

Intergenerational Community Centre

DAISY WRIGHT



EPIDEMIC OF LONELINESS

Gen-Z, The Loneliness Epidemic And The Unifying Power Of Brands

Breaking News: If Loneliness Is an Epidemic, How Do We Treat It?

Elderly 'hopeful' after home visits tackle lon

Morbid! 'Are You Dead' app is the new panic button — for lonely young singles afraid of dying alone

I never thought I would be so lonely

Lonely Seniors Are Turning To AI Bots For Companionship

Ebook 'Loneliness' is by 'epidemic' of loneliness'

Lonely in London

Loneliness is a hidden killer

How do we stop our elderly feeling lonely? Banks suggest Web Streaming

Generation Lonely: How the young became more isolated than their grandparents

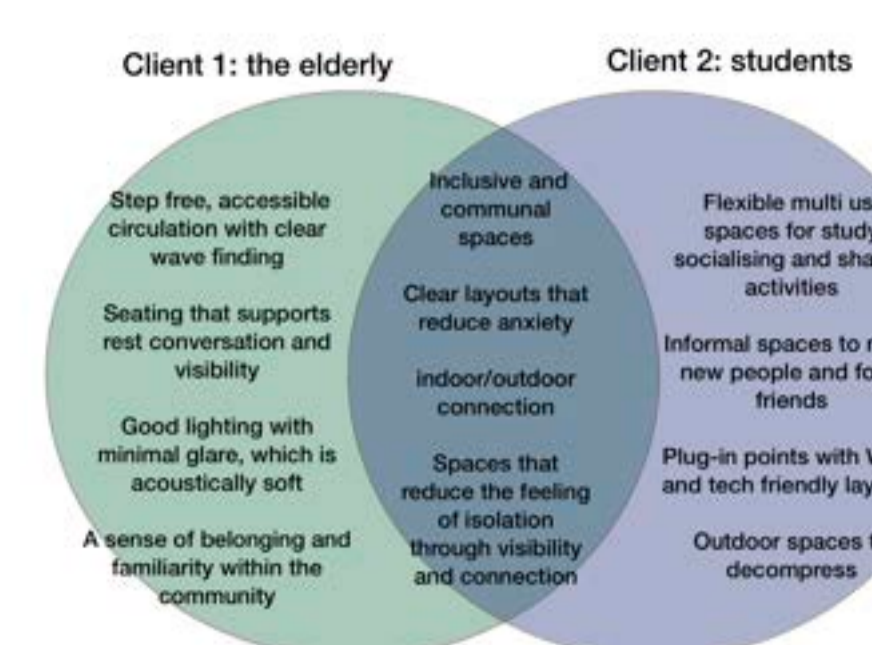
Loneliness is a hidden killer

Client Group 1: Elderly People

Many elderly people experience loneliness as their social worlds gradually contract. Retirement, reduced mobility, bereavement, and the dispersal of family networks can leave older adults with fewer daily interactions and limited opportunities to build new connections. Even in familiar neighbourhoods, they can feel increasingly invisible or disconnected from the pace of contemporary life. This isolation often becomes a quiet but persistent part of their routine, affecting emotional wellbeing and overall quality of life.

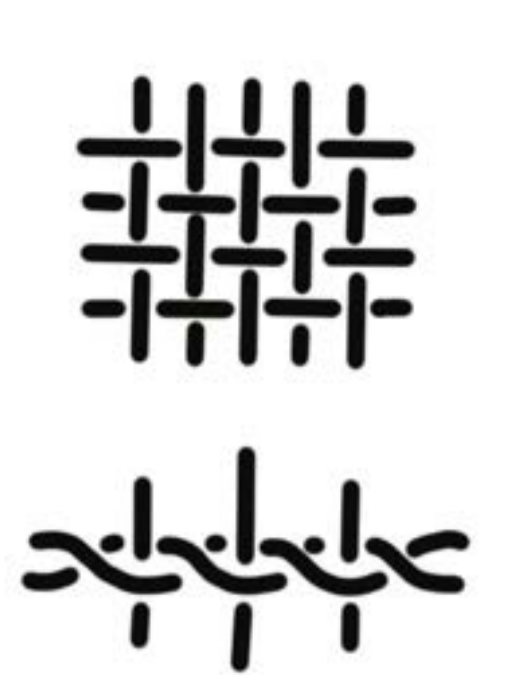
Client Group 2: Students (18–25 years old)

Students aged 18–25 face a very different but equally significant form of loneliness. Despite being surrounded by peers, they often navigate intense academic pressure, financial strain, as well as the instability of constant transitions from moving cities and shifting friendships. Social media can amplify the sense of comparison and disconnection, making it harder to form genuine relationships. As a result, many students experience a hidden loneliness that sits beneath the surface of busy campus life.



