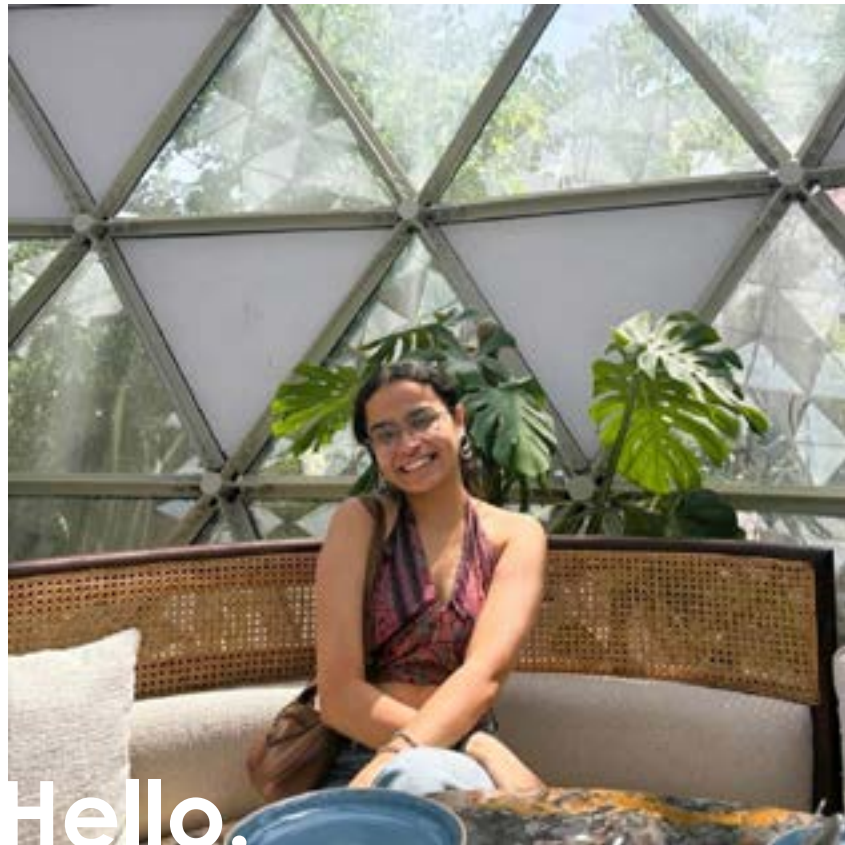




architecture portfolio

himakshi shah
selected works 2023 - 2026



Heyy! I'm **Himakshi Shah**, a 4th-year architecture student at SEDA, Navrachana University. I'm chronically curious about art, architecture and culture. I think in stories, always trying to figure out what I want people to feel through my art and designs.

My strength lies in conceptualising ideas, illustrating them and curating experiences through space. I like to play with organic forms or more generally, forms that lead to people-oriented spaces.

Architecture has become a way for me to see the world differently. To me, design is really about crafting experiences that resonate with the people who inhabit them.

My larger goal is simple: to become a happy human being who has travelled widely, gathered stories and built a life full of experiences.

education

Bachelor in Architecture

School of Environmental Design and Architecture,
Navrachana University
2023 - Present

Higher Secondary School

St. Paul's School
2010 - 2022

competitions

2026

Students awards for excellence in documentation of architectural heritage
(By COA)

2025

Little Big Loo
(By Volume Zero)



explore more work

related study programme

2025

Building Typologies of Nagaan Village
Uttarakhand

2024

Temple and Village Documentation - Lakhamandal
Uttarakhand

work experience

Graphic Design Intern

Navrachana University
(april 2026 - august 2026)

languages

Hindi

English

Gujarati

interests

Digital and Graphic Illustrations

Video editing

Exhibition and Spatial Curation

Hippie Art

Travelling and Cultural Exploration

skills

2D drafting & 3D modelling

autocad sketchup rhino

3D rendering

d5 render enscape

AI & Computational

AI prototyping
computational design

presentation

photoshop procreate
illustrator indesign

hand skills

sketching drafting
model making

video editing

premiere pro

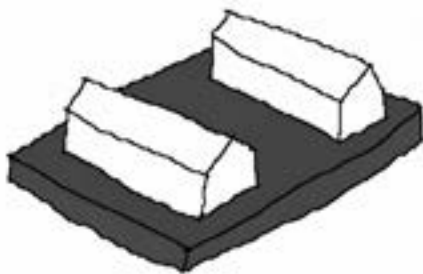
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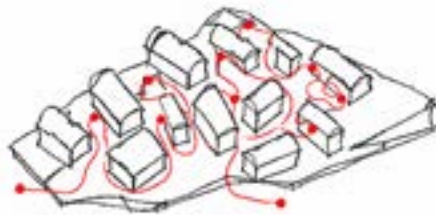
01 - City and Its
Institutions.
(06 - 11)



02 - Plug and Play.
(12 - 17)



03 - Architecture of
Remembrance.
(18 - 21)



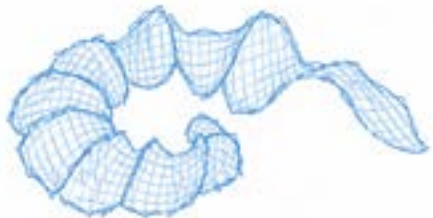
04 - Community
and Living.
(22 - 27)



05 -
Construction II.
(28 - 35)



06 -
Construction III.
(36 - 37)



07 - Advance
Construction.
(38 - 39)



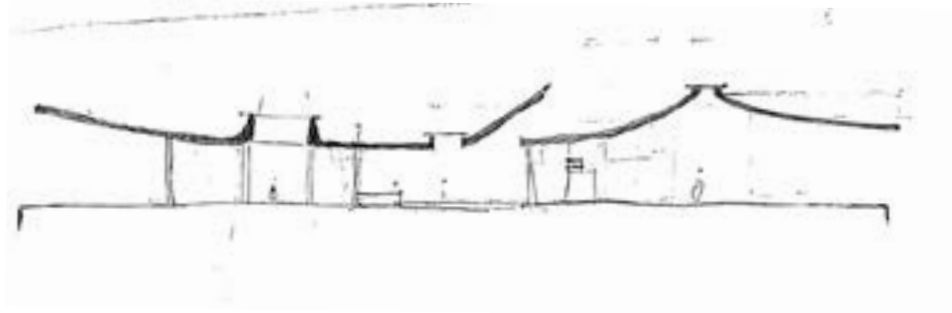
01 City and Its Institutions.

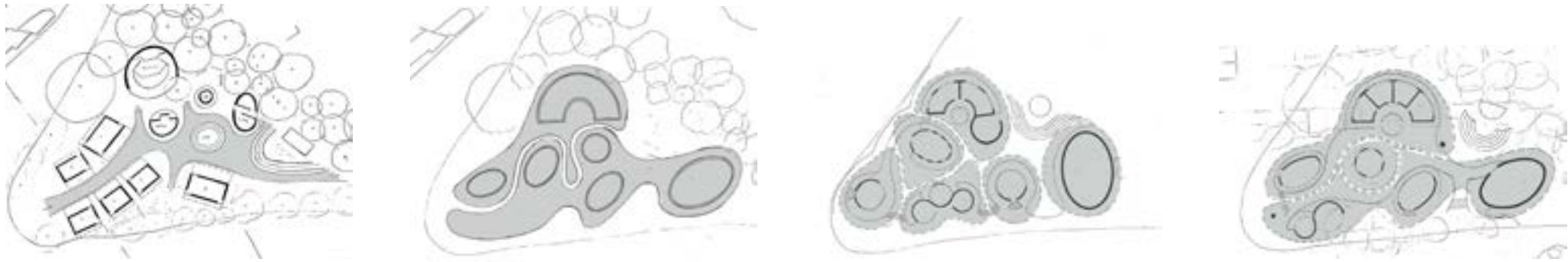
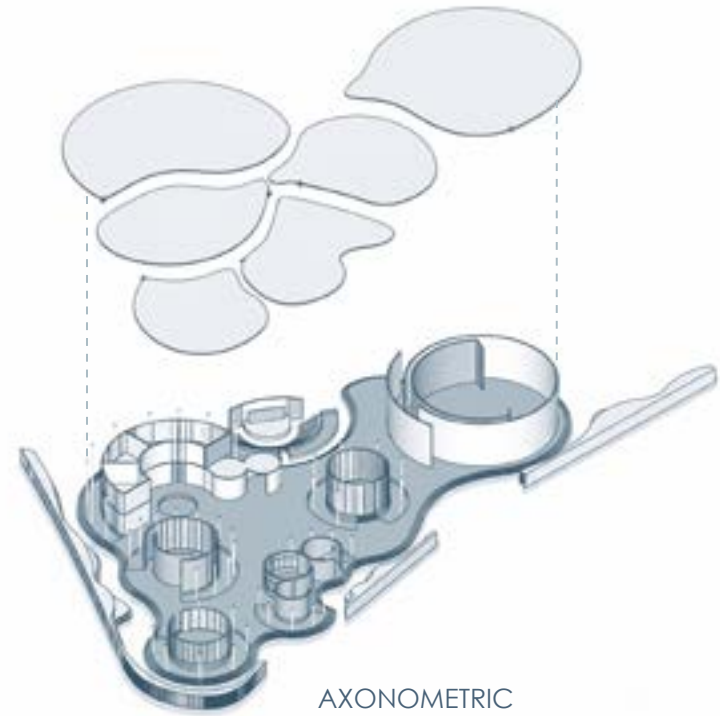
Jubilee Bagh, Vadodara | 6th Semester

Nestled within the green urban setting of Jubilee Bagh, Vadodara, the project explores the idea of “**common grounds**” between different faculties. It creates a shared environment where students can move, meet, collaborate and engage with one another through everyday experiences.

Intersecting pathways, layered thresholds and visually open studios strengthen connections across the campus. A central spine connects the different faculties and organizes movement through the campus, while skylights within the organic roof bring soft natural light into the corridors.

Transparency becomes a key architectural expression, allowing interior and exterior spaces to remain visually connected. The project aims to create an open, inclusive and collaborative environment that supports creativity, interaction and collective learning.





EAST SIDE ELEVATION



WEST SIDE ELEVATION



PLAN AT 1500MM

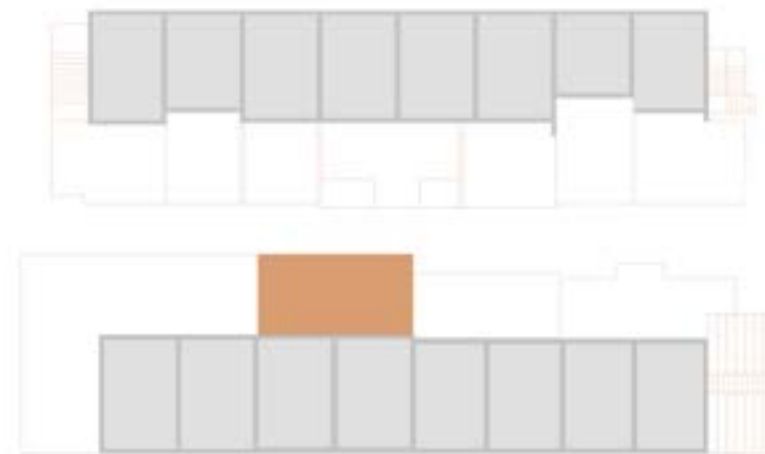


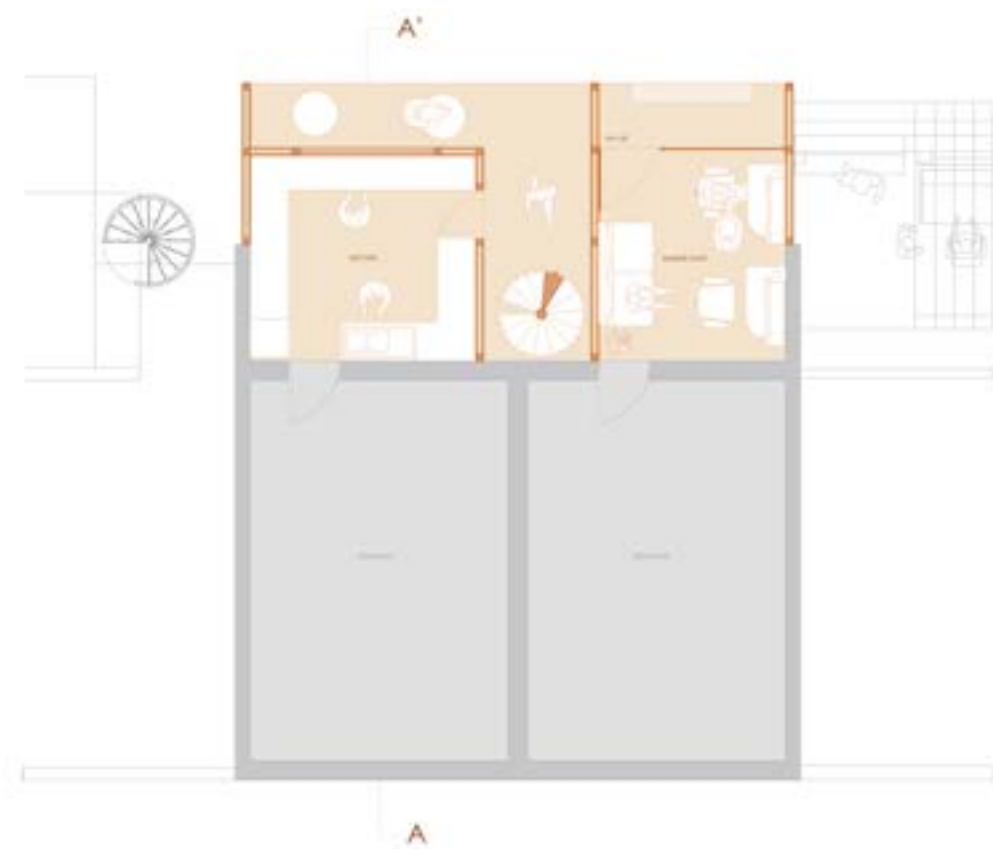
02 Plug and Play.

