

# Kim Holleman

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Fine Art, Public Art, Environmental Art, Utopian Architecture



# Artist Statement

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I use an interdisciplinary approach including Sculpture, Public Art, Architecture, Engineering, Environmental Art, and Utopian Architecture to create new experiences based upon utopian visions. By mixing art, architecture, and nature, I'm highlighting society's collective hopes and anxieties moving forward (and backward) through time as we strive to become a more advanced society.

By deconstructing physical objects and remixing large scale architectures, I try to reveal deeper aspects of our relationship to the environment and the built world. By inverting concepts and manipulating familiar everyday imagery, I can address the public with playful optimism, drawing people into creative solutions addressing serious issues regarding our connection to the world writ large..

In my works, working in macro and micro scale, I have manipulated outmoded vehicles, floated drawings on rivers, turned nature inside-out and engineered eco-systems to live out-of-place. In public art projects, my works become sites of play and gathering-points for larger discussions. Often, it is the public at large who complete the works by their interactions with it, gently reminding us that art, science, and environmentalism -is humanism.

As an artist and Visiting Scholar with the Social Computing Group at MIT Media Lab, I have been able to realize projects in collaboration with scholars, scientists, architects, mathematicians, and new media artists, providing new avenues of inquiry for my work, and new contexts for art interventions in the public realm.







*Trailer Park, Version 2 Model 8" x 6" x 5" Balsa wood, wood blocks and planks, natural materials, rocks, moss*





*Eden Project, NDK (National Palace of Culture) Sofia, Bulgaria 2024 From the Landis & Gyr Foundation Artistic Fellowship Centre for Advanced Study*

The National Palace of Culture, Sofia Bulgaria, redesigned to showcase Bulgaria's important and varied agriculture-as-culture. This rooftop garden and accompanying landscape features native flowers, grasses, food plants, and native trees. Roof gardens mitigate heat island effect, combat smog, support pollinators, expand habitat, provide food, and act as sites of teaching for schools and the public at large.

Created during the Landis & Gyr Artistic Fellowship at Centre for Advanced Study in Sofia, this project focused on the National Palace of Culture in Sofia and was presented during the seminar, *Future City: Art, Architecture, and Critical Research*, and was presented on Bulgarian National Television, as well as to the Director of The National Palace of Culture and the Deputy Minister of Culture of Sofia in 2024.





*Eden Project Model NDK (National Palace of Culture) Sofia, Bulgaria 2024 From the Landis & Gyr Foundation Artistic Fellowship Centre for Advanced Study*





*Suspended Lake 2022 Venice Architectural Biennale Applicant, Representing Bulgaria with Noviza Architects*

At the core of "Suspended Lake" lies a profound exploration of the relationship between humanity and the environment. The suspended ecosystem serves as a metaphorical microcosm, challenging viewers to confront their role in preserving and elevating the delicate balance of our ecosystems. The choice of a lake, traditionally rooted in terrestrial landscapes, suspended within a steel framework is a bold departure

from the expected, provoking contemplation about our preconceived notions of nature, gravity, and spatial order. This conceptual departure extends further into the speculative realm of off-world colonization. "Suspended Lake" prompts us to consider the integration of living ecosystems into extraterrestrial habitats, challenging the boundaries of what is conceivable in the pursuit of interplanetary habitation.



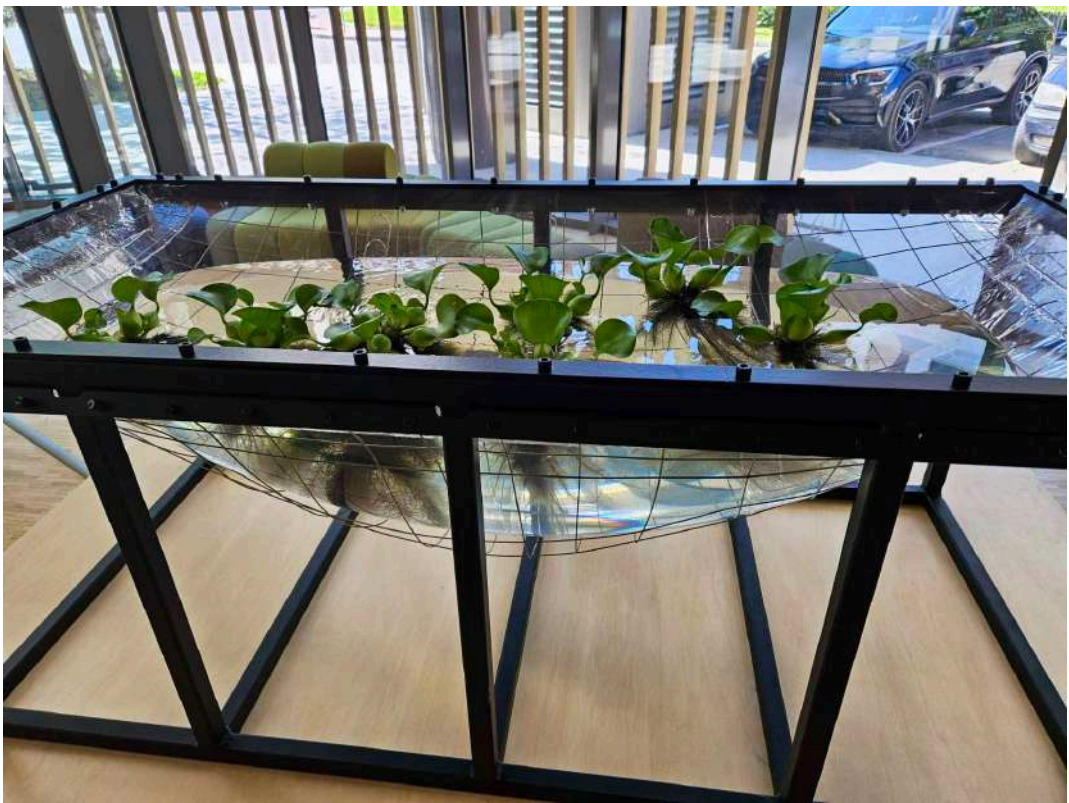


*Suspended Lake 2023 Working Prototype, Business Park Sofia  
3ft x 5ft x 2ft Steel, PVC, Water, Water Hyacinths*

