# GREEN LUNG

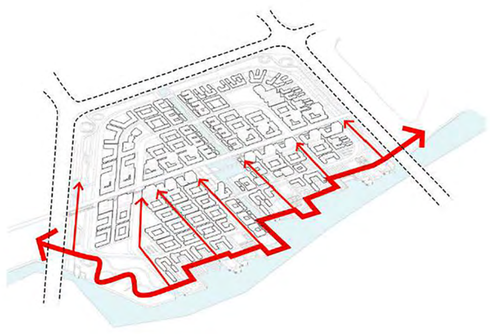
## DESIGN FOR WELL BEING IN AUSTIN

## ISSUE: LACK OF VITALITY IN WATERFRONT COMMUNITIES OF AUSTIN

The city of Austin is considered a leader in sustainable development and works hard to preserve its beautiful natural environment, from the famous SOS salamander to its phenomenal trees and waterways. All these natural resources provide Austin's residents a wonderful platform to interact with nature. Meanwhile, Austin is also a gathering place for high-tech companies, like Tesla, Dell, etc. These enterprises bring a large quantity of technical talents who are busy with work and have been under high pressure for a long time. The quite natural environment can help them release pressure in an effective way, water even plays an incredible role on it, like Colorado River.

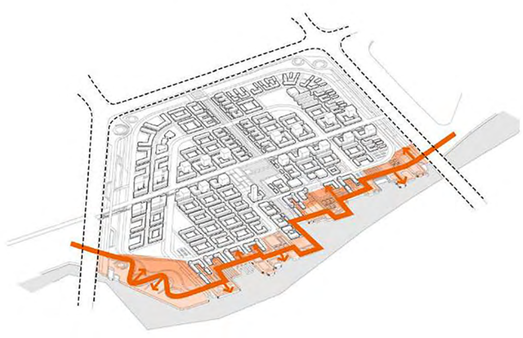
However, due to flooding issue in Austin, water is always considered as a nature barrel. People construct dams, cisterns and build their dwelling farm from water to prevent flooding. This measure could reduce the damage of floods to communities efficiently, but at the same time, it hinders the recreation, fresh air, etc. that water brings to human being as well.

Instead of keeping water far from our community, our design goal is to find a balance between water and human. While ensuring the safety of residents, we could break the boundary of water, establish an organic connection between water and people, increase the interaction between residents and water resource, provide high quality social space and improve their living environment, just like Riverwalk in San Antonio, a completely human-scale water street.



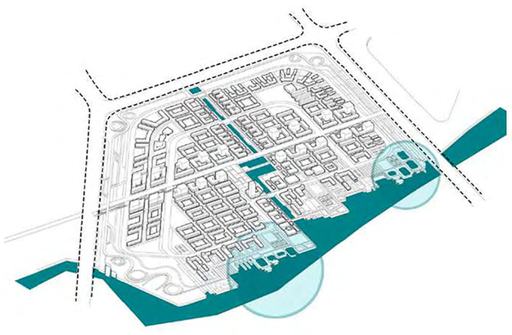
**CONTINUOUS PUBLIC LOOP**

The waterfront store line connects the extension of existing streets into a continuous pedestrian loop



