

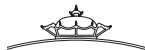
An aerial photograph of a city landscape. The upper half of the image shows a dense urban area with numerous tall, modern buildings, many of which are colored in shades of green and blue. A winding road or path cuts through the city. The lower half of the image shows a lush green area with many trees and a golf course. A small body of water is visible in the bottom left corner. The overall scene is a mix of urban development and natural green space.

# 10

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## *Urban Design Strategy*





Chapter 10  
**URBAN DESIGN  
STRATEGY**

**Introduction**

**Aims and Objectives**

**The Approach**

## 10.1. Introduction

The need of a Capital City with unique identity and inherited character emerged under problem identification. Hence, the first strategic goal was recognized to initiate the requirement. Consequently, 'The Urban Design strategy' is prepared to present the initiatives identified under the strategic goal.

### 10.1.1. Aims and Objectives

*'The Ambience of a Capital City with a unique Identity and Inherited Character'*

In order to achieve the strategic goal, three objectives are derived. They are,

**Objective 1.1** — *To physically establish the elements of trias politica principle model within the identified main axial line by 2030*

**Objective 1.2** — *To create a center within 1.5 km radius from the Parliament area which will be branded as "Centre" by 2030*

**Objective 1.3** — *To establish transitional capital hierarchy as citadel, Inner City and Outer City through landscape and an Urban Design approach by 2030*

### 10.1.2. The Approach

To fulfill the mentioned objectives, five design principles which are most commonly practiced in the planning world are recognized. These design principles have become a norm as cities which followed them have successfully achieved their plans for capital cities. They are,

1. **Axis / Axes** —  
*Orientation and the other elements in appropriate locations*
2. **Hierarchy** —  
*The landmark, nodes and the pathways with clear hierarchy*
3. **Enclosure** — *Naturally or physically bounded space*
4. **Transitions** —  
*Entrances to different entities from outer sphere to inner sphere*
5. **Center/s** — *A strong and legible center*

## 10.2. Scope

- *Rearrangement of City Layout based on five Urban Design Principles (Urban Design in City Scale)*
- *Introduce Local Scale Design guidelines using regulation guidelines participatory approaches*

## 10.3. Strategic Interventions in Urban Design Strategy

**Strategic Intervention 1:** *Create the Axes/ Axial*

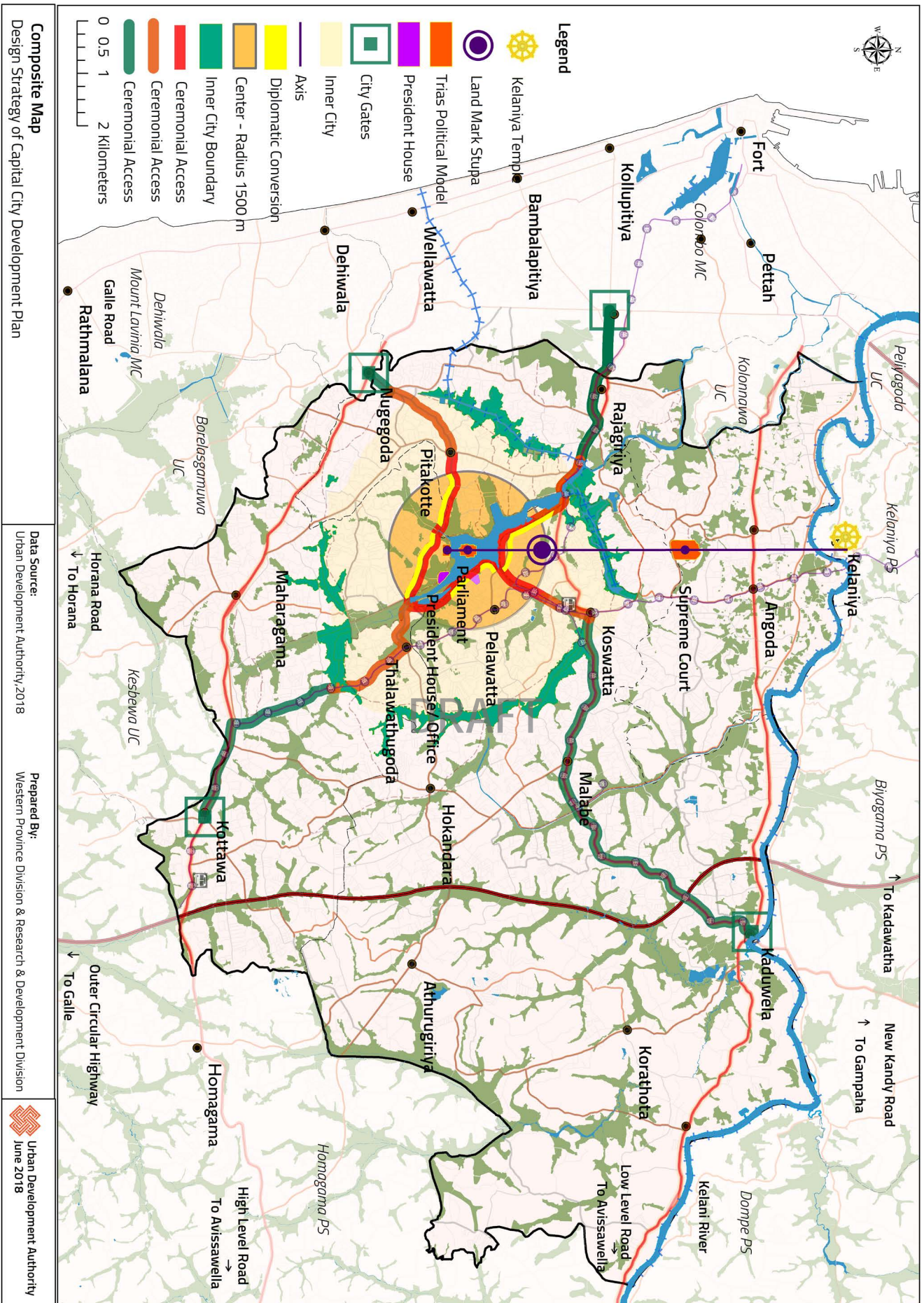
**Strategic Intervention 2:** *Create Hierarchy/ Transition*

**Strategic Intervention 3:** *Create Enclosure*

**Strategic Intervention 4:** *Create the Center*

The revealed principles can be applied to achieve Sri Lanka's capital city design goal as the setting of the city is already equipped with many features which can guide the initiatives. For instance,

- *The principle of Center currently exists, as the location of the parliament gives the feeling of a strong and legible center to the dwellers and visitors. On the other hand, a visibility analysis done by the Urban Development Authority identified that the area of 1.5 km around the Parliament is regulated to control height and density. This point too provides evidence for the application of the principle of Centre.*
- *The Parliament and Kelaniya Raja Maha Vihara is located within an imaginary axel. Hence, the principle of Axel is available.*
- *The centre of the capital land is naturally enclosed with a wetland feature. It means that, the principle of Enclosure exists.*
- *For the above reason, the mentioned forcing factors can be acknowledged to build- up the Concept of the Design Strategy*



**Map 10.1: composite Map of Urban Design Strategy**  
Source: Western Province Division and Research & Development Division, UDA 2018



