The Keys to Mildura.

30,000 residents, is one of Australia's most significant inland river cities. It is located six hours drive from Melbourne, five from Adelaide, on the North-West border of the state of Victoria. The River Murray is Australia's longest with a catchment covering 37% of its land area. Murray waters irrigate the Sunraysia food bowl, with Mildura being the principal service centre for this region. As Mildura's population

is growing and it's tertiary sector

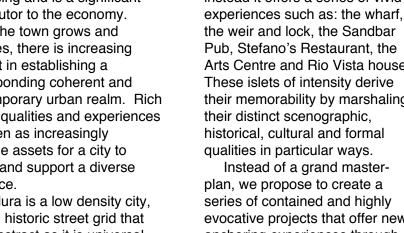
is becoming more important.

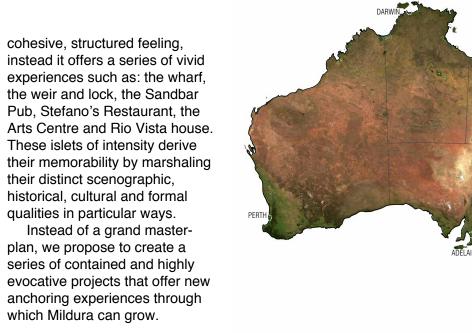
Tourism to the region is also increasing and is a significant contributor to the economy. As the town grows and changes, there is increasing interest in establishing a corresponding coherent and contemporary urban realm. Rich spatial qualities and experiences are seen as increasingly valuable assets for a city to attract and support a diverse

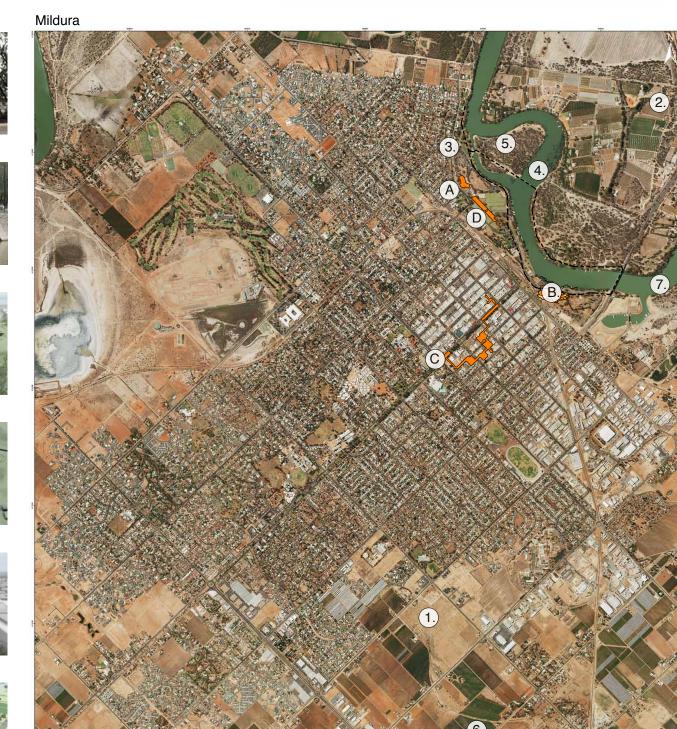
populace. Mildura is a low density city, with an historic street grid that is as abstract as it is universal. The urban centre lacks a

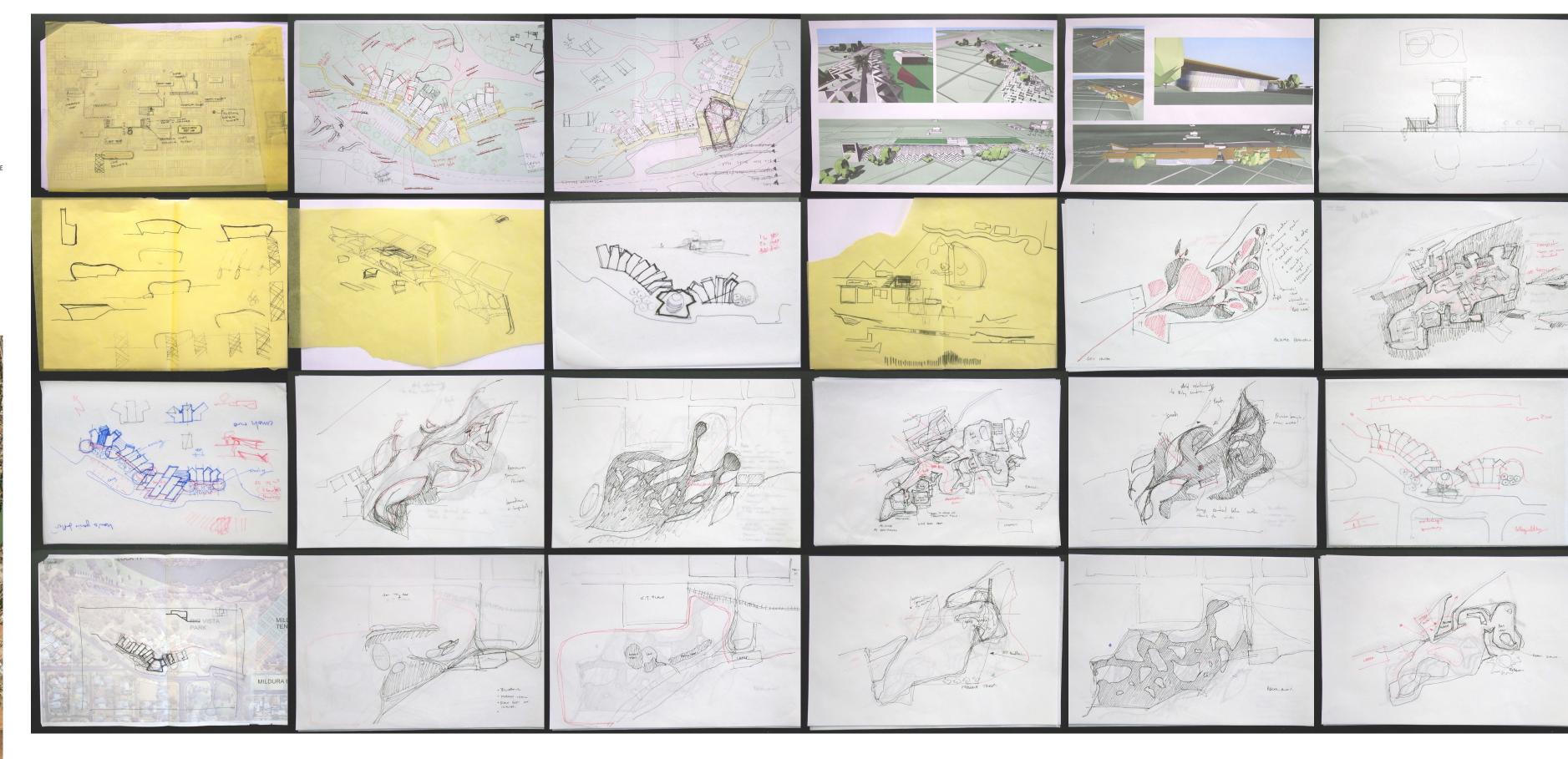
2. Local Produce

A. Rural City Retreat









GRC 3.

