

JABAL QALAA

COMMUNITY PARK

CONCEPT & DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

HAMZET WASEL IN COLLABORATION WITH THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT (CSBE)

Jabal Qalaa Community Park Project Introduction

Hamzet Wasel began its work in **Jabal Qalaa** in April 2009 by engaging with various members of the community, including the children.

During this process of the engagement, it became apparent that there were **no parks or public areas** for the community to enjoy. The only space available to the community was the Citadel area, which was undergoing a development process, and which is now only open till 4:00 pm and under strict conditions.

The children expressed a desire to create a space for themselves and their families in the area and where interested in one particular area of land. This was identified as belonging to **the Greater Amman Municipality (GAM)**.

It was agreed with GAM that if a design was provided for the park **in cooperation with the community**, that they would provide support and funding to implement the design.

Jabal Qalaa Community Park Project Introduction

Hamzet Wasel believes in working in partnership with the community and with organizations and individuals with whom they can jointly achieve their goals.

They approached the **Center for the Study of the Built Environment (CSBE)** to assist them in the process of working with the children to allow them to **design and plan** their own garden/playground **based on their needs and preferences.**

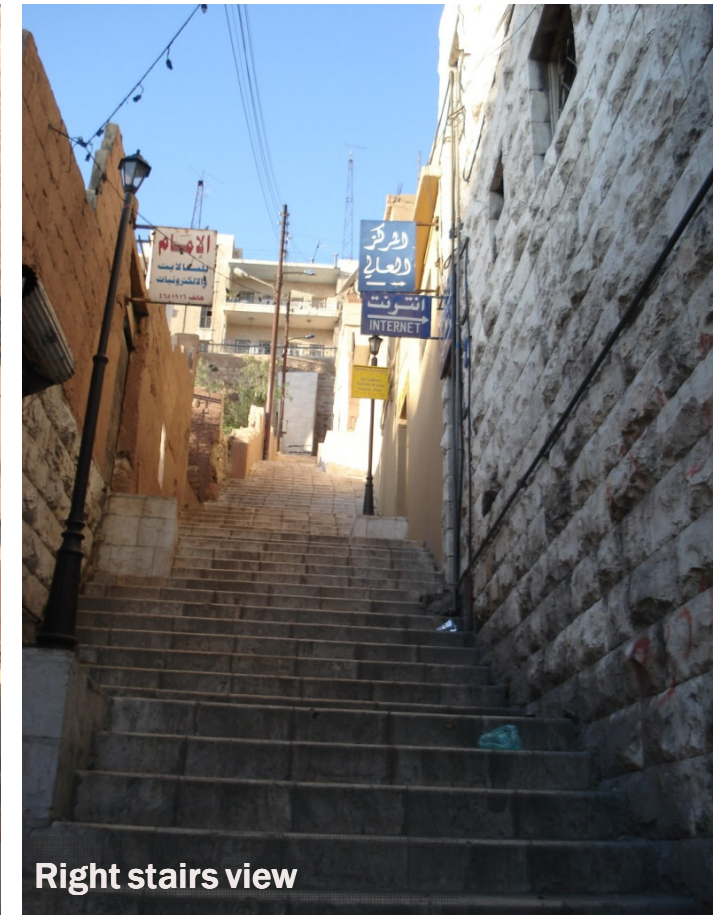
CSBE agreed to offer their services to achieve this goal and worked with the children for several months on this process.

Jabal Qalaa Community Park

Site Images



Lower street perspective



Right stairs view



Left stairs view



View showing the sloped site



View showing the sloped site

Jabal Qalaa Community Park Work Process

CSBE with Hamzet Wasel developed a process of various sessions to allow the children visualize and express their needs in drawing and open and private discussions and help them translate it into the park design. These sessions included the following:

- **Drawing the dream park**

Children were given A3 sheets and colors, and were asked to draw how they imagined their park would look like. Items like trees, chairs, birds, sun, water features, flags, seesaw, slides and swings appeared in their drawings in different quantities.



Jabal Qalaa Community Park Work Process

- **Drawing the neighborhood map**

Some children were asked individually to talk about their previous drawings and explain them, while the rest of them were asked to draw their neighborhood map. Their drawings projected their mental maps of their neighborhood focusing on what seemed to be the most important element for each child. Some drew their homes with the street next to it, some drew their school, others the mosque and a few imaginary sceneries.

- **Drawings discussed and priorities were introduced**

The idea was to let the children discuss the elements that they included in their dream park drawing and how realistic they were and to allow them to think about their priorities within the restraints of the site and the financial limitation.



Jabal Qalaa Community Park

Work Process

- **Tree shapes and possible functions exercise**

Tree shapes were introduced to the children. They worked in groups on suggesting different functions for different trees shapes in their garden. Functions included shading, good view, privacy, hedging, etc..

