THE GROVE (a meditation space in the heart of the University)

The concept of my installation resulted from a process of transforming an open, rectangular space into sections having different degrees of confinement. The change in levels between the three timber platforms does not only enhance the distinction and privacy between each unit, but it also urges users to travel along each platform so as to discover what lays ahead. In doing so, the user will feel more secluded. Not only because he/she is moving away from any sound coming from the University quadrangle, but also because the lowest platforms are smaller such that they are only suited for one or two users. Going through the platforms allows the student to experience a journey of Elemental Meditation as each platform stimulates users to interact with different elements. For instance, the second platform features a water body around which students can sit whilst being subjected to a tranquil viewpoint of the agricultural land beyond. The third platform allows users to interact directly with the vegetation grown on the field itself by sitting on the timber floor slats enclosing a circular space of shrubbery. Surrounding vegetation will also encourage users to interact with ‘earth’ itself. One of the elements endorsed in Elemental Meditation. Moreover, the iroko wood making the floor and walls of each unit also induces a vernacular and agricultural sensation. Timber rods enclosing the platforms are closely packed at the South side to ensure that anyone walking along the passage is blocked, whilst becoming more detached towards the view so as to direct the user’s vision to the scenic landscape, helping them in the meditation process. The structure is finished with PTFE roofing which enhances confinement whilst providing adequate shelter and shading.

Throughout the design process, I prioritised a straightforward design that is easy to use and interact with by any student of any age group. The distinctiveness and complexity of the installation was then achieved by exploiting timber, allowing the material itself to create a perception of meditation.