

BAMBOO ARTISAN CENTER

Studio India – Winter Semester 2025

UNESCO Prof. Anna Heringer & Daniel Haselsberger, MSc Arch

Introduction

**Studio India
Winter Semester 2025**

**20 Students Developed
11 Design Proposals
(one project is not shown due to the students' decision not to publish it)**

**Under the Guidance of:
UNESCO Prof. Anna Heringer &
Daniel Haselsberger, MSc Arch**

**Supported by:
Isha Haselsberger**

**In Collaboration with:
Center for Indian Bamboo Ressource and Technology**

**Urbanism, Architecture & Society Unit
Liechtenstein School of Architecture**

**University of Liechtenstein
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In the winter semester 2025, Studio India from the Urbanism, Architecture & Society Unit (UASU) collaborated with the NPO Center for Indian Bamboo Resource and Technology (CIBART) in the Indian state of Gujarat. CIBART promotes the advancement of bamboo as a sustainable building material, thereby creating income opportunities for people from disadvantaged tribal communities.

The students develop proposals for the construction of a training center for the artisans of CIBART. They based their designs on the skills and expertise of the artisans, the local climate, and available resources, while contributing their own approaches to challenge established practices and generate a pool of ideas that further advance the potential of bamboo and other regenerative building materials.

Using clay as a modelling material, we understand model making not as the representation of a final design outcome, but as a method of a sensitive design approach that emphasizes a direct interaction between hand and mind. Working with clay allows emotion and intuition to enter the design process. In this way, it counterbalances rational approaches that rely solely on CAD and 3D software and tend to disconnect the sensing hand from the thinking mind.

Engaging with an unfamiliar context encourages students to encounter a different culture and, in doing so, to reflect anew on their own. This process is not to be understood as a one-way transfer of knowledge from the Global North to the Global South, but rather as a reciprocal production of knowledge aimed at addressing global challenges that affect us all and therefore require cross-border collaboration. How can we learn from one another to find pathways toward a just distribution of available resources within our planetary boundaries?

The following pages provide an overview of the eleven projects developed during the winter semester of 2025 as individual and group projects by twenty students, ranging from the fifth semester of the bachelor's program to the third semester of the master's program.

Seminar Week



BAMBOO WORKSHOP, UKAI



BAMBOO WORKSHOP, UKAI



TUK TUK RIDE, AHMEDABAD



VISIT OF TRIBAL COMMUNITIES, VALSAD



GROUP PHOTO WITH CIBART TEAM, VALSAD



BAMBOO WORKSHOP, UKAI



BAMBOO FOREST, VALSAD



BAMBOO WORKSHOP, VALSAD

Student Projects



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Project India

Michèle Bühler & Noa Gierer BSc 5

The guest houses together form a small village. Three to four houses are arranged in such a way that they create a shared courtyard, which in addition to the verandas can serve as a meeting place.

It is important to us that our project radiates life, color, and community and is seen as a connected whole. We want to give something back to the local people and create a special place where people enjoy living.

The guest houses are based on a simple, traditional bamboo construction and are all similar in design. Each house has a veranda and interior rooms for sleeping.

The sleeping areas are designed so that each person has their own niche for retreat and privacy. Thin walls form cozy, small sleeping cubicles, so that even shared rooms offer a feeling of personal space. The colorful and lively character of our design is designed to catch the eye.

With our plans, we want to show that we are not just interested in building guest houses or a striking bamboo structure. Rather, we want to create a place where the people who live there and use it feel comfortable and fill it with life.

“It is people who bring architecture to life. We build for them – and we hope that our design expresses exactly that.”



VERANDA



GUESTHOUSE



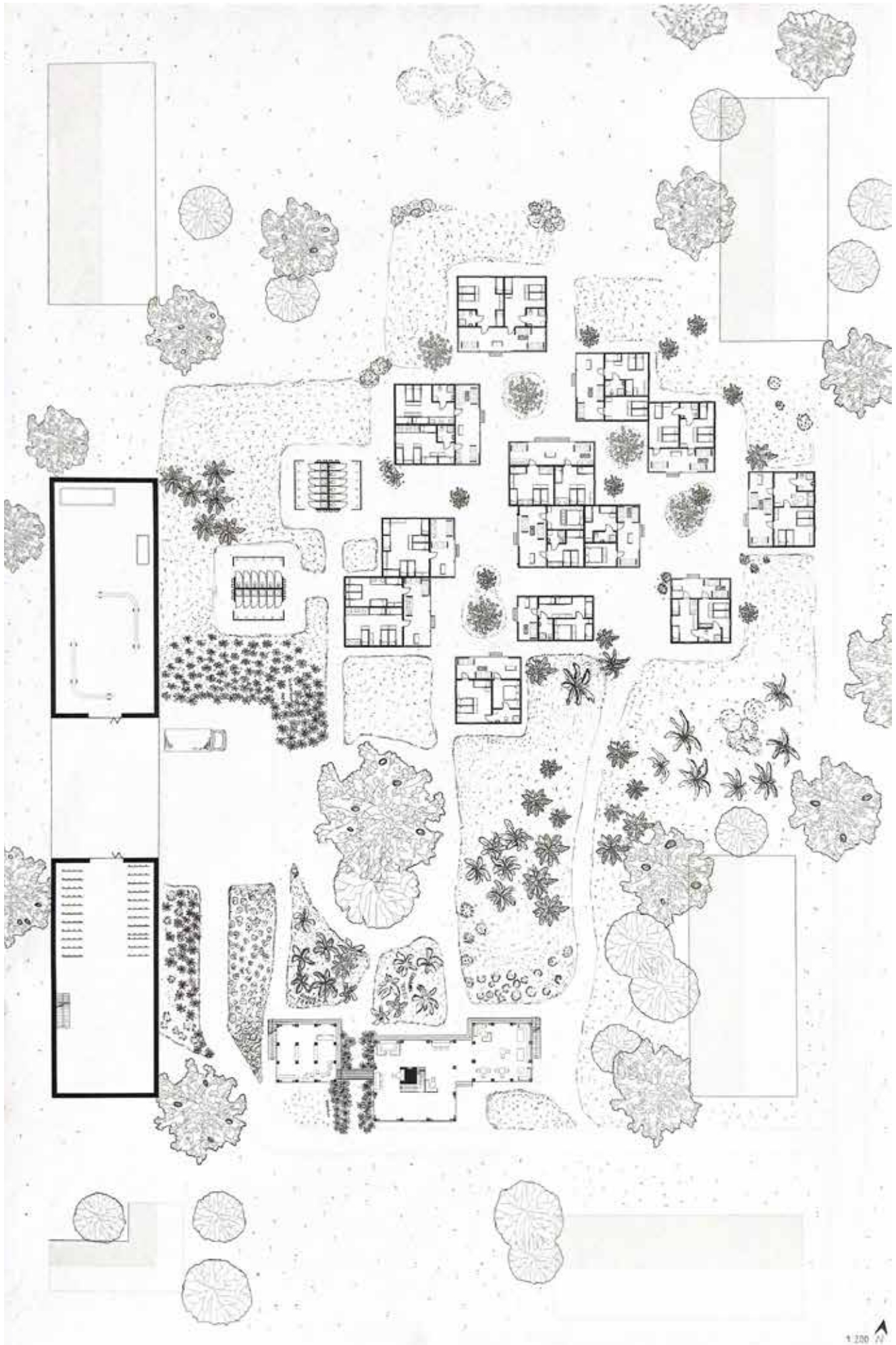
SECTION



FACADE



BAMBOO STRUCTURE



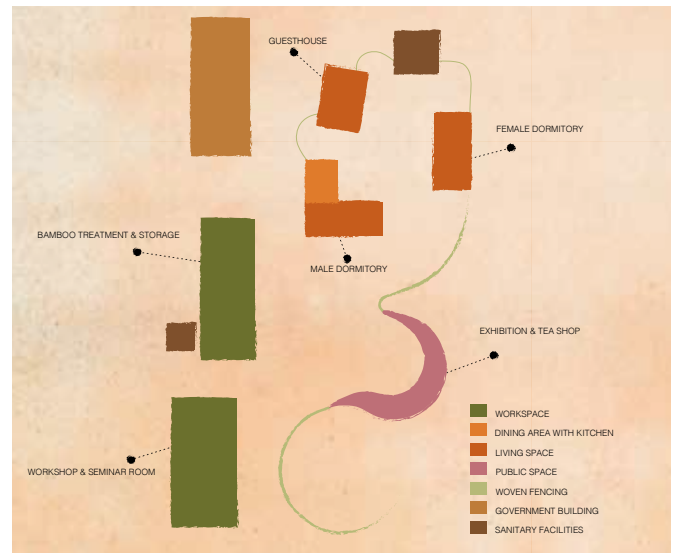
SITE PLAN

Soil to Space

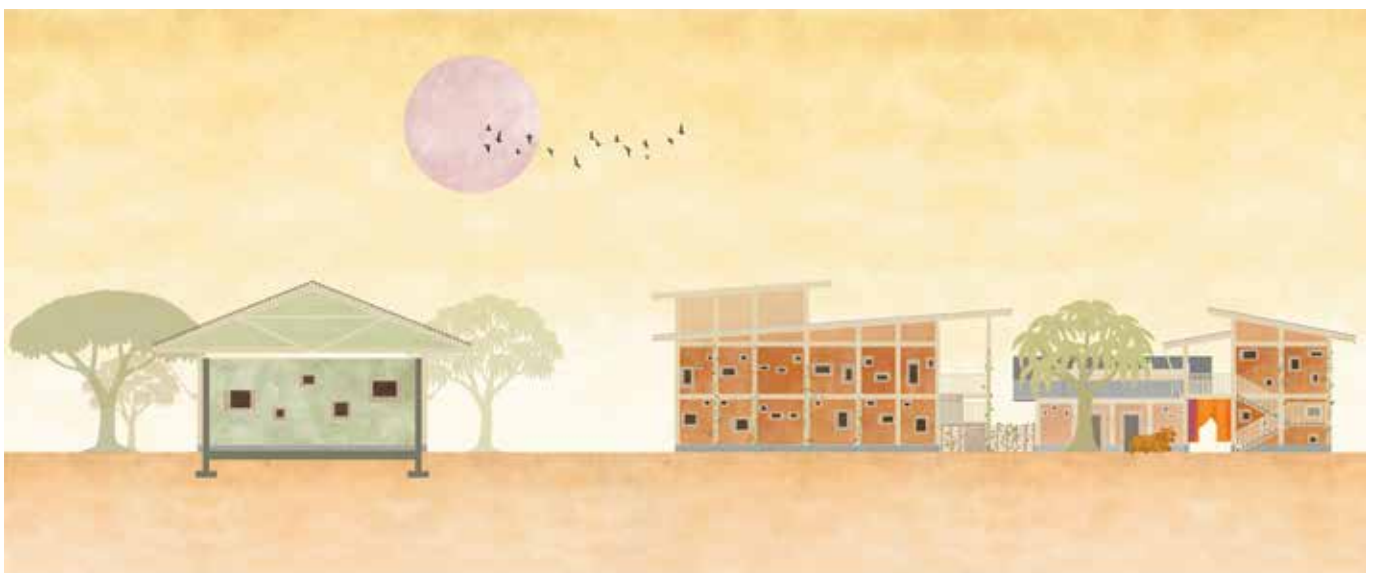
Edanur Bayram BSc Thesis

This project in Ukai, Gujarat is based on working with local materials such as bamboo and earth to respond to the climate, culture, and everyday life. The site is divided into public space, working areas, and living areas, allowing different activities to coexist while remaining separated. A dense bamboo forest marks the entrance and creates a transition into the site, while woven bamboo fences guide movement and support food production, with pumpkin plants growing along them. The public space around the Banyan tree forms the public space and is shaped by an organic architectural form, including a roof structure that almost reaches the ground, creating a shaded area with a tea house and exhibition space. The workshops and bamboo processing buildings remain active and visible; their existing roofs are renovated and supported by bamboo columns, connecting production with daily life. The living area is placed at the back of the site to create privacy, safety, and quiet retreat. Using the Bahareque construction method, bamboo structures and earth walls create breathable, climate-responsive buildings. Overall, the project shows how architecture can grow from local resources and create spaces that are simple, sustainable, and deeply rooted in place.

