



# LOST IN TRANSITION

DESIGNING FOR REFUGEE INTEGRATION  
IN NEW ZEALAND



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## DESIGNING FOR REFUGEE INTEGRATION IN NEW ZEALAND

by

Fathila Mardeyah Ab Latif

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# Abstract

Political unrest and internal conflict over recent years had forcefully displaced millions of people. As a result, the developed countries of the world are pressured to take in more refugees and New Zealand is included in this group. In response, New Zealand recently increased its intake of refugees, especially families from Syria.

A rapid increase of immigrants from a foreign culture can create fear relating to social and economic instability for the host country residents. If their concerns are not addressed, it can lead to tension between the host community and the refugees. In addition, many refugees have difficulty in transitioning, facing problems such as language barriers and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The short orientation they received before relocation is usually insufficient to help them adjust to the new country.

In order to improve the process of refugee integration in New Zealand, this thesis examines how architecture can facilitate positive social engagement between host communities and refugees.



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# CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 The Refugee Crisis

The world is currently witnessing an unprecedented mass migration of people. In 2015, roughly 15.1 million refugees were recorded by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) but the numbers exclude those who went missing during their journey (UNHCR). UNHCR defines refugees as

“Persons who are outside their country of nationality or habitual residence and unable to return there owing to serious and discriminate threats to life, physical integrity or freedom resulting from generalized violence or events seriously disturbing public order.”

Most current refugees are fleeing conflict and oppression in their own countries such as Syria and Somalia (Mead). UNHCR categorises the conflicts as political instability, economic tensions, ethnic conflict and environmental degradation. A sudden influx of refugees puts pressure on all countries. In order to mitigate the immediate increase, the UN has urged developed countries to accommodate more refugees.



Figure 1.1. Syrian refugees stranded at the Bab al-Salam border gate with Turkey.



In response, New Zealand agreed to increase its intake of refugees from 750 to 825 per year, a quota which was established in 1987 (INZ). In addition, millions of dollars were allocated to aid resettlement programmes (Shankar). According to the statistics provided by Immigration New Zealand (INZ), 756 refugees were accepted between 2014 and 2015. Among the refugees, special allocations were made to Syrian refugees following the continuing conflict in the Middle East (INZ). The only refugee centre in New Zealand is the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre in Auckland which recently completed an expansion to address the latest influx. The resettlement programme runs for only six weeks, providing an orientation to New Zealand. At the end of the programme, the refugees are moved again to a more permanent community in different regions of the country. The New Zealand Red Cross continues to provide support to the refugee families once they are resettled.

Records show that the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre was previously an army barracks built following World War II. While the remodelling took into consideration the new residents, traces of the former barracks are still evident and while initially designed for military training, the centre is distanced from the local community. The collective spaces are not well suited for community living; the rooms are shared with other families and there are insufficient facilities for small children. Even with the expansion, the centre cannot accommodate the number of refugees that are accepted (Nelson). This creates an opportunity to rethink the current resettlement programme to better respond to the refugee crisis.

## 1.2 Challenges in Integration

Internationally, mass migration is extremely difficult on both the host countries and the refugees. The current New Zealand refugee resettlement programmes only address part of the integration process. Few countries take into consideration the concerns of the local residents who will be hosting the refugees. These concerns stem from the host communities' fear of violence, cultural differences, economic insecurities and the inability of the refugees to adapt. Over time, tensions can continue to rise between host communities and refugees.

As government bodies and non-profit organisations introduce refugees into the community, the local residents are not always as enthusiastic in receiving their new neighbours. Extreme incidences of resistance to the resettling of refugees has included the burning of dwellings and vandalism to temporary accommodations for refugees. Politicians can also invoke the public's fear of invasion by labelling them as 'Muslim extremists' and seeking ways to refuse entry to the country (Frej). Statistics from the US showed that out of 780,000 refugees taken in after 9/11, only three were arrested on terrorism charges (Gambino). This represents a less than 0.01% probability that a refugee is associated with terrorism (Gambino). However, stating facts does not diminish the public's fear even when there is clear evidence that the fear is unsupported by facts.

In the Western host countries, national identity and social cohesion are considered in jeopardy with the incoming immigrants (d'Appollonia 11). Politicians emphasise the change of

### Refugee resettlement in the US

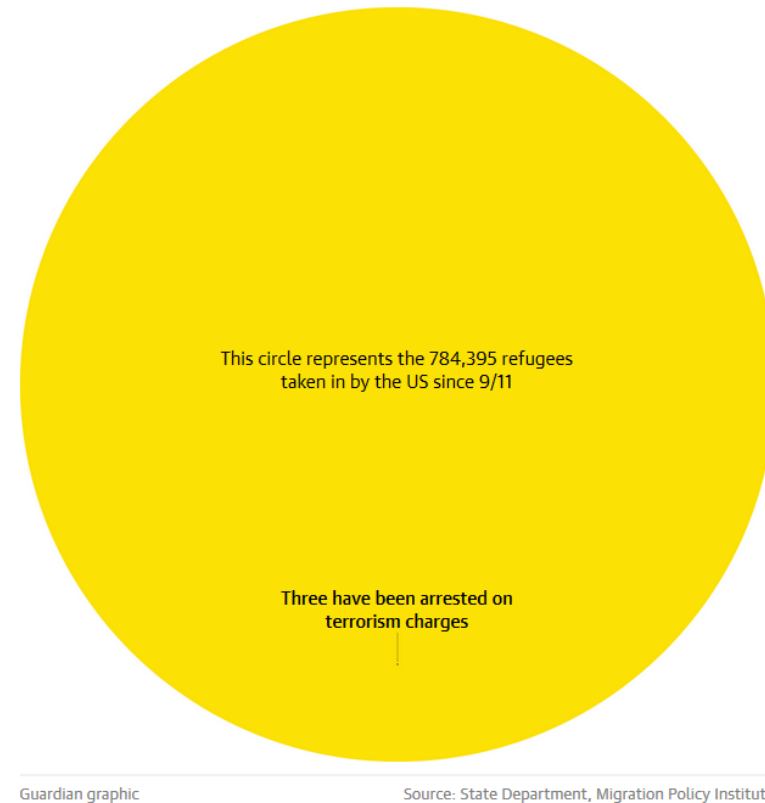


Figure 1.2. Comparison between the number of refugees and those who were arrested.

demographics and civic identity resulting from the increase of immigrants (Fisher). Many news articles use the term migrants and refugees interchangeably which can skew the number of people crossing borders. A survey found that host residents believe immigrants are not willing to adapt to their way of life (d'Appollonia 11-12). The perceived stubbornness to keep to their beliefs was seen as detrimental to the immigrants' integration. This was considered to pose a threat to the Western lifestyle as the clash of beliefs and practices can stir unrest and disrupt civic harmony (Loewenstein). The lack of acceptance of migrants actually hinders their integration (Mojab).

Another concern of the host country is that immigrants are competing with the economic resources of the host society (d'Appollonia 11). Local residents argue that internal problems of homelessness and poverty should be prioritised before helping outsider refugees (Collins). Low-income households presume that the immigrants will seize work and housing while taking advantage of health care systems without not paying taxes (d'Appollonia 11). The cost of resettling refugees is far too often stressed while dismissing their potential contributions (Mojab).

In addition to these externally driven challenges, resettled refugees also struggle to transition into the community. Experiences of leaving their homeland, waiting for asylum, arriving in a foreign country, and adapting to a new culture generally bring significant challenges to the refugees. Coming from conflict driven countries, some refugees suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) resulting from torture, abuse and dangers dur-

ing their encampment and travel (Benson 23). A large population survey found that 26% of 534 Bosnian refugees and 37% of 993 Cambodian refugees suffered from PTSD years after they had relocated (Poole 21).

The stress that results from difficulties experienced in their place of resettlement can also slow or stop the refugees' integration process. For the refugees in New Zealand, sources of this stress can come from their inability to find employment or to provide for their family (Hylan 48). Their prior educational and work qualifications may value very little in the new country (Hylan 48 & 50). Furthermore, refugee families can be fractured when younger generations reject the older generation's customs as they adapt to a different lifestyle (Hylan 43). Language barriers and efforts in maintaining their culture can also contribute to stress (Poole 22). Six weeks of orientation for the refugees is deemed not sufficient to ensure smooth transition into their new lives.

If the refugees experience social rejection from the host community, they will only further isolate themselves (Wong 42). Feelings of alienation can foster resentment towards the host community which will harm both groups (d'Appollonia 7). These challenges to integration need to be addressed especially when New Zealand have decided to resettle more refugees in the upcoming years. Both the host communities and refugees deserve a platform to communicate their fears and insecurities and resolve issues together.

## 1.3 Research Question & Aims

The current refugee resettlement system in New Zealand has the potential to exacerbate social problems as the refugee crisis continues. In order to help more refugees, this thesis asks if a more integrated and holistic system which facilitates collaboration with the host communities could be implemented. It seeks an architectural response which demonstrates that the resettlement of refugees can benefit both the refugees and host communities.

How can architecture mediate and revitalise refugee resettlement and facilitate social engagement between the local community residents and refugees?

The thesis research aims to host a refugee centre embedded within the final settlement community itself. Taking the position that interaction and communication between the two groups can foster understanding, another aspect of this project seeks to incorporate the host community's role in the refugee integration system. By including the community early in the integration process, the refugees can better transition into life in New Zealand. Architecture in this research also aims to provide opportunities for educational, economic and cultural transparency to a diverse group of communities and refugees.

## 1.4 Research Methodology

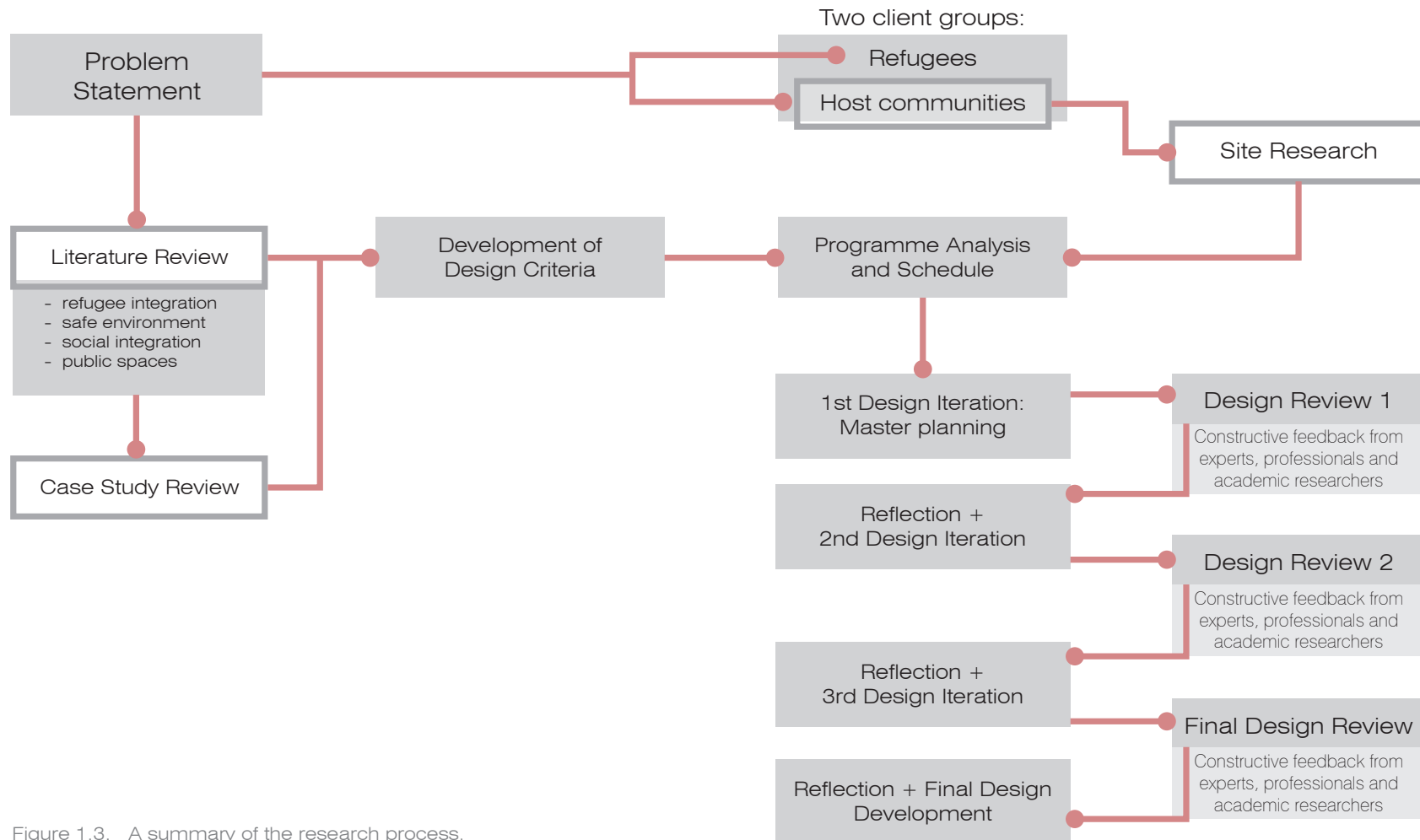


Figure 1.3. A summary of the research process.

## CHAPTER 2 : SITE ANALYSIS

The environment to resettle refugees plays an important role to ease their transition into New Zealand. Equally important to the need of refugees, this research aims to address the concerns of the host community. The site chosen to test the thesis proposition is Naenae town centre in Lower Hutt, Wellington. Study of the site includes the needs and potential of Naenae and analyse them to complement the refugees' needs.



Figure 2.1. Locational plan of Greater Wellington Region.

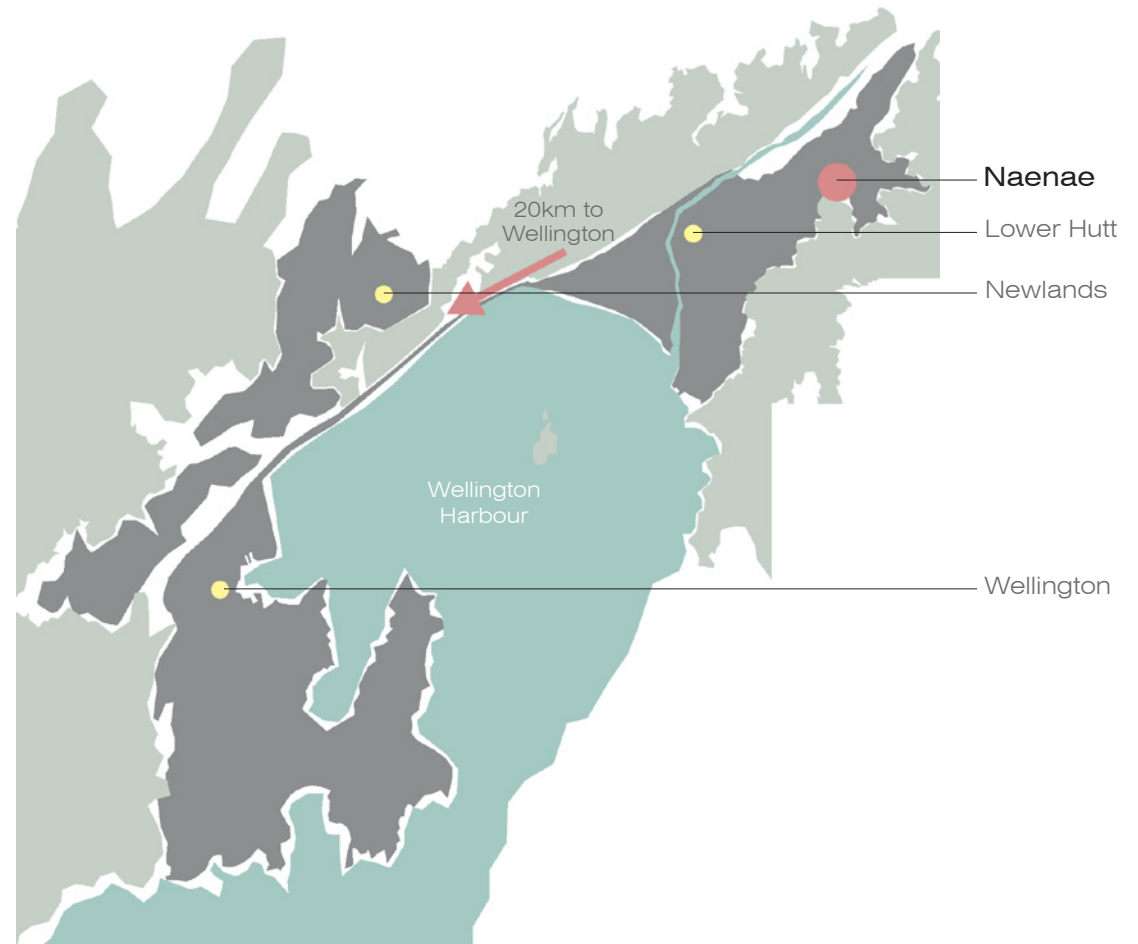


Figure 2.2. Map of Hutt Valley region and the location of Naenae.

## 2.1 History of Naenae

Naenae has a unique history. It was a part of a housing scheme by the Department of Housing and Construction (DHC) after World War II to present the veterans with an ideal suburb (Brand 682). The council employed Viennese architect Ernst Plischke, a refugee himself, who came to New Zealand in 1939 with his family fleeing Nazi occupation. As a modernist architect of the time, Plischke had a social agenda (Brand 682).

His main design concept was based on the garden cities in Europe that combined work and pleasure within close proximity (Schrader 63). He designed the town centre as a public space and the focal point for the community (Schrader 71). Based on Plischke's designs, the town centre was planned around a series of courtyards which provided spaces for gardens and public gathering. Plischke designed tree covered parking areas around the town centre to accentuate the garden city idea. Areas around the town centre were allocated to educational and industrial uses, still within proximity of the residents (Brand 688).



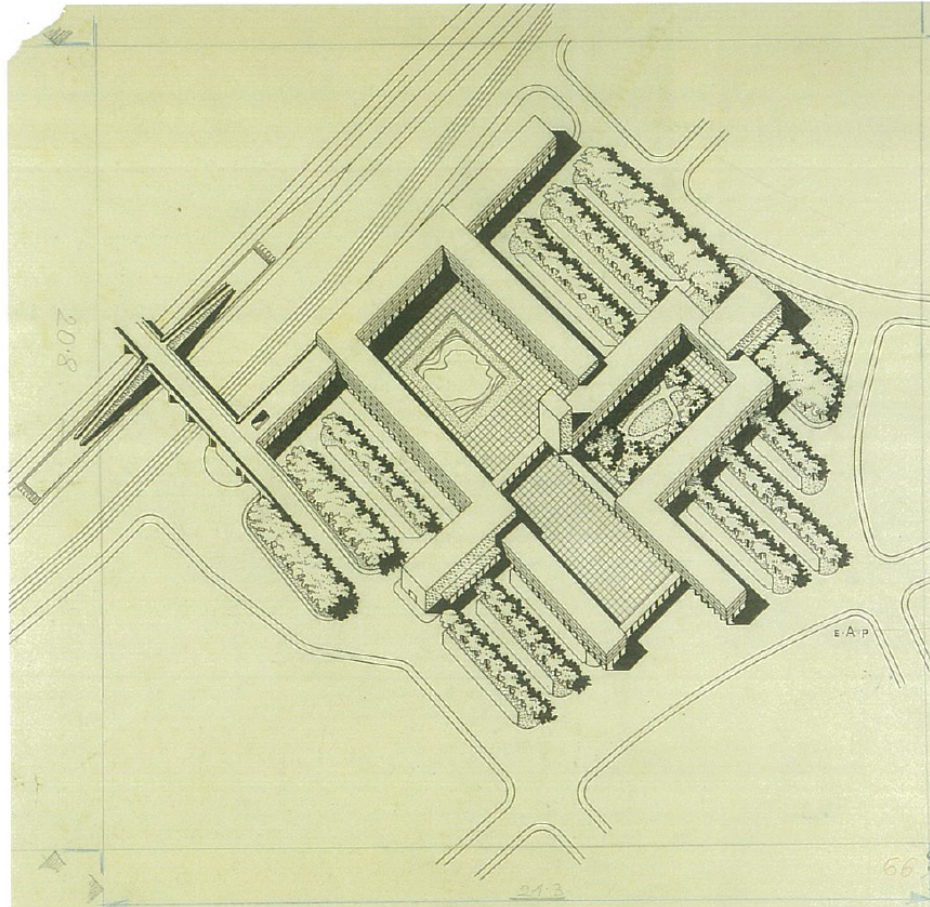


Figure 2.3. The original rendition intended for Naenae town centre.

The Naenae that was built however, was not the Naenae that had been planned. Planning disagreements, public concerns and budget restrictions severely impacted the final construction (Schrader 78). The public was concerned about the plan which lack suitable child care facilities and had hoped for something more relaxed and casual (Schrader 78). The absence of suitable programmes caused the community to stay at home instead of spending time in the town centre (Schrader 78).

The final plan maintained some basic forms from Plischke's design but much was undeveloped, see Figure 2. The only building reminiscent of Plischke's design was the clock tower at the centre of Hillary Court. The town centre had lower building density than the proposed plan and the number of car parks and back alley spaces were increased. A small public library was introduced and only one cinema (out of the two proposed) was eventually built. Plischke's open bridge to cross the train tracks and roads was replaced with a low, poorly lit and narrow tunnel.

