Fossil fuel vehicles have brought the planet on the brink of collapse. Even with the introduction of autonomous electric vehicles on the street, we will still need to spend resources on managing the consequences of continued fossil fuel use.

Carbon sequestration is a process through which carbon is extracted from the atmosphere and is converted into carbon rocks, that can then be sculpted into any form with modern machines.

This project explores the possibility of reducing the amount of carbon in the environment by employing this technique and using the extracted carbon to develop glossy monolithic landscapes which resemble the aesthetic qualities of carbon rocks. This creates a ‘new nature’, where the machines substitute a major function of trees by absorbing carbon.

Through our design, we have created an ecosystem of machines which together perform a ‘ballet’ where some of the machines form, carve and sculpt the gardens, while the autonomous vehicles zip by the streets. Humans, though mostly tangential, can experience this ever changing and dynamic landscape, where chronological elements and technologies are co-present.
The project is in the Wallabout area, with our proposal focusing on Hall street which is located between Flushing Avenue and the Brooklyn Queens Expressway.

On the left of the street are storage units and on the right is the Hall. Our project focuses on the two open spaces in the Hall, which we refer to as Garden One and Garden Two for our project.
Artificial Nature

Hall street has an interesting but weird situation, since the street was mostly used by trucks and not many pedestrians- it has no trees, not even one, however, it had these paintings of ‘nature’.

This situation gives us a glimpse of the impact of fossil fuel vehicles on our planet. We decided to build upon this idea that these paintings represented to us and thought of it as artificial nature. The project is centered on our idea of this artificial nature to nullify the impact of fossil fuel vehicles.
Carbon Sequestration

Carbon sequestration or carbon dioxide removal (CDR) is the long-term removal or capture of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to slow or reverse atmospheric CO2s pollution and to mitigate or reverse global warming.
Machine Species

We created an ecosystem of machines which together perform a ‘ballet’ where the machines form, carve and sculpt the gardens and the autonomous vehicles zip by the streets, while humans experience this ever-changing and dynamic landscape.
The project experimented with material and texture studies to create textures mimicking carbon rocks and develop geometrical surfaces for the gardens.
Garden One

The project also looked at the potentials and limitations of the machinic technology carving the carbon rocks and overlayed them on the textures obtained through the material studies earlier.
Garden One, close shot
Garden Two reversed the principals used in Garden One and instead of extruding sculptures, the surface was carved and bookended out.