

Amplifier Rocker Swing

a summer project
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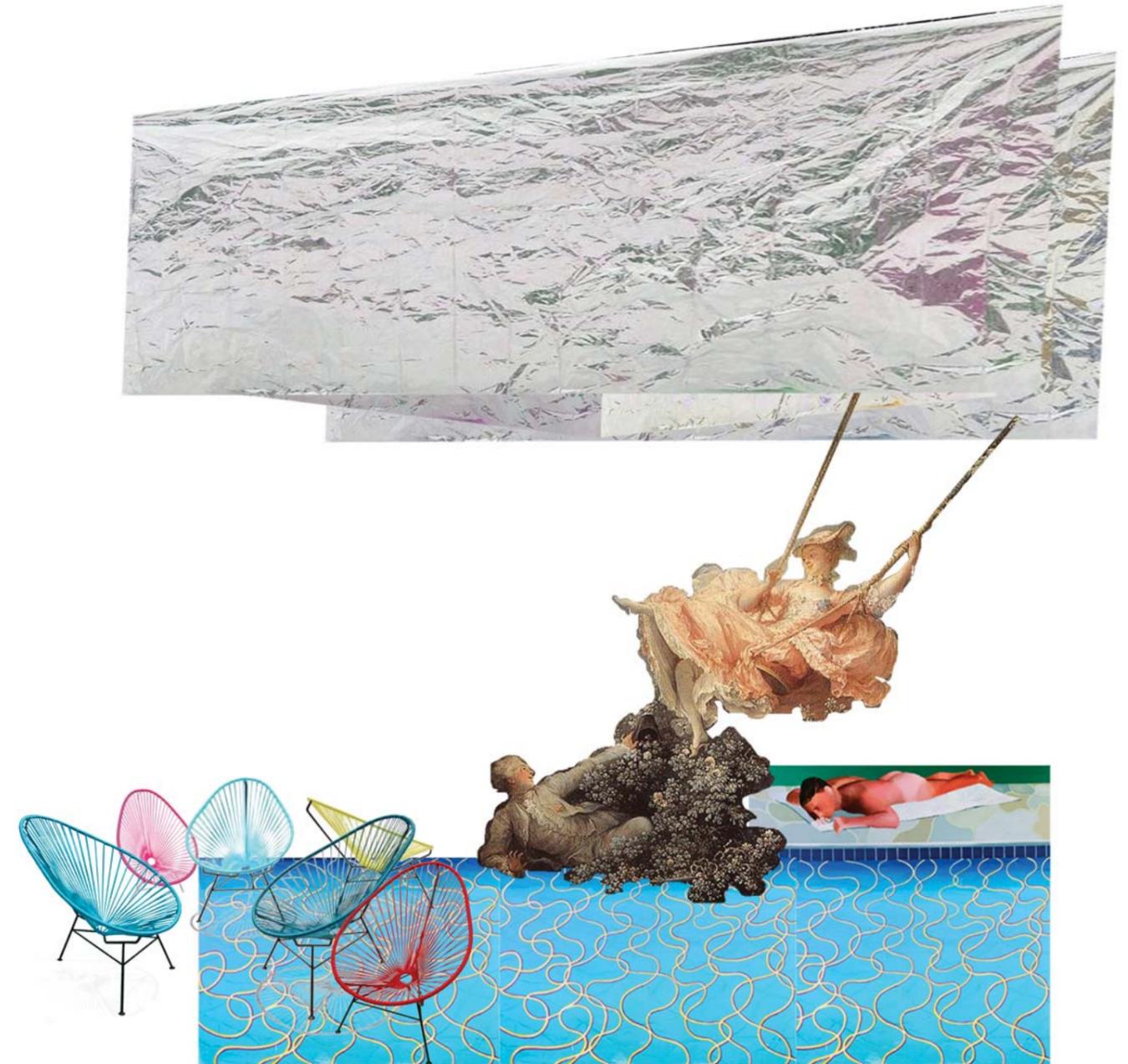


fig. 1 Mitologies

A number of images emerge when one thinks of summertime in Rome: a fierce sun piercing through the haze. Great heat and stultifying humidity. Red-hot stones radiating out all the energy they absorb. People seemingly made of wax more than flesh and bone. And yet there is something about it which convinces us that it is quite bearable. It may be the easy pace of the longer days, suddenly with no need to hurry, the rhythmical slowness of our movements or the ease with which our bodies shift within our summer clothing.

