Archetype



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.

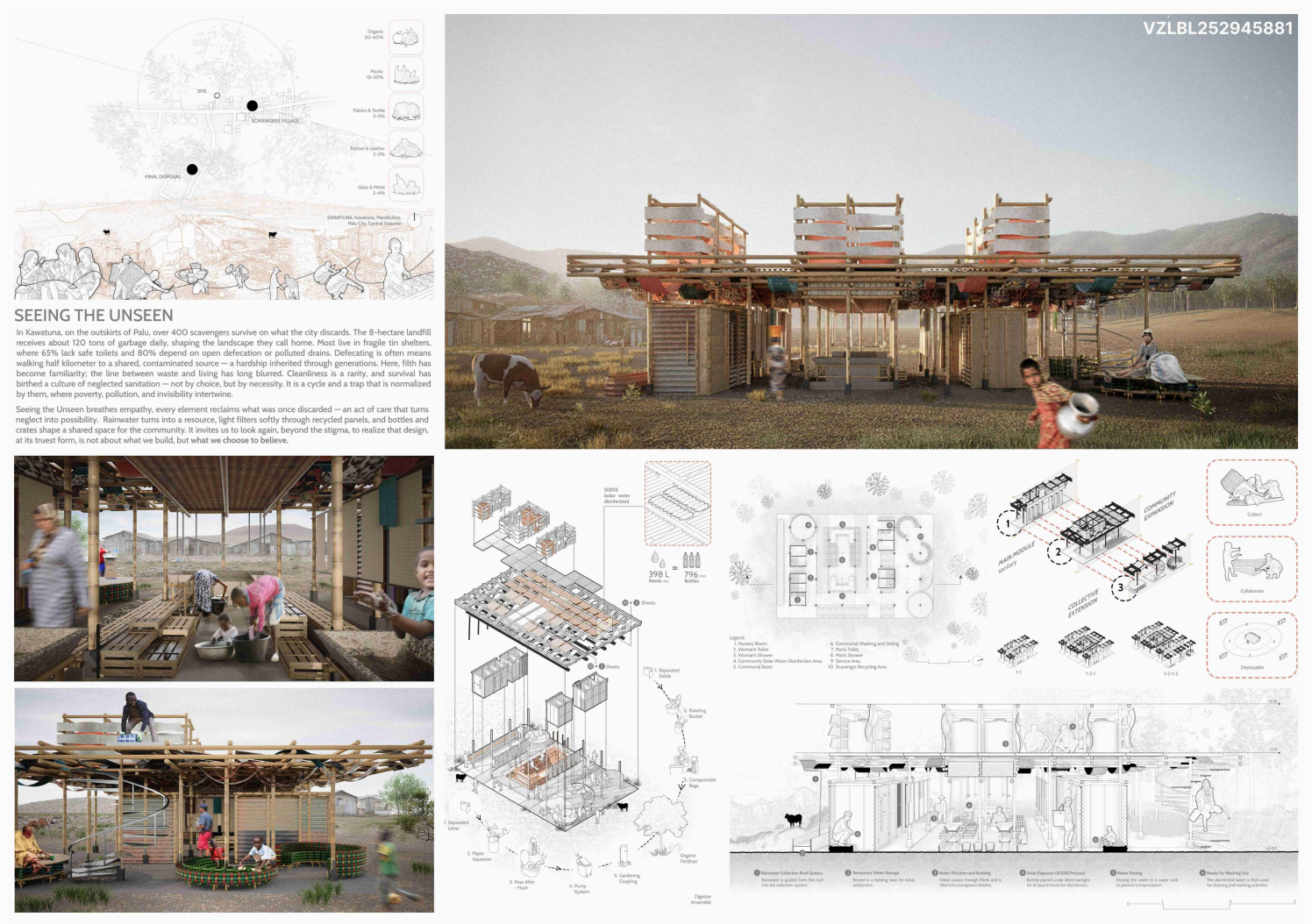
The esteemed jury for judging this competition consisted of **Bruno Santa Cecilia** (Arquitetos Associados), **Carla Osorio & Mario Avila** (Espacio 18 Arquitectura), **Catherine Ranger** (MGS Architects), **Chen Lin** (Shulin Architectural Design), **Dipen Gada** (DG Associates), **Doan Thanh Ha** (H&P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

The top three winners and Best Student were awarded total prize money of $4,500 while tenentries received Honorable Mentions. Here are the winning entries. The full result for the competition the Little Big Loo 2025 Architecture Competitioncan be found here.