Lincoln's long history of farming, craft, and textile production gives "weaving" a natural cultural resonance, making it an ideal conceptual anchor for the project. The landscape around the city has been shaped for centuries by patterns of cultivation, labour, and community interdependence; all forms of weaving in their own right.

Translating this into architecture allows the scheme to symbolically and physically interface two generations who are currently isolated from one another. By treating space as a woven fabric — threads of movement, shared rooms, outdoor routes, and communal rituals — the design becomes a place where elderly residents and students can cross paths, overlap, and form new social bonds. In this way, the project draws directly from Lincoln's agricultural heritage while proposing a contemporary act of social weaving that reconnects people who have drifted apart.



LINCOLN, UNION ROAD

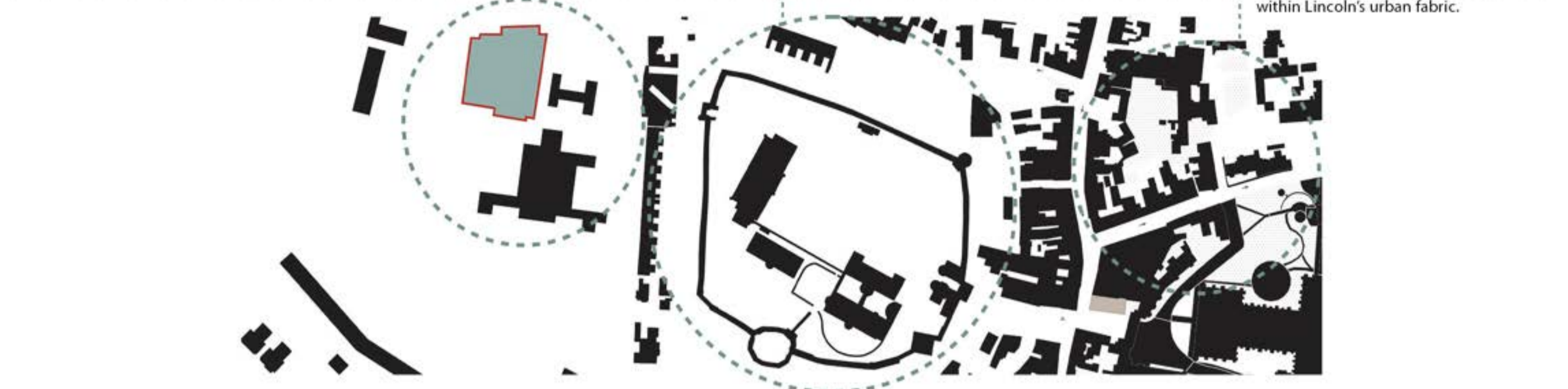


ZONE 1
Union Road in Lincoln sits within the city's historic uphill district, adjacent to The Lawn and near Lincoln Castle. The street curves gently along the edge of the old city walls, connecting key civic and cultural landmarks while offering elevated views across the city. Its position within a conservation area reflects its long-standing role in Lincoln's architectural and social evolution.

