

An underwater photograph of a dense kelp forest. Sunlight rays stream down from the surface, illuminating the golden-brown kelp leaves. The water is a deep blue, and the overall scene is serene and natural.

NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE FOR MARINE FUTURES

CONCEPT PACKAGE | MAY 28, 2025

Executive Summary

The University of Waikato is seeking to establish a world-class Marine Research and Education Facility. Strategically situated in Tauranga's inner harbour at Sulphur Point, **The New Zealand Institute for Marine Futures** will showcase the region's commitment to a healthy and sustainable marine environment, elevate Tauranga City's international profile and bring enhanced economic growth to the Bay of Plenty and beyond.

It will enhance the existing greenspace by making the Bay of Plenty marine environment visible for all to see, appreciate, and learn from. The facility will be a strong visual statement attesting to Tauranga City Council's vision expressed in the draft Tauranga Taurikura – Environmental Strategy 2022 – 2032

to value, protect and enhance the environment and to be a city that supports business and education.

The facility will be situated adjacent to the country's largest port. It will be the only facility of its type focused on marine resilience, restoration, the blue economy and economic development of our urbanised coasts.

The new Institute will enable both research and public education that directly address the significant issues facing Tauranga, the Bay of Plenty and other coastal regions in terms of climate change and enhancing the resilience and restoration of the marine environment.



Project Goals

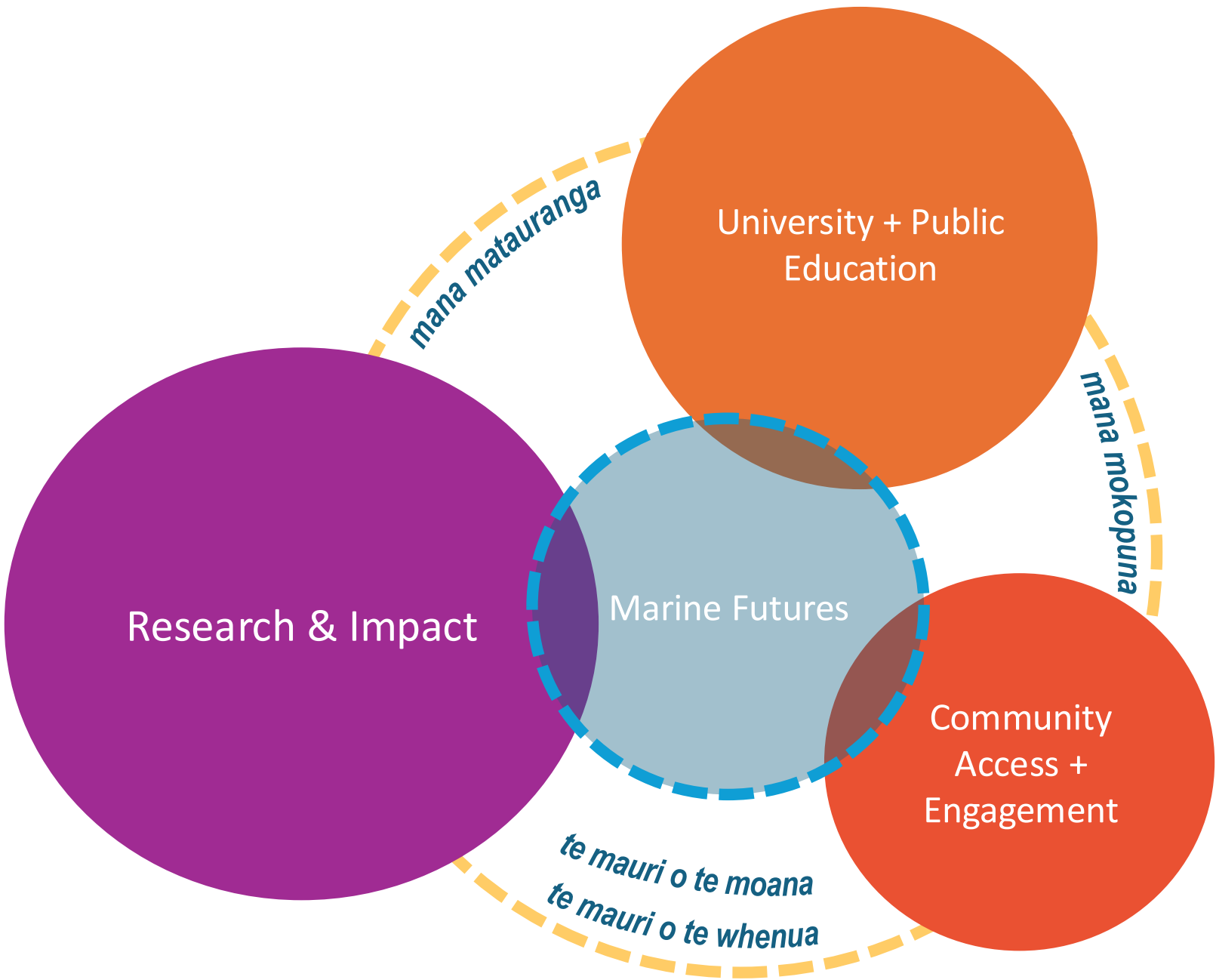
Throughout concept design the following four tenants emerged as the University of Waikato’s key goals for the new Institute for Marine Futures. These goals will be used as a touchstone throughout the design process to ensure the project fulfills its great potential.

