



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.

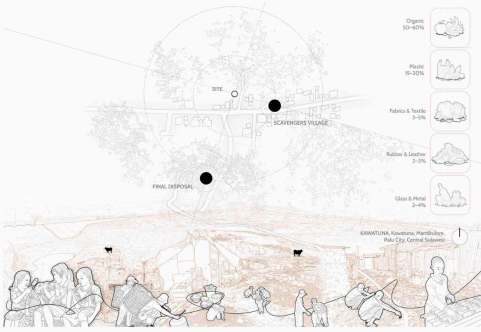
The esteemed jury for judging this competition consisted of **Bruno Santa Cecilia** (Arquitetos Associados), **Carla Osorio & Mario Avila** (Espacio 18 Arquitectura), **Catherine Ranger** (MGS Architects), **Chen Lin** (Shulin Architectural Design), **Dipen Gada** (DG Associates), **Doan Thanh Ha** (H&P 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

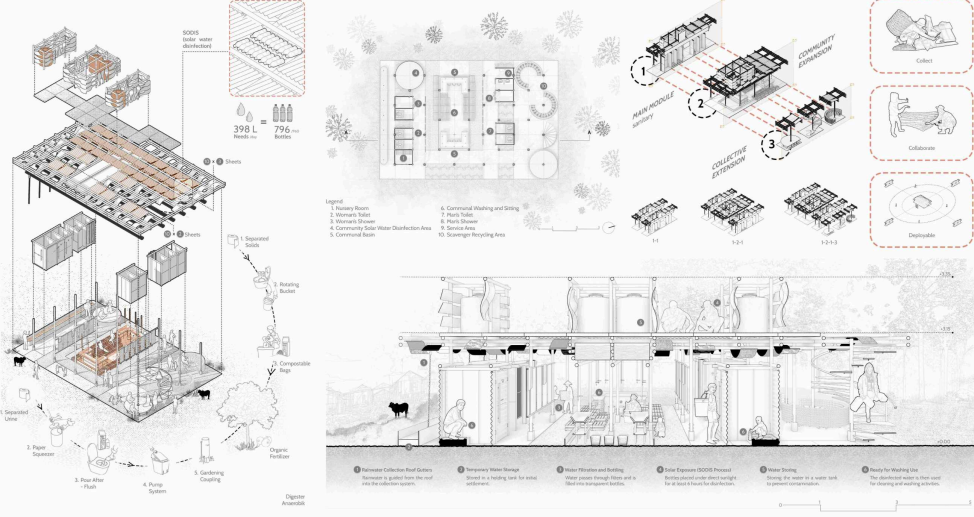


SEEING THE UNSEEN

In Kawatuna, on the outskirts of Palu, over 400 scavengers survive 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.

Seeing the Unseen breathes empathy, every element reclaims what was once discarded — an 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.





Legend

- 1. Kitchen Room
- 2. Bath Toilet
- 3. Storage Room
- 4. Community Water Distribution Area
- 5. Community Area
- 6. Community Recycling Area

Materials

- 1. Recycled Plastic
- 2. Recycled Metal
- 3. Recycled Wood
- 4. Recycled Glass
- 5. Recycled Paper
- 6. Recycled Textile
- 7. Recycled Rubber
- 8. Recycled Leather
- 9. Recycled Glass
- 10. Recycled Metal
- 11. Recycled Wood
- 12. Recycled Paper
- 13. Recycled Textile
- 14. Recycled Rubber
- 15. Recycled Leather

