

Gayatri Pandkar

Master of Architecture | Building Performance University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

HELLO!

I am Gayatri, an M.Arch graduate from UIUC, and this is a collection of my most notable work.

I believe that architecture is more than just creating and erecting structures; it's also about the experiences individuals have while interacting with the spaces that are created for them. Architecture, like all other forms of art, is a process of communication in which the designer encodes the information and the perceiver decodes it. Although the revelation of art comes after the basic creation of space, art still offers a chance to stress and humanize space while involving, interacting, and involving the public in these everlasting spatial narratives.

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Gayatri Pandkar

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Education

Master of Architecture (NCARB accredited)

May 2025

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Illinois School of Architecture, USA

Bachelor of Architecture

July 2022

Savitribai Phule Pune University, Dr. B N College of Architecture, Pune, India

Professional Experience

Research Assistant Aug 2025-present

Thomas Leslie FAIA, UIUC, USA

- Researching historical documentation and master planning strategies for Chicago's Meigs Airport redevelopment proposals to understand shifts in urban design priorities.
- Developing detailed graphical presentations using Adobe Creative Suite and visual narratives that illustrate the evolution of design concepts and planning approaches.

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Aug 2024-May 2025

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, USA

- Mentored a group of 15–18 students throughout the design process, emphasizing sustainable strategies, conceptual development, and innovative thinking to address complex spatial and environmental design challenges effectively.
- Provided detailed feedback on design iterations, physical models, and graphic novels, while offering hands-on support with Adobe Creative Suite and Rhino to strengthen students' visual communication and technical skills.

Architectural Summer Intern

May 2024-Aug 2024

Mead & Hunt, Portland, USA

- Salem Airport, OR: Contributed to the Conceptual Design Phase of the baggage claim and departure gate designs, improved passenger flow by 20% & enhanced operational efficiency by 15% through optimized layouts & circulation.
- Rogue Valley International Medford Airport, OR: Assisted in developing terminal layouts that emphasized efficient operations, user-friendly passenger flows, adherence to ADA standards, and effective evacuation strategies.
- Ketchikan International Airport, AK: Worked on the Detailed Design Phase, creating a façade inspired by totem pole regional aesthetics. Produced visualizations using Enscape, ensuring cultural and material authenticity.

Junior Architectural Designer

Oct 2022-July 2023

Rajendra Pandkar Architect, India

- Conceptualized and designed a farmhouse, harmonizing with the local context by seamlessly blending cultural elements and sustainable, regionally sourced materials.
- Crafted a residential bungalow for a family of four, blending contemporary and traditional Indian influences, inspired by local context and materials.
- Produced captivating 3D visuals, and construction drawings, delivering a clear representation of design concepts.

Winter Intern

Jan 2023-Feb 2023

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- Played a key role in enhancing the Foundation's online presence through effective social media marketing. Designed engaging digital assets for awareness campaigns and fundraising activities, to increase audience engagement.
- Effectively organized and strategically promoted diverse fundraising events, both online and on-site, contributing to substantial increases in donations and robust community support.

Architectural Summer Intern

June 2021-Dec 2021

Shailesh Salehittal Architect, India

• Prepared comprehensive technical drawings, including floor plans, elevations, and sections, ensuring accurate documentation for residential and mixed-use projects, and developed detailed 3D visualization.

Skills

Software Skills: Revit, AutoCAD, Rhino, Adobe Suite, SketchUp, Lumion, Enscape, Bluebeam, Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint Skills: Graphical and written skills, Critical thinking, Physical modeling making, Sketching, Vizualization, Project coordination and Collaborative teamwork

Extra-Curricular & Co-Curricular - International tours and workshops

SEE: Our Cities - Global Design Intervention

Sept 2020

- Participated in the project as part of the Global Classroom initiative proposed by Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, USA.
- Collaborated with international peers in exploring innovative design solutions for urban environments. Contributed insights to foster cross-cultural understanding and address global challenges in urban design.

Energy Efficient Building Design Program

Jan 2020

- Participated in the Energy Efficient Building Design Program, a workshop in collaboration with SVS School of Architecture, Coimbatore, India, focused on sustainable architectural practices.
- Worked alongside students and faculty in exploring energy-efficient building strategies, emphasizing regional adaptability and sustainable design solutions.

Sustainable Strategies for Affordable Housing

Nov 2019

- Engaged in a 2-day workshop on "Sustainable Strategies for Affordable Housing" conducted under the United Nations Academic Impact, UNAI, at Ecole Nationale d'Architecture Rabat, Morocco.
- Explored sustainable practices and strategies aimed at addressing housing challenges with a global perspective. Gained valuable insights into the intersection of architecture, sustainability, and social impact on an international platform.

Barcelona Step-By-Step

Nov 2018

03

- Participated in a 3-day workshop at Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya Barcelona Tech, Barcelona, Spain. Explored the city of Barcelona from an architectural and urban planning perspective.
- Engaged in hands-on activities and discussions to understand the unique design elements that contribute to the city's identity. Acquired a holistic view of urban design principles and their practical applications.

Achievements and Certifications

- LEED Green Associate from Green Business Certificatin Inc. (Jun 2025)
- Received **Graduate Design Excellence Award Honorable Mention** at the Annual Architecture Awards cnducted by the Illinois School of Architecture (Jan 2024)
- Received Merit Based Non-Resident Scholarship from College of Fine & Applied Arts at UIUC for two consecutive semesters (Aug 2023 & Jan 2024)

ILLINOIS ROWING CENTER & COMMUNITY BOATHOUSE

Fall 2024

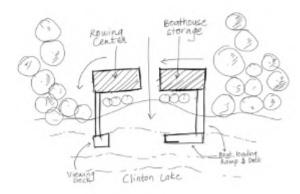
Team : Gayatri Pandkar & Shamita Honawar

Instructor : Scott Murray
Duration : Aug 2024 - Dec 2024

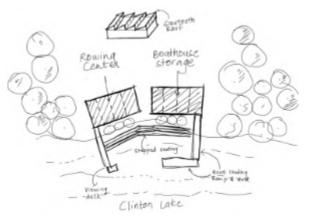
Softwares used: Revit, SketchUp, Lumion, Photoshop

The Illinois Rowing Center and Community Boathouse merges rowing center and boathouses into a unified structure that enhances both functionality and accessibility. Key features like training and event spaces are thoughtfully placed to ensure smooth flow, while stepped seating offers ideal views of Clinton Lake and rowing events. The design integrates seamlessly with the natural surroundings, using multi-level circulation paths to create a dynamic experience for both rowers and visitors. Serving both the University of Illinois Rowing Club and the local community, the boathouse fosters a shared appreciation for sport and nature, blending recreation with serene reflection. The thoughtful design not only respects but enhances the natural landscape, creating an immersive and engaging environment for all.





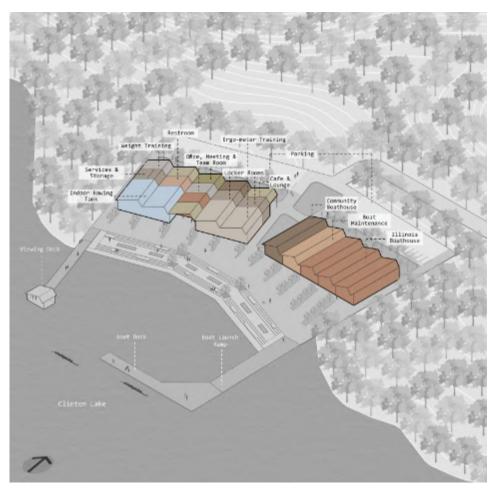
Separating the rowing center facility and the boathouse storage to enhance functionality and ease of use.



Tilting the rowing center to optimize lake views and incorporating a sawtooth roof profile to maximize natural light and create an open, inviting atmosphere.



Sketch of the facility with stepped seating toward the lake, a landscape area between the buildings and water, and a clear view of the lake from the north entry



Program Diagram: Spatial Organization and Functional Layout of the Rowing Center and Boathouse

Located along the serene shores of Clinton Lake, Illinois, the site features gently sloping topography that leads to the water's edge. The landscape is marked by a mix of open grassy areas and native vegetation, providing a natural setting for the Illinois Rowing Center and Community Boathouse. The proximity to the lake offers stunning views and creates a serene, dynamic environment. Vehicular access is provided via nearby roads, making the site easy while preserving its peaceful, natural character.

