



2024 Architecture Portfolio

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01

Fluctuating Flyways

Birds as Messengers for Rituals of Collective Care

PROJECT Academic Project, Diploma 12 at the Architectural Association, London, UK
YEAR 2023–2024
TUTORS Inigo Minns, Manijeh Verghese
GRADING High Pass Grading with **AA Distinction Award in Technical Research**



Project Summary
Video



N.E.S.T

Network for Endangered Species Typologies

We are currently at risk of losing 200 migratory bird flyways across the globe.

Migratory birds challenge the very notion of geopolitical borders, highlight our interconnected dependencies and embody the plurality of our diverse ways of being and caring. Living amidst the sixth mass extinction we must reconsider the role architecture can play in species preservation and conservation.

In this context, "N.E.S.T" (Network for Endangered Species Typologies) focuses on human communities along migratory flyways, with an emphasis on the common house martin, declared as a red-listed species in the UK in 2020.

Drawing inspiration from the disappearing architectural Islamic typologies of 'Hima bird towers,' the project proposes the creation of self-built pilgrimage sites to unite birdwatching communities across different geographies. These structures foster spaces for deep listening to local and global birdsong, as an embodied practice of ecosystem monitoring, contributing to the (re)birth of a distinct architectural vernacular.

N.E.S.T seeks to revive dying traditions of human-bird interdependence, while expanding and connecting birding communities along the house martin's migratory route – from Dorset, UK, through Morocco, to its threatened wintering grounds in The Gambia, reimagining architectural material culture as a tool for trans-regional ecological stewardship.

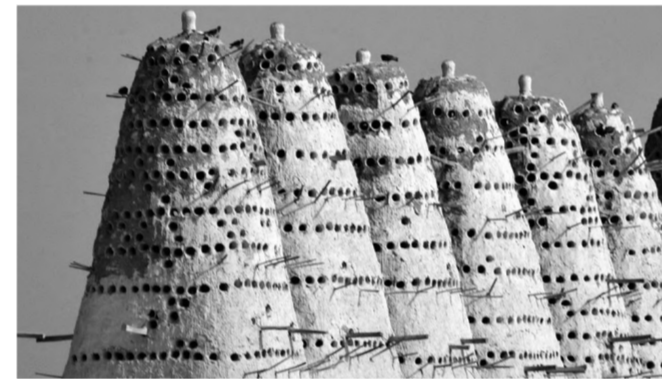


Image of Pigeon Hima (dovecote) in Egypt, Photo Credit: Ranong Payakapan



Image of Pigeon Hima (dovecote) in Egypt, Photo Credit: Ranong Payakapan



Image of Pigeon Hima (dovecote) in Isfahan, Iran



Pigeon nesting in pigeon tower in Isfahan, Iran

The research explores reviving the practice of *Islah* – an Arabic term for peacemaking, or reform. This practice was a historically integral yet underdocumented function of bird towers (*Himas*) within the Islamic world. As industrialized farming replace these interspecies avian towers, this project explores methods of their contemporary revival.



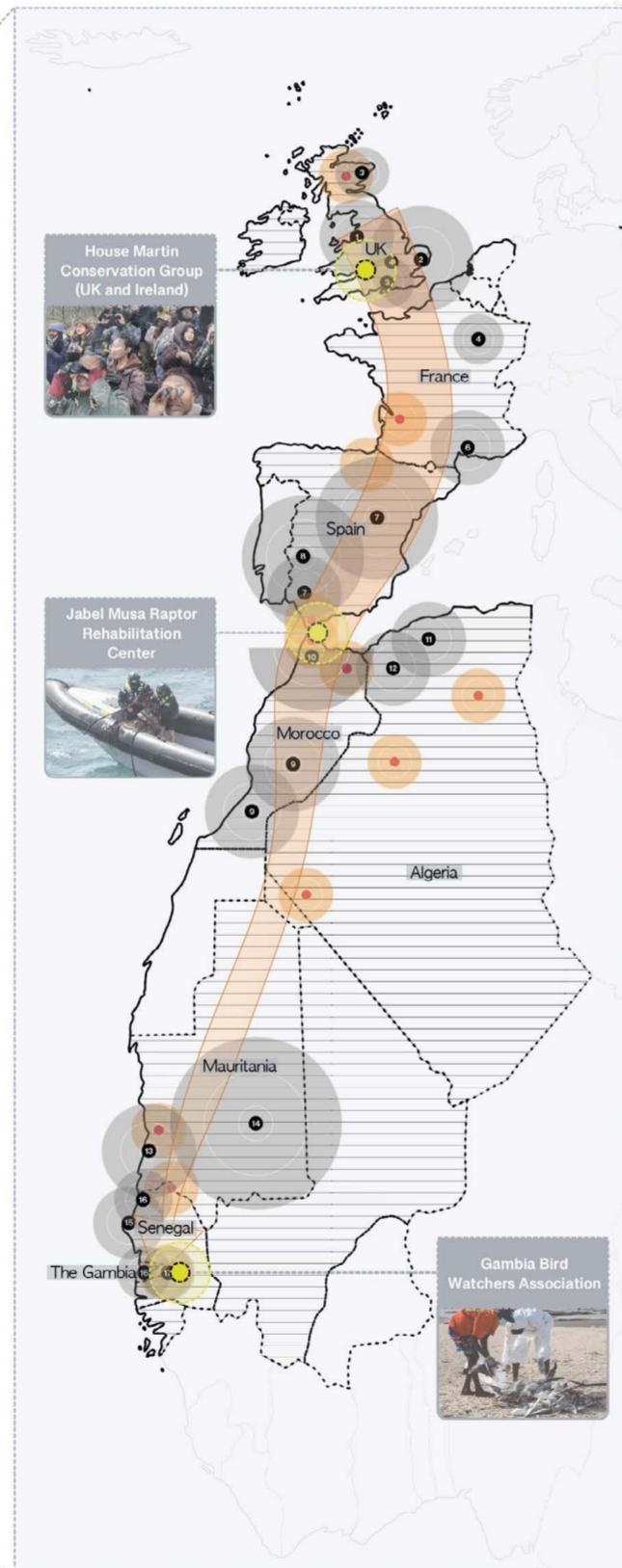
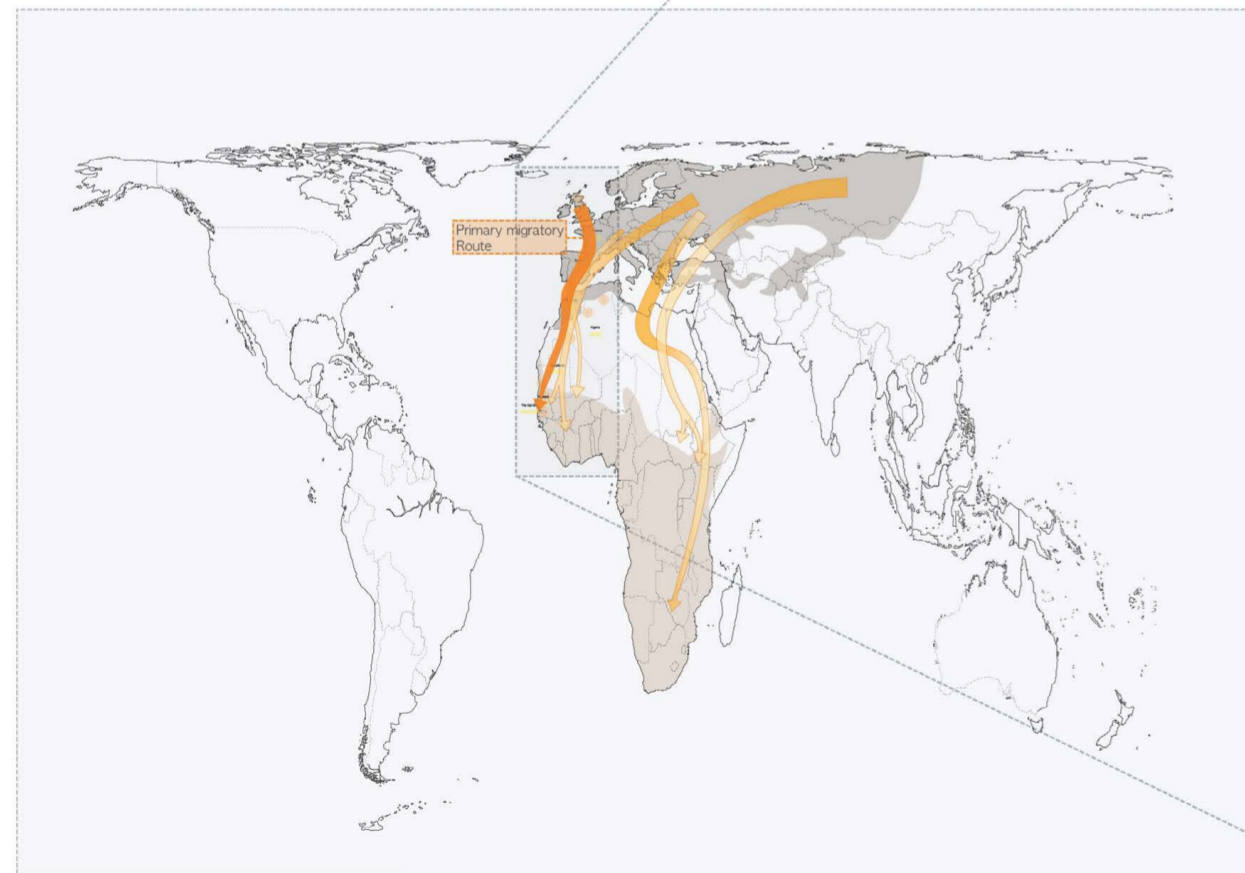
NESTs

Designing Care in the Age of Extinction

From the UK, Spain, and Morocco to The Gambia, the Network of NESTs explores the role of architectural material culture in reviving dying traditions of interspecies stewardship.

These self-built temples speculate on the rebirth of a new, distinct vernacular, expanding and connecting birding communities across geographies.

Birdsong becomes a shared language, a method of monitoring ecosystems along a vulnerable 'fluctuating flyway'.





2024 House Martin migratory patterns map (illustrated using the Gall, Peters projection offering a more equitable view of the world's landmasses, particularly of the African continent, compared to the commonly used Mercator map)

DIAGRAMS KEY

- Landmass Boundaries
- - - Geopolitical Boundaries
- House Martin Breeding regions
- House Martin Non-Breeding regions
- Key House Martin Migratory Routes
- Key House martin migratory stopover points
- Active House Martin stakeholders
- Potential N.E.S.T sites + guardian communities

ACTIVE STAKEHOLDERS FOR HOUSE MARTIN

UK	1 RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds)	2 BTO (British Trust for Ornithology)	3 House Martin Conservation Group	4 Rock Together
France	5 Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux	6 Station de la Tour du Vallat		
Spain	7 BirdLife Spain	8 Grupo Ibérico de Aves Migratorias (GIAM)		
Morocco	9 BirdLife Morocco			
Algeria	10 Jabel Musa Raptor Rehabilitation Center			
Mauritania	11 Association de Protection de l'Environnement de Bogga (APEB)	12 Oria National Park Association		
Senegal	13 Senegal Argan National Park Group	14 BirdLife International (Mauritania)		
The Gambia	15 National Community Development	16 Parc National des Oiseaux du Djoudj Group		
	17 BirdLife The Gambia	18 Gambia Bird Watchers Association		



Re-imagined NEST at the "Mountain of Moses" in Morocco, located along the vital migratory highway of the Strait of Gibraltar. The structure serves as a meeting point for local Raptor Rescue Teams, which play a crucial role in safeguarding house martins and numerous other migratory bird species.