FIRST PLACE

Seeing The Unseen

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



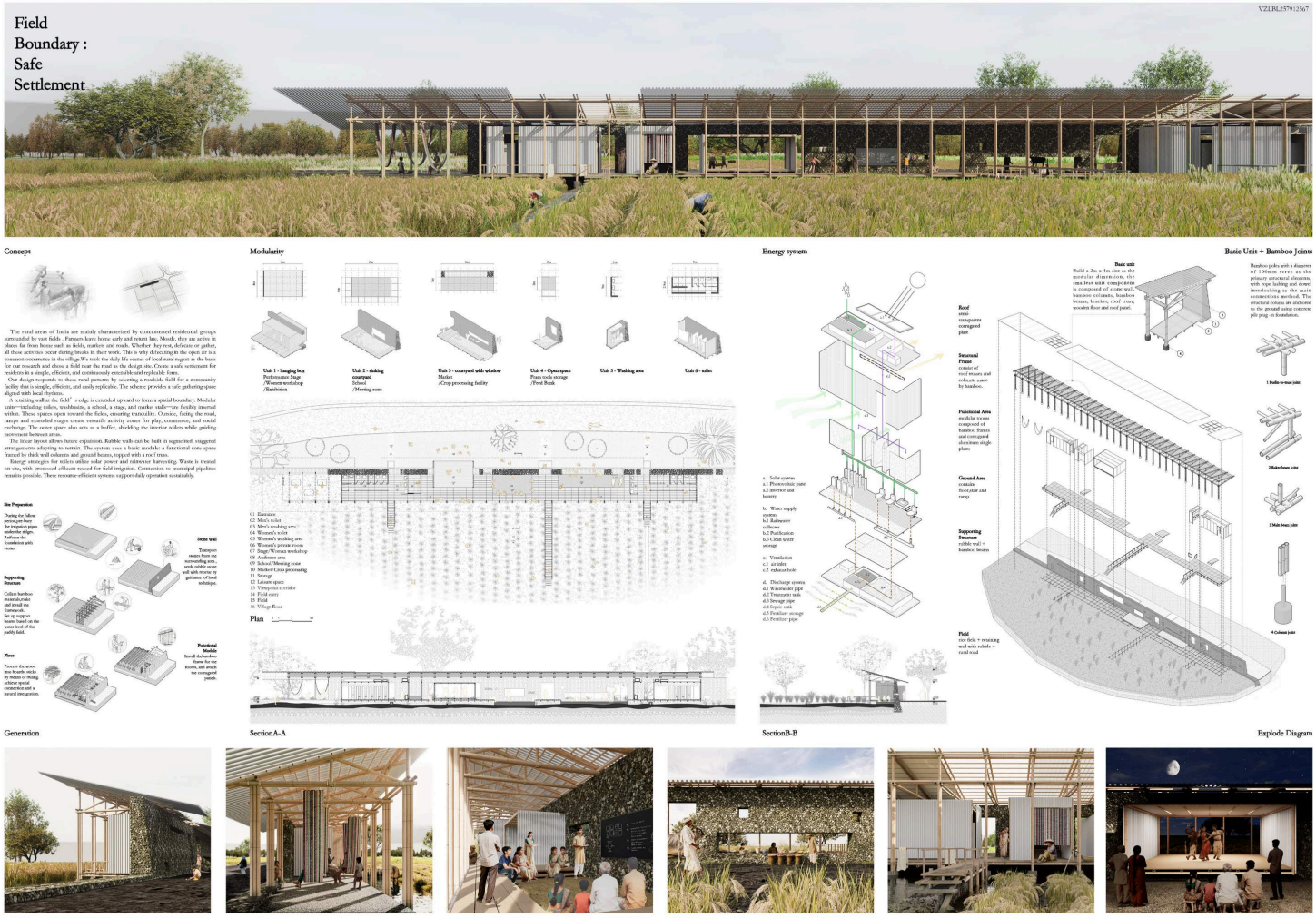
In Kawatuna, on the outskirts of Palu, over 400 scavengers survice on what the city discards. The 8-hectare landfill receives about 120 tons of garbage daily, shaping the landscape they call home. Most live in fragile tin shelters, where 65% lack safe toilets and 80% depend on open defecation or polluted drains. Defecating is often means walking half kilometer to ashared, 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.

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.

