

# BETWEEN THIN LINES: GROUND, REFLECTED

les jardins de métis | reford gardens - international garden festival 2026 proposals

## Concept

We build to live. Each line we draw asks the ground to carry us. In excess, we unbalance what holds us. This work begins with restraint: touch lightly, listen first.

Between thin lines the garden writes itself. Reflections fold place into itself, so ground rises to the eye and sky leans close. What is mapped here is not distance but relation: the hush between leaf and light, the brief pause of a footfall, the way weather lingers on a surface then moves on.

A narrow seam of soil runs high, lifting local plants into quieter air. They hover, breathe, root without claim. When rain arrives it gathers and releases as soft dripping along the lip, counting a passing cloud, a season beginning. Growth and moisture become the script; time speaks in small adjustments.

The work receives both temperaments. The inward gaze finds a room for breath. The outward gaze finds a field that answers back. You are present and slightly unmade, the place more itself for your care.

No conquest, only conversation. A map drawn in attention, revised by wind and witness. Ground, reflected. And in the interval between, a way to go on more lightly.

\*High-level plant list for the suspended shallow troughs:

Lingonberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*) – hardy evergreen; shallow roots; year-round structure.

Wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*) – low evergreen carpet; shade tolerant; berries for seasonal interest.

Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*) – native woodland groundcover; cool-shade specialist; delicate spring flowers.

Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*) – rhizomatous tapestry in thin humus; dependable in shade.

Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*) – fine, low mat; thrives in dry/mesic shade; stabilises light media.

Rock polypody (*Polypodium virginianum*) – small evergreen fern; adapted to very shallow organic layers.