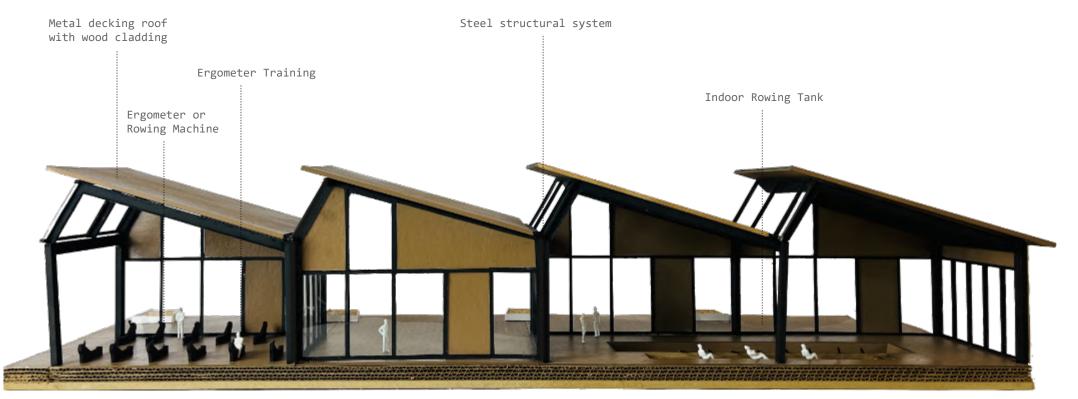
The boathouse design strives to blend effortlessly with the natural environment, creating a space where the community can connect with both rowing and the surrounding landscape. The central seating steps are designed to immerse visitors in the serene beauty of Clinton Lake, offering a seamless integration of nature and activity. This design serves the University of Illinois Rowing Club and the local community, fostering a shared appreciation for both sport and nature.







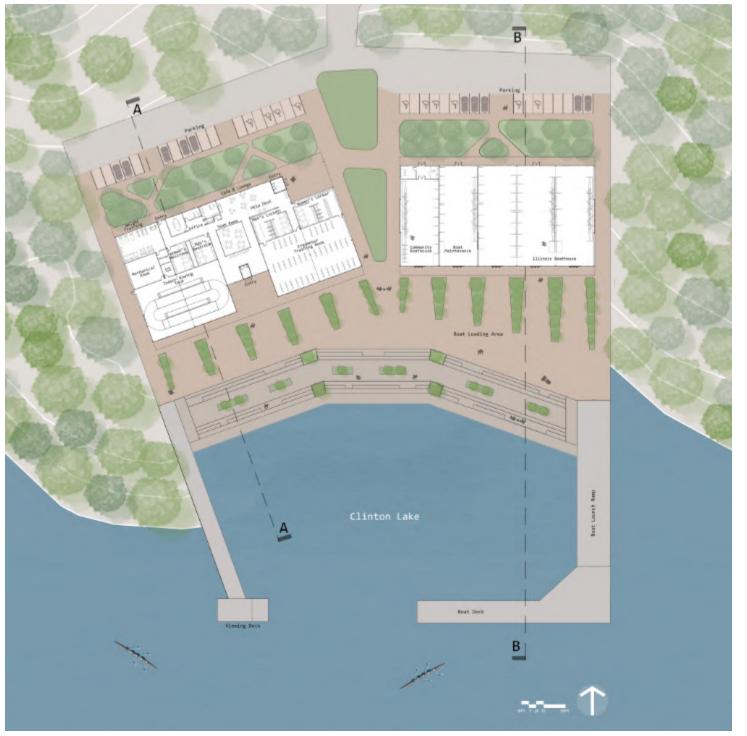
This section shows the rowing tank, training room, and the stepped outdoor space that cascades down to the lake, emphasizing the seamless flow between indoor sports area and outdoor engagement with the water.



Physical Model Highlighting the Rowing Tank and Ergometer Training Room Design

Rowing Ergometer: A rowing erg machine also known as an ergometer is a machine.

Rowing Ergometer: A rowing erg machine, also known as an ergometer, is a machine that simulates rowing a boat on land. It's used for exercise and training, and can help improve endurance and rowing skills.



Floor Plan

The design integrates the Illinois Boathouse and Community Boathouse into a unified structure, enhancing storage and accessibility for rowers. Key program elements, including training and event spaces, are housed separately to optimize functionality. A welcoming canopy connects the buildings, creating a communal platform that fosters interaction and guides visitors toward the lake. Stepped seating provides scenic views of the lake and rowing races, while ramps lead to the boat dock and viewing deck, offering diverse waterfront perspectives.



Section through the Illinois Rowing Center - Ergometer Training Room

The insulation is chosen as per IECC standards for Climate zone 5.

Roof R-Value: 60 (h ft² F/BTU) Wall R-Value: 15 (h ft² F/BTU)

Glazing U-Value: 0.14 (argon-filled, 3-pane glass with 2

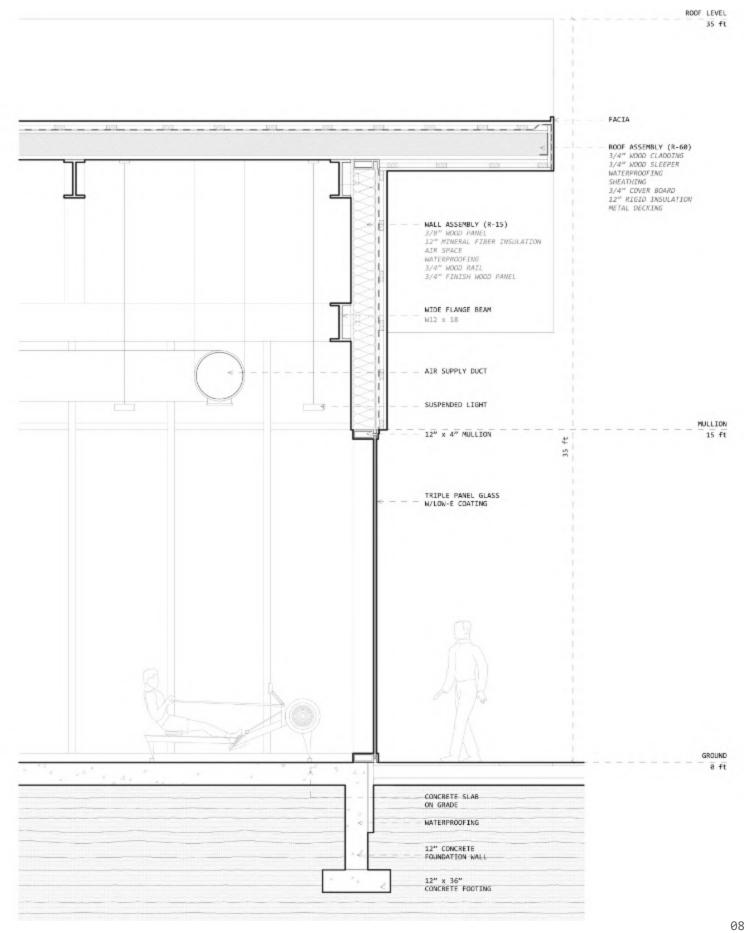
Low-Es) (BTU/h ft² F)

