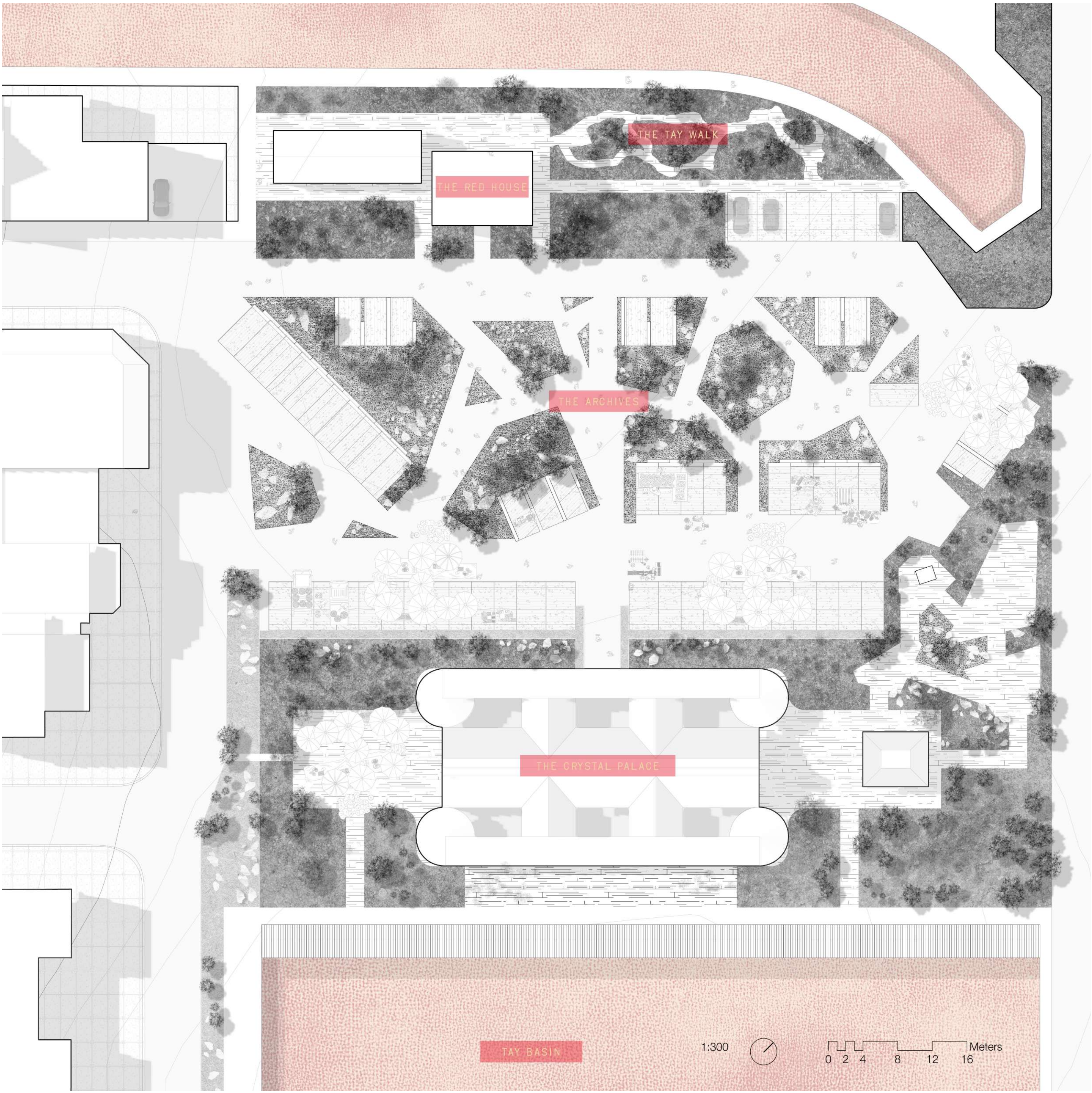
