

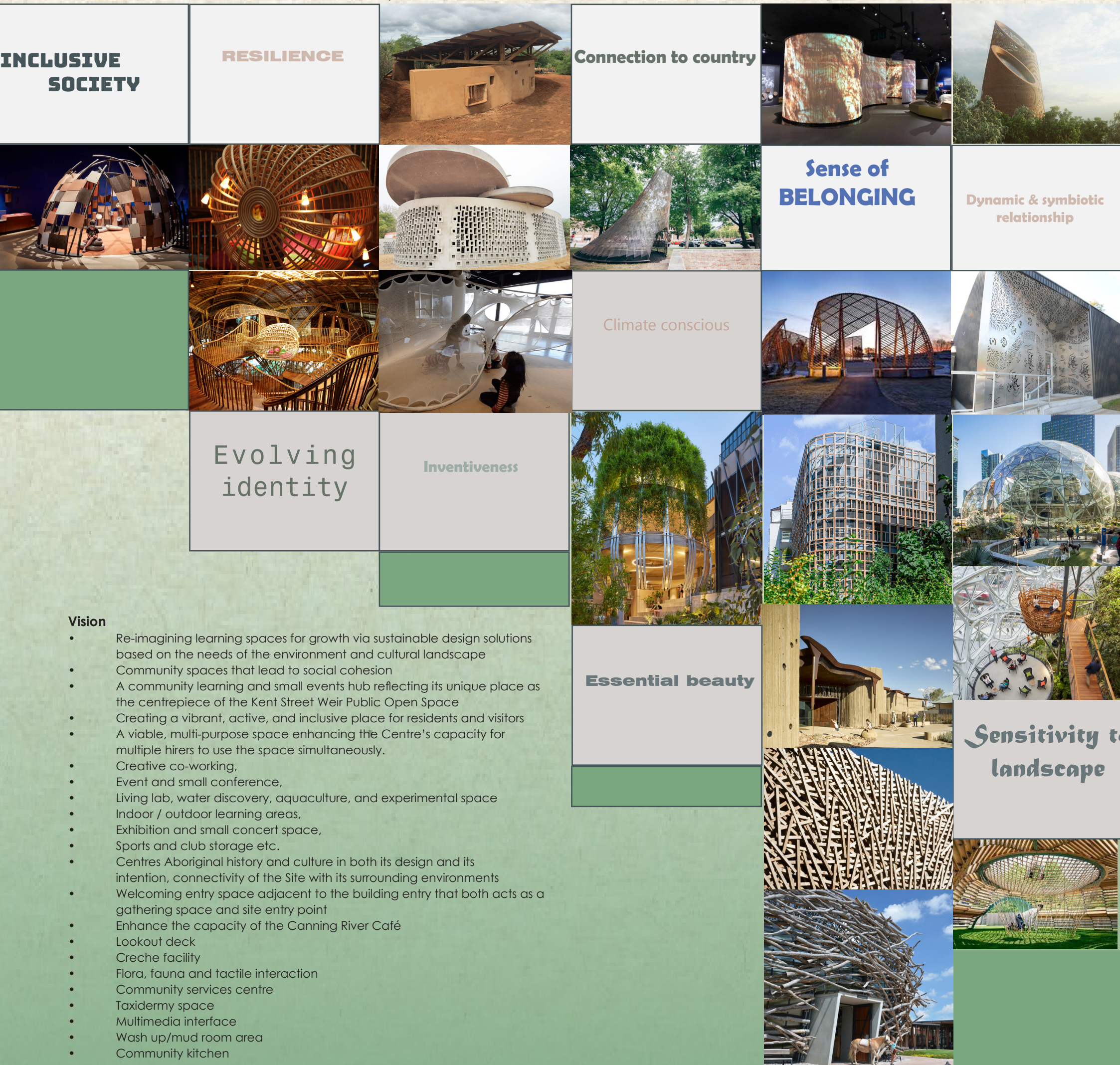
## Evolving Identity of the Canning River Weir

Beeliar and Beeloo Nyoongars are believed to have considered the Canning Weir section of the Canning River as part of their territory. The Beeloo considered north of the Canning River, Dyarlgarro, to the hills as part of their ground while the Beeliar mainly traversed the southern section of the river to the sea. Whilst focusing on this specific area of importance we explore a future vision of how an evolving identity may be reflected in social/cultural and learning spaces in connection to people, practice, and country. Rethinking the future of educational practices in conjunction with First Nations and Indigenous cultural practices, ideas of belonging, unity and diversity mesh together to create a dynamic and symbiotic relationship.