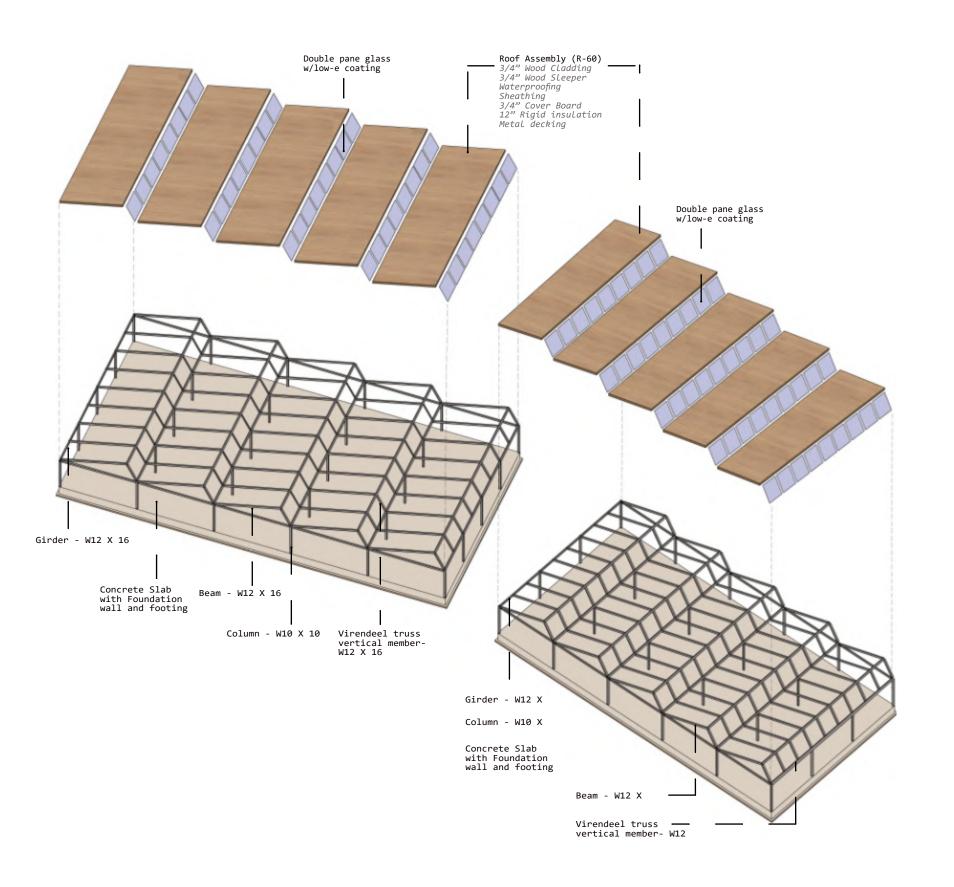
Skylight U-Value: 0.25 (Polycarbonate 25mm, Five-wall)

(BTU/h ft² F)

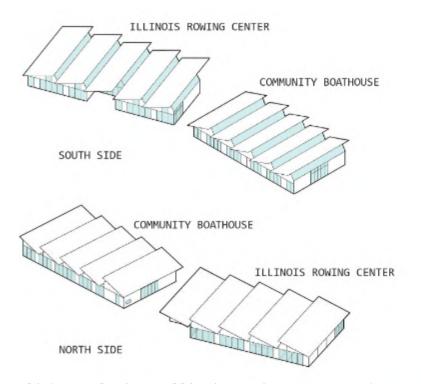
Building System: VAV w/Reheat, with Gas Boiler and Water-

Cooled Chiller

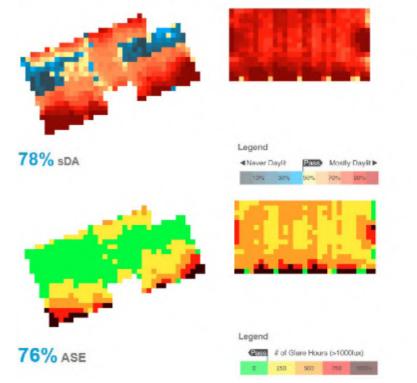




Location: Liberty rd, Farmer city, IL

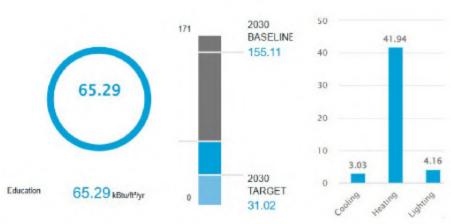


Daylight Analysis : Illinois Rowing Center and Community Boathouse

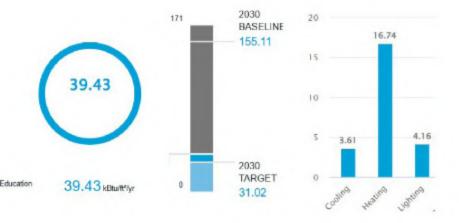


Energy Use Intensity (EUI) breakdown

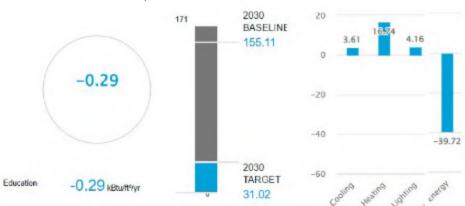
Test 1: Base Design



Test 2: Improved Design



Test 3: Net-zero option



Structural Isometric

All structural frames have rigid connections.



A view of the Boathouse storage, showcasing the stacked boats with the tranquil lake visible through the large openings, creating a seamless connection between the interior and the natural surroundings.

PROJECT +

Reducing gender inequality with a mixed-use neighborhood

Fall 2023 - Graduate Studio

Instructor : Ellen Dunham-Jones, Didem Ekici

Individual Project

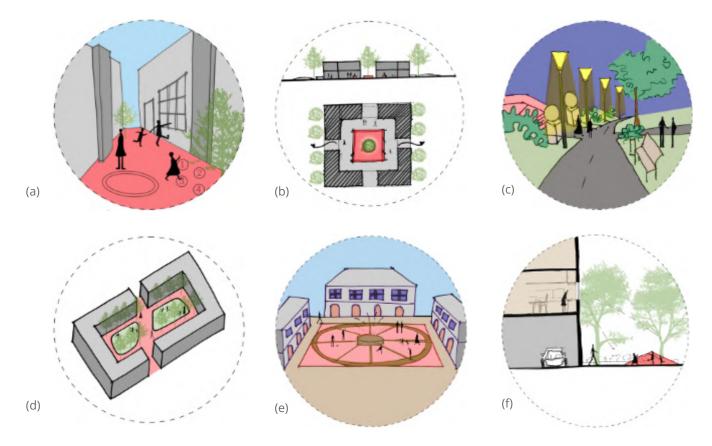
Duration: Aug 2023 - Dec 2023

Softwares used: Revit, AutoCAD, SketchUp, Lumion, Photoshop

Carmel, Indiana renowned for the Monon Trail and bustling Monon Boulevard, stands at the threshold of exciting opportunities. By seamlessly connecting major public spaces with inviting green pockets, the aim is to enhance the overall quality of life in the neighborhood, making it a vibrant, safe, and thriving place to live and work. At the masterplan level, there is a deliberate focus on creating common social gathering spaces that encourage interaction and equal participation among residents.

With a diverse user group in mind, including young professionals, the elderly, kids, and even beloved pets, the target audience is as multifaceted as the city of Carmel itself. To bring this vision to life, the introduction of live-work units adds a dimension of versatility, seamlessly bridging the gap between professional and personal life. A thoughtfully designed courtyard takes center stage as a communal hub, providing a space for residents to engage and connect, thereby fortifying the community's fabric. The introduction of multiplexes and apartment buildings featuring active ground floors dedicated to engaging activities adds depth to the design.





