

laud402: design studio | iskenderun, hatay
610

palimpsest*



.hatay, türkiye



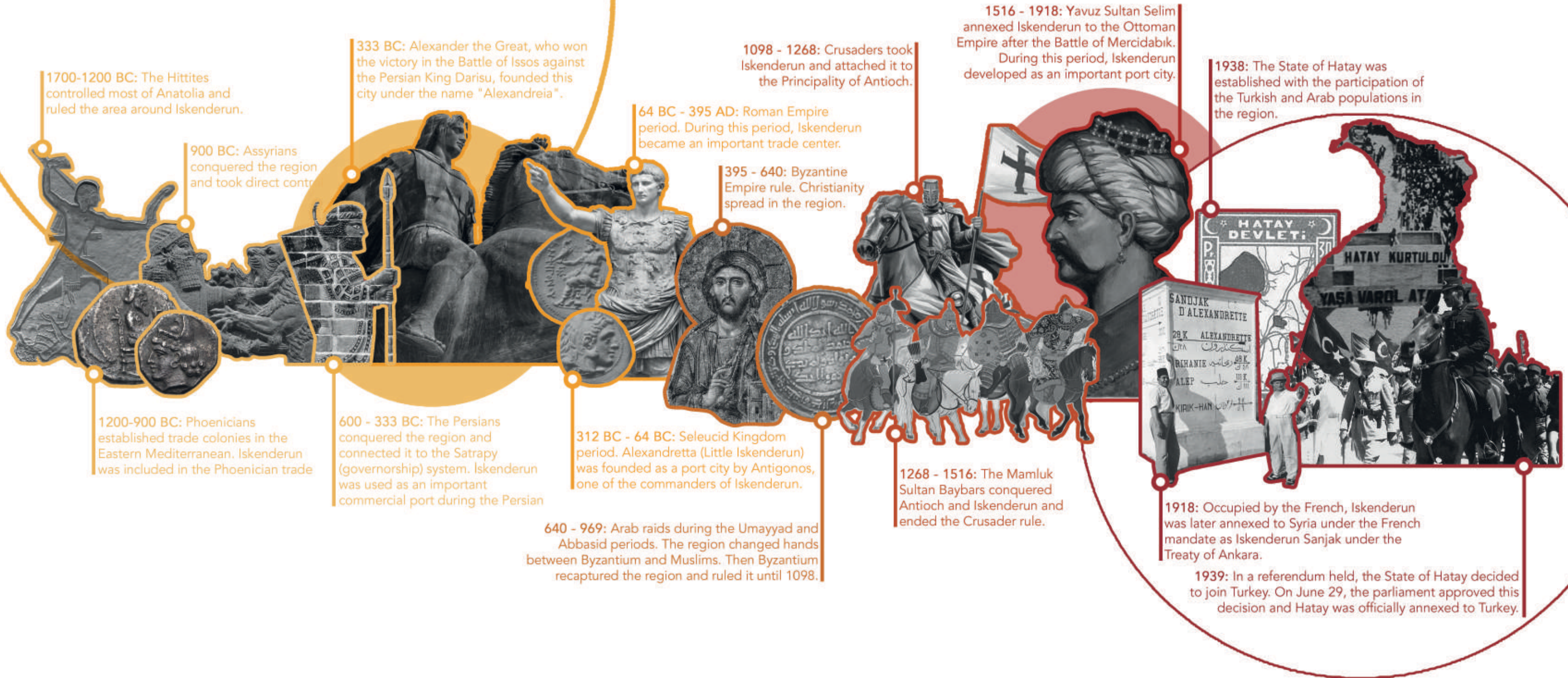
Hatay is one of the provinces located in the south of Turkey, southeast of the Mediterranean Region, bordering Syria. Due to its geographical location, it is located in a **region of strategic importance on the international platform**.

.iskenderun, hatay, türkiye



Iskenderun is one of **the largest and most strategic districts** of Hatay. With its Mediterranean coastline and Iskenderun Port, it serves as the **region's trade and industrial hub**. Historically a **key port city**, it remains a **major center for the iron and steel industry**, logistics, and infrastructure.

.the site | history of the settlements



.The Ancient Age and the Early Civilizations
(1700 B.C. - 333 B.C.)

.The Crusades and Mamluks
(1098 - 1516)

.Hellenistic Period and Rome
(333 BC - 395 AD)

.The Ottoman Period
(1516 - 1918)

.Byzantine and Arab Incursions
(395 - 1098)

.War Period and Hatay's Accession to Turkey
(1918 - Present)

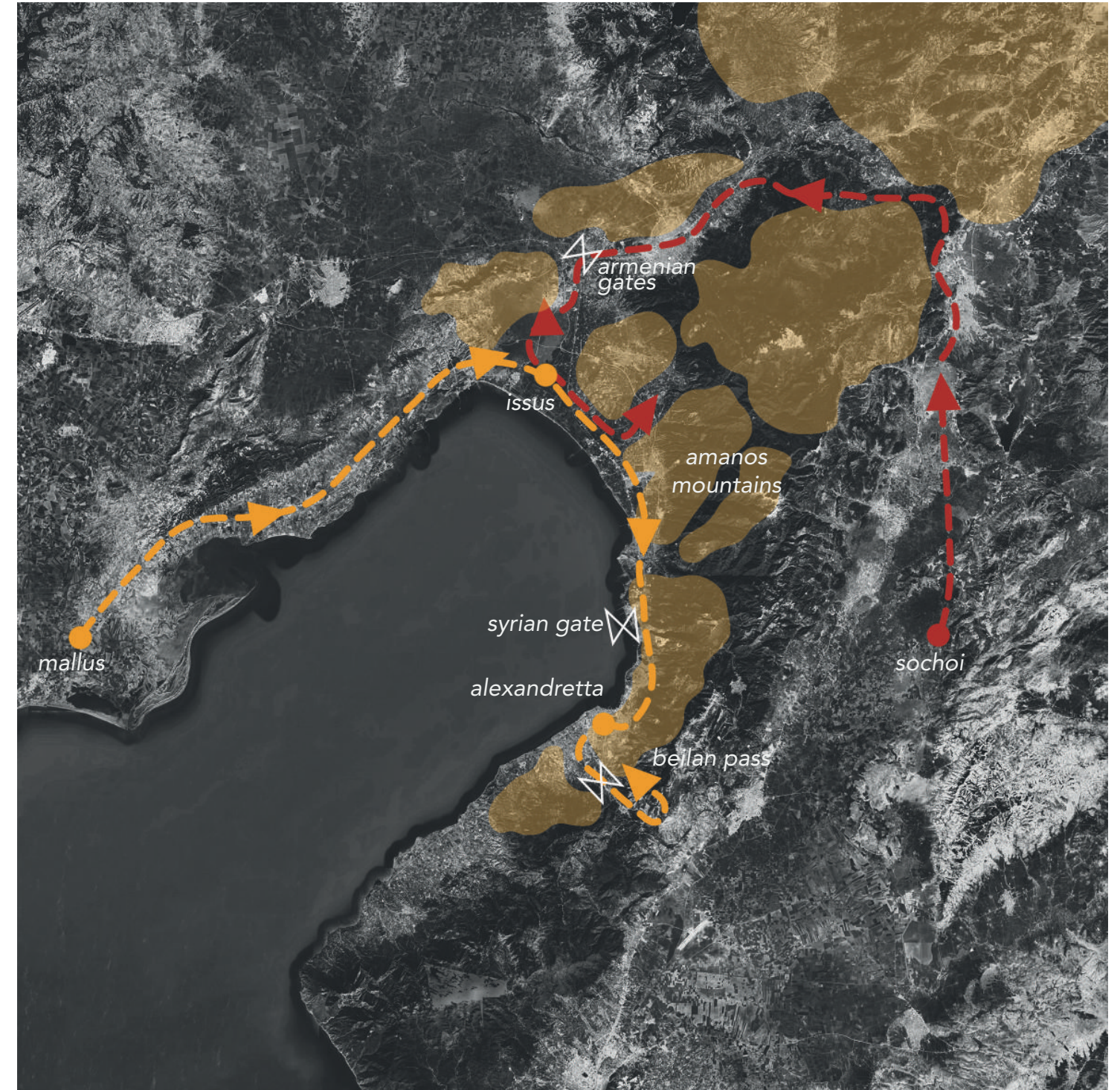
.the site | history of the settlements

.the old cities located near iskenderun



Iskenderun's region holds significant historical cities, including **Alexandrette**, founded by **Alexander the Great** after his victory at **Issus** (333 BCE). Nearby, **Antioch** became a **major Hellenistic and Roman center**, supported by its **port city, Seleucia Pieria**. The ancient Phoenician port of **Myriandus** also contributed to the area's rich trade history.

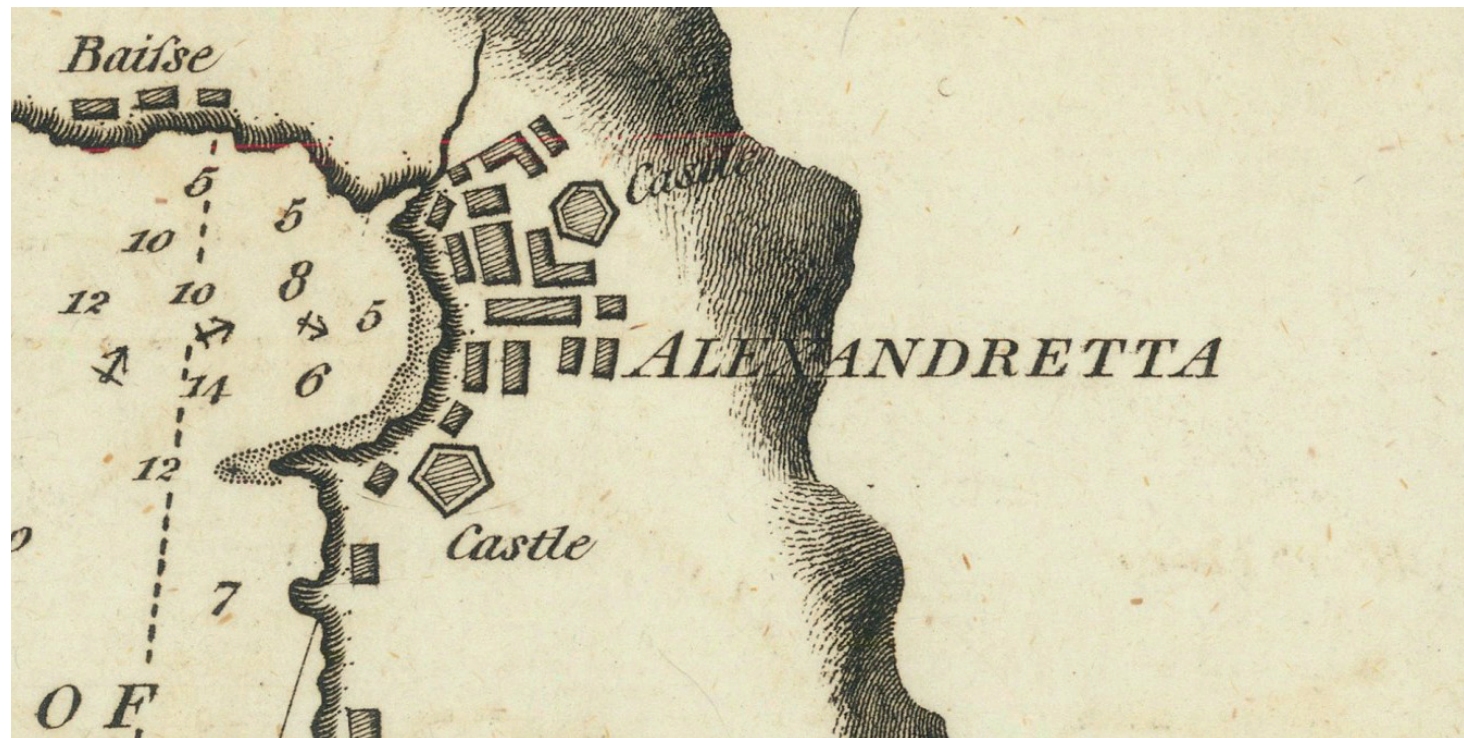
.battle issus movements



The Battle of Issus (333 BCE) took place near modern-day Iskenderun, in a narrow plain between the **Amanos Mountains and the Mediterranean Sea**. Alexander the Great used the terrain to counter Darius III's larger army, securing a decisive victory. Darius fled, abandoning his family and wealth, marking a turning point in Alexander's conquest of Persia.

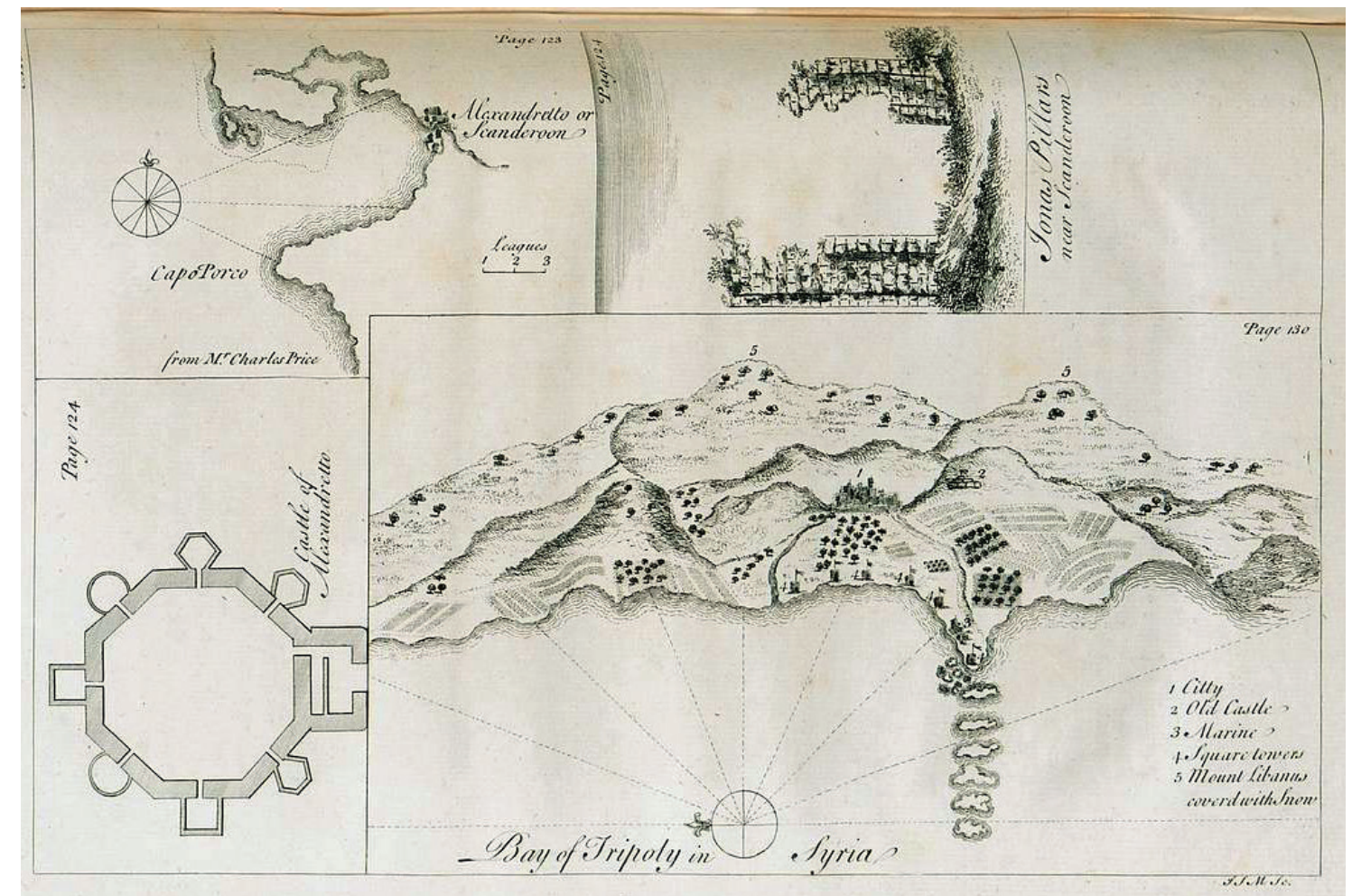
.the site | history of the settlements

.the old city "alexandrette"



