



source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/daveynin/560170375/>

a place to activate

BID 2010 | A4: Activating Public Landscapes

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Process review

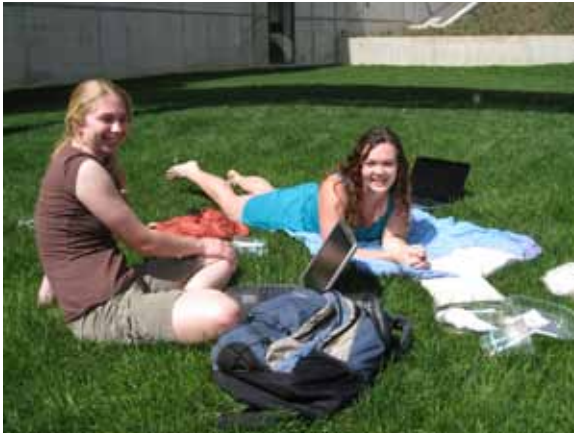
- Selection of site
- Research methods
- Findings from observations/interviews
- Outline potential needs
- 20 sketches

Hillside vs. Dark Alley



Source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/jalexlang/829405739/in/set-72157600831170223/>

Hillside Interviews



Freshmen studying

- Quiet spot away from frisbees
- Near outlets
- Near coffee
- Cushier grass than near dorm
- Uses Pausch Bridge in one direction but stairs to return



Alum with prospective student

- Exploring campus
- Headed uphill to find music
- Took stairs on a hunch
(top and bottom of stairs out of view)



CMU Employees

- Most direct access between UC and Doherty where they work
- Quiet place to sit, chat, relax
- Recent construction kept this area undiscovered
- “Please don’t change [this]”

Hillside Observations

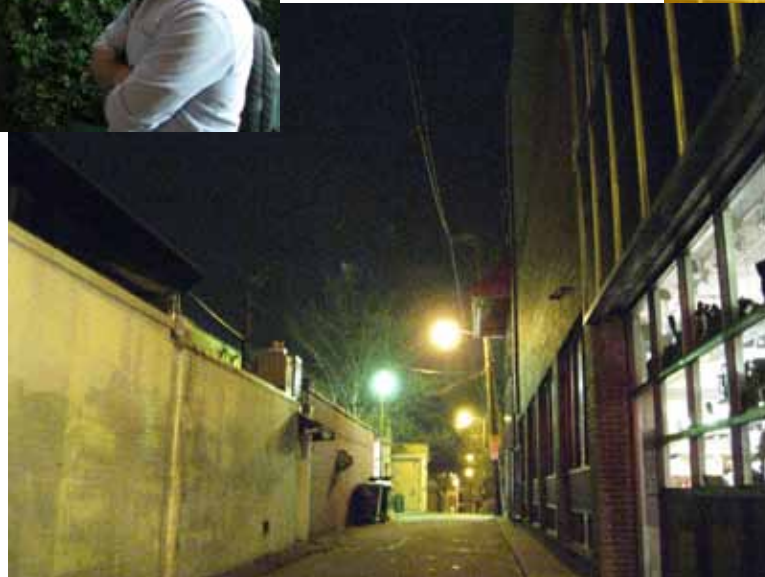
- Used by individuals or pairs of people (not large groups)
- Users value the quiet, secluded nature of the space
- Quality of stairs not a deterrent

"I use them in the winter even if they do ice over, habit I guess"

"The grates hurt to walk on."



What do we mean “dark alley”?



Hill it is!



