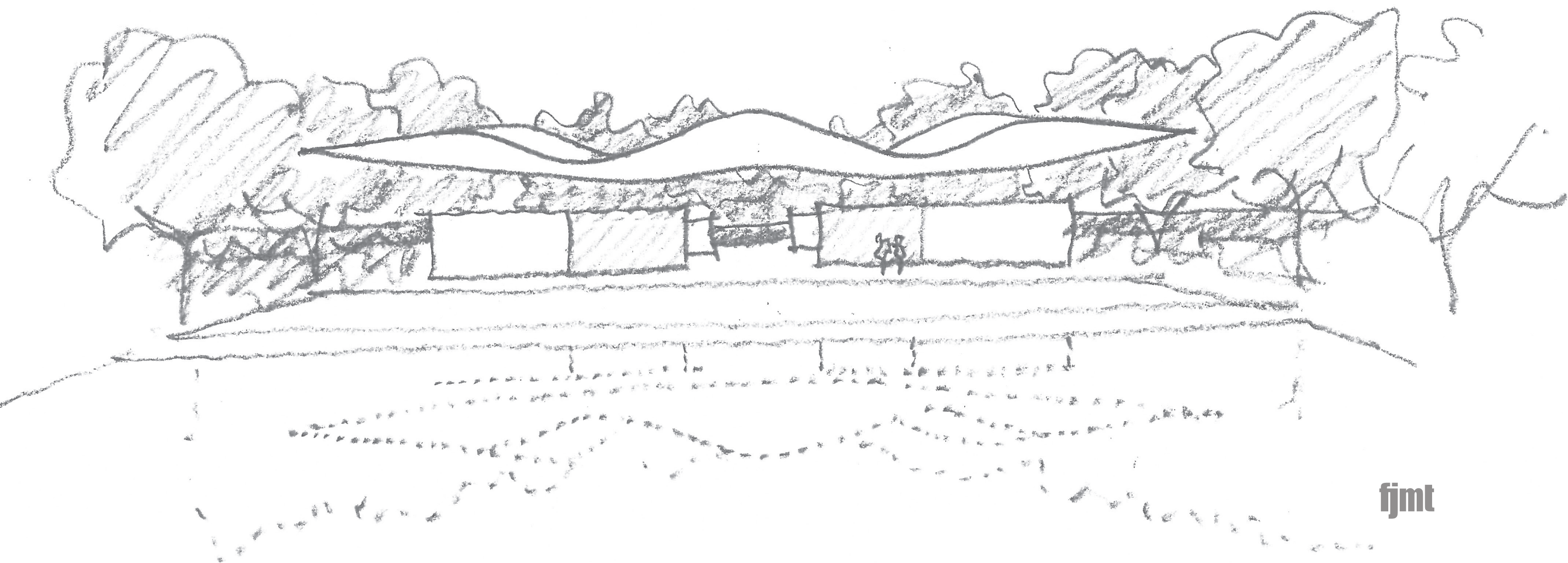


Macarthur Memorial Park

Design Statement

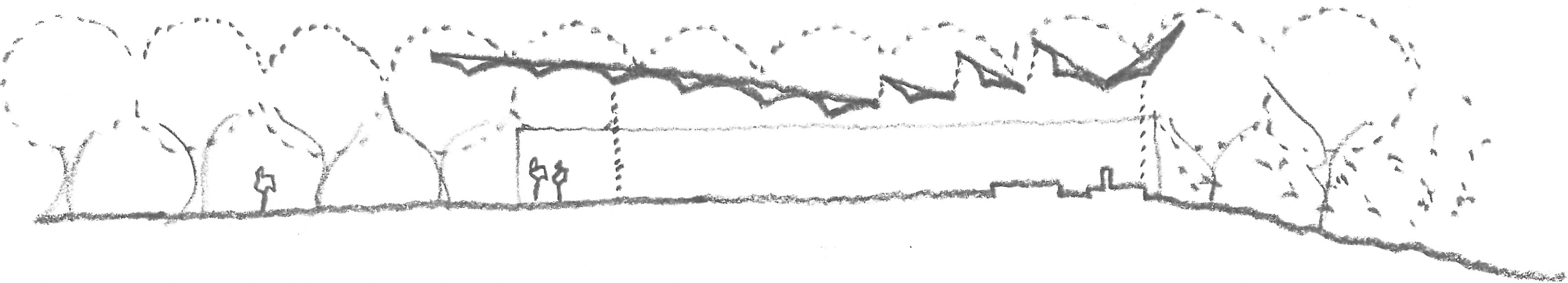
October 2015



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Concept

The Macarthur Memorial Park is a truly inspiring vision and project of great potential significance for Australia.

We have developed a design vision for a unique Memorial Park, a concept that will set a new standard for the integration of memorial landscape and architecture; uniquely Australian and comparable to the very finest international precedents. This is an Architecture of permanence and meaning, but also functional, flexible, affordable and extendable.

The architecture is inspired by the quality of the natural landscape and the depth of meaning of remembrance and the ritual of passing.

Landscape and built form are integrated and brought into harmony, with outdoor rooms, courtyards, gardens, terraces and water, framing and framed with an architecture that grows from the ground and hovers over sensitive landscape.

A memorial and ceremonial landscape marked through the gatehouse and centred on the chapel complex, is complimented by a recreational landscape and architecture with cafe and function centre poised over water and offering a beautiful and open park experience.

We have strived to create an architecture that is lasting, permanent and uniquely of this place. We have avoided any fashion of form, colour or material in favour of the timeless and lasting. Our proposal is founded on the universals of geometry, ground and sky as they frame our lives and our passing.

The multi-faith nature of the complex is well understood, the

need to serve well the unique ritual of the Catholic Liturgy, together with the many other faiths / religion as well as the purely secular, has lead us to propose an architecture of essentials. A form and material that is based on eternal themes common to all faiths:

The ground and earth of existence

The sacred geometries of nature

The sky, the heavens and the spirit

Ground

The architecture is connection to the ground, the landscape, the earth. Association of permanence and the eternal are made in the stone and possibly rammed earth platforms and walls that frame views to the landscape. There is a strong sense of quality and permanence and yet also harmony with nature and with the natural landscape.

Geometry

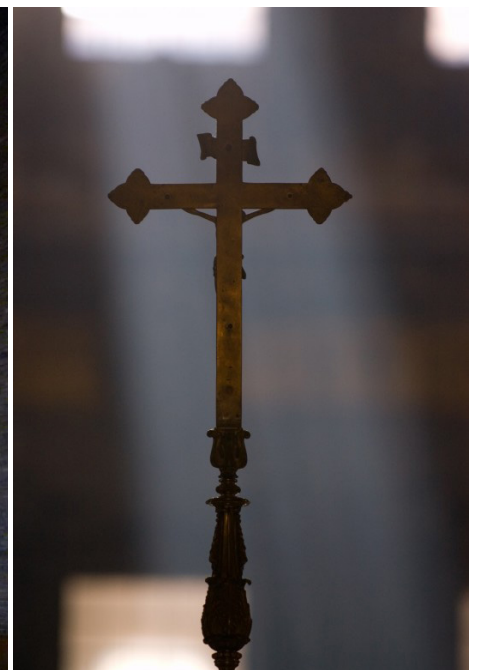
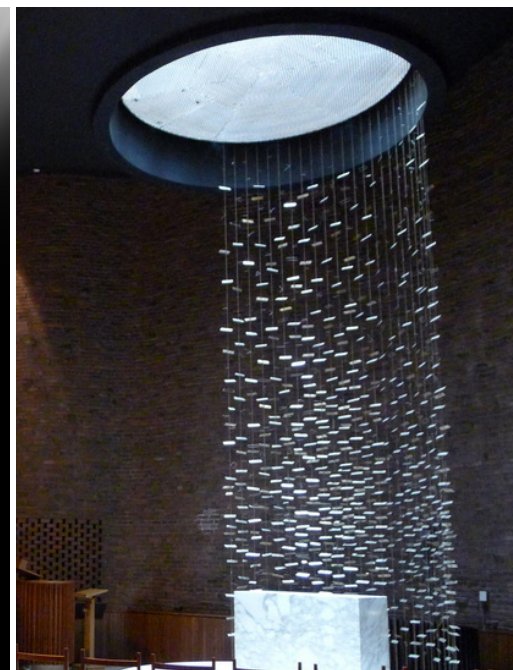
The most eternal geometry of nature and life is that of the Golden Mean, the rectangle and ratio that gives the continuous spiral found in the smallest constructs of nature and in the patterns of the universe. It is the universal geometry of our universe that extends across faiths and cultures, and brings a harmony of proportions with nature. This is the geometry and proportions upon which this concept is based, a quiet and peaceful geometry of natural and everlasting harmony.