Design Strategies for the Masterplan

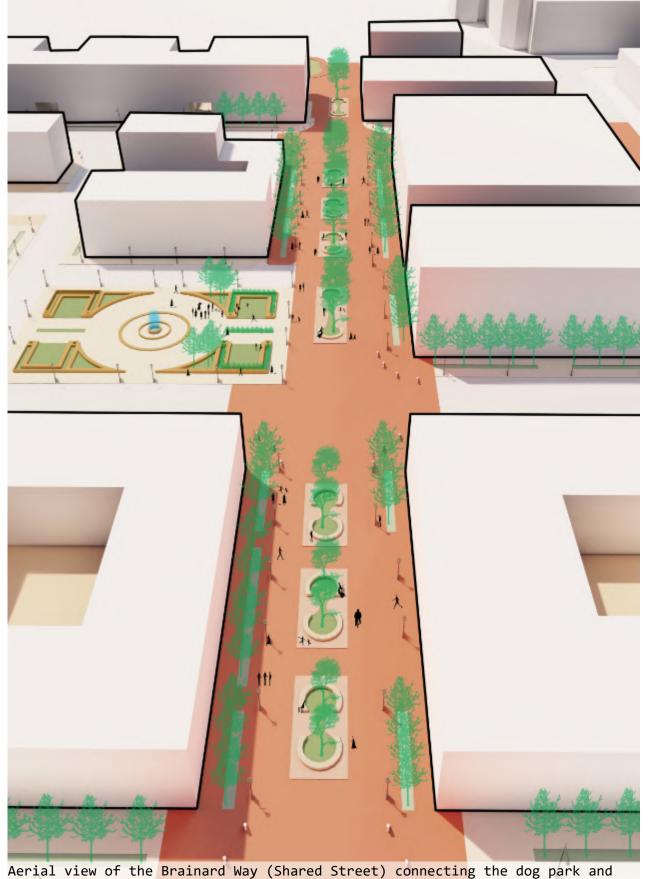
- (a) Developing a secure open space between the buildings that will serve as a play area for the kids
 - (b) Organizing the building to create a common social gathering space in the center
 - (c) Installing street lights on neighborhood streets for the residents' safety
- (d) Creating a playground and jogging path in the shared area formed by the courtyard building type
- (e) The plaza serves as a neighborhood gathering place The weekly market could be held in this area
- (f) Kitchen windows are strategically positioned near open spaces, enabling caregivers to maintain a vigilant watch over kids at play





The design integrates diverse spaces such as a children's play area, table tennis stations, a dedicated dog park, a cycling track, and a welcoming coffee bar, each thoughtfully crafted to encourage community interaction. These spaces are intentionally designed to be safe, accessible, and welcoming for everyone, fostering a sense of belonging and inclusivity.

By addressing a variety of needs and interests, these public spaces become vibrant platforms for interaction, collaboration, and empowerment. They support meaningful engagement across all demographics, transcending gender and reinforcing values of equality and collective well-being. This holistic approach sets a benchmark for designing environments where individuals of all genders can thrive and connect in enriching ways.



Aerial view of the Brainard Way (Shared Street) connecting the dog park and nature trail to the water detention pond.



A lively evening on Brainard Way features a blissful community gathering on a shared street, where people interact, stroll, and enjoy the open space together.

ANUBHUTI

Exhibiting the Heritage of Purandar

Semester 10 - Undergraduate Thesis Instructor : Ar. Asmita Joshi

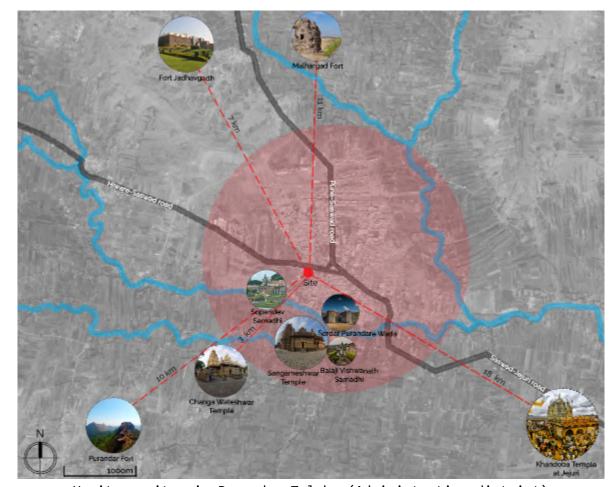
Individual Project

Duration : Jan 2022 - May 2022

Softwares used: AutoCAD, SketchUp, Lumion, Photoshop

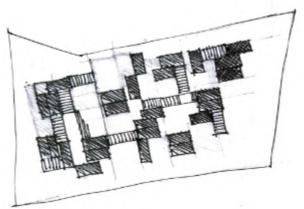
The rich heritage of India, one of the world's oldest civilizations, is an all-embracing confluence of religions, traditions, and customs. The strengths of the Indian heritage lie in the treasure of its art, architecture, classical dance, music, flora and fauna, as well as in the centuries-old philosophy innate to its people. A visit to heritage sites is like a walk through history, changing paths with each dynasty that has ruled over Indian soil. For an exhibition of this heritage to all, it is necessary a space where all the cultural heritage of India can be exposed. A dedicated space in each locality near heritage sites where tourists and local populations can acquire knowledge about the sites before really visiting the sites. An interpretation center can be designed for displaying the essence of the tangible and intangible heritage.



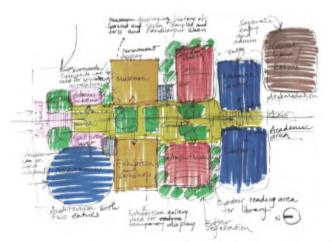


Heritage sites in Purandar Taluka (Administrative district)

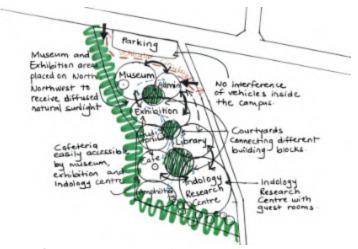
India's rich cultural heritage, among the world's oldest, embodies a unique confluence of religions, traditions, art, architecture, and cuisine. To celebrate and showcase this heritage, interpretation centers can serve as dynamic spaces near heritage sites, offering interactive and engaging exhibits to educate visitors. Saswad, a taluka town 33 km south of Pune in the state of Maharashtra, is steeped in history and culture. Saswad is home to ancient temples from the Maratha era and holds a special place in history, spirituality, religion, and architecture. Situated along an ancient trade route connecting the coastal Konkan ports to the Deccan interiors, Saswad also houses the samadhi of Sant Sopan, a revered 13th-century Varkari saint. This project envisions creating an interpretation center that not only highlights the cultural and historical richness of Saswad but also becomes a defining feature of the town. It will include an Indology Research Center offering facilities for scholars, courses on Indology, and seminars to deepen understanding and appreciation of India's cultural legacy.



A grid-based composition balancing built and unbuilt spaces



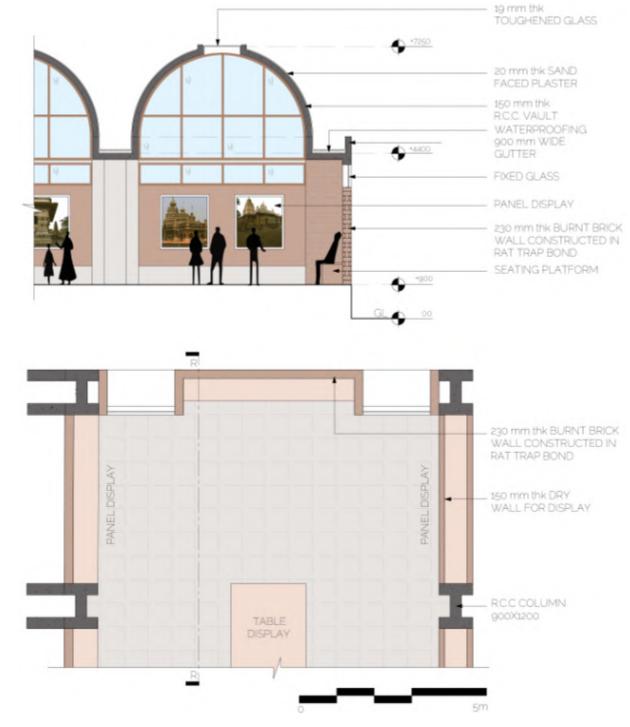
A central axis and courtyards dividing the exhibition spaces, utilizing a grid of built and unbuilt forms for spatial organization



The plan features a campus with a museum spaces connected through courtyards and vegetation

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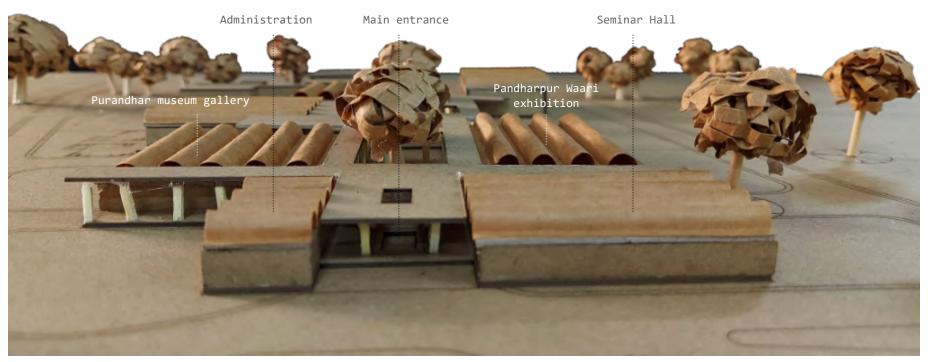
Vaulted ceilings are an integral component of sustainable and energy-efficient building practices, aligning with the principles of green construction. One of the key advantages associated with vaulted ceilings is their potential to enhance natural light penetration into interior spaces. This feature contributes significantly to energy conservation by reducing the reliance on artificial lighting during daylight hours, thus lowering electricity consumption and associated costs. Beyond the pragmatic benefits, vaulted ceilings also offer a visual appeal that creates the illusion of open and expansive living areas.



