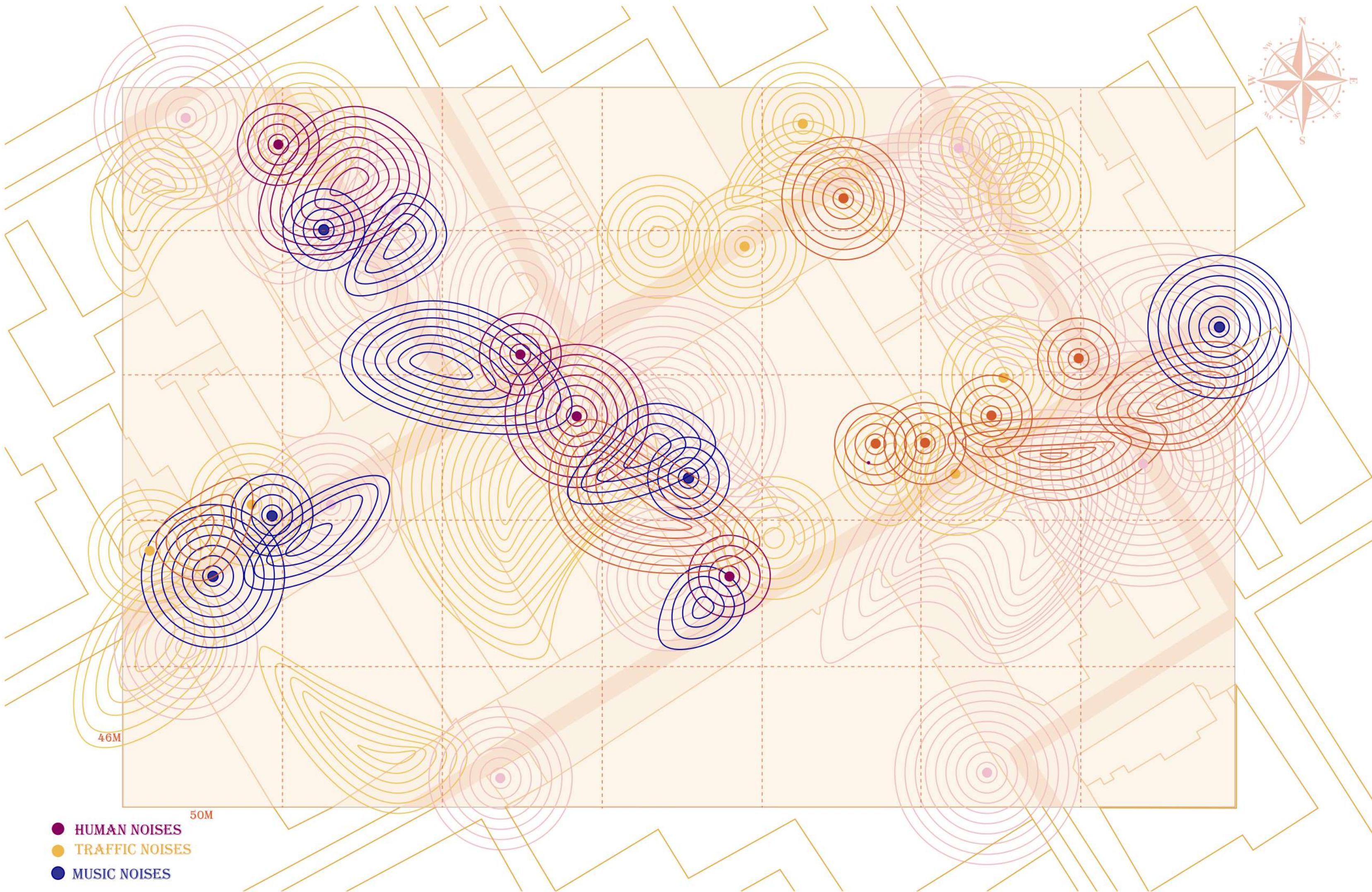


ECHO HAVEN: A SONIC REFUGE IN THE CITY

VISUALLY IMPAIRED PRIMARILY RELY ON AUDITORY AND TACTILE SENSES TO NAVIGATE THEIR SURROUNDINGS. HOWEVER, IN THE BUSTLING HEART OF OTTAWA, HIGH-INTENSITY NOISE FROM TRAFFIC, CONVERSATIONS, AND COMMERCIAL BROADCASTS FORCES THEM TO MAINTAIN A HEIGHTENED CONCENTRATION WHILE THEM WALK BY, IT INCREASES THEIR COGNITIVE LOAD AND AUDITORY FATIGUE.

ECHO HAVEN IS INSPIRED BY THE PRINCIPLES OF ECHOLOCATION AND THE NATURAL ACOUSTICS OF FORESTS, IT DOES NOT SEEK TO ELIMINATE THE CITY NOISE BUT RATHER TO SOFTEN THE URBAN SOUNDSCAPE THROUGH THE SPATIAL LAYOUT AND MATERIALITY. THE GOAL IS TO CREATE AN URBAN SANCTUARY THAT RELIEVES PEOPLE OF AUDITORY STRESS IN DOWNTOWN OTTAWA, TRANSFORMING

ECHO HAVEN IS LOCATED NEAR RIDEAU CENTRE, THE SITE WAS CHOSEN TO CONSIDER PEDESTRIAN ROUTES FREQUENTLY USED, AND IDENTIFY AS THE AREAS OF OTTAWA WITH THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF NOISE POLLUTION. THROUGH VARIATIONS IN MATERIALS AND SITE FORM, VISITORS CAN CHOOSE FROM DIFFERENT LEVELS OF SOUND ATTENUATION, ALLOWING THEM TO CUSTOMIZE THEIR AUDITORY AND



ALL THREE ZONES DESIGNED TO MODULATE THE CITY NOISE AND ENHANCE TACTILE ENGAGEMENT:

ECHO CORRIDOR: TEXTURED FLOORS AND WALLS, ALSO THE GENTLE ELEVATION CHANGES GUIDE USERS THROUGH THE SPACE NATURALLY WITHOUT RELIANCE ON AUDITORY CUES. TEXTURED ACOUSTIC PANELS ARE ARRANGED ON EITHER SIDE TO REFLECT DISRUPTIVE NOISE.

TACTILE WAYPOINTS: PAVEMENT FEATURES INTERACTIVE GROUND TEXTURES AND LOW-FREQUENCY RESONATORS TO HELP USERS IDENTIFY TURNS, ENTRANCES, AND SEATING AREAS WITHOUT VISUAL INPUT.

RELAXING SEATS: SEMI-OPEN SEATING AREA FOR SHORT STAYS.