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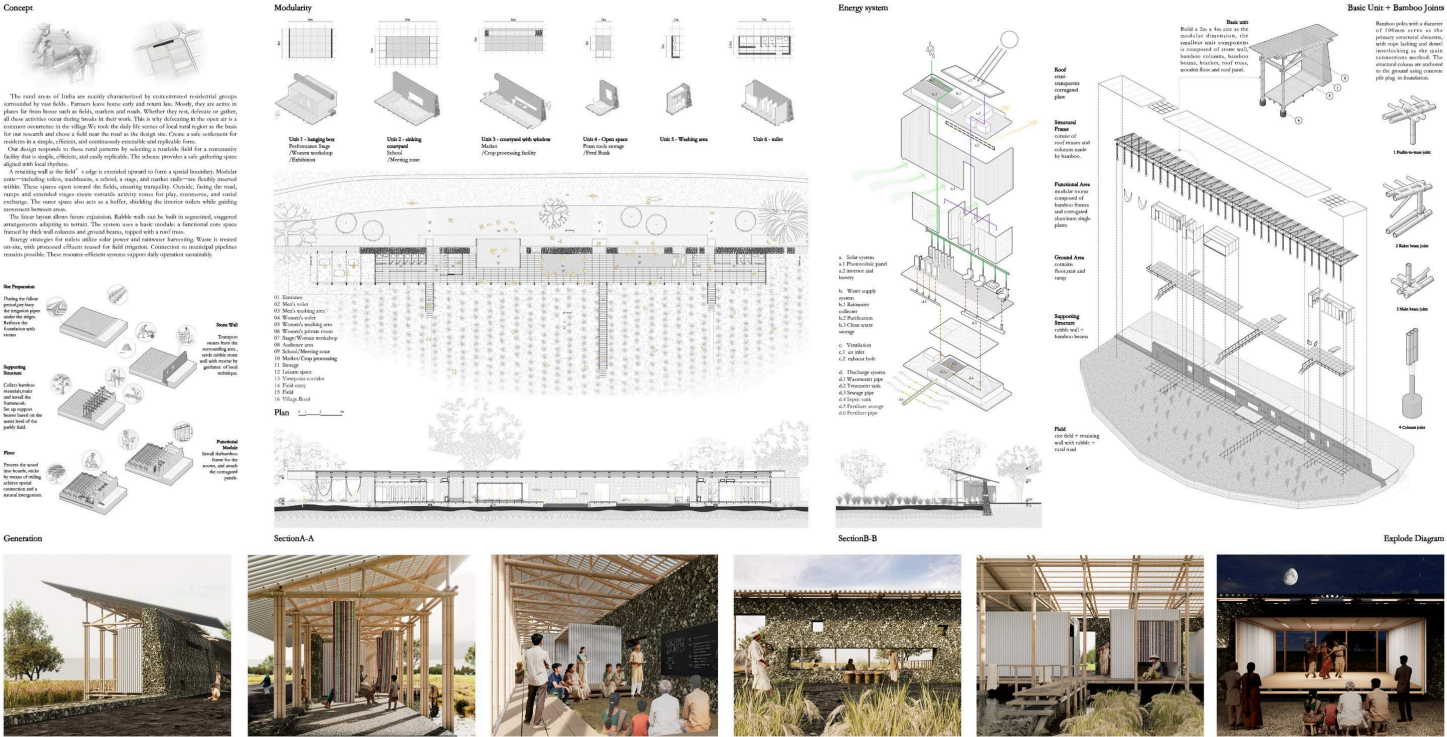
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SECOND PLACE

Field Boundary, Safe Settlement

Xiaotong Ma
China

Field
Boundary :
Safe
Settlement



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.

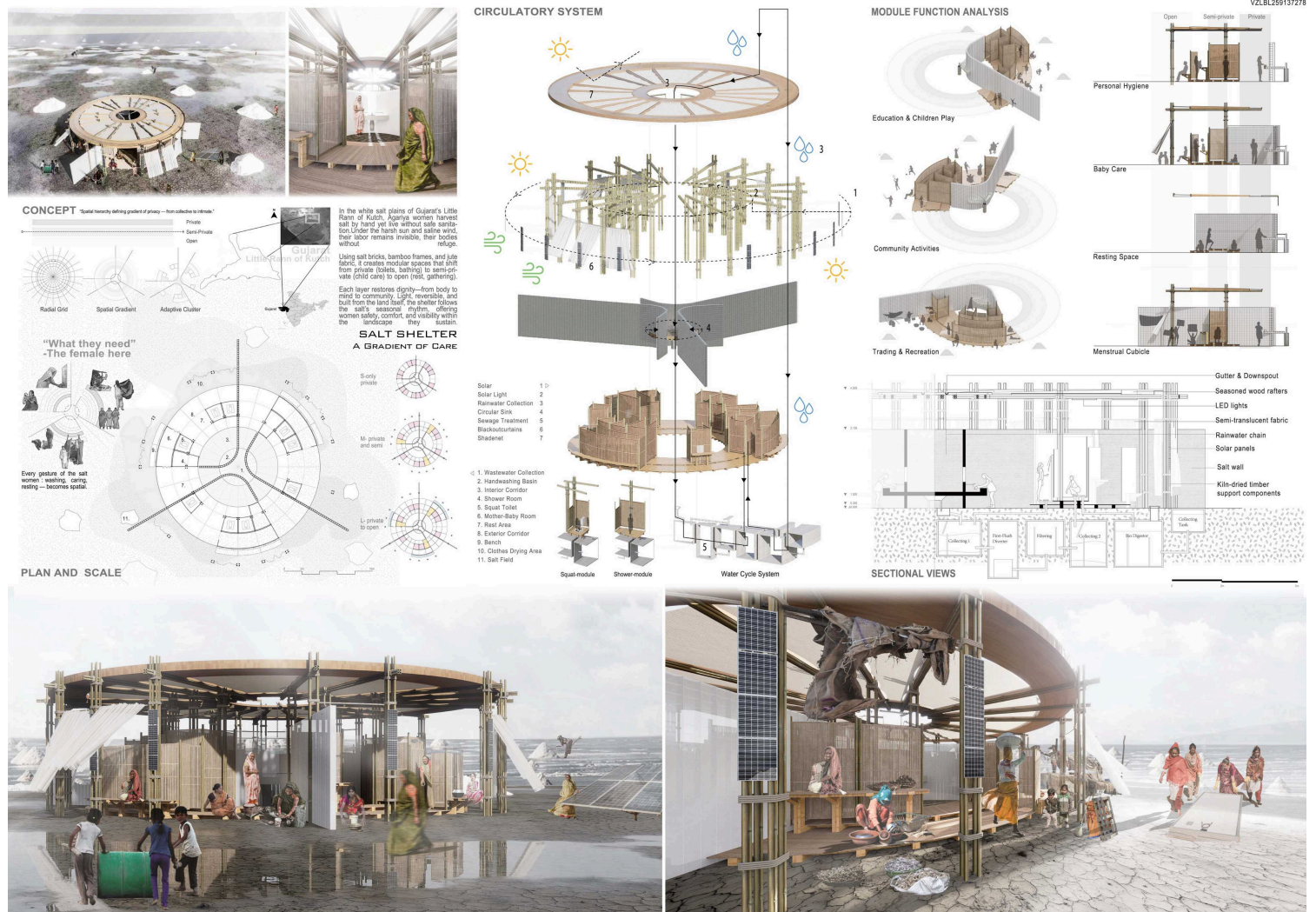
Our design responds to these rural patterns by selecting a roadside field for a community facility that is simple, efficient, and easily replicable. The scheme provides a safe gathering space aligned with local

