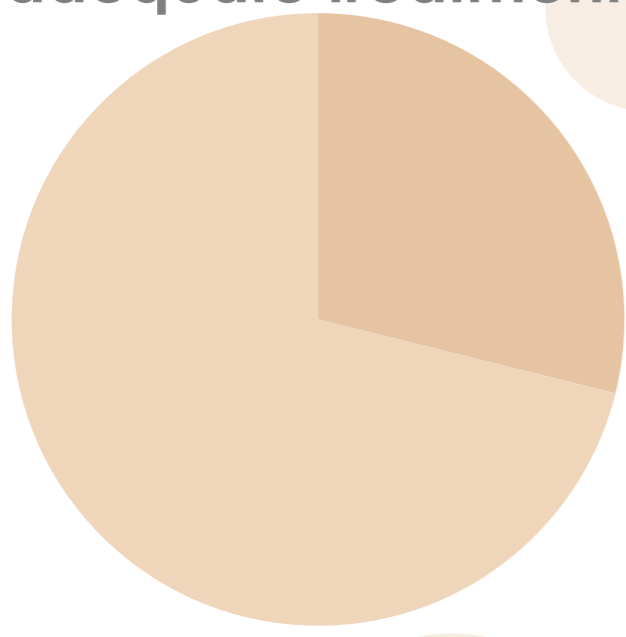


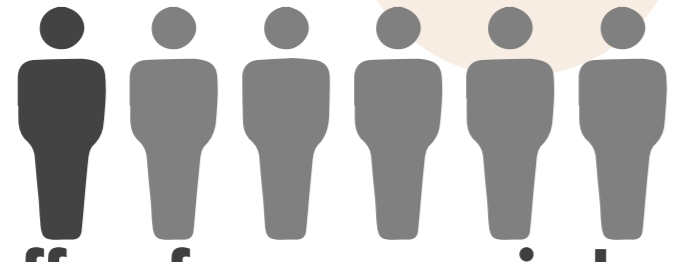
© University of Pretoria

only 27% of people receive adequate treatment



47.5% South Africa's mental health quotient

mental health



1 in 6 suffer from anxiety, depression and/or substance abuse

<4%

of the national health budget is allocated to mental health services

<10%

of the total urban area of most South African cities are dedicated to public parks

passive healing

green space

urban wellbeing

+3°C urban heat island effect

urban heat mediation

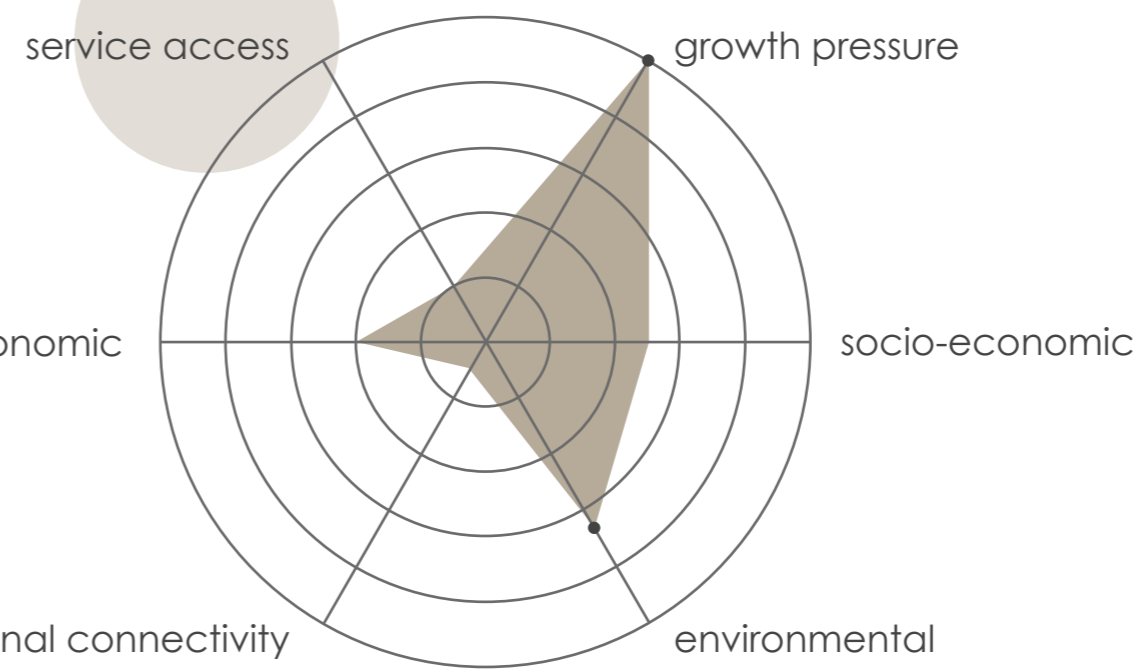
9m² of green space per person recommended by WHO

urbanisation

high growth pressure



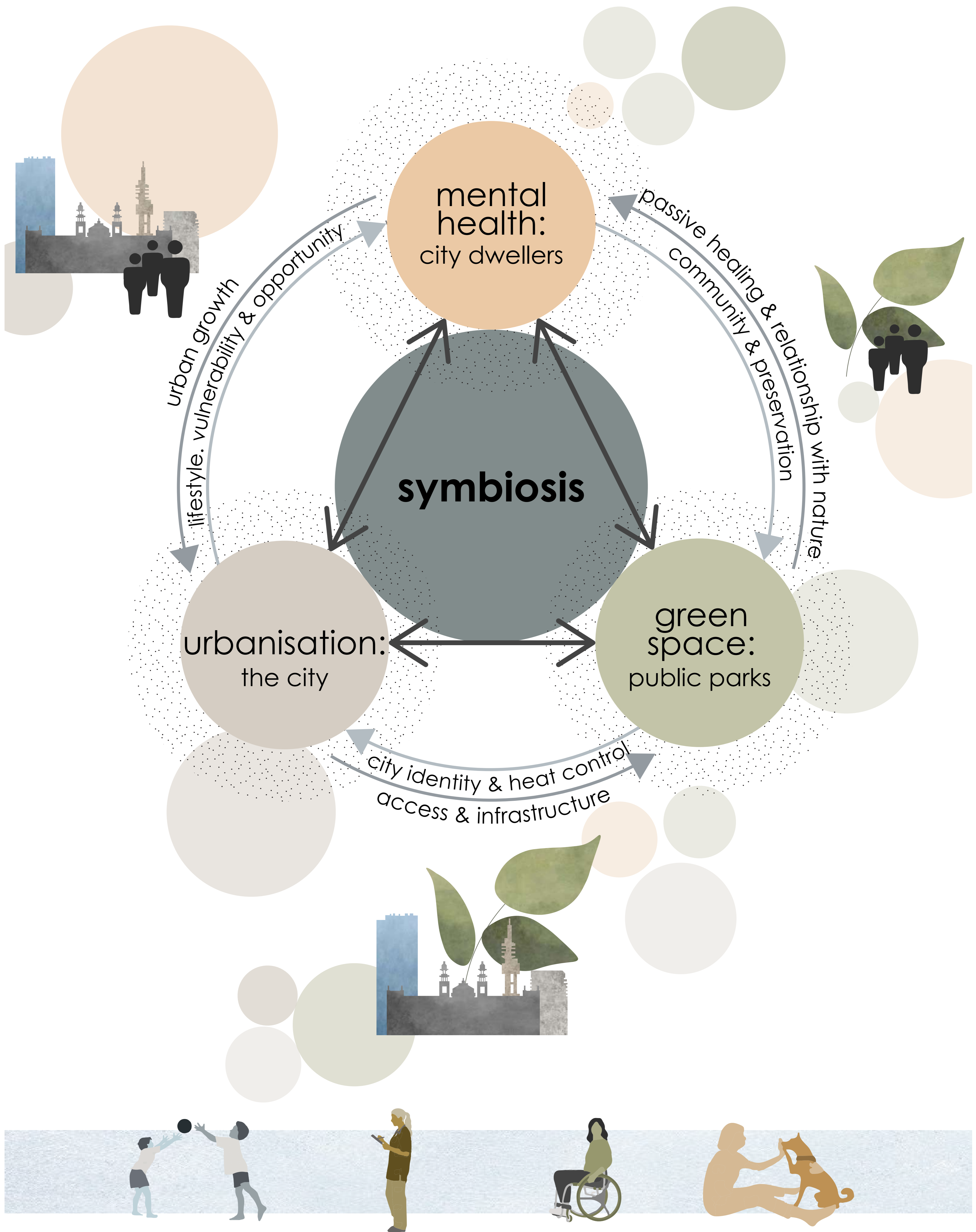
3.5m → 5.8m city of tshwane population 2018 → 2050



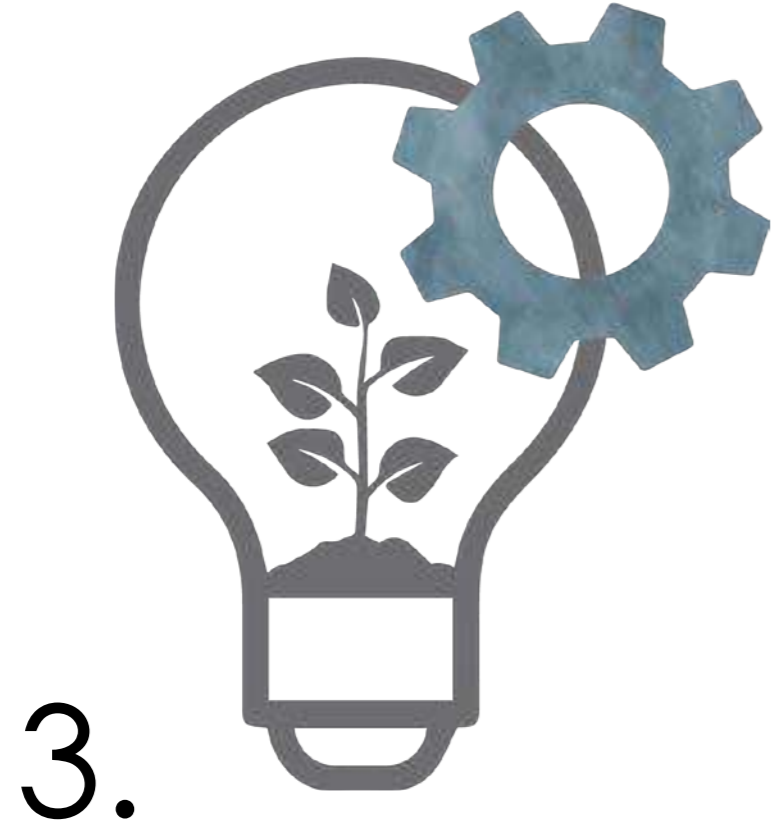
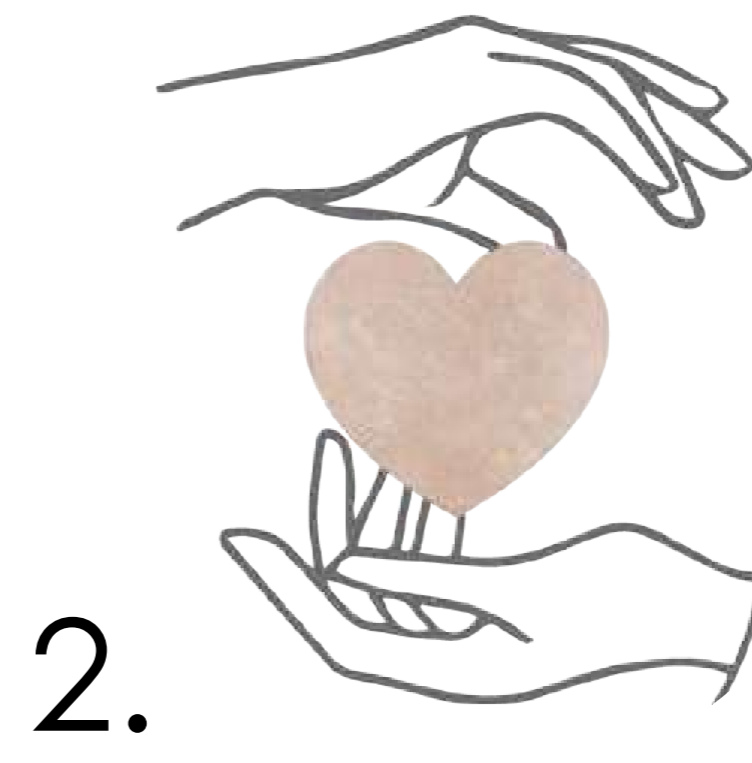
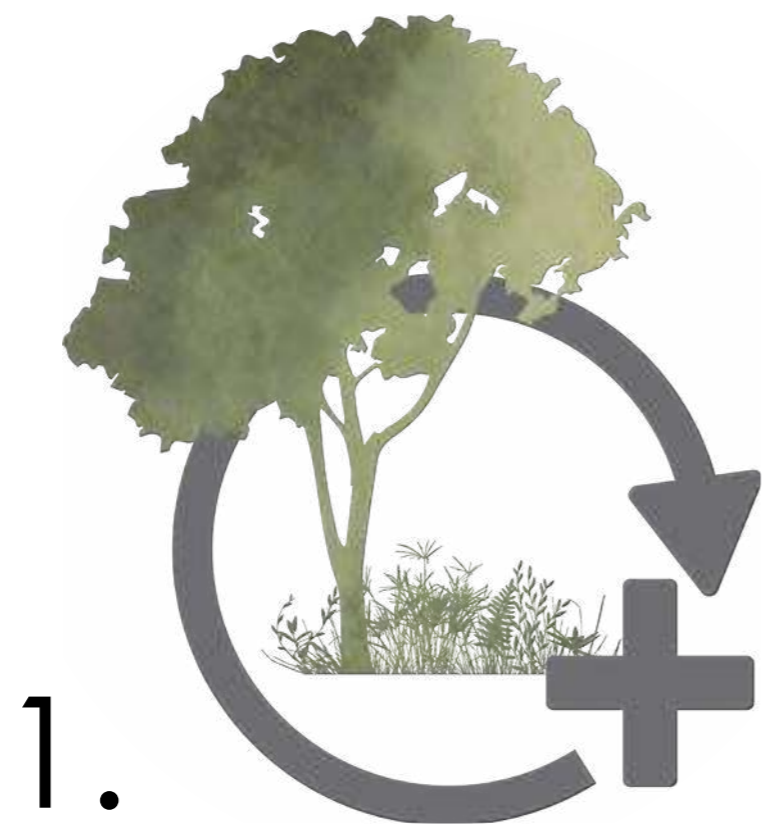
users



contextual grounding



c i r c l e o f s y m b i o s i s



project outcomes

1. The rehabilitation & revitalisation of the existing site as a critical public green space in the city as it continues to densify.
2. Provide an enriched healing experience to users based on the principles of the 'Sense of Coherence' by sociologist Aaron Antonovsky.
3. The integration of IBTs, passive design strategies and energy-efficient buildings that promote environmentally sustainable and responsible architectural practices.
4. Reduce the pressure on existing mental healthcare services by providing a diverse range of opportunities for complementary treatment options that function alongside conventional interventions for outpatients and the general public.
5. Promote a healthier lifestyle for urban dwellers by reconnecting users back to nature and their community.

site selection criteria

1. Proximity to a variety of potential user groups.
2. An underutilised public green space with critical environmental characteristics in need of rehabilitation.
3. Ease of access or the potential for improved accessibility into and across the site.
4. Has existing programmes that the intervention can tie into and extend upon.

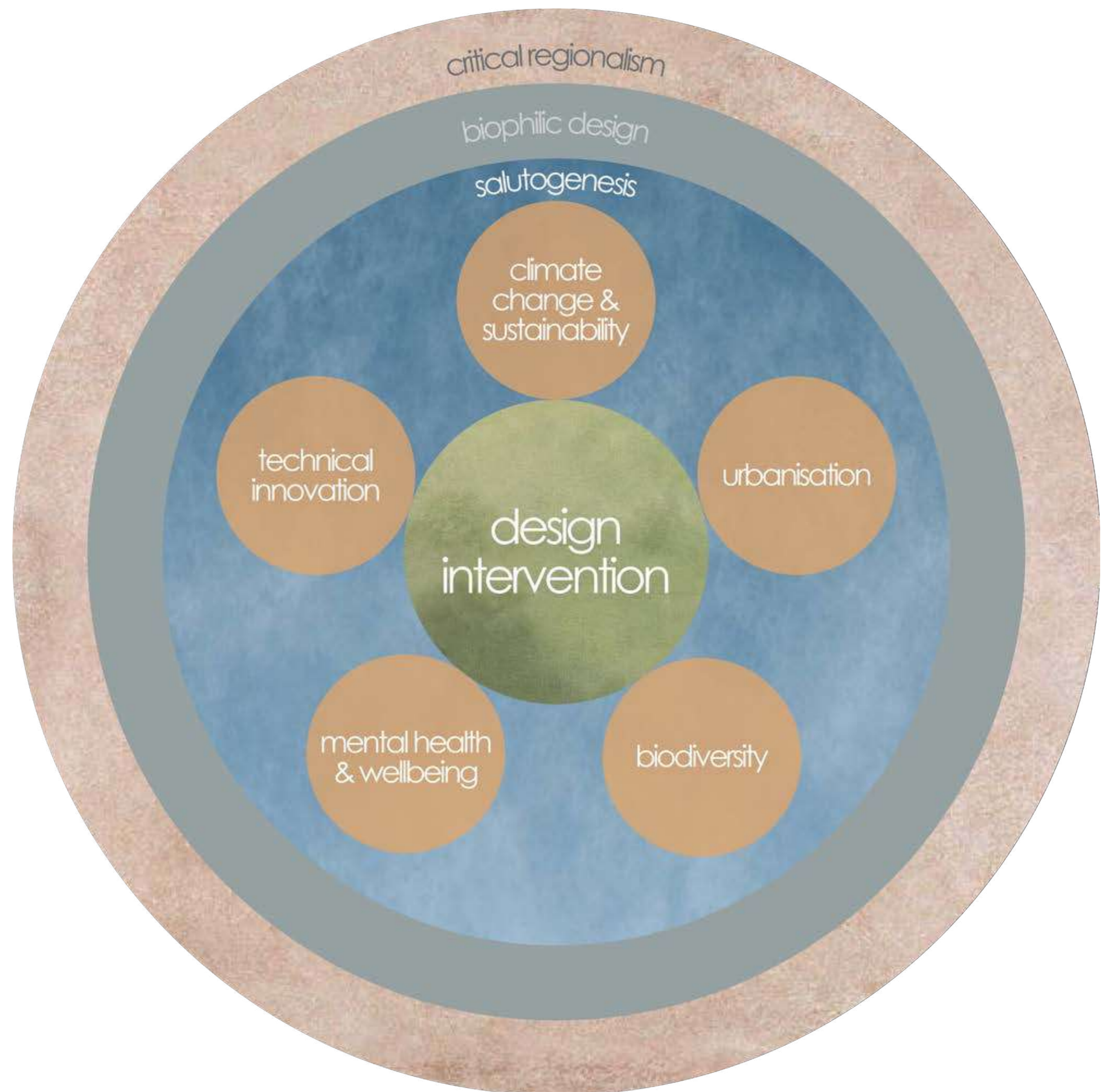
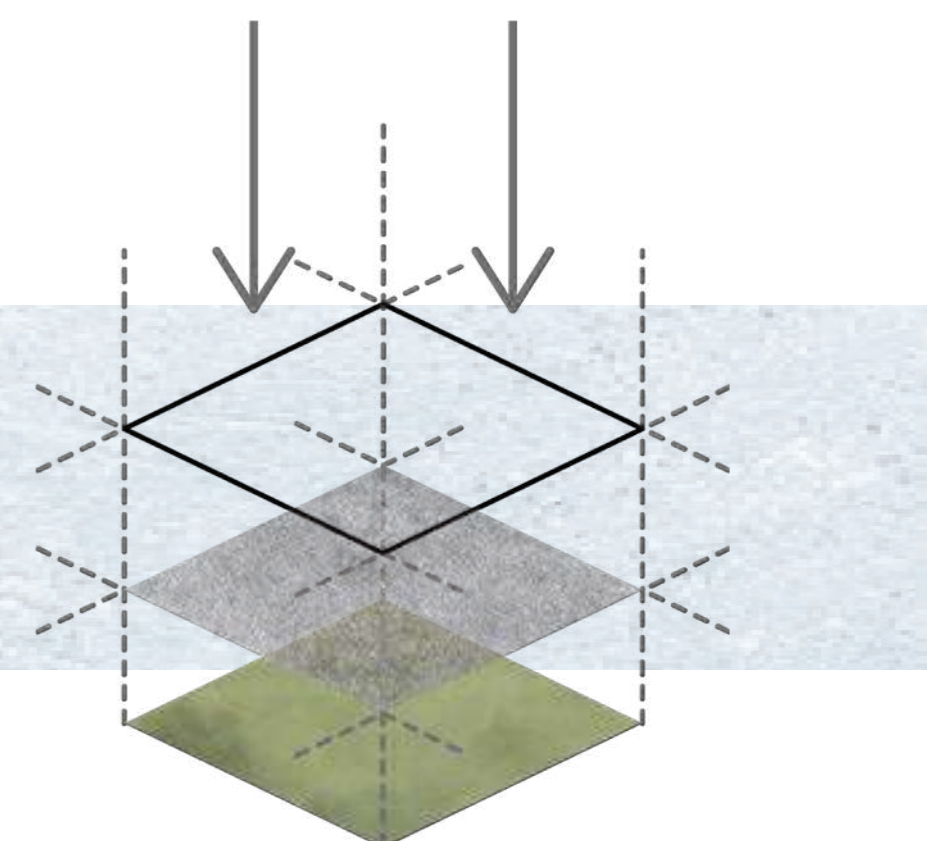
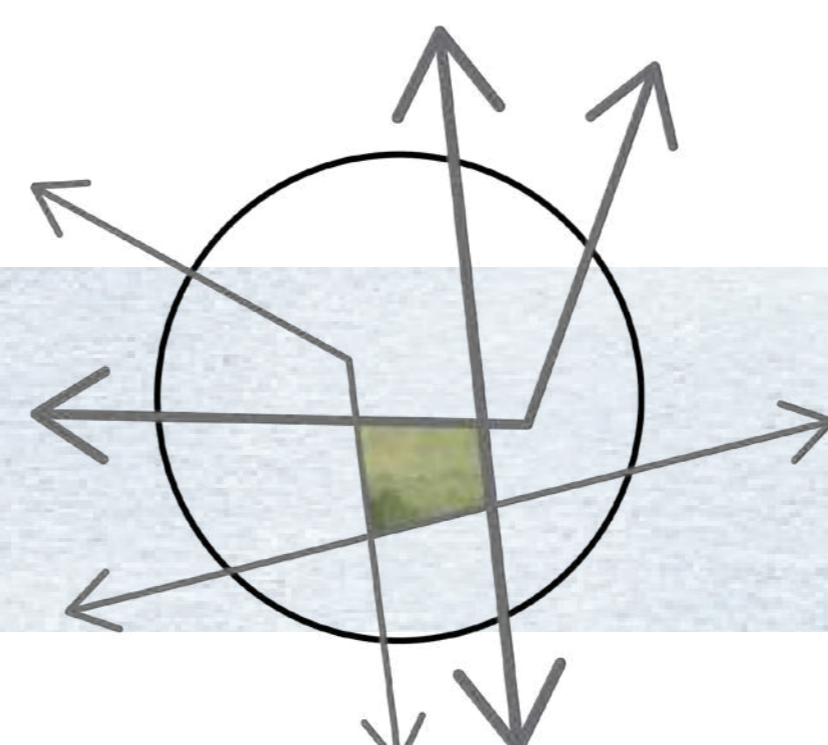
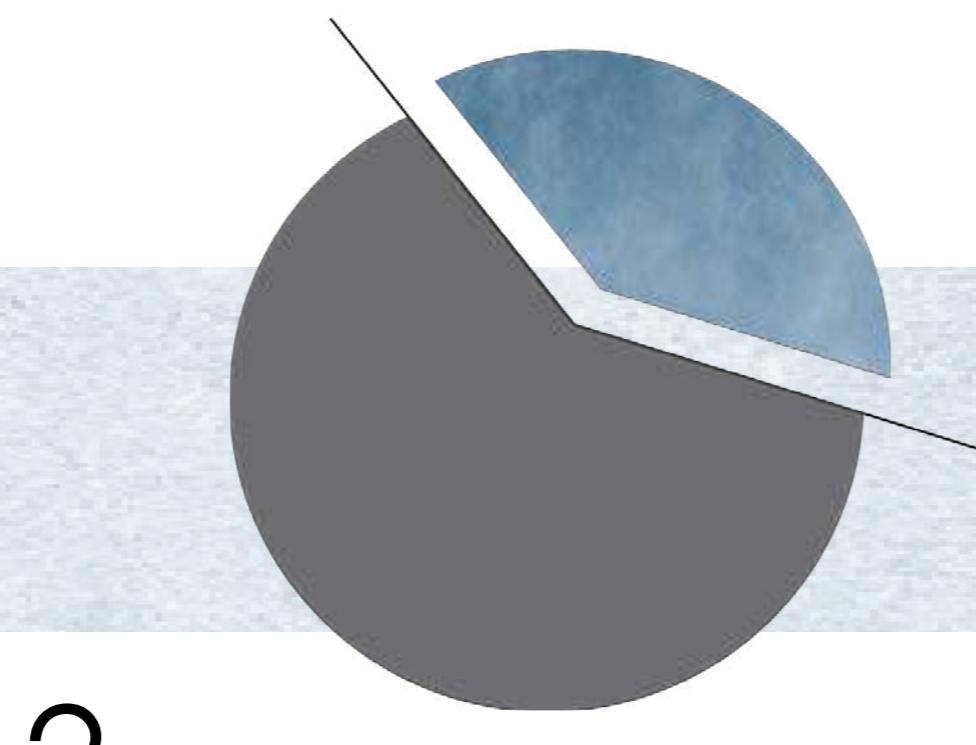
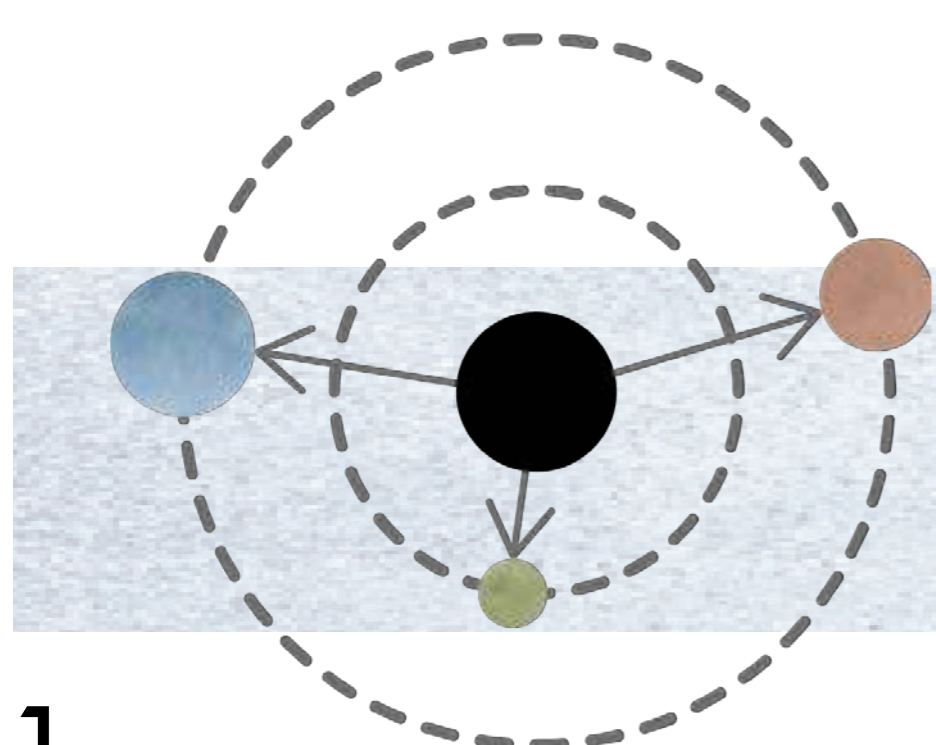


Diagram of spatial theory & design informants (Author, 2023)



1.

2.

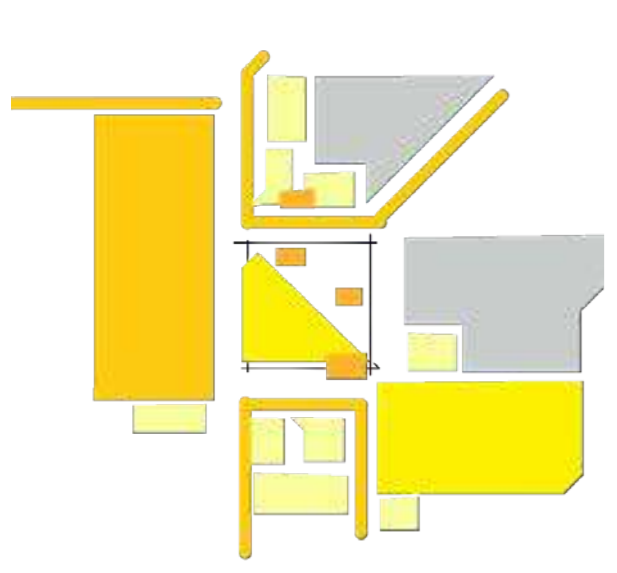
3.

4.

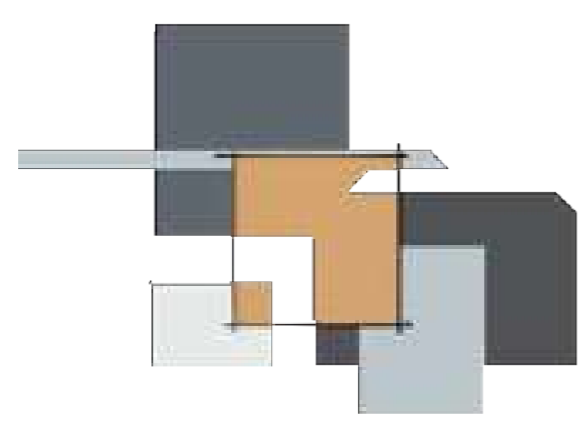
t h e o r y & d e s i g n p r i n c i p l e s



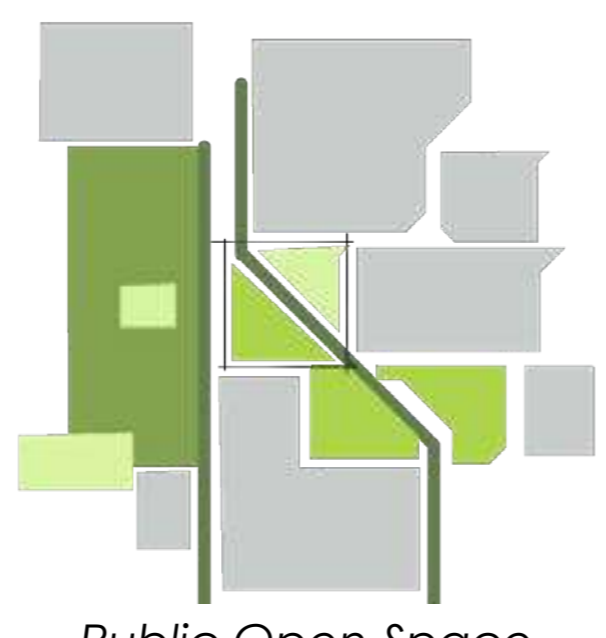
reconnecting Pretoria's public green space along river & open green space networks - introducing urban wellness infrastructure



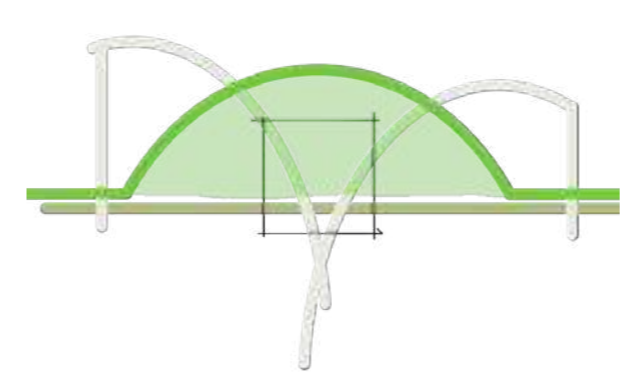
Human Activity - Private vs Public



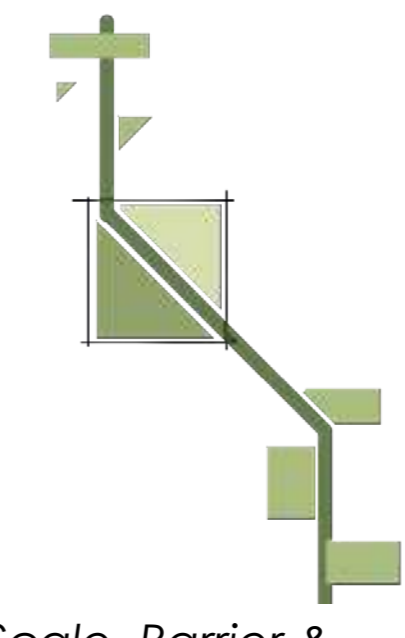
Interconnectedness



Public Open Space



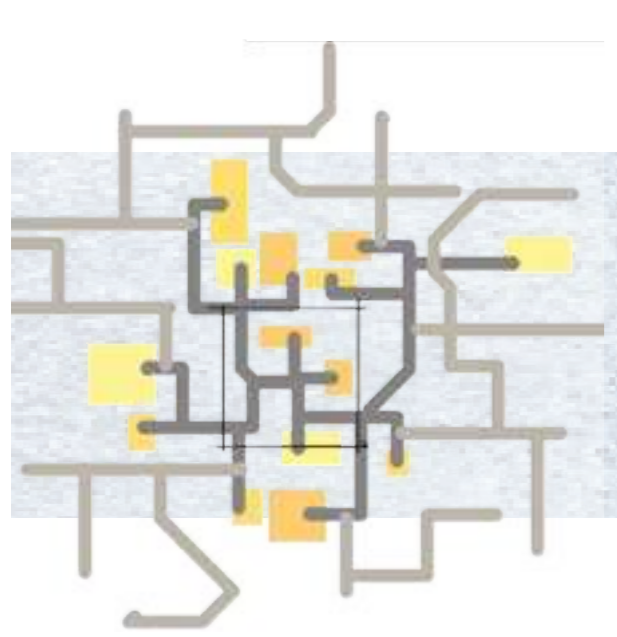
Extension of Green Space



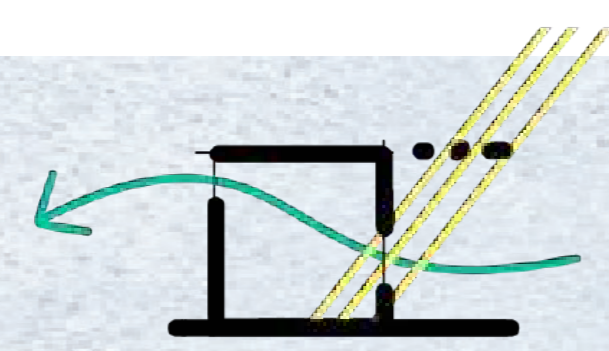
Scale, Barrier & Connectivity



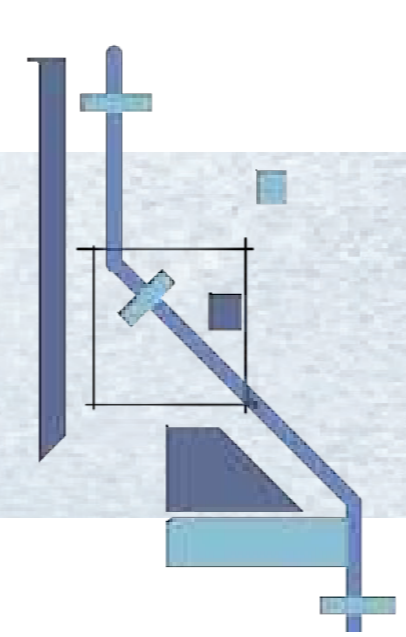
Tectonics - Respect the Existing



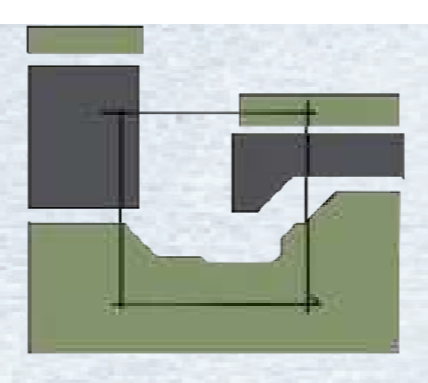
Regenerative Socio-economic Networks



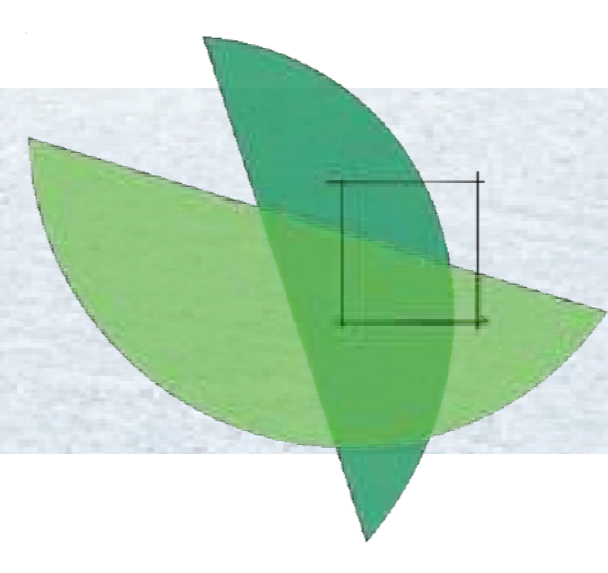
Passive Design Principles



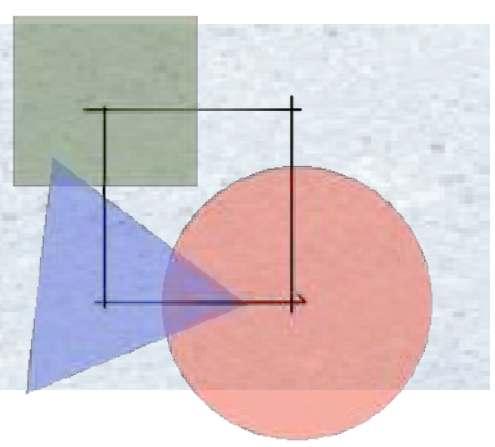
Rehabilitate Natural Water Systems



Sensitive Biodiversity Intervention



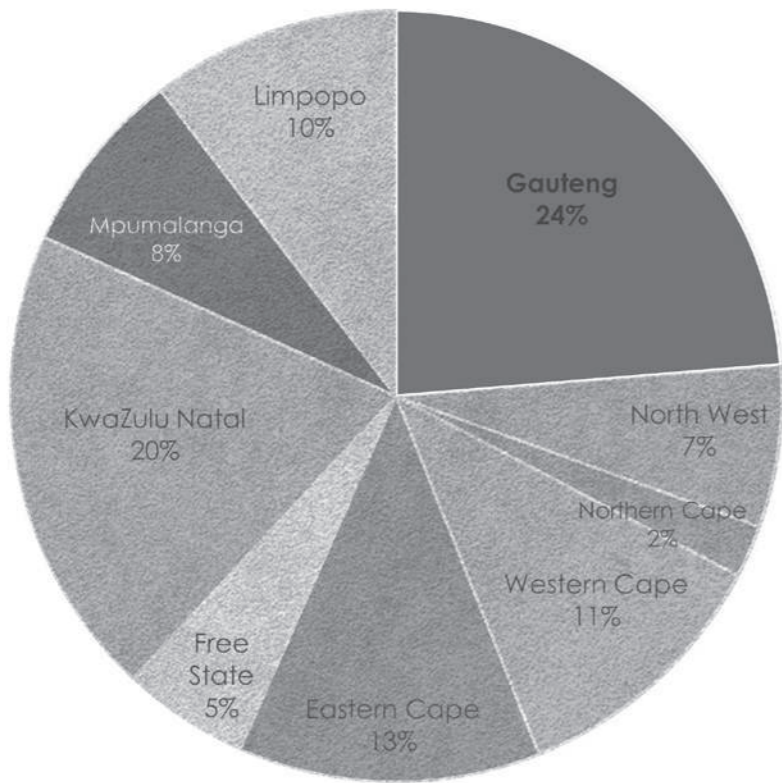
Symbiotic Healing



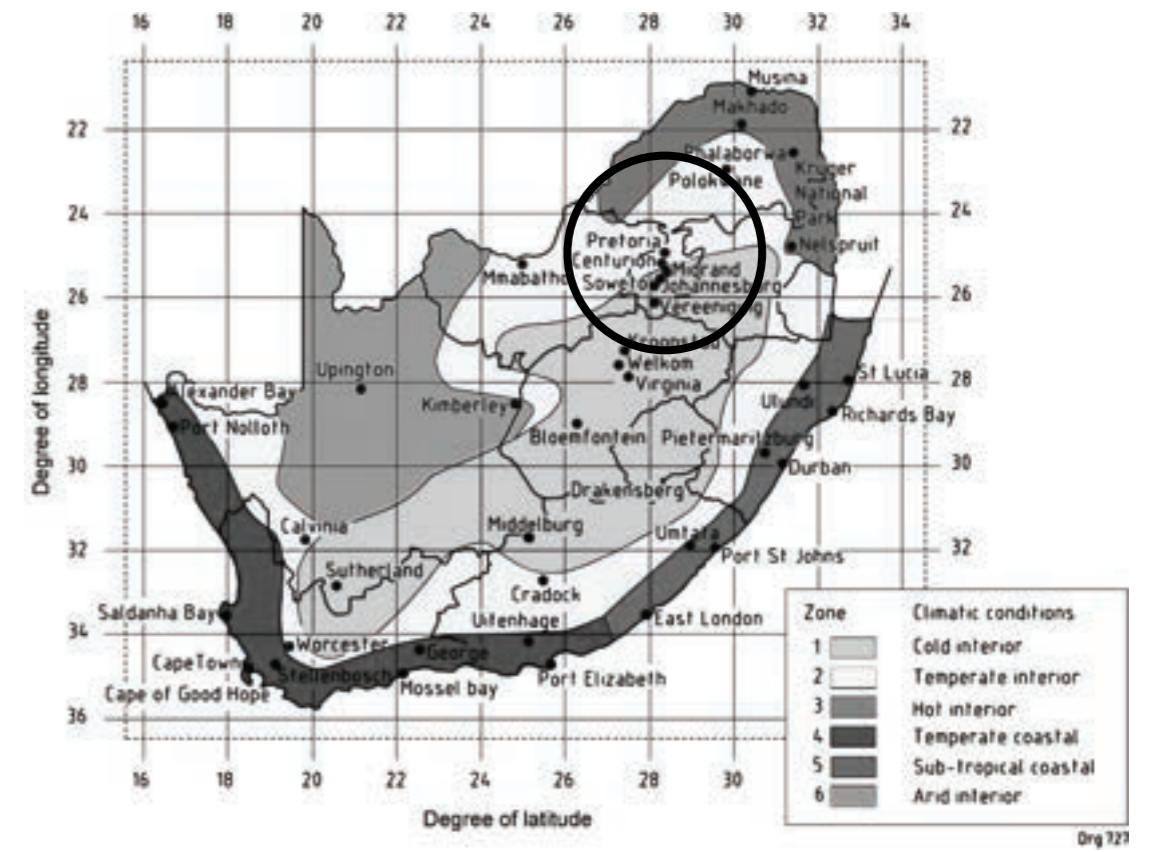
Multi-species Users

u r b a n v i s i o n

Provincial population
2011
12 130 000 people
(CSIR, 2019)



