

A PATTERN LANGUAGE

A Pattern Language by Christopher Alexander was never intended as a finished system, but as “a” language capable of growing through time. The following patterns continue, reinterpret and expand this language through contemporary conditions of landscape, infrastructure, ecology and coexistence.

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254 SHAPED GROUND



... in large infrastructural interventions within the city, enormous quantities of earth are displaced through excavation and construction. This material is often treated as waste to be removed from the site as efficiently as possible. In such situations, it becomes necessary to understand excavated ground as part of the construction of the city itself, capable of forming new landscapes, ecological conditions, and public territories.



Excavated ground is often removed as waste, even though it has the capacity to generate new landscapes and spatial conditions within the city.

Large infrastructures, stations, tunnels, foundations and transportation systems produce vast amounts of displaced earth. In many contemporary projects, this material is transported away immediately in order to clear the site and maintain technical efficiency. The excavation becomes a hidden byproduct of construction rather than part of the spatial transformation itself.

Yet ground is one of the primary materials from which landscapes are formed. Hills, slopes, planted edges, sound barriers, elevated viewpoints, protected gardens, ecological corridors and new public territories may all emerge through the careful shaping of excavated soil. What is removed from one place may become the beginning of another.

In older settlements and infrastructures, displaced earth often remained close to the site, gradually forming terraces, embankments, walls, gardens and altered topographies over time. The city developed together with the transformation of its ground rather than separating construction from landscape completely.

When excavation material is treated only as technical waste, this possibility disappears. Large quantities of usable material leave the site while new landscapes are constructed elsewhere through additional extraction and consumption.

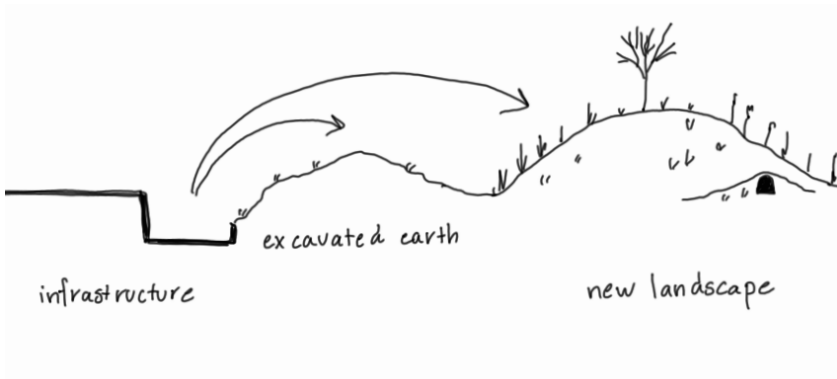
What is needed is a way of shaping excavated ground directly into the spatial and ecological development of the city itself.

Excavated earth should remain connected to the site whenever possible and be used to create new terrains, planted landscapes, protected habitats, gathering places, slopes, sound barriers, elevated paths and ecological transitions within the surrounding territory.

These new landscapes should not appear as isolated decorative additions, but as meaningful continuations of the infrastructural transformation itself.

Vegetation, water retention, animal habitats, public occupation and movement may all emerge through the shaping of the new ground conditions.

Over time, these formed terrains can soften the impact of infrastructure while simultaneously creating new ecological and public spaces within the city. In this way, excavation ceases to function as waste and becomes part of the continuous making of urban landscape.



Treat excavated ground as a material capable of shaping new landscapes within the city. Use displaced earth to form planted terrains, ecological habitats, protected spaces, and public territories, so that the transformation of the ground becomes part of the construction of the city itself rather than a hidden byproduct of infrastructure.

255 CITY ENTRANCE



... in all places where movement between territories occurs, the entrance to a city marks the first moment in which one becomes aware of arrival. Yet in many contemporary cities these transitions have lost their form. Highways, infrastructures, parking areas, and fragmented circulation systems create entrances which are difficult to read and impossible to inhabit. In such situations, it becomes necessary to shape the entrance to the city as a clear and memorable transition between one place and another.



Many contemporary city entrances are shaped only by infrastructure and movement, and fail to create any clear sense of arrival.

In older cities, the entrance often had recognizable form. Gates, bridges, changes in topography, walls, markets, trees or public buildings announced the transition from one territory into another. The city gradually revealed itself, allowing the visitor to understand where they were arriving and how the city related to the surrounding landscape.

Today, many entrances are dominated by highways, rail infrastructure, parking surfaces, tunnels and fragmented circulation systems. Movement becomes abstract, while the transition itself disappears. One may enter a city without ever clearly perceiving the moment of arrival.

Yet the entrance to a city carries strong psychological importance. It forms the first spatial impression of the place and helps orient movement, expectation and identity. When the transition is unclear, movement becomes stressful and disorienting. People search for direction without understanding the larger structure of the city they are entering.

An entrance must emerge from movement itself; from the sequence of paths, changes in density, views, thresholds and public activity which gradually announce the city ahead.

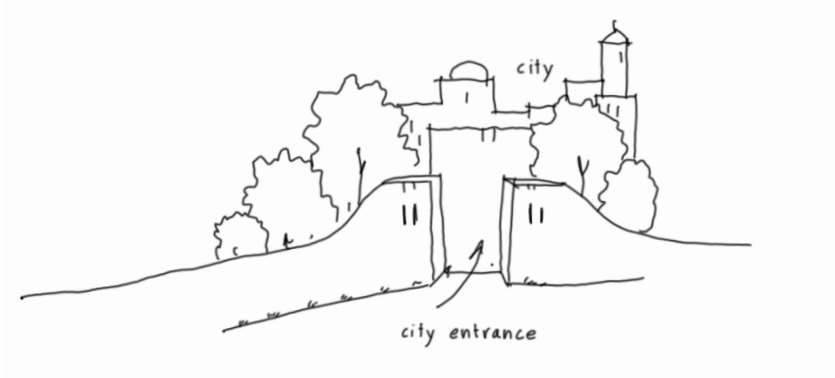
What is needed is a recognizable spatial transition which allows the city to reveal itself gradually and clearly through movement and approach.

The entrance should give early clues about the structure and identity of the city ahead. Important paths, landmarks, vegetation, public spaces and gathering points should become visible before arrival itself.

Changes in scale, enclosure, density, sound, light and material may all help distinguish the transition between outside and inside. Bridges, gateways, planted edges, stations, public buildings or infrastructural thresholds may reinforce this

moment when they are shaped as spaces rather than purely technical systems.

The city entrance should also remain inhabitable. Places to pause, gather, wait, meet, or observe should exist within the transition itself, allowing arrival to become an experience rather than simply a passage through infrastructure.



Shape the entrance to the city as a clear and gradual transition between territories. Allow movement, paths, landmarks, public activity and changes in spatial character to announce the city before arrival itself, so that entering the city becomes a recognizable and memorable experience rather than an abstract infrastructural passage.

256 ANIMAL PASSAGE



... in landscapes divided by highways, railroads, train tracks, and large infrastructural systems, movement is usually organized only around human circulation. These infrastructures cut through existing habitats and interrupt the continuous paths through which many species move, separating animals from food, water, shelter, nesting grounds and seasonal territories. In such situations, it becomes necessary to create passages where animal movement can continue safely across fragmented landscapes.



Most contemporary infrastructures divide habitats into isolated territories and interrupt the natural movement of animals across the landscape.

Railways, highways, retaining walls, fenced edges and dense urban development create barriers which many species cannot safely cross. Paths that once connected vegetation, water, shelter and feeding grounds become fragmented, forcing animals into dangerous crossings or isolating them entirely from parts of their habitat.