- **Interviewing the children**

Children were asked individually about what they do in their activities to get a feeling of their needs. The interview included questions about their free time activities, their preferred games, and their best life experience. They were later asked to interview their parents about their suggestions and concerns regarding the park.



Jabal Qalaa Community Park Work Process

- **Site analysis**

A PowerPoint presentation was displayed to the children. It seemed important to keep engaging them differently each time to attract their attention. The presentation's purpose was to initiate discussion by asking them questions such as: where is my park? What is it that exists currently in my park? What identifies the park and makes it different than other sites? What constrains are there? How can I turn a constrain into an advantage? Solutions were suggested afterwards.

- **Material and equipment display/preference voting**

A presentation was displayed to the children with different options of the items and playground equipments that they prioritized in a previous stage. They shared their opinions about each image displayed and discussed what they liked, disliked, thought was implementable or not. Then they voted for best shapes and materials of the equipments they wanted to include.



Jabal Qalaa Community Park Work Process

- **Zoning decisions made on site**

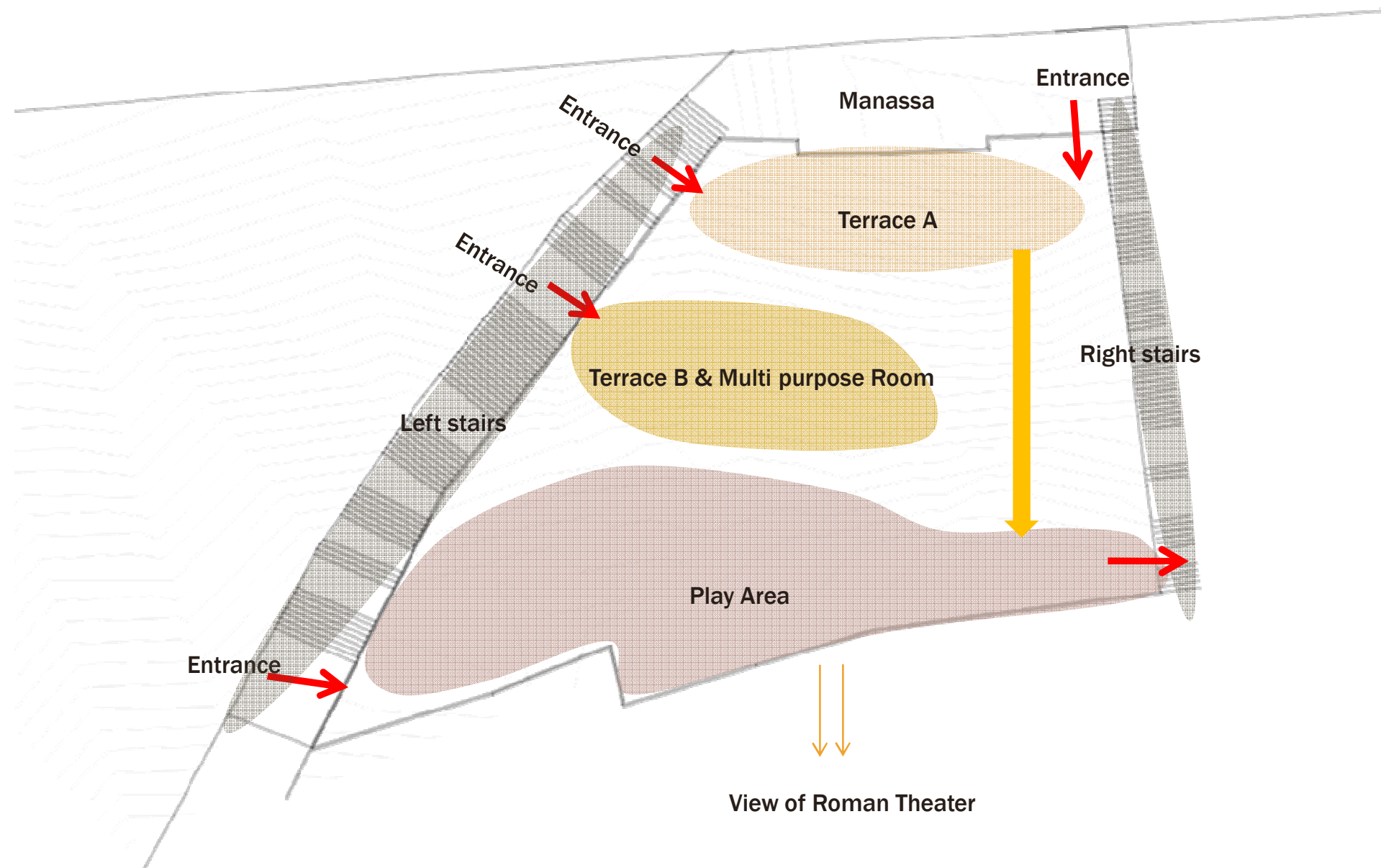
This zoning session took place on field, mostly by interviewing individually and then group voting. Children had a clear understanding on where they wanted the entrances to be. A group of them were naturally choosing the sloppiest area to roll down the hill. That area was identified then by others as the place where the sliding and climbing activities should be. Bathrooms were suggested on the lower part. They were later on asked about the connection between the park and the lower buildings and they preferred a dividing wall that they can paint on.

