

The background of the entire page is a detailed architectural drawing. It features a complex grid of dashed lines that create a sense of depth and perspective. On the left side, there are several vertical rectangular structures, possibly representing walls or columns, drawn with solid lines and some shading. The overall style is technical and precise, typical of architectural blueprints or conceptual drawings.

# Nirmohi Kathrecha

Selected works  
2015-24

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Selected works  
2015-24

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## EDUCATION

2024-2025 **Cornell University, New York City**  
Post-Professional Masters of Science, Advanced Urban Design  
Director's Award

2015-2020 **School of Environment and Architecture (SEA), Mumbai**  
Bachelor of Architecture, University of Mumbai  
CGPA: 8.99/10

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Sept 2020 - May 2023 **Project Architect**  
**SJK Architects**  
Mumbai  
- Applied principles of circularity and low-embodied carbon in a 15,000 sq.ft automobile design studio, prioritizing 'design for disassembly'  
- Designed a 336,000 sq.ft. retreat in rural Maharashtra, The Courtyard House, merging traditional and contemporary strategies for spatial cohesion and climate responsiveness  
- Analyzed city-funded institutions and developed inclusive design guidelines for the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai's Gender Committee, making civic infrastructure more accessible for women, elderly, and children  
- Researched and designed a animal shelter in Pune using vernacular construction for improved climate resilience and animal comfort  
- Spearheading collaborations with renowned magazines and journals, penning thought-provoking blogs on architectural issues as the Publication and Writing Head

April 2023 - April 2025 **Lead Architect**  
**Independent Practice**  
Mumbai  
- Studying World Bank's low- and middle-income group housing in Charkop, Mumbai, to support a redevelopment project for 100 residents using zoning and climate-adaptive strategies  
- Designing and executing a 10,000 sq.ft multi-generational home in Ahmedabad, integrating passive design and climate responsiveness  
- Designing a stage set for Avantika Bahl's "How are you today?" performance at NMACC, exploring narrative-driven public space design

Aug 2024 - May 2025 **Graduate Teaching Research Specialist**  
**Cornell University**  
New York City  
- Collaborated with Jesse LeCavalier to communicate the MSAUD program's critical, data-driven approach to urbanism, spatial justice, and climate-resilient public realm design

Oct 2018 - April 2019 **Architectural Intern**  
**Malik Architecture**  
Mumbai  
- Analyzed interstitial spaces in Mumbai's Ballard Estate to develop cultural public realm strategies through urban analysis and typological experiments  
- Co-curated "Into the Shadows," an exhibition reflecting on the firm's evolving urban and cultural narratives over four decades

## AFFILIATIONS

2021 - 2031  
Licensed Architect  
Council of Architecture, India  
Member CA/2021/136766

## AWARDS

JN Tata Scholar 2024

Director's Award, Cornell University

Graduate Teaching Research Award,  
Cornell University

Awarded for best performance in  
Technology, School of Environment  
and Architecture

Awarded for best performance in  
Architectural Design, School of  
Environment and Architecture

Obtained distinction across all  
semesters, School of Environment  
and Architecture

Non-Architecture Competiton,  
"Inducing Play, IIT - Bombay", 2020,  
Finalist

The Little Big Loo, Volume Zero  
Competition, 2020, Top 50

## SKILLS

### Software & Tools

Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator,  
Adobe InDesign, Adobe Lightroom,  
QGIS, ArcGIS, Python, AutoCAD,  
Revit, Rhinoceros, Grasshopper,  
SketchUp, Enscape, D5 Render  
Lumion, Vectorworks, Unreal engine,  
Microsoft Office, Hand drafting,  
Model making, Carpentry

## PUBLICATIONS

Unbuilt 2.0: Architecture of Future Collectives (Chapter "Inducing Play, IIT Bombay" by **Kathrecha, N.**). (2022). [Print]. ArchitectureLive!

Mapping floods: is Mumbai at the risk of being submerged? (**Kathrecha, N.** Interviewee). (2020, September 8). Citizens Matter.

That sinking feeling (2019, December 1). Midday. (Mumbai-based print newspaper)

Tracing Play: Across educational institutes (dissertation). **Kathrecha, N.** (2019)

Weaving Natural Fibres, SEA Press. Editor and contributor. (2019)

Seahive, adaptive threshold morphologies, parametric architecture, SEA Press. Editor. (2017)

Joal Koathaa, story of the wetlands of Kolkata, SEA Press. Editor and contributor. (2017)

What is a home?: Stories of resettlement colonies in eastern suburban Mumbai [Print]. Contributor, Class of 2020. (2016)

The water people: A graphic novel about the coastal region in Maharashtra [Print]. Contributor, Class of 2020. (2015)

## EXHIBITIONS

Envirovision Conference, Mumbai, India. Digital Presentation. **Kathrecha N.**, Ranade S., Uniyal D., Jhawar M. (co-curators and presenters, 12/01/2019)

International Geodesign Summit, Redlands, California. (24/02/2020 - 27/02/2020)

Kochi Muziris Biennale. Mixed Media (06/12/2016 - 29/03/2017, 1:1 Interactive Models, Architectural Drawings)

Shanghai Muziris Biennale. Mixed Media (12/11/2016 - 12/03/2017, 1:1 Interactive Models, Architectural Drawings)

## VOLUNTEER AND LEADERSHIP

Haverhill PS Art Showcase in Boston. Canvas Painting. **Kathrecha, N.**, Artist. (2017)

Volunteer at Sattva, an NGO dedicated to empowering women from Sion Koliwada, a fishing colony in Mumbai, India

Content Committee Founder and Head, 2015-17

Class Representative, SEA Student Council, 2015-16

## COMMISSIONED WORK

Kathrecha, N. (design head). 2021. Rolling Mills Brewery. Mumbai: Freelance work.

Kathrecha, N. (architect). 2019. Residence. Coimbatore: Freelance work.

Kathrecha, N. (designer). 2018. Kia Motors. Freelance work.

## LANGUAGES

English (Proficient), Gujarati (Native), Hindi (Native), Marathi (Basic)

## INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

Multidisciplinary teamwork and collaboration, time management, community engagement, problem solving, public speaking, communication, critical thinking, analysis and research, writing and editing

## INTERESTS

Art, Publishing and Print Media, Cartography, Music, Reading and Writing

## REFERENCES

Jesse LeCavalier  
Director,  
MS Advaced Urban Design  
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Cornell University  
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Anuj Daga  
Professor and Thesis guide, SEA  
Yale University Alumnus  
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Vaishali Mangalvedhekar  
Partner,  
SJK Architects  
IIT-Bombay Alumna  
vaishali@sjkarchitect.com

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Adaptive reuse, and design for disassembly structure execution for an Automobile Design Studio. Completed, SJK Architects, 2020-22  
Mumbai

- Disassembly-driven architecture
- Low-carbon material selection
- Construction drawing and on-site execution

### 02 (Re)drawing Urban Boundaries 13 - 20

Tracing my neighbourhood's transformation from planned infrastructure to lived urbanism and proposed redevelopment. Under construction, Independent, 2020-23  
Mumbai

- Developer coordination, feasibility analysis, and costing
- Permission drawings and resident engagement
- Informality and cultural mapping for incremental design

### 03 Joal Koathaa 21 - 24

This project examines how ecological systems, livelihood practices, and gender dynamics intersect in the East Kolkata Wetlands. Under construction, Independent, 2020-23  
Ahmedabad

- Productive Ecologies
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### 04 Vaastu Vansh (The House of Lineage) 25 - 28

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- Contextual design and execution
- Consultant integration and detailing
- BOQ and vendor alignment

## Data Visualisation

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Mapping the spatial and perceptual impact of scaffolding on POPS using Python, user feedback, and sentiment data. Fall Semester, Cornell AAP, 2024  
New York City

- Python for data cleaning and structing
- Sentiment analysis and Natural Language Processing (NLP)
- Spatial data visualization and temporal mapping

## Urban Design / Academic

### 06 Of Land or Water? 35 - 48

Exploring Mumbai's flooding crisis and adapting to tidal action, groundwater, and rising sea levels. Fall Semester, SEA, 2019  
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- Sustainable urban design
- Community and stakeholder engagement
- Zoning and policy-making

### 07 Inducing Play 49 - 62

Intervening in power-embedded campuses using play to disrupt institutions, spark inquiry, and challenge standardized knowledge and spatial conditioning. Undergraduate Thesis, SEA, 2019-20  
Mumbai

- Critical theory
- Spatiality and politics of institutions
- Bottom-up urban interventions

### 08 Speculation to Stewardship 63 - 68

In Willets Point and Corona, this project resists speculation, reclaims public land, and advances community-led stewardship through design and policy. Spring Semester, Cornell AAP, 2025  
New York City

- Climate adaptation and land justice
- Urban commons and stewardship
- Mixed use development

## Interdisciplinary Work

### 09 Design across mediums 69 - 74

Exploring how architectural and urban ideas are communicated through narrative, context, and spatial storytelling across disciplines.

- Shanghai Biennale and Kochi Biennale
- Publications
- Exhibition design and drawings
- Graphic novel
- Set design
- Art
- Academic and professional competitions

01

# Design for Disassembly

Professional work, SJK Architects, completed

**Location:** Mumbai

**Team:** Vaishali Mangalvedhekar, Michelle Pereira

**Role:** Project Architect - Site study, concept development, material research, 3D modelling, site co-ordination, client presentations, integration of services, tender drawing, good for construction drawings, author of all the drawings in this chapter

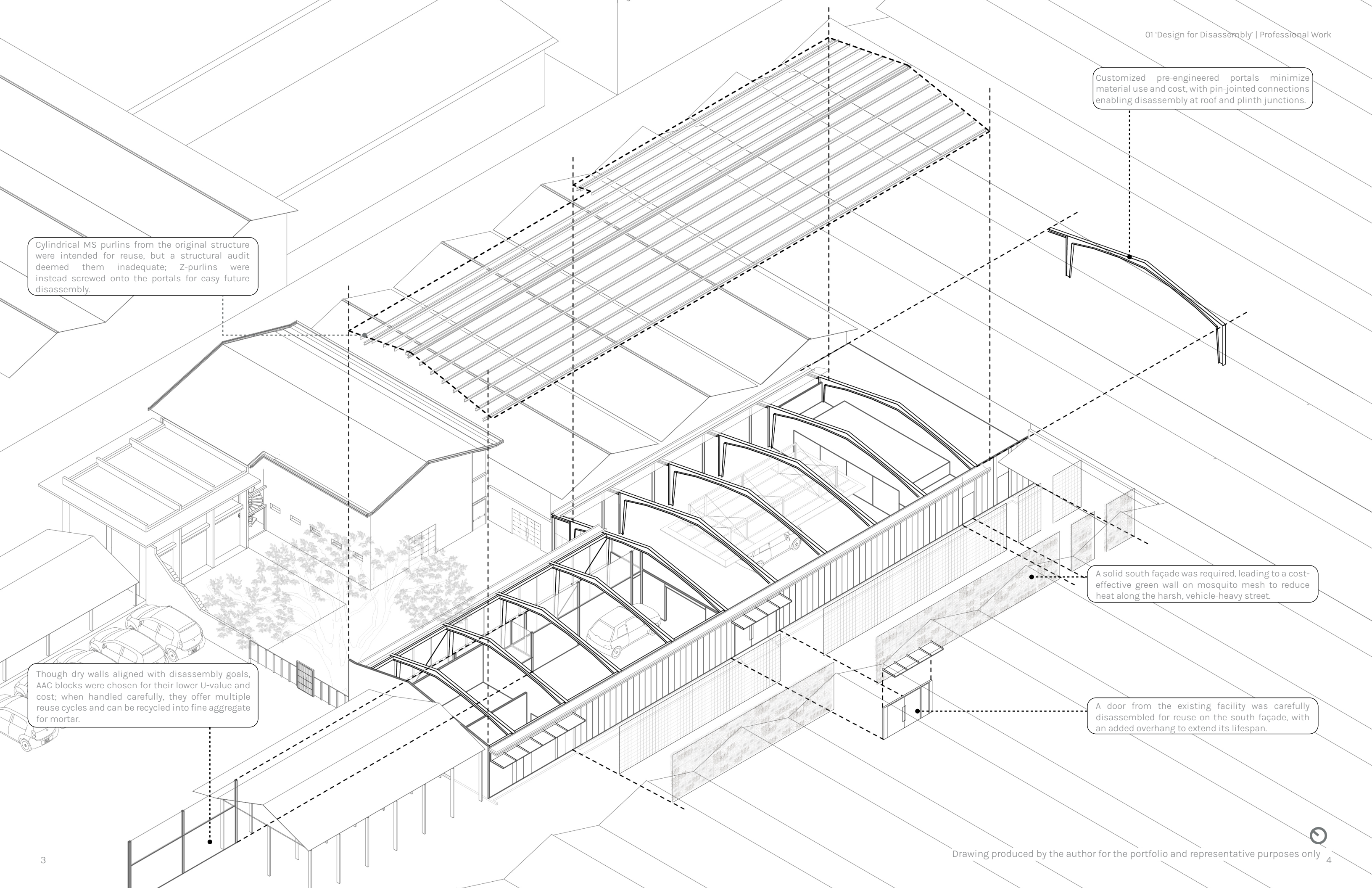
**Software:** Vectorworks, SketchUp, Adobe Illustrator, Lumion, VRay

The Automobile Design Studio is located within a 64-acre manufacturing campus in Kandivali, Mumbai—an oasis of low-lying sheds and greenery amid the dense suburban sprawl. The site's existing industrial sheds, built with mild-steel portal frames, were in varying states of wear.

The project extends a facility built by SJK Architects in 2015, adding offices, workshops, display areas, and recreational spaces. As the client rapidly outgrew the earlier shed, a G+3 structure was proposed, detailed for future vertical expansion. However, a tight budget prevented foundations for additional floors.

Concerned about the environmental impact of future demolition, the team designed the structure for disassembly. Each component was evaluated for carbon footprint, recyclability, reusability, budget, and thermal performance. Careful detailing at junctions and strategies of adaptive reuse stitched the old and new sheds together, preserving the original footprint while renewing the campus.





Cylindrical MS purlins from the original structure were intended for reuse, but a structural audit deemed them inadequate; Z-purlins were instead screwed onto the portals for easy future disassembly.

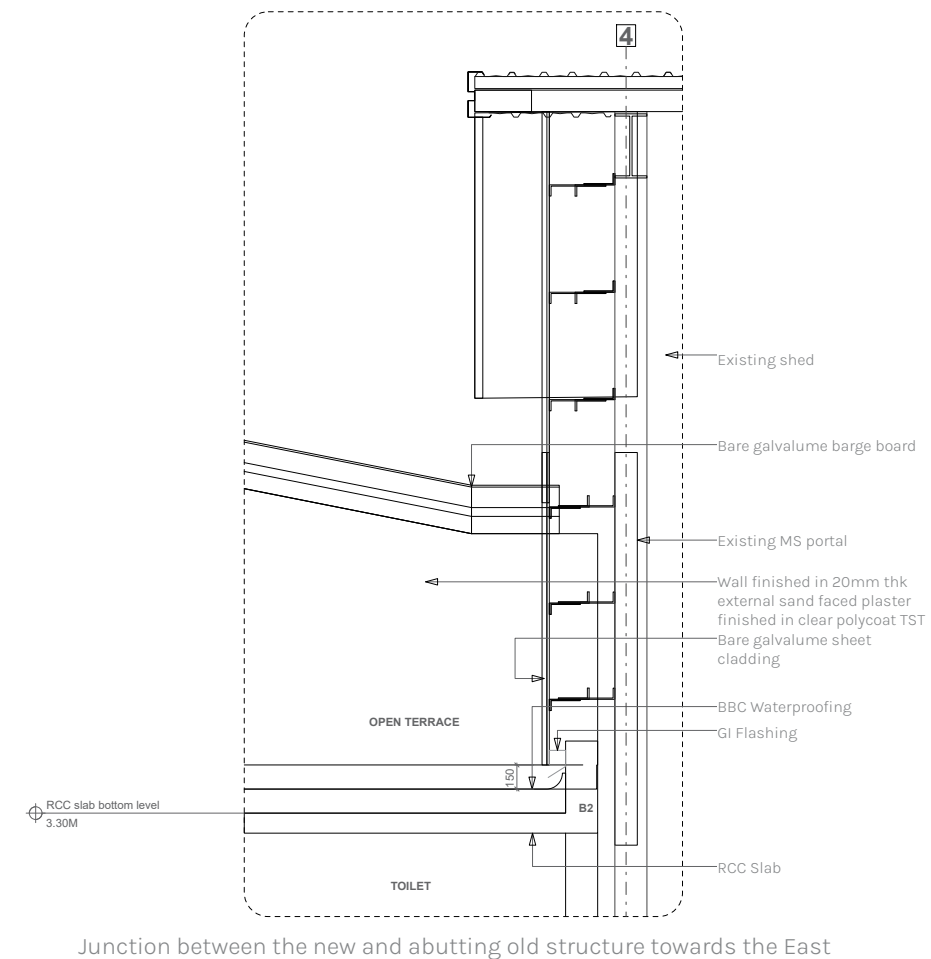
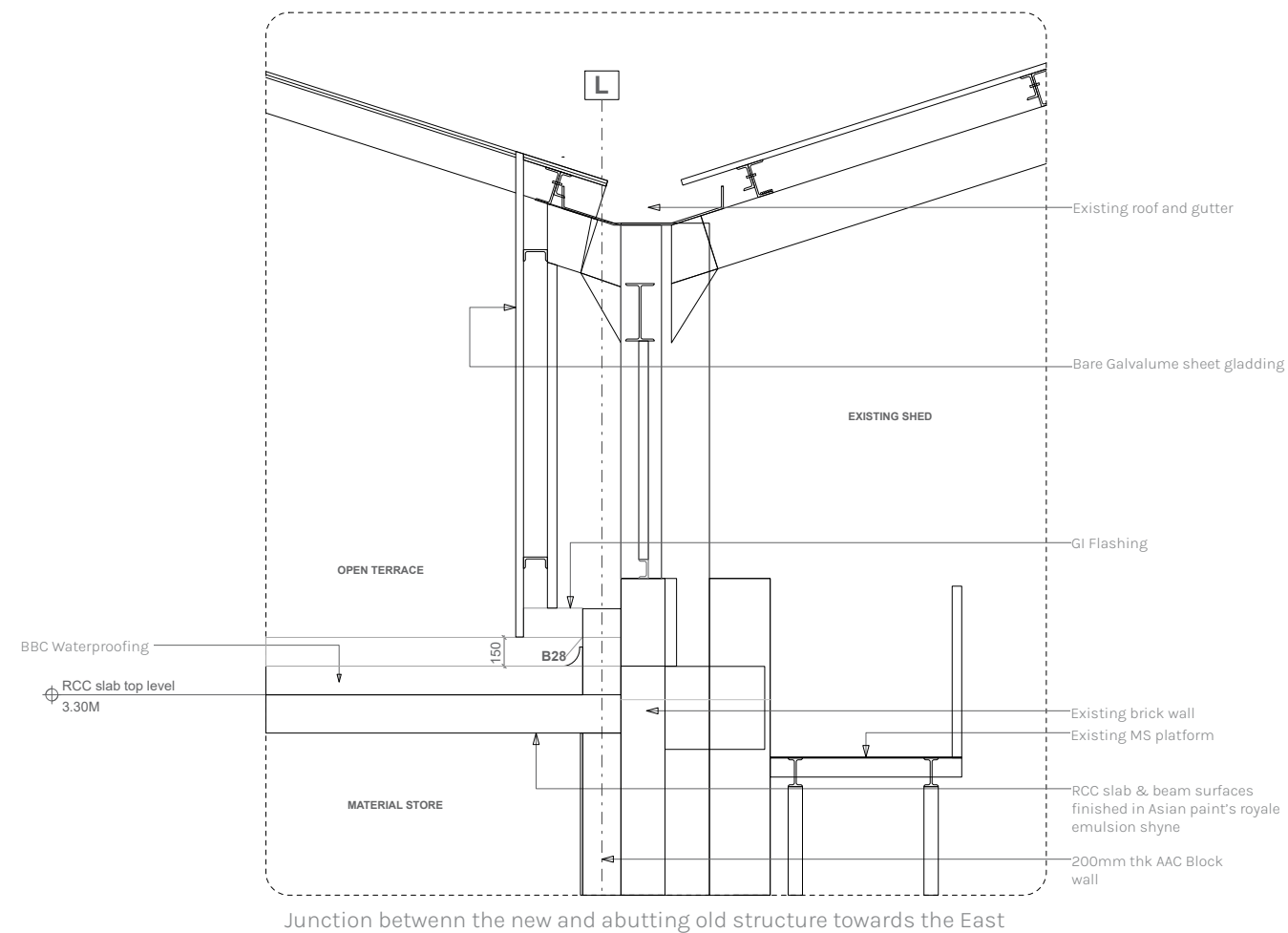
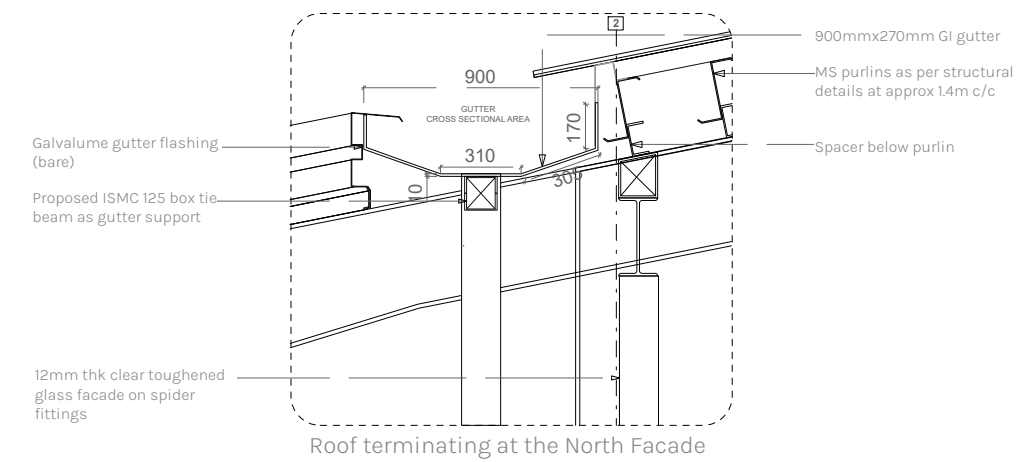
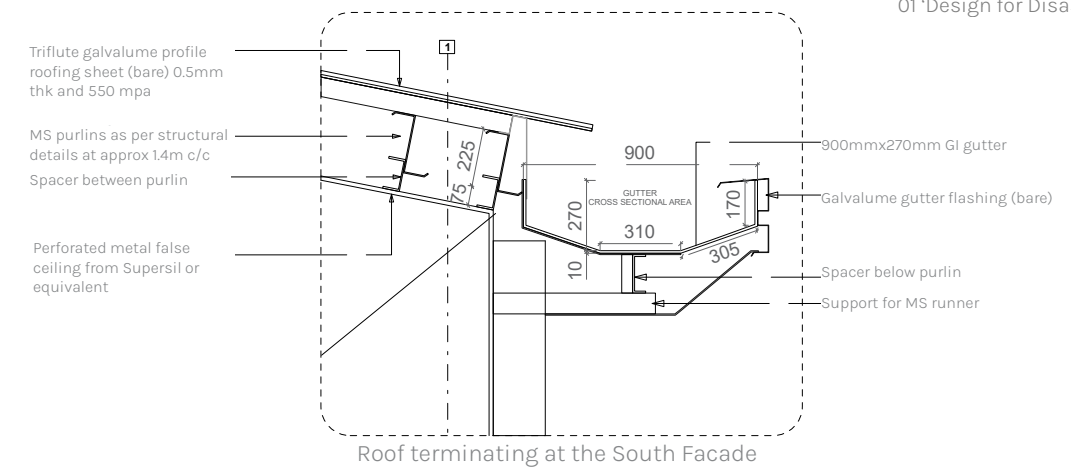
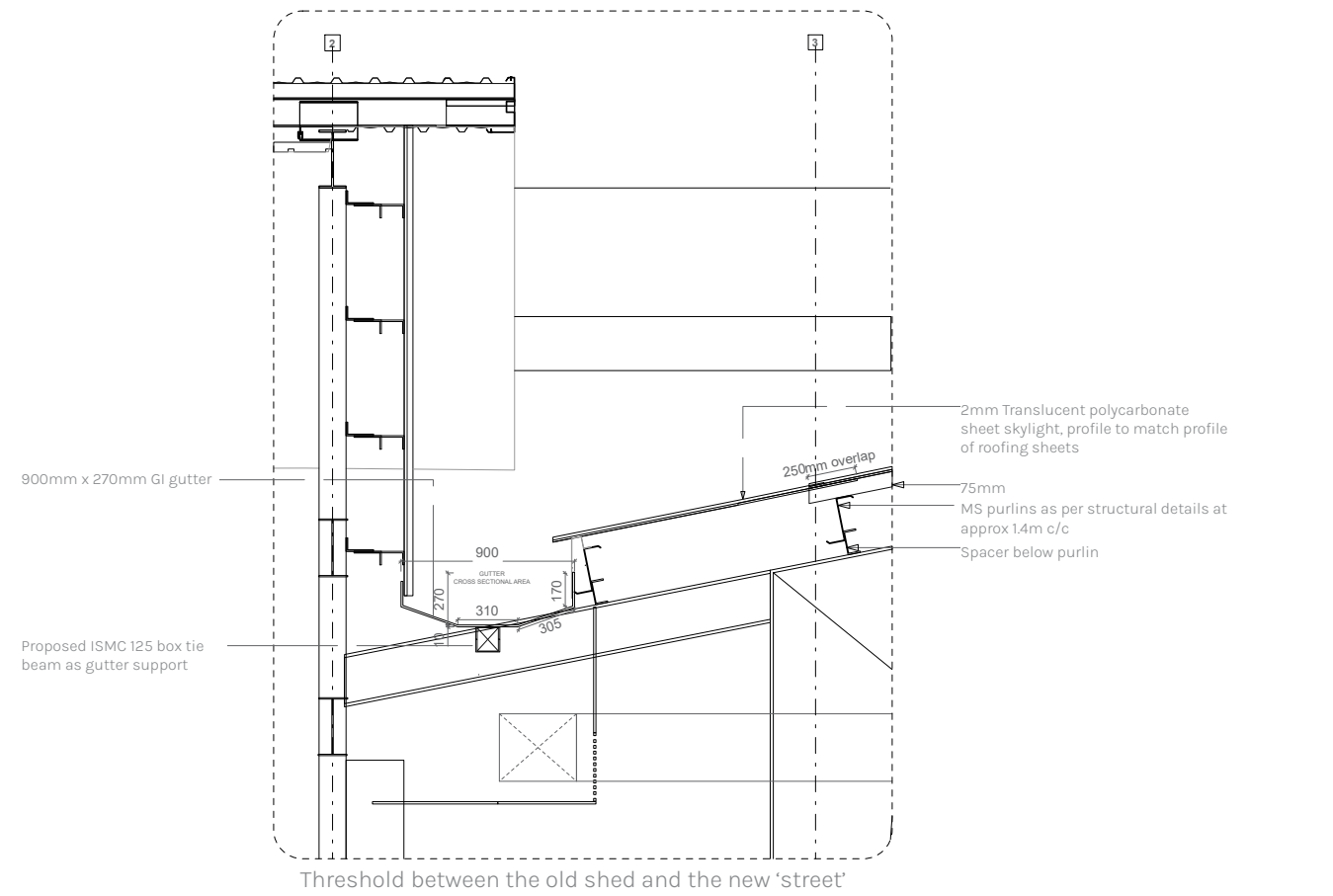
Customized pre-engineered portals minimize material use and cost, with pin-jointed connections enabling disassembly at roof and plinth junctions.

A solid south façade was required, leading to a cost-effective green wall on mosquito mesh to reduce heat along the harsh, vehicle-heavy street.

Though dry walls aligned with disassembly goals, AAC blocks were chosen for their lower U-value and cost; when handled carefully, they offer multiple reuse cycles and can be recycled into fine aggregate for mortar.

