



Winners Announced for “Little Big Loo 2025 Architecture Competition”

Archetype team - 15/01/2026

Volume Zero

International design competition platform **Volume Zero** has announced the results of the **Little Big Loo 2025 Architecture Competition**.

The Little Big Loo Competition invited visionary ideas aimed at redefining public sanitation by challenging conventional perceptions of public toilets. The initiative sought innovative, efficient, and impactful design solutions to address the efficiency of public restrooms, their sanitary facilities, spatial distribution and mainly, privacy and comfort, which ultimately improve peoples' lives.

The competition challenged its participants to rethink and re-imagine the conventions of public toilets and encourage the best possible solutions for this serious problem scenario, which is plaguing our World. Participants were required to design a public toilet that should be capable of catering a footfall of 250-500 people, with the total built-up area not exceeding 150 sq. m., while integrating spaces that should be visualized as a prime component in the making of a community that develops holistically; a community that is competent in social, economic and educational terms.”

Participants from more than 37 countries contributed valuable concept ideas to the contest, which was evaluated by a panel of international experts.

Volume Zero Competition thanks all the competitors for participating in this competition and for contributing to this competition's research.

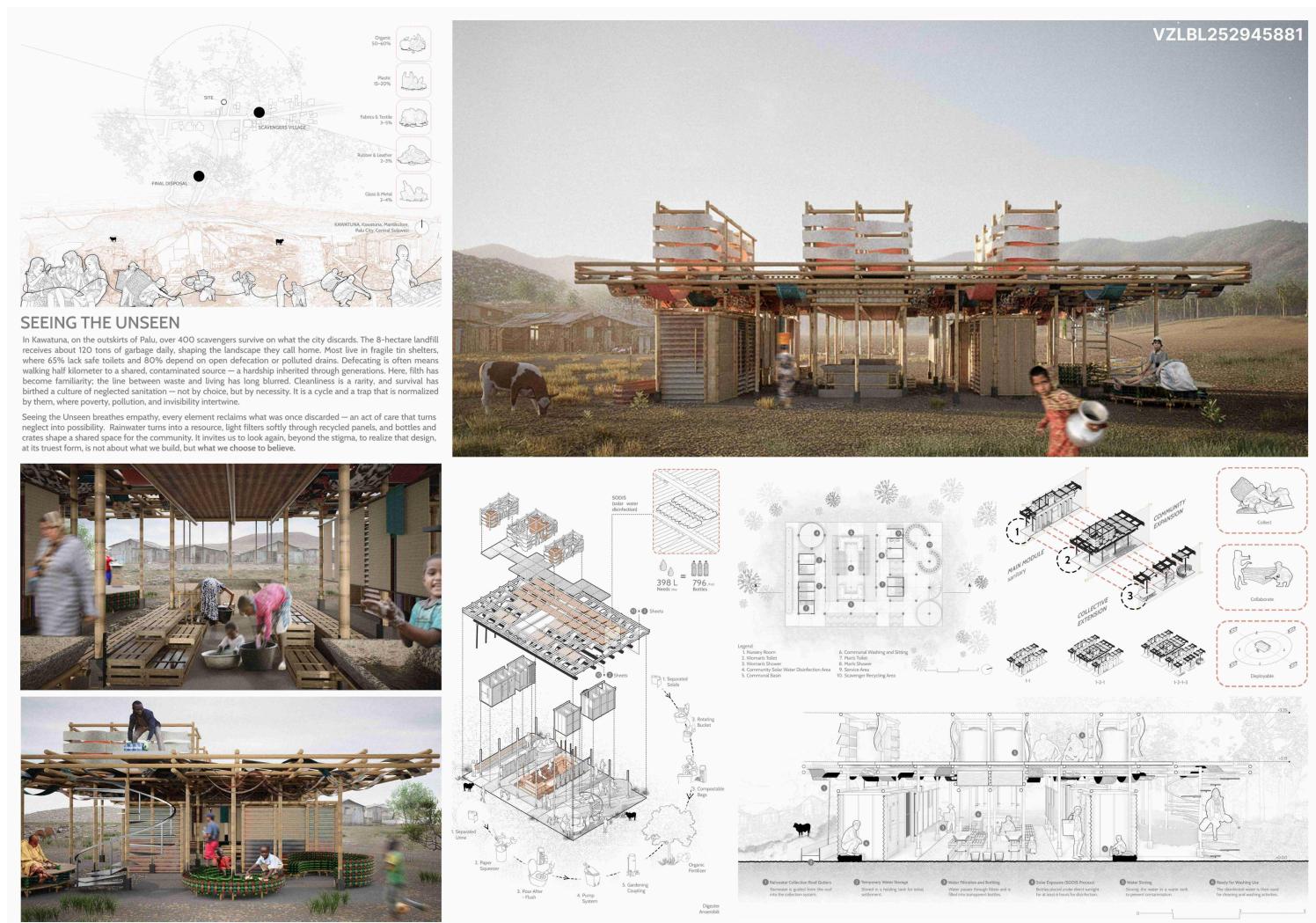
The esteemed jury for judging this competition consisted of **Bruno Santa Cecilia** (Arquitetos Associados), **Carla Osorio & Mario Avila** (Espacio 18 Arquitectura), **Catherine Ranger** (MGS Architects), **Chen Lin** (Shulin Architectural Design), **Dipen Gada** (DG Associates), **Doan Thanh Ha** (H&P Architects), **Eduardo Sainz** (SAINZ arquitetura), **Hoang Thuc Hao** (1+1>2 Architects), **Ngô Việt Khanh Duy** (23o5studio), **Widhi Nugroho** (Studio WNA).

The top three winners and Best Student were awarded total prize money of \$4,500 while ten entries received Honorable Mentions. Here are the winning entries. The full result for the competition the Little Big Loo 2025 Architecture Competition can be found [here](#).

