



MONASH
University



Centre for Appropriate
Technology Limited

VISIONS OF A BUSHMAN

the participatory co-design of an Olkola cultural knowledge centre

Dr Hannah Robertson (Monash University), Debbie Symonds (Olkola Aboriginal Corporation) and Andre Grant (The Centre for Appropriate Technology)

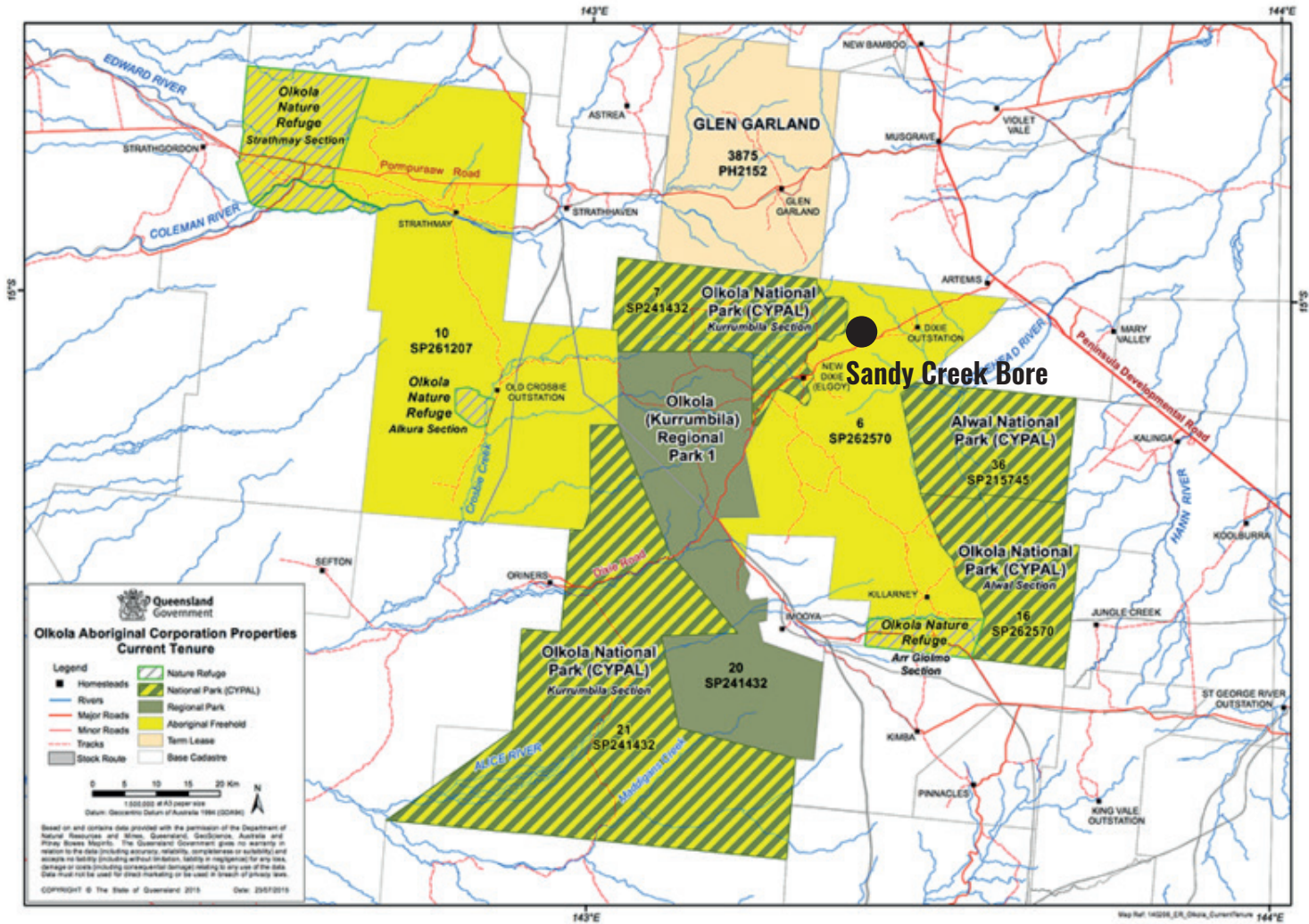