**INTEGARATED FLAGLER DRIVE**

Fiagler Drive becomes an integral part of the new waterfront configuration

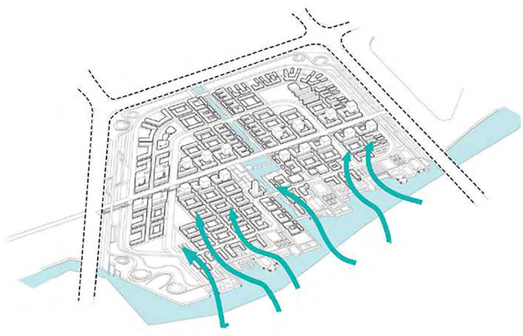


**PIERCED PLATFORMS**

The layout of the extended platform creates new ways of accessing the water

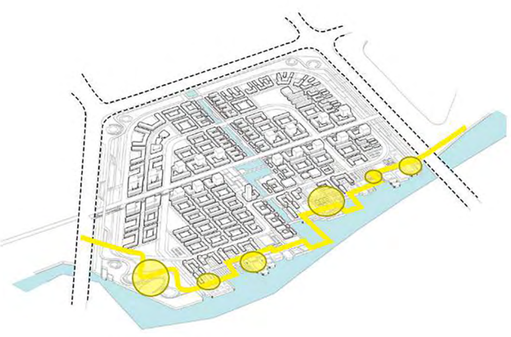
**OPEN PLAZAS: VIEWS**

The Orientation of the plazas keeps the views across the waterfront