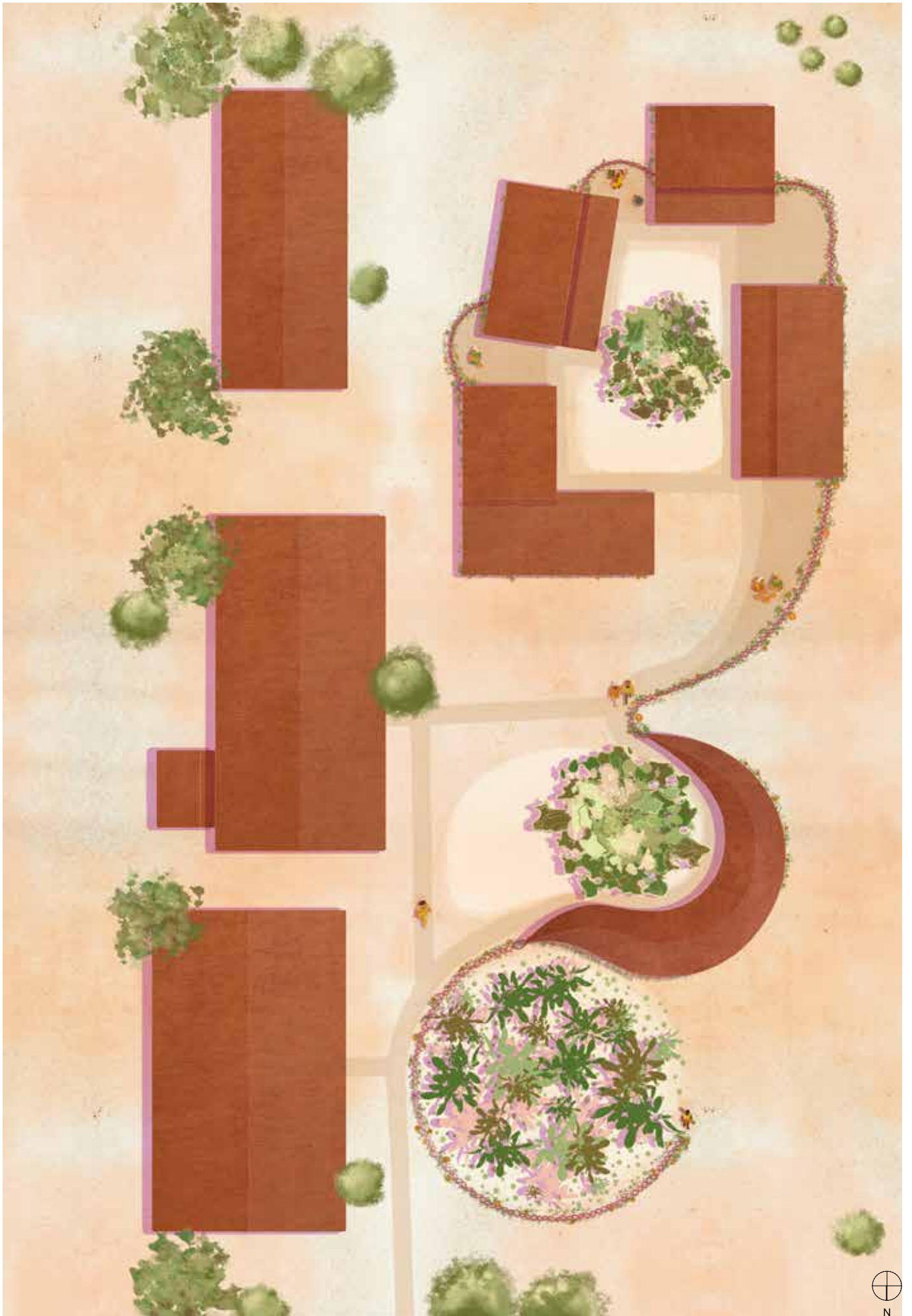
„Through this project, I learned that architecture does not start with form, but with understanding the place, its people, and the materials that already exist.“



PROGRAM CONCEPT



SECTION



SITE PLAN



GROUND FLOOR



ATMOSPHERIC VISUALIZATION



MODEL PHOTOS



Baans Village

Nihan Motur-Basaran BSc Thesis

Baan's Village sees outdoor space as the central place of living. The architecture is not designed as a closed shell, but as a structure of verandas, transitions, and open structures in which everyday life unfolds in the open air. The buildings frame life rather than shifting it indoors, creating shaded, ventilated spaces that respond to the local climate. The bamboo and clay construction follows this principle of openness. Bahareque wattlework allows daylight, sunlight, and air to enter the rooms unhindered without the need for traditional windows. This creates a fluid relationship between inside and outside, deliberately dissolving boundaries. The bamboo forest, the areas for treating and storing the material, and the residential structures are spatially connected and form a coherent living space. Baan's Village understands architecture as an adaptable process. Materials can be sourced locally, repaired, and reprocessed, making mistakes, breaks, or changes part of the design. The result is a settlement that is not complete, but grows with its inhabitants—in the outdoor space, in the shade, in the light.

“My house is my sanctuary – an emotional piece of architecture, not a cold piece of convenience.”



COFFEEHOUSE ROOFTOP



GROUND FLOOR

बांस गांव

baans village : where bamboo lives - craft meets art

ROOF
- integrated with
bamboo rafters
bamboo frame

WALL
- woven bamboo
screen

CEILING
- woven bamboo
screen

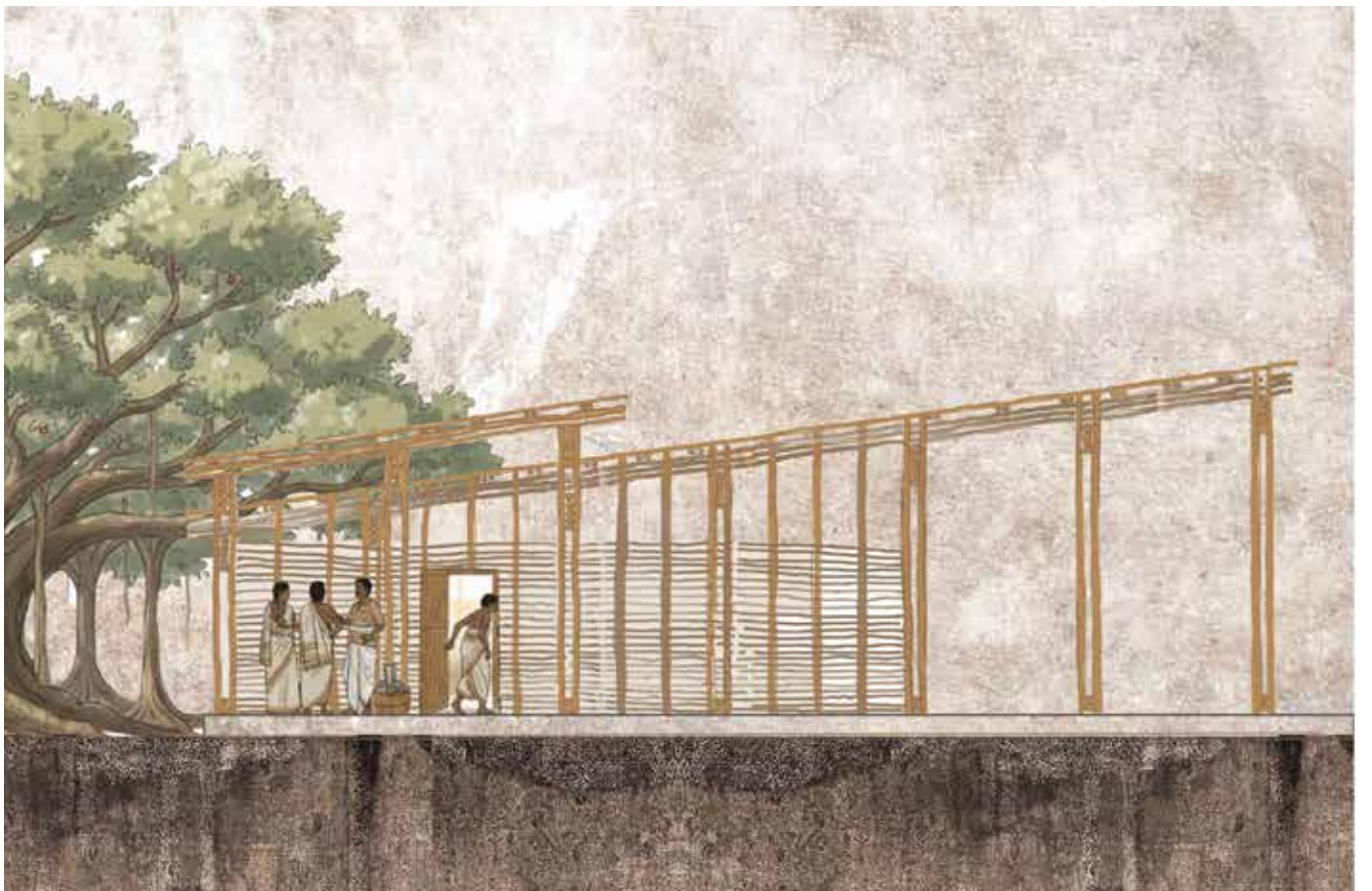
FLOOR
- woven bamboo
screen



FACADE



FACADE GUEST HOUSES



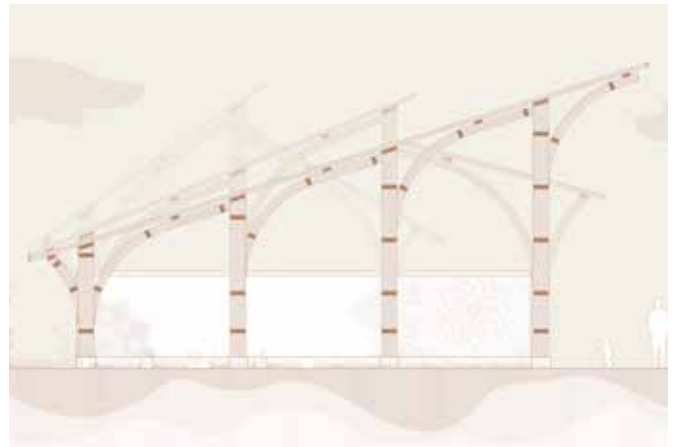
FACADE SEMINAR ROOMS

Coexistence

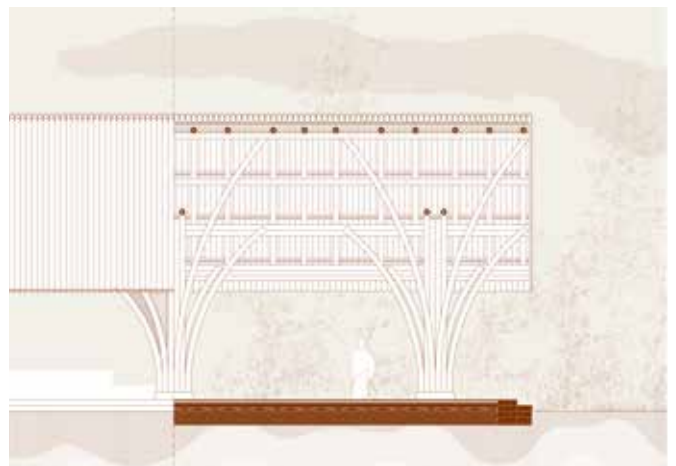
Diego Alejandro Squires BSc Thesis

The project is guided by the idea of cultural coexistence through sustainable building practices. It proposes a bamboo training centre on the perimeter of the Centre for Indian Bamboo Resource and Technology in Ukai, where architecture is understood as a process of learning rather than authorship. The buildings are arranged as a compact cluster of small-scale structures, responding to the surrounding informal settlement and encouraging appropriation by artisans and the local community. A central axis opens the site and connects the individual buildings, while creating visual and spatial continuity towards the existing banyan tree at the centre of the plot. Bamboo forms the primary structural system throughout the project. Its low embodied energy, regenerative capacity, and availability of local craftsmanship allow for flexible, open structures that make sustainable construction techniques visible and accessible. By combining bamboo with earth-based building methods, the project emphasises local knowledge, material cycles, and the social dimension of sustainable architecture.

