

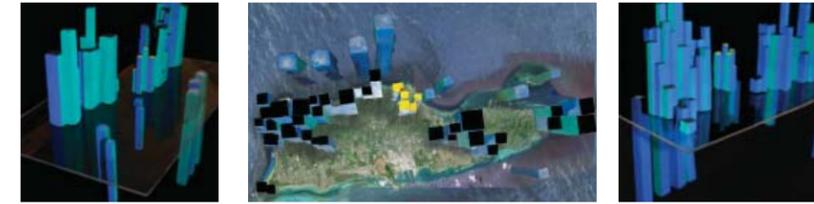
BREAKING THE BOUNDARY

Breaking the boundary is defined through an experiential trail that weaves through and connects both sides of the park. I learned that personal connections are made through direct encounter with the landscapes. The visitor can experience all three of these landscapes through a trail system that hikes up and down the topography and trails along the beach. A kayak and glass bottom boat passes over the water exposes the submerged vegetation and benthic topography. Since the trail is all about the experience visitors can feel the texture of the vegetation, smell the salty ocean, and look out at the breathtaking views that will allow people to see exactly why Salt River Bay is special.

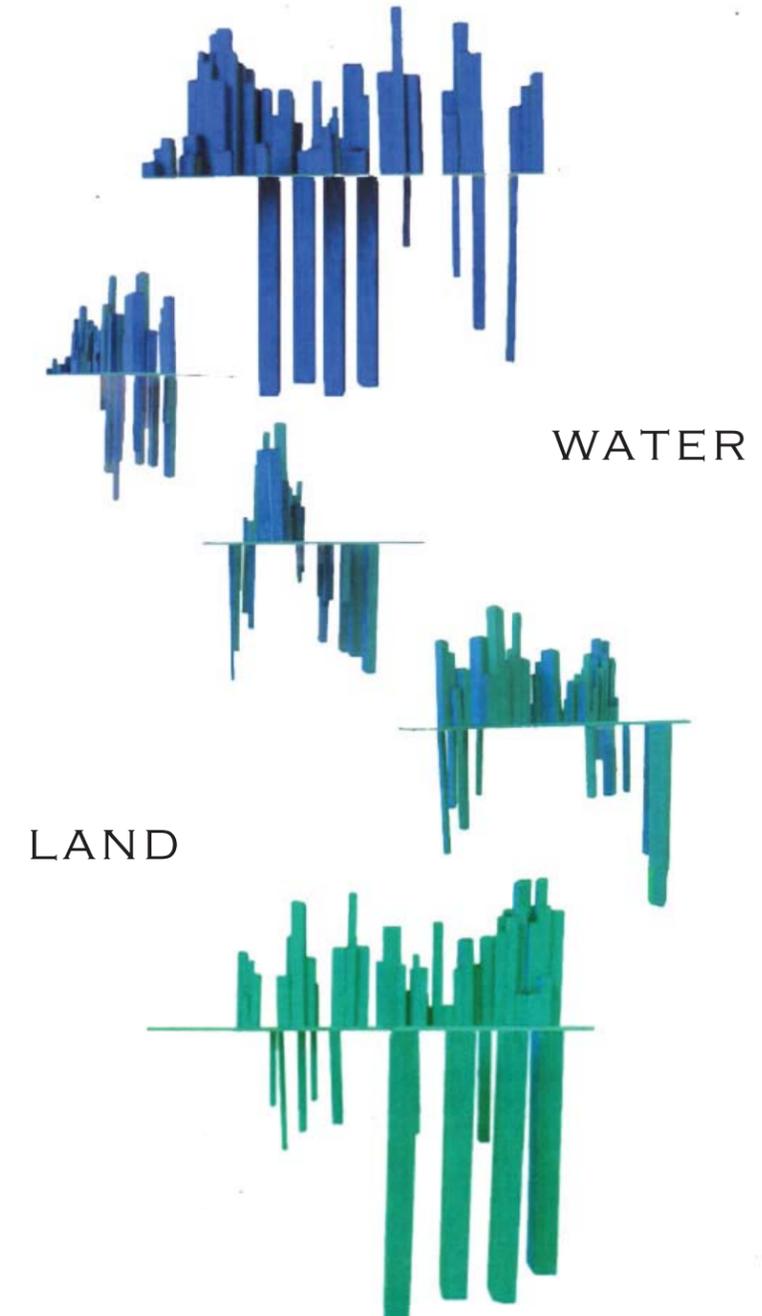
Clearly vegetation can act as a visual barrier between the land and water. However, the mangroves, in this case act as a buffer. I propose restoring areas where the mangroves are dead because the mangroves clean runoff, therefore, protecting the ocean habitat. The 'breaking the boundary' experience is subtle; however, in the manmade lagoon, I propose a glass trail that is slightly submerged in the water so that as you are walking the water is right at your fingertips.

