

# headspace

multicultural centre for health & emotional wellbeing

process



Thoughts and ideas from the design process for the project have been documented in an online blog format throughout the semester but is presented here for an overview.

See the end of the booklet for a reflection upon the process itself. For easier viewing of pictures in larger formats, please visit the blog:

[www.headspaceprocess.wordpress.com](http://www.headspaceprocess.wordpress.com)

december 26, 2013

## study trip preparation

In advance of the study trip planned to Australia I felt the need to progress further with the preliminary work in order more clearly define a capacity and scale of the project. This would help me to more easily select an appropriate site during my visit and so through the research in to existing case studies and space requirements I derived an approximation for the room sizes and capacities for the project (program link). I hope to return to this program again after visiting some important case studies in Australia.

During my visit to Melbourne I hope to visit the Victoria Clinic Center for Emotional Health & Wellbeing , The Melbourne Clinic and the Prahran Mission. These case studies will hopefully help me gain an even better understanding of how programs are run, their staff and space requirements and common schedules throughout the day for outpatient treatment of depression. I am interested in seeing how the architecture of these centers considers their functions and users, as they, in my opinion, appear to offer the most interesting and diverse approaches to depression, anxiety and wellness treatment within Melbourne. I also hope to visit the Melbourne Natural Wellness Center. This is a center that focuses on physical wellbeing as a catalyst to mental wellbeing, and also claims to specialise in helping people recover from depression.

Additionally, I wish to visit and document some areas of Melbourne of cultural interest and diversity while paying visits to some of the many various places of worship that are found in the city.

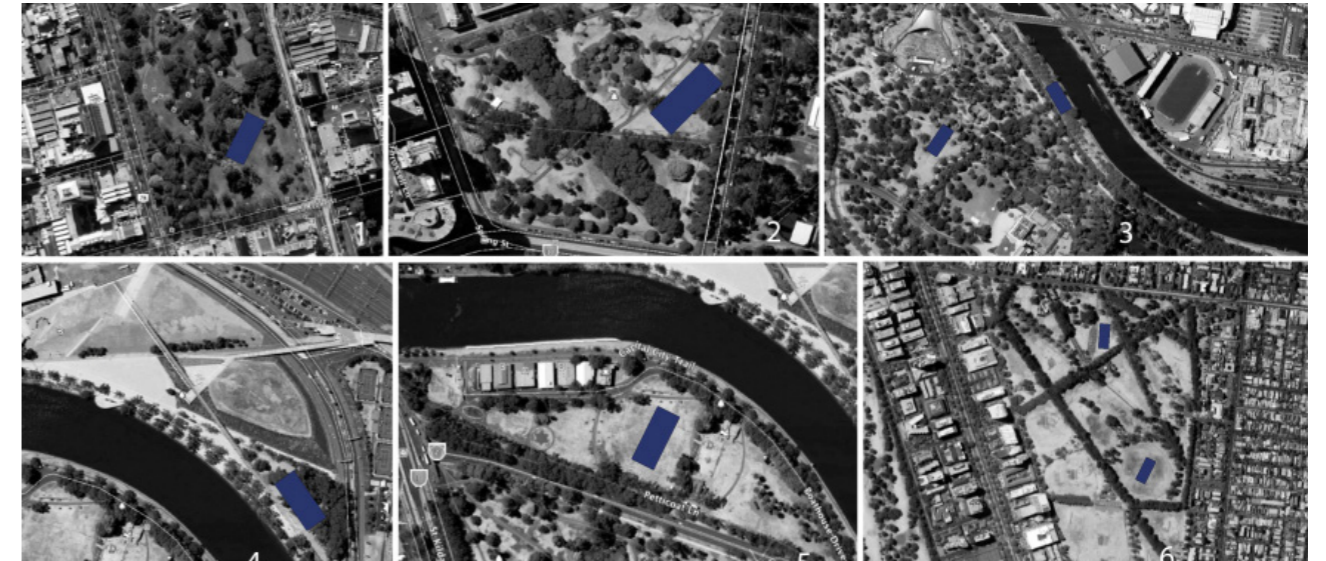


The most important mission for the study trip, however, will be to select a site for the project according to the necessary qualities I had previously set out. The biggest challenge in this regard will be to find a site that balances the requirements for privacy and wellness within a natural landscape, with the surrounding (pedestrian) activity wanted for the more informal and public parts of the center. It is important to encourage general interest in the center and promote a less formal or isolated setting than that of the often stigmatized institution, and in this regard a central rather than remote location is preferred. The decision to locate the center centrally is also supported by that the young and ethnically diverse population of Melbourne is statistically seen to live within the CBD and its close surroundings. I therefore hope to start the site research by investigating more centrally located green areas before moving to the periphery of the center. Choosing a site that is central yet does not inhibit the qualities of space, nature and privacy will not work, and I believe the best way to judge this will be to firstly experience a variety of areas by walking in the city, as this immediately provides a much better judgement than looking at maps.

To give myself a better understanding of site requirements in terms of space, I tried locating the footprint of the project (2000m<sup>2</sup>) on some potential sites I hope to explore further. This gives a quick and easy impression of how the project would take up space in the surroundings.

Some considerations for site selection:

- presence of greenery/natural landscape
- presence of water
- presence of pedestrian activity
- proximity to central locations (places of worship, medical centers, educational facilities, cultural facilities)
- surrounding activities (level/type of events hosted in area)
- planning and heritage overlays for site and surroundings
- ease of access from center/surrounding suburbs
- general beauty of site and scenery
- presence of noise and disturbance



january 5th, 2014

## site scouting in central melbourne

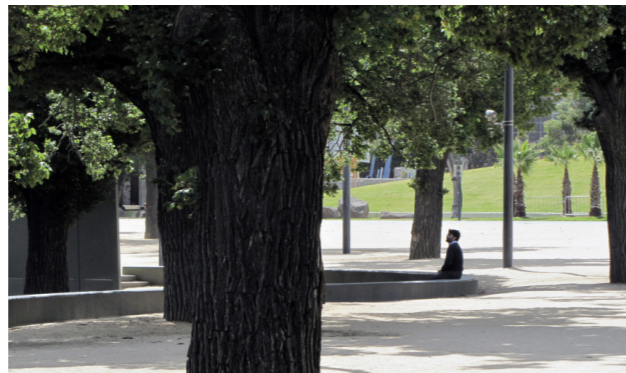
After settling in to the Australian summer I was excited to begin the search for a good project site and had decided to start the search from the center outward as distances to surrounding areas generally felt much greater in real life than what had initially appeared to me through the map and picture research. Although I knew certain parts of Melbourne already, many of the areas I had noted as potential were previously unexplored by me.

My general opinion after the day was that the most formally organized (many Victorian) inner city parks, although some decent in scale, did not suit the brief for the project. Placing the project within a park can be justified as long as it contributes more than it takes, and I did not feel that this was true in these cases. I was looking for central areas of greenery, yet lower activity levels and more space, when I finally went to look at Birrarung Marr. This is a park area developed by architects and finished in 2002 and resulted from the reorganisation of infrastructure and land uses near Federation Square, Melbourne's civic center and cultural precinct, one of the largest and most active squares in the city center. The Birrarung Marr area is interesting as it provides an immediate escape from the busy city life simply by making you round the corner or cross the pedestrian bridges now spanning across the rail lines between the business district, the sport stadiums and the park itself. The park area is more developed and feels much more expansive than expected, and it is striking how the activity level is so comfortably low on a Saturday afternoon in summer, while people are gathering like ants in other parts of the city. The park creates pedestrian connections between areas of the city that were not previously there, but manages to appear calm and separated nonetheless.



## usefull links and planning maps

Conversations with locals and my own experience tells me that the area generally has a low activity level regardless of it's central location, and that this might be partially due to its lack of attraction points and large expanses of open grass/bush land. A central open area for recreation and informal leisure is valued in any city, however, Melbourne is not generally a city in lack of space and therefore has many attractive areas as such to offer. The Federation Square is a large central open square which according to architects only just works in terms of filling its size. Plans to develop further leisure areas on and along the river and adjacent train station precinct were previously dismissed due to that these proposals would retract activity from Federation Square. I see the Birrarung Marr area as a potential site for my project as I feel it has the right amount of pedestrian activity, proximity to central locations as well as large areas of unused space. The project has the potential to contribute to public life more than it takes in this area.



Information from planning authorities in Melbourne was easy to obtain online and the city of Melbourne also publishes visions and strategies for many of the areas of interest. I decided to collect some links for easy reference:

City of Melbourne:  
[melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au)

City of melbourne maps:  
[maps.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://maps.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

Planning overlays, contour maps (interactive):  
[services.land.vic.gov.au/maps/mpmo.jsp](http://services.land.vic.gov.au/maps/mpmo.jsp)

Planning schemes, heritage overlays (interactive):  
[services.land.vic.gov.au/maps/pmo.jsp](http://services.land.vic.gov.au/maps/pmo.jsp)

planning schemes (pdfs):  
[planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/schemes/melbourne](http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/schemes/melbourne)

History of planning (pdfs):  
[dpcd.vic.gov.au/planning/plansandpolicies/planningformelbourne/planninghistory](http://dpcd.vic.gov.au/planning/plansandpolicies/planningformelbourne/planninghistory)

Melbourne planning schemes are especially useful for understanding the development and existing structures surrounding potential sites:  
PLANNING SCHEME

janyuary 6th, 2014

## the yarra bend and royal park precincts

After exploring some inner city areas I was interested in comparing the atmosphere observed there to that of the areas of interest that were located somewhat further out from the center. I first visited the green areas surrounding the Yarra Bend, which is located about 2km north-east of the CBD. Upon arrival I experienced that the immediate surroundings were primarily dominated by residences, some apparently more upper class and facing the Yarra river. I also noticed several cafes and little shops scattered around the main avenues leading up to the Yarra. The expansive green and recreational areas that constitute the Yarra Bend park were quite impressive and this certainly felt like a space one would like to escape to on a weekend outing away from the hustling city life. The park was on a Sunday afternoon filled with people who appeared to be mostly Australian and possibly local, either walking their dogs, going for a run or cycle trip with their families, or simply enjoying the sun. My overall impression of the site is that the area is one of great natural beauty and healing character though unfortunately too remote and local for the benefit of my project as I am scouting for an area that will provide easier access for a younger and more diverse crowd. As the project will not provide inpatient treatment these points are equally important to the natural beauty and feel of the site.



The Royal Gardens and surrounding areas form large expanses of parkland north of the CBD, some of which is allocated for sports and other functions and some that is primarily open grassland. While the area has much free space for potential development, as is already occurring in some areas, I find the sites I saw less interesting for the project due to the feeling of being disconnected from the pedestrian areas of the center by heavy car traffic from surrounding suburbs entering in to the CBD. The main use of the area appeared to be for fitness and running, with convenient footpaths running parallel to the roads surrounding the green areas. Some pedestrian activity was also observed, and it seemed as though patients of the nearby hospital were taking advantage of the areas for Sunday strolls.





january 14th, 2014

## melbourne south-east precincts

Next on the list of potential areas to investigate was Melbourne's south-east precincts, including Fawkner and Albert park. Located slightly further from the CBD the areas are surrounded by some smaller commercial development mixed with housing, as well as some existing medical facilities, including the Royal Albert Hospital.

Fawkner park had been of interest due to its large expanses of open space primarily zoned for low-activity recreation. When walking there by foot it felt quite distant from the hustling and diverse life experienced in the CBD, and I noticed that the park was visited especially by business men out on lunch, dog walkers and patients from the nearby hospital. The park itself is vast yet strictly organised in to pathways lined by trees. Albert park is visited by several of the same users as well as golfers and others who come to participate in the more active recreation, like yachting, that takes place in this area. While both Fawkner and Albert park present plenty of open space to potentially locate the project, I am noticing a loss of interest in the idea of choosing a site in the middle of an open grassland or a formally organised park. Although both sites present some great natural beauty and could potentially suit the brief, I am receiving little inspiration from either of these, as well as the other sites visited, that could give me a pointer as to what would be the right area to move forward with. I am starting to question more strongly what it is I am searching for or whether or not my expectation of some immediate inspiration is unrealistic.



january 15th, 2014

## botanical gardens and alexandra park

The Royal Botanic Gardens of Melbourne, located on the south bank of the Yarra river, are internationally renowned. They are 38 hectares of landscaped gardens consisting of a mix of native and exotic vegetation including over 10,000 individual species. While it is undoubtedly one of the most idyllic yet centrally located places in Melbourne, I was uncertain of the idea that my project could belong here. The gardens are extremely vast, and have their own purpose and use. While several different types of building functions are located within the garden already, some even entirely private, I do not see the project attracting the right type of activity hidden among the deep forested areas here. The park is primarily visited by tourists on vacation or locals who have planned a trip there on their day off. The type of 'informal drop-in' would therefore only occur if the project could be suitably located along one of the edges of the gardens, however, upon visit I feel unable to see the potential in this, or how if so I would go about choosing a random spot for development. 'Attaching' the project to this garden is not my favorite option as its scale gives the project little identity of its own.



Alexandra park is separated from the botanic gardens by a car road and faces the south side of the Yarra. Like Birrarung Marr, directly opposite on the North side, this park presents a large and attractive green area in a very central and interesting spot. Birrarung Marr, due to its interesting execution and connection to the city, had originally remained my favorite potential site. However, regardless of how quiet the parks are on a daily basis, it appears after some further research that both Birrarung Marr and Alexandra park are areas designated for the hosting of major events on occasion. The realisation of this quickly out rules my interest in these areas for the project. Giving further consideration to the consequence of claiming such central site has me concluding that a site too central will place requirements of capacity beyond the scale of my project. Proposing a new character for an area with a current intended use would require a larger project proposal for an even wider audience. Perhaps do I need to consider further the limitations of users and capacity in relation to site and size of the project?



january 17th, 2014

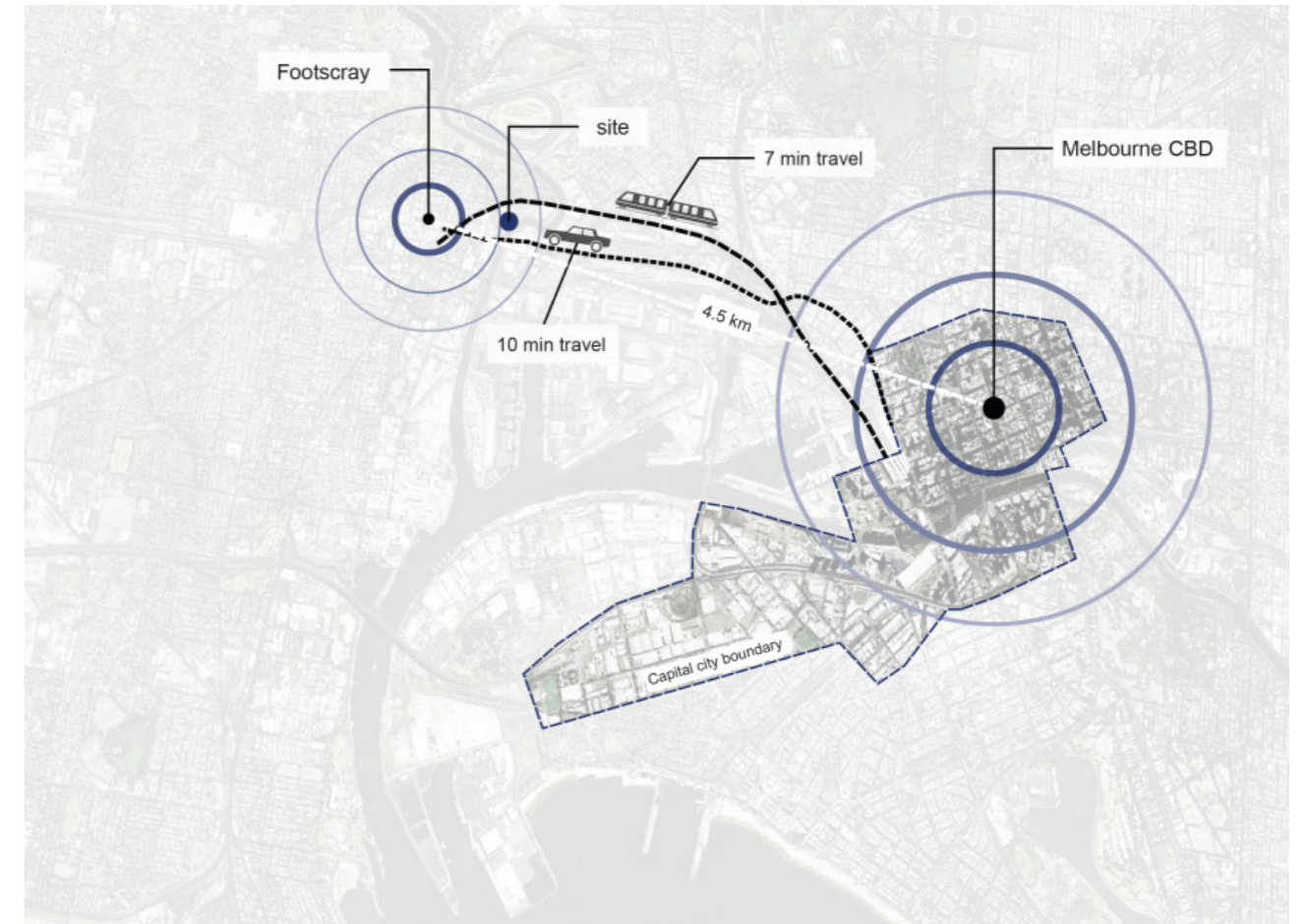
## current site selection challenges

Having visited all the areas of current interest without having reached a feeling of contentedness with either of them, I frustratingly see the need to compromise or to consider a different alternative. I am unsure of whether or not what I wish to achieve is clear to myself and what exactly would be the most important parameters to consider in regards to settling on an area in the city. I feel that a satisfying site is extremely important for the further development of the project, yet that the ideal situation may potentially only exist in my head, or more likely, not be logically or clearly defined. The question of location in terms of activity on and around the site combined with the preference of some secluded nature and beauty are hard to agree upon.

january 18th, 2014

## the suburban center of footscray

After encountering some frustrations in the search for the most appropriate site for the project I finally feel as though my decision to reconsider some of the parameters have paid off. My many visits to potential sites and extensive walks around the city and its surrounding areas has helped me to gain a better understanding of the context. The type of activity that takes place in different areas is, as pointed out before, especially important for choosing a site and was also clearly best experienced first hand. After visiting the suburban centre of Footscray and completing some further backup research on the area later, I was convinced that this would be the most relevant area within which to locate a site. Upon my second visit to the area I did indeed also manage to locate a spot which would seem to fit all of the requirements I had previously set.



Footscray has historically functioned as a working quarter in close connection with the harbour industries directly west of the Maribyrnong river and has over the years seen successive waves of immigration move in. Footscray is characterised by a very diverse, multicultural central shopping area and is home to around 14000 inhabitants, some who work in Footscray and some who commute daily to Melbourne CBD. Footscray is close to the centre of Melbourne and extremely well connected by public transport. Due to this the area is today under radical transformation and developers are moving in from across Melbourne with propositions to increase the urban character of Footscray while providing for the expectancy that population will double by 2030. Footscray is rich in diverse culture while its industrial heritage shines through on many levels. These are values that the council denotes and preservation worthy for the future of the area. The fact that so many culturally and linguistically diverse Australians reside and work here makes Footscray a natural choice as a focus area for my project seeing as these have been my main target group from the beginning. Additionally, I am pleased with the idea to focus on a sub centre rather than the centre of Melbourne itself. After some deliberation this seems much more appropriate for the scale of the indented project and allows me to maintain a community feel and character to its development while recognising that Footscray's proximity to Melbourne CBD means that the project has potential to draw visitors from here as well.



january 20th, 2014

## encountering the site in footscray

Upon my first visit to Footscray I had taken note of the large open green areas on the map following the Maribyrnong river and had been interested to explore these in more detail. I had visited the large park landscape of Footscray park where I saw some potential for the project. It had large open areas and some previous recreational functions such as a wedding pavilion and boat club. The area is in close proximity to the Victoria university campus and surrounding housing neighbourhoods, but seemed slightly disconnected from the centre of Footscray due to the large road passing between the two.

On my second visit to Footscray, however, I made a walk down to the riverside precinct east of the train station before continuing north along the river. The riverside was close to the central commercial district but with a very relaxed and calming atmosphere. An impressive image of the skyline of Melbourne fronted by industries directly across the river can be seen when descending the hill from the centre towards this area. I took note of several real estate boards proposing new development in the area. A master plan poster shows a vision of developing the area in to a commercial marina with increased pedestrian activity and leisure activities. The first thing that stroke me about this area was the presence of a railway line directly aligned with the river front. As I decided to follow this line north up the river, however, I soon discovered it is an unused one. At some point the railway line diverges from the bicycle and running track that follows the river and instead continues in to a forested area.



The line is more and more overgrown by grass as you follow its trail until it stops and you can glimpse the main train line between Melbourne and Footscray in the distance. The rail line is an element of curiosity and I immediately strike a liking to it. Walking around the area I find myself in a surprisingly calm place surrounded by trees. The high level of birds song surrounding me reminds me that I am close to the wildlife sanctuary situated north of the railway line. The density of the trees clear at some point and I discover an open grassed area with a large beautiful tree at the centre. Judging by the abandoned sofa chair and beer cans next to it it seems obvious that someone else has taken a liking of the retreat of this place before me. I immediately have a good feeling about this place and am excited to explore further. Up the small hills framing the west of the site I find a large grassed, fenced area connected to the road network and nearby bridge crossing the river towards Melbourne. The surrounding precinct is dominated by closed industrial sites and parking lots. Large billboards tell me that much of the area is for sale. It seems as though these plots of land will in the future be dominated by mixed use and high density housing. As I walk down the site towards the river I follow the walking trail until I get to a very particular location, namely the Heavenly Queen Buddhist temple complex, a peculiar yet somehow magnificent structure to be found in Australia, and one I had myself taken note of several times on the train in and out of Melbourne.

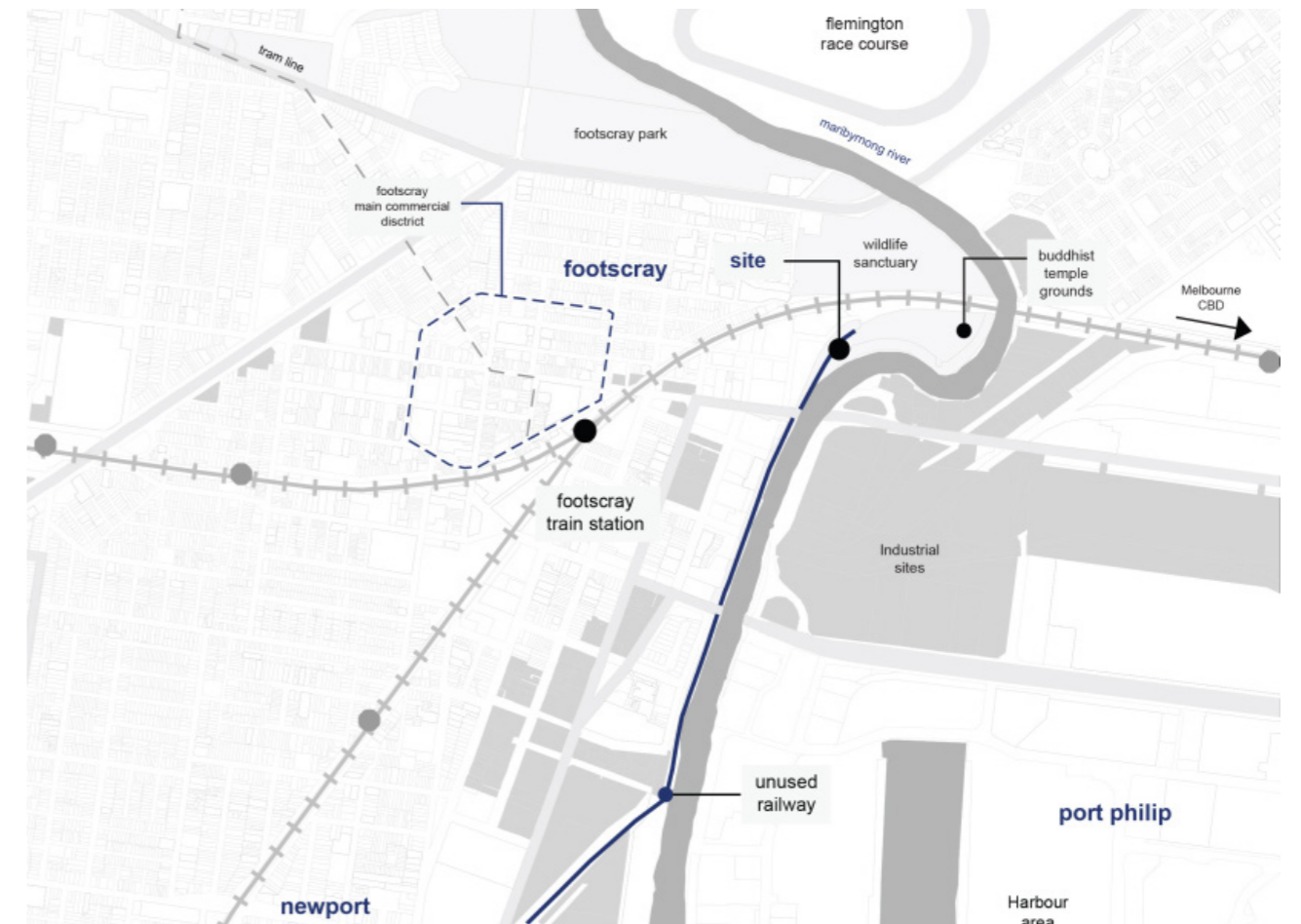
The temple grounds were not presently open, although I had heard of special events being hosted here before. The temple itself, and the massive gold statue of the heavenly queen has been financed by donations and shipped from china, and it appears the process of completing this project has dragged out over many years. After photographing and exploring the area further I was ready to head home to digest my impressions and research about the area before returning for another visit. I felt content that I had found an area that inspires my imagination and that also feels right in terms of activity levels, access and surrounding functions with regards to the project.





After returning from the study trip I had much information to digest and to take further for the development of the project. The selection of a good site had been most important, and while I had been able to research and obtain information about the area during several visits while in Australia I now felt the need to collect and review what I have to be able to complete a good site analysis as foundation for the project. As the site is located in an area of current transition and I did not previously know much about Footscray itself, some time during the initial days were spend obtaining and reading information on development plans, future master and structure plans, as well as digging up some statistics and general information on the area. Retrieving the proper mapping material proved slightly more complicated than expected, and thus quite some hours were spend looking for and preparing these for the further modeling and analysis of the area and site.

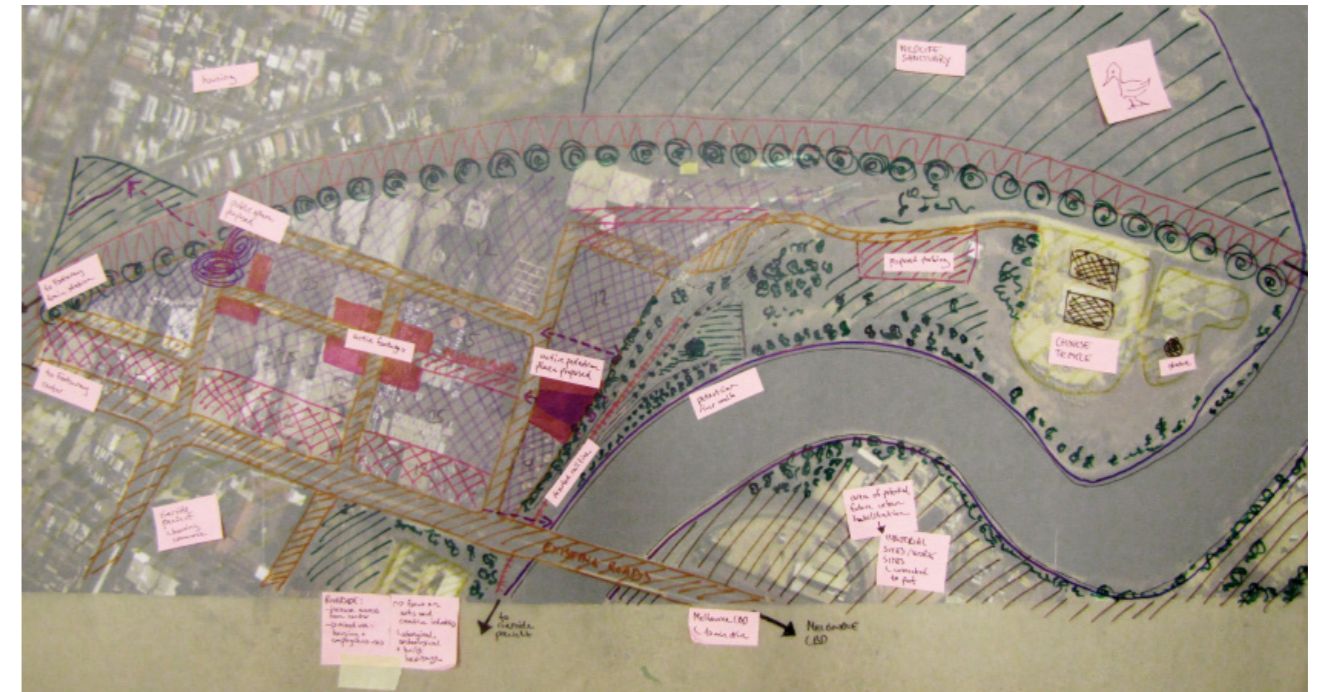
I was interested to read about the industrial and workers history of Footscray and its people in order to understand where this town is at today. Especially the future plans for Footscray are of interest to the areas surrounding the site as the Joseph road precinct north of it is zoned as priority development. It is expected and visioned that the central commercial districts in Footscray will extend further towards the riverside in the future and that the area directly west of the site will become part of the central city core, providing a mix of housing, employment and commerce. This is important to consider when proposing a project close to this area, however I feel that the increase in activity can complement the project as well as the other way



around. My vision to maintain a human scale in this project, for which I have pictured a maximum of two storeys, works well with its context close to the river, with larger, and denser development towards the back. The project is of a public nature and could merge well with the proposed mixed use development and wish for recreational activity along the waterfront. The vision for the Maribyrnong river is in this area one that marks the transition of a natural river in to one of increased urban character, reflecting its industrial heritage and this can be taken in to consideration as well as inspiration for the project. A balance between natural and urban is exactly what I have been looking for in terms of context, and I find it incredibly important to work with connectivity, movement patters and different activity spheres surrounding the project. As outlined in the preliminary work, generate the right type and amount of interest in a treatment centre of this sort is very important for the outcome of how it will be viewed and used. The identity created in the project is something I hope to keep present in mind throughout the process.

Some key words to remember about the river character:

- industrial heritage
- working heritage
- indigenous heritage
- commercial marina at south Footscray
- linked parkland
- small scale cafes
- visitor facilities
- community values/enhance community engagement
- views of Melbourne skyline
- recreational boating
- access to trail networks important



analysis around the site

During the detailed study of the site and its immediate context I have tried to identify anything that may inform or influence the project as well as whereabouts and how it should be located within the large site. Through mapping I look in to the different connectors, main axes, surrounding activities and attraction points. How to relate the project to future development is important and whether of not, or if so, how, I decide to relate to the new axes and pedestrian connectors proposed by the Footscray structure plan. The site can be approached by vehicle access to the west and by pedestrian passerby to the east. I find this beneficial in terms of connecting the project on both sides. I also try to define some treasures and deficiencies within the area and hope to look further in to possible responses to each of these. I view the existing train line as well as the impressive landscape and large tree on site as treasures I wish to preserve and work with extensively in the project. The river itself, the bird song and breeze between the trees are natural features that enhance the pleasantness of the site for the type of project. Having access to open green areas immediately surrounding the project is a great asset, and so is the proximity to the wild life reserve, Buddhist temple grounds and future Chinese gardens to be developed north of the site. Additionally, I view the existing pedestrian activity as well as vehicle access to the area as great advantages that should be exploited well. In terms of deficiencies I need to consider both the benefits and obstacles presented by the future development in terms of space, access and activity. The proximity of large road networks and train line should be considered in terms of the sheltering from noise and pollution.



circulation analysis



zoning analysis

january 28th, 2014

## treasures on the site

I have a strong feeling not to ignore the presence of the deserted train line on the site. It is what lured me in and what lead me to the site initially, and I question whether or not it could be used as a way to generate a pedestrian link between the project and the city's central riverside precinct. There is intriguing about the way it follows the walking train and then disappears in to the woods. I hope it can remain as an element of curiosity as it is today, leading the way, somewhere. A train line symbolizes journey in most cultures, and I would be interested in investigating its use as exactly this, in some reinvented way. Leading from more urban quarters and in to the woods the train line also represents a sense of transition. Perhaps can I take advantage of this to further the transition in activity from active to more quiet areas? To get my imagination running I had a look at if I could find some possible ideas for conversion of old train lines.

