

The Flow of Life

Currents of Continuum

LAGI 2025 Fiji | Land Art for a Changing Climate

Marou Village, like many coastal communities across the Pacific, stands at the edge of crisis. Rising sea levels slowly swallow shorelines. Cyclones strike with increasing force and frequency, bringing destruction, displacement, and fear. Frequent flooding contaminates drinking water, cuts off electricity, and destroys homes. Meanwhile, centralized infrastructure fails to adequately serve the village, leaving the community vulnerable, isolated, and dependent on outside aid. Beyond environmental threats, the risk of cultural erosion looms. As traditional practices wane and younger generations migrate, Marou's identity, rooted in land, rituals, and communal spirit, faces fragmentation.

In response to these intensifying challenges, The Flow of Life (TFOL) has been envisioned as both resilient architecture and regenerative land art that restores, protects, and uplifts the Marou Village community. At the heart of the design lies a holistic approach built on five foundational elements on the right.

Cultural integration forms the backbone of TFOL's concept, ensuring the design is not just for the people of Marou Village, but by and with them. Rather than superimposing foreign architectural styles or development ideologies, the design emerges from the lived realities, values, and traditions of the local community. Every element, from materials to spatial layout, seeks to enhance rather than disrupt the site's cultural rhythm.

A linear architectural "spine" made of modular timber units is located at the center, functioning as a multifunctional shelter. Elevated above ground, it becomes a cyclone refuge during climate-induced extremes and transforms into a social space or community hub in ordinary times. Along its length, a series of nodes branch outward, social spaces, gardens, and communal amenities that strengthen The Spine's role and create a web of activity and connection. A redirected waterway, the bioswale, weaves through the site beneath The Spine, linking all nodes in a continuous hydrological circuit that mirrors the flow of life. Together, The Spine, nodes, and surrounding landscape form an integrated system that unites ecology, community, and sustainability in a regenerative continuum.



Cyclone Shelter

When the winds howl and the water climbs, people seek more than shelter; they seek one another. High above the flood line, a place waits, open yet strong. Here, they gather. Not in fear, but in quiet defiance. A beacon against the storm and a cradle for stories when the skies clear.



Electricity Supply

As the sun returns, its warmth is captured and shared, not just in light, but in power. Power that runs quietly, cleanly. No wires from elsewhere, no waiting. Just what is needed, when it is needed.



Water Access

When the sky breaks open with rain, it is not a threat, but a gift. Roofs become open palms, catching each drop. Rainwater is gathered, guided and filtered through layers of earth and craft. Guided gently by the land, water flows through sculpted channels, pausing in ponds where fish swim and plants breathe.



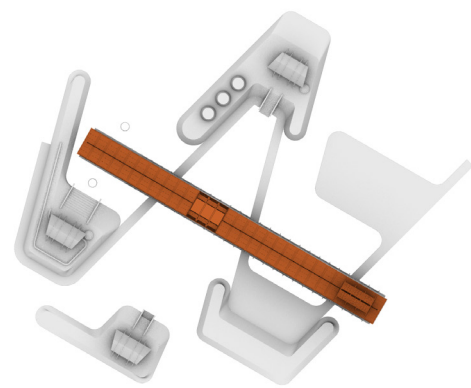
Community Space

In the heart of the village, a space breathes with song, memory and the quiet pulse of togetherness. It is a place shaped by memory and belonging, echoing the rhythms of Fijian life. In gentler seasons, it opens its arms to visitors, becoming a home of welcome and warmth.

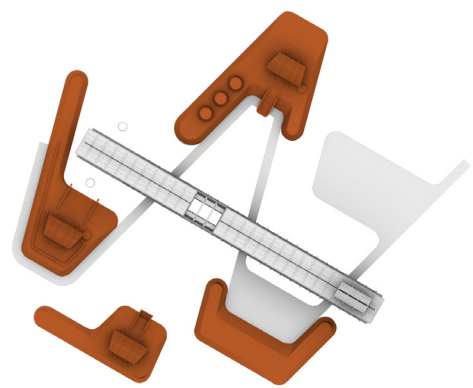


Self-sufficiency

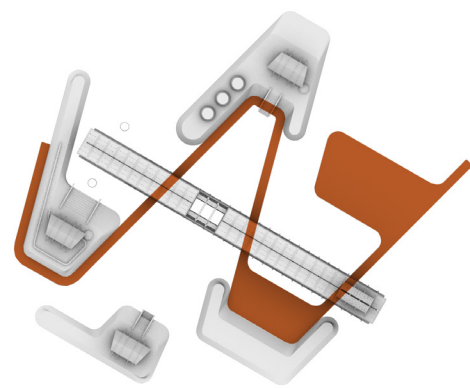
And beyond, the land is not just land, it is the pantry, the pharmacy, the promise. Here, roots dig deep. Gardens stretch in terraces, nourished by sun and sweat. Chickens roam. Smoke curls from cooking fires. Nothing is wasted. Everything is shared. This is not survival. This is sufficiency, dignity and peace.



Spine



Nodes



Flow

