fauna including those of historic regional importance.

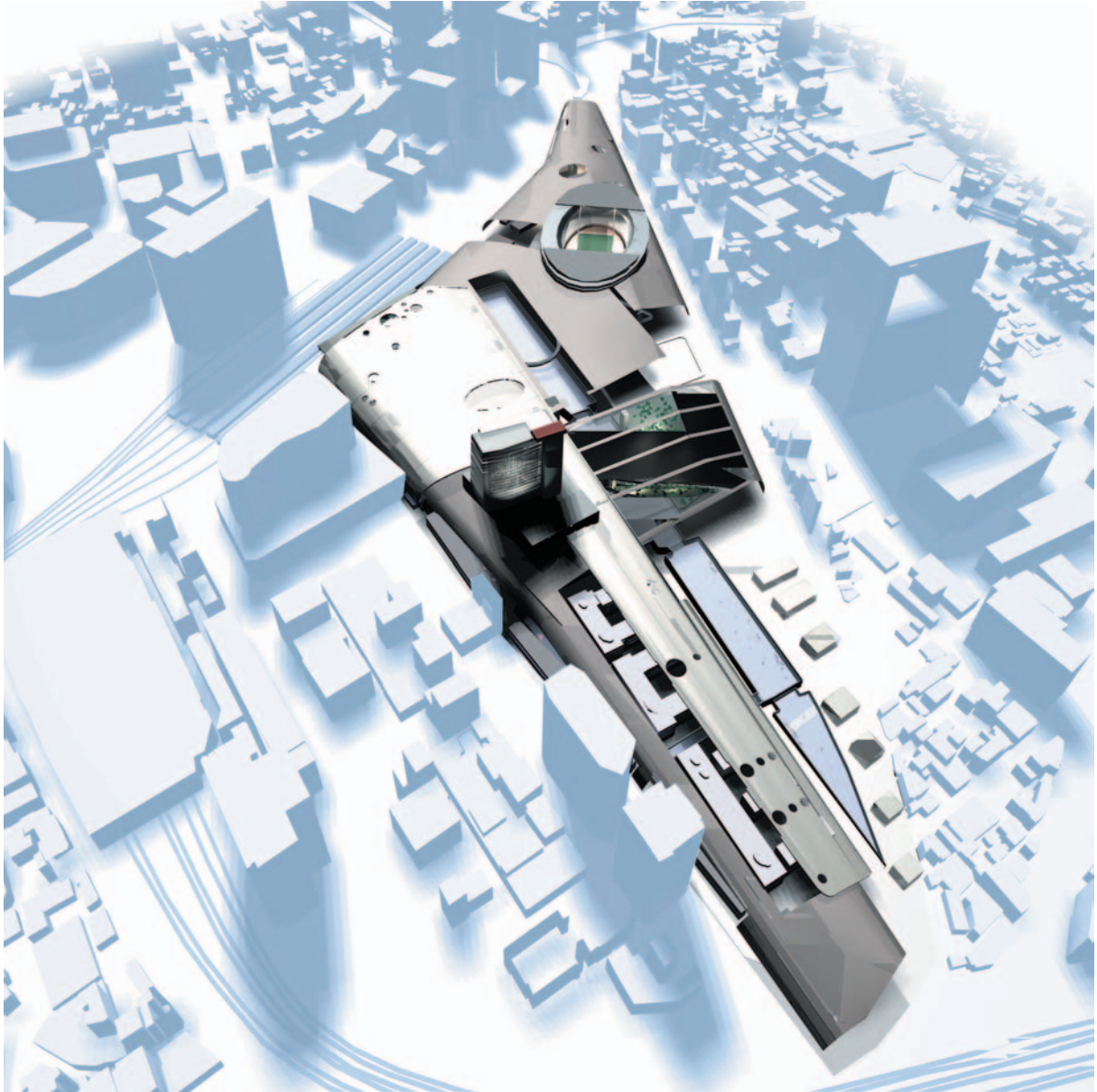


Image 4

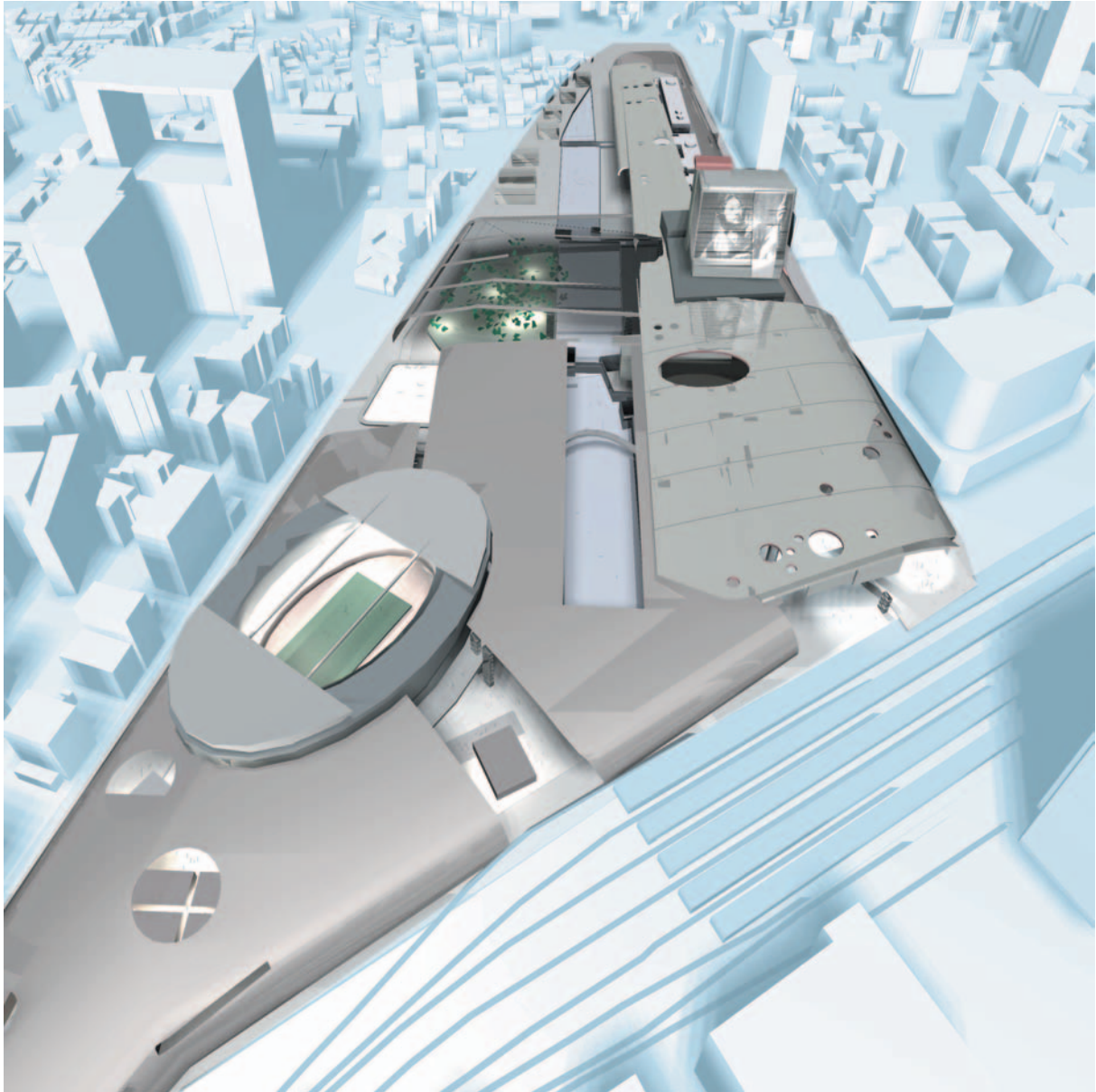


Image 5

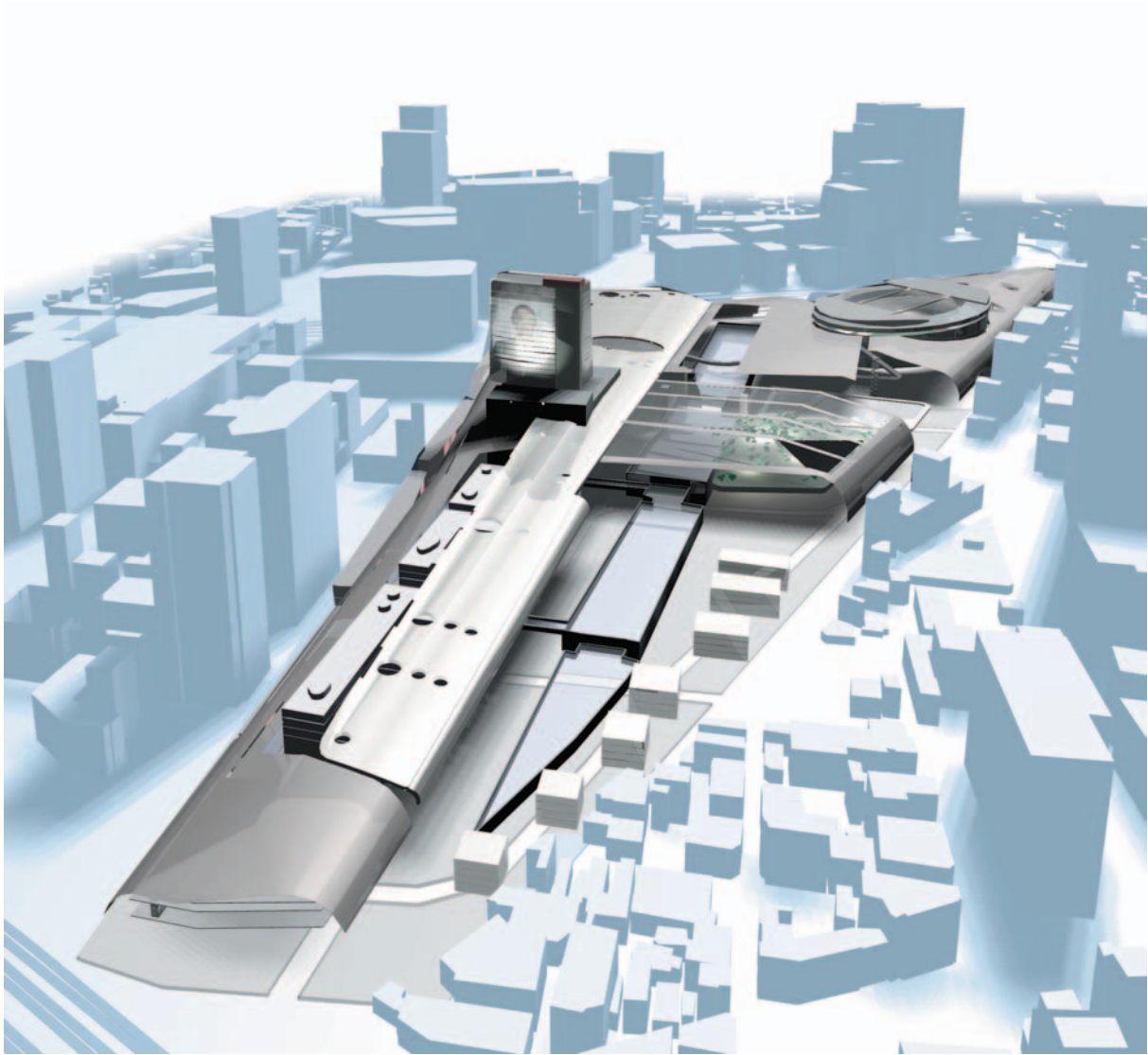


Image 6

Research Methods/Design Proposal

Analysis:

(1) Analysis of the area's physical and functional characteristics, together with existing transportation modes, sustainability data, diurnal patterns of use and mobility, major corporate/civic activity, projected patterns of growth/decline and mapping of this data against demographic trends.