Yet movement across territory is essential to the life of many species. Animals search for food, shelter, water, nesting areas, shade and seasonal refuge through repeated and often invisible routes across the landscape. These movements rarely follow the exposed and direct logic of human circulation. Instead, they depend on continuity, cover, protection and gradual transition.

As infrastructures expand, these ecological routes disappear beneath roads, train tracks and hard urban edges. Territories which once functioned as continuous environments become fragmented into disconnected islands. Many species are no longer able to safely reach the resources and habitats they depend on.

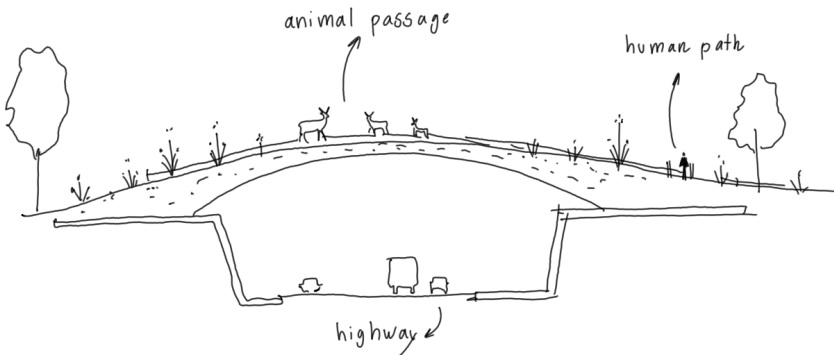
What is needed is a continuous and protected passage integrated directly into infrastructure, allowing animal movement to remain connected across fragmented territories.

Bridges, crossings, planted corridors, sheltered edges, layered vegetation and protected ground conditions should extend continuously across infrastructural barriers so that animals may move gradually and safely through the landscape. These passages should provide cover, reduced disturbance, and ecological continuity rather than exposed crossings.

Human circulation and animal movement may coexist within the same structure when different degrees of openness, vegetation, visibility, and

protection are created together. Paths for people may remain more direct and visible, while adjacent planted zones, sheltered edges and quieter conditions support non-human movement nearby.

The passage should function as part of a larger inhabitable system connected to vegetation, water, shelter and surrounding habitats. In this way, infrastructure begins to reconnect the landscape it passes through.



Shape bridges, crossings and infrastructural edges so that they allow continuous and protected animal movement across fragmented territories. Connect these passages directly to vegetation, shelter, water, and surrounding habitats, so that infrastructure becomes a shared system of movement rather than a barrier between species.

257 INABITED TYMPANON



... in many buildings the tympanon and upper facade are treated only as empty surfaces, decorative remnants or purely symbolic architectural forms detached from everyday life. Yet throughout history these surfaces carried stories, identities, rituals and collective meaning visible from great distances across the city. In such situations, it becomes necessary to reactivate the tympanon as a place where ecological life, ornament, inhabitation and collective identity may become visible within architecture itself.



Many contemporary facades have lost their ability to communicate the life, identity and ecological conditions surrounding the building.

Historically, tympanons, pediments and upper facades often served as places of collective expression. Myths, beliefs, rituals, symbols, labor, nature and forms of shared life were carved, painted or constructed into the architecture itself. These surfaces helped buildings communicate their relationship to the people and territories around them.

Today, many buildings reduce these spaces to empty abstraction. Smooth surfaces and simplified facades remove opportunities for ornament, storytelling and inhabitation, leaving architecture visually detached from collective and ecological life.

Yet the tympanon occupies a unique position within the building. Elevated above entrances and visible from afar, it naturally gathers attention and acts as a symbolic threshold between the building and the larger landscape. Because of its height, enclosure and exposure, it may also support environmental and ecological functions beyond representation alone.

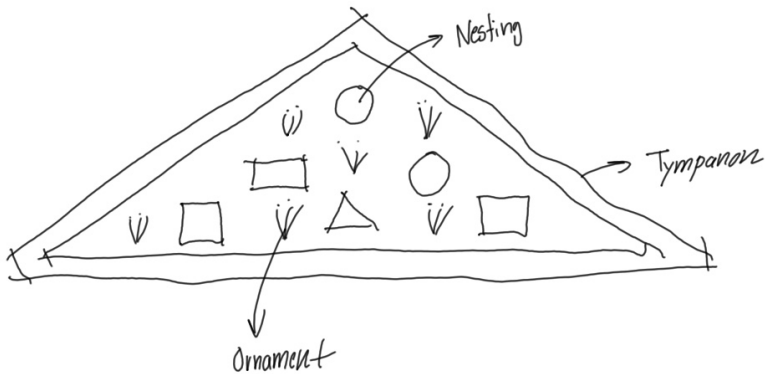
Ornament, cavities, nesting spaces, perforations, shading devices, ventilation openings and symbolic forms may all become integrated into the tympanon itself. In this way, the facade begins to communicate not only cultural meaning, but also ecological coexistence and inhabitation.

What is needed is a tympanon which functions simultaneously as ornament, environmental device, ecological habitat and collective marker within the building.

Patterns, reliefs, carved elements, suspended objects, nesting cavities, openings and layered materials may reflect local species, weather, vegetation, stories and forms of collective life connected to the site. These elements should emerge directly from the architectural structure rather than being applied superficially afterward.

At the same time, the tympanon should remain legible from a distance. Its role is not only decorative, but communicative: helping the building express identity, memory and ecological awareness within the larger territory around it.

In this way, the upper facade becomes more than a neutral enclosure. It becomes a living surface capable of sheltering, communicating and representing the forms of life connected to the building itself.



Create soft and carefully directed lighting which allows orientation and occupation without eliminating darkness from the landscape. Keep illumination low, warm and localized, preserve darker ecological zones, and allow nocturnal conditions to remain part of shared environments rather than treating continuous brightness as the only form of safety and visibility.

258 SOFT LIGHT



... in bridges, gardens, pathways, infrastructures and shared outdoor spaces, artificial light is often designed only around human visibility and continuous illumination. Strong upward lighting, exposed fixtures and excessive brightness disturb nocturnal conditions and disorient many forms of life, especially birds and insects. In such situations, it becomes necessary to create lighting conditions which allow movement and orientation while preserving darkness, rhythm and ecological balance.



Most contemporary outdoor lighting destroys the gradual darkness and protected night conditions that many species depend on for movement and orientation.

Artificial light now extends across cities, infrastructures and landscapes with increasing intensity. Roads, bridges, stations, facades and public spaces remain illuminated throughout the night, often without interruption or variation. As a result, darkness itself gradually disappears from many inhabited environments.

Yet many species depend on nocturnal conditions for survival. Birds navigate through darkness and changing light rhythms; insects are drawn toward exposed artificial light; nocturnal animals rely on shadow, contrast and protected dark zones for movement and shelter. Continuous illumination disrupts migration, feeding, reproduction and orientation across many ecological systems.

At the same time, people also benefit from softer and more varied light conditions. Excessive brightness produces fatigue, exposure and visual uniformity, while carefully placed low light can create calmness, atmosphere and spatial clarity without overwhelming the environment.

