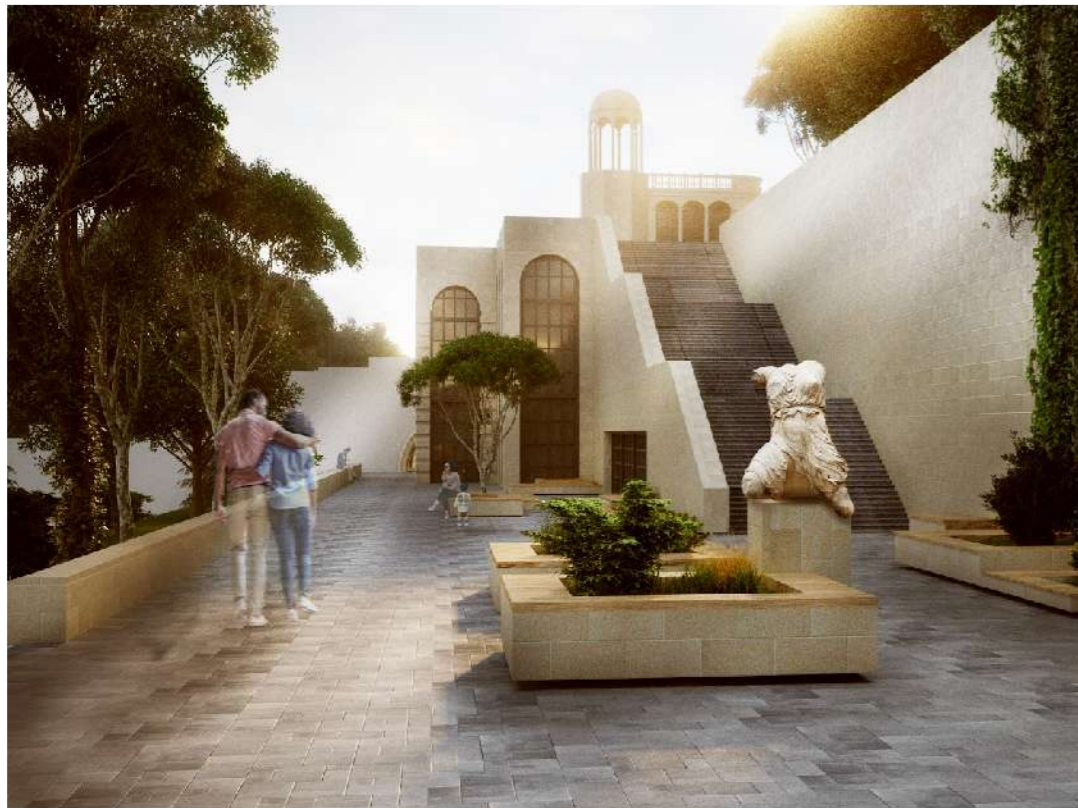




Grecian park is an urban project in the city of Odessa located in the south of Ukraine. It is a cooperation model developed by an independent group of architects, sculptors, urban and landscape designers, social activists and academic experts with the support of city authorities and international assistance. The members of the team - all are Odessa residents - concerned preservation of the terraced park and its historical elements in Odessa city centre near the seashore for the sake of the sustainability of the city's urban and natural environment.



The territory for design intervention belonged to the plots or historical buildings remained beyond disputes between concerned parties distributing responsibilities and weighing economic benefits for years, whilst buildings were dilapidating and environments were stagnating while the local community was only remaining spectator of these processes. The team were engaged in critical alterations of the previous design project and performed an interdisciplinary approach to design, as a group of “proposers” rather than “performers” of design input. The new project became a point of attraction for fostering Ukrainian-Greek international relationships.

