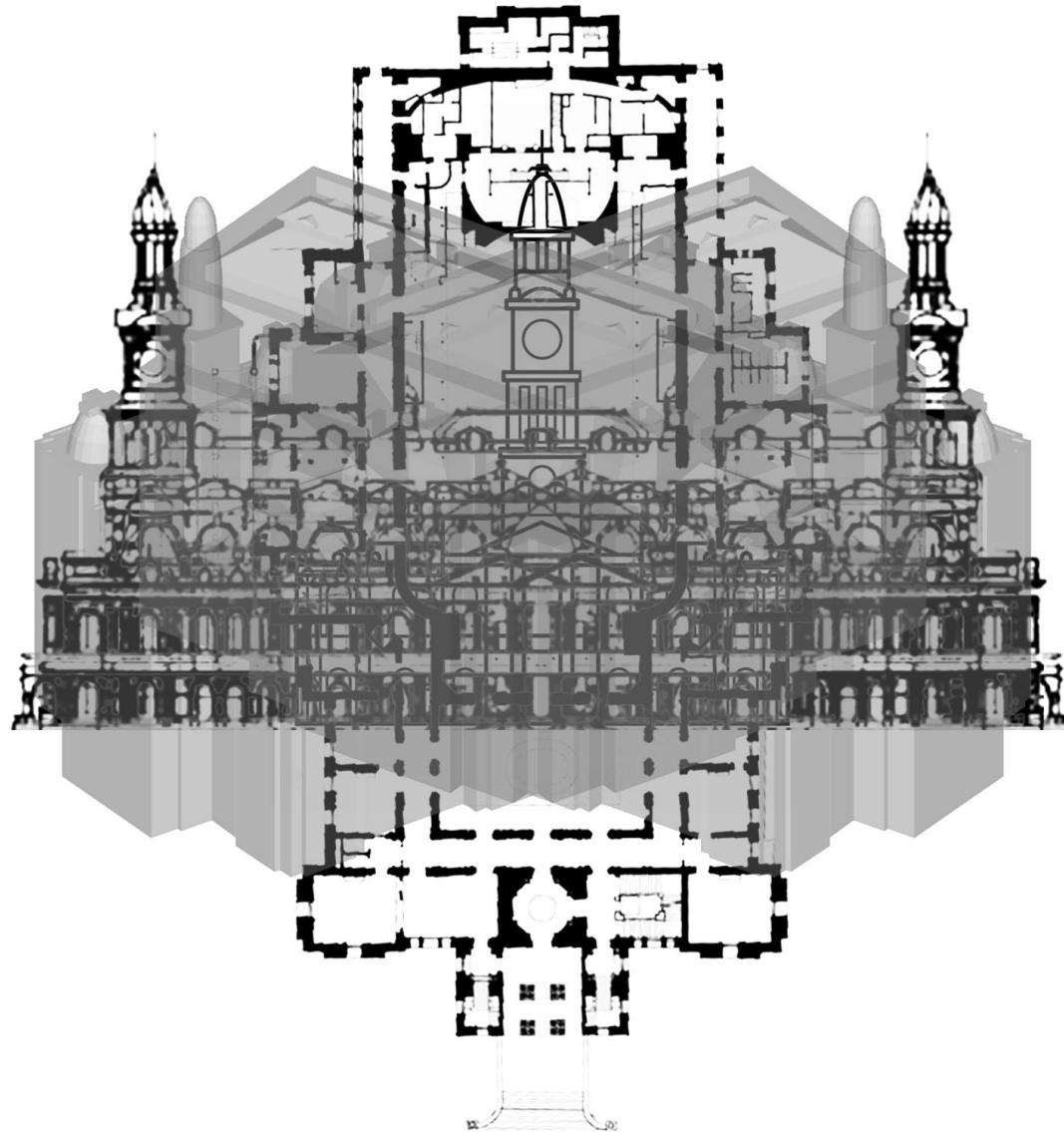


REINVENTING THE TOWN HALL



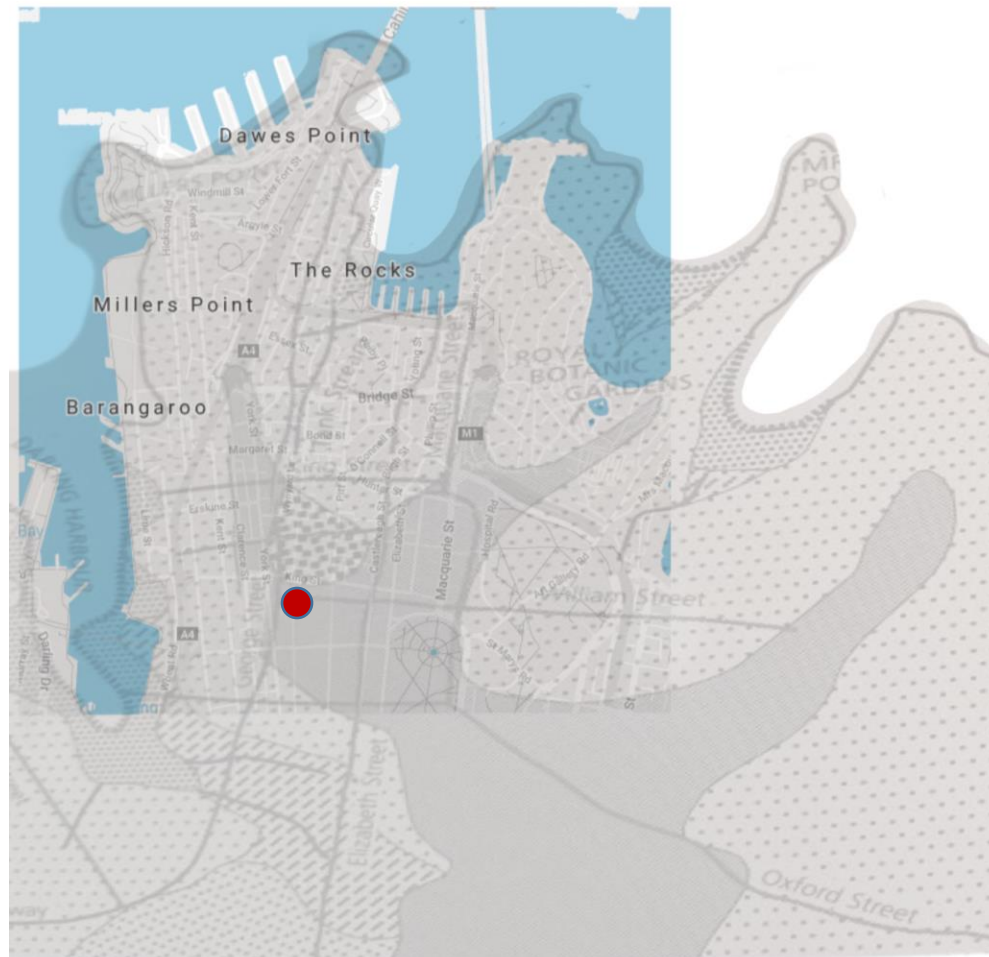
Our proposal seeks to bring attention to the city as a place of evolving identity. By challenging the relevance of the current town hall, we assert the urgent need to reimagine the colonial institutions within the city as catalysts to materialize Australia's emerging identity. Rather than passively accepting the inherited form of the institution, we want to reinvent its tectonics and redefine its identity and utility. To become relevant again, we think the town hall needs to be a community-building for building a community inclusive of its migrants and first nation's people and their culture.

We propose to take down the existing sandstone structure block by block and repurpose them to create a place that reflects the new civic identity. We question the preservation of these monuments that no longer reflect and respect the cultural diversity of Australia and its Indigenous past. So, we seek out new potentials for future of the Town hall.

With our proposal, we want to start a conversation around the role of architecture in redefining these power centers. We see Architecture has the power to create active nodes in the urban fabric of Sydney that make rippling effects in the atmosphere around them.

An atmosphere that encourages new modes of participation in the public realm...

An atmosphere of inclusivity...

