A Trifle Strife?

Public Space, Rituals and Communalism

MSc Graduation Presentation

Thursday, 6th July 2023 | 10.45 - 12.30 CET

Room R, Bouwkunde TU Delft

https://tudelft.zoom.us/j/96956792766?pwd=Rko0UDJFQ01VODNnRG1WeTl4OVRpdz09

10.45 Doors Open / Setup
11.00 Presentation
11.30 Q&A from Jury
11.45 Deliberation
12.00 Graduation Ceremony



Communalism

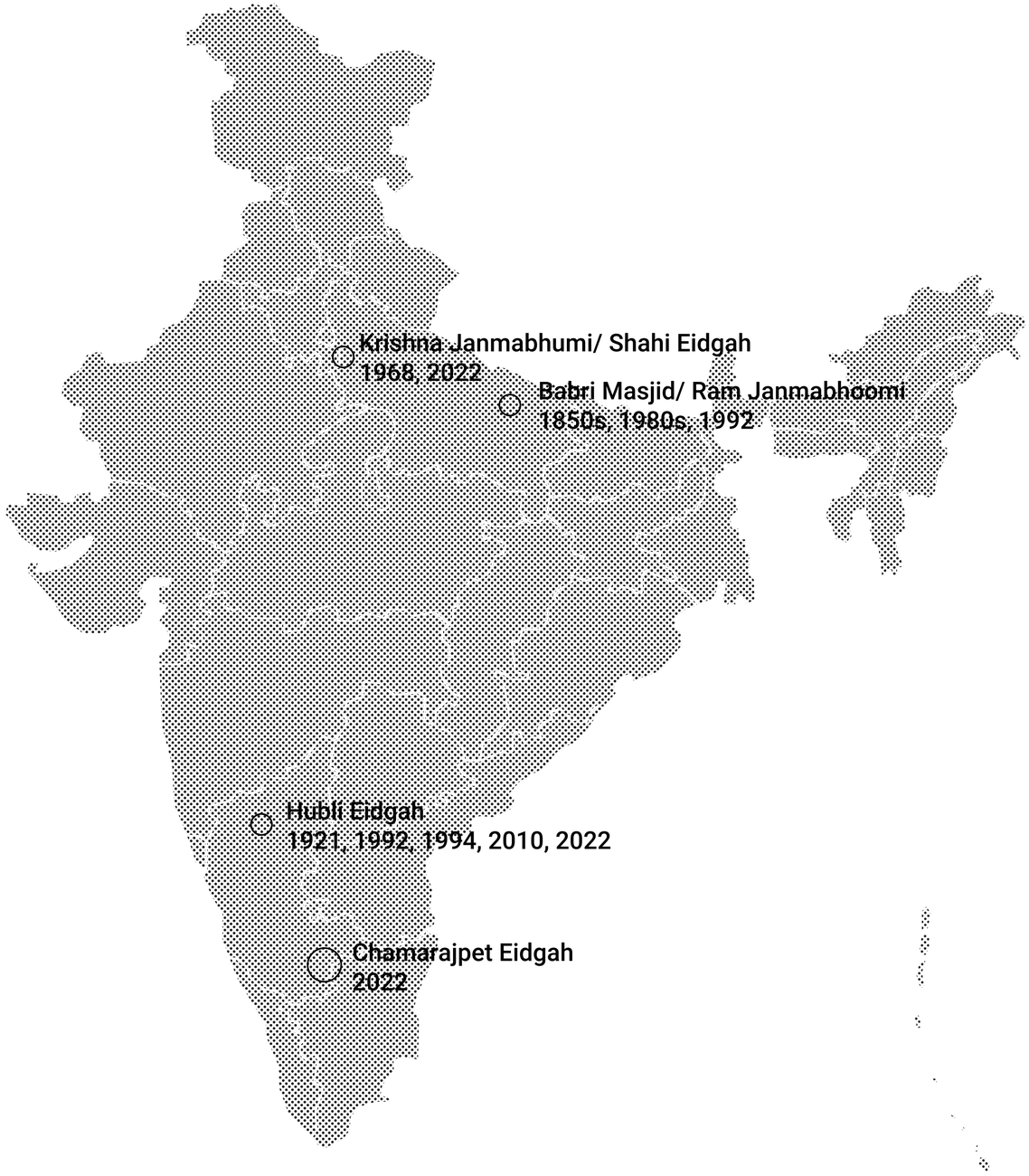
Communalism

When a group of people prioritises its welfare over the societal whole, to the point of antagonising the other.








Krishna Janmabhumi/ Shahi Eidgah
1968, 2022
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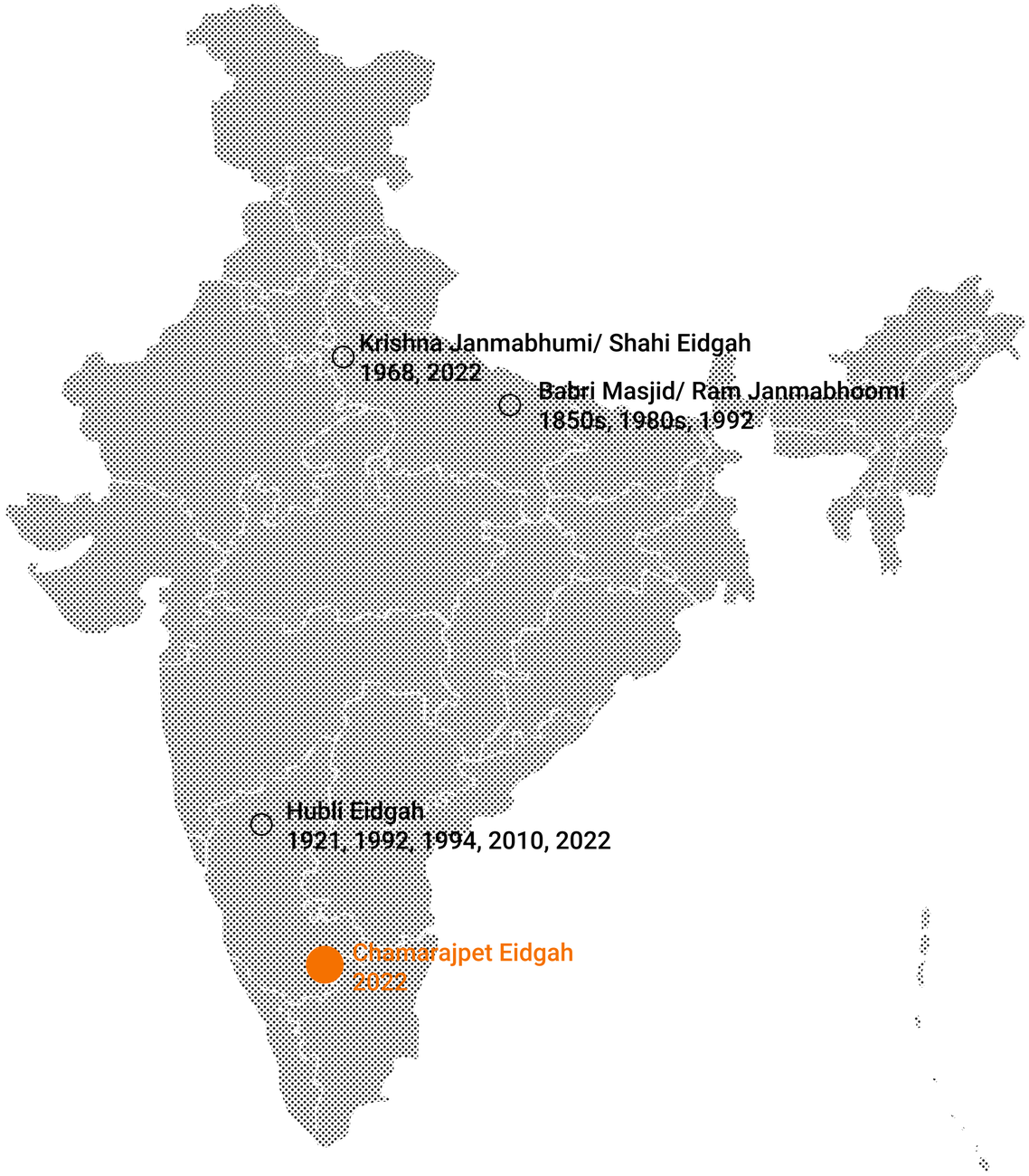
1850s, 1980s, 1992
Hubli Eidgah
1921, 1992, 1994, 2010, 2022
Chamarajpet Eidgah
2022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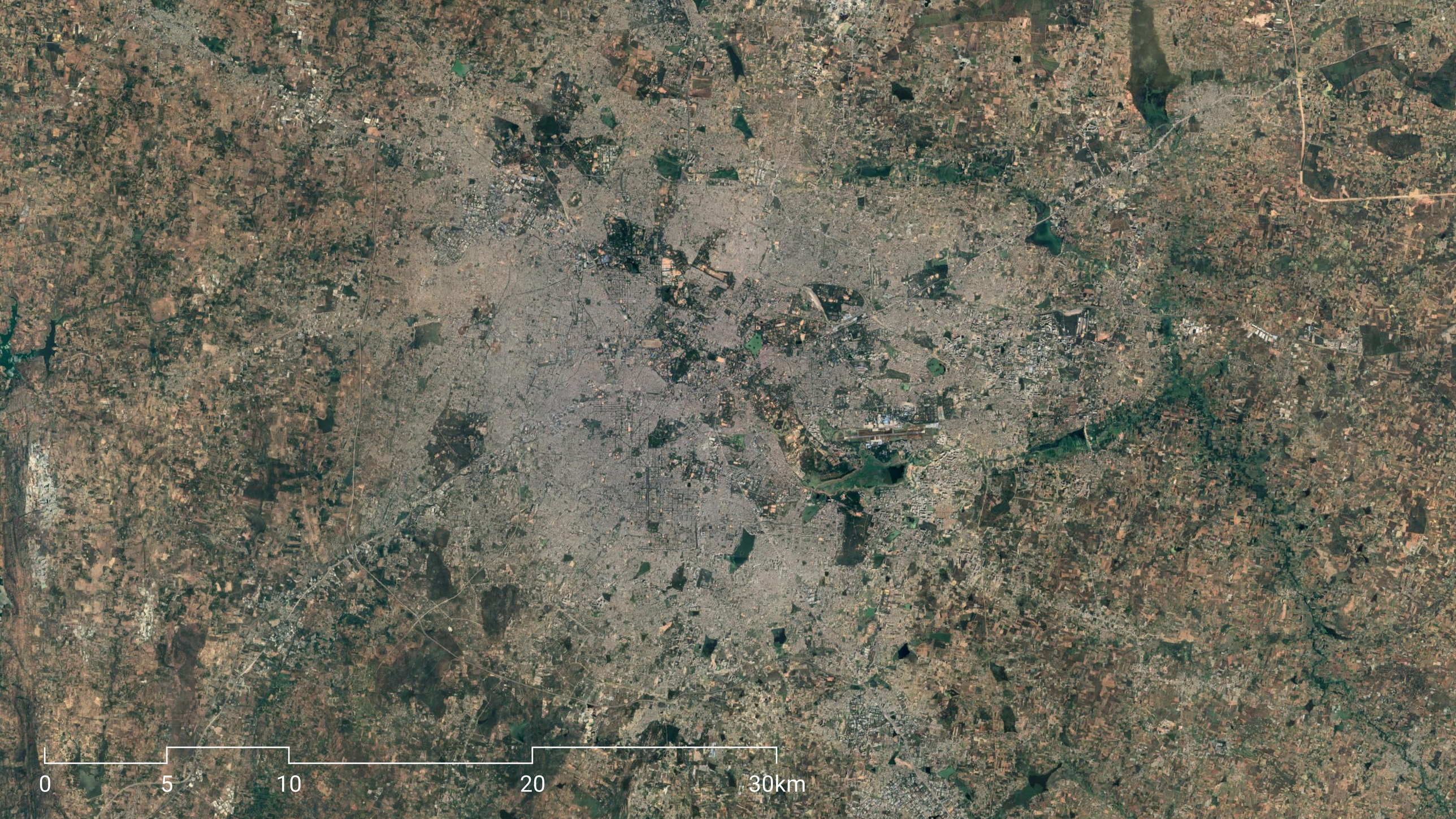
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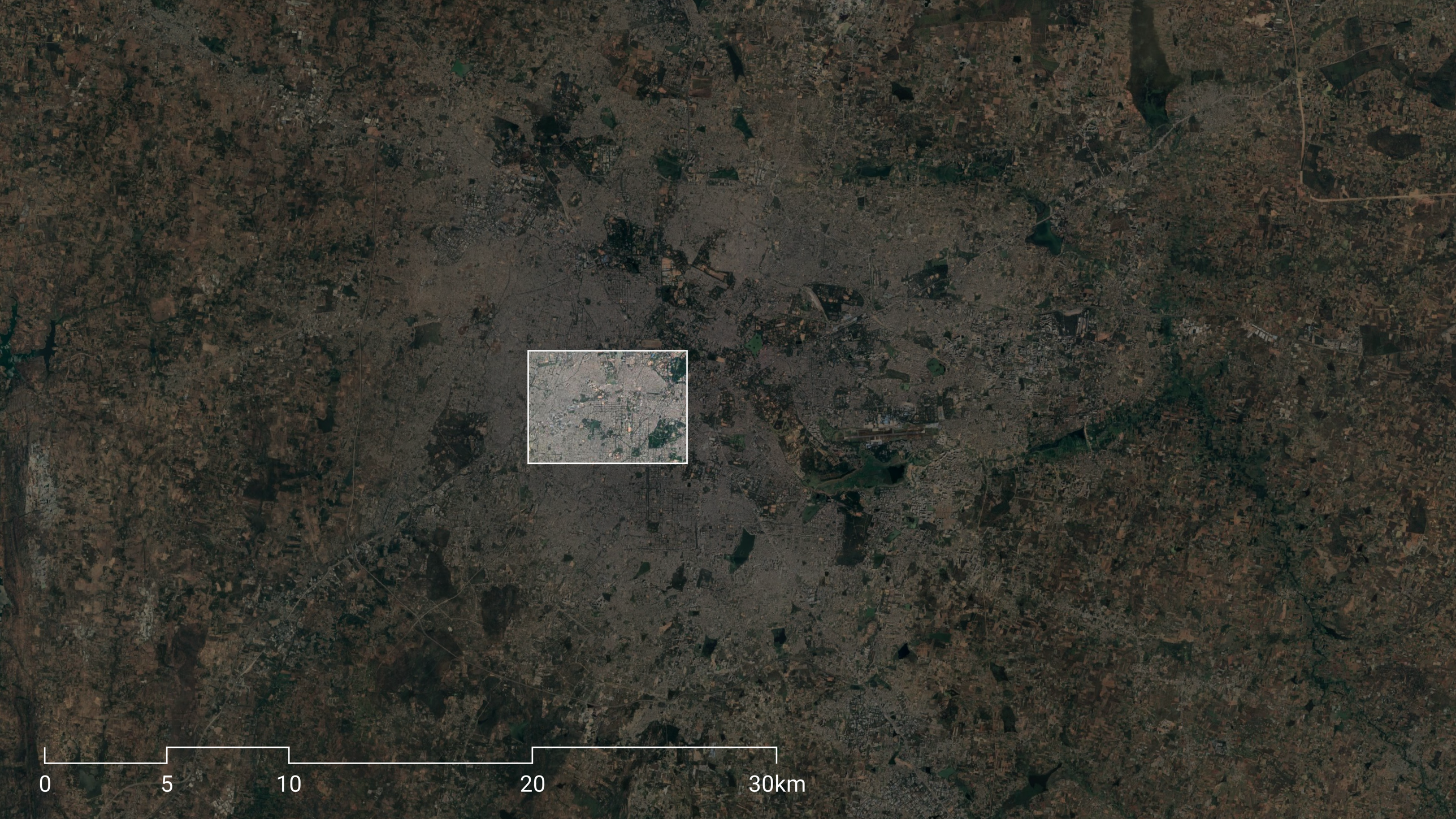
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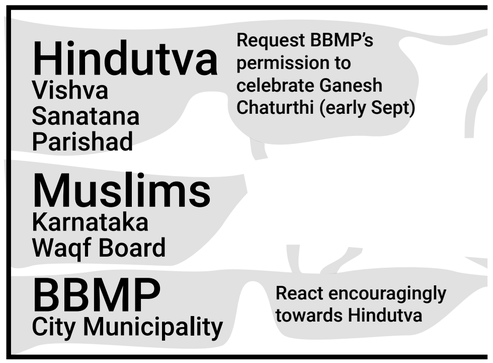
Chamarajpet Eidgah

and its main stakeholders

Jun 22



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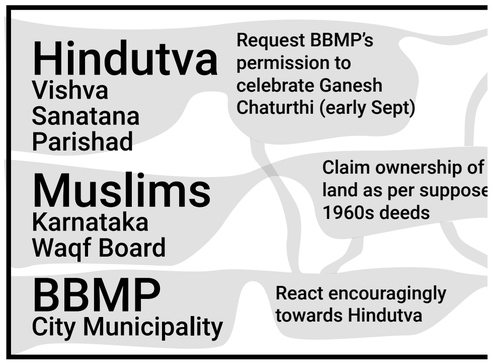

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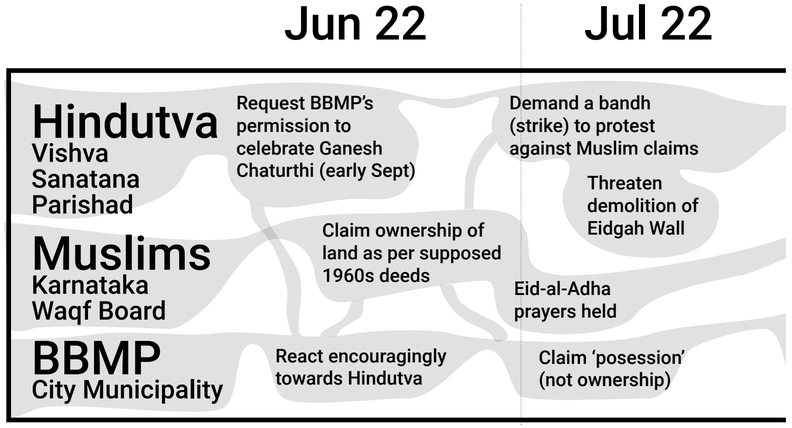


POLICE
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KSRP

Chamarajpet Eidgah

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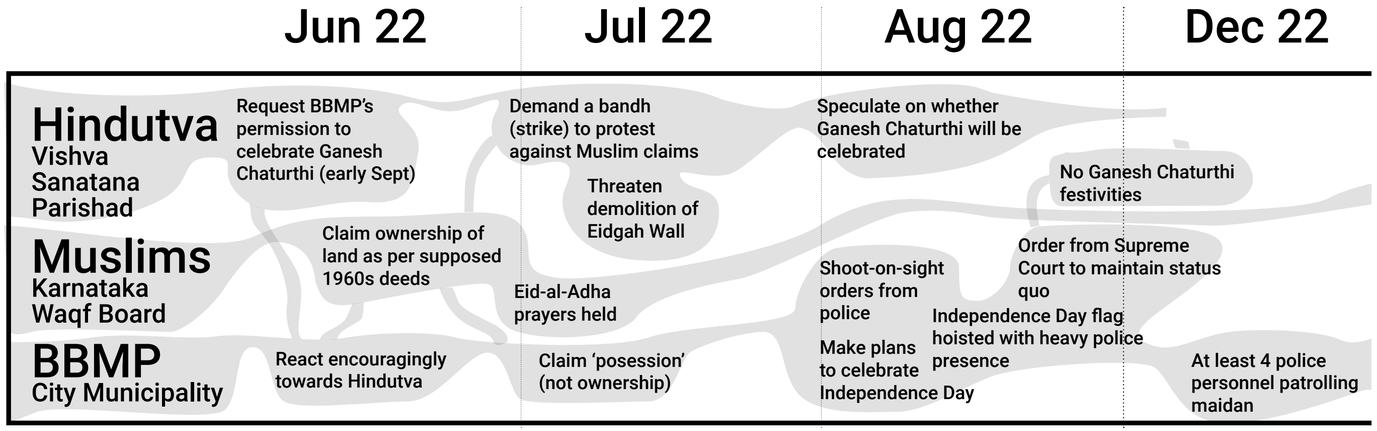

Chamarajpet Eidgah

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Chamarajpet Eidgah

and its main stakeholders

Hindu
Vishva
Sanatana
Parishad

Musli
Karnataka
Waqf Boa

BBMP
City Muni



orensic Futuring ------

legal pavilions and
ions for Ganesh
hi

Demolition of
Eidgah Wall

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Destruction of
local businesses &
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Stone pelting, arson, vandalism,
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Governmental support
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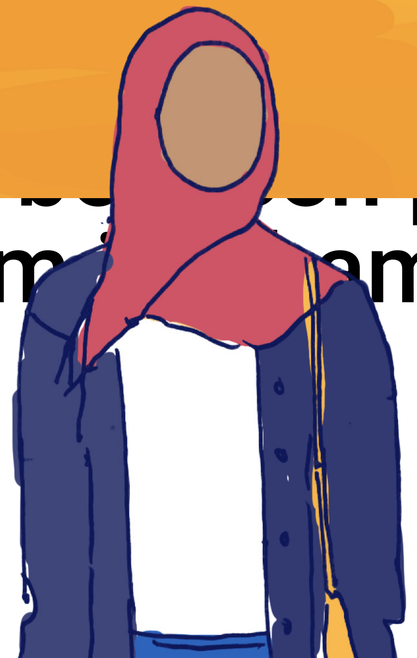

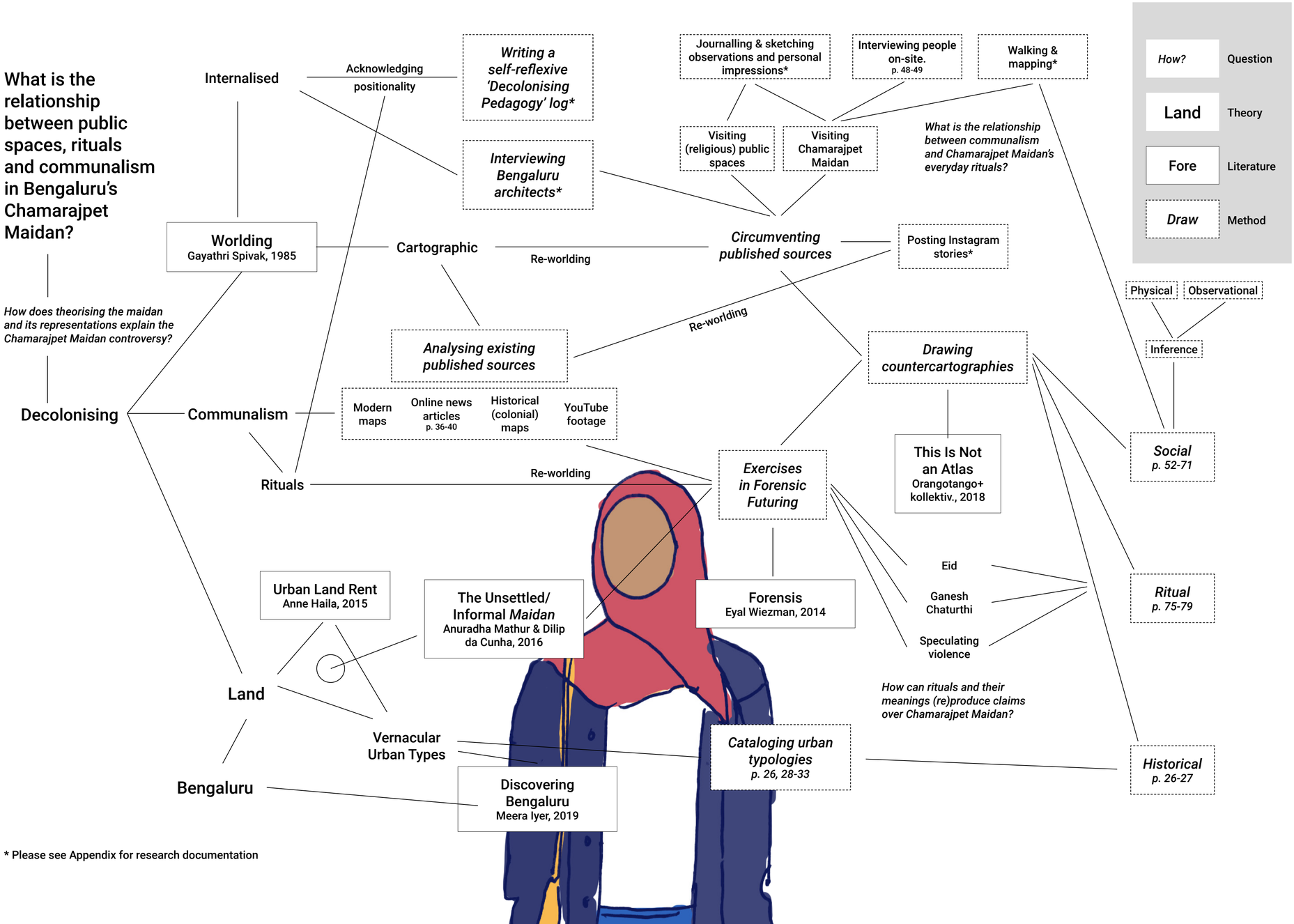

* Please see Appendix for research documentation

What is the relationship between public spaces, rituals and communalism in Bengaluru's Chamarajpet Maidan?

How does theorising the maidan and its representations explain the Chamarajpet Maidan controversy?

Decolonising

Internalised

Acknowledging positionality

*Writing a self-reflexive 'Decolonising Pedagogy' log**

*Interviewing Bengaluru architects**

Journalling & sketching observations and personal impressions*

Interviewing people on-site. p. 48-49

Walking & mapping*

Visiting (religious) public spaces

Visiting Chamarajpet Maidan

What is the relationship between communalism and Chamarajpet Maidan's everyday rituals?

Worlding
Gayathri Spivak, 1985

Cartographic

Re-worlding

Circumventing published sources

Posting Instagram stories*

Re-worlding

Analysing existing published sources

Communalism

Modern maps

Online news articles p. 36-40

Historical (colonial) maps

YouTube footage

Drawing countercartographies

Physical

Observational

Inference

Rituals

Re-worlding

Exercises in Forensic Futuring

This Is Not an Atlas
Orangotango+ kollektiv., 2018

Social
p. 52-71

Urban Land Rent
Anne Haila, 2015

The Unsettled/ Informal *Maidan*
Anuradha Mathur & Dilip da Cunha, 2016

Forensis
Eyal Wiezman, 2014

Eid

Ganesh Chaturthi

Speculating violence

Ritual
p. 75-79

Land

How can rituals and their meanings (re)produce claims over Chamarajpet Maidan?

Vernacular Urban Types

Cataloging urban typologies
p. 26, 28-33

Historical
p. 26-27

Bengaluru

Discovering Bengaluru
Meera Iyer, 2019



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How? Question

Land Theory

Fore Literature

Draw Method

Worlding
Gayathri Spivak, 1985

Worlding

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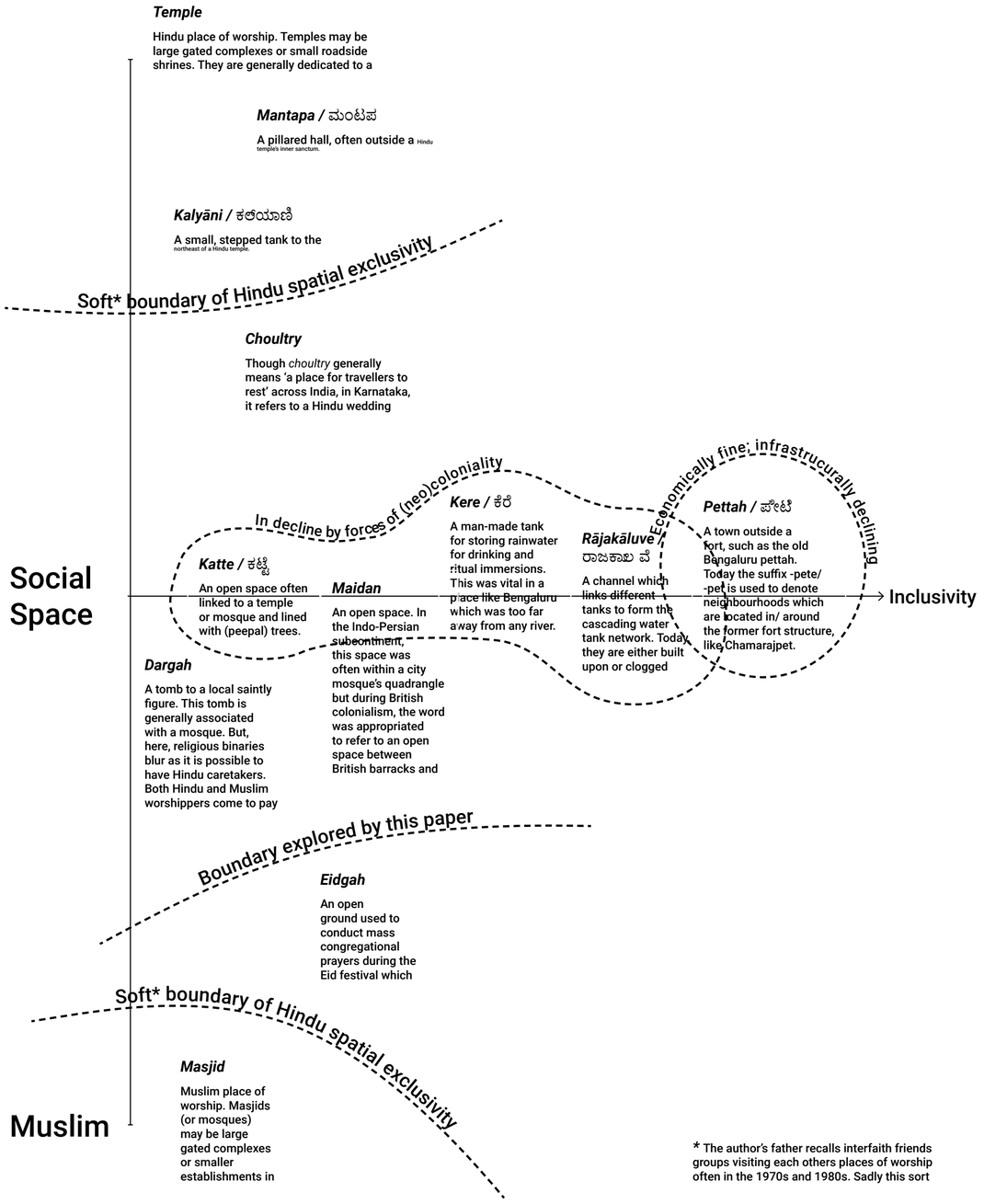
perpetuations of colonial epistemic frameworks in archival materials and architectural pedagogy



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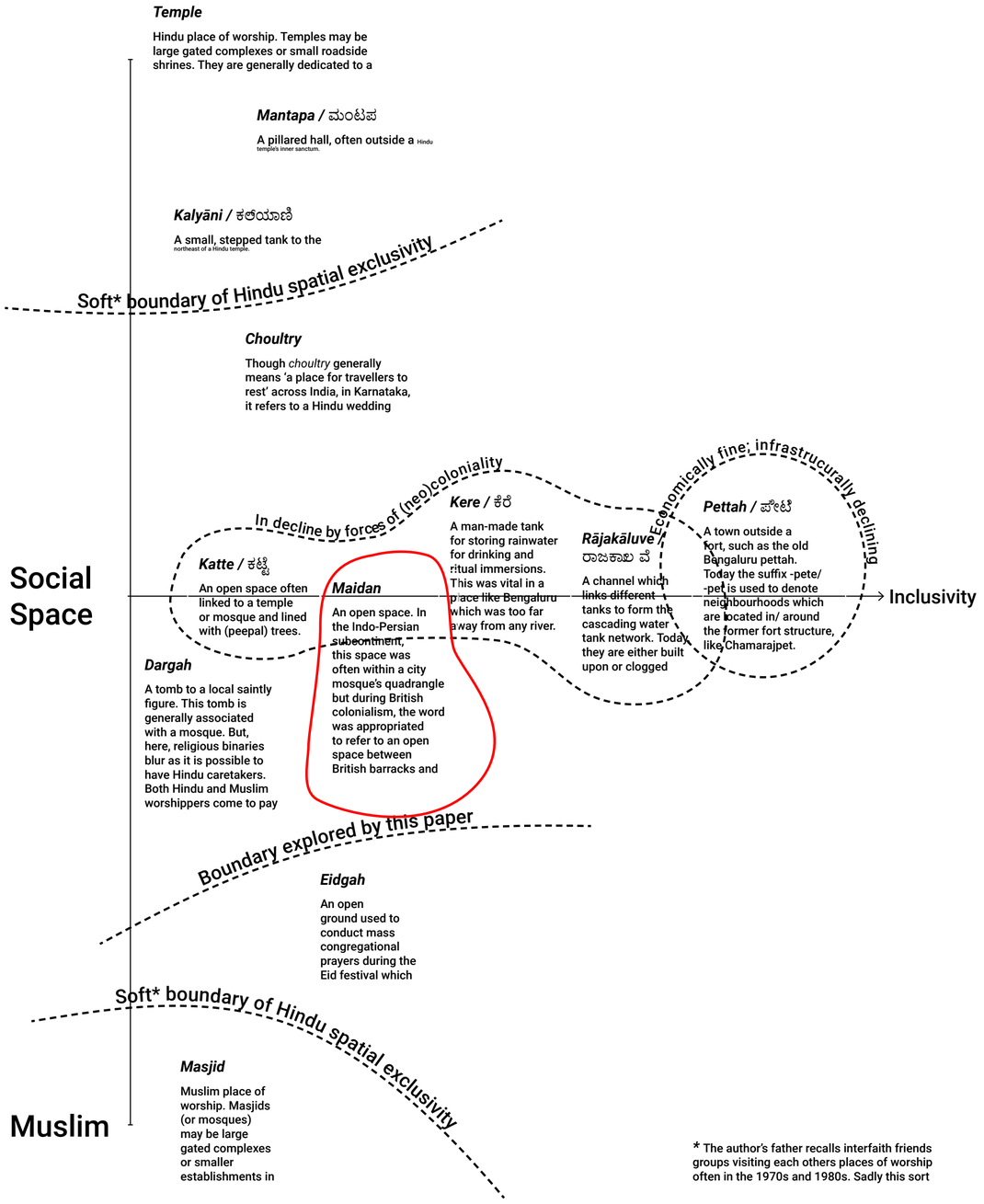

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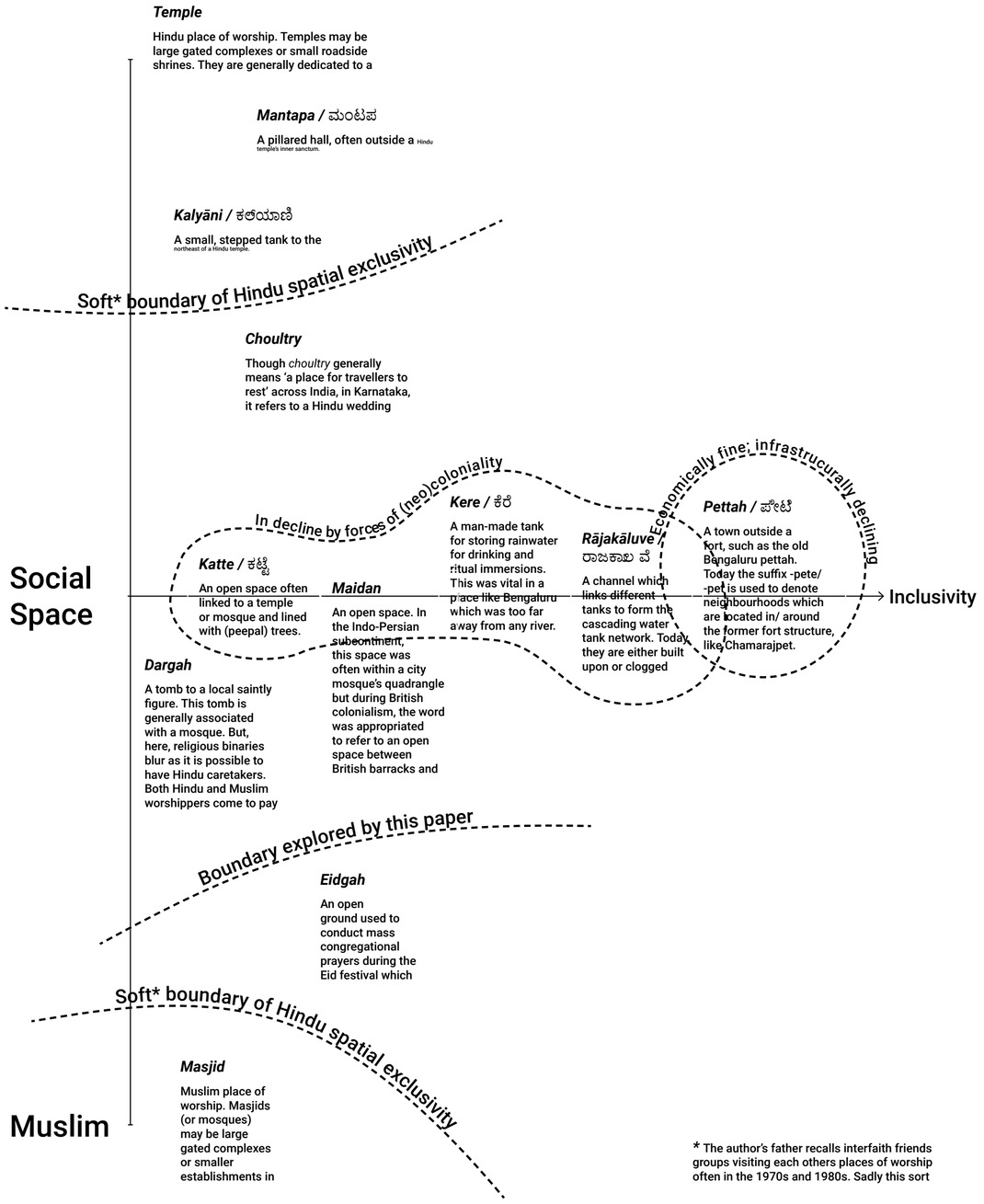
Anuratha Mathur and Dilip da Cunha:

The maidan is
spatially indeterminate
transient
unsettled
common



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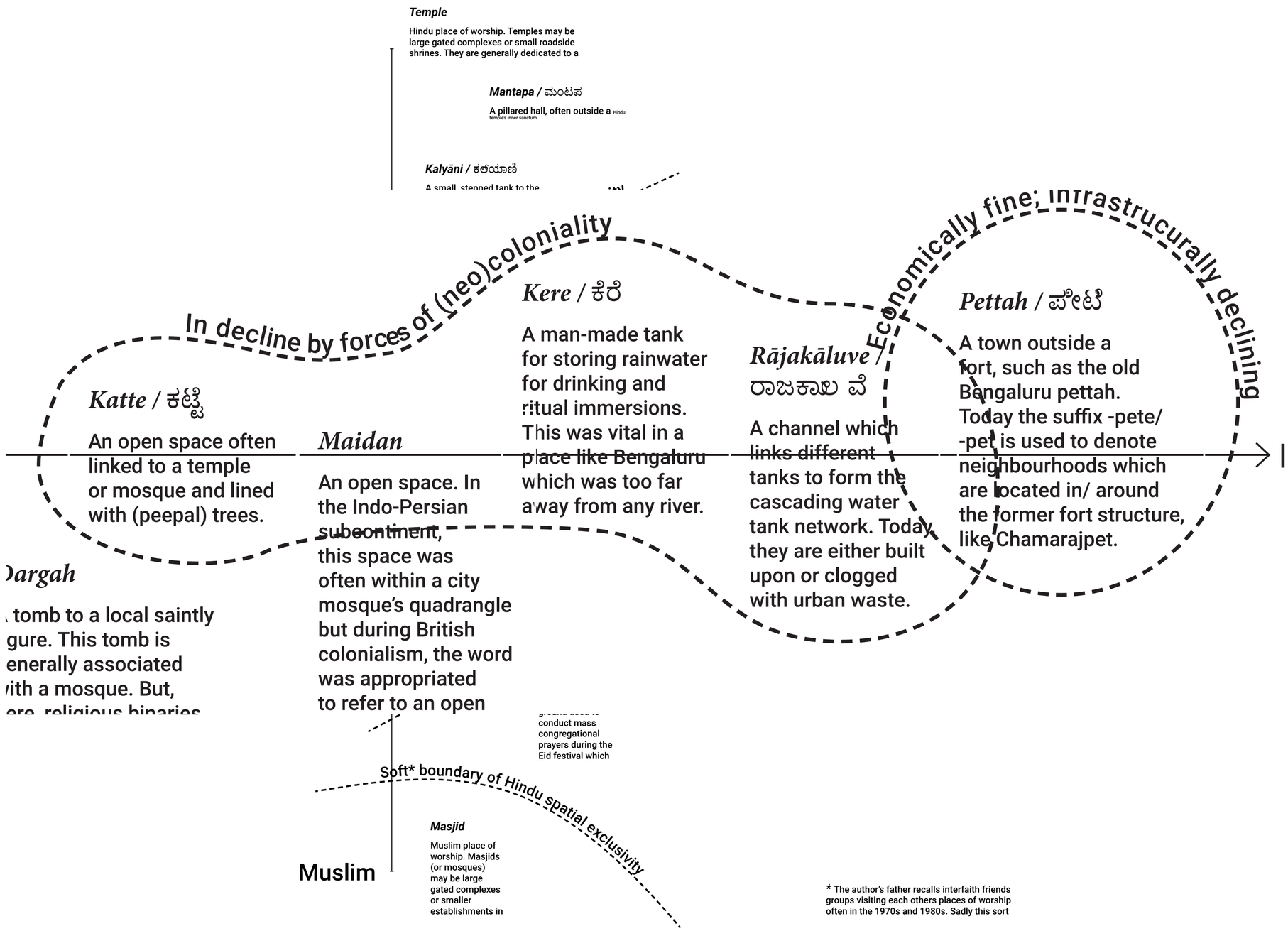
Temple
Hindu place of worship. Temples may be large gated complexes or small roadside shrines. They are generally dedicated to a
Mantapa / ಮಂಟಪ
A pillared hall, often outside a Hindu temple's inner sanctum.
Kalyāni / ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಿ
In decline by forces of (neo)coloniality
Economically fine; infrastrucurally declining
Katte / ಕಟ್ಟೆ
An open space often linked to a temple or mosque and lined with (peepal) trees.
Maidan
An open space. In the Indo-Persian subcontinent, this space was often within a city mosque's quadrangle but during British colonialism, the word was appropriated to refer to an open
Kere / ಕೆರೆ
A man-made tank for storing rainwater for drinking and ritual immersions. This was vital in a place like Bengaluru which was too far away from any river.
Rājakāluve / ರಾಜಕಾಲುವೆ
A channel which links different tanks to form the cascading water tank network. Today, they are either built upon or clogged with urban waste.
Pettah / ಪೇಟೆ
A town outside a fort, such as the old Bengaluru pettah. Today the suffix -pete/ -pet is used to denote neighbourhoods which are located in/ around the former fort structure, like Chamarajpet.
Dargah
tomb to a local saintly gure. This tomb is enerally associated ith a mosque. But, ere, religious binaries
conduct mass congregational prayers during the Eid festival which
Soft* boundary of Hindu spatial exclusivity
Masjid
Muslim place of worship. Masjids (or mosques) may be large gated complexes or smaller establishments in
Muslim
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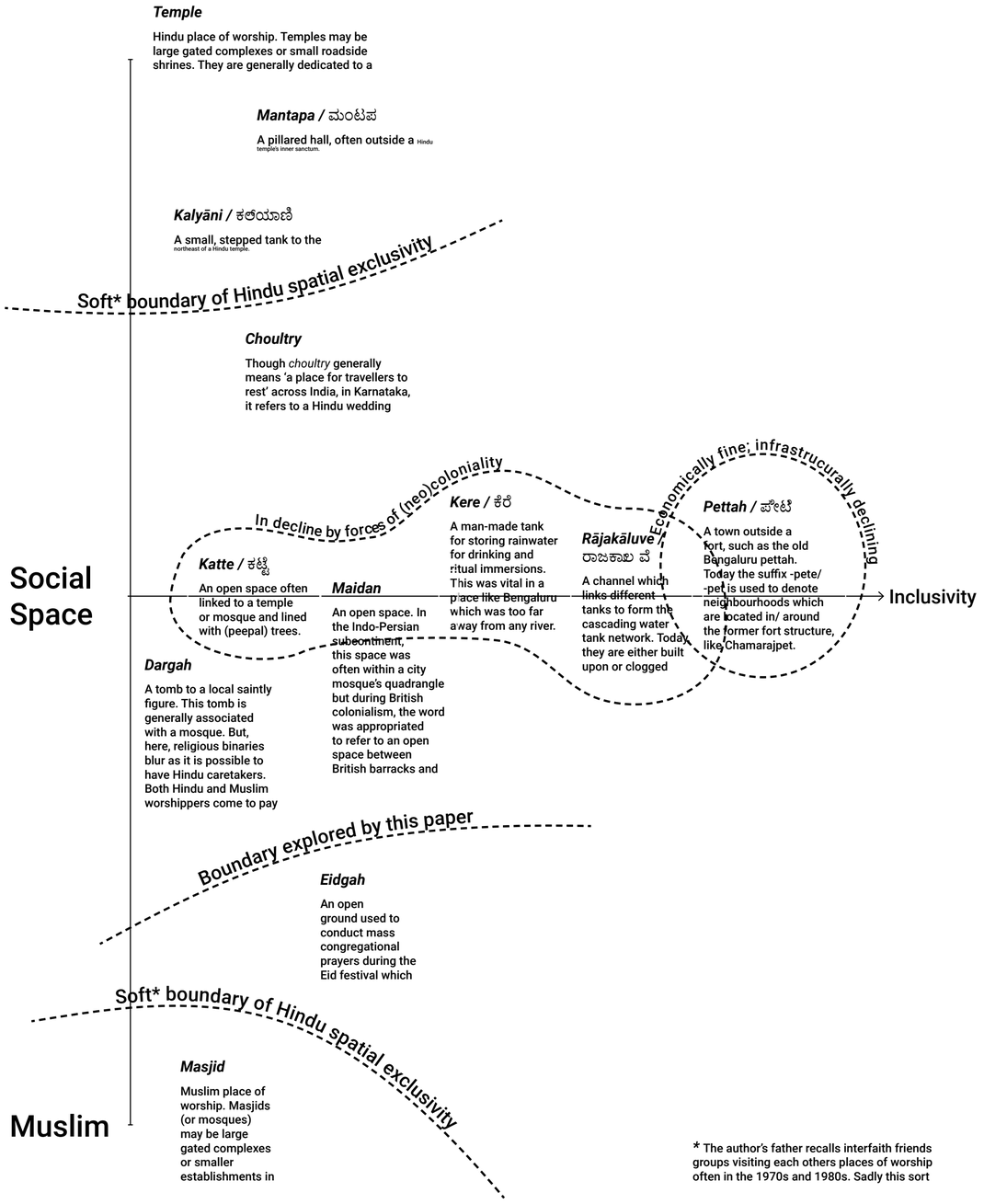

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Social Space

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Social Space

Religious Communalism in Public Space

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Google Search 2: Chamarajpet Maidan







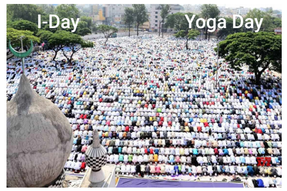






























This study was inspired by AMO's Al Manakh (2007) which undertook a similar analysis of eal-estate promotional videos from Dubai.







































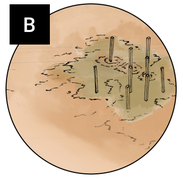
Countercartography

Countercartography

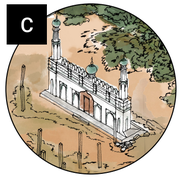
Generally a grassroots initiative, a countercartography aims to challenge discursive notions of spatial representation. Countercartographies are often used to map disempowerments.



Construction materials (wooden beams, concrete columns and aggregate piles) were abandoned on the maidan's edges and pavements.



A rocky outcrop rising about 1.5m was covered with grass and marked the maidan's centre. On it were 3m high granite columns.



The Eidgah Wall is the centrepiece of the maidan, occupying a prominent view from surrounding buildings.





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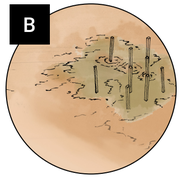

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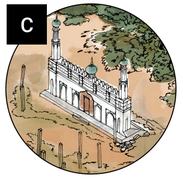

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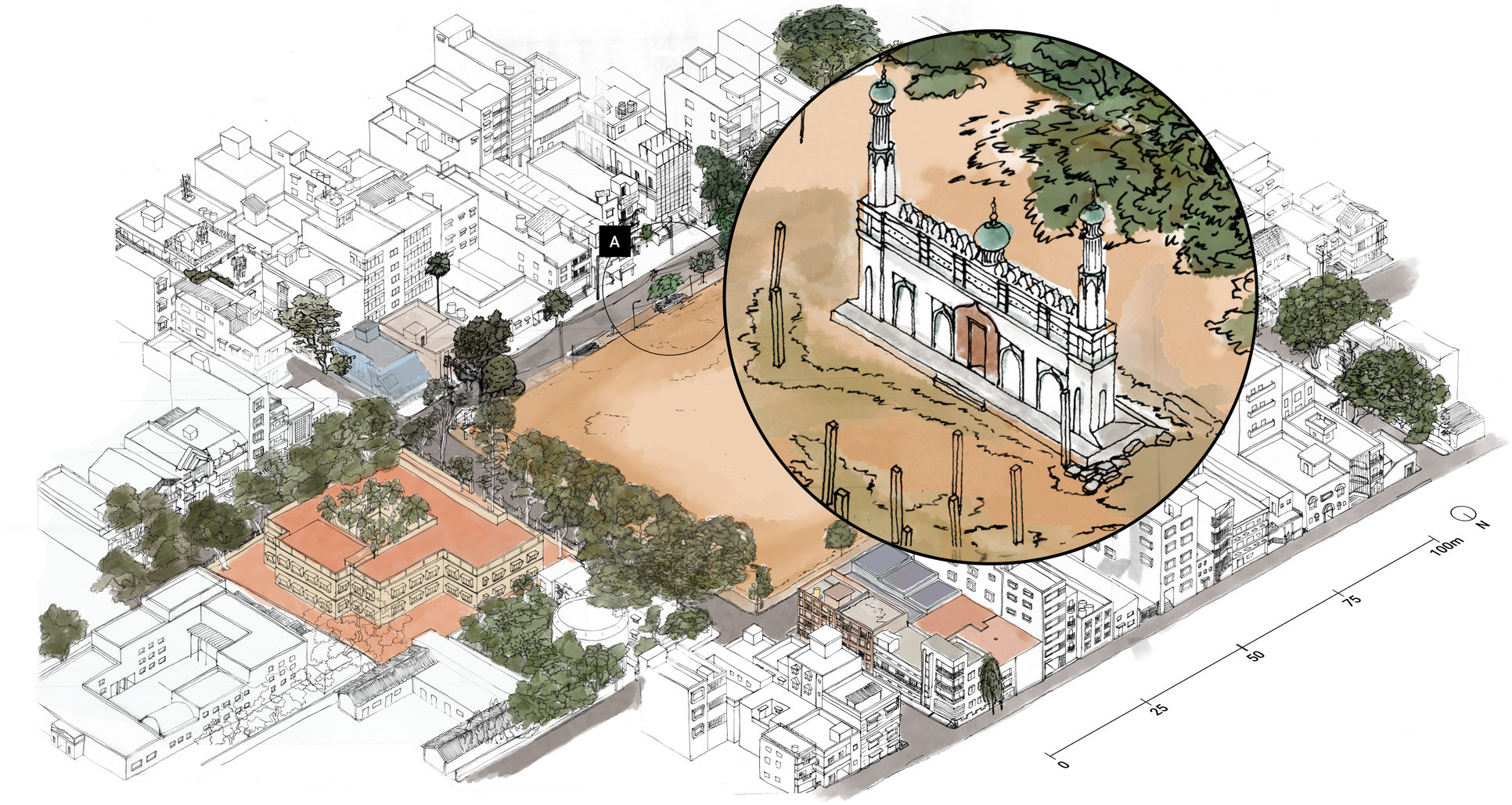

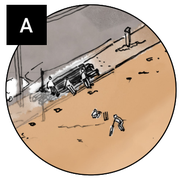

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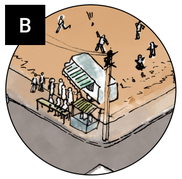
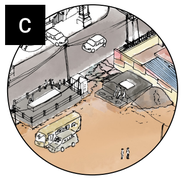


A mobile canteen is another gathering spot, favoured for its location under the trees' canopies.



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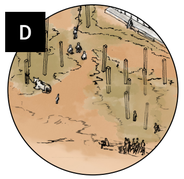
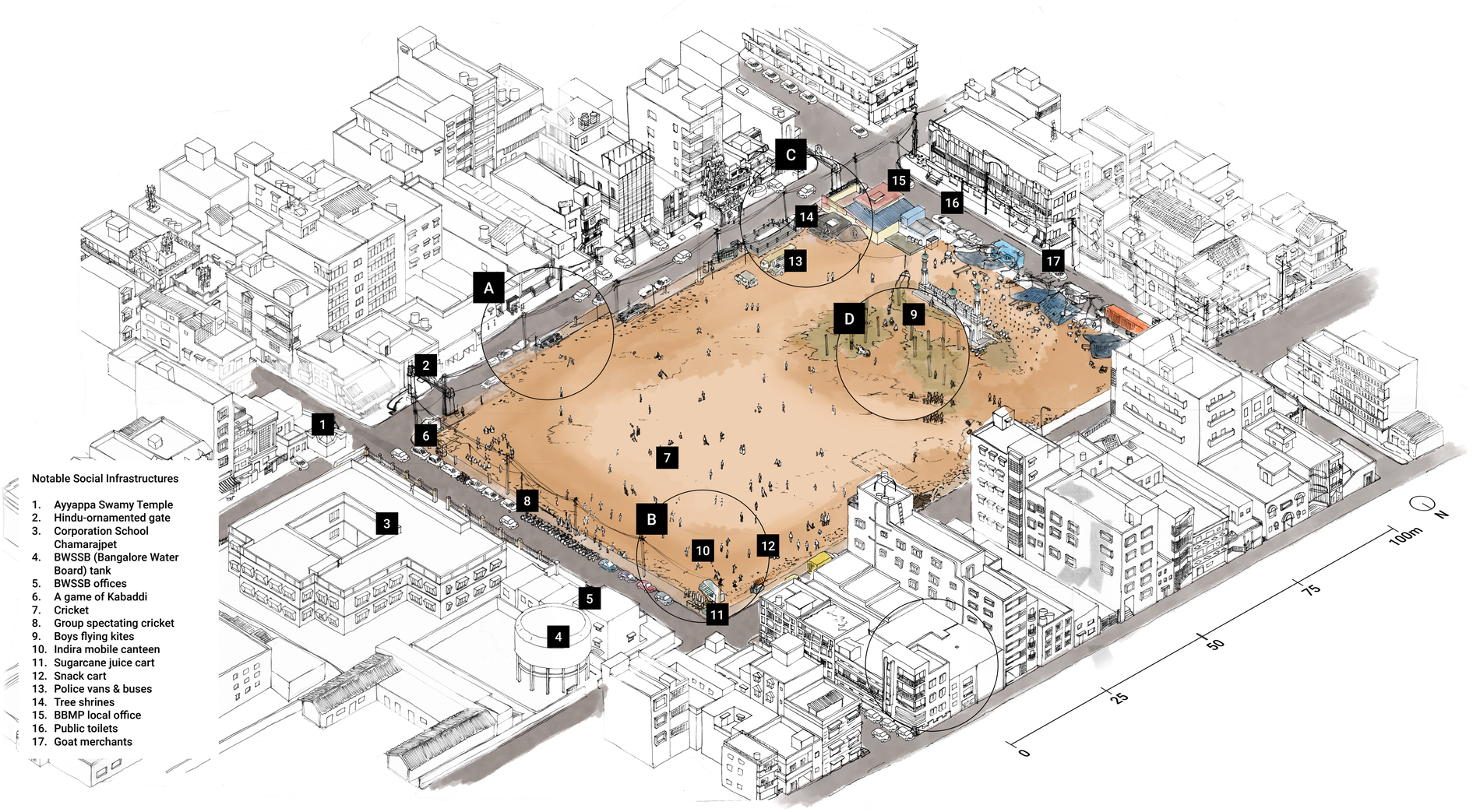
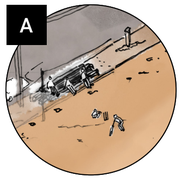


Fewer people gather on the central rock than on the peripheral pavement.



Notable Social Infrastructures

1. Ayyappa Swamy Temple
2. Hindu-ornamented gate
3. Corporation School Chamarajpet
4. BWSSB (Bangalore Water Board) tank
5. BWSSB offices
6. A game of Kabaddi
7. Cricket
8. Group spectating cricket
9. Boys flying kites
10. Indira mobile canteen
11. Sugarcane juice cart
12. Snack cart
13. Police vans & buses
14. Tree shrines
15. BBMP local office
16. Public toilets
17. Goat merchants



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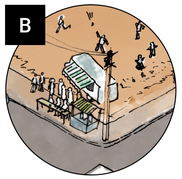

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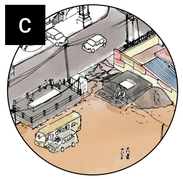

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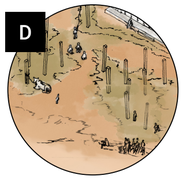

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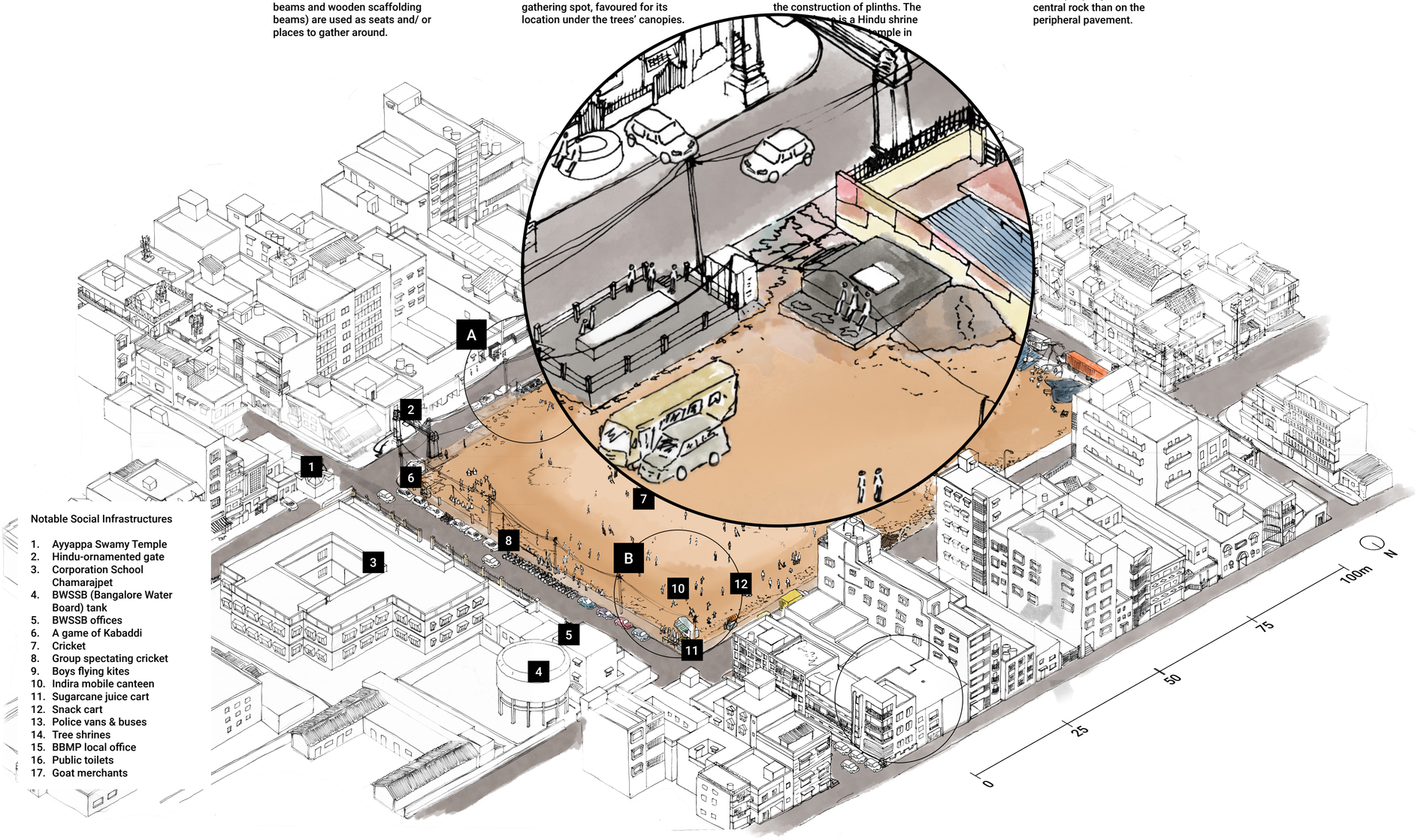

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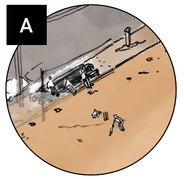

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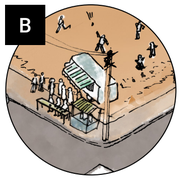

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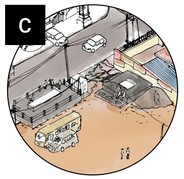

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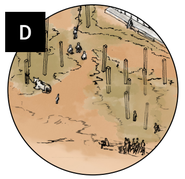
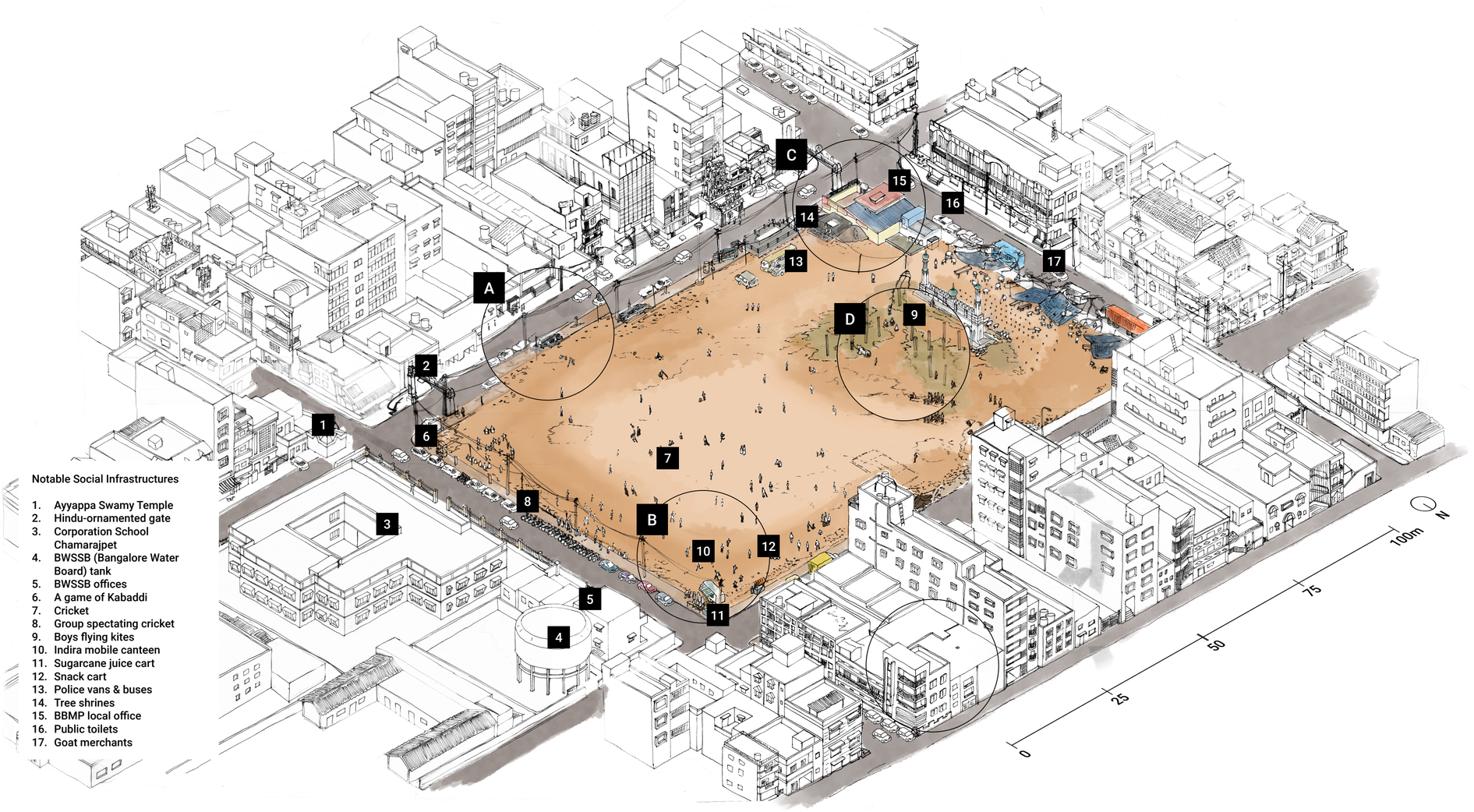
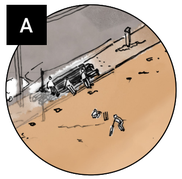


Fewer people gather on the central rock than on the peripheral pavement.



Notable Social Infrastructures

1. Ayyappa Swamy Temple
2. Hindu-ornamented gate
3. Corporation School Chamarajpet
4. BWSSB (Bangalore Water Board) tank
5. BWSSB offices
6. A game of Kabaddi
7. Cricket
8. Group spectating cricket
9. Boys flying kites
10. Indira mobile canteen
11. Sugarcane juice cart
12. Snack cart
13. Police vans & buses
14. Tree shrines
15. BBMP local office
16. Public toilets
17. Goat merchants



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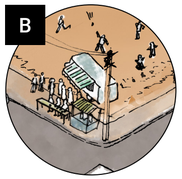
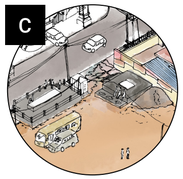
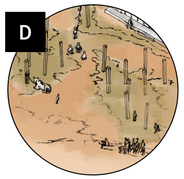


A mobile canteen is another gathering spot, favoured for its location under the trees' canopies.



Trees are venerated through



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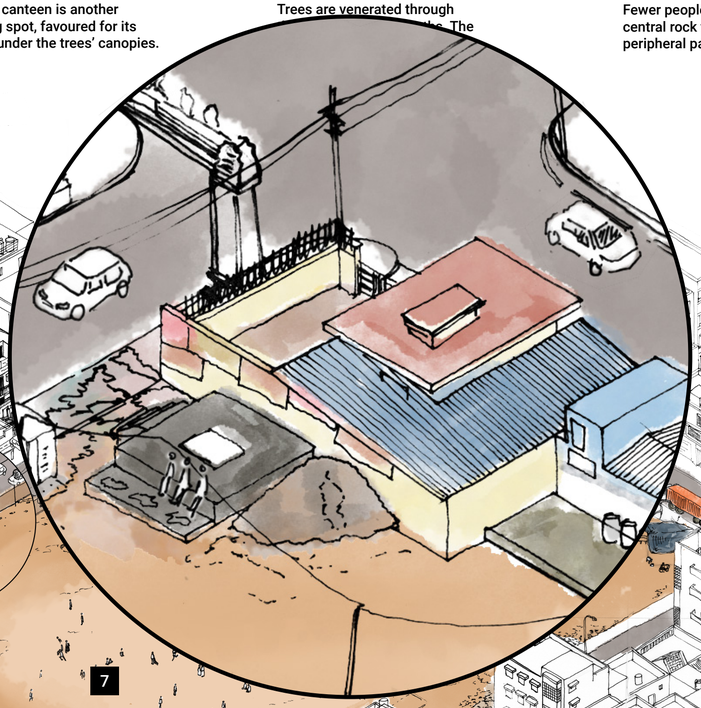

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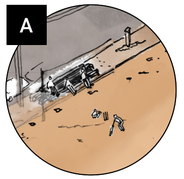

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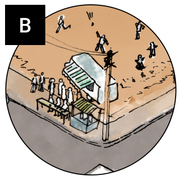

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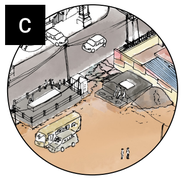

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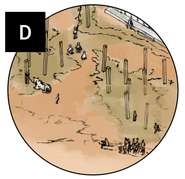

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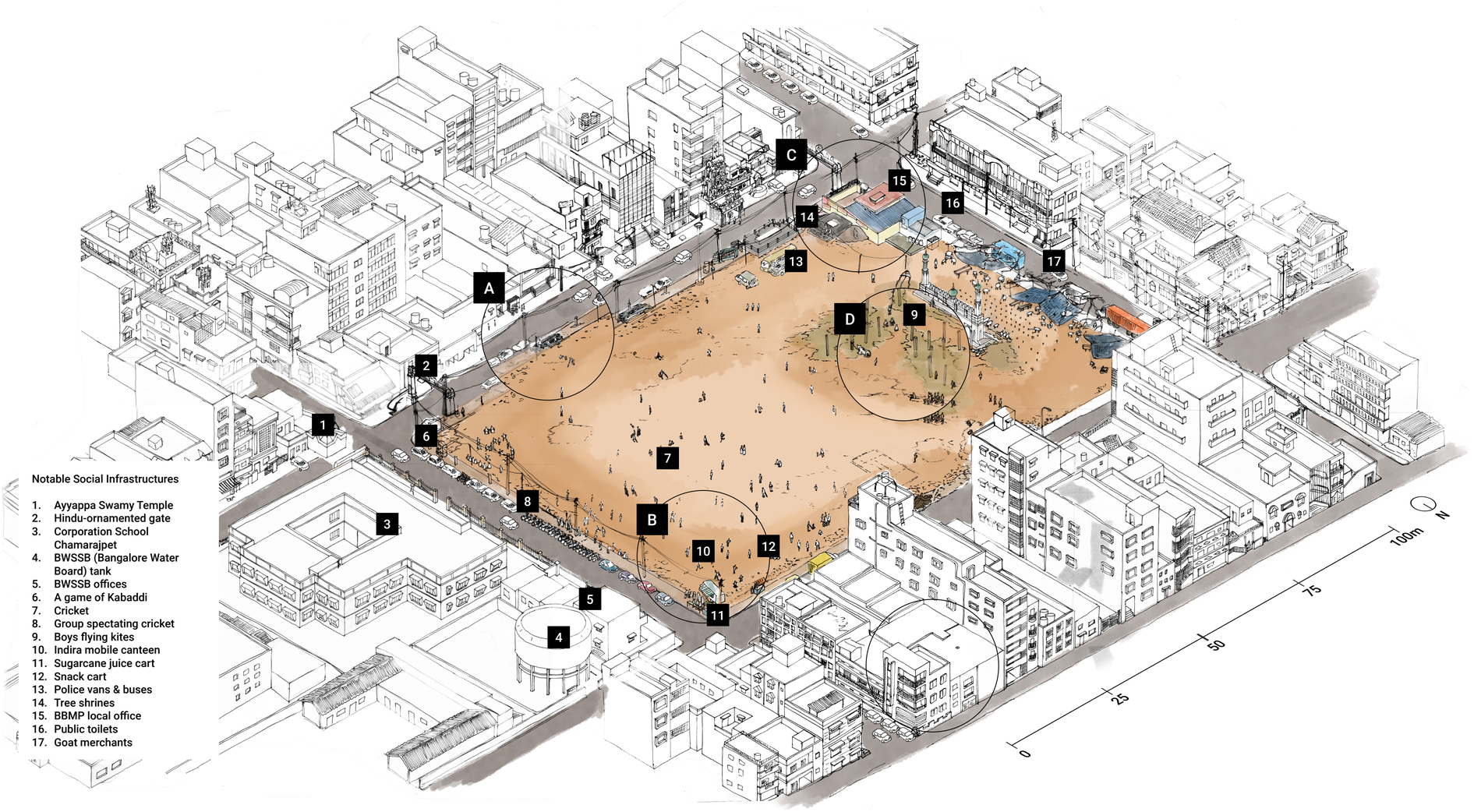

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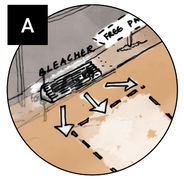
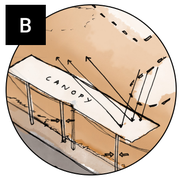
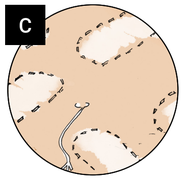


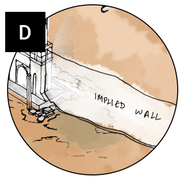
These ad hoc seats offer a good view of the cricket games, without attracting too much attention from onlookers.



