

Wickham Community Hub Building Entrance Public Art Commission RFP31 – 16/17

Concept Design: Artistic Services for Public
Art Presented to City of Karratha

PAULA HART

With De Makers Van and Denmac



THE TEAM



I propose to work as the principal artist. I am a Western Australian visual artist of recognised excellence working in the areas of Public and Participatory Arts. I am committed to creating artworks that build a sense of place and will inspire and delight users, owners and community. The work must build connection, relevance and recognition to this local vibrant community and surrounding buildings, while creating a strong contemporary visual art piece that has sophistication and significance as an Australian work of art.

Paula Hart.

37 Vine Street, North Perth. 6006. WA. M: +61 41041 9373 E: paulala@iinet.net.au



Artwork #2 will be produced by De Makers Van with their product Dedots. The design studio is based in The Netherlands, and its production unit is based in Bangalore, India.

Joep Verhoeven and I have collaborated on one completed and two current public art commissions. He is particularly keen for me to be introduced to the Dedots team, and exploring some new ways of working with their architectural fabrics and the exciting possibilities for this commission.

Joep Verhoeven

Studio / bel 024. Van Diemenstraat 410-412. 1013 CR Amsterdam, The Netherlands. T +31 (0)208450626



The artwork's framing structure and installation will be handled by DENMAC. DENMAC provides design, fabrication & construction for bespoke architectural solutions. They have a strong commitment to working with the arts sector. Rob Innocent and his team are ready to work shoulder to shoulder with Joep and myself to create an effective and elegant installation with Lace Fence.

Rob Innocent.

Managing Director DENMAC. 185 Camboon Rd, Malaga WA 6090. T +61 (08) 9249 2800

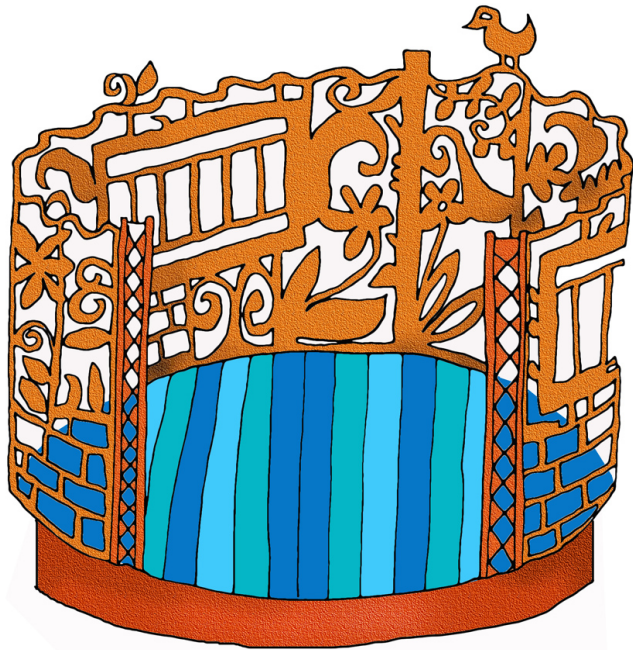
THE CONCEPT

The architect describes the WCH as “an object within the endless landscape of the Pilbara: boundless within its endless horizons. The outer shell of the roof and the northern wall present the different facilities as one single element, standing strongly within the vast Pilbara landscape. This design response conceals a rich and active underbelly of defined and intimate spaces within its embrace. This approach to the building design is a purposeful reflection of the subterfuge used by native flora and fauna to protect themselves, working together to represent the group as one single larger organism and by shielding their vulnerable underbellies with an external hard shell or carapace. This idea of a soft underbelly that is dense with life is only possible through the congregation of many things in one space. This synergy is reminiscent of the shaded cool spaces within dry creek beds as they wander through the Pilbara landscape. These beds create intimate and defined spaces that are dense with life and rich with colour.”

Shade is a vital element in the Pilbara and will be the key feature in both the decorative and functional aspects of my proposal.



Harding River Dam near Roebourne.



ARTWORK #1

As outlined in my EOI, the proposed artwork is a series of decorative screens depicting the a literal narrative of the creek bed. The screens will be constructed as the curved walls of an elevated platform. The concept is that the platform structure can be functional as seating / play, while the curved walls are the highly decorated artworks. This functional/experiential stand-alone artwork will be located within landscaped areas at the entrance

The artwork in effect is two fold. First there is the artwork of decoratively patterned laser cut panels.

- Patterns, pictures and other imagery is laser cut out of 5mm Corten weathering steel sheeting.
- The panels' designs will create the atmosphere of being beside a creek bed. The creek bed *"creates intimate and defined spaces that are dense with life and rich in colour. They are cooled by the shadows of the ghost gums and coolabahs that gather at their bank to drink and they are animated by the multitude of animals seeking food and shelter, scampering across the crackling shale creating a melody with the wind's tones"*.
- Using online references like The Australian Living Atlas, (<http://biocache.ala.org.au/explore/your-area>) it is possible to refer to data of the flora & fauna in the Wickham area.... Since the Coolibah, while poetic and evocative of the sheltering nature of the WCH, is not native to the area.
- I will further explore the flora and fauna in the region through community engagement with a short artist-in-residency. Clinton Walker, a tour guide with Ngurrangga has been recommended for great knowledge of the trees in the region.
- Through community participation to gather ideas and artwork the integrated panels can foster community spirit and allow the community to express their cultural identity and attachment to place.
- The patterning I create is quite different to commercially produced laser cut patterns. The design motifs are organic and handcrafted, and the panels are each unique, rather than repeat.
- The panels create decorative shadowing.
- The artwork will be a more literal narrative of the creek bed, which will underline the abstract representations of the architect's concept.

Secondly, the decorative panels become part of a functional seating structure.

- The circles are elevated by means of a low, painted wooden decking on a metal platform. This is 500mm as per building codes for seating.
- Beyond seating, the structures provide an area for creative play, mini-stages, out-door classrooms, reading nooks, meeting areas and waiting spaces. Creating intimate space to come together, interact and engage side by side.
- The curved panels create an attractive, interesting and comfortable space. In particular the theme of the “creek bed”, encircling shade trees, works well with the circle of the panels.
- Height. The paneling in my previous yarn circles has taken on a solid shape with uniform 2200mm high panels. The panels could sweep upwards to 3200mm or undulate.
- Addressing the Public Art Policy goal of creating comfortable places that enhance the pedestrian experience.
- Laser cut metal provides significant value for money, a robust material and longevity. It requires little maintenance and is durable in a harsh environment.
- Technical and practical elements of the design have been solved on previous fabrication, but will be modified if necessary to be certified in accordance with the Building Code of Australia and Australian Standards for Cyclone Region D, Terrain Category 2.

This project at the Wickham Community Hub offers me the opportunity to build upon the achievement of my previous yarn circle projects, with the technical and practical elements of the design development worked through, to now really explore the decorative elements of the work. The robust structure provides a terrific starting point to be reinvented with unique design motifs relating to the creek bed for the Wickham Community Hub.

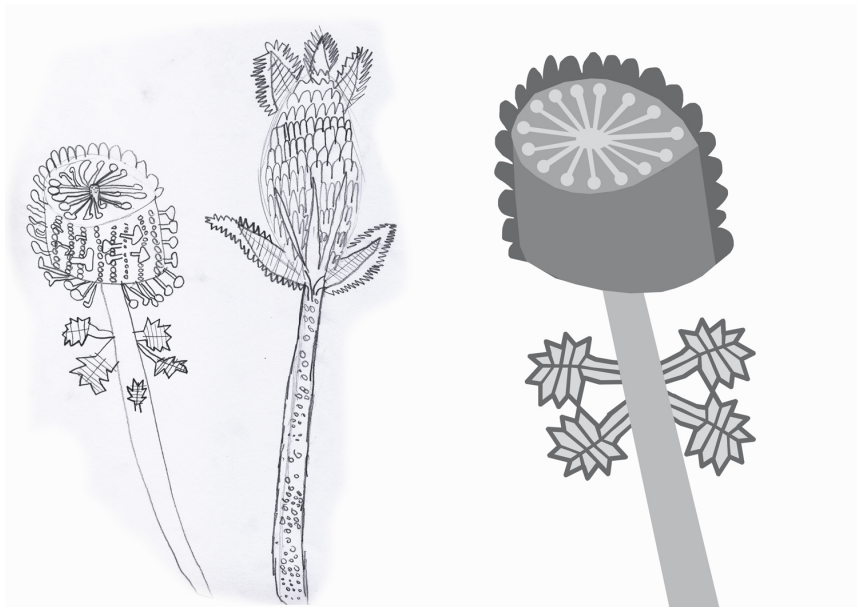
I am particularly interested in working with the laser cut metal in a highly detailed way rather than large slabs of metal. As a representation for the Pilbara laser cut metal is a perfect medium - One that potentially combines a sensitive delicacy of story-telling, moments of beauty in the landscape and human frailty with powerful, large-scale industrial production. Echoing De Makers Van, “Hostility versus kindness, *industry versus craft*.” I am fascinated by seeing the hostile Australian landscape reinterpreted with kindness. The ancient land and booming new community.