Provincial population
2050
20 290 000 people
(CSIR, 2019)



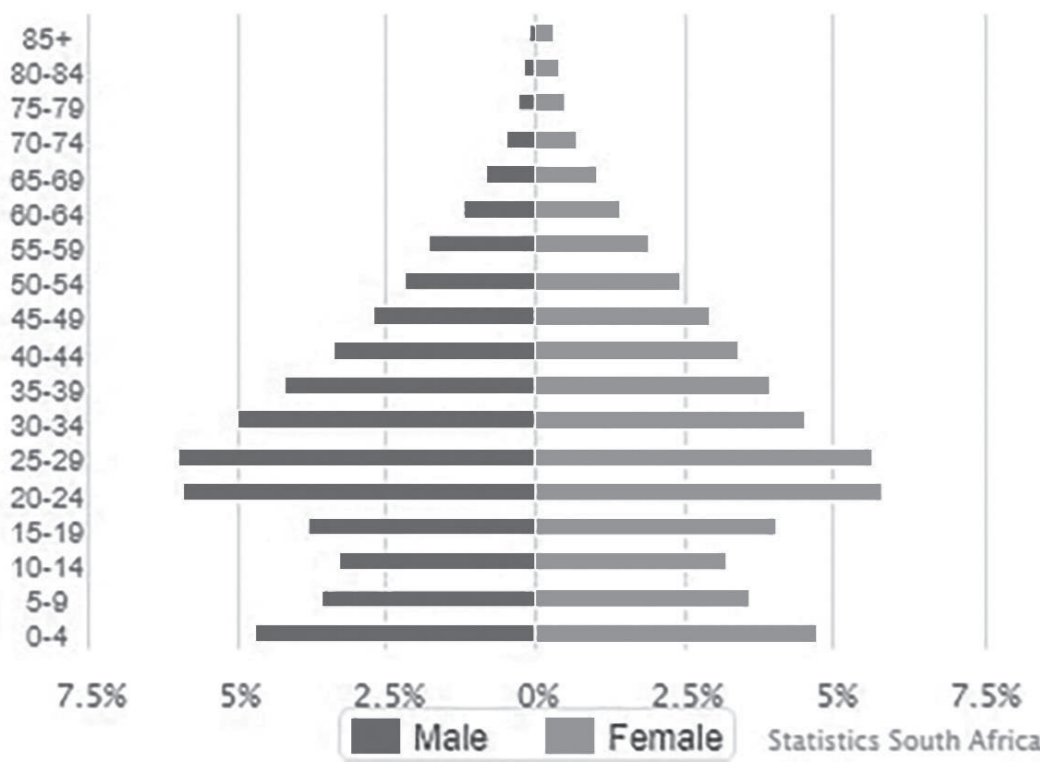
Climatic zones of South Africa (SANS 10400X & XA)

Municipal population
2011
2 921 291 people
(STATS SA, 2011)



Municipal population
2050
± 5 469 766 people
(CSIR, 2019)

Sex and Age Distribution

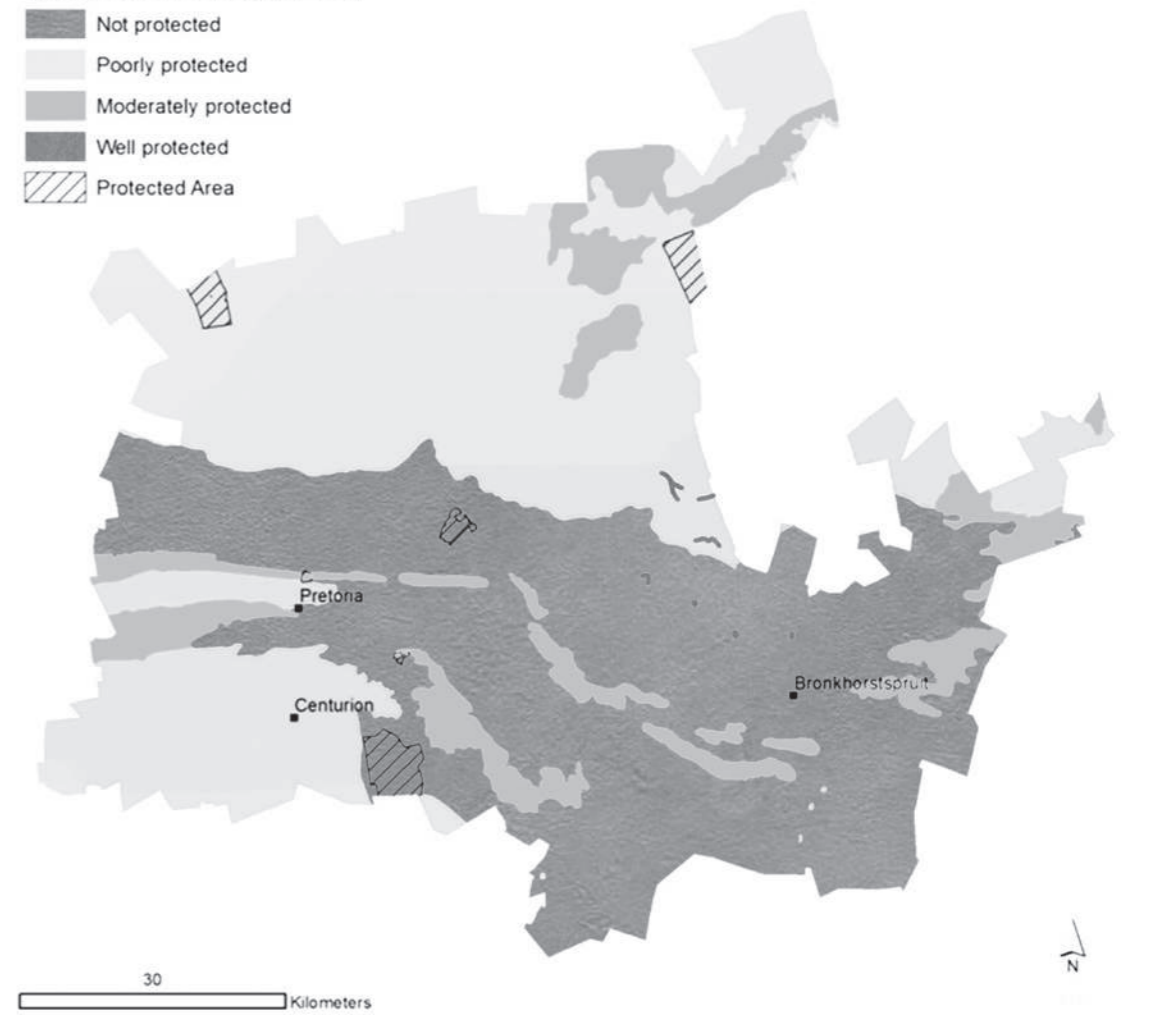


Sex & age distribution of Pretoria (STATS SA, 2011)

City of Tshwane

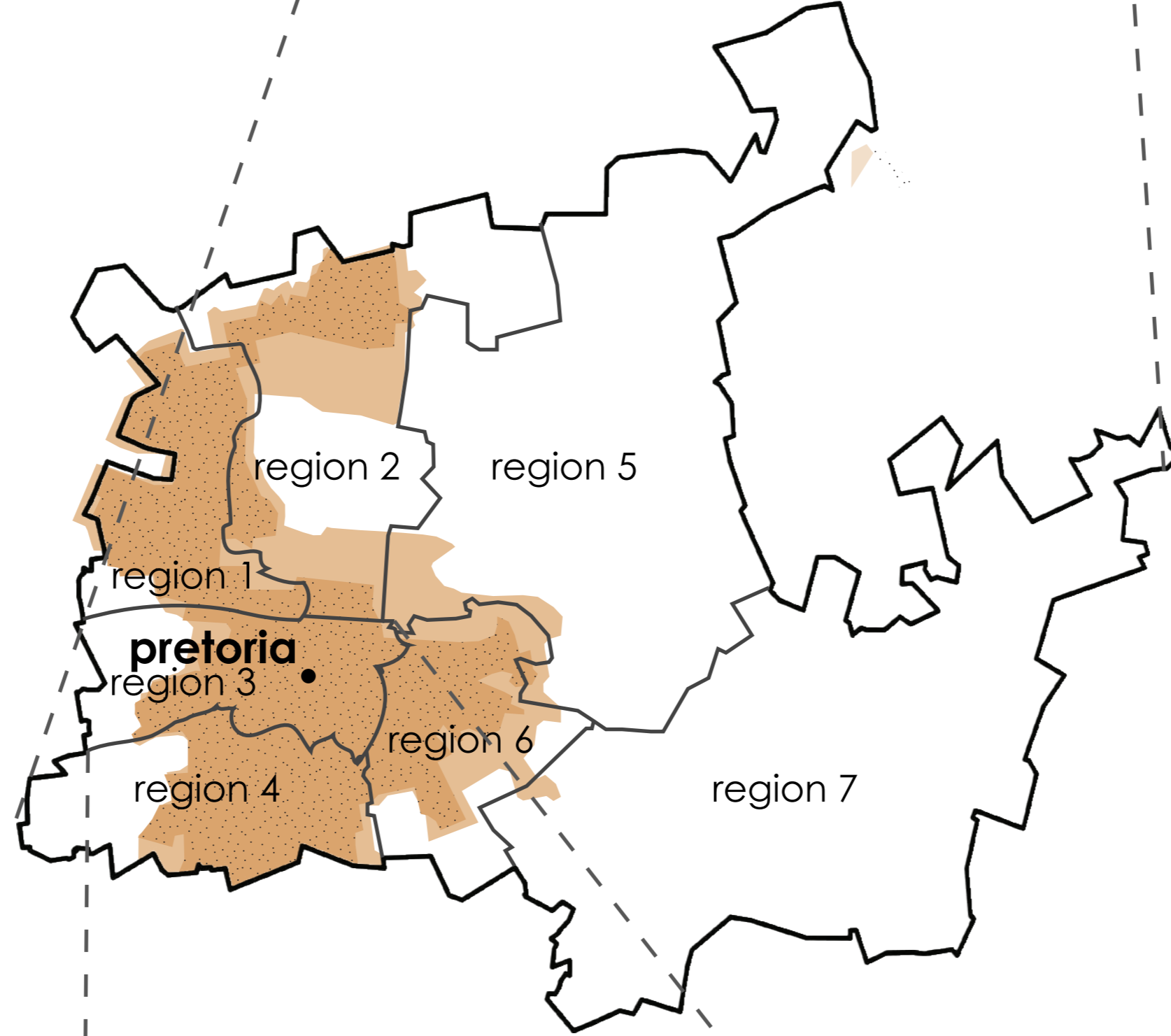
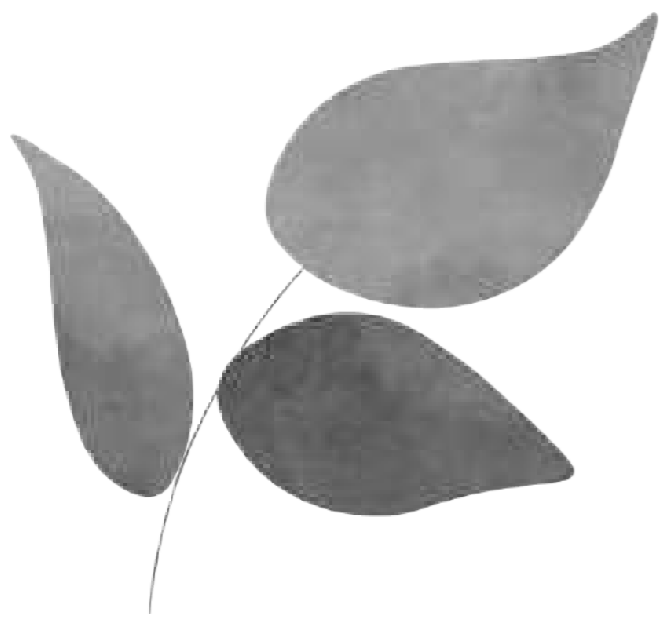
Ecosystem Protection Level

- Not protected
- Poorly protected
- Moderately protected
- Well protected
- Protected Area



Ecosystem protection levels in CoT (BPCT, 2016)

Marikana thornveld
bioregion



region 3: centre of pretoria
starting point at church square

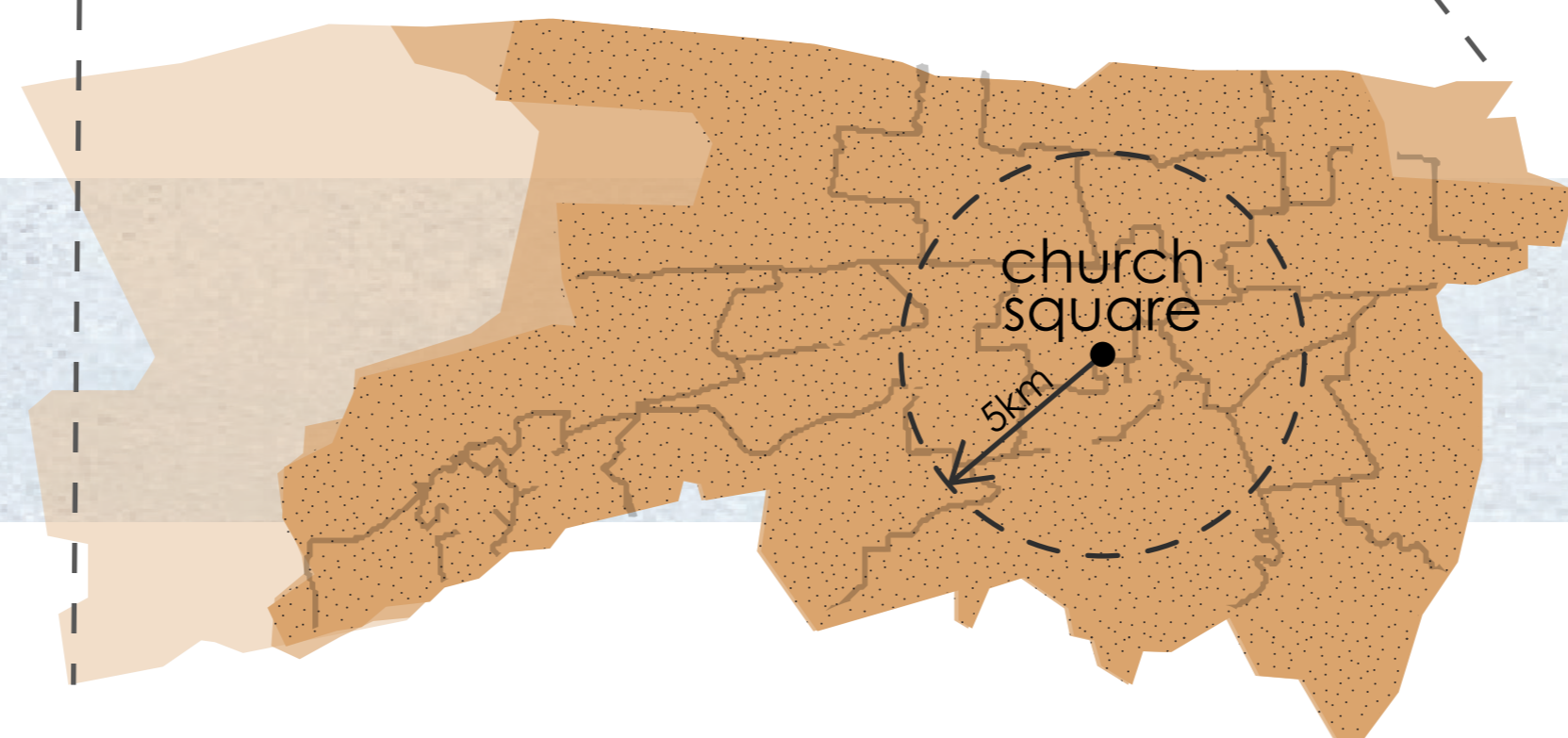
2021 urban edge

2010 urban edge



Region 3 population
2018
± 701 316 people
(CSIR, 2019)

Region 3 population
2050
± 1 028 396 people
(CSIR, 2019)



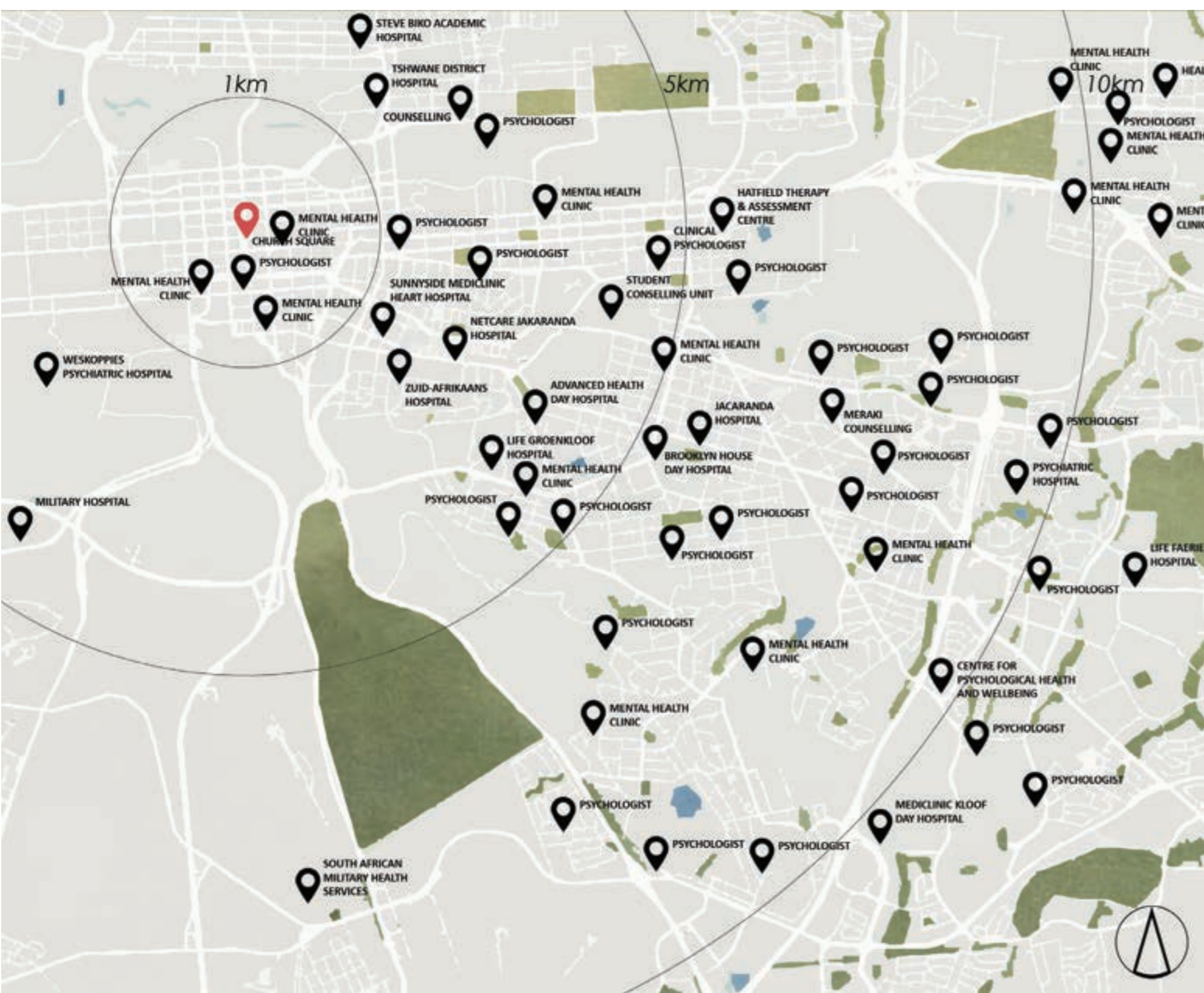
ecological support area 2 critical biodiversity area 2 no natural remaining
 ecological support area 1 critical biodiversity area 1



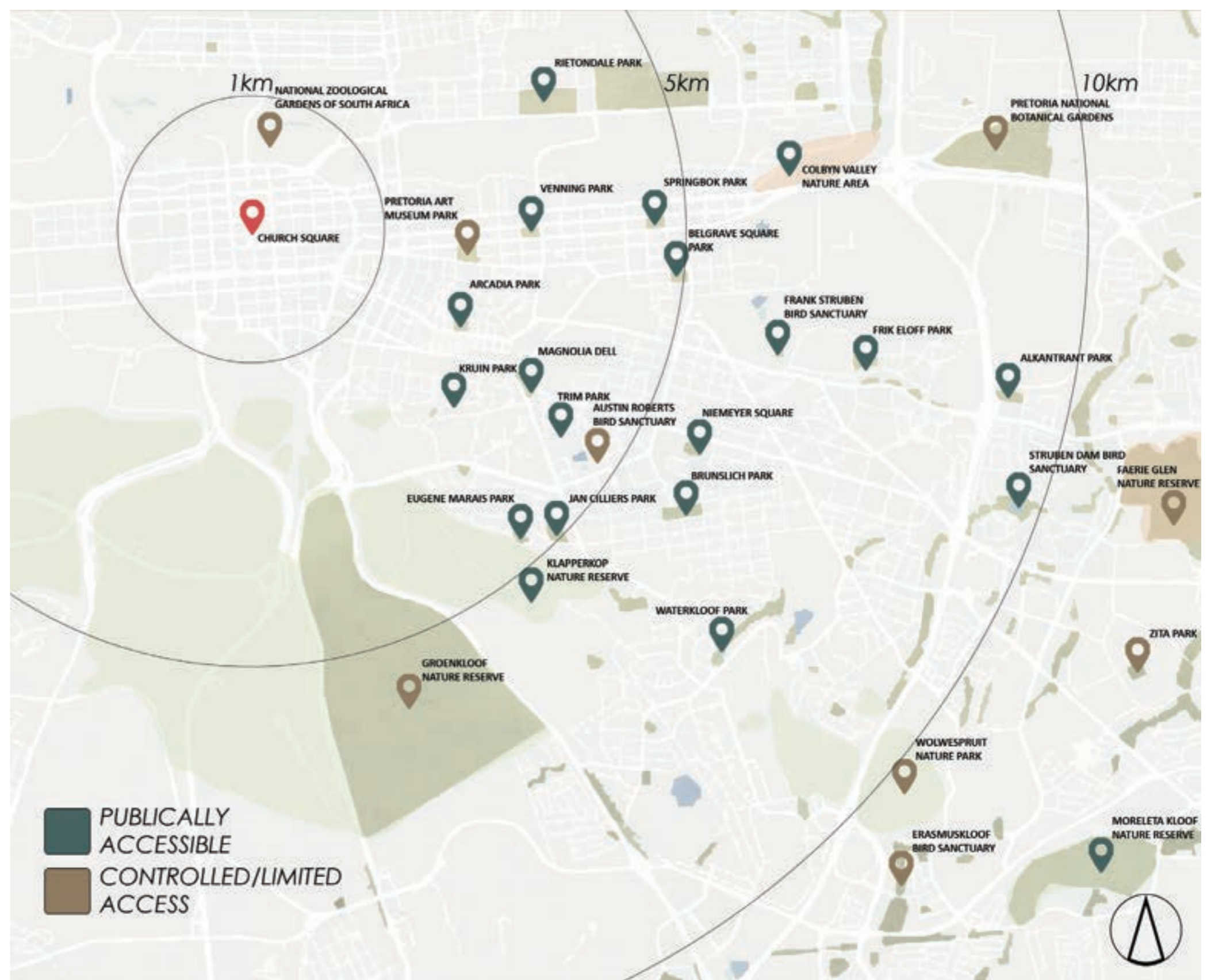
biodiversity analysis of Pretoria



public green spaces & conservation areas



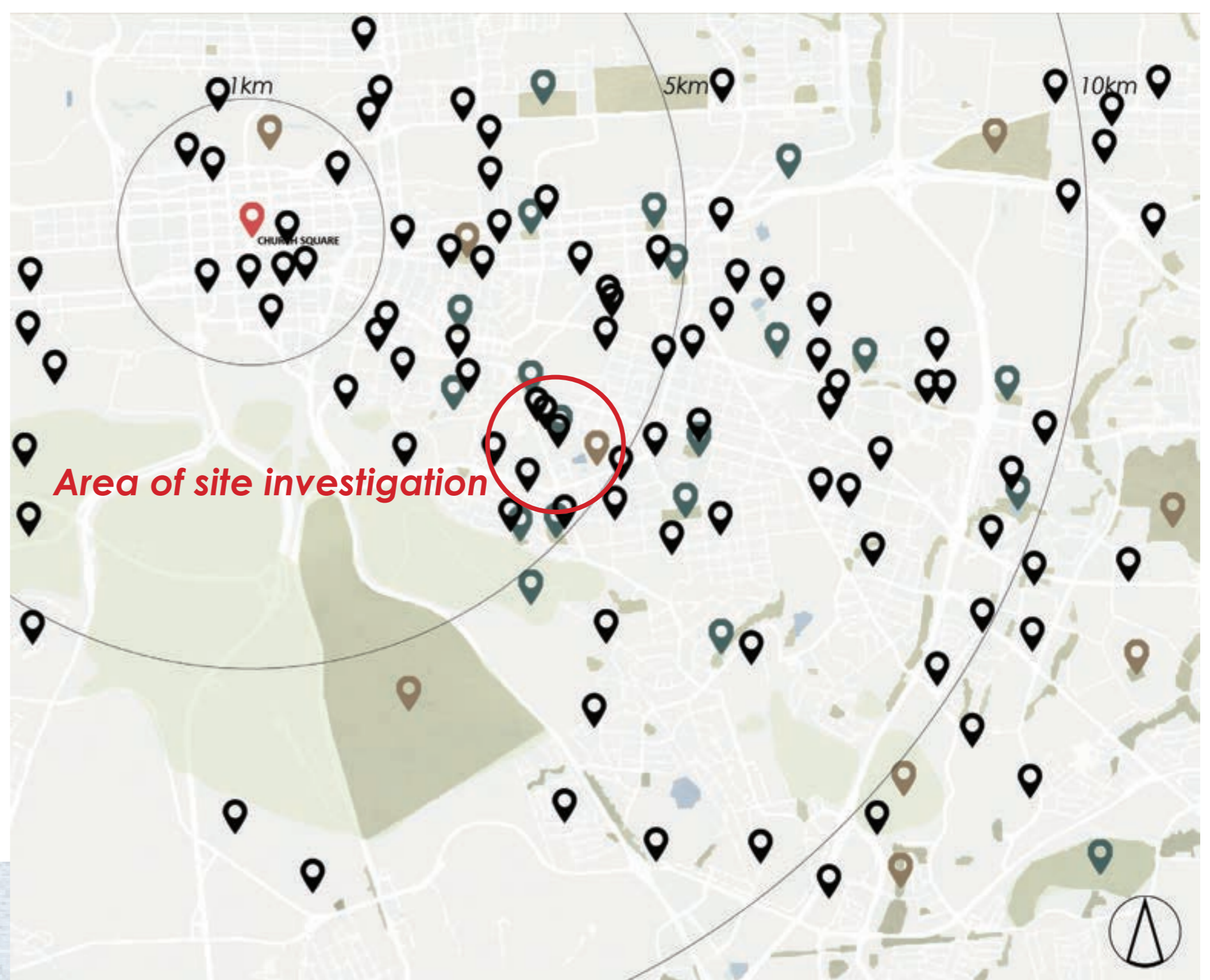
mental healthcare services



accessibility of public green spaces



educational facilities



identification of potential site

the macroscale focused on the City of Tshwane, identified areas undergoing urban gardens growth and potential loss of open space to densification as well as the bioclimatic and biodiversity characteristics of the region. Mesoscale mapping highlighted the critical state of biodiversity due to urbanisation, and the challenge of balancing the city's development with the increasing need for open space.

macro-scale mapping



Clay quarry, Nieuw Muckleneuk, 1948 (University of Pretoria, 1948)



Trim Park, Nieuw Muckleneuk, 2022 (Google Maps, 2023)



Accessibility of open green spaces

As already illustrated, over the past 75 years the region of Nieuw Muckleneuk has undergone intensive densification and will continue to experience exponential growth over the next 50 to 100 years. The site identified, Trim Park, is one of the few remaining large publically-accessible green spaces in the area with a unique natural fabric and a complex set of ecological systems. Presently, the park is surrounded by a wide range of different users, programmes and critical access routes in and out of the city, with the potential to improve the lifestyle of urban dwellers in proximity to its location.



Points of interest around the site



Future use zoning (City of Tshwane MSDF, 2020)

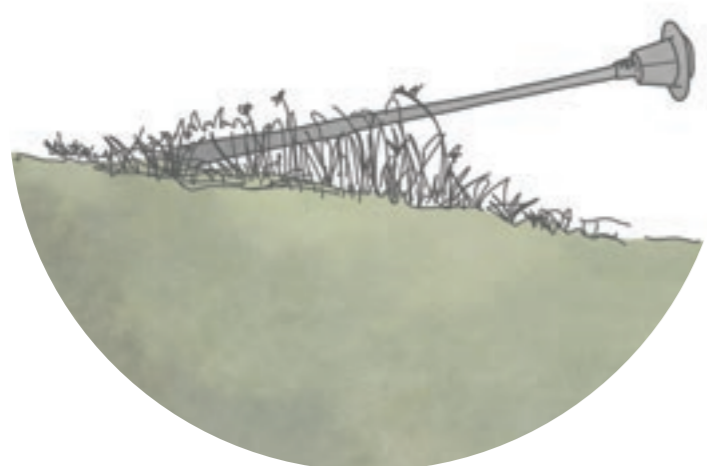


future points of densification (City of Tshwane MSDF, 2020)

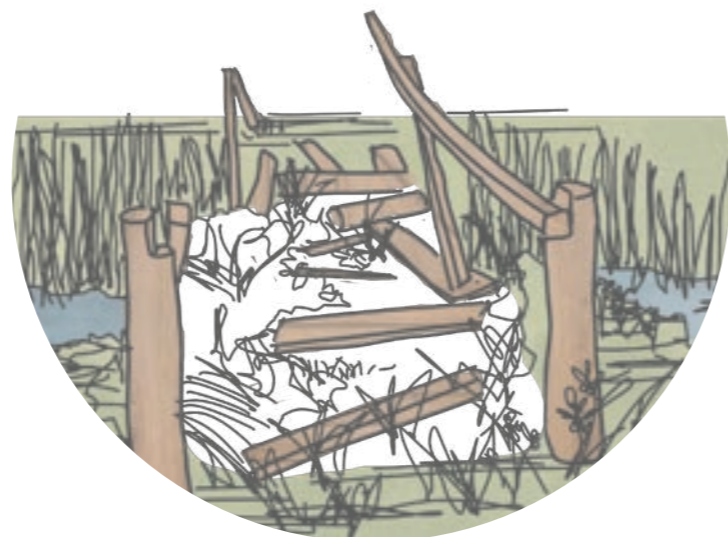


critical roads of the road master plan (City of Tshwane MSDF, 2020)

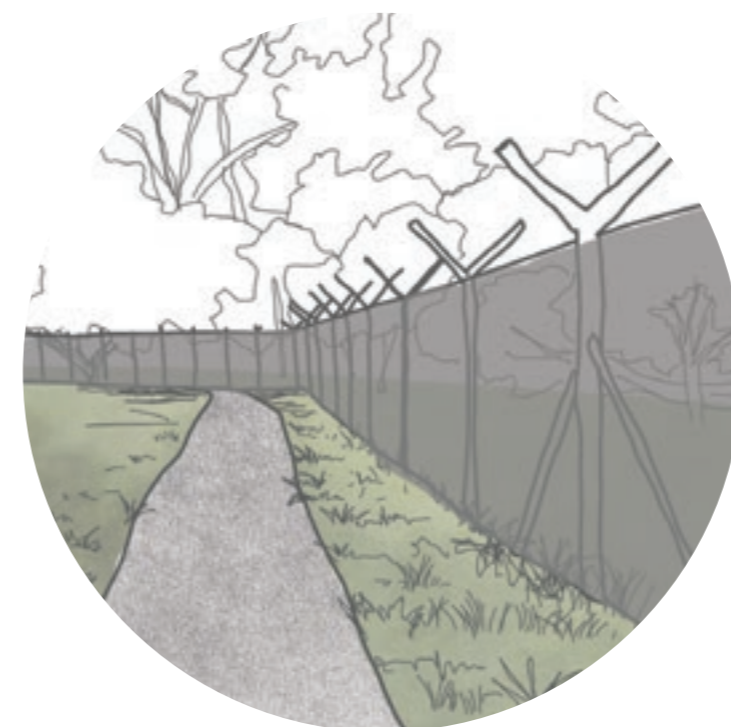
m e s o - s c a l e m a p p i n g



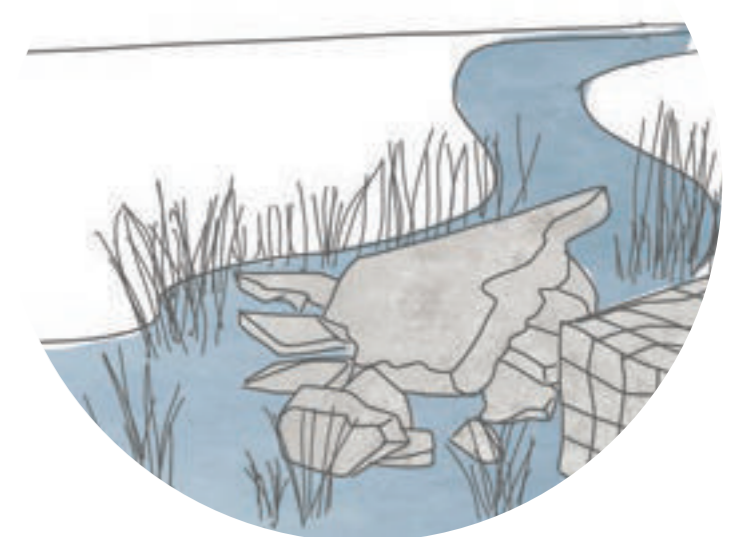
Damaged outdoor lighting network



Dilapidated park bridges



Partial inaccessibility



Failing river infrastructure

Pretoria Arts Association - landmark

View of Mackie street

Informal soccer field on north-east corner of the park



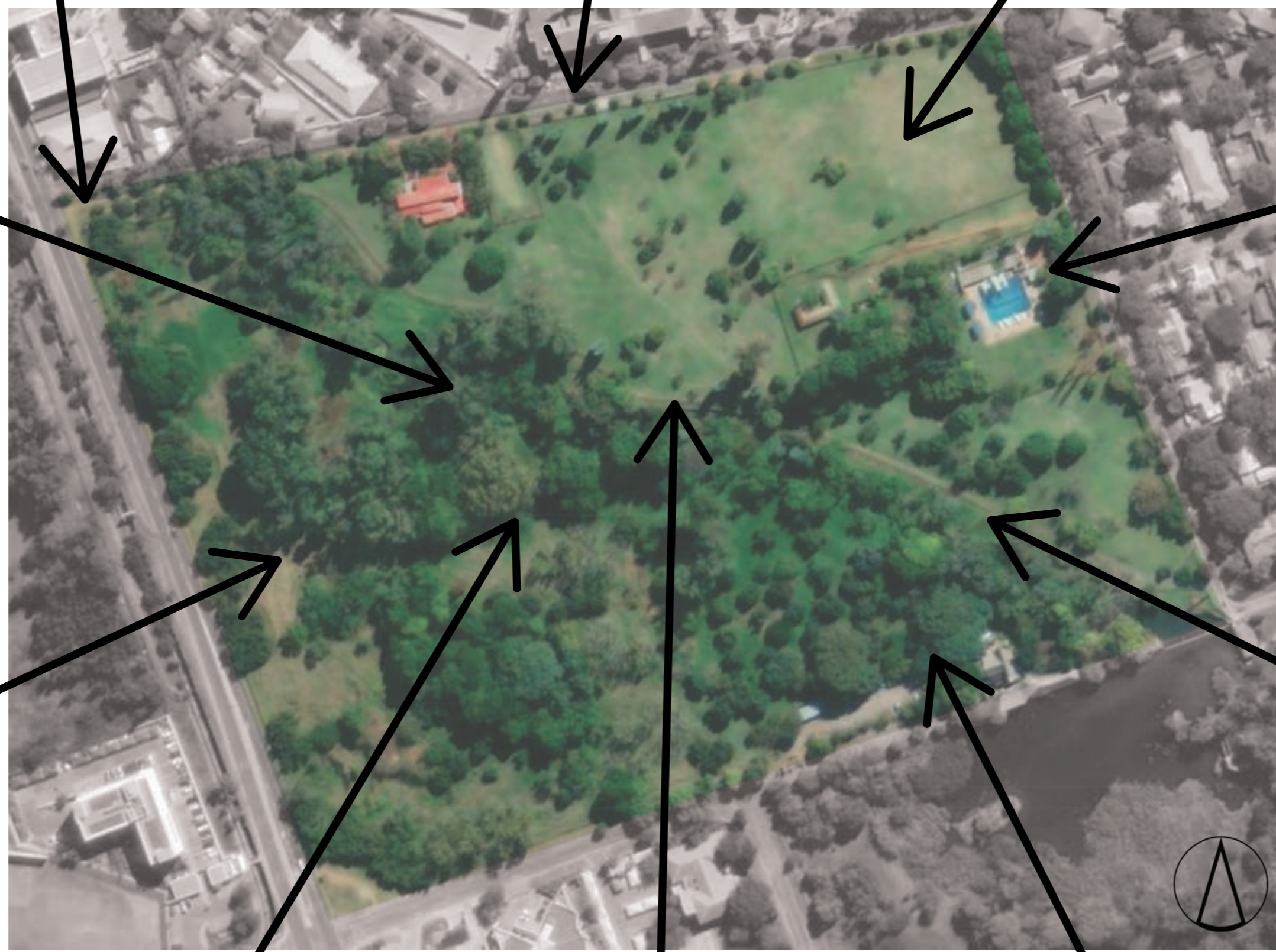
River condition



De Jong Diving Centre - temporarily closed



Dense vegetation



Pedestrian bridges



Street light network throughout park



Fence along north-east side of river



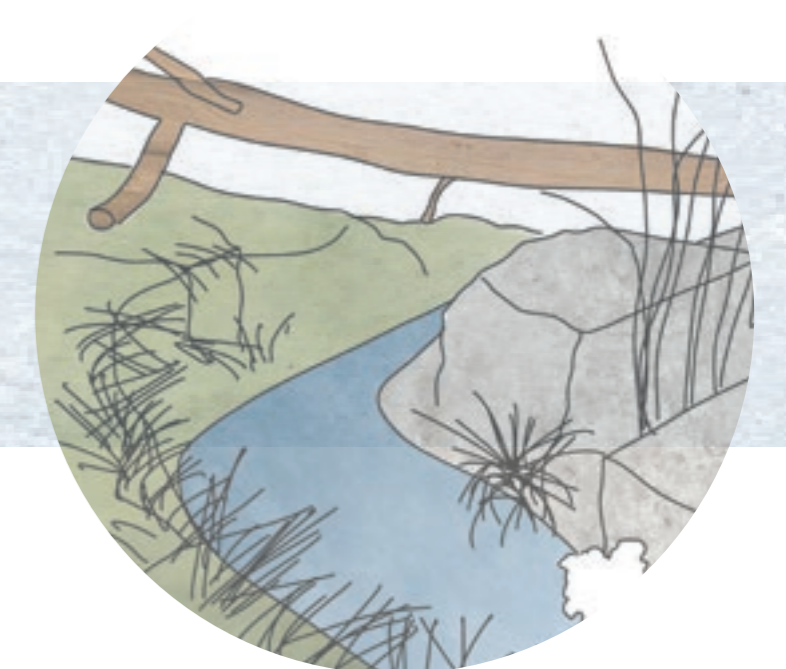
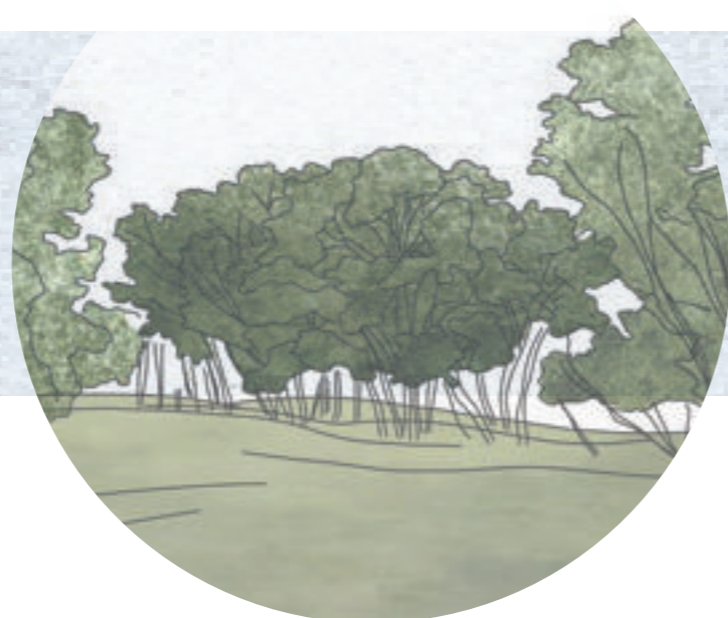
Single public access point