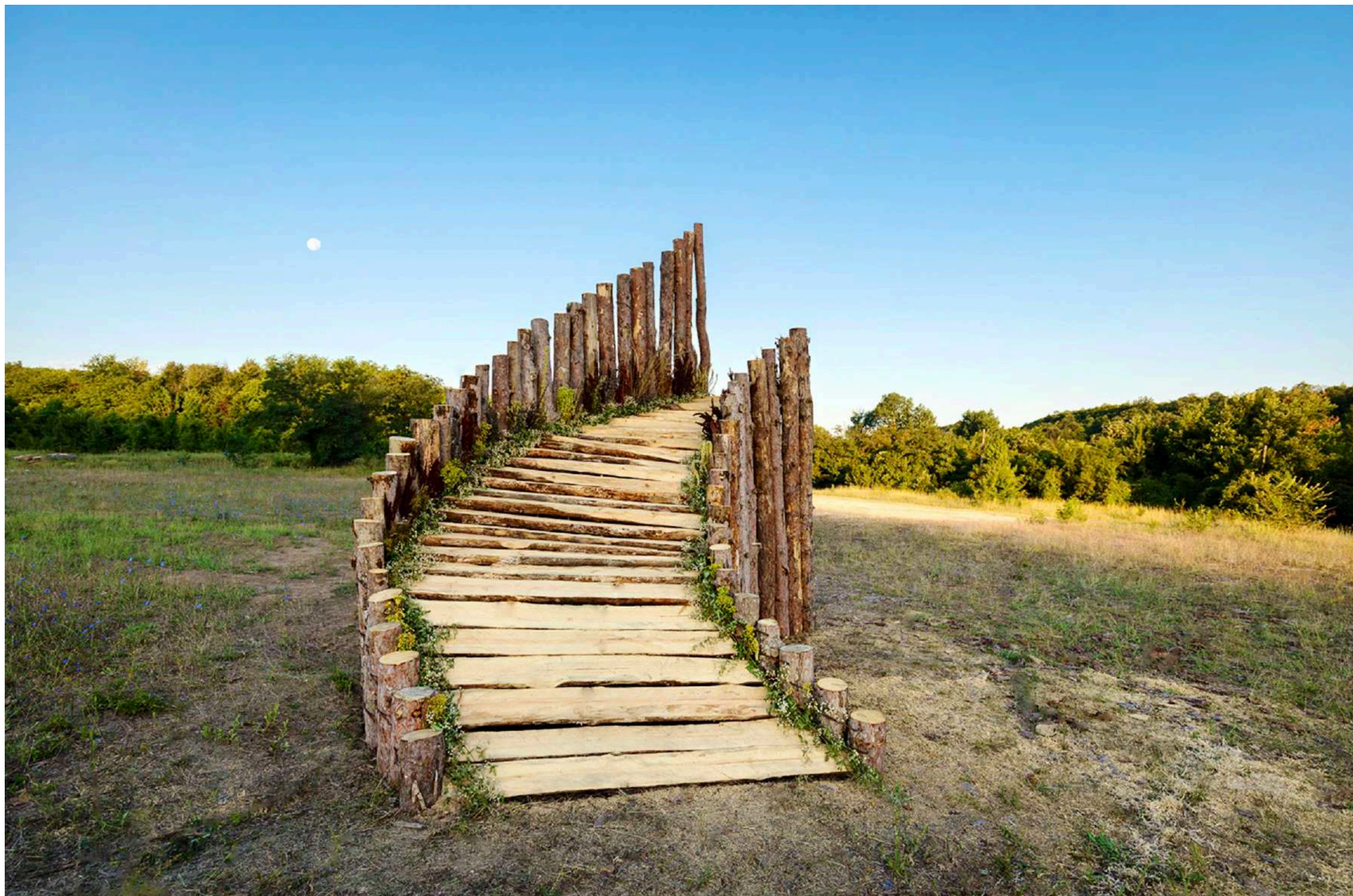
"Suspended Lake" delves into the intricate relationship between humanity and the environment, offering a profound exploration that challenges viewers to consider their role in preserving ecological balance. This living lake, suspended within a steel framework, serves as

a metaphorical microcosm, prompting contemplation about our notions of nature, gravity, and spatial order. This public artwork is on view at Business Park Sofia, created within the artist residency program led by The Collective Foundation and Poeima Collective, Bulgaria.







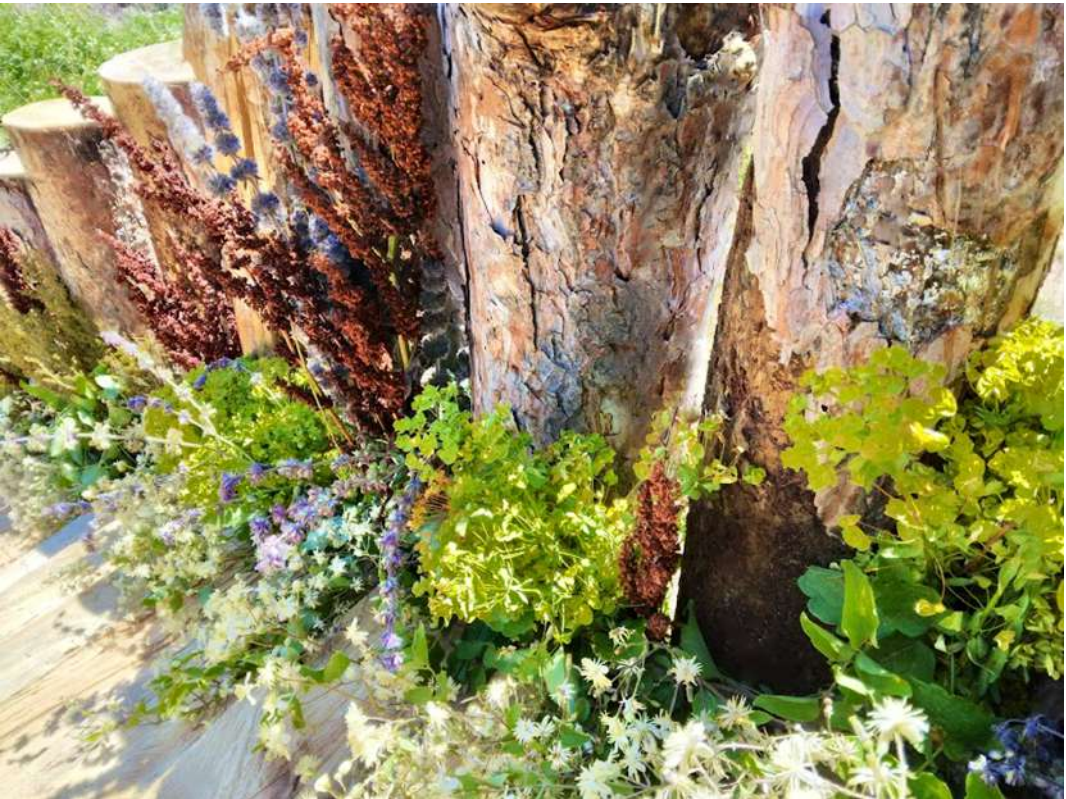


*Wish You Were Here 2022 Duppini Art Group Gabrovtsi Village  
4m x 8m Bulgarian Timber, Bulgarian Herbs and Wildflowers*