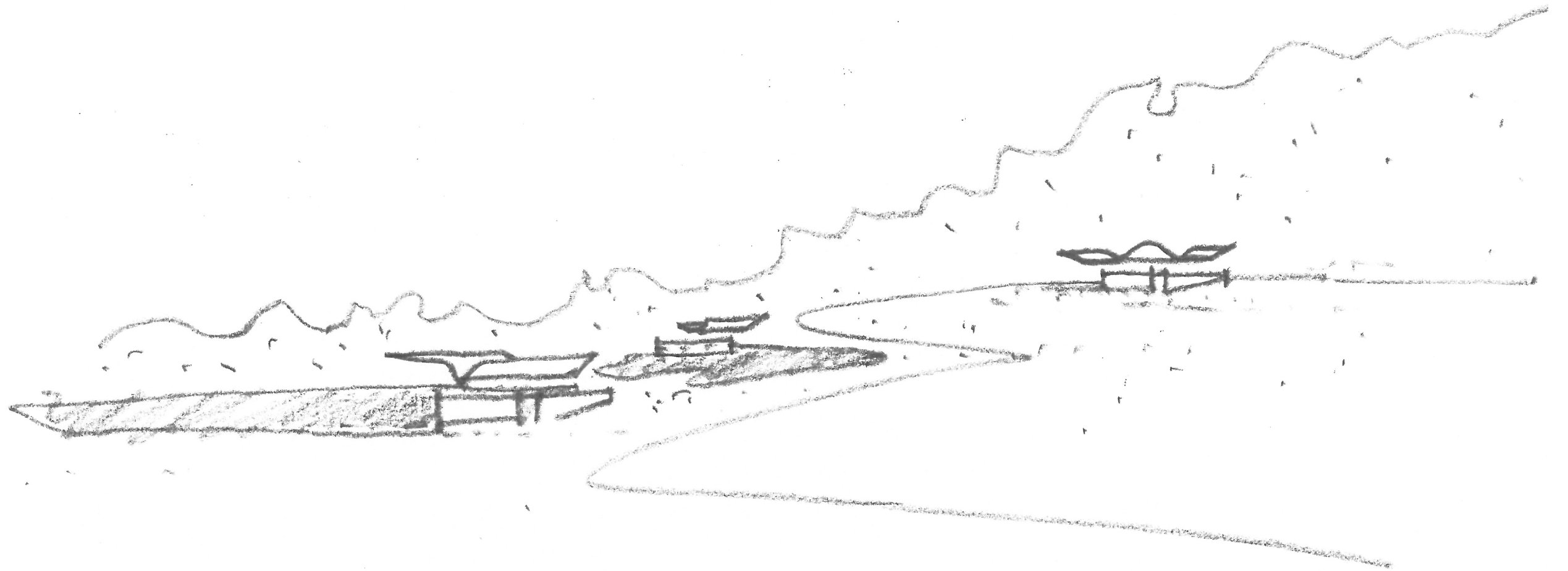
Roof

Complementing the grounded character of the walls and platforms is the light, organic and fluid forms of the folded and curvilinear timber roof profiles. These warm golden coloured forms lift up towards the sky and open to natural light. They float lightly above the gathering spaces seemingly weightless, aspiring and sheltering in form and meaning.

Together these interlocking elements of architectural form geometry and landscape will create a remarkable memorial park experience. An experience of peace, permanence and harmony that is unique to this place. A moving experience that through it's essential nature is timeless, lasting and assuring.

While most developed and potent in the Chapel Complex these element of essential character and timelessness are also present in the built form of the recreational landscape, the cafe and the function centre. So that while more secular, open and flexible these pavilion buildings create an overall landscape and architectural harmony, interest and appeal.