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

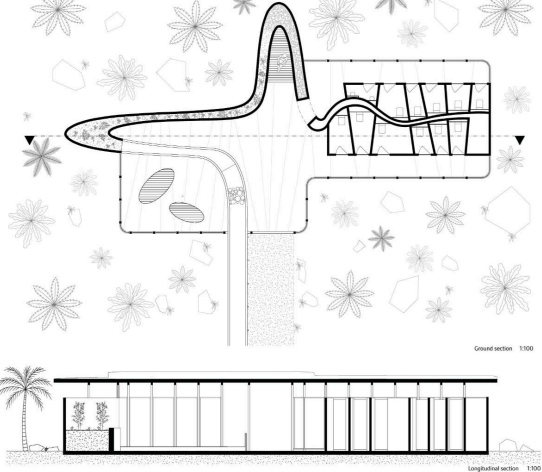
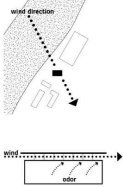
Svetlana Zakharova & Stefan Eckler
Austria



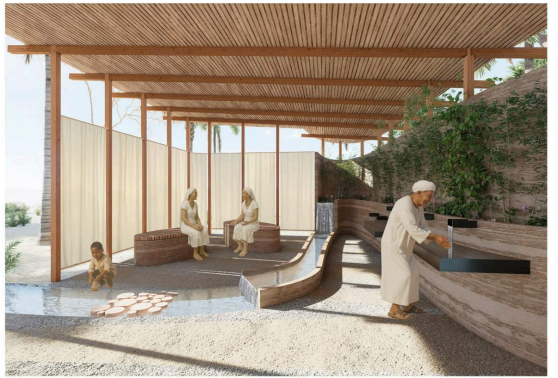
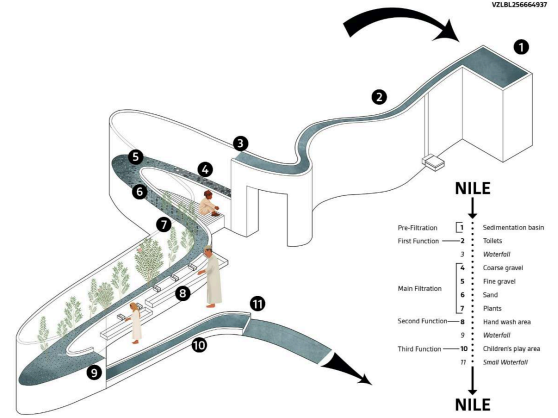
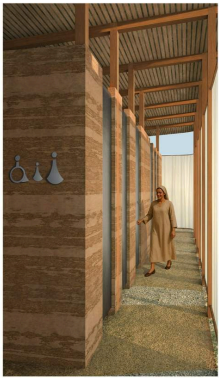
the FLOW.



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.



- Sustainably constructed using the local materials: clay and acacia wood and local building methods
- Naturally filtered clean water and ventilation using local winds provide high hygienic standards
- Softly lighted and natural cooled spaces invite people of a growing community to stay and interact with each other
- The low-tech filtering method is showcased in the community area and raises awareness of the importance of clean water



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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 vernacular intelligence 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.

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

Different spatial configurations were explored for the toilet module, allowing it to adapt to diverse sites and relationships with the qanat. Each arrangement responds to the flow of water, topography, and community interaction, creating a flexible system rooted in local ecology.