Another exciting element I feel the need to respond to in some way or another is the large tree on site. The walk through the forest before arriving at a clearing where this 'tree of Eden' stands right in the centre is an experience I found extremely pleasurable an exciting on site, as so I hope to maintain, enhance, or respect this feeling throughout the development of the project. The tree marks the a centre or focal point within the area, which is important to consider. To not limit my self at the start of the project I investigate a number of possible responses to this.

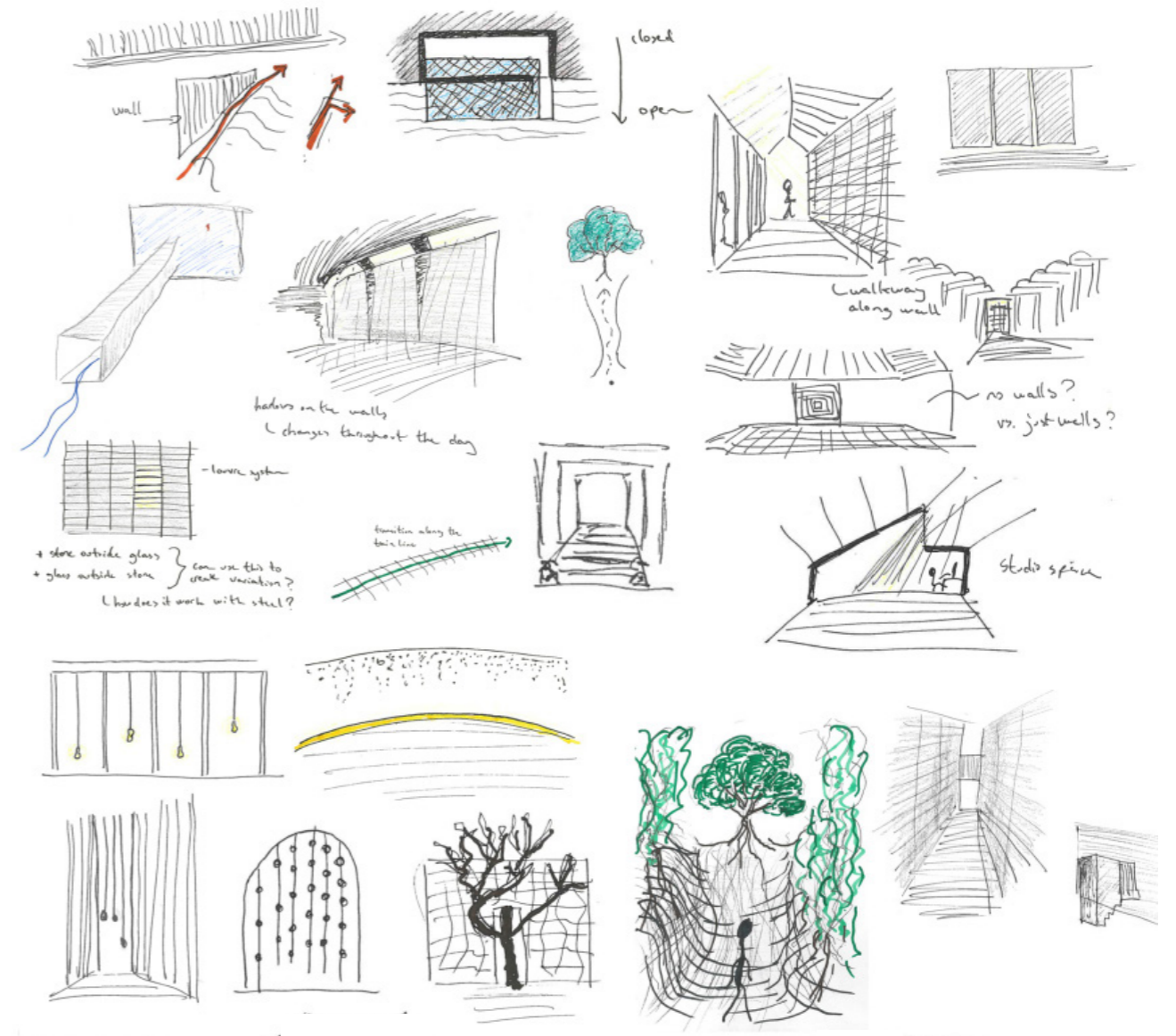




february 1st, 2014

## concepts of atmosphere, materiality and lighting

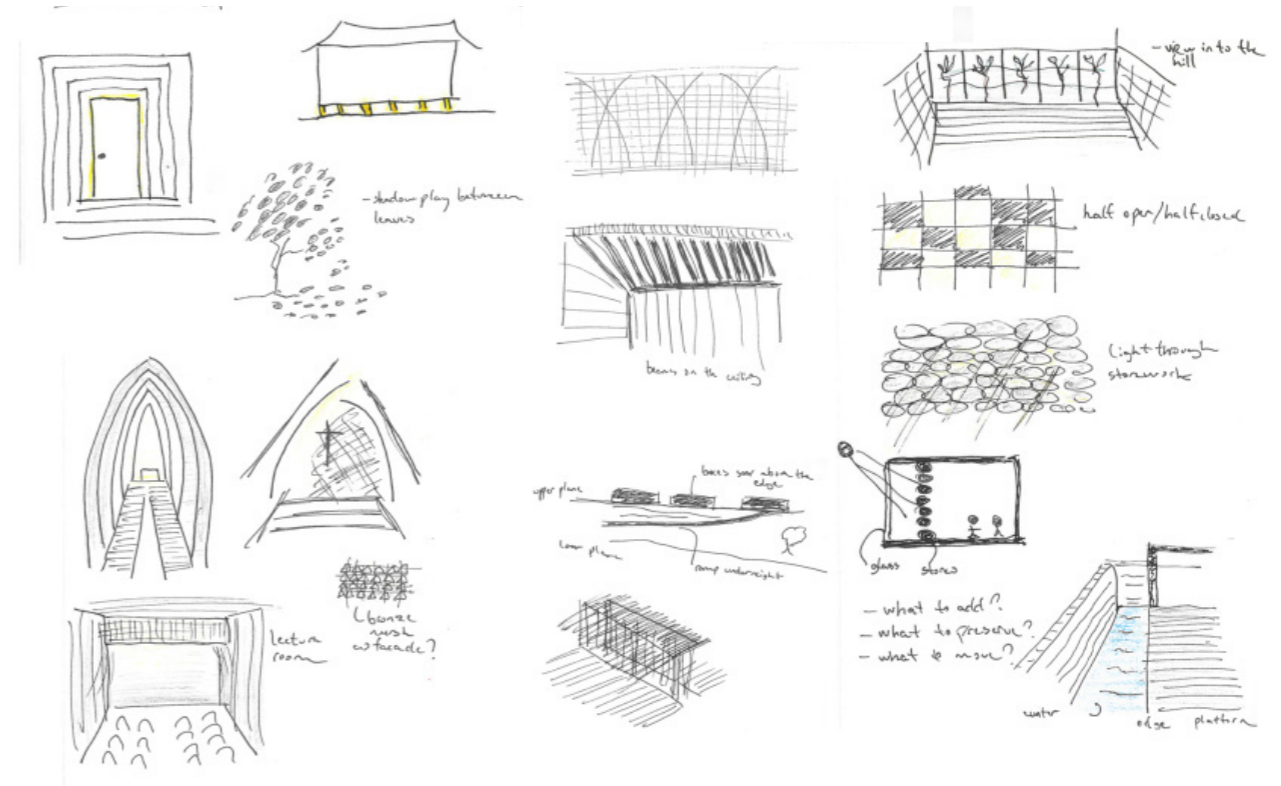
After learning about the site and considering all of its parameters I felt the need to get some inspiration in order to get in to the design process and define some concepts of what is important in the project. I therefore commenced by submerging myself in to the aspects of the project that I find most exciting or inspiring. I feel as though some of the most important architectural tools that will help determine my project are the use and mediation of materiality and lighting. The elements of contrast and change between lightness and darkness, open and closed spaces, will be central in the project and especially exciting to work with. People with depression experience emotional needs that vary between extremes from one instance to another and so the project should be able to accommodate all of those extremes. Different requirements are set for a place to be alone, a place to be social, a place to discuss, a place to relax, or a place to concentrate. More so than the brightly lit rooms of a clinic, I believe that the variety of space, materiality and lighting has the power to stimulate the senses.



Initial thoughts on materiality:

In terms of materials I hope to use these to differentiate between different parts of the project while still maintaining a unity of sorts. Patterning and lighting is something I am especially interested in. I am curious about the use of metals and iron. These are widely used in Australia and relate to the industrial heritage of Footscray. They have a lot of potential in terms of detailing, perforation and lighting. I imagine this material used to create a delicate rather than rough appearance for the project. I imagine the physical treatment component to be bound to the earth, and to be expressed as the most heavy part, while the spiritual part becomes the lightest and most delicate, connected to the sky. The area for psychotherapy, a place to concentrate, and the space for arts therapy, a place to be create, can also be expressed with different attitudes depending on materiality and lighting.

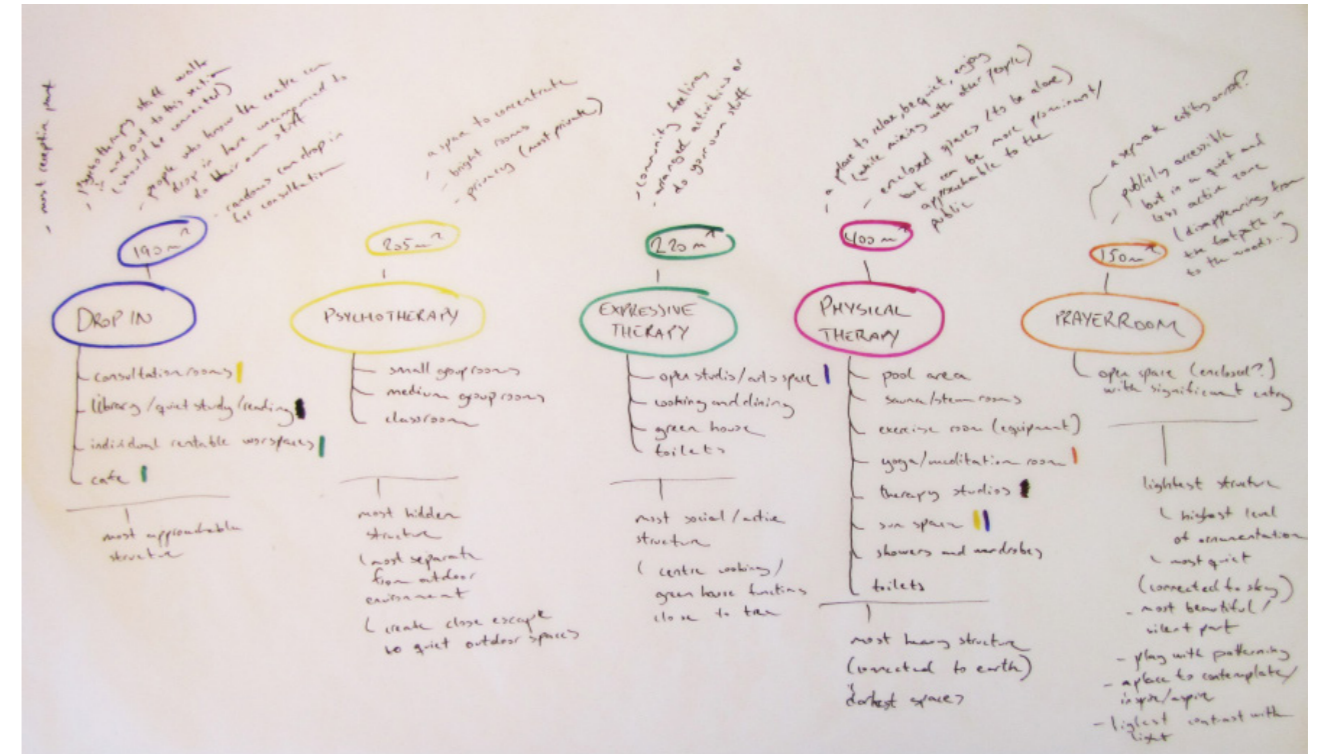
I spent some time looking through books and reference projects in order to get my thoughts rolling on possible responses to lighting, materiality and landscape to create the different types of atmospheres that I envision for the different parts of the project:



february 1st, 2014

## expression of functions

Before commencing with volume studies and possible responses to the site I had a closer look at the predetermined program in order to organise and collect some current thoughts on their expression and how they relate to one another.



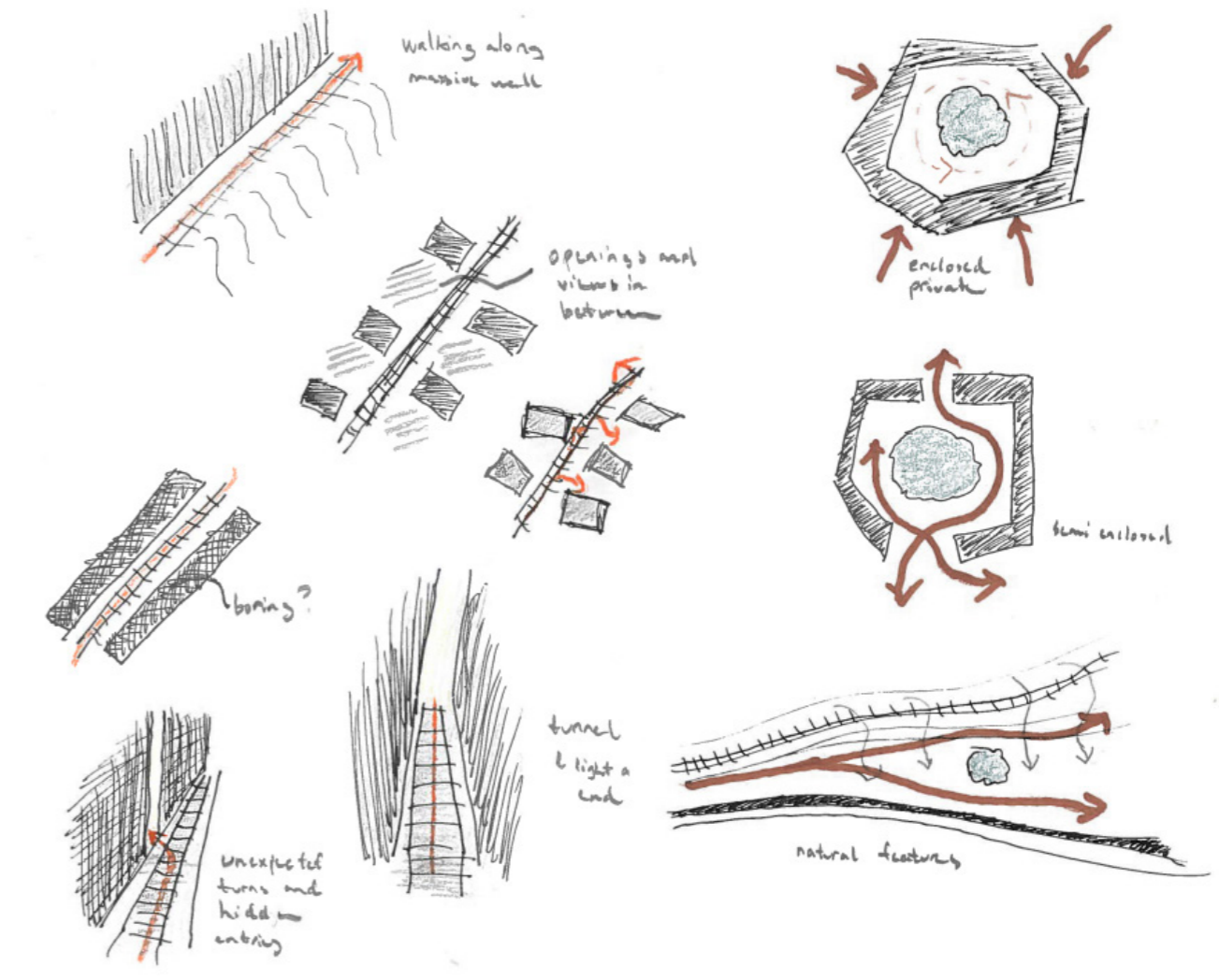


### volume studies & first guidance

After creating a virtual model of the site and waiting for the opportunity to make a physical one I decided to perform some quick volume studies in order to create or eliminate some different possibilities. At this early stage it felt important to explore all extremes, including ideas I did not initially believe in so as to not get stuck early with my 'darlings'. I then tried to review each option to point out and recognise the potential and what does not work in each suggestion.

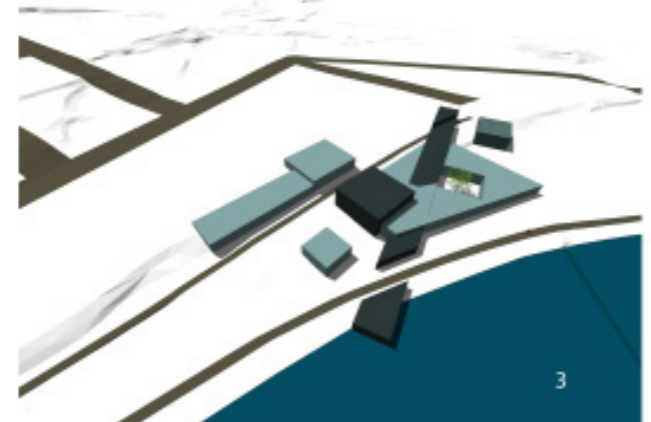
It felt easy to spot the problems in each of the volume studies, but I found the exercise useful to start a discussion during the first guidance which was spend primarily discussing the site and how to respond to the existing and future situation of the area. It was also beneficial to get a better idea of the possible scale of the project. The chosen area has much more space available than required by the project and so the future proposed and possible development and character of the area is important to consider. The train line and big tree one the site are the two main existing features I consider worthy of preservation and consideration and so the studies investigate some completely different responses to these.

After evaluating different responses by myself and then with the tutor I was able to stir up a number of thoughts as for how to deal with the site. The landscape has a particular character that opens as you walk north on the train line and foot path next to the river diverge from one another. It feels natural that the built form supports this idea, especially to receive the northern sun.

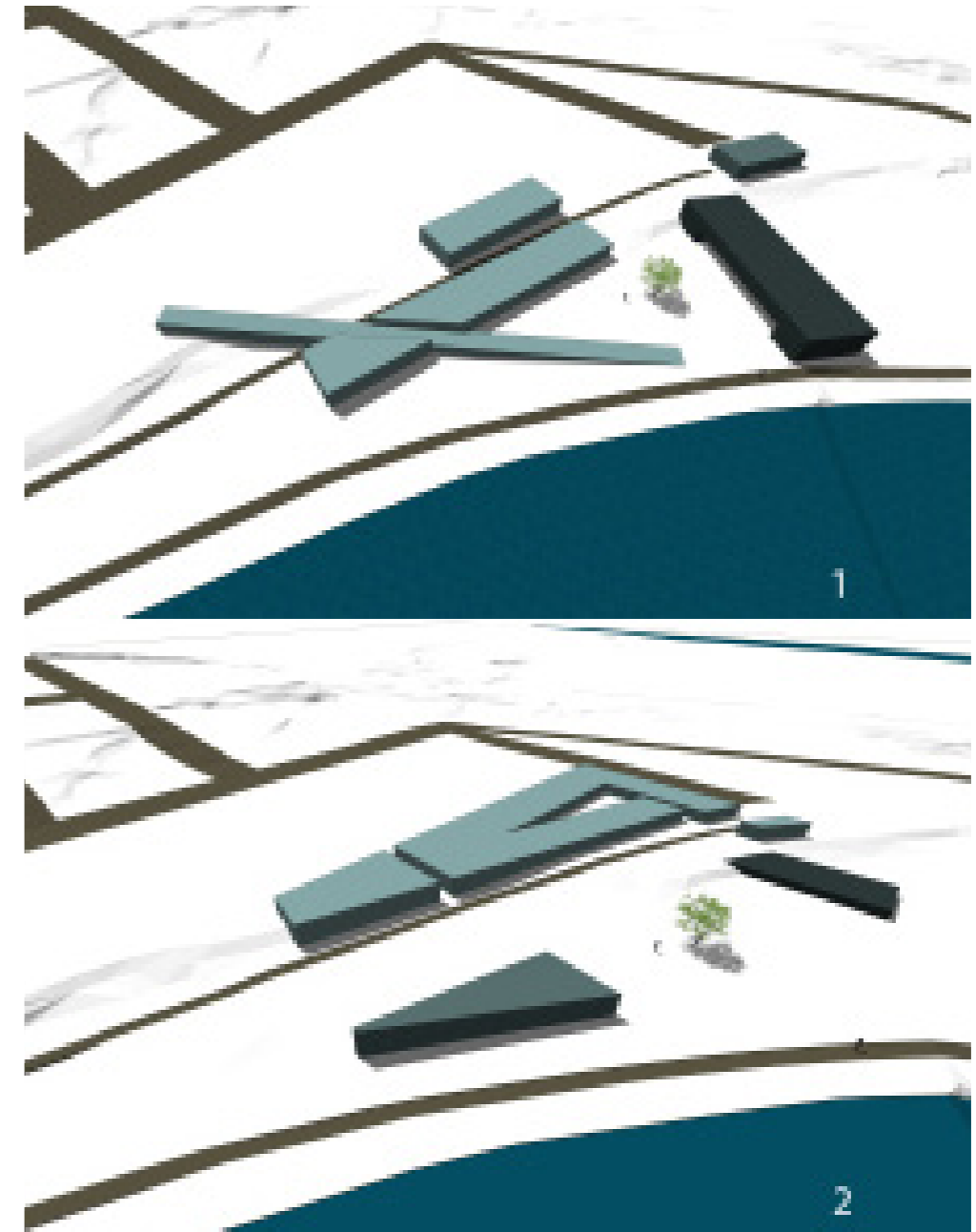


However, copying the landscape along its most exciting natural features might easily result in a dull experience which inhibits the natural one rather than strengthening it. Perhaps can contrast between the landscape and built form help to emphasize the existing as well as new features and values? The idea to privatize or somewhat enclose the big tree in to a semi-private area or courtyard was interesting to test although the results show that these attempts easily become awkward in terms of what happens at each corner, resulting in somewhat cluttered and large compositions as in option 1 and 3. Locating the main volumes west of the railway line clears up the landscape next to the river and becomes less cluttered as seen in option 2. This location provides better, more elevated views and is less disruptive. I see the benefit of defining a location where to collect main functions as one entity while allowing for some smaller functions to separate and spread out rather than spreading the entire project across a large area. Leaving the natural landscape to itself, i would like to focus on framing different views and experiences that already exist.

The tutoring pointed out that using the line as a main entry point from the park/pedestrian areas along the river requires further consideration in terms of the experiences created along it. It should be an element that sparks curiosity and excitement and encourages the right type of atmosphere and activity. The execution of volumes along this line should therefore be conscious, and breaks between structures and view axes should be worked on.



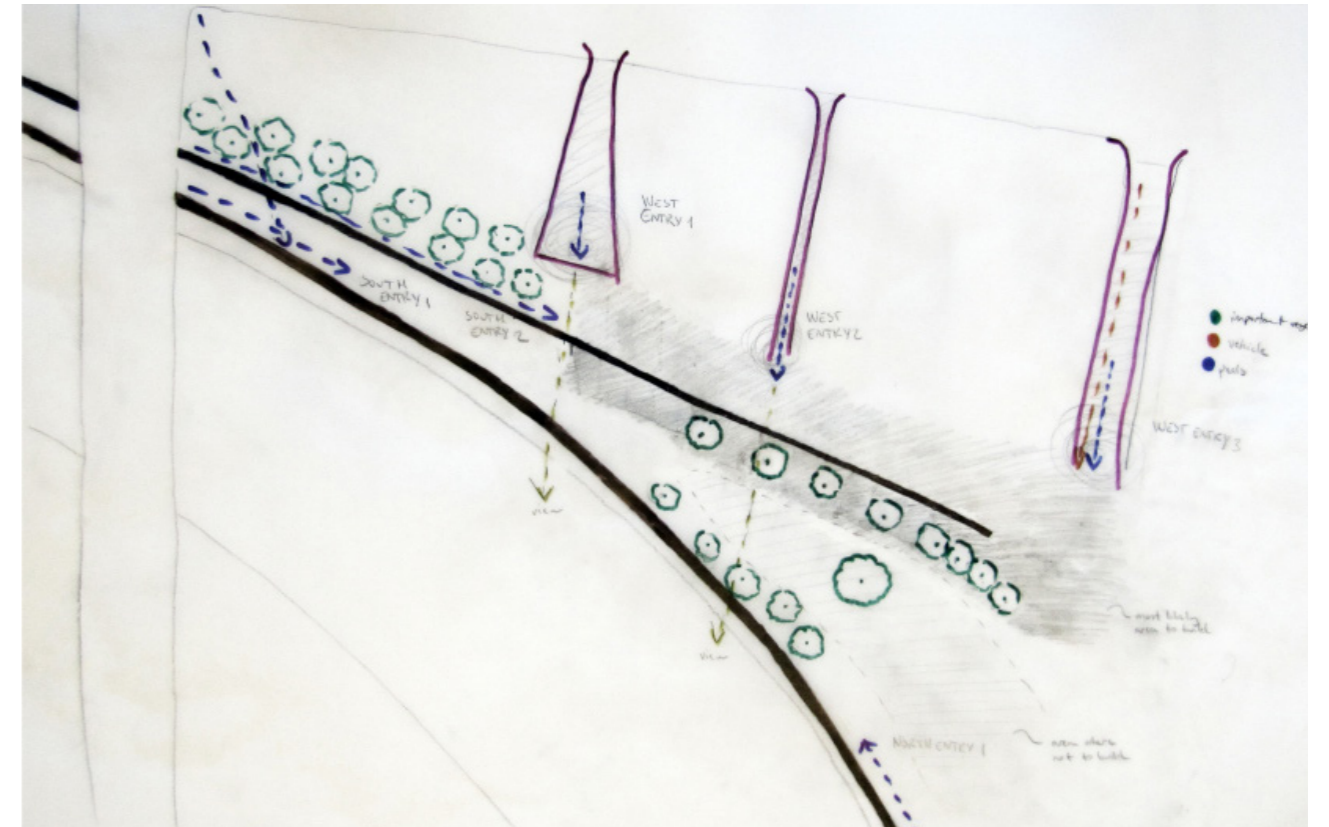
components:  
■ active  
■ physical  
■ spiritual



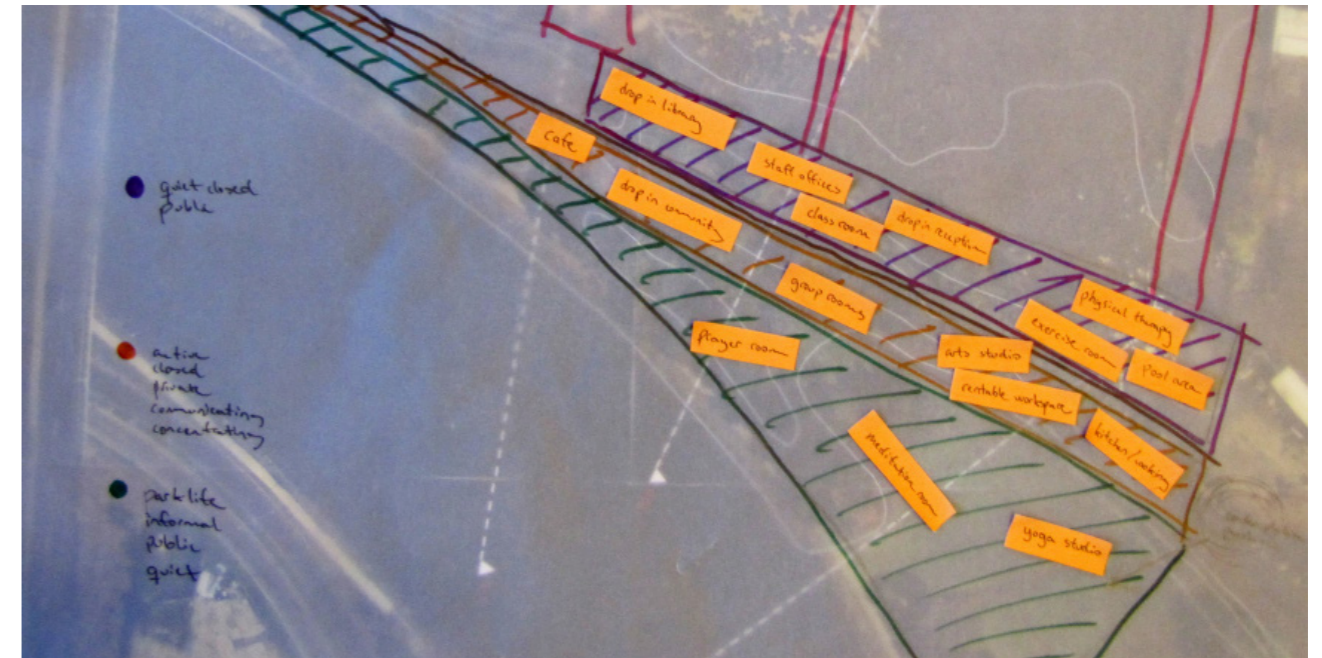
## responses to existing features

Conclusions from the first guidance gave me the urge to evaluate further the response to site. As mentioned previously the positioning of volumes and entry points is incredibly important for the project. I expect the exterior spaces created to play as significant a role as the interior and therefore investigate carefully how existing values of the site can be used to complement the built forms and vice versa. The site has different characters at different edges and thus the experiences to be created at each entry point should be determining for the project.

The sketch above displays the most significant features on site together with the important access points. The previous volume studies have helped me determine whereabouts it would be most practical to locate the project on site in order to obtain the right type of permeability and sheltering, while allowing the park landscape to the east remain largely untouched. South entry 2 is the most important access point for pedestrians while north entry 1 may simply allow for a curious view of the project. The west entry points should be treated as main access points from within the new developments proposed in this area. West entry 3 allows for vehicle access, while west entry 1 is the proposed site for a pedestrian plaza in connection with the river. Perhaps would the more modestly proposed pedestrian connection at west entry 2 provide the right activity level for a main access point to the project? The view axes from all west entries to the river and city skyline should be considered and perhaps disturbed minimally by the project.



