

Yokai Mapping: Sensing the Invisible

Japan's climate has long nurtured a sensibility attuned to the unseen—a quiet awareness of shifts in humidity, wind, sound, and shadow. Within this ambiguity between human and natural realms, the concept of Yokai emerges—not as monsters to fear, but as expression of sensitivity

This project explores the possibility of designing a landscape that invites the presence of Yokai. Through subtle manipulations of terrain and carefully curated planting, the site becomes a field of spatial fluctuations. These fluctuations reveal the quiet “voices” of the environment—those that often go unnoticed but shape our emotional and sensory experience of place.

Rather than presenting Yokai as fixed forms, the garden allows them to emerge through the shifting conditions of the natural world. It is a responsive landscape—one that breathes, rustles, and shimmers. The garden becomes a perceptual device, awakening the visitor's senses to the delicate and transient qualities of the environment.

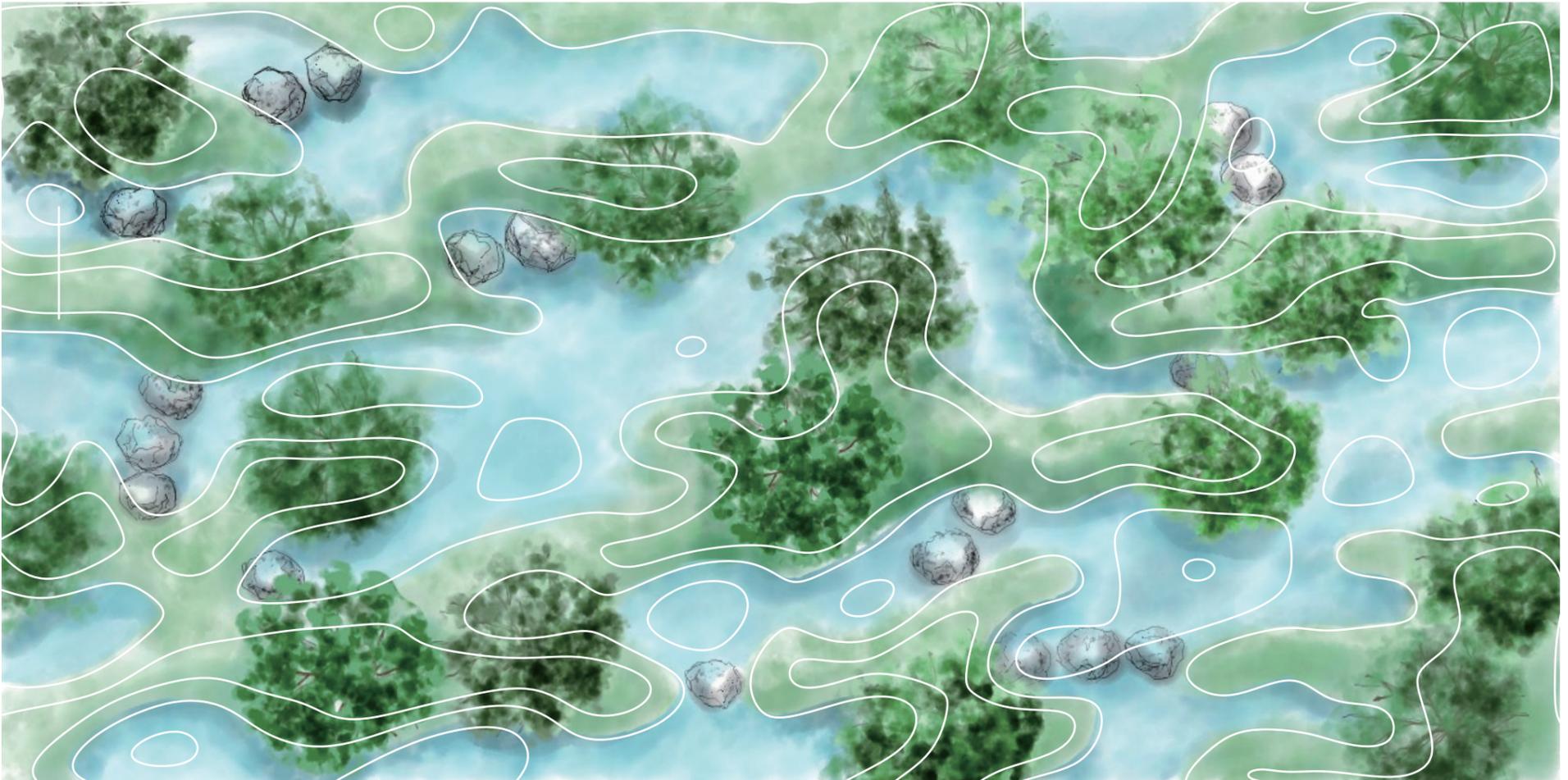
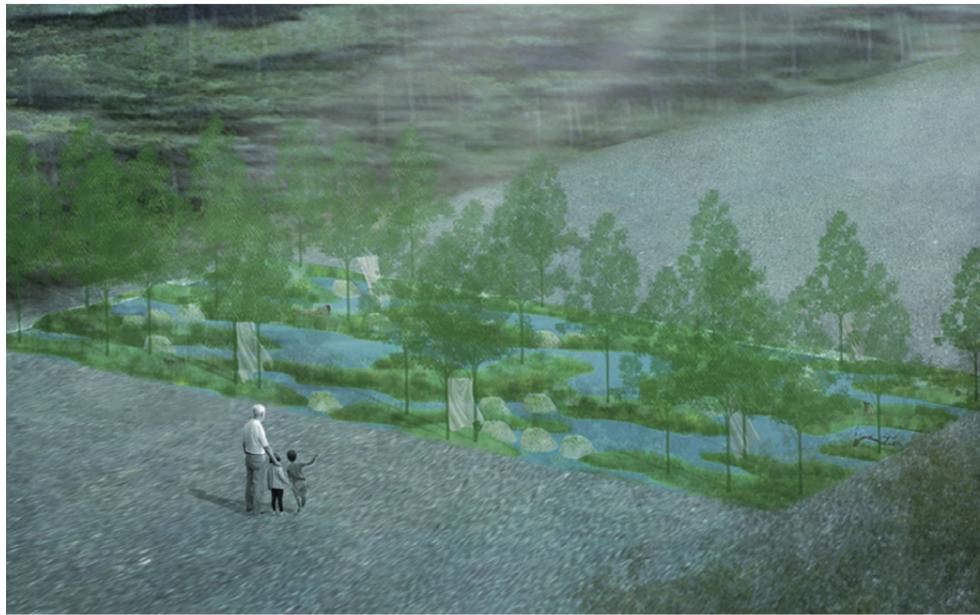
In this space, yokai are not seen directly—they are felt. Born from the fluctuations of perception, they invite us to experience the world with a deeper, more nuanced awareness.