Potential needs

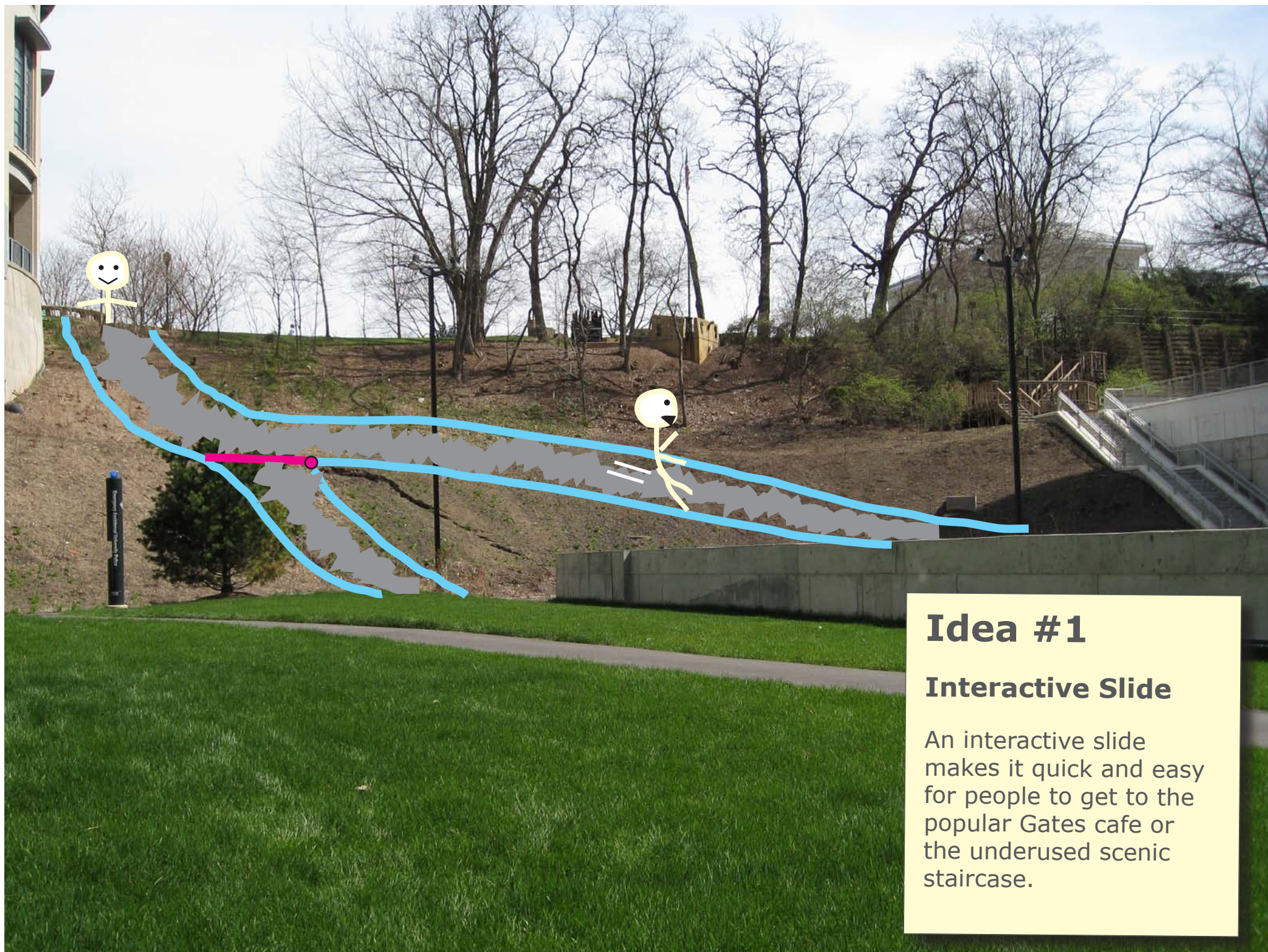
User needs

- Secluded place away from noise and crowds
- Access to power source
- Access to amenities
- Shade from the sun

Design considerations

- Objective is not to draw noisy, hyperactive crowds
- Respect serenity of the area
- Interactivity in response to individuals, pairs or small crowd
- Keep open space uncluttered and flexible

