

MUSEUM ANALYSIS

3 major stories –
 WAR MEMORIAL · NATURAL HISTORY · HUMAN HISTORY
 – coinciding with the three-storeys of the building

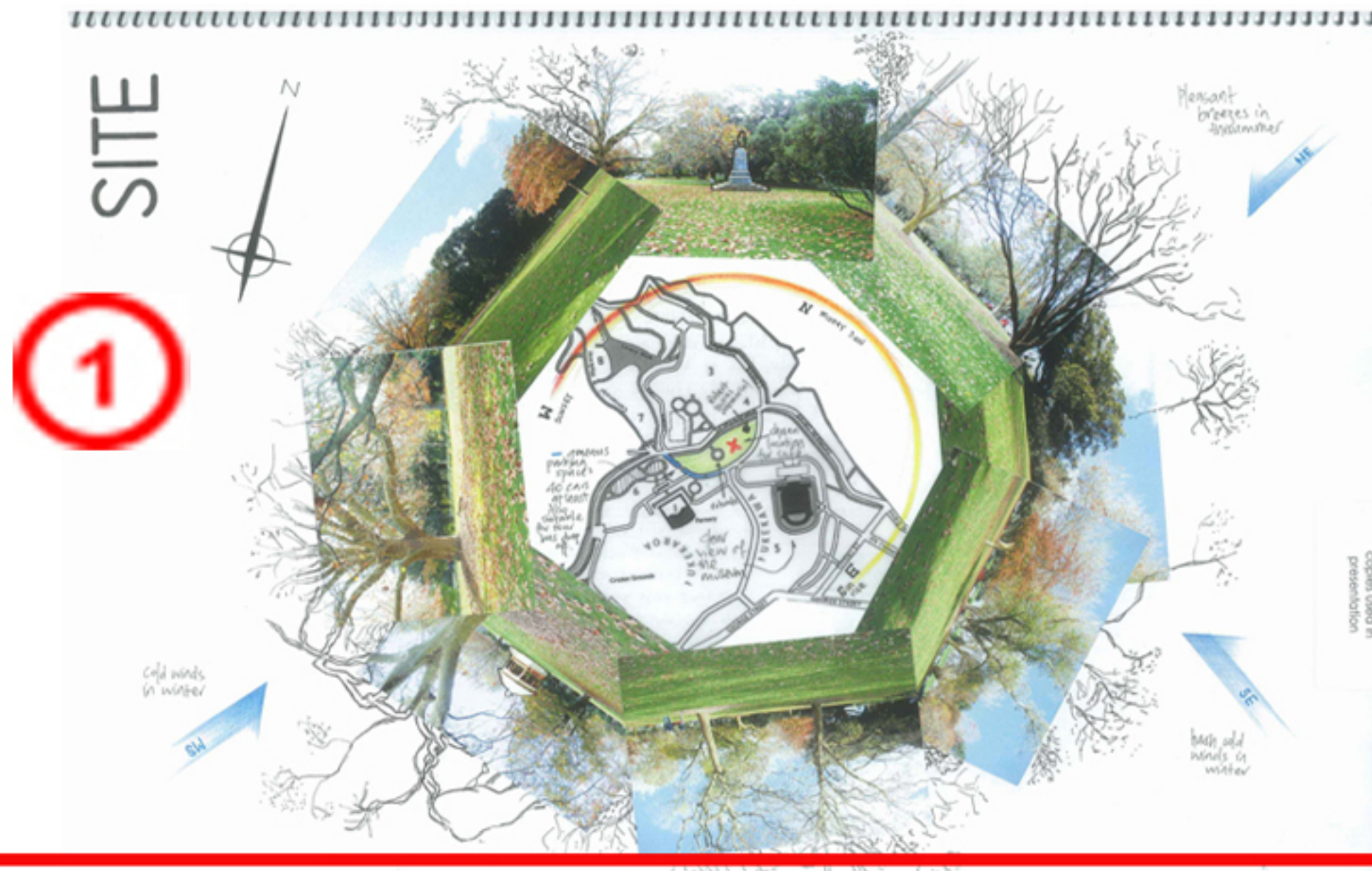
From the flowing Neo-Classical columns of the museum's exterior to the ornate glass balustrade of the main entry lobby, the museum's first impressions are deeply connected with the past and emphasises the passing of time with evident nostalgia.

The impressive main entry lobby is softened by the curved base of the tips of the spiral columns. This offers a welcoming yet solemn atmosphere, fulfilling its duty as a museum for some memorial.