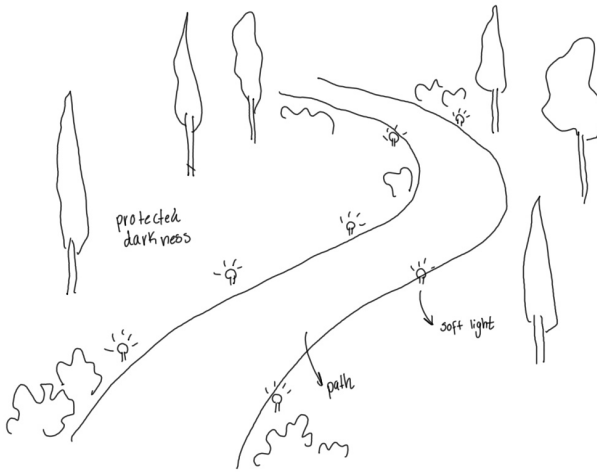
In older settlements, darkness remained part of everyday life. Light emerged locally from windows, lanterns, entrances and gathering spaces, while large parts of the landscape remained dim, gradual and seasonally variable. What is needed is a form of lighting which supports orientation and shared use without destroying the darkness required by surrounding ecological life.

Light should remain low, warm and carefully directed downward toward paths, thresholds and occupied areas rather than spreading broadly across the landscape or into the sky. Some zones should remain intentionally darker, allowing protected nocturnal conditions to continue alongside illuminated movement.

Lighting may become softer near vegetation, water, nesting areas and ecological corridors, while brighter conditions remain limited to moments

requiring visibility and collective use. In this way, darkness and light can coexist gradually rather than replacing one another completely.

The night landscape should not become uniformly illuminated. Variation, shadow and protected darkness are essential parts of a living environment shared by many species.



Create soft and carefully directed lighting which allows orientation and occupation without eliminating darkness from the landscape. Keep illumination low, warm and localized, preserve darker ecological zones, and allow nocturnal conditions to remain part of shared environments rather than treating continuous brightness as the only form of safety and visibility.

259 POINTS OF OBSERVATION



... in bridges or crossings which pass through existing landscapes, movement is often designed as uninterrupted flow. People cross infrastructure quickly and remain detached from the territories, vegetation, and forms of life surrounding them. In such situations, it becomes necessary to create singular moments along the path where movement briefly slows and attention turns outward toward the environment itself..



Continuous movement without moments of observation separates people from the landscapes and ecological systems through which they pass.

Bridges, pathways, and infrastructural crossings are often designed only for direct circulation. The surrounding territory becomes background scenery observed only in passing, while the movement itself remains disconnected from the landscape below and around it.

Yet certain points within a landscape naturally invite attention. Dense vegetation, changes in topography, animal movement, filtered light, water and sound create places where the surrounding environment becomes especially present. At these moments, even a brief pause can transform movement into awareness.

In many contemporary infrastructures, however, these conditions remain inaccessible. Railings, noise barriers, speed and uninterrupted circulation prevent people from engaging directly with the territory through which they move. The crossing becomes an abstract transition disconnected from the habitats and ecological systems nearby.

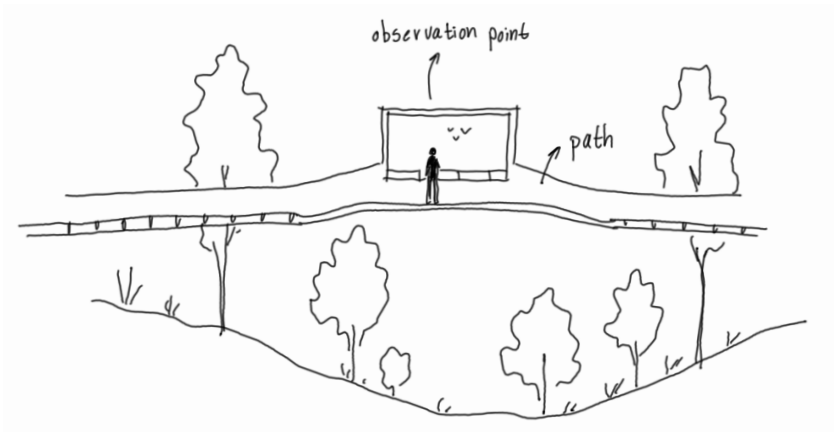
At the same time, observation should not interrupt the overall continuity of movement. A passage must still remain a passage. The moment of pause gains importance precisely because it appears only once or only occasionally within the larger sequence of movement.

What is needed is a singular and protected place along the crossing where people may briefly stop and observe the surrounding landscape, habitats and movement of other species before continuing onward.

At certain moments, the path may widen slightly or create protected openings toward surrounding vegetation, trees, water, infrastructure or animal habitats. Small framed views, sheltered edges, seating, leaning surfaces or carefully positioned openings can help focus attention toward the surrounding territory.

These observation points should emerge where ecological conditions are already present rather than being placed arbitrarily. Existing trees, vegetation, animal movement, changes in light or views across the landscape should guide their position within the crossing itself.

The observation point should remain integrated within the movement sequence rather than becoming a separate destination. It exists as a brief interruption within passage, a moment where infrastructure reconnects people to the environment it crosses.



Create singular points along bridges, crossings and pathways where movement briefly slows and attention turns outward toward the surrounding landscape and habitats. Position these places where ecological conditions are already present, so that observation becomes part of the experience of crossing rather than separate from it.

260 COLLECTIVE BILBOARD



... in public spaces where many people move collectively through the city, visual communication is increasingly dominated by commercial advertisement. Large signs, screens and billboards occupy highly visible positions, while very few public surfaces remain available for collective messages, local identity, orientation or shared information. In such situations, it becomes necessary to create visible structures where communities themselves may communicate within the city.



Most large-scale visual communication in contemporary cities serves commercial interests rather than collective or public life.

Billboards, illuminated signs, digital screens and commercial advertisements occupy many of the most visible positions within the urban landscape. Their scale, height, lighting and placement allow them to shape how people visually experience streets, infrastructures and neighborhoods. Yet despite this visibility, very few spaces exist where local communities, public initiatives, cultural events, ecological information or collective identities may become equally present within the city.

As a result, communication in public space becomes increasingly one-directional. The city speaks primarily through commerce, while the everyday life of neighborhoods and communities remains visually absent or fragmented into smaller and less accessible forms.

Yet cities have always relied on shared forms of public communication. Names, symbols, painted signs, gathering announcements, civic messages, local identities and communal markers helped people orient themselves socially as well as physically within the urban environment. Such signs not only communicated information, but also reinforced the sense that the city belonged collectively to its inhabitants.

When all highly visible communication becomes commercial, this collective dimension disappears. Public visibility itself becomes privatized. What is needed is a visible and collectively accessible structure where non-commercial messages, identities, events and forms of public communication may appear within the shared landscape of the city.

These billboards may stand at entrances, crossings, stations, bridges, public buildings or activity nodes where large numbers of people pass through collectively. Their position should emerge naturally from visibility, movement,

and shared public life rather than isolated spectacle.

The structure may communicate neighborhood identity, ecological information, public events, temporary initiatives, cultural activities, collective announcements or simply the presence of the community itself within the larger urban territory.

At the same time, collective billboards should remain integrated into the architectural and spatial character of the place. They should function as civic markers within the landscape rather than overwhelming visual objects detached from their surroundings.



Create visible and publicly accessible billboards where communities may communicate collectively within the city. Use these structures for shared messages, identities, events and public information, so that visibility within the urban landscape is not reserved exclusively for commercial advertisement.

261 GARDEN ROOM



... in gardens which stand close to everyday urban life, cultivated ground is often organized only around production and maintenance. Beds, fences, tools and storage structures support the growth of plants, yet few places exist where people may remain, exchange knowledge, gather collectively or inhabit the garden itself. In such situations, it becomes necessary to create rooms within the garden where cultivation, social life and ecological awareness can exist together.