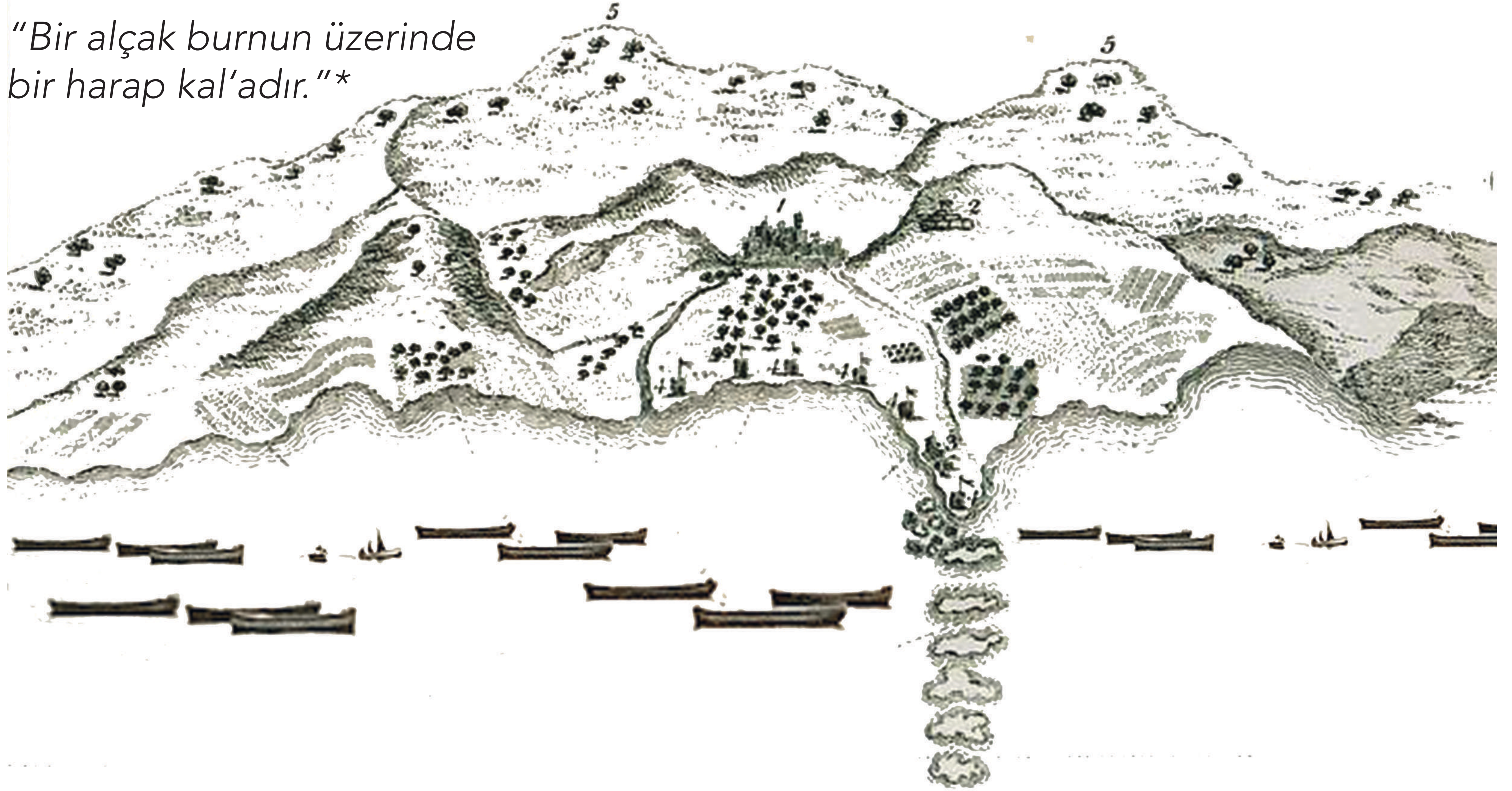
After the Battle of Issus (333 BCE), Alexandretta was founded as a strategic port and defense center. Located between the Amanos Mountains and the Mediterranean, the city was protected by a fortress and served as a key point for trade routes connecting Antioch, Seleucia Pieria, and Central Anatolia. With its Hellenistic urban layout, Alexandretta continued to develop under Roman and Byzantine rule, ultimately laying the foundations for modern Iskenderun.

.the old city "alexandrette" & castle of alexandrette



After the Battle of Issus (333 BCE), Alexandretta was founded as a strategic port and defense center. Located between the Amanos Mountains and the Mediterranean, the city was protected by a fortress and served as a key point for trade routes connecting Antioch, Seleucia Pieria, and Central Anatolia. With its Hellenistic urban layout, Alexandretta continued to develop under Roman and Byzantine rule, ultimately laying the foundations for modern Iskenderun.

"Bir alçak burnun üzerinde
bir harap kal'adır."*



.the site | history of the settlements | city silhouette, 1640's



**From the memories of Jean Baptiste Tavernier and Evliya Çelebi.*

.the site | history of the settlements | city silhouette, 1880's



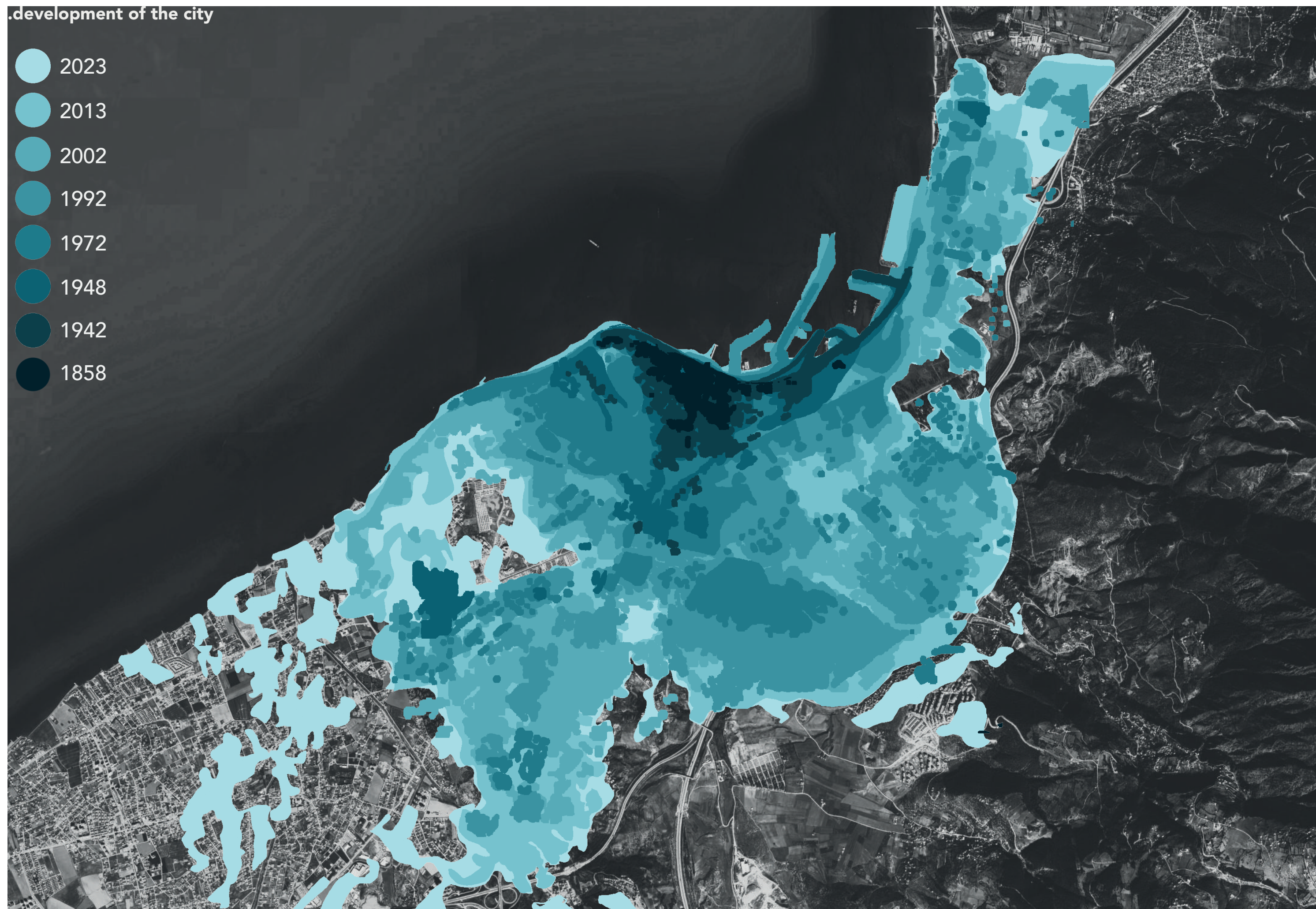
**From the memories of Dr. Serafeddin Magmumi.*

.the site | history of the settlements | city silhouette, 1920's



**From the memories of Paul Jacquot and Ahmet Serif.*

.development of the city



.1858



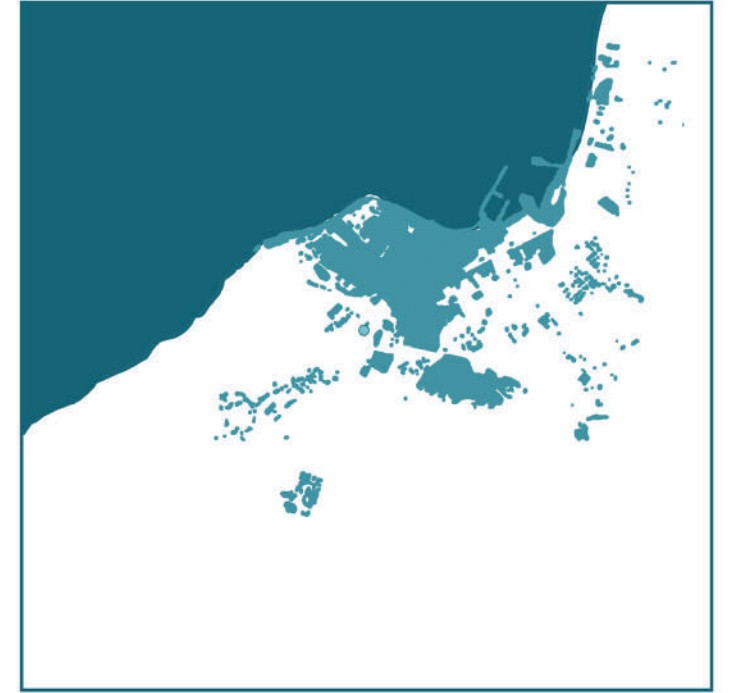
.1942



.1948



.1972



.1992



.2002



.2012



.2023

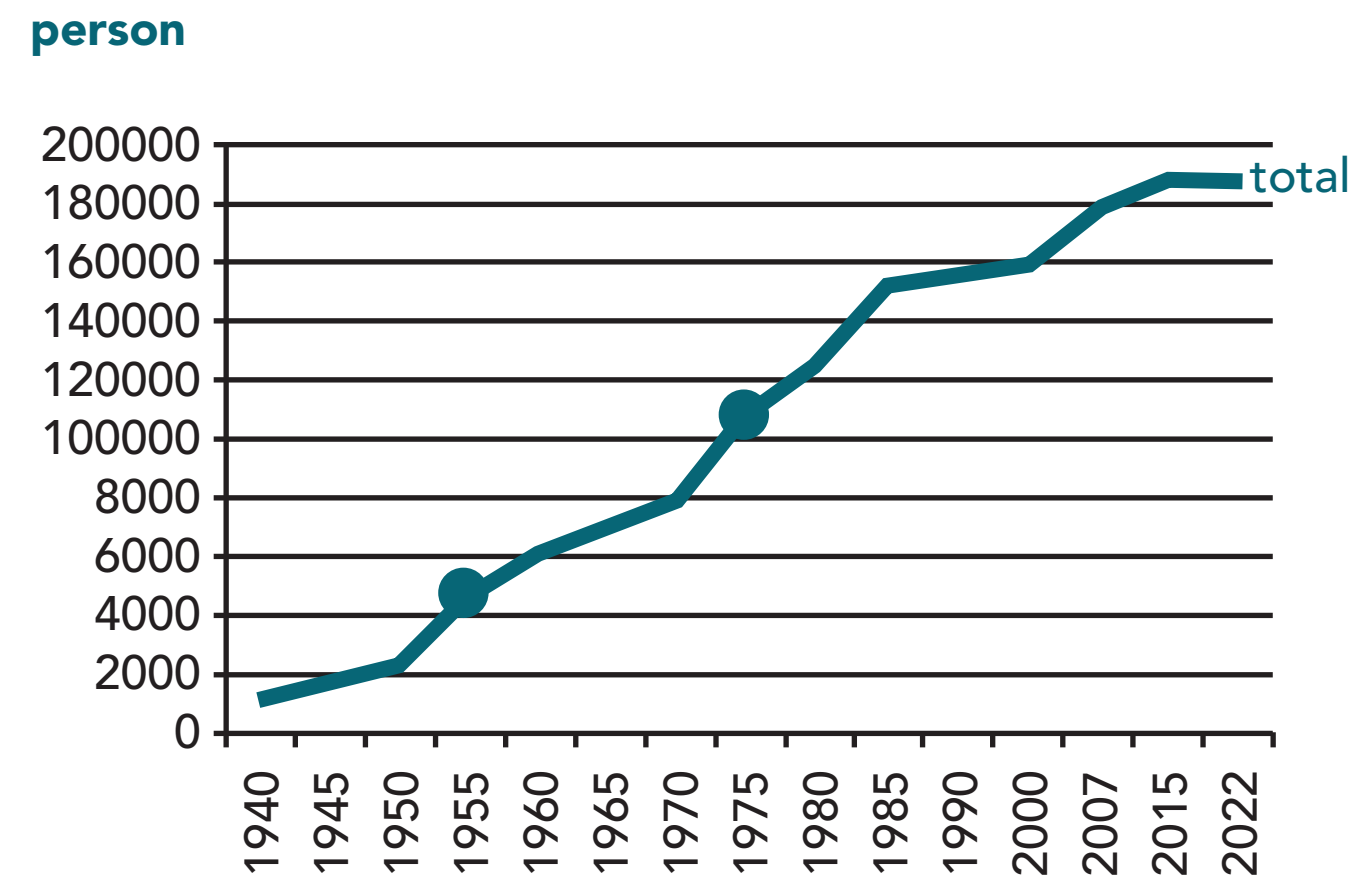


.development of the city | population development & development course (1940-2022)

. population development in Iskenderun district (1940-2022)

year	man	woman	total
1940	6476	5383	11859
1945	11092	7520	18612
1950	-	-	22872
1955	28297	18283	46580
1960	36437	25624	62061
1965	39670	29712	69382
1970	42575	36722	79297
1975	57933	49504	107437
1980	64777	60047	124824
1985	79765	72331	152096
1990	79406	75401	154907
2000	79056	80093	159149
2007	90004	87290	177294
2015	94333	92657	186990
2022	92956	93750	186706

.development course of population in Iskenderun district center (1940-2022)