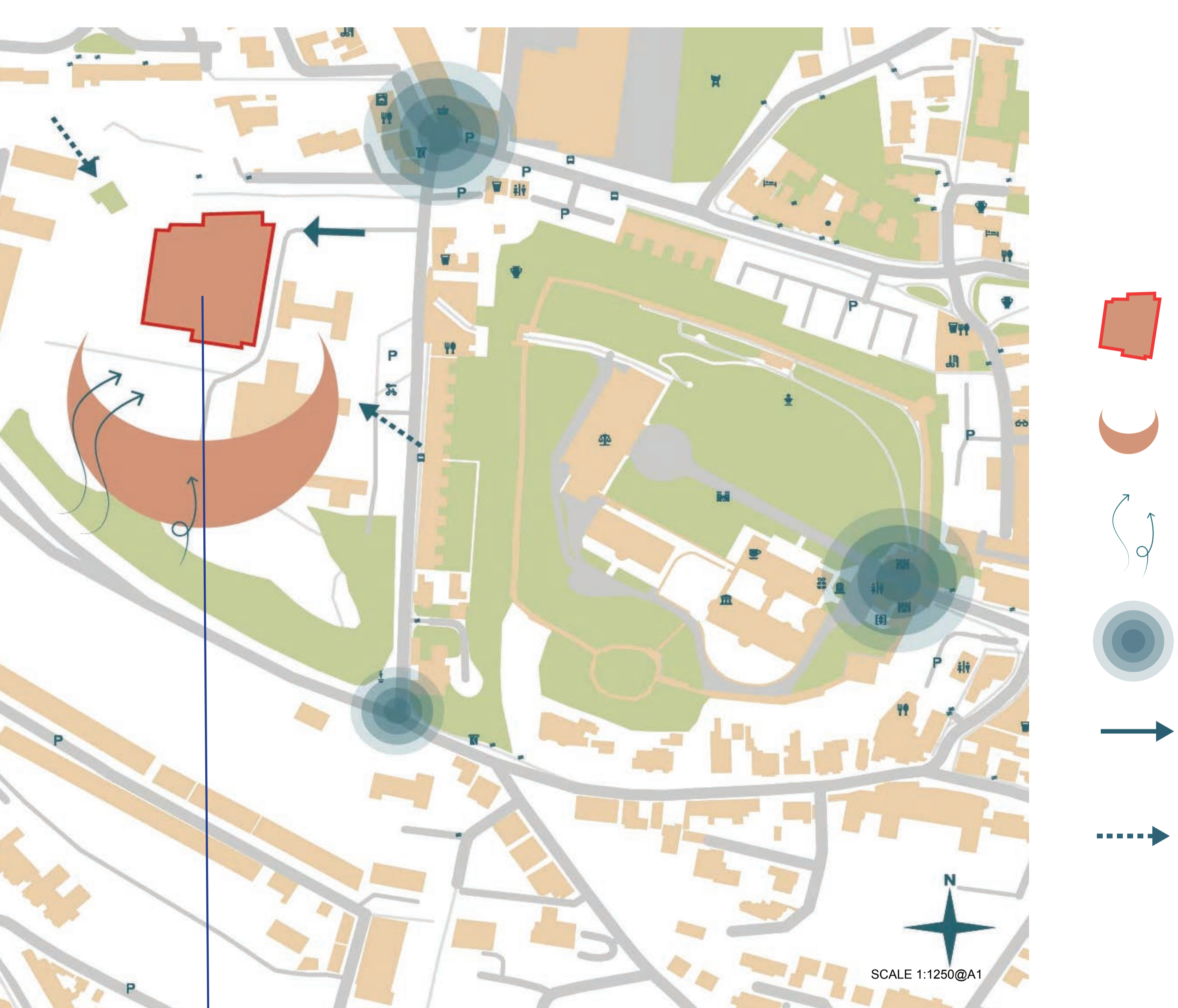
ZONE 2
Union Road runs alongside Lincoln Castle, a Norman fortification built in 1068 by William the Conqueror. The castle's imposing stone walls, gatehouse, and moat reflect its original role as a strategic stronghold and seat of justice. Today, it anchors the uphill district as a heritage site, museum, and public space, contributing to the street's civic character and historical depth.

ZONE 3
Many of the buildings along Union Road date from the 19th and early 20th centuries, showcasing Georgian and Victorian influences. The area's layered history — from Roman settlement to mental health innovation — makes it a rich site for architectural storytelling. Today, it serves as a quiet yet connected zone within Lincoln's urban fabric.

