



RESEARCH STATEMENT

Architectural Project

Researchers:	Dave Pigram [University of Technology Sydney] Iain Maxwell [University of Canberra]
Title of Work:	Bradfield Central Park — Competition Scheme
Peer-Review:	Bradfield Central Park — Competition Scheme was awarded an 'Honorable Mention' in the 'Concept — Public Space Category' at the World Landscape Architecture Awards. [International Award] Bradfield Central Park — Competition Scheme was sortlisted in the Architecture Australia AA Prize for Unbuilt Work 2025. The prize is run by Architecture Australia, the journal of the Australian Institute of Architects. The Prize seeks conceptually rigorous, inventive responses to contemporary architectural issues. [National Shortlist] Bradfield Central Park — Competition Scheme was one of five commissioned Stage 2 entries to an open international design competition following a highly competitive Stage 1 Expression Of Interest [EOI] process. [1 of 5 Selected Internationally to produce Stage 2 designs].

Research Background

Bradfield Central Park — Competition Scheme [BCP-CS] is a project in the fields of Connecting with Country, urban park design, climate-responsive landscape design, and landscape integrated architecture.

Research Contribution

BCP-CS contributes a rare and much-needed example of spatial design that is country-led, where architecture and landscape are inseparable, and climate-responsive, sustainable design and construction innovation are central. By establishing three unique spatial, material and experiential identities — each rooted in an endemic ecology — the project would repair, reveal and amplify the specifics Dharug Country while avoiding superficially applied symbols. In the hottest [and getting hotter] part of Sydney, 'GibbaGunya' — a new landscape typology consisting of a chain of interconnected earth-formed vaults — provides shade, shelter, coolth and refuge on a community scale. The project asks, 'How can productive synergies between design for climate and design for Country yield authentically Australian contemporary landscape designs?'

Research Significance

Designing with Country and designing places adapted to hot climates are key challenges facing Australian spatial designers. BCP-CS was awarded an 'Honourable Mention' in the 'Concept — Public Space Category' at the World Landscape Architecture Awards and shortlisted in the 'AA Prize for Unbuilt Work' in recognition of its contribution to these imperatives.

AA PRIZE FOR UNBUILT WORK [NATIONAL]

ARCHITECTURE AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL SHORTLIST



AA Prize for Unbuilt Work 2025

Experimentation, speculation, invention – celebrating the unbuilt

[JURY CHAIR OVERVIEW]
As our lives become more dependent on digital technology, it is increasingly important to prioritise our relationships with nature and with one another. This cause is a common theme across the submissions of the 2025 AA Prize for Unbuilt Work. Acts of repair and connection are drivers for a majority of the schemes, whose designs consider solutions to contemporary issues such as social isolation, cultural acknowledgement, and the climate and housing crises.

Repair is explored as regeneration of ecology, recognition of cultural histories and reinvigoration of dormant existing buildings. *Common-wealth* by Nicky and Nicole (honourable mention) speculates on ways to incentivise circular building technologies. The scheme experiments with the balance between landscape revitalisation and local manufacturing. *The Mill* by Ariani Anwar (honourable mention) considers the future of abandoned industrial sites and explores how rewilding can assist in bioremediation and the spatial quality of public amenity.

Connection is investigated across different scales through design interventions that encourage social interaction between neighbourhood and city. *Productive Edge* by Phorm Architecture and Design with Silvia Micheli and Antony Mouila (special mention) critiques the Australian suburban fence, reimagining it as a space for enterprise and commerce, creating moments for deliberate social engagement.

The winning project, *Landscape of Co-existence* by Angela Xu and Georgia Reader, questions current relationships between human and non-human inhabitants in the built environment. The scheme focuses on affordable housing and social connectivity, but at its core studies the impact of decentralising the human experience. In turn, the proposal pursues a better pathway for urban development – one that seeks to benefit all living things.

The built environment directly impacts the health and wellbeing of Country and communities, and this relationship is becoming better understood by the architecture industry, as demonstrated in this year's submissions. Collectively, the schemes are persuasive on how conceptual design can be used as a tool to test and explore outcomes that think differently about repair and connection. Whether it is through material documentation, spaces for cultural reflection or the reuse of existing building stock, it's clear that we are pursuing architecture that gives more than it takes.