july 2010 - category errors.

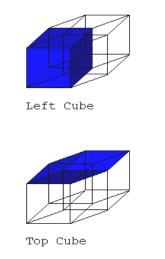
The Keys to Mildura.

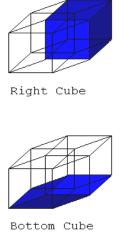
Oases peppered across the urban landscape re-framing Mildura as a retreat. an island resort and orchard and a sporting paradise.

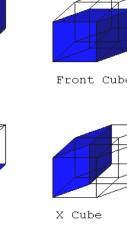
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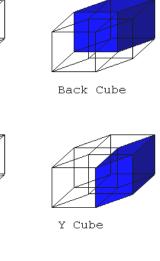


5. Artists & Industry











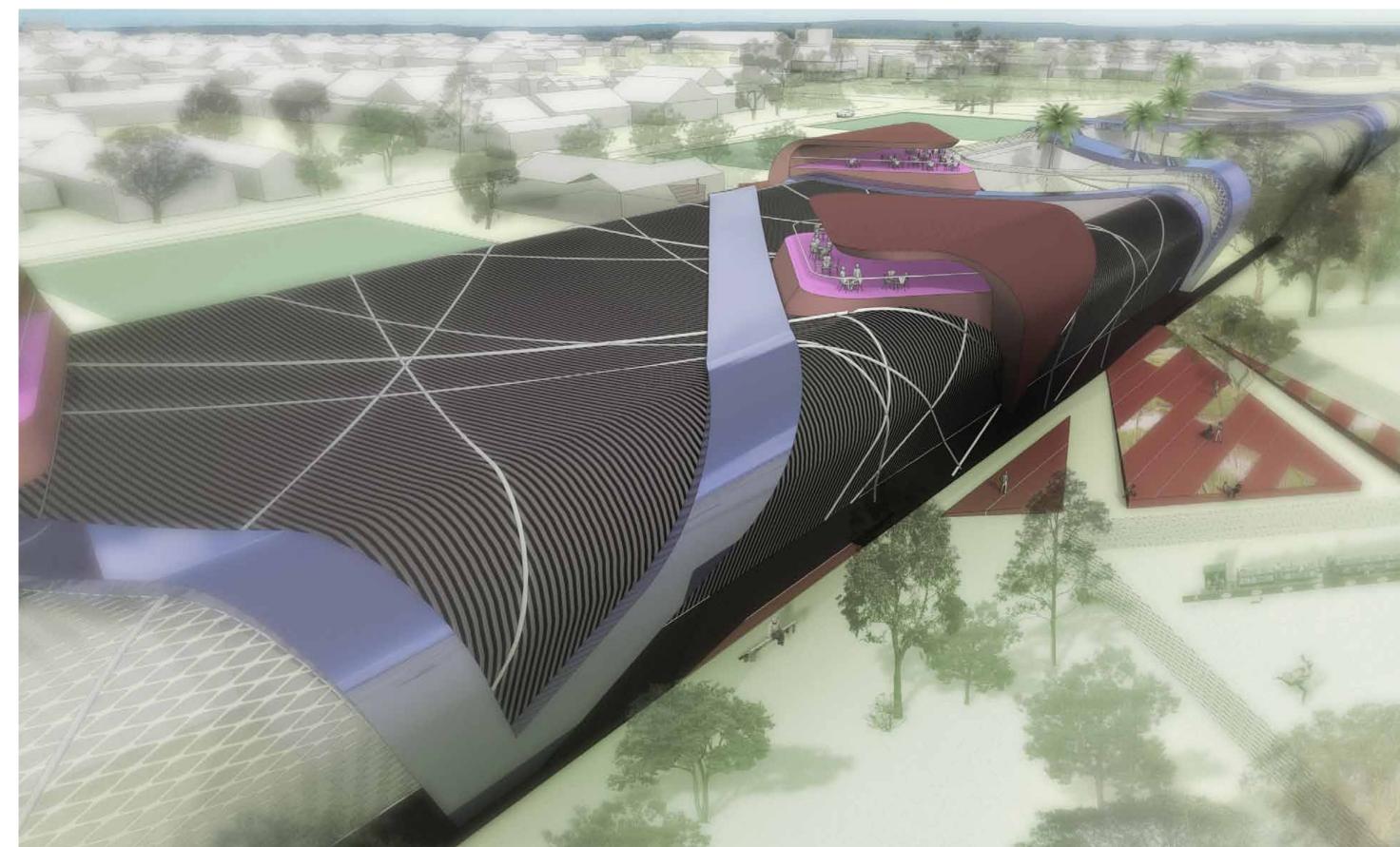




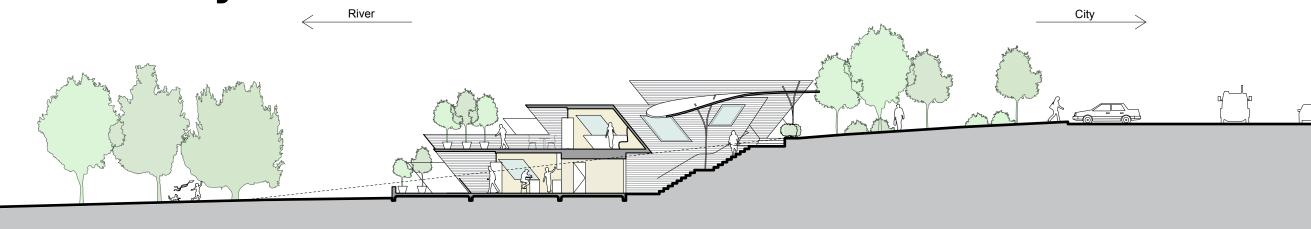








Rural City Retreat



Scale 1:200

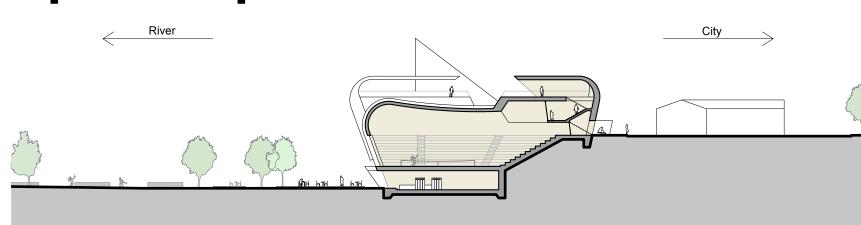


At present there is a serious lacAs Mildura's tertiary sector becomes more important, it becomes important to attract and accommodate visiting professionals for medium term stay. Examples: La Trobe University campus has many visiting academics staying for periods up to a semester, and the hospital needs to attract medical professionals.

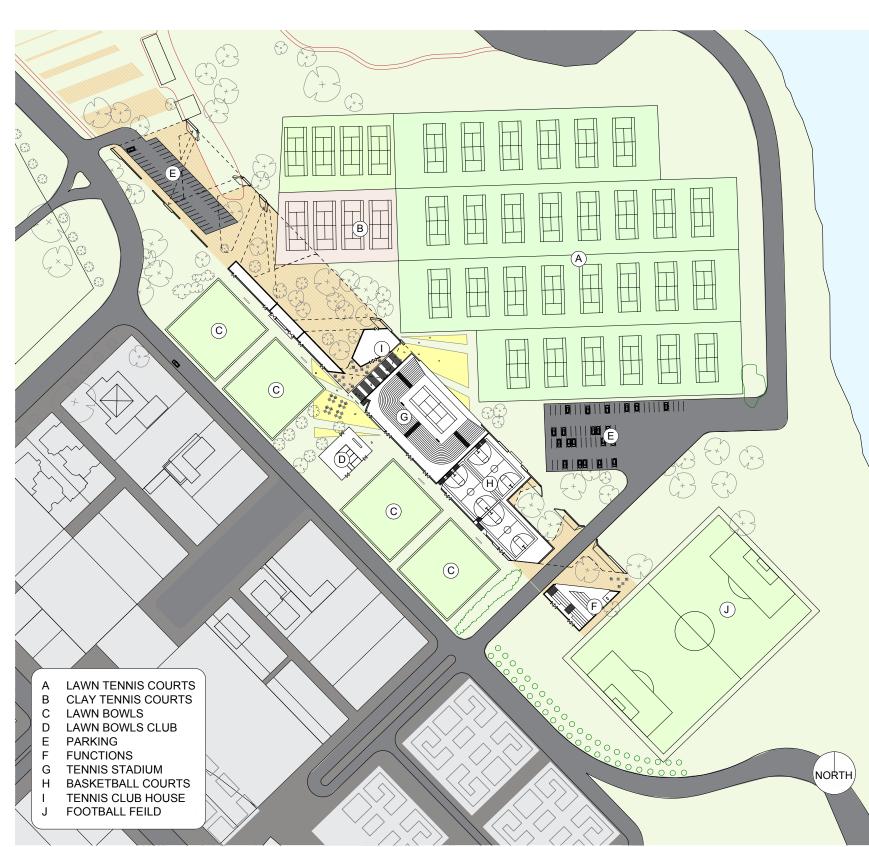
We propose a collegiate retreat of clusters of apartments, built into the river escarpment. Arranged as bundles feeling their way into the flood-plane, the buildings form a new edge to the city, mediating between the landscape realm of the river and the civic realm above. They are not unlike a cluster of houseboats moored at the rivers edge.

Communal facilities provide a convivial environment for guests, and seminar facilities provide a place of knowledge exchange with the town.





Scale 1:500





Sport is an important aspect of Mildura's social fabric. Australian rules and Association football, tennis, basketball and bowls all have keen participation. The sports grounds lie in a key position between river and city.

We propose a new Sports Spine between the tennis and bowls club, to act as a focus for Mildura's sporting life, and accommodate visitors to major events. It accommodates climate controlled indoor sports courts, cafes, restaurants and a function hall.

Formally, the building is a long roof structure echoing the ridge-line it follows. The structure is modulated to accommodate landscape features, existing facilities and new program. The Sports Spine operates at the scale of the landscape, offering a new appreciation of the city in front and the river beyond.

Weir Loop

The weir and lock system, developed to modulate River Murray flows for irrigation and make it navigable, was constructed during the 1930s. An impressive piece of infrastructure, it makes visible the forces of the river and their harnessing for agriculture.

We propose to make it possible to cross the river at the weir. To appreciate the majesty of the river, certainly, but also to make possible a recreational circuit from Mildura riverfront, across the lock then weir, along the riverfront on the New South Wales side of the river, then returning over the Chaffey Bridge.