FIRST PLACE

Seeing The Unseen

Florentina Julisa Friska Cristiani, Daffa Yusfi Aziz Saebani & Helen Saphira Wibowo
Indonesia



In Kawatuna, on the outskirts of Palu, over 400 scavengers service on what the city discards. The 8-hectare landfill receives about 120 tons of garbage daily, shaping the landscape they call home. Most live in fragile tin shelters, where 65% lack safe toilets and 80% depend on open defecation or polluted drains. Defecating is often means walking half kilometer to a shared, contaminated source—a hardship inherited through generations. Here, filth has become familiarity; the line between waste and living has long blurred. Cleanliness is a rarity, and survival has birthed a culture of neglected sanitation—not by choice, but by necessity. It is a cycle and a trap that is normalized by them; where poverty, pollution, and invisibility intertwine.

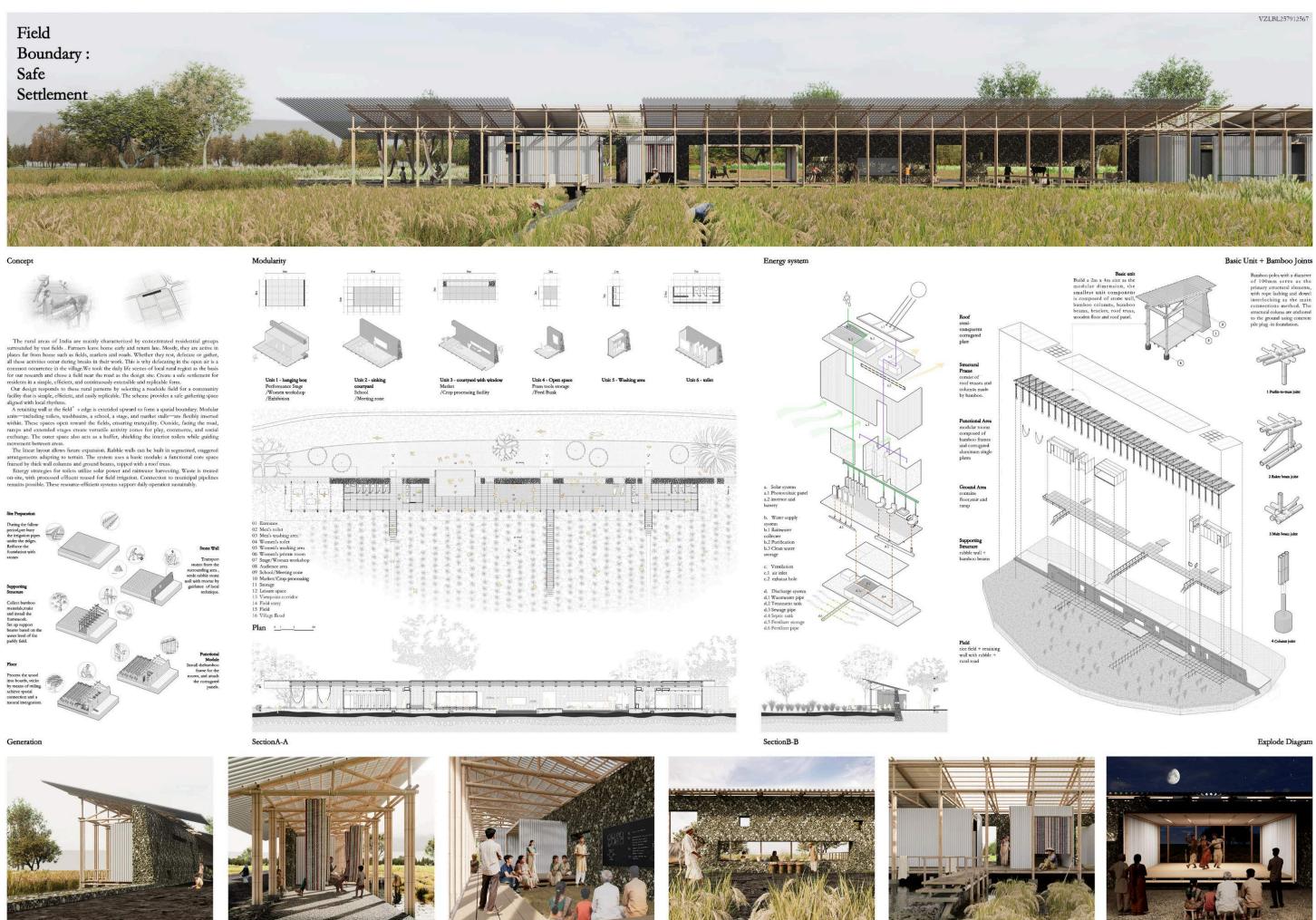
generations. Here, filth has become familiarity; the line between waste and living has long blurred. Cleanliness is a rarity, and survival has birthed a culture of neglected sanitation—not by choice, but by necessity. It is a cycle and a trap that is normalized by them, where poverty, pollution, and invisibility intertwine.

Seeing the Unseen breathes empathy, every element reclaims what was once discarded— and act of care that turns neglect into possibility. Rainwater turns into a resource, light filters softly through recycled panels, and bottles, and crates shape a shared space for the community. It invites us to look again, beyond the stigma, to realize that design, at its truest form, is not about what we build, but what we choose to believe.

SECOND PLACE

Field Boundary, Safe Settlement

Xiaotong Ma
China



The rural areas of India are mainly characterized by concentrated residential groups surrounded by vast fields. Farmers leave home early and return late. Mostly, they are active in places far from home such as fields, markets and roads. Whether they rest, defecate or gather, all these activities occur during breaks in their work. This is why defecating in the open air is a common occurrence in the village. We took the daily life scenes of local rural region as the basis for our research and chose a field near the road as the design site. Create a safe settlement for residents in a simple, efficient, and continuously extensible and replicable form.