MONASH
University



Centre for Appropriate
Technology Limited

how the project came about



the land handback

2014
December

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020



OLKOLA CULTURAL RESEARCH CENTRE



the design brief: a new vision for Olkola

2014

2015

2016

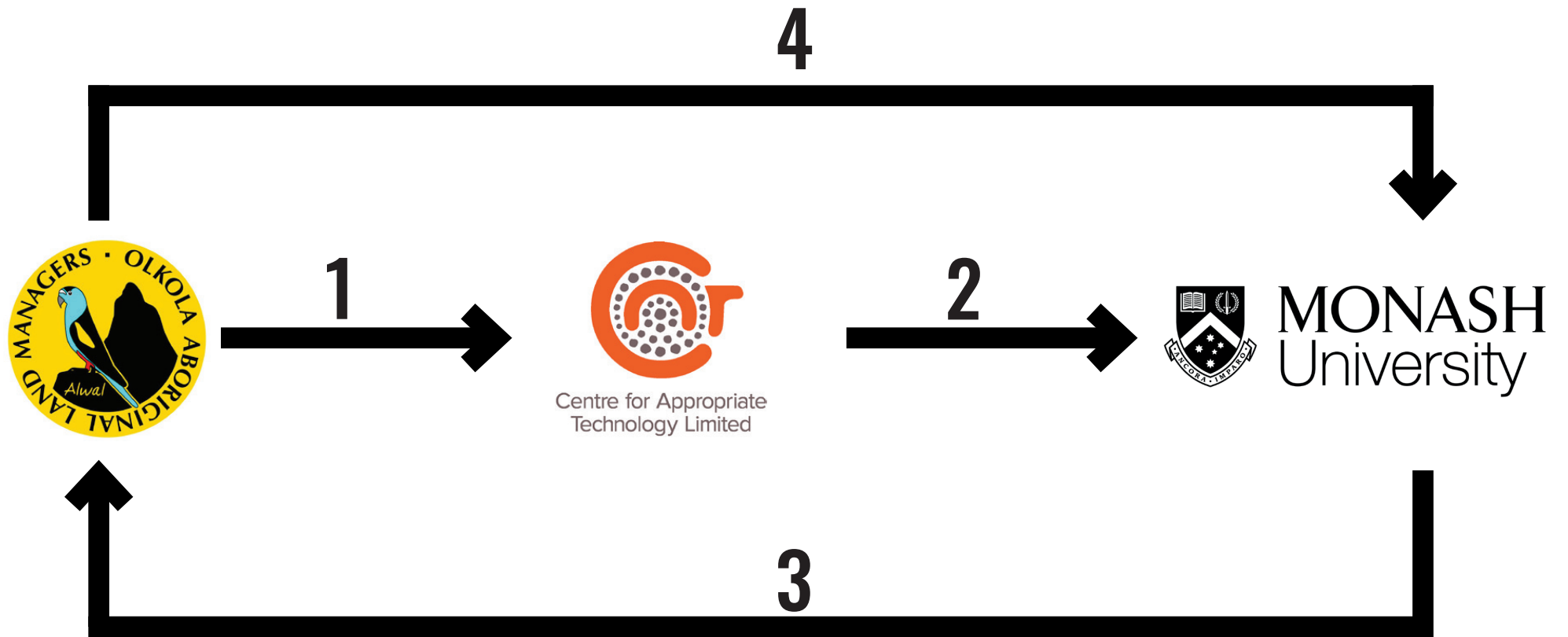
2017

2018