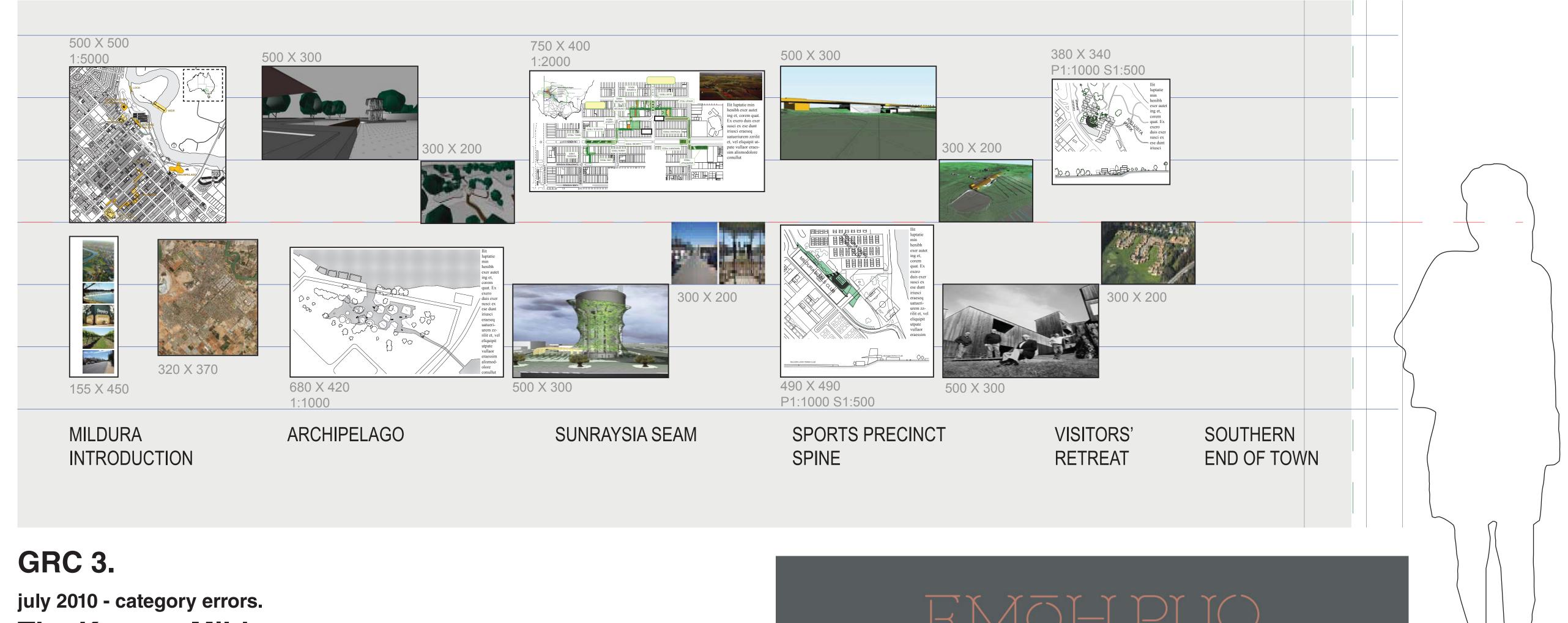




Moored house boats.



A Sports Space we like.



The Keys to Mildura.

Oases peppered across the urban landscape re-framing Mildura as a retreat, an island resort and orchard and a sporting paradise.











Scale 1:500

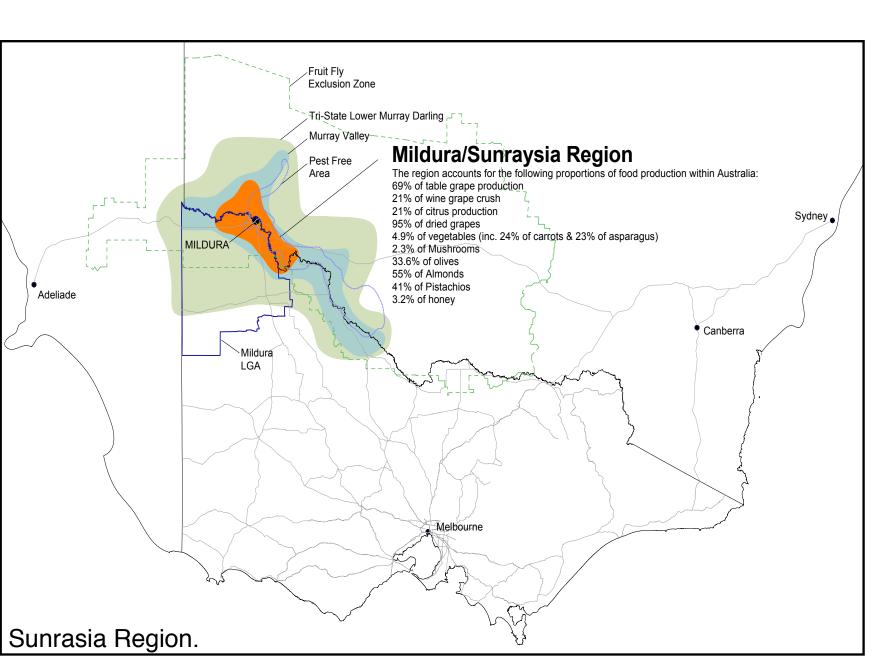


of Australia's most productive agricultural regions, growing a wide range of fruit and other crops, made luscious by the irrigation waters of the Murray. We propose to take these crops into the city.

Mildura's hinterland is one

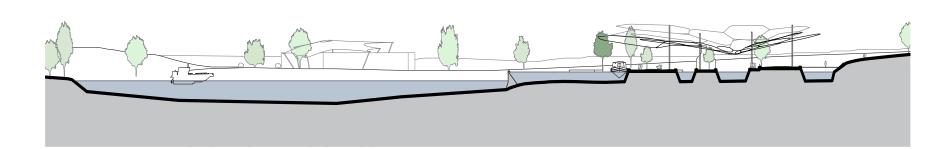
This productive garden forms a green path wending through the downtown. The logic of this episodic park forms a counterpoint to the predominant grid and avenue structure. Street plantings link to vacant lots reclaimed as tranquil fruit laden parks. Carparks are shaded by orchard. Pedestrians happen upon unexpected pockets of cool verdancy.

This green seam incorporates one of the few significant vertical markers in Mildura, a handsome concrete water tower. We propose the tower be corseted in grape vines, and become a lookout vantage for visitors. The adjacent site hosts a farmers market, exhibition and business centre for Sunraysia's delectable produce.

