

Weaving Indigenous Traditions within Contemporary Architecture

Taryn Magee

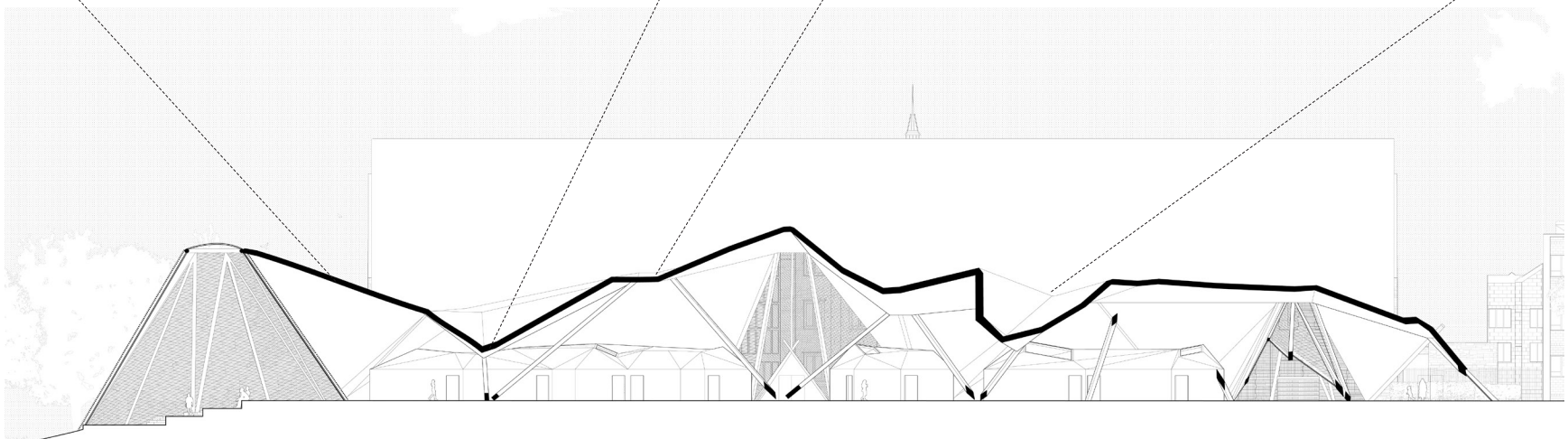
In collaboration with Daniel Lam



Jute creates an ember-like glow that invites people into the Indigenous Centre



Thatched-roof as an environmental solution compared to Synthetic Insulations



In our design of the Indigenous Centre of Excellence for the University of Toronto, inclusivity and representation of the voices of the Indigenous community. By use of straw bales and jute material as a permeable surface to weave spaces together, the project creates an ember-like glow which fuels and connects the Indigenous community with the rest of the Toronto University. Our design uses the typology of the chimney and fireplace as an organizational tool to highlight the cultural importance of the hearth as a place of gathering for the community, as well as structurally allowing natural ventilation of spaces. Triangulated gardens containing culturally significant plants surrounding the project invites visitors to learn and experience Indigenous cultural teachings, and provide a sense of community.



Our project is created using two typologies of space forming: one where three columns meet at an angle to create a grand entrance, and the other where three columns are crowned with a circular oculus. The oculus allows for light and ventilation for fire spaces, and creates a chimney structure. Spaces are organized around the main cultural hubs of ceremony and public gathering spaces of the project, including the garden, gallery, student lounge, ceremony spaces, and ampitheatre. This creates indoor and outdoor spaces for members of the Indigenous community and surrounding University community to come together.