Transferring these desirable effects to a specific proposal is not so much a question of achieving an ideal comfort temperature but rather the ability to create an atmosphere where the modes of use and activities taking place there form a part of such a relaxed, hedonistic philosophy. This proposal aims to derive the fullest benefit from the existing conditions, taking as its main substance the work performed by the physical and environmental agents in place. Such as the nearby row of poplar trees, the westerly summer breeze, the permanent exposure to the sun and the brightly coloured clothing people wear in summertime.

The proposal is based on four reflections which shape the programme and the activities:

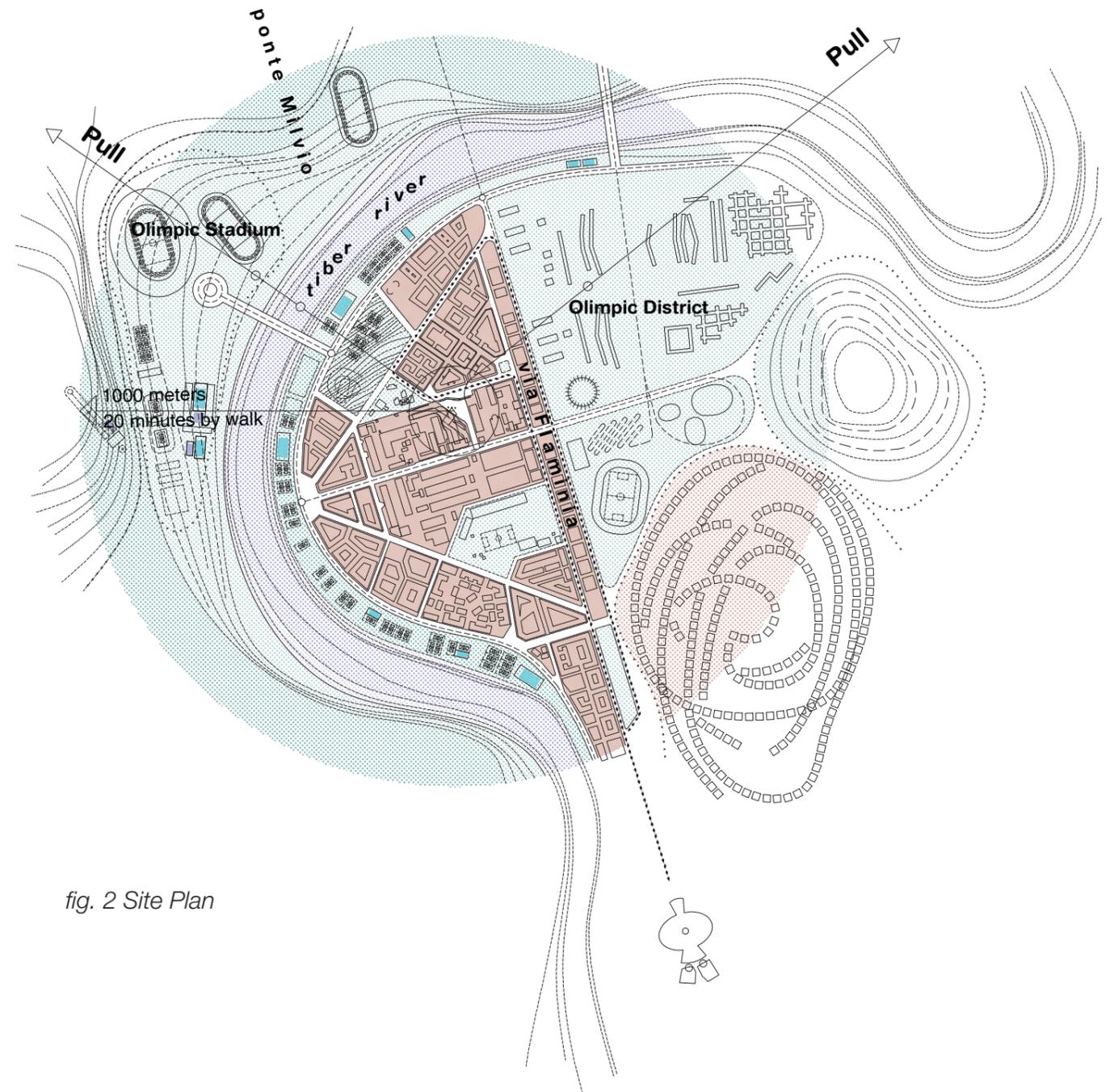


fig. 2 Site Plan

Reflection 1: The MAXXI is located in a district which already has in place a great range of green spaces and a broad spectrum of leisure facilities. There are public swimming pools and sports complexes less than 10 minutes away. The installation should propose additional use forms of the outer space, avoiding repetition of existing ones.

