

BUILDING LOCATION

The proposal takes advantage of existing infrastructure. As a Site of Specific Scientific Interest for aquatic birds and migratory species we consider it crucial that lakes and vegetation around lakeside are not adversely affected by the works and the new building when in use. Therefore we choose to locate the new visitor center on the location of the existing building. This solution minimises changes to the reserve, interference into wildlife ecosystem such as nesting/foraging habitats, connectivity across different habitat areas, limiting access to foraging and breeding areas and cutting trees. In order to create welcoming arrival experience for all building users, parking has been located in the reserve's brownfield area. This will minimise cutting existing vegetation and maintain traffic away from pedestrian circulation, regenerate the space by transforming its current asphalt surface into a parking with permeable paving, rainwater catchment, bioswales and tree corridors, all contributing to thrive the reserve ecology. The main entrance of the reserve will split the traffic in-between pedestrian and staff corridor towards the Visitor Centre and cars, bikes, and motorbikes towards the car parking area.

TWO PHASE CONSTRUCTION WORK

We propose 2 Phase construction works. First phase will start with parking areas, parking access road and temporary pavilion. During this phase the existing centre will remain operational. After completion of Phase 1 temporary pavilion will provide basic facilities for visitors during construction of the new building, after the demolition of the existing building.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN



Landscape Furniture

Landscape furniture and small architecture through the Reserve uses the language of the building facade louvers providing coherence to the whole complex.

Wayfinding

Apart from traditional signage we propose 3 dimensional stainless steel braille map of the reserve and wooden chimies create auditory landmarks.

Tree Corridors

Providing paths for birds to move around the site and contributing to thrive the reserve ecology.

Night scented plant species

Introducing native night-scented plant species will attract insects which in turn will attract bats

Medicinal herbal gardens

Medicinal herbal gardens provide sensory and visual connections to nature as well as education on the natural benefits of plants towards wellbeing

Permeable paving

Perovious paving allows water to vertically flow through hard surfaces. As substitutes for impervious paving, they support both pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

Fruit pits gravel

Natural raw material permeable path system, for pathways around the building and garden, made of recycled dried fruit pits, locally sources from orchards.

Bioswales and Rain Gardens

Bioswales are open, gently sloped, vegetated channels designed for treatment and conveyance of stormwater runoff.

Rain gardens are planted depressions designed to infiltrate stormwater runoff, but not hold it.

Fountains

Fountain create auditory and visual landmarks towards the meditative courtyards. Moving water features reduced stress, increase feelings of tranquility, lower heart rate and pressure and create positive emotional response and improved concentration and memory restoration.

Wildlife Connection tunnels

Tunnel system based on design artificial badger setts, under the building/carpark to increase connectivity across the site, and allow small mammals and reptiles to continue moving freely across the site.





