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PROJECT STATUS
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Nature, Culture, and Infrastructure: Pylons in the Garden

Urban and Suburban Hiking in New Jersey’s Gateway Region

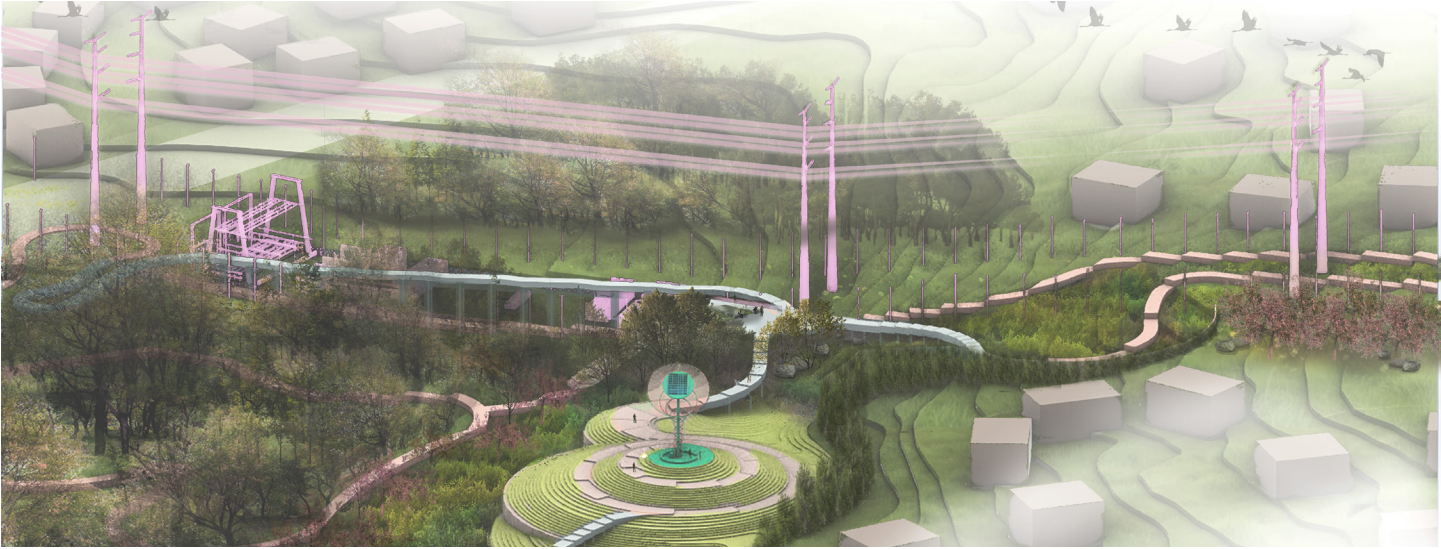
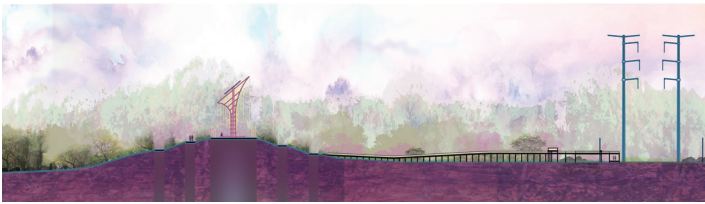
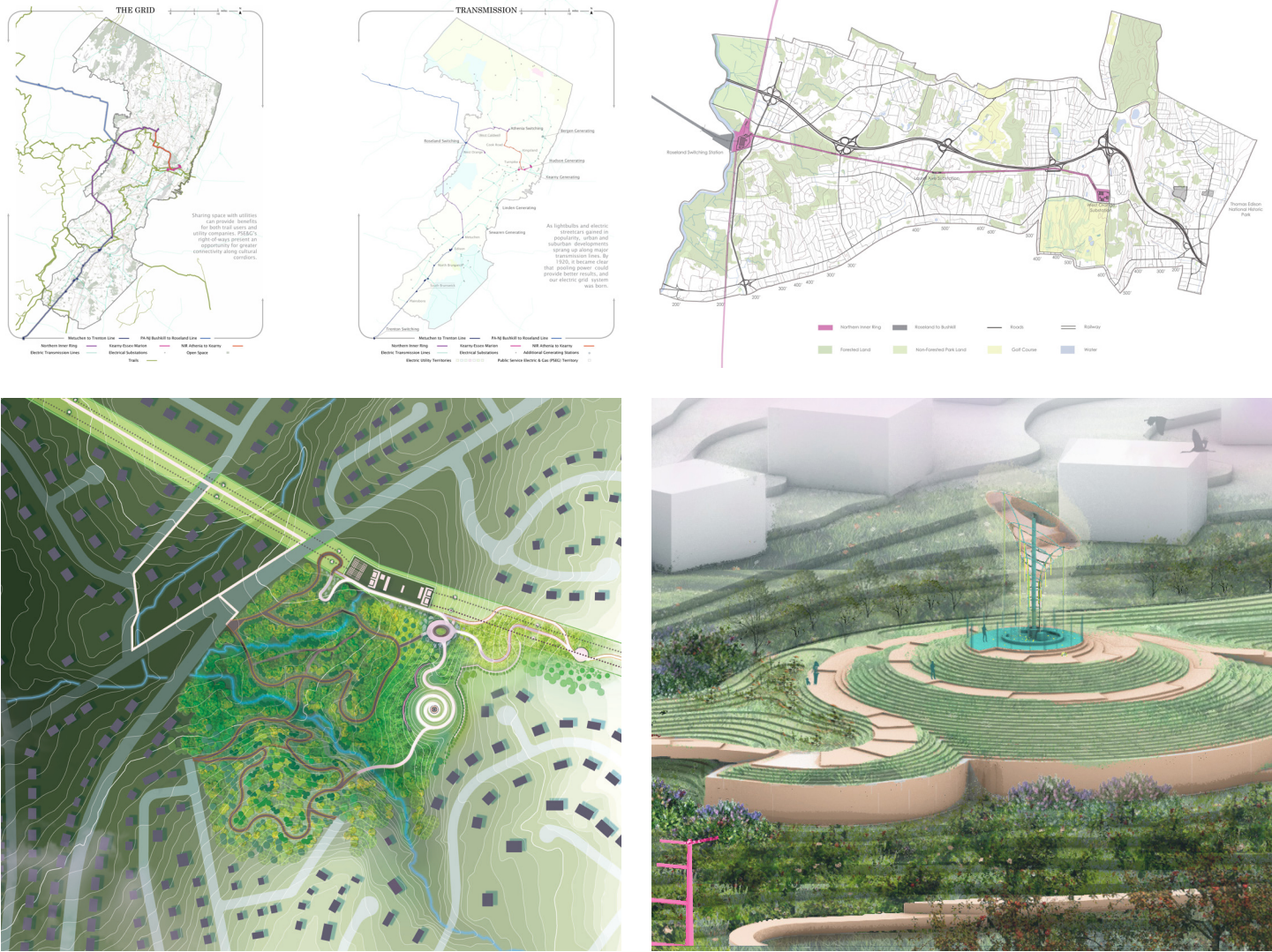
Our relationship with nature is constantly evolving. This can be evidenced by what we do not consider to be nature as much as what we do consider it to be. In New Jersey, our relationship with infrastructural traces in the landscape is paradoxical. We want the benefits infrastructure brings, but often wish for their physical forms to be kept out of sight and out of mind. This mindset is exemplified in our attitude towards power lines, which have long been considered the ugly antithesis of nature by many people living in urban areas. However, it could be argued that this rejection of our infrastructural landmarks is becoming unhealthy, and that a more holistic view of power lines can open up greater opportunities that are currently closed off to us in the form of shared land use, open space reclamation, and connections with the landscape.

While a lot of thought has been given towards hybrid systems of humankind and nature in recent decades through concepts such as Deep Ecology and 4th Nature, ‘nature’ is often still regarded as an external force that exists independently of anthropogenic influences

in its most pure form. Human interaction with it is often perceived as ‘unnatural’. However, when the boundary between humankind and nature is questioned, it becomes evident that electric transmission towers gain a new quality and meaning in the landscape. This thesis investigates the role of landmarks and post-industrial areas to explore the human-nature relationship and the perceptual boundaries that apply.

For full thesis:

<https://doi.org/doi:10.7282/t3-p662-qf03>



For full thesis: <https://www.tbd.com>



PYLONS IN THE GARDEN

Urban and Suburban Hiking in New Jersey’s Gateway Region



Anna Erickson’s interests in Landscape Architecture include urban nature, regional open space networks, and corridor landscapes. Graduating in the class of 2020, Anna holds a Masters in Landscape Architecture as well as a BSLA in the same. She also possesses a BSLA in Environmental Planning & Design. In her future career, Anna hopes to work with heavily urbanized land to enhance ecosystem services in those areas.