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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Level 3 Design and Visual Communication 2026

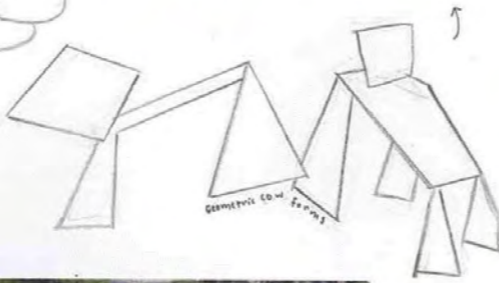
91627 Initiate design ideas through exploration

SAMPLE EXEMPLAR – MERIT

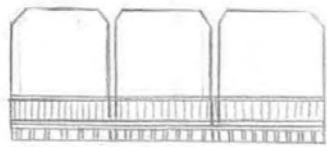
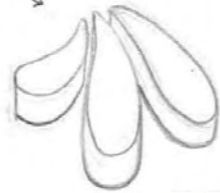
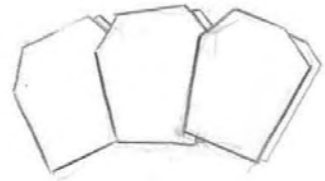
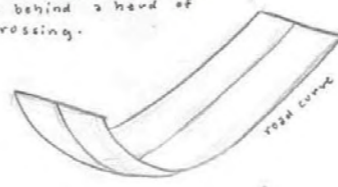
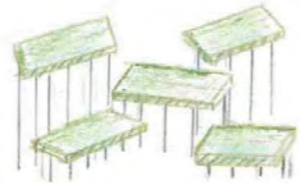
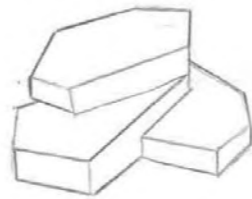
IDEATION



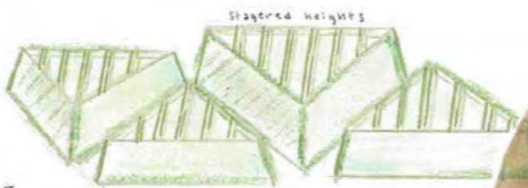
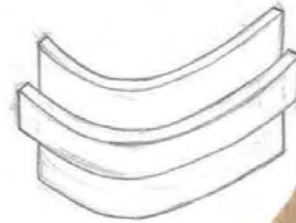
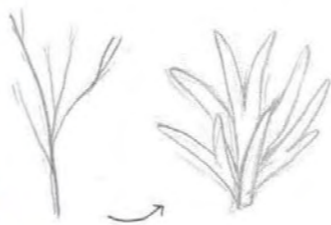
daffodil picking just outside of Canteaton with my mum.



Memory of family driving to Martinborough and getting stuck behind a herd of cows crossing.

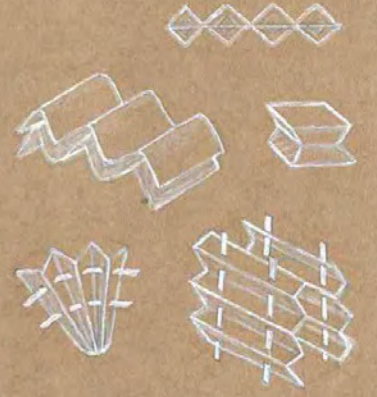
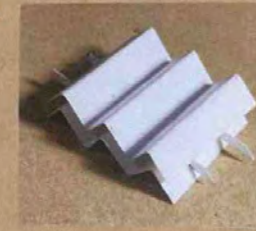
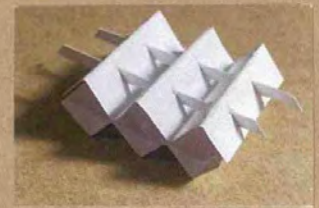


Many visits to the Martinborough Hotel pub with family and friends.