Debating the qualities of different access points has allowed me to form a closer opinion on how to arrange functions on site as well as the relation between these. I feel as though the site may be divided in to three layers, each through which the project may exhibit a different character. I am currently interested in reserving the eastern and most vegetated section for park recreation, and so the structures placed in this environment should complement this. Perhaps could spaces for meditation, contemplation, yoga and prayer complement a quiet yet public park environment in the form of dispersed pavilion structures? I have a strong desire to locate the main part, perhaps the backbone, of the project west of the railway line in order to free up space for the park. Leaving the park free will allow it to function as a buffer space or sort of 'escape' from the intensive therapy rooms. However, I have realized that not locating anything east of the railway line would result in disguising the project entirely from the pedestrian activity along the river due to the existing vegetation, and so I also see the need to place certain functions here in order to communicate with better with the park and preventing complete disconnection. Perhaps could it be nice to place even some of the intensive therapy studios here in order to offer an instant 'escape' to surrounding sanctuaries within the landscape?



studies in plan 1:500

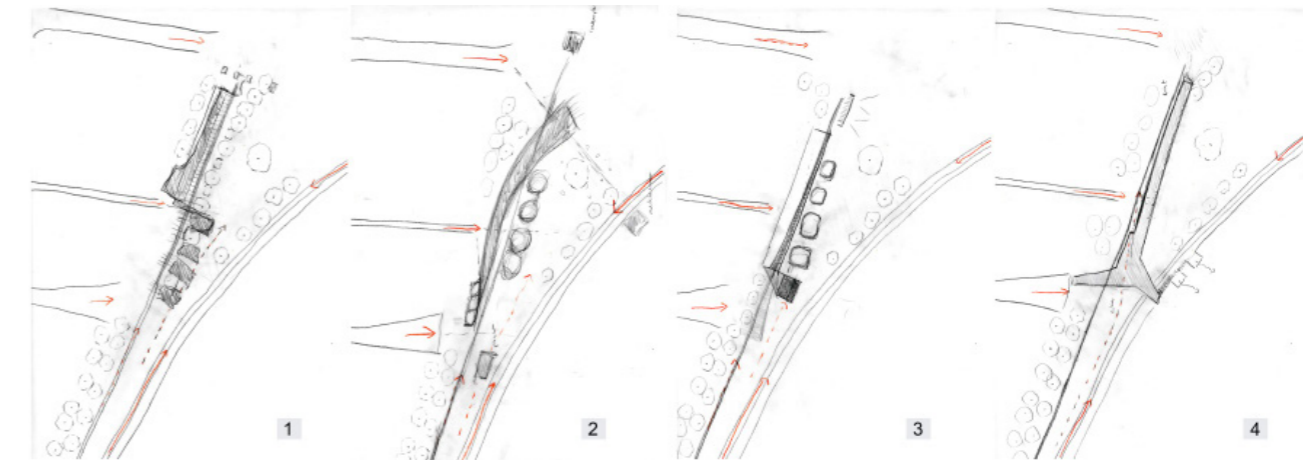
With many new thoughts on how to respond to the landscape and access points I attempted to draw up some plan scenarios in 1:500 that would reflect different ideas in order to later evaluate them.

It felt important to test various possibilities of how to connect and respond to different values within the environment before discarding any. The closeness to the Maribyrrong river is a great value for the site, however I have been unsure about whether to establish a direct contact or not across the pedestrian pathway lining the river. Establishing a direct connection would make the building extremely prominent which may be undesired. I keep in mind the possibility to establish a pavilion structure here but otherwise focus on framing views of the water rather than directly interacting with it. In each of the studies I am unsure about whether a direct connection to all three west entries would be necessary or beneficial. Connecting directly to all three would require an extremely elongated or spread out shape, and I decide that direct connection to the pedestrian plaza may be undesired due to the high expected activity. How to deal with the interaction between each side of the railway has been central and I feel drawn to the initial idea of a solid volume to the west and smaller individual volumes among the trees facing the east.



While keeping ideas on a conceptual level it felt important to ground some of the different ideas by considering size and scale in relation to the predetermined program. I therefore translated the hand drawings on to computer in order to get a quick overview and be able to play around with sizes more precisely.

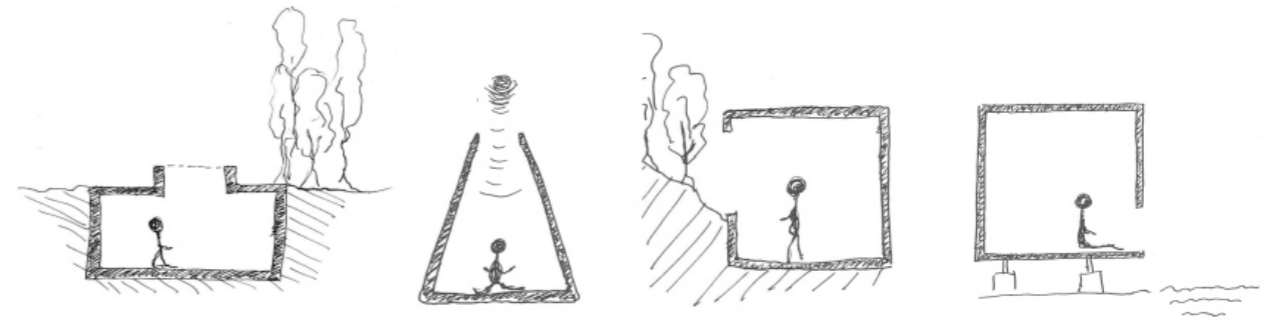
As a conclusion of the studies I have experienced that option 3 works better in terms of volume and placement and therefore decide to investigate the possibilities of the arrangement further in volume.



february 17th, 2014

## built responses to the environment

While sketching and drawing I try to keep in mind how the architecture could potentially respond to the landscape in a number of ways in order to allow for different aspects and features to be appreciated. Different experiences are relevant for different functions and I hope to differentiate between these through contrasting executions.

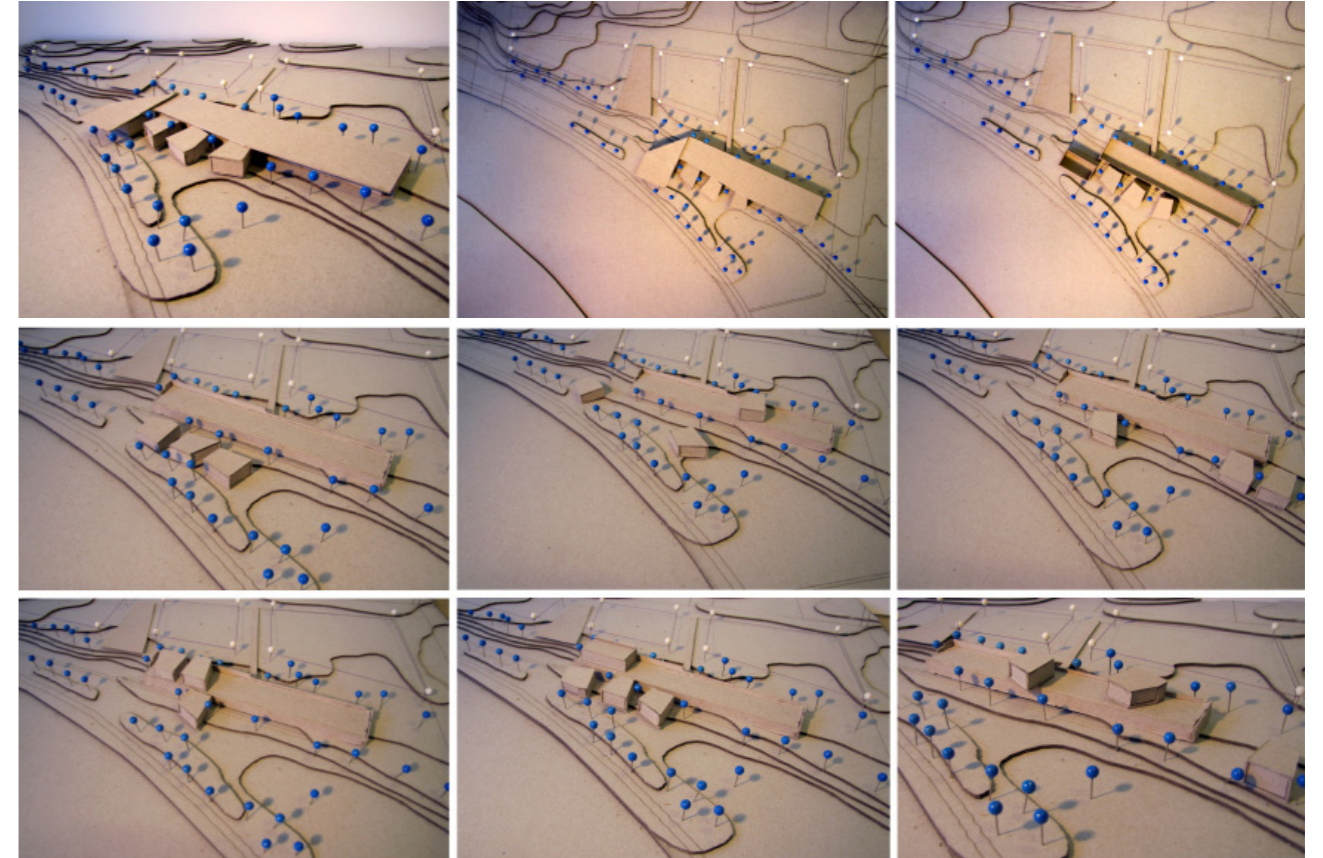


february 19th, 2014

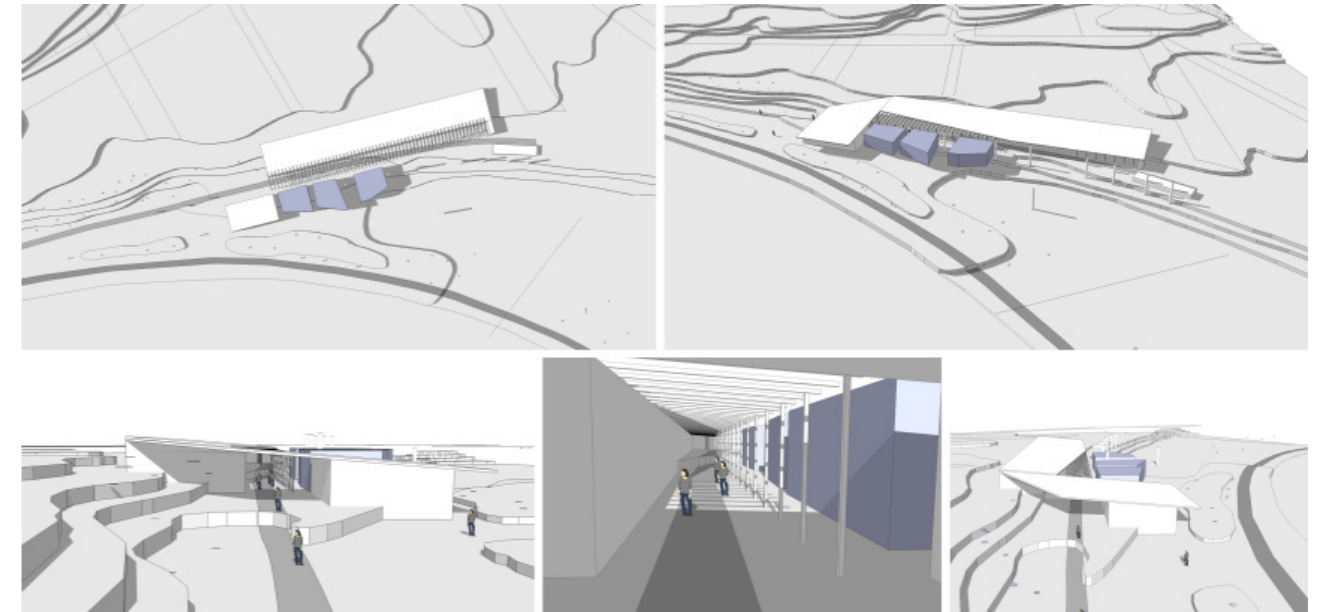
## volume testing and modelling

With so many thoughts spinning through my head I decided to take the best ideas from the plan studies further to explore the ideas in volume. I first produced a digital model in order to test the reality of sizes and areas and also to quickly simulate what the experience walking along the train tracks could be like in such a situation. The communication between both sides of the railway could be explored in a number of ways and I was interested in testing the idea of enclosure through a joined roof.

After getting a better grip of scale and sizes in SketchUp it was useful to visualize the volumes in a physical model in order to more freely play around with the volumes and arrangement within the landscape. As guidance with the tutor later pointed out, the ideas of the project became clearer after removing the large adjoining roof structure. Enclosing the two sides of the railway with a roof structure is likely to make the space feel smaller and I am concerned about the space available for functions on the east side. I conclude that the largest of the east volumes is too big, while the idea of collecting main functions in one elongated volume to the west sits well within the landscape and in terms of access. An elongated shape here also supports the idea to draw activity from the south up to the end of the railway line.



The process of exploring in a 1:500 model was very useful for working with placement, however, I soon realized the importance of reaching a lower scale in order to play around more accurately with volumes east of the railway line. Whether or not the current sizes of approximately 100m<sup>2</sup> each is appropriate, too large for the environment or too small for the functions is better explored at a 1:200 scale where I also hope to investigate the expression of exterior space between them in better detail.



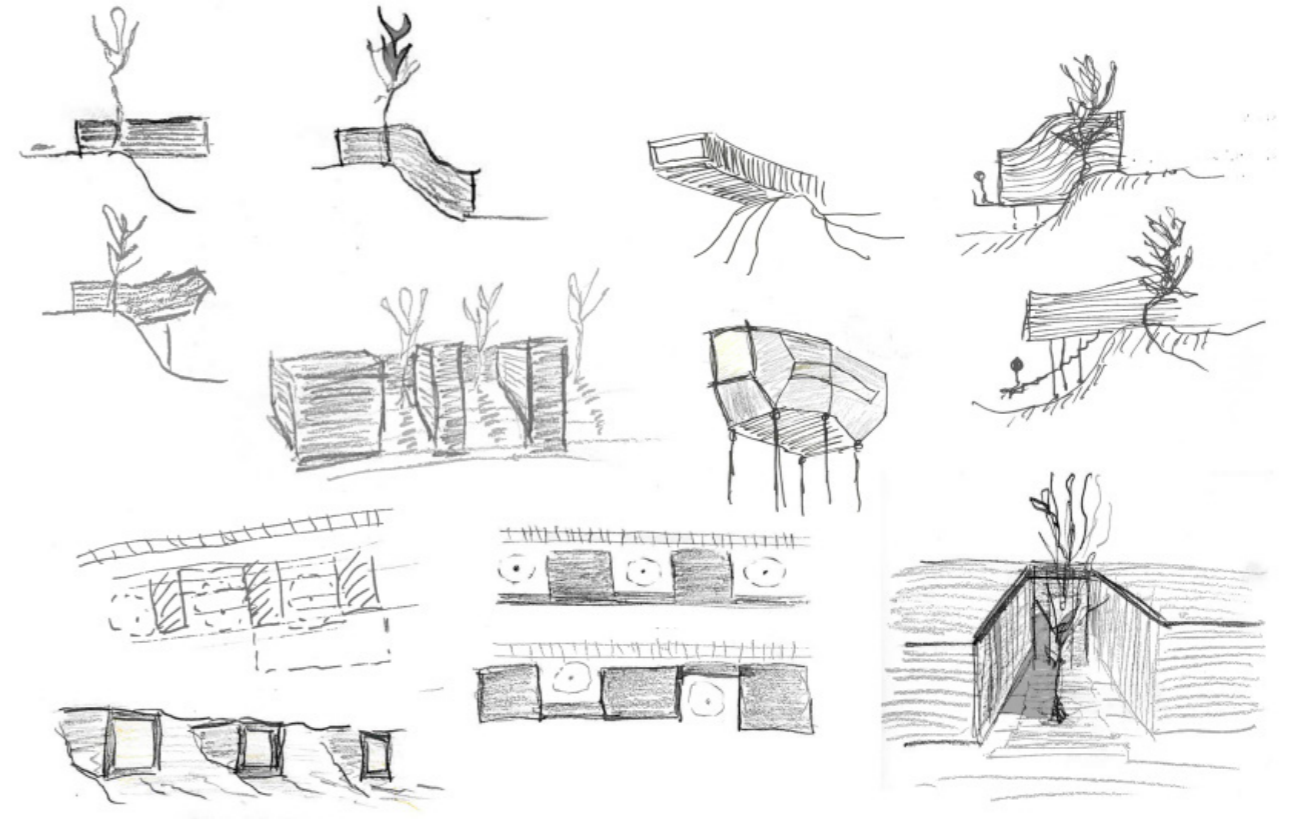


thoughts after second guidance

The previous volume study in physical model made it easier to get an overview of what the essential components are and to play with the organization of it. The second tutoring session helped me to further identify and define which elements of what I have done so far should be taken further and clarified:

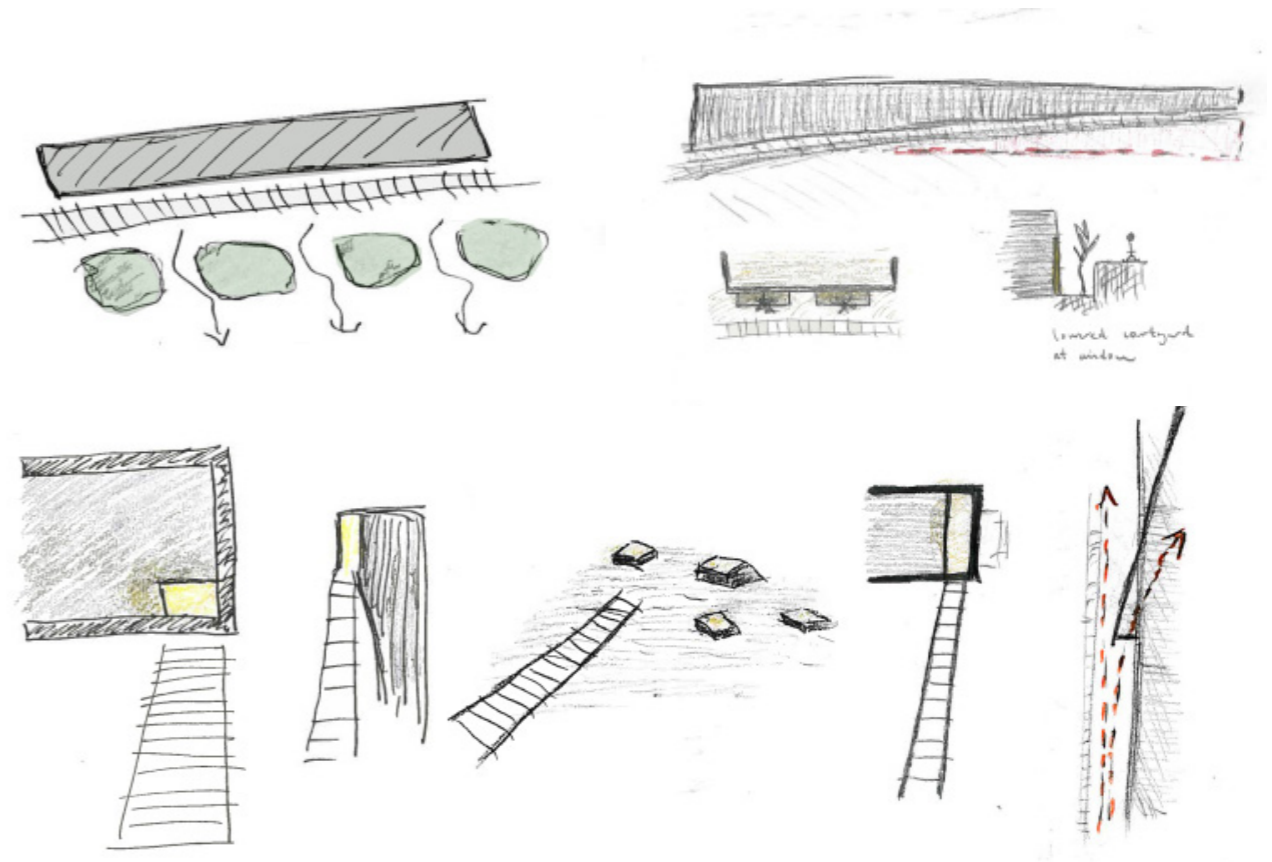
The idea to collect main parts of the project in one elongated volume works well functionally while allowing for a more playful character to be expressed through the separate volumes east of the railway. These volumes should house specific functions that work well independently and I am currently interested in looking at whether informal drop in functions or specific therapies are best housed here. I hope to express a sense of contrast between each side of the railway, where the collected volume is perceived as part of the landscape and a backbone to the opposite light and curious structures.

To further express the heaviness and strict character of the main volume I consider the idea of digging parts of it in to the landscape itself. Half or even entirely submerged volumes could provide an appropriate atmosphere for physical therapy functions. I hope to further investigate the ideas of a walkable roof. Suggestions from the tutor sparks ideas of a pedestrian access on to the roof rather than splitting the volume in two at the intersection.



As for the east facing volumes or pavilion structures I imagine a variety of expressions that can reflect both extroverted and introverted characters while framing different views and experiences within the surrounding environment. Additionally, I am curious to explore how the separation and positioning of separate functions create interesting exterior spaces. Perhaps can these spaces provide quiet courtyards and semi-enclosed spaces that offer a different and more private setting for people to enjoy a break from the surrounding functions?

As I continue the process it feels important to keep in mind what expression can take place at the end of the railway line, if any. I am discouraged by the idea to place a function here as it would become overly emphasized, however I feel the need to consider some form of element to mark the place itself. Perhaps would a pavilion for contemplation with views of the river suffice?



february 28th, 2014

## ideas for physical treatment - the hammam

I had put the idea of the physical treatment component for the project in the back of my head for a while due to my doubts about what it would be and how it would be expressed. I want the proposal to be realistic and felt unsure about how to avoid it becoming an exclusive spa facility that attracts rich people yet simultaneously providing the facilities patients at the center deserve. Other thoughts concerned the idea of whether or not to provide a scene for physical exercise as this can be an effective therapy to fight depression as well. After some thought I have decided to discard the idea of active physical exercise but rather focus on therapies types that can simulate the body comfortably in a calm setting. Large swimming pools are a costly affair and physical exercise equipment can be reached many places elsewhere in society or simply in nature. I was interested however in the concept of bathing for comfort and soon became taken by the idea of the traditional hammam as place for wellbeing. The hammam has a long tradition in the roman and islamic worlds and played a central role in promoting hygiene and public health while simultaneously functioning as meeting places where people could relax and socialize. The hammam involves the process of exposing the body to different levels of heat and coolth, which stimulates the blood levels, while enjoying the process of getting clean. There are several examples available of modern hammams operating today, and I see the function especially fit for the cultural identity within the footscray area. The pleasures of the hammam facilities can be enjoyed without particular treatment from personnel, and thus is a more viable option for patients to come and go as they please without having to pay for specialized treatment. for specialized treatment.

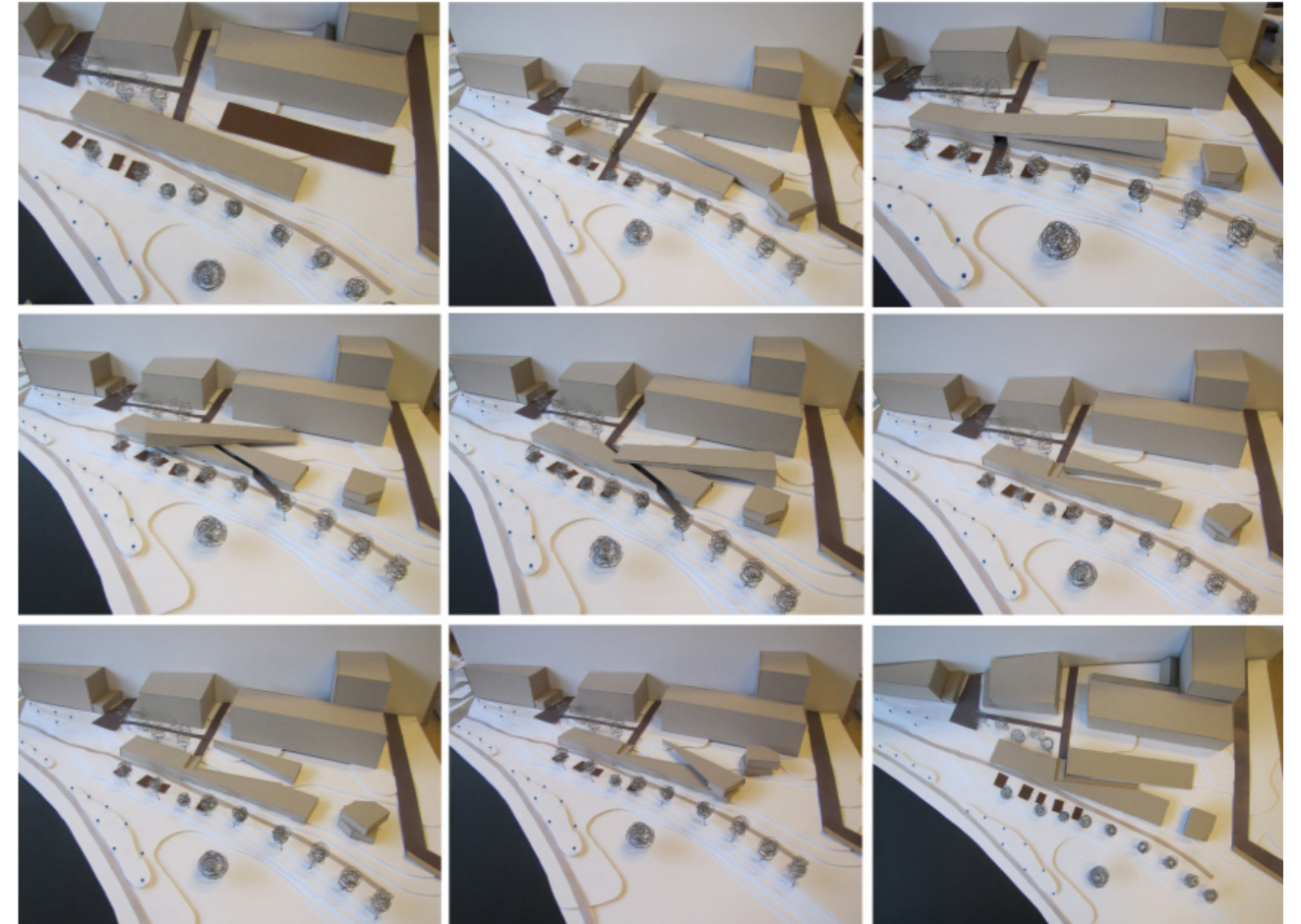


march 1st, 2014

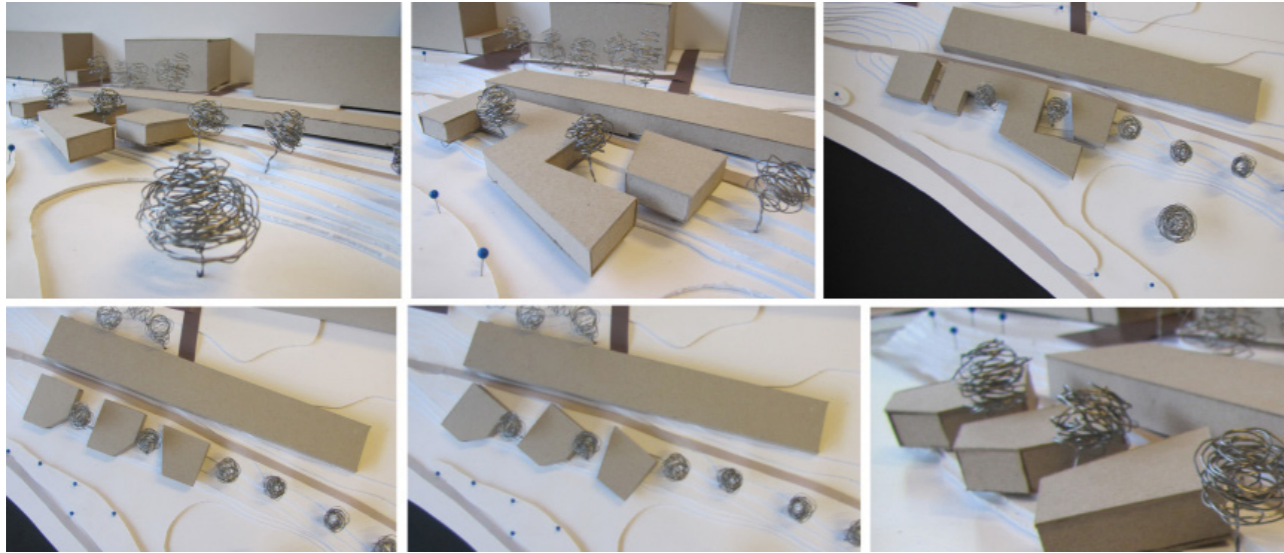
## exploring through physical model

After having created a landscape model at scale 1:200 I was finally able to play freely yet more accurately with the pavilion structures. I discovered that while larger and more entangled structures have a much stronger presence within the park environment, they also allow for more interesting spaces and courtyards to be created between them. I further explore how smaller volumes can reduce the dominance in the landscape while rather poking out between trees. I notice that tilted angles at the entry give more excitement to the experience along the rail way. Lining the small volumes up with the main volume creates a dull corridor setting unless emphasized the right way.

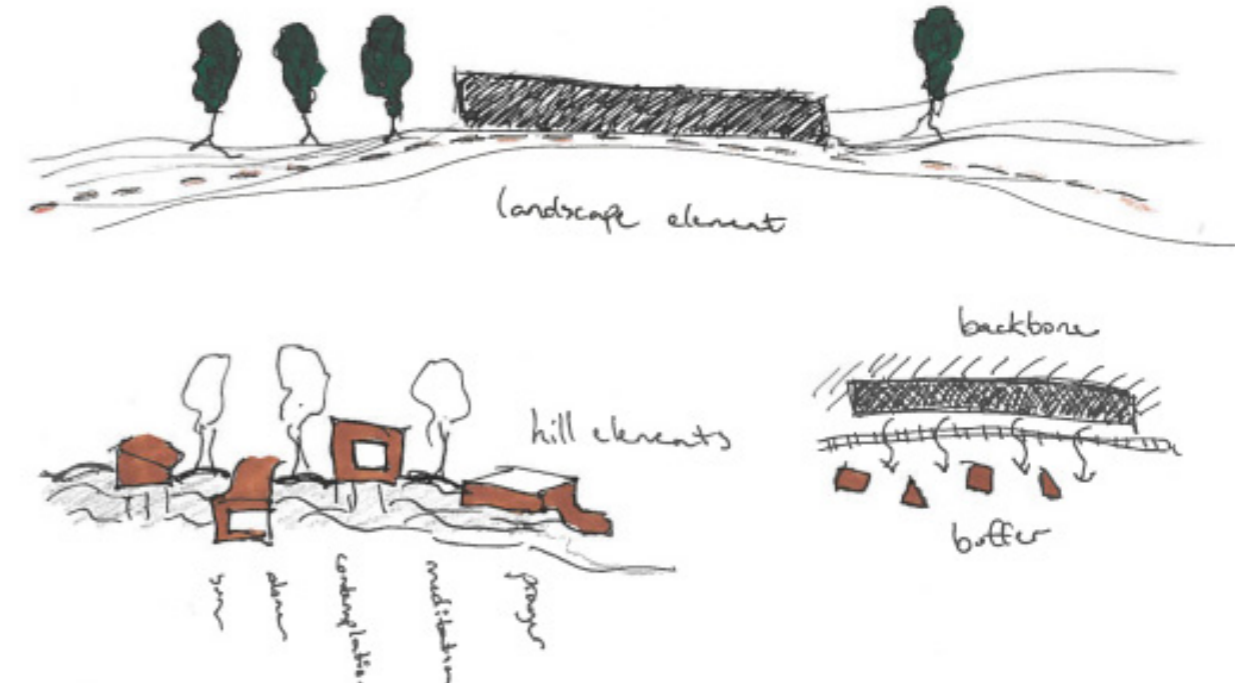
Working with the model allowed me to gain a better understanding of space and scale while simultaneous debates about functions have led me to conclude that the east facing structures are better and more flexibly expressed if they do not house large functions but rather take the shape of small scale pavilions. Collecting main therapy functions together with the drop in centre within the main volume solves practical issues of access and space, while allowing the entire east side of the railway to act as a sort of buffer or escape to the strict west volume. I feel convinced that the pavilion structures can work well for functions such as yoga, meditation or simply as spaces to be alone, contemplate or enjoy a conversation in private.



Having made the decision to remove main functions from the east side of the railway I soon realize that more space is required on the western side. I propose the idea of adding another volume for the physical treatment component and hamam as I feel the area requires more dynamism, especially for the purpose of creating good exterior spaces.