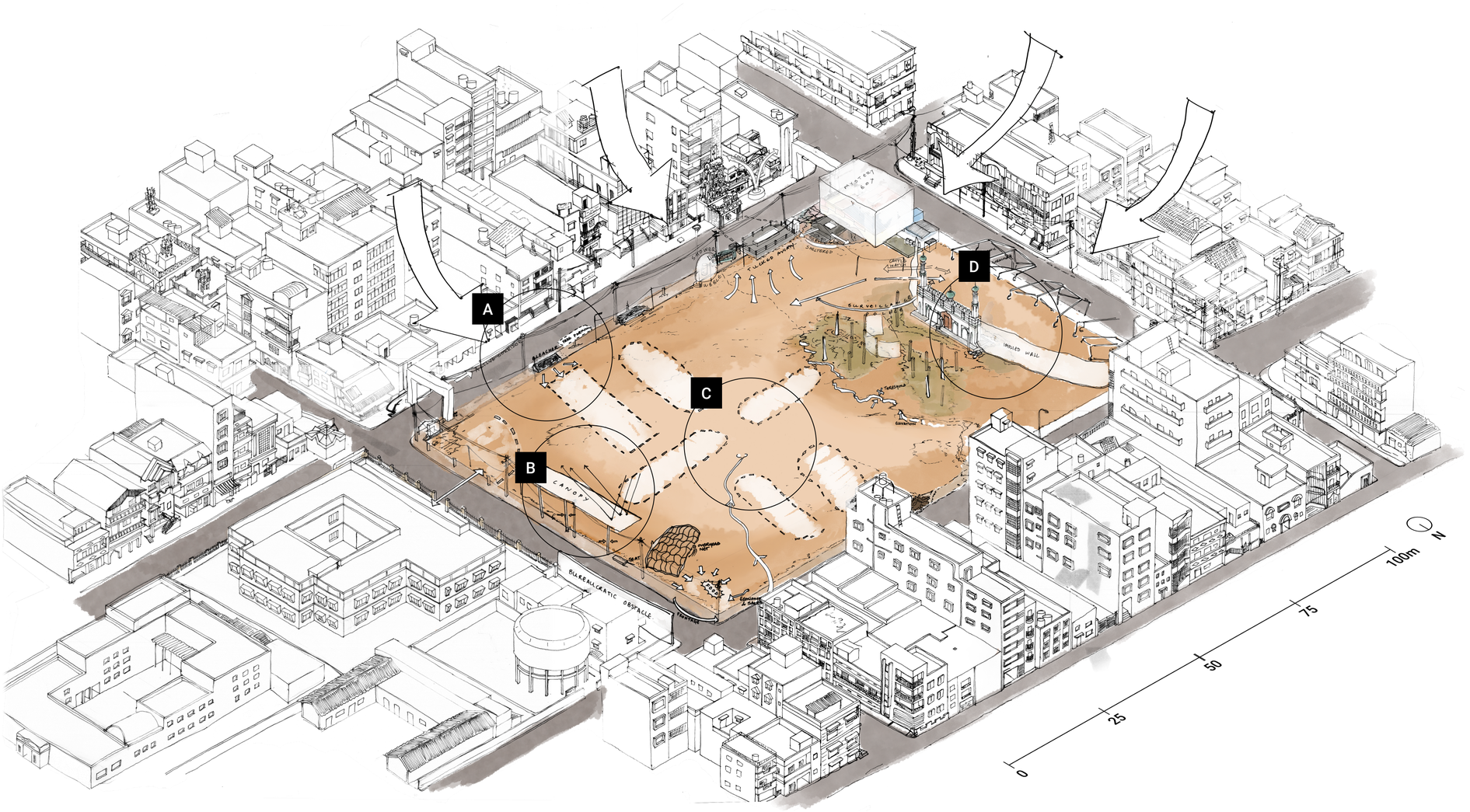
Trees offer much-needed shade for spectators and surveilling police officers.

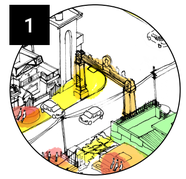


The maidan's openness allows multiple cricket games to occur, and for their configurations to change throughout the day or week.

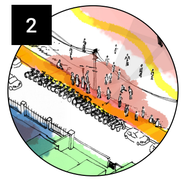


The Eidgah Wall almost offers shelter to the goat merchants by implying an extension of itself.

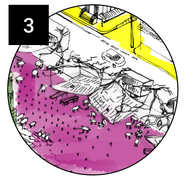




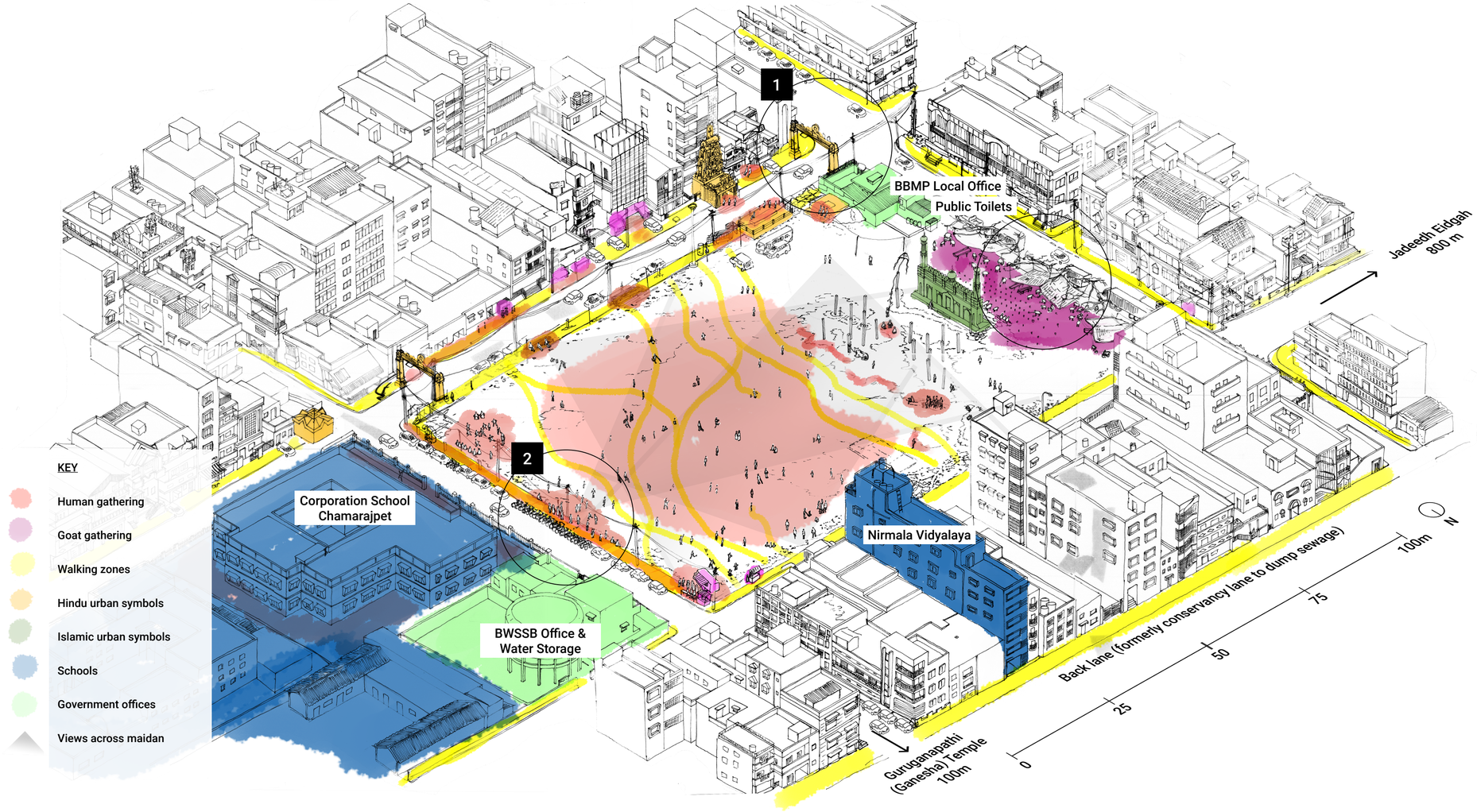
Hindu architectural motifs ornament a roadside temple and two portals which bookend the part of 2nd Main Road adjacent to the Eidgah.



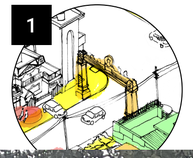
If cricket is a weekly ritual and kabbadi is a daily ritual, then spectators don't have much choice but to either get a chair from elsewhere, to sit on the pavement or found objects, or to stand.

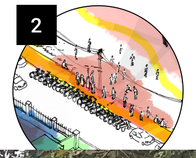


The goat market is a piece of economic infrastructure. The merchants have tied tarpaulin to low hanging tree branches to protect from rain.






1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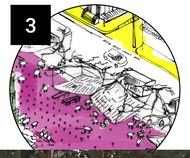
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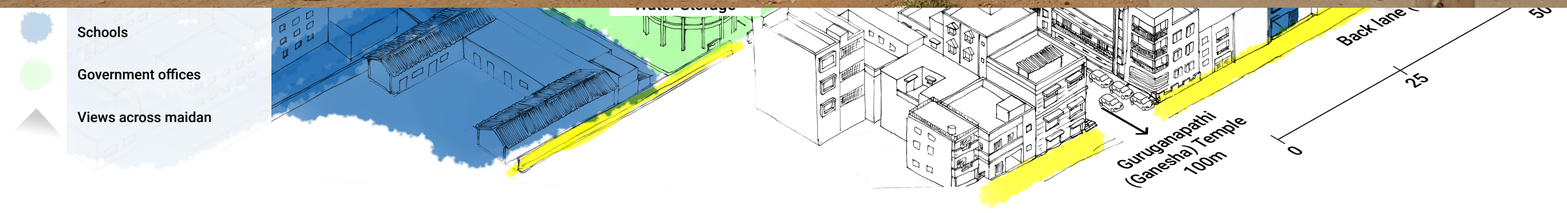
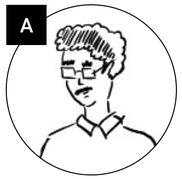

Schools
Government offices
Views across maidan
Gurugnapathi
(Ganesha) Temple
100m
0
25
50



A

Cashier at Mahalakshmi Sweets Shop



B

Principal of Corporation School Chamarajpet



C

Goat merchant



D

Pipes and plumbing shop owner



E

Policeman from Chamarajpet Police Station



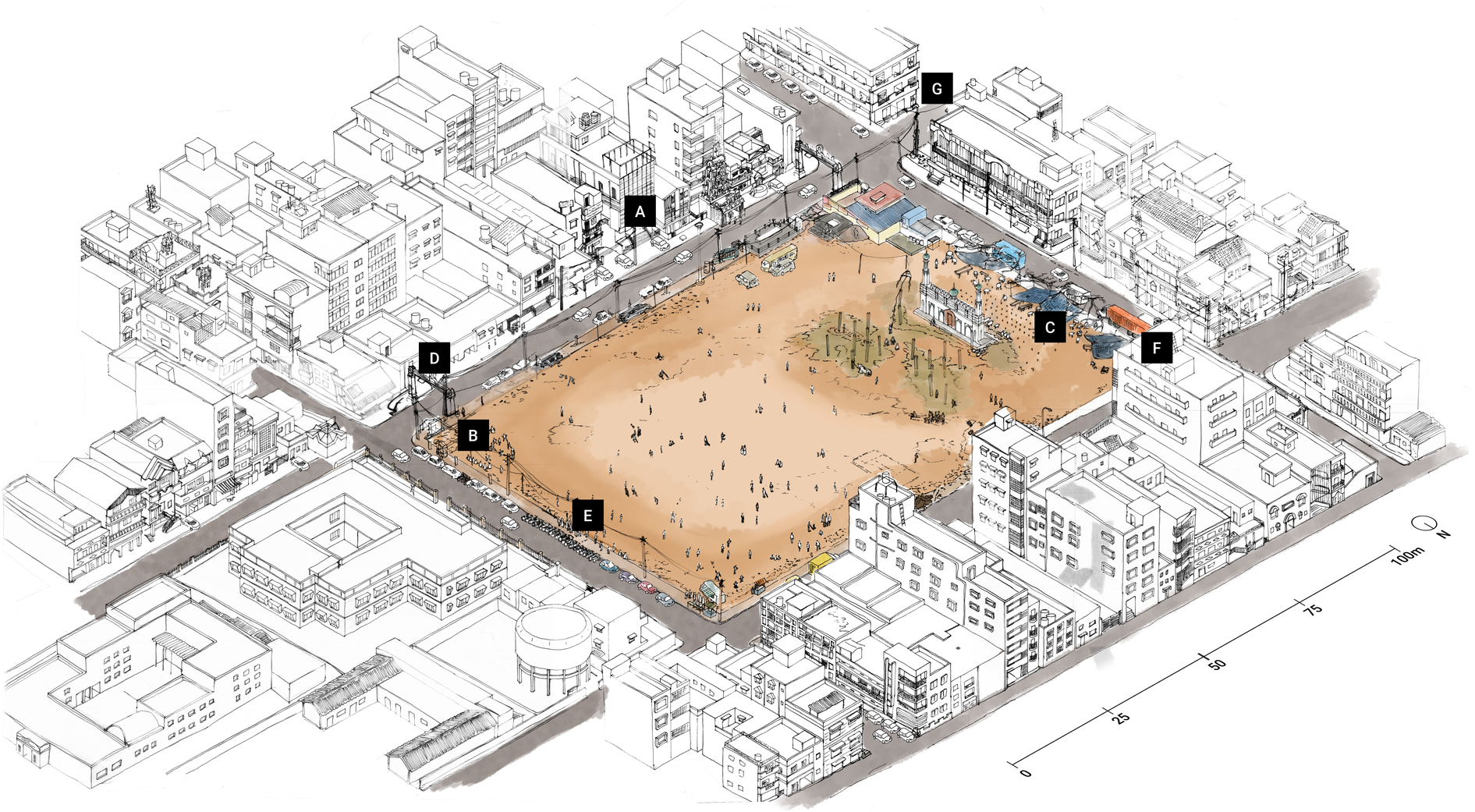
F

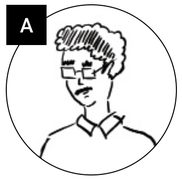
Neighbourhood youth who was helping kids fly kites



G

BJP Youth





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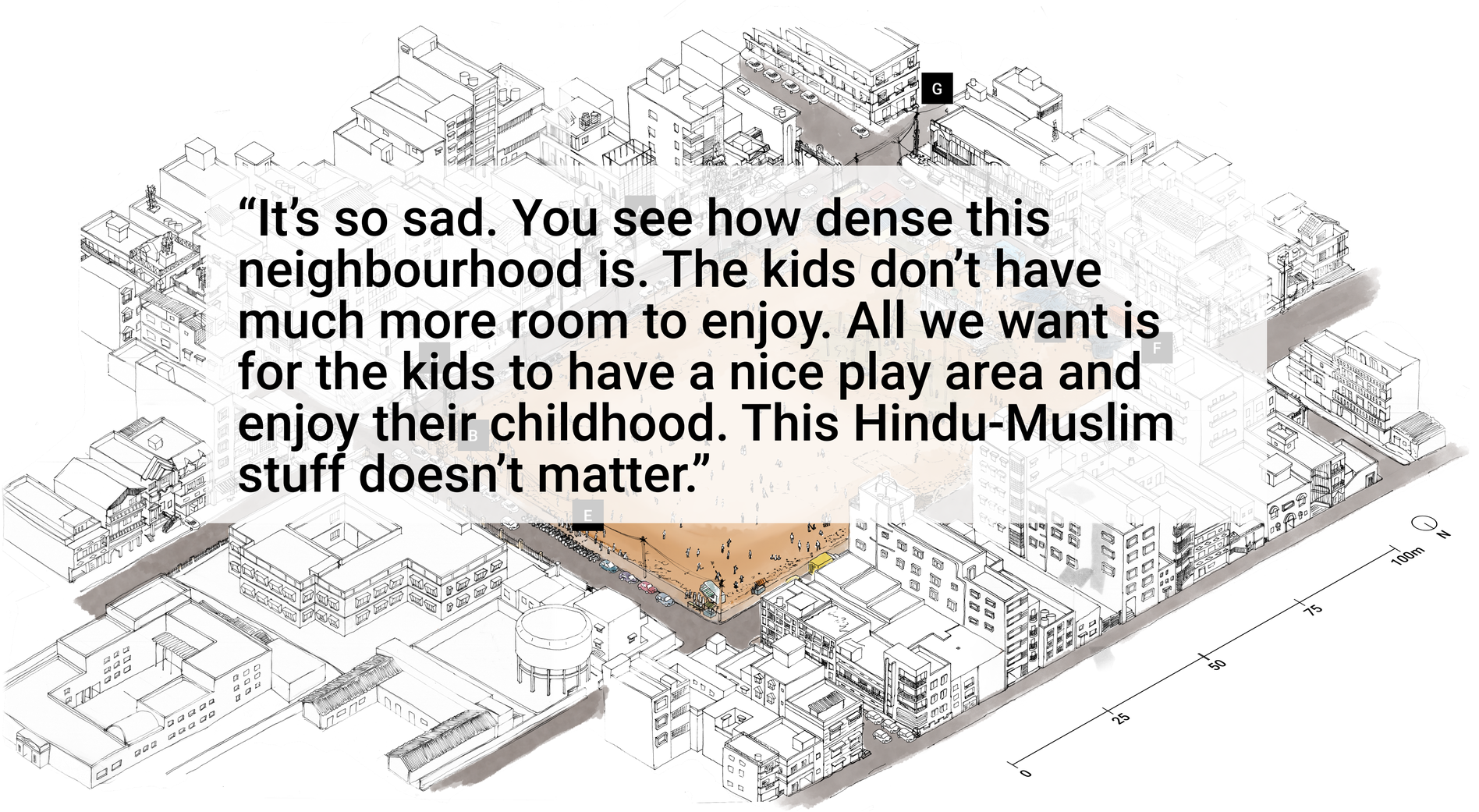
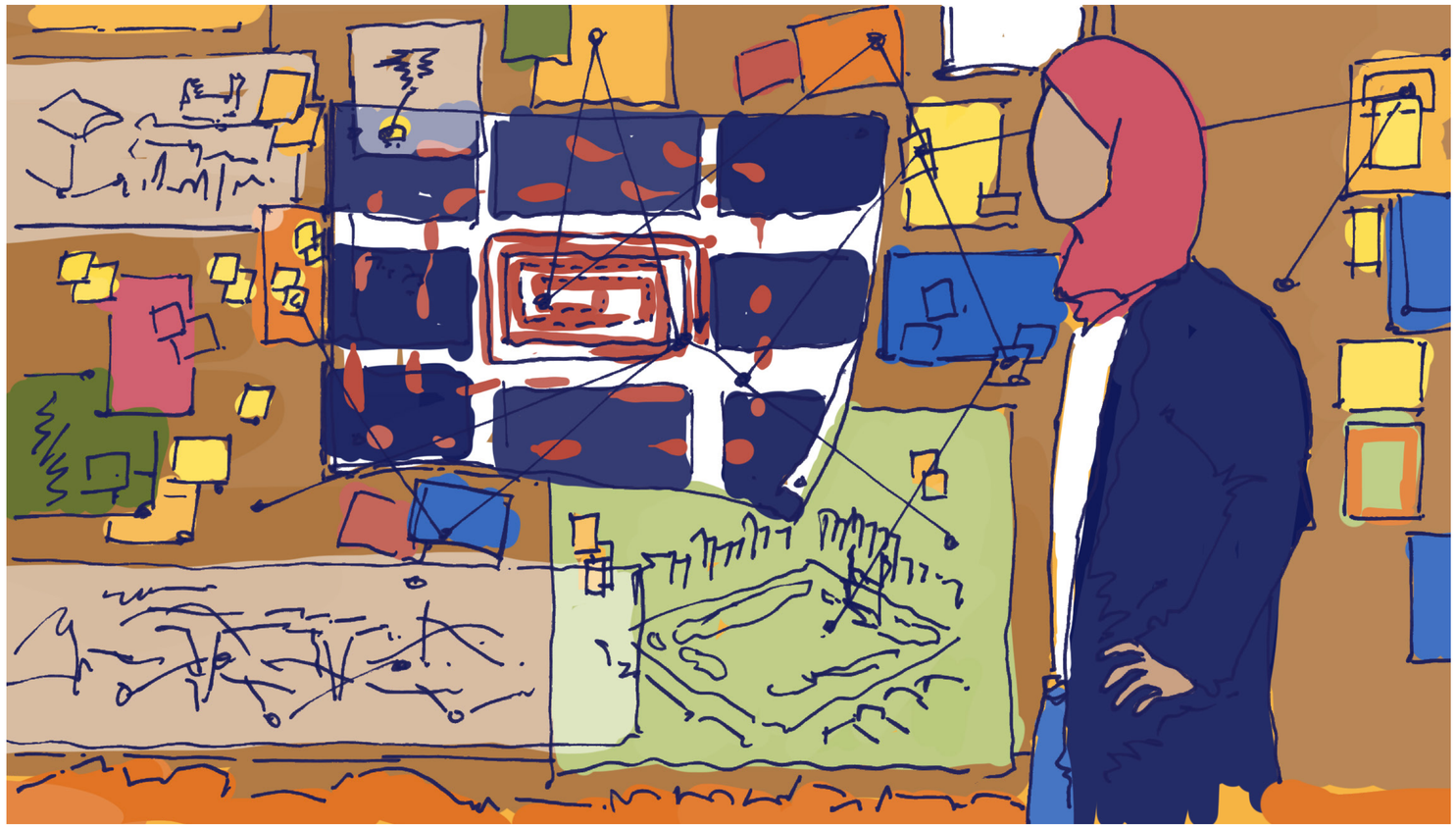
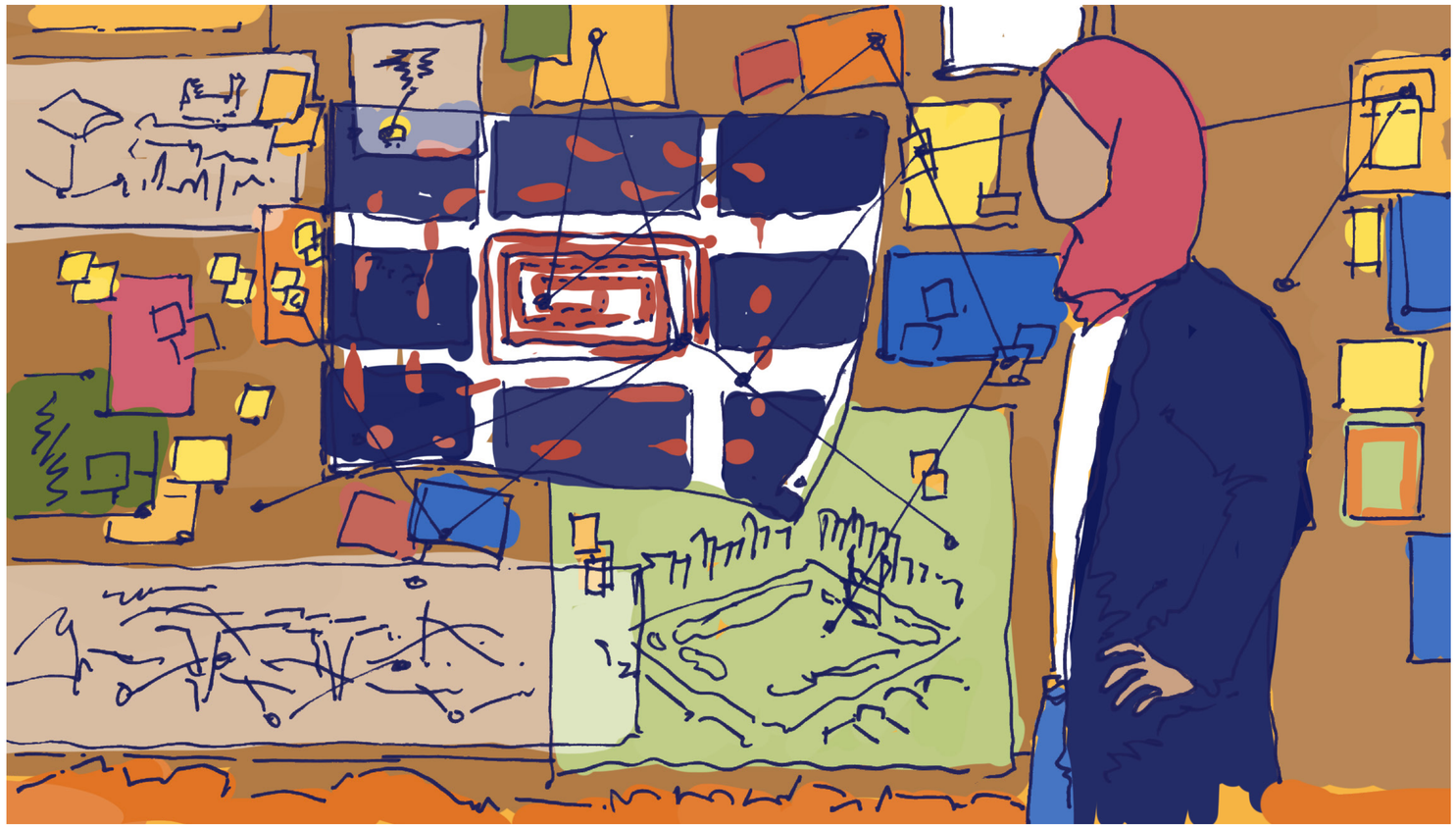


“It’s so sad. You see how dense this neighbourhood is. The kids don’t have much more room to enjoy. All we want is for the kids to have a nice play area and enjoy their childhood. This Hindu-Muslim stuff doesn’t matter.”





Forensic Futuring

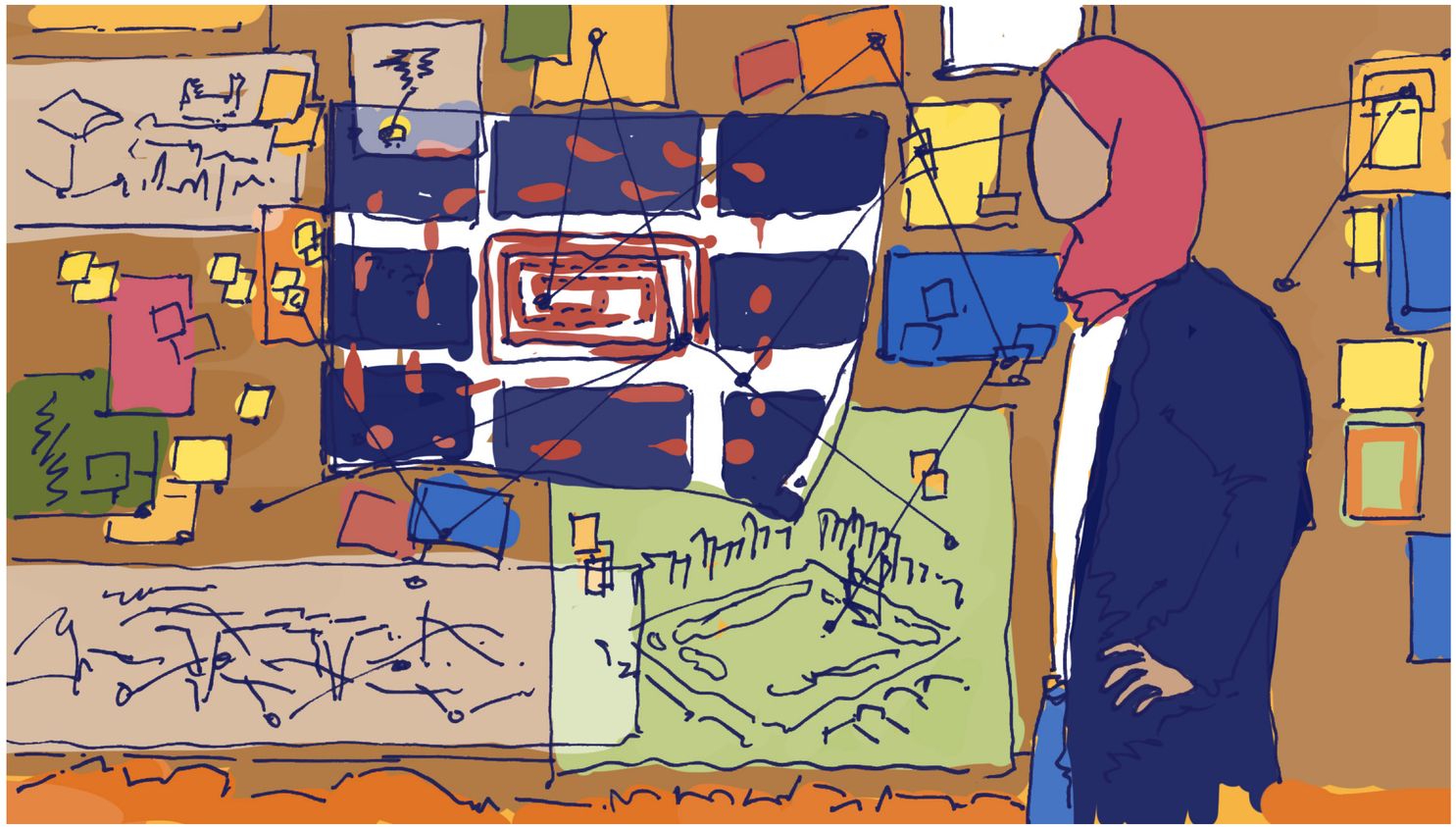


Forensic Futuring

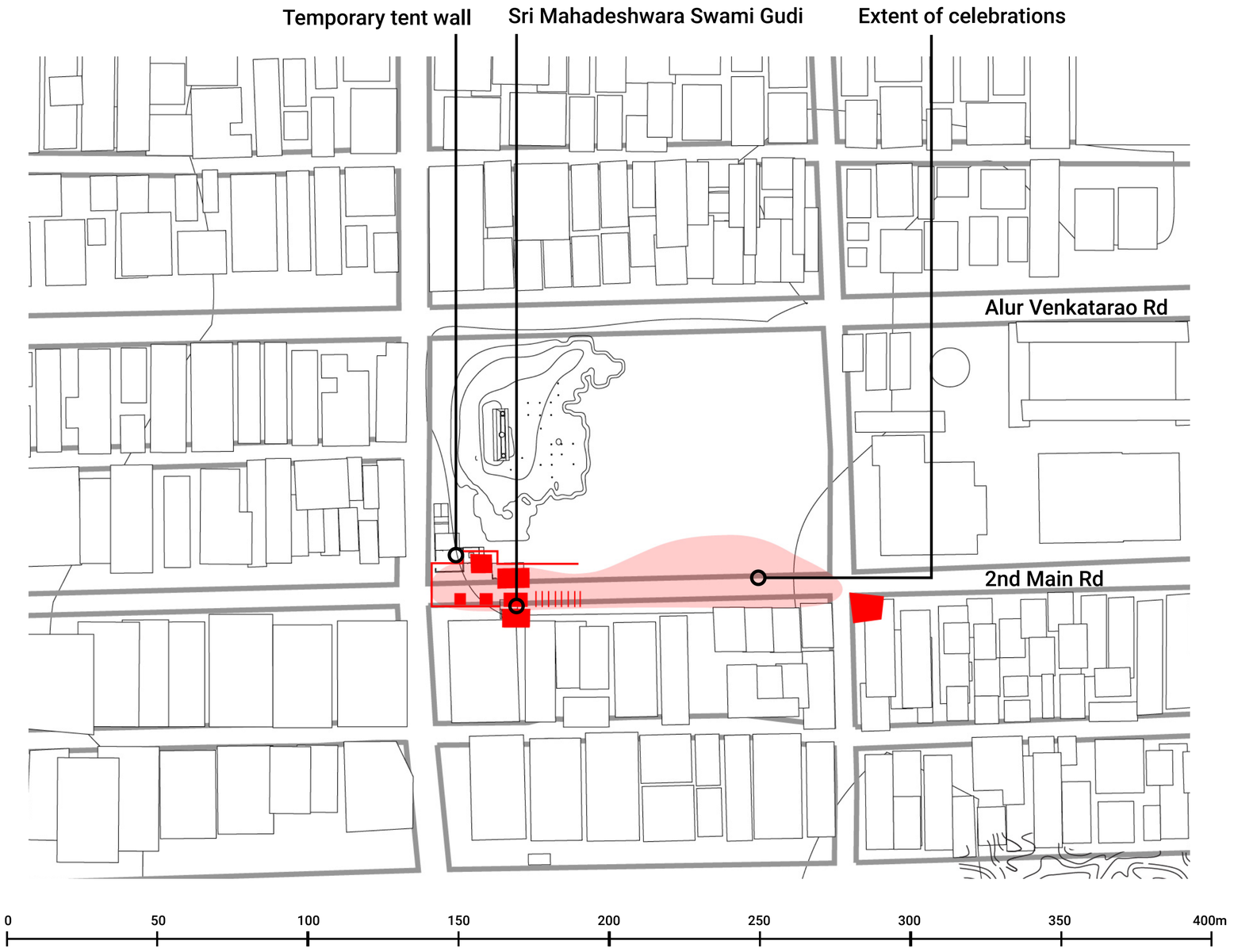


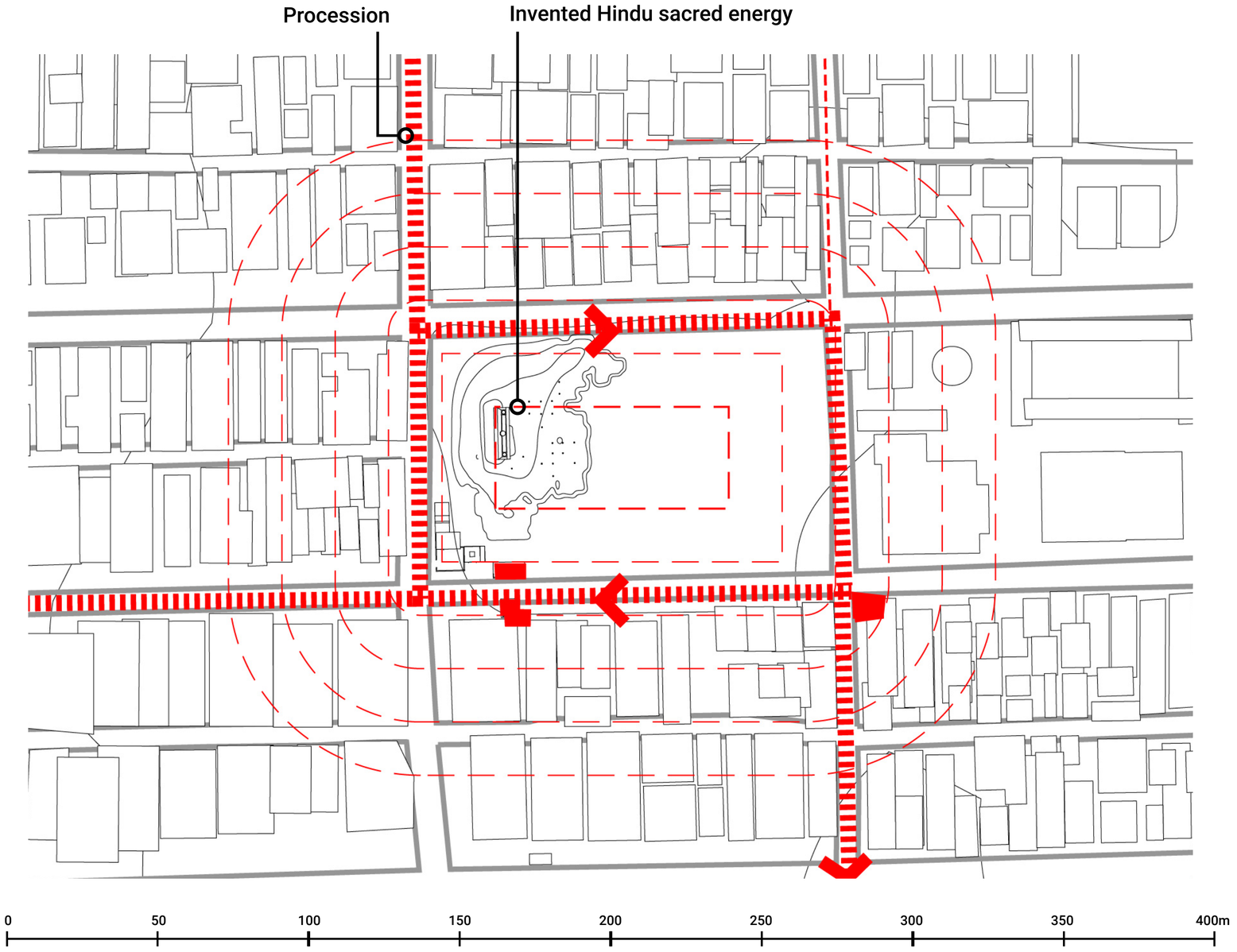
Forensic Futuring

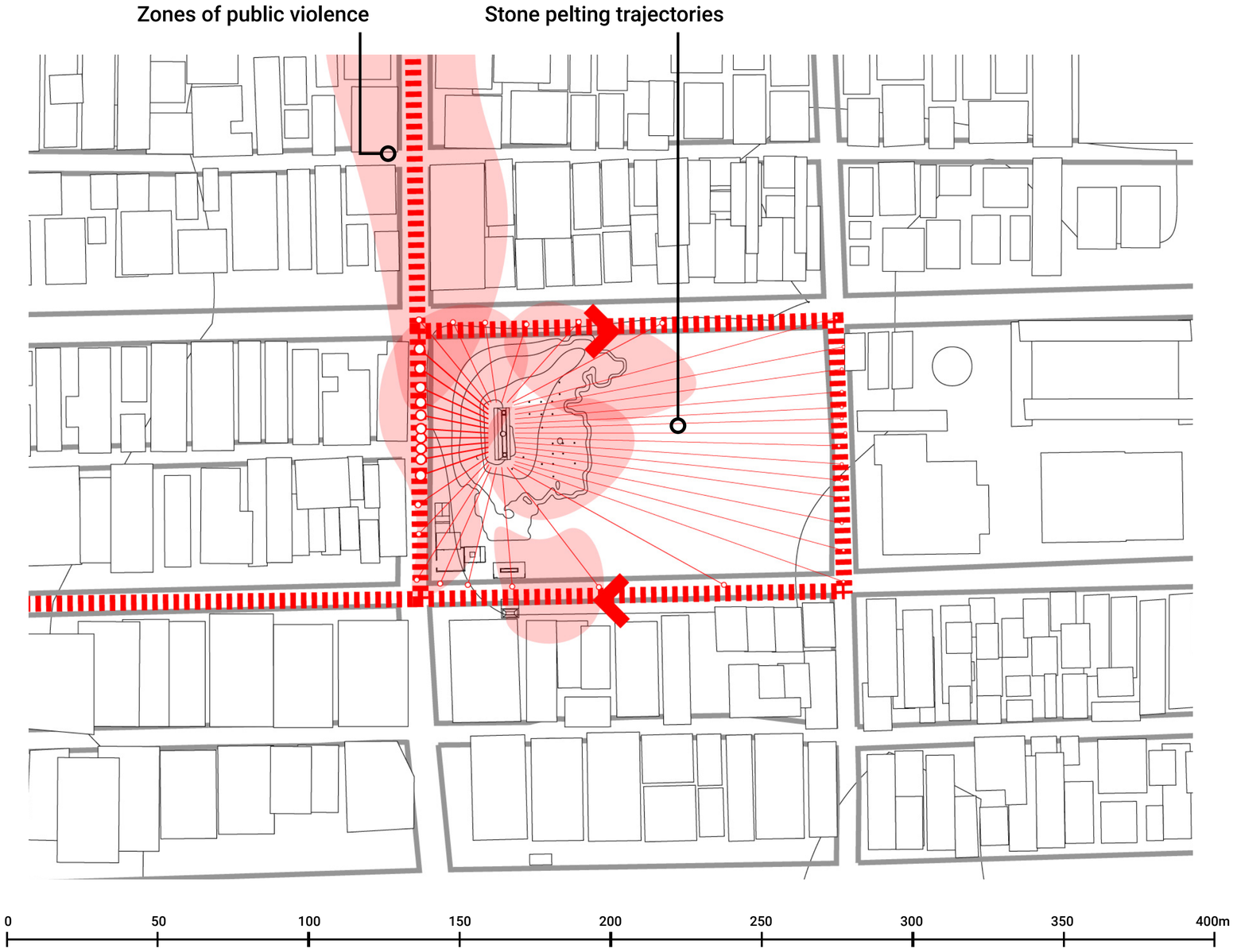
“Processions, carrying deities, often come under a volley of stones, followed by arson attacks, vandalism and violence, under the garb that they played devotional songs and hymns that ‘provoked’ the other side.”