## Chapter 10 URBAN DESIGN STRATEGY

### Strategic Interventions in Urban Design Strategy

### Strategic Projects in Urban Design Strategy

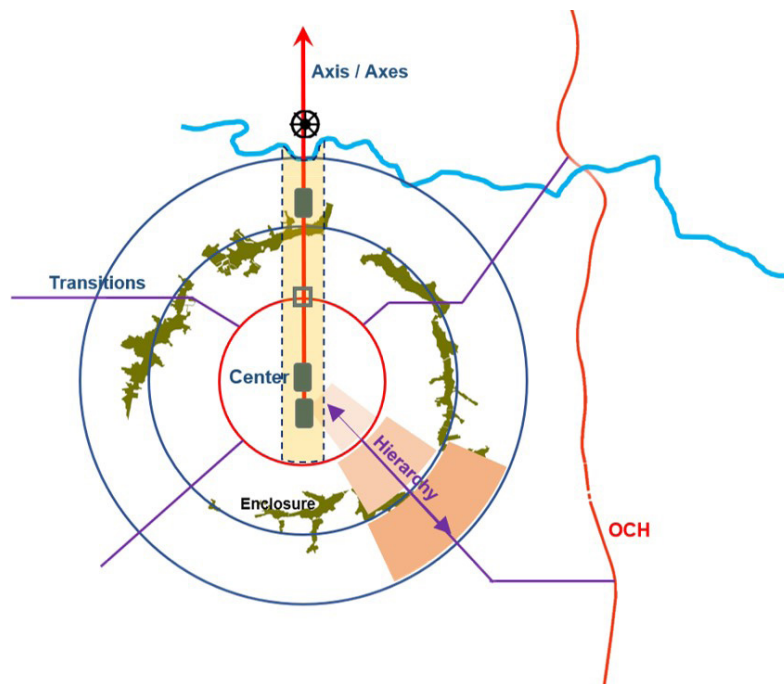


Figure 10.1: Design Interventions in the Capital City Plan

Source: Western Province Division and Research & Development Division, UDA 2018

## 10.4. Strategic Projects in Urban Design Strategy

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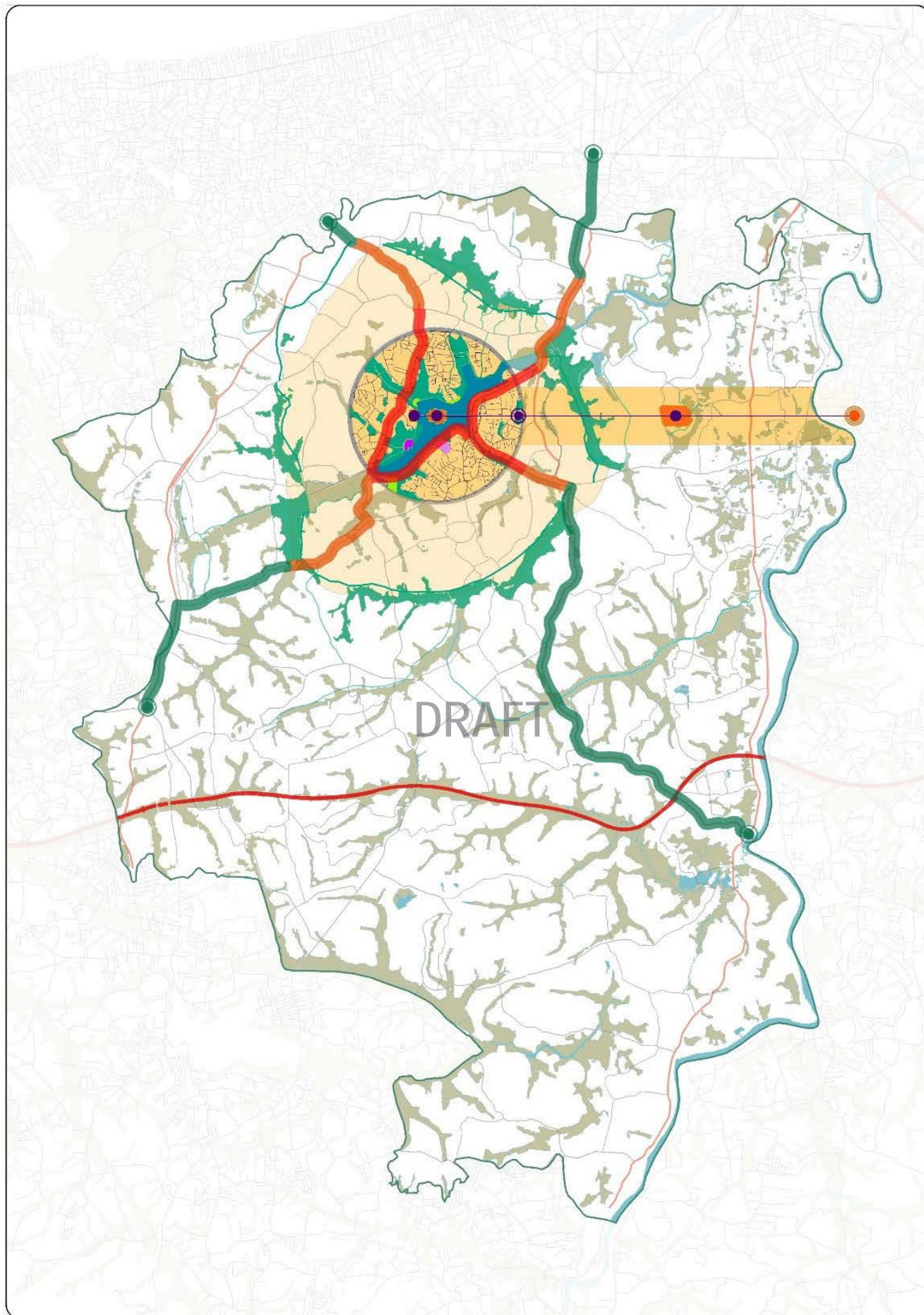
### Strategic Intervention 1: Axis/ Axel

This principle explains about the orientation of features and the other elements in appropriate locations. Accordingly, the plan proposes feasible interventions as below.

- *Capital valley Establishment*

#### Physically establish the Trias Political Principle Model

Taking design concept into concern, the plan proposes to relocate the legislative, the executive and the judicial in one hypothetical line. The main objective is to brand this special feature in the capital city citadel area.



**Map 10.2: Axial Line in Capital City Plan**  
**Source:** Western Province Division and Research & Development Division, UDA 2018

