

Year 2 Morphing Week Project

Adrift



Day 1: Provocation, Brainstorming, Constructing a Base

The students were shown images of communities in Asia where people live and rely on the water. In some instances these are displaced, nomadic peoples and in some instances these are permanent communities that have evolved to live over water in response to land shortages or financial constraints.



The Bajau People of the Philippines

The Bajau people fled the Philippines for Malaysia, only to find themselves banned from stepping ashore. Their response is to develop a life entirely depending on the ocean.



Houses are built on stilts over the water



Canoes are made from hollowed out tree trunks



Bajau children are taught to fish from the age of 4.



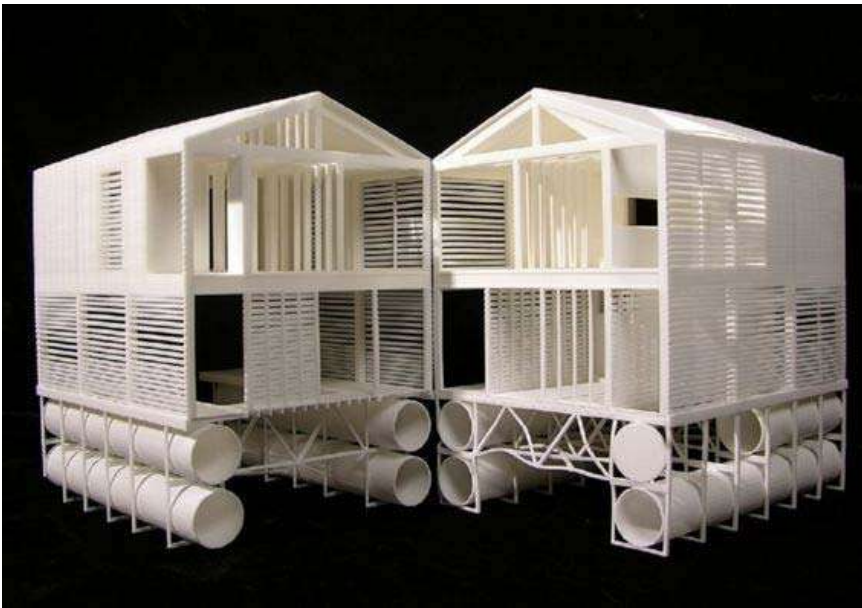
These people spend their lives in and on the water so much so that they become “landsick” when on dry land for any length of time



Floating village, Cambodia



Students were also shown examples of elaborate houseboats from more affluent parts of the world. Some of these were designs or ideas to combat fluctuating water levels.





Finally students were asked:

Have you ever been on a journey somewhere?

Where did you go?

How did you feel?

Imagine....

You had to leave your home and travel across the water.

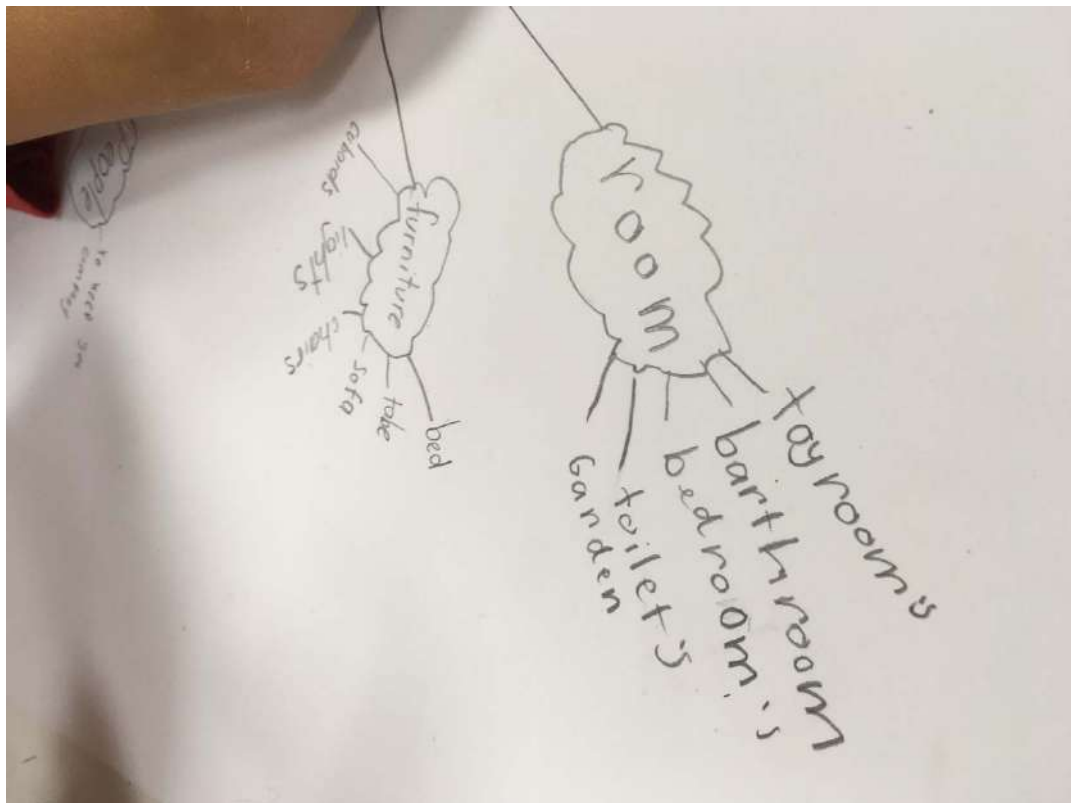
Imagine....