2019

2020

February



formation of the partnership

2014

2015

2016

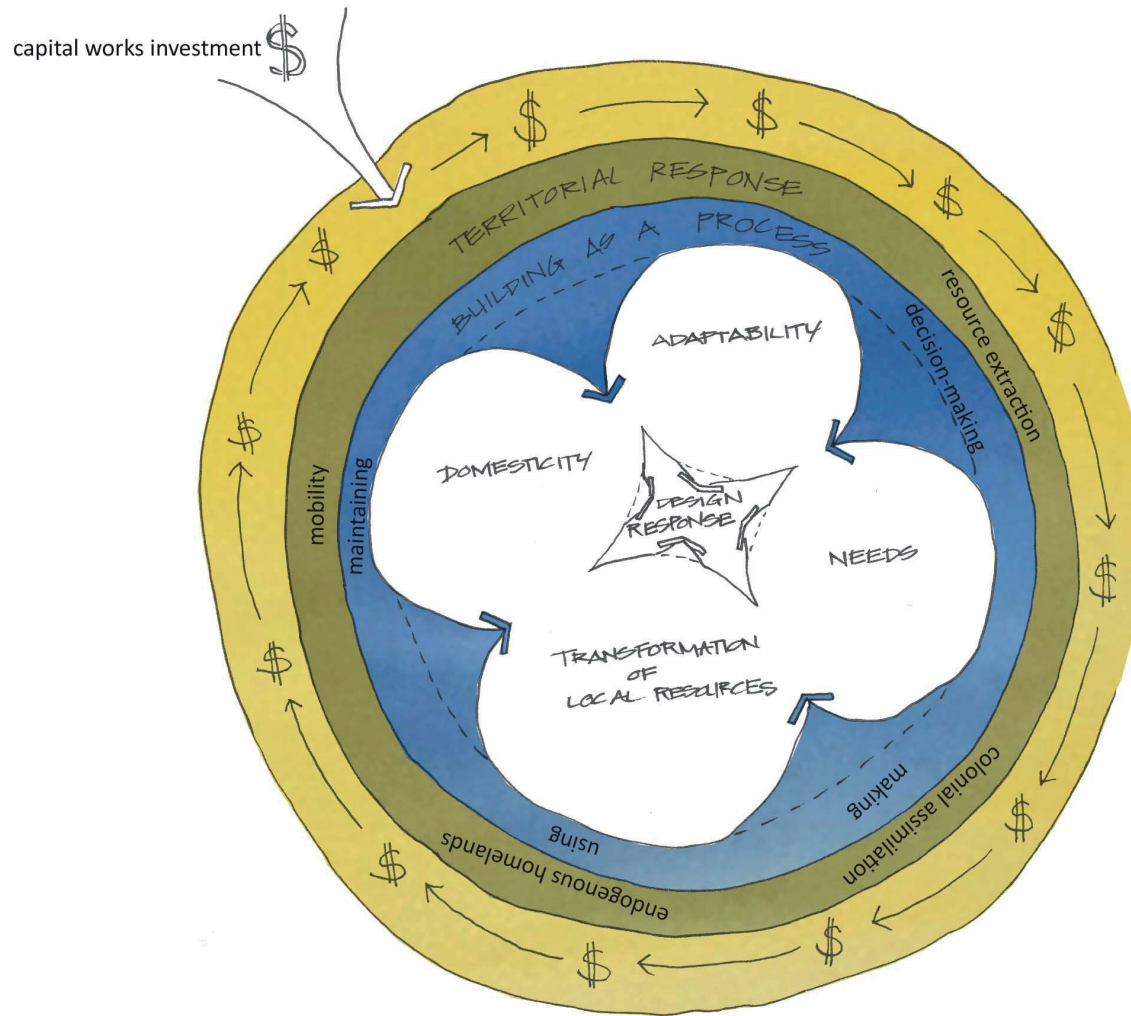
2017

2018

2019

2020

August



a socio-ecological approach

2014

2015

2016

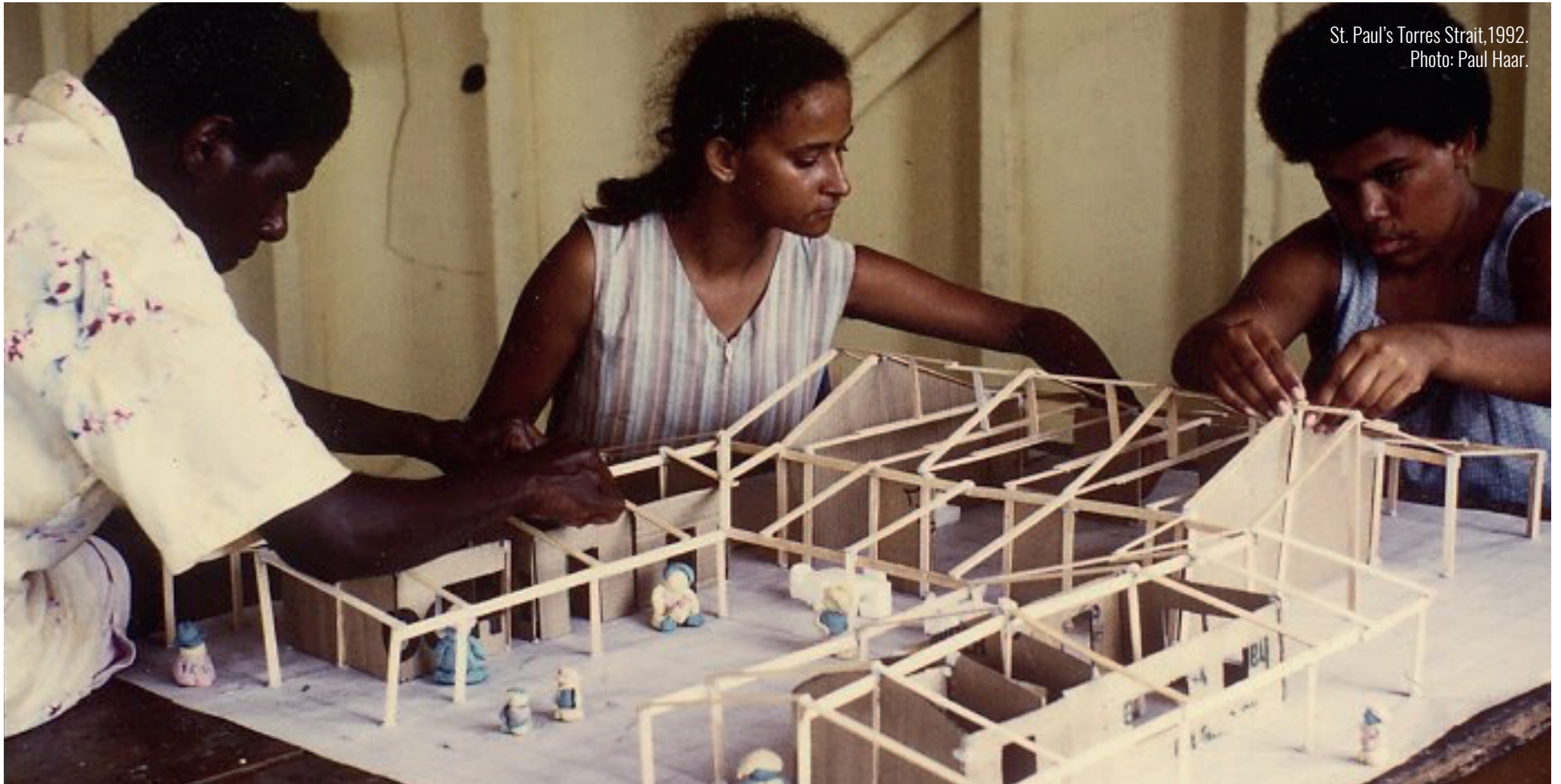
2017

2018

2019

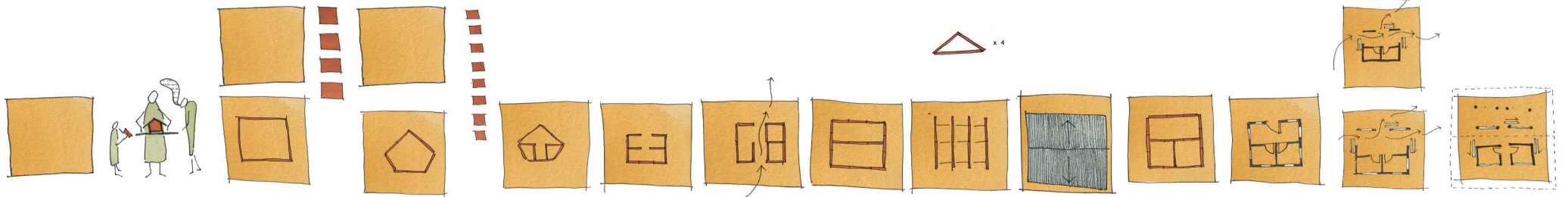
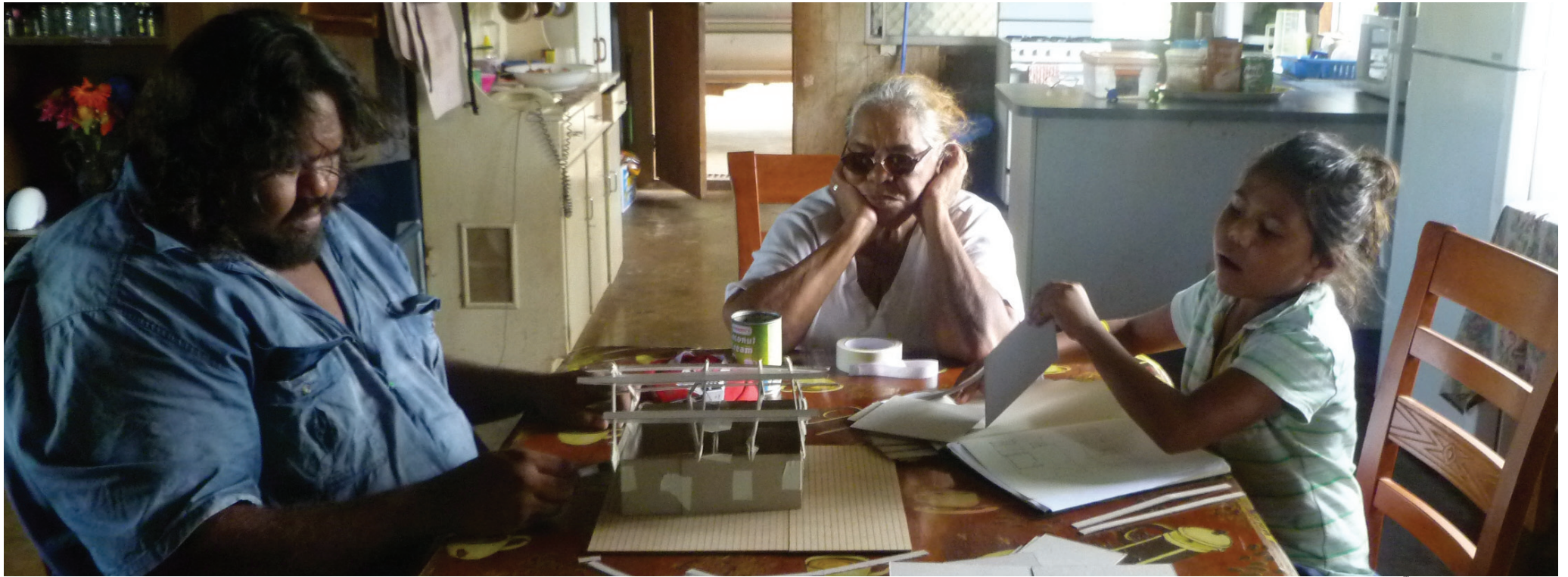
2020