## Chapter 10 URBAN DESIGN STRATEGY

### Strategic Projects in Urban Design Strategy

#### Strategic Project 01: Relocate the Supreme Court to the Present IDH Land

15 Acre Land with relevant required facilities

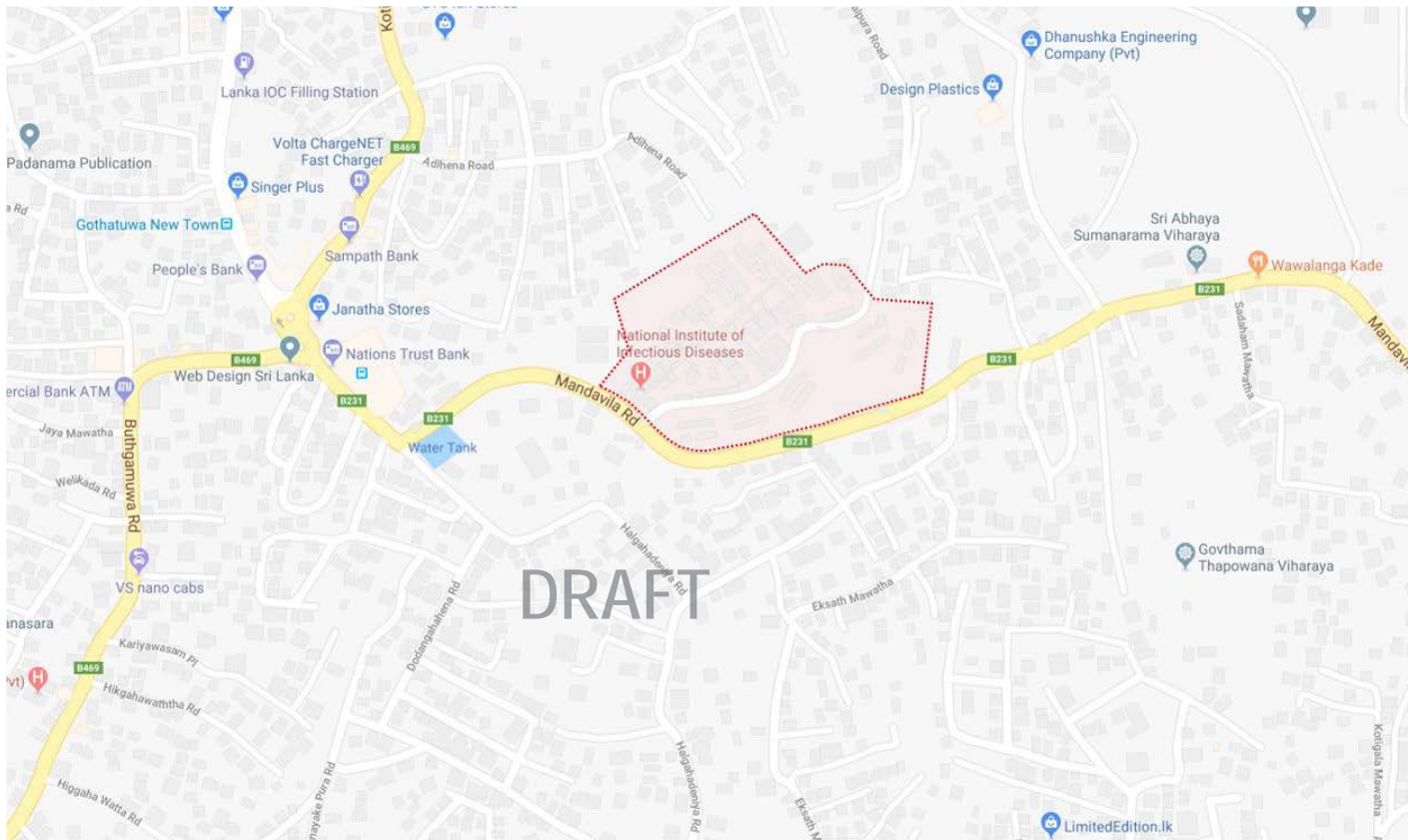


Figure 10.2: Strategy 1: Supreme Court relocation Project

Source: Western Province Division and Research & Development Division, UDA 2018





### Strategic Project 02: Relocate the Presidents House/Office to the rear side of the Parliament



Figure 10.3: Strategy 2:Relocation of the President House /Office Strategy  
Source: Western Province Division and Research & Development Division, UDA 2018

### Strategic Project 03: City Land Mark Establishment

Apart from the establishment of main power pillars, it is imperative to establish a significant landmark along the proposed capital valley to represent the main religion of the country. In order to do so, the vacant land adjacent to the Agricultural Department in Battaramulla is identified which is located along the imaginary axis. However, the President's Secretariat Office has also recognized the particular land to develop as a Buddhist Cultural Centre. Hence, the plan proposes to construct the Buddhist Cultural Centre under the visibility analysis requirements and establish a stupa as the iconic landmark which denotes the main religion of the country on top of it to fulfill both requirements. Further, this landmark is expected to be completed with unique architectural features and modern technology.



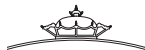


Figure 10.4: Strategy 3: City Land mark Establishment

Source: Western Province Division and Research & Development Division, UDA 2018

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## Chapter 10 URBAN DESIGN STRATEGY

### Strategic Projects in Urban Design Strategy



Figure 10.5: 3D Model Designs for Axis Line

Source: Western Province Division and Research & Development Division, UDA 2018

### Strategic Intervention 2: Hierarchy / Transition

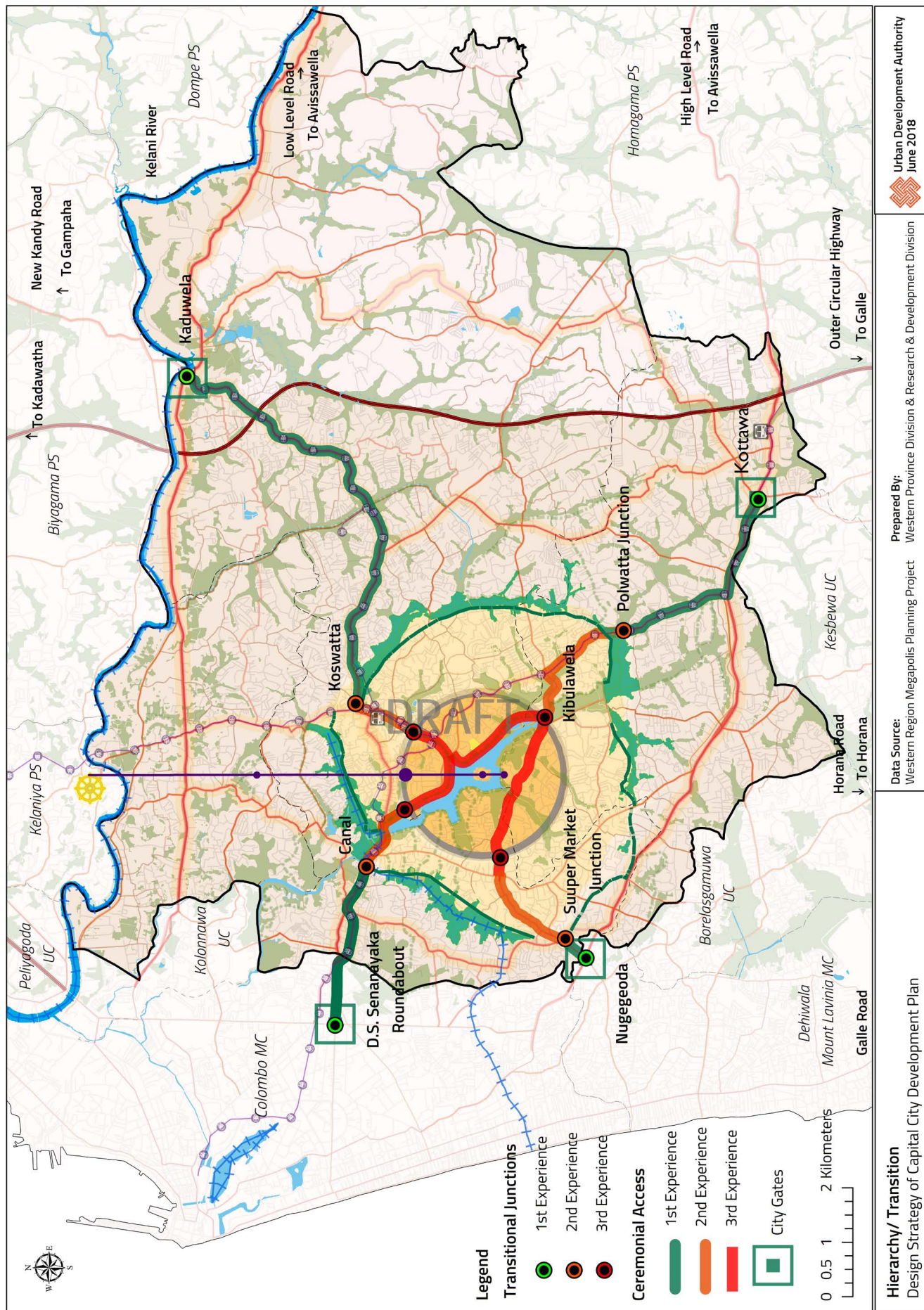
The urban form should be changed in a way to offer the commuters different feelings when moving towards the Capital City. The identified main gates and routes are proposed to transform into Corridor- Ceremonial Access development in an exceptional approach. The initiative aims to improve the transition and hierarchy along the ceremonial access. They are as below.

#### Strategic Project 4: Ceremonial Access Development

##### Landscape improvement along the Ceremonial Accesses

The landscape along the ceremonial access is proposed to be improved in a manner to convey the feeling that a sightseer passes the Outer City, Inner City and Citadel. Trees with different colour codes is the best alternative to convey such impression. The tree planting should be done along the Ceremonial Access and change at Main Corridor Gates.