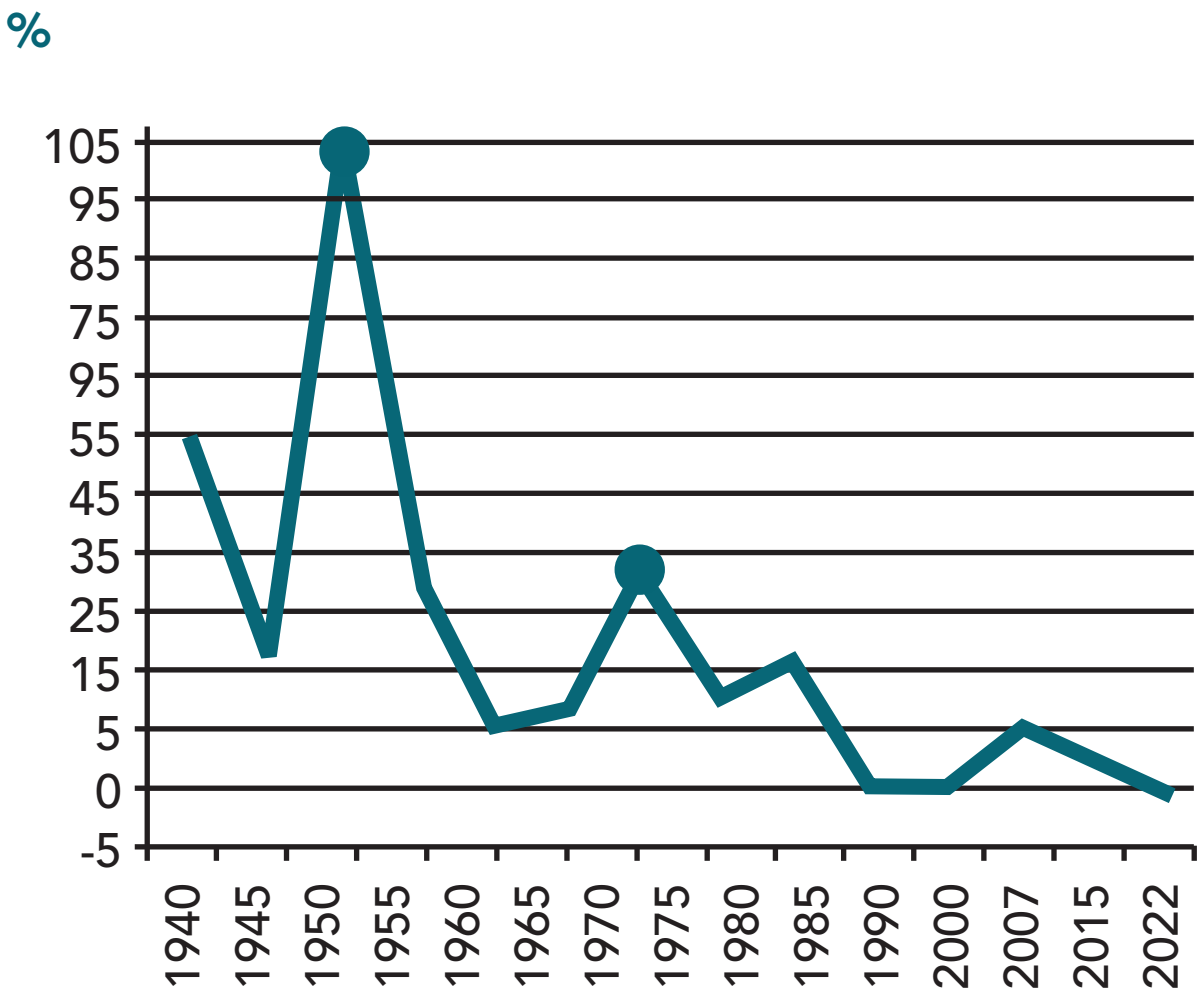


Although Iskenderun has historically been important due to its port and agricultural potential, its main development in terms of population and economy took place after it joined Türkiye. The 1950s, when food (oil, flour, semolina, fruit juice), yarn, weaving and fertilizer factories started to operate, is seen as the period when very important steps were taken for the region. After the 1970s, the establishment of heavy industry in the region led the city to enter a new development process based on industry. **There were 2 important processes between 1940 and 2022 for Iskenderun district. The first of these is the period between 1950-1955 and the second is the period between 1970-1975.**

. population growth rate in Iskenderun district center (1940-2022)

year	man	woman	total	total
1940 - 1945	4616	2137	6753	%56,9
1945 - 1950	-	-	4260	%22,9
1950 - 1955	-	-	23708	%103,7
1955 - 1960	8140	7341	15481	%33,2
1960 - 1965	3233	4088	7321	%11,8
1965 - 1970	2905	7010	9915	%14,3
1970 - 1975	15358	12782	28140	%35,5
1975 - 1980	6844	10543	17387	%16,2
1980 - 1985	14988	12284	27272	%21,8
1985 - 1990	-359	3070	2711	%1,8
1990 - 2000	-350	4692	4342	%2,8
2000 - 2007	10948	7197	18145	%11,4
2007 - 2015	4327	5367	9696	%5,5
2015 - 2022	-1377	1093	-284	%-0,2

. population growth rate in Iskenderun district center (1940-2022)



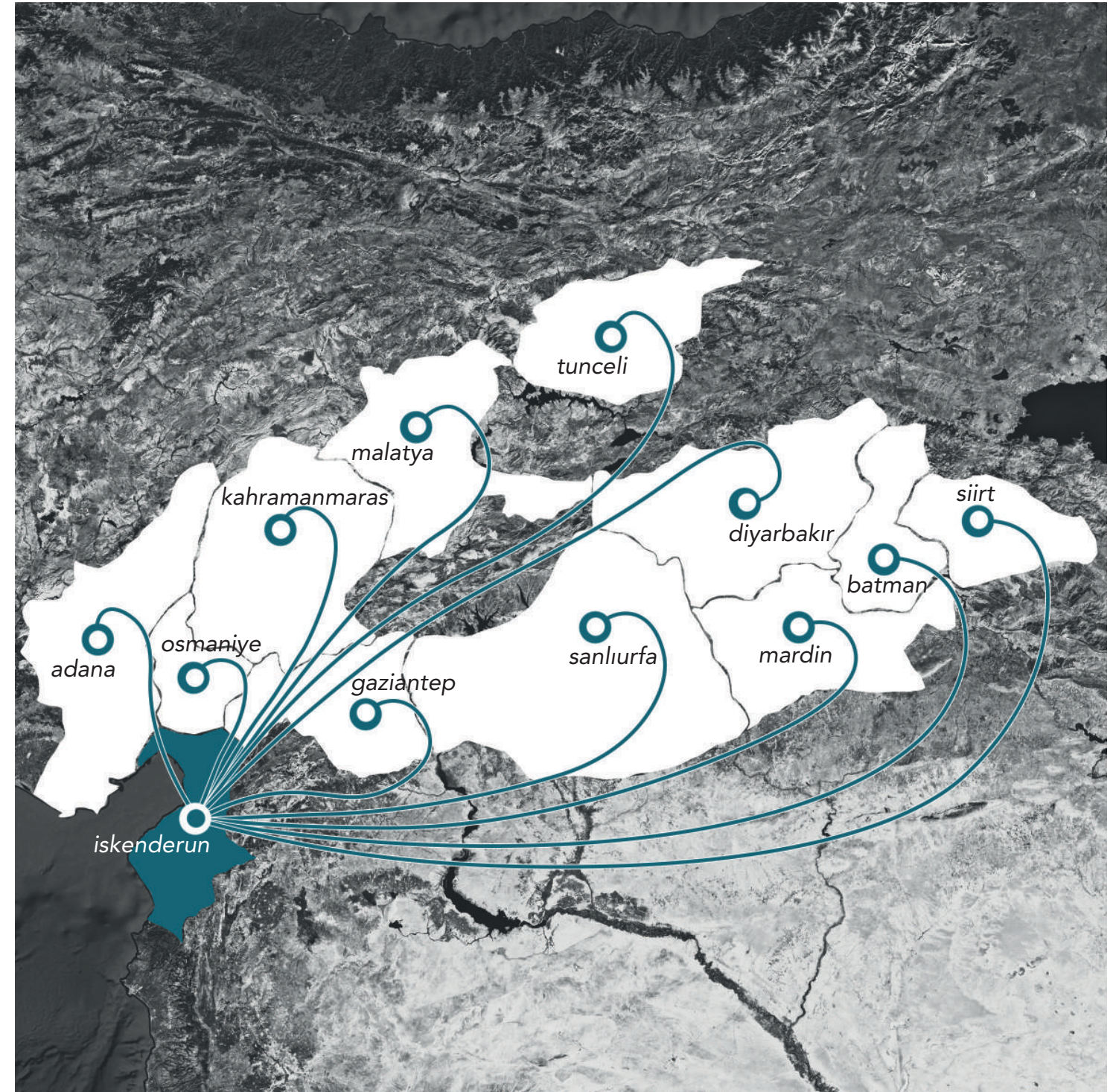
When we look at the population development of Iskenderun district center, the changes in the total population appear in similar periods. In 1950, the city population of 22872 people increased to 46580 people in 1955. The population growth rate in this period was **103.7%**. This rate in this period is the highest increase in the city population. With the start of the first industrial investments in the district, there was a large amount of migration from the surrounding villages and districts. The establishment of Turkey's first fertilizer factory pioneered the foundations of industrial development. **Industry lies at the heart of this situation, which shows a different course than the normal course of population growth.**

.migration from the districts of hatay



Between the **1950s and 1970s**, Iskenderun became a key migration hub within Hatay, driven by industrialization and economic opportunities. People from **Yayladagı, Altınözü, Hassa, Kırıkhan, and Belen** moved to the city, seeking jobs in emerging industries such as **Hatay Yagları, Isdemir, and Gübretas**. As housing demand increased, high land prices forced many low-income migrants to settle in **hillside gecekondu neighborhoods**, shaping the city's expanding urban fabric.

.migration from the other cities



Iskenderun's industrial growth attracted migration from neighboring provinces such as **Adana, Osmaniye, and Kahramanmaras**, as well as from **Malatya, Tunceli, Diyarbakır, Mardin, Sanliurfa, Batman, and Siirt**. Industries like **Isdemir and Gübretas** created employment opportunities, drawing both skilled and unskilled workers. While higher-income migrants settled in planned areas, low-income families formed **informal gecekondu settlements** on the city's outskirts, reshaping Iskenderun's urban landscape.

.city development between 1948 - 1972



Following Hatay's annexation in 1939, Iskenderun grew as a trade and industrial hub, attracting migration from nearby towns and villages. Key factories, including **Hatay Yagları (1938)**, **Bilger Flour (1941)**, **Akala Textile (1952)**, and **Ersoy Textile (1957)**, shaped the city's economy. The opening of **Sariseki Fertilizer Plant (1954)**, Turkey's first fertilizer factory, fueled significant population growth, driving the city's horizontal expansion.

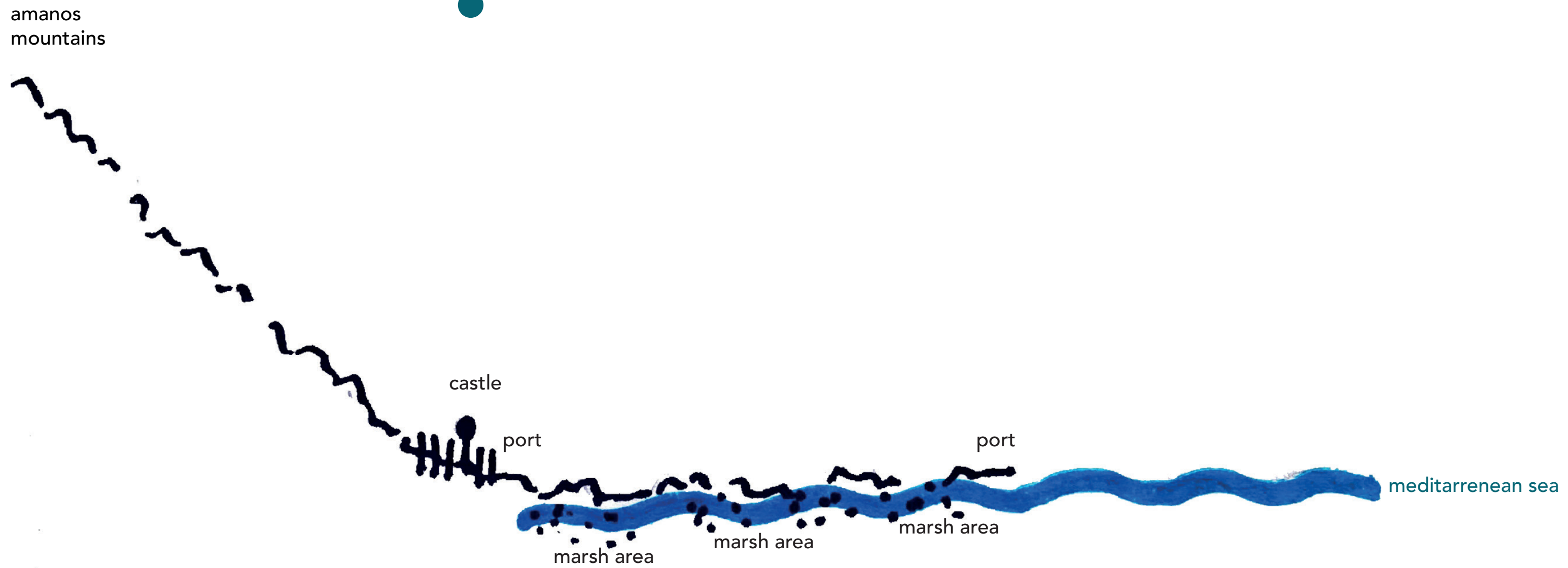
.city development between 1972 - 1992



The establishment of Isdemir triggered a major migration wave from Hatay and **Eastern and Southeastern Anatolia**. As housing demand surged, high land and property prices pushed lower-income migrants toward the steep slopes and outskirts, forming **unplanned gecekondu settlements**. These **informal settlements**, built at higher elevations, gave rise to neighborhoods named after their topography, such as **Esentepe, Baristepe, Kocatepe, Yildirimtepe, and Buluttepe**.

