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Scholarship 2025

93602 Design and Visual Communication

OUTSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP EXEMPLAR



BRIEF

This meditation retreat is designed for individuals or small groups seeking peace, healing, and connection—whether through yoga, mindfulness, or quiet reflection. Located in Orpheus Bay, the site is framed by native forest and tall nikau palms behind, with open sand and water in front, offering both shelter and a sense of spaciousness. The design takes inspiration from the vertical rhythm of nikau palms and the weathered structure of shipwrecks, blending strength with softness to evoke renewal and grounding.

The retreat aims to create a calming atmosphere that responds to its natural surroundings, using warm, natural materials and flowing forms. Spaces are designed to balance openness and enclosure, allowing visitors to feel connected to nature while also feeling protected—supporting a sense of safety, presence, and deep relaxation in all weather. The overall purpose is to create a space where people can unwind while taking in the stunning views of Orpheus Bay. Good ventilation, spatial flow, and indoor-outdoor connection all help enhance this experience.

ORPHEUS BAY HUIA

SITE ANALYSIS

From the site location you can oversea Orpheus bay allowing people to take in the New Zealand's beautiful scenery.

There are also a lot of native trees around the site such as Flax, Kauri trees and Nikau palms. These trees as well as many others help provide coverage, allowing for natural shade. The trees are also beneficial as the sun rises from the East. This means that in the morning the trees will shield the site from the sun which prevents it from getting too hot in the morning.

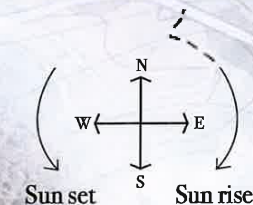
- The site location will be right next to the stairs which also easy access down to the Bay and is a 10 minute walk from the Huia Point Lookout.
- It is a 24 minute drive to Arataki Visitor Centre where visitors are able to go on a variety of tracks, see the carved post on the outside of the Centre and also interactive exhibits that function like a small museum inside.
- There are no buses that go directly to the Con Bryan Track or Huia however they can take the buses , 172, 170 and 209 to Titirangi then organise private transport. It also takes under an hours drive to Huia from the city centre.

Con Bryan Track

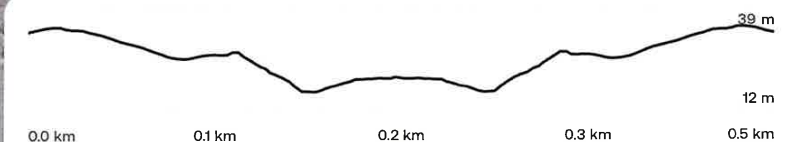
The Con Bryan Track is a track that leads down to Orpheus Bay. It is a approximately a 8 minute walk that takes you on a short beautiful hike.

Huia

Just a 5 minute drive from the track is Huia, a coastal settlement where there are several lodges, baches and camp site, such as Karamatura Valley Campground, Barn Paddock Campground, Kiwanis Lodge, Huia Lodge and Barr Cottage Bache. And around these areas there are public toilets, parking and information centres available. By having all of these necessities it allows visitors to stay overnight and really explore the area.



On the site location the sun rises in the East and sets in the West. The wind also blows South-Westerly



Huia Lookout

Orpheus Bay

HULA WAITĀKERE RANGES

HISTORY | HMS ORPHEUS SHIPWRECK

THE SINKING OF HMS ORPHEUS

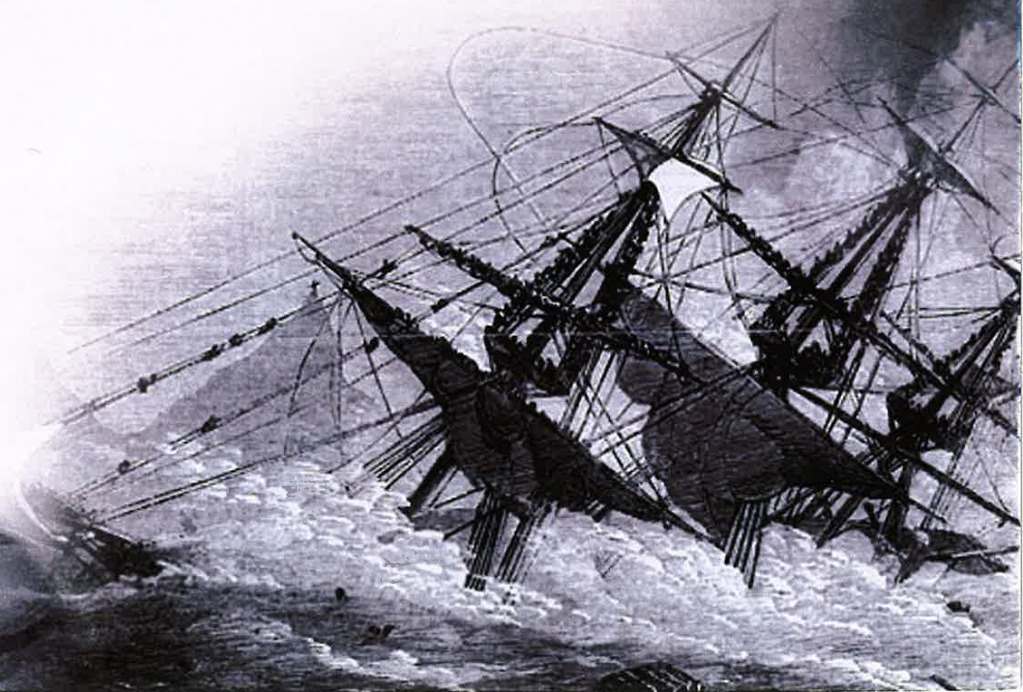
On 7 February 1863, HMS Orpheus approached Manukau Harbour on New Zealand's west coast, carrying supplies and reinforcements for British forces in Auckland. The ship, under the command of Captain Robert Burton, was navigating with outdated charts that did not show the shifting sandbanks near the harbor entrance. As Orpheus moved forward, the local signal station onshore attempted to warn the crew of the danger, but their signals were either misunderstood or ignored. Moments later, the ship ran aground on a submerged sandbar, leaving it stranded in the path of powerful waves.

With the ship pounded by relentless surf, its hull quickly began to break apart, causing water to flood the lower decks and trapping many crew members inside. Those on the upper decks clung to the rigging as towering waves battered the vessel, sweeping others into the sea. Attempts to launch lifeboats were largely unsuccessful, as the strong currents pulled men away. The nearby HMS Harrier attempted a rescue, but the rough conditions made reaching survivors extremely difficult.

As the situation worsened, the main mast collapsed, throwing dozens more into the water. Many who managed to stay aboard endured a terrifying struggle against the raging waves and floating debris. By the time rescue boats arrived, 189 of the 259 men onboard had drowned, making it the deadliest maritime disaster in New Zealand's history. Among the dead was Captain Burton, who refused to abandon his ship.

AFTERMATH AND LEGACY

The sinking of HMS Orpheus had a major impact on New Zealand's naval history, highlighting the dangers of Manukau Harbour's shifting sandbars and strong tides. In response, navigation procedures were improved, and more accurate charts were developed. Today, the disaster serves as a warning about maritime overconfidence and miscommunication. Memorials in Auckland and Onehunga honor the victims of New Zealand's worst naval tragedy.



STARTING POINTS

NIKAU PALMS

NIKAU PALM CONNECTION

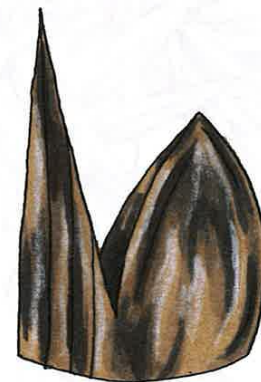


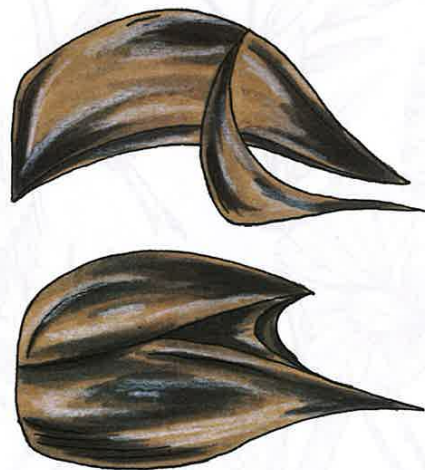
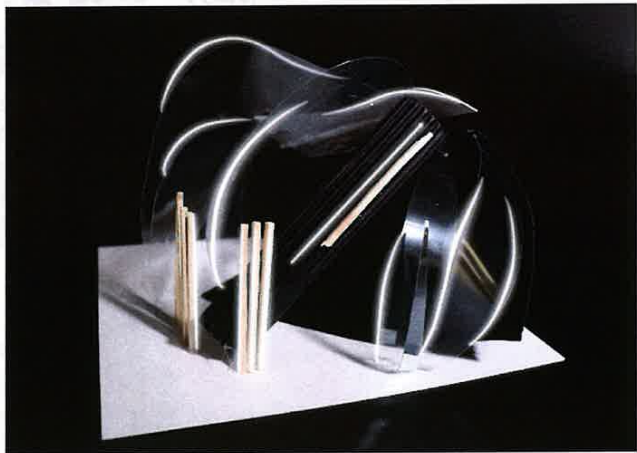
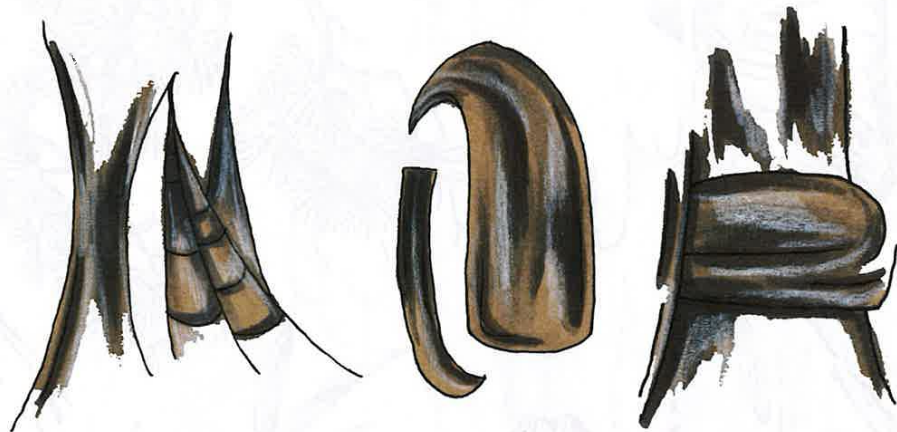
SHIPWRECK

RESURFACED

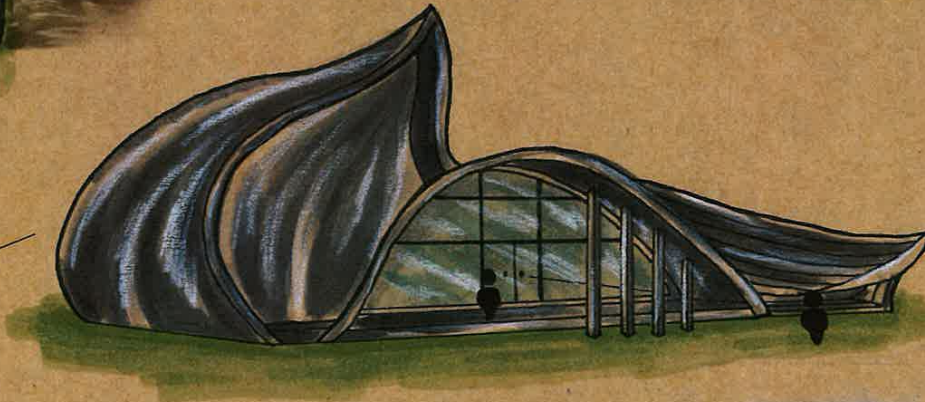
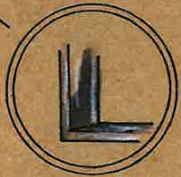


EXPLORATION





INITIAL IDEAS

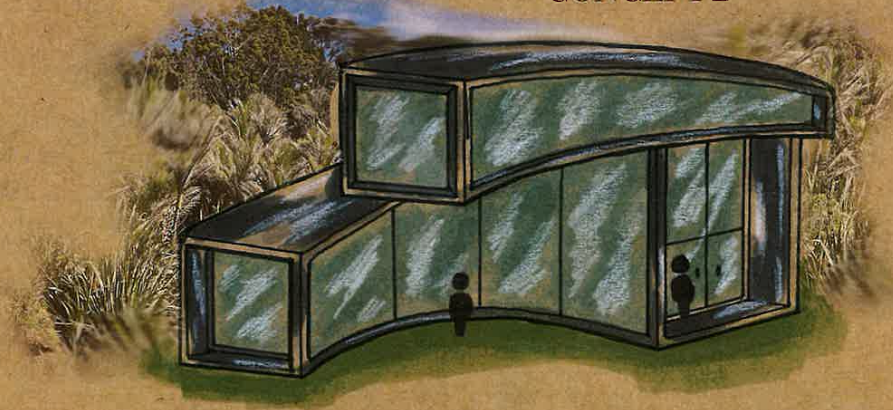


CONCEPT A

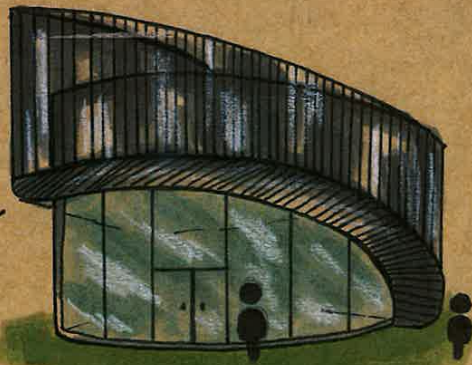


CONCEPT D

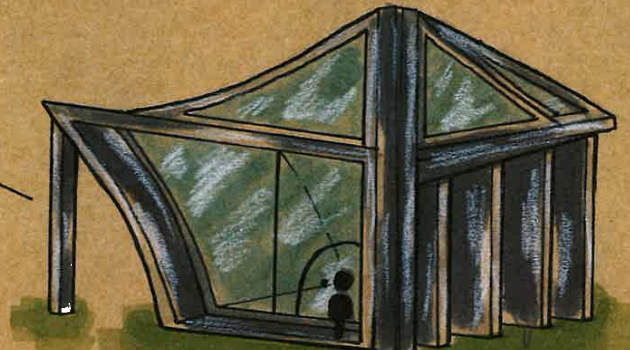
CONCEPT B



CONCEPT E



CONCEPT C



DEVELOPMENT

CHOSEN APPROACH 1



CONCEPT A

How can I show the form of the nikau palm trunk and the shipwreck mast in my design?