20 sketches



Idea #1

Interactive Slide

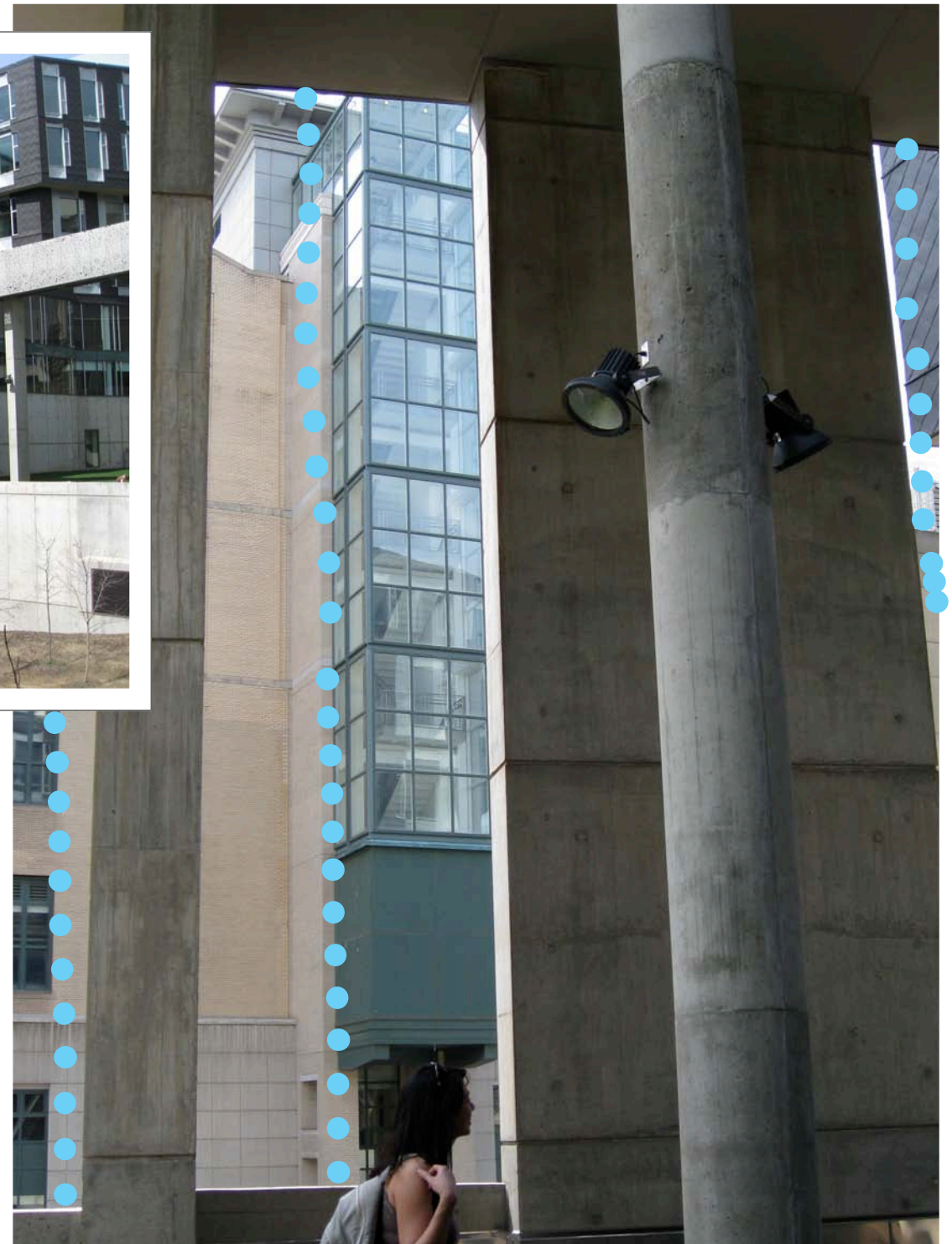
An interactive slide makes it quick and easy for people to get to the popular Gates cafe or the underused scenic staircase.



Idea #2

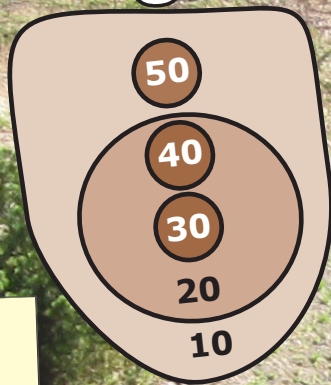
Zen Water Streams

Water streams trickle down between the concrete columns for a calming ambience.