The Many-flowered Fringe Lily (*Thysanotus multiflorus*) is a native plant found in the area of the Kent St Weir. It is a soft clumping perennial herb with long narrow leaves and clusters of fringed mauve flowers held on long stems. Using the Many-flowered Fringe Lily as inspiration, we propose to section the existing disused Canning River Eco Education Centre building to reflect the flower whilst creating fluid boundaries between the indoors and outdoors that is a metaphor for the geology of the passing water. Flexible spaces can be used for multiple purposes which is an expression of movement, journey, memory and a connection to country. Tactile materials used will be the junction between the organic and rational which will create an immersive experience that reflects the landscape, culture and the river.

With this in mind, a central hub will act as the nerve centre, whilst crafted, tactile materiality draws visitors into its immersive sequence of towering, fluid spaces. The design creates maximum effect in visitor experience by carefully crafting spaces with fluid edges that are reflective of the Canning River. The design adopts a pared-back attitude to materiality. Polished concrete, inky, black-stained ply, recycled glass, reused wood scrap and patinated rusted brass plate, are used to great effect in combination throughout the public spaces which reflect the 'un-adorned' resourcefulness and resilience consistently displayed in the adjacent landscape and indigenous culture.

The design creates a meaningful 'place', capturing the spirit of movement, journey, memory, and a sense of belonging. The spaces aim to distil from the sensitive landscape, an essence that can be embodied within the forms, volumes, materials, textures, and tonality.