(2) Analysis of existing recreation functions and potential for expansion or replacement.

(3) Analysis of data on existing indigenous (local/regional) plants, shrubs, flowers, fauna and aquatic life. Gathering of data on the historical significance of regional flora and fauna.

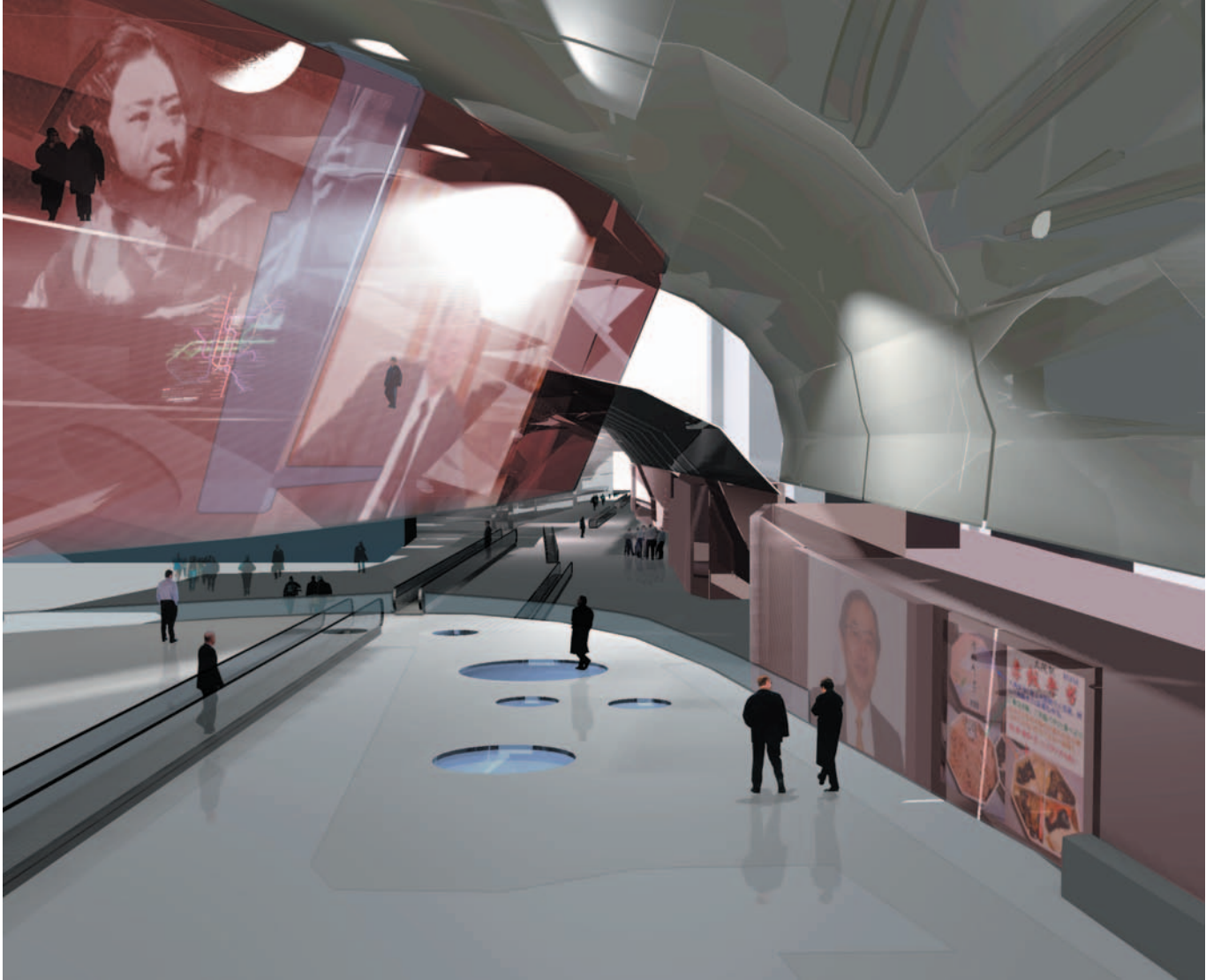


Image 7

Synthesis:

- (1) The location/form/density of the design was determined by existing adjacencies and clear links to existing urban mass.
- (2) The design organization created a commercial, cultural, institutional and industrial synergy.
- (3) The proposal increased site permeability on three levels and in four directions using through-routes for vehicular transport, a rail terminus and surface connections for pedestrians/cyclists.
- (4) Water/vegetation/local ecology were a vital part of the design strategy, creating a sustainable environment for local flora/fauna which served as an educational resource for visitors/local residents.
- (5) Building development worked in tandem with landscaping proposals, in some conditions deliberately eroding boundaries.