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

Axonometric View

area: 148 m²

scale: 1:50

Plan

area: 148 m²

scale: 1:50

General Spatial Arrangement Diagrams

- 1. Female and Male Toilets
- 2. Shared Community Space
- 3. Communal Washing Area

Interactive Diagrams Generated by the Presence of the Building

- 1. Access Points
- 2. Use and Distribution of Qanat Water in Space
- 3. Eco-Loop Green Space

1. Final Assembly

2. Foundation

3. Primary Wooden Structure

4. Secondary Wooden Framework

5. Woven Palm Covering

1. Communal courtyard for laundry, women's shop, palm weaving, and date trading. Women gather for needlework and craft, while men exchange dates and stories under the shade.

2. Within the toilet walls, black water is transformed into compost that nourishes the date palms behind the structure, while grey water is naturally filtered through a series of ponds arranged between the toilets.

1. Toilet Pavilion

2. Toilet Pavilion

Honourable Mention 2: Tidal Sanitation System

Dao Wu
United States



"Tidal Sanitation System" – A Breathing Architecture for the Kumbh Mela

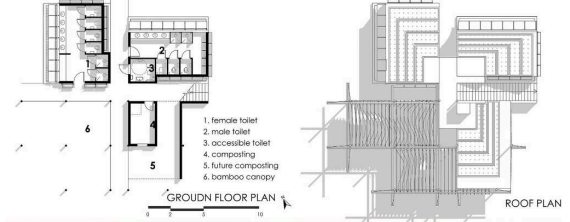
The Kumbh Mela is the world's largest religious gathering, where tens of millions of pilgrims converge temporarily at a sacred river. This creates an instant city, overwhelming all permanent infrastructure. Temporary toilets are crucial to prevent catastrophic sanitation crises, disease outbreaks, ensuring a safe and dignified pilgrimage.



We propose an innovative public health system addressing both chronic poverty and transient overcrowding. **A dual-mode system is introduced:** A permanent, robust "Sanitation Hub" serves as a daily facility, center for the local impoverished community.

During festivals, this hub acts as a base, radiating hundreds of biodegradable, collectible, and easily processible modular toilet units to riverbank campsites. Post-festival, these units are safely composted or removed.

Crucially, **system maintenance, unit deployment, and compost sales are linked to livelihoods for the poorest families.** This tackles operational costs while achieving profound social innovation.



COMPOSTING TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM: Separate excrement and urine, and use the composted feces for planting and power generation.

BAMBOO MATS FACADE: collect the finished stretchable bamboo mats along the facade for easy storage, and provide privacy.

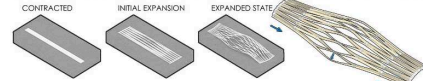
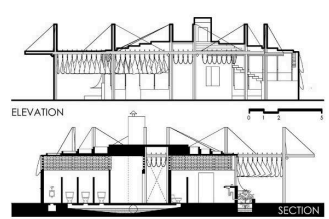


ROOFTOP TERRACE GARDEN: Growing vegetables using compost nutrients and then selling them

CANOPY USED FOR HANGING BAMBOO MATS: Hang the finished stretchable bamboo mats up for easy storage, and create shady spaces for the community.

SECONDARY WATER COLLECTION: Channel the secondary water (the water from the sink) into the reed bed outside the window sill.

PIPING SYSTEM: Channel the secondary water into the reed bed and excrement into the composting system.



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WEAVING CENTER: Preserve the bamboo weaving culture and provide jobs for the impoverished residents



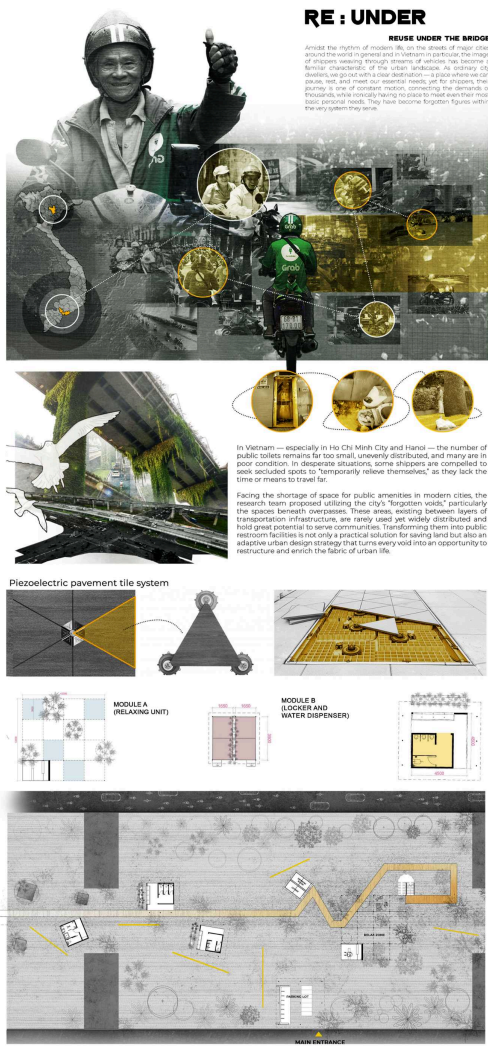
LOGISTICS: Before the festival began, the bamboo-made toilets were transported to the riverbank.



