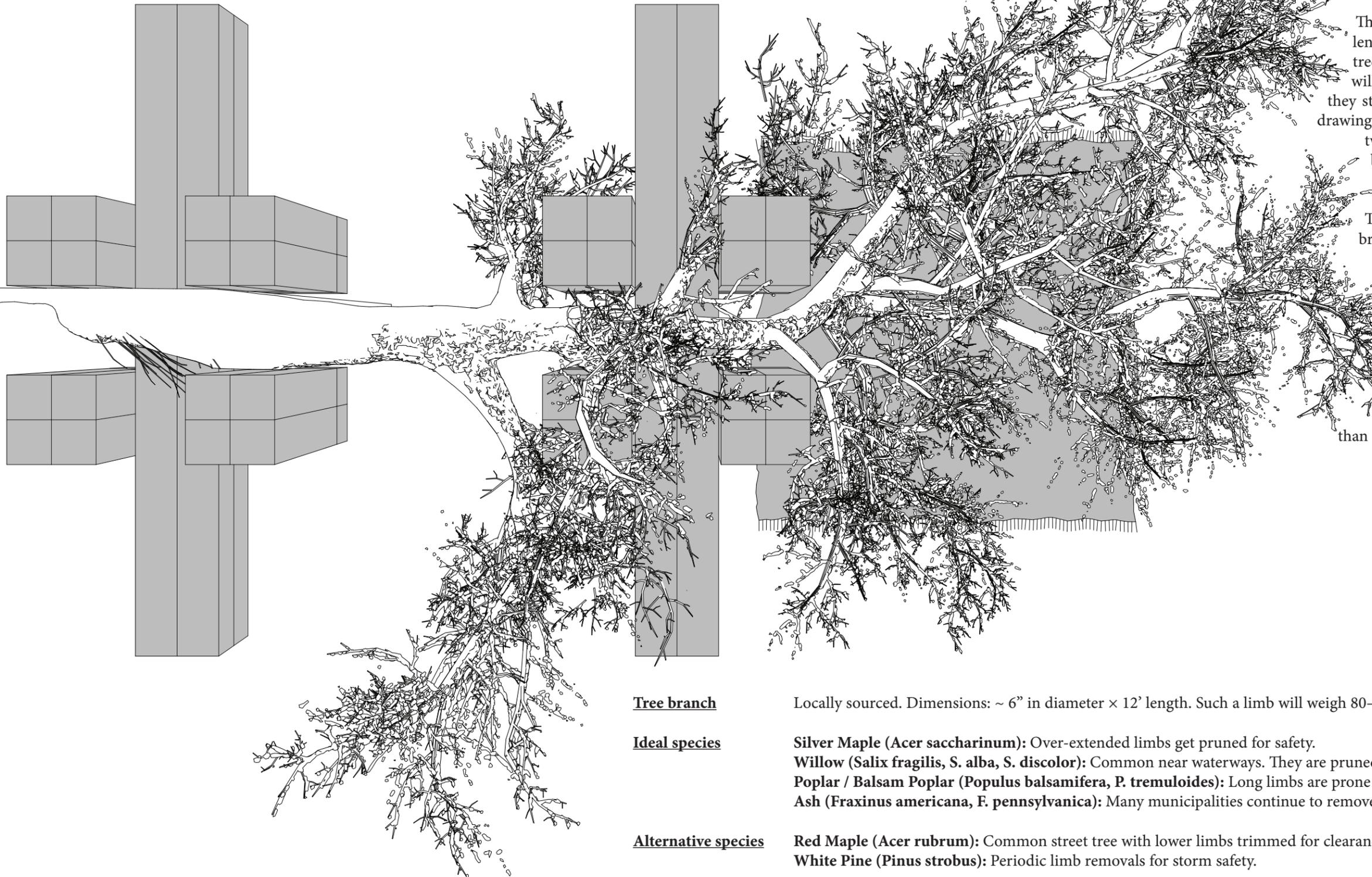


Encountering Withering

Encountering Withering proposes a public meeting place under a withering tree branch.

Top-view perspective plan
Scale 1"=1'



The branch is supported by two bracketed T-shaped supports, built out of four joined 5x5" timber members. The branch spans across them, defining a passage or threshold, and cantilevers from one of them to define a meeting place.

The tree branch should be approximately 12 feet in length and sourced from a pruned or lightning-struck tree, ideally from willow, silver maple, poplar, or ash. It will retain its leaves for a certain amount of time, until they start to wither and slowly fall onto the blanket. The drawings included in this proposal depict the branch in its two extreme states: with a full canopy and completely bare, devoid of leaves.

The blanket, under the cantilevering, withering branch, would define the meeting place. It would be woven locally, following local weaving traditions, for it to hold meaning within its context.

Meeting face-to-face is an essential part of an inclusive community, and what better place to do so than in a garden that proposes using sensitivity to frame an open public space rather than relying on bounded cultural traditions.

Tree branch

Locally sourced. Dimensions: ~ 6" in diameter x 12' length. Such a limb will weigh 80–150 lb. fresh, depending on the species.

Ideal species

Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*): Over-extended limbs get pruned for safety.

Willow (*Salix fragilis*, *S. alba*, *S. discolor*): Common near waterways. They are pruned to prevent breakage.

Poplar / Balsam Poplar (*Populus balsamifera*, *P. tremuloides*): Long limbs are prone to breakage or removal.

Ash (*Fraxinus americana*, *F. pennsylvanica*): Many municipalities continue to remove or prune trees due to the Emerald Ash Borer.

Alternative species

Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*): Common street tree with lower limbs trimmed for clearance.

White Pine (*Pinus strobus*): Periodic limb removals for storm safety.

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