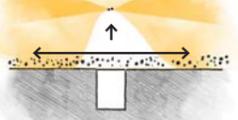


**Existing:** The drive lanes, ramps, walls, and planting zones at the perimeter and edge of the square disconnect the interior from surrounding street life.

**Proposed:** A unified surface, simplifying perimeter and edge. Sculpted landform addressing difficult grade change conditions.



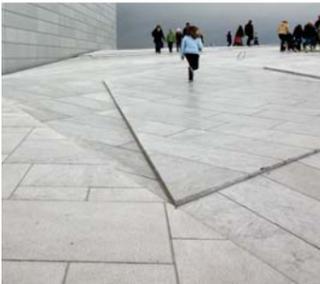
### Topographic Prospect

Related Elements: Edge, Perimeter

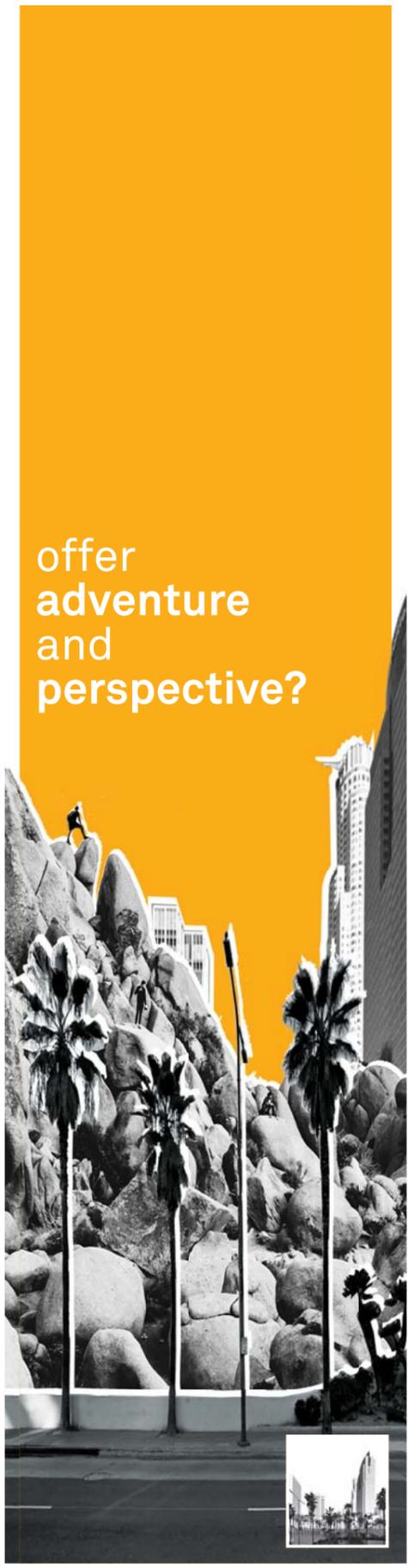
The crest of a landform, the peak of skyscraper, the precipice of a canyon: vertical landscapes compel us to mount their summits. Once atop, these are the places where we gaze out upon our surroundings and reflect upon our very small place within the world. We are inspired by local LA high-points like Runyon Canyon and further-afield spots such as the boulder jumbles of Joshua Tree.

By strategically introducing topography to Pershing Square we can provide prospect and pragmatically resolve Pershing Square's most difficult grade fluctuations.

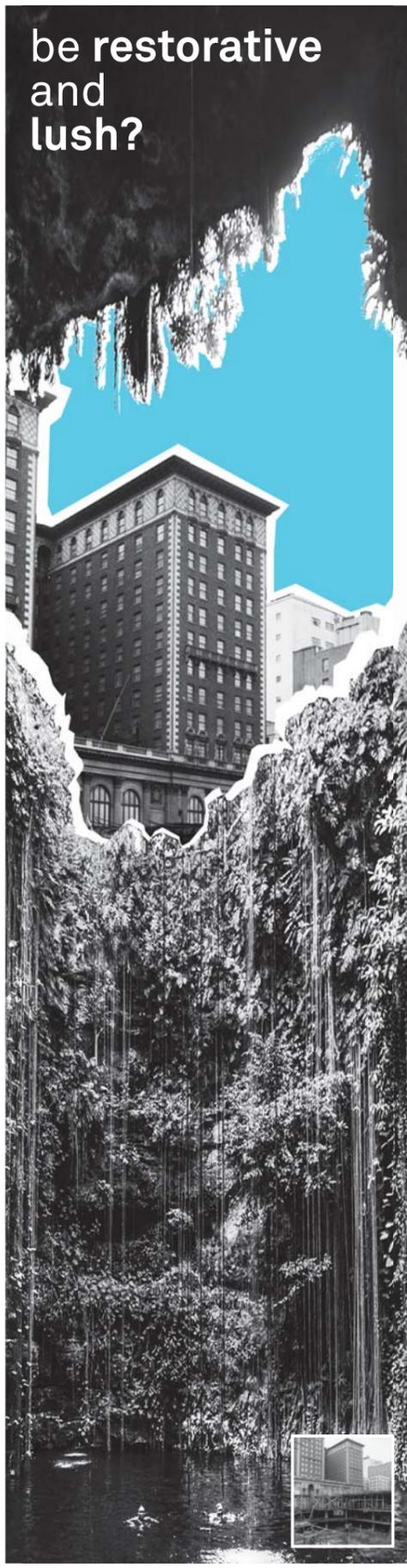
While we imagine that a unifying surface will improve many of the square's access issues, we also recognize that there are site conditions that may require creative solutions to transform barriers into opportunities. By introducing carefully located and sculpted landform and site features we see an opportunity to bridge over stubborn moat-like parking ramps while providing new places for adventure and prospect.