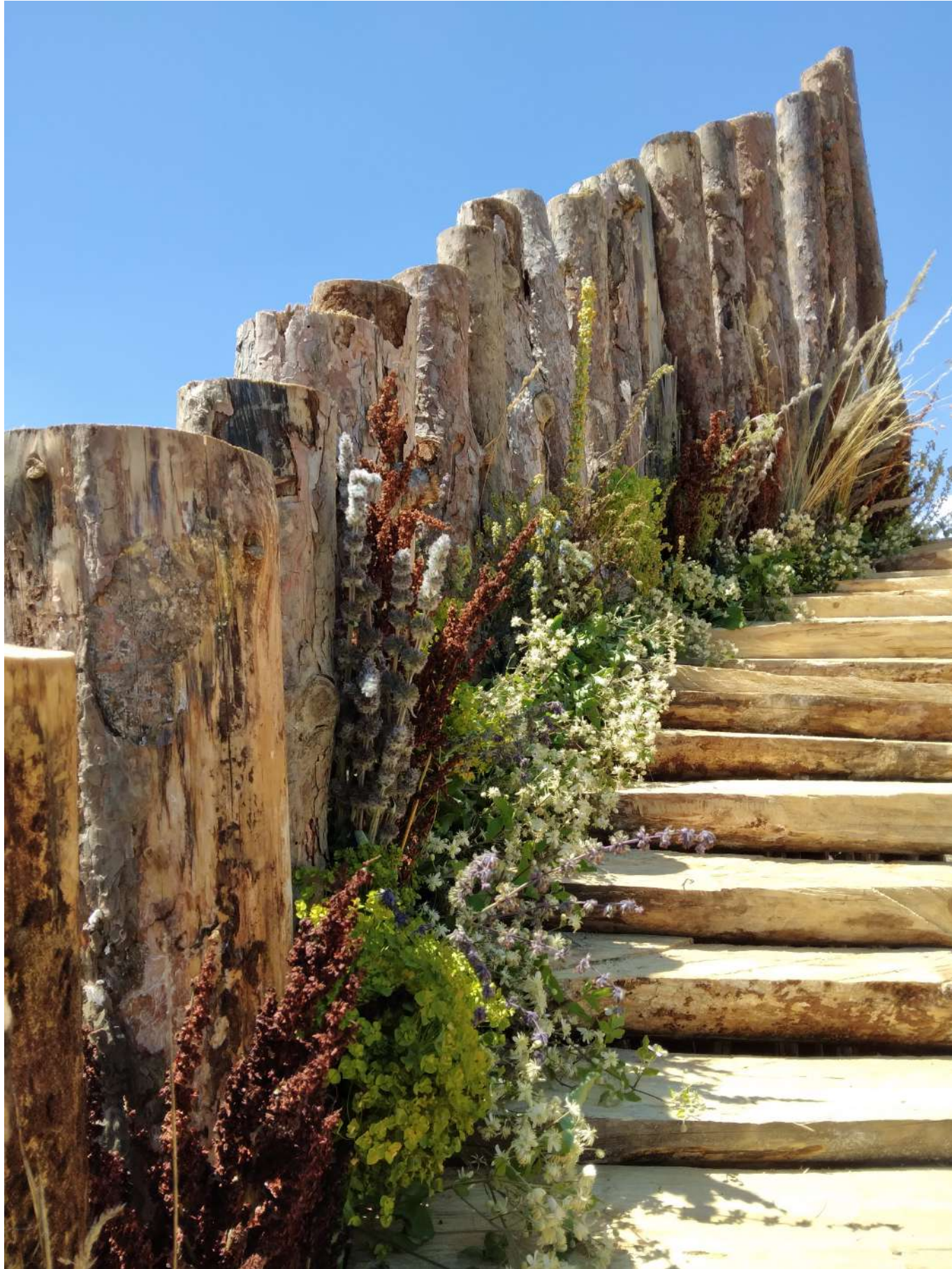
This curved staircase built from Bulgarian timber, began as an idea to create a piece of utopian architecture, but became a metaphor for my personal story of coming to Bulgaria. A journey of steps and missteps, ultimately leading me to a natural paradise.

This permanent sculpture was built on the East/West Bulgarian highway with assistance from Duppini Art Group, Grabrovski Village, Bulgaria. Wish You Were Here is a walkable curved staircase coming out of the ground, leading to the sky.