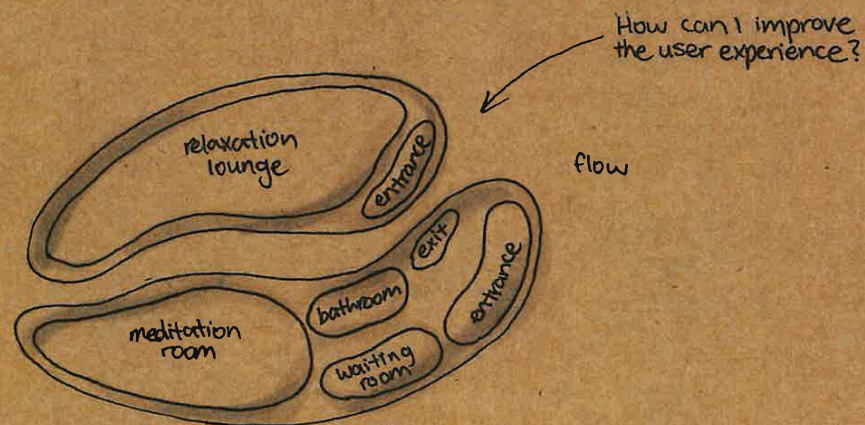
Front view



Birds eye view



metal



How can I improve the user experience?

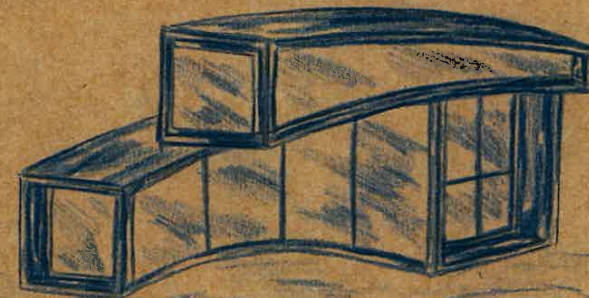
flow

Elavated on a cliff

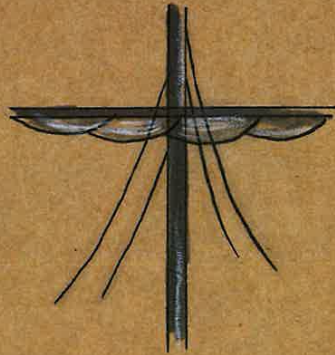
CONCEPT B



Side view



CHOSEN APPROACH 2



CONCEPT C

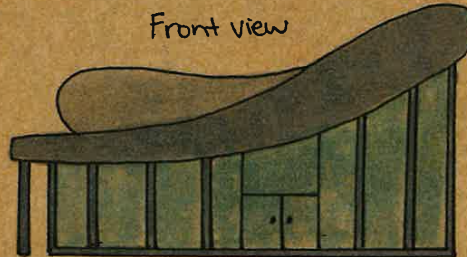


metal

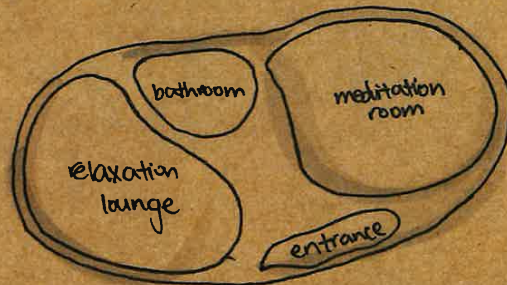
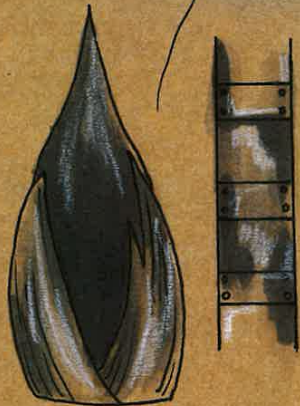
How can I show the linearness of the nikaupalm trunk and mast in my design?



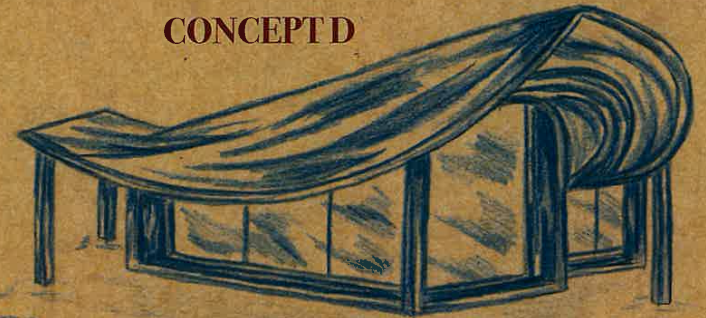
Front view



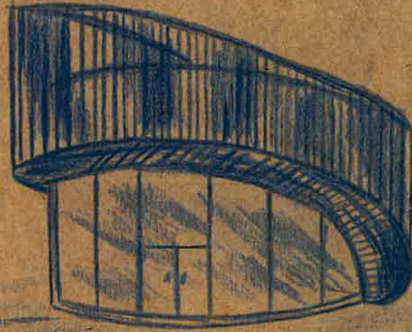
How do I make my design connect more to nature and to help enhance the human experience?



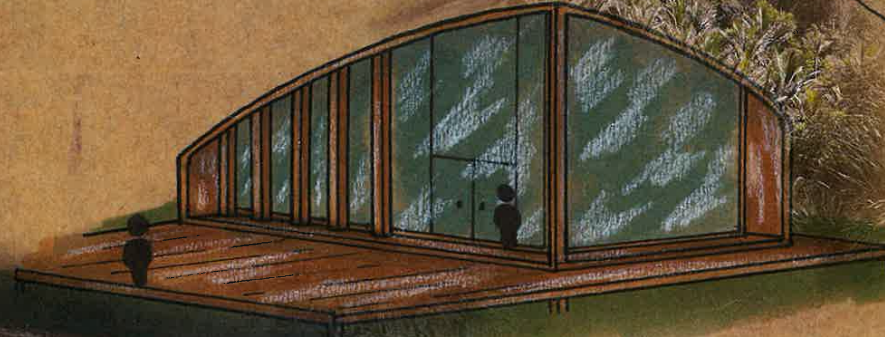
CONCEPT D



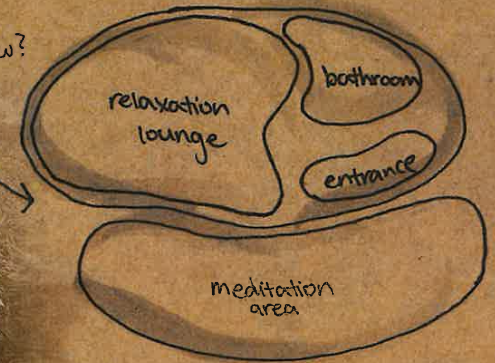
CHOSEN APPROACH 3



CONCEPT

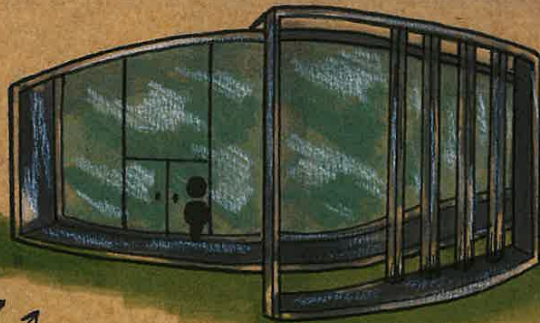


indoor/outdoor-flow?

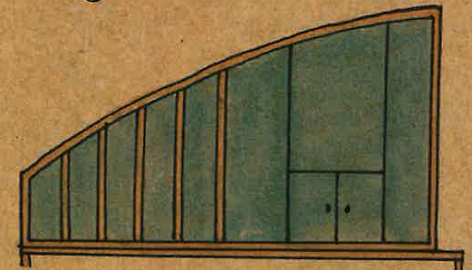
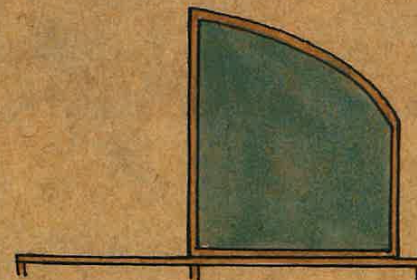


timber

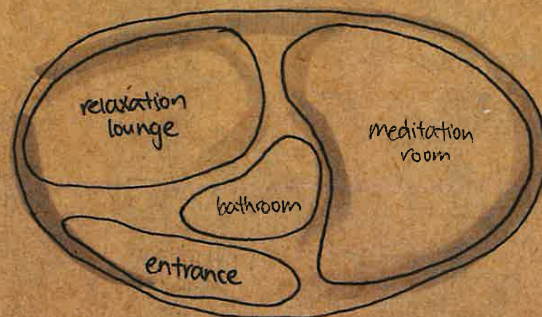
considering what type of material will connect my building to the site (huria)?



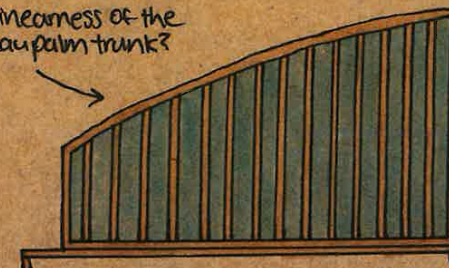
Side view



Front view



incorporating the linearness of the mast and the nikaupalm trunk?



Back view

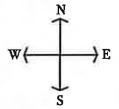
SELECTED APPROACH

HOW CAN I TAKE THIS IDEA AND VISUALIZE IT ON THE SITE?



SITE LOCATION

Orientation/location of the retreat on the site



The location of the retreat allows visitors to take in a view of the bay and also the forest. Further connecting it to Nikau palms and the shipwreck.

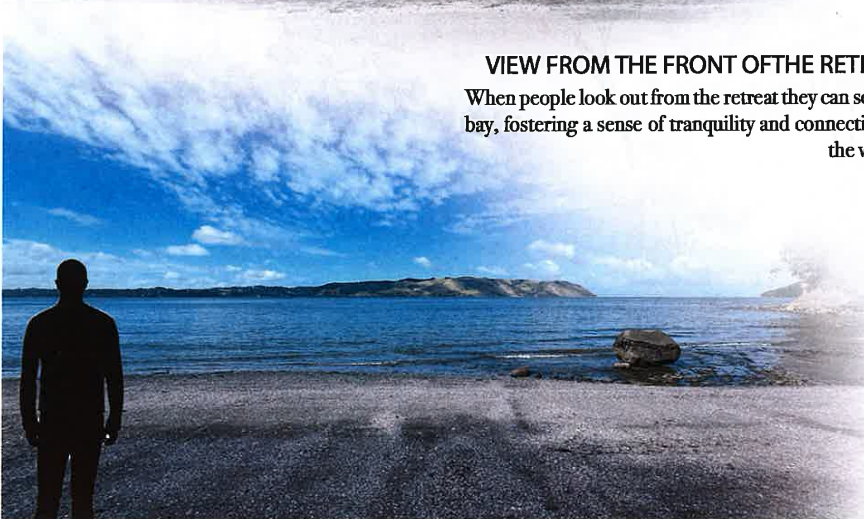
VIEW FROM BEHIND THE RETREAT

From behind the retreat, they are able to see the forest, creating a sense of openness and connection to nature

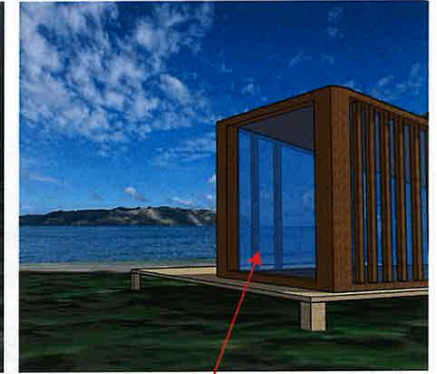


VIEW FROM THE FRONT OF THE RETREAT

When people look out from the retreat they can see the bay, fostering a sense of tranquility and connection to the water.



Linearity of the nikau palm trunk and shipwreck mast



Large windows that allow for natural light



HOW CAN I EXTEND THE EXTERIOR FORM

BRING IN MORE NIKAU PALM AND SHIPWRECK INSPIRATION?



How can I develop this idea further?



- Linearity from Nikau palm trunks
- Linearity and curviness from the Shipwreck.

How can I make my designs suit the site?



outside deck area that can be used for meditation.

can make the retreat seem more in tune with nature and help enhance the user experience.



Trying to extend the use of columns?

What would it look like if I add the columns on top?



How can I play with the structural framework / columns?



HOW CAN I EMPHASIZE THE LAYERS AND LINEAR STRUCTURE MORE CLEARLY?

HERBST ARCHITECTS

HOW CAN I EXPLORE HERBST ARCHITECTS USE OF FACADES AND USE OF LINES?

How can I intergrate facades and linework into my retreat?



Rested within nature?



Indoor/outdoor feel



HOW CAN I EXTEND THE USE OF COLUMNS/LINE WORK AND LAYERS LIKE HERBST ARCHITECT?



How can I connect my designs to the site to reinforce flow/relaxation and connection to both the bay and forest?

Shipwreck

Nikau palms

indoor/outdoor flow

layers of line work

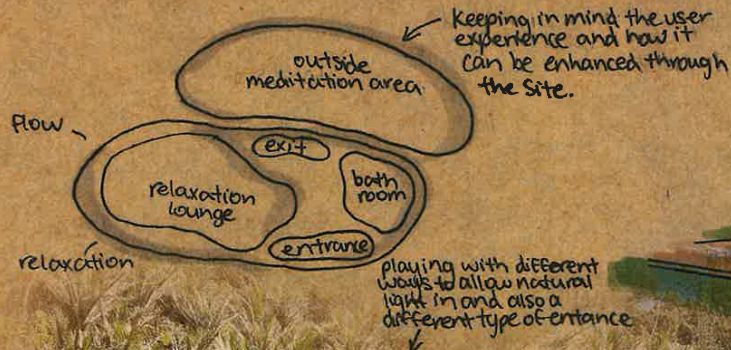
Trying different forms of line work

less windows that allow for more privacy, enhancing relaxation as it is less exposing.

