The proposal draws at the relationship between existing and past characteristics of the Freshkills site and evidence of human intervention, in production for a significant reconciliation between the reclaimed landfill and the New York community. Agricultural cropland of fruits and vegetables conducive to be grown on Staten Island are planted and allowed to flourish amidst the vast park landscape of Freshkills. A greenhouse housing tropical fruits and vegetables is also proposed to be constructed on the apex of the East Mound.

Food for man and animals are derived from the bountiful of landscapes that nature offers. When the first hunters and gatherers began to notice they could plant seeds, manipulate growth and manage plant fertility, a great transformation began to happen. The seemingly prosaic development of fruits and vegetables is in fact among the most important of human developments. From the enduring work to finally be able to harvest from fields, fruits and vegetables become food that are the source of energy that will continually be renewable for man.

The proposal began on the understanding of the physical recovery practice of land reclamation on Freshkills, where past memories of the site are buried to forge new ones, in the hope of reclaiming new ecologies and its potential futures. The landscape design will recall Freshkills’ pre-agricultural and agricultural past, serving as touchstone linking the past to the present and the future. By growing cropland from the reclaimed soil on the site, the landscape design aims to reconcile between the dense urban development of New York and the vast park landscape of Freshkills’ gradual transformation into a productive and beautiful cultural destination. The adverse public attitude towards Freshkills as a landfill site will eventually be changed as the very physical act of people plucking and eating the food found from the vast cropland will be indicative of their acceptance of the park. Simultaneously, these croplands served as the rich field of food source, enticing wildlife to the park.

Maximizing the 100 acres of land allowed to be intervened on site, the proposed design of the croplands to be cultivated follows the contours of landscape. Fruits and vegetables known to be conducive to be grown on Staten Island have different growing patterns parallel to the seasonal changes. The affordance of the myriad of color changes from the plants is condensed within color wheel (Panel 2). Plants are selected from the list for cultivation was based on the advantages that can be obtained from companion planting and the use of crop rotation.

A single large greenhouse is also proposed to be constructed on the top of the East Mound. The greenhouse epitomizes the energy exchange between Man and his environment, represented by its artificial physical structure for the regulation of temperature. Simultaneously, the greenhouse in conservation of temperature becomes aptly symbolic of the notion of renewable energy. Tropical fruits and vegetables (cucumbers, mangoes and bananas) are proposed to be grown within the greenhouse. In lieu of contrast against the plants cultivated on the cropland that are conducive to the climate conditions, the tropical plants would serve as the acute counterpoint in the development of man’s cultivation of fruits and vegetables. People will not be able to enter the greenhouse and only view the plants through the transparency of the greenhouse structure. The intensification cultivation of the tropical plants within the enclosed greenhouse will contrast against the freedom of the vast open land.
with the bountiful of fruits and vegetables free for all to pluck and eat. Also, the lightweight structure of greenhouse will not affect the existing landfill capping on site.

The design proposal of croplands and greenhouse, hence hopes to unveil the landscape surface of Freshkills as a continuous system of a veritable field of energy, like a catalytic emulsion where the surfaces literally unfolds events in time.