The research begins at the Botanical Garden of Maracaibo, JBM, Venezuela, which was conceived by Roberto Barlo Marza and Leodoro Antequera. In 1963, as a Garden School for the preservation of the Tropical Dry Forest and at the First School of Horticulture in Latin America, having achieved the opening of the garden in 2013 after 20 years of closure, the first part of this article aims to frame the conversation about the botanical garden's future as a creative process. The second part presents the five main long 5 de Julio Avenue Landscape Master Plan. In Maracaibo, as a hypothetical expansion of the JBM. Finally, the article delves into the essence of a cultural landscape preservation method that embraces rigorous historic analysis, as well as prospective engagements.

The Botanical Garden as a creative process

One of the key unique characteristics of the JBM is the singularity of research and action. The garden school was designed to be built while teaching its construct to do it. At the JBM, the students embarked on expeditions, collected plants and learned about taxonomy, phylogeny, aesthetic qualities, etc., to later construct the gardens and attend on-site classes with Bula Marza and Antequera. The opening ceremony of the JBM was also the consecration of the first present of Landscape Horticulturists of Latin America. Such pedagogical mission is expressed in the idea through three key strategies: 1. a garden museum designed to reproduce the logic of the regional topography, ranging from the desert to the water habitats displaying differentiated collections of native and exotic species capable of adapting to new environmental conditions; 2. water/water systems designed to follow the natural topography and serve as oecologic connectors, similarly to water intake functions in a region that hosts the largest lakes in Latin America, the Maracaibo lake, a series of botanical space-making contractions situated across the 265 acres of the JBM, in order to hub exhibitions of endangered local species and safe spaces for civic encounter and artistic production. In the context of such conjunction between manual logics and local relationships, a double engine energy. First, there is the question of what preservation means in creating a living landscape: 3. original conditions. What kind of an 'original condition' is possible when dealing with a relict environment? Can one instead imagine a resting landscape? Can one instead imagine a resting landscape, which seeks not to restore an object, but rather to steer the essence of a changing, human experience supported by strategic practices? Finally, there is a chance to delve into the complexities of a historical, multiscale, and elliptical spatial network among the territory, the botanical garden, and the urban landscape. In this regard, such processes propose a process of preservation, so to recover an impossible past, rather than as the expression and adaptation of a unique landscape system to the larger territorial scale.

The Botanical Garden towards the urban landscape

The园's phytogeographic structure and aquatic transitions into urban learning adventures that takes citizens from the most and life zones at the highest elevation of the city (where the central part of the city is precisely the plan as a dry forest reserve) through the different native forests and towards the lake's waterfront at sea level, in correspondence to the geotechnical characteristics of each area. 4. The continuous water armature becomes a long support system and an experimental device to connect the native forests. The plan proposes a water-based continuity from the highest to the lowest elevations along the avenue, through three types of relationships: constant water presence in the lake and the rivers, intermittence moving in topographical depressions and flooding areas, and the possible presence of water in subterranean drainage systems and aquifers. 5. The network of botanical centralities where the water armature occupy more spaces and functions as outdoor classrooms. The plan proposes a sequence of oases for artistic-botanic educational program. While observing the geological and hydrological characteristics of the land, the oasis function as transition points between different kinds of native forest. The oases simultaneously contribute to the goals of memorability and sustainability.

Finally, the article goes back to the preservation of the JBM as transformation beyond the garden's envelope. In this sense, the case study has the potential to serve in similar situations by delivering a message of resilience and adaptation, one that emerges from a garden school that builds itself, where practice is research and where endurance is the celebration of the constantly transforming landscape.
Why Tasting the Landscape for the IFLA World Congress 2016?

Tasting the Landscape calls for the interpretation of the landscape project as an expression of a greater consciousness of the transformation processes and as an opportunity to improve the places where populations carry out their life.

Tasting the Landscape implies an attention given to the sensorial dimension of a place, a consideration of slowness as a value: it urges us to not forget the emotional and perceptive aspects as creative agents for the project.

Tasting the Landscape interprets the landscape project as an instrument that produces quality, wellness and resources focusing on the common good, as well as the central role of the landscape professional in the regeneration and reconfiguration of places.

All contributions submitted have been divided into four thematic lines investigating some emerging questions in the practice of landscape architecture:

1. Sharing Landscapes
2. Connected Landscapes
3. Layered Landscapes
4. Inspiring Landscapes

The Congress is meant to constitute a privileged field for confrontation and discussion on the issues related to the peri-urban landscape, areas where different practices, lifestyles and forms of change meet and collide. These are the sites where a good part of the sustainability challenge is playing out for the city of the new millennium.