Sustaining Community in a Heritage Boomtown. Kaslo, British Columbia

by

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Abstract

This thesis explores how architecture can help sustain community in a tourism-based heritage "boomtown".

Many "boomtown" communities either no longer exist, or have become shadows of their former selves. Those communities that do remain (having survived the boom-bust cycle) often struggle to stabilize their fragile economies. This fragility often places them at risk of losing the values they hold dear: community, culture, heritage and the environment.

There are many communities which share these values and have endured the massive socio-economic shifts associated with "boomtowns". The primary focus of this thesis however is the Village of Kaslo, a quintessential "boomtown" community located in the south east corner of British Columbia, Canada.

Using Kaslo as a model for this thesis, the research demonstrates the capacity of architecture to enhance social sustainability and "sense of community". It investigates how Kaslo's history, including it's architectural history, can inspire and enhance future development. This research seeks to find creative solutions to some of Kaslo's current and evolving social, recreational, and low cost housing needs.

A mixed-use community centre, a brewery/tap house and an adaptable, mobile social pod have been developed during this study. Consistent with all of the proposed developments has been a respect for the historical vernacular architecture, the result of which has been a strengthening of the traditional town fabric and the creation of a sense of place for both residents and visitors.

Keywords

Sustaining Community, Social Sustainability, Community-Based Tourism, Heritage Boomtown, Community Culture, Urban Fabric, Connectivity, Vernacular.

Acronyms

SS Social Sustainability

CBT Community-based Tourism

PdCV Prainha do Canto Verde, Brazil.

REST Responsible Ecological Social Tours Project

OCP Official Community Plan

BDG Building Design Guidelines

KLHS Kootenay Lake Historical Society

RDCK Regional District of Central Kootenay

MSP Mobile Social Pod

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Question

How can architecture help sustain community in a tourism-based heritage boomtown?

Areas of Study

Defining Sustainability

Sustainability is commonly defined as meeting "the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". Designing for sustainable buildings and communities is not a new practice by any means. It is widely accepted that there are three pillars of sustainability; environmental, economic and social. A fourth pillar, cultural sustainability has more recently been accepted as an important aspect of sustainability. 2

Defining Social and Cultural Sustainability

In the past, priority has been given to economic and environmental sustainability but more recently social and cultural sustainability are gaining increased attention.³ The social and cultural aspects are key ingredients to building unique and vibrant communities.⁴ This is especially the case when the community is largely tourism-based. As culture is often a main driver for tourism it is vital that this be sustained in a way that does not undermine the reason for tourism in the first place.

Social sustainability (SS) is the least defined of the three main sustainability factors; economic, environmental, and social.⁵ Although none of these factors can truly be thought of singularly, SS is a vital part of achieving economic sustainability. However, without

^{1.} United Nations, Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, "Our Common Future," (Oxford University Press, 1987), 54.

^{2.} Monique, Perrot-Landau, et al. UNESCO and Sustainable Development, UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, (2005), 30.

^{3.} Saffron Woodcraft, Tricia Hackett and Lucia Caistor-Arendar, *Design for Social Sustainability: A Framework for Creating Thriving New Communities*, Future Communities, (2011), 15.

^{4.} Ibid., 16.

^{5.} Ibid., 15.

thought for environmental sustainability neither of these would be possible. The modern concept of SS is derived largely from the Brundtland Report of 1987.⁶ SS helps to promote a sense of place, connectivity and wellbeing. It connects people to one another, to the community, the history and the environment around them. It should aim to contribute to local employment opportunities, affordable housing, public/green space and allow for growth of the community over time.

Defining Community-Based Tourism

Brohman's definition of community-based tourism (CBT) is development that:

would seek to strengthen institutions designed to enhance local participation and promote the economic, social and cultural well-being of the popular majority. It would also seek to strike a balanced and harmonious approach to development that would stress considerations such as the compatibility of various forms of development with other components of the local economy; the quality of development, both culturally and environmentally; and the divergent needs, interests and potentials of the community and its inhabitants.⁷

After reading many definitions of CBT it appears that it could simply be described as sustainable tourism. However, sustainable tourism can be understood as incorporating aspects of sustainability such as environmental or economic. CBT on the other hand, takes into consideration every pillar of sustainability; social, environmental and economic with an emphasis on the culture of the community. It strives for conservation of community values while tapping into tourism as a driver for the local economy. With culture being such a strong driver for tourism it is essential that this be maintained in a healthy manner so as not to undermine the reason for tourism in the first place.

^{6.} United Nations, Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development.

^{7.} John Brohman, New Directions in Tourism for the Third World, Annals of Tourism Research, 23 (1):48-70:60. (1996).

Chapter 2: Background

Community & History



Fig. 1. Kaslo from Viewpoint Trail, photograph from Where Locals Hike in the West Kootenay.

Kaslo is a historical mining community on the west shore of Kootenay Lake in British Columbia (Fig. 1). This community boasts a stunning landscape; it is situated on the edge of the third largest natural lake in the province and is surrounded by the Purcell and Selkirk mountain ranges (Fig. 2).⁸ Kaslo was originally established as a sawmill site in 1889 and grew in response to the silver boom of the 19th century.⁹ There is a noticeable historical vernacular in both the commercial and residential buildings. At this point very little modern development has taken place in the community so an opportunity exists for new development to be integrated with consideration to the existing urban fabric.

^{8.} Elsie Turnbull, *Ghost Towns and Drowned Towns of West Kootenay*, Surrey: Heritage House Publishing Company, (1988), 5.

^{9.} George McCuaig, *Kaslo - The first 100 years*: The Oldest Incorporated Municipality in the Kootenays, (1993), 6.

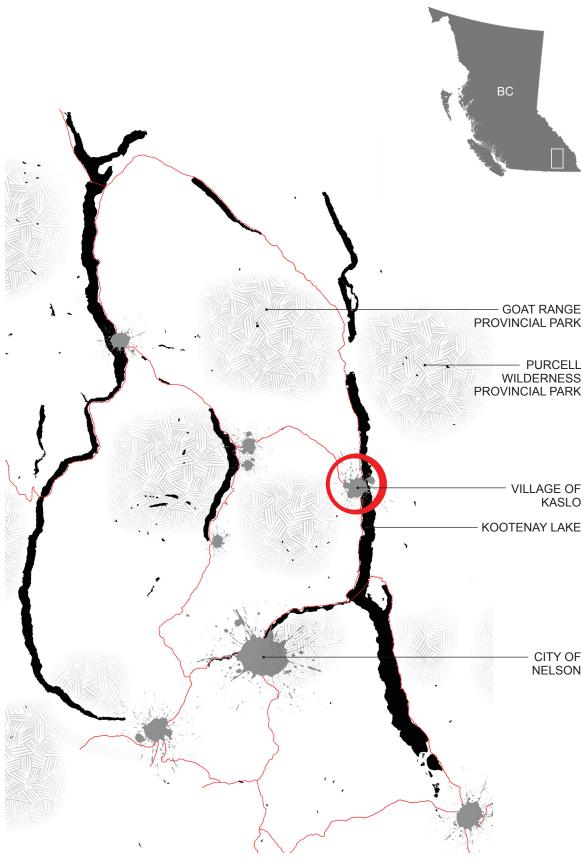


Fig. 2. Region/Location Map; base map from Crown Land Registry Services and RDCK.

Identity

Like much of British Columbia the Village of Kaslo has strong ties to nature and to the surrounding environment. From time spent in the Village of Kaslo it is obvious that citizens take pride in having strong community spirit and connection to the history of the region. Most people know each other by name and often work together to benefit one another and the community as a whole. While the community has a largely local/home-grown economy it is made up of people from around the world, as well as families who have resided there since the early 1900's.¹⁰

Socio-Economic Shift

The Merriam Webster dictionary defines a boomtown as, "a town enjoying a business and population boom". 11 Although historically these communities welcomed the influx in population to the region, it could be argued that whether people are "enjoying" the boom is irrelevant to the definition. A boomtown growing from an existing community could in fact cause detrimental effects such as displacement of established citizens.

This was not the case during the course of Kaslo's history. The site began as a timber claim in 1889 and quickly became a boomtown while the mining industry took off throughout the region in the early 1890's. 12 This industry was an intense economic driver but began to decline in the early years of the 20th century. The logging industry, on the other hand, has continued as a prominent part of the economy to this day. 13

When mining began to decline the community shifted focus to agriculture. Apples and cherries were particularly successful in the region and by 1908 Kaslo's fruit was recognized all over the province. It was thought to be equivalent to any produced from the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia; which at the time was believed to be the best in the world.

In 1932 cherry trees were planted along boulevards and streets and acted as a tourist

^{10.} Kaslo and Area Chamber of Commerce, History, accessed February 2017, http://www.kaslochamber.com/visitors/history.php.

^{11.} Boomtown, Merriam Webster Online, accessed March 3, 2017, https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/boomtown.

^{12.} McCuaig, Kaslo - The first 100 years, 6.

^{13.} Kaslo and Area Chamber of Commerce, History.

^{14.} McCuaig, Kaslo - The first 100 years, 103.

^{15.} Ibid.

attraction that could benefit both the agriculture and tourism industry of the community.¹⁶ Unfortunately the cherry industry was impacted by a disease known as Little Cherry Disease which ruined any thought of this creating economic sustainability for the village.¹⁷

Since that time the tourism industry has grown in Kaslo and other communities throughout the region. Although tourism has been taking place in Kaslo since the early 1900's it is worth mentioning that this was during a time of limited transportation and the majority of visitors would have arrived by steam boat.¹⁸ The front street was not even paved until 1968.¹⁹ Tourism has since grown to become one of the primary industries for much of the region.²⁰ With our current capabilities for transportation, the environmental impact of tourism could pose a much larger threat than ever before.

Activities

There are countless waterways and mountains in close proximity to Kaslo along with many popular hiking trails, bike paths, ski mountains and hot springs. Mount Loki is one of many popular hikes nearby (Fig. 3). This peak is visible from most of Kaslo, encouraging locals and visitors to complete the grueling trek on a regular basis. The village boasts a number of festivals, community events and cultural attractions, as well as amazing access to wilderness and wildlife. This huge diversity in outdoor recreation and adventure draws both residents and tourists alike to the Village of Kaslo.

Most of these activities, however, take place during the summer months. During this time there is a large influx of tourists to the region, which results in accommodations and campgrounds overflowing and small businesses booming. During the summer of 2009 Kaslo had more than 12,000 visitors while less than 5,000 visitors entered the town during the non-summer months.²¹ This is in part due to the fact that the winter months offer far fewer activities that are desirable or accessible. The "Cultural Tourism Strategy" for the City of

^{16.} Ibid., 104.

^{17.} Ibid.

^{18.} Ibid., 39, 112-113.

^{19.} Ibid., 199.

^{20.} Ibid., 105.

^{21.} Cathy Scott-May and Eileen Fletcher, "Cultural Tourism Strategy, For the City of Nelson, Village of Kaslo and Areas D, E, and F of the Regional District of Central Kootenay." Cultural Tourism , Advisory Committee, Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism Association, (2010), 24.



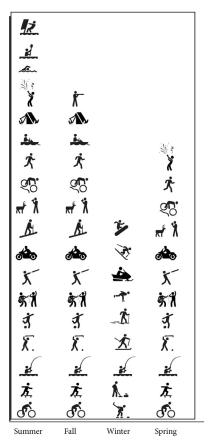


Fig. 4. Seasonal Activities.

Nelson and Village of Kaslo expresses that increasing visitation during the shoulder season should be a priority for the region.²² Adding new winter activities or enhancing existing ones could result in an extended tourist season as well as provide more social amenities and opportunities for the local population. A diagram has been created to illustrate a few of the common local activities and their primary seasons (Fig. 4). These opportunities for social activities will be discussed in more detail later in this thesis.

Chapter 3: Methodologies/Site

Location

The primary location of this study is Front Street, Kaslo, BC (Fig. 5). A book titled *The Western Town* mentions that, "The Western town is only as big as its street is long." Front Street is the most sensitive and vibrant area of Kaslo as it is the historical centre of the village and is home to many buildings which date back to the late 1800's and early 1900's. This study explores community history, urban fabric, the surrounding environment and the local economy and will propose ways to promote a sustainable community.

Representation of the ideas explored are in the form of architectural drawings as well as physical models. A large model has been created to represent the entire Front Street of the community and enables a three dimensional approach to architectural design, study of community history and community planning.

This model will take into consideration commercial, residential, recreational, and institutional projects. Following this study, ideas will be shared with local residents, village administration, heritage and design committees to gain feedback and valuable input to help guide the way to a thriving community.

An on-site study of the location, local buildings and landscape has helped to provide a basis of research. This included studying both the Village of Kaslo and other communities in the region to help establish their needs and what will help them flourish in the years to come.

Intention

This study aims to express how certain programs, sites, ideas and aesthetics can help to sustain community in a tourism-based heritage town. It presents solutions for future development which can be adopted throughout the village as well as in other neighbouring communities. The designs explored aim to be suitable to the community of Kaslo both culturally, aesthetically and economically.

^{23.} Alex Lehnerer, Jared Macken, et al. *The Western Town. A Theory of Aggregation*, (2013), 28.

^{24.} McCuaig, Kaslo - The first 100 years.

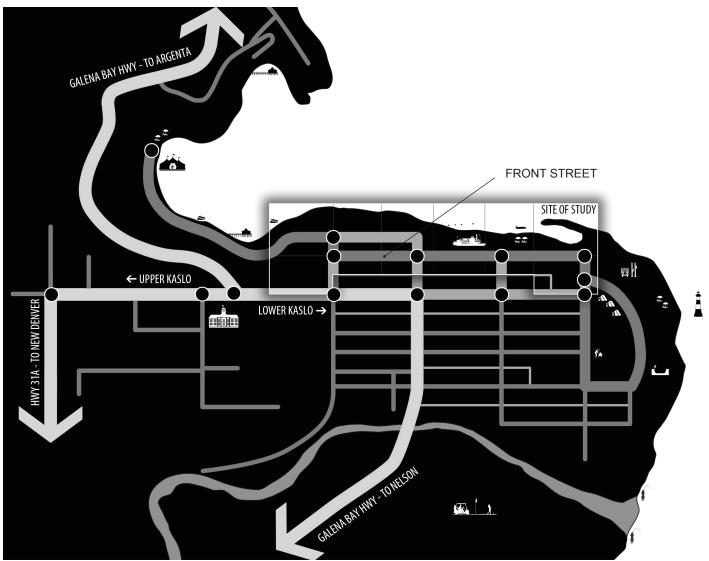


Fig. 5. Community Pedestrian Route/Road Diagram.

This report should aid in shaping the future of Kaslo's Official Community Plan, Land Use Bylaws and Heritage Design Guidelines to help ensure new development fosters the cultural values of Kaslo while encouraging socially sustainability.²⁵

^{25.} Village of Kaslo Community Advisory Committee, Official Community Plan, (2011).

Chapter 4: Challenges/Implications

Across British Columbia many communities have shifted from a history of mining to a mainly tourism-based economy. Although there are benefits to this, there can also be significant side effects. Sustainable community-based tourism and a tourism-based community can be one and the same but can also be largely at odds with one another. If these scenarios are studied extensively the negative implications of tourism can be avoided while still allowing many positive benefits for the town.

When examining SS as it pertains to the Village of Kaslo, consideration must be given to the implications of its increasing desirability as a place to live. A community with a strong culture and unique social amenities has the potential to encourage an increase in seasonal residents causing negative trends such as amenity migration.²⁶ Sandford expresses his concern for this in his book, *The Weekender Effect* when he mentions that, "if we are not careful...the desirable lifestyle and cultural conditions we created...may, in the end, be our undoing." ²⁷

Amenity Migration

Amenity migration is a global phenomenon which is only recently gaining attention as a cause for concern. "Amenity migrants" is a term used to describe people who move to a place which they believe to provide a higher quality of life in terms of the natural environment and unique culture.²⁸ These people are often leaving high-density urban areas in favor of small-town, outdoor lifestyles.

This in-migration can vary from summer residents to permanent residents to retirees. The number of amenity migrants to mountain regions is currently on the rise and causing increased pressure on the culture and environment of these communities.²⁹ This poses a serious concern and could have a detrimental effect on the socio-cultural, economic and

^{26.} Laurence Moss and Romella Glorioso, *Global Amenity Migration: Transforming Rural Culture, Economy and Landscape*, (2014), 1.

^{27.} Robert Sandford, The Weekender Effect: Hyperdevelopment in Mountain Towns, (2008).

^{28.} Moss and Glorioso, Global Amenity Migration, 1.