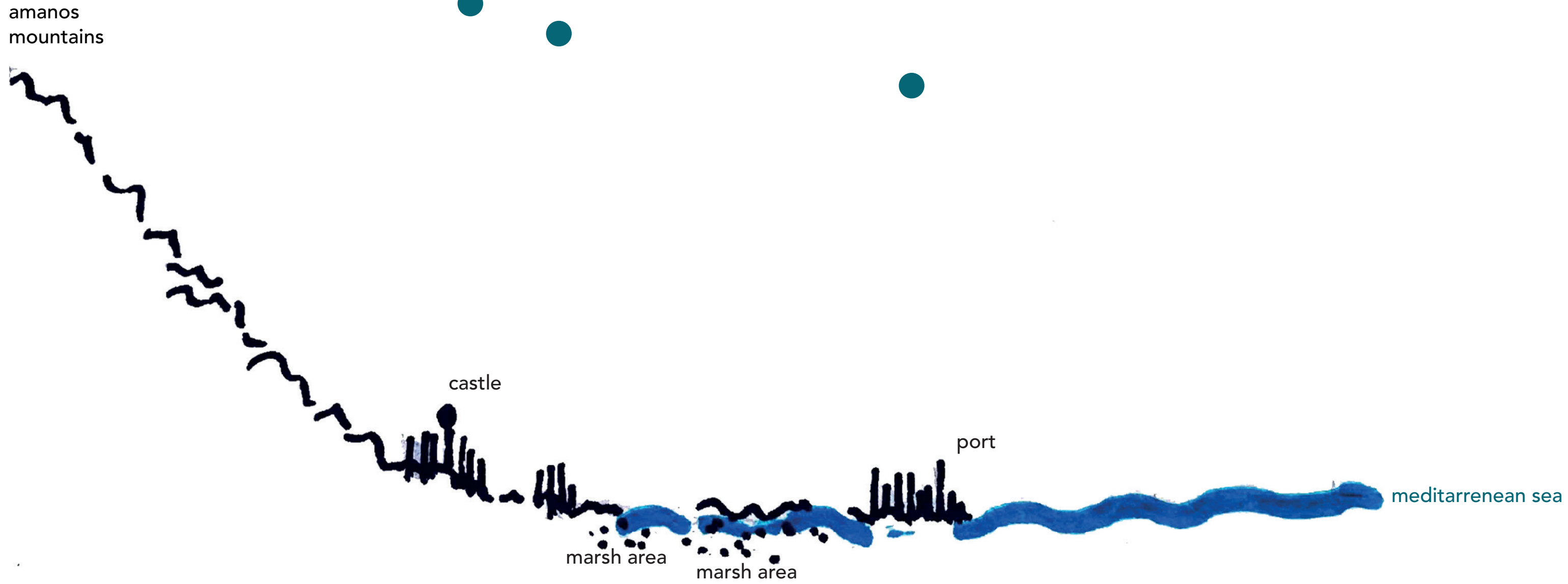
.development of the city

.section of the iskenderun, 1515's



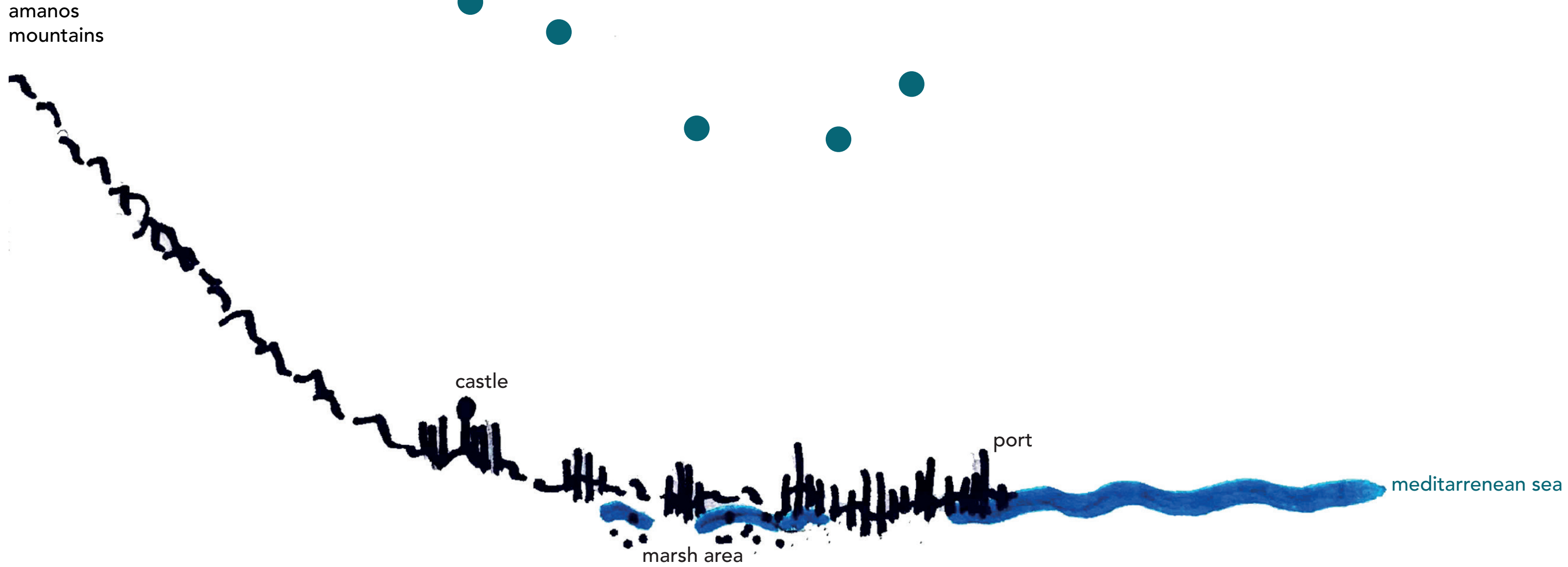
.development of the city

.section of the iskenderun, 1640's



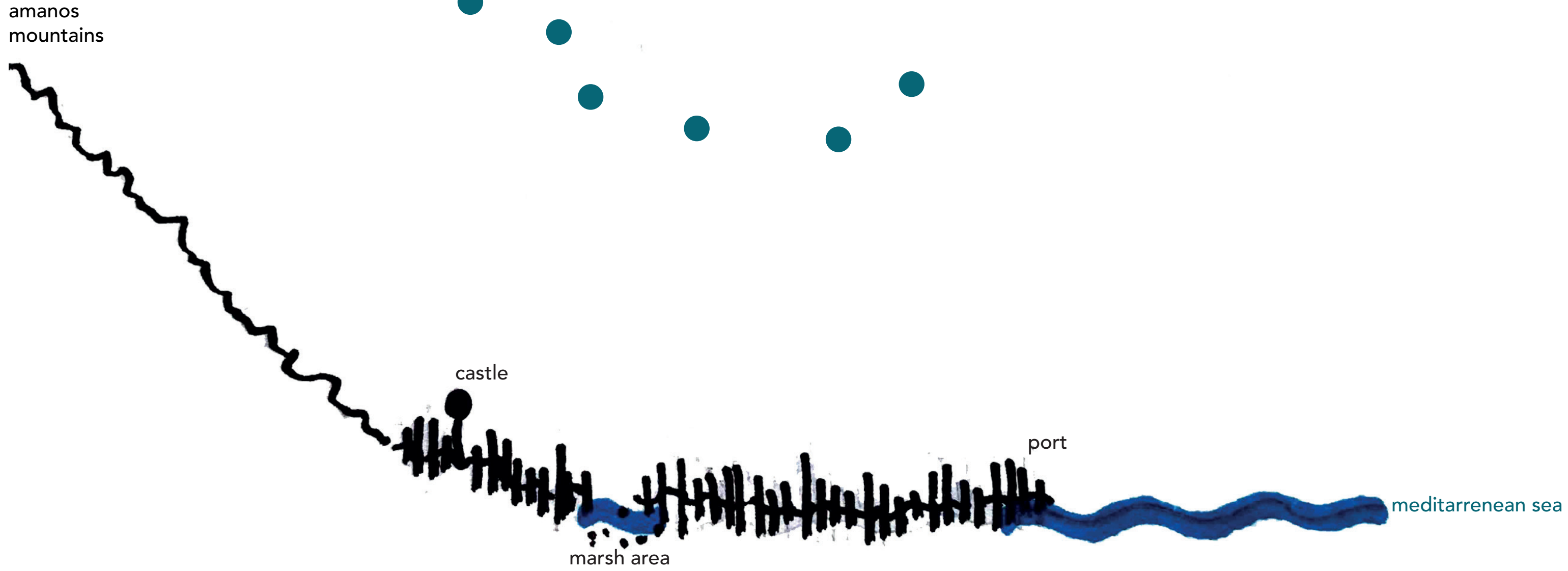
.development of the city

.section of the iskenderun, 1880's



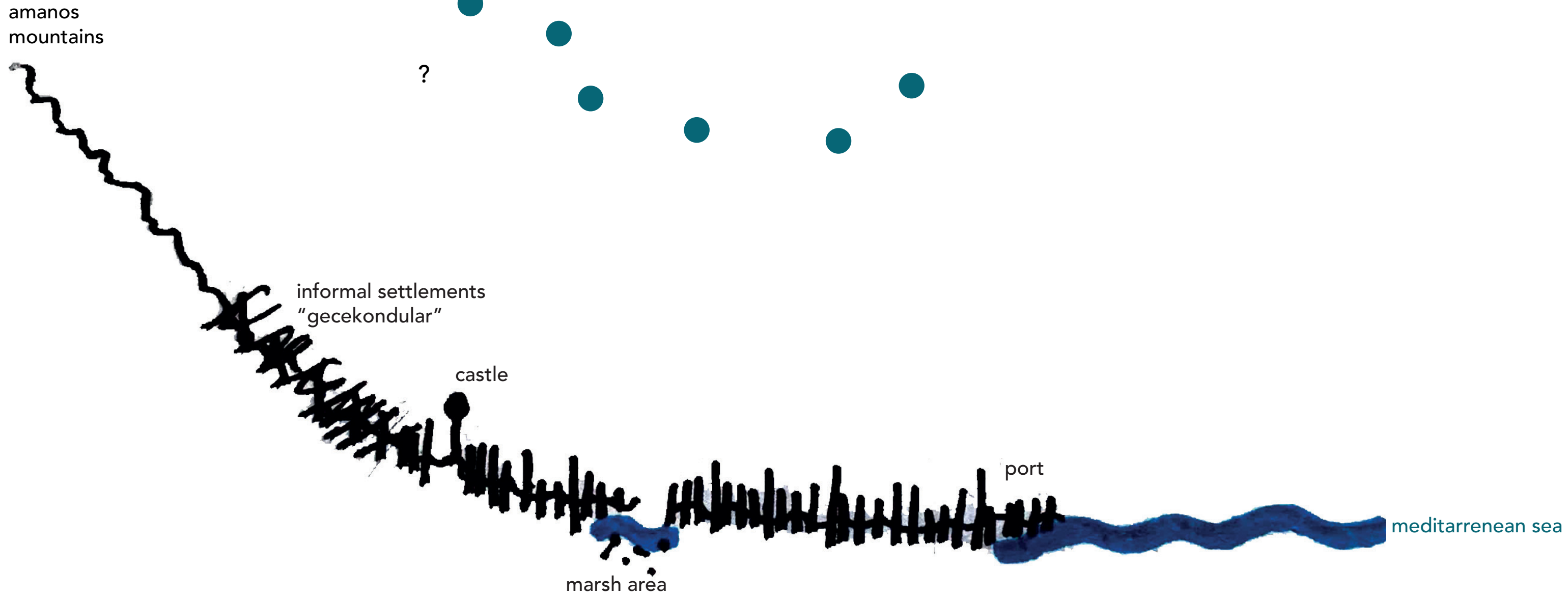
.development of the city

.section of the iskenderun, 1920's



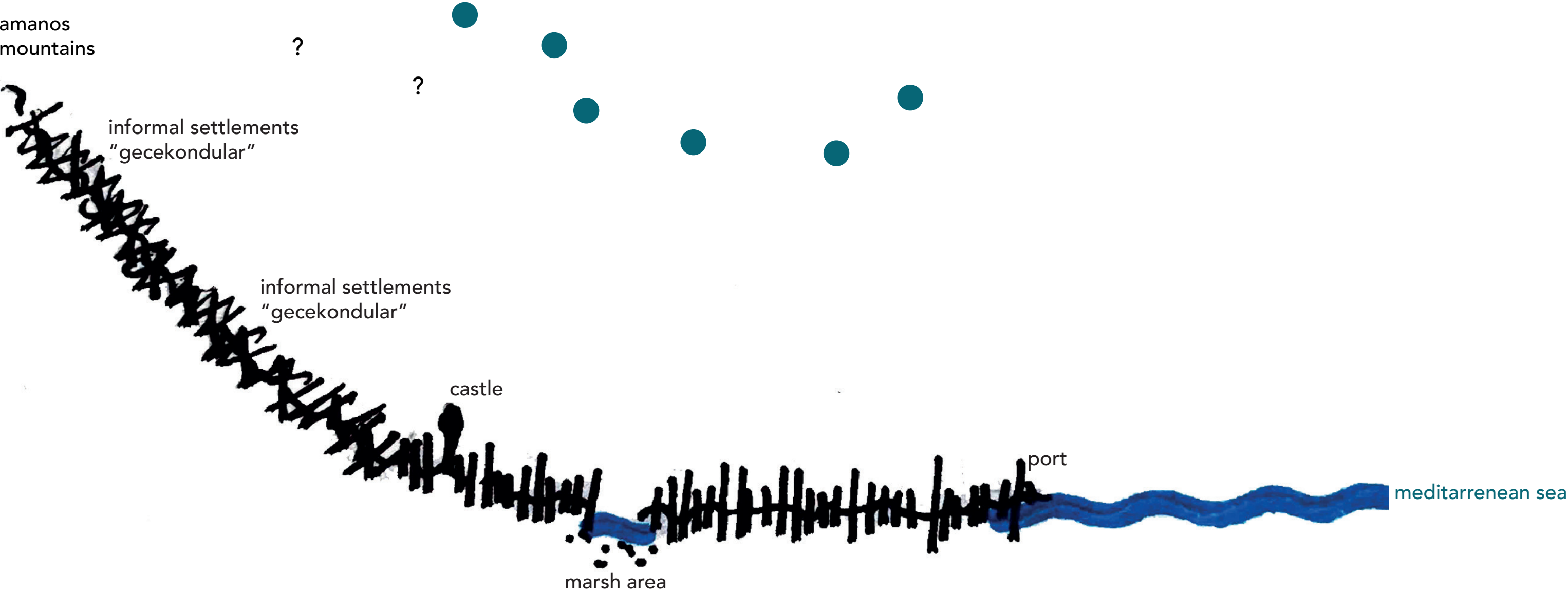
.development of the city

.section of the iskenderun, 1950's



.development of the city

.section of the iskenderun, 1970's

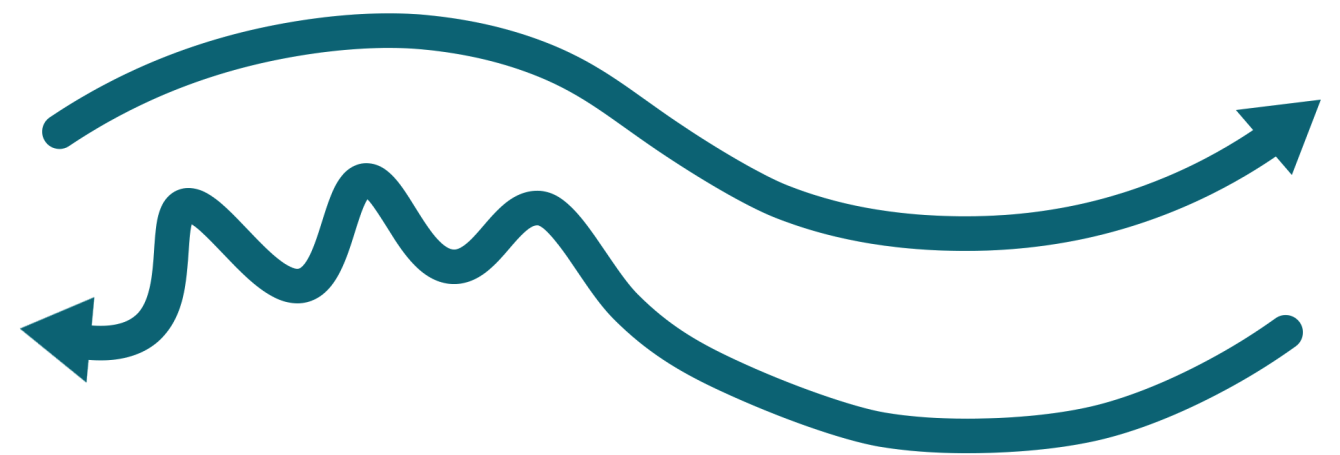


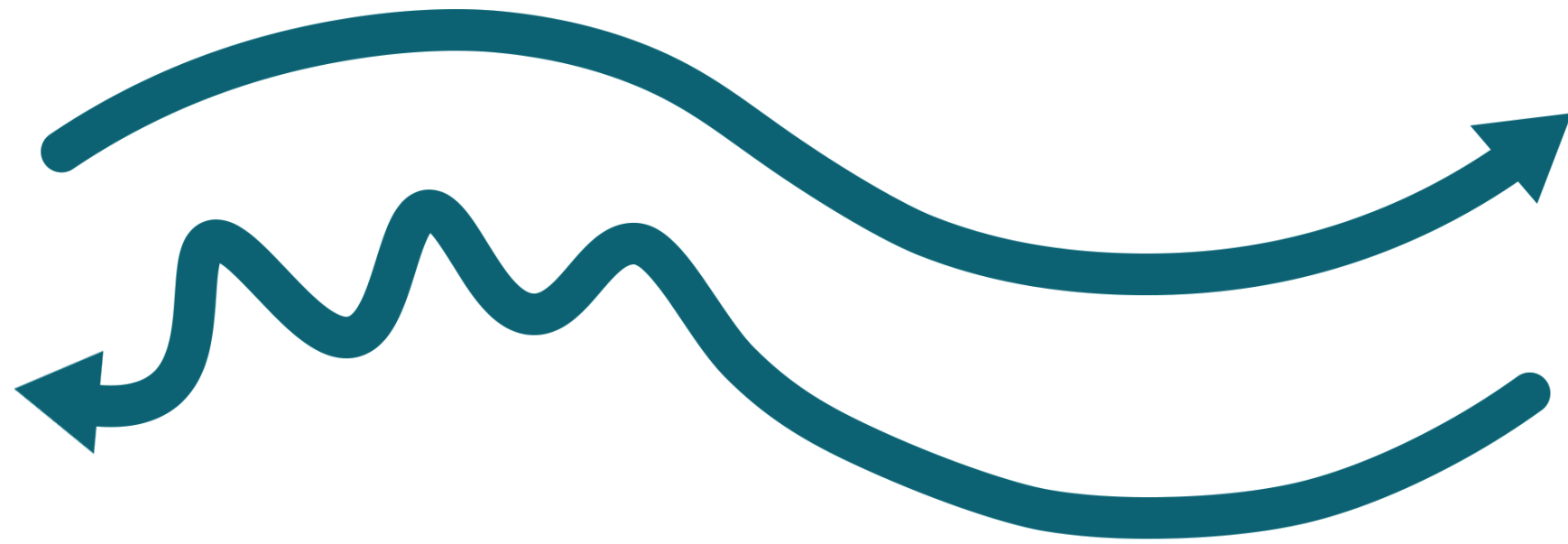
.concept

.how it is?



