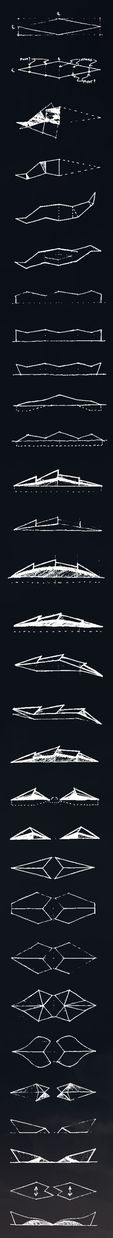
AKIKODJIQAN FALLS / VICTORIA ISLAND

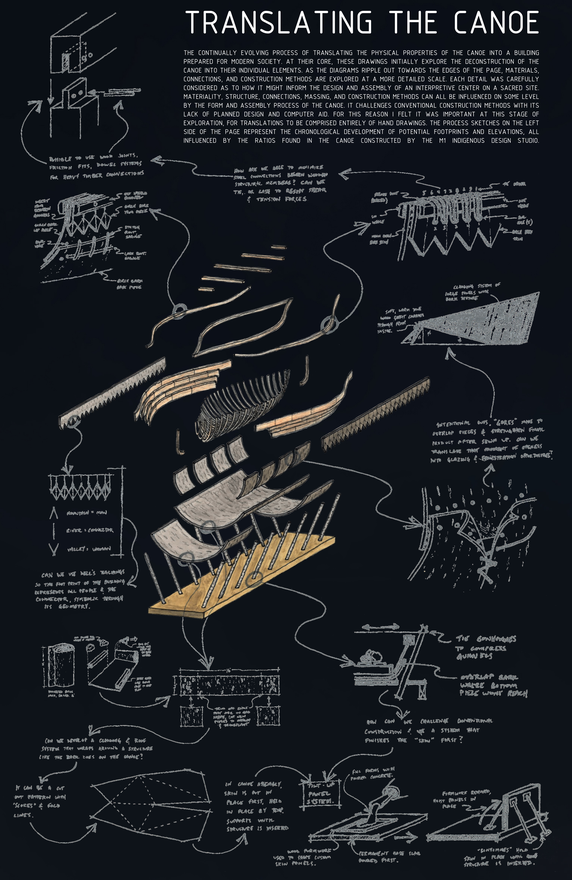
OTTAWA, ON
45°25'18N 75°42'40W
C. MACISAAC

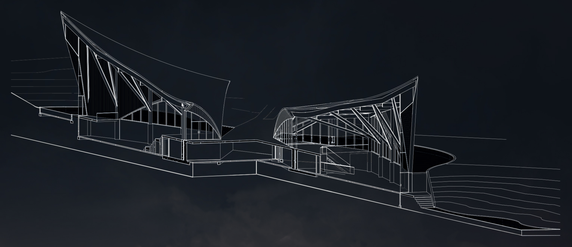
THE INTENT OF THIS PROJECT WAS TO DESIGN A BUILDING THAT FIRST AND FOREMOST EMBODIES THE TEACHINGS, SPIRIT, & FORM OF THE CANOE. USING THOUGHTFUL LANDSCAPE INTERVENTION PROVIDES A CURATED **PROCESSIONAL** APPROACH, INFORMING & **EDUCATING** THE USER ABOUT MATERIALS, HISTORY, & PROCESS. THE PROJECT AS A WHOLE CELEBRATES THE RE-EMERGENCE OF THE CANOE AS A VESSEL OF **CONNECTION:** TRANSPORTING KNOWLEDGE BETWEEN GENERATIONS & CULTURES.