Mumbai (Hypothetical) | 4th Semester

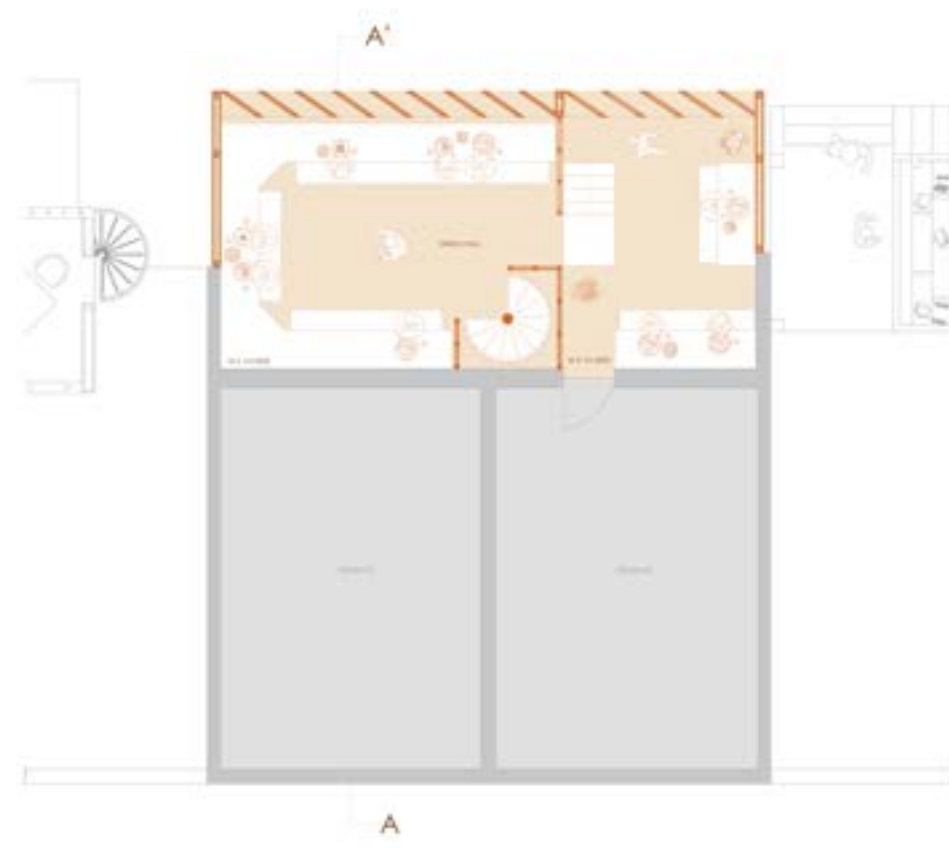
The primary objective of this exercise is to redefine the identity of an existing (hypothetical) residential block of a chawl typology by inserting commercial, recreational & socially responsible spaces on the facade of the block.

The Scenario: Students are presented with a hypothetical scenario where 2 residential blocks (G+2) are facing each other with a street passing in between. Due to dilapidating condition of the structure and increasing demand of spaces, the existing residents have collectively decided to extend their usable area by adding spatial plugins to the facade of the building. The plugins should provide the residents opportunities to generate more income, improve their social life and accommodate individual identities of its residents.

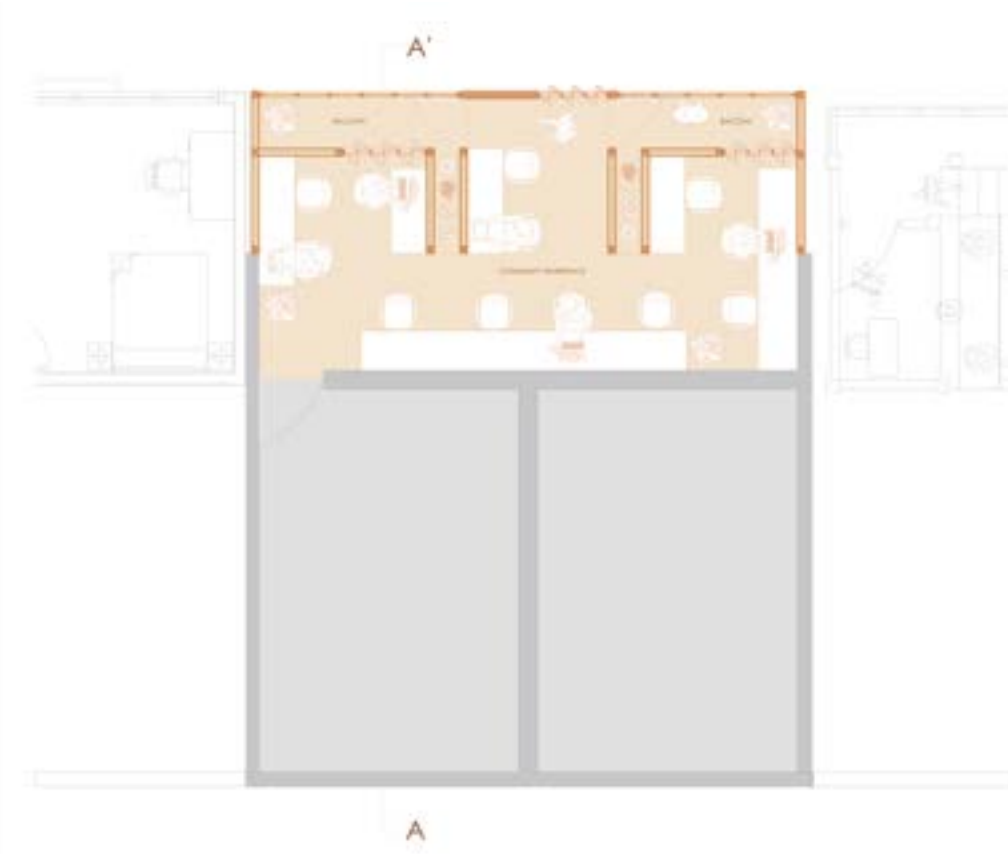




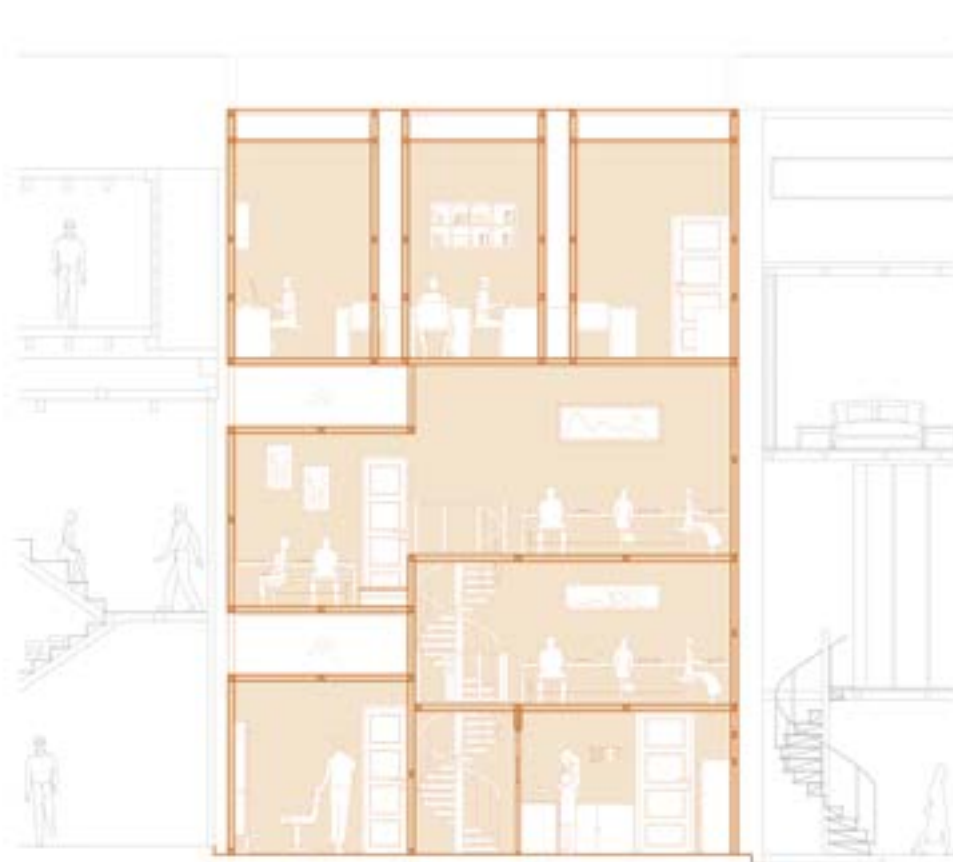
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



MEZZANINE FLOOR PLAN AT 5500MM



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



SECTION A-A'



SECTION B-B'

GROUND FLOOR - Barber Shop

The barber shop acts as a functional street corner and everyday community service, contributing to the activity and vibrancy of the street. Its transparent glass facade allows the activities inside to remain visually connected to the street, encouraging casual interactions between users and passersby. The use of a steel structure and cement sheet skin maintains continuity with the surrounding spaces while giving the shop a simple, contemporary character.

FIRST FLOOR - Dining Hall

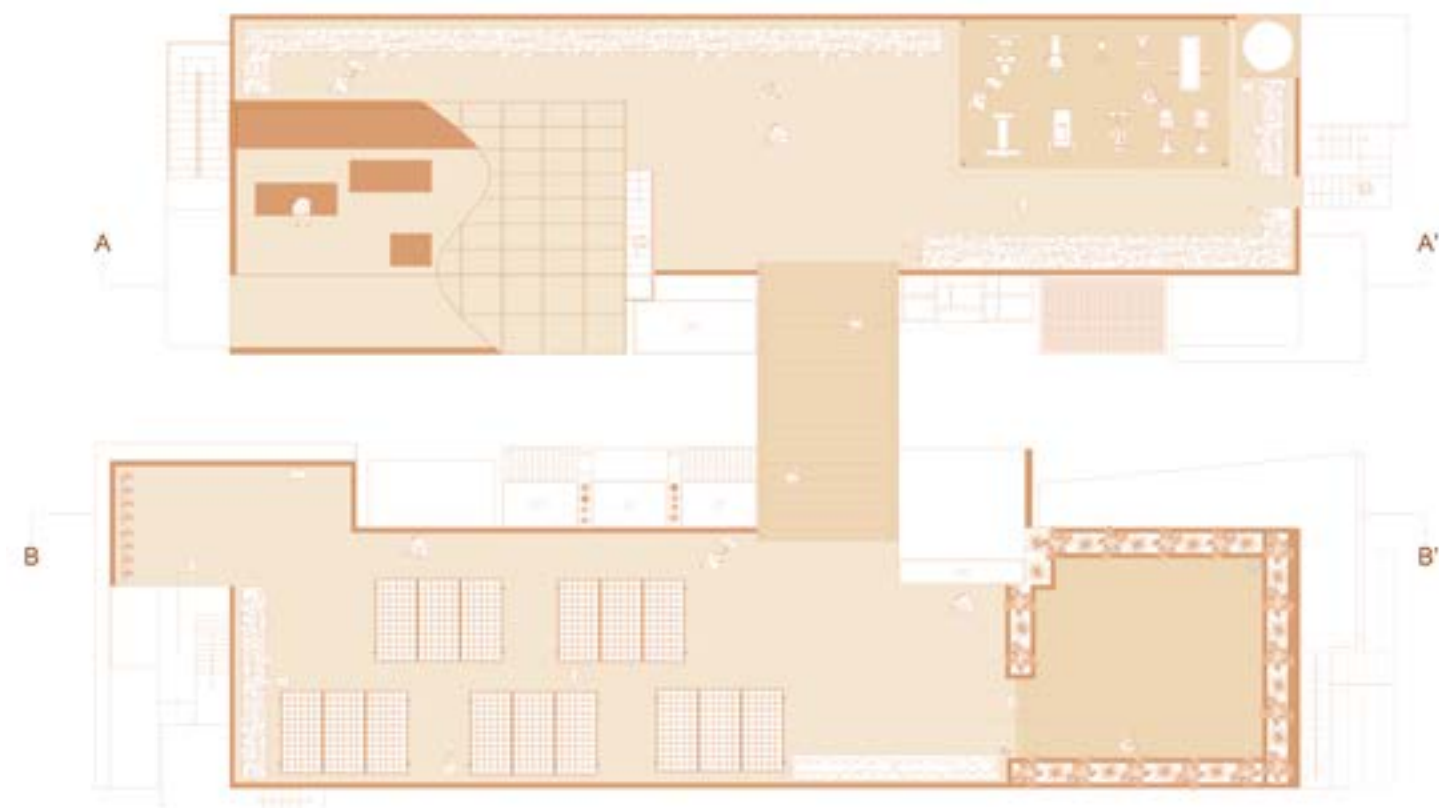
The dining hall functions as a vibrant community and social space for residents and pilgrims, encouraging interaction and collective activities. Its architectural expression combines earthy tones with a lightweight industrial language, using a steel structure, sun-breaker windows and mezzanine spaces. The design prioritizes natural light, ventilation, thermal comfort and efficient use of space, while creating a welcoming environment for communal dining.