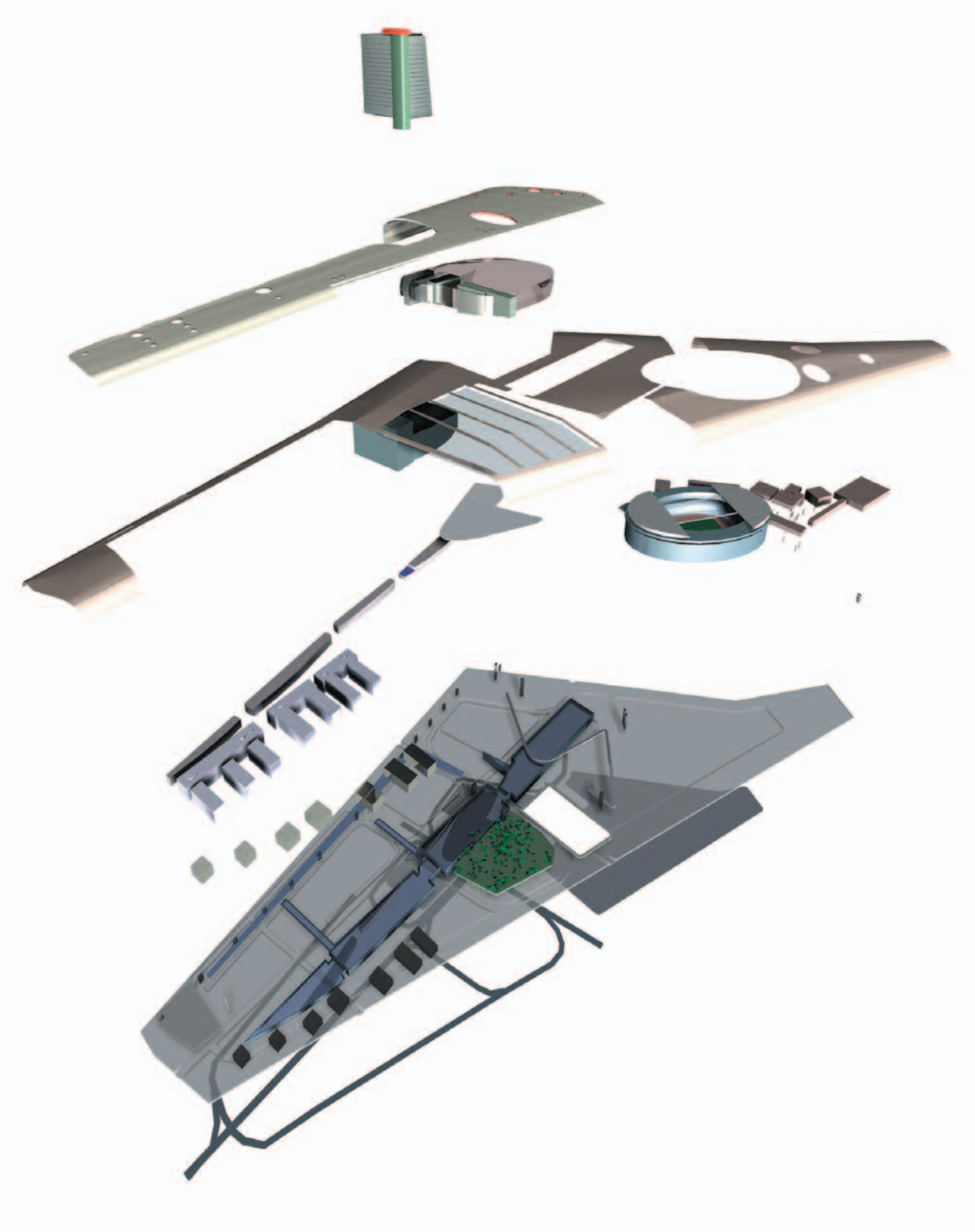


Image 8

Distribution of Uses

The design is organized to blend the commercial, cultural, institutional and industrial to create a synergistic relationship. The main space of development supports a mixed use: cultural, commercial, educational and residential.

The location, form and density of the buildings is determined by existing adjacencies together with clear links to existing urban mass.

The design increases the permeability of the site on three levels and in four major directions using through routes for vehicular transport, a rail terminus and surface connections for pedestrians and cyclists. Pedestrian communications exist on three levels and four directions. Circulation through the site is designed as a balance of expediency and experience.

The development is at its greatest density at the southern edge and then fragments towards the northern boundary. The level of activity (user load) is reflected in the functions: commercial/cultural in the south to academic, research and residential in the north. The calibration of density and function also reflect appropriate adjacencies within the city.

The physical development is consolidated in the southern half and becomes more perforated towards the north as the boundaries between landscape and building are deliberately dissolved. The building development is designed to work in tandem with the landscaping proposals, with boundaries in some conditions deliberately eroded.



