

Design rationale.

Stirling and the surrounding suburbs were largely devoted to farming and market garden lots until the 1980's. The Mitchell freeway was built to link major suburban regions, however, it split Stirling in half, and brought development that transformed farmland into a sea of low density housing. Civic gardens to the east were constructed to compensate; but today these stand unoccupied.

A pedestrian centred platform is grafted over the freeway, reconnecting the commercial west to the landscape east to provide safe passage with the Stirling train station at grade. A vineyard promenade lines the axis of the platform and stretches beyond, reclaiming the civic gardens as a working farm. Garden farming becomes the speciality as residents and visitors construct and cultivate their landscape. The food and water consumed by residents and visitors is fresh organic produce harvested on site by community volunteers. North of the vineyard lies the Farmer's Market and light rail service, where buying and selling fresh produce is part of the daily ritual and commute for all generations.

The housing design is a system of tiered streets each connecting the residents to the vineyard relative to their level of care. The garden court between the street and home is the medium between the residents and is the point of arrival, outlook and activity. This reflects the memory of suburban Perth, where people arrive home via their front yard. Each north-facing apartment is designed to be comfortable, generous and joyful. A treasure-wall shapes the internal circulation of the home, where residents fill and personalise the space with their memorabilia, photographs and life's keepsakes. The building's twin façade connects the housing to the vineyard whilst providing privacy to the wellness colonnade stretching along the southern edge. Residents can gather in various communal spaces including cafés, lounges and fitness and activity centres. Multi-layered connection is utilised throughout this scheme, to connect the elderly with the community, to provide freedom and access to all, and the care needed to promote dignified, proud and shared ageing.