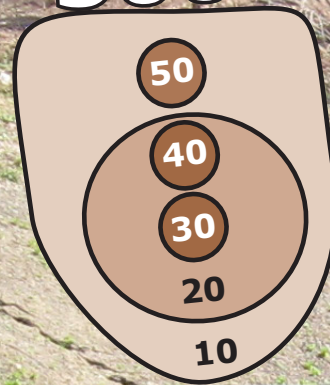


Score

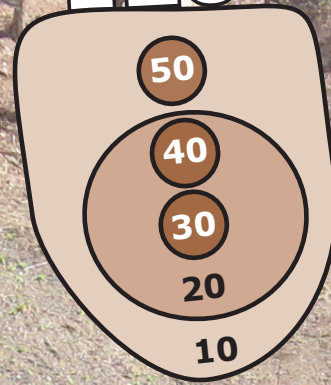
0



300



120



Idea #3

Skee Ball

People can enjoy their time at the hill with a friendly game of Skee Ball.

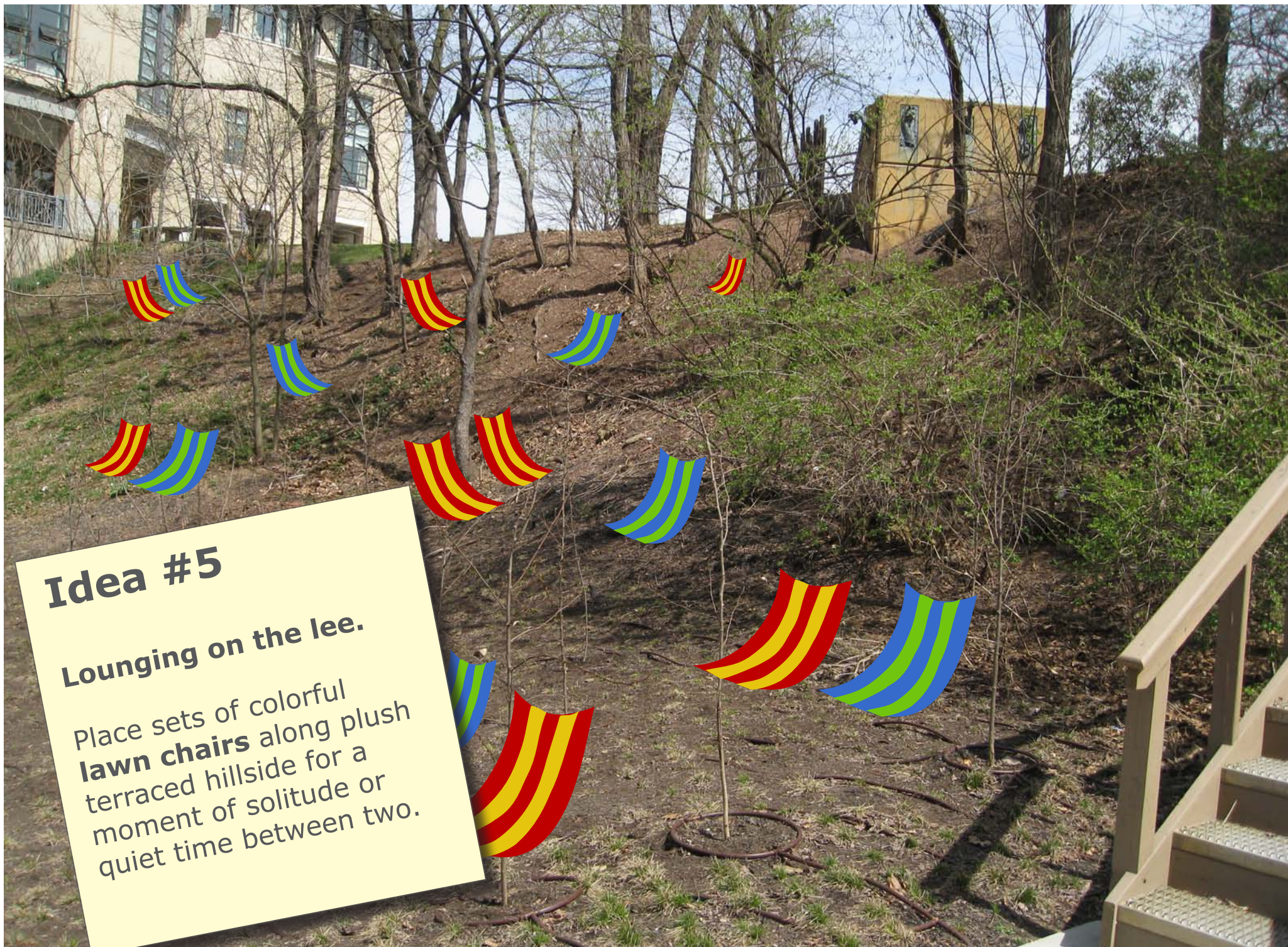
Idea #4



PowerUp Mushrooms

Colorful mushrooms widely dispersed on the lawn that conceal power