Image 9

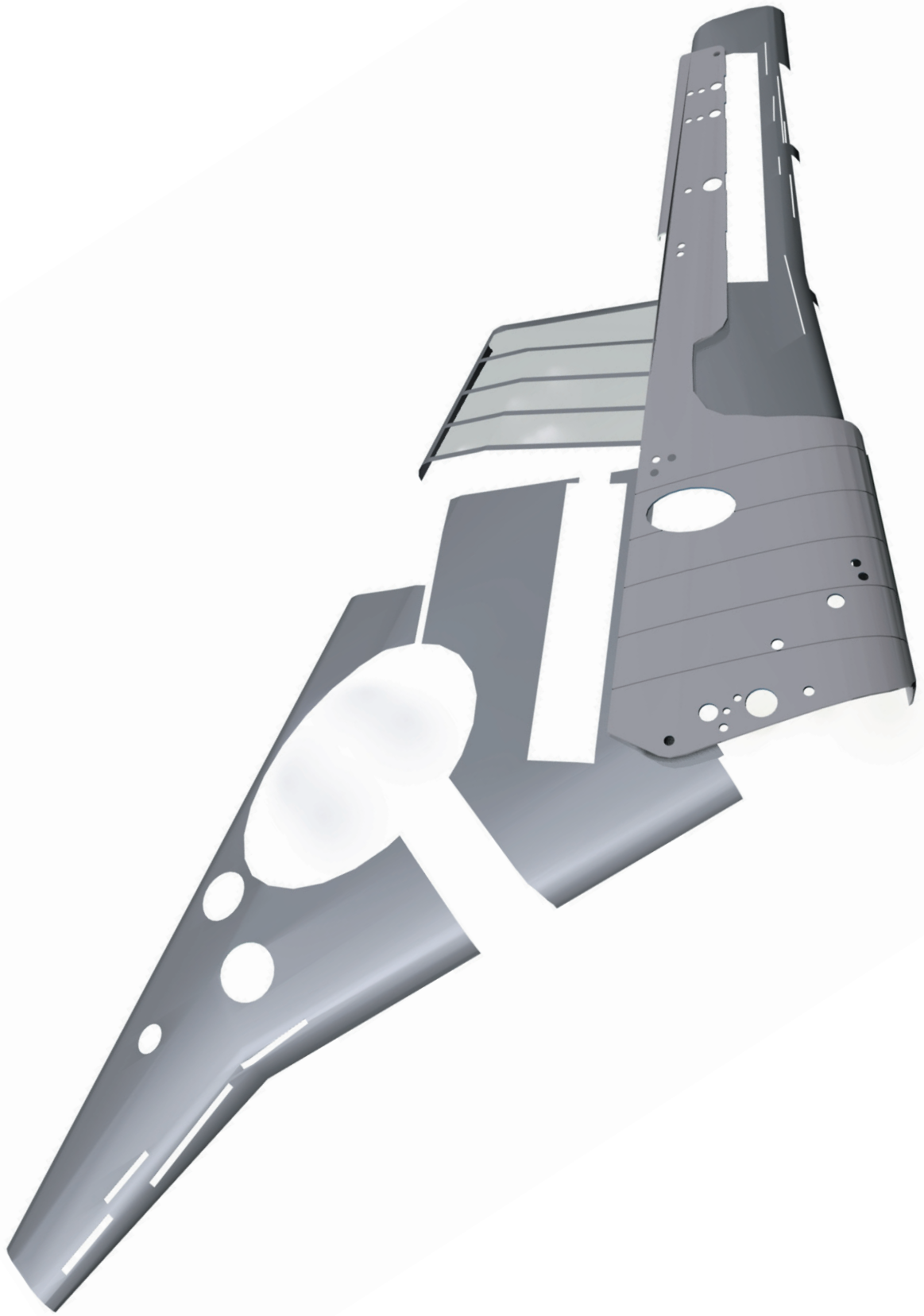


Image 10

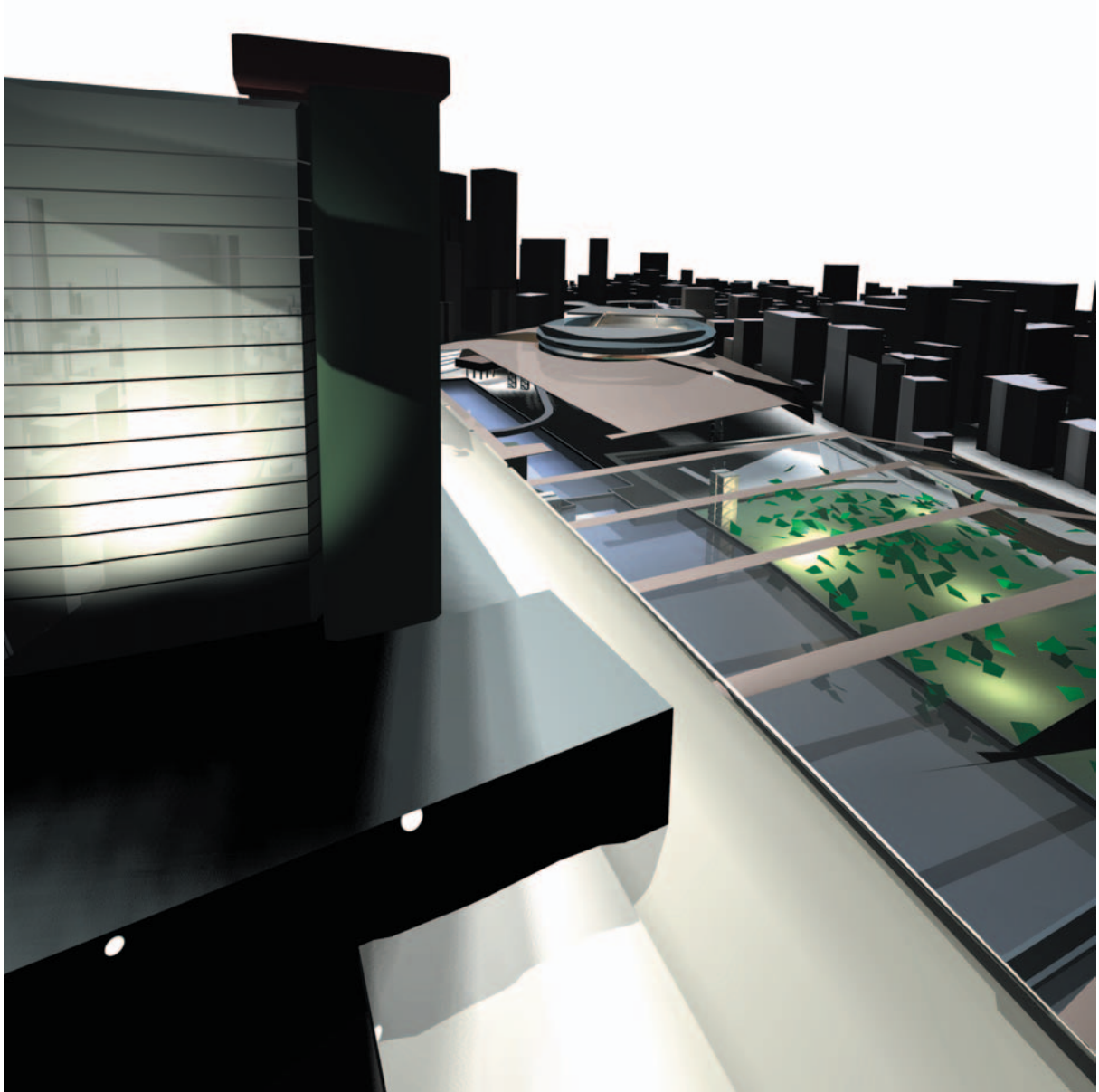


Image 11

The Role of Water

Water, vegetation and local ecology are a vital part of the design strategy in that the design creates conditions of habitat for local flora and fauna. The principle behind the 'natural' strategy is to provide a sustainable environment that also serves as an educational resource for visitors and local residents.