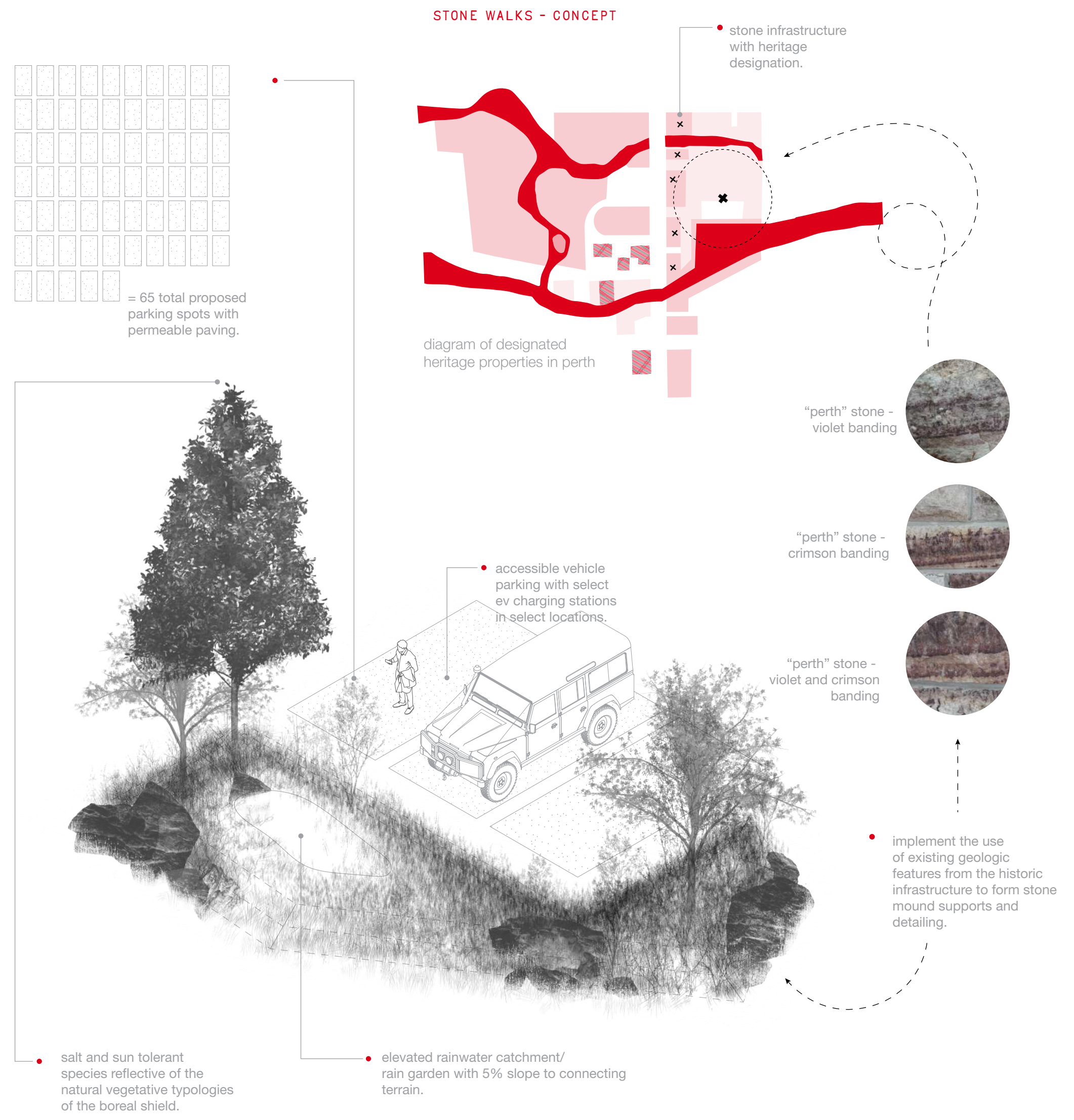
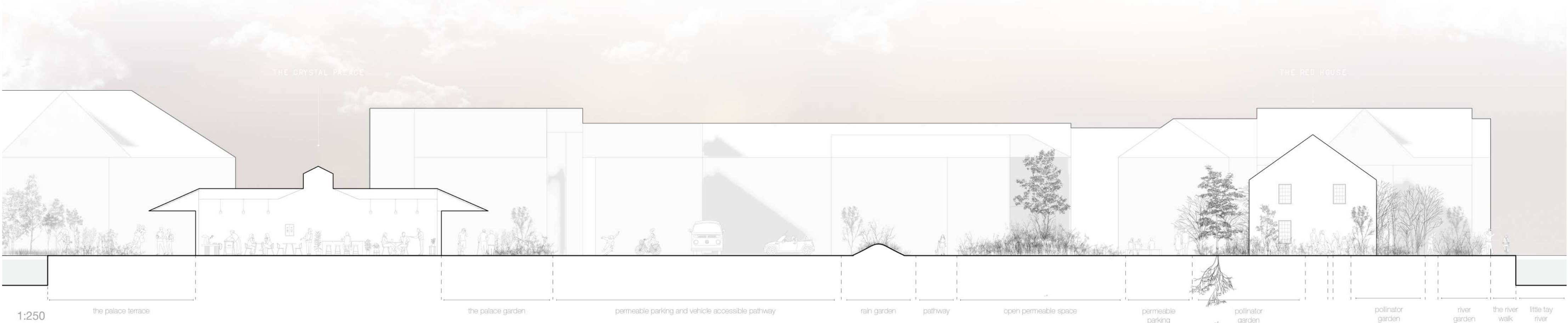