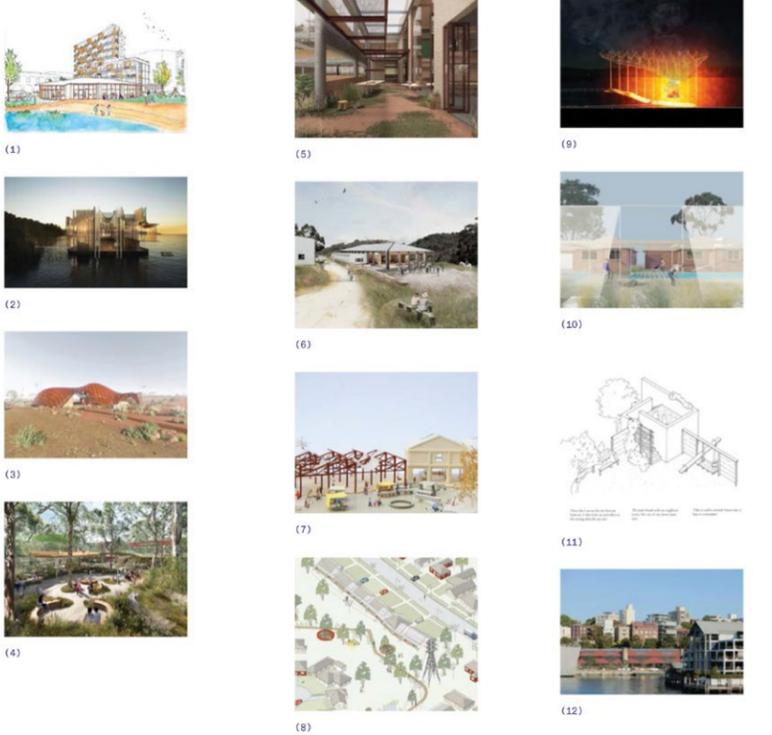
Congratulations to the awarded schemes for 2025.
— Georgia Birks is associate editor of *Architecture Australia*, a curator for *Design Speaks*, a graduate of architecture and a proud descendant of the Birpai, Dughutti and Kamilaroi people.



[JURY]
L-R: Nic Brunson, principal and creative director, Brunson Studio; Jocelyn Chiew, director City Design, City of Melbourne; Michael Moosman, associate dean Indigenous strategy and services, University of Sydney School of Architecture, Design and Planning; Georgia Birks (chair), associate editor of *Architecture Australia*.



Shortlist



- (1) Acts of Care by Jenny K Lin
- (2) Apparatus of Lost Identities by Chiyuan (Lily) Li
- (3) Bajinhurrba Knowledge Centre by Hunt Architects
- (4) Bradfield Central Park by Arcadia Landscape Architecture in collaboration with Bangawarra and Supermanoeuvre
- (5) Breathe on the Land by Jacky Chon Kei Lam
- (6) Cobargo Community Hall and Disaster Refuge by Takt Studio for Architecture
- (7) Common Grounds by Alexandra Courtney and Madeleine Gallagher, The University of Sydney
- (8) Common-wealth by Nicky and Nicole
- (9) Decomposition Ritual by EJ Taylor
- (10) Doonside Commons by Standard Methods
- (11) Empathic Edges; Shared Gardens that Enable Diverse Occupancy in Character Suburbia by Kieren Dolores
- (12) Gadigal Contemporary by Blake Corry, Maximilian Routh and Oskar Straatveit, The University of Sydney

AA PRIZE FOR UNBUILT WORK [NATIONAL]

ARCHITECTURE AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL SHORTLIST

4/22 AA Prize for Unbuilt Work 2025 shortlist revealed

Issue 160
In print
& digital

HOUSES



Bradfield Central Park

Image: Arcadia Landscape Architecture

SHARE   

Original Creative Work
Architectural Project

Biggs & Hayne, Cville, Studio ESEM, PAM
Murrumbidgee Unbuilt Work 2025

TYPE

ISSUES/TANTS

Dave Pigram, University of Technology Sydney
Iain Maxwell, University of Canberra
Alex Longley & Michael Barnett, Arcadia

AUTHORS

Jo Kinniburgh, UTS & Bangawarra
Shannon Foster, Bangawarra
James Melsom, UTS & Landskip Lab

Bradfield Central Park
Competition Scheme

PROJECT TITLE

WORLD LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AWARDS [INTERNATIONAL]

CONCEPT — PUBLIC SPACE CATEGORY



HONORABLE MENTION

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Bradfield Central Park Design Competition | Arcadia Landscape Architecture

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Winner of Honourable Mention for the 2025 WLA Awards – Concept – Public Space category

Designing a concept for Bradfield's Central Park was an invitation to explore the potential for Australia's newest city. The concept seamlessly blends the beauty and wonder of the natural world with cutting-edge innovation and technology to create an awe-inspiring, immersive experience that captures the spirit of Country and inspires the next generation of Australia.