Gardens used only for production rarely become places of collective life and shared experience.

Many gardens are organized entirely around efficiency and cultivation. Space is dedicated to planting, watering, circulation and maintenance, while opportunities for conversation, observation, workshops, shared meals or informal gathering remain secondary or absent altogether. People enter the garden to work and leave once the task is complete.

Yet gardens naturally invite longer forms of occupation. Changes in weather, vegetation, smell, sound, insects, seasonal growth and light create conditions where people wish to remain, observe, exchange stories, share knowledge or simply spend time close to cultivated ground. Without spaces that support these activities, the social and ecological potential of the garden remains incomplete.

In older cultivated landscapes, sheltered edges, covered tables, porches, shaded seating areas, verandas and semi-open structures often created places where work and everyday life overlapped naturally. Cultivation became part of collective experience rather than isolated labor.

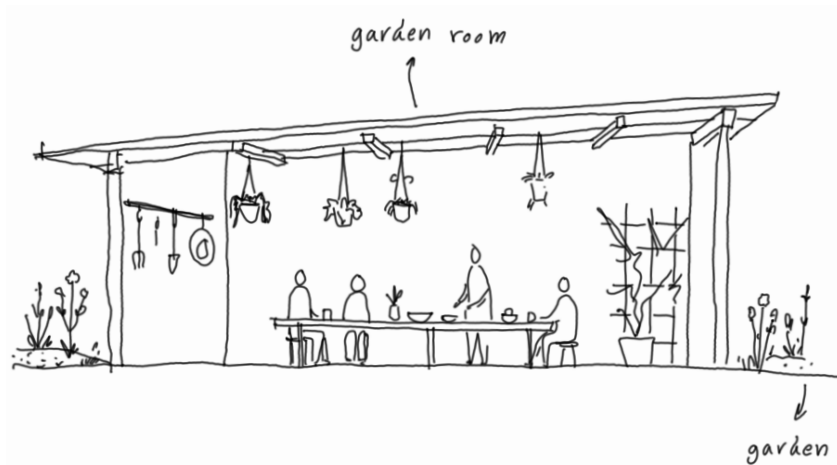
When gardens are reduced only to productive surfaces, they lose their ability to support community, exchange and awareness of the surrounding environment. The garden becomes something to maintain rather than something to inhabit. What is needed is a sheltered and inhabitable room within the garden where people may gather, rest, exchange knowledge and remain directly connected to cultivation and surrounding ecological life.

This room may take the form of a covered structure, veranda, open workshop, shaded platform or partially enclosed space positioned directly within or alongside cultivated ground. It should remain visually and physically connected to vegetation, seasonal change, insects, soil, weather and everyday garden activity.

Places for sitting, conversation, workshops, shared meals, observation, storage

and informal gathering should exist together without rigid separation. The space should support both planned activity and spontaneous occupation over time.

At the same time, the garden room should not dominate the garden itself. It must remain embedded within the larger cultivated landscape so that the experience of the garden continues to shape the activities taking place inside it.



Create sheltered rooms within gardens where people may gather, observe, exchange knowledge, and remain close to cultivation and ecological life. Allow work, conversation, rest, and seasonal change to coexist within the same space, so that the garden becomes a place to inhabit rather than only a place of production.

262 HARVEST THE WILD



... in landscapes shaped by disturbance, infrastructure and continuous human occupation, spontaneous vegetation is often treated only as unwanted growth to be removed and controlled. Plants which emerge outside planned cultivation are classified as invasive, neglected or without value. In such situations, it becomes necessary to recognize that many of these species may also contain ecological, material, medicinal or social potential when carefully understood and used.



Wild and invasive vegetation is often removed as waste before its possible uses and relationships to the landscape are understood.

Along railways, infrastructural edges, vacant land, disturbed soils and neglected urban territories, certain plant species rapidly establish themselves without deliberate cultivation. Because many of these plants spread aggressively and compete with native vegetation, they are usually perceived only as problems requiring removal and control.

Yet throughout history, many plants once considered unwanted or wild have also been used for food, dyes, fibers, tools, medicine, play, construction and everyday domestic practices. Knowledge about these uses often emerged directly from close contact with the landscape itself.

Today, this relationship has largely disappeared. Wild vegetation becomes visually separated from everyday life and understood primarily through maintenance and eradication. As a result, opportunities for learning, experimentation, material reuse and ecological awareness are lost together with the plants themselves.

At the same time, harvesting the wild cannot become an argument for uncontrolled spreading or romanticization of invasive species. Certain plants genuinely threaten local ecosystems and require careful management. The problem is not whether these species should simply remain or disappear, but whether new forms of relationship and use may emerge before removal takes place.

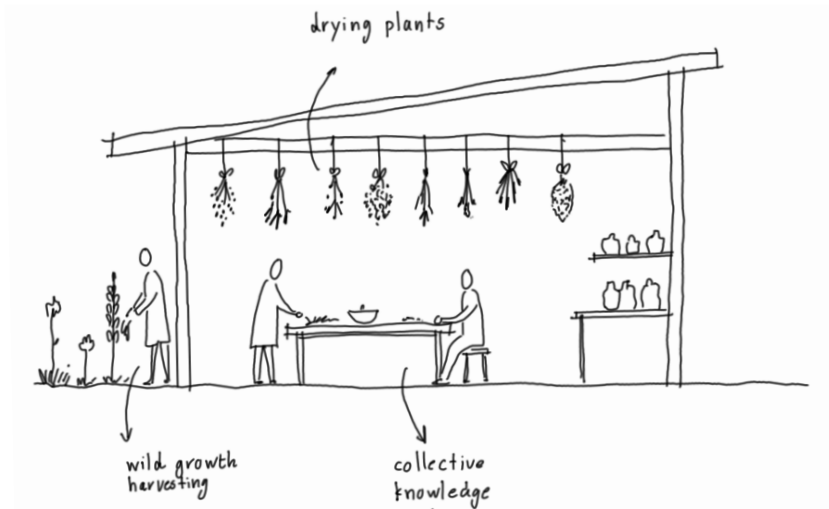
What is needed is a way of engaging with spontaneous and invasive vegetation through observation, harvesting, experimentation and collective knowledge rather than only immediate eradication.

Gardens, workshops, kitchens, communal spaces, and outdoor learning environments may create opportunities for people to understand how certain wild species can be transformed into food, fibers, pigments, paper, small objects

or other useful materials.

These activities should remain directly connected to the landscapes where such plants already grow: along railway edges, disturbed soils, infrastructural territories and urban margins. In this way, the knowledge emerges from the environment itself rather than abstract instruction alone.

Through harvesting, making, cooking, weaving, collecting or experimenting, people may begin to develop more attentive relationships with the changing ecological conditions around them. The landscape ceases to appear only as controlled nature or unwanted growth and instead becomes something observed, interpreted and engaged collectively.



Before treating spontaneous and invasive vegetation only as waste, create opportunities to observe, harvest, study and transform certain species through collective use and experimentation. Allow gardens, workshops and shared landscapes to reconnect ecological knowledge with everyday life, so that wild growth becomes a source of awareness and engagement rather than only removal.

263 ACCESS TO WATER



... in shared outdoor spaces, water is usually provided only for human use or controlled cultivation. Yet within every garden and inhabited landscape, many other forms of life depend on access to water as well. When water is separated according to species, the environment becomes fragmented and the possibility of coexistence is weakened. In such cases, it becomes necessary to create places where water can be reached and shared by different forms of life together.



