

Site Plan

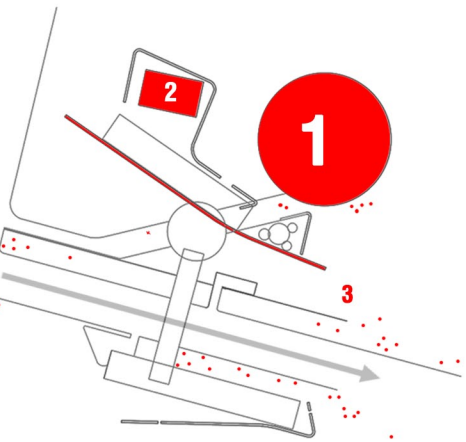
Key
A) Zimbabwe Museum of Natural History
B) Lions Pool
C) Bulawayo Youth Center Building
D) Major Motorway
E) Minor Motorway

THE NEST

(BULAWAYO CENTRAL YOUTH CENTER)
INTERGRATING SUSTAONABILITY, DESIGN, & HUMAN INTERACTIONS
EMERGE COMPETITION ENTRY

Location: Park RD. Bulawayo Zimbabwe
Coordinates: 20.1559° S, 28.5964° E

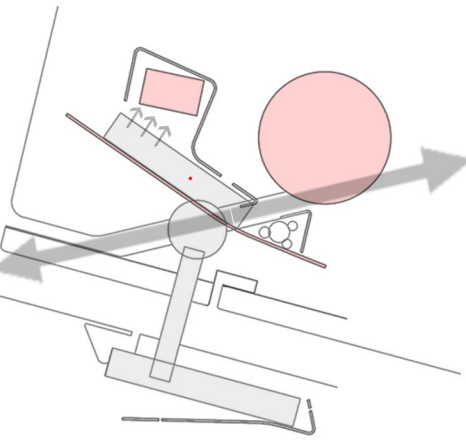
In truth, Architects are more creators of space than of built-form. It is this enigmatic, intangible quality that the Bulawayo Central Youth Center attempted to perfect and embody in its design and composition. Drawing inspiration from rural africa and informed by existing patterns and features on site, the building seeks to utilise the present, while at the same time suggesting something novel. Being located in a city park close to pre-existing structures of both historical and cultural import; a careful articulation of form and a good sensitivity of sustainable building strategies were paramount in my design approach.



01

Assessing the site

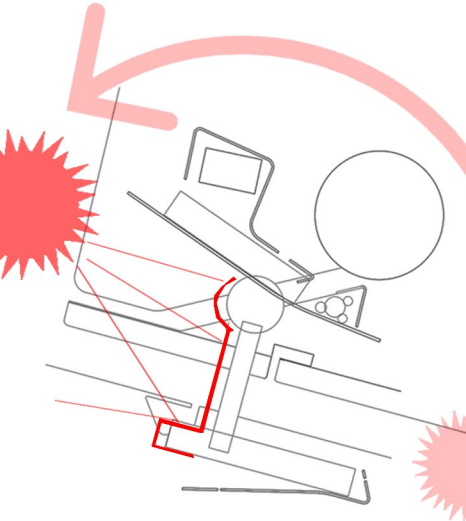
To the right is a diagram showing the 3 design generators (in order of magnitude) that determined the orientation of the massing. No. 1 is the Museum of Natural History, 2. Is the Lions Pool, a heritage feature located adjacent to the museum, and 3 is a a delapidated storm-water drain that became central in a water reticulation feature incorporated into the project.



02

Relationship to the site

The Relationship to the site was articulated by means of 'mimicking' forms on site in plan while establishing visual and circulatory connections with the museum and Pool.



03

The Light Effect

The interventions western facade was completely closed off to block incoming western light in the late afternoon. This also tied in heavily with the building's end aesthetic, creating a dense mesh of recycled materials that paint the interiors in a tangle of dappled light.