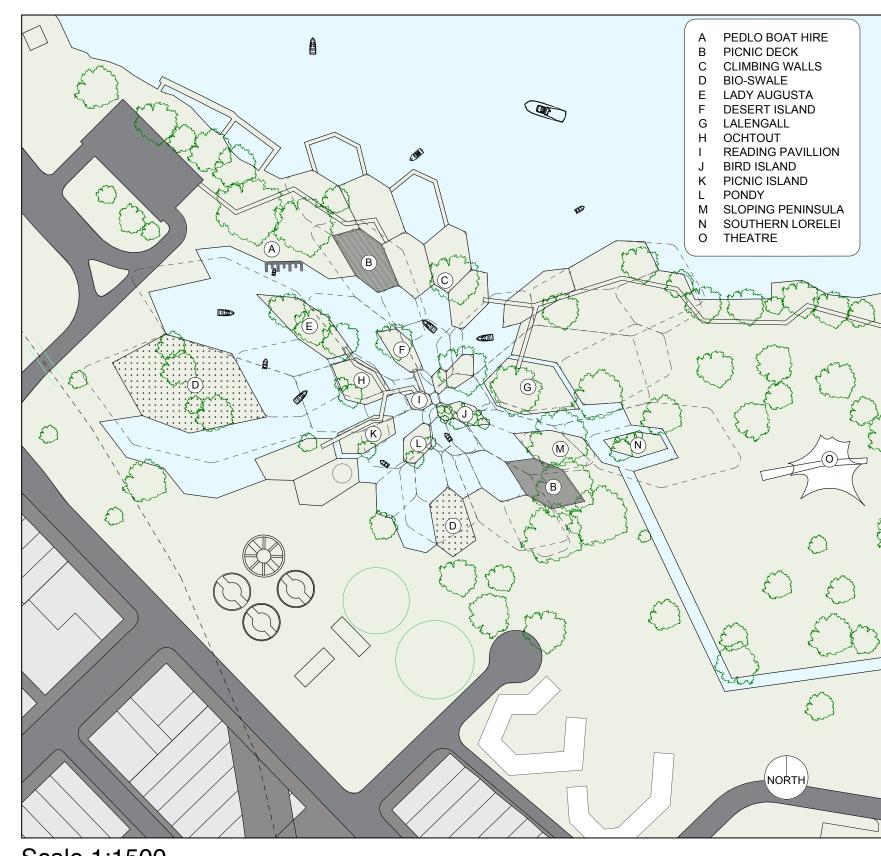




Archipelago gardens



Scale 1:1000



Scale 1:1500



The River Murray is why Mildura exists, and a fundamental component of how the city is understood. The river is emblematic and mythical, its flows and ebbs condition the history and future of life in the region.

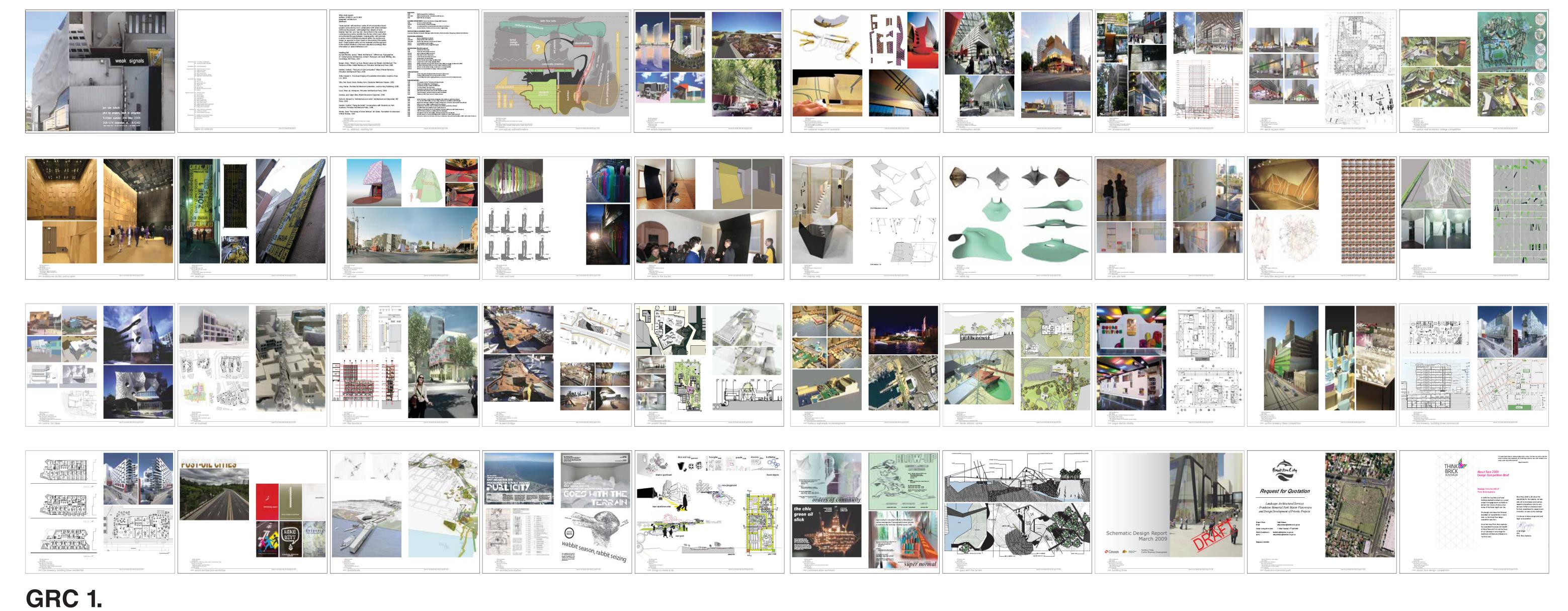
The parkland of the flood plane between the city and river literally lays out the relationship between the civility of city and the river's more primal sustaining presence. Made unbuildable through periodic inundation, the flood-plane is neither constructed urbanity, nor unmediated nature. We propose to work with the scenographic qualities of this place through constructing a water garden that intensifies the mythic qualities of Mildura's complex relationship to the river.

The watergarden comprises of formed Islands, plantings and pavilionate structures, trellises and terraces, surrounded by small scale waterways and wetlands. The Islands draw their name and character from river mythologies: Otchtout the Murray Cod, Ngurunderi the Great Ancestor who chased him, Lady Augusta Island for the first steamship to navigate the river, Muldjewangk the evil river spirit, the Southern Lorelei (a climbing wall) and so on.

Navigable by punt or pedalo, and illuminated of the evening, the gardens form a new focus for recreation, relaxation and promenade. The water gardens serve the practical purpose of conditioning urban run-off before it enters the river. The gardens are closely related to the docks and boating activities on the river proper, and connect to the Dockside Marina under the Sturt Highway.

