The project started in September 2009 during a 1-month research visit with the Yolngu Aboriginals in Arnhem Land. After the research the Yolngu asked me to design buildings in line with their identity.

Because of the collaboration between TU Delft and the University of Technology of Sydney (UTS) also a visit of 1 week with them was arranged. Because of the huge questions and problems in architecture, with all Aboriginals in common, interest was shown by UTS and this made it possible to work for my graduation in Australia. Also TU Delft was very helpful and supported me during the last 2 years.

Now one year later the first design proposal is finished in the form of my graduation project. But also for the Australian Government in the form of funding and UTS in the form of becoming a promovendi in February 2012.

The location which is chosen as pilot is Ramingining, in the north of Australia. It has a sub-tropical climate with temperatures from 25-35 degrees annually. A strong collaboration and several visits gave the input and inspiration to know what can be a first solution towards respect and recognition towards Australians and the Aboriginals (worldwide).

The main influences in the design are: climate, cyclone proof, environmental materials, cultural behavior, traditional building techniques, traditional shaping, outside living - inside comfort.

The culture shows that the shelters from the past are made out of bendable materials (organic shapes) and layered structures (strength). This is the essence of the design translated into the present, in the form of laminated wood (local cypress timber). Research in the constraints and possibilities of the material where constantly the main ruleset for the design.

Wing-simulations defined the outside shape of the building. The walls inside are designed and positioned in way that the building is always open towards nature (depending on the position of the user) but still closed for a poetic route, discovering new elements all the time.

The roof is a louver system which can be open and closed according to the need of: sun, shade, sun + rain shelter or ventilation.

Most uncommon in the design, for most people, is that it is open. No privacy what we, as western people, are used to. For the Yolngu family, sharing and connected to nature at all time is a major part of their living in the past, present and the future.
Building / People Behavior
Location / Use