

2015 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

Noosa Flexible Learning Centre

Category: New Construction

Noosa, Queensland
Australia





Site Plan



Community

Noosa Flexible Learning Centre provides a benefit to the community by offering learning and social support services to disengaged youth.



Community

The Flexible Learning Centres are safe, inclusive and engaging places of learning that are the focal points of gathering for communities. They have contributed to the development of community leadership and participation in the local, state and national political agenda.



Community

The Noosa Flexible Learning Centre (FLC) is surrounded by schools, open-space recreational areas and sports centres and hence further enhanced awareness within the community. Engaging with a national community, the FLC curriculum is also associated with State and National Curriculum frameworks and nationally accredited vocational education and training courses.



Community

The Noosa FLC is an asset to both the social and environmental fabric of the Sunshine Coast community. The scattered pavilions which 'touch the ground lightly', speak to the Beach Shack aesthetic of the area, and have been arranged to minimise the amount of tree clearing to the site to protect the habitat of the local fauna. The design incorporates a self-sufficient storm water filtration system that returns water to the earth.





*"Our new home has really brightened
the school community and created
such a warm feeling..."*

Learning Environment

The young people of the FLC network represent a diverse population of indigenous and non-indigenous males and females of secondary school age. The young people who attend FLC's have typically experienced one or more significant and complex educational, social, developmental, psychological, health, legal or family situations which demand unique responses.



Learning Environment

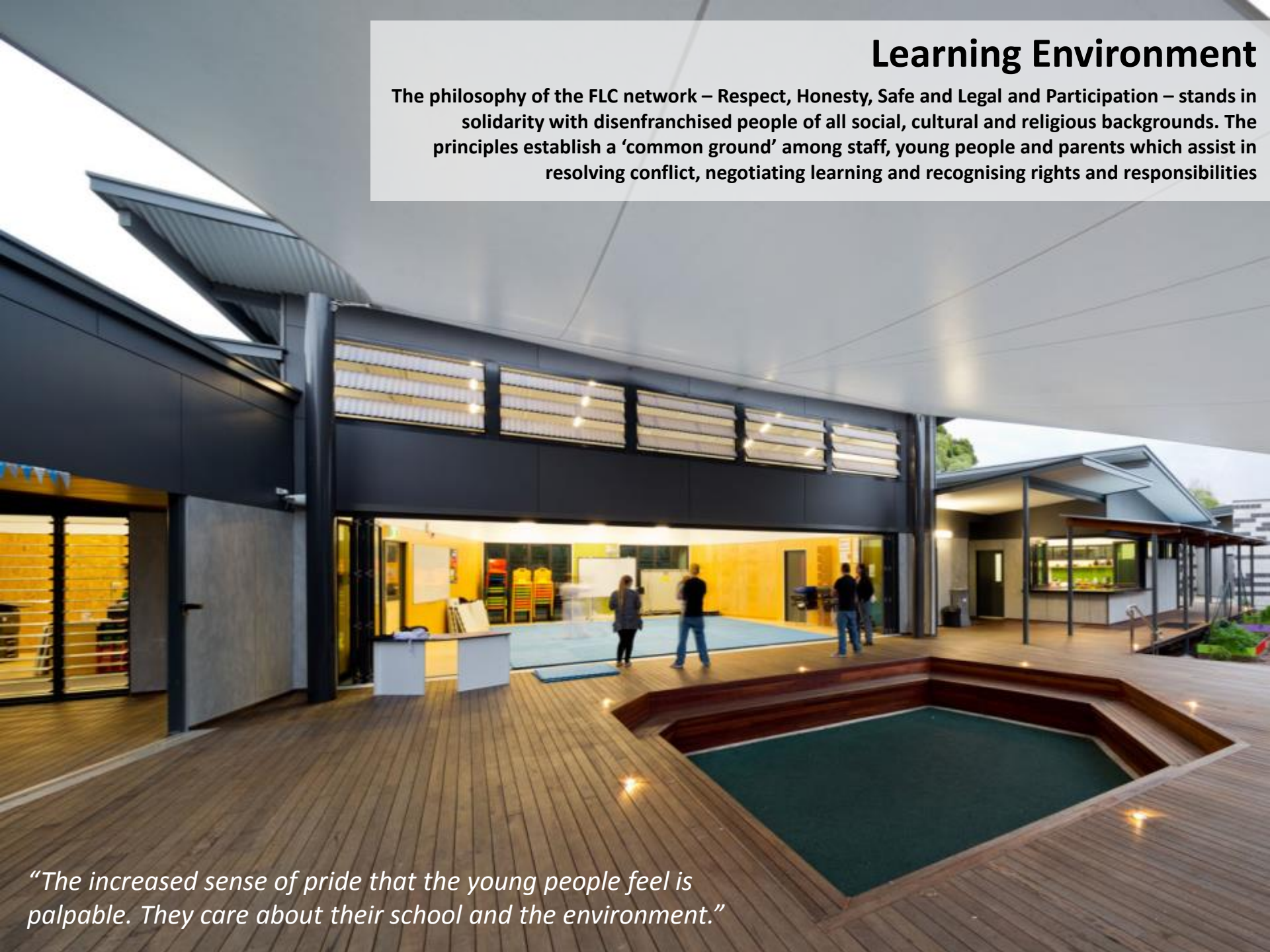
Teaching and learning is characterised by small class sizes, a flexible curriculum that draws on individual interest and needs and a democratic pedagogical approach that encourages learner empowerment and autonomy.



