Huraa Kulhi

Nature, Water & Community

INTERSCAPE STUDIO

SECRETARIAT OF THE HURAA COUNCIL

PRE-CONCEPT
Vision & Narrative

01

SITE BRIEF

Introduction

Located in K. Huraa, Maldives, Huraa Kulhi presents an opportunity to reimagine an existing natural waterbody as a vibrant community destination, where nature, recreation, and social interaction come together.

The proposed intervention seeks to celebrate the site's unique ecological character while introducing sensitive, low-impact recreational spaces that encourage people to reconnect with the natural environment.

A series of sculptural elevated boardwalks, intimate viewing platforms, a dedicated canoe launch, and a flexible waterfront event space will create opportunities for exploration, gathering, and cultural activities.

Guided by an approach that balances ecological sensitivity, community engagement, and experiential design, Huraa Kulhi envisions a distinctive public landscape that strengthens the relationship between the island, its people, and its natural heritage.



Project Understanding & Design Narrative

Design Brief & Direction

Huraa Kulhi is envisioned as a community-focused waterfront destination in K. Huraa, Maldives, combining ecological sensitivity with opportunities for nature-based recreation, cultural expression and social connection.

The project aims to create an experience that feels authentic and immersive—where visitors can reconnect with the mangrove landscape, water and local community.

The existing waterbody and surrounding mangrove vegetation provide an opportunity to introduce a series of sensitive, low-impact interventions that improve public access while protecting the site's natural character.

The proposal brings together canoeing, community events, elevated walkways, resting areas and viewing platforms to create a meaningful relationship between people, water and nature.



Site Context & Design Approach

Design Intent

Huraa Kulhi is envisioned as a vibrant ecological and community destination in K. Huraa, Maldives, celebrating the island's natural landscape while creating new opportunities for recreation, cultural expression, and social interaction.

The existing waterbody and surrounding vegetation present a unique opportunity to introduce a series of sensitive landscape interventions that enhance public accessibility without compromising the site's natural character.

Design Vision: "Where Nature Meets Community"

Our design concept, "Where Nature Meets Community," reimagines Huraa Kulhi as an immersive waterfront landscape where ecology, recreation, and island life come together.

A network of gently curving timber boardwalks weaves through the existing vegetation, connecting a sequence of circular viewing decks and recreational spaces. Extending over the water, a shaded event platform creates a distinctive setting for community gatherings, cultural celebrations, and everyday social experiences.

The concept celebrates the natural rhythm of the island through organic forms, lightweight structures, and carefully considered interventions. Rather than transforming the landscape, the design seeks to work with its existing character, creating moments of discovery, connection, and tranquillity while establishing Huraa Kulhi as a meaningful public destination for the local community.





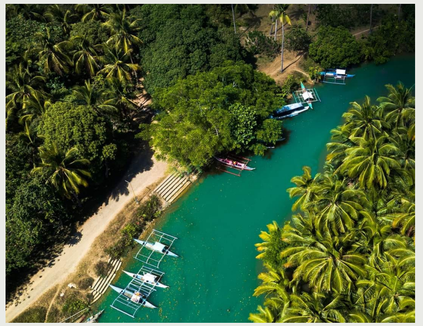
Exploring nature through elevated boardwalks.



Bringing communities together through shared experiences.



Connecting people through water-based adventures.



Supporting livelihoods through sustainable tourism.

DESIGN APPROACH

Ecological Immersion

Huraa Kulhi is envisioned as an immersive mangrove landscape, where visitors can experience the richness of the natural ecosystem through sensitive, low-impact design interventions. Elevated timber boardwalks weave through the existing vegetation, creating opportunities to explore, observe, and appreciate the unique relationship between land and water.

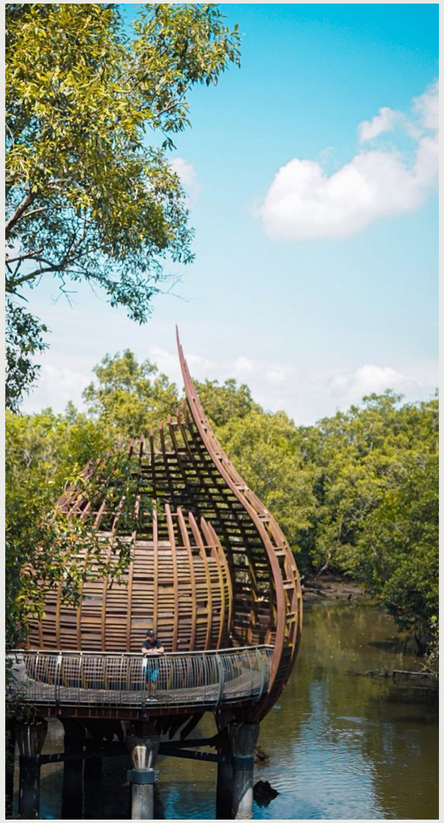
Inspired by the organic forms of the mangrove environment, the design introduces flowing pathways, intimate viewing platforms, and carefully positioned resting spaces that bring visitors closer to nature. By preserving the site's ecological character and minimising disturbance to existing habitats, the landscape encourages environmental awareness while creating a memorable and engaging experience rooted in the natural identity of Huraa.