outlets but can also be used as stools for sitting.





Idea #5

Lounging on the lee.

Place sets of colorful **lawn chairs** along plush terraced hillside for a moment of solitude or quiet time between two.



Idea #6

Waterfall Movie

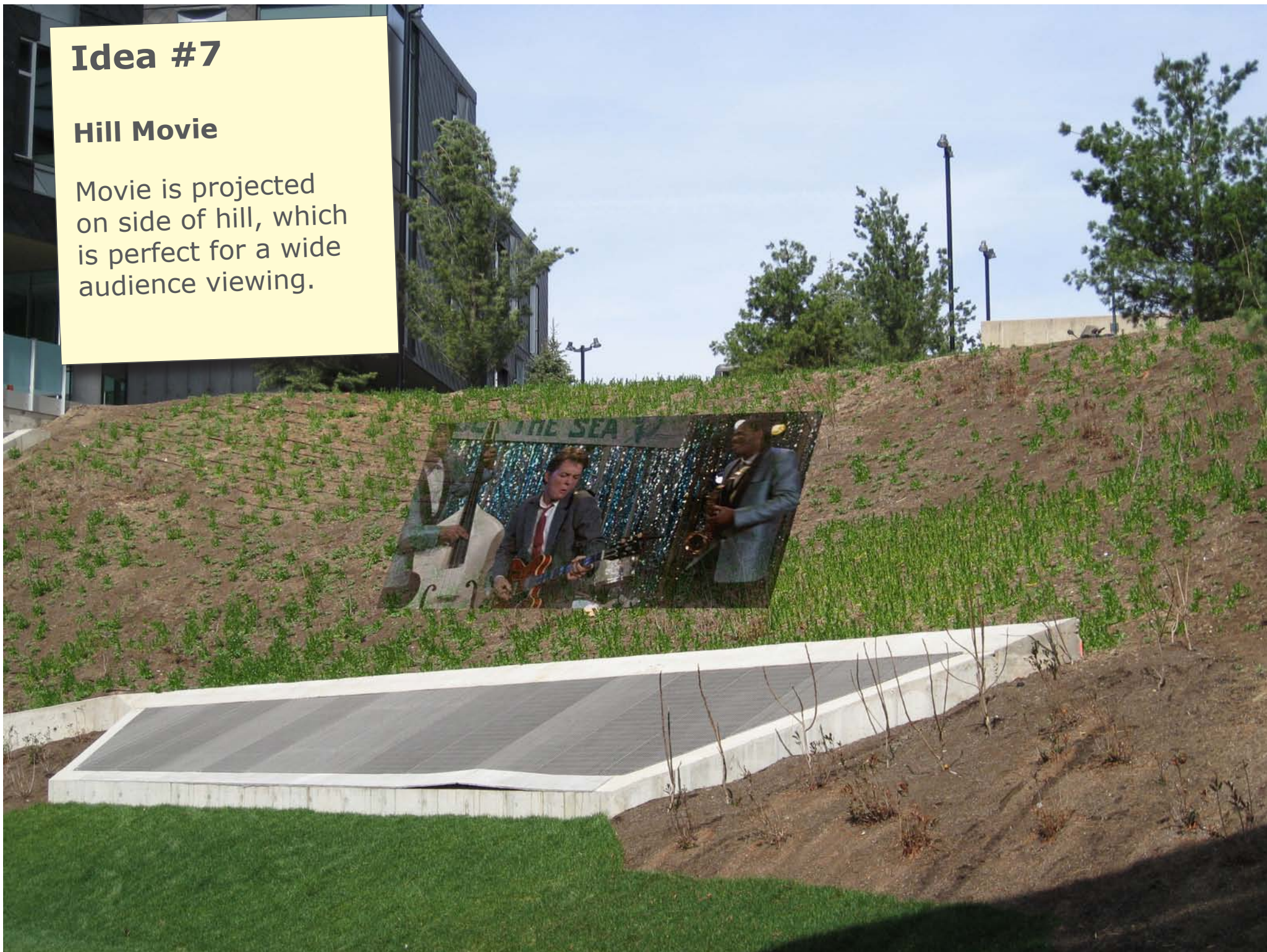
Screen made up of water falling off the side of the Gates building.