## 2.2 Naenae of Today

The Naenae today has seen little development since the time of its initial construction but much change has been seen in the resident population. The state housing in the area initially accommodated middle class war veterans; however, after they moved out, low-income families and those with special needs took over the residential area. Today, most visitors to the town centre are task driven; they come to buy groceries, to go to the gym and to do their laundry at the laundromat. Most operating businesses are south of the town centre, including an Olympic Pool, a convenience shop, a pharmacy and the laundromat.

Naenae has a very diverse population with Maori and Pacific Islanders making up 50% of the residents. This rate is higher than that of Lower Hutt City with only 28% Maori and Pacific Islanders. Even though the most common ethnic group is European, Naenae still has Asian, Middle Eastern, Latin American and African people. Naenae has a young population with the median age of 33.0 years. Almost 40% of the families are single-parents with children while the unemployment rate in Naenae increased to 15.9% (Statistics New Zealand). Businesses, especially retail, have been in decline by 15% from 2006 (Statistics New Zealand).

### AMENITIES



Public Library



Olympic Pool



Community Hall



Transport amenities



Boxing Academy



Playground



Postal Services



Historical Post Office



Naenae Dental Clinic



New Sikh Temple



Public park



Figure 2.4. Current site plan of Naenae town centre.

## 2.3 Site Photos & Observations



Figure 2.5. The tunnel crossing from the train station to the town centre is dark and narrow. There is a feeling of danger when using the tunnel alone.



Figure 2.6. The tunnel opens up to empty shops. This side of Naenae is mostly empty and increases the perception of danger.



Figure 2.7. Attempts to brighten up space shows local interest in revitalising Naenae.





Figure 2.10. The Naenae Public Library is well used by the community.



Figure 2.9. Mothers bring their children to play in the playground beside the library.



Figure 2.8. Excessive parking spaces privileges the vehicles at the expense of the pedestrians.



Figure 2.13. The historical post office and clock tower is now empty with signs of decay.



Figure 2.12. Postal services shares a shop with video rental and does not have its own premise.



Figure 2.11. The parking spaces are oversized which makes the car park bigger than it really needs to be.



Figure 2.15. The town centre has a large isolated and neglected area behind the shops.



Figure 2.14. Oversized shop fronts at the centre of Hillary Court lack appeal and fail to liven the atmosphere of the town centre.



Figure 2.16. Naenae's cinema is no longer in use and is only visible from the alley.



Figure 2.17. The Naenae Hotel is still in operation but attracts only few customers to its bar.



Figure 2.18. Declining population has led to deserted streetscape.



Figure 2.19. Placement of parking spaces close to the shops obstruct the view of the shops.





Figure 2.21. The community centre holds activities for the elderly in the community. However, a large distance separates the community centre from the heart of the town.



Figure 2.20. The main attraction of Naenae town centre is the Olympic Pool which is equipped with a gym.

## Chapter 2 Summary

In many ways, Naenae is an ideal site for a new programme. The lack of people within the centre has the potential to create a continuous cycle of decline that can result in crime, vandalism and even more failing businesses. The declining town centre offers opportunity for new ideas, businesses and public attractions which can address these issues.

The town centre has many positive attributes. Hillary Court is New Zealand's first pedestrian mall and many of the buildings within the town centre have historical significance dating from post-World War II. This can be used to promote tourist attractions along with Plischke's designs. Naenae is equipped with amenities such as a train connection to Wellington City and recreation facilities such as the Olympic Pool, a well-known boxing club, a basketball court and a skateboarding park. The activities available are family and community oriented and cater to a young user group. Open space, pool, library and play-

ground provide the platform for social interaction. A recently completed Sikh temple adds to Naenae's cultural diversity.

Naenae has the potential to be a vibrant town centre with effective design strategies. Underused and historical buildings can be repurposed to give new meaning to the town centre while highlighting Naenae's identity. The underutilised spaces give room to increase the residential density in the area. The ease of access to the town centre can help to bring in more people from outside the area. The excess spaces can be converted into new programmes to increase the variety of uses, cater to a wide range of people and facilitate social engagement. The diverse population opens the opportunity for a vibrant and diverse community that can celebrate their own culture and engage with other cultures.



## CHAPTER 3 : LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature review explores the strategies for effective integration into a host country, addressing both personal and group assimilation, and was expanded to include other integration solutions beyond simply that of refugees.



Figure 3.1. Previously a tailor from Aleppo, Halil Dudu helps his neighbour fix her wedding dress.

### 3.1 Host Community

A cohesive and integrated society cannot be achieved by the efforts of only one group. The 'mainstream' population has a very important role in helping ethnic minority in their transition (Wong 42). When an ethnic minority feels separated or rejected, they often turn to themselves for a sense of belonging which can further isolate them (Wong 42). The host communities' acceptance and acknowledgement of the newcomers as a part of their community solidifies the refugees' attachment to their new home (Wong 42). Any design intervention must accentuate a sense of inclusion for local residents and refugees to create a cohesive society.

The success of refugee integration also highly depends on community participation (Manson). A supportive community that accepts the refugees in the beginning of their

resettlement protects them from feeling rejected because of language barriers and differences in cultures (Goodkind 389). The community can help refugees to participate, integrate diversity, and foster their independence by giving attention to cultures and contextual factors (Goodkind 389). One sign of acceptance is that the community shares the same space with the refugees which can be facilitated through sensitive design.

Refugees can have significant impact to host communities which can be seen in European villages (UNHCR). A prominent example of a revived community is the village of Riace in Calabria, Lucano which was in decline when they received refugees who occupied empty houses and contributed to the business sector, revitalising the community (Kington). Traditional trades that would have died otherwise are now being passed down to the refugees (Kington). Architecture can provide a platform where refugees can support themselves and benefit the host community.



Figure 3.2. Pomegranate Kitchen employs refugee women to share their taste of home.

## 3.2 The Role of Architecture in Social Integration

Research sets the built environment as the mediator between host communities and refugees (Hegmon 4). It proposes that interaction and engagement are more than just language, they can be achieved through sharing and using the same space and social interaction can be influenced by using architecture (Hegmon 4). This can be achieved through defined boundaries and symbolically reinforced ideology and social norms (Hegmon 7). The physical form of the built structure can influence both the activities and the perception of the participants. The spatial order can reinforce the social order basic to social integration (Hegmon 7). Consequently, the built environment can encourage engagement between its different users.

Besides physically influencing society, architecture, like other forms of material culture, are important in conveying basic information (Hegmon 8). Some information that cannot be fully expressed through language can be understood through visual and tactile architecture (Hegmon 8). This is especially beneficial where communication through language is limited.



Figure 3.3. Tennis in the square in Copenhagen.



In his book *Life Between Buildings*, Jan Gehl compares a city that integrates with one that segregates (Gehl 101). He describes integration within a city as a mixture of different programmes and people that work and influence each other (Gehl 101). Different users can share a common space when they perform similar activities and allow people from different backgrounds to meet and interact based on a common ground (Gehl 101).

Open spaces provide common ground and give people opportunities to express themselves, a medium for ethnic minorities to communicate to the host communities (Wong). Therefore, it is important to deliver this social good directly to the target group and design a programme to create these opportunities (Wong).

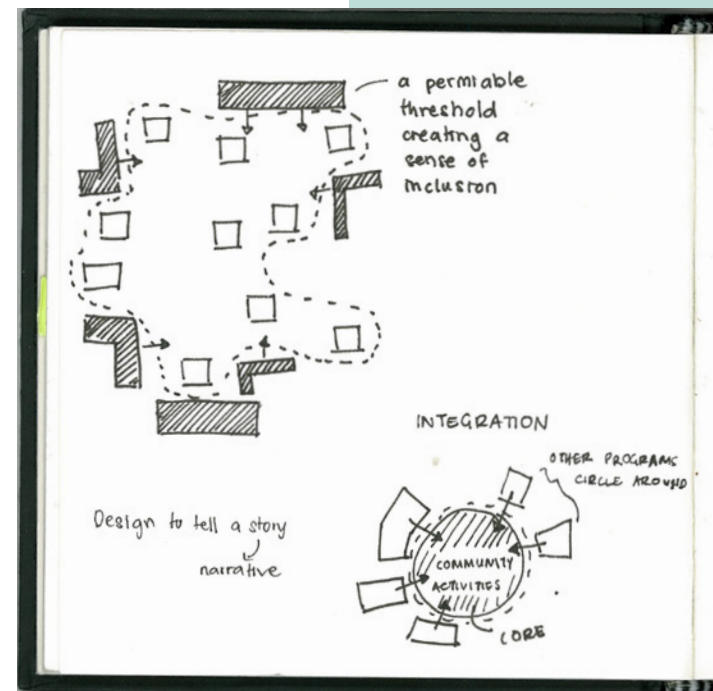


Figure 3.4. Iterating Gehl's inclusive urban design strategies.

### 3.3 Refugee Integration

Many refugees have been forced into a state of temporariness that can last several generations as a consequence of fleeing conflict and persecution (UNHCR). Only after they are registered and have successfully attained asylum are they able to resettle in a permanent and safe environment. Figure 3.5 illustrates the current New Zealand model for resettlement.

New Zealand Immigration outlines five key strategies for integration: self-sufficiency, participation, health and well-being, education and housing (INZ Refugee Settlement: New Zealand Resettlement Strategy 3). These strategies are the different principles to achieve integration in New Zealand as listed in Table 3.1 (INZ Refugee Settlement: New Zealand Resettlement Strategy).

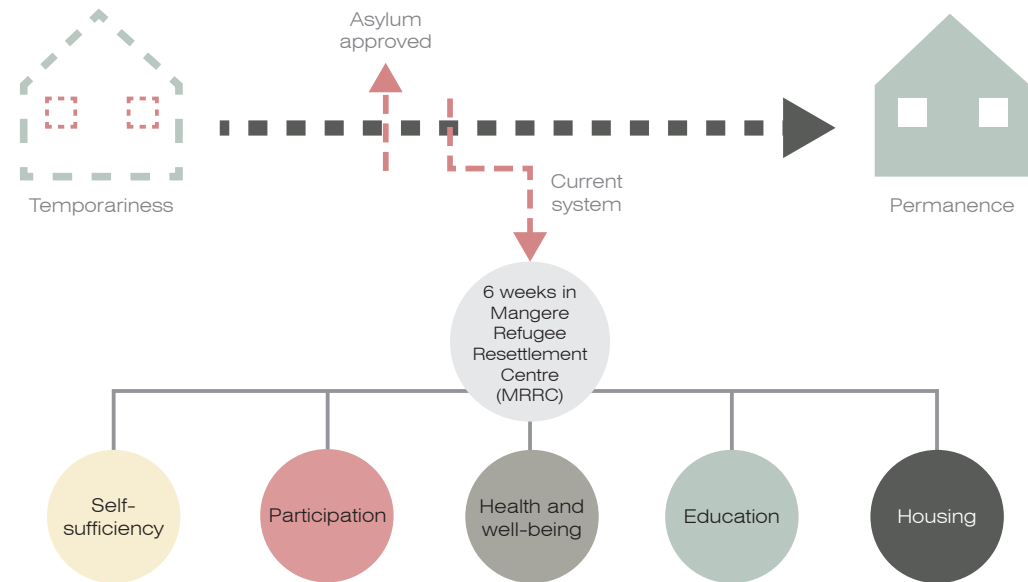


Figure 3.5. A summary of the current process refugees go through for resettlement

Self-sufficiency	All working age refugees are in paid work or are supported by a family member in paid work.
Participation	Refugees actively participate in New Zealand life and have a strong sense of belonging.
Health and well-being	Refugees and their families enjoy healthy, safe and independent lives.
Education	English language skills help refugees participate in education and in daily life.
Housing	Refugees live in safe, secure, healthy and affordable homes, without needing government housing assistance.

Table 3.1. The aims of the strategies provided by INZ.

This thesis takes the position that the additional temporary centre is not the most efficient method for assimilation and proposes a semi-permanent system that helps support the refugees within their resettled region, much like what exists internationally. The purpose of this design intervention is to help the refugees transition into their new home in the Wellington region. A more permanent transition centre in the resettlement host community as shown in Figure 3.6 can address self-sufficiency, participation, health well-being, education and housing strategies and assist the development of attachment and a sense of belonging (Fielden). International case studies have found that refugees can form a deep connection to the community that strengthens their attachment to the host country (Manson).

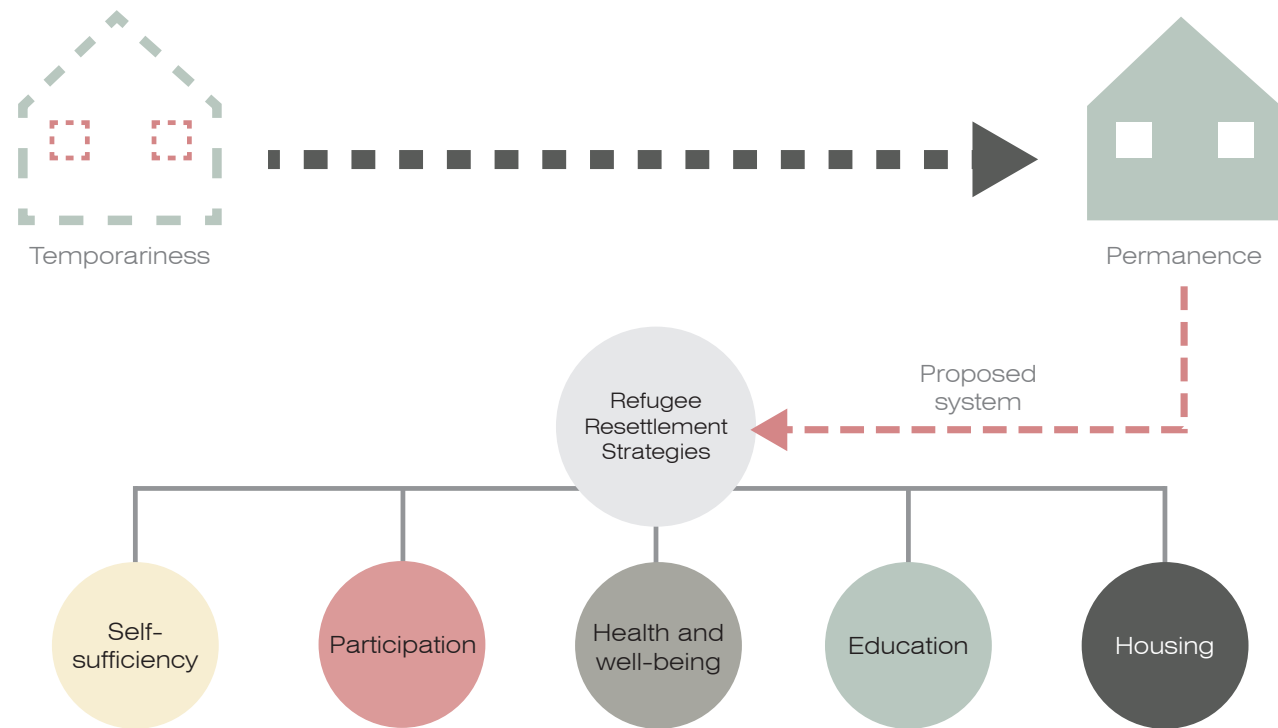


Figure 3.6. The proposed permanent resettlement strategy.

The five strategies can be extended to involve the final resettlement region and host communities.

Resettling families and placing them within proximity of each other in the host community build their internal support system. Most refugees resettled into New Zealand are either with families or single women at risk from conflict driven countries (INZ “New Zealand Refugee Quota Programme”). Keeping families together will aid health and well-being of the refugees which eases their transition into a new country in the long run . The refugees also need friends who they can share their experiences with (Hylan). It is also important for them to restore attachments and connections to people who can offer emotional support (Benson 24). A supportive community helps refugee families to better adapt in new countries that improve their psychological and emotional health (Wong 42).

Allowing the refugees freedom of movement contributes to foster their self-reliance such as searching for their own opportunities in employment (Fielden 4). This freedom gives them the confidence to reach out to the community (Manson). Spatially, this can be achieved by strategically placing the refugee oriented programmes and housing within the community and promote transportation options such as cycling or walking.



Figure 3.7. A recently resettled family enjoying the day at Wellington Botanical Gardens.

A safe and secure setting encourages the refugees to seek self-improvement in education and employment and to participate in community activities (Manson). This is especially important to address refugees suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (Benson 24). Much like open space, participation, health and well-being can benefit from a well-designed green space while restoring a sense of control (Benson 24). Healing architecture uses landscaping, a community garden that is maintained by the refugees and community promotes social interaction (Manson). Without relying on language, the refugees and host community can learn from each other through the plants they grow together and by sharing a common activity (Manson).

Many refugees and migrants will have a crisis of identity, having lost the home, family and friends who gave meaning to their identity (Middleton). Encouraging the refugees to practice their beliefs and cultures can help in overcoming internal crises (Benson 24). This can be made possible by providing them a space specially made for worship such as a church, a mosque or a temple. Culturally, they can be given a stage to perform ethnic dances or customs where they are proud to share their traditions with the local residents. While benefitting the refugees, the host community is presented with an opportunity to learn more about them as well as share their own customs.



Figure 3.8. Yasin Ibrahim Ashira turned a barren backyard into a thriving vegetable garden.

## Chapter 3 Summary

Currently, when the refugees arrive in New Zealand, they are placed in the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre for a six week orientation run by Immigration New Zealand before settling in a designated region. This thesis proposes a resettlement centre that helps the refugees integrate with the involvement of the host community in their final resettled region.

The central focus of this research is to allow interaction between two client groups, the host community and refugees, using architectural solutions.

The literature review identifies the role of the host community in refugee integration. Members of the community can provide support and create a feeling of welcome through careful placement of refugees among the residents and communication can be mediated using design interventions.

Architecture and the programmes can facilitate the engagement between the two user groups. The programmes that the host community and refugees use must be within proximity and integrated with the site to ensure the gathering of different people in a common public space.

Design solution for the refugees arriving in a new country can equally support their integration. Requirements for self-sufficiency, participation, health and well-being, education and housing provide the programme criteria to make up the new refugee resettlement centre. The resettlement centre can channel the vigour and energy of the refugees and provide them the platform where the benefits can transform the community.

## CHAPTER 4 : CASE STUDIES REVIEW



Several case studies were analysed to understand how past projects had addressed similar issues. These case studies illustrate a wide range of design strategies to bring people together, facilitate social interaction and help in personal development. Successful characteristics of the case studies will inform the programmes and design criteria of the new refugee resettlement centre.

The four case studies are:

- Granville Island Public Market, Vancouver, B. C. Canada
- Eva and Leeds Street, Wellington, New Zealand
- Women's Opportunity Centre, Kayonza, Rwanda
- Sarugaku, Tokyo, Japan

## 4.1 A Place for People

Project Name: Granville Island Redevelopment

Site Location: Vancouver, Canada

Designers: Norm Hotson and Joost Bakker

Year of Completion: 1975

Granville Island is a manmade island that was used for medium to heavy industry but was abandoned after the war when the demand for manufacturing declined. Commissioned by the Canadian government to create a 'people place', the designers recognised the unique identity of the site and retained most of the original industrial buildings while accommodating new uses.

Figure 4.1. A map of Granville Island showing some of the attraction available.



Reusing the existing fabric maintains the unique identity of the island. Although some heavy industries still remain, the island increased the variety and diversity of activities. New uses to intensify the site for example Emily Carr University of Arts and Design, add cultural and educational elements to Granville Island and help increase density with the student numbers. Other attractions of the site make use of their adjacent facilities, offering a variety of food experiences, a play area for children and performance venues. These spaces were designed for pedestrians to spend time with their families.

Lessons learned:

- Identity of the site is important.
- Integration of commerce, food, culture, arts and education attracts a variety of uses and people into the site.
- Densification adds to the vitality of a site.
- Creation of spaces with different functions allow people to gather.
- The market invites people of different incomes and backgrounds to share the same space and spend time together.



