Art and technology don’t always go hand-in-hand. Historically this has not been an important issue, however, as our world becomes more connected, these issues have become a necessity for both the environment and our quality of living space. In the desire of this project to fulfill not only the above but also environmental and historical needs by protecting the land through lowering emissions and appreciating their culture by utilizing traditional art.

The LAGI 2018 competition has invited participants to design a clean energy landscape for a post-carbon world—a public artwork that will help to power the city and inspire the future. Victoria is setting an example for the world with a goal of zero carbon emissions by 2050. Melbourne, already one of the most sustainable cities in the world, is targeting net-zero by 2020. The city of Port Phillip has provided St Kilda Triangle as a canvas for the LAGI 2018 competition. How then, can typically unaesthetic sources of renewable energy be utilized to create a sustainable urban design with visually pleasing infrastructure?

St Kilda triangle aims to be a centre of cultural innovation, to push social boundaries, and is a key part of the city’s cultural landscape. In today’s climate, it is no longer enough to make just a boat ride or bike ride to enjoy art. The design of Light Terrarium is a unique approach to utilizing a cultural and social space to create a unique landscape experience.

Light Terrarium is essentially a series of 3D spheres of different sizes and materials. The design is inspired by traditional Boonwurrung art and works as an integration of art, architecture, and sustainability. The use of 3D printed spheres allows for a unique design where the sun facing surface of the structure can be covered with stained glass windows that are illuminated from the inside. The glass acts as a canvas for traditional Boonwurrung art, projecting onto the ground and creating a unique visual experience for visitors.

The design of Light Terrarium is primarily based on using large numbers of beta rays in a matrix to build sunshades, shelters and street art. The use of these rays will create patterns on the ground which can be viewed throughout the day and night. The stained glass windows will also add a unique visual element to the park, making it a hub for visitors to gather and enjoy.

Scattered throughout the site are various shelters and sunshades of different sizes to fit a multitude of purposes from community gatherings to everyday leisure. The free-form arrangement of the site bodies creates a vibrant and exciting public place to explore. Light Terrarium will boost tourism and generate a new wave of economic and social benefits for the state and the community while creating a great place to hang out.

At its heart is a cultural facility, with an integrated landscape that creates areas for recreation, socialising and events, while enhancing views of the bay and improving connections to the foreshore. The design of Light Terrarium is a unique approach to utilizing cultural and social spaces to create a unique landscape experience.