Most outdoor spaces provide water only for human use, while other species are either excluded from it or forced to depend on accidental conditions.

Water points are usually designed with only one user in mind: taps for irrigation, fountains for people, drainage systems for removal. Animals and insects must instead rely on puddles, runoff or temporary accumulations which disappear quickly or remain unsafe. As a result, many species are pushed to the edges of inhabited spaces, even in places where vegetation and shelter already exist.

Yet water is one of the few elements truly shared by all forms of life. Birds require shallow edges to drink and bathe; insects depend on small humid zones and accessible surfaces; small animals search for protected places where water can be reached safely. Even plants shape themselves around the presence or absence of retained moisture. Without water, habitats remain incomplete.

When water is provided only through technical infrastructure, it becomes isolated from everyday life. Hidden pipes, enclosed containers or purely functional irrigation systems may sustain cultivation, but they do not create relationships between species. At the same time, completely unmanaged water can become stagnant, inaccessible or destructive.

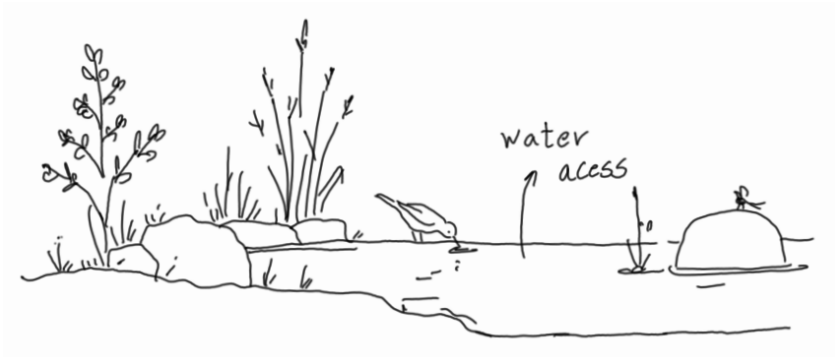
What is needed is a visible and accessible water place integrated directly into the life of the garden: shallow enough, protected enough and varied enough that different species can approach and use it according to their needs.

This water place may take the form of a basin, channel, collected rainwater surface or gently stepped edge where humans, birds, insects and small animals can all reach the water differently. Depths should vary, allowing both immersion and shallow access, while stones, vegetation, rough surfaces and shaded areas create points of rest and protection.

The water should remain part of daily activity rather than being hidden away as infrastructure. Paths, seating areas and cultivated ground should pass near it,

so that contact between species becomes visible and ordinary. Its form should encourage slow use and repeated encounters rather than rapid consumption.

Rainwater, overflow or runoff may feed the system gradually, allowing the water to change with weather and seasons. In this way, water becomes not only a resource but a shared condition around which different forms of life can coexist.



Create water places within the garden that can be safely reached by many different species, not only humans. Shape them with varied depths, edges and surfaces, and place them directly within everyday activity, so that water becomes a shared element of coexistence rather than a separated utility.

264 SHELTER FOR ALL



... in ACCESSIBLE GREEN (60), OUTDOOR ROOM (163), and GARDEN ROOM (258), spaces are often designed around the needs of only one species at a time. Human shelter is separated from animal habitat; structures for animals are hidden away from everyday life; and coexistence is reduced to accidental overlap. In such situations, it becomes necessary to create forms of shelter which can support different forms of life together, without isolating them from one another.



Most buildings provide protection and comfort for humans alone, while other species are either excluded entirely or left to survive in leftover spaces.

Walls, roofs and enclosed rooms create stable conditions for people: shade, warmth, dryness, and protection from wind and rain. Yet these same structures often prevent other forms of life from inhabiting the environment. Smooth surfaces eliminate nesting possibilities; sealed edges remove places for insects and small animals; controlled interiors separate human activity from the ecological systems surrounding it.

As a result, many species are pushed into residual spaces: in gutters, under temporary structures, inside cracks or along forgotten edges. The more controlled and perfected the building becomes, the fewer possibilities remain for coexistence. Shelter is treated as a human privilege rather than a shared environmental condition.

Yet many forms of life require conditions similar to our own: protection from weather, stable temperatures, darkness, humidity, enclosure, or elevated places of safety. Birds seek sheltered nesting areas; insects depend on cavities and rough surfaces; small animals require protected ground conditions; even plants benefit from partial shade and retained moisture. These needs do not always conflict with human use. Often they can exist alongside it.

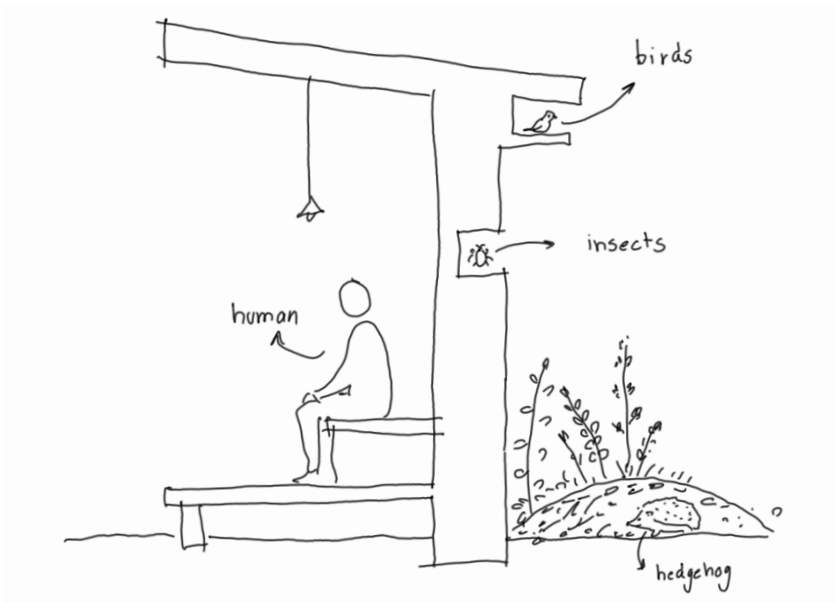
What is needed is a way of shaping buildings and outdoor rooms so that shelter is provided at many scales and for many species simultaneously.

Roofs, walls, foundations, edges, cavities, and structural elements should create different degrees of enclosure, shade, humidity, and protection. Some areas may remain open and social for people, while others provide quieter or more protected conditions for birds, insects, and small animals. Changes in material, thickness, roughness, and exposure can allow many forms of shelter to

coexist within the same structure.

These spaces should not be hidden entirely from one another. Human activity should remain close enough that coexistence becomes visible and ordinary. Places for sitting, working, observing and gathering can exist alongside nesting spaces, planted edges, and protected ground habitats.

In this way, shelter becomes more than enclosure for humans alone. It becomes a shared environmental condition through which different forms of life can inhabit the same place together.



Create buildings and outdoor structures which provide different kinds of shelter for many species at once. Use roofs, walls, edges, cavities, vegetation and protected ground conditions to support both human and non-human life, and keep these conditions connected rather than separated, so that coexistence becomes part of everyday space.

265 NESTING EDGES



... along rooflines, façades, overhangs, structural frames and transitional building edges, construction is often designed to create clean terminations and sealed surfaces. Cavities are closed, exposed gaps are removed, and roof edges are simplified in order to prevent occupation by birds and other animals. In such situations, it becomes necessary to shape building edges so that protected nesting can occur naturally within the structure itself.



Most buildings eliminate the protected edges and cavities that many birds require for nesting.