Figure 4.2. There is a mixture of restaurants, public spaces and commercial buildings

## 4.2 Safety & Connectivity

Project Name: Eva & Leeds Street

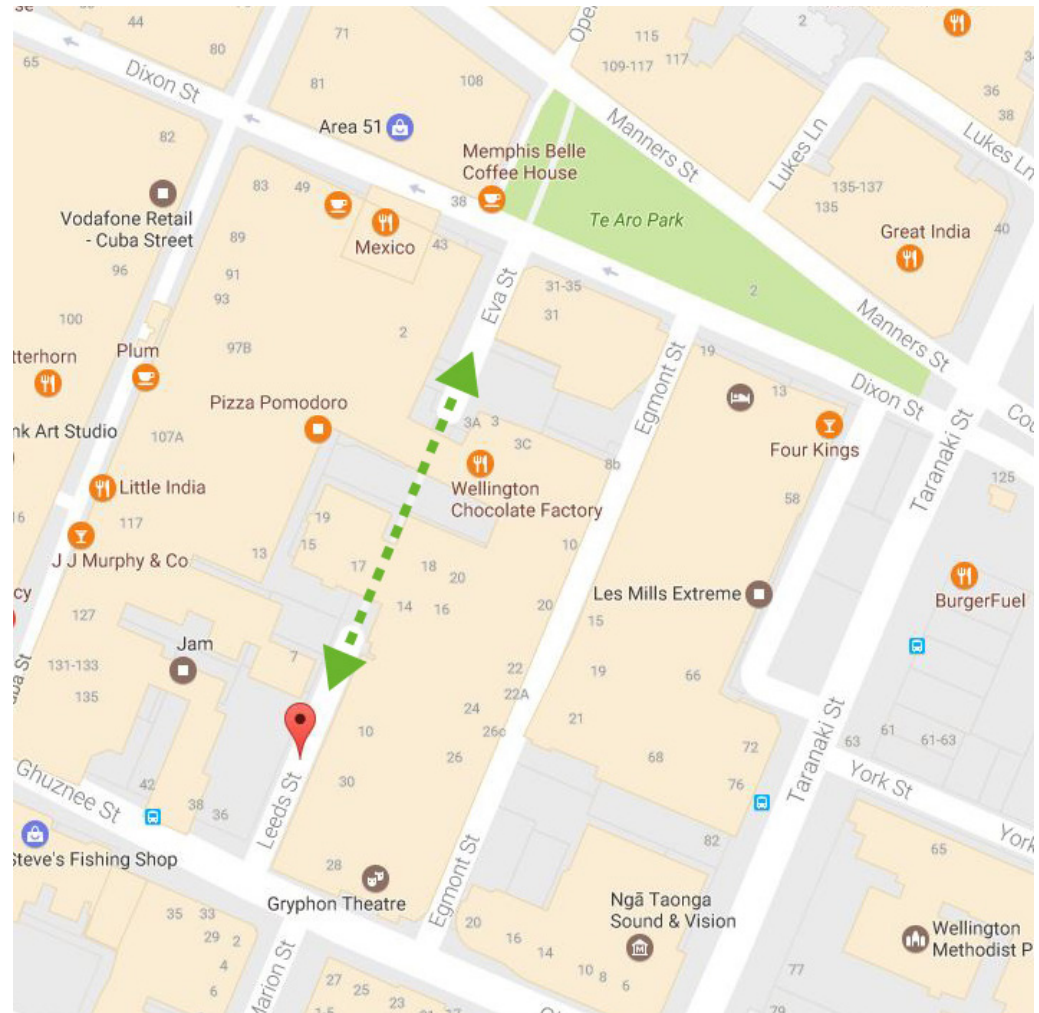
Site Location: Wellington, New Zealand

Designers: N/A

Year of Completion: 2015

Eva and Leeds streets are shortcuts from North Cuba Street through Hannahs Apartment to Courtenay Place but were seen as back alleys and suffered from neglect and crime. The semi-public passage was previously ambiguous, dark and isolated. Wellington City Council remodelled the streets to reduce crime, encourage greater use and attract new users.

Figure 4.3. Eva and Leeds street bring users through Hannahs Apartment.



The redesign invites pedestrians and cyclists to move through the site by maintaining its mixed use which also increases the area's usage and safety. The restaurants in the courtyard and along Eva Street are open to the pathway amplifying the safety for pedestrians. The improvement in surveillance contributes to the comfort of access to Courtenay Place and consequently increases usage of the shortcut.

Lessons learned:

- Simple strategies such as adding greenery, increasing lighting and adding colours can be used to create a feeling of invitation and provide clarity.
- Make clear indications of a pathway and reducing the perceived danger encourages its usage.
- Change the orientation of shops fronts to face the passage increase surveillance.
- Putting eyes on the street creates a feeling of safety and invites more users into the area.

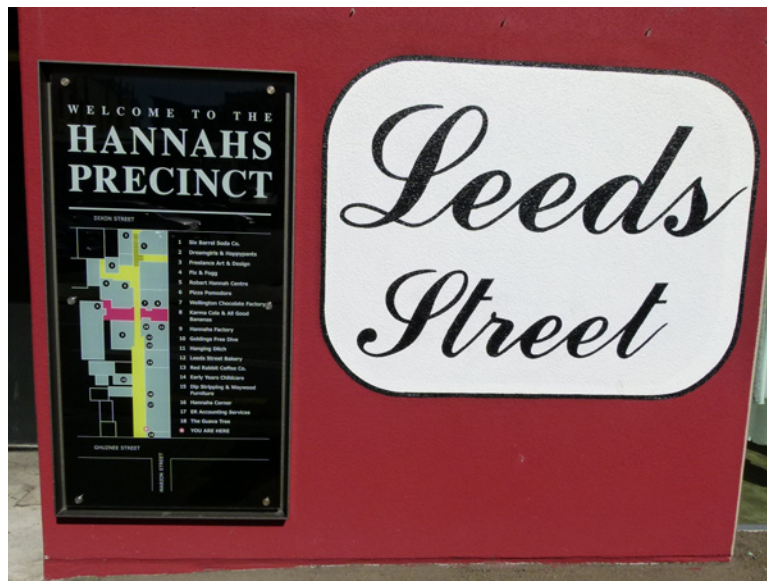


Figure 4.4. Big signs at each end to direct users to the shortcut and to inform them of what to expect.





Figure 4.5. The entrance from Leeds Street is lit by big lightbulbs.



Figure 4.6. The ground floor of Hannahs Apartment houses a bakery and cafe.



Figure 4.7. A historical photograph of the Hannahs shoe factory workers to accentuate the apartment's identity.



Figure 4.8. Outdoor eating area, cafes and plants in the courtyard add to the lane's vibrancy and safety.



Figure 4.9. Parking lines symbolising shoe boxes add a sense of fun and reference to its history as a shoe factory.

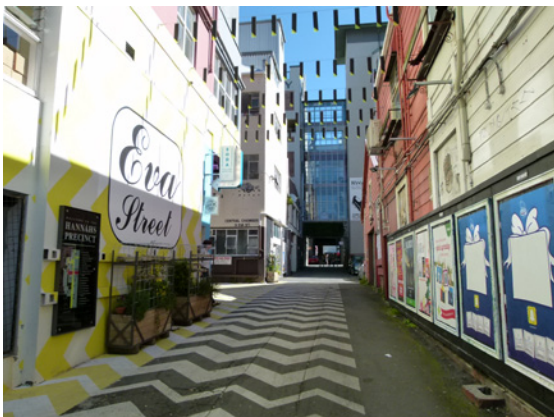


Figure 4.10. Eva Street entrance with bright colours and chandeliers to create an intimate space.

## 4.3 Personal Development

Project Name: Women's Opportunity Centre

Site Location: Kayonza, Rwanda

Designers: Sharon Davis Design

Year of Completion: 2013

The centre is a safe haven for the village women who had suffered through violence. The facilities in the centre help the women gain independence by providing sheltered learning spaces, a gardening area and a market to sell the produce from the gardens. Other programmes include accommodation for guests, offices and administrative services. The programmes complement each other and provide healing effects for the users.



Figure 4.11. The women are free to move around the centre to attend classes and work in the gardens.



The safe environment contributes to better learning and self-empowerment to those who had previously experienced traumatic events. The market allows the women to engage with the community in a secure and organised setting and offers the opportunity to provide for themselves. The wider community also benefits from the market's economic prospects.

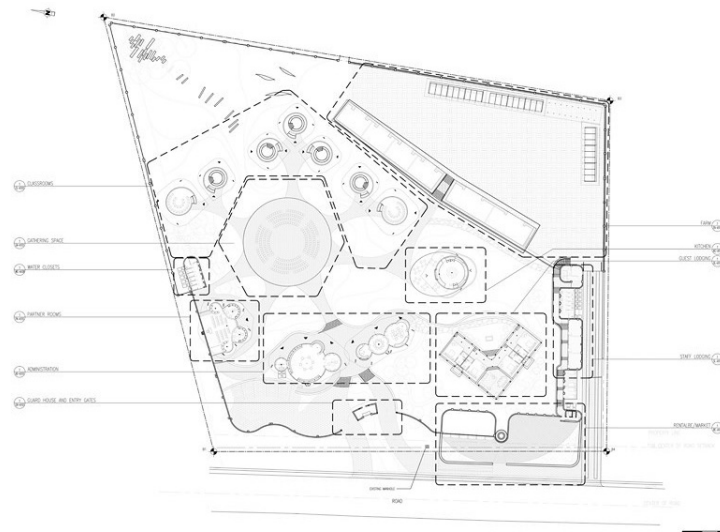


Figure 4.12. A plan of the centre with the programmes.

Lessons learned:

- A wide range of programmes – education, gardening, crafts and commerce, can work together to create a holistic facility.
- The programmes can be separated into smaller volumes to occupy a larger site.
- Safety strategies benefit user who experienced past trauma.



Figure 4.13. The pavilions reiterate the vernacular architecture of Rwanda.

## 4.4 Intimate Space

Project Name: Sarugaku “The Monkey’s Entertainment”

Site Location: Tokyo, Japan

Designer: Akihisa Hirata

Year of Completion: 2007

The commercial buildings located in Daikanyama, Tokyo illustrate how scale were designed as a cluster of small volumes, based on the mountains where in the valley, people and things flow.



Figure 4.14. Users can maintain view into the courtyard.

The pathway that goes into the centre opens up the complex to the street which brings more pedestrians into the space. The smaller volumes and ease of access convey an intimate space for the public to enjoy with their families. The commercial setting and vibrant atmosphere entertain the onlookers sitting in the courtyard. The sheltered space allows the children to play while their parents sit or shop. This way, they can participate in the activities without having to spend any money.

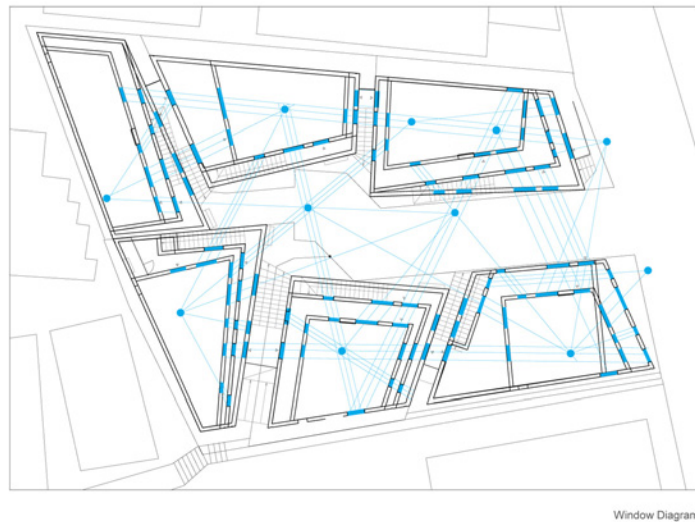


Figure 4.15. The plan of the commercial complex.

Lessons learned:

- Opening up the building to the streets invites more users.
- The courtyard contributes to a sense of inclusion.
- The small scale shops and little details add to the intimate atmosphere of the courtyard.
- Increase of people and surveillance enhances safety.



Figure 4.16. The street view looking into the central space.

## Chapter 4 Summary

These four case studies offer a diverse range of strategies to address feelings of safety and inclusion to facilitate social interaction.

Granville Island redevelopment presented the strategies to improve a place in decline and to attract more users to the site. Uniqueness and accessibility combined with new uses appealed to the public. The design created options for social interaction whether through business, street performances or just sharing the same space. It illustrates how public places can be more appealing by accentuating the identity of the community, making it more accessible to the residents.

Eva and Leeds streets shortcut demonstrated how to facilitate people's movement through a private area. The improved safety and visual clarity of the walkway were the essential features to invite more users, especially pedestrians. Improvement in circulation around the site connects the local residents to the newcomers.

The Women's Opportunity Centre introduced the strategies of a holistic facility that aims to promote self-development of its users. Within the same facility, the users learn new skills such as agriculture and business, and have the platforms to apply their understanding in the gardens and market. The market also functions as a medium to interact with the wider community. The programmes in the centre were specifically designed for the users while also accommodating other potential functions of the space.

The Sarugaku commercial complex is an example of the integration of public space and architecture. The strong indoor-outdoor connection creates an intimate and inviting setting. A well-designed public space can encourage social interaction between its users. Within the same space, they can enjoy a vibrant setting with their families and learn more about each other without depending on language.

This project review helps establish a strategic set of principles that can be incorporated into the design experiments. The design principles arising from the Project Review include:

- Preserving the unique qualities of a site and building with existing structures.
- Increasing the diversity of uses or programmes.
- Creating an open space as a gathering spot.
- Increasing safety through circulation and surveillance.
- Using design details to change the use and breathe new life into existing space.
- Incorporating holistic programmes in a nurturing environment can help people with past traumas.
- Using design details to create an inviting atmosphere.
- Programmes can be separated and placed strategically in a site.
- Using small volumes to design intimate spaces for social interaction.



## CHAPTER 5 : MASTER PLANNING

## 5.1 Introduction



Figure 5.1. Ernst Plischke's clock tower in current Naenae.

The focus of redesigning Naenae town centre is to serve the two clients of this project, both the existing community and refugees. The interventions become the catalyst of social engagement and community building between the refugees and the Naenae community.

The design aims are:

- To revitalise the Naenae Town Centre
- To reinvent Naenae's urban identity

Revitalisation has been achieved by:

- Increasing the density within the town centre;
- Creating an attractive urban setting for the community and refugees which increases opportunities for social engagement;
- Providing an enjoyable urban experience by increasing the number and diversity of activities.

Reinventing Naenae's urban identity involved:

- Resettling and integrating refugees from different backgrounds in Naenae thereby increasing cultural diversity;
- Providing new programmes catering to the needs of the Naenae community and refugees;
- Introducing arts and family oriented urban landscape

This design chapter first establishes design scope and strategies. Then it has four parts; demolish and removal, restructure and reorganise, retain and enhance, and introduce, each of which relates to the key components of the design scope.



## Design Scope & Strategies

The scope of this thesis is restricted to the Naenae town centre in designing the resettlement centre. The programme has been developed based on INZ strategies in resettling refugees as well as urban planning strategies for communities. Primary needs for the refugees are housing and a learning centre. Secondary needs include opportunities for working, shopping and entertainment.

The strategies are:

### 1. Demolish and removal

- Demolishing unused buildings to make new access to isolated areas and to improve visibility for pedestrians.
- Removing excess car parks to place new uses.

### 2. Restructure and reorganise

- Restructuring circulation around the town centre by narrowing the streets and adding a cycle lane to encourage walking and cycling.
- Reorganising street furniture in Hillary Court to improve ease of movement through the town centre.

### 3. Retain and enhance

- Retaining successful programmes in Naenae such as the Olympic Pool and Public Library.
- Enhancing the usage of existing programmes by refurbishing the cinema and Naenae Hotel into housing and accommodation for refugees.

### 4. Introduce

- Introducing a new public space with multi-uses as a place of gathering for the Naenae community and refugees.
- Introducing arts and educational platforms as opportunities for cultural exchange and self-development.

## Programme Description

The programmes and interventions are defined for the host community and refugees. They facilitate the gathering and engagement of the two user groups.

Programmes	Number of Units	Floor Area (m <sup>2</sup> )
Refurb cinema	1	520
Single family units	15	90
Single studio units	25	45
Public square	1	2000
Market stalls	20+	9
Small shops	5	24
New theatre	1	350
Learning centre	1	700

Table 5.1. Programmes schedule

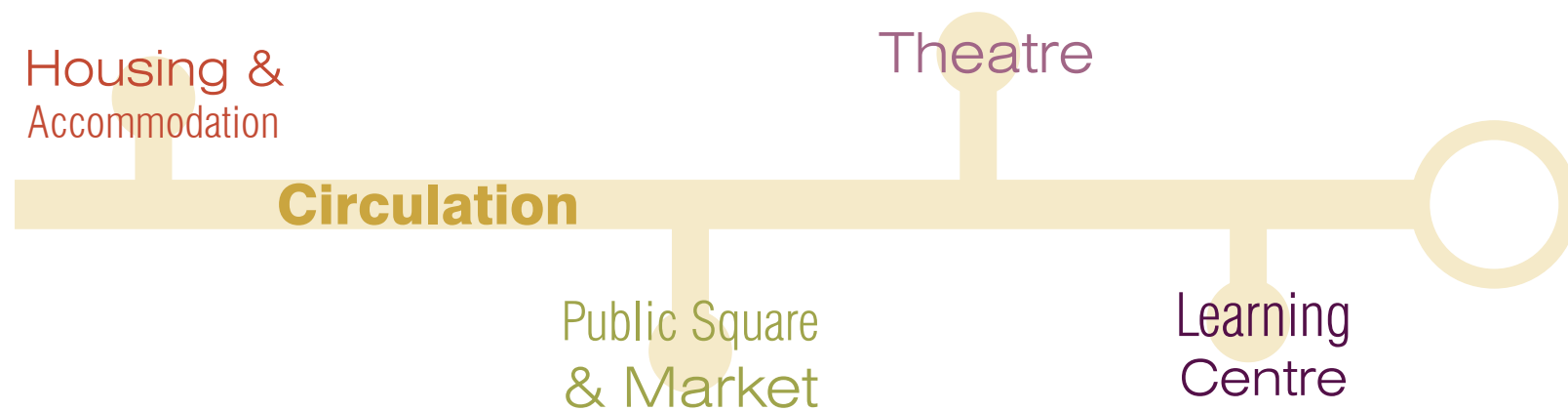


Figure 5.2. Programme diagram for revitalising Naenae.

### Housing & Accommodation

Housing and accommodation give the refugees a place in Naenae town centre.

### Circulation

Improving connectivity links the people, host community and refugees with the programmes.

### Public Square & Market

Public square and market provide a gathering space for the community, opportunities for work, a performance space and play area for children.

### Theatre

The theatre gives a platform for the host community and refugees to share their cultures.

### Learning Centre

The learning centre prepares the refugees for life in New Zealand and allows the public a chance to learn about the refugees. It is also a place for community events and meetings.

## Part 1: Improving Connectivity

Improving connectivity became an integral part of this project because it is essential to bring in more people into Naenae and create a good urban environment. Inviting people onto the streets is part of integrating people and activities, giving them more possibility to meet friends or to stop by shops. Gehl also emphasised the heightened safety when there are more people on the streets (Gehl 171). Furthermore, the ease of access will encourage participation, allowing the full use and enjoyment of the open space (Wong 47).

Several buildings around the town centre will be strategically demolished (Figure 5.3).

- Buildings at the end of Hillary court will be taken down to expand the entrance to the tunnel, simultaneously improving visibility so that pedestrians can see their destination. Being able to see into a public space is a form of invitation.
- Two other buildings will be made into new entrances to the back alley, connecting it to the rest of Hillary Court. Exposing hidden areas and corners will eliminate potential crime spots and decrease the perception of danger.

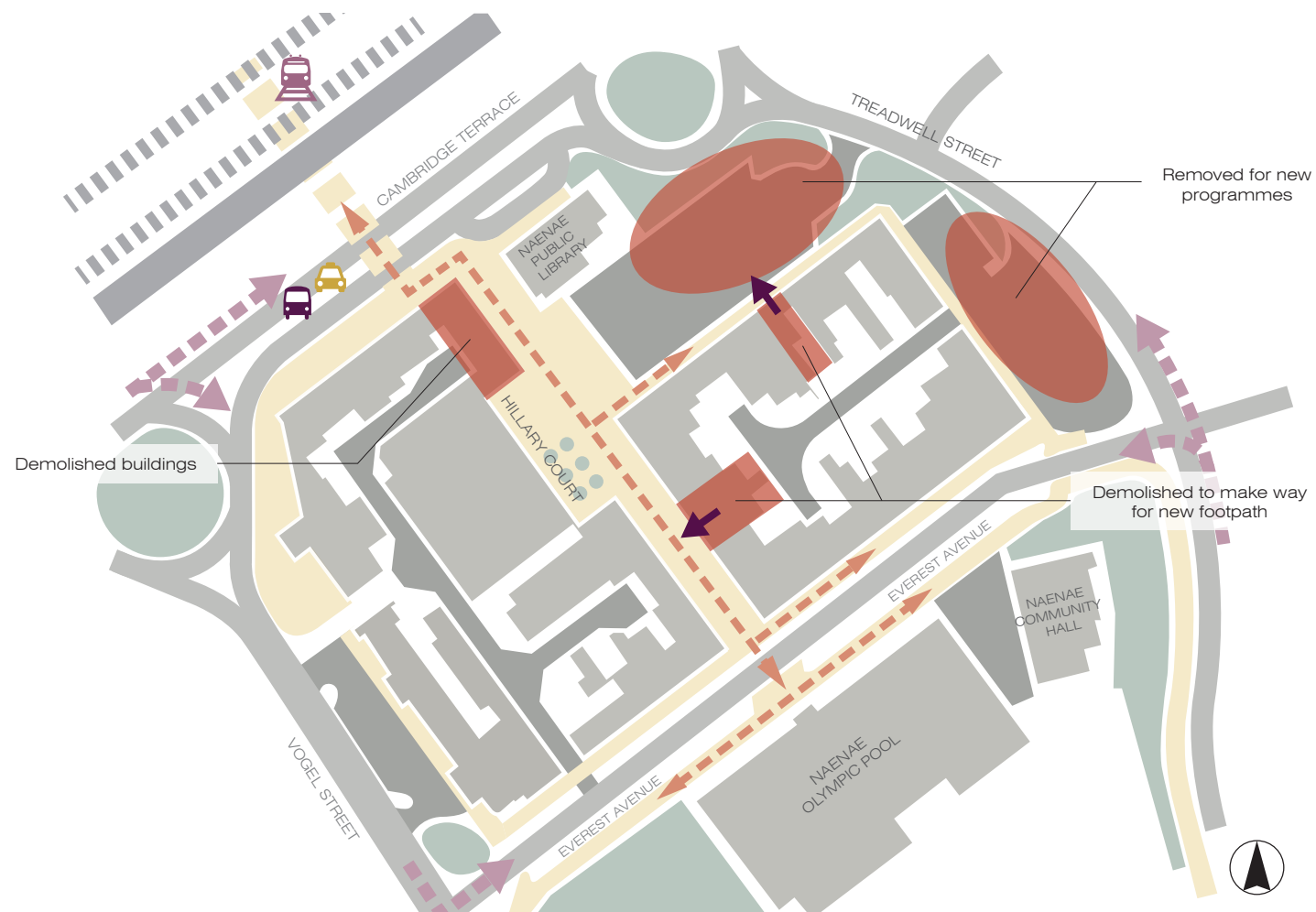


Figure 5.3. Plan of current Naeane and strategically demolished buildings.