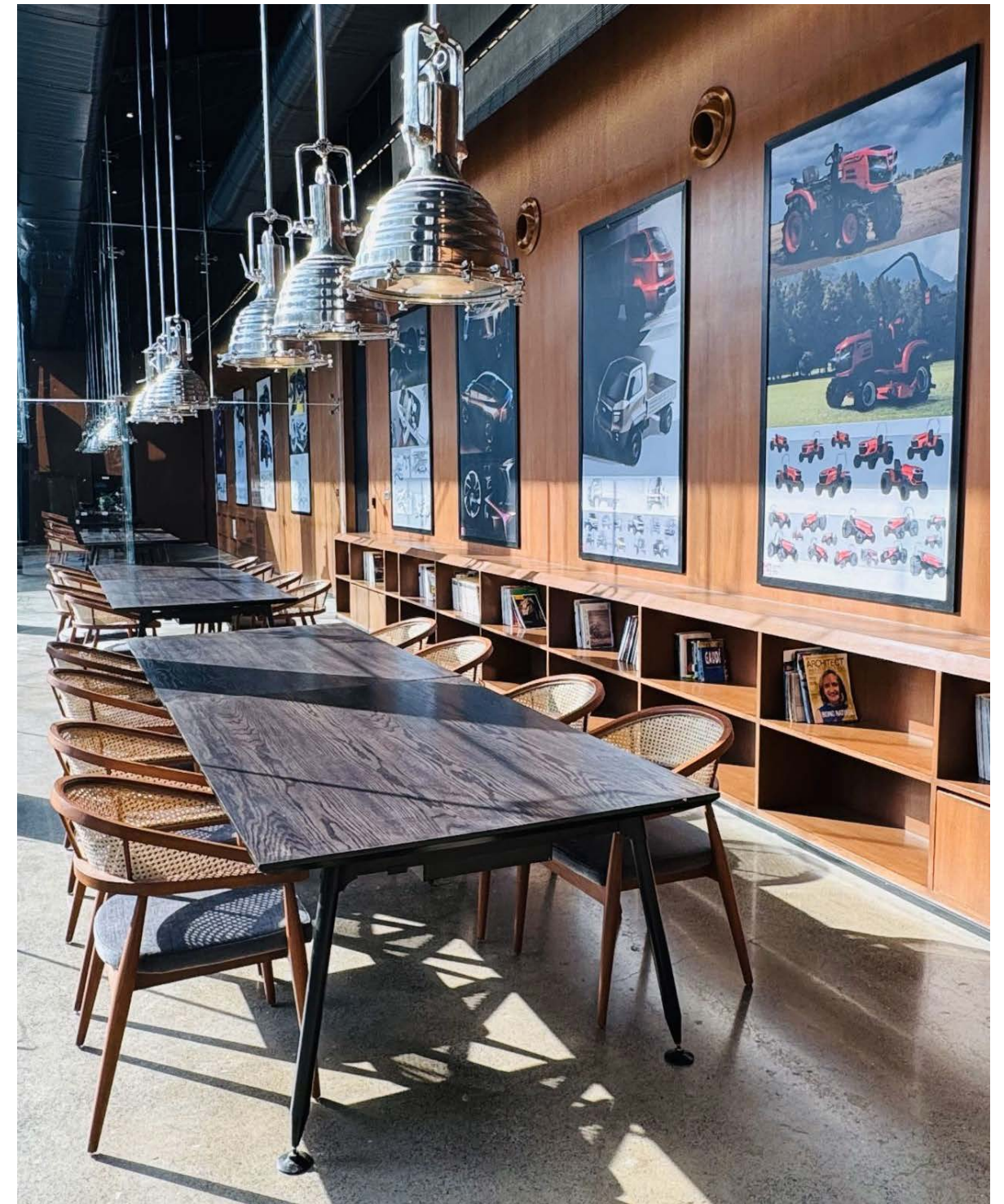
A door from the existing facility was carefully disassembled for reuse on the south façade, with an added overhang to extend its lifespan.







Hard model area



Modelmaker's area



New Mahindra car in front of the North facade

# (Re)drawing Urban Boundaries

Independent professional design & research

## Ongoing construction

**Location:** Mumbai

**Developer:** Multi Space Developers

**Software:** V-Ray, SketchUp, Rhinoceros, AutoCAD, Adobe Illustrator

I have lived in Gorai since 1999, navigating its streets by foot - walking to school, finding friends, and tracing memories onto its shifting map.

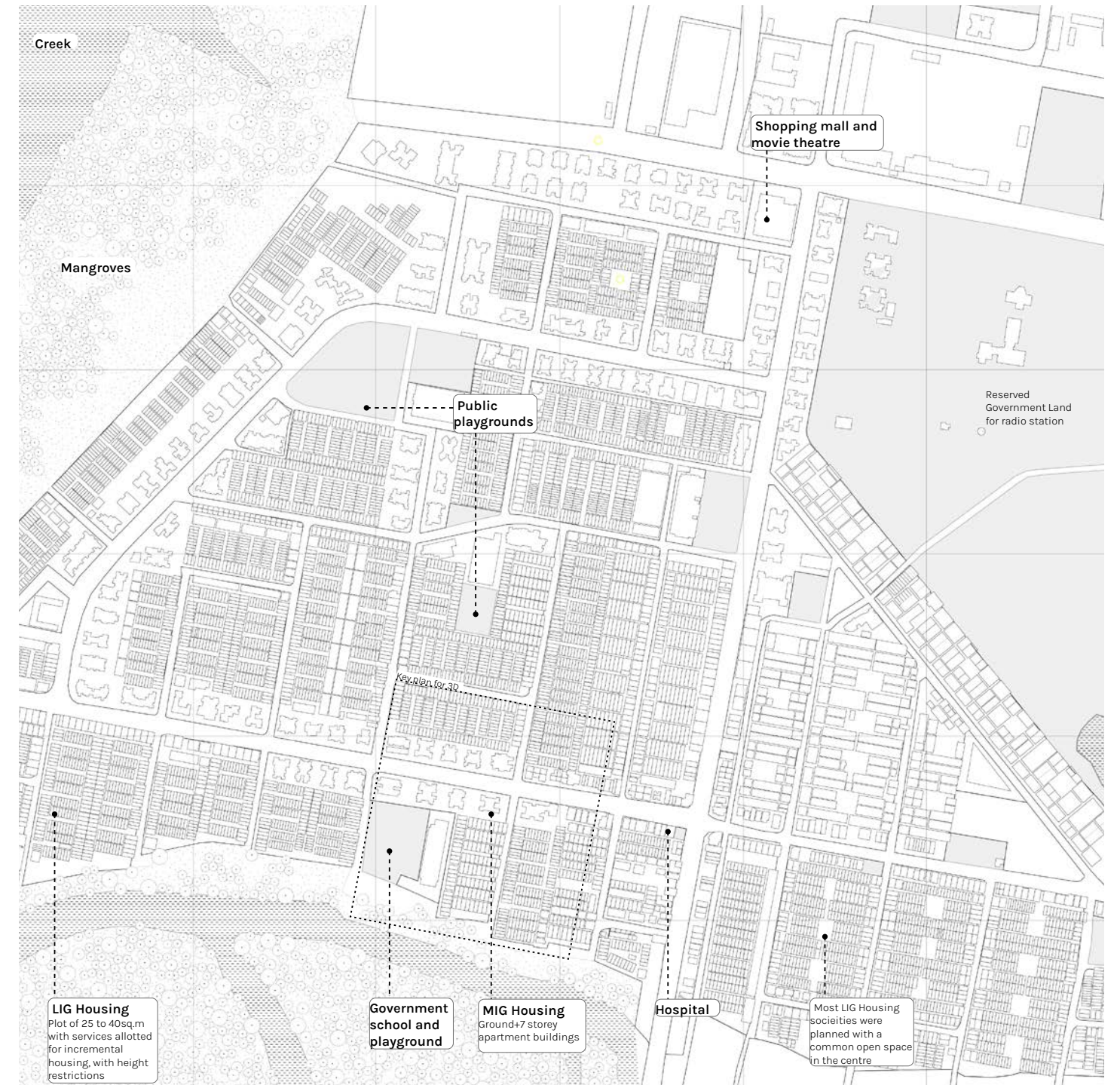
Originally part of the World Bank-funded Bombay Urban Development Project (1985-93), Gorai was designed for low-income groups with complete infrastructure. But the lived reality departs from its planned vision.

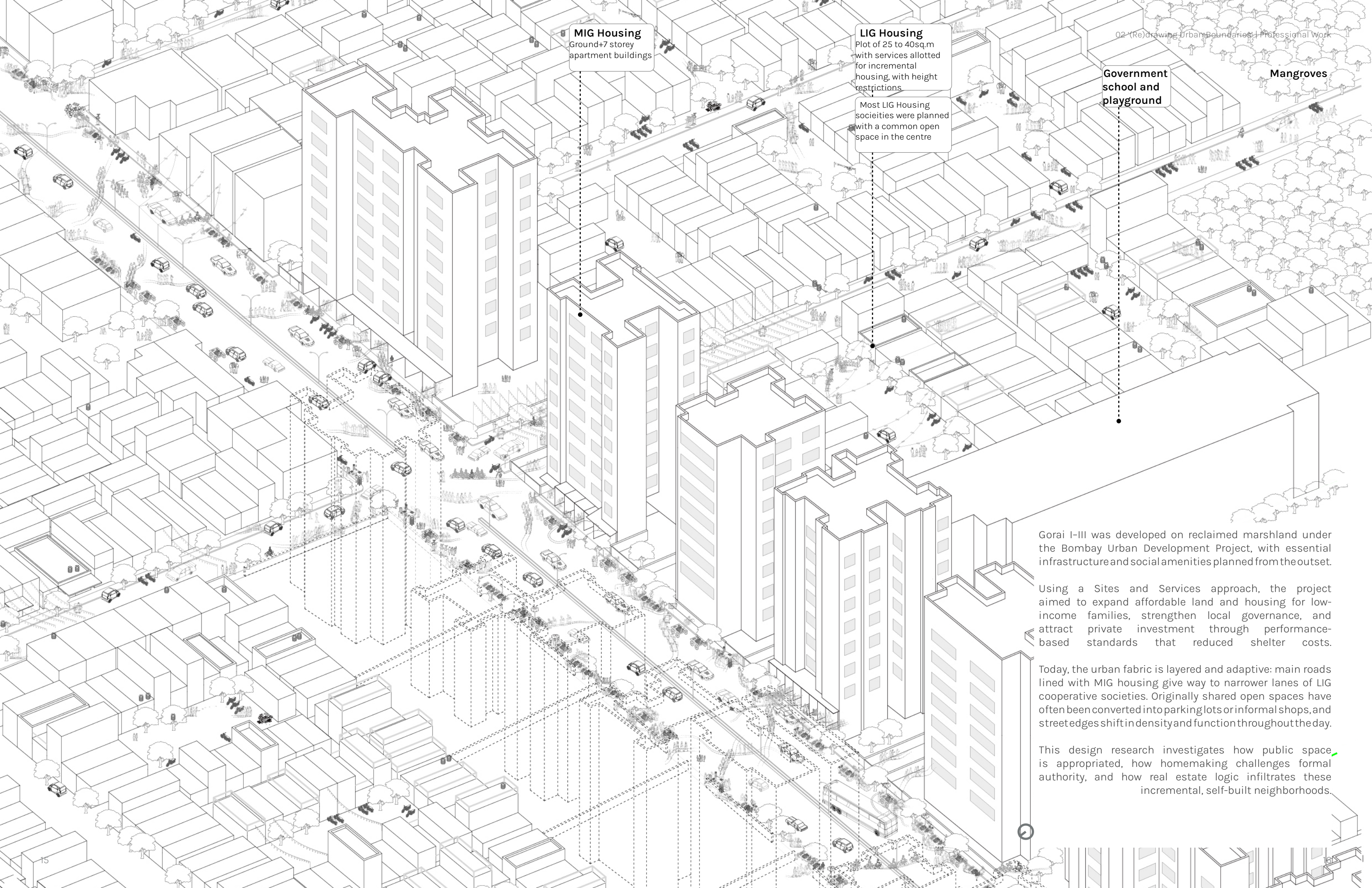
In 2020, I began mapping this disconnect using sketches over satellite images and photographs to document how daily life reshaped space. My architectural lens revealed quiet forms of resistance - homemaking as dissent within a structured, aspirational layout.

When a private builder approached our apartment for redevelopment, it exposed how the neighbourhood - and the city - is increasingly viewed as real estate, not as home.

## This work traces:

1. The layered, lived urban fabric
2. Design strategies to bridge the disconnect- currently under construction





**MIG Housing**  
Ground+7 storey  
apartment buildings

**LIG Housing**  
Plot of 25 to 40sq.m  
with services allotted  
for incremental  
housing, with height  
restrictions  
  
Most LIG Housing  
societies were planned  
with a common open  
space in the centre

**Government  
school and  
playground**

**Mangroves**

Gorai I-III was developed on reclaimed marshland under the Bombay Urban Development Project, with essential infrastructure and social amenities planned from the outset.

Using a Sites and Services approach, the project aimed to expand affordable land and housing for low-income families, strengthen local governance, and attract private investment through performance-based standards that reduced shelter costs.

Today, the urban fabric is layered and adaptive: main roads lined with MIG housing give way to narrower lanes of LIG cooperative societies. Originally shared open spaces have often been converted into parking lots or informal shops, and street edges shift in density and function throughout the day.

This design research investigates how public space is appropriated, how homemaking challenges formal authority, and how real estate logic infiltrates these incremental, self-built neighborhoods.

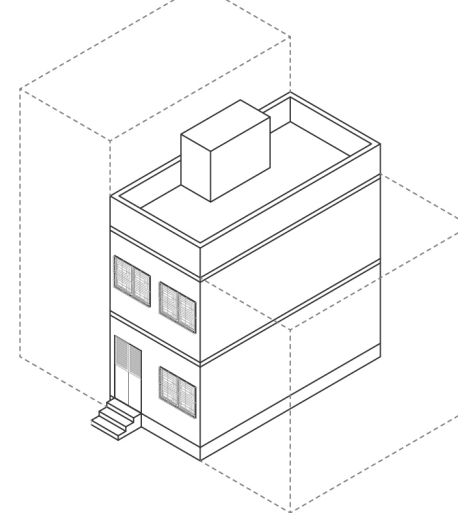
In this neighborhood, streets are never just pathways—they're in constant dialogue with their surroundings and the state. They double as stages, markets, mandaps, parking zones, and places of worship, adapting daily to shifting intensities of use.

These "public" spaces blur the line between formal and informal. During festivals, footpaths turn into storage zones, and roads become gathering spaces, often bringing movement to a halt. Yet while the state classifies streets as public property, it also seeks to control and restrict their use - raising the question: **who really owns the street?**

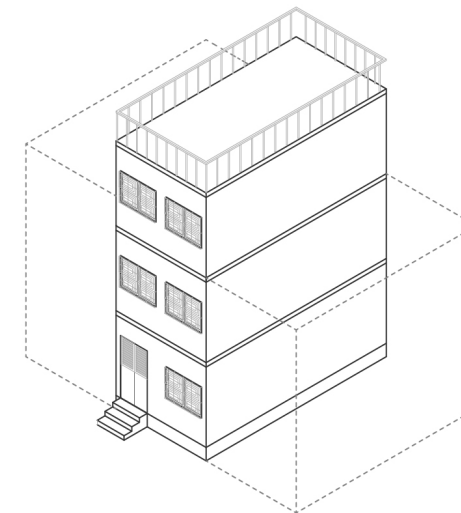
Efforts to "decongest" by regulating street use expose how the state defines publicness, often tied to order, consumption, and visibility. But these contested streets offer another view of the public: one that is dynamic, adaptive, and shaped by everyday practices.

This project explores how homemaking and daily rituals reclaim these in-between spaces, challenging top-down definitions and revealing the street as both a tool of regulation and resistance.

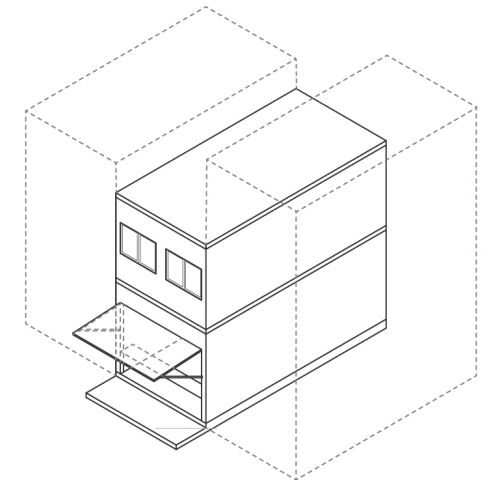
The different personalities of LIG Houses



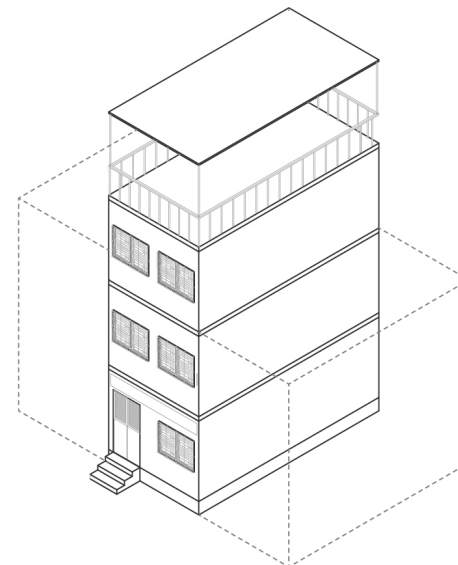
Standard house



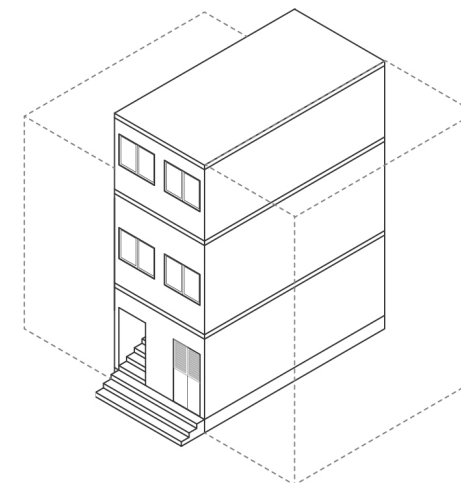
Incremental house



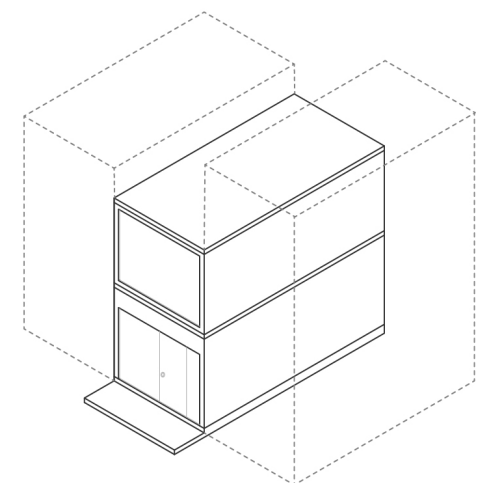
Shop front house



Airbnb house

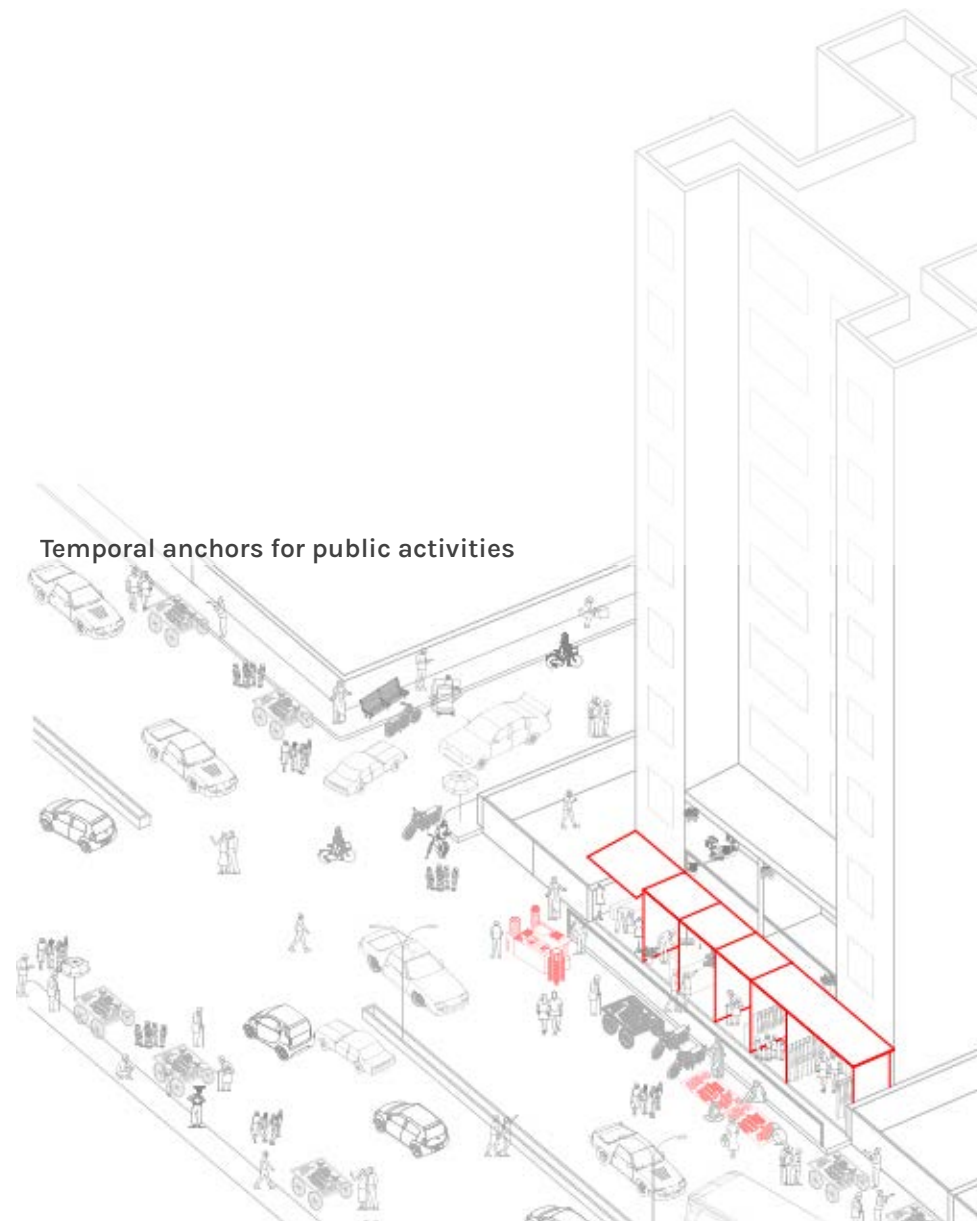


School House

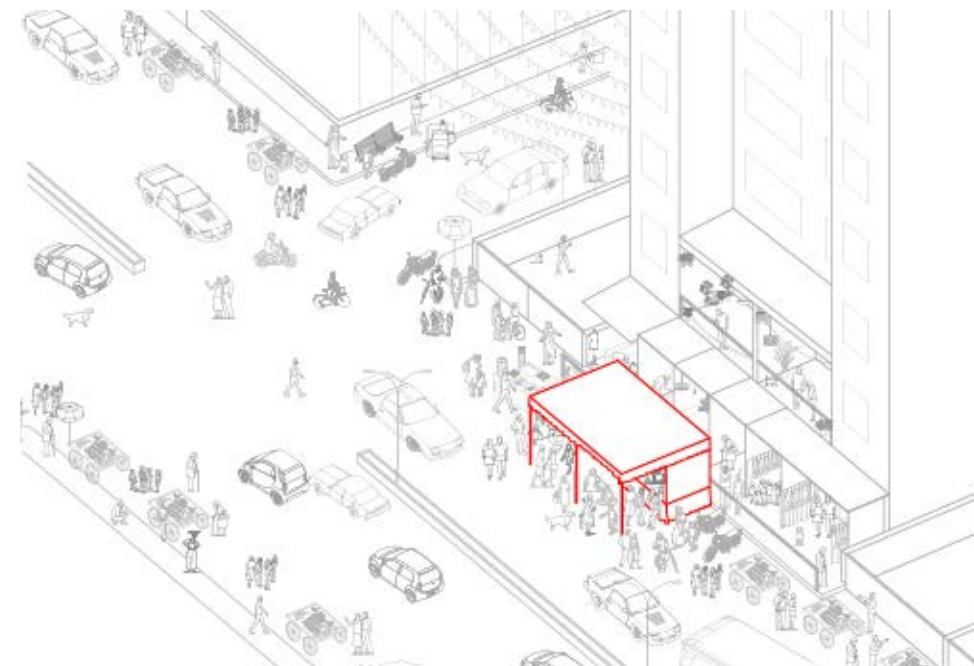


Supermarket

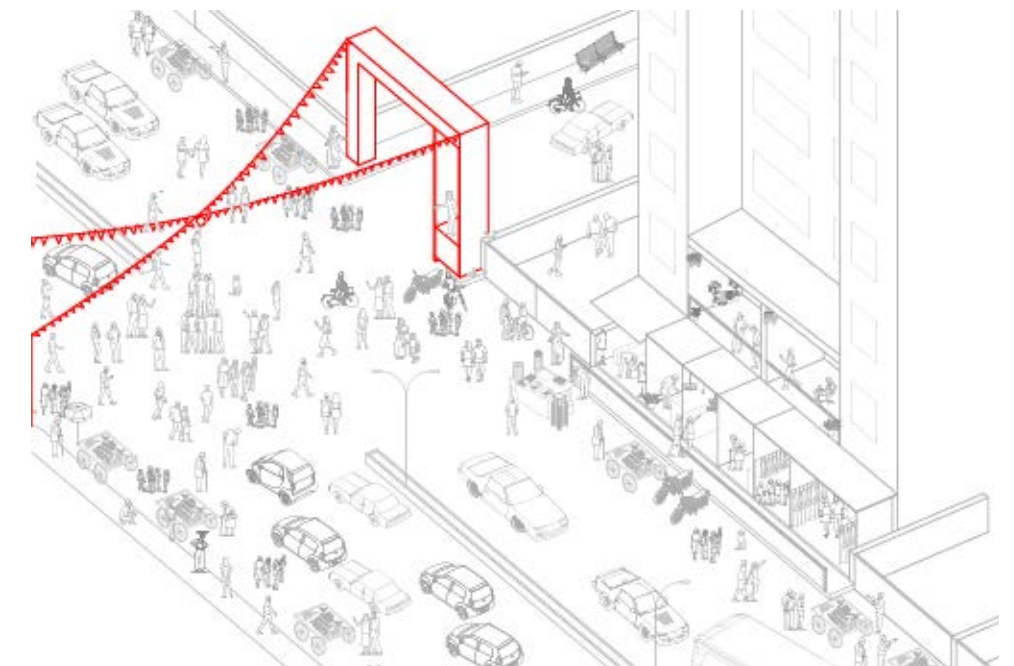
Temporal anchors for public activities



Extended shop fronts and hawkers



God sculpture in clay houses inside a *mandap* to offer prayers for 10 days every year



Decorated entryways and stages to host festivals



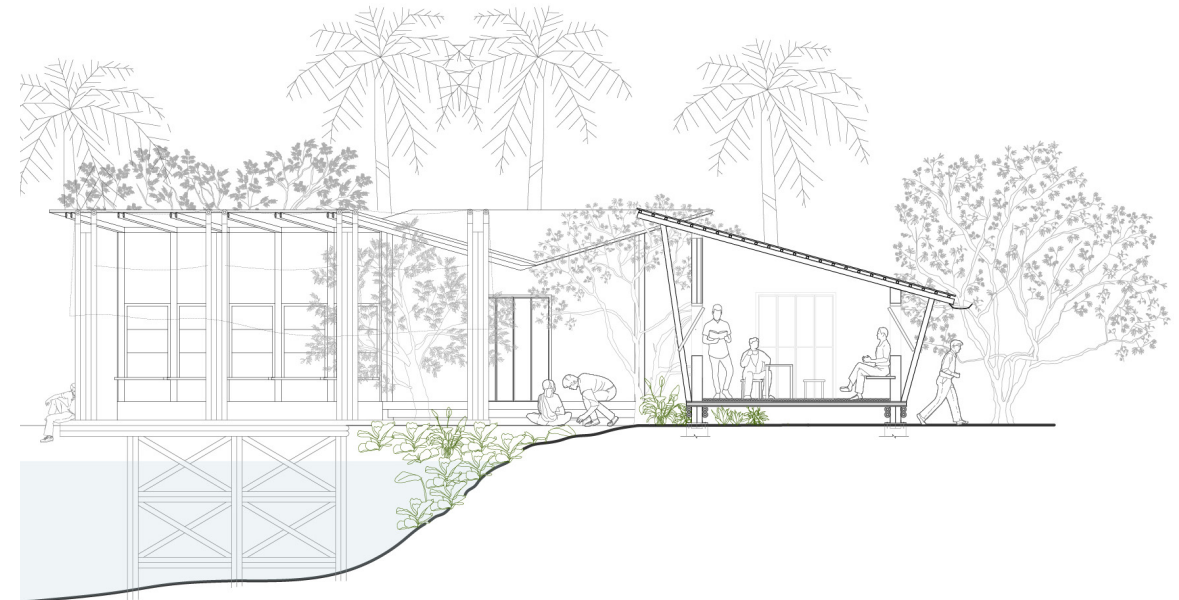
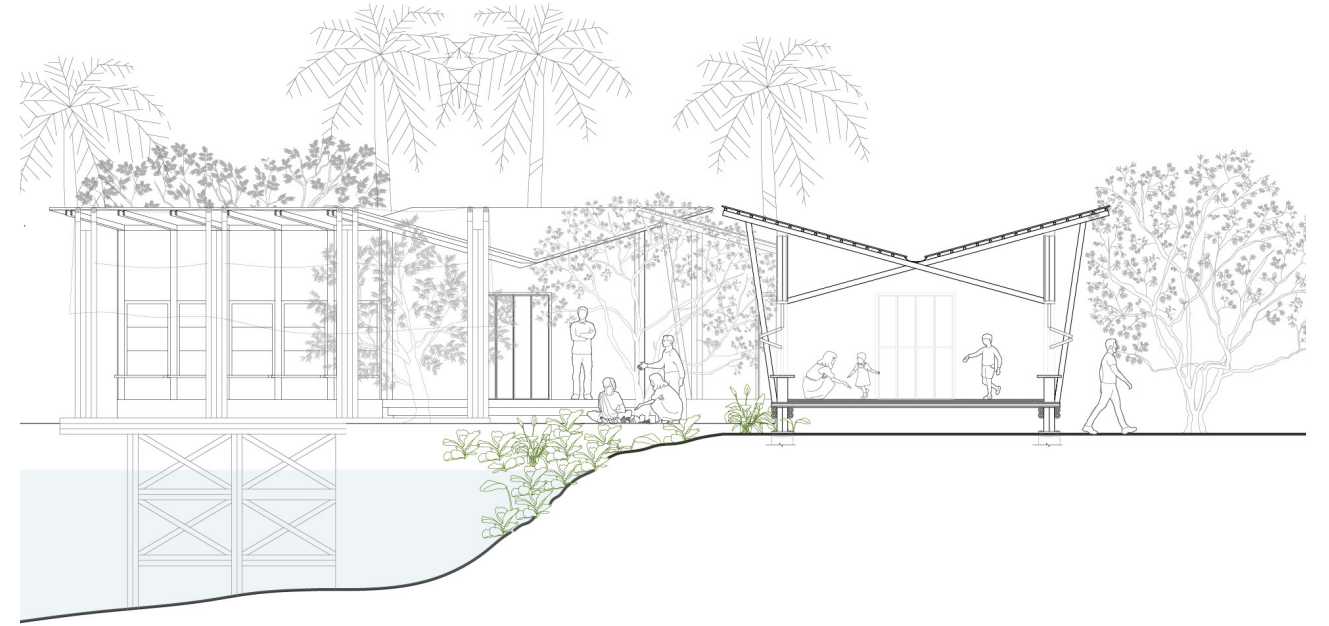
The new mid-rise MIG replaces the original MIG block, designed to formalize vertical growth, the design negotiates space for future incrementality, domestic flexibility, and shared use across levels.