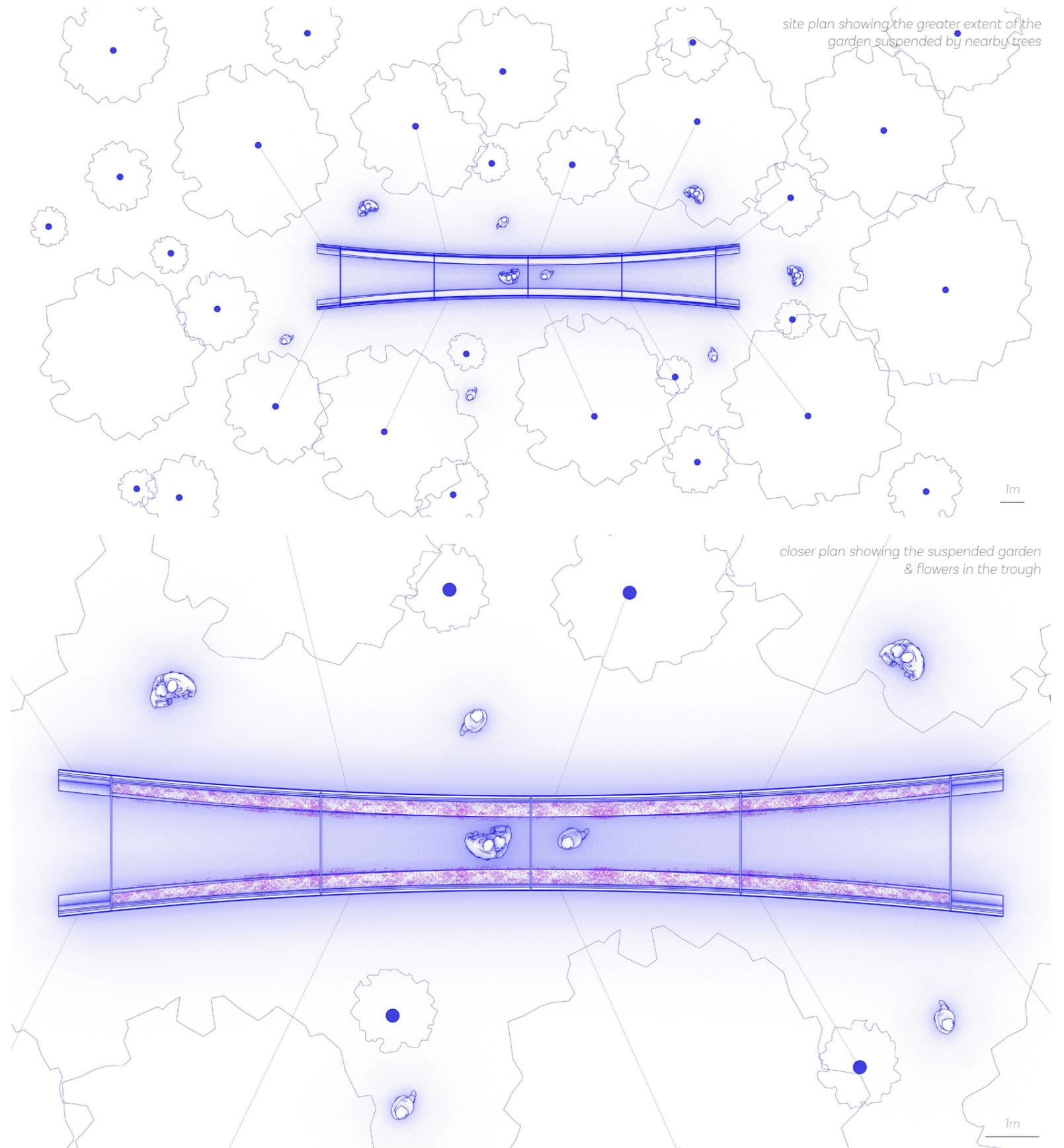
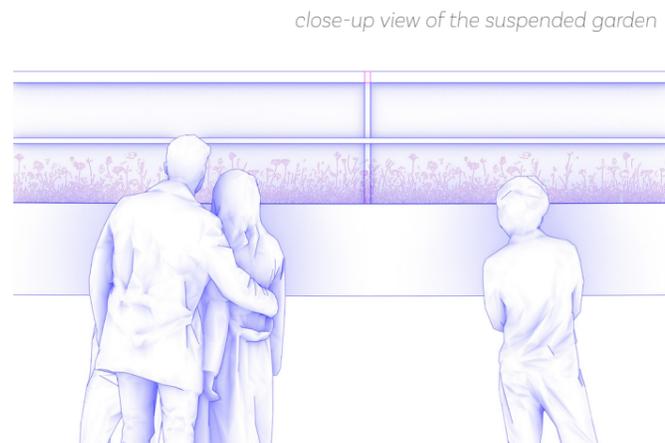
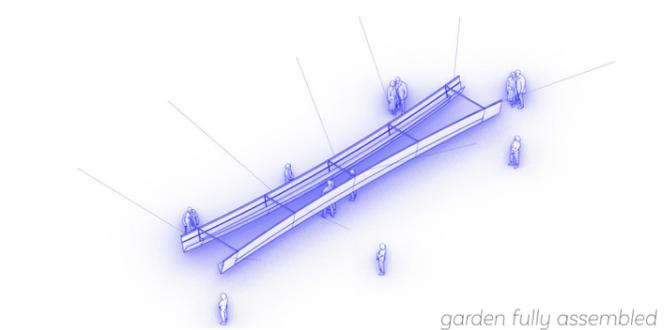
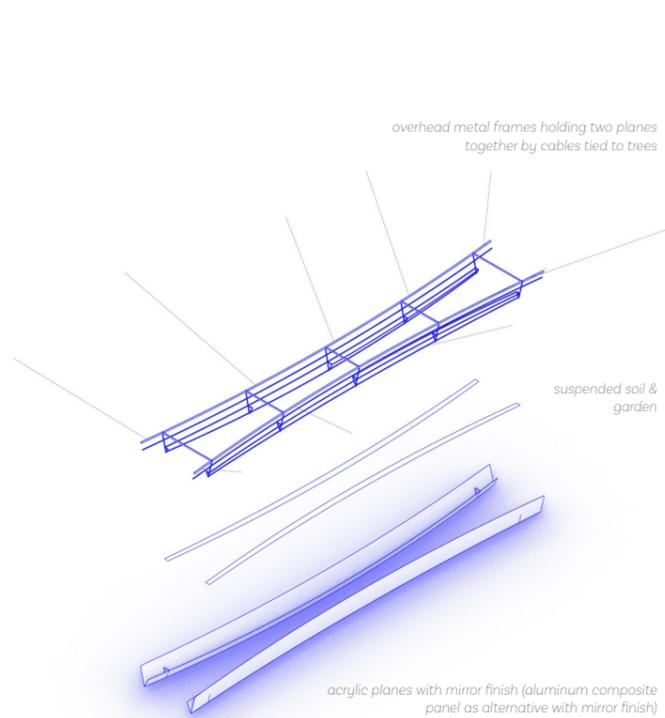
Suited to shallow, lightweight substrates with good drainage.

Prefer dappled shade / cool summers typical under trees.

Largely native or regionally appropriate woodland species; low maintenance.

Maintain low height (=10-30 cm) near inner edge for clear reflections/sightlines.

Final selection to be confirmed with the Festival horticulturist for local availability.