SECOND FLOOR - Community Workspace

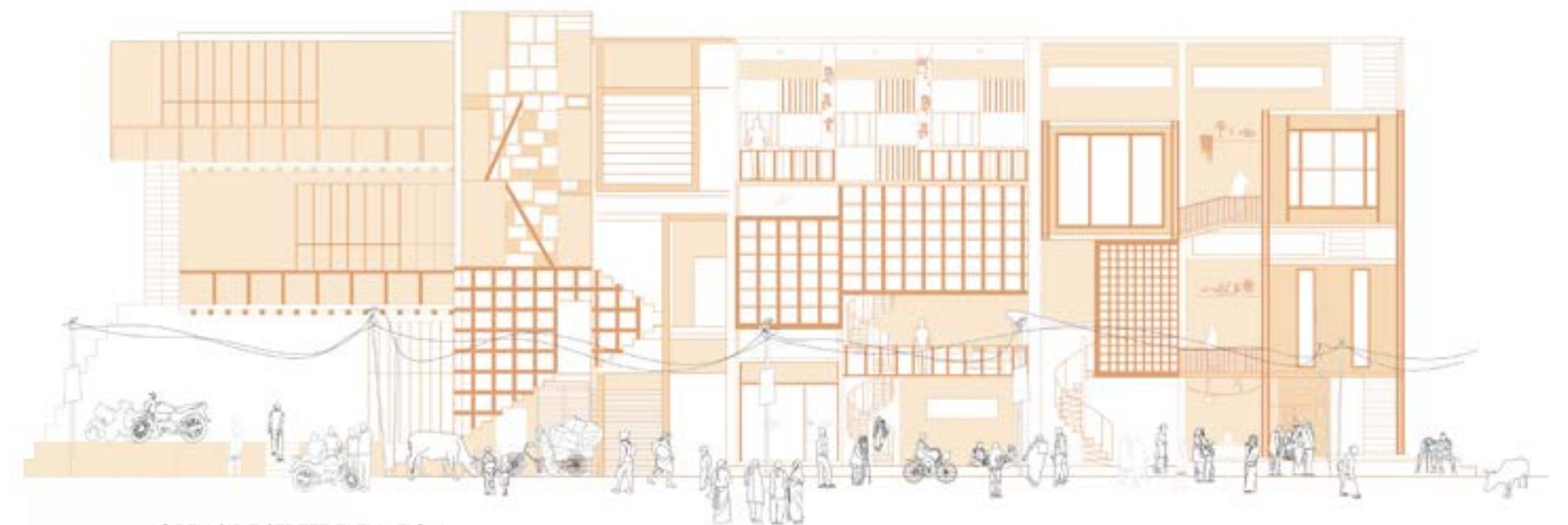
The community workspace is designed as a peaceful and flexible retreat where residents and pilgrims can work, read, study or spend time in solitude. Its lightweight steel and metal-sheet construction is complemented by skylights, pivoting facade openings, natural ventilation and integrated greenery. Balconies extend the workspace outward, creating opportunities for fresh air, interaction and quiet reflection while connecting the workspace with the surrounding community.



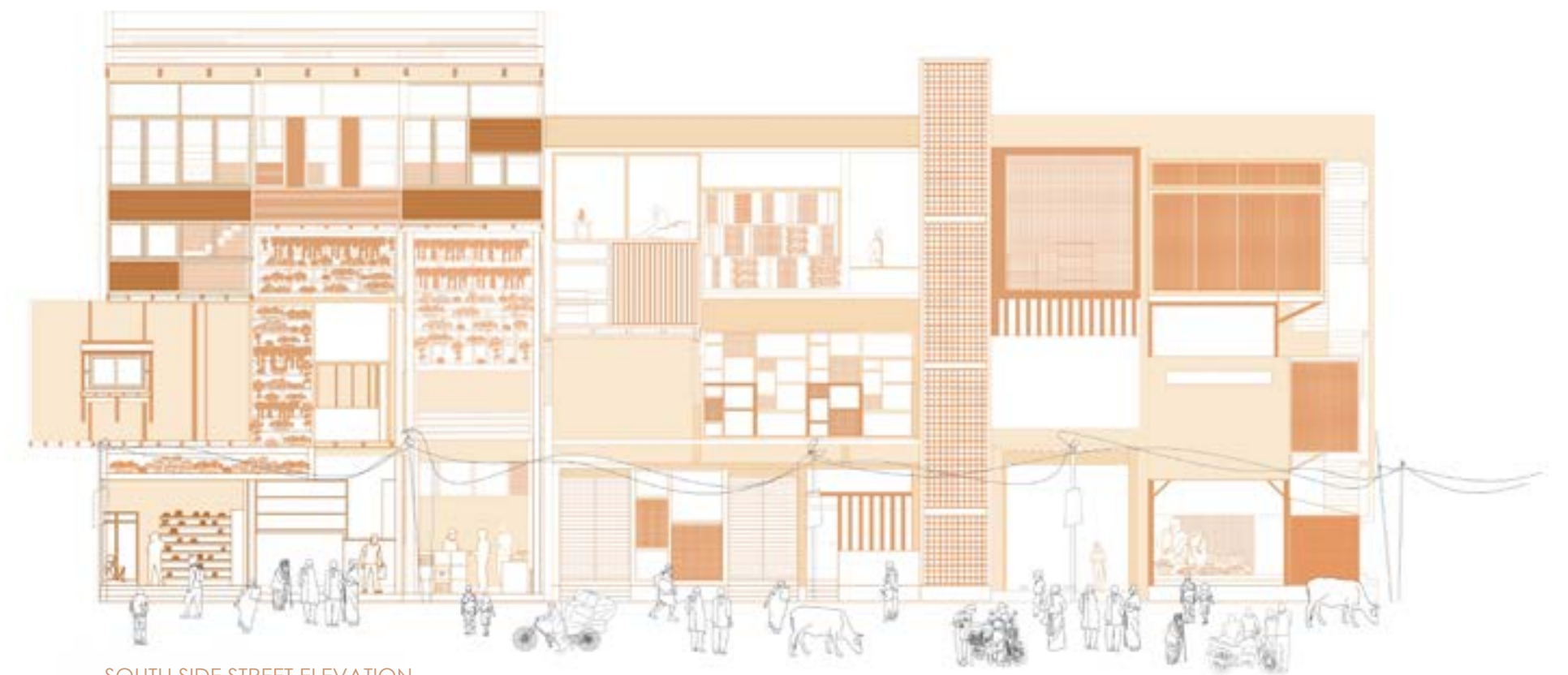
SECOND FLOOR PLAN (STREET)



ROOF PLAN (STREET)



NORTH SIDE STREET ELEVATION



SOUTH SIDE STREET ELEVATION

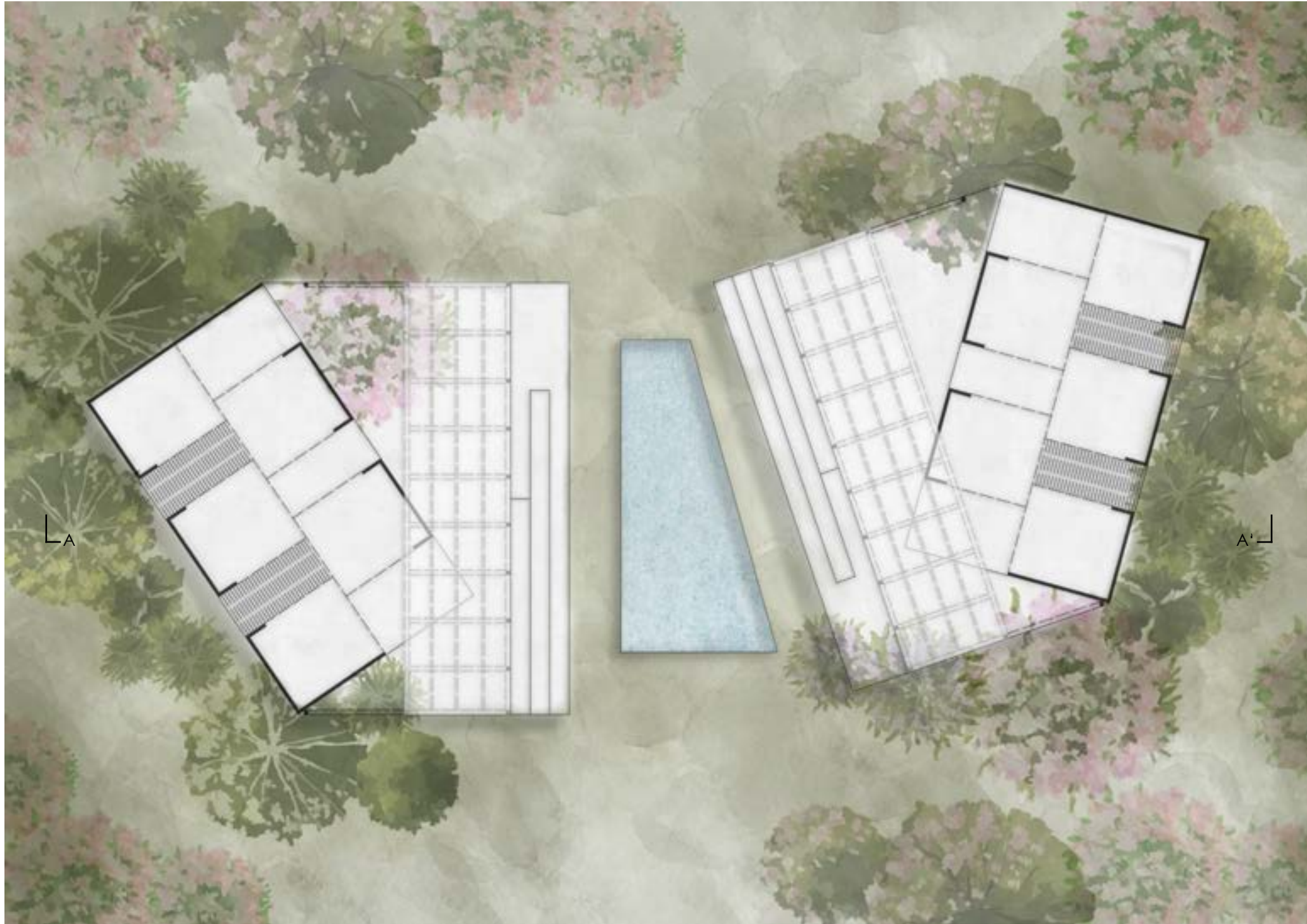
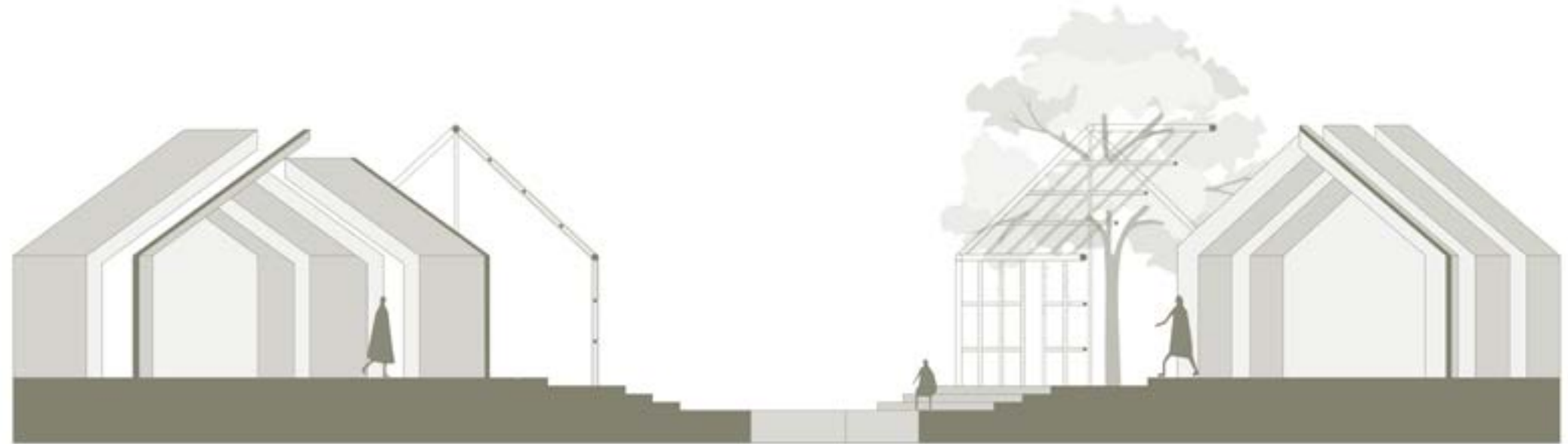
03 Architecture of Remembrance.