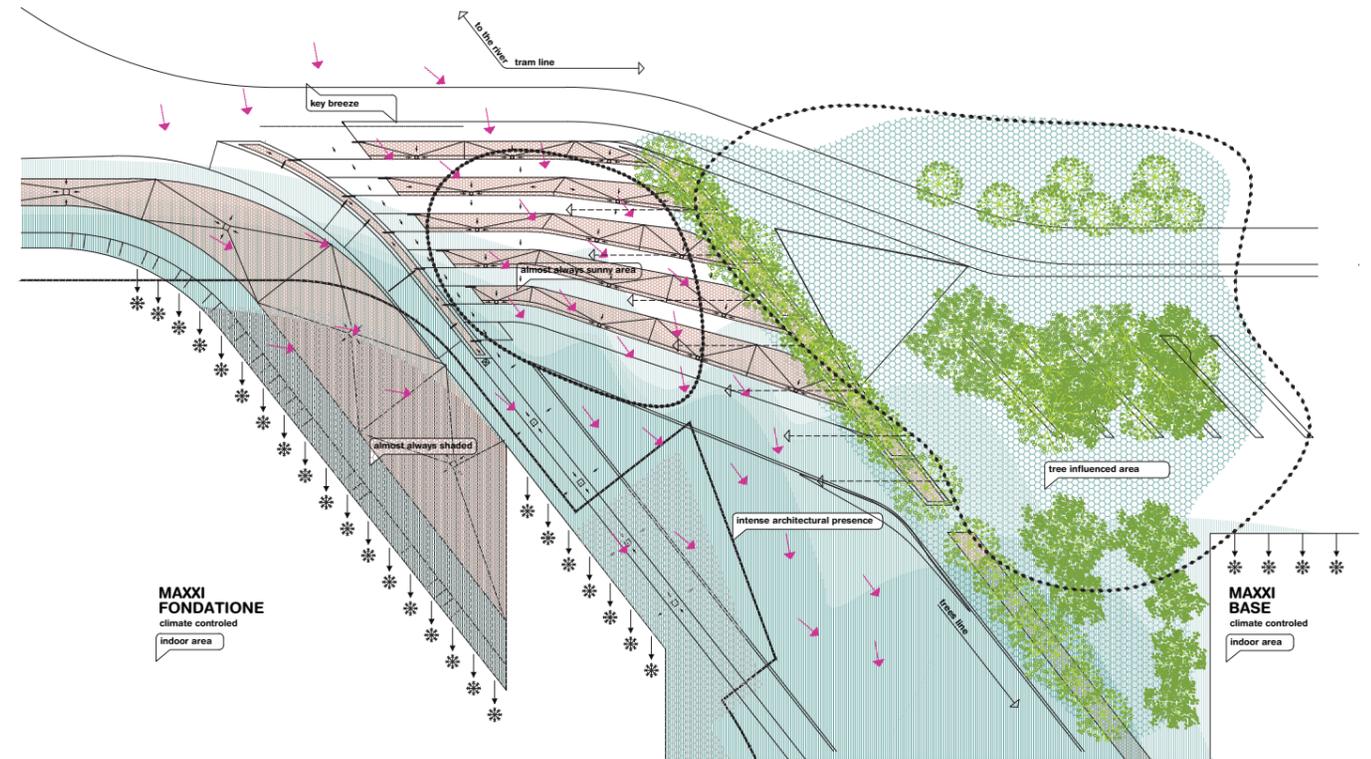


fig. 3 Ground Plan

Reflection 2: The installation will be operational during the summer months in Rome, meaning that the average temperatures will range from 30° C on the most extreme days to 25° C on the mildest, with a relative humidity of 60%. During this period the sensation of a comfortable temperature would be facilitated by a slight increase in the speed of air movement.