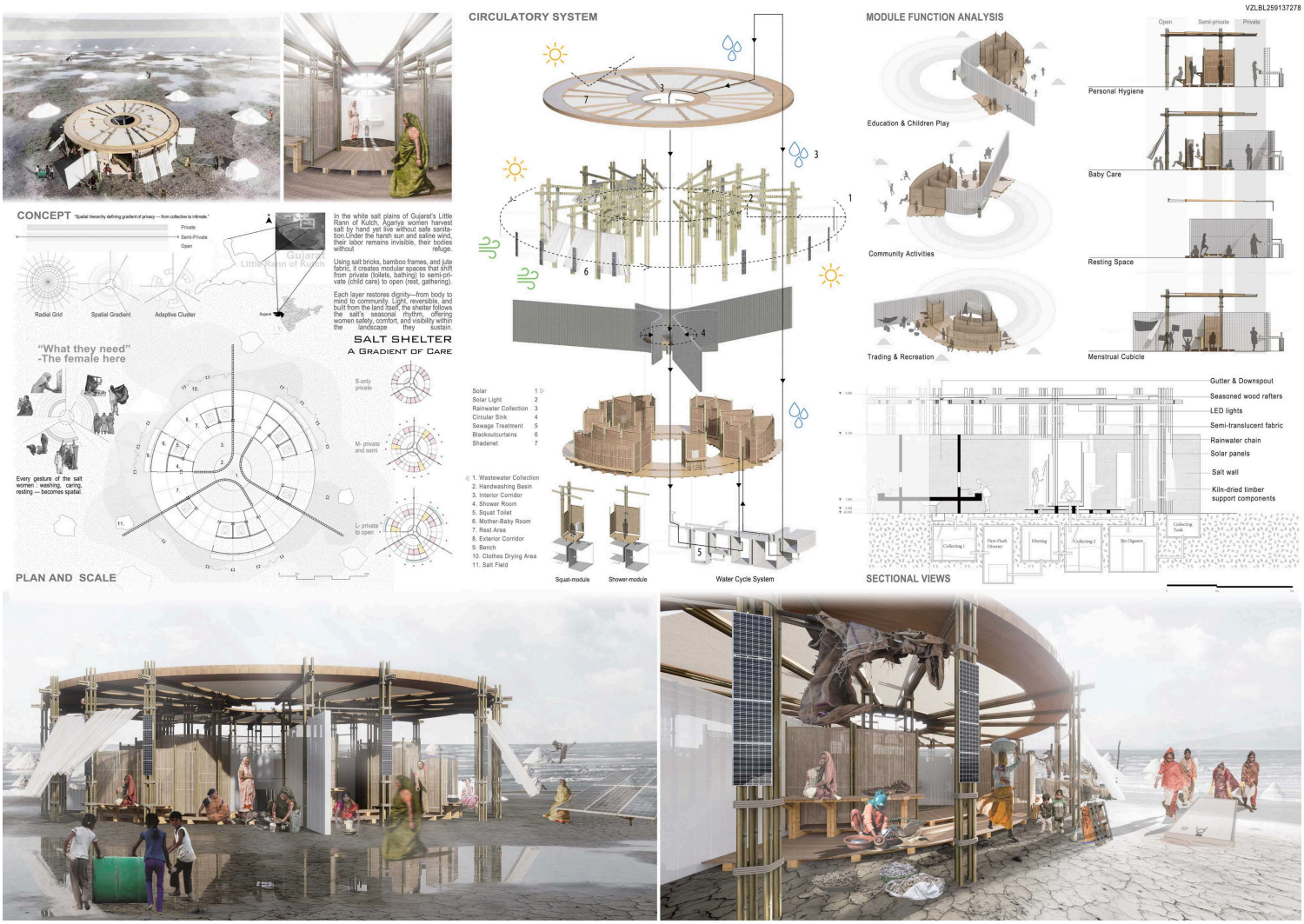
Our design responds to these rural patterns by selecting a roadside field for a community facility that is simple, efficient, and easily replicable. The scheme provides a safe gathering space aligned with local

rhythms.

THIRD PLACE

Salt Shelter

Dan Xue, Shuning Lyu & Huanchun Xi
China



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

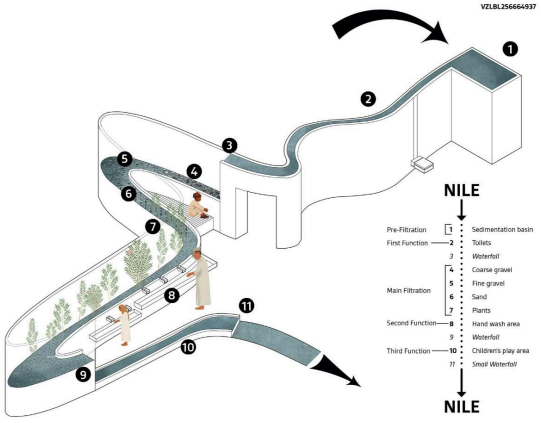
Using salt bricks, bamboo frames, and jute fabric, it creates modular spaces that shift from private (toilets, bathing) to semi-private (child care) to open (rest, gathering).

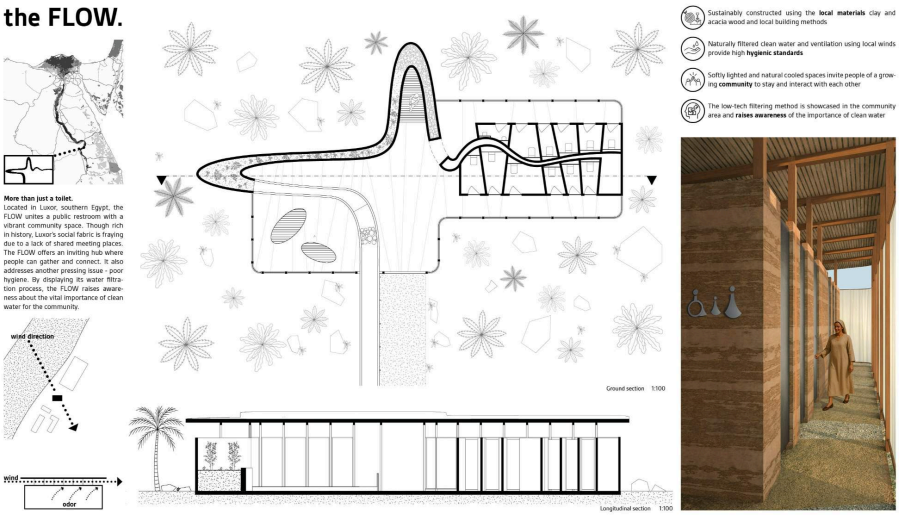
Each layer restores dignity–from body to mind to community. Light, reversible, and built from the land itself, the shelter follows the salt's seasonal rhythm, offering women safety, comfort, and visibility within the landscape they sustain.