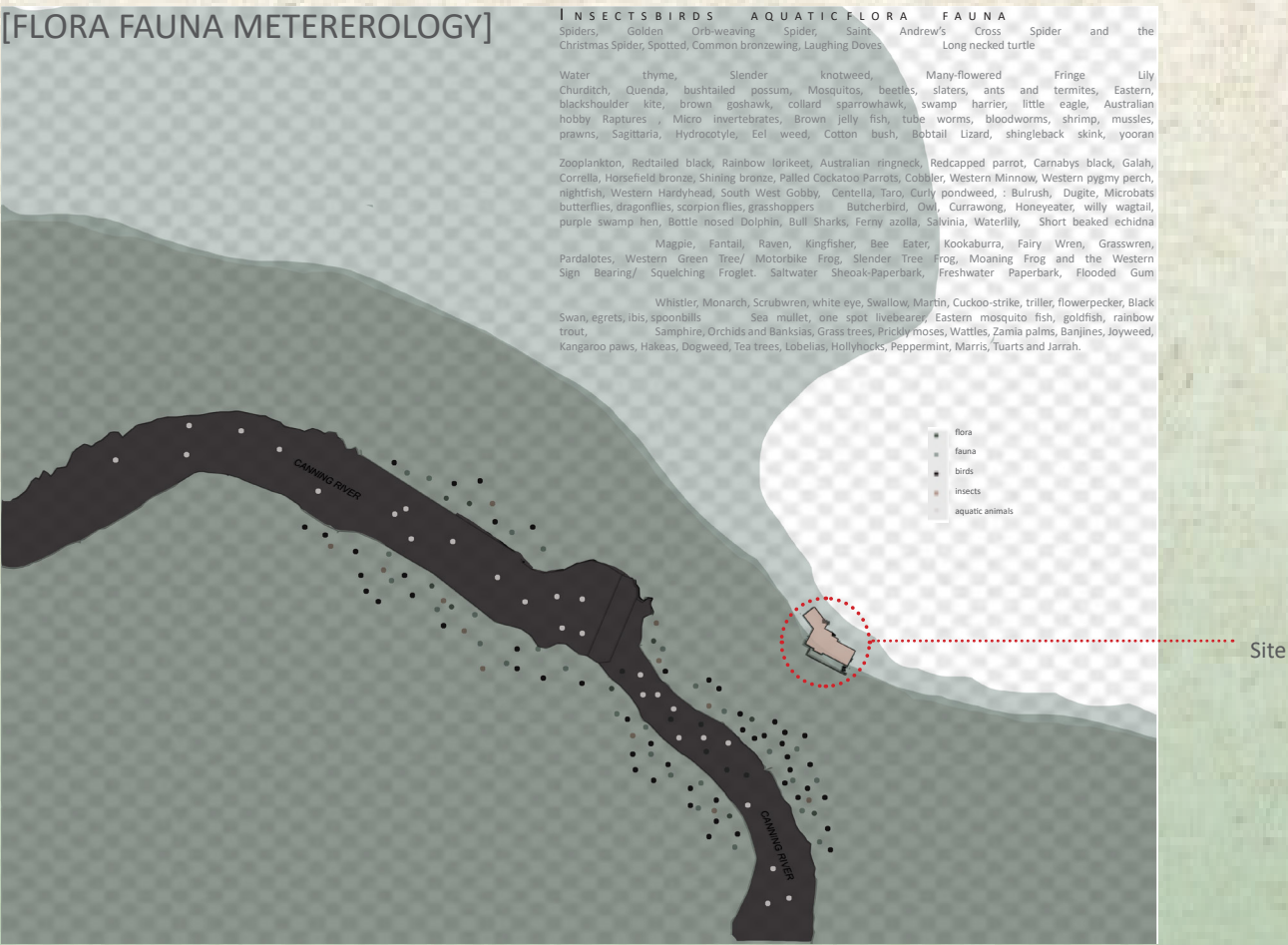




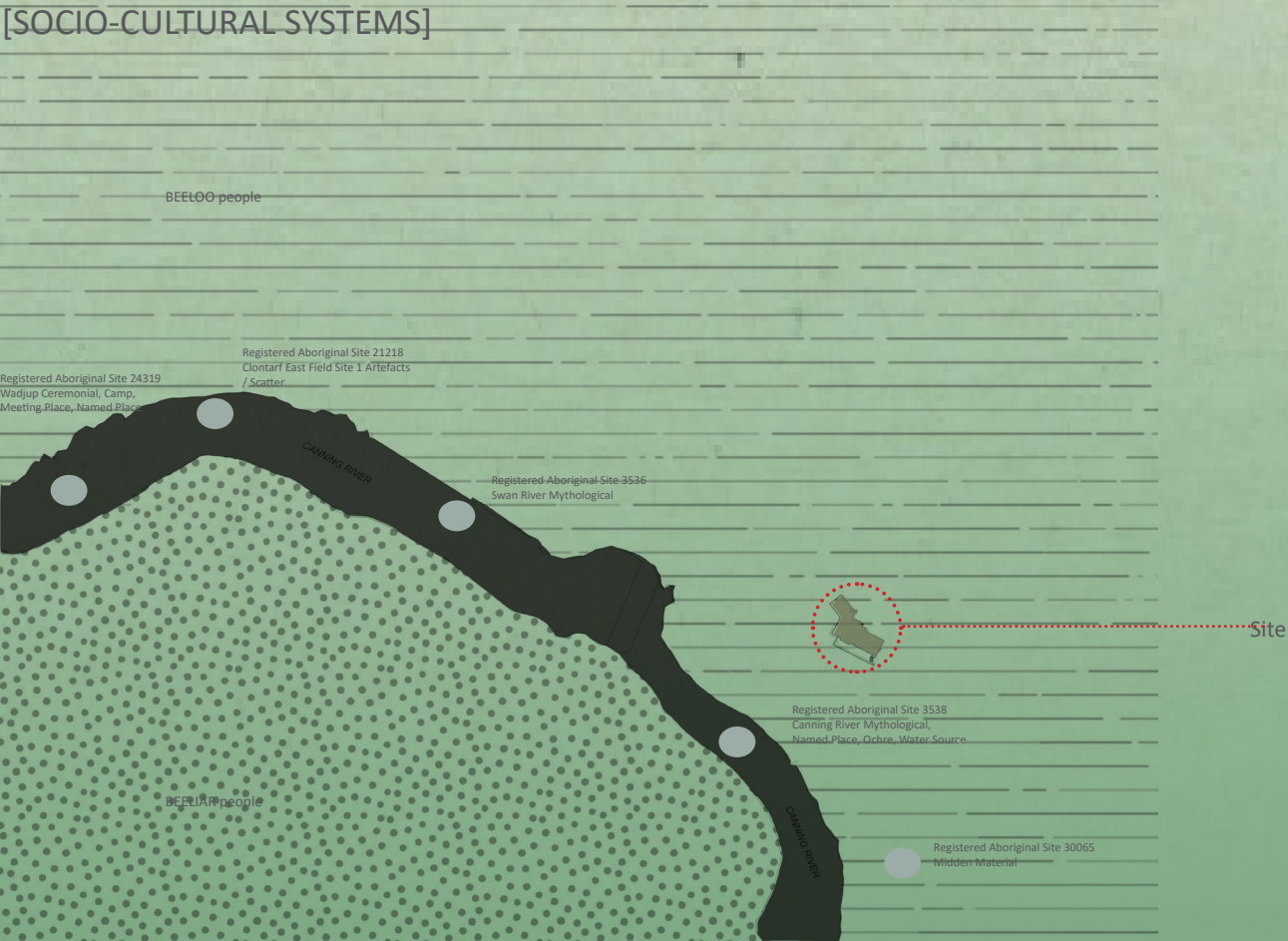
[SITE PLAN]



