

*City Hearthstone* reimagines the hearth as more than a source of warmth—it becomes a bridge between the tangible and the transcendent, where fire embodies resilience, transformation, and the enduring light within life. Fire, often feared for its raw power, is celebrated here for its dual nature: destructive yet life-giving, primal yet deeply symbolic. In this space, the naked flame—eternal and untamed—invites quiet reflection, reconnecting visitors with both elemental forces and the spiritual realm.

Simultaneously, it serves as a sanctuary and a refuge. It welcomes those in crisis—individuals facing abuse or homelessness—while offering a peaceful retreat for anyone seeking solace. Untethered to any specific religious belief, it addresses the universal human need for connection, warmth, and light. It is a secular hearthstone, offering healing, contemplation, and renewal for all who enter, creating a space where people from all walks of life can find comfort and peace.

Rituals centred around fire—gathering, storytelling, and quiet contemplation—provide moments of connection not only with others but also with the elements that sustain us. These timeless practices, reinterpreted for a modern context, foster a shared sense of humanity. Around the hearth, the boundaries between the individual and the collective dissolve, creating a profound sense of belonging and unity.

The project unfolds like the rising flame. Visitors pass through a sequence of thresholds—Hearth, Hall, and Home—that guide them from the earth to the sky, mirroring the upward movement of fire and the flow of smoke. This architectural progression symbolises the journey toward illumination and transcendence, offering both physical and emotional elevation. Just as fire rises from the earth, it lifts us, offering not only warmth but also the promise of connection and light. So does the Hearth Stone.