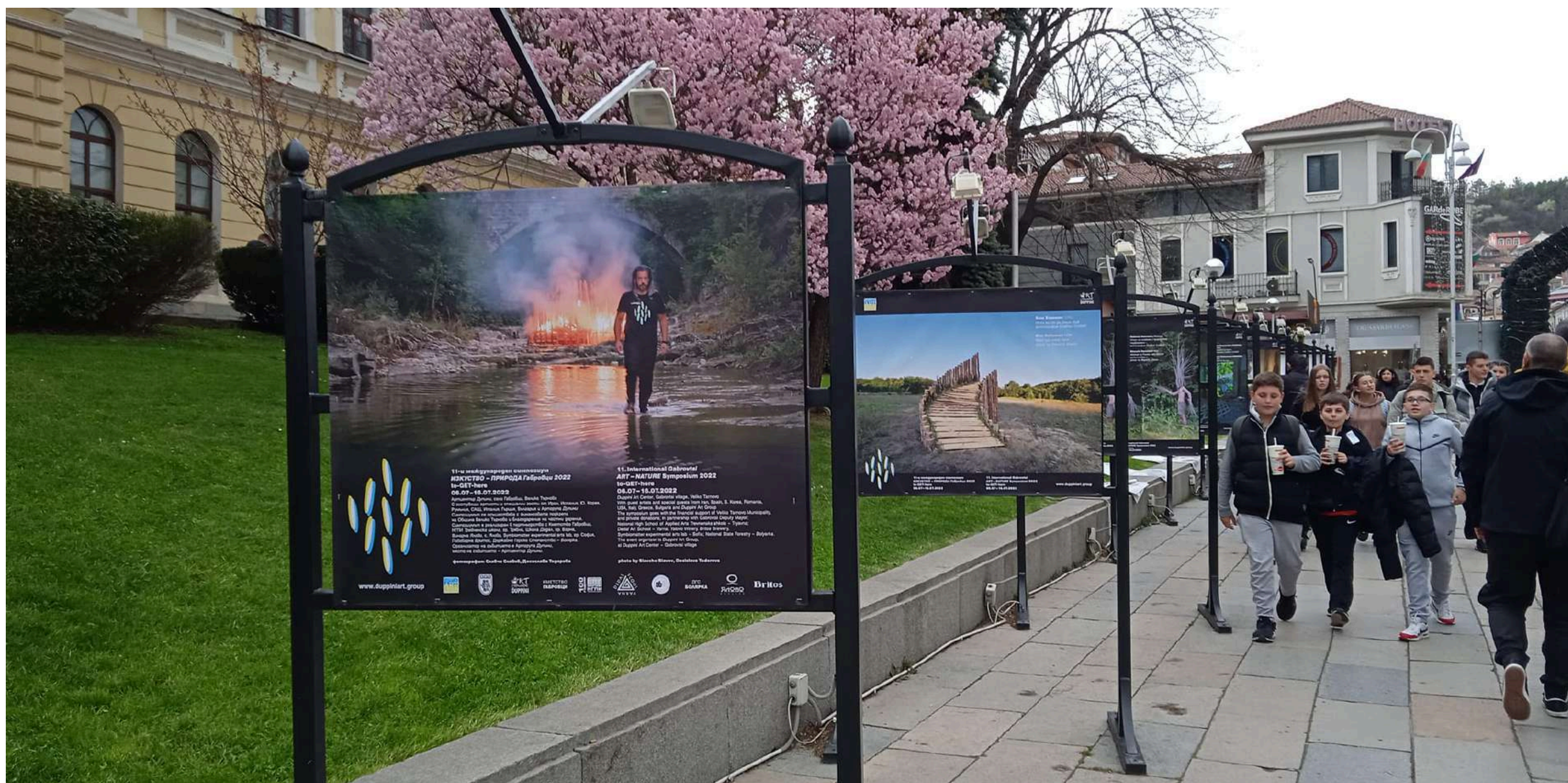




Model for *Wish You Were Here*







*Duppini Art Group Public Exhibition of works created at the 11th Gabrovtsi Art-Nature Symposium 2023 in Veliko Tarnovo Center*

Gabrovtsi ART-NATURE Symposium is one of its kind in Bulgaria - a free forum for artists from around the world, working in the fields of nature art, land art and site-specific art. The symposium is an annual cultural event, held since 2012.

11th International Gabrovtsi ART - NATURE Symposium is realized in partnership with National Art School for Applied arts "Trevnenska shkola", Tryavna, "School for Fine and Visual Arts Daedalus", Varna, Yalovo Winery, Britos Brewery, Symbiomatter: experimental arts lab, Sofia, with financial support of the Municipality of Veliko Tarnovo, and private donations.





*Down the Drain, 2021-2024 Public Art Project*

*Reclaimed Brick, Recycled Astroturf, Permaculture Garden, Aluminum-Cast Trash Objects, Punched Steel Sign, Resin-Cast "Chemical Spill"*  
*Steel Signage reading: "No Dumping Drains to River"*

Designed for the shoreline where the native Oyster and Muscle population is rehabilitated at the Hudson River, Williamsburg NY. Architects designed a deck out of reclaimed lumber over the shoreline, so no people would disturb the rehabilitating shoreline beneath.

Artists and Environmentalists were invited to design mini-golf holes that teach the public about environmentalism. Hole number 1 is "Down the Drain" on the theme of water pollution. Made from reclaimed bricks hosting a spiral permaculture garden.





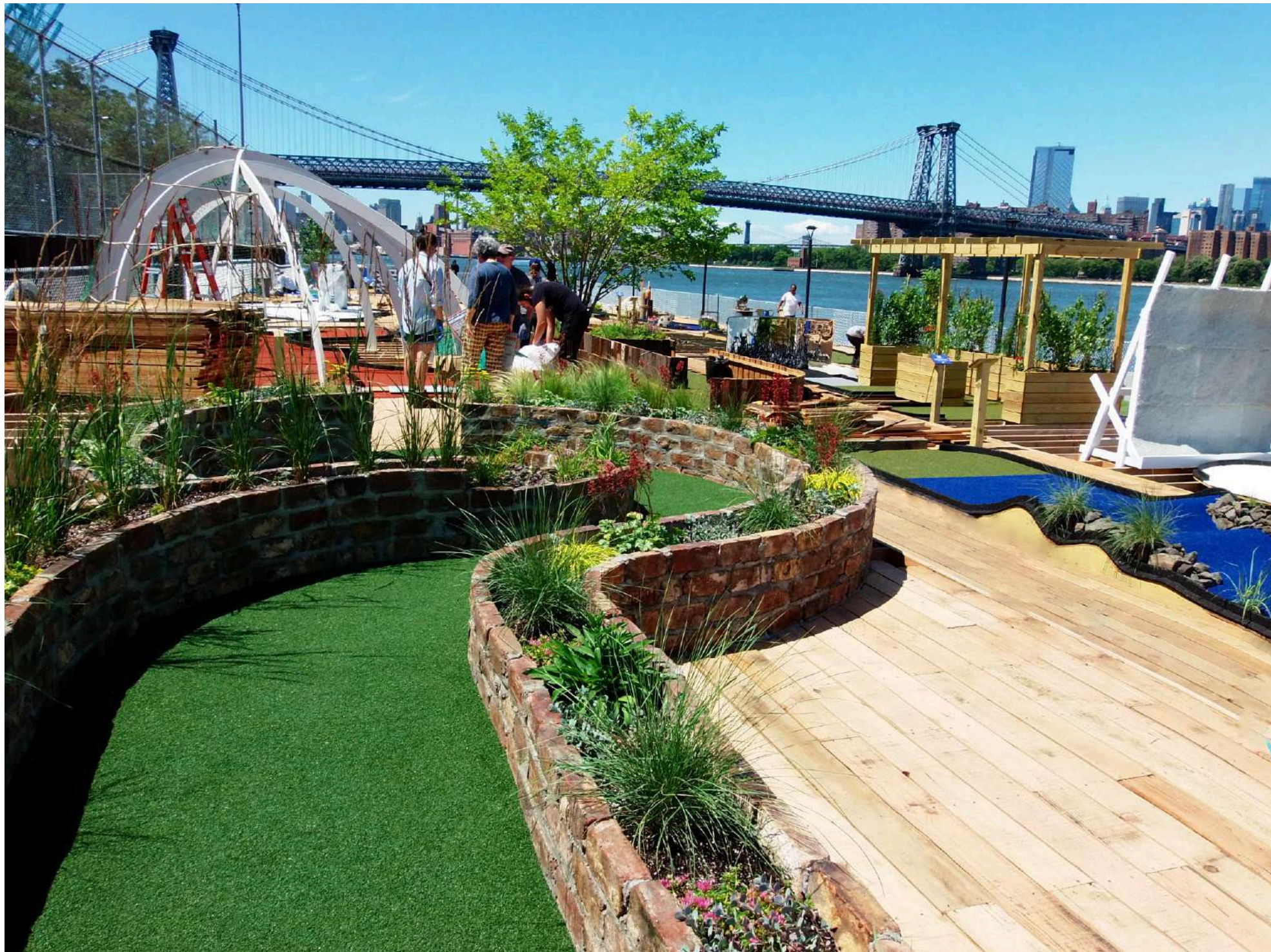
*Down the Drain, 2021-2024 Public Art Project*