- **Zoning plan**

Children worked in groups to draw the site as if they were looking at it from an airplane. The idea was to introduce them to what a top view is. Then they wrote down the functions they wanted and drew zones for each one as they have agreed on site.



Jabal Qalaa Community Park Zoning Plan



Jabal Qalaa Community Park Work Process

•3D-Design using a model:

Contour model parts were cut to scale and handed to the children with other materials to produce a zoning model.



Jabal Qalaa Community Park

Design Criteria

- **Children's' preferences and conditions:**

- Safety
- Football playground
- Water feature, insuring maintenance
- Greenery
- Play equipments
- Accessibility

- **Water efficient landscaping**

- **Minimum maintenance**

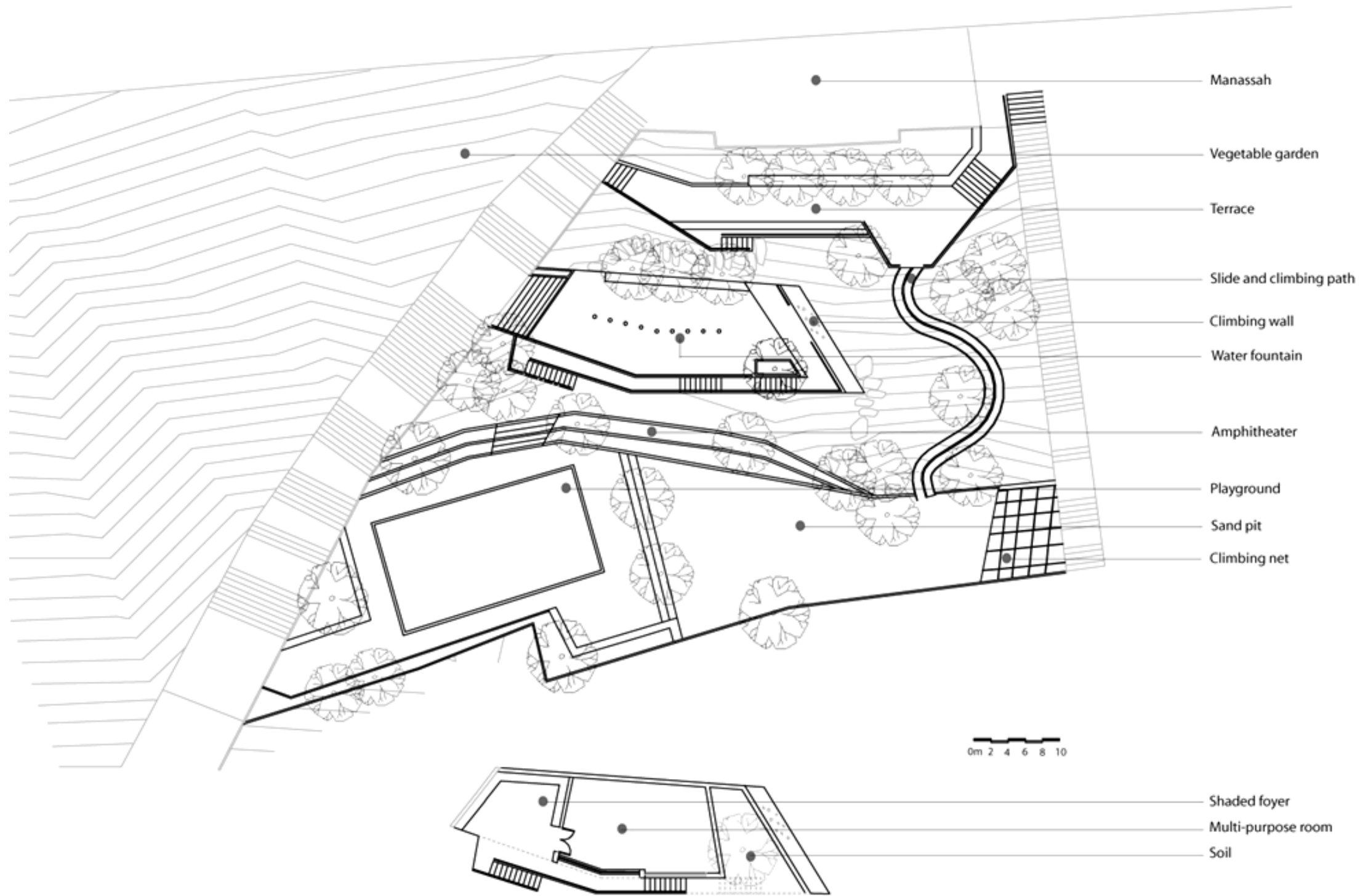
- **Respecting site**

- **Financial considerations**

- **Maintaining views**

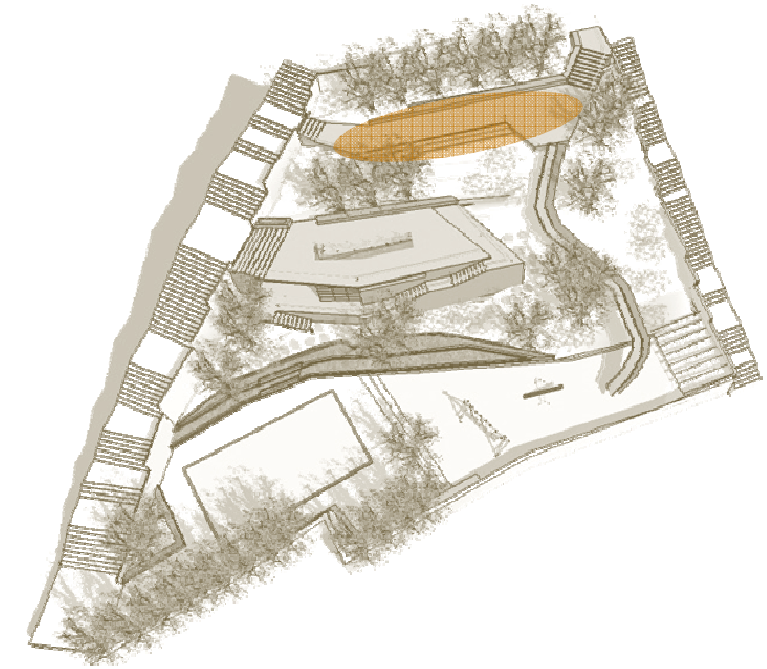
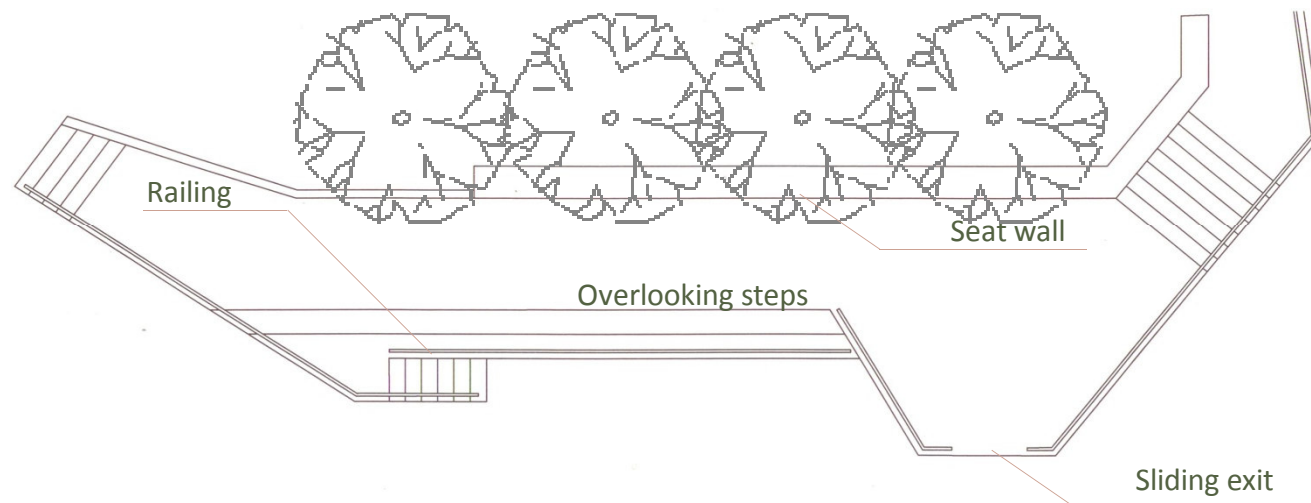
Jabal Qalaa Community Park

