

## The Tara Pool and Lake

The design of the upper lake, lower lake and connecting stream

The plan illustrates a landscape design for a water feature system. It shows a network of streams and lakes connected by a central channel. Key features include:
 

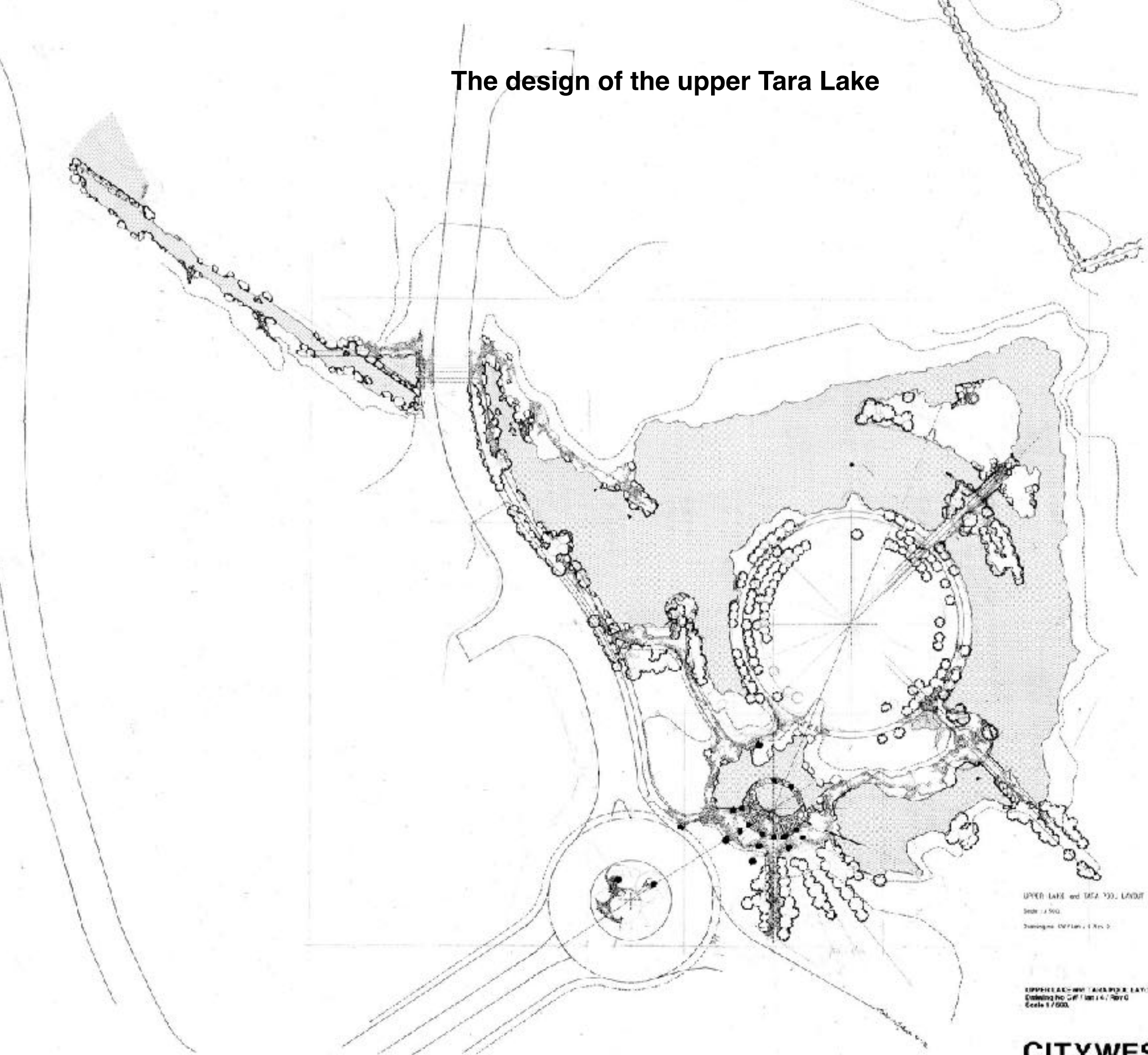
- Upper Lake:** Located in the upper right portion of the plan, characterized by irregular, organic shapes.
- Lower Lake:** Situated in the lower right, featuring a more circular, contained shape.
- Connecting Stream:** A central channel that flows from the upper lake towards the lower lake, lined with a dense row of trees.
- Streams and Channels:** Several smaller streams and channels branch off from the main connecting stream, some flowing into the upper lake and others into the lower lake.
- Topography:** Contour lines are drawn across the plan to indicate elevation changes and the natural flow of water.
- Property and Infrastructure:** The plan shows existing and proposed property boundaries, roads, and parking areas, integrating the water features into the overall site layout.
- North Arrow:** A simple north arrow is positioned in the upper left corner to provide orientation.

The concept of the landscape was to create a natural setting based on that found in the west of Ireland, but at a location with the logistical advantages of the capital city of Dublin . Within 3 months of planning permission seventy thousand sapling trees were planted as an on site nursery, these trees were then lifted and transplanted over a ten year period. This permitted the opportunity to create an immediately mature setting for the buildings and minimum cost and loss.

DRAWING BY EMBROIDERED MIDDLE PLAN  
Drawing No. CEF 001-8 / Rev. 2  
Scale 1 : 1000