Presence of a variety of animal species

Immersive experience with nature

invasive species present

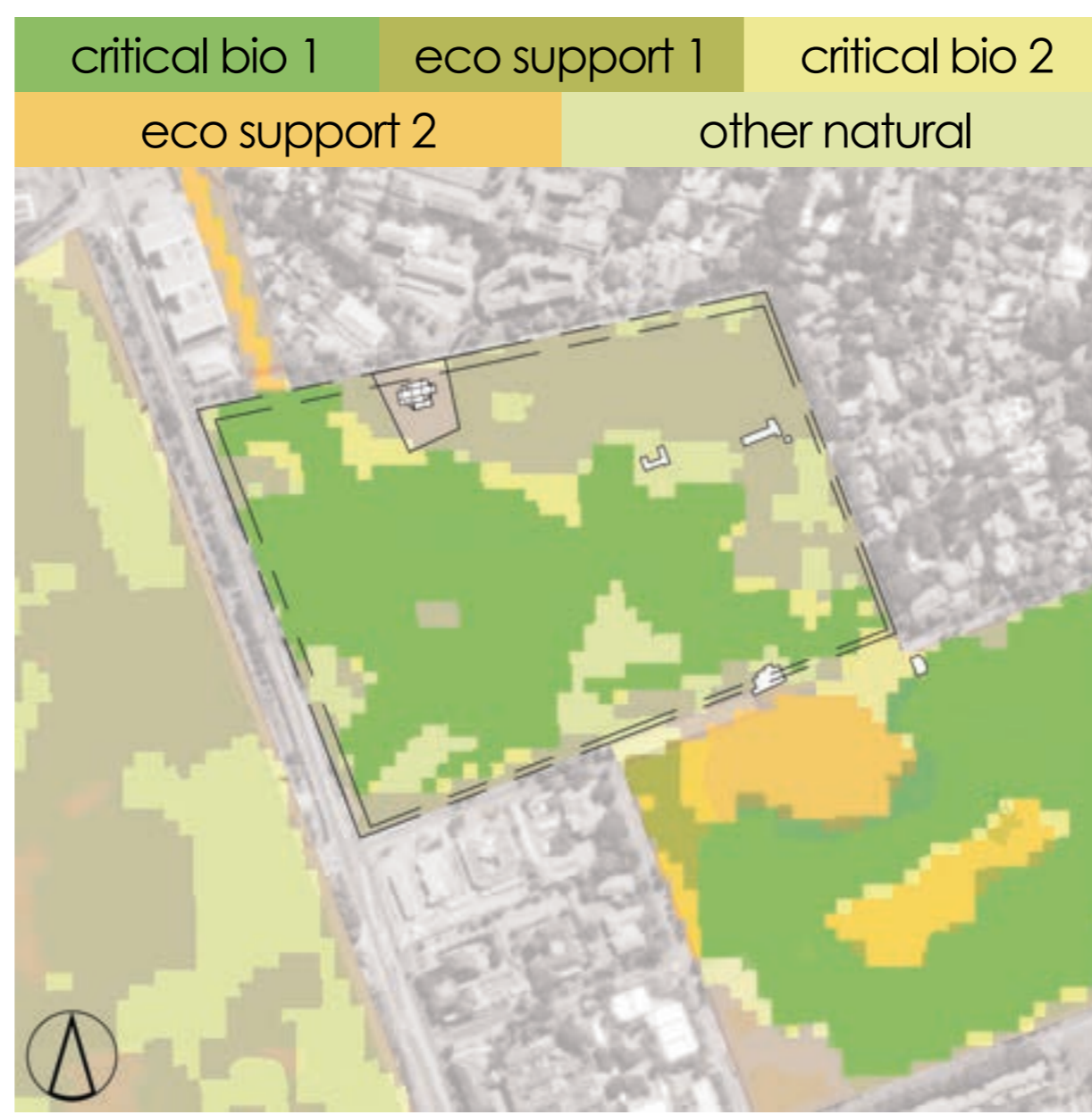
walkerspruit river



m i c r o - s c a l e m a p p i n g



trim park, nieuw muckleneuk, pretoria



ecological sensitivity



stormwater & sewer lines



existing programmes



public accessibility

Average Rainfall
732mm
Average Temperature
5°C - 29°C
Prominent Wind Direction
North-East
Biome Class
Temperate Grassland
Site Elevation
1364-1373m ASL



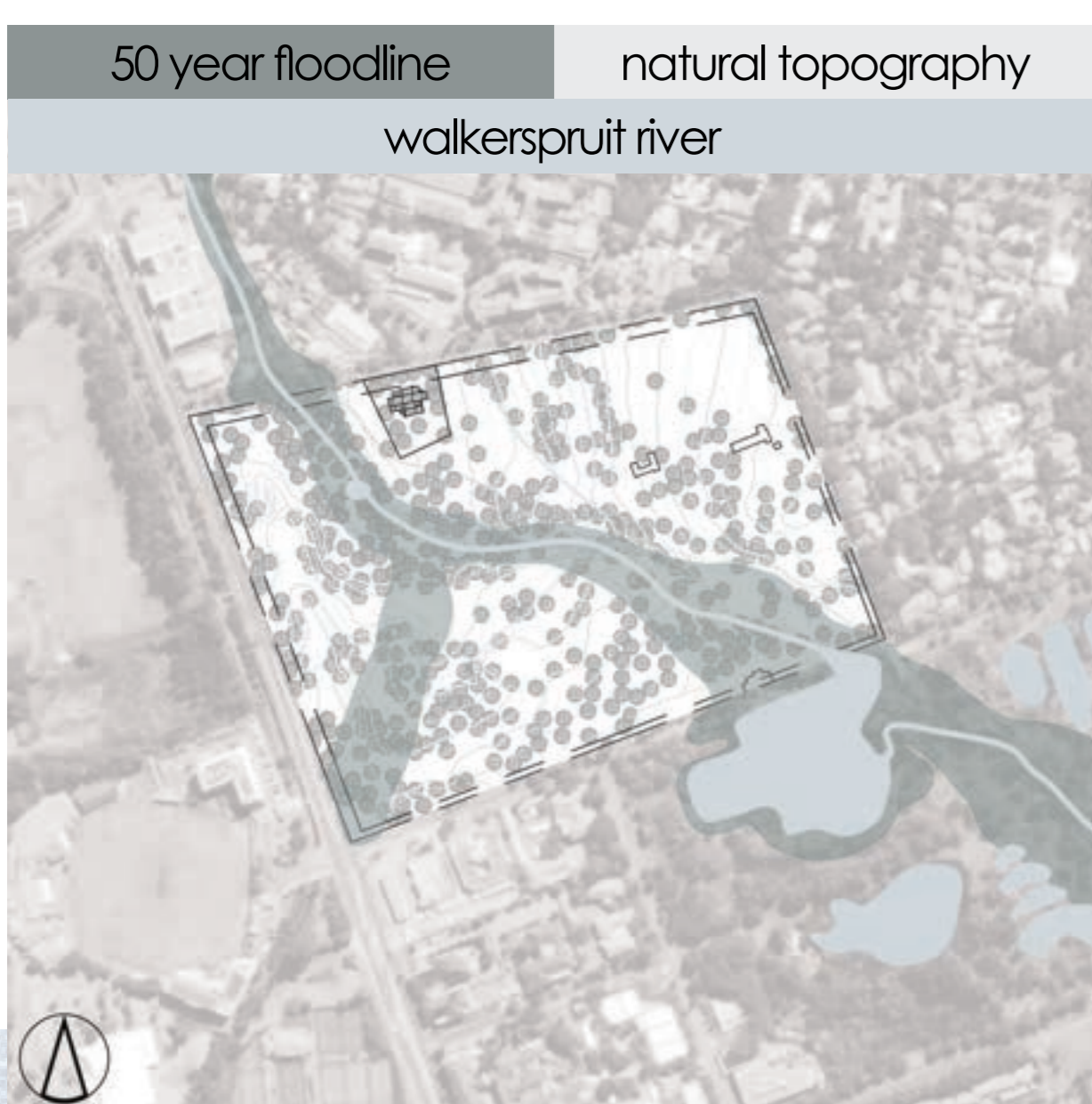
circulation, access & barriers



sensory features



future density growth



topography & hydrology



future use zoning



vegetation classification

Critical biodiversity area 1 - A natural/near-natural area required for ecological processes and/or biodiversity patterns. These areas are required to be maintained and rehabilitated to prevent harm to natural systems. Conservation orientated activities are permitted with strict control on the overall environmental impacts.
Critical biodiversity area 2 - Intensive agricultural landscapes required for ecological processes and/or biodiversity patterns. Land is to be cultivated to retain support to threatened species.
Ecological support area 1 - A natural/near-natural area required for ecological processes and/or biodiversity patterns such as floodplains, corridors, catchment areas and/or wetlands. These are focused as rehabilitation zones. Intensive

land-use should be avoided and natural systems are to be maintained. Compatible land-uses include low-density developments, eco-tourism and conservation activities.
Ecological support area 2 - Areas with no natural habitat which provide critical support to ecological processes such as buffer zones around wetlands, corridors and/or floodplains. Existing activities to be retained and/or downscaled to less intensive uses where possible.
Other natural areas - Natural areas not included in the aforementioned categories.
(Bioregional Plan for the City of Tshwane, 2016)

site analysis



informal circulation	formal circulation
access point	fence/barrier
vehicle circulation	public transport node

existing circulation & access



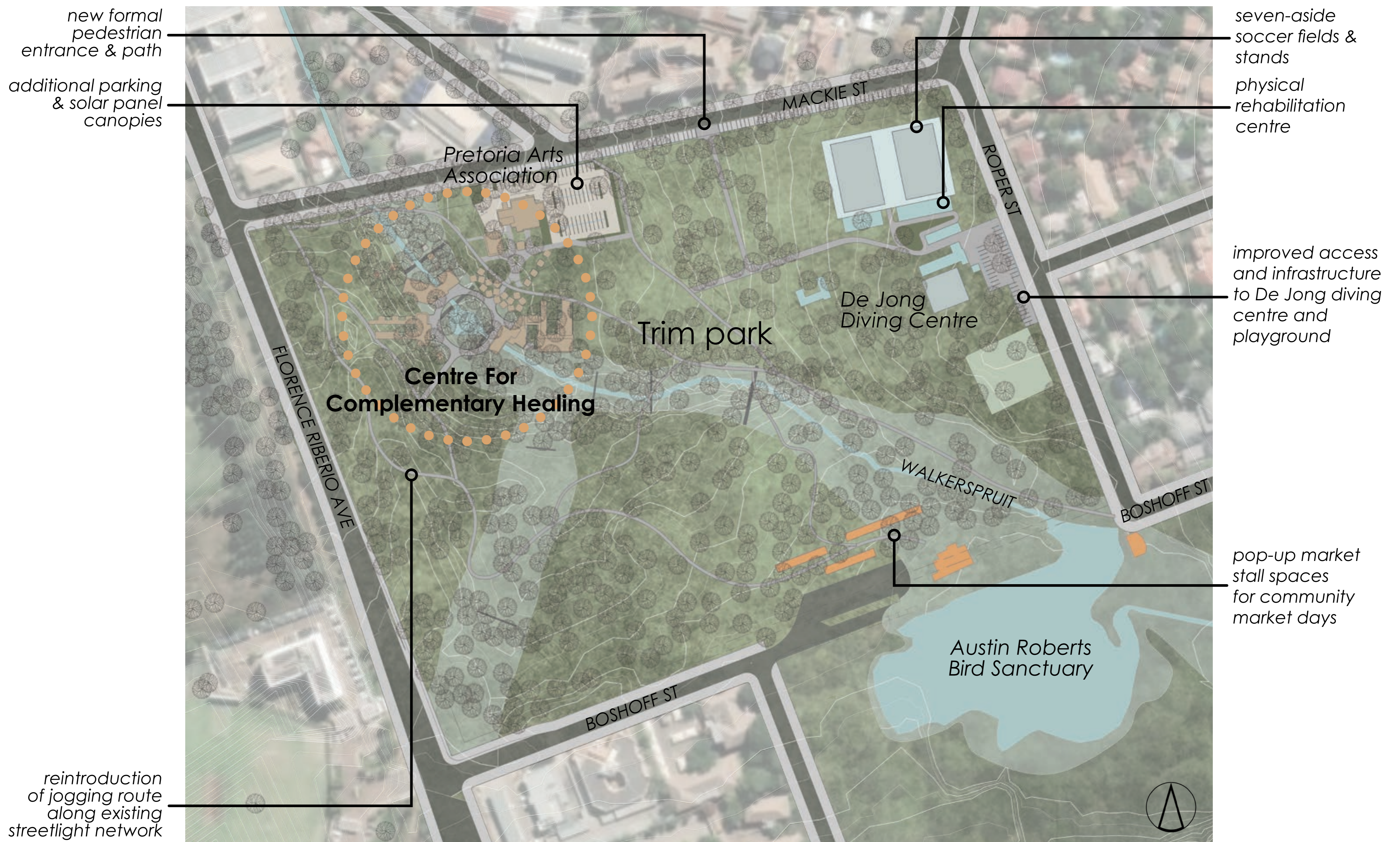
activity/user	informal circulation
vehicle circulation	formal circulation

existing activities



critical bio area 1	50-year floodline
vehicle circulation	river/water system
natural feature	critical bio area 2

existing vegetation & environment

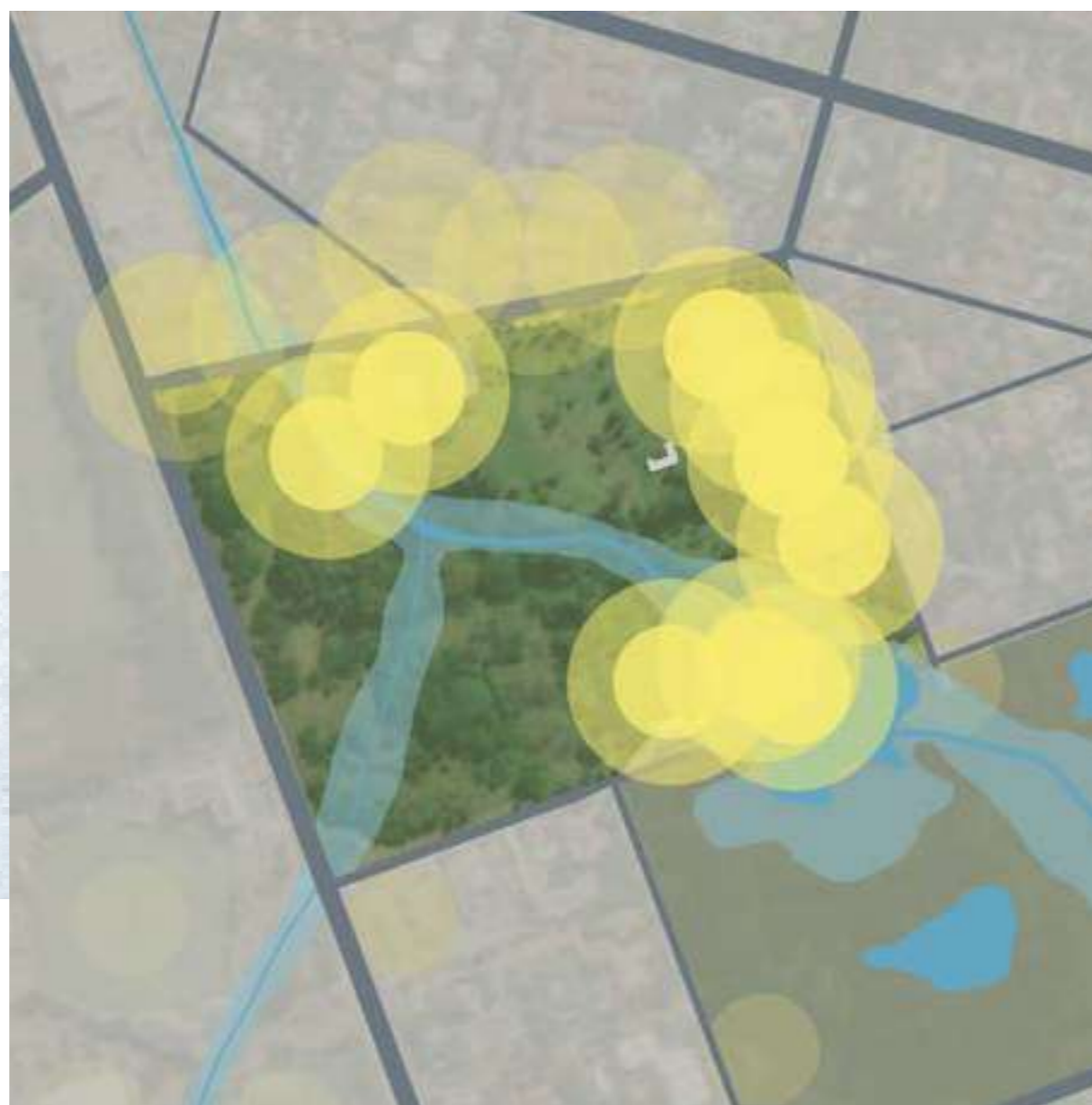


The intention of this project is to focus on the complementary therapy centre component of this larger plan.

New and improved circulation & access



Further site activation



Long-term preservation of natural fabric





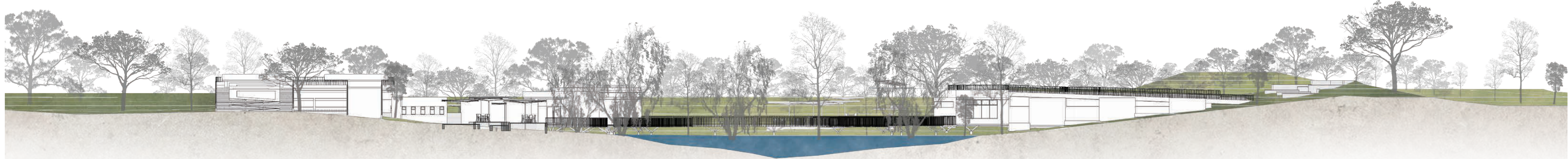
s i t e p l a n 1 : 2 0 0



A: West site elevation



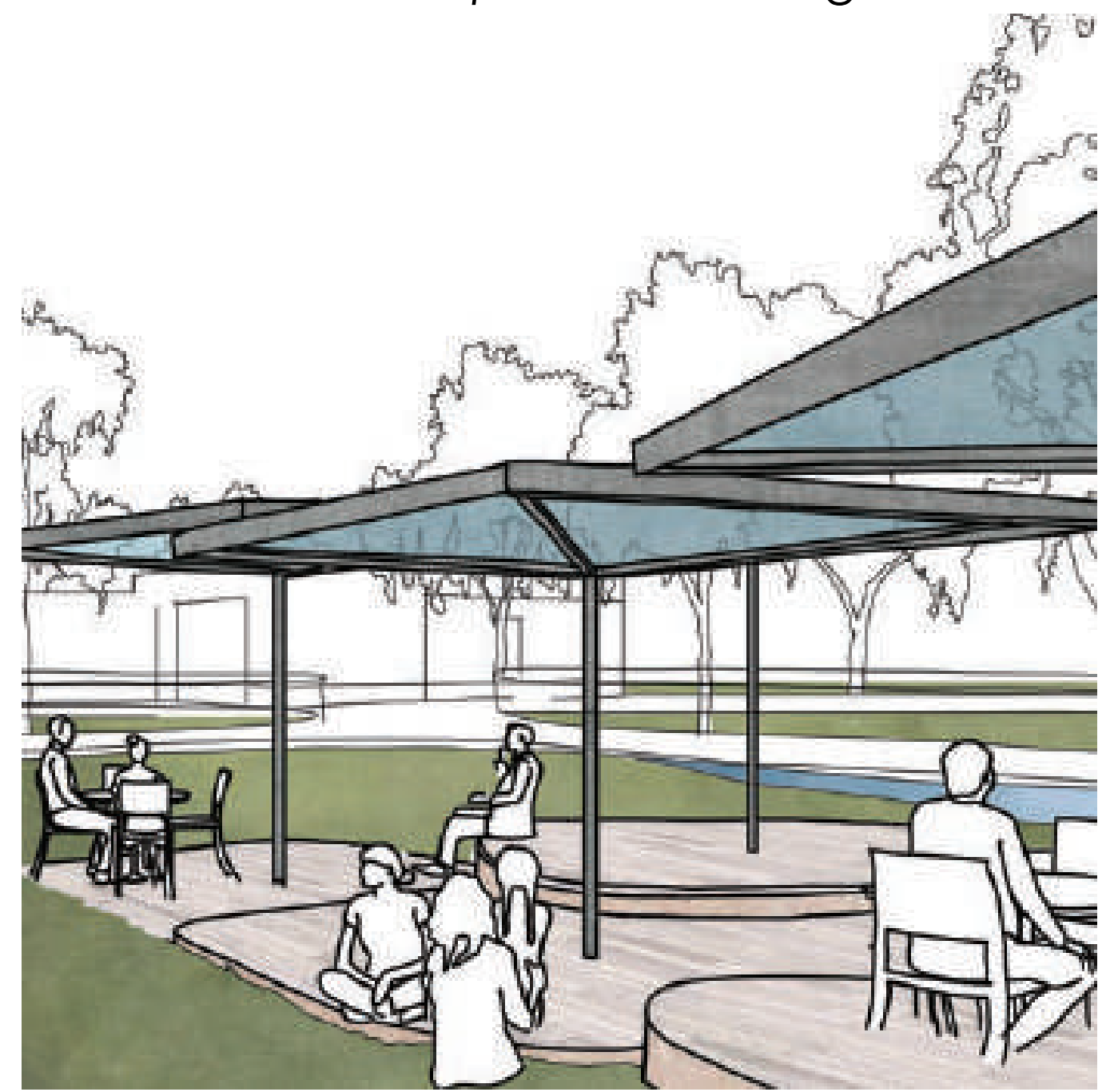
B: Site sectional elevation through river



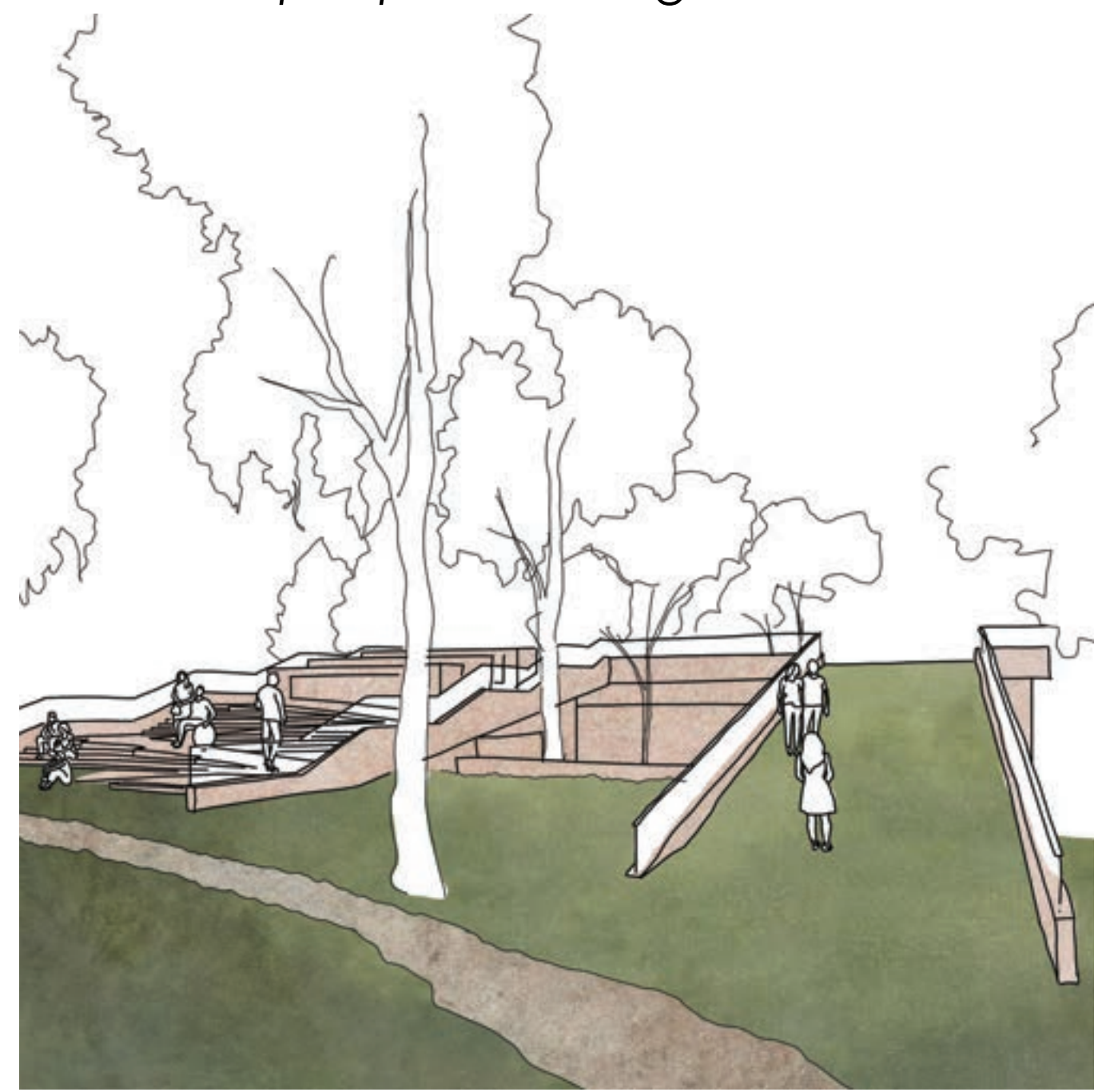
C: North site elevation
walkways & jogging paths



outdoor pavilion seating



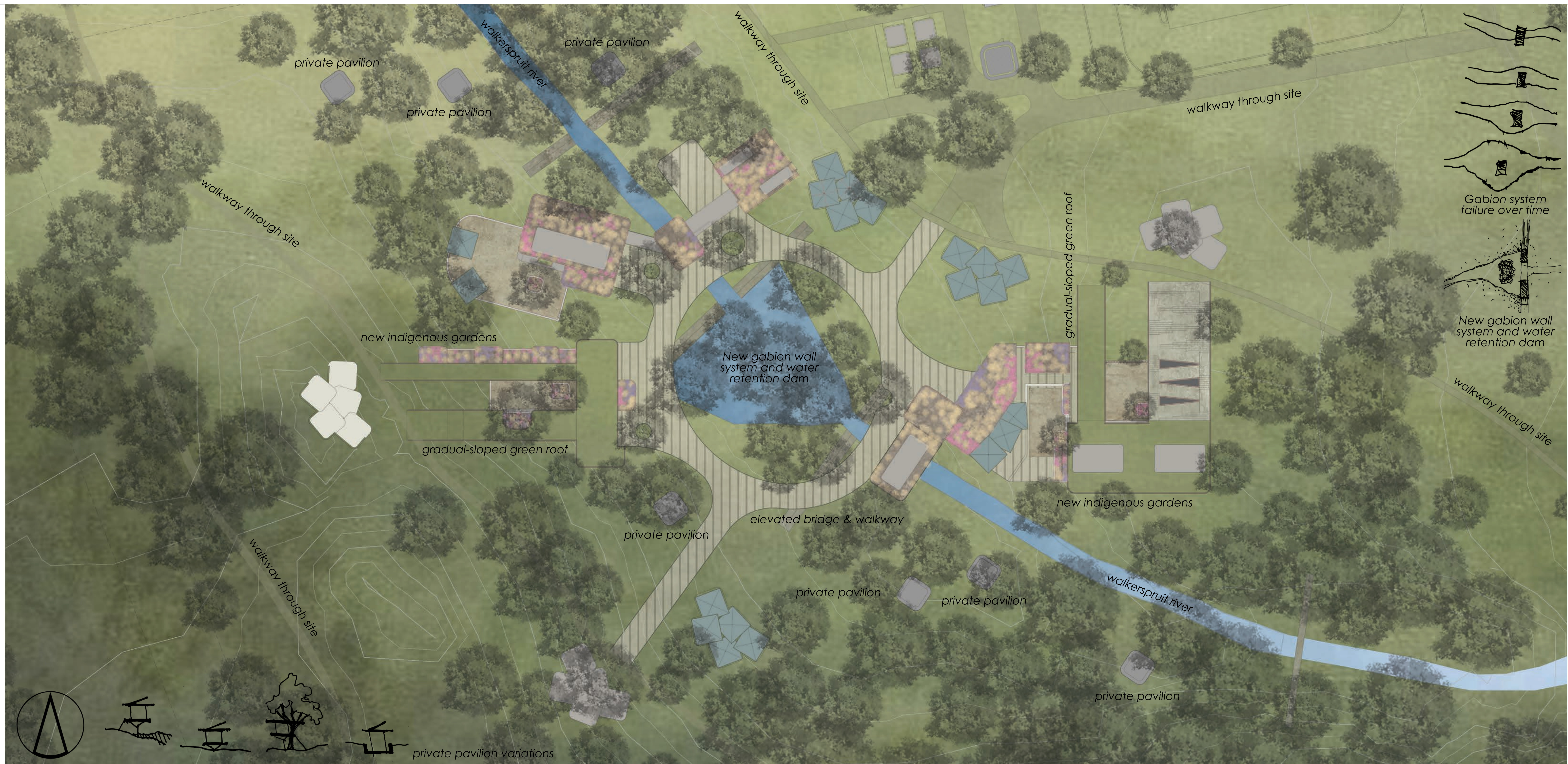
ramps up to building roof level



outdoor therapy sessions



s i t e s e c t i o n s 1 : 2 5 0



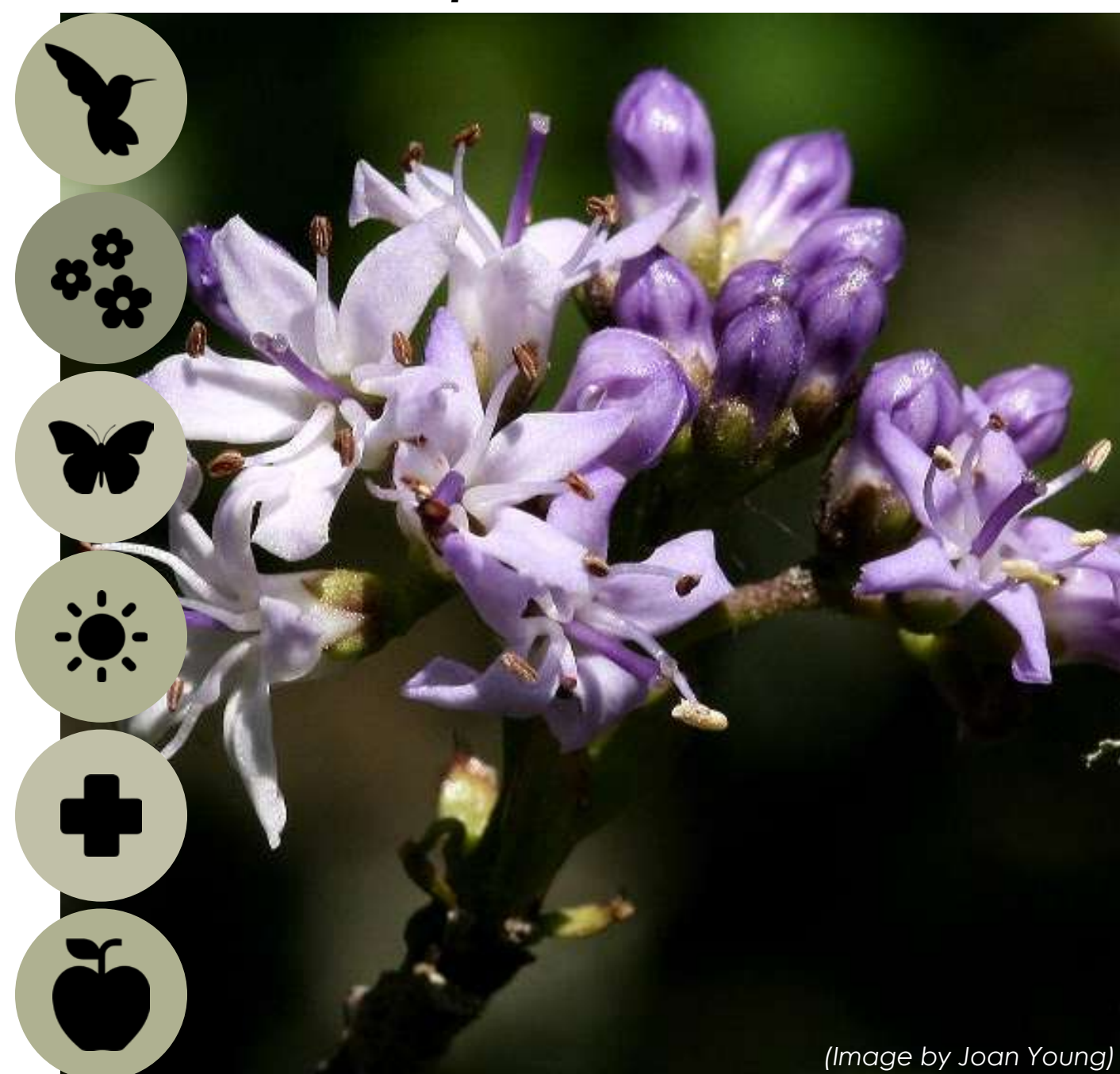
select plant palette

Pavetta gardeniifolia
Christmas bride's bush



(Image by Random Harvest)

Ehretia rigida
puzzle bush



(Image by Joan Young)

Hilliardiella oligocephala
bicoloured-leaved vernonia



(Image by Bernard du Pont)

Elionurus muticus (Spreng.) Kuntze
wire lemon grass



(Image by Instituto Darwinian)

Melinis nerviglumis (Franch.) Zizka
bristle-leaved red-top grass



(Image by SAHBI)

Setaria sphacelata
Golden bristle grass

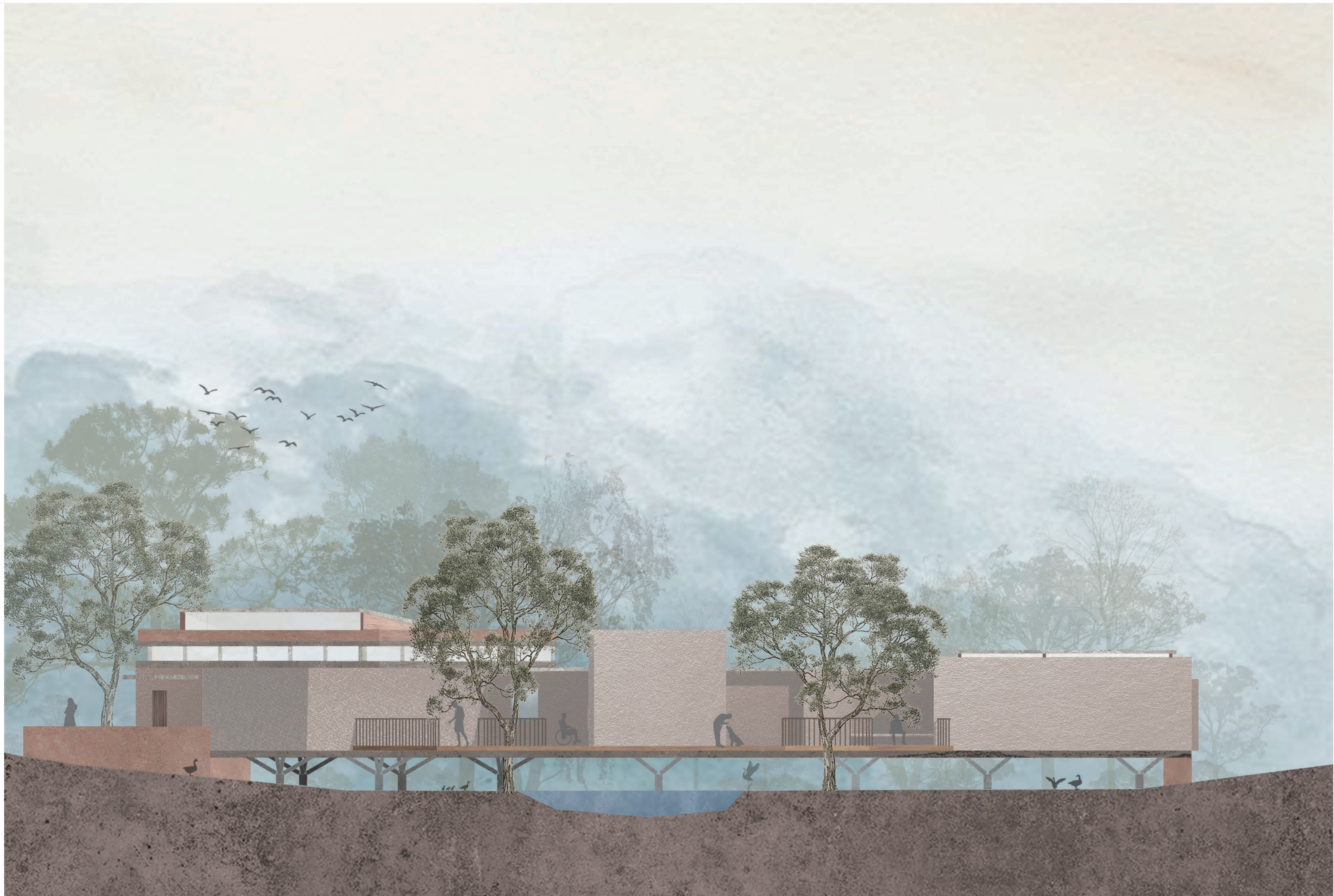


(Image by Random Harvest)

r o o f & l a n d s c a p e p l a n 1 : 2 0 0



g r o u n d f l o o r p l a n 1 : 1 0 0



m i n d & b o d y c e n t r e f r o n t e l e v a t i o n 1 : 5 0

PASSIVE BUILDINGS

DEFINITIONS

EMBODIED ENERGY

Milne & Reardon define embodied energy as: "a consolidation of all the energy consumed during the production of a building". It is the energy used during the extraction, processing and transportation of a product (Milne & Reardon, n.d). In the context of this investigation, the embodied energy of the selected material and structural system is considered for comparison.

MATERIALITY & STRUCTURAL SELECTION

A building's envelope can account for between 26-30% of its total Life-cycle Assessment (LCA) energy contribution (Ampofo-Anti, 2010). Therefore, the walling and structure system chosen can greatly affect a development's embodied energy and thus, its overall environmental impact. It becomes the responsibility of the architect to investigate the most sustainable technologies in order to ensure a successful project without adding additional pressure to resources and the environment.

OPERATIONAL ENERGY

Operational energy refers to the consumption of energy within a building to adequately function during its time of occupation (GBCSA, 2023). It can be further defined as the amount of energy required to safely heat, cool, ventilate and power a space based on its occupational requirements (Metcalf, 2020). Passive design strategies assist designers in lowering the amount of energy used during occupation and ensure efficient energy solutions. For the purpose of this study, no artificial ventilation will be used.

LIGHTING

Globally, artificial lighting contributes approximately 20% of the total energy consumption. (Brown, 2010). Optimal daylighting as a passive design strategy, can assist in reducing a building's electricity demand as well as the ambient heat generated by lighting fixtures inside a building.

TEMPERATURE CONTROL

Many artificial means of controlling temperature (ie. HVAC) inside a building have large energy and thermal implications. Therefore, alternative methods of heating and cooling can largely improve a building's energy efficiency.