Create facilities that empower international leadership in *marine research* & *interdisciplinary innovation* yielding economic, environmental and social impact.

Educate, inspire and activate all around the importance of scientific research for *positively impacting marine futures*.

Create a space that embraces *partnerships with Māori* and celebrates the *unique qualities* of Tauranga, the Bay of Plenty and Aotearoa New Zealand.

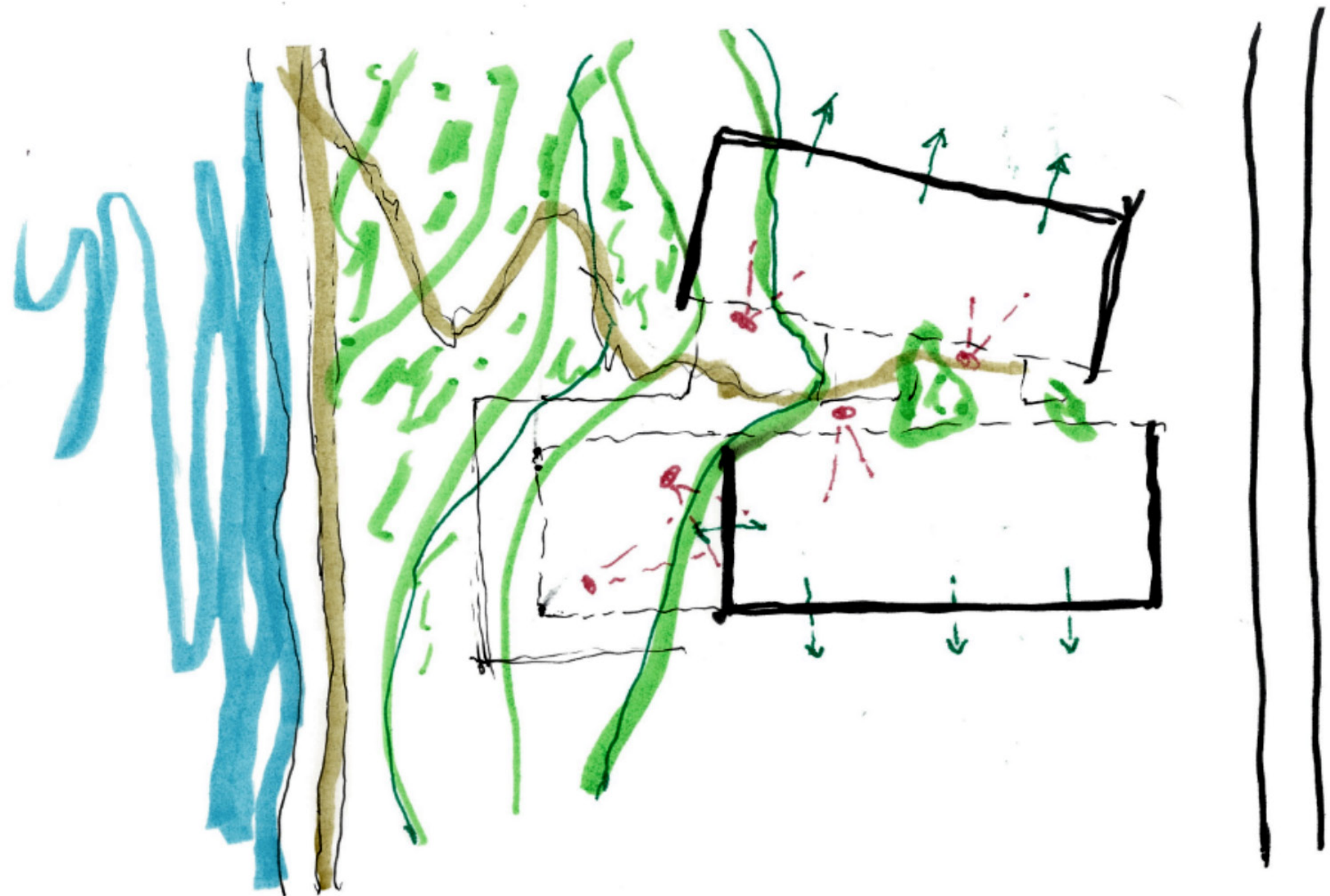
Generate a welcoming, vibrant community destination that *draws the public* and enhances the landscape of Tauranga.