.how it should be?





re-*generation*

.design area | tepe neighborhoods

.tepe neighborhoods, iskenderun



This map highlights the **Tepe neighborhoods within Iskenderun**, illustrating their position in the city's overall urban fabric. These areas, which emerged as a result of **rapid migration and informal settlements**, are located on the steep slopes surrounding the city center. Their peripheral yet strategic location **played a crucial role in shaping Iskenderun's urban expansion**, as they provided housing for the growing workforce during the city's industrial boom.

.tepe neighborhoods, iskenderun



This detailed map defines the exact boundaries of the Tepe neighborhoods and labels each one by name. Areas such as **Esentepe, Baristepe, Kocatepe, Yıldırımtepe, Gültepe and Buluttepe** evolved as informal settlements, later transforming into established districts. The topographical constraints and **spontaneous urbanization patterns** seen here reflect the socio-economic dynamics that have shaped these neighborhoods over time.



gece
-*kondur*.

*“Topragından kopup gelenler barınma sorunlarını kendileri çözdüler.
Geceler boyunca çalıştılar ve kentlere kondular.
Kondularını yan yana, üst üste yaptılar.
Gecekonduları yarattılar.
Çünkü kamu, kentleşme sürecinde kentsel hizmetlerin üretimine ilişkin etkili önlemler almamıştı.
Ve gecekondular umutlarını fidanlarla toprakta köklestirdiler.
Fidanlar büyüdü, ağaç oldu ama umutlar gerçek olmadı.
Yasamda gerçekleşmeyen umutlar, konduların önünde her geçen büyüdü, büyüdü...”**

.design area | tepe neighborhoods

.unplanned urbanization and infrastructure deficiencies



Rapid migration driven by industrialization led to the **unplanned expansion of Tepe Mahalleleri**, with little infrastructure investment. **Limited access to water, sewage, and electricity** remains a challenge, **while poor roads and transportation** further isolate residents from economic and social opportunities in the city center.

.unplanned urbanization and disaster risks



Located on hilly, landslide-prone terrain, **these neighborhoods are vulnerable to disasters and land collapses**. **Poor drainage systems** increase the risk of flooding during heavy rainfall, while insufficient disaster preparedness leads to delays in post-disaster response efforts.

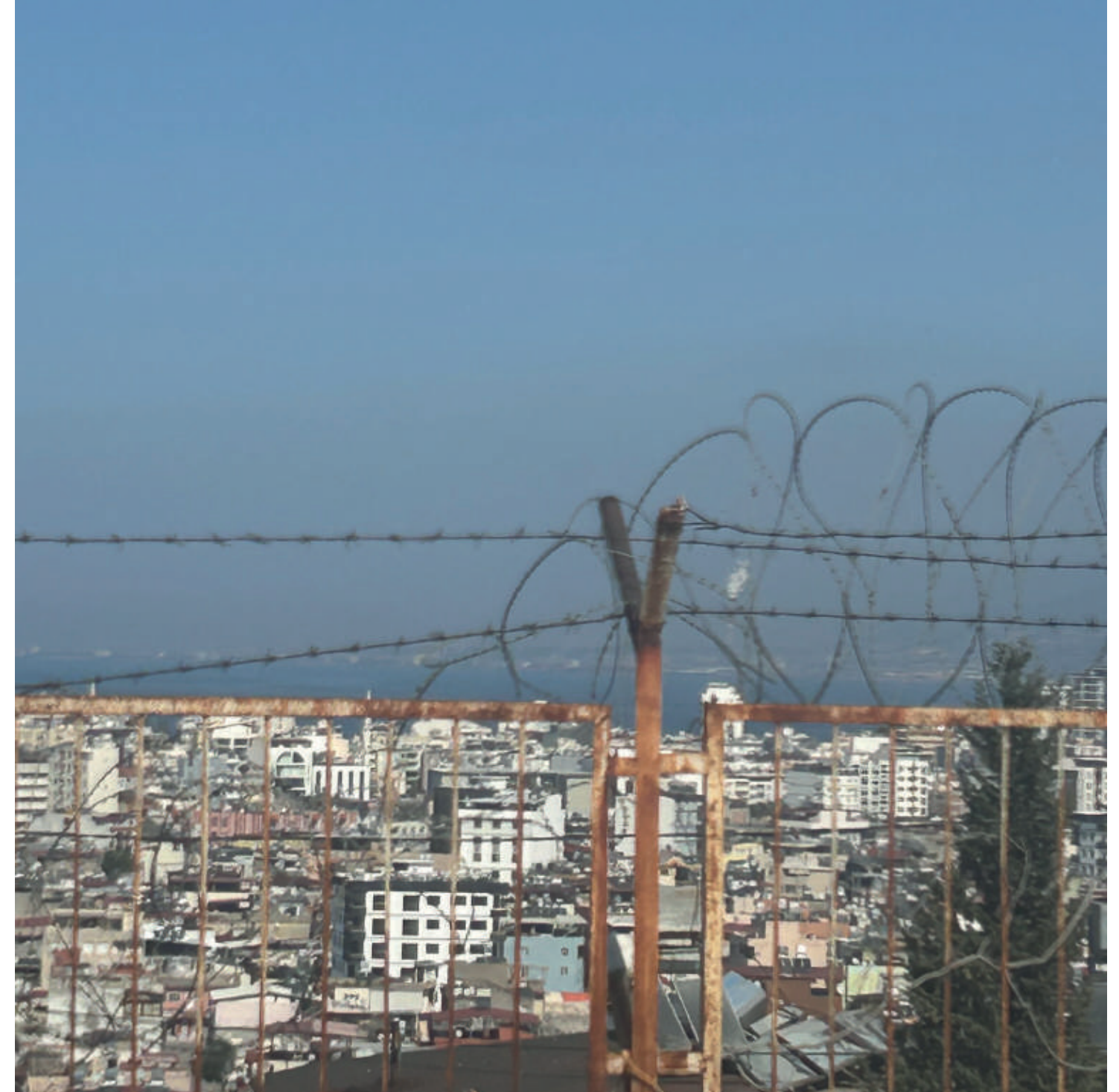
.design area | tepe neighborhoods

.unplanned urbanization and socio-economic vulnerabilities

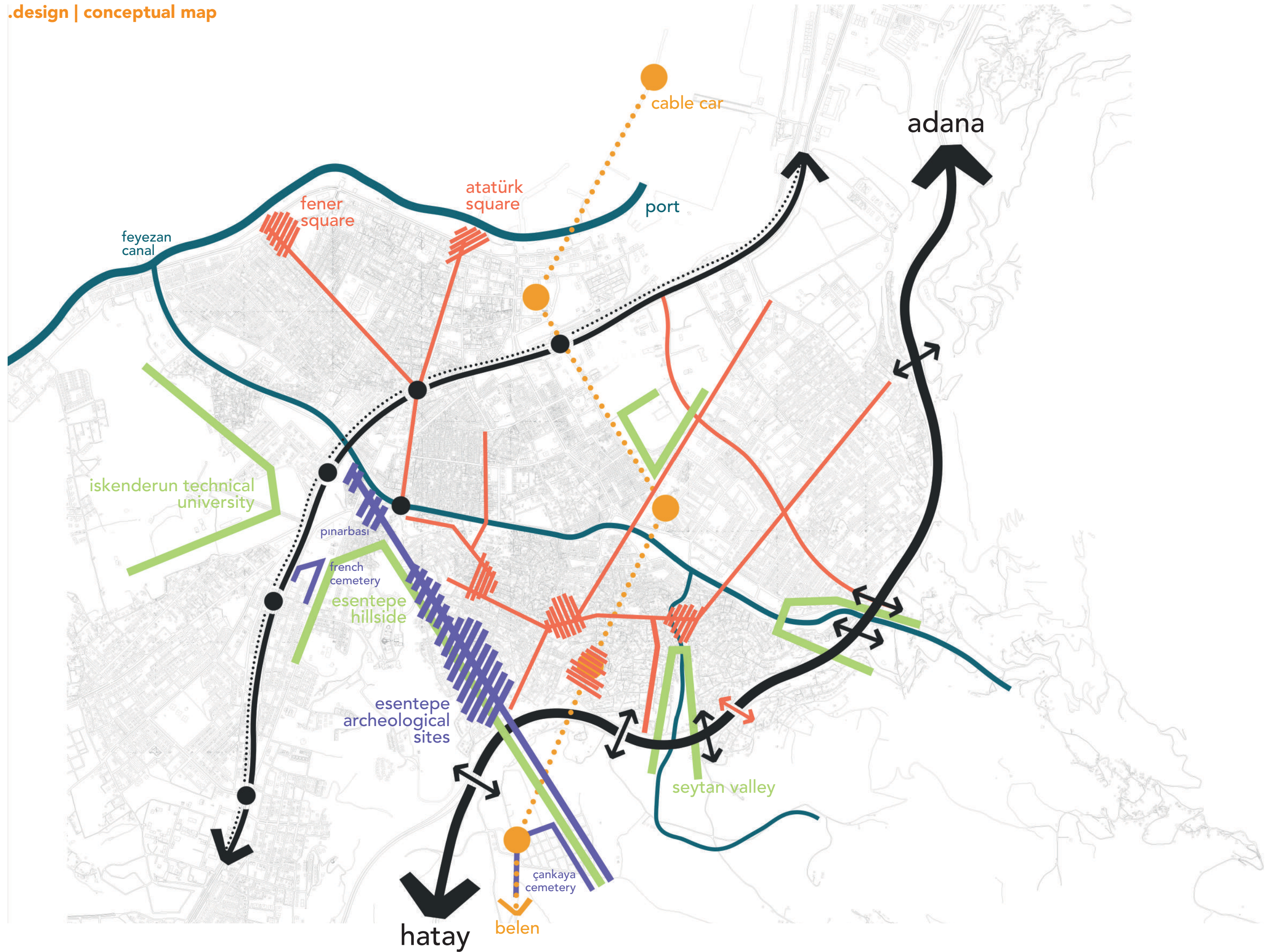


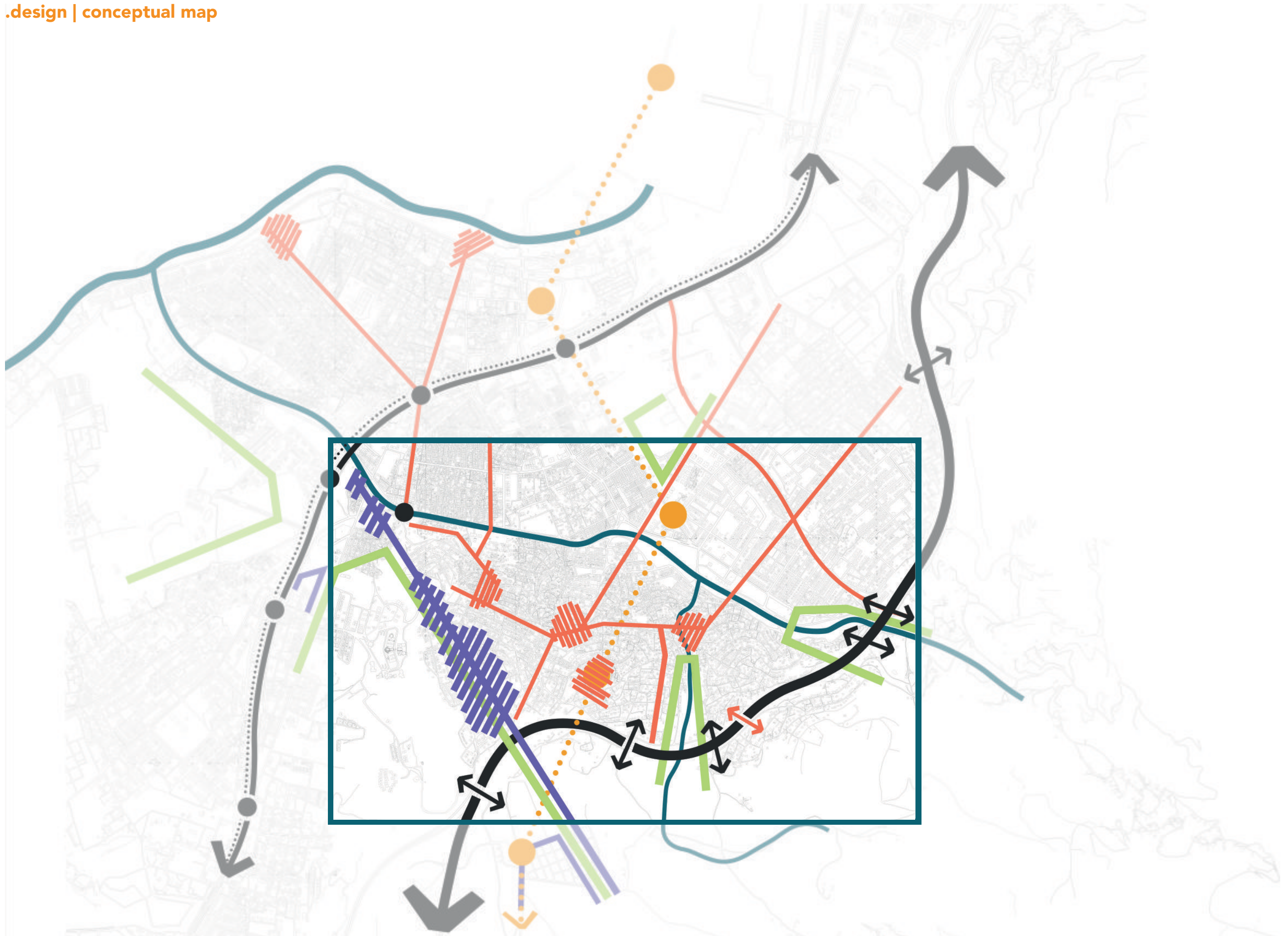
Rapid migration and industrial growth led to unplanned urbanization in Tepe Mahalleleri, **resulting in poor infrastructure, limited services, and economic isolation**. Their steep, landslide-prone terrain heightens risks of earthquakes and flooding, while **high housing costs push low-income families into these vulnerable areas, deepening socio-economic inequalities**.