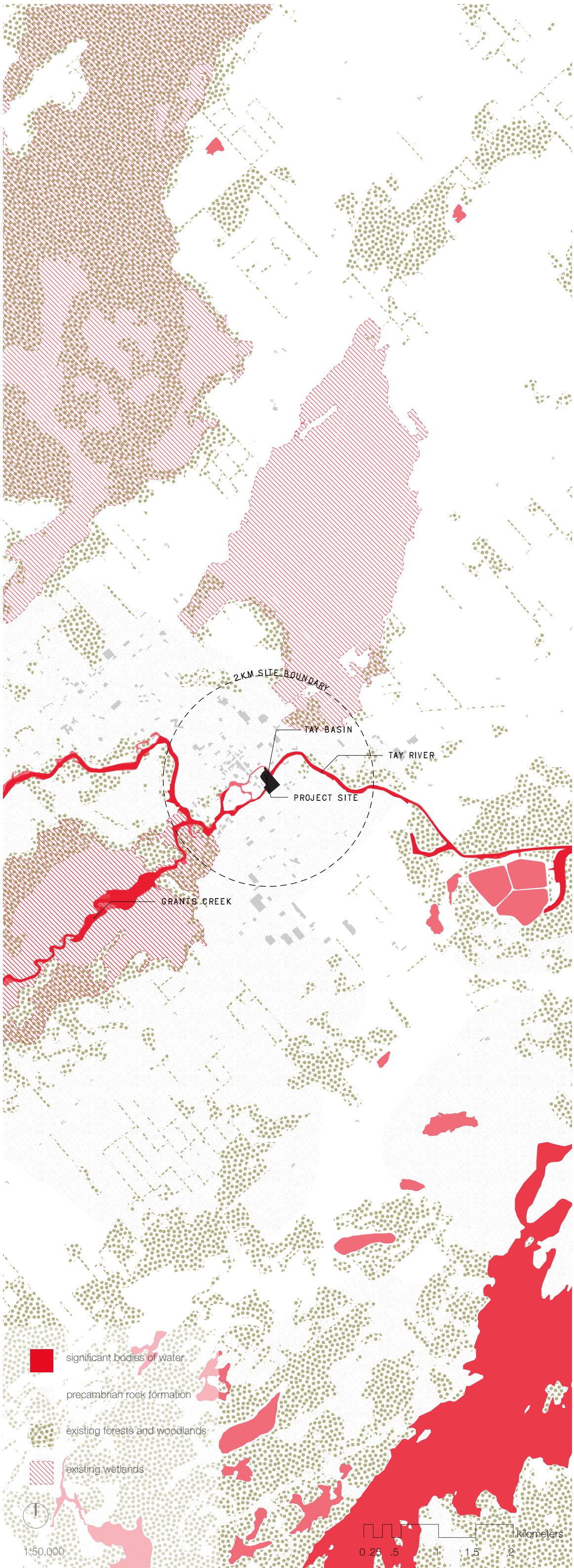




