

20 July 2020

To: Thomas Soulliere  
Director, Parks, Recreation and Facilities  
City of Victoria

RE: Project Albero

Dear Thomas,

Aryze conceptualized and created Project Albero—Italian for “tree”—inspired by the City we love and beautiful urban cities around the world with working harbours. The swim float with planted Japanese Katsura tree is located just off Banfield Park in the Gorge waterway.

The goal of this project was to encourage swimmers to venture out onto the waterway and visit the float as a destination as well as to rethink the inner harbor as a place to not only live, work but also recreate.

Aryze is pleased to donate the swim float as a gift to the City of Victoria and has provided supporting documentation and as-built drawings outlining the integrity of the structure to give comfort to the City in receiving this swim float.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Kind Regards,



**Luke Mari**  
Principal, Development  
Aryze Developments

Attachments:

1. Supporting letter
  - a. Design team lead, Franc D'Ambrosio, DAU Studio
  - b. Plant selection team lead, Bianca Bodley, Biophilia Design Collective
  - c. Structural engineering team lead, Leon Plett, RJC Engineering
2. ARYZE swim float 'as-built' drawings
3. Supporting imagery of the construction and installation process

## The Albero Project: Back to the Harbour

In the last few years, many waterfront cities have rediscovered their harbours as being more than industrial transportation corridors that they became in the 19th and 20th century. The environmental remediation and clean-up of urban waters has opened the door to reimagining ideas of public enjoyment of water in the city. Open air swimming is experiencing a resurgence and the popularity of harbour swimming in Scandinavian cities demonstrates the latent desire and potential for an expanded public amenity that is there for the taking. To bring this energy to the forefront and spark a public conversation about open air and harbour recreational swimming, The Albero Project takes a page from the Copenhagen precedent launched a year or two ago.

Albero Gallegante (Floating Tree, in Italian) has taken shape and has been launched as a n inspiration that hopes to be picked up by the citizens. A public amenity to remind us all that grass-roots movements can have a profound effect on the quality of urban life.

Our Floating platform is oblong, the rounded shape reflecting the universality and symbolism of human settlement and interaction. Egalitarian, gentle and accessible. Western Red Cedar and a growing tree complete the metaphorical island that becomes both destination and place for those who venture into the Inner Harbour waters.

We hope that this small public gesture will inspire and be the touchstone for a return to clean urban water as a public amenity for the present and future generations.

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Architect Franc D'Ambrosio AIBC FRAIC

Biophilia design collective Ltd.  
1608 Camosun Street  
Victoria, BC V8T 3E6  
250.590.1156

December 10, 2019



**Dear City of Victoria**

**Re: Floating Tree**

A little story about the tree:

Species: Katsura "heart throb".

The tree selection was inspired by its form, as a Katsura tree offers a beautiful wide round canopy which provides ample shade to swimmers on the dock on a hot summer day. The leaves are an intricate collection of perfect circles, chartreuse in the summer and as the summer wanes into fall the leaves smell like sugar, a sweet farewell. Katsura trees are also salt tolerant and drought tolerant, making it a good selection for the salt water and not requiring excessive watering.

The growing medium that was used is a combination of high porosity potting mix and peat moss so that it is lightweight and retains water. A series of "sipper" water tanks were also installed below the tree which work on a capillary system so that the soil wicks water into the soil as it needs it. This system prevents overwatering and allows the water to release slowly over time. The watering containers that are in place can store 96 L of water, all told.

We are so excited to be a part of this gift to the city and its residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bianca Bodley".

Bianca Bodley and the BIOPHILIA design collective.



July 20, 2020

Thomas Soulliere  
Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities, City of Victoria  
City Hall, 1 Centennial Square  
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

Dear Thomas,

**RE: Project Albero - Public Dock Structural Engineering  
Gorge Waterway off Banfield Park, Victoria**

**RJC No. VIC.127845.0001**

As requested, Read Jones Christoffersen Ltd. (RJC) confirms that we have reviewed the design and construction of the 20' diameter floating public dock at the above location.

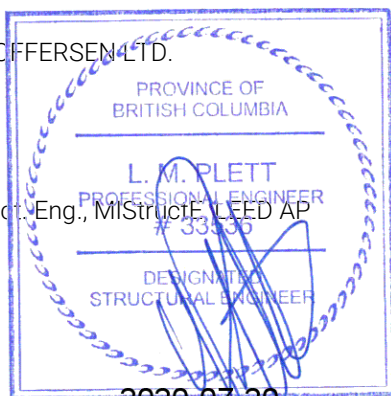
RJC reviewed the materials and member sizing, connections, floatation capacity, and construction of the dock prior to it being lifted into the water. We confirm the capacity of the dock and the materials used are appropriate for its intended use as a public swim amenity.

