

# 07

# Design principles

for the built form  
of a Foyer Broome



**always was  
always will be.**

We acknowledge the past, present and emerging elders of the Yawuru people, and all the community members and young people from across the Kimberley who shared their ideas and stories for this project.

# Summary

The 7 principles presented in this document reflect perspectives of Broome service providers, young people, and community members in regards to the physical design of a Broome Foyer. The principles have been developed and refined through:

- Previous research about Aboriginal young peoples' experiences of 'belonging' in Western Australian boarding schools.
- Workshop discussions about suitable architecture with Broome community using 'Building Cards' (the numbers of these cards correspond with the numbered photos used throughout this document).
- Development of preliminary principles with feedback from Design Team.
- Semi-structured drawing and yarning around a large roll of brown paper with service providers and young people in Broome.
- Thematic analysis of paper roll using 'NVIVO' software.
- Site tours of Broome Short Stay Accommodation (BASSA), Dandju Darbalung, and Foyer Oxford.
- Refined design principles presented to Design Team for survey feedback (see end of document).



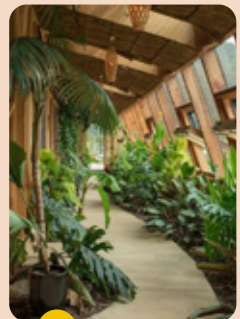
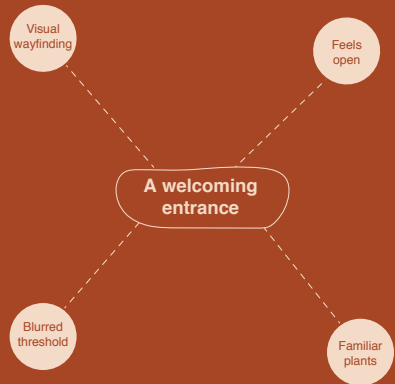
# 01

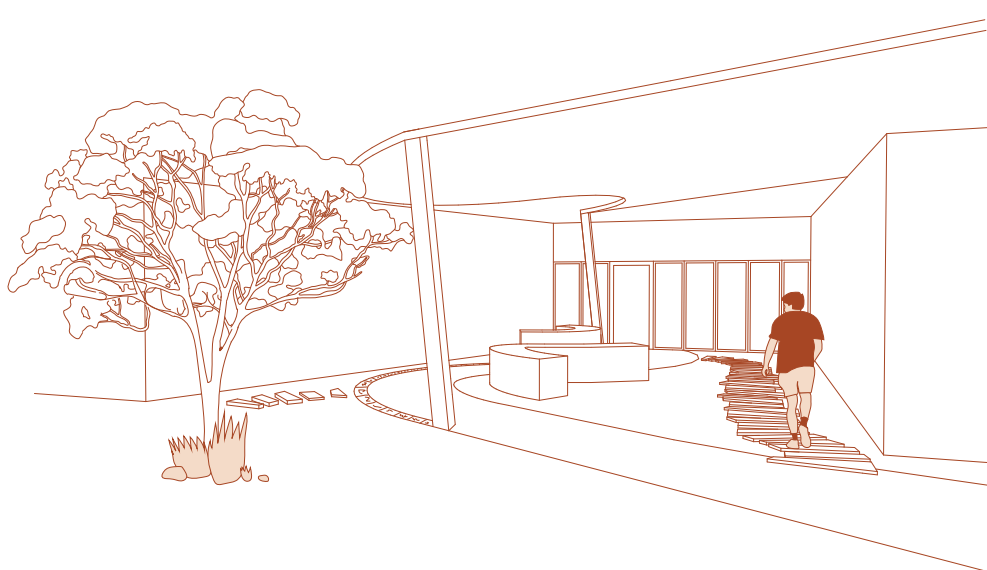
## A welcoming entrance

A welcoming entrance is important for a Foyer Broome to make residents feel comfortable and safe. This includes feeling culturally safety, which could be promoted through a 'welcome to Country' message being symbolically embedded in the building in collaboration with Yawuru Elders.

The entrance should feel open, familiar, and help to map social connections. For example, by seeing names of past residents within a mural, garden, or map. It is important that the entrance not be dominated by car parking.

From the entrance, wayfinding should not rely on English literacy (signage) due to diverse language skills. This means the site must contain clear paths, visual cues, and landmarks to assist with confident navigation.