IMAGERY, THEMES AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Consultation with a local community can direct us towards a unique view of their place and sometimes hilariously unexpected interests. A little tantalizing subversion and mischief is often missing in Public Artworks and it's through community engagement that a more "real" picture of a place emerges. A particularly popular work of mine that demonstrates this is a massive mural in Tom Price at the back of the pub – Discussion lead to the discovery that the local post office handles the most parcels per capita of any branch in Australia. Amongst the various local characters we included the image of a mum at the letterbox getting a delivery notice to pick up a parcel. All the locals agreed THAT'S TOM PRICE! It's these gems that I love working with to maintain a direct connection to a local audience.

This sort of detailing provides a very literal and easily accessible interpretation of the creek bed. The juxtaposition between the detailed and the abstract provides different viewpoints for the audience, with the detailed paneling underlining the narrative created with the building. This will enhance their experience of the abstract by providing a tangible link that the local community has created with me.

Tapping into the community via the school is always a good start. I'd also hope to involve adult members of the community, especially those that "don't consider themselves arty". My budget reflects a time allocation for this. Working With Children Check and appropriate police clearance.



THE STRUCTURE COMPRISES VARIOUS ELEMENTS



The DECKING will provide a 3m diameter circle with an area of 7m². This will create a good amount of 'edge' for seating and plenty of space on top.

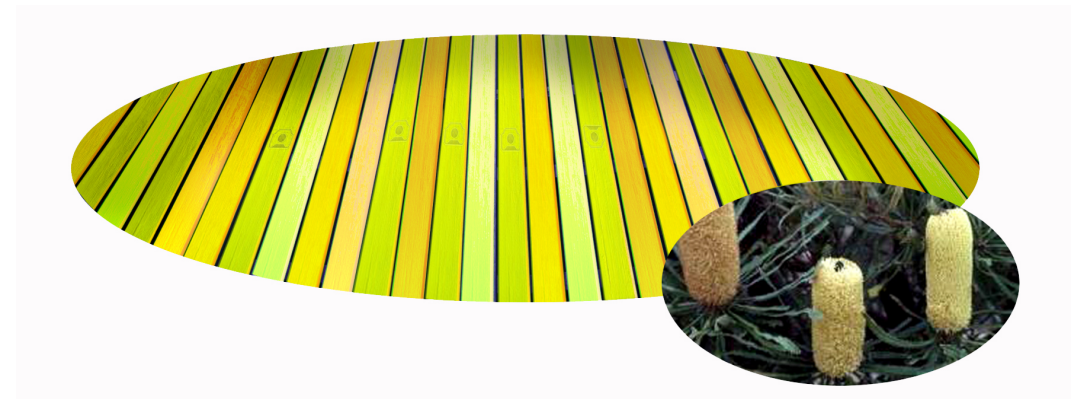
I have previously used Merbau, which requires a rigorous tannin treatment and can then be coloured. I'm happy to use wood on advice for location.

The wooden decking can be painted to provide an opportunity for some splashes of colour or left natural.

Maintenance will always be required for any wood and paintwork. Appropriate durable paint such as Cabots Decking Paint (A Dulux company) will be used with a product life expectancy of 12 years and a workmanship warranty of 5 years from the accredited painter.

The PANELS.

- 5 panels will be decoratively cut in 1200 x 2200 x 5mm sheets of Corten weathering steel.
- Laser cut metal provides significant value for money, a robust material and longevity.
- The cutout patterning has its edges softened making for a smooth and safe surface to lean upon and an interesting texture to touch.
- The semi transparent patterning provides an intimate space but does not hinder sight lines.
- The decoratively, patterned cutting typical of my work is mindful of edges, entrapment and other issues and has been approved by Kidsafe for use in this manner.
- It requires little maintenance and is durable in a harsh environment.

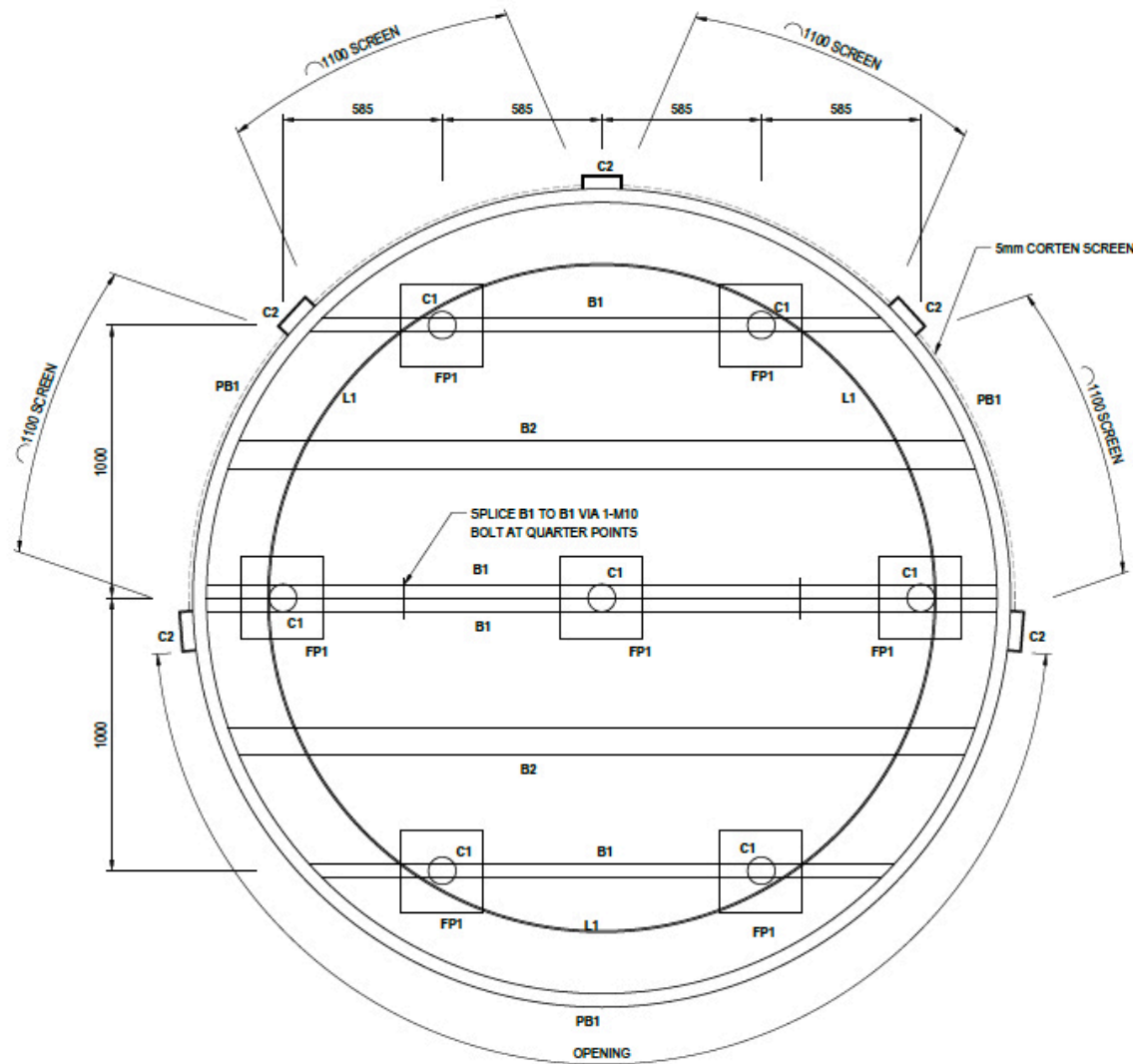


The SKIRT. To prevent children crawling under the structures or animals getting underneath, a skirt will be fixed under the decking structure. This will also hide the galvanized support structure underneath the decking. I am very keen to create this with powder-coated aluminium to create a vibrant splash of colour. I like the idea of the bold strip of colour that contrasts with the decorative Corten above.

The GALVANISED SUPPORT STRUCTURE. The elevated decking is to be approx 500mm off the ground surface to comply with building codes
Subframe 50 x 50 x 5mm CDG angle welded in 2 semi circles connected through middle.
450mm gaps on the joists.
Structural supports are 75 x 50 x 5mm posts set into concrete footings.
Posts are hidden by skirt.

Images below show the Corten skirt and galvanised support frame as installed at Anne Hammersley Primary School prior to Corten elements being installed on site.
The structure being craned into position at Warwick Hockey Centre.