Passive Heating Strategies:

- Orientation
- Spatial planning & building shape
- **Thermal mass**
- **Solar heating**

Passive Cooling Strategies:

- Natural ventilation
- **Shading devices**
- **Thermal mass**
- Exterior planes' colour and finish
- **Stacked windows**

BASE CASE

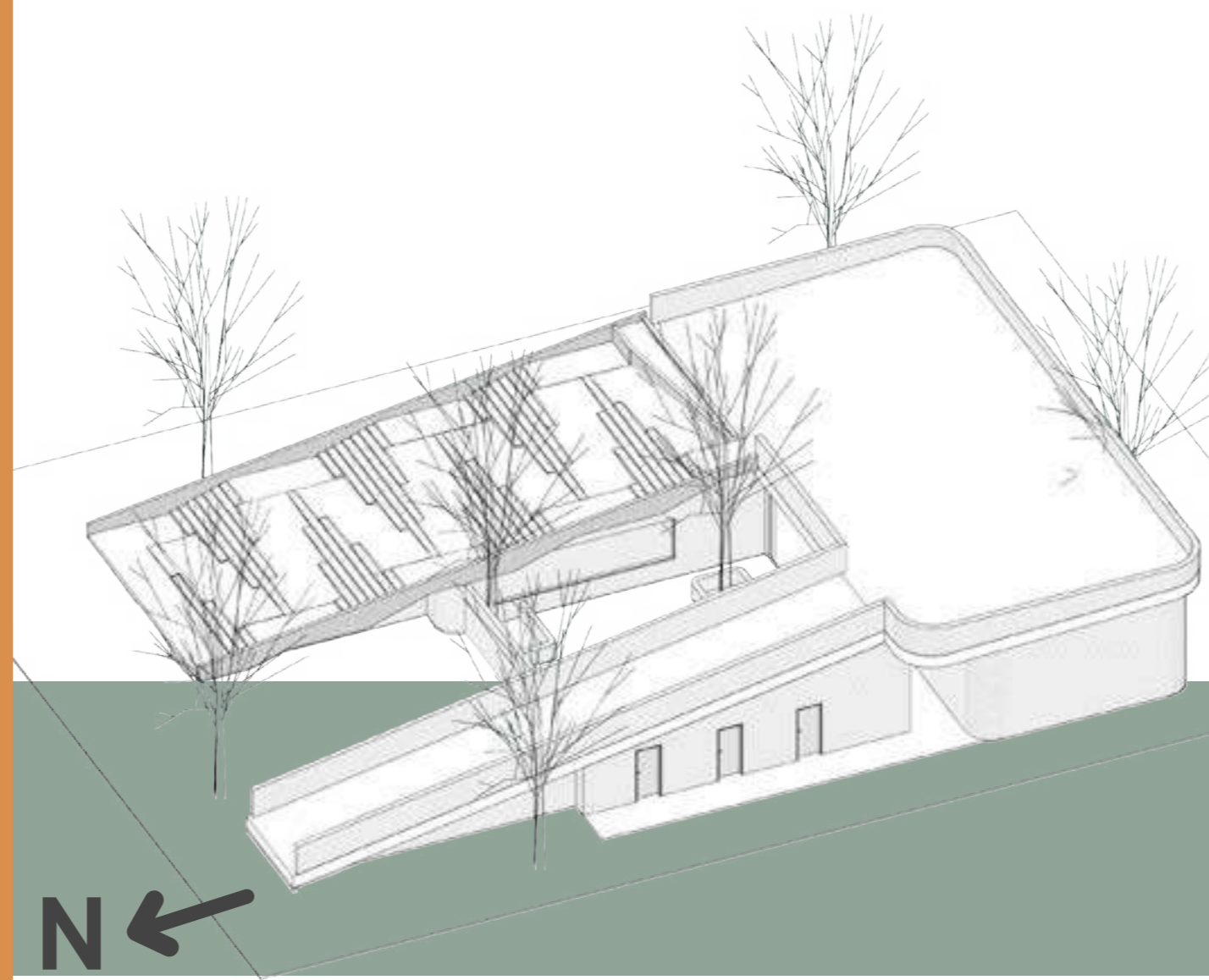


FIGURE 1: BASE CASE AXONOMETRIC VIEW OF MODEL

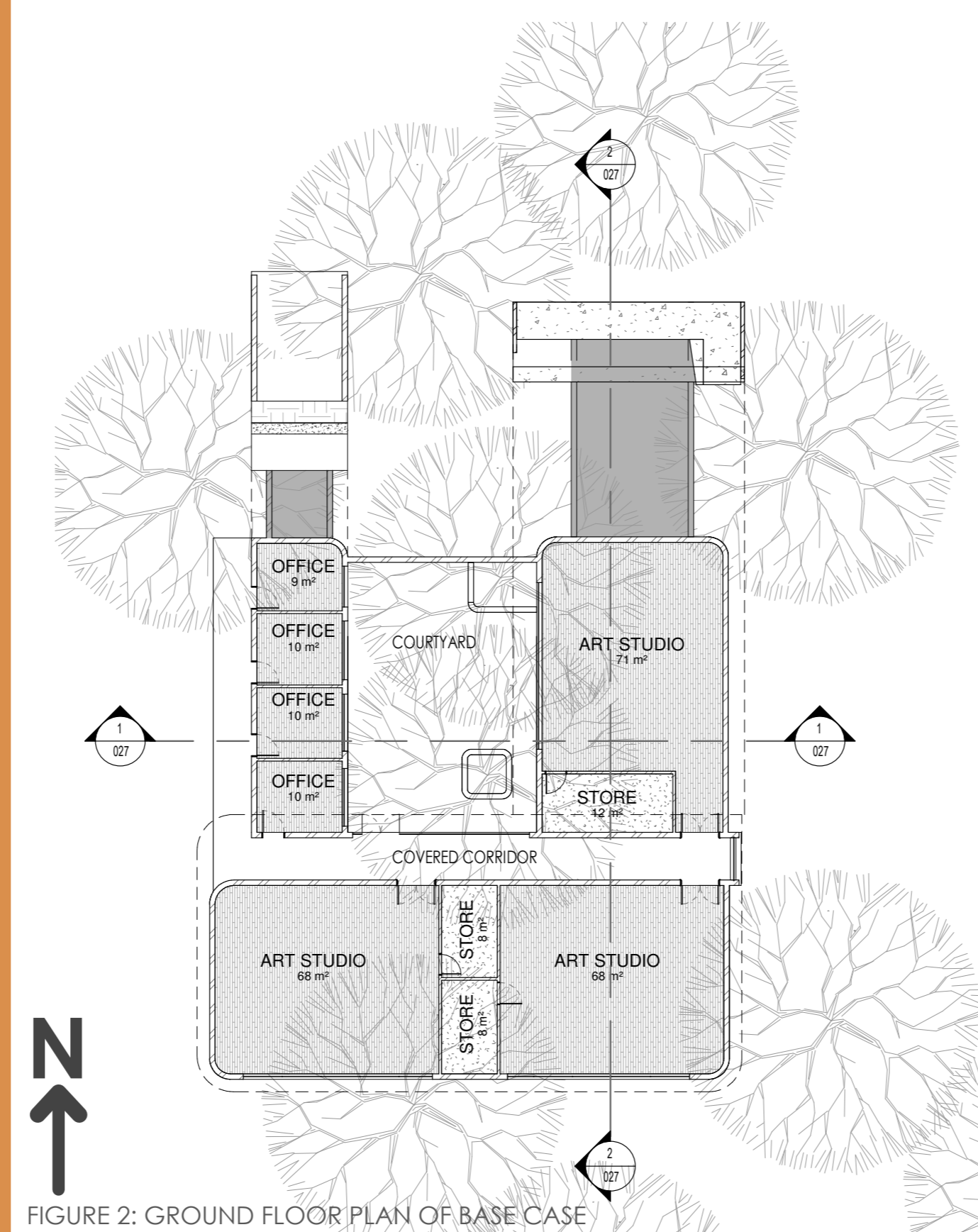


FIGURE 2: GROUND FLOOR PLAN OF BASE CASE

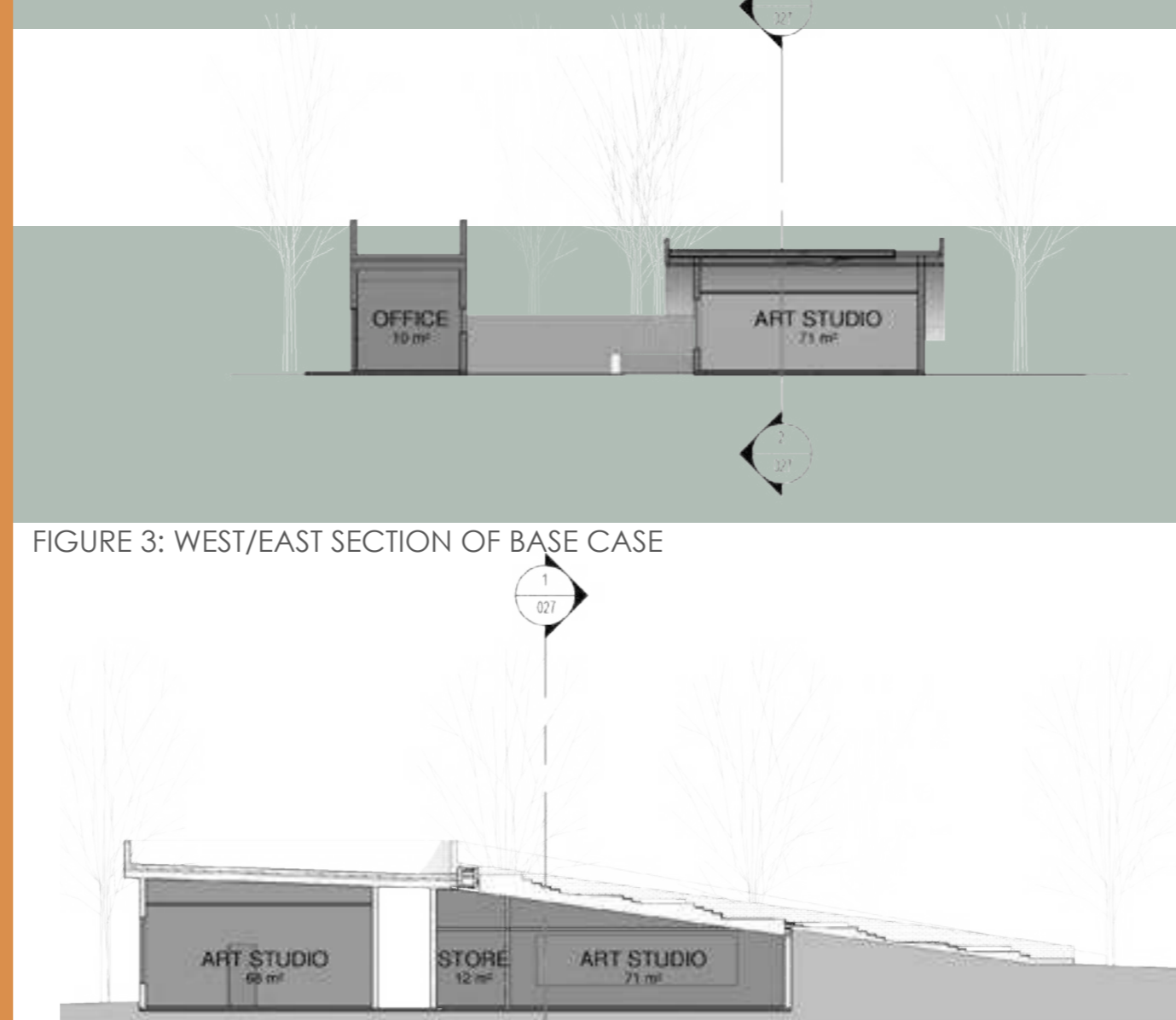
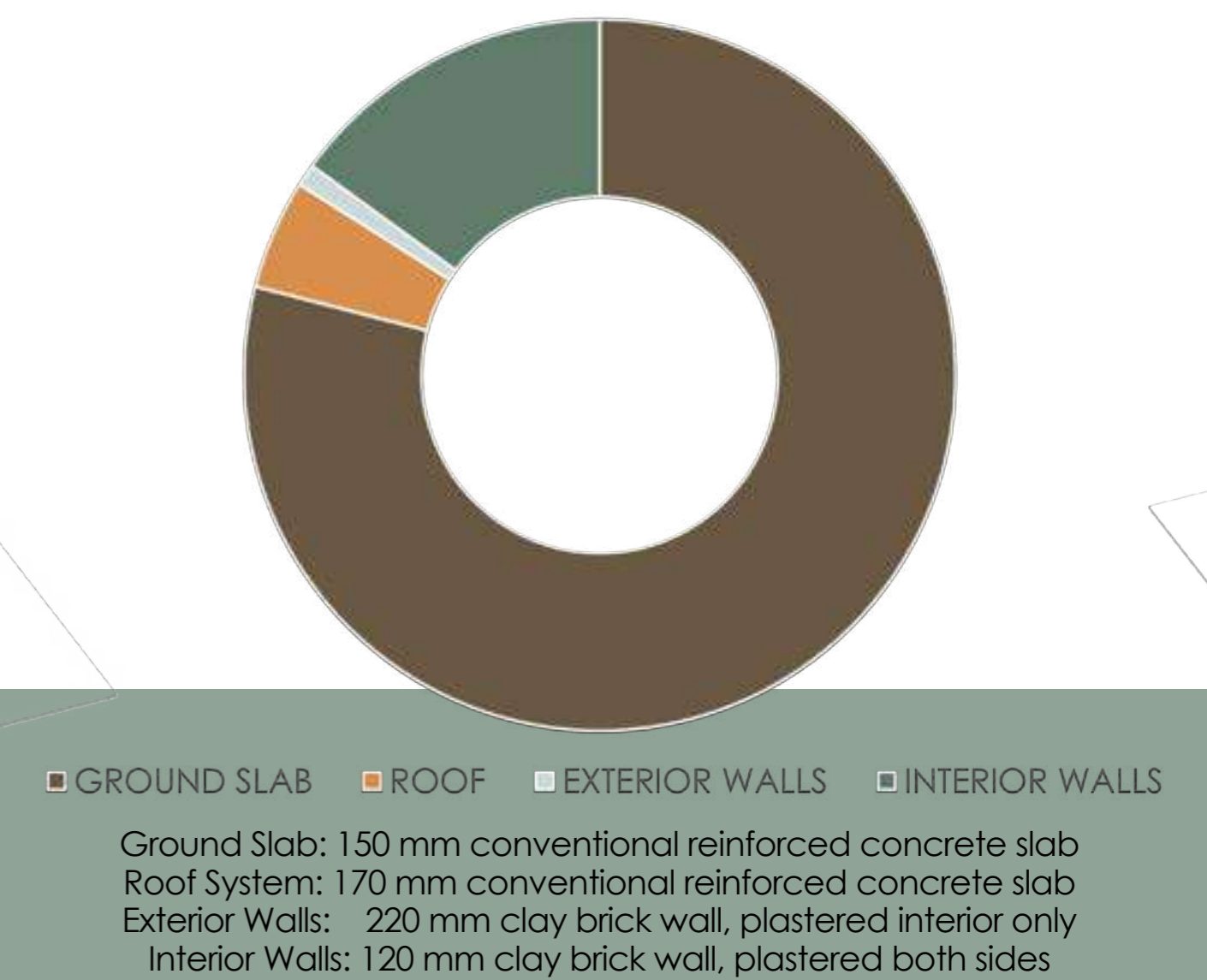


FIGURE 3: WEST/EAST SECTION OF BASE CASE

FIGURE 4: SOUTH/NORTH SECTION OF BASE CASE

RESULT

BASE CASE EMBODIED ENERGY COMPOSITION



OBSERVATIONS

Materiality & Structural Selection:

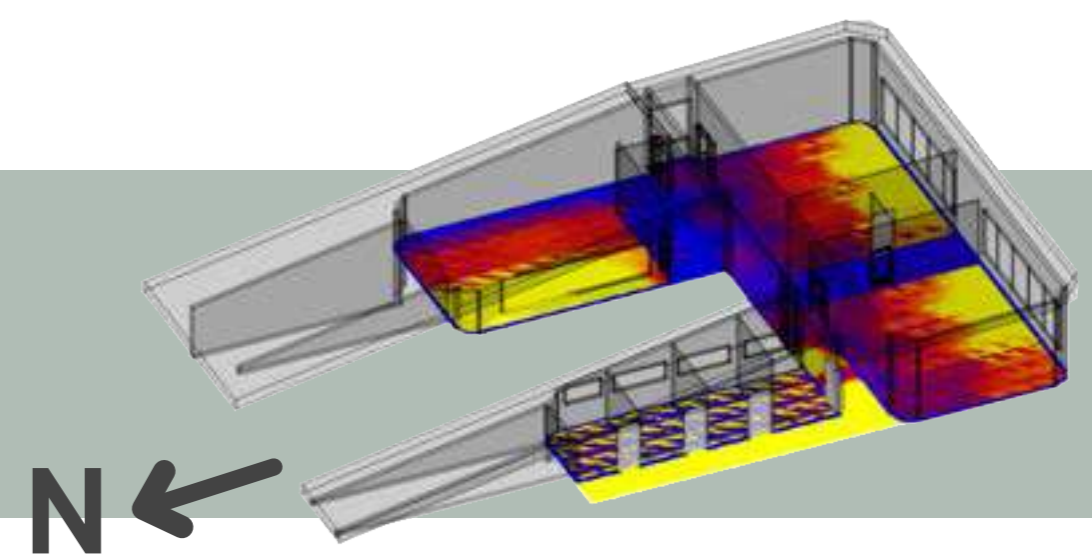
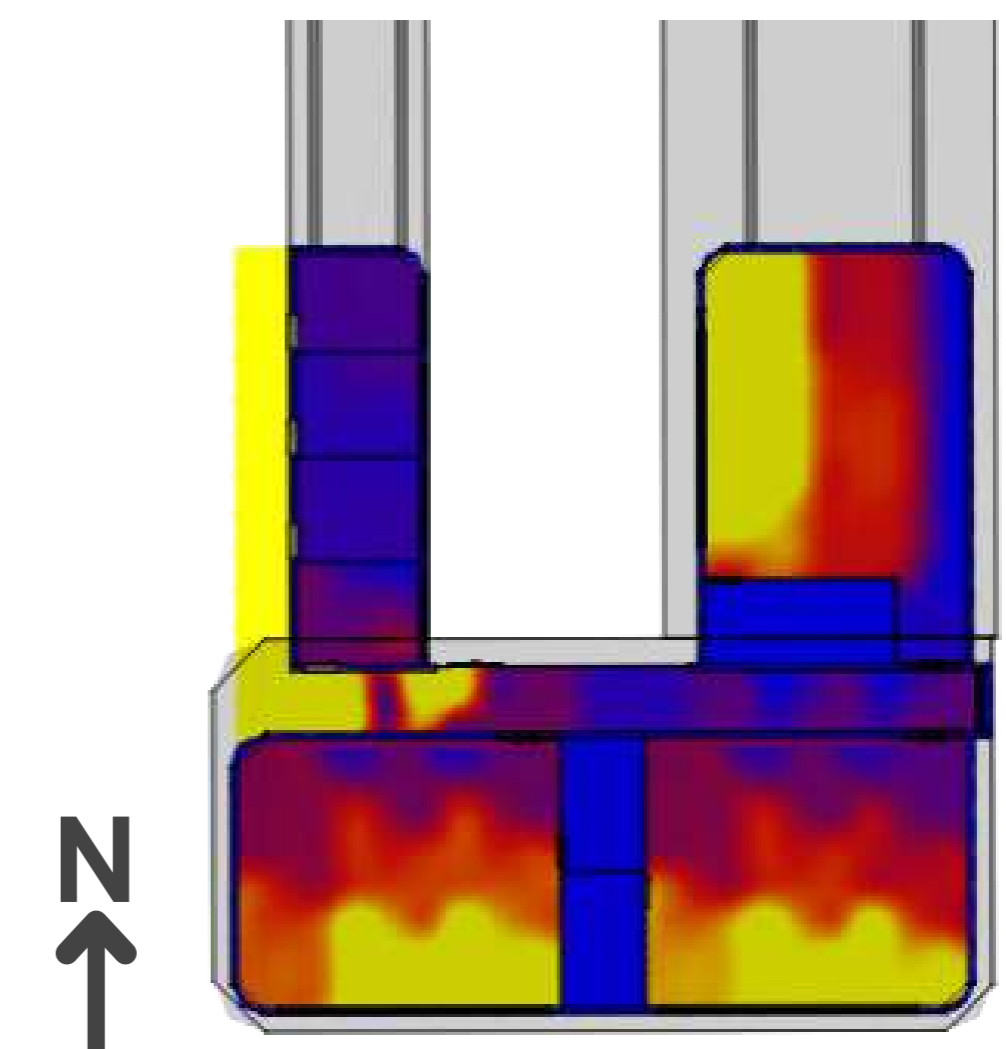
Conventional building materials in a standard brick and concrete slab construction contain a high amount of embodied energy.

Lighting:

Lux levels are extremely low (approx 0-200lx) throughout interior spaces, with areas adjacent to windows and openings experiencing a high percentage of over-lighting.

Temperature Control:

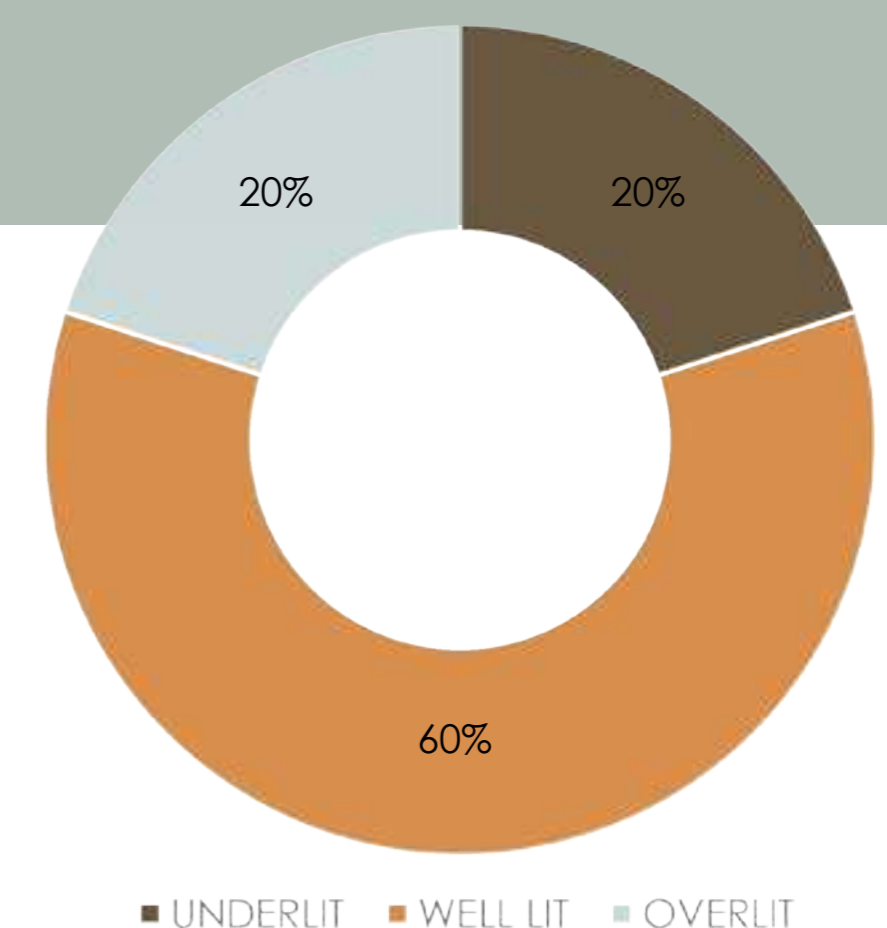
The lack of shading devices over large apertures provides too much solar heat gain to internal spaces. There are no additional passive cooling or ventilation strategies implemented.



Lux levels on November 20 at 3PM measured at 0.55 meters above the floor plate. Time does not take into account daylight savings time.

0 200 400 600 800+

BASE CASE DAYLIGHTING



■ UNDERLIT ■ WELL LIT ■ OVERLIT

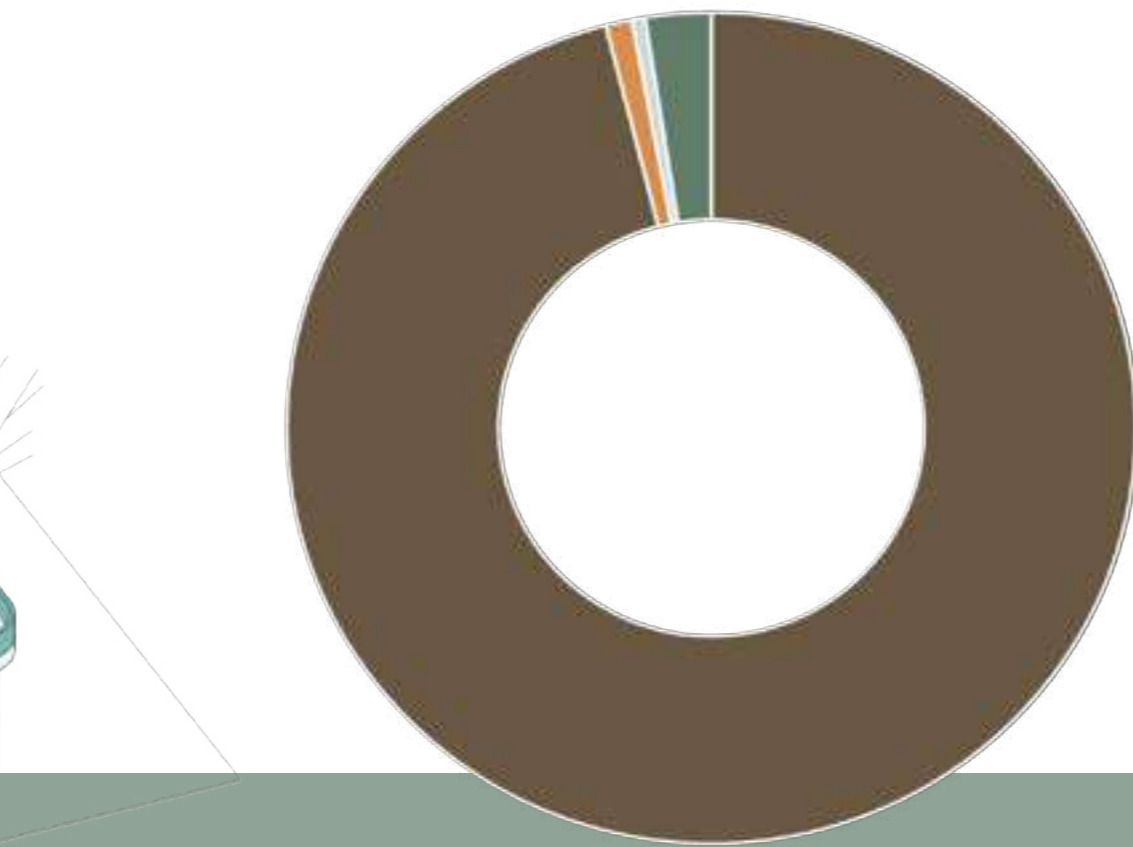
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

VERSION 5

RESULT

VERSION 6

SOIL BLOCK EMBODIED ENERGY COMPOSITION



■ GROUND SLAB ■ ROOF ■ EXTERIOR WALLS ■ INTERIOR WALLS

OBSERVATIONS

Materiality & Structural Selection:

There is a large reduction in the ratio of embodied energy contained in the walling system and roof system in comparison to that of a conventional brick wall and concrete roof scenario. The floor slab remained unchanged and retains a high composition of the building's total embodied energy. A change in walling systems also increased the available internal floor area of rooms.

Lighting:

Main art studio spaces are deep, resulting in natural lighting depleting further into the space (average lux level of 200 lx), making it unsuitable for a classroom typology as the lighting change is too drastic.

Temperature Control:

Simple shading devices along west-facing walls are not sufficient to reduce solar heat gain experienced at large glazing areas.

Ground Slab: 150 mm conventional reinforced concrete slab
 Roof System: 200 mm conventional reinforced concrete slab cast on corrugated steel deck over steel beams
 Exterior Walls: 150mm light steel frame with fiber-cement infill panels, plastered both sides
 Interior Walls: 150mm light steel frame with fiber-cement infill panels, plastered both sides

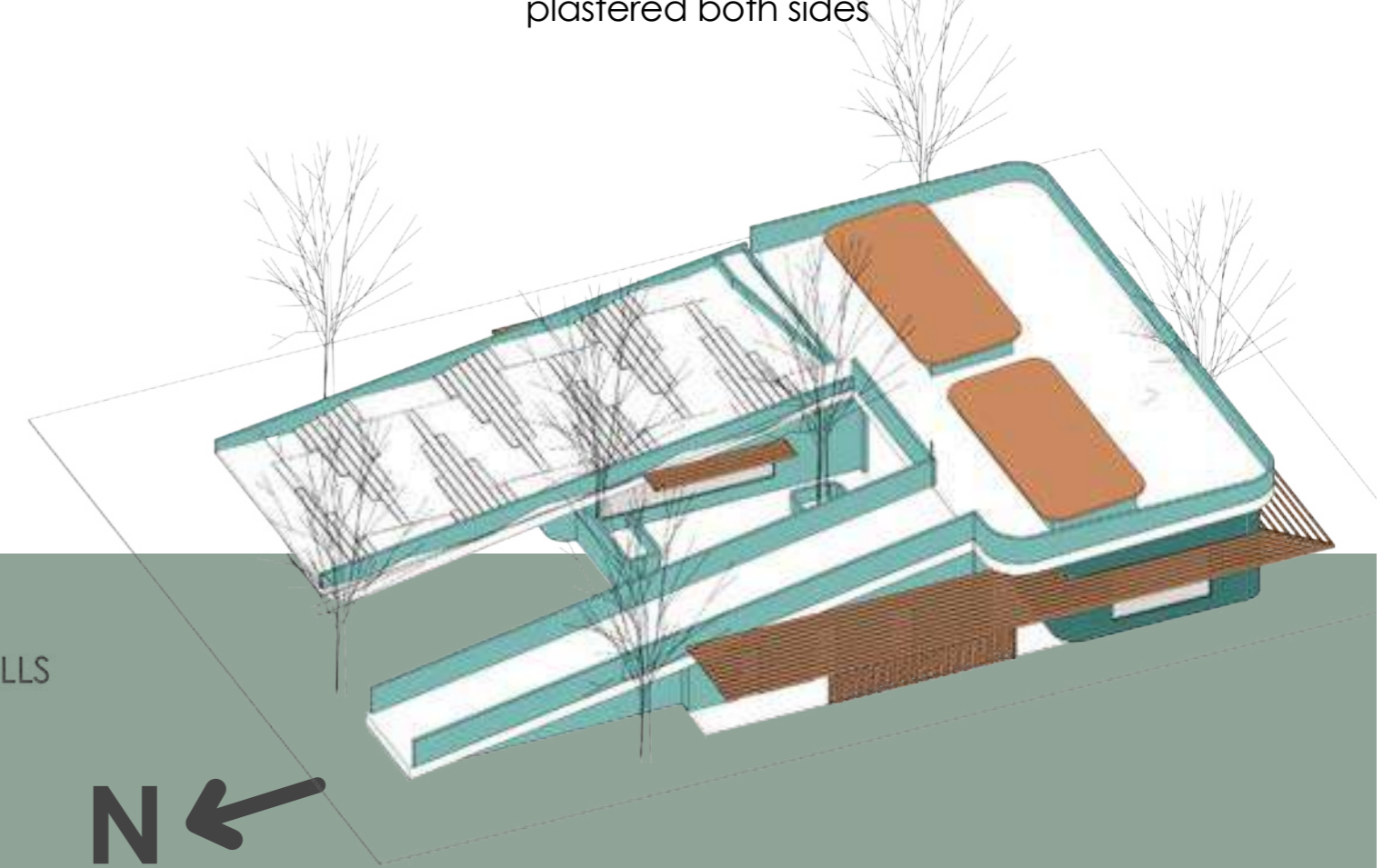


FIGURE 7: VERSION 6 AXONOMETRIC VIEW OF MODEL

Updates to Version 6:

- Extended shading device over western facade & introduction of perforated brick screen.
- Shading devices over southern art studios.
- Additional window on west and east wall of art studios.
- Increased size of glazing areas.
- Walling system updated to LSF IBT system.
- Removal of shopfront along north elevation of covered corridor to improve cross ventilation.
- Clerestory windows added to southern studios' roof.

FIGURE 4: VERSION 5 AXONOMETRIC VIEW OF MODEL

Ground Slab: 150 mm conventional reinforced concrete slab
 Roof System: 200 mm conventional reinforced concrete slab cast on corrugated steel deck over steel beams
 Exterior Walls: 150mm dry-stack interlocking insitu-cast compressed earth blocks
 Interior Walls: 120mm dry-stack interlocking in-situ-cast compressed earth blocks, plastered both sides

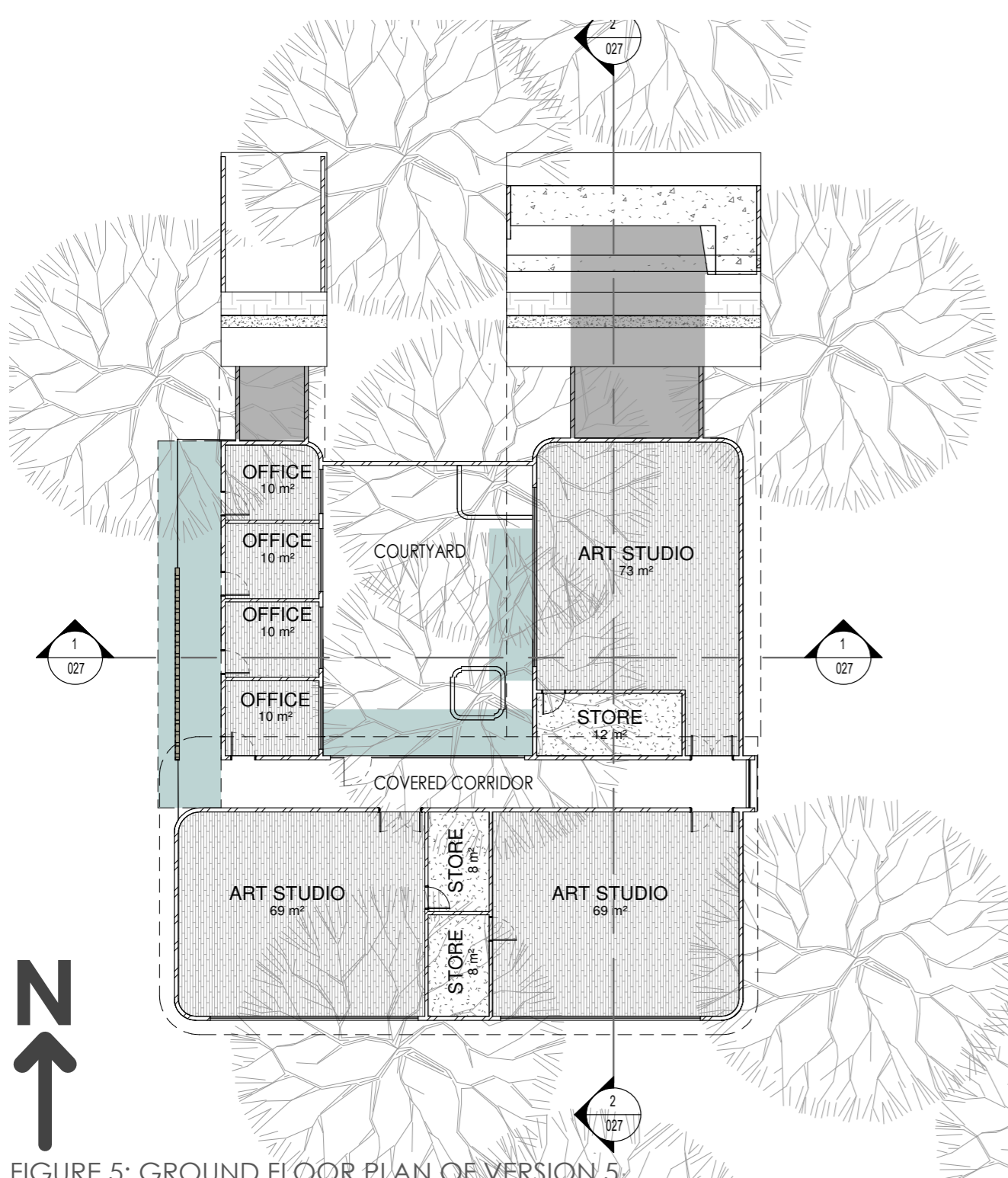


FIGURE 5: GROUND FLOOR PLAN OF VERSION 5

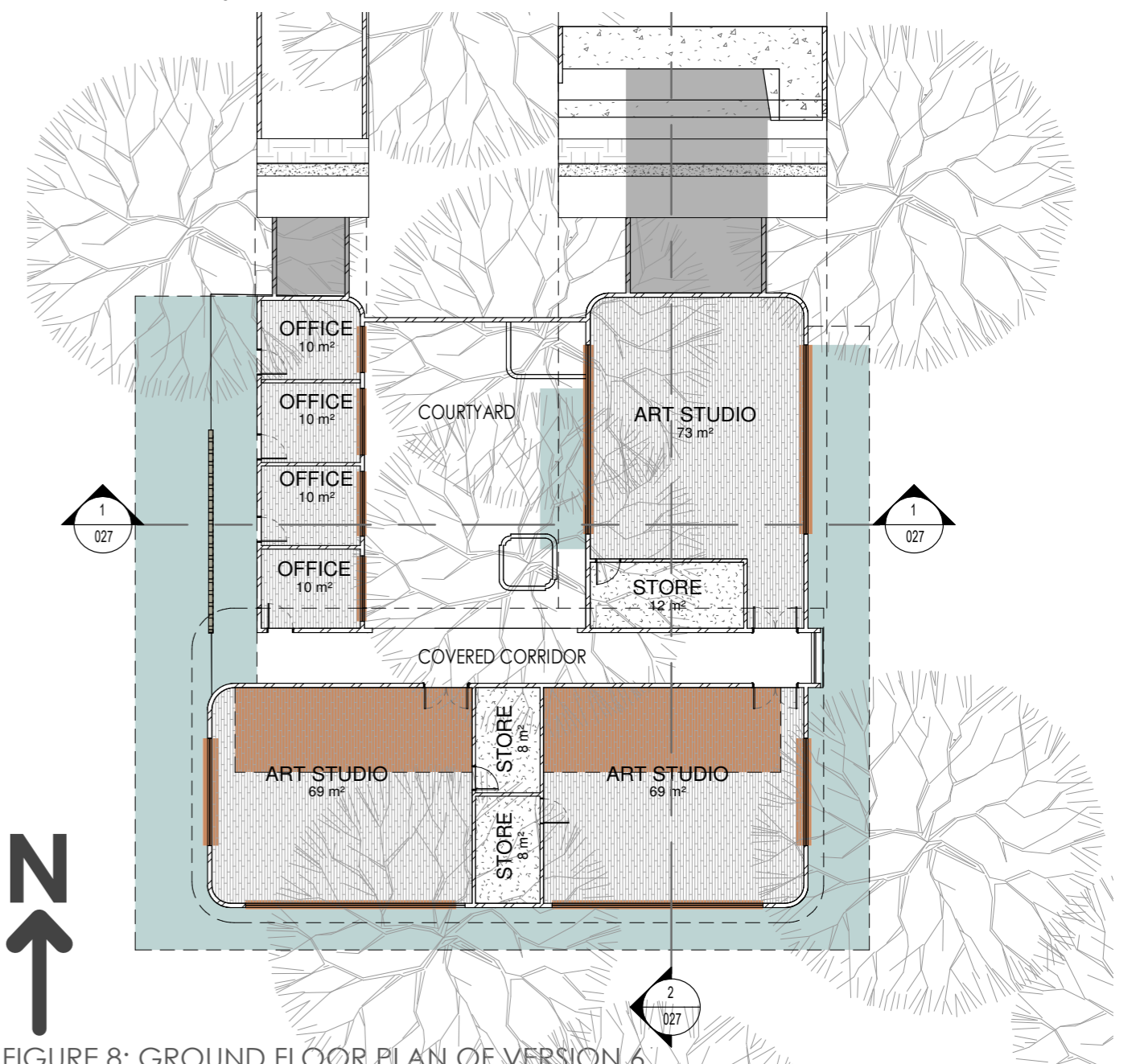
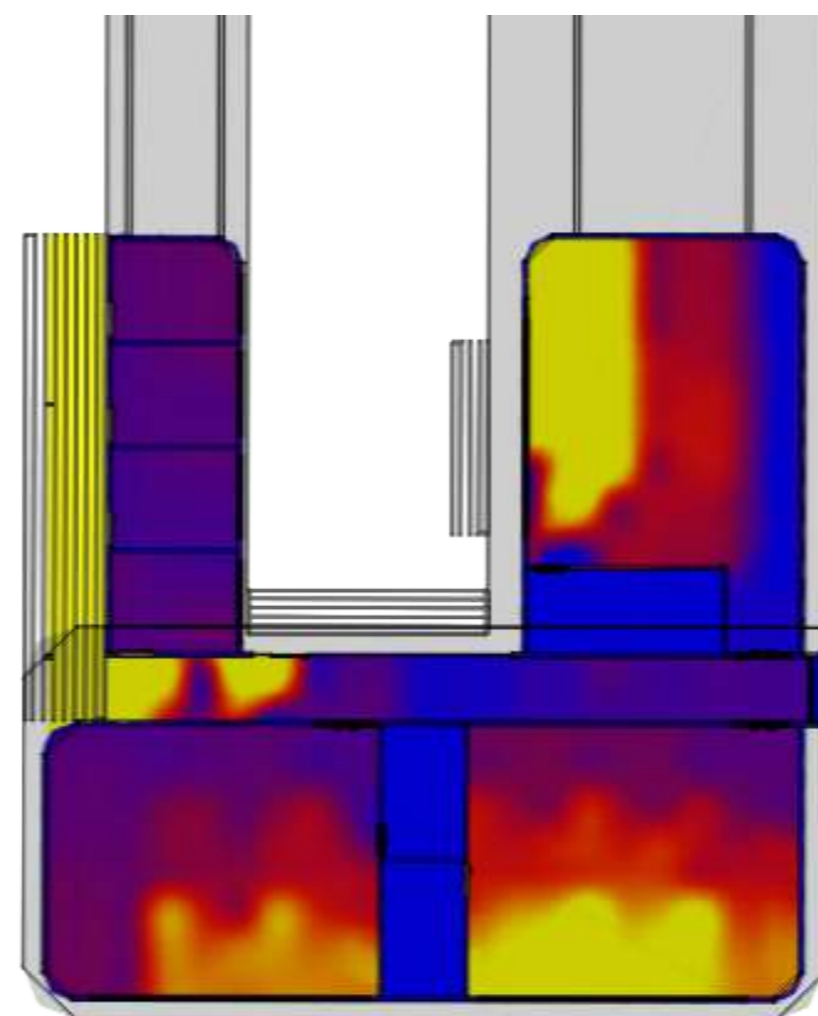


FIGURE 8: GROUND FLOOR PLAN OF VERSION 6



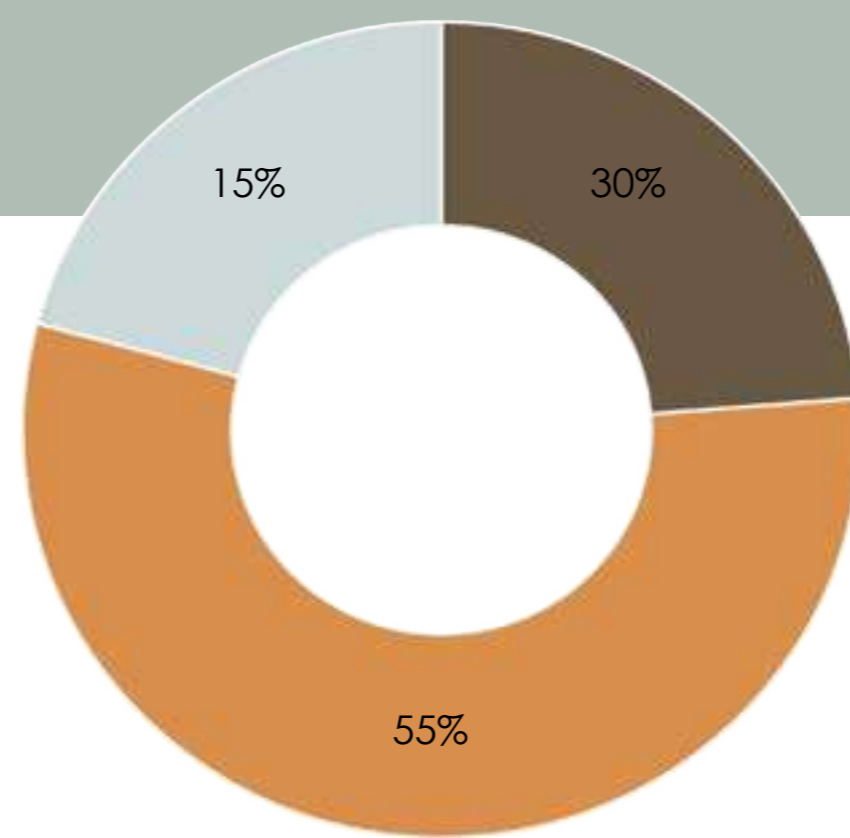
Lux levels on November 20 at 3PM measured at 0.55 meters above the floor plate. Time does not take into account daylight savings time.