Only once in a generation does a city deliver something so remarkable as Nancy Bird Walton Airport. Not only will this open Sydney's west to international travel, it will also create Bradfield, a third city for Sydney, meticulously master planned to sit within ancient grassland Country, with Central Park as its centrepiece, where the natural systems sit paramount to human urbanisation.

To design with this ethos fully and respectfully at the forefront, it was essential for the design team to seek the catalyst of this landscape's evolution in the pre-Triassic period and follow the progress of this tiny microcosm of Australia's landscape. Together, the team developed an understanding of the significance of the beautifully complex set of cultural and natural systems that form this unique, environmentally rich, and ancient land.

In developing the concept for Central Park, the team drew on extensive research, collaboration, and shared knowledge to imagine it as a regeneration of ancient Freshwater Country, set within the ultramodern built environment of Bradfield City Centre.

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City Centre.



In the heart of one of Australia's most highly populated and multicultural regions, Central Park celebrates the Indigenous cultures that precede all of these, as well as providing the foundation for a range of events and activations that will make Central Park a celebrated Cultural destination. Whether it's food, art, music or innovation, the park provides amenity and typology for 18-hour activation so people can experience the best that Indigenous and other cultures have to offer through multi-sensory journeys and experiences, forged through dynamic and evolving expressions of Country, community, technology and ecology.



The concept for Bradfield Central Park goes beyond the ancient, using art and placemaking to connect park users with contemporary local Aboriginal Peoples and their stories and cultures. This unique cultural landscape will showcase the diversity of Australia's largest community of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, who are from all over this sacred country but now located in Western Sydney.



Designed to deliver the beauty and benefits of a connected Country environment to everyday users – the daytime workers, international and Australian visitors, and local residents – Central Park will draw people into recreated Country environments, connected by a network of elevated, immersive walkways. An immersive, multi-level play experience, based on the Grandmother Tree topped by an Eagle's Nest, will attract families and children.

DESIGNWORKSHOP

Dig Studio

dwg.

felixx

Hassell

landscapeforms

LBA Landscape Architecture

MAGLIN

MKSK

mmcité

plai

REDLANDSCAPE

RIOS

SASAKI

shma



As well as delivering a network of active open spaces, Central Park is designed as a place of respite from pace and density, a place where users feel a deep connection to the natural environment, in the heart of Australia's newest city, with every element of the design of Central Park considering its link to Country.

Bradfield Central Park Design Competition

Location: Sydney, Australia

Client: Western Parkland City Authority

Designer Credit: [Arcadia Landscape Architecture](#)

Collaborators/Other Consultants: Architect: Supermanoeuvre Design and Connecting with Country Consultant: Bangawarra First Nations Arborist: Muru Mittigar Place Visioning / Placemaking: Hoyne Sustainability Consultant: Civille Public Art Consultant: Studio ESEM Site Activation: PAM, Landskip Lab

Image Credits: [Arcadia](#); [Doug and Wolf](#);

Shortlisted entry in the Bradfield Central Park Design Competition



About [Damian Holmes](#) > 3900 Articles

Damian Holmes is the Founder and Editor of World Landscape Architecture (WLA). Damian founded WLA in 2007 to provide a website for landscape architects written by landscape architects. He is a registered landscape architect and works as a consultant for various firms.

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DESIGN ARTEFACTS
VISUALISATION



Original Creative Work
Architectural Project

Bangawarra, Hoyne, Cville, Studio ESEM, PAM
Muru Mittaggar

Aerial View of Bradfield Central Park [CS]
Render: Doug&Wolf

Dave Pigram, University of Technology Sydney
Iain Maxwell, University of Canberra
Alex Longley & Michael Barnett, Arcadia

Jo Kinniburgh, UTS & Bangawarra
Shannon Foster, Bangawarra
James Melsom, UTS & Landskip Lab

Bradfield Central Park
Competition Scheme

TYPE

CONSULTANTS

IMAGE

AUTHORS

PROJECT TITLE

DESIGN ARTEFACTS
VISUALISATION



Original Creative Work
Architectural Project

Bangawarra, Hoyne, Cville, Studio ESEM, PAM
Muru Mittigar

Sky Country — Goolamon Canopy
Render: Doug&Wolf

Dave Pigram, University of Technology Sydney
Iain Maxwell, University of Canberra
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Bradfield Central Park
Competition Scheme