^{29.} Ibid., 138.

environmental aspects of many of these places.30

Glorioso and Moss explain that, "To date knowledge about human movement to mountain regions and action to manage it has focused on tourism. But, amenity migration is now an equal or greater societal force".³¹

There can be benefits to this in-migration such as diversity, an influx of new ideas, financial resources, knowledge and networking.³² This seems to be largely outweighed by the side effects which can be difficult to recover from.

These issues can present themselves through a loss of community, deteriorating quality of life, loss of local control, and an inability for early residents to continue living within the community due to an increased cost of living.³³ Communities facing an influx in amenity migration are likely to experience degradation of the natural environment, conflict between the values of long-term and recent residents and the conversion of agriculture and green space to residential.³⁴

Not all amenity migrants have the same detrimental impacts on the social and cultural aspects of sustainability. Families can move to these locations for the long term, be fully integrated and benefit these communities, their culture and society in general. Issues with in-migration manifest themselves more strongly when considering second-home owners, part time residents or resident tourists. These people often have limited social connections and participation within the community and bring with them behavioural traits and values very different than that of early residents.³⁵ Glorioso and Moss explain that currently, amenity migrants are most often attracted to environmental amenities but when cultural amenities are their primary motivator, amenity migrants are more interested in

^{30.} Romella Glorioso and Laurence Moss, Amenity Migration to Mountain Regions: Current Knowledge and Strategic Construct for Sustainable Management, International Amenity Migration Centre, (2007), 139.

^{31.} Ibid., 139.

^{32.} Art Joyce, "Amenity Migration Studies: What Future for Mountain Communities?," The Valley Voice, August 26, 2015, 17.

^{33.} Ibid., 139-142.

^{34.} Glorioso and Moss, Amenity Migration to Mountain Regions, 139-142.

^{35.} Ibid., 140-144.

learning, development and seeking solutions to social-economic issues. 36

To the benefit of the community, there are two planning experts, Romella Glorioso and Laurence Moss, who currently reside in Kaslo and have done extensive research on the topic of amenity migration.³⁷ They are not the only ones noticing this as an increasing concern for the community. In the book, *Kaslo - The first 100 years*, (which mainly focuses on history) McCuaig mentions the increasing trend of "urban refugees".³⁸ McCuaig explains that whether, "Kaslo will survive is not the issue any more...the issue in Kaslo is the direction and quality of future developments in the town."³⁹ He states that, "Careful stewardship, loving care and intelligent, sustainable development will ensure that future generations can enjoy the beauty, peace and opportunities that only a community like Kaslo can offer."⁴⁰

Due to Kaslo's remote location and its distance from larger centres, the arrival of amenity migrants and mass tourism is somewhat impeded. This does not mean the community is safe from rapid population increases by any means. Proposed projects such as the Jumbo Glacier Ski Resort have been very contentious throughout the region and the province. This project promises to bring thousands of tourists from around the world to a resort unlike any other found in North America. This plan was met with huge opposition from nearby communities and a number of issues have been brought to light, including First Nations land rights and the potential for detrimental impacts to the environment and local wildlife populations. People come from around the world to experience wilderness like this; if that nature is destroyed through development then the reason for tourism is lost. Although this project has the potential to attract enormous growth in the tourism industry it could render these communities unrecognizable within a matter of just a few years.

Glorioso and Moss suggest that amenity migration could benefit from, "designing considerably more affordable ecology-sustaining and resource-conserving" buildings and

^{36.} Ibid., 147.

^{37.} Joyce, Amenity Migration Studies: What Future for Mountain Communities?, 17.

^{38.} McCuaig, Kaslo - The first 100 years, 123-124.

^{39.} Ibid.

^{40.} Ibid., 124.

^{41.} Jumbo Wild, Dir. Waggoner Nick, Sweetgrass Productions, (2015).

settlements.⁴² Affordable design has the ability to help maintain long term residents by avoiding the pressure of amenity migration that forces early residents to less expensive areas.

Rapid Community Growth

Although there has not been rapid growth in Kaslo for many years it is quite likely to be an issue in the near future. Due to the current economy and increasing interest in outdoor lifestyles many people are seeking a home or experience in these mountain communities.⁴³

Waiting for this to occur and building out of necessity is not the solution. Considerable forethought is required to plan and guide the way for this anticipated growth. This could take the form of a planning process to assist with the overall community design, however, increased benefit would be derived from an integrated multidisciplinary approach. Taking the right steps now will help to avoid a more reactionary trajectory which would be difficult to recover from.

A thriving community is made up of citizens who have strong, lasting connections within the community. An effort needs to be made to help manage sustainable growth; it should encourage families and citizens to be a part of the community and all that it stands for. By encouraging growth at a micro-scale, with citizens who support the aspirations of the community, future loss of community can be avoided, including values, longtime families/citizens, history and culture.

During the late 1800's and early 1900's Kaslo had a population of over three times what it does currently. Thousands of additional transient people filled up every accommodation available.⁴⁴ This spike in population transpired over just a few years even with the lack of transportation available at the time. Since that time transportation has been developed to the point that one can be anywhere within a very short period of time. Travelling from Kaslo to Vancouver in the early 1900's would have been a multiday trip while currently it is about a nine hour drive and less if you choose to fly. With the ever-increasing capability

^{42.} Glorioso and Moss, Amenity Migration to Mountain Regions, 153.

^{43.} Ibid., 138.

⁴⁴ Turnbull, Ghost Towns and Drowned Towns of West Kootenay, 58-62.

of transportation, Kaslo could be a different place in a matter of years given a slight shift in economic conditions. As previously mentioned, the Jumbo Glacier Resort could cause such economic shift. If this project went through, the population of Kaslo and other comunities in the region would change tremendously. It should be recognized that a population spike is quite possible, but through prudent planning and design these communities can thrive and maintain their identity into the future.

Social Disconnect

In Kaslo and similar tourism based communities a social and physical disconnect can exist between the transient population and the local population. Local tolerance for tourists can become limited during the peak months as they can overwhelm the village through the increased number of people, cars, RV's and tents. This study aims to help solve some of these issues while connecting local residents and visitors with one another, the community and the culture of the region.

Chapter 5: Theoretical Framework

Elements of Socially Sustainable

SS as defined in Design for Social Sustainability is:

A process for creating sustainable, successful places that promote wellbeing, by understanding what people need from the places they live and work. Social sustainability combines design of the physical realm with design of the social world – infrastructure to support social and cultural life, social amenities, systems for citizen engagement and space for people and places to evolve.⁴⁵

There are programs in place which help fund projects striving to increase social sustainability. One example is the SEED Initiative which was founded at the World Summit of Sustainable Development in 2002.⁴⁶ This initiative focuses on promoting social and environmental entrepreneurship and aims to reduce poverty and environmental degradation. Although most of their funding goes to projects throughout Africa their eligibility criteria and projects they have funded previously have helped to frame important factors of SS.⁴⁷ Previous recipients of SEED Awards have been locally driven with benefits to economic, social and environmental stainability, have potential for scaling or replication and often help to educate the community.

The Young Foundation breaks down SS in four building blocks. The first is "Amenities & social infrastructure" which includes services, social spaces, schools, childcare, transportation, recreation facilities, public markets, parks, trails, etc. Next is "Social & Cultural Life" such as connectivity, history, shared spaces, local networking, community identity, festivals, distinctive architecture and heritage/cultural buildings. "Voice & influence" is another component which includes community participation, government structures, local decision-making and community action planning. The final building block is "Space to grow" which can be understood as designing for adaptability over time, future planning, temporary use of under-used spaces and flexible master planning to allow for participation

^{45.} Woodcraft, Hackett and Caistor-Arendar, *Design for Social Sustainability: A Framework for Creating Thriving New Communities*, 16.

^{46.} United Nations, *Report of the World Summit of Sustainable Development*, (Johannesburg, South Africa. 2002).

^{47.} SEED, Promoting Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development, accessed February 2017. https://www.seed.uno.

^{48.} Woodcraft, Hackett and Caistor-Arendar, Design for Social Sustainability. 22-23.

in later phases.

Amartya Sen has a similar strategy but instead establishes six elements that make up SS.⁴⁹ These elements consist of equity, diversity, interconnected/social cohesion, connectivity, quality of life, democracy/governance and maturity. Most of these terms are self-explanatory and correspond strongly to the work of the Young Foundation. Democracy/governance and maturity are not quite so clear but can be related to "Voice & influence" and "Space to grow" as described by the Young Foundation.

Community-Based Tourism

The Thailand Community-based Tourism Institute is an organization that works together with the government and local communities. This organization spans the entire country of Thailand and strives to gain and share skills and knowledge that will help communities develop tourism in a sustainable manner.⁵⁰ It is this form of integration that is essential for understanding and benefiting from the goal of community-based tourism. This institute works closely with the Responsible Ecological Social Tours Project (REST) and the Thailand Research Fund.

REST defines CBT as:

tourism that takes environmental, social and cultural sustainability into account. It is managed and owned by the community, for the community, with the purpose of enabling visitors to increase their awareness and learn about the community and local ways of life.⁵¹

Suansri further explains that CBT should not attempt to address the question "How can communities benefit from tourism?" but rather "How can tourism contribute to the process of community development?".⁵² This places an emphasis on understanding the needs of the community rather than simply attempting to maximize the profits and other benefits from tourism.

The Mountain Institute states that "Tourism based on an area's natural and cultural herit-

^{49.} Amartya Sen and Jonathan Harris, "Basic Principles of Sustainable Development," Global Development and Environment Institute, Tufts University, (2000).

^{50.} Liedewij Breugel, Community-based Tourism: Local Participation and Perceived Impacts: A Comparative Study Between two Communities in Thailand Master Social and Cultural Science Thesis, Radboud University Nijmegen, (2013), 12.

^{51.} Potjana Suansri, Community-based Tourism Handbook, REST Project, (2003), 14.

^{52.} Ibid., 11.

age is one of the fastest growing sectors in the tourism industry".⁵³ This institute has developed a community-action tool for planning CBT. The process includes four phases of study known as the 4 D's: Discovery, Dream, Design, and Delivery.⁵⁴ This can be further explained as: "Discovery", appreciating what gives life to the community, "Dream", envisioning what it could be, "Design", co-constructing the ideal future and "Delivery", the ongoing implementation of plans.⁵⁵ This final open-ended step allows for monitoring of the proposed direction, adjustments where needed and helps to ensure continued success in the future.

Analysis

This study began as an effort to create a vision/understanding of what is required for a more sustainable and connected Village of Kaslo. Through this research it has become clear that economy is often one of the major drivers affecting sustainability. The rise and fall of this pillar of sustainability can cause a disregard for the environment, culture and social aspects of a community. These social aspects are perhaps even more important to the long term success as they play a vital role in understanding and planning for future scenarios in the region. Tourism, for example, provides great economic benefits and has potential to provide even more, but through understanding social sustainability we realize that this has limitations. From studying amenity migration it is clear that without preemptive planning for social sustainability this phenomenon can undermine the very reason these communities are so special (culture and environment). New development should ensure it does not encourage mass tourism or an influx in amenity migration. Designs should strive to incorporate the benefits of tourism and in-migration while avoiding its negative side effects. Planning for sustainable development in the Village of Kaslo should not be thought of as a finalized or completed version but instead should allow for future monitoring and adaptability as new research and understanding comes to light.

By understanding the various aspects of sustainability the importance of maintaining culture and history in a community become very apparent. The book, *Vernacular Modernism*

^{53.} The Mountain Institute, Community-Based Tourism for Conservation and Development: A Resource Kit, The Mountain Institute, (2000), 1.

^{54.} Ibid., 11.

^{55.} Ibid., 17.

mentions that communities throughout the world have preserved "a distinctive building form that can be closely correlated with the social life of the people who inhabit them." ⁵⁶ It is in this way that the buildings of Kaslo frame the culture that exists there today. Through studying the community fabric, materiality and vernacular buildings, architecture can work to enhance these local values rather than degrade them. Incorporating this history can allow building designs that foster the existing culture and help create a sense of place for the residents and visitors.

Case Studies

Prainha do Canto Verde, Brazil

Prainha do Canto Verde (PdCV) was historically a small fishing village with a population similar to Kaslo today (approximately 1000). Unlike many of the boomtowns that have been studied in Canada the residents of PdCV and other parts of Brazil have lived in poverty throughout much of their history.⁵⁷

This community has taken a unique approach to tourism that is different than many others throughout the world. While many countries and communities have taken advantage of mass tourism, Brazil has aimed to regulate this.⁵⁸ All the tourist shops/stalls and tourist accommodations are owned by locals residents.⁵⁹

First, a local tourism committee was elected and began canvassing neighboring communities about their experiences with tourism development. Some of the major questions were regarding income generation, opportunities for employment, crime and drug addiction with the main focus on retaining the cultural identity of the region. A common issue in nearby communities was that local residents were losing (selling) their land to investors, summer residents and to long-distance tourists. This had many negative impacts on

^{56.} Stanford Anderson, Mardges Bacon, et al. *Vernacular Modernism. Heimat, Globalization, and the Built Environment*, (Stanford University Press, 2005), 162.

^{57.} Roberto Bartholo, Mauricio Delamaro and Ivan Bursztyn, "Tourism for Whom? Different Paths to Development and Alternative Experiments in Brazil." Latin American Perspectives. Issue 160, Vol. 35 No.3, (May 2008), 103-119.

^{58.} Ibid.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

^{60.} Ibid.

^{61.} Sustainable Pangea, accessed on February 02, 2017, http://pangeasostenible.org/en/2012/01/prainha-do-canto-verde-ceara-brazil/

these communities, including pushing citizens away from their traditional culture and way of life.

The committee formed a "tourism and handicrafts cooperative" to help promote, organize and plan tourism for the community. Residents who work in the tourism industry are registered by the co-op and pay an annual fee. A large percentage of the money generated is put directly into a social and education fund focused on benefitting the local citizens. ⁶² Through this fund children are taught to make local/regional handcrafted toys while adults are trained to build and improve infrastructure and housing. Residents are encouraged to take part and communicate in the decision making process to ensure both the tourism committee and residents have the same thoughts in terms of the future of the community.

Inverness, Nova Scotia & Cabot Links Golf Course

Near Cape Breton, Nova Scotia.

Like many of the boomtown communities in BC, Inverness, Nova Scotia began with the mining boom of the late 1800's. The coal mine allowed for a large, growing population, resident families and a strong economy.⁶³ Once the mine shut down and there was a decline in other natural resources (fishing, forestry and farming) the community struggled to gain back economic stability.

In 2008 the large ocean front property which was once home to the mine was designated to be used for the revitalization of the community. A world renowned golf course was to be developed on the site which would help boost tourism and the economy in the region. This project would reclaim a previously devastated site as well as create a huge number of jobs and boost the real estate value in the region.⁶⁴

Although this brought Inverness out of financial hardship it may not have been the most sustainable method for the community. There are pros and cons of a dominantly tourism-based industry in small communities. As mentioned previously, this can have detrimental

^{62.} Bartholo, Delamaro and Bursztyn, "Tourism for Whom?, 103-119.

⁶³ Robert Thompson, "Far Away Prize," Financial Post Business, July 07, 2008, http://www.invernesscapebreton.com/Welcome_to_Inverness/Cabot_Links_2.html

^{64.} Ibid.

effects; with rising property values, locals are enticed to sell, pushing them outside of the town limits to allow space for tourists and part time residents.⁶⁵ Rather than encouraging long-term residents and families to reside here this development is likely to encourage an older demographic and seasonal residents to buy up much of the town centre which disrupts the overall social sustainability of the community.

Three Valley Gap Chateau & Heritage Ghost Town

Near Revelstoke, British Columbia.

Like many settlements around the West Kootenays of BC, the town of Three Valley Gap began from the mining boom in the late 1800's. Rather than a community developing around the original town site and it's heritage buildings the focus was on a resort development. This source of revenue has had positive benefits for the heritage buildings as it has enabled costly and time consuming restorations. Many of these buildings have been gathered from other parts of BC in order to form a collection of more than 25 structures. With these restorations and influences on tourism in BC, the founder, Gordon Bell and his partners received the "William Van Horn Visionary" award.

The initial intent of the property was to have a "small motel and museum complex".⁶⁸ This likely could have been successful but somewhere along the way the intention changed. New structures appear large and obtrusive with little connection to history (Fig. 6). From the highway the heritage buildings are barely visible but instead the enormous resort and contemporary roundhouse claim the attention of tourists.

This could be understood as one approach to sustaining a heritage community. The effort put into this project has suspended the historical buildings in time, preserving them as if they were in a museum. However, if this is to be thought of as a museum, the backdrop (urban fabric), should share a similar character and vernacular form to the subject on display.

^{65.} Glorioso and Moss, Amenity Migration to Mountain Regions, 139-142.

^{66.} Three Valley Lake Chateau & Heritage Ghost Town, accessed on February 5, 2017, http://www.3valley.com/heritage_resort/family.htm.