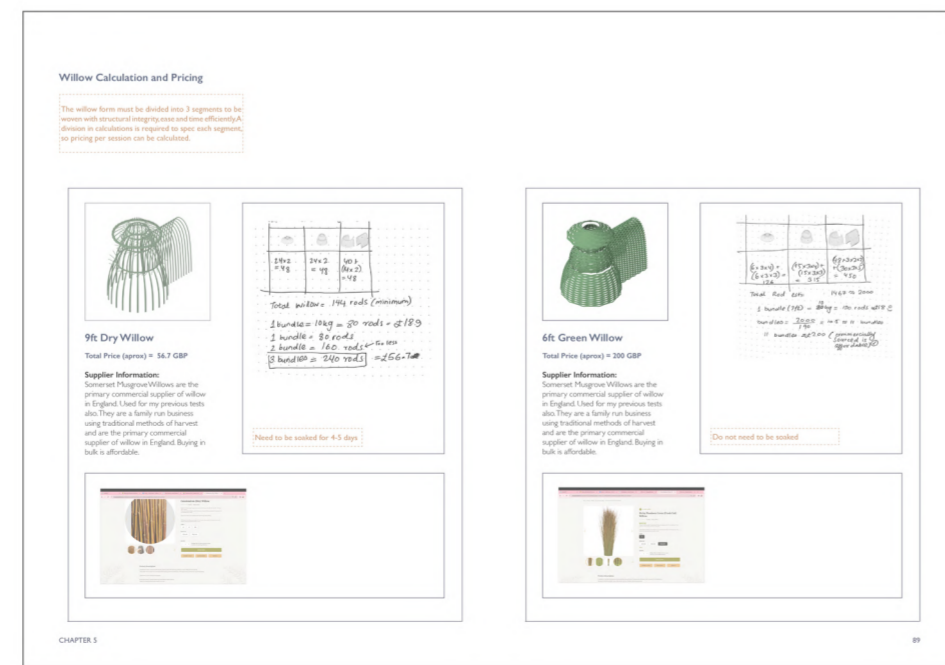
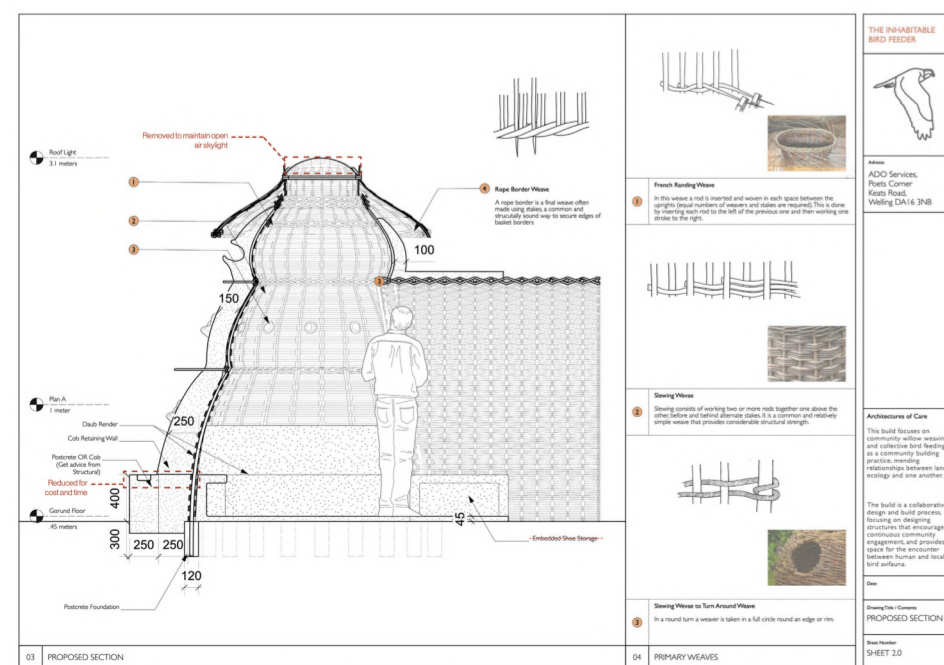
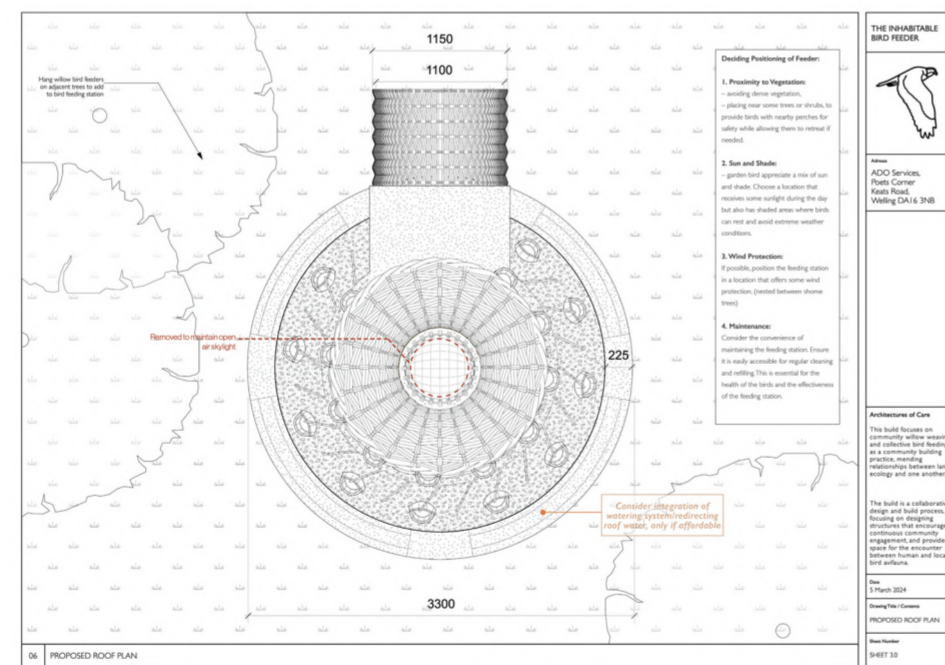
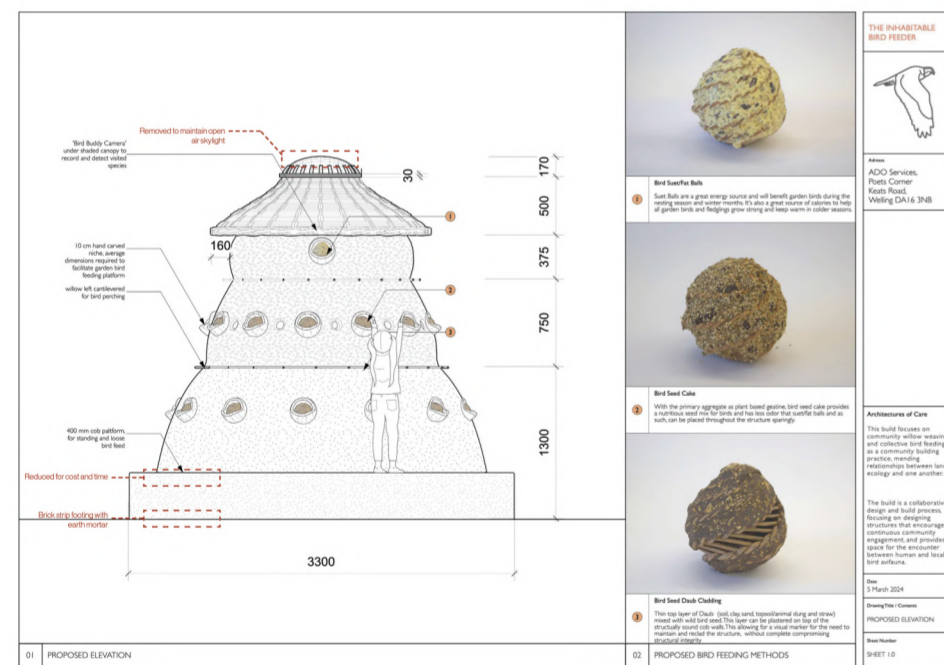
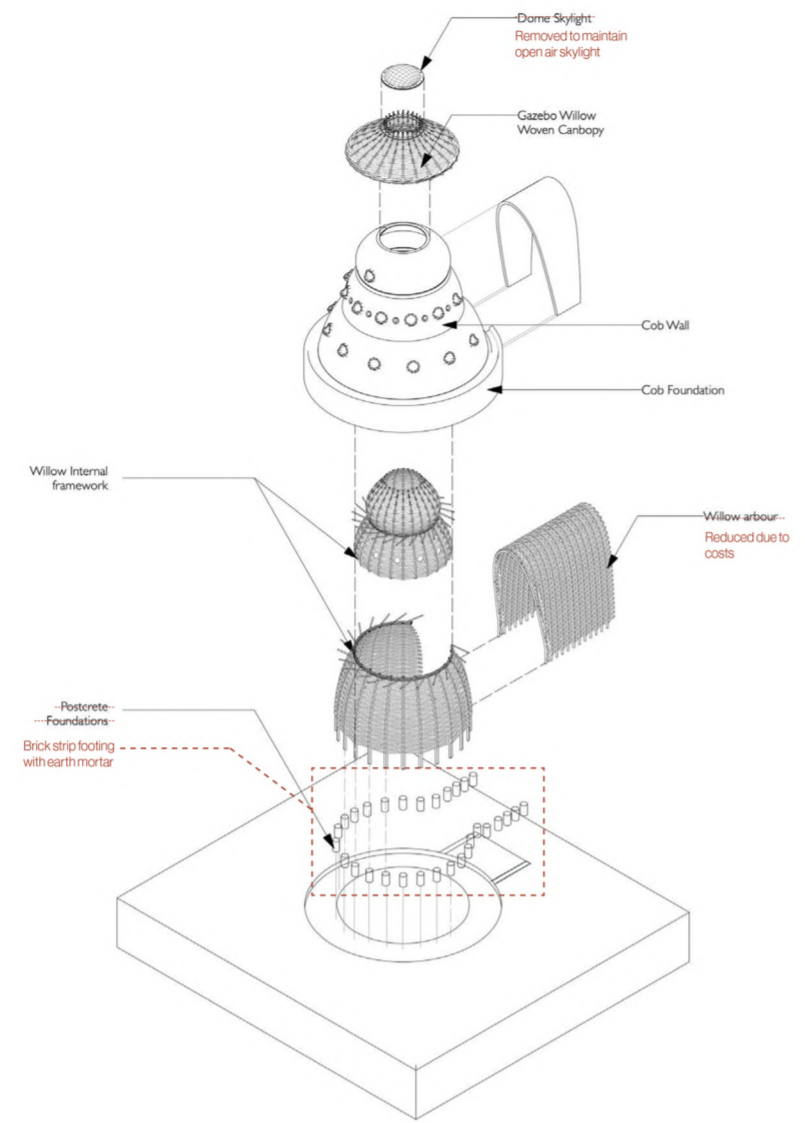
Weaving a NEST

Building a Barometer

In an age dominated by globalized supply chains, the N.E.S.T project prioritizes locally sourced, bio-based materials, such as willow and cob, within its British context.

The building process, or 'nesting,' becomes a community-building initiative, where the challenges faced during construction fostered close collaboration among the N.E.S.T team.

The architecture nurtures care on multiple levels – for the environment, the structure, the species it shelters, and the connections formed through the act of building.



Architectural drawings, further adjusted on site, during the build in Hooke Park Forest in Dorset, UK

The British N.E.S.T

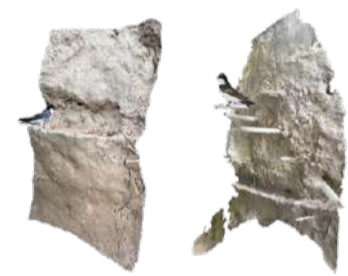
An multispecies ecosystem barometer

The NEST is a collectively-built, geographically adaptable typology.

Using local weaving techniques and regional earth construction methods encourages celebration of our regional differences. It serves as a living document of environmental health, based on its multi-species interactions.

The primary framework for a NEST typology entails:

1. **Exterior earth render**, shapable and adaptable to provide nesting or feeding spaces for local songbirds
2. **A conical form** providing a designed space for deep listening to the local bird eco-scape, as a form of citizen science.
3. **A structural interior weave**, as a geographically translatable vernacular
4. **Refined yet beginner-friendly weaves** that foster community through collective weaving, developed and tested through hosting multiple workshops in community gardens.



1
Shapeable Earth
Render



2
Conical Form for
deep listening

3
Structural Interior
weave



4
Refined yet
beginner-friendly
weaves

Initial 1:1 willow experiments organized to develop and refine NEST typology



Test 1: Community workshop for living willow tunnel



Test 2: Community workshop for living willow dome



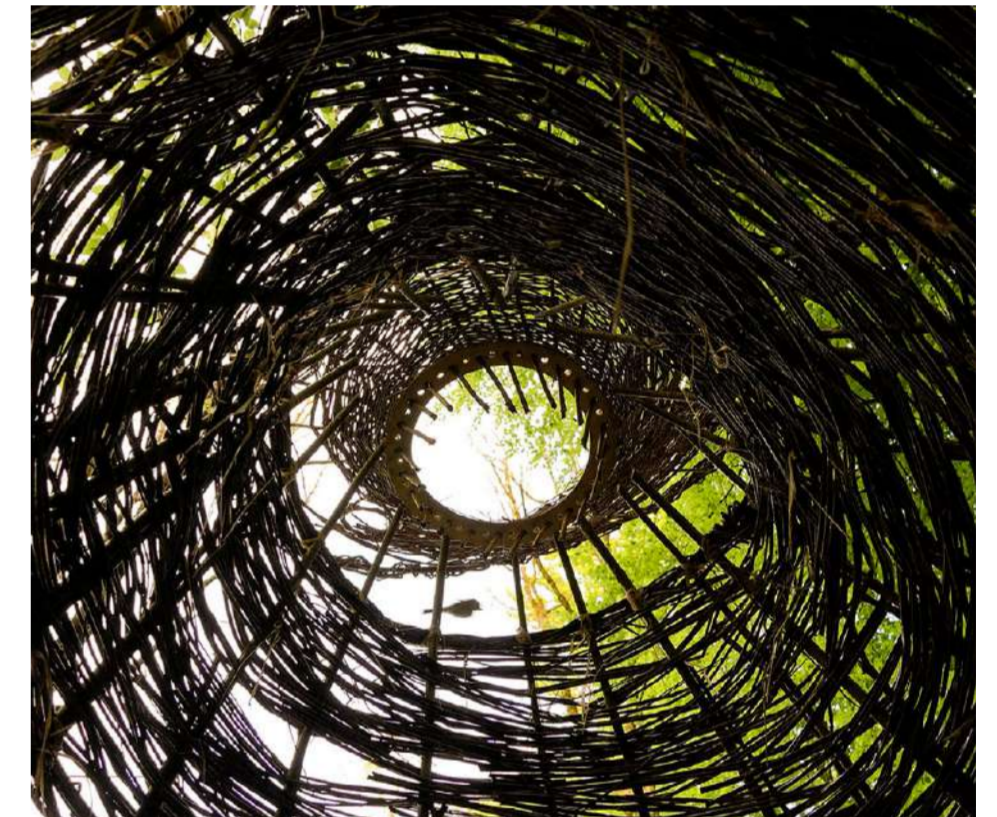
Test 3: Interior gathering space for living willow dome



Snails inhabiting cob niche, with cantilevered willow perches for songbirds



Common Blue mint beetle (*Chrysolina coeruleans*) attracted to birdseed niche of NEST



A locally endangered Blue Tit, (*Cyanistes caeruleus*) attracted to NEST structure



Meticulously woven NEST structure, built in Hooke Park, Dorset, UK using regionally sourced willow and cob

Translating a NEST

to The Gambia

In 2023, Gambia's crucial house martin wintering grounds, such as the Kotu Creek wetland, experienced one of its most devastating avian flu outbreaks to date. In a conversation with Yaya Barry, head of Gambia's Bird Watcher's Association, he recounted the loss of over 7,000 birds, each one buried by dedicated volunteers along the cherished wetland.

Each year, the Gambian Bird Watcher's Association releases open letters appealing for international support to sustain their efforts. This urgent call to action aligns with an expanded vision for the NEST network, which imagines a conservation system built along migratory paths that redistributes funding globally. Here, architects are re-envisioned as facilitators of financial redistribution, helping channel resources from the global north to the south while creating an archive of localized weaving and earthen construction techniques, preserving both ecological and cultural heritage.



Research images of Gambia's 2023 Bird Flu Outbreak, sent directly to me by 'Yaya Barry' the head of the Bird Watchers Association in the Gambia

Gambian NEST renders generated on Unreal Engine software

02

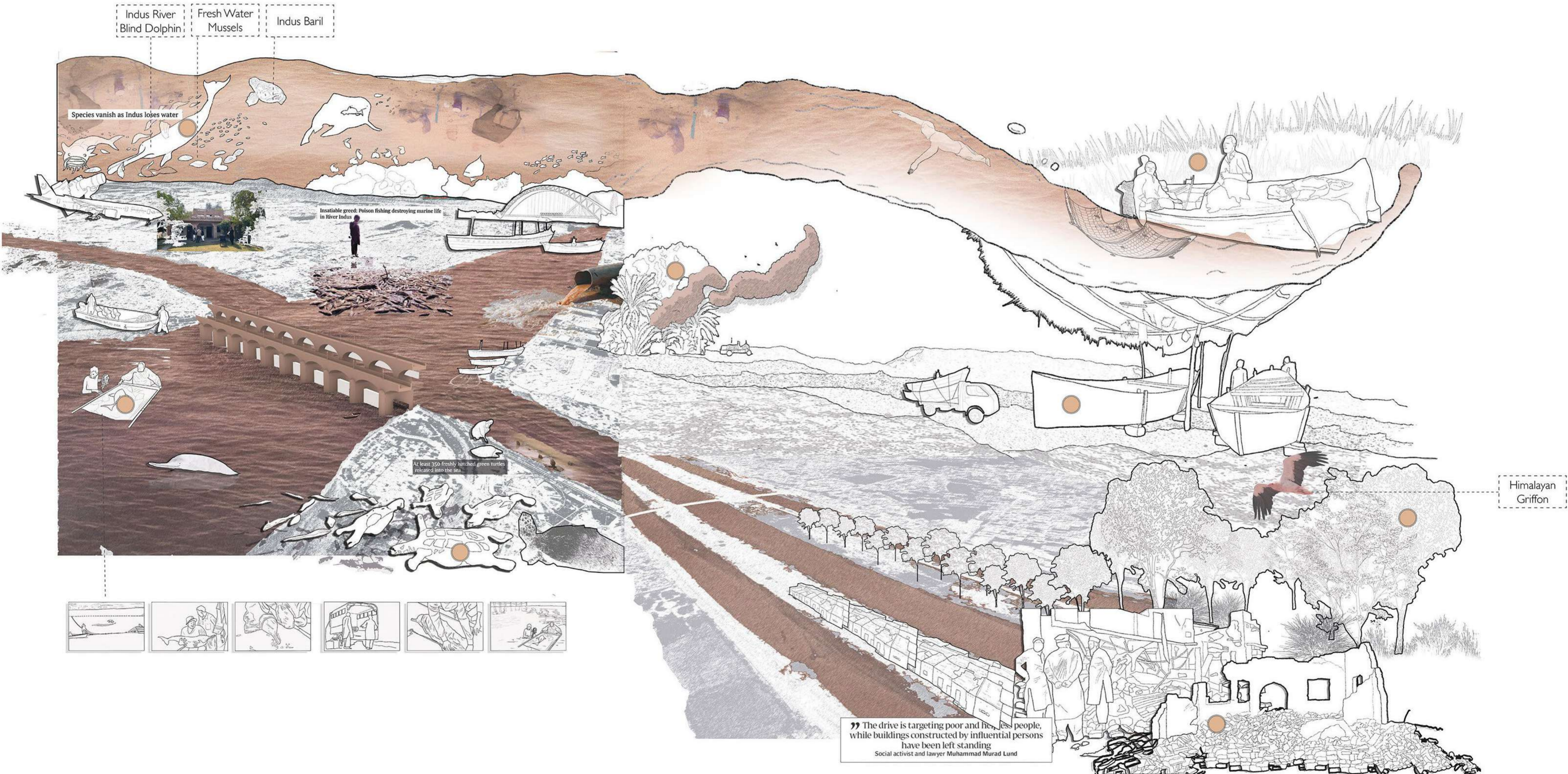
Illuminating the Indus

*Decentralized
Epistemologies of Ecology*

PROJECT Academic Research Project, Diploma 13, Architectural Association, London UK
YEAR 2022-2023
TUTORS Merve Anil, George Masood
GRADING High Pass Grading with **High Pass in Technical Research**



Project Summary Video



Indus River Blind Dolphin
Fresh Water Mussels
Indus Baril

Species vanish as Indus loses water

Insatiable greed: Poison fishing destroying marine life in River Indus

At least 350 freshly hatched green turtles released into the sea

Himalayan Griffon

” The drive is targeting poor and helpless people, while buildings constructed by influential persons have been left standing
Social activist and lawyer Muhammad Murad Lund



The Blind Dolphin

The revival of 'Bulhan'

There are only 6 surviving species of river dolphins left in the world today, all either endangered or critically endangered.