COMPOSTING: After the festival, the bamboo toilet structure and feces are combined for composting.



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

HALFTIME

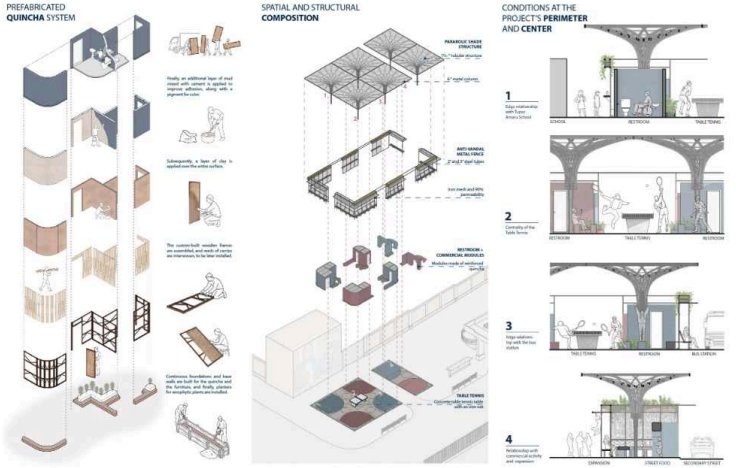
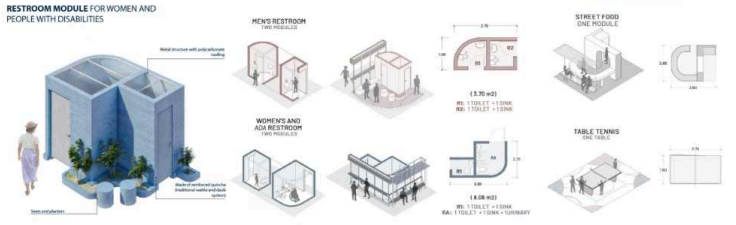
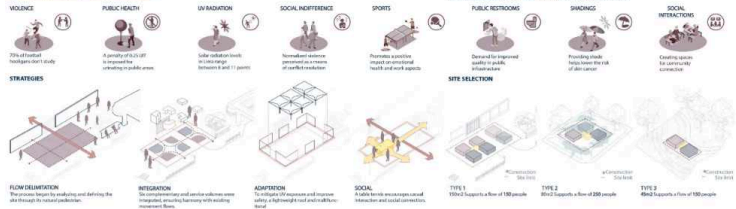
Corner of the tolerance

In South America, sports-related violence continues to be a recurring issue: groups of fans often turn public spaces into areas of conflict and exclusion. In Lima, Peru, the rivalry between the most popular teams divides communities—particularly in the district of Villa María del Triunfo, along Pachacuti Avenue, an area marked by insecurity, high color radiation, indifference, and informality. However, its commercial, pedestrian, and vehicular dynamism, together with strong public facilities in education, metropolitan transportation, and local governance, consolidate the area as an urban hub and a strategic point for community transformation.

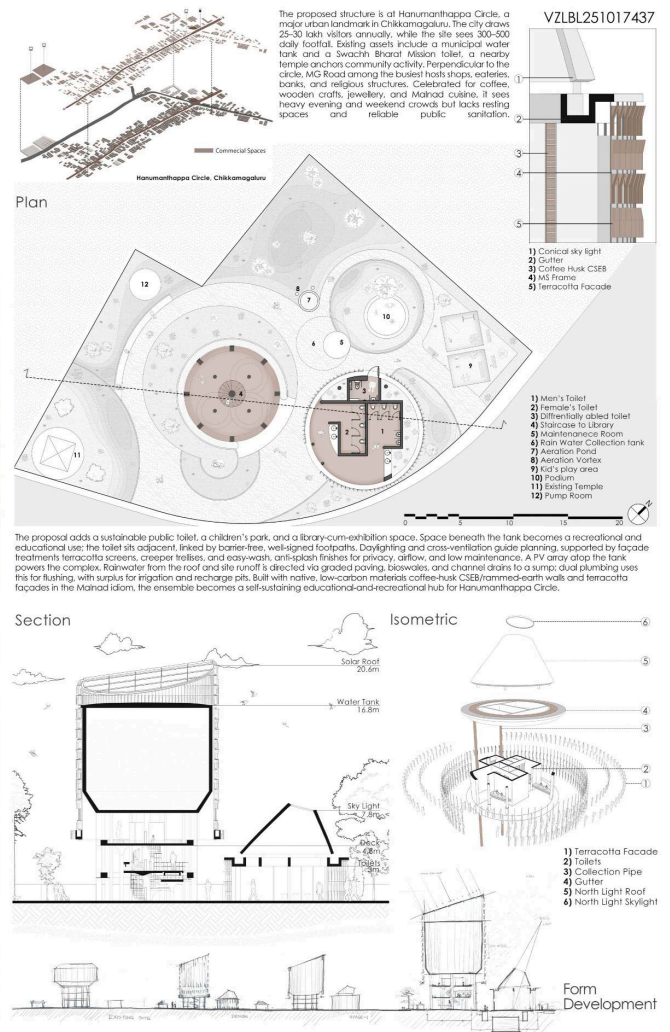
The proposal envisions a “corner of tolerance” that ceases to be a point of conflict and becomes a space of respect and coexistence, where a public restroom, a table tennis, street vending, and shaded areas are integrated to create a pause within urban indifference and restore neighborhood energy. Various studies highlight the potential of sports to reduce violence and strengthen the social fabric. Therefore, the program “Ping Pong for Peace” is implemented—an initiative that uses sports inclusion to engage schools and neighbors, using the game as a means for connection, dialogue, and discipline. The modules preserve existing street commerce, integrating its activity with sports, public health, and meeting spaces that foster reconciliation and urban cohesion.