Noel Lane's design of the Grand Atrium replaced the courtyard which was part of the 1950 addition. The upper and glass dome that houses the Great Hall is a landmark feature of the building, extending a sense of history with the surrounding environment. The circular form also offers a full view of the city making the machine not only architecturally appealing but also very functional.

The contrast between the old and the new is evident in the recently completed installation. The original D-shaped external wall of the building surrounded the central area but the new structure of Lane's work. The contrast not only of aesthetics but also of historical context make the interior space interesting and again echo the memorial themes of the museum.

The neutral tones of the museum's interior and exterior provide a sense of openness and comfort which makes exploring the museum an easy and interesting adventure. The extensive use of wood for the Grand Atrium harmonises with the concrete surface of the original courtyard wall. This increases the aesthetic impact of the concrete floor glass steps which act as a focal point for this interior space. The contrasting textures and free flowing proportions establish a sense of space and creates a contemporary environment.



SITE CHARACTERISTICS & FEATURES

The site is situated in a residential area, surrounded by two roads – Domain Drive and the Crescent. This makes the site very easy to access. The close proximity to roads would make access for tourist buses easy as buses can stop at one of the roads to drop off and pick up tourists. Street parking is available for vehicles which would make easy access for local users of the cafe for instance families and social groups. Currently, the site is used as a relaxation area for families and individuals. The addition of a cafe would provide current and future users/visitors of this area with shelter and a meeting place for social interactions. The vast plain space would provide a comfortable outdoor environment for users of the cafe to feel relaxed.

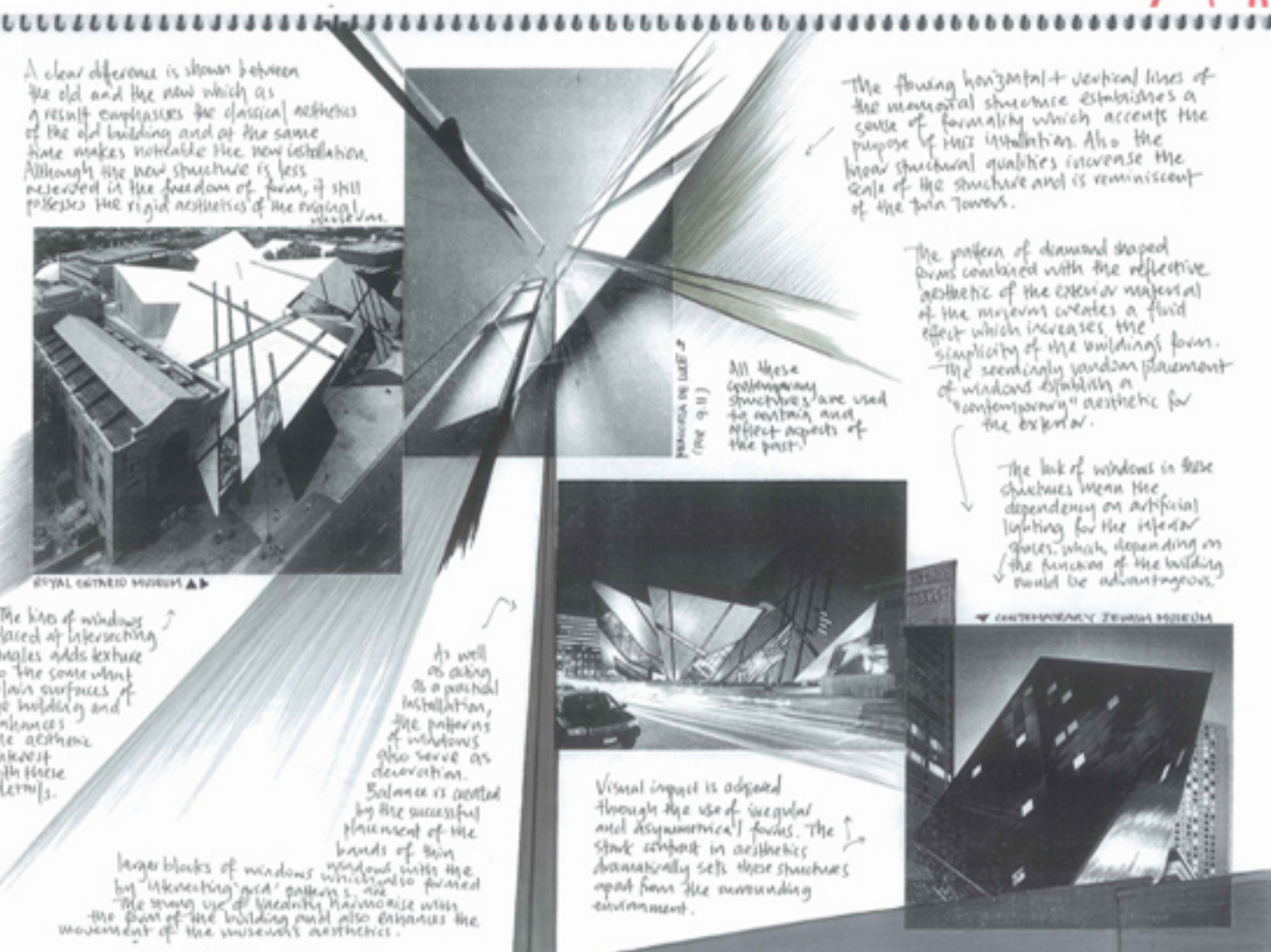
There are a characteristic aesthetic of this site. Although they can provide a sense of natural shade, they may also limit the height of the cafehouse and limit the view due to branches + roots. The variety of trees present highlight the rich landscape of the site.