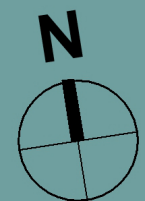
Building Concept

The building itself is conceived of as a simple field station, sheared open at the center to draw the public realm into the heart of the building.

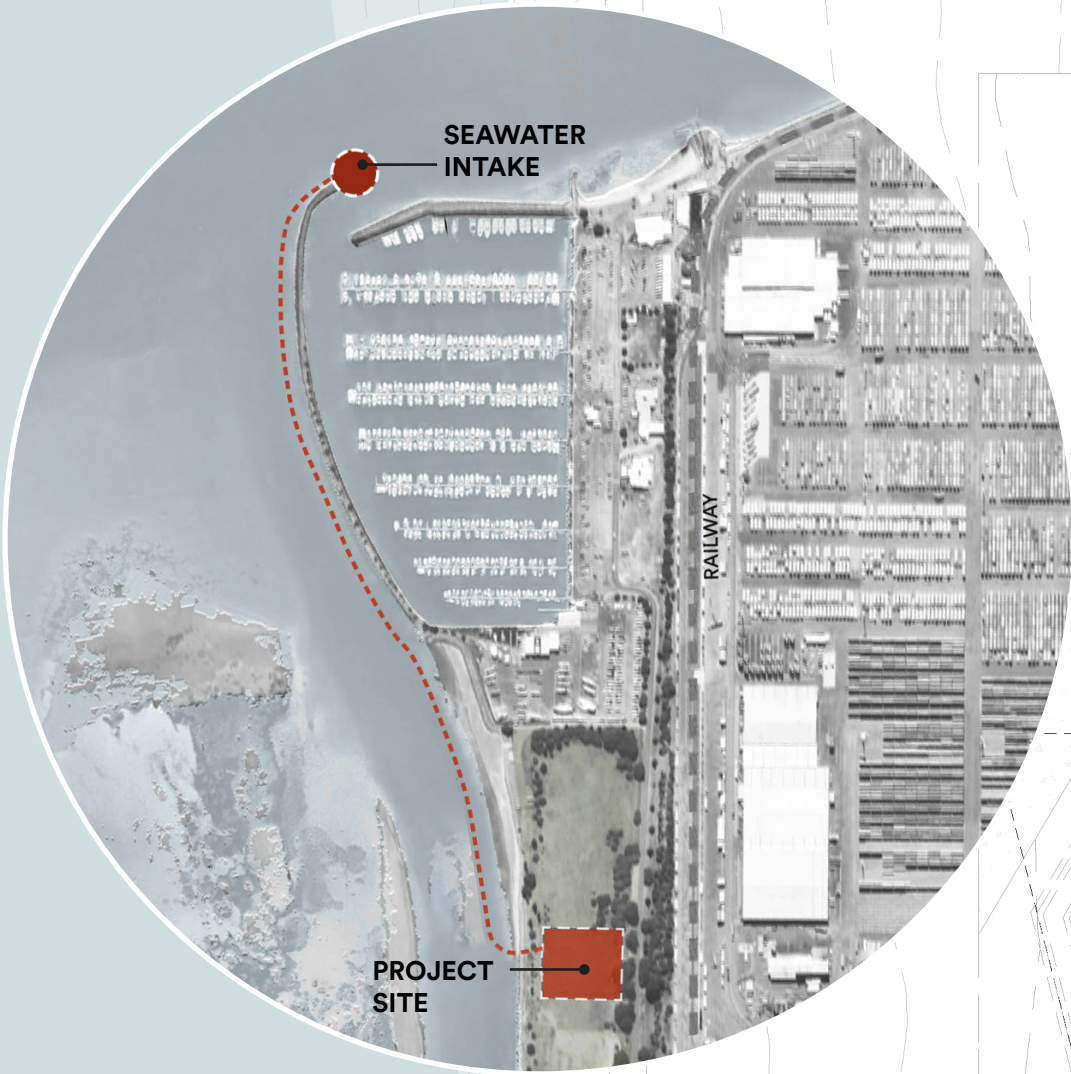
With this simple, but powerful action, the court at the building's heart becomes a wind sheltered public place that welcomes all, piques the curiosity, and creates ample opportunity for exploration and discovery.