August



co-design

Paul Haar Projects, 1980s-90s



co-design

Bush Owner Builder, 2011



self-building

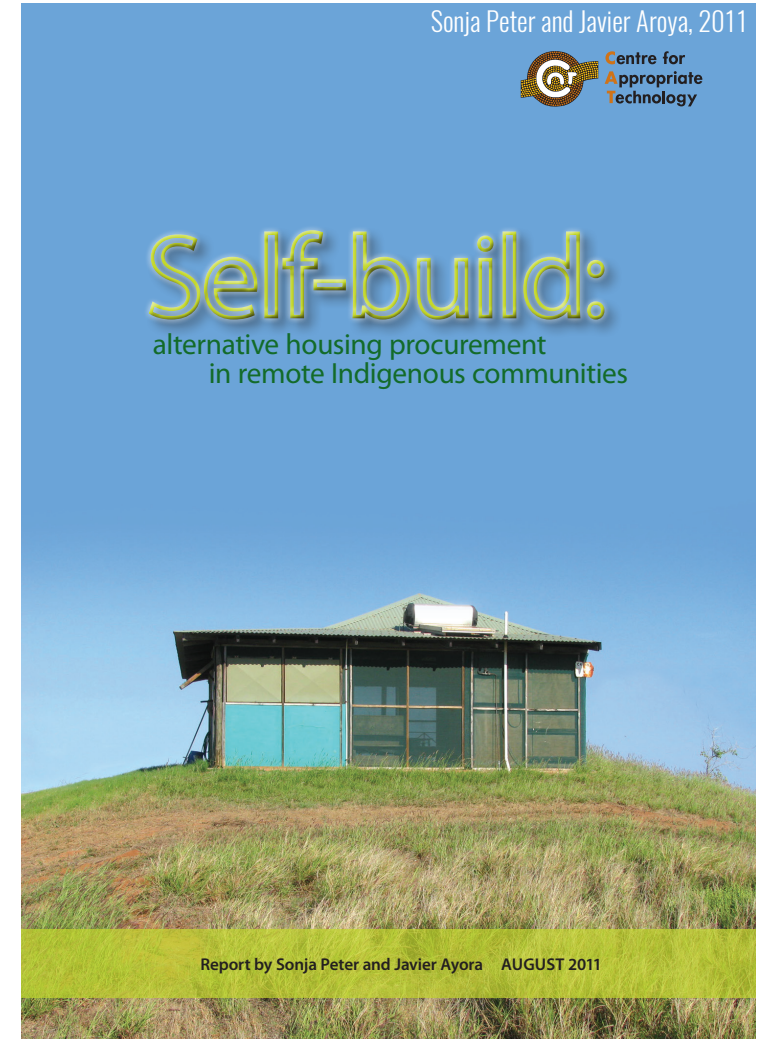
Paul Haar Projects, 1980s-90s



Bush Owner Builder House at Billy Boil
Photo: Todd Lewis, 2018.

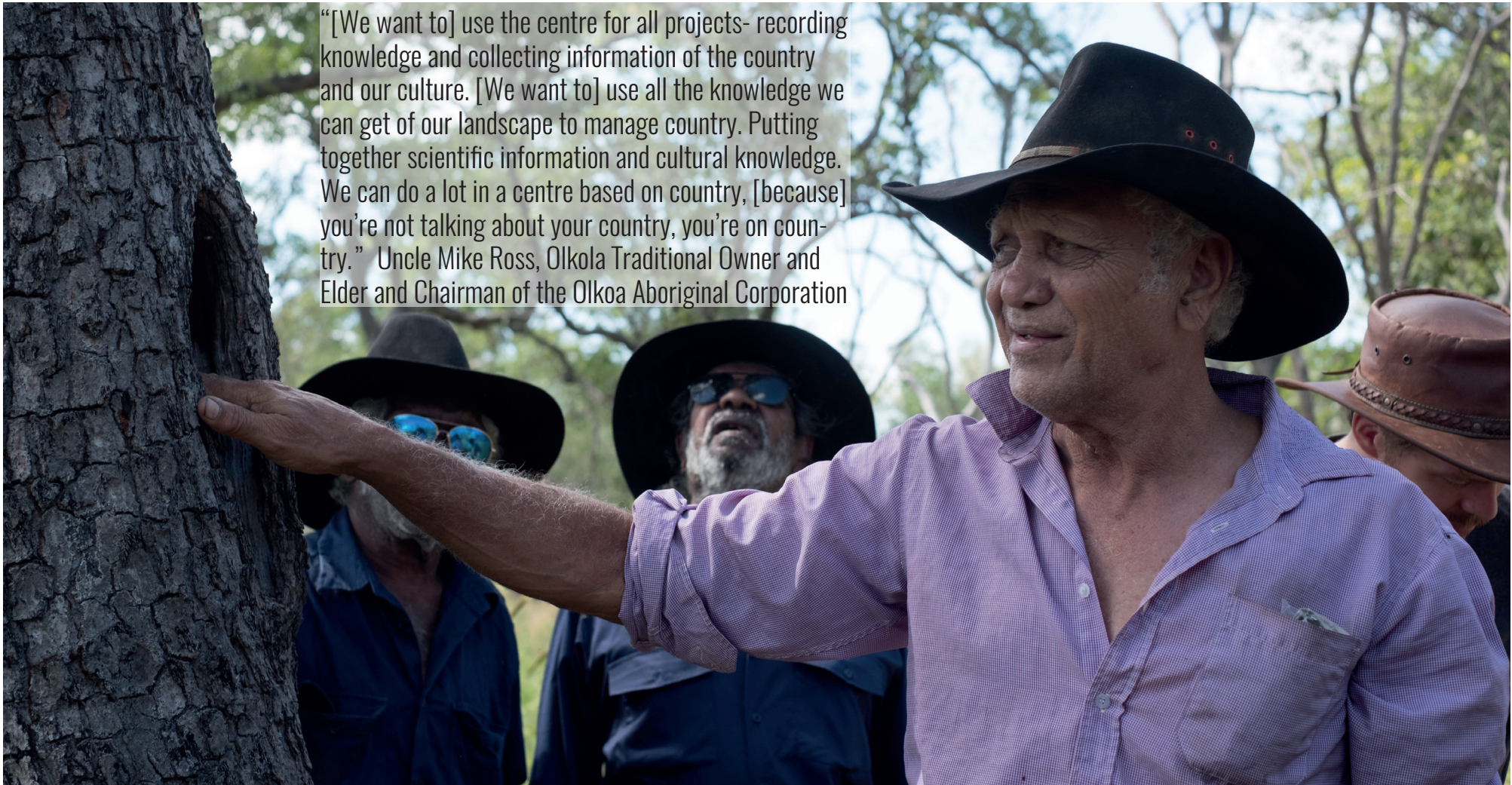


Owner Builders Lawrie Gibson and Doreen Hart.
Photo: Alex Ellinghausen, 2011.



self-building

Bush Owner Builder, 2011 and Self-Build Study by CAT, 2011.



