**A Journey of Transformation Through Qalet Marku**

Following the construction of the Coast Road, the coastal area of Qalet Marku has been disconnected from the rest of the coastal town, despite its proximity to this highway. One can argue that there is a certain degree of placelessness - having a loss of place and identity and therefore a lack in meaning. With such a busy arterial road, the topography of the area is read through the moving vehicle rather than at the pace of a pedestrian. Similarly, the utter busyness of our modern life has created a lack of awareness and appreciation of the simpler things.

Through a number of interventions, a spiritual journey experience is created where

(i) the landscape is regenerated, transformed and re-injected with meaning

(ii) the personal self undergoes a transformation through mindfulness.

As one approaches the central woodland area of Qalet Marku, one finds a number of timber pavilion-like structures hosting the Spiritual & Wellness Centre. The programme wraps around the D’Orbeau Battery, making it the focal point of this area and a prominent public space. The significance of this heritage site which is currently in ruins, is re-instated, as contemporary additions hint at the memory of the place and allows people to relate to its history.

The pavilions are strategically placed on disturbed areas or around protected trees. Additionally, the woodland consists of a number of alien species which will be replaced with indigenous plants and trees.

As one journeys through the Spiritual centre itself, one is led through and deliberately immersed in diverse experiences which encapsulate the spiritual journey. This opens one’s perspective into a heightened awareness of the surrounding natural and historical elements. In this way, a relationship is created between the self and Qalet Marku, leading to the formation of place-identity.