View of the East facing Tranquility Courtyard



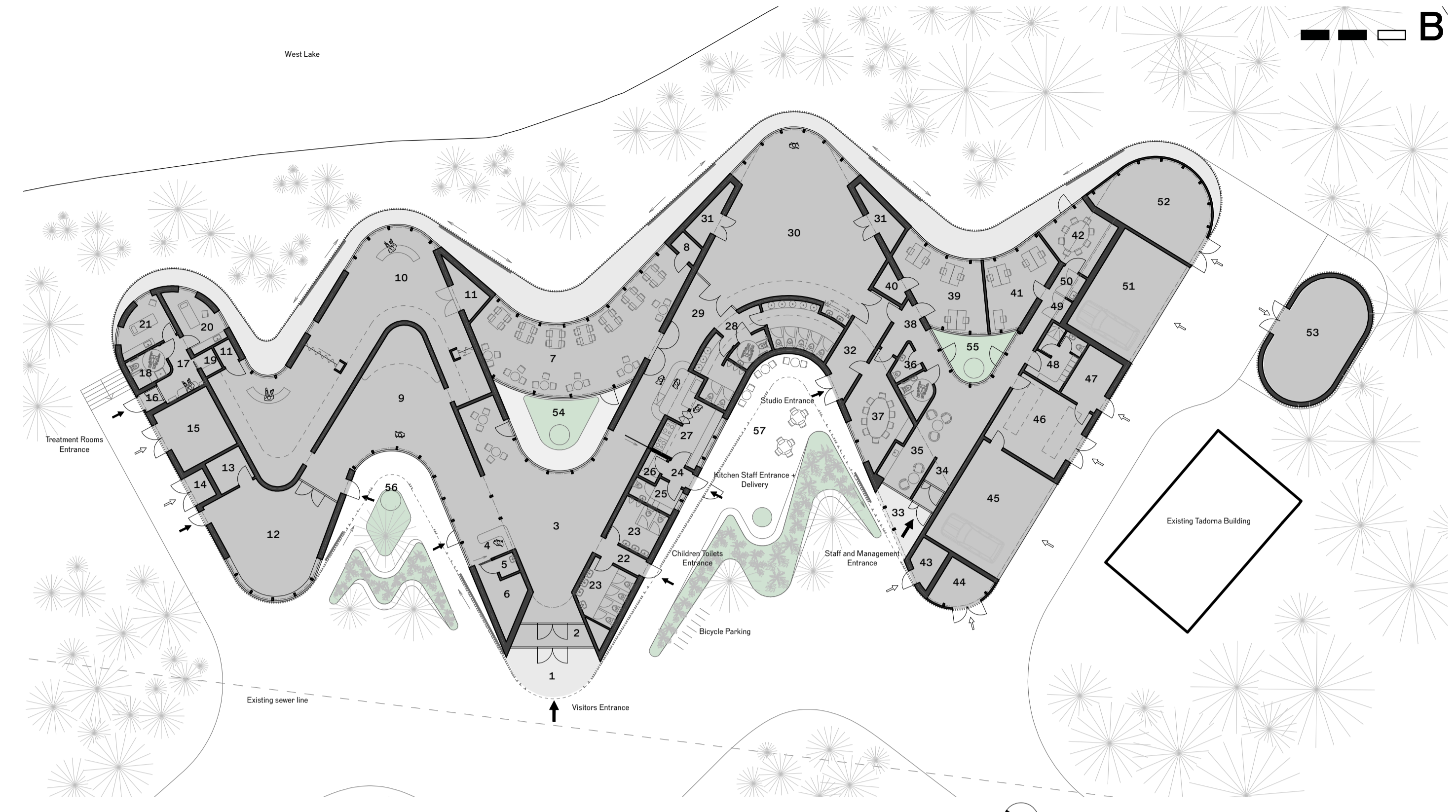
View of the Cafe



View of the Lobby



View of the Studio



Ground Floor Plan Scale 1:250

1	VISITOR CENTRE	
2	Airlock	7.5m ²
3	Entrance Canopy	16.2m ²
4	Lobby + Static Exhibition	83.6m ²
5	Reception	5.8m ²
6	Cleaner Storage	1.7m ²
7	Cloakroom and Children Coats Storage	8.9m ²
8	Cafe	71.1m ²
9	Cafe Storage	2.3m ²
10	Static Exhibition	77.3m ²
11	Dynamic Exhibition	114.5m ²
12	Exhibition Storage	6.5m ²
13	Shop	45.7m ²
14	Shop Storage	5.9m ²
15	Waste Storage 2	3.2m ²
16	Plant Room 2	17.7m ²
17	Treatment Area Entrance	1.9m ²
18	Treatment Area Lobby	7.5m ²
19	Treatment Area Wetroom	5m ²
20	Treatment Area Back of house	1.9m ²
21	Treatment Room 1	9.8m ²
22	Treatment Room 2	9.5m ²
23	Children Toilets Entrance	4.2m ²
24	Children Toilets	21.5m ²
25	Kitchen Staff Entrance	2.1m ²
26	Kitchen Staff Room	15.2m ²
27	Kitchen Storage	2.3m ²
28	Kitchen with Servery	20.2m ²
29	Toilets	34m ²
30	Circulation	21.2m ²
31	Studio	97.7m ²
32	Studio Storage	10m ²
33	Studio Lobby	14.7m ²

33	STAFF AND MANAGEMENT FACILITIES	
34	Staff Entrance Canopy	8.9m ²
35	Staff Entrance Lobby and Airlock	11.5m ²
36	Rest Space and Kichenette	15.6m ²
37	Staff Toilets	2.9m ²
38	Meeting Room	19.6m ²
39	Circulator	30.5m ²
40	Admin Office	27.5m ²
41	Archive	2.9m ²
42	Office	20.2m ²
43	Training Room	13.6m ²
44	Educational Storage	4.9m ²
45	Waste Storage 1	9.7m ²
46	Vehicle Storage	40.5m ²
47	Workshop	27.5m ²
48	Plant Room 1	10m ²
49	Staff Room	10.3m ²
50	Drying Cabinet	1m ²
51	Cleaners Storage	1m ²
52	Vehicle Space	36m ²
53	Timber Store	31.7m ²
54	Energy Center	40m ²

TOTAL GROSS INTERNAL FLOOR AREA 1 221 m²

Materials selection



Cladding

Western Red Cedar relevant for wood cladding, as inherently durable (rated class 2) can be used untreated and avoid toxic runoffs into soil and lake. Left unfinished it will bleach into attractive lustrous silver-grey.



Pounded Earth Floors

Natural hard wearing floors, easy to clean & maintain, soft to the touch, improve acoustics and relieve joint pain, act as a thermal battery, keeping rooms cool in the summer and warm in the winter low cost maintenance and relevant to high traffic areas.



Wooden floors

Larchwood blocks relevant for high traffic areas
Solvent, varnish and VOC-free, finished with natural oil
Age, wear and tear of wood blocks will provide warmth and comfort



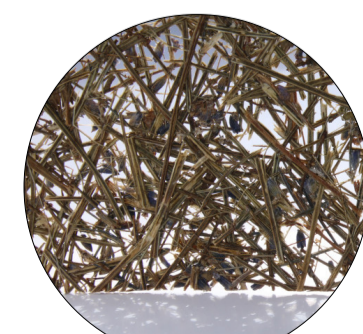
Sikkui Plaster for walls and ceilings

Traditional Japanese natural lime plaster made with up to 50% reprocessed eggshells with humidity regulatory properties, fire-resistant, antistatic and hypoallergenic, naturally controls bacteria, fungi and mould contributing to healthy indoor air quality



