

WANGARI MAATHAI INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

University of Nairobi Green Belt Movement 2012





1940 Sunrise
1959 Graduated from Loreto Girls' High School in 1959
1966 Master's Degree Uni of Pittsburgh
1971 Ph.D. School of Veterinary Medicine at the Uni of Nairobi
1977 Founded the Green Belt Movement
2002 Elected as Member of Parliament for Tetu
2003 Appointed Deputy Minister for the Environment
2004 Nobel Peace Laureate
2007 Joined UNEP to launch a campaign to plant a billion trees
2011 Sunset

A LIFE OF FIRSTS

WANGARI MUTHAI MAATHAI

our mission is *“to mobilize community consciousness for self-determination, equity, improved livelihoods and security, and environmental conservation.”*



Professor Wangari Maathai garnered universal respect for her work within the field of peace studies, education and the sustainable and accountable management of natural resources, described in her words:

“... I was reminded of the traditional African stool, which is comprised of three legs. The first leg represents democratic space, where rights - whether human, women’s, children’s, or environmental - are respected. The second leg symbolizes the sustainable and accountable management of natural resources both for those living today and for those in the future, in a manner that is just and fair, including for people on the margins of society. The third leg stands for what I term ‘cultures of peace.’ These take the form of fairness, respect, compassion, forgiveness, recompense, and justice.”

It was these principles that underpinned the Green Belt Movement (GBM), based in Kenya, which Professor Maathai’s organisation founded in 1977.

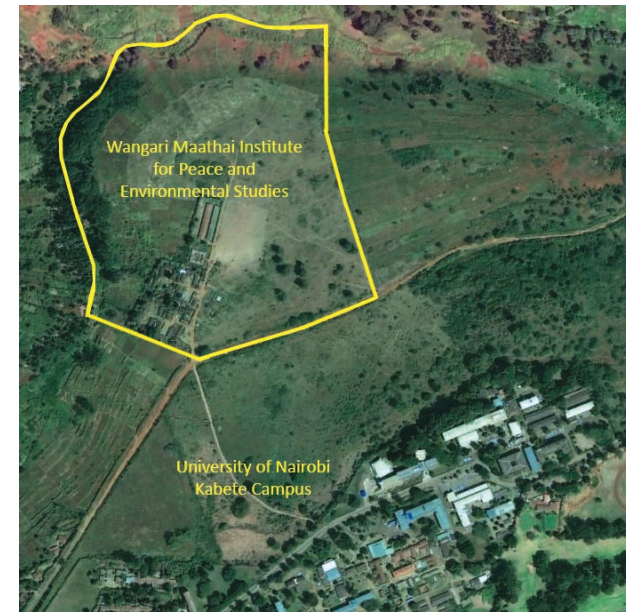
Today the GBM has become an international organisation and is one of the most prominent women’s civil society organizations, whose vision and mission is *“... to mobilize community consciousness for self-determination, equity, improved livelihoods and security, and environmental conservation.”*