SITE ANALYSIS LINCOLN UK

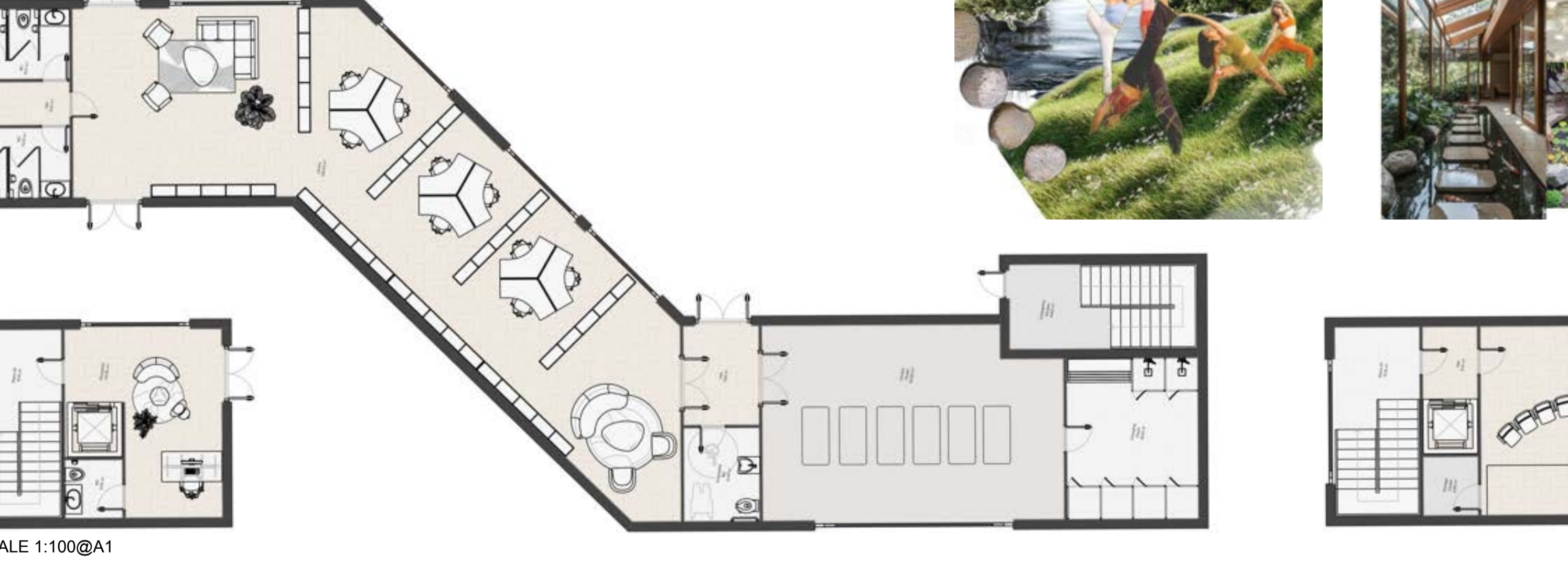
