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DESIGN detail

the architecture magazine

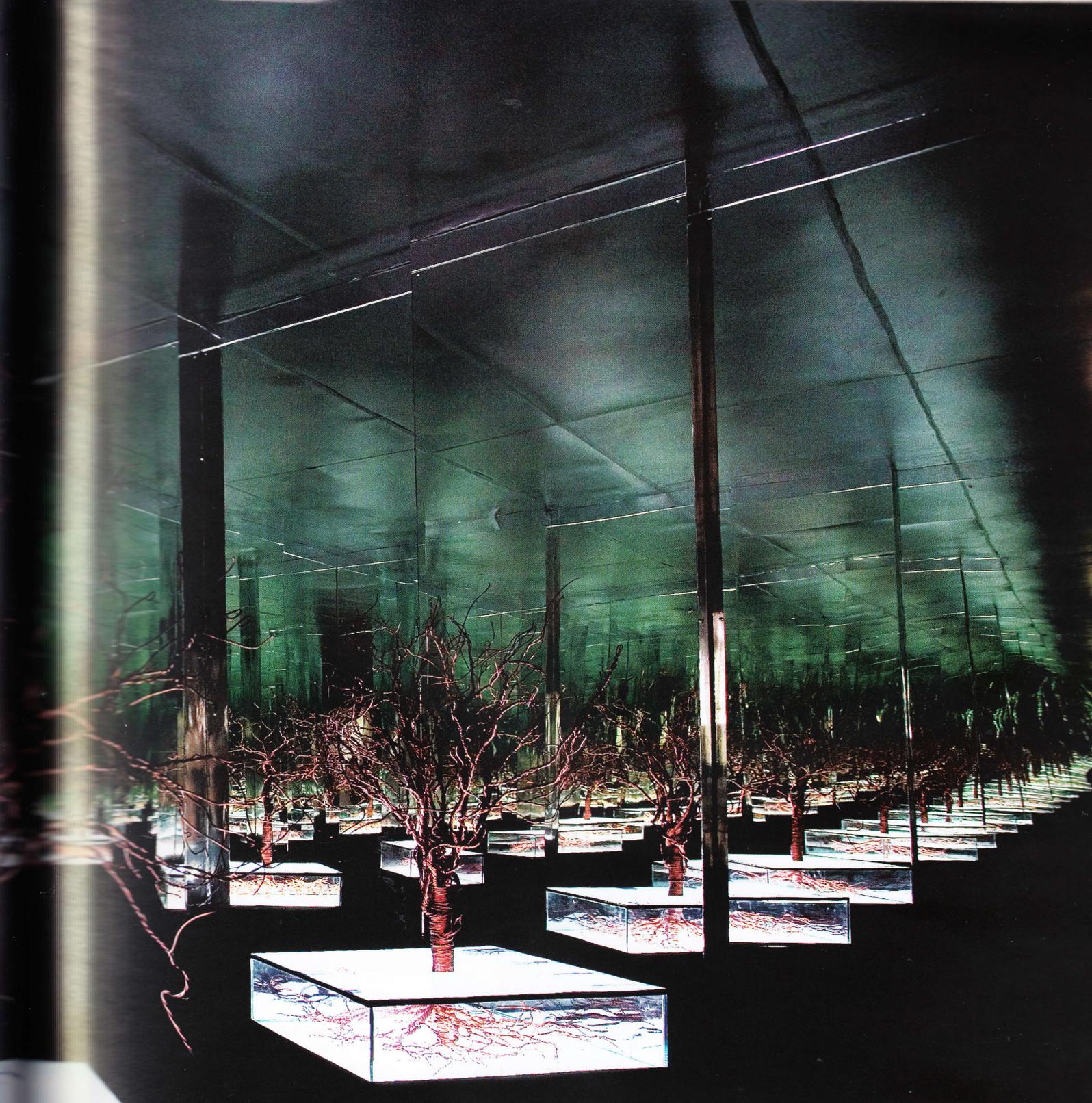


**THE ESSENCE
OF HERITAGE
IN ARCHITECTURE**
AR. RAMESH THARAKAN &