Map 10.3: Hierarchy level in Capital City

Source: Western Province Division and Research & Development Division, UDA 2018



### Strategic Project 06: Create the Proposed Urban Form along the Ceremonial Accesses

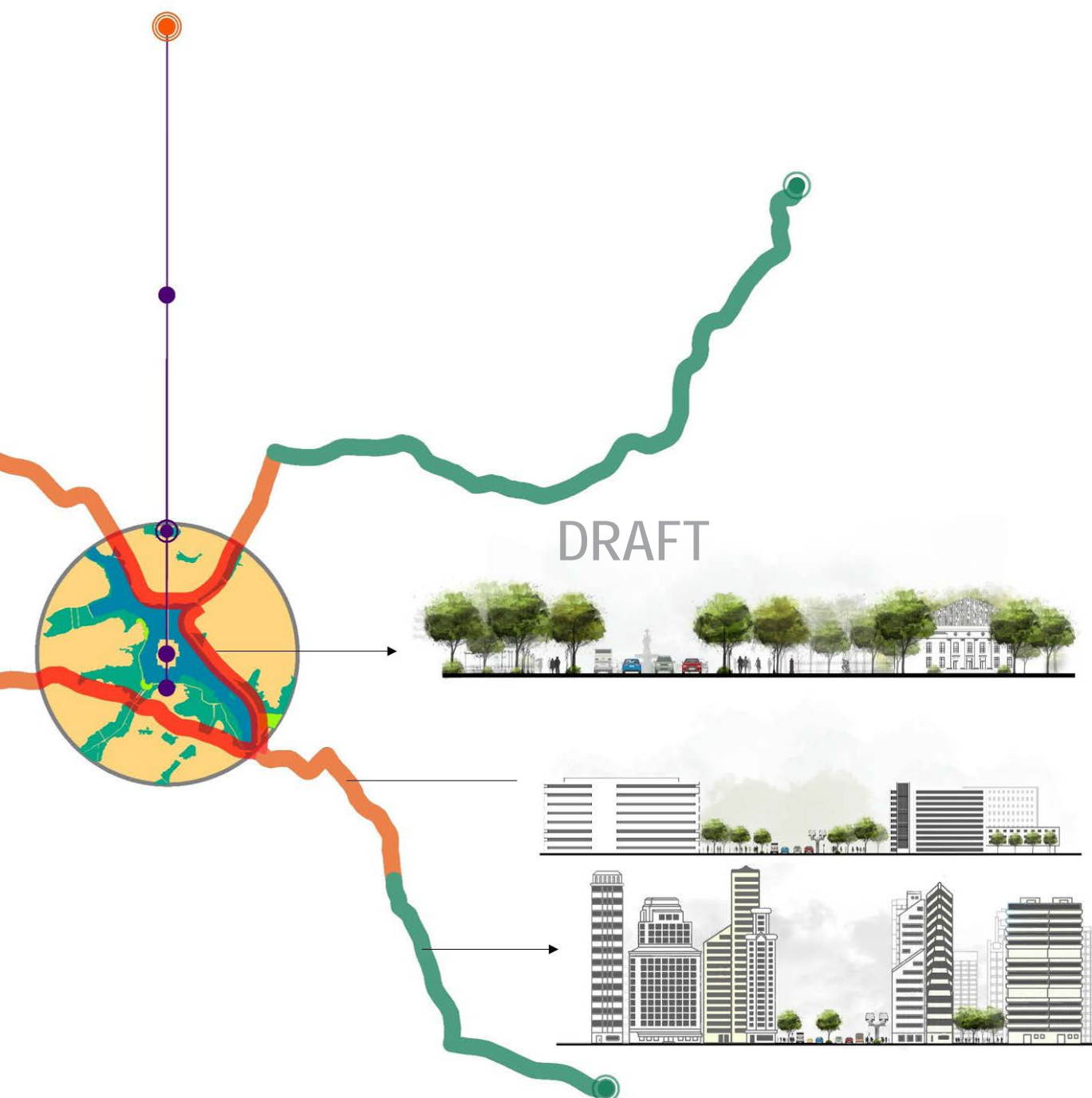


Figure 10.6: Urban Form Creation along the Ceremonial Access

Source: Western Province Division and Research & Development Division, UDA 2018





Figure 10.7: Urban Form in Capital City

Source: Western Province Division and Research & Development Division, UDA 2018



## Chapter 10 URBAN DESIGN STRATEGY

### Strategic Projects in Urban Design Strategy

**The Outer City** — This city area would consist of high-rise buildings in order to cater a high density. It will function independently in almost every way. Most importantly, it will act as the main commercial and office space provider and the employment generator. Further, the Knowledge City is also proposed to be established within the area. Representing the modern architecture and various commercial value-added Structures

*Kottawa-Inner Wetland boundry along the Borella – Kottawa Road  
Nugegoda Fly Over Junction to Nugegoda Supermarket Junction  
D. S Senanayake Roundabout to Rajagiriya Junction  
Kaduvela to Koswaththa Junction*

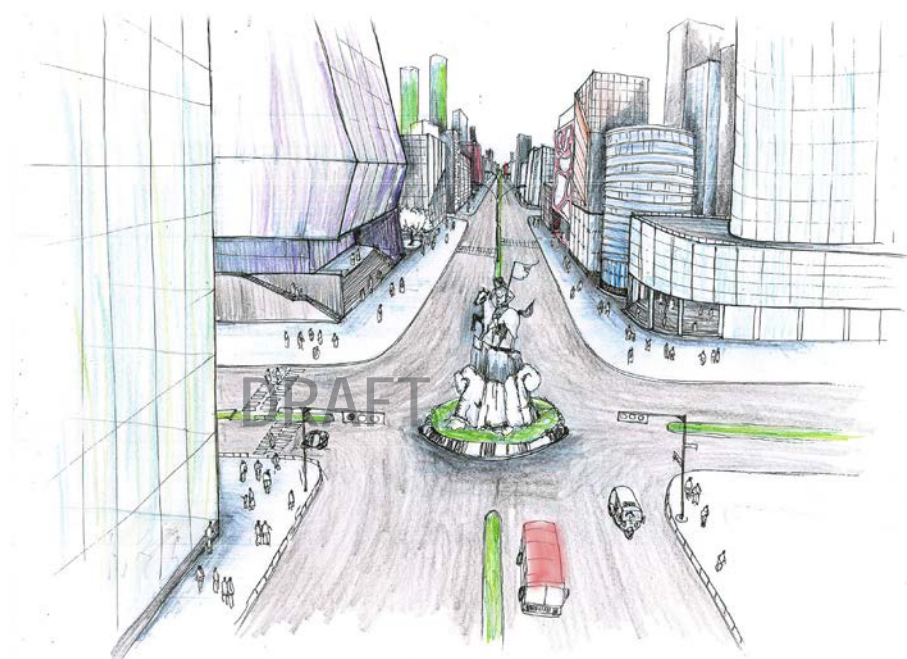


Figure 10.8: The Outer City Junction

Source: Western Province Division and Research & Development Division, UDA 2018

**The Inner City** — This area is proposed to be set up by giant buildings with medium height and large floor areas in order to serve a medium density. Mainly, the Administrative Area and Executive Residence Area are to be established within this area.

*Wetland boundry to 1.5km buffer edge (Kimbula Junction)  
Nugegoda Supermarket Junction to 1.5km buffer edge  
Rajagiriya Junction to 1.5km buffer edge  
Koswaththa Junction to 1.5km buffer edge*



## Chapter 10 URBAN DESIGN STRATEGY

### Strategic Projects in Urban Design Strategy

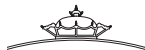


**Figure 10.9: The Inner City**

**Source:** Western Province Division and Research & Development Division, UDA 2018

**The Center** — Special featured buildings with a unique architectural character embossed are proposed in the Center in order to enrich the appearance. This intervention would make city streets more inviting and create more interesting places to wander. A special concern is to hold the area with low rise structures and low density (According to the Visibility Analysis done by UDA). To convey the sense of a majestic place and calmness through Sri Lankan Architecture and wetlands improvement.

Further, it is proposed to improve the façade of the buildings which could convey a better first impression and improve the marketability of the city area. The ultimate aim of the intervention is to build the expression of pride along the Ceremonial Access and attract more visitors to the area. While, contributing to the quality of life of dwellers.



