

4.0 ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN INTENT

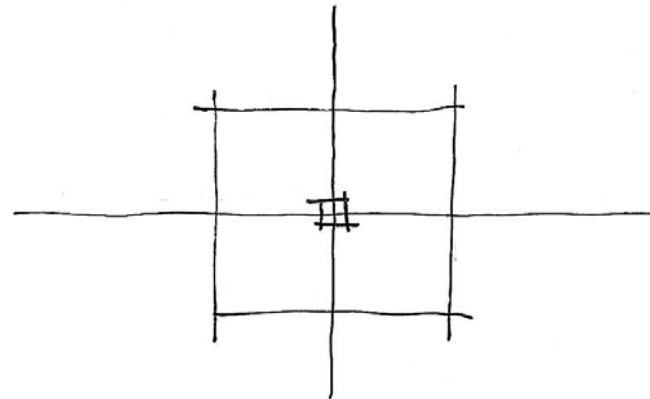
Forming a wall which intercepts moist airstreams advancing across the southern ocean, the Alps create a rainshadow region to the east, which is hot in summer, cold in winter and dry most of the year. Rugged peaks, scree slopes, heathlands and stream courses are significant features of this alpine landscape. East of the divide, snow fed streams flow from the Craigieburn Range into the Porter River which joins the Waimakariri on its journey eastwards across the plain to the Pacific Ocean.

The natural alpine landscape is pristine, unique, wild and timeless. Because of the high altitude and extreme weather encountered here it is a highly sensitive environment. Development in this context must recognise this vulnerability and be carefully planned and carried out. It must observe sound conservation principles and maintain a minimal footprint.

Throughout history, settlement in mountainous regions has adopted cluster like forms. Clusters are an ideal form for achieving concentration with the least footprint in the environment. A cluster expresses two of the basic aspects of mans orientation: physical security and psychic identity. The compactness achieved with a cluster is also a natural response to the extreme climatic conditions encountered here.



The classical form of settlement pattern imposes an abstract grid on the natural landscape. Defined by axes and cardinal points, it spreads outwards from the centre in all directions. This pattern is often regarded as representing colonial power in an untamed landscape (Clearly evidenced in the city plan of Christchurch).



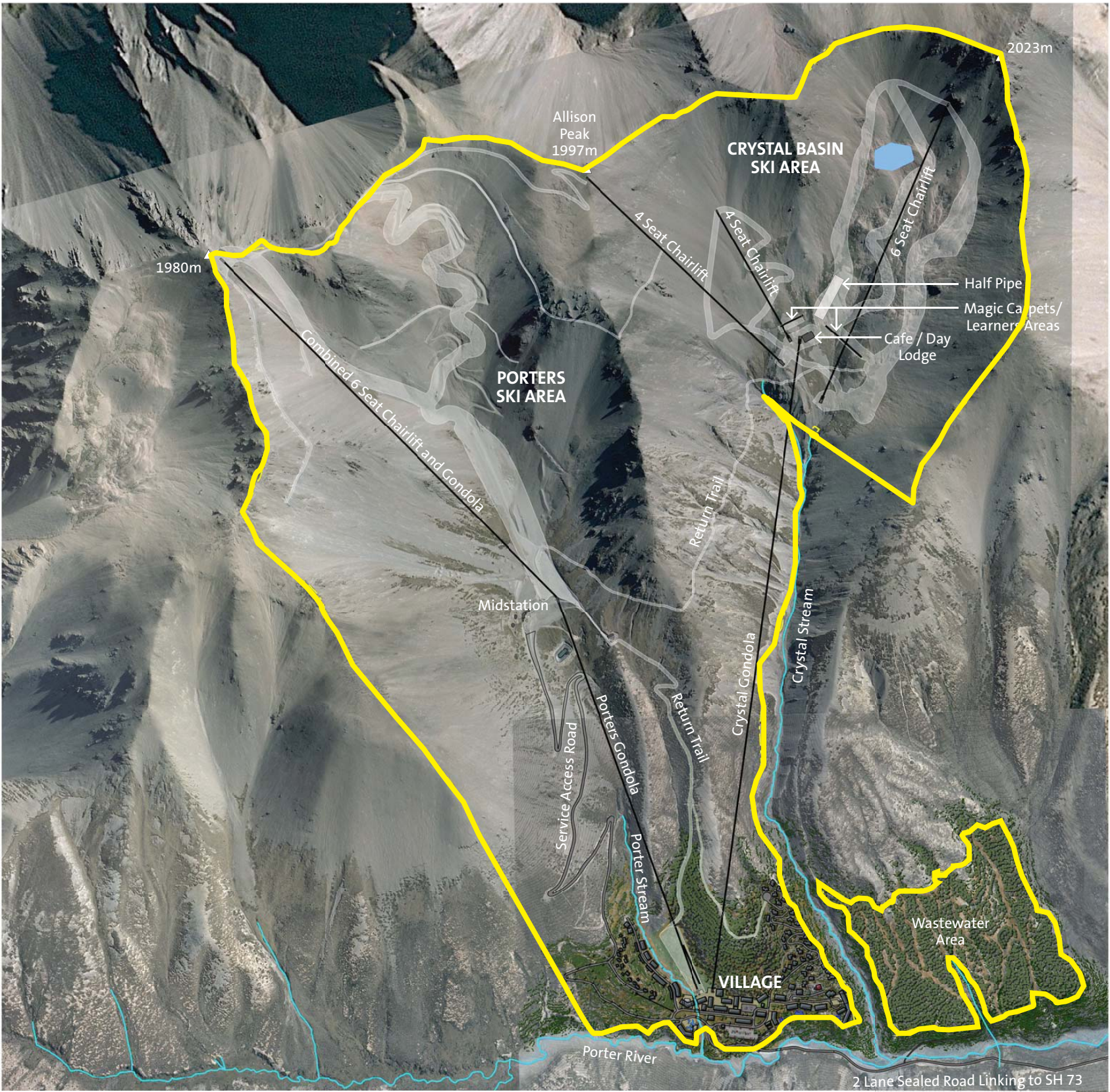
In contrast this rural settlement is designed as an organic form comprising a compact cluster with thread like linear extensions. This pattern respects and follows the natural 'paths' and 'places' suggested by the landforms. In its form the Alpine village can be regarded as a seamless whole. Integrated with the mountain landscape, it maintains a natural and meaningful relationship with its surroundings.

The village centre occupies the existing terrace above the left bank of the Porter River. From its compact core, building forms extend outwards at both ends. To the south west buildings follow the line of the existing ski field access road alongside Porter Stream before returning back along the ridge above. To the northeast buildings are distributed along the river terrace following the existing ski lodge road to the northern end of the terrace overlooking Crystal Stream. Tight clusters of smaller buildings are distributed up the gentle slope to the north west. Building bulk footprint and intensity generally reduces in scale progressively with distance from the village centre.



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MOUNTAIN MASTERPLAN



Legend

- Ski Trails
- Ecological Restoration
- Vehicle Access Roads
- Existing Waterways
- Snowmaking Reservoir
- Plan Change Boundary