The Indus River dolphin (Bulhan) in Pakistan, is the only river dolphin in the world, whose numbers are currently on the rise, primarily due to the efforts of the local government Wildlife Department in the region of Sukkur.

'Illuminating the Indus' is a research proposal conducted in direct communication with the local Government of Sindh Wildlife Department in Sukkur, Pakistan.

It redirects the ongoing Indus River Dolphin conservation initiatives of the department to propose a community based, anti-colonial monitoring of the endangered ecosystems along the Indus.



Indus Dolphin image from Sindh Wildlife Department



Indus Dolphin Rescue mission, footage from Sindh Wildlife Department



On site boat trip Indus Dolphin Game Reserve segment of Indus River



Interview with local fishermen in Sukkur



Local Boatmakers construction space in Sukkur



Local Boatmakers construction space in Sukkur



Government of Sindh Wildlife Department office in Sukkur



Redesigned office space for Mr. Adnan, the head of the Sindh Wildlife Department in Sukkur, Pakistan.

Collaborative Conservation

The region of Sukkur is home to the first barrage ever constructed on the Indus River during British colonial rule in 1932. The thesis critiques the colonial gaze imposed upon the Indus, evident in cartographic representations that overlook indigenous understandings of the river's ephemeral nature, reducing it to a static geographic line and rendering its diverse ecologies as invisible. This "extractive gaze" reemerges in the captive scientific research conducted on the rare and endangered Indus River dolphin in the 1990s.

The thesis seeks to subvert this perspective, done by positioning the architect as a 'facilitator' of indigenous knowledge systems and engaging with current dolphin community stakeholders.

It advocates for ecosystem monitoring as a spatially accessible, community-focused infrastructure that acknowledges the complexities of the river and its inhabitants.



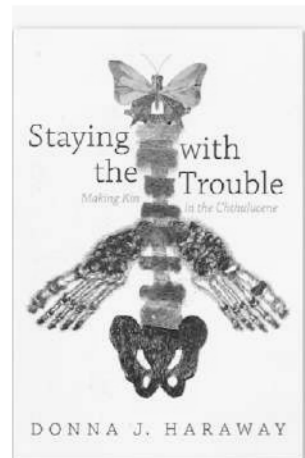
The Indus River Dolphin as a tool for community mobilisation and the expansion of the Wildlife Department in Sukkur, Pakistan



Fishers, dolphin researchers, boat makers, and wildlife department collaboratively deliberating conservations strategies



Acoustic Eco-monitor and communal birdfeeder



Key feminist and decolonial readings used to develop passive and noninvasive monitoring approaches for the project.

Spatial Zoning Infrastructures

In the speculative future, local boat makers partner with university engineering labs to install pollution detecting PH and O2 sensors, collaboratively fabricating passive wildlife monitoring devices.

This network of devices provides a public wildlife zoning infrastructure to monitor threatened wildlife and their environments.



Local boat-makers rigging-up boats with environmental monitoring sensors



PH sensors visualizing pollution levels for local fishers and zoning inhabitable regions for endangered wildlife



Submerged river perspective, with endangered Indus River Turtles

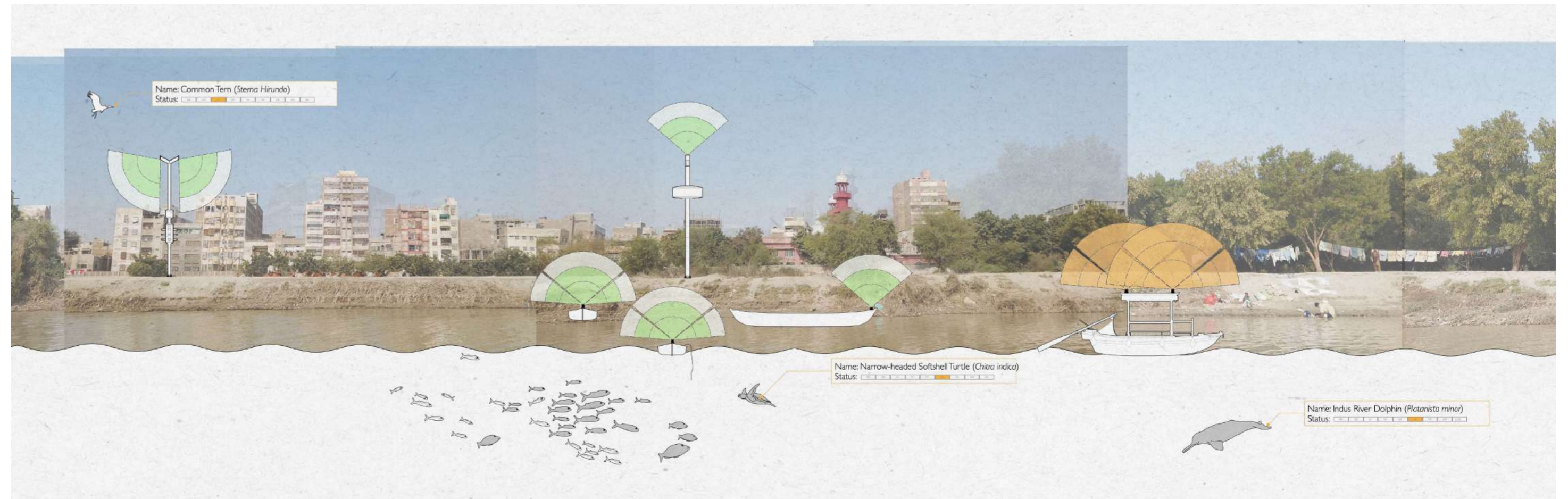
Illuminating the Indus

By decentralizing environmental knowledge and providing the public with real-time information on polluted areas, the "Illuminating the Indus" scheme serves as a method of public counter-mapping.

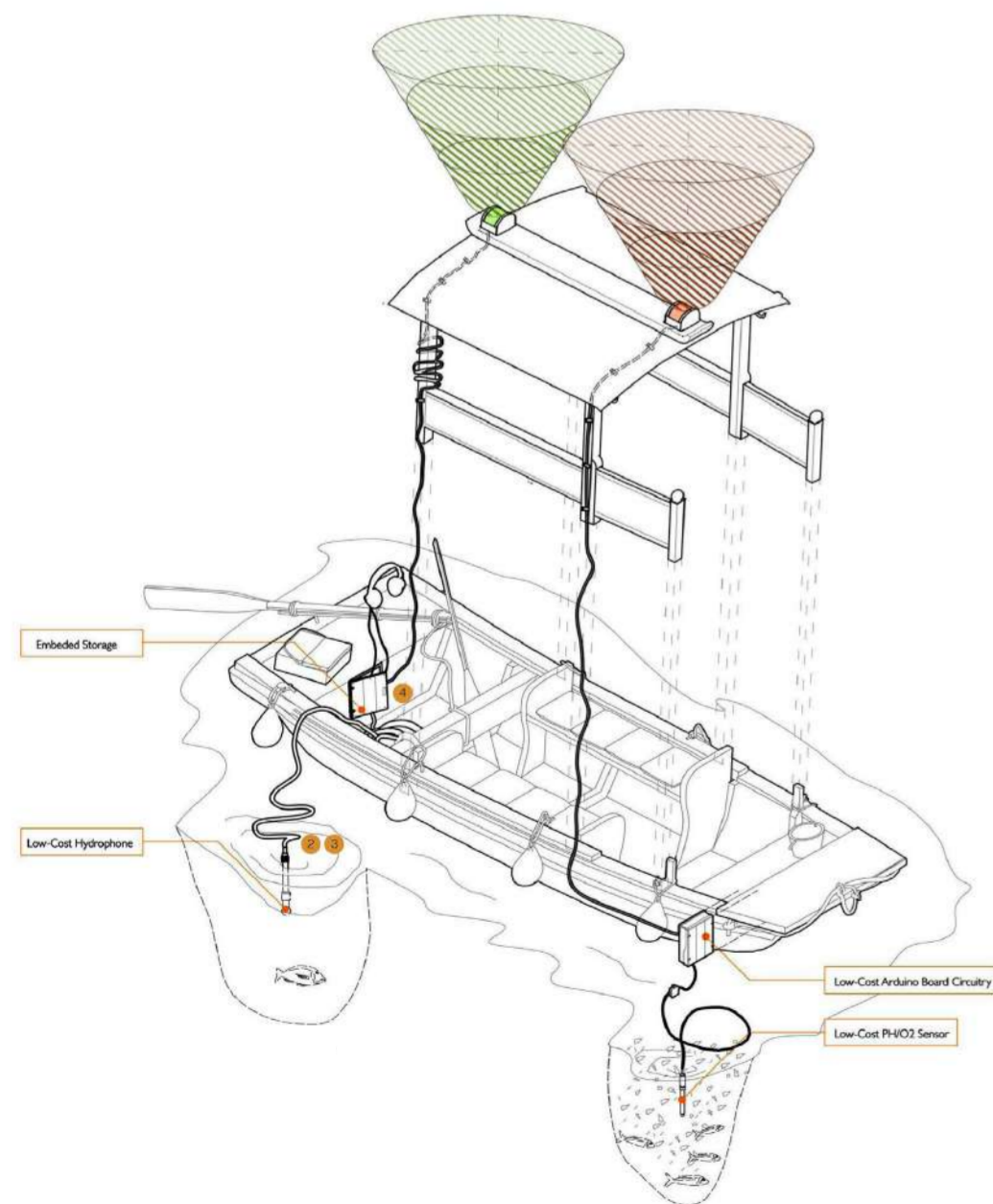
This establishes a new zoning system that has the potential to span the entirety of the Indus River, with the beloved Indus River dolphin symbolizing the impetus for ecological awareness and change.



Acoustic monitoring of Indus River Dolphin, a non-invasive alternative to existing dolphin data tagging methodologies



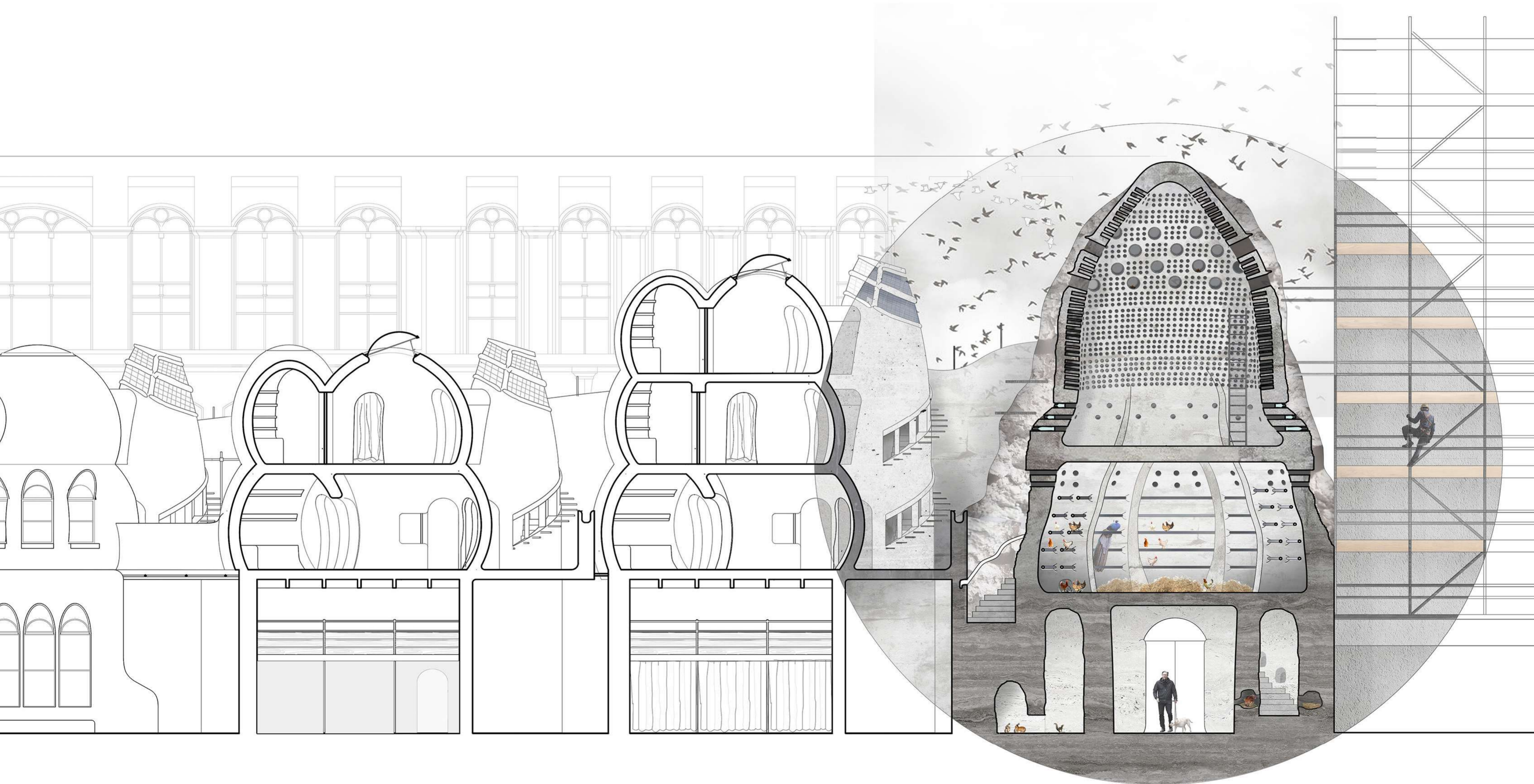
Spatial countermapping infrastructure for the Indus River, using interconnected ecosystem monitoring devices.



