

# Fluid Ground

## Sensory Navigation in the Noguchi Museum Garden

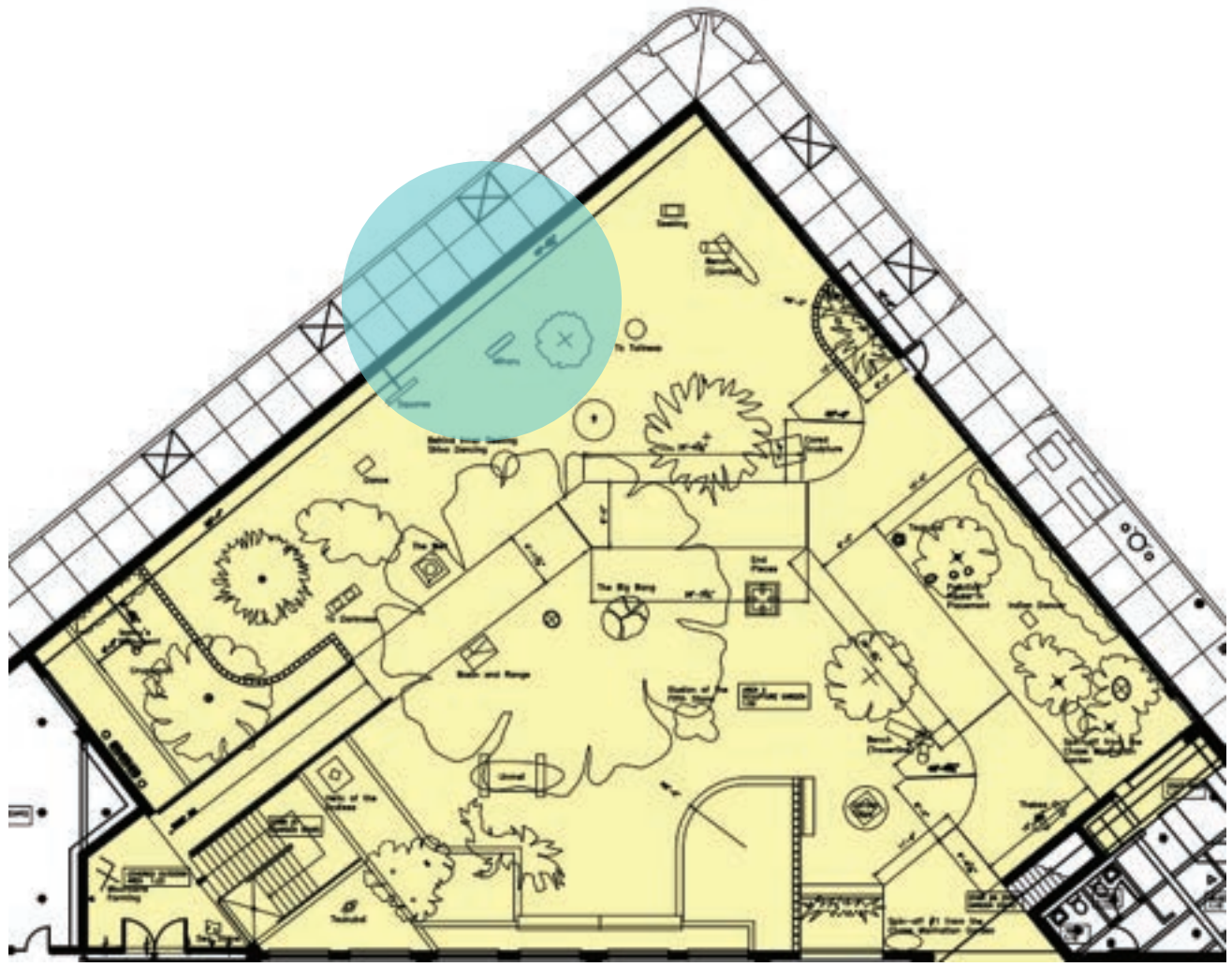
### Design Statement:

How can sensory elements like light, texture, and sound deepen our experience of space? This intervention invites visitors to "move like water"—curious, reflective, and calm—through underexplored parts of the Noguchi Museum Garden. Layered surfaces inspired by natural water forms guide the body and senses, translating Noguchi’s harmony between art and nature into a multisensory journey.