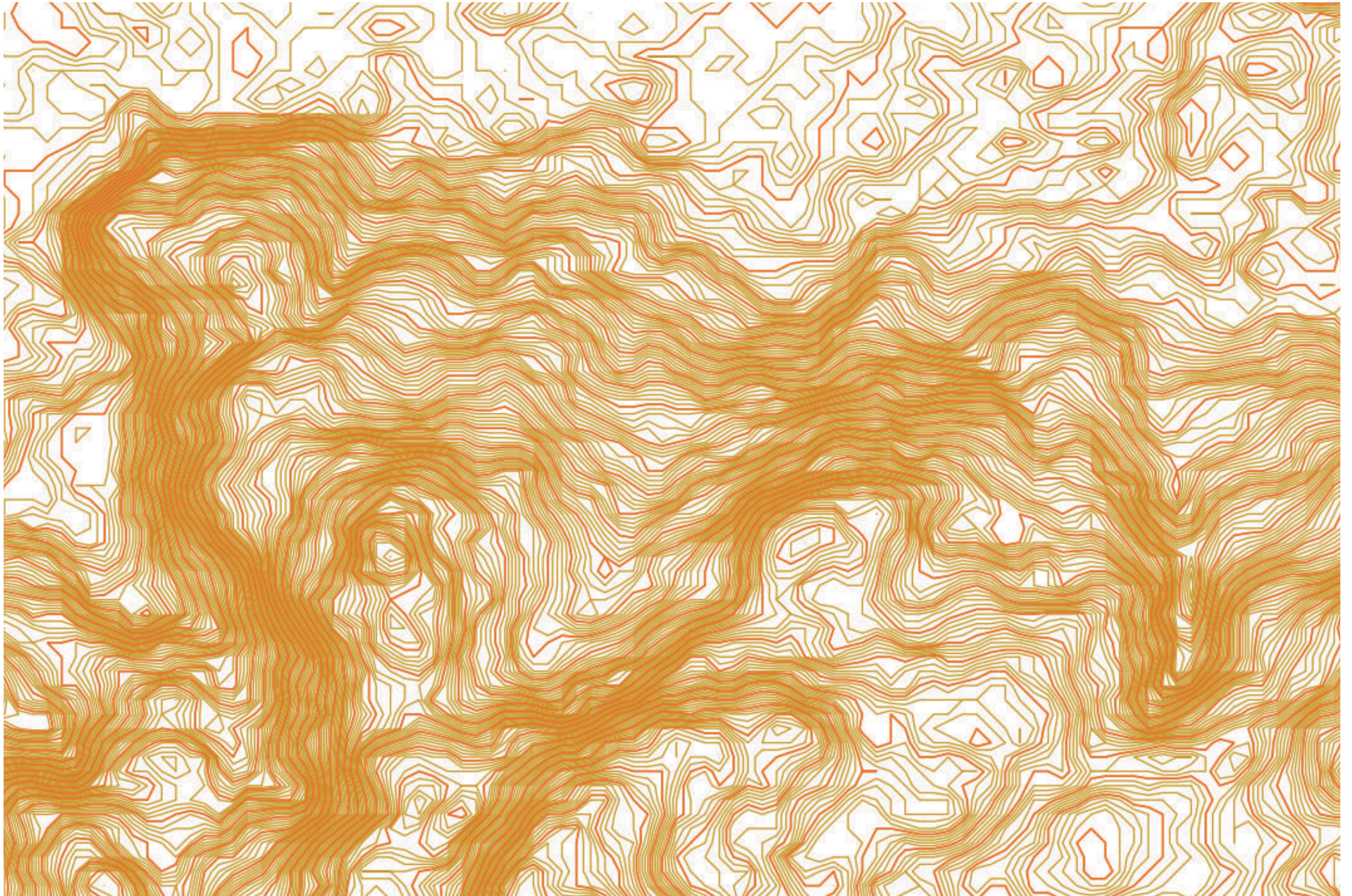
unplanned urbanization and social exclusion



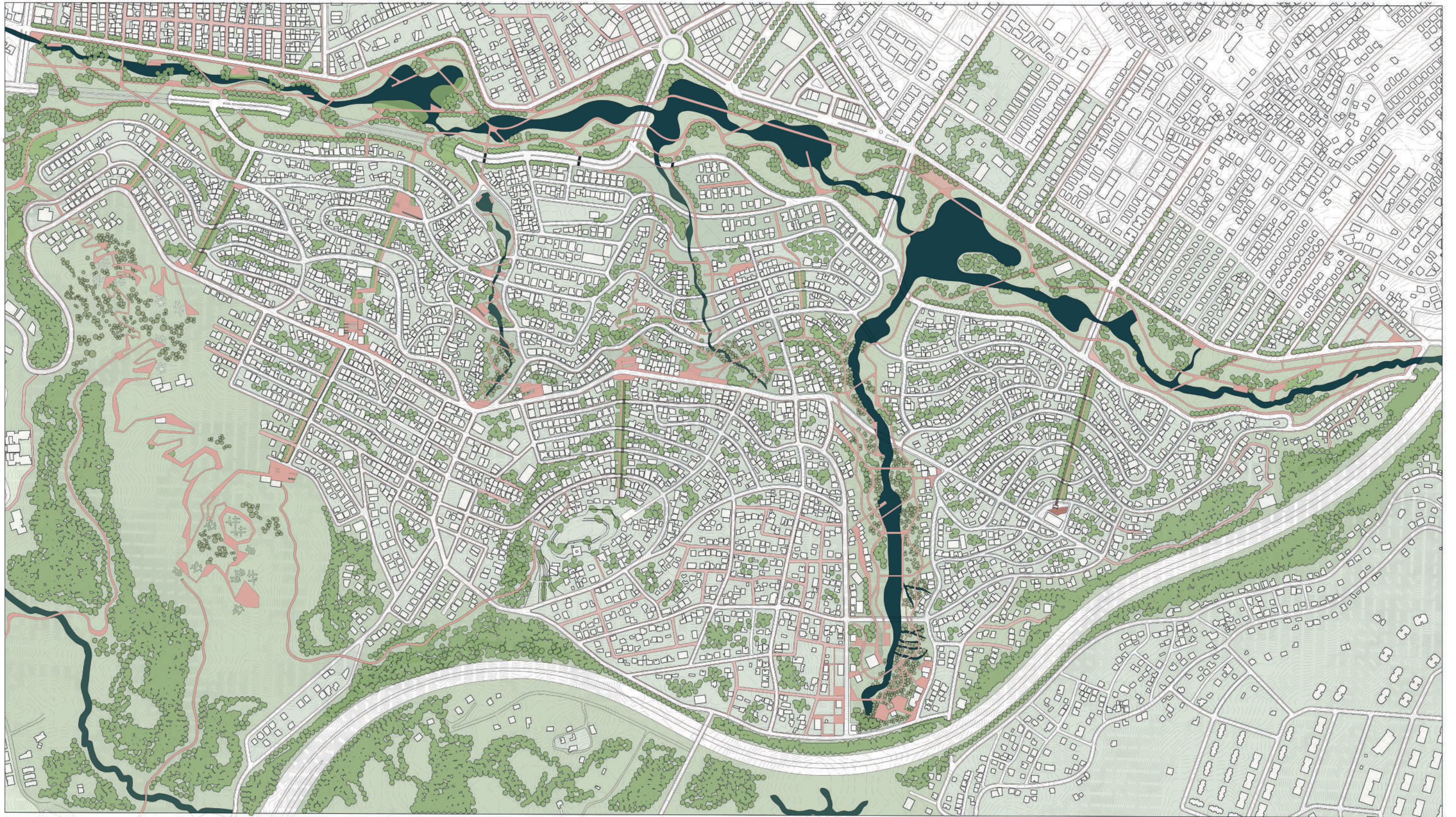
Tepe Mahalleleri grew through unplanned urbanization, lacking proper infrastructure and public services. Their **peripheral location and poor connectivity limit access to jobs, education, and healthcare, reinforcing social exclusion**. As a result, residents face **economic marginalization and remain disconnected from the city's opportunities**.