[FLORA FAUNA METEREROLOGY]



[SOCIO-CULTURAL SYSTEMS]



Kent St Weir was constructed in 1926 across Canning River. The weir was built to maintain an upstream freshwater pool by preventing backflow from the saline water of the swan Estuary. The weir is 52m long. Canning River Regional Perk extends 6km along the Canning River between Riverton and Nicholson Rd bridges. The park covers 266 hectares.

Kent Street Weir is part of the Canning River Regional Park. The section downstream from the Kent Street Weir contains some of the best estuarine vegetation in the Swan Canning Riverpark. Most famously at this point of the Canning River both estuarine and riverine waters are divided by the Kent Street Weir. The tidal influence is blocked by the weir and as a consequence the upstream water is relatively fresh particularly in winter months due to the higher seasonal rainfall. Since the construction of the Kent Street Weir, the alluvial islands have altered, some disappearing, new ones have formed and others joining up with the main channel banks.

The Kent St Weir’s unique biodiversity and ecological systems have intrinsic worth beyond their value as a community amenity or economic resource, and play an essential role in the cultural, spiritual, mental and physical health of the community. The community aspires to protect, conserve and enhance our natural environment through active environmental stewardship and responsible natural resource management. This area contains some of the best estuarine vegetation in the whole Swan Canning River catchment. The park has a wide diversity of habitats including salt water estuary and islands, freshwater riverine environment and modified woodlands on the floodplains. The immediate environs of the Canning River are tranquil and beautiful due to the fringing vegetation and the complex waterform of the river.

Noongar (or Nyungar and Nyoongah) means ‘man’ or ‘person’ and is used by Noongars to distinguish themselves. “The inland tribes were distinguished by the character of the country they occupied. They were either Bilgur (river people, beel or bil-river), Darbalung (estuary people), or Buyun-gur (hill people – buya-rock, stone, hill), but all were Bibbulmun [Noongar]” (Bates, 1985:47). The Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 was enacted to protect and preserve Aboriginal heritage and protects all sites or objects. This includes any places or objects of past or present significance to Aboriginal people.