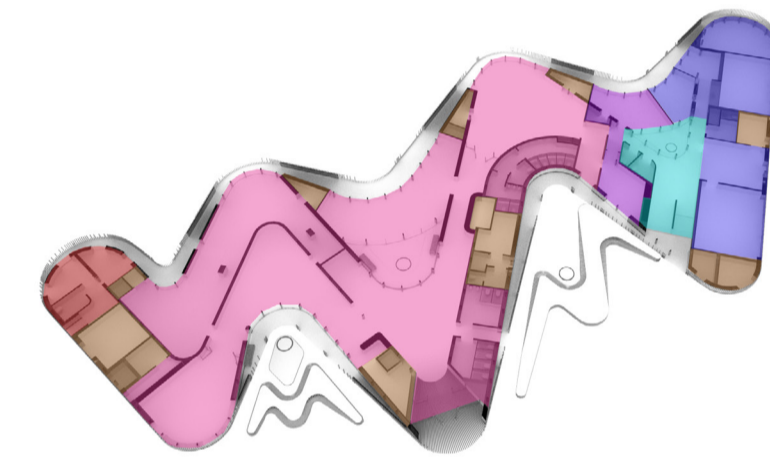
Cork

Sustainably sourced cork is a natural material with excellent acoustic and thermal insulation and fire-resistance



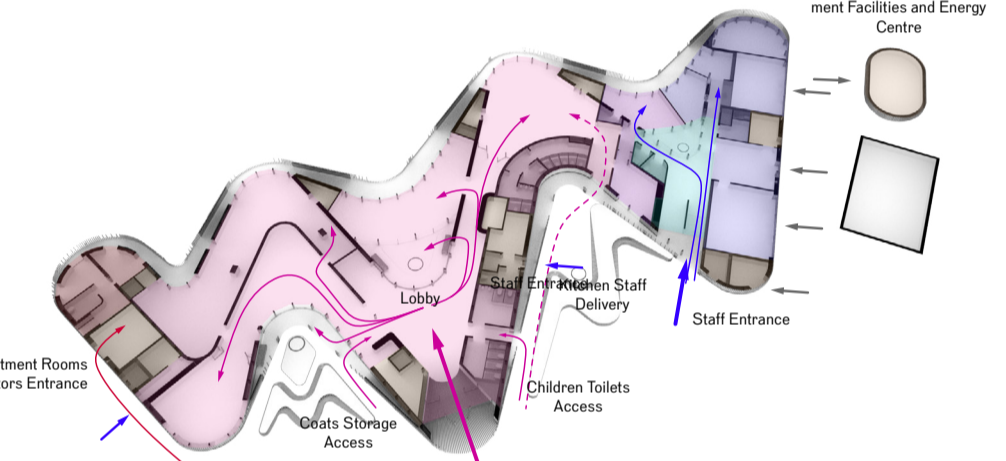
Natural Blinds

Translucent blinds made only from natural raw materials such as hay, lavender or peppermint, with no binding agent, naturally scented. Creates a light and airy effect