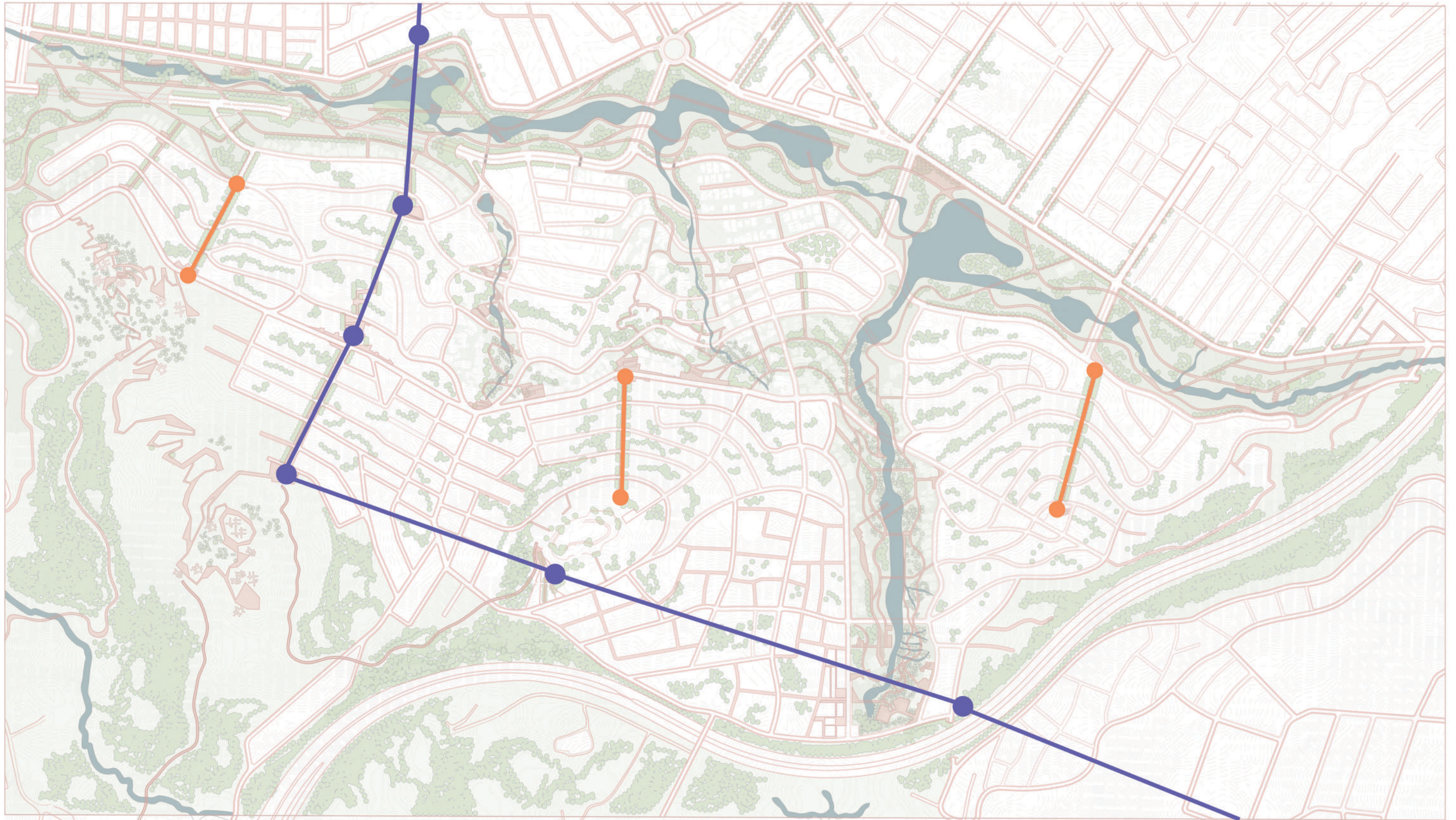




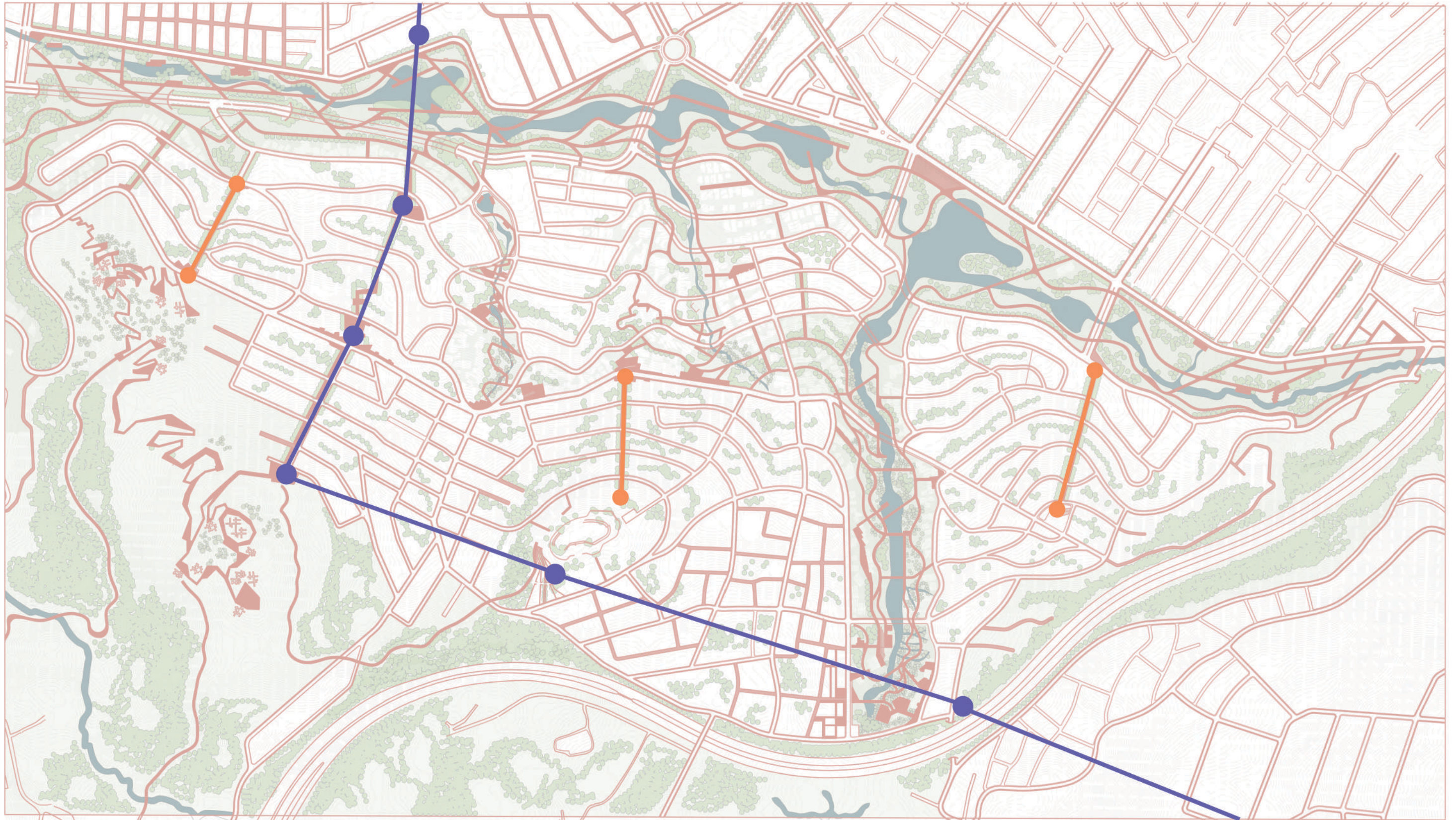


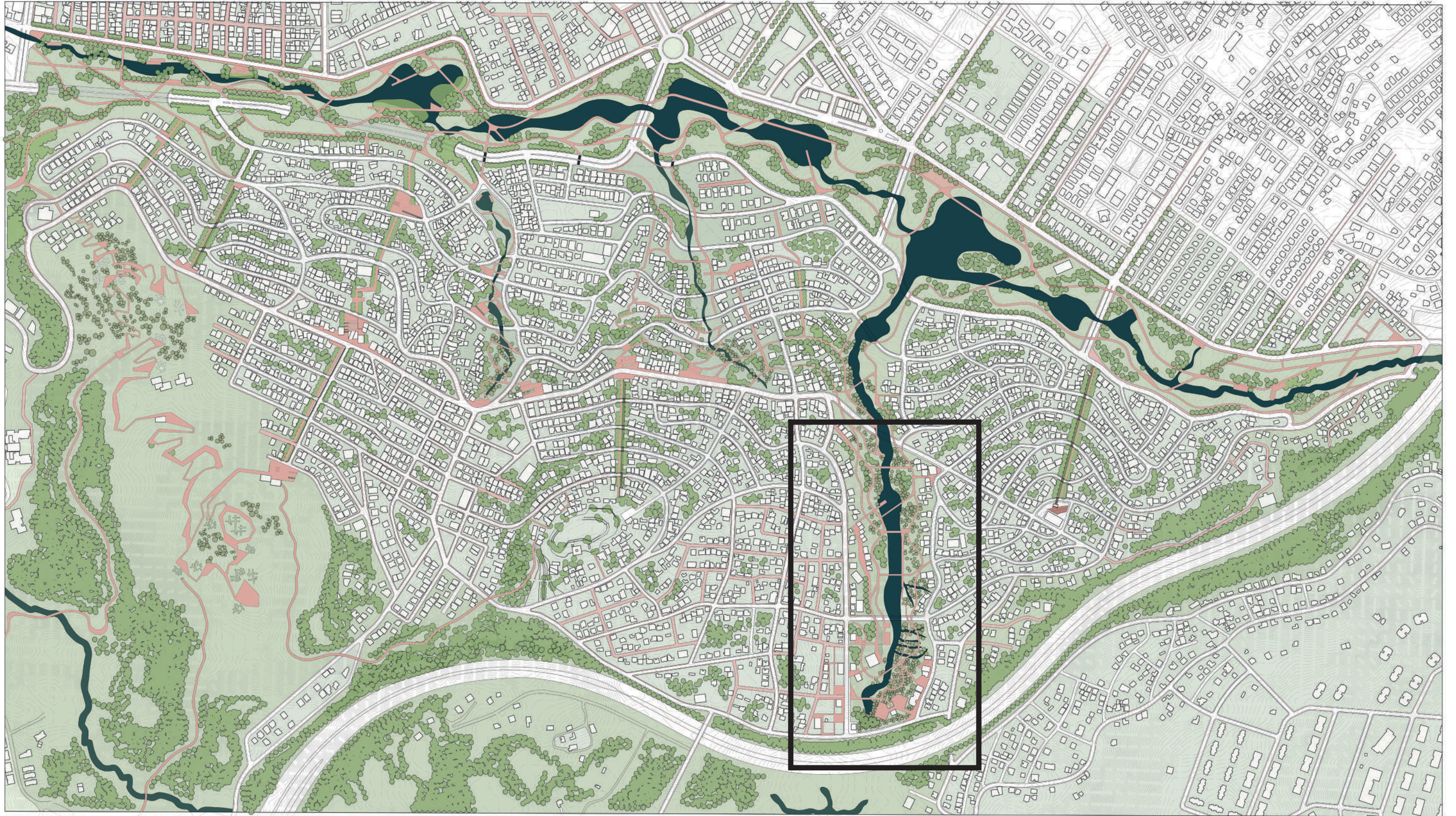








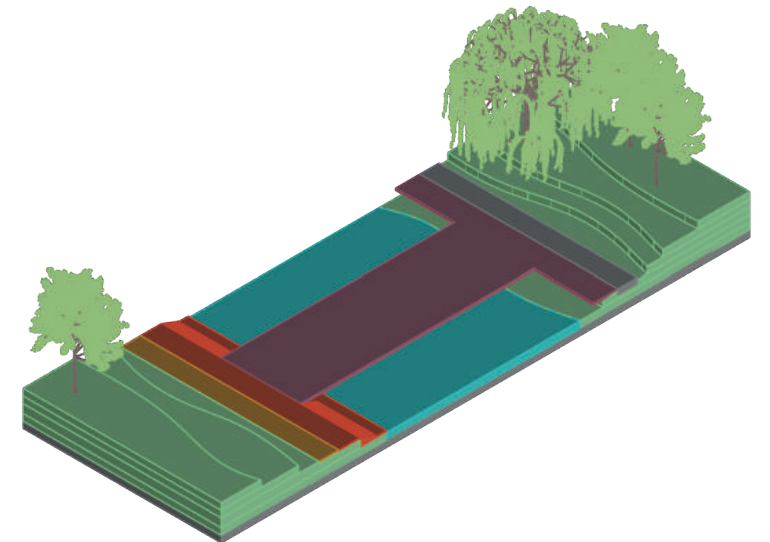
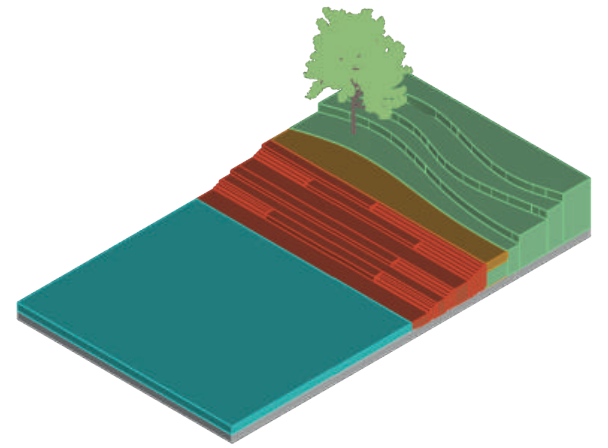
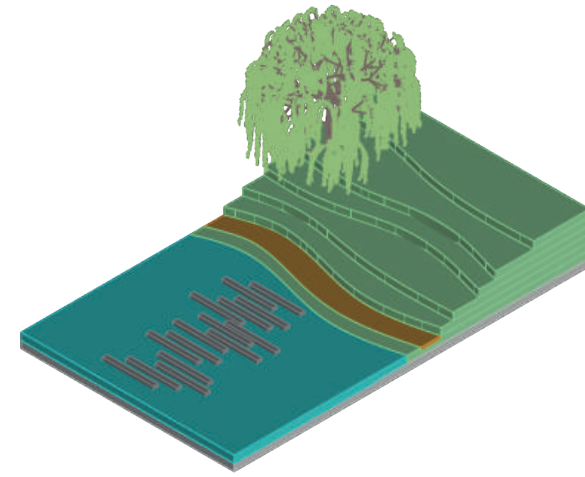
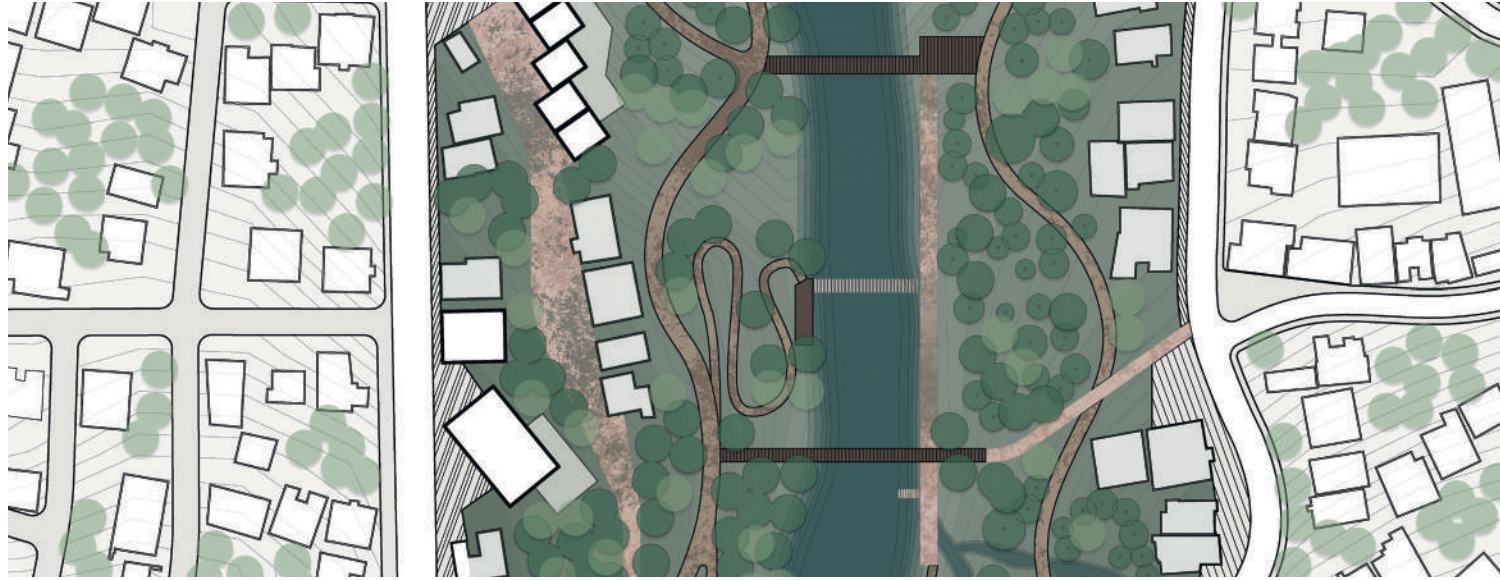
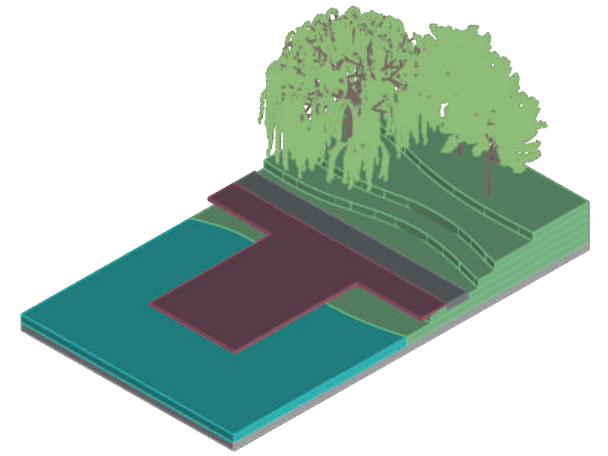
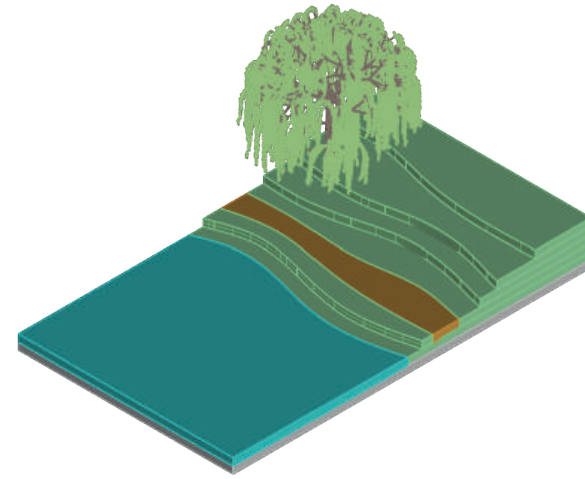
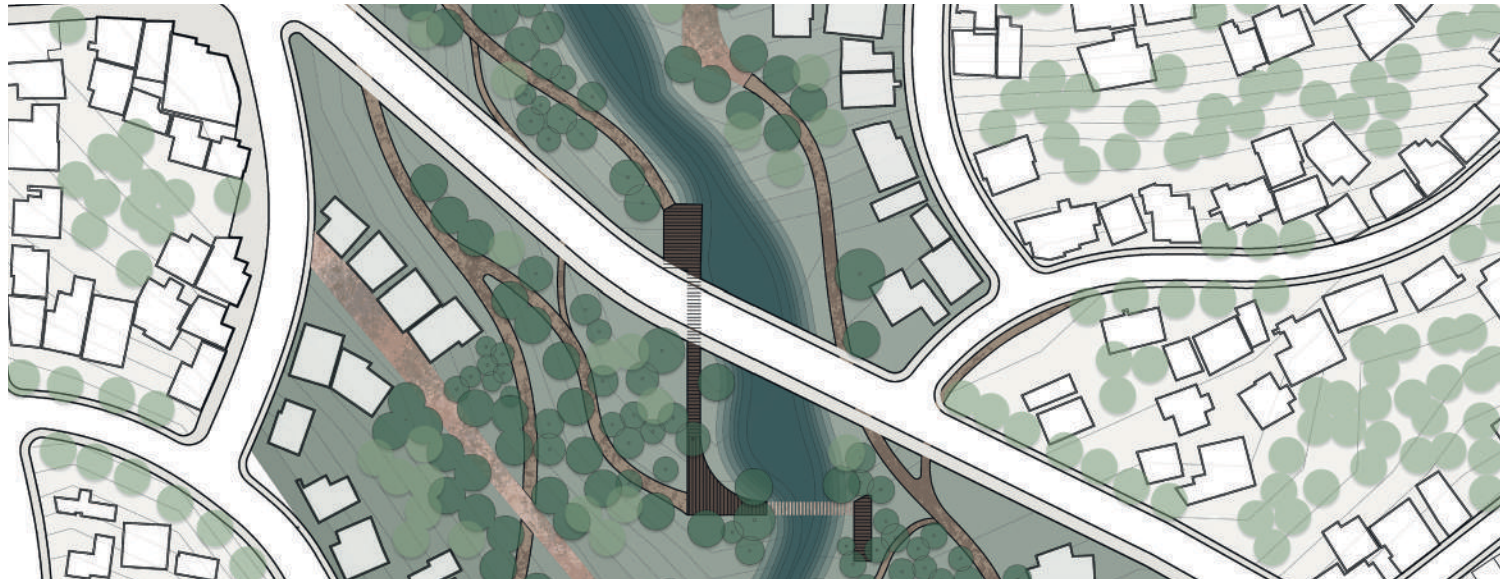