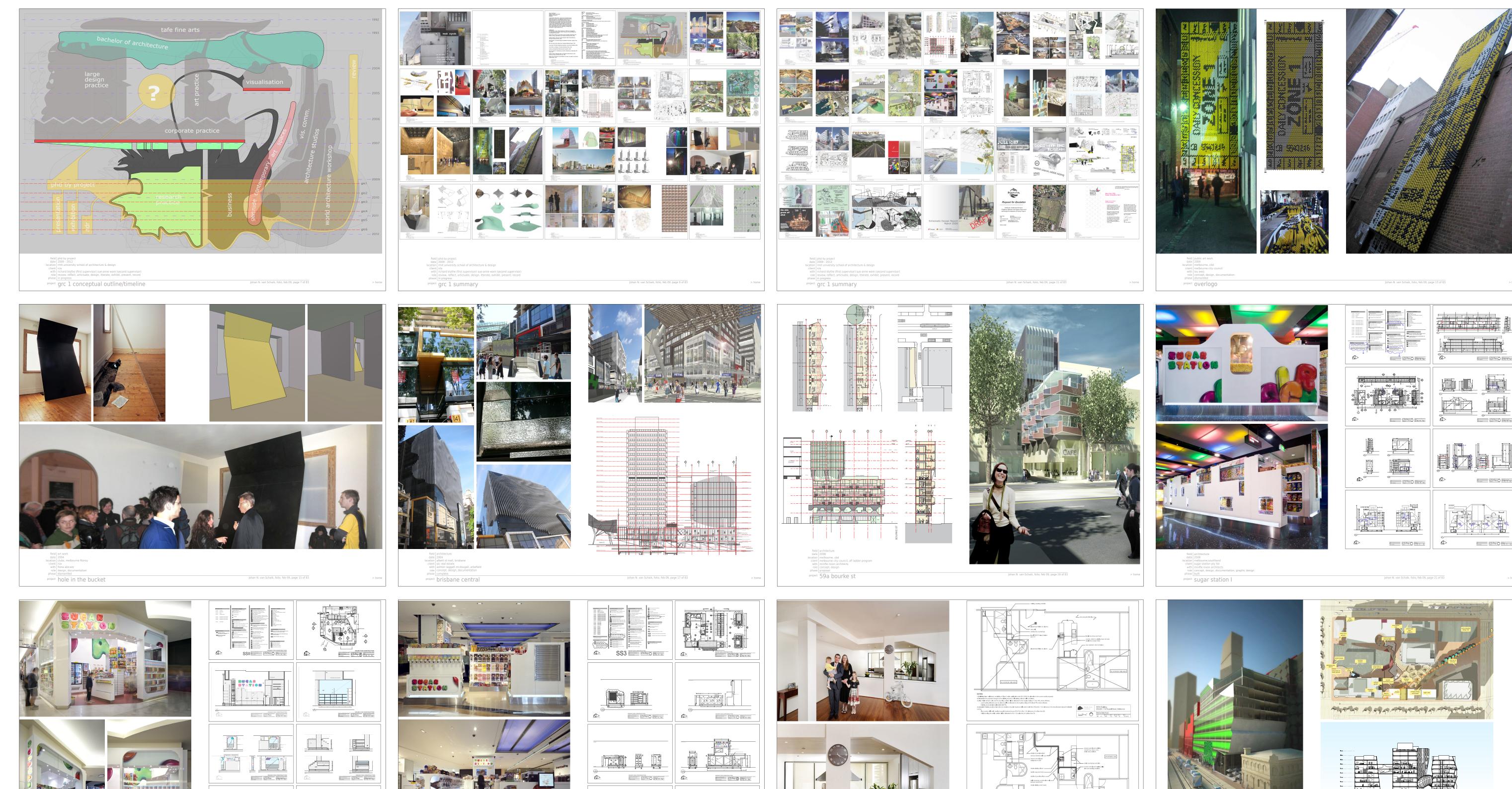


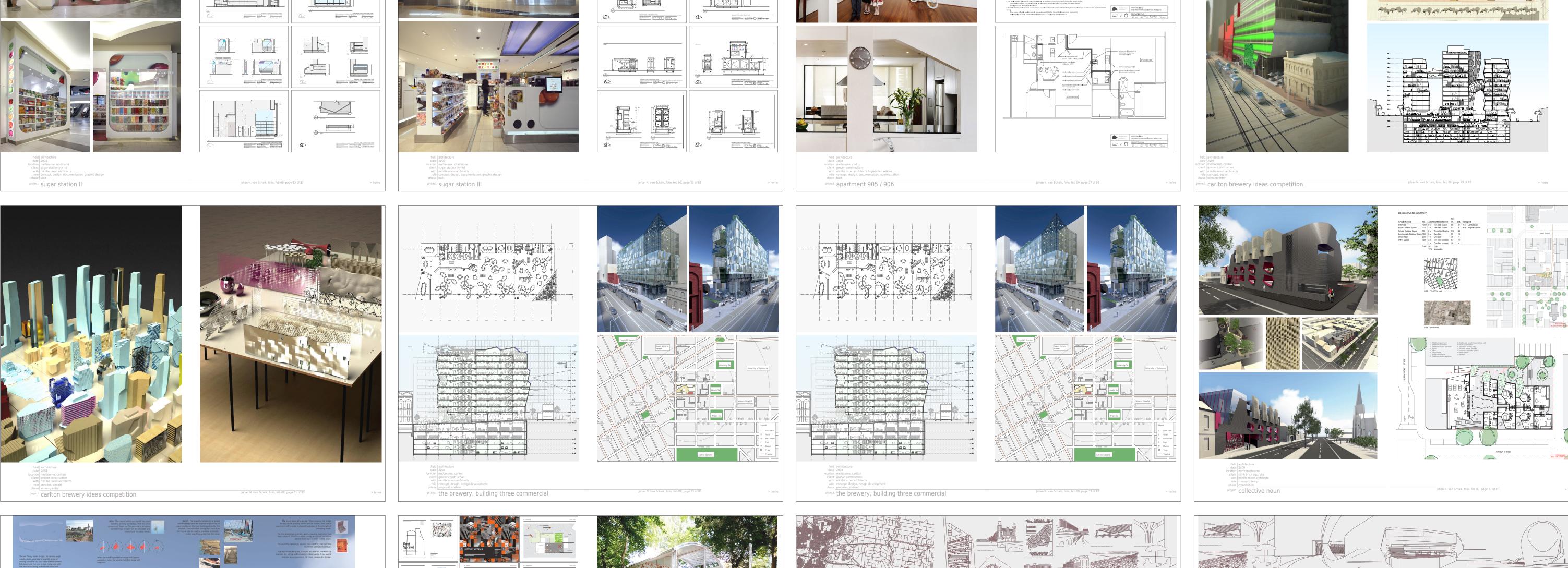
Banks of the Murray River.