AR. MONOLITA CHATTERJEE

**'CONTAGIOUS'
EVOLUTION**
MORPHOGENESIS



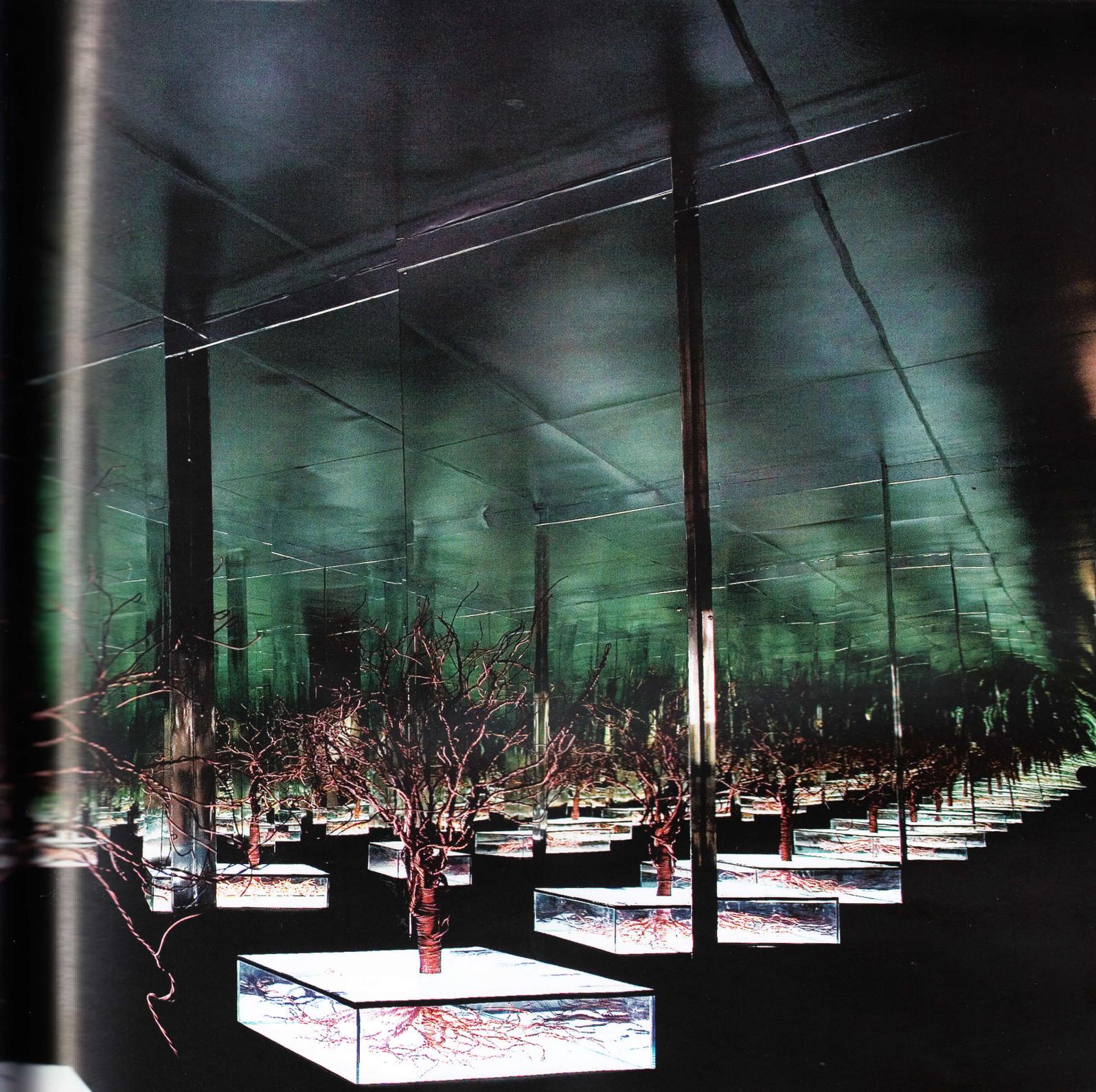
The images given are from an exhibition, which shows the fractal metropolitan layer