Vadodara (Hypothetical) | 4th Semester

MEMORY OF PLACE AS CONTEXT

The site was located on former agricultural land where two brothers once built their homes facing each other. Over the years, their descendants have migrated abroad, leaving the land and built structures largely unused. The current generation now seeks to re-engage with their heritage by re-imagining the ancestral property as a space that serves the public. The intent was to transform the existing structures and landscape into a space of collective value, while preserving the emotional and historical essence of the site.





SECTION A-A'

CONCEPT - BODY AND SOUL

A house becomes a home because of the people who inhabit it. Once those people leave, what remains is only an empty shell, a structure without life, like a body without its soul.

This idea forms the central concept of the project. The existing structural frame, preserved, restored, and reconstructed from the remains of the previous building, represents The Body. It carries the memory of what once existed and acts as a physical trace of the past.

The newly introduced solid mass represents The Soul. In plan, this mass is deliberately tilted and shifted away from the existing frame, creating the impression of a soul gradually separating from or leaving its body. The contrast between the light, skeletal framework and the solid built volume strengthens this relationship between absence and presence, memory and life, body and soul.

FUNCTION - MEDITATION CENTER

The project functions as a meditation and community center, designed to bring people together while providing an atmosphere of calm, reflection, and inner connection.

04 Community and Living.

A. Vadodara B. Jaisalmer I 5th Semester

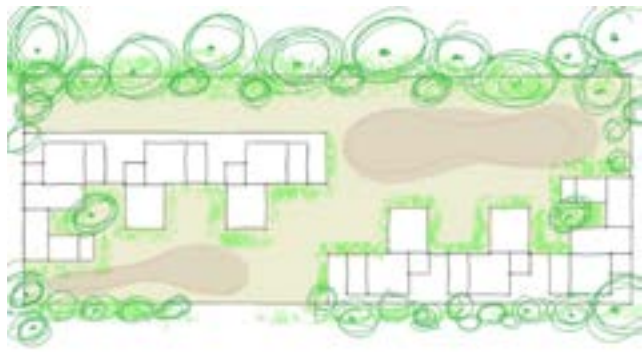
A. GIDC Makarpura, Vadodara

Green Terrace – Overhung Balance

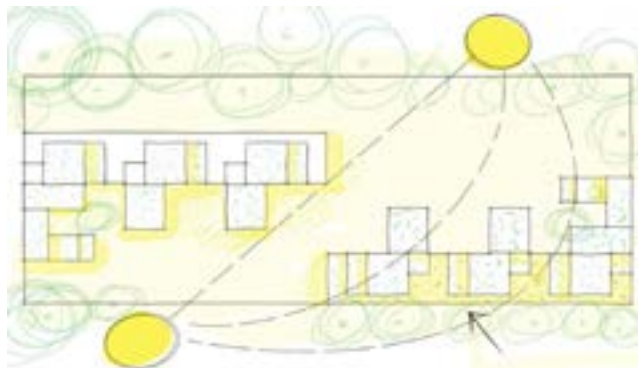
The design for the housing project at GIDC Makarpura is driven by a simple yet impactful spatial strategy: each floor plate is deliberately shifted to create a system of alternating outdoor experiences. This shifting massing generates a green terrace on one side of every floor, providing residents with private and semi-private landscaped pockets that enhance ventilation, encourage outdoor living, and bring nature directly to the upper levels. These terraces act as elevated green buffers, improving microclimate conditions and strengthening the project's biophilic character.

On the opposite side, the shifting floors produce overhung shaded areas that function as social spill-out spaces like comfortable areas for gathering, sitting, and casual interaction among residents. They act as shaded community extensions that encourage neighbourly exchange and build social cohesion within the housing cluster.

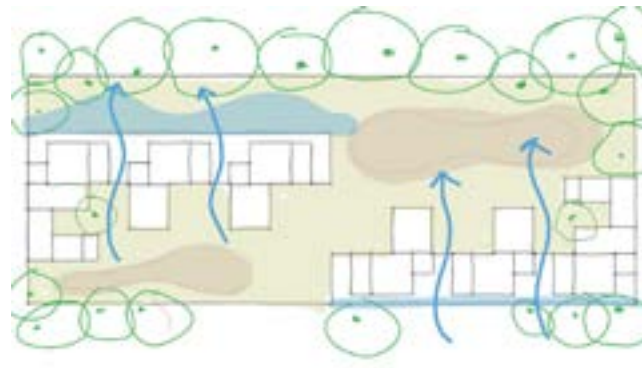




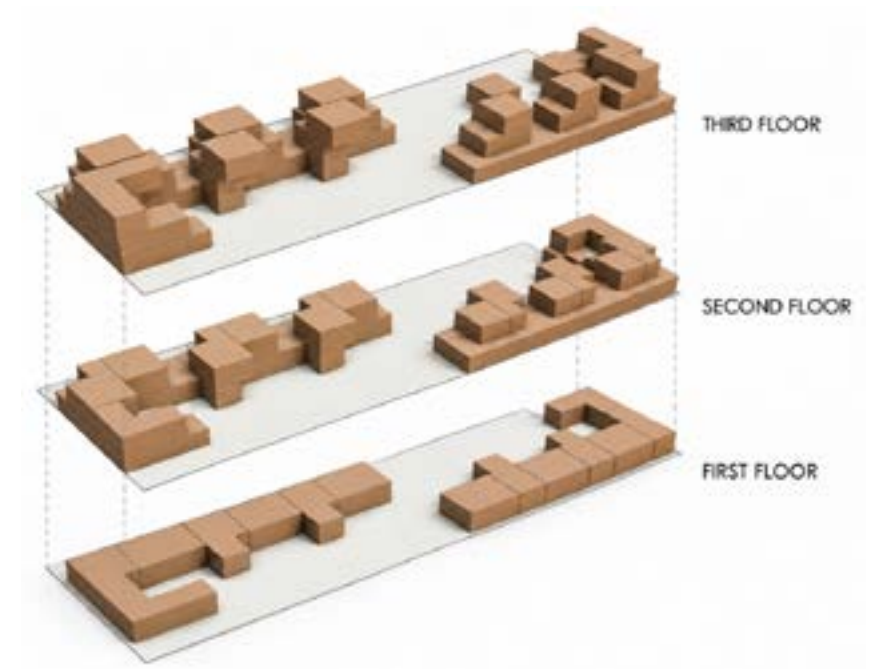
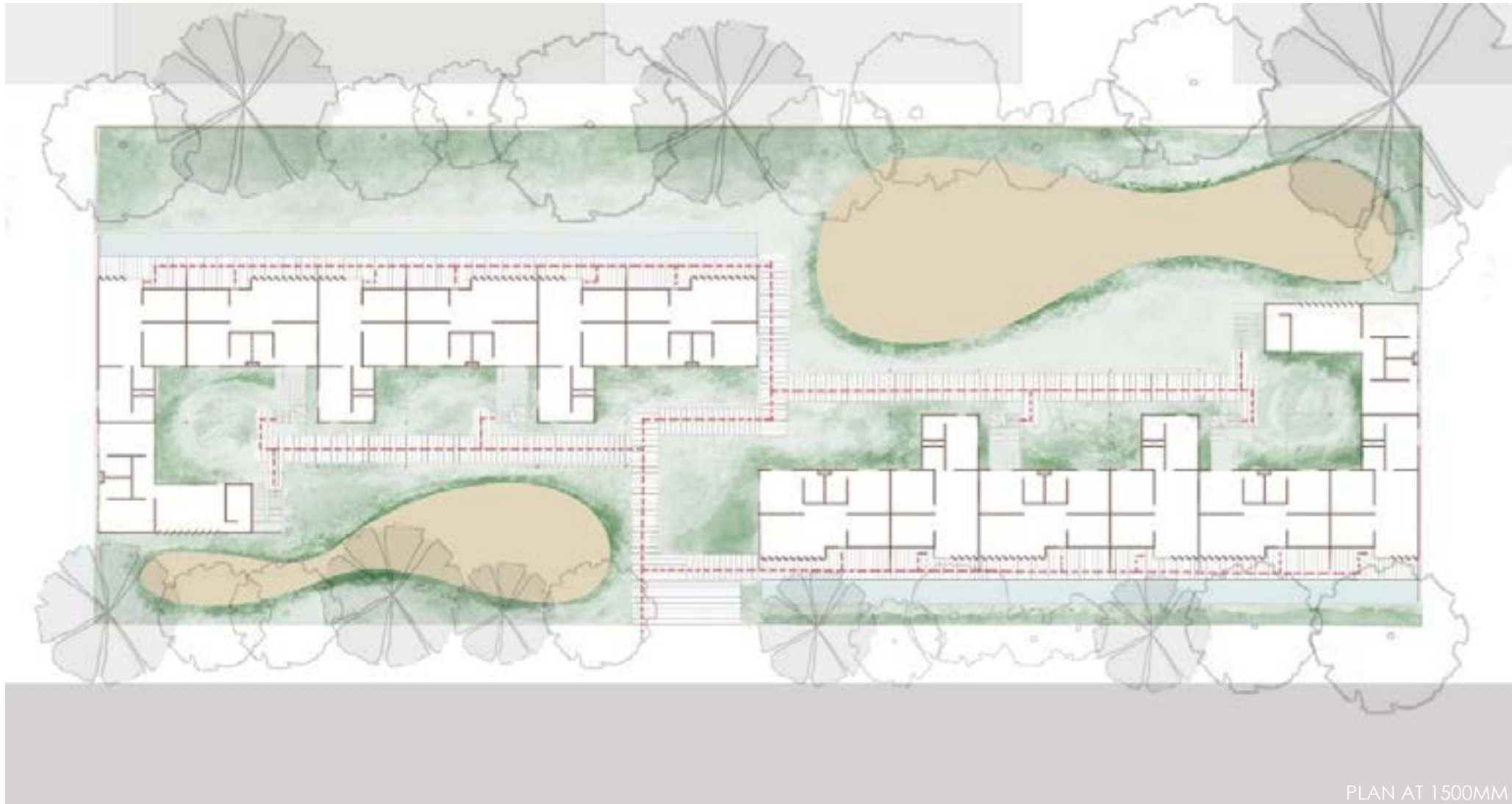
VEGETATION



INSERTION



RESPIRATION





SECTION A-A'



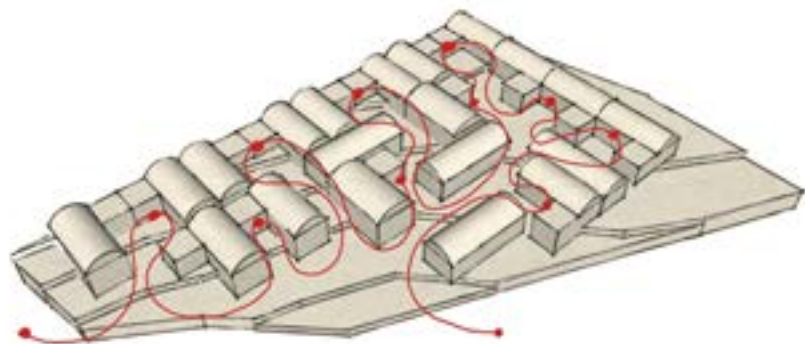
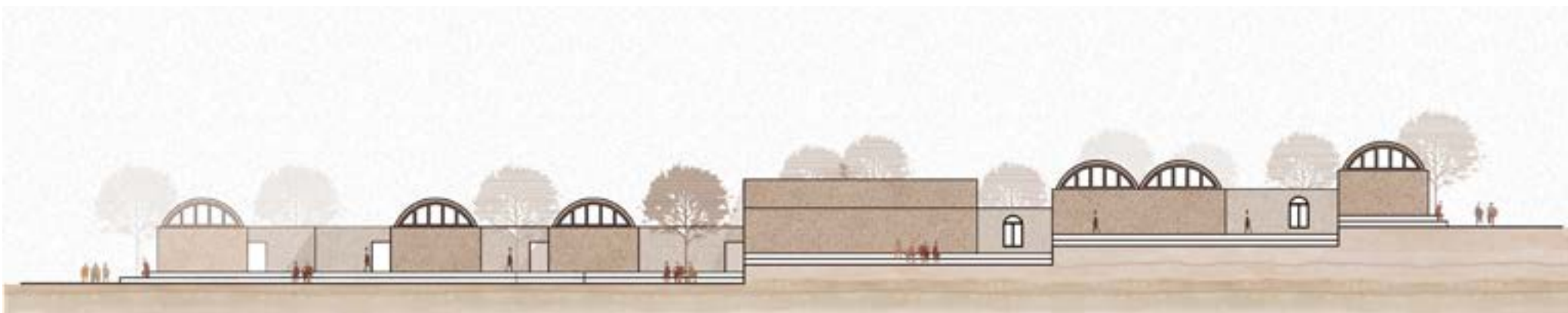
SITE PLAN AT 1500MM

B. MIGRANT HOUSING IN JAISALMER

Porous Courtyard Clusters

Set against the presence of Jaisalmer Fort, the project responds to the harsh desert climate through a porous housing system inspired by the fort's compact and protective character. Thick locally sourced sandstone walls form a solid outer edge, shielding residents from heat, glare and hot winds.

Moving inward, the built form becomes lighter and more open, creating shaded lanes, stepped courtyards and shared spaces that allow air to circulate naturally. These courtyards balance privacy with community interaction while improving ventilation and daylight. The project reinterprets Jaisalmer's traditional settlement pattern to create a compact, climate-responsive living environment shaped by stone, shade, wind and social life.