PHYSICAL IDEATION FROM INITIAL IDEAS

original design



original



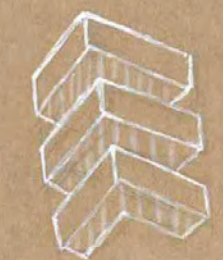
original



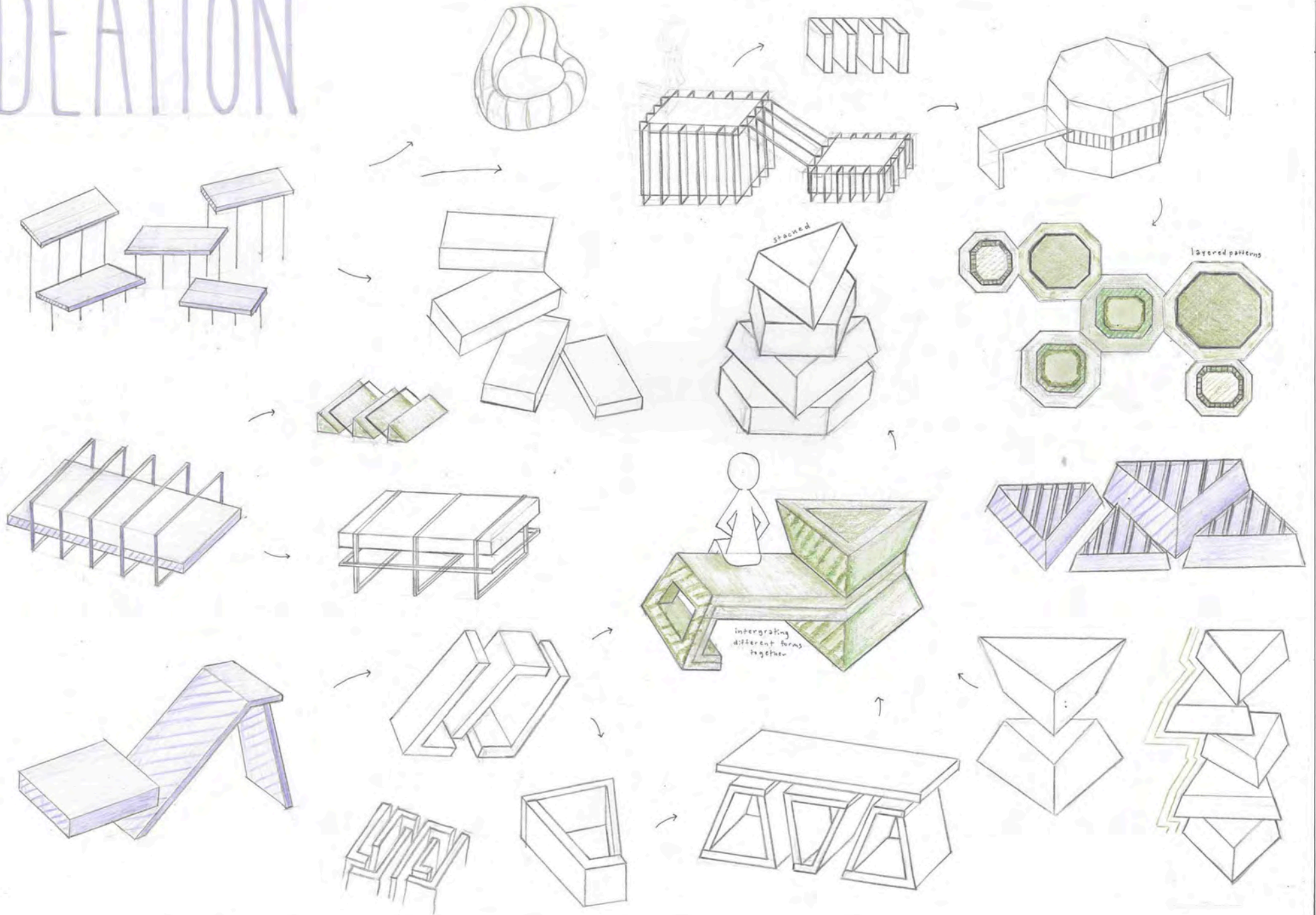
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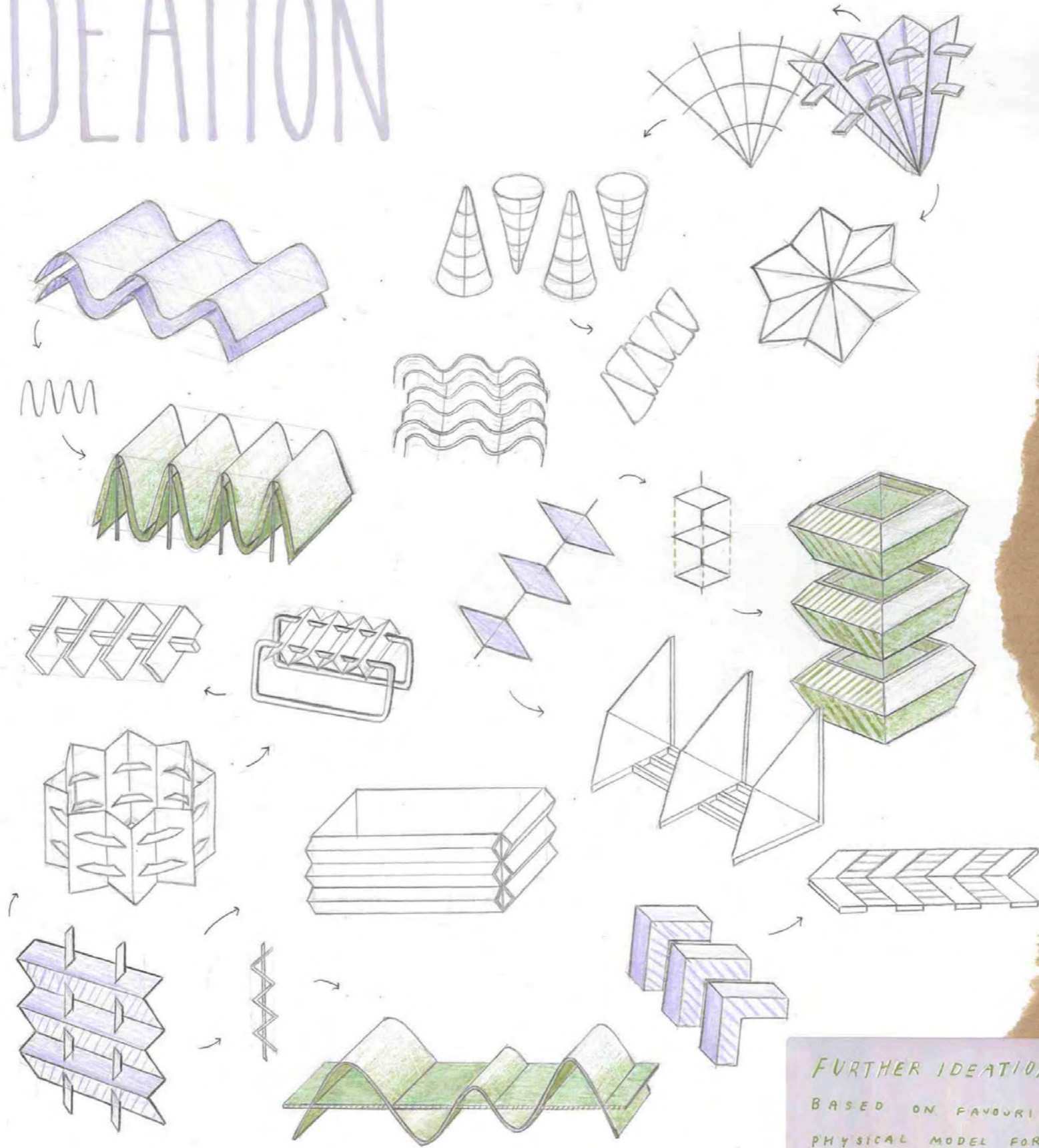
made from cut-out of above sheets



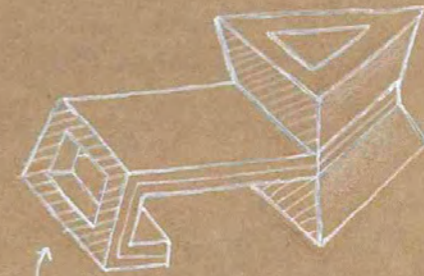
IDEATION



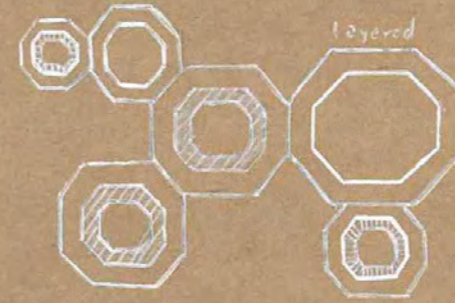
IDEATION



FAVOURITE SHAPES FROM ALL IDEATION + potential product ideas



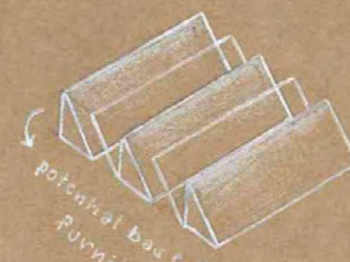
potential outdoor seat + planter combination



