



# VALEVUNI TAGIMOUCIA

## Preserving Heritage Through the Threads of Culture, People, and Purpose

Considering the needs of the Marou village, we consider that rather than creating a monumental art installation which might be visually appealing for the villagers and visitors alike, we propose the construction of an art space that will host the performance and culture itself. It can contribute more to society while also incorporating technologies that can harness both sunlight and rainwater.

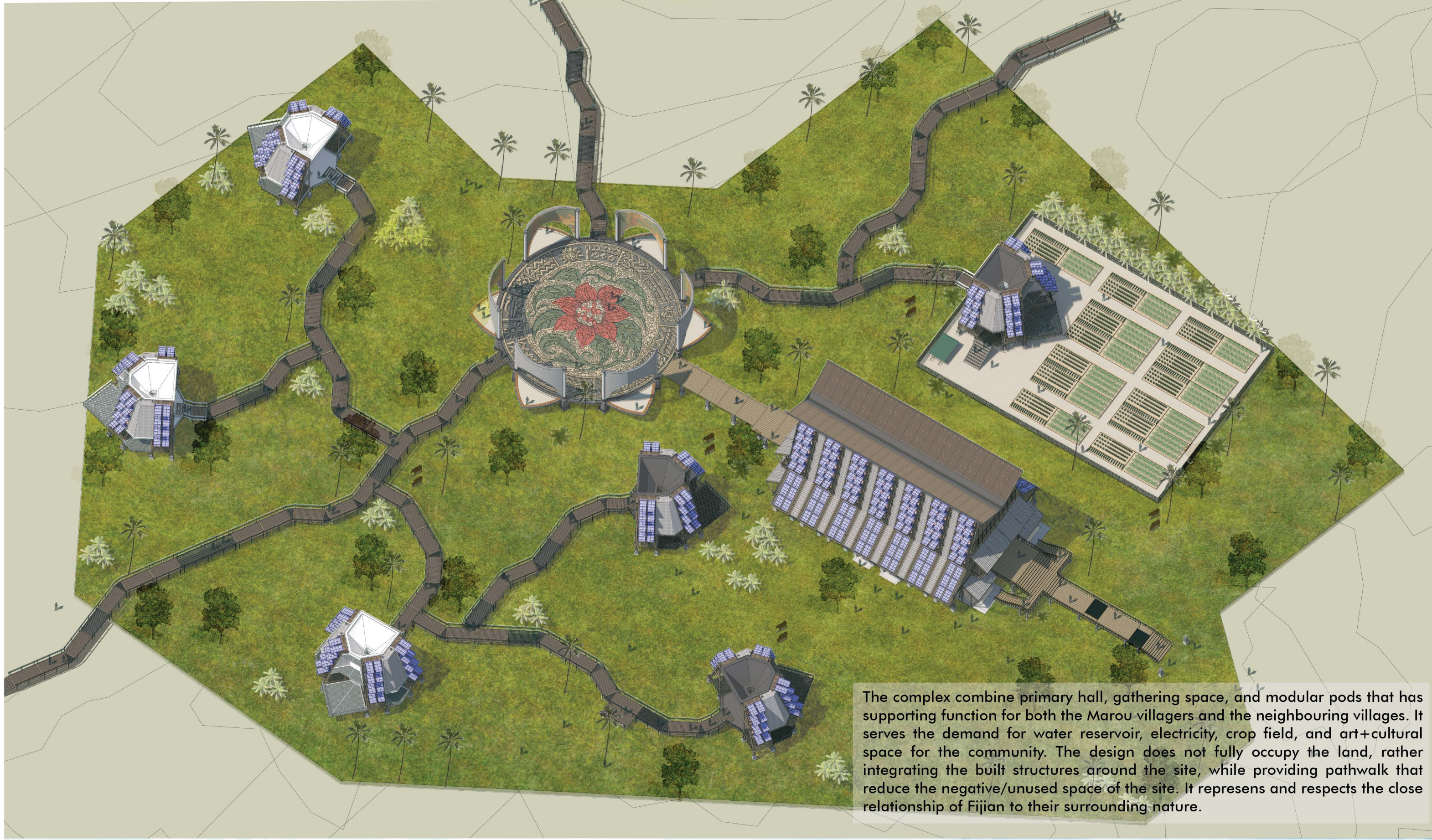
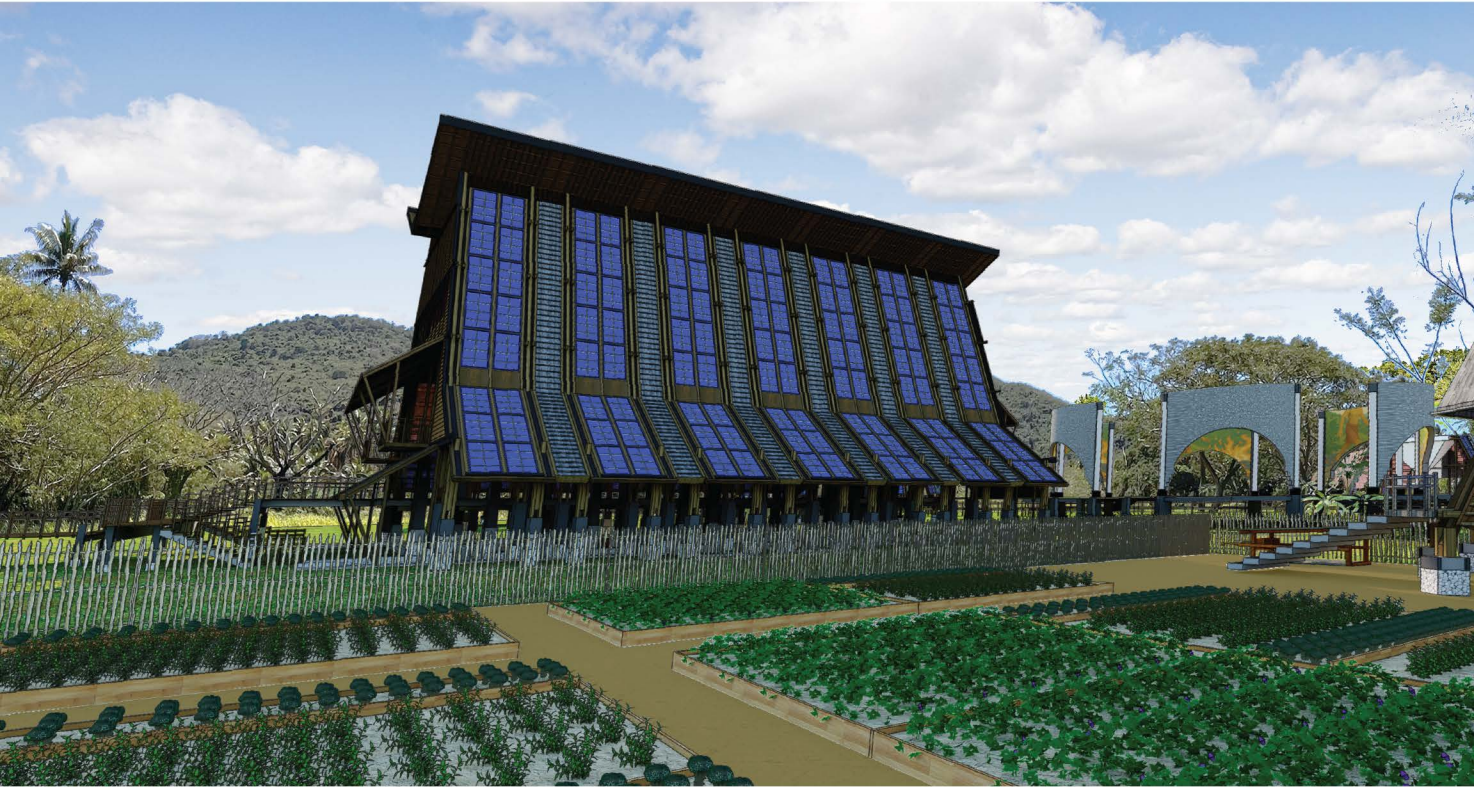
Our design team surmise our proposal under the concept of **Valevuni Tagimoucia Complex**, which stands as a profound tribute to the living traditions, natural cycles, and collective spirit of the Fijian people. Named after the rare and sacred Tagimoucia flower, found only on the highlands of Taveuni and said to bloom from tears of love and longing, the complex becomes both sanctuary and socio-cultural symbolism. Its design reflects not only ecological sustainability but also a cultural philosophy of interconnectedness, where every structure, system, and material work in a network of harmony with the land, the people, and their shared identity.