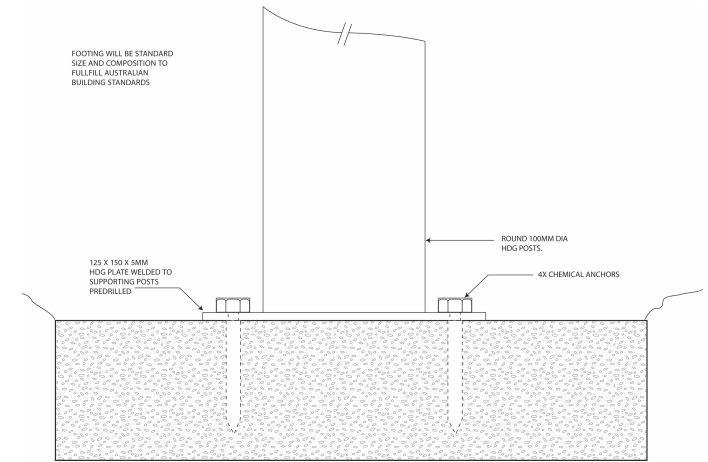




3.0m YARN FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 1:20

- ALL CONNECTIONS TO BE WELDED UNO
- DESIGN LIVE LOAD = 2kPa
- ALL DIMENSIONS SHOWN ARE TO THE CENTRELINES OF COLUMNS.



The FOOTINGS. As above.

ENGINEERING I have existing approved drawings of the structure. Denmac and their engineer will determine if there is any need for modification of these existing drawings to address the site and in particular the cyclone rating. We will provide new certification and drawings that show how the structure can be installed within the specifics of this site.

INSTALLATION

Denmac have suggested for this Wickham Community Hub commission they would prefer to build the complete structure in the factory, transport it to Wickham and Hiab it into position.

Installation is then the simple process of bolting the work to foundations or alternatively pouring cement around the legs. This can be done by their team based in Karratha, local contractors or the builder.

Delivery - Truck access required.

LIGHTING upon the artwork is beautiful at night. This is not budgeted for but could be considered from a grounds' lighting budget.



BUDGET AND WORKS PROGRAM

Previous projects with laser cut metal fabricated by Unique Metal Laser / Denmac have proved to adhere very well with time constraints. I am available to carry out this commission in a timely manner.

ARTIST'S FEES

- Develop design concept to full design drawings and confirm budget.
- Present design concept for engineers and associated approvals.
- Research to reference the theme.
- Compose the final imagery.
- Convert design into vector drawings.
- Liaise with Denmac for design, production and delivery of the product.
- Liaise with architect and landscape architect for integration, delivery of the product and installation.
- Liaise with site manager for installation.
- Document project and maintenance report.

Approx 180 hours

\$20,000

TRAVEL FOR COMMUNITY CONSULTATION / RESIDENCY and INSTALLATION SUPERVISION ON SITE

2 x Flights, accommodation, car hire and per diem.

\$2,800

3 METRE DIAMETRE STRUCTURE

- 3000mm diameter x 500mm high "yam circle" seating pod frame.
- Galvanised 75x50x5mm HDG posts.
- Corten skirt in powder coated Aluminium.
- 5 x laser cut panels. Curved, tapered, 5mm Corten
- 6 x decorative / functional universal beams. Corten
- Shop drawings and associated factory support.
- Installation crew.

Denmac Quote

\$22,500

DECKING

Merbau, Carpentry, Intergrain Power Prep, Intergrain Reviva, Zinsser stain blocker, Cabots decking Paint, labour.

\$2,750

FOOTINGS - Allocated

\$1,250

ENGINEERS REPORT UPDATED

\$1,000

TRANSPORT based on an estimated 1000kg weight.

\$2,000

CRANE

\$1,200

CONTINGENCY

\$2,700

TOTAL

\$56,200

ARTWORK #2

In my EOI, I proposed a complementary artwork by creating dappled shading with cut out laser panels in the entrance walkway or a second yarn circle at another location on the site. The two artworks would talk to each other through all the detailed, decorative cutting and the narrative of the flora & fauna. At the architects briefing this complementary artwork was turned on it's head when I fully appreciated the impact of the colourful Swiss Pearl panelling, and my concept was consolidated when I read that the Swiss Pearl would be used as the soffit on the entrance walkway. What I now propose is a work completely separate from the seating structure that is a direct response to the architectural fabric of the building.

AN INTRODUCTION TO DE MAKERS VAN AND DEDOTS

De Makers Van is a Dutch design house founded by twin brothers Jeroen and Joep Verhoeven (1976). De Makers Van (Dutch for "The Makers of") combines the fantastic with the practical. Like true storytellers they turn function and form into mystical narrative. Dreams become objects of beauty, from fantasy to factory, statement to product.

One of the first products that the studio introduced was Lace Fence, a high end metal fabric that reinterprets the cyclone fence, known for its ugliness and negative connotation, introducing designs of bobbin lace wire within industrial chainlink fencing. Lace Fence removes the hostility and stark industry of the chain link fence, and recreates it with a sense of kindness and craft. Joep particularly enjoys working in collaboration with each client to design bespoke projects and we are now onto our third collaboration using this sublime material.

De Makers Van are a company that believes in 21st Century craftsmanship for architecture. Working with sustainable, durable materials and working as a custom tailor for small to large scale identities. Understanding that Gresley Abas Architects' design philosophy encourages the creation of environmentally and socially appropriate solutions as well as innovative design principals it is important to note that De Makers Van values a socially responsible and sustainable way of producing their products. With their team these aspects are as important as being able to create new products. The company employs a crew of 140 craftspeople in Bangalore, India, to execute the designs, and provides schooling, social security and pension funds. The company has been recognized and awarded for it's fair trade practice.

DeDots is their newest architectural fabric and seems a perfect material to use in this Wickham Community Hub commission. Joep has introduced me to the team who developed the material and given me full access to the lead designer, architect Bas Bolderen, who will work shoulder to shoulder with me to develop the project from concept through to completion. So, what is this Dedots...?

Dedots are 3D colour pixels, mounted on a mesh carrier base. One dot is where it all starts, with multiple dots giving the opportunity to create unique images, patterns, colours and surfaces.

The material with can be transparent or almost completely closed, can be decorative or functional, blocking wind & sun and reducing acoustics. Coming from a background in fencing but able to be applied as railings, balustrades, a space divider, on building façades, a ceiling and all surfaces around.

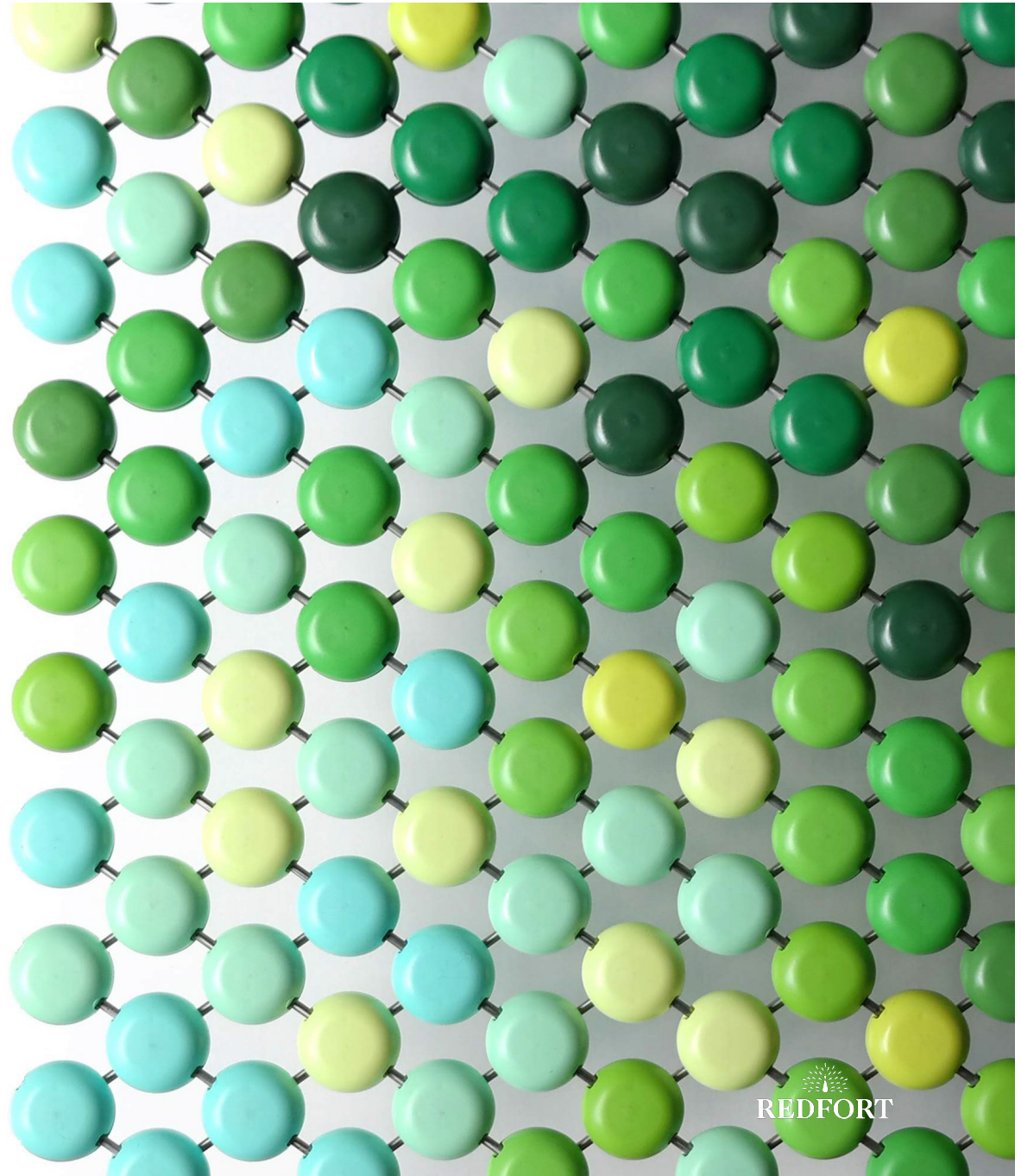
The base material of the dots is PC-ASA. PC-ASA is a thermoplastic, which is highly suitable for re-use.

