The MANNAHATA PLATEAU presents a dynamic ecological vision of nature integrated with urbanism. The rugged original surface of Central Park is left as a regenerating wilderness, a temple to the raw power of nature. Built over it is a green mega-structure: a platform that supports a raised pantanal consisting of a patchwork of diversely diverse interconnecting environments. The bold, linear aesthetic of the plateau offers a new perspective upon the wilderness that lies partially revealed beneath its cut-surface. The 200 feet high structure is inscribed by the lines and scale of the city itself. The typical Manhattan building lot (25 x 100 ft) serves as the basic module. The street grid is castellated by being projected across the park’s surface, yet the right geometry of urban form is broken down into subsections defined by the flowing lines of nature. In addition, supporting structures containing vertical circulation are clad in glass that directs light back onto the hydric landscape below, whilst optically blurring the distinction between nature and architecture.

The plateau is intended with plants native to the region to re-establish the island of “Mannahatta” prior to the Dutch colonization. These plants form the teats of wild meadows, wetlands, wildlife refuges, and field rafts.

Sustainable agricultural zones including hydroponic farming created by Canadian farmers feature ranging gardens offset major pockets of trees and avian spaces populated by nearby bee colonies. The platforms also incorporate renewable energy sources, such as solar tiles. Windmills direct wind to prevailing winds.

The aesthetic of the plateau manifests an underlying conceptual scheme. As with Olew-de-Keer. A. Piosch Plateau, this structure allows us to envision the conception of the plateau as a patchwork of dynamic juxtapositions that foster endless new connections. Unexpected juxtapositions and exuberant circulation pathways are created between diverse zones for skiing, oases, music, visual arts, and local history, as well as activities such as riding, swimming, and ice skating. The MANNAHATA PLATEAU uses its aesthetic to bring the diverse elements of nature and urban design into dynamic coexistence. As this project matures, new organic connections and cross-pollinations will occur between the revitalized Mannahatta plateau and the unimproved wilderness of Central Park beneath, creating a new ecological future from two versions of the past.