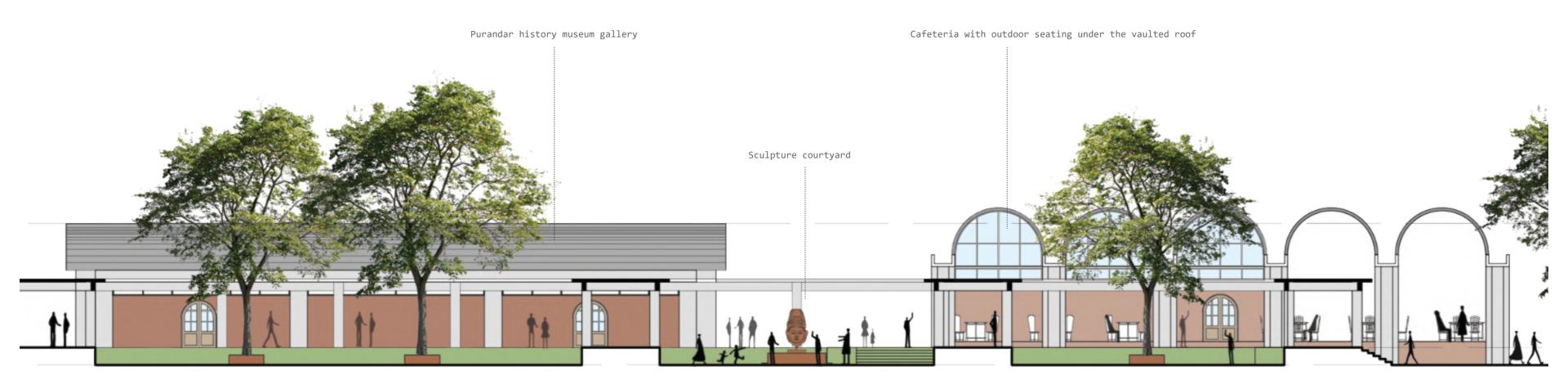
View looking towards the central courtyards with sculptures and cafeteria



Physical model showcasing the amphitheater, the connecting covered corridor, and the exhibition spaces, illustrating their spatial relationship and flow.



A model showing the primary entrance of the center, incorporating the admin department and seminar hall, designed for easy access and efficient circulation.



Section through the courtyard spaces near the Purandar History Museum gallery and cafeteria, featuring outdoor seating under the arch, emphasizing the spatial connection and seamless flow between the areas.

MANDAI 2.0

Revitalizing the Mandai (Marketplace)

Semester 08 - Architectural Design Instructor : Ar. Vasudha Gokhale

Individual Project

Duration : April 2021 - May 2021

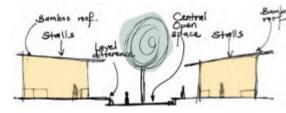
Softwares used: AutoCAD, SketchUp, Lumion, Photoshop

The proposal aims to strengthen the connection between people and the places they share, facilitating creative patterns of use and paying particular attention to the physical, cultural, and social identities that define a place. Placemaking is a multi-faceted approach that takes advantage of a local community's assets, inspiration, and potential to create good public spaces. It depends on the myriad ways and means in which the physical, social, ecological, cultural, and even spiritual qualities of a place are intimately intertwined. The new Mandai building is a massive concrete structure placed behind the Mahatma Phule Mandai building.

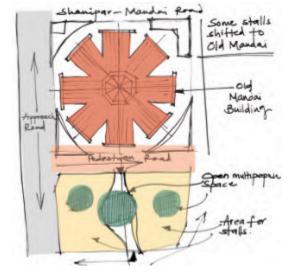




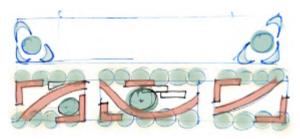
The new Mandai building hampers the elevation of the surrounding area. The existing Mandai building is only a marketplace, and there are no pause points in Mandai. This commercial section of the core city will be improved by the proposal of a new market area and multipurpose open space with a seating area. The connection between the two marketplaces will be strengthened by the proposed plaza between the two Mandai structures. This plaza will serve as a rest area. By staging street plays, art exhibits, urban sketcher meetups, and other such events, the plaza and the open space of the new Mandai building will promote cultural values.



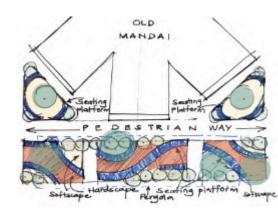
Design sketch depicting the central courtyard layout surrounded by markets on both sides



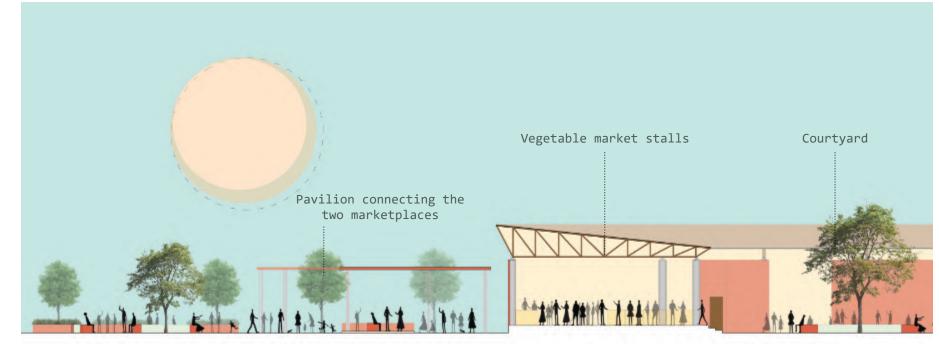
The pavilion is designed to seamlessly connect the old and new marketplaces, ensuring uninterrupted flow.