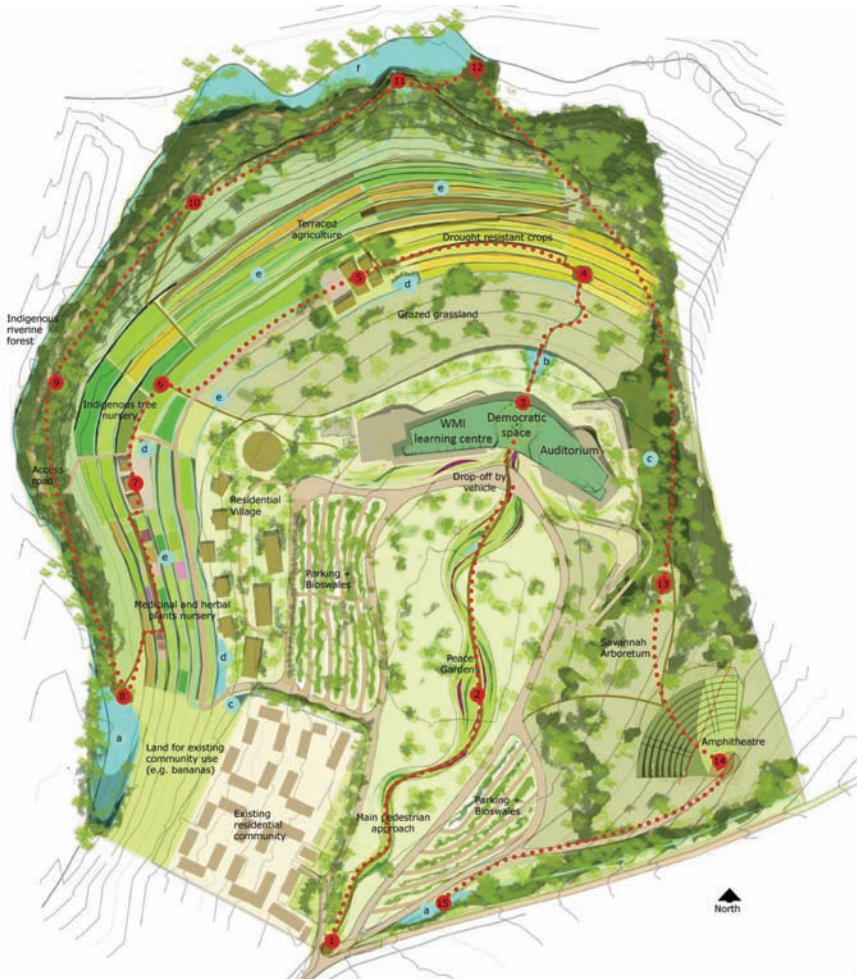
Wangari _____ :

Nobel Peace Laureate 2004



THE SITE





THE VISION

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI) will be located on a 50-acre site adjacent to the University of Nairobi Kabete campus. Envisaged as a 'green campus' the aim has been to create a living memorial to the life and work of Professor Maathai and an embracing and inspiring African icon of integrated sustainability. For Professor Maathai the institute will be a place of experiential

learning, communication and interaction bringing together world leaders, policy makers, academics, students and people from rural communities. As a dynamic educational and practical landscape showcasing and demonstrating sustainable techniques in natural resource management, agriculture production, the WMI is Professor Maathai's legacy and a step in the path to sustainable human development, peace and democracy.

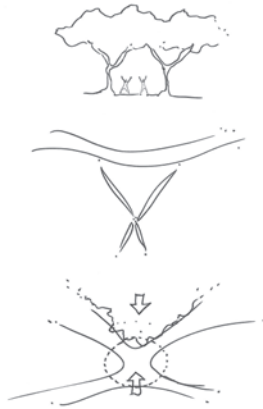




The design approaches the site, landscape and architecture in terms of long-term stewardship, sustainable management of resources, education and empowerment. The aim is to ensure that any intervention does not damage its use for future generations, and that the site should have a net positive environmental, social and economic effect extending into neighbouring areas and communities. The primary function of the landscape is to act as an experiential learning forum where techniques for sustainable management of different land uses can be tested and demonstrated – an educational landscape.