TYPE

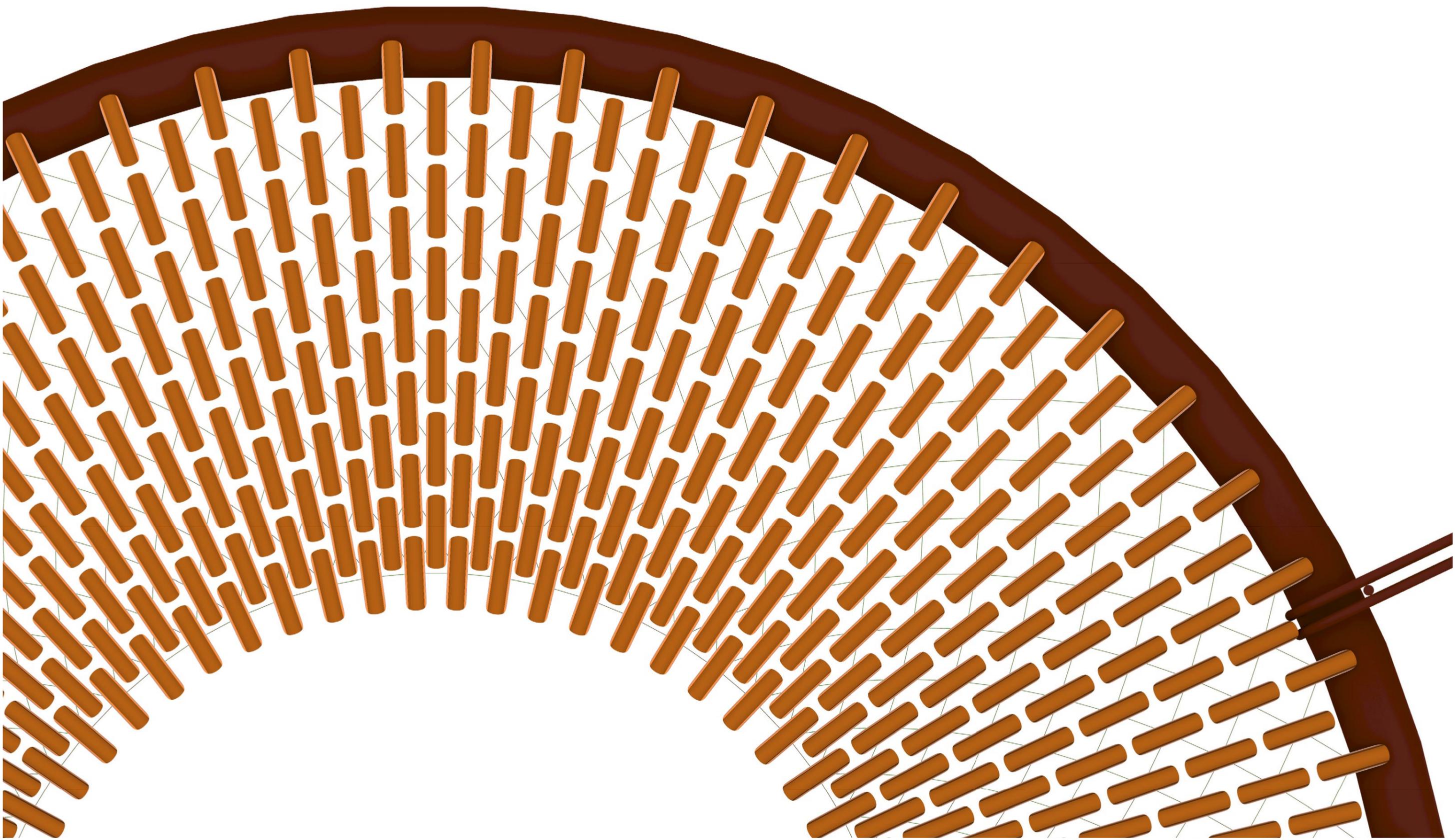
CONSULTANTS

IMAGE

AUTHORS

PROJECT TITLE

DESIGN ARTEFACTS
VISUALISATION



DESIGN ARTEFACTS
VISUALISATION



Original Creative Work
Architectural Project

Bangawarra, Hoyne, Cville, Studio ESEM, PAM
Muru Mittigar

Sky Country — Goolamon Canopy
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Competition Scheme

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IMAGE

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DESIGN ARTEFACTS
VISUALISATION