**“Include native plants from all Kimberley areas to let young people connect with something familiar from home.”**

- Broome service provider

**“Don’t arrive straight into a carpark – not a concrete jungle.”**

- Broome service provider

**“Bring the outdoors in, breezeways, out buildings – Broome style.”**

- Broome service provider

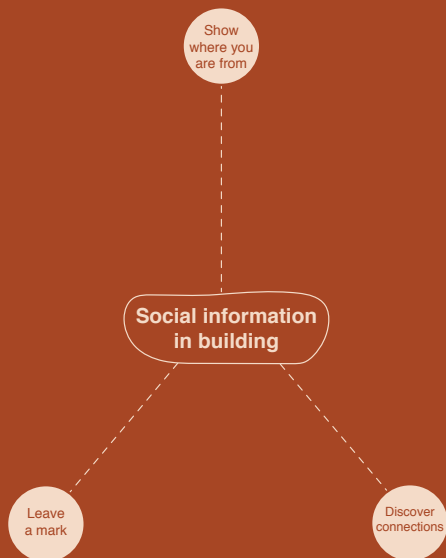
# 02

## Social information in the building

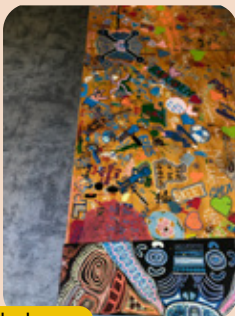
Beyond the initial entrance, a Foyer Broome can help to build a sense of belonging for residents by embedding (ongoing) social information in the architecture.

This could be through recording where residents are from (for example on a map, on door signs, on an evolving mural), or by allowing residents to leave a permanent mark in the built environment (for example by planting a tree, contributing to an artwork, helping to design or build something).

This may mean that some parts of the architecture, interior design and landscaping should be left 'un-finished', creating an opportunity for future residents to contribute to the permanent environment.



Dandjoo Darbalung

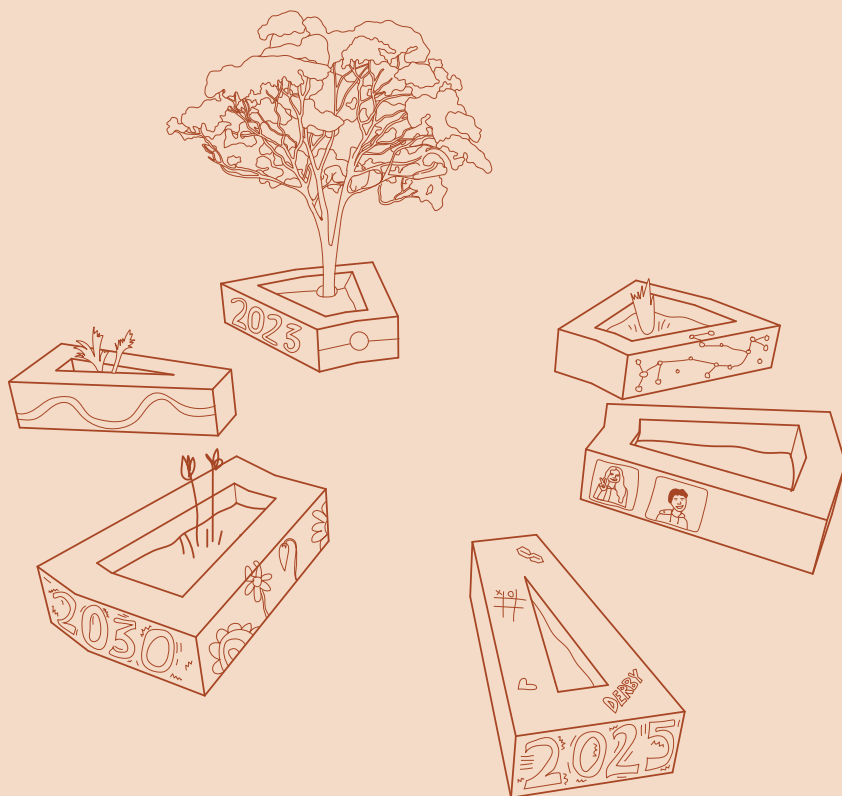


Nyamba Buru Yawuru



Matsumoto Youth Street Art Project (Mudmap Studio)