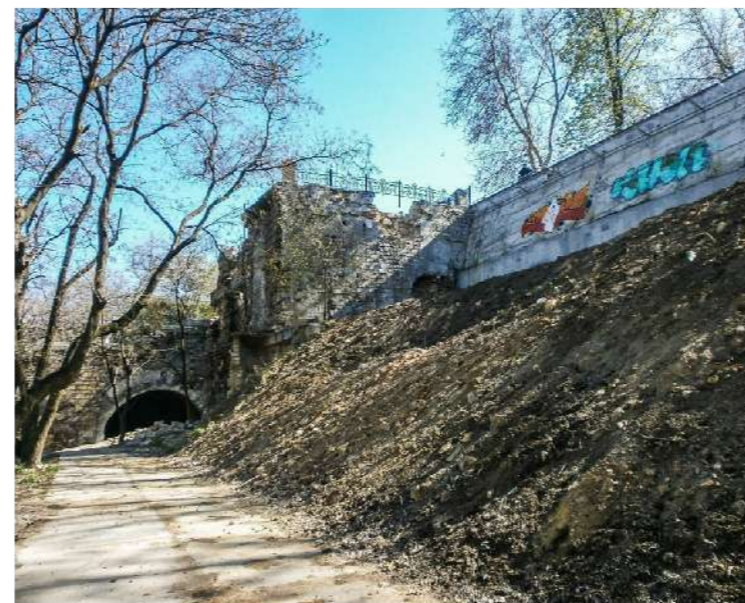
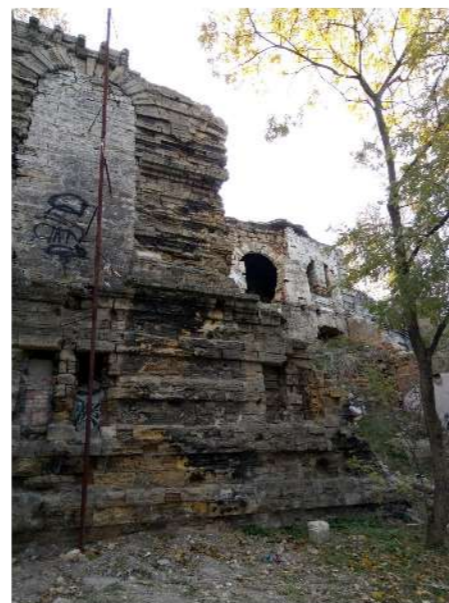
GRECIAN PARK (ГРЕЧЕСКИЙ ПАРК)

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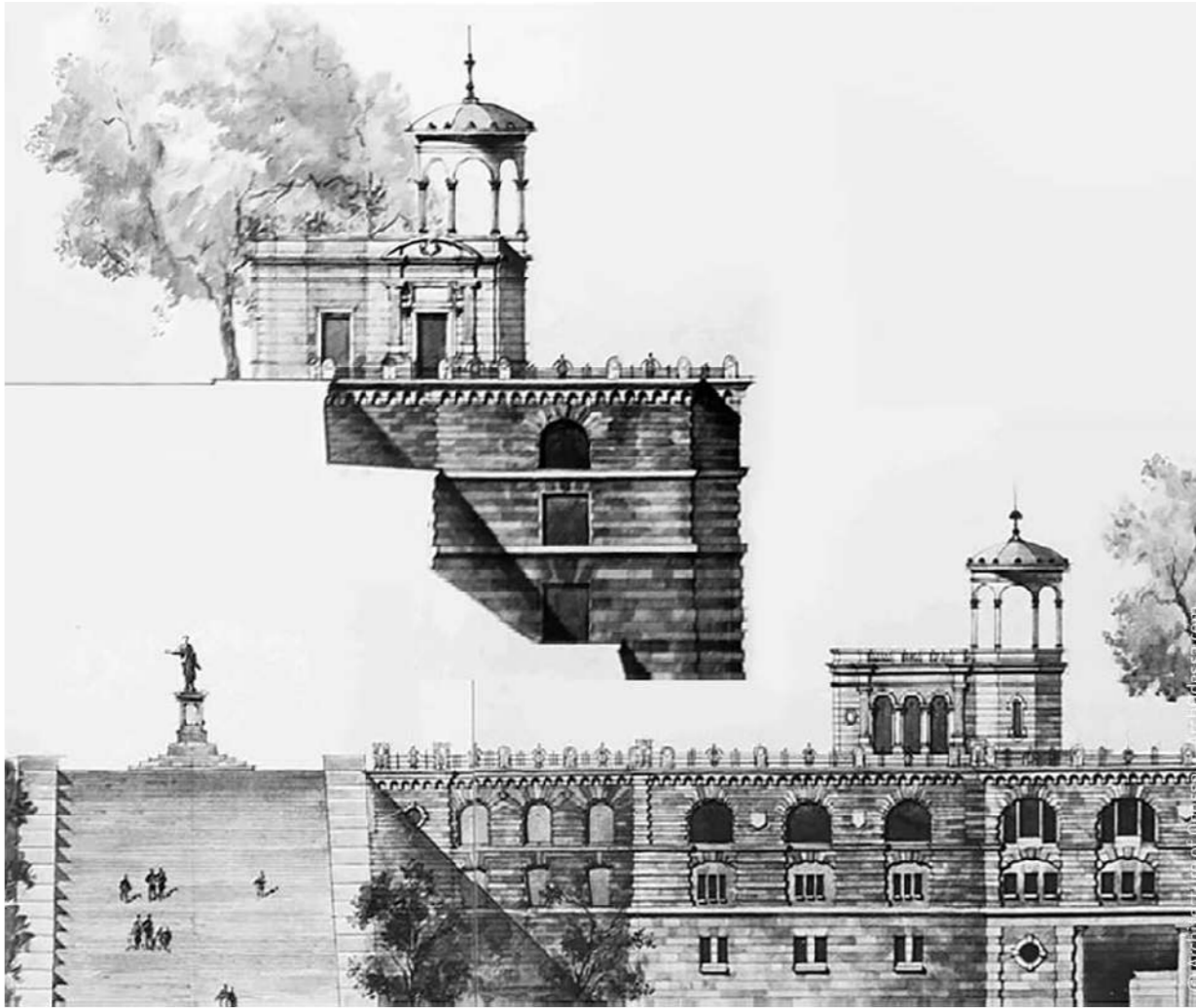
Two terraced green areas on both sides of Potemkin stairs in Odessa city centre are unique examples of parks in the direct connection to the sea. From 2005 there were various suggestions of the plot usage such as the construction of hotels or business centers pursuing economic profitability what always eventually faced strong criticism and concern about trees to be cut and unstable ground of slopes. The new team started from rethinking the way of design implementation.

