

UNTYING THE KNOT:

A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO THE VLORA WATERFRONT

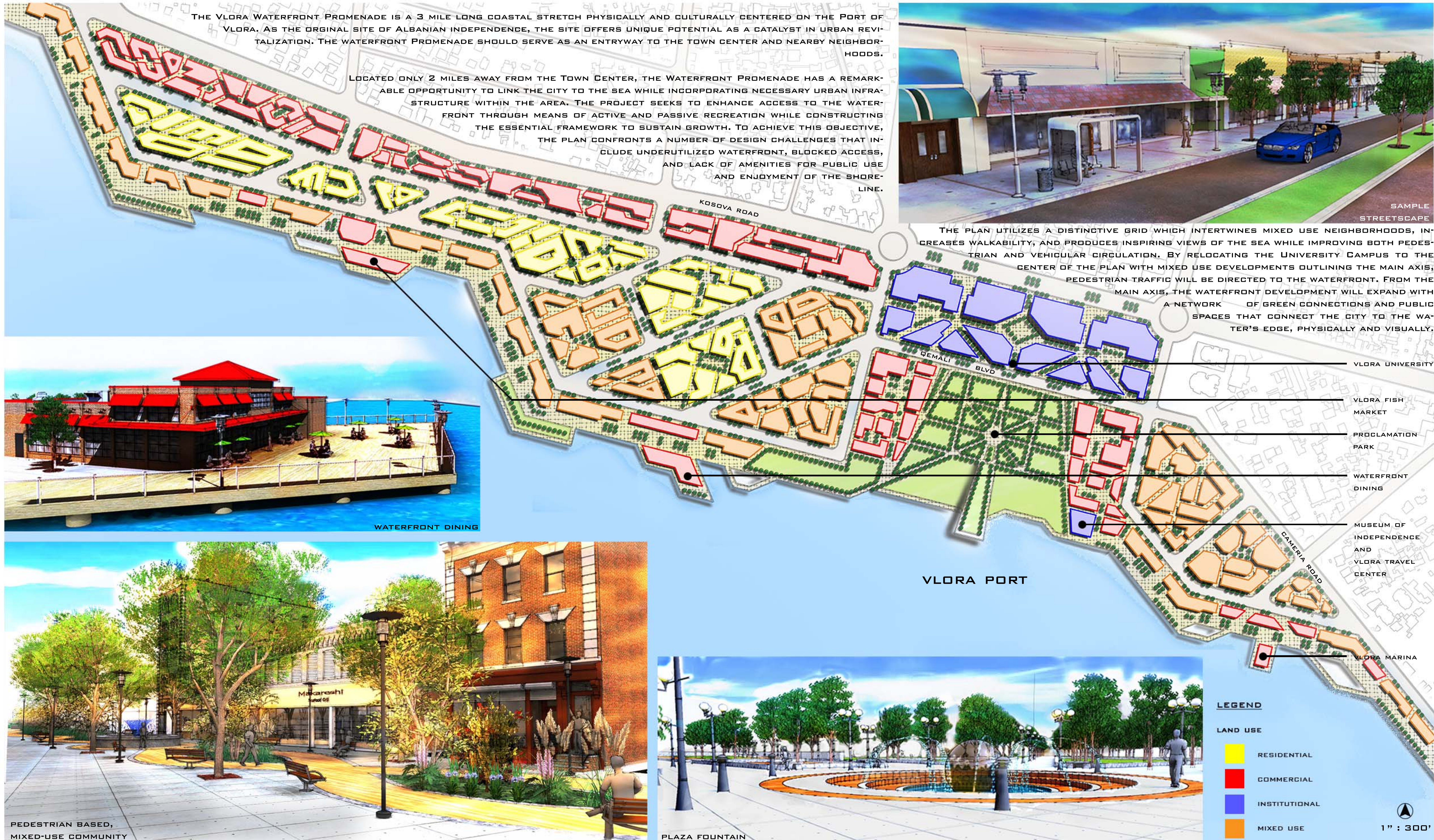
THE VLORA WATERFRONT PROMENADE IS A 3 MILE LONG COASTAL STRETCH PHYSICALLY AND CULTURALLY CENTERED ON THE PORT OF VLORA. AS THE ORIGINAL SITE OF ALBANIAN INDEPENDENCE, THE SITE OFFERS UNIQUE POTENTIAL AS A CATALYST IN URBAN REVITALIZATION. THE WATERFRONT PROMENADE SHOULD SERVE AS AN ENTRYWAY TO THE TOWN CENTER AND NEARBY NEIGHBORHOODS.