The foundation embeds flexible ground-floor use, designed for parking, play, or informal gatherings - reflecting how residents previously adapted shared spaces.



Planned plinth-level openings and shaded setbacks create semi-public edges, informed by street life patterns observed in the original fabric—hawkers, celebrations, and social spillovers.



Fall Semester, Independent work, SEA, 2017

**Location:** Kolkata

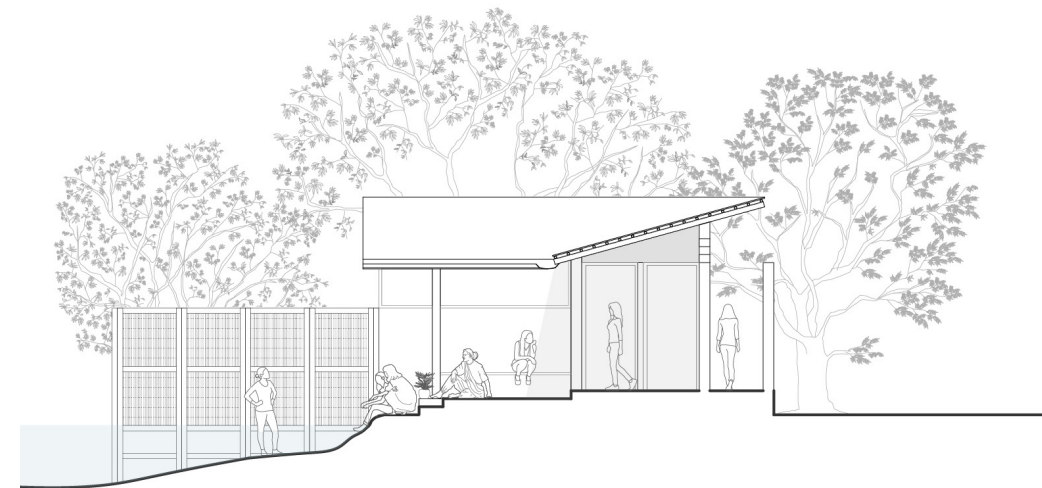
**Advisors:** Ravindra Punde,

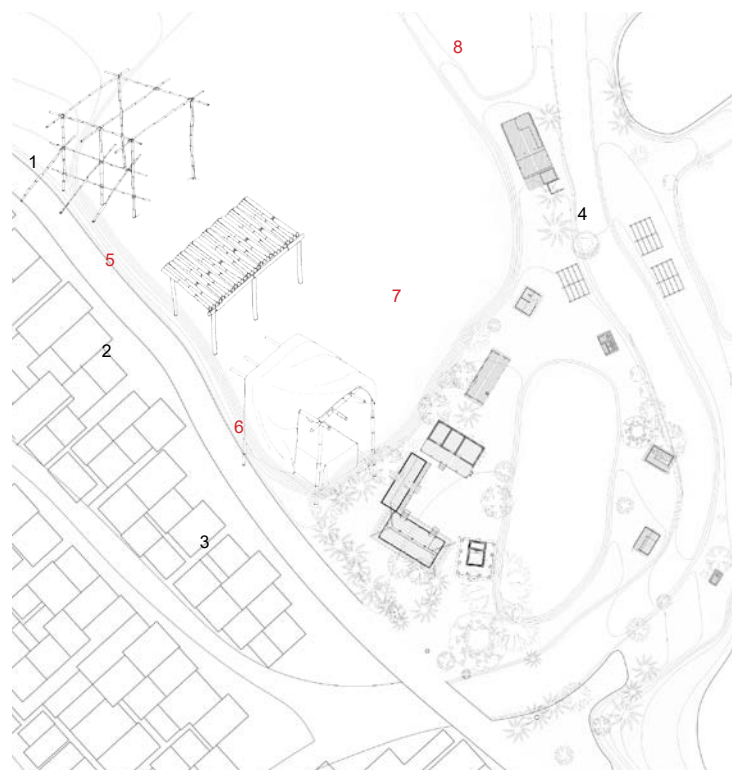
**Software:** Rhinoceros, AutoCAD, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop

Wetlands are transitional zones between dry land and open water, where water shapes their unique ecological character. The East Kolkata Wetlands, part of the mature Ganges delta, have been formed over centuries through upland and tidal sedimentation.

Trinath Pally, a small settlement within this landscape, has built its economy around aquaculture, using sewage and wastewater flowing through canals to breed fish. This practice, developed in the 1930s, relies on domestic wastewater as a nutrient source, creating a thriving ecosystem.

However, this infrastructure also reinforces gender-based divisions. The relationship with the water's edge and the activities it supports, varies starkly along gender lines.





“A woman’s place is in the home.”  
Dwellings, neighborhoods, and cities designed around this belief have physically, socially, and economically constrained women. Addressing this requires reimagining the home, the neighborhood, and the city, designing human settlements that support, rather than restrict, the lives of empowered women and their families.

Within neighborhoods, men often define and claim spatiality for self-representation. Their collective use and women’s avoidance of certain spaces creates and reinforces norms about women’s “appropriate” presence in the public realm.



Roof systems flow into the transitional green spaces and form a network of water which goes back to the wetlands

Dining & Workshop pavilion - a reason for women to walk deeper into the site and acknowledging skill building for them

Deck

Kitchen

Preparatory area for fish food - usually undertaken by men. It connects to the kitchen where women prepare food for fishermen on site. The transitional area has portals, also repurposed to hang fishing nets

Co-operative office

Spill out space for children overlooked by the male dominated, initiating a shared responsibility of looking after the child

Creche - an excuse for women to enter the site

Playground

Temple

Waiting area

Health care centre

Women’s bath & toilets  
Women are stolen of the luxury of stepping into the natural waters unlike men who bathe in it everyday. This bath creates a covered portion within the water which provides for a safe space for women to step into the water

Independent Professional Work

### Ongoing Project

**Location:** Ahmedabad, India

**Softwares:** AutoCAD, V-Ray, Lumion, Rhinoceros, Adobe Photoshop

Vaastu Vansh is a compound phrase in Sanskrit/Hindi/Gujarati-inflected language that beautifully combines two powerful ideas:

#### **Vaastu (वास्तु / वास्तु):**

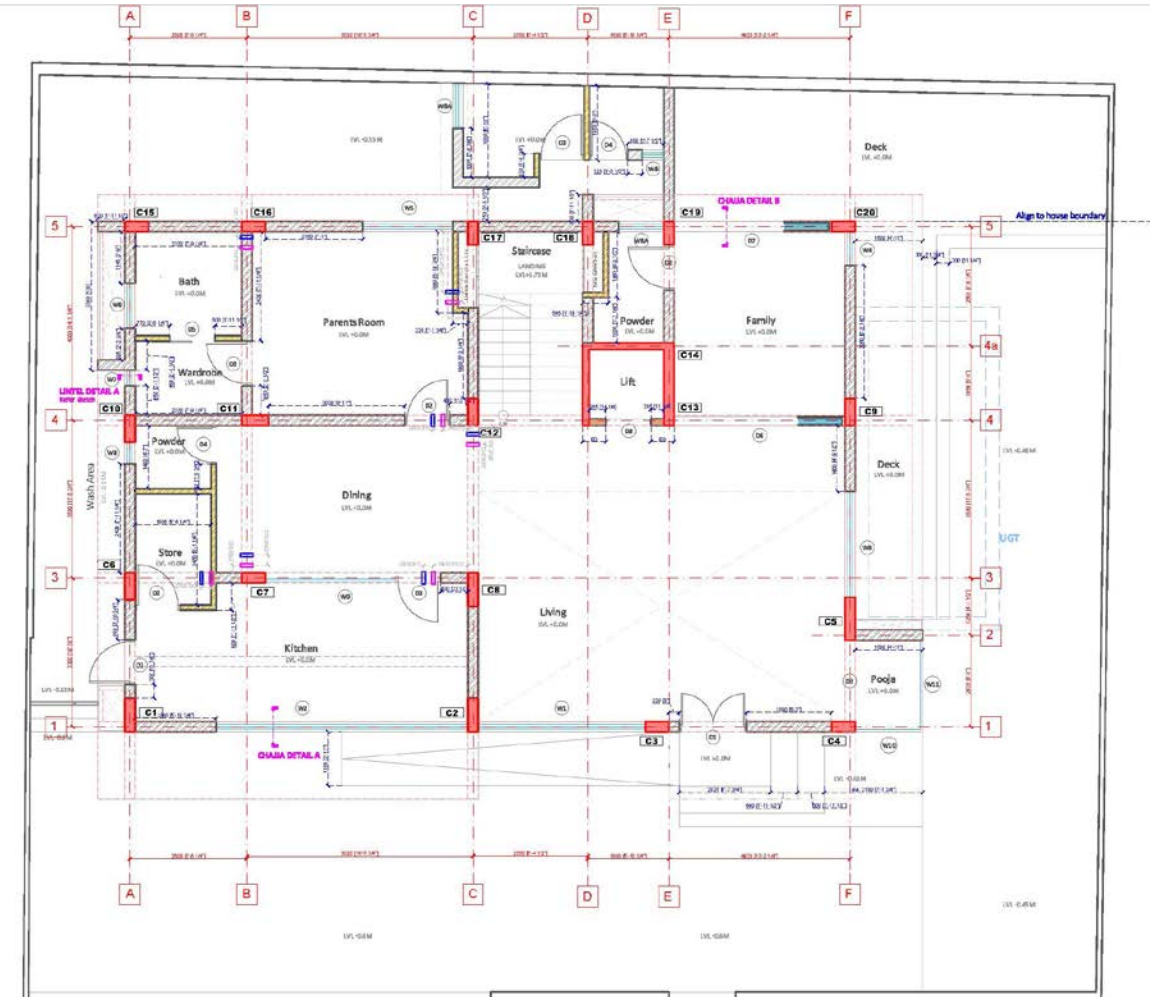
Refers to architecture, dwelling, or the built environment. It also connects to Vaastu Shastra, the traditional Indian system of spatial and architectural design - so it evokes ideas of intentional space-making, orientation, harmony, and shelter.

#### **Vansh (वंश / वंश):**

Means lineage, ancestry, or generational tree. It conveys continuity across time - of people, family, heritage, and memory.

Set in the evolving urban fabric of Ahmedabad, this 10,000 sq.ft. house - Vaastu Vansh - is a multi-generational home that draws from the city's deep architectural lineage and culture of shared living. Rooted in the principles of vaastu (spatial harmony) and vansh (lineage), the project explores how architecture can hold and nurture generational memory, while adapting to the needs of contemporary life. The design weaves together private and communal spaces across thresholds - verandahs, otlas, courtyards - to create a porous, layered domestic landscape. It responds to Ahmedabad's climate, material traditions, and rhythms of family life, creating a home that is both inheritance and invention, one that carries forward ancestral values while making space for future change.





Civil layout

# Hidden in Plain 'Site'

Fall Semester, Group project, Cornell University, 2024

**Advisors:** Brian Ho (Visiting Critic, Product Manager at Google)

**Location:** New York City

**Team:** Wenshan Lou

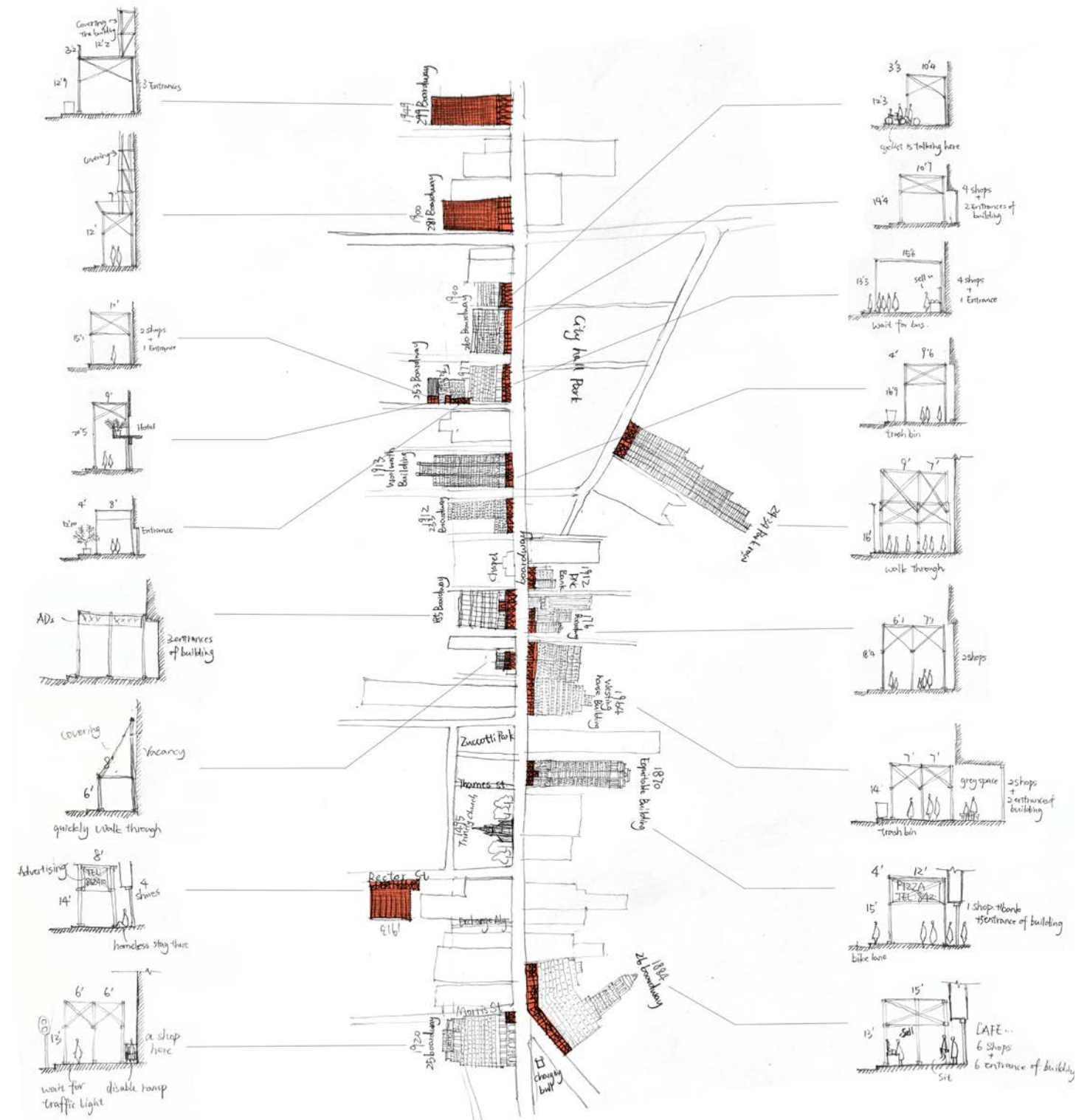
**Role:** Studying POPS, storyboarding ideas, data structuring, data processing through BeautifulSoup, final mapping and categorizing POPS & scaffolding as per criterias

**Softwares:** Python, BeautifulSoup, Grasshopper, Rhinoceros, Adobe Illustrator

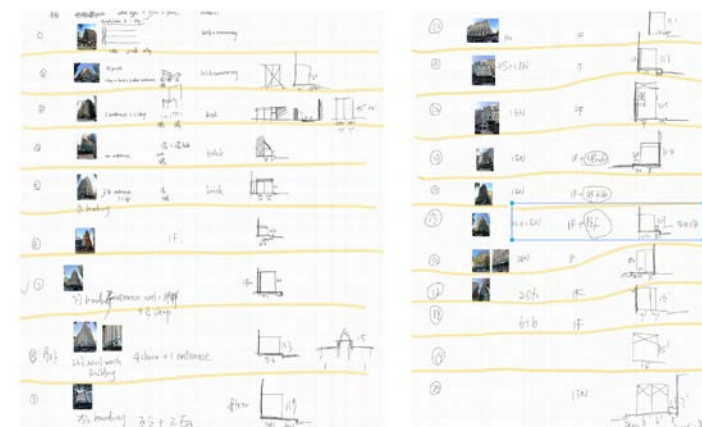
This study investigates how the reduction of public facilities and an increase in scaffolding affect the perception of privately owned public spaces (POPS).

We hypothesize that as amenities decrease and scaffolding becomes more prevalent, POPS will experience reduced pedestrian traffic and less favorable user perceptions. A key aspect involves assessing whether the facilities as noted in the database align with the facilities on site, as any gap between intended and actual amenities can significantly impact public space usage.

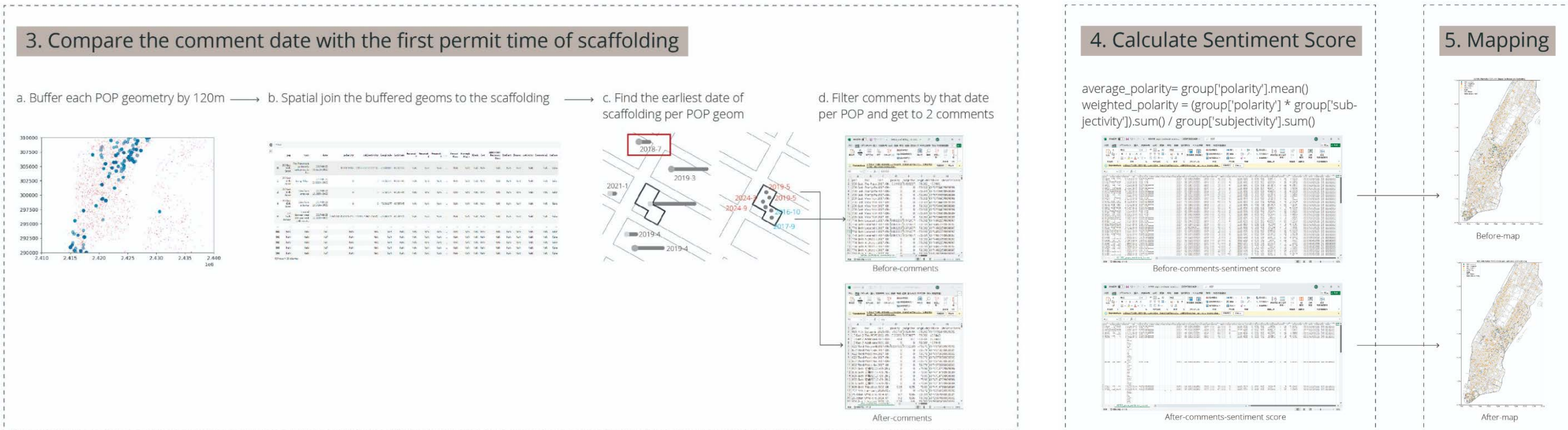
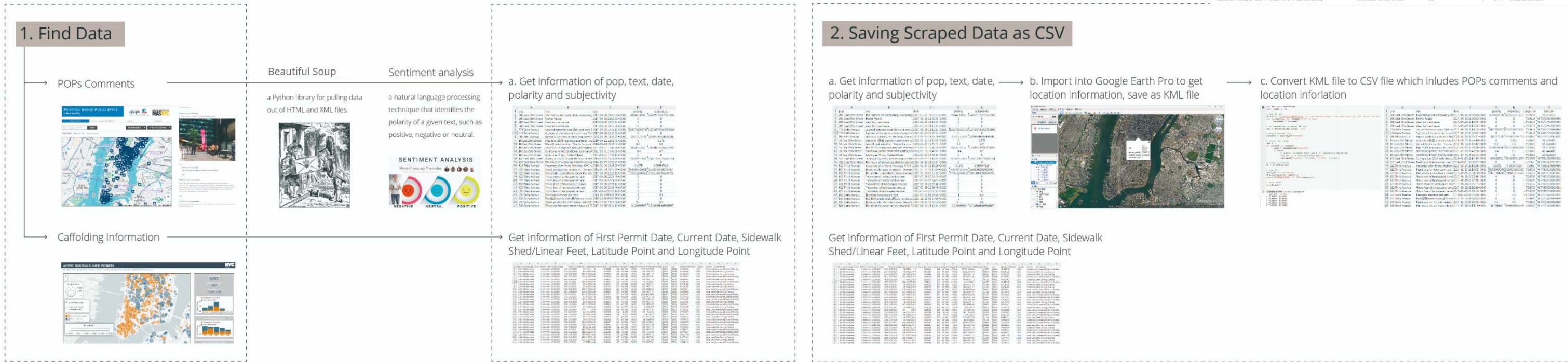
The primary variables controlled are the number of public facilities and scaffolding structures, while dependent variables observed include pedestrian counts and user feedback. To capture insights into user sentiment and the impact of scaffolding over time, we will scrape comments and timestamps from a website using Python's BeautifulSoup, followed by sentiment analysis. This will allow us to examine user experiences before and after scaffolding was introduced by comparing comment dates with installation timelines. This will help us understand whether the scaffolding correlates with shifts in public perception. Additionally, factors like the distance between scaffolding and POPS and the specific spatial type (e.g., open plazas vs. enclosed atriums) are considered, as these may influence the effects on space usage. This study aims to reveal how urban physical changes affect social interactions and user perceptions.



The study begins by gathering data on Privately Owned Public Spaces (POPS) and scaffolding permits to explore how temporary urban interventions shape public perception. Using **BeautifulSoup**, a Python library for web scraping, we extract user-generated comments related to POPS by parsing HTML structures and compiling the content into a structured dataset. Alongside comments, scaffolding permit records are collected to map when scaffolding was introduced near these spaces. We then apply **sentiment analysis** to assess how users perceive POPS before and after scaffolding. This natural language processing technique evaluates the **polarity** (positive, neutral, negative) and **subjectivity** of comments, revealing changes in sentiment and social behavior. To ground the findings, the data is processed and saved in



POPS ID	POPS Name	POPS Address	POPS Latitude	POPS Longitude	POPS Area (sq ft)	POPS Type	POPS Status	POPS Date	POPS Comment	POPS Sentiment	POPS Subjectivity	POPS Date	POPS Comment	POPS Sentiment	POPS Subjectivity
1	POPS 1	123 St	40.7128	-87.6300	1000	POPS	Active	2018-01-01	POPS 1	Positive	High	2018-01-01	POPS 1	Positive	High
2	POPS 2	456 St	40.7128	-87.6300	2000	POPS	Active	2018-02-01	POPS 2	Neutral	Low	2018-02-01	POPS 2	Neutral	Low



By spatially visualizing sentiment shifts, the study highlights the impact of urban policy, the unintended consequences of construction, and the evolving dynamic between public life and temporary infrastructure - pointing to the need for more adaptive, inclusive urban design.

- POPs Negative
- POPs Neutral
- POPs Positive
- POPs No comment
- Scaffolding < 1Y
- 1Y < Scaffolding < 3Y
- 3Y < Scaffolding < 6Y
- Scaffolding > 6Y
- Length of scaffolding

POP: 1065 Park Avenue, Polarity: 0.63, Comments: 5  
 2 AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 90.0 ft  
 EAST 94 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 82.0 ft  
 2 AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 101.0 ft  
 EAST 95 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 143.0 ft  
 EAST 94 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 205.0 ft  
 EAST 94 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 135.0 ft

POP: 300 East 74th Street, Polarity: 0.25, Comments: 3  
 EAST 75 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 72.0 ft  
 EAST 75 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 240.0 ft  
 EAST 75 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 119.0 ft  
 EAST 74 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 320.0 ft  
 EAST 72 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 54.0 ft  
 EAST 72 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 191.0 ft

POP: 767 Fifth Avenue, Polarity: 0.00, Comments: 1  
 WEST 67 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 112.0 ft  
 WEST 67 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 112.0 ft  
 WEST 64 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 37.0 ft  
 EAST 82 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 410.0 ft  
 EAST 82 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 292.0 ft  
 EAST 84 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 340.0 ft

POP: 1 Central Park West, Polarity: 0.10, Comments: 1  
 CENTRAL PARK WEST, Material: nan, Shed Length: 100.0 ft

POP: 200 East 64th Street, Polarity: 0.00, Comments: 2  
 EAST 64 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 960.0 ft  
 EAST 62 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 410.0 ft  
 EAST 62 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 292.0 ft  
 EAST 64 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 340.0 ft

POP: 9 West 57th Street, Polarity: -0.25, Comments: 5  
 WEST 54 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 343.0 ft  
 WEST 54 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 203.0 ft  
 WEST 56 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 480.0 ft

POP: 475 Park Avenue South, Polarity: 0.02, Comments: 2  
 7 AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 480.0 ft  
 WEST 70 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 100.0 ft  
 7 AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 110.0 ft  
 7 AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 110.0 ft  
 WEST 50 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 140.0 ft

POP: 520 Madison Avenue, Polarity: 0.03, Comments: 3  
 WEST 60 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 203.0 ft

POP: 300 Mercer Street, Polarity: 0.01, Comments: 1  
 WEST 50 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 203.0 ft  
 WEST 50 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 90.0 ft

POP: 235 West 46th Street, Polarity: 0.00, Comments: 1  
 WEST 50 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 80.0 ft  
 WEST 49 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 40.0 ft  
 WEST 48 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 30.0 ft  
 BROADWAY, Material: nan, Shed Length: 281.0 ft  
 WEST 47 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 20.0 ft  
 WEST 48 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 30.0 ft

POP: 130 Liberty Street, Polarity: -0.25, Comments: 1  
 MADISON AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 100.0 ft  
 MADISON AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 100.0 ft

POP: 325 Fifth Avenue, Polarity: -0.10, Comments: 1  
 EAST 30 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 100.0 ft  
 EAST 30 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 100.0 ft  
 EAST 30 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 100.0 ft  
 MADISON AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 240.0 ft

POP: 635 Sixth Avenue, Polarity: -0.15, Comments: 1  
 WEST 30 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 100.0 ft  
 WEST 28 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 100.0 ft

POP: 645 First Avenue, Polarity: 0.02, Comments: 1  
 8 AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 300.0 ft  
 EAST 20 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 100.0 ft  
 EAST 20 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 100.0 ft  
 BROADWAY, Material: nan, Shed Length: 30.0 ft

POP: 130 Livingston Street, Polarity: 0.00, Comments: 1  
 5 AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 100.0 ft  
 WEST 10 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 100.0 ft  
 5 AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 100.0 ft  
 5 AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 100.0 ft  
 5 AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 100.0 ft

POP: 1065 Park Avenue, Polarity: 0.63, Comments: 5  
 2 AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 90.0 ft  
 EAST 94 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 82.0 ft  
 2 AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 101.0 ft  
 EAST 95 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 143.0 ft  
 EAST 94 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 205.0 ft  
 EAST 94 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 135.0 ft

POP: 45 East 89th Street, Polarity: -0.17, Comments: 2  
 EAST 90 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 30.0 ft  
 EAST 90 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 119.0 ft  
 EAST 90 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 139.0 ft  
 EAST 89 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 100.0 ft  
 PARK AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 425.0 ft

POP: 52 Broadway, Polarity: 0.00, Comments: 7  
 PARK AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 200.0 ft  
 PARK AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 200.0 ft  
 EAST 87 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 115.0 ft  
 EAST 87 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 107.0 ft  
 EAST 89 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 140.0 ft

POP: 985 Fifth Avenue, Polarity: -0.08, Comments: 1  
 3 AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 88.0 ft  
 3 AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 100.0 ft  
 EAST 79 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 107.0 ft  
 EAST 79 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 107.0 ft  
 EAST 79 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 152.0 ft

POP: 725 Fifth Avenue / Trump Tower, Polarity: -0.10, Comments: 10  
 EAST 57 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 100.0 ft  
 EAST 57 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 100.0 ft  
 MADISON AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 194.0 ft  
 5 AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 171.0 ft  
 5 AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 84.0 ft

POP: 530 Madison Avenue, Polarity: 0.29, Comments: 6  
 MADISON AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 210.0 ft

POP: 1345 Sixth Avenue, Polarity: -0.25, Comments: 5  
 CENTRAL PARK WEST, Material: nan, Shed Length: 770.0 ft  
 WEST 58 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 170.0 ft