■ 0 ■ 200 ■ 400 ■ 600 ■ 800+

Updates to Version 5:

- Shading device over western facade to reduce heat gain on office walls.
- Shading devices over east-wing art studio to reduce excess direct sunlight that could lead to an internal temperature increase and uncomfortable working conditions.
- Walling system updated to IBT alternative system
- Conventional concrete slab roof updated to composite envirocrete and steel decking slab with extensive green roof finish.

VERSION 5 DAYLIGHTING



■ UNDERLIT ■ WELL LIT ■ OVERLIT

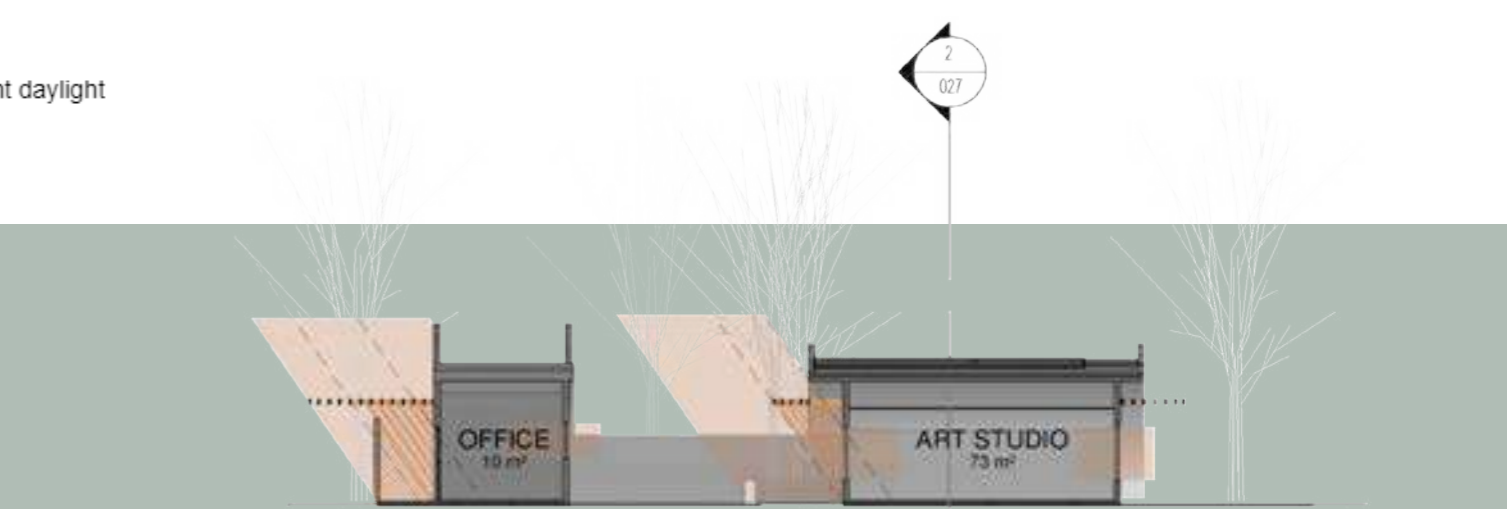


FIGURE 6: WEST/EAST SECTION OF VERSION 6

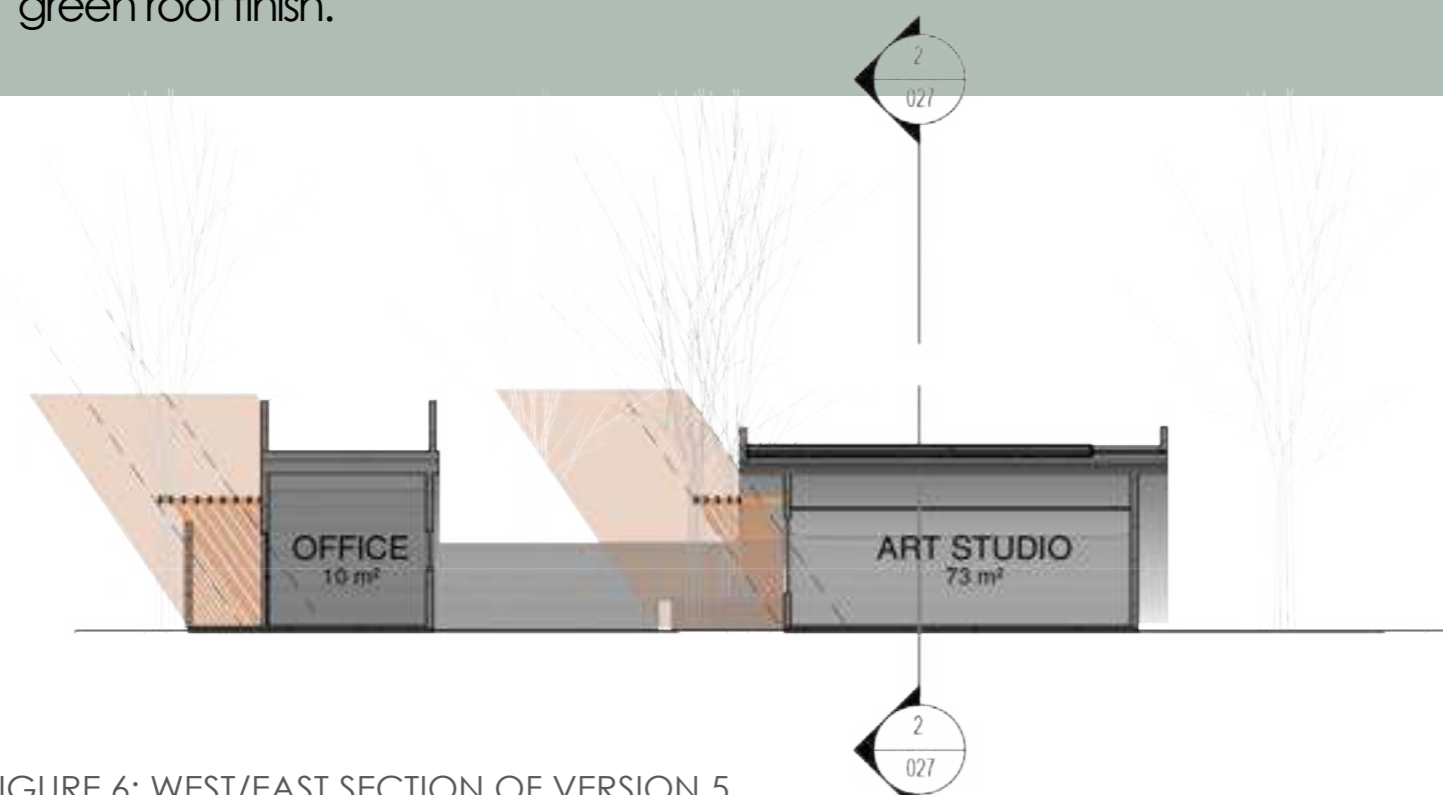


FIGURE 6: WEST/EAST SECTION OF VERSION 5

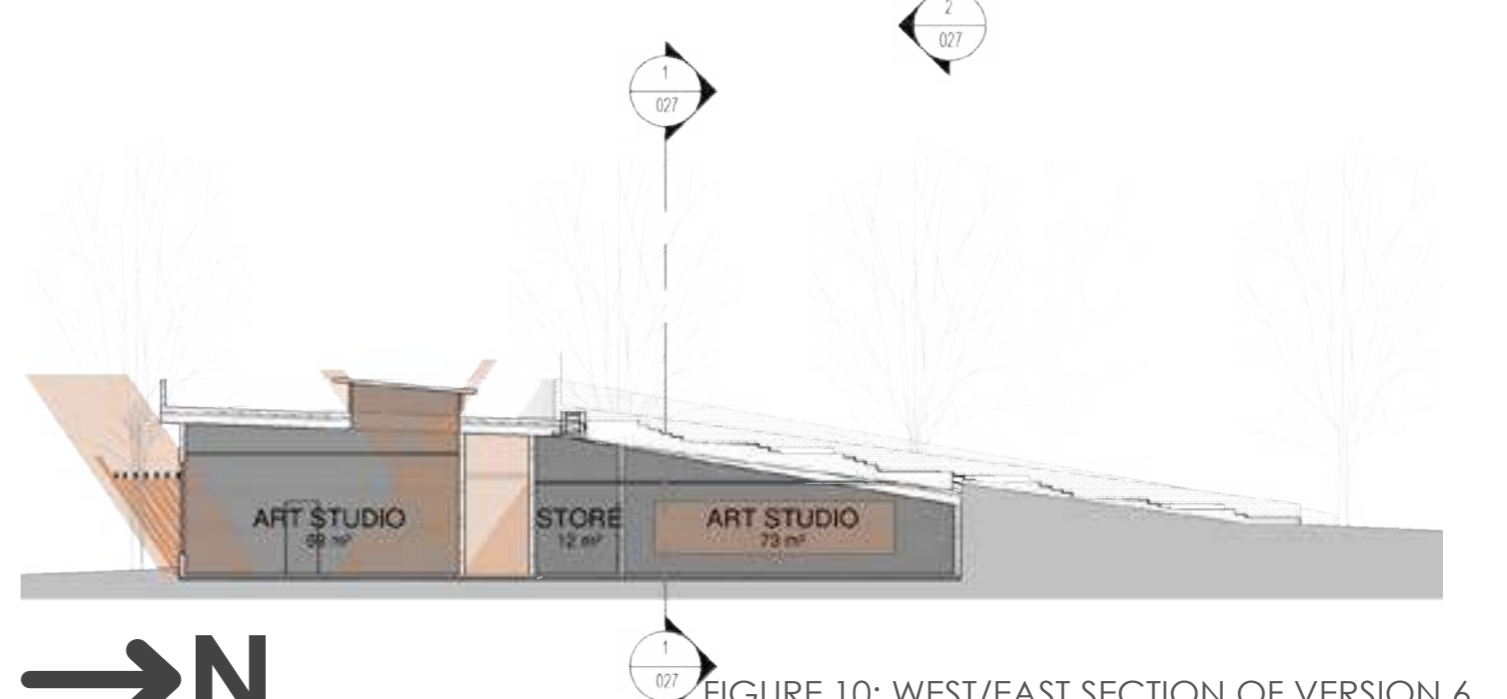
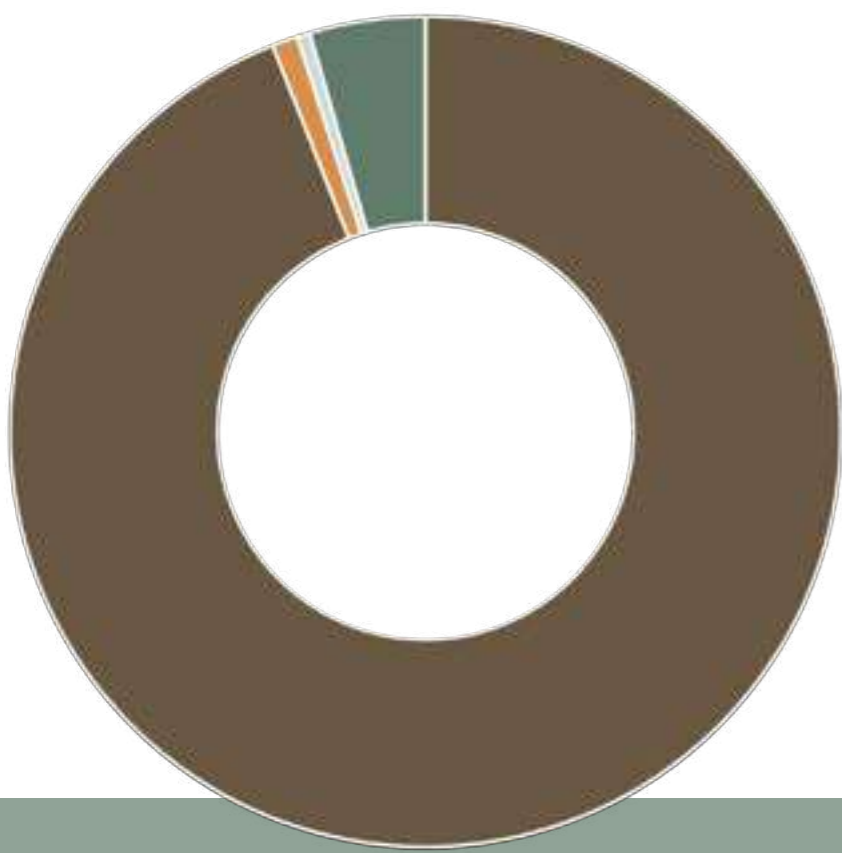


FIGURE 10: WEST/EAST SECTION OF VERSION 6

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

RESULT

LSFC EMBODIED ENERGY COMPOSITION



■ GROUND SLAB ■ ROOF ■ EXTERIOR WALLS ■ INTERIOR WALLS

OBSERVATIONS

Materiality & Structural Selection:

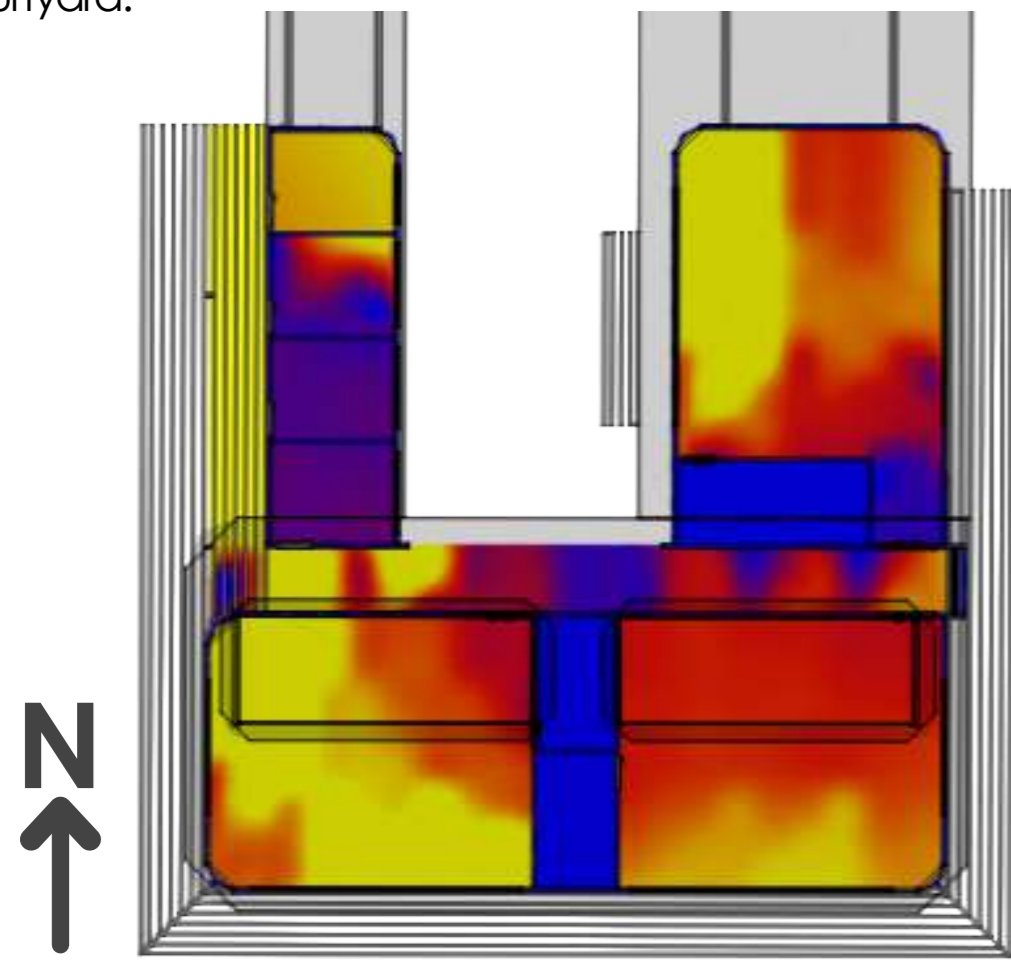
The second alternative building technology (IBT) identified also resulted in a reduction of embodied energy contained in the walling system and roof system compared to the conventional base case scenario. The floor slab remained unchanged and retains a high composition of the total embodied energy in the building system.

Lighting:

Introduction of more windows along east and west facades improves overall lux levels in studio spaces (approx 400lx). Offices still require supplementary lighting as it is still too dark. Storerooms will need to be artificially illuminated. New clerestory windows address the large deep spaces of studios, resulting in a better light diffusion.

Temperature Control:

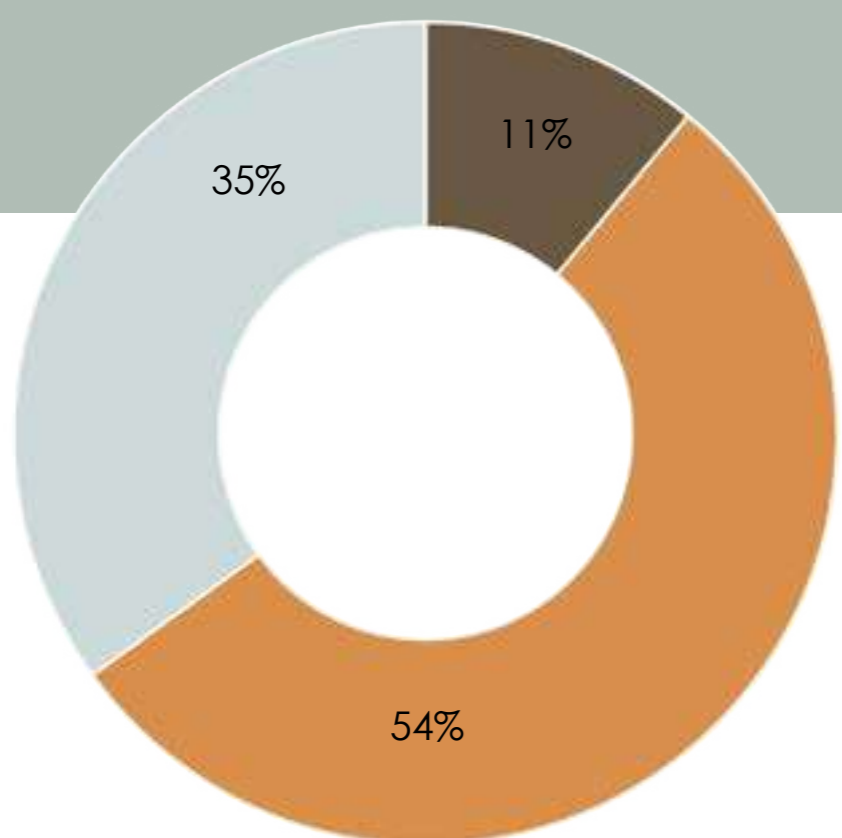
Wrap-around shading devices have mitigated excess solar heat gain and over-lighting in spaces adjacent to glazing panels. Natural cross ventilation can now occur along the covered corridor and courtyard.



Lux levels on November 20 at 3PM measured at 0.55 meters above the floor plate. Time does not take into account daylight savings time.

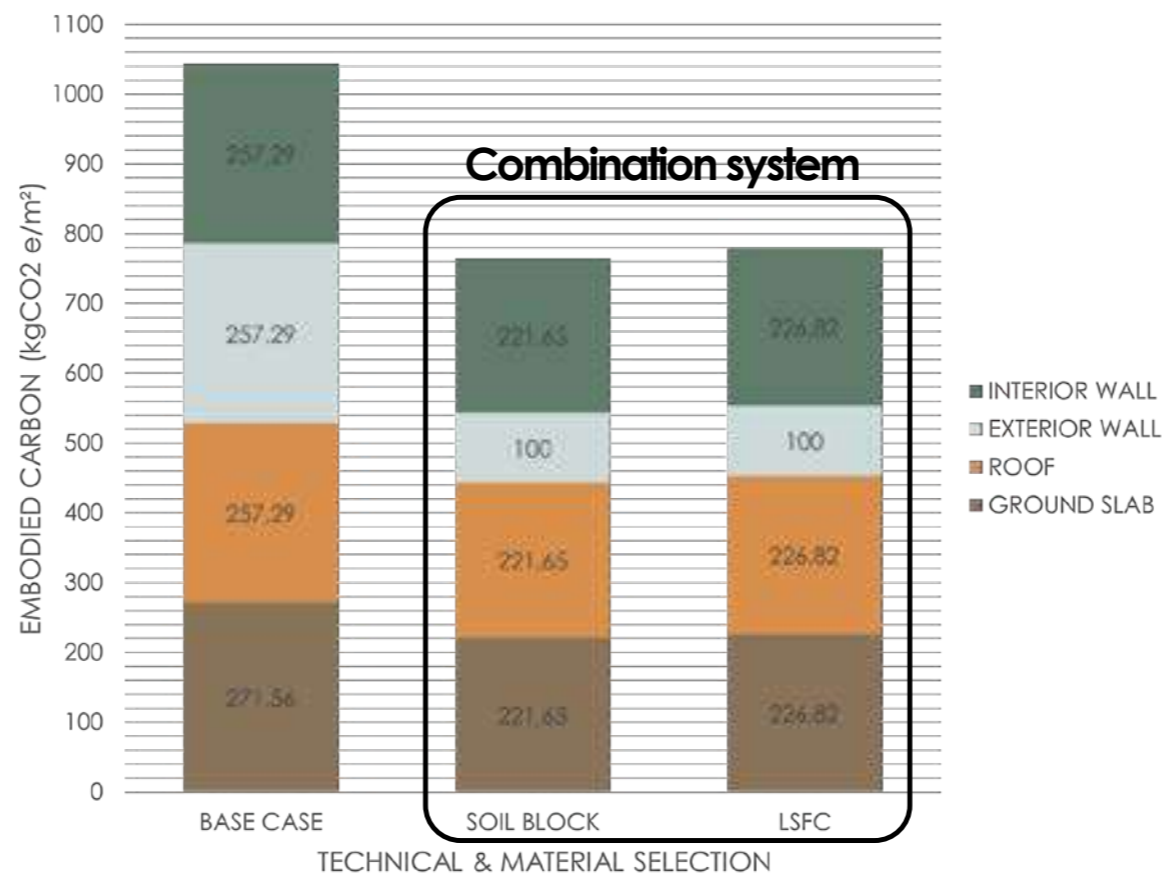
■ 0 ■ 200 ■ 400 ■ 600 ■ 800+

VERSION 6 DAYLIGHTING



■ UNDERLIT ■ WELL LIT ■ OVERLIT

FINAL



Updates to Final:

- Solid courtyard wall replaced by a perforated brick facade
- Reduced glazing size along west facade of east-wing studio.
- A combination of both IBT systems are used in place of conventional building methods.
- Clerestory window height and roof incline increased.

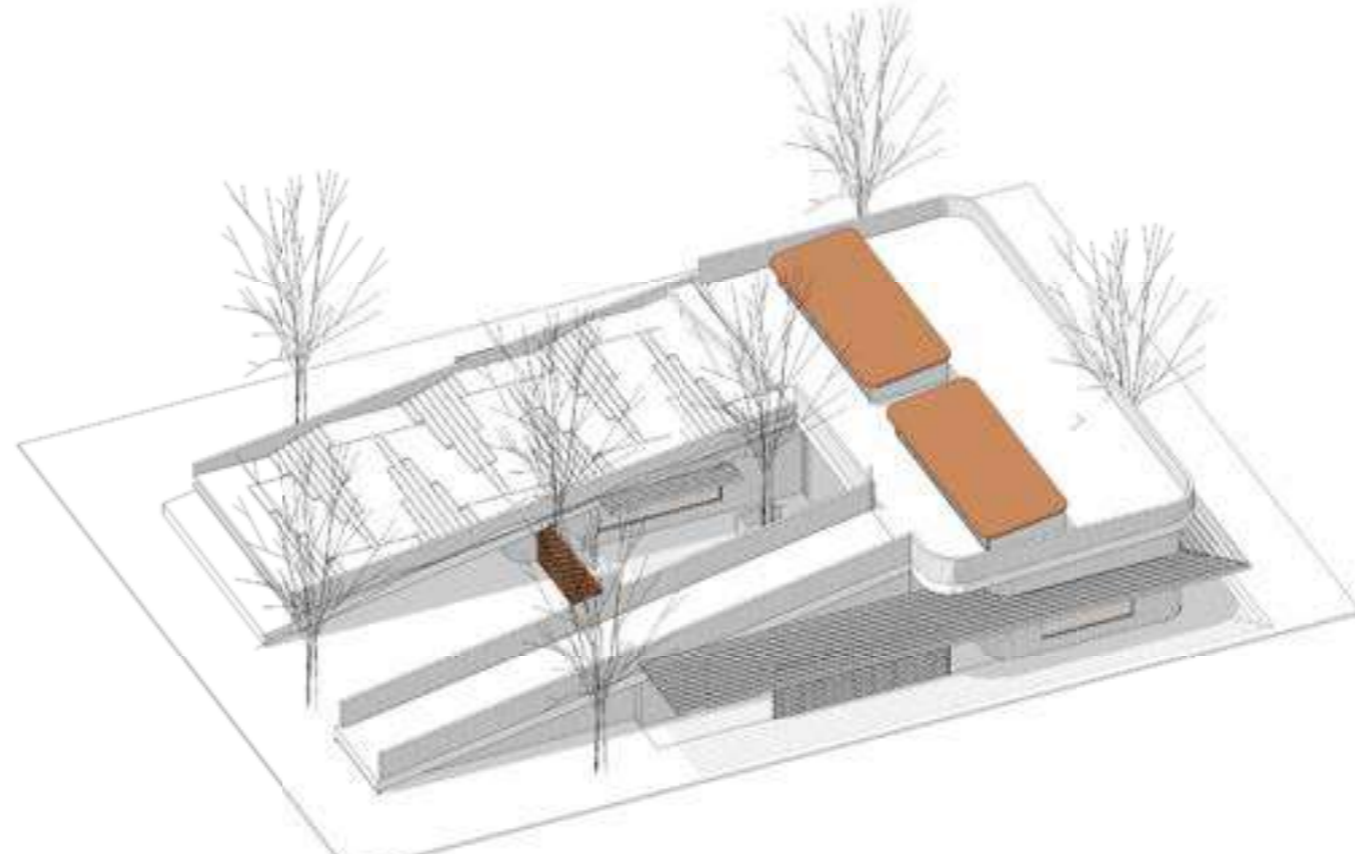


FIGURE 11: NORTH/WEST AXONOMETRIC

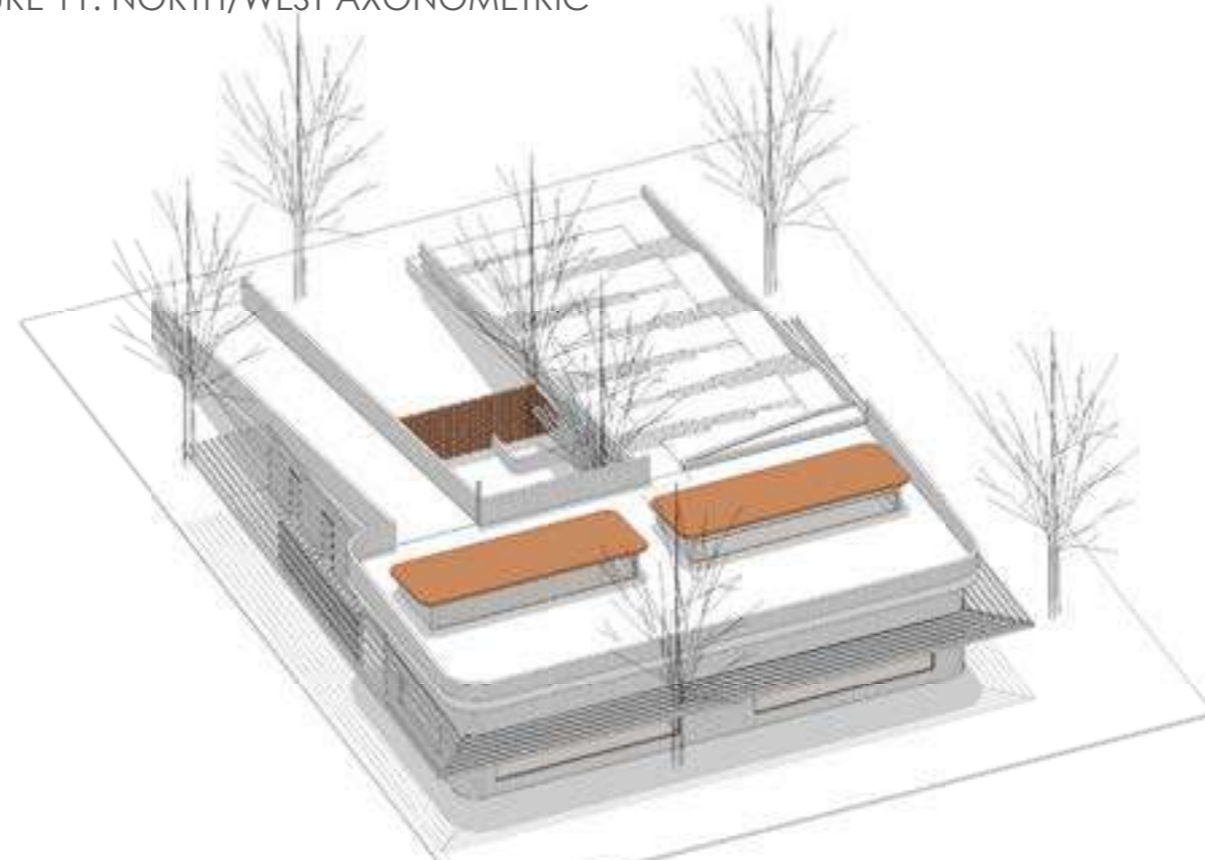


FIGURE 12: SOUTH/WEST AXONOMETRIC

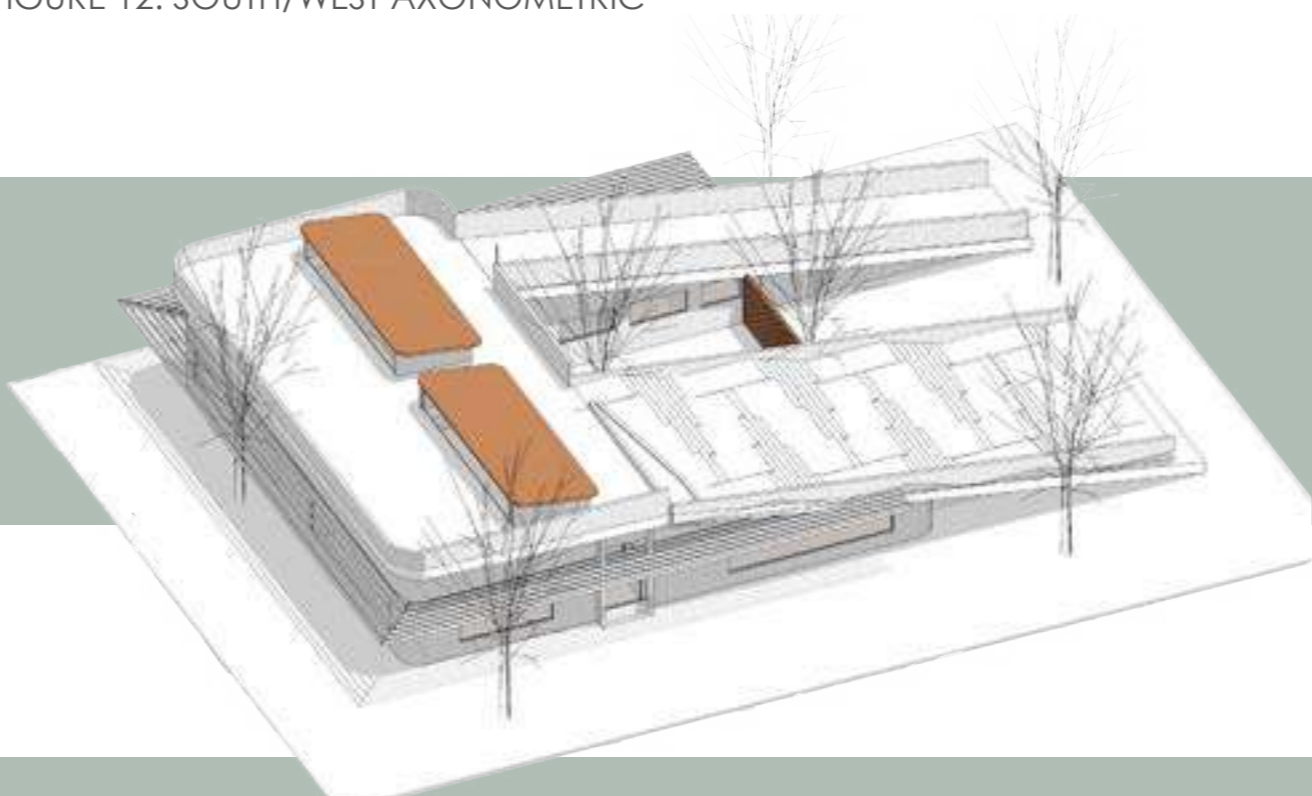


FIGURE 13: SOUTH/EAST AXONOMETRIC

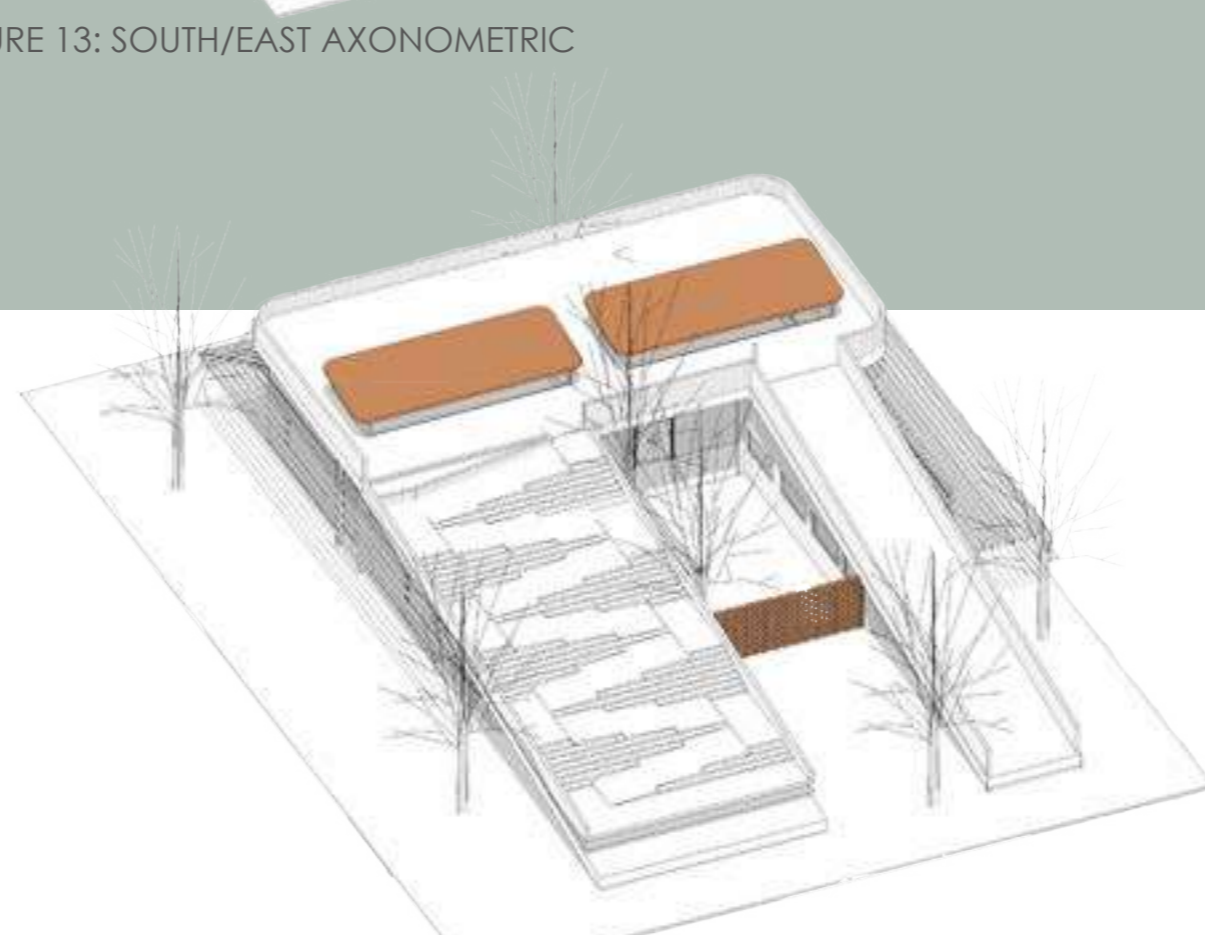


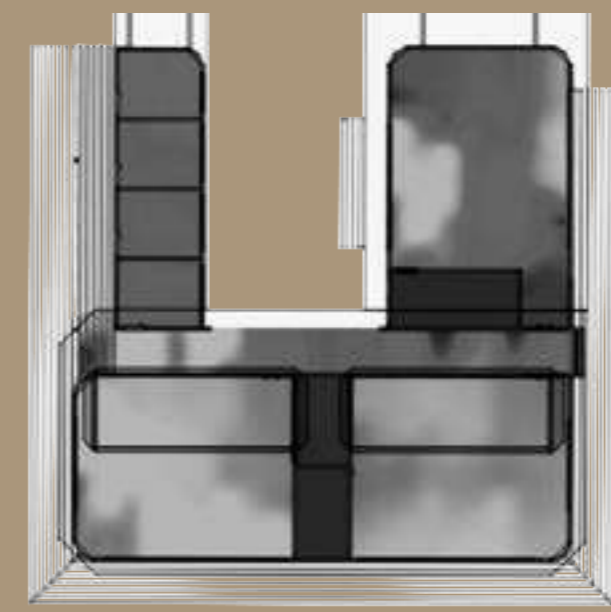
FIGURE 14: NORTH/EAST AXONOMETRIC

CONCLUSION

EMBODIED ENERGY

By altering the material system of the envelope and interior walls, using a combination of both the alternative building technologies (dry-stack in-situ - cast compressed soil blocks and light steel frame with fiber cement infill panels), there is an average embodied carbon value of 224,24 kgCO₂ e/m². This is a 12,8% reduction from the initial base case scenario of 257,29 kgCO₂ e/m² which utilizes conventional masonry construction methods.

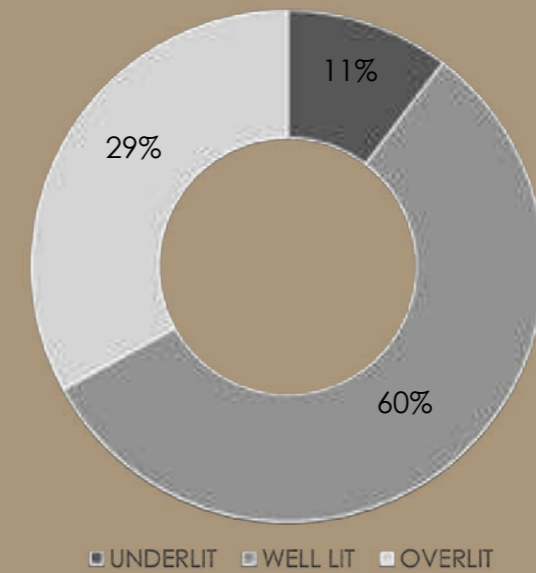
MATERIALITY & STRUCTURAL SELECTION



Final Embodied Carbon (kgCO2 e/m2) of 224,24 (reduction of 12,8% from the base case scenario of 257,29 kgCO2 e/m2) which utilizes conventional masonry construction methods.

■ 0 ■ 200 ■ 400 ■ 600 ■ 800+

FINAL DAYLIGHTING



■ UNDERLIT ■ WELL LIT ■ OVERLIT

OPERATIONAL ENERGY LIGHTING

- Artificial lighting sensors & controls - Occupation sensors to limit artificial lighting usage during operational hours as well as day/night switches for automated exterior lighting in the evening.
- Clerestory windows break the depth of large open-plan spaces, improving the overall ambient daylighting.

TEMPERATURE CONTROL

- Natural cross ventilation throughout composition of building's spaces as well as breaking up solid walls into perforated facades to allow for cooling breezes.
- Stacked (clerestory) windows that open and close automatically to control ambient internal temperatures throughout the year as needed.
- The innovative materials selected provide lower embodied energy solutions but also act as thermal massing, allowing the building to mediate large temperature fluctuations as the day progresses, improving the thermal comfort inside.





Mimicking the nature systems on site



Vertical fibre-cement interlocking shiplap boards
(image by James Hardie)



Integrated native grass cover on green roofs
(image by Lynn Greyling)

Lightweight tectonic language

Heavy stereotomic language

230 mm reinforced NONCRETE concrete slab cast on permanent steel shuttering with 150 mm extensive green roof soil layer. Waterproofing and drainage information as per callout details final specification according to structural engineer and landscape architect's design.

41 mm Klap lok 700 concealed fixing metal roof sheeting @ 1400 mm c/c.

360x12 mm galvanised steel edging fastened to relative substructure as per callout detail.

150 mm soil layer for extensive green roof of indigenous grass species. Drainage to channel outlets.

254 FE lightweight galvanised steel ring beam with powdercoat colour finish according to design specification.

150x30 galvanised steel RIS column weld-fixed to ringbeams.

254 FE lightweight galvanised steel ring beam with powdercoat colour finish according to design specification.

19 mm thick double glazed safety glass storefront assembly in powder-coated aluminium frame. Design and installation according to specialist's detail.

150 mm lightweight steel frame wall assembly fixed to suspended floor structural system by 150x75x20x3 galvanised steel lip channel and waterproof membrane. Composite infill wall panels comprised of waterproof membrane, rigid insulation and vertical interlocking fibre-cement panels finished to detailed specification.

90 mm rotational drywall panel insert in steel channel frame fixed to floor and roof slab by 40 mm CHS steel column used as spacial dividers and gallery wall space.

155 mm multi-layer flooring system with improved stiffness and acoustic insulation.