STUDENT AWARD - The Flow

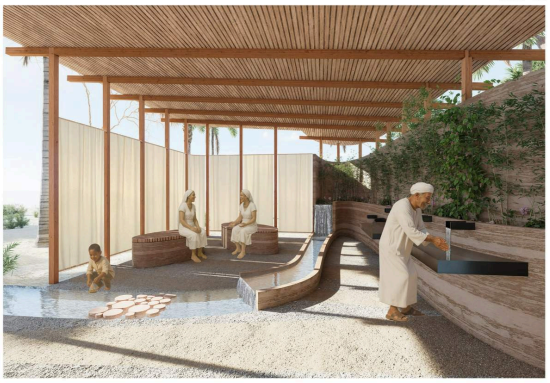
Svetlana Zakharova & Stefan Eckler
Austria









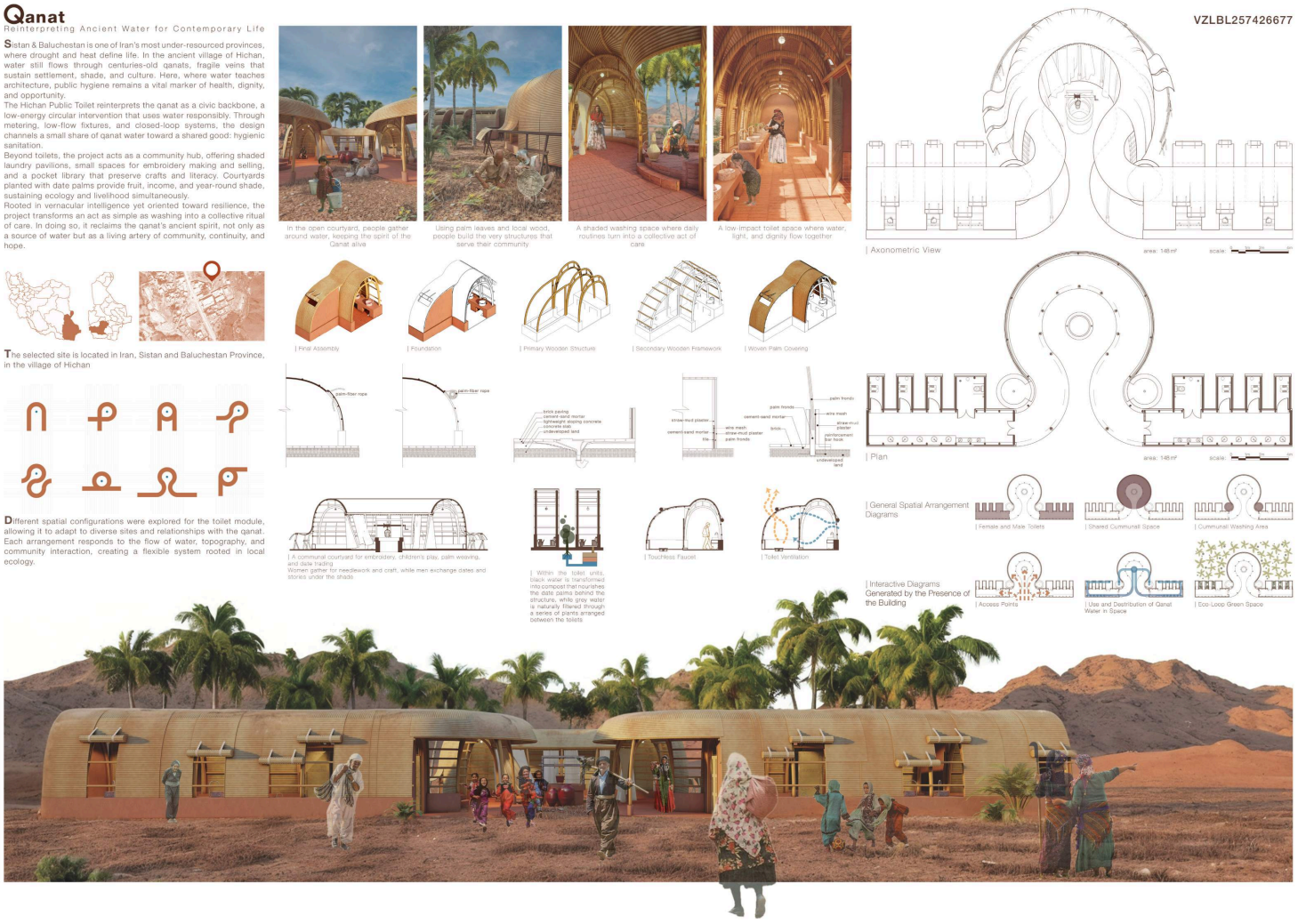


More than just a toilet.