The next phase of the modeling therefore explores this idea together with various responses to the proposed pedestrian access point through the middle of the project. Options such as walking on and through the roof are tested and I reintroduce the idea of a separate component for the prayer room.



march 8th, 2014

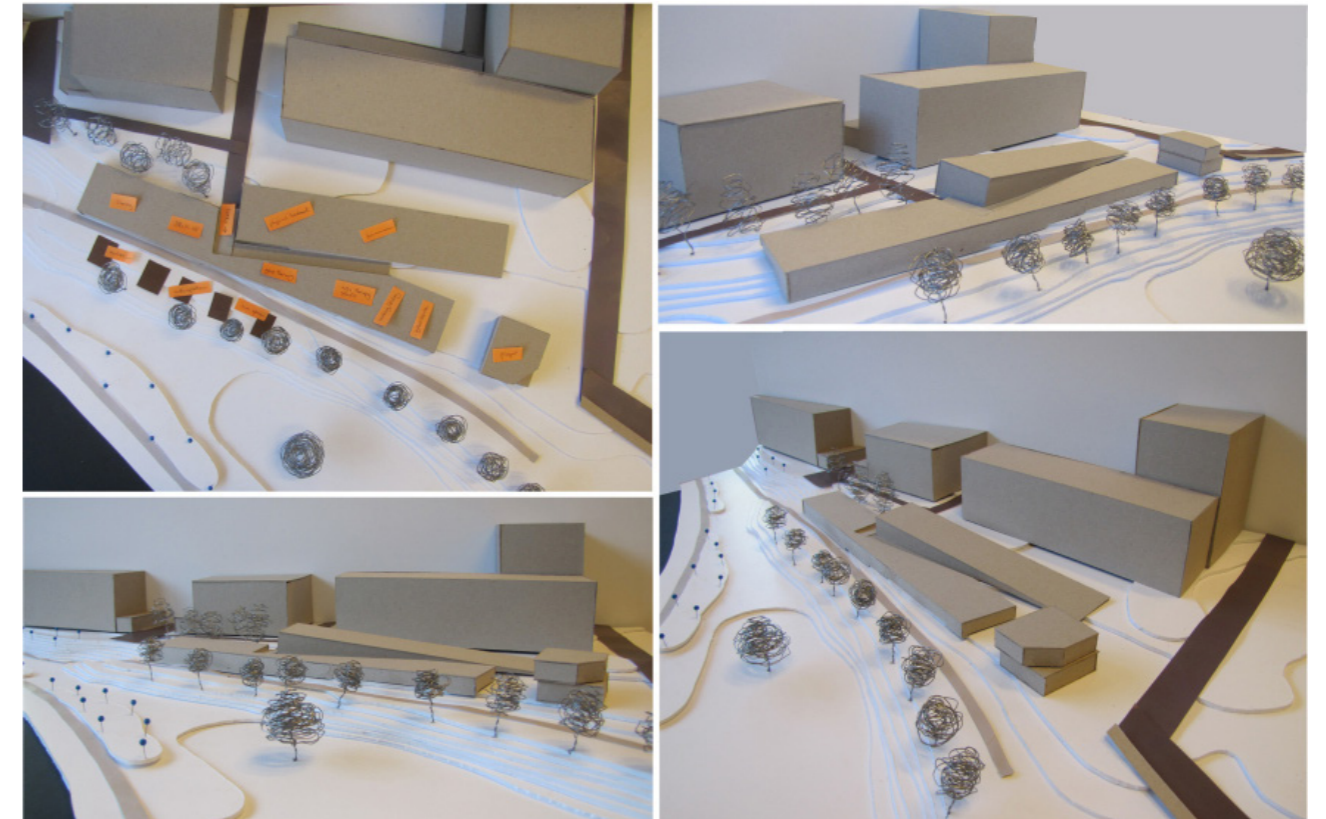
## decision making and third guidance

After exploring different options in the physical model the third tutoring session was useful in terms of settling on what works well and what does not. I have arrived at a composition I believe has potential to be taken further in terms of forming meaningful expressions of both exterior space and the relation between interior functions. The idea of providing some open outdoor space to the north works well in terms of solar access as well as obeying the direction of the natural landscape. Diverting the pedestrian access to this place also has the potential to work well as long as some through access is provided at the turn and more space is given in this area. This point can function as a main entry to the centre, allowing for easy collective access to both physical therapy, drop in facilities and treatment programs area. There is something intriguing and nice about entering a building from above, and central entry is also very practical from the otherwise elongated volumes. It will be important to work further with the execution of this area as it could become an extremely central point within the project.

Discussions during the tutoring session conclude that the the prayer room may sit well as a central feature of the open space to the north. This is the highest point within the landscape and can provide an exciting attraction at the end of the railway line. I look forward to work further with this component which I envision to be the 'lightest' and most refined piece of architecture within the project. I discuss some thoughts with the tutor about materiality, light and atmosphere, and determine that it will also be exciting to work with patterning as an active element. I feel assured that spaces for meditation sit well along the hillside east if the railway as these are the spaces with the most direct view of

the river and skyline beyond while providing a somewhat sheltered and very natural environment among the trees.

Meditation is well performed in a serene environment with a long distance natural views to focus on.



march 10th, 2014

## refining the program

After having spent my recent efforts on developing a contextual response for the project in terms volumes and access on the site, I felt the need to invest some time in reworking and refining the predetermined program. This has been needed to be done since the case study visits in Australia which helped greatly in terms of generating a better understanding of the programmatic requirements and possibilities. Having clarified to myself more specifically the operation of the centre in terms of staff requirements, patient needs and interaction between functions, I now feel ready to tackle the floor plans based on this refined program:

### INFORMAL DROP IN

- Free consultations
- Social & community support and activities

**Staff:** 2 volunteers, 2 consultants  
**Users:** anyone in need of support

### DAY TREATMENT PROGRAMS

- Combination programs of specific goal oriented therapy
- 3-4 programs simultaneously per day of 8-10 patients.
- Patients attend 1-2 programs per week from 9.00 to 16.00

**Staff:** 3-4 staff of various qualification  
**Users:** referral from psychiatrist

### EVENING SUPPORT GROUPS

- Language classes
- Community outreach talk groups

**Staff:** Volunteers, organisations  
**Users:** anyone suited to the groups

### TRAINING KITCHEN & CAFE

- Food prep certificates (barrista etc.)
- Cooking and nutrition learning
- Inclusion in day treatment programs

**Staff:** Volunteers, day program staff  
**Users:** members of the community

### PHYSICAL TREATMENT

- Treatment focused on physical wellbeing
- Body and movement related therapies

**Staff:** 4-5 physical treatment experts  
**Users:** program participants, the public

### PLACE OF WORSHIP

- For all religions

**Users:** the public, passers-by

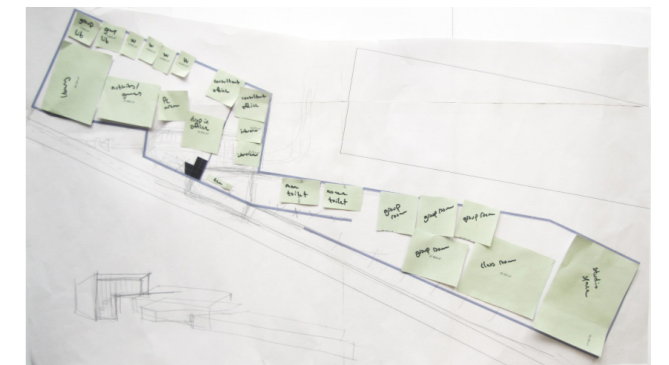


## from volume to plan - approaching functions and access

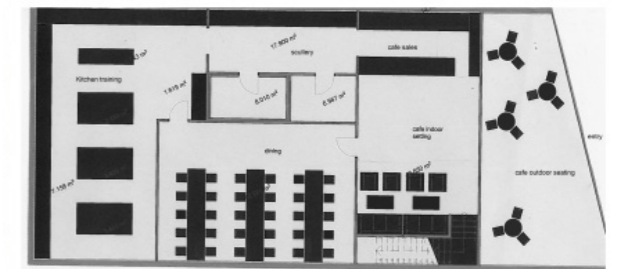
When starting the process of retesting volumes through plans I am forced to consider closely the central access point and through passage in to the drop in centre from the development sites above. I am interested in creating a scene for curiosity where passersby as well as intentional visitors can get in touch with and get to know the centre in less intimidating and informal ways. With an entry from above the way to pick up activity and from the upper plane and bring it down to ground level is crucial. I have been exploring ideas of a second story for the drop in centre that will communicate directly with the upper level, the possibility of a mezzanine, an open atrium space or simply a way for the public to pass down to the level of the railway by means of an external stairway before entering the building. The introduction of the cafe and training kitchen component to the project has made me contemplate the uses of this as a sort of mediator between the public and the centre. The cafe can be visited by anyone, while the training kitchen can be used by the day program as well as volunteer teaching groups within the community, offering barrista certificates etc. to mentally ill people. My current proposal places the cafe and kitchen component on a second story where a staircase inside the cafe area leads down to the drop in centre.

While I feel as though the cafe works well at its location as an attractor for both visitors and passersby the connection to the drop in centre needs much further consideration. It does most likely need a much grander gesture, and the questions of whether it will be used only by visitors or also by the public as through passage is still unresolved. I am unsure about how to create an open and strong connection between the two levels while maintaining the modesty of^

the passage. I have commenced the sizing of the lower volumes and try to locate the functions in order to establish the right connections between them. The narrow point of the volume forms the internal transition between the day program component to the north and the drop in centre with library the south. The example has one exterior entry from the railway to the drop in centre from and another more modest one to the day program component. I experience that many decisions and standpoints are vague and undetermined and the many feelings of uncertainty make it difficult to proceed with drawing out plans that make sense to me.



Possible new volume for cafe and kitchen training



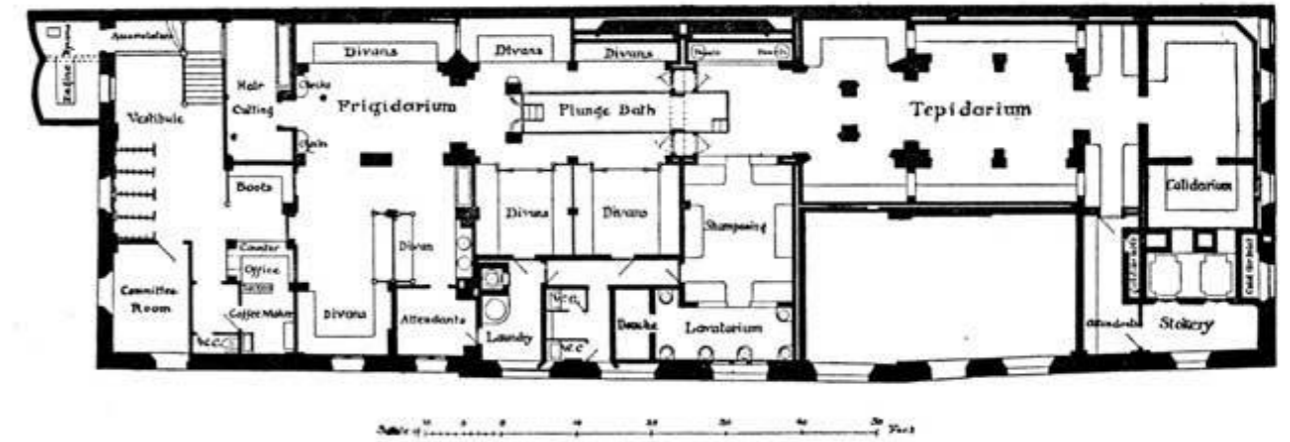


march 13nd, 2014

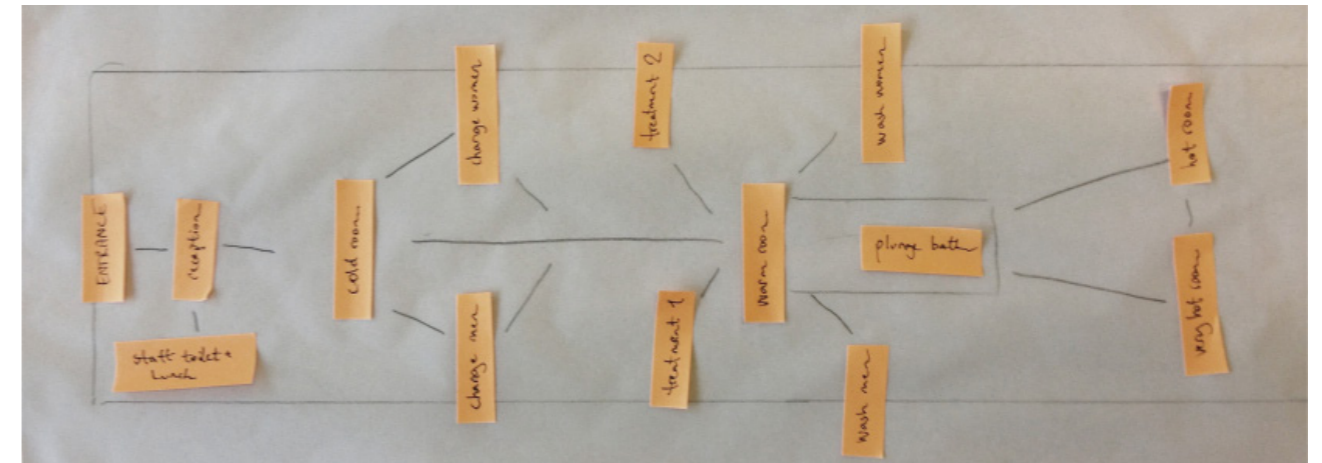
working on the hamam

After experiencing slow progress and some indecisiveness as for the development of the entrance scenario and connection to the railway I decided to shift my focus to an entirely different component and attempt to resolve the hamam. The hamam is an extremely introverted function and thus since the volume has already been determined its interior forms are not dependent upon the unresolved parts of the entry and treatment volume.

Reading about the hamam experience, its traditions and possible new interpretations I am able to gain a good understanding of the very specific set of functions needed, their particular sizes and inter-relations. The traditional scenario follows a symmetrical form with continuous entering through a sequence of rooms in to the heart of the hamam where you find the hot rooms. The purpose is to expose the body to various levels of temperature and humidity in order to stimulate blood circulation and promote relaxation. The hamam was traditionally a place for social interaction to take place in a relaxed setting and visitors could spend hours going back and forth between the different rooms.



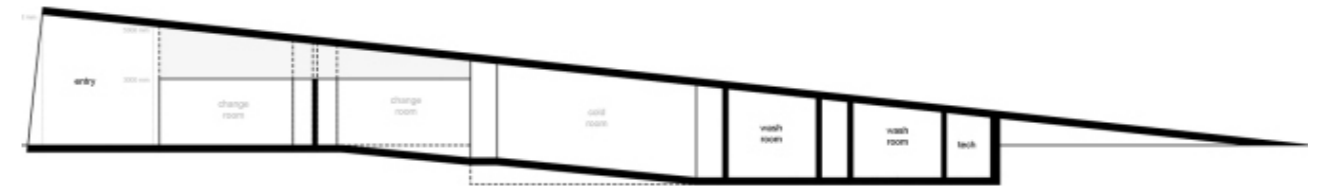
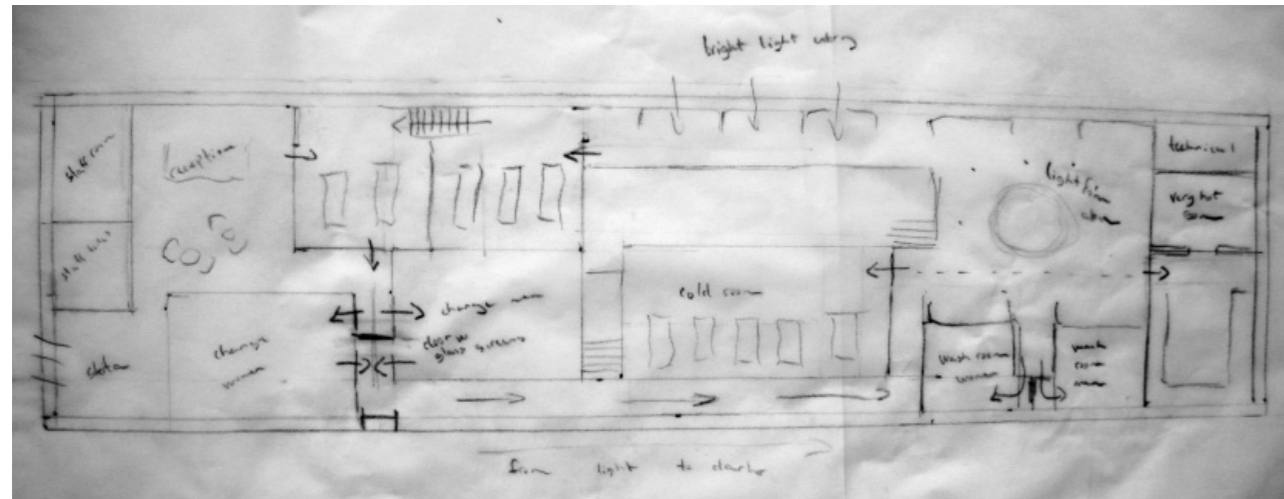
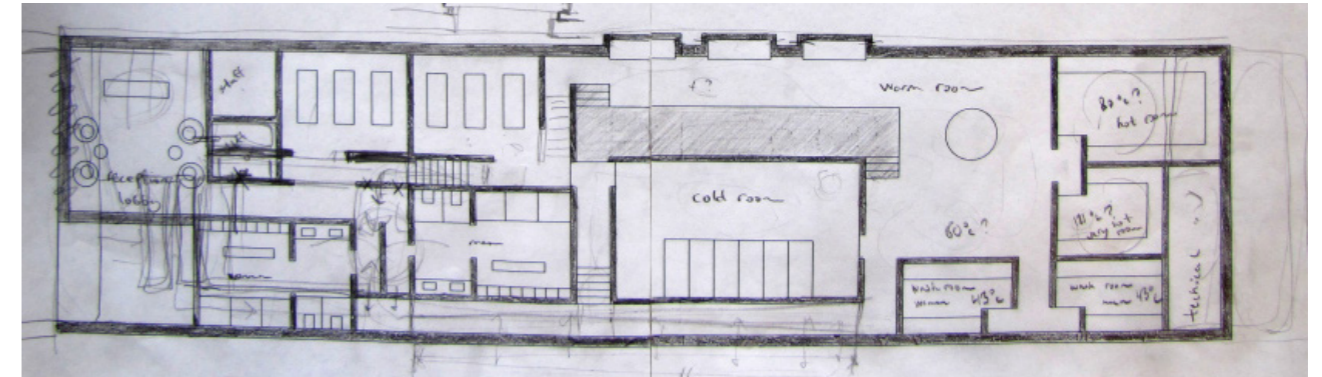
For the purpose of this hamam, the inner chambers (the hot rooms) will be located furthest in and submerged in to the ground. The chosen program for the hamam can be arranged in a manner similar to what is depicted below:



Having arrived at a specific program and established the required relationship between the rooms I was able to arrive at a composition with good potential after some attempts and consideration of different scenarios.



The composition and sizing works well and in a simplistic manner with some work required to resolve the entrance situation as experienced after drawing the scenario up in plan. The goal has been to develop a practical plan which does not waste unnecessary area to be heated while assuring that intriguing experiences are created within the spaces.



concept section

The visitor enters through a large open lobby before entering in to the hammam. Having passed through the change rooms one descends in to the heated chambers through a long ramp. The experience of entering the hammam is important and the decent should generate curiosity about what awaits at the inner chambers. The warm room holds a heated plunge bath and is well lit with a generous ceiling

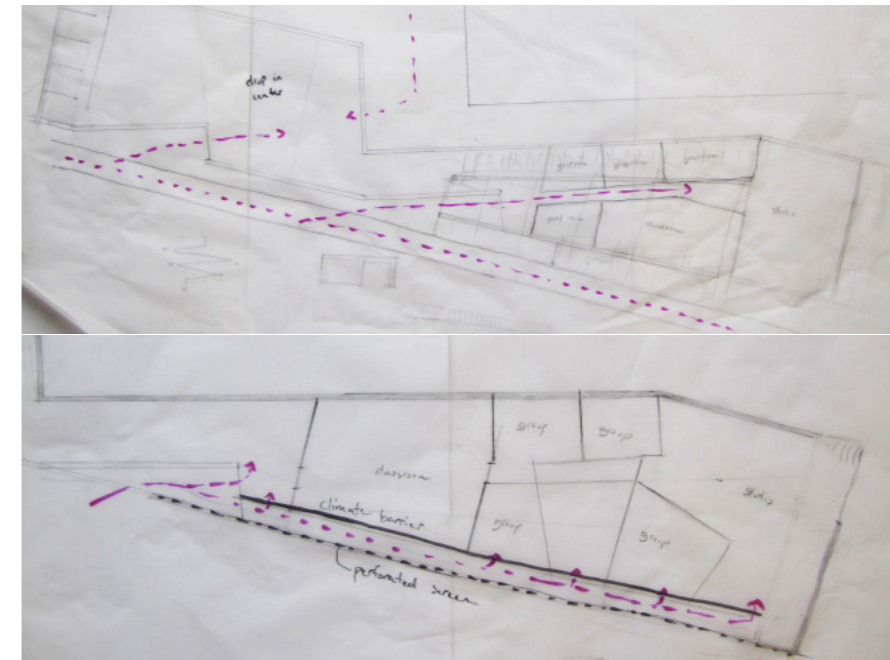
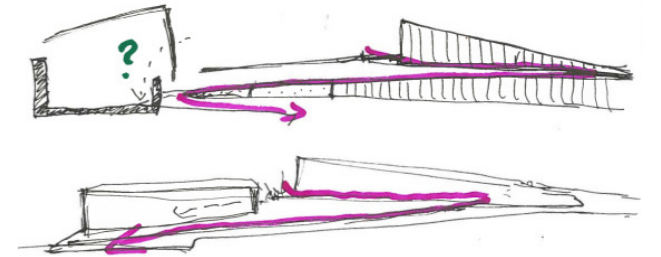
heights. The hot rooms are more intimate spaces that will be scarcely lit from above and hold a much lower ceiling height due to practical considerations of keeping the heat. From the warm room visitors pass between the hot rooms and cold room, and can stop by for massage treatment as well as separate gender wash rooms.

## access and volumes - reconsidering and retesting-

The first guidance with my secondary tutor sparked the possibilities of new ways to approach the volumes and access on site although a conclusion as to what works better for the entrance situation has been hard to reach. After 3.5 hrs of discussion and testing through volumes it is becoming clear that this part of the design is especially challenging and hard to work out. I am uncertain about how to proceed as all discussed solutions appear to present new problems and interfere with the existing volumes. It is difficult to know if drastic changes to the volumes or general composition are in hand in order to resolve the through passage and entrance scenario is a good way, however, my tutor convinces me that my current volumes have good potential and that only a simplistic change should be in place to solve it. The tutoring session brings up ideas about treating the entire project as landscape components where people can walk on all the roofs. The concept of turning the treatment volume in to a continuous ramp that diverges the existing ramp down to the railway is proposed by the tutor but abandoned due to the likely creation of unusable volume and difficult floor plans.

The plan layouts of the treatment volume and the entry points from the railway are further discussed and it is agreed upon that central corridors are undesirable. Locating all circulation to the back and large functions to the front is convenient in terms of daylight and keeping with the concept of communication with the park and the railway rather than the urban development to the back. When smaller functions and rooms are required it is however difficult to achieve with the existing volumes. Perhaps should daylight through skylights be considered for functions located further back?

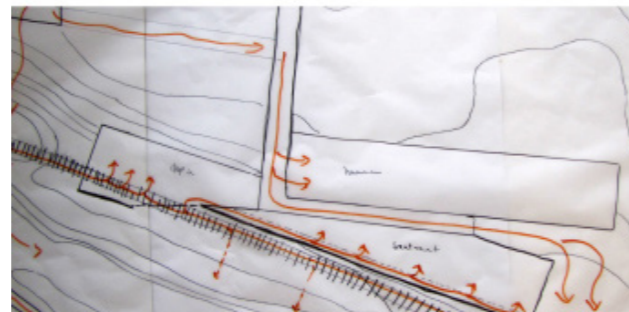
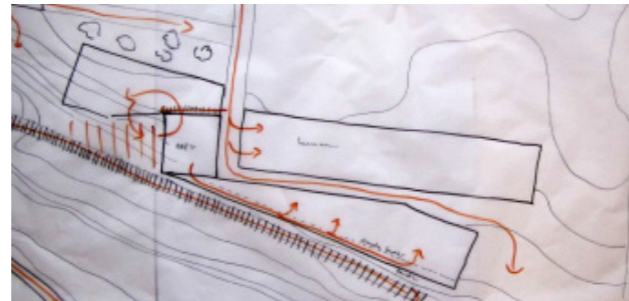
I am curious about exploring ways of how to work with a double facade fronting the railway. Perhaps could an open space between the glass facade of the group rooms and the perforated steel facade provide an interesting unclimatised and private buffer space between the day program components and the exterior?



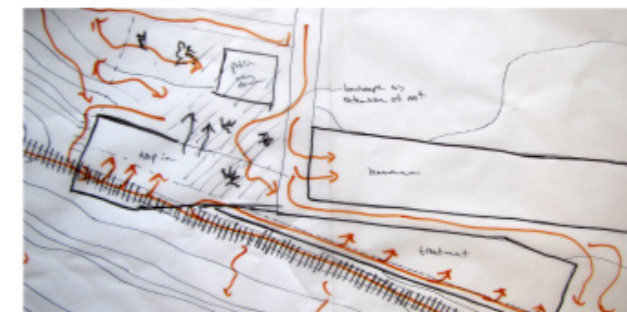
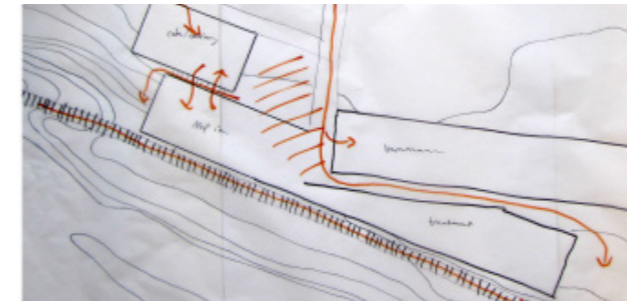
march 13th, 2014

## resolving concepts & reworking volumes

After experiencing much resistance from the thoughts developed so far around the central entrance scenario and possibility of any addition or subtraction to the existing volumes, I felt the need to take the time for testing and rethinking various scenarios. I have observed how progress is slow when I get stuck thinking about complex problems and so I felt the need to think less and do more, even if it meant testing ideas I had no initial belief would work.

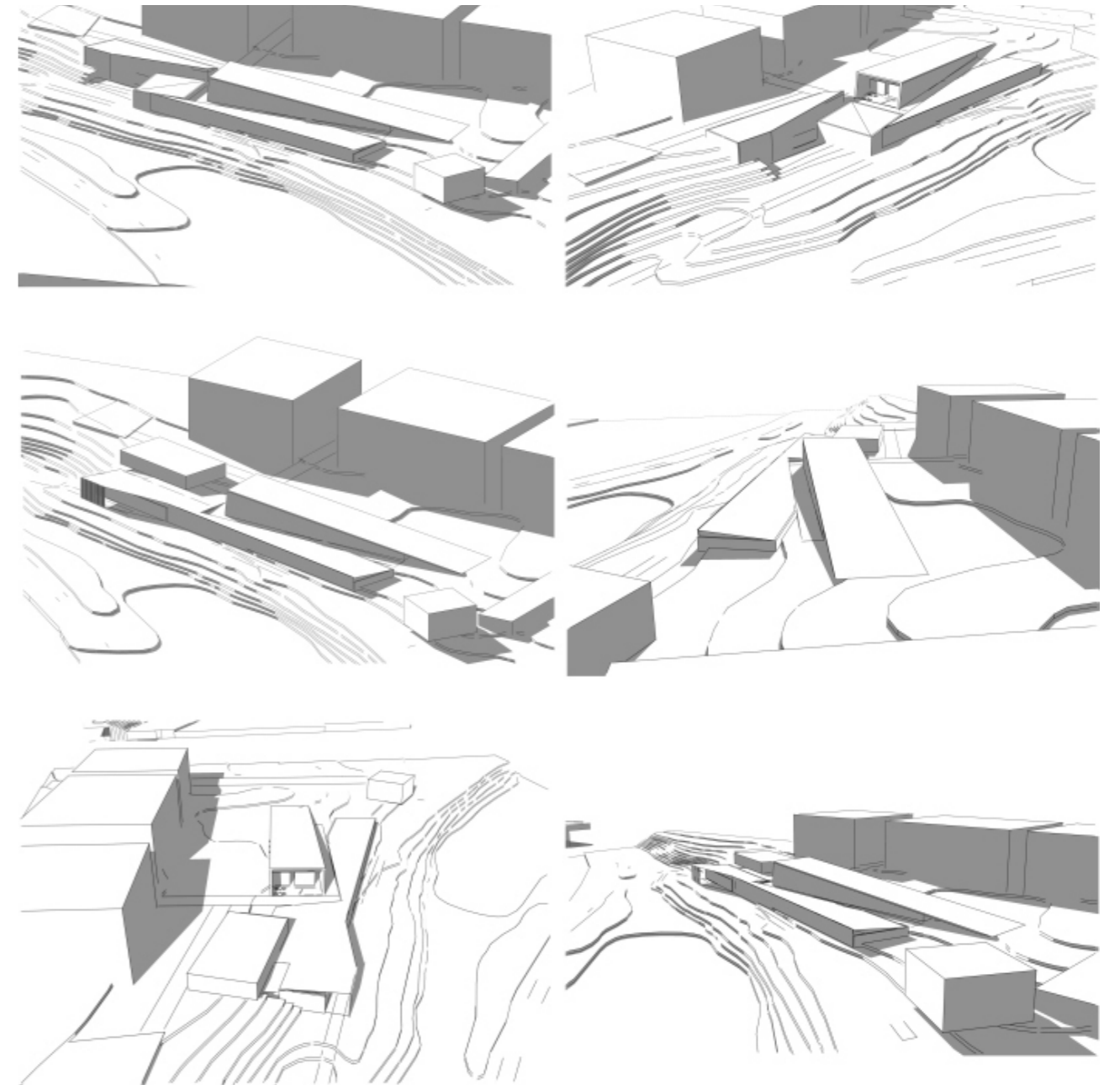
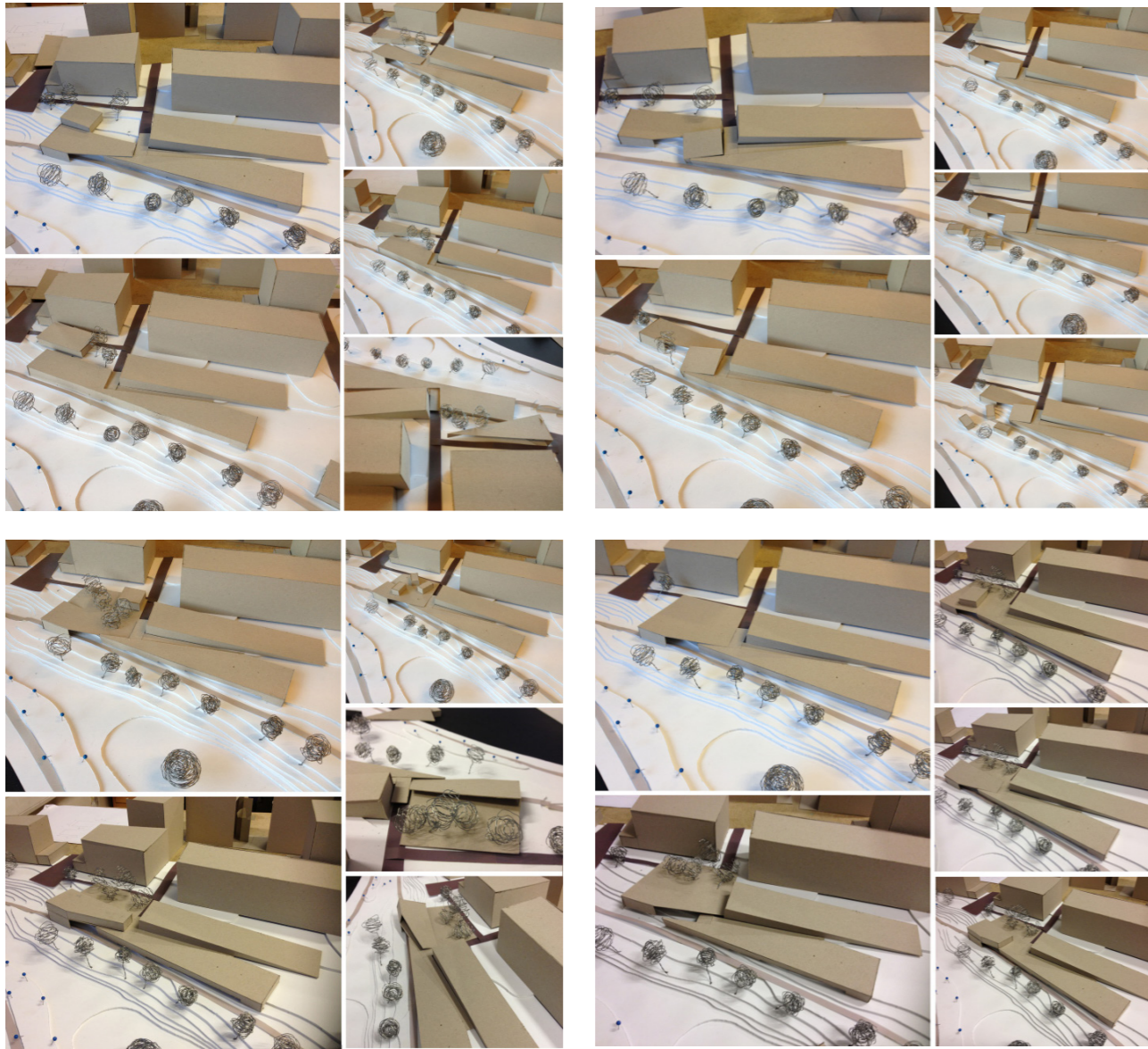


The diagrams below depict different access/volume scenarios and various versions of these were later tested in physical model.