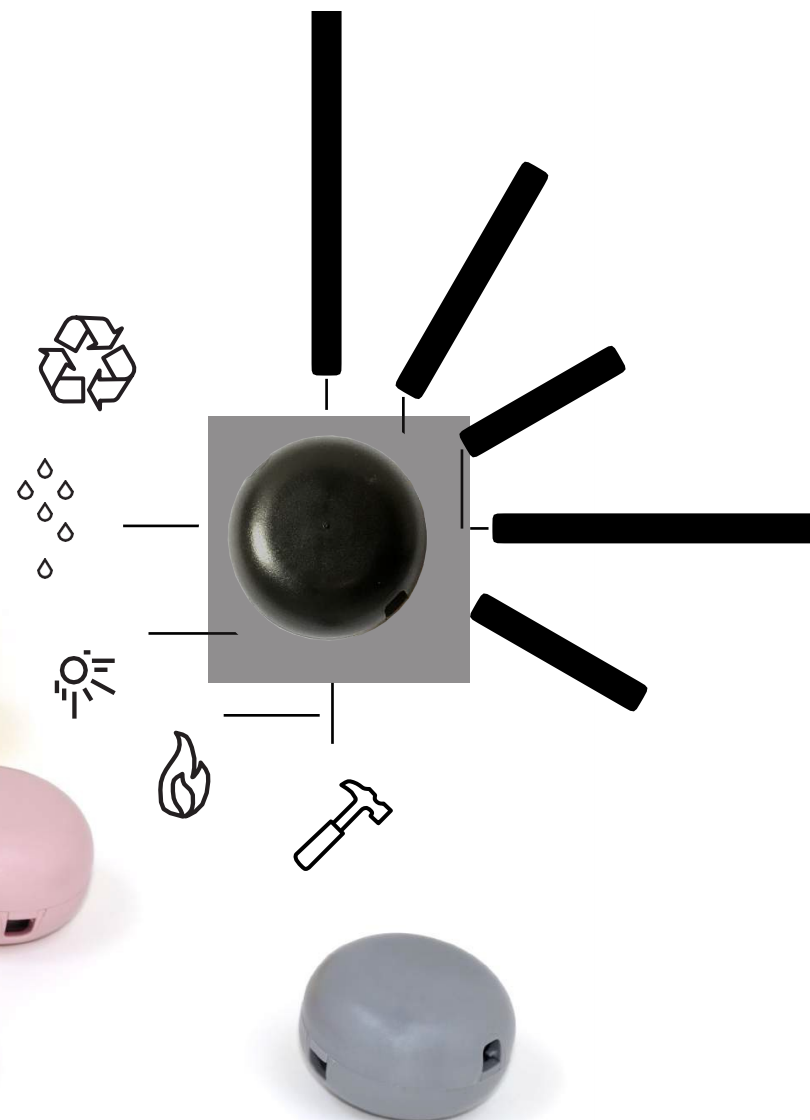
The Dedots features include;

- Highest fire resistant Grade VO
- UV Resistant
- Wind reduction
- Privacy enhancement
- Sun Screen
- Acoustics reduction (ceiling panels)
- 148 Solid colours
- Anodised colours
- Custom colours

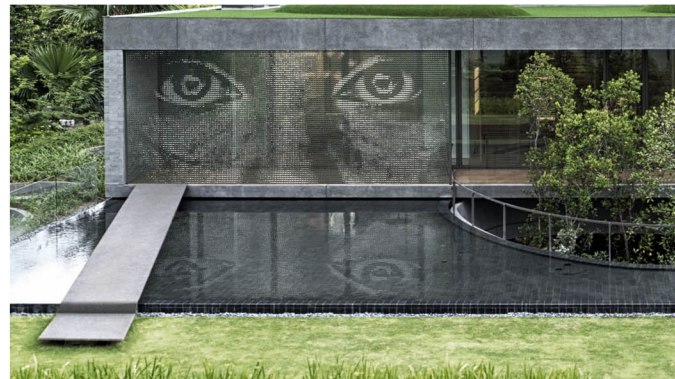
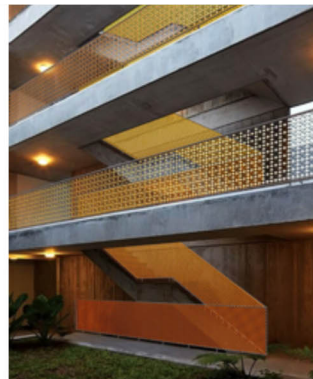
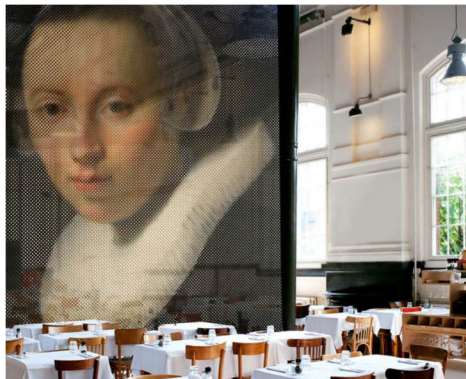
The wide range of colours and finishes gives us the opportunity to work with the colours used in the vertical Swiss Pearl panels. The Swiss pearl creating the dramatic vertical lines, and the Dedots creating a complementary dappling of dots above.

Dedots is created in panels and attached to a modularised framing system. There is potential for the material to be integrated at various locations throughout the building. For the purposes of this proposal, as a 2nd artwork alongside Artwork #1 and with the budget / location outlined, we propose a soffit of Dedots in the Entrance Walkway.