Our design responds to these rural patterns by selecting a roadside field for a community facility that is simple, efficient, and easily replicable. The scheme provides a safe gathering space aligned with local

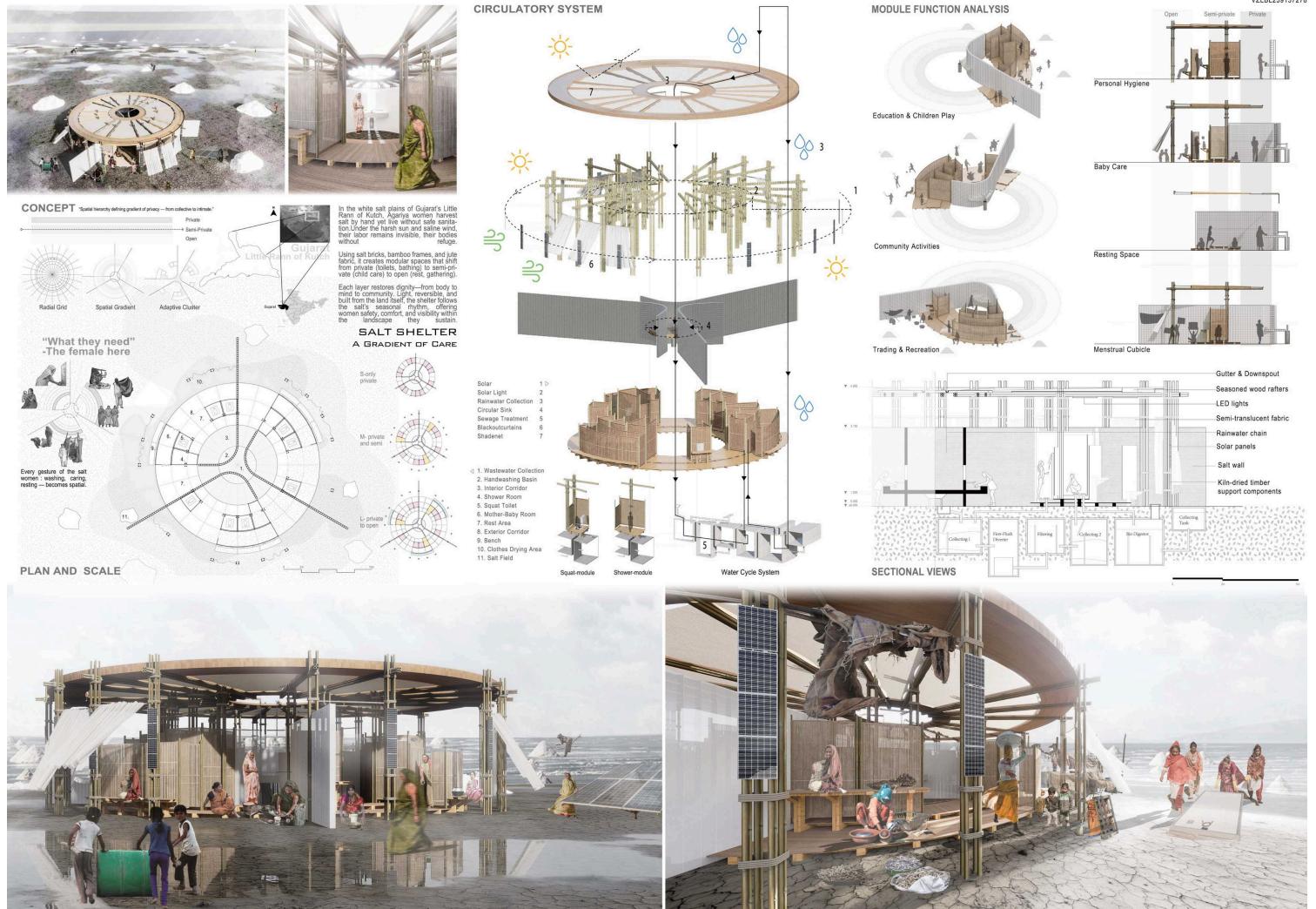
rhythms.

THIRD PLACE

Salt Shelter

Dan Xue, Shuning Lyu & Huanchun Xi

China



In the white salt plains of Gujarat's Little Rann of Kutch, Agariya women harvest salt by hand yet live without safe sanitation. Under the harsh sun and saline wind, their labor remains invisible, their bodies without refuge.

Using salt bricks, bamboo frames, and jute fabric, it creates modular spaces that shift from private (toilets, bathing) to semi-private (child care) to open (rest, gathering).

Each layer restores dignity—from body to mind to community. Light, reversible, and built from the land itself, the shelter follows the salt's seasonal rhythm, offering women safety, comfort, and visibility within the landscape they sustain.

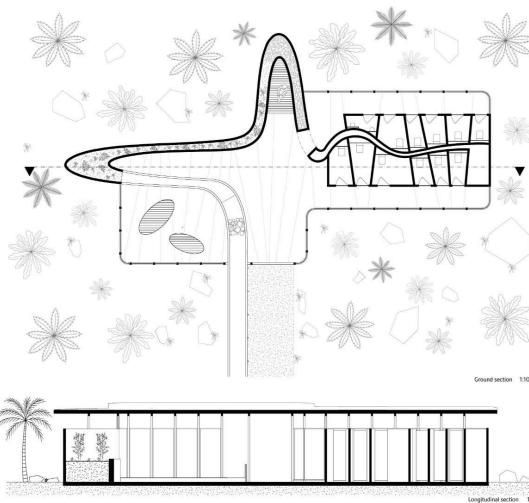
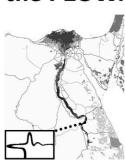
STUDENT AWARD - The Flow

Svetlana Zakharova & Stefan Eckler

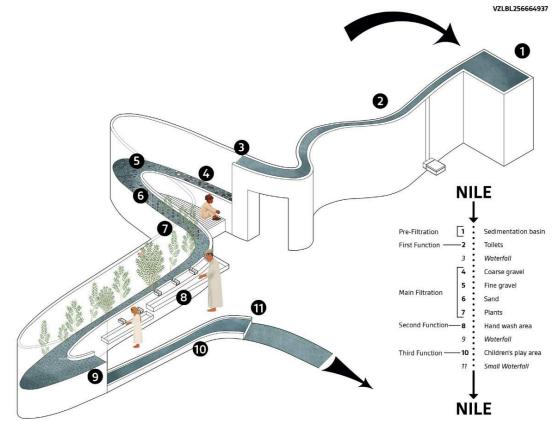
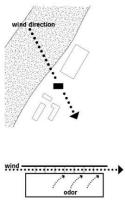
Austria



the FLOW.



