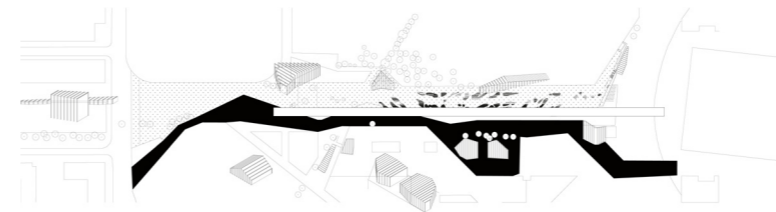
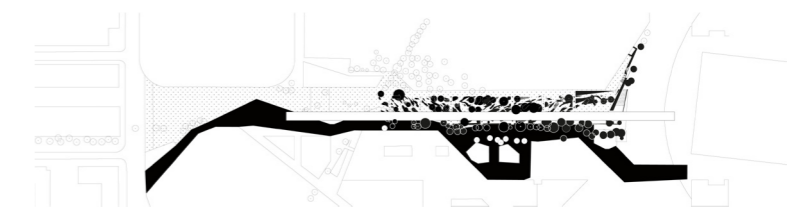


One unique ramp 4%



10 Bumpers / Folies



Existing / Protected garden (Gilles Clement)



Each element of the Jardins de l'Arche project, which covers approximately 70,000 m2 and includes a ramp nearly 750 m long, contributes to an improved urban experience. The continuous and fluid ramp allows for a more fluid space, while the extensive garden encourages a re-thinking of the existing landscape as a "sanctuary", a place that should be protected. New follies, multi-purpose spaces and small-scale buildings increase and "activate" the possible uses of the site.

This continuous ramp with a 4% slope and 16 metres wide on average: a striking, unique project that makes it possible to go from Nanterre to La Défense without steps or escalators, which runs alongside and under the existing constructions and even defines their unique qualities. It's a highly unusual proposal because of its size, and it resolves all the changes in level and the fragmented space. Streets, squares, avenues, ramps, stairs, emergency exits, the axis... It's an opportunity to create a public area that's exemplary because of its accessibility and the new uses it embraces. Along the ramp we find different types of follies, they are beacons designed to appeal to the senses. Like the "bumpers" on a pinball machine, it creates a sense of rhythm, it acts as a multiplier, a signal, a nudge. The presence of these urban figures at night is an essential aspect of the emotional attractiveness they will confer on the spaces they will inhabit. A part of the design then may be "virtual," a luminous, sensitive, interactive, temporary presence...

Our vision is to develop spatial continuity with as few individual elements as possible, to bring the numerous small urban projects into an integrated, harmonious and stimulating whole: a large, contemporary plaza; flux zones that highlight the Jetty and the Jardin de l'Arche; and a common vocabulary across the project.