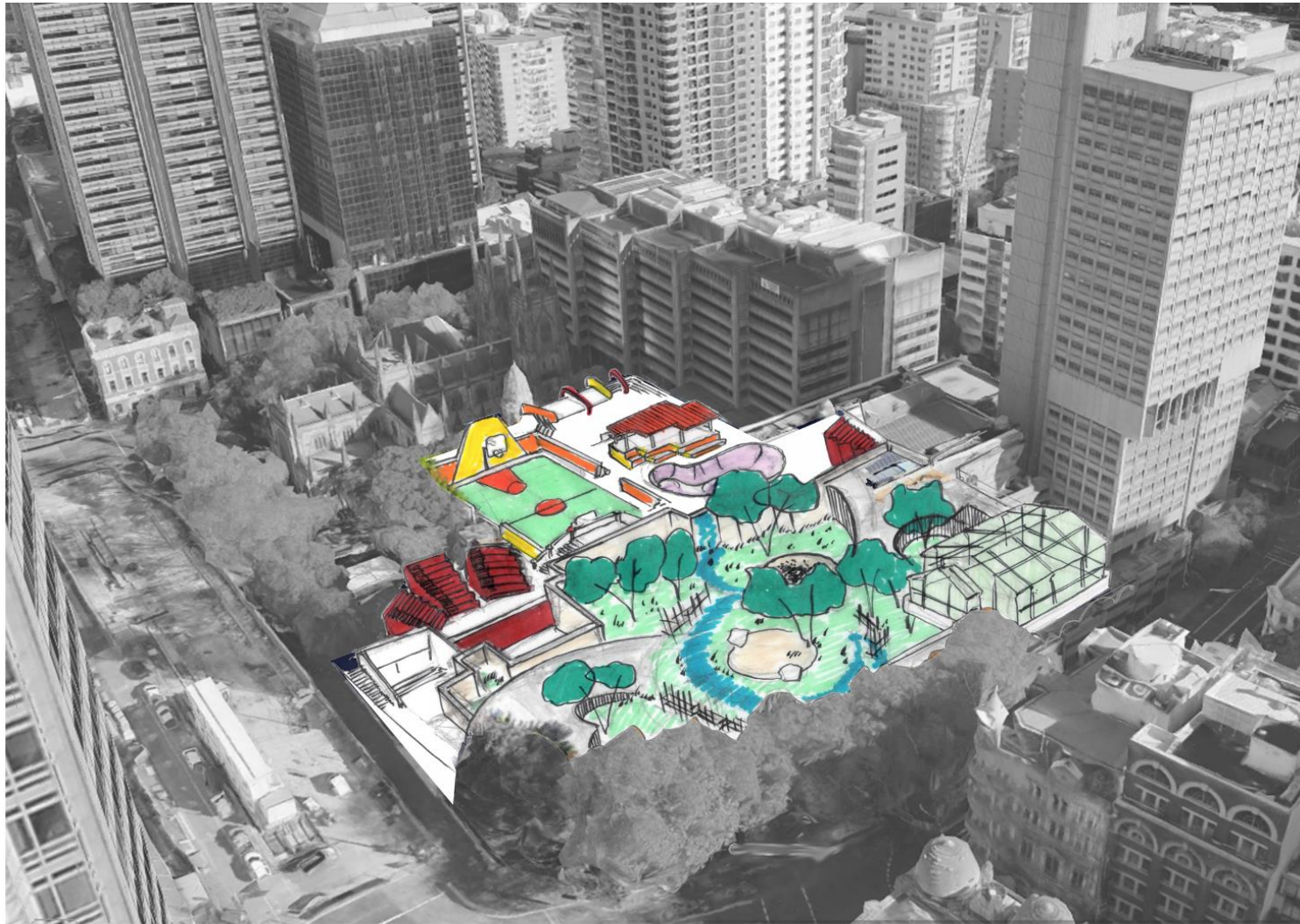


Map showing the overlay of current Sydney on the likely pattern of original vegetation in the city area. The site of Town Hall was part of the Forest of Red gums and Eucalyptus trees.



The story of Sydney is a story of change. Inspired by Dr Gary Presland's lecture, we overlaid early maps of Sydney with the current context. It was hard for us to imagine that our site and its vast surrounding area was once part of a lush forest.

This inspired us to **rethink the purpose of the Town hall in conjunction with restoring the ecology of the site**, which was decimated through acts of colonization.. The idea is to **bring healing and rejuvenation** through the water. Lift the pavement, and below, you find the natural ground/flora.



As we look at the contemporary relevance of the town hall, we dramatically change the openness of the building to make it accessible to all. We replace the closed hall with indigenous ritual of yarning circles to foster dialogue and debate in the public sphere. We introduce public theatre, skating rink, basketball court, greenhouse and community gardens etc. as programs of participation on site.

Spolia (Latin, 'spoils'),
repurposed building stone for new construction.

All the existing decorative blocks and columns will be reused in creation of the new polis.
The purpose of this Spoliation of the elements will be to string together all architectural
fragments into a new narrative, giving them a new identity..