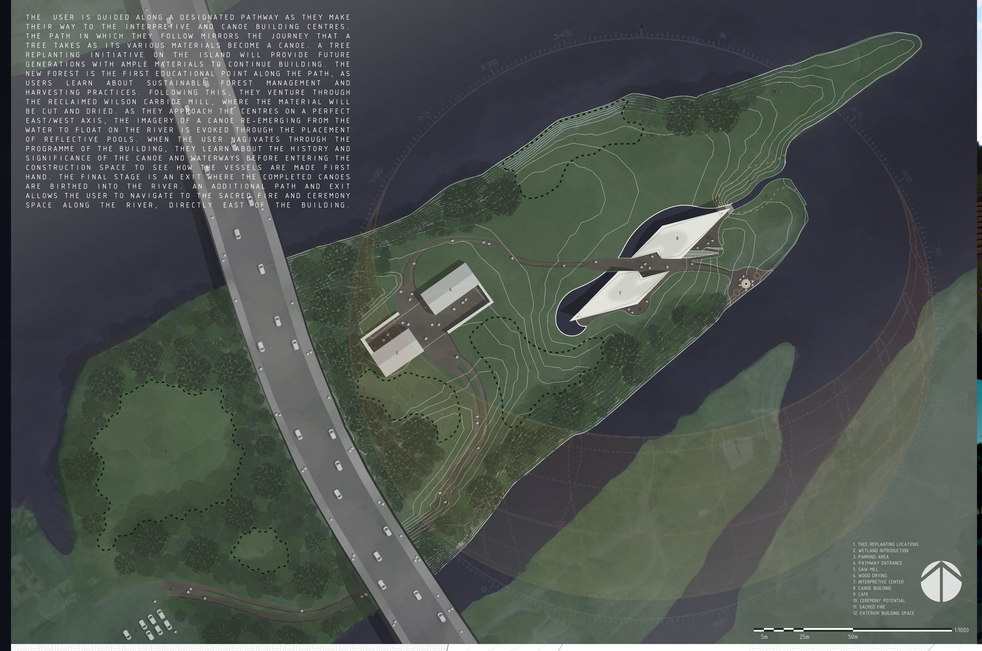


TRANSLATING THE CANOE

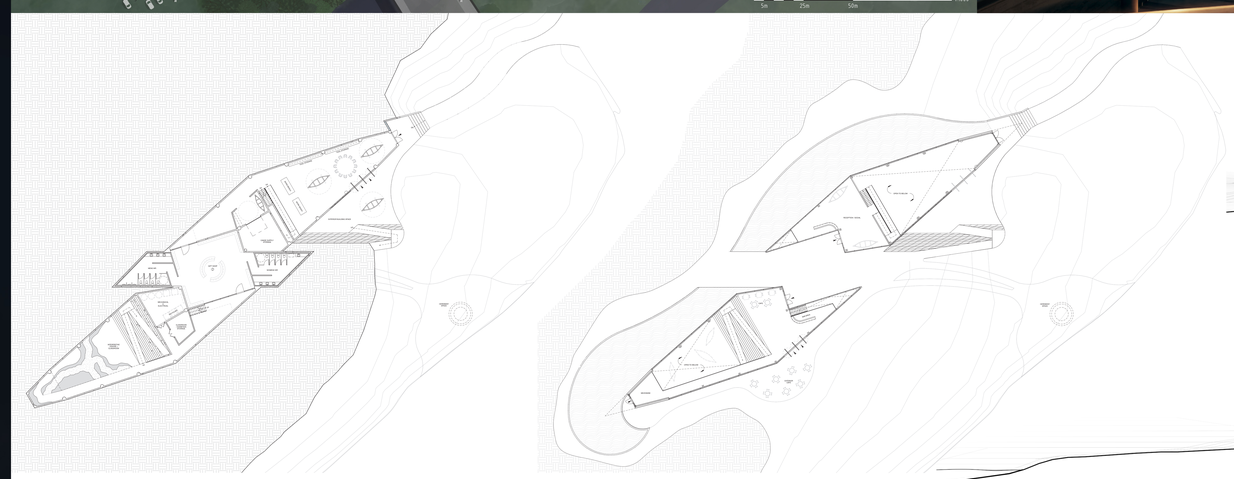
THE CONTINUALLY EVOLVING PROCESS OF TRANSLATING THE PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF THE CANOE INTO A BUILDING PREPARED FOR MODERN SOCIETY, AT THEIR CORE. THESE DRAWINGS INITIALLY EXPLORE THE DECONSTRUCTION OF THE CANOE INTO THEIR INDIVIDUAL ELEMENTS, AS THE DIAGRAMS RIPPLE OUT TOWARDS THE EDGES OF THE PAGE, MATERIALS, CONNECTIONS, AND CONSTRUCTION METHODS ARE EXPLORED AT A MORE DETAILED SCALE. EACH DETAIL WAS CAREFULLY CONSIDERED AS TO HOW IT MIGHT INFORM THE DESIGN AND ASSEMBLY OF AN INTERPRETIVE CENTER ON A SACRED SITE. MATERIALITY, STRUCTURE, CONNECTIONS, MASSING, AND CONSTRUCTION METHODS CAN ALL BE INFLUENCED ON SOME LEVEL BY THE FORM AND ASSEMBLY PROCESS OF THE CANOE. IT CHALLENGES CONVENTIONAL CONSTRUCTION METHODS WITH ITS LACK OF PLANNED DESIGN AND COMPUTER AID. FOR THIS REASON I FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT AT THIS STAGE OF EXPLORATION, FOR TRANSLATIONS TO BE COMPRISED ENTIRELY OF HAND DRAWINGS. THE PROCESS SKETCHES ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE PAGE REPRESENT THE CHRONOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF POTENTIAL FOOTPRINTS AND ELEVATIONS, ALL INFLUENCED BY THE RATIOS FOUND IN THE CANOE CONSTRUCTED BY THE MTI INDIGENOUS DESIGN STUDIO.