**“Graffiti wall that tells a story about everybody.”**

- Broome young person

**“Something that represents yourself, culture, and where you’re from. Artwork to say thankyou.”**

- Broome service provider

**“At the end it’s all connected.”**

- Broome young person

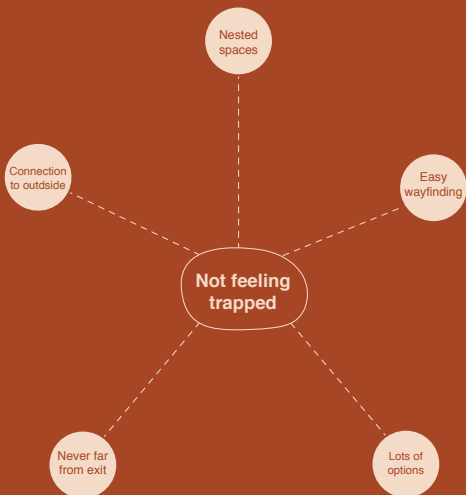
# 03

## Not feeling trapped

The design of a Foyer Broome should help residents and visitors to feel that they have a high level of personal autonomy - including the ability to leave or take a temporary break from a situation.

In the workshops, this idea was connected with easy wayfinding (that doesn't rely on written signage that may exclude residents with low literacy or for whom English is not a first language), the blurring of indoor and outdoor spaces, a feeling of 'open-ness' throughout the site, and the nesting of smaller spaces within a bigger environment.

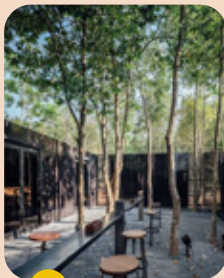
Overall, interior spaces should be 'shallow' in relation to the wider site, allowing residents to feel close to the outdoors, be near multiple exits, and access opportunities for withdrawal or to take a break if needed.



18



23



54



56



**“It’s outside but  
it’s inside.”**

- Broome young person

**“Layered space – not  
just one thing.”**

- Broome service provider

**“Chances to go for a  
little walk, cool off, get  
a water, change your  
mood. If you’re in the  
same area you’re not  
going to change.”**

- Broome community member

**“Doors are just there.  
Being near an exit is  
important, knowing  
you can leave.”**

- Broome community member

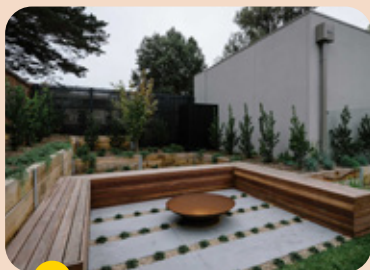
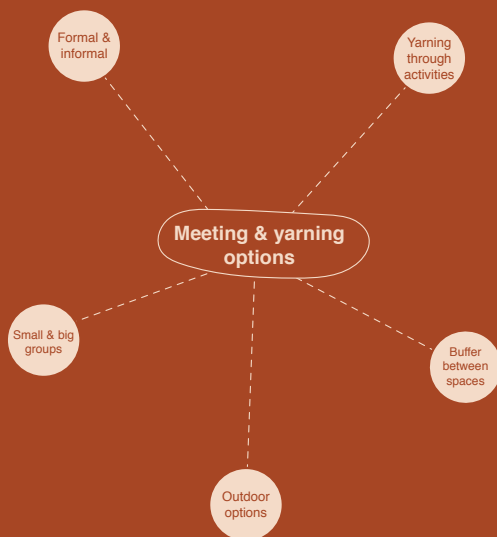
# 04

## Meeting and yarning options

A Foyer Broome should provide multiple meeting spaces of various sizes, levels of formality, and degrees of privacy. Workshop participants highlighted that many 'meetings' could be yarns within informal environments, for example in a garden, while walking, or around a fire pit. There was an identified need for indoor meeting rooms in some circumstances.

Privacy (both visual and auditory\*) should be a strong consideration in the provision of meeting and yarning spaces. This includes consideration of the threshold between these settings and other social areas, as it was identified that residents may need time to be alone before rejoining a bigger group (for example after discussing an emotional subject with a case manager).