The proposal addresses a global issue and is developed using local prefabricated materials such as clay, wood, and cane, all enclosed within a metal container as a response to vandalism. The tubular PVC roof, inspired by the traditional weaving of Peruvian straw hats, incorporates a 90% density fog-catching mesh as a strategy to cope with extreme climate changes. The ensemble brings identity, lightness, and modernity.

RISK FACTORS AND VULNERABILITY IN URBAN HEALTH



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)

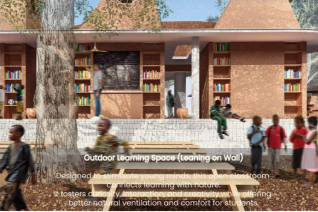
TEN LOO FOR GANDO VILLAGE

A BIG LITTLE LOO 2025



Community and Social Space

A place for gathering and exchange, this space hosts village meetings, reading sessions, and collective activities. Its open structure enhances natural light and ventilation, creating a calm and inclusive environment at the heart of the project.



Outdoor Learning Space (Learning on Wall)



Landscape Integration of the Project



SECTION
SCALE: 1/100

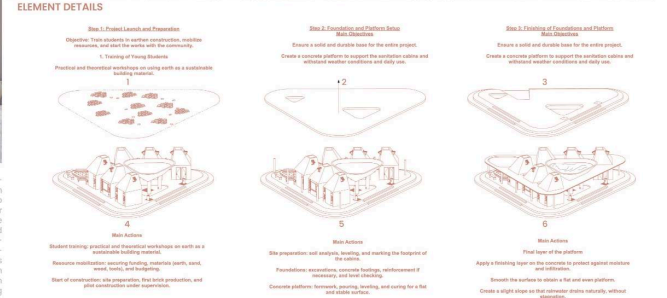
DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT
The Ten Loo for Gando Village project, located in rural Gando, responds to the community's need for proper sanitation while supporting education and social development. Designed with local and sustainable materials, it uses terracotta Compressed Earth Blocks (CEB) coated with earth plaster. A lightweight cellular concrete roof provides durability and thermal comfort suitable for Sahelian conditions.

Beyond its sanitary role, the project becomes a community hub, featuring a small library that promotes reading and knowledge exchange along with two open-air spaces for learning, play and cultural interaction. A dual water system, including a borehole and an elevated tank, guarantees year-round access to water.

Overall, the project blends functionality, sustainability, and social value, celebrating local craftsmanship and enhancing the well-being, dignity and resilience of the Gando community.



ISOMETRIC VIEW



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
- Access to the site

MASTER PLAN
SCALE: 1/2000



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. Graffiti in these spaces with an individual 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 can be transformed into an architectural strategy, transforming the wall from a passive boundary into an interactive medium that facilitates both privacy and social connection.

CONCEPT

Wall as Social Medium

01 Toilet Graffiti

Writing or drawings found on walls of public restrooms, often anonymously and intended for a specific audience, such as people of the same gender.

02 Behavioral Mapping

Mapping the flow of people and their interactions within the space, identifying key areas of congregation and movement.

03 Material & Light Study

Exploring different materials and lighting conditions to enhance the wall's role as a social medium, ensuring it is both durable and visually appealing.

04 Architectural Translation

Translating the social interactions and graffiti found on toilet walls into architectural elements, creating a space that encourages communication and connection.

SITE SELECTION

Identifying the optimal location for the Selang Gema project, considering factors like foot traffic, accessibility, and proximity to existing infrastructure.

EXPLODED AXONOMETRIC

This diagram illustrates the spatial organization and functional zones of the Selang Gema project. It shows the relationship between the main building, the outdoor seating area, and the surrounding urban context. Key features include the main building, the outdoor seating area, and the surrounding urban context. The diagram highlights the integration of the building with the outdoor space, creating a seamless transition between the two.