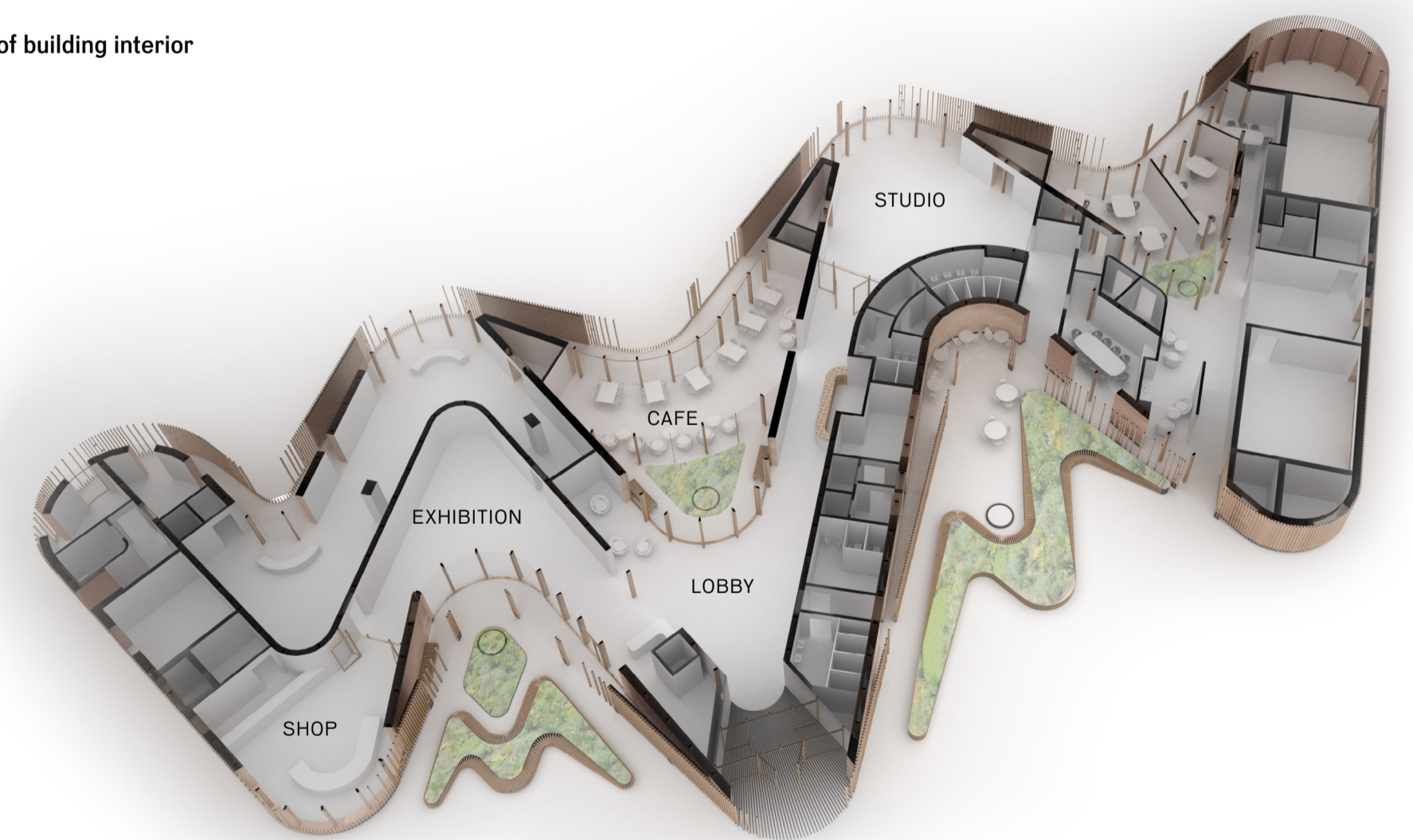


Program Diagram

Perspective view of building interior

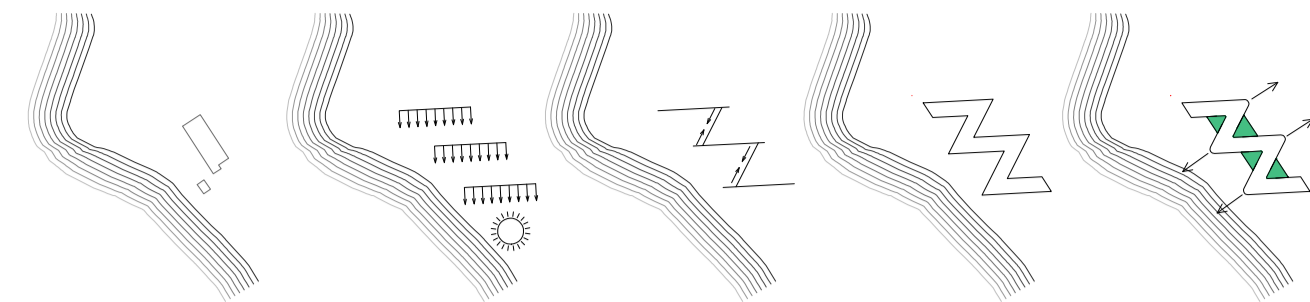


Circulation Diagram



For the new Sevenoaks Nature and Wellbeing Centre, our aim has been to design a space where all people can feel at ease and retreat from their daily stresses to regenerate and nurture their innate connections with nature. Our profound belief is that interacting with Nature, from the act of feeling, contemplating, to the one of exploring is key to mental wellbeing. Our vision has been to create a building that transports people to a wholly new world, a building that exposes people to opportunities to connect with themselves and nature; a building that creates wellbeing.

The visitor centre is a building designed to create physical, physiological and spiritual connections between people and nature. Our inspiration for the plan of the building comes from the serpent, ancient symbol of healing and of 'one is all'. The building shape enables to create visual connections between different rooms and the outdoors. Green courtyards and skylights infuse the atmosphere with natural light and sights. Wherever visitors look in the building, they are surrounded by nature and have a point of contact with the natural reserve.