^{67.} Three Valley Lake Chateau & Heritage Ghost Town, accessed on February 5, 2017. http://www.3valley.com/founderspage/founders2.html.

^{68.} Ibid.



Fig. 6. Three Valley Gap, photograph by Jack Borno.

Chapter 6: Village of Study

Population

In 1893 Kaslo became the first city ever incorporated in the Kootenay region.⁶⁹ The city quickly became a boomtown and reached a population of between 3000 and 5000 people.⁷⁰ By 1959 this population had declined and Kaslo was re-incorporated as a village.⁷¹ Today the Village of Kaslo has a steady but aging population of around 1000.⁷² It is understandable that some residents would like the village to have a stronger, more dependable economy, however, after spending time in Kaslo it becomes apparent that most citizens are opposed to the idea of any significant community growth.

Building Culture

Development of the Plan

The traditional Western town typology was a common form of development for boomtowns throughout Western Canada and the United States. Although Kaslo shares many characteristics with these Western towns there is one big difference. Kaslo's 160 acres was divided into lots very early on in the development of the community (Fig. 7).⁷³ This was completed using a system known as the Jefferson Grid which will continue to shape the community indefinitely.⁷⁴ In Kaslo and many other communities this creates a very noticeable townscape as the entire street is assembled with a series of 25 foot lots. The more typical urban fabric of Western towns was conceived prior to the establishment of the Jefferson Grid method; rather than the town being laid out from the start with every lot the same size they were pieced together over time while adapting with the landscape and existing buildings.⁷⁵

^{69.} Kaslo and Area Chamber of Commerce, History.

^{70.} Turnbull, Ghost Towns and Drowned Towns of West Kootenay, 62.

^{71.} Ibid., 29, 196.

^{72.} Joan Chess, A Sustainable Strategy for the Village of Kaslo, Fraser Basin Council, 2014. 17-18.

^{73.} McCuaig. Kaslo - The first 100 years, 12.

^{74.} Ibid., 12.

^{75.} Lehnerer, Macken, et al. The Western Town, A Theory of Aggregation, 21.



Fig. 7. Grid/Lot Plan of Kaslo; base map from Crown Land Registry Services, RDCK and Google maps.

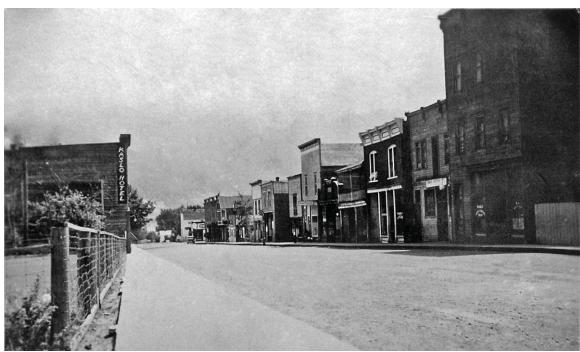


Fig. 8. Kaslo Streetscape, photograph from KLHS

Streetscape

When examining historic photos of Kaslo it is very apparent that the buildings along Front Street sit side by side at even intervals. Buildings rise up on either side of the road creating solid streetwalls. This is common to the Western town and creates a jagged/toothy skyline consisting of strong vertically oriented facades (Fig. 8).⁷⁶

The traditional street section of Kaslo is the same as it would be in a typical "Western Town" (Fig. 9).⁷⁷ Each facade is made up of a simple front (often a false-front) with zero setback from the property line. This creates a continuous plane along the sidewalk which helps to frame a social/transportation corridor. These facades are used as the location for creativity, sometimes using elaborate ornamentation but are often left quite plain. Signs on the facades often blatantly announce the program of the space beyond.⁷⁸ Behind these fronts, the peaks of gable roofs align perpendicular to the street or shed roofs slope back out of sight.

^{76.} Lehnerer, Macken, et al. The Western Town, A Theory of Aggregation, 28-29.

^{77.} Ibid., 49.

^{78.} Ibid., 146.

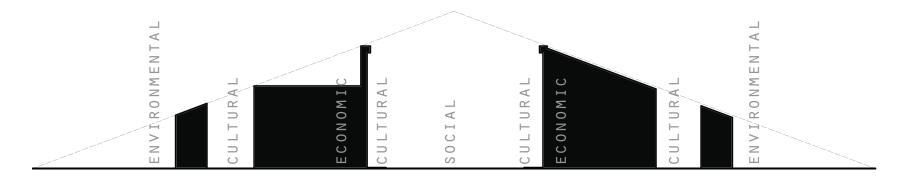


Fig. 9. Idealized Town Section, base image from *The Western Town*

Townscape + Urban Fabric

This Western building type did not originate in Kaslo. In *The Western Town* the authors mention that this type of community began between 1860 and 1890 in the United States.⁷⁹ In *The Western Town*, the authors discuss the study of Lockhart, Texas by Colin Rowe and the characterization of Lockhart by Rowe and architect John Hejduk.⁸⁰

Rowe believes that these types of towns likely originated in central Texas.⁸¹ He frames these communities through their possession of a courthouse. Like these towns, Kaslo has a courthouse which acts as an "interrupted staccato of distinctly assertive structures imposed upon the generally recessive background".⁸² Although the landscape of Kaslo and its surrounding mountains is anything but recessive it still shares a similar pattern. Attention is drawn to distinct municipal and institutional structures upon entering the community. Historically the Village of Kaslo would have fit Rowe's description more accurately as all the vegetation had been removed leaving the community bare with the buildings protruding above the landscape and visible from a long ways away.

Rowe states that these towns, "achieve an almost archaic clarity, so that the most tawdry saloon or incrusted false facade may acquire a portentous distinction".⁸³ He further describes, "the almost classical typicality, the emblematic significance, and the completely adequate symbolism of these towns that is responsible for their seeming antiquity."⁸⁴ Rowe seems to express an understanding of the fate of many of these towns as he describes the West as a place, "where time has contrived to erode so little past that exists".⁸⁵

Vernacular Architecture

Theory

Definitions of vernacular architecture vary but most often focus on highly place-specific as-

^{79.} Ibid., 13.

^{80.} Macken, Lehnerer, et al. The Western Town, A Theory of Aggregation, 17-19.

^{81.} Colin Rowe, As I was Saying. Recollections and Miscellaneous Essays. Volume 1. Texas, Pre-Texas, Cambridge. 57.

^{82.} Ibid., 61.

^{83.} Ibid.

^{84.} Ibid., 57.

^{85.} Ibid., 56.

pects.⁸⁶ Variables that define this specificity include aspects such as site, local customs, response to climate and availability of materials. In *House Form and Culture*, Rapoport has described these as "modifying factors".⁸⁷

In *Built to Meet Needs*, Oliver mentions that vernacular could be defined as buildings, "where an architect, or specialist designer, is not employed." He also argues that this definition is too general. By this definition, the images of the historical mines of the region (Fig. 10) would not be considered vernacular. This is due to the fact that the majority of these structures would have likely been designed by engineers working with the mines and railway. These were, "highly place-specific buildings", built out of necessity in a response to culture, unique site conditions and the local materials available.

A more encompassing definition of vernacular architecture could be proposed which includes all structures built out of necessity for a place, time and function. In *The Culture of Building*, Davis has done this as he describes vernacular architecture as, "buildings most likely to be built at a particular place and time." ⁸⁹ Davis further explains that vernacular can be understood as the buildings that people would have seen and interacted with on a daily basis. ⁹⁰ Historically, the miners in these communities spent a large portion of their time working in and around these large industrial buildings.

In an effort to redefine vernacular, Rapoport develops a list of a series of characteristics which make up a vernacular place.⁹¹ This includes items such as degree of culture/place specificity, plan form, morphology, relationship among elements and underlying rules, specific formal qualities and materials, textures and colours.

Henry Glassie is well recognized for his study, Folk Housing in Middle Virginia in which he

^{86.} Mete Turan, *Vernacular Architecture. Ethnoscapes: Current Challenges in the Environmental Social Sciences*, (Gower Publishing Company Limited, 1990), 91.

^{87.} Amos Rapoport, House Form and Culture. (Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1969).

^{88.} Paul Oliver, *Built to Meet Needs, Cultural Issues in Vernacular Architecture,* (Published by Elsevier Ltd. 2006), 4-5.

^{89.} Howard Davis, *The Culture of Building*, (Oxford University Press, Kindle Edition, 1999), Loc5366.

^{90.} Davis, The Culture of Building. Loc180

^{91.} Turan, *Vernacular Architecture. Ethnoscapes: Current Challenges in the Environmental Social Sciences*, 1990, 93-101.

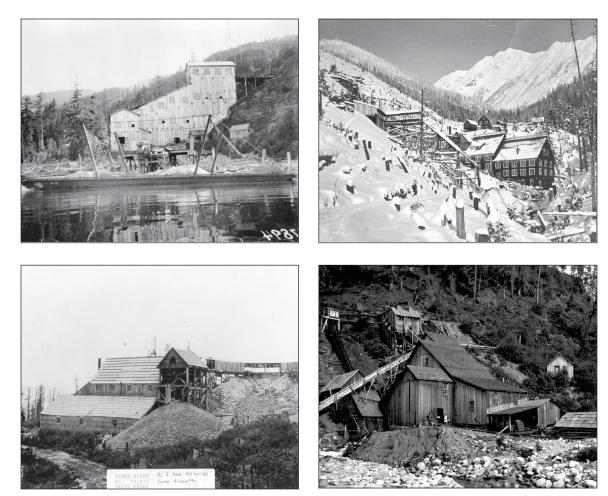


Fig. 10. Regional Mining Infrastructure, photography from BC Archives.

assisted with the connection of vernacular architecture, linguistics and anthropology. ⁹² In this document he explains the painstaking processes he took to study and understand the regional housing typologies, structures and the culture of the people who built and lived in them. Glassie insists that in order to understand the past we must study both verbal and non-verbal evidence. Through his research he found that history was not always accurately portrayed through written work as this was often completed by academics rather than ordinary people. This work has played a large role in the current discourse on vernacular architecture; now not only focusing on the classification of building types but also the social origins in which they were derived. ⁹³

Local

As the term vernacular seems to lack clarity and a more encompassing definition, the interests in relation to the historical vernacular of Kaslo should be defined. The village became a village simply because of its connection to large quantities of timber. The entire area was wiped clean of trees upon which a grid was prescribed to the land and sold off in lots.

It is on this timber that the community and culture have grown to become what it is today. Access to this raw material gave way to export, construction of mines, sternwheelers, railroads and the entire town itself. With an influx in population and industry in the region, it was out of necessity that these buildings were constructed in the way they were. These buildings were built simply to suit the basic requirements needed for the fast-paced mining boom (Fig. 11-14).

In *The Culture of Building*, Davis explains that the historical vernacular buildings are the ones that make up the majority of what people would have experienced every day rather than unique buildings which differ from tradition.⁹⁴ It is because of this that it becomes clear that the buildings which remain in Kaslo are not necessarily the historical vernacular of the place. The more common buildings during the early 1900's were often modest

^{92.} Henry Glassie, *Folk Housing in Middle Virginia*. (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1975).

^{93.} Davis, The Culture of Building, Loc202.

^{94.} Ibid., loc180.

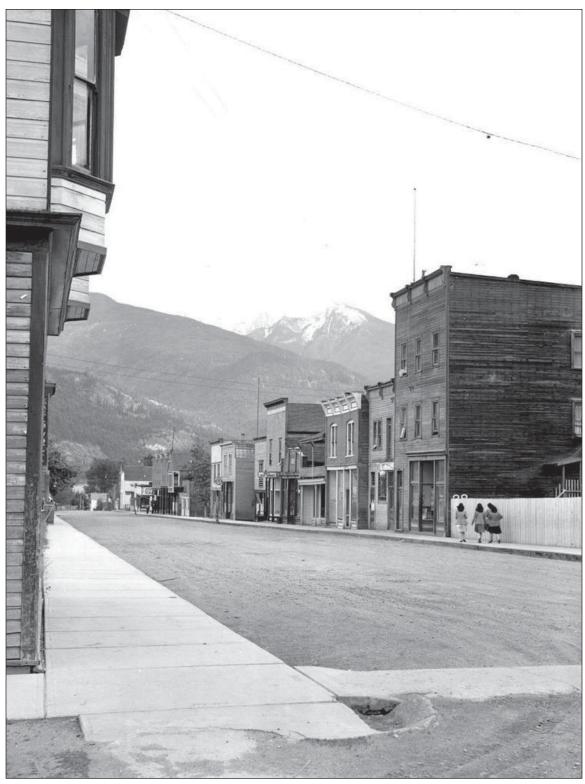


Fig. 11. Kaslo Front Street, 1946, photograph from BC Archives.

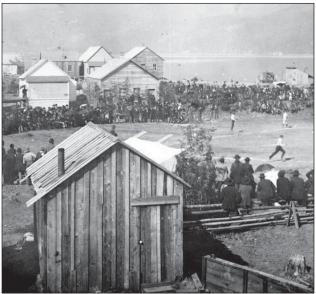


Fig. 12. Wood-Frame Construction in Kaslo, photograph from BC Archives.



Fig. 13. Wood-Frame Buildings, 1900, photograph from BC Archives.





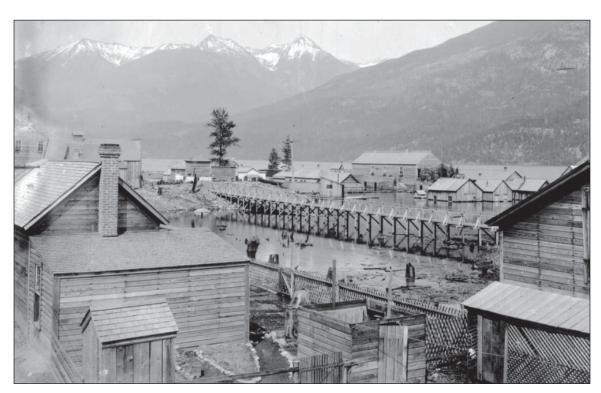


Fig. 14. Material Culture, photography from BC Archives.

wooden storefronts that portrayed little feeling of permanence both in terms of their structure and use. Many of these towns, Kaslo included, have been largely wiped clear by fires just to be built back up again in a short period of time.⁹⁵ It is these buildings that no longer stand that should be studied in terms of the vernacular architecture.

The structures that remain are buildings of brick or wood with steel cladding and are often elaborately embellished. It is evident from examining historic photos that large buildings of municipal or religious function were often protected from damage through their material use or because their sites are outside of the dense commercial core of the town.

Significant value can be derived from the study of vernacular architecture. Recognizing how the architecture of previous generations has been altered or influenced by availability of local materials or out of necessity for climate control (vernacular technology) can, in some circumstances, be of significant benefit.

Kaslo is a boomtown however and while it's vernacular architecture is still important for study it has not had the numbers of generations often associated with vernacular architecture.

These towns were built in such a way that fostered community, tourism and commerce. The main front streets were lined with buildings rising up to create a streetwall on either side. This framed the road and sidewalks as a corridor that became a social hub for locals and visitors. The facades seemed to compress the street and help create an active and social environment.

History continues to be a huge driver for tourism as well as social and cultural sustainability in Kaslo and other similar communities. It is because of this, that designing for, maintaining and restoring the historical vernacular and urban fabric becomes extremely important.

Historical Buildings of Kaslo

The village has 65 officially designated heritage buildings. 96 These are often rehabilitated

^{95.} McCuaig, Kaslo - The first 100 years, 31.

^{96.} Turnbull, Ghost Towns and Drowned Towns of West Kootenay, 62.

with strong community support and dedication. As previously mentioned, these buildings should not necessarily be studied as the vernacular but rather provide insight into material culture and the importance of history to the community. A few of these buildings/sites are shown below:

The Big 'G' - Byers and Giegerich General Merchandise and Hardware stores. 97

See Fig. 15. The building was constructed in 1892 and past occupancies have included hardware stores, School for Nikkei people, Farmers' Institute and the Womens' Institute. The building has more recently been used as a restaurant and recreational/commercial space.

The Langham⁹⁸

See Fig. 16. The building was constructed in 1896 and past occupancies have included a bank, mining companies, brothel, bottling works, offices, hotel, apartments, internment for Nikkei (following 1942) and music lessons. The building is currently being used as the community arts centre.

St. Andrew's United Church⁹⁹

See Fig. 17. The building was constructed in 1893 and was the first formal religious building in Kaslo. The building continues to hold weekly service to this day.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church¹⁰⁰

See Fig. 18. The building was constructed in 1902 and continues to hold weekly service.

City Hall¹⁰¹

See Fig. 19. The building was constructed in 1898 and is currently being used as the town hall and public library. This is a National Historical Site; it's one of only two wood frame municipal government buildings in use in Canada today.