Economic Empowerment

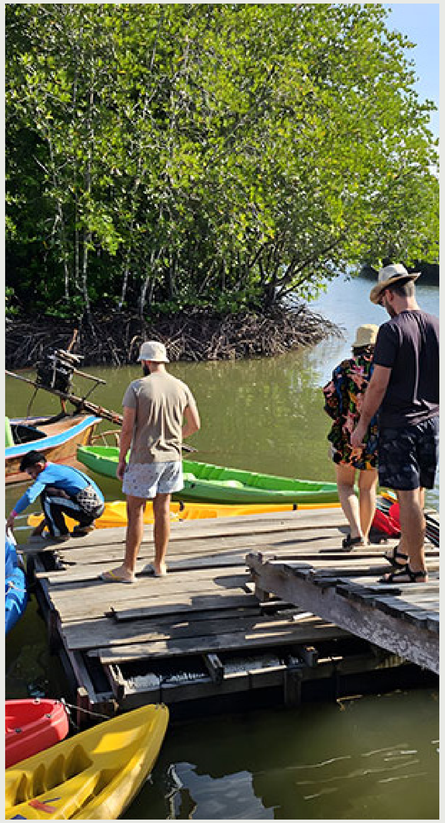
Huraa Kulhi is envisioned as a catalyst for sustainable local economic growth, creating opportunities that connect the island's natural heritage with community livelihoods. Through nature-based tourism, recreational activities, and cultural experiences, the project seeks to generate economic opportunities while preserving the ecological character of the mangrove environment.

The introduction of canoeing experiences, guided nature walks, and flexible event spaces creates opportunities for local entrepreneurs, guides, artisans, and small businesses. By encouraging community participation and supporting locally driven activities, Huraa Kulhi aims to strengthen the island's economy while establishing a sustainable balance between environmental conservation, cultural identity, and economic development.



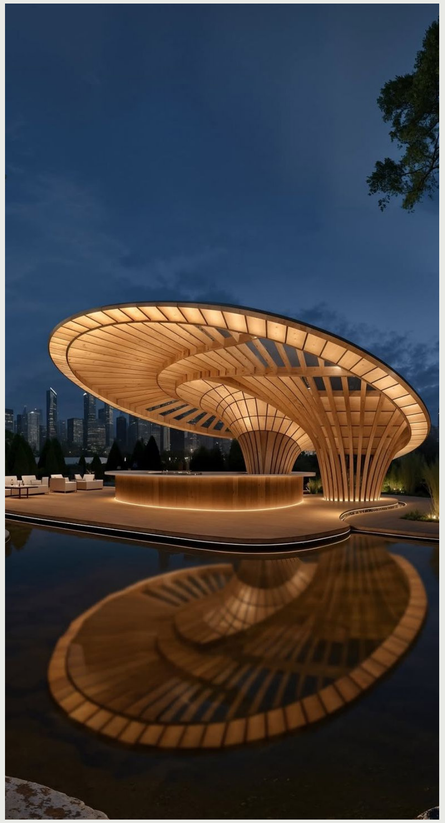
Nature-Based Tourism

Creating immersive mangrove experiences that attract visitors and promote responsible tourism.



Local Enterprise

Empowering local entrepreneurs through small businesses, crafts, and visitor services.



Community Events

Supporting cultural celebrations, seasonal markets, and community-led activities that generate income.



Employment Opportunities

Creating sustainable livelihoods through guided tours, recreation, and environmental stewardship.

A Regenerative Landscape

Huraa Kulhi embraces sustainability as a fundamental design principle, prioritising the protection and enhancement of the existing mangrove ecosystem. The proposed interventions seek to establish a careful balance between ecological conservation and public accessibility, allowing visitors to experience the natural landscape while minimising disturbance to sensitive habitats.