**CITYWEST**

## The design of the upper Tara Lake



UPPER LAKE and TARA POND LAYOUT  
Scale 1:500  
Drawing No. 001/100, 1/100

UPPER LAKE and TARA POND LAYOUT  
Drawing No. 001/100, 1/100  
Scale 1:500

**CITYWEST**

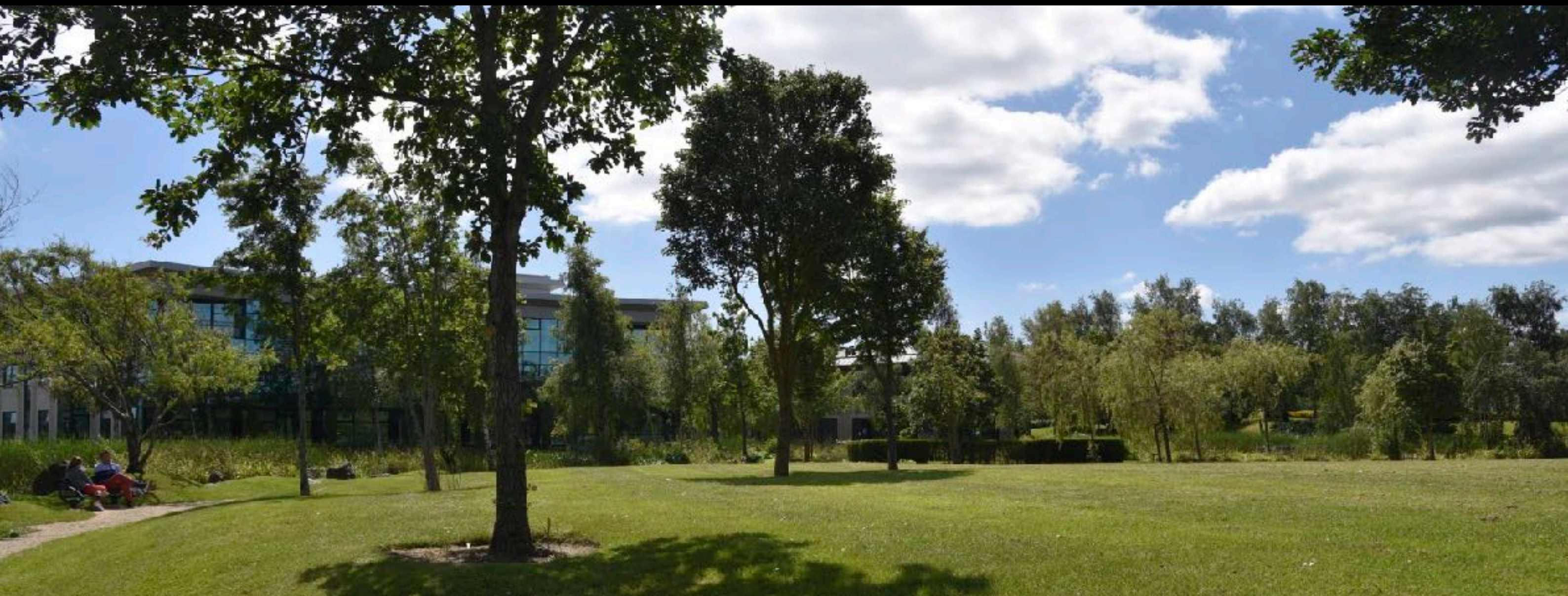
**At the centre of Citywest lies the Tara Pool and Lake, over time it is designed to be encircled by a crescent of buildings.**



**Tara Lake overlooked by Fidelity and the phased development of the crescent**



Tara Lake in autumn



**The Central Green within the Tara Lake.**

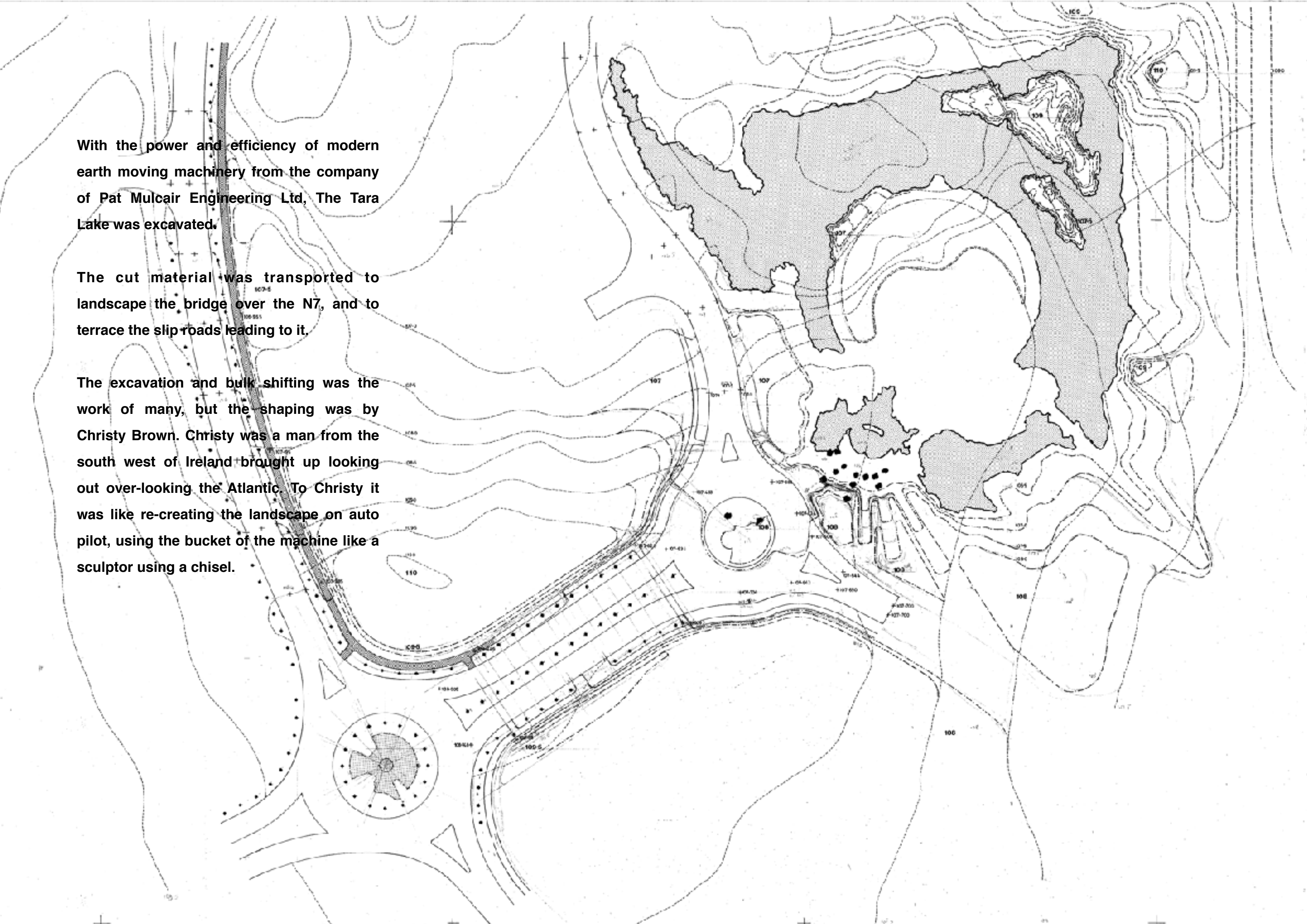


Reflections of a summer day at Tara Lake capturing the ever-changing Irish landscape.

With the power and efficiency of modern earth moving machinery from the company of Pat Mulcair Engineering Ltd, The Tara Lake was excavated.

The cut material was transported to landscape the bridge over the N7, and to terrace the slip roads leading to it.