Rooflines, façades, and structural junctions are often sealed in order to prevent occupation by birds and other animals. Smooth surfaces, exposed edges and thin construction systems leave few places where nesting can occur safely. As buildings become more controlled and technically perfected, the number of inhabitable conditions steadily decreases.

Yet many birds prefer to live close to human activity. They seek elevated and protected places: under roofs, within cavities, along beams, inside layered materials or at the transition between enclosure and openness. These places provide shade, dryness, safety from predators and proximity to food and movement.

When nesting is considered only after construction, it is usually reduced to attached birdhouses or isolated devices placed onto otherwise closed buildings. These additions rarely become part of the architectural logic of the structure itself, and often remain unused or disconnected from everyday life.

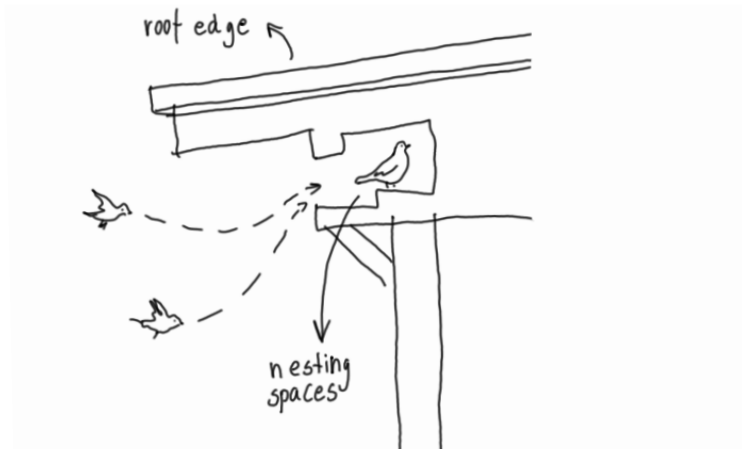
At the same time, completely open structures can expose nests to weather, disturbance, or excessive movement. Birds require both access and protection: spaces which are near life, but slightly withdrawn from direct occupation. What is needed is a thickened and layered building edge which creates small protected cavities and sheltered transitions where birds can nest safely alongside human activity.

Roof edges, structural frames, beams, overhangs, cavities and layered materials should create protected nesting zones at different heights and orientations. These spaces should remain partially enclosed and difficult for predators to reach, while still allowing birds to move freely in and out.

The nesting spaces should not be isolated entirely from human life. They should exist near paths, gardens, outdoor rooms, and sheltered gathering spaces, so that coexistence becomes visible and ordinary. At the same time,

slight distance, height or material separation should provide enough protection that birds can inhabit the structure without constant disturbance.

Natural materials such as: wood, thatch, rough surfaces, layered cladding and planted edges can help birds adapt and modify these places over time. In this way, the building edge becomes not a hard boundary, but a shared inhabitable zone.



Shape roofs, edges, and structural transitions so that they contain protected cavities and layered conditions where birds can nest safely. Keep these nesting places close to everyday human activity, but slightly sheltered from direct disturbance, so that birds and people can inhabit the same structure together

266 INHABITED STONES



... along garden edges, pathways, retaining walls, foundations, and transitional ground conditions, stone is often used only as a stable construction material or finished surface. Cavities are sealed, loose material is removed, and ground conditions are flattened in order to maintain control and cleanliness. In such situations, it becomes necessary to create stone environments which can remain partially open, layered, and inhabitable over time.



Most constructed ground surfaces eliminate the warm cavities and protected conditions that many small species depend on for shelter.

Foundations, pavements and landscaped areas are usually designed as continuous and controlled surfaces. Stones are fixed permanently into place, gaps are sealed and loose material is removed in order to maintain stability and cleanliness. As a result, the small cavities, dry pockets and protected thermal conditions which many species require disappear almost entirely.

Yet stones naturally create inhabitable environments. They absorb and store heat during the day, release it slowly over time, protect against wind and rain and create narrow sheltered spaces between surfaces. Lizards, insects, mosses and many small organisms depend on these conditions for warmth, protection and habitation.

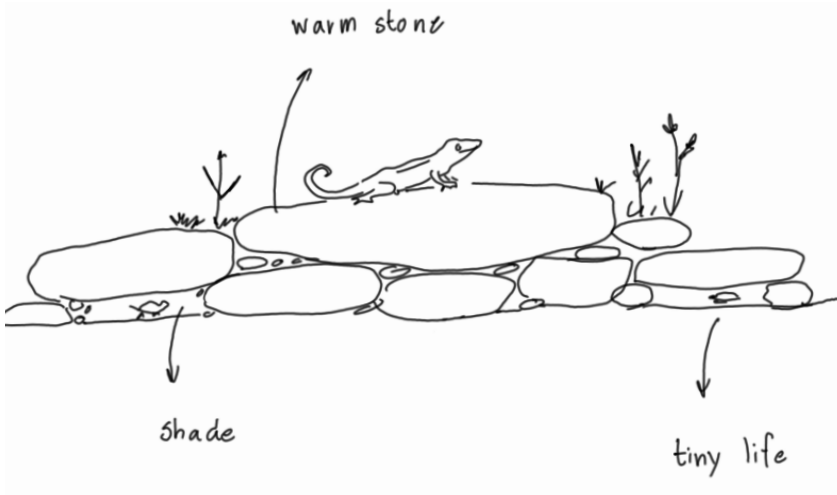
In natural environments, these spaces emerge gradually through irregular accumulation, shifting material and weathering. In constructed environments, however, ground conditions are often simplified and stabilized to such a degree that these forms of inhabitation become impossible.

What is needed is an arrangement of stones and mineral surfaces which creates protected cavities, thermal variation and inhabitable ground conditions within everyday spaces.

Stone elements should vary in size, spacing, exposure and density so that different temperatures, humidities and levels of protection can occur together. Some surfaces should remain exposed to sunlight and warmth, while others stay cooler, shaded, and more protected. Cavities between stones should remain accessible rather than sealed completely.

These conditions may appear along foundations, pathways, garden edges, retaining walls or transitional zones between planted and built areas. They should remain connected to everyday movement and occupation rather than hidden away from human activity.

Over time, plants, mosses, insects, reptiles and other small forms of life will gradually inhabit these spaces according to changing seasons and conditions. In this way, the ground itself becomes part of a shared living environment rather than a neutral surface.



Create stone conditions with cavities, varied exposure, and thermal differences where small forms of life can gradually establish themselves. Keep these spaces connected to the everyday life of the garden and building, so that the ground itself becomes inhabitable rather than sealed and inactive.

267 PROTECTED GROUND



... beneath shrubs, along garden edges, under structures, and within undisturbed corners of cultivated landscapes, the ground is often cleared, flattened, and maintained in a constant state of exposure. Fallen leaves are removed, dense vegetation is cut back, and sheltered ground conditions disappear in order to maintain visual order and accessibility. In such situations, it becomes necessary to preserve areas of protected ground where small forms of life can remain sheltered within the everyday environment



Most maintained landscapes eliminate the dense and protected ground conditions that many small animals and insects depend on for shelter.

Gardens and outdoor spaces are often managed as open and continuously controlled surfaces. Ground vegetation is reduced, dead material is removed and hidden spaces are cleared away in order to maintain cleanliness and visibility. As a result, many animals lose the sheltered environments they require for nesting, resting, hibernation and protection.

Yet many forms of life depend precisely on these conditions. Hedgehogs seek dry and protected cavities beneath dense vegetation and accumulated leaves; insects inhabit moist layers of decomposing organic material; amphibians require shaded and humid ground conditions protected from excessive disturbance. These environments emerge where the ground remains layered, uneven, and partially undisturbed.