03

Living a *WildLife* *Ecological Enclave in the City*

PROJECT Academic Design Project, Year 3 Undergraduate, University of Westminster, London, UK
YEAR 2020–2021
TUTORS Jane Tankard, Thomas Grove
GRADING Honors Grading with **RIBA Silver Medal Nomination**



Into the 'Woods'

The scheme fosters co-living amidst biodiversity, and re-imagines notions of "a forest in the city" where diverse life forms can flourish.

It serves as a hub for creativity and self-sufficiency, offering in-house fabrication facilities that empower residents to design a sustainable future while observing and protecting local urban wildlife.



Co-working space + Animal Activity Archival



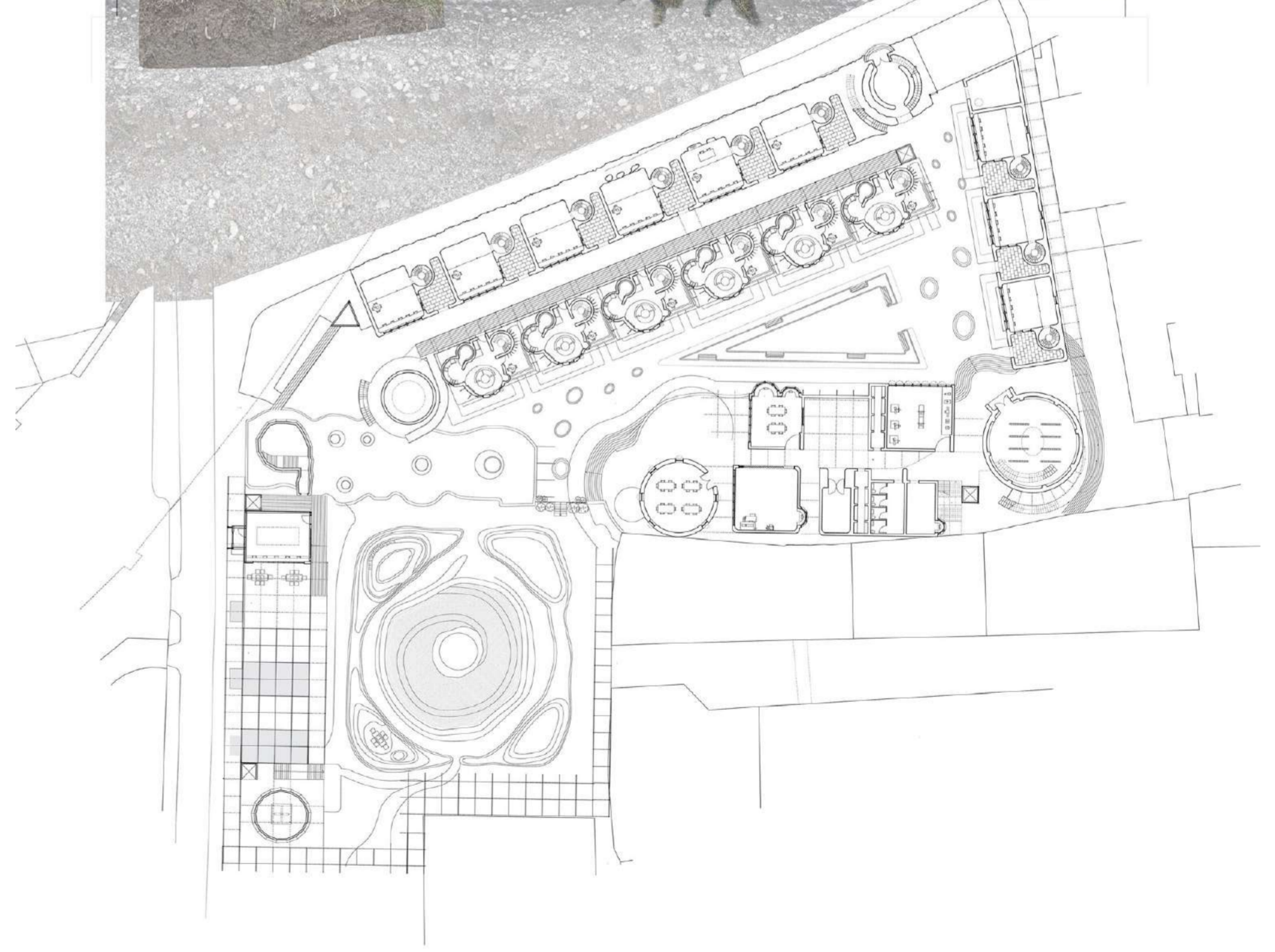
Photography Garden



Wildflower Meadow



Multi-species Cohabitation

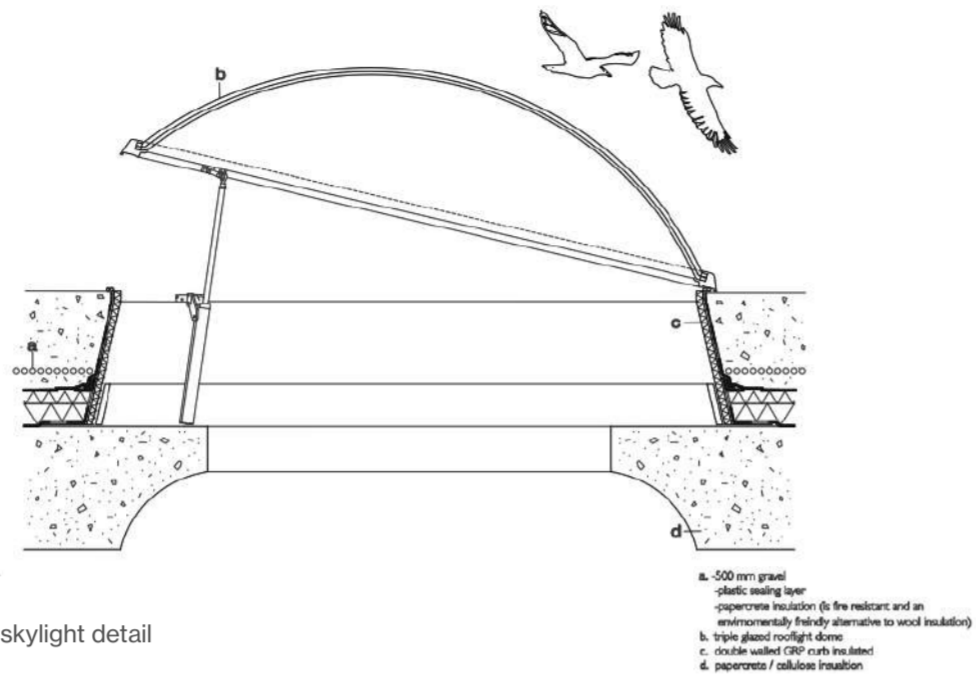


Constructing the Community

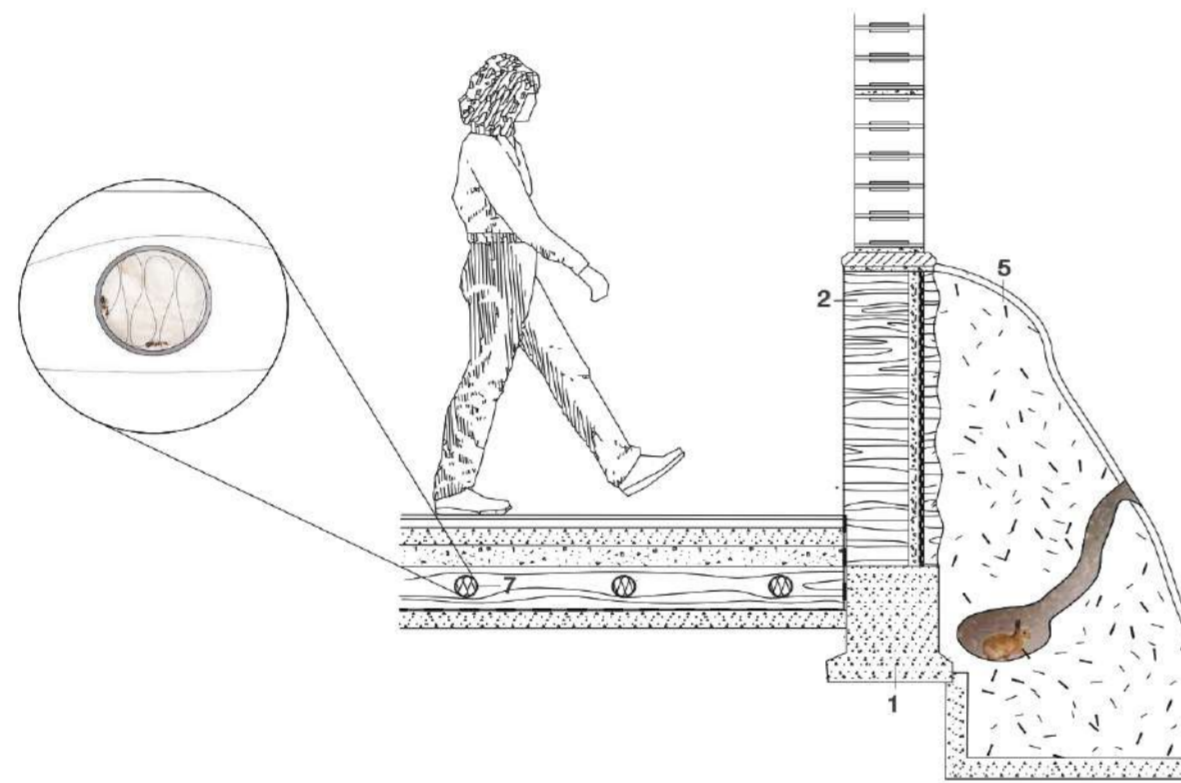
In January 2018, China banned the import of most plastic and paper waste, causing a major global shift in the national recycling industry.

As a result, 2500 k metric tonnes of un-recyclable refuse had to be redistributed, a significant proportion now lying barren in UK landfill sites, into camouflaged mountains of rubble and rubbish.

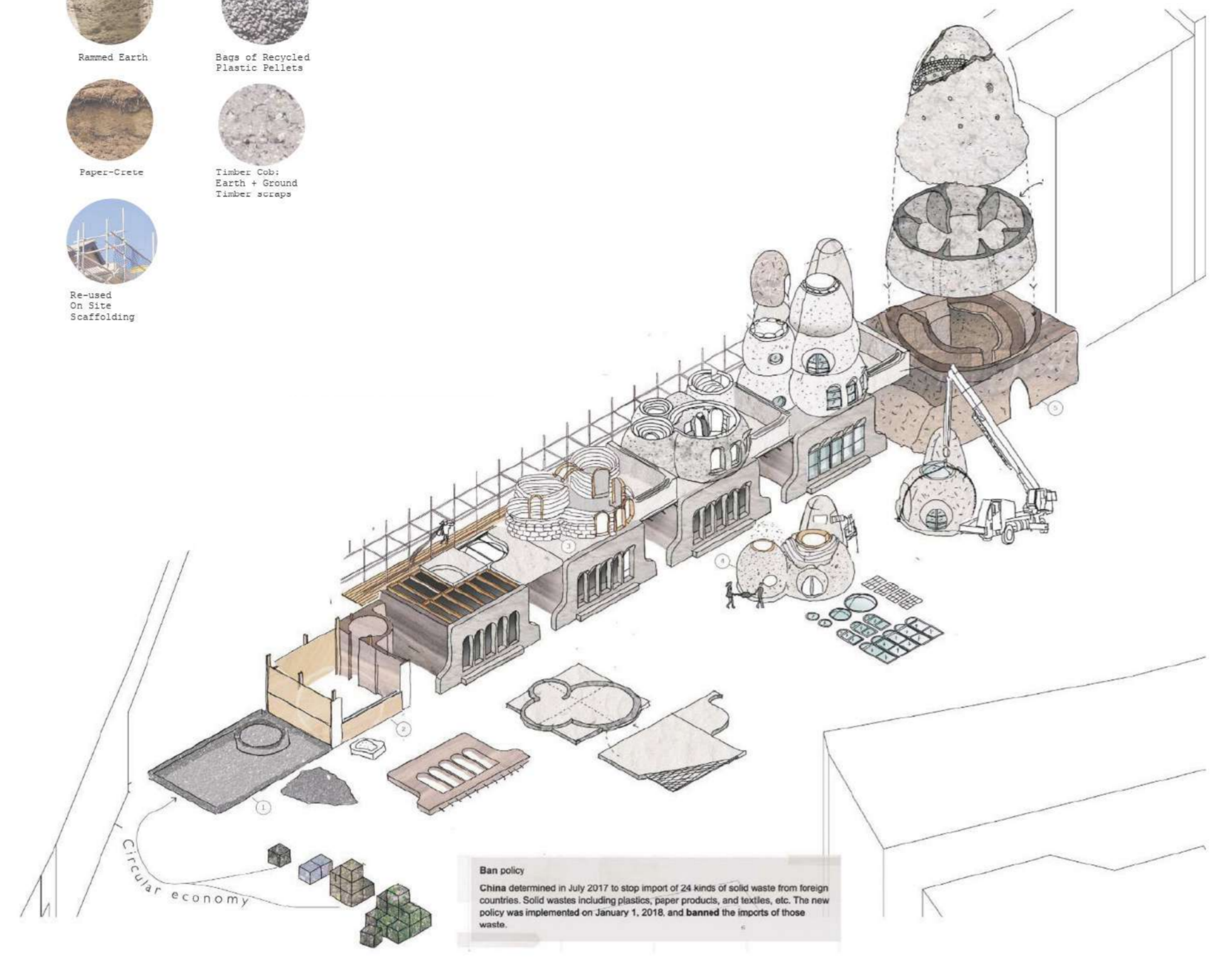
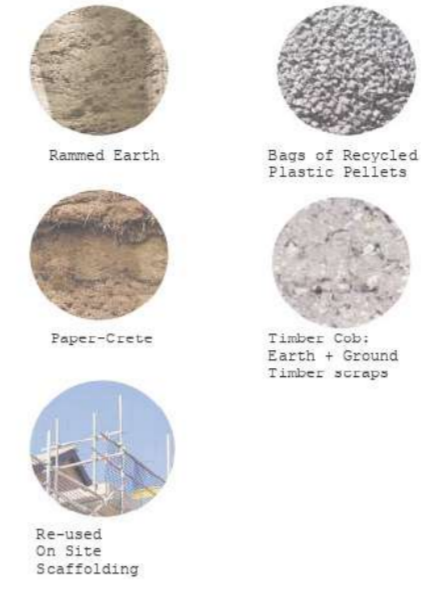
The scheme is a speculative beginning, proposing the integration of vernacular construction methods using excess un-recyclable materials.