^{97.} McCuaig, Kaslo - The first 100 years, 13-14, 39-41, 98.

^{98.} Ibid., 116-121.

^{99.} Ibid., 52-53.

^{100.} Ibid., 55.

^{101.} Ibid., 95.



Fig. 15. The Big 'G'.



Fig. 17. St. Andrew's United Church.



Fig. 19. City Hall.



Fig. 16. The Langham & Drill Hall.



Fig. 18. Sacred Heart Church.



*S.S. Moyie*¹⁰²

See Fig. 20. The ship was constructed in 1898. The boat provided service throughout Kootenay Lake until 1957.¹⁰³ It is now dry-docked along Kaslo's Front Street. It is the oldest intact passenger sternwheeler in the world and it serves as a popular tourist attraction.

Exploration of Community History and its Built Environment

A graphic timeline has been produced as a tool to help study the regional vernacular architecture as well as how these buildings have been adapted, maintained and developed over time (Fig. 21). A series of nearly 100 photos have been organized by date with 1889 on the left and present day on the right. These photos have been further organized with the lower images all taken along Front Street and images above getting progressively further away. There are visible patterns which have formed throughout this process. Shifts in the building typology can be noticed as the distance from Front Street increases. By studying these photos it becomes apparent that the streetscape today is quite different than it would have been in the early 1900's. These images help to understand how Kaslo's buildings have changed over time and the status they hold within the community.

By comparing the photos of the buildings in town against those that make up the mines throughout the region many similarities can be noticed (Fig. 22-25). Most were constructed in a similar fashion, using the same forms, roof types and materials. It is evident in photos of both of these locations that these typical forms allow for easy adaption and alterations over time. In the case of the mining infrastructure it is clear that these typical building types can be joined to create larger structures in an aesthetically pleasing way. These buildings have been designed using the minimal means necessary to make the function of the mine possible but in doing so have created eye catching and thought provoking structures. Continuing to use these traditional forms, rather than imposing new typologies allows for the community to grow and adapt as needed into the future.

Other Similar Towns

There are many communities in Canada and the United States that share the urban fabric

^{102.} Turnbull, Ghost Towns and Drowned Towns of West Kootenay. 24.

^{103.} McCuaig, Kaslo - The first 100 years, 196.



Fig. 21. Graphic Timeline, photos from BC Archives, KLHS and Northern BC Archives.

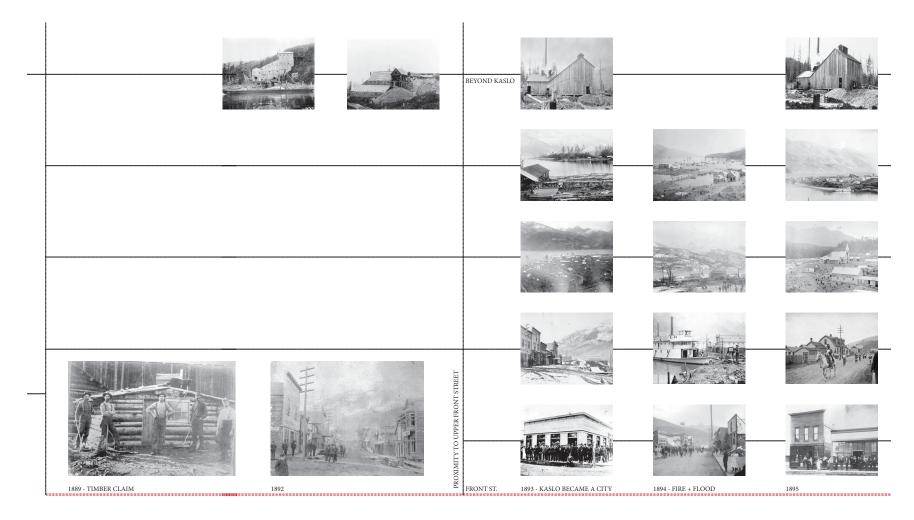


Fig. 22. Graphic Timeline Enlarged 1, photos from BC Archives, KLHS and Northern BC Archives.

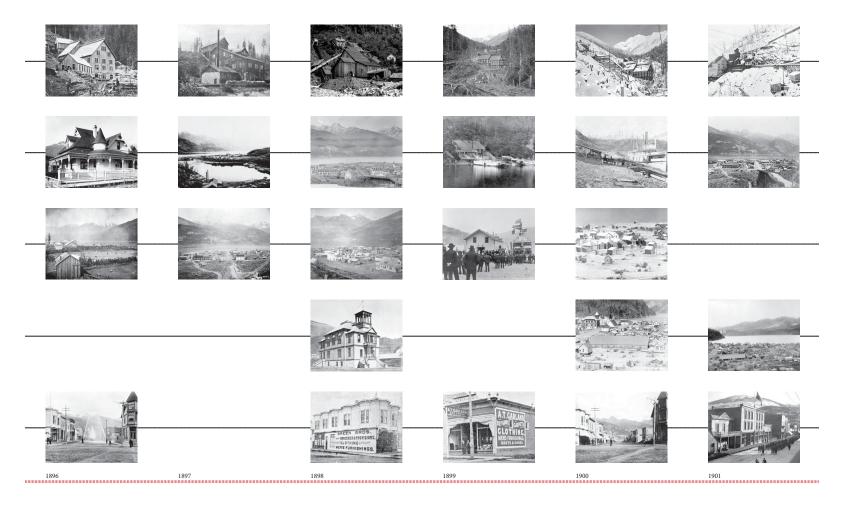


Fig. 23. Graphic Timeline Enlarged 2, photos from BC Archives, KLHS and Northern BC Archives.

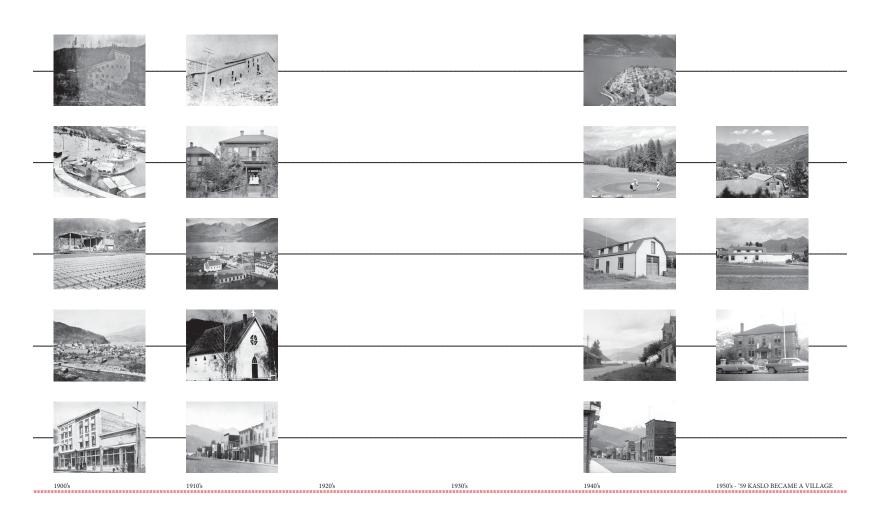


Fig. 24. Graphic Timeline Enlarged 3, photos from BC Archives, KLHS and Northern BC Archives.

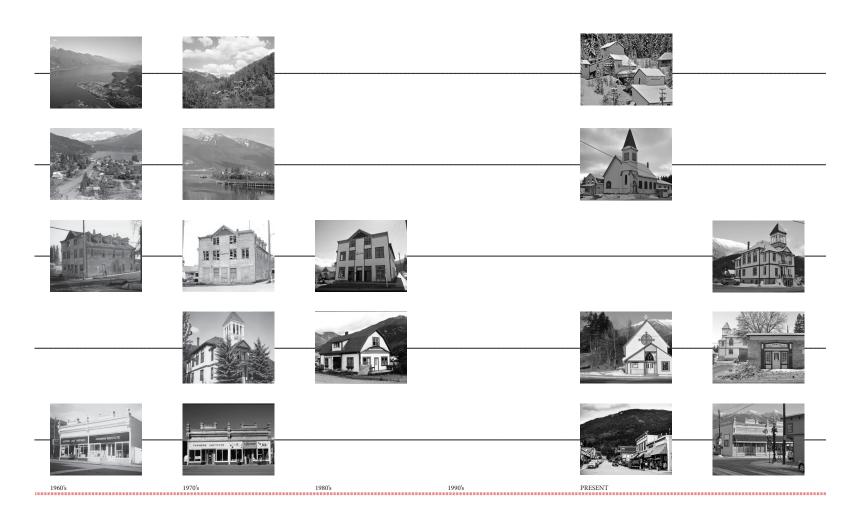


Fig. 25. Graphic Timeline Enlarged 4, photos from BC Archives, KLHS and Northern BC Archives.

and architectural typologies of Kaslo. Most of these communities have other aspects in common as well. They often have a vibrant history, an aging population and a fragile economy. Many of these towns have had different fates since their mining days; some have been maintained as tourist attractions or functioning communities while others have been abandoned and slowly disappear back into the earth. In Canada, these types of communities are most prevalent in the Kootenay Region. Below you can see images of some of the locations that were visited throughout this research. Visiting these communities gave insight into the social dynamics within these towns and helped frame an understanding of the vernacular buildings of the region. New buildings within these communities were examined to suggest whether their construction had a positive or negative affect on the historical urban fabric. Much like Kaslo, many newer buildings completely disregarded the history, fabric and building culture of the region. The photos taken of neighbouring communities have not shown these unfortunate issues but instead aim to present a more accurate portrayal of the vernacular streetscape (Fig. 26-31).

Current Issues

There are noticeable issues regarding current development in Kaslo and other communities in the region. Some buildings show a disregard for the standard grid of the community. Often the scale and setbacks of new buildings do not accurately portray the history of the town and urban fabric. Newer buildings often span multiple lots and have strong horizontal emphasis while buildings historically had very strong vertical facades. These new buildings often use elaborate ornamentation in an effort to convey supposed tradition while in the past buildings were generally quite modest. In addition, certain roof types and orientations are used which conflict with the historical vernacular and impair the traditional streetscape for years to come. A few of these issues can be noticed when comparing the Kaslo Hotel as it stands today and what it looked like in 1902 (Fig. 32-33).

The typology of Kaslo has been largely derived from the traditional Western town, however the traditional Western town was not designed using the Jefferson grid.¹⁰⁵ In the Traditional Western town spaces were often left between the structures. When this typology is forced to conform with the Jefferson grid it begins to create some issues. With

^{104.} Village of Kaslo Community Advisory Committee, Official Community Plan, (2011), 49-52.

^{105.} Macken, Lehnerer, et al. The Western Town, A Theory of Aggregation, 28.



Fig. 26. New Denver, BC.



Fig. 27. Sandon, BC.



Fig. 28. Silverton, BC.



Fig. 29. Greenwood, BC.



Fig. 30. Rossland, BC.



Fig. 31. Trail, BC.



Current Kaslo Hotel -Horizontal Emphasis

Fig. 32. Kaslo Hotel in 2017.



Historic Kaslo Hotel -Vertical Emphasis

Fig. 33. Kaslo Hotel, 1902; photo from BC Archives.



Conflict Between Grid and Traditional Western town.

Fig. 34. Adjacent Buildings.

zero setbacks required on either side, these buildings are often located directly next to one another. Gable roofs dump snow, rain and leaves onto neighboring buildings leaving moisture and debris against the foundations, roofs and exterior walls (Fig. 34). Another issue with this close proximity is the ability for fire to spread quickly throughout the town. In 1894, "The Big Fire", damaged much of Kaslo's Front Street. Buildings in front of the fire were hastily torn down in an effort to stop the spread. More recently, however, the BC Building Code forces this to be resolved through the use of expensive firewalls and noncombustible construction. Very simple additions, portions of the existing building now need to be replaced with non-combustible construction. Many new buildings would also require the use of a fire suppression system.

Another issue with current development in Kaslo, is the inability to distinguish between heritage and new construction. It is currently difficult to tell where heritage starts and stops. Blurring the two doesn't allow for an appreciation of the historical typology and community heritage. Instead, if new construction subtly contrasts the existing buildings in a way that distinguishes it from the original it can allow for a purity of the vernacular form to show through. This contrast helps give importance to the heritage buildings that exist and encourages their preservation in the future.

Qualities for Future Development

Through consulting with the "Village of Kaslo Official Community Plan" (OCP) and personal site investigations a thorough understanding of the historical urban fabric and patterns within the community have been understood. From this research a series of qualities have been proposed for future development within the Village of Kaslo. A map of the village (Fig. 35) is used to express the relationship between the Central Business District, Front Street and changing typology as the distance increases from Front Street. By following these qualities (Fig. 36-37) new development in Kaslo can strive to maintain and compliment the historic fabric and streetscape of the village.

This diagram of Qualities for Future Community Development, has noticeable differences

^{106.} McCuaig, Kaslo - The first 100 years, 31-35.

^{107.} Office of Housing and Construction Standards, 2012 British Columbia Building Code.

^{108.} Village of Kaslo Community Advisory Committee, Official Community Plan, (2011).

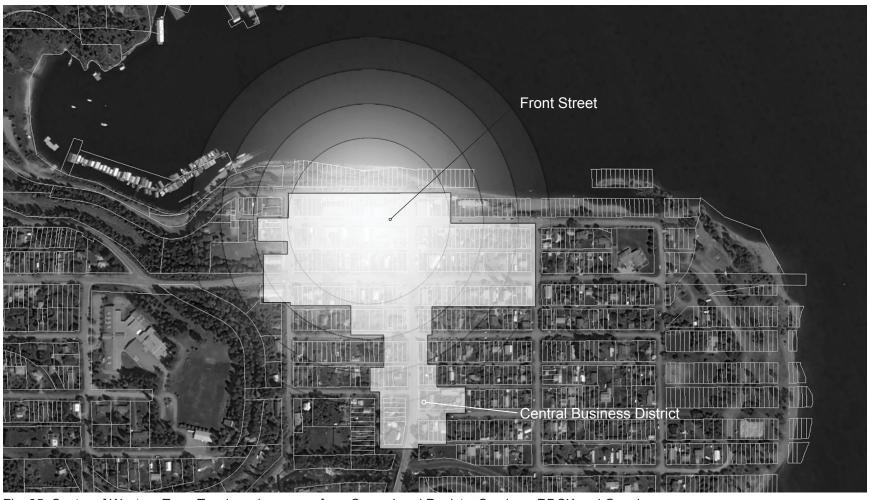


Fig. 35. Centre of Western Town Typology; base map from Crown Land Registry Services, RDCK and Google maps.

Qualities for Future Community Development

Distance from Front Street Central Business District.

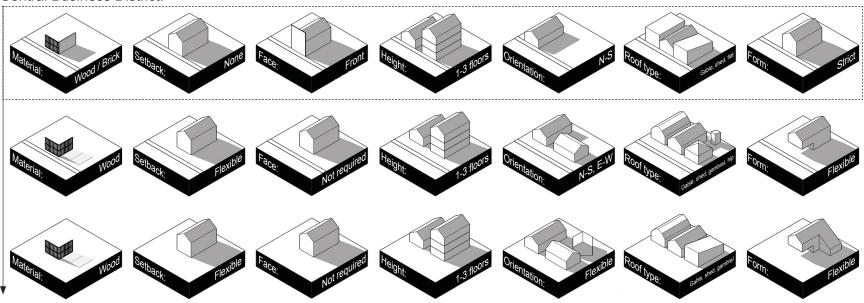


Fig. 36. Qualities for Future Community Development

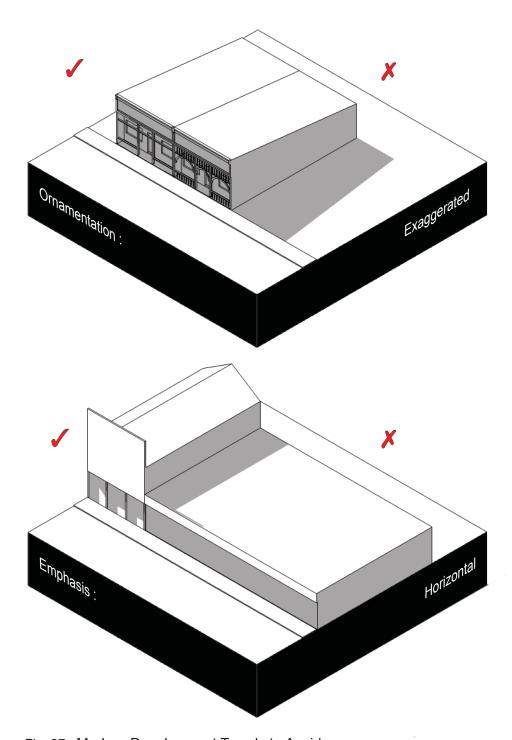


Fig. 37. Modern Development Trends to Avoid.

from what is encouraged by the "Building Design Guidelines" (BDG) of the OCP.¹⁰⁹ One example of these differences is the level of ornamentation that is encouraged. As previously mentioned it has become apparent that the vernacular buildings of Kaslo were often quite simple with minimal elaboration. The BDG encourages embellishment/decoration. This has the potential to falsely portray the historic streetscape and can result in the deterioration of material culture and aesthetic of the community.

