



## MASTERPLAN: THE GARDEN AS TOTAL WORK OF ART

The garden is conceptualized as a **total work of art**. It is both an idea, in a traditional sense a representation of the otherworldly beauty of the spiritual realm that is *paradise* in the Islamic cultural imagination, and a place, evoking the characteristics of the desert oasis, where the combination of water, cool shade, dappled sunlight, fruit orchards, and verdant nature modify a harsh climate producing a sensory experience to the effect of transgression between realms. Derived from the organizational framework of the eight-pointed star are the layouts of circulation, irrigation, and drainage systems, evoking both vernacular irrigation systems or the *falaj*, and the quartered garden or *chahar bagh* of the Islamic tradition. Disrupting the traditional lexicon of Islamic garden design, and weaving continuity between the past, present, and the future are the novel technological applications of the ‘photovoltaic canopy’ and the ‘fog harvesting tree’ which harnessing energy to produce water, or directly extracting water from the air to cultivate an oasis in the image of paradise, stage new garden experiences, drawing renewed attention to the atmosphere and the sun, the sources of life on Earth.