Project movie on it so people can congregate and watch the movie at their leisure.

Idea #7

Hill Movie

Movie is projected on side of hill, which is perfect for a wide audience viewing.



Idea #8

Under cover

Abstract animal shapes with hollow center shielding laptop from glare or to tuck one's head in for shade while napping.

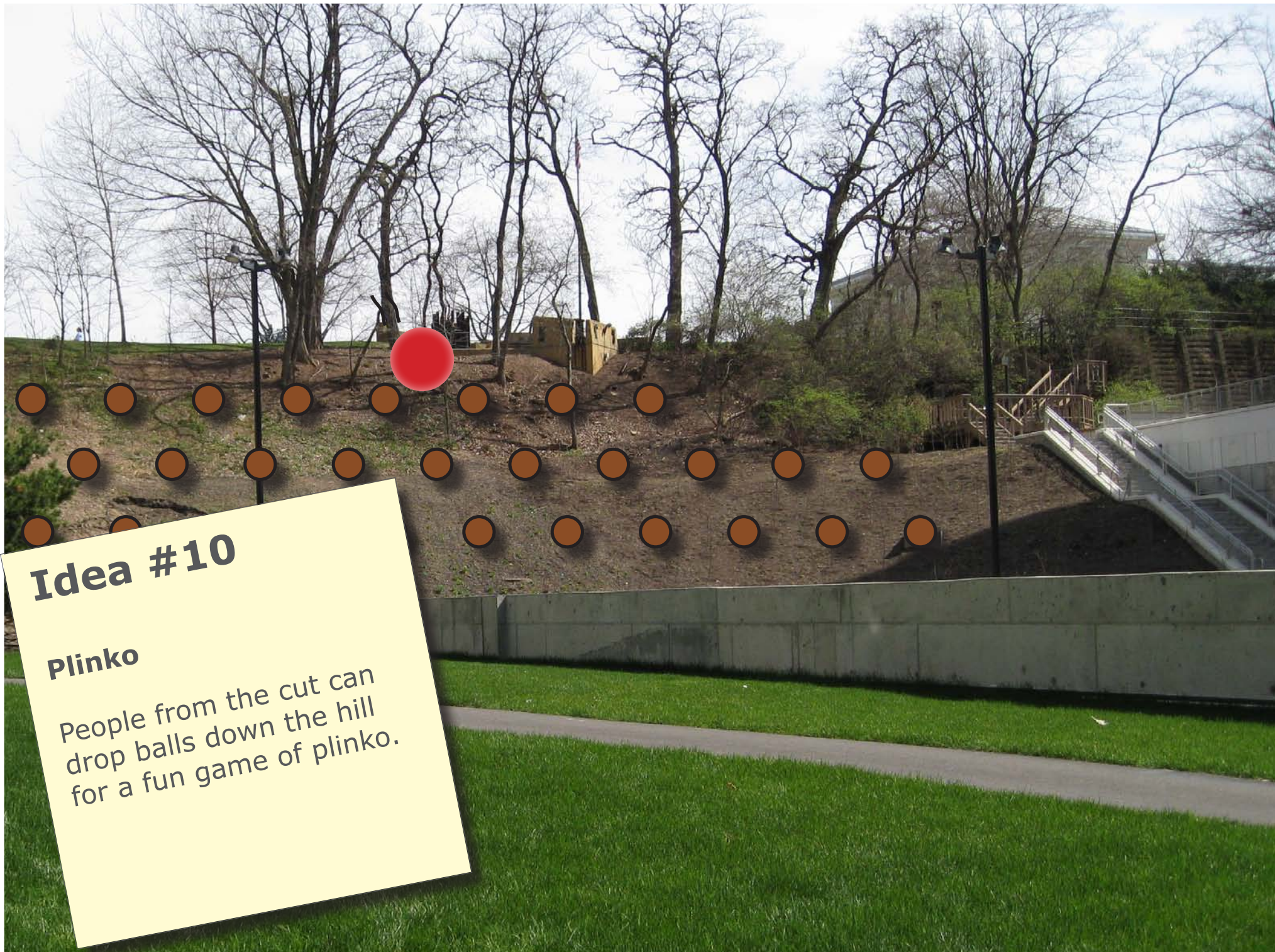




Idea #9

Interactive Waterfall