New road encroachment will reduce the size of streets and take over roadside parking spaces. A narrower street will make the driver drive slower. The excess street is added to existing walkways for a better pedestrian experience.

A cycle lane that goes around Naenae encourages nearby residents to cycle instead of driving.

Improvements to circulation present alternatives for transportation besides personal vehicles.

Existing bus and taxi stop

New cycle lanes

New road encroachment



Bicycle racks

Connecting footpaths

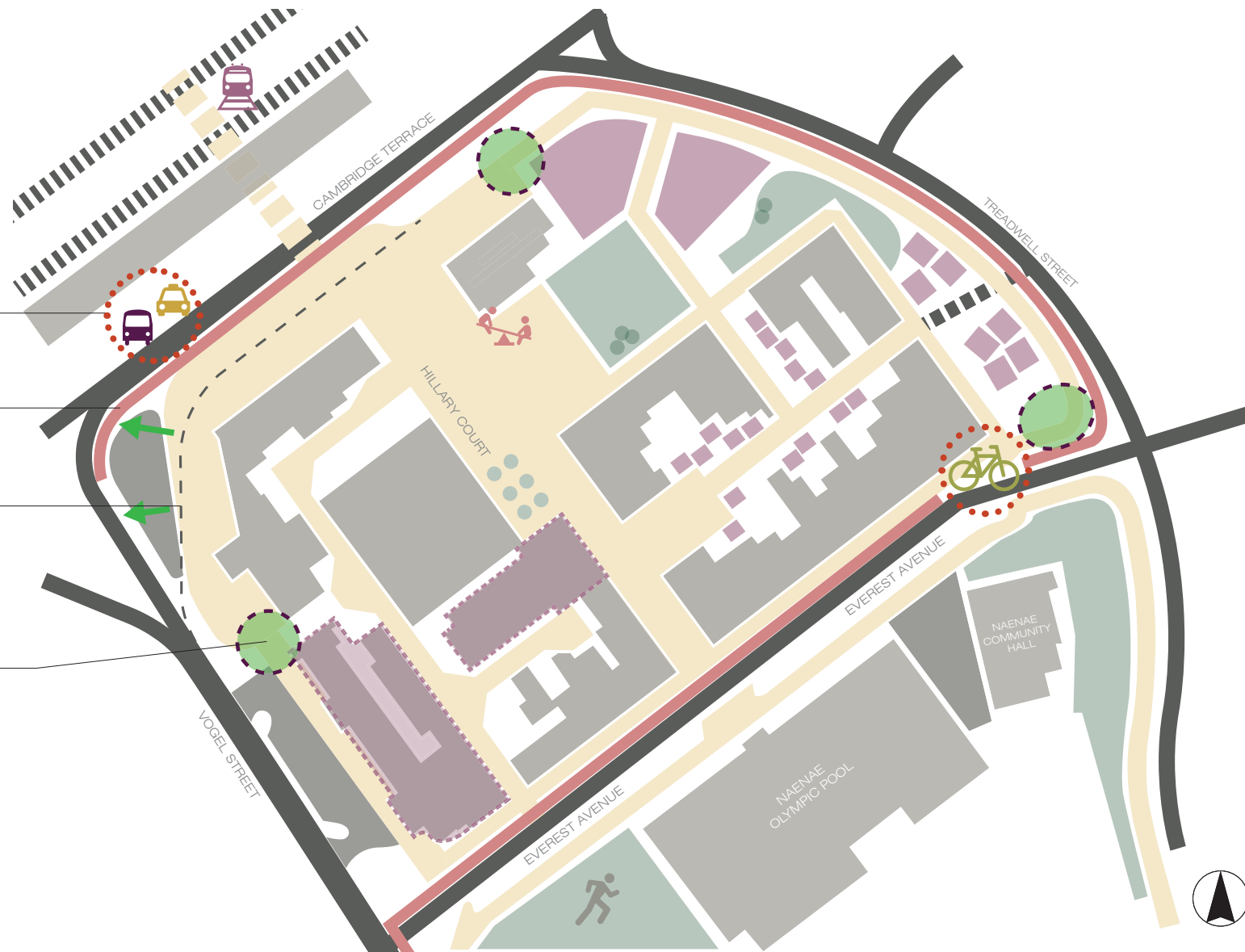


Figure 5.4. Improvements to Naenae's circulation.

The tunnel marks the starting point of Naenae town centre. With the demolished buildings, the entrance will be renovated and the tunnel itself will be expanded. Following the tunnel, footpaths will be connected to indicate pedestrian routes. This will be used to connect the refugee housing and accommodation to the main footpath. Different materiality will be used to direct the traffic to the different programmes and to indicate whether a certain area is accessible or not (Figure 5.6).

The main walkway through Hillary Court will be rearranged (Figure 5.5). Fast paced pedestrians will be in the middle, followed by the medium paced and finally, the slow paced will be closest to the shop fronts.

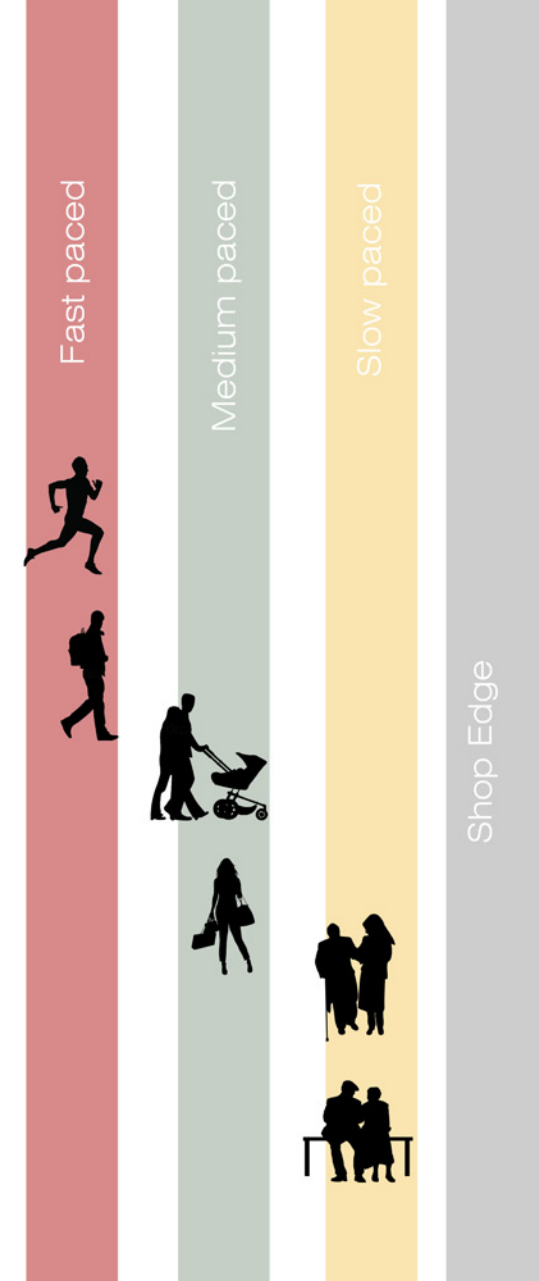


Figure 5.5. Footpath arrangement for Naenae Town Centre.





Figure 5.6. New pathways around Naenae Town Centre.

## Part 2: Increasing Density

Increasing the density of Naenae can be achieved by providing housing within the centre and supplementing it with new programmes that fulfil the needs of the new and existing residents as well as attracting new users to the town centre. The new programmes will be further explained in latter parts.

The focus of housing refugees is to populate the town centre. The town centre is at times empty, heightening the perceived danger during those times. Housing refugees in the town centre ensures the presence of a constant number of people throughout the day. With eyes on the street, the town centre will feel safer for visitors. Furthermore, the refugees will have the freedom to explore and participate in Naenae activities.

Designing in an established town facilitates the reuse of existing materials; in this case, they are the abandoned and underused buildings in Naenae. An old cinema sits behind an apartment building, hidden from the public. Facing Vogel Street next to the cinema is the Naenae Hotel. The cinema will be remodelled into a housing unit and the hotel will be refurbished to accommodate more residents (Figure 5.7). Repurposing the cinema will give new life to the building while maintaining a sense of familiarity for the Naenae communities.

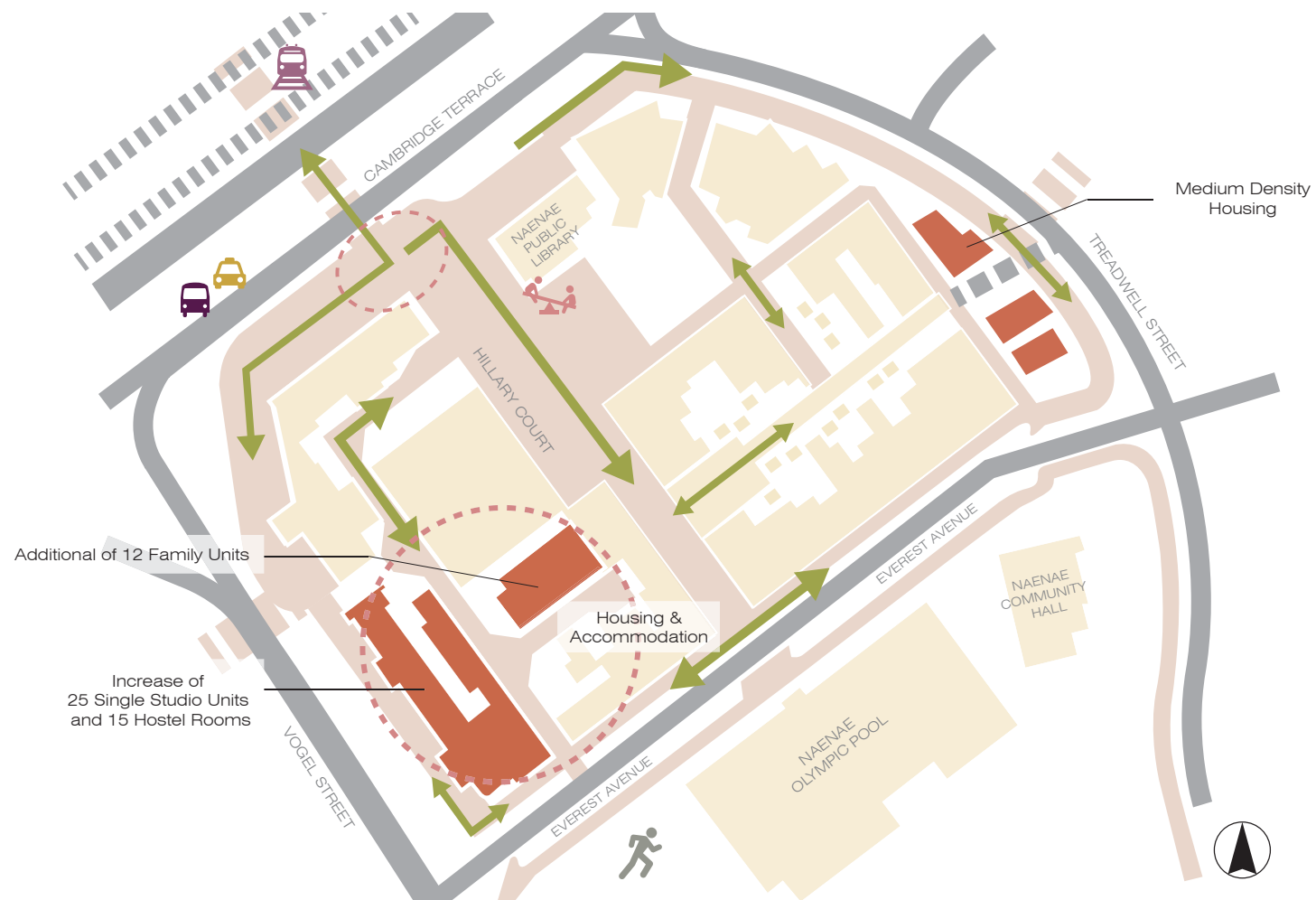


Figure 5.7. Plan showing repurposed blocks and future housing development.

## Part 3: Public Spaces as Social Spaces

The alley that is now connected to the town centre will be turned into a public square and weekly market. The square is where the communities spend time with their family. The market provides opportunities for the refugees to support themselves by selling food and handcrafts, as well as a way to share their culture. The refugees bring in something new for the community and will even stimulate the micro economy of Naenae. Communities are able to engage with the refugees in the market.

Keeping the market in a small scale creates a sense of inclusion which is often not easily present in commercial districts. The variety of how each stall looks adds to the vibrant and colourful image, creating a relaxed atmosphere. This atmosphere is effective in mitigating and preventing social tension where people of various backgrounds are gathered (Grosch 40).

Qualities of the public square and market are:

- Seats and green spaces are placed at corners so that the users can see other pedestrians.
- A play area sits at the end of the square so that it is visible to the public.
- Small permanent shops and cafes keep the public coming during the weekdays.
- The square can be converted into a large performance space.

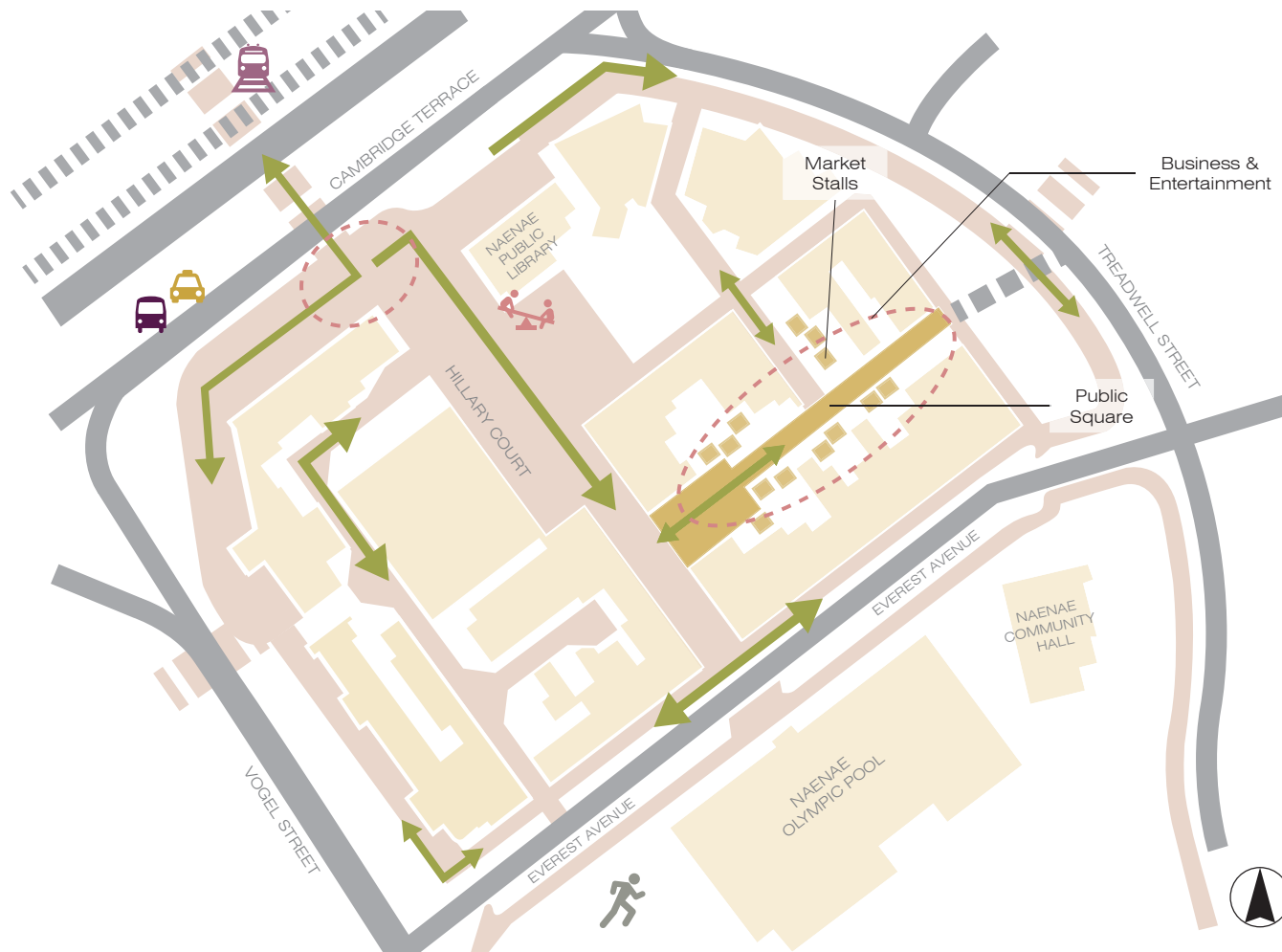


Figure 5.8. Location of new social spaces.

## Part 4: Cultural Exchange

Naenae town centre deserves a better cinema than the one they had before, a theatre that is obvious to the public eye and serves the communities. A performance space complements the existing public library and occupies the existing car park (Figure 5.9). The addition of a theatre presents Naenae with a new cultural hub where the refugees are able to practice their traditional performances and share it with the host community and vice versa.

- The theatre can be seen from the public square and main streets.
- The theatre is kept at a small scale in accordance to the scale of Naenae.

A learning centre for refugees prepares and gives support during their transition period. All services such as language teaching, employment training, health care and counselling, immigration office, and Red Cross are assembled in one building. It also becomes a gathering point for other refugees whom had resettled in the wider region. This centre shows the community a transparent process in resettling refugees.

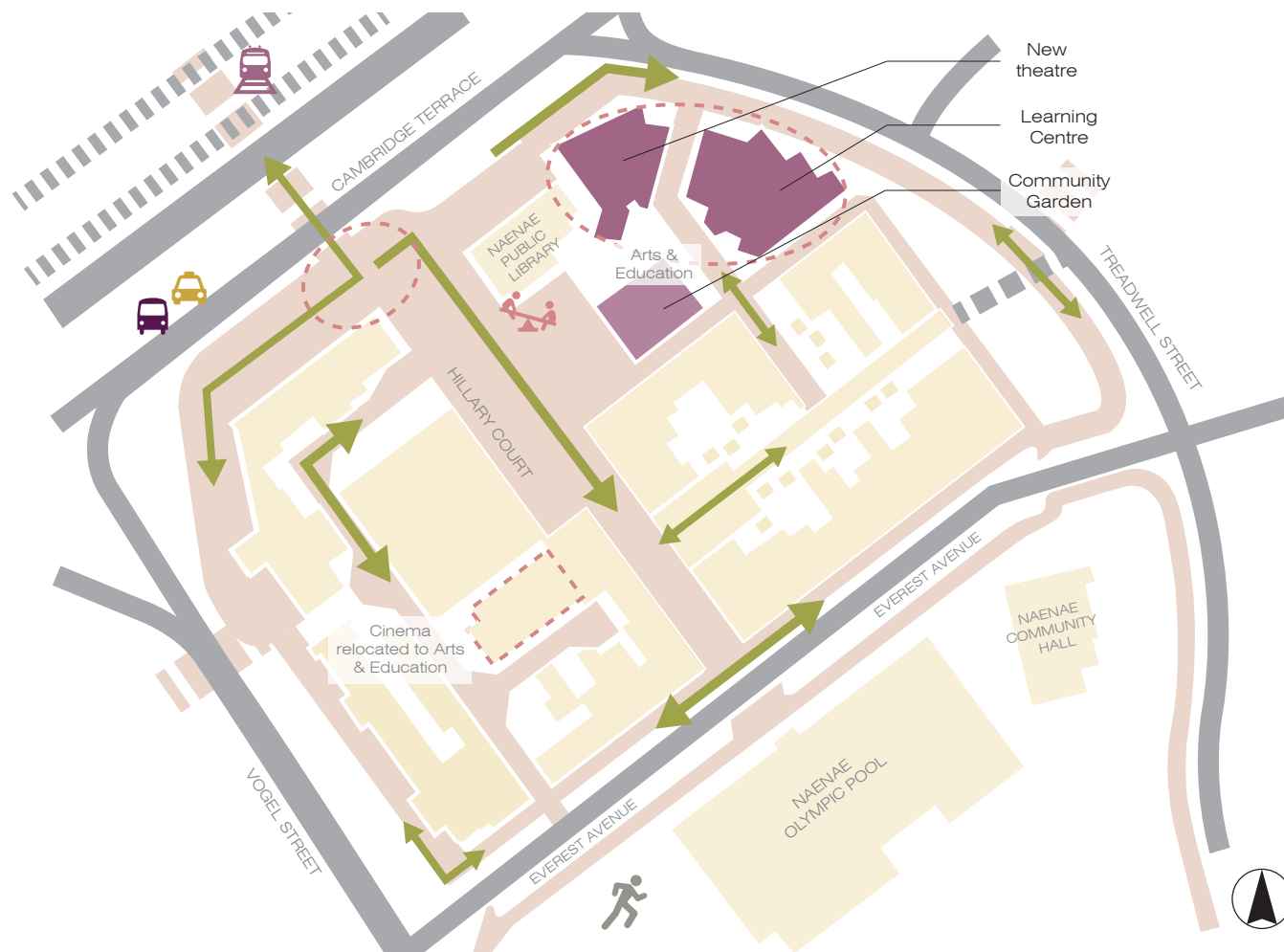


Figure 5.9. Complementary programmes for Naenae.