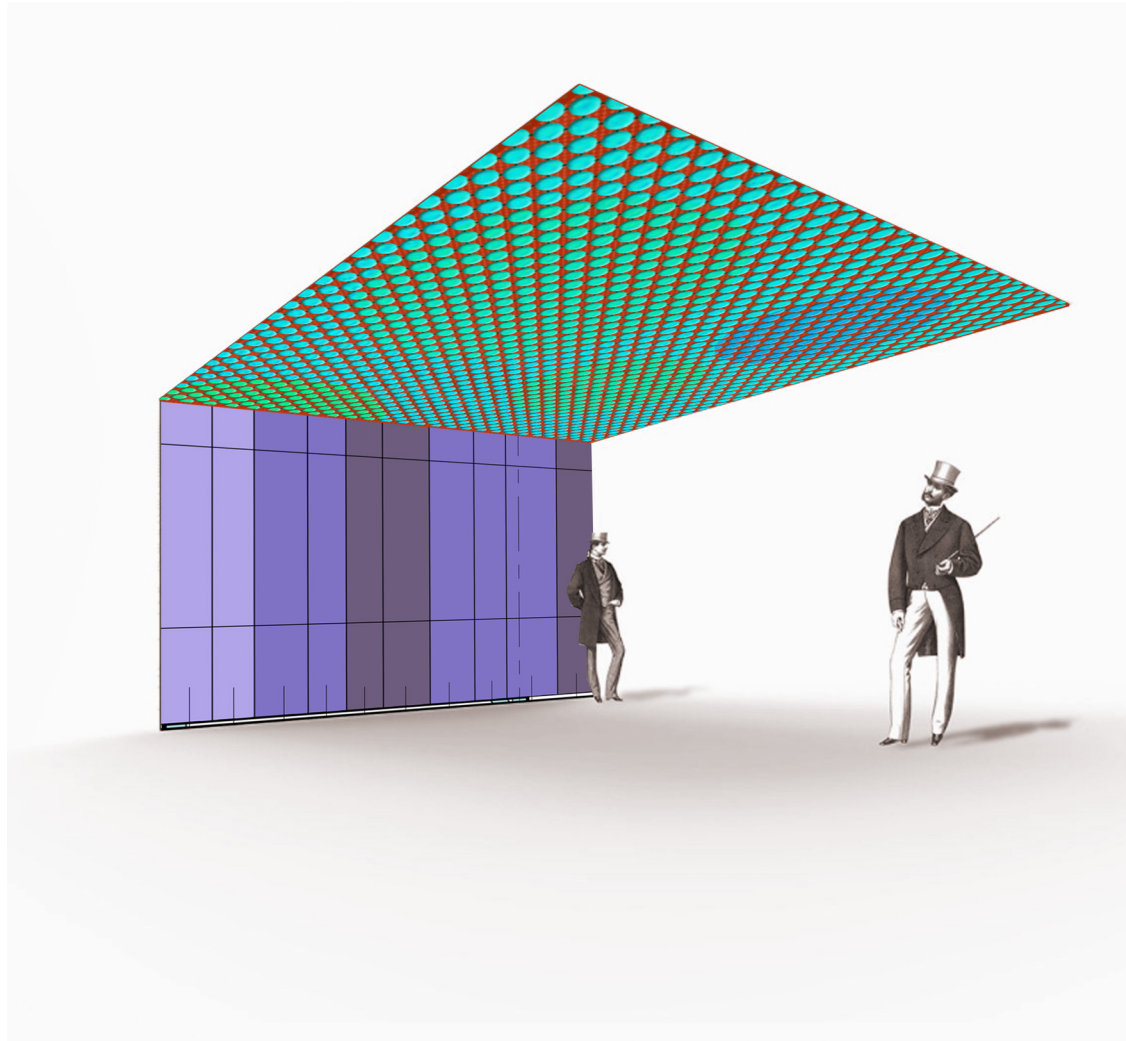




De Makers Van invented and developed Dedots specifically for a project in the Netherlands, with the sports fields now enclosed by the largest canvas in Europe. Moedersheim Moonen Architects created 8,500 m² of colorful imagery of unique designs translated into 1.6 million 'pixels' over a 1.2km length. This has resulted in a functional work of art that presents an exciting combination of transparency, permeability to air and imagination. Further illustrative and abstract examples added.



ARTWORK IN THE ENTRANCE WALKWAY



At the architect's briefing I fully appreciated the impact of the colourful Swiss Pearl paneling, and my concept was consolidated when I read that the Swiss Pearl would be used as the soffit on the entrance walkway. The juxtaposition of the colourful vertical panels and a horizontal plane of colourful dots works beautifully.

The driving concept of the creek bed is about the shade and protection created by the canopy. When in that creek environment, looking up into the tree canopy the leaves and sky create a dappled patterning. That dappling is perfectly evoked by the dots.

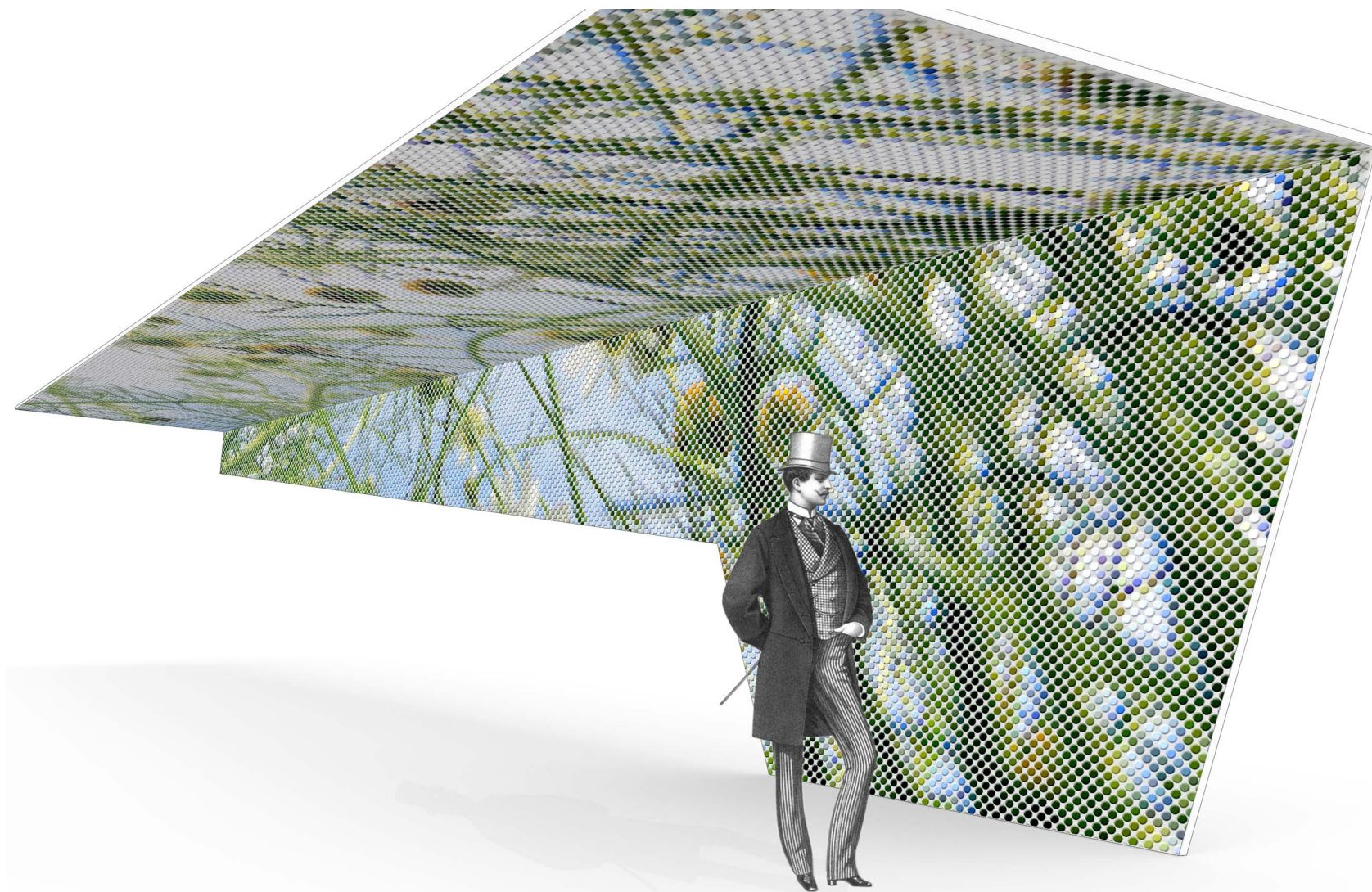
Wickham does not have a strong association with indigenous Australia, I am not an indigenous artist and the Ngarluma artists do not use dots in their paintings, but the dots make a subtle nod to dot paintings and the country this community is built on.

Looking at the budget remaining from Artwork #1, the numbers add up to work with the soffit and outer bended vertical plane of the entrance walkway.

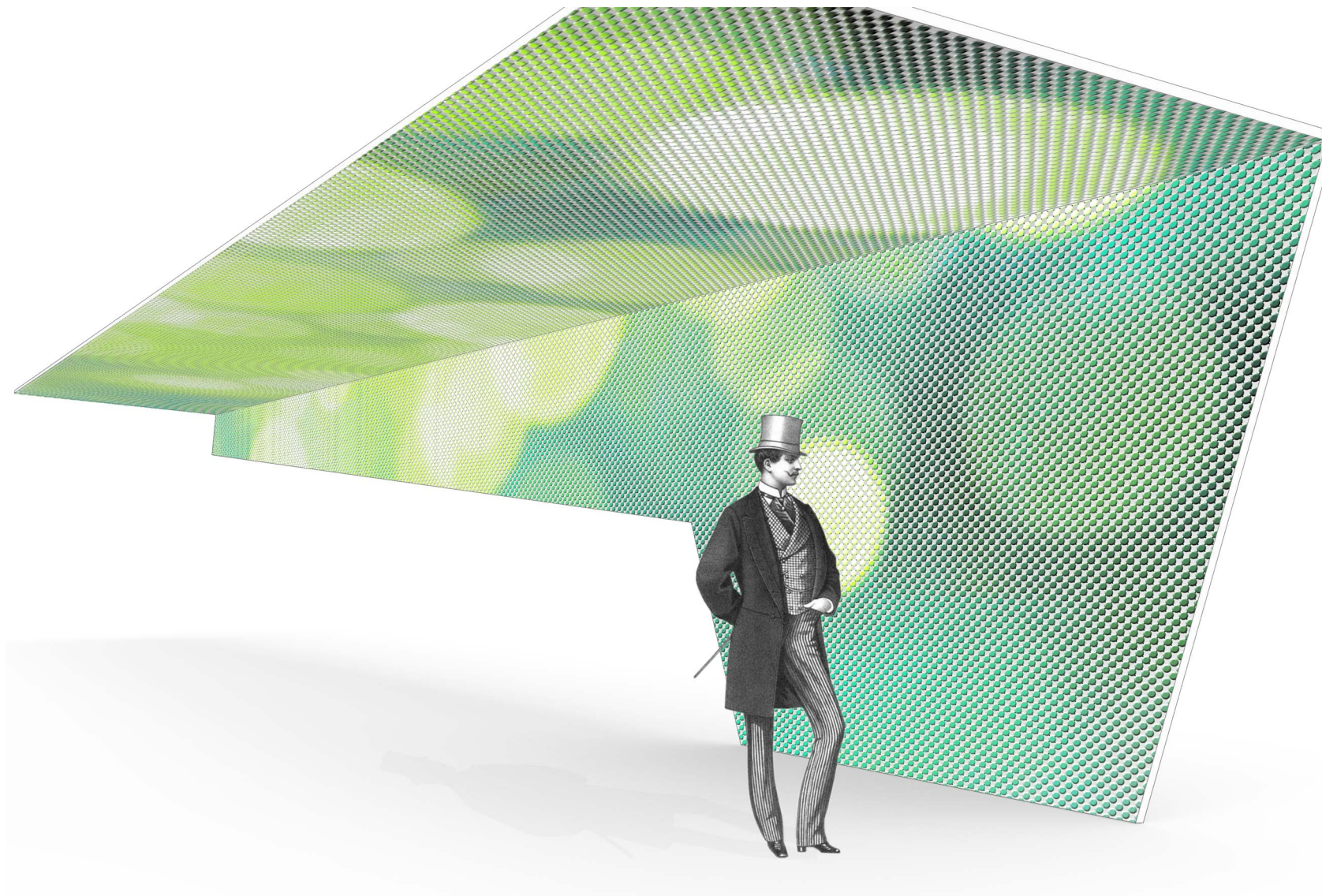
IMAGERY, THEMES AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Consultation with the local community would be preferable as the starting point for the imagery. Exploring the local environment, finding those scarce places of shade, a day trip to Harding River. This will enhance the experience of the abstract by providing a tangible link that the local community has created with me.