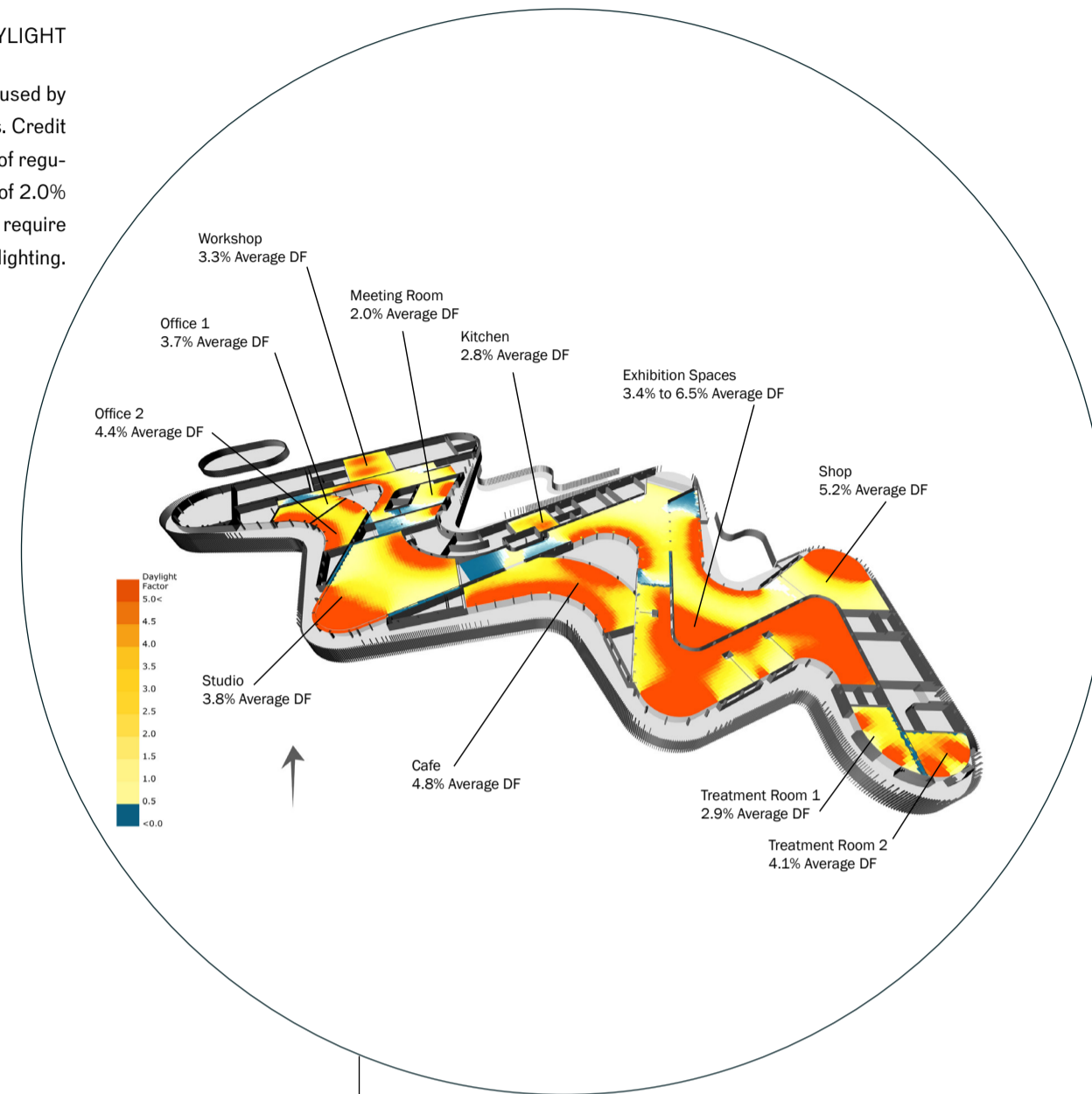


SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

The visitor centre has a thermally efficient envelope and good airtightness and effective solar shading. It is predominantly naturally ventilated and incorporates heat recovery where practical. These features reduce the energy consumption.

COURTYARDS AND GLAZING PROVIDE DAYLIGHT

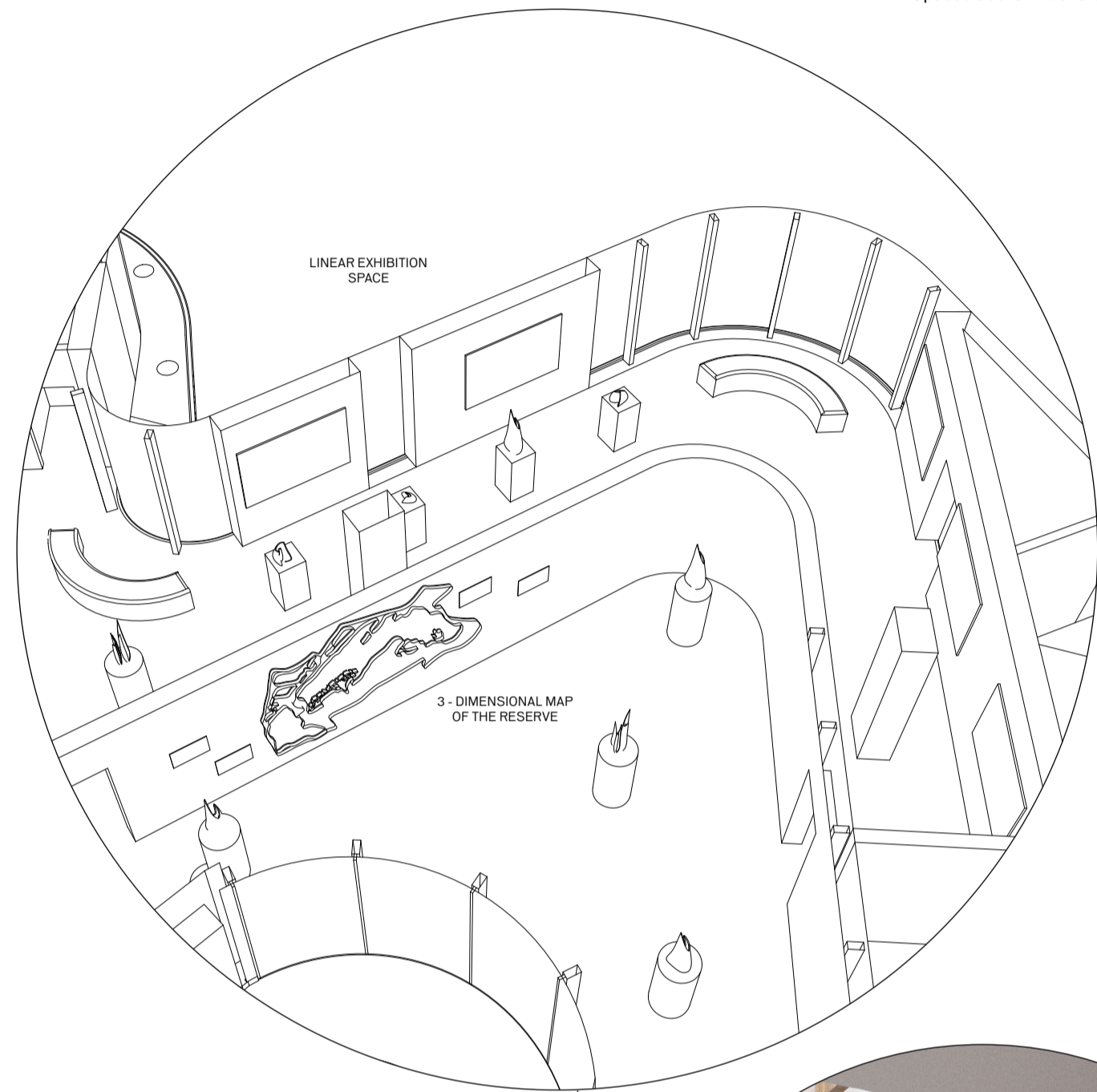
Average Daylight Factor (DF) is an area-weighted metric used by BREEM to quantify daylight availability in indoor spaces. Credit can be earned under BREEM 2018 if more than 80% of regularly occupied spaces exceed the average DF of 2.0%. Spaces above 2% average are considered well-lit and require little artificial lighting.