ELEVATION



FRONT VIEW



TOP VIEW

05 Construction II.

A. Claim Your Space B. Exploring Tectonics | 3rd Semester

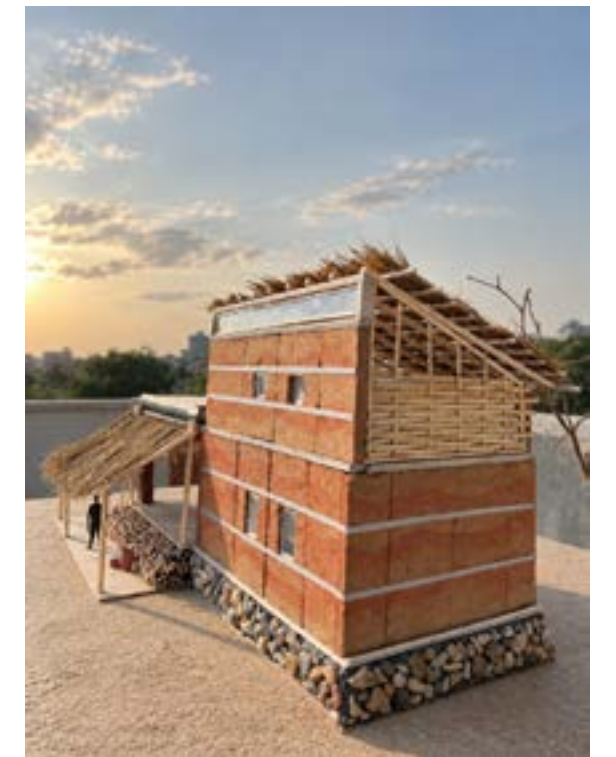


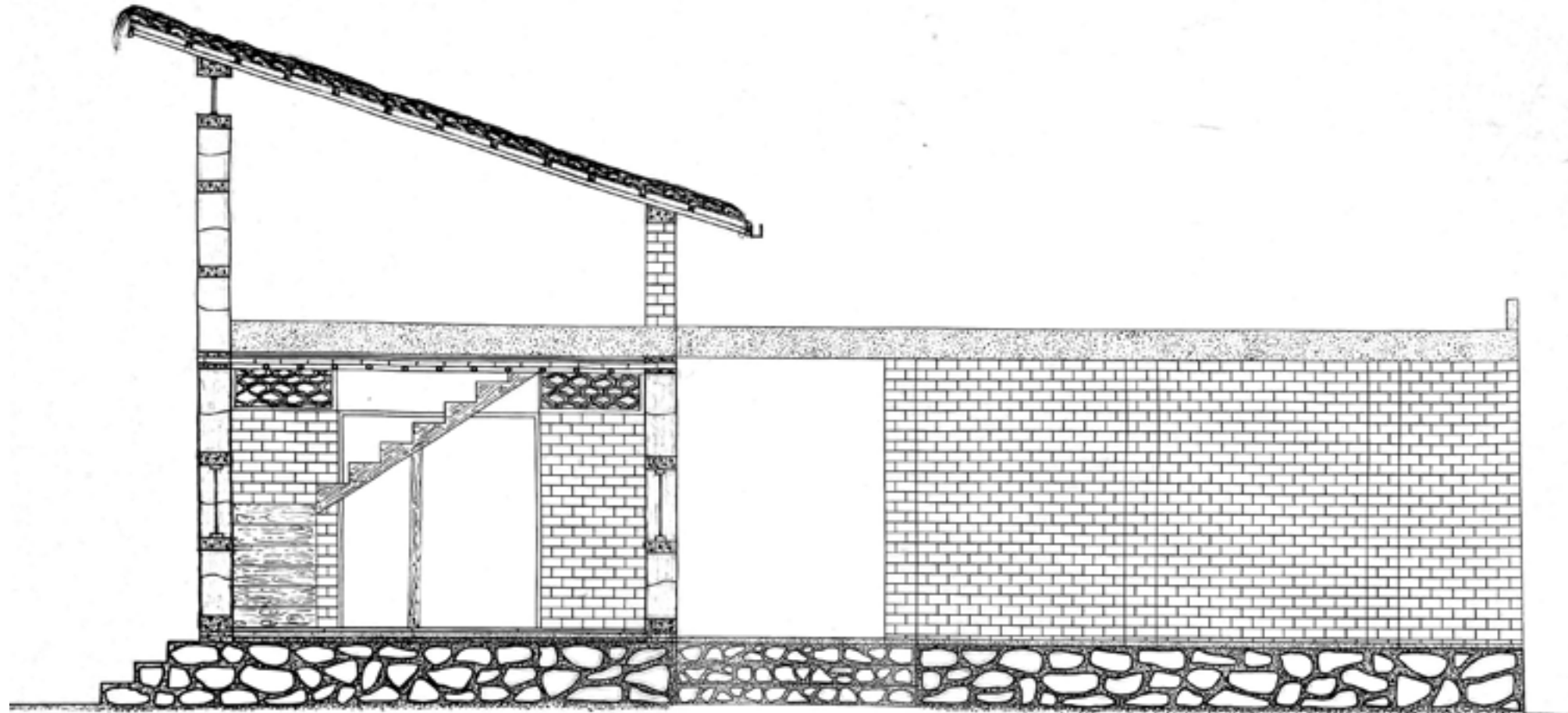
A. CLAIM YOUR SPACE

A Pottery Workshop

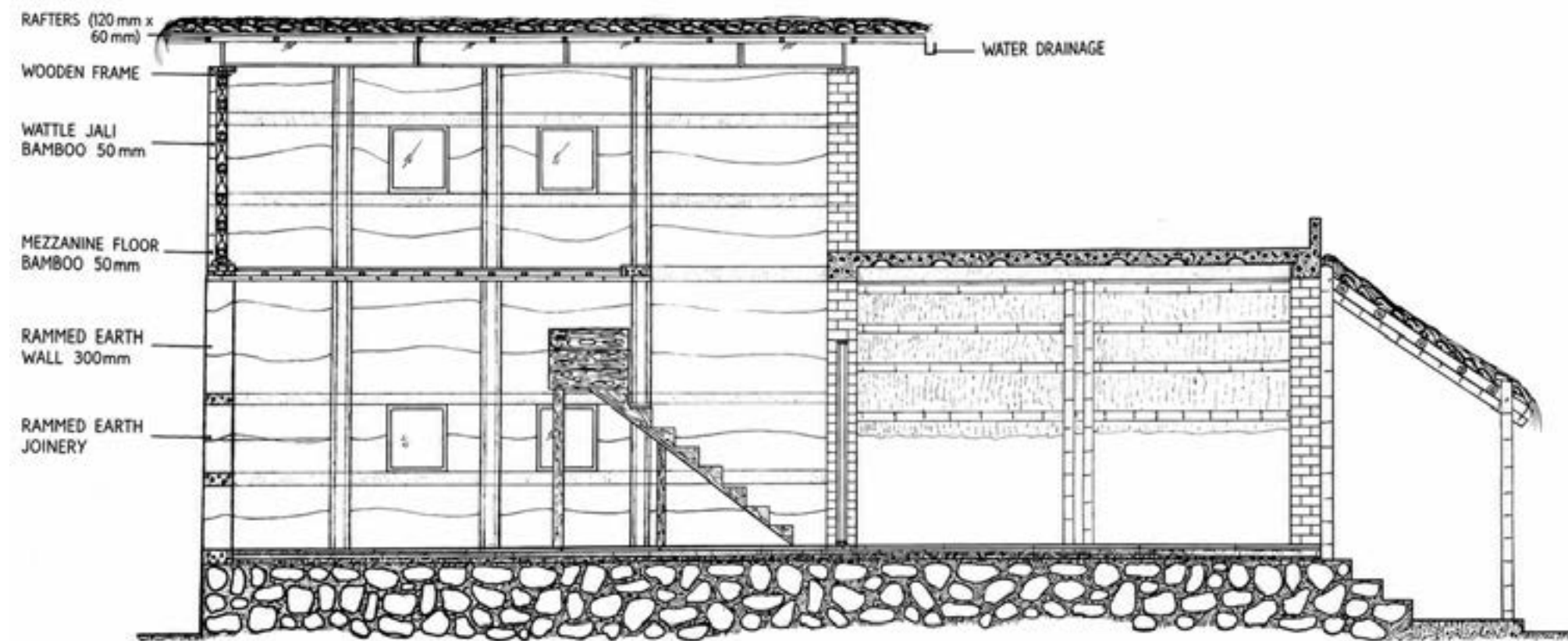
The primary objective of this exercise was to develop an understanding of the relationship between construction, structure and design through material-based tectonic thinking. The process began by selecting a function for the built intervention, which was developed as a pottery workshop, followed by resolving its spatial and architectural design.

Different materials such as rammed earth, wattle and daub, stone and brick were then introduced into the proposal, allowing material properties and construction systems to inform the design. Joineries between the various elements were studied and resolved, and a physical model was developed to better understand the spatial qualities, structural relationships and construction details of the workshop.

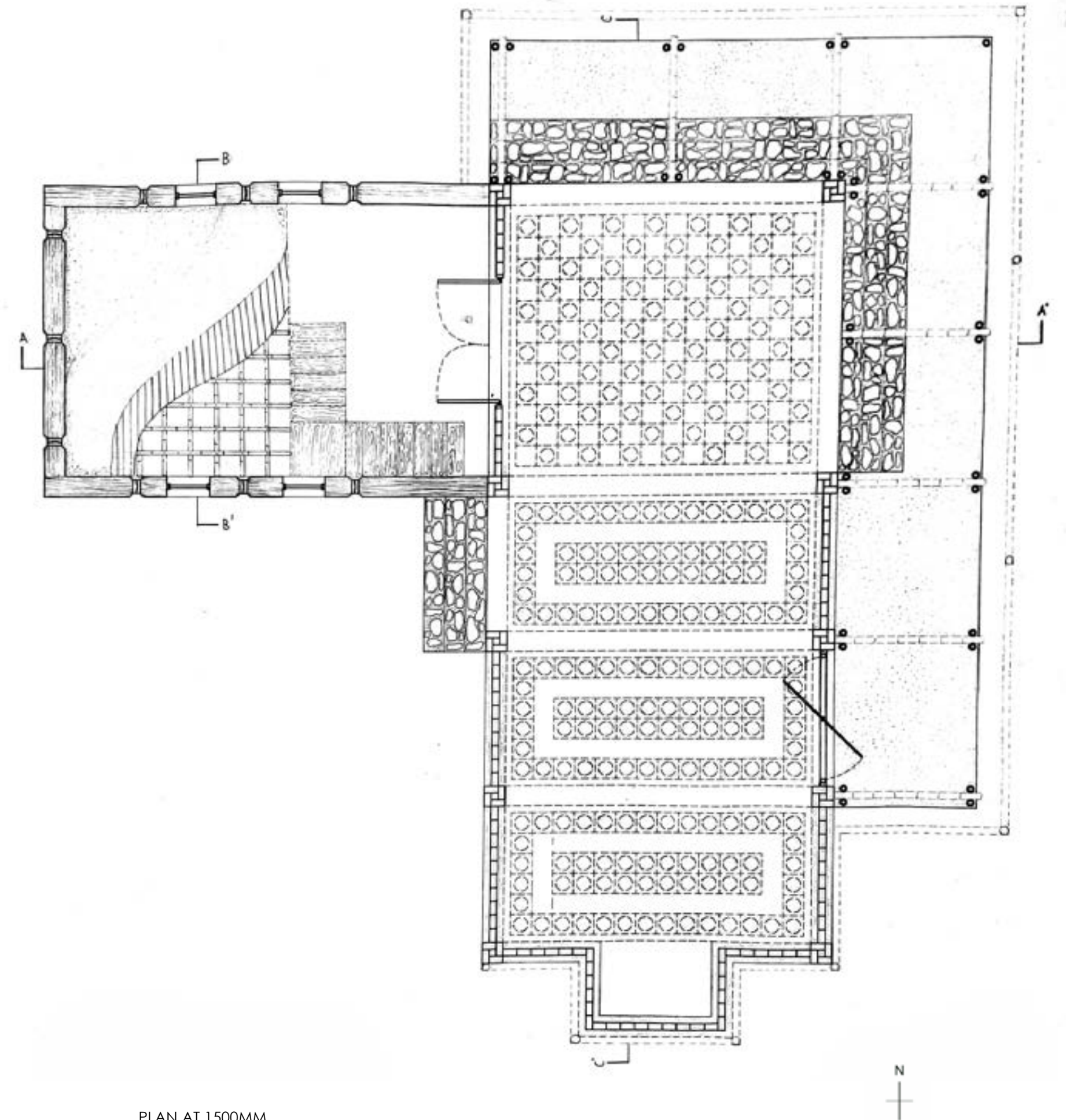




SECTION B-B'



SECTION A-A'