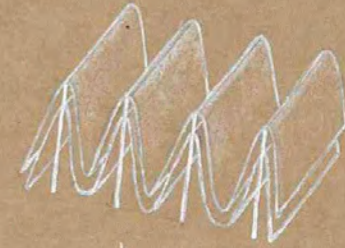
layered



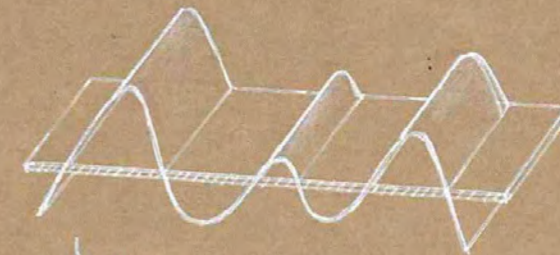
could influence a stacked or layered design



potential base for furniture



unique layering could influence a modular design



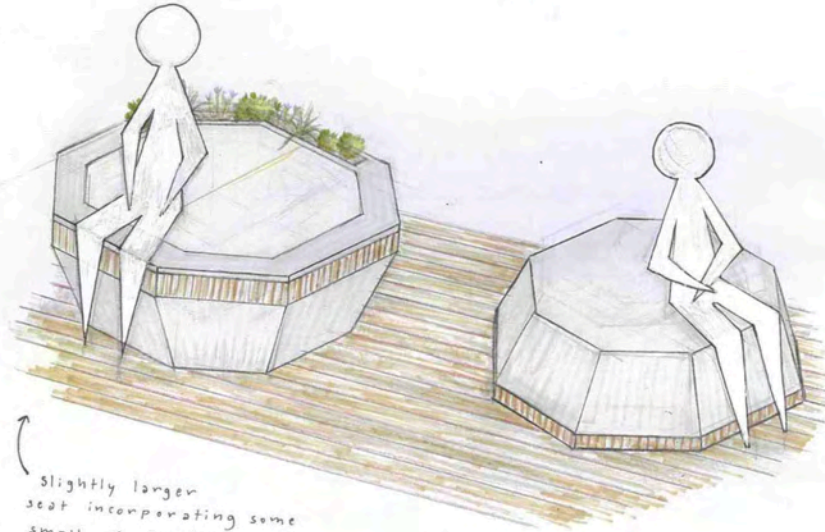
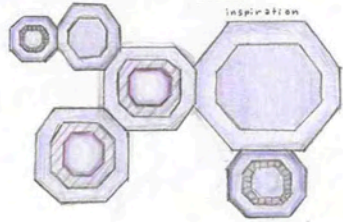
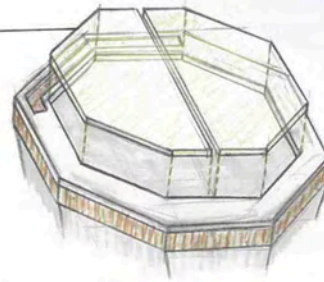
seat design with curved backrests

FURTHER IDEATION,
BASED ON FAVOURITE
PHYSICAL MODEL FORMS

CONCEPT

1

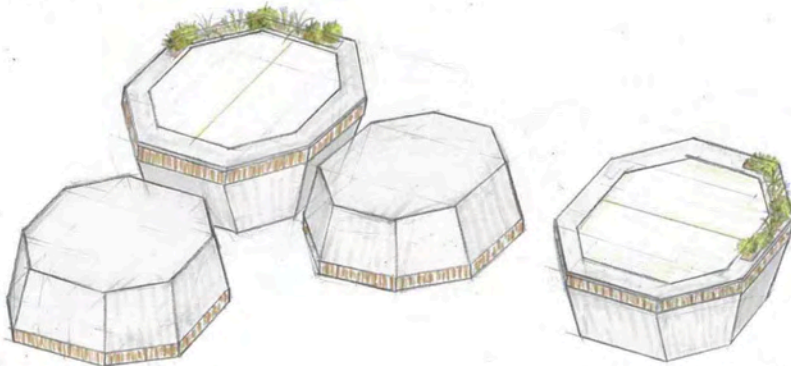
Removable
seat cushions to
make seating
more comfortable
for students



Slightly larger
seat incorporating some
small shrubs & flowers

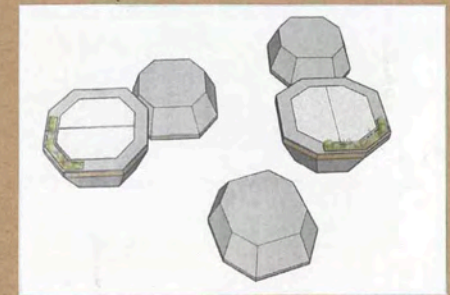
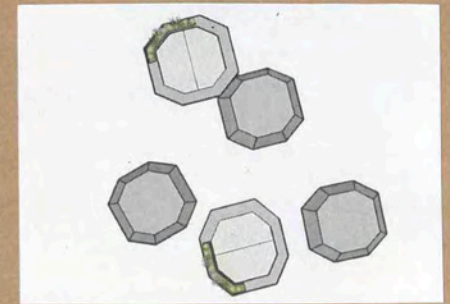
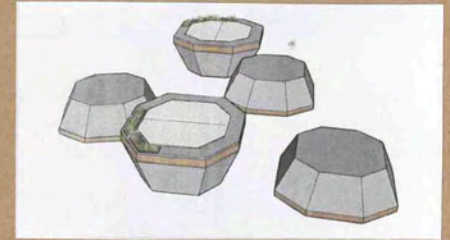
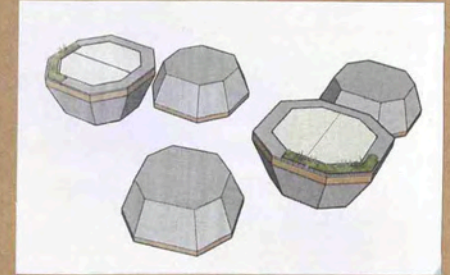
Strengths & Weaknesses =

- + Space for a few people on each piece, meaning many people can fit on the group of pieces
- + modular arrangements allow for collaboration or privacy
- would need to consider where to store seat cushions
- orientation of how people would sit would make it difficult to chat with friends in groups



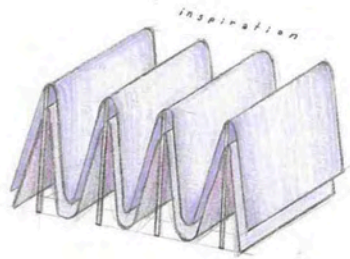
different
configurations
with pieces fitting
together through
slanted sides