You were adrift and you did not know where or when you might find a new home.

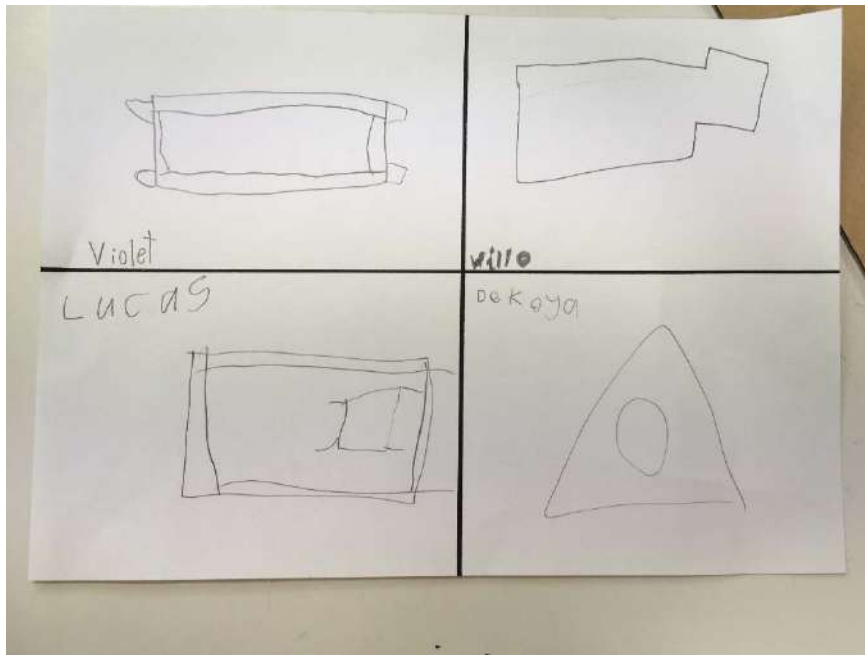
What would you need to make somewhere else feel like home?



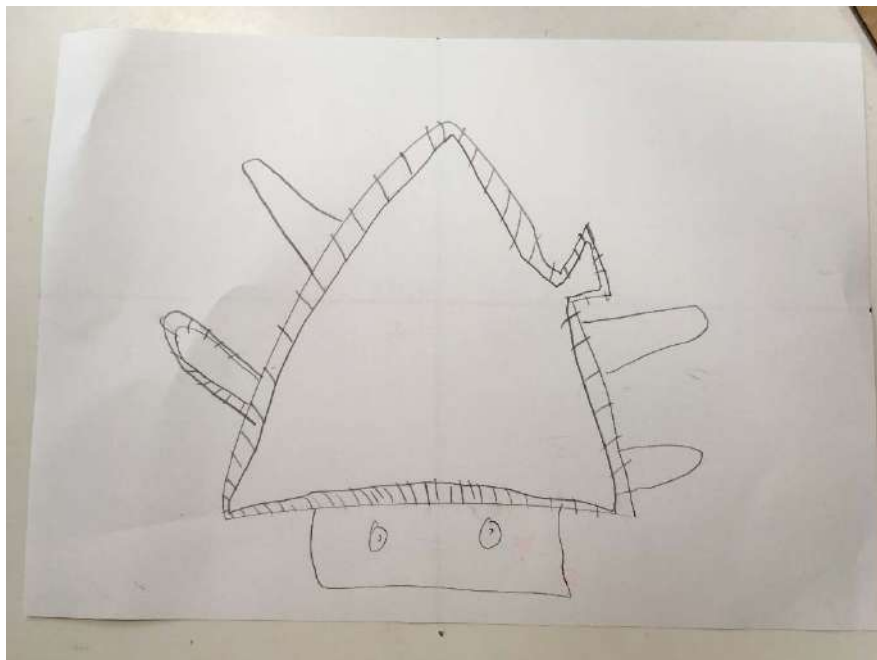
Imagining that they were cast adrift students worked in groups of three or four to brainstorm what they would need to feel comfortable or at home in a new place.