"The increased sense of pride that the young people feel is palpable. They care about their school and the environment."

Learning Environment

The philosophy of the FLC network – Respect, Honesty, Safe and Legal and Participation – stands in solidarity with disenfranchised people of all social, cultural and religious backgrounds. The principles establish a 'common ground' among staff, young people and parents which assist in resolving conflict, negotiating learning and recognising rights and responsibilities



"The increased sense of pride that the young people feel is palpable. They care about their school and the environment."

Learning Environment

The facility provides a safe and accepting environment for the gathering, provision and sharing of meals. The campus functions as a 'village' with its watering hole (the canteen), the fire pit (sunken gathering space) and cave spaces (areas for retreat). The FLC also supports young parents by providing care facilities for their children in order for them to further their own education.





"The new campus has resulted in the creation of more learning opportunities with purpose built spaces."

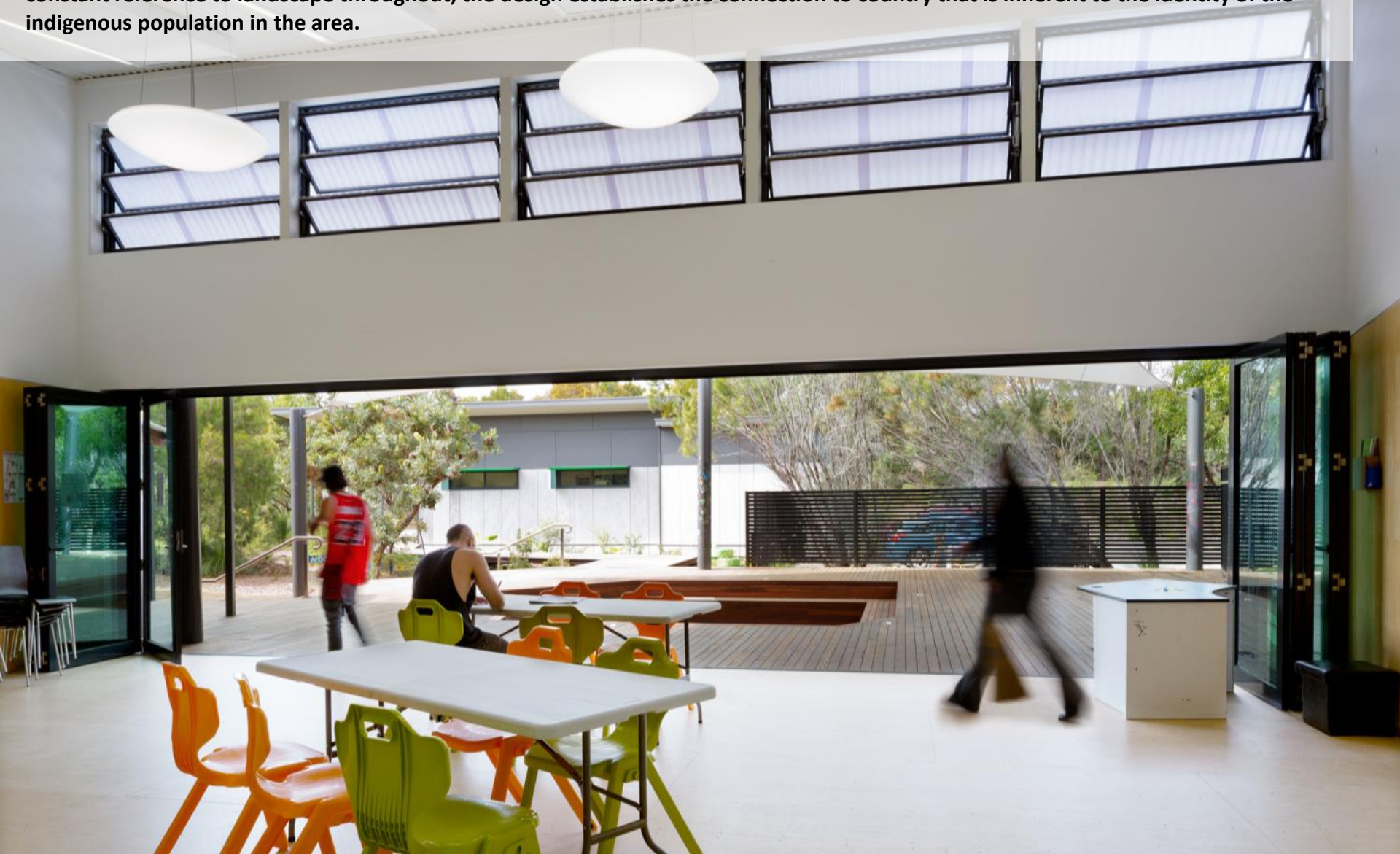
Physical Environment

The FLC strives to provide an alternative and non-institutional learning environment in response to the pedagogical requirements of the users. In contrast to the typically monolithic and intimidating educational building, the casual and unpretentious pavilions of the FLC are domestic in scale.



Physical Environment

With the exception of the Sound building, all pavilions are un-air conditioned and designed with passive climatic control measures. The raw, natural material palette reflects the honesty and respect of the design for its surrounding natural environment. The open, elevated walkways and verandahs provide ventilation and encourage users to also appreciate the natural setting. By maintaining a constant reference to landscape throughout, the design establishes the connection to country that is inherent to the identity of the indigenous population in the area.



Physical Environment