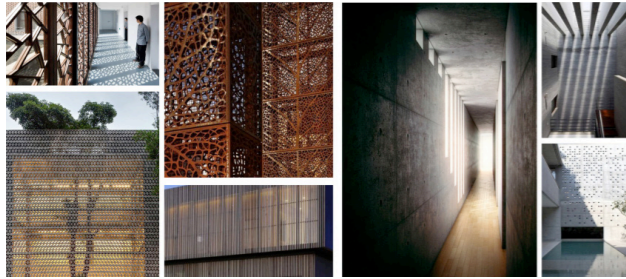
Thoughts from studies:

The model studies were very helpful in terms of eliminating what does not work as well as spot potential of what could be developed further. I experience that while cutting in to the treatment volume to form alternate entrances or interact with the railway can fulfill certain practicalities this weakens the concept and strength of the existing composition. The placement of a second story for entry to the drop in centre also has practical benefits, however the form easily rivals with that of the hammam. A more minimalist approach could make use of smaller boxes to draw activity down and interact with the public on top. Perhaps could skylights form exiting elements in a park environment on the roof? Could the entry simply appear as one of these, creating a modest and simplistic, yet visible way to enter down through the building? Various options exist of how to interact with the nearby pedestrian plaza: maybe is the passage between this plaza and the project simply through a park environment. I am discouraged by the idea of forming a grand gesture towards this plaza as the high expected activity is unwanted for the project. I recognize the possibility, however, of creating an entirely separate volume that will not interfere with the existing shapes and which could form a buffer or filter between this plaza and the project. Possibly could the cafe and training kitchen be located here and include a grand entry with passage underground to the drop in centre and railway? I decide to keep my options open in order to discuss them further with my tutor the following day.



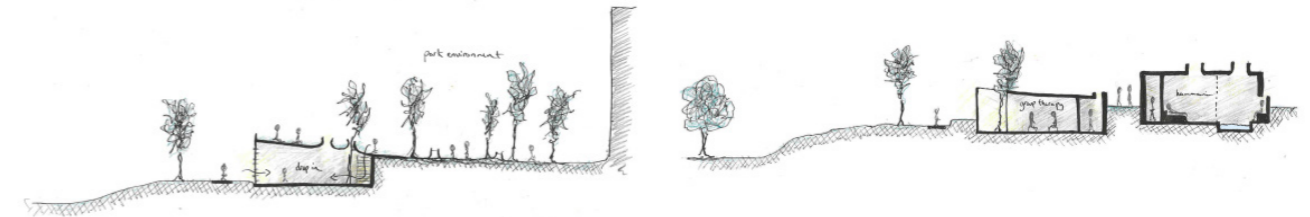
march 15th, 2014

## tutoring and concept clarification - pre midterm



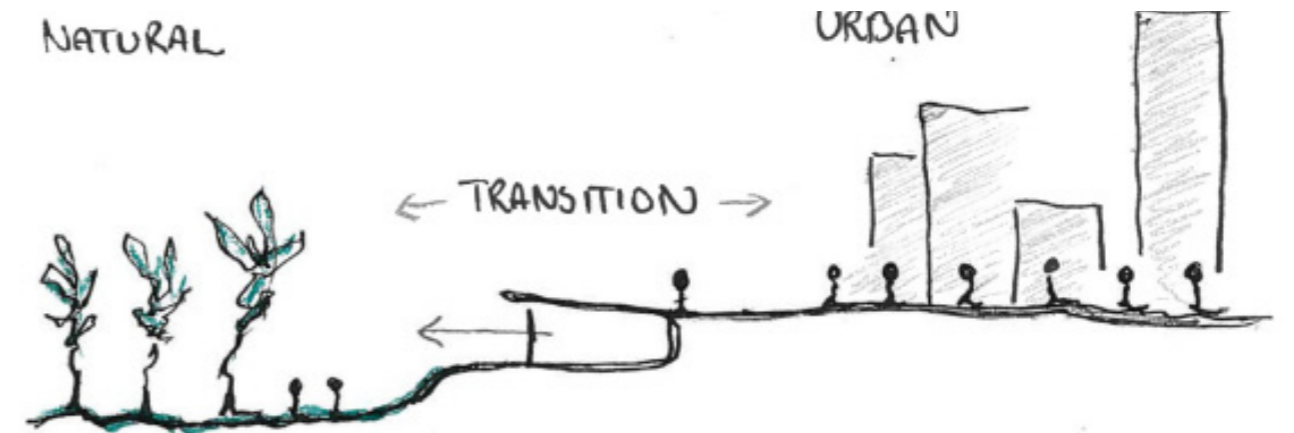
Another tutoring session with my secondary tutor focused on picking up where we left last in order to more clearly define the concept and important elements within the project. This would be important to present well at the midterms in order to get constructive feedback, especially seeing as I had not yet resolved the important parts of the project.

The project sits within a transition zone between a natural and an urban landscape and thus the filtration through and clear expression towards each part is also important. My vision has been direct the project focus on to the natural landscape while taking advantage of the close by urban activity in order to create meaningful interactions between the public, the centre and its patients. The challenges lie within ensuring that the right types and levels of activities are generated around the exterior perimeters as intended.



The tutoring concludes after consideration of the various model studies that a minimalistic way of entry through a park environment on the roof may be desired. Perhaps could the entry to the drop in centre be expressed as a glass atrium that is simply read as a skylight from above? This entry may only be for those who wish to visit the centre while the public can make use of the existing ramp. The park landscape on the roof would offer superb views of the Melbourne skyline and I imagine a quiet space for contemplation

where yoga and meditation classes could take place. For the group therapy rooms I hope to explore further the idea of creating a private courtyard or buffer space between the day program facilities and the exterior. Separating the steel screen facade from the glass creates better privacy while allowing the facade to let more light through. Such a space could potentially create a beautiful and tranquil area for repose in privacy.



For presentation at the midterms the plans for the hammam felt generally resolved while I knew that I had not managed to solve the connection between the two volumes and the important entrance scenario centrally between them. Because of the time spent battling with this the current presentation of the drop in and day programs volume is vague and but was put together in order to receive some constructive feedback.

Comments after the presentation focused on the current challenges associated with the entrance scenario. The elongated volumes were seen as working well in relation to the existing landscape and the idea of a central entry connected to the proposed pedestrian axis was understood well, however judged as not fulfilling its intention as a main entry at the moment. It is important to signify clearly to visitors from any direction where the main entry is and this is especially challenging in this project due to the number of different connectors. The project attempts to consider as many of these as possible, but is presented with many challenges on a limitless site with no clear property boundaries and vague ideas of what may be developed next door in the future. I recognize that access and connectivity does indeed define the main challenge of the project. The site was chosen much due to the presence of surrounding pedestrian activity in co-existence with a natural landscape, and thus the treatment of this has to remain the greatest consideration which can make or break the project itself. I am therefore determined to solve the access and entrance scenario as the most important aspect of the project.

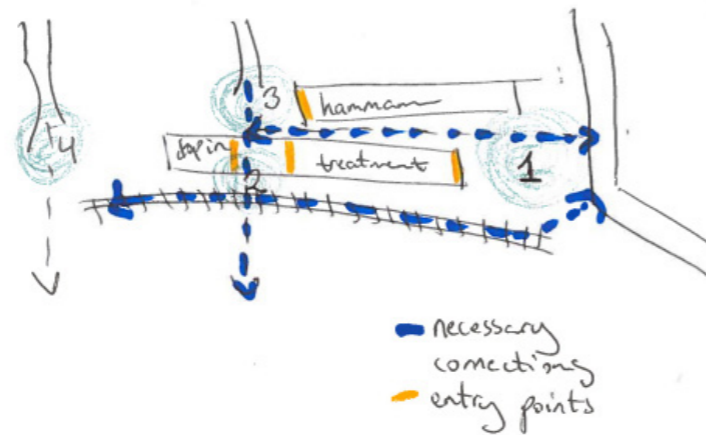


The feedback gives me the urge to carefully reevaluate and clarify the identity of the exterior spaces created around the project. The diversion of the pedestrian axis to pass between the volumes and head north is especially questioned and the sensors underline the importance of letting the public pass through directly at the entrance while considering the connection straight through to the water. The ramped connection to the north can work in terms of offering wheelchair access from the car road to the entry, however it does not justify cutting off through access between the pedestrian road and the railway. It is evident that the structural connection between the railway and the proposed development needs further consideration as the current proposal is cutting the interaction between the two. Ideas mentioned involve the consideration of a grand atrium space, possibly glazed, or even more simply, the separation of the project in to three volumes with an open public space at the centre. I am determined to consider a much larger, central public space while I feel wary of the possible and already experienced complications of creating a functional and visible entrance that will still remain of a more modest nature for keeping with the character of the project and existing volumes.



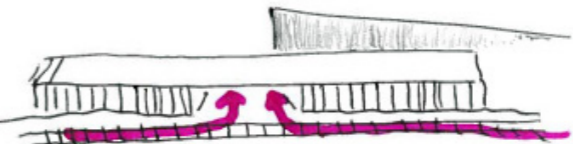

Some final comments were made on the purpose of the hammam cutting in to the other volume. While it creates an interesting composition and interaction it also detracts a from the plan of the cut volume and it should therefore be questioned if it creates more harm than benefit.

Giving identity to exterior spaces:

- 1)
  - calm plaza
  - first arrival by car
  - entry through 2 and 3 should be possible by wheelchair
  - main entry point should be announced from here
- 2)
  - Connection with water and point 3
  - Unannounced experience when walking up and down railway
- 3)
  - View and connection through to 2 and park
  - Connection to 1
  - Entry to all main functions
- 4)
  - Unrelated pedestrian plaza (high level activity)



'ideas for entrance situation':

- ①  cut through hamman
- ②  three buildings (open in between)
- ③  one roof (open in between)
- ④  roof folds down and becomes atrium



march 24th, 2014

## tutoring and new proposals

The first big tutoring session after the midterms did again focus on resolving the central entrance point. Although I had not had much time to rework the project yet I felt as though I had had the chance to encounter some new possibilities as well as problems. As I had already experienced from the previous volume studies the addition of a new element to the existing composition does not work well. I have been interested in working around the existing volumes as the idea of changing these drastically had been discarded during several previous tutoring sessions. The solution to the entrance scenario should be simple rather than complex and I explore the idea of lengthening the existing elongated form to fit a larger unclimatised space under the roof for public access. Using the cut part of the volume for this leaves only the rectangular part of the volume left to work with for the plans which could create some benefit. A public space under roof could sit well with the existing design while working as a potentially exciting connector between the railway the interior treatment spaces and the hammam, while allowing casual pedestrians to pass.

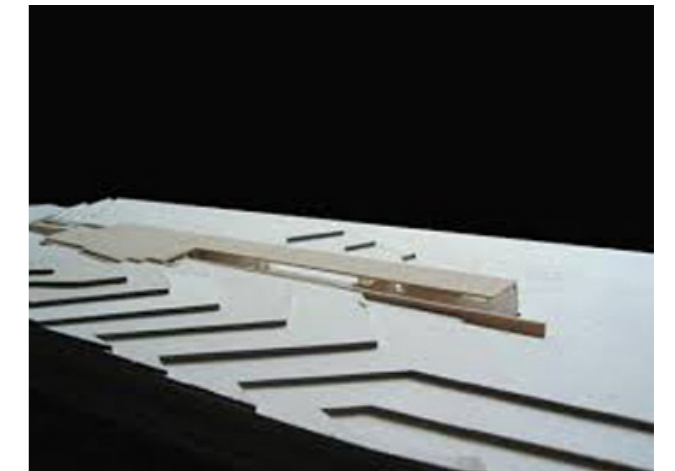
At the midterms the treatment volume was expressed as covered by the ground. Perhaps would a lighter steel structure lifted slightly above the ground to the west work well? Might this compliment better the intended perforated steel facade at the railway, allow for better daylight access and contrast nicely with the landscaped structure of the hammam? I found some small pictures of a reference project with similar intentions:



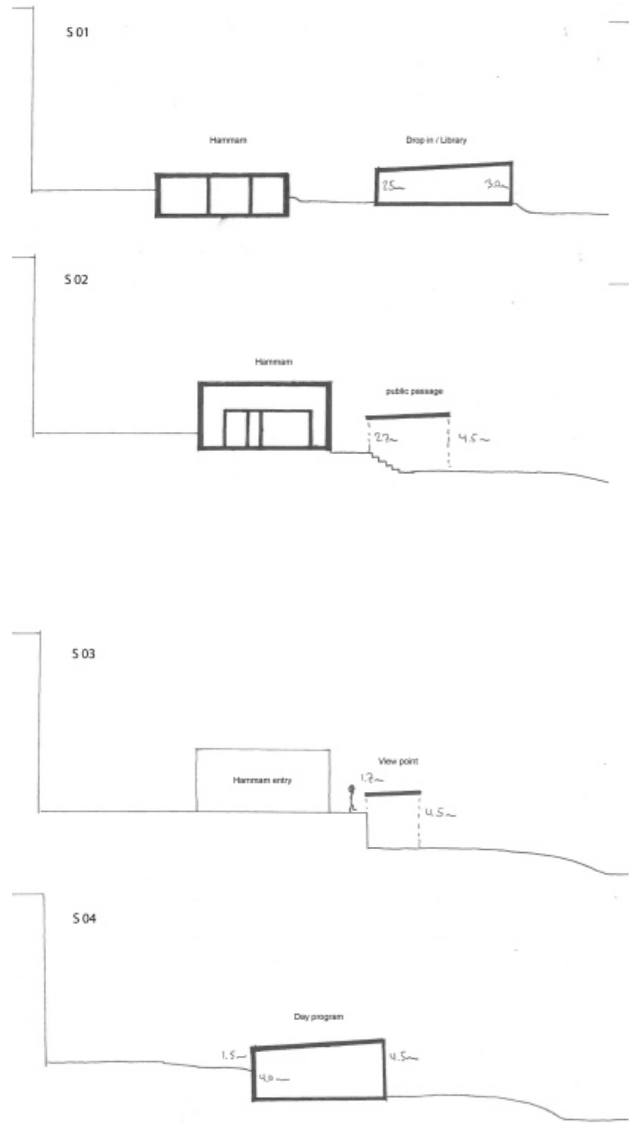
To see how the possible passage under the roof could work I modelled the scenario in sketchup and drew out some plans and sections to test the sizes. The location of the cafe and kitchen training area has been under discussion for a while and I was curious to test a scenario of it being located close to the central public space. I have realised that while placing the cafe central within the public atrium is nice because it can be reached most easily from each volume, it is more practical to locate it at one end of the volume so that access to the day programs or drop in are not hidden behind this component or requires one to pass through it. Long corridors should be avoided for the day program facilities and this plan needs careful work.



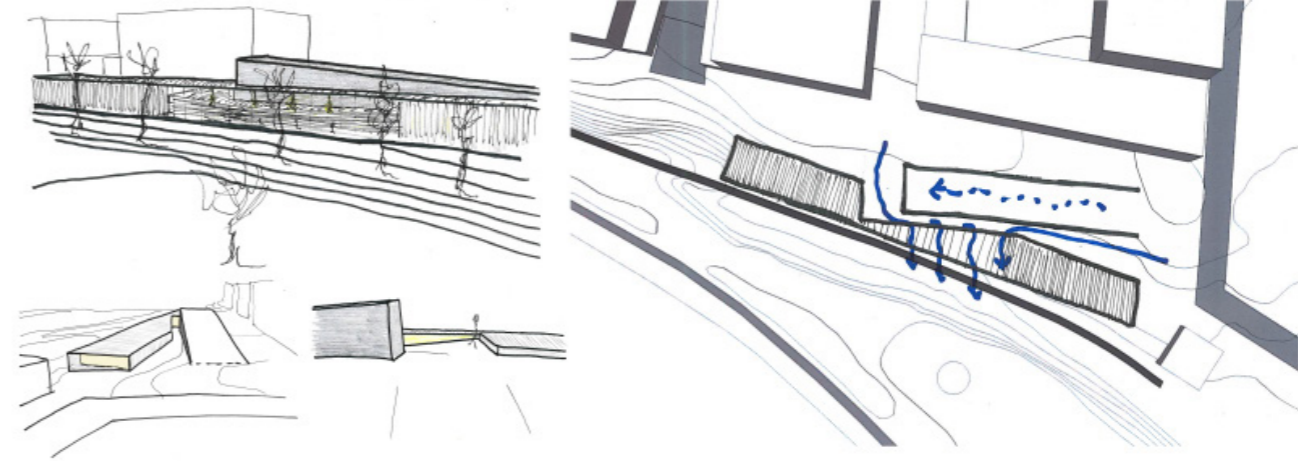
The close interaction with the landscape and levels around of the building requires careful consideration and constant adjustment of all heights, making the intentions difficult to fulfill at times. As the previous sketches try to illustrate, the wish has been to provide a view and outlook from above



the roof of the building I have seen that reaching a low enough height of the roof to view above at one point and high enough to pass under at another is difficult to achieve within the same volume, even with the terrain ramping down towards the north.



The tutoring concludes that the current scenario creates a weak point where the volumes meet the pedestrian axis from the west and that this approach and entry needs to be much better strengthened. The volume appears nearly completely cut and almost too weak to hold. While the idea of creating a publicly open atrium in the middle and pushing functions to the side is appreciated I am encouraged to consider giving this volume more of a whole appearance. After some discussion and doubt about how to proceed with what has proven time after time to create difficult scenarios, the tutoring concludes with the decision to remove the ramp and open space between the two volumes and rather encourage people to use the railway as access between the northern car road and the main central entry. Creating sufficient height for people to pass through the structure from the west and top of the slope was a big topic of discussion as it had been agreed upon that adding an extra volume was not beneficial. The final decision was thus, as it suddenly appeared obvious, to use the volume and height of the hammam volume for through access. Perhaps can this volume be extended to form a large open atrium that provides public access down through the lower volume?



After the previous tutoring session I had decided to discard the idea of the current ramp between the hammam and treatment volume and established that the best idea would be that the public as well as visitors to the centre enter in through the hammam volume. These decisions had made it easier to work out the entrance scenario while it also sparked some new standpoints to be made and tested in order to resolve the situation.

Through the testing of different alternatives in SketchUp I debated the following questions:

- from which direction should you pass through from the pedestrian axis – is it important to see and pass directly through to the water or can the connection remain as a visual axis above the roof before passing down through the building to the north?

- what is the experience entering from the railway and what is the focal point here vs. the focal point entering down if directions are different?

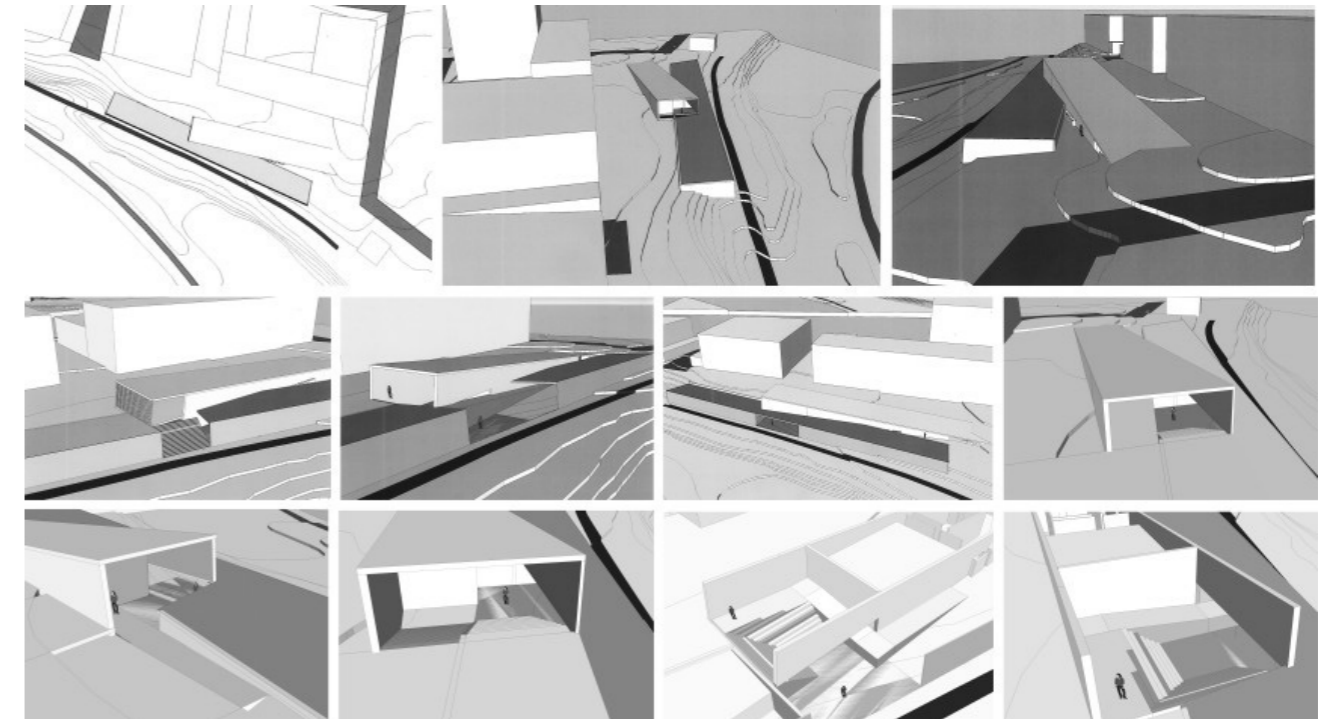
- awkward roof situation: the changes in roof height from one volume to another can become awkward at the lower end if the passage of stairs/view axis is oriented directly towards it

- ramp needs 30 m down: should the entrance situation require a ramp or is a lift sufficient? Fitting an extensive ramp easily creates a messy situation.

- climate control: should the atrium space be climatized requiring passersby to go through doors or can it remain an unclimatized passage through?

From the studies I soon discovered how it would be convenient to locate the hammam on the same level as the other volume. It is unnecessary and does not make sense for someone to walk up to the hammam from the lower volumes in order to again pass underground inside the hammam. Due to the direction that it sits within the landscape,

the further volumes of the hammam will be sufficiently submerged under the ground without using ramps when the entrance is lowered to the level of the railway. While the ramp down in to the hammam strengthens the experience of going underground it is unnecessary and inconvenient for bathers.



During the next tutoring session I was able to confirm and work some of the existing thoughts out further. We agreed that a north entry in through the hammam makes sense due to the sloping volume and a direct connection with the view and water can be made at the intersection with the pedestrian axis. The hammam should therefore be brought further north to not disrupt the view. It was further agreed that a lift could be an okay replacement for a ramp in the case that it becomes too difficult or messy to fit and that the concern could potentially be returned to at a later stage. The experience when arriving from the railway is especially important to work out as the view from here sees the entry stairs and hammam from the side.

Perhaps does the entry to the hammam need to extend out and the steps fold down in both directions? As for the trouble with change in roof height, this needs to be worked with as it has been established that it needs to be there. Perhaps should the hammams walls extend down to mark its territory also inside the structures? (this could create an interesting perforated wall that stairs/people can pierce through?) The hammam volume is powerful enough to cut through the other and this should also be evident on the interior. Perhaps is it important to let these angles gain dominance within the footprint of this volume? I feel as though I have established good perimeters and standpoints to take the development of this space further with some more eager decisiveness.

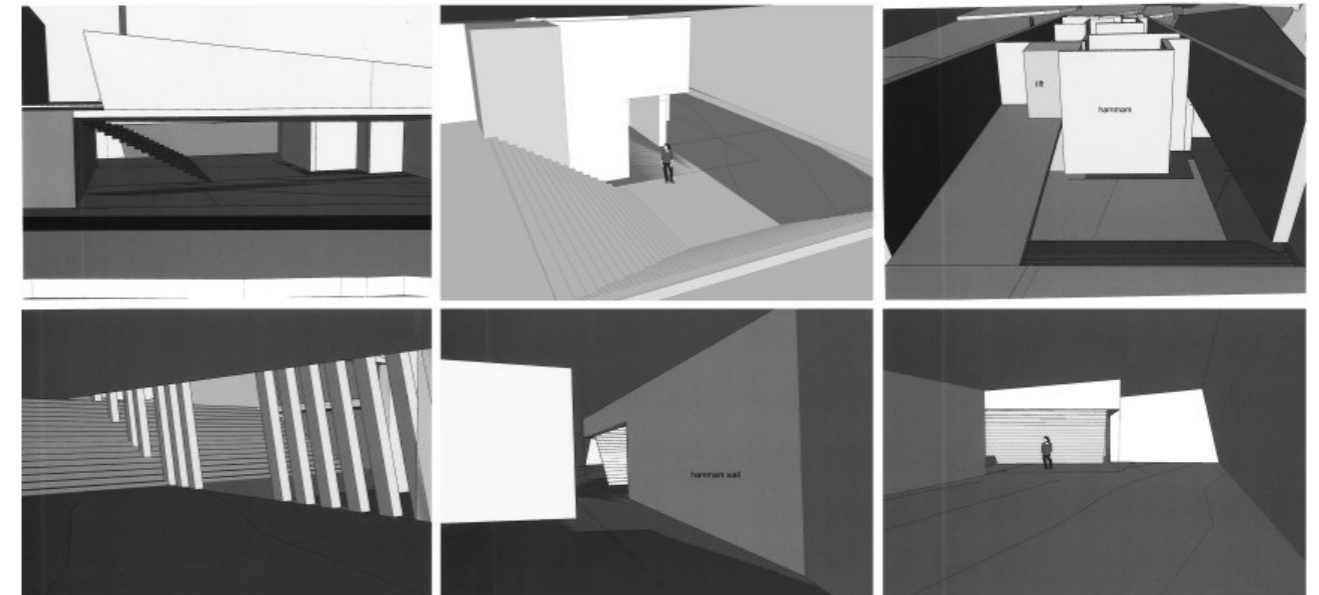


Prior to the next tutoring session I had continued working with the expression of the entrance space and connectivity between the intersecting volumes internally. The meeting between different entrances and various angles is tricky in terms of determining the location and nature of the stairs leading the way. Achieving a simplistic expression for the staircase is proving difficult due to the many connections and entrances at each side. The entrances to the hammam, the drop in centre and treatment functions have to function well at each corner while allowing for the public flow to naturally pass through between the railway and upper pedestrian axis. After exploring the space in physical model as well as in sketchup I was able to identify some some main standpoints.

- Marking the hammam entrance by projecting a volume for the entrance creates greater visibility when entering from the railway through the treatment volume but becomes too cluttered – the best approach would be to enhance the massive expression of a continuous 2 story wall, thus keeping this wall entirely detached from the staircase and second story.

- An elevator is best placed behind the hammam wall, where it does not become a main attractor and functions well for transporting both public passersby and those passing between the hammam's wardrobes and the yoga studios on the second story.

- The stairs should not extend in to the lower roof volume as this blocks entries and passage between drop in and treatment facilities



My attempts to resolve the floor plans of the treatment volume have continued simultaneously to the battle with the entrance atrium and I have at several instances re questioned which functions are most suitable where in order to achieve the right transitions between private and public space. While the entrance to the drop in center

most definitely is suited to face the atrium I am unsure of whether the the cafe facilities, artists studio or day program components are most suited to face the atrium on the other side. All of these components should ideally have the possibility to be entered separately and I feel uncertain of which functions are better seen as coexisting together.

#### Location of functions:

-As for the location of functions I have decided that locating the public cafe followed by the kitchen training facilities close to the atrium is more beneficial in terms of creating a focal point for all public activity here. Locating the day program components north of the kitchen functions works well in terms of the shared use of the kitchen between this program and others but also sparks of the discussion of a second, private entry to the day program from north. This is tricky due to ground levels requiring digging but beneficial as the north entry to the site is in fact the main car access as well.

- The artist studios can operate well detached from the day program components as seen in reference projects and can therefore be placed easily accessible on its own at the southern end of the building.