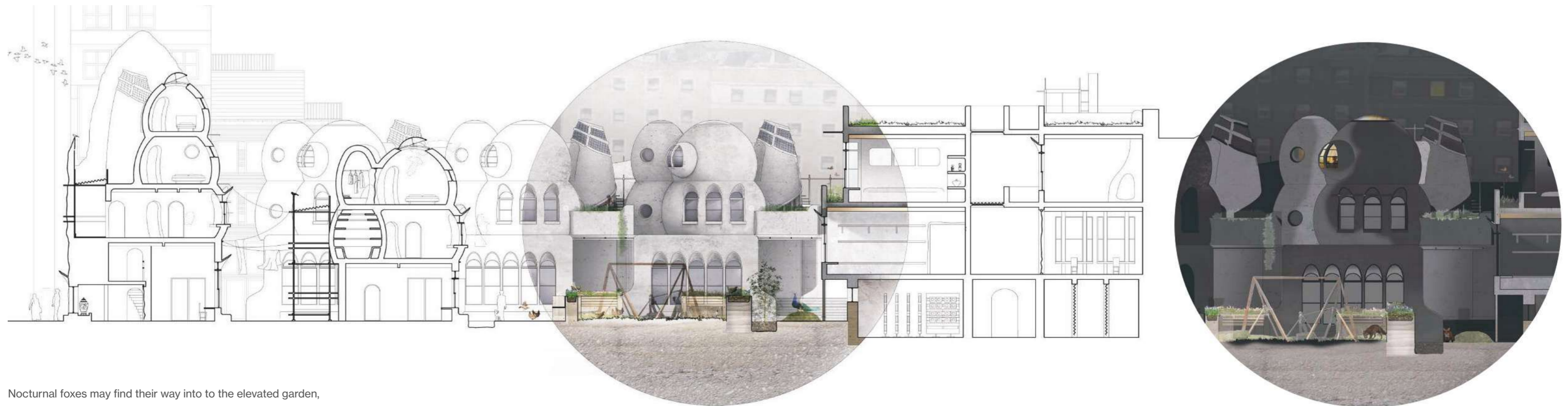
Bedroom Dome skylight detail



'Living walls' detail, fostering non-human inhabitation within the proposed architecture



Construction sequence of part of the proposed scheme

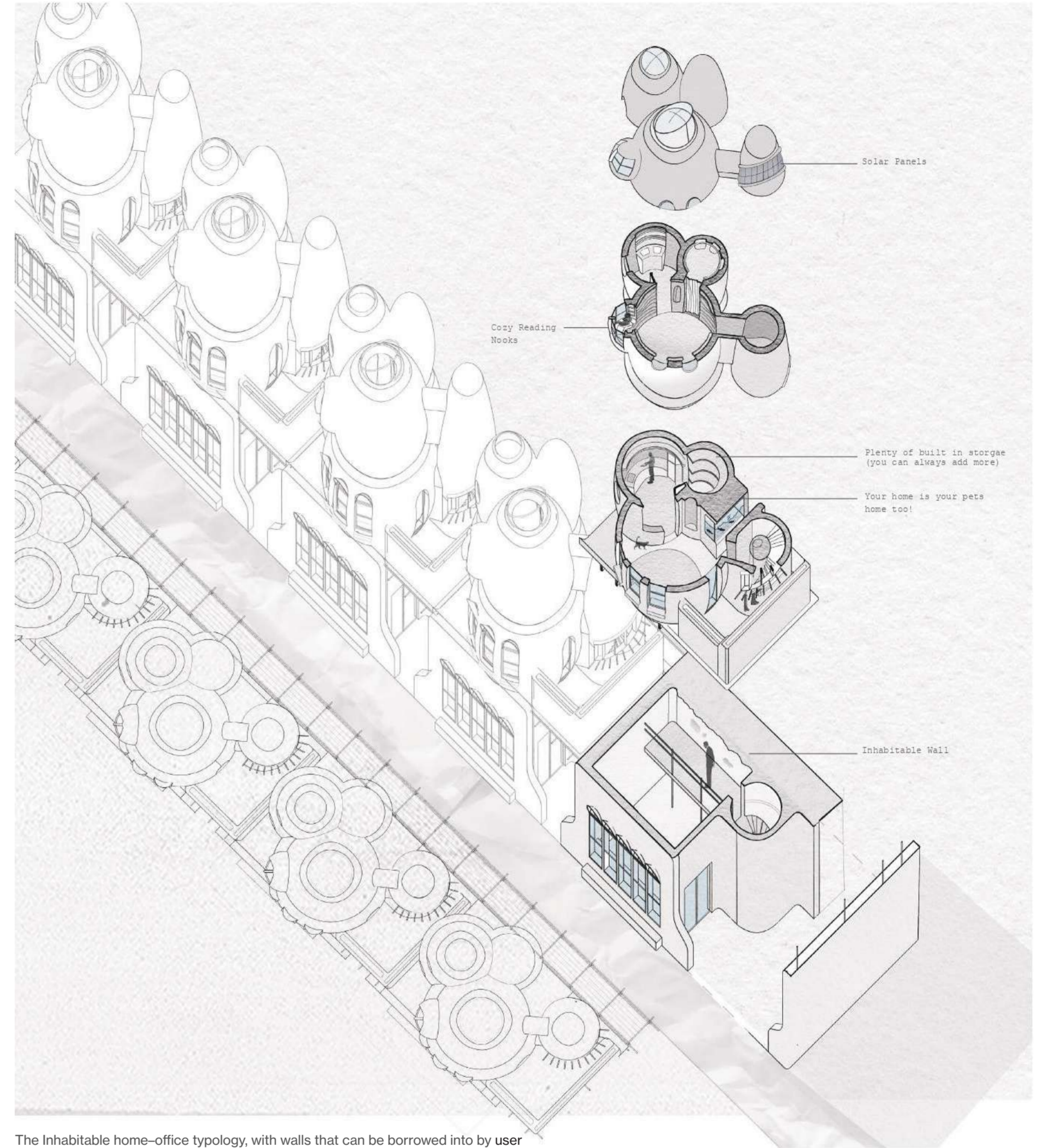


Nocturnal foxes may find their way into the elevated garden, where residents will have left scrap food for them to eat.

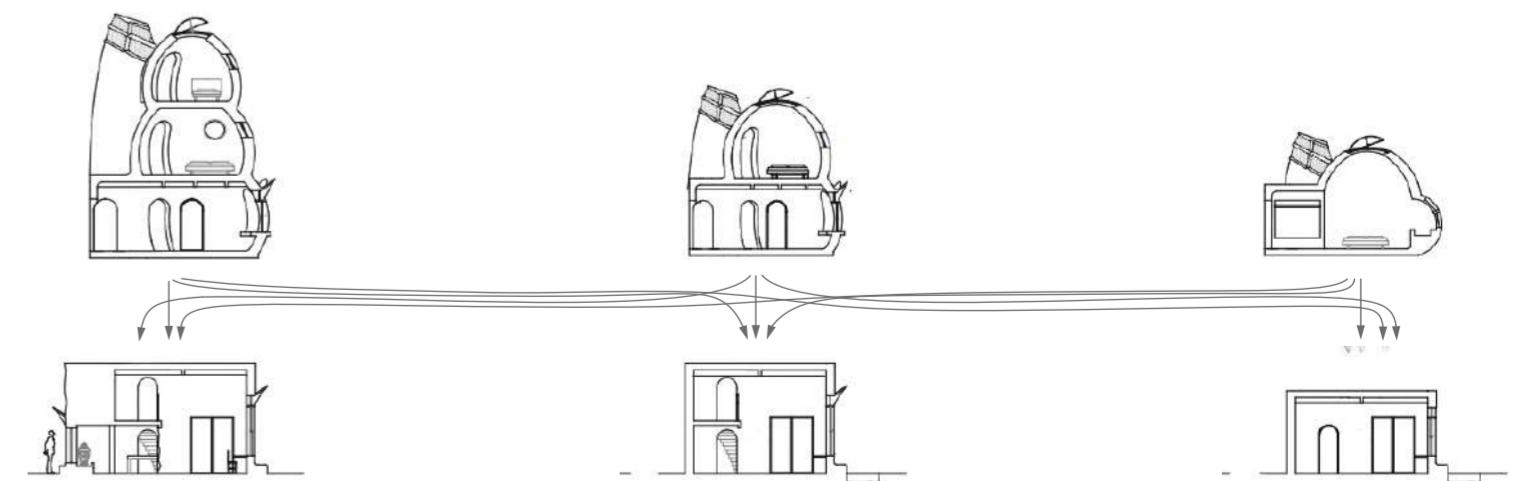
The Inhabitable Home

“Living a Wildlife” provides the community with a variety of workspaces and housing typologies. The buildings are designed to resemble living landscapes, incorporating elements that can be burrowed into and expanded.

Human inhabitants, much like the surrounding nonhuman life, have the opportunity to customize aspects of their dwellings, thereby reconnecting with their innate animal instincts to engage with and adapt their environments.



The Inhabitable home-office typology, with walls that can be borrowed into by user



The base house types are 2 bedroom home, 1 bedroom home and studio home. Each housing option is available with 3 workshop layouts.

04

Texan Typologies

OFFICE

Brett Zamore Design, Houston, Texas, USA

YEAR / STATUS

2022 / Built

ROLE

Full time Architectural Assistant, RIBA Part 1



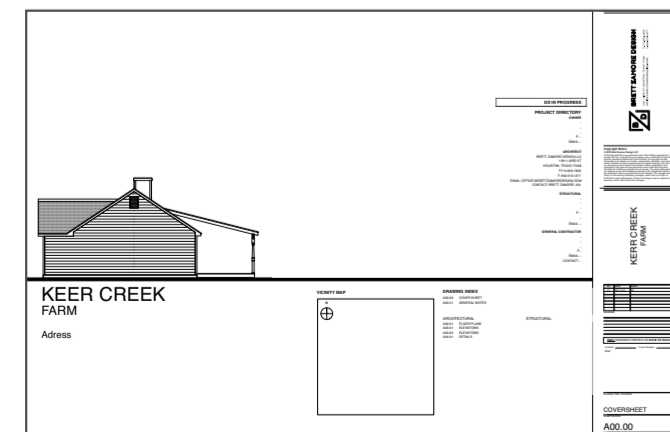
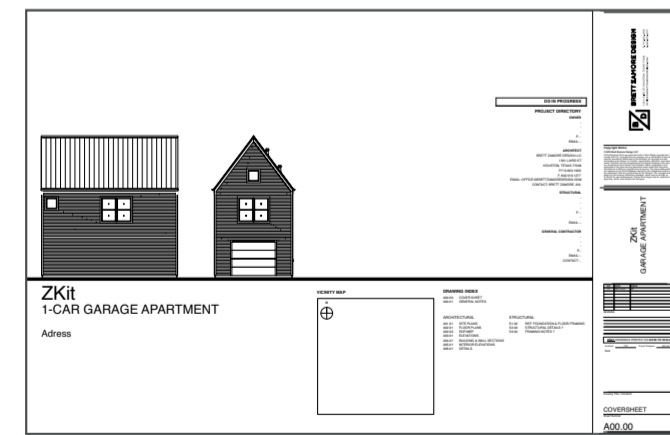
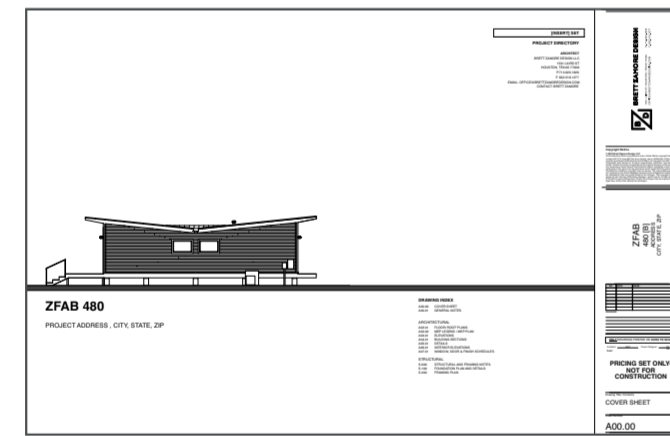
zFAB – Pre-fabricated Modern Homes

At Brett Zamore Design I produced the full drawing sets for 3 small-scale residential typologies. These sets included detailed architectural, structural, and MEP drawings, using BIM modeling.

The zFAB (images to the right) is bZD's pre-fabricated house design that offers affordable plans for modern homes under 800 square feet focusing on minimizing cost while increasing efficiency.