The excavation and bulk shifting was the work of many, but the shaping was by Christy Brown. Christy was a man from the south west of Ireland brought up looking out over-looking the Atlantic. To Christy it was like re-creating the landscape on auto pilot, using the bucket of the machine like a sculptor using a chisel.

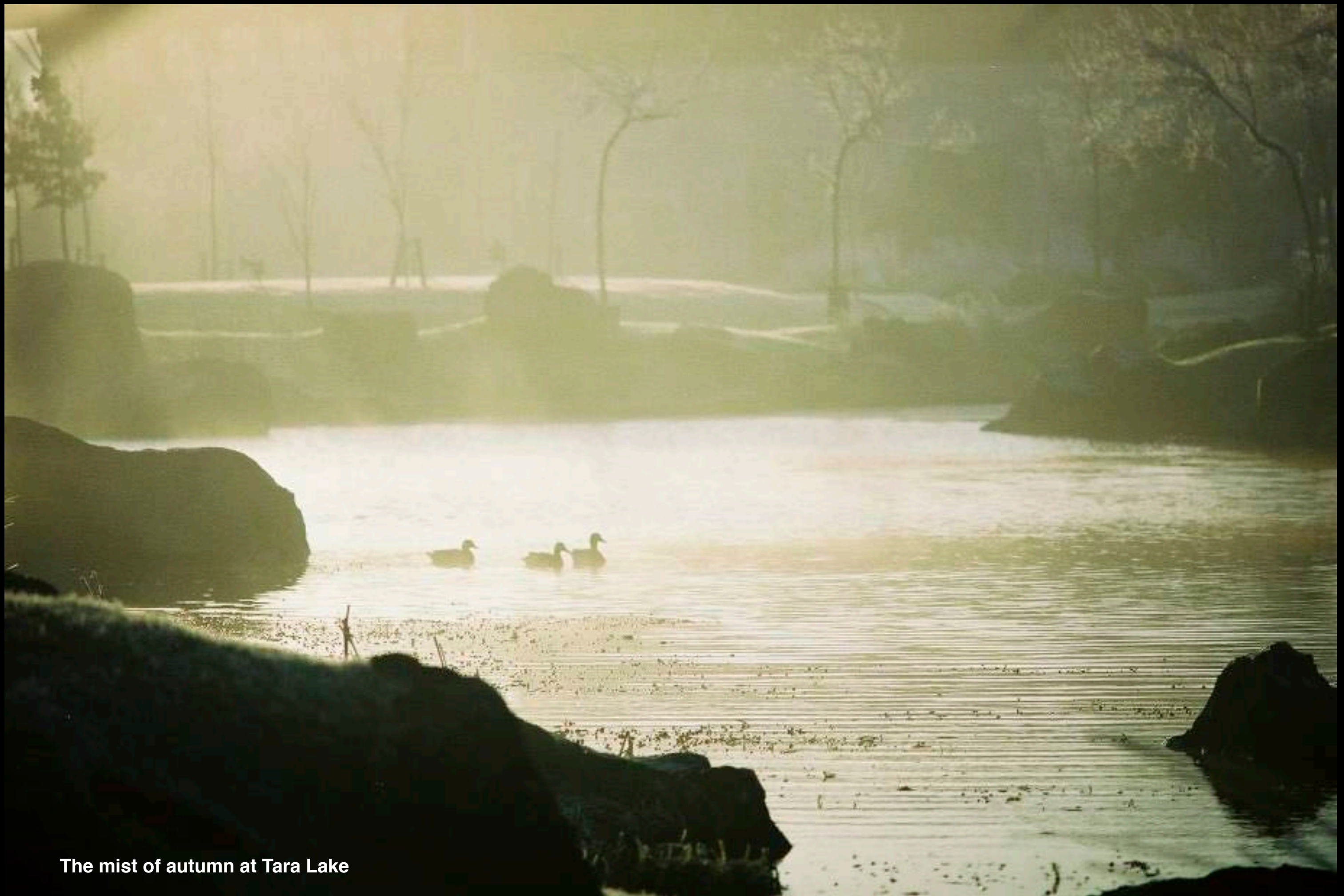




Nature willing and playing its part, the landscape concept at Citywest may on occasion re-create a landscape that has similar qualities to those rural places which inspired the artists' imagination in the past.

It is the reversal of the process through design to create an atmosphere, in effect an outdoor theatre, similar to that which encouraged the Irish myths and poetry as articulated in the past by the Bard (poet, Seanchaidhe (storyteller) and Oirfididh (musician).

It happens occasionally as with these pictures of the Tara Lake looking through the mist, the frost and at night