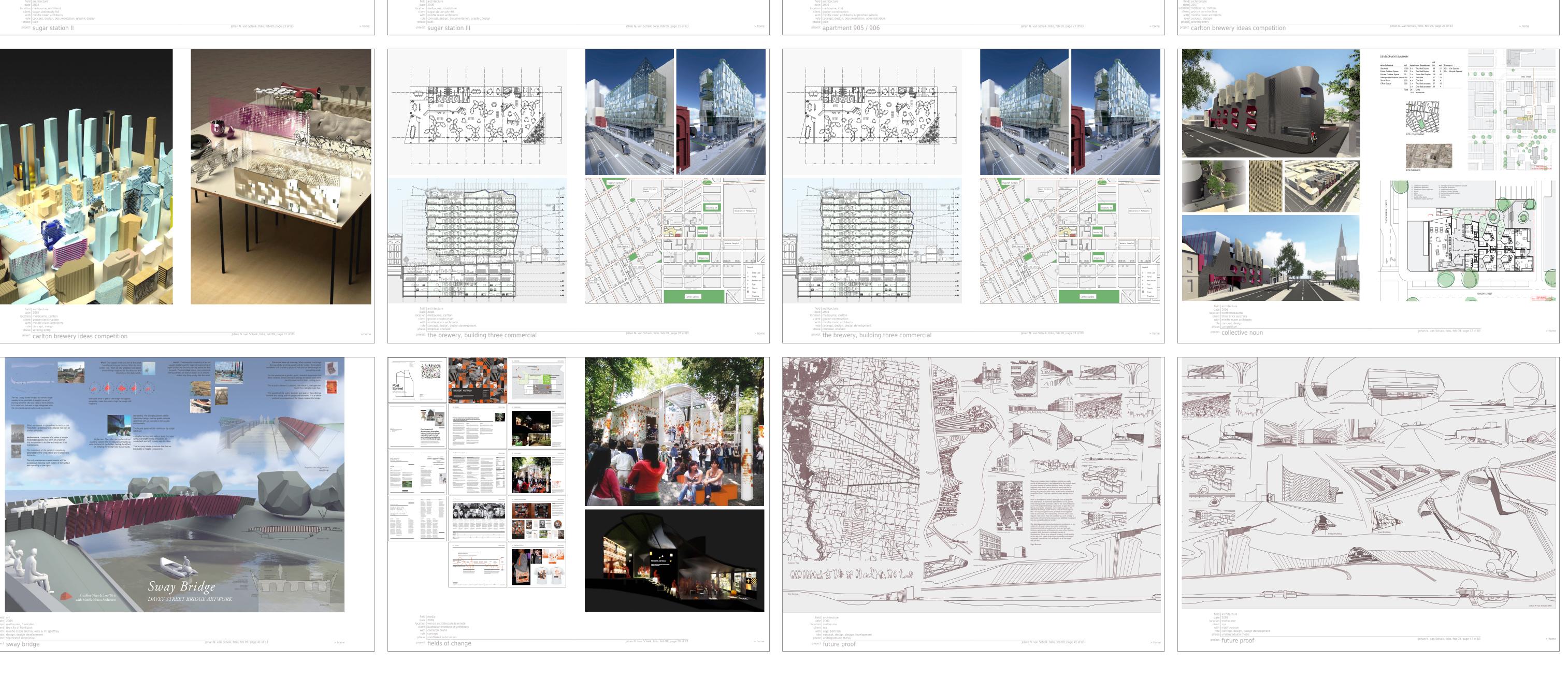


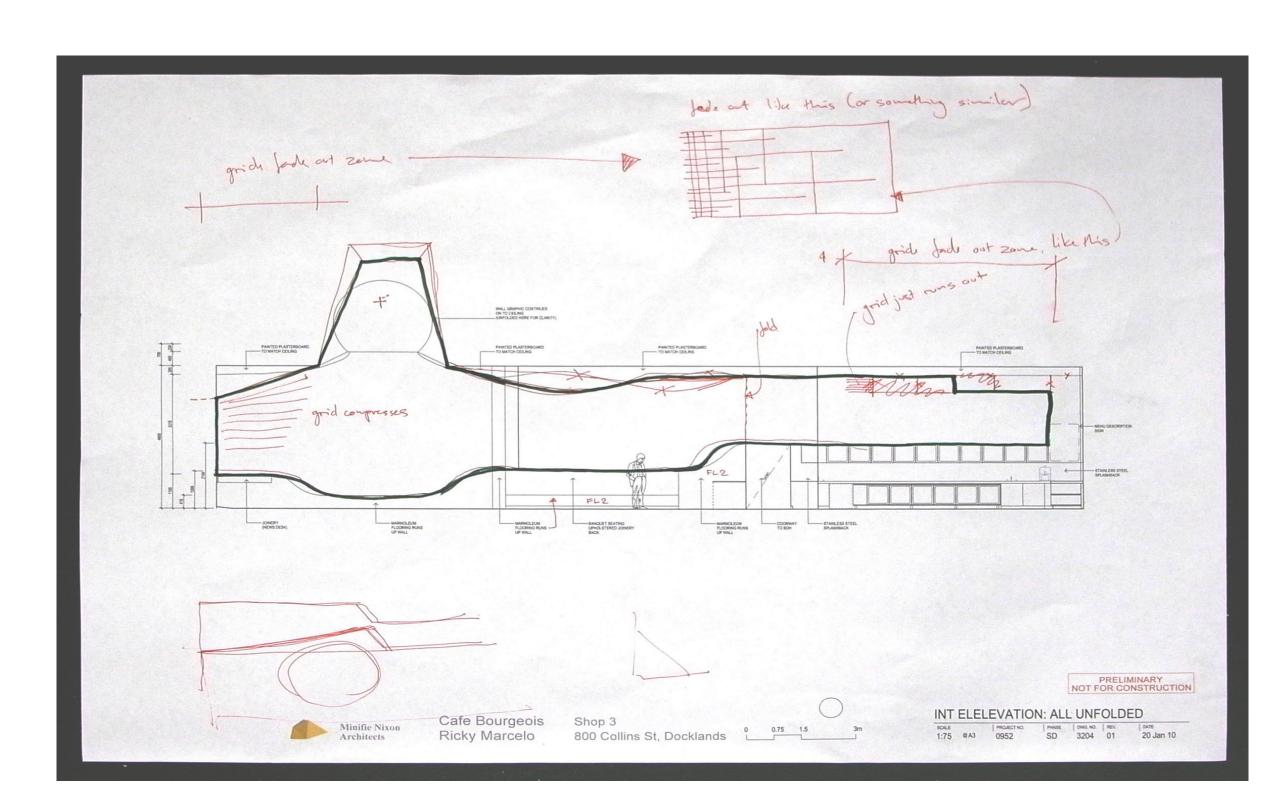
july 2009 - weak signals.