The flatness of the site enables the future cafe to be seen from all directions and increases the ease of access to the site. The museum can be seen from the site. The variety of trees present in the area and also provides users of the museum a sense of the area's history. Near the site, the grounds is to one side and the Robert Burns Memorial the other. These enhance the recreational qualities of the domain + museum.

On the other side of the domain Drive is the Historic Garden. The close proximity of the site to the museum, gardens + other features enables efficient access.



INSPIRING ARCHITECT DANIEL LIBESKIND



OTHER INSPIRING DESIGNS

The exterior surfaces of the library building are covered with strong patterns of geometric forms. The repetition of intersecting diagonal lines are echoed by the many clean edges of the building.

The protruding roof of the building act as a practical shade from the sun while this feature also contrasts with the surrounding box-like buildings making the library aesthetically appealing and contemporary in style.

The 'leaning' glass structure is balanced by the concrete building behind it. The contrasting diagonal roofs are not symmetrical but the opposing proportions establish an aesthetically pleasing balance.

The circular forms of the interior add an interesting detail and create movement to the otherwise strongly linear and rigid exterior.

The exterior form of the structure does not correspond with the interior features. The interior structure is more complicated and contrasts with the simplicity of the glass exterior. In this case, the glass exterior acts merely as a shell.

The geometrical patterns of glass on the exterior of the building establishes a strong textured effect.

Free flowing proportions of the Museum's exterior increases a sense of movement which is also enhanced by the curving edges. This movement reflects the free flowing water that surrounds the building. Architecture corresponds with the environment.

The use of metal for the building's exterior provide a sense of stability and increases the building's durability. The harmonious layering of overlapping smooth surfaces and sharp edges give the building aesthetic appeal. The use of metal for the exterior of buildings is a characteristic trait in Gehry's architecture.

Repetition of rectangular forms on the glass structure and the concrete structure behind add details to the otherwise simple aesthetics of the building.

The alternating heights of the structure creates a sense of movement. The asymmetrical proportions harmonise well together and is aesthetically appealing.

The shell-like exterior walls enclose the actual cafehouse structure (the elongated rectangular form). The patterned cut-outs act as windows for customers who choose to dine outdoors. Wind + sun can also be partially blocked by this feature making this decorative detail not only aesthetically pleasing but also functional.

CONCEPTS

Instead of using the triangular patterns as cut-outs, triangular glass pieces could be arranged to form an asymmetrical pattern on the cafe and act as windows. This would provide the users with an interesting and unique dining experience.

The inner glass walled structure of the cafe is enclosed by a concrete patterned shell. This shell would act as a frame and structure, a slotted of triangular forms would be cast on the interior of the cafe and as the orientation of the sun changes, the shadow and light would also alter, providing aesthetic appeal.

The outline of this pattern of triangles appear to be branched like, resembling the many tall trees of the site. Thus, the environment is reflected in the style of the architecture which would also make easier the establishment of indoor/outdoor flow.

The mesh attached to some parts of the exterior wall adds texture to the structure's smooth surface.

The glass wall also thence the sense of space for the interior of the cafehouse as it provides an unobstructed view of the domain site.

The wall with triangular windows will cast an interesting pattern on the interior of the cafe which is aesthetically pleasing.

The main entrance is at the side of the building where a glass wall exposes the cafe's interior and the exterior landscape to users. Also this functional feature provides consistency with the warmth of the sun, enhancing indoor/outdoor flow.

The triangular shapes enhance the sense of movement and the repetition of these forms is aesthetically appealing and generates visual interest.