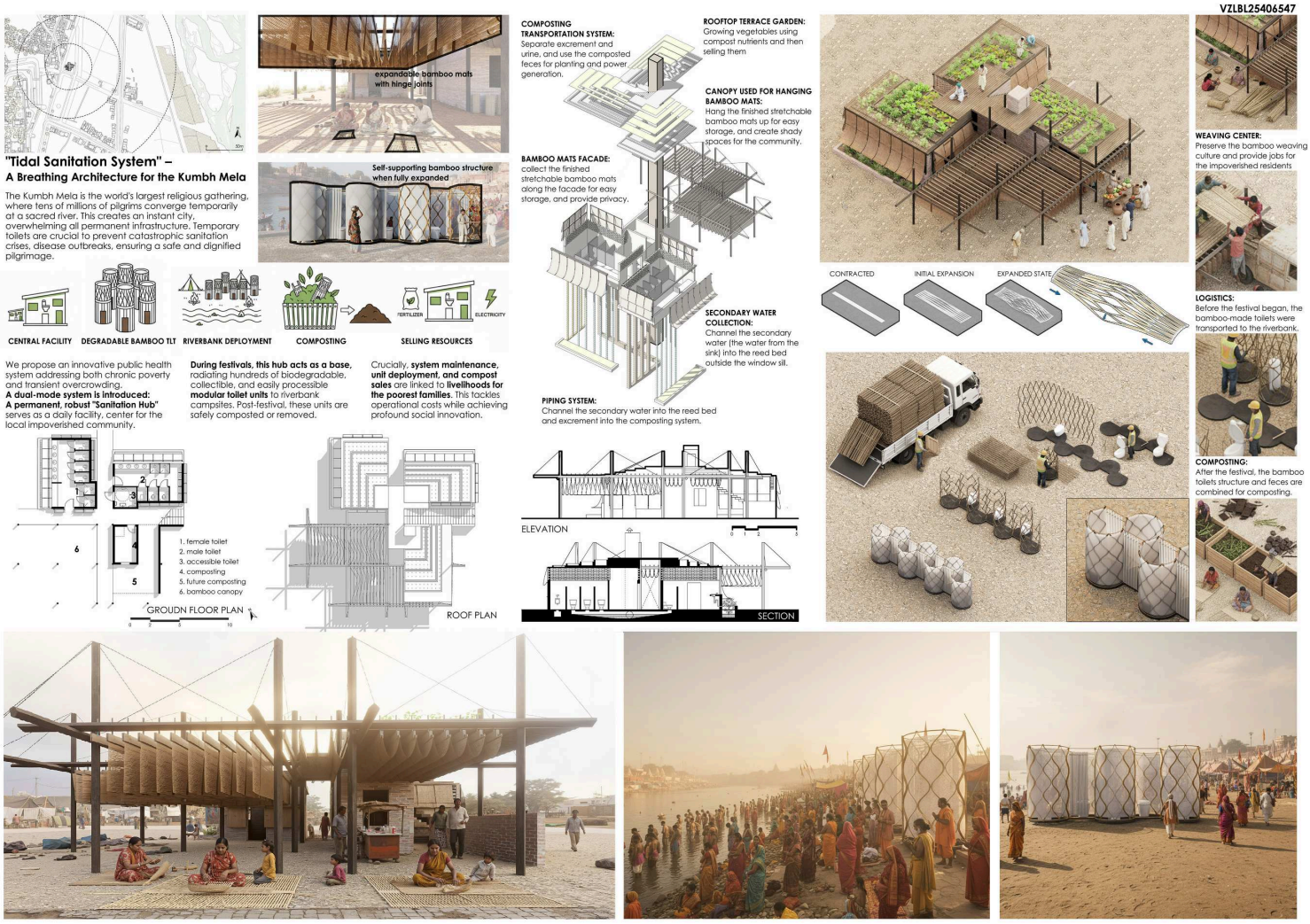
Located in Luxor, southern Egypt, the FLOW unites a public restroom with a vibrant community space. Though rich in history, Luxor's social fabric is fraying due to a lack of shared meeting places. The FLOW offers an inviting hub where people can gather and connect. It also addresses another pressing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

Honourable Mentions:

Honourable Mention 1: Qanat
Nooshin Zangeneh, Negin Sadri & Amirreza Karimi
Iran



Honourable Mention 2: Tidal Sanitation System
Dao Wu
United States



Honourable Mention 3: RE : UNDER
Di Man, Mang Gia Bao & Do Ngoc Han
Vietnam



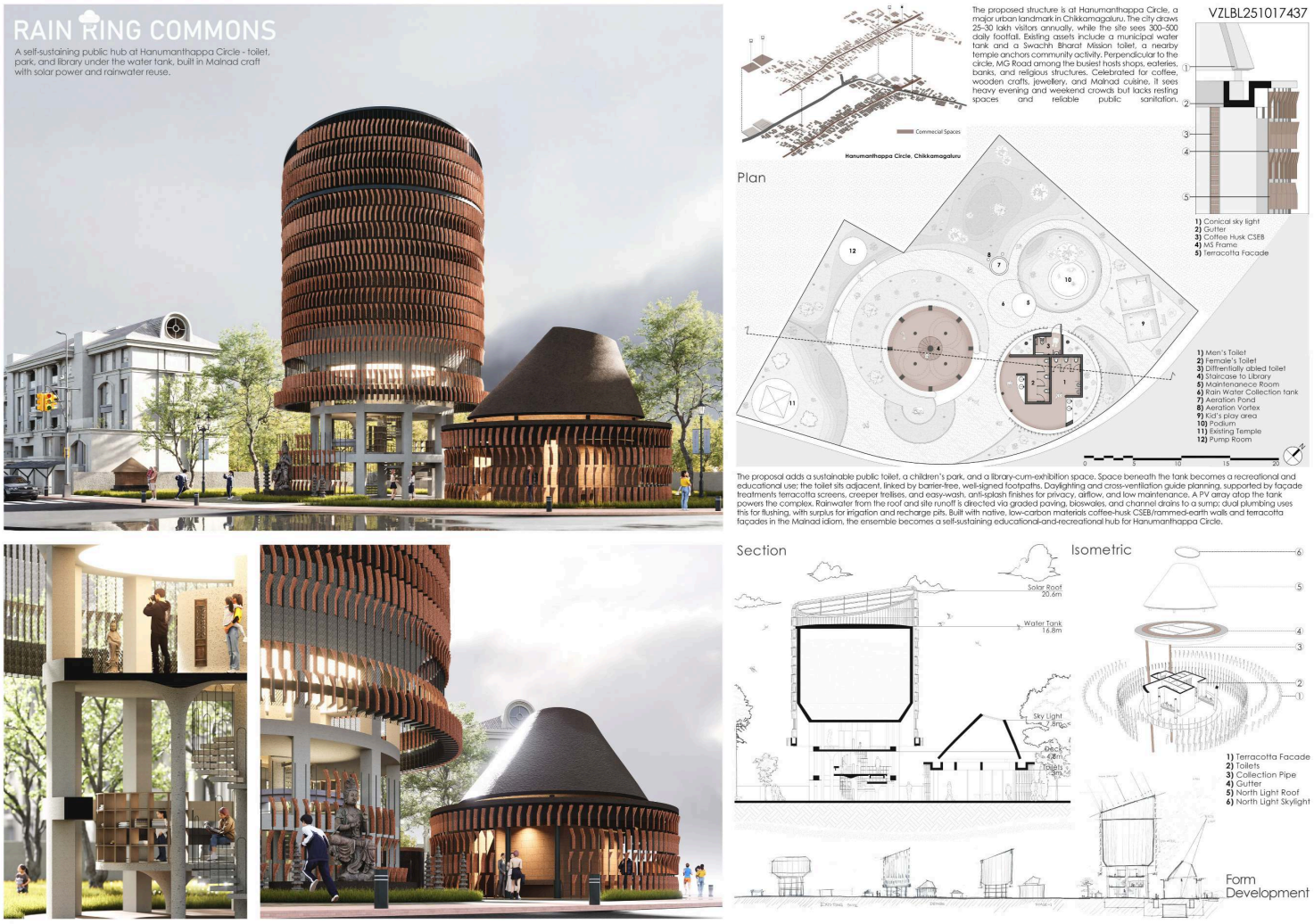
Honourable Mention 4: HALFTIME

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

Peru



Honourable Mention 5: Rain Ring Commons
Rakshith Rai, Sujith Hariharan.R & K Shashavindu
India