The Marine Research and Education Center side of the park involves more restoration. Areas of archeology are left untouched, areas of void vegetation are filled with luscious existing trees, and to replace the invasive grasses, native grasses will be planted to continue to stabilize the soil keeping the rocky beach trails pristine. The buildings for the Marine Research and Science Center are clustered together to create a campus. They respond to steep topography stepping down in height from either side to capture and slow rain water. These green roof terraces will be planted with rain garden species to filter the water they capture coming from the top of the hill. For the other sides of the hill, bioswales will be planted for water filtration. It is important that the water is filtered before it gets to the ocean because it protects the coral reef habitat.

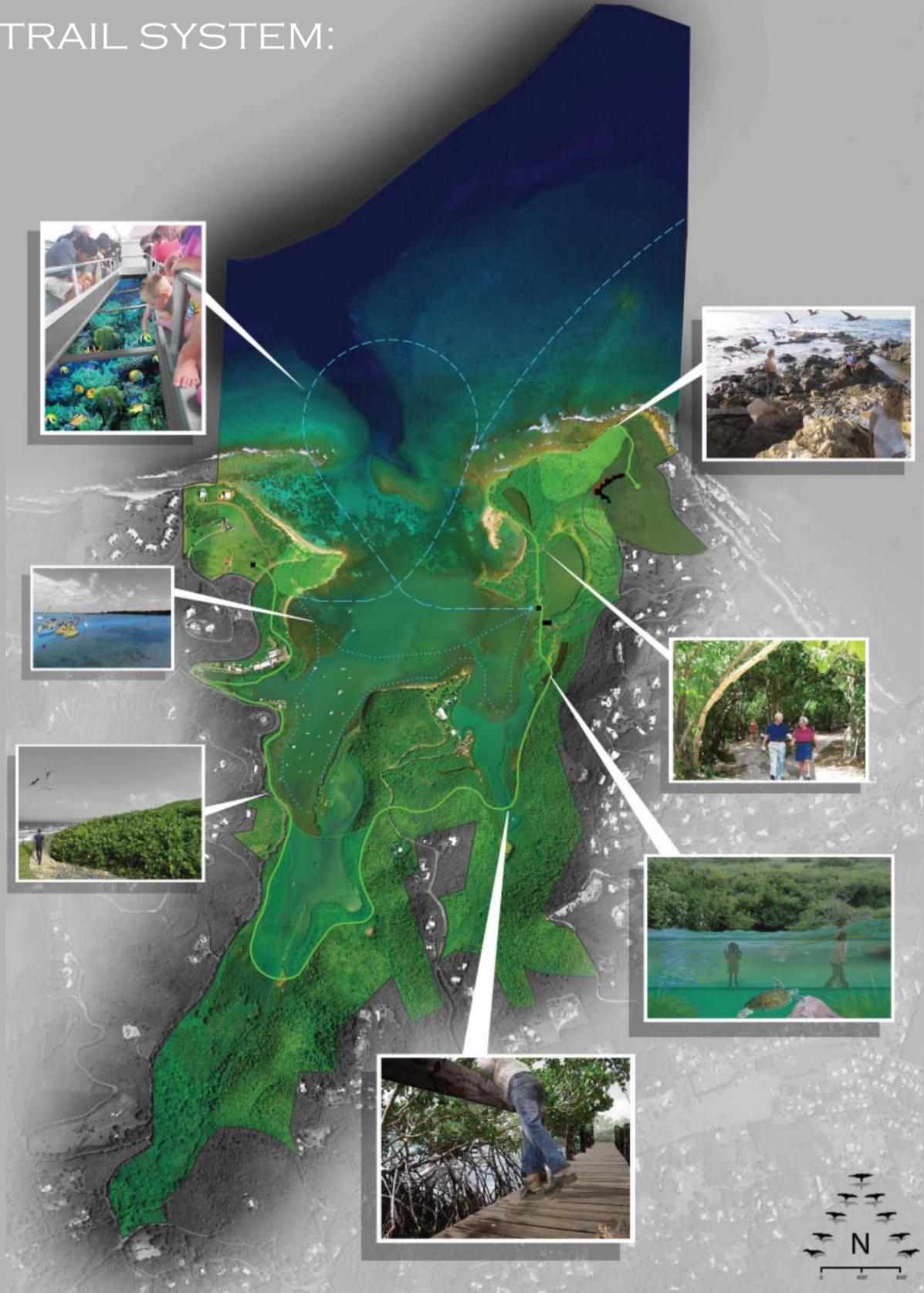
Exposing the two landscapes through experience teaches visitors to appreciate and protect the environment. Another positive attribute of the trail are the activities, ranging from kayaking to running.