LOCATED ONLY 2 MILES AWAY FROM THE TOWN CENTER, THE WATERFRONT PROMENADE HAS A REMARKABLE OPPORTUNITY TO LINK THE CITY TO THE SEA WHILE INCORPORATING NECESSARY URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITHIN THE AREA. THE PROJECT SEEKS TO ENHANCE ACCESS TO THE WATERFRONT THROUGH MEANS OF ACTIVE AND PASSIVE RECREATION WHILE CONSTRUCTING THE ESSENTIAL FRAMEWORK TO SUSTAIN GROWTH. TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE, THE PLAN CONFRONTS A NUMBER OF DESIGN CHALLENGES THAT INCLUDE UNDERUTILIZED WATERFRONT, BLOCKED ACCESS, AND LACK OF AMENITIES FOR PUBLIC USE AND ENJOYMENT OF THE SHORELINE.



SAMPLE STREETSCAPE

THE PLAN UTILIZES A DISTINCTIVE GRID WHICH INTERTWINES MIXED USE NEIGHBORHOODS, INCREASES WALKABILITY, AND PRODUCES INSPIRING VIEWS OF THE SEA WHILE IMPROVING BOTH PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR CIRCULATION. BY RELOCATING THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS TO THE CENTER OF THE PLAN WITH MIXED USE DEVELOPMENTS OUTLINING THE MAIN AXIS, PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC WILL BE DIRECTED TO THE WATERFRONT. FROM THE MAIN AXIS, THE WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT WILL EXPAND WITH A NETWORK OF GREEN CONNECTIONS AND PUBLIC SPACES THAT CONNECT THE CITY TO THE WATER'S EDGE, PHYSICALLY AND VISUALLY.