SECTIONAL PERSPECTIVE

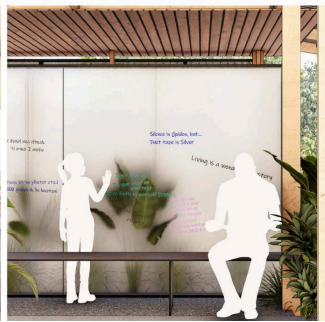
This perspective view shows the internal structure and circulation of the Selang Gema project. It highlights the vertical flow of people and the integration of the building with the outdoor space. The diagram shows the main building, the outdoor seating area, and the surrounding urban context. The perspective view emphasizes the connection between the building and the outdoor space, creating a sense of openness and accessibility.

MASSING DEVELOPMENT

This series of diagrams illustrates the development of the Selang Gema project's massing. It shows the progression from a simple rectangular form to a more complex, multi-level structure. The diagrams highlight the integration of the building with the outdoor space, creating a seamless transition between the two. The massing development shows the building's relationship to the surrounding urban context, including the main building, the outdoor seating area, and the surrounding urban context.

GROUND FLOOR PLAN | Scale 1:75

This detailed ground floor plan shows the layout of the Selang Gema project. It includes the main building, the outdoor seating area, and the surrounding urban context. The plan highlights the integration of the building with the outdoor space, creating a seamless transition between the two. The ground floor plan shows the building's relationship to the surrounding urban context, including the main building, the outdoor seating area, and the surrounding urban context. The plan also shows the location of the project relative to the surrounding urban context, including the main building, the outdoor seating area, and the surrounding urban context.



Honourable Mention 8: After The White

Akash Katnawar, Tapaish 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 khikis with tinted glass, restoring lost hues to the lives of women and creating a playful, inviting mode. Its flexibility and expressiveness draw attention from passersby and energize the entire Parikrama Marg.



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



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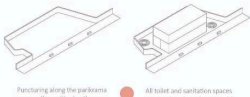


Vrindavan, known as the "City of Widows," is home to thousands of women, many abandoned or seeking spiritual refuge after widowhood. Despite its spiritual aura, the city struggles with basic sanitation infrastructure — particularly along the Parikrama Marg, a pilgrimage route that attracts lakhs of devotees annually.

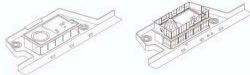
Vrindavan, a sacred town on the banks of the Yamuna in Uttar Pradesh, is revered as the land of Lord Krishna. Beyond its spiritual charm, it shelters thousands of widows seeking peace and belonging after social abandonment. The town's dense fabric of temples, ashrams, and ghats creates an atmosphere of devotion but also highlights issues of overcrowding, sanitation, and social isolation.

The Parikrama Marg, a 12-kilometre circular pilgrimage route around Vrindavan, remains the town's spiritual spine—walked daily by devotees, widows, and pilgrims. Despite its sanctity, the route lacks clean toilets, shaded resting spaces, and safe facilities for women. Locating a public toilet and livelihood centre for widows along this path not only addresses urgent infrastructural needs but also empowers them through dignity and income. It becomes a humane intervention where faith, daily life, and self-reliance meet within Vrindavan's sacred landscape.

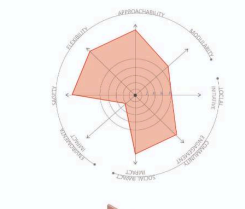
Form Development



Puncturing along the parikrama marg safely, positioning the new node.



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

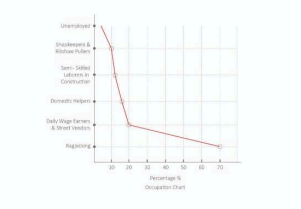


The upper level is dedicated to workshops and gathering, blending transience and openness with safety.

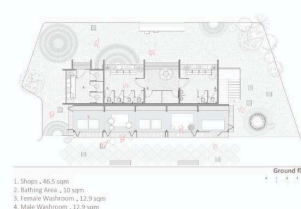
Workshops are designed with low ceilings, green shading, and elevated seating areas. Women open the central courtyard, ensuring fresh ventilation and a welcoming dialogue between indoor and outdoor, enhancing comfort and dignity for all users.



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.



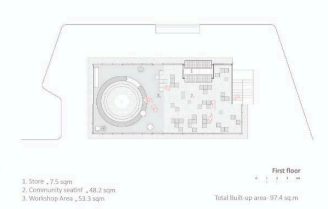
Afternoon: The space comes alive as workshops operate in full flow. Visitors pass by, interacting with the women and appreciating their work. The area is busy, with shared sanitation and bathing facilities used actively, supporting both residents and the public.



1. Shop, 46.5 sqm
2. Bathing Area, 10 sqm
3. Female Washroom, 12.3 sqm
4. Male Washroom, 12.9 sqm
5. Courtyard, 11.9 sqm



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.