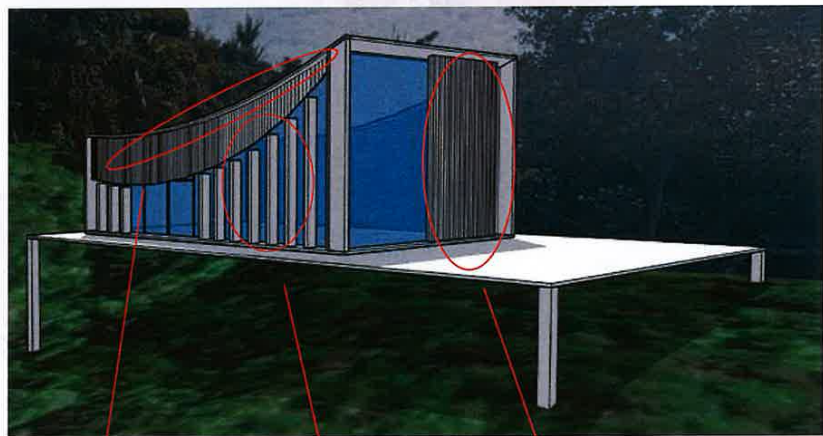
trying to put the outdoor meditation area on the side instead of the back. Could allow visitors to also have a view of the bay and the forest

Visitors can see out into the forest and see the Nikau Palms

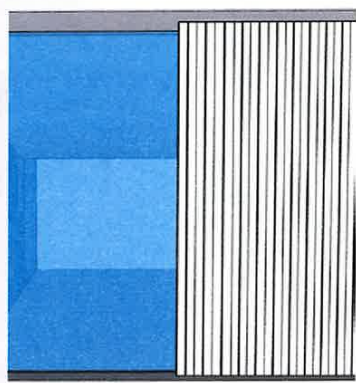
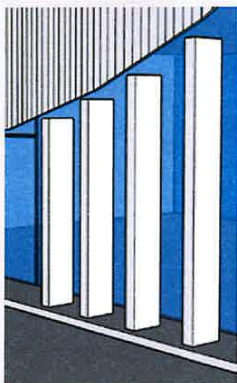
I chose this idea because it blends nikau palms and shipwrecks, provides spaces for visitors like the deck, and allows me to explore dynamic line work and layers inspired by Herbst Architects.



EXTENDING CHOSEN IDEA



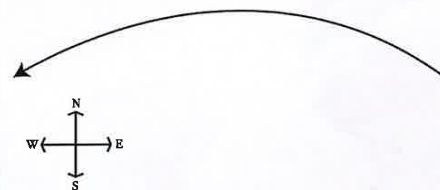
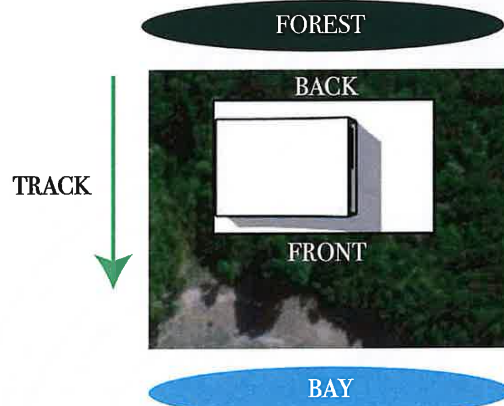
Exploration of the shipwreck form in the retreat.



Linearity of the Nikau Palms and Shipwreck mast shown on the extended structures on the form of the design.



LOCATION ON THE SITE

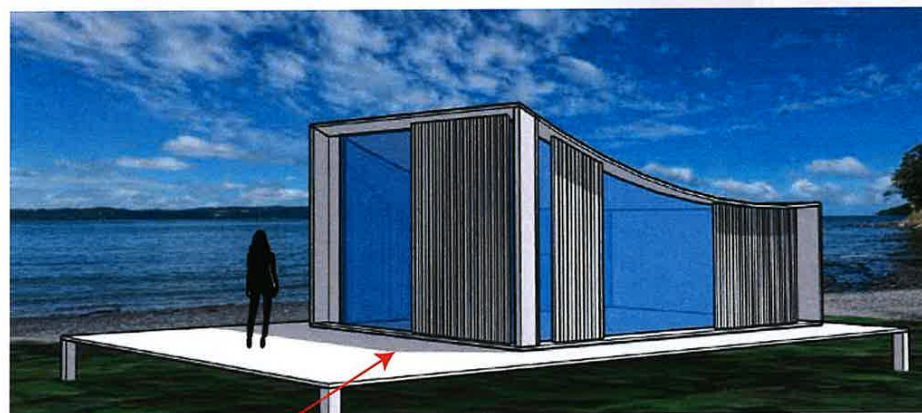


Does this orientation make the retreat accessible?

The orientation of the retreat on the site.

Front view faces the bay
Back view faces the forest
The stairs down the track are on the left side of the retreat.

Is this deck safe and secure for the visitors?



Outside deck area used for outdoor meditation.

Indoor/outdoor flow

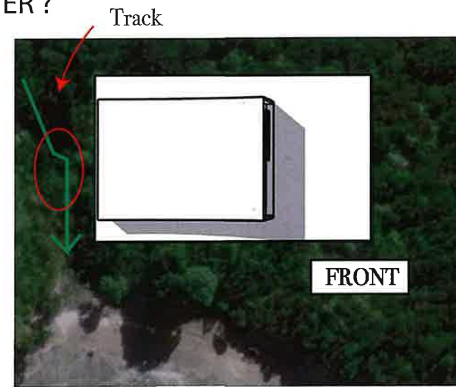
The outdoor space reconnects it with the forest (Nikau Palm) and Bay (Shipwreck)



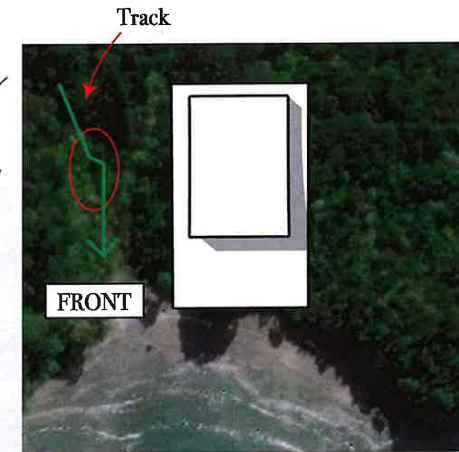
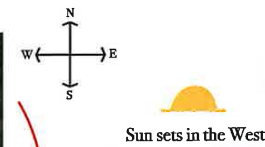
The linearity is also on the back which further reinforces the Nikau Palm and shipwreck.



HOW CAN I ADAPT MY RETREAT SUIT THE SITE BETTER ?



Going to change the orientation of the retreat so that the entrance is facing towards the West, where the track is so that people can easily enter the building.

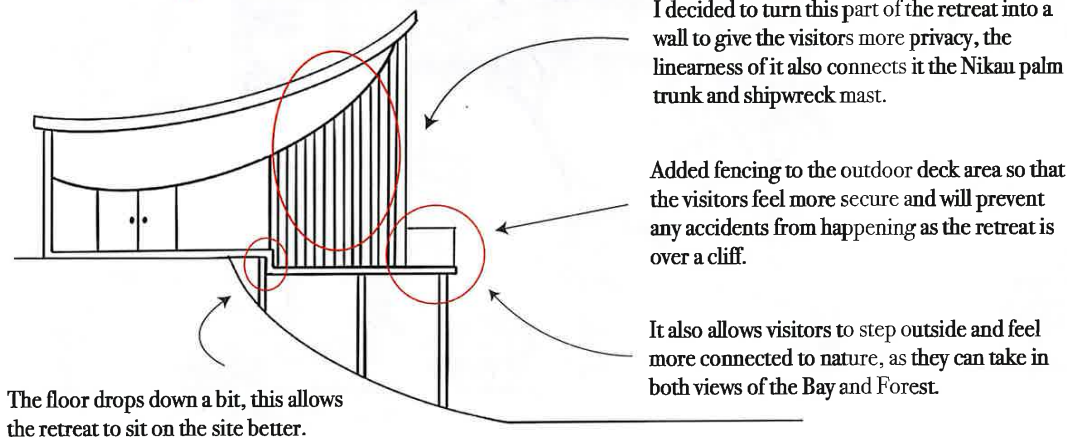
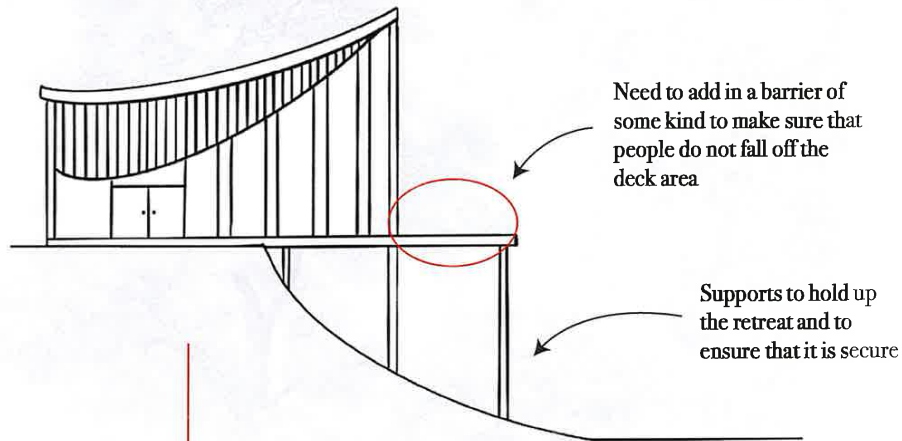


By changing this orientation it allows easy access in and out of the retreat. It also means that the morning sun will not be directly in the visitors faces. As the front of the retreat faces towards the West where the sun sets.

Wind blows South-westerly

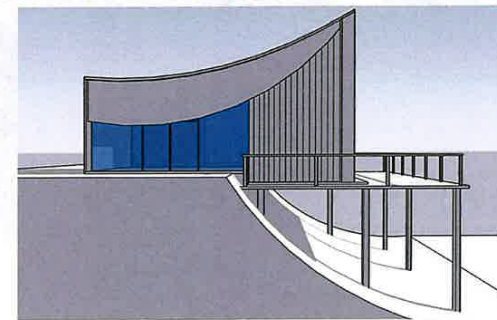


Elevations to see how the retreat would sit on the site

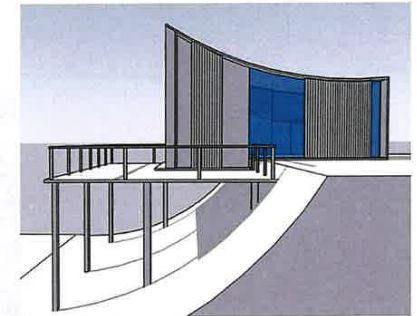


SKETCHUP MODEL

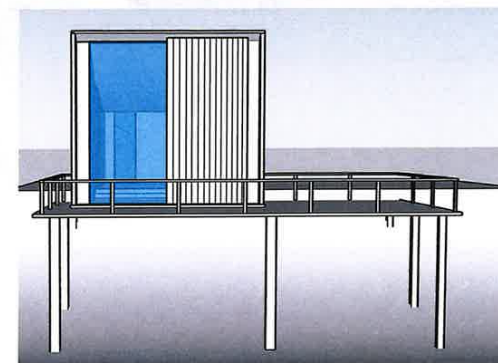
Western view / front of the retreat



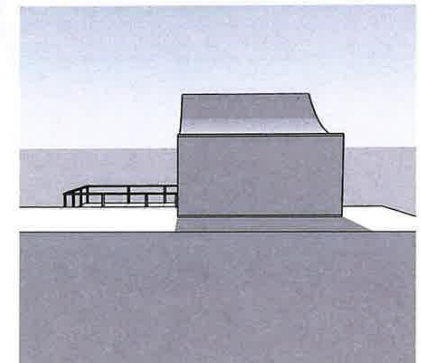
Eastern view / back of the retreat



Cliff profile and how the retreat would sit on the site.

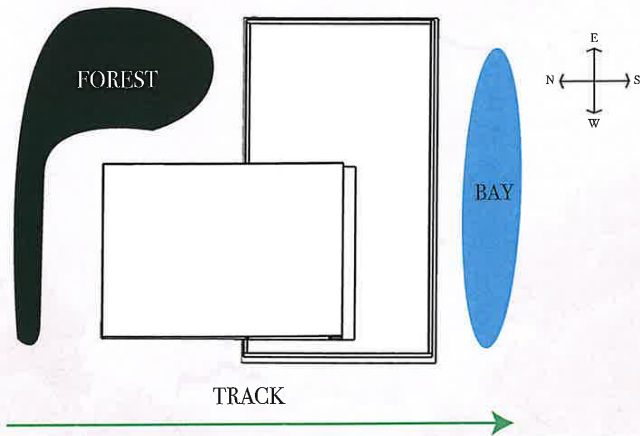


Southern view / side of the retreat that faces the bay and outlooks the Forest.



Northern side / side of the retreat that faces the Forest and outlooks the Bay.

INTERIOR FLOOR PLANS

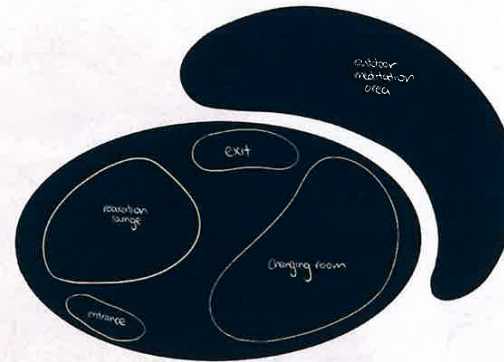


THINGS TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION:

- Flow
- Indoor/outdoor flow
- Changing rooms
- Bathrooms
- User experience
- Exit and entrance
- Lounge area
- Outdoor meditation area

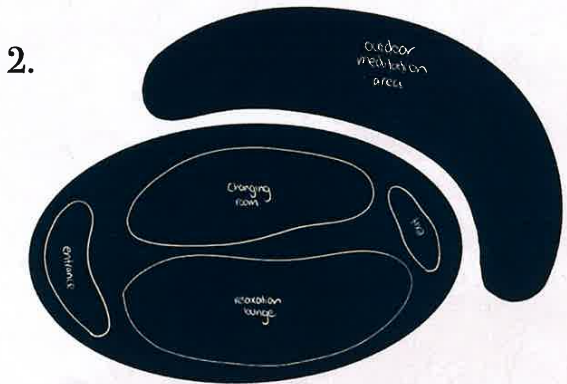
I need to ensure the retreat offers a good user experience with features like changing rooms, bathrooms, an outdoor meditation space, relaxation lounges, and a smooth overall flow. It also needs to be able to have good views of the bay and forest to enforce a sense of relaxation.

1.