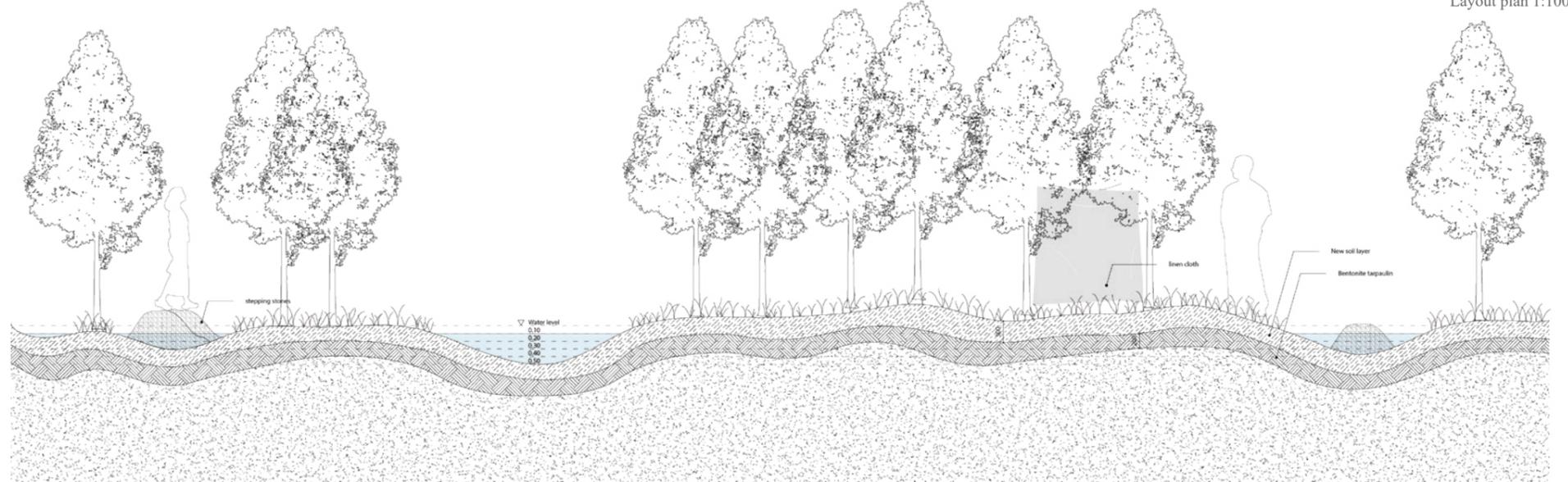
siteplan 1:150



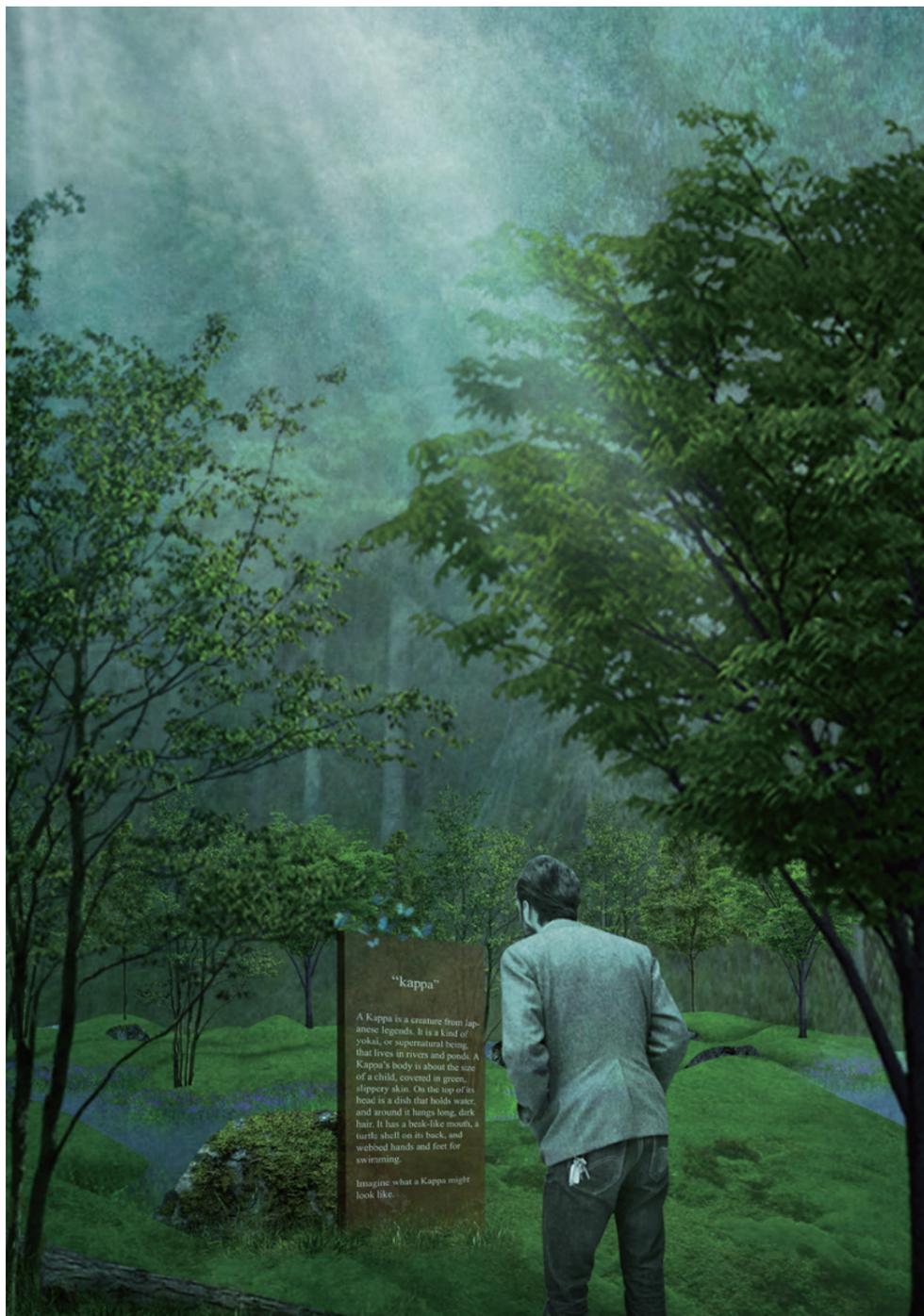
siteplan 1:150



Layout plan 1:100



Section 1:100



"kappa"

A Kappa is a creature from Japanese legends. It is a kind of yokai, or supernatural being, that lives in rivers and ponds. A Kappa's body is about the size of a child, covered in green, slippery skin. On the top of its head is a dish that holds water, and around it hangs long, dark hair. It has a beak-like mouth, a turtle shell on its back, and webbed hands and feet for swimming.

Imagine what a Kappa might look like.