The shelters are designed with a specific controlled way for one to look at nature. Each shelter is oriented with it’s back to the others and it’s front to the trees. This gives a more private and intimate sense to the space.

The wooden slats placed on the back side of the shelter screen the view inward to the other shelters. The horizontal emphasis of the slats complement the verticality of the trees.

Each shelter steps out the width of the porch so that this axial view forward is clear and maintained.

The shelters can be fully opened to nature by leaving the trifolding doors and hinging windows open, or if one wants more enclosure from the elements, they can be closed and the shelter is then fully screened.
The view outward to the trees has a view enhanced by a trifolding door that completely opens up the space and a hinging window that opens in the bedroom. These elements open up toward the trees and away from the other shelters. The roof also emphasizes this outward view through the corrugation lines directing outward and the roof opening up in elevation toward the trees. The porch is located on this side of the shelter that faces the trees. The height of the shelters locates them in line with the tree canopy.
Shelter Platform Structure and Ground Connection
Shelter Exploded Axonometric showing Wall Systems
Large Shelter Elevations
How the shelters touch the ground and the sky play a critical role in the relationship between land and building. The shelters seem to organically grow from the ground to the platform. The concrete footing supports the steel pin connection, which holds the wood columns in place, which support the platform.
When wood connects with wood, or any other material, steel plates that have been treated with bluing acid to darken the color are used to heighten the awareness of the material and the joint.
The playful splitting of the roofs reach out to the horizon and to the sky. The double columns wrap the beams, which support the joists, which hold up the corrugated roof and trellis system. The layering of these systems create a dialogue of connection.
The screened bedroom windows hinge open toward the trees at a 90 degree angle for an unobstructed view to nature.
The wood slats are screwed from the inside to the frame to maintain the horizontal continuity from the exterior. There are 3/4 inch spacers between the wood frame and the wood slats to give the system more depth.
Wood Slats

The wood slats in the shelters are constructed of 1” x 1” Jarrah wood. They are spaced vertically with 1 inch openings. They are connected to a frame by screws from the back and have a 3/4 inch spacer between the two systems. They are vertically supported every two feet to avoid warping in the weather.
The slats are constructed of Jarrah wood, a wood natural to temperate Australia known for its excellent durability outdoors due to high natural resistance to decay, rot, fire, termites, marine borers and most acids. The wood has a clean smooth surface, dense, straight grain, and is a pinkish red color that darkens through outdoor exposure. The wood is left unfinished, and this rawness allows for the material to weather and let nature take back to the site.
The observation towers use a similar emphasis on controlled views by screening, but the wood slats are vertical and double in size. They are a broken vertically instead of maintaining the continuous lines. They connect to the beams behind them by black U-plates from the exterior. The slats are recessed back from the columns instead of extending beyond the structure. These differences in articulation arise because the towers serve a different function, and should be demarcated in a different manner.

The towers contain toilets on the first level, and showers on the top level. Rising up the stairs, the strategic views along the forward axis and outward to the trees are framed in certain spots. The showers at the top give the person a reason to make this climb and experience the dramatic views.
Tower Elevations
C Chanel to Steel Tube to Wood Slat Connection
All photographs by the author.


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