

## So Cal ASLA 2014 Quality of Life Design Awards - VI Student Work Category

Project Title: **METABOLICSCAPES** Location: LA River Confluence, Elysian Park, Dodger Stadium, Chinatown, Los Angeles

Project Type: **Restoration/Land and Water Reclamation/Park and Recreation/Urban Linkages**

Purpose: to re-conceive and re-appropriate Elysian Park and the Dodger Stadium Parking Lot as the Great Park of Los Angeles.

This proposal examines the area around Elysian Park, Dodger Stadium, the Los Angeles State Historic Park, and the Los Angeles River Confluence at various scales to be one large interconnected park- the Great Park of Los Angeles. At the regional scale, the project is conceived with reference to the Olmsted-Bartholomew vision; aggregating the various existing green fragments surrounding the area to create a vast parkland network connecting Elysian Park, Griffith Park and Arroyo Seco through the Los Angeles River. At the community scale, this re-stitching connects Elysian Park, Dodger Stadium, Los Angeles Historic State Parks, and Chinatown together at seven key transition points repairing connections into the severed site. At a local scale, the project proposes the re-appropriation of land taken by eminent domain through the transformation of the Dodger Stadium asphalt parking and its connections to the adjacent neighborhood as public space. Underlying this exploration is the meaning of the PARADISE today (*Elysian*) and the concept for stadium sustainability today where stadium resource management and environmental systems become active partners in the same dynamic landscape.

A metabolic landscape is proposed which merges natural and constructed landscapes with stadium resource consumption and stadium waste management into a synergistic relationship- one offsetting the other. The demarcation between Elysian Park and the Stadium is blurred by the capping of the main access road as an unscheduled recreational field which gently slopes downward to connect to the stadium below while capturing rain water thru field runnels. The surrounding hills are forested with 13 hectare of oak trees representing a future biomass potential as well as serving for carbon sequestration. The hills are also shaped to act as water diverters to storm water reservoirs below as well as becoming new observation points for reflection. The existing asphalt parking surface is covered by a deck which supports a multitude of performative landscapes necessary to support the Stadium- the Filtration Park, the Compost Park, the Solar Farm, the Stadium Farm, and the Urban Room Terraces. Captured storm water is cleansed through the Filtration Park and passes through the Lower Fountain Plaza before being stored in cisterns underneath the stadium plaza terraces. Stadium grey water is recycled to irrigate the Stadium Farming Terraces and series of Urban Room Botanical Gardens. The harvest yield from Stadium Farming supports the stadium's food production demands and the surrounding community. Food waste and paper scraps are composted in the Compost Park for stadium farming. The Solar Farm produces enough electricity in two days to support one baseball game. Excess electricity may support the adjacent development and surrounding community. A new light rail station is proposed on Sunset Boulevard in the Transit Oriented Development which reduces road infrastructure demands. The path from the existing Gold Line subway station is reinforced with street trees, lighting, and paving through the series of existing pedestrian courtyards and pathways in Chinatown. A Lower Park creates a connection that bridges over the freeway and allows access up the hill through the Stadium Farming Terraces and Urban Room Botanical Gardens. A site, once fenced off, is no longer private; but rather is open given back to the people and becomes an active agent in processing and supporting the urban environment.

A layered landscape is proposed which comprises of eight main elements:

**the Forest** 13 hectares of native oak trees which support native habitats and promotes carbon sequestration

**the Field** an open unscheduled wild field which caps Academy Road to create a contiguous relationship between Elysian Park and Dodger Stadium. The Field slopes toward Dodger Stadium, creating direct access to the stadium field.

**the Basins** storm water collection reservoirs at the base of newly formed hills, resembling the original topography

**the Islands** consists of the Filtration Park + the Compost Park. The island form becomes an armature for which the environmental process sculpts and transforms the forms with specificity.

**the Deck** supports the Islands on the existing asphalt parking surface. Underneath the deck is the stadium parking.

**the Terraces** the Solar Farm, the Stadium Farm, and the Urban Room Botanical Gardens. The Terraces are a series of faceted planes that carve and build onto the existing south hill facing Downtown offering multiple vantage points and reflections on the city as well as places to rest, gather, reflect, and inhabit the hillside ascending/descending. They serve as plots for Stadium Farming as well as becoming a structure to support solar panels for the Solar Farm.

**the Paths** a network of criss crossing connections

**the Existing Asphalt Parking Surface**

The landscape programming reflects the dynamic processes that create a sustainable landscape:

**the Forest** filtering pollutants, capturing carbon, and representing a future energy biomass

**the Sloped Field** capturing storm water thru channels

**the Filtration Park** filtering and polishing storm water

**the Compost Park** organic material decomposition

**the Solar Farm** solar energy generation for stadium and surrounding neighborhood

**the Stadium Farm** supports stadium food production demands and surrounding community