^{109.} Village of Kaslo Community Advisory Committee, Building Design Guidelines, Mainstreet Consulting Associates, (1991).

Chapter 7: Design

The Larger Puzzle - The Model

A physical medium was chosen to represent the community in order to help study, compare and explore ideas for socially sustainable development for the Village of Kaslo (Fig. 38-43). This mode of representation was chosen for adaptability/development over time and its ease of comprehension by people without architectural training. Segmentation of the model allows for transportation and study at a broad scale or small sections at a time.

Almost every source for social sustainability and community-based tourism gives reference to the benefits of community engagement. This can be done in many different ways from simple survey/questionnaires to a hands-on approach where the community is directly involved in the design process. This type of physical model can become a very useful tool for community engagement either through physical interaction or through concept images using the model.

Glorioso mentions the use of "multiple scenario strategic planning" as an approach for managing amenity migration rather than the more traditional methods such as comprehensive or master planning. She explains that this allows for analysis and monitoring throughout a more ongoing and interactive planning process. This adaptable physical model will lend itself well to this approach as it can be constantly updated and revised with future concepts and ideas.

Key Pieces - Design Development

Selection Process

An assortment of programs have been explored through this study and have helped to determine their roles in SS and CBT (Fig. 44). Selected programs are designed, developed and analyzed throughout the rest of this chapter with respect to their ability to benefit sustainable practices and the needs of the community. They range from standard/realistic approaches to creative solutions to current problems and to idealistic approaches of social infrastructure.

^{110.} The Mountain Institute, Community-Based Tourism for Conservation and Development, 27.

^{111.} Glorioso, Romella, Toward a Strategy for Managing Amenity Migration: The Role of Multiple Future Scenarios, 2009, 124-127.

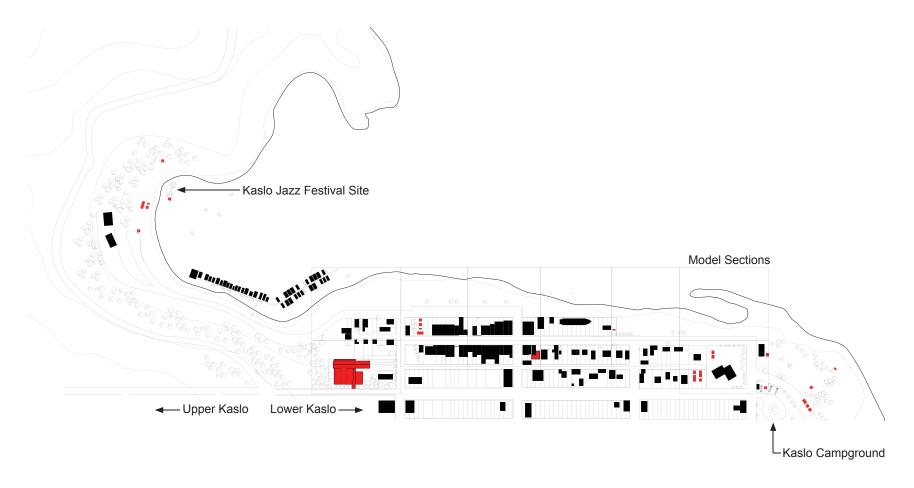


Fig. 38. Village and Intervention Site Plan; data from Regional District of Central Kootenay



Fig. 39. Kaslo Front Street Model, View Down Front Street.

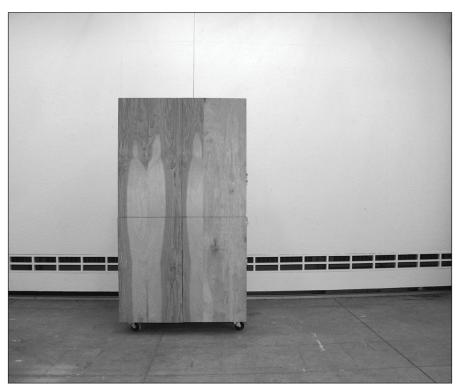


Fig. 40. Model Cabinet Closed.



Fig. 41. Model Cabinet Open.

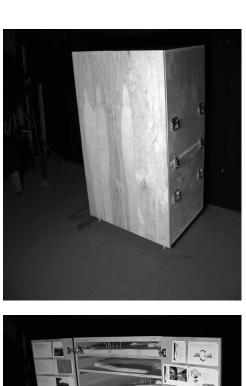










Fig. 42. Model Section Drawers.

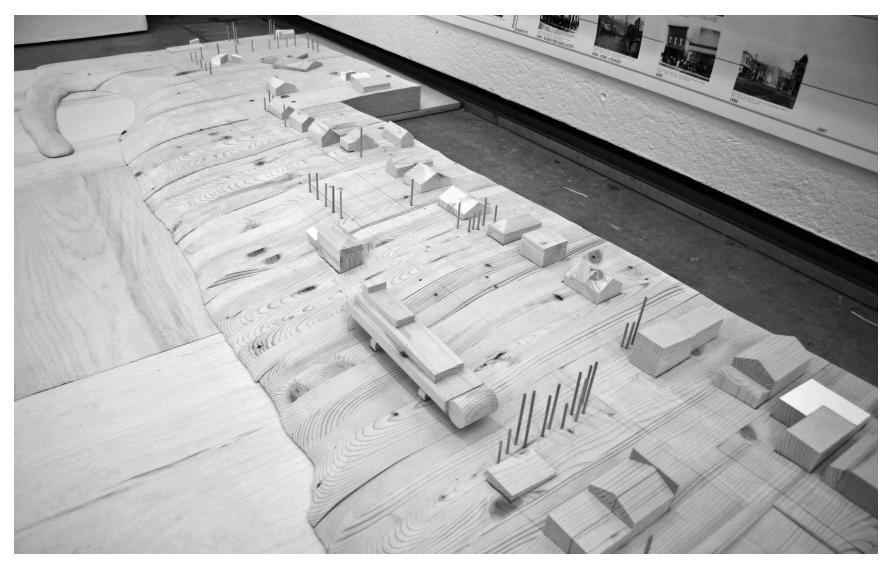


Fig. 43. Kaslo Front Street Model, View of SS Moyie and Public Beach Area.

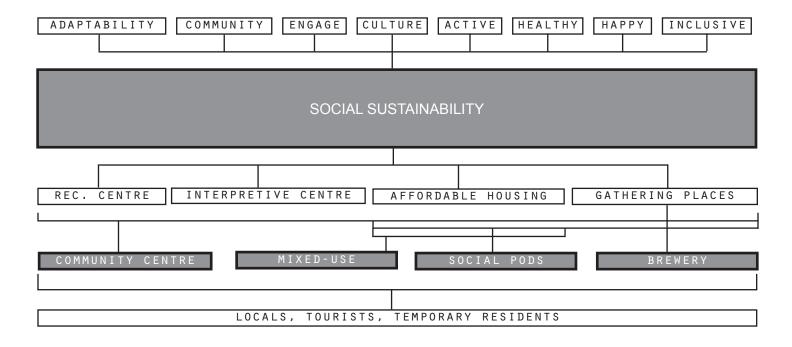


Fig. 44. Program Selection Diagram.

Mixed-Use Development

Recreation + Social Hub + Seniors Housing + Interpretive Centre

Program Selection

Kaslo is currently lacking a larger updated public centre or community hub. This is an obvious but vital piece to developing a community in a socially sustainable direction.

There is currently a lack of formal recreational facilities in the region including swimming pools, gyms and sports facilities. At this point Kaslo has only one small gym and it is for women only. In a local feedback questionnaire, formal recreational facilities and a centre for gathering were both shown to be in strong support by the community.¹¹²

Housing for seniors is also at a shortage in Kaslo and the rest of the region. Abbey Manor is the existing seniors housing in Kaslo and is located on the east end of Front Street. The building opened in 1984 and has the ability to house 15 residents. The Community Health Centre of Kaslo and BC Housing also have living space for seniors but these options are often full and demand is on the rise. In the previously mentioned questionnaire, the overwhelming majority of people were in favor of providing housing for seniors in the community core. In "A Strategy for the Village of Kaslo," lack of housing was mentioned to be a large concern by current senior citizens.

In the "Cultural Tourism Strategy", developed for the region, a logging museum/interpretive centre has been mentioned as a long-term potential opportunity for Kaslo.¹¹⁷ Having this program closely integrated with the seniors housing would allow knowledge and history of the region to be shared and passed down to the community and tourists.

Site Selection

A location on or near Front Street is an obvious choice as creating a vibrant town centre

^{112.} Lourette Swanepoel, Stantec Consulting, SustainABLE Central Kootenay, (April 2010).

^{113.} McCuaig, Kaslo - The first 100 years, 202.

^{114.} Chess, A Sustainable Strategy for the Village of Kaslo, 17-18.

^{115.} Swanepoel, SustainABLE Central Kootenay.

^{116.} Chess, A Sustainable Strategy for the Village of Kaslo, 9.

^{117.} Scott-May and Eileen Fletcher, Cultural Tourism Strategy, 16.

can enhance SS. There are only three large lots along Front Street and the only one large enough to incorporate a swimming pool. This lot happens to be the existing seniors housing, the Abbey Manor. The building is currently serving its purpose well and alternative housing for seniors should be provided prior to any large impacts on this existing site.

Another possible site is at the west end of Front Street on a large flat lot which backs onto a steep slope (Fig. 45). The site is close enough to Front Street to create an optimum social hub for the village. The site could also aid in SS by linking two somewhat disconnected portions of the community (upper and lower Kaslo) while still remaining within the town core.

Historical Significance of Site

This site has a strong historical significance for the village and residents. It hugs the Sacred Heart Catholic Church (Fig. 47) which was built in 1902 and still remains active to this day. 118 Across the hill/trestle is the Drill Hall, built in 1901 and across from that is the Langham which dates back to 1896 (Fig. 48). 119 The site offers further historical value as it was the old railway bed and home to a trestle which traversed the hill from lower to upper Kaslo (Fig. 46-49). 120 Complimenting the history of the site can help promote CBT by allowing visitors to learn and appreciate the community and its culture. 121 The trestle has been studied and abstracted forms have been explored for use as both structure and screening (Fig. 50-51). Taking influence from both the trestle, the nearby heritage buildings and the historic mining culture could help this site become an integral part of the community.

Design

The main entrance to the building is from the first floor, below the trestle structure which supports the floors above (Fig. 52). On the main floor the design includes a large public space for working, relaxing, socializing or for informal lectures/presentations as well as a recreation centre with a gym and pool (Fig. 53-54). The second floor has another public

^{118.} McCuaig, George. Kaslo - The first 100 years, 55.

^{119.} Ibid., 116-121.

^{120.} Ibid., 92-95.

^{121.} The Mountain Institute, Community-Based Tourism for Conservation and Development.



Fig. 45. Mixed-Use Site



Fig. 46. Trestle and Church Site, 1902;

photograph from BC Archives.



Fig. 47. Sacred Heart Church.



Fig. 48. The Langham & Drill Hall.

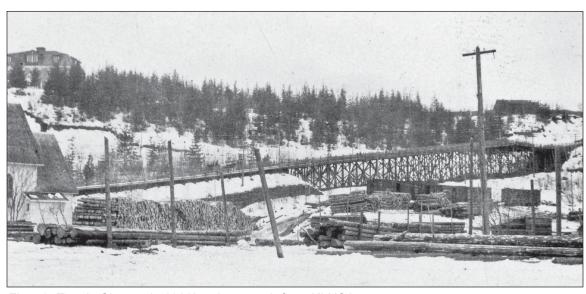


Fig. 49. Trestle Site, early 1900's; photograph from KLHSA.

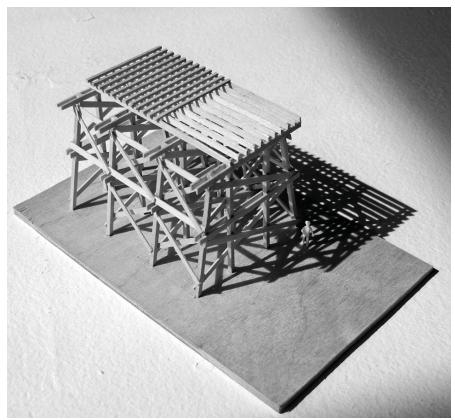


Fig. 50. Trestle Exploration.

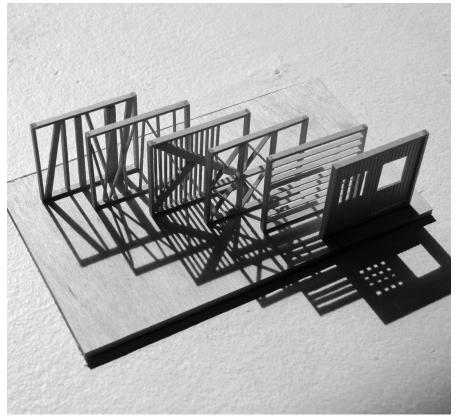


Fig. 51. Trestle Abstractions.

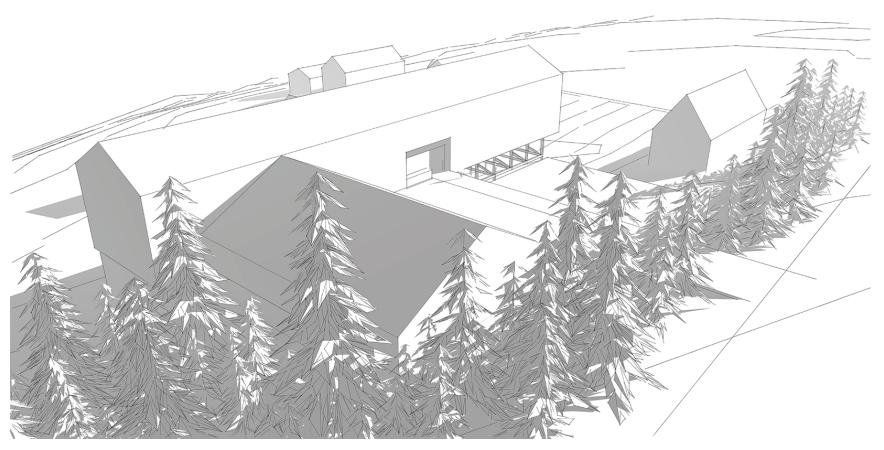


Fig. 52. View of Housing and Public Terrace.

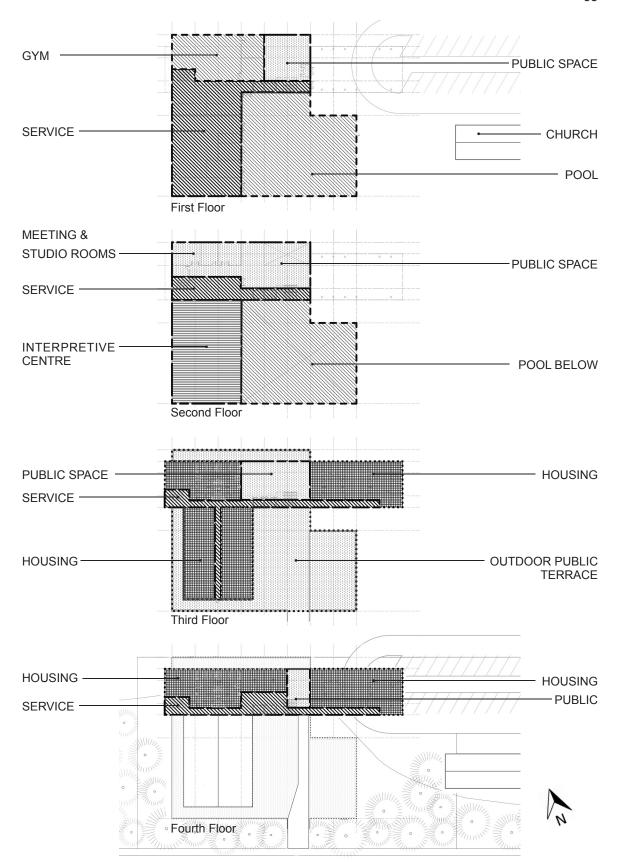


Fig. 53. Program Diagram.

66

area with work spaces that looks down to the public area below. From here glimpses of

Front Street are made visible through the trestle structure beyond. Further on the second

floor, are a variety of studio/meeting rooms as well as a large interpretive centre/museum.