Jadeedh Eidgah
800m
0
50
100
150
200
250
300
350
400m


Temporary tent wall
Sri Mahadeshwara Swami Gudi
Extent of celebrations
Alur Venkatarao Rd
2nd Main Rd
0
50
100
150
200
250
300
350
400m


Procession
Invented Hindu sacred energy
0
50
100
150
200
250
300
350
400m


Zones of public violence
Stone pelting trajectories
0
50
100
150
200
250
300
350
400m

What is the relationship between public spaces, rituals and communalism in Chamarajpet Maidan?

Worldings exacerbate the Hindu-Muslim conflict.

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The maidan’s everyday life is at risk.

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The maidan needs to address the conflict by re-worlding.

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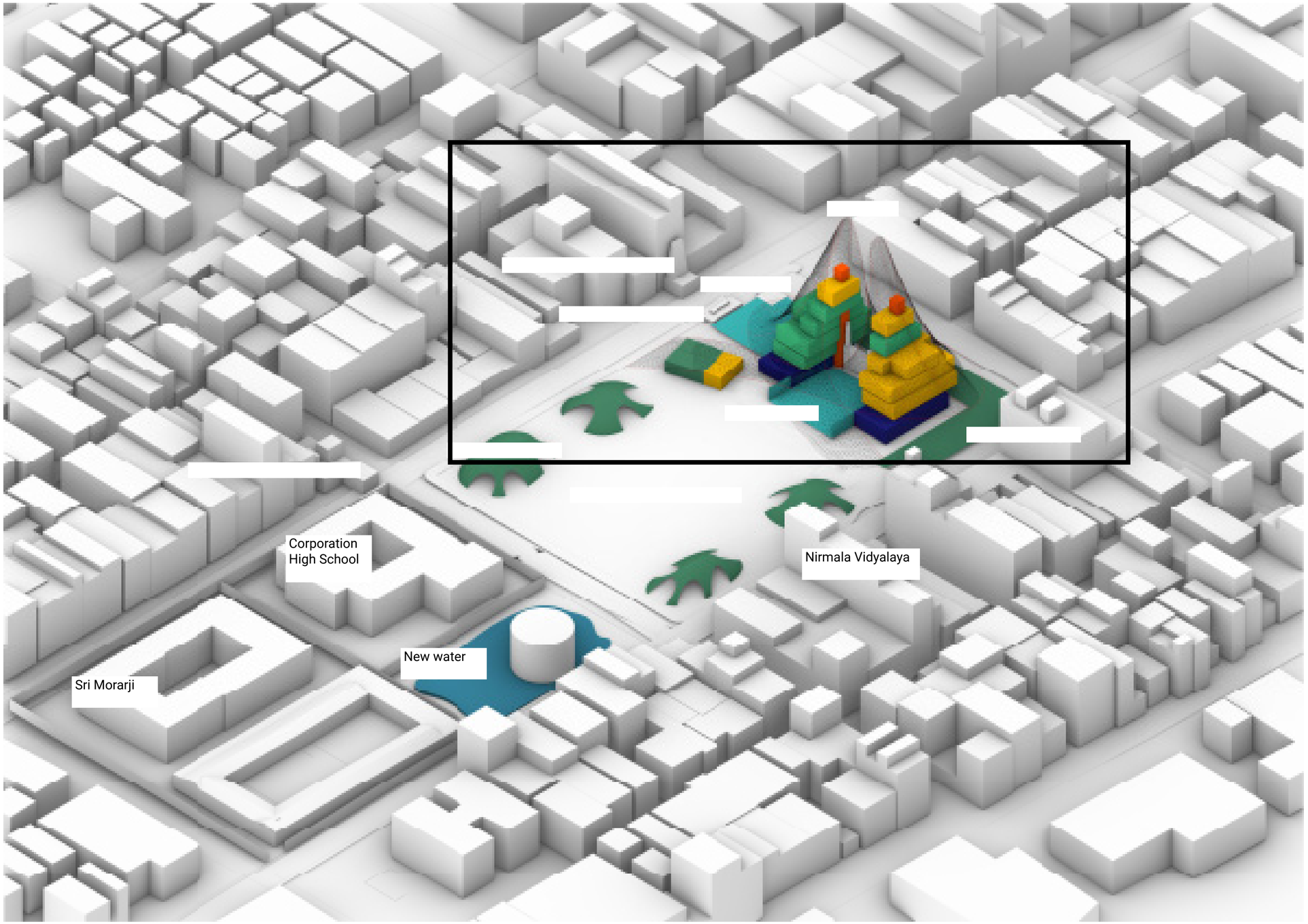
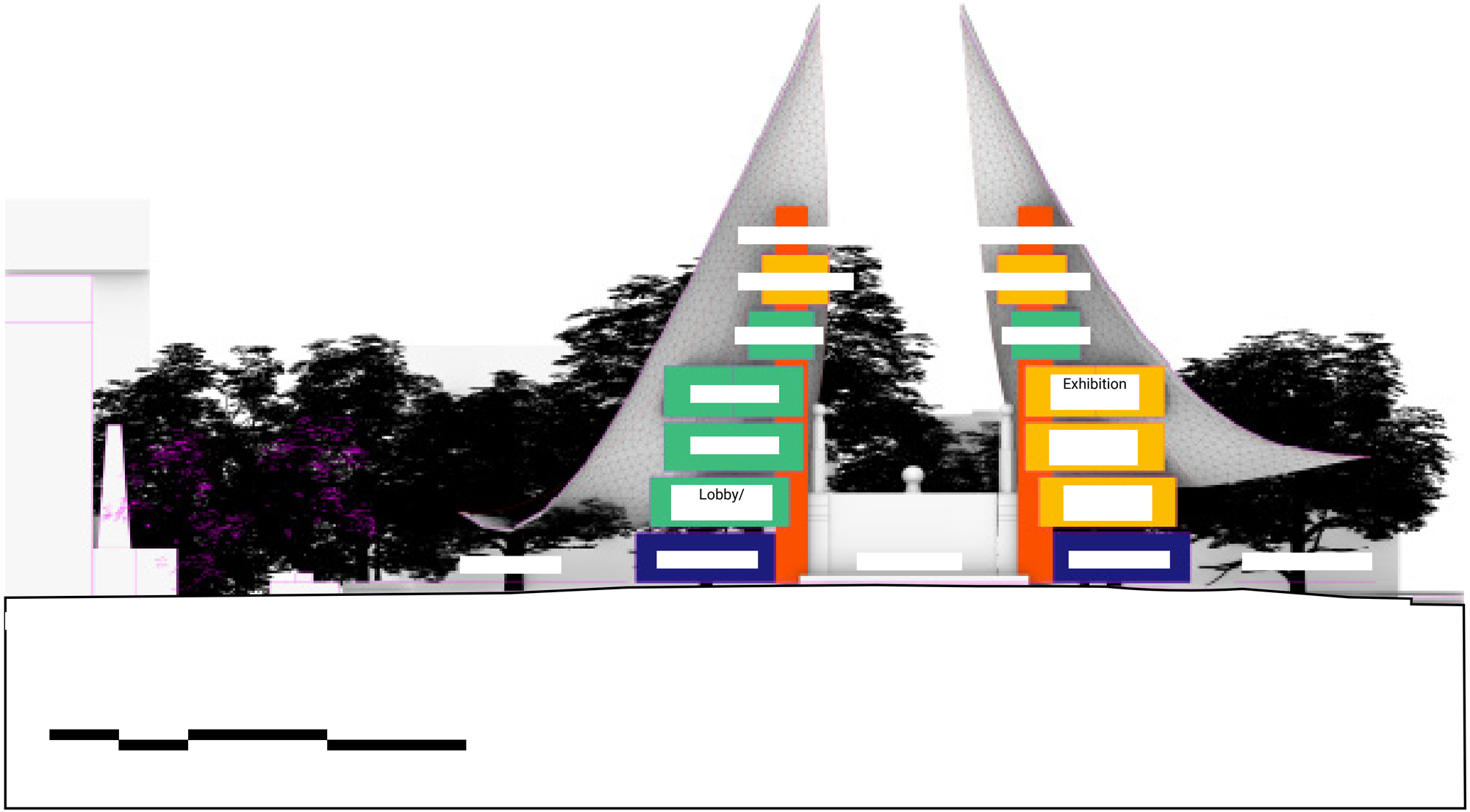
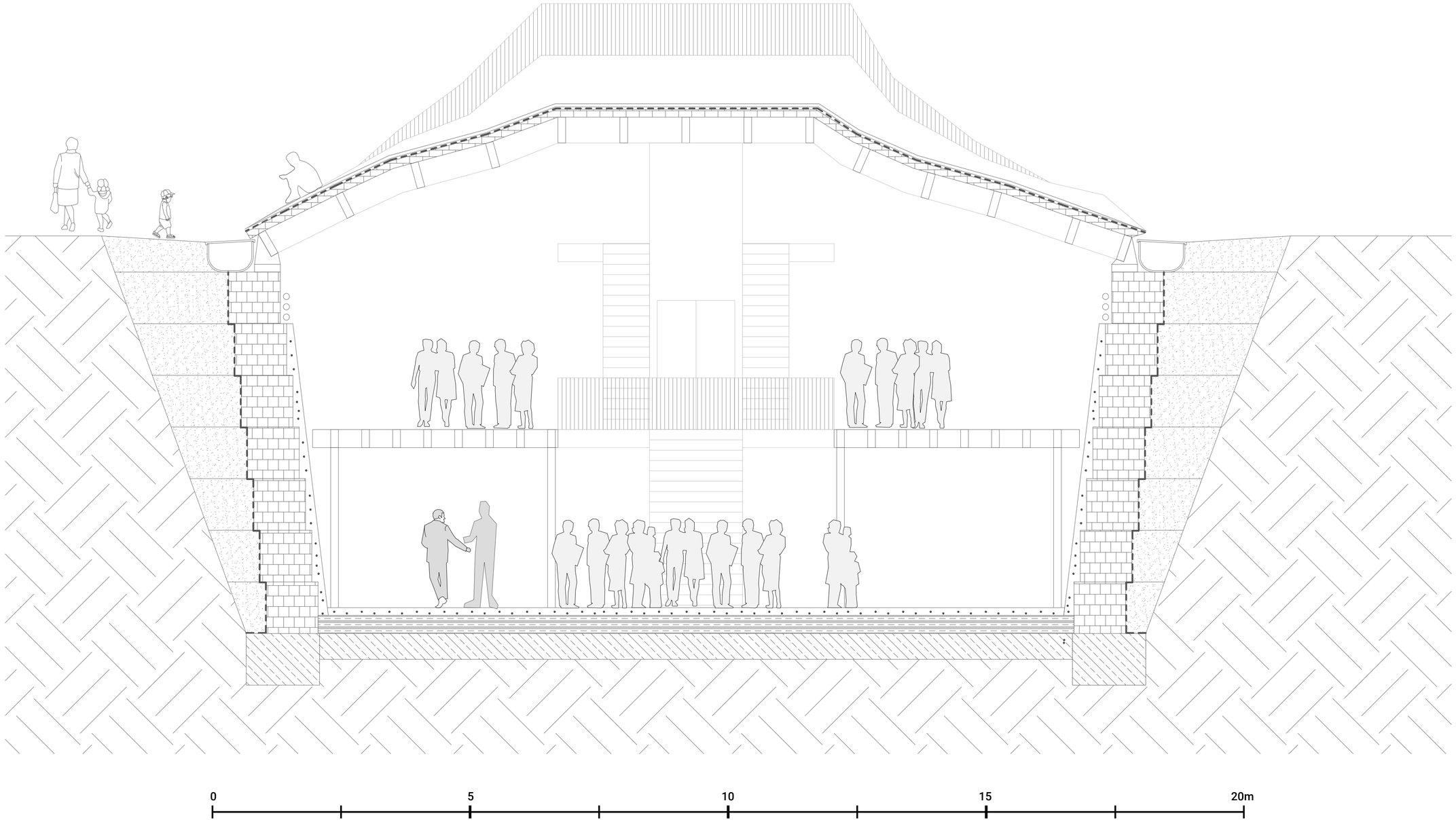
The maidan’s everyday life is at risk.
The public realm must preserve and encourage its everyday social activities.


Corporation
High School
Nirmala Vidyalaya
New water
Sri Morarji


Exhibition
Lobby/




0
5
10
15
20m



Who is going to build this?

Who is going to build this?
For whom is this?

Worlding
Gayathri Spivak, 1985

perpetuations of colonial epistemic frameworks in archival materials and architectural pedagogy



Worlding
Gayathri Spivak, 1985

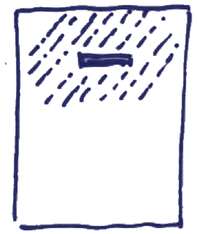


PROBLEM ① RELIGIOUS TENSION
② EVERY DAY DISEMPOWERMENTS → NEED FOR "COMMON GROUND"

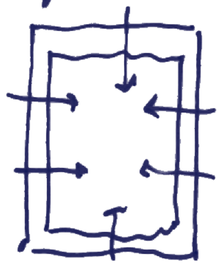
DESIGN BRIEF

RE-WORLDING THE MAIDAN

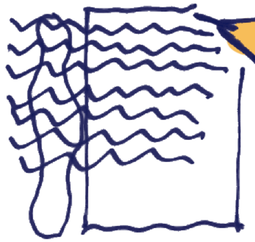
① ADDRESS CONFLICT BY:



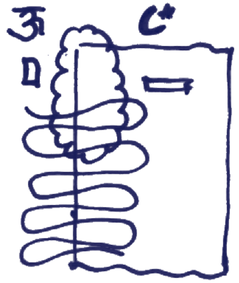
REDUCING RISK OF VIOLENCE NEAR EIDGAH WALL



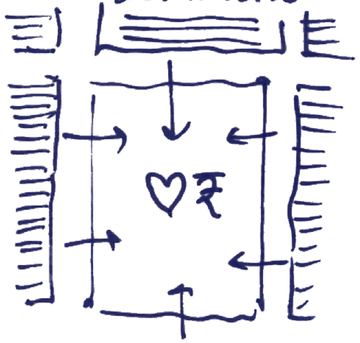
BOLSTERING BOUNDARIES WHILE ENHANCING COMMONS



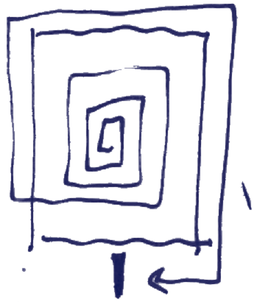
FACILITATING EXISTING RITUALS (WHICH RESPECT THE OTHER RITUALS)



MINIMISING HINDU-MUSLIM (SPATIAL) DIFFERENCE OR BINARISING



FACILITATE PUBLIC LIFE TO AVOID COMMUNAL STRIKES



PREVENT NEW RELIGIOUS CLAIMS, WHICH OCCUR EITHER VIOLENTLY OR OTHERWISE



PROBLEM ① RELIGIOUS TENSION
② EVERY DAY DISEMPOWERMENTS → NEED FOR "COMMON GROUND"

DESIGN BRIEF

RE-WORLDING THE MAIDAN

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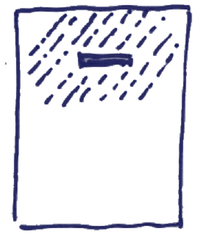
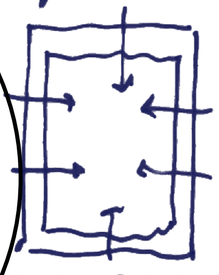
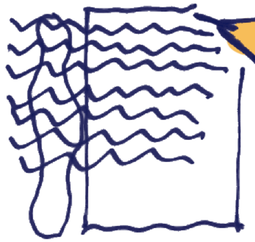


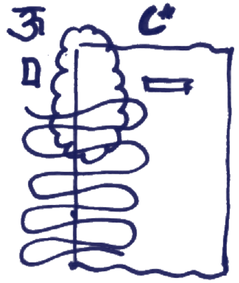
REDUCING RISK OF VIOLENCE NEAR EIDGAH WALL



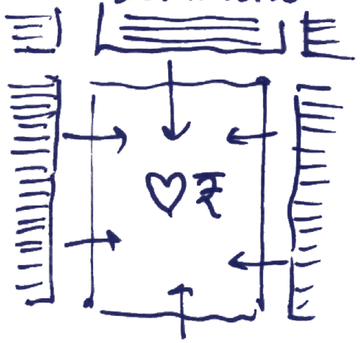
BOLSTERING BOUNDARIES WHILE ENHANCING COMMONS



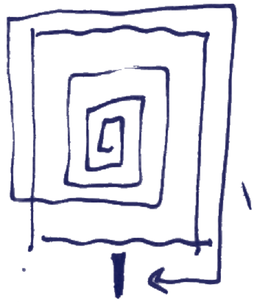
FACILITATING EXISTING RITUALS (WHICH RESPECT THE OTHER RITUALS)



MINIMISING HINDU-MUSLIM (SPATIAL) DIFFERENCE OR BINARISING

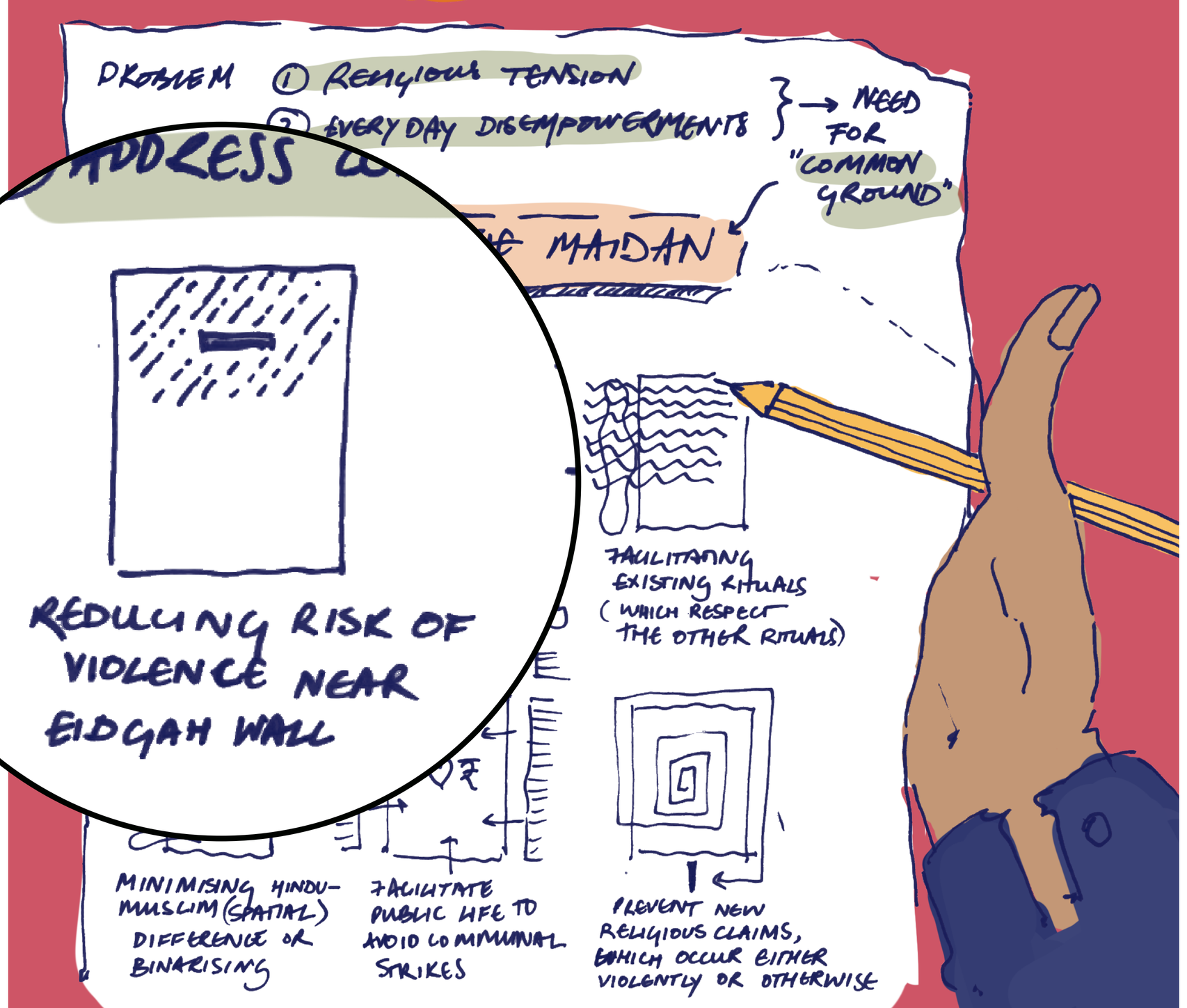


FACILITATE PUBLIC LIFE TO AVOID COMMUNAL STRIKES



PREVENT NEW RELIGIOUS CLAIMS, WHICH OCCUR EITHER VIOLENTLY OR OTHERWISE




PROBLEM
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RE-WORLDING THE MAIDAN

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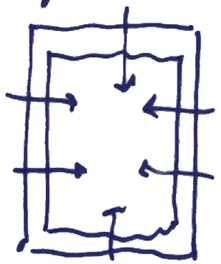

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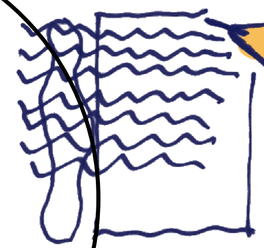

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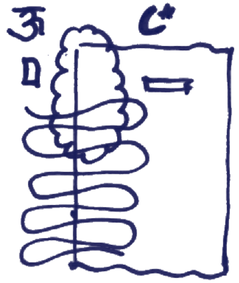

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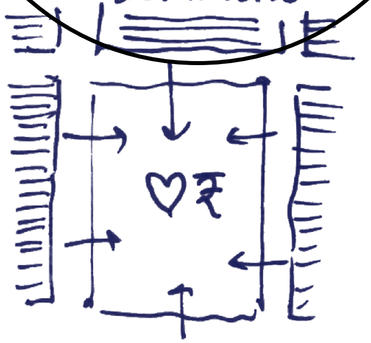

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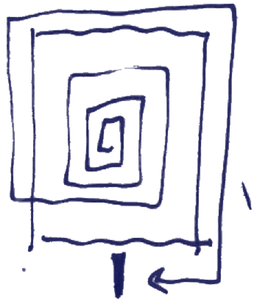

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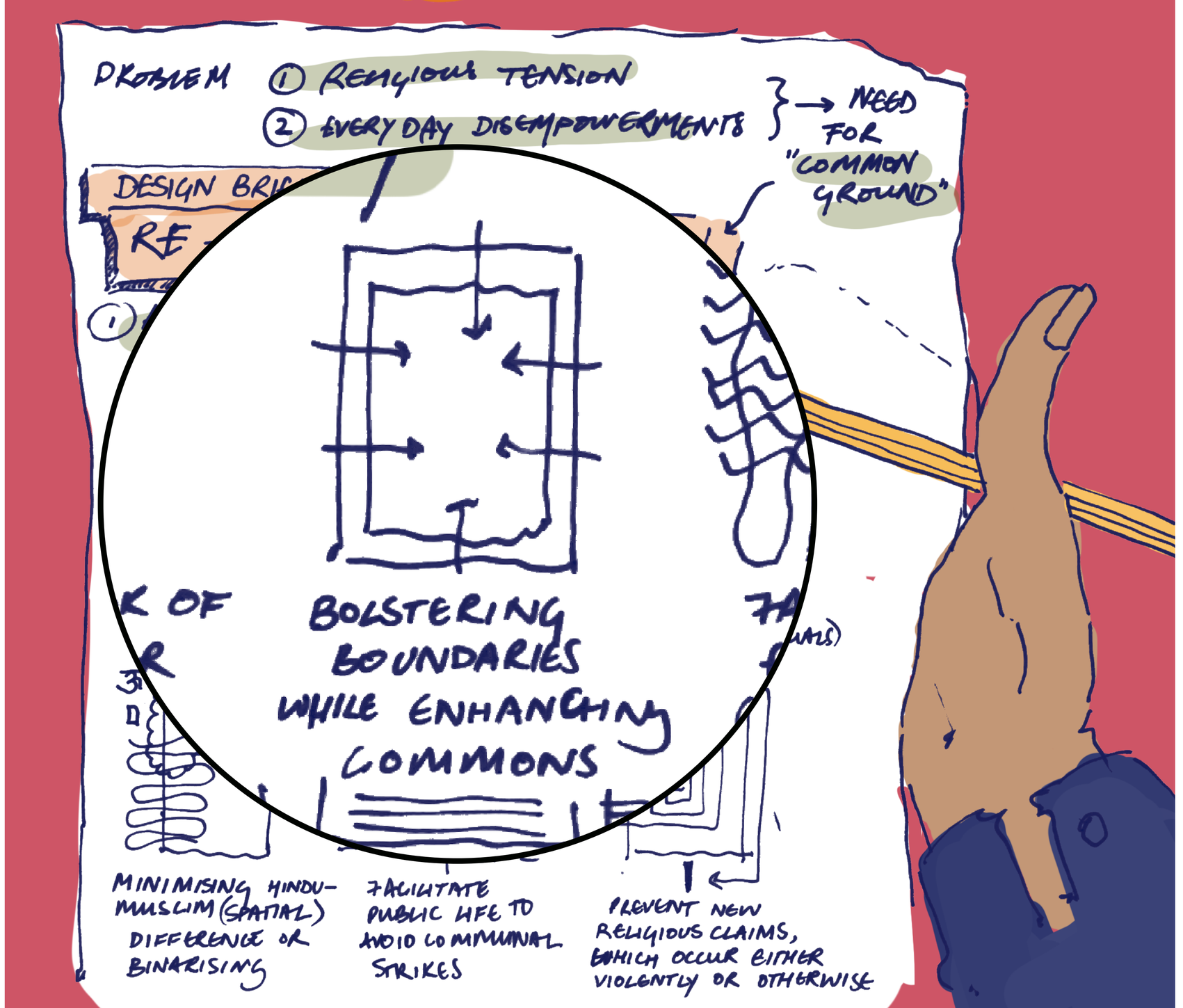
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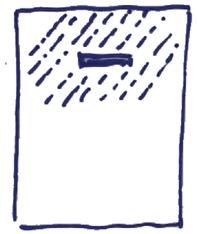

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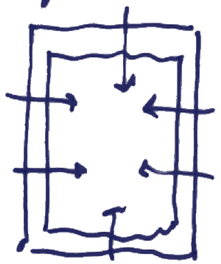

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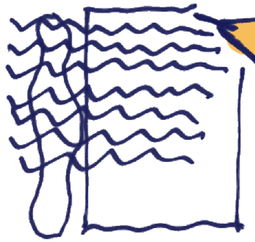

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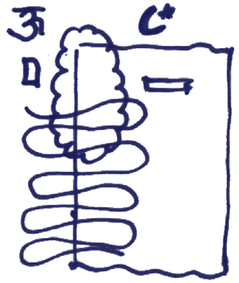

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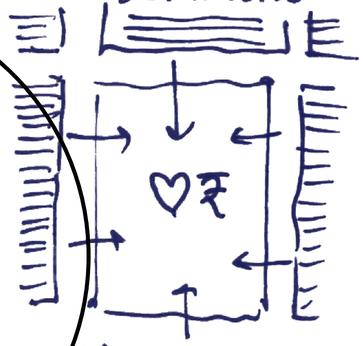

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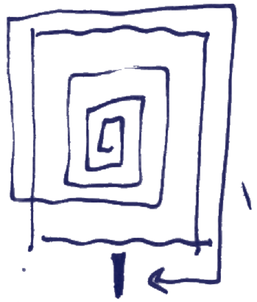

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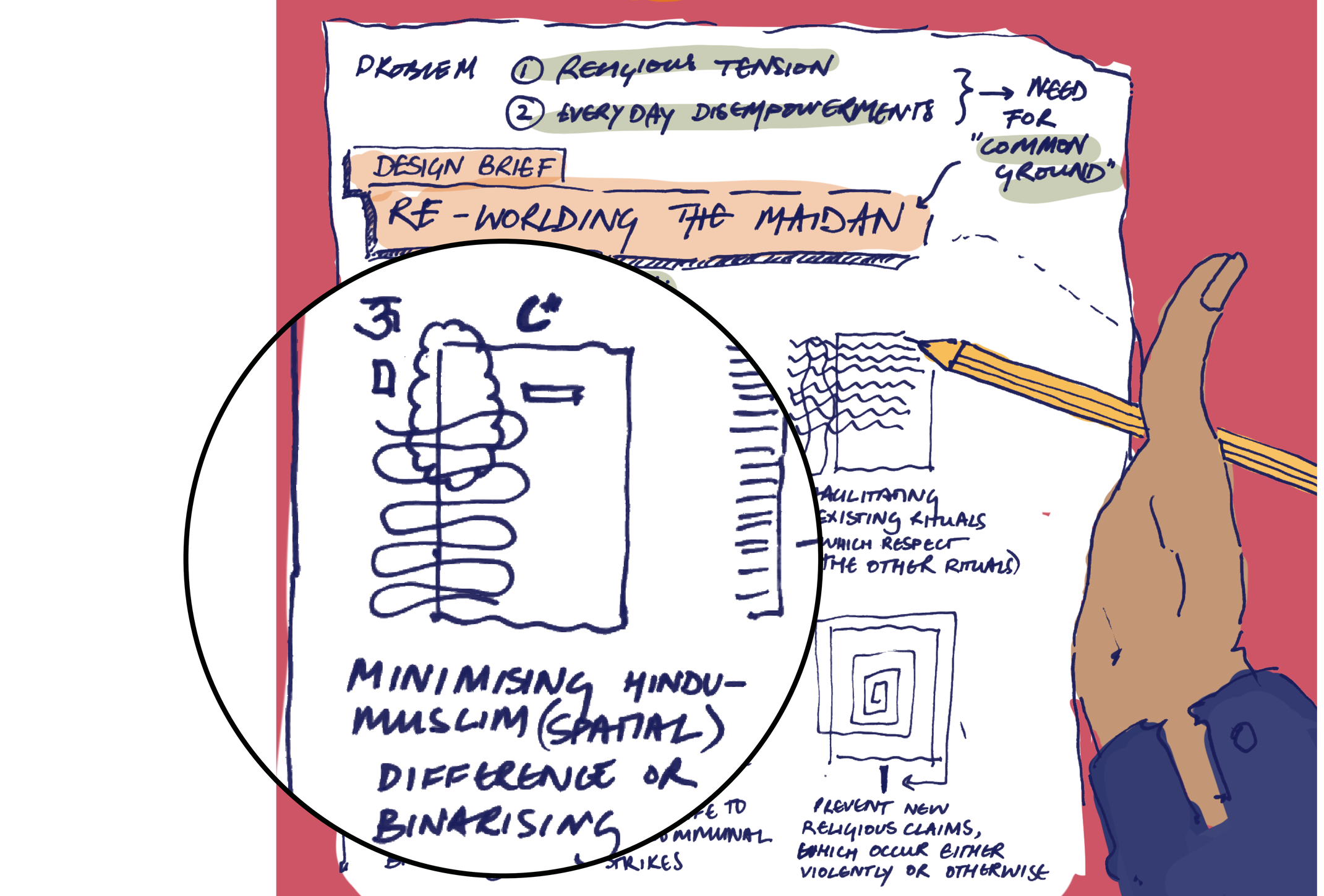
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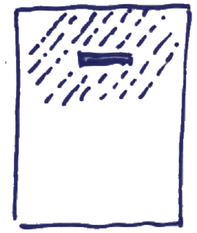

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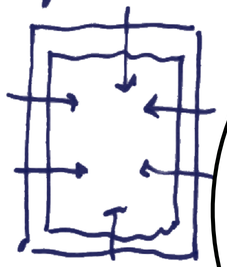