Preliminary sketch showcasing the pavilion



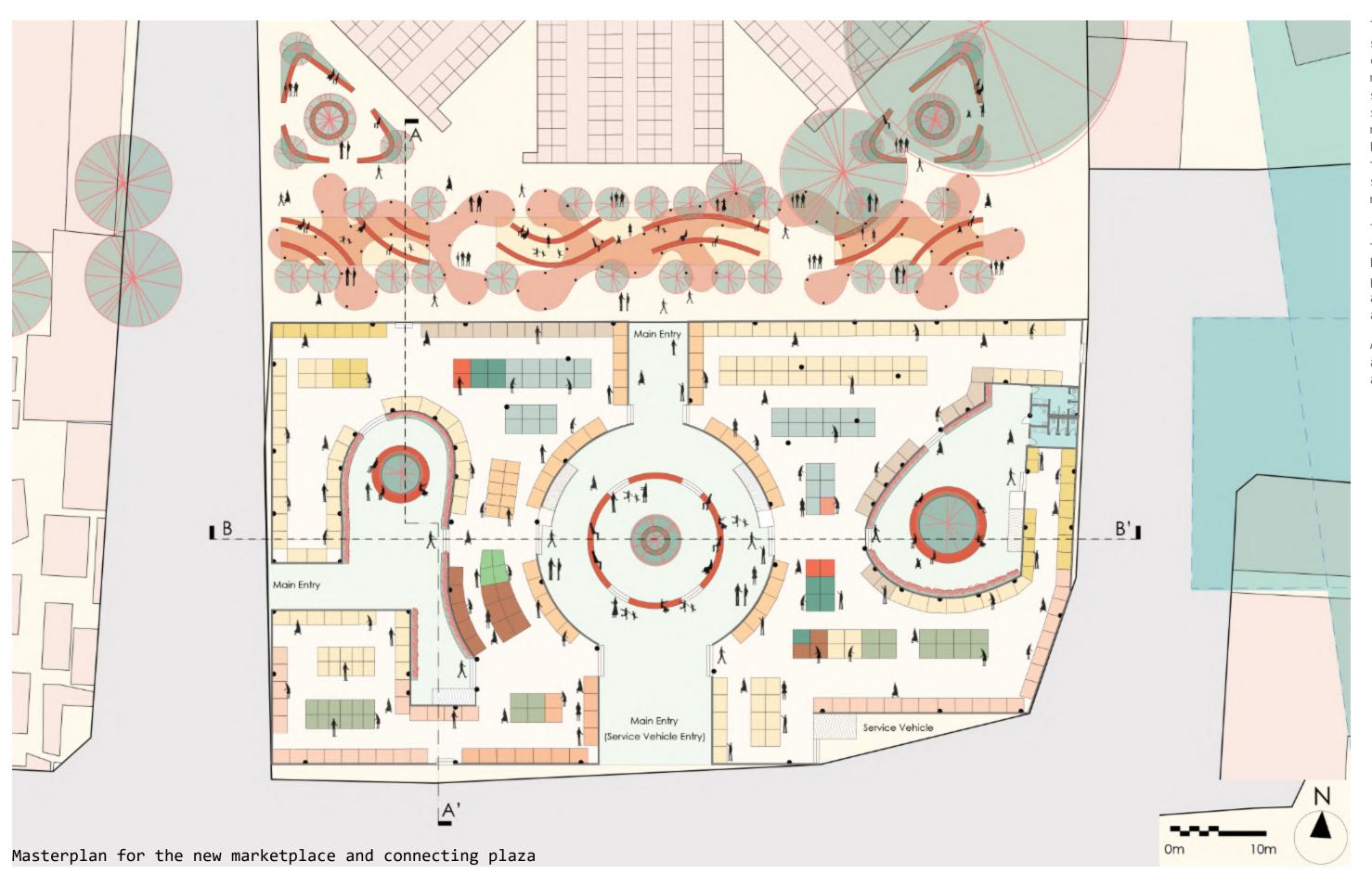
Preliminary sketch showcasing the pavilion



Section looking east, cutting through the plaza that connects the old Mandai and new Mandai, along with the new vegetable market stalls, highlighting their integration and spatial continuity.



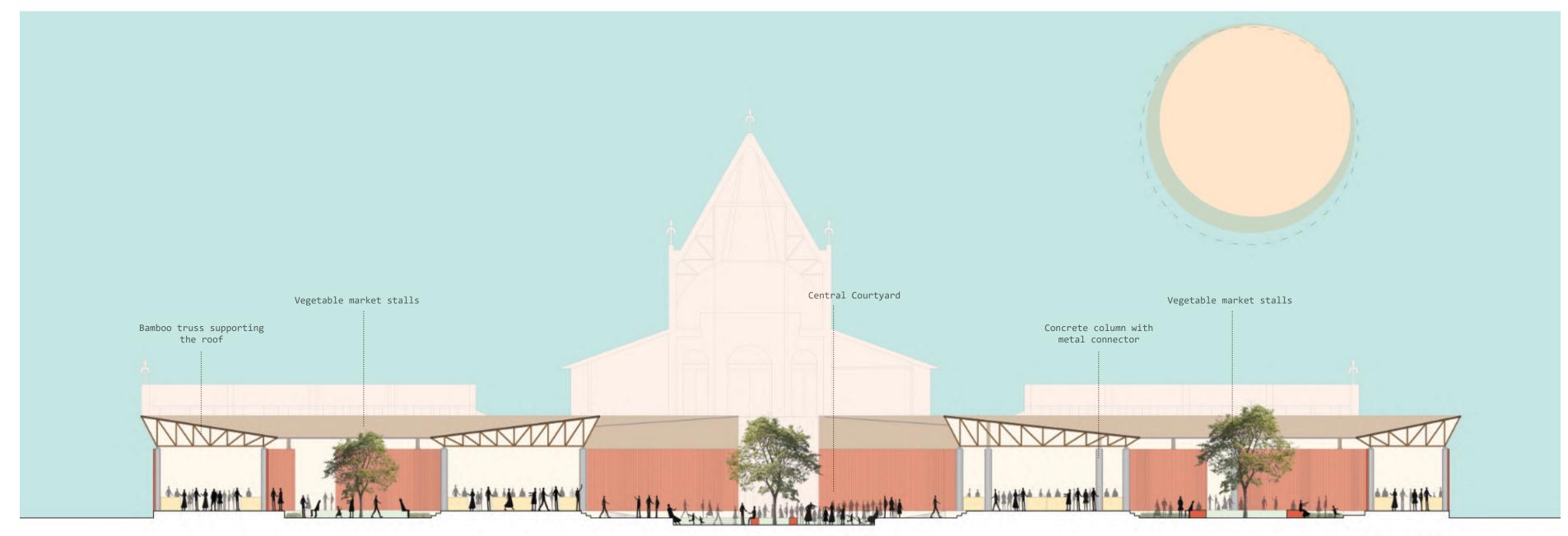
View of the central open space from the service vehicle entry



The old building of mandai is a Gothic-style structure built in 1886. The material used for the construction is wood. As such, the proposed new mandai building should merge with the old mandai structure and not stand out as a contrasting structure. The newly proposed mandai building is a market with some open spaces that will act as break points for people. The central open space is the greatest of the three open spaces. This open space can host an art exhibit, street plays, meetings of urban sketchers or a musical program.

The vegetable and fruit market is distributed into two structures. The roof for the market area is a bamboo truss and a small open space with seating provided in the small open spaces. The seating area is shaded by a tree canopy; it can be used as a break point.

And this is how the new mandai offered is not only a market, but also a platform for various activities.



Section looking north, through the vegetable and fruit market on the west to the east, covering all the courtyards. The central courtyard serves as a flexible space for activities such as musical performances, street plays, art exhibitions, and as a pause point for visitors and urban sketchers.



MARFA MIRAGE

A firestation proposal at Marfa, Texas

Spring 2025 - Graduate Studio

ACSA Competition entry (Individual Project)

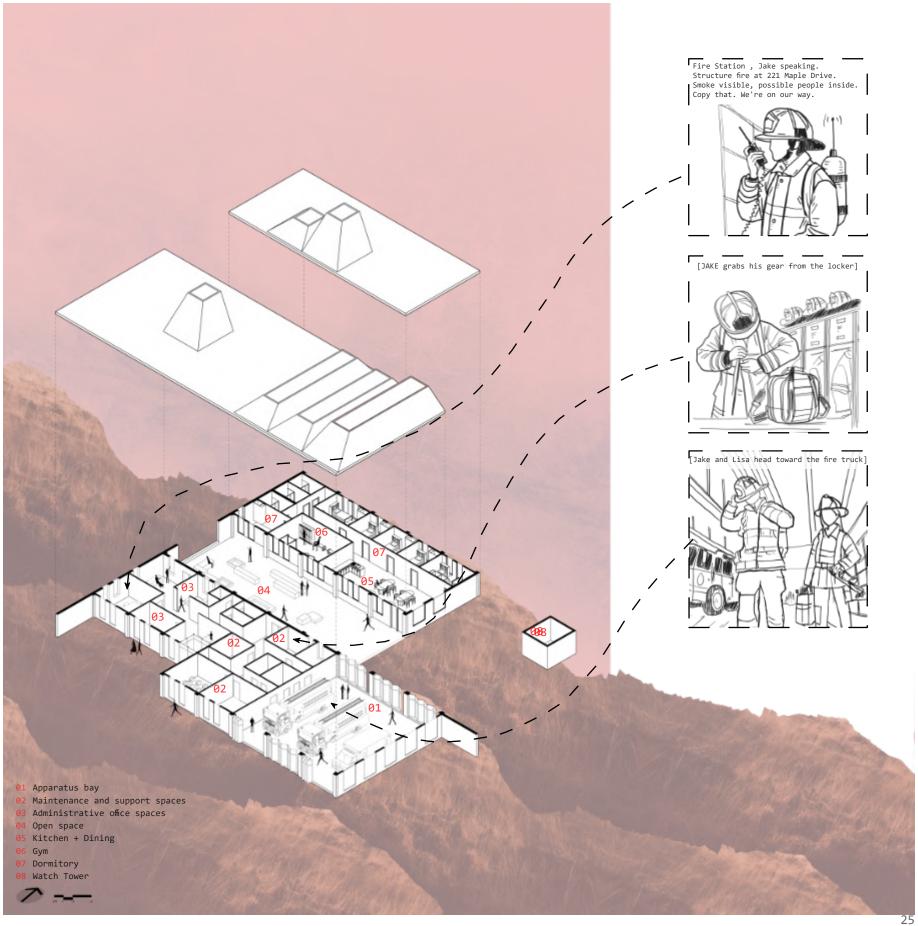
Instructor : Erik Hemingway
Duration : Jan 2025 - May 2025