The mist of autumn at Tara Lake

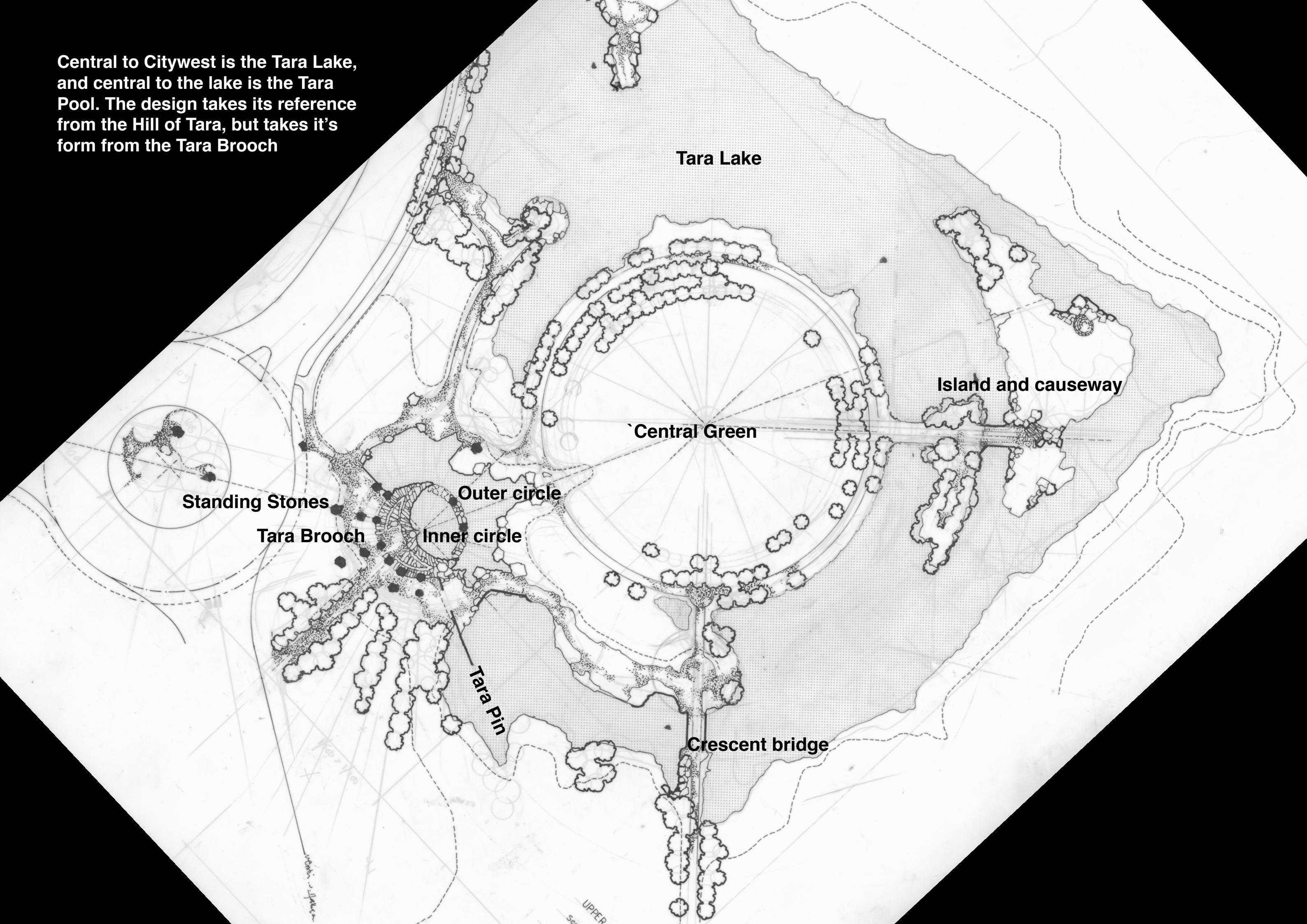


**The frost of winter at Tara Lake**

Resident Swan at night in the Tara Lake



Central to Citywest is the Tara Lake, and central to the lake is the Tara Pool. The design takes its reference from the Hill of Tara, but takes its form from the Tara Brooch



Tara Lake

Island and causeway

Central Green

Standing Stones

Outer circle

Tara Brooch

Inner circle

Tara Pin

Crescent bridge

UPPER

Scale

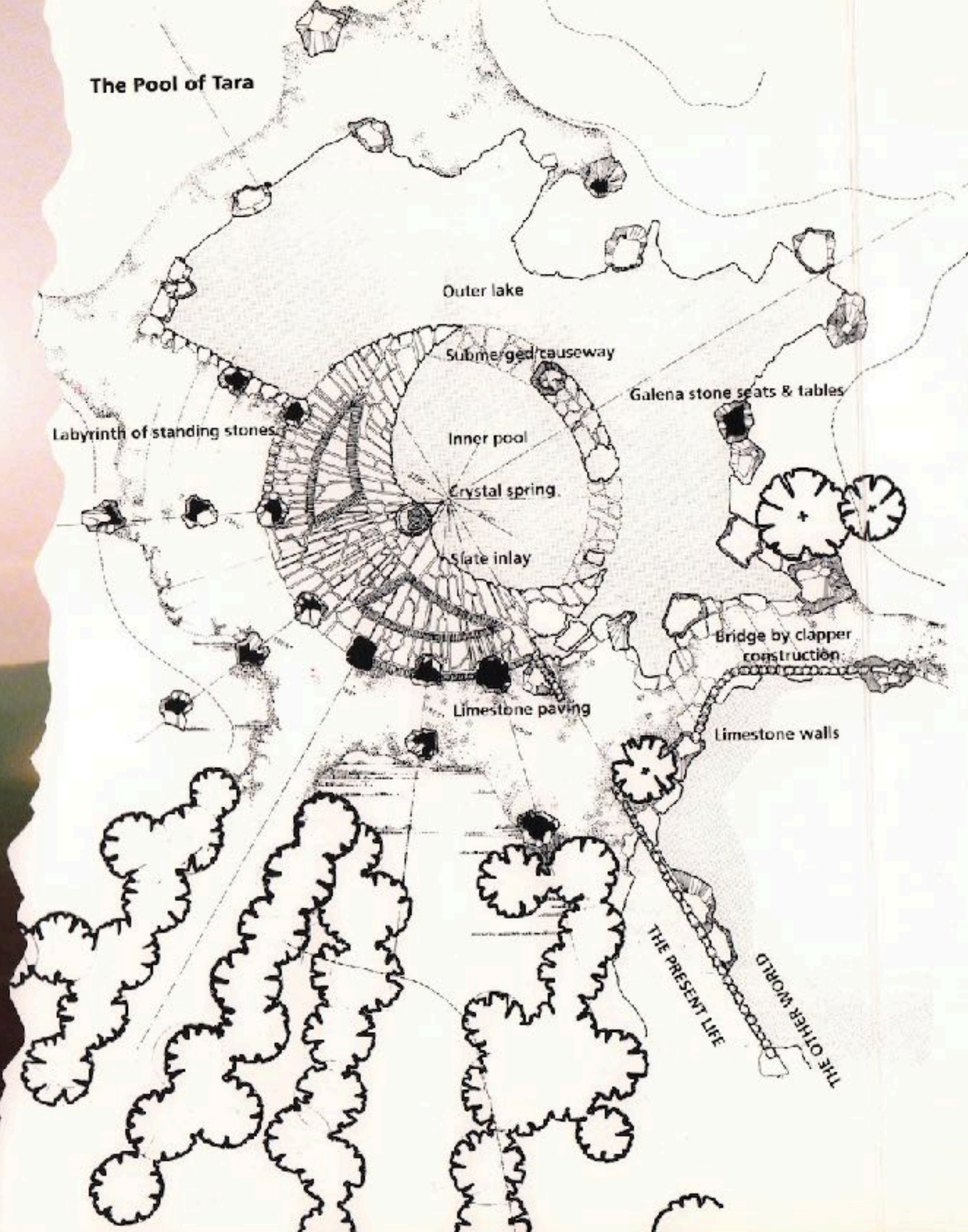
## The Pool of Tara

The landscape concept of Citywest perceives nature as an art form, achieved by the artistic and poetic fusion of the literary landscape and culture of Ireland, to form an image rich in its subtleties, of many layers of culture, built with simplicity of stone, water, landform and woodland.

The two interlocking circles of stone and water are an artistic and cultural interpretation based on the ancient site of Tara in County Meath. Tara, or Teamhair in Irish, was an ancient burial site from the second millennium BC and the centre of the high kingship in early medieval Ireland. The name is derived from the genitive "Teamhrach" which meant spectacle.