„This project taught me that architecture begins with listening. Building alongside artisans requires humility, trust, and respect for knowledge that is lived, practiced, and deeply rooted in place.“



ELEVATION EXHIBITION AND PRESENTATION HALLS



ELEVATION AND SECTION KITCHEN AREA



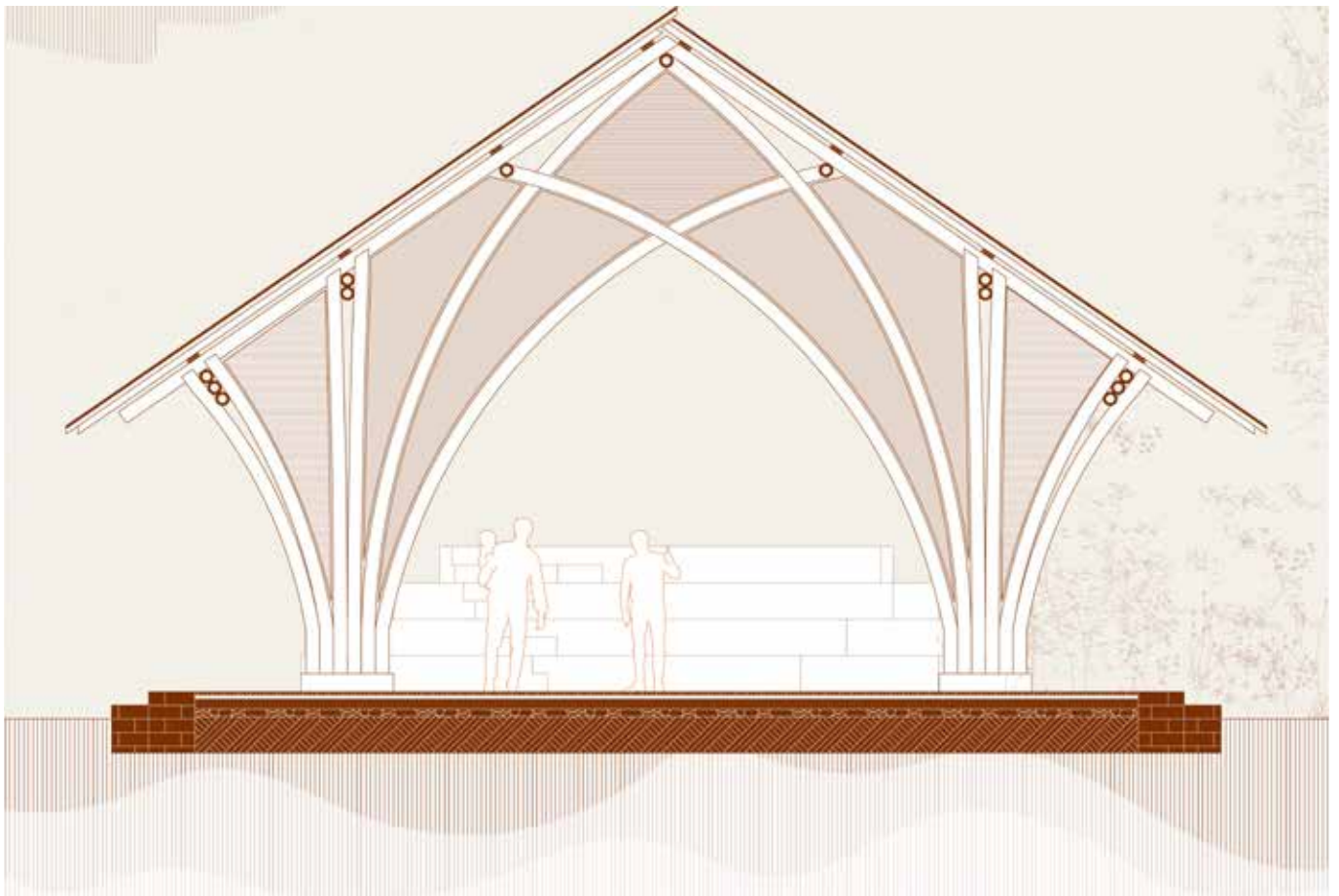
SITE PLAN



CLAY MODEL



KITCHEN AREA



SECTION KITCHEN AREA

Bamboo Studio

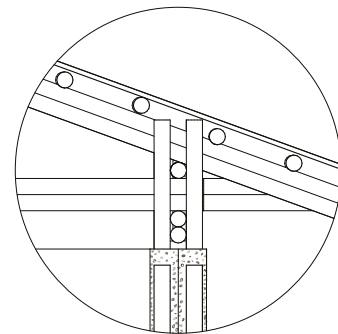
Şeyda Ünalın BSc Thesis

Set within the everyday rhythms of rural Gujarat, this project is shaped by the observation of climate, local materials, and social life already present on site. Rather than introducing a singular architectural gesture, the design unfolds around the already existing banyan tree and through a series of interconnected spaces that support making, learning, and informal exchange. From the beginning, the existing presence of the banyan tree came to guide the site. Growing and expanding with time correlates with the intention of the Bamboo Studio as a place that is not fixed or complete but able to evolve through use, learning, and community involvement.

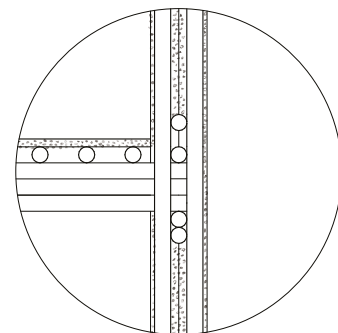


VERANDA

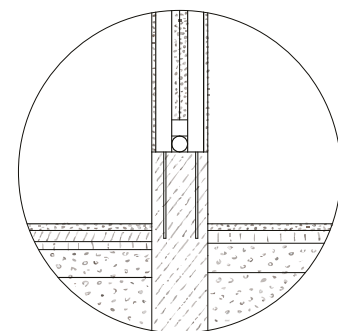
„By learning from the lived realities of Gujarat, design becomes more grounded, responsible, and capable of supporting existing community life in a sustainable way.“