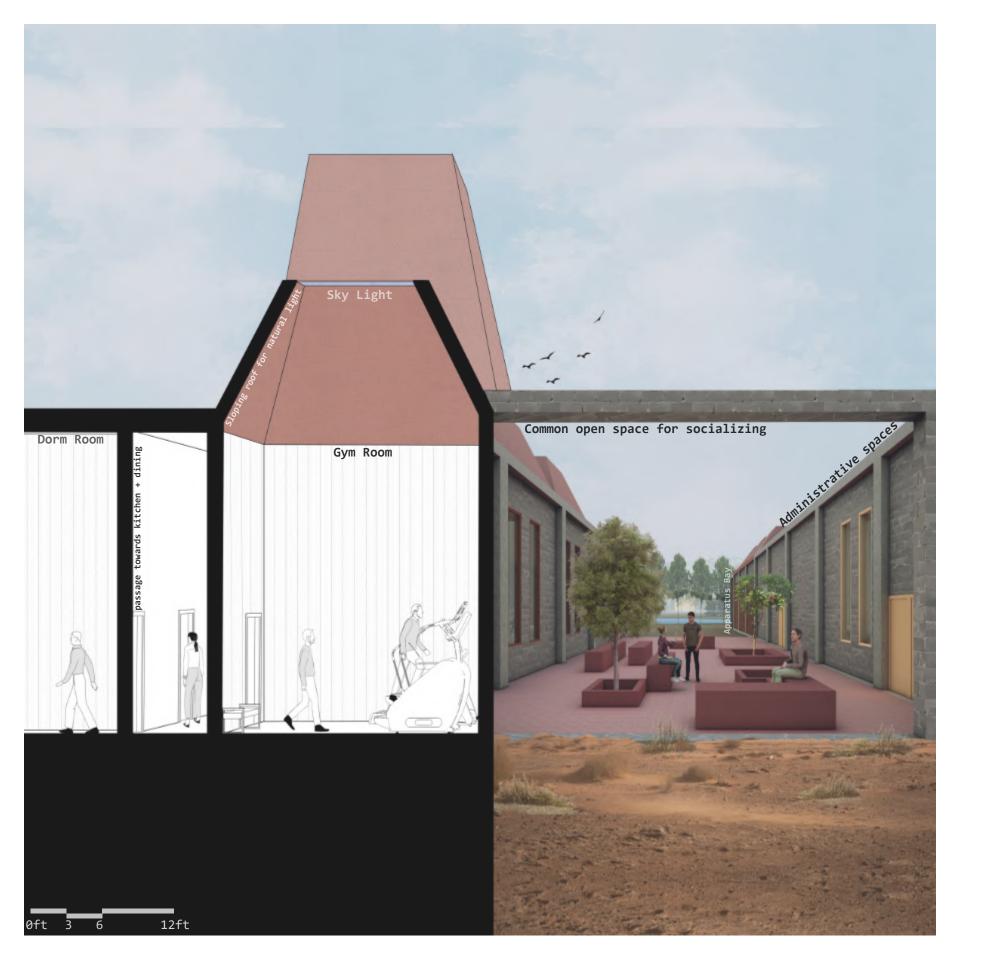
Softwares used: Revit, SketchUp, Lumion, Photoshop

Marfa Mirage is a fire station designed for the arid landscape of Marfa, Texas, where environmental resilience and minimalist expression converge. Drawing inspiration from Donald Judd's legacy of reductive form and material honesty, the building rests low within the vast desert, becoming an extension of the horizon rather than a disruption. The structure prioritizes durability and response: exposed concrete masonry units (CMU) form the core walls filled with foam insulation, selected for their fire resistance and permanence in a wildfire-prone region. A sloping roof, lightweight yet thermally insulated, efficiently sheds rain and integrates skylights to channel natural light deep into the interiors. These skylights animate the interior volumes, creating a dynamic rhythm of light and shadow that changes with the time of day. Programmatically, the station is organized into three zones apparatus bay, administrative functions, and living quarters ensuring efficiency during emergencies and comfort during rest.











03 Window Glazing- double pane glass

05 Roof- lightweight concrete with rigid insulation

06 Skylight- transparent polycarbonate panels

04 Metal Stud Framing



panels, adding depth and warmth against the cool, raw texture of the concrete structure. This material juxtaposition enhances both tactile and visual experience of architecture.



Tall vertical windows are framed by **exposed concrete masonry units**, adding an industrial touch to the interior. The soft wood flooring and light-toned furniture bring warmth and contrast to the textured, utilitarian walls.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Summer 2024

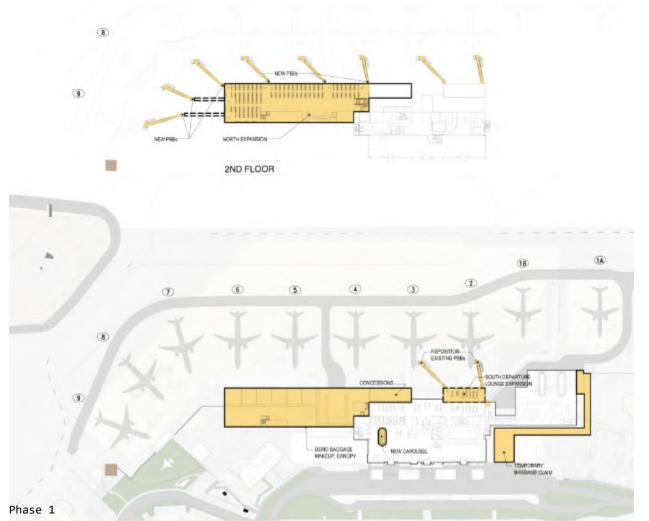
Summer Internship at Mead & Hunt, USA

Duration: May 2024 - Aug 2024

Softwares used: Revit, SketchUp, Enscape, Photoshop

During my internship at Mead & Hunt, I collaborated on the design of baggage claim and departure gate areas at Salem Airport in Oregon, focusing on enhancing passenger flow and operational efficiency. Additionally, I assisted in the terminal layout design for Medford and Salem airports, prioritizing functionality and improved passenger experience. This experience deepened my understanding of airport design and sparked a strong interest in the aviation sector.





The Rogue Valley International Medford Airport in Oregon state is currently in a phased design and expansion project aimed at modernizing and enhancing its facilities to accommodate growing passenger needs. This comprehensive development includes expanding the concessions area to offer more dining and retail options, introducing new Passenger Boarding Bridges (PBBs) for improved accessibility, and redesigning the baggage claim area to streamline passenger flow and enhance efficiency. Additionally, upgrades are being made to ticket counters for a smoother check-in experience, and new state-of-the-art security facilities are being implemented to ensure the safety and convenience of travelers. These efforts reflect a commitment to providing a more efficient and passenger friendly airport experience.