History of Djarlgarro Beelieer [EMOTIONAL]

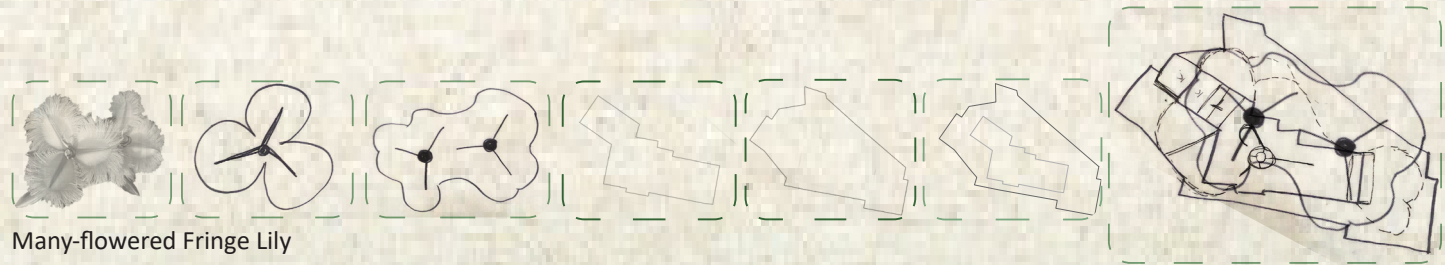
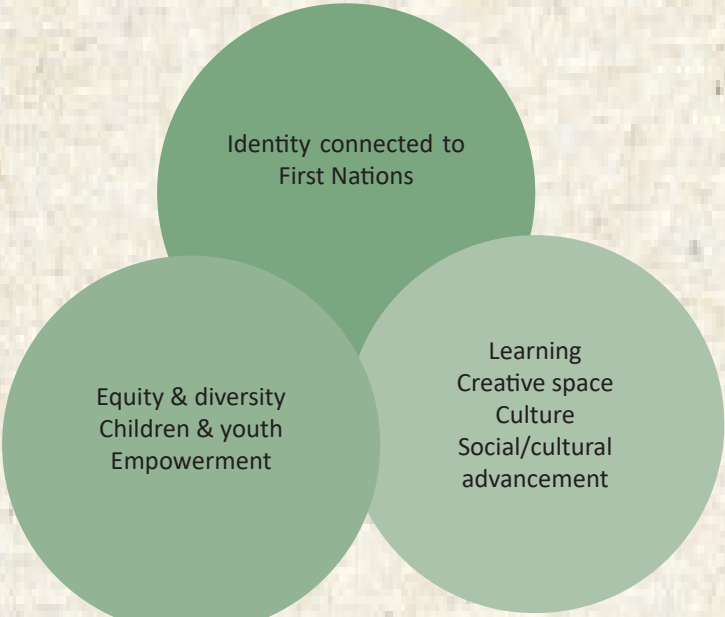
For even as little brookes lose their names by their running and fall into great Rivers, and the very name and memory of great Rivers swallowed up in the Ocean; so by the conjunction of divers little Kingdoms in one, are all these private differences and questions swallowed up. (James 1, 'House of Commons Journal Volume 1: 22 March 1604').

"As far as the eye could carry Northward, Southward and Westward lay extended an immense plain covered in general with forest and varied by occasional eminences and glimpses of the River winding through it." (James Sterling, in the Success, March 1827)