POP: 156 West 58th Street, Polarity: -0.14, Comments: 10  
 MADISON AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 75.0 ft  
 EAST 54 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 120.0 ft  
 EAST 54 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 119.0 ft  
 EAST 54 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 51.0 ft  
 MADISON AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 201.0 ft  
 MADISON AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 201.0 ft  
 EAST 54 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 307.0 ft  
 EAST 55 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 114.0 ft

POP: 211 West 58th Street, Polarity: 0.00, Comments: 2  
 EAST 57 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 140.0 ft  
 EAST 58 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 171.0 ft

POP: 303 East 63rd Street, Polarity: 0.00, Comments: 3  
 EAST 62 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 100.0 ft  
 EAST 62 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 50.0 ft  
 EAST 60 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 30.0 ft

POP: 535 Madison Avenue, Polarity: -0.14, Comments: 2  
 EAST 44 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 66.0 ft  
 EAST 42 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 40.0 ft

POP: 445 Fifth Avenue, Polarity: -0.15, Comments: 1  
 5 AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 203.0 ft  
 WEST 40 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 102.0 ft  
 5 AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 99.0 ft  
 EAST 30 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 71.0 ft  
 EAST 30 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 90.0 ft  
 MADISON AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 302.0 ft

POP: 200 Water Street, Polarity: 0.00, Comments: 3  
 EAST 48 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 424.0 ft

POP: 622 Third Avenue, Polarity: 0.14, Comments: 6  
 2 AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 60.0 ft  
 EAST 38 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 110.0 ft

POP: 286 Ashland Place, Polarity: 0.33, Comments: 6  
 3 AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 24.0 ft  
 3 AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 27.0 ft  
 EAST 58 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 202.0 ft  
 EAST 58 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 152.0 ft  
 EAST 58 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 42.0 ft  
 EAST 58 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 39.0 ft  
 EAST 58 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 340.0 ft  
 EAST 58 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 44.0 ft  
 EAST 58 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 146.0 ft

POP: 172 Madison Avenue, Polarity: -0.04, Comments: 5  
 5 AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 1300.0 ft  
 EAST 20 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 110.0 ft  
 MADISON AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 41.0 ft  
 MADISON AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 309.0 ft

POP: 525 Eighth Avenue, Polarity: 0.00, Comments: 1  
 EAST 30 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 300.0 ft  
 EAST 30 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 100.0 ft

POP: 10 East 29th Street, Polarity: -0.24, Comments: 3  
 EAST 30 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 30.0 ft  
 EAST 30 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 33.0 ft  
 2 AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 30.0 ft  
 5 AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 200.0 ft  
 MADISON AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 285.0 ft  
 MADISON AVENUE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 101.0 ft

POP: 201 East 17th Street, Polarity: -0.65, Comments: 5  
 EAST 18 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 410.0 ft  
 EAST 18 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 300.0 ft  
 EAST 18 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 100.0 ft  
 EAST 18 STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 231.0 ft

POP: 26 Astor Place, Polarity: 0.20, Comments: 2  
 ASTOR PLACE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 620.0 ft  
 COOPER SQUARE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 246.0 ft

POP: 630 West 59th Street, Polarity: 0.00, Comments: 2  
 LIBERTY STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 80.0 ft  
 GREENWICH STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 158.0 ft  
 GREENWICH STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 107.0 ft

POP: 123 Washington Street, Polarity: 0.24, Comments: 2  
 WEST STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 405.0 ft  
 GREENWICH STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 173.0 ft  
 RECTOR STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 242.0 ft  
 TRINITY PLACE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 100.0 ft

POP: 133 Bleeker Street, Polarity: -0.10, Comments: 8  
 WASHINGTON STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 800.0 ft  
 GREENWICH STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 51.0 ft

POP: 90 Washington Street, Polarity: 0.02, Comments: 5  
 GREENWICH STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 51.0 ft  
 WASHINGTON STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 150.0 ft

POP: 17 State Street, Polarity: -0.05, Comments: 2  
 JOHN STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 217.0 ft  
 WILLIAM STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 135.0 ft  
 WILLIAM STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 270.0 ft  
 JOHN STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 220.0 ft

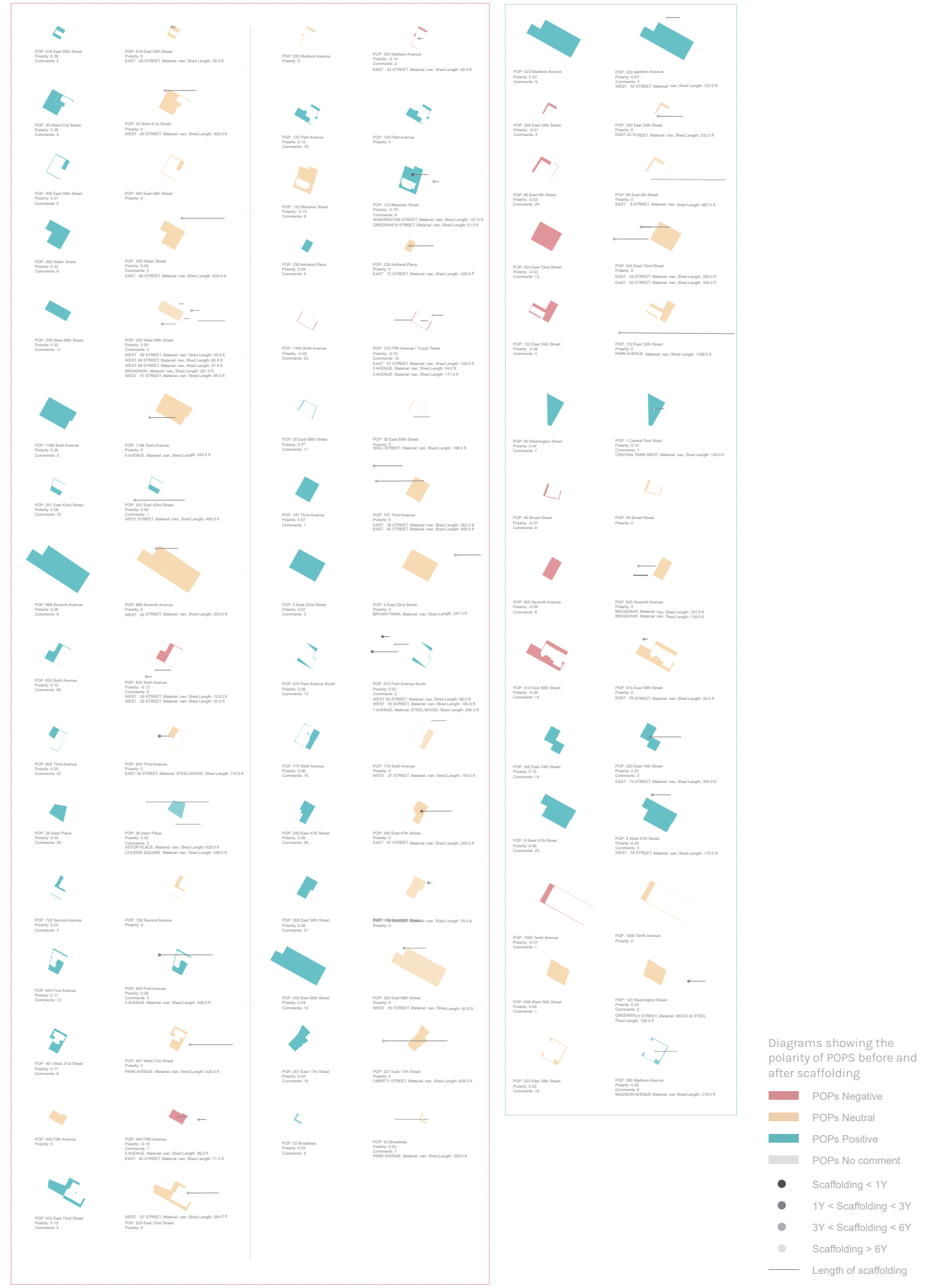
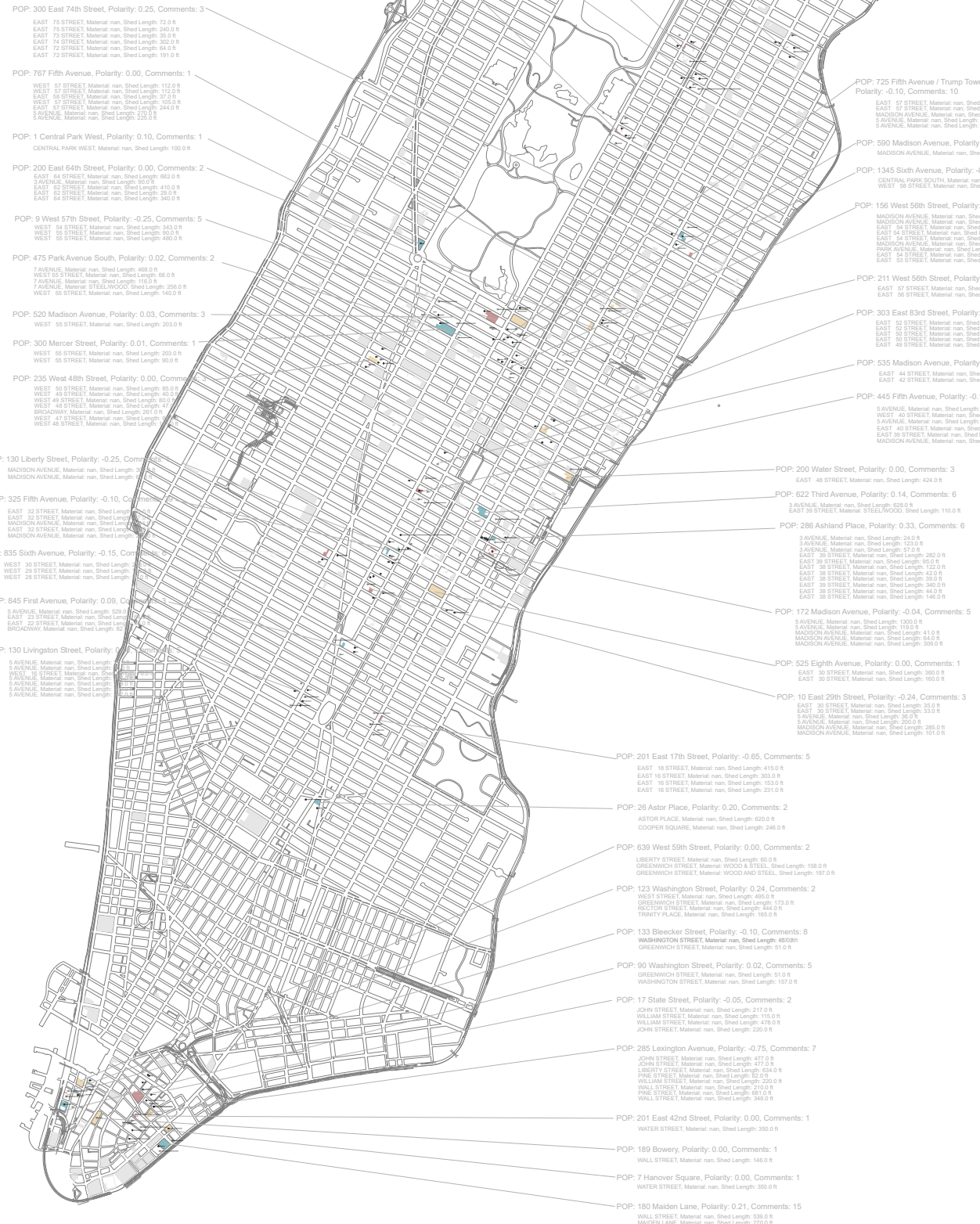
POP: 265 Livingston Avenue, Polarity: -0.75, Comments: 7  
 JOHN STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 477.0 ft  
 JOHN STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 477.0 ft  
 LIBERTY STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 234.0 ft  
 JOHN STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 42.0 ft  
 WILLIAM STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 230.0 ft  
 PINE STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 691.0 ft  
 WALL STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 345.0 ft

POP: 201 East 42nd Street, Polarity: 0.00, Comments: 1  
 WATER STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 350.0 ft

POP: 189 Bowery, Polarity: 0.00, Comments: 1  
 WALL STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 146.0 ft

POP: 7 Hanover Square, Polarity: 0.00, Comments: 1  
 WATER STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 390.0 ft

POP: 180 Maiden Lane, Polarity: 0.21, Comments: 15  
 WALL STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 120.0 ft  
 MAIDEN LANE, Material: nan, Shed Length: 270.0 ft  
 FRONT STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 164.0 ft  
 WALL STREET, Material: nan, Shed Length: 480.0 ft



# Of Land or Water?

Fall Semester, Group work, SEA, 2019

**Advisors:** Ravindra Punde, Abhijit Ekbote, Komal Gopwani, Vastavikta Bhagat

**Location:** Mumbai

**Team:** 2020 Cohort, SEA

**Credits:** Base data, UDRI

**Role:** Mapped the ward since the 1820s, conducted interviews, documented 1/5th of the area on foot, built models, organized local presentations, contributed to objectives, developed strategies, and presented at Envirovision Conference. Interviewed by Mid-Day and Citizen Matters.

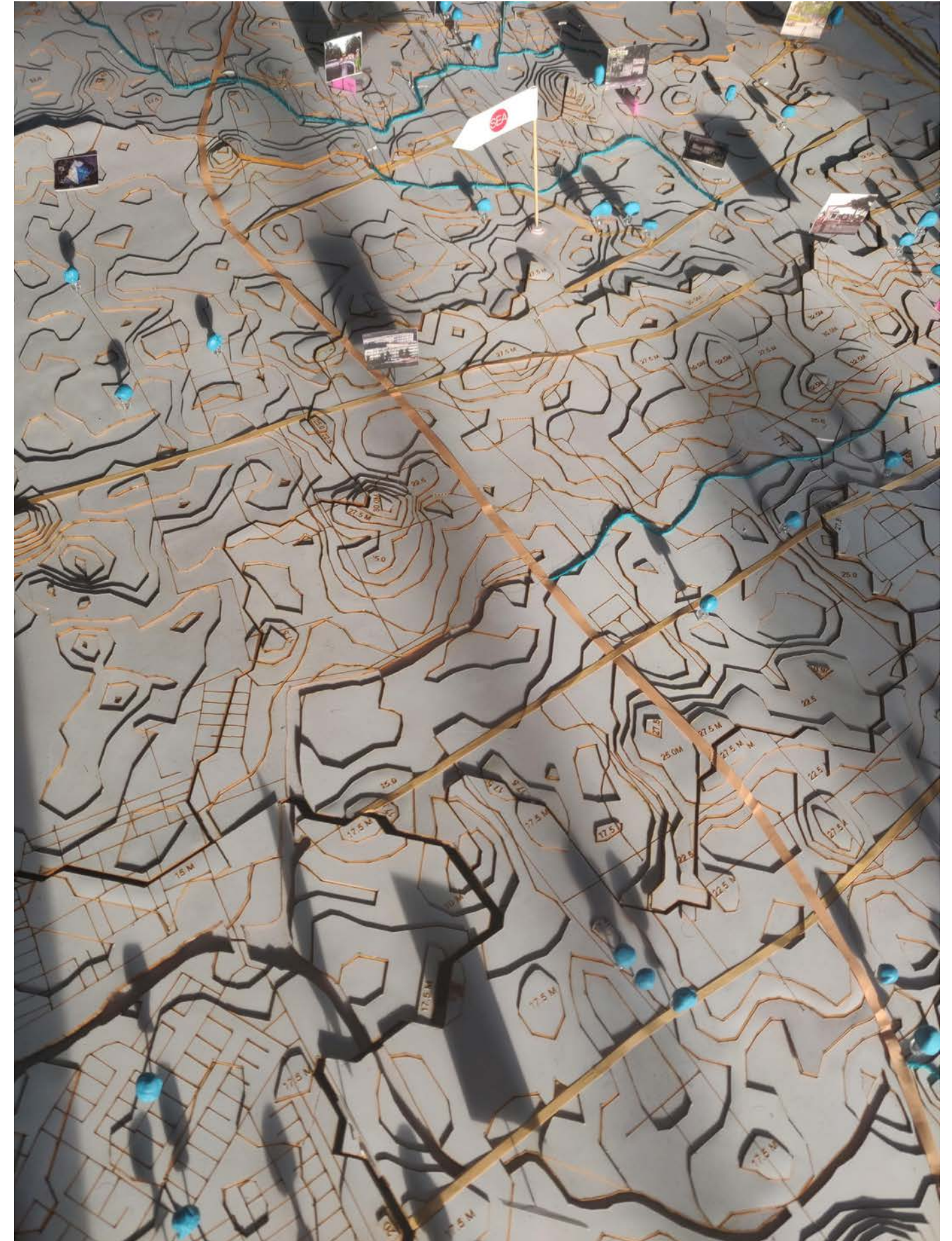
**Softwares:** QGIS, Rhinoceros, Photoshop, Open Data Collecting, Illustrator, AutoCAD, Model-making

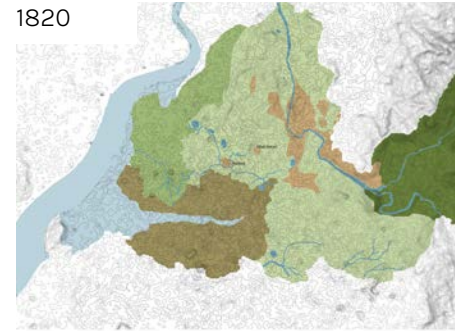
## PUBLISHED & EXHIBITED

- Mumbai-based newspaper, MidDay (2019, December 1)
- Citizens Matter (2020, September 8)
- Envirovision Conference
- International Geodesign Summit 2020, in Redlands, California, USA.

In recent years, this riverine landscape of the city of Mumbai can only be speculated under layers of dense human habitation, often impinging upon the route of the water to the creek and the river's floodplains. With increased concretisation and a change in the quantum and quality of open spaces the permeability of land in the city has visibly reduced. The terrain with its natural slopes, materiality and capacity to soak water is seldom considered while planning these projects, which can be gargantuan in their scale. Flooding in each monsoon coupled with tidal action leads to increasing socio-economic aggravation for the occupants and the waters are seen as a problem - far removed from the historical ways of seeing and engaging with water - pronounced by ill-devised and insensitive measures that favour gated communities, segregated planning, the automobile as the primary mode of transport, high-visibility town-planning and thus, the systematic killing of the *nadi* (river) by reducing it into a concrete nallah.

**The project dwells on this phenomenon of flooding in the 'R ward' and what should a then resilient urban form emerge out of a city that faces extreme vulnerability owing to tidal action, ground water, flooding and the rising sea levels.**

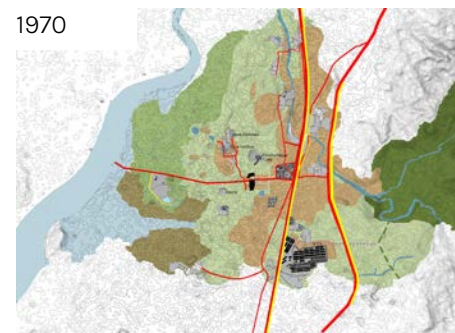




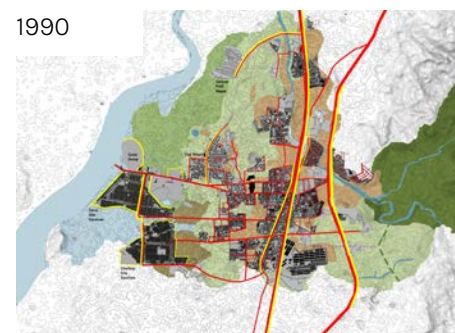
1820  
Urbanization around the Dahisar River and the early settlements Eksar Dongri and Naitodi sitting on a higher contour and around water bodies. This is surrounded by agricultural land and mudflats, and a large mangrove cover.



1898  
With the advent of the railways in 1864, areas along it densified. Post Land Acquisition Act of 1894 and the Co-operative Society Act of 1912 this area saw agricultural land being developed and co-operative societies being built.



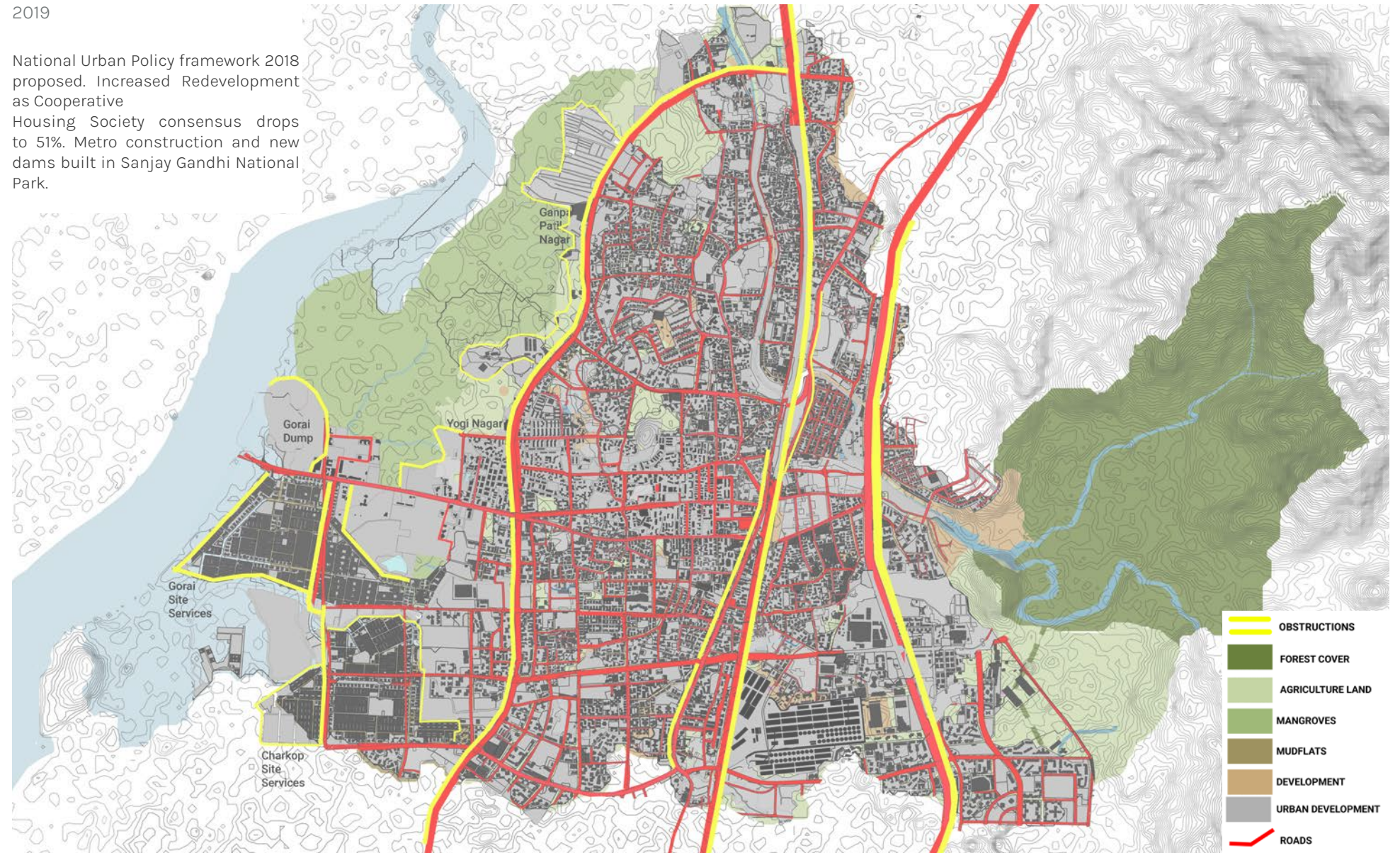
1970  
Western Express Highway opened up for north-south transit, development intensified. The Land Ceiling Act of 1961 allowed the cluster development. The Maharashtra Slum Act was passed in 1971. The Radio Broadcaster service was established in the marshy zone.



1990  
The 1990 World Bank Site and Services schemes were built on the mudflats. The liberalization & privatisation in 90s & TDR & FSI norms got updated in 1991, thus new builder-driven development was seen. With the link road in 2004, the area alongside developed. Secondary roads linking these primary ones came up.

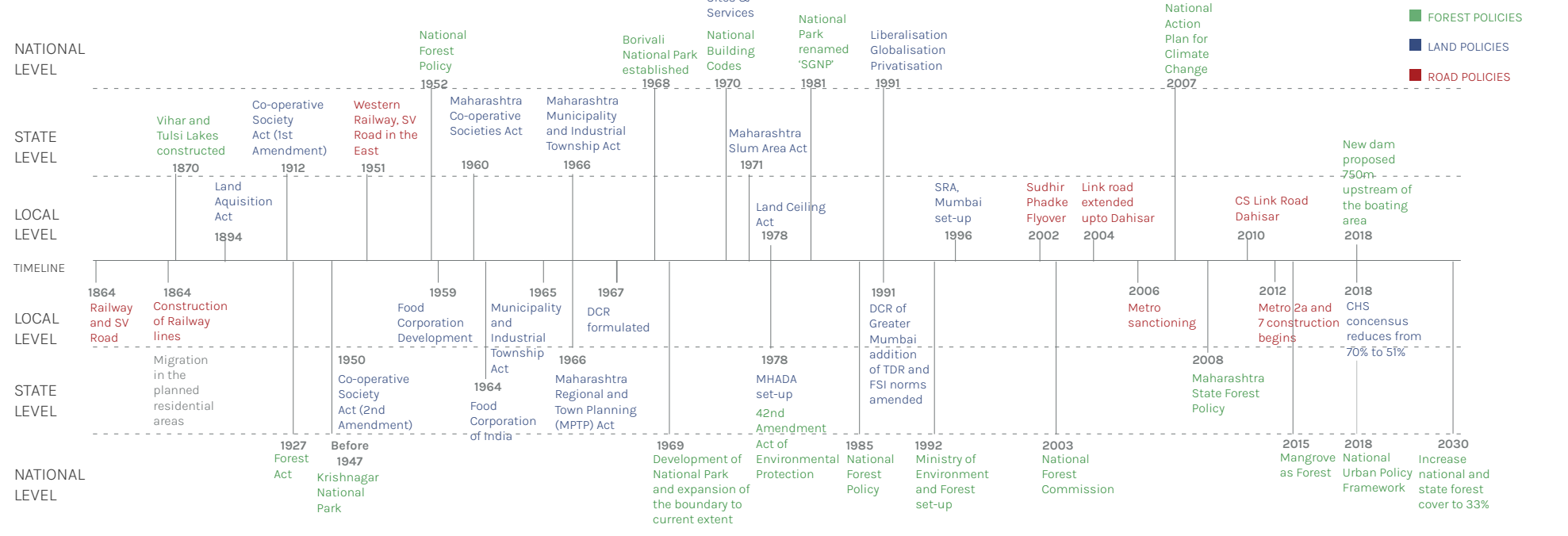


2010  
The Link Road was sanctioned upto Dahisar propelling northward development. With the Coastal Road Regulation (CRZ) in 1991, the mangrove declared as forest and protected.



2019  
National Urban Policy framework 2018 proposed. Increased Redevelopment as Cooperative Housing Society consensus drops to 51%. Metro construction and new dams built in Sanjay Gandhi National Park.

- ▬ OBSTRUCTIONS
- ▬ FOREST COVER
- ▬ AGRICULTURE LAND
- ▬ MANGROVES
- ▬ MUDFLATS
- ▬ DEVELOPMENT
- ▬ URBAN DEVELOPMENT
- ▬ ROADS
- ▬ FOREST POLICIES
- ▬ LAND POLICIES
- ▬ ROAD POLICIES



Flooding spots



- Ankle
- Calf
- Knee
- Waist
- Shoulder

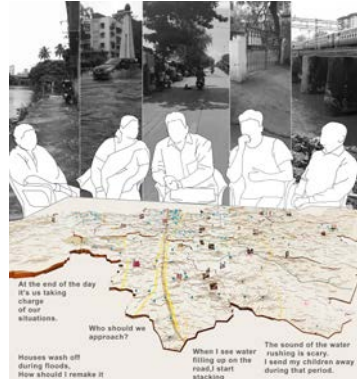


**Ethnographic Inquiry into Flooding**

- Investigated flooding through on-site natural and man-made conditions.
- Ethnographically documented flooding levels using human-centric measurements (ankle, calf, knee, waist, shoulder) over time.
- Tracked flooding duration from an hour to two days over the past two decades.
- Analyzed highest rainfall instances, tidal action, and changes in mean sea levels.
- Examined alterations to natural topography, settlement types, and building age/construction.
- Assessed qualities of natural water bodies and open spaces.

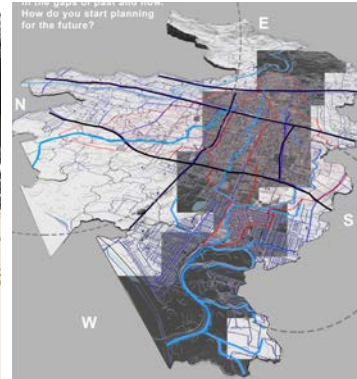
## 2021 / Short term strategies

### THE STAKEHOLDERS



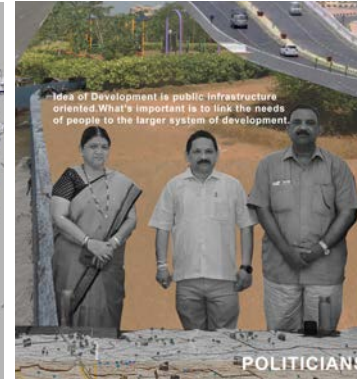
The locals

What is justice?