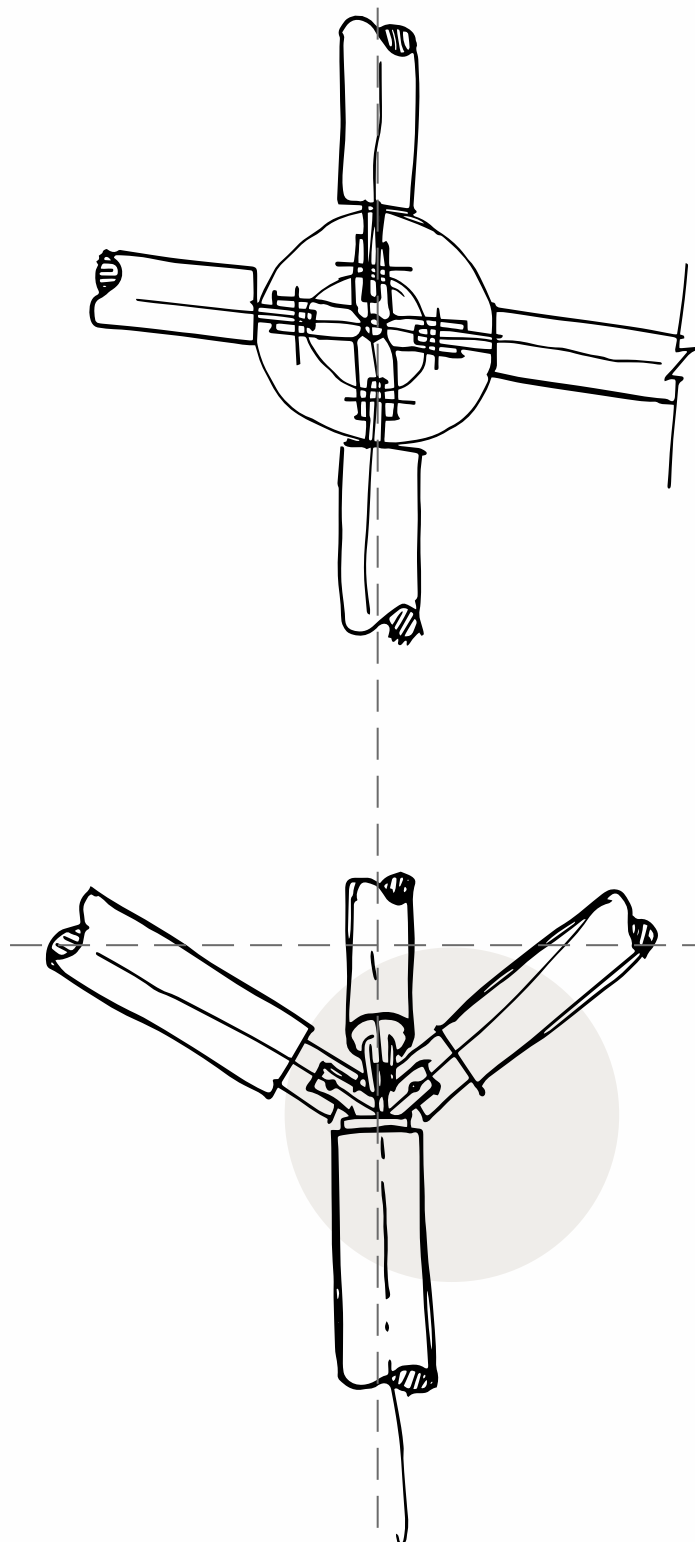
254 FE lightweight galvanised steel base frame structure for suspended floor & composite walling system above. Powdercoat colour finish according to design specification.

Ø150 mm galvanised steel CHS members in space frame formation NGA ball-fixed to 15mm baseplate chemically anchored to concrete base column.

Ø300 mm reinforced concrete base column cast on top of micropile cap to height above 50-year floodline level.

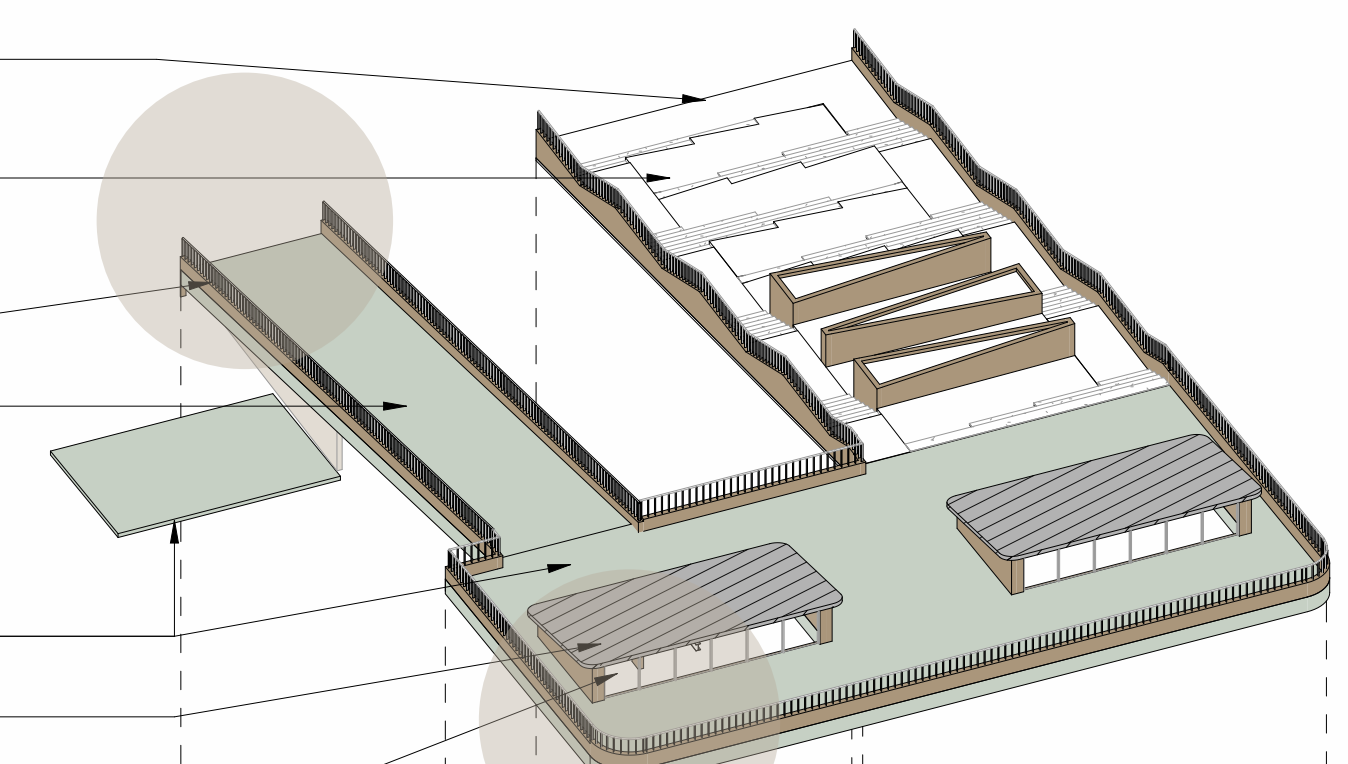
Ø180 mm reinforced concrete micropile foundation system in 4x4 grid with 1000x1000x200 pile cap. To engineer and geotechnician's design and final specification.

Structure concept: sketch top view

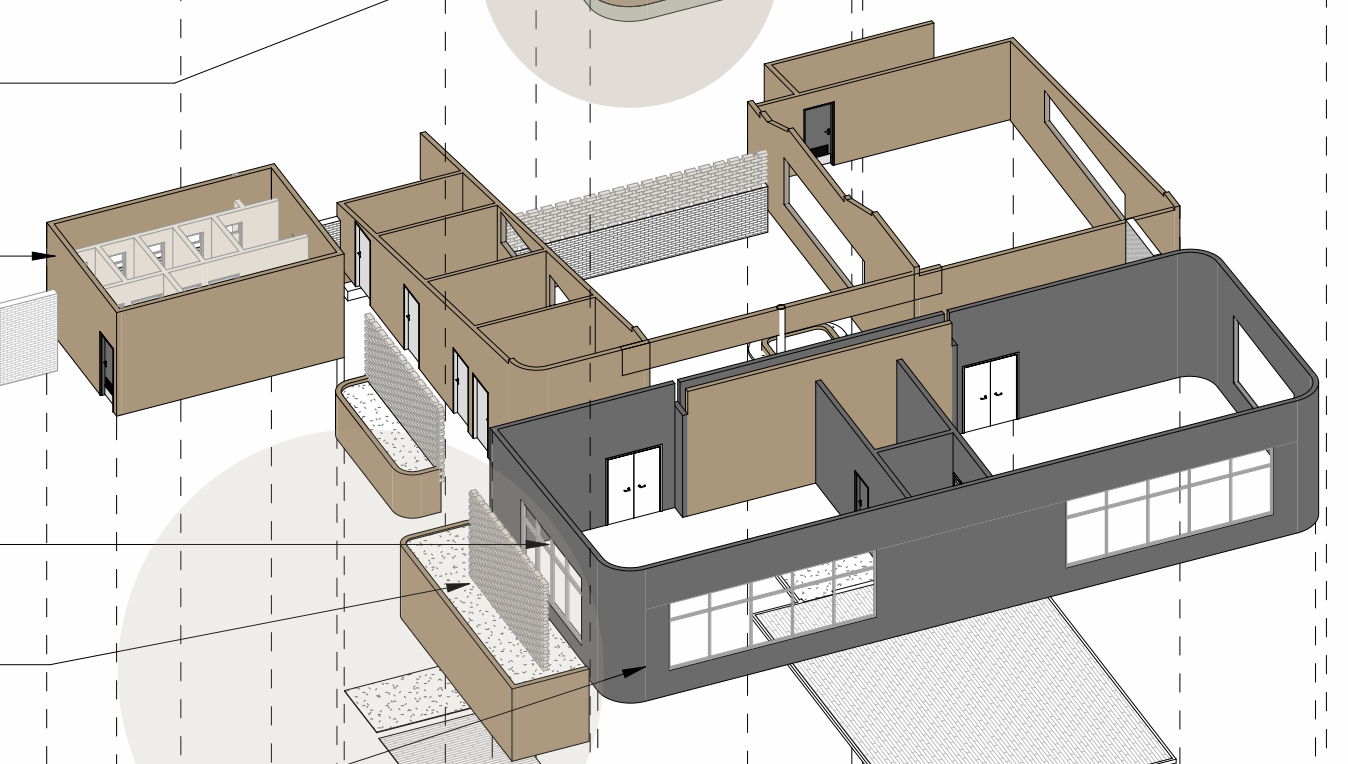


Structure concept: junction detail elevation

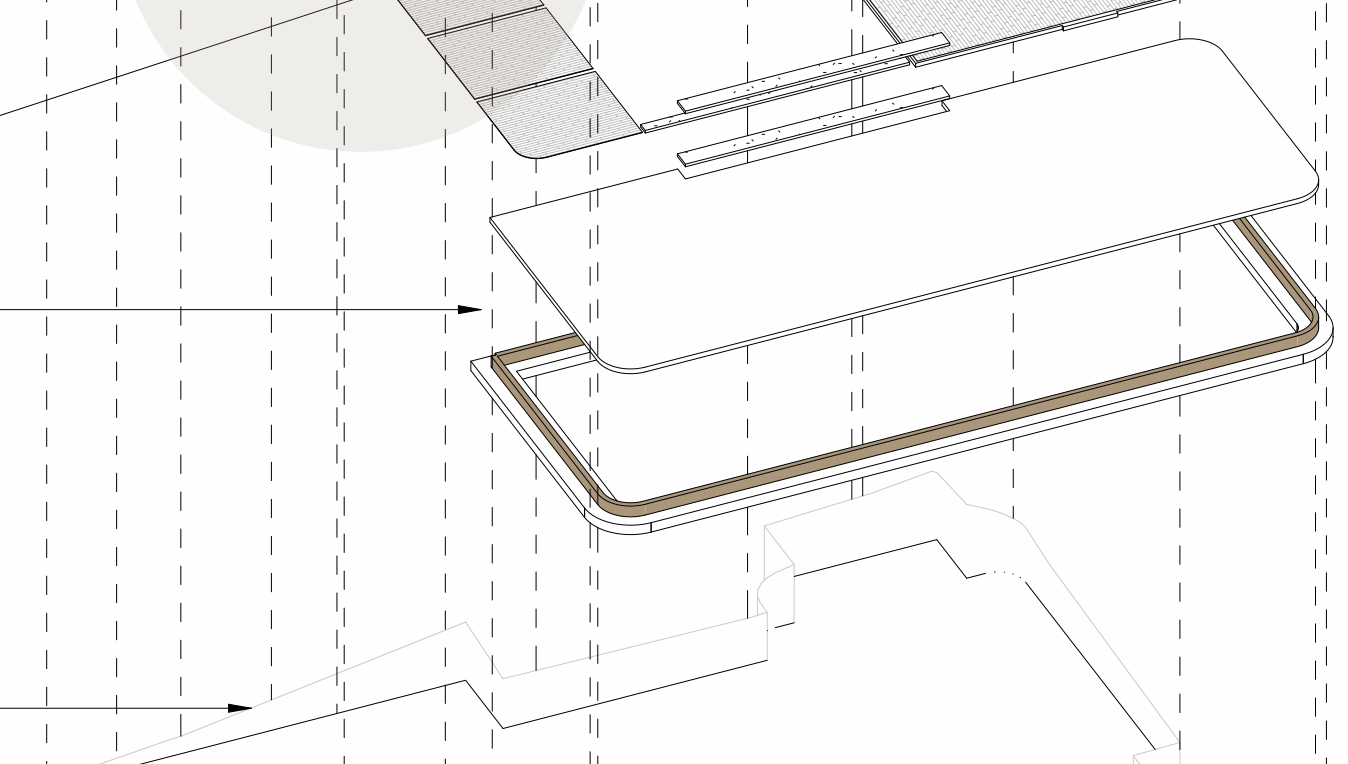
Structure concept: space frame sketch elevation



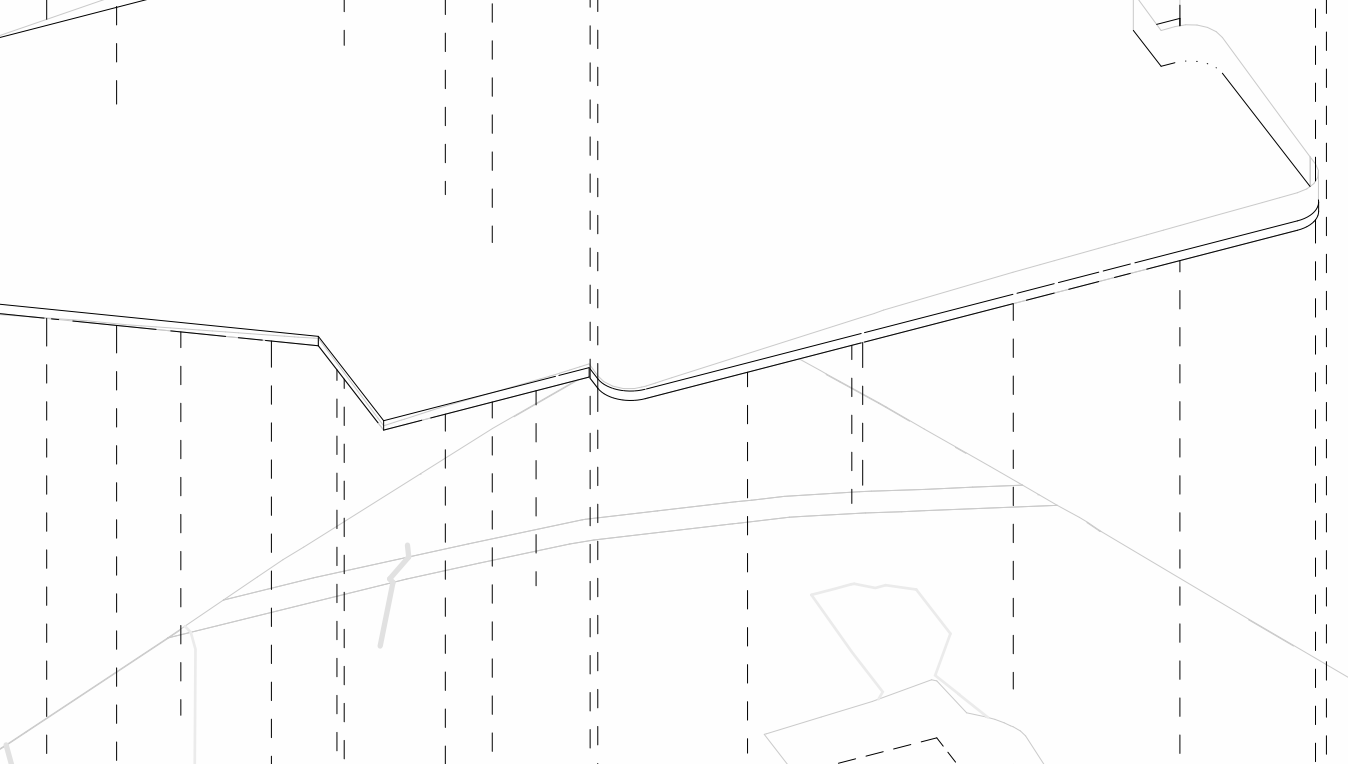
Precast concrete drainage channel at foot of ramps to direct surface runoff to stormwater system on site.
1500 mm wide wheelchair-accessible ramp system @ slope of 1:15 (max) with 1000 mm landing every 6m as per SANS 10400 Part 5 regulations.
400 mm tall steel balustrade with timber handrail chemically anchored to 300mm high 150mm HYDRAFORM drydock interlocking block wall, total barrier height of 1100mm as per SANS 10400 Part 5 & 8 regulations.
150 mm soil layer for extensive green roof of indigenous grass species. Drainage to channel outlets @ slope of 10 degrees.



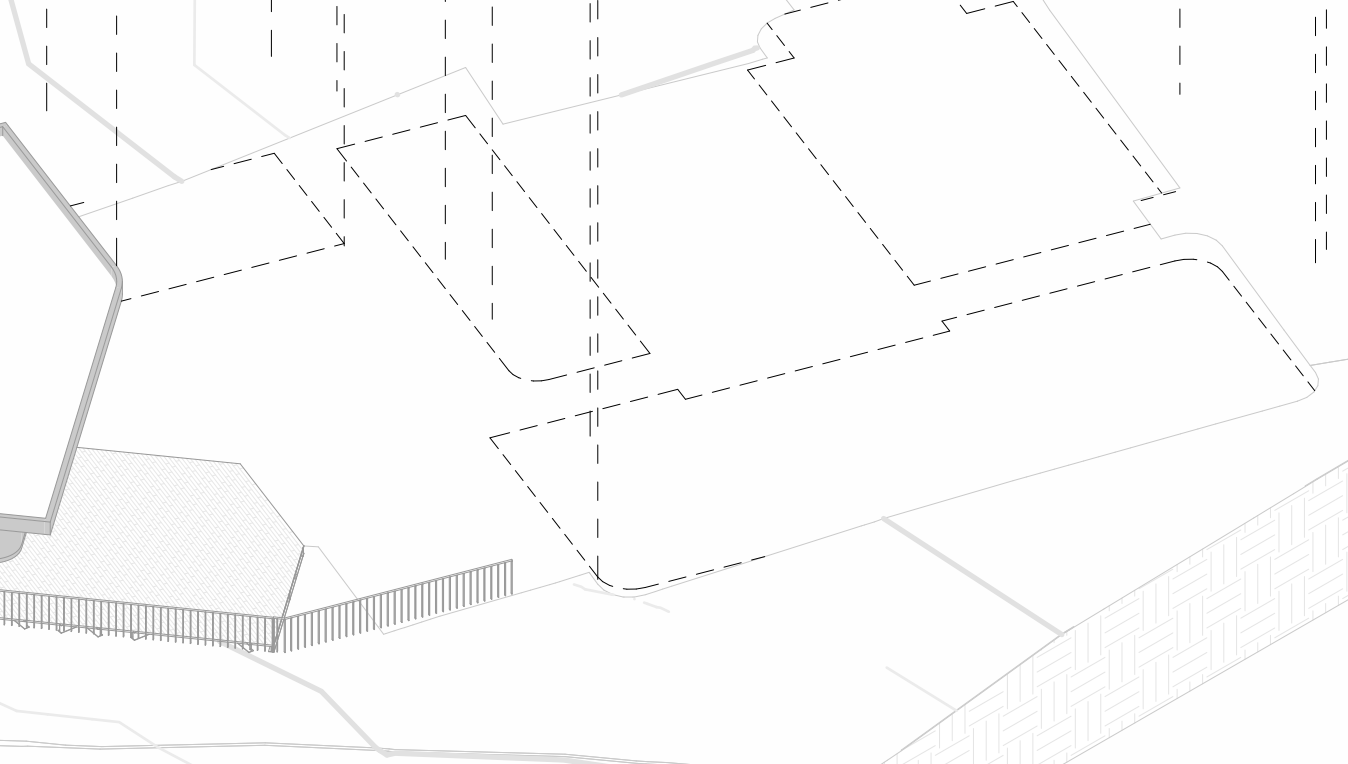
230 mm reinforced NONCRETE concrete slab cast on permanent steel shuttering with 150 mm extensive green roof soil layer. Waterproofing and drainage information as per callout details final specification according to structural engineer and landscape architect's design.
41 mm Klap lok 700 concealed fixing metal roof sheeting @ 1400 mm c/c.



150 mm HYDRAFORM block wall 7kPa drydock interlocking system made from compressed soil removed from the site.
180 mm HYDRAFORM retaining block wall 7kPa drydock interlocking system made from compressed soil removed from the site. Appropriate layers of waterproofing and drainage in accordance with engineer's specification.
19 mm thick double glazed safety glass storefront assembly in powder-coated aluminium frame. Design and installation according to specialist's detail.



150 mm lightweight steel frame wall assembly fixed to reinforced NONCRETE ground slab with 150x75x20x3 galvanised steel lip channel and waterproof membrane. Composite infill wall panels comprised of waterproof membrane, rigid insulation and vertical interlocking fibre-cement panels finished to detailed specification.



150 mm reinforced NONCRETE ground slab on 180 mm HYDRAFORM blocks 7 kPa below DPC on concrete strip foundation in accordance with geotechnician & structural engineer's design specifications.

Existing natural ground level

Building pad - area of site work and excavation



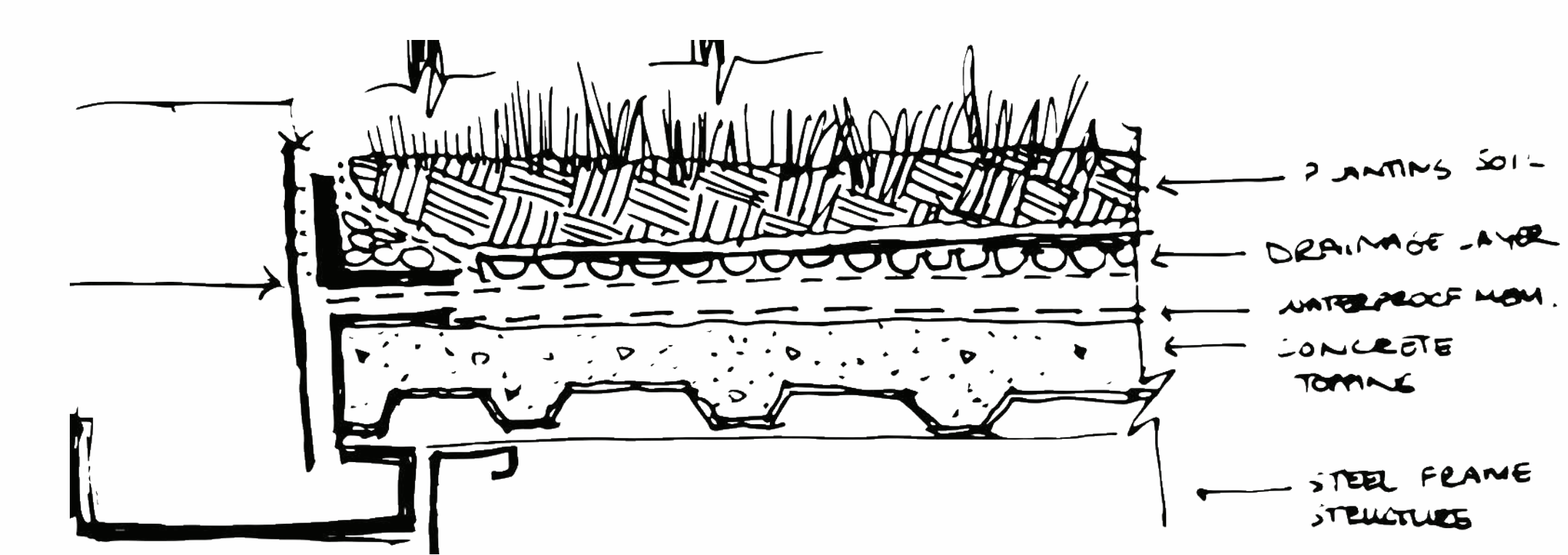
HYDRAFORM permeable wall



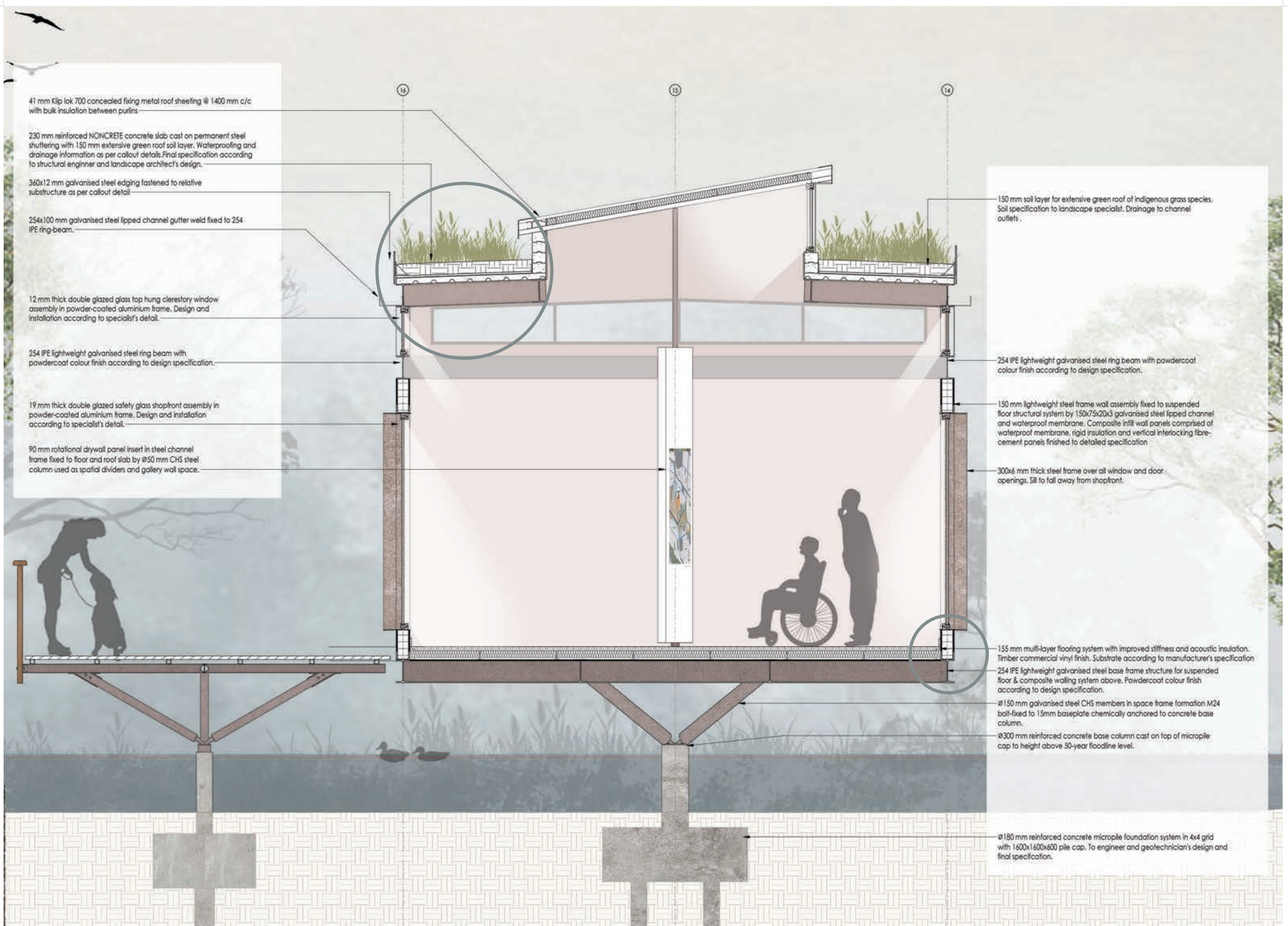
HYDRAFORM feature wall detail



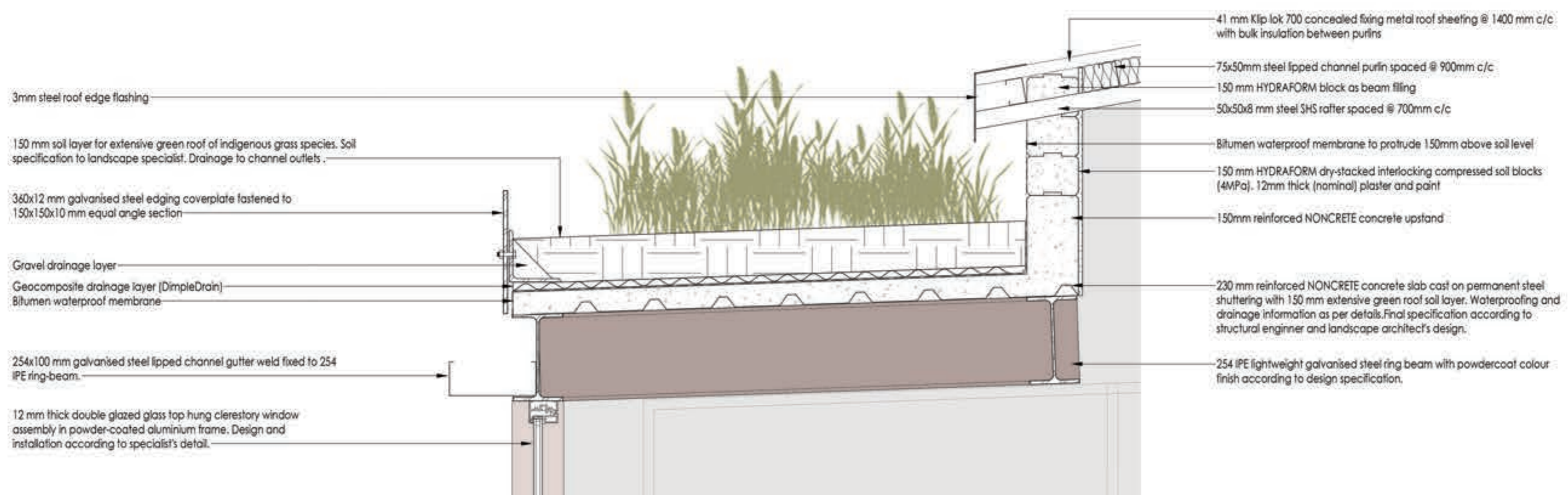
Unique earth identity of the site



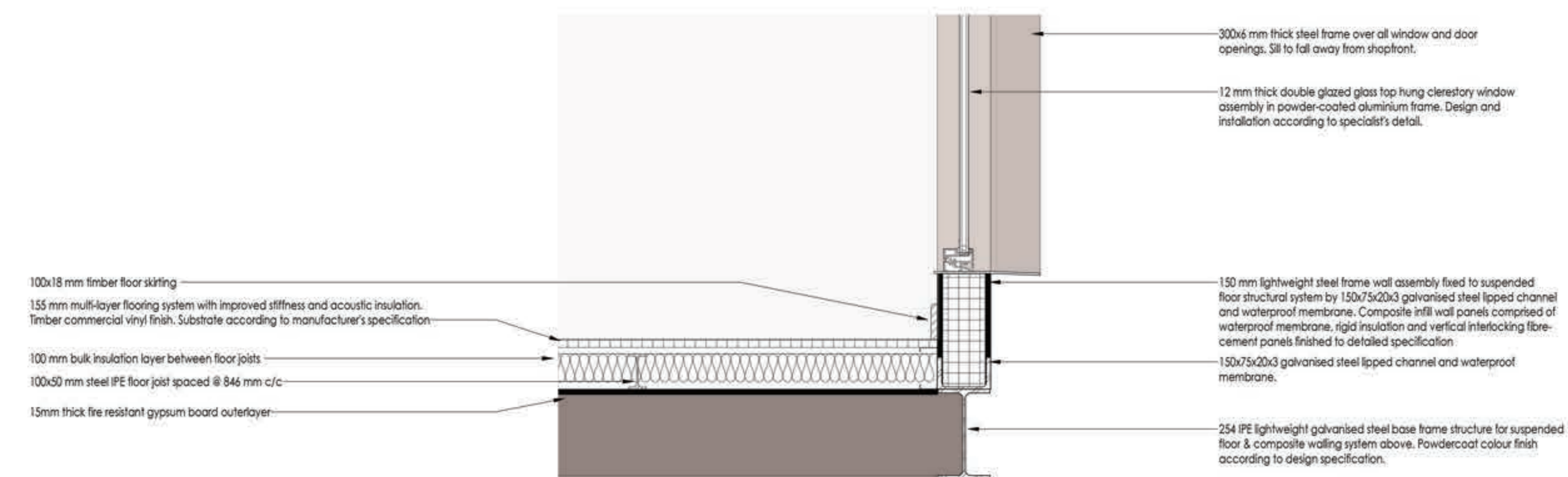
Structure concept: green roof made of NONCRETE concrete slab cast into permanent steel shuttering



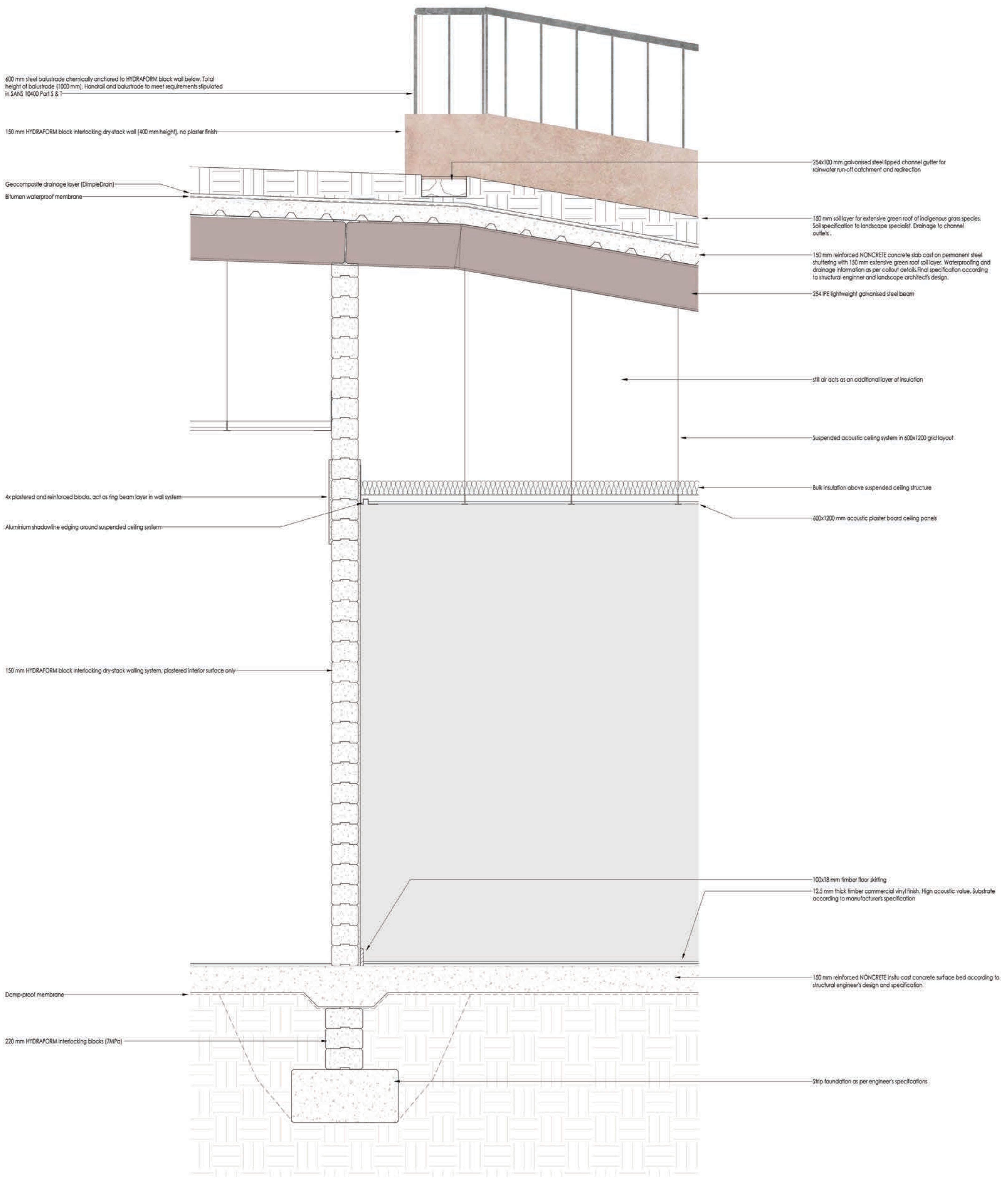
Cross section of elevated lightweight steel frame and composite walling system on micropiles above the river - scale 1:25



Callout detail 1 - innovative lightweight green roof solution - scale 1:10

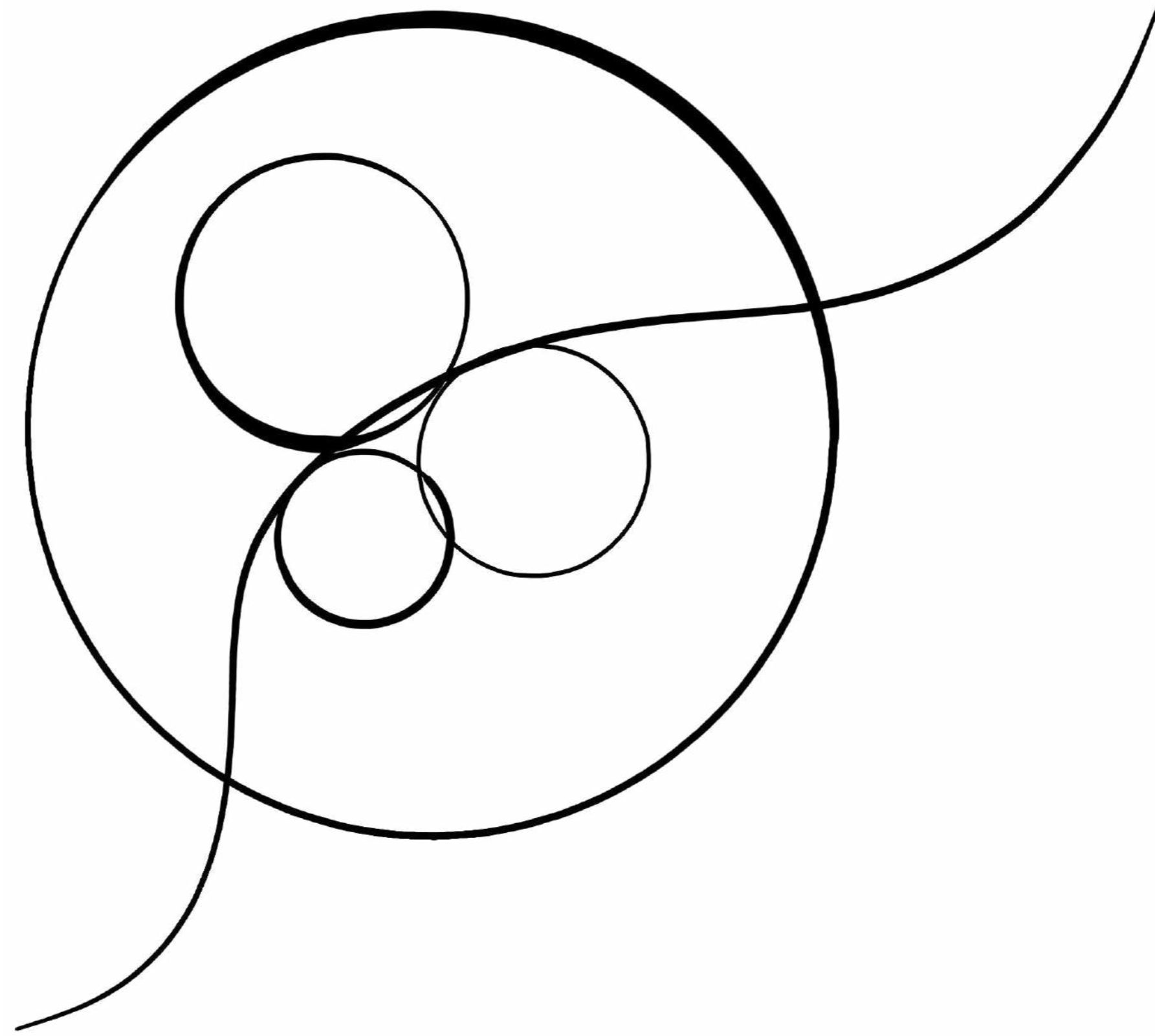


Callout detail 2: steel frame structure, suspended floor and composite wall junction - scale 1:10



Section of Hydraform block walling system and sloping green roof
 stereotomic system section 1:20





A B S T R A C T

The City of Tshwane municipality's population will almost double from 3.5 million to 5.8 million by 2050 (Green Book, 2023). Pretoria, as a city within this municipality, is set to experience urban growth pressure. With this expansion comes several critical issues hindering the city's ability to adapt and develop, such as: access to adequate resources and services, the reduced quality of life of its residents and associated potential mental health issues, as well as the loss of critical biodiversity.

The intervention addresses the pressing need for improved access to mental healthcare resources in a city where a notable portion of the population suffers from mental health issues. Thus, it proposes a facility that provides complementary therapy interventions in combination with conventional therapy, and presents how access to public green space can play a vital role in healing. In an effort to improve Pretoria's environmental vulnerability, this renewed purpose aims to preserve and regenerate green sites across the city as it continues to densify. Salutogenic and biophilic design strategies are used to provide a comprehensive solution using natural systems to address human wellbeing and the state of nature in the city.