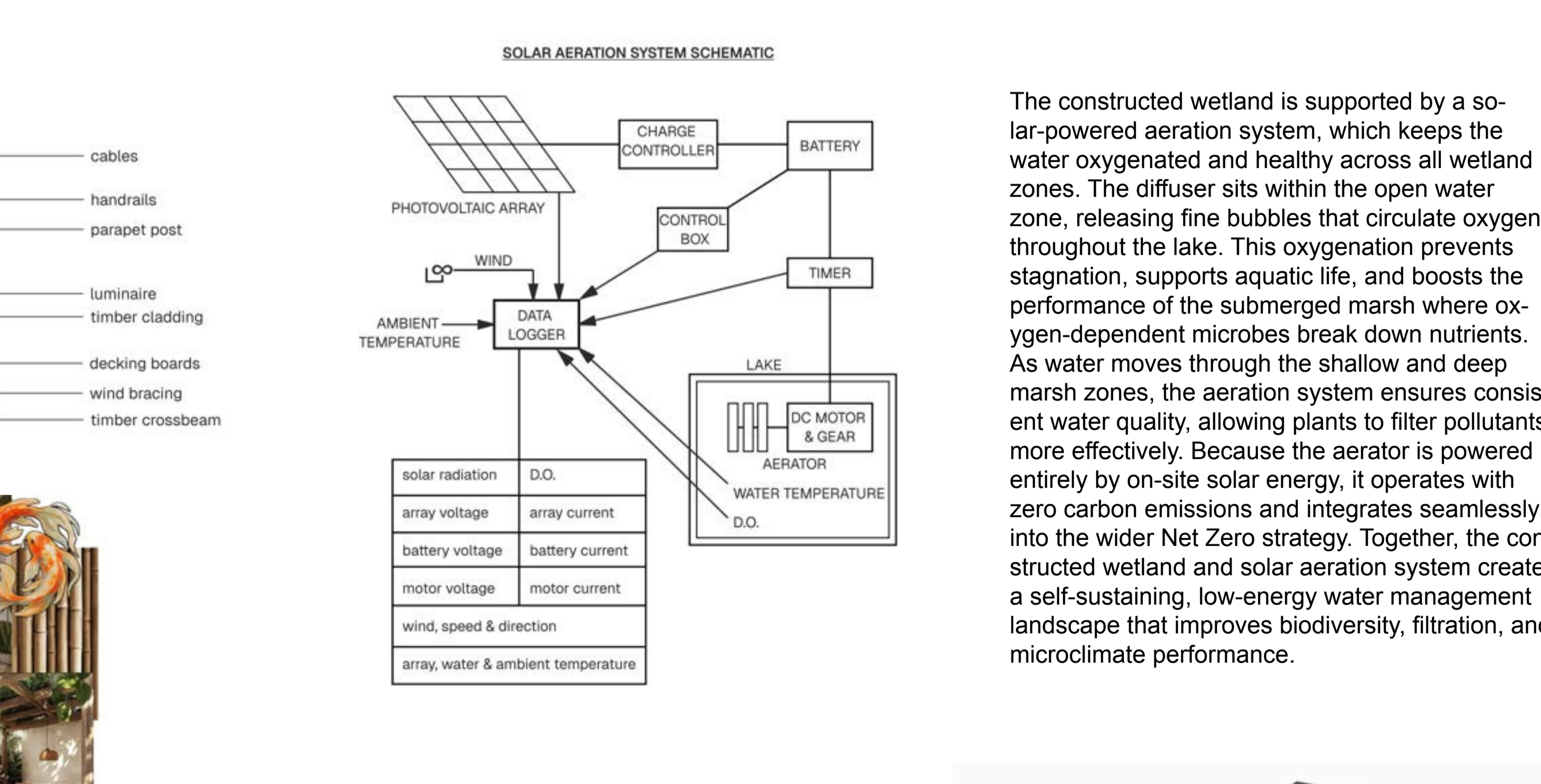
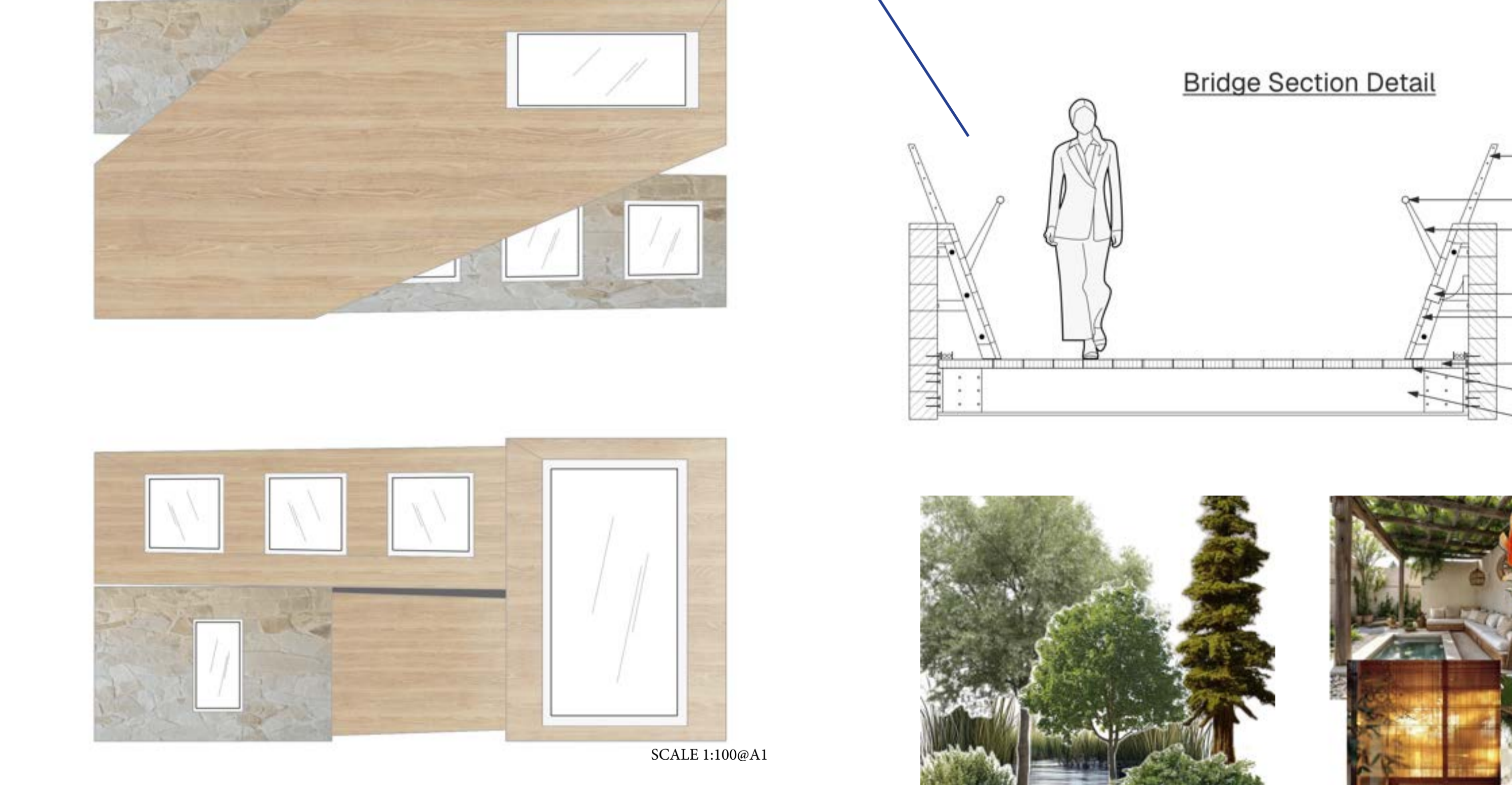