PLAN AT 1500MM

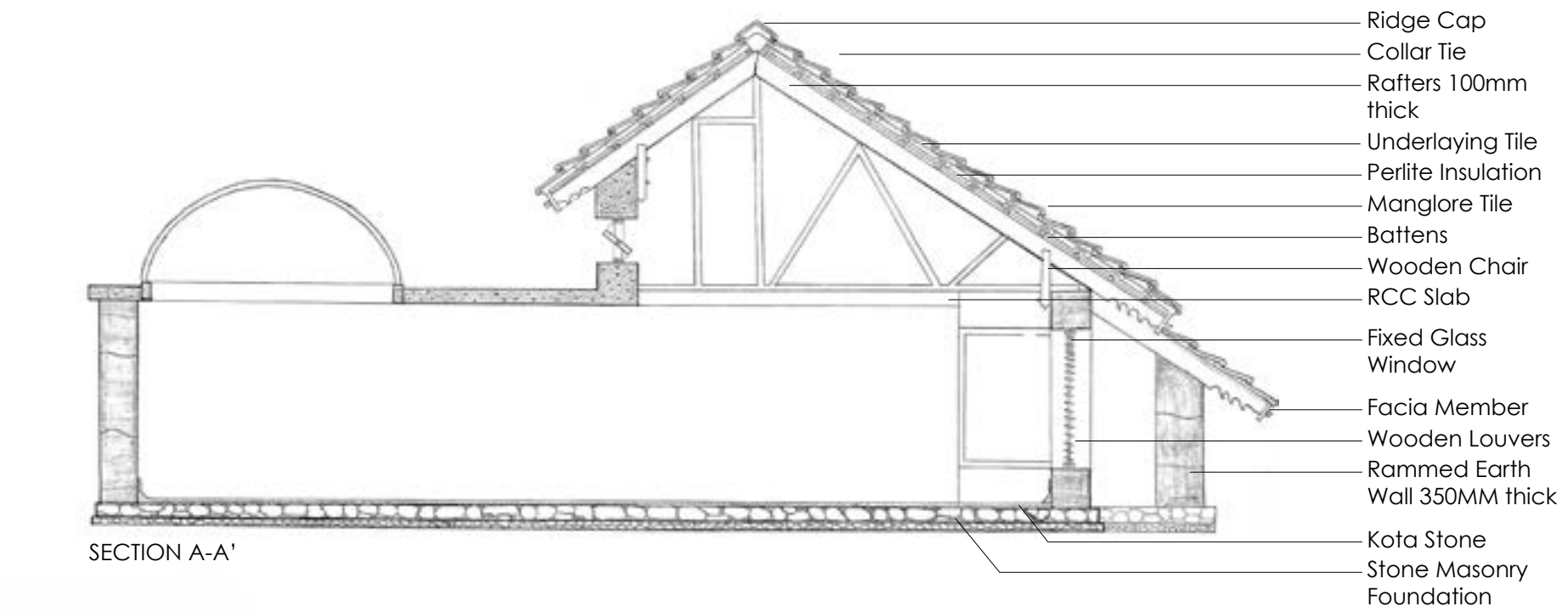
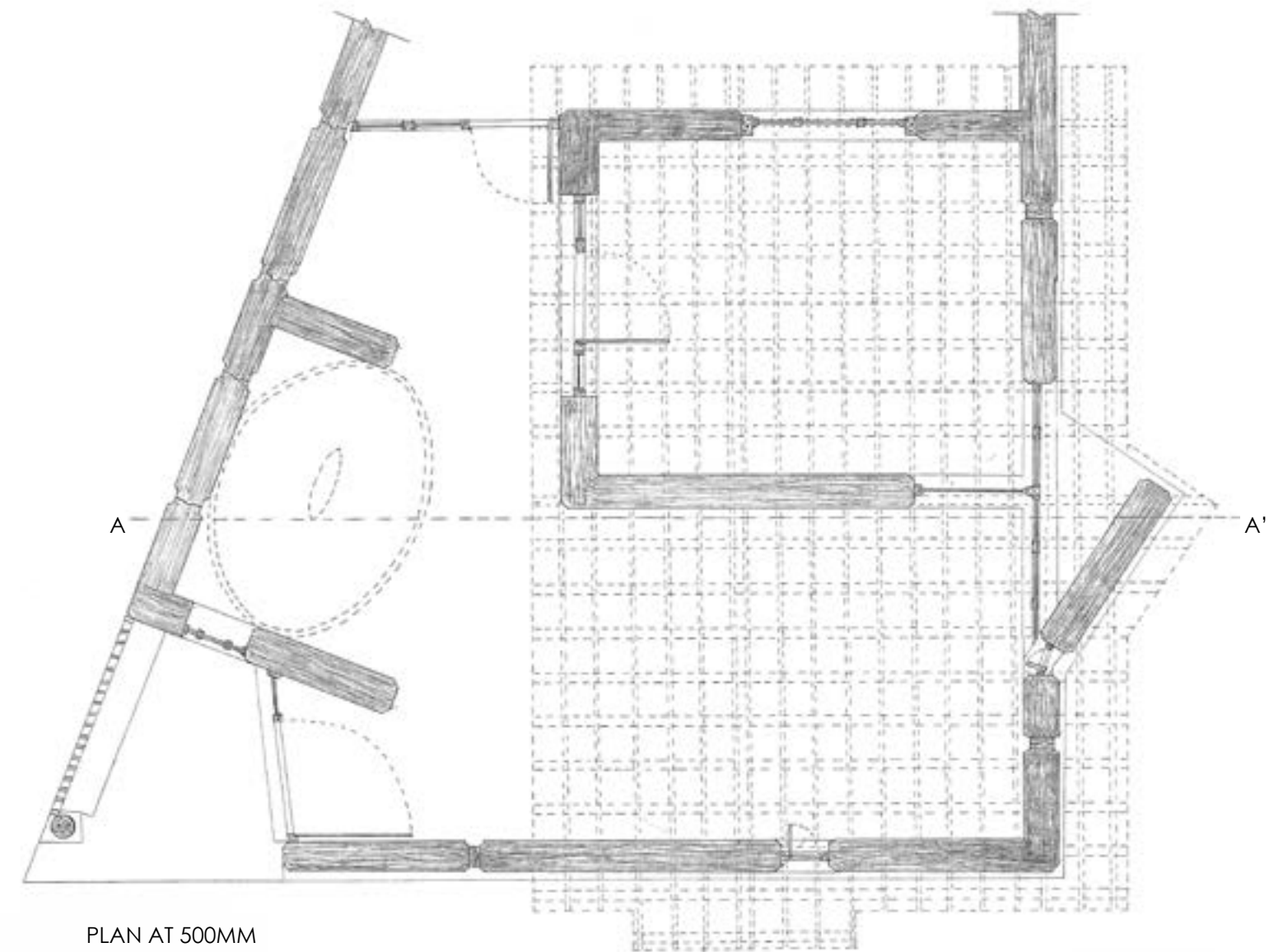
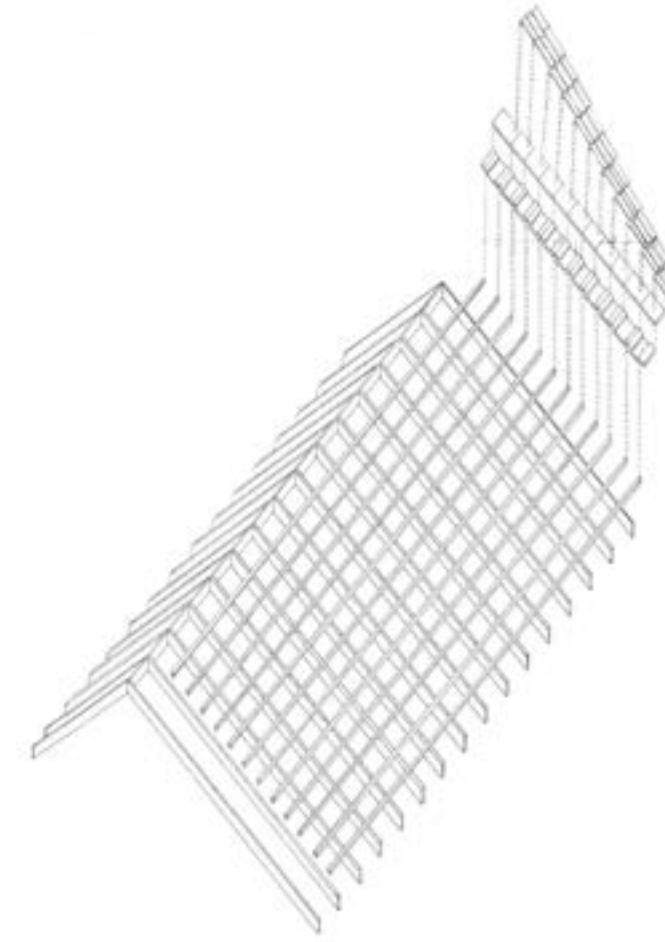
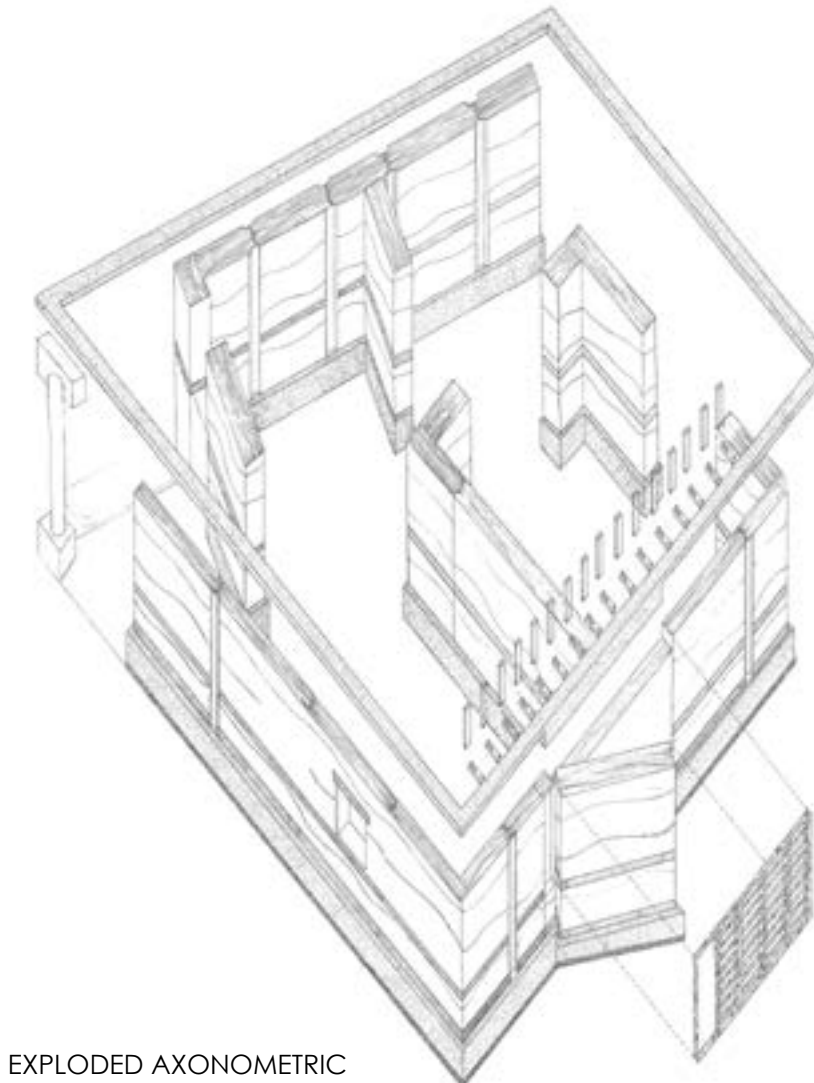


B. EXPLORING TECTONICS: Hunnershala

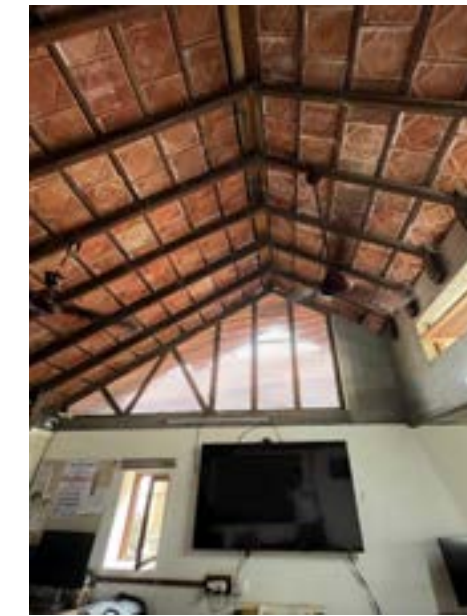
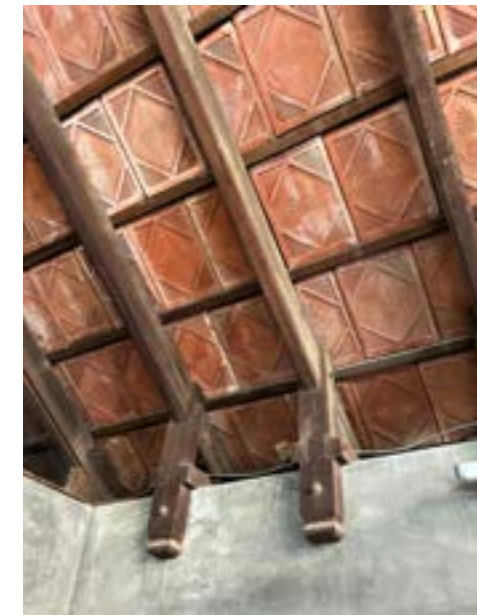
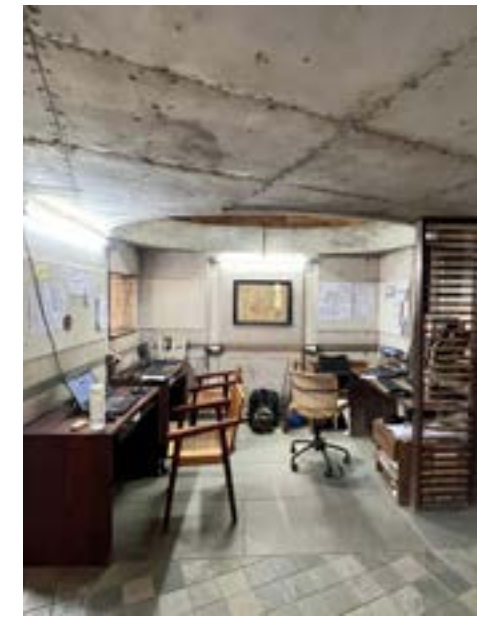
The primary objective of this exercise was to develop a fundamental understanding of varied materials used in walling systems, including rammed earth, wattle-and-daub, stone, timber, bamboo, CSEB and brick.