More than just a toilet.
Located in Luxor, southern Egypt, the FLOW unites a public restroom with a vibrant community space. Though rich in history, Luxor's social fabric is fraying due to a lack of shared meeting places. The FLOW offers an inviting hub where people can gather and connect. It also addresses another pressing issue—poor hygiene. By displaying its water filtration process, the FLOW raises awareness about the vital importance of clean water for the community.



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Honourable Mentions:

Honourable Mention 1: Qanat

Nooshin Zangeneh, Negin Sadri & Amirreza Karimi
Iran

Qanat

Reinterpreting Ancient Water for Contemporary Life

Sistan & Baluchestan is one of Iran's most under-resourced provinces, where drought and heat define life. In the ancient village of Hichan, water still flows through centuries-old qanats, fragile veins that sustain settlement, shade, and culture. Here, where water teaches architecture, public hygiene remains a vital marker of health, dignity, and opportunity.

The Hichan Public Toilet reinterprets the qanat as a civic backbone, a low-energy circular intervention that uses water responsibly. Through metering, low-flow fixtures, and closed-loop systems, the design channels a small share of qanat water toward a shared good: hygienic sanitation.

Beyond toilets, the project acts as a community hub, offering shaded laundry pavilions, small spaces for embroidery making and selling, and a pocket library that preserve crafts and literacy. Courtyards planted with date palms provide fruit, income, and year-round shade, sustaining ecology and livelihood simultaneously.

Rooted in the past, yet oriented toward resilience, the project transforms an act as simple as washing into a collective ritual of care. In doing so, it reclaims the qanat's ancient spirit, not only as a source of water but as a living artery of community, continuity, and hope.

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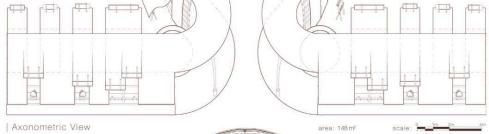


In the open courtyard, people gather around water, keeping the spirit of the Qanat alive

Using palm leaves and local wood, people build the very structures that serve their community

A shaded washing space where daily routines turn into a collective act of care

A low-impact toilet space where water, light, and dignity flow together



The selected site is located in Iran, Sistan and Baluchestan Province, in the village of Hichan

| Final Assembly

| Foundation

| Primary Wooden Structure

| Secondary Wooden Framework

| Woven Palm Covering



| Plan



area: 148 m²

scale: 1:100

| Plan

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| Plan



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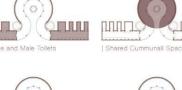
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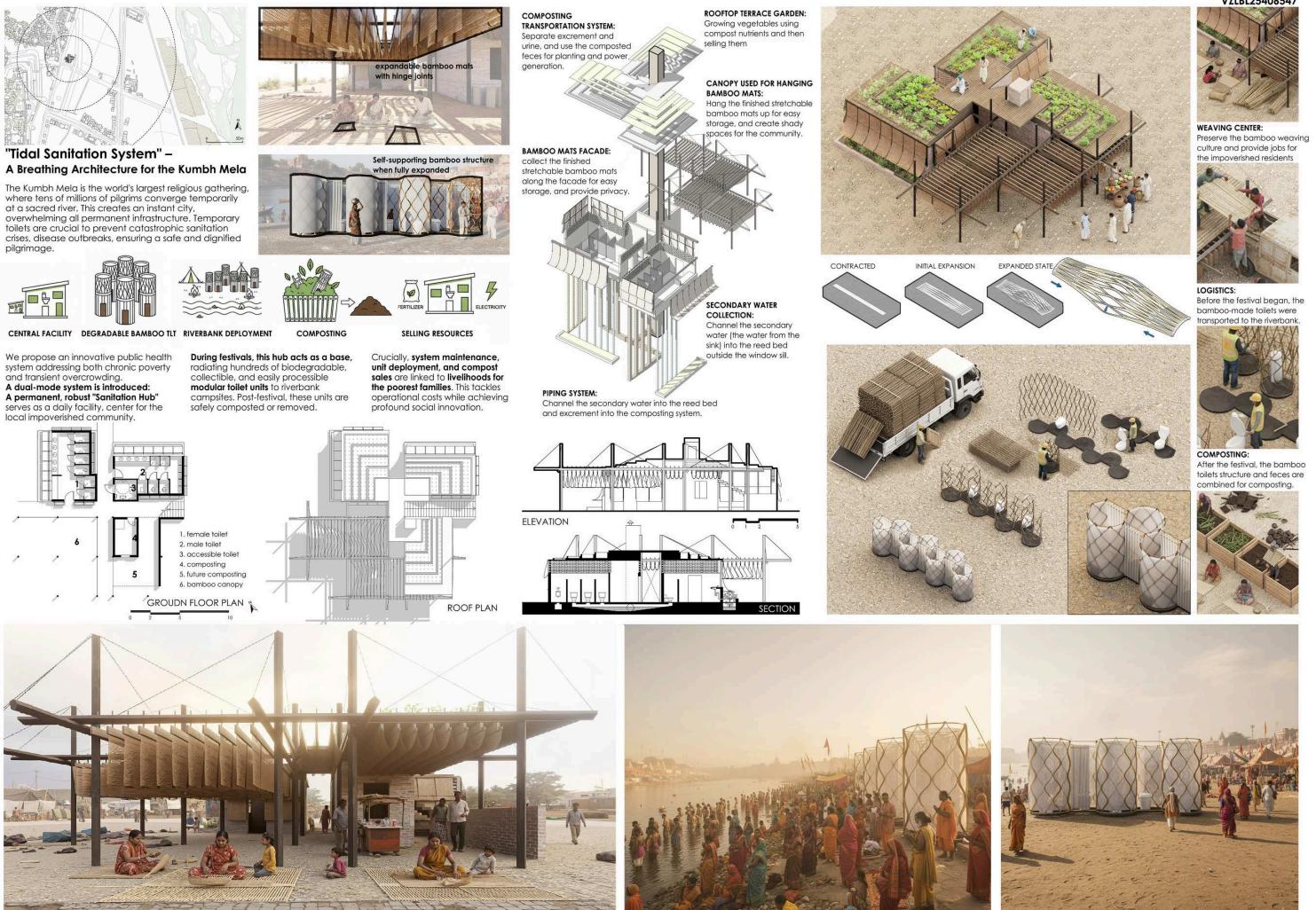
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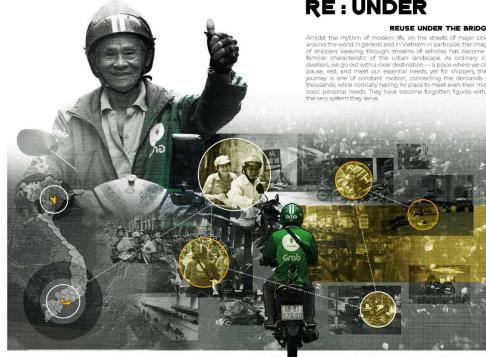


