

ATAK

fr-Ost

Hunting, traveling and harvesting remain at the heart of the Inuit culture and way of life.¹ Hunting is an integral part of the lifestyle of indigenous people in the Arctic, providing sustenance as well as clothing and income.² The teaching and learning outcomes of hunting skills and knowledge of the environment creates intergenerational links³ and also contributes to a strong community bond. For wages and family incomes, hunting becomes a major food source and occasionally added income.⁴ At different times of the year, most men and many women partake in some form of hunting, fishing and collecting activities. These activities are associated with the various wildlife species in the region, which include caribou, ringed seal, bearded seal, narwhal, Arctic fox, polar bear, Arctic hare and Arctic char.

Essential to the movement associated with the hunt comes in the form of a traditional tool, the snowshoe. So deeply ingrained is the snowshoe in Inuit culture that, while stories differ in the purpose of the journey, it's said that what we consider the Milky Way is in fact a celestial snowshoe trail left by the Raven.⁵ The snowshoe enables hunters to better traverse the arctic landscape, creating a larger surface for walking.

The proposal reflects the idea of connection, supporting the communal nature of hunting and linking users to a spiritual past. Also a representation of the nomadic lifestyle of temporary stay and movement through the land, a portable shelter, similar to a qamutik, has been designed to support hunters in their journeys. The shelter abstracts the foundational weave of the snowshoe into a collapsible structure, and is grounded to the North through its inspiration and use as an encouragement of community.

¹ "Inuit Culture," Canada North Outfitting, accessed September 16, 2022, <https://www.canadanorthoutfitting.com/inuit-culture/>.

² Chris M. Furgal, Stuart Innes, and Kit M. Kovacs, "Inuit spring hunting techniques and local knowledge of the ringed seal in Arctic Bay (Ikpiarjuk), Nunavut," *Polar Research* 21, no. 1 (2002): 1-16.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, *The Inuit Way: A Guide to Inuit Culture* (Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, 2006) 14-20.

⁵ Ann Fienup-Riordan, "How Raven Marked the Land When the Earth Was New," *Études Inuit Studies* 41, no. 1-2 (2017): 215-241.