THE USER IS GUIDED ALONG A DESIGNATED PATHWAY AS THEY MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE INTERPRETIVE AND CANOE BUILDING CENTRES. THE PATH IN WHICH THEY FOLLOW MIRRORS THE JOURNEY THAT A TREE TAKES AS ITS VARIOUS MATERIALS BECOME A CANOE. A TREE REPLANTING INITIATIVE ON THE ISLAND WILL PROVIDE FUTURE GENERATIONS WITH AMPLE MATERIALS TO CONTINUE BUILDING. THE NEW FOREST IS THE FIRST EDUCATIONAL POINT ALONG THE PATH, AS USERS LEARN ABOUT SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT AND HARVESTING PRACTICES. FOLLOWING THIS, THEY VENTURE THROUGH THE RECLAIMED WILSON CARBIDE MILL, WHERE THE MATERIAL WILL BE CUT AND DRIED. AS THEY APPROACH THE CENTRES ON A PERFECT EAST/WEST AXIS, THE IMAGERY OF A CANOE RE-EMERGING FROM THE WATER TO FLOAT ON THE RIVER IS EVOKED THROUGH THE PLACEMENT OF REFLECTIVE POOLS. WHEN THE USER NAVIGATES THROUGH THE PROGRAMME OF THE BUILDING, THEY LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CANOE AND WATERWAYS BEFORE ENTERING THE CONSTRUCTION SPACE TO SEE HOW THE VESSELS ARE MADE FIRST HAND. THE FINAL STAGE IS AN EXIT WHERE THE COMPLETED CANOES ARE BIRTHED INTO THE RIVER. AN ADDITIONAL PATH AND EXIT ALLOWS THE USER TO NAVIGATE TO THE SACRED FIRE AND CEREMONY SPACE ALONG THE RIVER, DIRECTLY EAST OF THE BUILDING.



LOWER
1 : 200

MAIN
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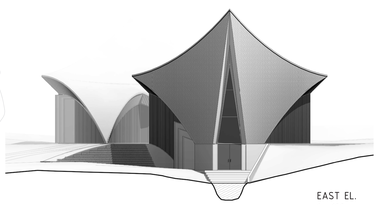
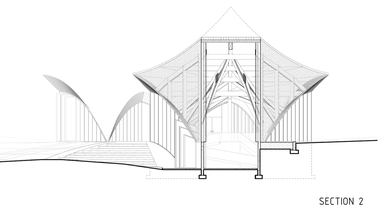


EAST EL.
1 : 100



SECTION 2
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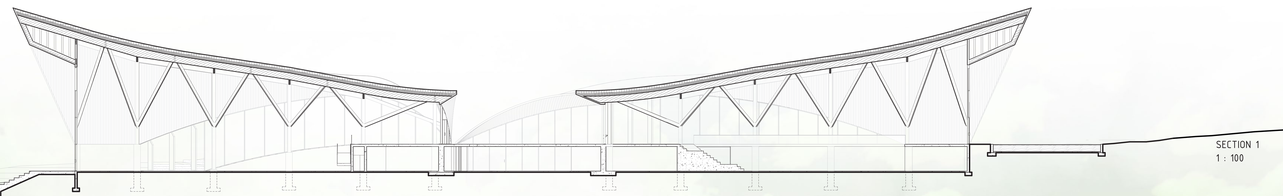

SECTION 1
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