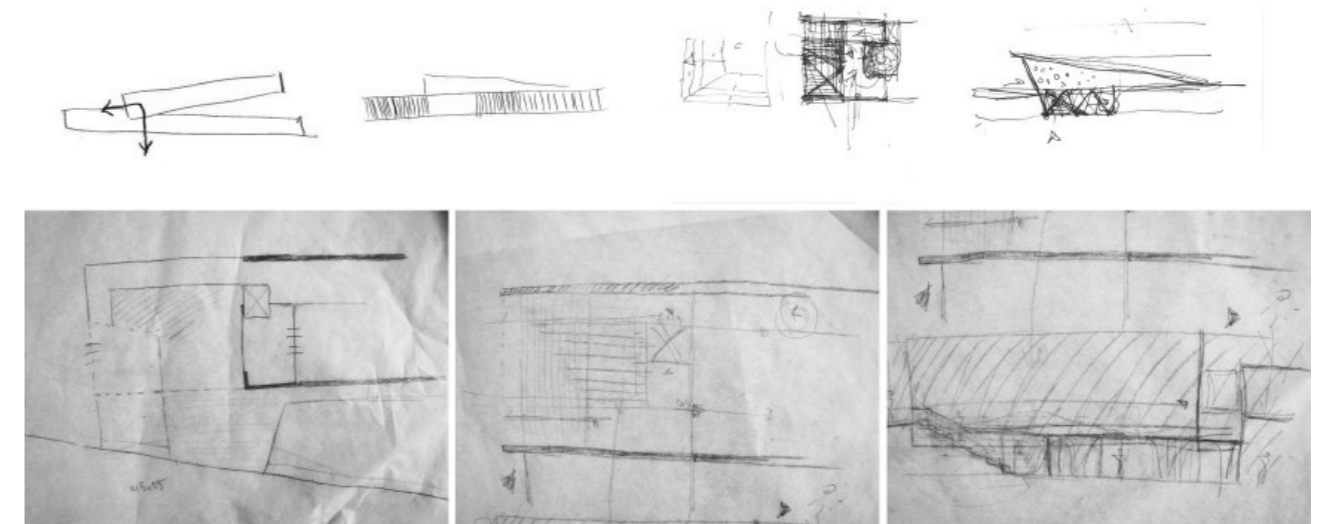
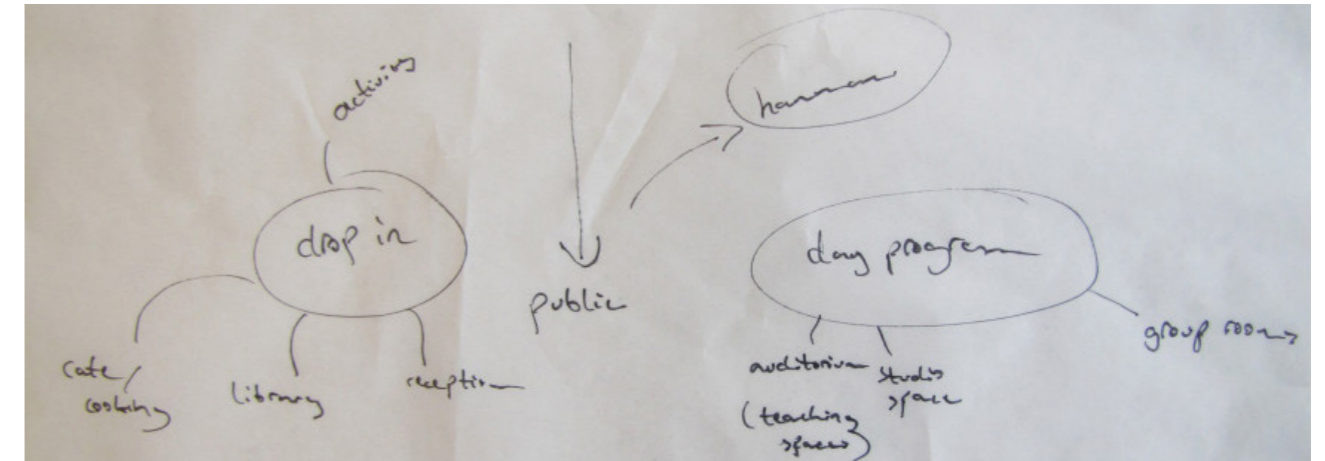
#### Entrance atrium:

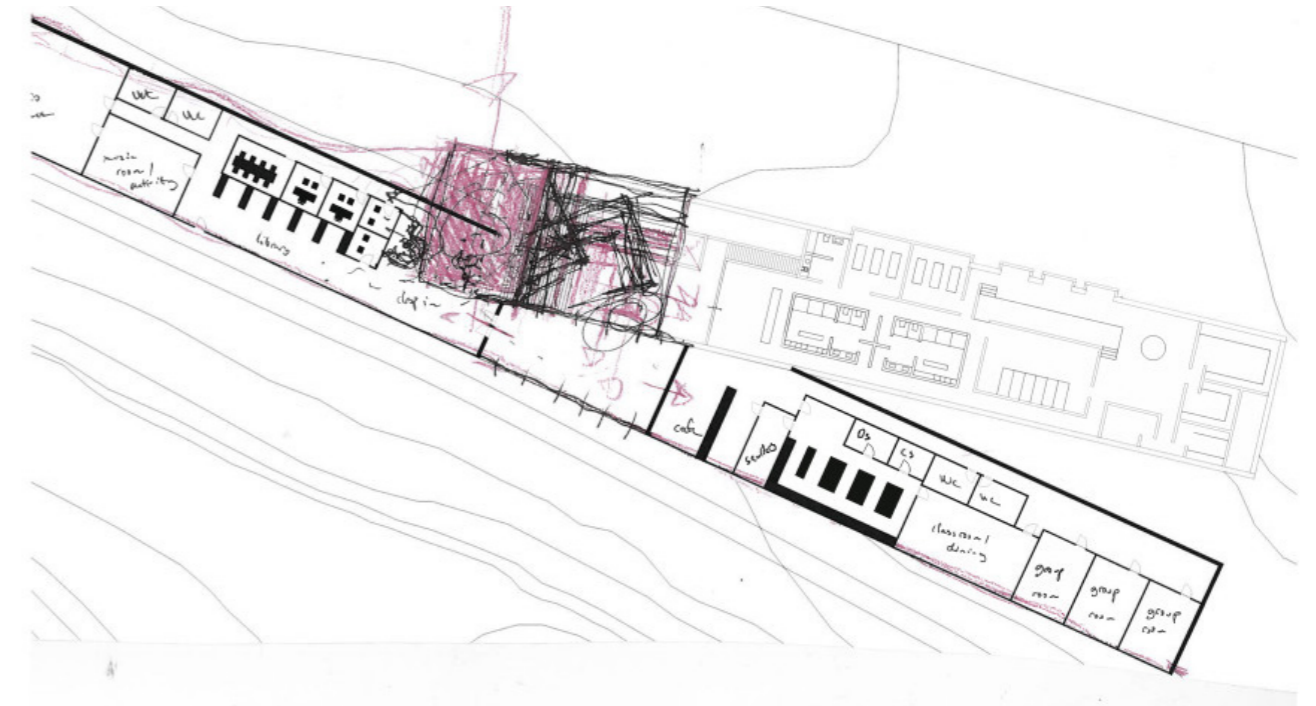
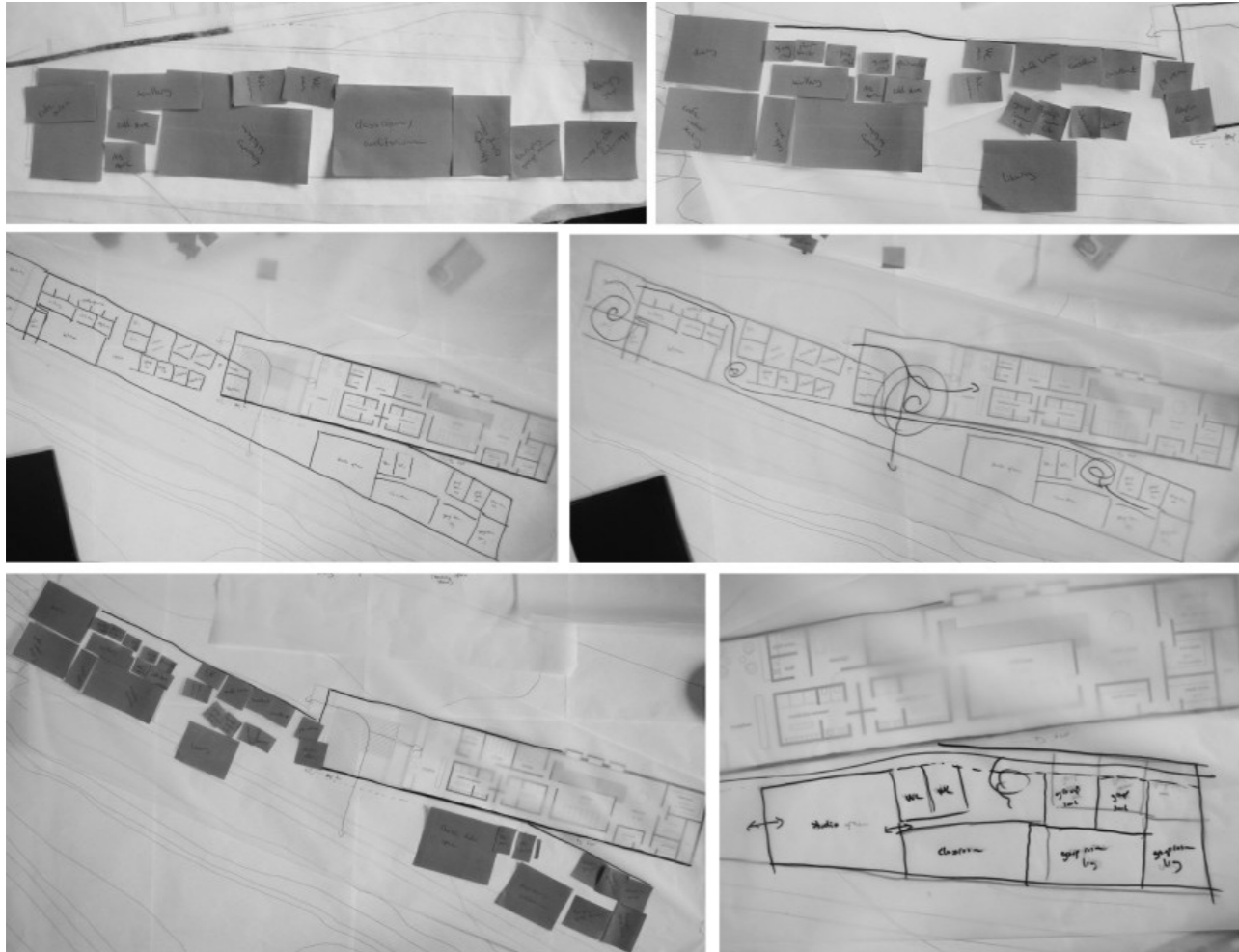
- As the hammam wall is meant to be emphasized, focus should be on creating a dramatic entry towards this massive wall. The existing amphitheater and stairs explored are heavy and large – perhaps could a lighter expression contrast well?

- Introducing a new angle for the staircase and circulation could be beneficial as no straight angle satisfies the complexity of the space.

- A greater platform should be created at the entrance to the hammam in order to signalize public space from the pedestrian street.

- The passing between the hammam and treatment volumes should be defined and extenuate to enhance the experience of passing between to different yet intersecting spaces.





In terms of the current plan the relation between functions should work as long as the circulation is adjusted. The northern section of the day program component especially needs work while the drop in centre and administrative areas work well. Instead of locating corridors towards the back wall it

could be nicer to explore a free flow between spaces along the light facade with good visibility. In terms of benefiting the overall concept in all parts of the execution it is important to remember the contrast between light and dark lines, which walls are dominating and important and which are not.

april 9th, 2014

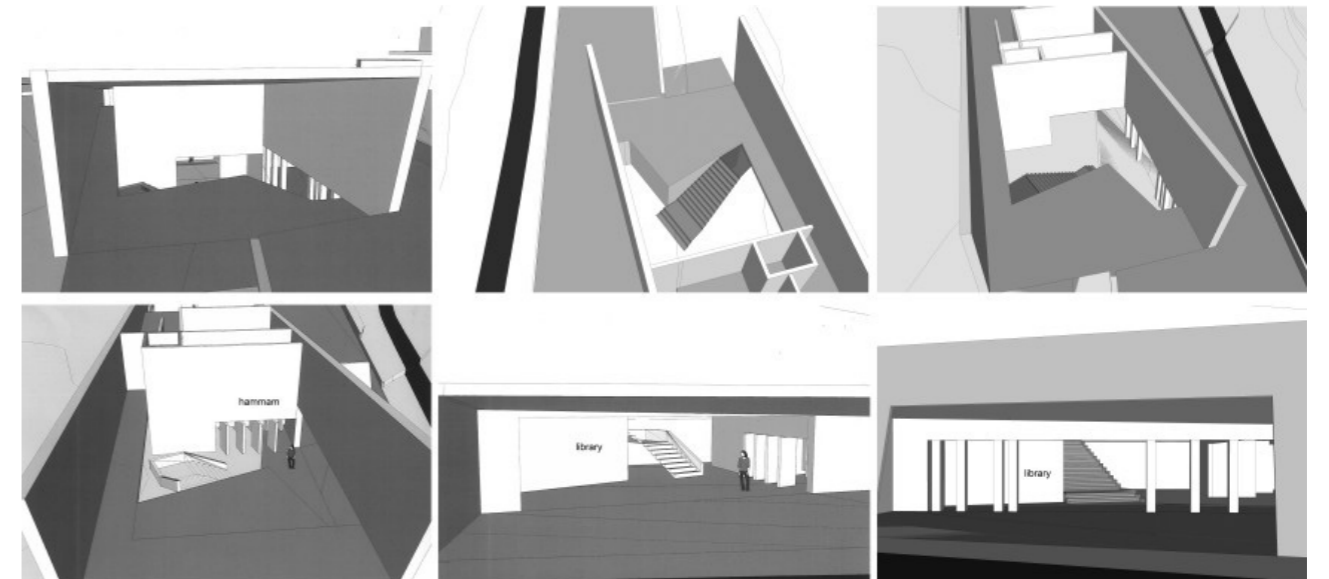
## tutoring decisions for plan and atrium



Continuing work with the atrium space in sketchup and implementation of some new ideas has given some results and it appears as though the introduction of a new angle and lighter staircase expression makes the space more dynamic. The space works well in volume, and although the expression in plan is a little hard to get used to I am convinced that this may be a matter of small adjustments as well as the expression of hierarchy in the line work. I explore some different types of staircases and decide to like the idea of extending the library and drop in centre here. The direct view of the drop in centre upon entering from the railway could be very important and creates a better situation than the previous vision line on to the massive stairs and background wall.

As for the entrance to the hammam I am still a bit uncertain of how this should be expressed between the elevator, hammam lobby and atrium. The elevator should not be closed off behind the lobby entrance wall and thus this should be pushed to the back. My tutor convinces me that introducing an angle at this wall might create a more dynamic expression to suit the atrium space around. The idea of a lower 'skifa' at the elevator before entering the double story hammam lobby works well and the possibility exists to place a wall of high visibility here too, in order to define more clearly an intermediate zone.

In terms of angles it is again important to remember the hierarchy in the lines in terms of where they could be introduced and not. Perhaps could the entries to the drop in and cafe areas be through angled flexible light facades that area operable?



For this tutoring I feel as though I have finally landed on an overall concept that works. The positioning of functions has been decided and the flow of circulation has been much improved by focusing on creating openness towards the facade. The challenge had been to make the group room section (the most private) work behind the cafe/kitchen prep area. The shared function of a classroom with flexible doors

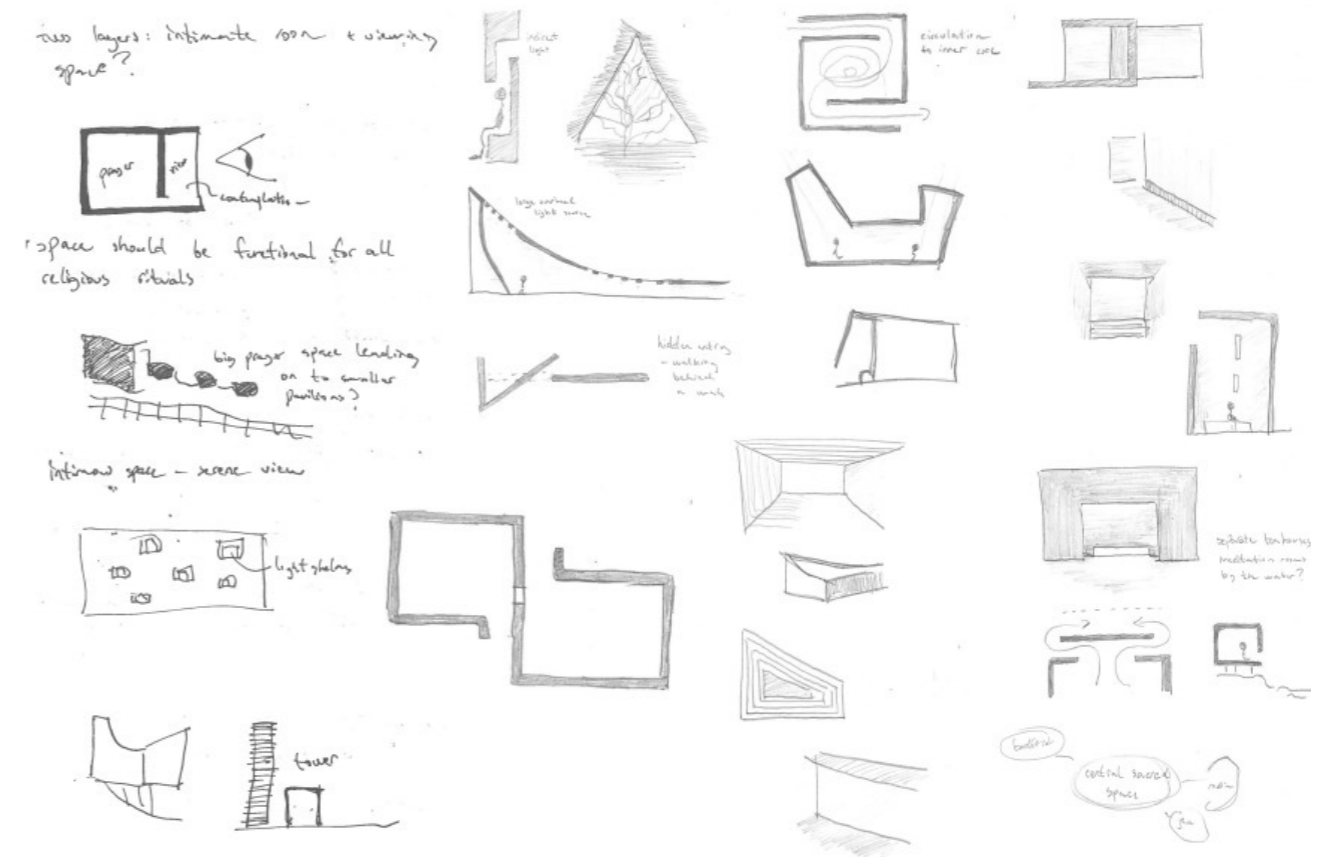
as well as the introduction of new entrances towards the north west has worked well. A private entry to the day program for those who know where they are going or do not wish to pass through very public areas is very beneficial and easily accessible from the car road. A kitchen entry for deliveries is also necessary in this area, although a storage room directly be the entry should be developed.



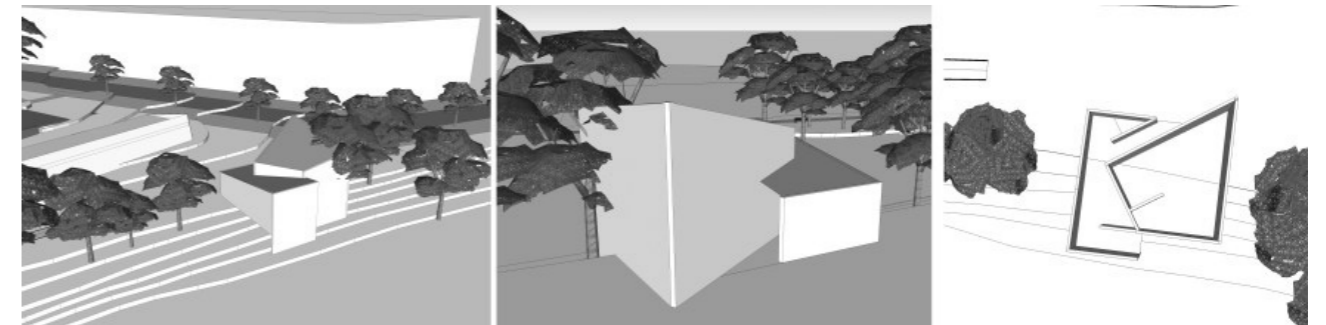
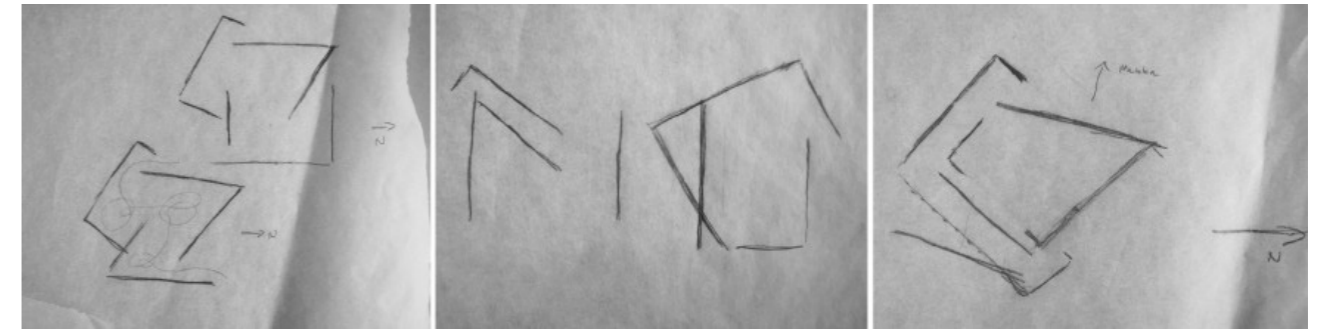
### ideas for the contemplation room

An important part of the program developed for the project had always been to establish a space of some spiritual nature that would give visitors some breathing place for personal contemplation, alone time, meditation or prayer. I had been uncertain as well as persistently exited about the expression of such a space throughout the project process without reaching the point in time to develop it fully earlier on. many different religions are flourishing in footscray and the space should take in to account the requirements of these. Especially strong is the need for muslims to pray several times a day although the specific requirements in terms of architecture are not especially high for individual prayer.

I explore many ideas and references of how to achieve atmosphere through indirect lighting as the 'mood' projected by such a space will be most important. For the first proposal of a structure I explore how the direction towards mecca could be integrated as direction is mostly only significant for muslims. I am however unsure about how visible this direction should be or if it is a good idea or not to play with new angles within the project. In some sense I feel as though the prayer room would require a simplistic expression and so further work would be needed to develop a concept like this.



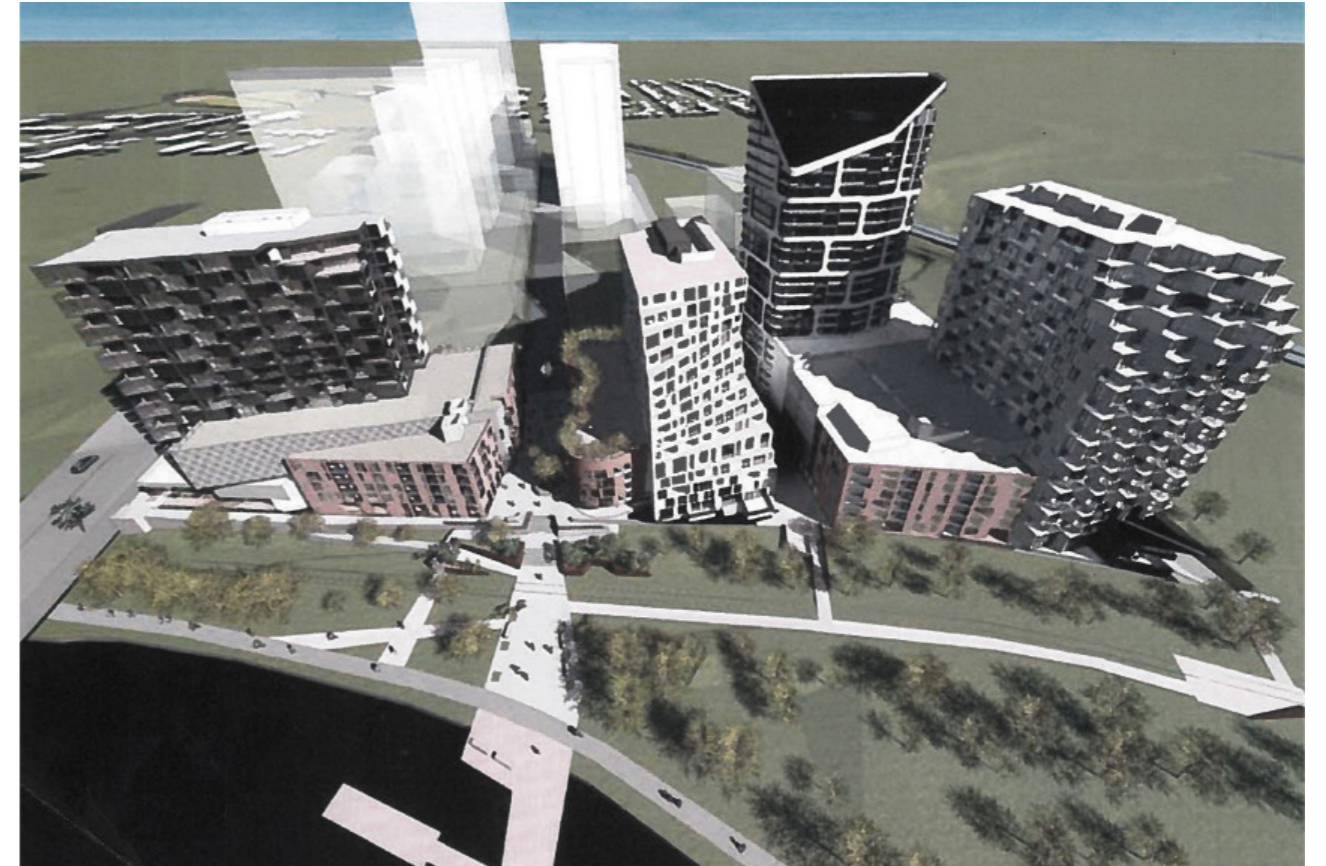
The current proposal has become expressed as two parts within a unity and the reason for this has been my wish to provide some distinct experiences within the volume. A large central sacred space for prayer should be provided as well as a contrasting and more heavily lit space for contemplation and meditation. I have wanted to locate the prayer space at the end of the railway line, which is also the highest point within the landscape. From here the prayer room can be viewed from most directions, and also appeal to passersby on the riverside trail. The location on the hill gives a great view out towards the river which should be taken advantage of for the meditation component. Perhaps is it a nice experience to exit out through this type of brightly lit space with a view after having visited the dark and very introverted prayer space? After exploring my ideas in model and feeling rather uncertain about the exact identity of the type of space I want to create, I decide to rethink this concept. The expression of two intersecting volumes feels too cluttered within the existing rather simplistic expression I have already worked so hard to achieve and i am reluctant towards the exterior expression of two volumes intersecting as this may easily appear as a cheap copy of the main volumes. I am unsure of how to achieve what I want in terms of experience and space within a more simplistic and modest expression. Perhaps should the provision of one or several contemplation spaces be approached in a different way than that of a religious 'chapel'?



april 17th, 2014

zooming out

After reaching a moment of questioning in terms of how to deal with the remaining free standing pavilions of contemplation space as an essential part of the project I had felt the need to take a step back and have another look at the larger context in order to develop a proper plan site plan around the building. While I have worked persistently with the landscape and surrounding qualities throughout the process it has also been hard to get a full grasp of how the complexity of the entire site will play out. The site itself is rather unlimited and having to draw the boundaries myself as well as envision what such a large plot designated for development will look in the future has been difficult. Various proposals exist for development within the Joseph Road precinct, however research has shown that no clear ideas of what will actually happen on the plot has been made public as of yet. It has taken time to obtain proper map materials of the area and the vagueness of these have led to that some aspects have been left rather uncertain since the initial site analysis. I found it beneficial to have a fresh look at this and was able to obtain some further useful information from various developers and the municipality in Footscray which give a clearer image of how the area is likely to transform. I take this time to draw up proper large scale maps of the existing as well as future scenario which had previously been missing.



For the specific site plan around the project I adjust the expression of the surrounding development based on ideas of potential future plans with the modification to make room for my proposal. Considering aspects such as all pedestrian routes, the expression of the car road,

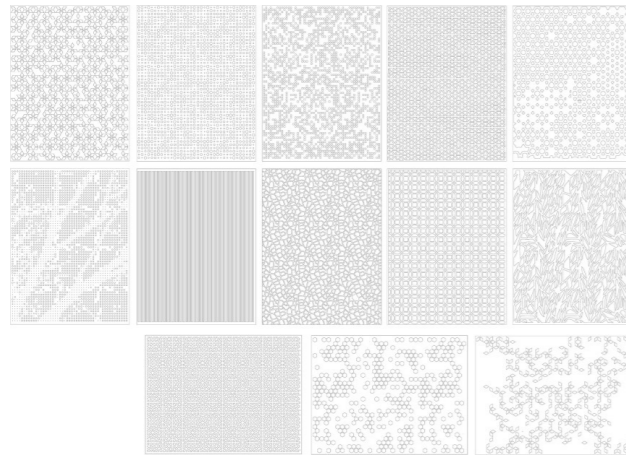
side walks, exact positioning of vegetation to be kept and proposed and entrance points to the project has given me a clearer idea of the intended circulation on site and thus also an improved picture of where the remaining architectural interventions could be placed.

The railway line that exists on site has been very important for the development of the project since I first discovered the site by following its trail in the forest. How to deal with the existing line and how it should be expressed has been at the back of my mind throughout the process and I feel as though there are many possible options of how to deal with this. Should the railway be preserved in its original state as much as possible in order to maintain its memory or can this also be done by giving the line entirely new expression? I feel as though the importance of the railway is possibly not its expression and look but rather the line it has created which so perfectly slopes up the landscape. It feels as though the landscape has almost been shaped around the railway rather than the other way around and in my perception it is the potential as a connector that is of interest in addition to creating an element of curiosity. In my opinion the line, damaged or covered by rotten grass at many points, does today not portray a romantic picture worthy of preservation but rather the potential to exist as an alternative walkway leading the way through the forested areas from the city. I decide that while many options exist for filling the railway with some sort of paving material, the use of timber (as seen in the lower right picture) stays true to the railway's original expression to a greater extent than other more expressive options. I had also been interested in defining the line in some contrast to the existing pedestrian paths (especially the waterside trail) and a softer material like wood therefore seems suitable within the park environment.



april 28th, 2014

## facade testing



The expression of the facade facing the railway is a vital aspect of the design and I have envisioned this as a continuous perforated steel facade since the very early stages of the project. Working with light, materiality and the atmospheres it can create has also been an aspect of curiosity from the beginning and I feel the necessity to get deeper in to these aspects of expression which are especially important for this project. I have wanted to develop a facade pattern that will serve the needs of creating a very pleasing and gentle atmosphere aesthetically while allowing for the right amount of privacy as well as light to penetrate to the interiors.

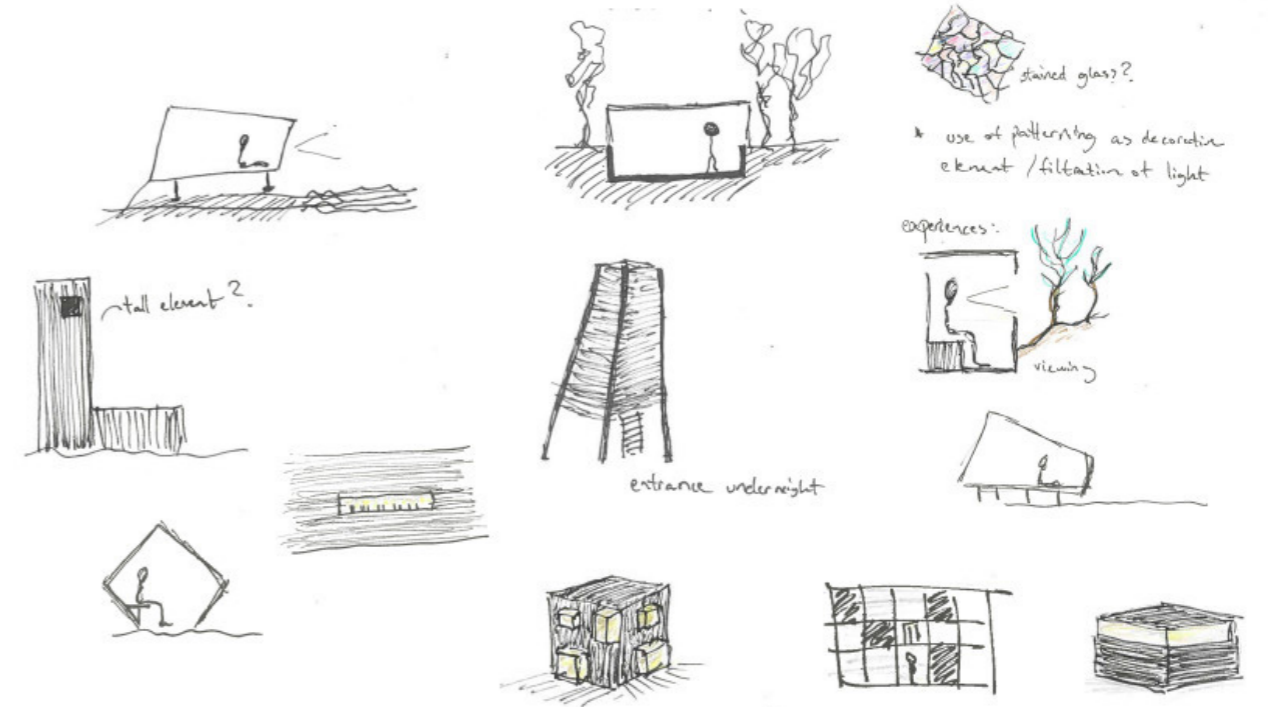
In order to evaluate different options I first prepared a set of interesting patterns as vector graphics in illustrator. The different patterns should create various types of atmospheres and let different amounts of lights through which could then be compared in a 1:20 physical model with the help of the laser cutter.