Honourable Mention 3: RE : UNDER

Di Man, Mang Gia Bao & Do Ngoc Han
Vietnam

RE : UNDER

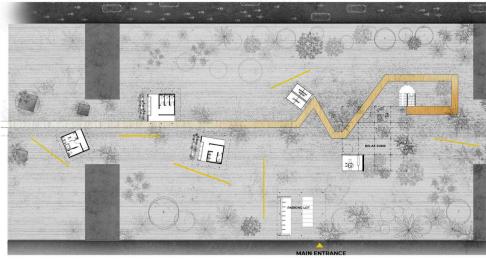
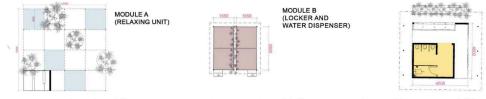
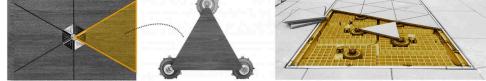
REUSE UNDER THE BRIDGE
 Amidst the myth of modern life, on the streets of major cities around the world in general and Ho Chi Minh City in particular, of drivers weaving through streams of vehicles has become a familiar sight. In the city of Hanoi, where the traffic is even denser, we go out with a clear destination — a place where we can go to the toilet. In the city of Ho Chi Minh, there are over 100,000 people who have no place to go to the toilet. There are over 100,000 people who have no place to meet even their most basic needs. They have become forgotten figures within the very system they serve.



In Vietnam — especially in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi — the number of public toilets remains far from ideal, universally condemned, and many are in poor condition. In desperate situations, drivers have to seek secluded spots to "temporarily relieve themselves," as they lack the time to stop.

Facing the shortage of space for public amenities in modern cities, the research team proposed utilizing the city's "forgotten voids," particularly the spaces beneath overpasses and under existing bridge spans. These types of "underground" infrastructures are rarely used and are distributed and hold great potential to serve communities. Transforming them into public amenities is not only a creative solution for saving land but also an adaptive urban design strategy that turns every void into an opportunity to restructure and enrich the fabric of urban life.

Piezoelectric pavement tile system



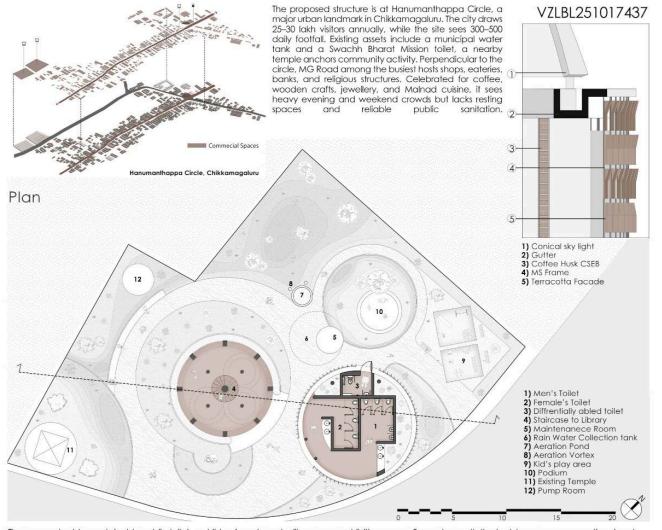
Honourable Mention 4: HALFTIME

Cristian Daniel Palomino Carbonel, Isabel Florida Rojas & Arumi Janis Pala Valeriano
 Peru

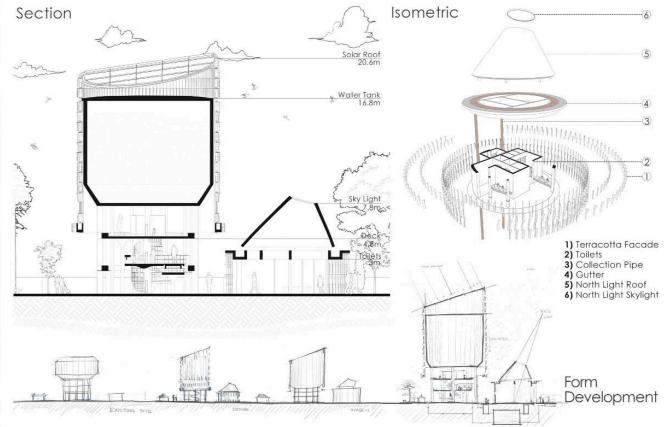


RAIN RING COMMONS

A self-sustaining public hub at Hanumanthappa Circle - toilet, park, and library under this water tank, built in Mahad craft with solar power and rainwater reuse.