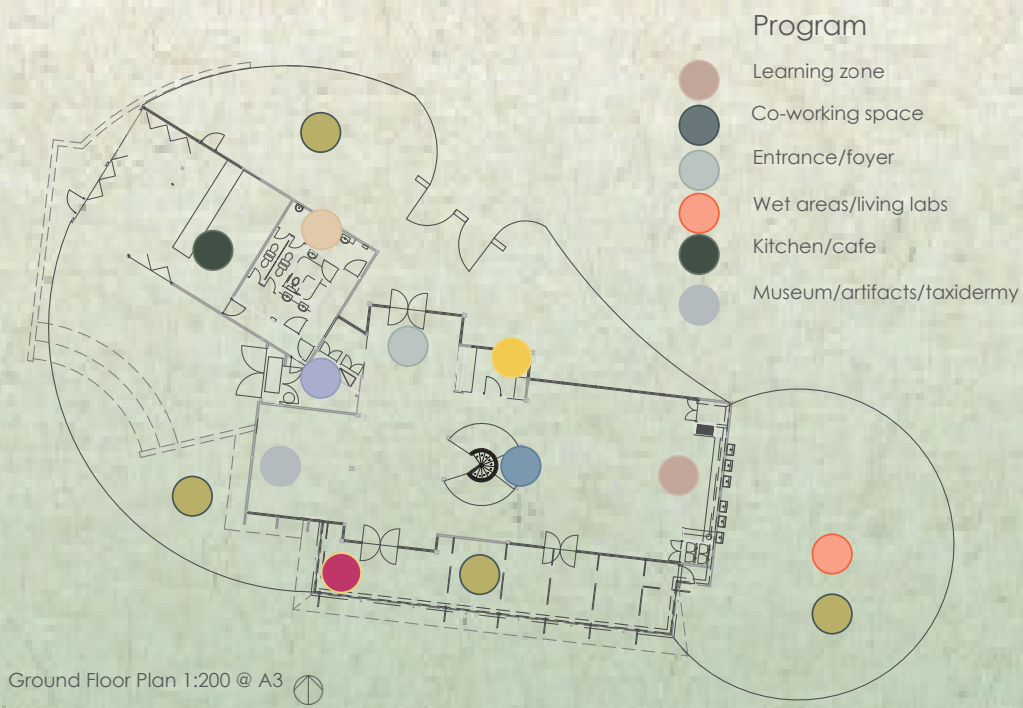
The past we are fighting for is not only more inclusive and reaching back to deep time - it is also a landscape in which it is possible, indeed necessary, to practise a politics of care for one another. (Gina Pickering 2012)

The waterways are the lifeblood for Nyungars, not only in terms of food but also other resources and uses that were relied on for everyday life. It also marks and defines territory and, in my work, symbolically represents the Waugul (sacred serpent) who created the individual features that make our country unique. The Waugul, the sacred snake, touches every 'section' in the painting. It moved across the earth, its ongoing presence, leaving a cultural track or footprint on all land throughout the southwest of the state, just as we have done as a people (Sandra Hill 2012)

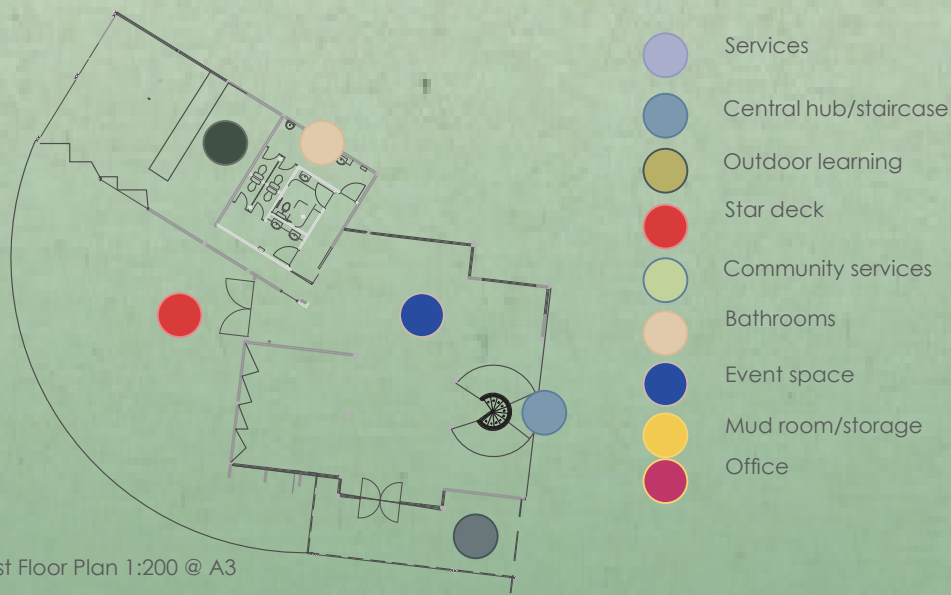
The Rivers hold deep emotional significance for historic and contemporary peoples who have drawn upon them as a functional, pleasure and spiritual resource (Gina Pickering 2012).



