

Cradle Mountain - People Space 2010

Mud Landscape + Urban Design

introduction

having recently moved to tasmania from sydney i have spent many days walking through the beautiful wilderness this state has to offer. our property is very close to cradle mountain which forms the northern end of the world heritage listed lake st clair national park. home to the deciduous beech (one of the rare deciduous natives); buttongrass plains; ancient rainforest and alpine heathlands, the landscape is abundant with glacial lakes and walking tracks scattered across the plains. one of the famous walks, the overland track, leaves from dove lake which is nestled at the base of cradle mountain and at this point, although truly magical, there is not a lot to offer for the elderly or people with disabilities. the paths are gravel and rough with eroded edges and the only thing for this group to do is to get out of the car in the carpark and take a few pictures. there are no rest points, nowhere to purchase food or drinks and all there is a large carpark dominated by asphalt. one of the truly magnificent things to do is to climb the peaks and take advantage of the never-ending views behind cradle mountain and this cannot be achieved from the carpark. this is where my inspiration began ...

design intent

- create a built environment which will promote and encourage tourism to the shores of tasmania;
- open up the possibilities for elderly and people with disabilities to appreciate what other people have available to them;
- create a hub of life where people are encouraged to spend more time to eat, rest, hire kayaks and rejuvenate after a hard days hike;
- promote tasmanian food and wine with world quality restaurants and bars opening out to deck platforms overlooking cradle mountain;
- create an interesting landscape complementing the existing flora to form a space which will have a low-impact on the natural environment;
- incorporate sustainability in the use of porous pavements; solar panels and water-generated electricity;
- provide areas for people to eat their own packed lunches without the need to purchase from the restaurant;
- provide shelter and outdoor heating for the colder months.

design constraints

- world heritage significance will attract heavy opposition and international media;
- the need to protect the natural environment and prevent contamination will need to be enforced;
- the isolation of the project area will increase construction costs and slow the project down;
- weather conditions will slow the project down.