The buildings act as a canvas for the youth to express their creativity.
The graffiti reinforces the central theme of respect



"[The Young people] care about their school and the environment. They are engaged, and it is an engagement by choice."



Planning Process

Brainstorming workshops were undertaken with a focus on the educational and sociological philosophy of the Flexible Learning Centres and how to reflect this ethos in the physical and built environment.



Planning Process

The young people's ideas for a desirable learning environment were considered with detailed schemes presented to the youth and staff for final comments and recommendations.



Planning Process

The alternative nature of the FLC's has been a wonderful opportunity to push the boundaries of the conventional notion of 'school' and explore new educational design possibilities at their most fundamental level. This path has forced us to cast aside traditional, pre-conceived notions and 'start from scratch'



Planning Process

Prior FLC projects have typically been refurbishments of inherited school campuses with challenging physical constraints. The Noosa FLC provided a liberating and rare opportunity for the client and design team to collaborate and create a FLC from first principles.



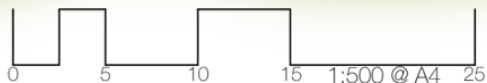


Floor Plan



1. SUPPORT – Staff Administration & Communal Gathering
2. EAT – Canteen and Dining
3. CREATE – Art, Manual Arts and Gym
4. SOUND – Music Recording Studio

5. RETREAT – Parents Room and General Learning
6. KNOWLEDGE – General Learning
7. AMENITIES – Student Amenities



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Project Data

Submitting Firm :	Fulton Trotter Architects
Project Role	Director-in-Charge
Project Contact	Mark Trotter
Title	Director
Address	18 Portman Lane
City, State or Province, Country	Spring Hill, Queensland 4000 AUSTRALIA
Phone	07 3291 1511

Construction Firm:	Hutchinson Builders
Project Role	Builders
Project Contact	Greg Quinn
Title	CEO
Address	584 Milton Road
City, State or Province, Country	Toowong, Queensland, AUSTRALIA
Phone	07 3335 5000