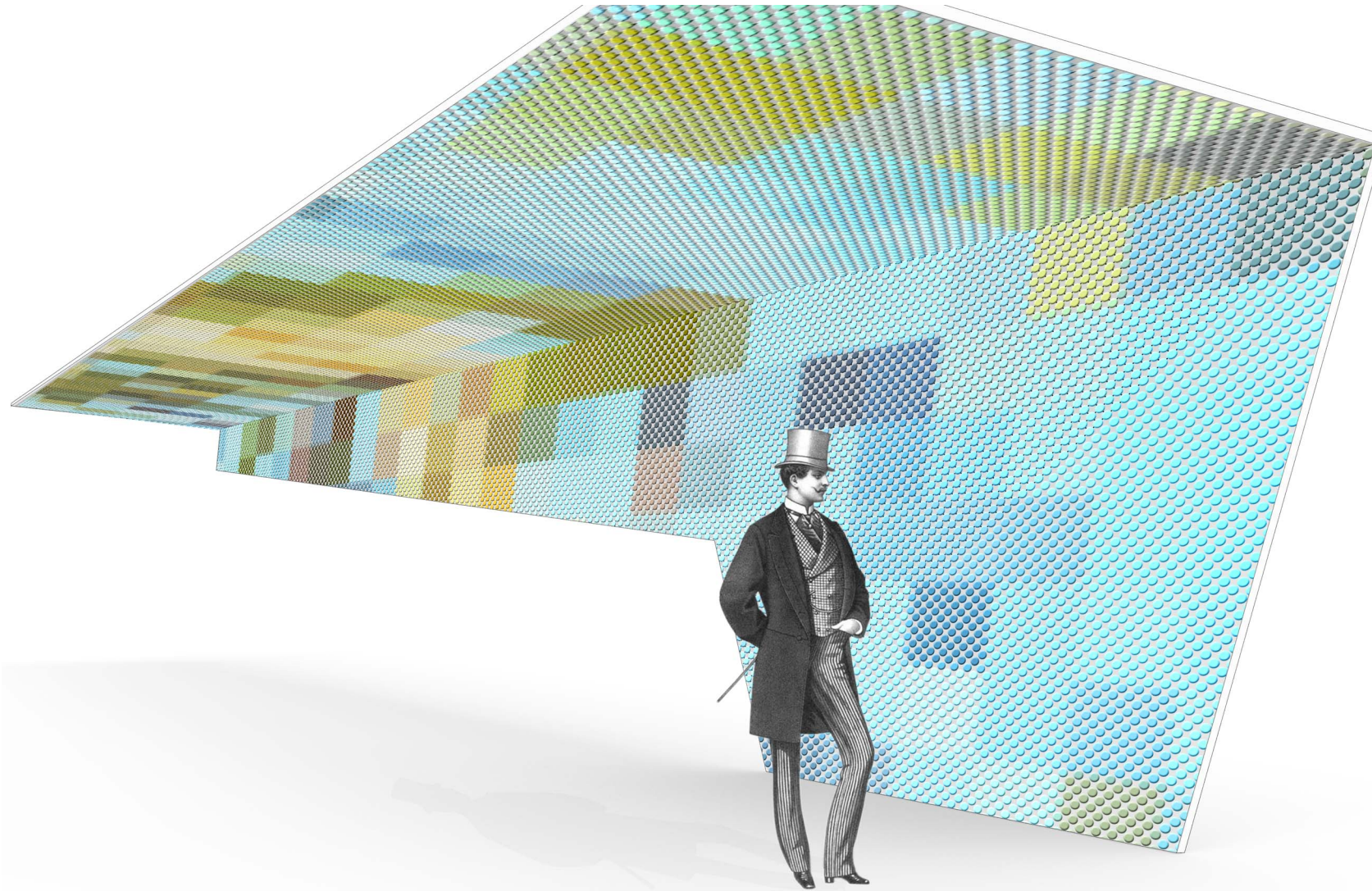
The following images have had a starting point from photographs in my North Perth native garden. These are indicative only and show the beginnings of the work to be filled out at the Design Development stage.



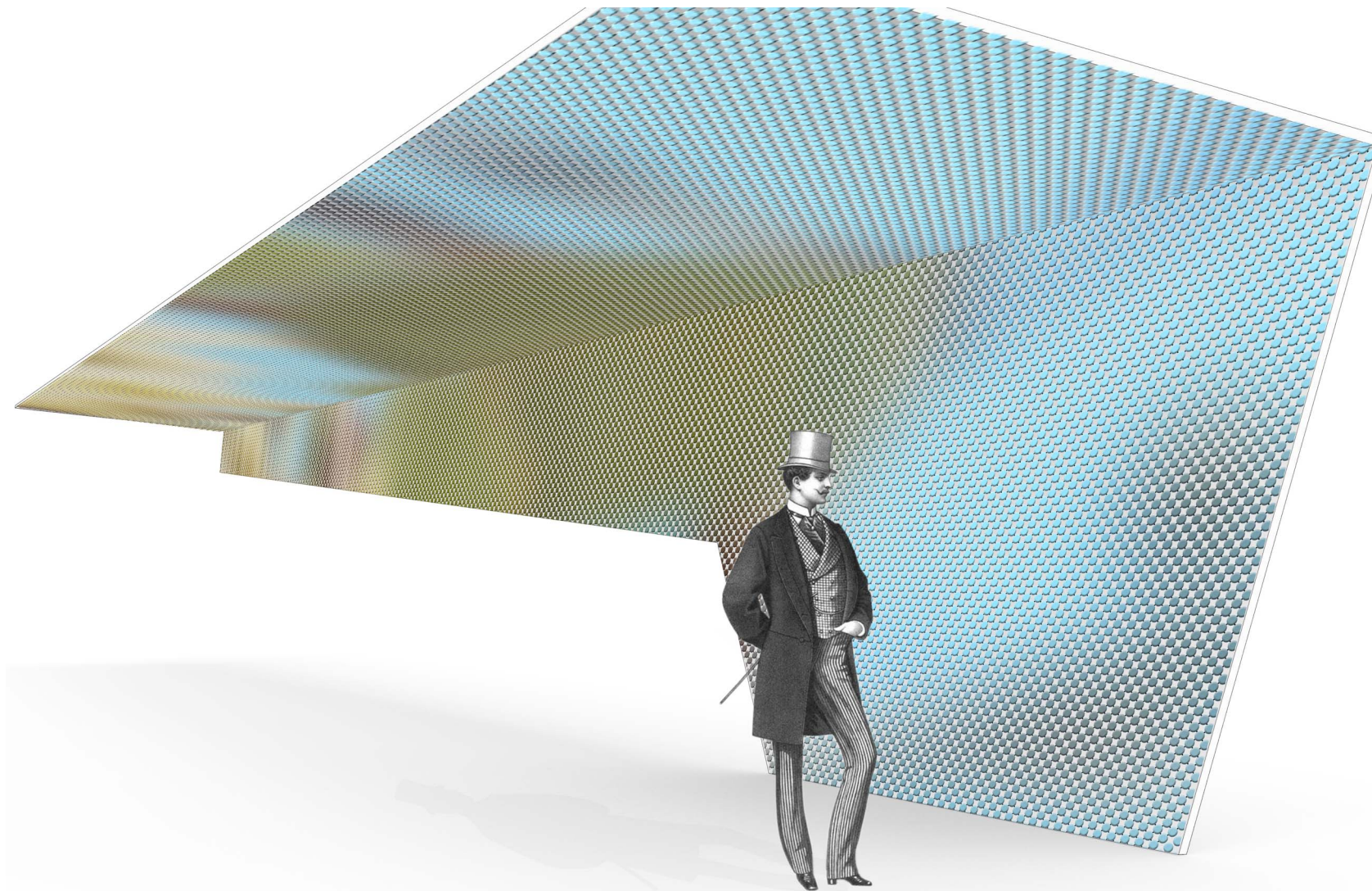
Example 1. Too literal an interpretation, but possibly more interesting with photos of trees from the region.



