

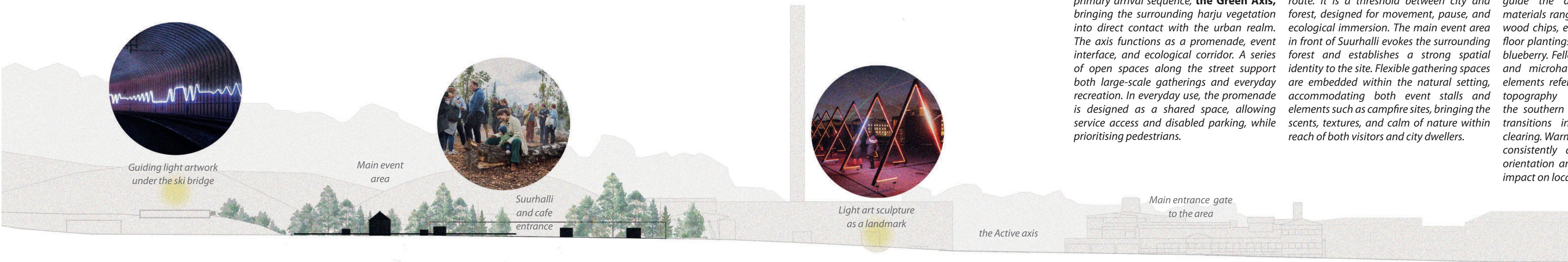
Illustration of the central area 1: 800

Green Axis

Salpausselänkatu is redefined as the site's primary arrival sequence, **the Green Axis**, bringing the surrounding harju vegetation into direct contact with the urban realm. The axis functions as a promenade, event interface, and ecological corridor. A series of open spaces along the street support both large-scale gatherings and everyday recreation. In everyday use, the promenade is designed as a shared space, allowing service access and disabled parking, while prioritising pedestrians.

The Green Axis becomes more than a route. It is a threshold between city and forest, designed for movement, pause, and ecological immersion. The main event area in front of Suurhalli evokes the surrounding forest and establishes a strong spatial identity to the site. Flexible gathering spaces are embedded within the natural setting, accommodating both event stalls and elements such as campfire sites, bringing the scents, textures, and calm of nature within reach of both visitors and city dwellers.

Ecological values and site-specific vegetation guide the design throughout. Ground materials range from wooden decking and wood chips, enabling flexible use, to forest floor plantings of heather, lingonberry, and blueberry. Felled trees are reused as seating and microhabitats, while natural water elements reference the region's kettle-hole topography and groundwater. Toward the southern end, the forested landscape transitions into an open, meadow-like clearing. Warm, low-glare lighting is applied consistently across the site to support orientation and atmosphere with minimal impact on local fauna.



Conceptual section along the Green Axis, 1:800 – illustrating spatial atmosphere, material and texture palette, and program