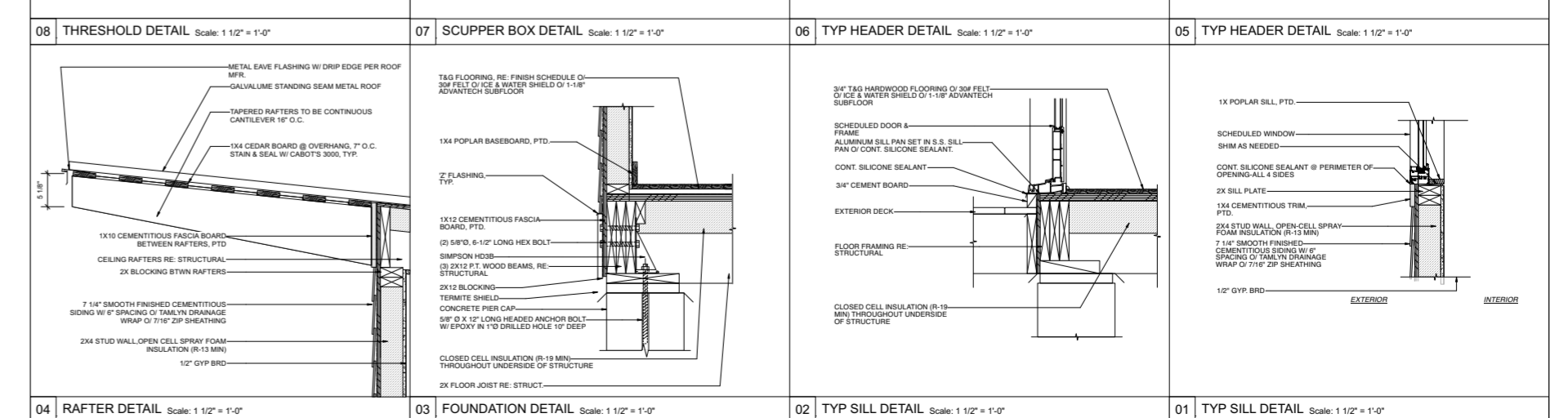
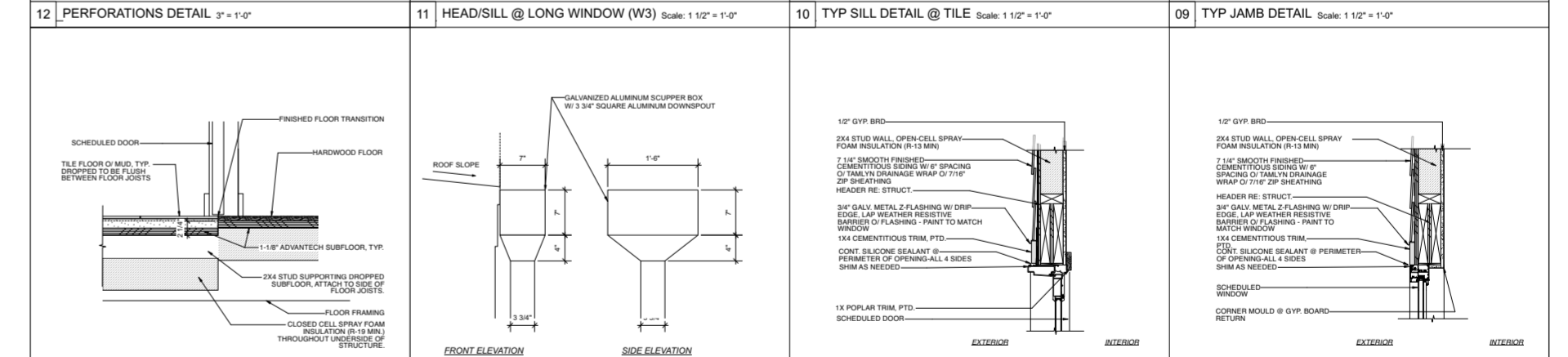
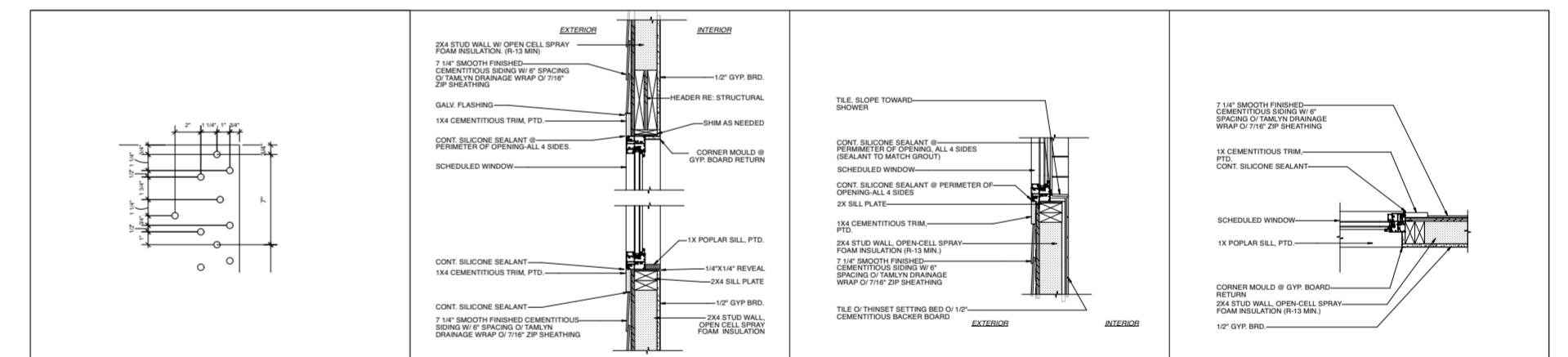
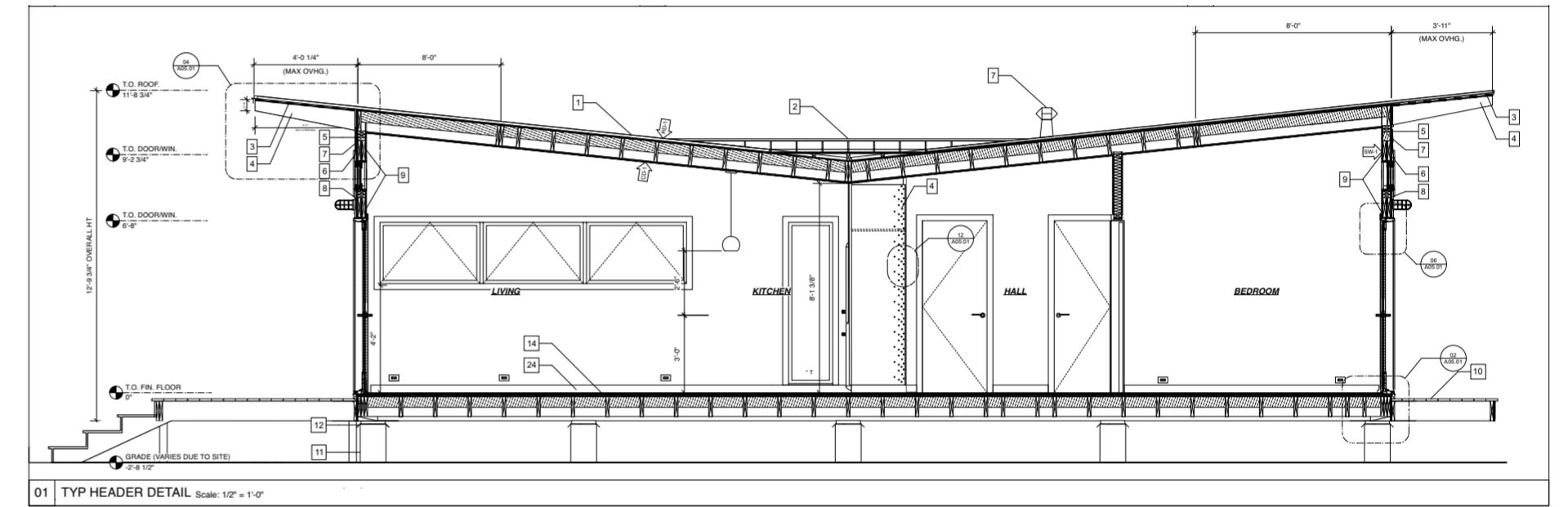
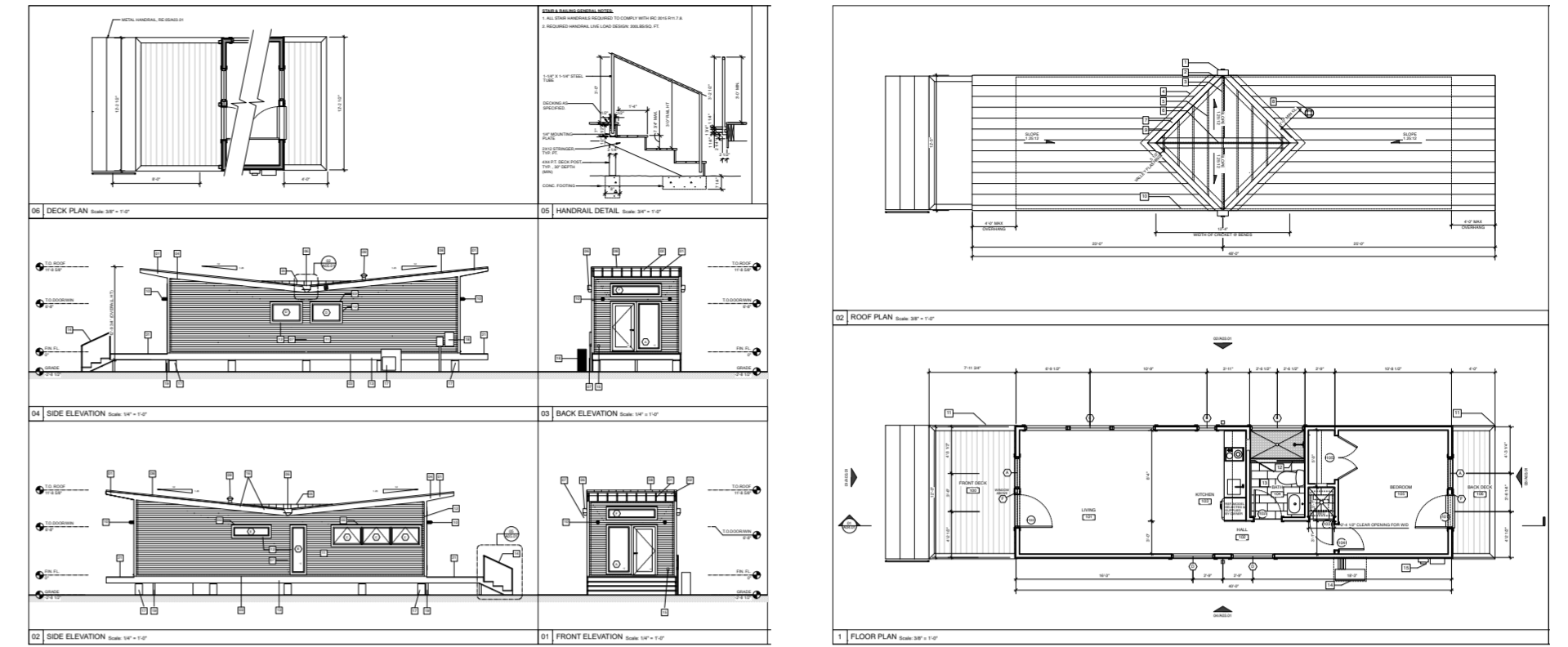
Role and Responsibilities:

- Assisted in drafting for commercial projects
- Produced full drawing sets for 2-3 small scale residential projects
- Fully redesigned the firm's website and managed social media and engagement



The 3 main typologies/ projects that I produced complete drawing sets for

zFAB images by Brett Zamore Design



Bridegland Activity Centre

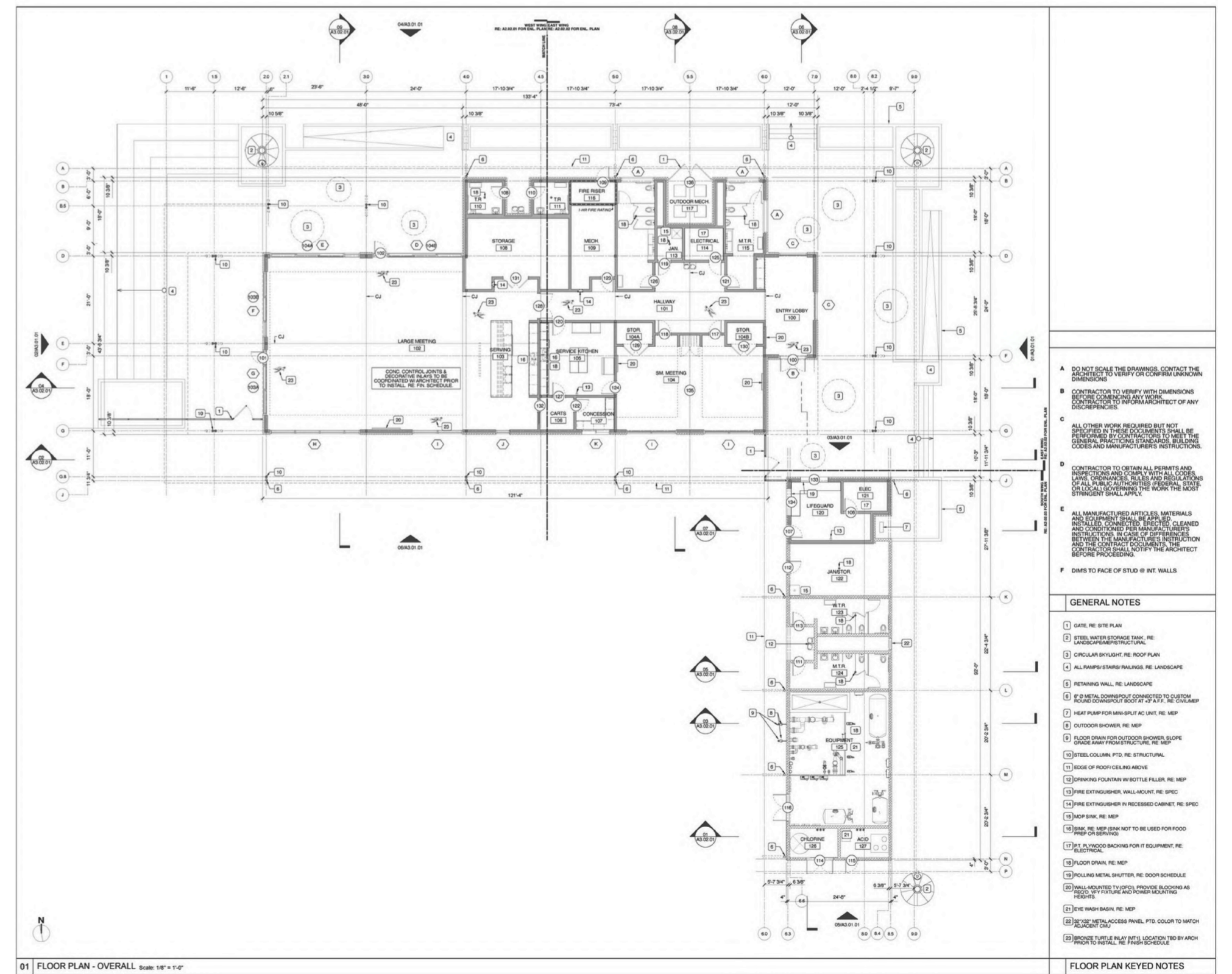
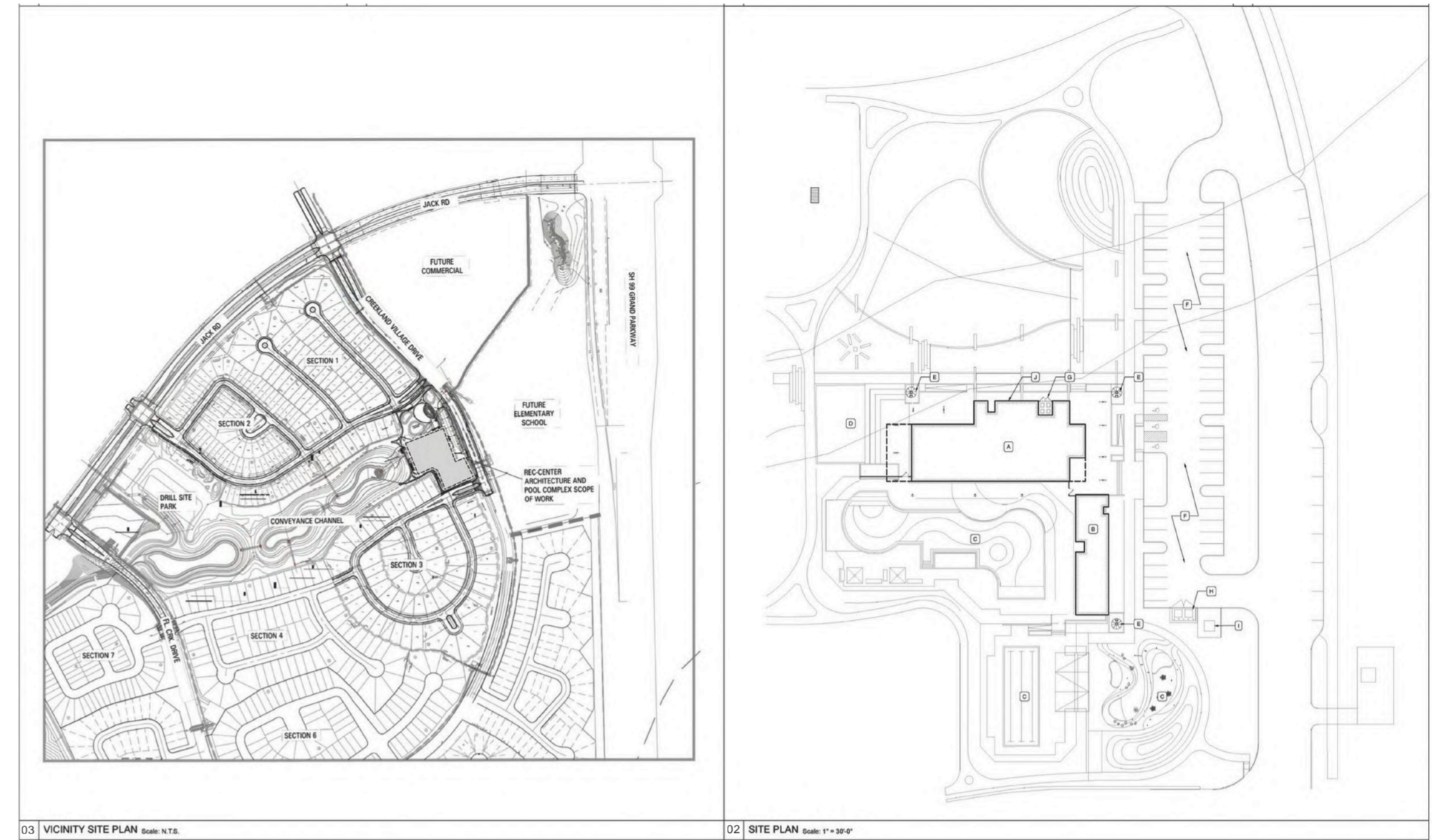
As part of the design team at Brett Zamore Design (bZD), I contributed to the development of the Bridgeland Creekland Activity Centre, a mixed-use project designed for a residential community. The project focused on enhancing the visitor experience while maintaining the integrity of the natural environment.