Site Plan

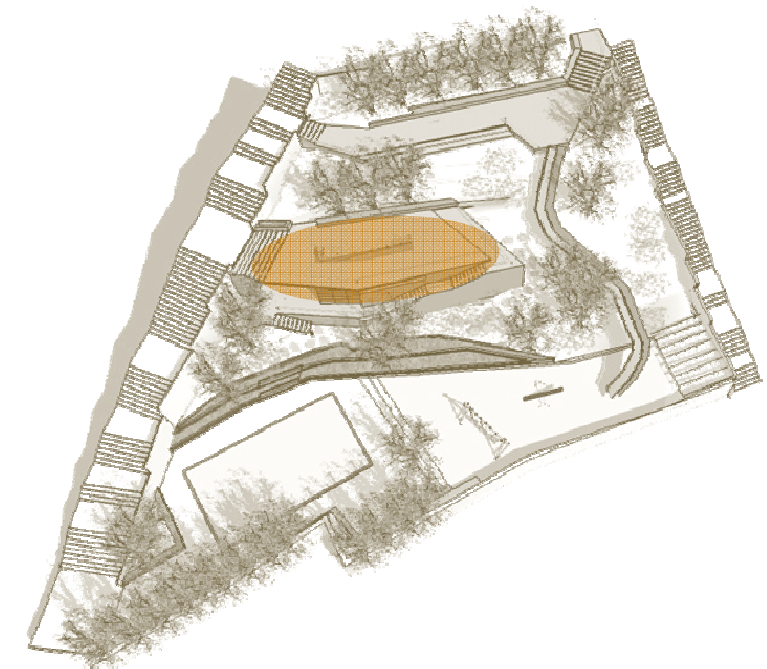
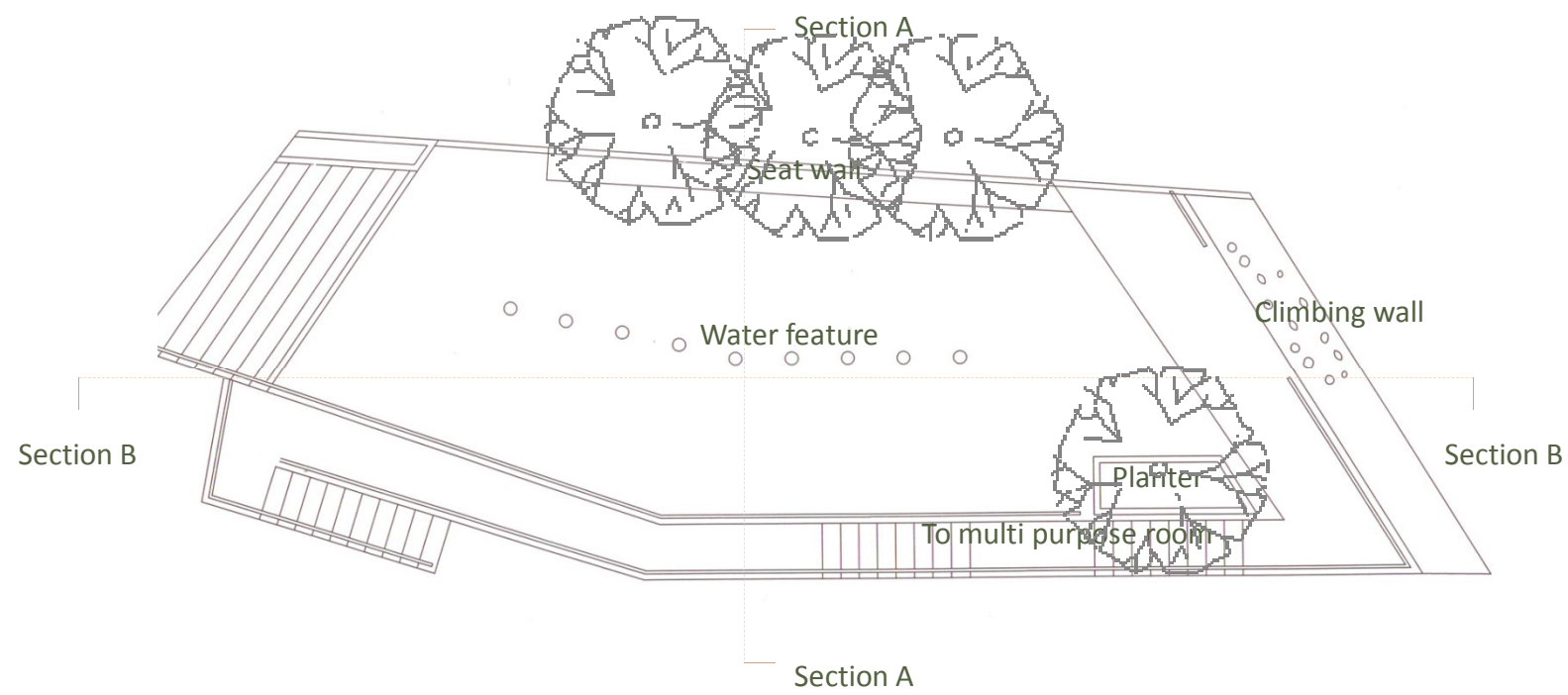


MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM PLAN

Jabal Qalaa Community Park
Zone 1-Terrace A

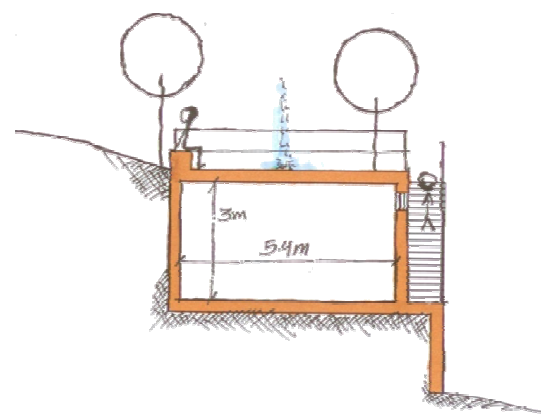


Zone 2-Terrace B & MP Room

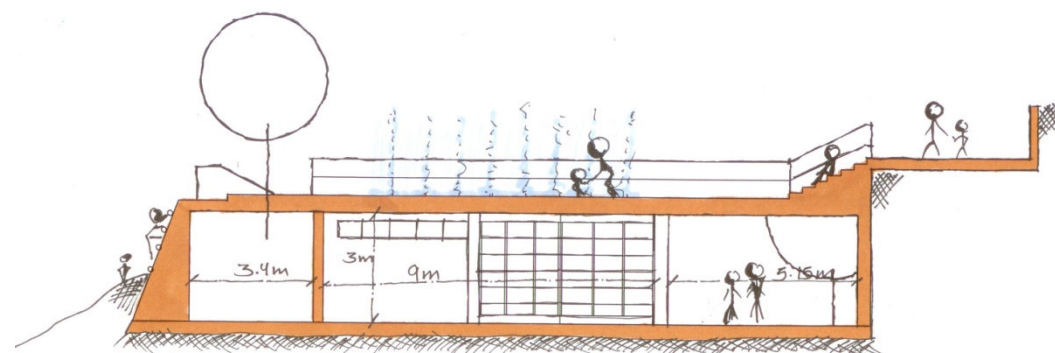


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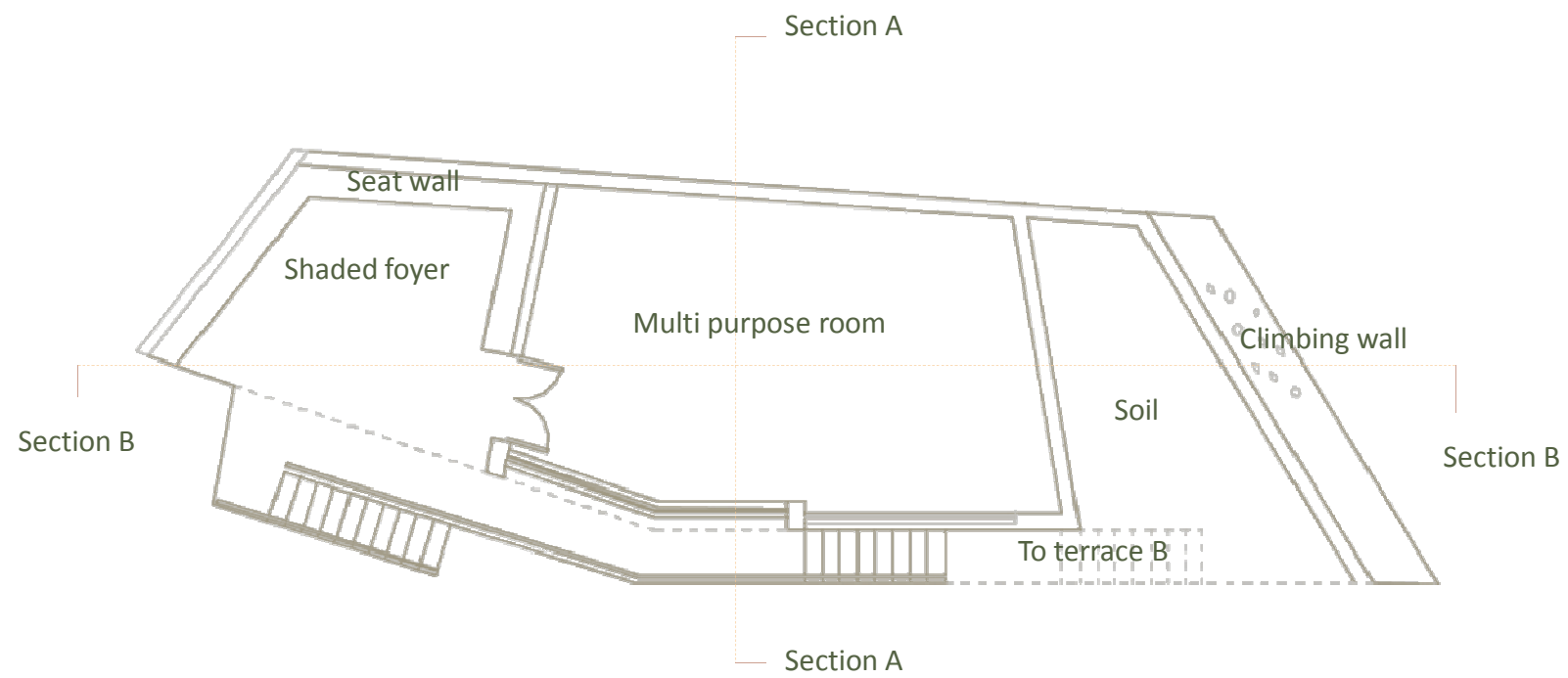
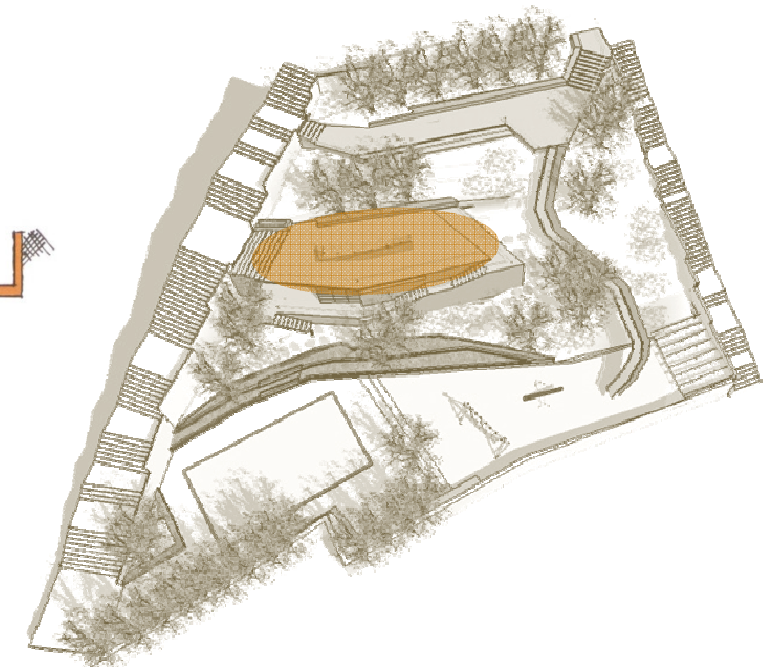
Zone 2-Terrace B & MP Room