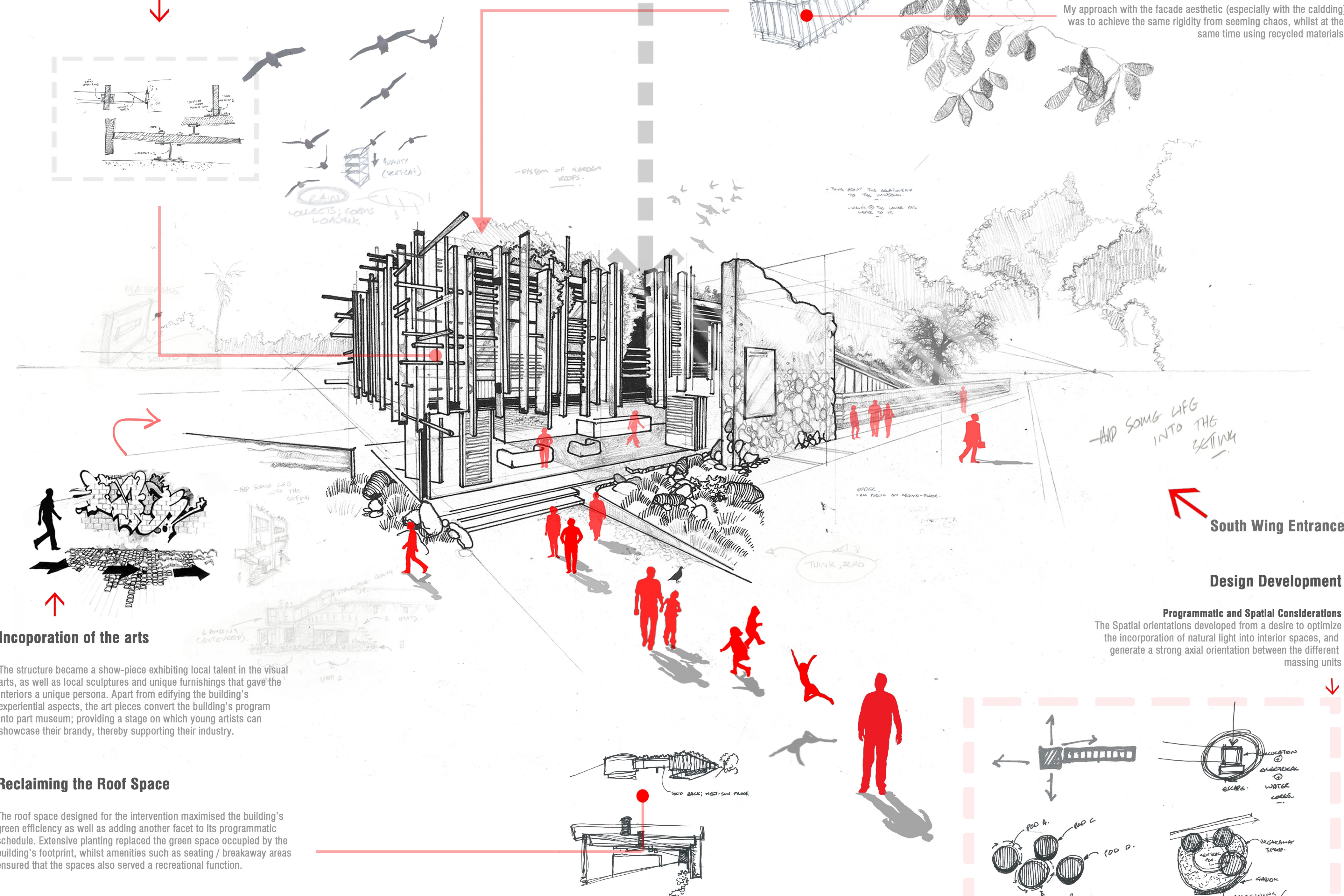
East light however was used to warm and illuminate the building, especially in the resaurant and exhibition spaces.

Developing the Bridge Structure

The over-arching bridge was developed into a system of repurposed steel members accomodating infill panels from a variety material classes. The panels range from recycled timbers, polycarbonate sheets, and old asbestos panels inscribed with art and imprints developed by local artists and designers.

Structural Connections + Materiality (Cladding)

The cladding system relies on a framework of repurposed I beams and shelf angles structurally fixed to the intervention's main concrete frame. The scaffolding pieces are then riveted/bolted to this framework via horizontal and vertical orientations that effectively block harsh western light whilst throwing tactile dappled light into interior spaces.



- A) Solar Panel elements used to generate lighting, alleviating weight on the municipal grid and decreasing the building's carbon footprint.
- B) Green wall partitions growing indeginous fauna soften the industrial aesthetic whilst promoting Bio-diveristy and rejuvenating local ecosystems
- C) A dynamic system of infill panels with various uses ranging from providing simple enclosure to use as art/advertising panels was usedto grant the structure tactility and character.
- D) Flooring and roofing elements alike were developed from repurposed asbestos and timber panels,

The Aesthetic

Gleaning from Africa's rich biodiversity, the aesthetic grew from observations at the nests of masked, sociable, and sparrow-weavers, who create stability and rigidity from a seemingly chaotic assemblage of stalks, twigs, and sticks.

My approach with the facade aesthetic (especially with the caldding) was to achieve the same rigidity from seeming chaos, whilst at the same time using recycled materials.

South Wing Entrance

Design Development

Programmatic and Spatial Considerations
The Spatial orientations developed from a desire to optimize the incorporation of natural light into interior spaces, and generate a strong axial orientation between the different massing units