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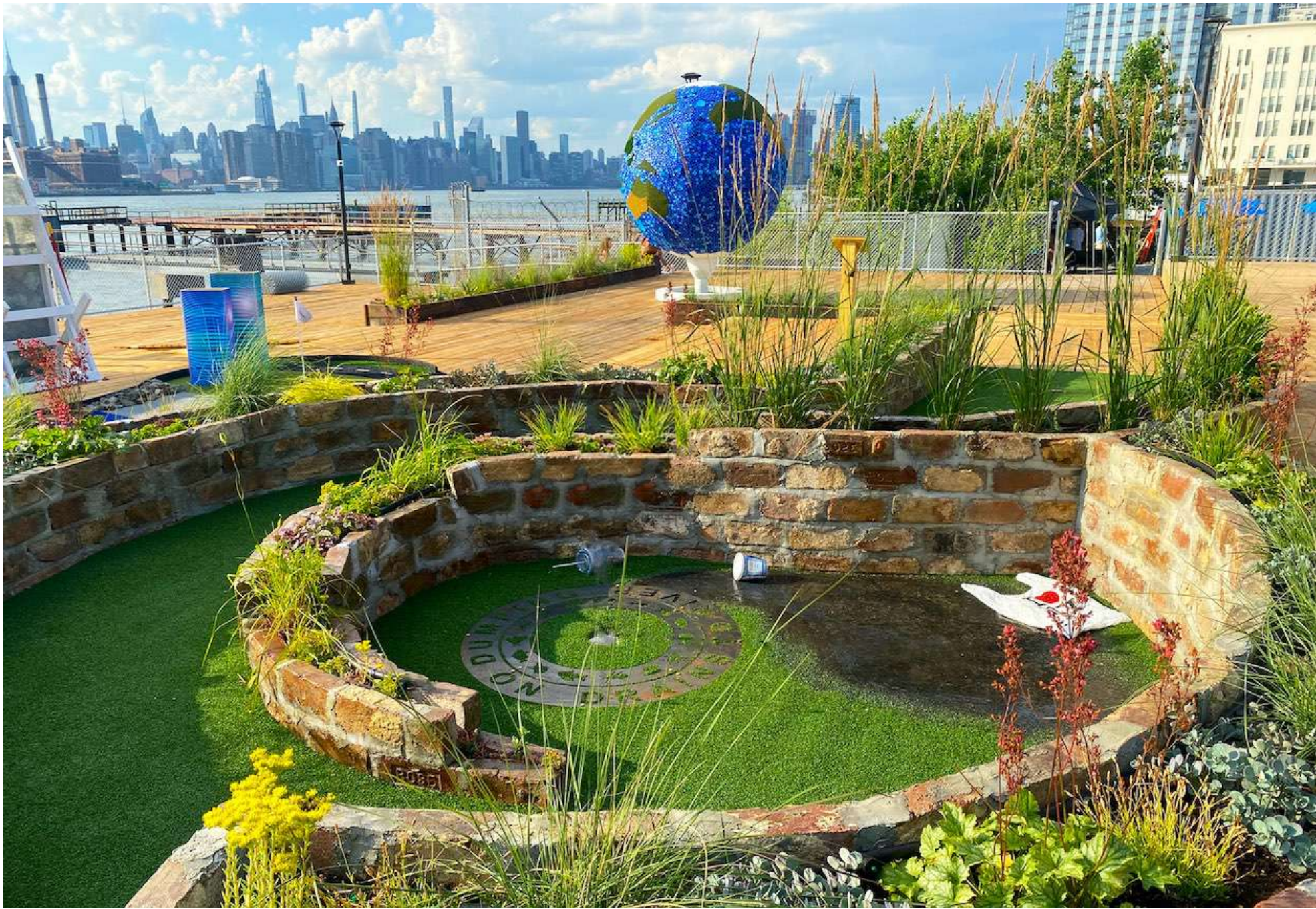
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*Trailer Park Model 1:18 Scale die-cast base, glue, clay, moss*





*Trailer Park Print Composite Double Offset Photo Print on Archival Cotton Rag Paper Stock, edition of 100 14" x 20"*





### *Trailer Park: A Mobile Public Park*

*Trailer Park* is a portable, natural, public park housed inside an 18' x 8' x 7" mobile travel trailer. The interior is fully planted, designed, and treated as a "real" park. Hand-laid brick planter beds containing lush shrubs, trees, and plants are complimented by masonry laid in the same tradition as public parks. Ivy climbs the walls where a naturalistic slate rock waterfall and pond provides the sound of trickling water. Concrete and wooden benches invite visitors to rest and enjoy the park view. Skylights provide rays of sunlight beaming in, highlighting the interior.

*Trailer Park* is a site of paradox. It asks and answers the question of how to get more nature inside the city, as-is. By going inside, you go outside.

By combining the vehicle with the destination, if you cannot go to the park, the park can go to you. A mobile metaphor and transcendent experience, *Trailer Park's* transformation is so complete, it brings nature to us, making *us* the destination. This project spanned over a decade of continuous exhibition inside New York City and the outer boroughs of Manhattan including