Section A

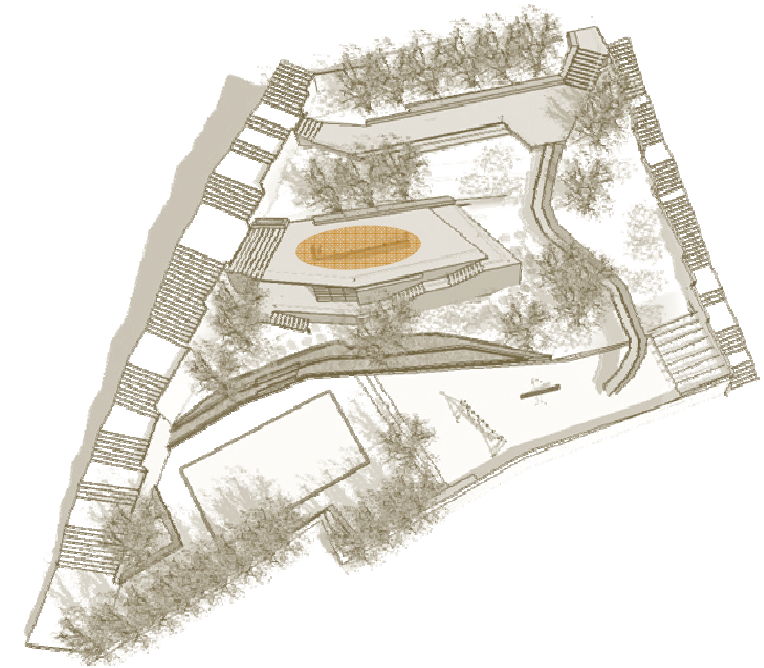


Section B



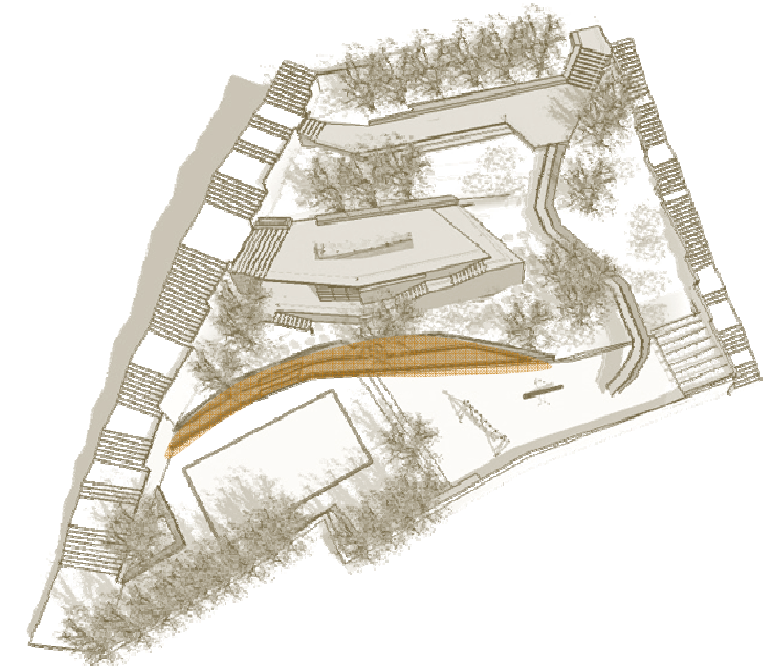
Jabal Qalaa Community Park
Zone 2-Terrace B & MP Room

