

# Gardens as Spaces of Freedom

## FEEL FREE TO DISCUSS

We are drifting further away from each other  
Stuck in our own ways of thinking  
In a polarized world

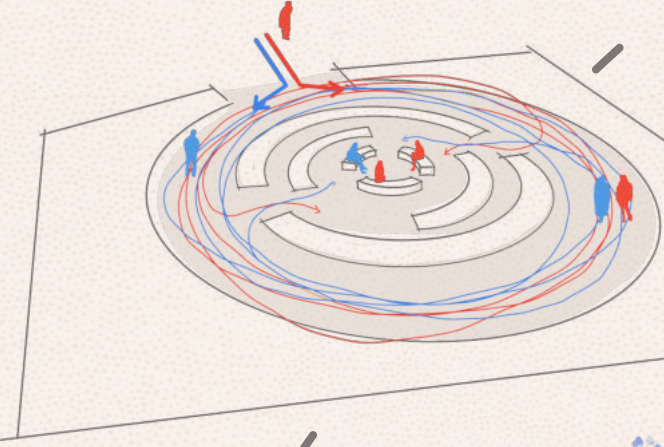
Here we meet in the middle  
In a garden where everyone is welcome  
To come together under the same circumstances  
Joining a free and open discussion

First walk....



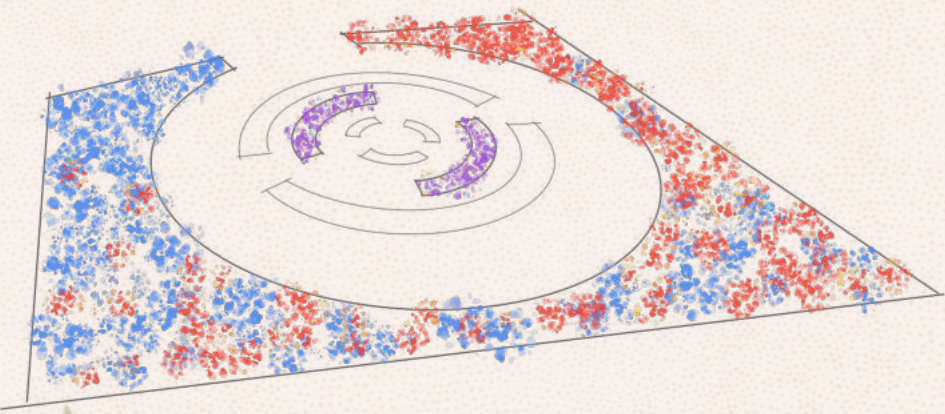
### MOTION

Aristotle was known for lecturing by walking in circles with his students. Similarly, you are here invited to walk around while discussing for as long as you want.



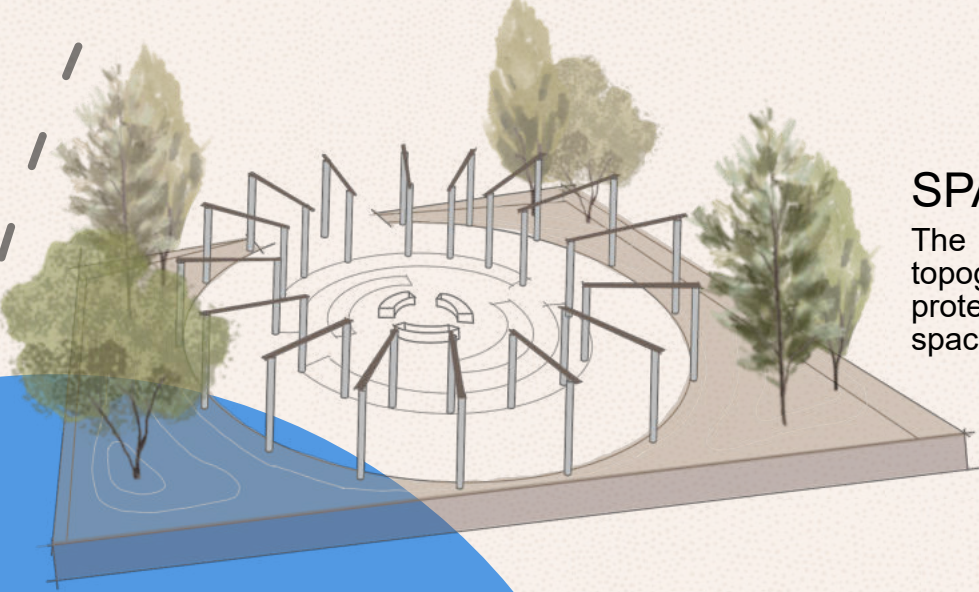
### COLOURS

The red and blue demonstrate the division in society. In the middle they are united in the colour purple.



### SPATIALITY

The vegetation and topography creates a protected and safe space.



...and think.



Then come together to talk.



### DISCUSSION FOR DEMOCRACY

**Democracy** is the **cornerstone of free societies** where everyone has the same rights to choose over their own life, express their opinions and freely assemble, exchanging ideas and thoughts. However, democracy is globally declining<sup>1</sup>, **political polarization** is increasing<sup>2</sup> and we are less exposed to other people's opinions.

To address this issue, this garden offers a **meeting point** to build a bridge in a divided world. Drawing reference to ancient Greece, what many consider to be the first democracies, we wanted to create a room where you can **come together** under the same neutral circumstances and **exchange thoughts** and opinions. It is a **refuge** from today's hostile atmosphere, protected from the outside world by its surrounding green. So please sit down in this **unpolarized garden** to **meet as equals** rather than opponents. Welcome to this garden to help **save democracy** and free societies.

<sup>1</sup>International IDEA. (2024). *The Global State of Democracy 2024: Strengthening the Legitimacy of Elections in a Time of Radical Uncertainty*. International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance.  
<sup>2</sup>Carothers, T. & O'Donohue, A. (2019). *How to Understand the Global Spread of Political Polarization*. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Groundplan 1:75 (A1)

Section A-a. 1:75 (A1)

Finally, sit down and relax.