# Master plan

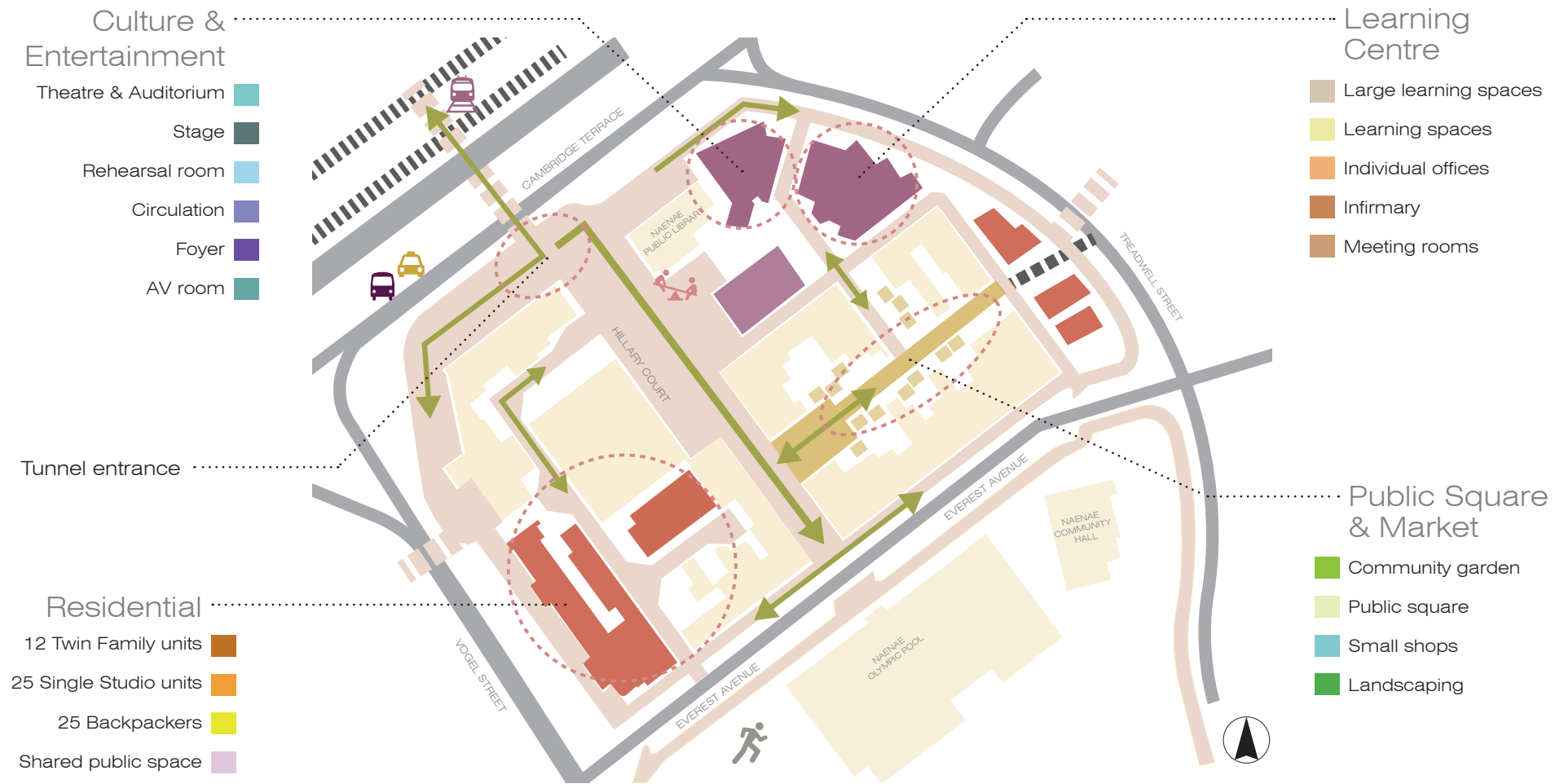


Figure 5.10. Master plan showing the programmes Naenae town centre.



## Chapter 5 Summary

The master plan concentrates housing densities at the edges.

Circulation and connectivity link the different interventions.

The Public Square and market sit at the heart of the town centre.

A new theatre and learning centre are placed at the edge to complement an existing library.

The four different strategies with interventions work together to provide a safe and engaging setting for the host community and refugees. Improvements in circulation and connectivity increase the safety and vibrancy of Naenae. The new public square and theatre add new uses and attract more visitors to stimulate revitalisation of the town centre as well as a place of gathering for the host residents and refugees. The new housing and accommodation for refugees and travellers also add density and diversity which are important to the vitality of the town centre. Reusing the existing buildings preserves Naenae's historical identity and gives new life to underused resources.

## CHAPTER 6 : DETAIL DESIGNS

This chapter describes the design processes and refinements of the various interventions in greater detail. The process explores the different concepts that can be applied to the housing, public square, market, theatre and learning centre.

## 6.1 Housing & Accommodation

### Design objectives

- To increase population density by providing new housing within Naenae town centre.
- To introduce a new mix of large families and single refugees.
- To add to the cultural diversity of Naenae and create a vibrant urban setting.
- To mix small clusters of refugee housing with guests.



Figure 6.1. Plan location of housing and accommodation for refugees and visitors.

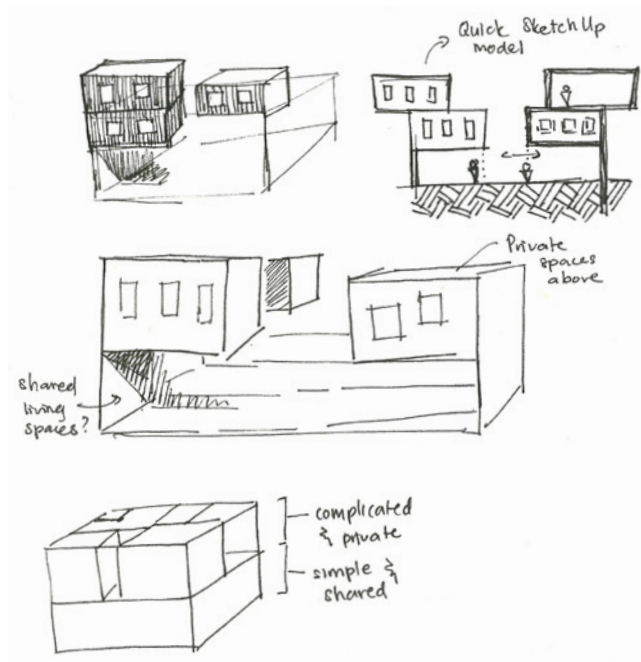


Figure 6.2. A sketch of ideas for the housing units.

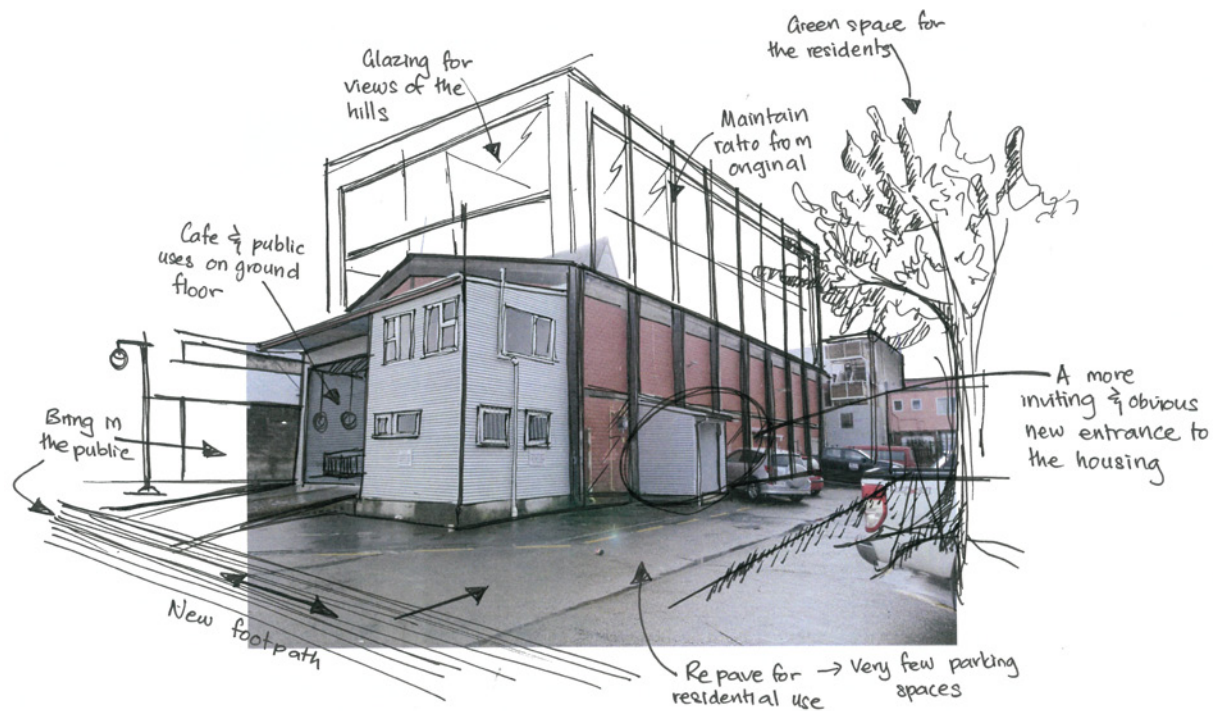


Figure 6.3. The planning to improve the area for family housing.

## Iteration 1



Figure 6.4. A preliminary render for the housing units.

Repurposing the original cinema building is part of preserving Naenae's identity. The building is more suited for housing because of its enclosed and private location. The brick façade and structure of the cinema are maintained. The housing is connected to the hotel via a bridge. A community garden occupies the empty area outside where members of the public work together with the refugees to maintain it. The rest of the alley way is improved to increase the safety of the housing area as well as to attract more users. A new cinema to replace the old one is located in the new arts and education hub.

Reflection:

- The size is insufficient for the targeted number of refugee families.
- The housing looks very industrial with the brick façade and does not fully reflect a family housing.
- The ground floor of the housing can be converted into a multipurpose space such as a café and childcare facility.

## Iteration 2: Part I

In developing the design, shipping containers were used to fit in as many family units as possible. Using containers provides a predetermined floor area for each unit. The 'H' configuration leaves room for private courtyards for each unit and gives the housing a non-static look.

### Reflection:

- However, this might be insensitive in regards to the refugees' experience of encampment or human trafficking.
- The configuration was not practical in terms of circulation and buildability.

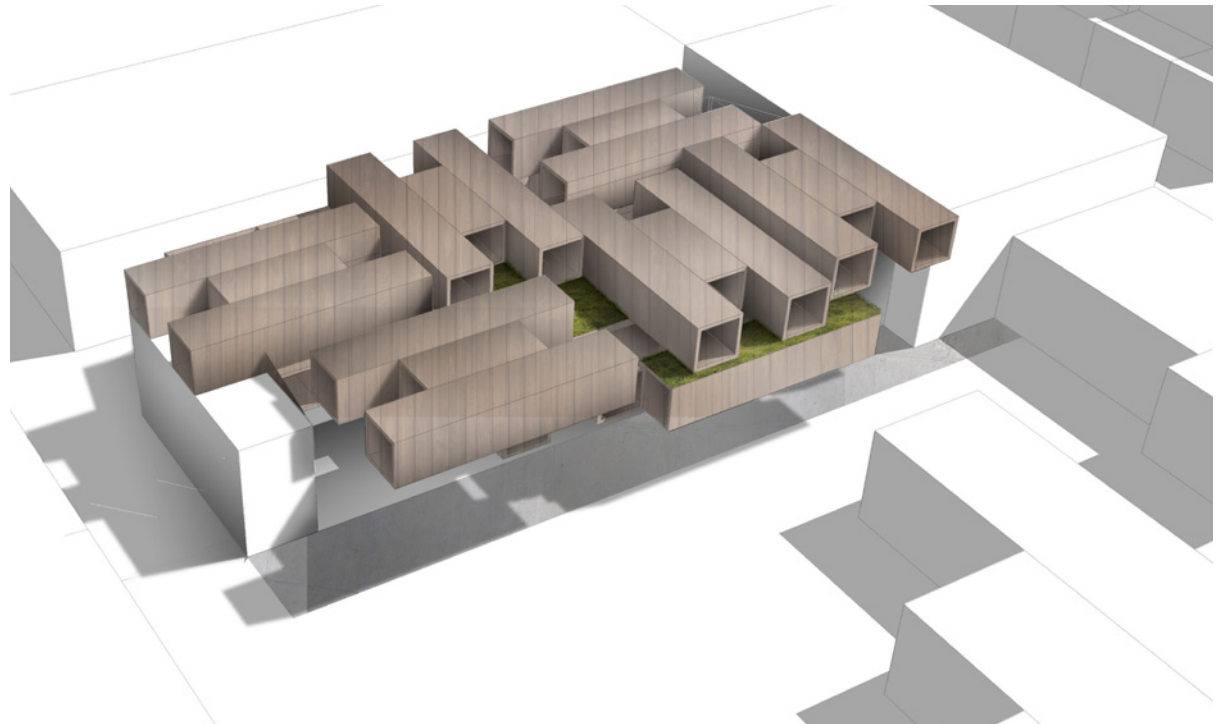


Figure 6.5. A bird's eye view of a design trial.





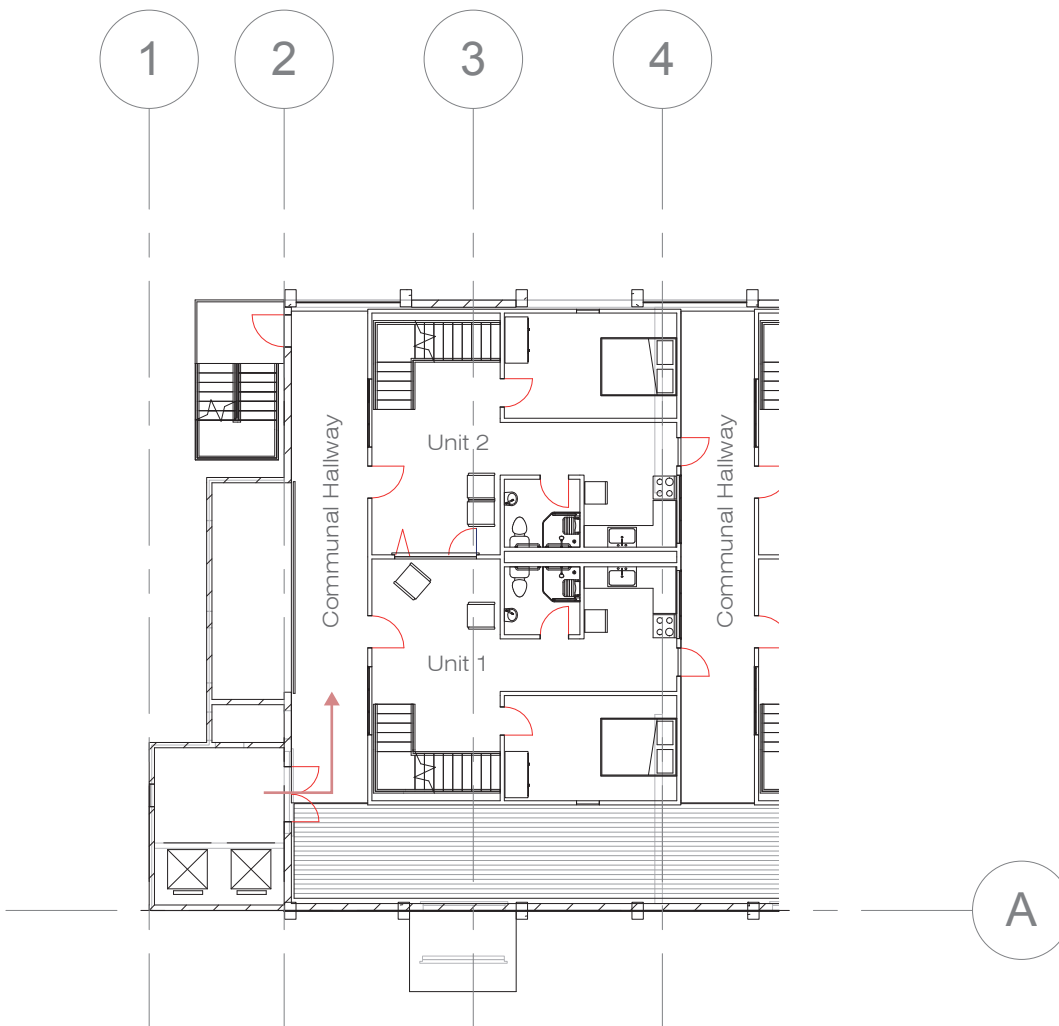
Figure 6.6. Designing through simple render.

## Iteration 2: Part II

The family units are broken into smaller volumes with modernist design to avoid the image of low cost housing. The area outside the cinema is a green space to give the area a relaxing atmosphere. At this stage, the façade of the theatre is almost completely removed with only the end wall remained.

### Reflection:

- It does not fully utilise the pre-existing skin of the theatre.
- It still could not fit in the minimum number of family units.



## Iteration 3

### Family Housing

Twin family units give the opportunity for sharing family rooms. Each unit is two stories high with two bathrooms and can accommodate six family members. The units have back doors so they can communicate with the units behind them easily.

Figure 6.7. A 1:200 floor plan for the twin family units.



Figure 6.8. A section cut of the family units.

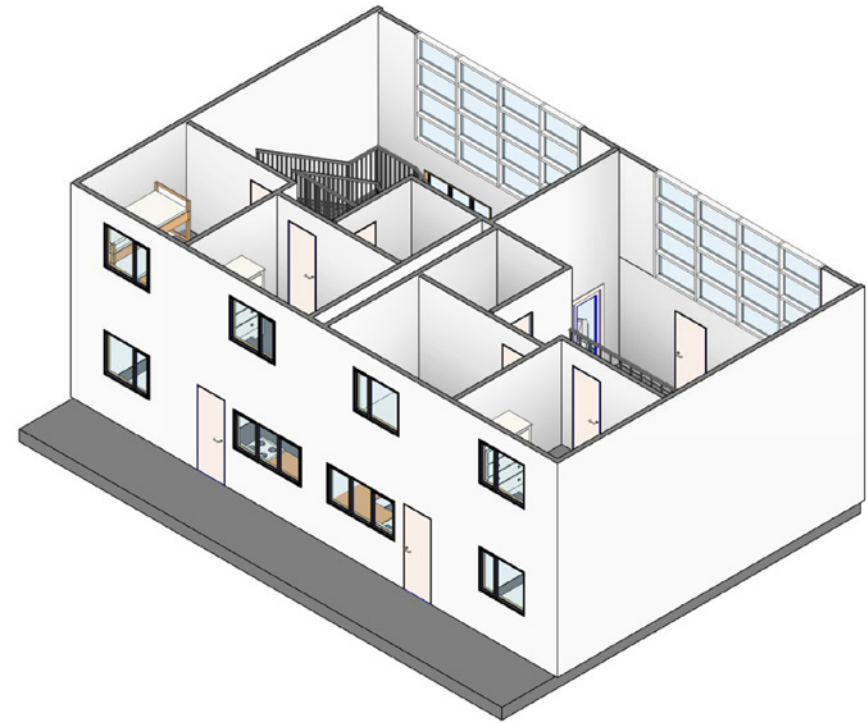


Figure 6.9. A view of the opposite side of the units.



The ground floor of the housing is refurbished into a café and day care where residents from the hotel can share the space. The motif of the cinema is maintained by keeping to the original boundary and using brick façade (Figure 6.12).

Figure 6.10. An isometric view of the housing apartment.