DIGITAL MODEL =

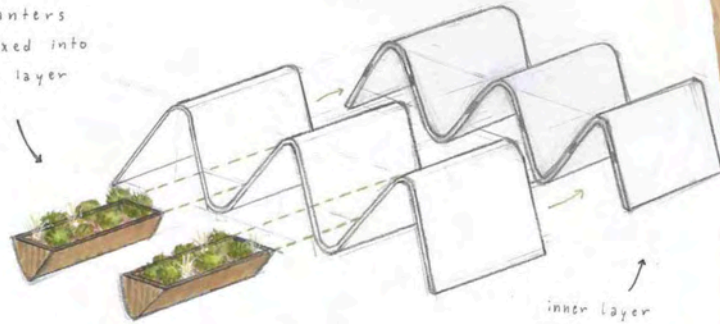


CONCEPT

2



Planters
fixed into
top layer

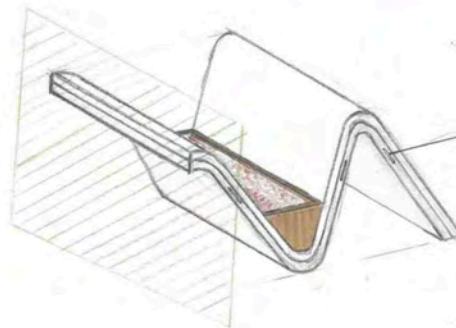
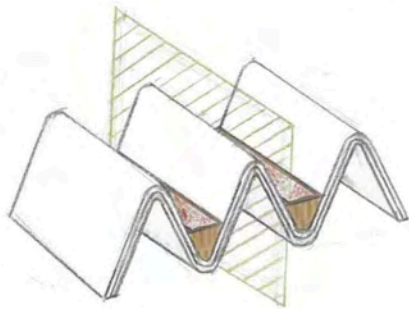
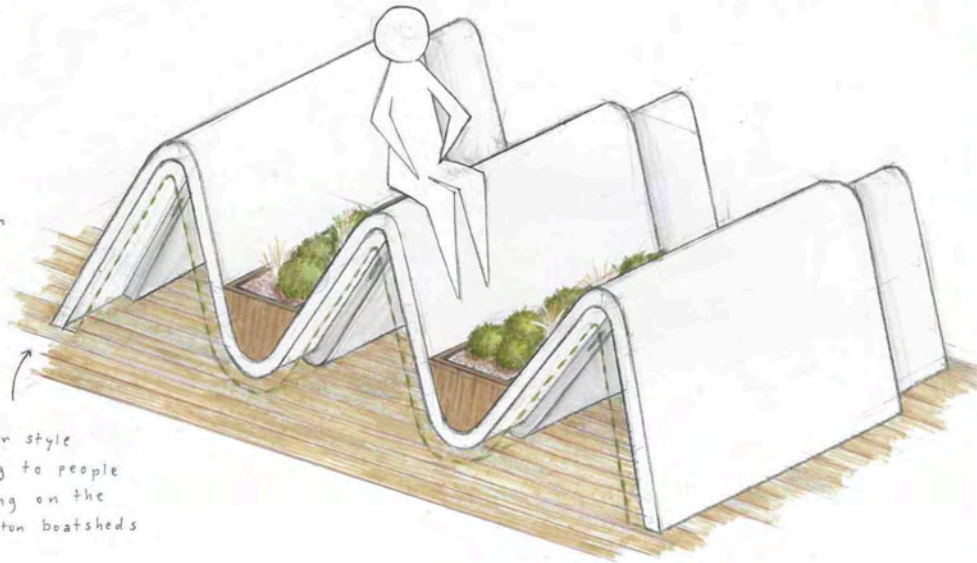


inner layer
slides out from
under top layer

Strengths & Weaknesses =

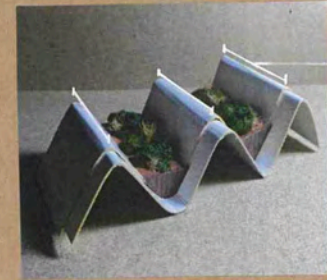
- + very unique seating design
- + many opportunities to add designs to represent the historical/cultural significance of site
- + space for many people to sit
- may not be that comfortable, could adjust height or pointiness of raised peaks

Similar style
seating to people
sitting on the
Wellington boatsheds

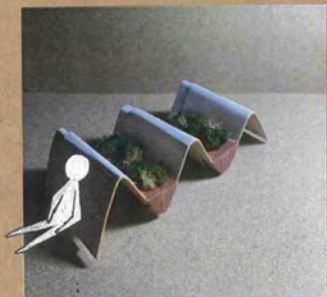


holder to pull out inner layer

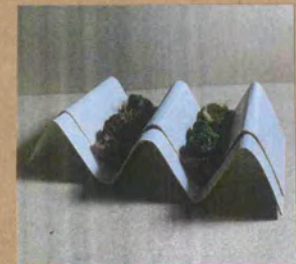
PHYSICAL MODEL =



3 main
surfaces
to sit on,
on each
piece

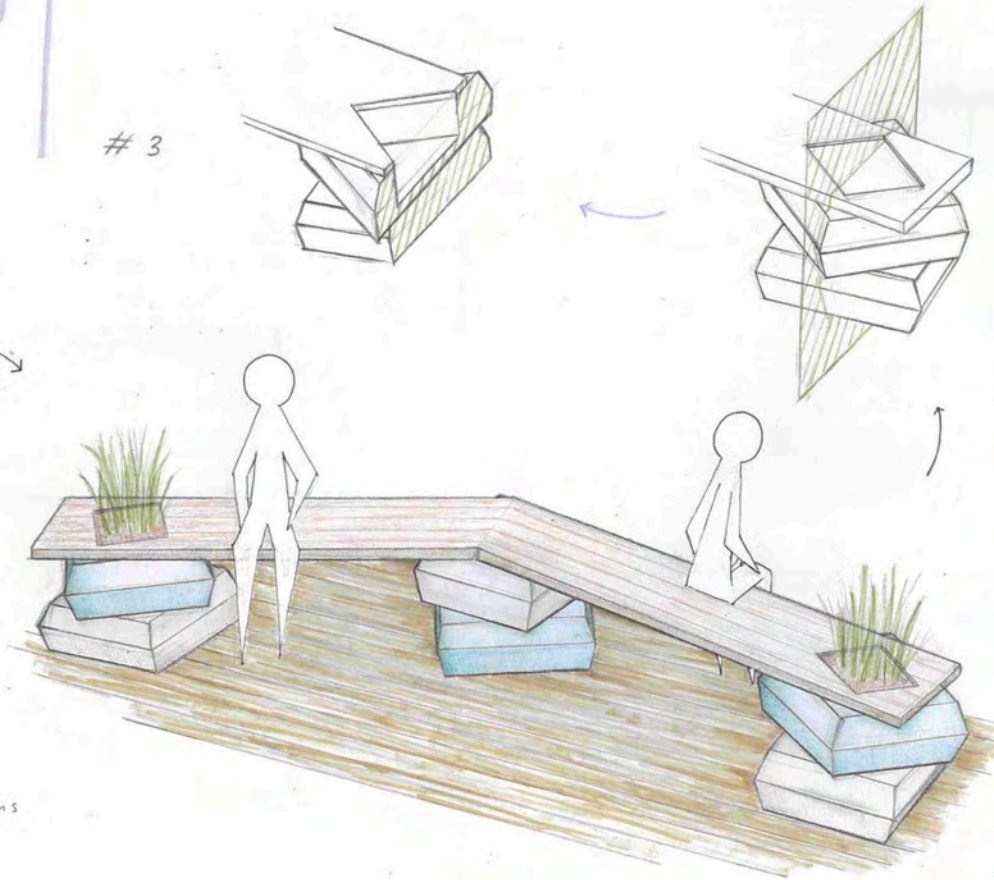
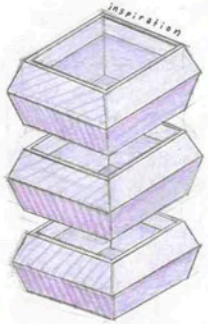