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Project Details

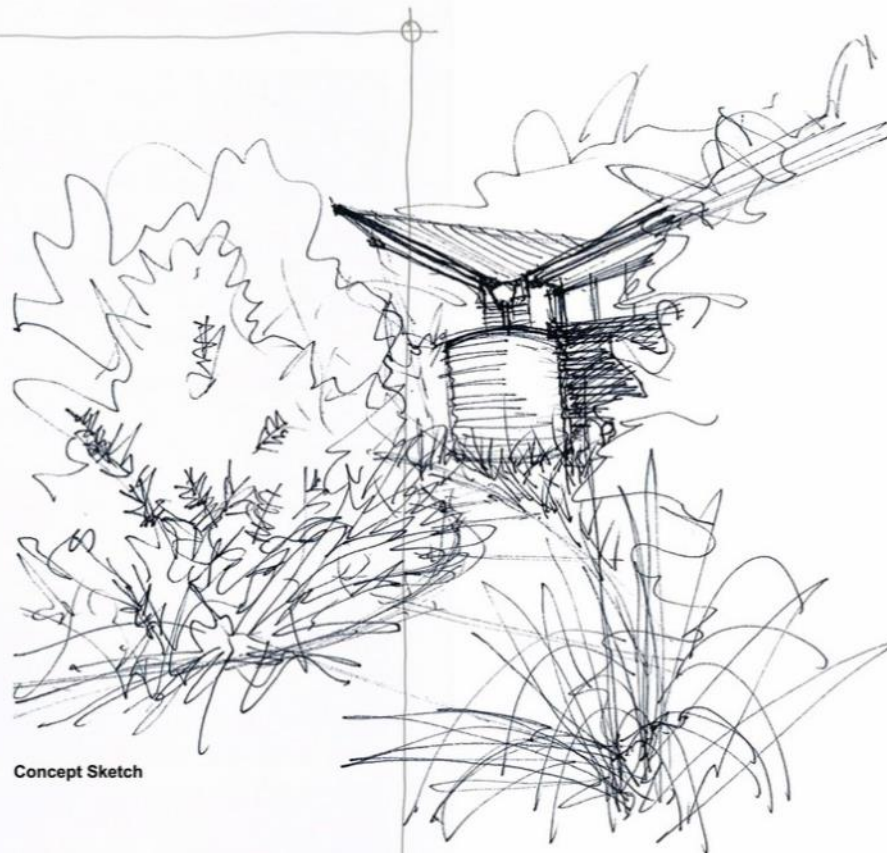
Project Name	Noosa Flexible Learning Centre
City	Noosa
State	Queensland
District Name	Sunshine Coast
Supt/President	Dale Murray
Occupancy Date	July 2014
Grades Housed	7-12
Capacity(Students)	80 Students
Site Size (acres)	0.56 ha
Gross Area (sq. ft.)	830m2
Per Occupant(pupil)	
gross/net please indicate	
Design and Build?	Yes
If yes, Total Cost:	\$3.5 million
Includes:	Building cost, professional and authority fees, FF&E, miscellaneous costs.
If no,	
Site Development:	
Building Construction:	
Fixed Equipment:	
Other:	
Total:	\$3.5 million

First Drawing

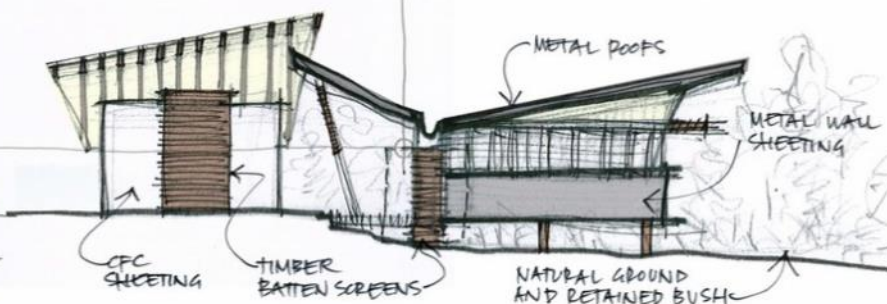


Concept Plan
Scale 1:500 @ A3

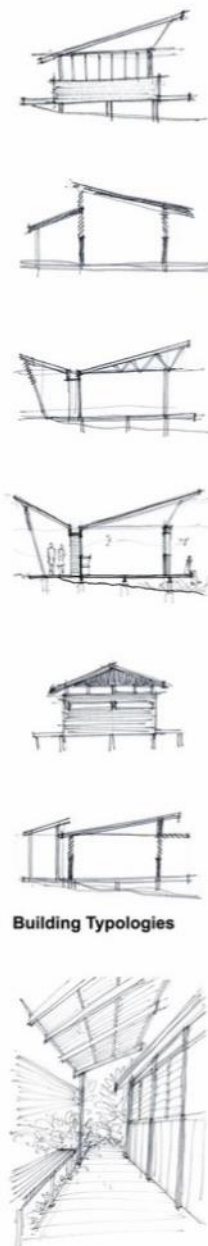
Total Site Area: 1.12ha
Proposed FLC Site Area: Approx. 0.56ha



Concept Sketch



Concept Elevation



Building Typologies