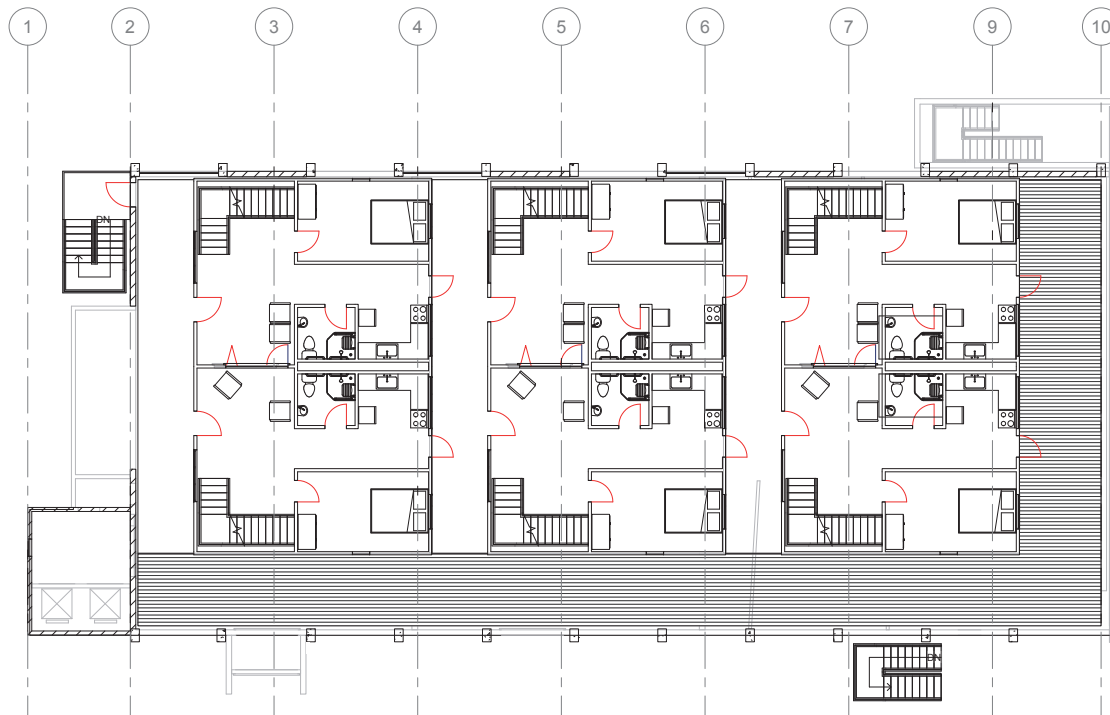


Figure 6.11. A typical plan of the first floor of the housing.



Figure 6.12. An elevational view showing the preserved brick facade.

## Iteration 3

### Accommodation for Backpackers, Singles & Couples

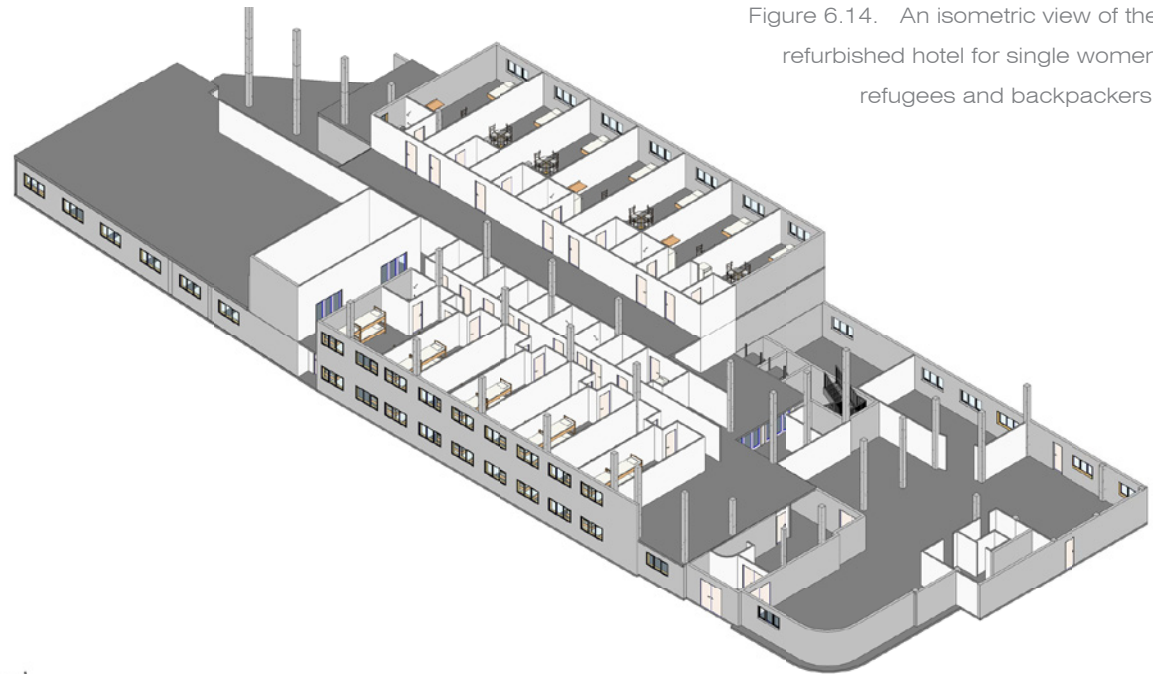
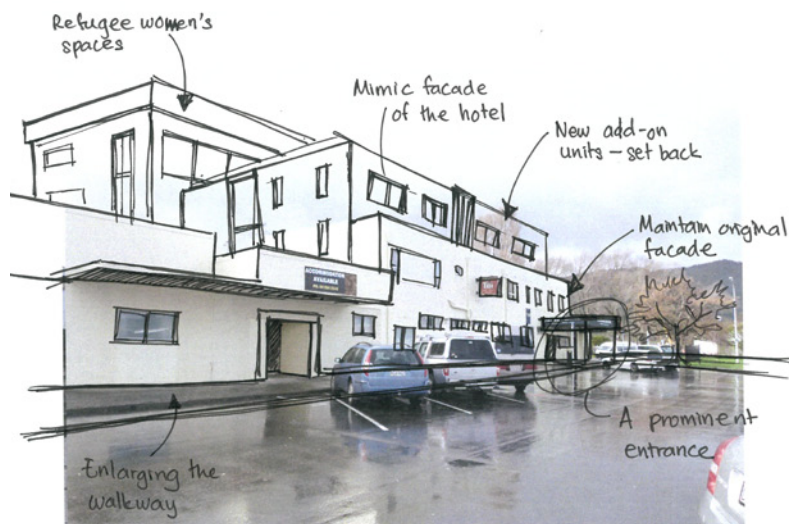


Figure 6.14. An isometric view of the refurbished hotel for single women refugees and backpackers.

Figure 6.13. A rough sketch planning the redevelopment of the hotel.



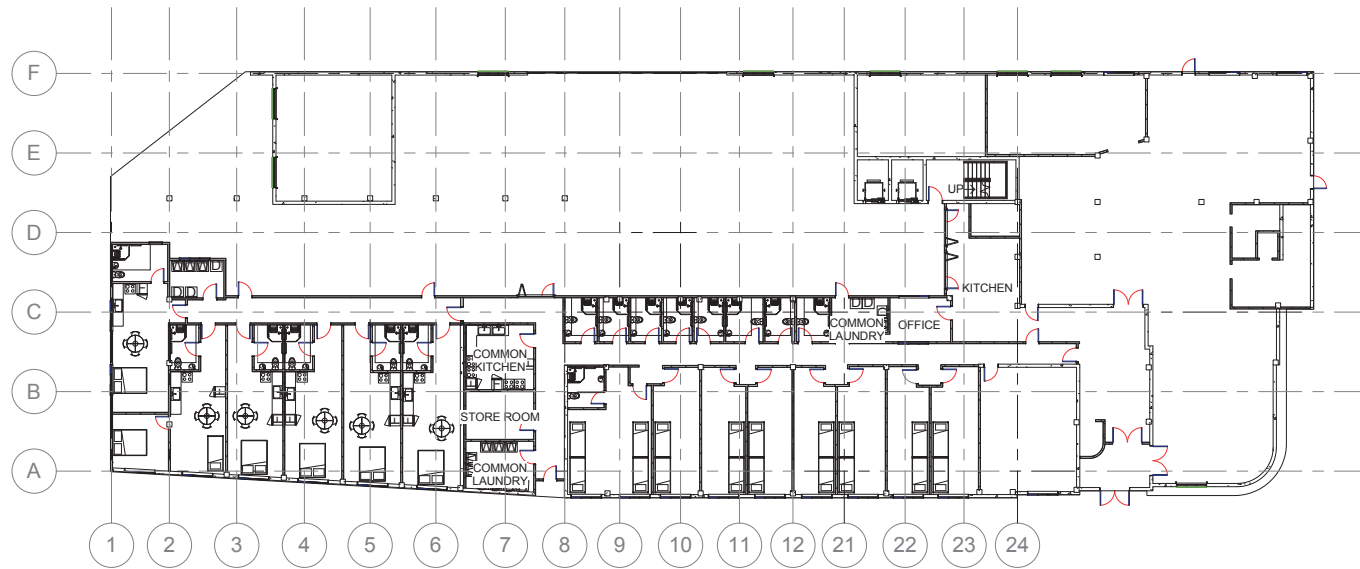


Figure 6.15. The ground floor plan of the refurbished hotel.

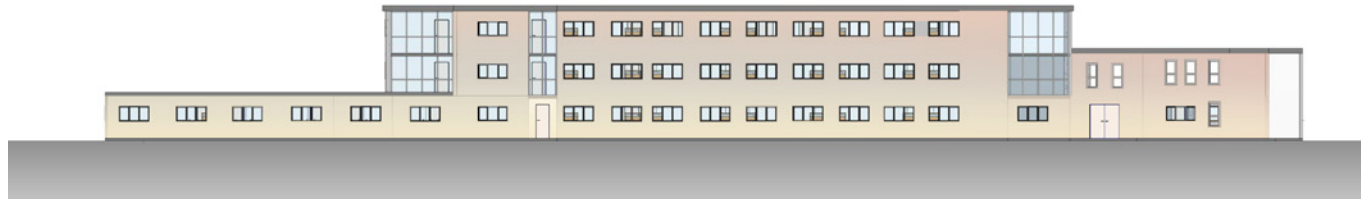
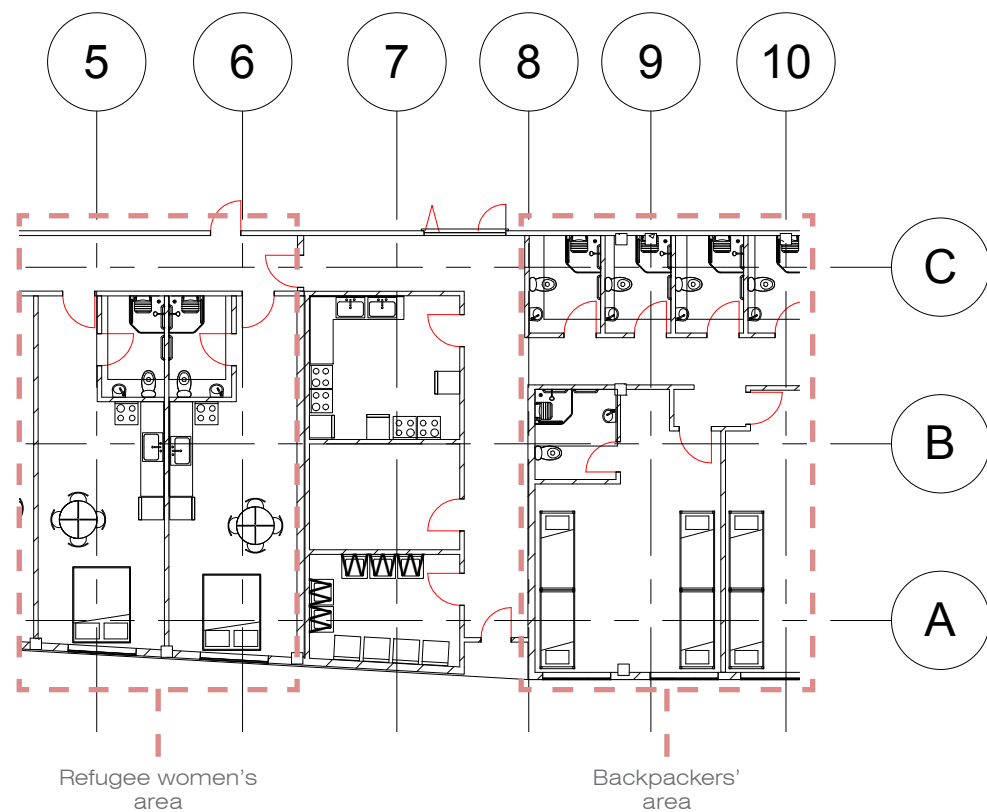


Figure 6.16. An elevational view of the redeveloped Naenae Hotel.



The 'women in need' will be housed in the refurbished hotel where they will have their own living quarters. Half of the hotel is dedicated to backpackers who will share some facilities with the women, such as laundry, a large kitchen and a games room. Privacy is still maintained for the women as the two user groups have their own section in the hotel. The ground floor room facing the housing block will be refurbished into a large common room with a view towards the family housing. This adds more surveillance on the pathway between the two blocks which elevates the safety for pedestrians.

Figure 6.17. The plan shows the refugee accommodation and the backpackers' rooms.



## Discussions & Reflections

1. The original cinema should be incorporated more in the housing design.
2. The design should be family and community oriented.
3. Practicality and circulation should be incorporated early in the design stage.
4. Access to the housing and accommodation is important to create an inclusive design.
5. The design should experiment in creating a more vibrant and inviting housing and accommodation while maintaining its privacy.

## 6.2 Public Square & Market

### Design objectives

- To create a vibrant and safe place of gathering for the community of Naenae and refugees.
- To facilitate social interaction through the sharing of public space and participating in activities.
- To provide mixed uses for the families.
- To provide opportunities for the refugees to gain self-sufficiency and engage with the communities.

Figure 6.18. A Naenae site plan showing buildings demolished for the public square.



Planning for the public square and market involved linking the previously hidden area to the town centre. The first step was to demolish several buildings to create new access points (see Figure 6.18). This eliminates the feeling of being trapped and encourages people to explore the area (Wong 50). Other elements to the square are green spaces, seats, play area and permanent shops. The variety of uses can invite people of different backgrounds.

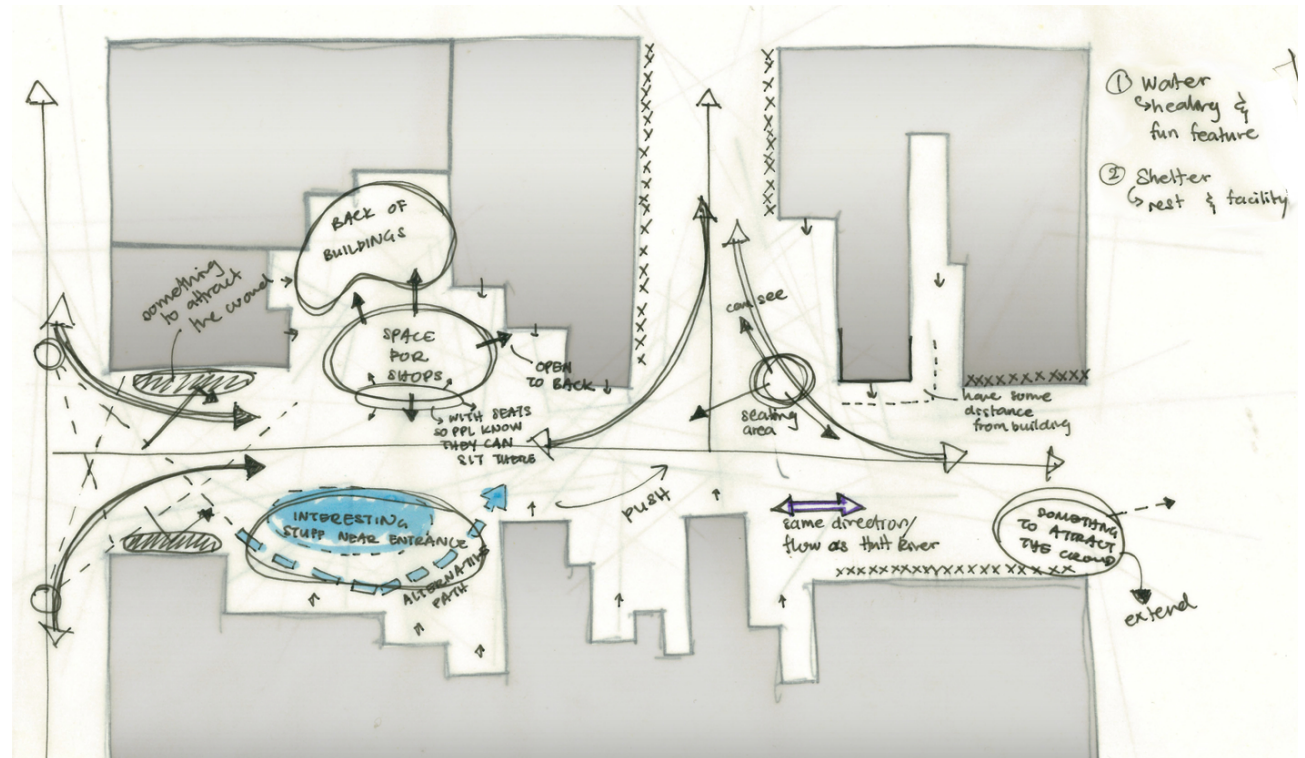


Figure 6.19. A sketch planning the design of the new public square.



Figure 6.20. An early rendition of the public square and market on a weekend.

## Iteration 1

An initial rendition of the market had semi-permanent timber stalls with a pre-determined layout. Patches of grass and trees add vibrancy to the space while the children play area sits at the heart of the public square.

Reflections:

- The stalls occupy a large area of the square and leave little room for other activities such as a temporary market.
- The position of the stalls are too close to the existing buildings. This hinders circulation and cuts off the shops from the public square.

## Iteration 2

The semi-permanent stalls are replaced with a smaller number of permanent shops at the centre of the square. This is to strip the square of rigid structures where the excess space can accommodate more flexible activities such as the weekly market and public performances.

The design for the permanent shops are explored by mapping the movement of people through the area (Figure 6.21). The shops are in the form of pavilions and have irregular shapes to occupy the space behind the existing shops as well as to catch the flow of the users. The openness of the pavilions allows users to enter from any direction.

Figure 6.21. The movement through the public square influences the design of the small shops.





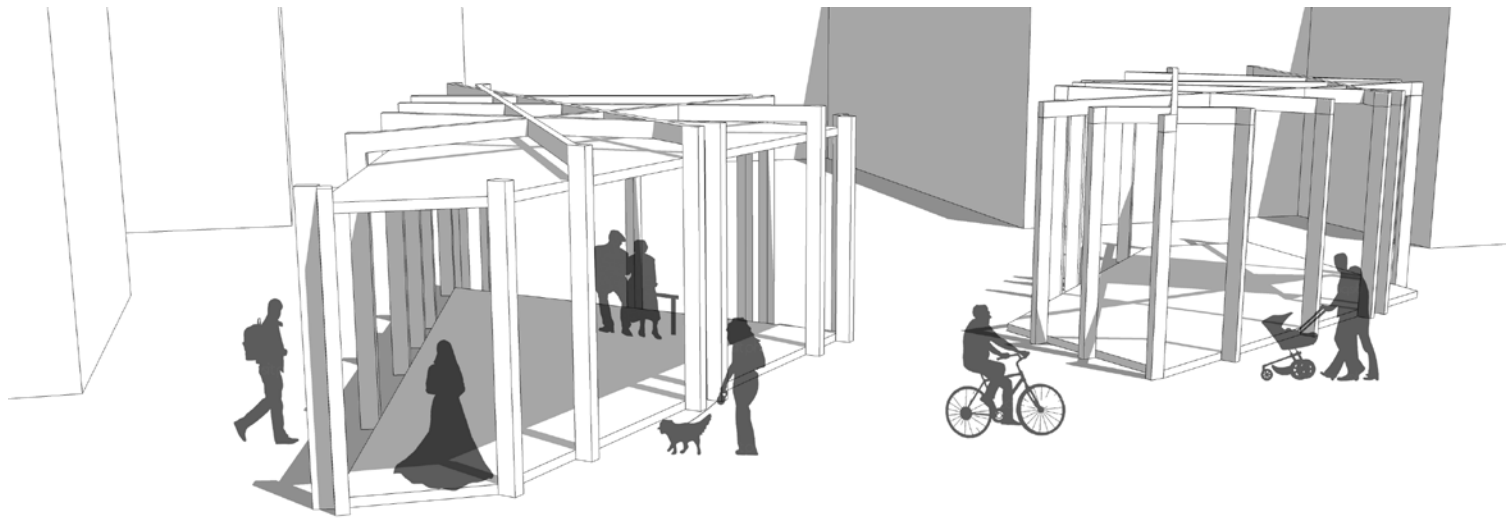


Figure 6.22. A simple rendition of the pavilions.

## Discussions & Reflections

1. The public square is simple and not over-designed. A balanced mix of permanent and temporary structures enlivens the public space. Green spaces accommodate different activities.
2. The public square and market works for an organising body to arrange events for the community and acquire vendors for the markets.
3. While the requirements of a successful public space were analysed, the details such as materiality, shelter from the weather, stall design and children play area were not fully explored.
4. Further work could accentuate the urban identity of Naenae town centre.

## 6.3 New Theatre

### Design objectives

- To give Naenae a new entertainment, arts and cultural hub.
- To provide a platform for the community and refugees to celebrate their culture and traditions.

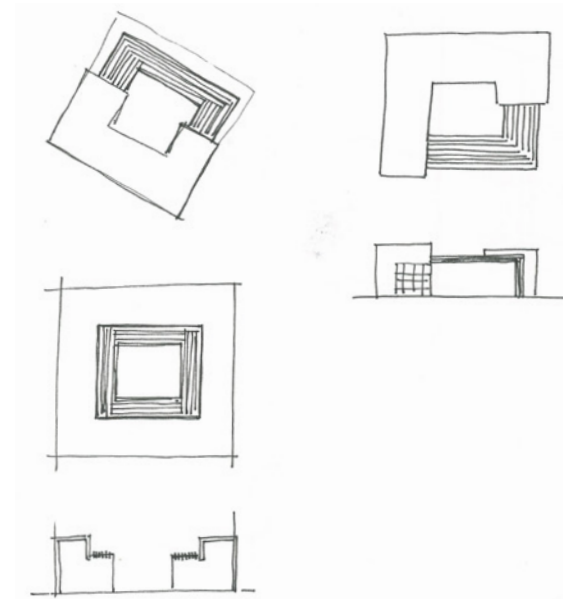


Figure 6.23. Concept sketches of the new theatre trying to emulate integration of materials.