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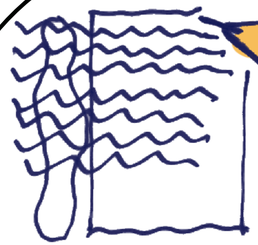

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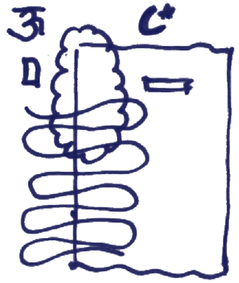

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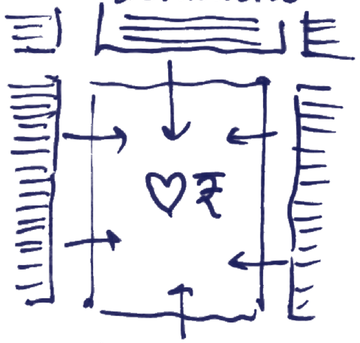

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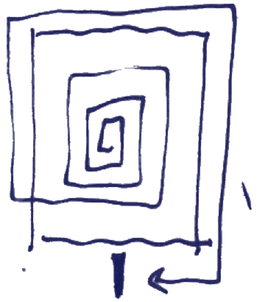

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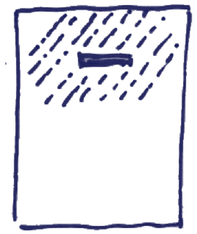

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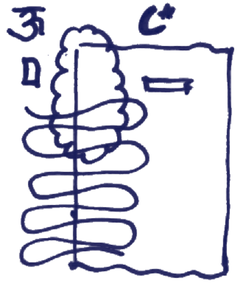

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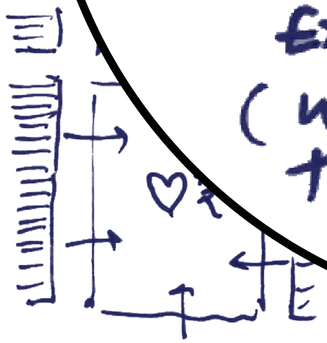

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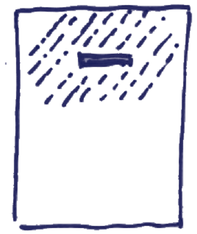

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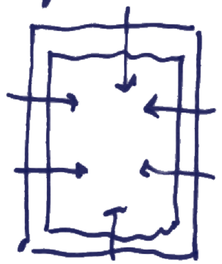

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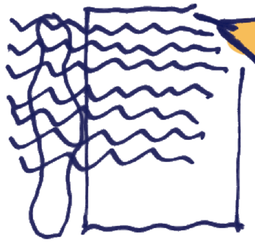

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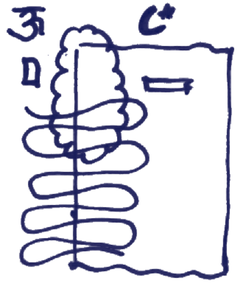

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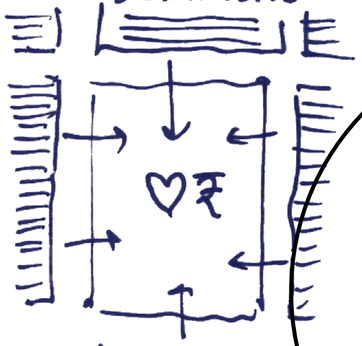

FACILITATE PUBLIC LIFE TO AVOID COMMUNAL STRIKES



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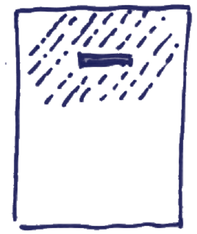

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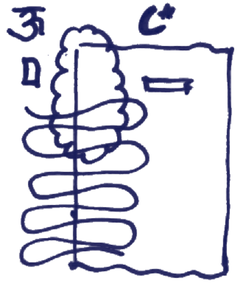

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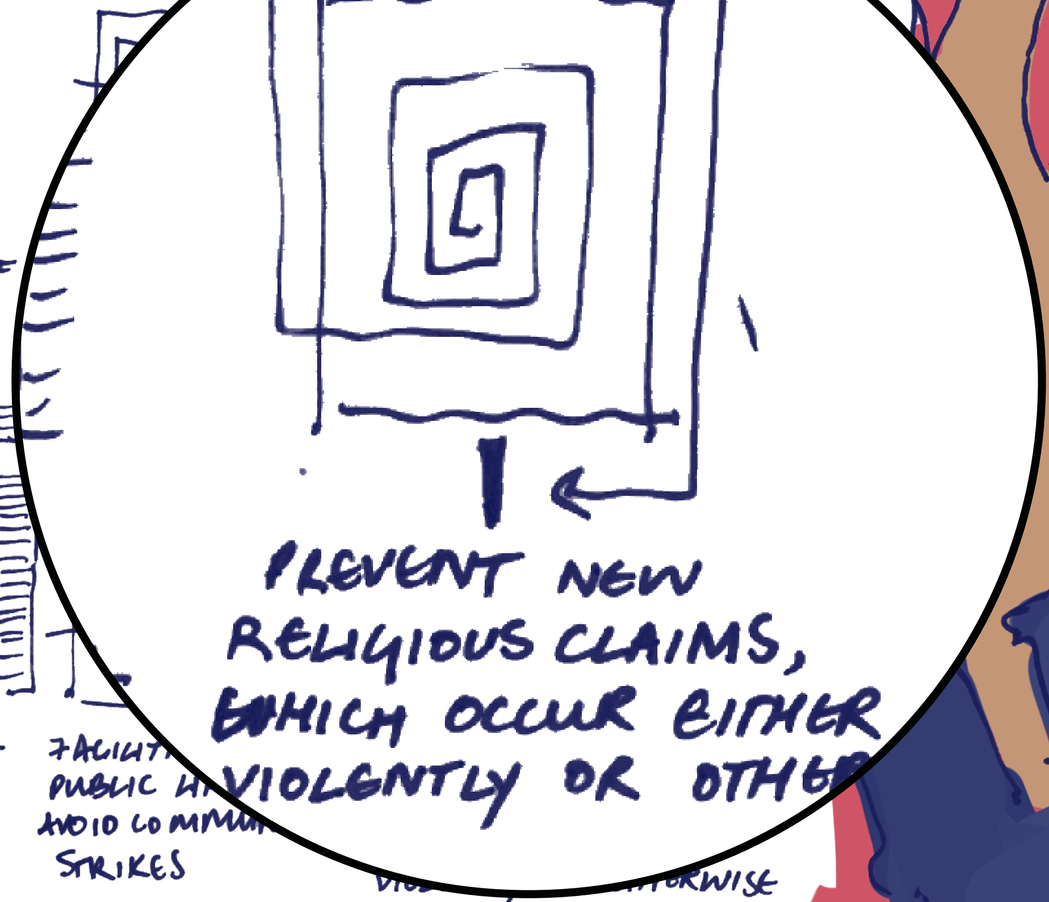

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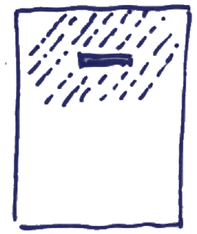

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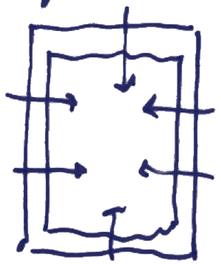

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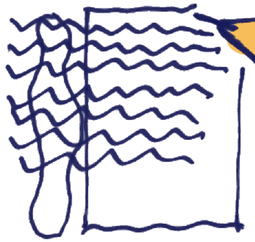

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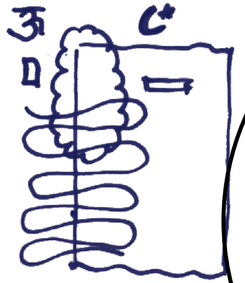

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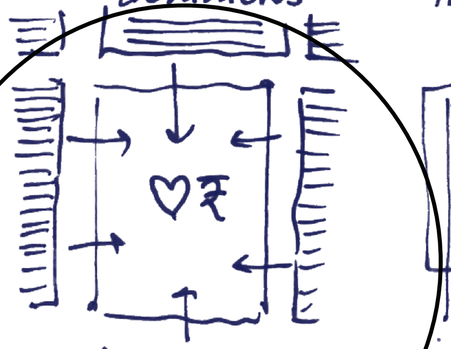

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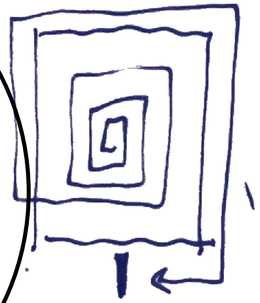

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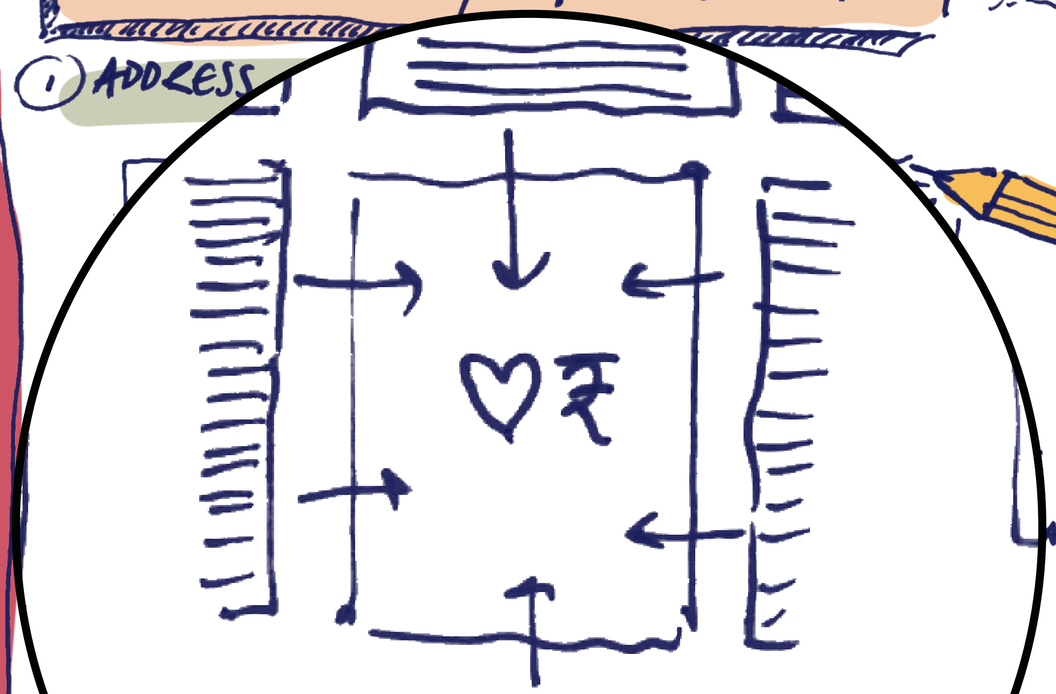

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(2) EMPOWER EVERY DAY FUNCTIONS FOR EVERYDAY AGENTS:

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- MEN
- WOMEN
- CHILDREN
- DIFFERENTLY ABLED
- URBAN POOR
- ELDERLY

SPATIAL CRITERIA:
- ACCESSIBILITY
- SAFETY
- CLEANLINESS


5

LIVESTOCK TRADING

FOR WHOM:
- GOAT SELLERS
- GOATS
- (MUSLIM) BUYERS


3

PLAYING CRICKET

FOR WHOM:
- (URBAN POOR) KIDS & YOUTH
- LOCAL SCHOOLKIDS

SPATIAL CRITERIA:
- OPEN SPACE (23x4 M)


1

SITTING / SPECTATING

FOR WHOM:
- (URBAN POOR) KIDS + YOUTH
- LOCAL SCHOOLKIDS
- LOCAL SCHOOL STAFF SUPERVISORS
- GUARDIANS
- NEIGHBOURHOOD UNCLES
- POLICE PATROL

SPATIAL CRITERIA:
- CLIMATIC COMFORT
- GOOD VIEWING HEIGHT
- SAFETY.


2

PLAYING KABADDI

FOR WHOM:
- LOCAL SCHOOLKIDS

SPATIAL CRITERIA:
- 10 X 13 M COURT
- INDOOR/ COVERED FROM ELEMENTS


1

PLAYING

FOR WHOM:
- LOCAL SCHOOLKIDS
- (URBAN POOR) KIDS + YOUTH


4

SNACK SELLING

FOR WHOM:
- SUGARCANE JUICE SELLER
- SNACK SELLERS
- LOCALS & ADULTS.
- KIDS

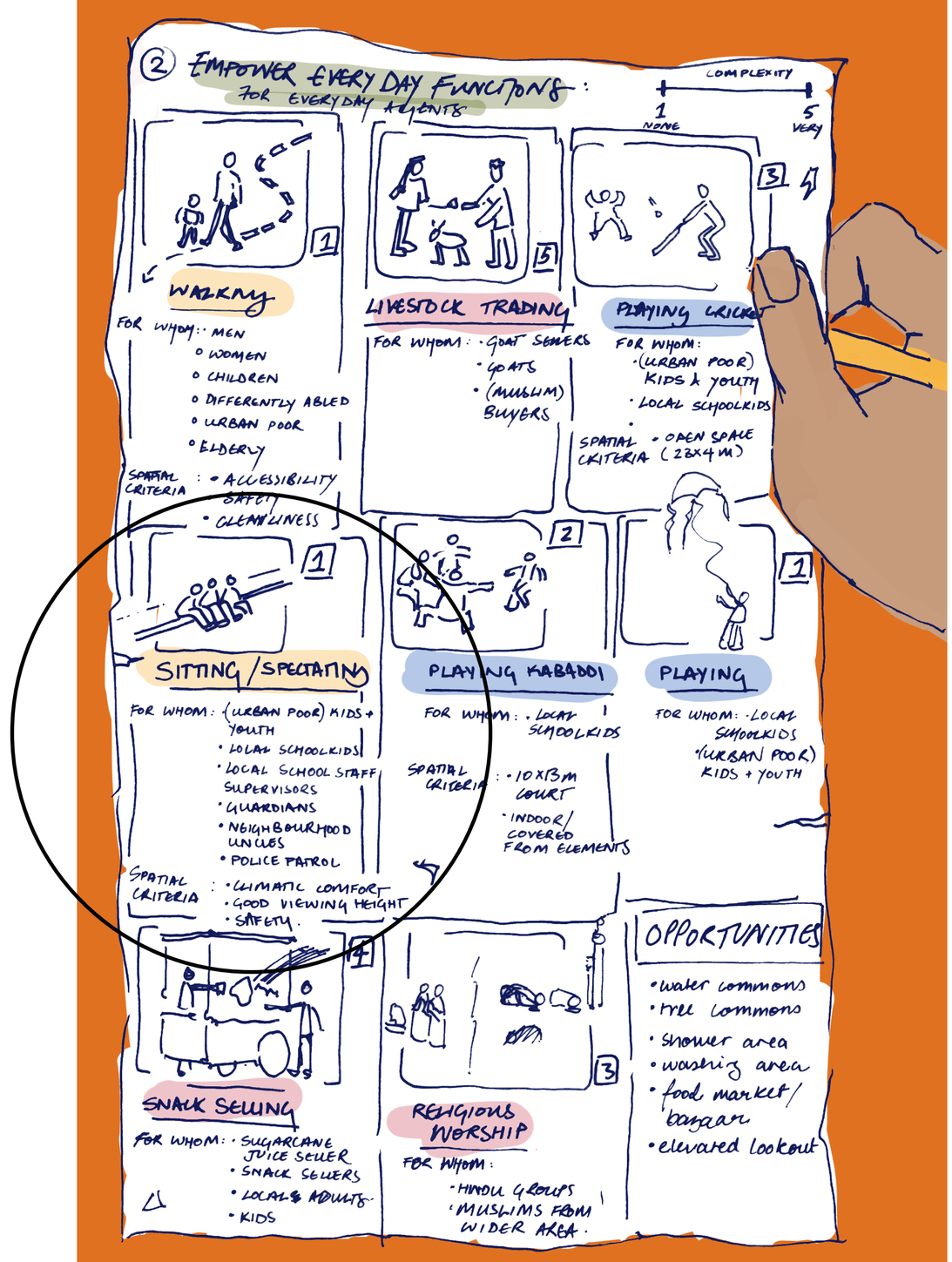

3

RELIGIOUS WORSHIP

FOR WHOM:
- HINDU GROUPS
- MUSLIMS FROM WIDER AREA.

OPPORTUNITIES

- water commons
- tree commons
- shower area
- washing area
- food market/ bazaar
- elevated lookout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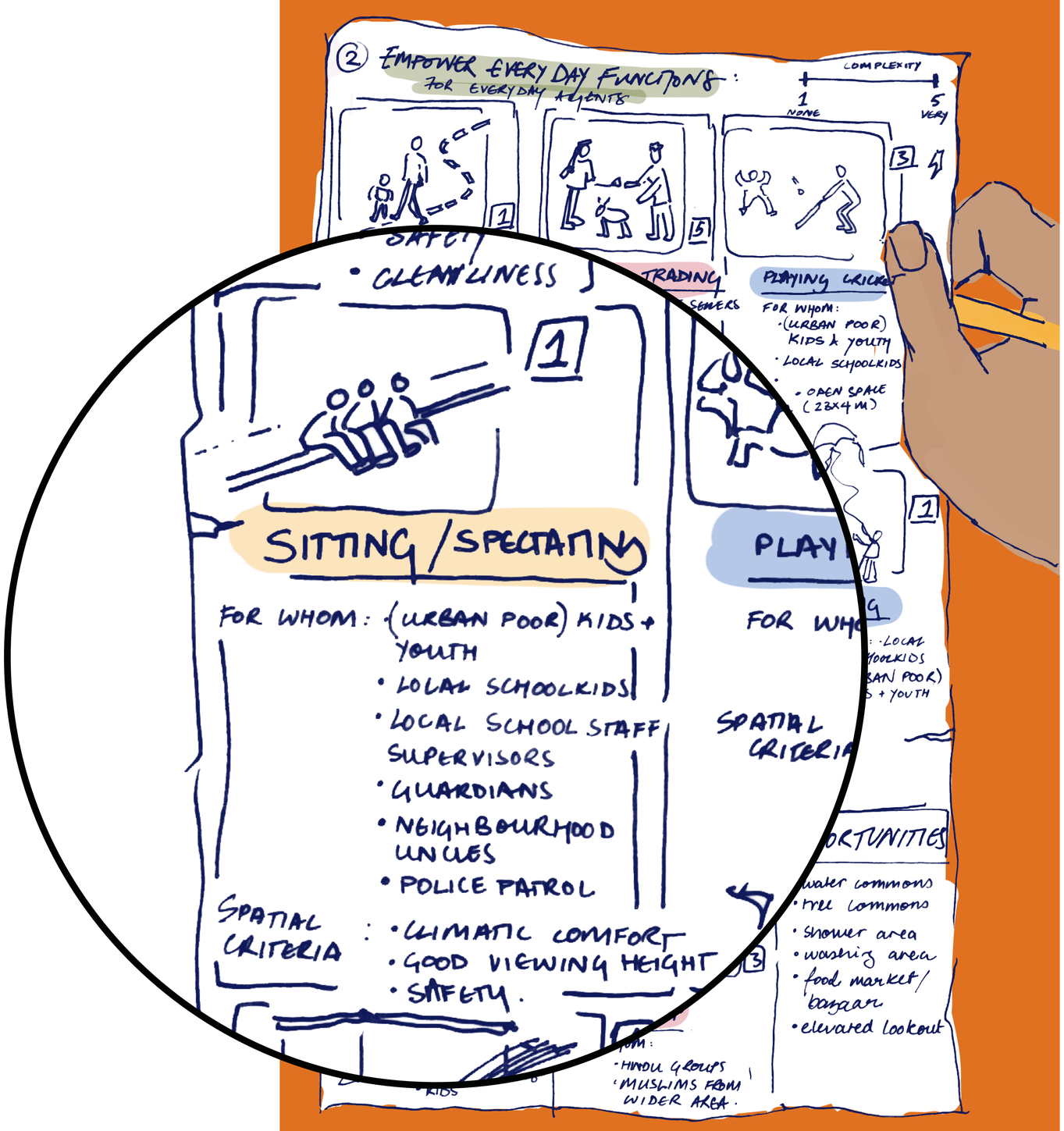
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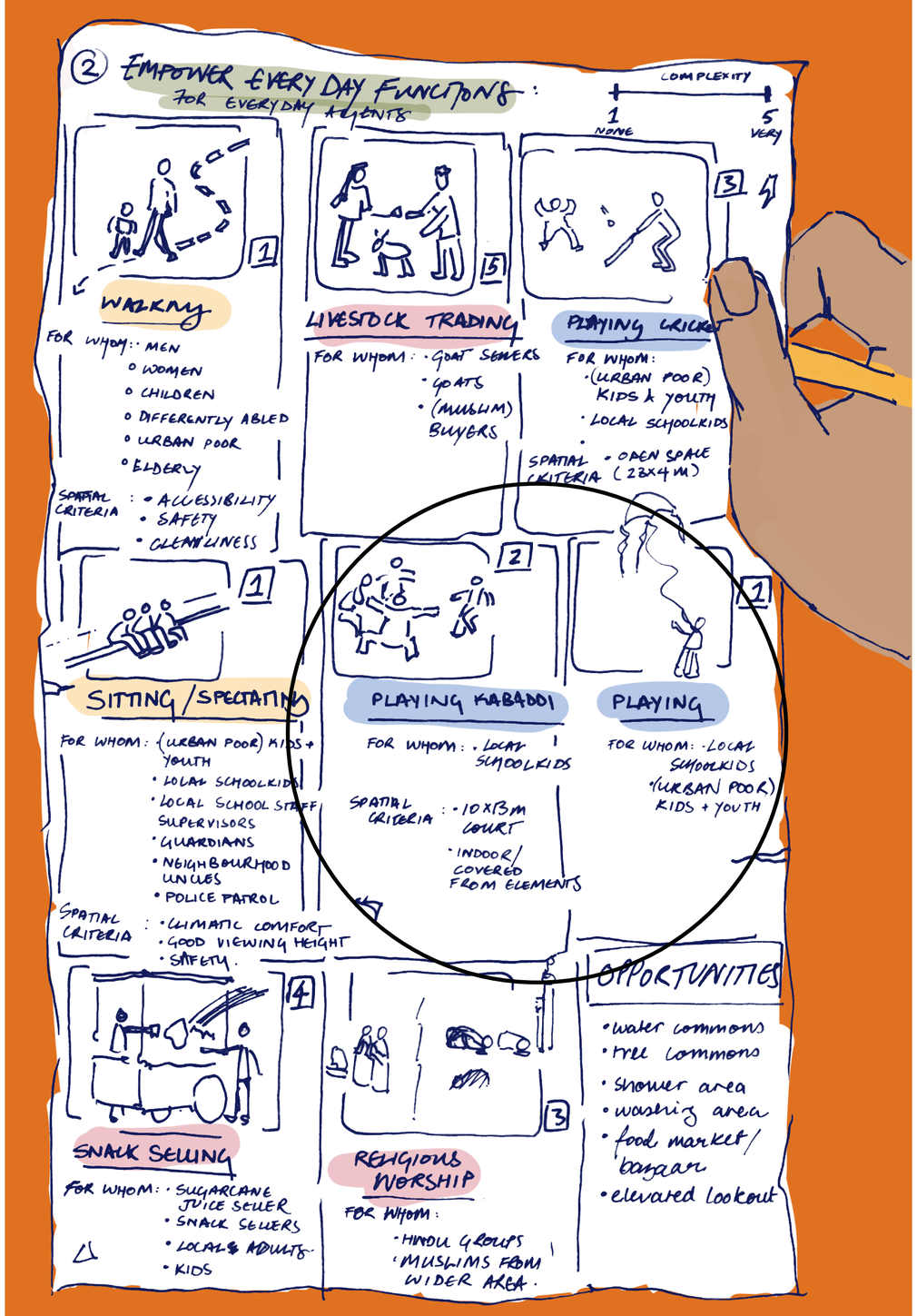
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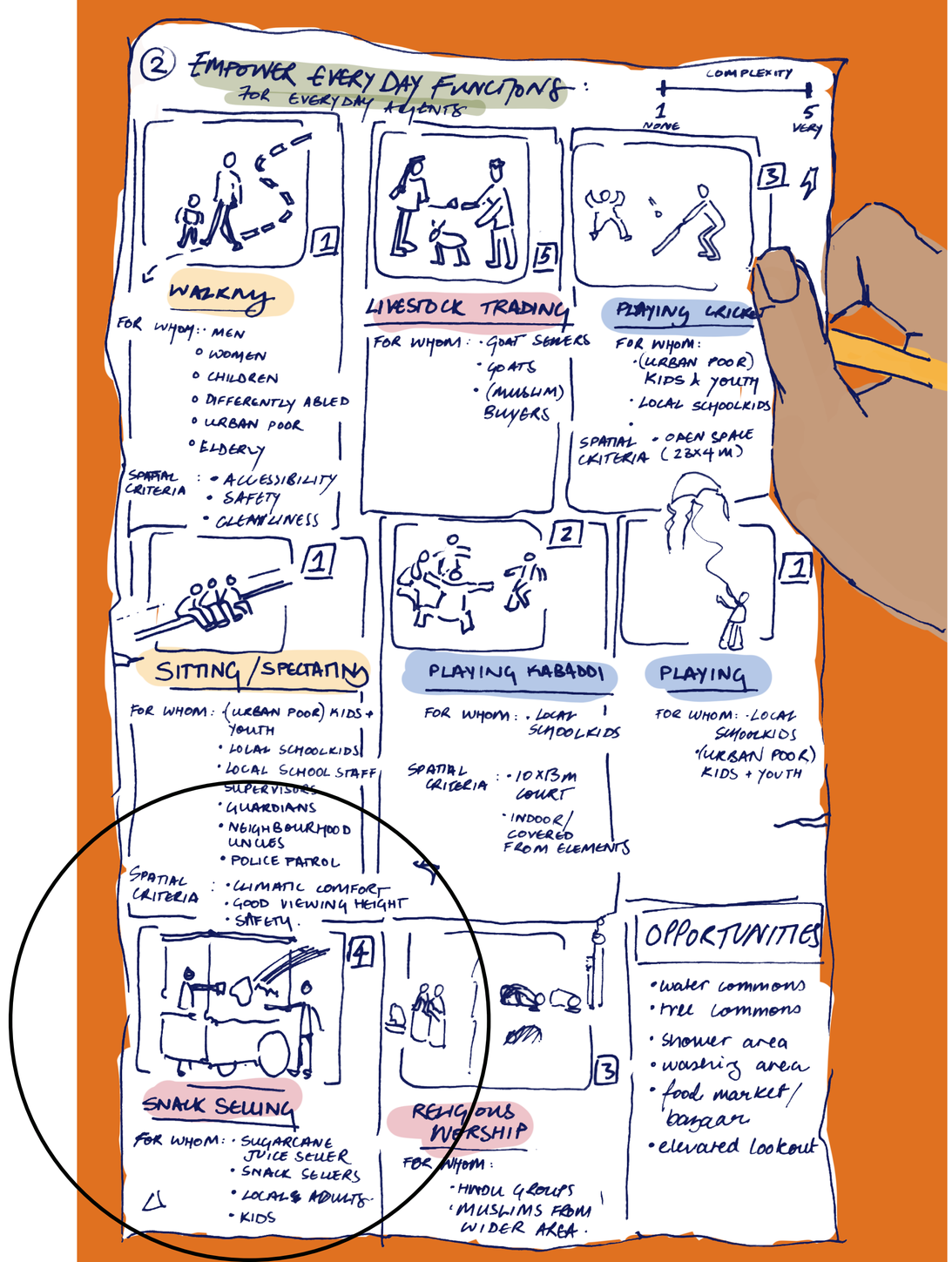
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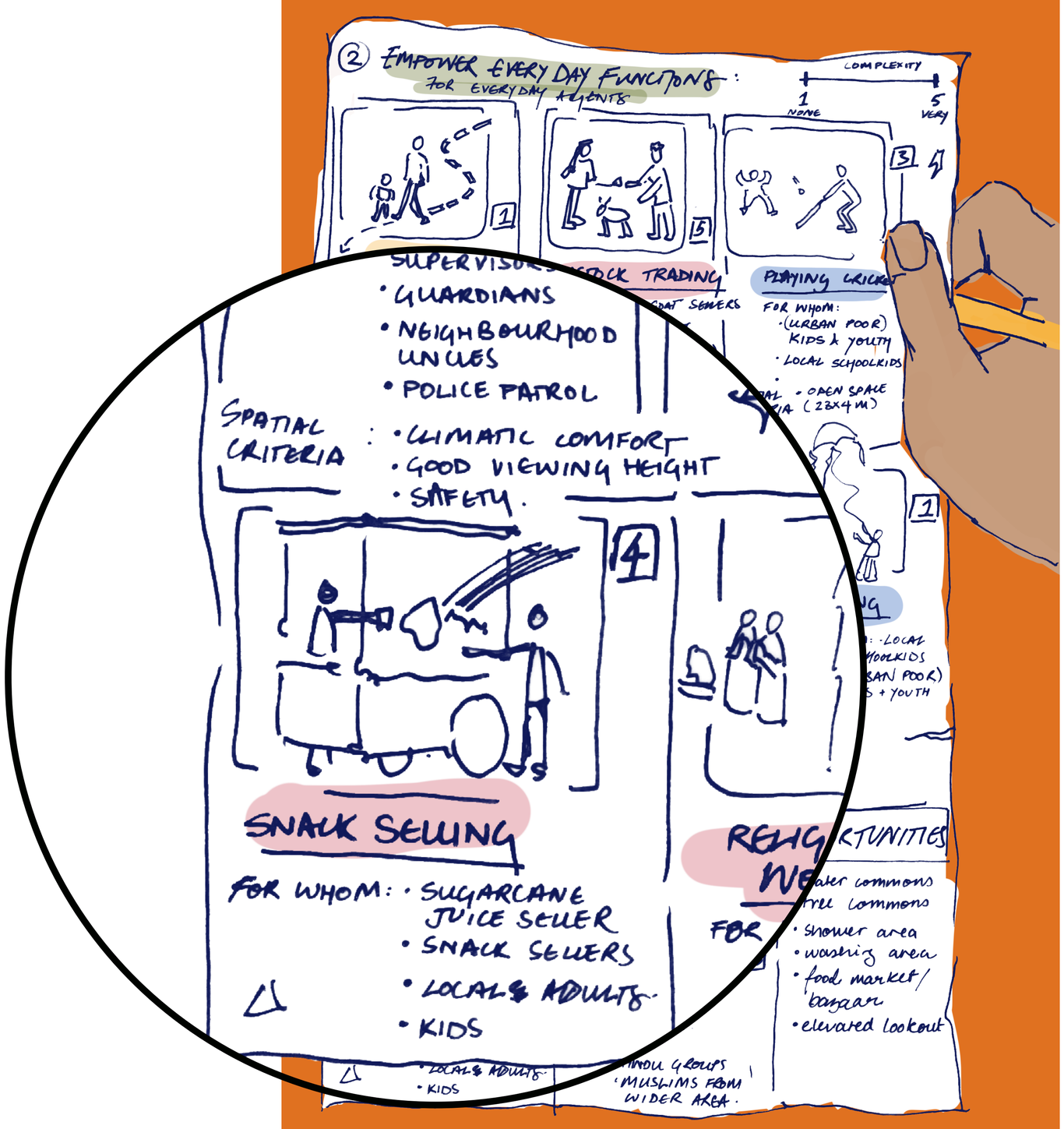

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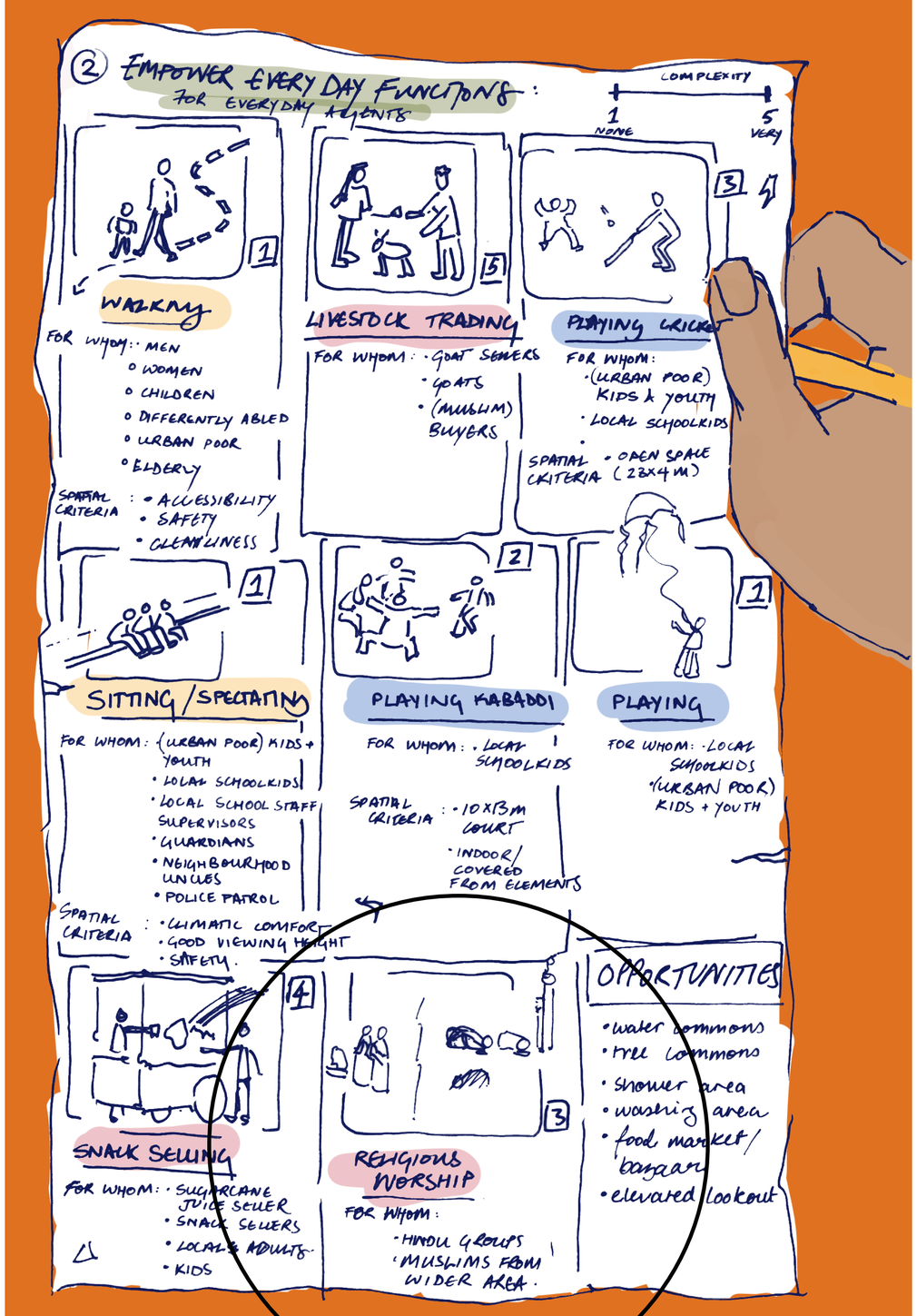
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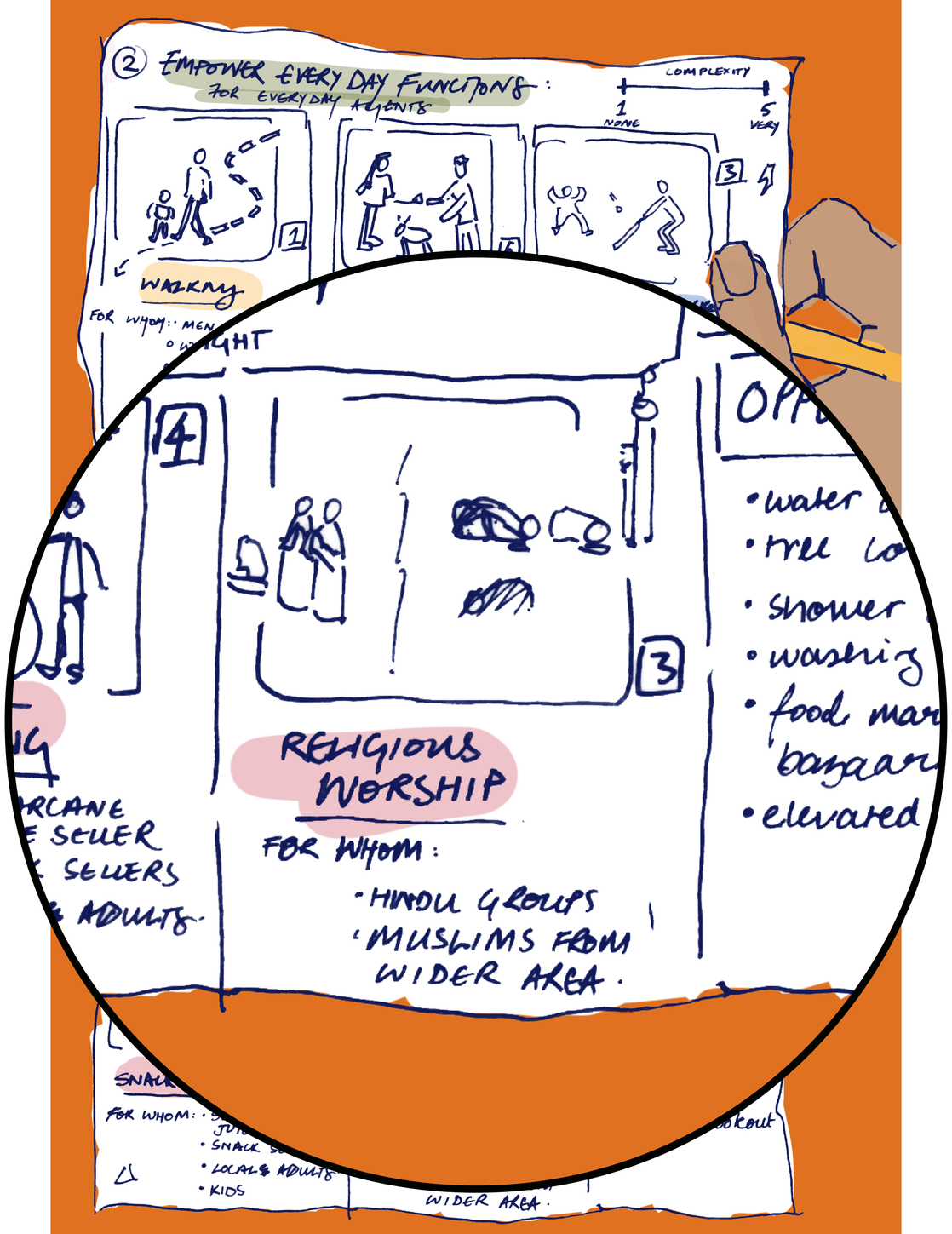

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SELLER
SELLERS
ADULTS.
FOR WHOM:
• SNACK
• LOCAL ADULTS
• KIDS
WIDER AREA.

