



Royal Beach Camp

an education centre in Nepal

Name: Isabella Donovan Moran
Examiner: Johnny Åstrand
Supervisor: Maria Rasmussen, Lars-Henrik Ståhl
Presented: In English

This thesis project is a design proposal for the Royal Beach Camp (RBC) education centre, located along the Trishuli River of the Dhading region in Central Nepal.

The Royal Beach Camp has been undergoing a process of shifting its focus from tourism towards education over the past two years. The site continues to offer educational programs specialising in guide accreditation for rafting, canyoneering, kayaking and mountaineering amongst other activities.

The main aim of this thesis project is to design a naturalistic education centre, informed by participatory methods and anchored to the local RBC community and Nepali context.

A study trip to Nepal in February and March of 2020 was instrumental in the development of the design proposal brief of the education centre. The proposal evolved to include master-planning the expansive 12,000m² site and to prioritise facilitating student and staff accommodation as well as learning spaces.

During the study trip to Nepal, a variety of participatory methods were tested and explored. By applying *human-centered design principles*, this project acts as an opportunity to emphasise the importance of these participatory methods in enabling ownership and empowerment of the local community.

The brief elucidated the necessity of site-specificity and a respectful application of Nepal's vernacular style architecture. To create a site-specific proposal anchored to the local RBC community, it was imperative to better understand the Nepali context; inclusive of historical, social, cultural, climatic, and environmental factors.

Preliminary research focuses on Nepali vernacular architecture, prompting the investigation of local materials and construction techniques, with inspiration taken from a series of site visits throughout Nepal. The subsequent design project proposes to reincorporate the Nepali vernacular into modern architecture with a respectful and inspired approach that utilises local materials.