The corporators

What are the strategic shifts that we require in planning for the projected crisis?



The politicians

Who is the public?



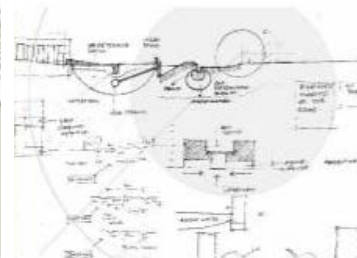
The urban planners

How do you re-define relations between the new built and the existing terrain?

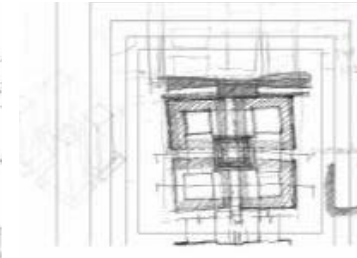
### NEW URBAN FORM



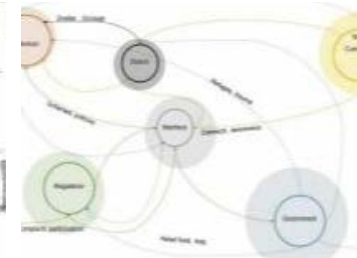
Open Space



Infrastructure



Housing



Awareness Ecosystem

### DESIGN PHASES

**2021**  
Immediate electoral term  
Projected population 18,00,000

Immediate strategies  
Caters to the most vulnerable areas

**2034**  
Development Plan Year & the Paris Accord milestone  
Projected population 23,00,000

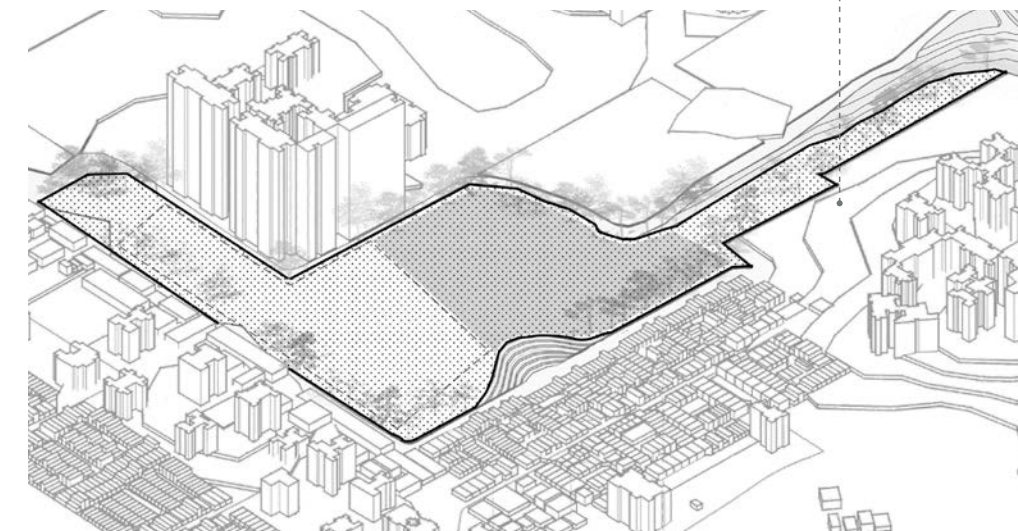
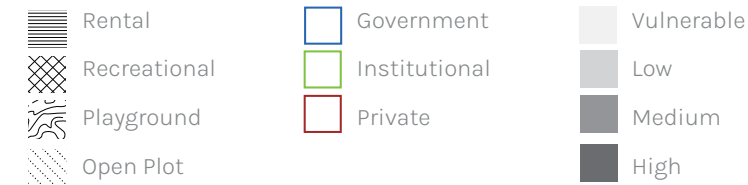
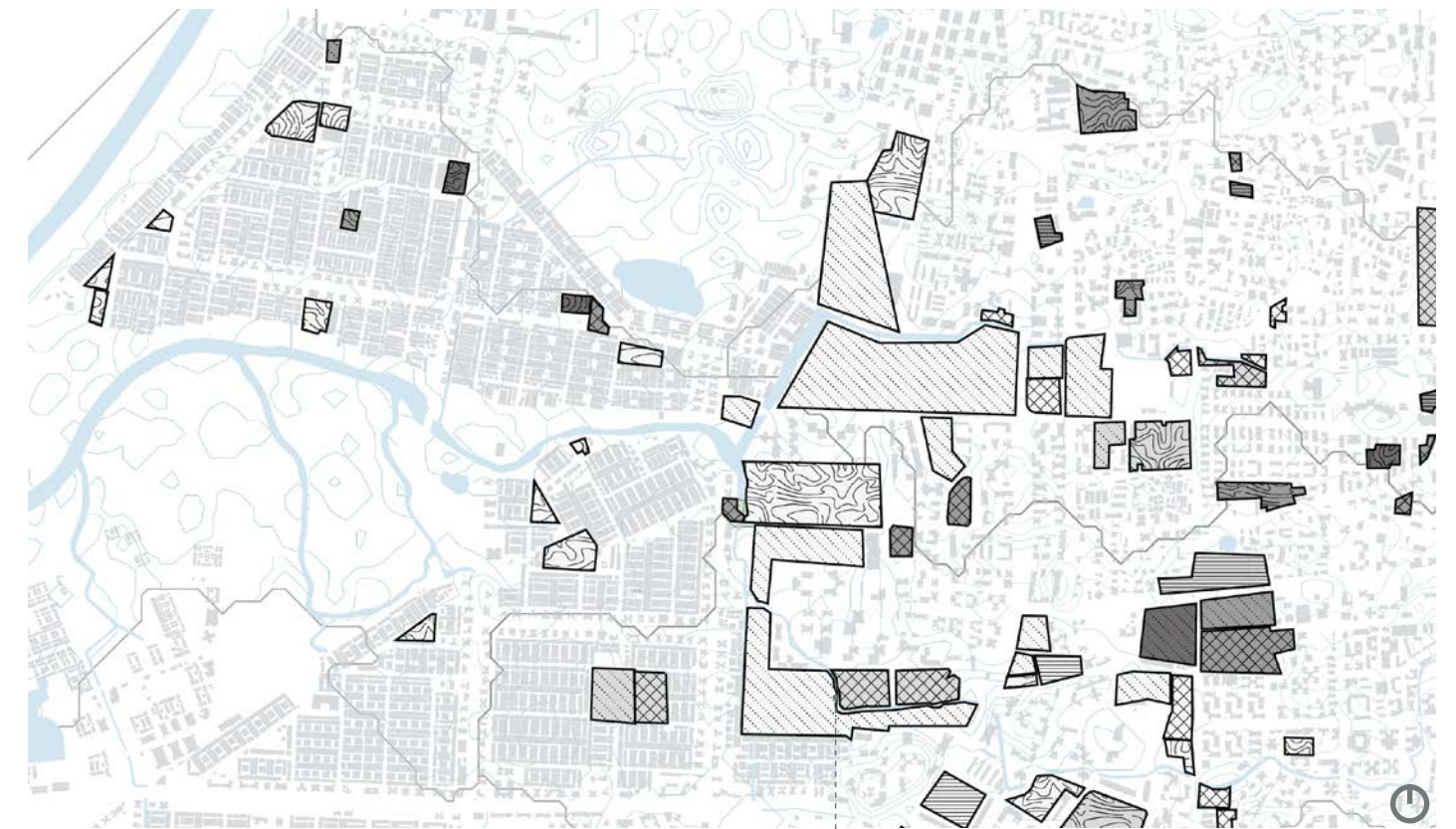
Developing neighbourhood networks

**2051**  
1.1m sea level rise as per Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC)  
Projected population 28,00,000

New urban form for a resilient city

### OPEN SPACES

Identify and categorize based on permeability and location along the watershed



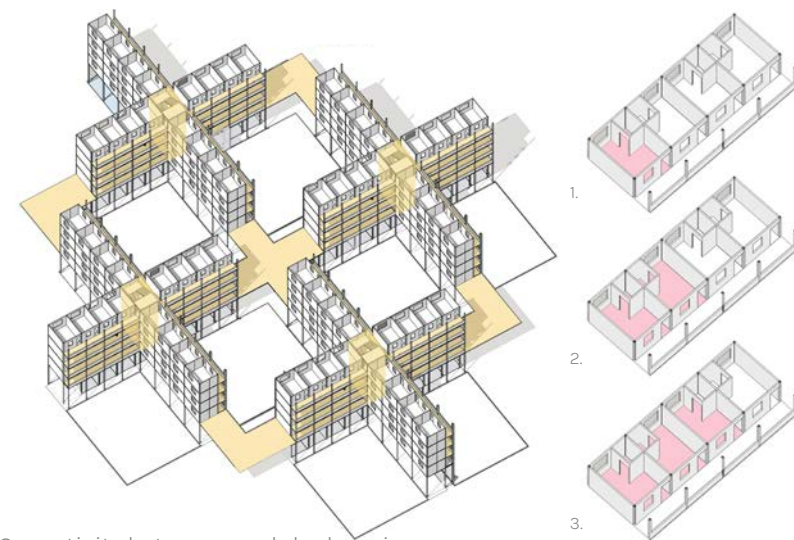
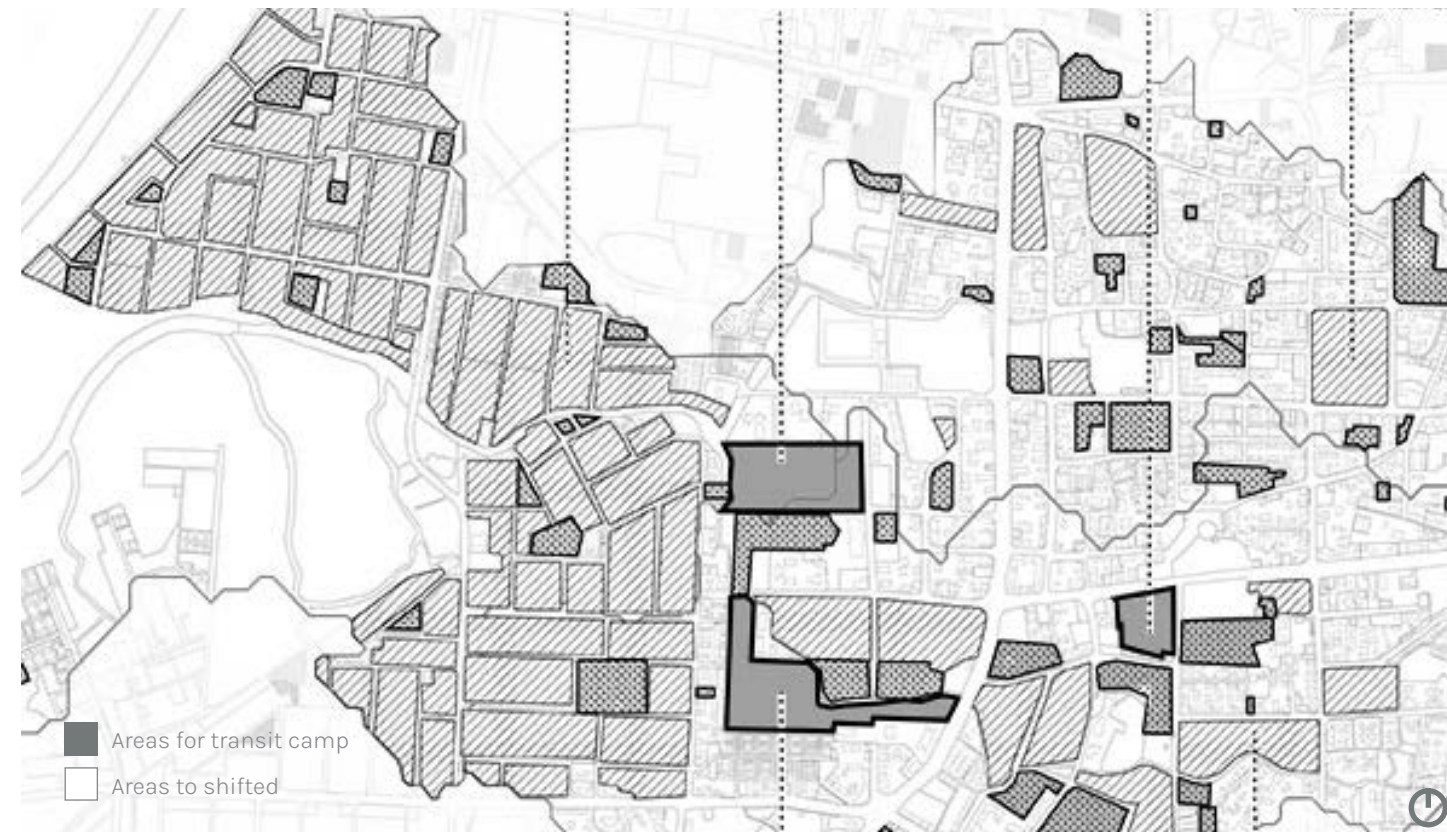
**MHADA OPEN PLOT**  
Area: 62366 sq.mt.

Government open plot on low contour  
50% of plots above 10000 sq.m. can be given for temporary transit shelters  
At 30% area needs to be soft soil with vegetative cover  
80% of plots below 10000 sq.m. need to be soft soil

## 2021 / Short team strategies

### BUILT FORM

Adaptive Housing Clusters, commons and open spaces, and repair and retrofit



- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

1. Low-Income Group Housing
2. Middle-Income Group Housing
3. High-Income Group Housing

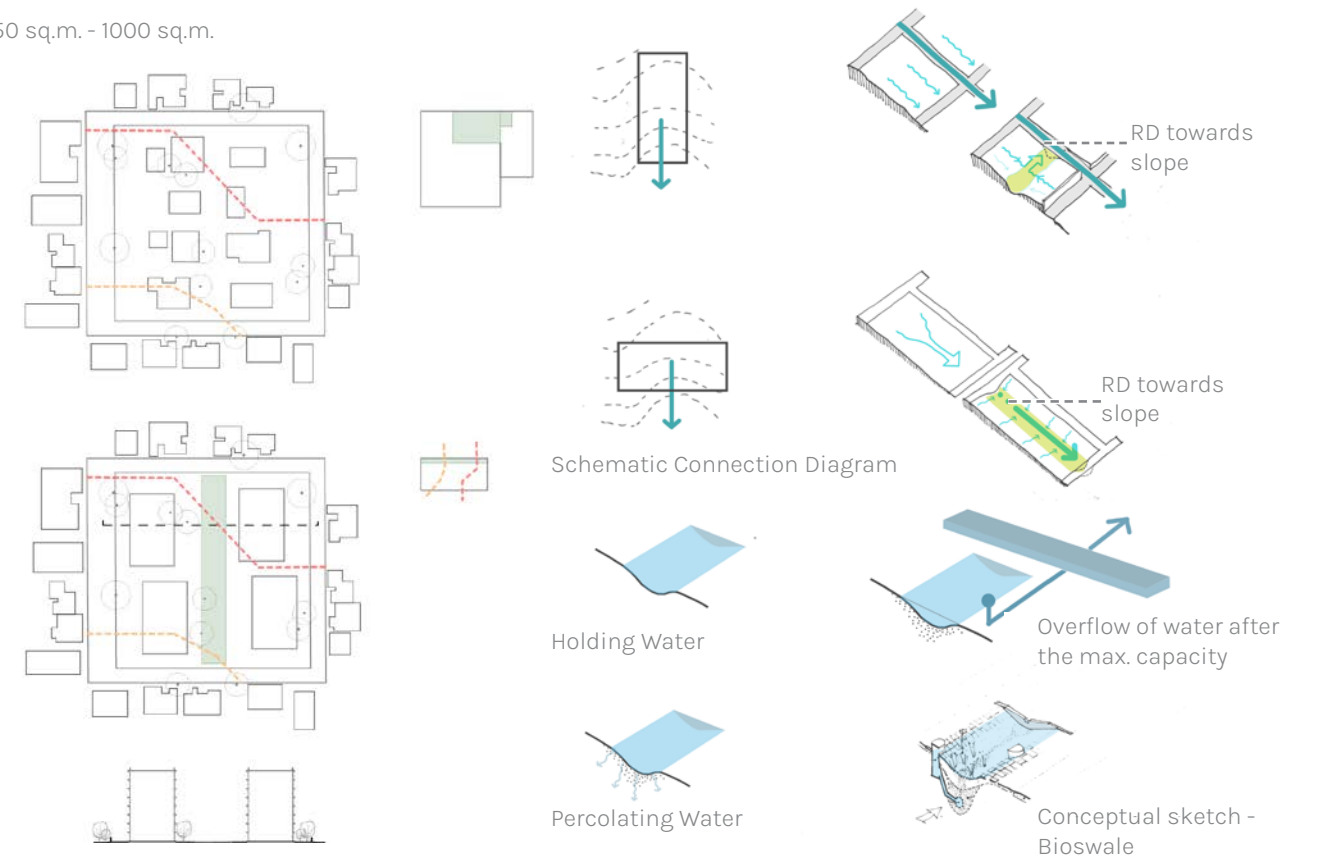
## 2034 / Mid term strategies

### OPEN SPACES

Rules for recreational grounds as per plot areas

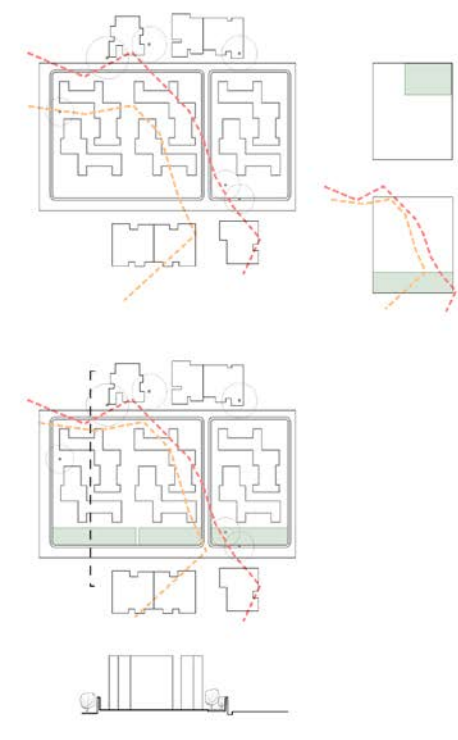
Plot area - 250 sq.m. - 1000 sq.m.  
Existing

Proposed



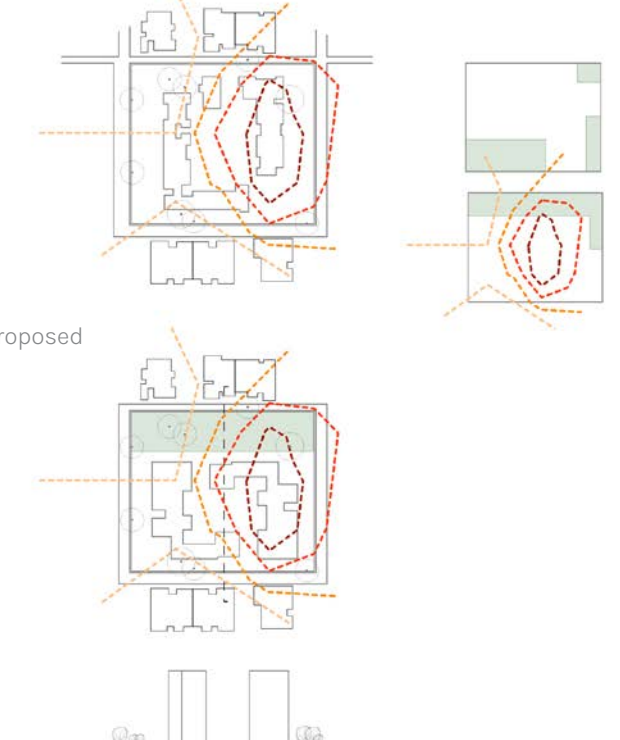
Plot area - 2500 sq.m. - 10000 sq.m.  
Existing

Proposed



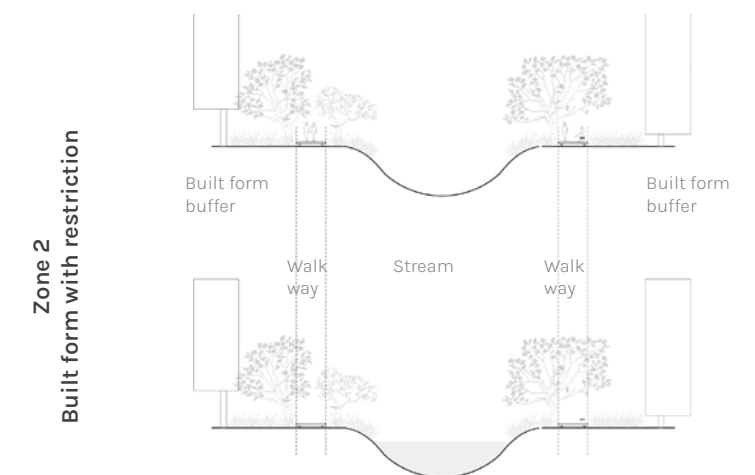
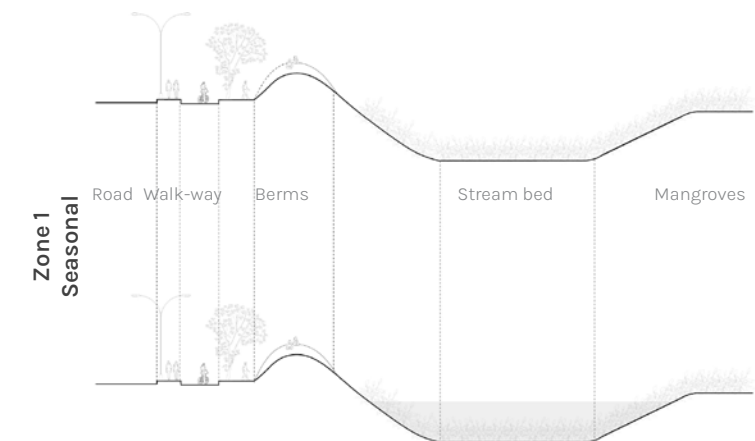
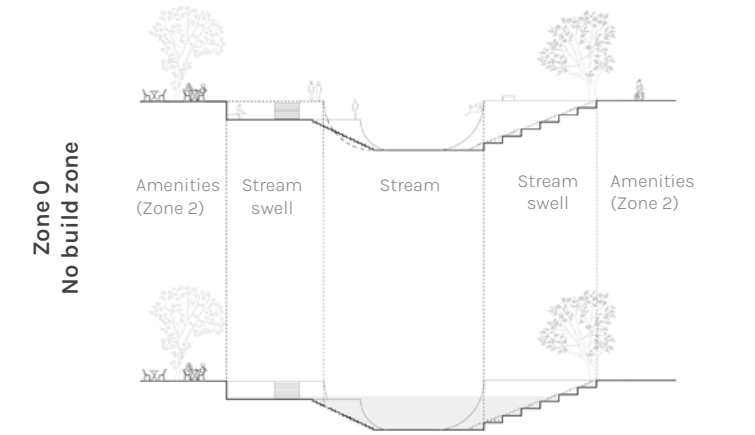
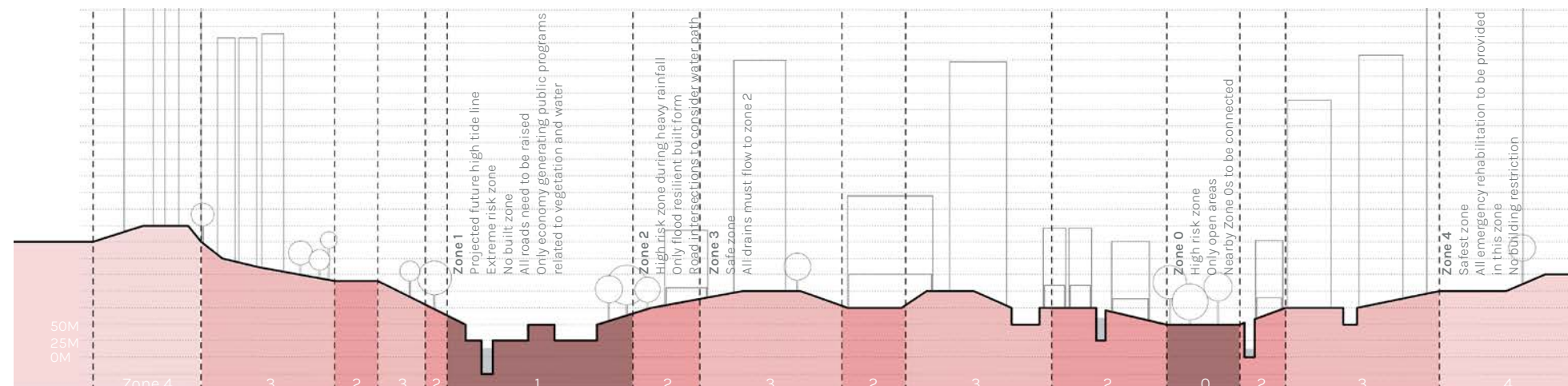
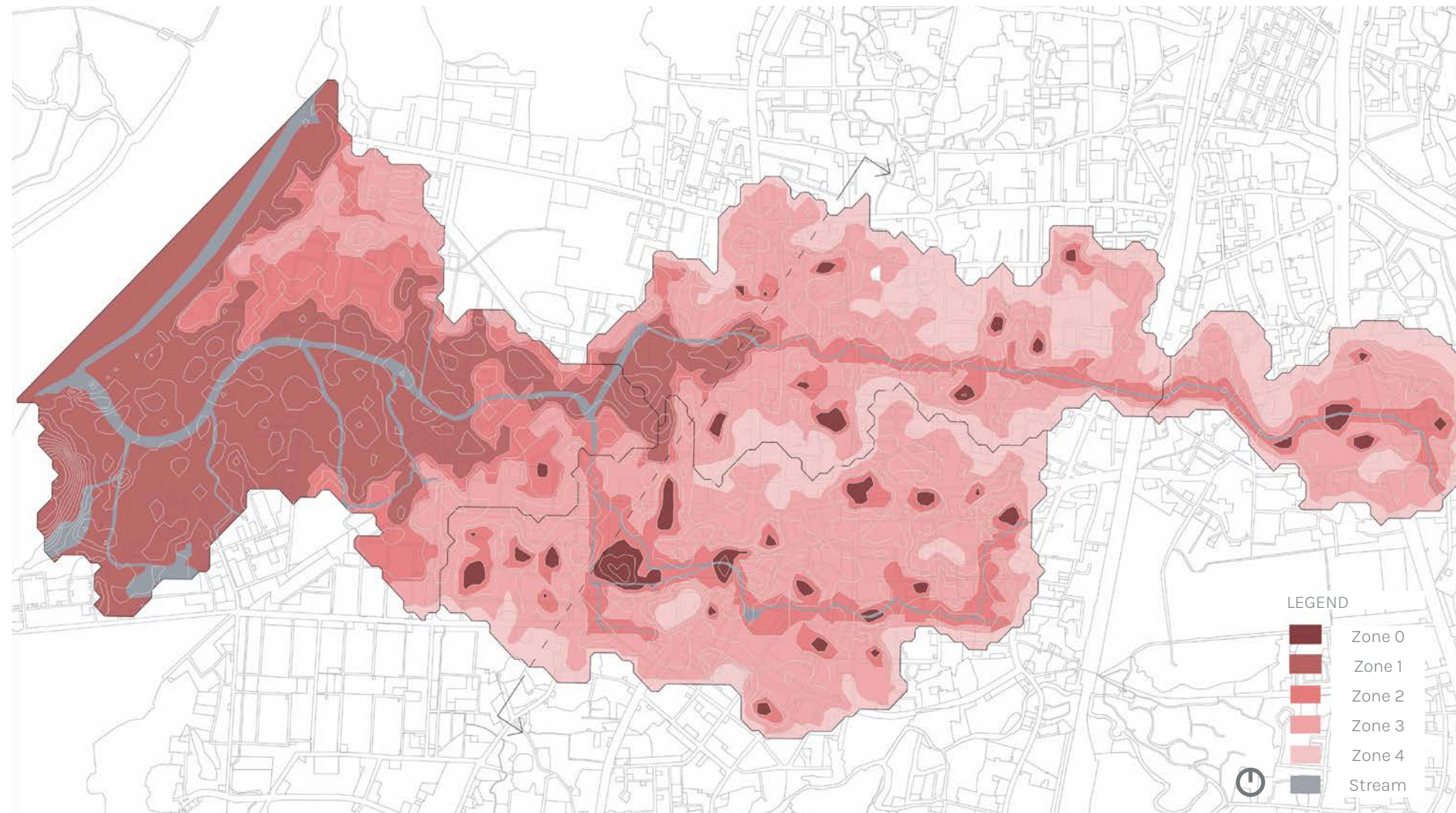
Plot area - Above 10000 sq.m.  
Existing