Open space is at a premium in Osaka and as such one of the primary intentions of the schemes is to provide an inner urban park. The park aims to support a programme of bio-diversity and where as much as possible is naturally sustainable.

There is little landscaping within the inner core of the city's urban development. Therefore the ambition of the scheme is to re-introduce a range of indigenous plant species that have varying time scales of maturity in order to create a balance between large scale, heavily canopied trees such as walnut, smaller species, low-lying plants and grasses. The diversity of planting will require a mix of maintenance and low-level intervention. This environment in turn will provide a habitat for diverse wildlife.

The landscape is supplemented by a water system that has three functions – the first is to act as a routing mechanism when required, the second is to act as a linear ranking system for the park users and the third is to support aquatic life, which is indigenous.

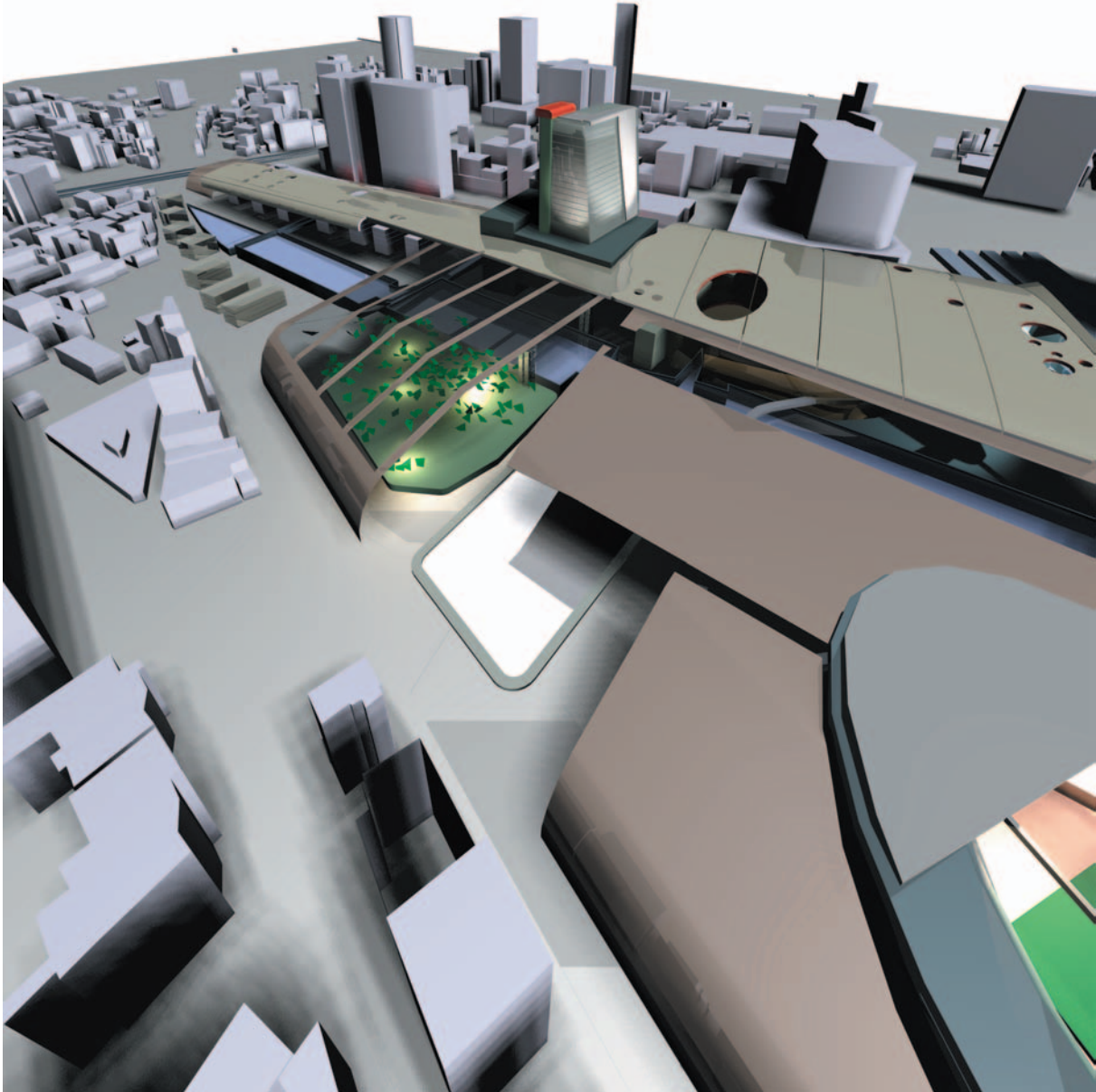


Image 12

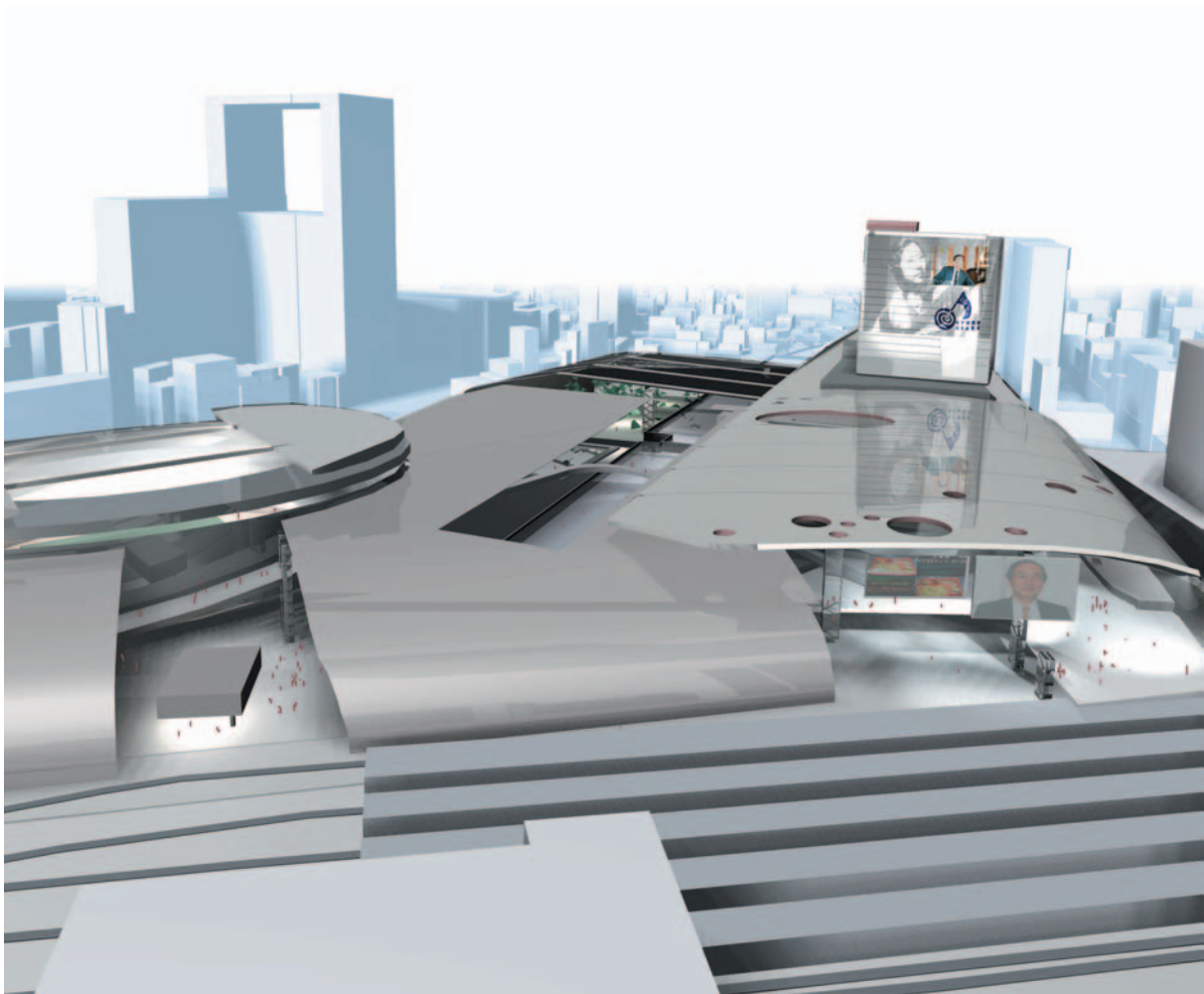


Image 13

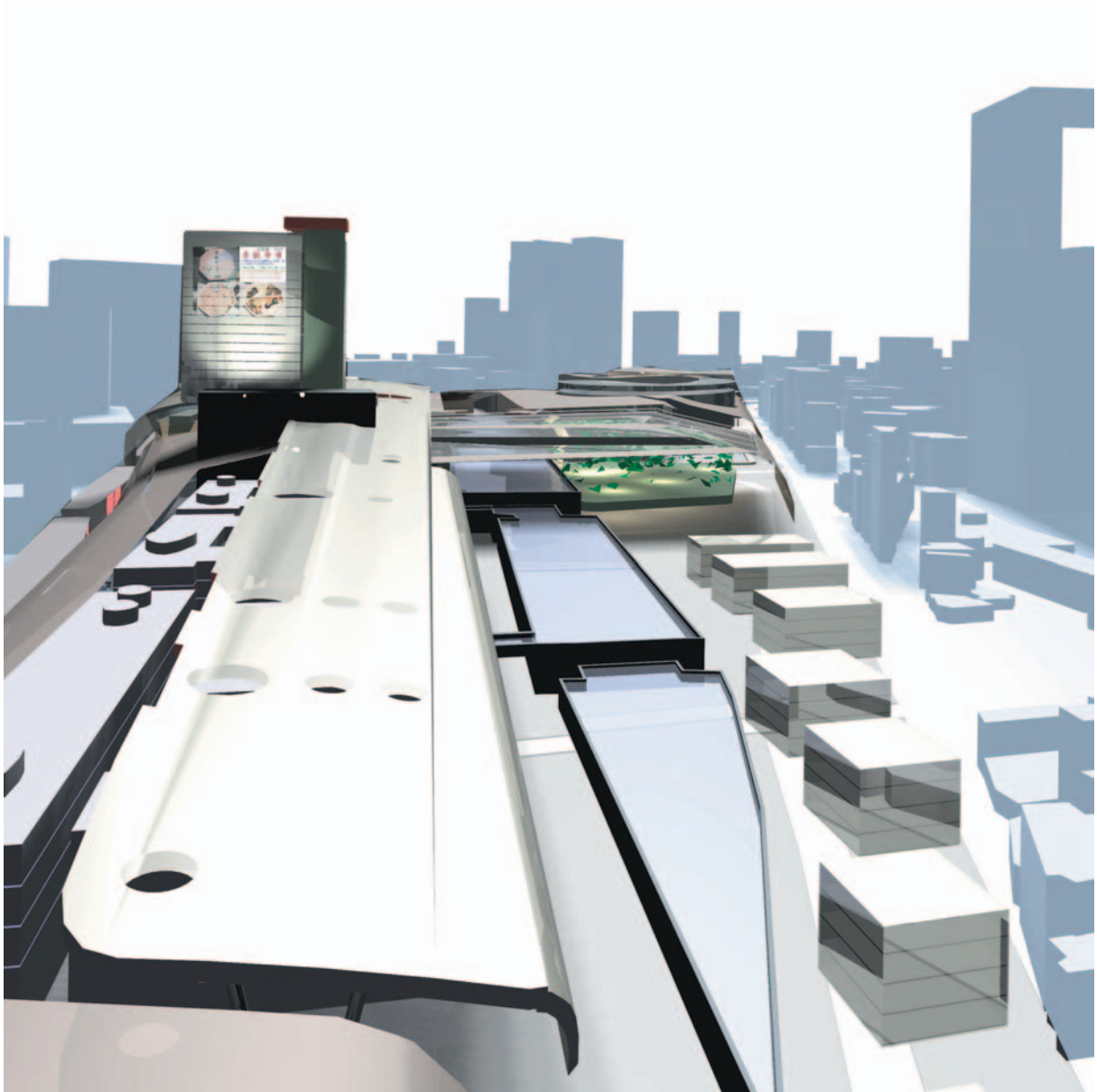


Image 14

The primary function of the landscape is to provide a green, biologically diverse space in the centre of the city that people can enjoy and also and importantly to provide an educational facility that physically demonstrates the range of flora and fauna that naturally exists within this region.