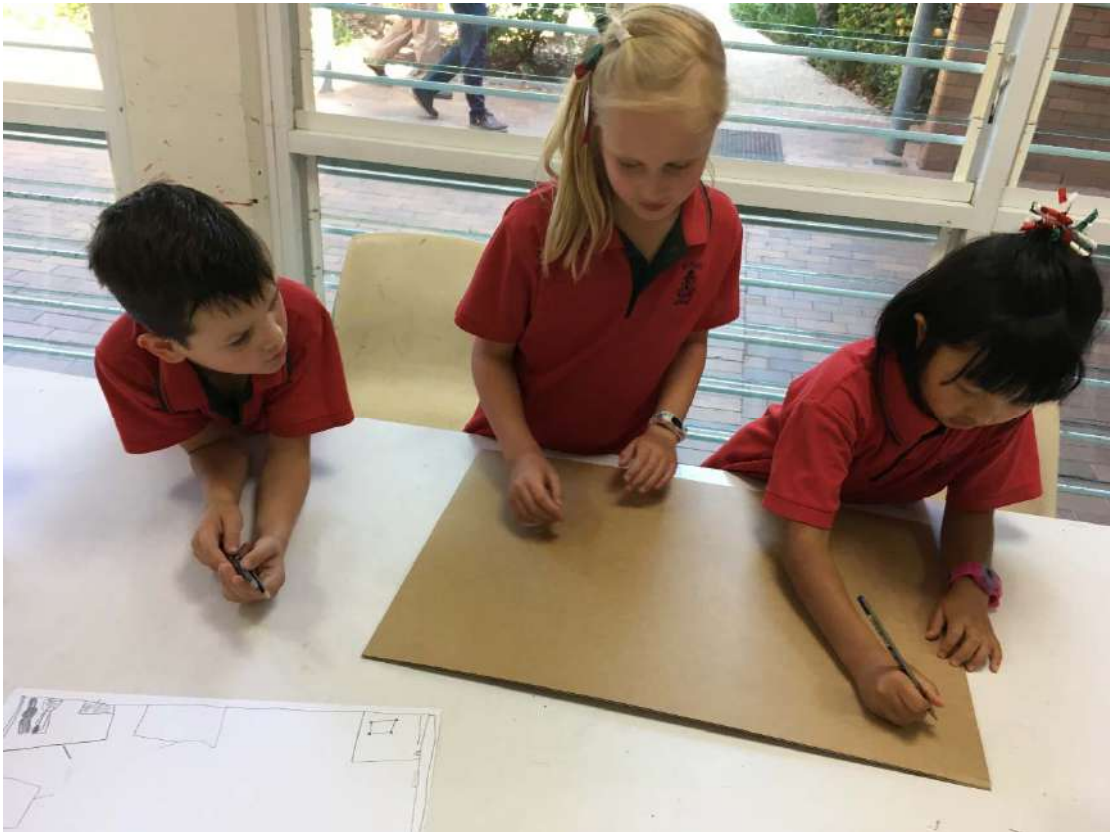
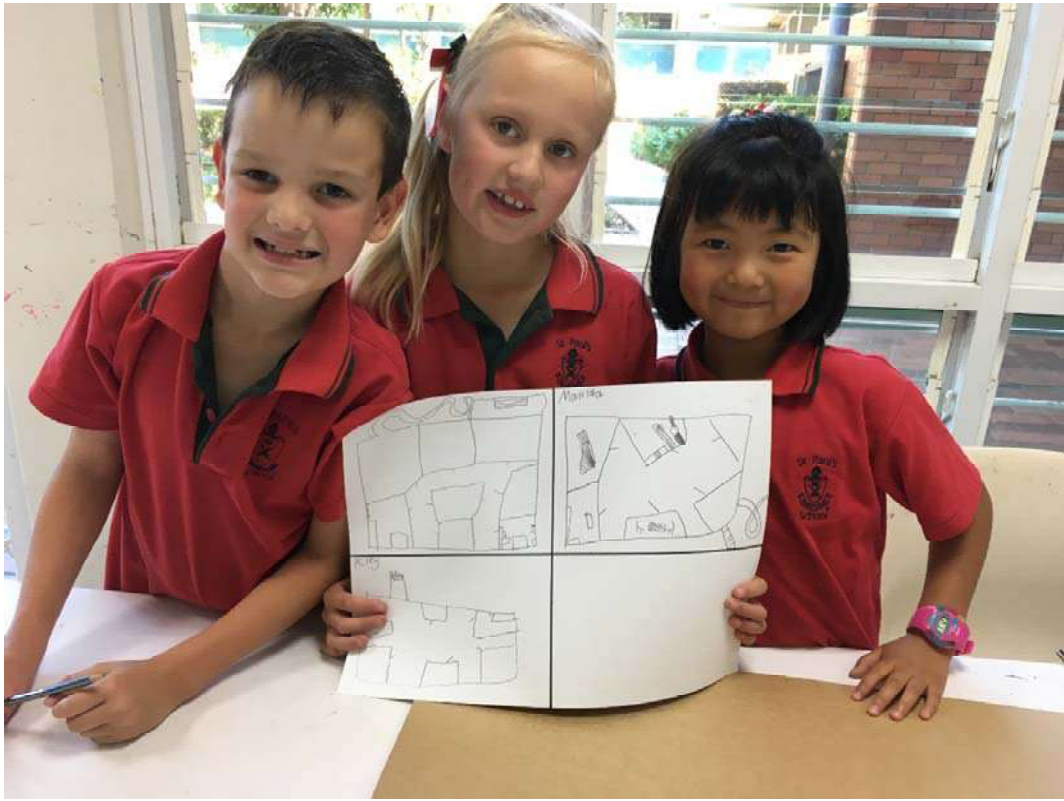
Each of the four team members then developed a shape for the base of a floating structure that their team would build collaboratively.