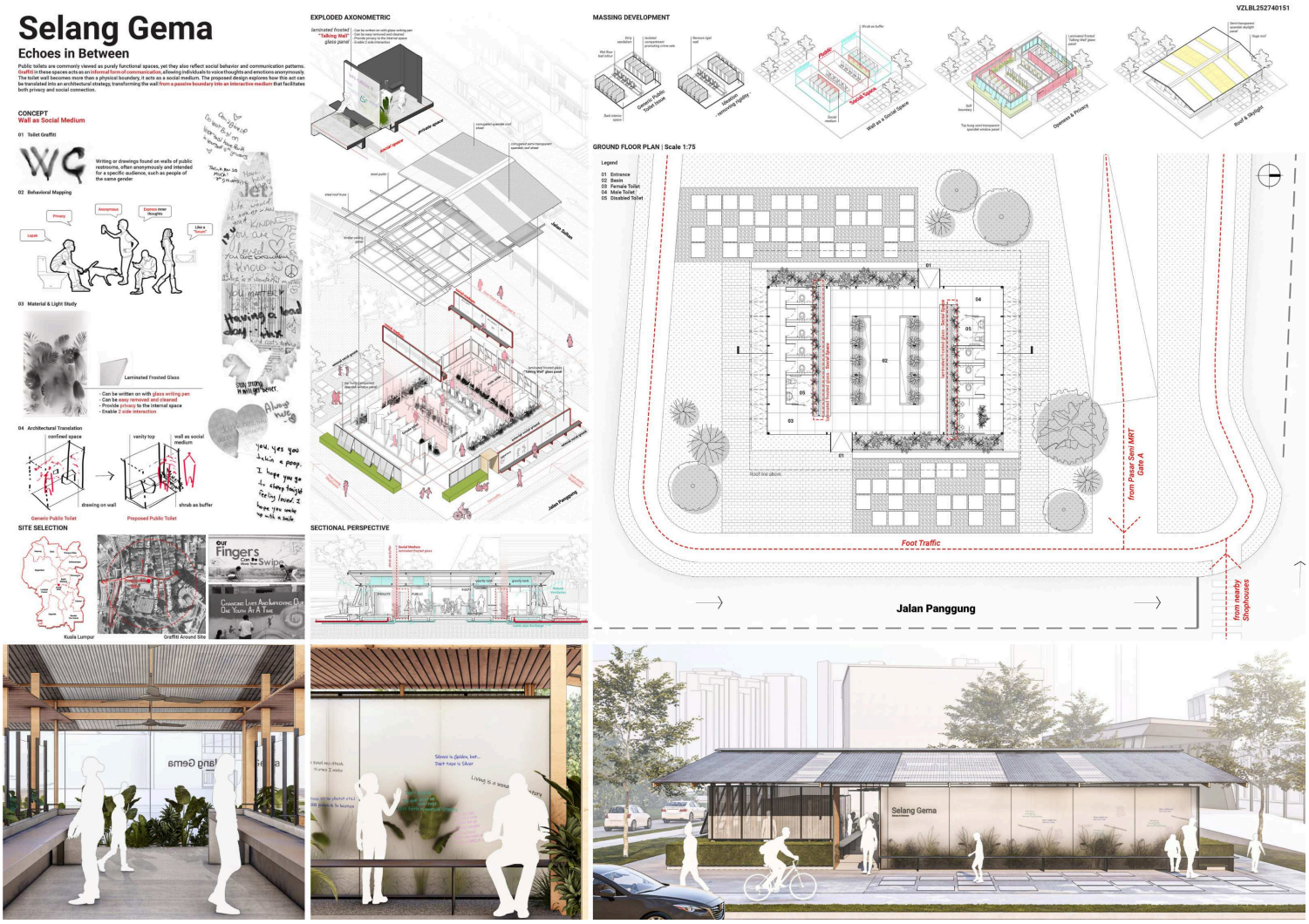
Honourable Mention 6: Ten Loo For Gando Village

Diabate Vakaba Abdou Rahim, Brou Ahou Yah Grace & Kouassi Alex Junior Kossonou

Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)



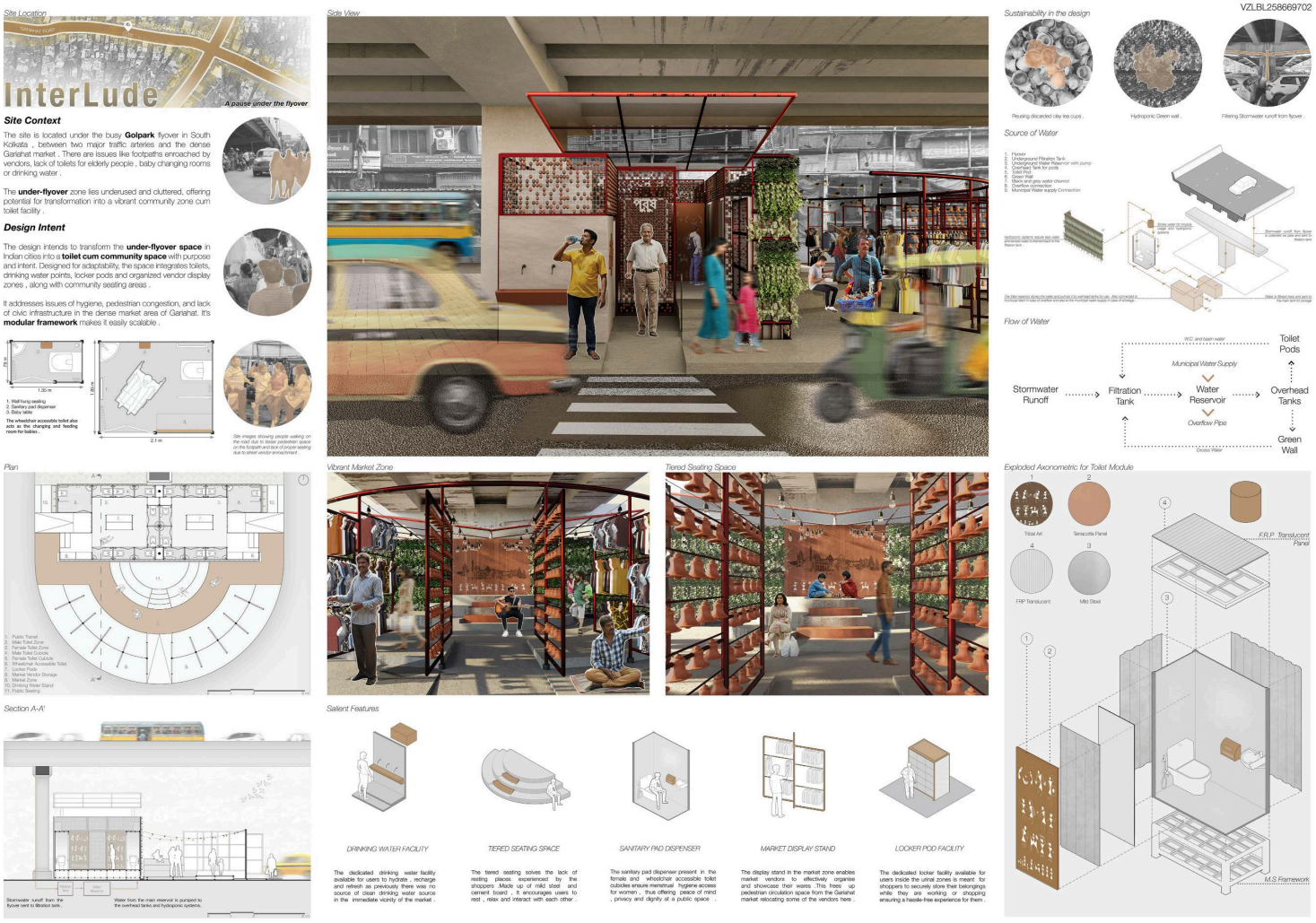
Honourable Mention 7: Selang Gema
Kelvin Lee & Chiam Xin Ru
Malaysia