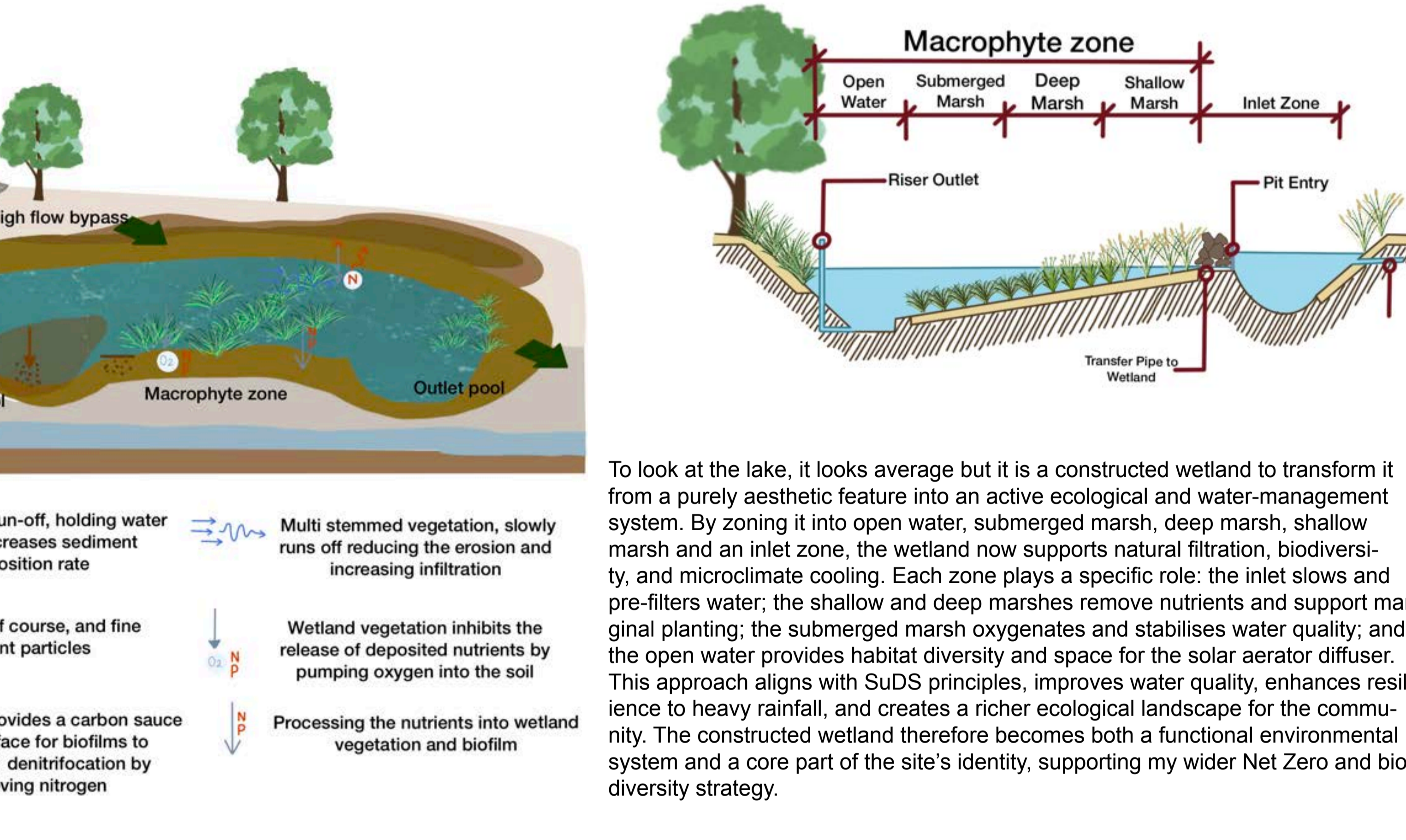