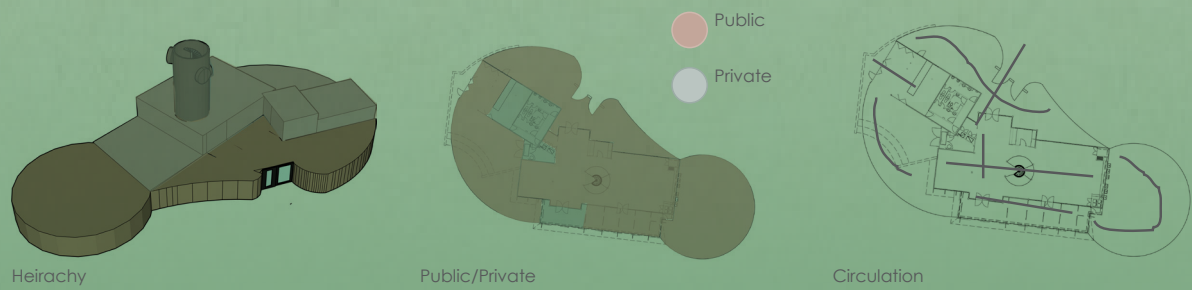
Many-flowered Fringe Lily



Ground Floor Plan 1:200 @ A3



First Floor Plan 1:200 @ A3

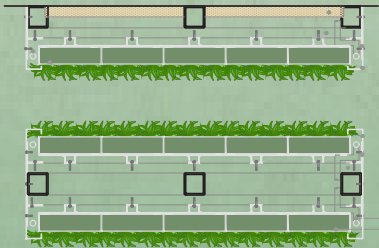


Circular economy opportunities

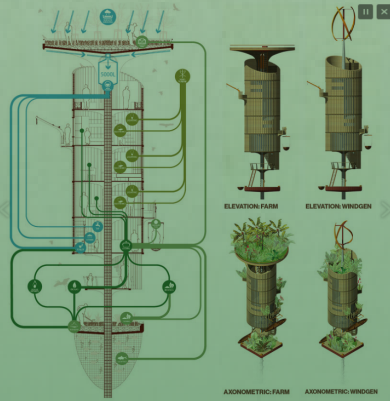
- Locally grown fast-growing recycled hardwoods for facade screening
- Local repurposed steel for framing
- Recycled windows can be sourced and reused to eliminate waste
- Locally grown fast-growing recycled wood internal fittings and ceiling details



Tactile materials, multifunctional exploration spaces

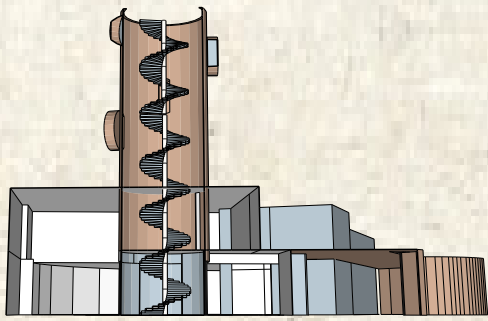


Opportunity for students to grow local plants, capture micro aquatic animals and explore the landscape

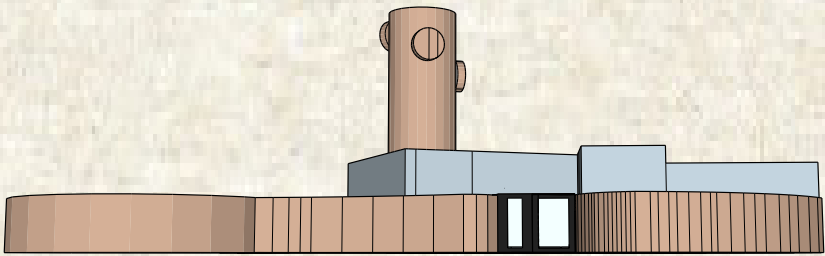


The installation of an urban oasis can be seen as a prototype for using available energy sources such as heat from cafe appliances for the production of food in urban landscapes