Creating a physical model to test the effect of the facades was very helpful as the effect of the patterns had been very hard to envision in simple line graphics on the computer. I feel impressed with some of the atmospheres created and also easily identify the ones which are not suitable either due to the amount of visibility or desired aesthetic. As the facade will be very long and continuous it is perhaps important that the pattern incorporates a sense of variation. After discussing with fellow students and tutors I decide that the facade with a continuous tree pattern is the most suitable in every aspect and fits well at the projects meeting with the surrounding park.



## ideas for a contemplation room

After the previous attempts of developing a complementary space for prayer and contemplation to go with the project, I had begun to re-question how the best response to such a need would be expressed. Allowing ideas to develop at the back of my head for some time I felt as though I had reached some conclusions in terms of my desired approach. Both the idea of a prayer space and the potential existence of certain free standing pavilions had been present in my mind since the development of the program for project, however I realized that the needs to be catered for had been somewhat vaguely defined. Stripping my intentions down to their essentials I know that what I wish to provide is some form of atmospheric 'breathing space' which will allow individuals to escape the high pressure or public environments of the treatment centre as well as the surrounding world, that are often sensitively perceived by those suffering from different types of depression. The space constructed should provide shelter from the surroundings and account for the wishes of individuals to be alone, to contemplate, to pray, to grieve, to meditate, or simply enjoy a conversation with another human being in privacy.



With religion playing a central role within the multicultural context of Footscray my urge towards paying a sense of respect to the daily need for prayer of many individuals had been strong. Especially muslims require a space for the religious prayer which for them can be required to take place up to 5 times a day. Through the clarification of my intentions for the project, I see that my wish has been to cater for individual needs of intimacy for prayer rather than that of large groups or communities, and a large space as often required for ceremonies therefore seems unsuited. My research has shown me that the very basic and essential needs for space imposed by various religions to perform prayer are in fact rather few and I therefore feel convinced that a more simple approach to the provision of a space that provides privacy and a sense of atmosphere through its architecture will not only be sufficient but also more appropriate in terms of responding to the envisioned diversity of individuals that would visit the centre.

I have been curious to explore the idea of a series of free standing pavilions that may provide different types of experiences and privacy, accounting for the variation of needs for individual space that is not provided elsewhere within the project. Materiality and lighting are essential tools for archiving atmosphere while regulating privacy and I enjoy researching and envisioning many varied approaches to how feelings such as those of security, mystique and beauty could be translated through the architecture.

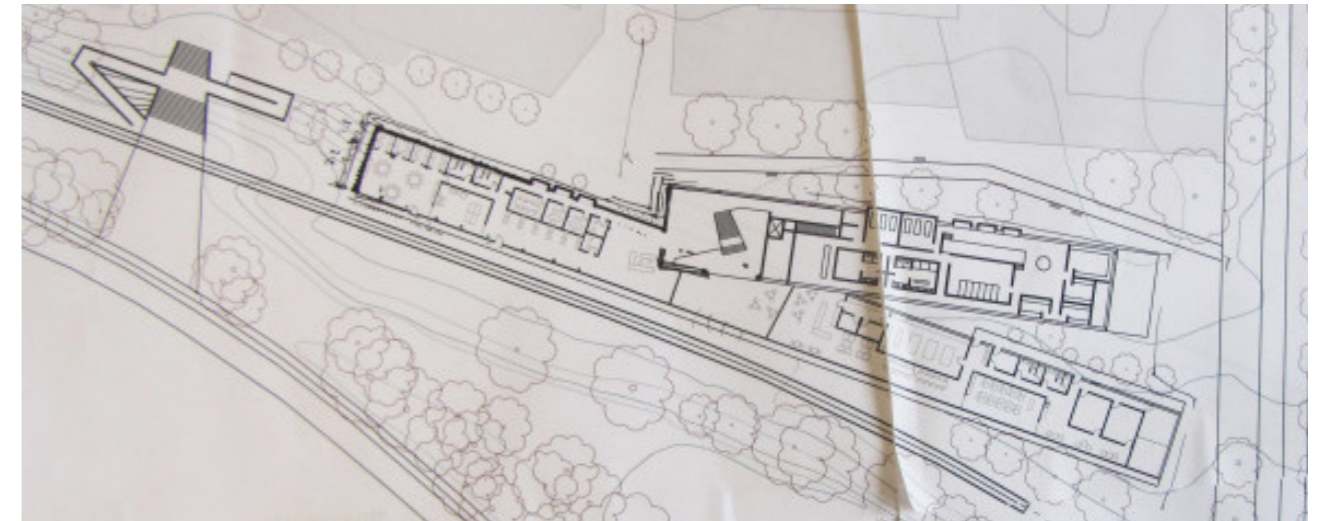


may 4th, 2014

tutoring and discussion of new standpoints

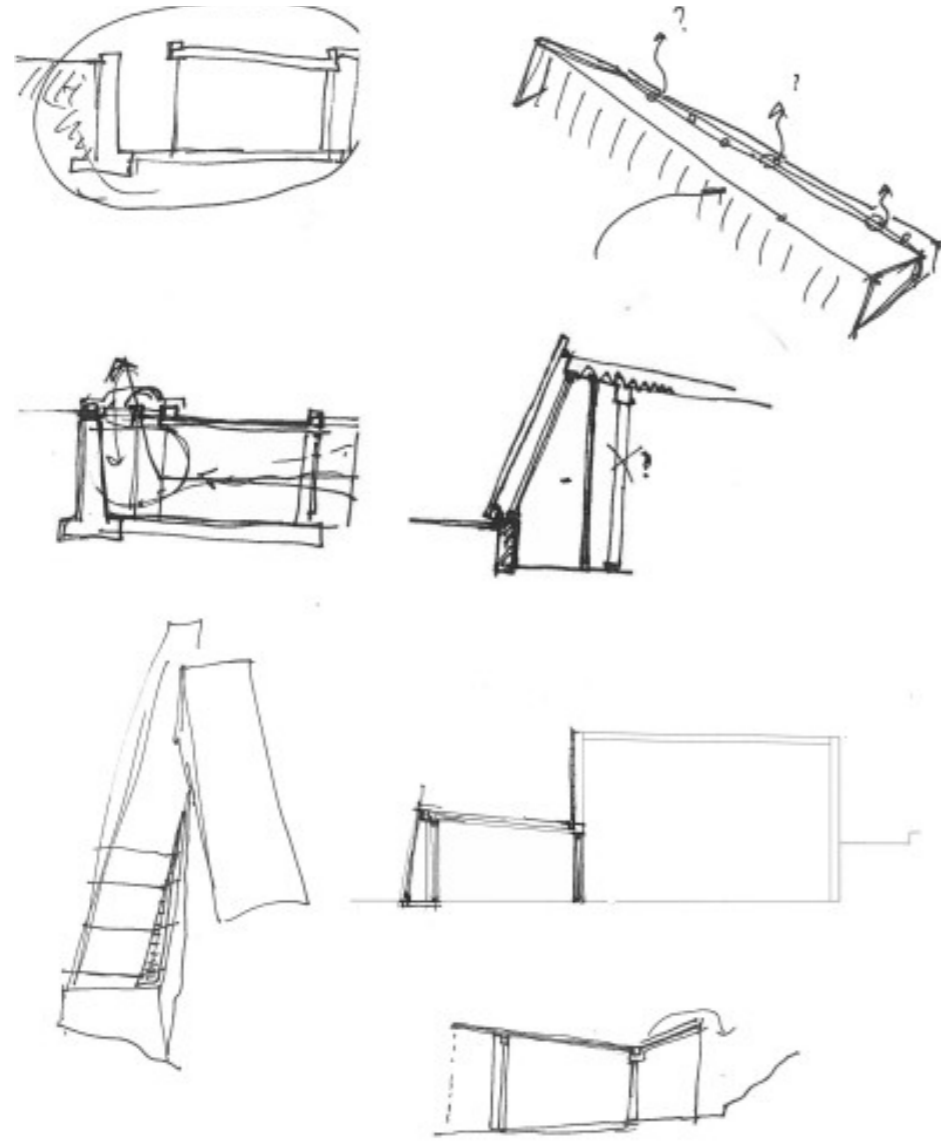
As my thoughts of how to approach the remaining yet essential part of my project related to the contemplation space/s had begun to develop and change, it was good to have the chance to discuss this further with a tutor. My tutor agrees to the skepticism of establishing a new independent building structure for a universal prayer room and points out that a larger volume does not easily sit well within the existing simplistic expression and does perhaps also not belong in the park environment. If built it should not be as large as 100m<sup>2</sup> and be located further north of the existing project in order not to disrupt it. We establish that due to my intended thoughts for the program the project would probably benefit more from a series of small yet simple pavilions within the park environment. These could more easily suffice the need for individual space that a large project and does not compete with the existing volumes. We explore volumes of around 10m<sup>2</sup> each within the 3d model and agree that these sizes would provide good intimacy yet sufficient space.

An overall evaluation of the main volumes of the project helps me identify some main aspects to keep working on also here. My tutor agrees that the facade I have selected is very suitable and that floor plans now are much better resolved. I have been awaiting the chance to get deeper in to detailing the construction of the structures we discuss the potential of aspects such as the need for skylights, ventilation and solar access.

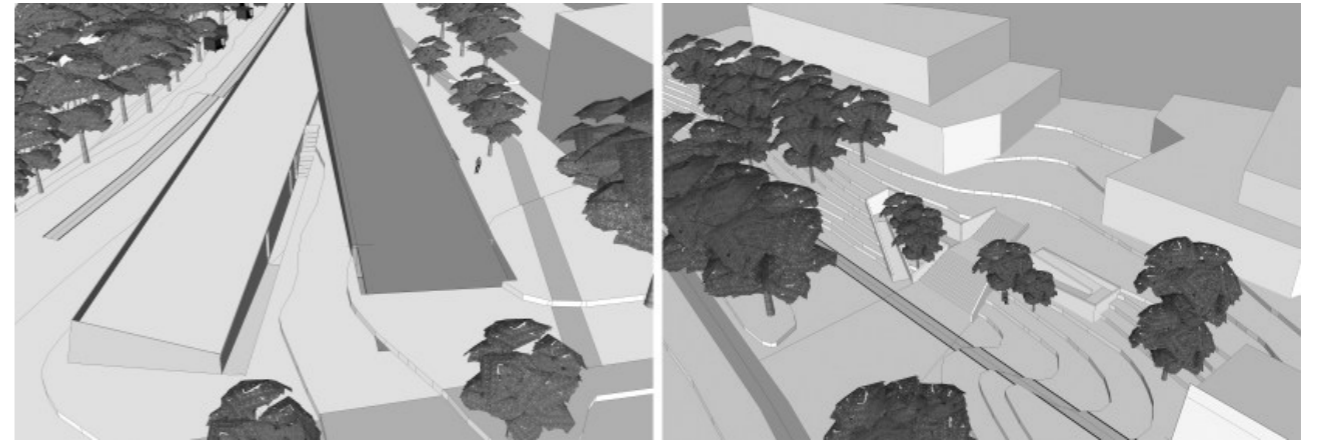


The placement of columns will need to be worked out shortly and may affect the existing plan to some extent. It will be important to draw up the details where the steel facade meets the building structure.





I feel encouraged to give greater consideration to the roof structures of the volumes as the need for fencing around the perimeter creates some architectural dilemmas. The question of how to deal with this is especially crucial at the north west entries to the treatment centre. Perhaps will the concrete facade need to extend to provide a fence at this point? The placement of a staircase for people to leave the roof should be considered at the north section and the way of cutting in to the ground to reach the entrances should also be considered. Perhaps should the terrain slope naturally rather than creating a linear cut?

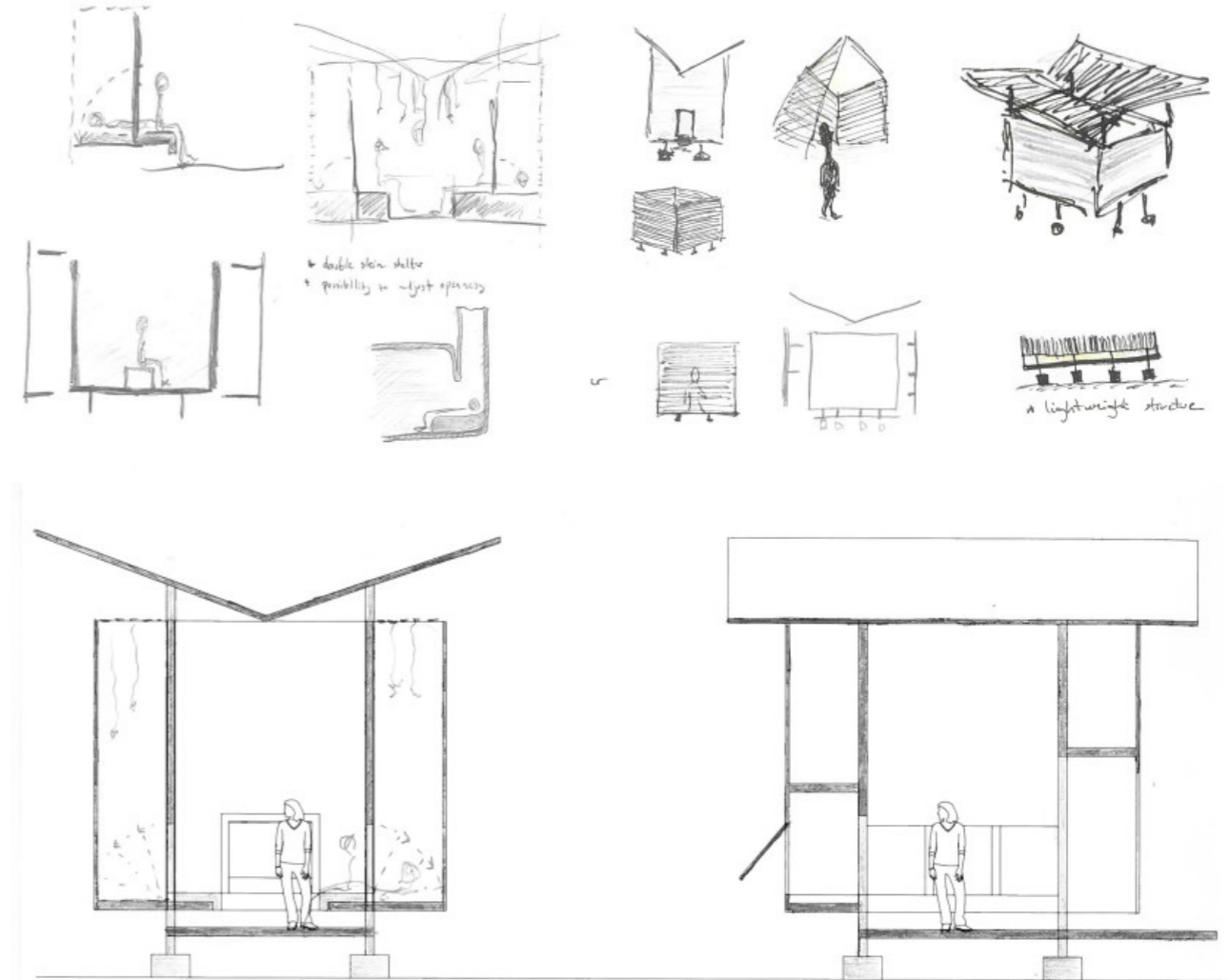


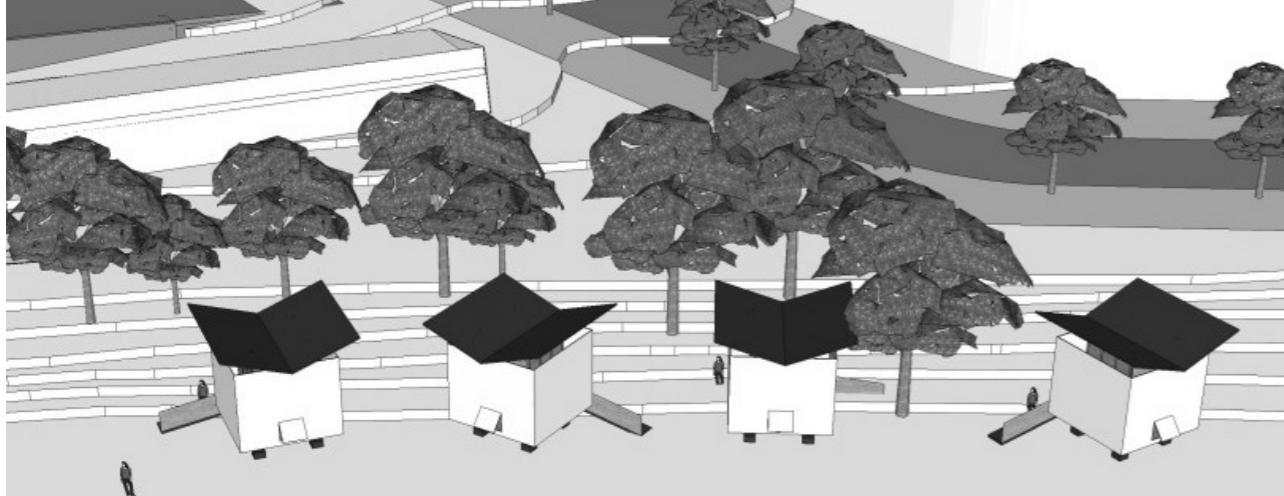
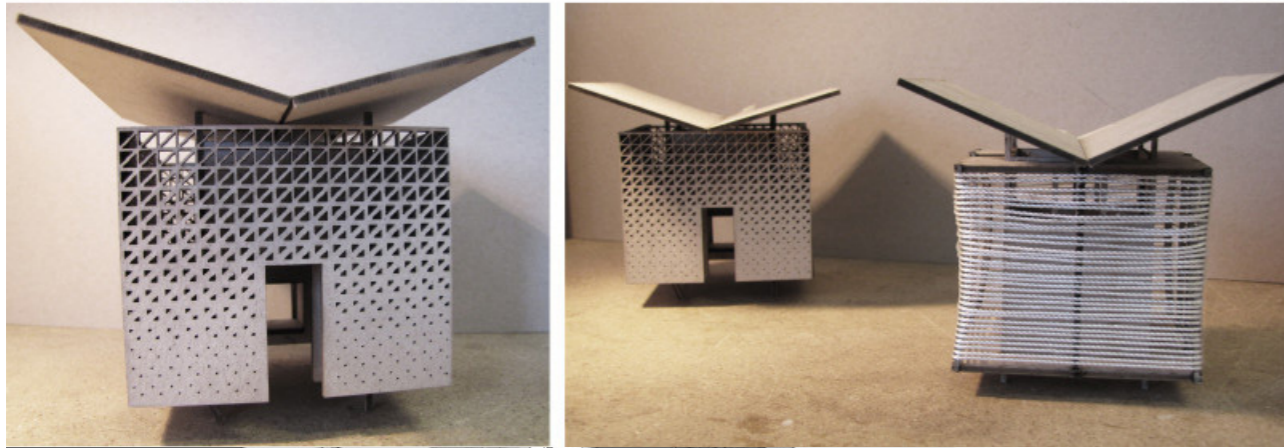
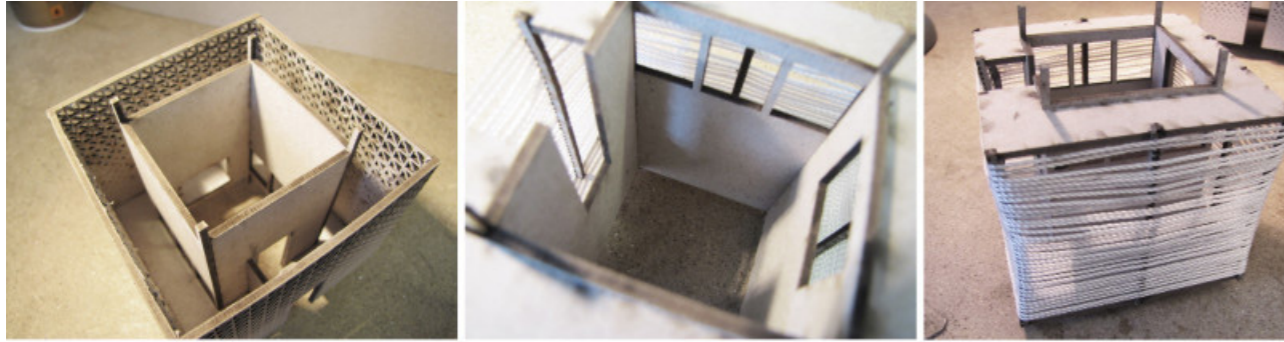
may 5th, 2014

## defining a concept for the pavilions

I had decided to explore some concepts for the idea of several free standing pavilions that would allow for individual contemplation in an intimate yet atmospheric environment. I felt as though these pavilions would require a simple concept which could yet be modified slightly between the different pavilions in order to provide various forms of shelter and experience.

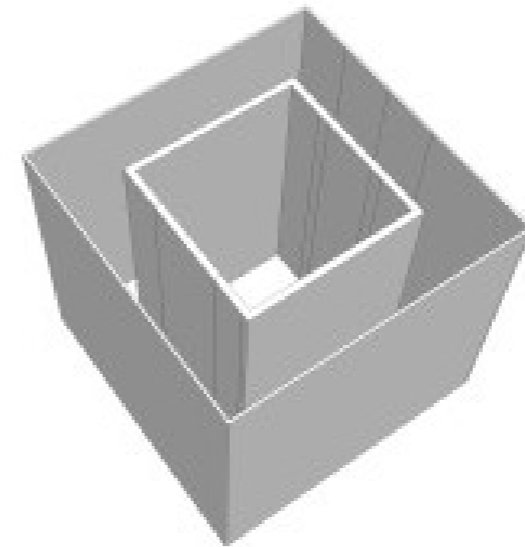
Some sketching and thoughts around various reference projects helped me to explore some different types of experiences that could be made possible in these small pavilions. A strong sense of shelter and privacy, perhaps even complete detachment from the surroundings, is essential for creation of the intimacy and introverted space required for individual contemplation and prayer. The concept for the structures starts with the idea of a simple cubic box, an intimate space surrounded by 4 walls which create the desired privacy and do not concern themselves with particular directions or orientations within the landscape. I want to focus on making the experience within the insides of this cube unexpected from the exterior and am interested in exploring the ideas of a double skin facade which can be projected from the internal cube to provide protection from the surrounding environment. Perhaps can this second layer act as a light screen which filters daylight in to the shelter in a number of ways. I feel that the shelter should be transparent to the extent that it is possible to observe from the outside whether it is being occupied or not without compromising the privacy inside. Perhaps could the largest amount of daylight be gathered from above? My favorite ideas include that of a suspended roof for rain cover where light can filter in through the sides.





My initial ideas involve a concept where seats fastened on to the walls of the internal cube can fold back to allow an individual to experience the hidden space between the exterior and internal walls while laying down. Perhaps could this space be used for exhibiting particular artwork, for light therapy, or simply for a very private connection between the individual and the sky? The artistic treatment of the exterior facade may also create an intricate play of light within this space.

For the following tutoring I prepared two physical models that explore the concept for the pavilions with different facade treatment. Discussion with my tutor leads to the decision of developing 3-5 of these pavilions where the experience within the interior volume can vary. While the strict geometry of the original concept can remain constant for each pavilion, the experience within each one could be modified with small changes to the interior walls as well as the perforation of the exterior facades. Different patterns and light filtration will create varied experiences which has already been established as a main point of exploration for my project through the testing of facades for the main volume. I am encouraged to continue this idea to the pavilions where expressions can more easily take different forms.

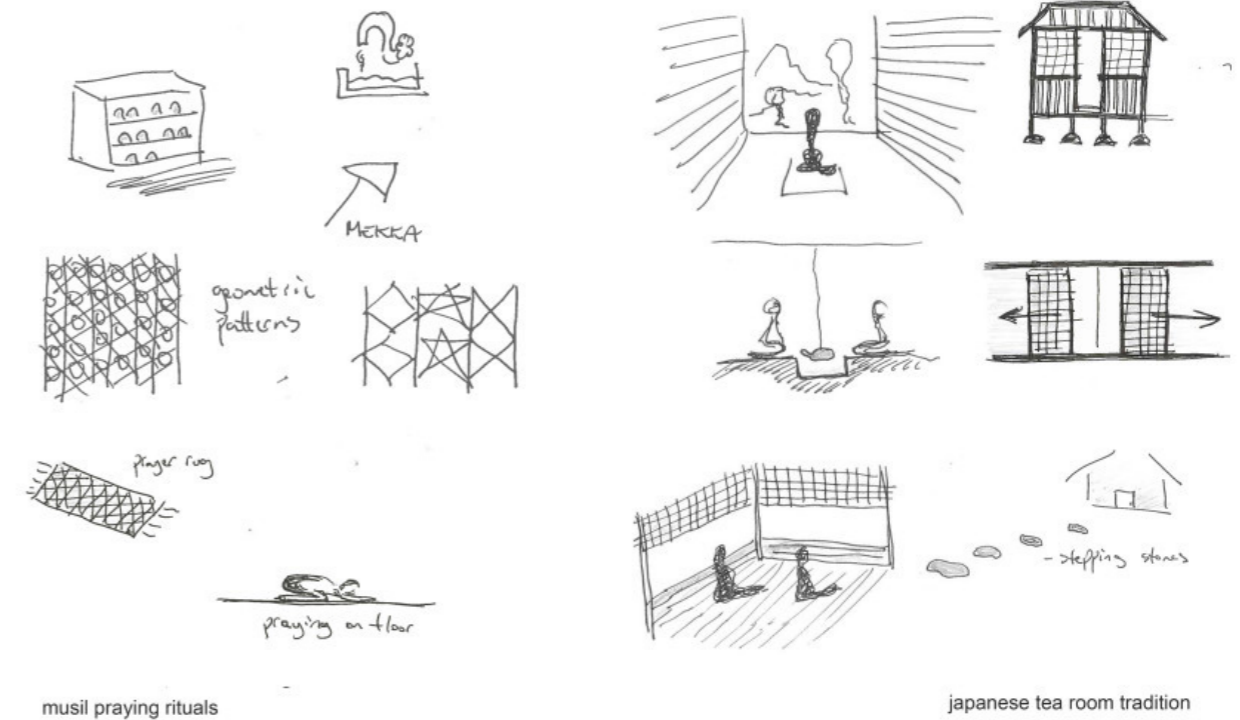


## 5 variations of sanctuaries

After the previous tutoring I was inspired to develop 5 different ideas or 'themes' of experiences within each pavilion. Finally I would have the possibility to express the many varied ideas that had been floating through my head throughout the semester after so much research in to existing reference projects and landscape interventions. Inspired by the cultural diversity of Footscray as well as my own experience of the types of atmospheric spaces that could potentially contribute to the project I was able to develop a program to inspire each pavilion:

### The head-space hut:

Visitors may turn to this hut if in need of some head-space. The inner core provides the most private and closed off space out of all the huts and can be used by small groups for private conversations or simply for some alone time. As a supplementary space for peace of mind or otherwise pure enjoyment the timber walls surrounding the bench structures fold back, allowing individuals to experience the hidden space between the double facade from a laying position. The exterior facade pattern generates an intricate play of light within this space during the day. The potential exists to make further use of this head space created for the display of art crafted at the center, light installations or even for light therapy as proven effective towards depression.

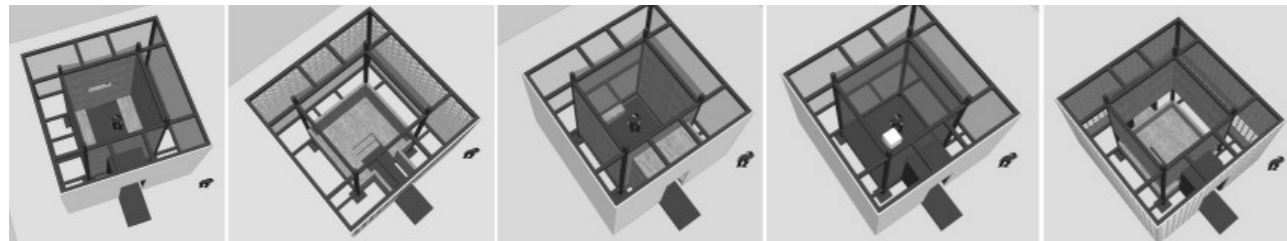


#### The prayer hut:

This hut is dedicated firstly to prayer. Religious devotion is strong and varied within the multicultural city of Footscray and many individuals will require a space for the practice of religious rites on a daily basis. Especially strong may the need be for a depressed person to approach religion for consolation and thus it is important to provide a private escape for religious practices that is easily accessible yet slightly secluded. The prayer hut provides a simple place of beauty within the forest to where individuals of all religions are welcome. A place to store shoes as well as an altar is available. The hut itself has been faced towards Mecca as direction for ritual prayer is especially important for Muslims.

#### The meditation hut:

Meditation as a form of self-awareness training adapted from Buddhist principles is practiced by many sufferers of depression as it can help increase motivation and determination while generating a sense of inner calm. This meditation hut provides as serene and tranquil space for visitors to perform meditation either individually or in small groups. A feeling of openness and overview simultaneous to the perception of security within ones environment are defining features for the creation of a good space to meditate. The inner walls of the meditation hut have been lowered in order to provide maximal view spaciousness

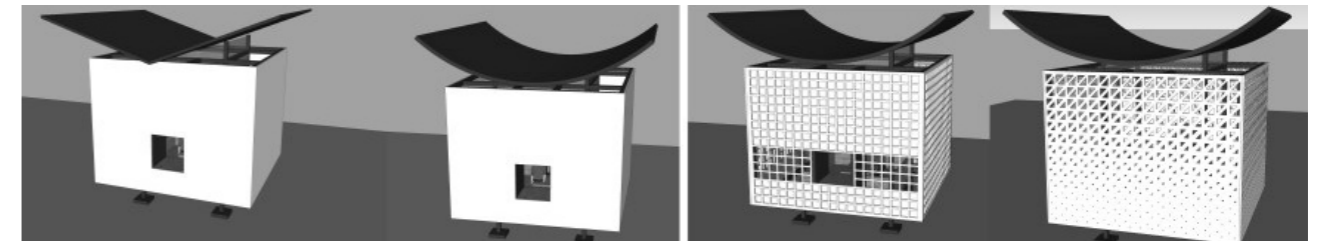


#### The japanese tea hut:

The authentic Japanese tea house is expressed as a detached pavilion located deep within the wilderness of a garden. Traditionally it functioned as a place where like minded individuals could escape the ordinary world and enjoy a few moments of tranquility, precious art objects and a refreshing tea. The architecture of the tea house has been appreciated for its linear forms and aesthetic sensitivity also within its modern interpretations. It is seen as a simplistic and modest structure where all unnecessary embellishment is eliminated in an attempt to create a state of calm. The connection between architecture and landscape is integral within Japanese architecture and especially the tea house. Thus a 360 degree view of the the surrounding park environment can be enjoy from this garden tea hut.

#### The contemplation hut:

One hut has been left for the purpose of individual contemplation. A simple seat takes the center stage within the inner core of this hut which has been detailed entirely with glass in order to enhance the experience of light piercing through the surrounding perforated facade. People suffering from different types of depression are often sensitive and can experience a wide range of emotions throughout one day. The need to escape a high pressure environment should be accounted for and so the ambition of this hut is to provide a soothing and comfortable atmosphere that allows individuals to feel relaxed within their own company and let their thoughts wonder freely.



may 13th, 2014

## thoughts on materiality

While I still have not found the time to detail the construction of the project in a proper manner, the expression of materials have continuously been one of the most important aspects at the back of my head which have informed design decisions. In terms of the expressive steel facade facing the park, many references have inspired the final outcome of the perforated facade. I have been especially interested in looking at many of Sean Godsell's works in detail (Australian architect) and feel that the oxidized steel expression suits not only the Australian architectural style but also goes hand in hand with Footscrays industrial heritage and the existing railway line which runs past the facade.

