



Country /City New Zealand / Wellington

University / School Victoria University of Wellington / School of Architecture

Academic year 2020-2021

Title of the project Envisioning Predator Free Miramar. Communities building a refuge for Wellington's rare and endangered biodiversity.

Authors Shanika Tuinder

TECHNICAL DOSSIER

Title of the project	Envisioning Predator Free Miramar. Communities building a refuge for Wellington's rare and endangered biodiversity.
Authors	Shanika Tuinder
Title of the course	LAND 593
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Teaching Staff	Carles Martinez-Almoyna
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Landscape Architecture
University / School	Victoria University of Wellington / School of Architecture



Written statement:

The current worldwide biodiversity crisis requires the exploration of new approaches to habitat conservation. The Predator Free 2050 plan facilitates a shift in the conservation approach traditionally developed in Aotearoa New Zealand, which is mainly focused on the management of nature reserves. In order to achieve a real change in an increasingly urbanised world, conservation efforts must be extended into the urban realm and involve restoration through self-management practices. Miramar, Wellington, has seen strong community efforts to become the first predator free suburb in the country. Its size and defensibility make it a logical starting point across Wellington city. Watts Peninsula, a prominent ecological and historical landmark located on the northern tip of Miramar has been approached for developing design-led research. The research has been oriented towards facilitating the ecological transformation of the area at the same time that social inclusiveness is embraced. A range of small, and strategic spatial interventions have been explored. The intention has been to support the restoration efforts done by local groups of stewards during the last years and design the ecological transformation of the area. The design-led research aims to provide a plan to the local community to drive a 50-year restoration project. Also, to support the efforts done to avoid the urbanisation of Watts peninsula and inform the transformation of the area into a reserve. This project has revived in 2023 as a *real* project through a design-based partnership between VUW-landscape architecture and the local groups of stewards.

For further information

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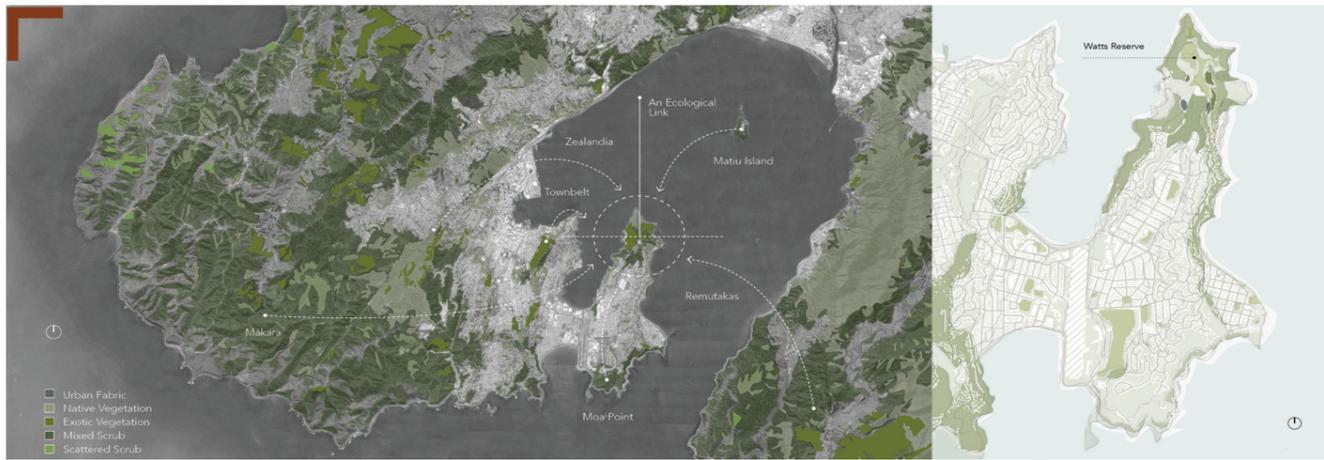
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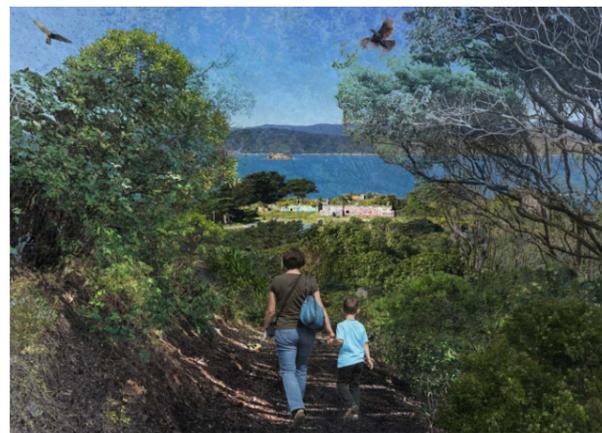
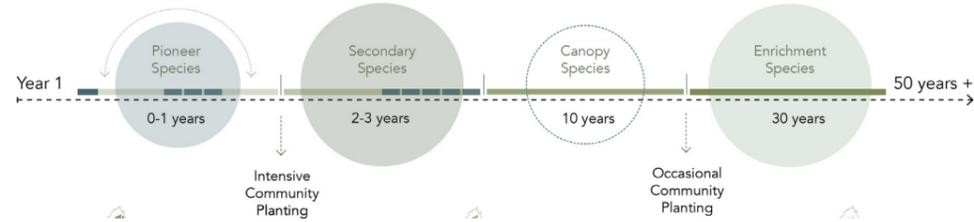
Barcelona November 2023

SCHOOL PRIZE



Conceiving a planting strategy that facilitates ecological processes

The planting strategy was informed by ecological succession processes, species diversity, links between flora and fauna, and phasing. More than seventy different plant species were targeted. The proposed design explores how a 50-year community planting strategy can catalyse natural regeneration processes while increasing biodiversity. The design outlines how Miramar community can gradually remove exotic species and introduce new native species in four phases.



Te Motu Kairangi unfenced urban ecosanctuary



Building resilience at the edge to impede predator re-invasion

From the edge analysis, four typologies were considered for design exploration considering geomorphology, vegetation, drainage, accessibility and quality of the infrastructure. Simple design techniques were proposed to reduce the risk of re-invasion, particularly in vulnerable areas such as carparks and access points. Some of these solutions involve the use of certain materials, retaining walls, pavements and swales to restrict harbourage, planting slopes with thick prickly natives, or leveraging the existing topography to create defences.

03 Fort Halswell



Re-purposing existing facilities to support restoration and education

The building facilities of the existing farm to be decommissioned are seen as an asset to be kept and transformed as a key educational site for schools, local community and wider public. They are also envisioned to accommodate community events, workshops, and services for the future reserve such as a nursery, storage area or administrative facilities.