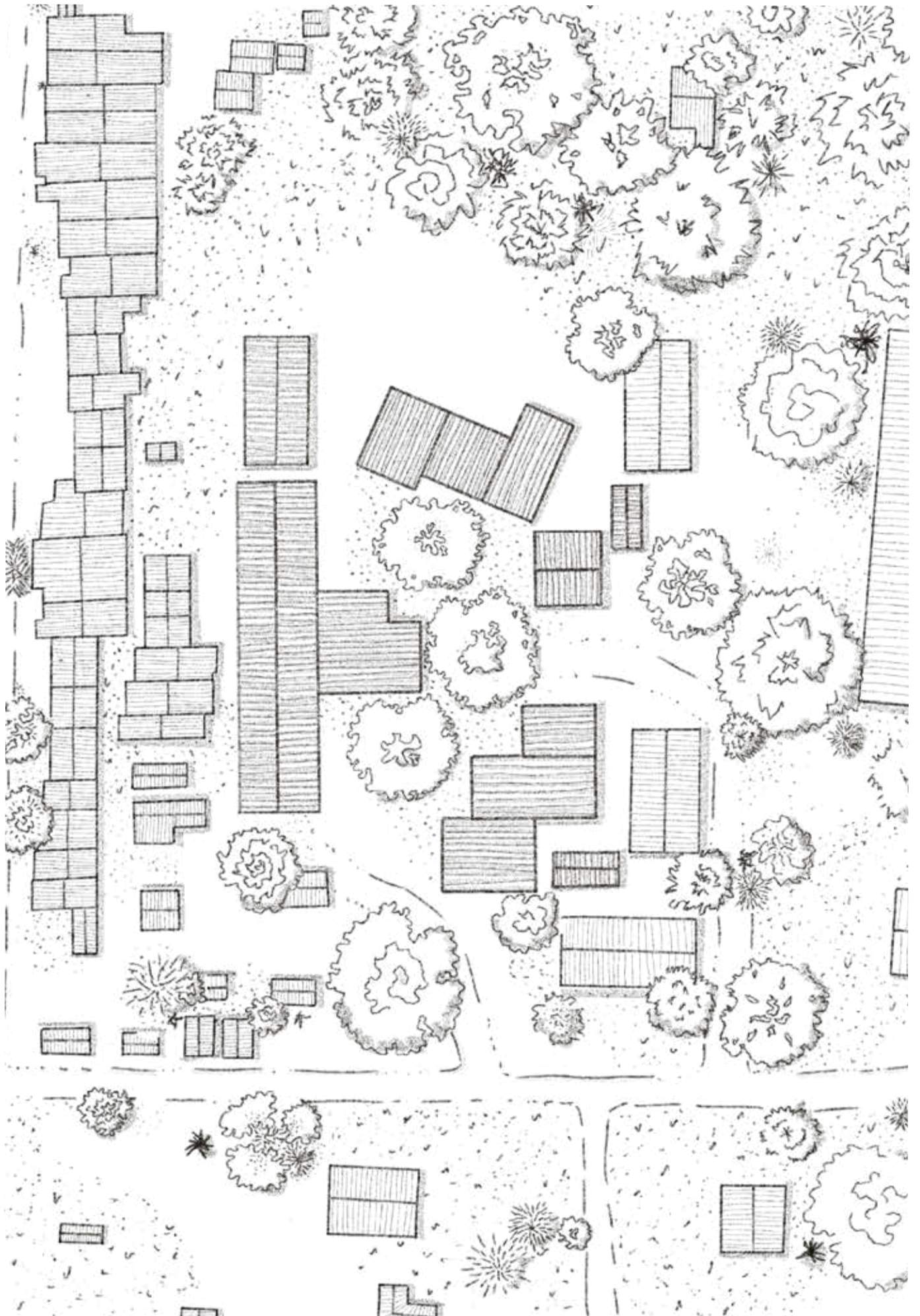
ROOF CONSTRUCTION



CEILING CONSTRUCTION

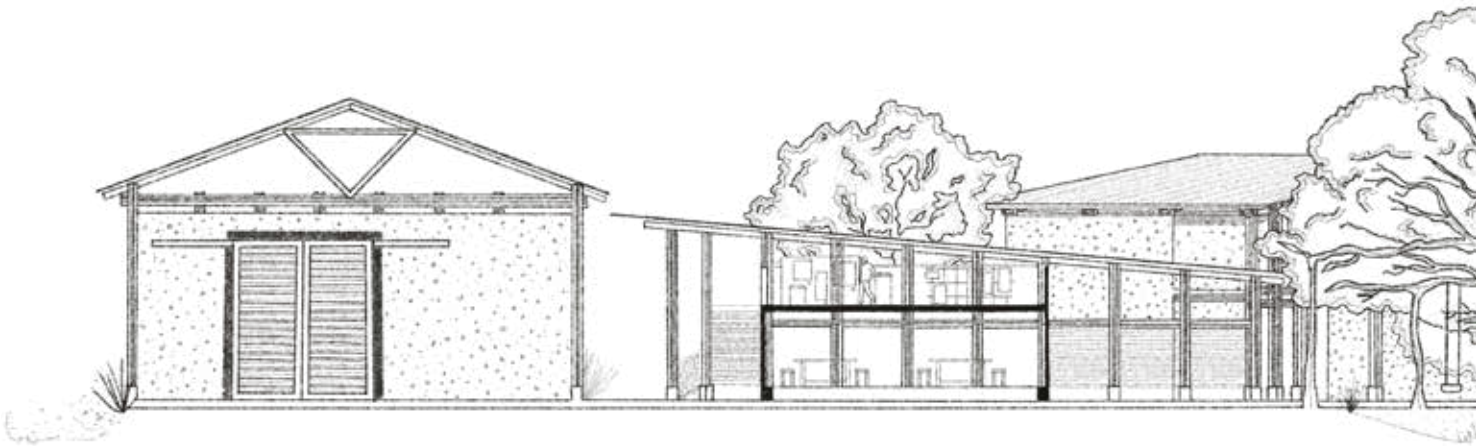
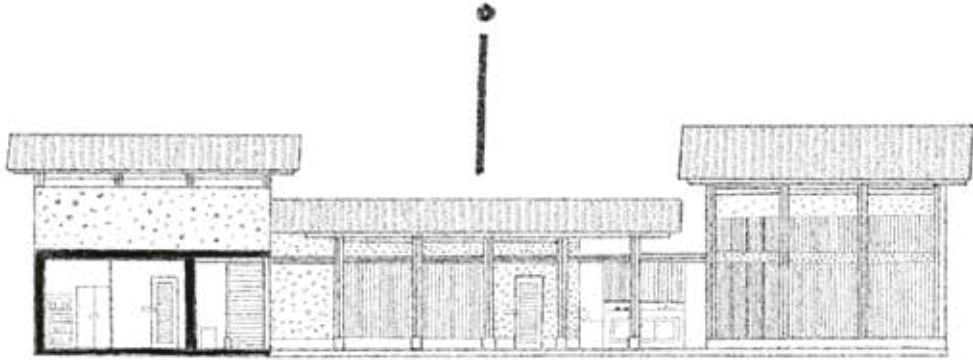


FLOOR CONSTRUCTION



SITE PLAN

GUEST HOUSING

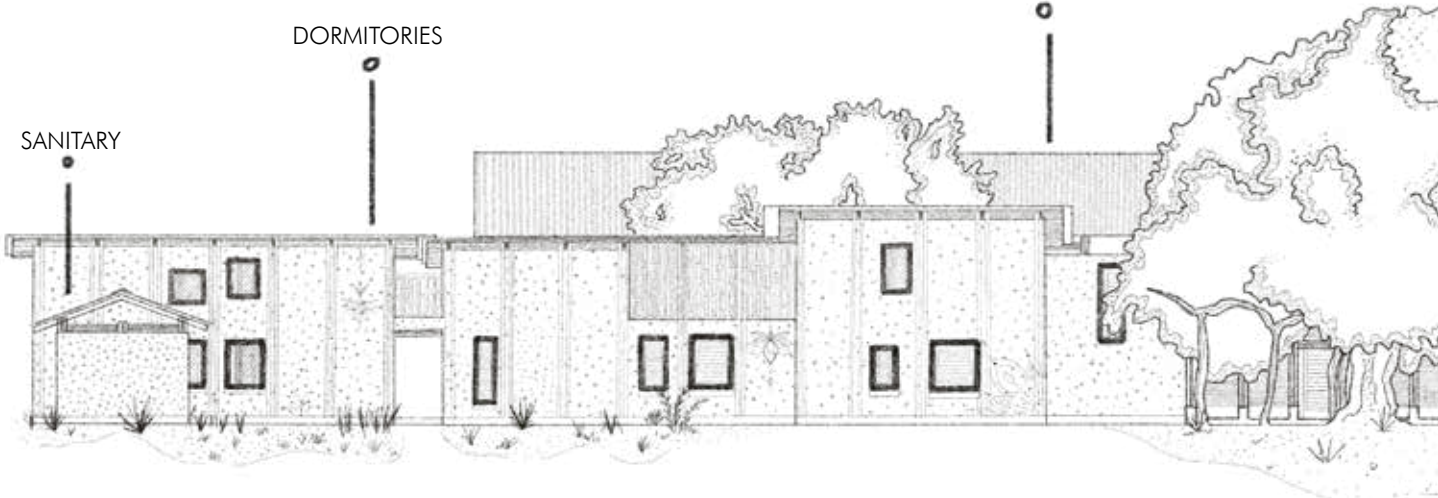


SECTIONS

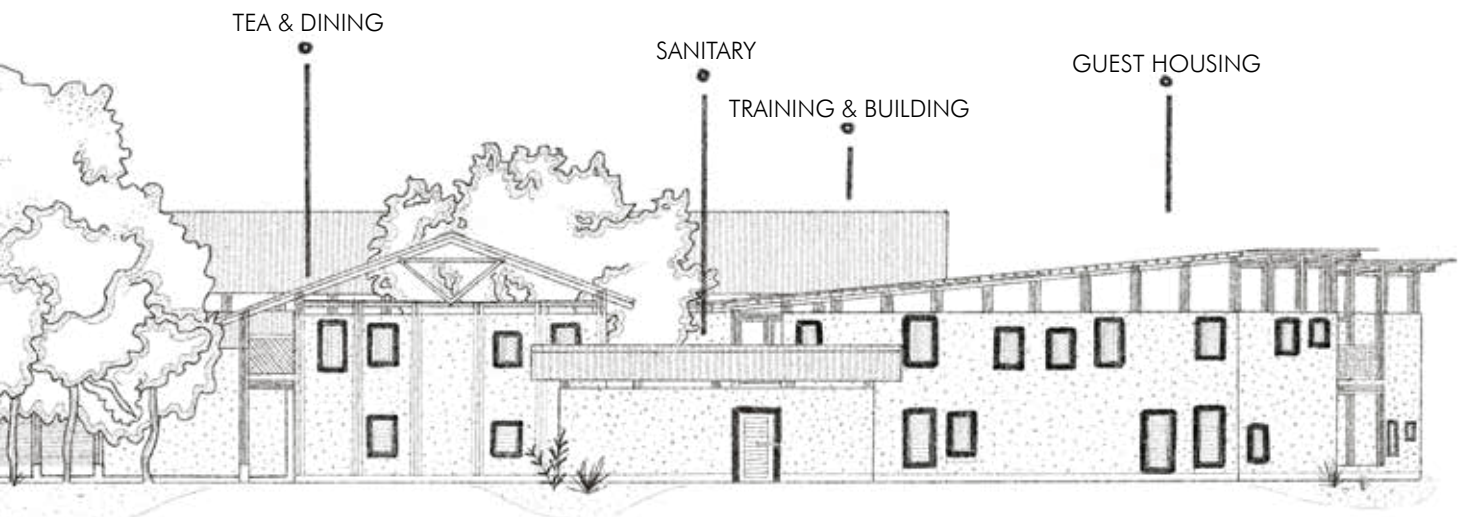
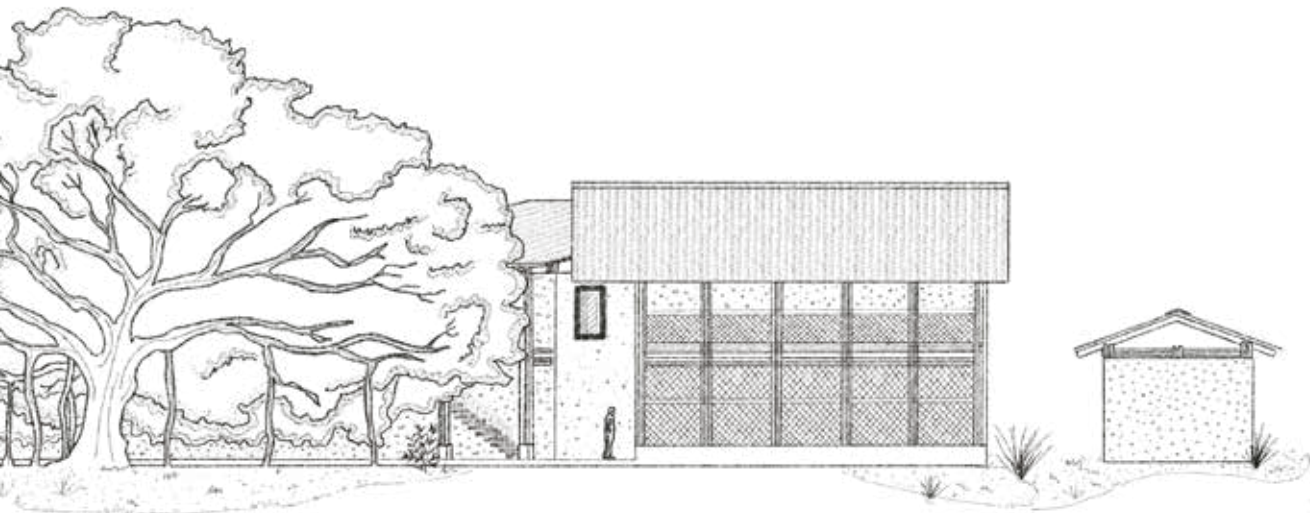
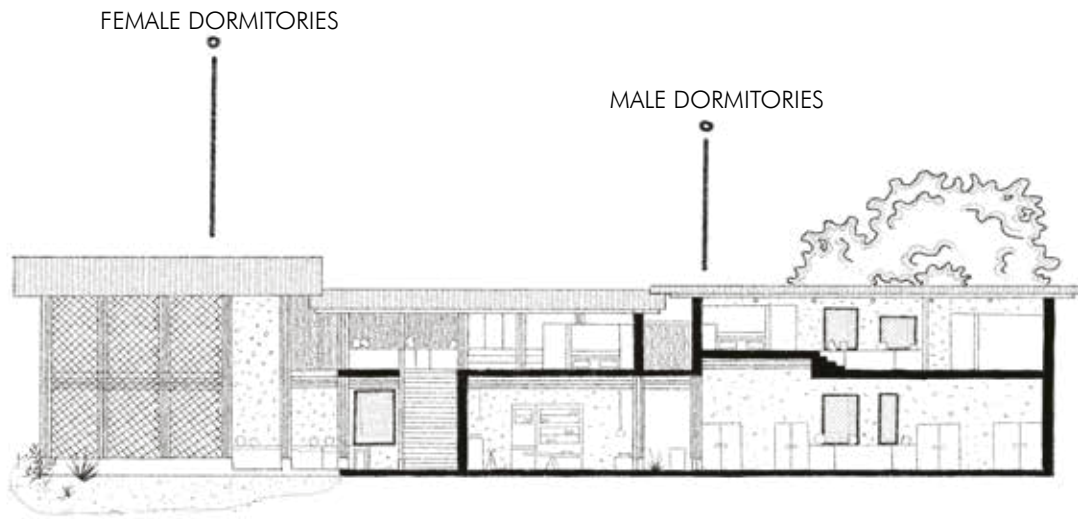
TREATMENT & STORAGE