The design resolution, located in Nieuw Muckleneuk, is a series of spaces bridging the Walkerspruit river and nesting into the ground at either end, anchoring and reconnecting each side of Trim Park into a newly activated urban green site. It illustrates how innovative building technologies (IBTs) can reduce a project's carbon footprint and energy demands. Moreover, contextually-specific passive design principles and the curated introduction of indigenous plant species at a site level, exemplify how architecture is enriched when the context and site are allowed to shape the buildings. This presents a new typology in which architecture serves as a facilitator between critical urban stakeholders to ensure symbiotic collaborations that produce environmentally-responsible building practices and an improved sense of urban wellbeing for the city, its residents and nature.

Keywords: Salutogenesis, biophilia, passive design, integrative, mental health, innovative building technologies, environmental sustainability, urban wellbeing, symbiotic relationships.

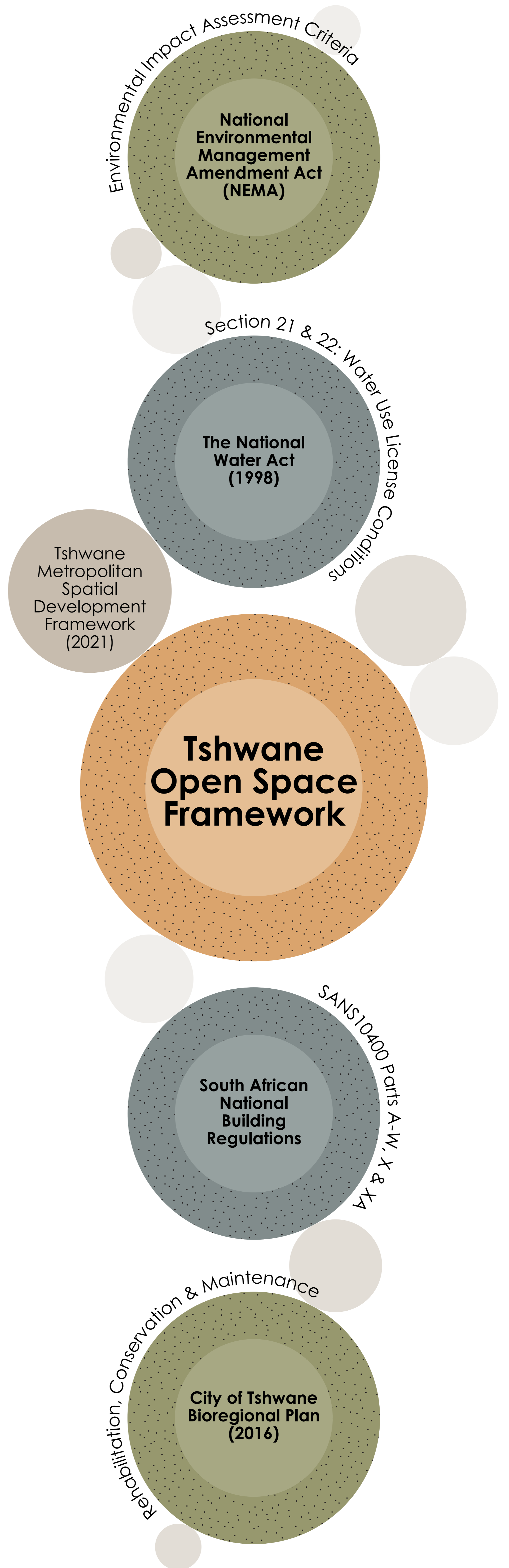


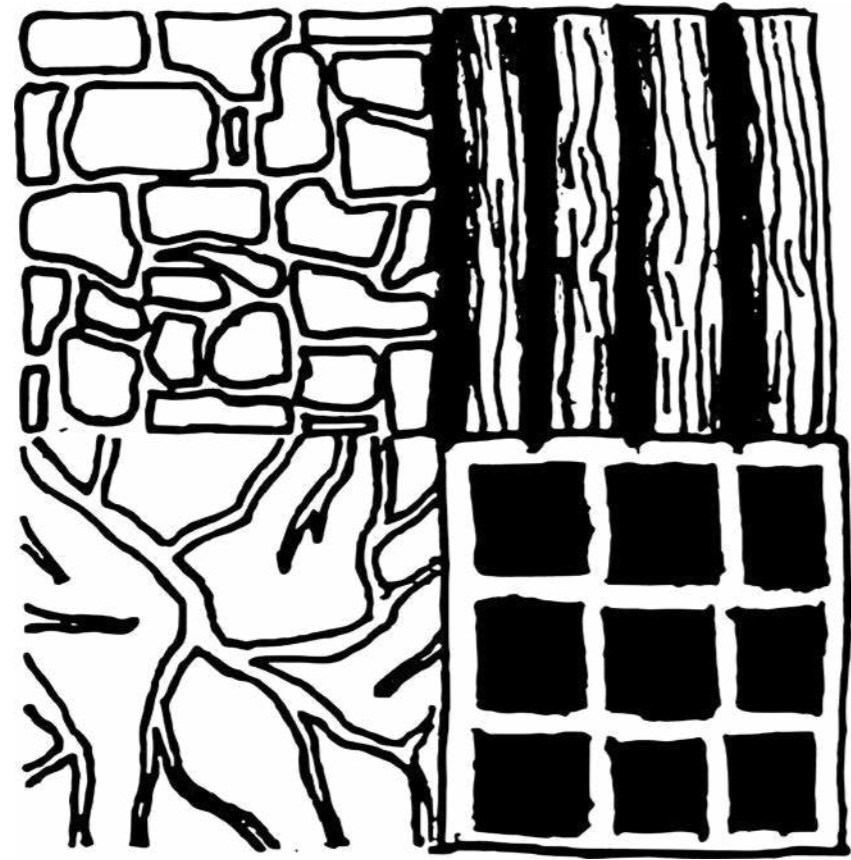
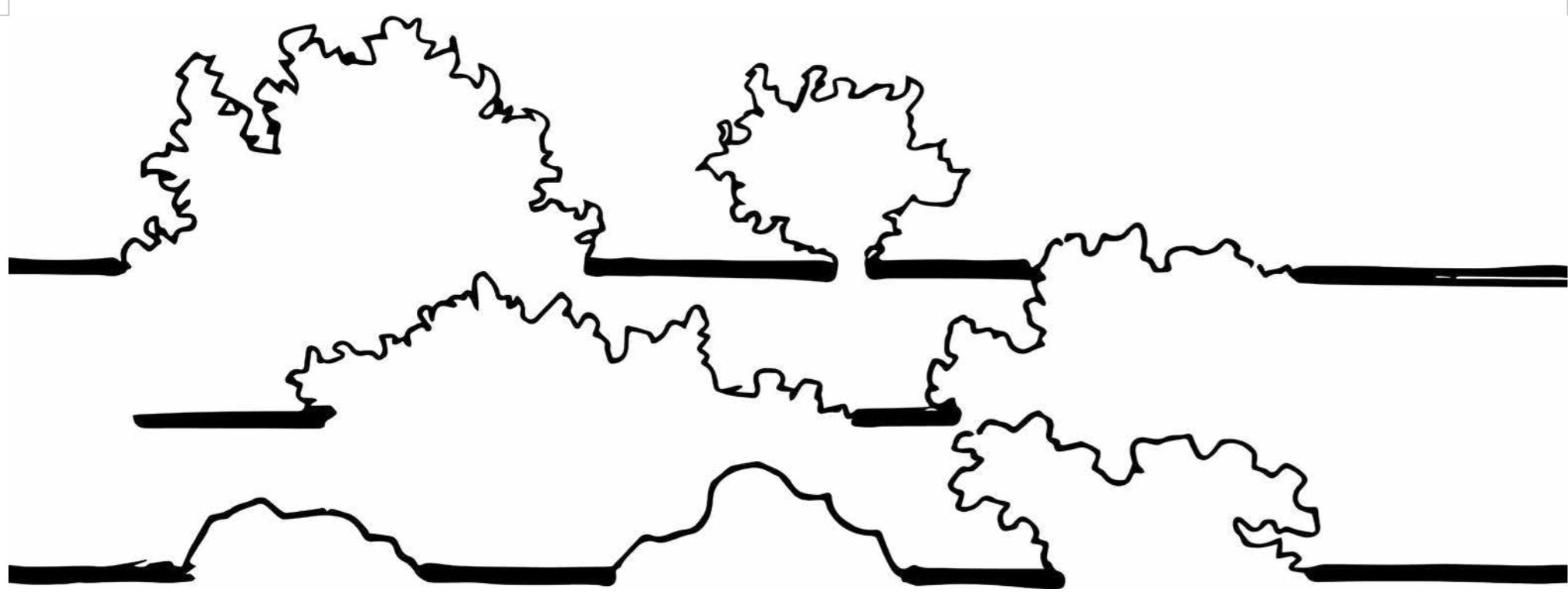
urban healing through symbiosis

Addressing the state of urban wellbeing in Pretoria by rehabilitating critical public green space in Nieuw Muckleneuk and introducing a centre for complementary therapy to promote collaborative, deep-rooted healing for all

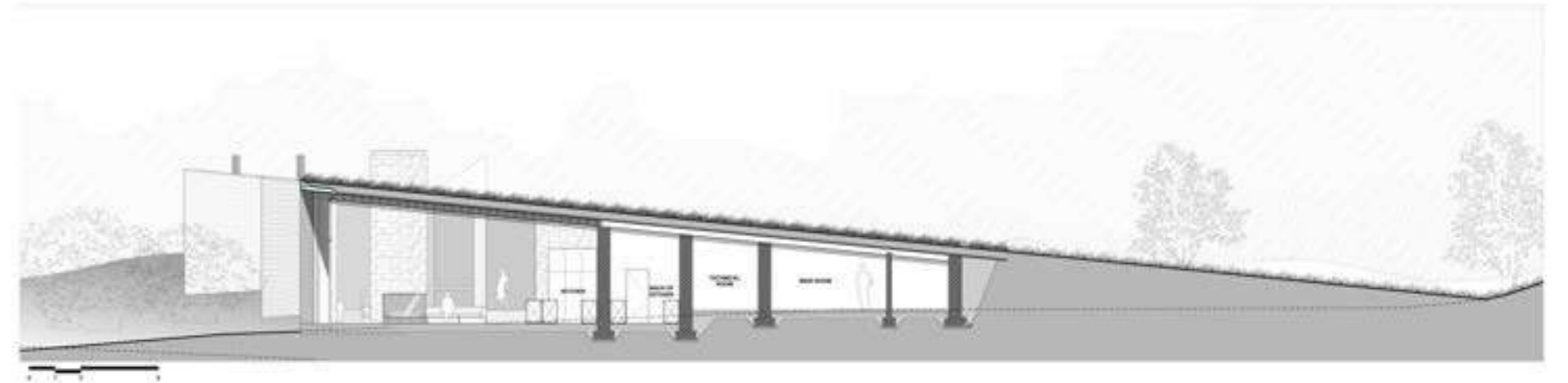
Courtney Jade Shaw_17043795_Dr Coralie van Reenen

legislation & regulations

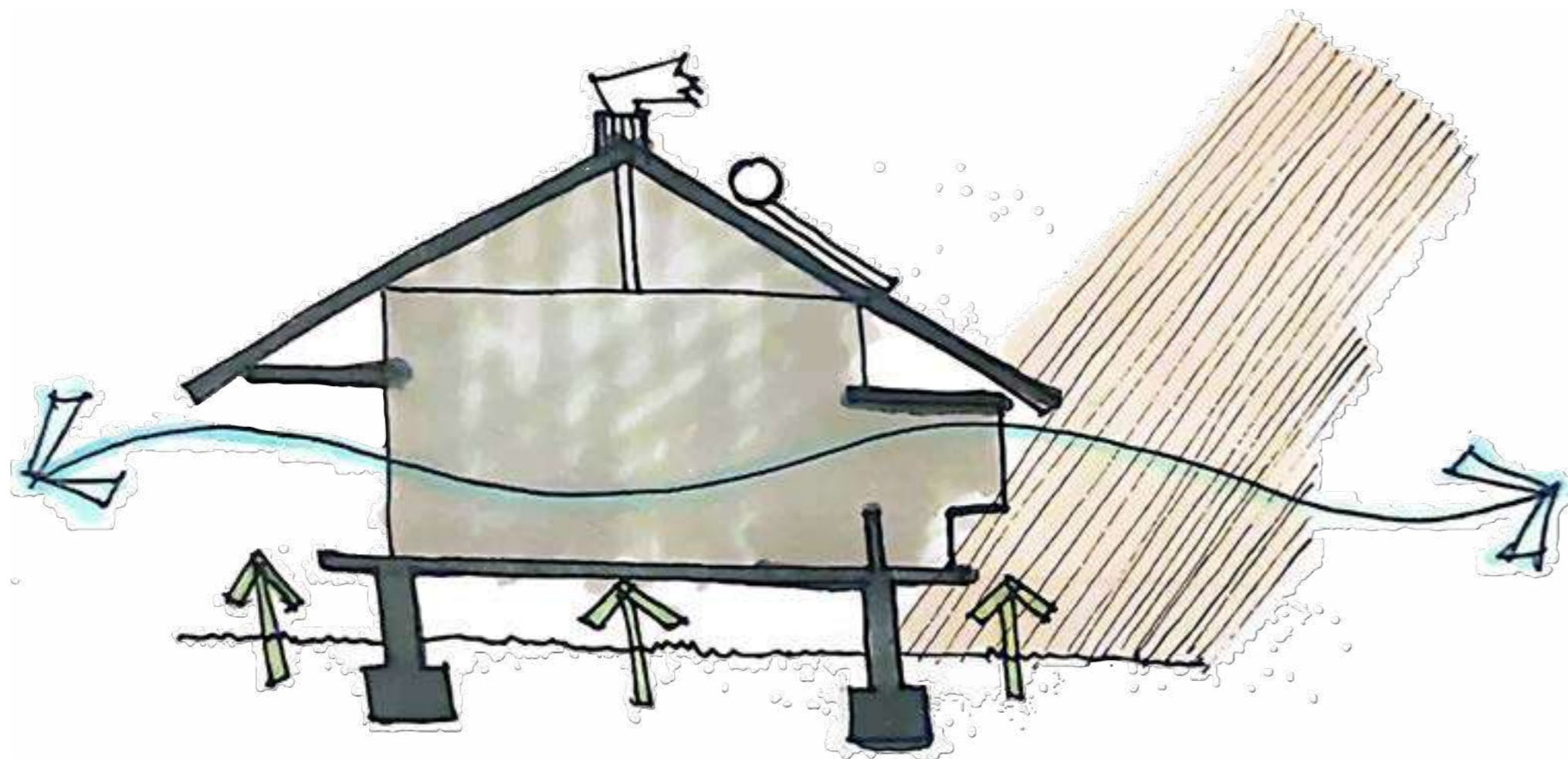




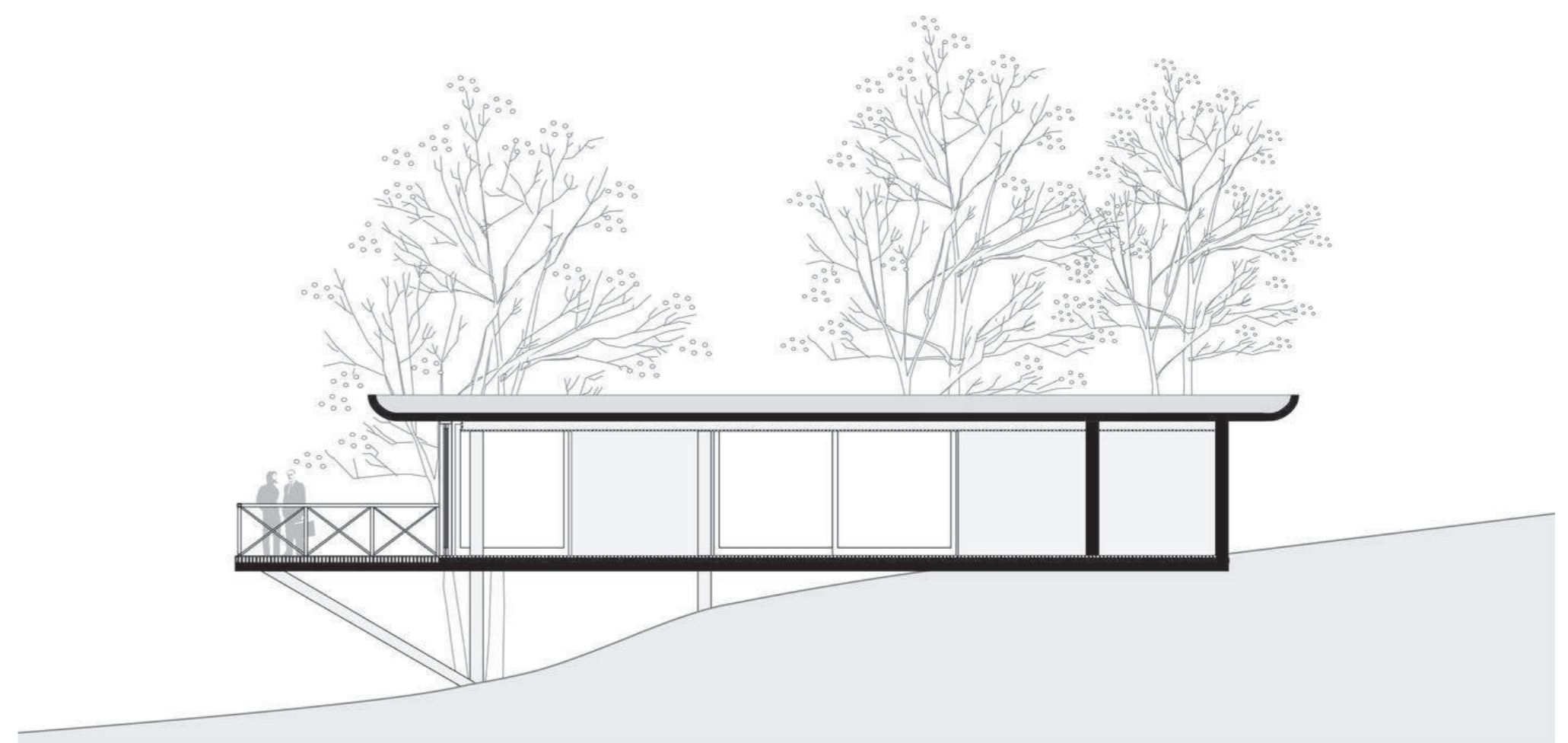
Coromandel, Lydenburg South Africa
Marco Zanuso
materiality and merging of building and site



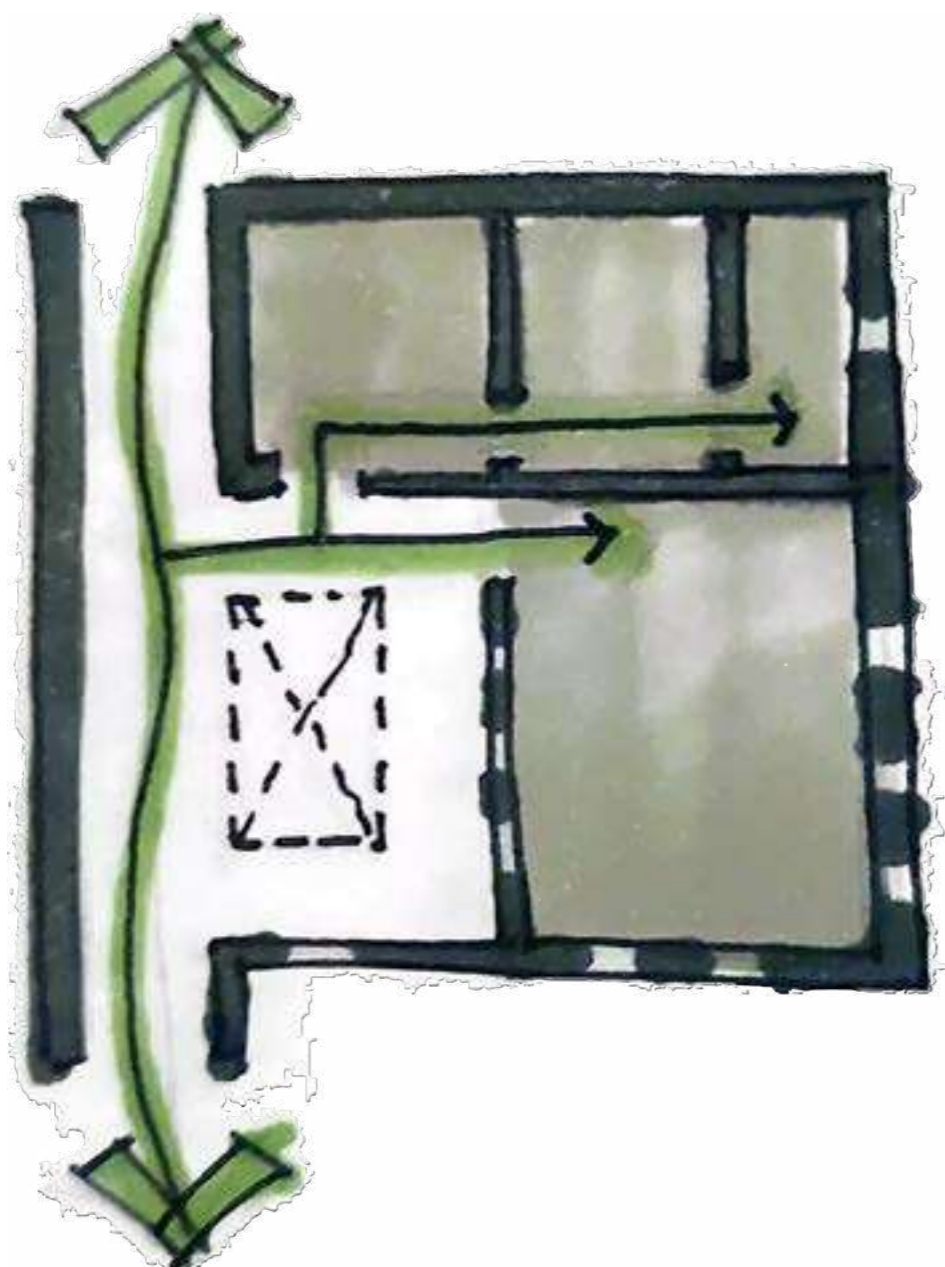
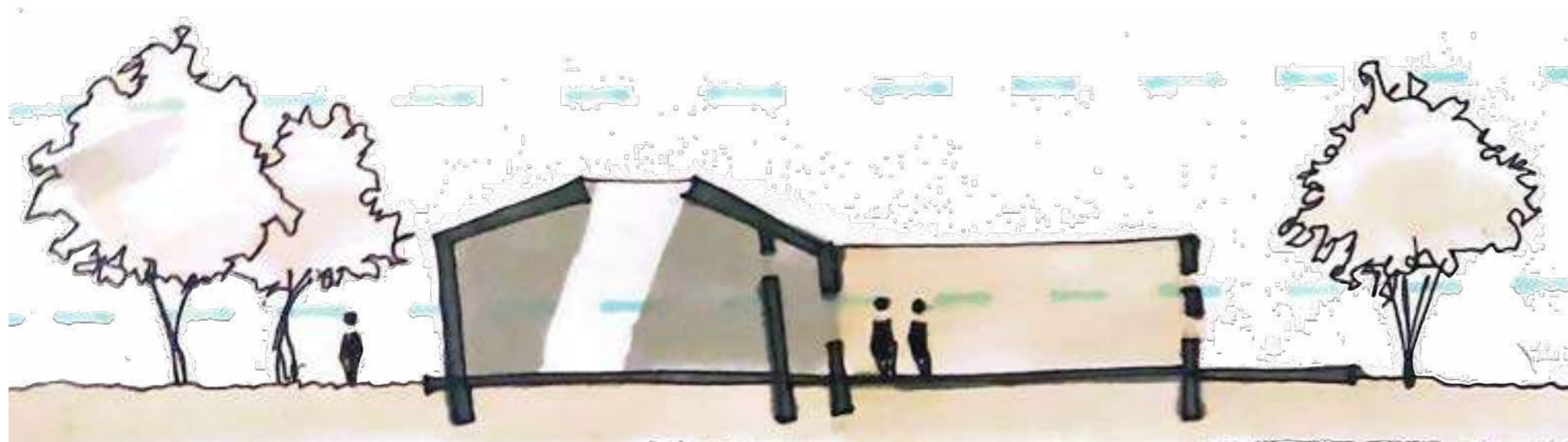
(Image by GLH Architects)
Witklipfontein Eco Lodge, Vrededor, South Africa
GLH Architects
roof and landscape



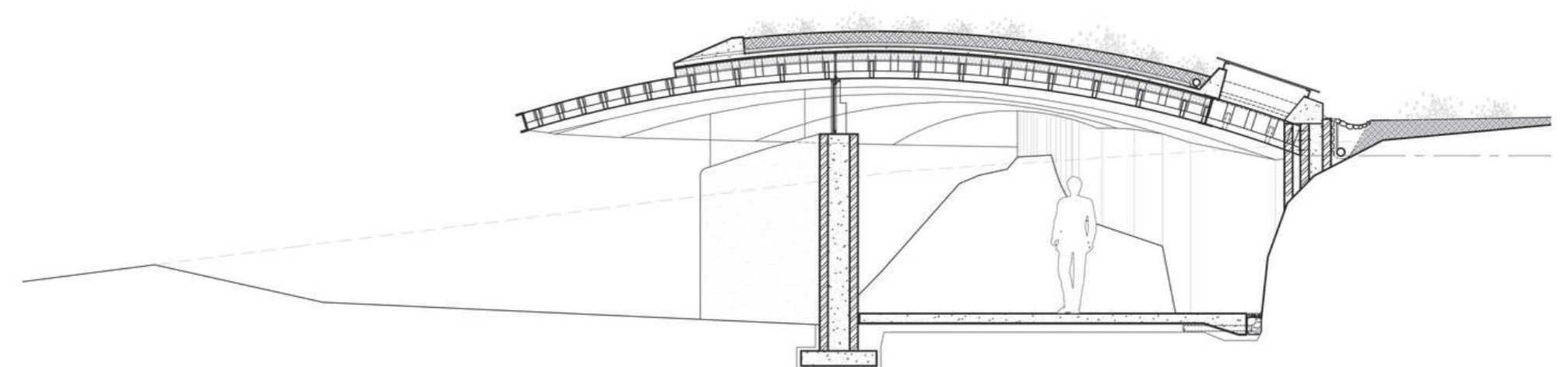
Marika-Alderton house, Yirrkala, Australia
Glenn Murcutt
contextual climatic response



(Image by GLH Architects)
GN Residence, Itaipava, Brazil
Miguel Pinto Guimarães Arquitetos Associados
elevating the ground plane



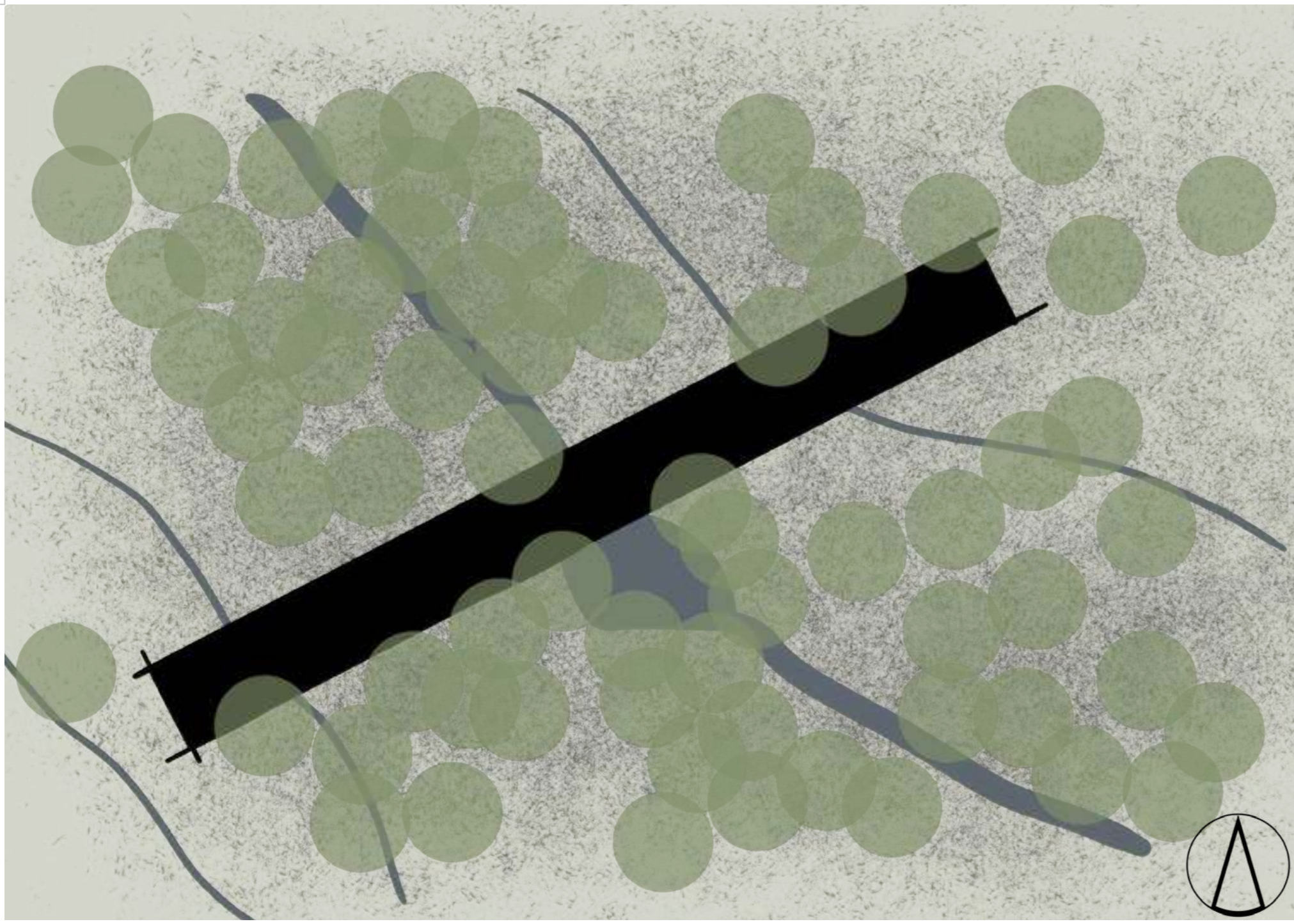
Centre for health & social welfare, Laongo, Burkina Faso
Kere Architecture
privacy and spatial planning for healthcare design



(Image by KLG Architects)
Yzerfontein, South Africa
KLG Architects
materiality and merging of building and site

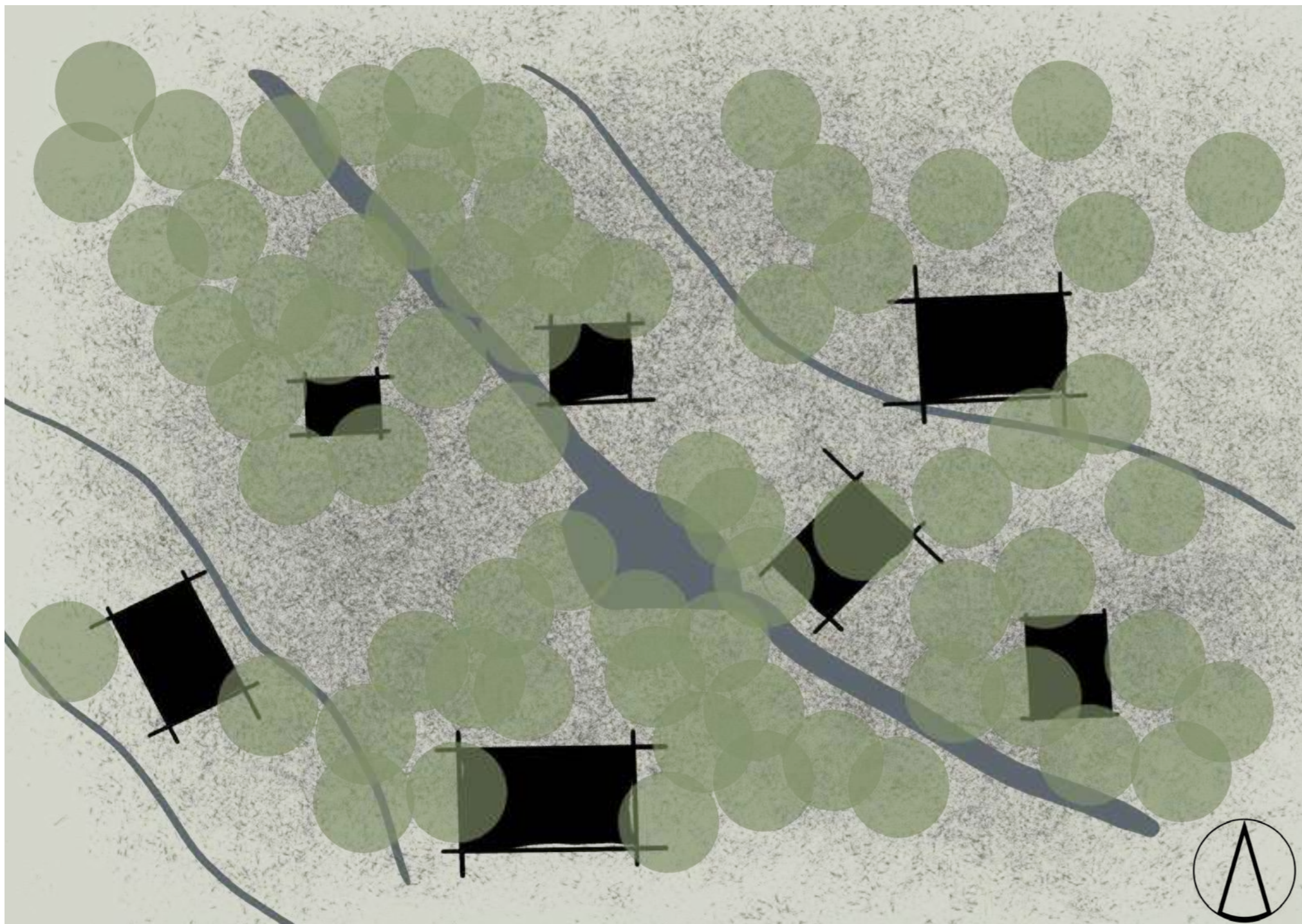
conceptual precedents

technical precedents



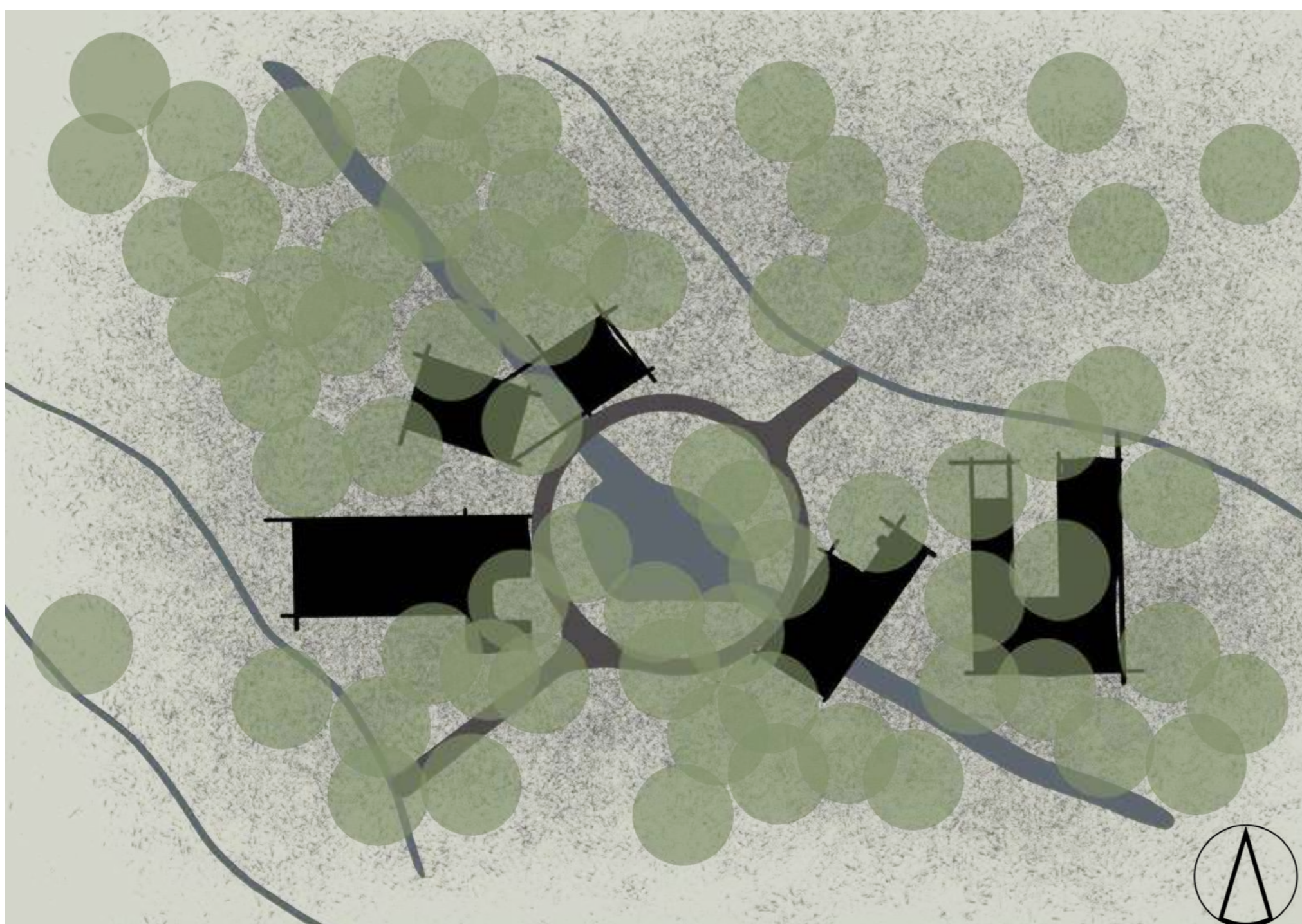
Architecture as a bridging device

The idea of a physical space that connected each side of the site over the river was strong and accessible. However, the architecture became a superficial object in the landscape, void of any deep-seated engagements with nature and too closely resembled the sterile, corridor typology of most institutional healthcare centres.



Architecture as landscape

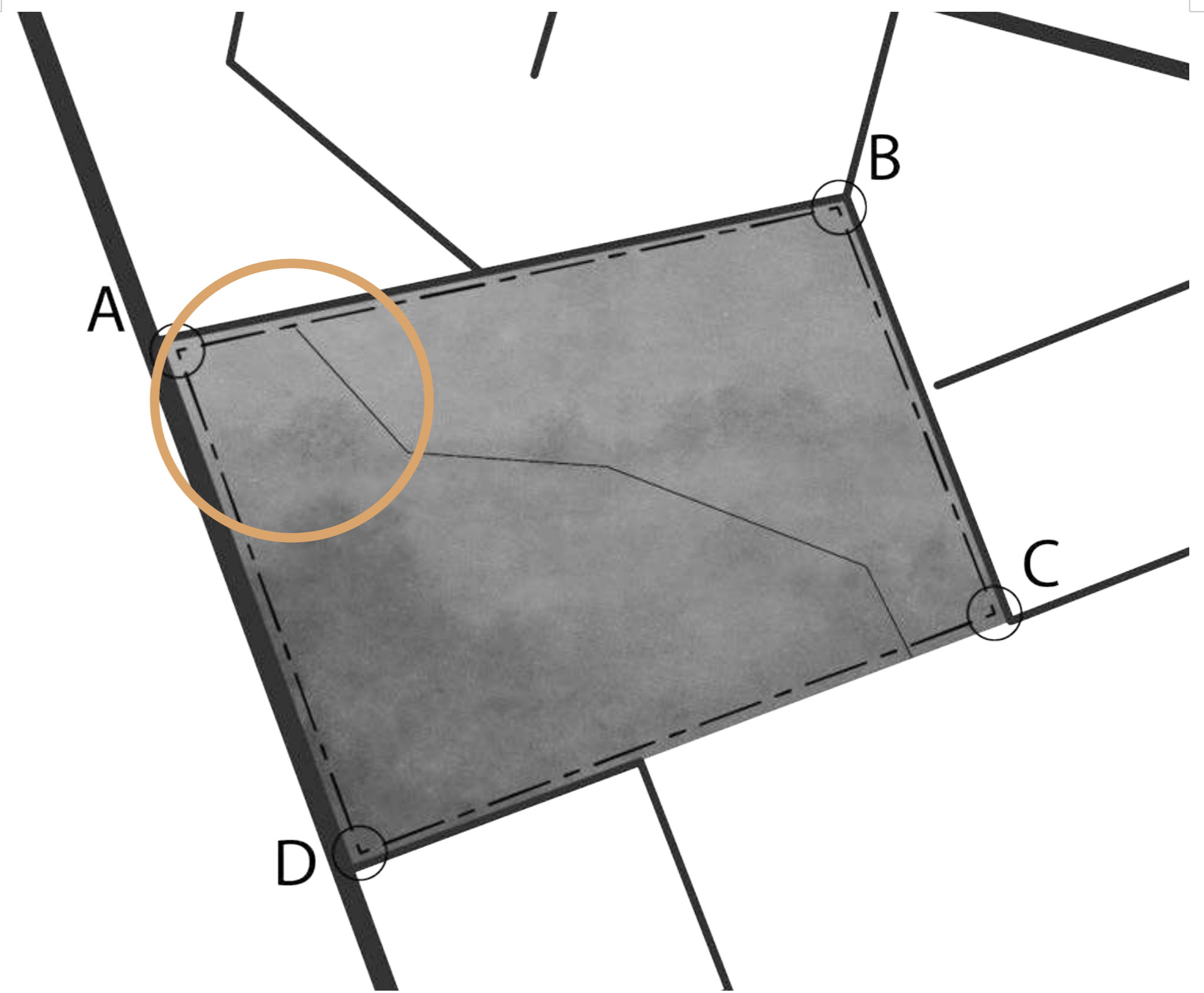
Breaking up the building into programmes spread across the river and site spoke to an organic spatial solution embedded in the landscape. However, navigation between spaces became disjointed and inaccessible which contradicted the characteristics of salutogenic design - innate healing spaces that are legible, well connected and lend themselves to an intuitive journey.



Architecture as an extension of natural systems

By combining the findings of previous milestones and with further responses to specific climatic characteristics, a comprehensive solution was refined. The result is an architectural intervention that stitches the site back together whilst respectfully engaging with the existing natural systems. The building therefore becomes an extension of the landscape.