The proposed adds a sustainable public toilet, a children's park, and a library-cum-exhibition space. Space beneath the tank becomes a recreational and educational use: the toilet site adjacent, linked by barrier-free, well-aligned footpaths. Daylighting and cross-ventilation guide planning, supported by facade treatments: terracotta screens, creeper trellises, and easy-wash, anti-splash finishes for privacy, airflow, and low maintenance. A PV array atop the tank powers the complex. Rainwater from the roof and site areas is collected via graded piping, bioswales, and channels drains to a pump; dual plumbing uses the tank as a reservoir for irrigation and toilet flushes. Built with natural materials and Mahad craft, the project uses CSEB terracotta and terracotta facades in the Mahad idiom; the ensemble becomes a self-sustaining educational and recreational hub for Hanumanthappa Circle.

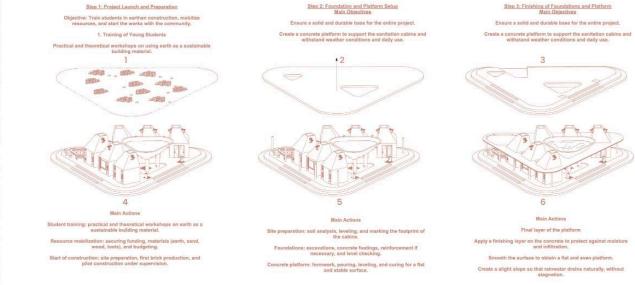


Honourable Mention 6: Ten Loo For Gando Village

Diabate Vakaba Abdou Rahim, Brou Ahou Yah Grace & Kouassi Alex Junior Kossouou
Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)



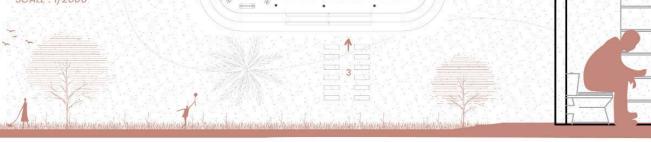
ELEMENT DETAILS



LEGEND

- 1-Clearance and Circulation Area
- 2-3-Outdoor Learning
- 4-Discussion Area
- 5-Fountain Area
- 6-Men's toilet and Toilets for disabled people
- 7-Women's toilet and Toilets for disabled people
- 8-Access to the site

MASTER PLAN
SCALE: 1/2000



SECTION
SCALE: 1/100

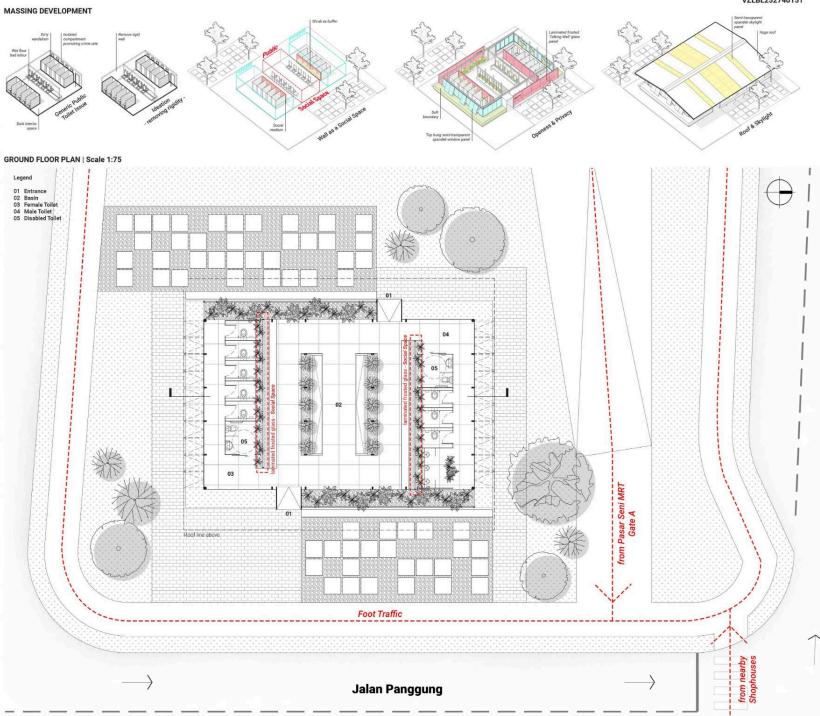
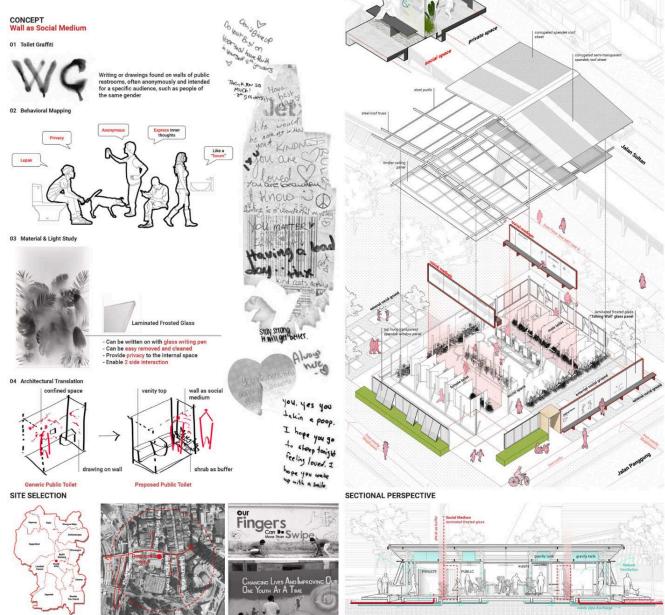
Honourable Mention 7: Selang Gema