Alternative
seating
position



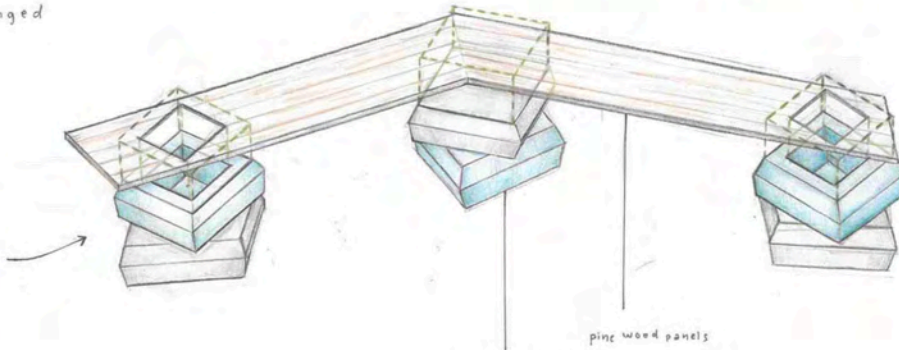
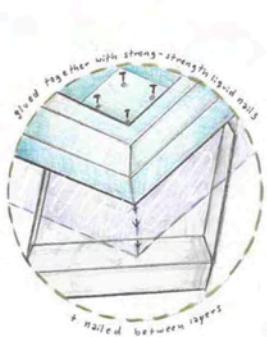
CONCEPT

3



Strengths & Weaknesses =

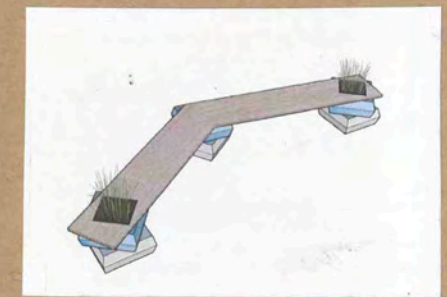
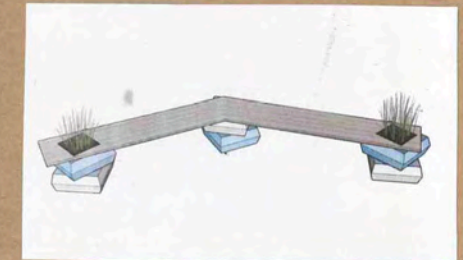
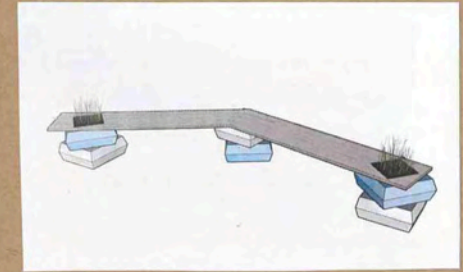
- + easy seating solution as similar to traditional bench seat style
- + simple clean design with opportunity to add patterns/designs
- not as innovative as other concepts
- configuration can't be changed and hard to move



polypropylene plastic
= grey & teal in represent WGC

pine wood panels

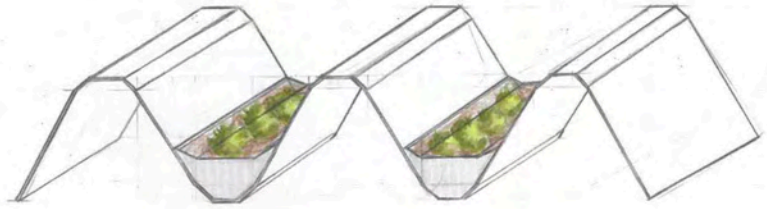
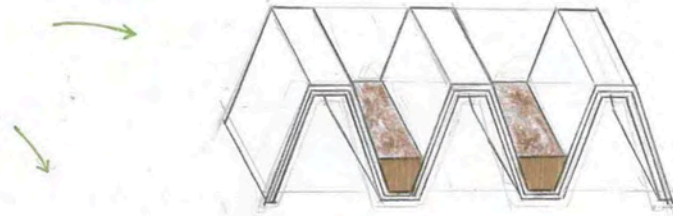
DIGITAL
MODEL =



DEVELOPMENT

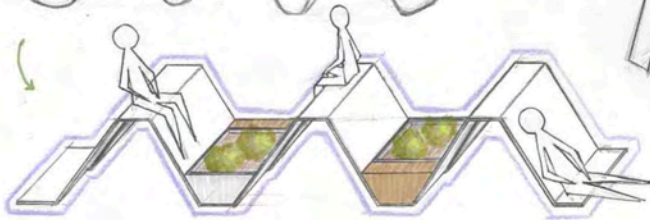
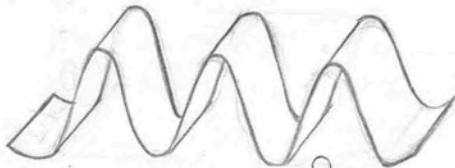
- FORM 1

Chosen: Concept #2



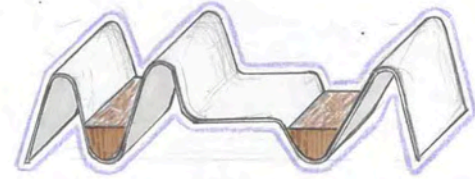
Necessary Form Changes:

- To improve the comfort of the seat, the design of the structure itself could be adapted to meet the needs of the student / WGC audience
- e.g → potentially flatten peaks or widen seat to reduce steep slanted sides
- Could reduce curves or make design more geometric for easier sitting



curved design

revert back to curved



TOP THREE
FORM OPTIONS

1



- + curves could soften linear aspects of Takimai
- peaks could still be a little uncomfortable
- could be more difficult to construct with the curves

2



- + wooden areas in middle could work like steps, improving accessibility
- + flatter curves could improve ease of use or ergonomics

3



- + the wooden flat surface near slanted side provides a comfortable seat option
- + lots of space for students
- + more functional and unique

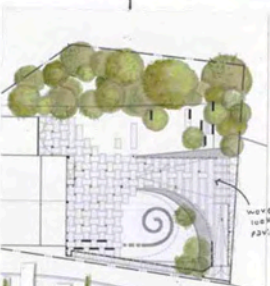


DEVELOPMENT

- ADDITIONAL DESIGN ELEMENTS


I have decided to add elements to the seat design to improve functionality by incorporating a way to better reach the top seats, and to reflect the cultural significance of the Wellington Girls' College site. The aesthetic design additions will be inspired by history in the area and relationships WGC has with local iwi.