AN EDUCATIONAL LANDSCAPE

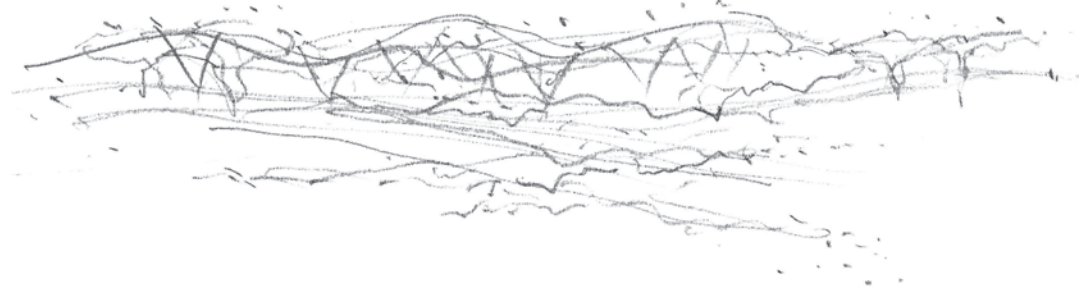
forest canopy
gathering below



tripod tree columns
supporting canopy over
democratic space

democratic space brings
together environment,
learning, research &
empowerment

DANCING ROOF

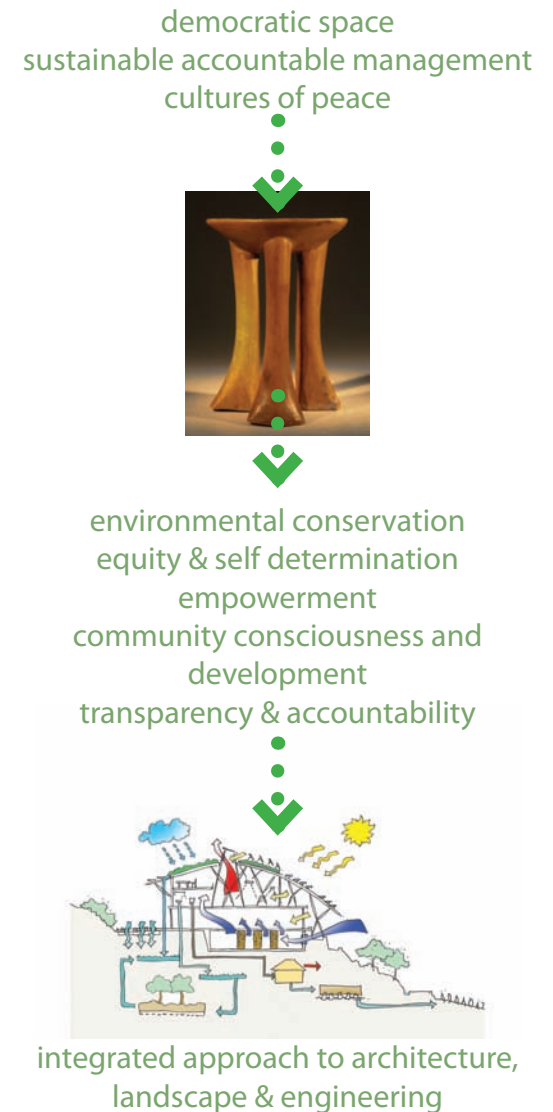


A key feature of the WMI is the 'dancing roof' whose undulating form responds to the area's natural contours. Based upon the idea of a forest canopy supported on tree columns, the multifunctional roof shelters the auditoria, laboratories, libraries, lecture theatres, meeting rooms and democratic space, unifying its various components and integrating the built form with that of the surrounding landscape.