DORMITORIES

SANITARY



ELEVATION



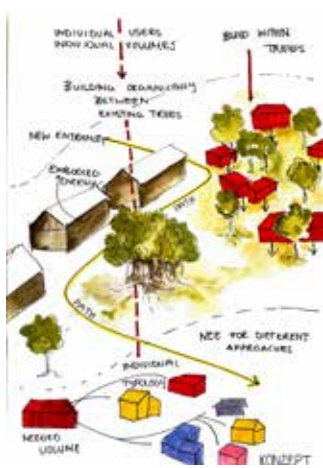
Re-Rooted

**Yasemin Öztürk, Melanie Rümmele
& Züzilia Frager**
BSc 5, MSc 2, MSc 1

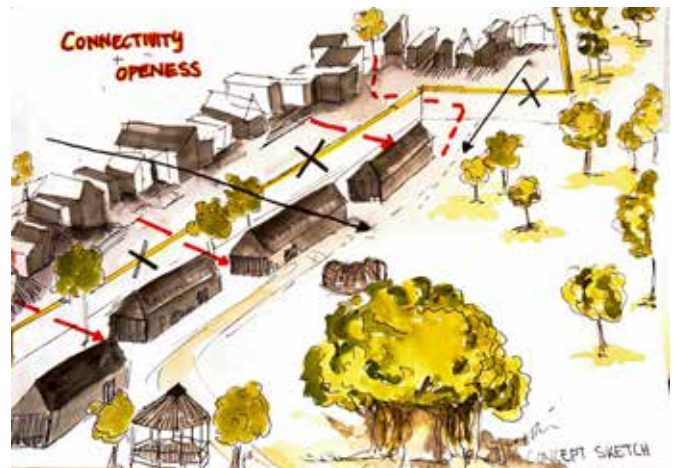
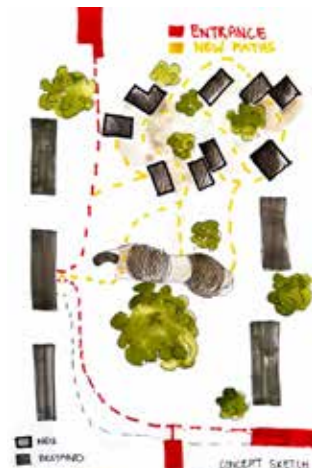
The project proposes accommodation for bamboo artisans on an existing bamboo craft campus with industrial production halls. The aim is to create a village-like environment that feels familiar and rooted in everyday life, rather than institutional housing. Based on interviews with local artisans, the design responds to cultural and spatial needs such as courtyards, verandas, the Tulsi plant, and shared outdoor spaces. The site is organized as an organic settlement, carefully built around existing trees and opened towards its surroundings through new access points.

At the center of the village, a community hub functions as a social area for rest and informal gatherings. The residential units are constructed from bamboo and earth, while a semi-open bamboo structure serves as a canteen, exhibition space, and meeting place. A learning path through the site showcases different bamboo species, emphasizing bamboo’s cultural and structural significance.

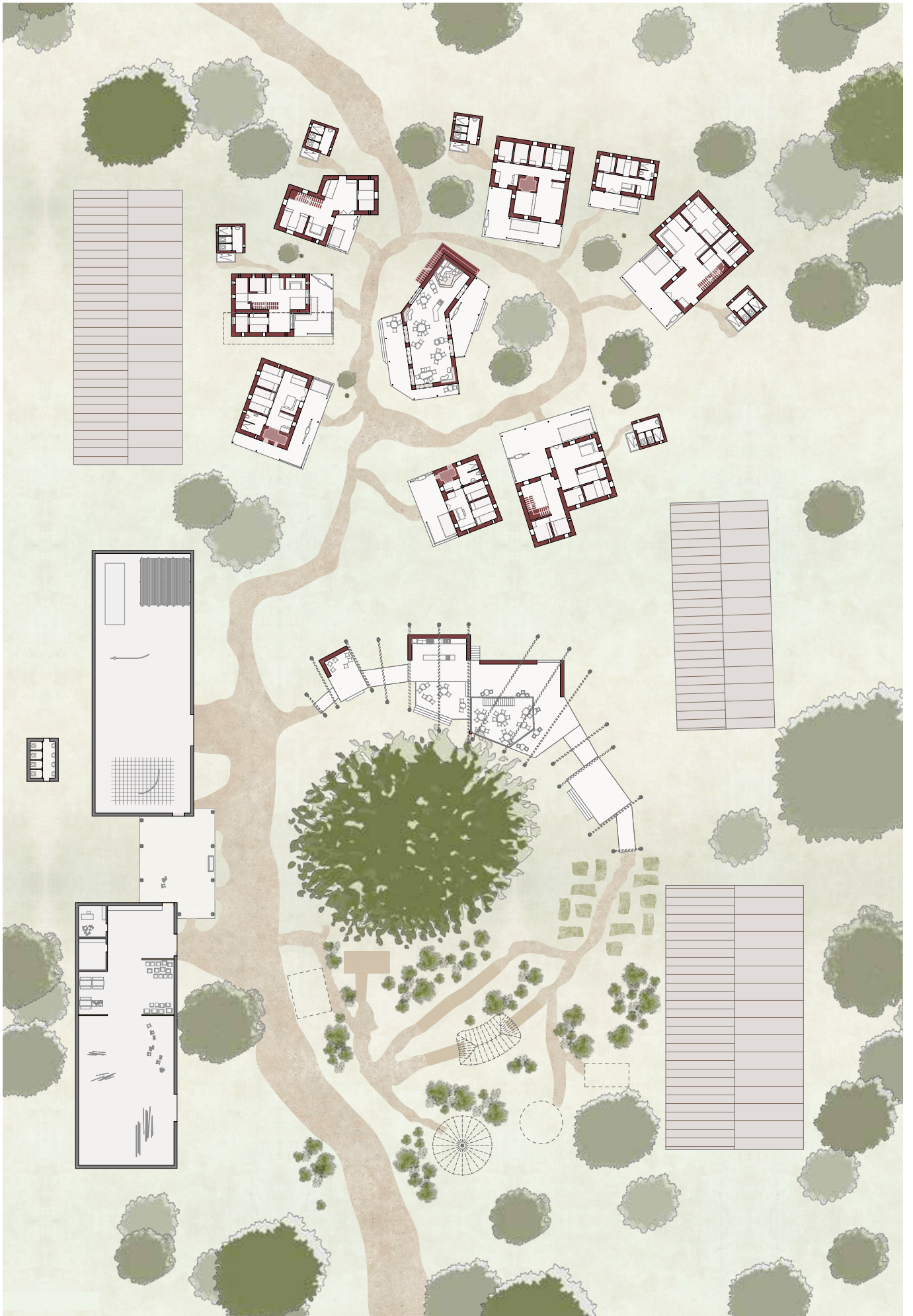
„Our journey to India went beyond discovering a place; it was an immersion into a culture shaped by its people, their craftsmanship, and everyday life. It gave us a genuine insight into local ways of living and needs – a journey that will stay with us for a lifetime.“



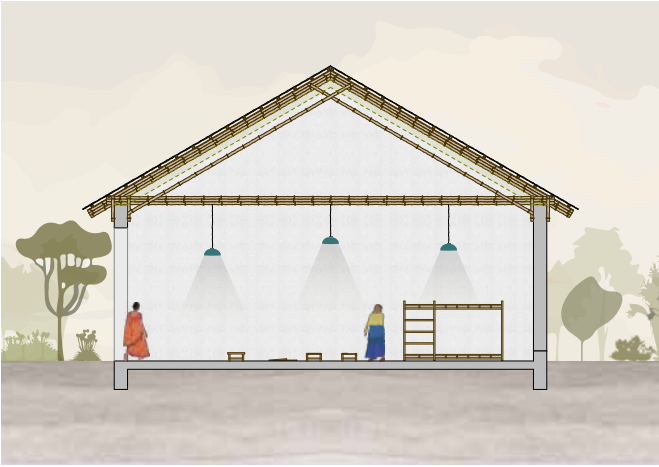
CONCEPT PRINCIPLES



CONCEPT SKETCHES AND VISIONS



SITE PLAN



SECTION WORKSHOP HALL 1



SECTION WORKSHOP HALL 2



GROUND FLOOR GUEST HOUSE



ELEVATION GUEST HOUSE



GROUND FLOOR ARTISANS HOUSE



FIRST FLOOR ARTISANS HOUSE



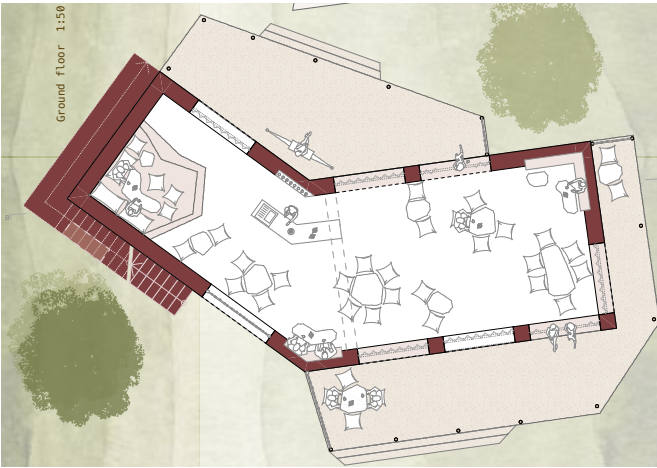
ELEVATION NORTH



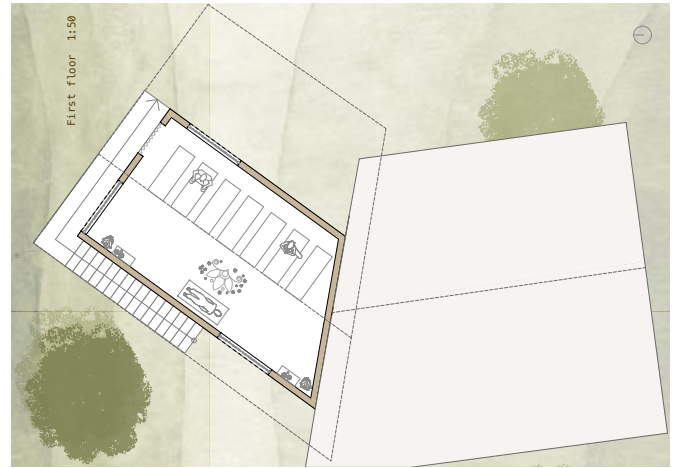
ELEVATION EAST



ELEVATION COMMUNITY HUB



GROUND FLOOR COMMUNITY HUB



FIRST FLOOR COMMUNITY HUB



SECTION COMMUNITY HUB

The Growth

Selinay Ada & Ramon Kobras
MSc 3, MSc 2

The Growth Campus is shaped by listening to place, climate and local knowledge. Responding to Ukai's hot, humid climate and monsoon seasons, the design emphasizes shaded outdoor spaces, natural ventilation and regional materials. The campus is organized as a series of small, interconnected building volumes that blur the boundary between inside and outside, forming a village-like structure around shared courtyards and verandas.

The program is structured into three zones: a public entrance area, a working and training zone within existing halls, and private living quarters at the rear of the site. These areas are linked by shaded walkways and verandas that encourage interaction and flexibility. A bamboo forest and pond are integral to the campus, making the material cycle visible and connecting production and also exhibition.