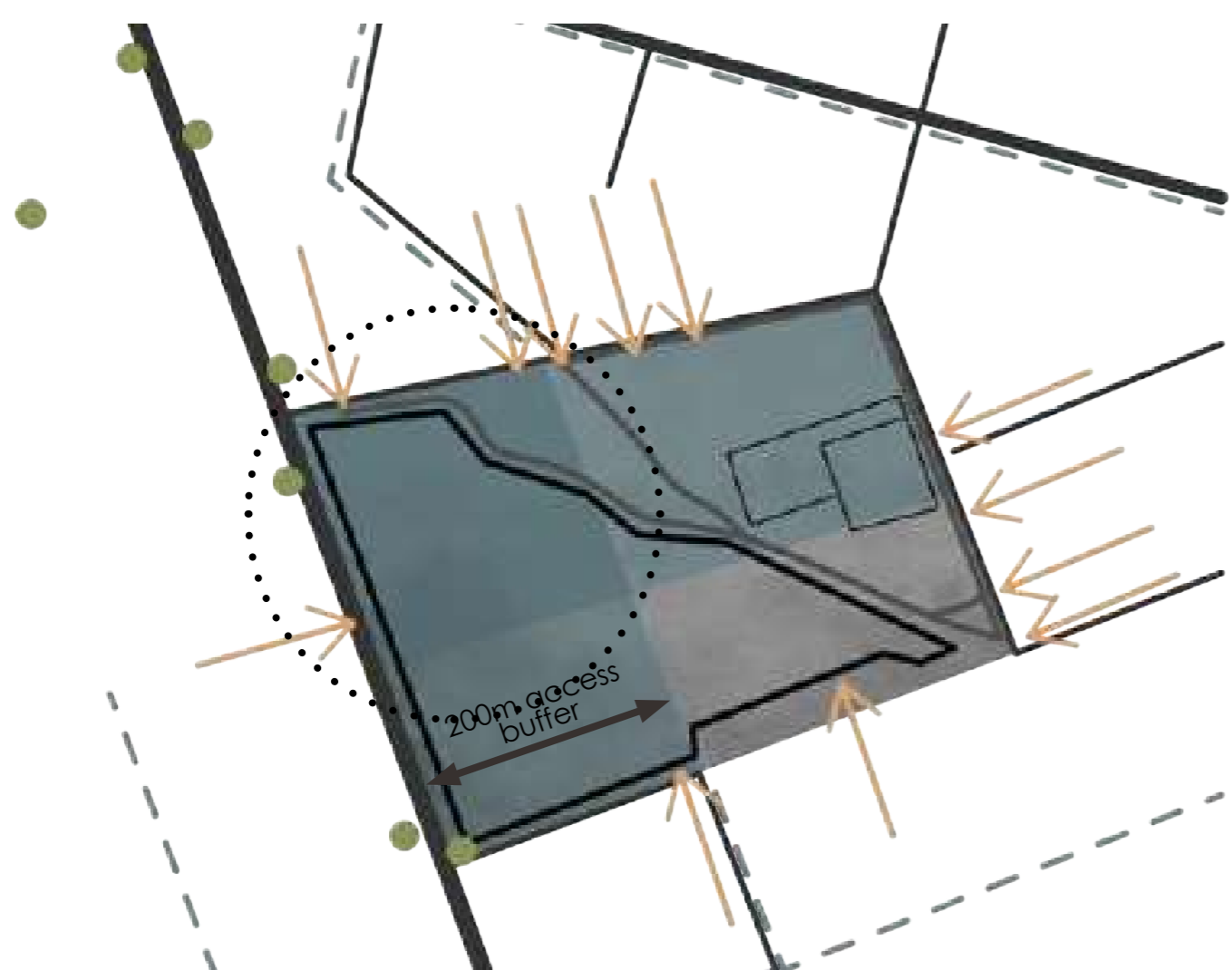
d e s i g n d e v e l o p m e n t



Trim Park Complementary Healing Centre

Erf number & site address	Erf 410, Erf 2/394 & Erf R1/1/394 Trim Park, 173 Mackie street, Nieuw Muckleneuk, Pretoria
Zoning classification (City of Tshwane)	Public open space
SANS10400 occupation class	Entertainment & assembly (A1), indoor sports (A2), outdoor sports (A5), place of instruction (A3), exhibition hall (C1), library (C2), & offices (G1)
Total site area (m ²)	129 071,517 m ²
Existing building area (m ²)	336 m ²
New building area (m ²)	1082 m ²
Total building area (m ²)	1418 m ²
Property boundary lines (metres)	AB 429,58 m BC 270,19 m CD 424,11 m DA 338,51 m
Permissible site floor area ratio (FAR)	1,5
Permissible site coverage	Not applicable
Total estimated population	255 - 500 people
Parking requirements	62 parking bays & 2 disabled parking bays (Required: 60 bays & 2 disabled bays)
Ablution requirements (summary)	Male: 5 toilets, 6 urinals, 6 basins & 2 showers Female: 9 toilets, 6 basins & 2 showers
SANS10400 XA climate zone class	Temperate interior (2)
Hydrology sensitivity rating	Walkerspruit river - low threat level
Biodiversity sensitivity rating	Critical biodiversity area 1
Total energy demand inside buildings (W)	18 029 W
Total energy produced by solar panels (W)	400W x 5,42 peak sun hours per day (average) = 42 192 W

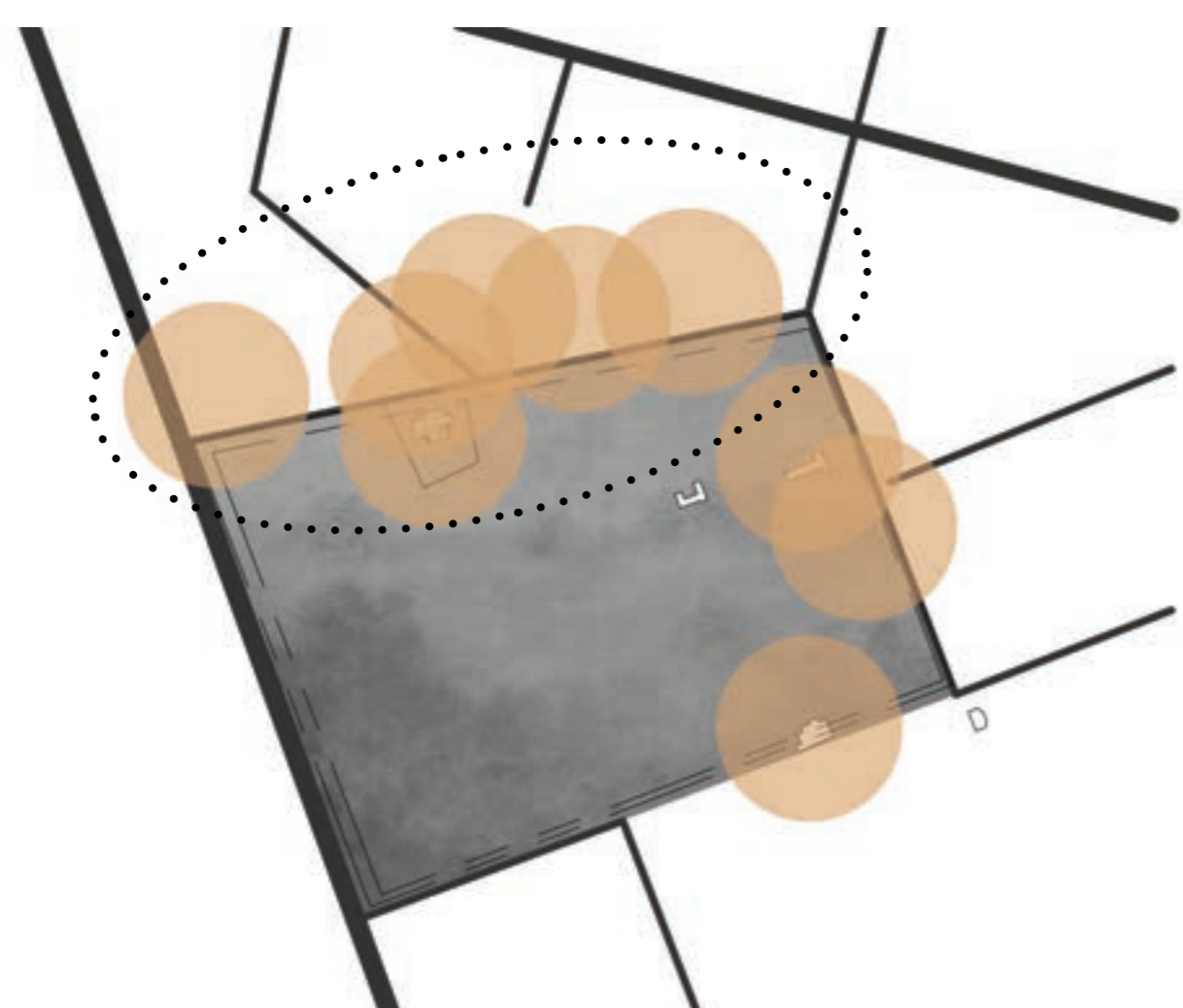
s i t e i n f o r m a t i o n



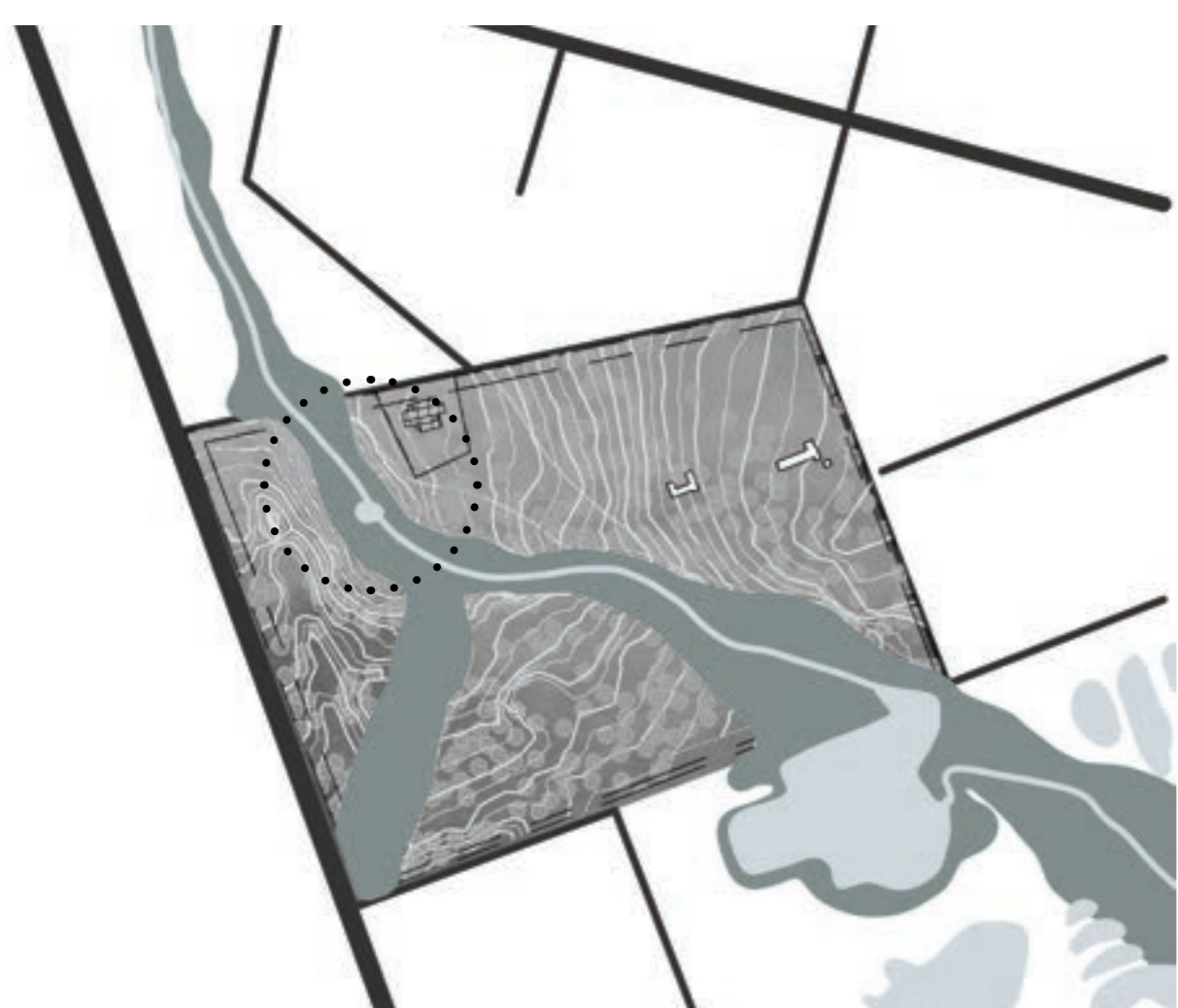
accessibility to public, services & on site circulation



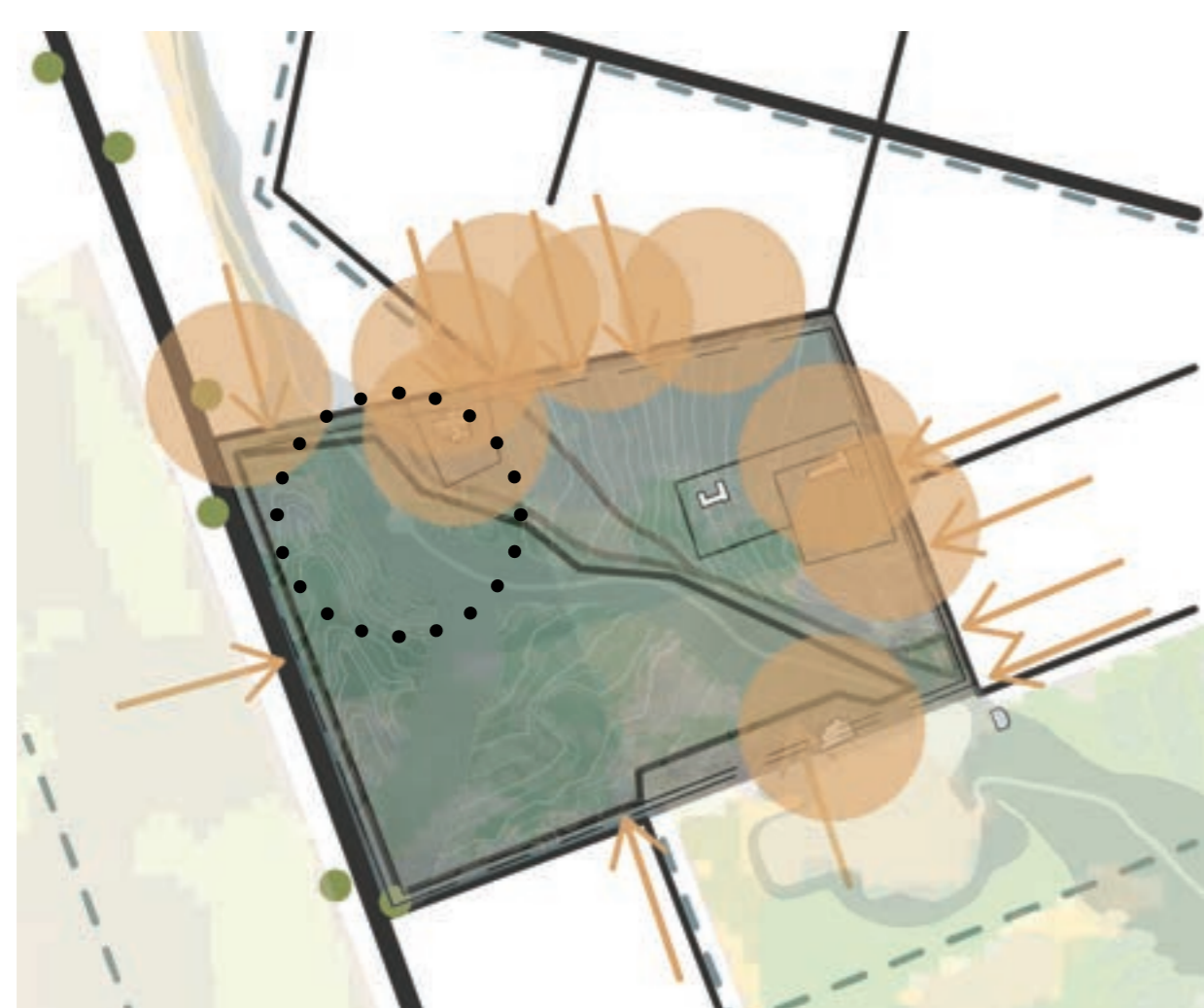
environmental characteristics



proximity to existing programmes



opportunity to reconnect over the river

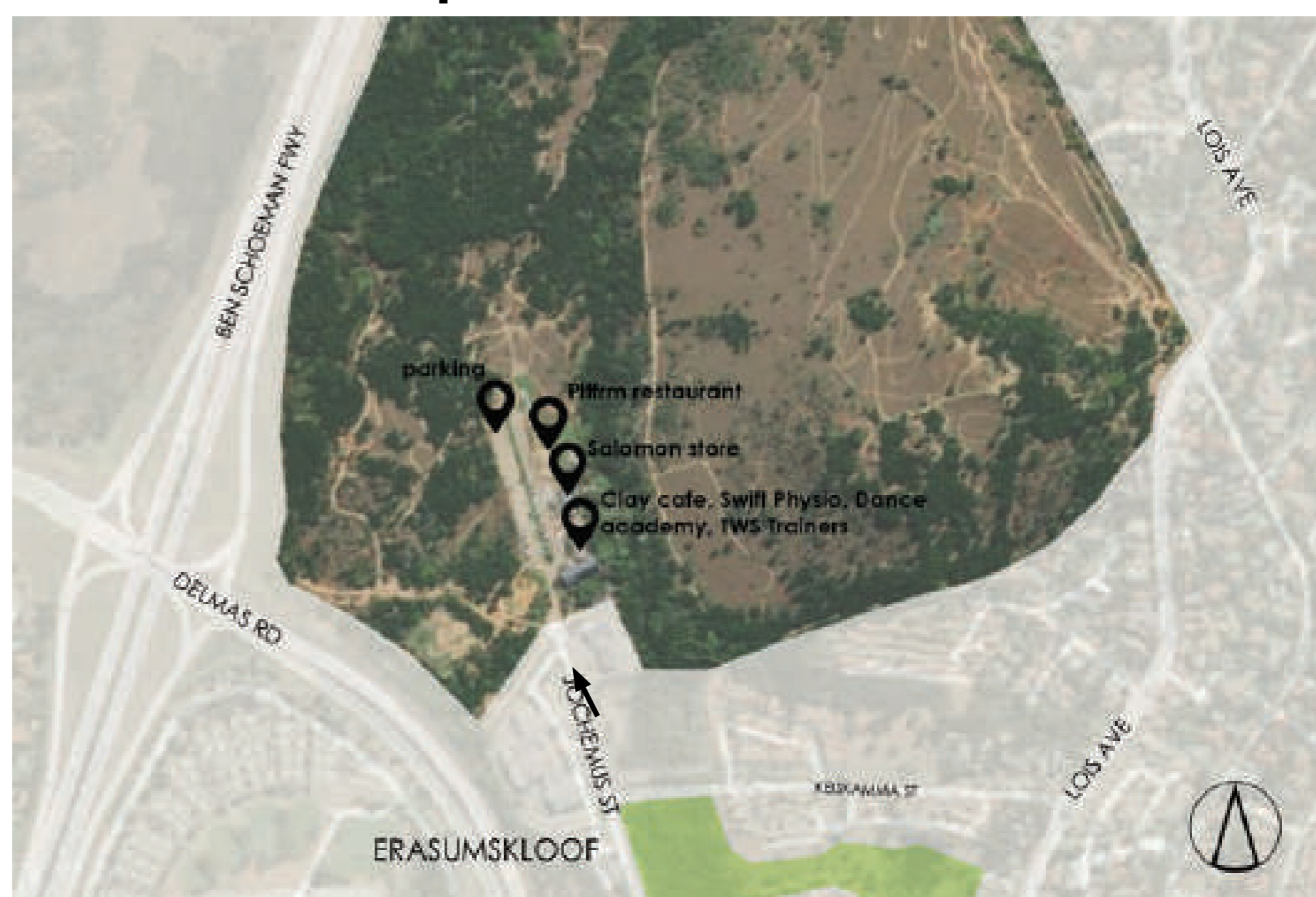


final on-site position selection

l o c a t i o n s e l e c t i o n

- Accessibility
Controlled Entrance fees, dogs allowed
- Zoning Use
Mixed use, nature reserve
- Amenities & Activities
Pltfrm restaurant, Clay Cafe, Swift Physio Centre, Salomon store, Love of Dance Academy, TWS Trainers, PSG, bike, hiking and running trails, playground
- Quality of Infrastructure
Clean, functional & well maintained

Wolwespruit Bike and Trail Park



Magnolia Dell Park

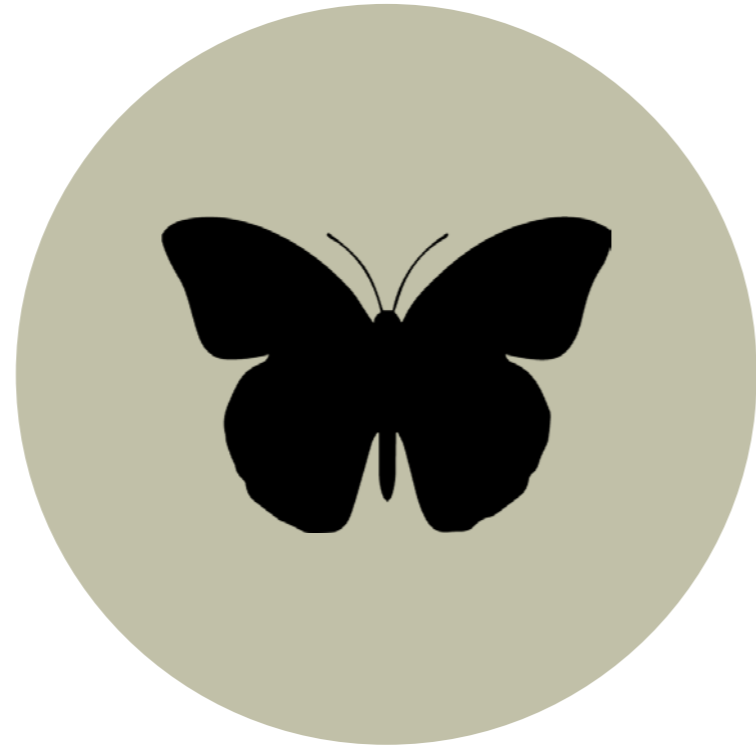
- Accessibility
Publically Accessible, no entrance fee
- Zoning Use
Natural conservation, public open space
- Amenities & Activities
Huckleberry restaurant, flee market, intiem love bridge, soccer, skateboarding, playground
- Quality of Infrastructure
Clean, functional & well maintained

l o c a l p r e c e d e n t s



attracts birds

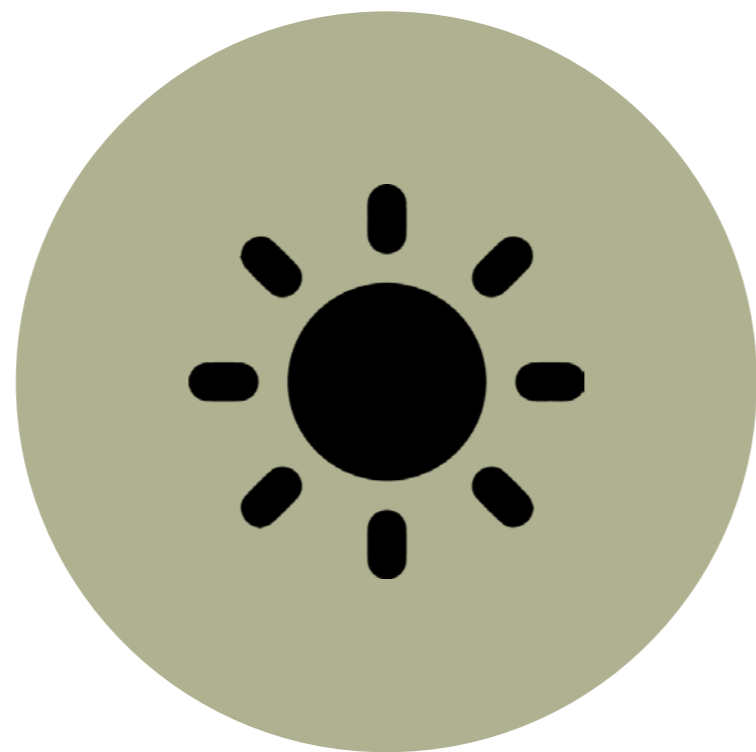
attracts butterflies



attracts bees



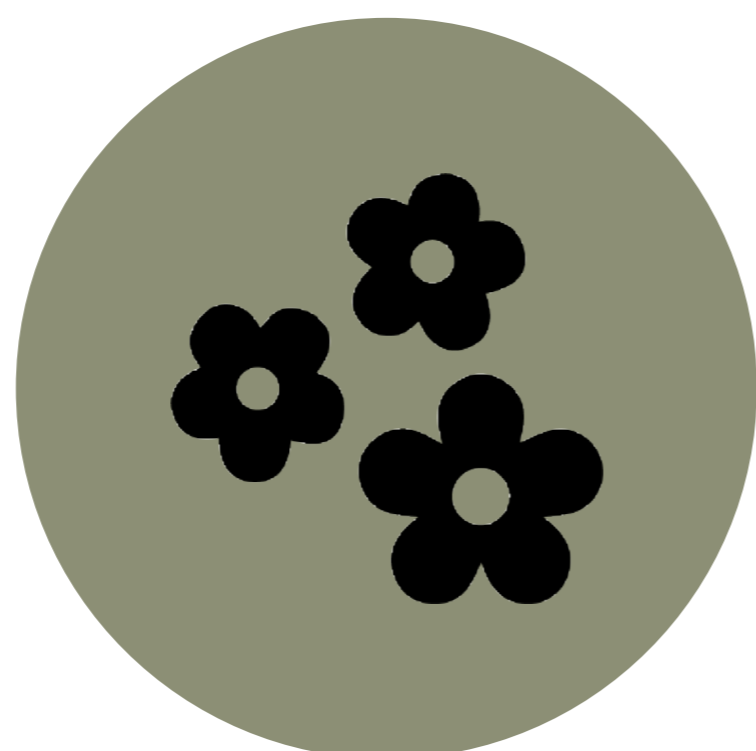
drought resistant



medical plant



fragrant



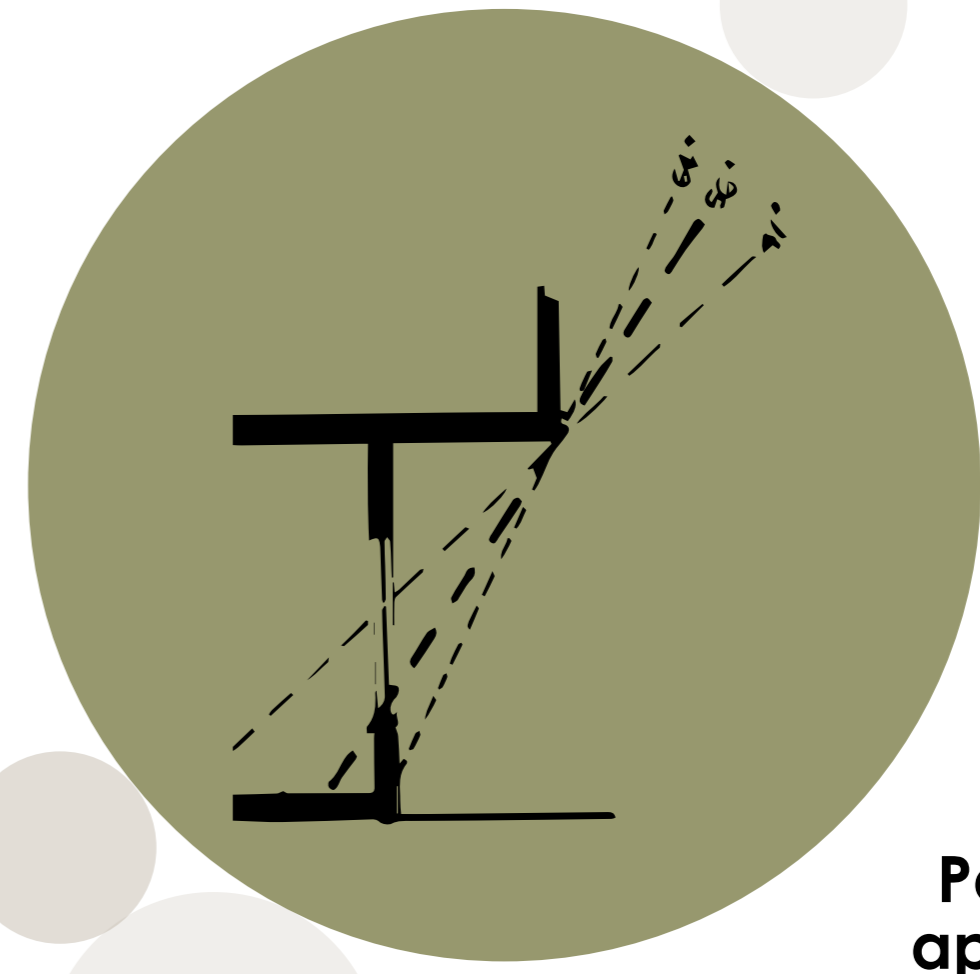
edible



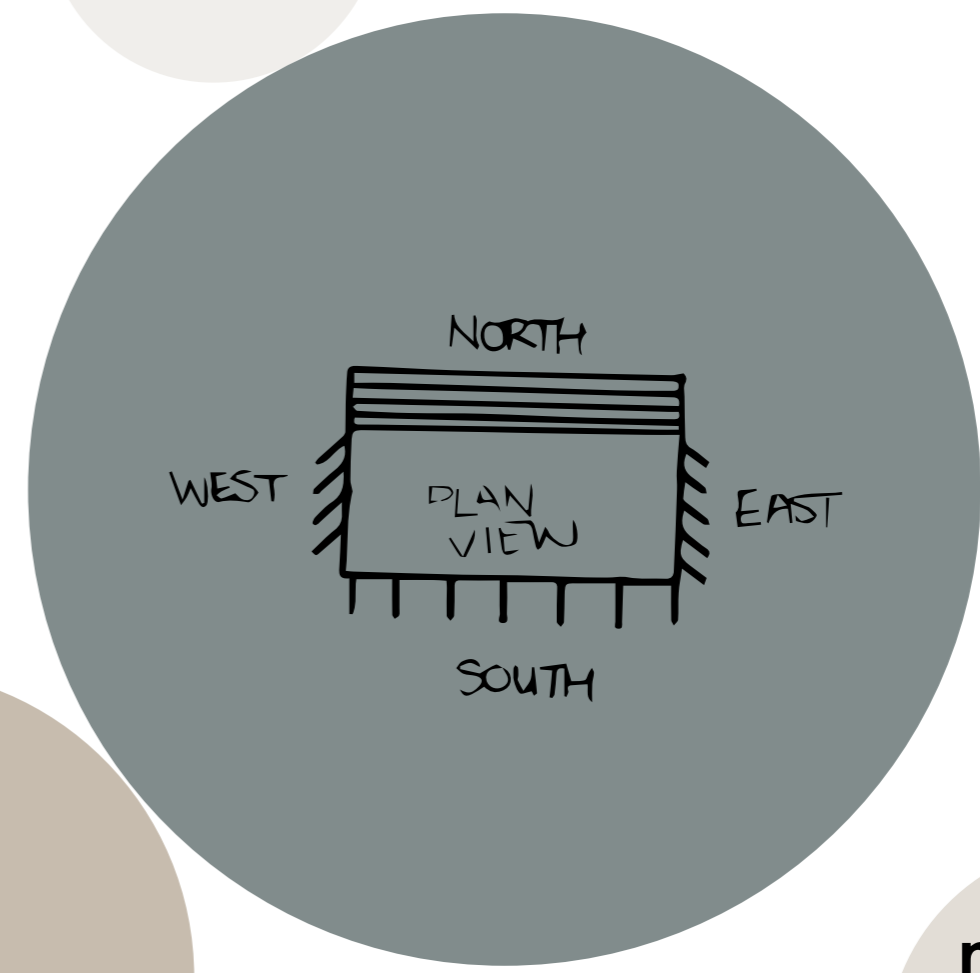
useful plant



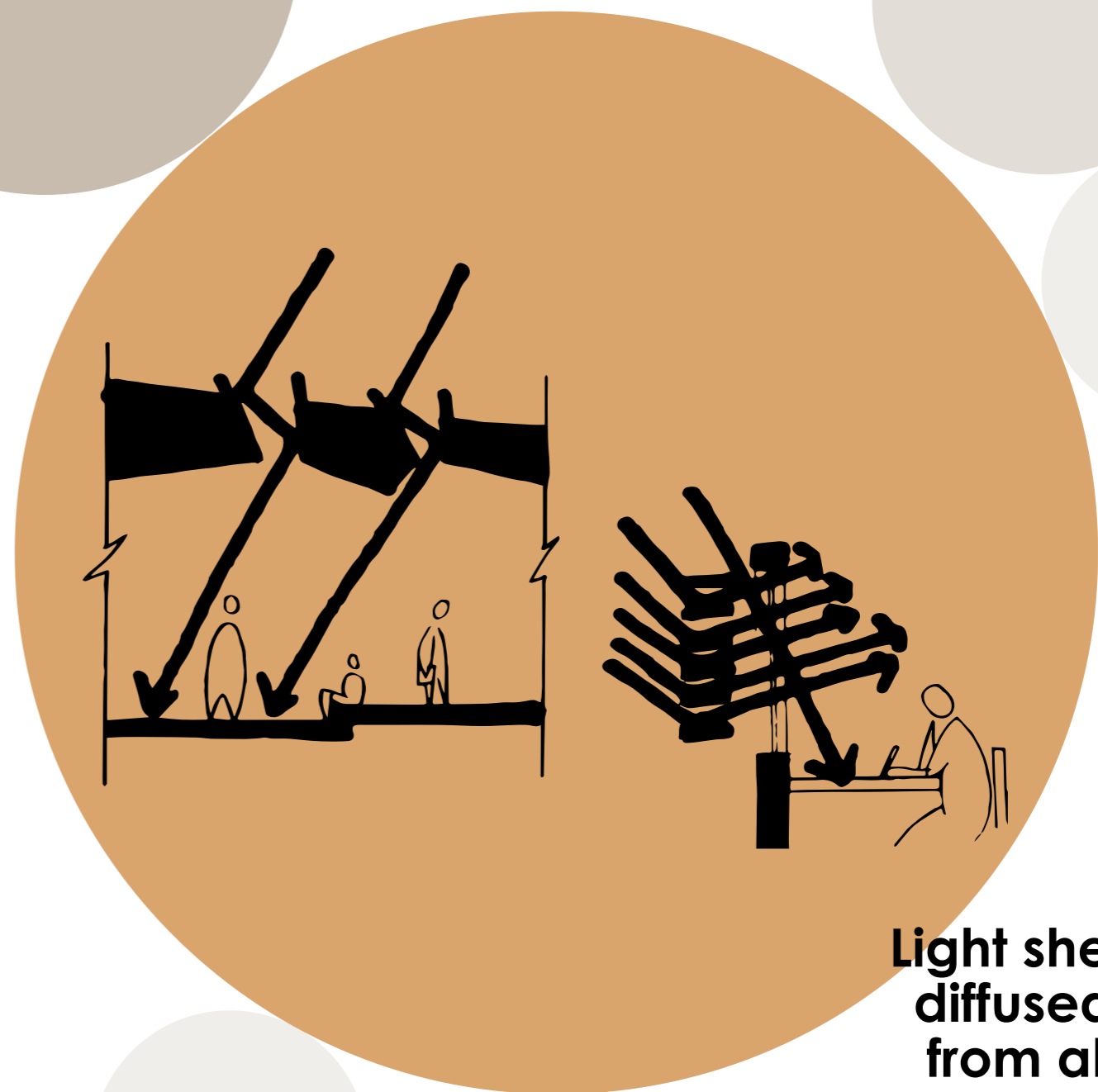
plant legend



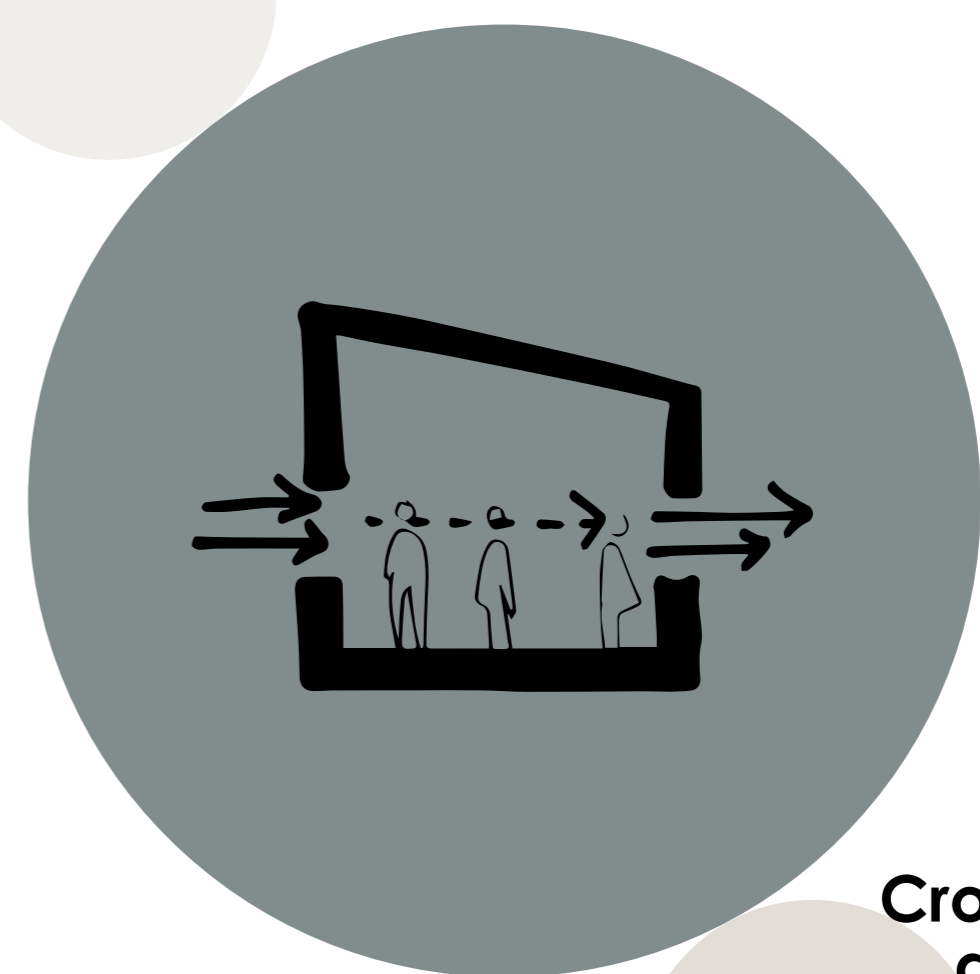
Passive solar applications & double glazing



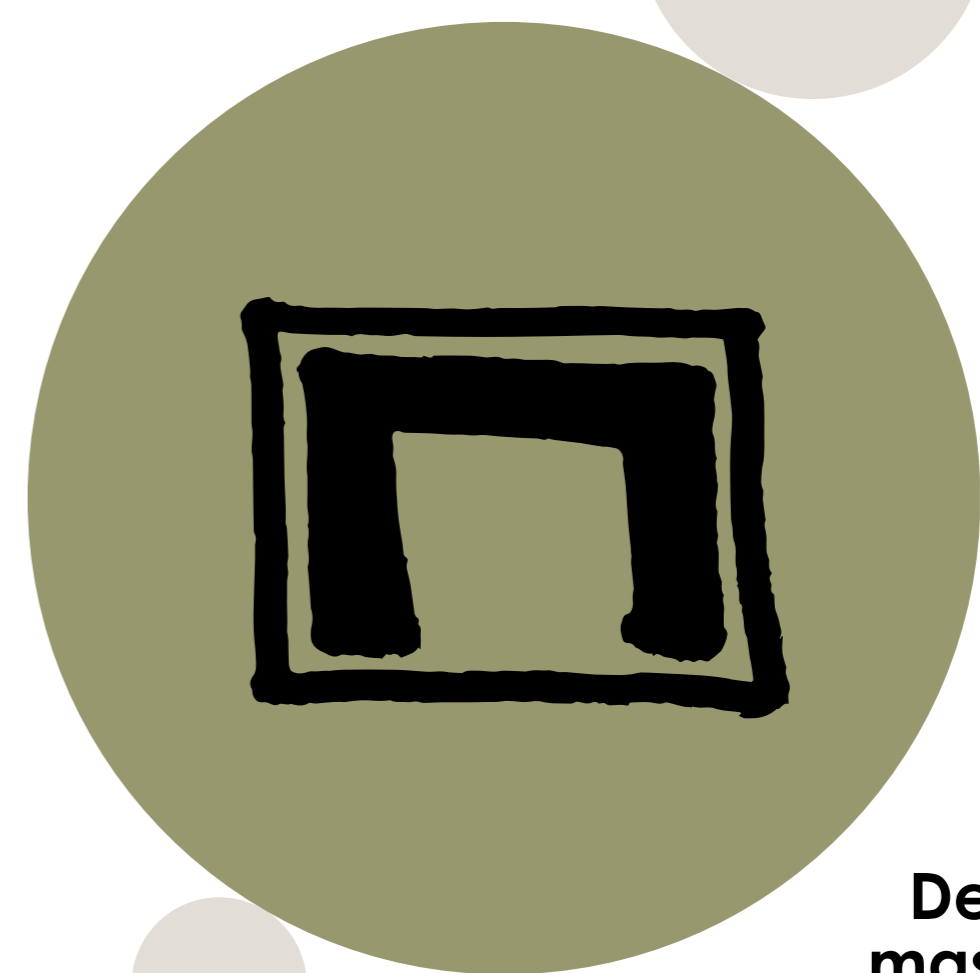
Maximise north-south orientations



Light shelves & diffused light from above



Cross ventilation and natural cooling



Dense thermal mass & insulation systems

passive design strategies