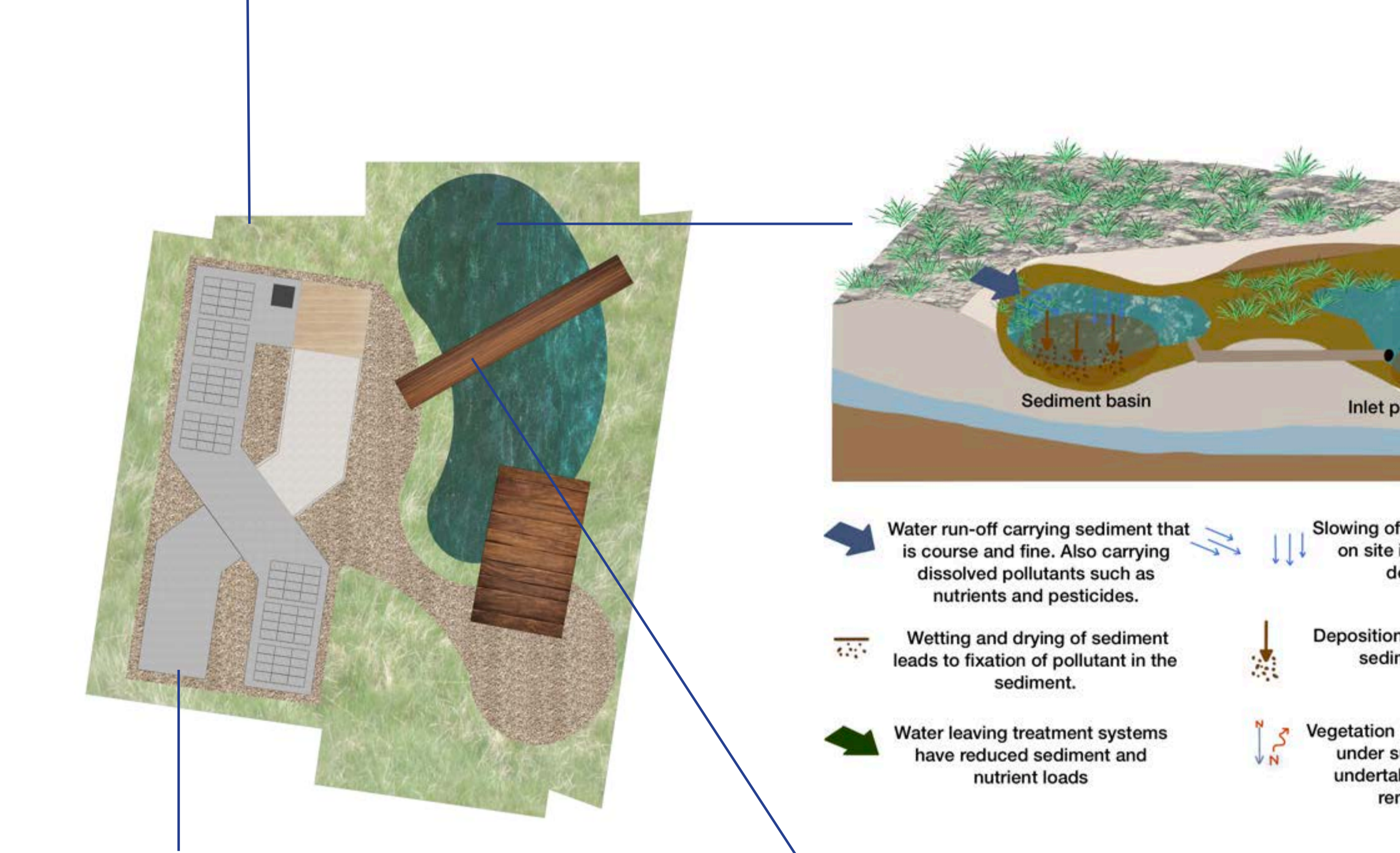
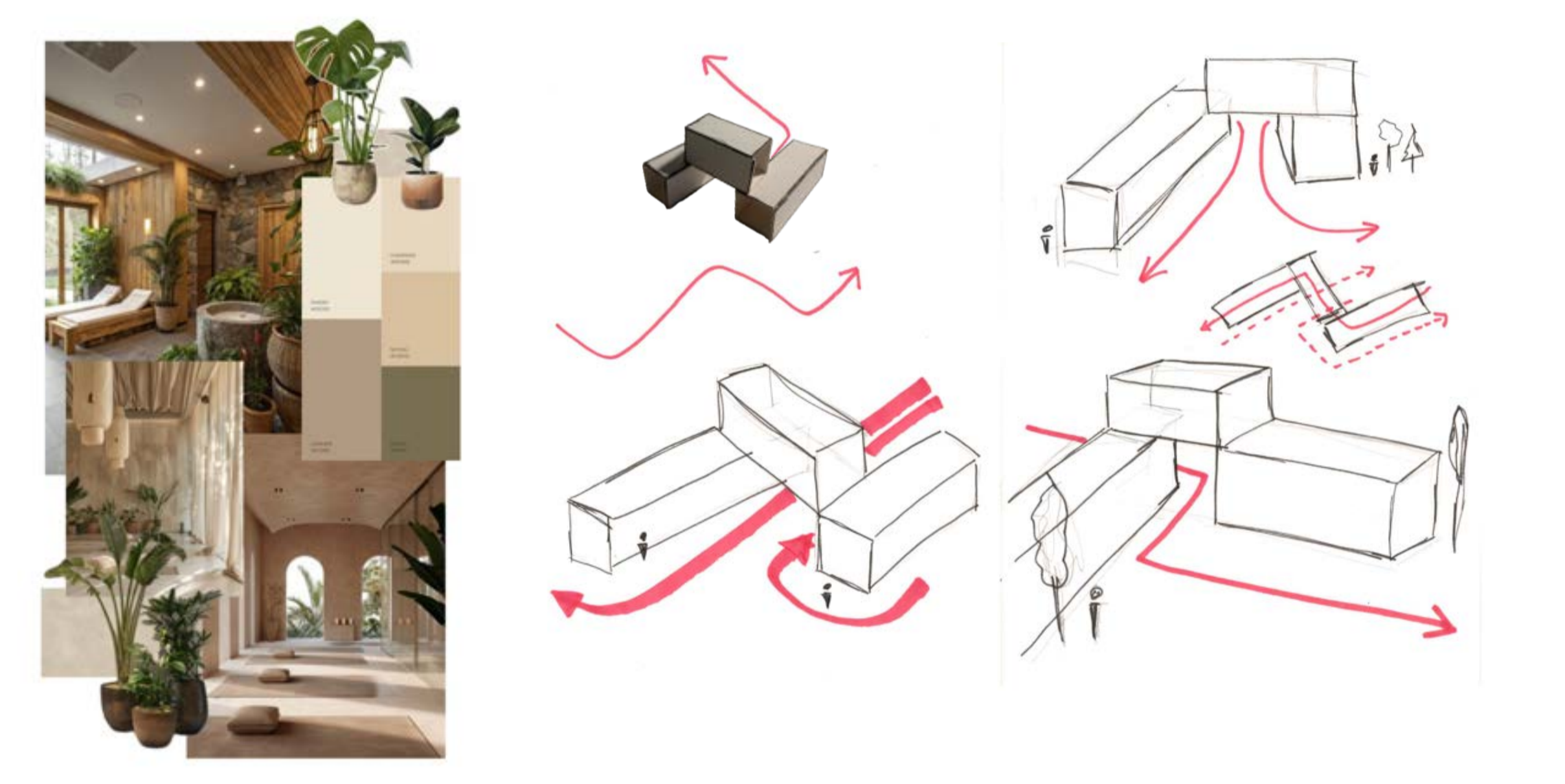