“Creating this campus taught us that architecture begins by listening to place, people and local knowledge, and grows through humility, care and deep respect for the culture from which it emerges.”



SECTION MODEL DORMITORY



SITE PLAN



GROUND FLOOR



SECTION WORKSHOP AREA



SECTION DORMITORIES



EAST ELEVATION



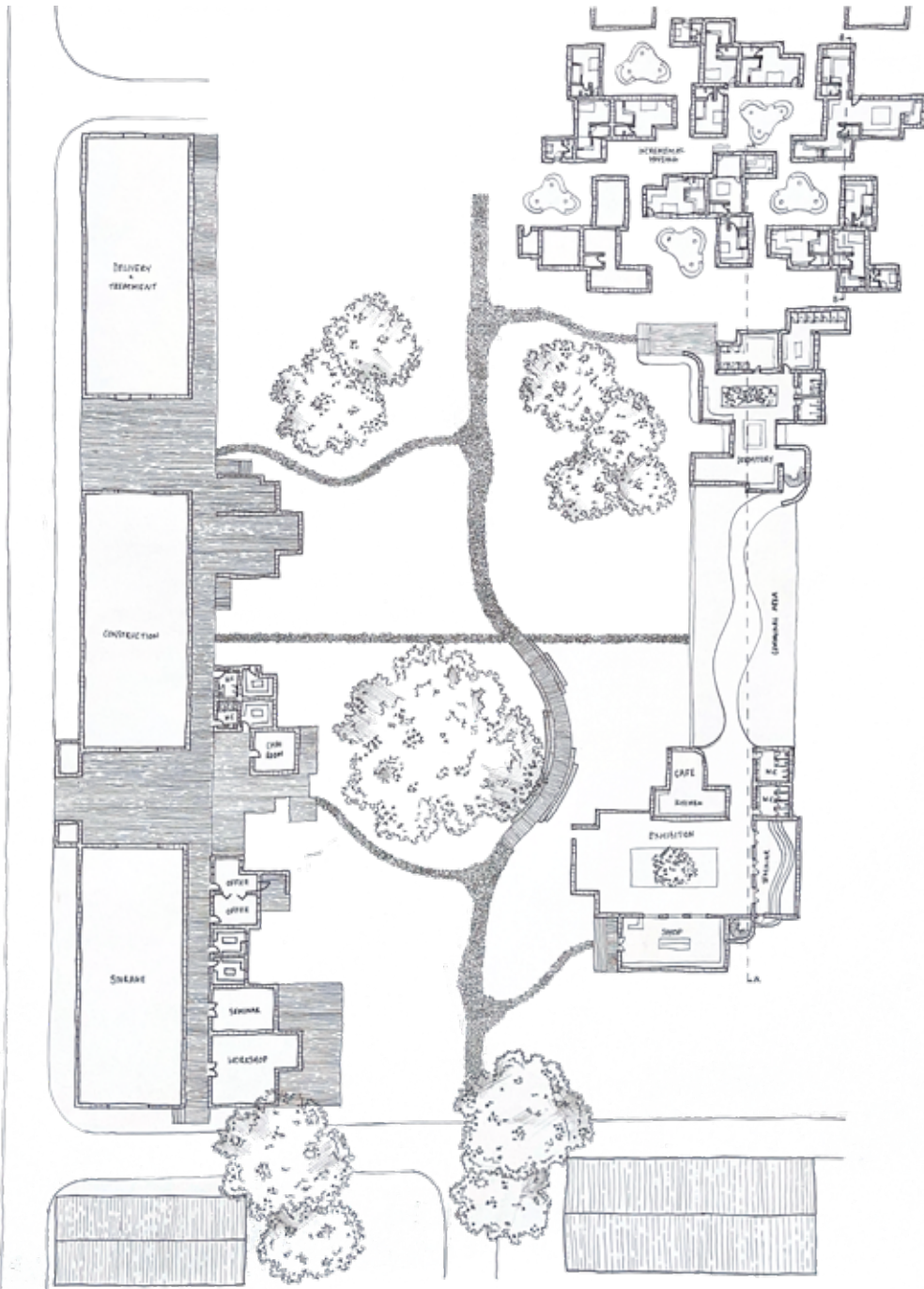
BAMBOO FOREST



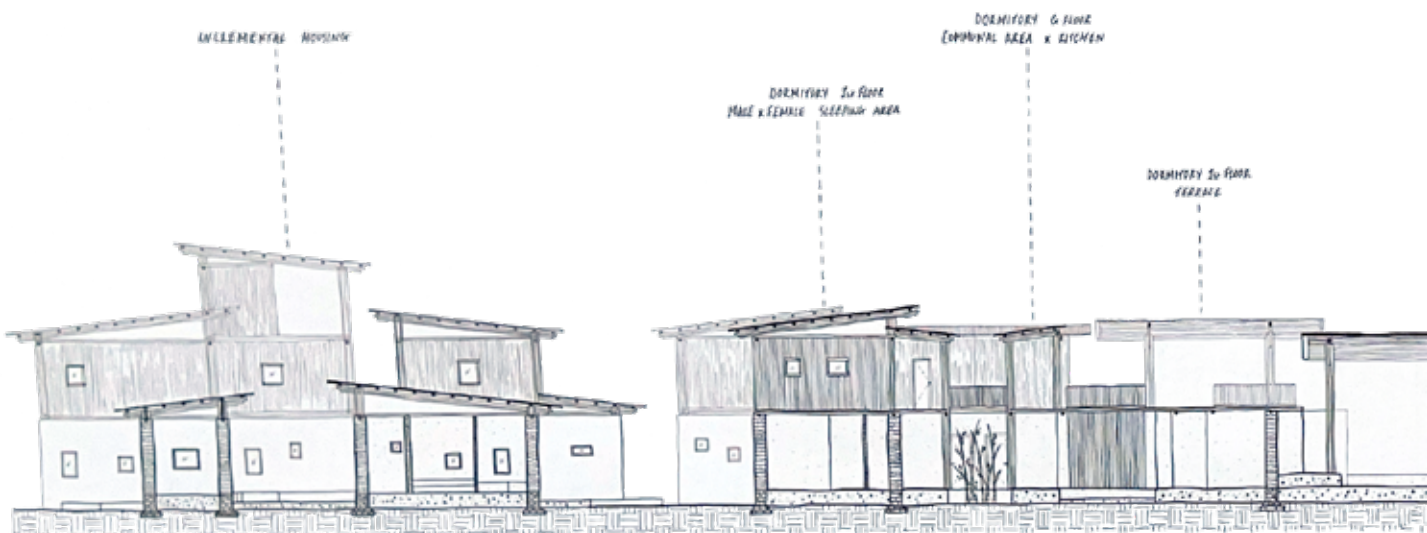
ENTRANCE AREA



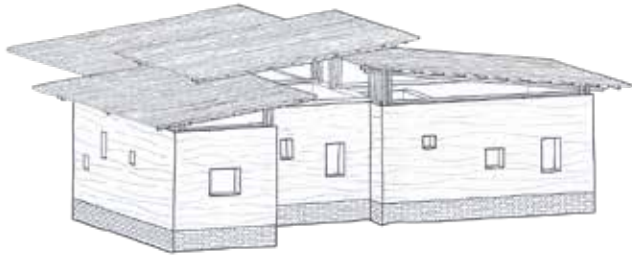
SITE PLAN



SITE PLAN



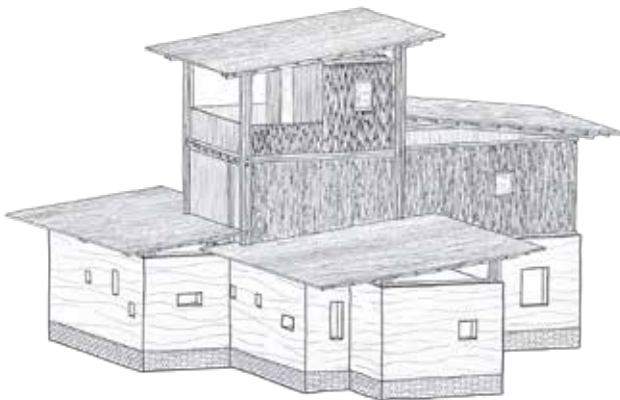
LONGITUDINAL SECTION



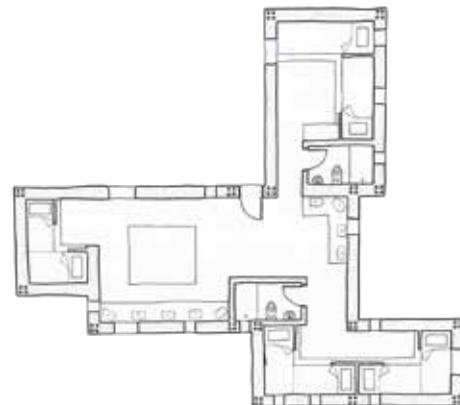
PHASE 1



PHASE 2



PHASE 3

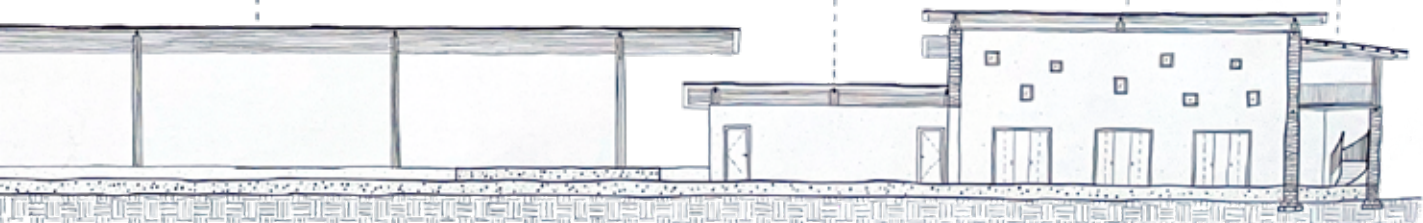


PUBLIC COMMUNAL AREA & CAFE

G FLOOR SEMI-AR BRIM
DOUBLE HEIGHT EXHIBITION SPACE

2nd FLOOR TERRACE
G FLOOR SHOP

PUBLIC SANITARY FACILITIES



Bamboo & Beyond

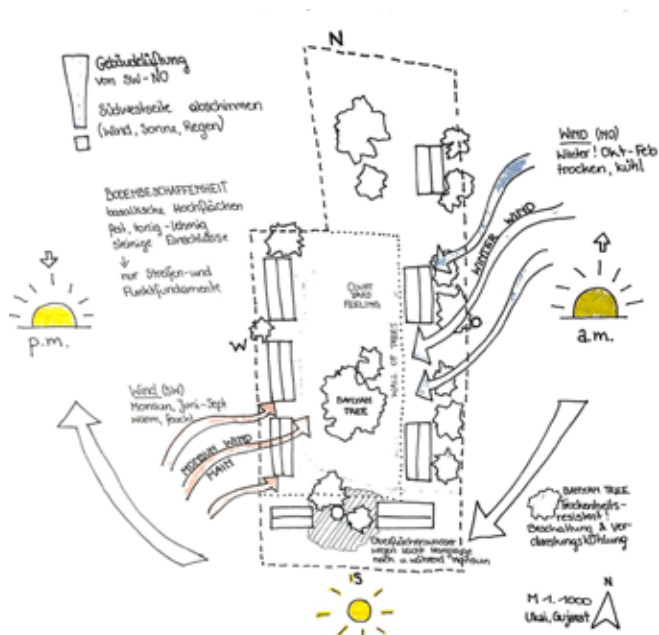
Stefanie Dünser & Magdalena Nachbaur
MSc 3

Bamboo and Beyond builds on the existing structures of the site and carefully integrates all essential needs of the bamboo trainees. By respecting the existing context, the design weaves together old and new elements into a cohesive architectural language.