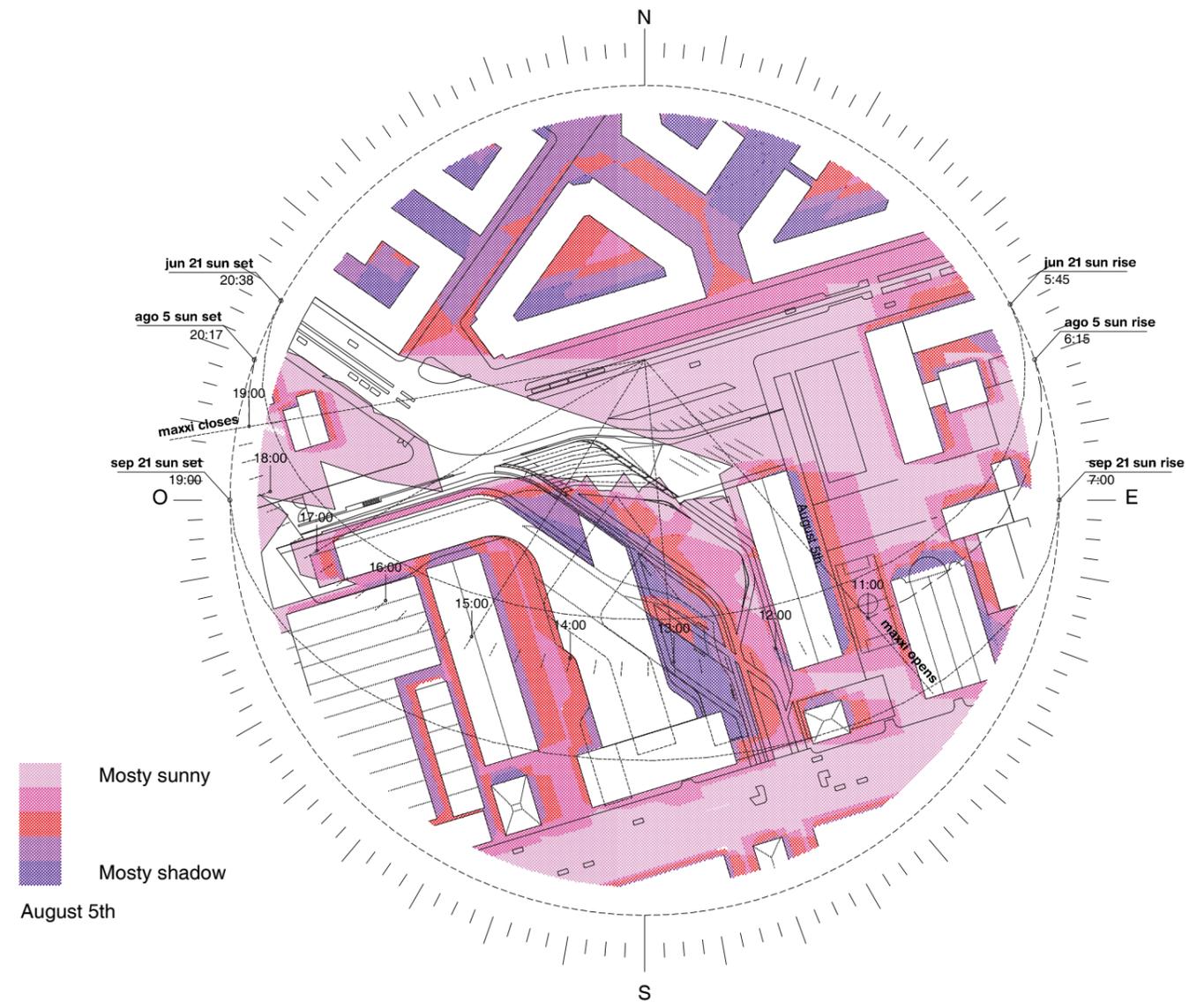


fig. 4 Isolation Scheme

Reflection 3: A shadow analysis of the allocated space during the months when the installation will take place indicates that it will be permanently exposed to the sun. However, the same study also shows that there are other outdoor spaces which are constantly in shade. One would also expect these spaces to be cooler because of the presence of shaded concrete walls which will reduce the ambient temperature. Rather than duplicate the shade with the same characteristics, the project should aim to provide a different experience.