“[We want to] use the centre for all projects- recording knowledge and collecting information of the country and our culture. [We want to] use all the knowledge we can get of our landscape to manage country. Putting together scientific information and cultural knowledge. We can do a lot in a centre based on country, [because] you’re not talking about your country, you’re on country.” Uncle Mike Ross, Olkola Traditional Owner and Elder and Chairman of the Olkolo Aboriginal Corporation

project need and opportunities

2014

2015

2016

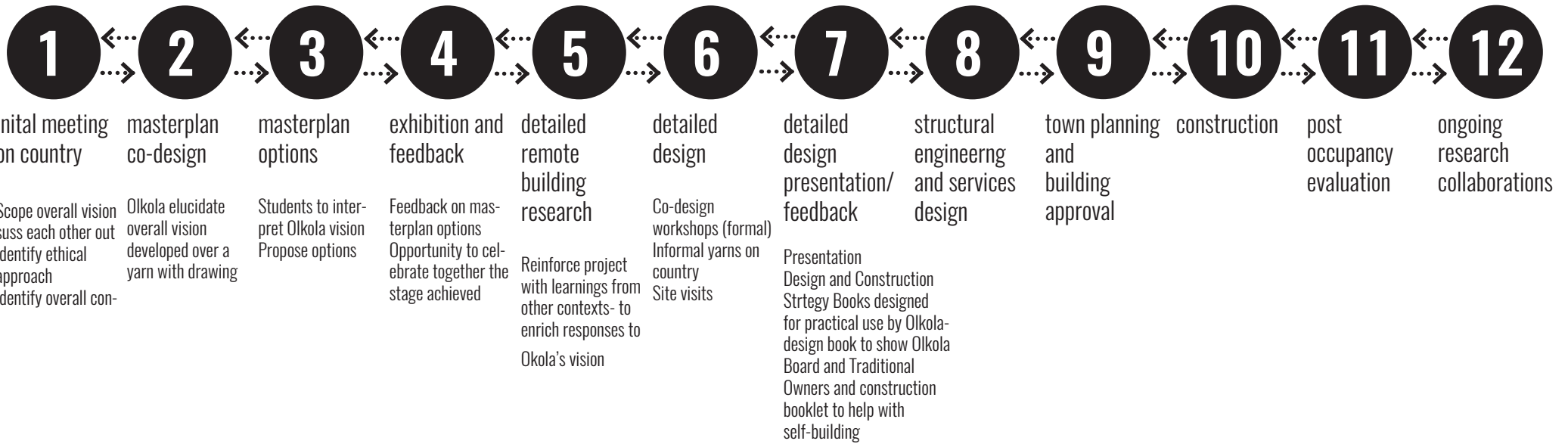
2017

2018

2019

2020

August



the process

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

August



Photo: Hannah Robertson

initial site visit

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

October



masterplan: self-built case studies

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

December



masterplan: articulating the vision

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

December



Drawing: Uncle Mike Ross

masterplan: articulating the vision

2014

2015

2016

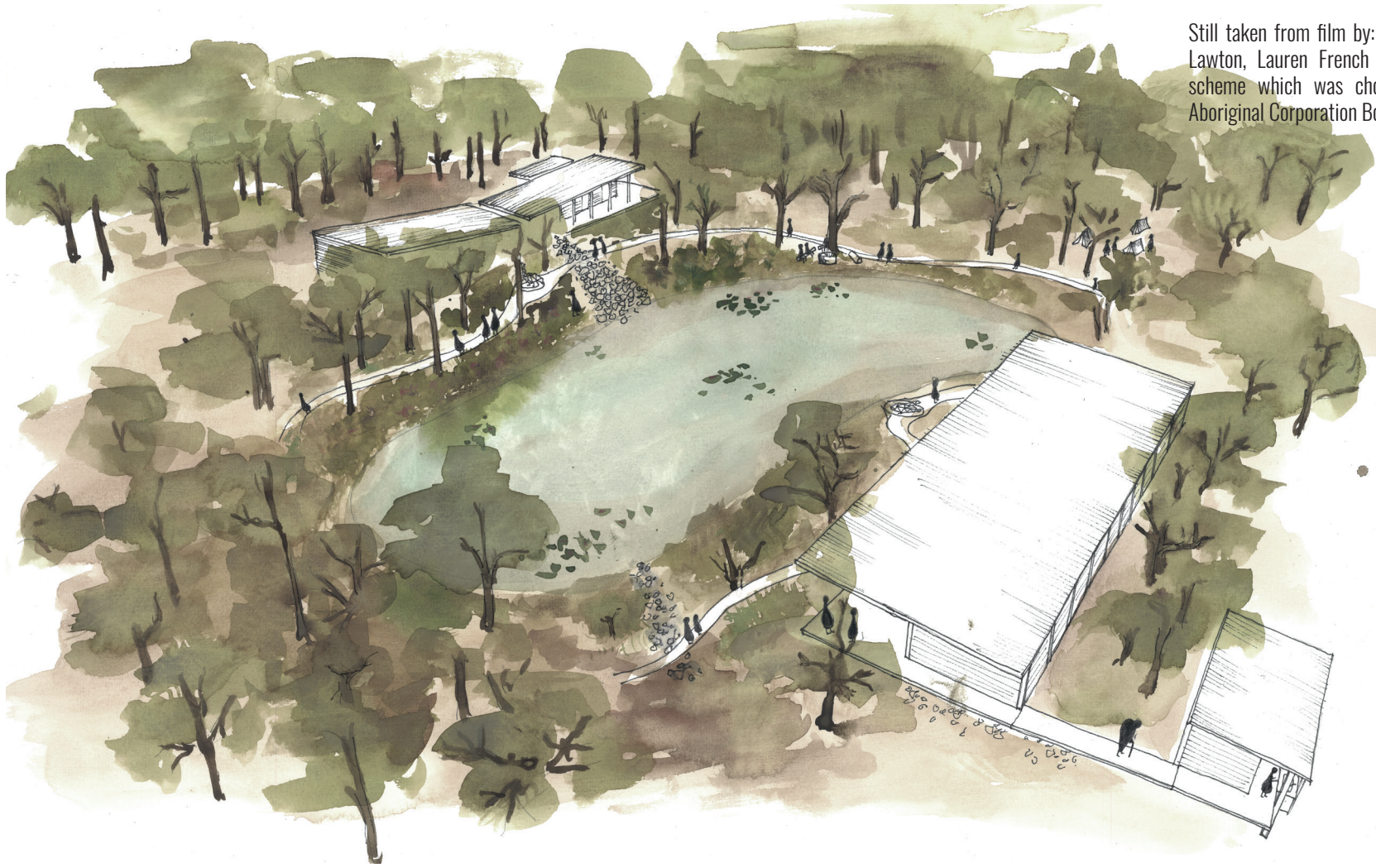
2017

2018

2019

2020

December



Still taken from film by: Alex Williams, Kate Lawton, Lauren French and Will Osborne's scheme which was chosen by the Olkola Aboriginal Corporation Board.

masterplan: films

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

December

Visions of a Bushman: Co-designing a cultural knowledge centre

Presented by Monash University's Department of Architecture



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olkolaaboriginalcorporati...
MADA Monash University Art Design & Arc...

olkolaaboriginalcorporation Joining the comfortable audience on the campus green with Okola Staff and Rangers, Katherine Samuel, Ashaley Ross and Curtis George, warm up the vocal cords with one of Monash's Art, Design and Architecture Lecturers, Hannah Robertson yarn about the importance of the Cultural Centre on Okola Country and our elder, Mike Ross's vision - Vision of a Bushman.