At the entrance of the site is the **Vanua Hall**, the primary built structure modeled after the great bure kalou and chief meeting halls of the past. Construction also integrates locally sourced timber, volcanic stone, dried palm fronds, and natural lime finishes, the hall speaks the language of place. Its steep, sheltering roof is not only an iconic silhouette but also a functional rainwater harvester, directing flow through bamboo gutters into terraced bioswales and subterranean cisterns. The filtered water supports drinking, crop irrigation, and cleansing rituals: integrating practical use with spiritual rhythm. In the sides of the palm-woven eaves, photovoltaic panels absorb the island sun, converting it into power that sustains the complex's lighting, cooling, and educational technology. The solar system is intentionally visible, allowing it to serve as a learning platform for local communities, especially the youth, who can engage with renewable energy as both practicality, science, and stewardship. Battery banks from the Powerwall System is used to ensure reliable power even through storm seasons, echoing traditional values of preparedness and resilience.

Behind the hall lies the **Veilua Circle**, where stories, songs, and dances unfold. An open amphitheatre surrounded by mozaic imagery from Fijian folklores, it is an open art space. Artists and cultural practitioners are invited to co-create, teach, and preserve knowledge through hands-on workshops, oral histories, and seasonal festivals, transforming the complex into a living museum and active archive of Fijian creativity. The site is also supported by the **Tagi pods**, modular pods that serves as multifunctional space, artist studios, meditation nooks, classrooms, or eco-labs for the community and the visitors. It represents organic medium, like seeds or coconuts, self-contained but part of a larger living system, and reflects emotional depth, personal journey, growth through reflection, and the power of vulnerability leading to beauty. It is also equipped with photovoltaic and rainwater harvester system. It can also support community crop fields through its water reservoir, and the crop land follows traditional rotational cycles and incorporate compost from the complex itself, closing nutrient loops and fostering regenerative agriculture. Elders guide younger generations in planting and harvesting, turning the field into a place of intergenerational learning, self-reliance, and cultural memory.

Connecting all elements is a network of timber pathways, known as the **Flower's Pathwalks**, which lead the wanderers of the site towards the art generator infrastructures. These paths meander gently across the site, mirroring old village layouts where no space is too far from storytelling or ceremony. Along the way, small shelters, benches, and story-markers offer pause and reflection, turning the journey between spaces into an experience of its own.

Ultimately, the Valevuni Tagimoucia Complex is not just a place, a built environment that serves the local community through its design and functionality. It is an architectural process: a dynamic interplay of nature, heritage, and innovation. It represents a model of architecture that learns from the past, honors the present, and prepares for a future in which culture, climate, and community are indivisible. In its layered textures, open forms, and rooted materials, it offers a bold yet grounded vision for sustainable Pacific architecture—one that grows from the land and belongs to its people. It may yeild functional potentials to the local community, but it still reflects the history and socio-cultural dynamic of the Marou village while being sustainable and maintainable for the community itself.



The complex combine primary hall, gathering space, and modular pods that has supporting function for both the Marou villagers and the neighbouring villages. It serves the demand for water reservoir, electricity, crop field, and art+cultural space for the community. The design does not fully occupy the land, rather integrating the built structures around the site, while providing pathwalk that reduce the negative/unused space of the site. It represens and respects the close relationship of Fijian to their surrounding nature.



The facades of the buildings are woven tapestry of timber, palm, stone, and earth, echoing the graceful strength of traditional Fijian architecture. Locally sourced hardwood beams rise with carved motifs of the Tagimoucia flower, while vertical palm thatch panels create a breathable skin that filters light and air with quiet rhythm. The geometry of the facade mirrors tapa cloth patterns, with its bold yet flowing imagery, casting dynamic shadows that shift with the sun. Angled timber, combined with the photovoltaic modules, provide both shade and function, evoking canoe sails and ancestral journeys.



The Tagimoucia land art generator complex has 4 main built structures: the vanua hall, the veilua circle, the tagi pod(s), and the flower's pathwalk that connects the built structures. The visitors can enter the complex through the vanua hall or through the pathwalks from beyond the design site which meets in the veilua circle.

### THE INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF VALEVUNI TAGIMOUCIA LAND ART GENERATOR COMPLEX



The complex is a cultural sanctuary where art, education, ecology, and tradition converge in harmony with the Fijian landscape. Rooted in the symbolism of the sacred Tagimoucia flower, the complex is built with timber, stone, and palm—gathering rain, sun, and stories into a living system of stewardship and unity. It serves as both a gathering place and a regenerative engine, nourishing the surrounding community with water, energy, food, and cultural memory.



Rainwater is collected through carefully angled roofs, both in the Vanua Hall and in the Tagi modular pods. The water is funneled into carefully integrated gutters that lead to a underground reservoir tanks. The harvested water supports drinking needs (for those equipped with the filtration system), irrigation, and symbolic cleansing rituals, reinforcing the relationship between sky, land, and people.



Photovoltaic panels are seamlessly integrated into the upper roof structures and open courtyards, capturing Fiji's abundant sunlight. If all the structures are built, there will be **498 m2** of photovoltaic area to capture the sun energy. The energy generated is stored in powerwall system, powering the community's lighting, tools, and learning spaces with resilience and autonomy. The system is designed to be both discreet and educational, with parts visible to encourage public awareness and climate stewardship.



Considering the size of the design site, the design also incorporates a crop field that is cultivated using indigenous farming methods that prioritize soil health, seasonal rotation, and community labor. Rainwater harvested from the pod is used as a water source for the field. Taro, cassava, yams, and native herbs can be crop options for the site. More than a food source, the field is a place of intergenerational learning, where children and elders work the land together with purpose and pride.



The Veilua Circle is an open social and art spaces, with airy platforms framed by graphics of mozaic Fijian folklores, where performances, weaving circles, and exhibitions bring the community together. These areas function as living galleries—dynamic and ever-evolving—celebrating the people's stories, identity, and creative spirit.