WATERFRONT DINING



PEDESTRIAN BASED, MIXED-USE COMMUNITY



PLAZA FOUNTAIN

LEGEND

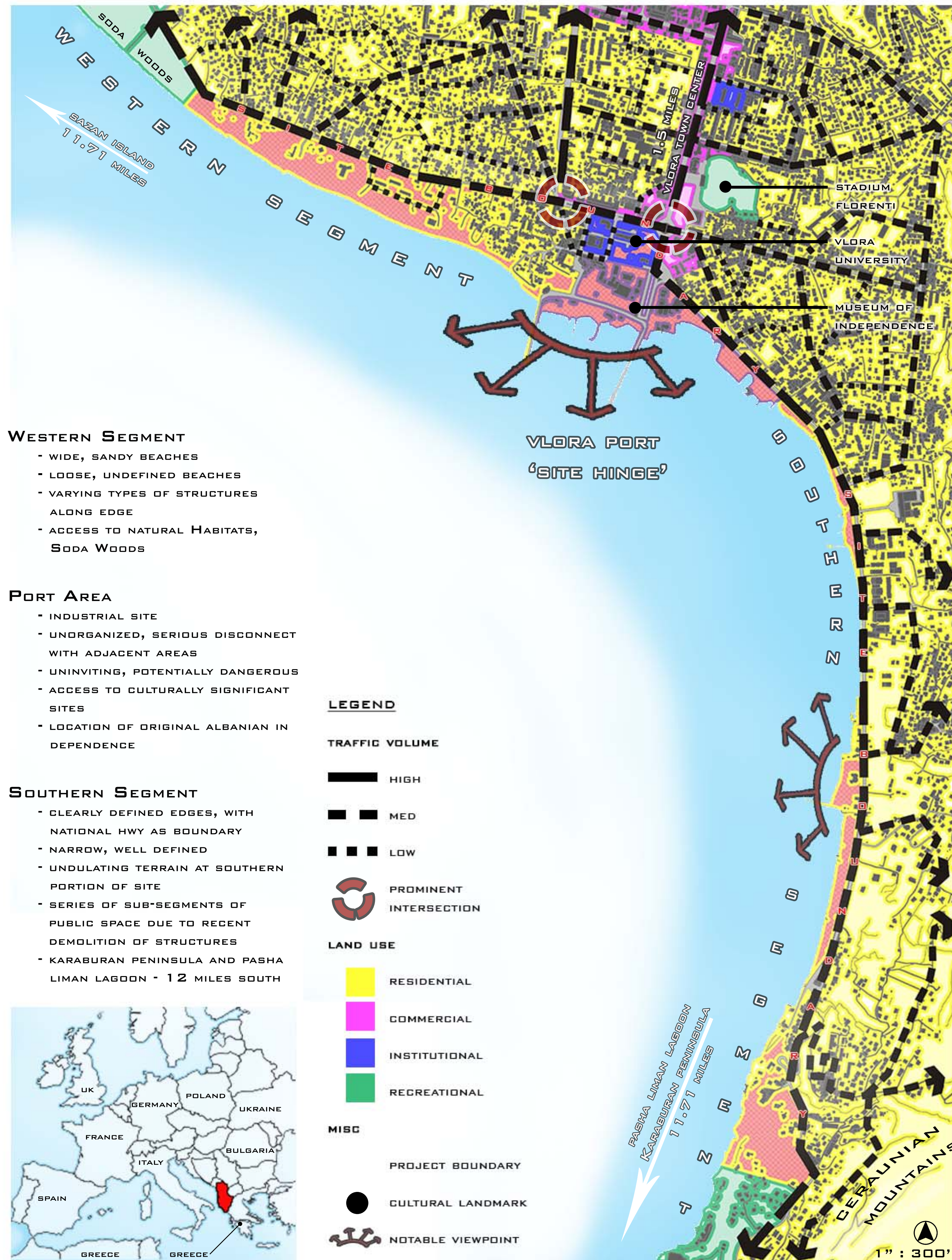
LAND USE

- RESIDENTIAL
- COMMERCIAL
- INSTITUTIONAL
- MIXED USE

1" : 300'

UNTYING THE KNOT:

A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO THE VLORA WATERFRONT



UNTYING THE KNOT:

A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO THE VLORA WATERFRONT

Nestled between the University's campus to the north and mixed use developments to the east and west, Proclamation Park is purposefully situated at the original site of Albanian Independence. Serving as the unifying element to the Vlora Waterfront Redesign, Proclamation Park is a passive recreational park with a rigid axis towards the water's edge. Proclamation Park should function as the pedestrian connection to the western and southern segments of the Vlora Waterfront while attracting local college students and visitors from the nearby Museum of Independence.

The plan features an elevated pier which extends 100' past the water's edge and provides a "tunnel effect"

The Pier is also offset with a large opening in the center of the pier. This feature can potentially attract competitive high divers and other performances, as the surrounding lawn is graded to invite audiences. The eastern lawn features a grand stairway leading to the water's edge where a sun deck is located for user's enjoyment. The deck will also slowly ramp into the water where kayakers and swimmers may gather. The western lawn features a complex terrace system with walkways leading back to the waterfront. Leading to the pier, the plan shows an interactive water fountain with an offset splash pad. At the center of the fountain, a large Marva Red marble native to Albania will be afloat a shallow pool of water.