Who is going to build this?
For whom is this?


A Graphic Novel
A Trifle Strife?
Public Space, Rituals and Communalism


A Graphic Novel
A Trifle Strife?
Public Space, Rituals and Communalism

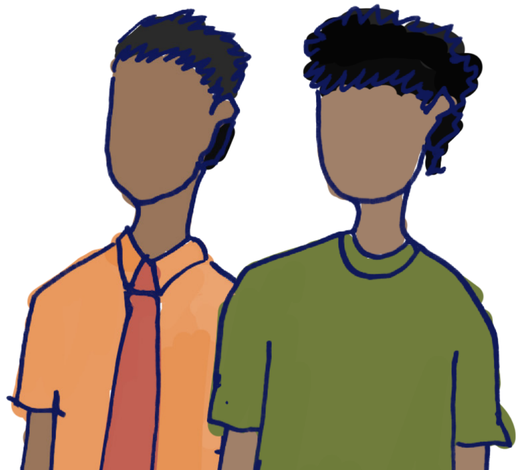
A Graphic Novel

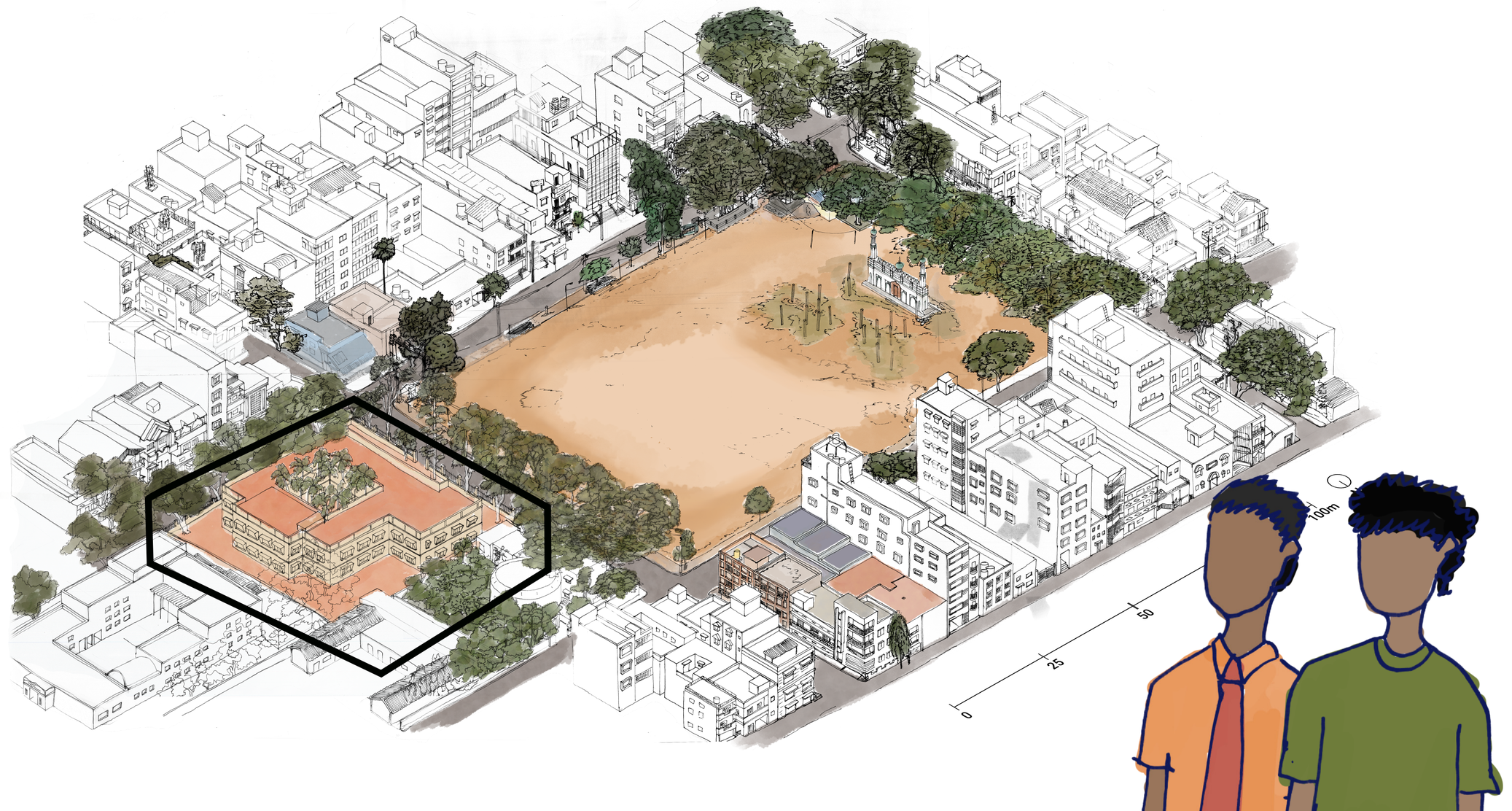
A Trifle Strife?

Public Space, Rituals and Communalism





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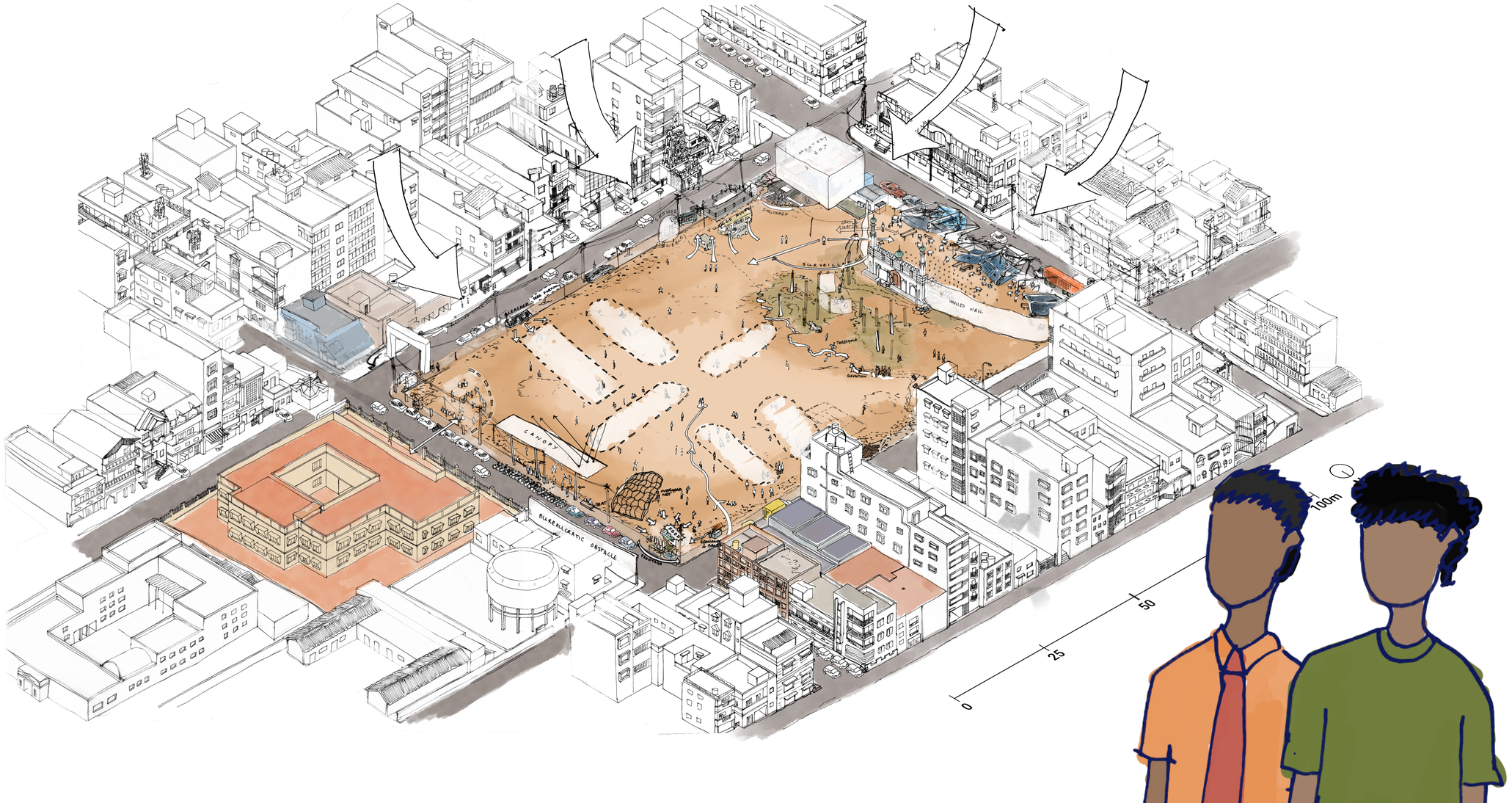
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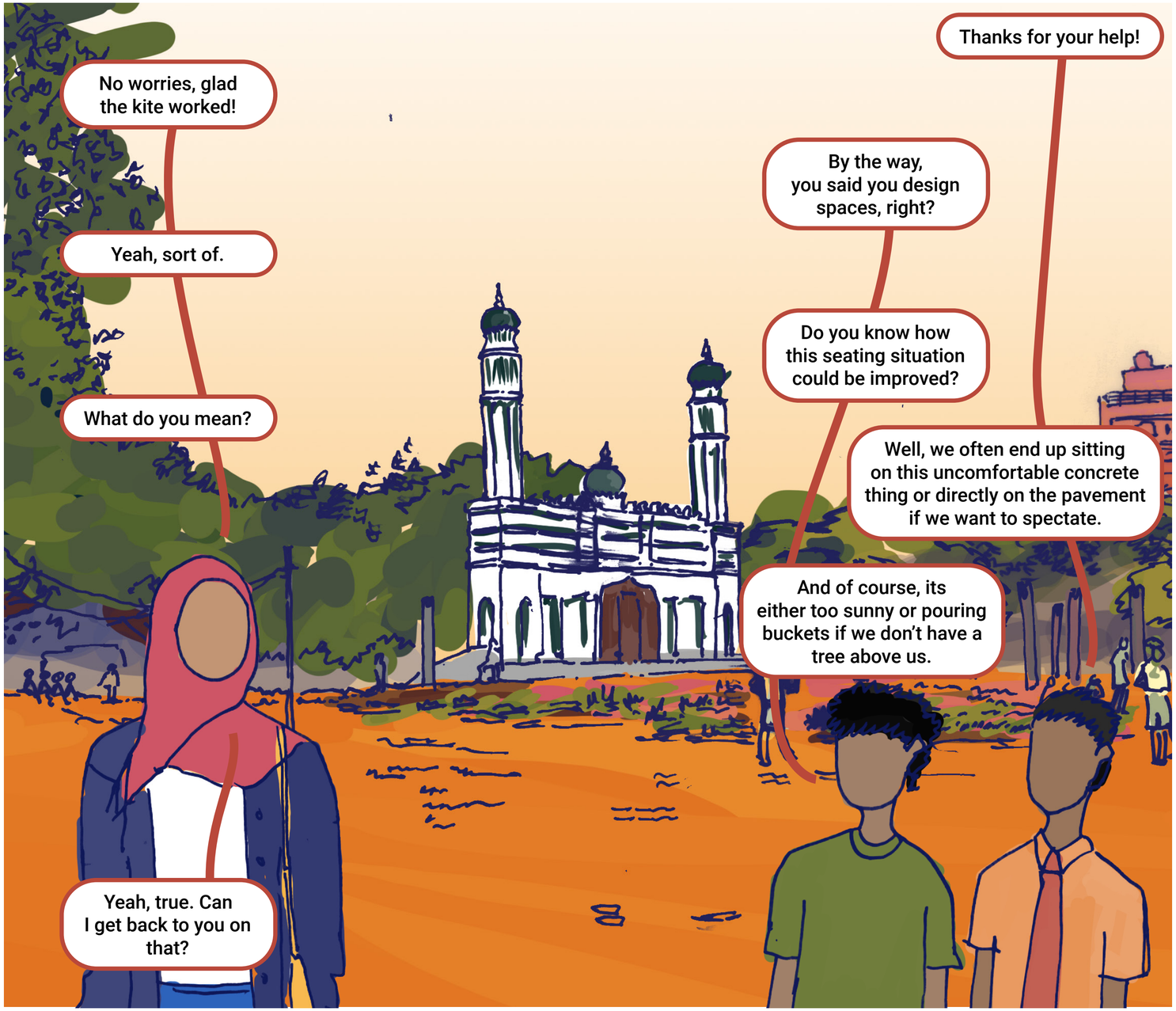
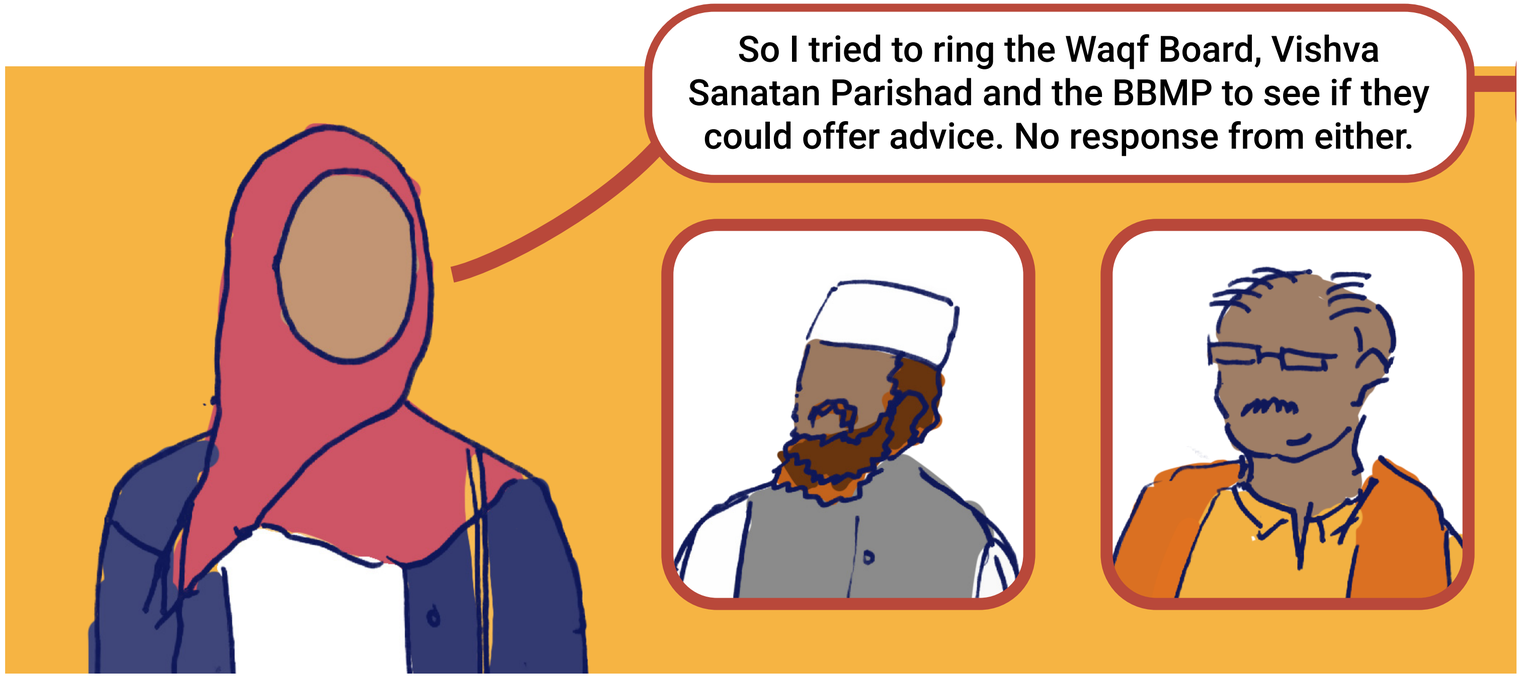
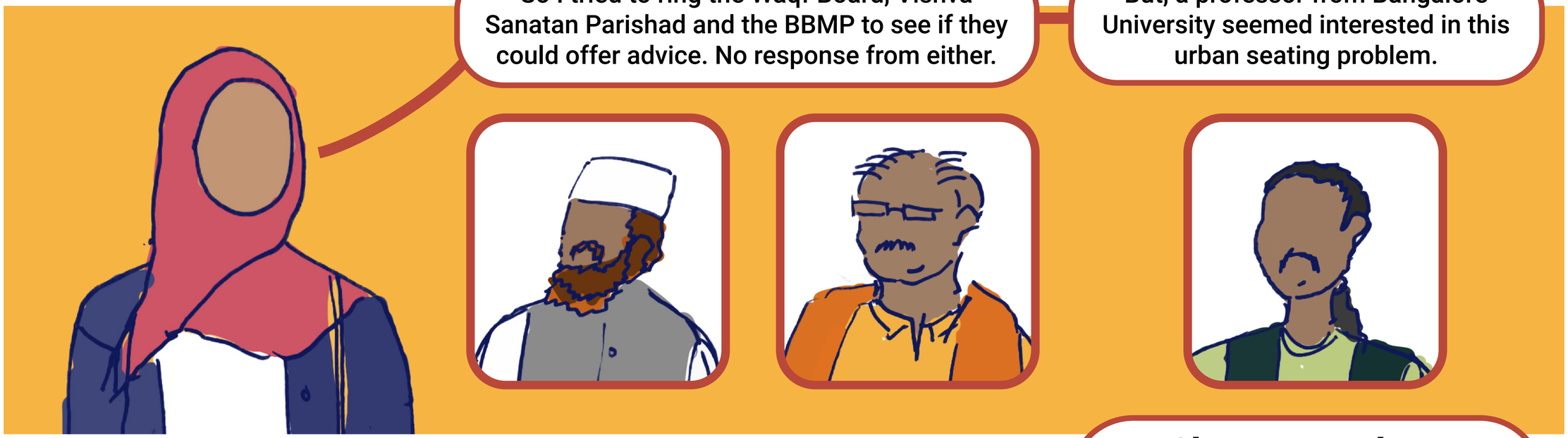

No worries, glad the kite worked!
Yeah, sort of.
What do you mean?
Yeah, true. Can I get back to you on that?
Thanks for your help!
By the way, you said you design spaces, right?
Do you know how this seating situation could be improved?
Well, we often end up sitting on this uncomfortable concrete thing or directly on the pavement if we want to spectate.
And of course, its either too sunny or pouring buckets if we don't have a tree above us.




So I tried to ring the Waqf Board, Vishva Sanatan Parishad and the BBMP to see if they could offer advice. No response from either.


So I tried to ring the Waqf Board, Vishva Sanatan Parishad and the BBMP to see if they could offer advice. No response from either.
But, a professor from Bangalore University seemed interested in this urban seating problem.
Chetan Anand, 44
Professor of Architecture at Bangalore University

Network of Capacities



to design

Architecture Students

to assemble a construction crew

Architecture School



to create academic course about this

Architecture Professor

to signpost to relevant material suppliers

to offer input based on their own use of the maidan

to guide construction

Local Construction Workers

Academic Funds



Crowdfunding

CIVIC



Architect

to ideate design & construction

to coordinate between stakeholders

to tap into new (financial) resources

Maidan

to provide flexible space

to provide ad hoc building materials

Concrete Beams

Wooden Poles

Material Suppliers



to sell locally-sourced materials

Faizullah's PVC Pipe Shop

Local (Auto) Repair Shops

Urban Seating Users

to specify design requirements



Maidan Youth

Chamarajpet Citizens

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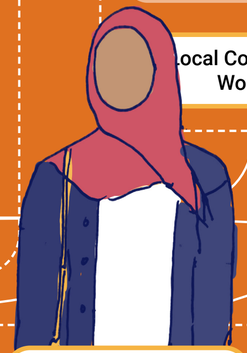

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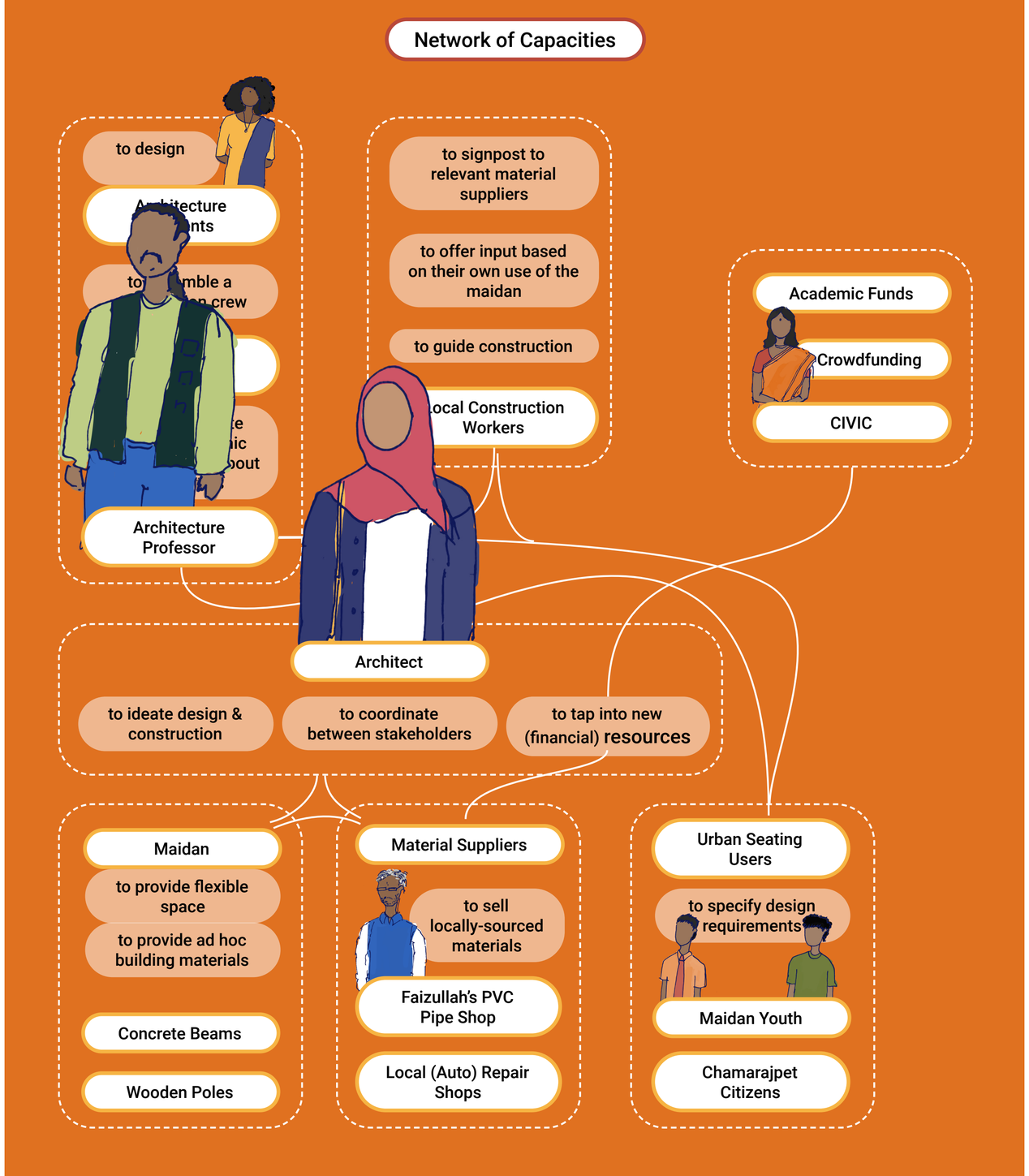
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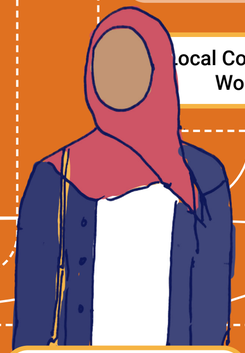

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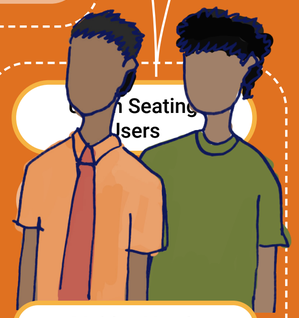

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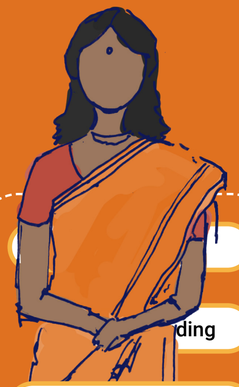

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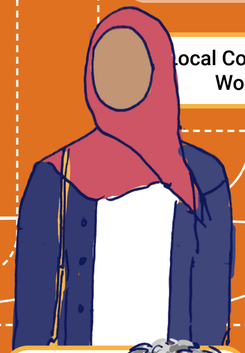

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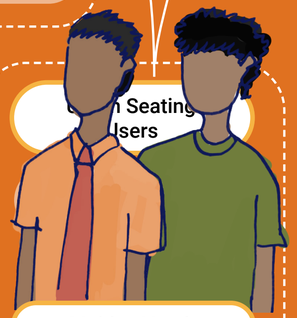

Seating
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Chamarajpet Citizens


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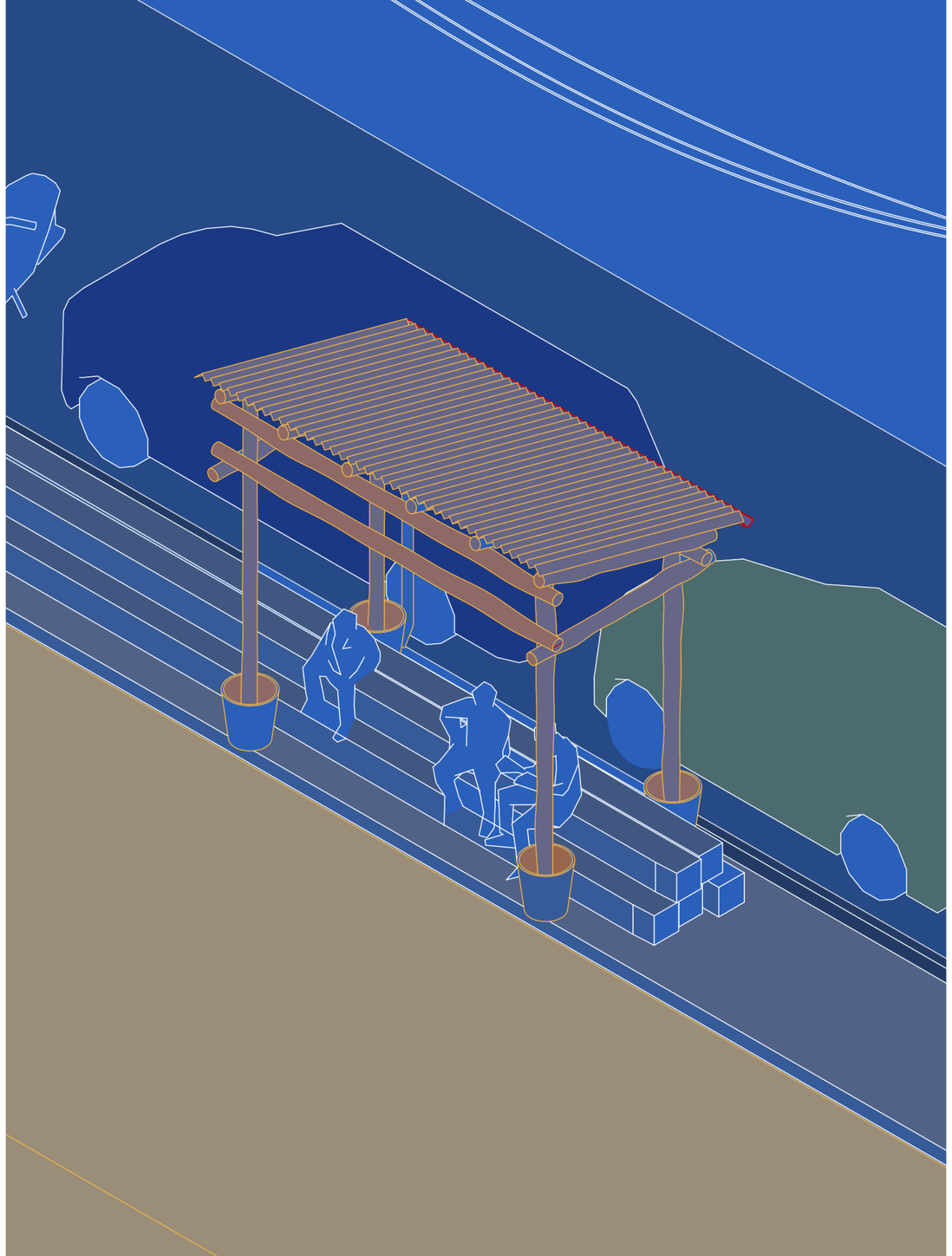
Varsha Shetty, 21
Student of Architecture at Bangalore University

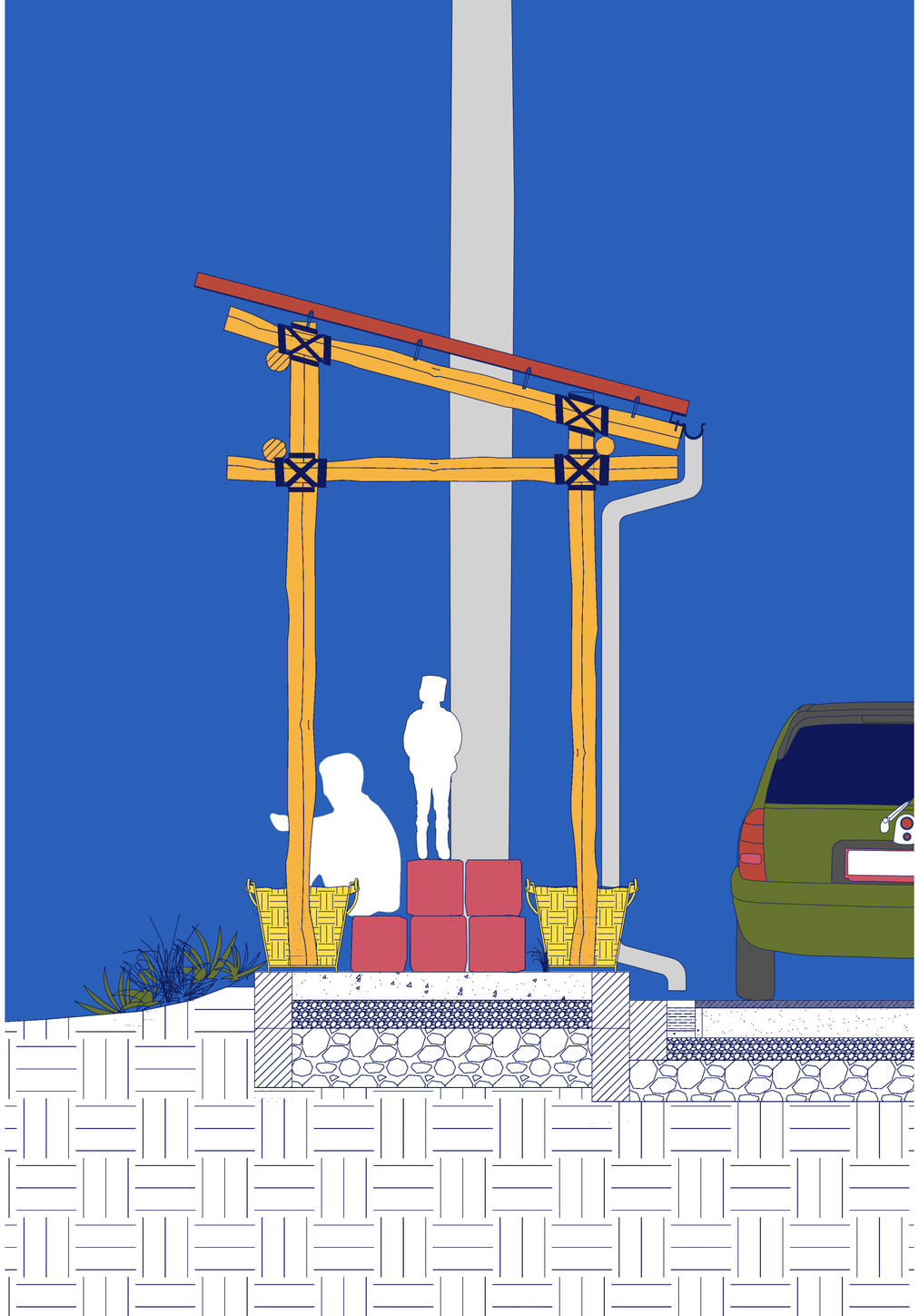

Alrighty, so this is our site. Our brief is to make a good place to sit, with our limited budget and means.
I think the easiest thing could be to build a canopy over existing places to sit.