16 likes
MARCH 18

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MADA Monash University Art Design & Arc...

monasharchitecture @olkolaaboriginalcorporation Quiet a beautiful day it was for presentations on the campus green with Monash University students #photography #okola #culture #study #thinkington #visions #greencampus #sunnyday #settingup #oneofthreetables

14w

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14w

15 likes
MARCH 18

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detailed design: exhibition and feedback

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019
March

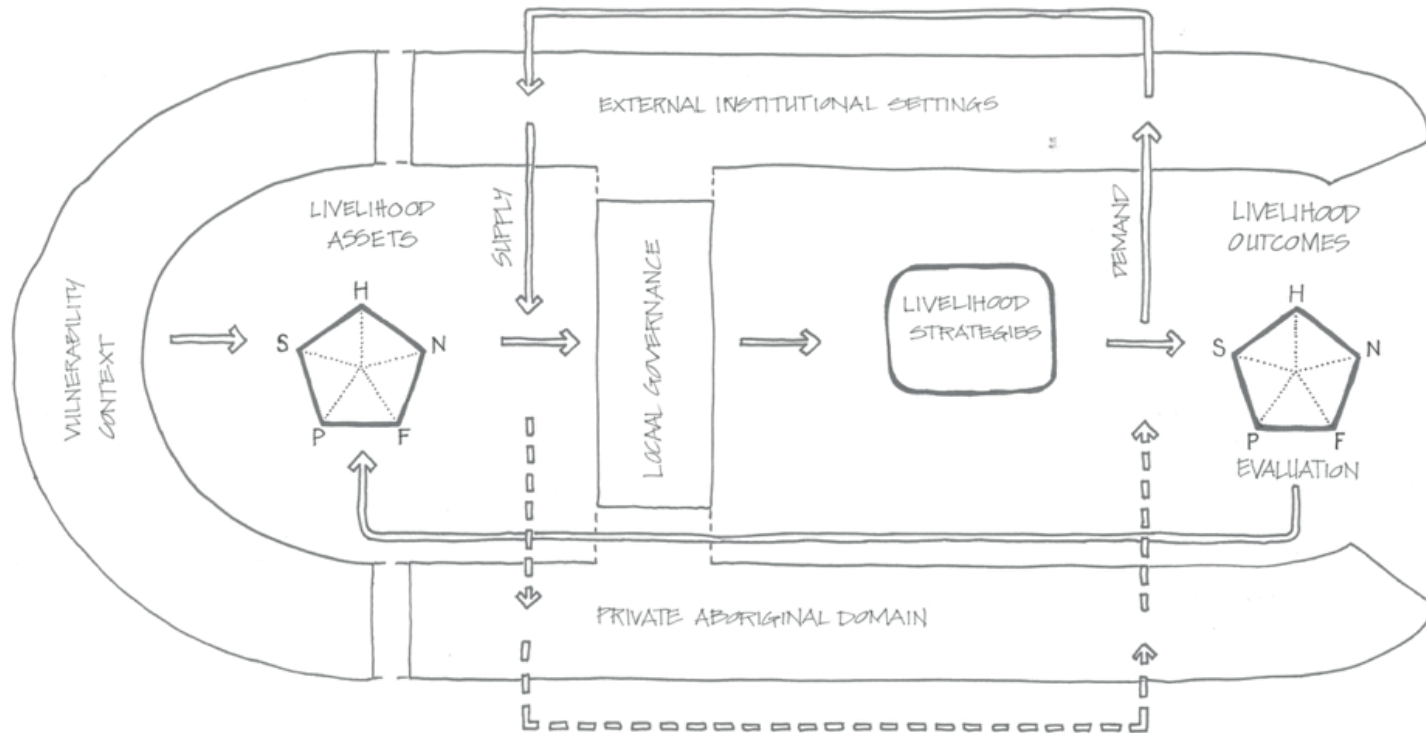
2020

Balabbala
 Warddeken Land Management
 Kabulwarnamyo, Northern Territory

Timber and concrete block
 Gumatj Corporation
 North East Arnhem Land, Northern Territory

Mud-brick constructions
 Hunnarshala Foundation
 Bhuj, Gujarat

Super Adobe Housing
 Foundation for Indigenous Sustainable Health
 Western Australia



Mark Moran's Sustainable Livelihoods Framework as adapted for Engawala Aboriginal Community 2008.

Mud-brick Houses
 Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation with Build Up Designs
 Maningrida and surrounding Outstations, Northern Territory

Self-Builds
 Multiple Communities and Paul Haar
 Mt Catt, Northern Territory

Bush Owner Builder
 Binthi Warra Families, Cape York
 Partnerships and The University of Melbourne

Timber in the Round
 communities and Neville Hutton
 Kuku Yalanji country, Queensland

detailed design: remote building research

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

March



Photos: Michael Whittingham

detailed design: co-design and yarns

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

April/May



detailed design: yarns on country

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

April/May



Photo: John Pender

detailed design: site visit

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

April/May



detailed design: presentation/feedback

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

June



DESIGN
manual



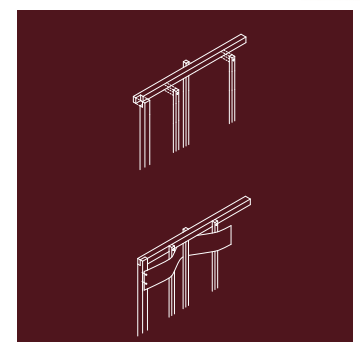
Olkola Cultural Knowledge Centre - Ranger Station
Kirsten Spiridis



CONSTRUCTION
manual

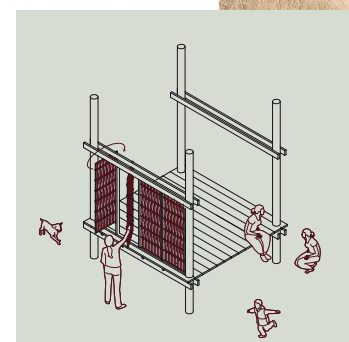


Olkola Cultural Knowledge Centre - Ranger Station
Kirsten Spiridis



recycled tarp woven screen

Other materials that are more robust or appropriate for the climate may be used. These could include ty wire mesh or recycled tarp and beams.



operable screen

These screens could be operable to shift as the sun moves across the sky or to open up the building when a breeze picks up on a hot day. Some may also be raised or lowered during the day based on conditions.