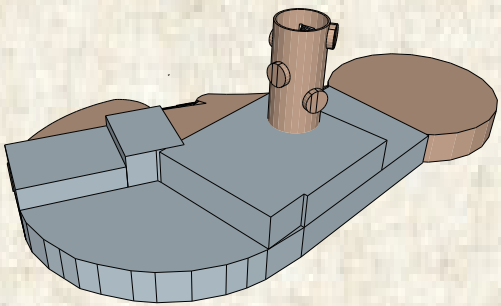




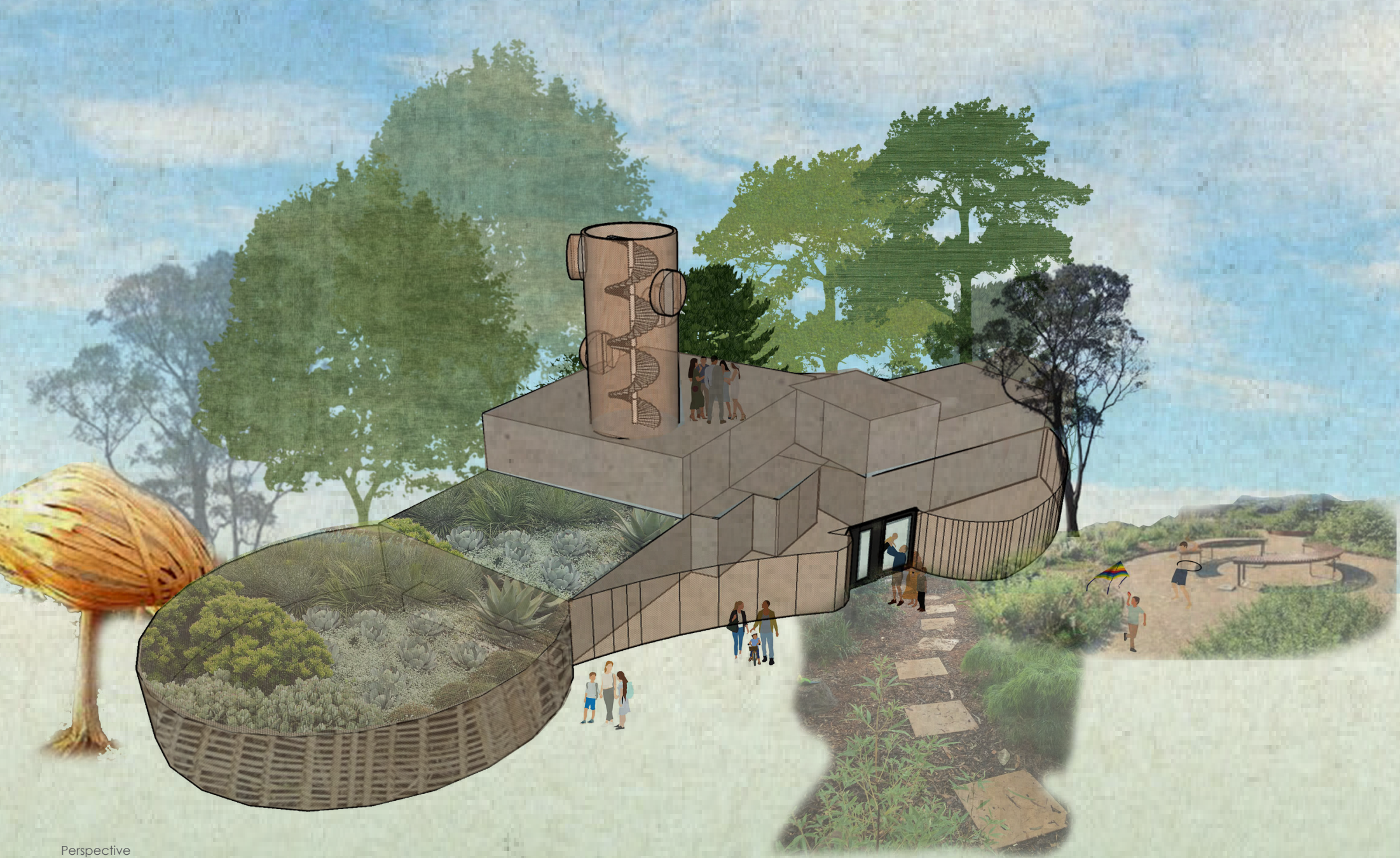
West Section



North Elevation



Perspective



Perspective



South Section