Water Feature



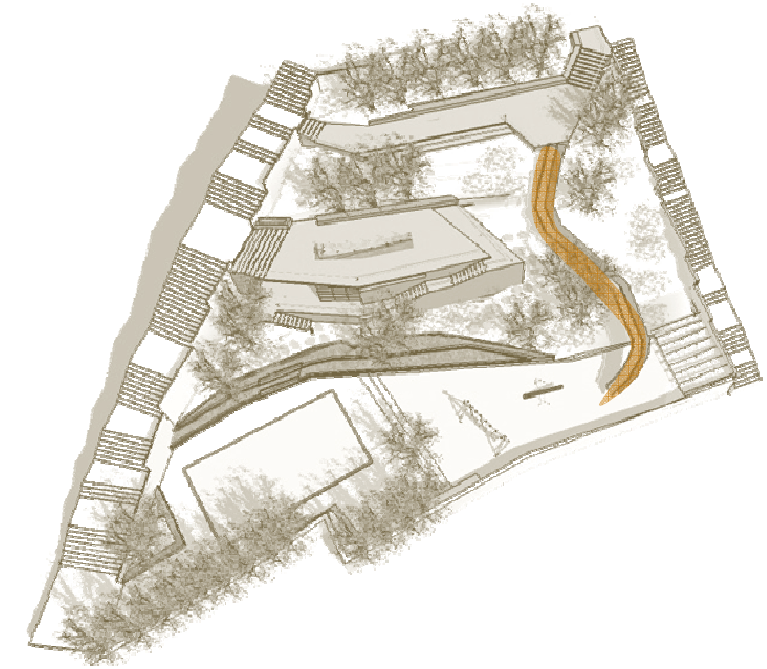
Jabal Qalaa Community Park
Zone 3-Play Area

Amphitheater



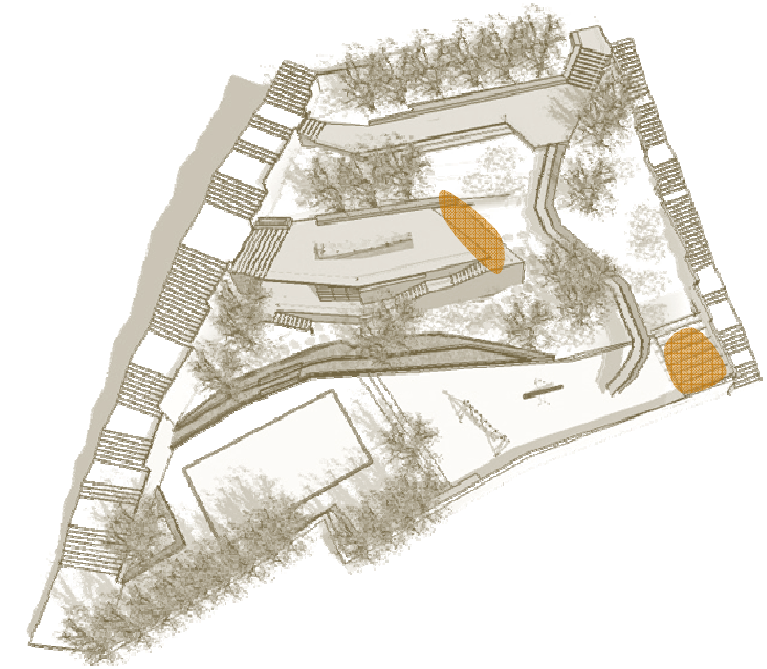
Jabal Qalaa Community Park
Zone 3-Play Area

Slide and climbing path



Jabal Qalaa Community Park
Zone 3-Play Area

Climbing wall and net



Jabal Qalaa Community Park

Planting Plan

Plants included in the design are all water conserving. Children preferences were also taken into consideration while choosing the plants, such as: greenery, shade, colors, plants that attract butterflies.

Plants list:

1. *Cercis siliquastrum*
2. *Melia azadirachta*
3. *Ceratonia siliqua*
4. *Robinia psuedoacacia*
5. *Lantana montevidensis*
6. *Juniperus horizontalis*
7. *Plumbago capensis*
8. *Dodonea viscosa*



Jabal Qalaa Community Park
3D Images of the Park

