

DESIGNING WITH COUNTRY

190 Waterloo Rd, Greenacre



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01 – CONNECTION TO WATER AND LAND COUNTRY

The Darug people had strong ties to water country, as not only a source for food and trade link, but a beating songline that connects people to the dreaming.

Being on the water, offered a connection to ancestral teachings in the practices of fishing, weaving and teaching. In Darug culture, all acts of doing were in kinship with country; ancestral knowledge passed down in seasonal knowledge, informing which plants to harvest and when to fish.

In the sharing of food, as in many cultures, is a powerful expression of community and belonging. It is through shared meals that knowledge is passed down, relationships are strengthened, and cultural memory is preserved.

Within the communal residential areas, native plantings and bush food gardens act as a bridge between tradition and modern living. By cultivating species such as saltbush, lemon myrtle and wattleseed, the development promotes reconnection with Land Country and traditional ecological knowledge. These gardens become places not just for nourishment, but for teaching, gathering, and healing—reaffirming communal values of care, reciprocity, and sustainability. Residents of all ages and backgrounds are invited into a living relationship with the land, fostering stronger community ties through shared cultivation and storytelling around native foods.

Meanwhile, the collection of rainwater demonstrates a practical respect for water as a sacred and finite resource. By capturing and reusing rainwater, the design not only promotes environmental sustainability but also aligns with traditional values of care, reciprocity, and respect for natural cycles. In the design of a reflection pond in the courtyard, the presence of Water Country can be recognized, honoring the cultural identity of the Darug people, whilst promoting residents' well-being in spaces of calm and mindfulness with nature.



The Darug Story of Western Sydney
Leanne Tobin, 2005



02 – WOVEN FACADE

Weaving, like fishing, is a connective act—binding generations together through shared technique, story, and purpose. The weavings of water vessels, collection baskets and fishing tools become physical embodiments of relationships—between students and teachers, between people and place.

In *Vessels of Love: Darug Weaving that Connects Generations, Community and Country*, Jules Christian speaks to the power of cultural practices like weaving as vessels of memory and love. Weaving becomes an artful expression of self and culture, that continues to affirm the Darug people's ongoing relationship with Country.

The “woven” façade at 190 Waterloo Rd, Greenacre, is more than a visual motif; it is a tribute to the interconnectedness of people, place, and memory. The bronze coloured louvres resemble tones of natural woven fibers, that lighten in a gradient toward the emphasized corner. At the rear, the louvres become a vibrant green in celebration and reciprocity of the proposed native landscaping. In the rear facade incorporates green panels. This design aims to spark a sense of familiarity within the Greenacre community, to reflect of the act of weaving within their own cultures. All residents and visitors are invited to reflect on the deep-rooted histories of connection, resilience, and care embedded in Country.