CONCEPT MODEL



TRAIL SYSTEM:



TERRESTRIAL

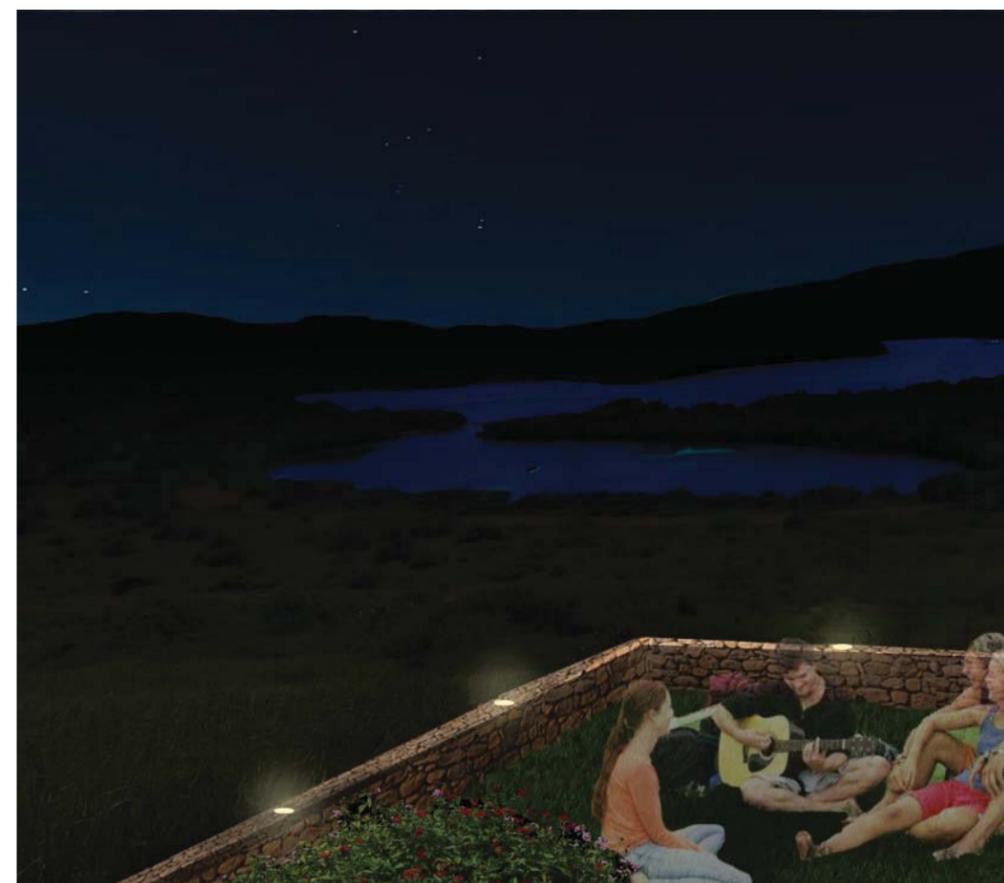


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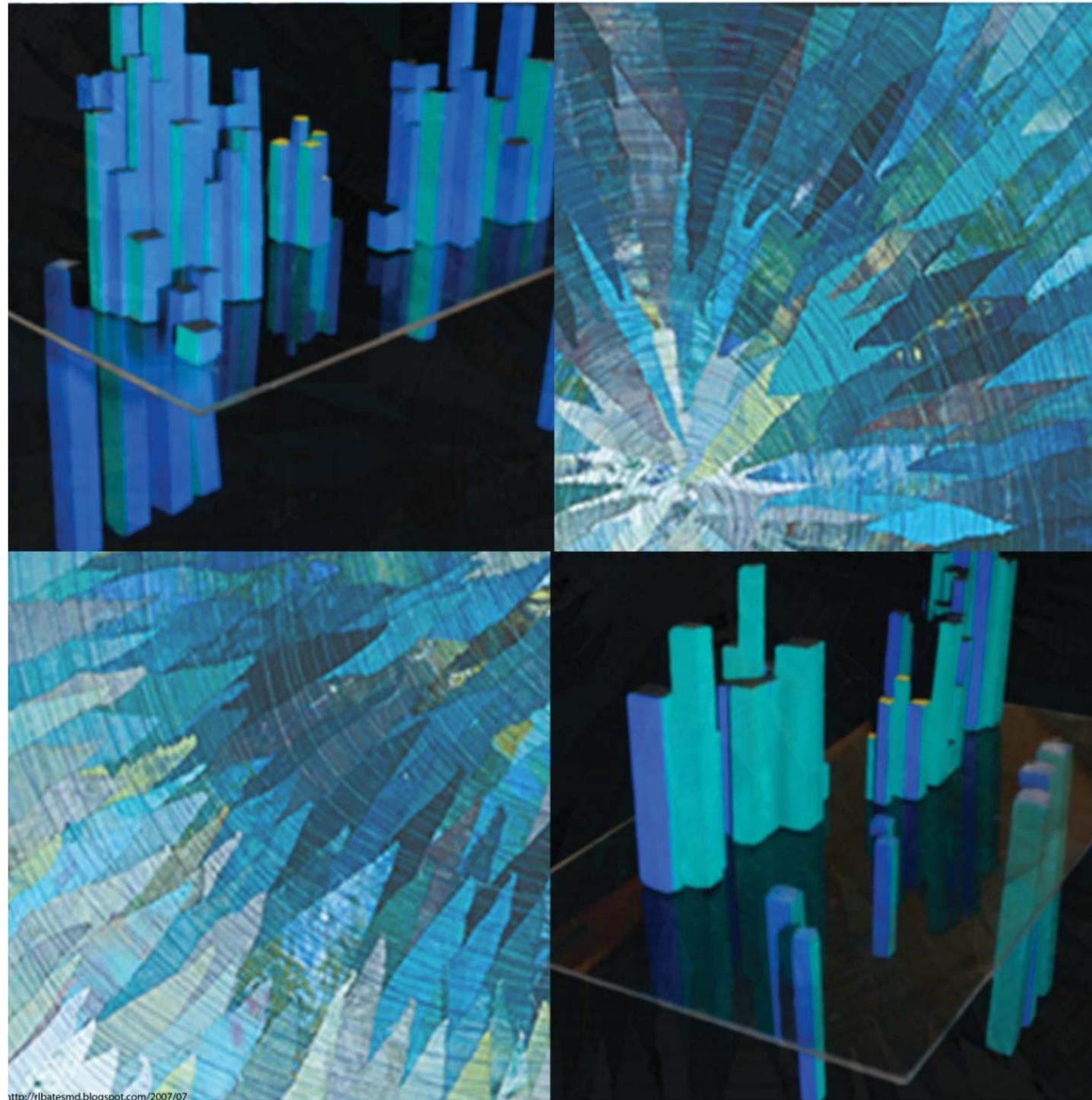


BLENDING THE DIVISION









<http://lbatesmd.blogspot.com/2007/07>

The concept behind my park design is to remove the boundary between the land and water. A lot of times people forget that there is a landscape below the ocean that consists of vegetation and contours, just as the landscape above the water. Since this is a Marine Research and Education Center, the ocean is very important. The model viewed from above is an exaggerated bas relief of the topography of the island. There is a piece of glass that separates the topography above from the topography representing the ocean depths below. This represents a boundary that blends together, almost as if there were none. Straight sticks are used to represent this line or boundary; however there are voids representing the break. If viewing the model in elevation on one side it is all blue, conceptually it represents an ocean wave. If viewed from the other side, the model is all green and this represents the rolling green landscape above. If the model is slowly turned around from either direction, the blue and green begin to combine, having a blending affect (almost like a kaleidoscope). Our project site location is marked in yellow, which is where I will further investigate and apply this concept.