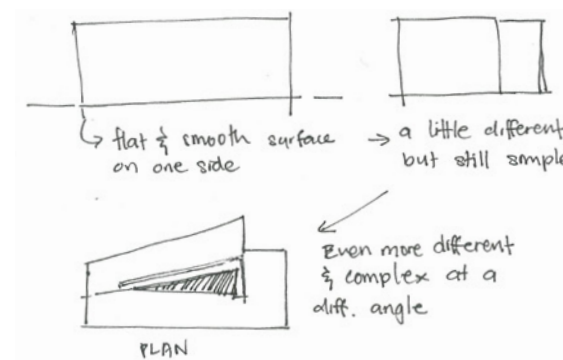


Figure 6.24. Another concept to show that things are more than they seem.



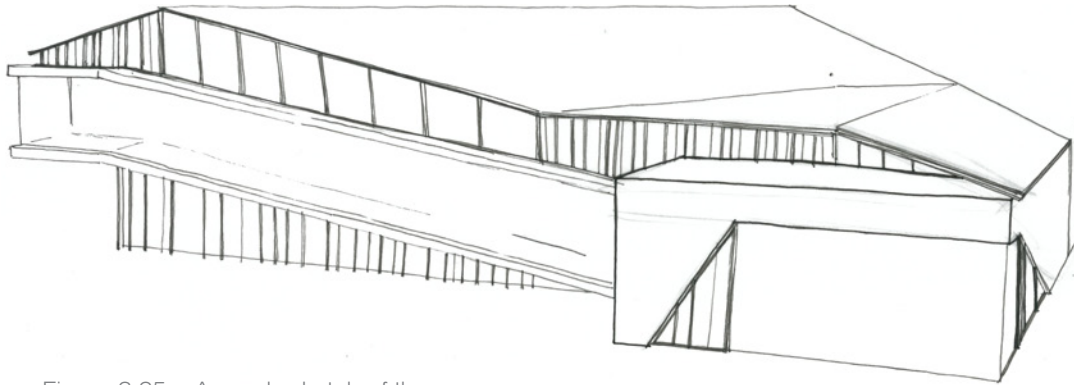


Figure 6.25. An early sketch of the new theatre.

## Iteration 1

Going with a soft and gradual rise concept with a prominent entrance to attract people. The theatre uses transparent materials to show the public the activities inside the building.

- With an addition of a café, the theatre can remain open on most days which also provides surveillance to the pathway.
- The theatre is close to the street edge to allow visibility into the space.
- The materiality of the theatre will reflect on the learning centre to show cohesiveness.

## Discussions & Reflections

1. The new theatre was planned as a performance space but it should also be flexible to accommodate more uses such as public movie screening or small concert.
2. The space will work better with community organised events and cannot run on its own.
3. The theatre should incorporate the public library in the design while highlighting the vibrant identity of Naenae.

## 6.4 Learning Centre

### Design objectives

- To provide a safe environment for the refugees to learn and adapt to life in New Zealand.
- To cluster services such as language education, employment training, translators, counsellors and immigration office for refugees in one building.
- To become a place of gathering for other former refugees in the Wellington region.
- To demonstrate a transparent process of integrating refugees to the host community.

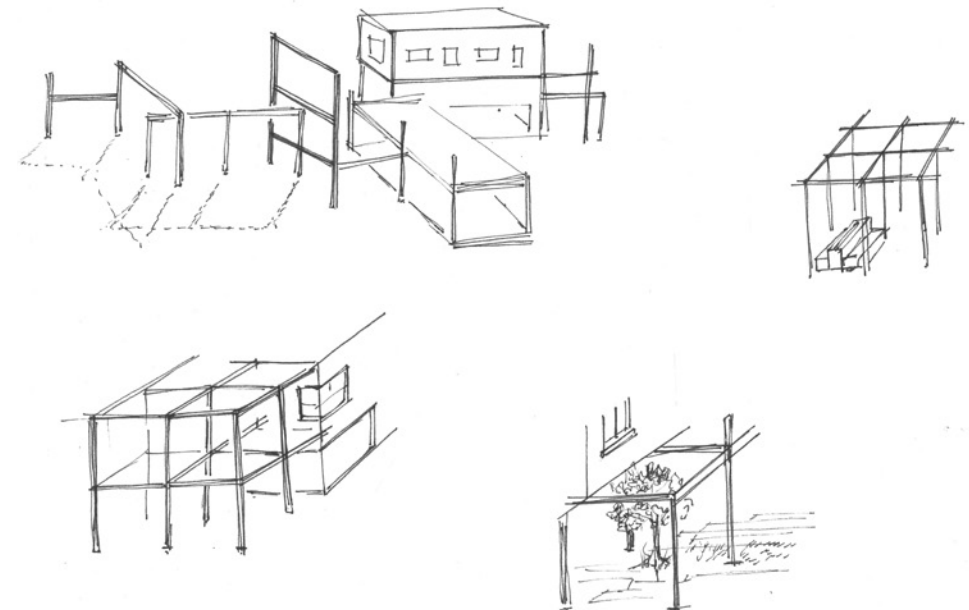


Figure 6.26. Early sketches explore how the intervention can extend to the public and invite more users.

The learning centre facilitates the participation of the host community in the process of integrating refugees. The host community's involvement creates a sense of inclusion in the community for the refugees and can develop their sense of belonging. Through the centre, the host can also witness the enthusiasm the refugees have to restart their lives in a new country. The centre can also accommodate meetings or events for the community and other users.

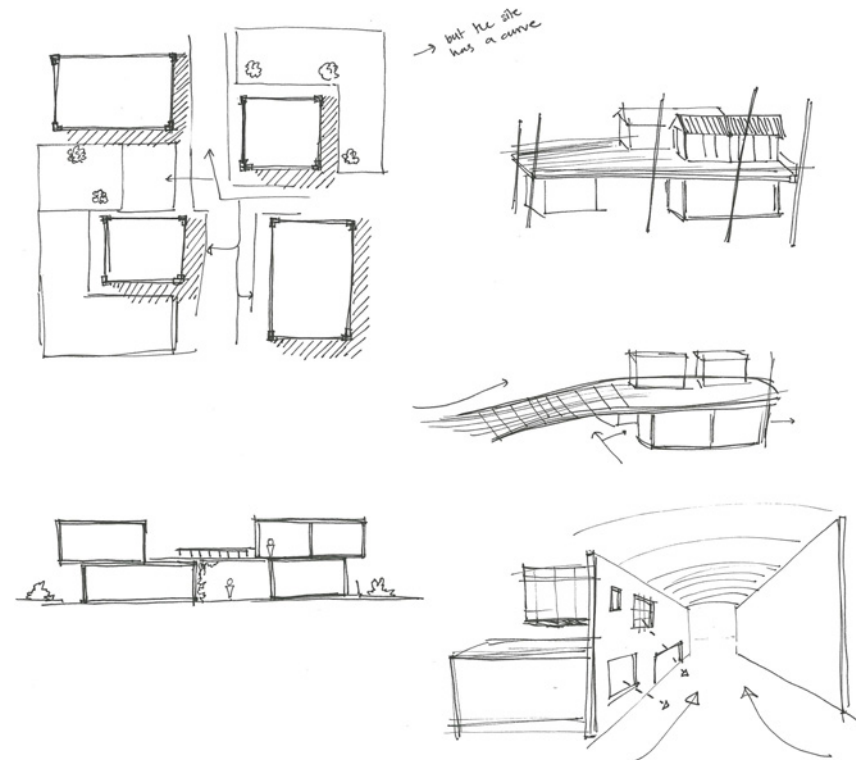
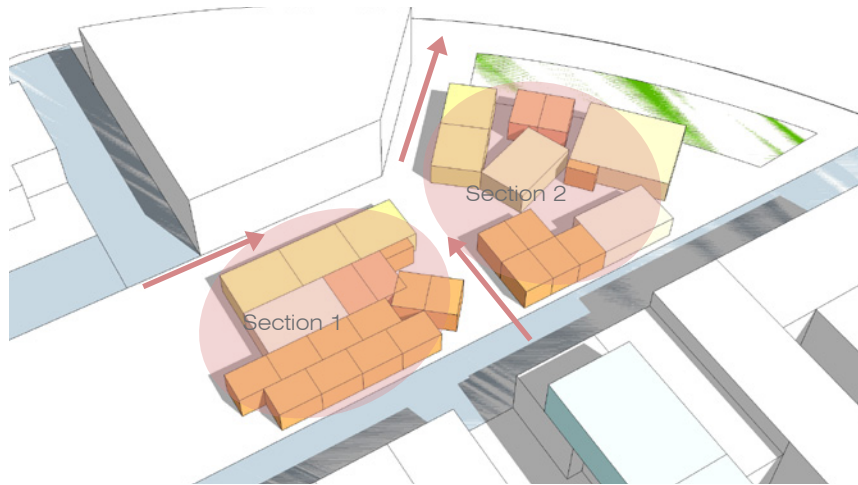


Figure 6.27. Ideas of how architecture can direct the public into a building.



## Iteration 1

Figure 6.28. In order to bring the public through the building, the learning centre was divided into two sections.

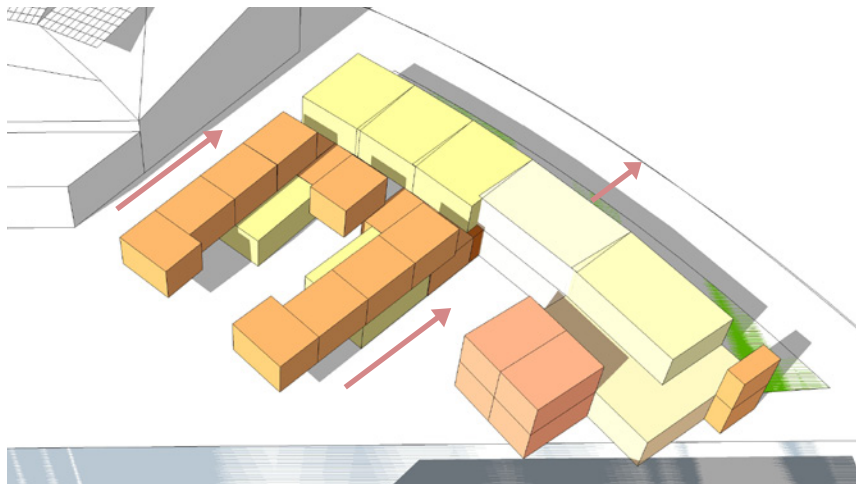


Figure 6.29. Programmes were arranged to have a thoroughfare through the building. The upper floor programmes create an enclosed area for a sheltered courtyard.

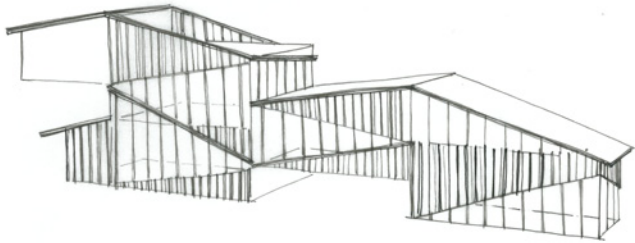


Figure 6.30. An elevation sketch showing the different materiality of the learning centre.

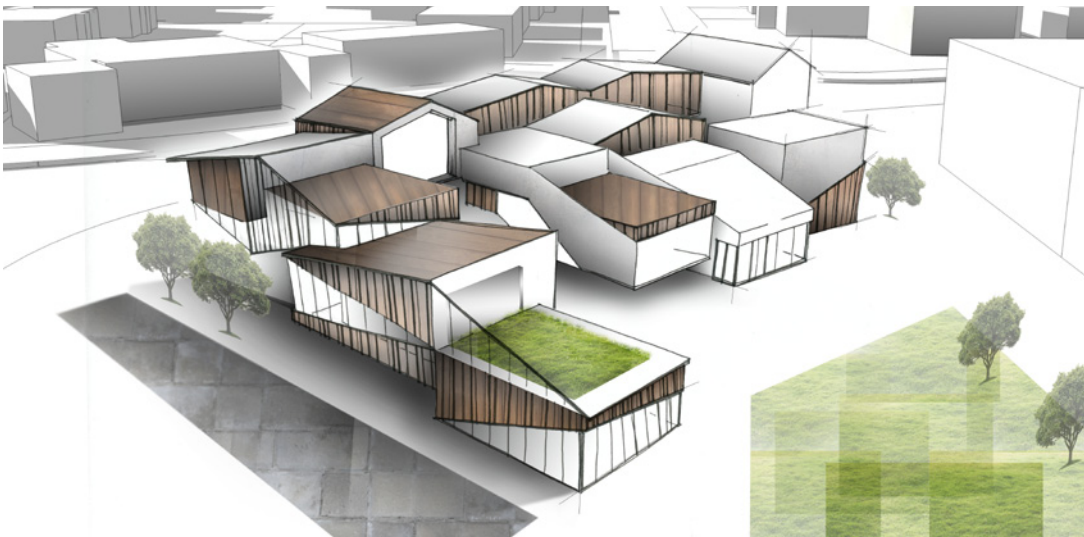


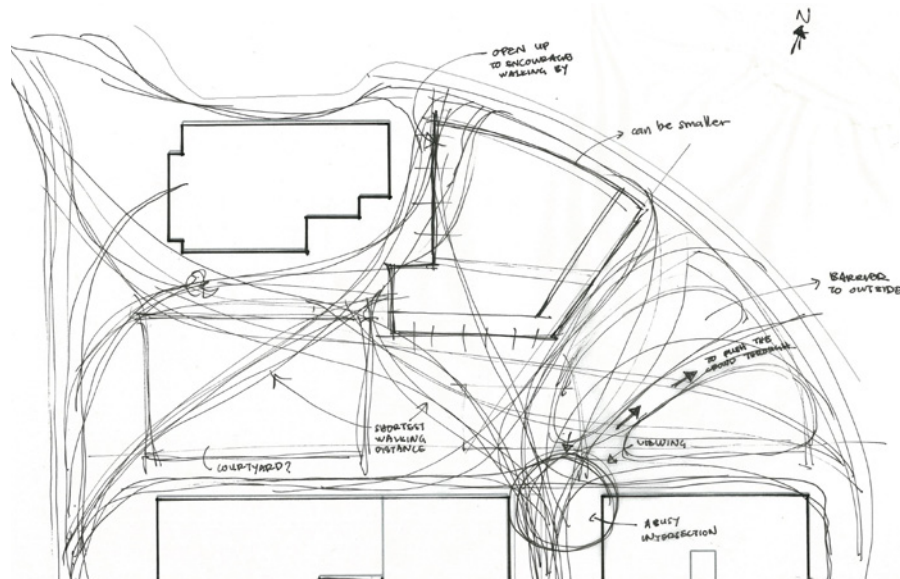
Figure 6.31. A rendition of the full learning centre with green spaces.

## Iteration 2

Programmes were diagonally stacked to reflect the transition from public to private spaces. The dynamic form gives a vibrant setting. Learning spaces were arranged along the footpath to increase surveillance.

## Discussions & Reflections

- Using transparent materials allows passers-by to see the interior spaces.
- Circulation and structure for this configuration is difficult to resolve.
- Too few of the programmes are placed on the ground floor.
- The layout does not respond well to the site.



### Iteration 3

Further development of the learning centre incorporates the idea of movement while maintaining the concept of bringing in the public.

Figure 6.32. The movements around the town centre influence the shape of the learning centre and theatre.

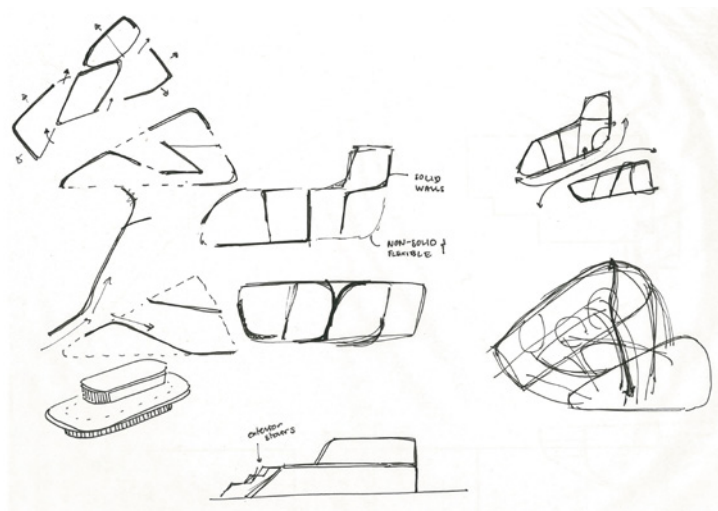


Figure 6.33. The concept also influenced the placement of the interior spaces.



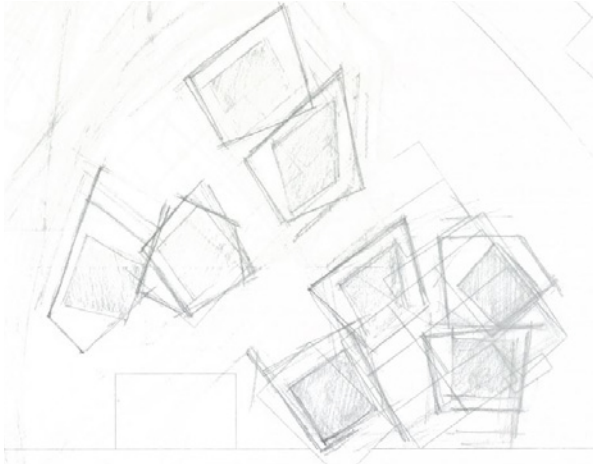


Figure 6.34. The volumes are drawn over the site to decide the shapes.

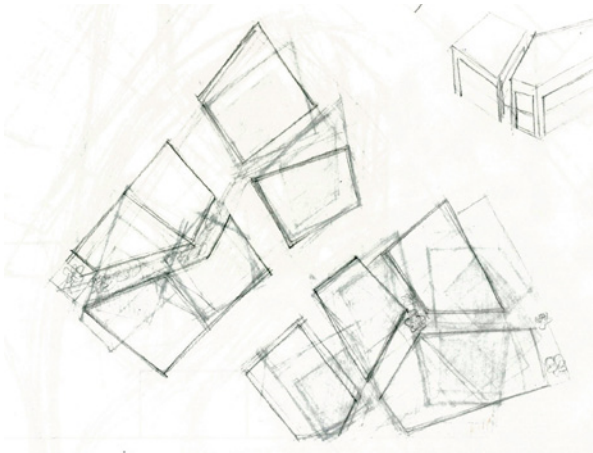


Figure 6.35. The volumes are clustered together to function as a single building.



Figure 6.36. Simple 1:100 scaled paper models are used to understand how the volumes can be arranged in the site as well as the height of each section.

A closer look at Akihisa Hirata's Sarugaku commercial complex helps in resolving circulation between the volumes.

- The building is broken into smaller volumes to have more corridors go through. Bridges on the upper levels will connect each section.
- There is a strong connection between indoor and outdoor where the street becomes part of the building.
- The building is wrapped in transparent and translucent materials.
- Even in sections, the building emulates a simpler overall form.

## Discussions & Reflections

1. There was constant awareness that a building cannot create social integration or participation. A building can only facilitate.
2. The many corridors open the learning centre to the public and provide an invitation to participate with the various programmes and interact with the users.
3. The openness of the centre might compromise its security. Further examination of Leeds and Eva Streets can help to solve this problem.
4. The learning centre could have reflected more on the identity of the site such as representing a specific history or value. These qualities could have been adapted in a way that still includes the wider audience.
5. Although an outdoor community garden plays an important part in healing refugee trauma and a means to communicate with the host community, it was not fully incorporated in the design.





## 6.3 Final Designs



Figure 6.37. Site plan showing the locations of the programmes in the town centre.