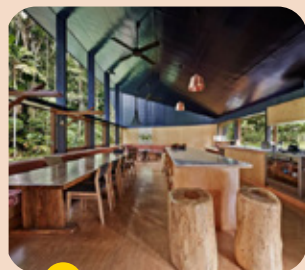
*\*It should be noted that there are social benefits to visual and auditory connection (for example anecdotal descriptions of students communicating through whistles to overcome loneliness) - so this does not apply to the site as a whole.*



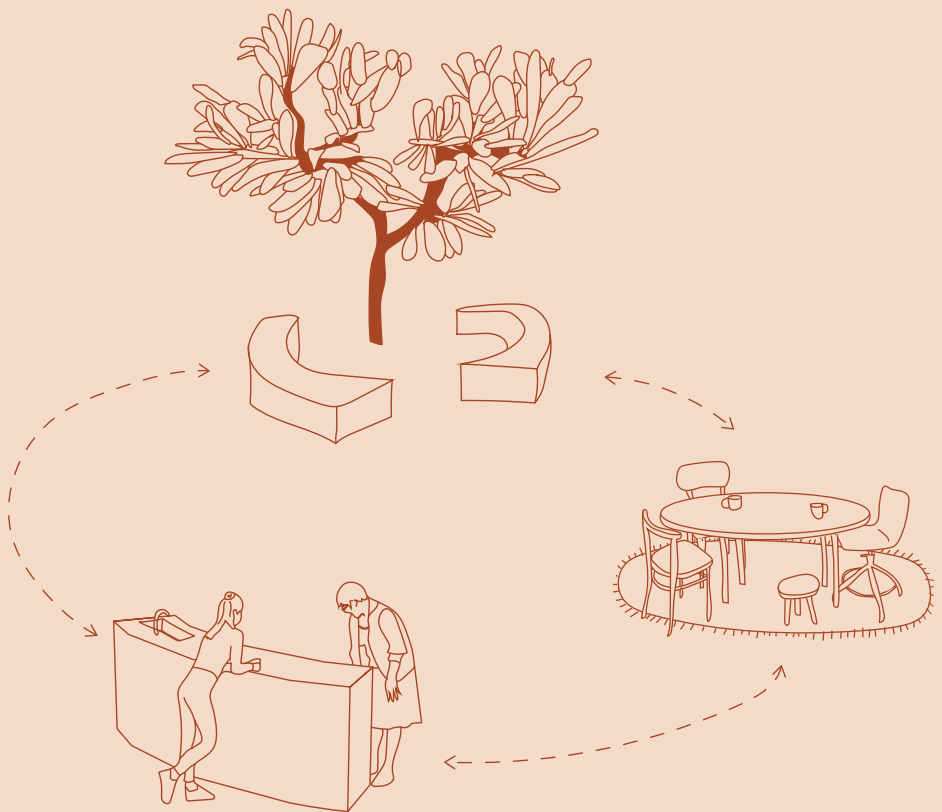
52



67



7



**“Make formal look informal.”**

- Broome service provider

**“Not everyone is used to signing papers.”**

- Broome service provider

**“You can’t talk about culture when you’re inside, it just doesn’t feel right.”**

- Broome young person

**“Somewhere to talk so you don’t have to be in a building all the time.”**

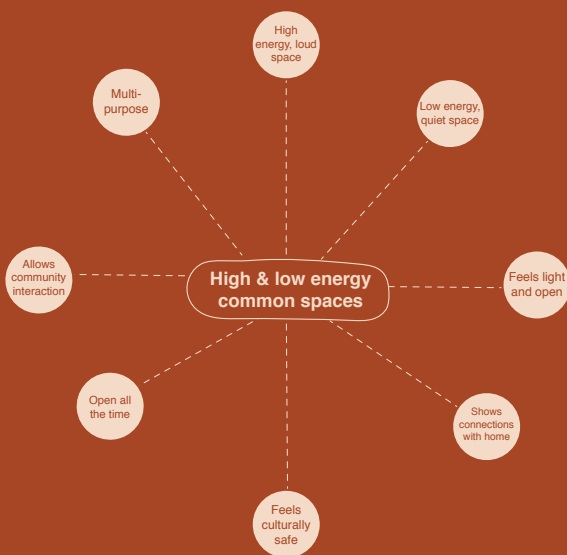
- Broome young person

# 05

## High and low energy common spaces

Common spaces were described as an important feature for a Foyer Broome, that could support many social and practical functions. These can be divided into two main categories: high and low energy.