Honourable Mention 8: After The White
Akash Katnawar, Tepaish Kumar & Prabhjot Rajpal
India



Honourable Mention 9: InterLude
Shayon Samajpati & Ananya Roy
India



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.*





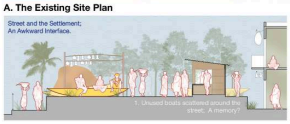
Site Plan - Mahim Koliwada, Mumbai (India)

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 Bandra 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 underused areas, enhancing living conditions, and restoring dignity and visibility to the Koli community and their cultural landscape.***



A. The Existing Site Plan





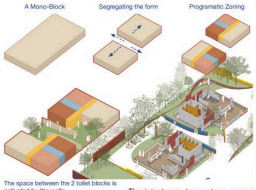
B. The Existing Urban Fabric





C. Planning Concept

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.

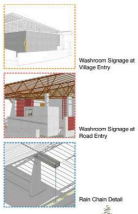


The space between the 2 toilet blocks is activated by the walls

- Community Zone
- Washing Area
- Hand Wash
- Toilets
- Corridor

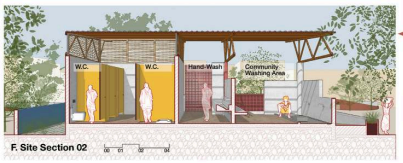
The intent was to create a porous and and responsive form where domesticities of the villagers spread out in the **‘Village Commons’**

D. Toilet Concept

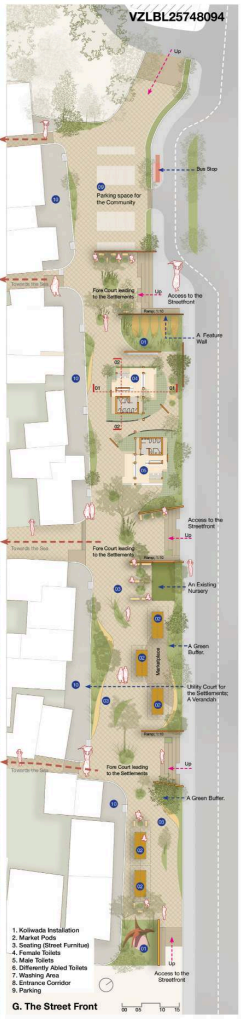


1. Female Washrooms
2. Male Washrooms
3. Hand Wash Areas
4. Community Washing Area
5. Universal Toilets
6. RCC Gutter with Rain Chain
7. Butterfly truss & Purlins
8. Polycarbonate Sheet Roof

E. Toilet Module - Axonometric Diagram



F. Site Section 02

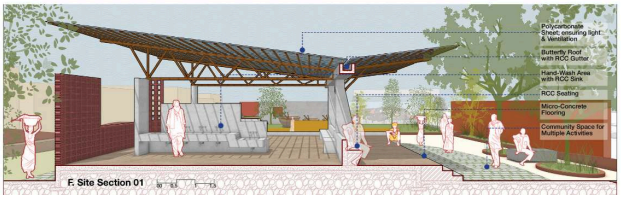


G. The Street Front









F. Site Section 01