EXHIBITION DESIGN

Linear continuous shapes of static and dynamic exhibition allow for more surface area for hanging exhibits on a small footprint. Windows in both dynamic and static exhibition spaces face the reserve and outdoor fountain courtyard provide opportunities for looking outside and contemplating nature while navigating through the exhibition.

For the static/permanent exhibition we propose introducing map of the reserve highlighting key attractions and aquatic/migratory bird species. Small screens would transmit live videos showing stories about different species. Including the map as part of the exhibition will encourage the visitors to go out into the reserve and see the wildlife in their natural settings.



PRESENTATION OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Ecosystem services will be integrated to the building and landscape design to provide education on the various ecosystems within the Sevenoaks reserve, e.g. pollination through modular bee observation hives from which visitor centre could even harvest and sell own honey



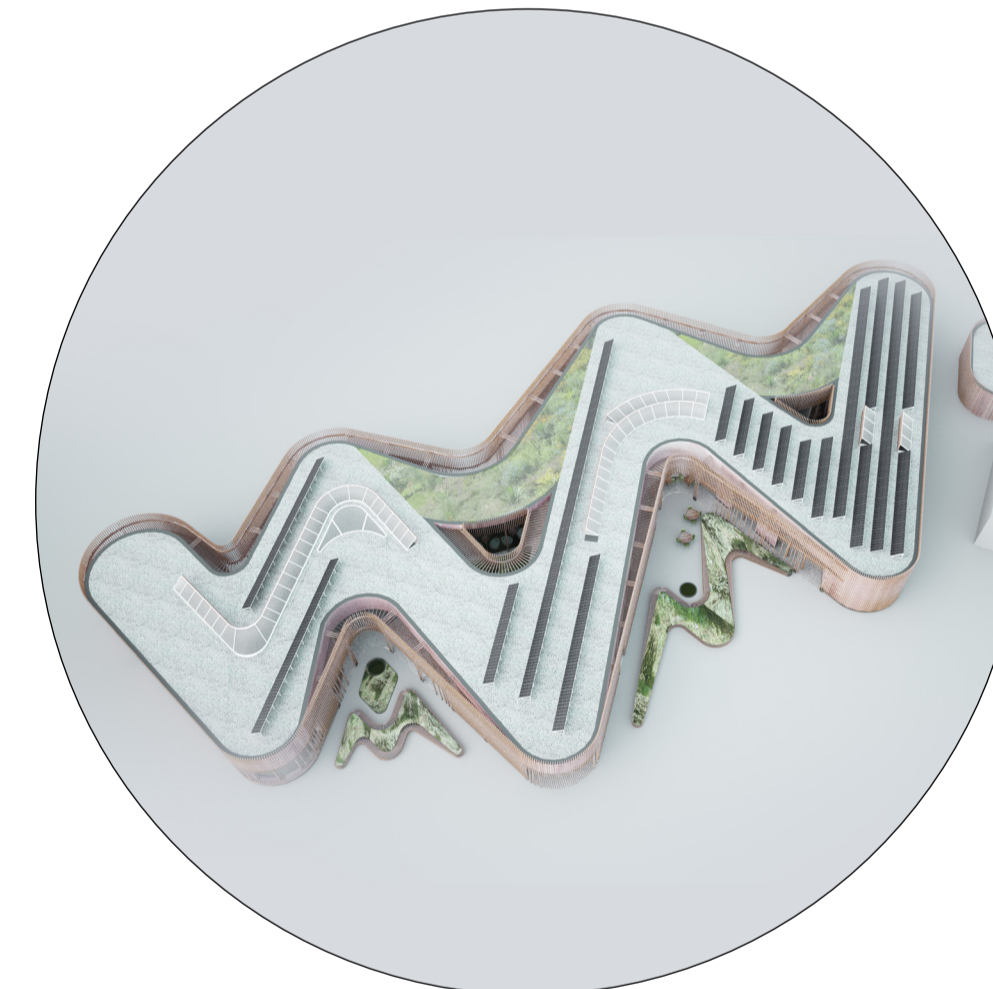
VIEW OF THE DYNAMIC EXHIBITION