- In this floorplan, the changing room faces the Bay, which is not ideal because the Bay is open and exposed. It would be better to position the changing room on the opposite side, facing the forest. Although the changing room is not see-through, placing it near the forest would create a greater sense of privacy and make users feel safer due to the more enclosed and sheltered environment.
- Since there are changing rooms the walls would have to be solid and not glass for privacy reasons. This means that the wall has to be made out of solid material that is not see through.

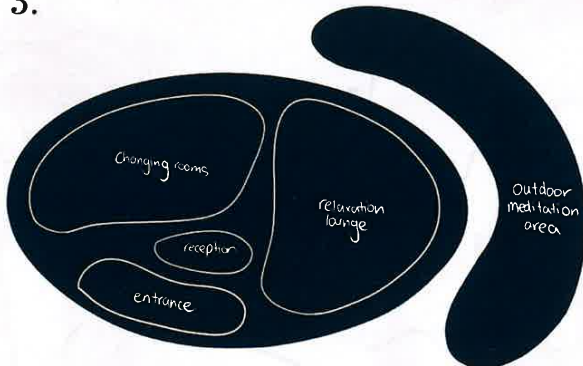
2.



- The exit onto the outdoor deck area has a direct site of the bay as soon as you walk out. It is the first view that they see as they go onto the deck so the wall/door will be made out of glass in order to take full advantage of the surroundings.
- The relaxation lounge will be an area where they are able to sit down and relax while taking in the views of the site. It will also be a place that allows them to wind down after meditating.

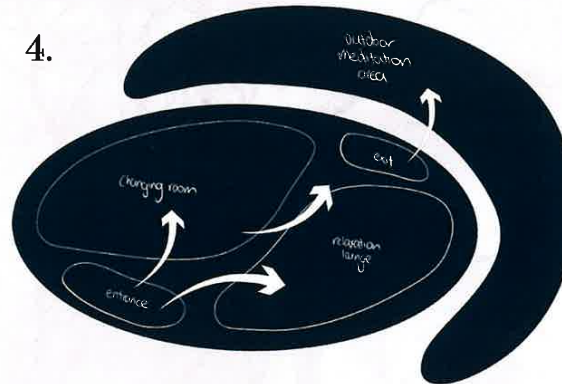
FLOW

3.



- In this layout, the relaxation lounge is positioned facing the Bay, which is ideal. This placement allows users to enjoy a calming view of the open water while they relax, helping to create a peaceful atmosphere. The natural beauty of the Bay enhances the overall experience, making it a soothing space for people to unwind, reflect, and connect with the surrounding environment.

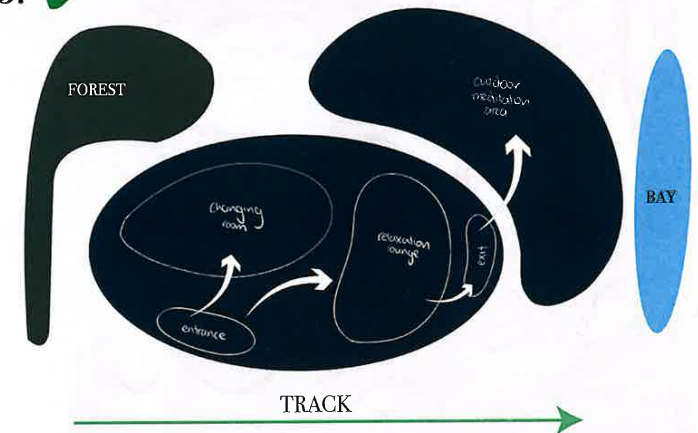
4.



- The flow of the retreat is important as it helps to guide visitors around the area.
- The entrance is facing towards the path that allows visitors to access the site and the exit is on the other side as it allows direct exit to the outdoor deck that people are able to meditate on.

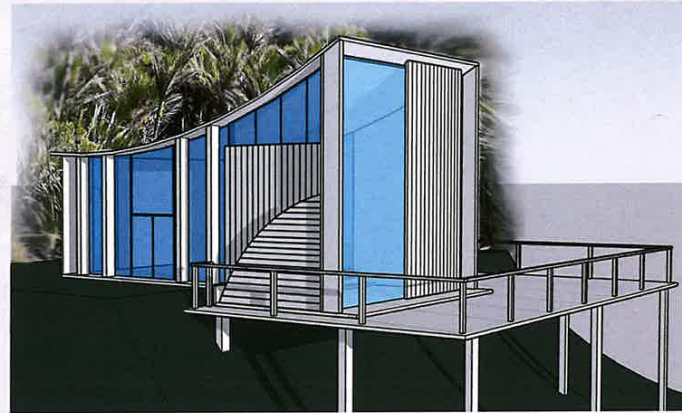
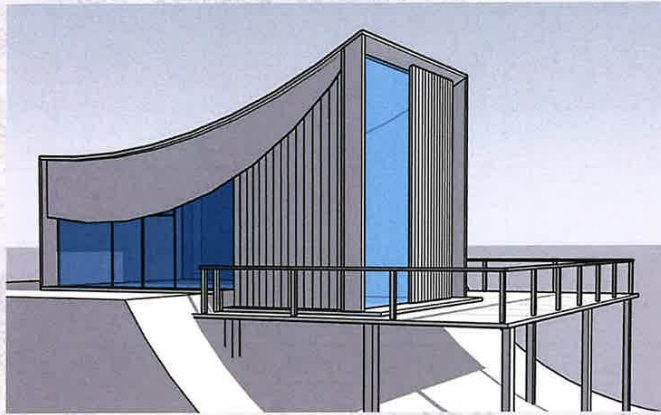
CHOSEN FLOORPLAN

5. ✓

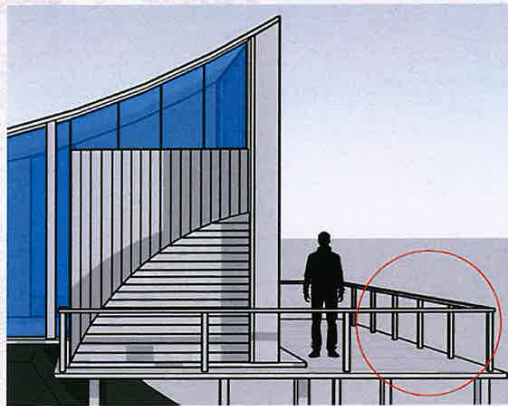


- I chose this floorplan because it guides visitors through the retreat, from the changing rooms to the lounge and then to the outdoor meditation area. The relaxation lounge faces the bay, allowing visitors to enjoy the views, while the forest behind the changing rooms provides added privacy. The outdoor meditation area also offers views of both the forest and the bay.

HOW CAN I BRING IN MORE INSPIRATION FROM NIKAU PALMS AND SHIPWRECK MASTS WHILE ALSO ENHANCING THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE ?

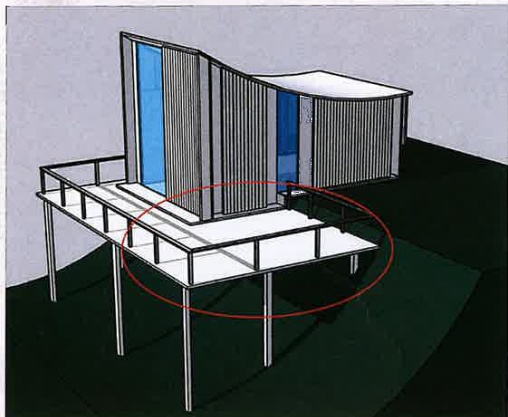


Taking more inspiration from Nikau Palms and Shipwreck mast, also added more structural details to make the retreat more supported.



Railing added to the side to ensure safety and makes sure that visitors feel secure.

The height of the railing is 11500mm (1.2m) where the minimum height of railing are 1000m.



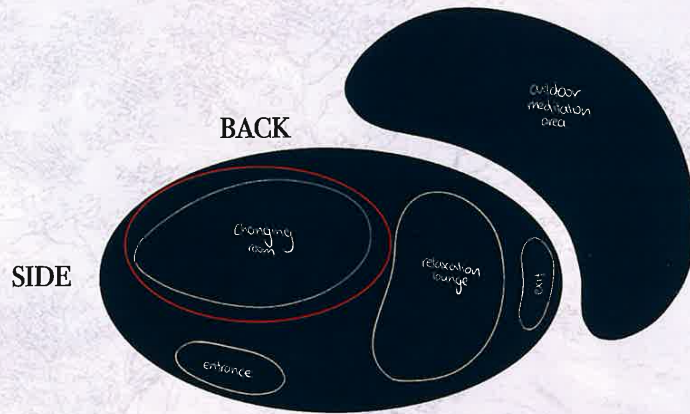
This area of the deck will be used for meditation. The location of the deck area allows the visitors to see both the Forest where there are Nikau Palms and the Bay which connects it to the shipwreck.

VIEWS



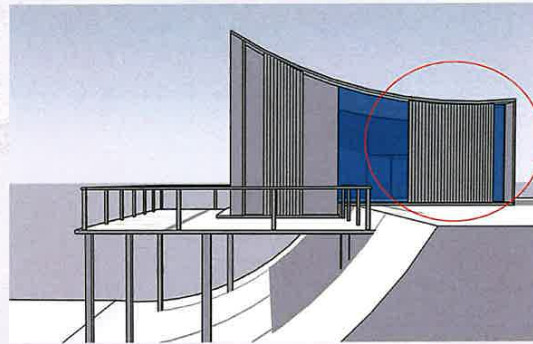
When you look out from the Southern side of the retreat, you see the Bay, and when you look to the north, you see the forest.

FLOORPLAN

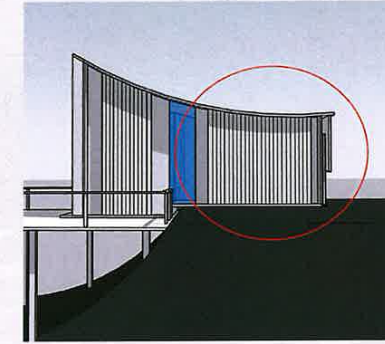


CHANGING ROOM

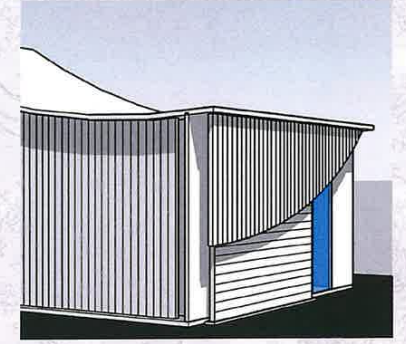
I changed the back by adding a wall behind the lined one this is because the changing room is right behind it and if it was made out of glass it would not be ideal to change in.



BACK



SIDE



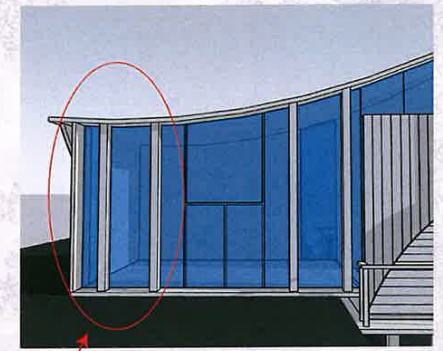
This face of the wall also has to be made out of a solid material since two of the changing rooms faces are on the outside.



This is the view of the Bay that you are able to see from this window.

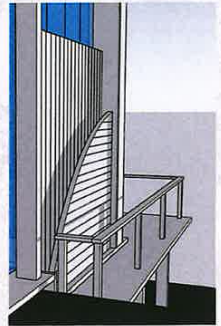
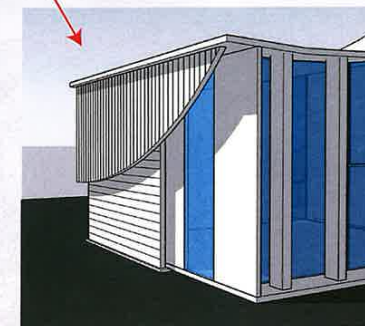
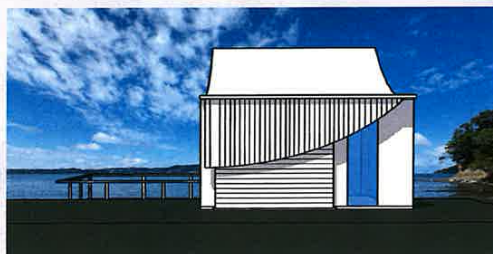


Also drawing inspiration from Herbst Architects to emphasize the forms of the Nikau palms and shipwreck mast. This is achieved through the use of layered elements and vertical columns.

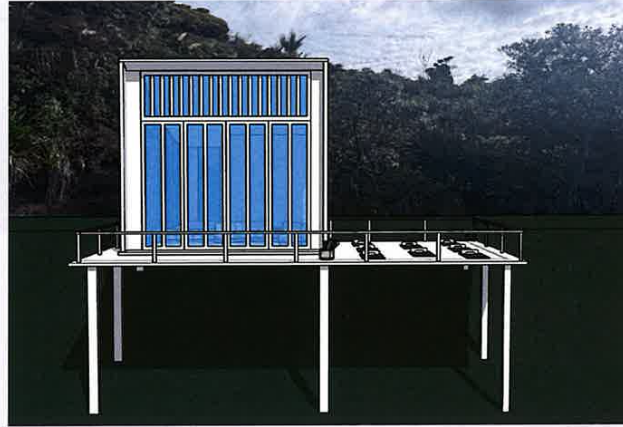
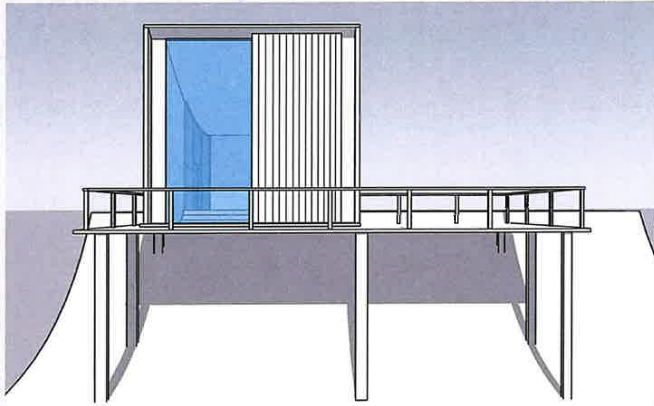


The beams added in here gives the building more structural support while also converging the trunk of a nikau palm and mast.

Added more layers to the front which also include the linearness of the Nikau palm and shipwreck mast. The layers is inspired by Herbst Architects use of them.



HOW CAN I CREATE BETTER VENTILATION AND AIR FLOW THROUGHOUT THE RETREAT ?



I wanted to create a sense of openness in my retreat and allow more air flow inside. More air flow would allow for better ventilation and give the retreat a better indoor outdoor flow. It would also make the human experience better because it allows them to feel more connected with the nature.