AESTHETIC DESIGN ADDITIONS:

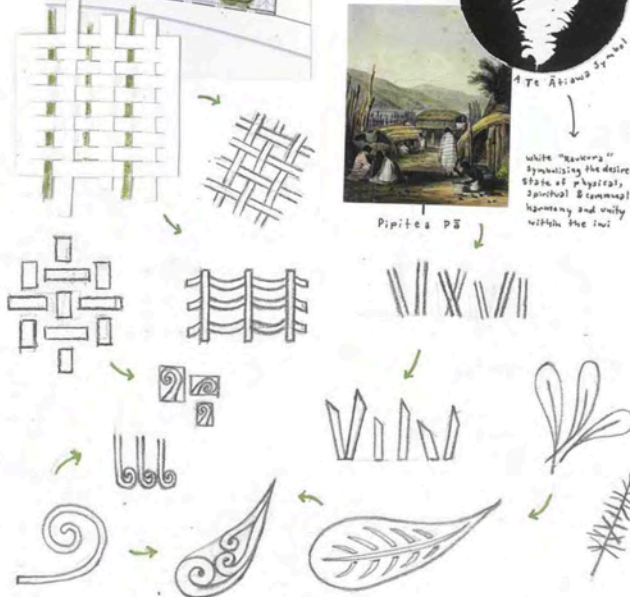
Pipitea Marae

Pipitea Pā

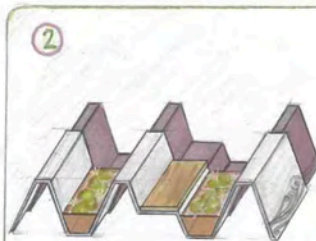


white "weaving" symbolising the desired state of physical, spiritual, communal harmony and unity within the iwi



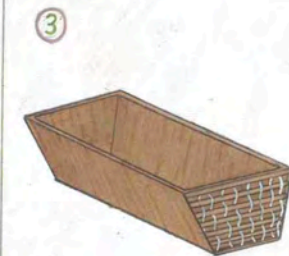

Benefits & Drawbacks:

- + unique combination of different wood types
- + could be quite difficult to construct with different wood colours and shapes
- looks quite intense / chaotic



Benefits & Drawbacks:

- + Kōwhiri feather shape could represent both the "feather" symbol of WGC and the cultural connections the site has
- + complements the design quite well, adding a curved, organic element in a hopefully sensitive way
- would need to consider how to add to polypropylene seats

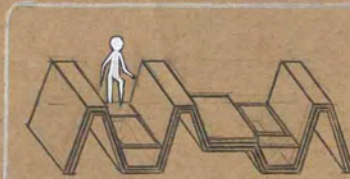


Benefits & Drawbacks:

- + the rods and cord combination is quite unique, incorporating texture
- + reflects weaving-like designs inspired by woven pavements at the Pipitea Marae
- + teal colour of cord emphasises the seats location in WGC as it is the school colour

FUNCTIONAL DESIGN ADDITIONS:

Below are options to try enable easier access for sit on the top surfaces for students/WGC community.



- wooden step option similar to option 2 in form development, providing easier access to top seats without overly obstructing design
- + simple, clean accessible addition
 - + looks well integrated into the original design
 - + sturdy given option
 - could be difficult to reach opposite edge of top seats to the steps without sliding across



Back panel connected to top layer, still allowing under seat layer to pull out from the front

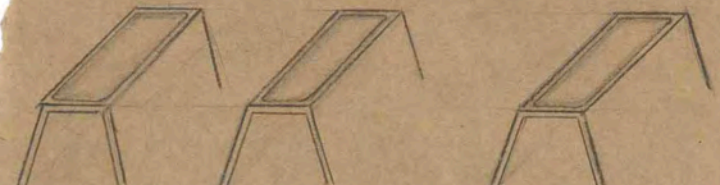
- + Many opportunities to get to top seats with foot holes leading to each section
- + discrete, seen on back side
- ladder style system could be a little dangerous
- would be on the back side, so would need to meet the whole structure to access



Steps on sides providing a solid option to step up to the top seats and act as another seat option

- + probably the most accessible option due to large, flat surface
- makes design look significantly more bulky
- would widen the structure quite a bit

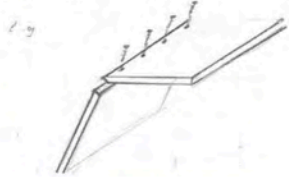
I have decided to add ridges to the top seats to help people sit more comfortably on the surface and to ensure people don't slip off as easily as they could with the plain, flat surface.



DEVELOPMENT

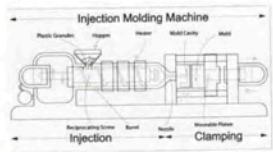
SEAT BASE CONSTRUCTION:

① Polypropylene sheets screwed together =

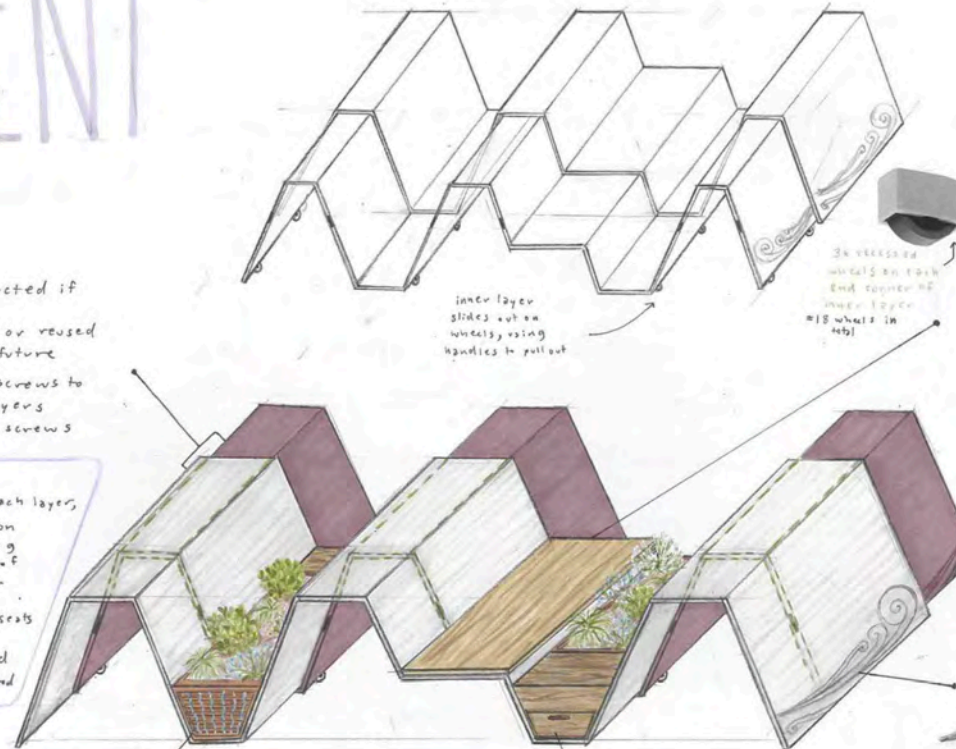


- + could be deconstructed if needed
- + easier to be recycled or reused if not used in the future
- would require many screws to join pieces on both layers
- limit to size/weight screws can support

② Injection mould process =

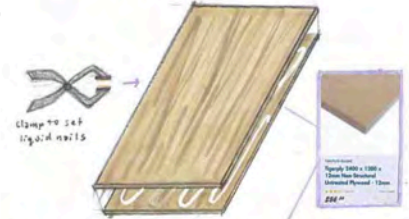


- + only be one piece for each layer, simplifying construction
- + easier to customise, e.g. where the holes in bottom of the plan layer will be for recessed wheels
- + more cost-effective if the seats were to be recycled
- + no limit to size of mould
- couldn't be easily deconstructed



BENCH CONSTRUCTION & ADHESION =

① Plywood sheets glued together to strengthen

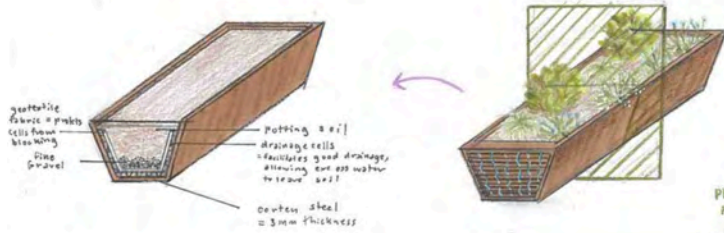


② Epoxy between plywood slab & seat to connect



design to commemorate WGC's cultural significance and link to the symbolic "fastlane" WGC helps provide its students & successfully enter the world.
It will be laser-cutted into both layers on either side/end of the seat design, deep enough to create a visible imprint of the feather-horn design whilst not to thick to overpower seat components.

Example of etching into plastic

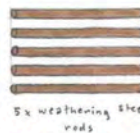
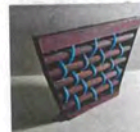


Recess piece to help support the pull-out step by providing a connection between this step and the ground, due to plastic being above the top & bottom seat layers.

Connected with a hinge inside and held with a small magnet to remain locked when step is pushed in.

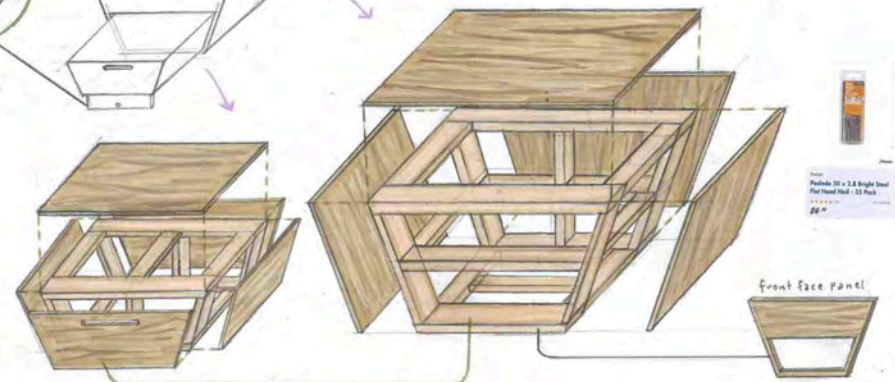
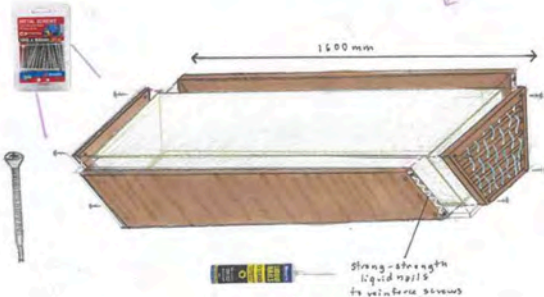


PHYSICAL MODEL OF PLANTER FRONT =



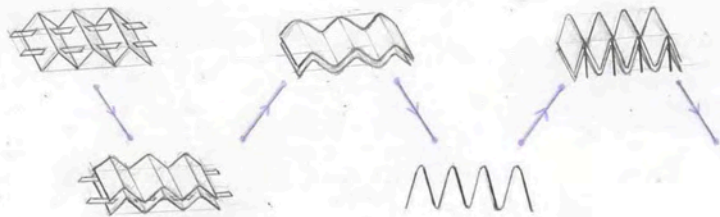
Threads are fixed into each side of the front face, and the cord is wedged through rods to produce pattern, then fixed into top & bottom.