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**URBAN DESIGN  
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**Strategic Projects in  
Urban Design Strategy**

**Strategic Project 07:  
Introducing Transitional Nodes**

**Junctions (Points) Improvement**

The proposed improvement is set to be implemented at twelve recognized nodes along the Ceremonial Access. They are,

**Center Transitional Nodes**

- *Points which are located 1.5km away from the parliament (along the 04 corridors)*

**Inner-City Transitional Nodes**

- *Wetland close to Kalalgoda*
- *Rajagiriya Node*
- *Koswaththa Node*
- *Nugegoda Super-Market Node*

**Outer-City Transitional Nodes**

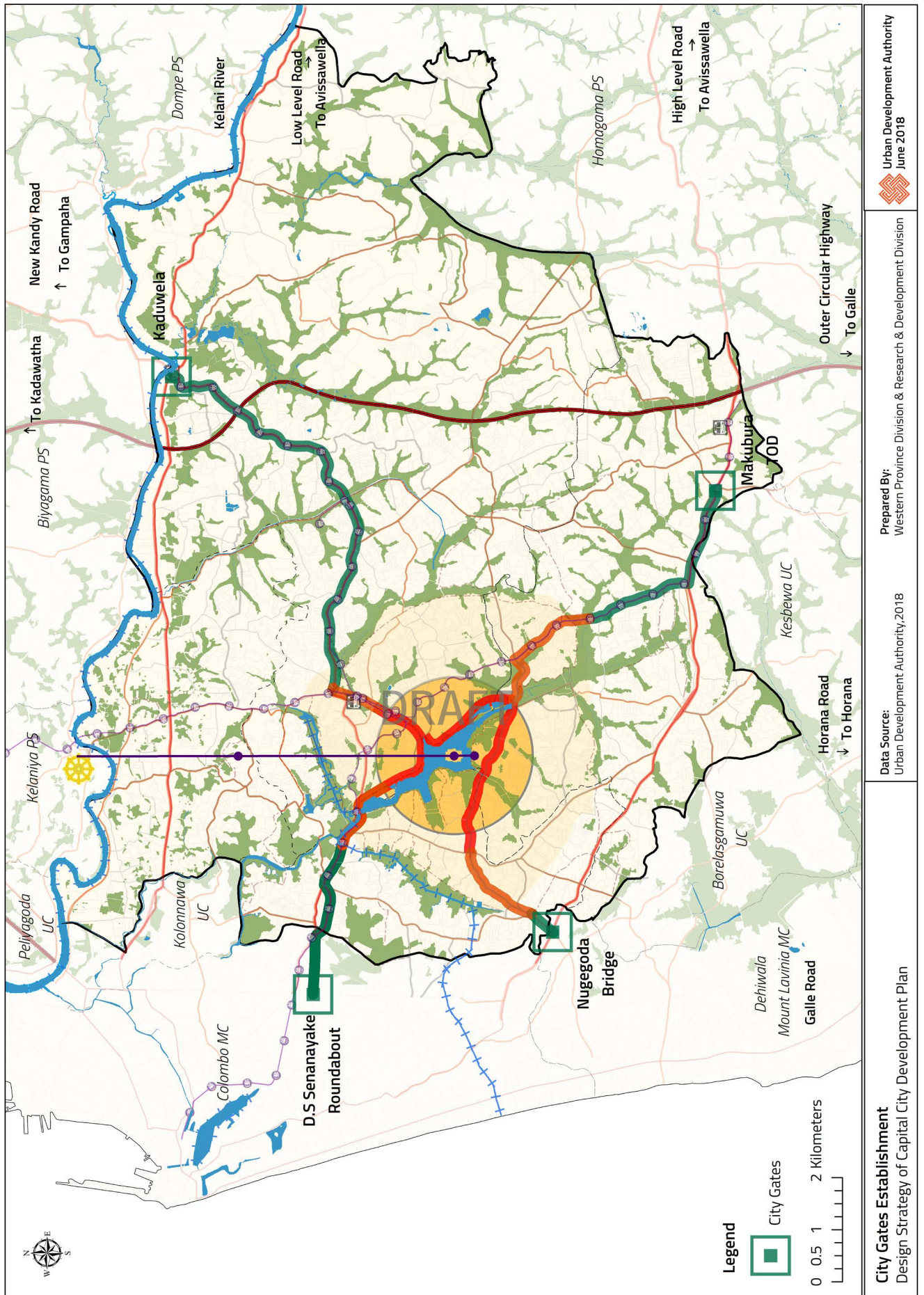
- *Kottawa Junction*
- *Kaduwela Junction*
- *D. S. Senanayake Roundabout*
- *Nugegoda Fly-over*

The upgrading of these nodes should enhance the aesthetic beauty of the city area while incensing the impression of gradual rise of power. These include statues, gates, sign boards Designs and other architectural and landscaping elements along the road.

**Strategic Project 08:  
City Gates Establishment**

The city gates establishment is performed as a symbolic gesture in honor of the unique history. This improvement should necessarily enhance the magnificence gradually from the outer city towards the citadel. Kaduwela, Kottawa, Nugegoda Bridge and D. S. Senanayake Roundabout





**Map 10.4: City Gate Establishment**  
Source: Western Province Division and Research & Development Division, UDA 2018



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### Strategic Projects in Urban Design Strategy

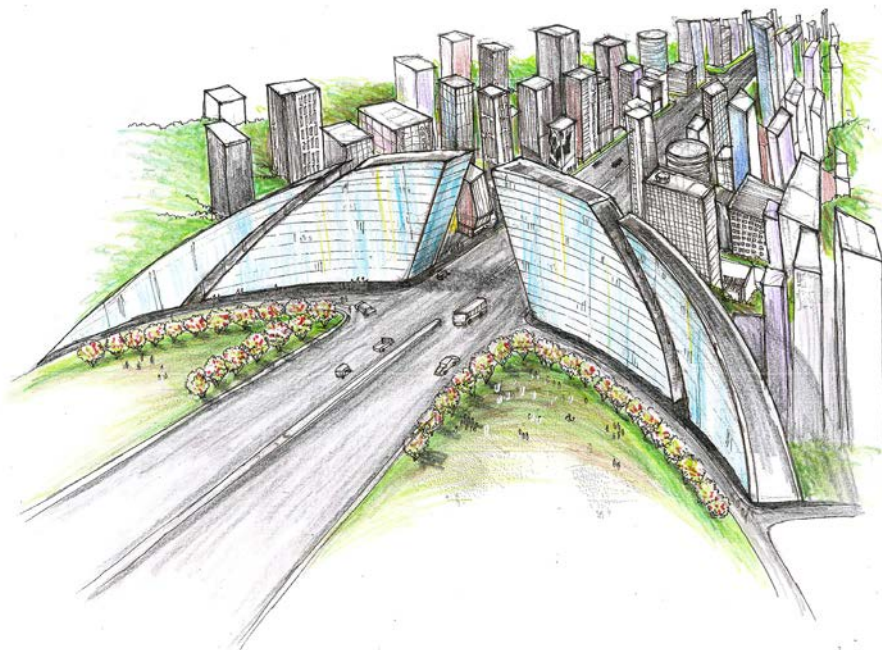


Figure 10.10: The Center in the Capital City

Source: Western Province Division and Research & Development Division, UDA 2018

### Strategic Intervention 3: Enclosure

It is highlighted that the enclosure is one of the most important features of urban spaces, particularly from an aesthetic perspective. Hence, it is aimed to enrich the sense of place through attractive spaces. In order to do so, the proposed initiatives are as below,

- *Inner City Boundary delineation*

#### Strategic Project 09:

Demarcate Inner City Boundary by connecting missing links

The Inner City Boundary is demarcated by the wetland feature. However, it is challenging to demarcate the boundary completely with the wetland feature since, the link of the natural feature is missing in some points. For that reason, the plan proposes to develop the Kalapaluwawa Road as boulevards. It is expected to maintain the green character with this intervention.







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### **Strategic Intervention 4: Centre**