The third floor has another main entrance which faces the hill/trestle and is accessed by

the large public terrace which overlooks the lake and town (Fig. 55). This access helps to

link the upper and lower portions of Kaslo as well as provide a social space for visitors and

residents of the building and community. The third and fourth floors are the seniors hous-

ing which is designed to be completed in two separate phases (Fig. 56). The first phase

offers 16 residential units while the second phase offers an additional 8. The third floor

has a large public space with a number of facilities to serve the seniors housing while the

fourth floor has a smaller reading/library space.

The majority of the building has been designed as wood construction with both wood and

metal cladding. The first two floors create a podium for two gable roofs which makes up

the residential portions (Fig. 57-60).

Catalyst

Mobile Social Pods: Recreation + Accommodation

The majority of the social and recreational activities in the community take place outdoors,

during the summer months. During this time there is a large influx of tourists to the region,

which results in accommodations and campgrounds overflowing and small businesses

booming. This influx is in part due to the fact that the winter months offer far fewer activities

that are desirable or accessible.

An adaptable mobile social pod (MSP) has been designed which will add new winter activ-

ities as well as enhance existing ones to help extend the tourist season and provide more

social amenities and opportunities for the local population.

A catalyst can be defined as an intervention which can trigger future interventions and

interactions. It is in this way that MSP's can inspire ongoing positive social change. These

replicable pods are meant to facilitate the influx in tourism during the summer months by

providing temporary accommodations as well as space for service, facilities and recrea-

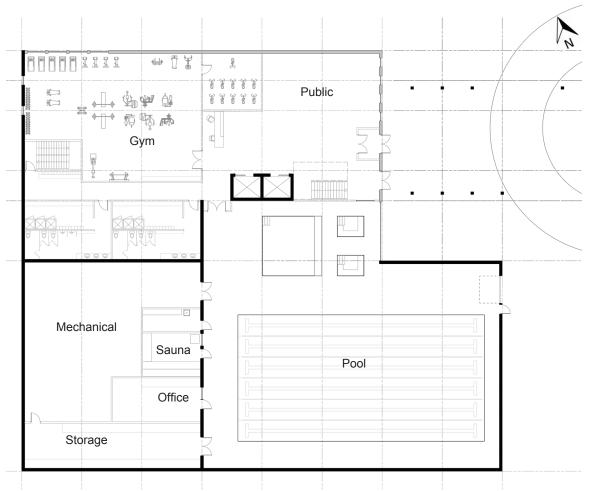


Fig. 54. First Floor Plan.

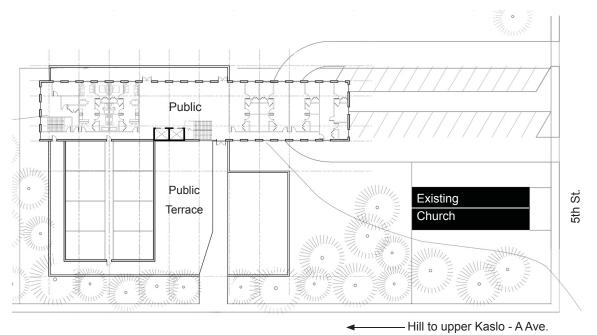


Fig. 55. Third Floor Plan.

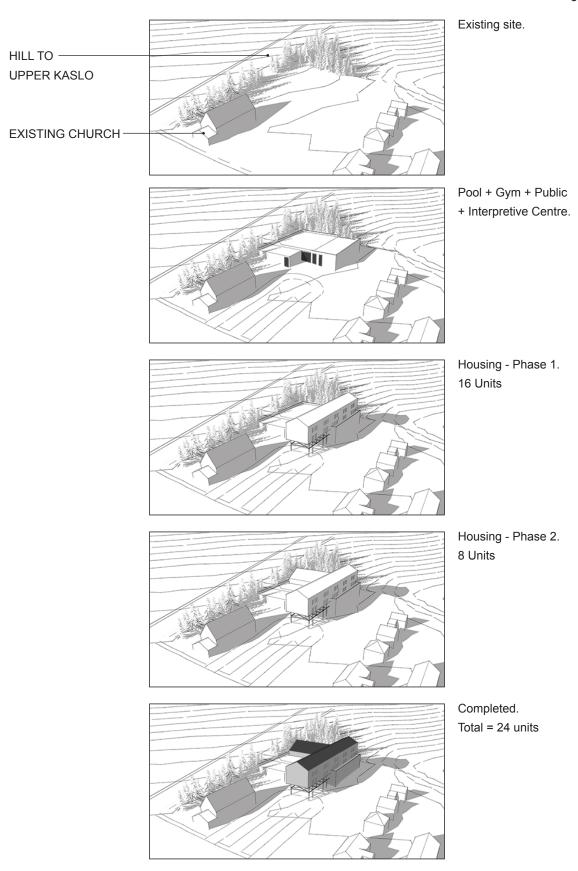


Fig. 56. Phase and Massing Diagram.







Fig. 57. Views of Mixed-Use Building from Front Street.

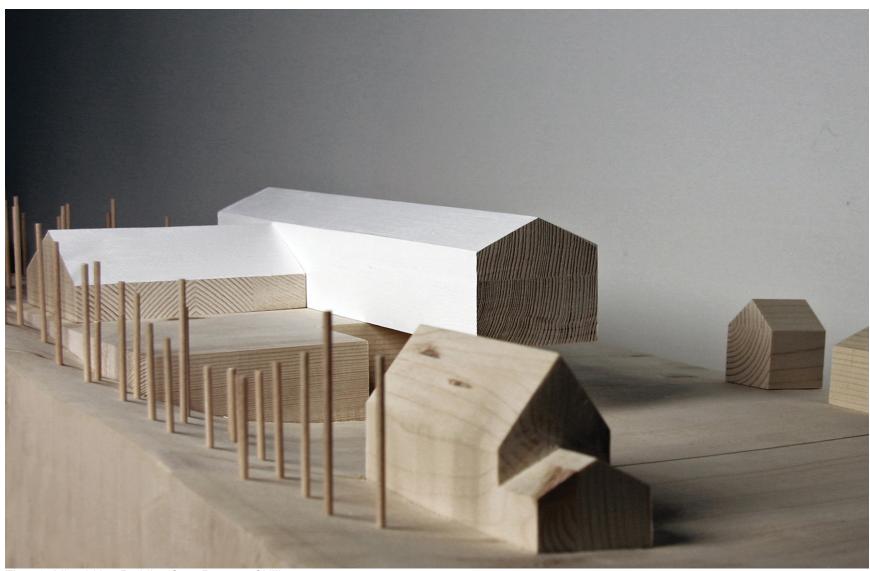


Fig. 58. Mixed-Use Building from Bottom of Hill.



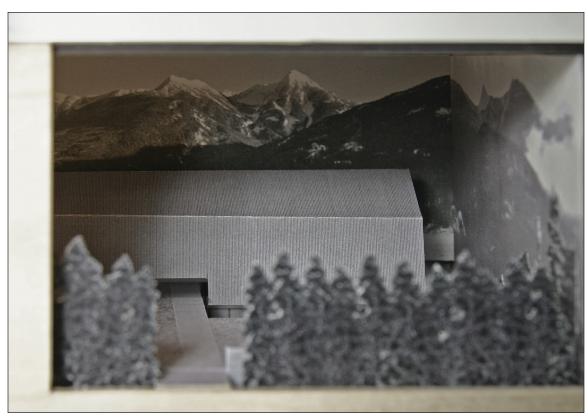


Fig. 59. Mixed-Use Building Access from Hill.

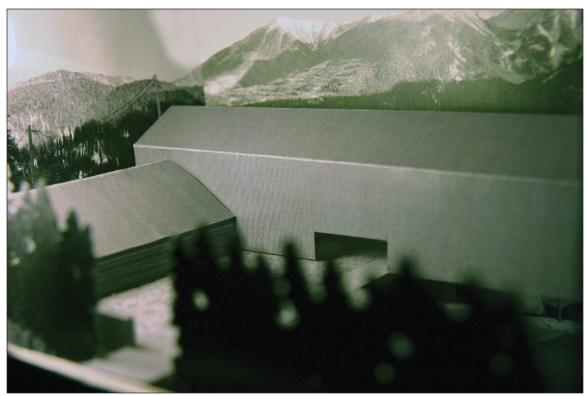


Fig. 61. Mixed-Use Building Public Terrace.







tion. In the fall they can then be converted/renovated and used throughout the village and at recreation sites at nearby mountains, lakes and trails to help extend the tourist season and provide social amenities for both locals and visitors (Fig. 62).

Program Selection

In a community feedback questionnaire the overwhelming majority of people were in favour of attracting young people into the community core. 122 Creating plentiful year-round social activities can help to encourage families and younger generations to live here for the long-term. In many other locations around the world, new social infrastructure is designed to encourage mass-tourism causing a variety of issues such as an influx in part-time residents. Micro-social infrastructure such as MSP's would help to bypass some of the risks associated with tourism growth.

In "Managing Growth in Mountain Tourism Communities", Gill and Williams express a benefit to "The design of multifunctional facilities for use by visitors and residents..." Mobile social pods could provide a wide range of programs and social activities for locals and tourists alike. Some ideas of possible programs include: cabins/tourist accommodations (Fig. 73-78), sauna (Fig. 70-72), studio, warming hut (Fig. 87-88), workshop, washrooms, kitchen, living/lounge, suite, office, ice fishing shelter, mountain camp (Fig. 87-88) or sales/market booth (Fig. 79-82).

The program of a sauna was explored further during the winter of 2016/2017 (Fig. 63-64). Myself and other members of the community designed and built a sweat lodge which could fit nearly a dozen people. This informal structure was used throughout the season by family, friends and other residents of Kaslo.

Site Selection

MSP's could be distributed throughout the community in camp sites, parks, residential lots, tourist areas, festival grounds, interim spaces, skating lakes, ice-fishing lakes, snow-mobile trails, cross-country ski trails, snow-shoeing trails and public beaches.

^{122.} Lourette, SustainABLE Central Kootenay.

^{123.} Alison Gill and Peter Williams, Managing Growth in Mountain Tourism Communities, Tourism Management, Volume 15 Number 3.1994. 217-218.

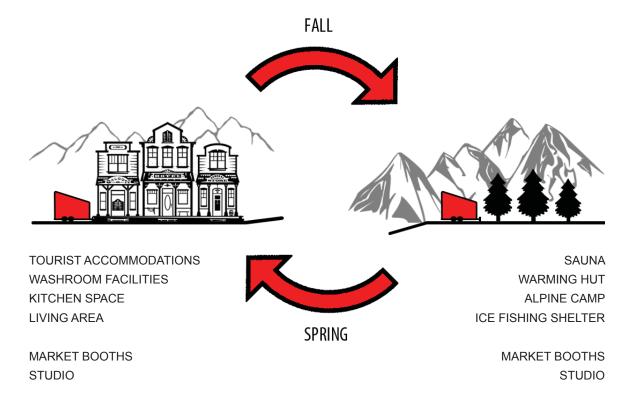


Fig. 62. Mobile Social Pod Seasonal Use Diagram.



Fig. 63. Building the Sweat Lodge.



Fig. 64. Trial Run.

Historical Significance

The influx in the transient population in Kaslo is not a new phenomenon by any means and in the late 1800's and early 1900's thousands of transient workers and visitors filled up every available accommodation. 124 At one point there were "Three customers for every bed and the occupants slept in shifts" 125

The building form of the MSP's corresponds to the historical typology of the community. It takes advantage of a shed roof, wood facade with metal cladding. Much like the traditional Western town there is an obvious front to the structure. When arranged together these units create a traditional streetscape or they can come together the other direction and form a gable (Fig. 65). As the design is meant to be suitable for many different locations, it also seeks to correspond with the historic mining structures throughout the region.

These adaptable spaces and alternating programs are much like the original buildings in Kaslo. The interiors were often used as interchangeable space for program that varied greatly throughout it's lifetime; the faces of the buildings not making obvious what lies beyond.¹²⁷

Much like the vernacular Western Town, these facades can have a simple text sign indicating the interior program. A further option to add individualization is through the addition of stained glass, as can be seen in many of the historical buildings of the region. The small upper window on the front facade allows for interchangeable stained glass panels to distinguish the unit from the ones beside it.

Implementation

Ideally, the Village of Kaslo would facilitate the use and distribution of the MSP's, rather than the general public. This would provide a sustainable source of income for community based development. With the huge variety of potential programs and sites, village over-

^{124.} Turnbull, Ghost Towns and Drowned Towns of West Kootenay, 58.

^{125.} Ibid.

^{126.} Ibid., 29-34.

^{127.} Ibid., 28

^{128.} Lehnerer, Macken, et al. *The Western Town, A Theory of Aggregation,* 146.

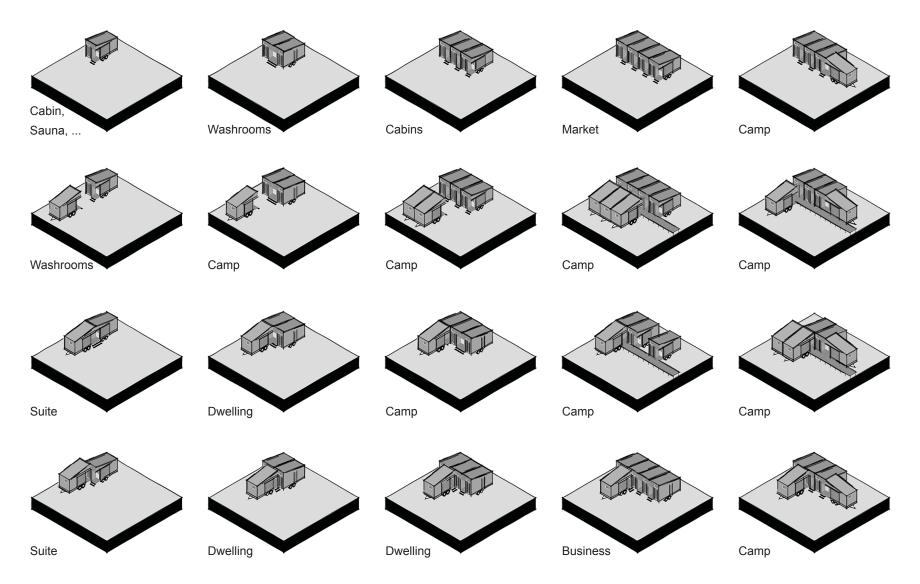


Fig. 65. Potential Unit Configurations.

sight would help to regulate the use and distribution of the MSP's.

A diagram has been created to show how the village and community members could implement these MSP's with very minimal financial capital (Fig. 66). In order to build capital for the first structure and to allow the community to aid in SS, interested residents could purchase a winter membership that would provide them access to an activity (e.g. Sauna). If a quarter of the population, around 250 people, were interested it would pay for approximately half of the structure. In the spring this unit could be converted to a tourist accommodation located at the Kaslo Municipal campground. The rental income throughout the summer months could pay off the remainder of the cost of construction. The following year memberships could be available again but this time with the addition of a second building.

This method of implementation allows for residents to take part in the decisions making processes while knowing their membership fees are not only going to a fun activity but also helping to support sustainable development within the community.

Design

The MSP's would be built of simple stick frame construction that could be completed as prefabricated panels for easy assembly by local residents (Fig. 67). Ideally each pod would arrive as a 'kit of parts' on a trailer. This could either be assembled onto the trailer for mobile-use, onto pile footings for long-term functions or onto floats for use on water. The design incorporates both interior batt and rigid insulation to ensure the comfort of it's occupants regardless of program, site or season.

These units begin as a shell, designed for mobile or stationary use and can change program and connect to one another to form more advanced designs. These pods explore ways of planning for future adaptability using removable wall panels which can be easily replaced by doors, windows railings or screens (Fig. 68-69).

A prototype has been planned for development following this thesis. The unit is designed to fit on a typical 16 foot utility trailer. It will first be completed as a simple shell and explored to visualize and test the variety of possible programs. Following this, the interior will be completed as a cabin to work out any final details/issues with the design. The design will be proposed to the Village of Kaslo and local citizens to determine whether support can be gained for implementation.