Depth 100 x 65mm
6x stainless steel screws

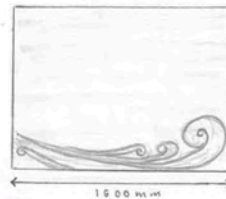
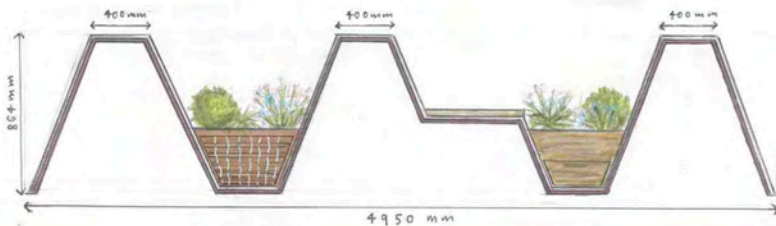
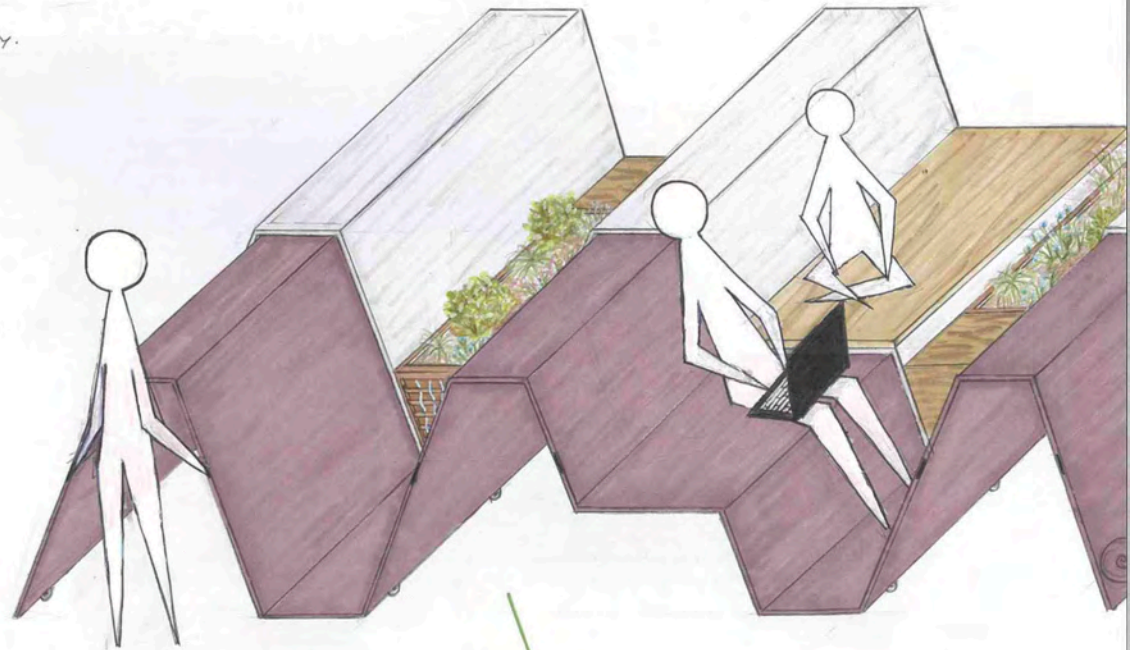


THE FEATHER

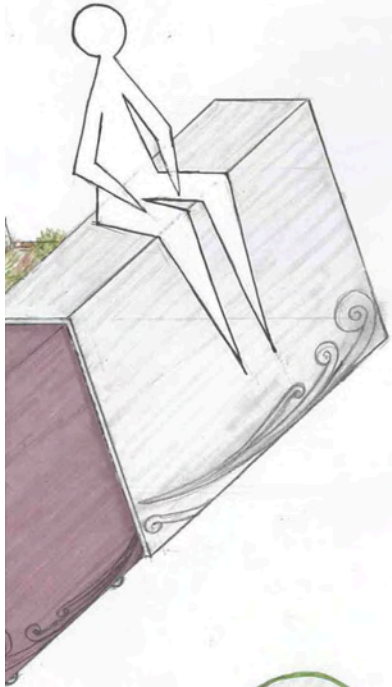
'The Feather' is an outdoor seating solution incorporating greenery for the Wellington Girls' College Community, specifically providing students collaborative seating areas for lunches and breaks. It will be located in the 'tikiwai' Classroom blocks within the school to address the needs of the community.



Name Origin = The name of this seat comes from the significance of feathers to WGC, as represented in the school's vision "Ma te kahukura ka rewa te manu, ka rewa ranga rawa" - adorn the bird with feathers and let it fly, let it soar. This name helps signify this seat as a leaving gift as WGC has provided us with the tools and skills - 'feathers' - to enter the world. It also links to the Koru design being in a feather-like shape to physically represent the seat's meaning.



The seat features an inner pull-out layer to enable more users to take advantage of this seating solution.



Stained Plywood

- light weight
- cost-effective
- versatile



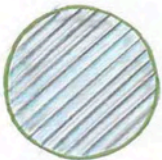
Weathering Steel

- corrosion resistant
- sustainable due to long lifespan
- strong to support plants



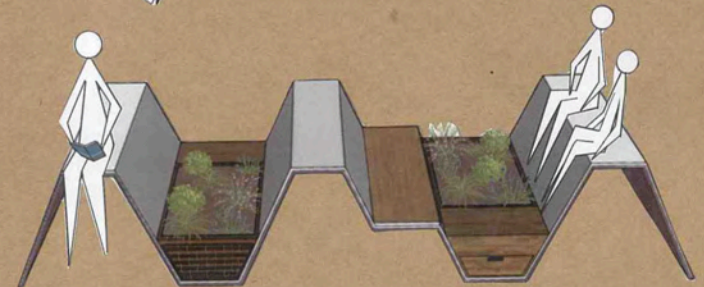
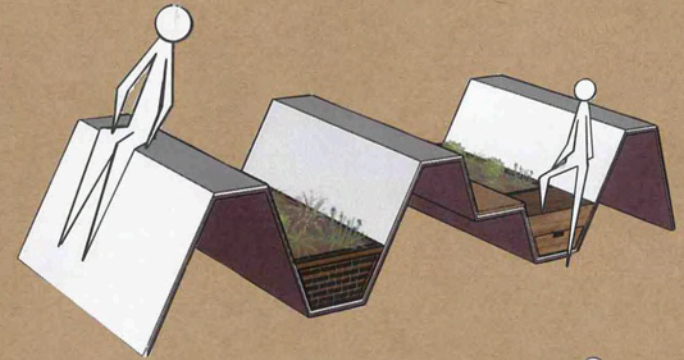
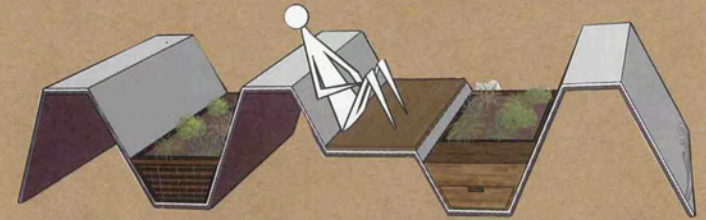
Coloured Polypropylene

- waterproof & heat resistant
- light weight yet strong
- affordable

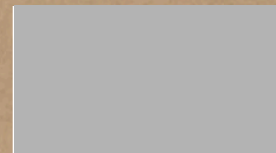


Hollow PVC Rubber Cord

- flexible
- very weather resistant
- very durable



CHOSEN SITE =



Sample Merit exemplar

Subject: Design and Visual Communication

Standard: 91627

Total score: M6

Grade score	Commentary
M6	<p>Important childhood spaces inspire the exploring of 2D shapes and 3D forms to create their own design ideas for multi-person seating. The initial design idea is further explored with different extruded configurations that are purposeful to the functional and ergonomic needs of the design as a seat and planter related to its design context, allowing this to reach M6.</p> <p>There is not sufficient evidence of extension or transforming of the design, in different ways from the starting ideas, to reach E7.</p>