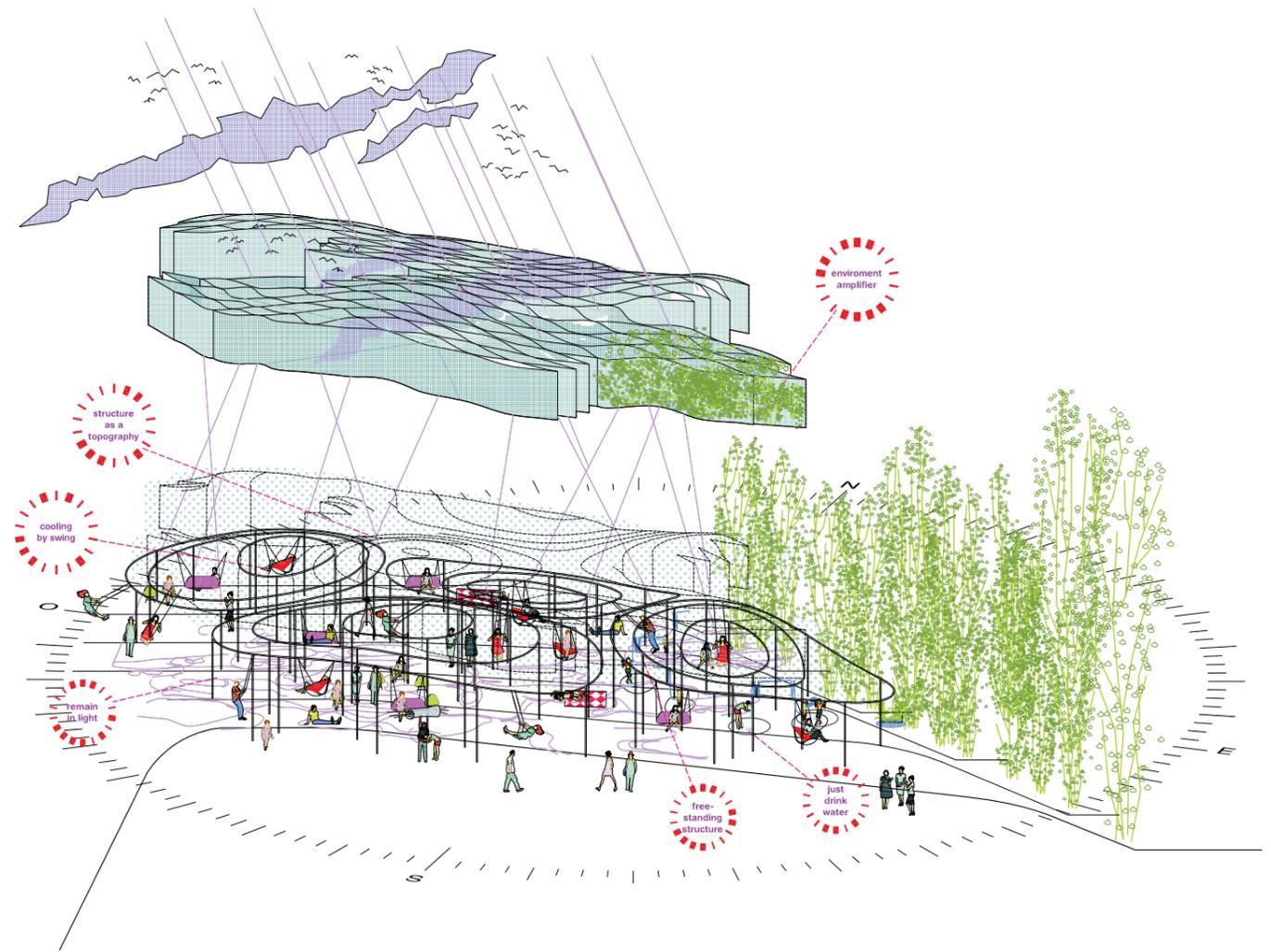


fig.5 Conceptual axonometric

Reflection 4: The project will remain just four months. How to approach to sustainability is a key issue for project success. Beyond thinking about a possible ability to be recycled after use we believe that one should think, before its construction, the best choice of materials and a simple assembly process, during use, the maximum energy saving.