*Trailer Park Interior*





*Trailer Park Interior*





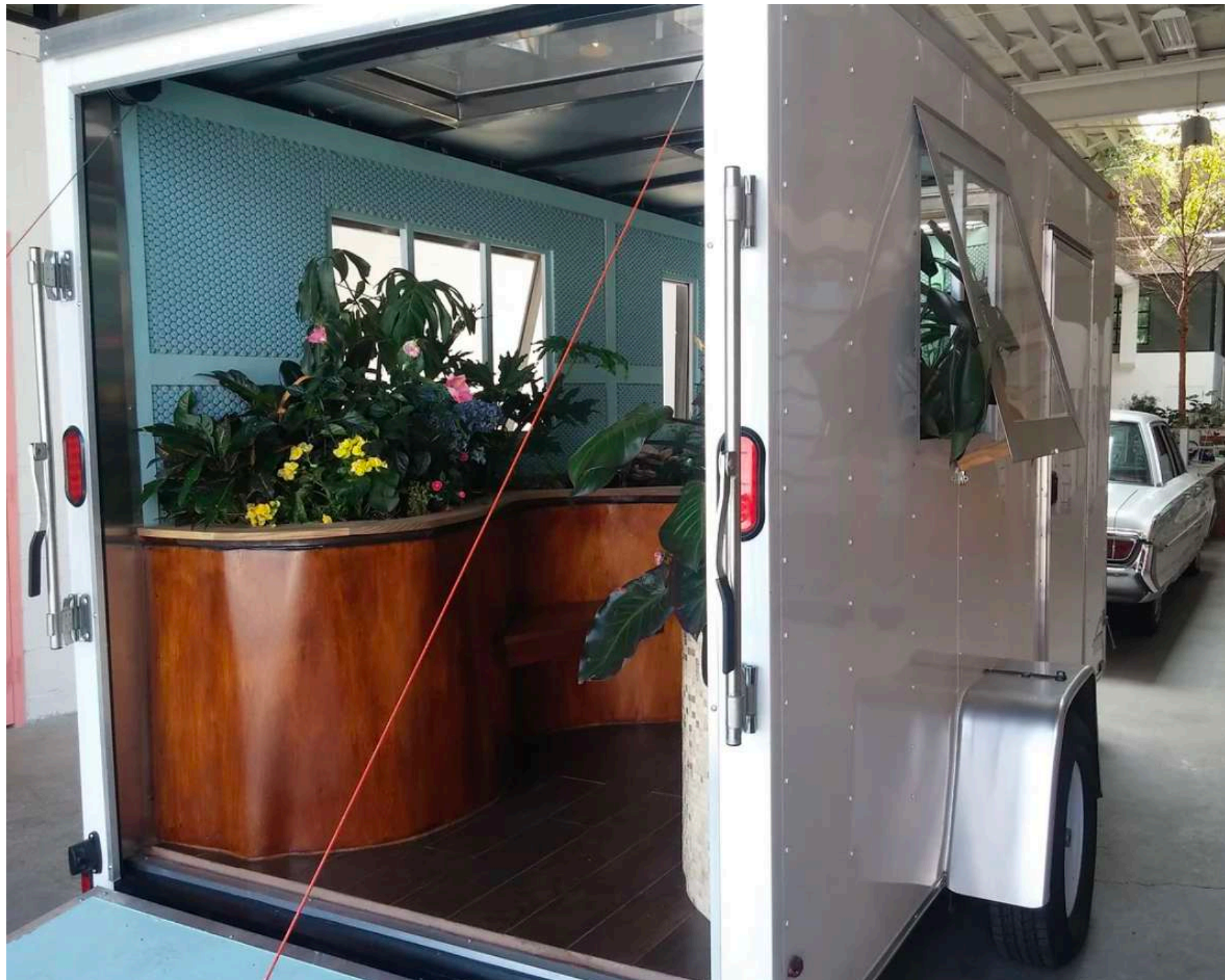
*Trailer Park, pond detail*





*TEDx Cooper Union New York: The Trailer Park :Mobile Park Project*





*Trailer Park: Version 2*

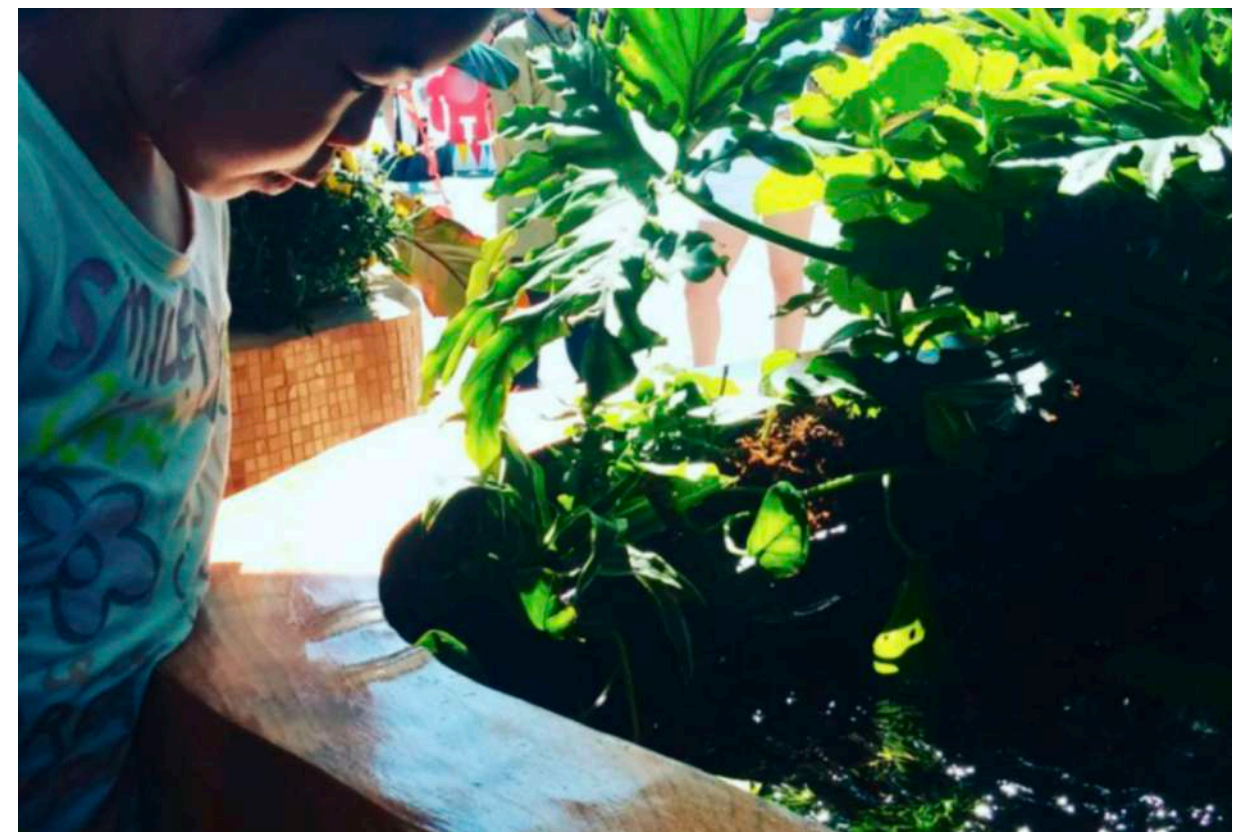
This second version of the Trailer Park project envisions a living park inside a standard New York City, V-Nose construction trailer, the kind used to house utility trades working on the city. This "street legal" park was designed to blend in with other trailers parked around the city. This smaller, sportier version of the Trailer Park was shown on the street and inside larger spaces

where pop up parks were needed or desired. This version of the Trailer Park was exhibited on the street, at galleries, inside design houses (as pictured above) and at schools, used to teach children about nature and highlight issues regarding the environment.