We trust this letter meets your requirements. Please contact the writer if you have any questions.

Yours truly,

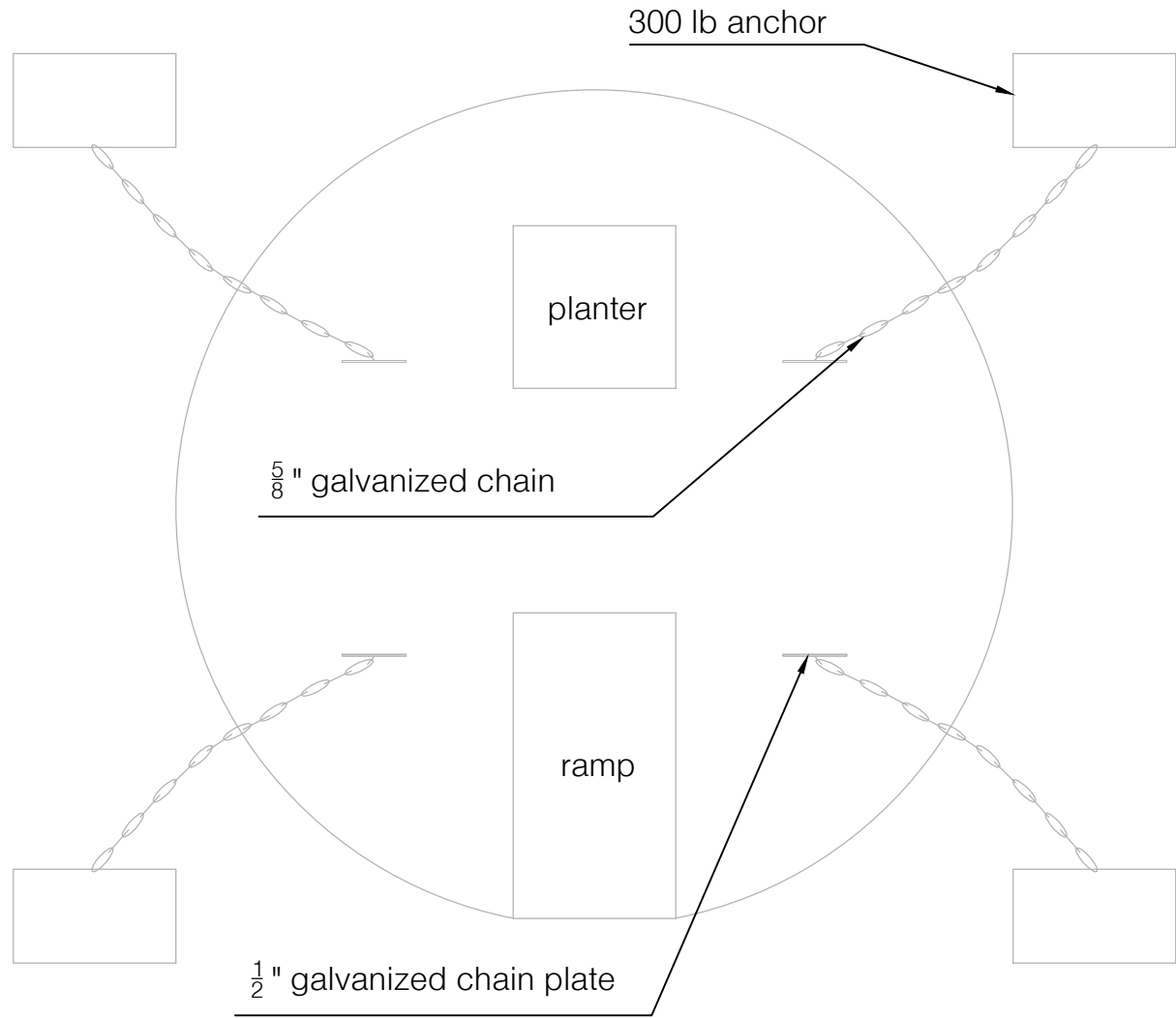
READ JONES CHRISTOFFERSEN LTD.