Bamboo construction lies at the core of the project and is immediately expressed through the large bamboo hall at the entrance of the site. This welcoming space demonstrates the material's full potential and functions as a place to gather, work, eat, and celebrate. It becomes a lively hub that connects craftsmanship, everyday life, and community.

The existing halls are preserved and thoughtfully integrated into the new concept, maintaining both continuity and identity. Behind the banyan tree, a new village structure forms the heart of the project for the trainees. Conceived as their new home, it is shaped by Tulsis, verandas, and courtyards that encourage social interaction and foster a strong sense of community and belonging.

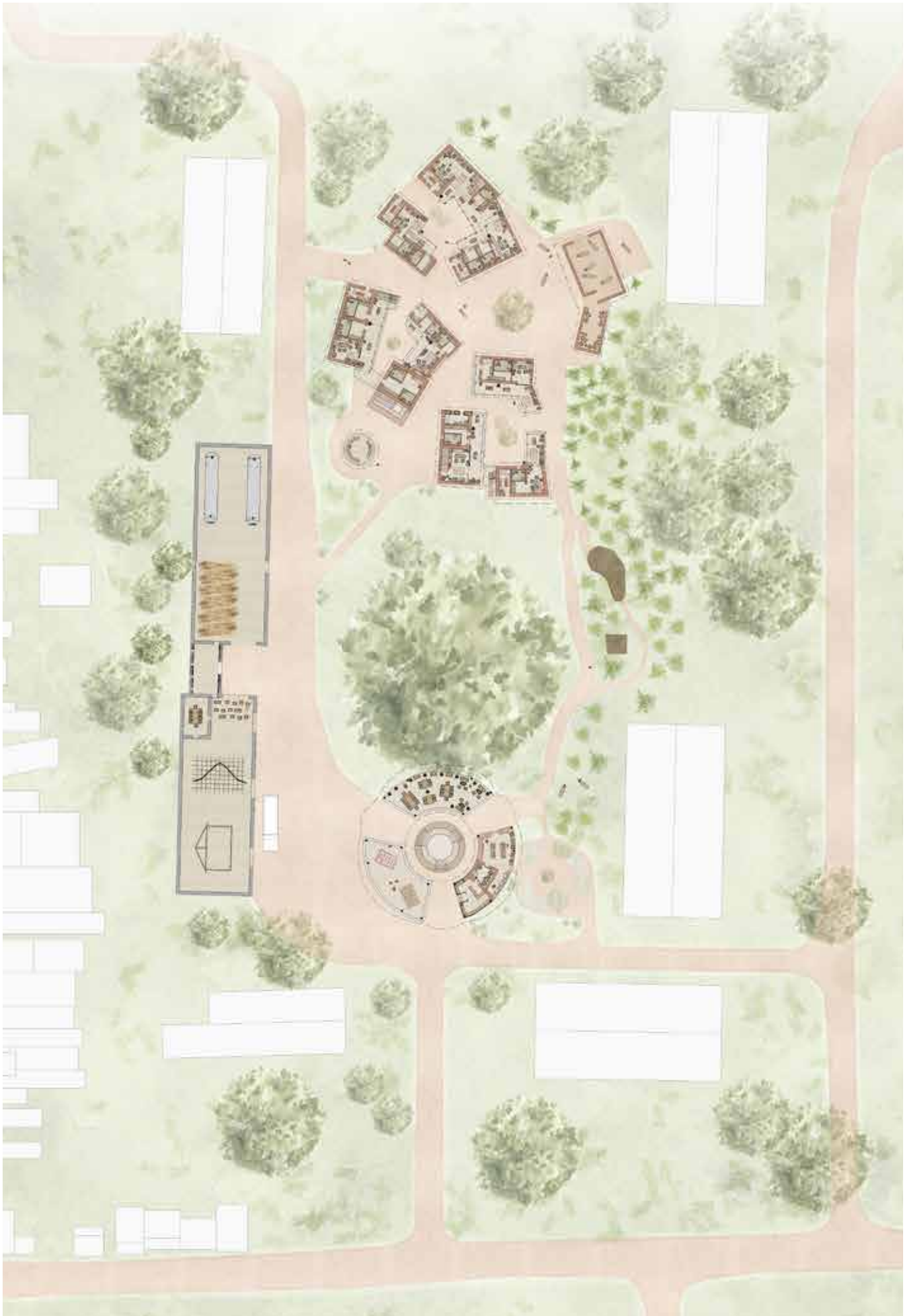
„In India, we learned that meaningful architecture incorporates the needs of the people we design for and creates spaces where memories naturally unfold.“