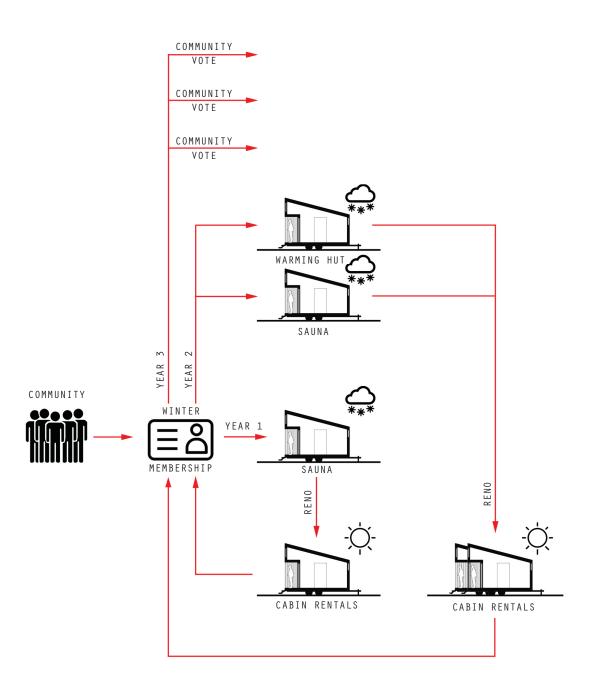


Fig. 66. Implementation Diagram.

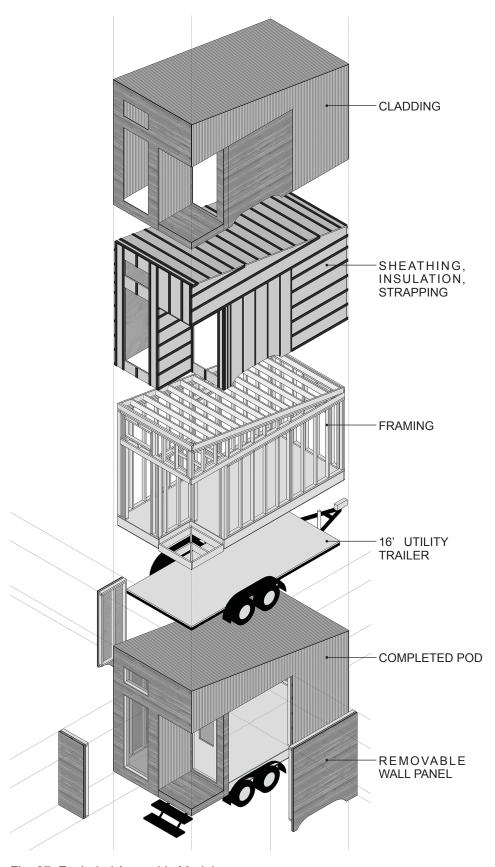


Fig. 67. Exploded Assembly Model.

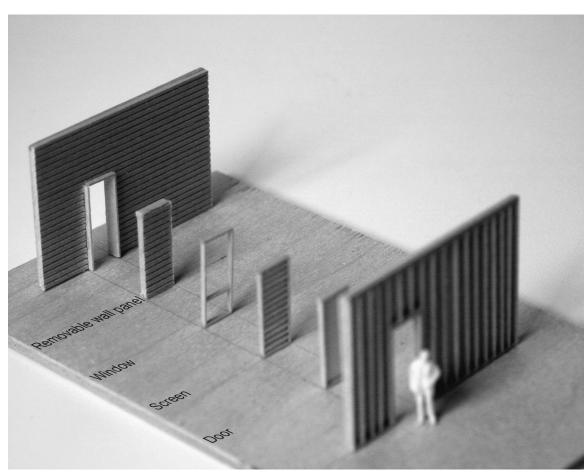


Fig. 68. Adaptable Wall Panel.

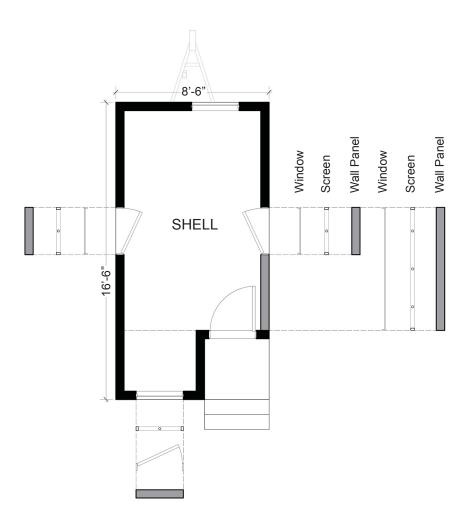


Fig. 69. Adaptable Shell Floor Plan.

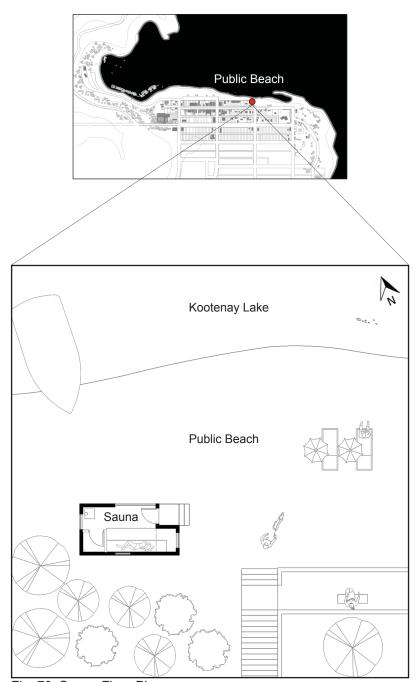


Fig. 70. Sauna Floor Plan.



Fig. 71. Sauna at Public Beach.



Fig. 72. Sauna Sketch.

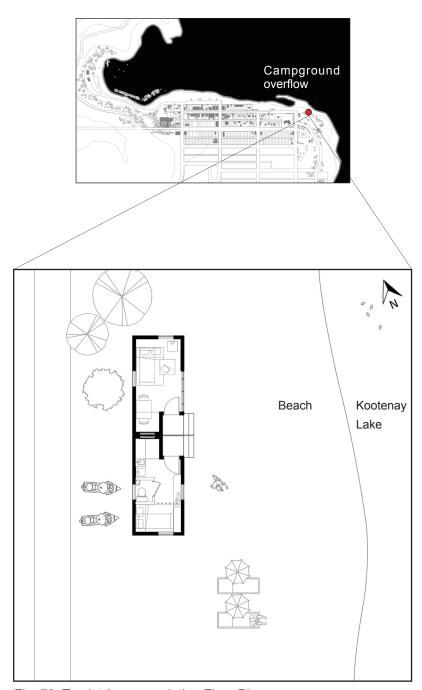


Fig. 73. Tourist Accommodation Floor Plan.

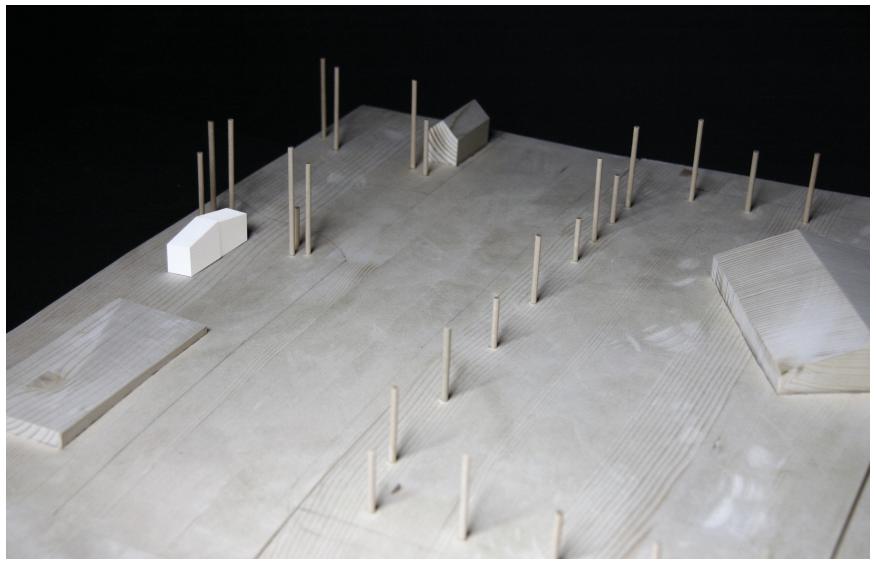


Fig. 74. Campsite Overflow.



Fig. 75. Tourist Accommodations.

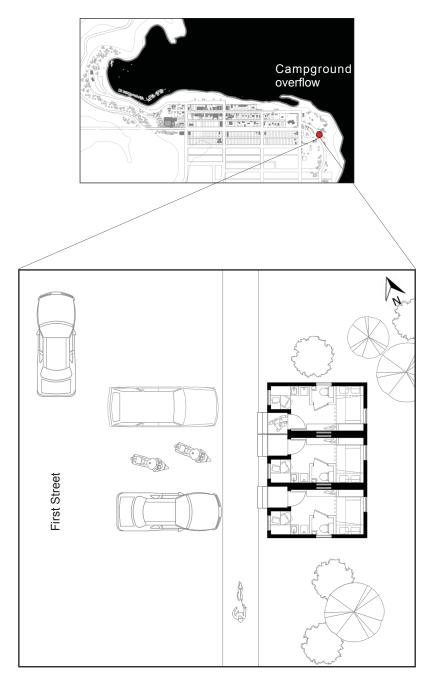


Fig. 76. Tourist Cabins Floor Plan.

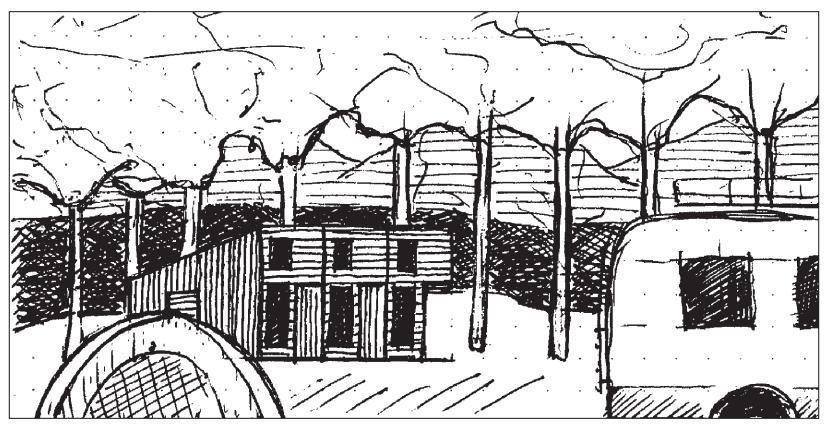


Fig. 77. Tourist Cabins Sketch.

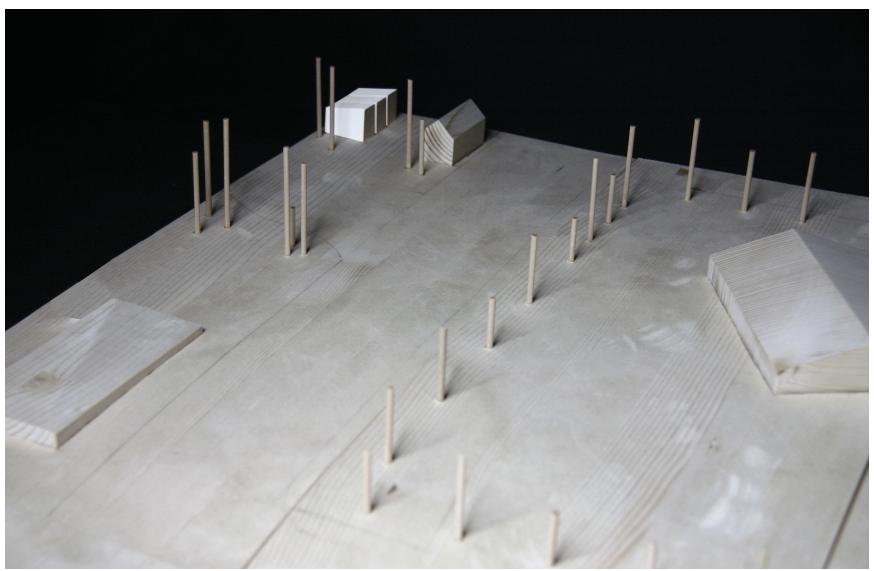


Fig. 78. Tourist Cabins Model.

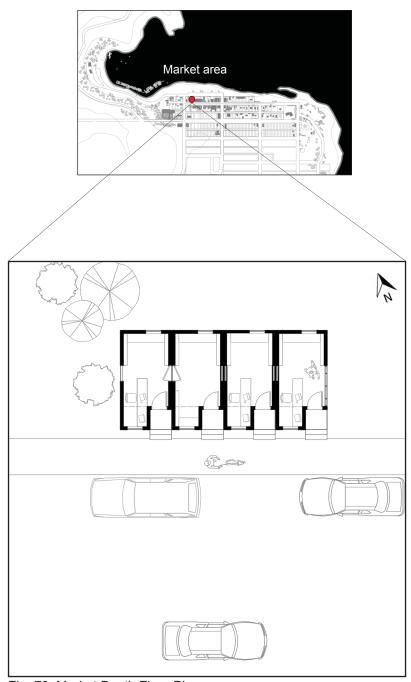


Fig. 79. Market Booth Floor Plan.

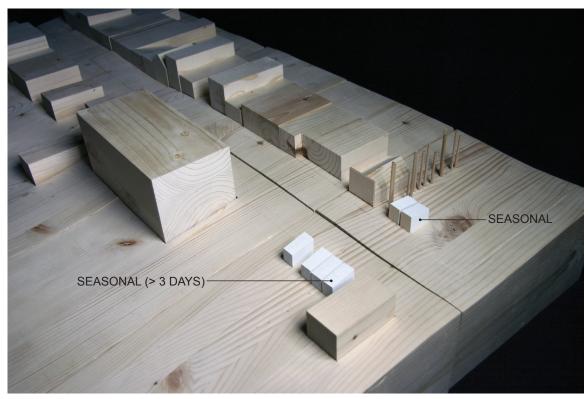


Fig. 80. Market Booths Traditional/Long Term Orientation

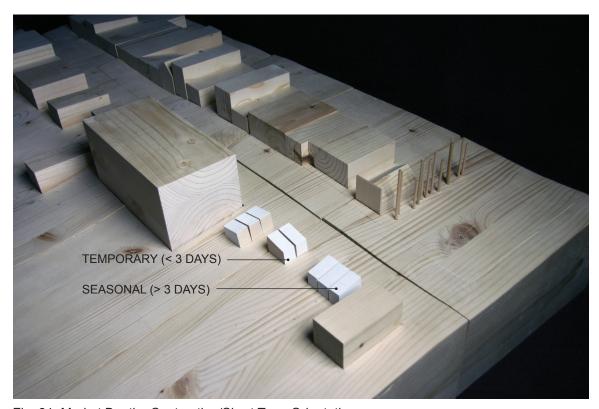


Fig. 81. Market Booths Contrasting/Short Term Orientation



Fig. 82. Year-Round Market Booths.

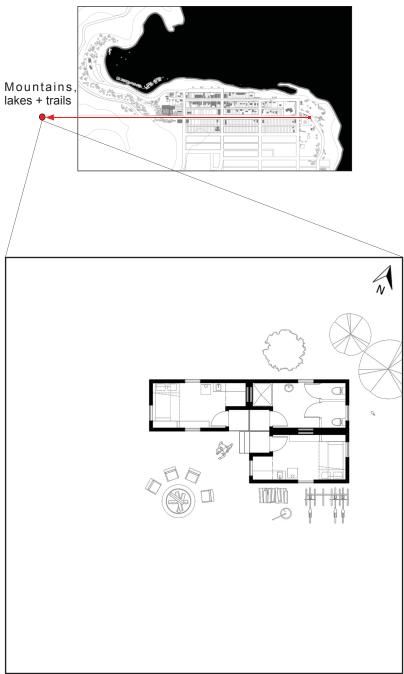


Fig. 83. Mountain Camp Floor Plan 1.

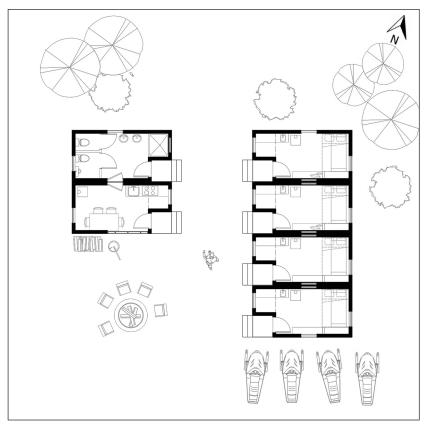


Fig. 84. Mountain Camp Floor Plan 2.

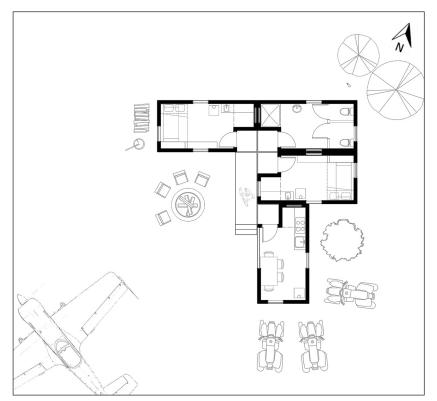


Fig. 85. Mountain Camp Floor Plan 3.