Lawn areas have pressure sensors such that if enough people sit on it, concrete blocks move out to block path of waterfall and create patterns.



Idea #10

Plinko

People from the cut can drop balls down the hill for a fun game of plinko.



Idea #11

Dome of Silence

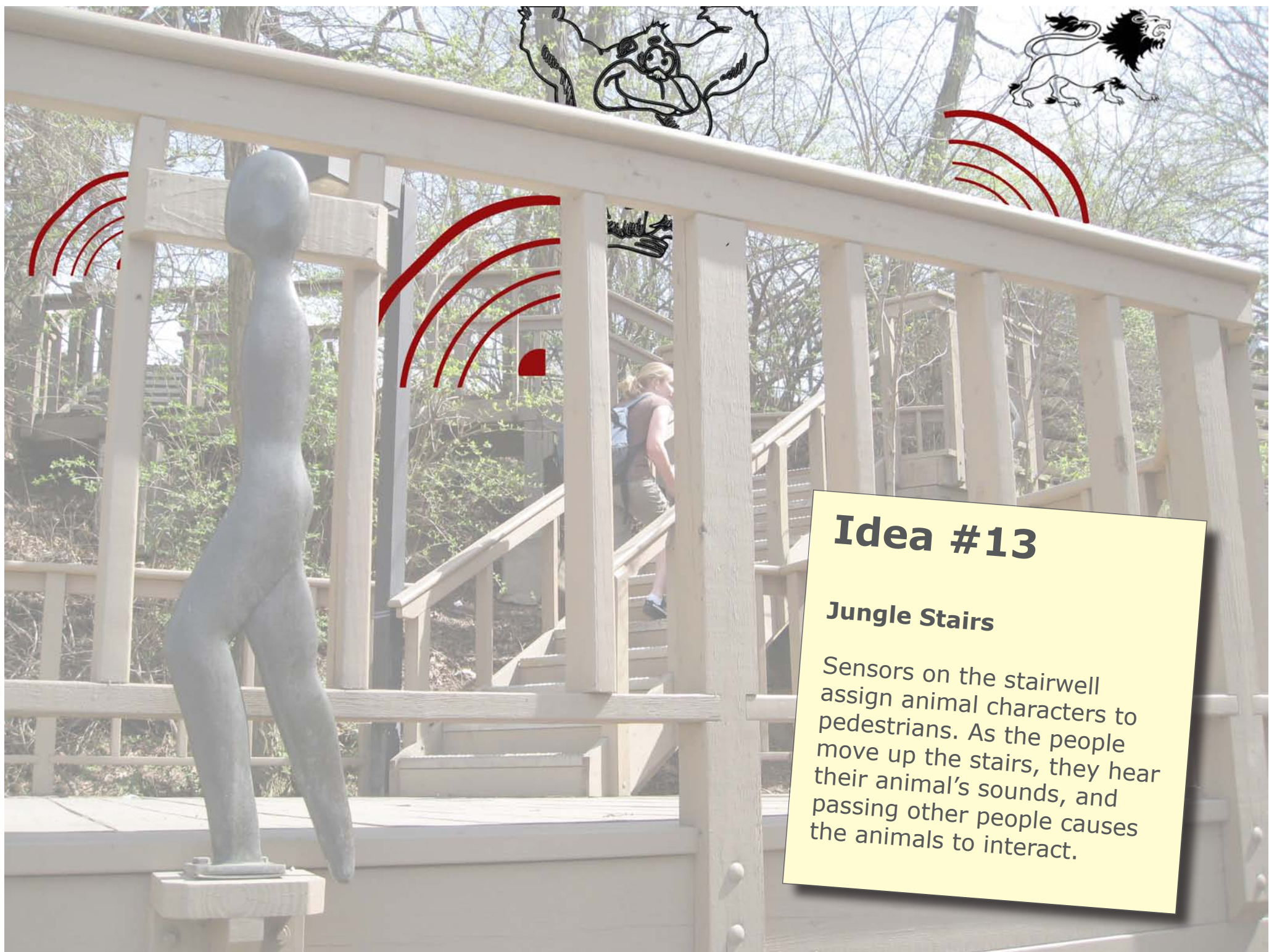
When audio sensors (e.g., microphones) detect loud noises from a distance, a soundproof dome encloses the public space.