Kelvin Lee & Chiam Xin Ru
Malaysia

Selang Gema

Echoes in Between

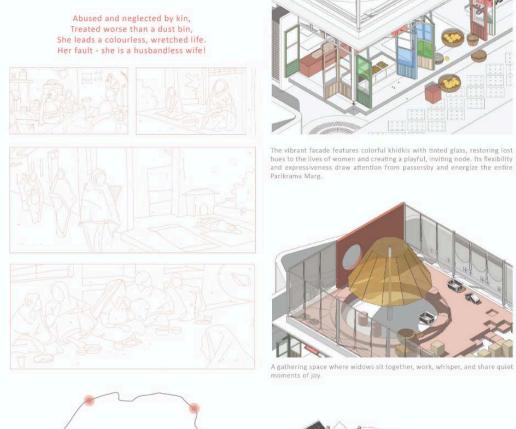
Public toilets are commonly viewed as purely functional spaces, yet they also reflect social behavior and communication patterns. **Graffit** in these spaces acts as an **informal form of communication**, allowing individuals to voice thoughts and emotions anonymously. The toilet wall becomes more than a physical boundary. It acts as a social medium. The proposed design explores how this act can be translated into an architectural strategy, transforming the wall from a **passive boundary into an interactive medium** that facilitates both privacy and social connection.



Honourable Mention 8: After The White

Akash Katnawar, Tepaish Kumar & Prabhjot Rajpal
India

AFTER THE WHITE



Abused and neglected by kin,
Treated worse than a dust bin,
She leads a colourless, wretched life.
Her fault - she is a husbandless wife!



The vibrant facade features colorful blitha with mixed glass, restoring lost hope to the lives of women and creating a playful, inviting node. Its flexibility and expressiveness draw attention from passersby and energize the entire Parkama Marg.



A gathering space where widows sit together, work, whisper, and share quiet moments of joy



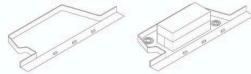
A gathering space where widows sit together, work, whisper, and share quiet moments of joy

Windavan, known as the "City of Widows," is home to thousands of women, many abandoned or seeking spiritual refuge after widowhood. Despite its spiritual aura, the city struggles with basic sanitation infrastructure — particularly along the Parkama Marg, a pilgrimage route that attracts lakhs of devotees but also highlights issues of overcrowding, sanitation, and social isolation.

Windavan, a sacred town on the banks of the Yamuna in Uttar Pradesh, is known for its spiritual significance. But it is also home to thousands of widows seeking peace and belonging after social abandonment. The town's dense fabric of temples, shrines, and ghats creates an atmosphere of devotion but also highlights issues of overcrowding, sanitation, and social isolation.

The Parkama Marg, a 12-kilometre circular pilgrimage route around Windavan, remains the town's spiritual spine—walked daily by devotees, widows, and tourists. The route is characterized by its lack of basic resting spaces, and safe facilities for women. Located a public toilet and restroom center along the route, not only addresses urgent infrastructure needs but also empowers them through education. This becomes a human intervention where faith, daily life, and self-reliance meet within Windavan's sacred landscape.

Form Development



Puncturing along the parkama marg path, positioning the new module.



Flexible cube seating on the upper floor allows users to arrange their own seating patterns, to work, learn, and collaborate easily, encouraging self-reliance and transforming the area into an adaptable, community-based education and gathering space.

All toilet and sanitation spaces are set privately at the rear, with a sunflower court in between.



Devoted in front, flexible public areas invite visitors, while private spaces remain discreetly separated.



Washrooms are designed with dry systems, green plants, and associated bathing zones. Spaces open to a central courtyard, among two courtyards, a sunflower court, and a central open space, creating a dynamic and safe atmosphere.



Morning:

Women gather early in the space, opening their shops and setting up the workshops upstairs. This time is about preparation and starting the day's activities, with a calm but purposeful energy that sets the tone for what's to come.



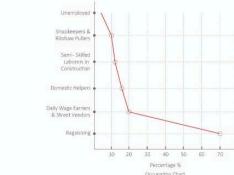
Afternoon:

The space comes alive as workshops operate in full flow. Visitors pass by, interacting with the women and appreciating their work. The area is busy, with shared sanitation and bathing facilities used actively, supporting both residents and the public.



Evening:

As the day winds down, the upper floor transforms into a quiet resting area. Curtains are drawn and windows closed to offer privacy and comfort. This calm environment allows women to rest and recharge for the next day.



