



Impression showing the proposed approach from the east. The connecting walkway from the car park can be seen through the trees, complemented by the lightweight first floor timber 'canopy' sitting atop the heavy plinth base, colonised by planting.

A further important element of the visitor centre is the incorporation of vegetation throughout the levels of the building. At ground floor level raised planters form rain gardens and places to sit and low level planters inform the arrangement of hard landscaping forming external spaces protected from the flow of walkers. At first floor levels, external terraces are populated with planters combining native ornamental planting, grasses and climbers which will grow to spill over the edges of the building. And finally at roof top, a populated intensive green roof will make use of native wildflowers offering a valuable opportunity for ecology and biodiversity mitigation. The concept of rewilding is encouraged through this layering - natural ecosystems reestablishing and rebuilding themselves by inhabiting the manmade disturbance of the visitor centre.

Conclusion

The building will function as a moment of pause, overlooking the lake, where visitors can stop and extend their stay. The proposals for the Visitor Centre therefore both address the past, present, and future of the park, providing a community resource that will act as a gateway to the wider parkland. Through flexible meeting and education spaces, café spaces and indoor play, the building provides a framework for the community to: interpret the past through exhibition, events and educational workshops; to celebrate the present through high quality spaces that link the indoors and outdoors and encourage a range of activities to support well-being and community; and to plan for a diverse range of economically and environmentally sustainable opportunities in the future.