Principle 1: Landscapes: Memorial & Recreation

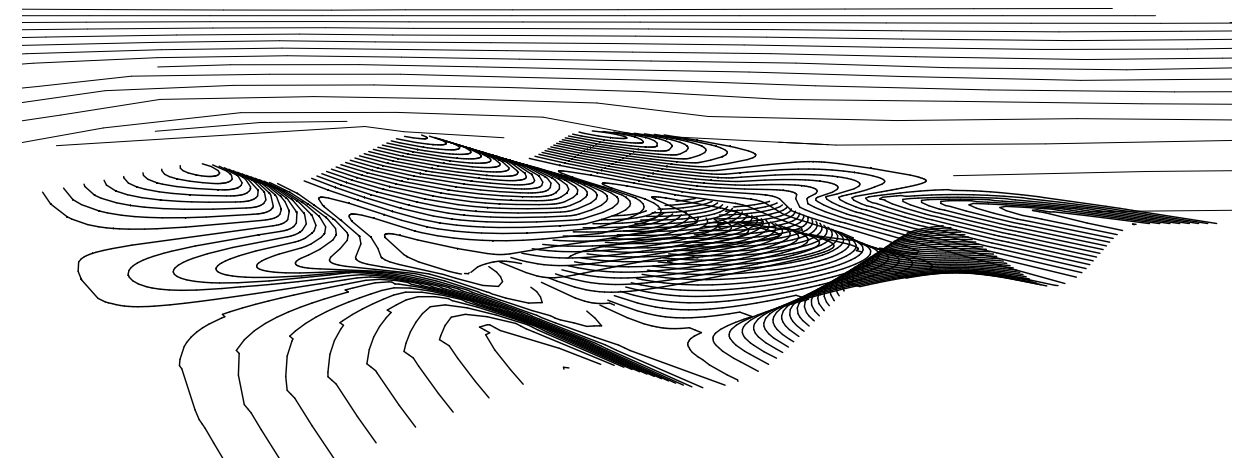
A twofold approach to the site and the area of land that defines Stage 1 of the cemetery development defines this rich and complex landscape as a memorial landscape and a recreational landscape. By identifying these two distinctive landscapes, a clear strategy for delineating between the proposed uses of the site has been generated, while reinforcing the character and the opportunities that are possible.

The change in topography and character of the landscape has closely informed the development of the conceptual approach and the positioning and orientation of each building typology located on the site.

The approach is to locate the uses such as the cafe, function space and administrative facilities, which are more integrated with daily activities within the recreational landscape and to position the chapel and related operational spaces within the memorial landscape.

Memorial Landscape

The memorial landscape is located further north east into the site and provides a destination that is central to the purpose of the site as a cemetery and a chapel. The landscape topography naturally changes to become more complex as the terrain steepens towards the northern boundary of the site. This landscape is largely characterised by grassed hills and scattered groups of trees

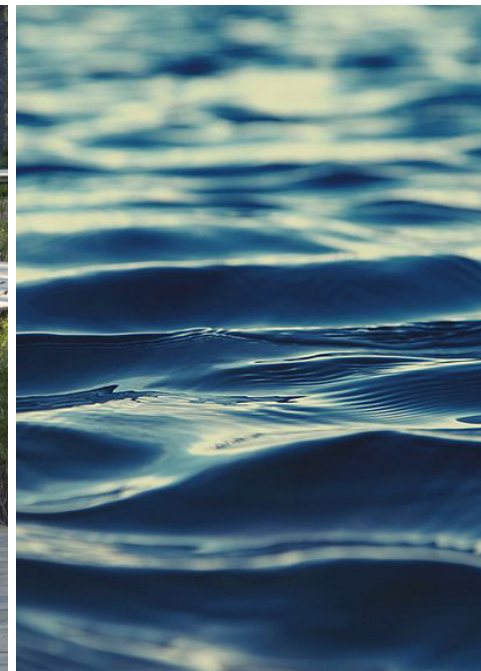
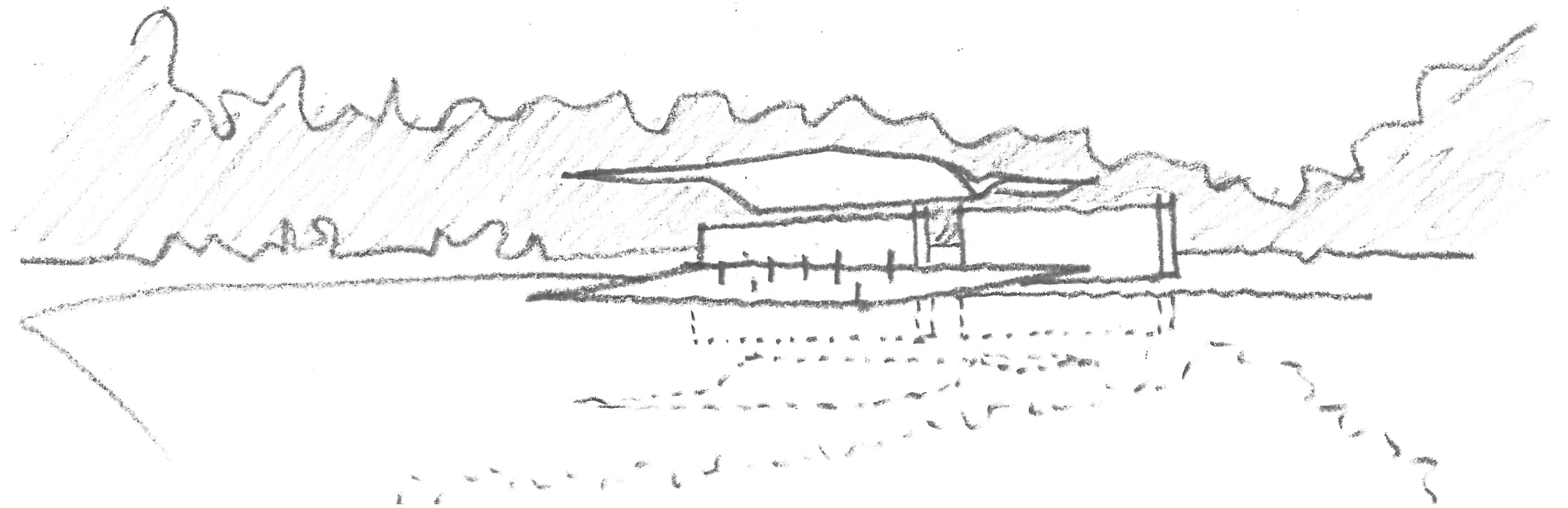