PANEL DOORS CLOSED

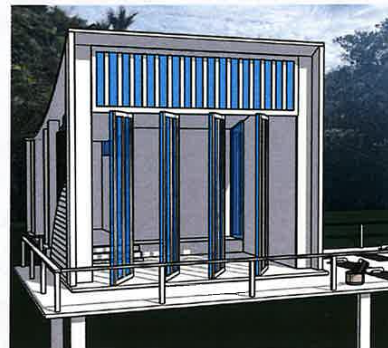


PANEL DOORS OPENED



Achieved a better indoor/outdoor flow by adding panel doors that can open and close. This allows more air ventilation throughout the retreat.

It also brings in the linearness of the Niaku Palms and Shipwreck mast.



VIEW FROM INSIDE THE RETREAT



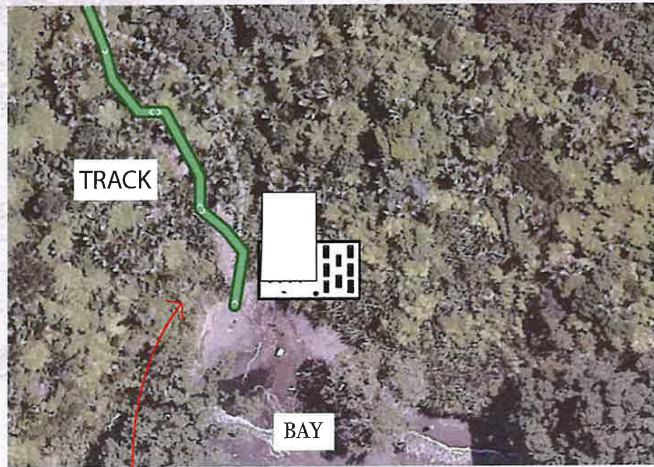
What visitors can see when the panel doors are closed.



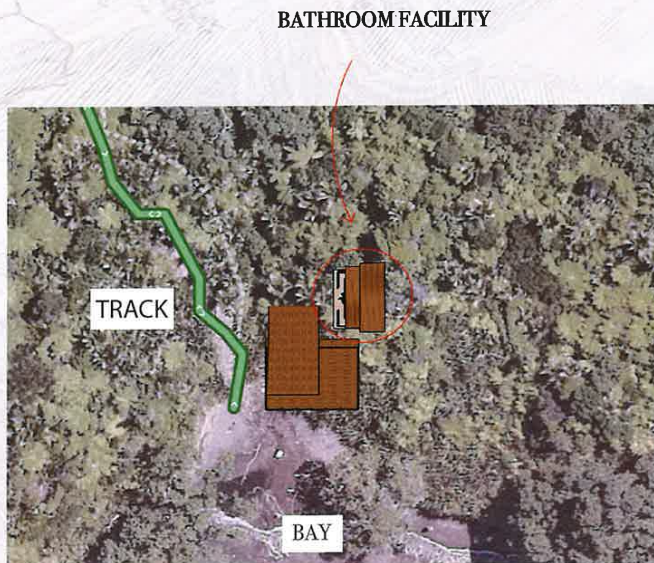
What visitors can see when the panel doors are open.

When the panel doors are open it allows it to be more connected to the Bay and the Forest

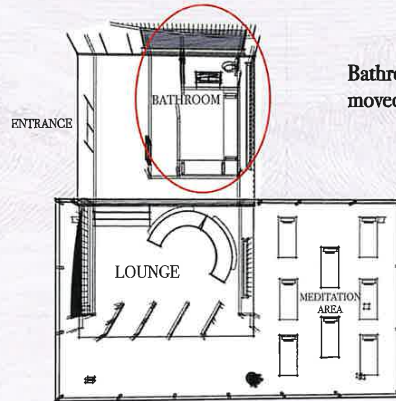
COULD MY BATHROOM FACILITY BE USED AND ACCESSED BY MORE PEOPLE GOING DOWN TO THE BAY ?



The green line shows the track that leads past the retreat and down to the bay. Currently, the bathroom is located inside the retreat, but placing it outside would improve the overall experience. An external bathroom would be accessible to more people, not just those using the retreat, making it more convenient for all visitors.

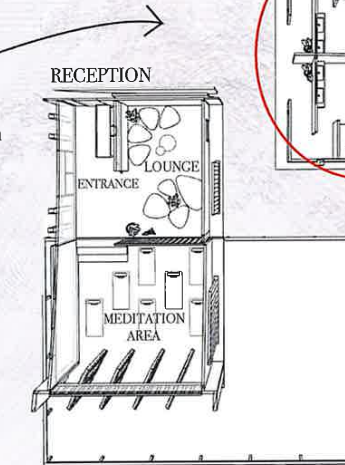


CURRENT BATHROOM LOCATION



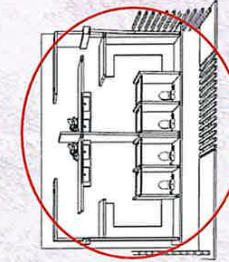
OLD FLOORPLAN

Bathroom/changing room moved to the outside



NEW FLOORPLAN

BATHROOM/CHANGING ROOM

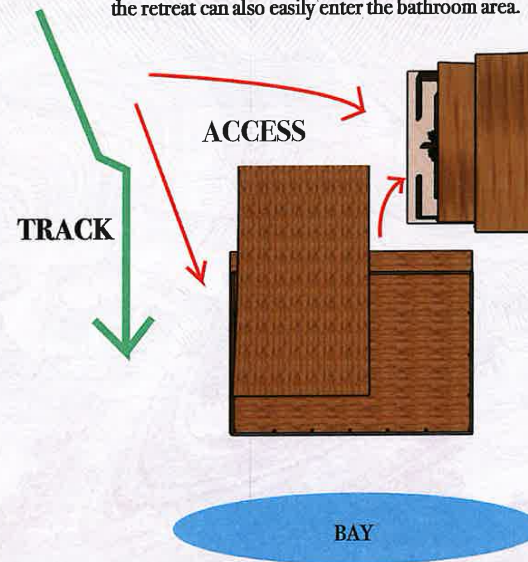


NEW BATHROOM LOCATION

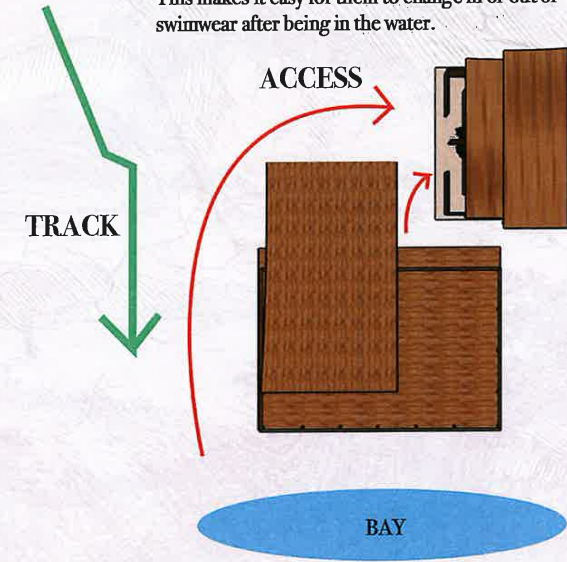
This new layout includes two separate bathroom spaces—one for females and one for males. The bathrooms and changing rooms are also larger, which helps improve flow and accommodate more users comfortably.

FLOW AND ACCESS

People walking along the track can access both the retreat and the bathroom facilities, while those inside the retreat can also easily enter the bathroom area.



People heading up the track can also access the bathroom facilities, including the changing rooms. This makes it easy for them to change in or out of swimwear after being in the water.



HOW DO THE BATHROOM FACILITIES OPERATE ?

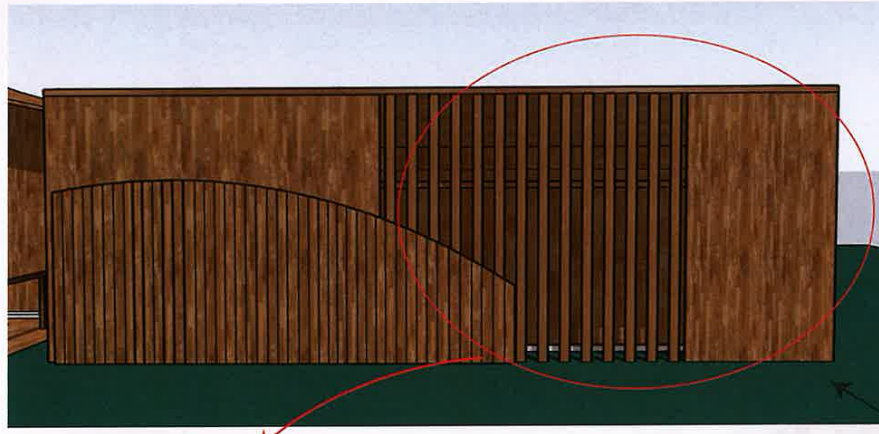


What the back of the bathroom facility looks like

The septic tanks will be installed near the back of the bathroom

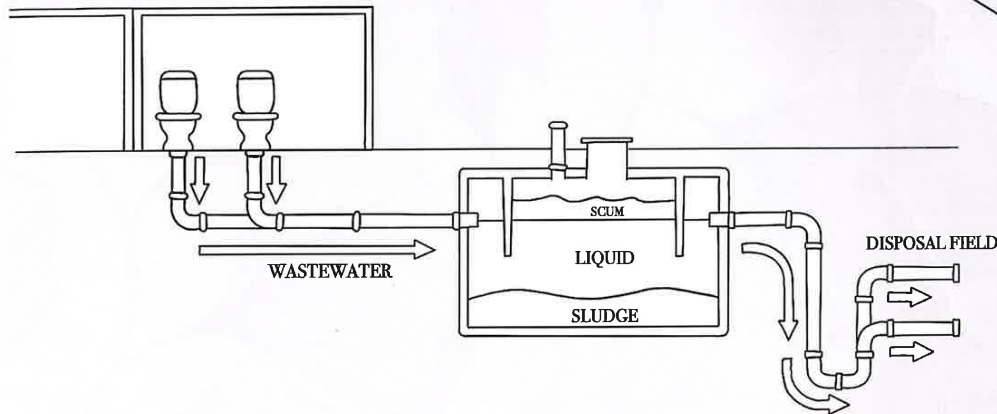
SEPTIC TANK

By installing a septic tank in the bathroom facility it allows essential plumbing systems—like toilets, showers, and sinks—to function without being connected to a town sewer line. The septic tank safely collects and treats wastewater on-site, making it possible for visitors to enjoy modern comforts while staying in a retreat near the bay and forest. This setup is ideal for forest environments, helping maintain hygiene and sustainability while preserving the natural surroundings.

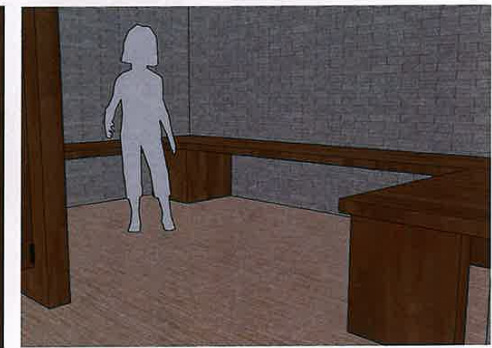


The linear forms and slight curves of the nikau palms and shipwreck are reflected in the structure and form of the bathroom facility.

Taking inspiration from Herbst Architects, incorporating layers and a sense of linearity.



A septic tank is an underground system used to treat wastewater in buildings not connected to a city sewer. It collects water from toilets, sinks, and showers, separating solids, oils, and liquids. Solids settle at the bottom, oils float to the top, and the liquid in the middle flows out to a drain field, where it's filtered naturally by the soil. Made from materials like concrete, plastic, or fiberglass, septic tanks are essential for safely managing waste and protecting the environment in rural or remote areas.

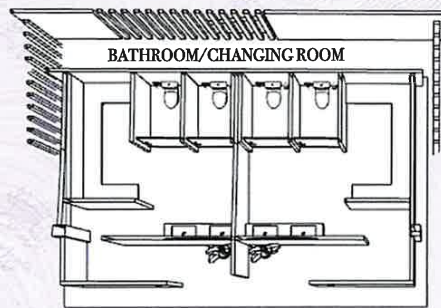


HOW DID MOVING THE BATHROOM FACILITY AFFECT THE OTHER INTERIOR SPACES ?

FINAL FLOORPLAN:

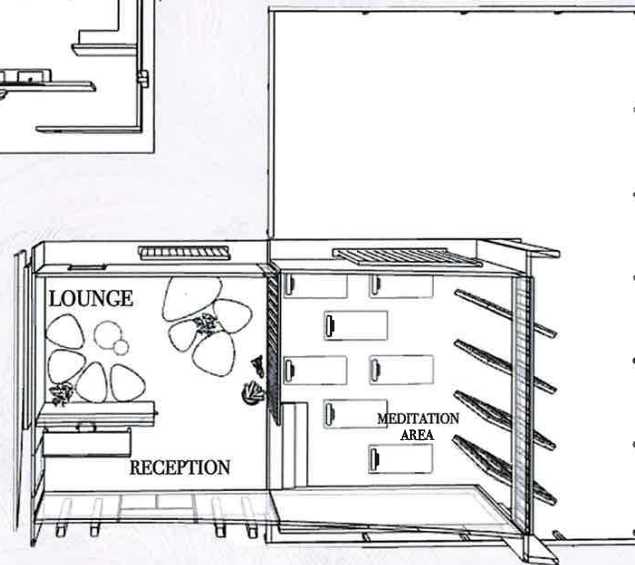


Bathroom moved outside



By moving the bathroom outside it frees move space inside the retreat.

It allowed space for a reception area, where visitors can check in for meditation sessions. It also made it possible to expand the lounge area, giving visitors more room to relax and unwind in a comfortable setting.