Role and Responsibilities:

- Assisted with drafting and detailing across various phases of the project
- Coordinated material orders and communicated with suppliers for timely deliveries
- Prepared multiple presentations for client meetings



Rendered visuals for Bridgeland Creekland, produced in collaboration with the bZD design team

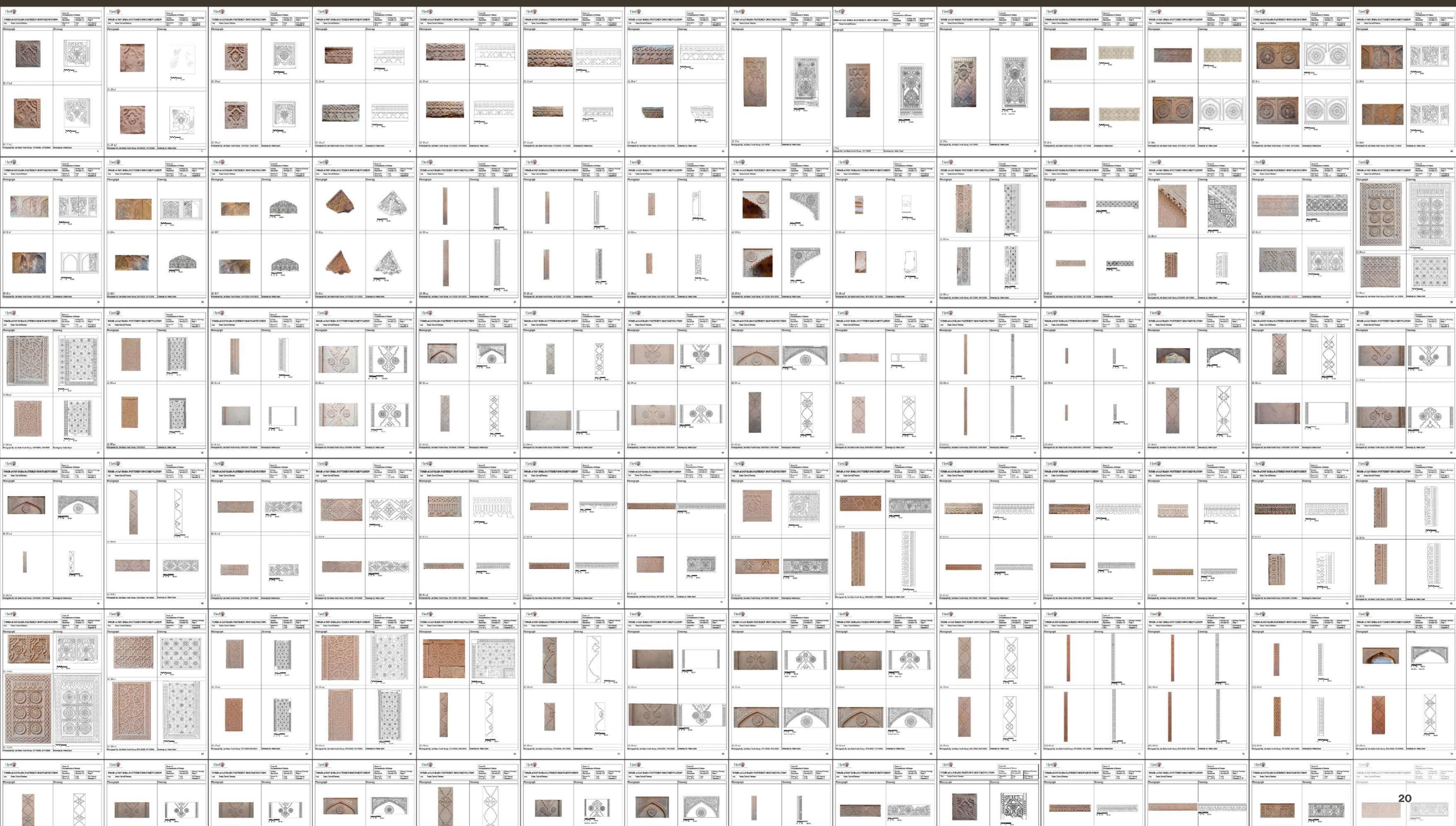


05

UNESCO, Youth, Heritage

OFFICE
YEAR / STATUS
ROLE

Yasmeen Lari's – Heritage Foundation of Pakistan, Makli, Pakistan
2021 / Complete
Full time Architectural Assistant, RIBA Part 1



UNESCO, Youth, Heritage

The 'Tomb of Mirza Jan Baba,' a historical monument dating back to 1608, is located within Makli Necropolis, a key UNESCO World Heritage site in Sindh, Pakistan. As its intricate craftsmanship continues to erode, this project, executed in collaboration with the British Council, aimed to document its artistry, while actively engaging and educating local youth on local history and conservation.

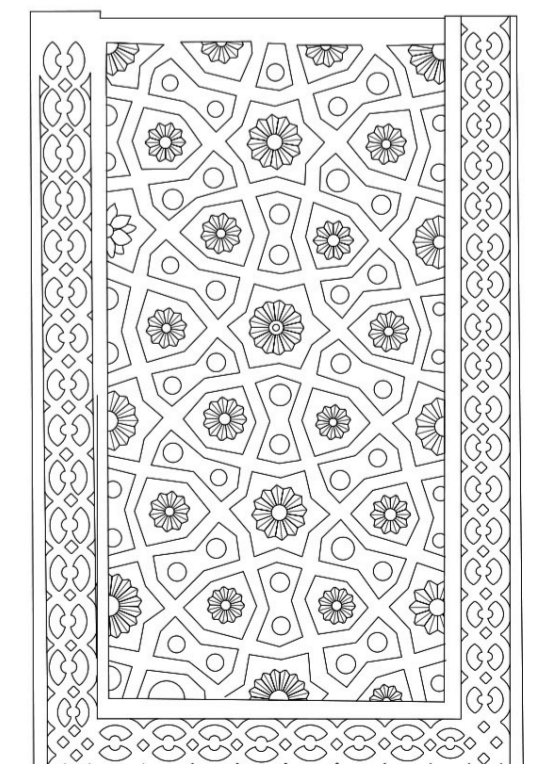
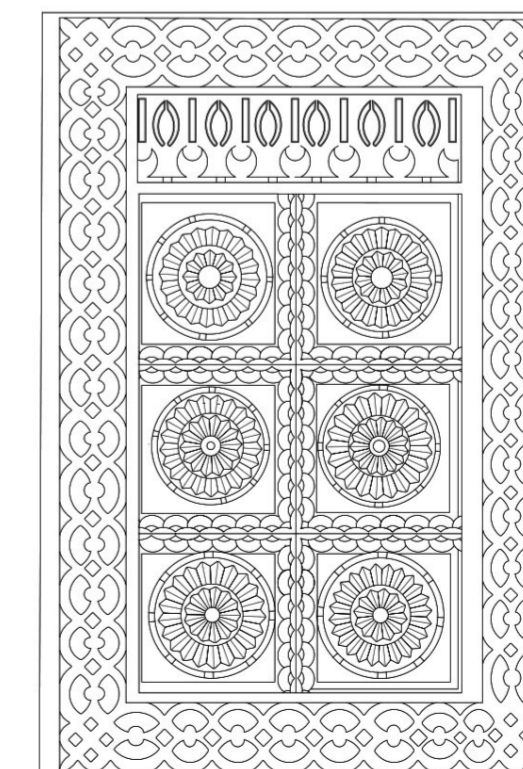
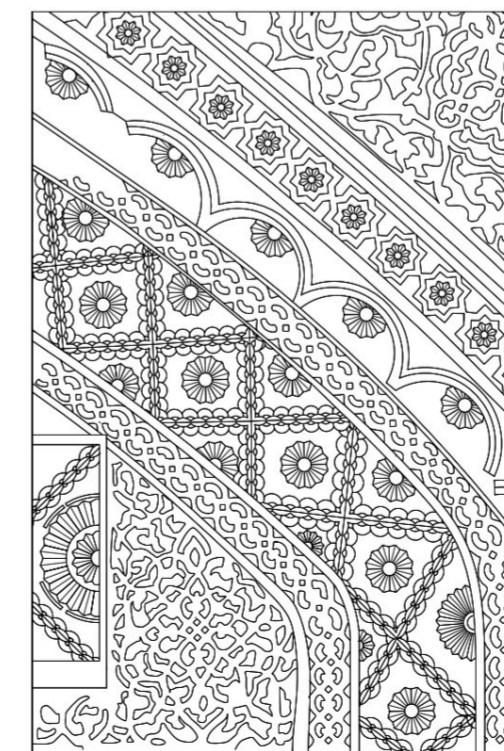
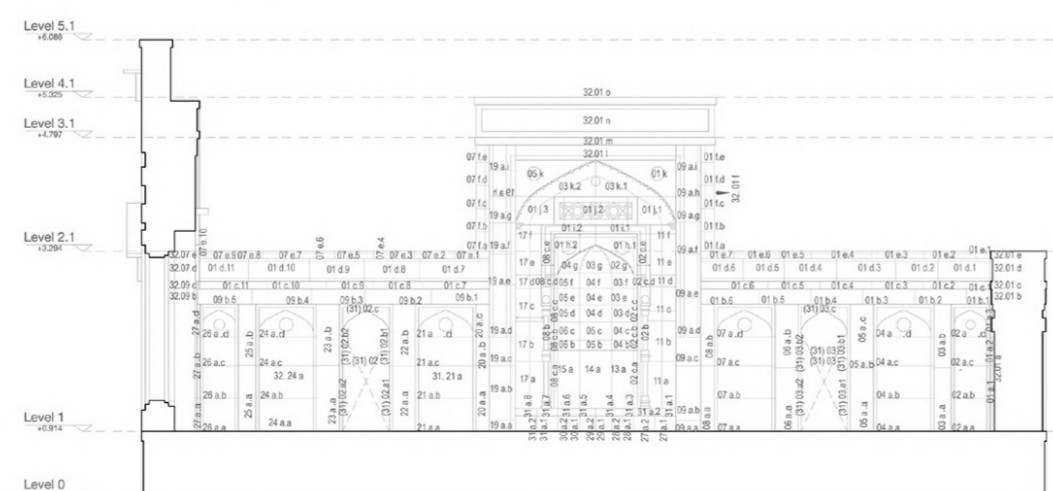
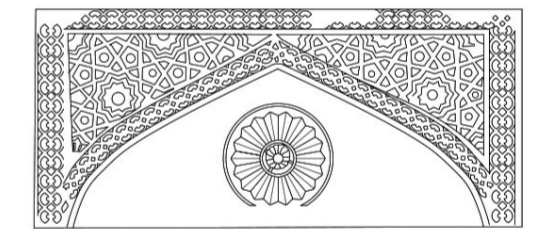
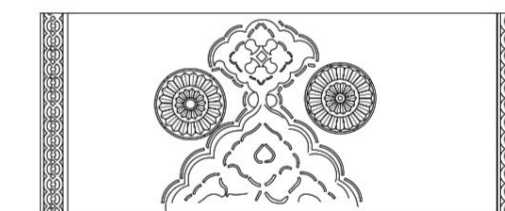
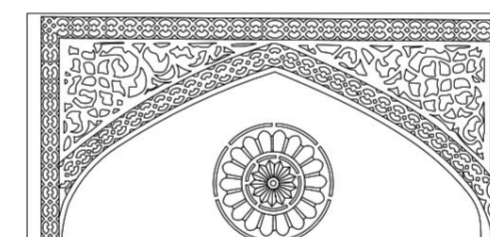
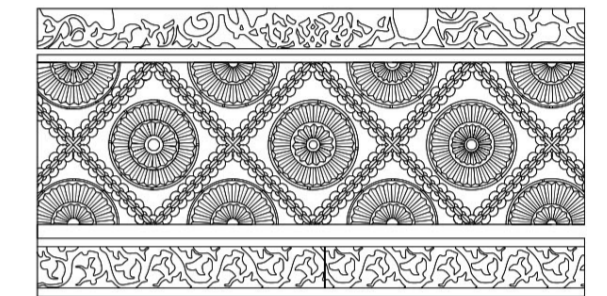
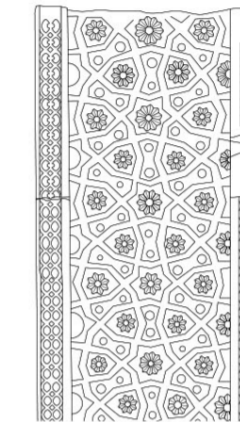
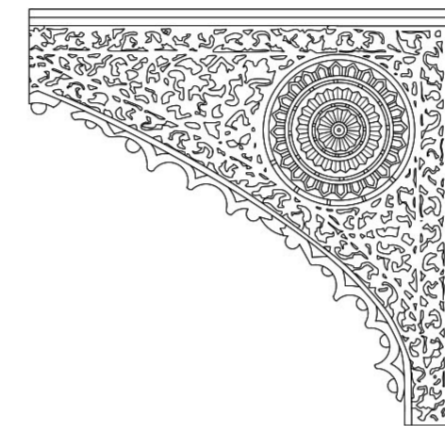
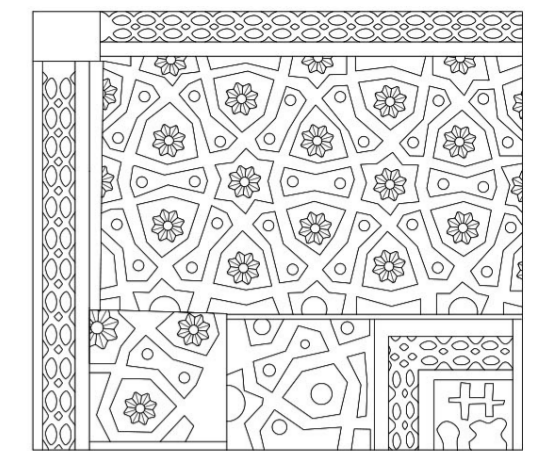
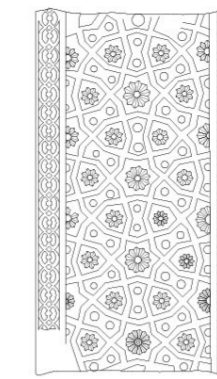
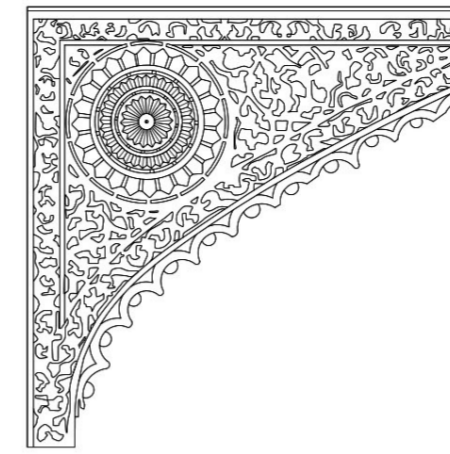
I led the project, which involved hosting community workshops, producing detailed line drawings of over 260 carved motif panels and contributing to the Heritage Foundation of Pakistan's historic archive.