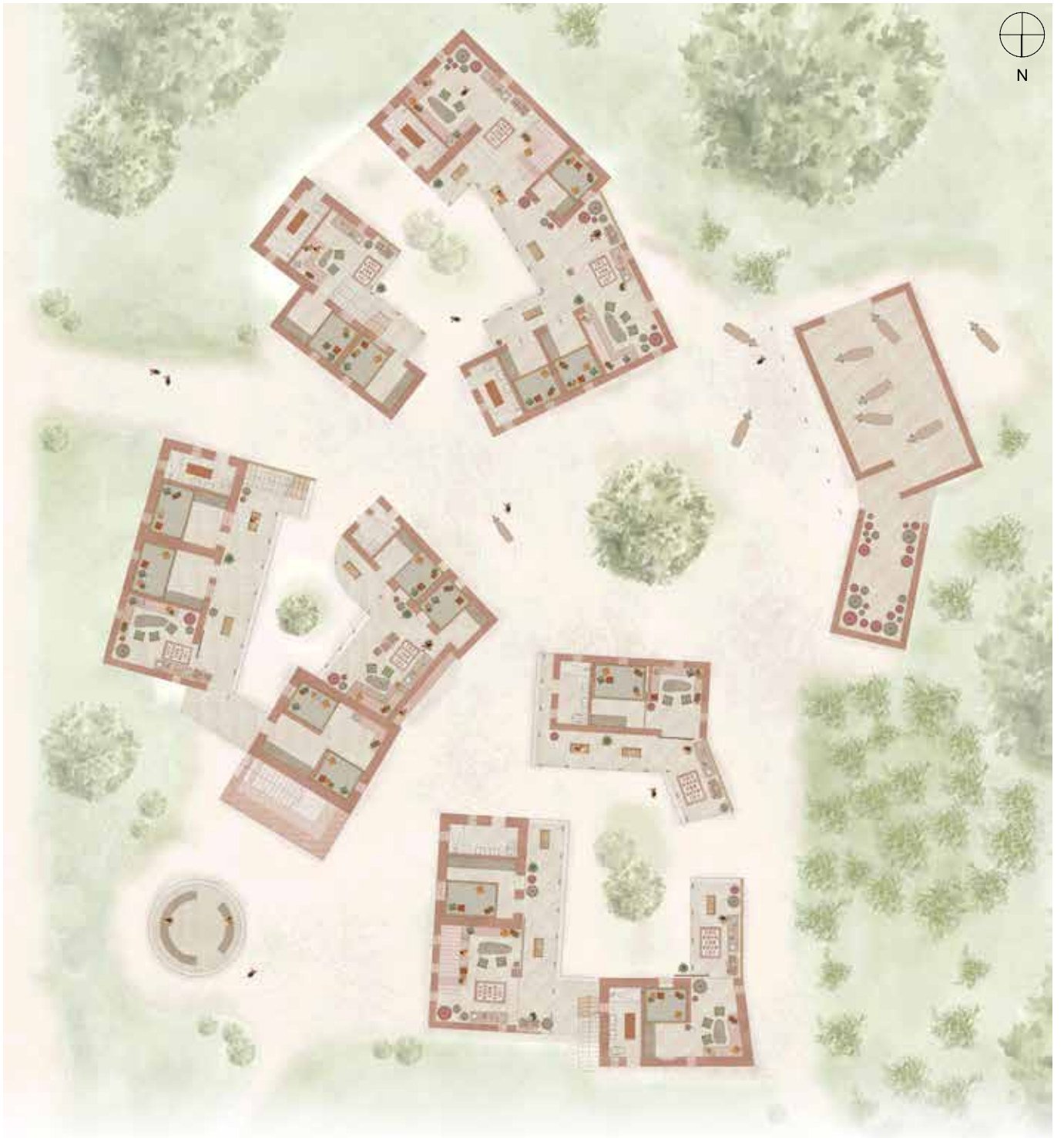
CLIMATIC ANALYSIS



ILLUSTRATIONS



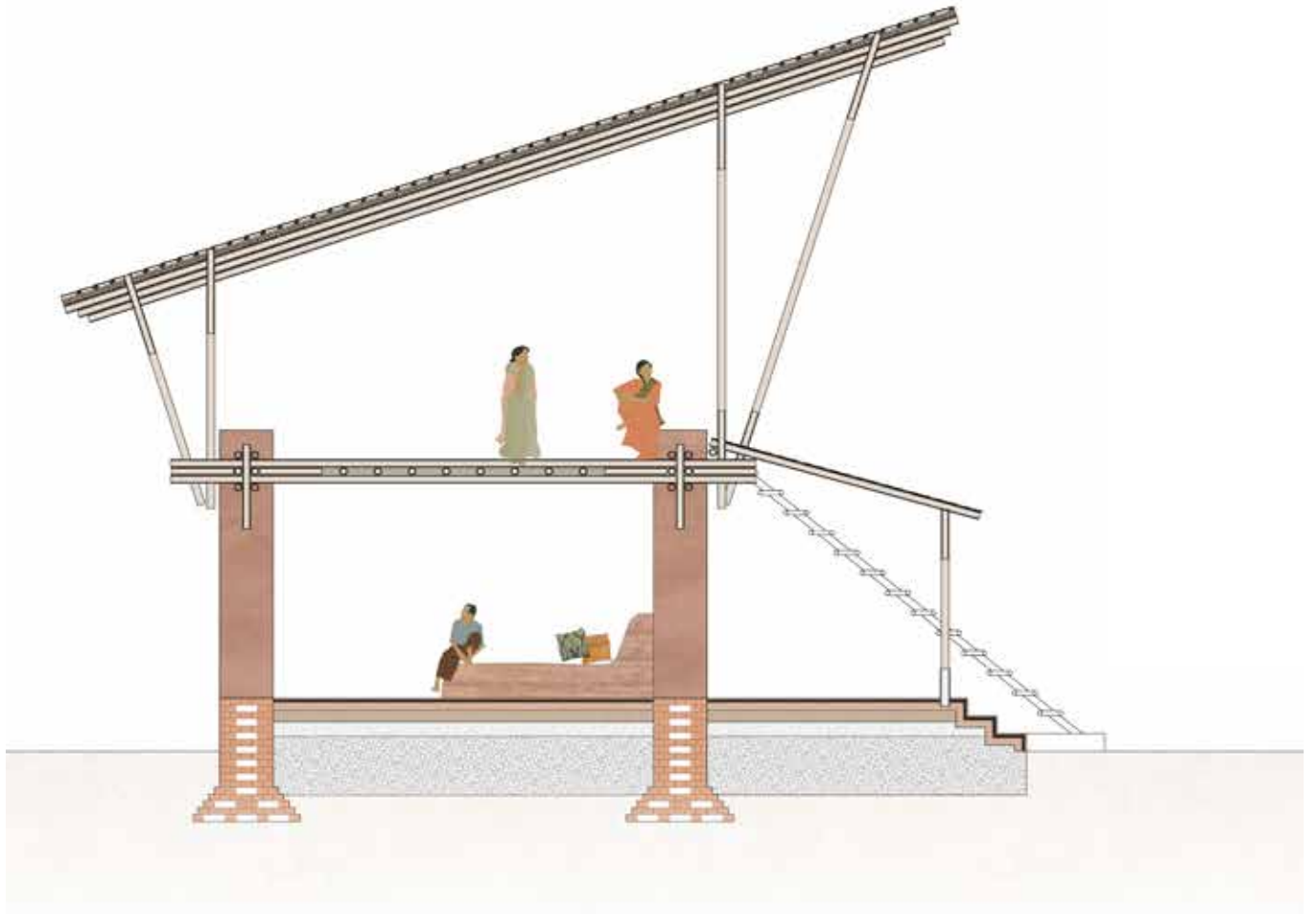
SITE PLAN



GROUND FLOOR VILLAGE



ELEVATION AND SECTION NORTH



CONSTRUCTION SECTION



ILLUSTRATION VERANDA



ILLUSTRATION SWINGING CHAIR



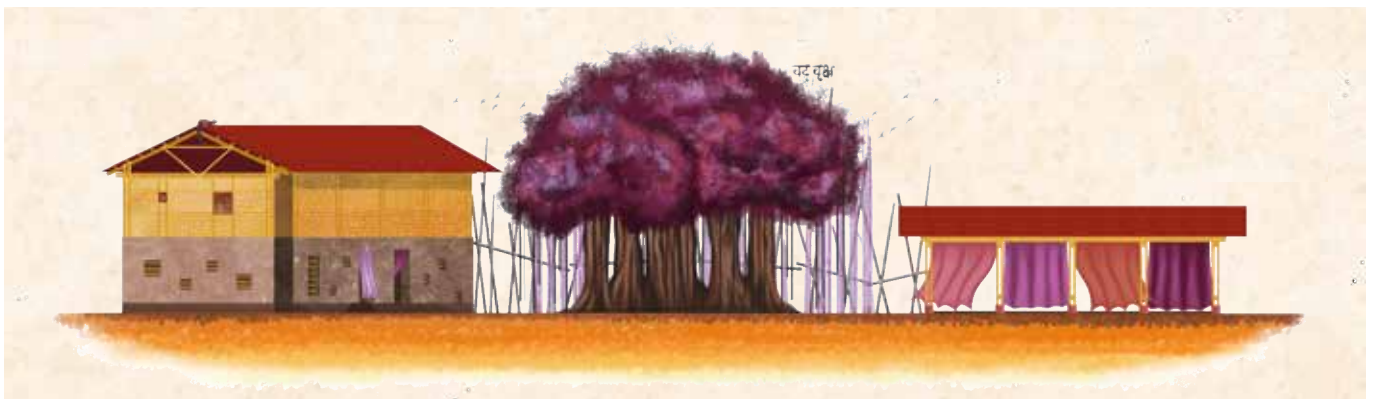
ELEVATION EAST

Bridge of Hands

Tugba Tan & Kader Ünsal
MSc 3, MSc 3

The project is organized around two bamboo bridges that connect the dormitories, guest houses, and the school with a dining space, which functions as the social heart of the ensemble. The bridges encourage daily encounters and interaction between different user groups. The bridges respond to the varying building heights by gently rising and falling, creating a fluid and engaging spatial experience. Surrounded by newly growing bamboo, users are immersed in the material both structurally and atmospherically. Constructed with simple knotting techniques, the bridges can be built, adapted, and repaired by the community itself, reinforcing the idea of collective participation and giving the project its name, "Bridge of Hands."

„We learned that architecture connects people most strongly when it can be built, understood and cared for together.“



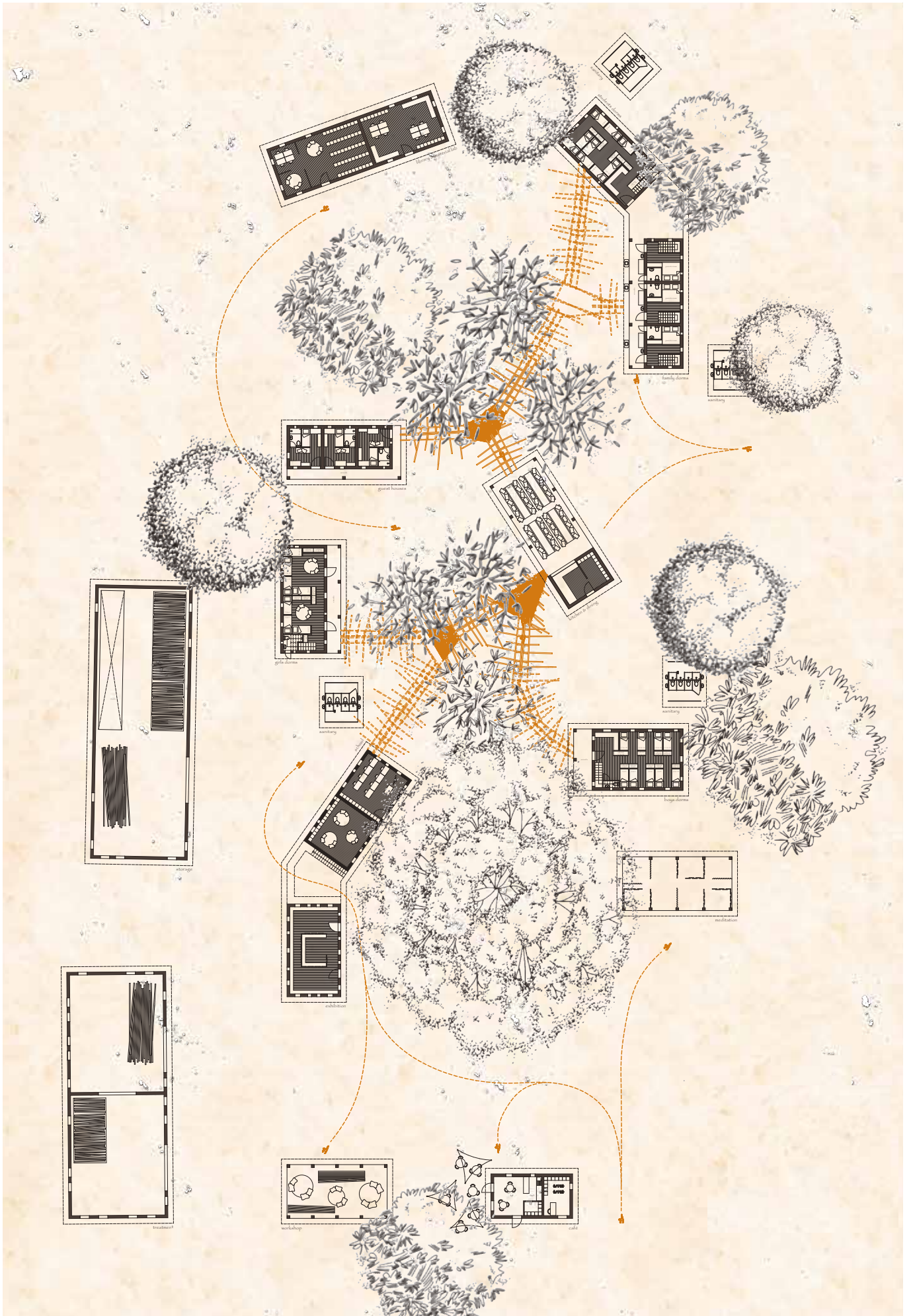
ELEVATION



ELEVATION



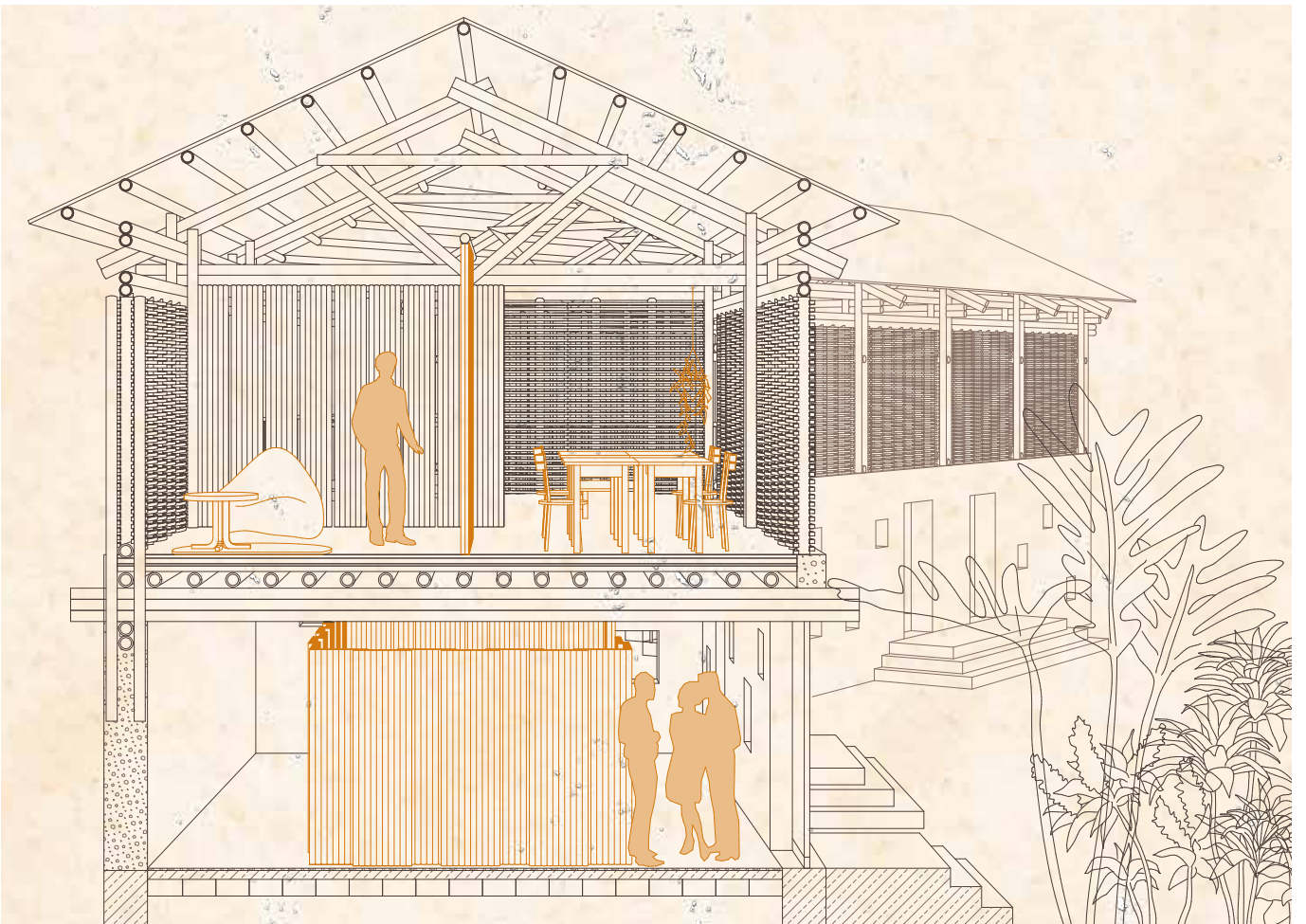
SITE PLAN



GROUND FLOOR



VISUALISATIONS



PERSPECTIVE SECTION