The entrance into the two interlocking circles is through a labyrinth of giant stones, the design of which draws its inspiration from single standing stones or monoliths called "gallan" in Irish, which were erected from the Neolithic period when the great stone tombs were built. At the ancient seat of Tara one of the most powerful stones of Ireland is the "Lia Fail" or Stone of Destiny which symbolized kingship, when the test of a true king was to be able to force two standing stones to part and to make the Lia Fail cry out under the wheel of a chariot.

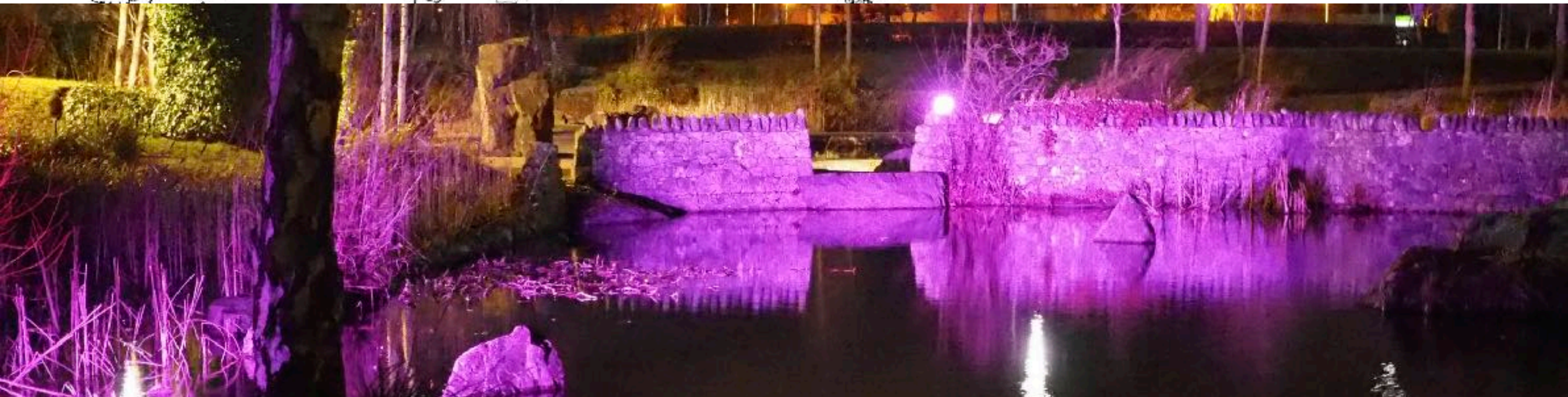
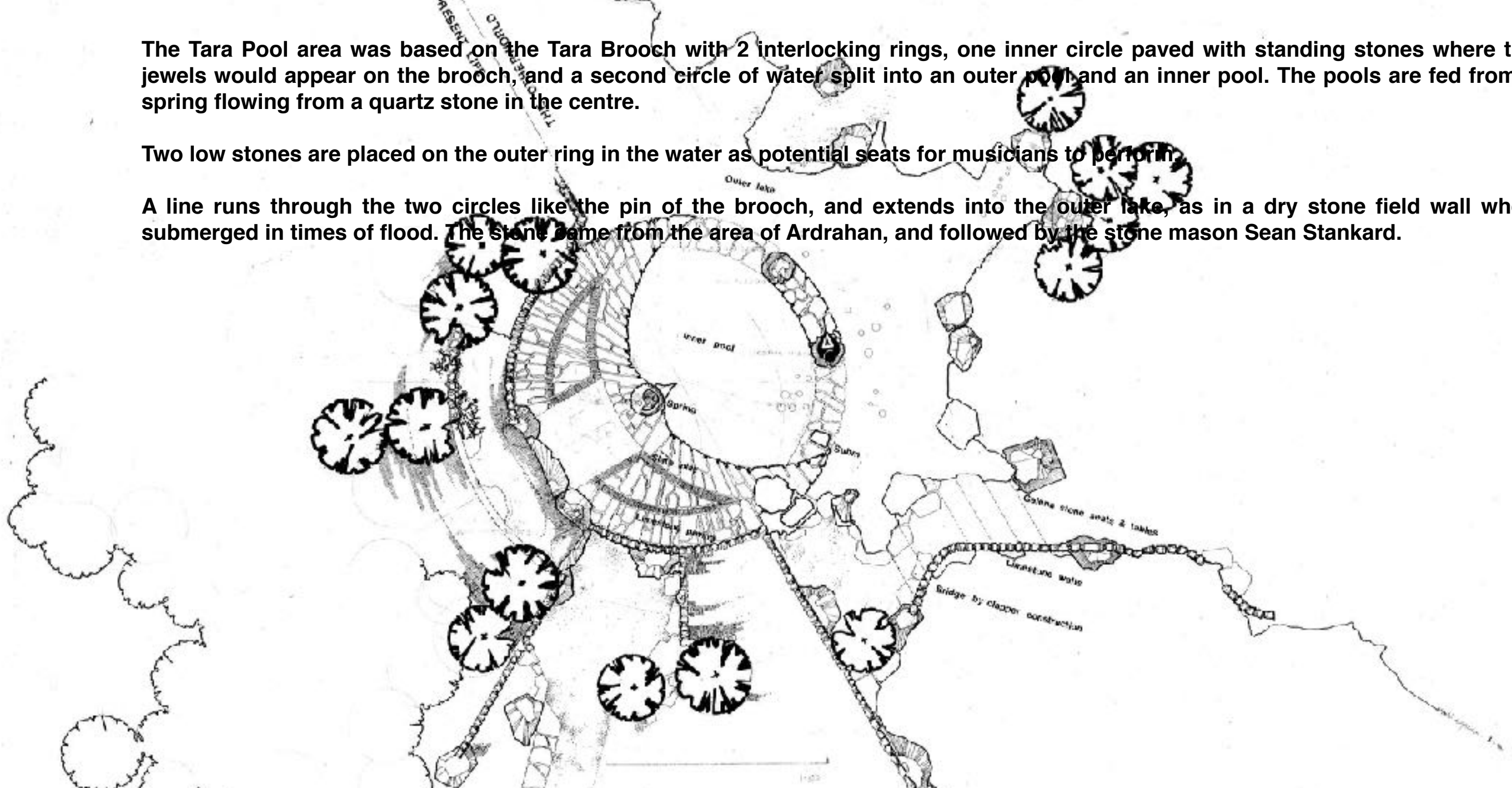
At the centre of the circles is a quartz crystal spring which feeds the large and reflective sheets of water that capture the image of the ever-changing sky.