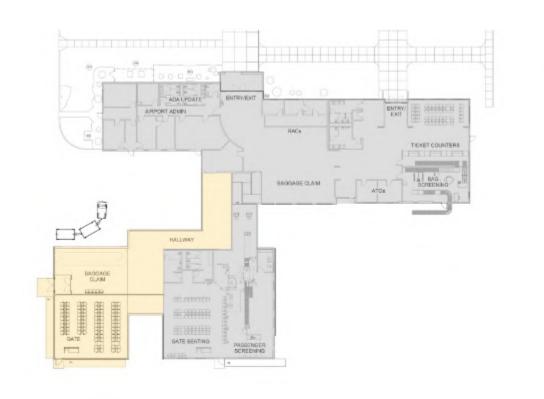


Rogue Valley International Medford Airport: View of the seating area near the departure gate showcasing flooring and interior design options



Rogue Valley International Medford Airport: View of the seating area near the departure gate with flooring design options

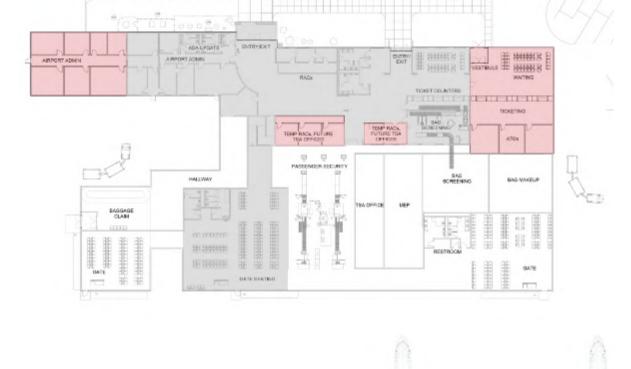
SALEM-WILLAMETTE VALLEY AIRPORT, OREGON



Existing building
Phase 1

Phase 1

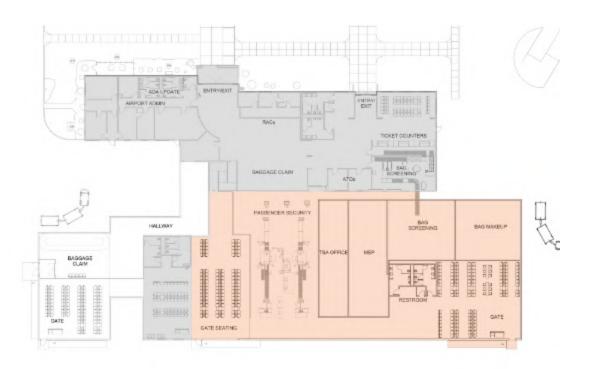
This phase involves expanding the departure gate area to improve passenger flow and adding an extra gate to enhance capacity. A new baggage claim area will be integrated to streamline luggage handling and reduce wait times.



Existing building
Phase 3

Phase 3

The phase 3 focuses on renovating the administration offices and adding more office spaces. A new ticketing counter and waiting lounge will be introduced, along with additional TSA offices to improve security efficiency.

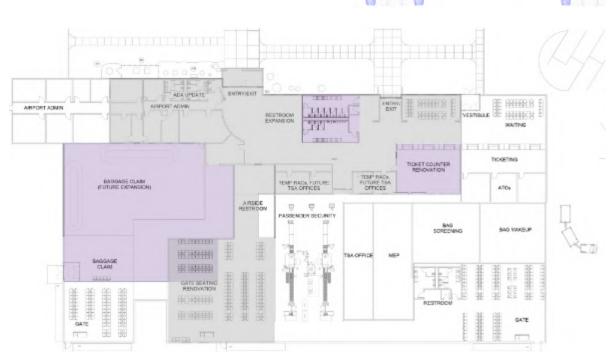


Existing building
Phase 2

Phase 2

0

The phase includes expanding the departure area with a new gate, enhanced TSA security equipment, a dedicated TSA office, and an improved bag screening area.



Existing building
Phase 4

Phase 4

This phase involves renovating the current restrooms and ticket counter area to enhance functionality and passenger experience. The baggage claim area will also be expanded to handle higher volumes and improve the luggage retrieval process.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

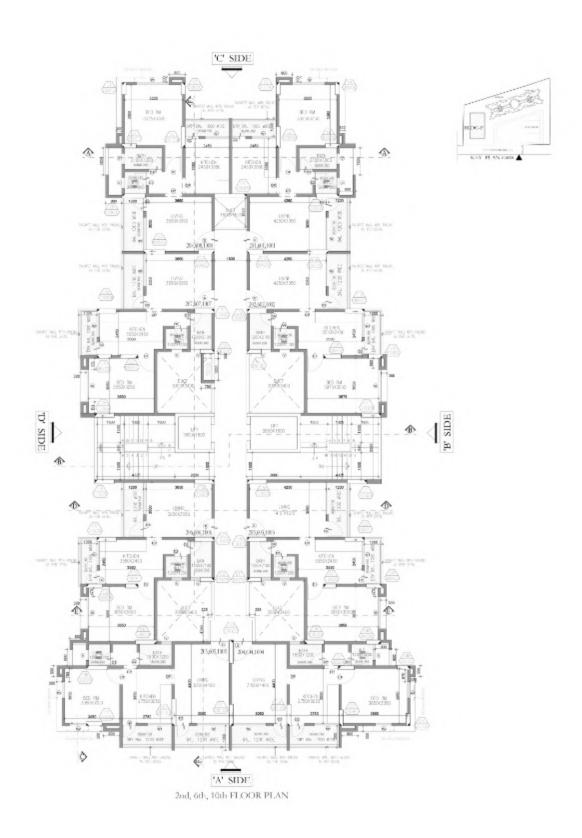
Summer 2021

Internship at Shailesh Salehittal Architect, India
Duration : June 2021- Dec 2021

Softwares used: AutoCAD, SketchUp, Lumion, Photoshop

I assisted in developing construction drawings, such as sections, elevations, and floor plans, making sure the design objective was precisely recorded and compliant with building requirements. To help clients understand design concepts, I also assisted in the development of presentation drawings and 3D visualizations, which improved the success and clarity of project presentations. These experiences enabled me to collaborate with the project team and improve my proficiency using industry-standard design and drafting tools.







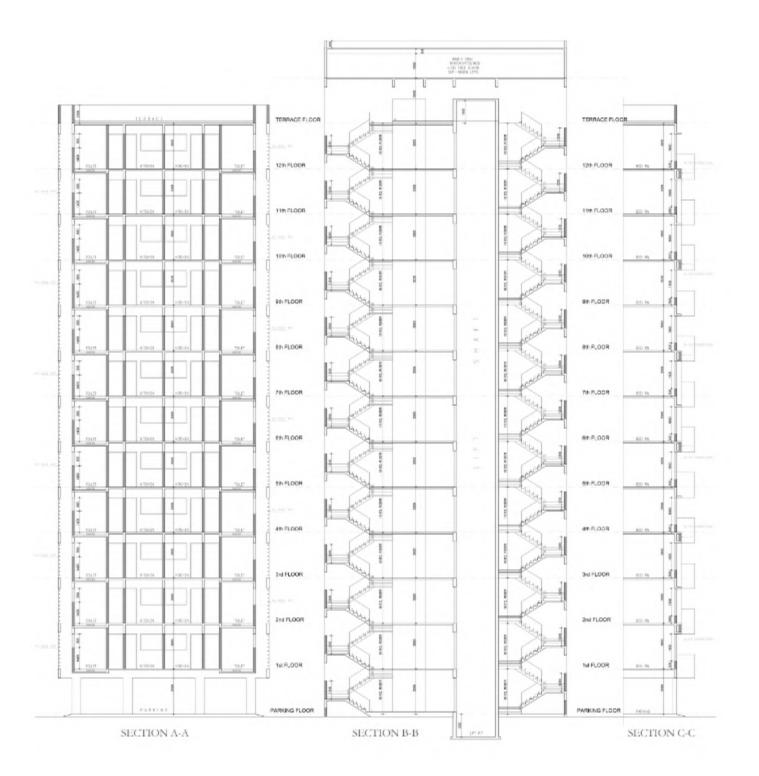
Construction Drawings for residential building in India Floor plan

Drawings - Shailesh Salehittal Architect

Construction Drawings for a project in India Floor plan

Drawings - Shailesh Salehittal Architect







Construction Drawings for a project in India Sections

Drawings - Shailesh Salehittal Architect

Construction Drawings for a project in India Elevations

Drawings - Shailesh Salehittal Architect



Gayatri Pandkar

Selected works | 2017-2024

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