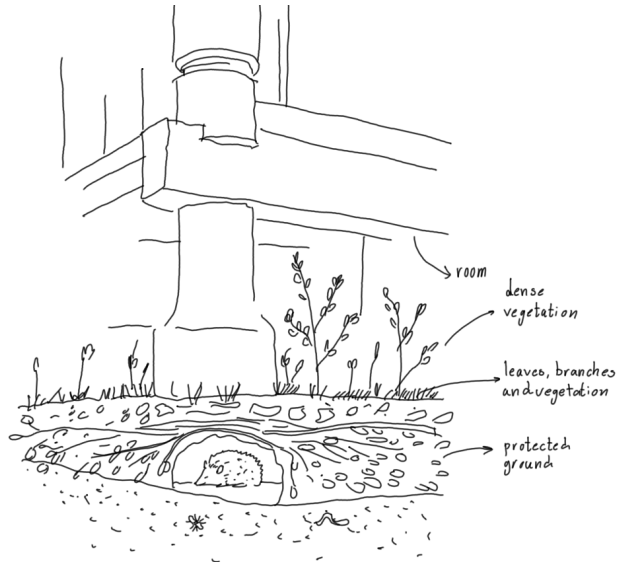
In natural landscapes, protected ground forms gradually through seasonal accumulation, plant growth, fallen branches and decomposition. In maintained environments, however, these processes are often interrupted before stable habitats can emerge.

What is needed is ground which remains partially protected, layered and seasonally undisturbed, allowing shelter to form naturally within the landscape itself.

Certain areas of the garden should remain dense, shaded and less frequently maintained. Leaves, branches, stones, low vegetation and decomposing organic material should be allowed to accumulate in controlled ways, creating cavities, humidity, insulation and protection near the ground.

These protected areas may appear beneath shrubs, along edges, below raised structures, beside walls or within transitional zones between cultivated and uncultivated ground. They should remain close to everyday activity without being constantly disturbed, allowing coexistence to remain visible but protected.

Over time, these spaces will gradually support insects, hedgehogs, amphibians, decomposing organisms and many other small forms of life. In this way, the ground itself becomes a living layer of the environment rather than a continuously cleaned surface.



Keep parts of the ground dense, layered, and partially undisturbed. Allow leaves, branches, vegetation and organic material to accumulate in controlled ways so that protected shelter can gradually form for small animals and insects within the everyday landscape.

268 LAYERED ROOFS



... in buildings roofs are often treated only as protective surfaces separating inside from outside. They are sealed against occupation, designed to shed water quickly and reduced to a single environmental function. In such situations, it becomes necessary to shape roofs as layered environments capable of supporting different forms of shelter, climate and inhabitation simultaneously



Most roofs act only as protective barriers and eliminate the layered conditions that many forms of life depend on for shelter and coexistence.

Contemporary roof construction is usually designed to create complete separation between the building and the environment. Thin sealed assemblies, exposed membranes and simplified edges prevent water retention, material accumulation, nesting and gradual occupation. As roofs become more technically controlled, they lose their ability to support other forms of life.

Yet roofs naturally occupy a unique environmental position. They receive sunlight, wind, rain, shade, moisture and seasonal change more directly than most other parts of the building. In older structures, layered roofs often created cavities, thermal variation, protected edges and inhabitable thicknesses where birds, insects, plants and people could coexist indirectly.

At the same time, human occupation also benefits from layered shelter. Deep roofs create shade, reduce heat, soften rain, filter light and create protected outdoor conditions beneath them. The thicker and more varied the roof becomes, the richer the environmental conditions it can support.

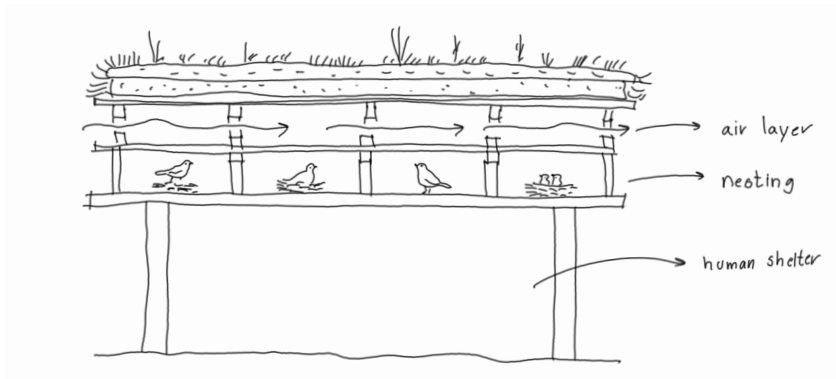
When ecological systems are added only as technical devices placed onto roofs, isolated green roofs, attached nesting boxes, or separated installations, they remain detached from the structure itself. The roof continues to function primarily as a sealed boundary rather than an inhabitable environmental layer. What is needed is a roof made of multiple layers and varying thicknesses, allowing different forms of shelter, climate and inhabitation to coexist within the same structure.

Roofs should contain protected cavities, shaded zones, ventilated layers, rough materials and varying depths where birds, insects, vegetation, moisture, and air can occupy the structure differently over time. Some layers may remain more enclosed and protective for human use below, while others stay porous, weathered, and partially accessible to non-human life above and within.

Materials should be allowed to age, dry, collect and change gradually rather

than remain perfectly sealed and fixed. Thatch, layered timber, planted surfaces, rough edges and overlapping materials can create environments capable of being adapted and inhabited over time.

The roof should not function only as a limit between inside and outside, but as a transitional environmental zone which filters climate, light, weather, and habitation across multiple layers of life.



Build roofs as layered environmental conditions rather than thin protective barriers. Create varying depths, cavities, rough surfaces and partially weathered layers so that humans, birds, insects, vegetation, air and moisture can inhabit the roof differently and simultaneously over time.

269 DEEP EDGES



... in buildings the transition between inside and outside is often reduced to a thin and abrupt boundary. Walls, doors and façades separate enclosure from openness too quickly, leaving few places where people may comfortably remain between the two. In such situations, it becomes necessary to create deep edges where shelter, climate, movement and occupation can overlap gradually



Buildings with thin and abrupt edges leave few places where people can comfortably remain between inside and outside.

Many contemporary buildings separate interior and exterior conditions as completely as possible. Thin façades, sealed envelopes and narrow circulation zones create clear distinctions between enclosed space and open environment. As a result, people either remain fully inside or move directly outdoors with little opportunity for gradual transition.

Yet people naturally seek intermediate conditions. They gather beneath overhangs, pause along sheltered edges, lean against columns, sit beside entrances and remain where enclosure and openness overlap. These places provide shade, filtered light, protection from rain and wind and visual connection to surrounding activity without complete exposure.

In older buildings and gardens, these conditions often emerged through verandas, porches, arcades, covered walkways, thick roof extensions and layered thresholds. Such spaces softened the boundary between architecture and landscape, allowing movement, conversation, work, observation and rest to extend outward gradually.

When edges are designed only as technical boundaries or circulation zones, this richness disappears. The edge ceases to function as inhabitable space and becomes merely separation.