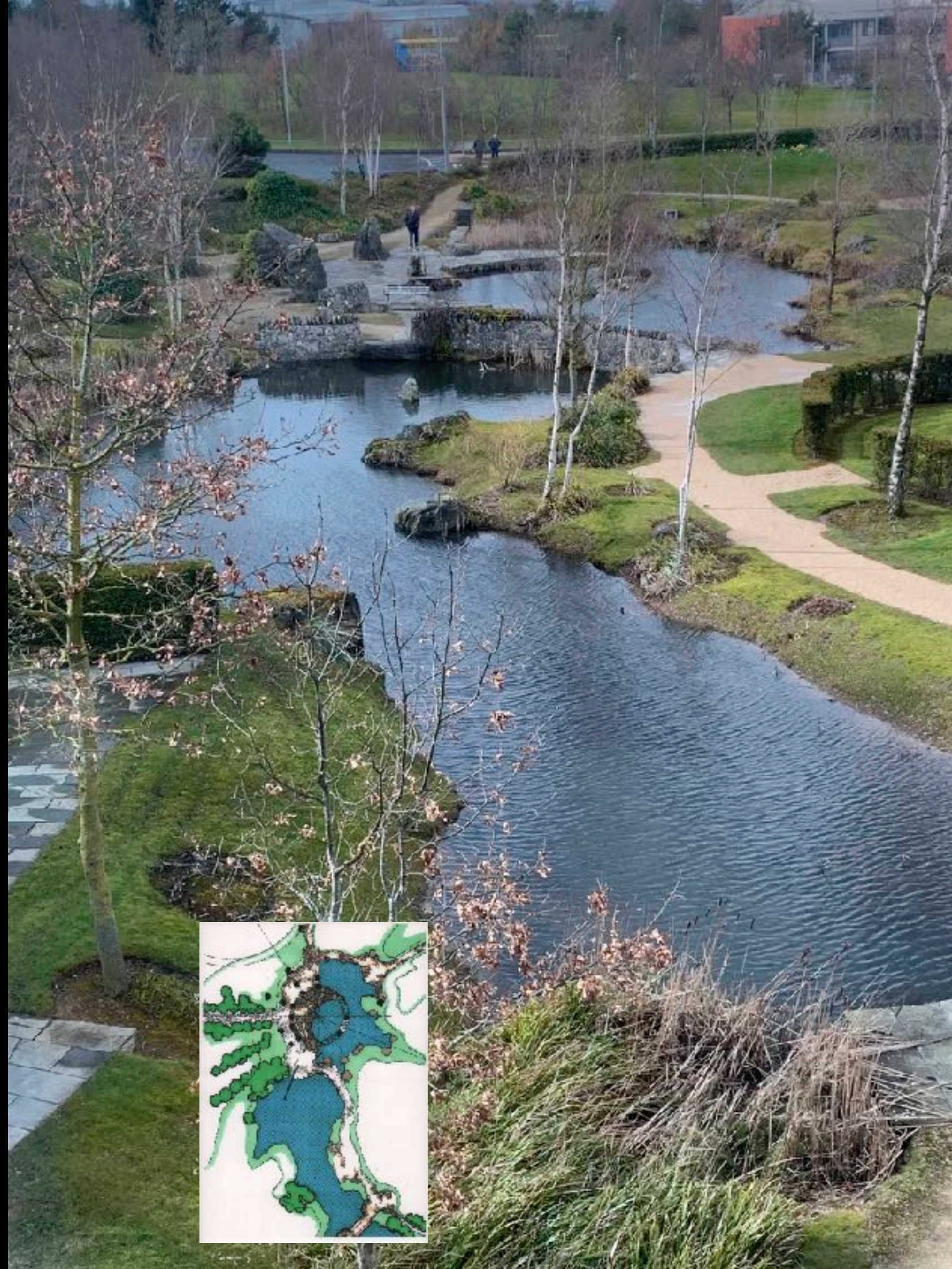


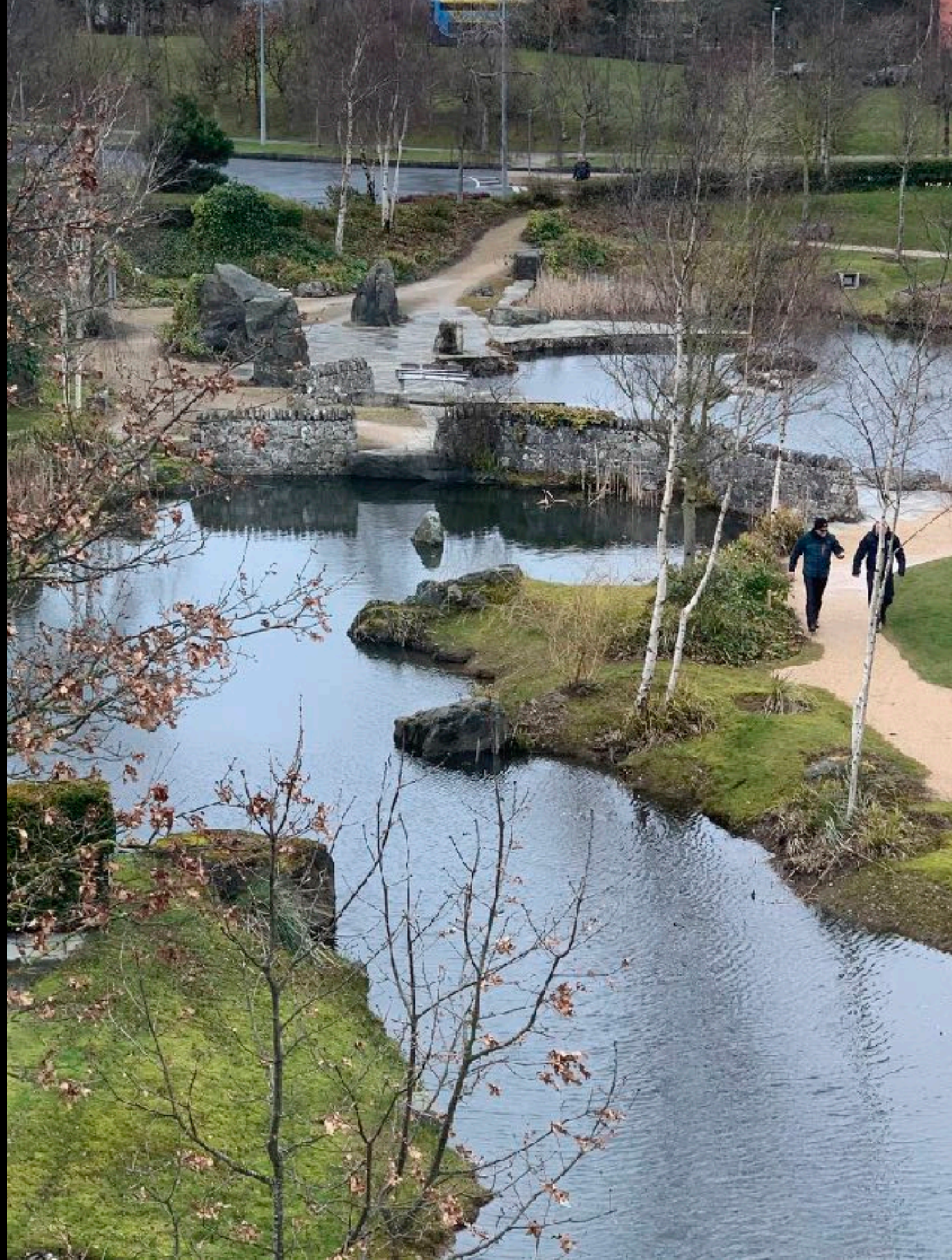
The Tara Pool area was based on the Tara Brooch with 2 interlocking rings, one inner circle paved with standing stones where the jewels would appear on the brooch, and a second circle of water split into an outer pool and an inner pool. The pools are fed from a spring flowing from a quartz stone in the centre.