Fig. 86. Ski/Snowmobile Camp.

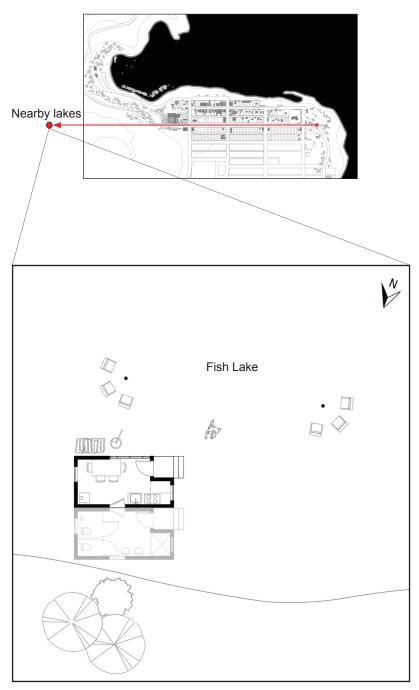


Fig. 87. Warming Hut Floor Plan.

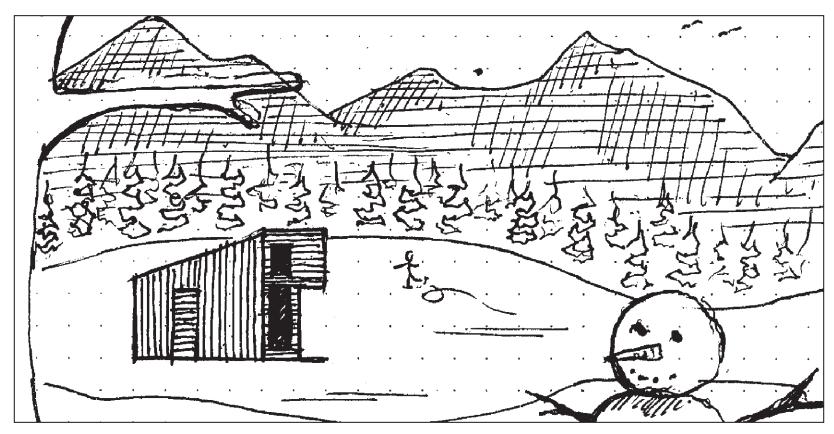


Fig. 88. Warming Hut Sketch

Secondary Piece

The Third Space

Brewery + Taphouse

It should be mentioned that this design began shortly before this thesis was officially started. Beginning with schematic design through to drawings for building permit, this project has taken shape alongside this thesis allowing it to be used as a way of studying the community, building restrictions, and historical vernacular.

A resident of Kaslo was proposing the development of a brewery and tasting room in the community. This was an exciting proposition as it provided an opportunity to develop this research using a traditional program and helped in the understanding of aspects of local development. Much like it would have been during the early 1900's, this development could become an important piece of social interaction among locals and visitors.

Program

In *Design for Social Sustainability,* the Third Space is part of the, "built environment & public space" building block.¹²⁹ The concept was first introduced in 1989 by Ray Oldenburg in his book, *The Great Good Place*.¹³⁰ He describes these third spaces as being important for society, democracy, community engagement, and establishing a sense of place. This includes programs such as cafes, pubs or shops and is understood to be a social place separate from home (First Space) and work (Second Space).

Site

The site was purchased by the owner without my involvement in the selection process, however, I believe it is the perfect location. It is situated on Front Street using two separate lots making it 50 feet wide (Fig. 89). One lot has an existing building while the other had a small shed which has now been removed for this new addition (Fig. 90-91). The site

^{129.} Woodcraft, Hackett and Caistor-Arendar, *Design for Social Sustainability: A Framework for Creating Thriving New Communities*, 35.

^{130.} Ray Oldenburg, *The Great Good Place: Cafes, Coffee Shops, Bookstores, Bars, Hair Salons, and Other Hangouts at the Heart of a Community*, (Da Capo Press; 3rd edition, 1999).

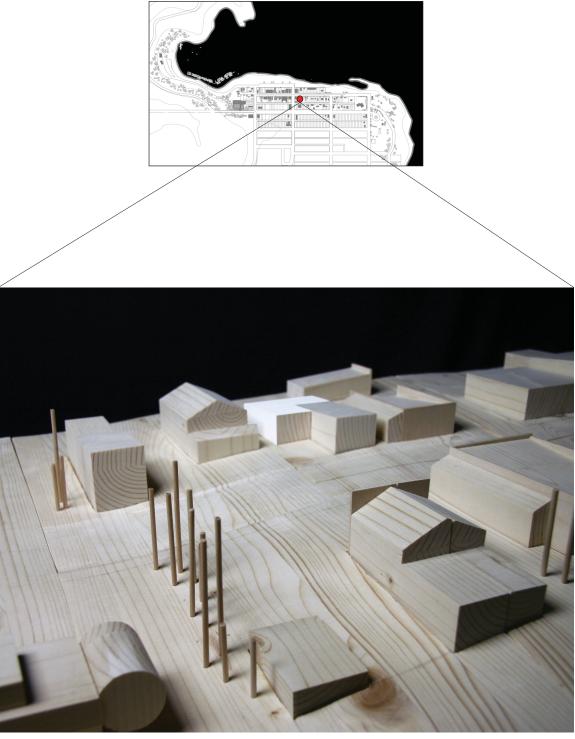


Fig. 89. Brewery Site Model

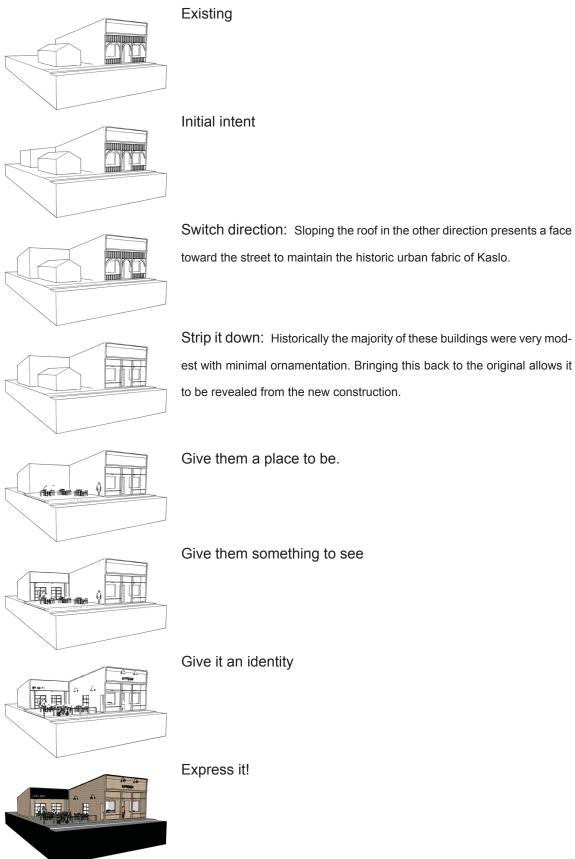


Fig. 90. Design Intent Diagram.



Fig. 91. Existing Site.

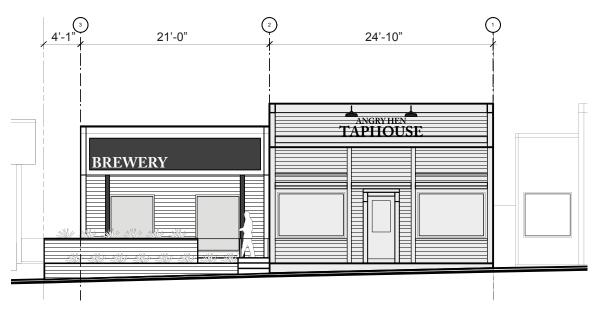


Fig. 92. North Elevation.

provides views of multiple heritage buildings/attractions as well as the lake and mountains beyond. Much like the rest of Front Street, there are other existing buildings in close proximity on either side (Fig. 92).

Historical significance

Although the existing building has had renovations in the past, much of the construction dates back to the early-mid 1900's. Views overlook the historic S.S. Moyie Sternwheeler as well as multiple other heritage buildings.

This is a traditional program for both Kaslo and the vernacular "Western town". 131 Historically this street would have had a large number of drinking/brewing establishments that would have been an integral part of socialization within the community 132

Design

The original intent of the owner was to have a shed roof sloping East and West across both lots (Fig. 89). This broke away from tradition as there was no obvious front which faced the street. Through studying the traditional fabric a design was proposed in contrast to this idea and took cues from heritage buildings around the village. The new addition follows the lines of the existing shed roof and mimics the existing street front with some added contemporary touches (Fig. 92-93). The majority of the design is wood construction but steel studs were required on the East and West walls to meet the fire resistance required by the *BC Building Code*. 133 Wood and metal cladding serves the purpose of both a vernacular approach and helps to comply with the requirements of the building code when developing so close to adjacent buildings. The existing building will be renovated to become the Taphouse and service space while the manufacturing space is housed within the new addition (Fig. 94). Large windows offer views from the patio into the brewery beyond (Fig. 95).

^{131.} Lehnerer, Macken, et al. The Western Town, A Theory of Aggregation, 98.

^{132.} Turnbull, Ghost Towns and Drowned Towns of West Kootenay, 58.

^{133.} Office of Housing and Construction Standards, 2012 British Columbia Building Code.



Fig. 93. Brewery Street View.

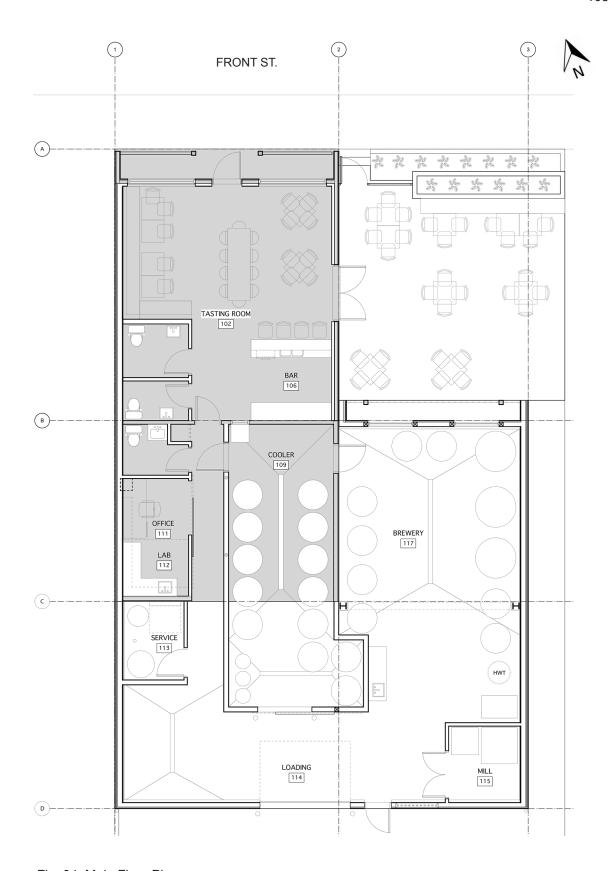


Fig. 94. Main Floor Plan.

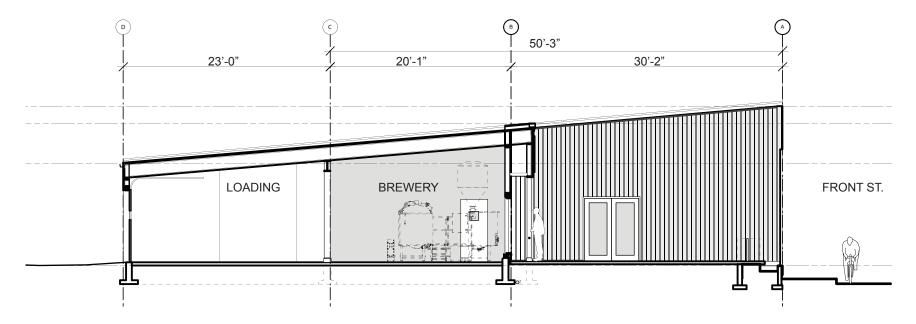


Fig. 95. N-S Building Section

Chapter 8: Conclusion

This research has helped to identify what is required to sustain community in a tourismbased heritage boomtown and helps to clarify the crucial role that architecture can play in the process.

Through this thesis it has become evident that the long term success of boom town communities (such as Kaslo), rest not only in their environmental and economic sustainability, but also in their social and cultural sustainability (of which architecture forms an important part). Recognizing the complex array of threats facing these communities can be difficult and often requires the concerted effort of multiple disciplines and professionals. Although architecture can and does play an important role in shaping these communities, planning, sociology, community and political support are also key in ensuring success.

It is vital that future development and planning be done in a way that allows for growth and adaptation over time. These processes should be seen as ongoing research and development (allowing for the monitoring of change and allowing for adjustments).

Those overseeing new developments in the Village of Kaslo need to ensure that they do so in a way that does not detract from the local history, environment and culture.

It was thought initially that this thesis would identify the social and cultural benefits of architecture in the community of Kaslo and others like it. The research has shown however that not only are the social and cultural values derived from architecture beneficial, they are in fact imperative to the longevity of these communities. With a significant level of planning, design and action, these heritage boomtowns can retain and enhance the culture and values that they hold so dear.

Journey of the Thesis

I have been visiting the Kootenay Region of British Columbia with my family for as long as I can remember. We would tour the area, visiting different cities and villages, camping and looking at property. Finally, in 1999 we bought a small summer home in Kaslo where

^{134.} Moss and Glorioso, *Global Amenity Migration: Transforming Rural Culture, Economy and Landscape*, 3.

my parents have now retired (Fig. 96). Kaslo's charm, beauty, mountains and lakes have always been a huge inspiration to me. I have no doubt that I will be living or visiting this community and this region for the rest of my life.

During the summer of 2016, the opportunity to design a local craft brewery presented itself. This was a exciting proposition for me as it was a traditional program along the historical Front Street of Kaslo BC. This project from schematic design right through to construction, has helped to shape the direction of this thesis.

During the winter of 2016/2017 I spent a month in the Village of Kaslo. During this time I had the opportunity to visit, study and photograph Kaslo and other neighbouring communities. Myself and other members of the community designed and built a sweat lodge which could fit nearly a dozen people. This informal structure was used throughout the season by family, friends and other residents of Kaslo.

As Kaslo means so much to my family and I, as well as to friends that have visited from near and far, it has become a goal of mine to positively influence the community through the use of architecture and design. This thesis has provided an opportunity to explore community needs, history, urban fabric and some of the challenges that the village may face in the near future.

Contributions to the Village of Kaslo

This thesis has allowed me to study the traditional vernacular architecture and material culture of the Village of Kaslo. Along with this local knowledge, a solid base of theoretical research has helped to strengthen the interpretation and adoption of history and vernacular architecture into new development for the community. A series of qualities have been developed to guide new development to community-based design. This research can help to improve/update the existing Building Design Guidelines and advocate for socially responsible development and the restoration of the traditional urban fabric within the commercial core.

The large model of the Kaslo Front Street will be transported back to the community. It will be continuously updated and added to as new development takes place in the village. This model can act as a valuable tool for future planning and community participation for years to come.

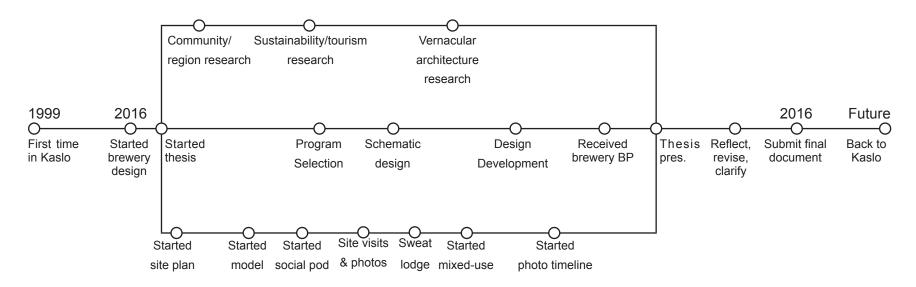


Fig. 96. Journey of Thesis - Diagram.

I hope to have an opportunity to build and deploy a mobile social pod in the near future. This project could be an important step to sustainable community-based tourism for the Village of Kaslo, providing benefits to both tourists, residents. I hope that this alternative form of tourism/recreational infrastructure can help to inspire other communities throughout the region to strive for community-based development.

In the design of the craft brewery, I have attempted to set an example to the community of the possibilities and benefits of designing with consideration to the historical vernacular architecture.

I am excited to bring the knowledge I have gained from this research back to BC where I can help to ensure new development in the Village of Kaslo enhances the history, community and culture of the region.

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