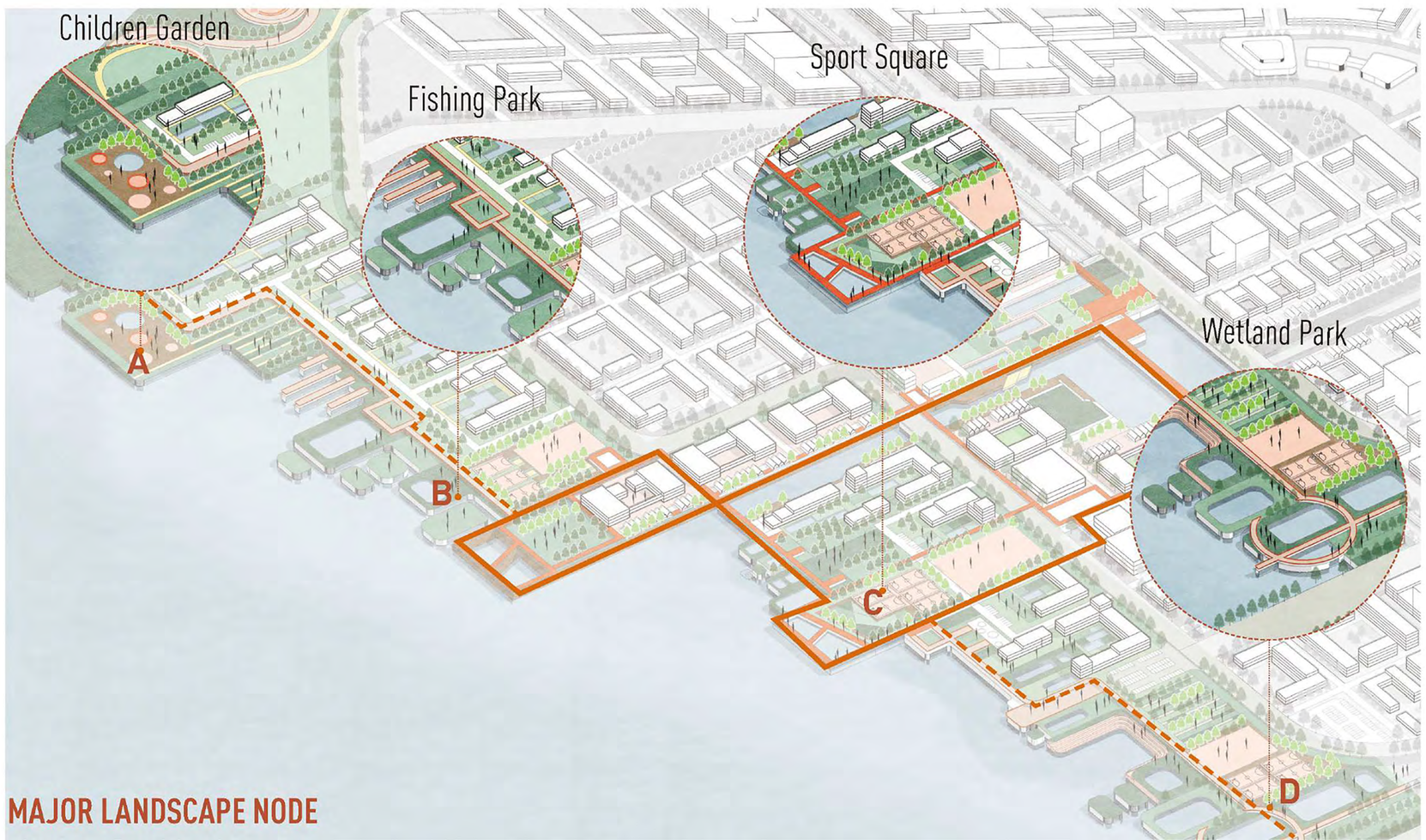
**OPEN PLAZAS: WINDS**

It also lets the dominant winds and the breeze pass through the shore

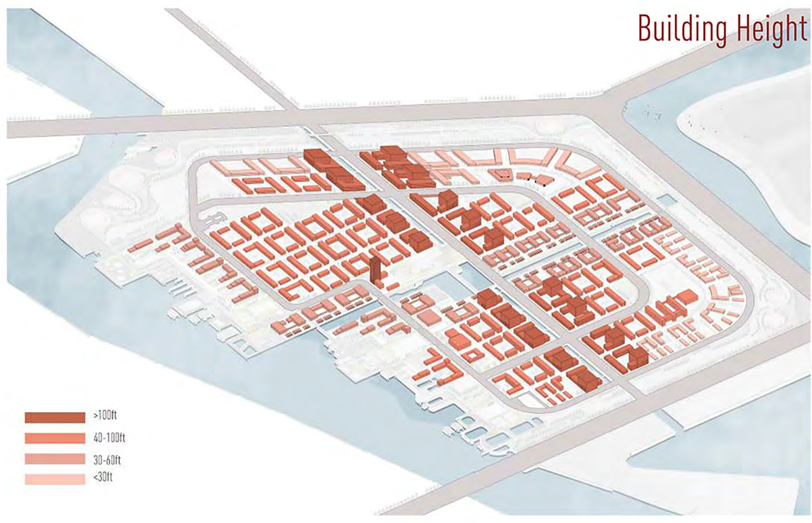


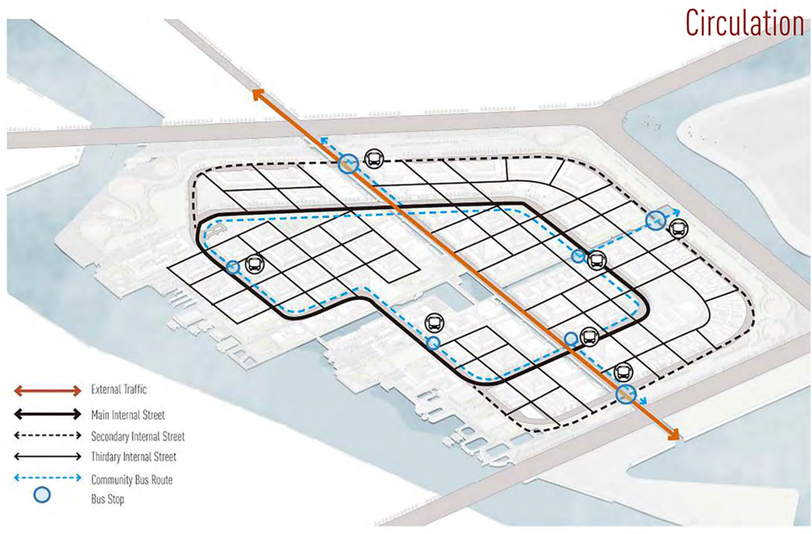
**THEMATIC PLAZAS**

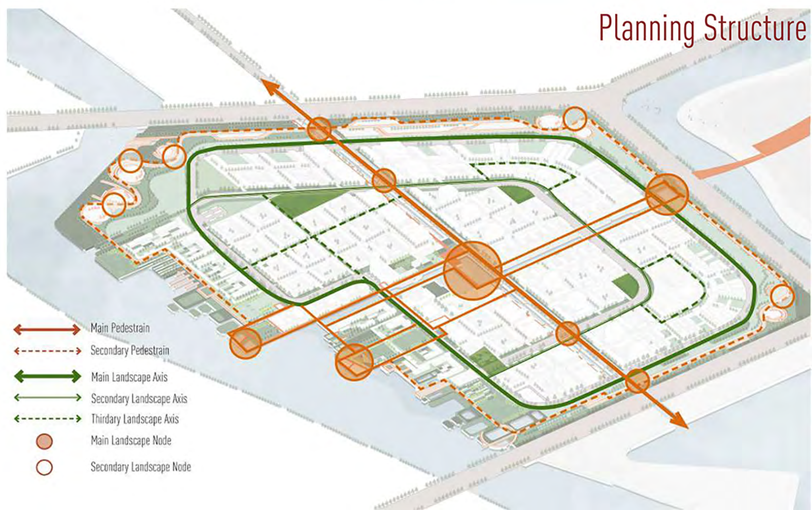
The open plazas are characterized by singular atmospheres and activities.




