

Integrating Design with Community Forest Management

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Overview

In this interdisciplinary project, students from UBC School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture collaborated with UBC Forestry students and members of a remote coastal community in British Columbia to design and public infrastructure using timber harvested from an adjacent community forest.

Designing low carbon buildings and landscapes

The built fabric consumes as much as half of all global resources, and is responsible for approximately forty percent of global anthropogenic carbon emissions. Timber construction materials can provide significant potential environmental benefits in the form of carbon storage, provided that the forests from which these materials are managed sustainably.

Value-Driven Design Process

Students developed proposals for a visitor centre for Kiiixin, a historically significant site continuously inhabited the Huu-ay-aht First Nation for over 5,000 years. The students' design process sought to understand the needs of the local community and ecosystem simultaneously. Students travelled to the site to meet with members of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations and representatives from the Bamfield Huu-ay-aht Community Forest.. Projects sought to:

- Provide architectural connections to Huu-ay-aht First Nations culture.
- Foster social equity through inclusive design
- Sustain and enhance the ecologies of the hypermaritime old growth forest.

Forest Resources

The 360-hectare Bamfield Huu-ay-aht Community Forest (BHCF) is an invaluable ecosystem for the human inhabitants of the communities of Anacla and Bamfield, as well as the myriad other species that reside in the coastal rainforest. Ninety percent of the BHCF consists of coastal old growth, with many trees over 500 years old. Students collaborated with faculty and students at UBC Forestry and community members to design a generative values-based model of engaging the Bamfield Huu-ay-aht Community Forest as a sustainable source of timber and other materials to enrich the local community.

Net Zero Design

The proposed facilities and trail infrastructure are net-zero emission through the use of carbon-sequestering natural material and elimination of operational emissions through passive design principles.

Future Directions

The student proposals will be used by members of the Huu-ay-aht First Nation and residents of Bamfield for fundraising purposes.

Acknowledgement

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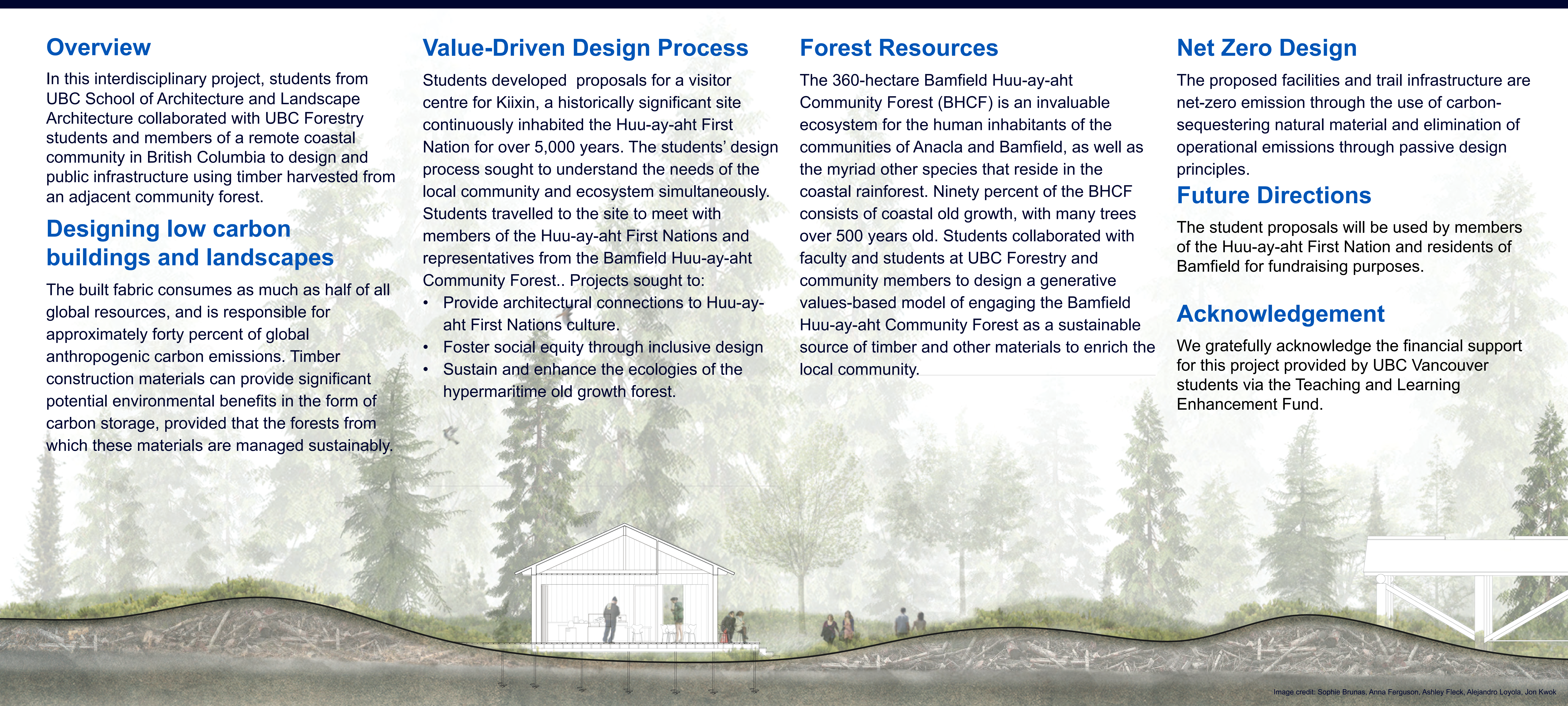
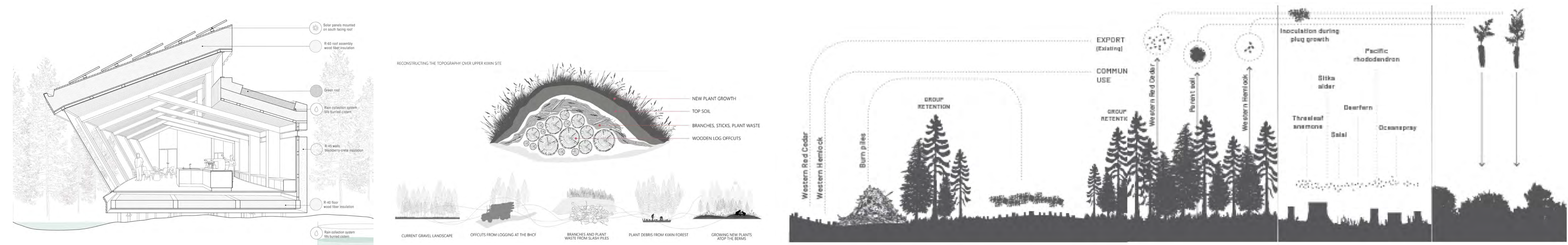


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