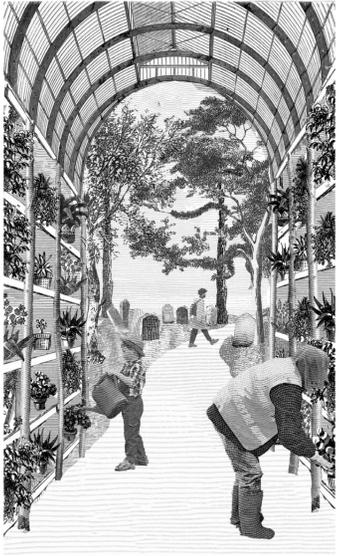
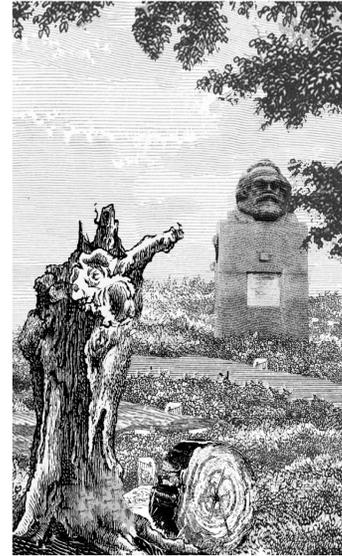
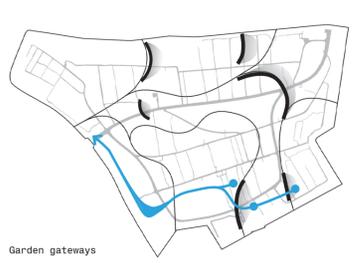
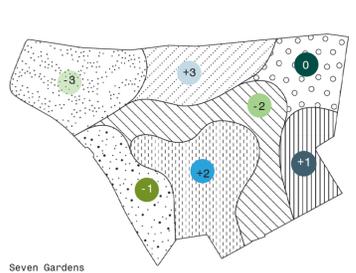


Highgate East Cemetery



Seven generation stewardship:

The Seven Gardens of the East

The original east cemetery design is structured and utilitarian, over the years it has developed a homogeneous woodland character. Our vision for Highgate East looks to create a sense of wonder equivalent to that of the West, but of a profoundly unique and complementary character. The cemetery will be established as a 'Whole Earth' cemetery, a heterotopia or mirror to the outside world. Through transitional woodland management, opportunities for community participation and physical manifestations of global ecological issues, it will pay its respects to the planet and become a centre for sustainably working with nature.

A procession of seven gardens wind through the original orthogonal grave and path structure, each with a distinct character aligned to the seven generations. Working with existing site qualities, the gardens are defined by the conservation priority areas, character areas, prevailing topography, hydrology, woodland conditions and historic features. The gateways between gardens are expressed as topographic mound or marked by the crossing of water - physical signifiers of the passage of time and transition from one generation to the next. The seven zones set out a general approach, details may vary upon further assessment and there will be special cases throughout.

Loss

The garden of lost species contains memorials for some of the last flora and fauna as they become extinct from our earth. The last northern wild white rhino (2008), the Pectanica river mayfly (2018), and the Splendid Poison Frog (2020), with eulogies written by David Attenborough, Greta Thunberg alongside local school children. As both infamous and lesser-known creatures are driven from our world, they will be remembered here.

People will be invited to pay their respects to the planet, and in doing so, participate in the care of it. A virtual reality app allows visitors to experience the animals that once were, using their smart phones. Timber memorials invite people to carve their messages to the planet, degrading back into the earth over time. Planted as an arboretum, the woodland commemorates rare and forgotten tree species, with opportunities to partner with living archives such as the Natural History Museum and Kew Gardens.

Remembrance

Highgate cemetery is rich in local history, an archive of personal and collective memories. The garden of remembrance pays homage to these, looking back to what Highgate - and London - once was.

Located around the high-priority preservation zone, this garden focuses on the re-establishment of key views along the main pathways and the restoration of valuable monuments.

Trees are removed to open up vistas, their stumps left as standing deadwood to nourish invertebrate life and feed the woodland. Their tops are carved into rainwater collecting bowls - monuments to the lost rivers of London that scatter light amongst the boughs.

Reflection

At the base of the hill, the natural flood plain is emphasised by localised topographic interventions. Specific areas of excavation are to be sensitively selected based on their archaeological value and contribution to gaps in research such as health and disease, burial practice or adding to the UK ancient DNA database. The removal of assemblages should be considered when of significant public benefit to academia, partnering with establishments such as The Wellcome Collection.

The voids that remain form seasonal rainwater collection ponds and wetland micro-habitats, or are built up as mounds for new burial space. Strolling amongst the undulating wet woodland invites moments of contemplation, a quiet and tranquil area for the universal expression of grief and bereavement.

