

# LIFE NEAR THE OCEAN

“As a young boy, living in Strandfontein, Cape Town, I was privileged enough to live close to the sea. The beach was only a couple of kilometres away from the residential area my family and I lived in. This proximity is the reason why we would use the free time we had on weekend mornings to walk to the beach as part of a ritual to breathe cleaner air and discover new things washed ashore by the ocean. The ocean has always provided. Whether it be food, a place of solace or for leisure and recreation, the ocean has been present and consistent, unfaltering. The space as commons or what we hope structured public space to be, that allows for cross cultural experience, sharing of knowledge and the chance to exist with others on equal terms. It has given to my family and I an immeasurable quality of life filled with culture, tradition, and knowledge. The project locates itself at the Strandfontein Pavilion, a public area aimed at creating a safe space for beach goers in my hometown, Strandfontein Village, Mitchell's Plain, an area on the periphery of Cape Town, wanting to enjoy the ocean. My experience of living in Strandfontein has revealed a disconnect from that ocean. Residents are removed from the resources of the city centre and are dislocated from the natural resources of the environment. This project will encourage a reconnection to the ocean through creating space for the community to experience ways of cultivating and harvesting the resources of the ocean in an informal environment, and sharing knowledge passively by existing in spaces with active human presence. This connection will empower the community and grant partial autonomy from the city for residents by bringing some of those resources close to home. The project will use water as a variable that impacts the architectural design to accommodate and manage water and the way that it is experienced by visitors. ”



TAUHIR RAKIEP, A LOCAL ARCHITECT, TELLING THE  
STORY OF HIS LIFE LIVING NEAR THE OCEAN