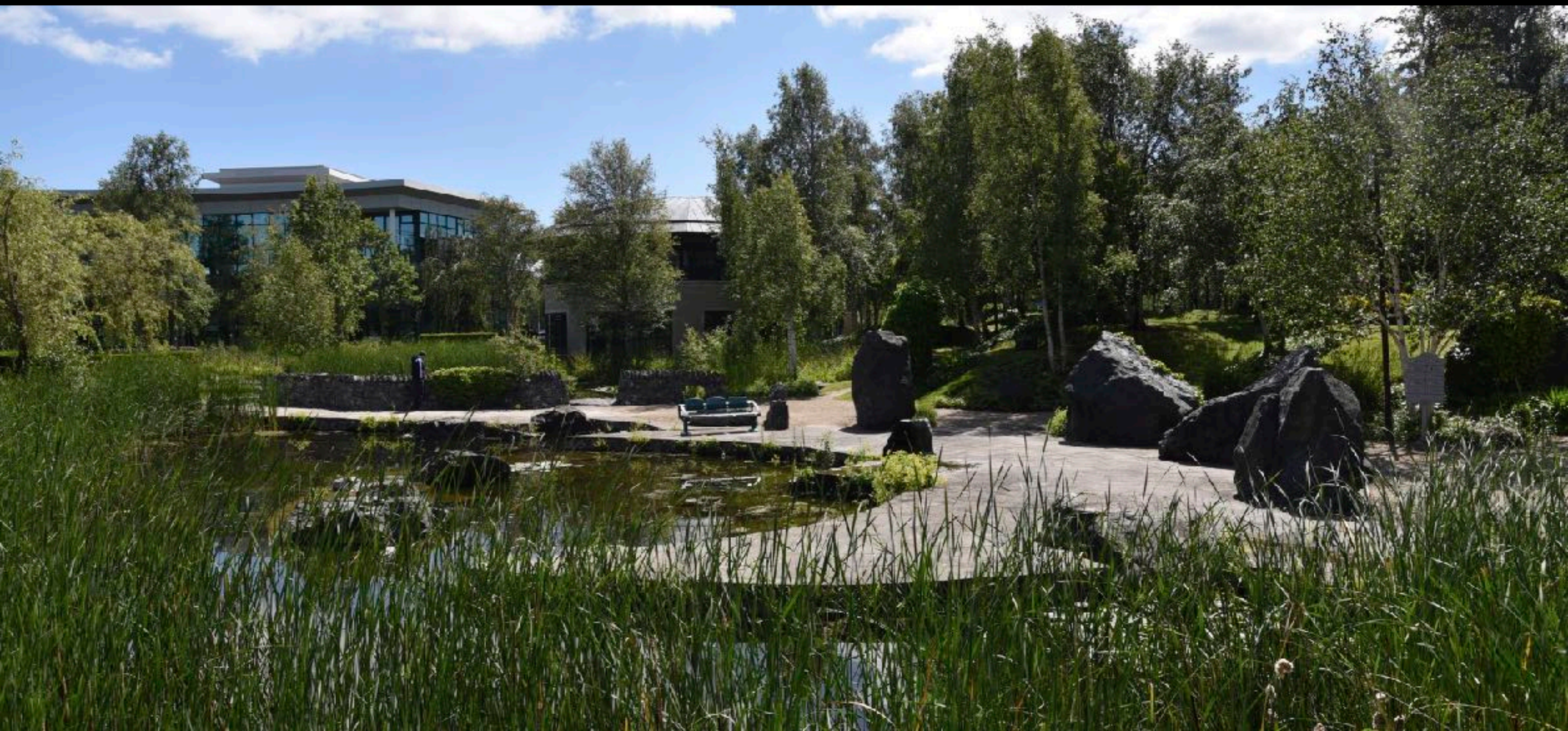
Two low stones are placed on the outer ring in the water as potential seats for musicians to perform.