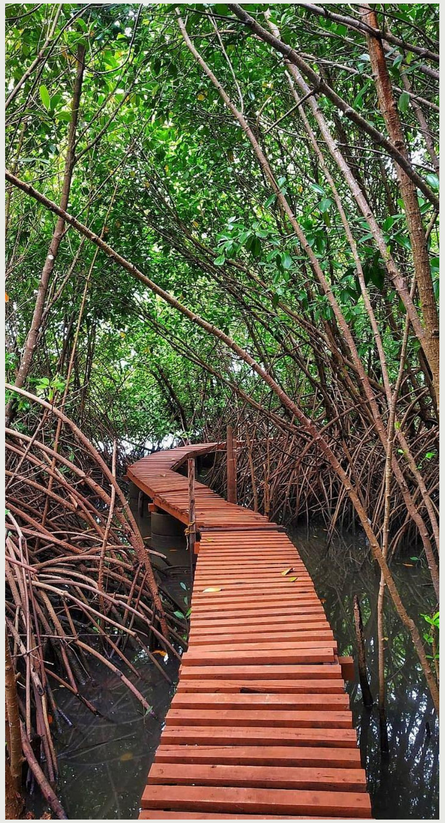
Elevated timber boardwalks and lightweight structures are envisioned to reduce ground-level intervention, preserve natural water movement, and minimise impacts on existing vegetation and root systems. The use of durable, responsibly sourced materials, passive shading strategies, and low-impact construction methods further supports the project's long-term environmental objectives.

Beyond physical interventions, the landscape creates opportunities for environmental education, ecological awareness, and community participation in conservation efforts. Through responsible management and sensitive design, Huraa Kulhi aims to celebrate the island's natural heritage while contributing to a resilient and sustainable future.



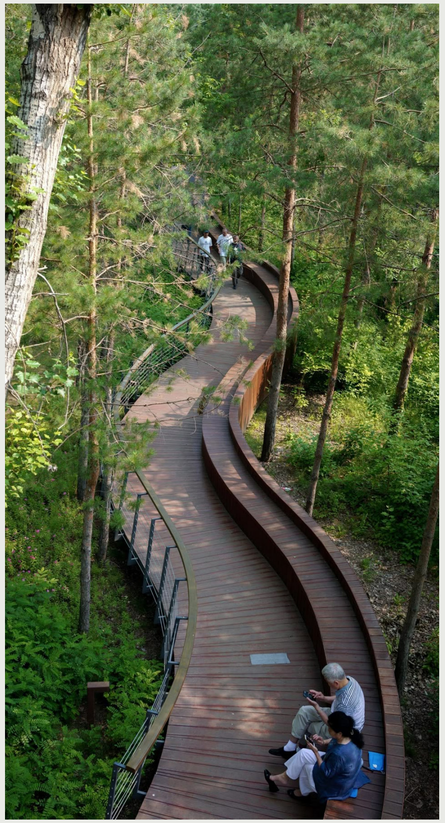
Mangrove Conservation

Protecting existing mangrove habitats, enhancing biodiversity, and preserving the natural ecological processes that sustain the island's environment.



Low-Impact Design

Introducing elevated boardwalks and lightweight structures that minimise disturbance to existing vegetation, root systems, and natural water movement.



Sustainable Materials

Prioritising durable, responsibly sourced, and low-maintenance materials that respond to the tropical coastal climate and reduce long-term environmental impacts.



Environmental Education

Creating immersive learning experiences that encourage ecological awareness, community participation, and a deeper appreciation of the mangrove ecosystem.

DESIGN PROPOSAL

Conceptual Masterplan

The conceptual masterplan organises a series of carefully positioned recreational nodes around the existing mangrove waterbody. Each intervention is connected through lightweight, low-impact access routes that allow visitors to explore the landscape while protecting sensitive habitats.

The proposal brings together canoeing, community events, resting spaces, mangrove boardwalks and viewing platforms to create a balanced waterfront experience rooted in nature, culture and community.

KEY

1. **Canoe Launch / Dock**
2. **Event Deck**
3. **Resting Points**
4. **Mangrove Boardwalk**
5. **Viewing Platform**

Access



Rooted in Nature, Growing with Community

1 Canoe Launch / Dock



Explore & Experience

Encouraging nature-based recreation, discovery, and appreciation of the island’s environment.

2 Event Deck



Celebrate Culture

Creating vibrant spaces for cultural expression, community gatherings, and lasting memories.

3 Resting Points / 4 Mangrove Boardwalk



Connect Communities

Bringing people together through shared spaces, experiences, and meaningful interactions.

5 Viewing Platform



Discover Nature

Creating immersive journeys that reconnect people with the mangrove ecosystem.

Project Realisation

Phase 1

1 Canoe Launch / Dock



Explore & Experience

Encouraging nature-based recreation, discovery, and appreciation of the island’s environment.

2 Event Deck



Celebrate Culture

Creating vibrant spaces for cultural expression, community gatherings, and lasting memories.

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