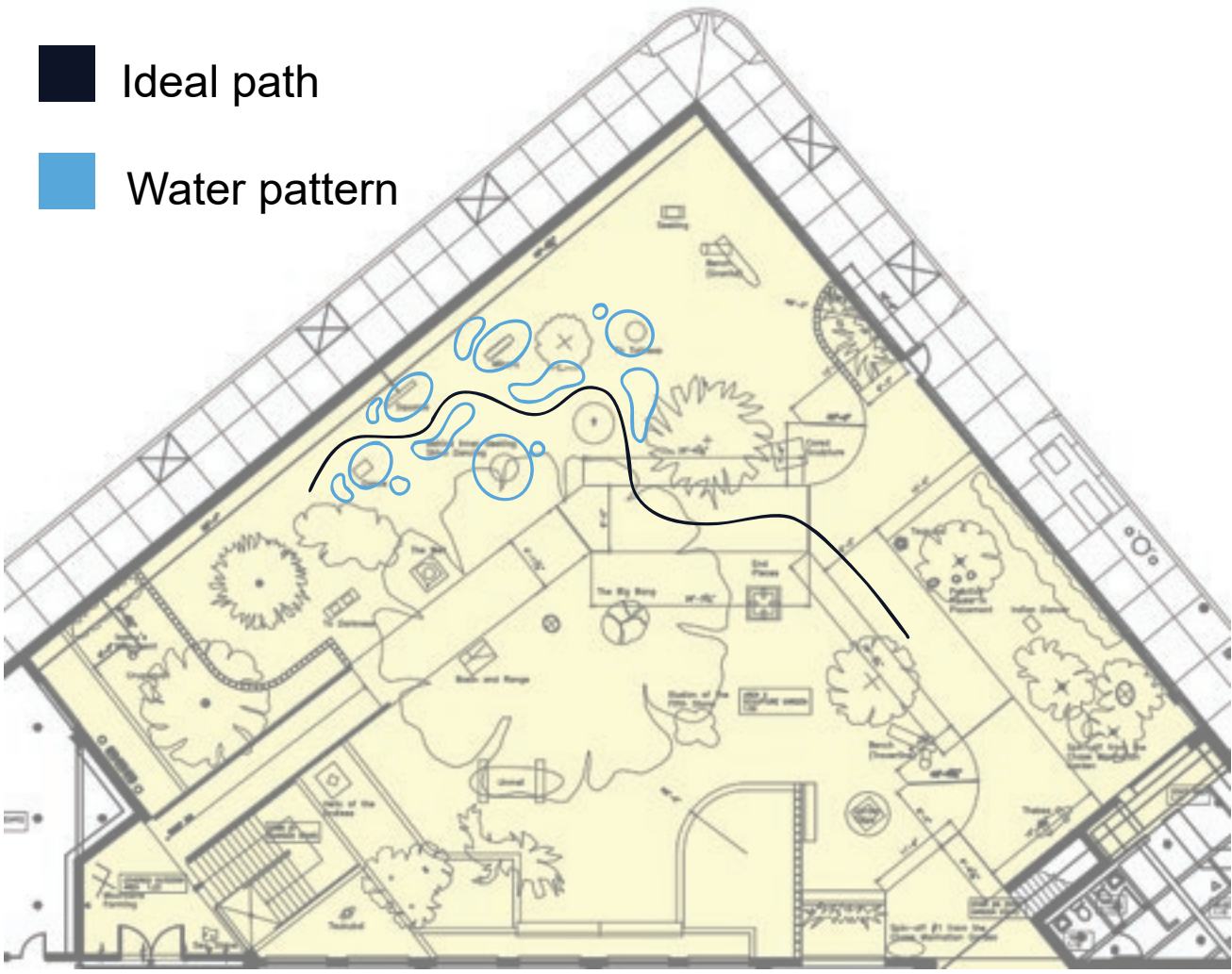
### Noguchi Research / Analysis:

Isamu Noguchi blended natural materials with simple forms to create spaces that harmonize with their surroundings, reflecting his deep respect for nature and belief in art as part of daily life.



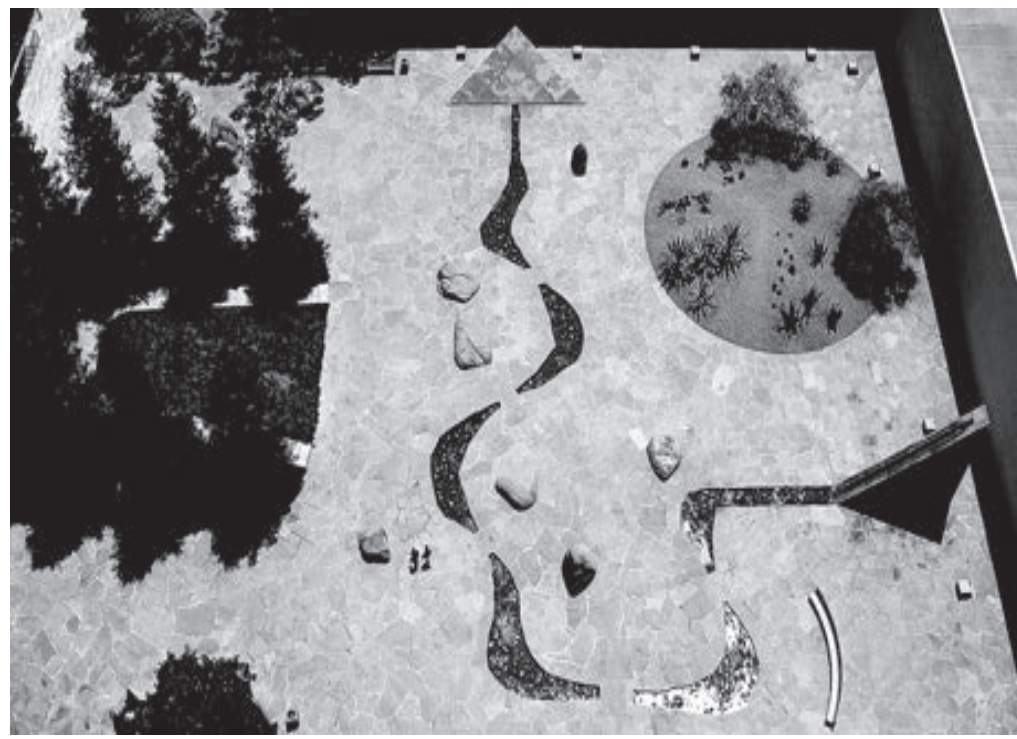
### Site Analysis:

The Noguchi Museum Garden is a contemplative space where art and nature quietly coexist. However, its corner areas and certain sculptures remain under-visited. This proposal introduces reflective surfaces and gentle soundscapes to draw visitors toward these overlooked zones, enhancing exploration and enriching the garden’s sensory landscape without disrupting its calmness.