Interpretation of Olkola's Design Scheme by Kirsten Spiridis

detailed design: designs sent to Olkola

2014

2015

2016

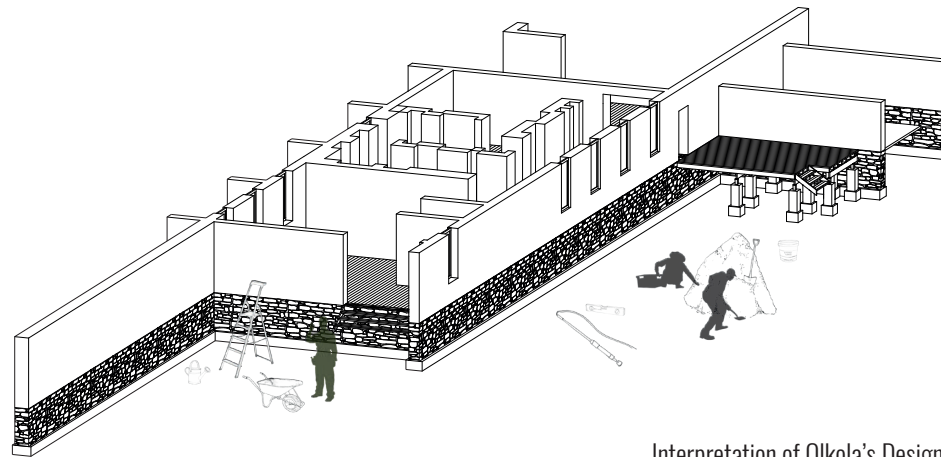
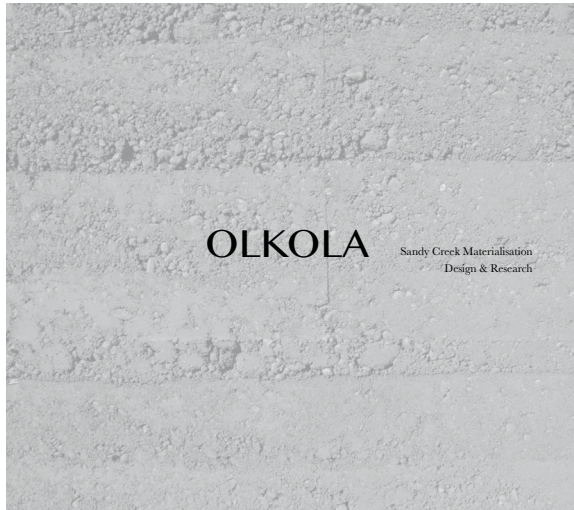
2017

2018

2019

2020

June



Interpretation of Olkola's Design Scheme by Lauren French

detailed design: designs sent to Olkola

2014

2015

2016

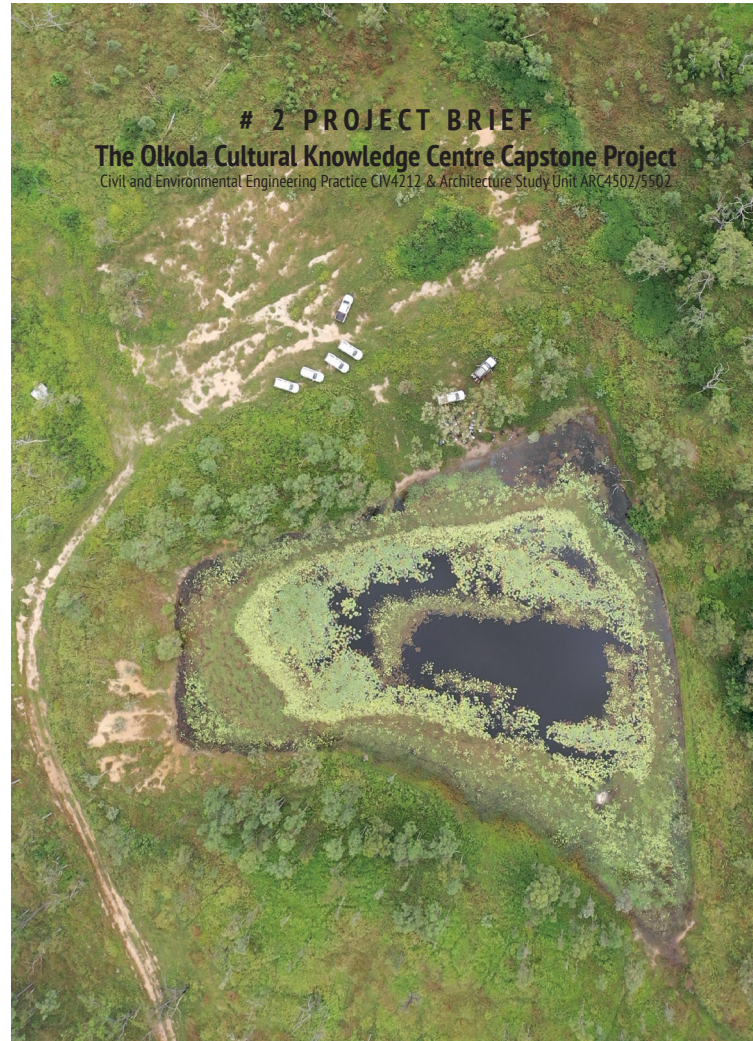
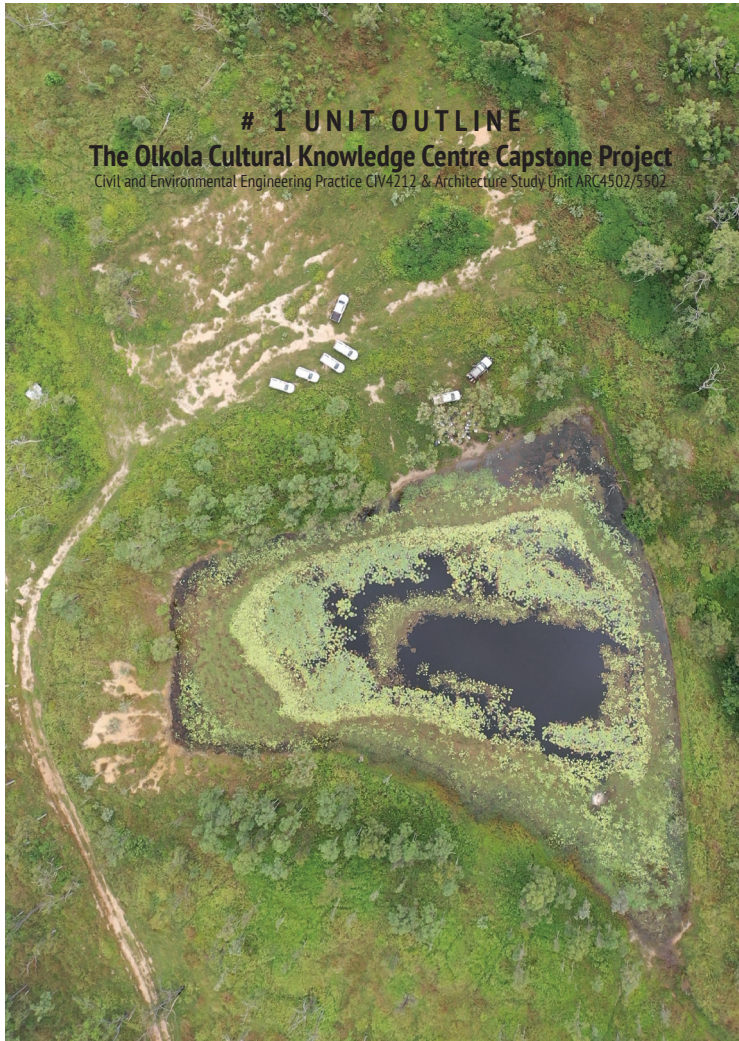
2017