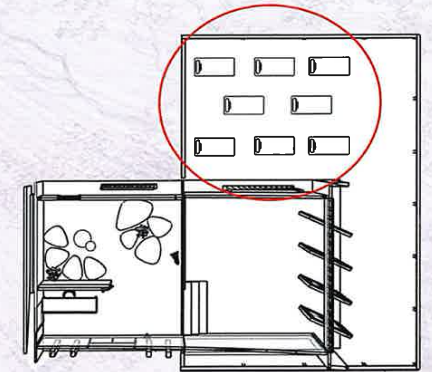


FRONT OF THE RETREAT
Facing towards the track

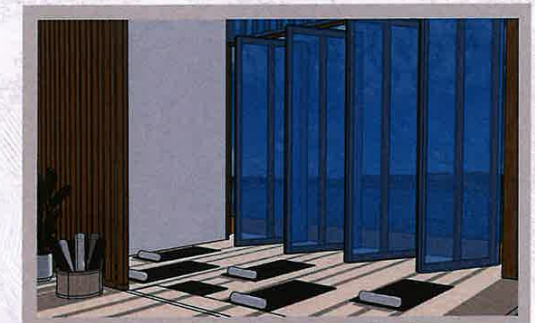


SIDE OF THE RETREAT
Facing towards the Bay

BAY



By relocating the bathroom facilities, there is now space to hold yoga sessions indoors. This gives visitors the flexibility to continue their practice regardless of the weather. When it rains, yoga can take place inside, and when the weather is fine, it can be held outdoor.



Similar shadows
and linearness from
Nikan Palm leaves.



HERBST
ARCHITECTS:
Use of lines.

HOW CAN MY MEDITATION RETREAT AND BATHROOM FACILITY BE ACCESSED ?



STONE PATHWAY



WOODEN PATHWAY

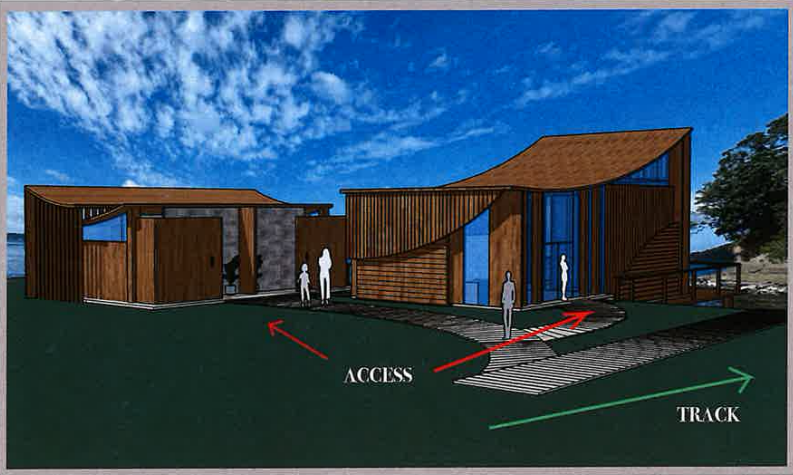
Originally, the pathway to the retreat was made of stone, however, I decided to change it to wood. This makes it easier and more comfortable for people to walk on, while also creating a smoother and more natural connection between the bathroom and the retreat.

As people walk down the track, they come across two stone pathways—one leading to the meditation retreat and the other to the bathroom facilities. This design ensures that the bathroom and changing room facilities are accessible not only to retreat visitors but also to those visiting the bay or passing by on a walk, making the space more inclusive and user-friendly.



This is the view of what the visitors would be able to see when they go down the track. They are going downstairs surrounded by nature and Nikau Palms.

IMAGE SHOWING TRACK AND ACCESS POINTS



ACCESS TO THE BATHROOM FACILITIES



The bathroom facility can also be accessed from the back of the retreat, providing visitors with convenient and easy access.

ACCESS TO THE RETREAT



IMPROVEMENTS



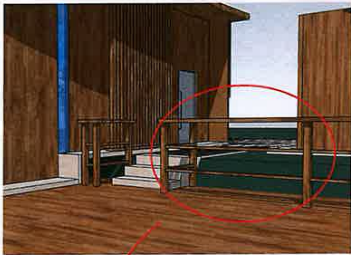
I added an extra pathway connecting the main path to the deck. This allows people who aren't going to the retreat to access the deck and enjoy the view of the bay, making the space more convenient and functional.



OLD



NEW



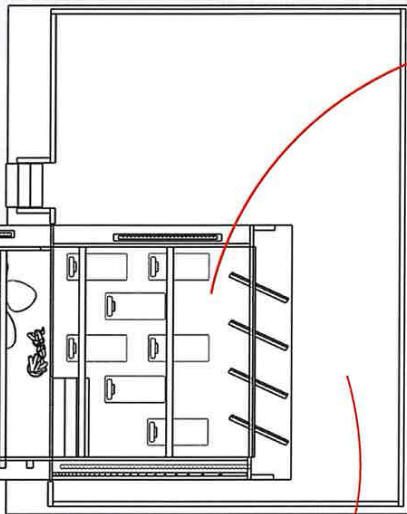
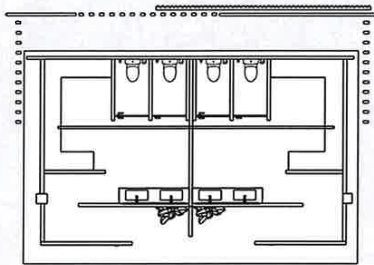
I also improved the railing by adding two more bars across it, which helps the visitor feel more secure and also reduces the risk of falling.

HOW CAN I CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE THAT IS RELAXING FOR THE USERS TO EXPERIENCE

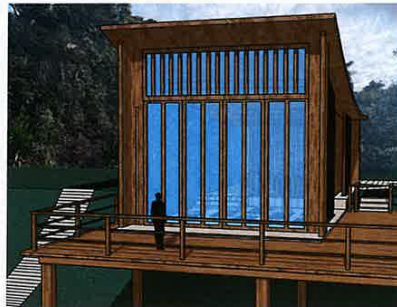
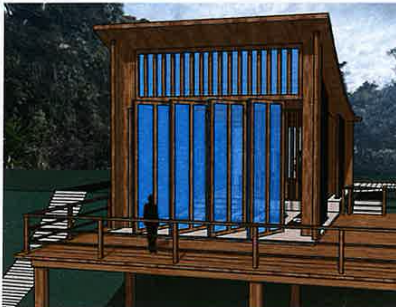
Lounge inspiration



I took inspiration from this lounge as it uses wood and plants to create a calm and natural atmosphere. In my lounge area, I've used warm timber and greenery to make the inside feel more connected to the outside. The space is open but still feels grounded and unified.



Panel doors

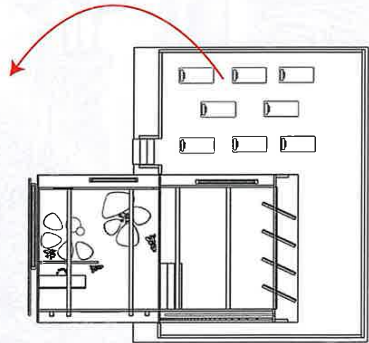


I took inspiration from the use of panel doors, as they enhance ventilation and create a stronger connection to nature when open. These doors help create a welcoming and restorative atmosphere, allowing visitors to feel relaxed and more connected to the environment. The mood I want the retreat to offer.

Outdoor Meditation area



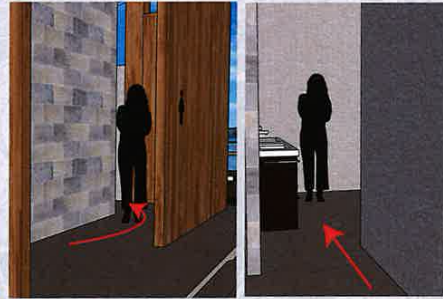
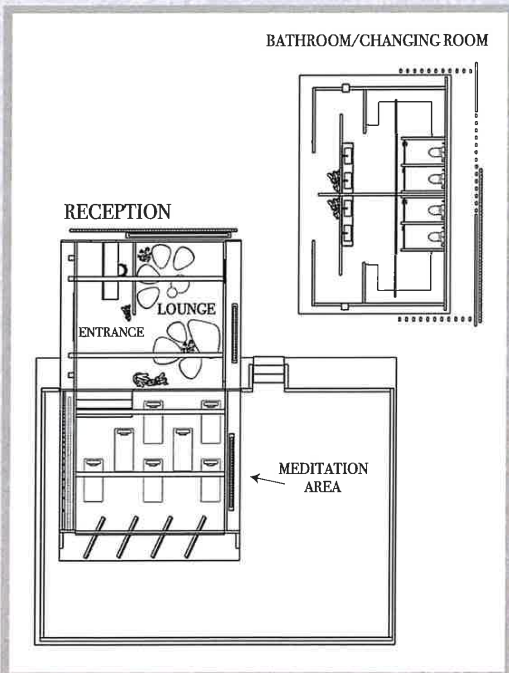
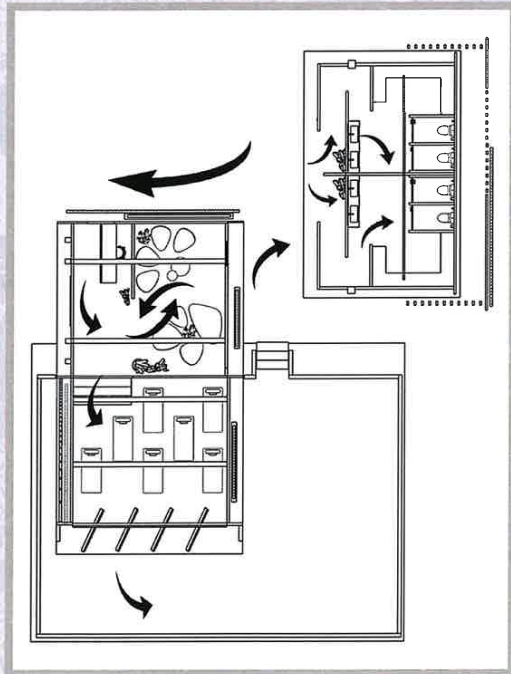
Indoor Meditation area



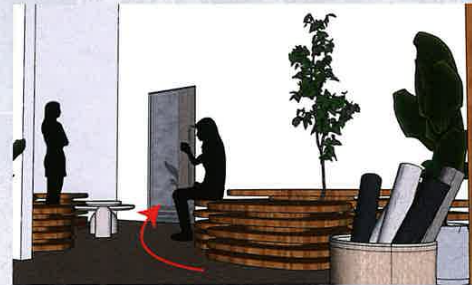
Inspired by the meditation areas, my retreat's indoor yoga space uses natural light, warm materials, and timber flooring to create a calm, grounded environment where visitors feel safe and focused. It also provides shelter, allowing yoga to continue in any weather. The outdoor yoga area immerses visitors in nature, surrounded by forest and overlooking the bay, subtly reflecting the forms of the nikau palms and the shipwreck. This setting fosters a deep connection with the surroundings, encouraging mindfulness and harmony throughout the retreat.



HOW DOES THE INTERIOR FLOW IMPROVE THE OVERALL USER EXPERIENCE ?



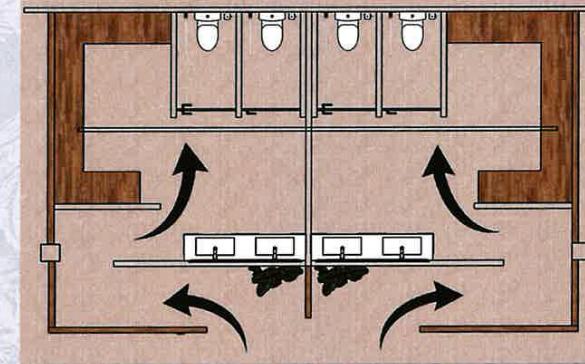
The bathroom has a simple layout that's easy to move through. This makes it feel calm, private, and comfortable, adding to the peaceful feel of the retreat.



Once visitors enter the retreat, they can choose to go directly to the lounge or head to the meditation area. If they continue past the lounge, they have easy access to the bathroom facilities, ensuring a smooth and intuitive flow throughout the space.



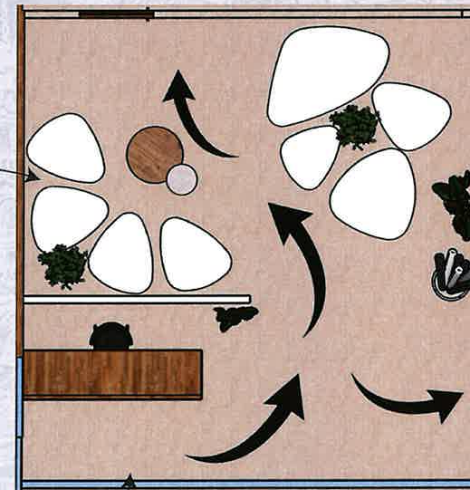
BATHROOMS / CHANGING ROOMS



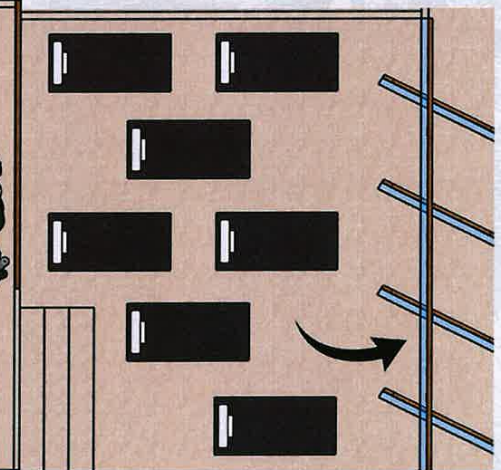
My retreat was designed with a focus on flow in mind, allowing visitors to easily understand where they can go.

Walls help separate and guide the visitors through the bathroom facility.

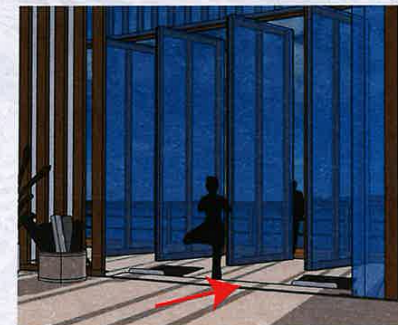
RECEPTION AND LOUNGE



MEDITATION AREA



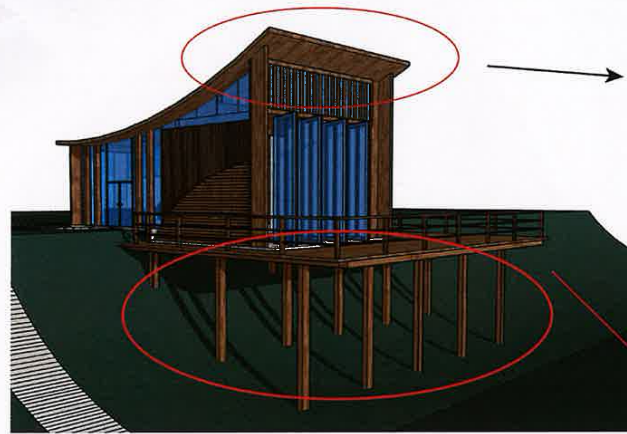
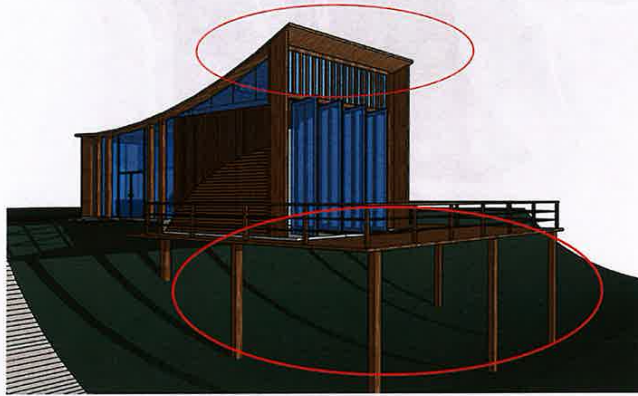
Easy access in and out of the retreat and onto the deck.