Trailer Park, Version 2 at Central Park, NYC  
Hosted by the New York City Parks Department





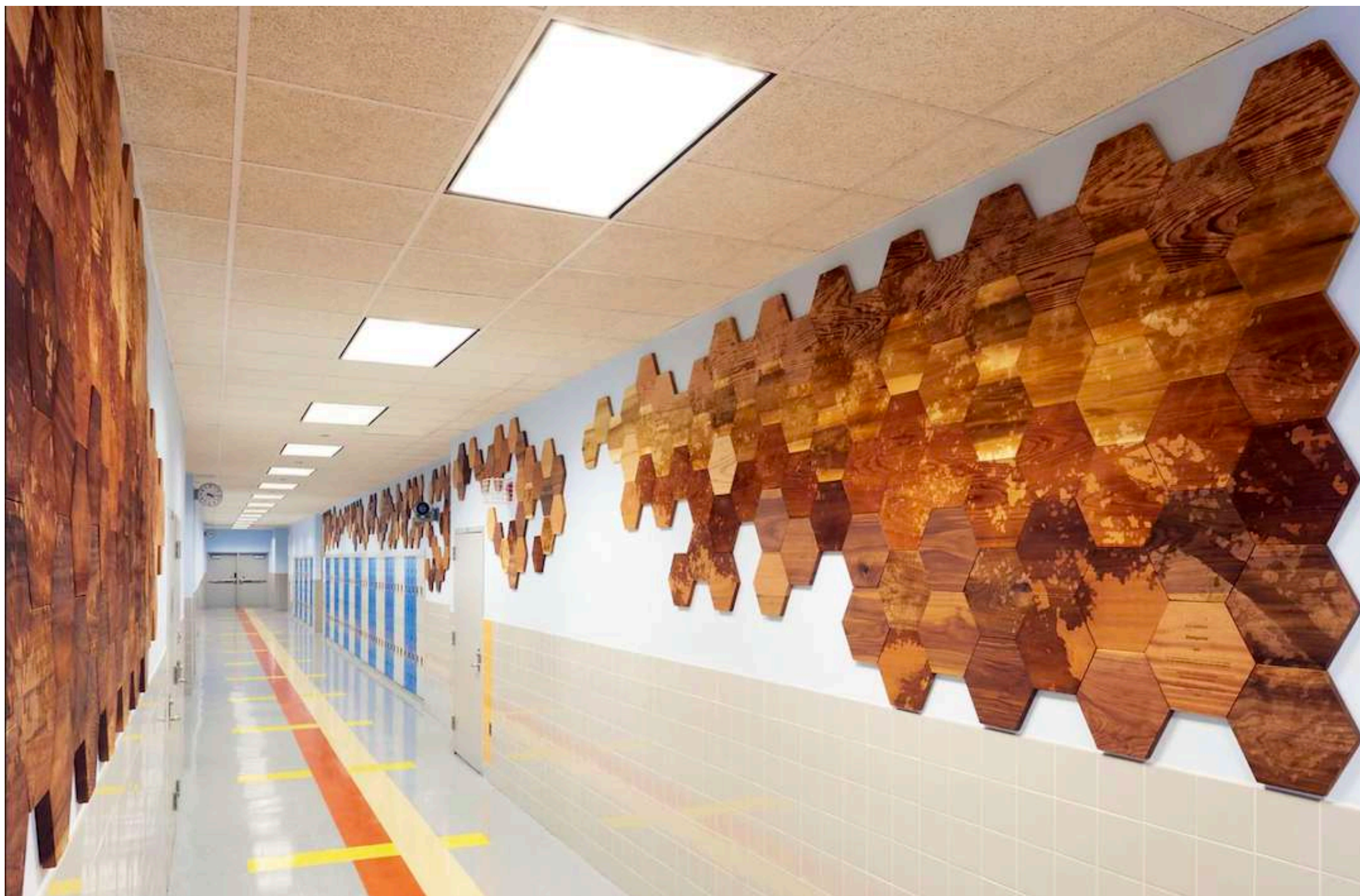


*Pop Up Permaculture Sidewalk Park*

This pop-up sidewalk park was home to various native fauna and food plants, exhibited at the Annual Members Exhibition, MIT Media Lab in 2017. This installation prototype became the basis for several "sidewalk parks" around Cambridge, Massachusetts, launched by the

Social Computing Group at MIT Media Lab. Through those public pop-up park interventions, a startup was launched from the Media Lab, via the Social Computing Group, called "Parkways," which installs permaculture food gardens in urban locations.