BIRD AND BAT BOXES INTEGRATED INTO FACADE OF THE BUILDING

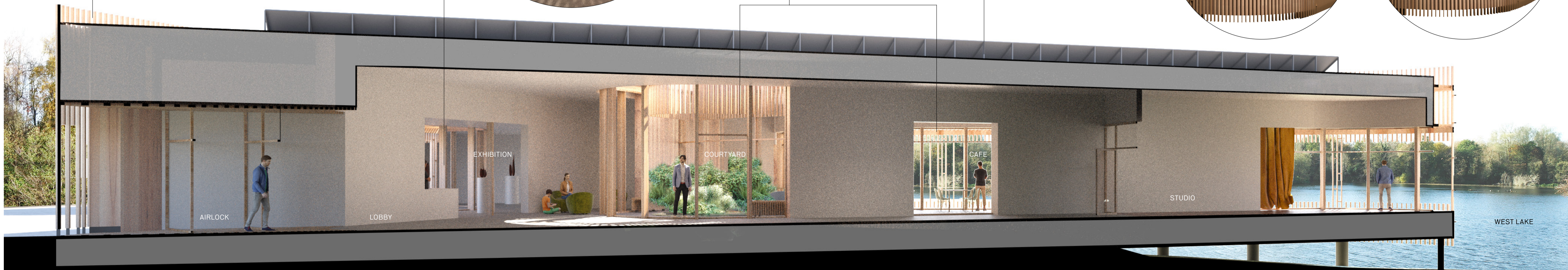
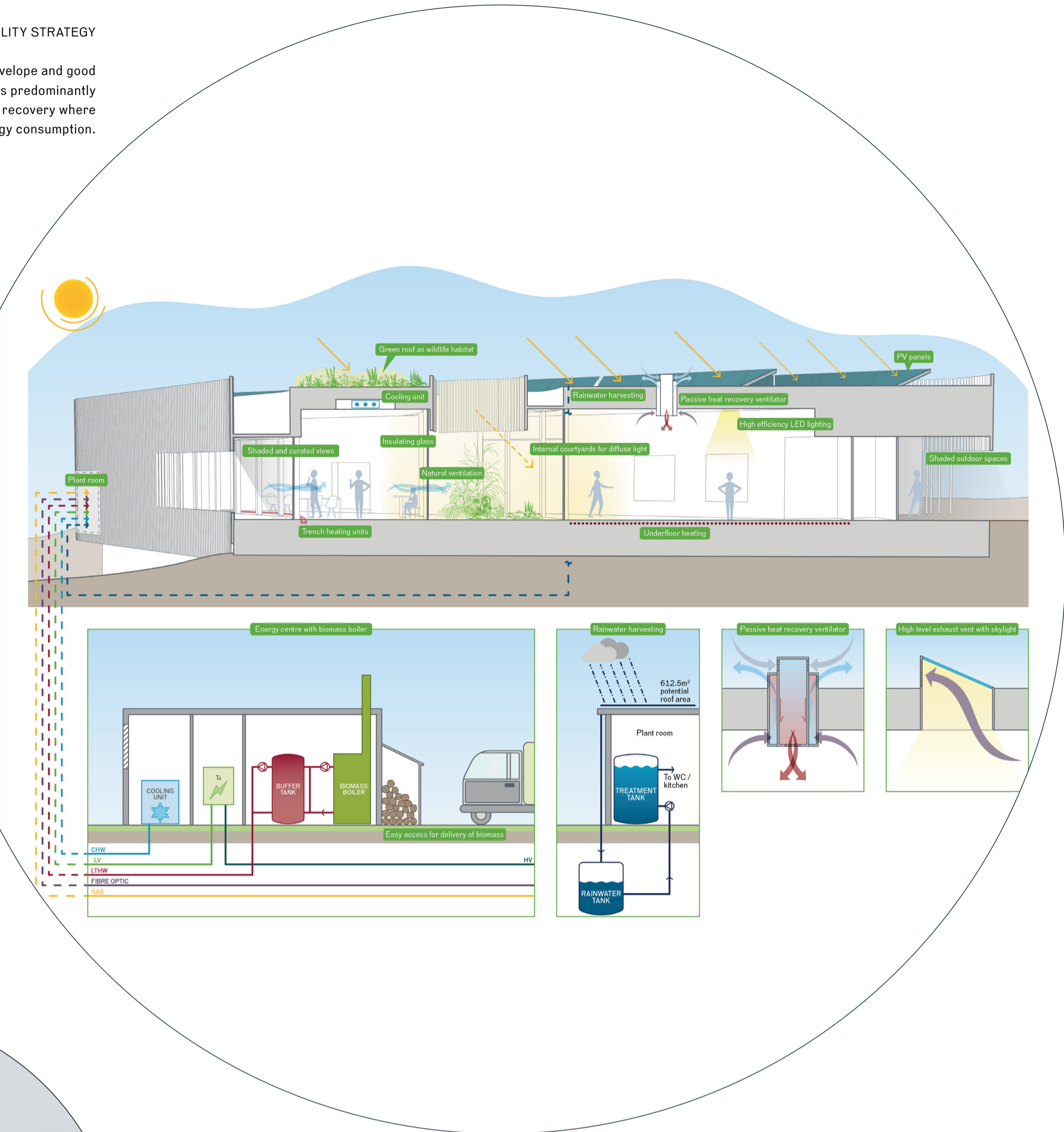
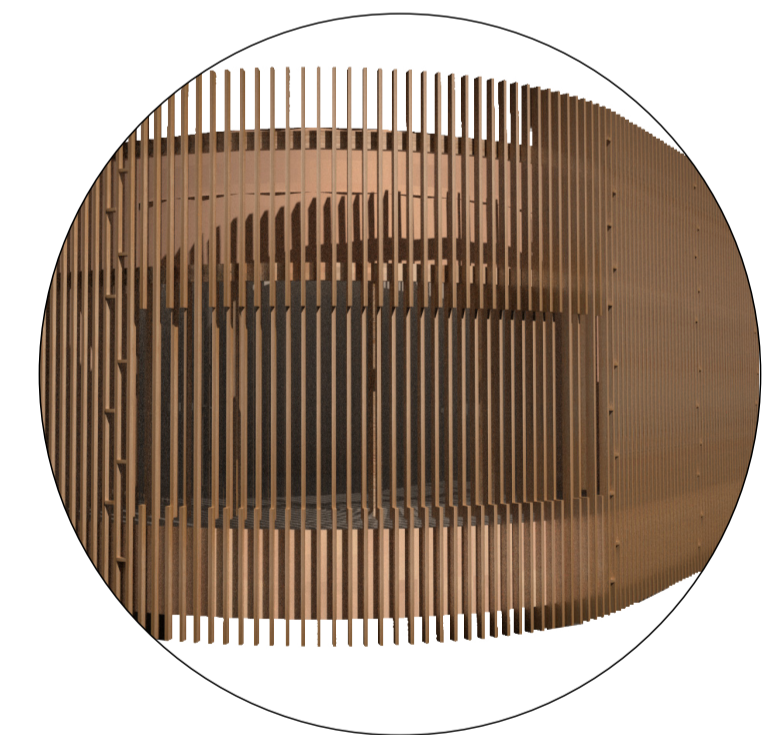
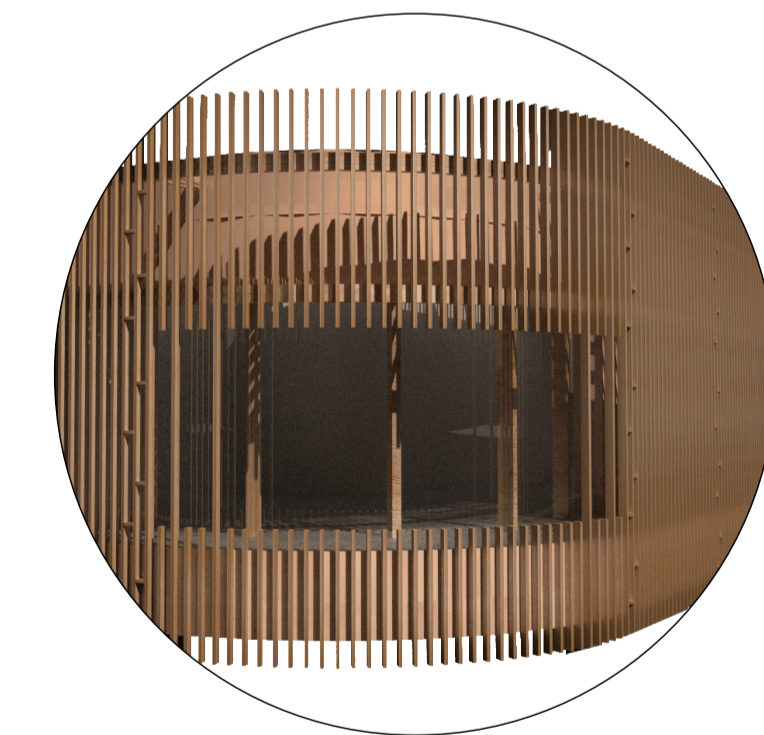
ROOF DESIGN

Roof incorporates south facing PV panels for energy generation, green roof, rain water collection, and skylights to improve daylighting.



MOVABLE LOUVERS

Mobile louvers allow for protecting glazed areas of the facade from overheating, but also provide additional security for the building and prevent from potential acts of vandalism.



Section through Lobby and Studio