Original Creative Work
Architectural Project

Bangawarra, Hoyne, Cville, Studio ESEM, PAM
Muru Mittigar

GibbaGunya — Earth-Cast Vaults
Render: Doug&Wolf

Dave Pigram, University of Technology Sydney
Iain Maxwell, University of Canberra
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Jo Kinniburgh, UTS & Bangawarra
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Bradfield Central Park
Competition Scheme



Original Creative Work
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Bangawarra, Hoyne, Cville, Studio ESEM, PAM
Muru Mittigar

CONSULTANTS

GibbaGunya — Earth-Cast Vaults [Detail]
Render: Doug&Wolf

IMAGE

Dave Pigram, University of Technology Sydney
Iain Maxwell, University of Canberra
Alex Longley & Michael Barnett, Arcadia

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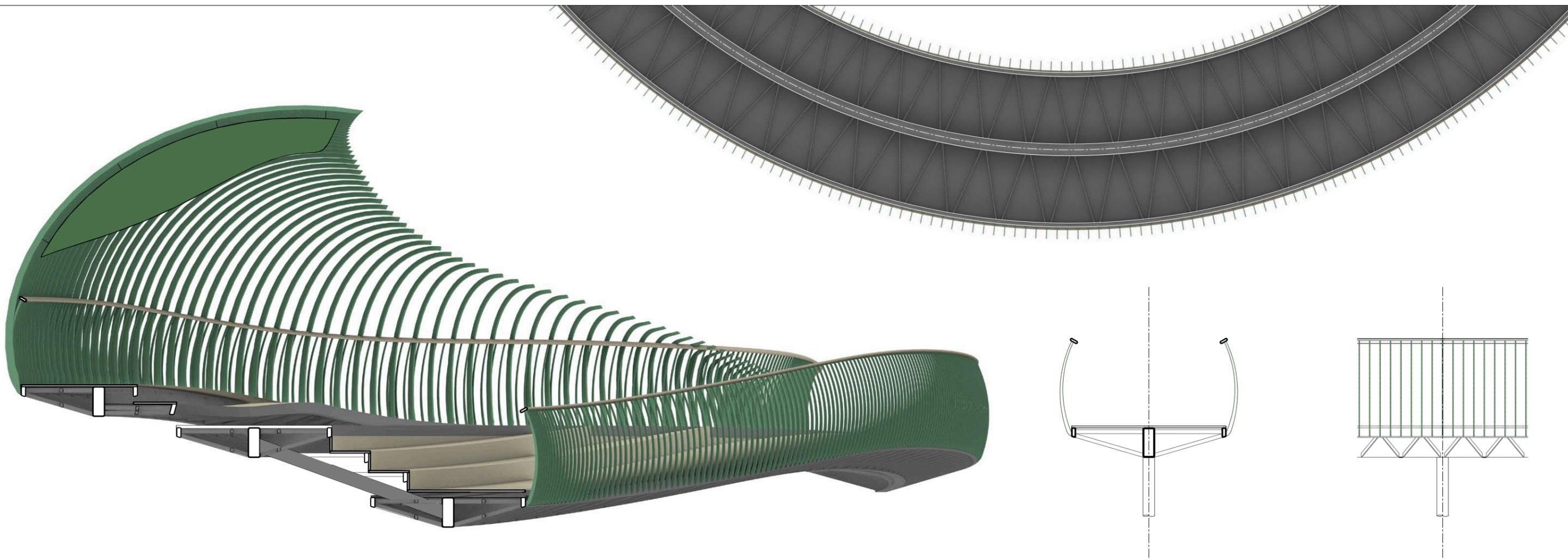
Bradfield Central Park
Competition Scheme

PROJECT TITLE

DESIGN ARTEFACTS
VISUALISATION



DESIGN ARTEFACTS
VISUALISATION



Original Creative Work
Architectural Project

TYPE

Bangawarra, Hoyne, Cville, Studio ESEM, PAM
Muru Mittigar

CONSULTANTS

Elevated Walkway and Amphitheatre
Image: supermanoeuvre

IMAGE

Dave Pigram, University of Technology Sydney
Iain Maxwell, University of Canberra
Alex Longley & Michael Barnett, Arcadia

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Bradfield Central Park
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Original Creative Work
Architectural Project

TYPE

Bangawarra, Hoyne, Cville, Studio ESEM, PAM
Muru Mittigar

CONSULTANTS

Ground Country — Cumberland Grassland
Render: Doug&Wolf

IMAGE

Dave Pigram, University of Technology Sydney
Iain Maxwell, University of Canberra
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