Shadeless & Kubbe Policy

Semi-shaded Lattice & Gazebo

Domestic Helpless

Body-Wrap Parlor & Street Vendor

Hospital



Ground Floor

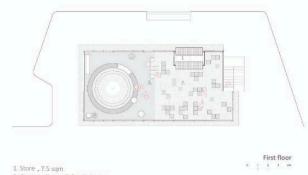
1. Shop - 46.5 sqm

2. Bathing Area - 20 sqm

3. Female Washroom - 12.9 sqm

4. Male Washroom - 12.9 sqm

5. Courtyard - 11.9 sqm



1. Store - 7.5 sqm

2. Community Seated - 48.3 sqm

3. Workshop Area - 53.3 sqm

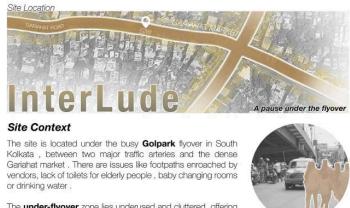
Total built-up area - 97.4 sqm



Honourable Mention 9: InterLude

Shayon Samajpati & Ananya Roy

India

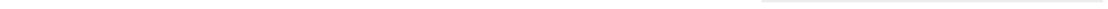
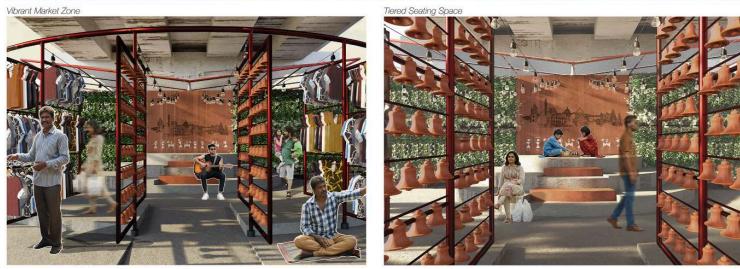
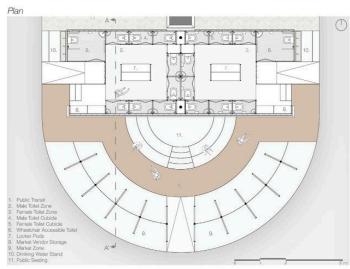
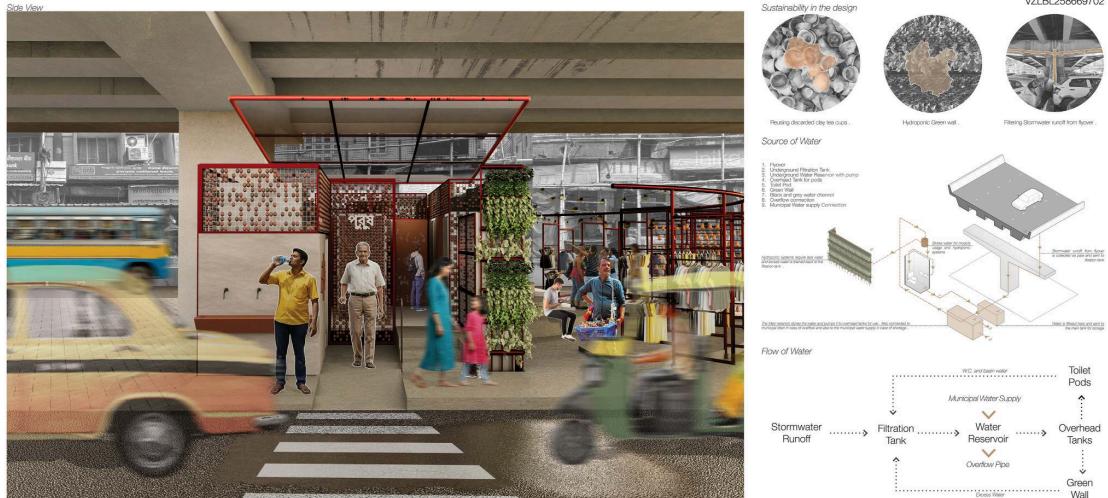


The **under-flyover** zone lies underused and cluttered, offering potential for transformation into a vibrant community zone cum

Design Intent

The design intends to transform the **under-flyover space** in Indian cities into a **toilet cum community space** with purpose and identity. Designed for inclusivity, the space integrates toilets, drinking water points, locker pods and organized vendor display zones, along with community seating areas.

It addresses issues of hygiene, pedestrian congestion, and lack of civic infrastructure in the dense market area of Ganesh. Its **modular framework** makes it easily scalable.



Honourable Mention 10: 'Sauchalay' - A Threshold

Mayuresh Pradhan & Varada Avachat
India

‘Sauchalay’ A Threshold

Urban villages in India are remnants of old agrarian settlements absorbed by expanding cities. As agricultural land was sold or acquired for urban development, these areas were left with poor civic infrastructure and became sites of informal, unregulated construction. Over time, small local economies emerged to serve nearby neighborhoods, though often hidden behind layers of neglect such as waste, derelict edges, and illegal parking.



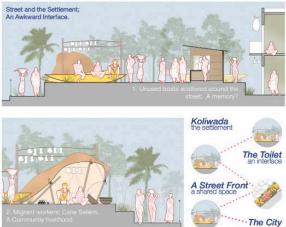
Site Plan - Mahim Koliwada, Mumbai (India)

Mahim Koliwada, located near Mahim Fort, is one such settlement — a historic fishing village inhabited by the original Koli community of Mumbai. The area, marked by small homes and poor amenities, faces severe infrastructural and ecological challenges. The traditional fishing-based economy persists, evident in boats, nets, and the sensory atmosphere of the settlement, but the community is increasingly marginalized by urban pressures and encroachment from developments like the Banda Kurla Complex.

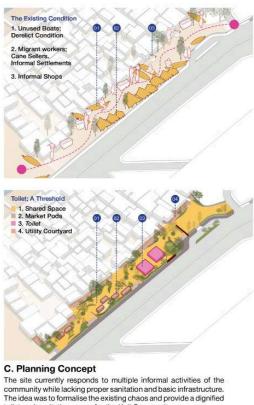
Despite its vulnerabilities, Mahim Koliwada retains a vibrant social fabric and strong spatial identity, shaped by everyday interactions that blur the boundaries between public and private space. The project envisions reconnecting the koliwada with its urban surroundings by improving porosity, restructuring underzoned areas, enhancing living conditions, and restoring dignity and visibility to the Koli community and their cultural landscape.



A. The Existing Site Plan

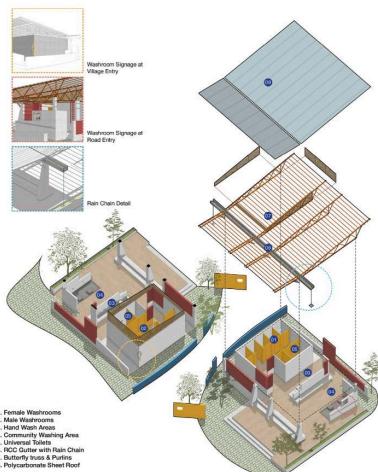


B. The Existing Urban Fabric



C. Planning Concept

C. Planning Concept
The site currently responds to multiple informal activities of the community while lacking proper sanitation and basic infrastructure. The idea was to formalise the existing chaos and provide a dignified toilet and sanitation space for the Koli Community.



E. Toilet Module - Axonometric Diagram



F. Site Section 02



ilet Concept



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