The teams voted on their favourite base design, or in some instances, combined a few ideas together to create a new shape.

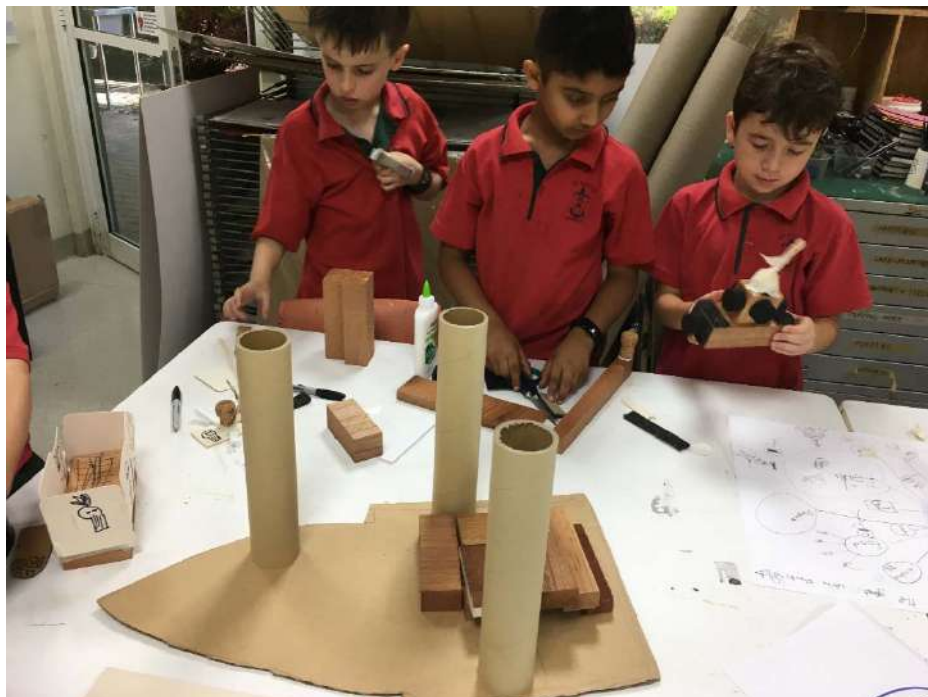


The bases were cut out of strong corrugated card



Day 2: Construction Commences

In the following session students began construction of their floating structure using a range of recycled materials.





Day 3 and 4: Looking at Artists, Construction Continues

The students were introduced to the work of Alfredo and Isabel Aquilizan. This Aquilizans immigrated from the Philippines with their five children in search of a better life for their family. They now live and work in Brisbane and exhibit all over the world.



Their artwork deals with their immigration experience and feelings displacement or being caught between two places. They are also directly inspired by the plight of the Bajau people, having spent time in these communities.



Lodge: Another Country is about a place, a juncture of a journey. It is a space in between two places, a moment when someone leaves home and there will be no place they can call home anymore; a risk that is undertaken, like a voyage to a land of uncertainty.

—Alfredo and Isabel Aquilizan, 2015

The students looked at and discussed the similarities between these artists and the work that they were currently undertaking particularly as they were both taking inspiration from the plight of the Bajau people. They were then encouraged to continue their constructions, fixing the pieces that they had made the previous day onto their cardboard bases. The students were also encouraged to think about how to continue to develop their structures. Could they go upwards to add extra levels? Could they go outwards extending the structure over the water? Could they even think about joining their structure to another structure to form a 'superstructure'?