For the hammam, I have debated back and forth with myself as for how to express the facade. I envision exposed concrete but have remained curious to the expression and use of perforation for light also here. An especially inspiring example is the San Telmo museum extension by Nieto Sobejano Arquitectos where steel facade plates are given a very massive expression where used as cladding for a concrete construction.

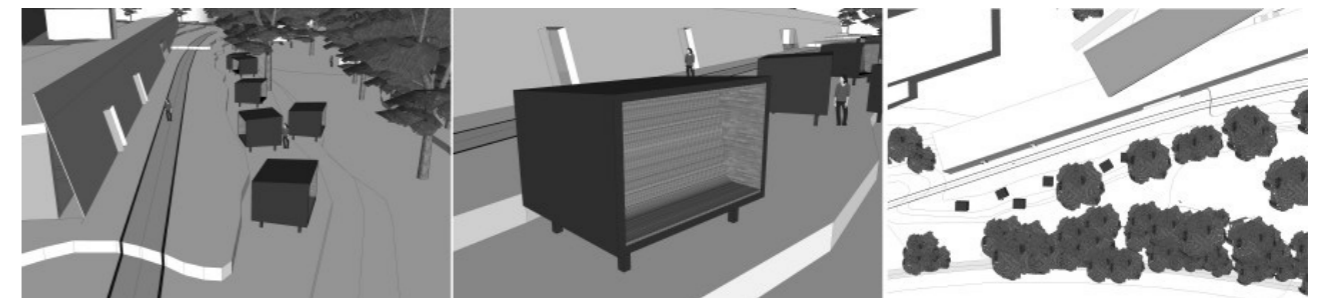


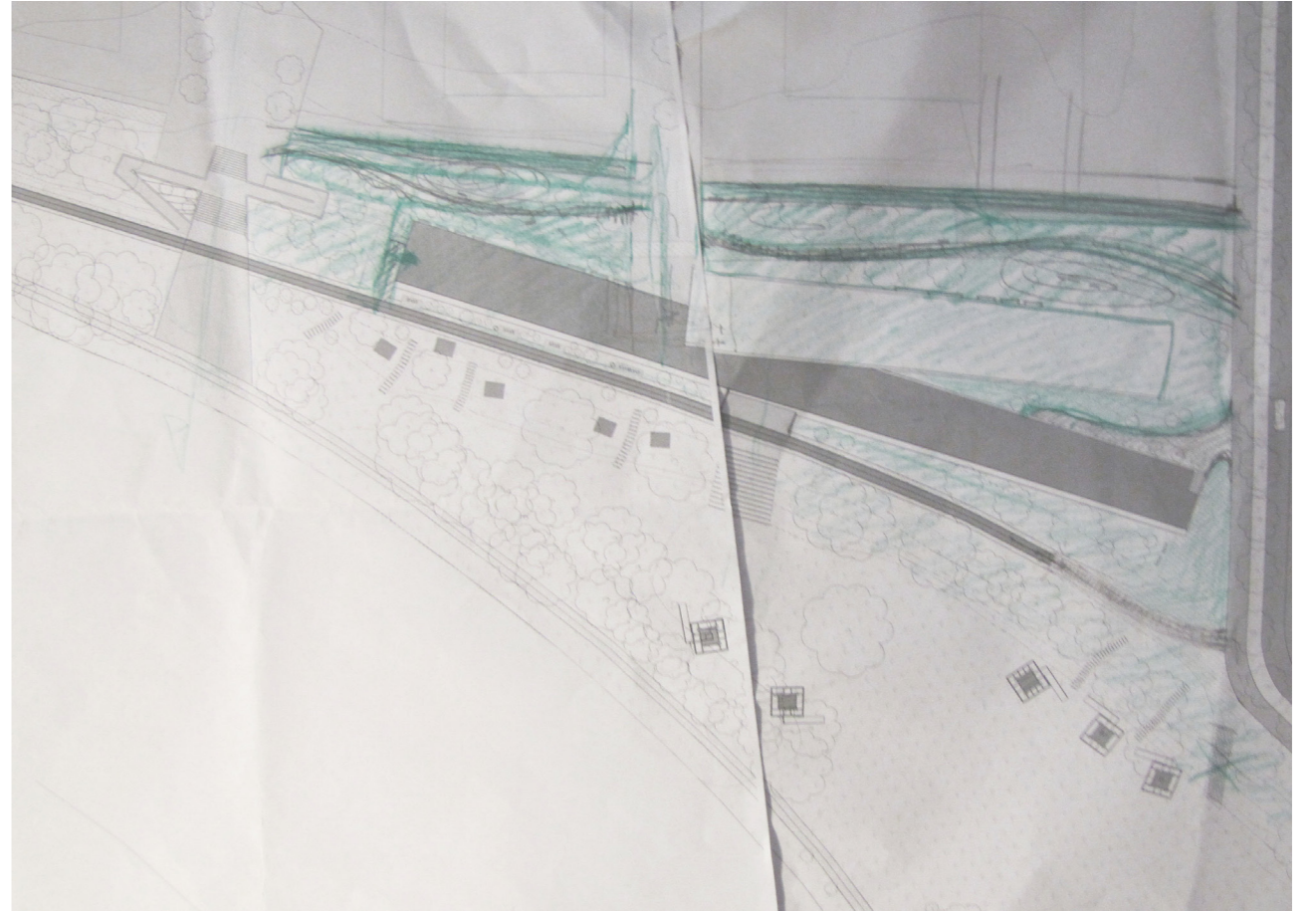
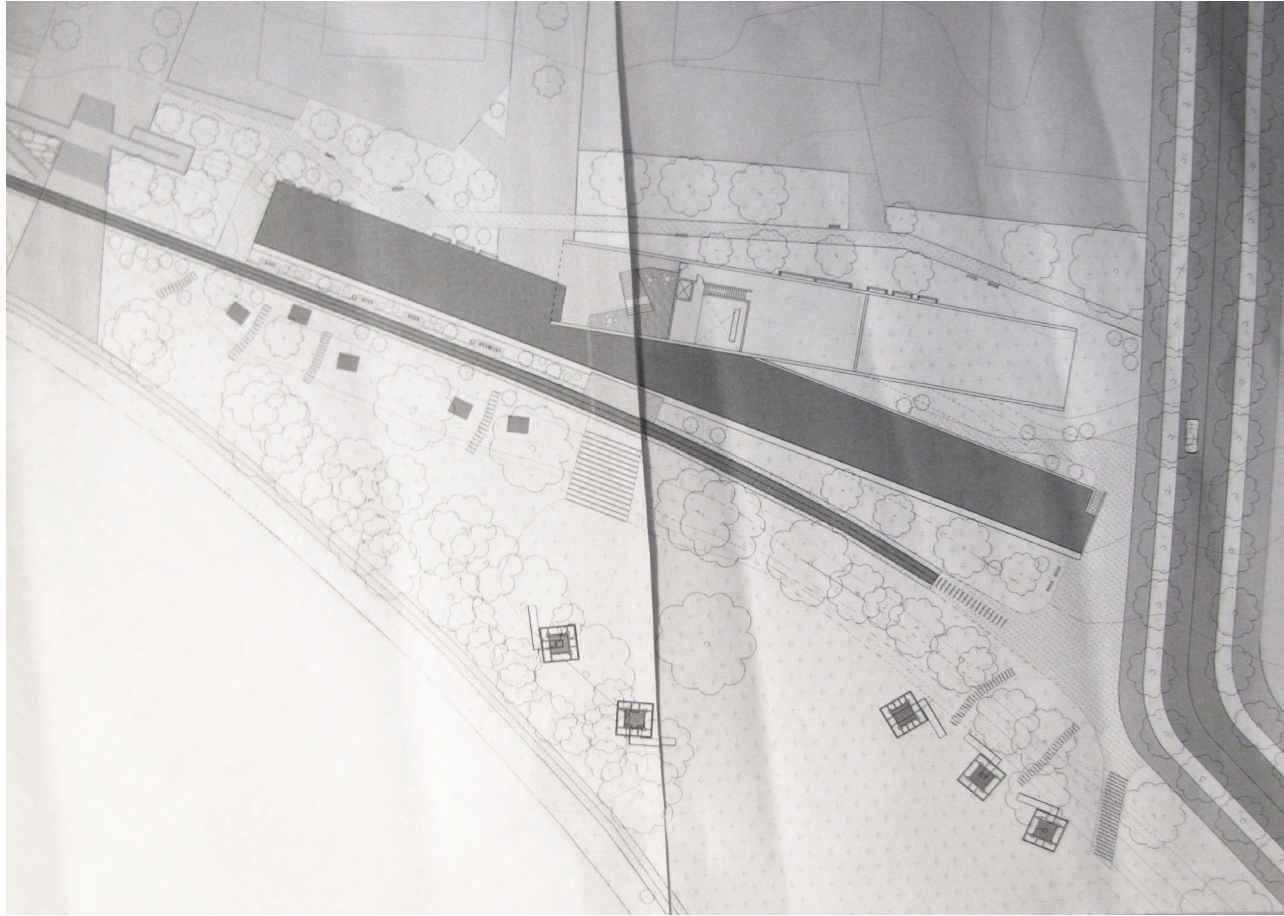
## detailing a situation plan

I have finally had the chance to detail the situation plan in a proper manner and it has forced me to consider some important aspects. The circulation on site has been very important and it feels good to have drawn up all pedestrian pathways and agreed on this with my tutor. I had been unsure for a while about how much to interfere with the park landscape as I have had the feeling to leave as much as possible as green area. I have eventually settled upon the proposal of some simple garden steps that will link the pedestrian railway and the project with the park below. The steps can be created by simply with the use of timber pieces that help to step the landscape down as a staircase.

Finding the perfect locations for the pavilions has been made easy by first defining the pedestrian circulation and I decide that placing them freely within the green park work well for the intention to maintain a soothing atmosphere around them while making them accessible and visible to pedestrians passing by on the riverside trail.

I propose pathways in the form of leisure walks fitted with benches to the west of the project to define pedestrian links between the car road, pedestrian axis from west and the pedestrian plaza to the south west. This provides pedestrians with alternative routes to passing through the centre if their intended way is heading north or south rather than directly through the park, reducing unintended through traffic.





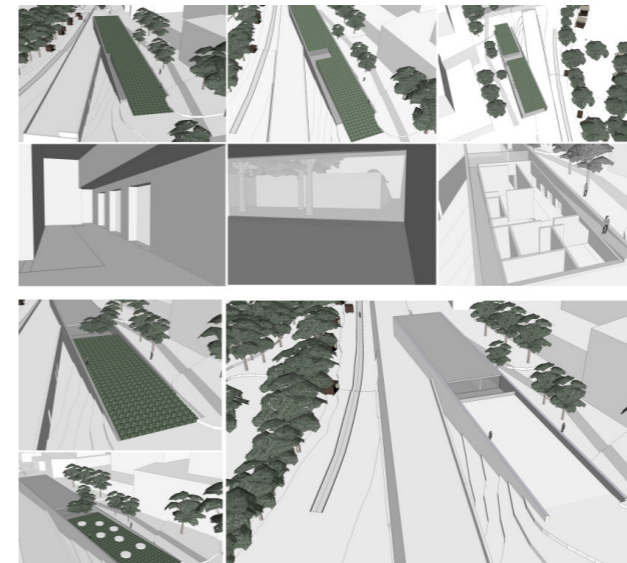


may 31st, 2014

## resolving the hammam: roof work

My next task had has been to return my focus to the hammam and resolve the treatment of light (and ventilation) within this structure. The atmosphere I envision for this hammam is especially important for the success of the place and I am excited about exploring my ideas further.

The first dilemma I feel confronted with is that of the roof. I have envisioned this as a garden space where people can in fact walk up on the roof, however I am discouraged by the idea of large fences especially along the upper section of the building where the roof covers the atrium. I explore some different scenarios within the 3d model of how to deal with this roof and the fencing around it and question if the roof could in fact be divided in to two parts where only the lower section functions as a green gardening area. The second story of the hammam should house a yoga studio and the access of daylight to this space should also be considered. I wonder if dividing the roof in two parts of different heights could also allow for some north faced glazing on this room. Perhaps could an entrance from the garden in to the yoga studio be nice? Locating a vegetated courtyard between the second story and garden roof could allow for the connection between the second story and the roof, allowing people to also pass between the garden and the atrium space more easily.



I decide that lowering the section of the hammam that is only one story in order to form a fence from the surrounding facade works well as the existing floor to ceiling height of this space is unnecessarily high. A move like this allows me to define two separate parts of the roof, one which is green and can be walked on and one which is not reachable. I think this solution works well as a second story exist only in one part of the hammam, and connecting this space to the norther garden while allowing access to the northern sun is also beneficial. I am inspired to test out my ideas in a physical model in order to find a strategy for the filtration of light in to the hammam chambers. I am currently discerned about the idea of adding random skylights within the garden and am wondering whether allowing for light and ventilation between the hammam and in to the created middle courtyard may function well. Perhaps can the side walls also allow for sufficient atmospheric daylight in to the hammam space?

june 1st, 2014

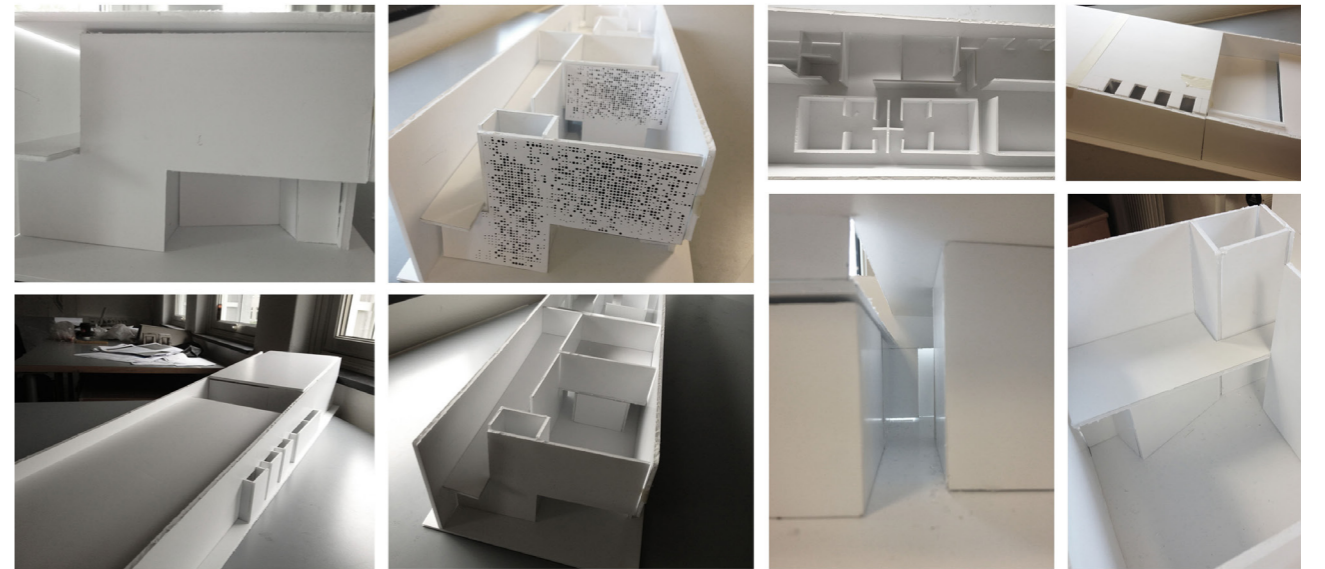
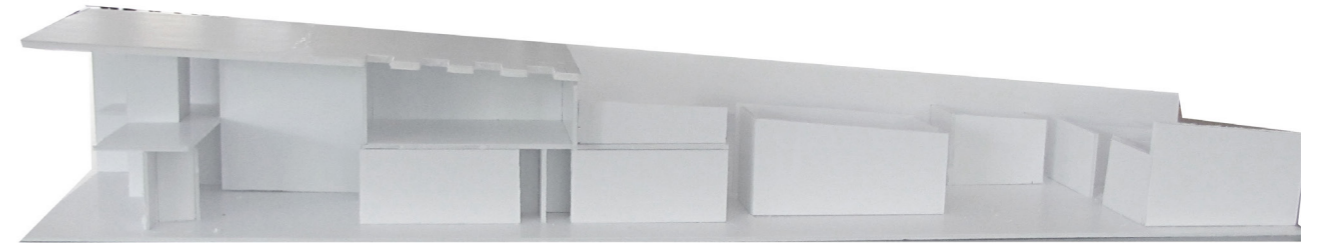
## resolving the hammam: physical model & light testing



After having made some general decisions as for the hammam roof, I decided to build a physical model in 1:50 in order to test my ideas and develop them further. I experienced that the division of the roof in to two different heights works very well. This way the front section, which houses the second story, gets its sufficient ceiling height, while the single story height for the chambers of the hammam can be lowered somewhat. Locating a courtyard between the yoga studio and gardens allows for good solar access as well as natural stack ventilation out through the hammam chambers.

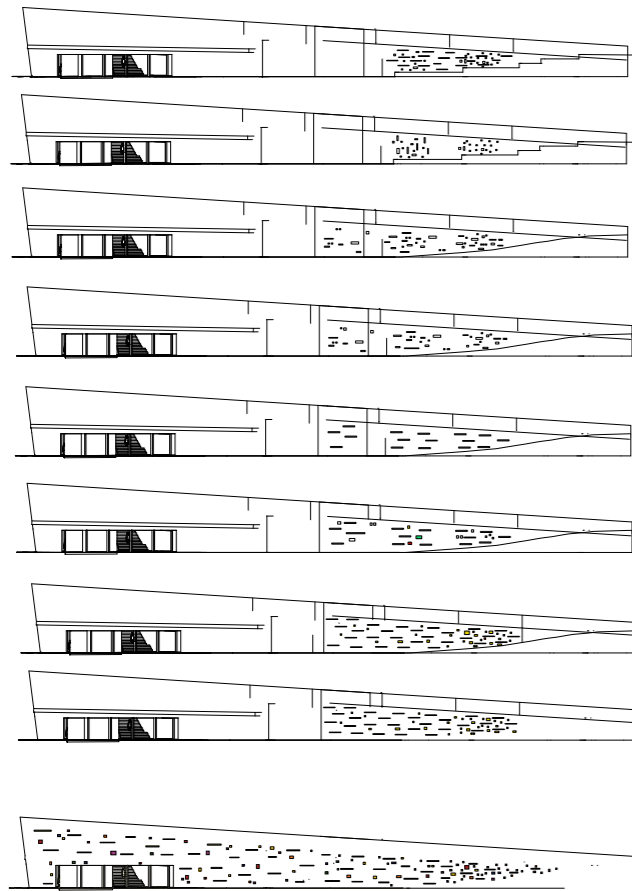
The model allowed me to explore lighting within the interiors of the hammam, and I had been especially interested to test the light conditions for the long corridor leading down to the centre of the hammam. Perhaps should this space enjoy a double height from which it is possible to create a connection (glazed facade) between the yoga studio and the hammam? I test some different options of how light can enter in to this space. The insertion of skylights which drape light down the massive walls can make an impressive statement and emphasise the sense of scale.

I have been waiting to reach a decision on the treatment of the hammam facades as well. I feel excited yet unsure about the initial ideas of perforating the facades facing the atrium and reception area. It is tricky to reach an agreement on this in order to strike a balance with what already exists elsewhere in the project and I start to wonder if continuing the idea of perforated facades also here might just be a bit much.



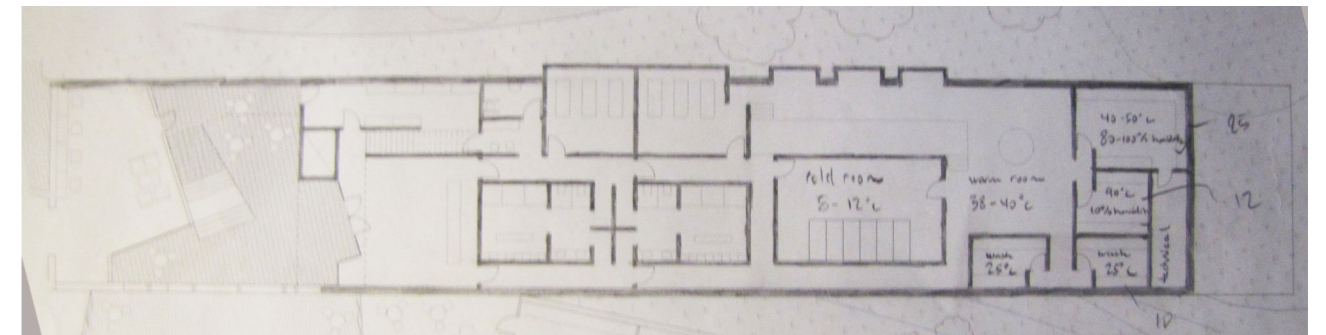
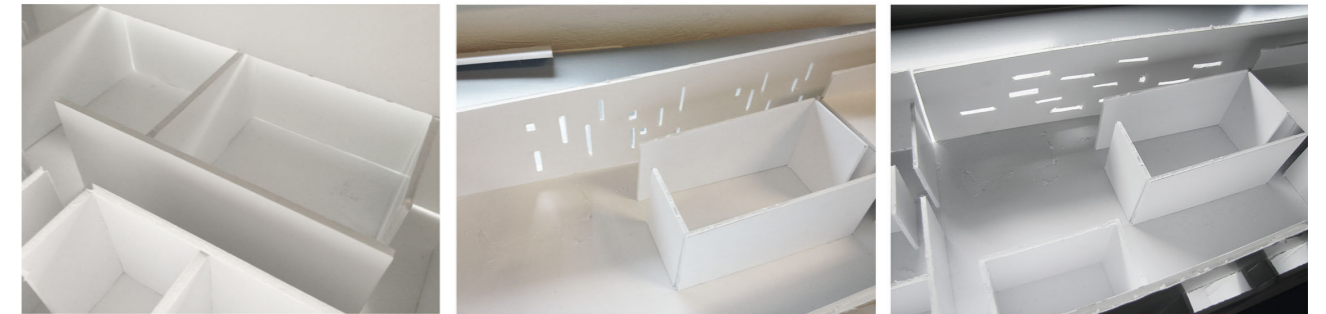
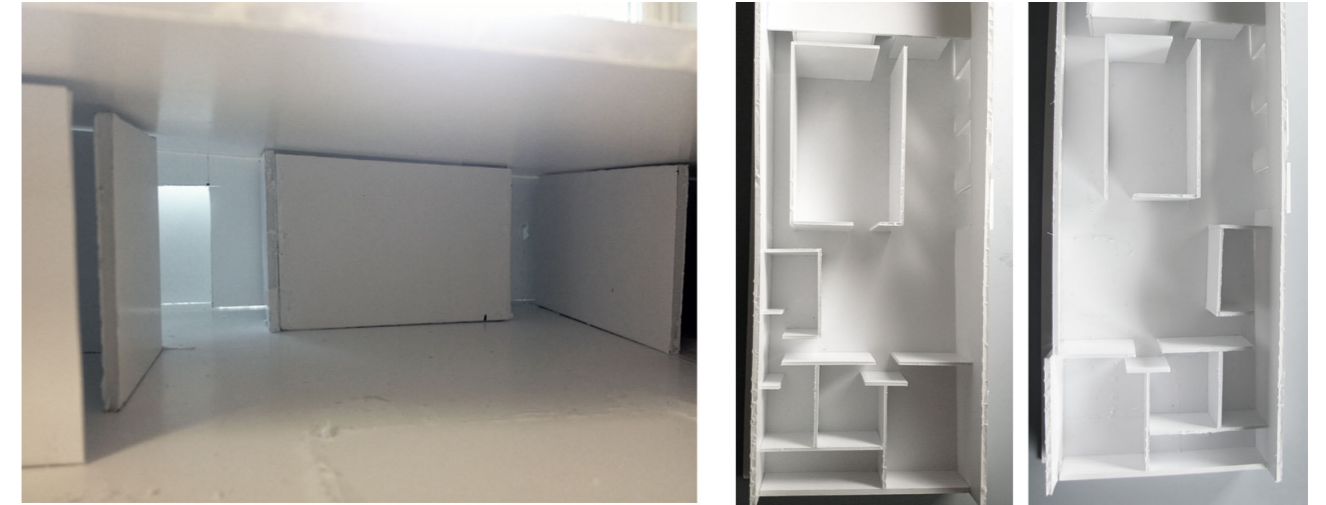
june 8th, 2014

## hammam: final changes & facade work



After some more tutoring I convince myself to discard the idea of perforating the entrance facade of the hammam and rather focus on giving a special sense of identity to the exterior wall which cuts through the second building volume. As you move along this wall when entering the hammam it might be a good idea to express its importance as well as giving people a sense of reference point by giving this wall a special treatment. I have been interested in the effects of coloured glass within facades and such an expression could create a suitable atmosphere for the hammam.

A final aspect I had left to resolve deals with the entrance point in to the warm room of the hammam. The arrival within this space should after the build up of the long corridor should be grander than what it is currently on the floor plan. After some attempts both on the computer and in the physical model I decide on a small adjustment which seems to improve the quality of this space. As can be observed from model photos, mirroring the plan of the hot rooms and wash rooms gives better space for the entrance while creating a stronger definition between the main warm room and the pool area, giving the pool a more secluded and calm character..



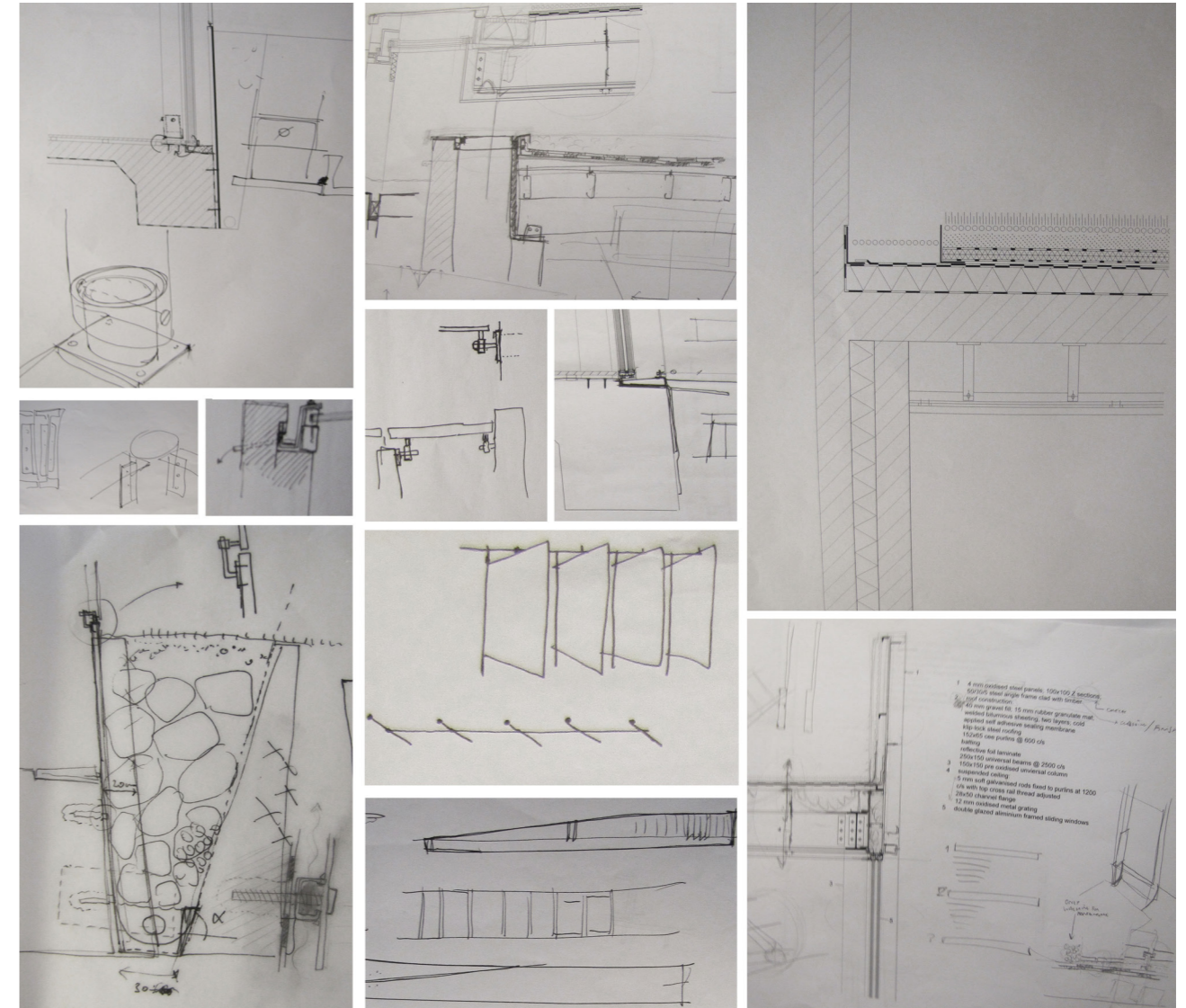
june 13th, 2014

## detailing the construction

Much of the recent time has been spent detailing out the construction of the project. Some particular aspects have great importance for expression of the design, and I have been resolving the details of 5 different areas together with the help of my tutor.

The detail for the perforated facade stretching the full length of the front building has received the most attention and has also lead to a change which I believe influences the design positively. While the initial thought was that of a continuous closed facade, the closer consideration of solar access and the need to reach windows for cleaning has lead to the decision to make all facade plates operable, so that privacy, access and daylight can be easily adjusted. Sliding window are also implemented so that complete openness can be achieved. Another detail that took some thinking was the meeting between the facade plates and the ground. As the ground level changes externally, the facade would also need to be lifted gradually towards its northern part. The question of whether the windows would step in height as well was discussed, however, a well working solution was reached where windows are left floor to ceiling and a light corten retaining wall is introduced where the facade would go underground.

Additionally to the facade and retaining wall details I also worked out the roof and wall components for the hammam's massive construction as well as the intricate detail of the skylights which filter light in to the back of the building along the concrete wall.



june 18th, 2014

## final process reflection

As the project now has come to an end and it is almost time to submit the final result, I wanted to take the time to reflect shortly upon the design process itself.

When looking back to obtain some form of personal judgment on the project I feel as though I am left with a feeling of what I have learnt which is clearer than of what I have accomplished. Never before have I been given as a good chance to design my own project brief in order to investigate something that I am truly interested in and in this regard I think this project is incomparable with any of my previous ones. What I am most content with is perhaps the fact that I have exploited the chance to investigate areas unknown to me out of curiosity, while I have also understood that my ambitions have caused me trouble in scenarios where challenges exceeded my abilities or time schedule. From the conceptual phase onward certain aspects became difficult to resolve, and I have found aspects of circulation and the relationship between public and private areas within the project especially challenging, as these have also remained the most crucial aspects for the end result. Much time was spent on resolving the central atrium space within the project during the most tedious part of the process, while other parts, such as the arrangement of the hammam, fell easily in to place. My wish to experiment with patterns and materials in terms of their effect on the

architectural experience had been present from the start, thus I am especially happy about how my 5 pavilions came to life after so many thoughts and ideas, which I did not previously manage to express. With the variation between each structure I was able to implement a great variation of my collected impressions in to a rather simple concept. The creation, testing and presentation of the perforated facades and patterns used for both the main structure and the pavilions became an especially time consuming part of the project. I realize that the difficulty in creation of these may have limited the realism of the result to a small extent, however, I feel generally pleased with possibility to have produced them and learnt the skill to do so. On a final note, I have tried to work very consciously with the site throughout the process, and the consideration of exterior space and the project's relation to surrounding environments has therefore become at least as important as resolving interior volumes. The response to site was made especially challenging due to the scale of the unused site and the uncertainty relating to what should be imagined for the priority development zones surrounding the project, as well as the lack of good map data during the initial phases of the design. Towards the finish of the project loose traces did however come together to form what I now see as a realistic impression of future use in and around the site and I can therefore also feel content about my proposed addition.