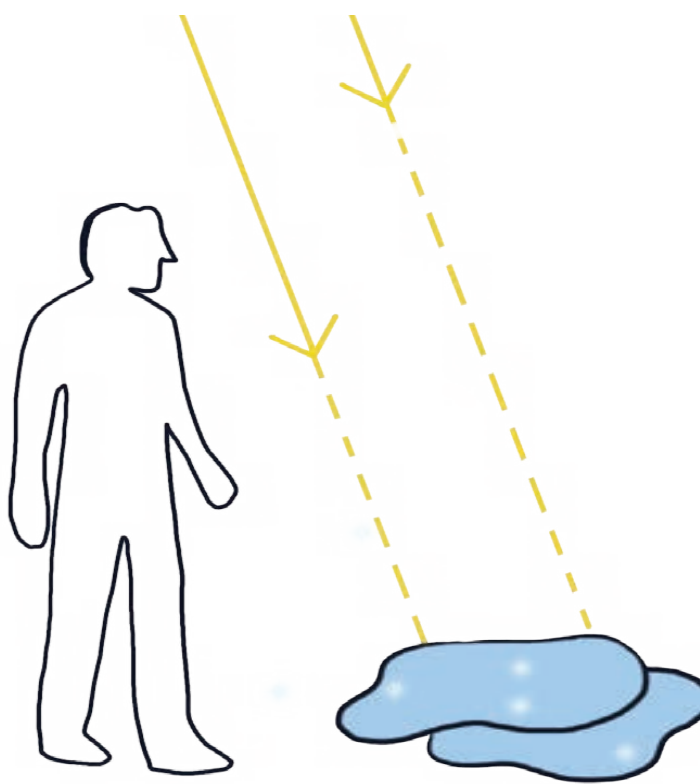


### Precedent/ Inspiration:

Noguchi blurred the line between object and environment, using elements like stone, water, and terrain to create immersive landscapes. This project translating water into a sensory spatial experience. Inspired by works like Slide Mantra, the layered surfaces and gentle slopes invite movement and curiosity while preserving the garden’s tranquility.