## Housing and Accommodation

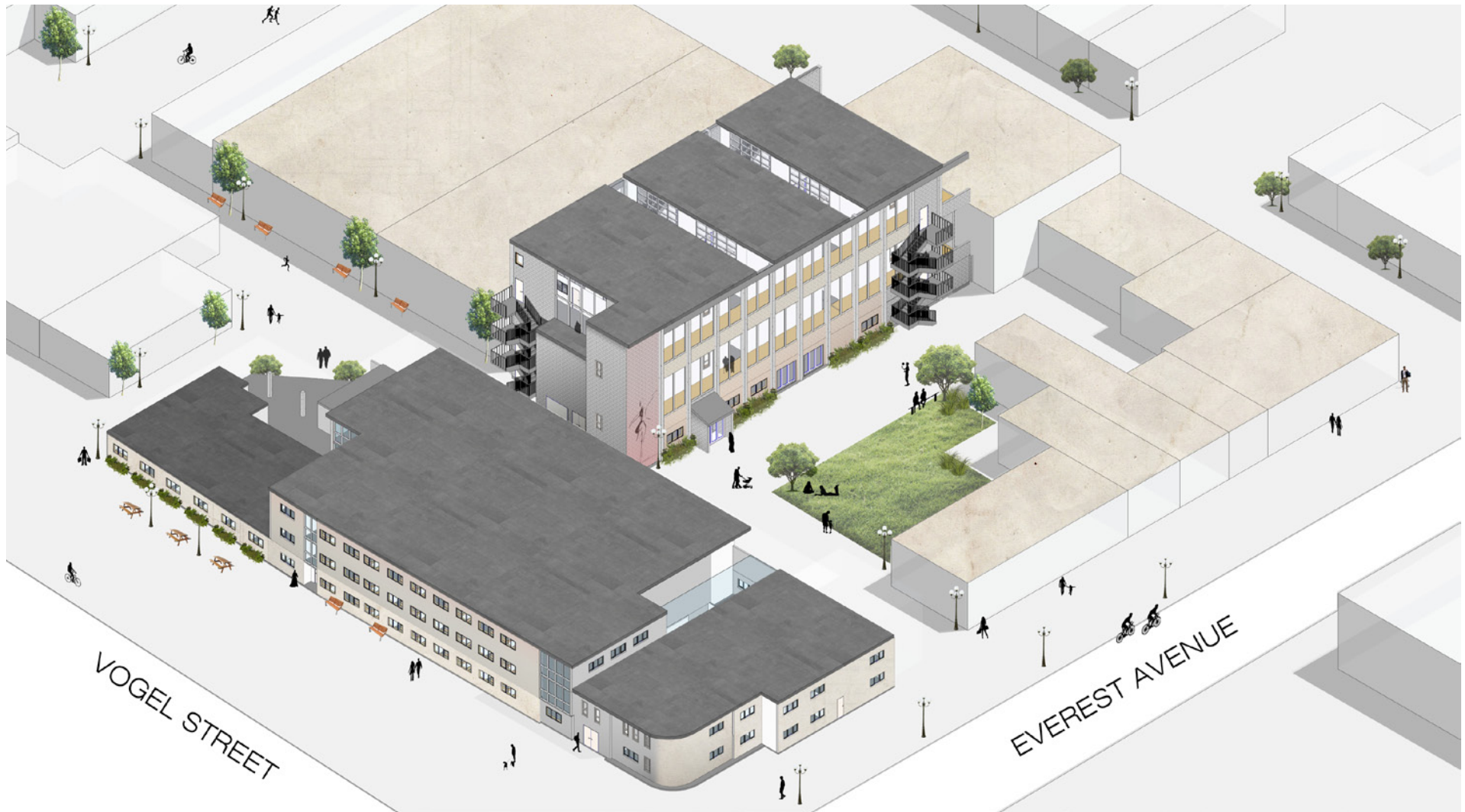


Figure 6.38. A bird's eye view of the housing and accommodation area.

## Public Square & Market

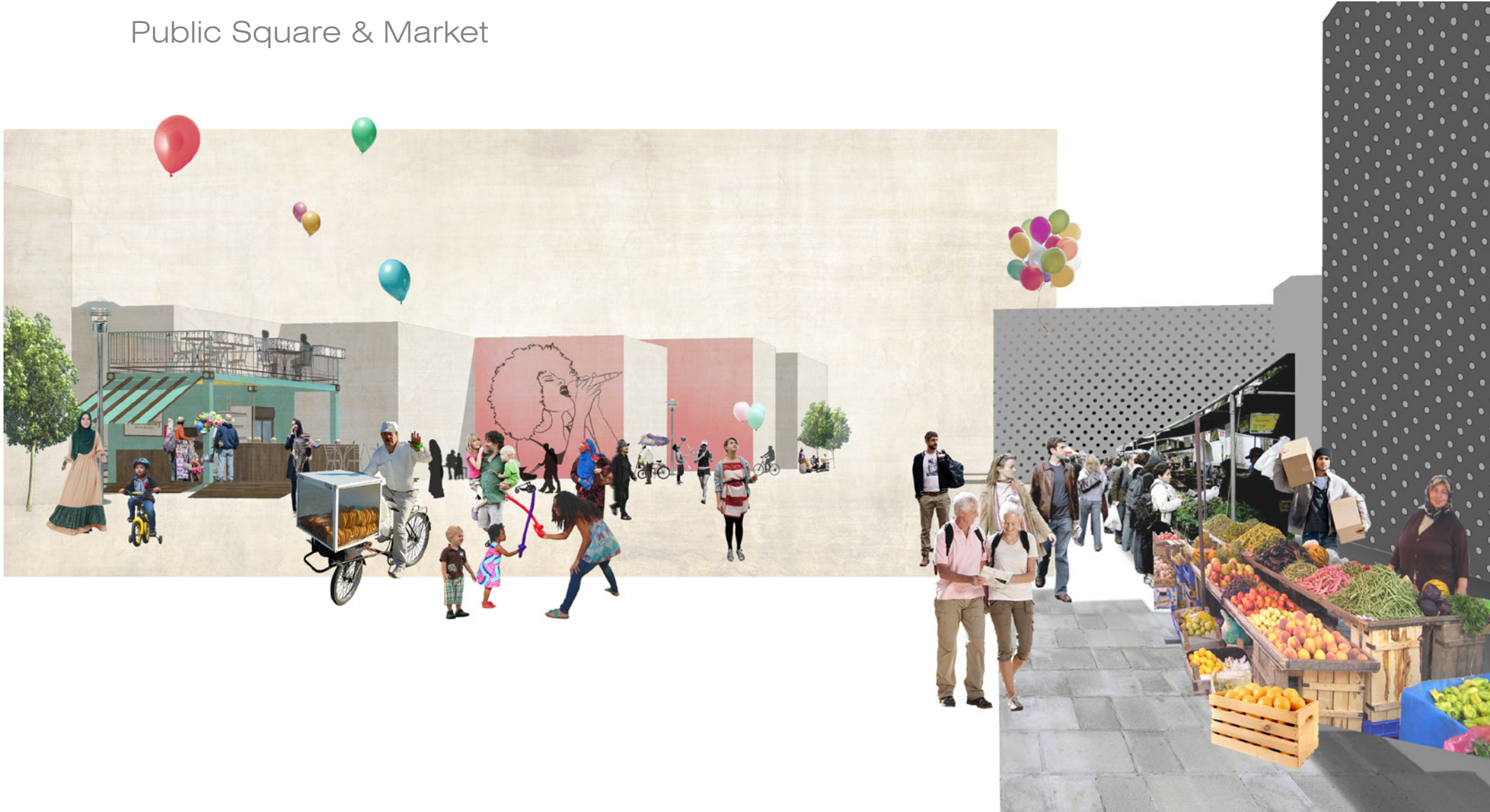


Figure 6.39. The public square render hosting a weekend market.



## Theatre & Learning Centre



Figure 6.40. A perspective view of the theatre and learning centre, showing their materiality.

## Theatre & Learning Centre

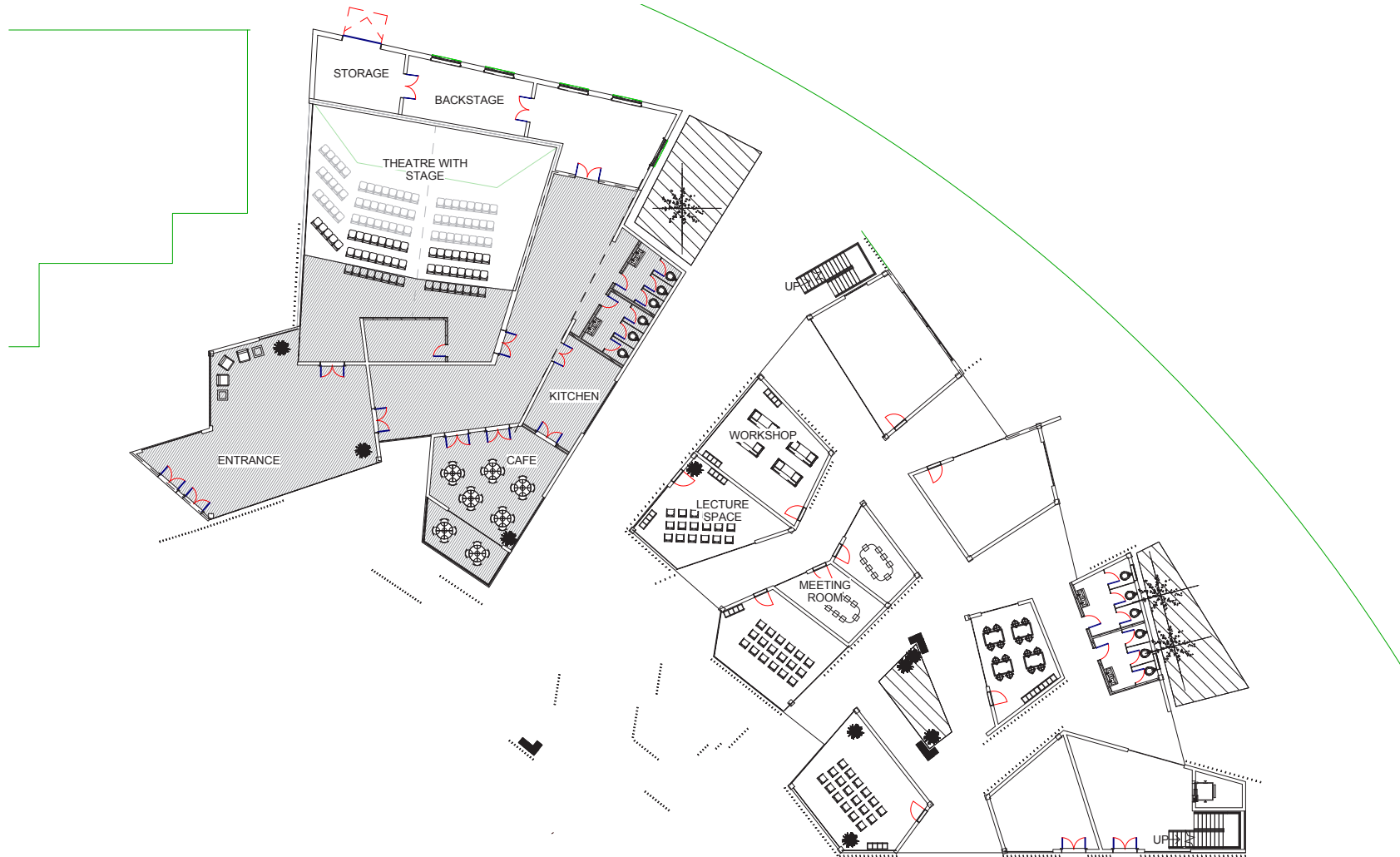


Figure 6.41. A ground floor plan of the theatre and learning centre.

## Learning Centre

- The learning centre is light and open with a giant atrium at the centre and has multiple entrances.
- Classrooms are placed on the ground floor so pedestrians can have a glimpse of the activities inside the building. This also prevents users from being isolated from the public.
- The spacious hallways can function as a gallery.
- Most of the upper floors are open space for offices and learning spaces.

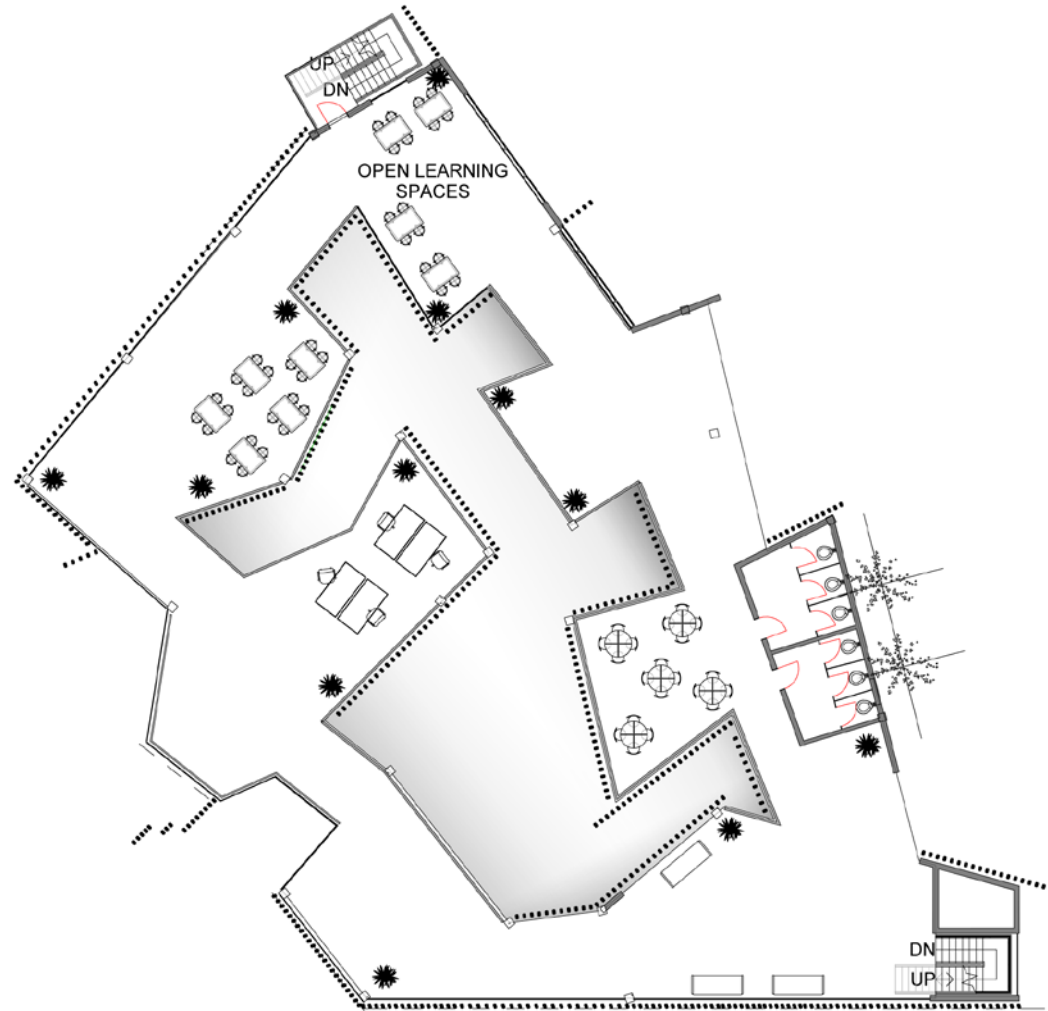


Figure 6.42. First floor plan of the learning centre.



## Learning Centre



Figure 6.43. A street view of the theatre and learning centre.

## Learning Centre

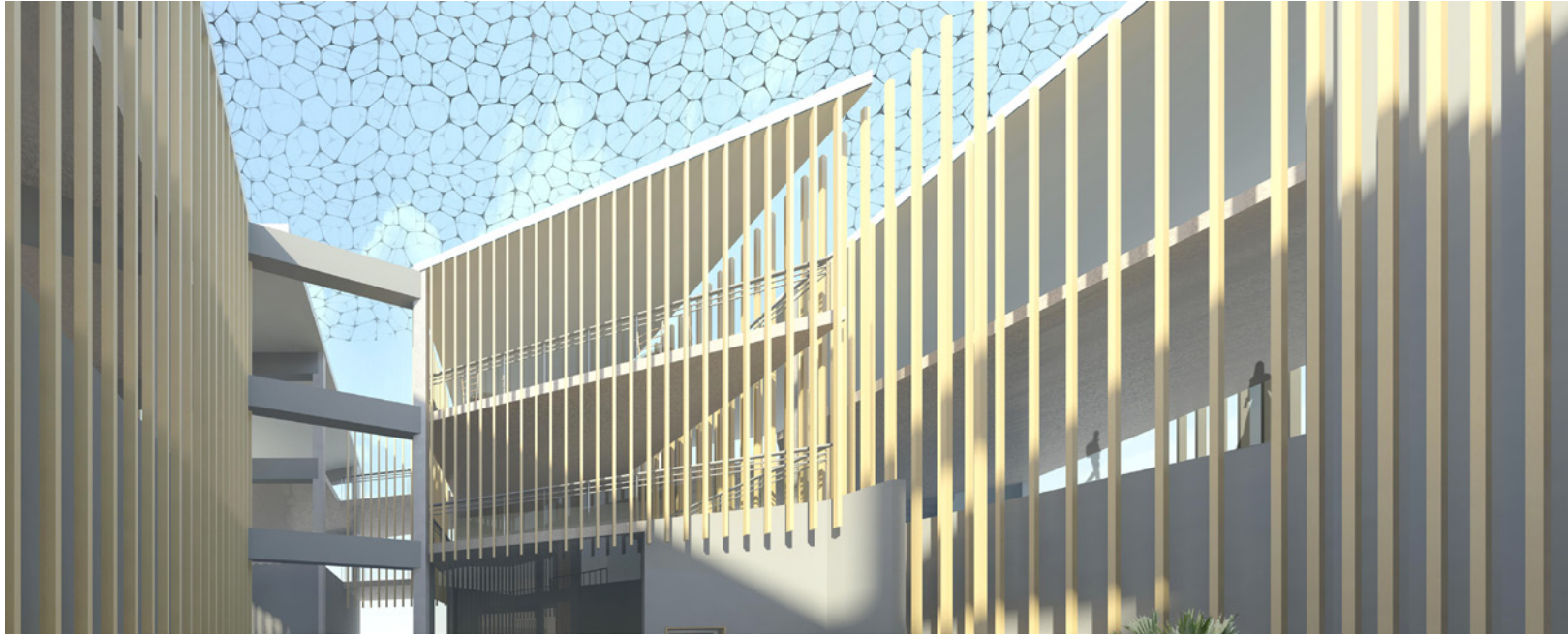


Figure 6.44. View of the surrounding volumes from the ground floor.



## Learning Centre



Figure 6.45. An interior render of the learning centre showing the open learning spaces.

## CHAPTER 7 : DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

## 7.1 Project Summary

In this thesis, the two client groups addressed are the host community in Naenae and the refugees to be resettled. This project aimed to bolster declining host communities and improve refugee integration by introducing a series of architecture interventions. The host communities play a critical role in refugee integration. Support from the host community helps to strengthen the refugee and their family's attachment to the resettled country. The role of architecture in this issue is to mediate communication and interaction between the host community and refugees in New Zealand where they can benefit each other.

How can architecture mediate and revitalise refugee resettlement and facilitate social engagement between the local community and refugees?

The refugee resettlement centre in Naenae explored spaces and programmes to revitalise a declining community and town centre. Naenae is rich in cultural diversity and historical significance as well as equipped in amenities for the community. However, it is suffering from population decline, failing businesses and crime. The focus of the design solutions were to increase the population density of Naenae, improve public safety, facilitate a variety of uses and encourage cultural exchange. The interventions also provide the refugees a safe setting to aid in their transition as well as a platform to communicate with the host community and allow them to engage and understand each other.

Resettling the refugees in the town centre gave them access to the public amenities and facilities. The refurbished theatre and hotel preserved the urban identity of Naenae. The increased number of people within the town centre improved surveillance and reduced crime. A safe setting was also facilitated by improvements in circulation through rearranging its configuration, eliminating isolated areas and connecting them to the different parts of the town. This transformed Naenae into a pedestrian oriented urban setting.

Converting Naenae's back alley into a public square and market gathers people of different social and economic backgrounds to share the same space. Ensuring safety, convenience, vibrancy and variety are qualities of a successful public space. The public square was a versatile space that could accommodate a variety of uses for the host community and refugees such as organising a weekly market where both

user groups participate as sellers and buyers. The events bring in food, arts and performances from different cultures for the public to enjoy. The market provided the opportunity for the refugees to gain independence and to interact with the host community without relying solely on language.

The new theatre allowed the host community and refugees to share their culture and traditions. This platform gives confidence to the refugees to celebrate and share their customs as well as learn more about their hosts. The learning centre provided the refugees a holistic facility to aid in their transition where they learn English, crafts and employment skills. In addition, the refugees could acquire health and administrative support in the same building. The host community could witness the process and the refugees' enthusiasm to adapt. The centre could also accommodate meetings and events for the community.

## 7.2 Weaknesses & Limitations

This research focused in identifying the programmes to initiate social interaction between the host community and refugees. Because the research encompassed a wide urban scale, the design process was divided among the different programmes. This resulted in some designs being more resolved than others. The use of participatory design process at every step could help mitigate this weakness. Members of the host communities and resettled refugees could be approached to understand their concerns and to listen to their suggestions. This method could propose solutions that would be overlooked.

## 7.3 Other Potentials & Applications

Further development of this research could explore designs for medium density housing to occupy the numerous excess spaces in Naenae. Expansions on the project would include considerations on how the programmes could evolve over time to address further influx of refugees as well as the changes to the wider Naenae area resulting from the new resettlement centre.

This design research could extend to social and environmental organisations to have a wider community outreach. An NGO could be included in the discussion with the Red Cross in designing the open spaces. Undeniably, refugees and community members should contribute in the input to better understand their needs and concerns. This thesis was formatted as a proposal to improve Naenae town centre. It could be presented to the community and create a discussion for future developments.

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Figure 2.3          Sarnitz, August and E. B. Ottilinger. *Ersnt Plischke: Modern Architecture for the New World*. London: Prestel, 2004. Print.

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Figure 4.1          Granville Island, Vancouver. *Google Maps*. 2017. Google. Web. 10 Feb. 2017. <<https://www.google.co.nz/maps/search/Granville+island,+Vancouver,+BC,+Canada/@49.2708321,-123.1381633,16z/data=!3m1!4b1>>.

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