After the visitors go past the reception area they enter the meditation area where they can do yoga. It smoothly transitions them to this area.

STRUCTURE

HOW CAN THE STABILITY AND FORM OF THE RETREAT BE IMPROVED THROUGH STRUCTURAL CHANGES?



I added a larger roof overhang to reflect the curves of the nikau palms and shipwreck, which also makes the roof appear more curved and dynamic than before.



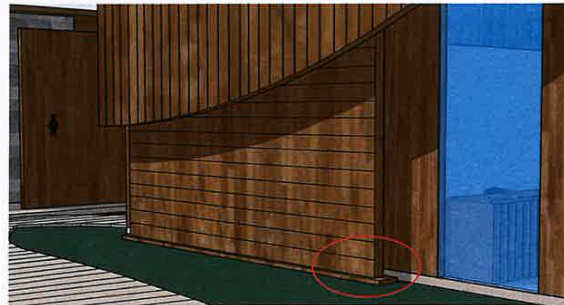
I added more poles to improve stability and pushed the poles further back to create a stronger overhanging appearance.

POLES

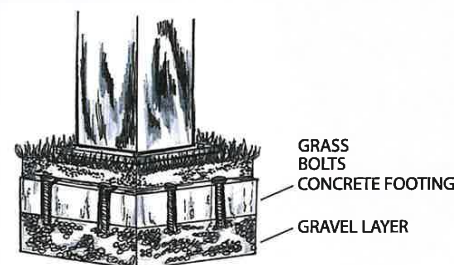
This X-ray shows how the poles are connected the deck and the floor. There is a steel beam in the middle where each side is covered by timber. The poles are also supported by footing at the bottom.



FOOTING + FOOTING FOR GRASSY AREAS



To ensure the poles and line work are securely anchored, a footing is essential for stability and weight distribution. It helps prevent tipping from wind or ground movement and protects against damage from shifting soil or weather. Since the area is grassy, the concrete footing would be installed deeper and covered with soil to prevent sinking and maintain a natural appearance, while still providing a strong, hidden base for attaching elements securely.



GRAVEL DRAINAGE LAYER

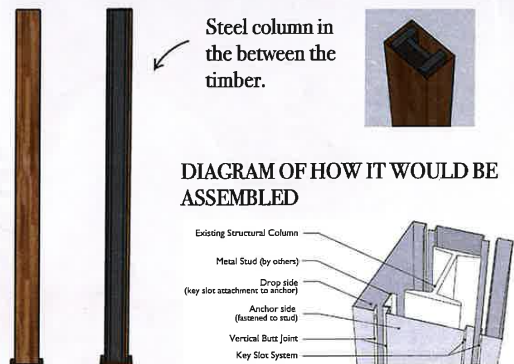
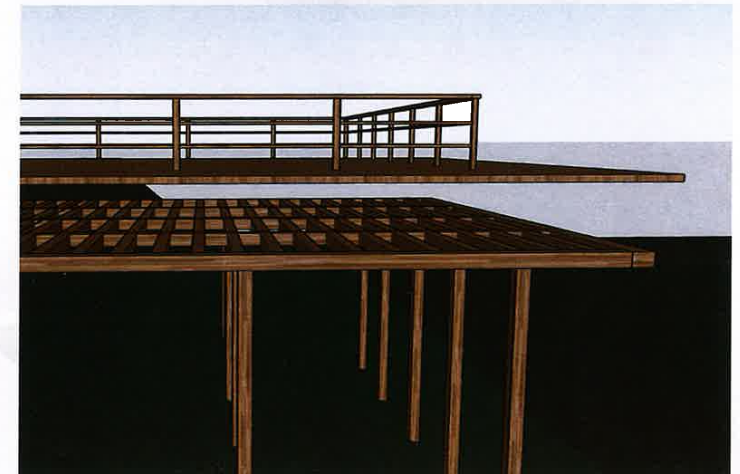
A gravel drainage layer is usually added under the concrete footing to prevent any sinking or shifting that could occur. This also helps with the drainage and keeps the soil around the footage from becoming waterlogged which can destabilize the poles and line work structures.

DECK FRAMING

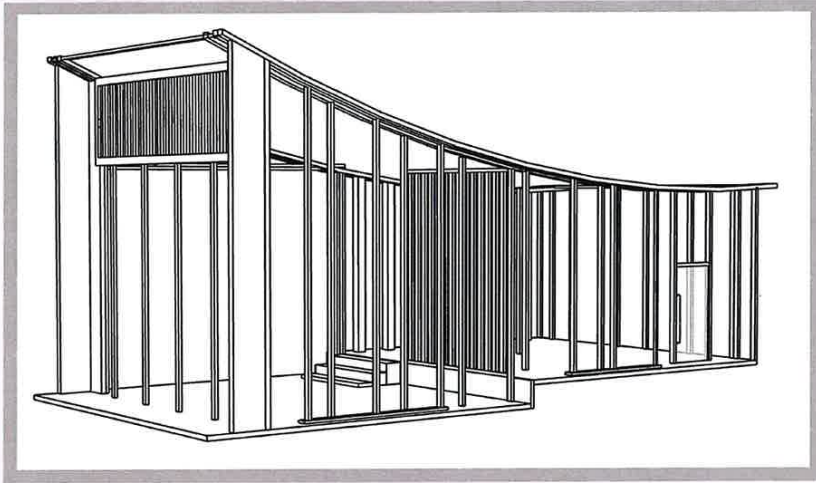
I added additional framing beneath the deck, including horizontal beams and joists, to enhance overall stability and structural integrity. This ensures that the decking boards are fully supported, distributes the load evenly across the structure, and makes the deck safer and more secure for use.



Supported by vertical beams and horizontal joists

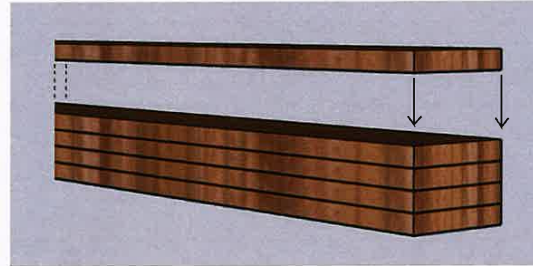


HOW CAN THE FRAMING OF THE RETREAT BE SUPPORTED AND STRENGTHENED ?



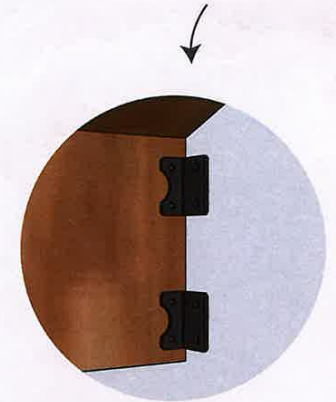
GLULAMS

Glulam, short for glued laminated timber, is a strong and durable engineered wood made by gluing layers of timber together. It's more stable than solid wood and can span large distances. It can be made into straight shapes, making it ideal for beams and other structures. Hence why this method allows for larger pieces of timber as well as allows the beams to be constructed like this.

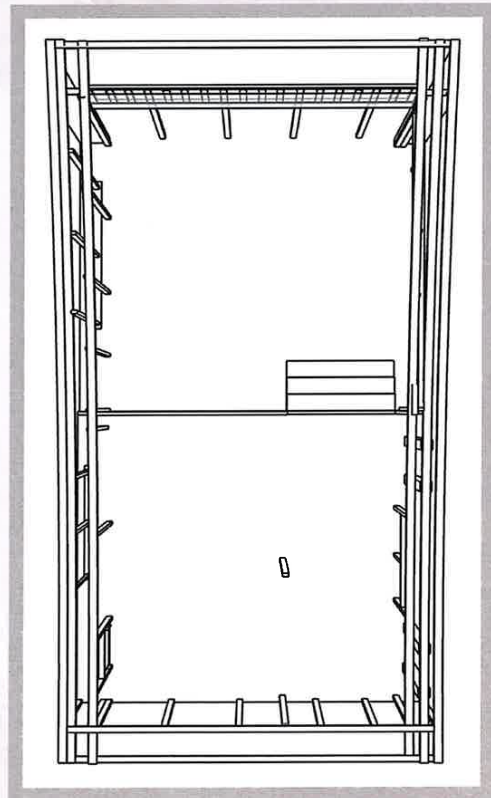


The beams will be constructed by **glulam** and will be connected to the wall by **steel brackets**.

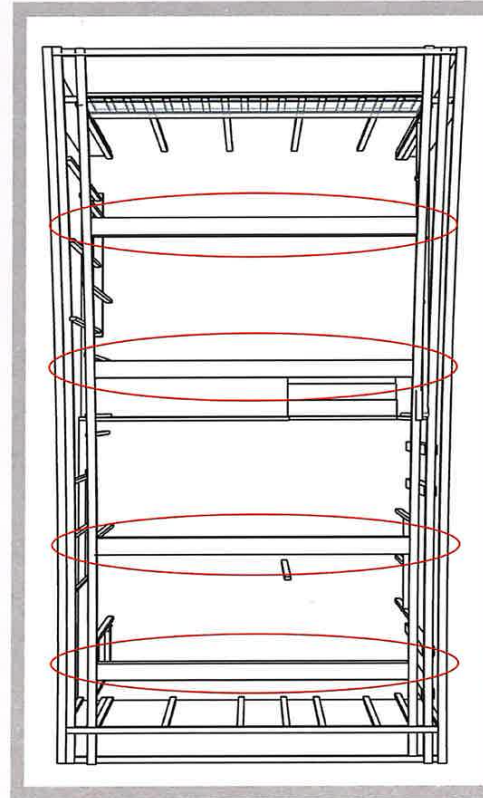
STEEL BRACKETS



Beams going across the roof



Added in beams across the bottom of the roof to add in more support.



TIMBER

What the beams would look like across the bottom of the roof.

HOW CAN THE EXTERIOR MATERIAL IMPROVE USER EXPERIENCE AND SUIT THE SITE ?



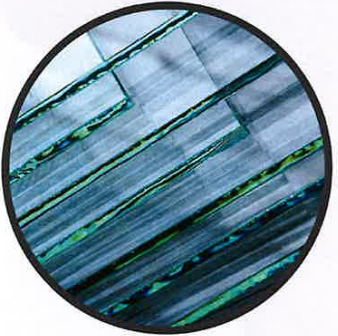
STONE

Stone is a **strong**, natural material that adds texture, warmth, and durability. It connects the building to the landscape and creates a **grounded**, calming atmosphere. The tactile surface and earthy tones enhance the human experience by making the space feel **natural and inviting**.



TIMBER

Timber is a natural, renewable material valued for its strength, **durability**, and aesthetic appeal. It's lightweight, easy to work with, and offers good insulation and sound absorption. Timber enhances user experience with its warm, calming look and suits the site by **blending naturally with the environment**.



GLASS

Glass is **strong, durable**, and long-lasting. It resists fading, discoloration, and wear, making it ideal for many uses. Its versatility allows it to be used in windows, doors, walls, and more. By letting in **natural light** and offering clear views, glass enhances the user experience by creating bright, **open spaces** that connect occupants with the surrounding environment, making it well-suited to the site.



STEEL

Steel improves user experience by providing **strong**, durable support, making the **structure safe** and long-lasting. Its versatility allows for creative designs, and its strength suits various site conditions. Steel is also cost-effective and low maintenance. To help the building blend with the environment, **it can be covered with timber, combining strength with a natural look**.