Proposed



# 2051 / Long term strategies

## OPEN SPACES Zoning



**Zone 0**  
Most vulnerable

**Zone 1**  
Projected high tide line

**Zone 2**  
High risk zone during rainfall

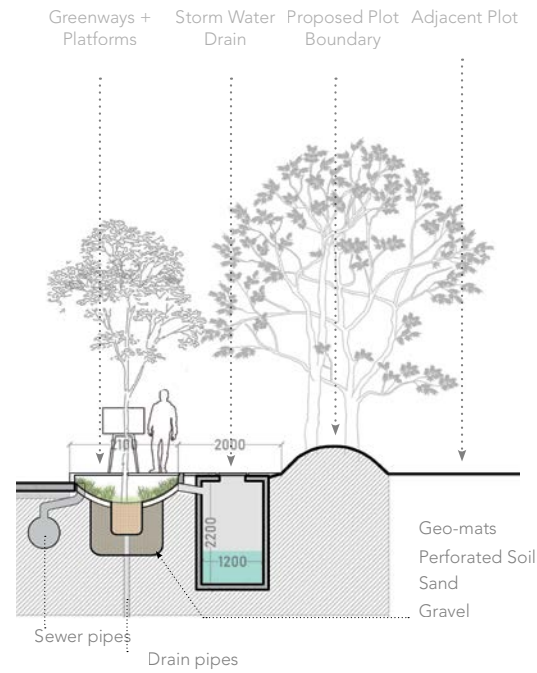
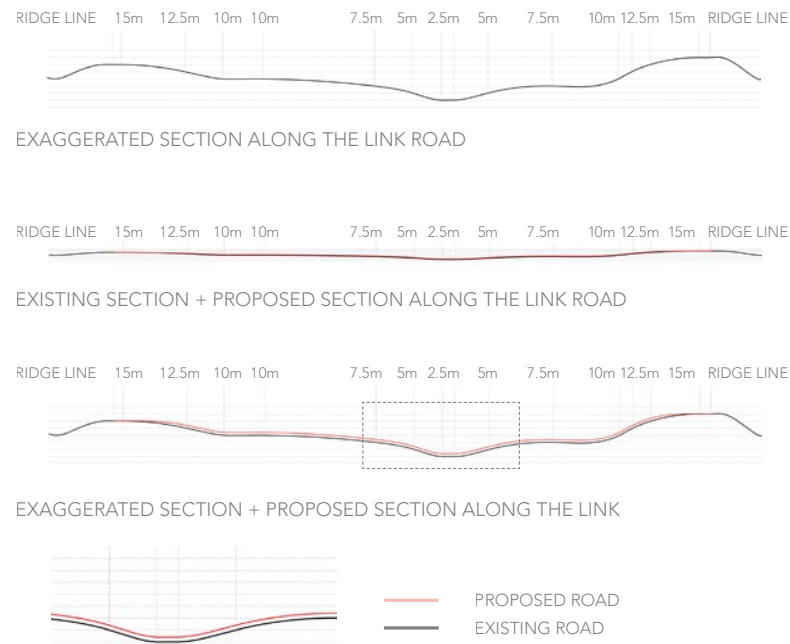
**Zone 3**  
Safe zone with limited building restrictions

**Zone 4**  
Safe zone for refuge

# 2051 / Long term strategies

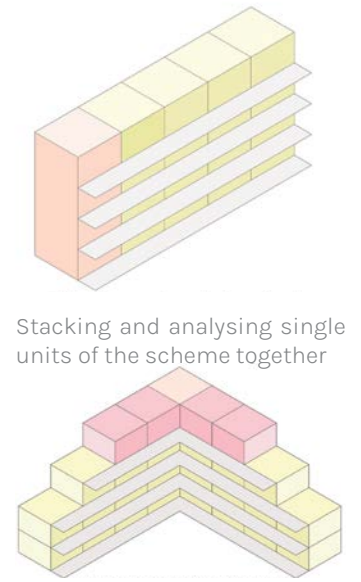
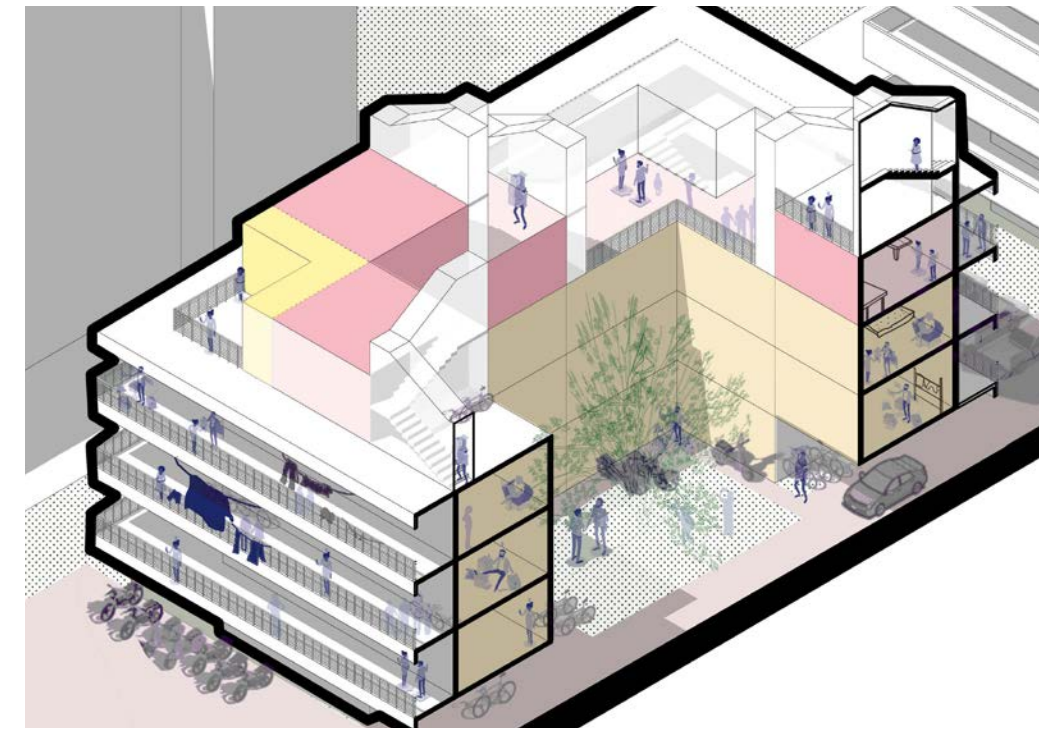
## ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

Green ways that work as carriers of water along the road, identifying emergency escape routes, materiality of the roads, modification of networks that work in conjunction to the open space system



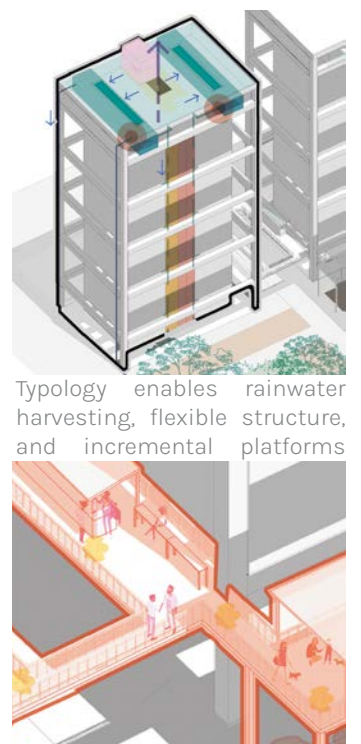
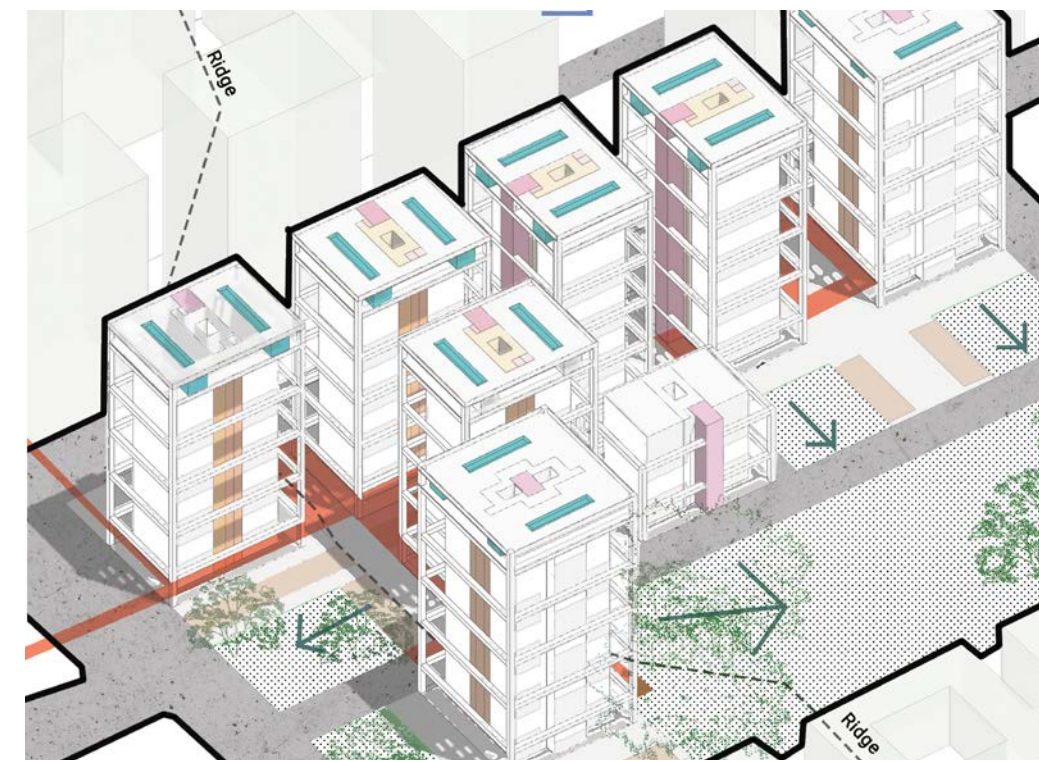
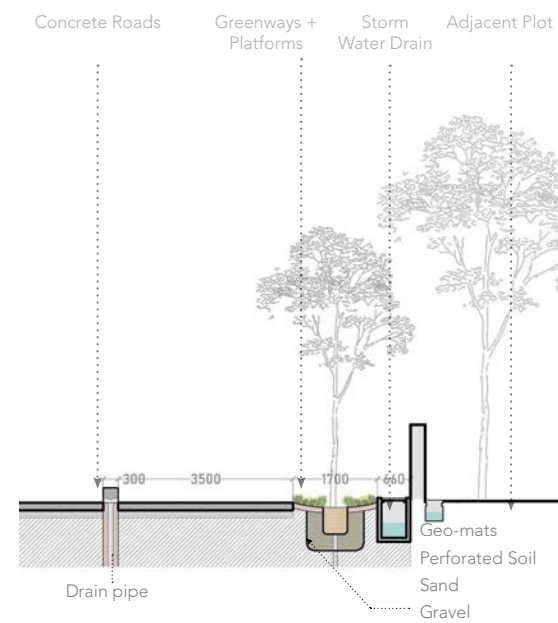
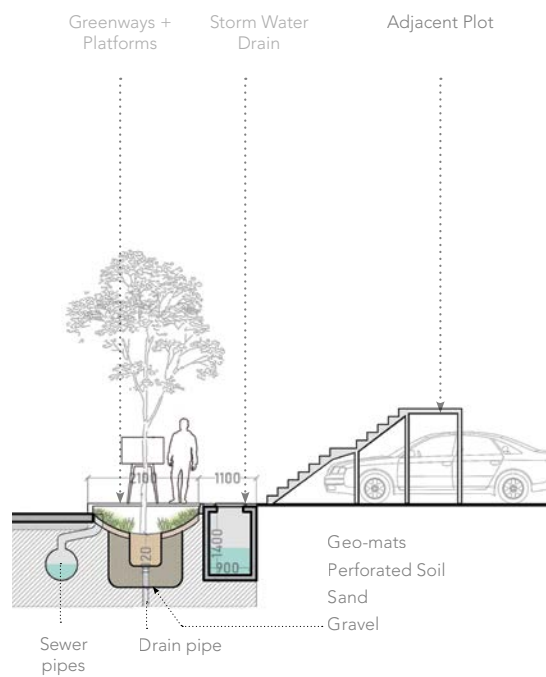
## BUILT FORM

Densification through slum rehabilitation, migration sponges, and incubator housing typologies that enhance community resilience and spatial equity. Vacant plots and vulnerable zones are reconfigured to integrate rainwater harvesting, green buffers, and inclusive public programs.



Incubator blocks and migration sponges create more community space and support inclusive densification.

DEVELOPMENT IN ZONE 2



Platforms enable multifunctional grounds.

DEVELOPMENT IN ZONE 3-4

Undergraduate thesis, SEA, 2019-20

**Advisors:** Anuj Daga, Komal Gowani

**Location:** Mumbai

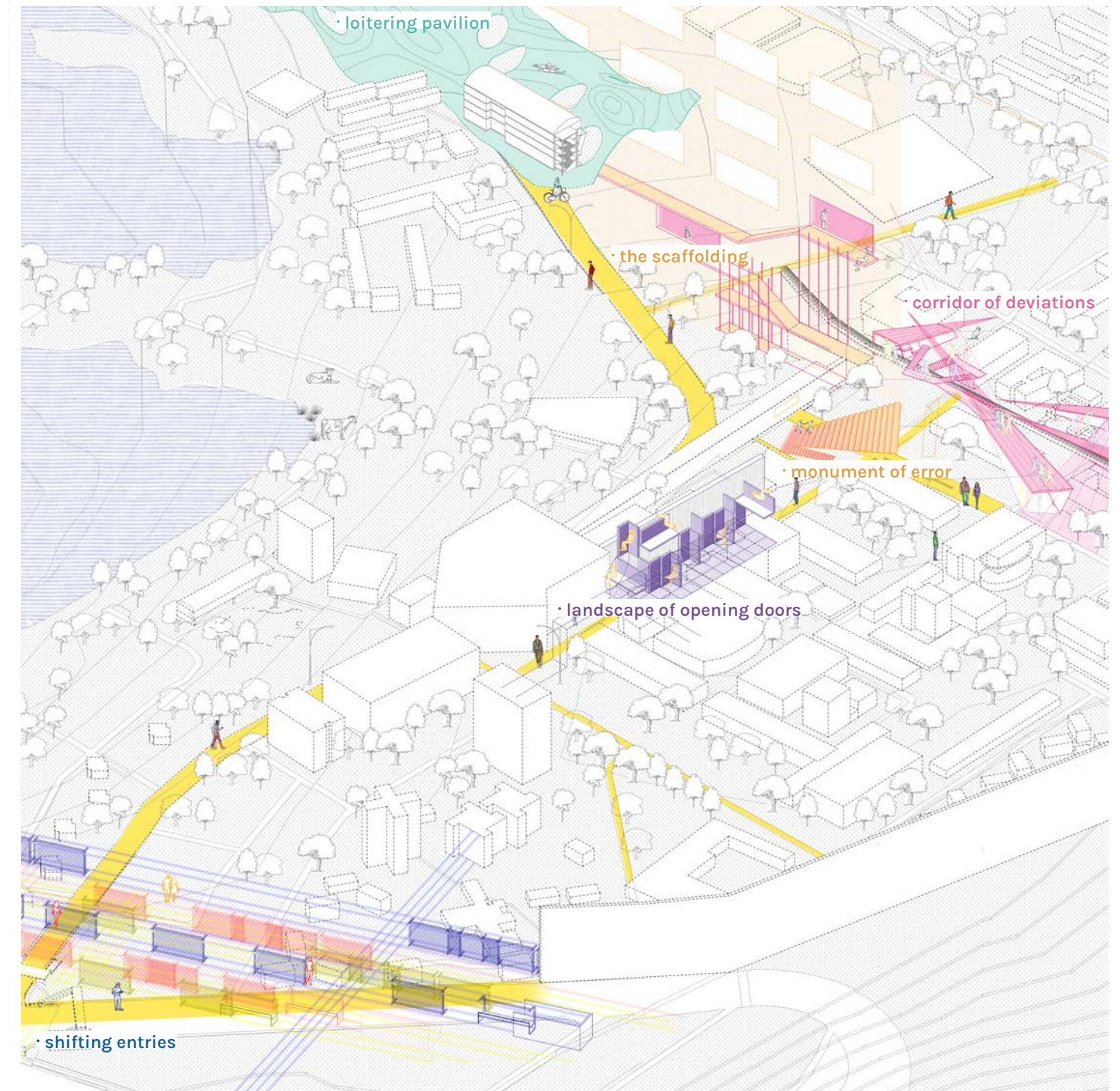
**Softwares:** Rhinoceros, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, AutoCAD

#### PUBLISHED & EXHIBITED

- Book: *Unbuilt 2.0: Architecture of the Future Collectives*. ArchitectureLive!
- Finalist, Non-architecture (competition)
- Public presentation, CritRoom

**Institutions are instruments of power.** They direct one's conduct by setting disciplinary mechanisms on the one hand and standardisation of knowledge on the other. Needless to say, these are spatially manifested within the architecture of a campus conditioning one's eventual worldview. They shape newer ideas and the spatialities of these institutions guide newer paths for learning.

The project is set in one such power embedded university campus, IIT, Bombay. Through the idea of play, the interventions try to rupture the institutional frameworks and create new spaces for inquiry and doubt. In a campus that is accuracy driven, the **nuances of play try to question the institutionalisation and learning.**



Apparatuses of Power and Play through discourses over time

**POWER**

Concept of repression, Sigmund Freud

The bourgeoisie and the proletariat, Karl Marx

The power of "production" and "consumption", Michel De Certeau

Discipline & "Where there is power, there is resistance", Michel Foucault

Tactics and strategies, Michel De Certeau

**SPATIALITY OF POWER**

"Power to" and "power over", Kim Dovey

Panopticon, Michel Foucault

Reversed buildings, Kim Dovey/Hillier and Hanson

Tactics and strategies, Michel De Certeau

**RESISTANCE**

Marginality of the majority, Michel De Certeau

There is no binary opposition between the ruled and the ruler, Michel Foucault

"Where there is power, there is resistance", Michel Foucault

Ideas of struggle, resistance and submission, Michel Foucault

**PLAY**

Agonism  
Rather than speaking of an essential antagonism, it would be better to speak of an "agonism" - of a relationship that is at the same time mutual incitement and struggle.

Situationism  
Raoul Vaneigem in "The revolution of everyday life"

Dadaism and Surrealism

**Spatiality of the institutions**

Mapped through major routes

Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay



University of Mumbai, Mumbai



Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai



CEPT University, Ahmedabad



Delhi University, New Delhi

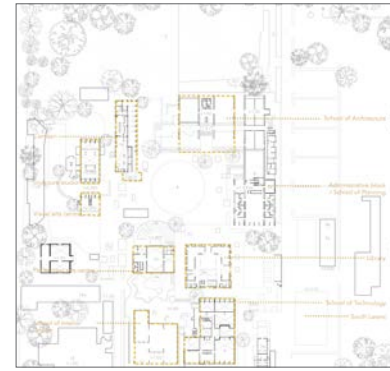
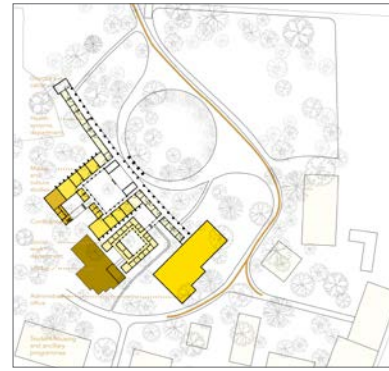
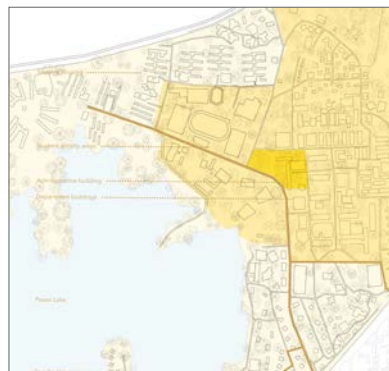


JNU, New Delhi



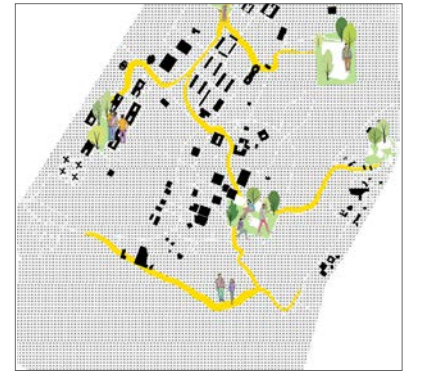
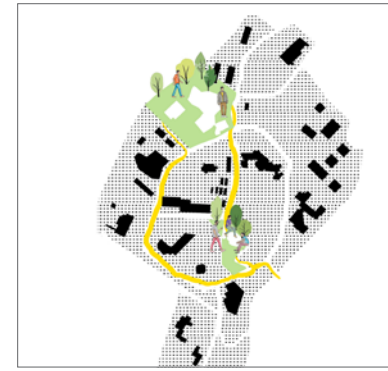
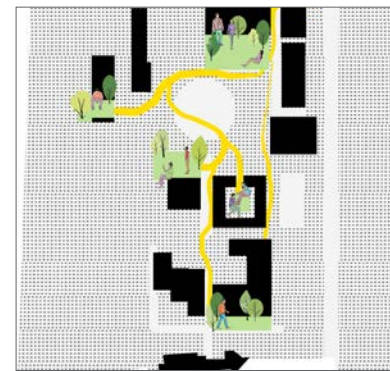
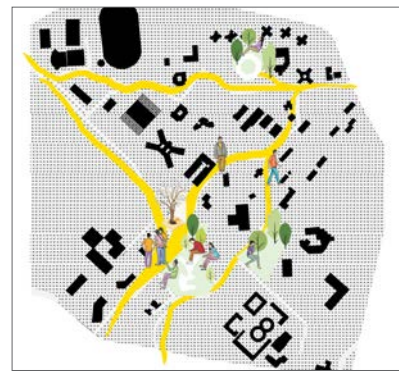
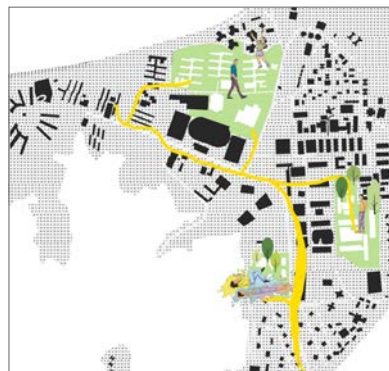
**Concentrations of power**

Mapped through the various programmes and scales on site



**Play maps**

Mapped through various interviews conducted on-site that highlighted experiential spaces of respite



## a player's manifesto

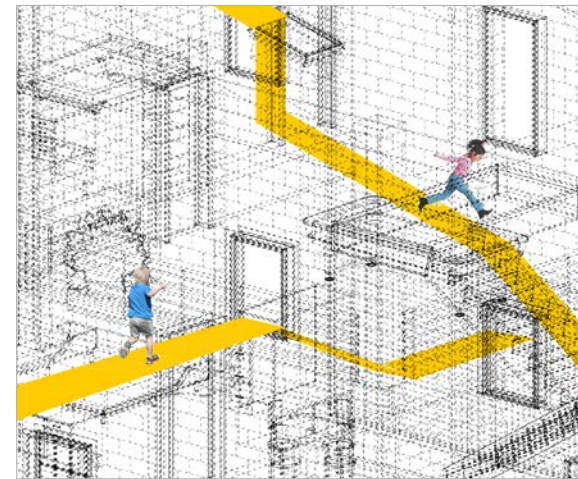
"a written statement of the beliefs, aims and policies of an organization, especially a political party" - a manifesto is defined by the statement or a list of statements presented by organisations in power or pursuing power. However, **this manifesto develops over a critique of the power structures.** The critique follows the forms of that play constantly subvert and critique power. It showcases forms of play as they are experienced, as stories, theories, and observations and in most cases, as an urge to revel in the system that is pre-defined by nature.

### Transgression

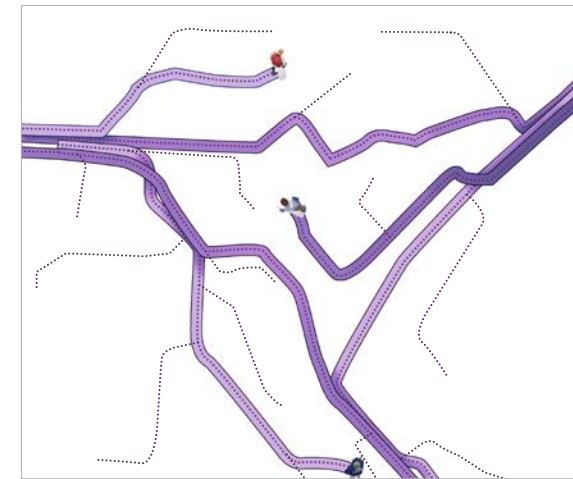


Credits: Cinema de Transgression

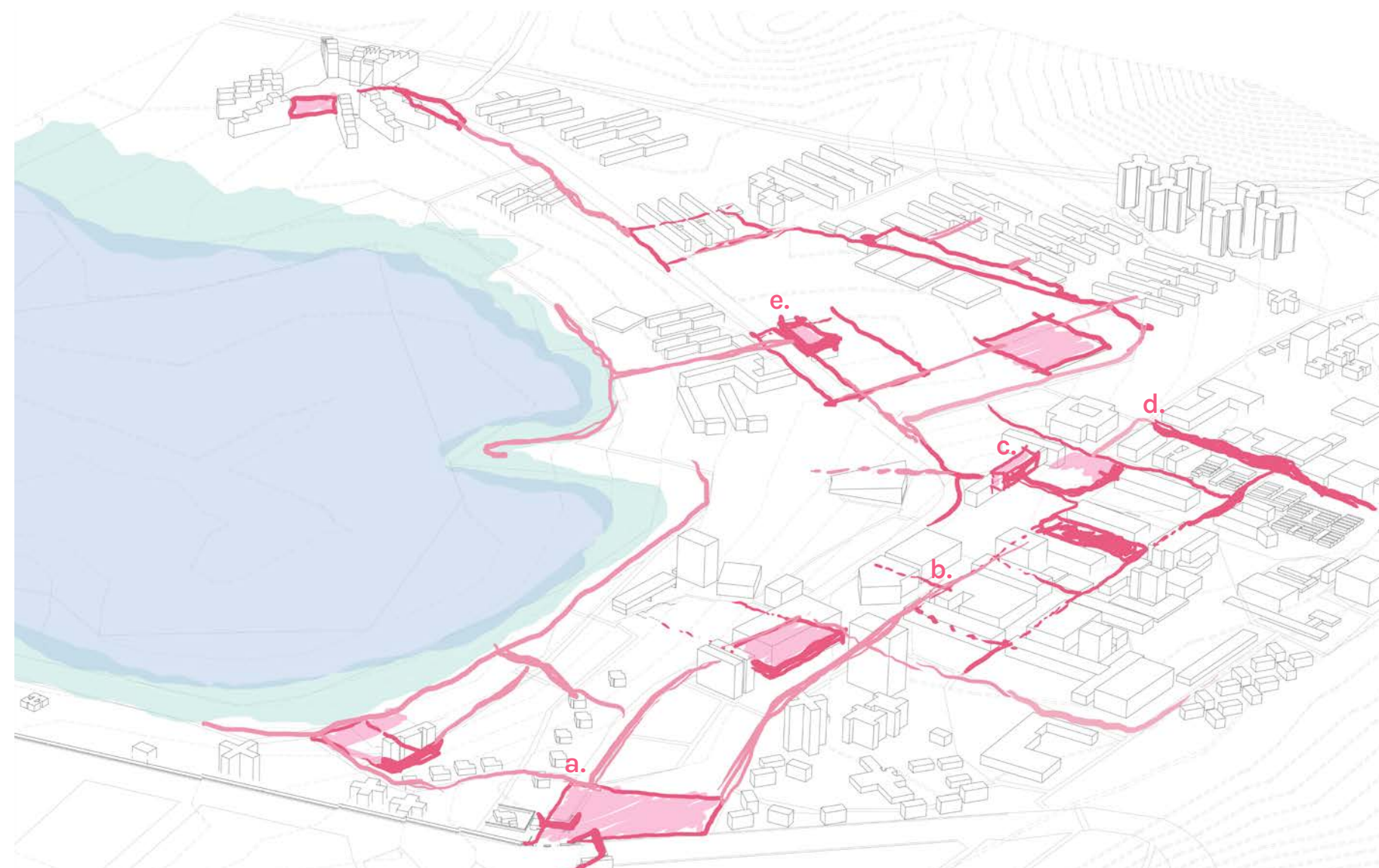
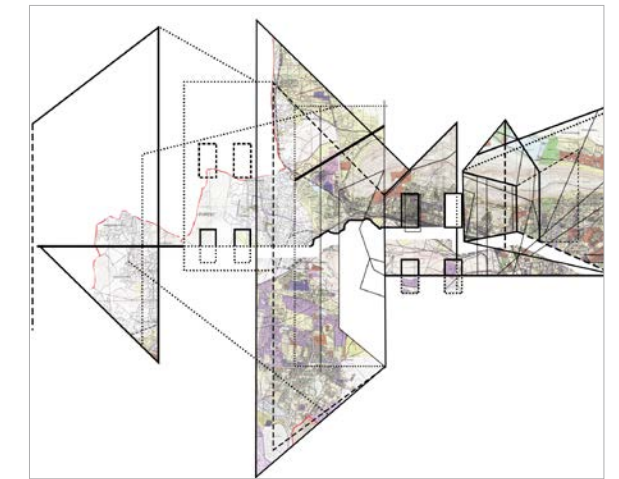
### Contrast



### Excuse



### Wonder



IIT-B Campus

The 550-acre IIT campus already holds a strong order of power, making any megaintervention another imposition. Instead, a sharper, smaller-scale strategy was adopted - "tickling" rather than "imposing," like a player's move.