Idea #12

LED Guide Lights

LED lights line the path from Gates to the cut, helping to show the connection between seemingly disconnected areas.





Idea #13

Jungle Stairs

Sensors on the stairwell assign animal characters to pedestrians. As the people move up the stairs, they hear their animal's sounds, and passing other people causes the animals to interact.

Idea #14

Community Garden

Plant herbs and place “thirst indicators” along the path, plus faucets and watering cans at “entrances” and “exits” of the path.



Italian Basil

Spear-mint

Idea #15

Rope Ladder

Childhood days were cool.
So were rope ladders.
Climb at your own risk.



Idea #16

Misty mountain

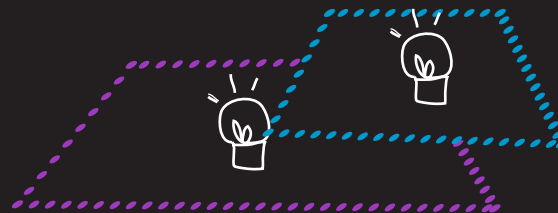
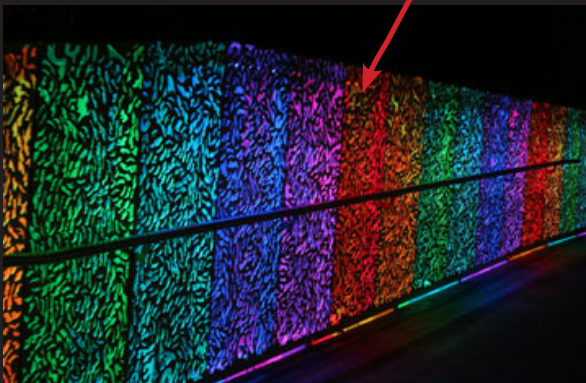
Colorful columns dotting the winding path upward provide a refreshing, barely there spray of fine mist to cool off as one climbs upward.



Idea #17

LED Picnic Blankets

Communal picnic blankets with LED lights and solar cells. Collects energy during the day and emits light at night. (Resonates with Pausch Bridge)




Idea #18

Outdoor Classroom

Augmented reality app for viewing lectures and other goings-on inside Gates. Students can bring the classroom outside during nice weather.





Q: What was the name of the first woman to run for president of the United States?

Idea #19

Public Trivia Play

Waterfall screen has trivia questions where the public are arranged in teams depending where they sit and can play via laptop or smartphone.



Idea #20

Paintball Art

Students can use paint balls to create spontaneous, temporary art on the concrete columns. Water falls from the top to wash off the paint.