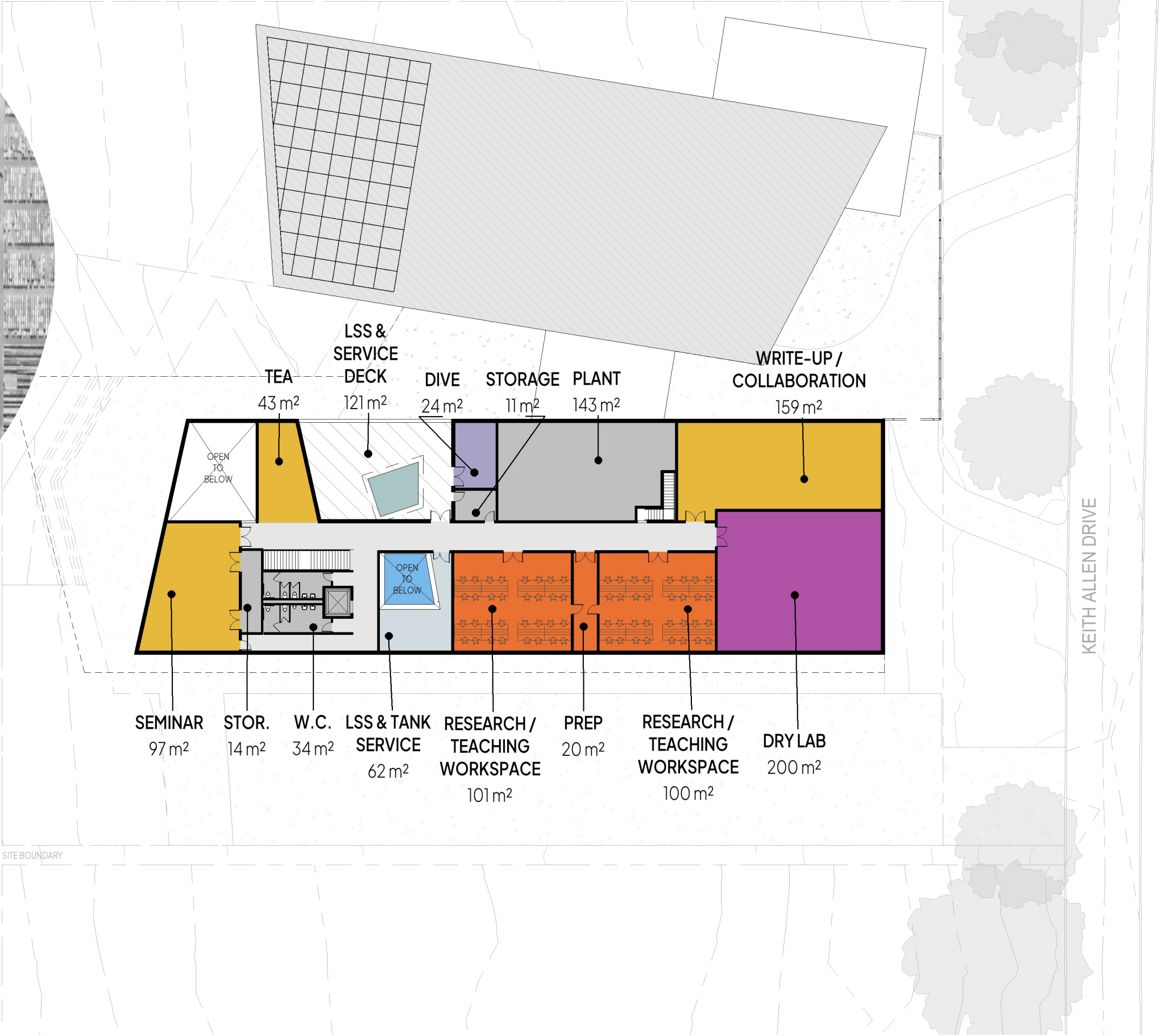
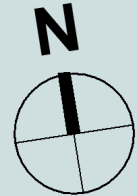
Space Plan | Level 1