Cradle

The east entrance forms an ecological counterpart to the west. The historic tombs are met with tombs for non-human species. A semi-enclosed greenhouse chapel invites people to plant trees as an alternative form of commemoration to the recently deceased - an act that will live on to grow the future of the cemetery. As part of its continuous rebirth, the greenhouse chapel is rebuilt every 25 years using timber harvested from site, by local communities, friends and families of the deceased. The former structure is fed back into the woodland and laid to rest, handed from the previous generation to the next.

Small clearings for community workshops include activities such as woodworking and wood-turning. This is a place for communities to touch, feel and work with nature together, as part of an active healing process.

Rebirth

After their initial years of growth the young trees are transferred to the tree nursery, transplanted in a plantation between the existing grave and path grid. The first year of mourning is an important period across cultures and religions, and the transplantation of young trees forms a commemorative ritual of acknowledgement. Physical and personal participation aid the mourning process, nurturing a culture of care and community.

The garden of rebirth is a community laboratory for knowledge sharing - a space for identifying, growing and caring for trees. Rare and resilient trees for our future changing climate are cultivated, such as Southern European species. New ecological burials in this area nourish the soil. Once established, the young trees will be transplanted into the cemetery woodland.

Longevity

The heart of the East cemetery forms an active working woodland. The geometric path network is used to structure a mosaic of tree coupes, each employing a different woodland management technique that rotates over 5-10 year periods. Distinct ecological havens are defined away from human access, particularly around sensitive habitats such as identified bat roosts.

Through careful coppicing, pollarding, halo-thinning and selective taking down, a dense and diverse woodland slowly and naturally evolves. The current drainage points to the north-east are collected and directed as streams that bubble gently down the hillside path.

Endurance

The Future Forest anticipates the future of Highgate Cemetery, preparing the ground for a climate-adapted woodland for the next generation, and allowing space for new burial methods and rituals to develop. Interventions sustain the earth for the long term. Carefully defined areas of graves and trees are removed for research or fed back into the woodland, the soil is re-nourished.

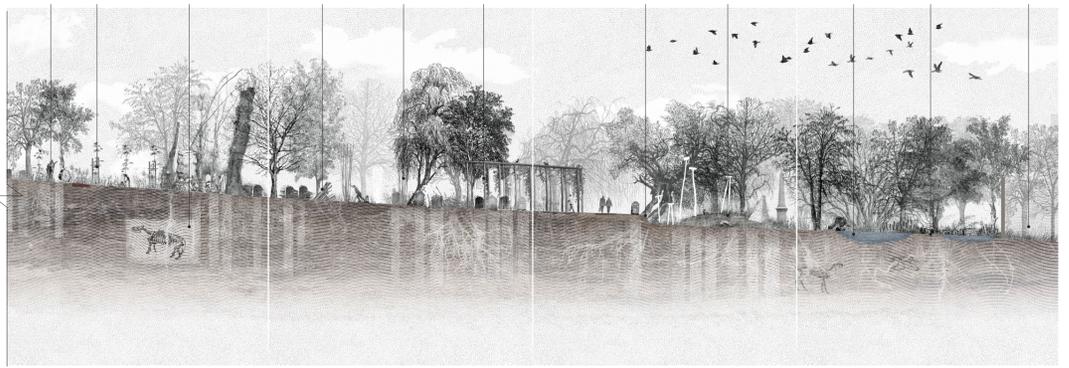
In the early years, the Future Forest is a herb and flower meadow - a scent garden that evokes springtime memories, with flowering wildflowers in summer for picking and laying at graves. A lightweight timber arbour creates an ecological colonnade, a vegetated version of the Egyptian Avenue in the West Cemetery. In later years, trees will be transplanted here from the tree nursery, and the re-settled ground will create new burial space.

Waterloo Park Utilitarian grave layout Karl Marx Self-seeding and un-managed woodland growth Grave subsidence Thinning, halving and clearings Raised burial areas accentuate the hillside



Section AA: East Cemetery part 1. Timeline of transformations over three historic generations

Standing deadwood Commemorative tree planting Extinct animal grave Woodworking areas Coppicing Arbour New burials in burial mounds Veteran tree props Flood alleviation ponds Matured wet woodland Stoneleigh Terrace



Section AA: East Cemetery part 2. Timeline of transformations over three future generations



- Entrance / potential future entrance
- Historically listed monument
- Ecological monument
- Priority grave restoration area
- Priority monument restoration area
- Topographic 'gateway' / memorial wall
- Accessible ramp
- Flood feature - Stream/pond
- Reinserted tree
- Standing deadwood
- Significant tree (haloed)
- Protected bat roost
- Timber stacking / woodworking area
- Preserved historic view corridor
- Contours