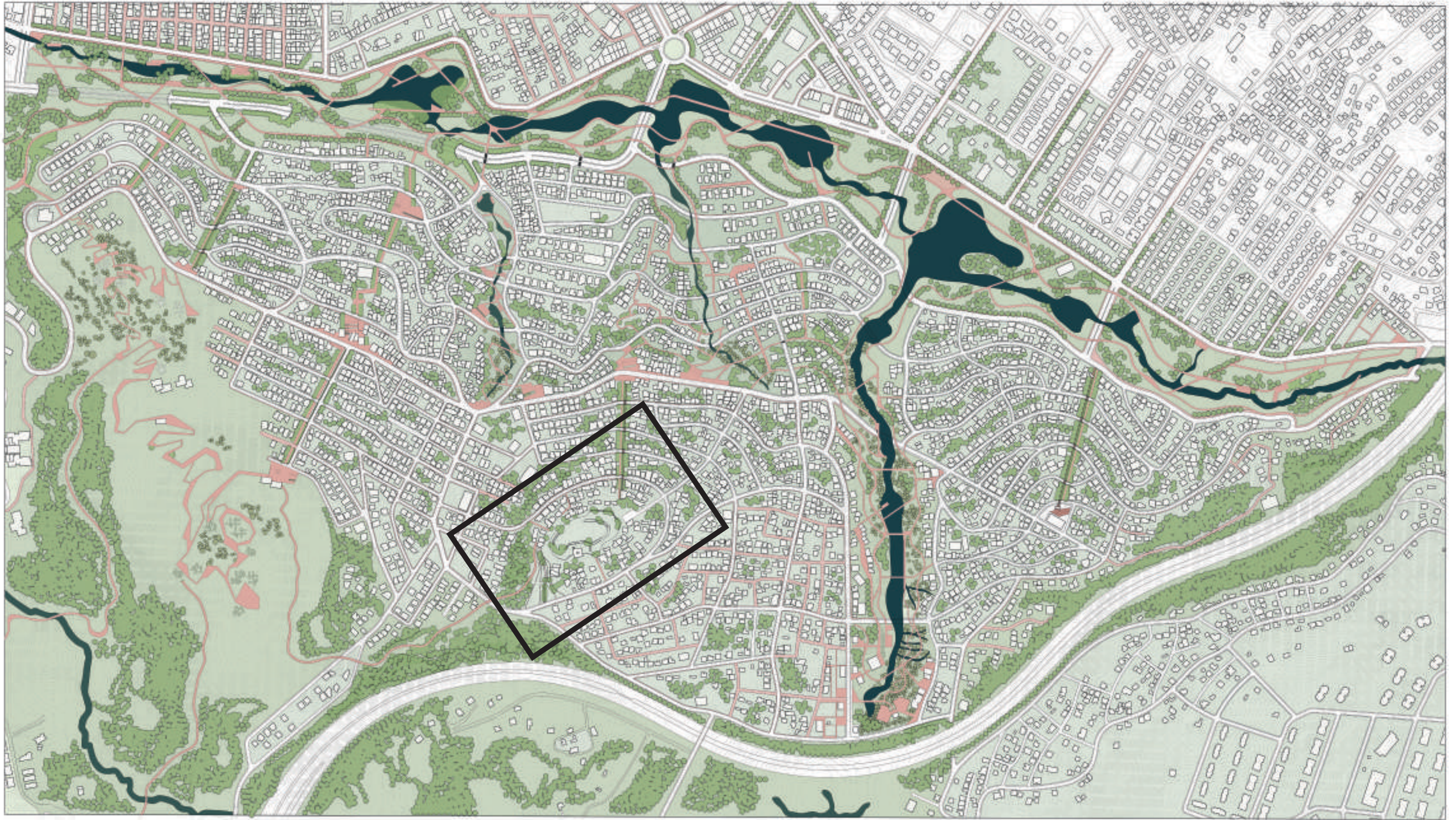






.design | 1/500 diagrams

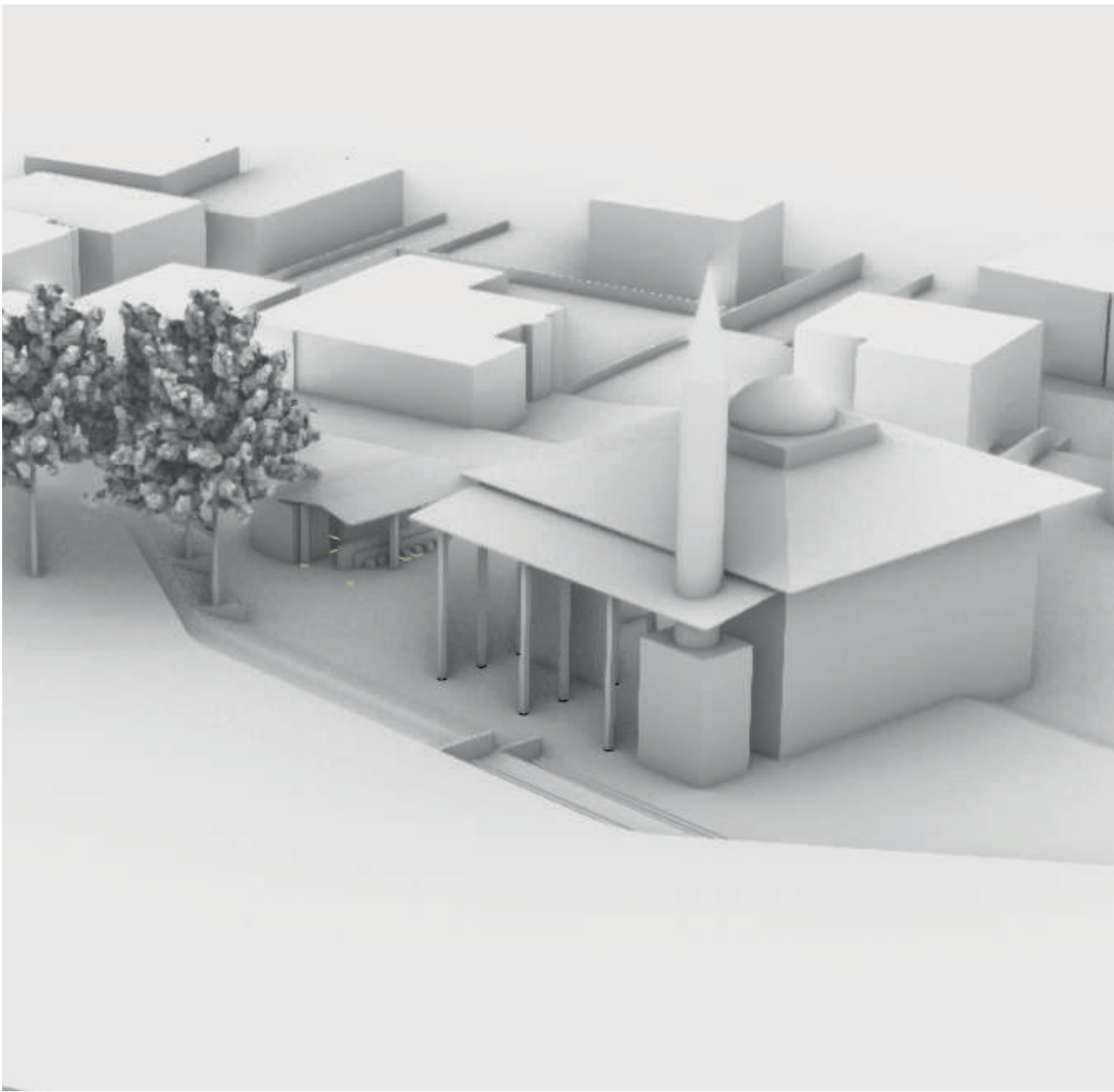
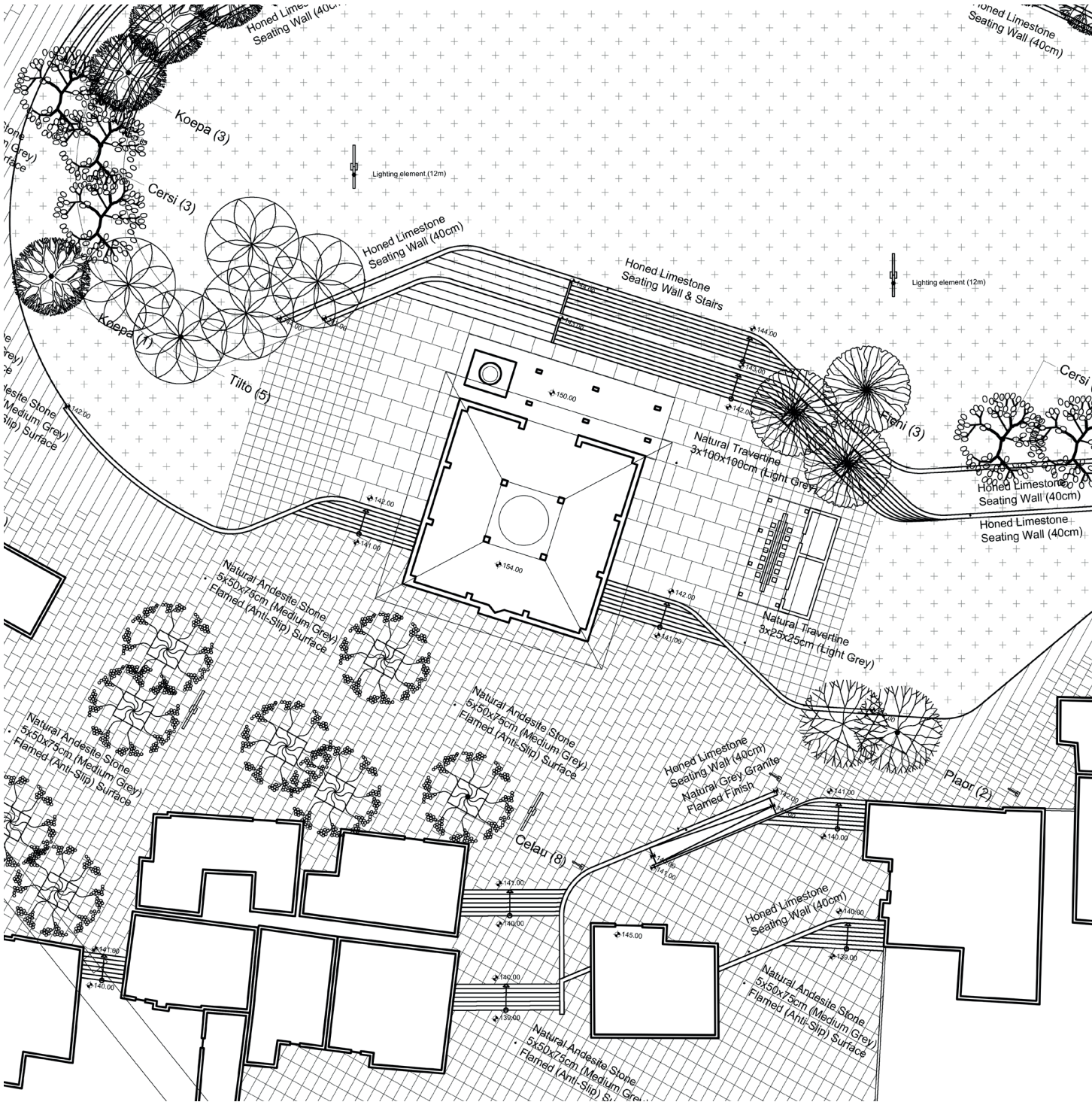


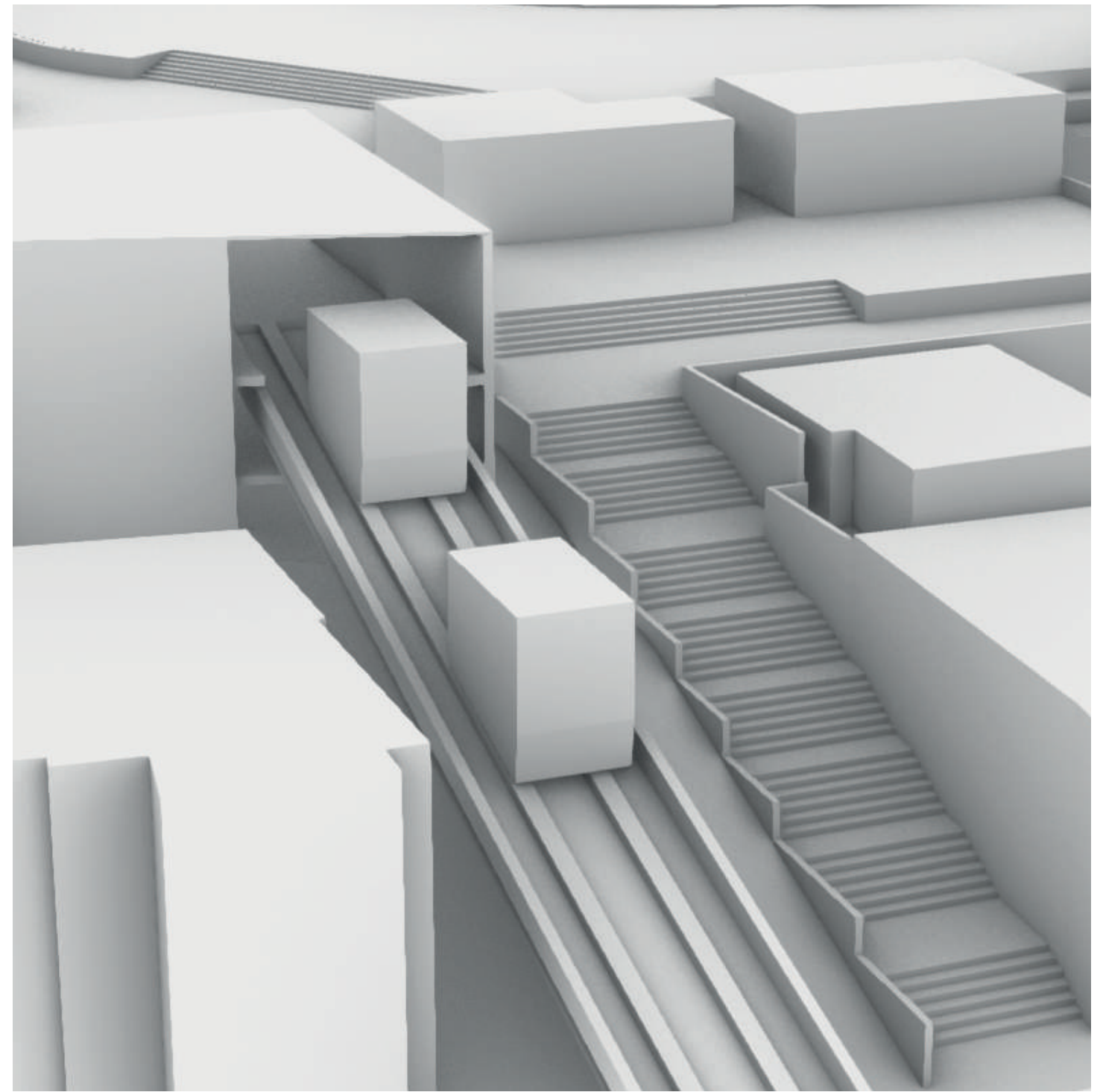


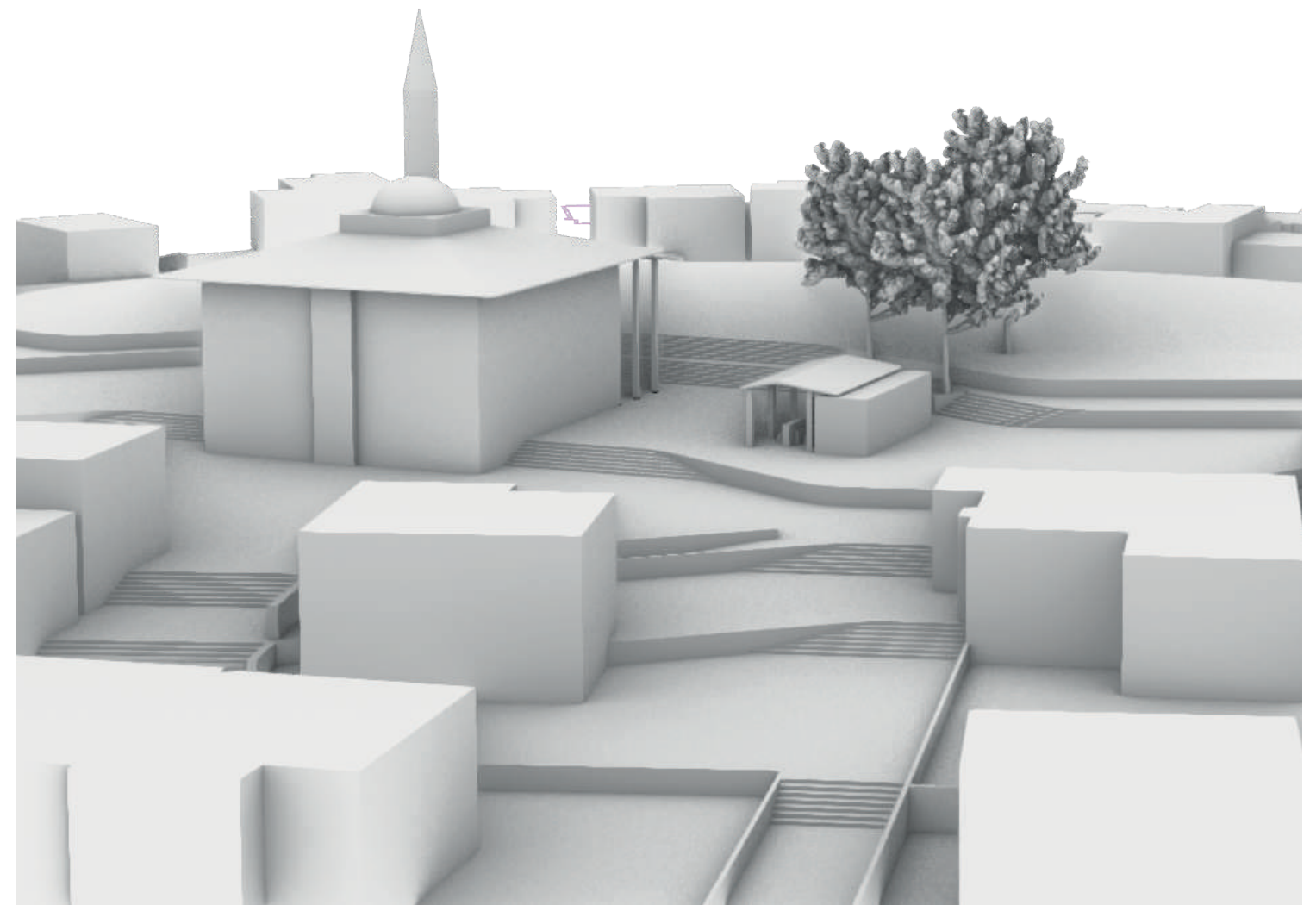












thank you*