**MAJOR LANDSCAPE NODE**

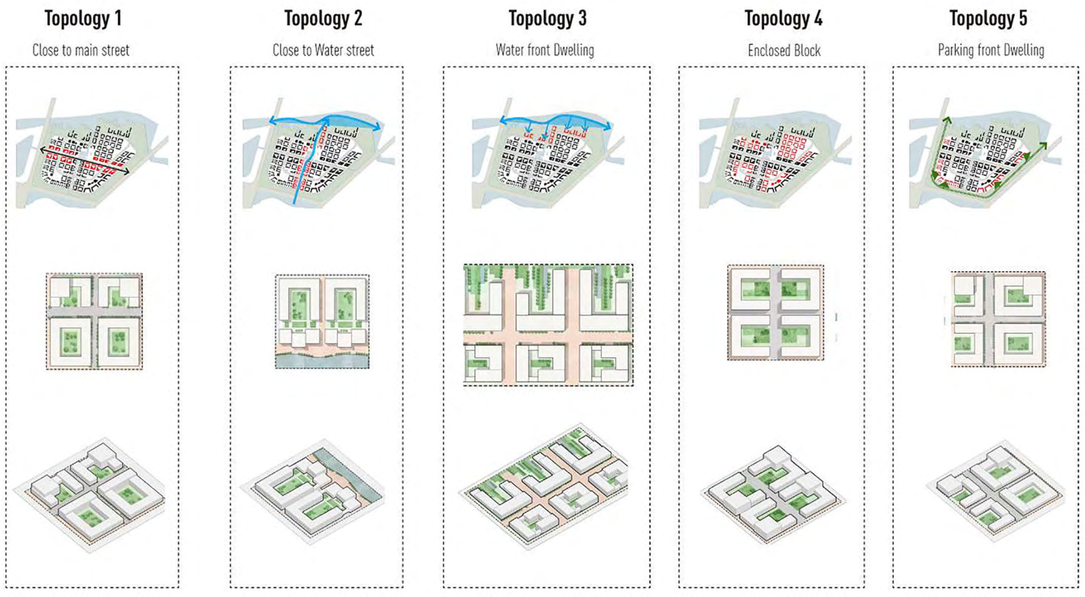


# Master Plan

1. Center Plaza
2. Wetland Park
3. Fishing Park
4. Sport Garden
5. Hydrophilic platform
6. Children Garden
7. Bike Path
8. Parking Space
9. Low-rise Housing
10. Austin History Tower
11. Education
12. Official Building
13. Community Park
14. Water Street
15. Pet Garden
16. Commercial Street
17. Farming Housing
18. Community Center




We explored a total of five block topologies in this project, according to different nature resources and locations.

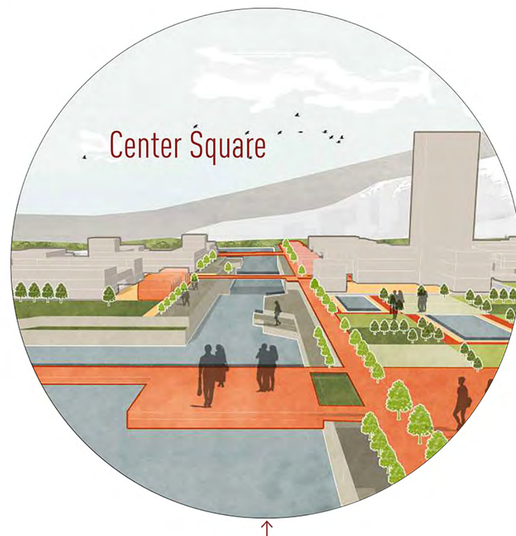
**Topology one_ Close to main treet:** Because we hope to emphasize the skyline and main road, so we put official bulidngs along the main road, making the whole skyline higher in the middle, then speading to the shoreline.