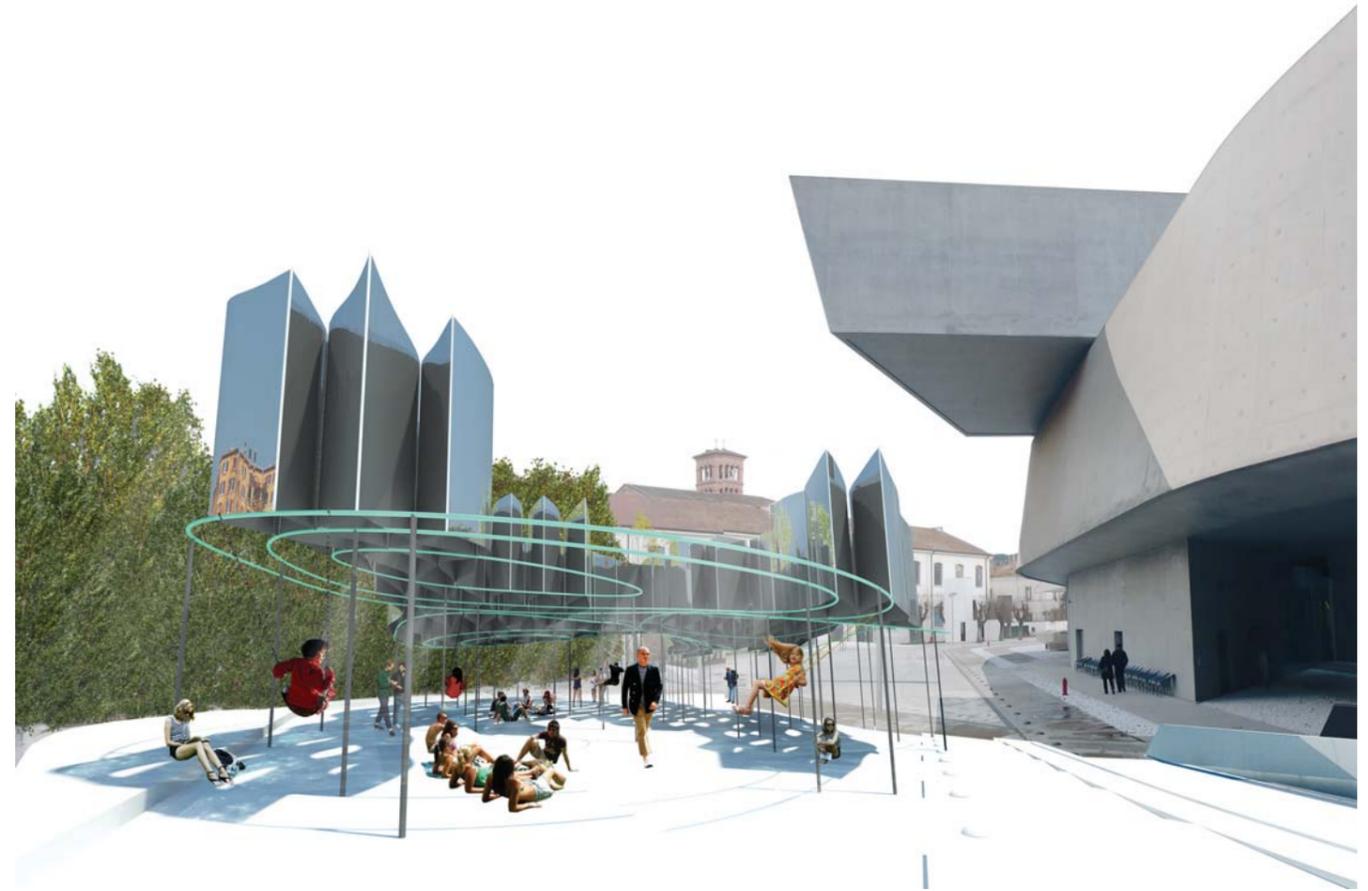


fig. 6 North Access View

The aim of the project is to displace the focus from the constructed object to the actions which will take place in it. To this end we employ material and geometrical resources that allow us to take advantage of the space in order to describe and portray it in a new way. Proposal provides metallic structures grouped in concentric rings to create a second topography at the terraced area. Over it relies a large scale mesh fabric made by a sheet of plastic (PET film) that is coated with a metallic reflecting agent, making it silver in color, which reflects up to 97% of radiated heat. This lightweight, durable and 100% recyclable material amplifies the surroundings and creates dynamic lighting effects on the floor. It transform the summer light into a vibrant substance of watery reflects.