ORPHEUS BAY

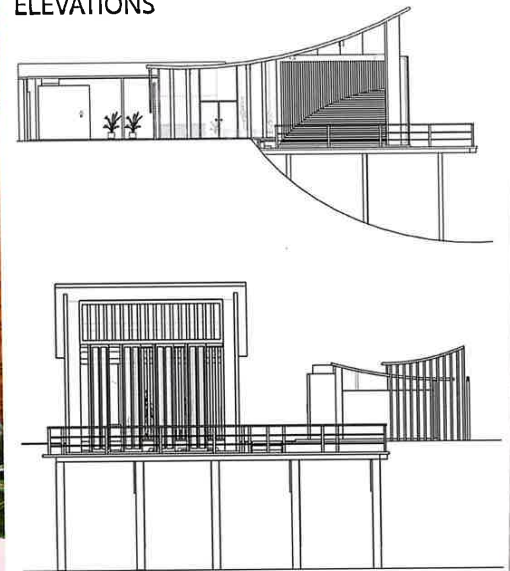
MEDITATION RETREAT

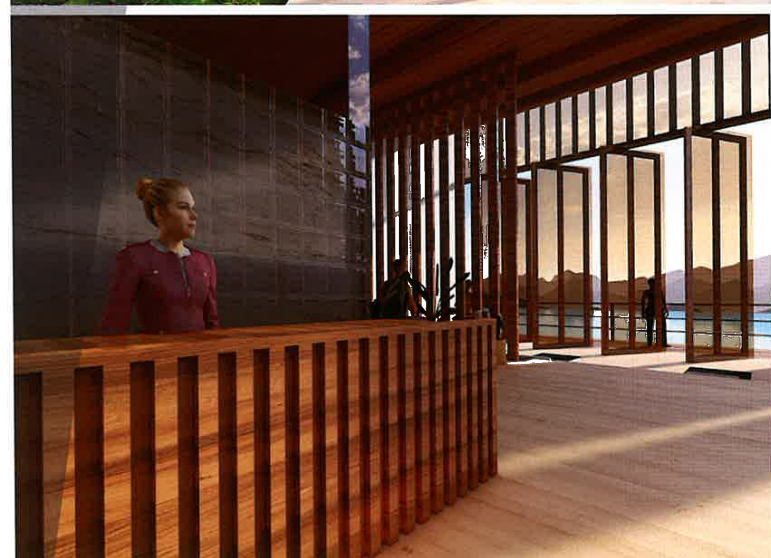


RECONNECTION

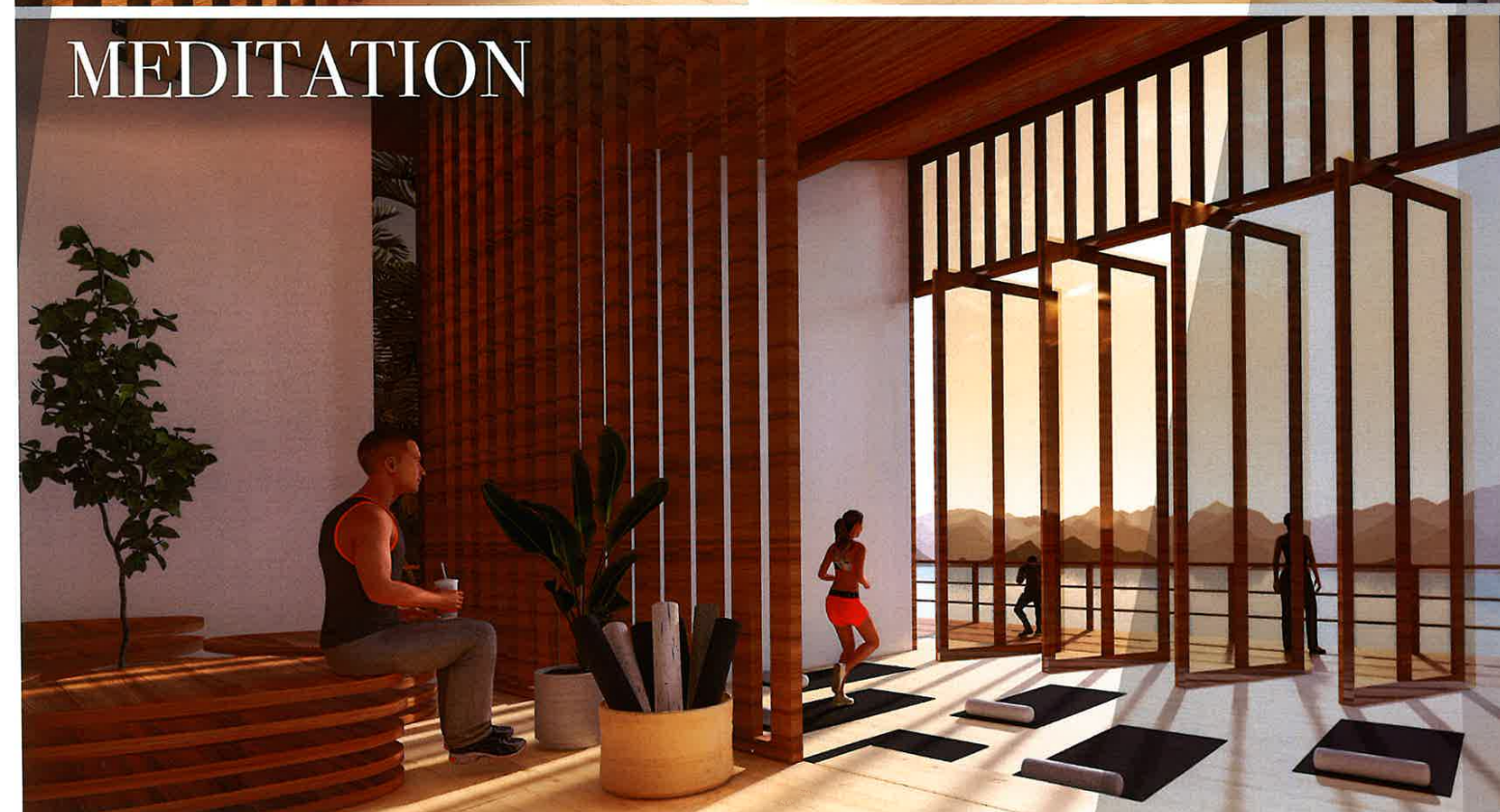


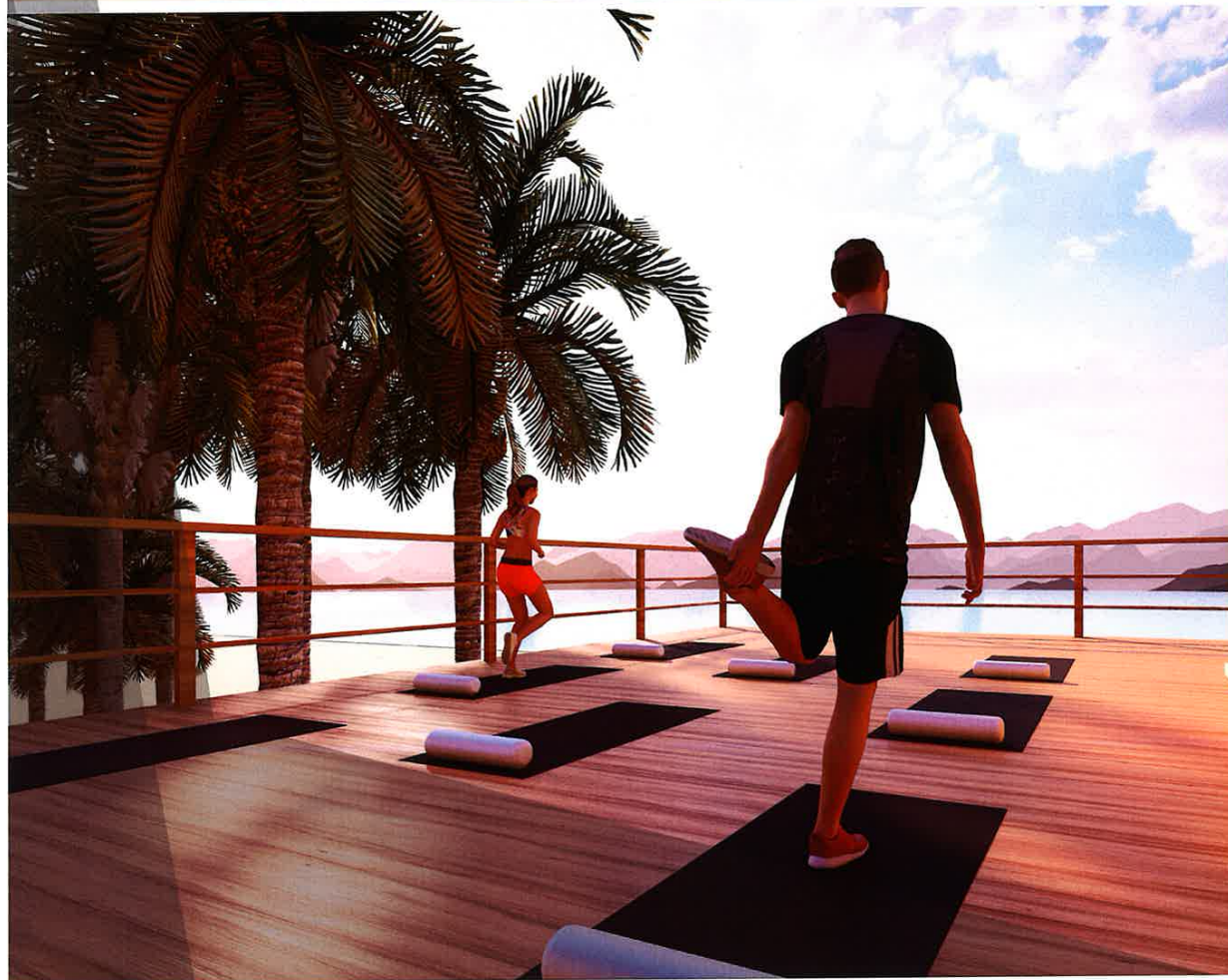
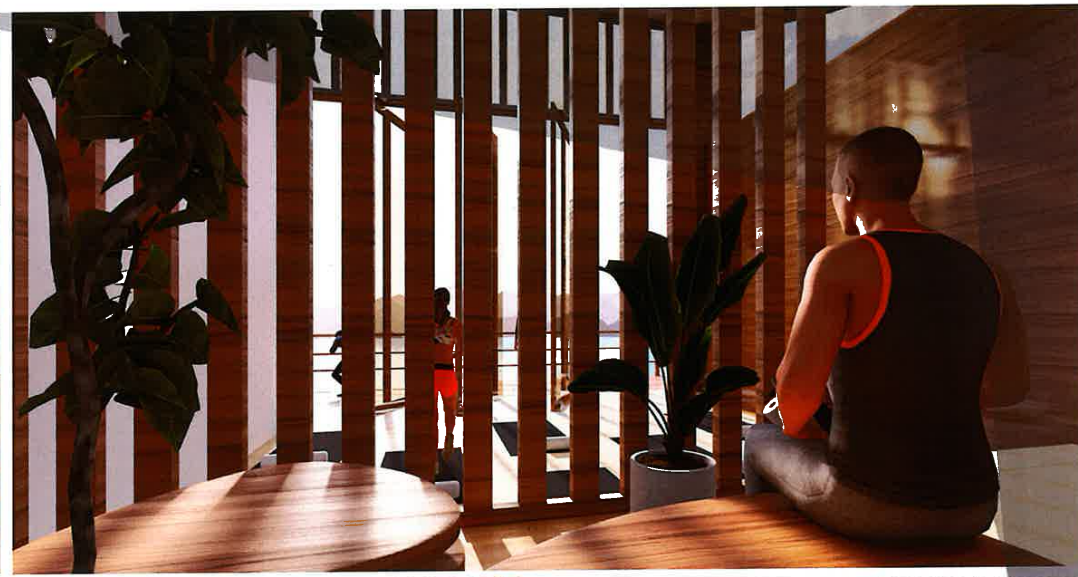
ELEVATIONS



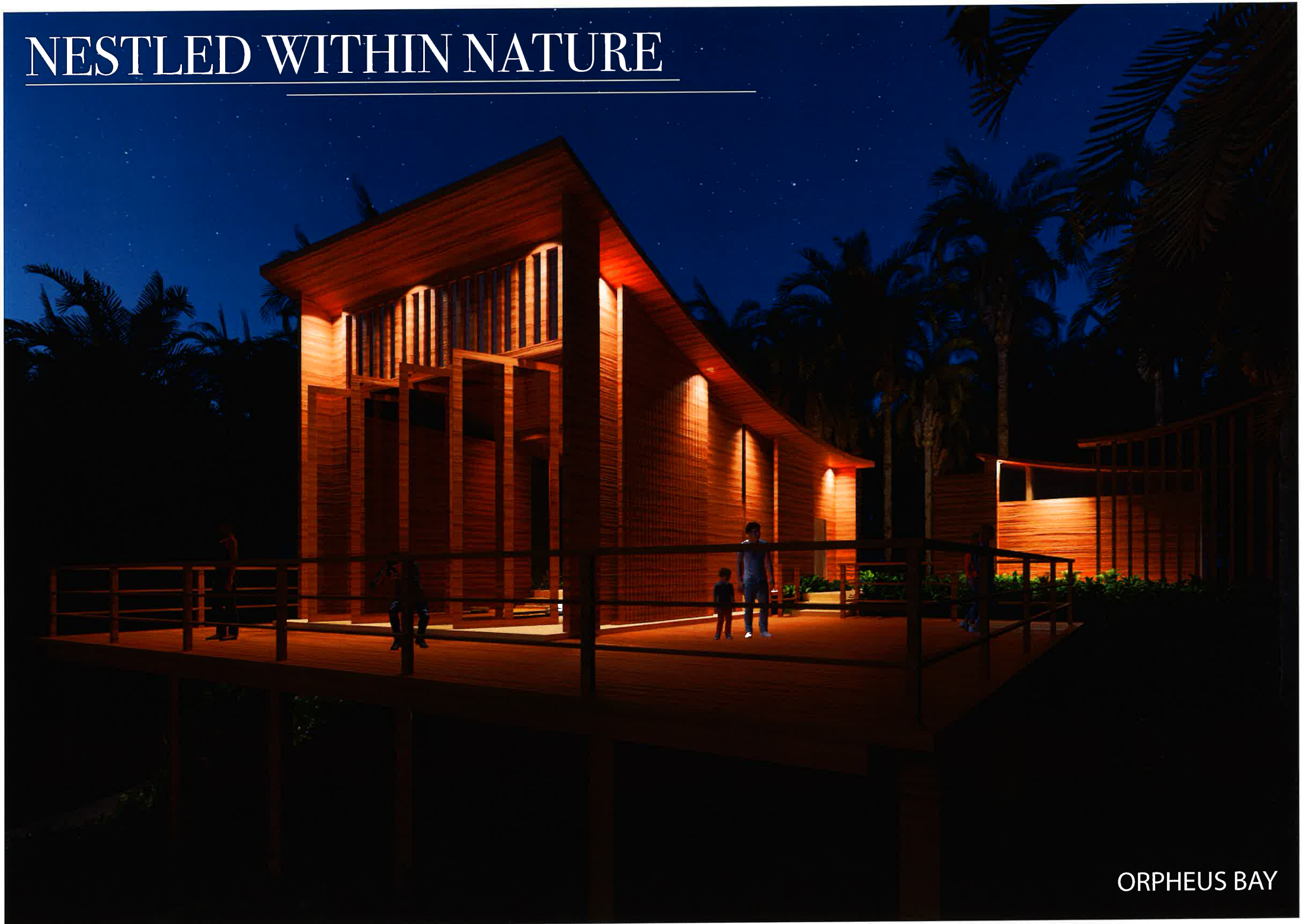


MEDITATION





NESTLED WITHIN NATURE



ORPHEUS BAY



Outstanding Scholarship

Subject: Design and Visual Communication

Standard: 93602

Total score: 19

	Score	Marker commentary
Design ideation	05	This submission begins by exploring architectural forms inspired by Nikau palms that are present at the site. The ideas are sculptural interpretations that are a useful start but struggle to be reinterpreted as useful concepts for the context. The work of Herbst Architects is then explored and incorporated into the ideas. This immediately lifts the quality of the ideas and helps to create better architectural interpretations for the context.
Design practice	07	The strength of this submission is in its very thorough and, ultimately, convincing design practice. Consideration of the context deepens as the project progresses. The site and a sense of place become very present in the design of the retreat. The purpose of the building drives the design forward, with the building developed to meet its functional requirements but also to create a wonderful experience for the visitors.
Visual communication	07	The design practice and thinking presented in this submission are very easy to understand and follow. The narrative is convincingly presented using a range of visual techniques and strategies. The final pages contain a range of sophisticated and convincing visuals. The balance of interior and exterior images creates a complete understanding of the outcome. The angles, scenery, and lighting selected for the views enhance the understanding of what guests would experience when visiting the meditation retreat.