GRC 2. october 2009 - weak signals in an eclectic field somewhere between background noise and a blue sky.

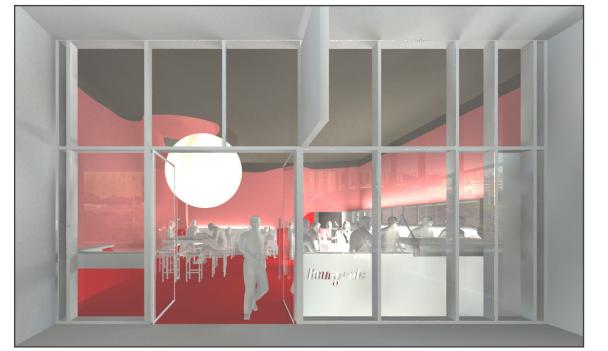
















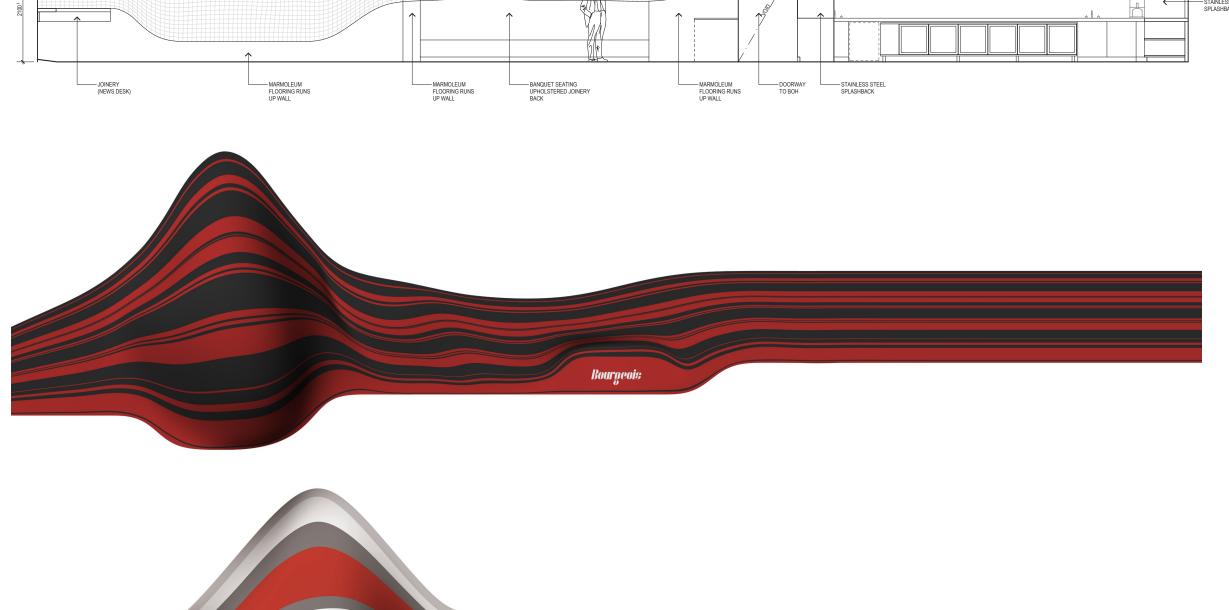














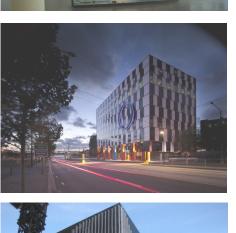


JF5 -

West Elevation

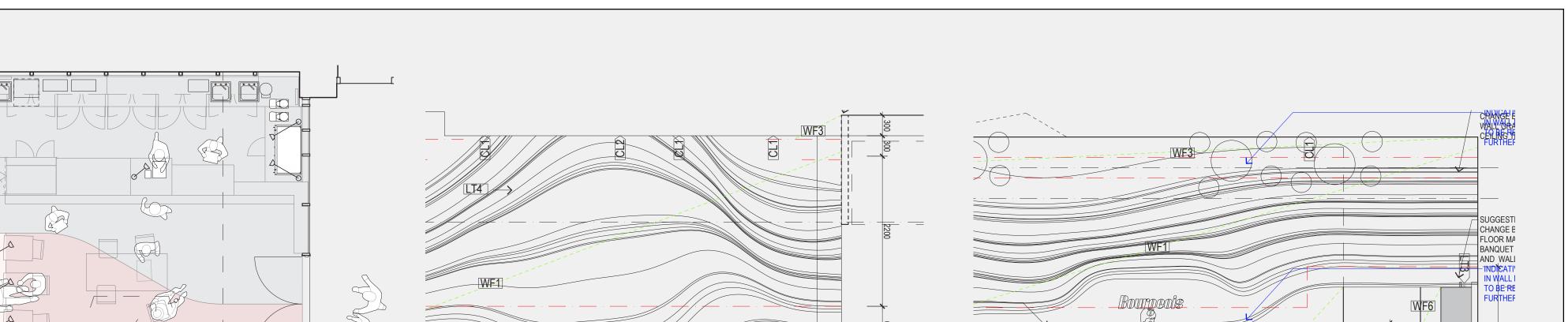
FLOOR FINISH COVED AT EDGES —











FLOOR FINISH COVED AT EDGES —

South Elevation

The cafe identity and architecture are entwined, the spatial gymnastics implied by the wallpaper mirroring the ironic ambitions of the franchise name.

Cafe Bourgeois
An idealised other dimensional space is

Cafe Bourgeois is located in the suddenly

urban docklands area adjacent to the front

door of the new BVN Myers building.

GRC 3.

july 2010 - category errors.

flattened to the wall of the cafe.

This idealised three dimensional space imprints on the cafe walls an other worldly quality - a backdrop for glowing displays and the relentless warmth of the polished joinery end-grain, and the resilient reception of the rich Marmoleum colours underfoot.



Plan