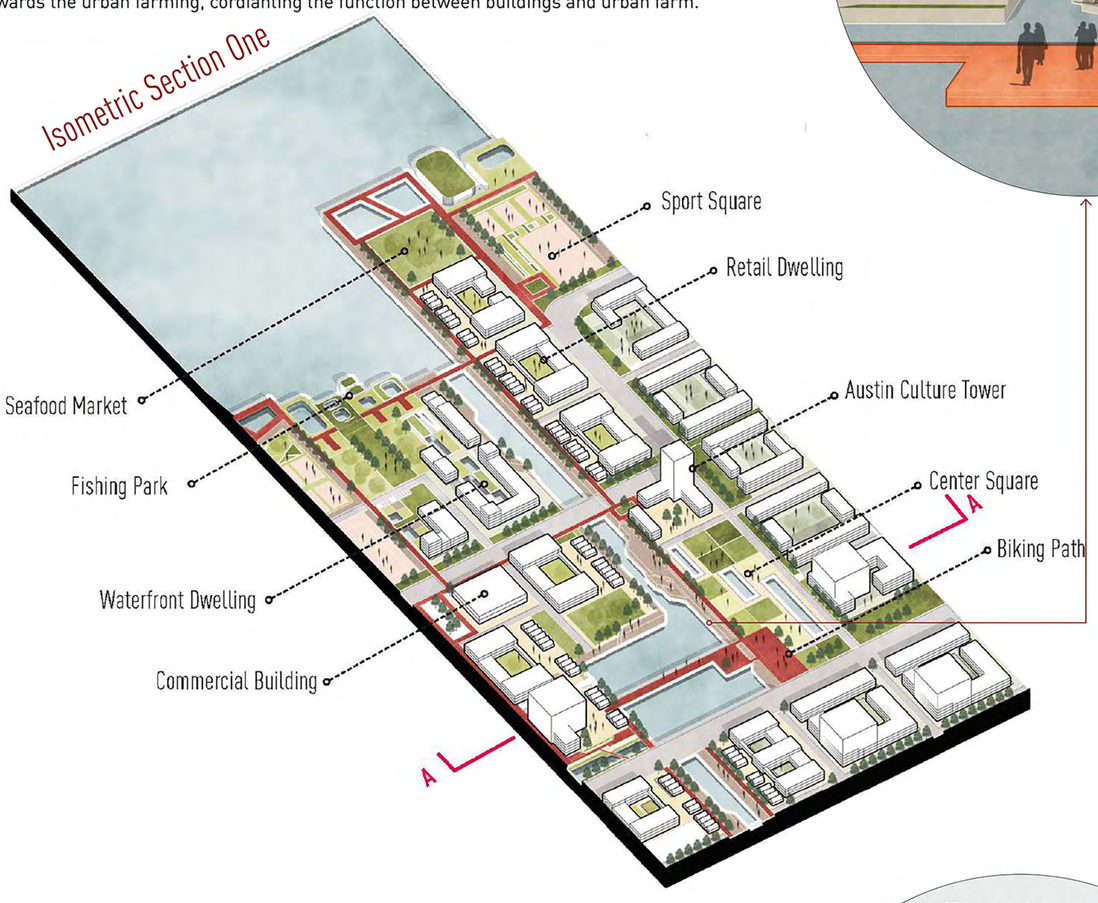
**Topology two_Close to water street:** The builds near the canal would be more human scale and flexible in order to creat more water spaces for residents.

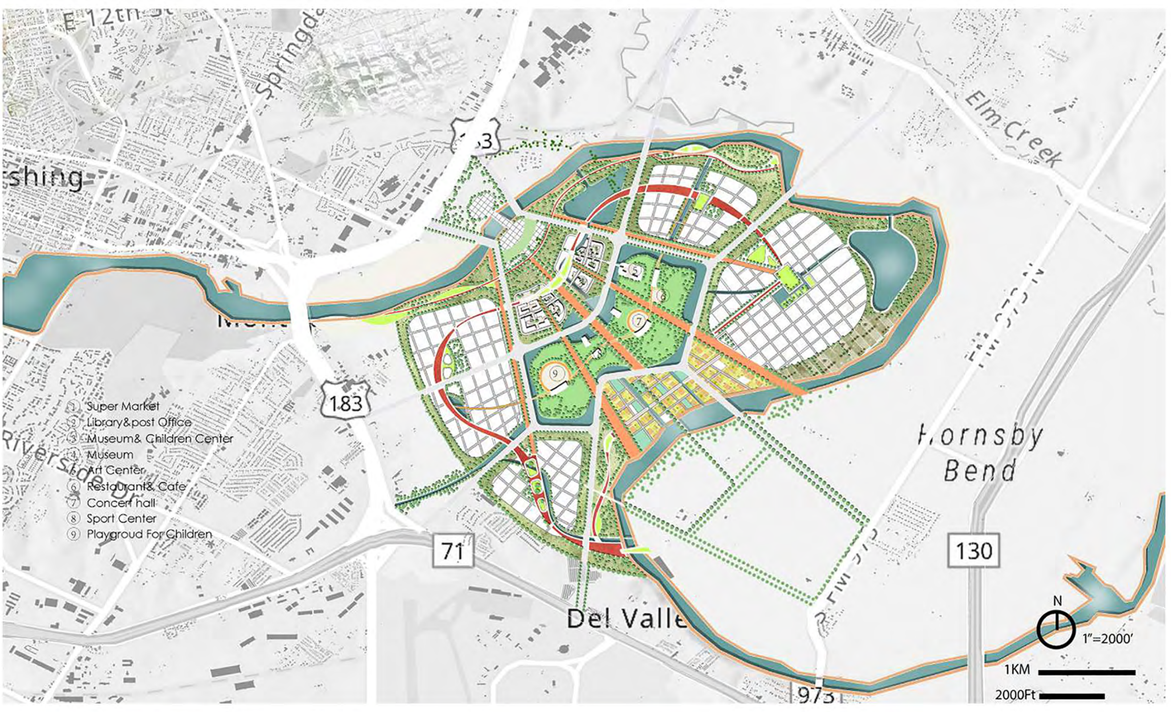
**Topology three_Water frint dwelling:** The units in this area are shaped as U, forming a courtyard facing the water. In this way, we inserted water into our courtyard to increase interaction between people and nature. Considering the issue of flooding, we setup two bumps along the Colorado River, keeping the water stable.

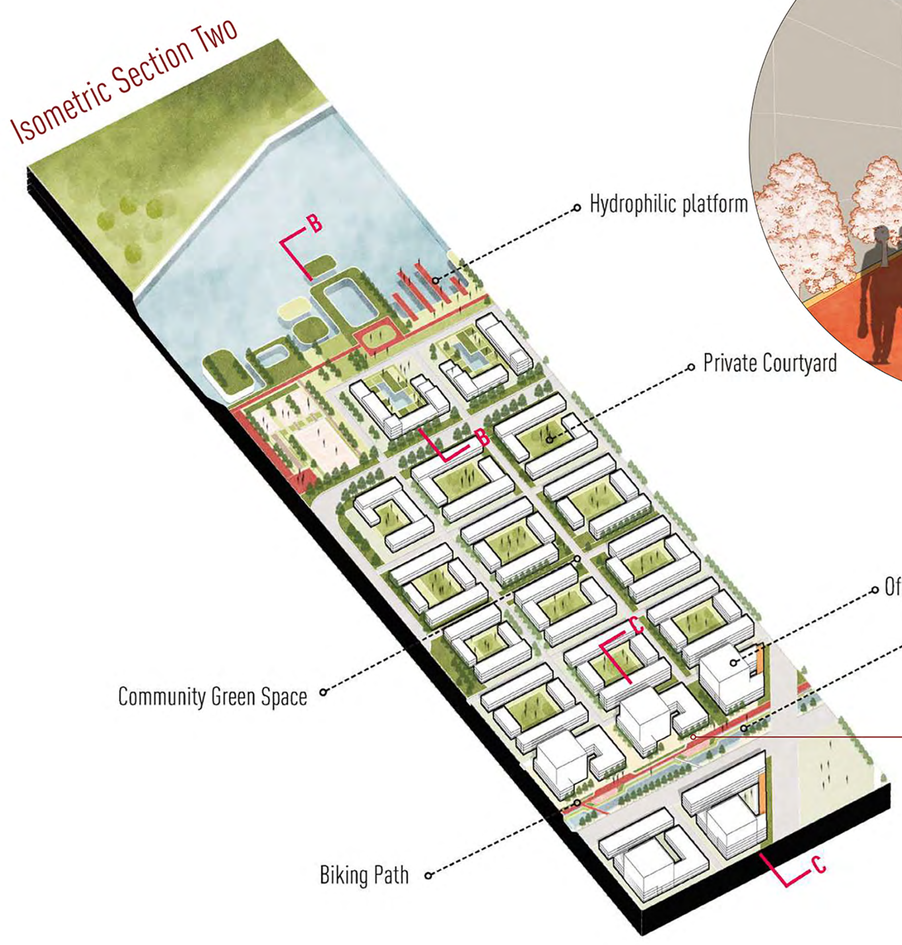
**Topology four_Enclose form dwelling:** the normal mix-used buildings with around three or four floors.