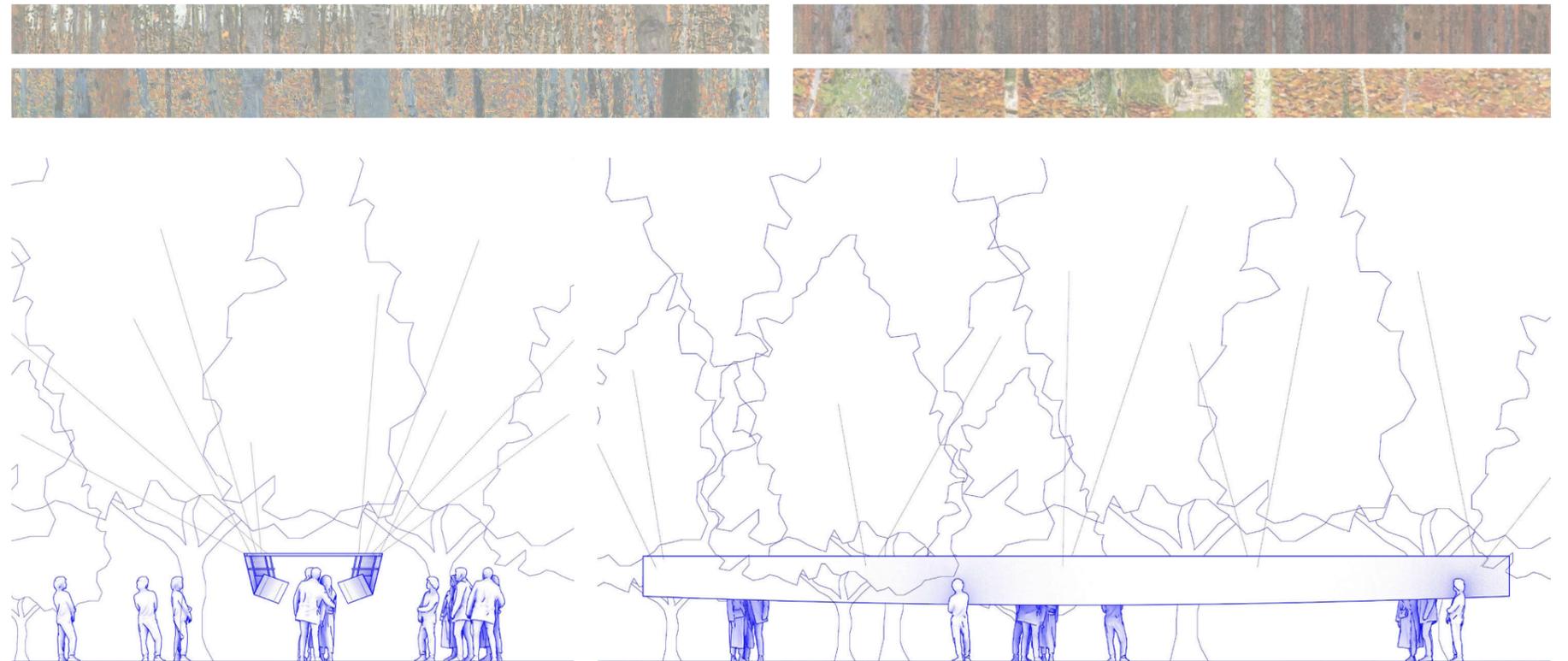
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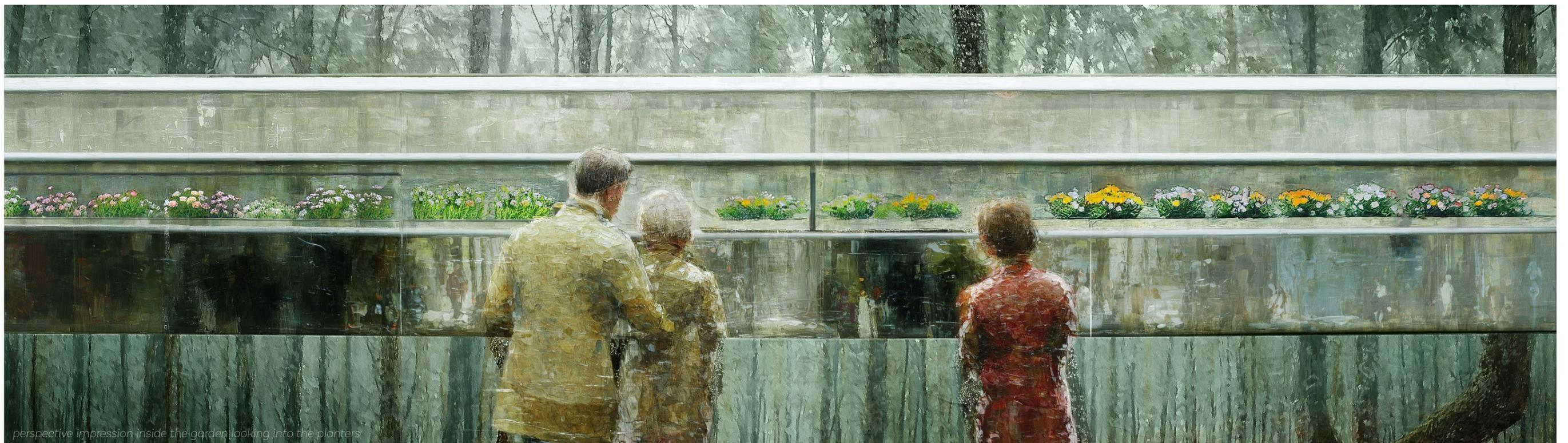
left - right: tiled reflected environment - mapped sensitively



perspective impression in between the garden



short and long elevation showing the suspended garden



perspective impression inside the garden, looking into the planters