Participants indicated that high energy social spaces should support outdoor cooking, basketball, fishing preparation, art and creativity, and music (both playing and listening). A low energy space should help residents to feel calm (for example through sensory regulation strategies) and connected with Country. These functions should be adjacent to a calm study space.



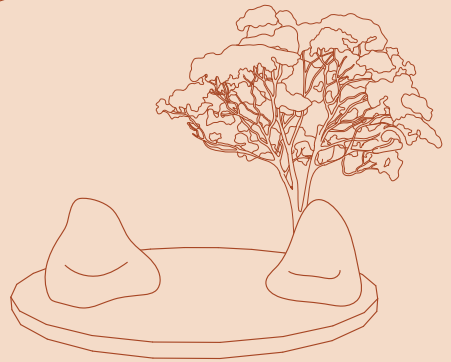
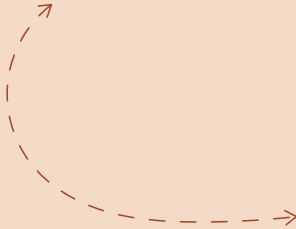
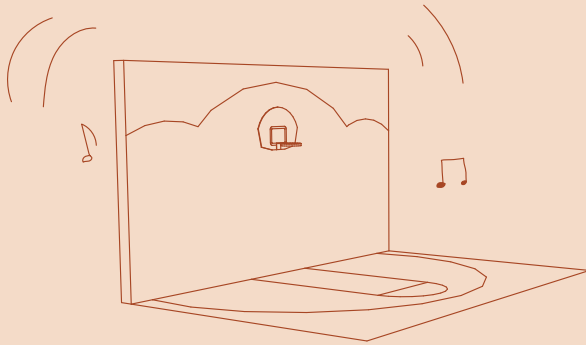
42



72



57



**“Somewhere to be loud and somewhere to be quiet.”**

- Broome service provider

**“Important to use up energy, provide distraction, fun and socialisation.”**

- Broome service provider

**“Creative space to “get thoughts out”.**

- Broome service provider

**“Always need basketball.”**

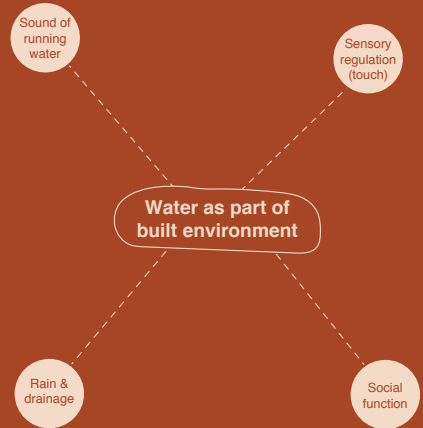
- Broome service provider

# 06

## Water as part of built environment

Water is an important consideration for the design of a Foyer Broome. Discussions in the workshops suggest that water should be considered in terms of practical management of extreme weather (for example the need for significant drainage capacity during heavy rains), sensory properties (for example for cooling off during hot weather, creating a relaxing sound-scape), and for it's social value (feeling a connection to Country, creating a point of interest to gather around).

There may be opportunities for the strategic design of drainage in the built environment to also deliver the described therapeutic and social benefits.



44



36



47



BASSA





**“Cool off, relaxing to look, relaxing sound.”**

- Broome young person

**“Keep young people connected with Country if it looked more natural and less designed.”**

- Broome service provider

**“Water element could help with sensory regulation.”**

- Broome service provider

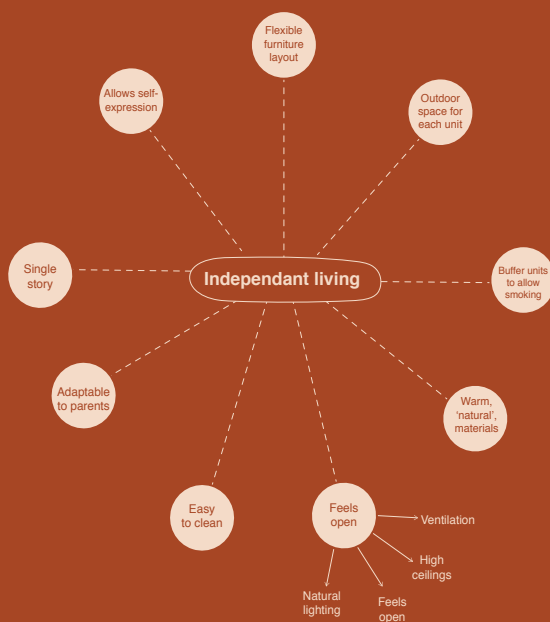
# 07

## Independent living

Living spaces within a Foyer Broome should promote independence and strong personal boundaries. Units should be single story (though possibility for two story if there is no upstairs balcony) with high ceilings, natural lighting, views to nature and good ventilation. These spaces should feel light, open and 'warm' (in a symbolic sense).

