



# Topography of the Self

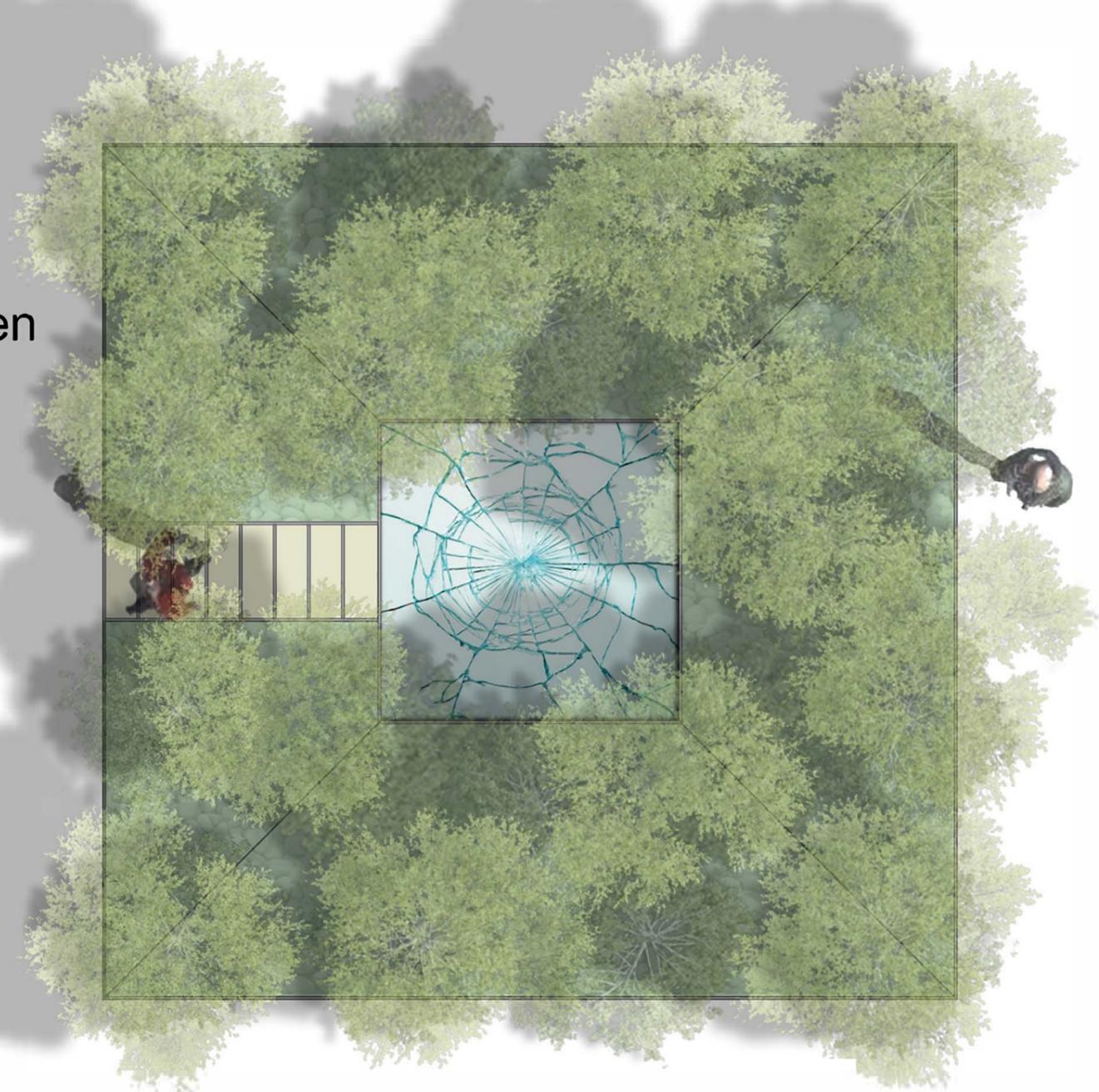
## The Sunk Garden

Lowland Forest:  
Wite Birch,  
Ferns, Canada mayflower,  
Bluebead lily, Bunchberry,  
Wood sorrel

## The Mound

Alpine Tundra:  
Mountain Avens, Alpine Bistort,  
Purple Mountain Saxifrage, Snowy Cinquefoil,  
Alpine Sandwort, Spear-leaved Arnica

Scale 1:50



The journey through this garden is both a passage through time and an inward exploration of the self. Inspired by Gaston Bachelard's *"The Poetics of Space"*, it unites the ancient symbolism of garden forms with the psychology of inner experience.

Two contrasting microhabitats express the dual nature of the Gaspé region: the mound and the sunk garden. Each carries echoes of their ancestors: Prehistoric cosmological landscapes became the rugged, spiral, or square 'montagnole' ('little mountains') of Renaissance and Elizabethan gardens. Greek venerated grottoes morphed into the Roman and Renaissance rustic nymphaeum, and the exotic subtropical sunken gardens of the age of Enlightenment.

Visitors move between two realms. The sunk garden, a shaded forest with a reflective pond at the center, evokes the hidden depths of the psyche, what we fear, bury, or don't fully understand. The mound garden, open and sunlit, embodies clarity, hope, and ascent. Moving through the dark into light mirrors the human journey toward awareness: climbing the mound feels liberating, while descending into the sunk garden invites emotional honesty. Together, they form a timeless landscape where history and self-reflection intertwine.