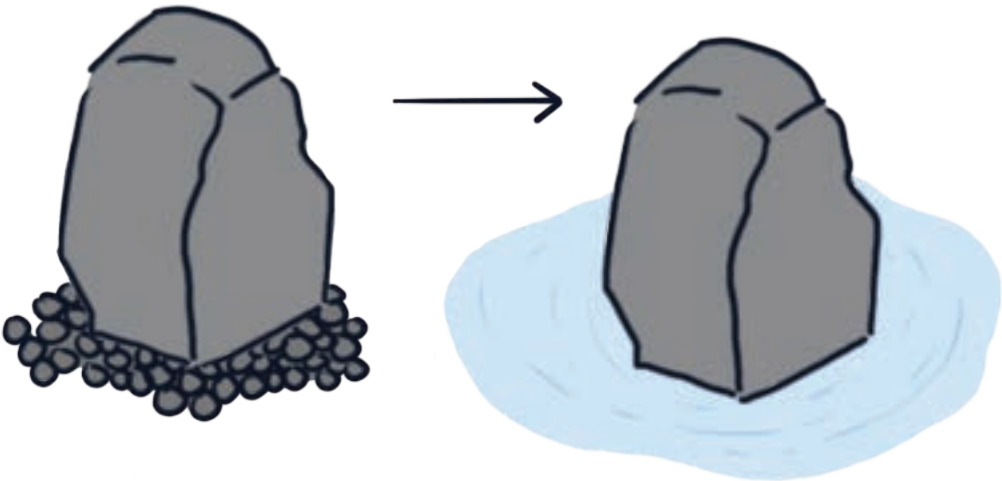


### VS. (Design Taxonomy)



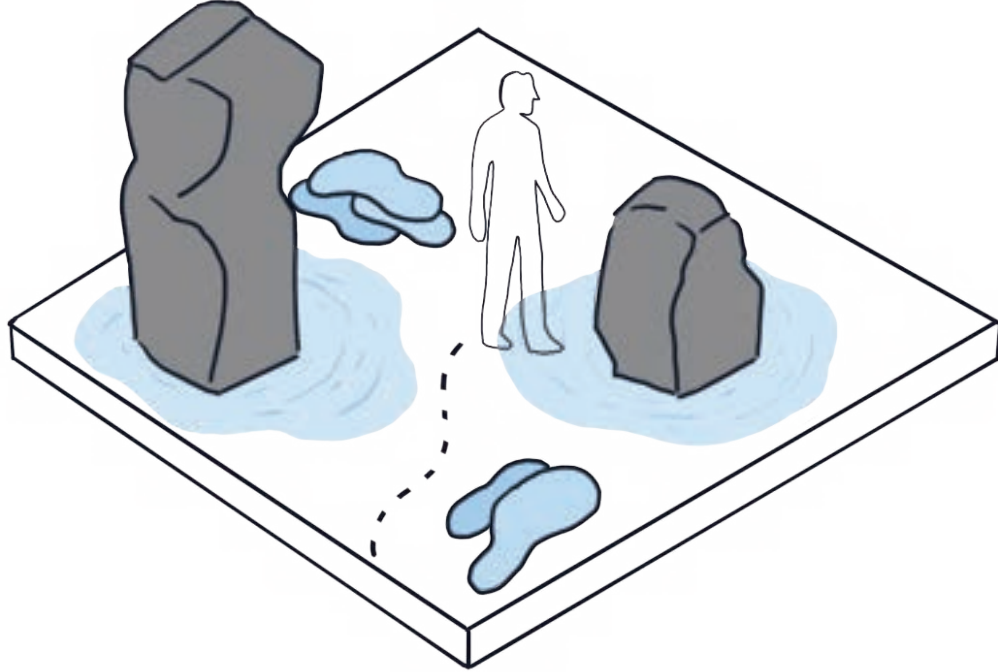
#### Quiet vs Vibrant:

Light reflections = subtle visual vibrancy  
Water sound = soft auditory engagement  
Garden = quiet with ambient energy



#### Objects vs Nature:

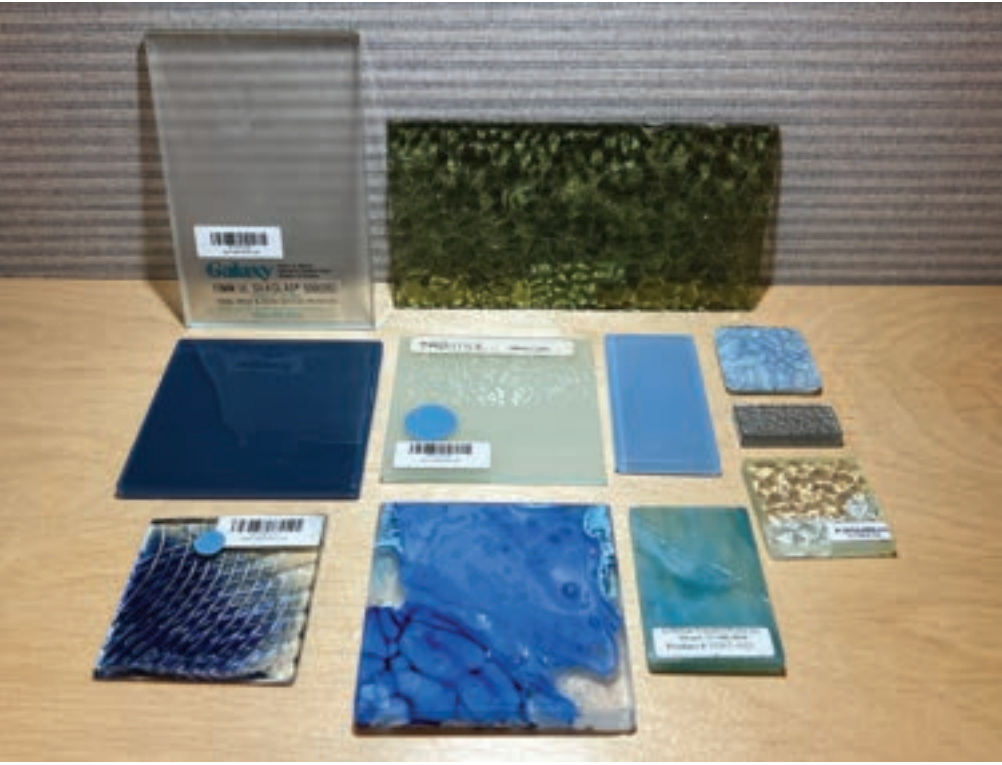
Sculpture + Nature → Enhanced by design  
Reflective materials = mimic water  
Basalt = grounded natural base