THE 'CONTAGIOUS' EVOLUTION

Text : Team Design Detail / Photos : Morphogenesis

The Delhi Nullahs is an initiative by Morphogenesis that aims to reuse the neglected water drainage system (nullahs) of Delhi to progressively bring about sustainable change within the city. These nullahs can be transformed to enhance the social, cultural and transport networks of the city. By using the existing waste and underutilized land to recycle and re-create it would be possible to weave an eco-sustainable system through this network. It is currently awaiting government approval for the next stage.



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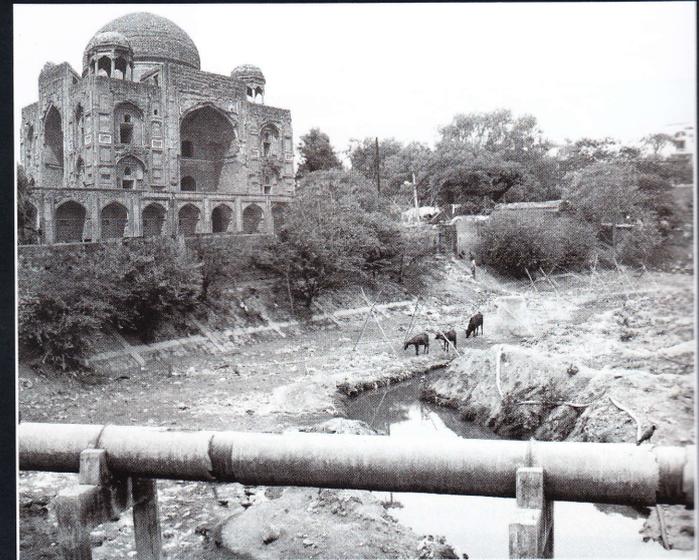
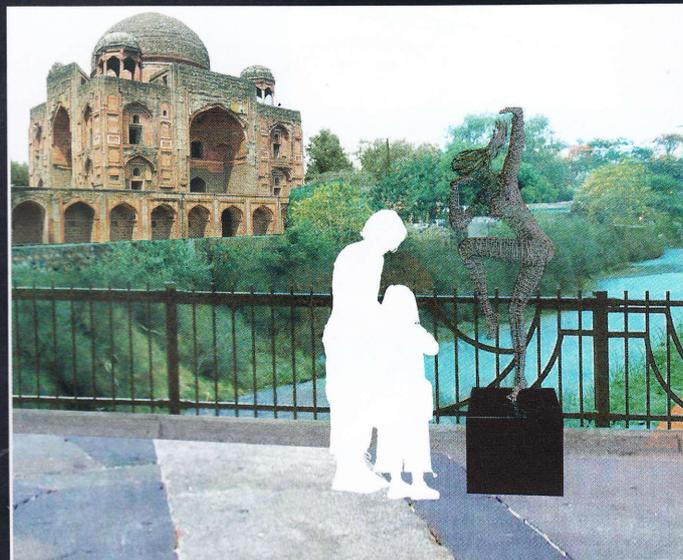
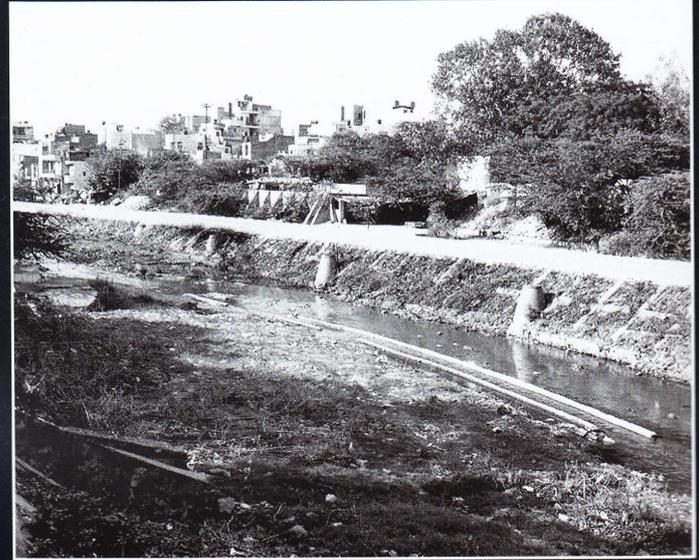
The Delhi nullah network is 350 km long, contiguous and criss-crosses the national capital. Currently, the nullahs are just unhygienic drains that are seen as a problem by the citizens of Delhi - they smell, breed disease and pollute the Yamuna River. However, a relatively small investment can turn the nullahs into a valuable asset for the common citizen.

