



A NIGHT IN THE DARK

- an interactive map prototype for
reimagining nighttime urban park

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EARLY RESEARCH

- Animals' nocturnal life in urban areas and the effects from ALAN
- Dark Infrastructure: a revival of darkness in urban areas



RESEARCH QUESTION

- How to redesign the lights in the urban space to be as friendly to local animals (especially birds) as possible while ensuring basic safety and communal engagement of nearby residents?



SITE — SCHENLEY PARK



REIMAGINING URBAN LIFE AT NIGHT – THREE SCENARIOS

**Scenario II:
A Stroll in the
Dark Trail**



**Scenario III:
The Night Pavilion**



**Scenario I:
Lights By the
Main Road**



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SCENARIO I: WALKING BY THE MAIN ROADS



Some common bird species like the American Robins like to rest in lower bushes. The lower shield at the curbside blocks the light from the front light of the cars to provide a better dark environment for animals living closer to the lower ground.

The New
StreetLamps

[CLICK HERE](#)

The Curbside
Shield

[CLICK HERE](#)



REIMAGINING
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CLICK HERE



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SCENARIO II: A STROLL IN THE DARK



In the nighttime, you are still welcomed to walk around the trails and explore the park. However, there will be no normal street lamps. To reduce light intrusion to the natural environment, we replace the traditional lamps with some new lighting equipment...



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**Scenario III:
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SCENARIO III: THE COMMUNAL PAVILION

- The original Site:



- Bad lighting example:




Too much light intrusion to nearby areas!

- Main focus of this scenario:

Balancing the sense of community with the restoration of darkness

THE REVISED DESIGN:

Texts &
images on
the interface




THE NIGHT PAVILION

The night pavilion is strategically designed to provide a communal space for park visitors at night, while emphasizing environmental sensitivity through reduced light pollution. Its architectural features are tailored to blend seamlessly with the park's natural surroundings and to shield its light emissions, preserving the nocturnal ambiance.

The pavilion acts as a beacon of sustainability, encouraging community interaction within a space that respects and enhances its natural surroundings. It serves as an ideal spot for nighttime park visitors seeking a place to socialize, learn, or simply enjoy the tranquility of the park after dark.

Soft Curtains:

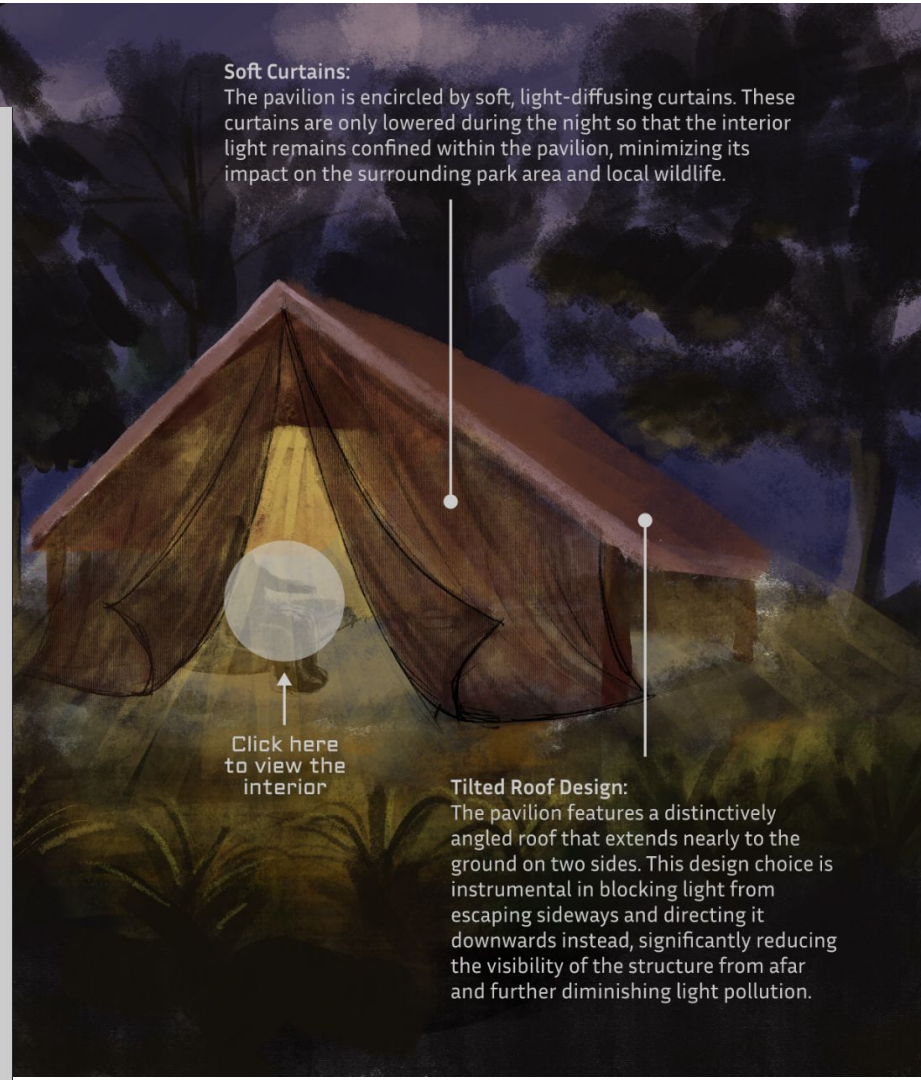
The pavilion is encircled by soft, light-diffusing curtains. These curtains are only lowered during the night so that the interior light remains confined within the pavilion, minimizing its impact on the surrounding park area and local wildlife.



Click here
to view the
interior

Tilted Roof Design:

The pavilion features a distinctively angled roof that extends nearly to the ground on two sides. This design choice is instrumental in blocking light from escaping sideways and directing it downwards instead, significantly reducing the visibility of the structure from afar and further diminishing light pollution.



THE INTERIOR VIEW

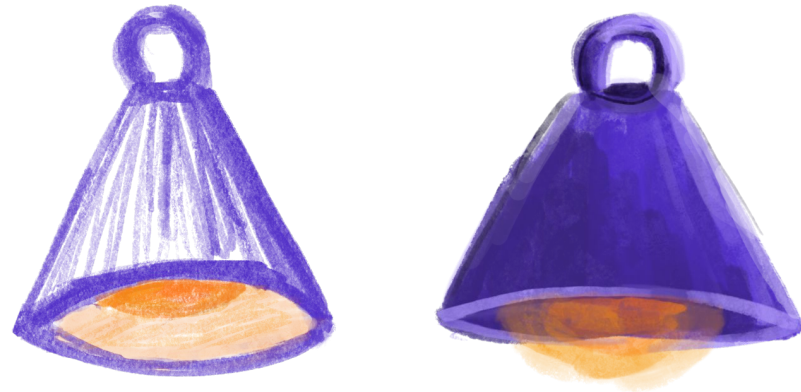
Lighting:

Equipped with energy-efficient LED lighting that emits a warm, amber glow that achieves a cozy living-room ambience, the lights are both low in intensity and strategically placed to enhance the ambience without overpowering the natural darkness of the park.



REFLECTIONS – THE REVIVAL OF DARKNESS

- Modifying urban designs in multiple scales
- Reconnecting with the originality of nature in nighttime
- Raising awareness about the impacts on animals in our daily activities
- Can darkness also foster the sense of community?
- Safety concerns





THANK YOU :)