The five pockets were identified to demonstrate architectures of play at five thresholds of

- a. The city and the campus
- b. The walk and the department buildings
- c. The self and the scale of infrastructure
- d. The corridor and its adjacencies
- e. The built and the recreation

These sub sites are framed through five intellectual devices from the manifesto

### Legend

- a. Transgression  
Shifting entries
- b. Landscape of opening doors  
Wonder
- c. Monument of error & scaffolding  
Discrepancy
- d. Corridor of deviations  
Excuse
- e. Loitering pavilion  
Contrast

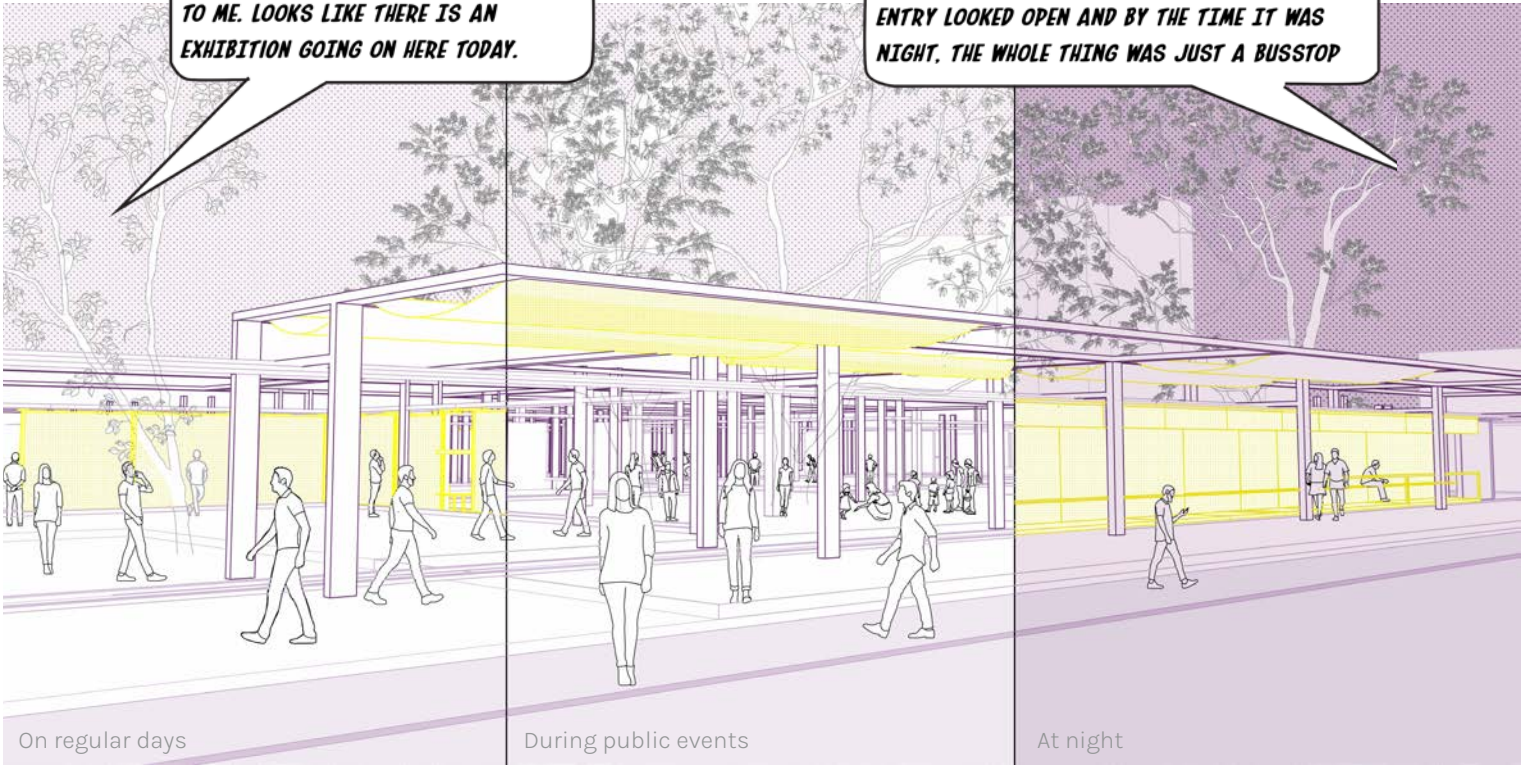
# shifting entries / transgression



LAST WEEK I ENTERED FROM A DIFFERENT OPENING, THIS DOESN'T LOOK THE SAME TO ME. LOOKS LIKE THERE IS AN EXHIBITION GOING ON HERE TODAY.



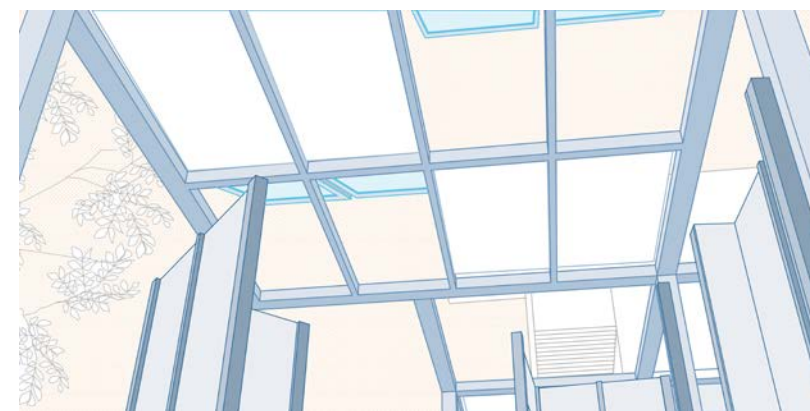
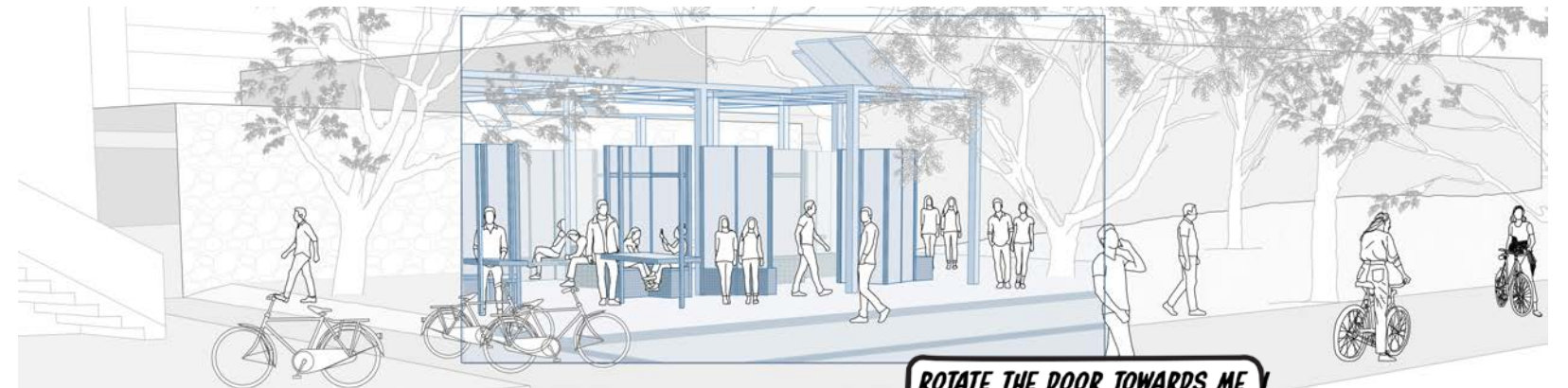
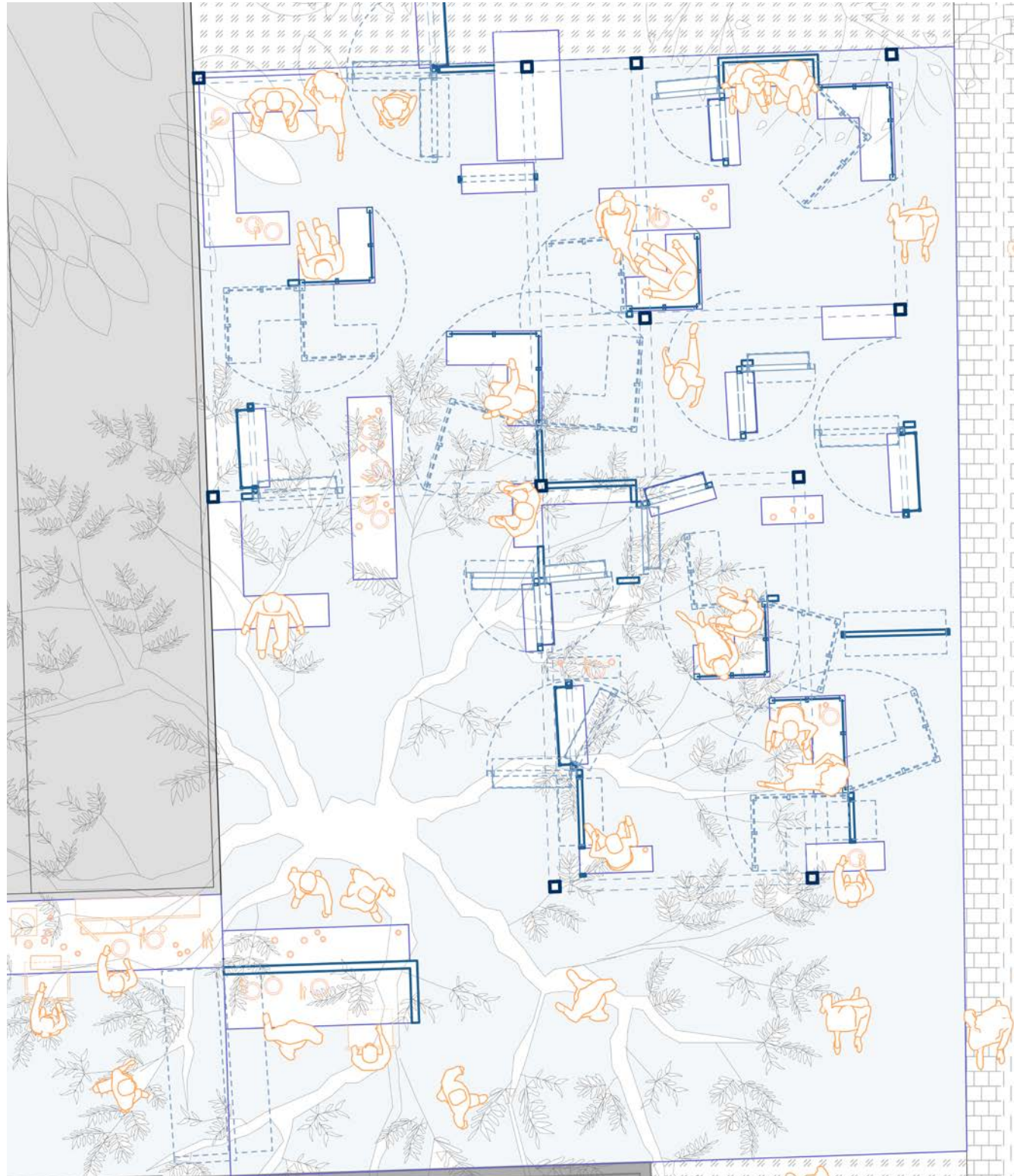
THE OTHER DAY, THERE WERE NO PANELS, THE WHOLE ENTRY LOOKED OPEN AND BY THE TIME IT WAS NIGHT, THE WHOLE THING WAS JUST A BUSSTOP



A landscape of tracks and sliding panels, topped by a light roof structure that integrates with the street below. Bus stops and auto stands become part of these sliding panels. During events, outer walls act as sockets to stack panels; at night, they unfold into a large bus stop that seals the campus.

## landscape of opening doors / wonder

Tucked along the lane to department buildings, this intervention softens the abrupt shift from street to the imposing, closed building masses. It reshapes space through a landscape of doors that open to the sky or fold into enclosures, blurring boundaries between private and semi-public realms.

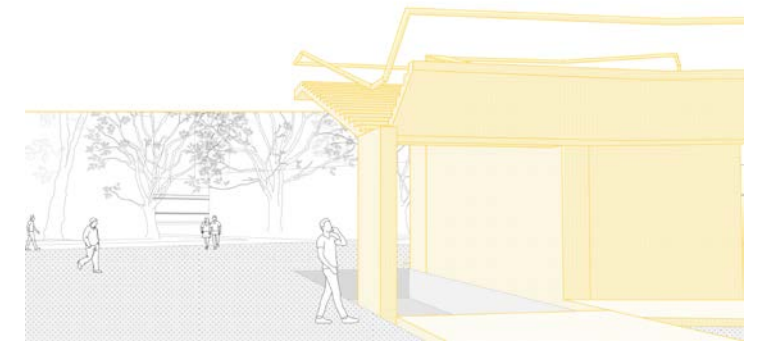


# monument of error & the scaffolding / discrepancy



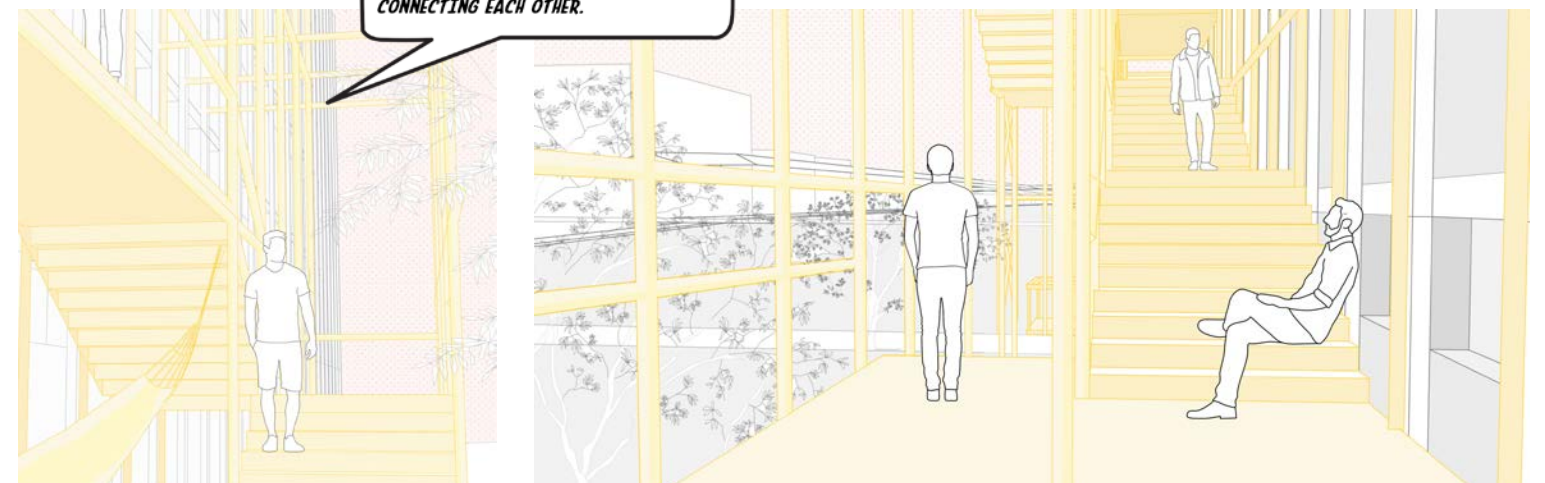
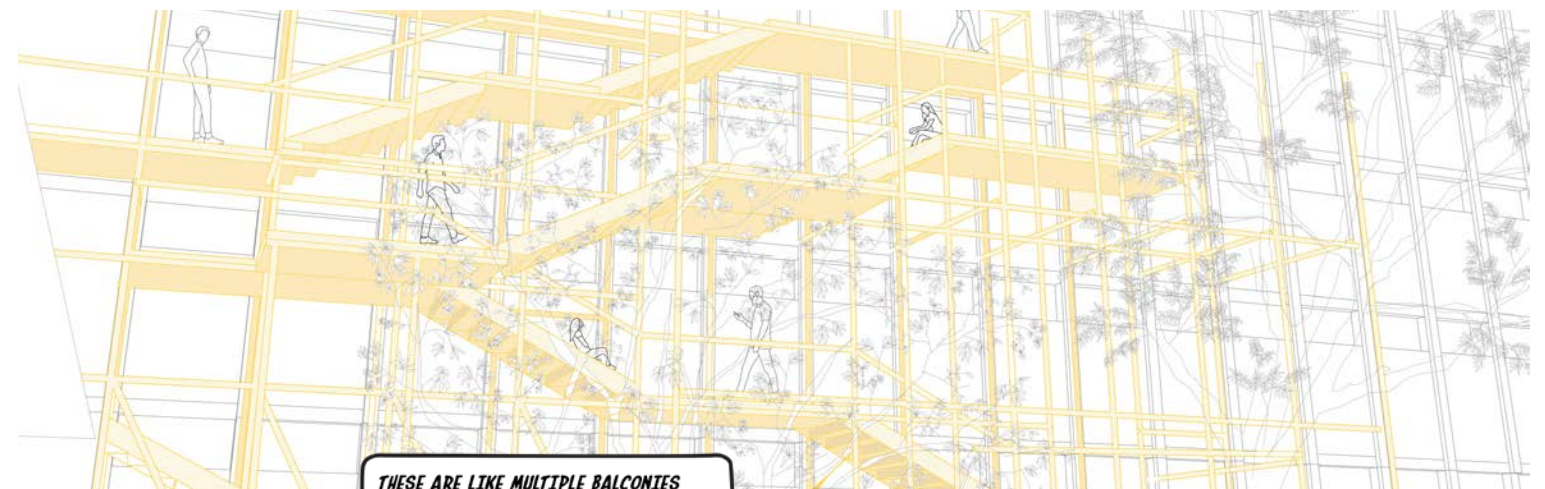
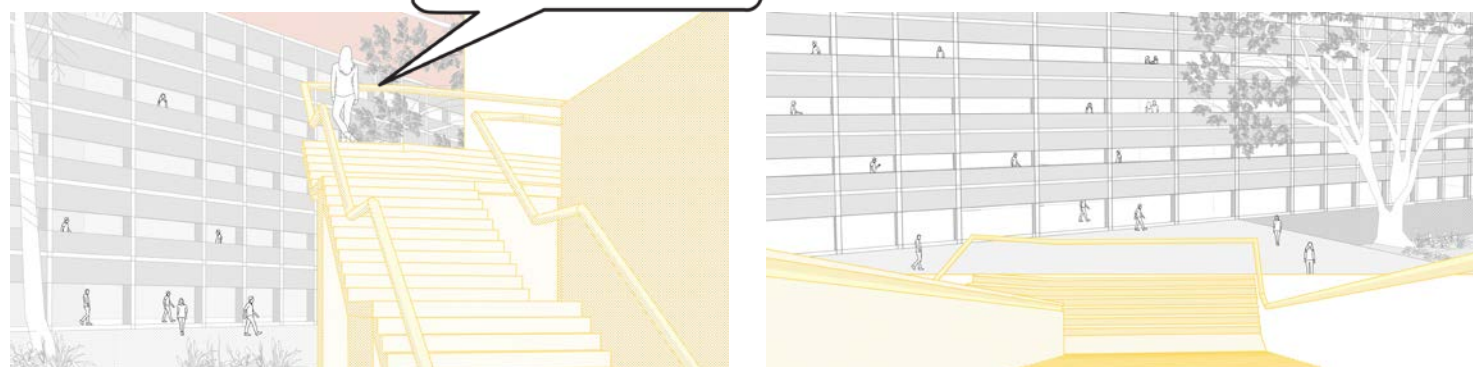
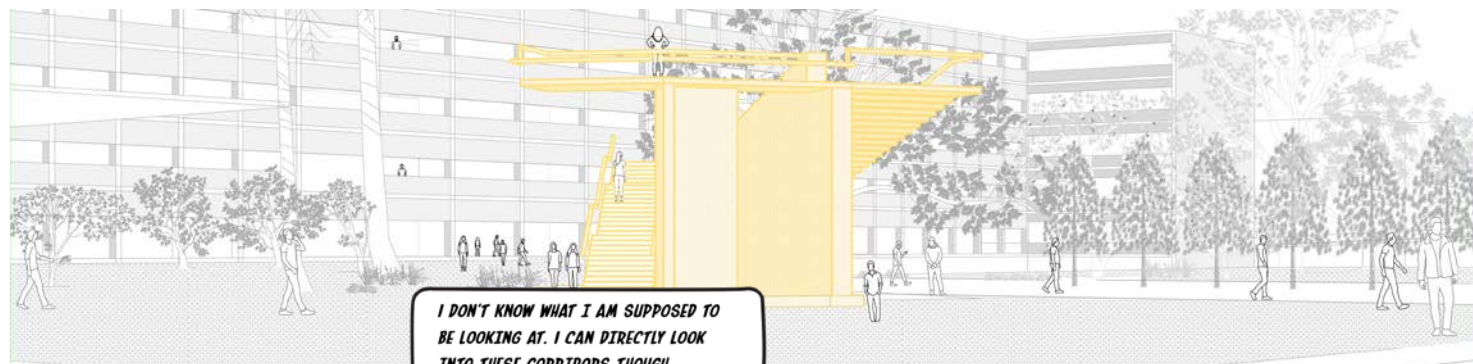
## Monument of error

Placed outside the 100-metre-long administrative block, the Monument of Error induces play through discrepancy. In an accuracy-driven campus, its absurd, unframed presence stands as a misplaced object - celebrating failure and inviting doubt and inquiry.

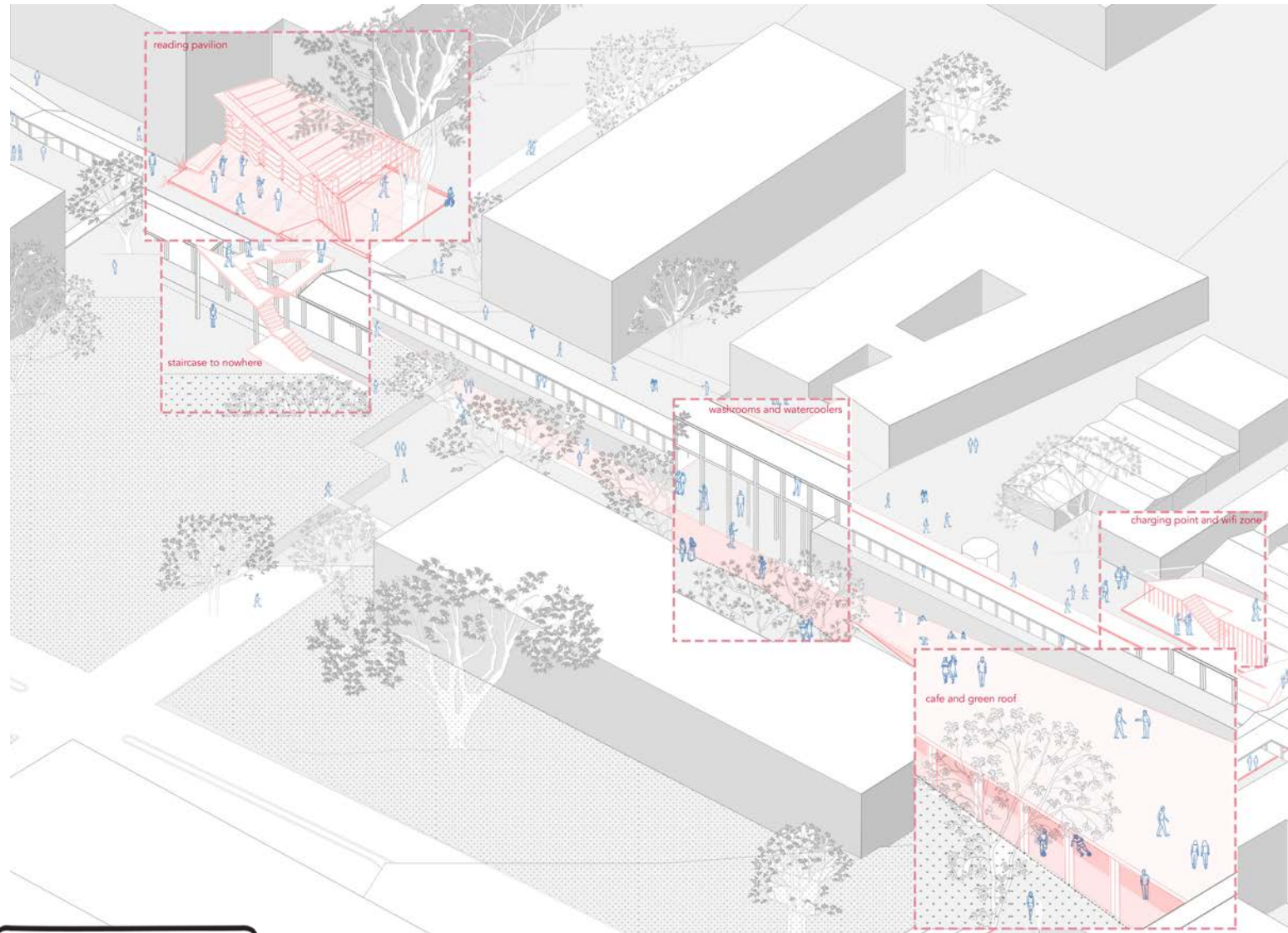


## Scaffolding

Latched onto the administrative building, the scaffolding creates intimate spaces and an external network. It shifts the building from finished to unfinished, pulling the campus away from institutional rigidity into a realm of temporality and freedom.



# corridor of deviations / excuse

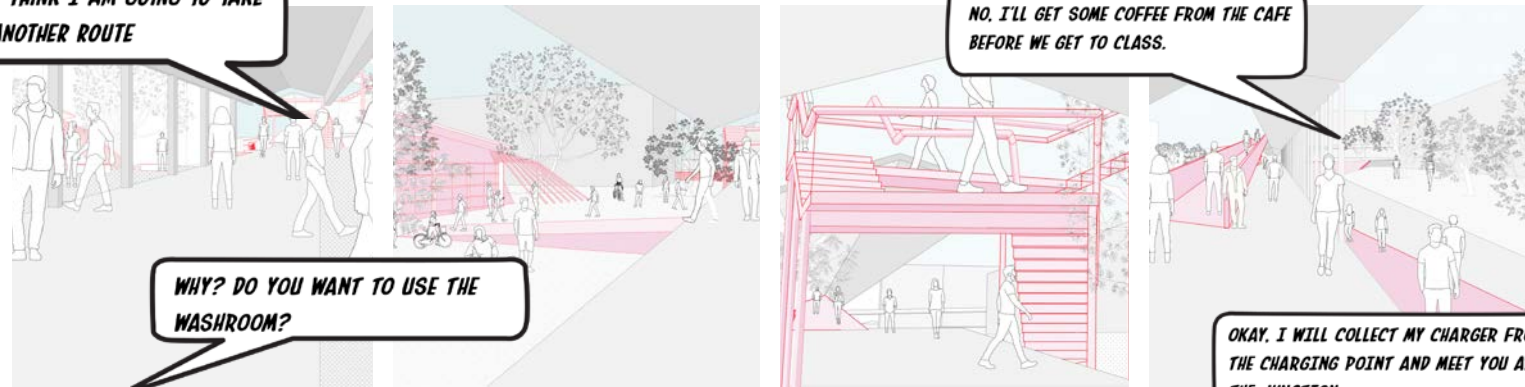


I THINK I AM GOING TO TAKE ANOTHER ROUTE

NO, I'LL GET SOME COFFEE FROM THE CAFE BEFORE WE GET TO CLASS.

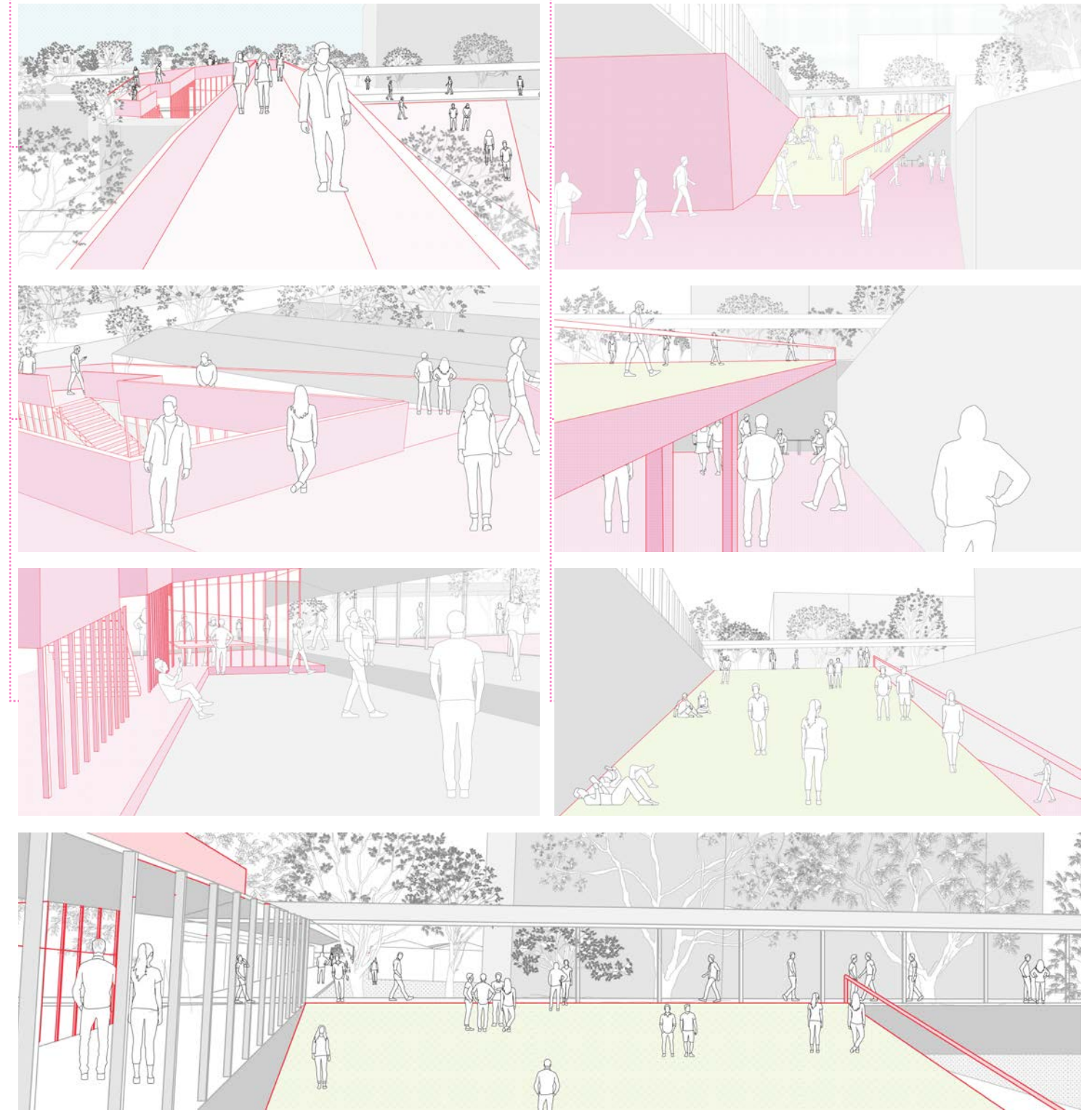
WHY? DO YOU WANT TO USE THE WASHROOM?