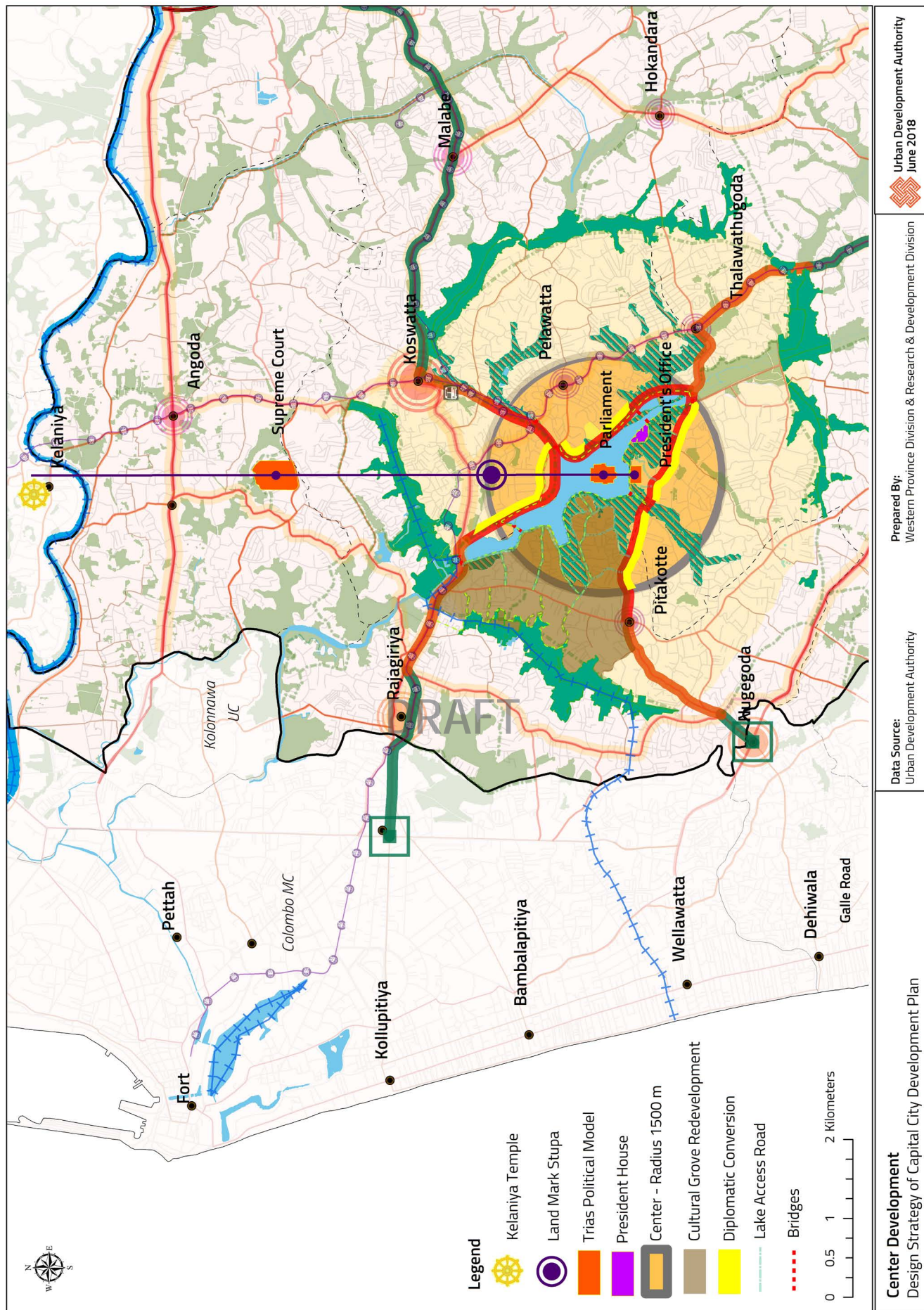
This principle indicates that, it is crucial to establish a strong and legible center in the city. Accordingly, a Visibility Analysis was conducted within a radius of 1.5km around the Parliament since the issue of indistinct visibility occurred due to the high rise buildings around it. The analysis imposed regulations accordingly. This particular area is considered as the ‘Center’ in the Capital City Development Plan. It proposes to develop the area as a low dense and low height area with a large proportion of open space to offer a calm and majestic sense to the dwellers and visitors. Accordingly, three initiatives are offered. They are,

- *Diplomatic Conversion*
- *Royal Park Establishment*
- *Cultural Grove Redevelopment*

### **Strategic project 11:** **Encourage and Facilitate lands for Diplomatic Offices**

The parliament complex is the only recognised landmark which upholds the noble status of the Capital city to this date. Hence, the plan proposes to re-establish the Diplomatic Offices along the land strip from Kibulawala Junction to the Parliament Junction (Including Apegama Land) and maintain a high secured zone. Further, the president’s residence and office with related activities are to be moved towards the Capital Valley Axel. The main objective of this intervention is to instill an extinguished brand to the city.





Map 10.6: Diplomatic Conversion in the Capital City

Source: Western Province Division and Research & Development Division, UDA 2018





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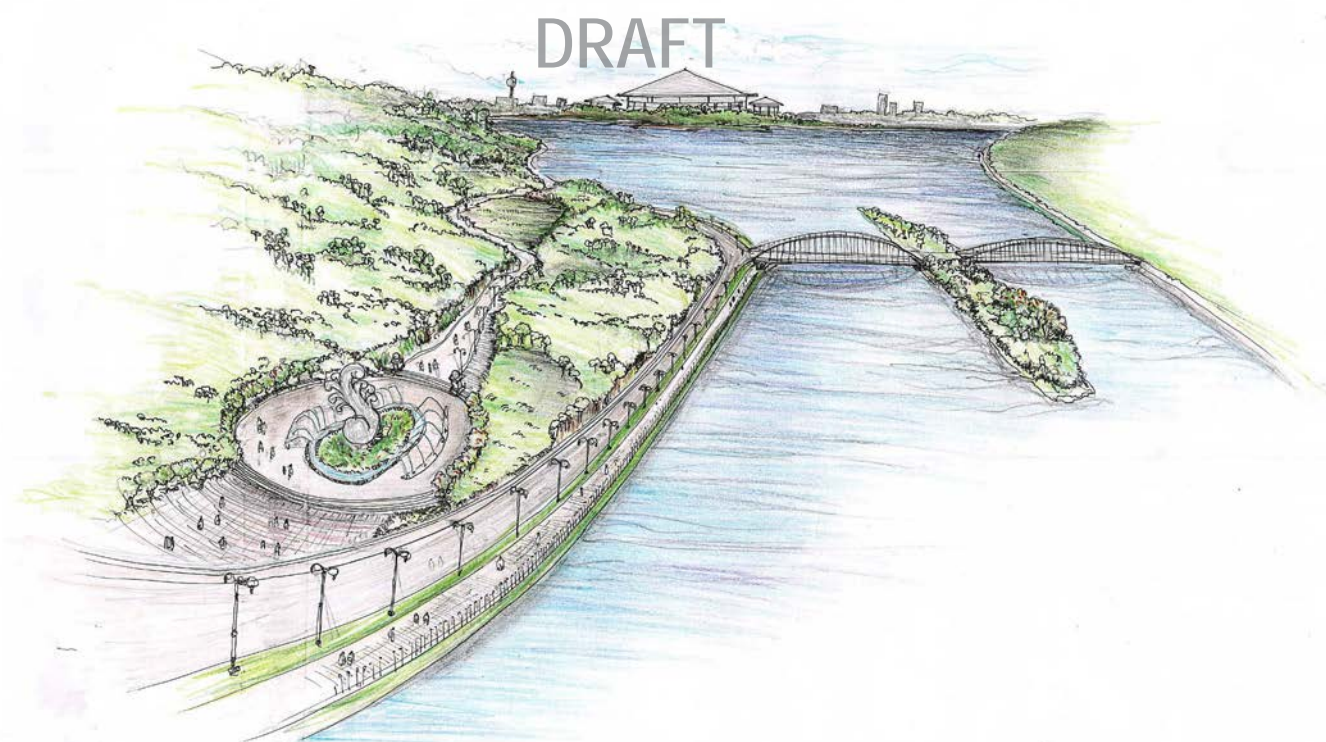
**Strategic Projects in  
Urban Design Strategy**

**Strategy 12:**  
Royal Park Establishment

In order to convey the meticulous sense of the proud citadel, the city should be functional enough to cater the needs of occupants and facilitate roaming around the city and conserve the wetland 100%, located within a 1.5km buffer.

**Strategy 13:**  
Pathway & Pocket Parks Development

The ultimate intervention of this intervention is to enhance the aesthetic value of the area while conserving the native green feature completely. On the other hand, it is believed that this initiative could possibly yield great economic benefits to the country. Hence the Strategic Intervention proposes to enhance the natural assets by opening up eco- friendly wetlands around the center and pocket parks at points A, and B as illustrated in the map. Further, park connectors are proposed to link the wetlands. These park connectors will allow the wetlands ecosystem to thrive providing green links for the pedestrians and non-motorized transport.