A study trip to **Hunnershala** was undertaken to observe these materials and construction techniques in practice. Working in groups, we studied and documented a selected building in detail, examining its structural system, material applications, junctions and joinery conditions. Through drawings, measurements, photographs and on-site observations, the exercise explored how different materials behave, connect and respond to construction requirements, helping translate theoretical knowledge into a more direct understanding of material, assembly and making.





EXPLODED AXONOMETRIC



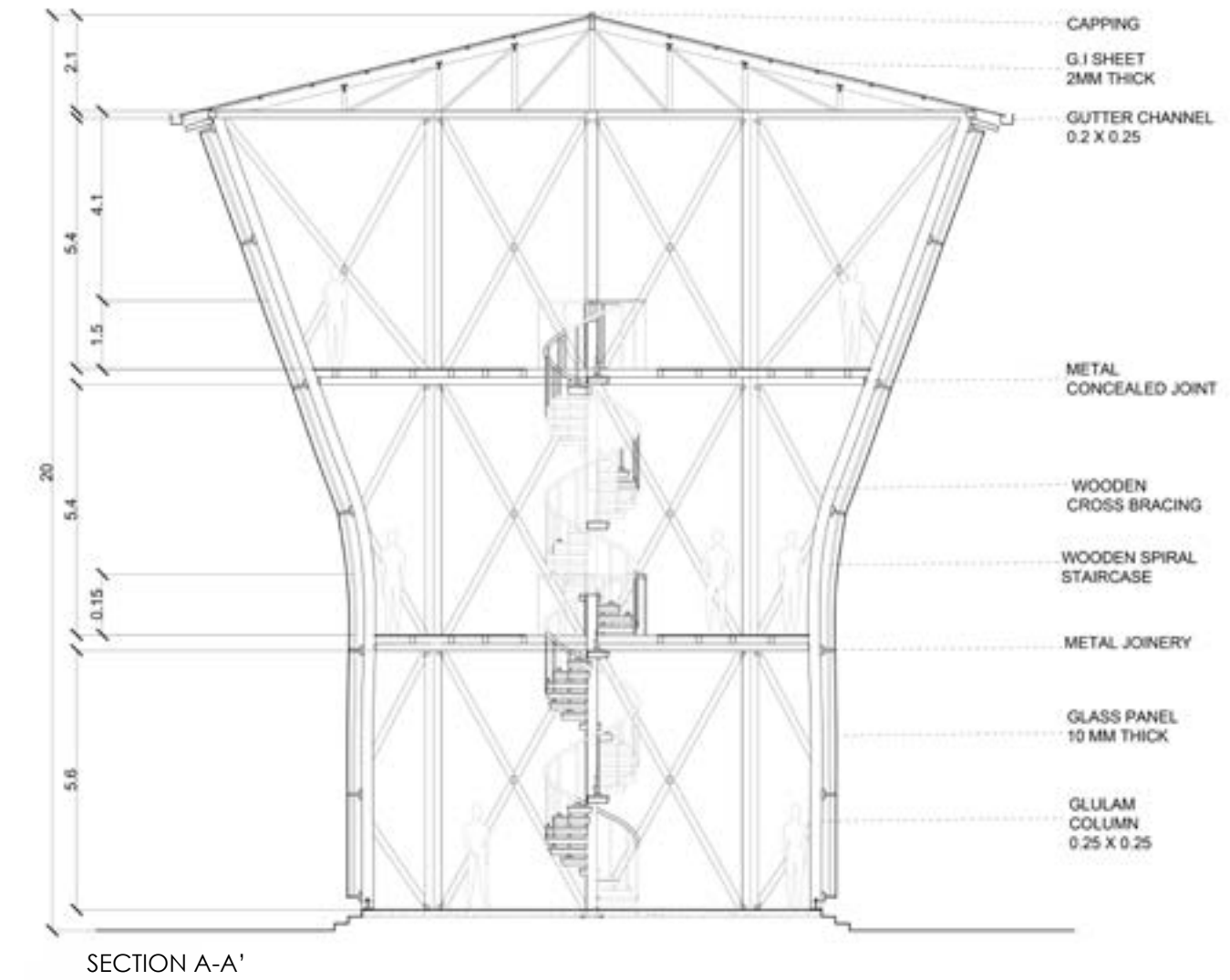
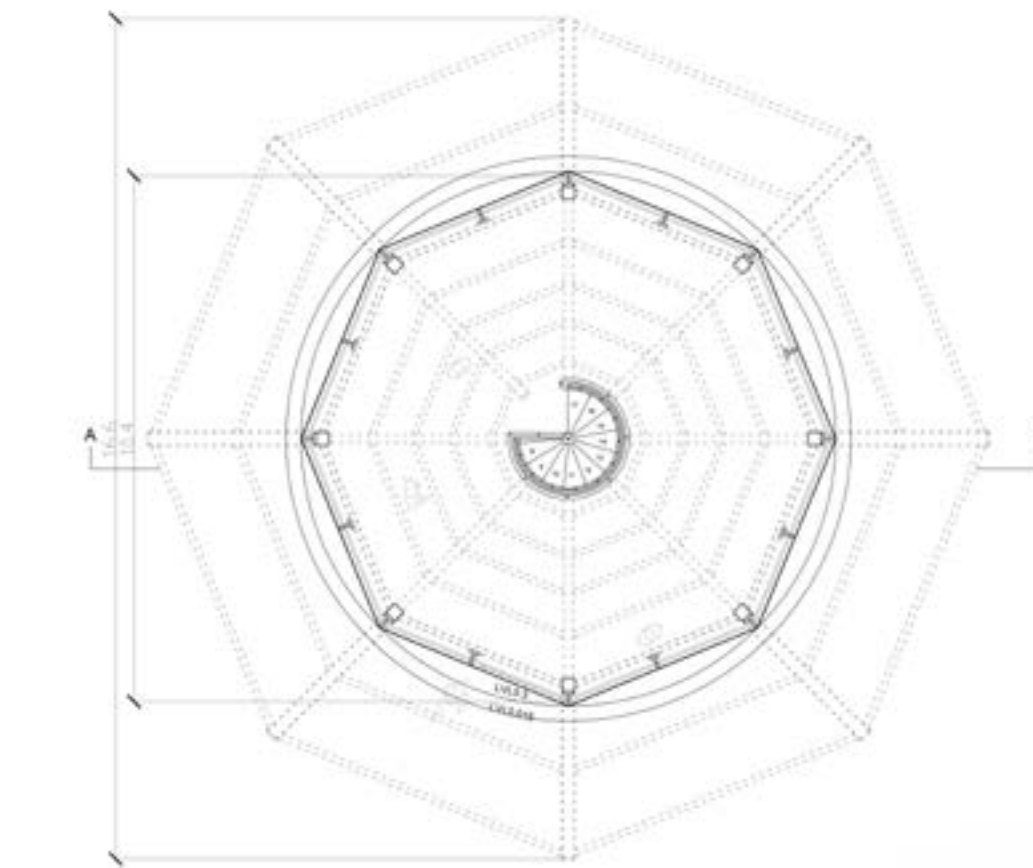
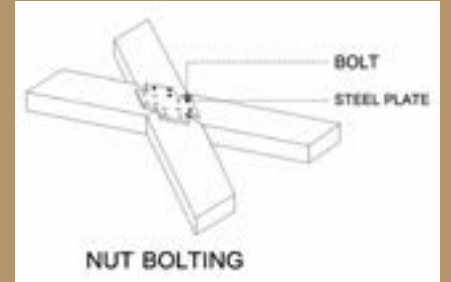
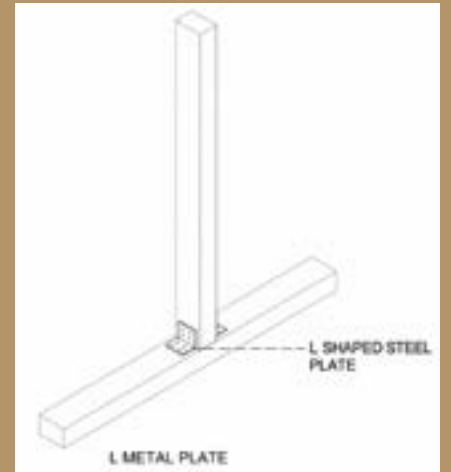
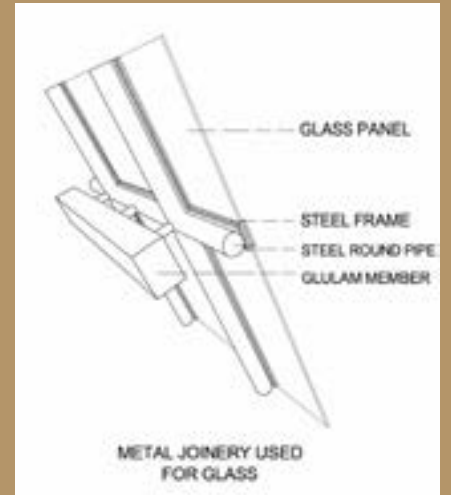
06 Construction III.

Object Study | 4th Semester



The objective of this exercise was to decode the geometric form of the object i.e. **bulb** and transform its surface system into a stable frame structure. We studied primary, secondary, and tertiary members, along with material properties, joinery techniques, span, and load-bearing capacity.

The final stage involved translating the bulb's structural form into a practical **watchtower** design, optimizing space while ensuring functionality and structural stability.