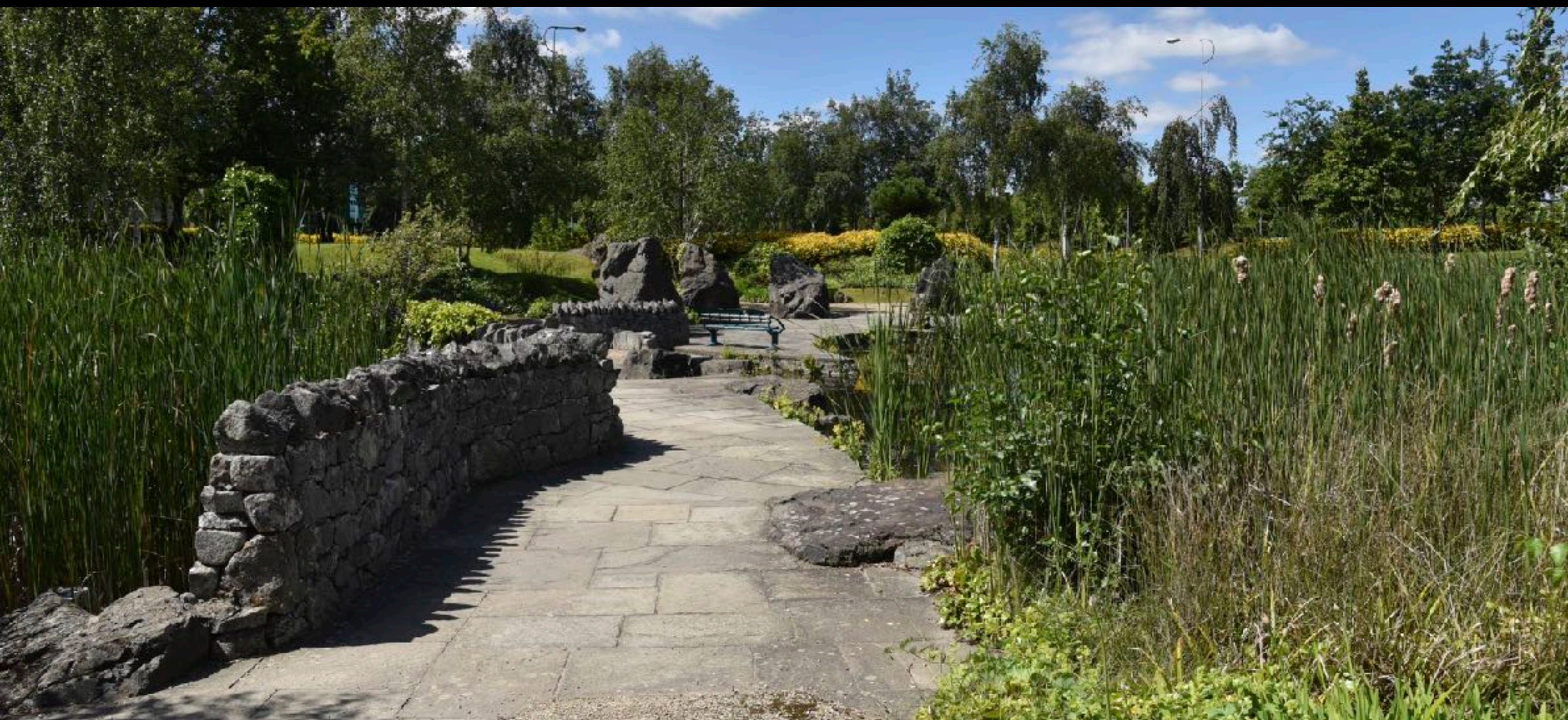
A line runs through the two circles like the pin of the brooch, and extends into the outer lake, as in a dry stone field wall when submerged in times of flood. The stone came from the area of Ardahan, and followed by the stone mason Sean Stankard.













**“An architecture in league with the stones of the field.” Frank Lloyd Wright.**





**“Our legends are always associated with places, and not merely every mountain and valley, but every strange stone and little coppice has its legend, preserved in written or unwritten tradition.” AE Russell**



# Island and causeway



ISLAND and CAUSEWAY  
Drawing No. C-11-100  
Scale 1:100

ISLAND and CAUSEWAY  
Drawing No. C-11-100  
Scale 1:100

**CITYWEST**



Long view of the island across the lake





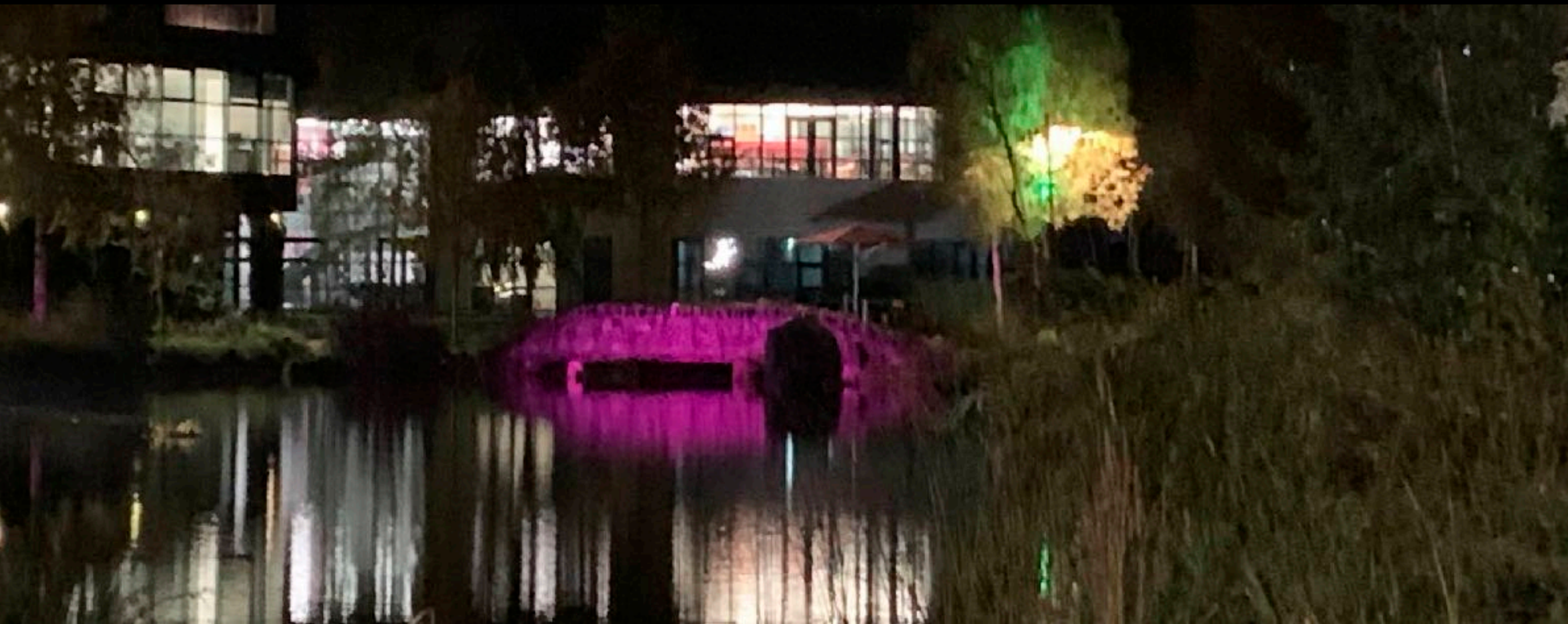




View of the island of the lake and resident swan at night







Highlight and reflections of colour



Highlight and reflections of colour



**Highlight and reflections of colour across the lake by the island**



Places to rest, to read, to meet, to lunch or to just watch the day go by.