OKAY, I WILL COLLECT MY CHARGER FROM THE CHARGING POINT AND MEET YOU AT THE JUNCTION.



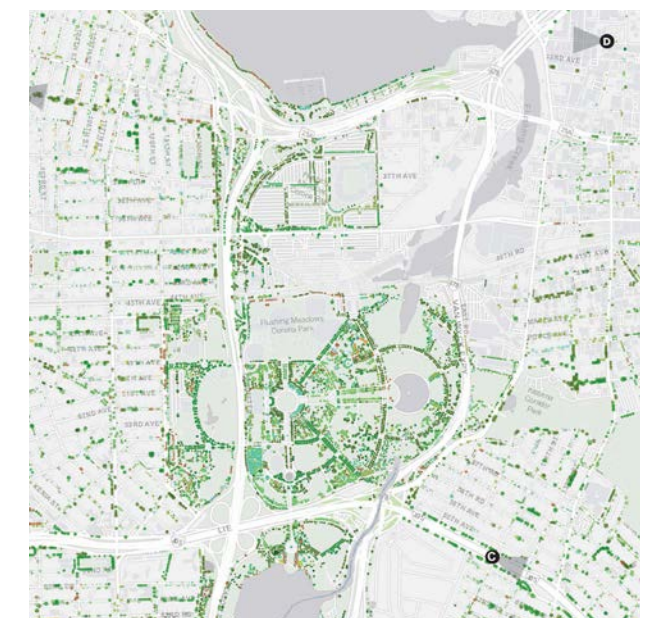
route 1

route 2



The Infinity Corridor, a 1-1.5 km path linking campus departments, remains mundane in its linearity and uniformity. The intervention introduces playful deviations - built forms that mislead, rise, sink, or spiral - offering moments to wander, pause, or escape the routine of directional movement. Its language is shaped by these intentional detours.

# Speculation to Stewardship



Spring semester, Group Work, Cornell University, 2024-25

## On-going

**Advisors:** Jae Shin and Damon Rich (HECTOR Design Studio)

**Location:** Willets Point, New York City

**Team:** Yifan Liu

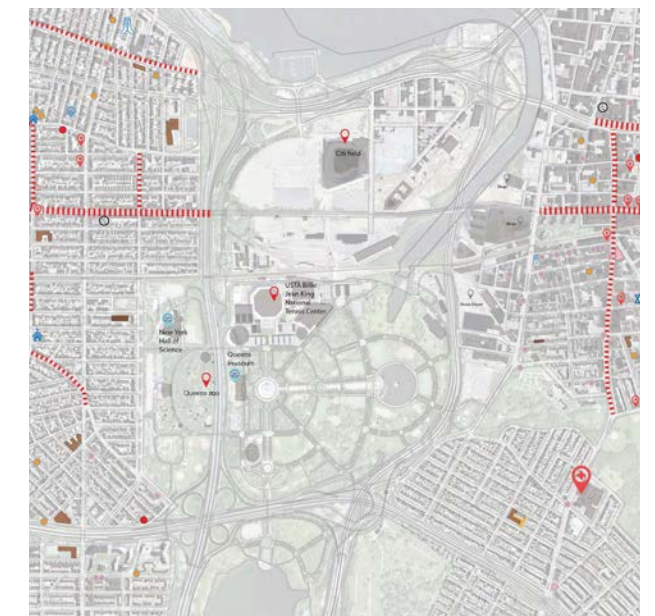
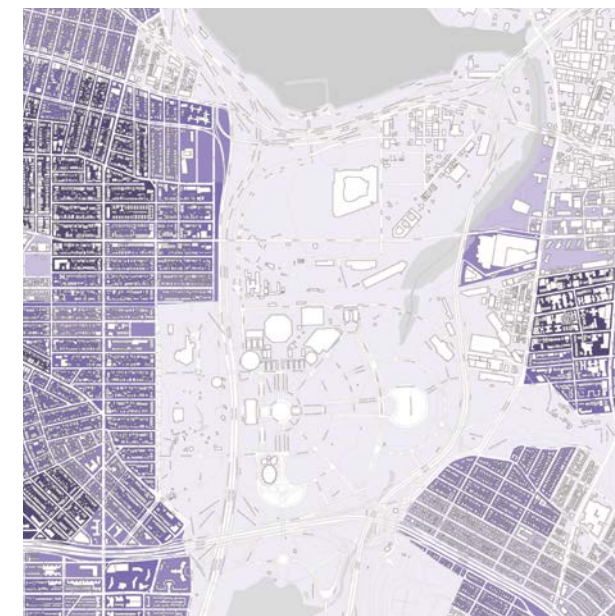
**Role:** Site study, research, studying mechanisms, design, design drawings - plans and axonometric

**Softwares:** Rhinoceros, QGIS, PolicyMap, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop, AutoCAD

The project examines how neighborhoods are shaped through collective decision-making, focusing on land use struggles and environmental justice in Flushing, Corona, and East Elmhurst. It responds to current debates in Eastern Queens, including the proposed casino development at Willets Point.

It explores how streets, buildings, signage, and landscapes become tools for self-determination and storytelling, connecting histories of power, persuasion, and protest to future urban possibilities.

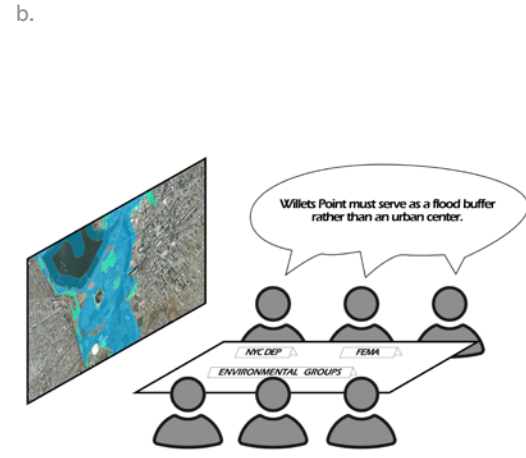
The proposal imagines an alternative future for Willets Point and Corona, centered on climate adaptation and community control. At Willets Point, the Transit Workers Union (TWU) leads housing development directly on publicly controlled land, securing long-term affordability. In Corona, a Community Land Trust (CLT) protects land from speculation, ensuring development remains rooted in local needs. Together, these strategies offer a framework for equitable, resilient urban growth.



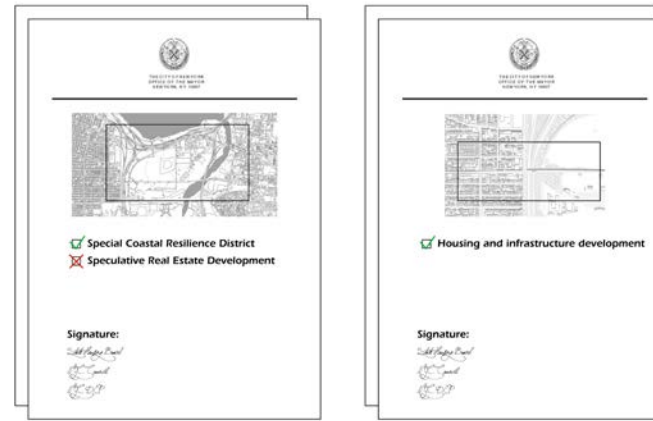
Speculative development mechanisms



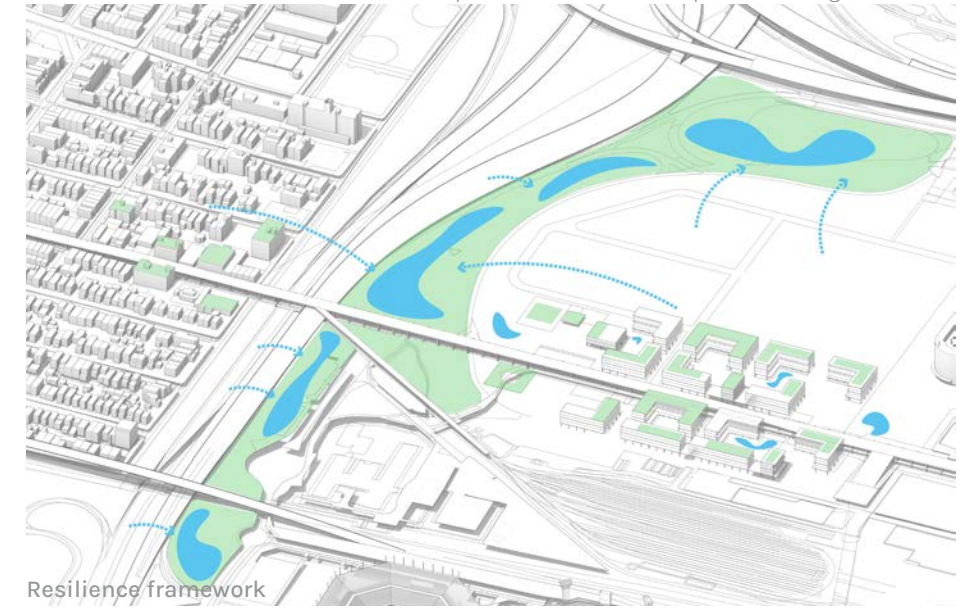
Development stalls due to climate risks



Shift in understanding of the site



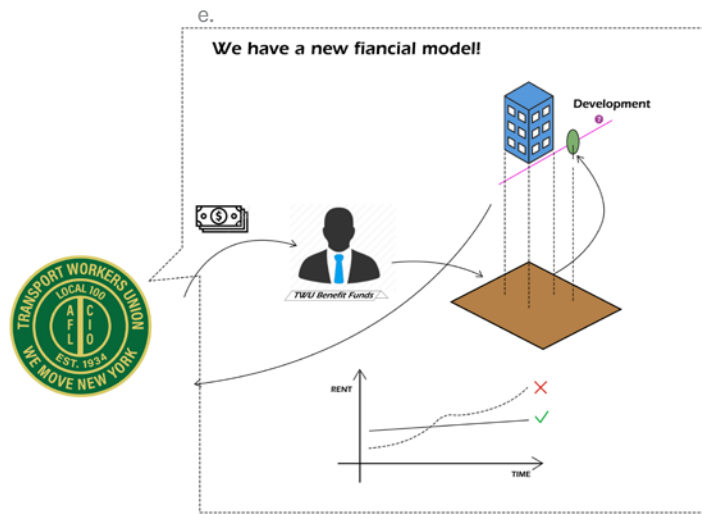
Policy reclassification for climate resilience



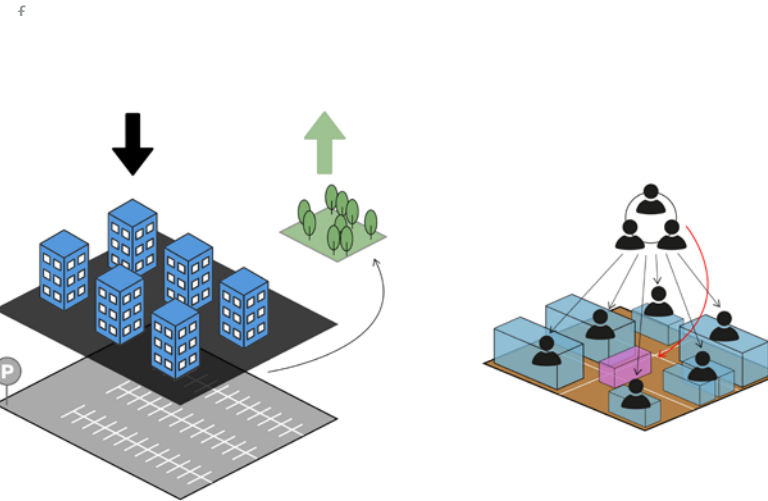
Resilience framework



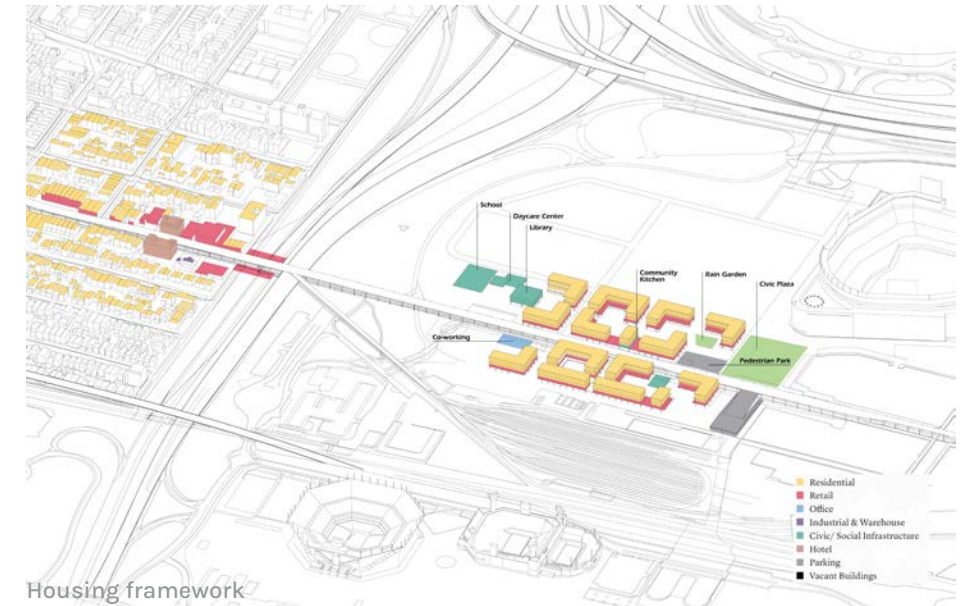
Decision-making authority transitions



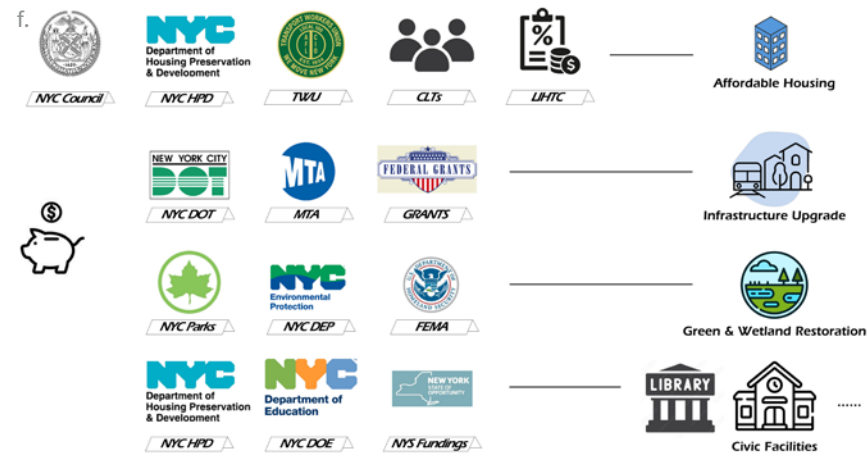
Union-led alternative model



Community-driven land stewardship



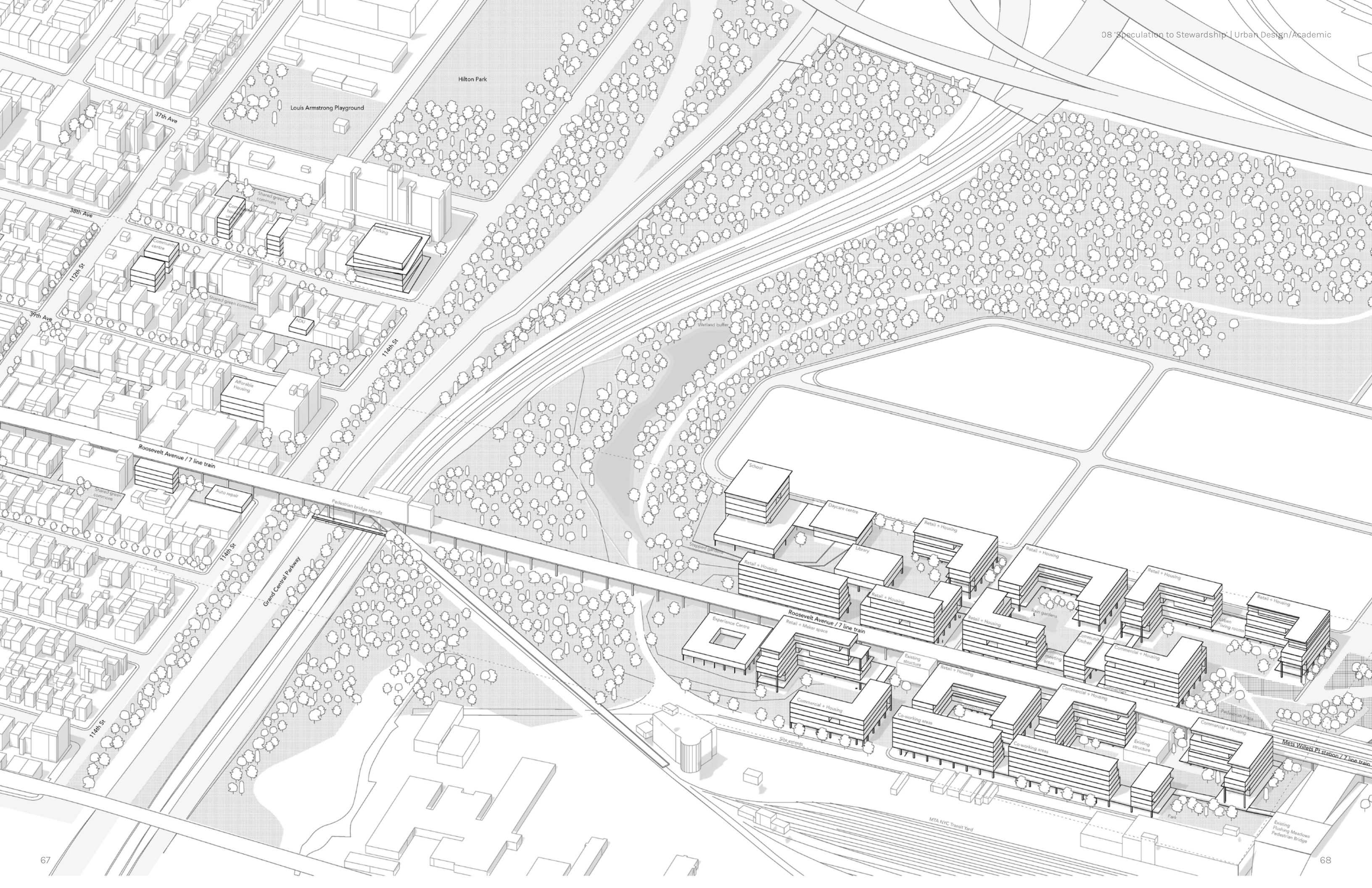
Housing framework



Multi-agency collaboration for implementation



Infrastructure framework



# Design across mediums

Thesis design & publication in Unbuilt book  
Professional

UnBuilt 2.0: Architecture of the Future Collectives  
2020



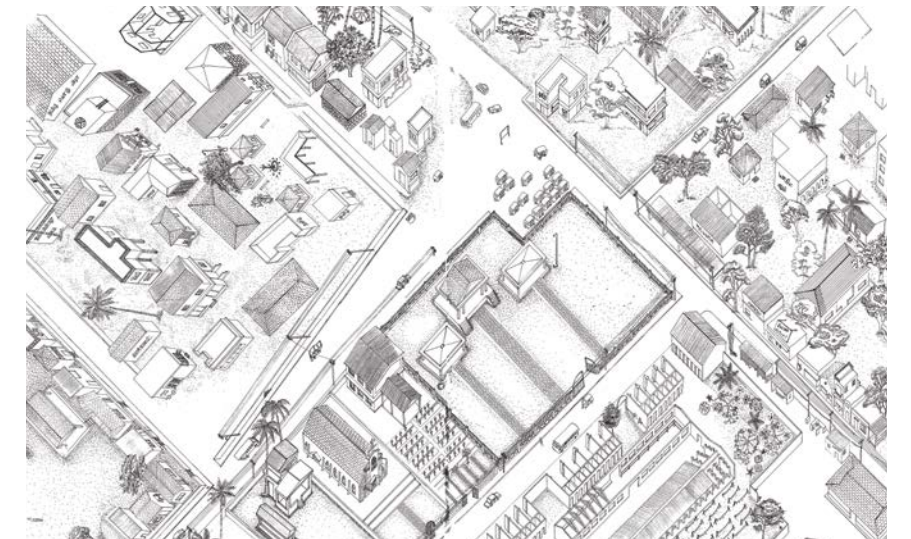
Set design  
Professional

"How are you today?"  
Performance, NMACC, Mumbai, 2023  
Team: Rishabh Chajjer



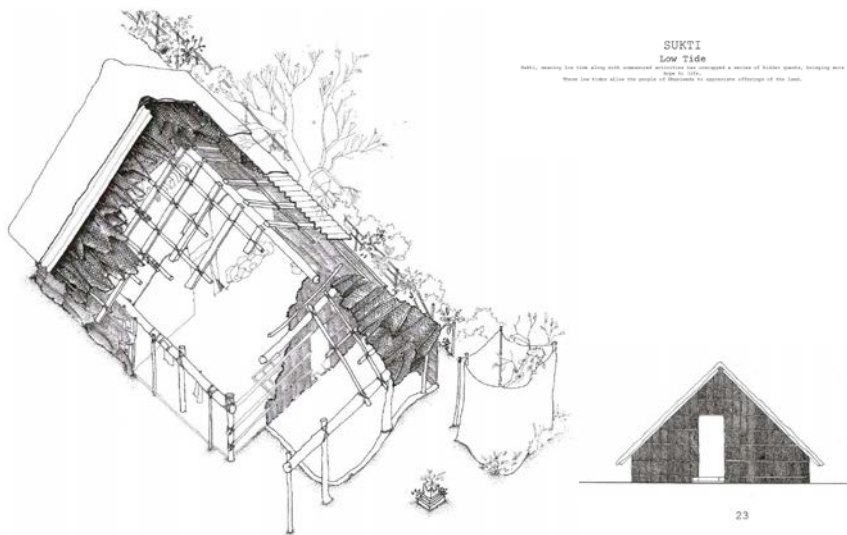
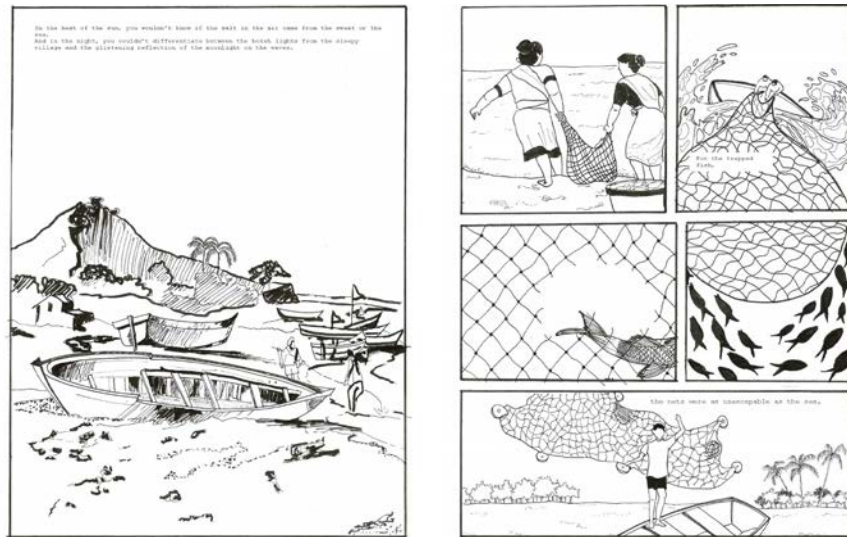
Kochi Biennale, 2016 & Shanghai Biennale, 2017  
Academic

School of Environment and Architecture  
Team: Ankita Dhal, Gaurav Edwankar, Abhinav Pahade



Graphic Novel  
Academic

The Water People, 2015  
Team: SEA, Cohort Of 2020



Exhibition design & drawings for Malik Architecture  
Professional

Intern: Architect, Out of the Shadows exhibition, 2019



Newspaper publications  
Academic

Of Land or Water?, 2019-20  
Team: SEA, Cohort Of 2020



Mapping floods: is Mumbai at the risk of being submerged?

by Apekshita Varshney · September 8, 2020 · Infrastructure  
One architecture school in Mumbai mapped the floods of its R-ward for a year. Their results were alarming



Nirmohi Kathrecha, a graduate from the School of Environment and Architecture (SEA), is concerned about Mumbai's outfall levels – points where the city's drains or sewers empty into the Arabian Sea.

The Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) predicts a sea-level rise of 0.5 metres by 2051. "This means that Mumbai's outfall points will be below the sea level or the high-tide line," Kathrecha says. "A backflow of water from the sea could submerge us."

The information is alarming.

Kathrecha grew up in Mumbai's Gorai region where torrential rain and flooding is routine. But solutions for flood mitigation, critical due to an increase in sea levels, are not forthcoming. Long-term resilience measures are possible only after understanding the city's present complexity. So during the monsoon of 2019, Kathrecha and her 34 classmates at SEA They uncovered and mapped R-ward or Borivali's underground and roadside drainage networks, its natural water systems, and the outfalls. Historical maps and interviews with residents helped them trace the effects of human occupation on flooding patterns. And their research culminated into a study and exhibition called: Of land or water.

Municipal boundaries divide one ward in the city from the other, but water doesn't obey these prosaic rules. It's why SEA called their project "Of land or water" emphasising the land-water dependence and looking at watersheds instead of administrative borders. "In mapping the ward, we started to look at water systems more cohesively and planned short-term and long-term interventions," Kathrecha adds.

Art - Haverhill PS Art Showcase  
Professional

Oil on canvas, 2017  
Individual art work for charity auction



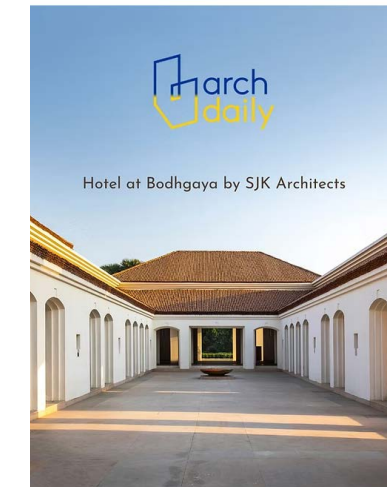
Competition entry - Top 50  
Professional

The Riparian Loo  
Volume Zero Competition, Top 50, 2020  
Team: Swaraj Dhuri

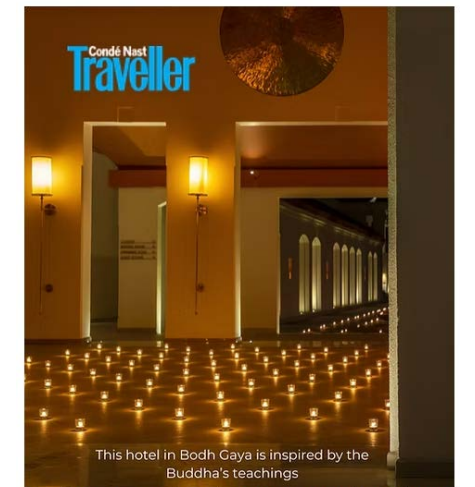


Writing & Publication for SJK Architects  
Professional

Project Architect & Writing and Publication Head  
Team: Roshni Kshirsagar, Partner at SJK Architect



Hotel at Bodhgaya by SJK Architects  
ArchDaily, 30 May 2022, India



E-Publication - hotels and Homestays Hotel at Bodhgaya  
Conde Nast Traveller, December 2021, India



Lifestyle for Forest of Chintz  
Architectural Digest, 9th April 2022, India