Leon Plett, P.Eng., Struct. Eng., M.STRUCT. LEED AP  
Managing Principal



LP/mml





1

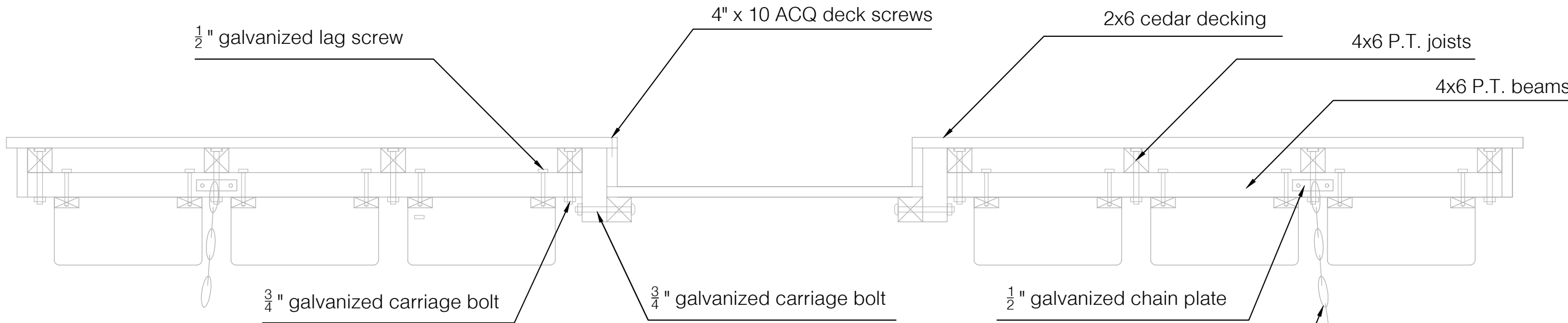
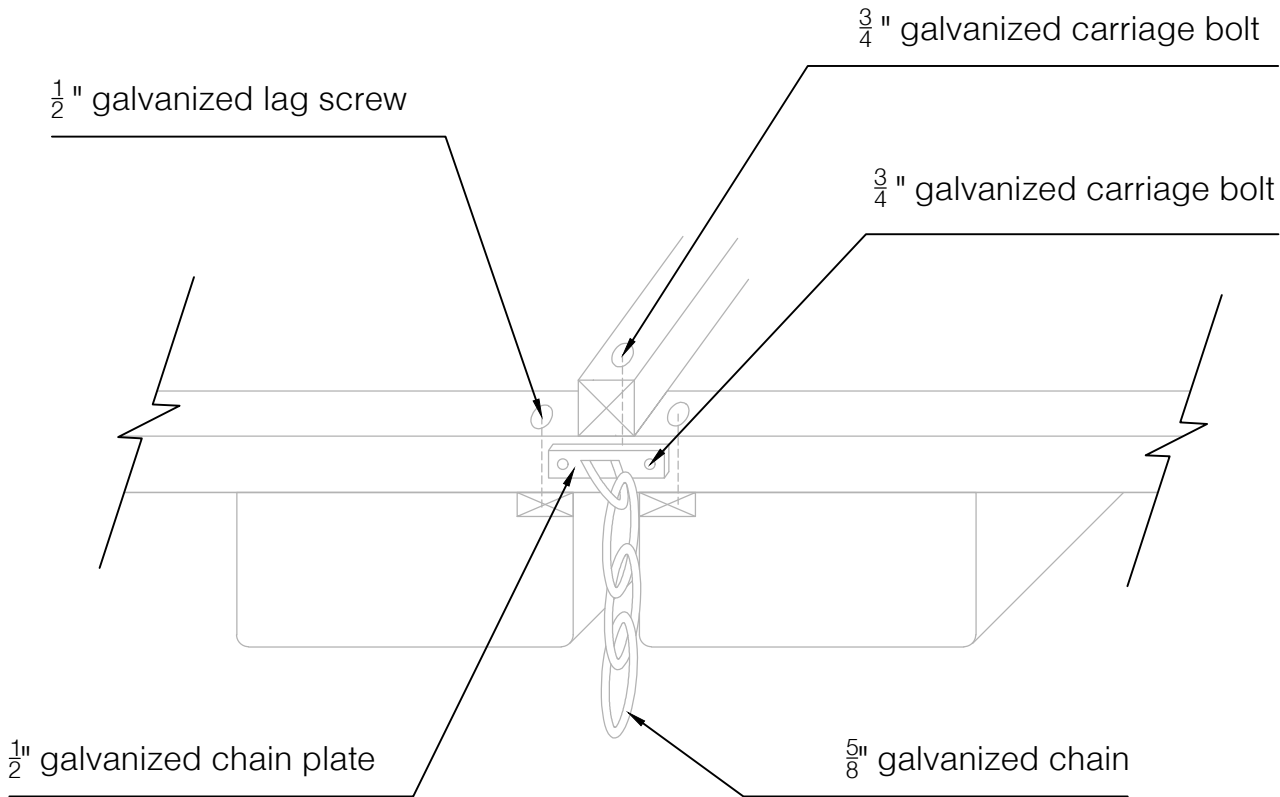
Anchor Plan