#### Touchable vs Non-Touchable:

Sculptures = untouchable  
Ground ripples = tactile guidance  
Encouraged paths for interaction

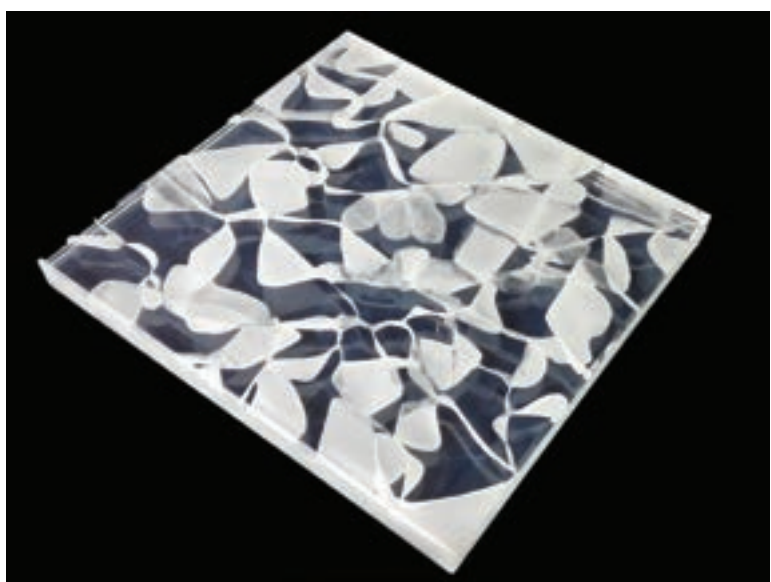
### Materials



Glass Samples



Fused Recycled Glass



Translucent Recycled Glass

Sustainability: Crafted from 100% post-consumer glass, fused via heat/compression without resins or chemicals.

Durability: UV-, frost-, and scratch-resistant. Withstands heavy foot traffic. Textured surfaces ensure slip resistance.

Workability: Cut into fluid shapes via water-jet/diamond tools. Installed as rigid tiles/pavers over gravel/sand for drainage.



### Design

This intervention uses layered, transparent patterns to mimic water, guiding visitors toward sculptures. Blue glass evokes calm, hidden speakers emit soft water sounds to enrich the sensory experience.

- A vs B
1. Quiet vs Vibrant
  2. Objects vs Nature
  3. Touchable vs Non-Touchable

Who:  
Visitors to the Noguchi Museum interested in exploring the garden.

What:  
A ground-based installation using water-like patterns and reflective materials to enhance connection with the sculptures.

Where:  
Select areas of the museum garden.

When:  
During daylight hours year-round.

Why:  
To deepen sensory and emotional engagement with Noguchi’s work by evoking natural elements through light and texture.

How:  
Texture of frosted and transparent surfaces will reflect sunlight.

**Light**  
Natural daylight creating shimmer reflection encouraging visitors to explore.

**Sensory Engagement**  
Water-like pattern and soft natural sound create sensory engagement encouraging visitors to explore.

### Design Process:



Qing Lin

Re-envisioning the Museum  
25/SP-SOD-420P-02

School of Design

“The earth is a sculpture; the lack of it is also a sculpture. To walk on earth is to be aware of our place in the universe.”

-Isamu Noguchi A Sculptor’s World (1968).