1. Store, 7.5 sqm
2. Community Hall, 48.2 sqm
3. Workshop Area, 58.3 sqm

Total Built-up area: 307.4 sqm



Honourable Mention 9: InterLude

Shayon Samajpati & Ananya Roy

India

Site Location

InterLude

A pause under the flyover

Site Context

The site is located under the busy **Golpark flyover** in South Kolkata, between two major traffic arteries and the dense Gariahat market. There are issues like footpaths encroached by vendors, lack of toilets for elderly people, baby changing rooms or drinking water.

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

Design Intent

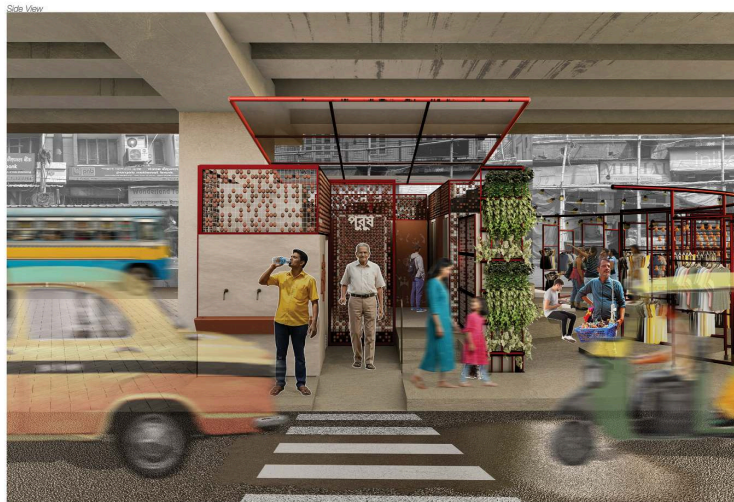
The design intends to transform the **under-flyover space** in Indian cities into a **toilet cum community space** with purpose and intent. Designed for adaptability, this space integrates toilets, drinking water points, locker pods and organized vendor display zones, along with community seating areas.

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

Plan

Section A-A'

1. Public Toilet
2. Locker Pod
3. Drinking Water Facility
4. Market Display Stand
5. Seating Area
6. Sanitary Pad Dispenser
7. Locker Pod
8. Market Display Stand
9. Seating Area
10. Sanitary Pad Dispenser
11. Public Toilet



Vibrant Market Zone

Seated Seating Space

Salient Features

DRINKING WATER FACILITY

The dedicated drinking water facility available for users to hydrate, recharge and refresh as previously there was no source of clean drinking water source in the immediate vicinity of the market.

SEATED SEATING SPACE

The tiered seating solves the lack of seating places experienced by the shoppers. Made up of mild steel and cement board, it encourages users to rest, relax and interact with each other.

SANITARY PAD DISPENSER

The sanitary pad dispenser present in the female and wheelchair accessible toilet cubicles ensure menstrual hygiene access for women, thus offering place of merit, privacy and dignity as a public space.

MARKET DISPLAY STAND

The display stand in the market zone enables market vendors to effectively organize and showcase their wares. This tiered, up pedestrian circulation space from the Gariahat market relocating some of the vendors here.

LOCKER POD FACILITY

The dedicated locker facility available for users inside the toilet zones is meant for shoppers to securely store their belongings while they are working or shopping ensuring a hassle-free experience for them.

Sustainability in the design

Source of Water

Flow of Water

Exploded Acronometric for Toilet Module

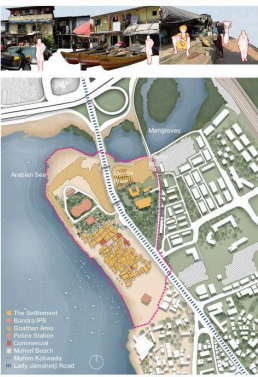
1. Total Air
2. Sanitary Pad
3. FRP Translucent Panel
4. M.S. Steel
5. M.S. Framework

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.



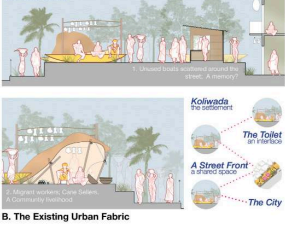
Site Plan - Mahim Koliwada, Mumbai (India)

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 mobility, restructuring underserved areas, enhancing living conditions, and restoring dignity and visibility to the Koli community and their cultural landscapes.



A. The Existing Site Plan



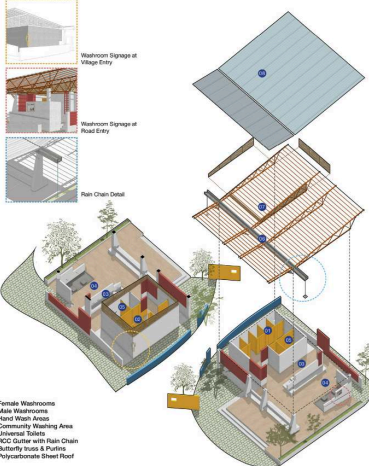
B. The Existing Urban Fabric



C. Planning Concept



D. Toilet Concept



E. Toilet Module - Axonometric Diagram



F. Site Section 02



G. The Street Front