Role and Responsibilities:

- Hosted workshops to educate youth about the site history and documentation.
- Produced +260 CAD drawings of custom carved motif panels.
- Compiled bi-monthly illustrated reports for the British Council



On Site and Online workshops teaching local youth of Makli about history and archival



06

Low-Cost Floating Bamboo Pod

Makli, Sindh, Pakistan

OFFICE

Yasmeen Lari's – Heritage Foundation of Pakistan, Makli, Pakistan

YEAR / STATUS

2021 / Complete

ROLE

Full time Architectural Assistant, RIBA Part 1



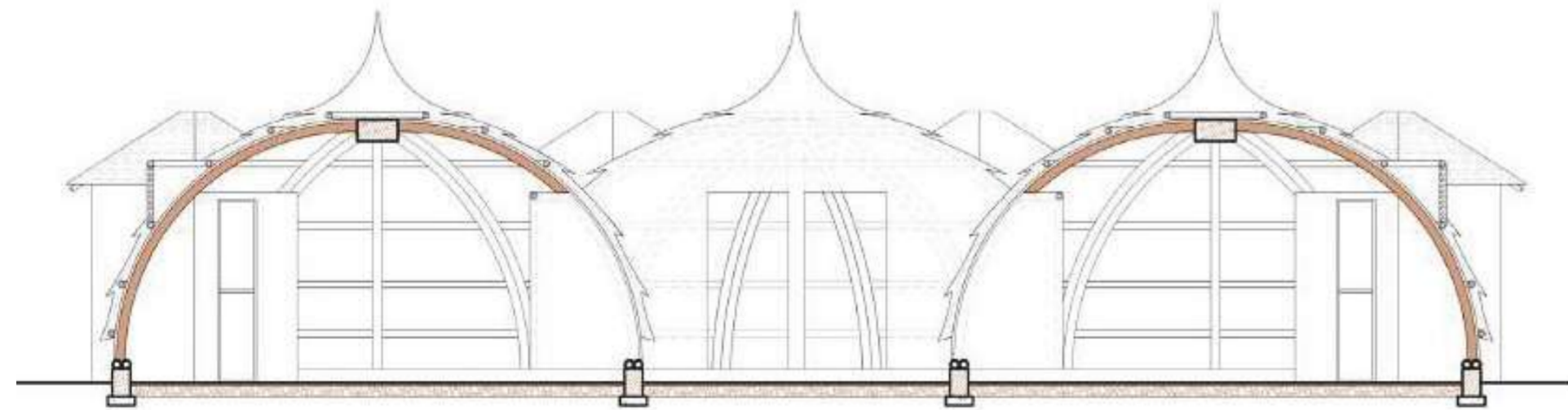
Low-Cost Floating Bamboo Pod

Zero Carbon Centre, Makli, Sindh, Pakistan

The Floating LOG Shikara (Lari-Octa Green) is a mobile typology designed by architect Yasmeen Lari to adapt to the region's flood conditions. The typology can be modified to serve as immediate floating 'quarantine shelters' (used during COVID-19) while also functioning as residential clusters for post-emergency use.

Role and Responsibilities:

- Contributed to drafting and technical drawings for the project.
- Assisted in on-site construction and management
- Engaged with local communities to gather feedback and insights on the design's functionality and impact.



Floating Pod typology designed to create settlements, drawing produced in collaboration with the HFoP desing team.



Using scoring method to bend dried bamboo



Bamboo pod typology constructed at Yasmeen Lari's Zero Carbon Centre in Makli



Bamboo pod covered with thatch roof to provide shade before submerging into canal



Bamboo Pod clad with thin layer of earth-lime plaster to provide shelter

07

Watermelon Place
Niigata, Japan AA Visiting School

PROJECT

Shin Egashira's Architectural Association Visiting School in Koshirakura Niigata, Japan

YEAR / STATUS

2023 / Built (1 week time frame)

ROLE

Student-Group led design and build



Watermelon Place

Niigata, Japan AA Visiting School

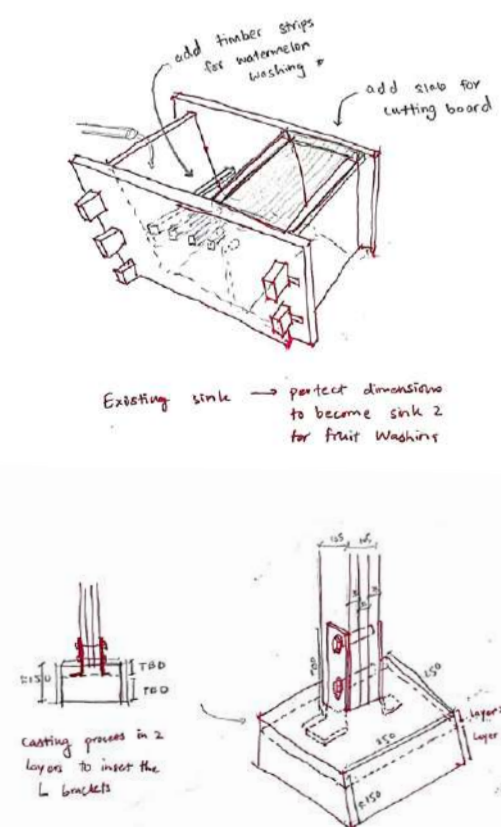
The Koshirakura workshop is one of the AA's longest-running international initiatives and engages a dwindling post-agricultural community in rural Niigata, Japan. Emphasizing collaboration and learning from the local elderly population, the program prioritizes the role of architects in addressing community needs and utilizing locally sourced materials.

The 'Watermelon Place' project is a canopy structure that revitalizes a cherished natural spring used for drinking and washing locally grown watermelons.

Reclaimed timber water channels guide water flow from the source into a designed foot sink. Complete with a canopy, the structure provides shade during the summer and protection from winter snowfall, the structure revitalizes the water spring for years to come.

Role and Responsibilities:

- Attended local festivals and community events to maintain longstanding relationships with local villagers
- Collaborated with a team of 10+ students in design and construction
- Focused on concrete foundation and footings as my personal task
- Focused on timber sink details as my personal task



In-process sketches during the design and build of the canopy structure



Annual tree cutting festival and ceremony, add description



Construction in progress using locally sourced timber



Completion of Watermelon Place project, 2023 July



Timber sink with a wooden water channel directing fresh water stream into designed concrete-cast pebble basin.



Hirosun local villager enjoying fresh spring water after revitalisation of public water channel and sink

08

V&A Museum Mosque Pavilion

Make-space Architects and AKII

PROJECT TEAM

University of Westminster in collaboration with MakeSpace Architects, AKII

YEAR / STATUS

2023 / Complete

ROLE

Working as 'dome design' pair, within student-group



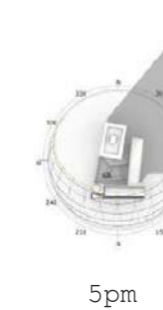
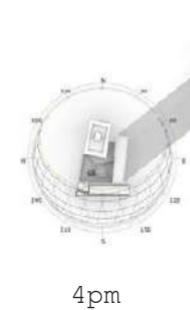
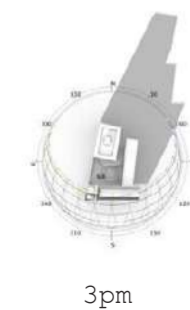
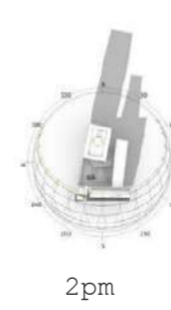
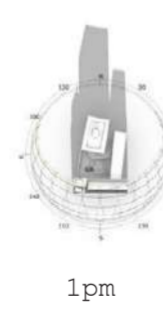
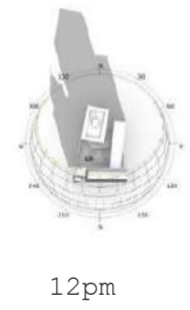
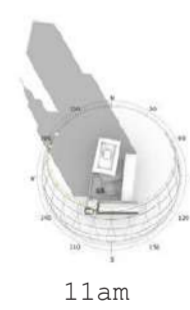
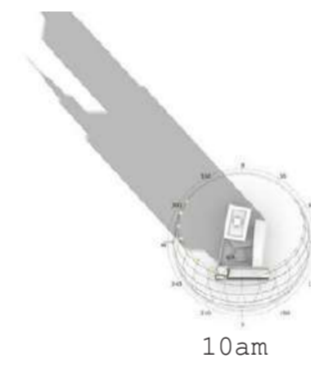
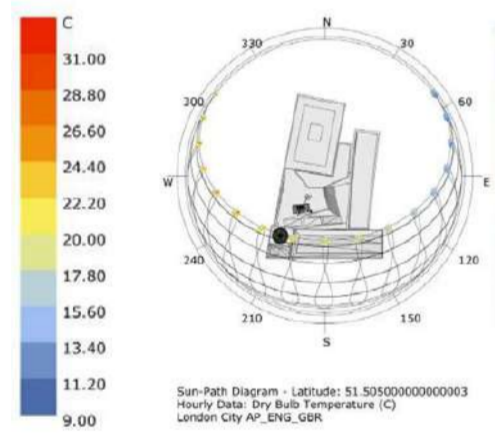
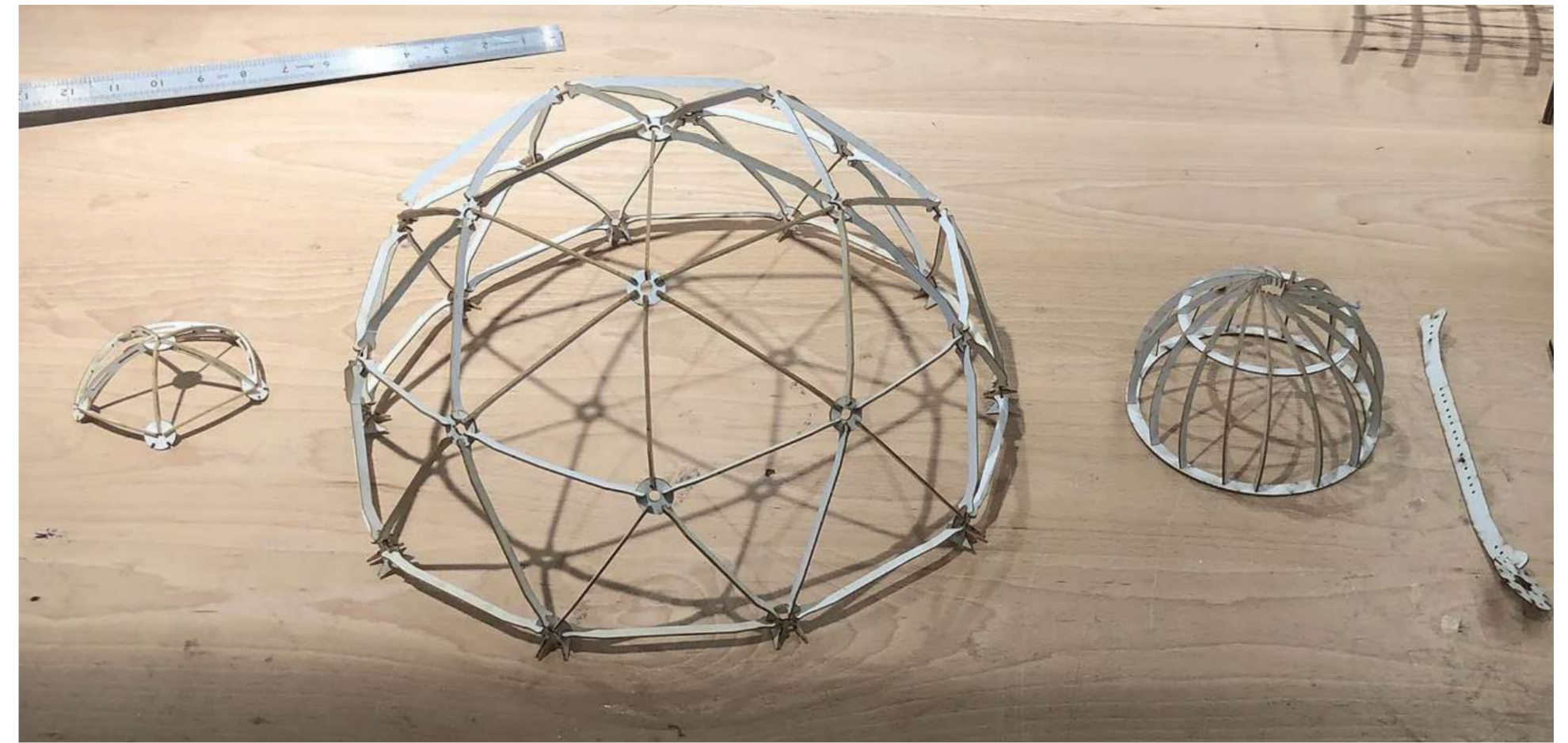
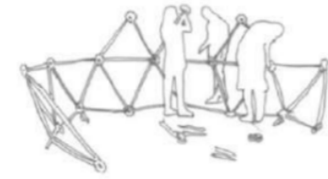
V&A Museum Mosque Pavilion

Make-space Architects and AKII

My co-designer and I collaborated on the design and detailing of the timber dome structure for the pavilion at the "Evolution of the British Mosque" exhibit, executed for the Victoria and Albert Museum's Sackler Courtyard in London.

Role and Responsibilities:

- Developed model iterations for the timber dome structure.
- Conducted site analysis using Grasshopper to refine the overall pavilion design.
- Compiled technical reports detailing the construction and assembly processes for dome structure.



09

Independent Renovation Project

PROJECT

Independent Project

YEAR / STATUS

2024 (REACHING COMPLETION)

ROLE

Lead Designer: managing contractors, electricians and plumbers



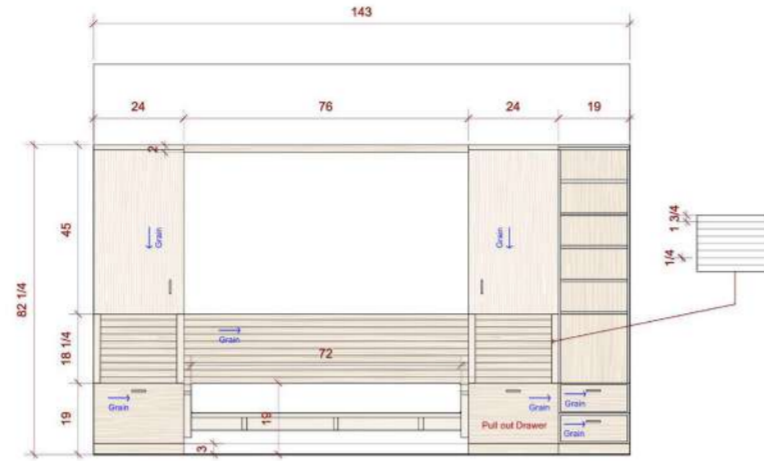
Grandfather's Home Renovation

I am nearing completion of the renovation and internal fit-out of my late grandfather's home, which had been abandoned for over 20 years, located in Karachi Pakistan.

As the lead architectural designer, I coordinated with a local building contractor, plumbers and electricians to execute the project. Key aspects included installing new plumbing, updating the electrical framework, and revising floor plans to improve functionality.

Additionally, I designed custom furniture to maximize storage within compact rooms space while staying within a strict budget.

(Final images are pending documentation.)



The primary work was the internal fit-out, involving reinstalling plumbing and electrical systems throughout the house, adjusted a revised spatial layouts



The full body of work for each project is available on my website:



www.hafsasyed.com