**Top:** After a short but demanding hike, the Reindeer Pavilion provides panoramic views of Norway's Dovrefjell mountain range.  
**Middle:** The roof of the Norwegian National Opera and Ballet draws people upward for views of Oslo and the harbor.  
**Bottom:** Calgary's New Central Library rises above light rail tracks and offers a prominent plaza and entrance gardens.



## be restorative and lush?



### Vegetated Retreat

Related Elements: Interior

People seek retreat and respite from the City. Ancient peoples sought landscapes such as caverns, cliffs, and sheltered valleys, naturally protecting them from heat, weather, and even other people. Today, we carry this instinct though what we elude now includes modern threats like bills, work, and email. The cavernous cenotes of Mexico's Yucatan epitomize retreat: blue swimmable waters below, lush vegetation on all sides, towering forest canopy above, and open sky beyond.

Cenotes are serene and restorative, natural retreats which draw people from across the world. Why not imagine this experience in Pershing Square? Lush and serene environments, perfect for escaping the heat of Los Angeles.

Succulents and other desert-adapted plant species can provide appropriate and lush, shaded areas within Pershing Square. We imagine a richness of vegetation, even extending below into the parking structure, and opening up to the sky above. These grotto-like places create micro-climates for diverse plantings and cool nodes for people to inhabit.

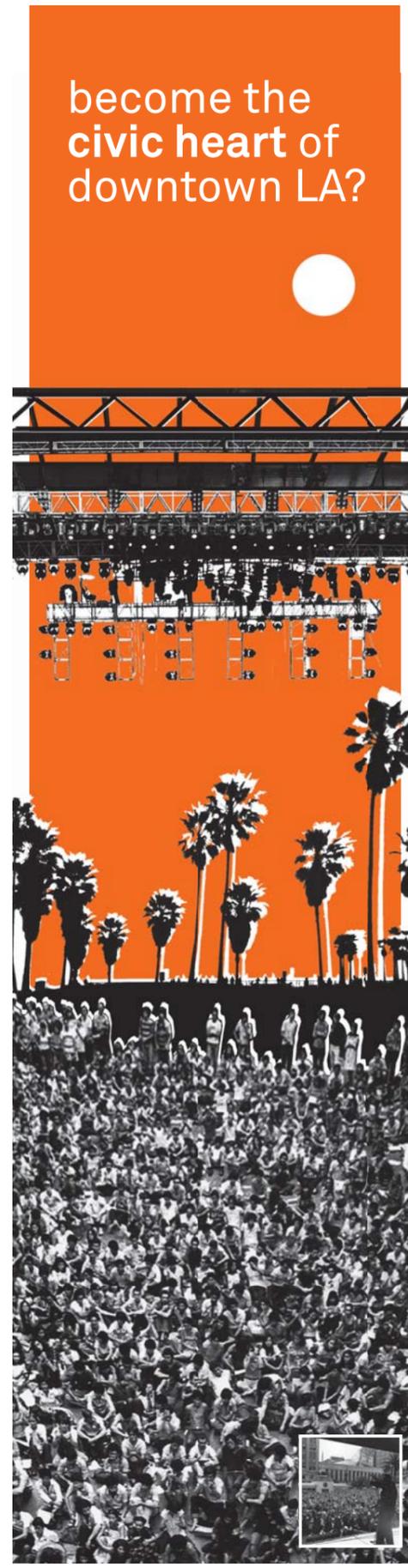
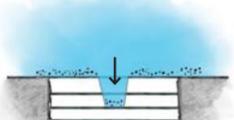


**Top:** Lush vegetation moderates climate at SFMoMA's outdoor art gallery.  
**Middle:** The Eggen Tourist Route provides sheltered viewpoints to pause, rest, and comprehend the vast Norwegian landscape.  
**Bottom:** The National September 11 Memorial Museum Pavilion opens the ground to the sky, giving access and sunlight to the below grade museum.

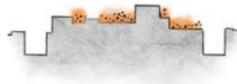


**Existing:** Heavy build-up of soil, plaza surfaces, and structures resting atop the below-grade parking structure.

**Proposed:** Simplify square with unifying surface. Strategically open parking structure to allow for lush planting and comfortable micro-climates.

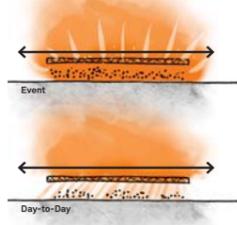


## become the civic heart of downtown LA?



**Existing:** Fragmented interior, difficult to adapt and transform for events and novel programming. High exposure to sun and heat.

**Proposed:** Simplify interior with unifying surface. Establish permanent, integrated infrastructure to easily transform square, and provide day-to-day climate control.



### Integrated Infrastructure

Related Elements: Interior

Unifying Surface, Topographic Prospect, and Vegetated Retreat establish the enduring components of Pershing Square. Together, they re-integrate the square into the life of Downtown LA and establish a lush and topographically-varied urban oasis.

To activate the square we imagine periodic transformations within a fixed framework, altering this baseline condition to encourage and engage visitors and residents to rediscover Pershing Square on a regular basis.

All around us are theaters, concert venues, and movie studios that repeatedly transform, inviting us into new worlds within their frameworks. Architectural features such as rigging, canopies, and other integrated infrastructure can support temporary elements that allow Pershing Square to constantly be renewed. Lighting, sound, backdrops, and curtains provide spectacle, and embody varied events and activities.



**Top:** The Tuballoon annually serves as a temporary stage for the Kongsberg Jazz Festival in Norway.  
**Middle:** Temporary lights and audio transform the sloping roof of the Norwegian National Opera and Ballet into an outdoor venue.  
**Bottom:** The Vulkan Beehives introduce a different kind of theatrics at their home atop a food market in downtown Oslo.