A major intention behind this project is to create walking and cycling paths on these nullahs to provide commuters with last mile connectivity to public transport like buses and metro. This will significantly improve the effectiveness of the existing public transport. Furthermore, people will be able to walk or cycle for short distances. Since the nullah network is 350km long - this would be a very important contribution to the lives of the common citizens.

FACT FILE

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| PROJECT | : DELHI NULLAHS |
| LOCATION | : NEW DELHI |
| DESIGN PRACTICE | : MORPHOGENESIS |
| ARCHITECT | : MANIT RASTOGI, SONALI RASTOGI |
| AREA | : 350 KM, 1750 ACRES |



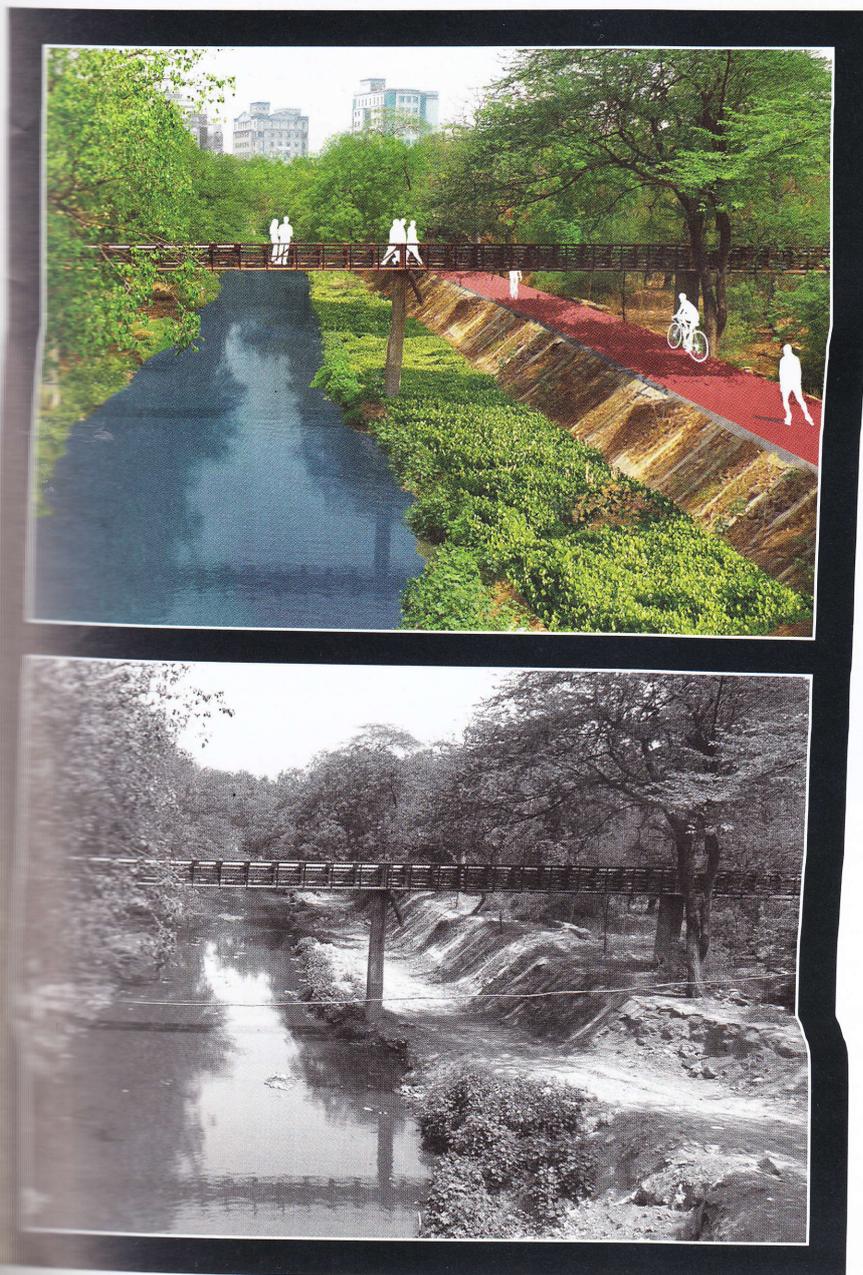




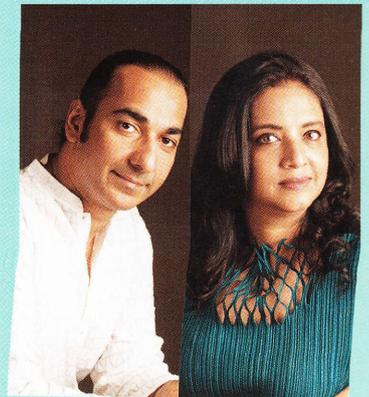
Before



After

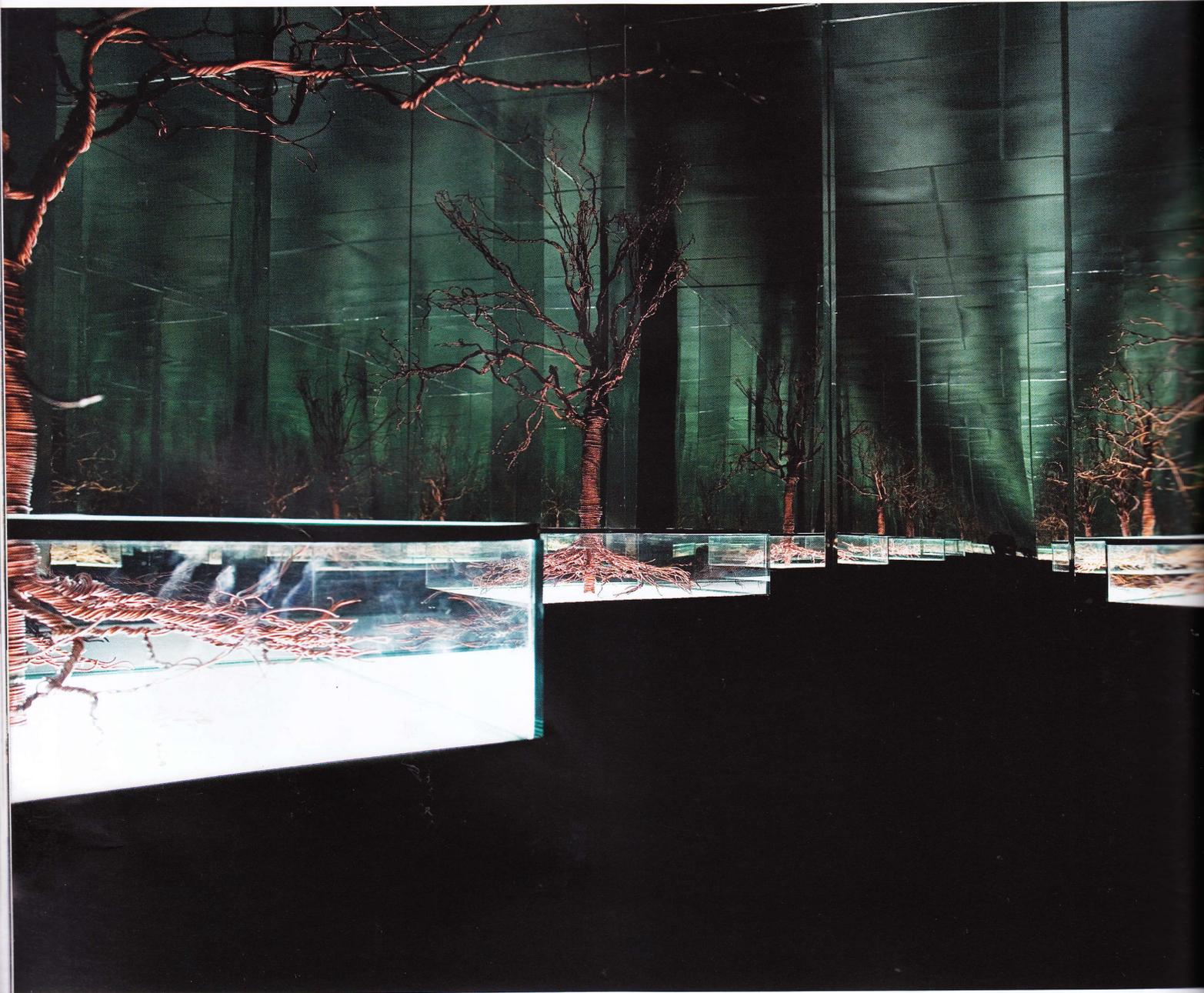


MORPHOGENESIS