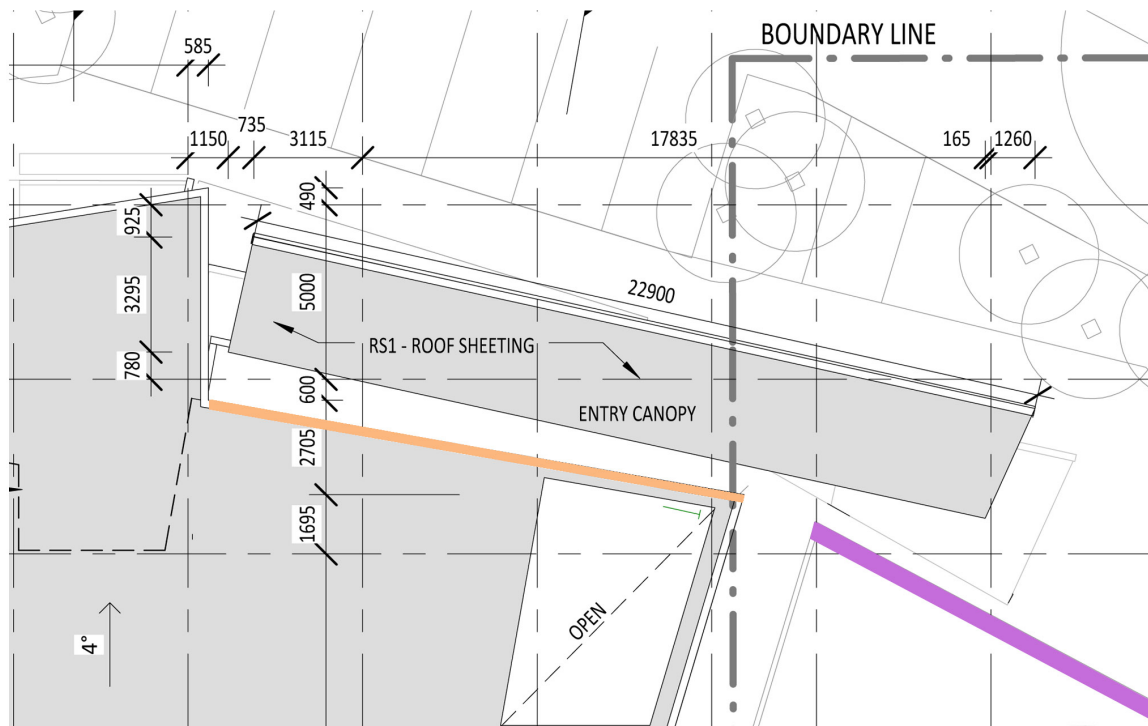
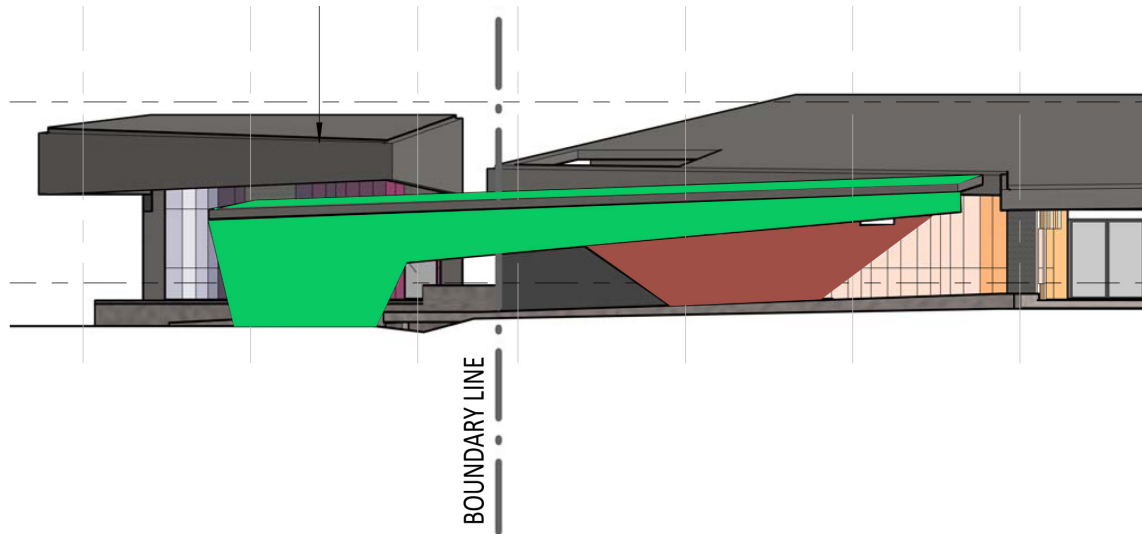
Example 2. The colours were generated from a photo in my garden and the dappled light is the direction that interests me, but the imagery lacks the more organic atmosphere I would be aiming for.



Example 3. The colours and layout are much closer to my intentions, but the geometric imagery lacks the more organic atmosphere I would be aiming for.



Example 4. This image appears murkier and more blurred than my intent. However we must consider that the Dedots product is a solid dot on a transparent mesh and therefore the structure behind it will be visible, creating a pop not seen here. As the dots are fixed to a grid there are also different levels of transparency created through the layout on this grid – 100%, 70% etc. All these elements would be considered in the Design Development stage.



For the canopy above the entrance ramp I come to the following dimensions:

- Horizontal part: 22.900 by 3000 mm = 69 m²
- Vertical part: 38 m²
- Total: 107 m²

We have shown this in Green, although obviously the interior not exterior as implies.

The Dedots are applied to various mesh types. The 'welded panel' is the only base suitable for this project because of the ceiling and the irregular shape of the vertical part of the canopy. More expensive than the chain-link but easier to install.

The product comes in various density of dots. At the full 100% the product will be around € 300,00/m², total € 32.000 / A\$ 49.000 (excl. local taxes). With taxes, import duty, transport etc this exceeds the budget allocated.

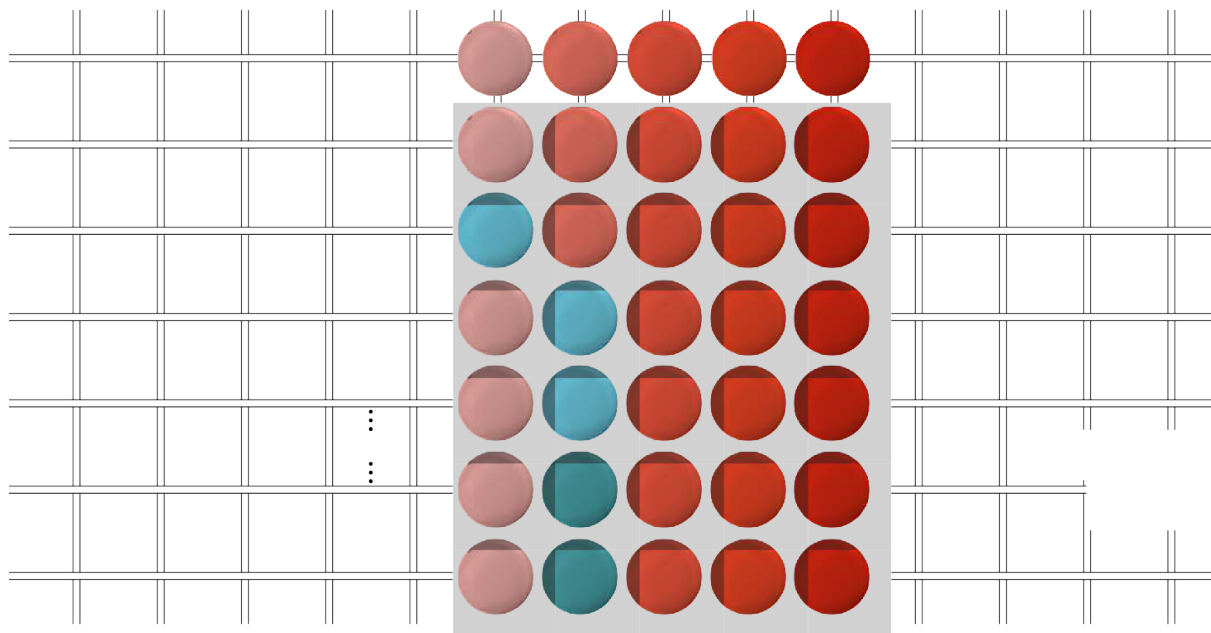
Bas has indicated that a 70% density would work best for the location and the organic style of imagery. It also will work best for my allocated budget. Leaving dots out in a certain pattern will reduce the m²-price to € 265,00/m², total € 28.000 / A\$ 43.000 (excl. local taxes).