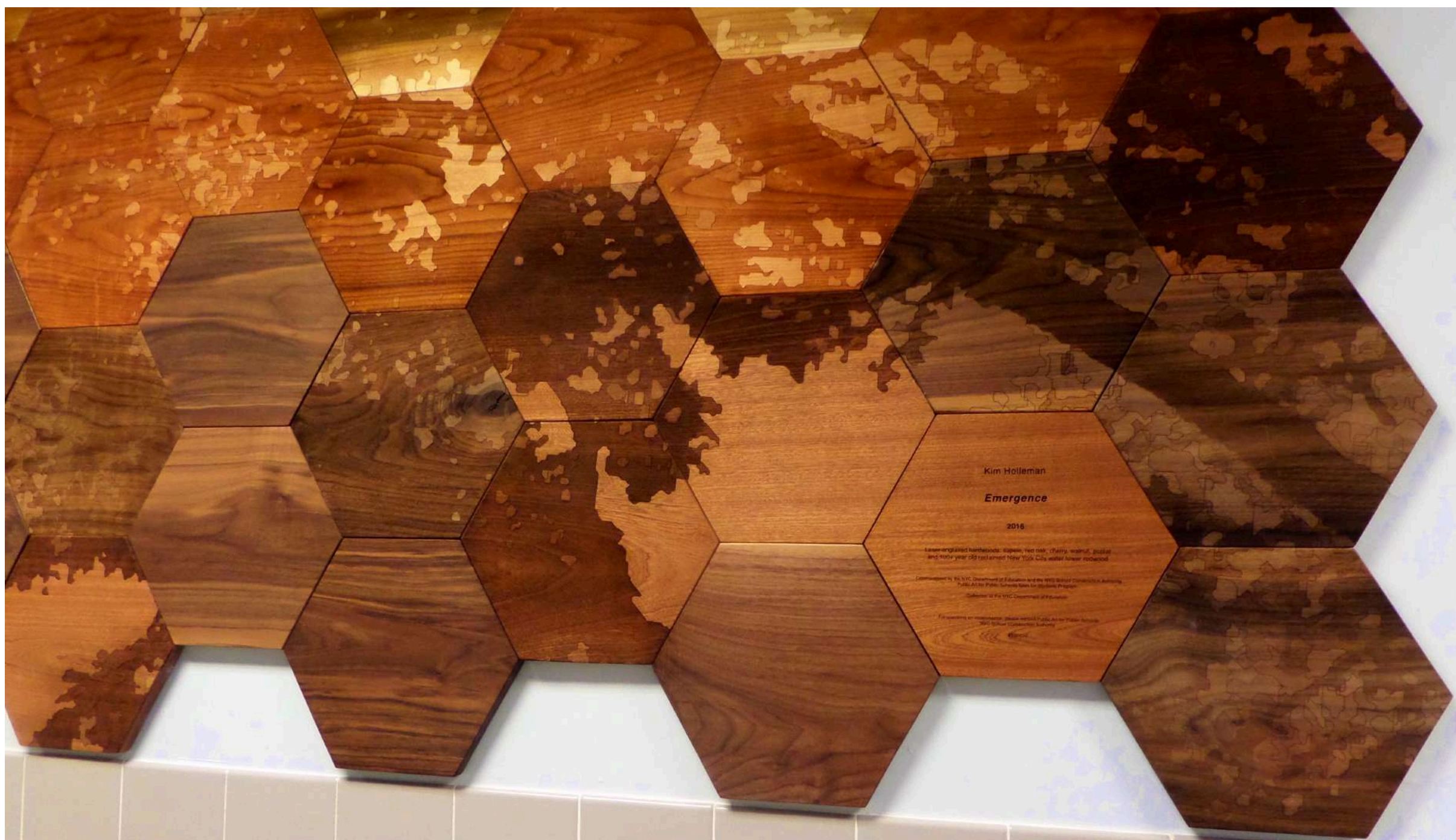


*Emergence 2016 150' x 5', 60' x 5'*

Emergence is a permanent installation of assorted Hexagonal Hardwood with laser-engraved images of tree canopies, photographed by the artist. This work was commissioned by the New York School Construction Authority and is in the permanent collection. Each hardwood tile is 12" from point to point, but approximately 1" in thickness.

Hardwoods include: Red Oak, White Oak, Sapelle, Walnut, Poplar, and wood cut from a 100 year old decommissioned water-tower reclaimed from the NYC Financial District. Permanently installed at Metropolitan Expeditionary Learning School, Queens New York.





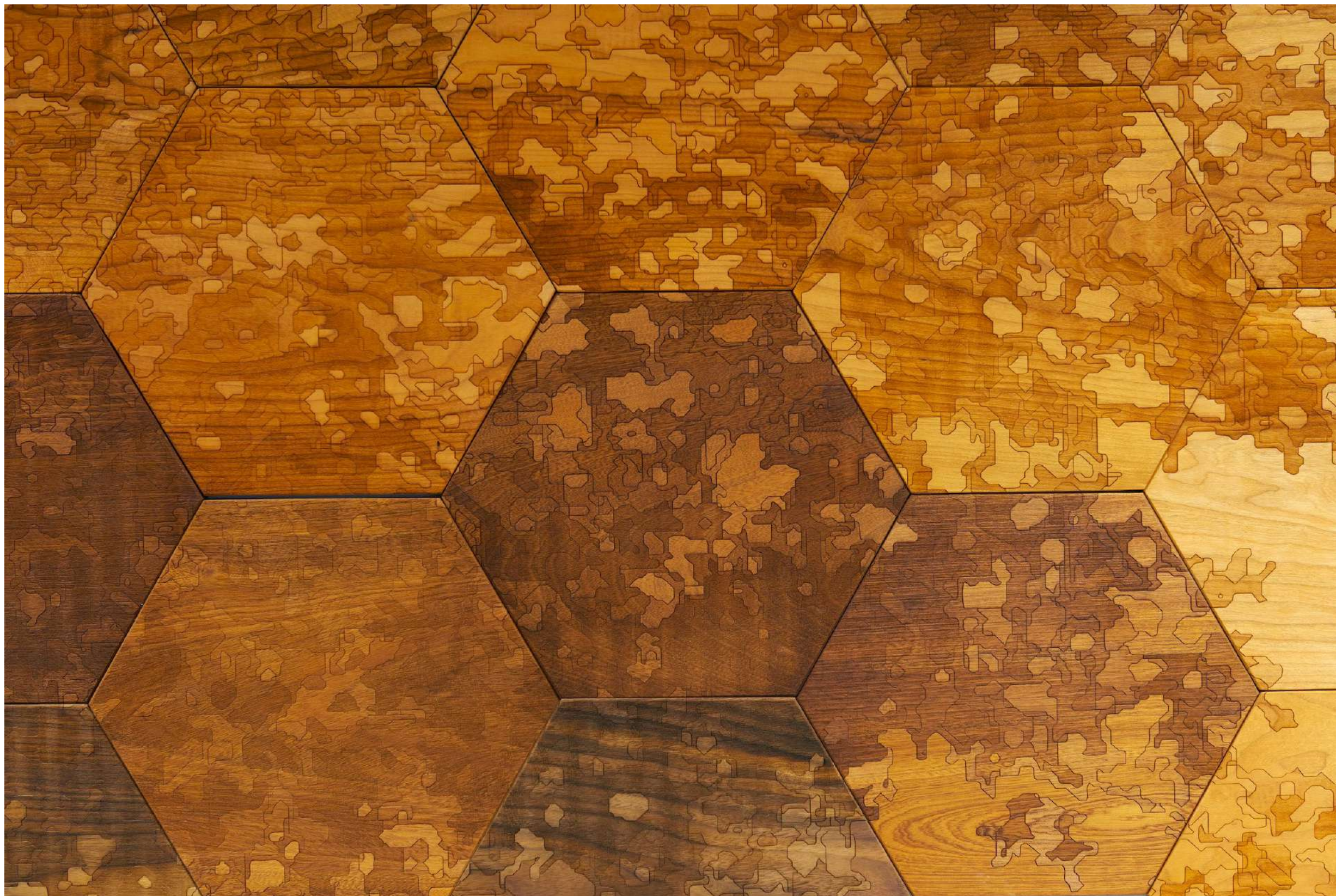
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