**Figure 10.11:** Image of an Expected City Gate  
Source: Western Province Division and Research & Development Division, UDA 2018



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### Strategic Projects in Urban Design Strategy

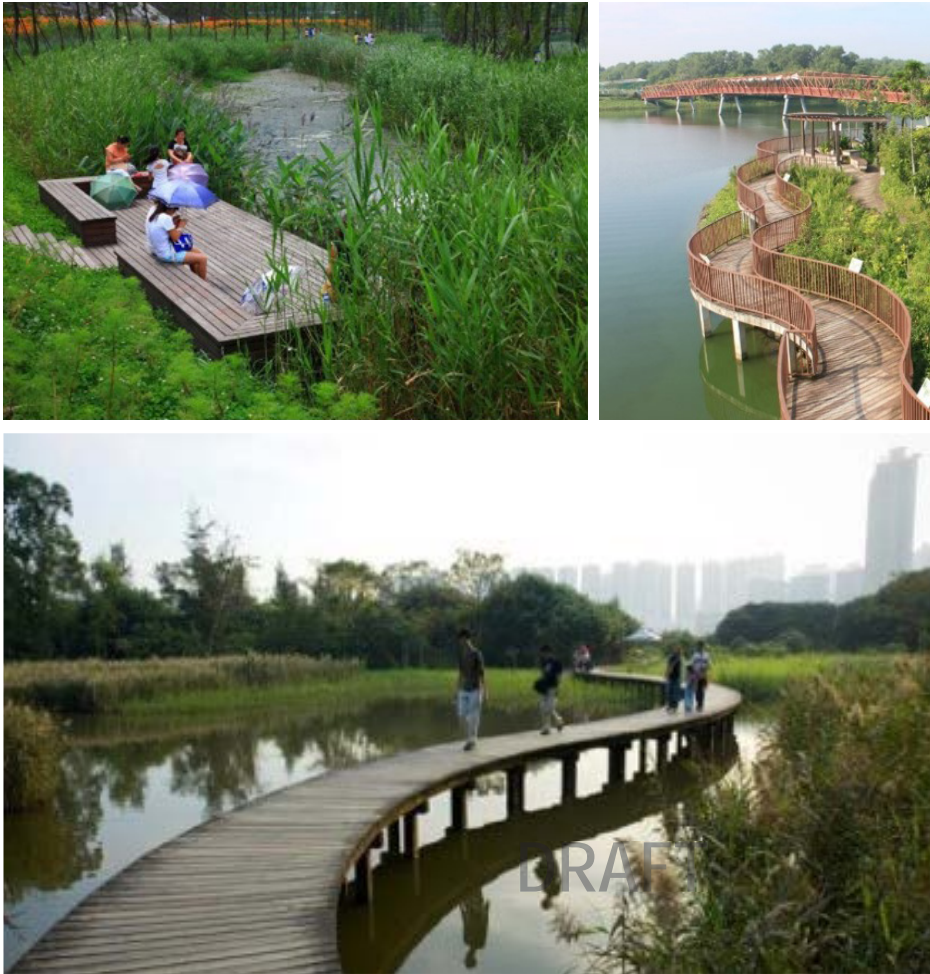


Figure 10.12: Images of Pocket Parks and Paths

Source: [www.mtl.org/en/experience/explore-montreals-parks-and-green-spaces](http://www.mtl.org/en/experience/explore-montreals-parks-and-green-spaces)

The capital city of the country should contain incredible physical elements to emphasize the value of it. Bridges are a main element of such. The strategic intervention proposes to embed an architectural touch to the bridges around the citadel. Further, bridges are proposed to be constructed at points 01 and 05 as given in the map so that the pathway around the centre would be more active.



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### Strategic Projects in Urban Design Strategy

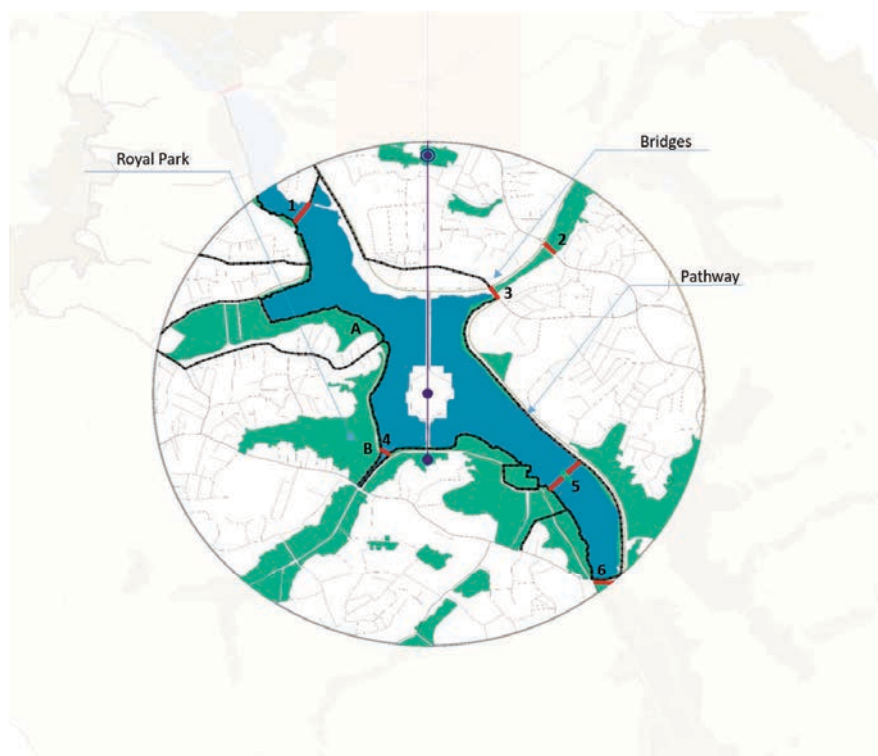


Figure 10.13: Pathways and Pocket Park Development

Source: Western Province Division and Research & Development Division, UDA 2018

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### Strategy 14: Lake Access Roads Improvement

Currently it is noted that, wetlands are not optimally used. The main reason could be the low and irregular accessibility. For that reason, the road axes are proposed to be developed with perfect eco-friendly landscaping. This initiative will promote a great combination between the environmental sensitive areas and urban areas.

Nippon Mawatha, Mahindarama Road, Colambathanthri Road, Kotte Road, Beddagana Road, Duwa Road, along the Canel (Iyan Poruwa Rajamaha Viharaya) will be developed as lake access roads.