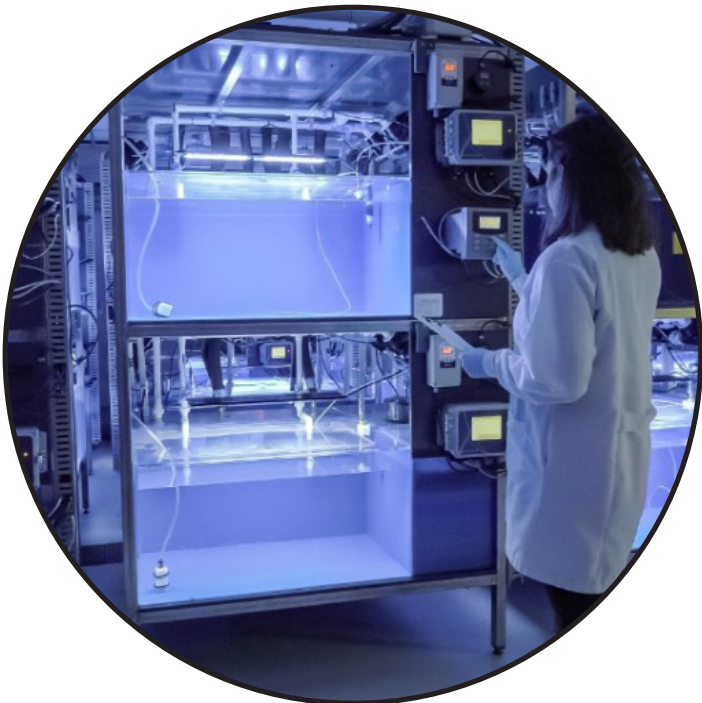
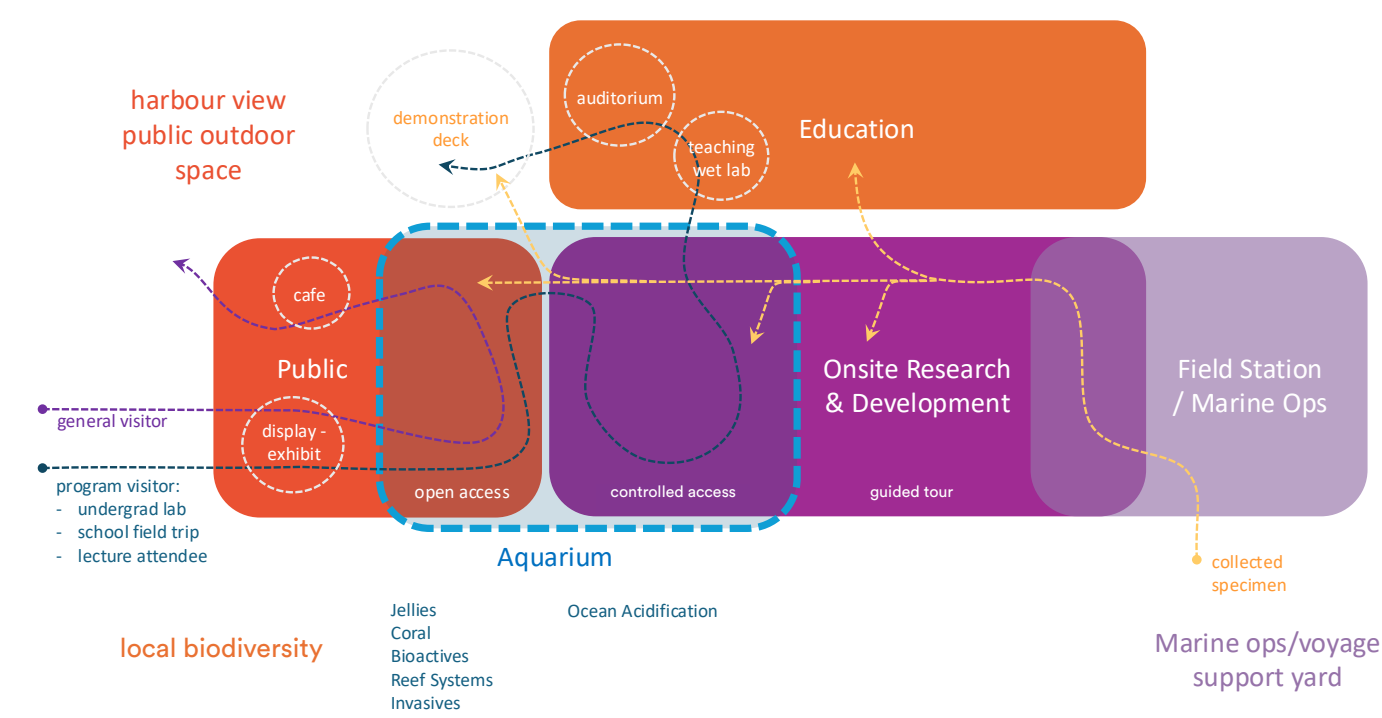
Space Plan | Level 2



