Gerber Architekten



King Salman Park

The Green Heart of Riyadh

King Salman Park, currently under construction in the heart of Saudi Arabia's capital, will be the world's largest inner-city park open to the public. Covering an area of 16.7 km², it is five times larger than New York's Central Park. The site is the former Riyadh Airport, which is being transformed into an eco-transformative urban renewal project. The park area is accessed via the circular Innovation Loop. Inside this ring lies Central Park, featuring wooded areas, deep wadis, and diverse garden and climate zones. The so-called "green fingers" form a seamless transition to the surrounding city. The organically shaped transition between landscape and urban space highlights the unique character of the public park, which will be accessible around the clock to residents, tourists, and those interested in nature, culture, and sports, offering a novel nature experience in the heart of the urban environment. Interdisciplinary research has made it possible to make the desert soil fertile, ensure a sustainable water supply, and carefully select and plant climate-resilient plants and trees. As a result, King Salman

Park will contribute to climate improvement, species diversity, and biodiversity in Riyadh as a sustainable greening project. The park will not only be home to a total of 30 million plants across 800 varieties and 1.1 million trees, but will also offer visitors an ecologically valuable natural and recreational space. Cultural and recreational facilities, such as the Museum of the Earth, the open-air cinema, and the amphitheater, are currently under construction. King Salman Park is a joint venture project with Happold and Setec as planning partners for the overall design, led by Gerber Architekten.

Transformation of Urban Spaces

The Development of Ecological Infrastructure

King Salman Park is a key component in increasing the proportion of green space in the Saudi capital and will contribute to sustainable climate improvement. To this end, a system has been developed that enables Riyadh's desalinated wastewater to be used for water supply. The foundation for the vegetation consists of 18.4 million cubic meters of fertile soil mix, which also functions as a sponge-like substrate. The vegetation, specially suited for these high temperatures, comprises 50 percent native plants and 50 percent climate-resilient plants from other parts of the world. To create a climatically pleasant environment for people and vegetation, sophisticated terrain modulation was also implemented, and a system of water features and watercourses was integrated into the park area, creating natural evaporative cooling and diverse microclimates. Shade-providing elements such as rest arcades and colonnades are also arranged at regular intervals throughout the park. These mitigate direct sunlight and create pleasantly shaded paths and gathering areas. The lush and diverse natural environment plays a decisive role. Tree coverage is 65%, and ground coverage is 95%.

Landscape and Architecture

A key feature of King Salman Park is the symbiotic relationship between architecture and landscape. It is based on the Salmani design philosophy and rooted in centuries-old local building traditions. Characteristic features include climate-adapted building structures that are closely integrated into the landscape, the use of cooling building materials, the utilization of natural air circulation, and the strategic implementation of

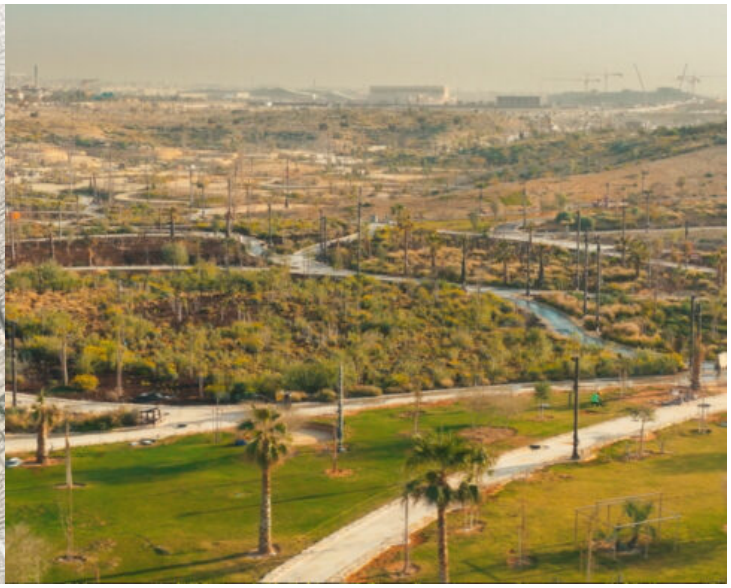
shading concepts through vegetation and shading elements.

https://www.gerberarchitekten.de/en/project/king-salman-park-2/











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