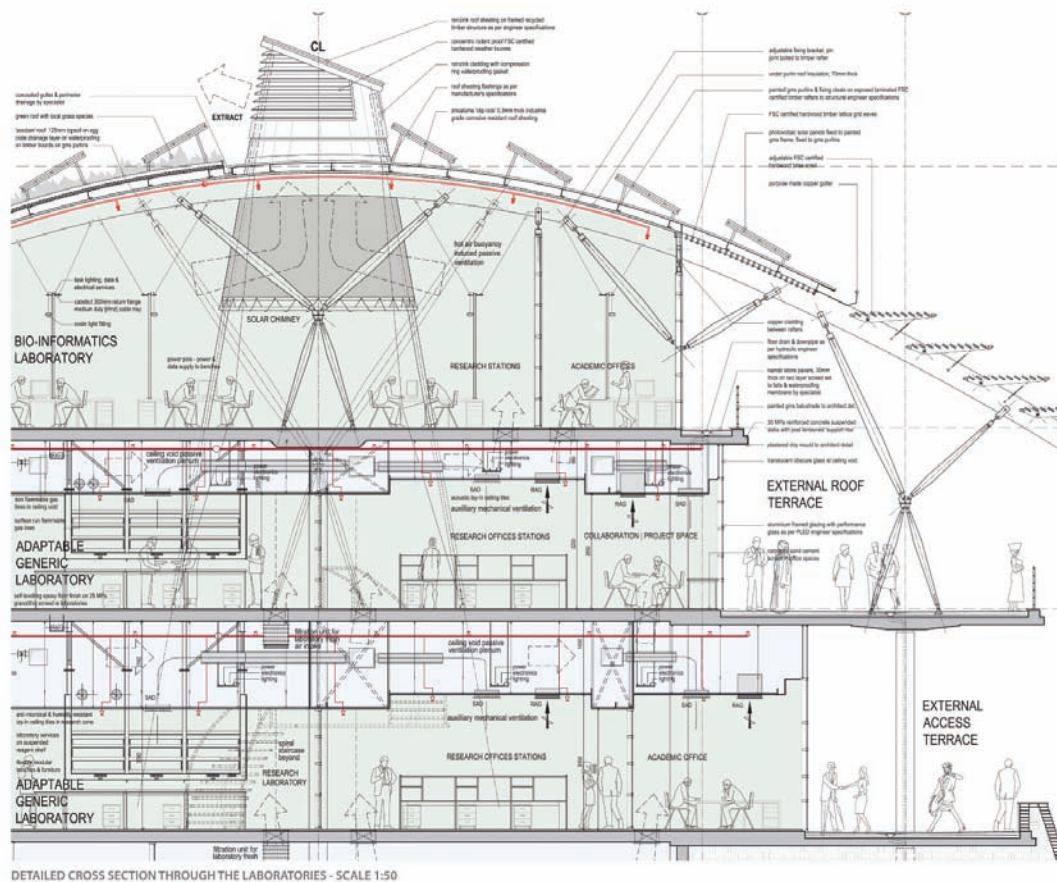
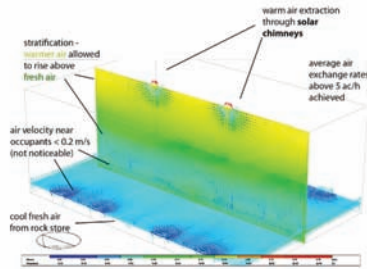


The design of the WMI is underpinned by an integrated approach of architecture, land-use and engineering. The institute is expected to meet stringent sustainability and conservation criteria, aiming to achieve close to carbon neutrality (by generating on-site renewable energy to match the grid energy attributed to fossil-fuel generation) and self-sufficiency (by delivering core building services through passive design). The aim is to give expression to the vision of Wangari Maathai through the creation of an inspiring African icon of integrated sustainability and an exemplary synthesis of landscape, function and architecture.

INTEGRATED APPROACH



SUSTAINABILITY & PASSIVE DESIGN



The WMI design focuses on resource efficiency (passive and low-energy solutions to occupant comfort, ventilation and lighting) and alternative energy generation (solar thermal and solar PV). Allied to this, the choice and specification of renewable, healthy, locally sourced and low embodied energy building materials is paramount. The prioritisation of passive strategies include shallow depth plans where possible to encourage natural daylight, high thermal mass, well insulated building fabric, natural lighting and solar control through shading and insulation. Innovative solutions unique to the WMI include solar heated thermal chimneys for improved

performance and evaporative cooling to supplement rock store heat absorption. Core building functions have been designed passively such that they function in a self-sufficient manner. The institute is designed to function primarily in a passive manner such that utility costs and power disruptions have a minimal operational impact. These principles also inform the construction and operation of the farm buildings and nurseries within the experiential landscape. The WMI will be benchmarked against the Living Building Challenge and seek 6 star rating [broadly equivalent to LEED Platinum] benchmarked using the preferred tool of the Kenyan green Building Council.