Volumetric & Functional scenario



The building is organised as two interwoven layers that reflect the balance between slowing down and connecting, reinforcing the project's core concept of weaving generations together. The ground floor becomes the unplugged zone. It is a calm, analogue environment with a library, yoga studio, and a garden centred around a lake. These spaces encourage slow, mindful interaction, giving both elderly users and students room to breathe, observe, and naturally encounter one another without the pressure of technology.

Above it, the first floor forms the "plugged-in" floor, housing a tech lounge and a presentation space where digital skills, ideas, and knowledge can be shared. By stacking these contrasting atmospheres, the building physically and socially "weaves" two modes of living, analogue and digital, creating opportunities for both generations to learn from each other and, in doing so, counter the loneliness that affects them in different ways.



Daisy Wright – Reflective Log.

Schedule of Changes.

Building envelope

- The windows were reduced in size: This improves the thermal performance, reduces overheating and avoids the transportation of oversized units.
- The windows reveals were recessed; for passive shading and a deeper insulation.

Environmental & Net-zero

- Integrated a ground source heat pump as the primary heating system.
- Added an Underground Thermal Energy Store, this balances the summer and winter energy loads.
- Introduced underfloor heating on the ground floor for improved comfort in the yoga room.
- Enlarged plant room for the accommodation of GSHP, MVHR and UTES manifold.
- Added a roof hatch for safe access to solar PV maintenance.
- Strengthened the buildings passive design; cross ventilation and improved envelope performance.

Spatial & Functional Changes

- The buildings footprint was extended which accommodated an additional staircase, yoga changing rooms and a larger plant room.
- Refined back of house circulation in the larger plant room.
- Expanded community spaces for better usability.

Fire Strategy

- Additional staircase provides an alternative escape route: this reduces travel distances and fully complies with approved document B.
- Reconfigured circulation to integrate the new stair and improve wayfinding.
- Updated fire compartmentation and protected corridor strategy around both stair cores.

Structural Strategy

- The building is a fully timber structural system, use of CLT walls and glulam beams.
- Introduced piled foundations to address ground conditions and support the building's increased footprint and loads.

Technical Development

- Refined the flat roof and floor build ups.
- Improved the buildability by reducing oversized glazing.

Landscape + Site Strategy

- Increased focus on native planting to support biodiversity and microclimate cooling.
- Strengthened pond-based microclimate strategy for passive cooling and water management.

- Improved external circulation
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Personal Reflection

Since September my focus has been learning to design with better technical knowledge, moving into this semester that was the perfect opportunity to learn more. At the start of the outlined design project, my design lacked a coherent environmental strategy and had missed opportunities within its structure.

I introduced a UTES, GSHP, solar generation and designed a more robust passive design strategy. In researching and implementing these into my design allowed me to develop an understanding of how a building, and its landscape, work together. Incorporating multiple systems required me to think beyond aesthetics, this term was focused on measurable outcomes and long-term sustainability.

This module, along with the technical and professional, let me gain an understanding of the responsibility we have as designers. I have a new awareness for how architecture can support communities through biodiversity, wellbeing and social connection. Expanding the building to include yoga changing rooms and showers, refining the landscape with native planting, and improving accessibility and fire safety through a second staircase all reflect a more responsible and inclusive approach to design.

Technically, my project adopted a timber frame and the introduction of piled foundations. This improved the structure's buildability while keeping carbon down.

On a personal level, this project confirmed my interest in the engineering-based aspects of design. I found myself engaging with technical research on a lot of mechanical systems, some I wanted to include but my design wouldn't suit, such as sand batteries. In September I start my graduate scheme, design management role. This semester has helped me with a base knowledge going into that. The challenges I faced this year was time management, being in the final year of university, while applying for jobs, and trying to keep a social life was not always the easiest. However, in doing so, it strengthened my confidence into the next steps of my career and leaving university. The final scheme represents not only a resolved architectural proposal but also a clear step toward the kind of designer I would like to become.