

TARONGA ZOO SAVANNAH + CONGO

BUILT FORM AND URBAN DESIGN STATEMENT

MOTHERWORKS

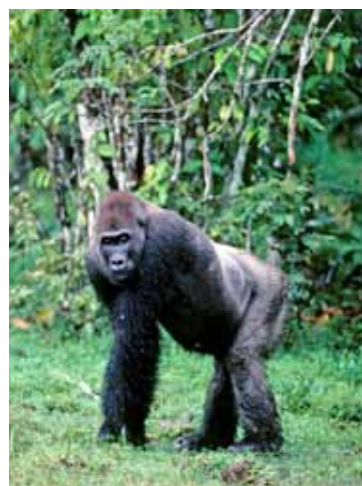
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tonkinzulaikhagreer ARCHITECTS

29 MAY 2017
FOR SSDA SUBMISSION



tonkinzulaikhagreer ARCHITECTS

ADDRESS 117 RESERVOIR STREET SURRY HILLS NSW 2010

PHONE +61 2 9215 4900

EMAIL INFO@TZG.COM.AU

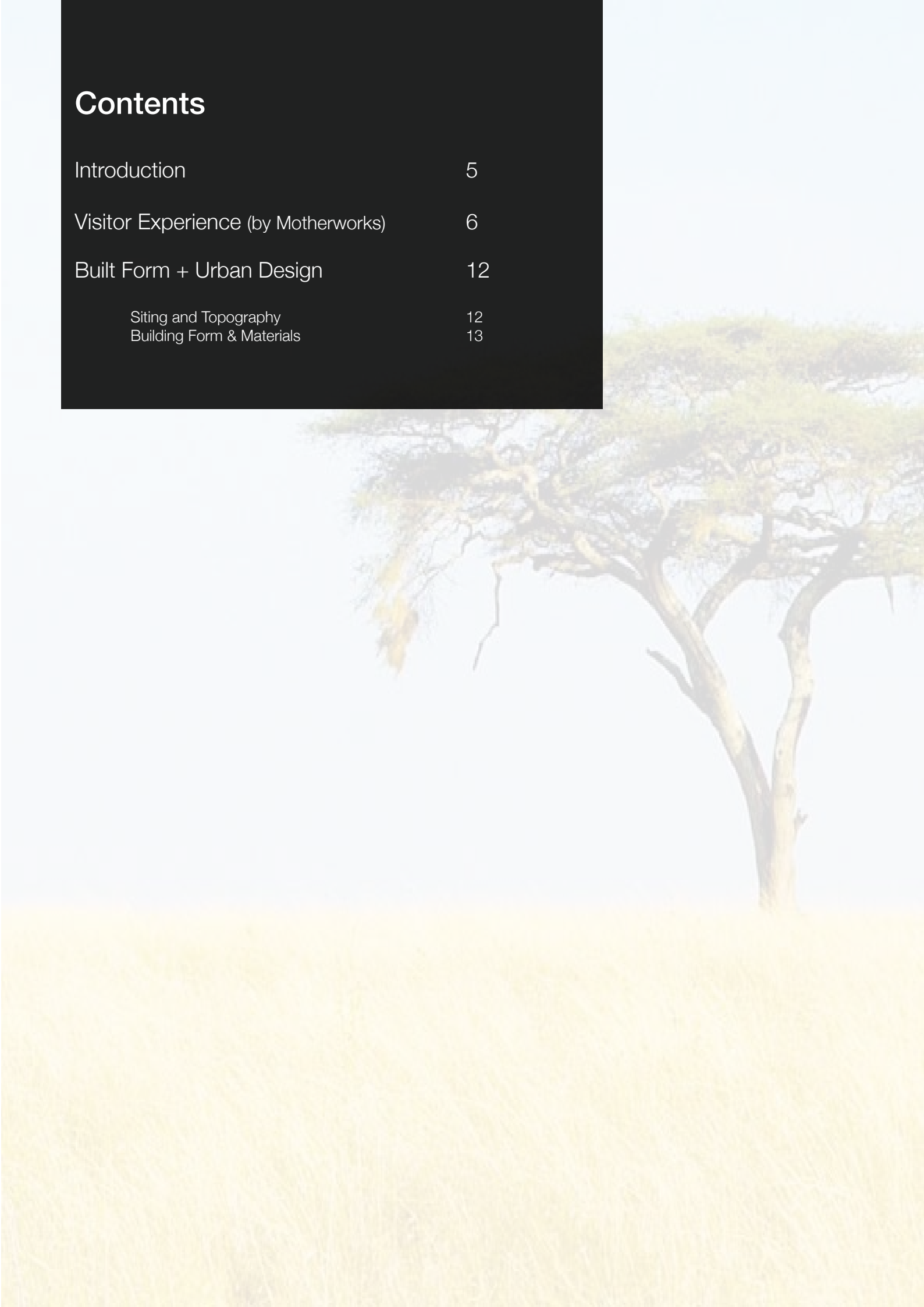
ABN 4600 2722 349

www.tzg.com.au

Nominated Architects Peter Tonkin (NSW Reg. No.4147)

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Introduction

The African Savannah and Congo Precinct Project is the heart of Taronga's renewal Masterplan, re-housing many of the Zoo's key exhibits. The project strengthens the educational and conservation role of the Zoo, engaging existing and new audiences in a deeply meaningful way, reinforcing key messages with a focus on Taronga's contribution to conservation, science and education and enhancing visitor experience. It is informed by the Taronga Conservation Society's Vision – Securing a Shared Future for Wildlife and People.

The African Savannah and Congo Precinct will be an experience that can demonstrate actively to the visitor what they may learn from animals. Exposed to a vast number of threats in the wild over the period of their existence, animals have developed complex strategies that ensure their common survival. This on-going evolutionary process is embedded in the design approach, where the concept seeks to immerse visitors in a broad African experience, from the tropical rainforests of the Congo to the open plains of the African Savannah.

The project occupies a large site on the north-western slopes of the Zoo, linking directly to the main circulation routes and adjoining the new Centenary Theatre. The African Savannah precinct to the west is the habitat of the Giraffe, Zebra, Lion, Ostrich, Meerkat and Fennec Fox with new back of house facilities and exhibits. The Congo forest is the habitat of the Eastern Lowland Gorilla and Okapi. An "African Waterhole" visitor facility area links the two areas together.

The project is multi-layered dealing with a number of issues, such as:

- Animal welfare.
- Accessibility throughout all new exhibit pathways.
- Heritage and cultural considerations.
- Existing topography and landscape integration.
- Engagement and consultation with multiple stakeholders.
- Operational and attendance issues.
- Site access and construction issues.
- Re-routing of existing underground services.
- Visitor and staff safety.
- Providing an enhanced and educational visitor experience.
- Compliant site access for visitors.