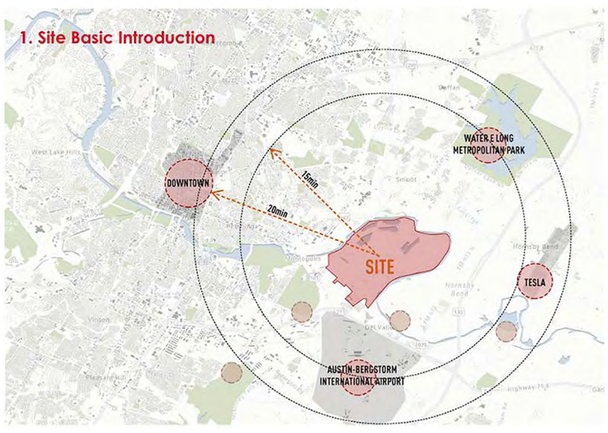
**Topology five_ Parking front dwelling:** Located along the U shape urban farm, so we try to open the courtyard towards the urban farming, cordianting the function between buildings and urban farm.



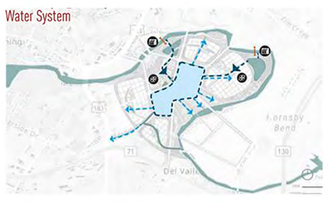


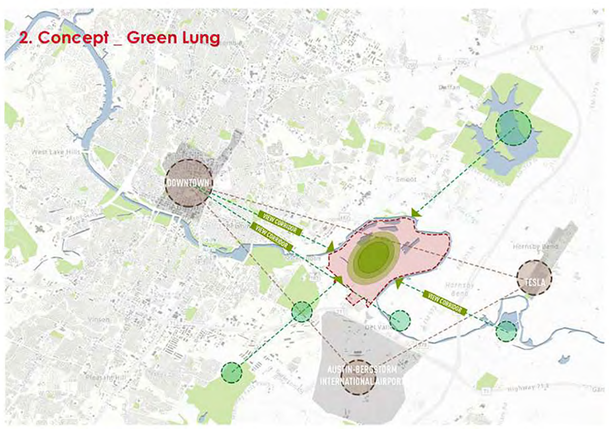

Land use

The master plan is divided into four communities, each community has public space in the middle which consist of open space, commercial, education and offcial zone. Around the surrounding area, there are mixed-use and single house residential. In the southern area, cause it is close to the indutrial zone, like Tesla, the ratio of industrial in the southern community will be higher as well. .

Water System



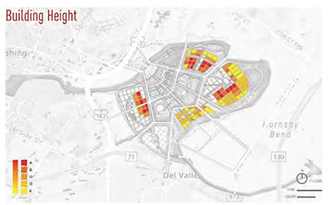
Instead of considering water as a boundary of site, we would like to guide water into out site, into the middle position, increasing the interaction between people and water. So we set up two bumps along the Colorado River, water will be bumped into the center, then spread to the four communities, make each small community has own public space, cordinating




Community Distribution

The master plan is divided into four communities, and all of them are connected by a green belt which is considered as the main pedestrian in the site.

Building Height



We explore five block topologies in terms of the residents dwelling requirements and nature resources distribution. All the topologies include:
A: Official building
B: Mix-use house
C: Muti-familiy house
D: Single-family house
E: Urban farming house