

(((MICRO-GARDEN)))

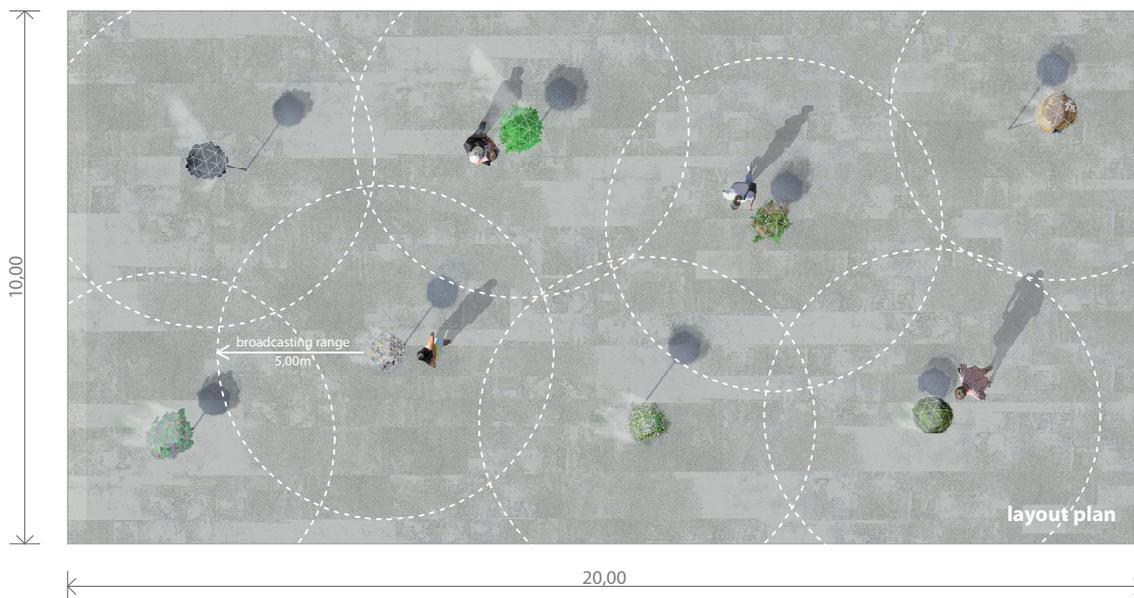


Concept

Micro-Garden is a cultivation of hearing and a recovery of suppressed senses. Micro-Garden invites visitors to listen to the secret sounds of the Canadian landscapes. Eight miniature gardens represent pieces of Canada's multifaceted vegetation zones. These Micro-Gardens are explored in an accoustical way. How does it sound, when a bee pollinates a flower or when a mimosa contracts its leaves. Which biosphere is the loudest and which biosphere is the most harmonical? Special Micro-Phones amplify the soundscapes of the miniatures. Listeners receive a new quality of hearing the sounds of nature. People are normally visual-orientated. Micro-Garden offers an alternative point of view. The garden becomes a place of sonic interaction between greenery and visitor.

Biospheres

Eight botanical radomes are placed on the given rectangular plot of 10m x 20m. Each bio-sphere represents a typical piece of Canadian vegetation. There are fertile grounds and scant soils, there are wetlands and steppes. Substantial parts of the nutrient cycle are shown, the germination, growth, different stages of development, decomposition and hostility. The floor covering is made of traditional tamped concrete, a variation of the colouring is caused by admixturing clay. A drainage is guaranteed by gentle gradients towards the botanical radomes. Beside the acoustic discoveries these micro habitats offer their spectacular details to the visitors, the well supplied and sheltered organisms, in nature often too hidden or too small to be perceived can be viewed closely.



1) as part of most biotopes a chunk of a tree trunk is rotting away, eaten by funguses, worms and other destruenters, the end of a circle - lignin like all other parts of the wood are processed, funguses are growing and the wood is getting close to humus



2) like the overwhelming early summertime in boreal forests, flowers are sprouting everywhere, growing and producing seeds - a garden of lush vegetation



3) the decomposition of the litter in the groundzone of a forest is the habitat of countless animals and the best place for a seedling of a hemlock to grow

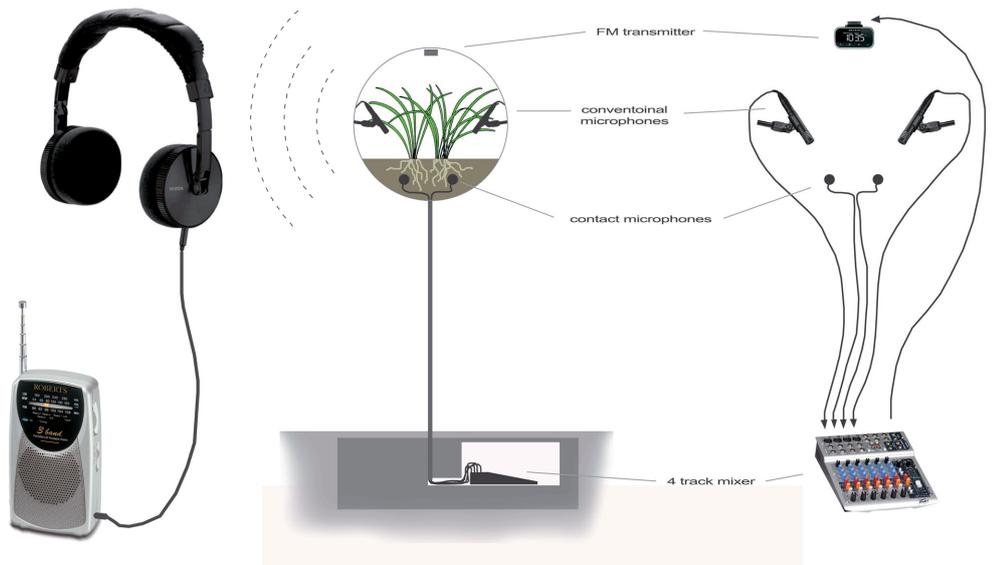


4) an artificial stone, a mixture of concrete and peat with a well prepared surface that will host mosses and lichens. These basic plantes will conquer their ruff environment, only supported by moisture and sunlight



Technique

Each Bio-Sphere is equipped with different types of microphones. Conventional microphones pick up the sounds of insects and other aerial and surface sounds in the Bio-Sphere. Contact microphones in the soil pick up underground sounds that happen around the roots, others amplify the sounds generated within the leaves of the plants. The sounds from the microphones in each Bio-Sphere are merged to a stereo-track which is sent to a FM transmitter. Each FM transmitter has a range of approximately 5 meter radius. All FM transmitters are set to the same FM-frequency. Pocket radios with headphones are handed to visitors. When walking around between the Micro-Gardens people enter the different broadcasting-zones. The sound of a special Bio-Sphere fades in and out by motion. In the border-zones the soundscapes are overlain. With their individual movement across the plot visitors create their specific audiovisual landscape- symphonies. The walk through the sonic landscape of the Micro-Gardens is equivalent to a travelling tour across Canada with all its different biological and aural aspects.



5) tar sands are discussed controversially, a resource of energy but a garden? It might be the big silence or a cracking and grinding..



6) a mimosa, a plant with the capability to react faster than widely explainable, commonly a quick movement because of a touch is associated with animals. This phenomenon is topic of a widespread discussion about plants neurobiology



7) an eutrophic site is the characteristic location for the stinging nettle, well known by every child. Wherever enough moisture and nutrients are available the plant is skyrocketing.



8) the ecotone of a shallow shore is characterised by diversity, several species are conquering their lush environment, a habitat attractive to countless animals.