- PUBLIC
- EDUCATION
- AQUARIUM
- LSS
- RESEARCH
- RESEARCH SUPPORT
- COLLABORATION
- CIRCULATION
- SERVICE
- EXTERIOR
- EXTERIOR - DECK



Public - Research Interface



Tank Wall



Tactile Exhibit



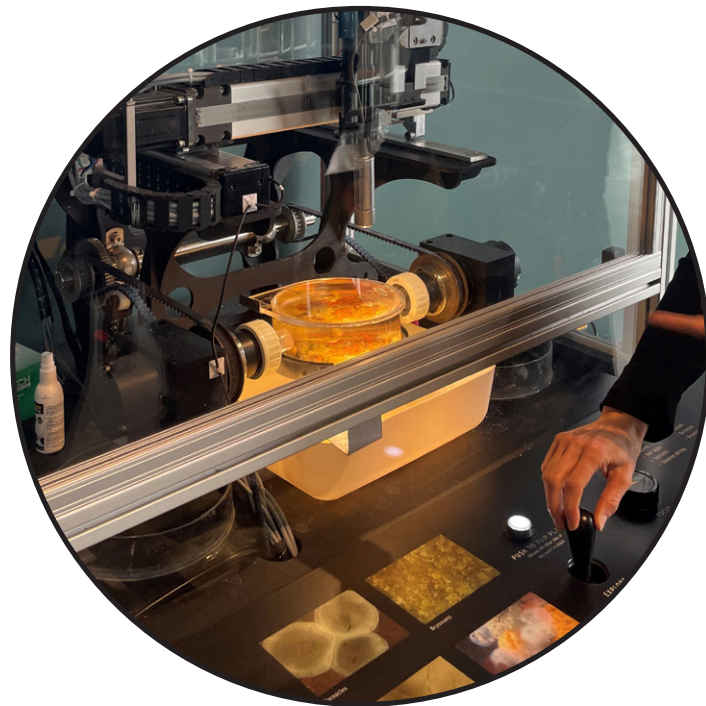
Aquaculture R&D



Curated Views



Elevated Observation



Hands-On Science

Southern Approach



Northern Approach



Western Entry