2018

2019

2020

June



structural design: archi/engineering collaboration

2014

2015

2016

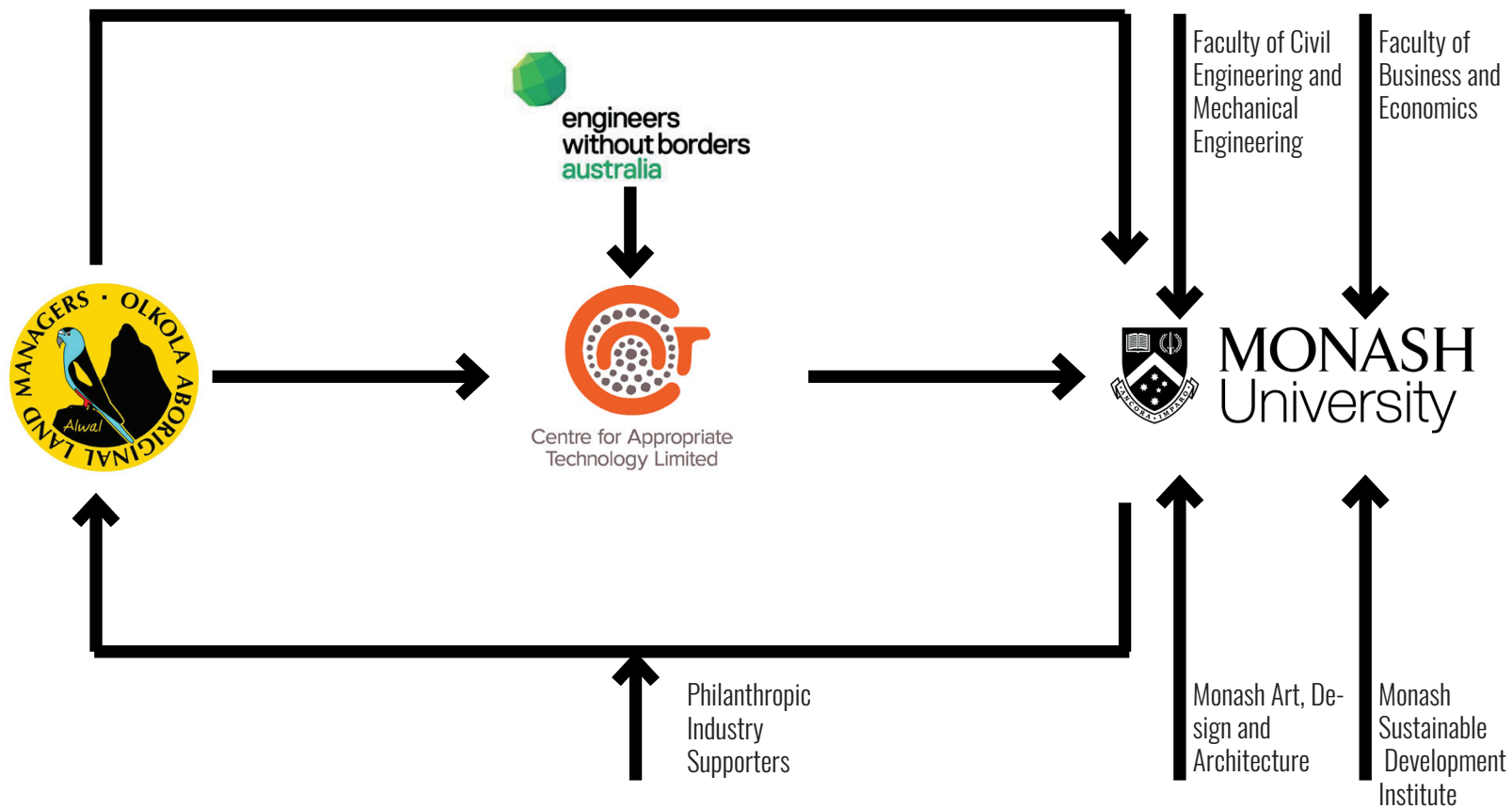
2017

2018

2019

2020

July



Growth of the project

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

July



What's next?

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020....

- Project structure supports Traditional Owner led solutions at all stages with the flexibility to adapt to changes.
- True partnership between community, university and external partners.
- Increases the role of Traditional Owners as designers and builders.
- The university role is channelled to be one of technical facilitator.
- Harnesses student work to produce meaningful outcomes for Traditional Owners in stages and with enough options that Traditional Owners continue to lead the process.
- Broadens out from a discipline specific approach of architecture only and instead draws on a systemic socio-ecological perspective to create a building that addresses identified needs and supports broader social, cultural, economic and environmental aspirations.
- Establishes a best practice model for University engagement.
- Supports the creation of genuine and ongoing working relationships and friendships.

Lessons so far

Self-building and co-design might not be the right approach for everyone but it is a way of working that values every party involved and provides for genuine input and because of teaching component hopefully contributes to an emerging group of professionals who can implement this way of working in their own working lives. Produces a design and construction strategy that **can be used by Olkola for building other structures** across their country.

Could be part of **a broader programme**. Part of a pipeline of projects with **a network of communities that share information** and support each other in **self-determining** (not dictating) what they need.

Ultimately it **comes back to Olkola's vision- of getting back on country and looking after it** for generations to come. It is Olkola country, but Olkola's willingness to work with Monash University is sharing the knowledge in a deep and profound way with the students that significantly increases their level of understanding living and working on Aboriginal Lands across Australia.

The bigger picture

Thank You!