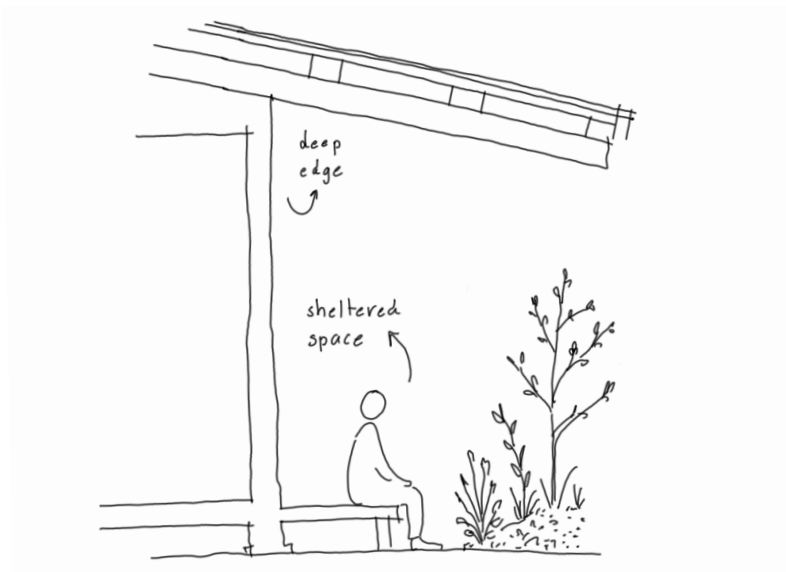
What is needed is a deepened edge where people may remain comfortably between interior and exterior conditions while still connected to surrounding landscape, weather and movement.

Roofs should extend outward far enough to create real zones of shelter and occupation rather than minimal overhangs. Columns, benches, low walls, vegetation, platforms and layered thresholds can help define spaces where people may sit, gather, work, observe or pause comfortably over longer periods of time.

These edges should remain open enough to allow changing light, air, weather,

sounds and seasonal conditions to enter gradually. Shade, filtered sunlight, ventilation and partial protection create environmental variation which encourages longer and more flexible occupation.

At the same time, deep edges should remain directly connected to surrounding paths, gardens, ecological conditions, and everyday movement. They are not isolated rooms, but transitional spaces where architecture and landscape continuously overlap.



Create deep and inhabitable edges where shelter, movement, climate, and occupation overlap gradually between inside and outside. Extend roofs, thicken thresholds, and shape transitional spaces where people may comfortably gather, observe, work, or pause while remaining connected to the surrounding environment.

270 THICK WALLS



... in shared buildings, walls are often reduced to thin abstract surfaces which separate rooms but support little everyday occupation. Storage is added afterward through furniture and temporary objects, while tools, books, materials, plants and collective resources accumulate without clear place within the architecture itself. In such situations, it becomes necessary to create walls with enough thickness to support inhabitation directly within their structure.



Thin walls separate spaces but rarely support the everyday activities and objects through which people inhabit them.

Many contemporary interiors rely on lightweight partitions and smooth surfaces which define enclosure while remaining functionally empty. Shelves, niches, ledges and places for storage are treated as independent furniture added after construction rather than emerging directly from the architecture itself.

Yet people naturally inhabit walls. Books gather near seating; tools accumulate beside workspaces; plants move toward light; objects are placed along edges, openings and thresholds. Over time, these collections help spaces become personal, useful and socially active.

In older buildings, thick walls often contained shelves, alcoves, benches, storage cavities, fireplaces, deep windows and inhabitable edges integrated directly into the structure. These spaces supported everyday life without separating use from architecture itself.

When walls remain thin and abstract, occupation becomes temporary and cluttered. The building provides enclosure, but few opportunities for tools, materials and shared resources to become naturally integrated into the life of the space.

What is needed is a wall thick enough to contain shelves, niches, ledges and small inhabitable spaces directly within the architecture itself.

Walls should expand near workshops, kitchens, entrances, garden rooms, gathering spaces and shared paths where objects naturally accumulate through repeated use. Some niches may hold books, tools, seeds, drying plants, dishes, materials or collective resources connected to the activities surrounding them. These shelves and cavities should remain partially visible and accessible rather than hidden entirely behind doors and storage systems. In this way, the objects of everyday life help shape the atmosphere and identity of the space itself.

Over time, the thickened wall becomes more than separation. It becomes an inhabitable edge supporting memory, work, exchange and collective occupation

within the building.



Create deep and inhabitable edges where shelter, movement, climate, and occupation overlap gradually between inside and outside. Extend roofs, thicken thresholds, and shape transitional spaces where people may comfortably gather, observe, work, or pause while remaining connected to the surrounding environment.

271 LIVING ORNAMENT



... in buildings surfaces are often reduced to smooth and abstract finishes without local meaning or relationship to the life surrounding them. Ornament is frequently dismissed as unnecessary decoration, detached from use, memory or inhabitation. In such situations, it becomes necessary to create ornaments which emerge directly from the ecological and social life of the place itself.



When buildings contain no visible traces of local life, they become increasingly abstract and detached from their surroundings.

Many contemporary buildings rely on neutral surfaces and repetitive systems which could exist almost anywhere. Façades become smooth enclosures without reference to local species, histories, materials, collective activities or environmental conditions. As a result, architecture loses part of its ability to communicate the identity and life of a place.

Yet throughout history, ornament often emerged directly from everyday relationships with landscape, craft, labor, ritual, plants, animals and shared cultural life. Carvings, painted surfaces, patterns, symbols and small decorative elements carried traces of the environment and communities from which the architecture emerged.

At the same time, ornament should not function merely as applied image or superficial decoration detached from the spatial and material logic of the building itself. When symbols are added arbitrarily, they quickly lose meaning and become visual noise.

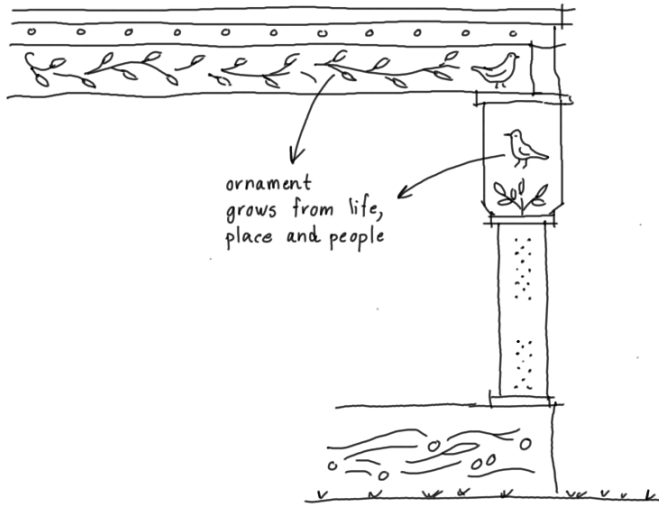
Meaningful ornament emerges when the life surrounding a building becomes visible within its surfaces, edges, and details. In this way, architecture begins to communicate its relationship to the territory and forms of life around it. What is needed is an ornament which grows from the ecological, material and collective conditions of the place itself.

Patterns, carvings, painted elements, perforations, textures, reliefs, fabrics, screens or structural details may all reflect local species, vegetation, movement, weather, gathering, cultivation or forms of shared inhabitation connected to the site.

These ornaments should remain integrated into the architecture rather than applied independently from it. Openings, railings, roofs, façades, thresholds and transitional spaces may all carry small traces of the larger ecological and

social systems surrounding the building.

Over time, these elements help create recognition, memory and attachment between people, architecture and landscape. The building begins to express not only shelter and function, but also the living conditions from which it emerges.



Create ornaments which emerge directly from the ecological, material and collective life of the place. Allow surfaces, openings, structures and details to carry traces of local species, cultivation, weather and shared inhabitation, so that architecture communicates its relationship to the surrounding world rather than remaining abstract and anonymous.