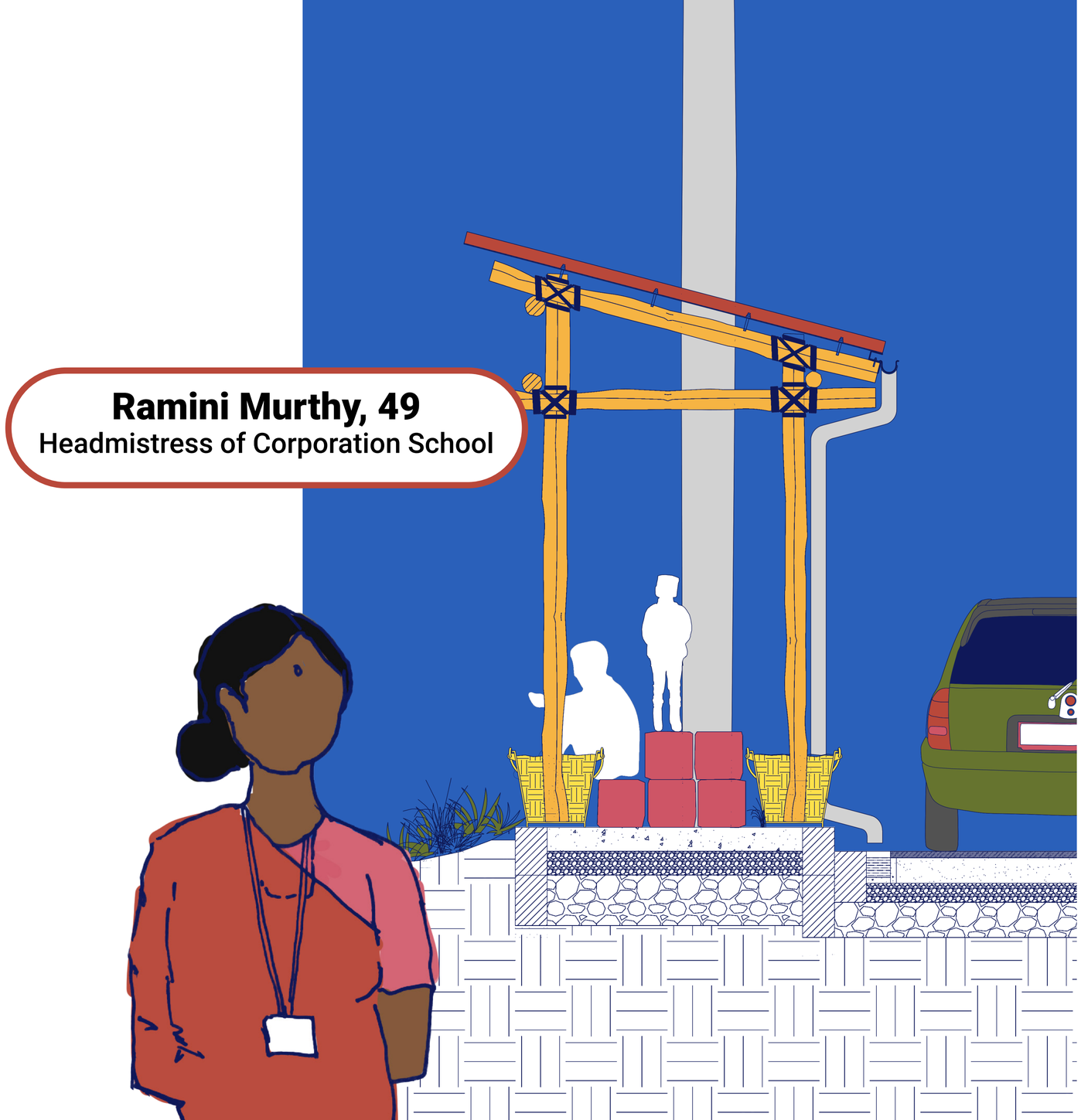








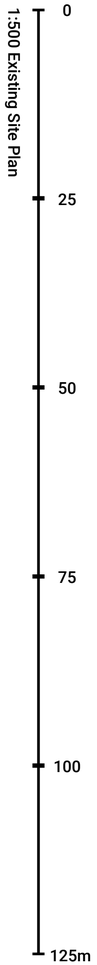


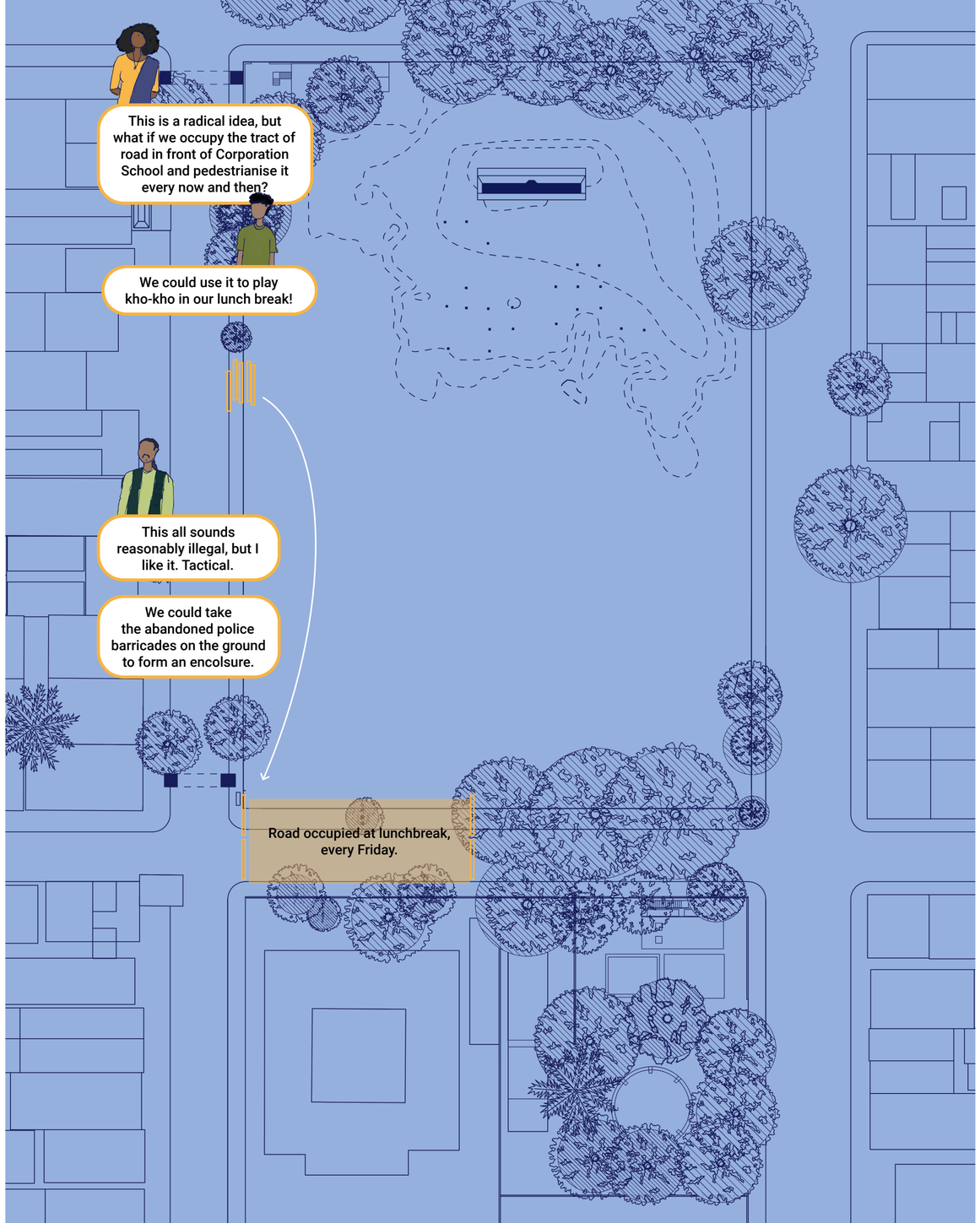

Ramini Murthy, 49
Headmistress of Corporation School

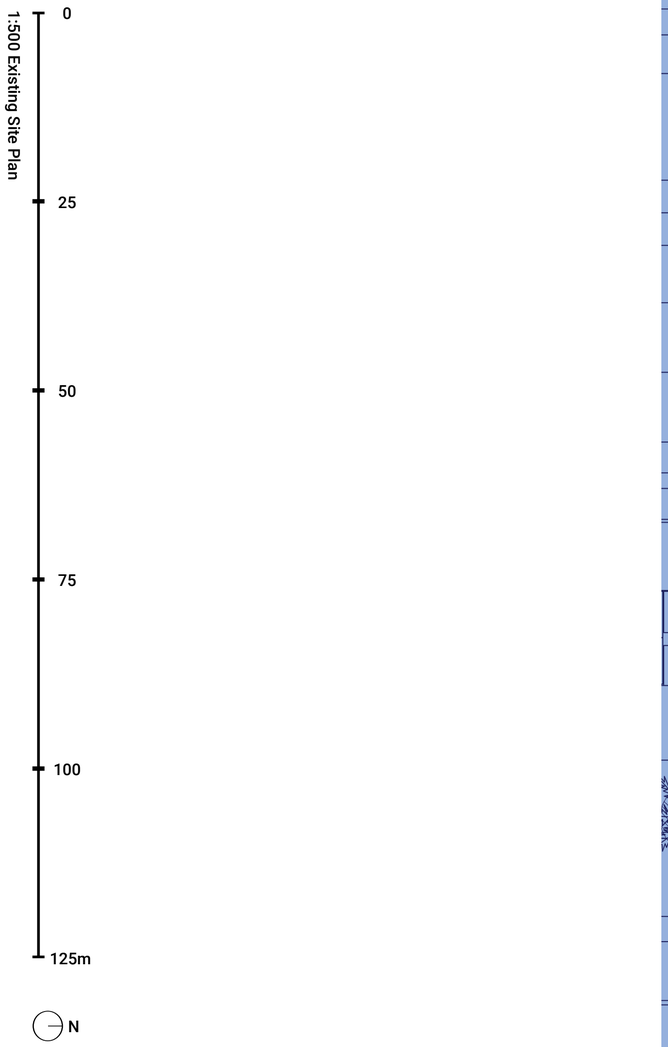

I didn't think they'd get away with it but they did. I should talk to that architect group and see if they can improve the sports space for the Corporation School.






1:500 Existing Site Plan
0
25
50
75
100
125m
N


This is a radical idea, but what if we occupy the tract of road in front of Corporation School and pedestrianise it every now and then?
We could use it to play kho-kho in our lunch break!
This all sounds reasonably illegal, but I like it. Tactical.
We could take the abandoned police barricades on the ground to form an encolsure.
Road occupied at lunchbreak, every Friday.


1:500 Existing Site Plan
0
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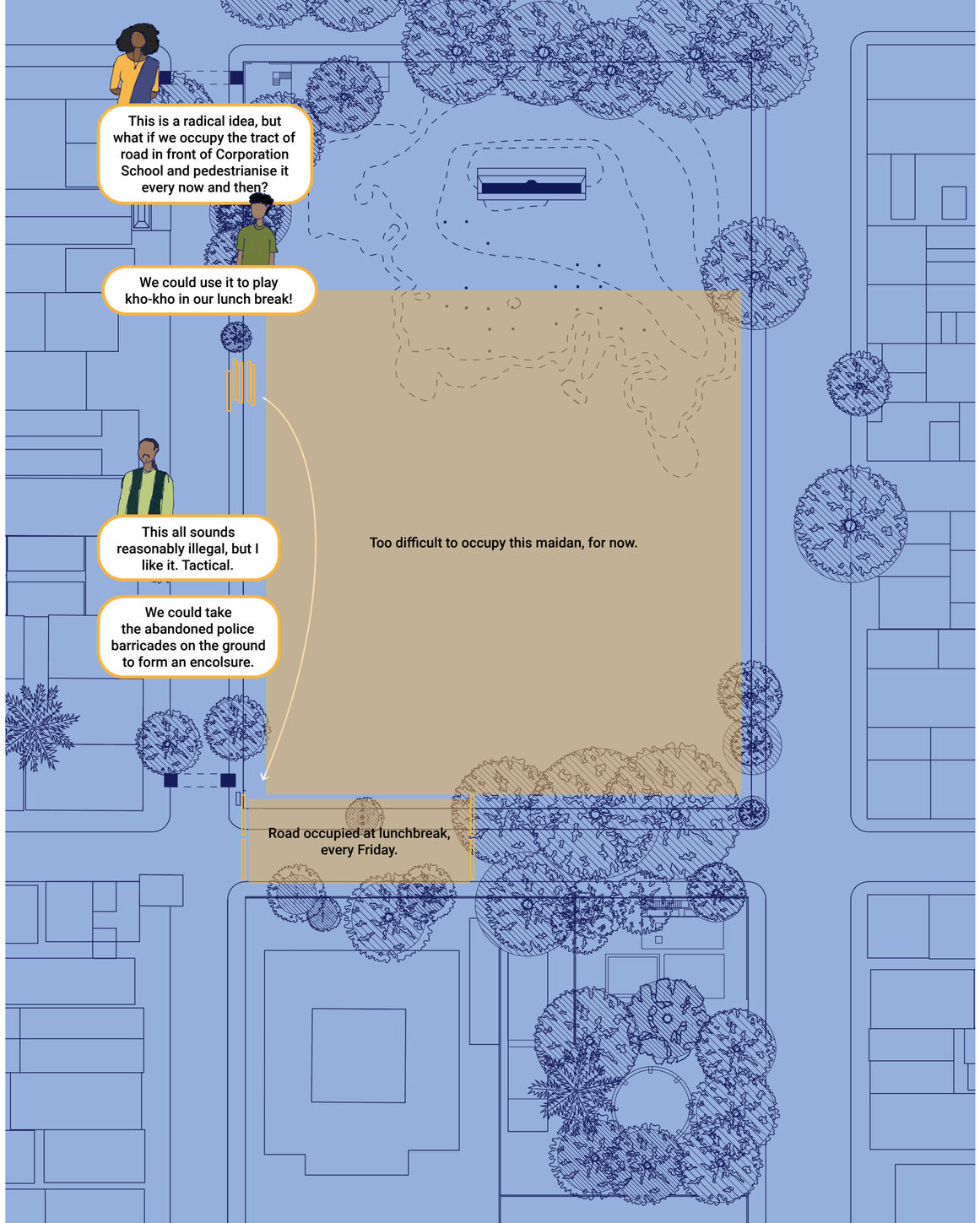
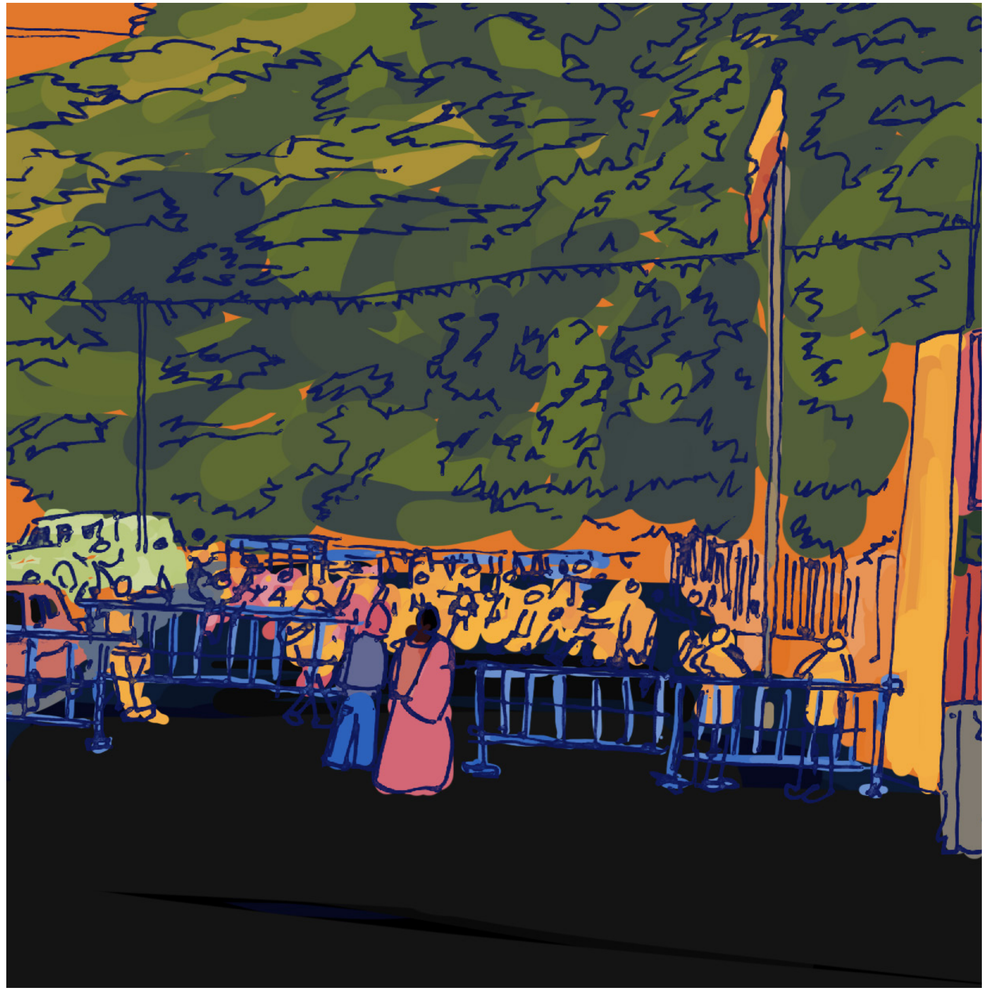

This is a radical idea, but what if we occupy the tract of road in front of Corporation School and pedestrianise it every now and then?
We could use it to play kho-kho in our lunch break!
This all sounds reasonably illegal, but I like it. Tactical.
We could take the abandoned police barricades on the ground to form an encolsure.
Too difficult to occupy this maidan, for now.
Road occupied at lunchbreak, every Friday.



BANGALORE NEWS

RAAHGIRI COMES TO CHAMARAJPET

The Corporation School of Chamarajpet has begun a weekly lunchtime occupation of a road in front of their premises.



With frustration brewing over the lack of sports space for the school and a lack of involvement from the BBMP, the Corporation School took matters into its own hands. For at least the past month, the road has been occupied during the school's break, providing the growing student population a much needed space to play.

Ironically, the school is adjacent to the two hectare open space that is Chamarajpet Eidgah. It is alledged that the school is refused permission to establish a presence on the maidan. They use a mere corner of the site for kabaddi practice. This effort to claim space was spearheaded by Mrs Ramini, headmistress of the Corporation School, with support from local childrens, parents, construction workers and an architecture student collective. Though this takeover is to the consternation of motorists, local shopkeepers and parents welcome the grassroots initiative.

Chamarajpet Maidan Land Trust Agreement

This Trust Agreement is made on the 20th of November 2024 to certify that the Corporation School of Chamarajpet, a Government School organised under the State Laws of Karnataka and the National Laws of India, located at 6th Cross Road, Opposite Eidgah Maidan, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560018, India hereafter referred to as Trustee, is about to take title to the following-described real estate in Chamarajpet Ward, Bengaluru, India. The real estate in question is a tract of 6th Cross Road, measuring 46 metres in length and 17 metres in width, as described below.

This Trust Agreement is to further certify that, when Trustee has taken the title to the to the described real estate, or to any of the real estate deeded to it as Trustee, the Trustee will hold it for uses and purposes and on the trusts set forth in this agreement.

1. Beneficiaries

- Bangalore University, represented by Varsha Shetty and Chetan Anand, student and faculty member respectively
- Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Pallike, city municipality of Bengaluru
- Satish Hedge, student representative of Corporation School Chamarajpet
- Ali Abbas, child representative of Azad Nagar Ward
- Faizullah Khan, owner of Best PVC Pipe Shop

2. Interests of Beneficiaries

The interests of the beneficiaries shall consist of a power of direction related to the title of the Trust property, a power to manage and control ownership of the property on the Trust land and the right to receive proceeds from rentals on the Land for the sole purpose of using the proceeds for the improvement of public amenities on the Land.

3. Purposes of Land Trust

The purpose of the Land Trust is primarily to provide adequate and easily-accessible urban space for children to play games and sports. It is secondly to provide a place for people to gather in an effort to bolster the state of Urban Commons in Chamarajpet Ward (Urban Commons being space that is equally shared by all members of society).

