

I. IDENTIFICATION DATA

Thesis name:	Marou – The power of community
Author's name:	Grigorii Matiunin
Type of thesis :	master
Faculty/Institute:	Faculty of Architecture (FA)
Department:	Architecture
Thesis reviewer:	Esteban Insausti
Reviewer's department:	Architect

II. EVALUATION OF INDIVIDUAL CRITERIA

Assignment	challenging
<i>Evaluation of thesis difficulty of assignment.</i>	
<p>Student was responding to a challenging competition design brief (Land Art for a changing climate) focused on a land art work with heavy sustainability, climate adaptability and community programme, for a site in Fiji. Difficulty stems from assumption that English is not first language but also designing to a site that can only be evaluated from photos and drawings. The technical brief was also quite onerous in terms of energy demands that need to translate to built form.</p>	

Satisfaction of assignment	fulfilled
<i>Assess that handed thesis meets assignment. Present points of assignment that fell short or were extended. Try to assess importance, impact or cause of each shortcoming.</i>	
<p>The criteria set out in the competition brief was fulfilled. The project demonstrates a range of energy initiatives arranged in an attractive and contextual form. The spaces created by the walls and roofs carrying photovoltaic panels and fog catching can be used for many purposes by the community including aquaculture, agriculture and farming. The text clearly explains the project and how the technologies are used. The drawings precisely describe the construction methodology including details. One of the criteria of the competition was for the construction and materials proposed to be replicable on the site or elsewhere, assuming that local materials and techniques are to be used. The choice of certain components (steel and the glue-laminated beams for instance) need to be imported as such resources are not available in Fiji. From an architectural narrative point of view, the student has missed an opportunity to demonstrate how he arrived at the planning of the project as well as show how the project could be expanded in future to add to the energy levels already attained. Where would another tower may be located or how the water storage ponds and filtration beds could be expanded? This was another criteria mentioned in the competition brief. I also question the level of sophistication (and elegance) in the details of the architecture as being attainable or replicable in Fiji.</p>	

Method of conception	outstanding
<i>Assess that student has chosen correct approach or solution methods.</i>	
<p>The student has approached the project as a response to the Fiji Land Art for a changing climate competition. He has prepared the panels as required by the competition. He has also prepared separate material to meet the academic requirements of the thesis. From a design methodology perspective, the project appears to be located in the site in a contextual manner with the requisite larger surfaces for photovoltaic panels facing north (southern hemisphere sun aspect). The architectural language employed pays respect to the local cultural forms as well as been contemporary.</p>	

Technical level	A - excellent.
<i>Assess level of thesis specialty, use of knowledge gained by study and by expert literature, use of sources and data gained by experience.</i>	

The detail documented for the project demonstrates a familiarity and mastery with the literature associated with the subject. My only concern is the sophistication of the construction methodology and material choices against the competition brief which encouraged the use of local materials and methods. However, the manner in which the pavilions are constructed show a deep affinity with timber as the primary material and the way that timber can be put together. As a piece of architecture this is a very elegant and sophisticated project.

Formal and language level, scope of thesis

A - excellent.

Assess correctness of usage of formal notation. Assess typographical and language arrangement of thesis.

The language throughout is of a high level. It is also very clear. I commend the student for such a text in a language that is not his natural language.

Selection of sources, citation correctness

B - very good.

Present your opinion to student's activity when obtaining and using study materials for thesis creation. Characterize selection of sources. Assess that student used all relevant sources. Verify that all used elements are correctly distinguished from own results and thoughts. Assess that citation ethics has not been breached and that all bibliographic citations are complete and in accordance with citation convention and standards.

The student has used the information supplied by the competition brief. He has understood and incorporated the information into the design. I cannot judge whether extensive further reading and research has been completed, however it is clear that the student is very comfortable with the subject matter, namely energy use in the context of a community challenged by climate change and limited resources.

Additional commentary and evaluation

Present your opinion to achieved primary goals of thesis, e.g. level of theoretical results, level and functionality of technical or software conception, publication performance, experimental dexterity etc.

Please insert your commentary (voluntary evaluation).

III. OVERALL EVALUATION, QUESTIONS FOR DEFENSE, CLASSIFICATION SUGGESTION

Summarize thesis aspects that swayed your final evaluation. Please present apt questions which student should answer during defense.

The elegance and compelling forms of the wind towers make this project memorable. The consistent use of timber and local materials together with steel give the project both a contemporary and contextual feel. The forms are naturally attuned to the site. I also commend the student in designing such a

The questions I have for the student fall into several areas: planning, adaptability, modularity, safety and maintenance.

- i) On planning: can the student explain how he arrived at the siting of the various buildings (pavilions) on the site?
- ii) On adaptability: can the student explain how the built forms could be used for different activities for the community and could they be adapted in future for other unforeseen uses?
- iii) On modularity: part of the competition criteria asked whether the proposal could be added to or be built elsewhere on another site, can this scheme be located somewhere else (going to the questions of modularity and cultural context).

- iv) On safety: how has the student incorporated safety features for the installation and maintenance of the photovoltaic panels on the roofs of the various towers and pavilions?
- v) On maintenance: has the student considered in the situation of the destruction of the buildings during a cyclone or other catastrophic event, the rebuilding and restoration of the project to the same level of quality?

I evaluate handed thesis with classification grade **A - excellent**.

Date: **4.6.2025**

Signature:

