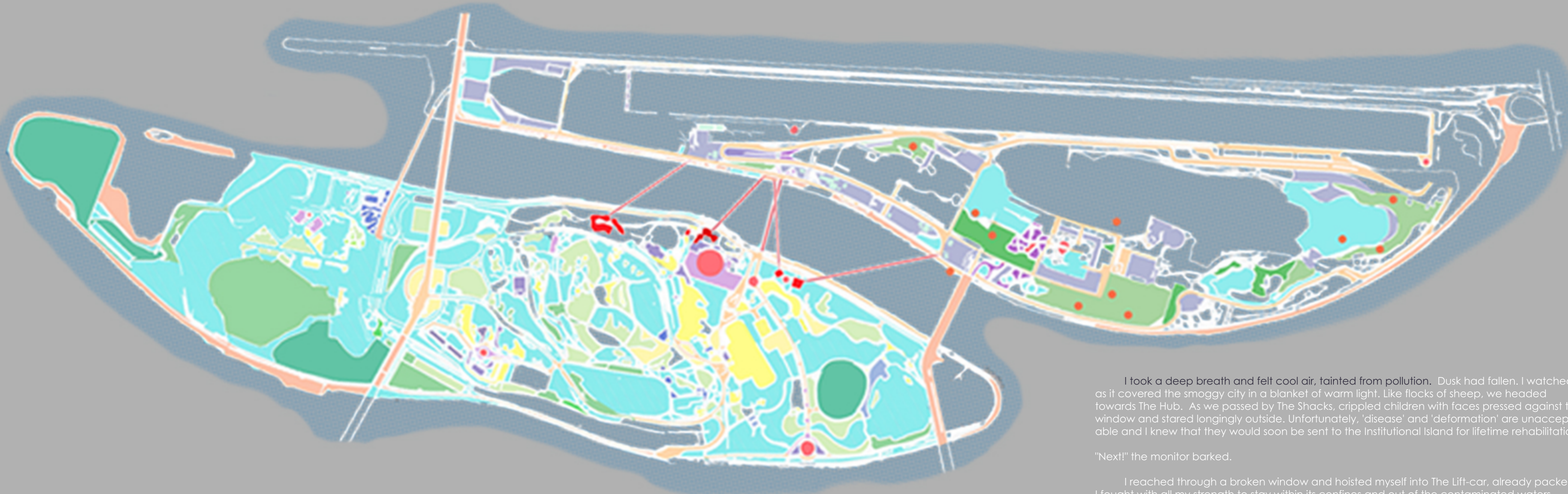


# Tomorrow, Today



- Government Center
- Cart Lift Transportation
- Vertical Garden
- Research Center
- Slums
- Shallow Water
- Walkway
- Residential
- The Hub

I took a deep breath and felt cool air, tainted from pollution. Dusk had fallen. I watched as it covered the smoggy city in a blanket of warm light. Like flocks of sheep, we headed towards The Hub. As we passed by The Shacks, crippled children with faces pressed against the window and stared longingly outside. Unfortunately, 'disease' and 'deformation' are unacceptable and I knew that they would soon be sent to the Institutional Island for lifetime rehabilitation.

"Next!" the monitor barked.

I reached through a broken window and hoisted myself into The Lift-car, already packed. I fought with all my strength to stay within its confines and out of the contaminated waters below. We were being carted to the Island to perform our daily chores. I glanced across the landscape. The Hanging Gardens were lush and green, similar to The Hub, just as unattainable. The Institution stood in shocking contrast to anything else in the skyline. The silhouette of a once-magnificent city now stood as a somber reminder of the Earth's decay by the human hand.

In the Institutions, we were cleaned and moved to our respected work areas. I began ascending the ropes of the Hanging Gardens and reached my platform where I quickly began watering the plants for harvest. From this height, I could see the Cloning Laboratories and Research Institutions, seemingly well-kept in contrast to the primitive Shacks we slept in on our Island. From there I could see Fellow Workers returning with their baskets of vegetation. If I failed to return in time, The Monitors would investigate.

I managed to fill my basket with fresh produce just as the sun fell. I descended the line as quickly as I could, but a group of Monitors met me at the bottom, smiles spread wide across their faces.

"#1705-08224, you are due for a checkup today. Are you having trouble with your workload?"

Without answering, I turned and ran.