The Avenue of the Archives is conceived as a dynamic space where memory, ecology, and community converge. Rooted in the rich cultural and material history of Perth, the design transforms the public square into an accessible and evolving archive—one that not only preserves the stories of the past but actively supports future growth and change. Through a carefully orchestrated composition of rain and pollinator gardens, the site establishes a dynamic balance between open gathering spaces and more intimate moments of reflection.

By tying its visual and physical identity into architectural and geological features found throughout Perth, the new town square offers opportunities for all guests to understand and experience the site at its present, while acknowledging and celebrating its rich and thriving past. Through the dynamic and functional infrastructural elements integrated into the space, the square becomes both a point of arrival and a point of recognition—where collective memory is not only preserved, but actively encountered, shared, and reimagined through everyday use.





AVENUE OF THE ARCHIVES

March 19th, 2026

The beauty of a landscape lies not only in its appearance, but in the stories of its people that are embedded within it. The *Avenue of the Archives* emerges from the vivid history and growing legacy of the town of Perth — grounding the essence of the design in an accessible space that simultaneously honours the past and anticipates the dynamic changes of the future.

The central square is structured through a loose constellation of rain gardens and pollinator gardens, situated within gently mounded “islets.” Together, the two typological infrastructures guide the primary circulation patterns across the site, creating an equitable balance between large community gathering spaces and smaller, more intimate areas nestled among them. Each islet is conceived as a living record of the town of Perth and reflects its natural and architectural heritage through their linear design and strict adherence to material reuse.

Constructed from salvaged sandstone and rubble sourced from demolition projects targeting historic buildings across the Ottawa Valley, the “islets” form the primary infrastructure of the square. These materials support layered planting soils while select sandstone slabs reference the material legacy of Perth’s architectural history, connecting to the familiar built form of the nearby dry stone bridge and buildings such as the Perth Town Hall and the Matheson House. Moving chronologically from the western edge of the square toward the east, carved stone faces incorporate interpretive signage and accessible seating that support community gathering and storytelling, offering an alternative to the existing signage already in use on the site.

Selective islets function as rain gardens for sustainable water management strategies, with subterranean hydrological connections to the Tay Basin for ecologically and climate-conscious interventions ensuring the longevity of the square. The planting strategy draws from the upland and lowland forest ecologies that surround the region. Species such as Eastern White Pine and River Birch establish strong textural structure, evoking the landscapes that cradle the town and recall the spaces which stood before the town itself was established. Groundcover and understory plantings prioritize pollinator-supporting species with high salt tolerance, while maintaining a colour palette that resonates with Perth’s characteristic sandstone—relying primarily on lilac and cream tones often noticed in the surrounding architecture.

Functioning to support a civic node and adaptable community space, the islets integrate seating elements that also function as parking curbs, maintaining flexibility for the site’s evolving daily uses. This dual functionality supports weekly farmers’ markets by preserving generous pedestrian circulation and

accessible seating throughout the square. Circulation areas remain adaptable for year-round programming: in summer, the islets serve as educational landscapes demonstrating how pollinator and rain gardens can support both ecological performance and social gathering. In winter, integrated electrical connections allow for the installation of seasonal lighting and charging infrastructure, facilitating the creation of a central skating trail and encouraging community members to experience the site in new ways.

The design for the new public square designs a space that becomes in itself a living narrative - weaving together memory, material, and ecology. By grounding everyday community life in the histories that shaped Perth, the design fosters a space that is both reflective and forward-looking, where everyday use, environmental resilience, and collective identity coexist and continue to evolve over time.