07 Advance Construction

Anticlastic Curved Panelisation | Current Semester

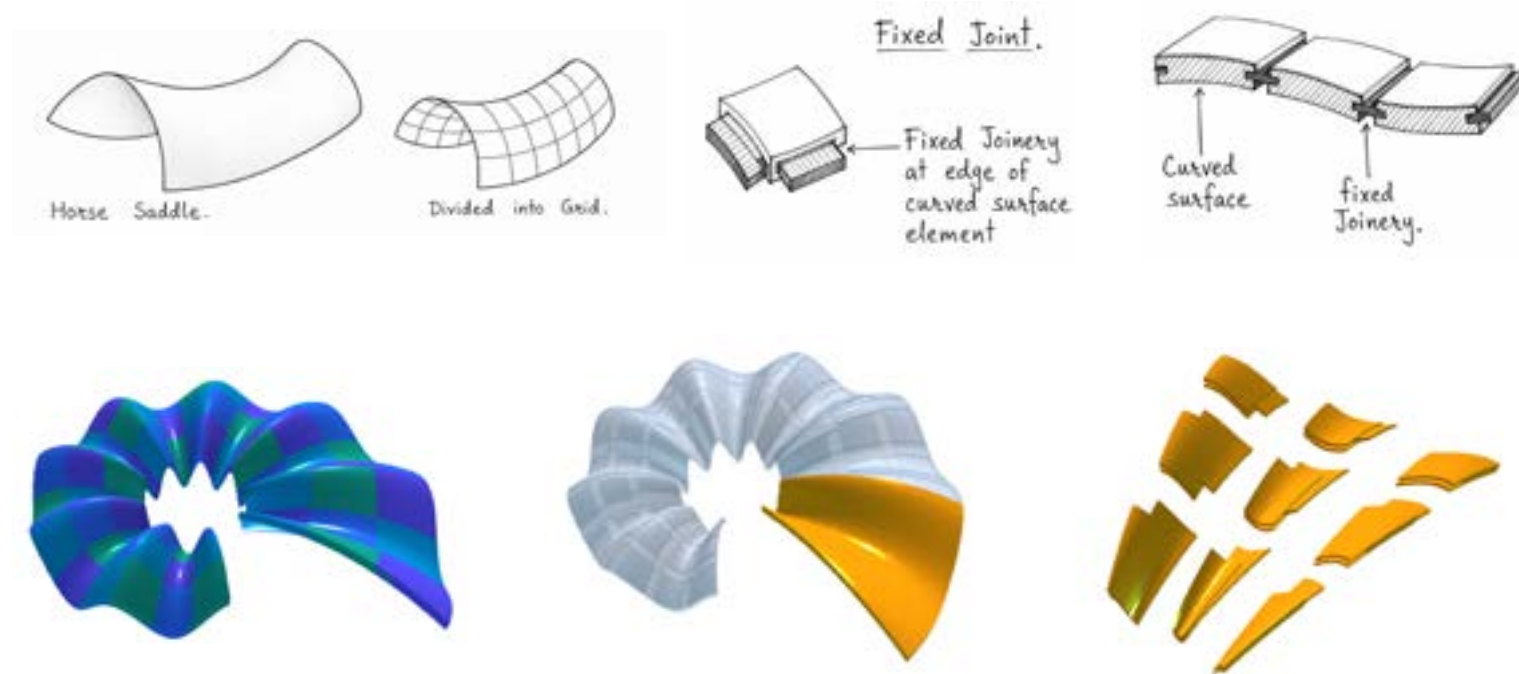
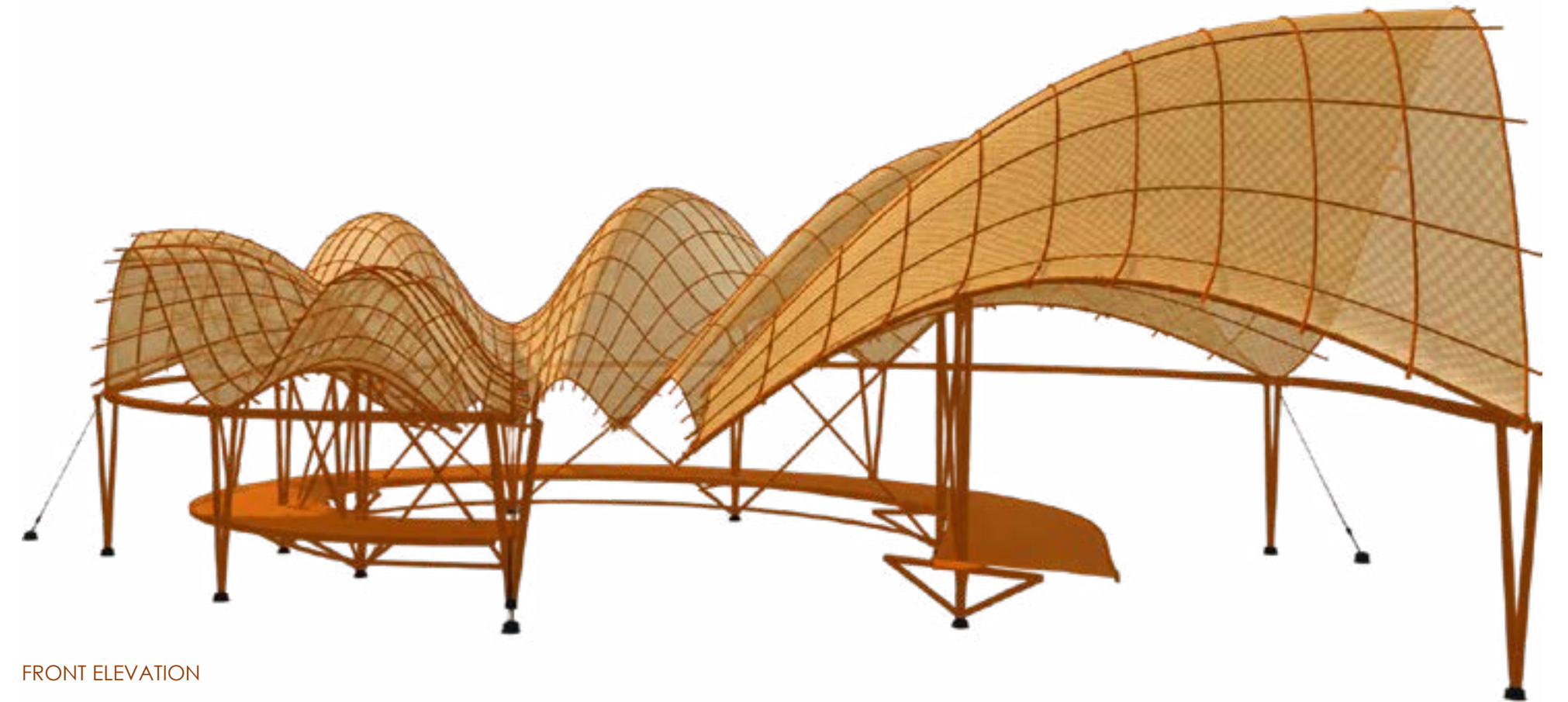
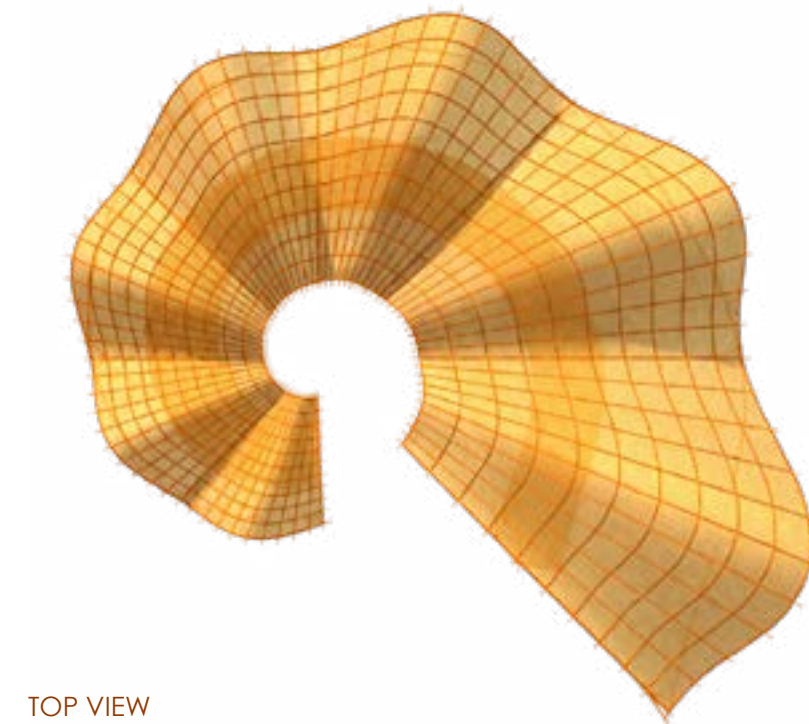
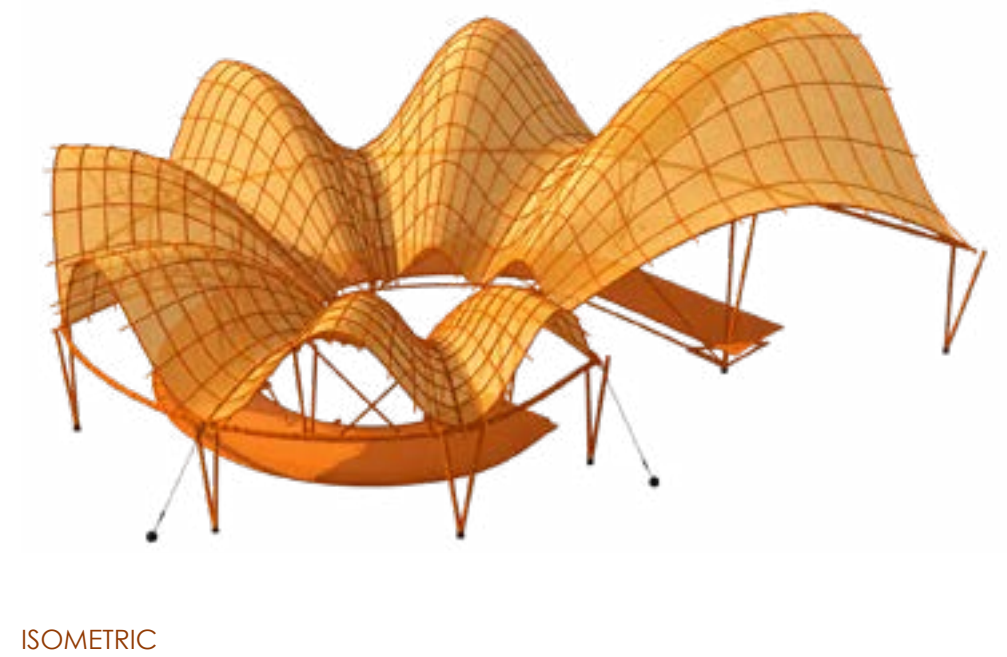


This exercise explores how complex architectural form can emerge through the interaction of geometry, computation, material and making. We began by generating an anticlastic saddle surface and developing multiple iterations through AI-assisted prompting and HTML-based coding. Then selected iterations were evaluated for spatial and formal potential, after which one system was developed further by decoding its panelisation, material behaviour and joinery logic. The chosen geometry was then translated into a functional architectural proposal, testing how its computational rules could inform fabrication, assembly and inhabitation. The process culminated in the development of a built prototype, connecting digital exploration with material realisation.

ANTICLASTIC FORM ITERATIONS -



Introducing a tongue-and-groove joinery system to connect individual anticlastic saddle modules.



<https://www.himakshishah.com/work/07/circular-surface-generator.html>

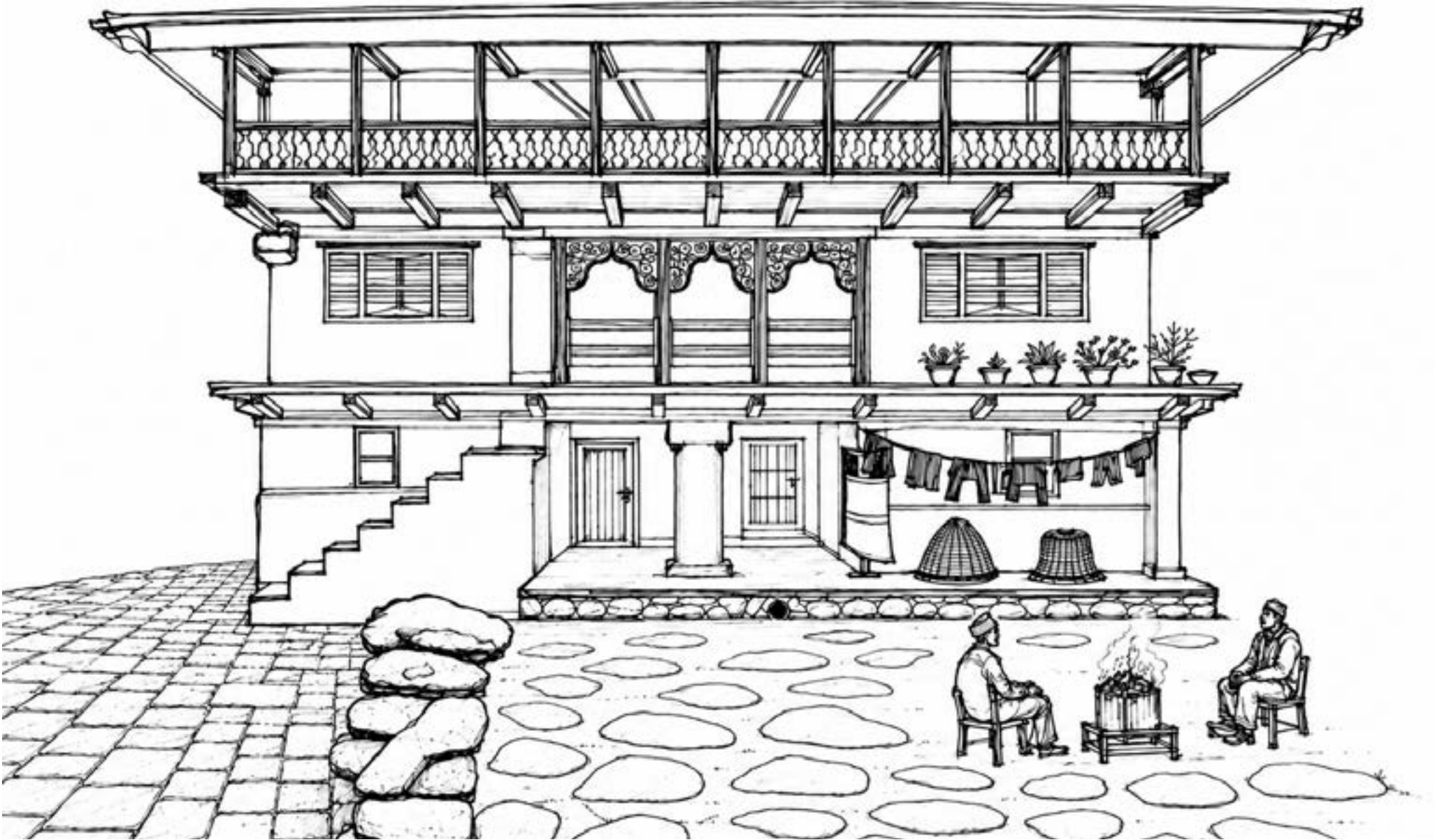
The spiral shell was developed as a lightweight bamboo roof system, transforming the geometry into a functional pavilion.
<https://www.himakshishah.com/work/07/bamboo-spiral-shell.html>

Some memories from -

RELATED STUDY PROGRAMME

Building Typologies of Nagaan Village, Uttarakhand

Nestled within the Himalayan landscape, Nagaan Village was studied through its vernacular architecture, settlement patterns and relationship with the surrounding terrain. The programme focused on documenting local building typologies, construction systems and everyday spaces through measured drawings, sketches, photographs and on-site observations. The study helped develop an understanding of how material, climate, livelihood and community shape the architectural character of the village.





explore more work