Residents should have access to private outdoor space that allows casual social interaction with neighbours when desired. This outdoor space should be strategically designed so as to provide a buffer between units to accommodate (though not promote) likely smoking habits.

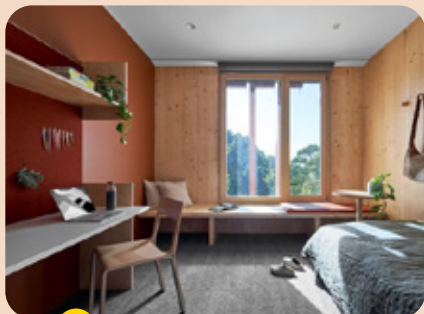
While most participants expressed a strong preference for independent living, some young people may struggle with social isolation. This should be accommodated through flexible sleeping/sharing options.



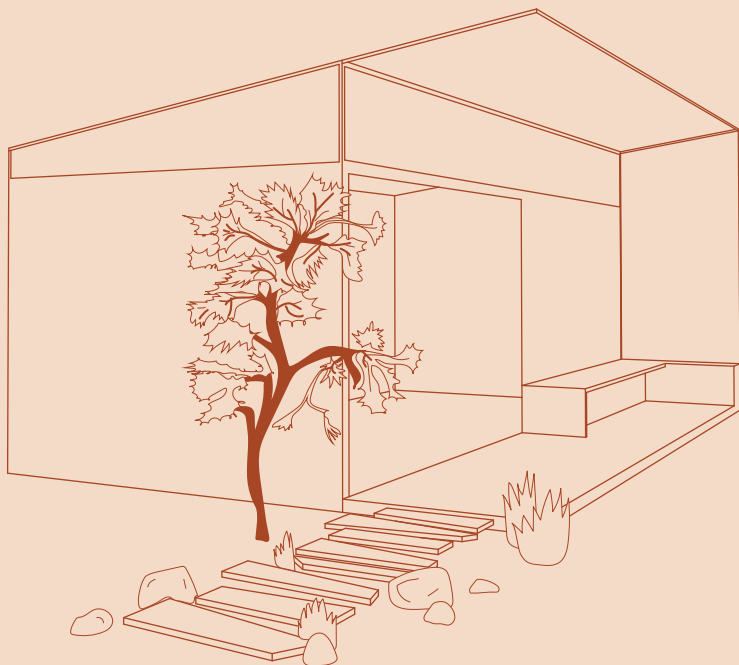
40



6



53



**“Having a separate space/park for families to visit, so they don’t end up staying with the young person.”**

- Broome service provider

**“A space that other people can’t mess up.”**

- Broome young person

**“Nature visible through window.”**

- Broome service provider

**“Warm colours, timber, light. Simple design.”**

- Broome young person

**“Going through lots of phases, be able to change/decorate room.”**

- Broome young person

# Risks in the built form

There is a need to ensure strong personal boundaries be maintained for residents who navigate complex social obligations, and to provide security to the site. There is a risk that these measure could create an institutional feeling in the building.

Multi-level buildings may be a (psychological) challenge for some young people. Economies of scale may require the development to pursue a high density solution - this could be at the expense of resident comfort and accessibility.

Some key themes for creating a positive environment (e.g. including water, gardens, creative projects etc.) will require ongoing active management to be effective. For example, embedding water within the built environment could be a safety issue for young children. It is therefore important that these amenities be designed in such a way that supervision and access can be passively managed.

## Ownership

A Broome Foyer will need strong local ownership to be successful - including in the built form. It is important that this ownership not be superficially applied in the late stages of construction (e.g., through decoration, artwork, landscaping), but meaningfully embedded in the design and construction of the building itself at all stages.