Shipping will be € 2000 to € 2500.

We would hope that with value adding we can access the installation budget allocated to the Swiss Pearl panelling we are replacing.

There is potential to consider the material to be further integrated at various locations throughout the building and drop Artwork #1, however at this point I am very happy with the balance between the two very different artworks.

The base image carrier of Dedots comes in Welded mesh, Cable mesh and Chain-link mesh.



The Welded mesh is the appropriate choice for this application.

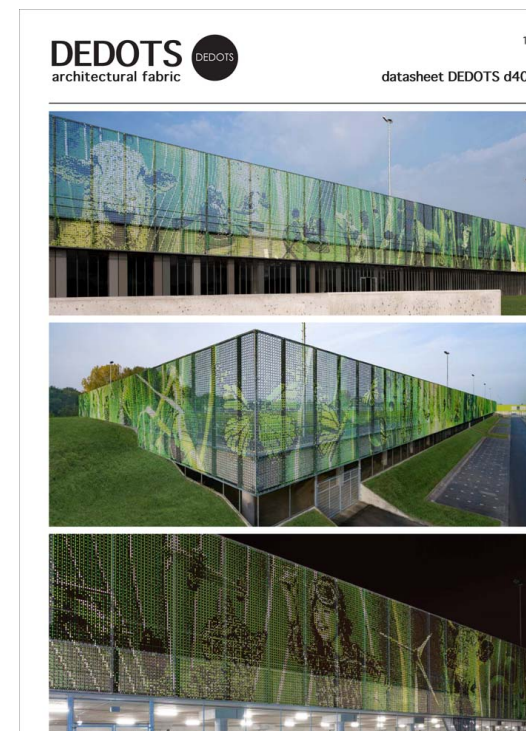
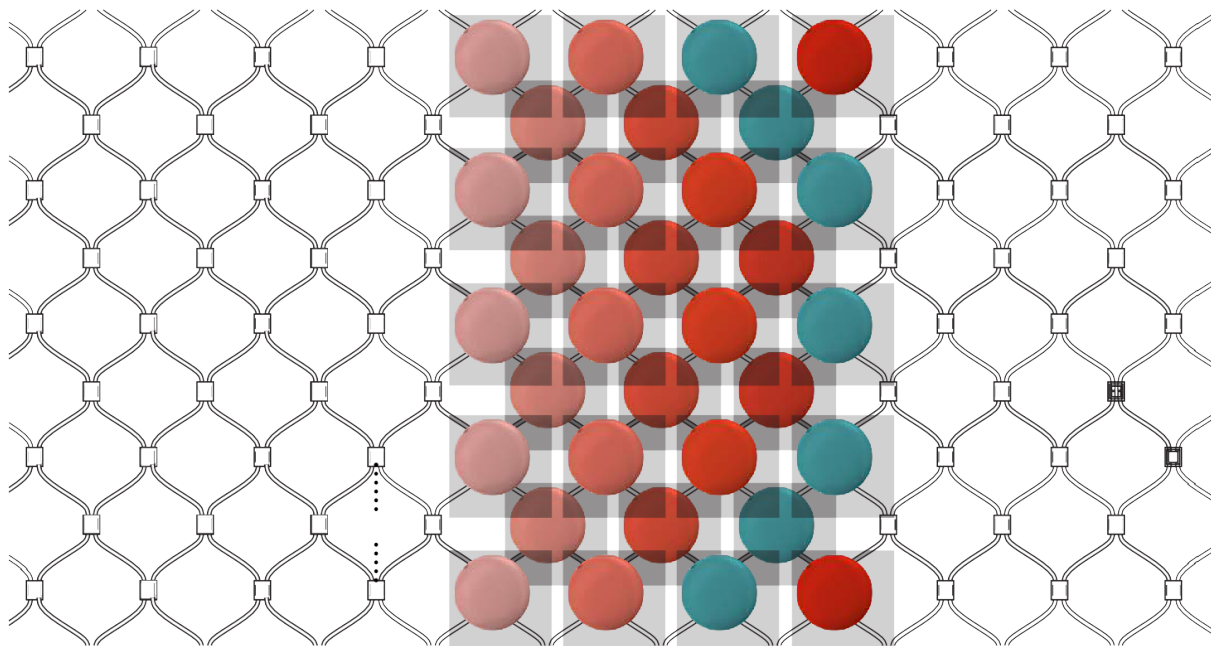
3.7mm stainless steel 316.

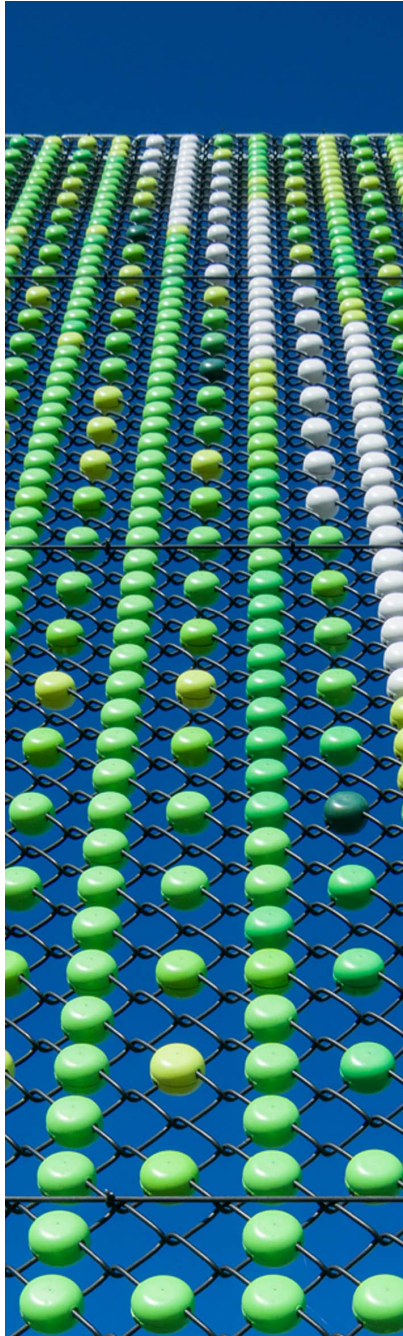
Mesh size 40mm dot: H 49mm x W 49mm

Mesh size 25mm dot: H 30mm x W 30mm

Lead in time for production is 3 – 5 months.

I have attached the Product Data Sheet for all further information regarding specifications and installation details.





BUDGET AND WORKS PROGRAM

Previous projects fabricated by De Makers Van and imported into Australia have proved to adhere very well with time constraints. Bas has indicated a production time of 3 – 5 months. I am available to carry out this commission in a timely manner.

Many aspects of Artwork #2 overlap Artwork #1 and so this budget is allocated on the understanding of creating both artworks. We would also hope that with value adding we can access the installation budget allocated to the Swiss Pearl panelling we are replacing.

ARTIST'S FEES – Additional 30 hours **\$3300**

TRAVEL FOR COMMUNITY CONSULTATION / RESIDENCY and INSTALLATION SUPERVISION ON SITE
2 x Flights, accommodation, car hire and per diem already covered in Artwork #1 **\$----**

107m2 of DeDots

- 107m Dedots on welded mesh in panels
- Panel size to determine
- 70% coverage
- Design support
- Shop drawings and associated factory support.

De Makers Van Quote (m2-price to € 250,00/m2, total € 26.750) **\$42,000**

SHIPPING has been confirmed as door to door, thus inclusive of all shipping, port charges, insurances, landing fees, customs clearance, etc, with delivery either to Denmac.

Shipping is between 8 – 10 Weeks. **\$3,900**

CUSTOMS, DUTY AND TAXES paid upon importation.

- GST applicable on Lace Fence.
 - GST applicable for transport costs.
 - 5% duty on cost of item. Based upon \$42,000.
 - GST applicable on Duty.
- \$2,100**

ENGINEERS REPORT **\$1,500**

TRANSPORT based on an estimated 1000kg weight. **\$2,000**

INSTALLATION (Not allocated. Value adding) **\$----**

CONTINGENCY (Budget will need to adjust to accommodate 5% / \$2740) **\$----**

TOTAL **\$54,800**

MAINTENANCE DEDOTS

Lifespan is 20 years +

There is a low level of maintenance.

The stainless steel wire does not rust.

Dust can be removed easily with water. Chemical cleaning products can be used, but not solvents.

MAINTENANCE SEATING STRUCTURE

Corten lifespan is well beyond 20 years.

Dust can be removed easily with water.

Paint work and wood on decking will need regular maintenance.