Contours of chapel roof positioned over site contours



Recreation Landscape

The recreational landscape is the stretch of gently sloping topography that runs along St Andrews Road which provides a place set within a unique and dense natural environment that would integrate daily public activities with the amenity of the surrounding landscape and flora and fauna. This more gentle topography is largely characterised by a number of dams and lakes of varying sizes and more dense copse of trees.

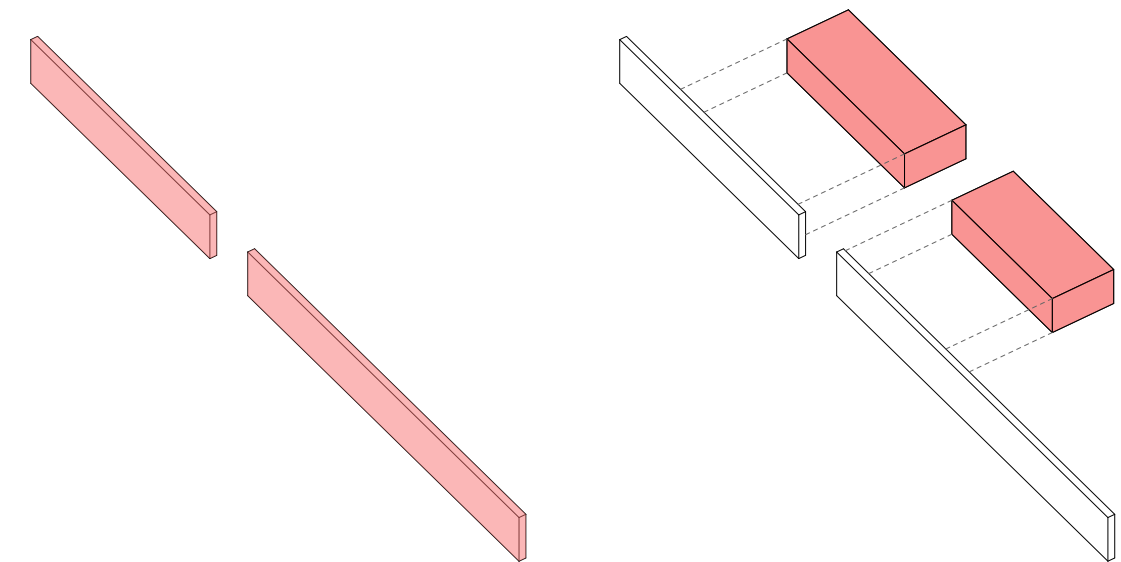


Principle 2: Elements in the Park

The character of the built form for the various building typologies proposed is generated from the positioning of a series of singular, simple building elements, the wall, the roof, and programme that are composed together to make each building.

As each building is positioned on the site these building elements define entry, threshold and the collective spaces which vary for each function of the brief. This hierarchy then enables a clear rational for how the buildings are positioned, their aspect and orientation in response to views, visibility of the buildings in the landscape and physical connections to the terrain.

The walls represent a permanence, deeply embedded in the earth and appear as independent grounded elements within the landscape. The roofs generated are an expressive embodiment and metaphor of the surrounding topography while the programme provides the destination and the physical connection to the landscape and the occupants.



Elements assembly