Instead of the sponsors, the city authorities negotiated with the Greek partners and the patron from Greece was welcomed for a financial support and supervision of the project's progress. The new quickly assembled project team began designing a project of the park, first of all in close consideration regarding preservation of natural environment and renovation of historical buildings, reinforcement of slopes, dendrological studies, accessibility and variability for all social groups, aesthetic and cultural contents, formation of city's marine façade, status and symbolism. The building of a fish restaurant reemerged later in the limits of the same historical building as a complement to the serving system developed for the park's visitors.



GRECIAN PARK (ГРЕЧЕСКИЙ ПАРК)

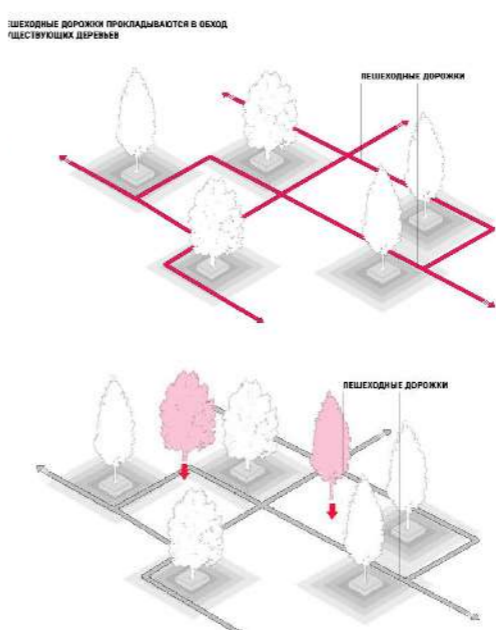
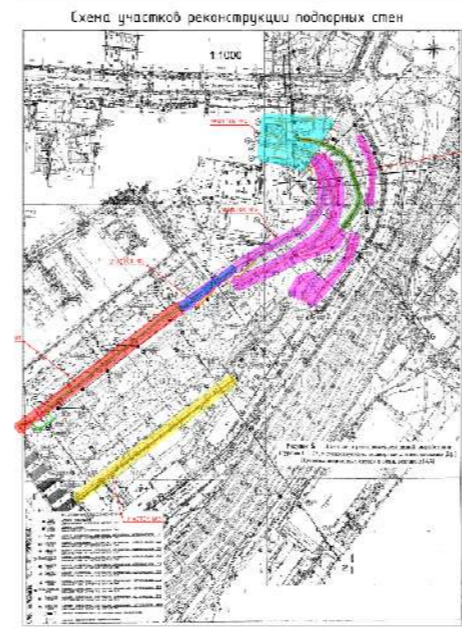
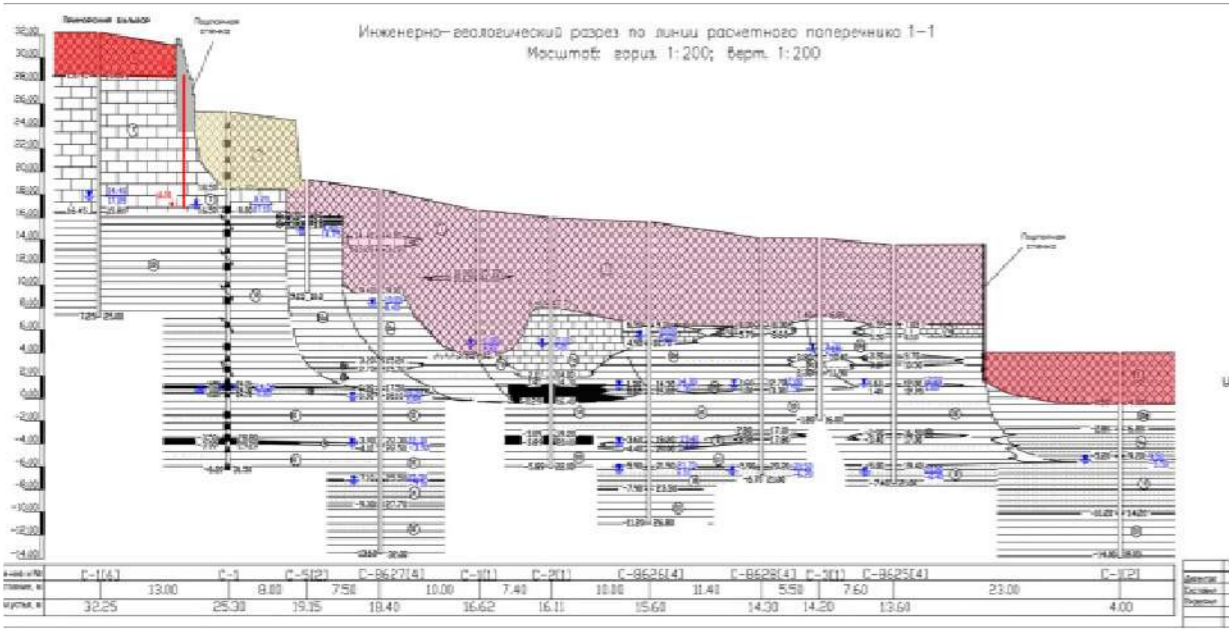
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Elaboration of the architectural project was conducted by Odessa architecture studio JK Lab Architects with the strong cooperation with many other private and public institutions.

Revastudio led by Odessa’s sculptor Mikhail Reva consulted architects and was participated in the matters regarding a selection of moulds in the city of Athens and the further performance of authentic copies of ancient Grecian sculptures to be arranged throughout the park. Geodesists and constructors from Gefest building company were enlisted to evaluate the conditions of terraces. Academic experts from Odessa National University studied and catalogued green areas whilst landscape design studio Green House developed a dendrological scheme. Social organization Urban Inst defended a project in the urban scope. Public platform Architecture Odessa accompanied the project by a historical study and provision of necessary historical materials. Odessa City Council admitted the project and supported it in juridical matters, as well as a public hearing was assembled including the Greek parties attending.

Public awareness of the project proved to be very high due to the broad media exposure and a survey conducted a week after the hearing indicated 90% of the respondents who saw the project and 70% of them endorsed it.



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Odessa is the most multinational city in the Ukraine with more than 100 of nationalities and diasporas including Greek. Odessa's residents live together peacefully with the respect to all national minorities which influenced on and helped to form the unique Odessa culture and traditions. The project of Grecian park encouraged collaboration between two countries on the international scale.

Athens municipality with the involvement of Greek Ministry of Culture and Sports provided a financial support and allowed transferring moulds for Odessa's sculptors to perform copies. Additionally, there was also scheduled a transportation of three olive trees to be replanted in the park. This is a respond from the Greek side to the careful attention to the new design what confirmed that such contribution will lead to a favorable effect for strengthening international relationships between two countries.

On the other hand, the park to the opposite side of Potemkin stairs was planned to be similarly themed by Turkish motives, and so-called Istanbul park is being under construction. Both parks are connected underneath Potemkin stairs via arches. Considering existing territorial disputes between Greece and Turkey, this is a symbolic foundation of peaceful coexistence.

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