The built development is concentrated along the north/south spine of the design and some of the additional structures are free standing pavilions in the landscape providing elements of control and protection where needed.

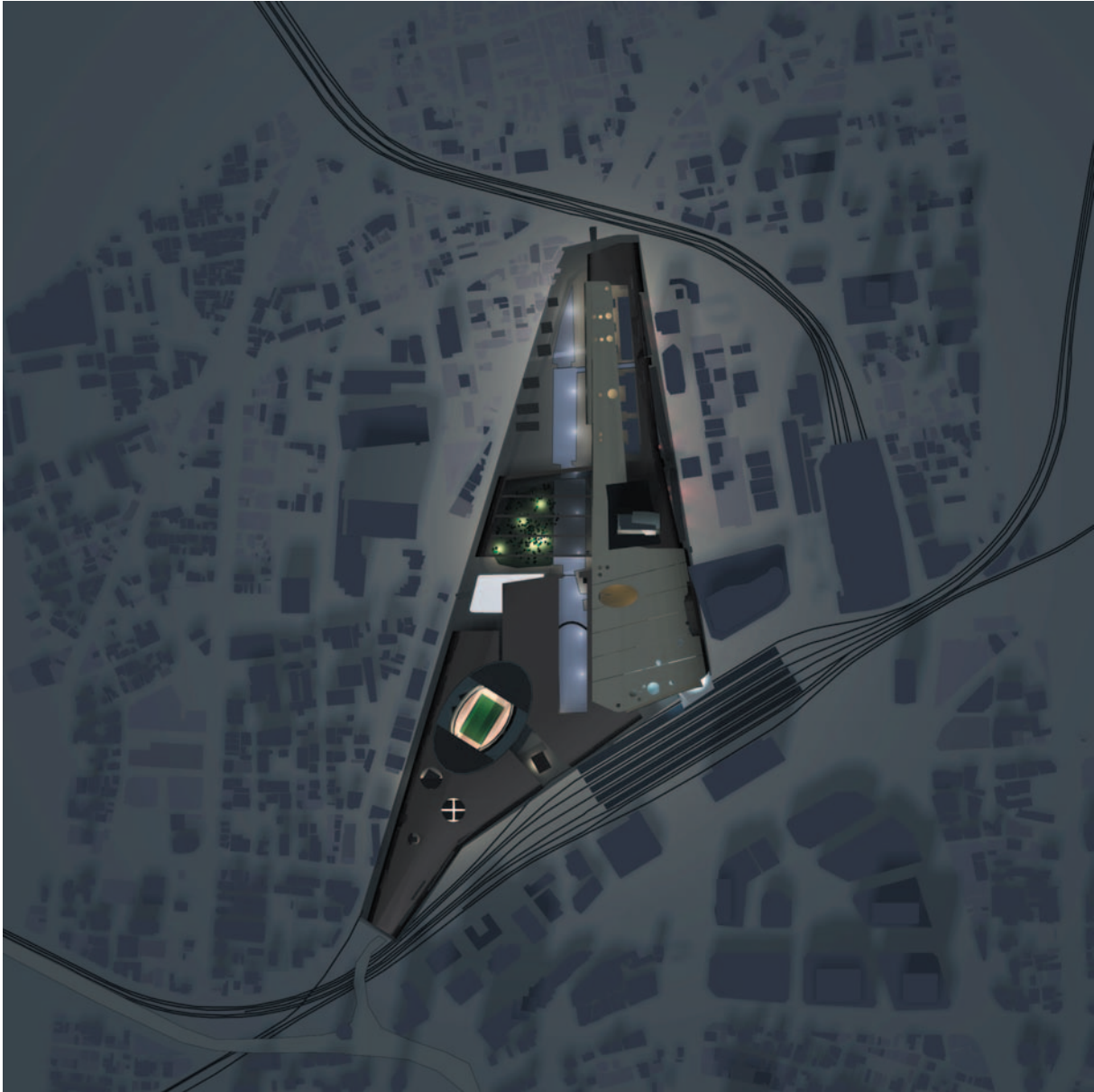


Image 15

Dissemination/ Esteem

Published as Christine Hawley, 'North Osaka Station Redevelopment', *Osaka Station Competition Catalogue* (Kenchiku Bunka, 2003), pp. 71–73.

Exhibited at Osaka City Hall.

Shortlisted from over 300 entrants.

Appendix 1: Related Articles by Christine Hawley

Christine Hawley, 'North Osaka Station Redevelopment', *Osaka Station Competition Catalogue* (Kenchiku Bunka, 2003), pp. 71–73.