Morphogenesis is one of India's leading award-winning Architecture and Urban Design practice founded by Manit Rastogi and Sonali Rastogi. They have won over 75 international and national awards, and been published in over 500 international and national publications. Morphogenesis is globally recognized for its diverse work that encompasses a range of typologies across Architecture, Interiors and Landscape Urbanism.

The firm was ranked for the sixth time running, among the Top 100 Architectural Design Firms worldwide by Building Design Magazine, UK in WA100 2017. The firm is the first Indian practice to win a WAF Award, and is a five times winner of the Indian Institute of Architects Award for Excellence in Architecture. Manit, along with Sonali Rastogi, has been awarded Laureate of the Singapore Institute of Architects-Getz Award for Emergent Architecture in Asia for having made a significant contribution in shaping and changing landscape of Asia through their vision and commitment.



Another idea is to use a system of organic reed beds and aerators to clean the sewage entering the nullahs. It is a well established system and is both environment-friendly and cheap. It will dramatically improve public health in the city as well as help replenish aquifers. It will also reduce the need to spend large sums on building sewage plants at the Yamuna.

The new network could also be used to trigger a number of new urban activities ranging from tourism to sports. For instance, some of the nullahs are 700 years old and were built to provide water to Delhi's old

cities. Thus, many of the city's famous archaeological sites are situated on the nullah network. Most major cultural venues in the city can be interconnected through this network, including Commonwealth Games venues, historical monuments, museums, theatres, stadiums, etc. to create a new walking network to drive next generation tourism.

Thus, the nullahs restoration project presents a hidden opportunity by establishing a green and sustainable network as an alternative and democratic source of engagement within the city of Delhi. 