

As a direct response to the way in which the majority of people become desensitized and detached from nature, in city landscapes, this project seeks to focus on the spontaneous and dynamic character of the natural environment.

We are evolving into a culture that condones most of our time being spent indoors (explored in the article 'Tending To Our Interior Nature(s)' by Biophilic Cities), 'we miss out on the earthly thrills such as sunlight, breezes, greenery, and wildlife'. It is these experiences that we so desperately need to keep our mental and physical wellbeing in balance. The intended effect of this regenerative project, is to remind us of the importance and reliance we possess with Earth and the responsibility for the impact we make upon it.

Sharescape, a title concerned with the vertically growing neighbourhood and the amenity that this building will provide, is sited on the corner of Batman and Spencer Street. The project's morphology is in response to a number of ideas, stemming from the surrounding pockets of nature. In the form of existing street trees and Flagstaff Gardens, parts of the building's facade are carved off and subtracted to frame views of the natural context. Green balconies also enable the development of new landscapes within site boundaries.

Inspired by the Living Building Challenge's Petal system and the resulting precedent, Omega Centre for Sustainability, filtering grey-water and collecting into an underground tank for reuse/irrigation is an important design consideration. Employing Patrick Blanc's method of soil-less vertical gardens, utilizing limited space, the green balconies are incorporated to facilitate this system, allowing users to sit amongst and enjoy nature.

Varying leveled roof gardens offer immersive spaces for the Architecture and Yoga clientele. The practice's desk height merging through a window into a kitchen garden (supporting the restaurant). A yoga space above, surrounded by spiraling bamboo, screens the busy city life to redirect focus of the mind, body and elevated earth. Not only benefiting our mental and physical wellbeing, this inclusion of greenery on the building also reduces the urban heat island effect and acts as a barrier to keep temperature relatively even. A strip of green at ground level, allows water to be absorbed, instead of flushing into polluting storm water drains. The establishment of micro-habitats on the roof gardens and green balconies offer sanctuary for insects and small birds, filtering air and accentuating natural sounds. Other dominant forms that emerge include the 30 degree-angled solar roof that provides a platform for panels to adjust in different seasons for maximum gain. Reiterating the concept of impact and how we can minimize it, harvesting energy from the building allows it to potentially run independently.

Influenced by the Bullitt Centre's 'Irresistible Stair Case', a long strip window wraps up and over the building's facade to capture views of the surrounding natural context. Activated vertical circulation is promoted by expansive views and natural light. Other materials that envelope, include the trellis balustrade that begins on level 01, morphs up the side and over the restaurant void. This becomes a canopy of climbing deciduous greenery - offering a deeper connection to users through food production. Adam Grubb (conveyed in the article, Concrete Jungles by Asha Bee Abraham, Assemble Papers) as 'being a very fundamental way to feel connected to place - to have it feed you,' instigating the incorporation of edible varieties such as kiwi and passionfruit!

Another key idea that started to surface from the Client's agenda (NAVA - National Association for Visual Arts and the other Therapeutic Users) was the concept and incorporation of display. The recycled concrete skin acts as a canvas that can then reflect the artwork it accepts (Ash Keating's artwork pictured in Night Mode image). The thick wall system allows for deep window sills, which create space to sit in and contemplate/enjoy views to green within and outside the site. This feature also reveals people and activity inside, as a view to entice and connect other users, (as architectural firm Fox&Cook stated in the film Biophilic Design: The Architecture of Life by Stephen Kellert 'Life Grows from Life'). One primary example demonstrating this statement is the protruding pool, emerging from the building towards the north, attracting all times of light. Holding an element that is constantly in motion, the pool comes to life. Not necessarily with the force of swimmers, but with the quality of light, initiating the experience of refraction. Knowing that light bends with the application of water, I wanted to generate something that could emphasize an event in nature, aiming to inspire users to build a greater appreciation of it. As users float in the pool, a rainbow of light is refracted up onto the ceiling, merging into a skylight - representing the ephemeral beauty of nature.