“The potential of the WMI is to introduce a new way of ‘experiential’ learning, an experience that will ensure there is a link between the knowledge students gain during their tertiary training, and their capacity to apply it to transform the societies in which they live.”

Professor Wangari Muta Maathai

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

DYNAMIC EXHIBITION

Professor Maathai's vision was that the WMI would be a place of communication, interaction and to break down barriers. Fundamentally, the Institute is to also introduce a new way of 'experiential' learning. This would not

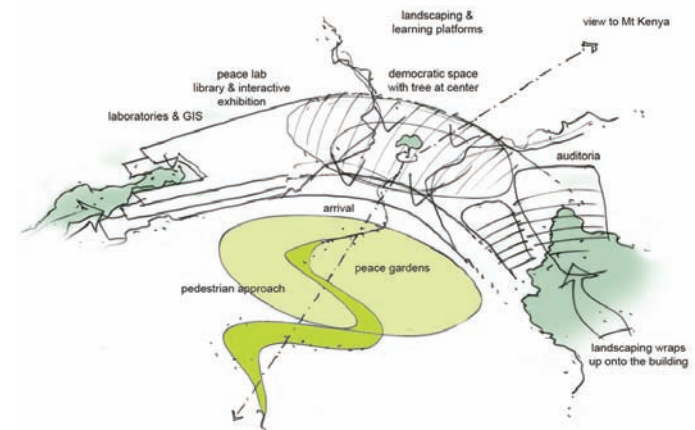
only happen within the buildings of the Institute but throughout the WMI's working landscape at the innovative learning platforms within the landscape intended to inform the student or visitor about critical issues such as climate change. The WMI is

intended to be experienced as a journey winding through the entire site linking the learning platforms, working landscape, natural ecosystems, and the Institute and culminating in the democratic space and memorial to Professor Maathai.



“After a few years I came to recognize that our efforts weren’t only about planting trees, but were also about sowing seeds of a different sort -- the ones necessary to give communities the self-confidence and self-knowledge to rediscover their authentic voice and speak out on behalf of their rights (human, environmental, civic, and political). Our task also became to expand what we call “democratic space” in which ordinary citizens could make decisions on their own behalf to benefit themselves, their community, their country, and the environment that sustains them.”

Professor Wangari Muta Maathai



At the centre of the WMI is the democratic space, the spiritual heart of the scheme. Positioned at the highest point of the site and adjacent to the Peace Gardens, the democratic space will have magnificent views across the valley to the UoN Kabete campus, and to Mt. Kenya in the distance. The welcoming and dignified democratic space is sheltered by the undulating 'dancing roof' and is supported by tree-like columns evoking the tree-planting programme of the GBM and the three legged traditional African stool. At the centre of the space will be a 'Hummingbird' memorial, a tree, and a sculpture housing the ashes of Professor Maathai.



DEMOCRATIC SPACE



CULTURES OF PEACE



“A culture of peace depends on transparent motives, ideas and actions”

Professor Wangari Muta Maathai



In 1971, Professor Wangari Muta Maathai became the first woman in East and Central Africa to earn a doctoral degree, having joined the University of Nairobi as an Assistant Lecturer in 1966. She went on to become an Associate Professor and serve as the Chair of the Department of Veterinary Anatomy.

Besides being an accomplished scholar, Professor Wangari Maathai has made her mark as an environmental conservationist, an advocate for better natural resource utilisation practices, a tireless champion for democracy and good governance, and a committed campaigner for cultures of peace.

She founded the Green Belt Movement in 1977, as a community mobilisation and empowerment organisation for environmental conservation at the grassroots level. By protecting the environment, members of the Green Belt Movement also become powerful champions for sustainable management of scarce resources such as water, equitable economic development, good political governance, and ultimately... peace. Over the decades of her work, Professor Maathai has been honoured with many recognitions, awards and prizes. The pinnacle of her accomplishments was the award of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize, and she became the first African woman Nobel Peace Laureate.

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