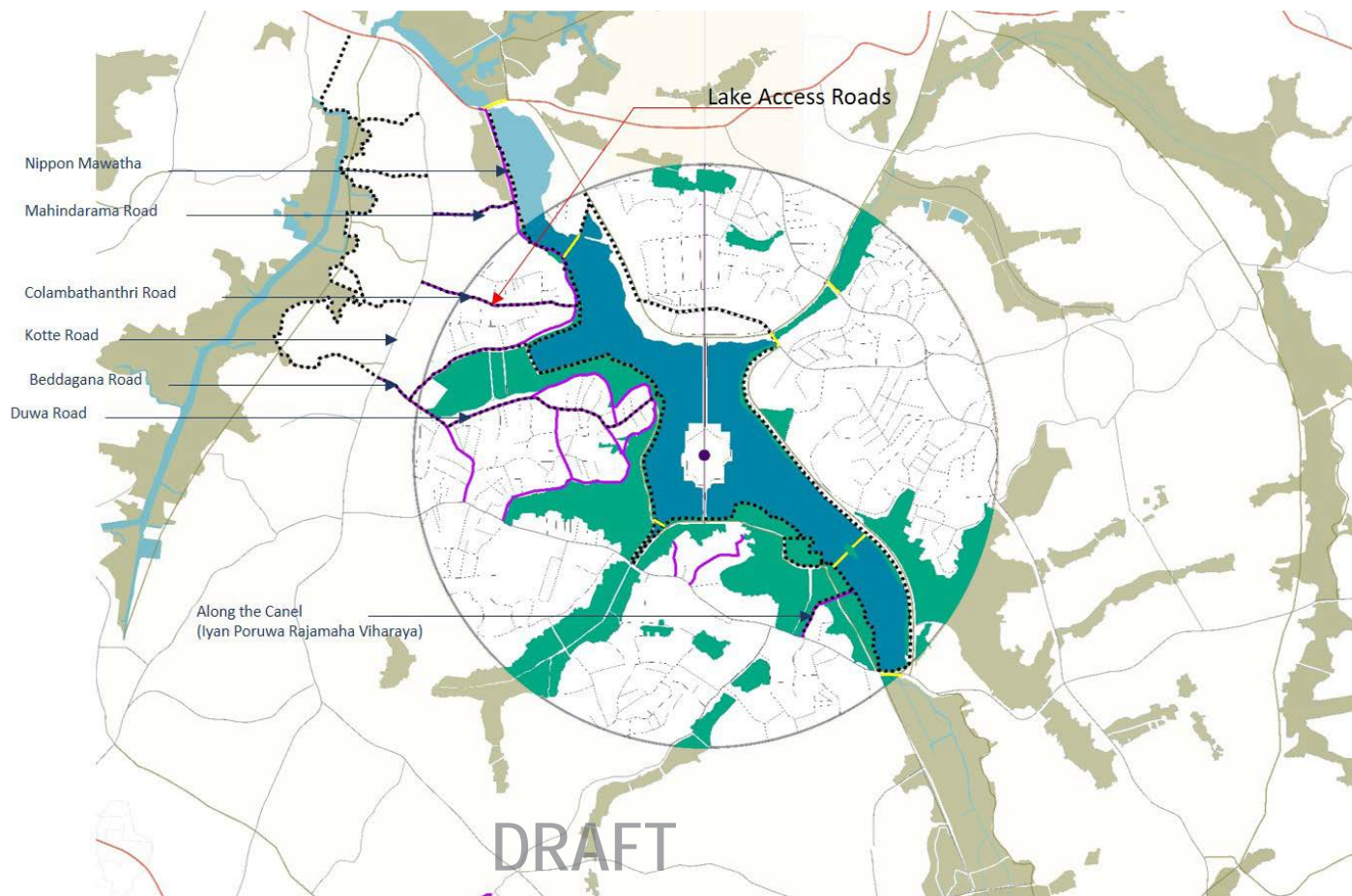


Figure 10.14: Lake ACCESS IMPROVEMENT Strategy

Source: Western Province Division and Research & Development Division, UDA 2018

## Cultural Grove Redevelopment

### Strategy 15: Design an Archeological Trail

The ruins of once a great citadel still exists in the centre of the planning area. There are critical challenges in managing this historical sight and conserving the unique architectural and cultural values associated with it. Hence, it is a proposed fact that a special guide plan should be mandatorily used to protect the area bordered with the rampart. Further, proper regulations must be applied in order to maintain a special character in the preserved area. The features with historical and cultural value such as The Museum, The National library, The Art Gallery, The Art and Crafts Centre and Archives are projected to be moved to this area which will allow the financial capital of the country to function well.



## Chapter 10 URBAN DESIGN STRATEGY

### Strategic Projects in Urban Design Strategy

The Archaeological trail will be the destinations for

- *Sri Perakumbha Pirivena*
- *Mahindaramaya Temple*
- *Alakeshwara Tombstone*
- *Angampitiya*
- *Archaeological Musium*
- *Lambric Hall*
- *Sunethramaya*
- *Kotte Ambalama*
- *Veherakanda temple*
- *Ananda Shastralaya*
- *Kotte raja maha Viharaya*
- *Jubilee Post*

And,

- *Rampart Wall*

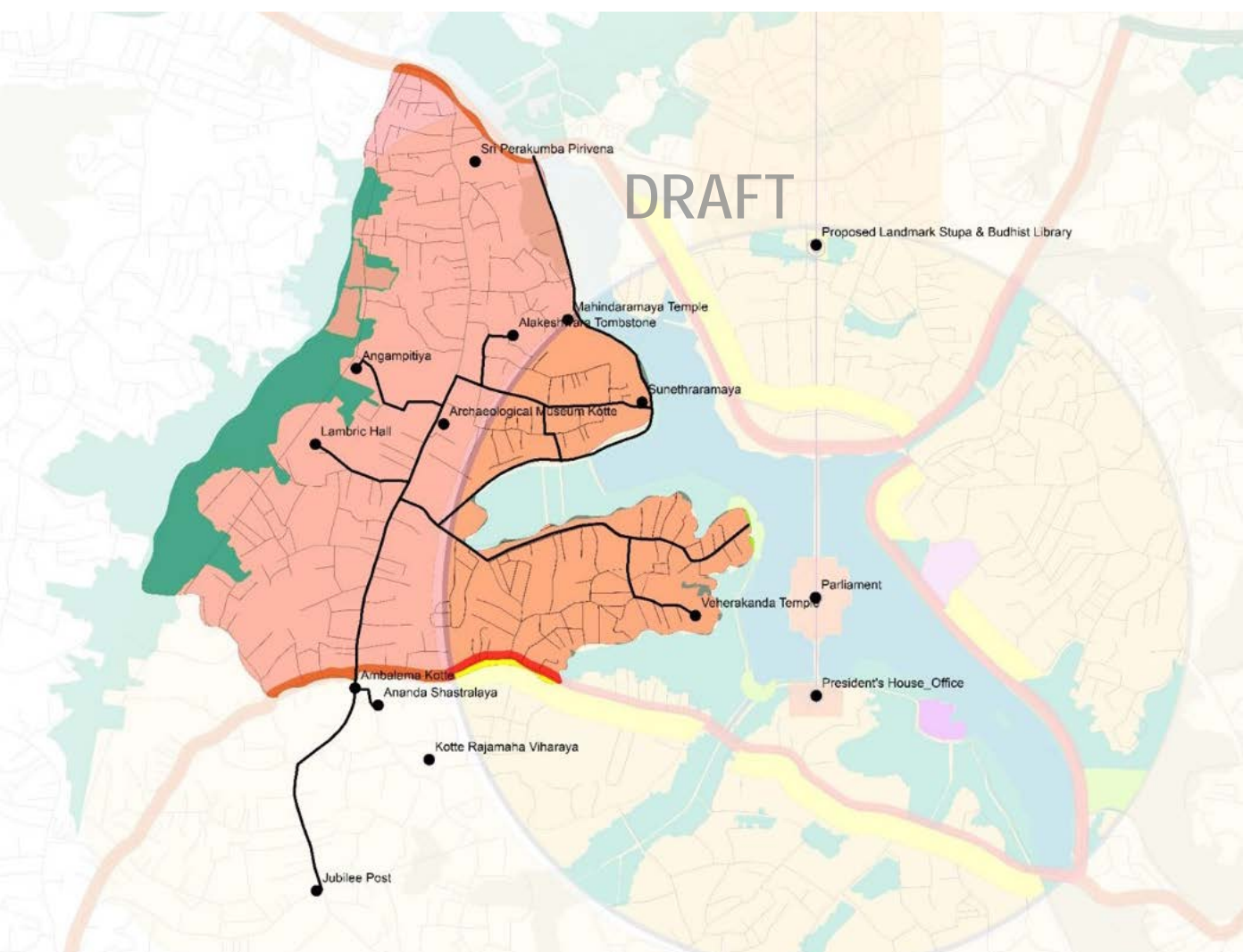


Figure 10.15: Cultural Grove Redevelopment Zone

Source: Western Province Division and Research & Development Division, UDA 2018



## Chapter 10 URBAN DESIGN STRATEGY

### Strategic Projects in Urban Design Strategy

### Impacts of Capital City Urban Design Strategy

Strategic Intervention	Project Code	Strategic Project
Axial Establishment	SII-D12	Relocate the Supreme Court to the Present IDH Land
	SI-D-1	Relocate the Presidents House/Office to the rear side
	SI-D-2	City Land Mark Establishment
Creating Hierarchy / Transition	SII-D7	Project of Landscape Improvement along the Ceremonial Access
	SII-D8	Project of Facade improvement Along The Ceremonial Accesses
		Introduce 14 Transitional Nodes
	SI-D-3, SI-D-4, SI-D-5 and SI-D-6	City Gates Establishment
Enclosure	SIII-W-13, SI-W-1, SII-W-6, SII-W-7	Demarcate Inner City boundary by connecting missing links
Center	SII-D10	Encourage and facilitate lands for Diplomatic Offices
	SI-W-2	Capital City Park Establishment
	SII-D and SII-D11	Pathway & Pocket Parks Development
		Lake Access Roads Improvement

**Table 10.1:** Strategic Projects in Urban Design Strategy

Source: Western Province Division and Research & Development Division, UDA 2018

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## 10.5. Impacts of Capital City Urban Design Strategy

The above-mentioned strategy is assumed to assist in achieving the first Strategic goal by creating a unique city ambience with identity and character. The impact of the Design Planning Strategies is expected to consist of a pleased façade along the streetscapes and make architecturally designed remarkable town centers with city entry points. Together this plan will create a modern Capital City. This will be the first attempt of creating the most dynamic and remarkable capital city of Sri Lanka in this era.