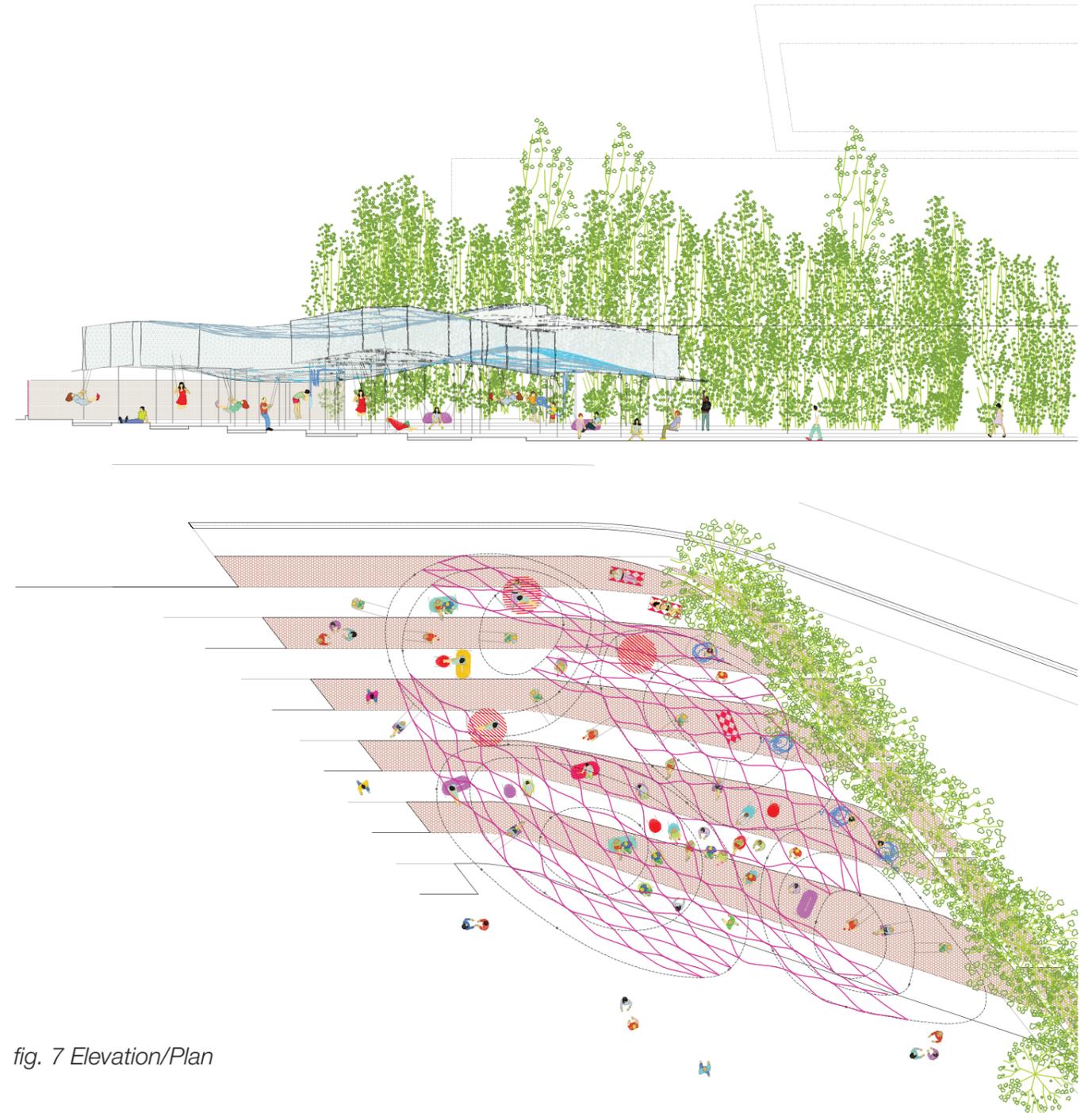


fig. 7 Elevation/Plan

Below, the result is an open space where are spread a group of slender columns. The spatial configuration of this area allows the execution of diverse activities in an easy way. The events can be reprogrammed quickly without having to make significant changes in space. This part of the installation is conceived as an extension of the ideas of fluidity and lightness that are in rest of the project. All the furniture has been selected under one condition: its instability. People will occupy the space while balancing on the swings, hammocks or rocking chairs. Smooth movement of people will cause a rhythmic effect on the reflective cover. The swinging will also increase air movement in the skin, creating a slight feeling of freshness.



fig. 8 Night View

The pavilion is built on the basis of a set of heterogeneous decisions intended to position the installation in a gently oscillating state. We wish to establish a strategy which works by opposition. The idea is to juxtapose the stable nature of the plaza and the bulky presence of the building with a space functioning on instability. This fluctuation over time would then become a strategy in order to endure summer days in the MAXXi plaza.

