After a major event such as the Olympics, the buildings left behind, constructed for major spectacles seen by huge numbers of people, need to re-adapt. As Sydney Olympic Park attempts to become a viable business and recreational precinct after the 6 week event it was constructed for, a series of shifts and interventions are necessary to ensure the infrastructure's viability over the longer term. Food @ the Overflow was a proposal to introduce a permanent facility to provide the precinct with a variety of food experiences: a market, restaurants, bars, cafes and stalls. Of fundamental importance in providing an appropriate built solution to the brief was how to address the scale shift from the existing built environment—a series of massive buildings that house tens of thousands of people (Telstra Stadium, the Acer Arena, the Showground Buildings et al) set in a park planned to handle hundreds of thousands of people, down to the intimate act of enjoying food.

The solution was to provide a large canopy roof; a simple folded roof form approximately 150 metres long and 30 metres wide, which acts as an intermediary between the big scale buildings of the Park, to protect a series of smaller, more intimate structures. The canopy consists of 2 folded surfaces— the upper surface providing shelter; the lower surface concealing structure and services, and encouraging natural air movement throughout the facility. Both surfaces come together to create a continuous fine edge to the structure, with the southern end lifting to address the street corner and a major approach path from Olympic Stadium and the north-east to reveal views of the cauldron at the southern end of the roof; and raising from the market street and along the edge of the proposed hawker style street market, providing a focus and defining edges and pedestrian movement patterns. Organised in a linear arrangement, the proposal introduces a central hawker style street market comprising of small scale stalls, a series of specialty food outlets (pods) within lightweight structures providing a non-structural edge along the market street and a view of the dining restaurants with adjacent gardens and seating areas along the eastern edge, addressing both the market street and the north-east walkway and fish tanks provide identifiable focal points on either end of the proposal, assisting in wayfinding and directing visitors into the internal market street.

Existing lines of trees along the Boulevard provide shade to the pods from the western sun and the pods provide afternoon shade for the market street. The permeability of the proposal will promote natural cross ventilation at ground level and above, allowing hot air to rise and be expelled by cross drafts captured by the roof.