It is recommended that next steps should involve working with traditional owners and young people to create a name for the building, creating a "Welcome to Country" message to be communicated through the built environment, documenting stories and history of the selected site for interpretation in the building, and deciding on an overall concept to drive the design and experience of the environment.

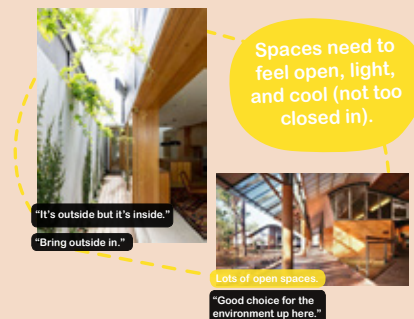
### 1. Preliminary themes

## Appendix.

### 1 Provide high energy social spaces



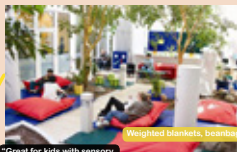
### 5 Interior spaces should feel open and light, not too 'closed in'.



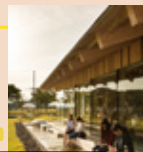
# Summary of building card activity

*Themes for the built form of a Broome Foyer from building card conversations at the 16-17th of February workshops.*

## 2 Support sensory regulation through the environment.



Weighted blankets, beanbag

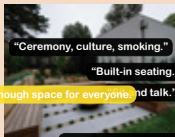


"Keep young people connected with Country if it looked more natural and less designed."

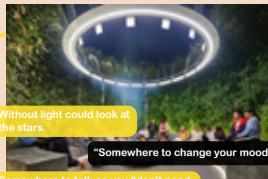
"Connection to nature."  
"Contemplative spaces."

Spaces to help relax and calm down were valued highly.

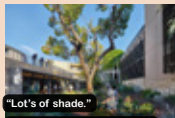
## 4 Outdoor spaces are an important part of the accommodation schedule for cultural, social, and private use.



"Sitting around a fire."

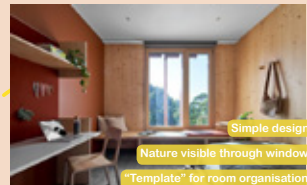


Somewhere to talk so you "don't need to be in a building all the time".



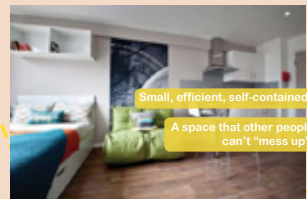
Outdoor space should be multipurpose and varied, allow for private and social experiences.

## 3 Living space should support strong personal boundaries



"Very calm, happy place you could be yourself."

Warm colours, timber, light.



A simple, efficient and easy to maintain private living space that feels light, open, and warm.

# Evaluation

What are the lessons for achieving this principle from the physical design of Foyer Oxford?

How will achieving this principle be different in a Broome context?

Strengths	Opportunities
Weaknesses	Risks

In your opinion, how important is this principle overall?

○ ————— ○ ————— ○

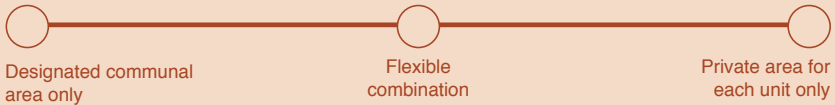
Not necessary                      Nice to have                      Essential to success

Comments:

## Design choices

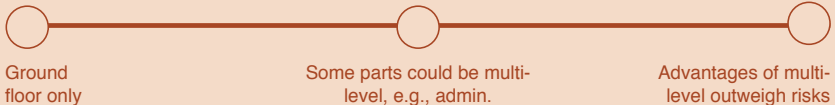
From the workshops and your own experience, how do you believe the design of the built environment should respond to the following findings:

**It is important for some residents to have a space for smoking:**



Comments:

**There may be psychological and safety risks associated with a multi-level building:**



Comments:

**Some young people seek high levels of independence, others struggle with isolation:**



Comments:

Is there anything important missing from the design principles overall?

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> WELCOMING ENTRANCE         | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL INFORMATION IN BUILDING | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT FEELING TRAPPED | <input type="checkbox"/> MEETING AND YARNING OPTIONS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HIGH AND LOW ENERGY SPACES | <input type="checkbox"/> WATER IN BUILT ENVIRONMENT     | <input type="checkbox"/> INDEPENDANT LIVING  | <input type="checkbox"/> _____                       |