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

2

Anchor Fastening Detail

SCALE: 1" = 1'-0"

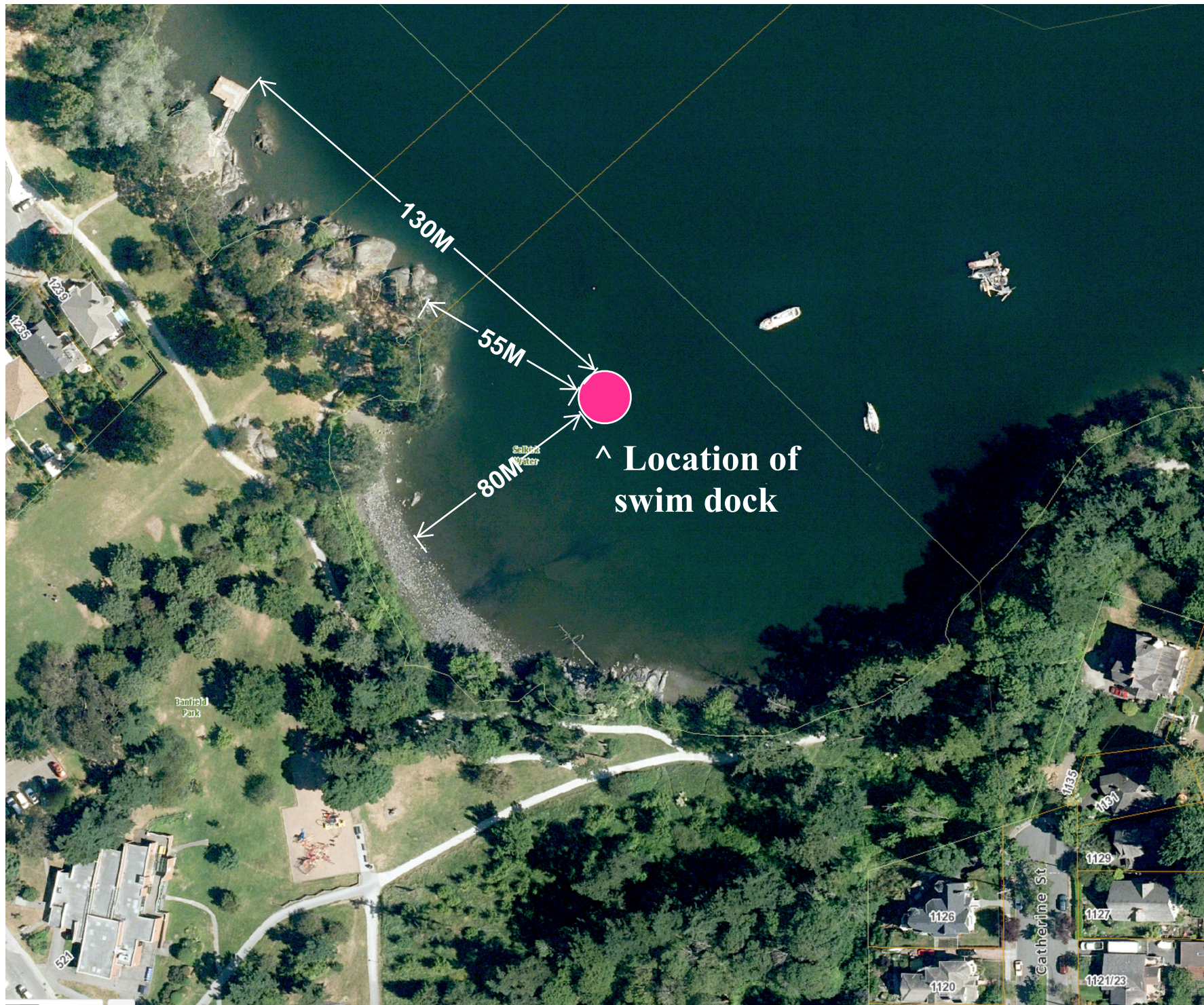


3

Cross Section

SCALE: 3/4" = 1'-0"









**ARYZE**





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**ARYZE**