1:20 DIY Module Section

0

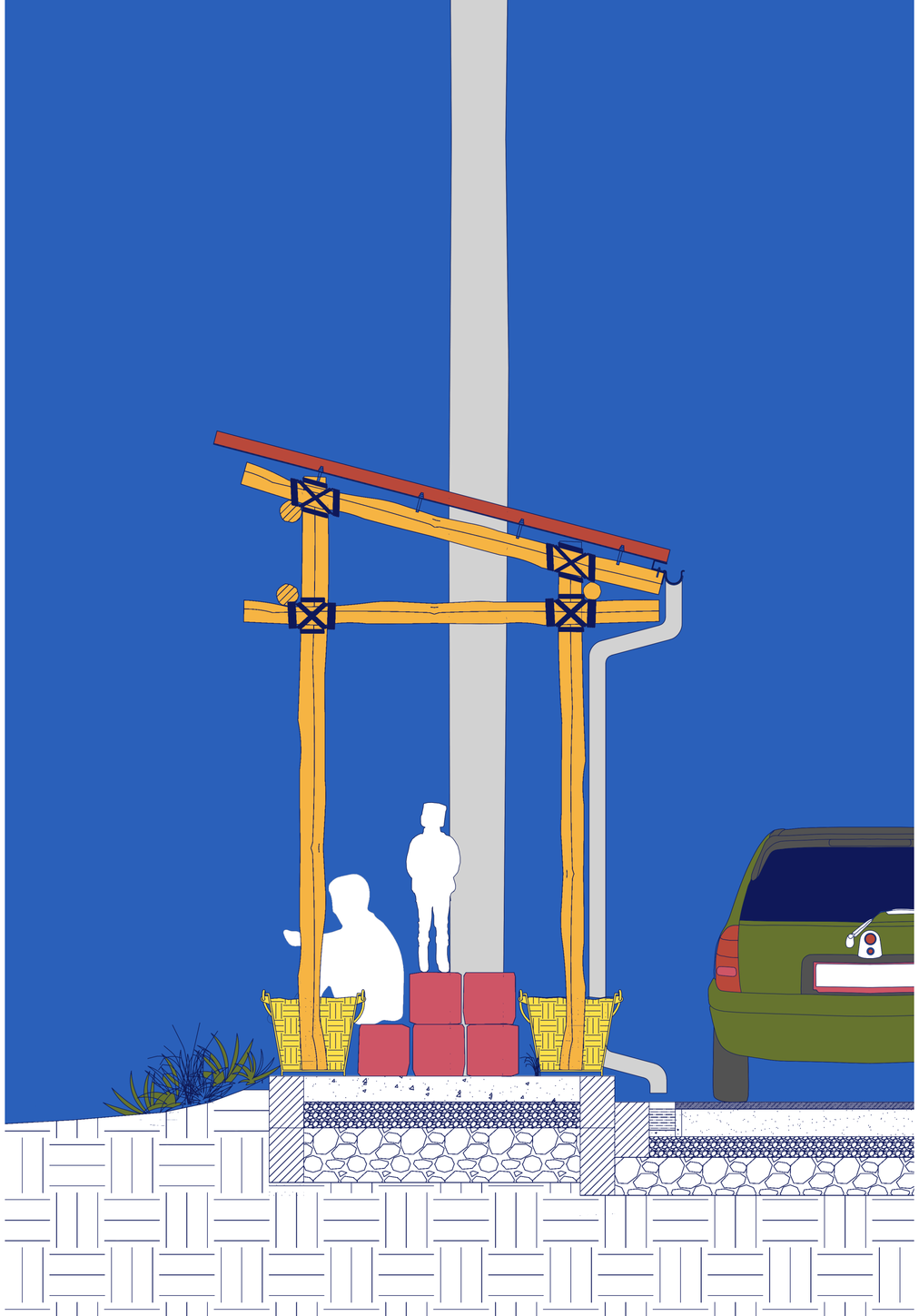
1

2

3

4

5m



1:20 2-Storey Shower Module Section

0

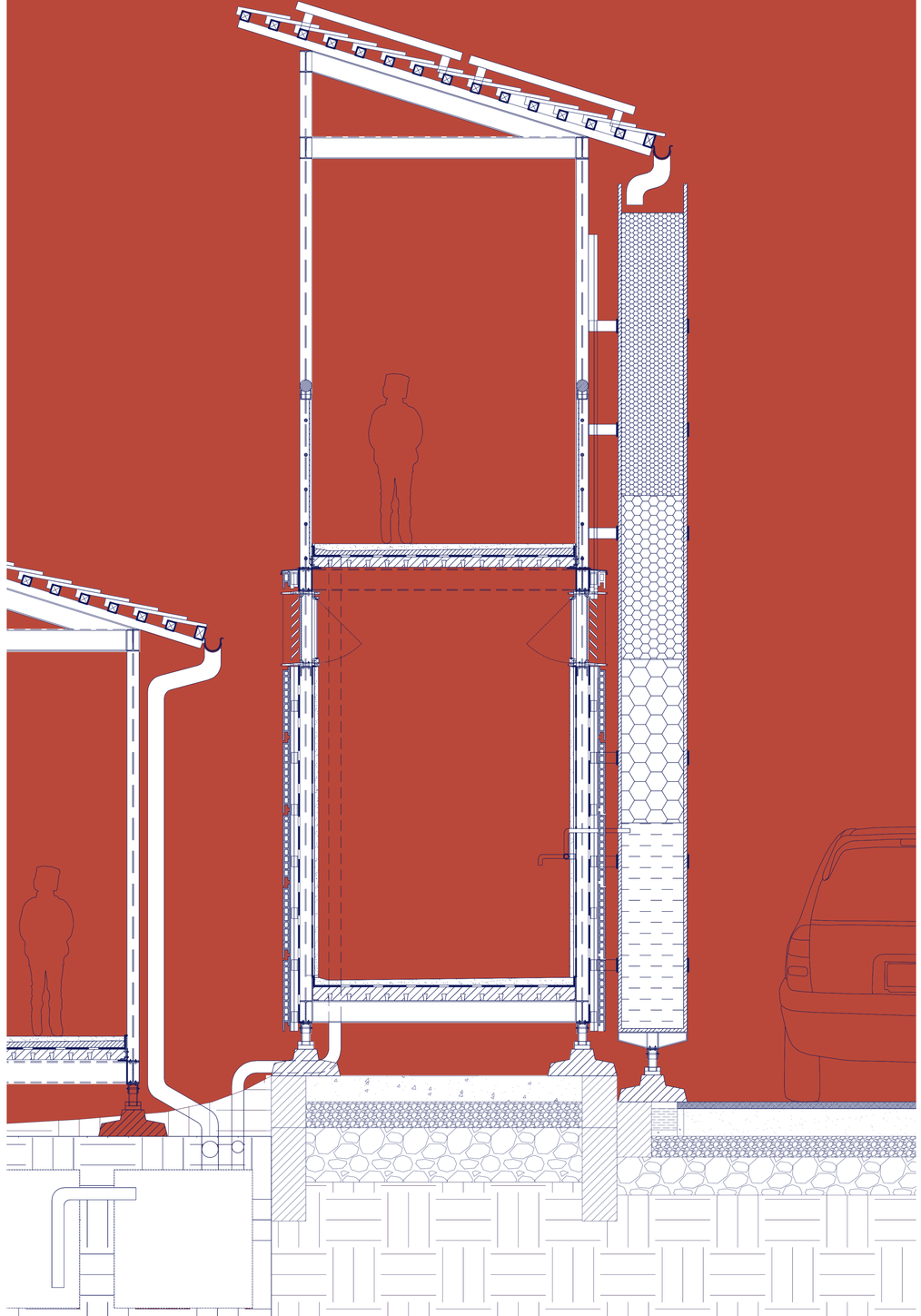
1

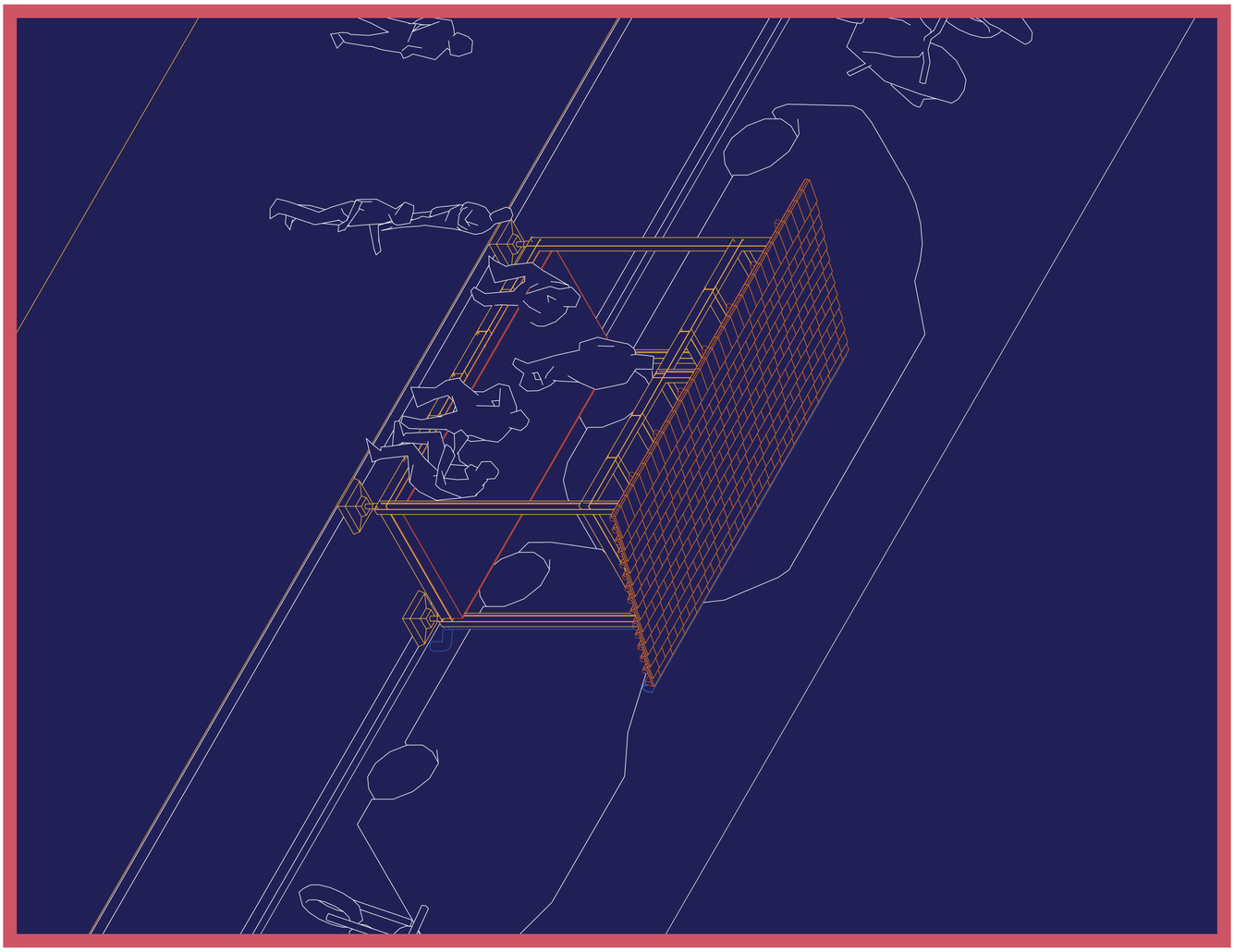
2

3

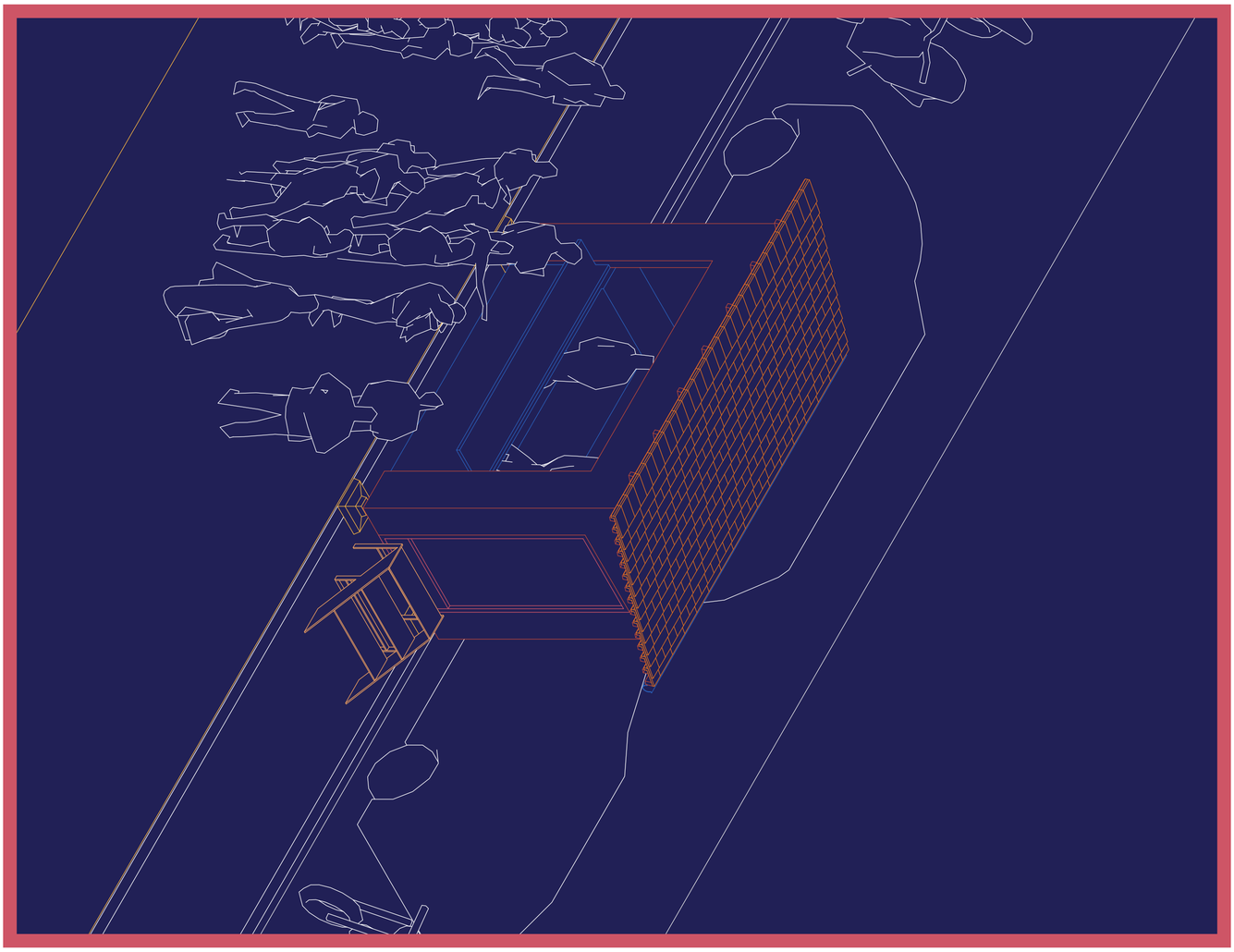
4

5m

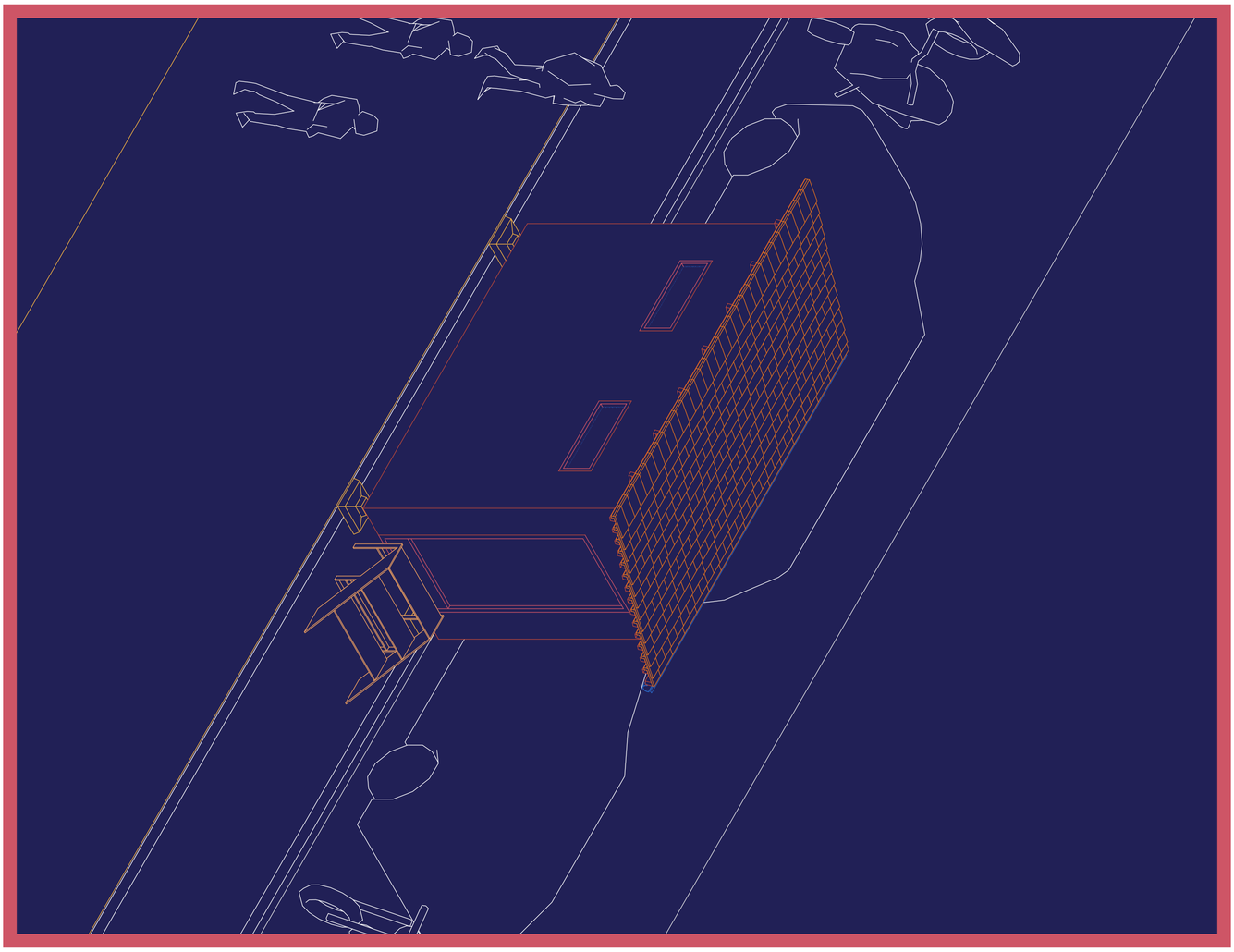




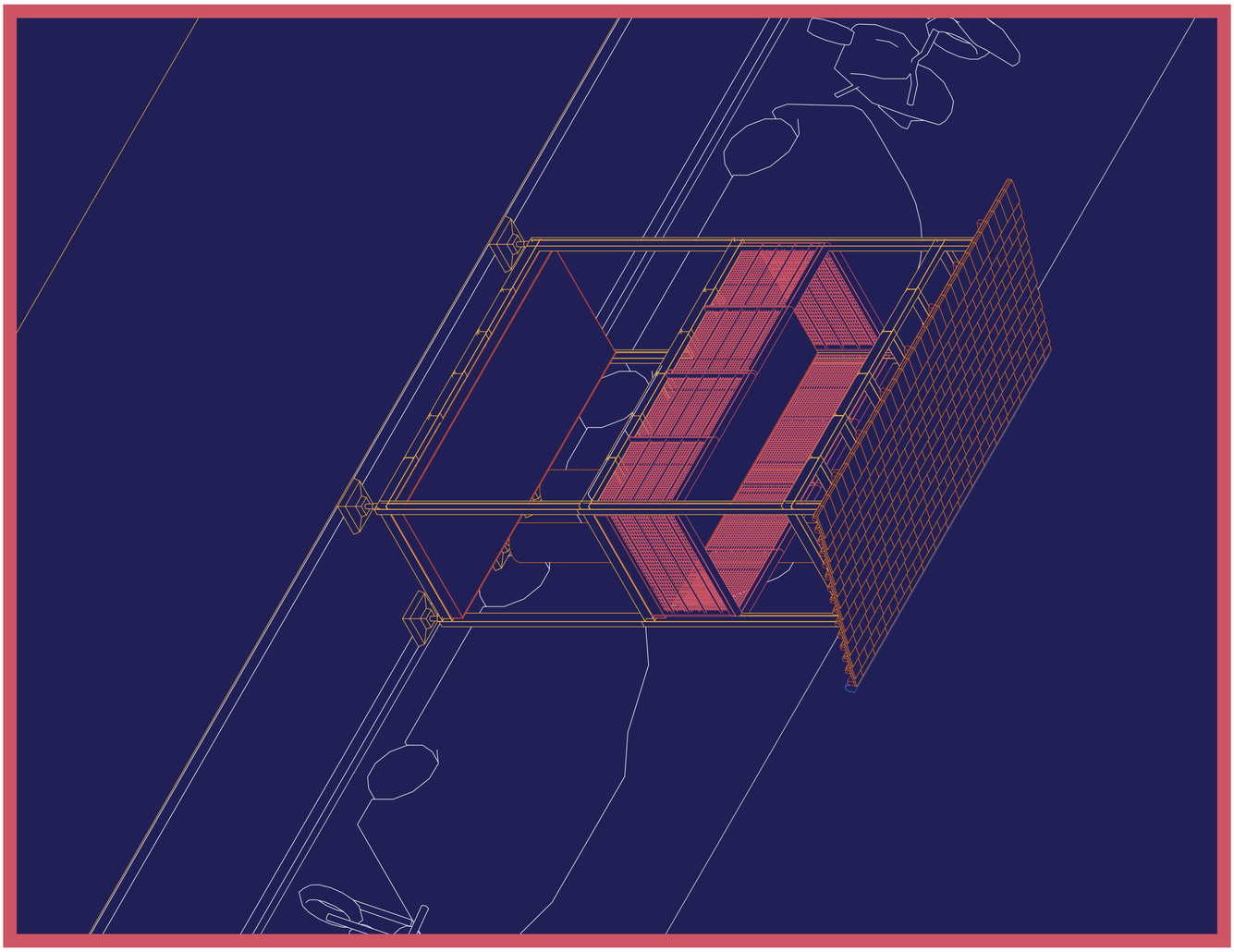
01 Canopy



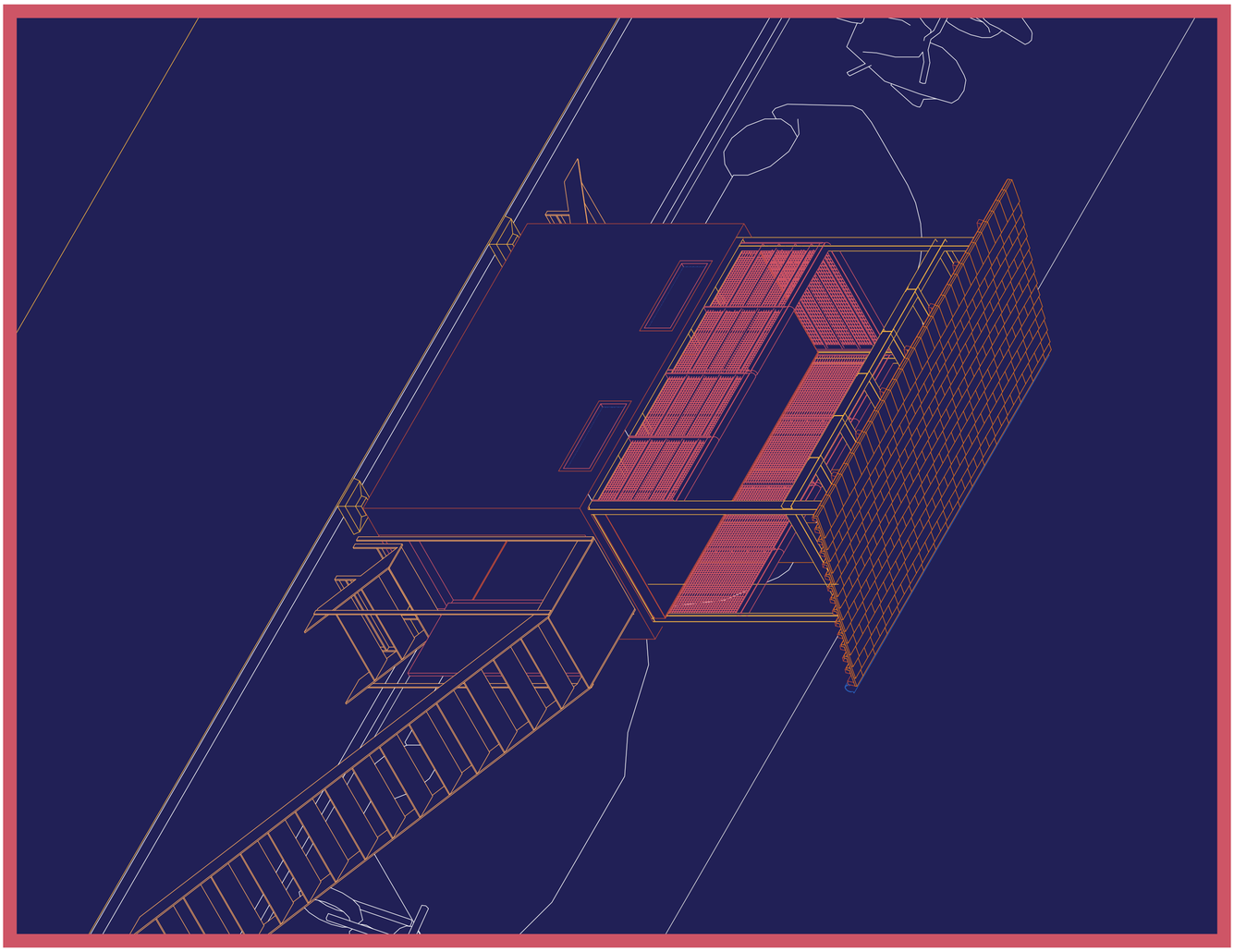
02 Food Stall



03 Shower



05 Canopy + Lookout



04 Shower + Lookout

Maidan Module Catalogue

This catalogue offers a range of module options which can be purchased at a turnkey price, including construction costs. Maintainence costs are incurred on a pro rata basis.

Please contact Ifrah Ariff for details.

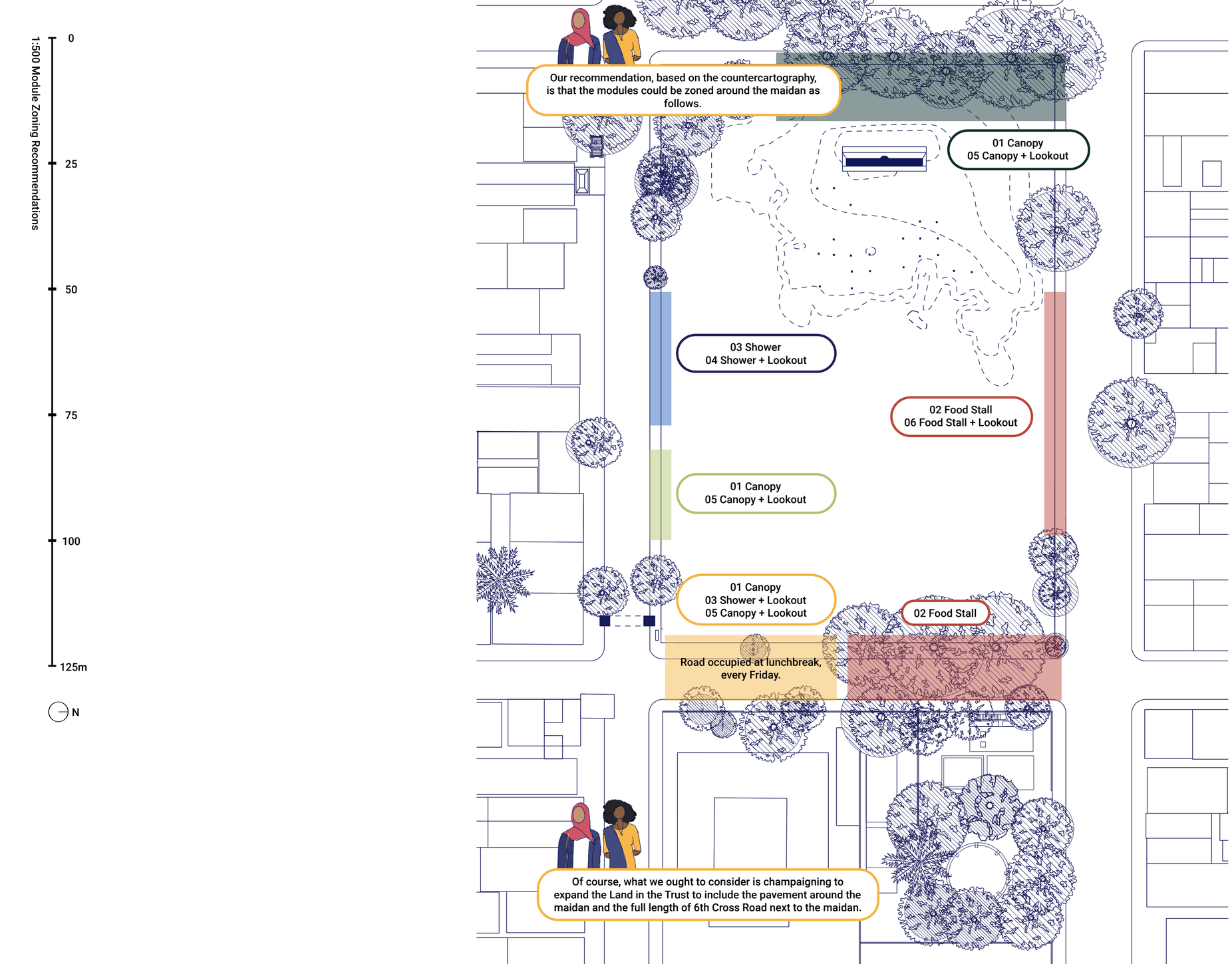
01 Canopy

02 Food Stall

03 Shower

04 Shower + Lookout

05 Canopy + Lookout


1:500 Module Zoning Recommendations
0
25
50
75
100
125m
N
Our recommendation, based on the countercartography, is that the modules could be zoned around the maidan as follows.
01 Canopy
05 Canopy + Lookout
03 Shower
04 Shower + Lookout
02 Food Stall
06 Food Stall + Lookout
01 Canopy
05 Canopy + Lookout
01 Canopy
03 Shower + Lookout
05 Canopy + Lookout
02 Food Stall
Road occupied at lunchbreak, every Friday.
Of course, what we ought to consider is champaigning to expand the Land in the Trust to include the pavement around the maidan and the full length of 6th Cross Road next to the maidan.

1:20 2-Storey Shower Module Section

0

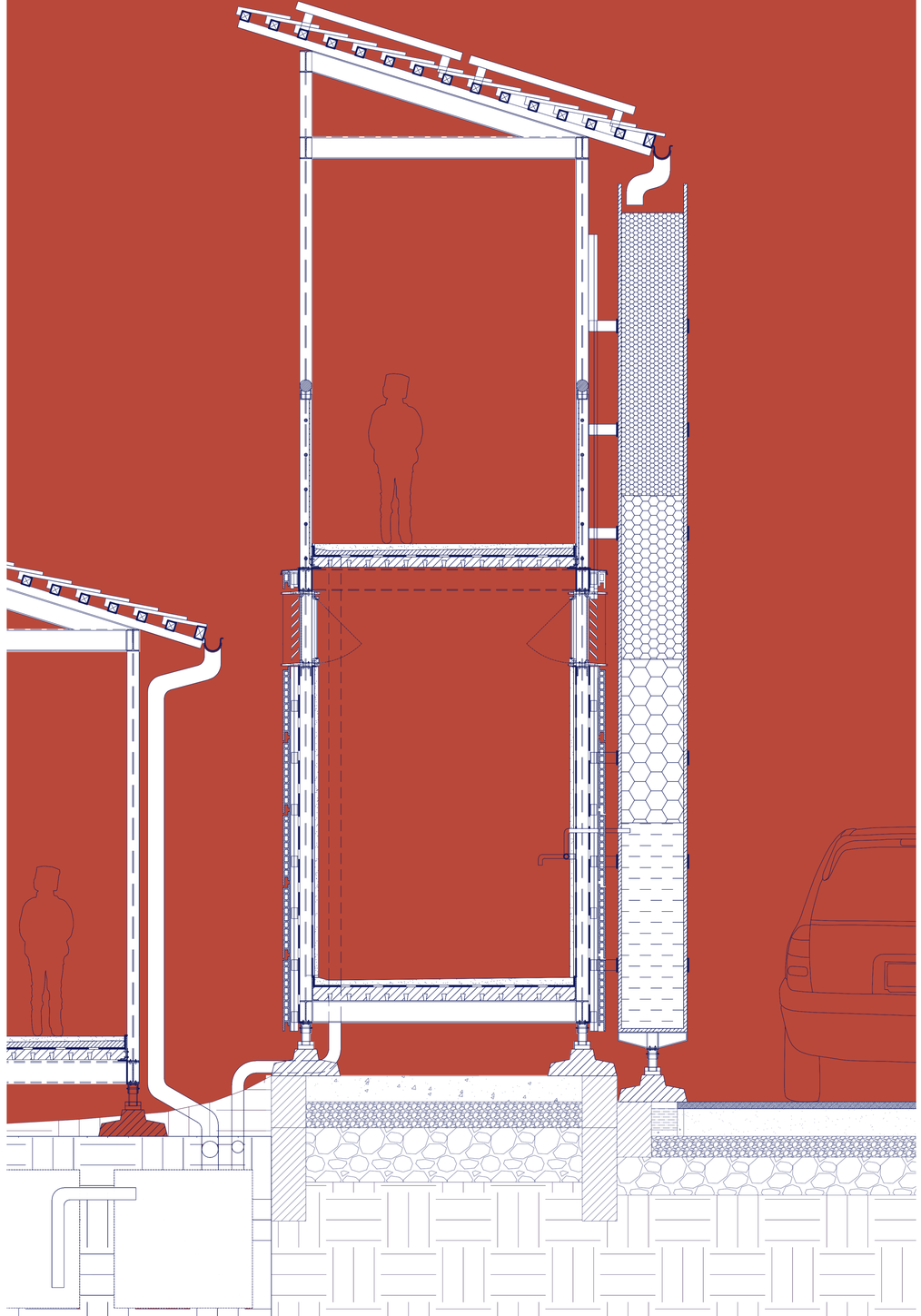
1

2

3

4

5m



1:20 2-Storey Shower Module Section

0

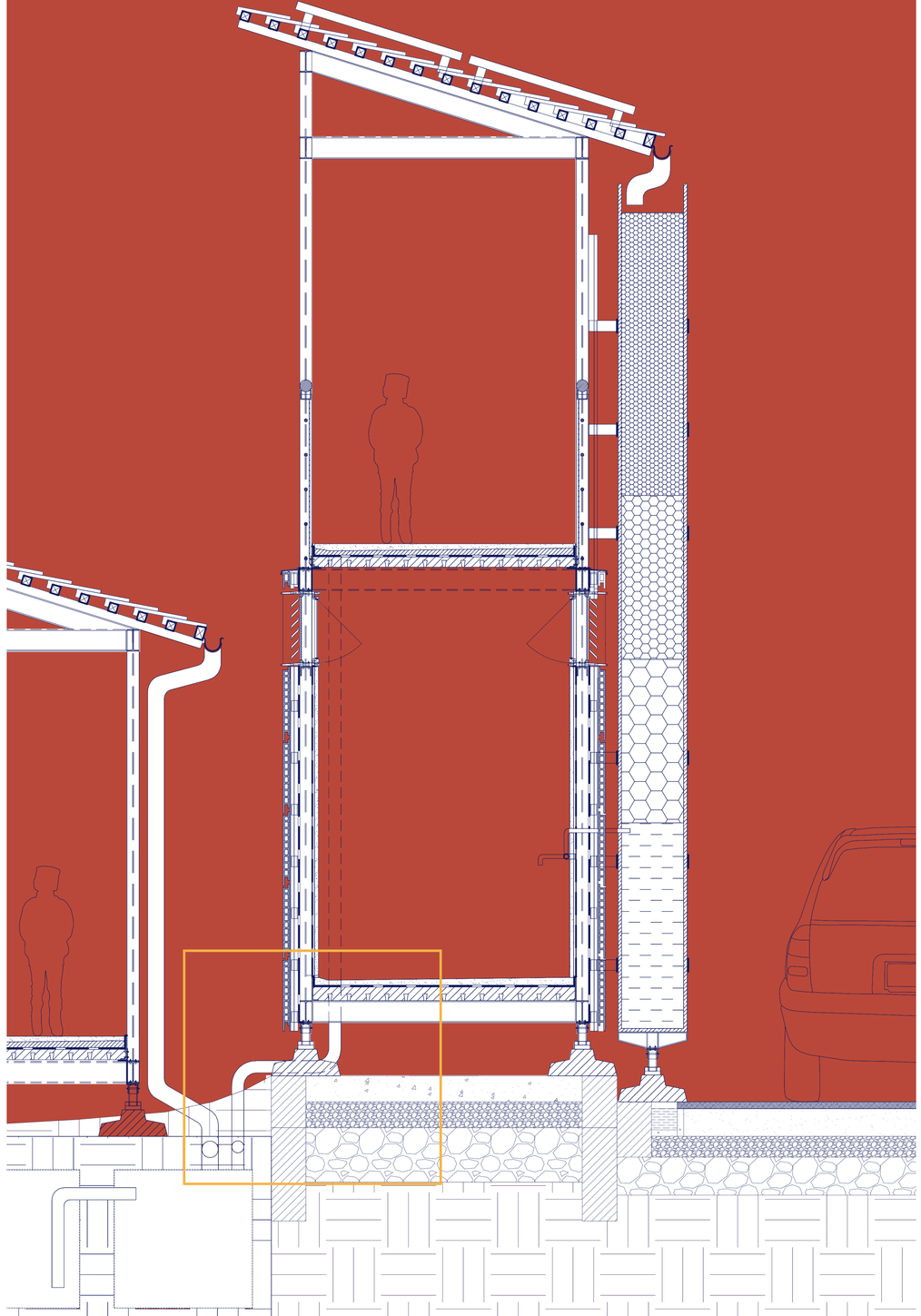
1

2

3

4

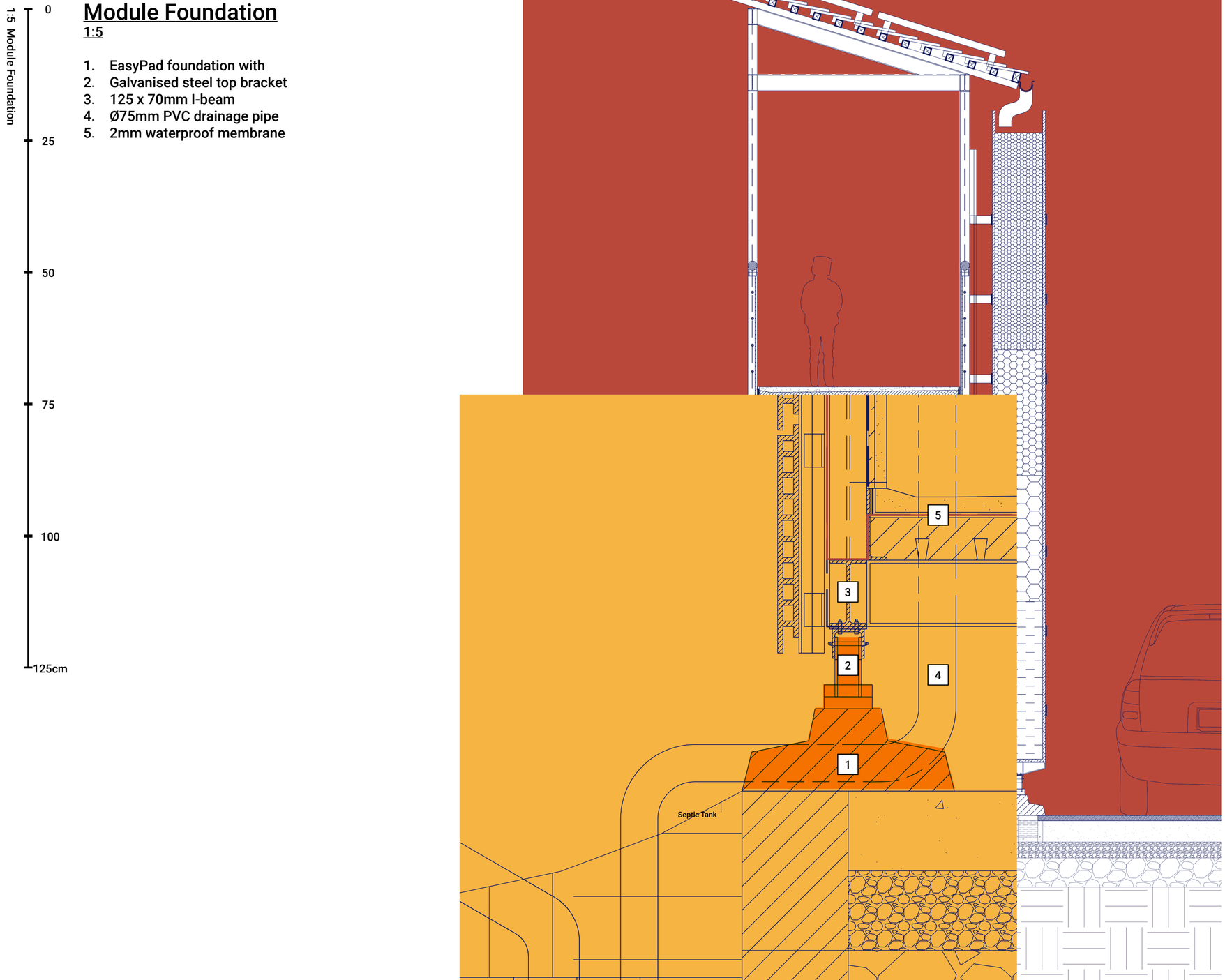
5m

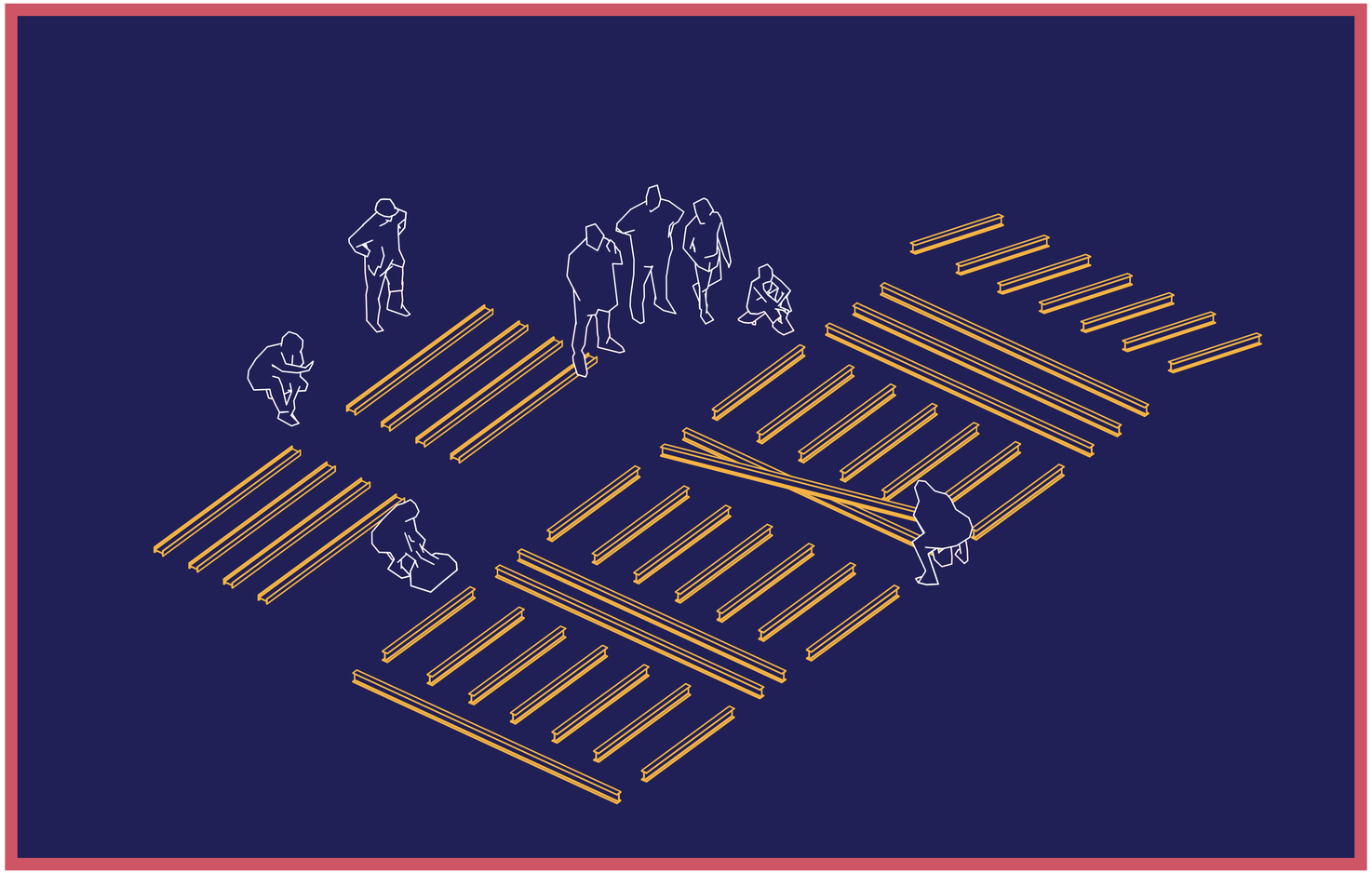


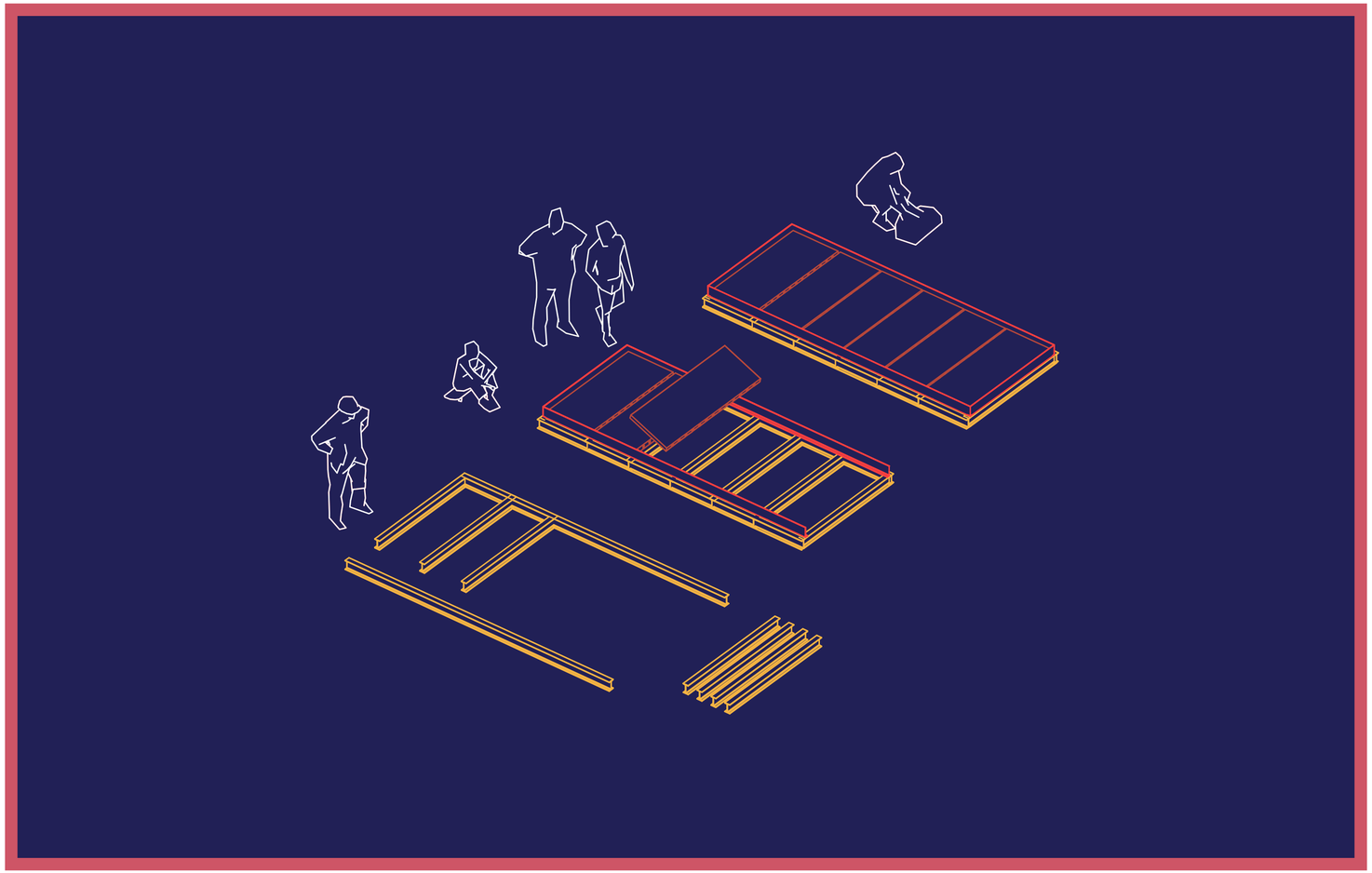
Module Foundation

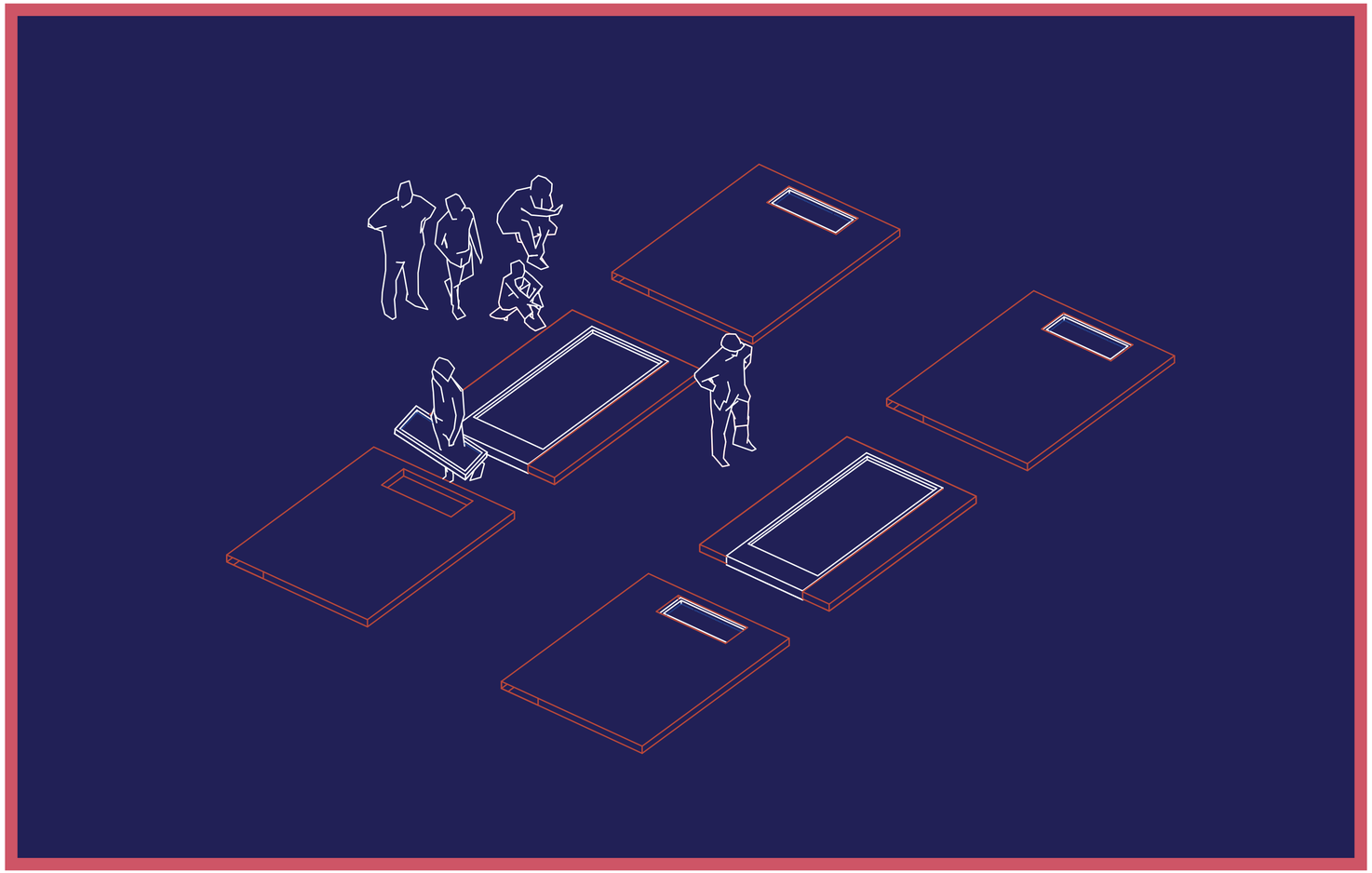
1:5

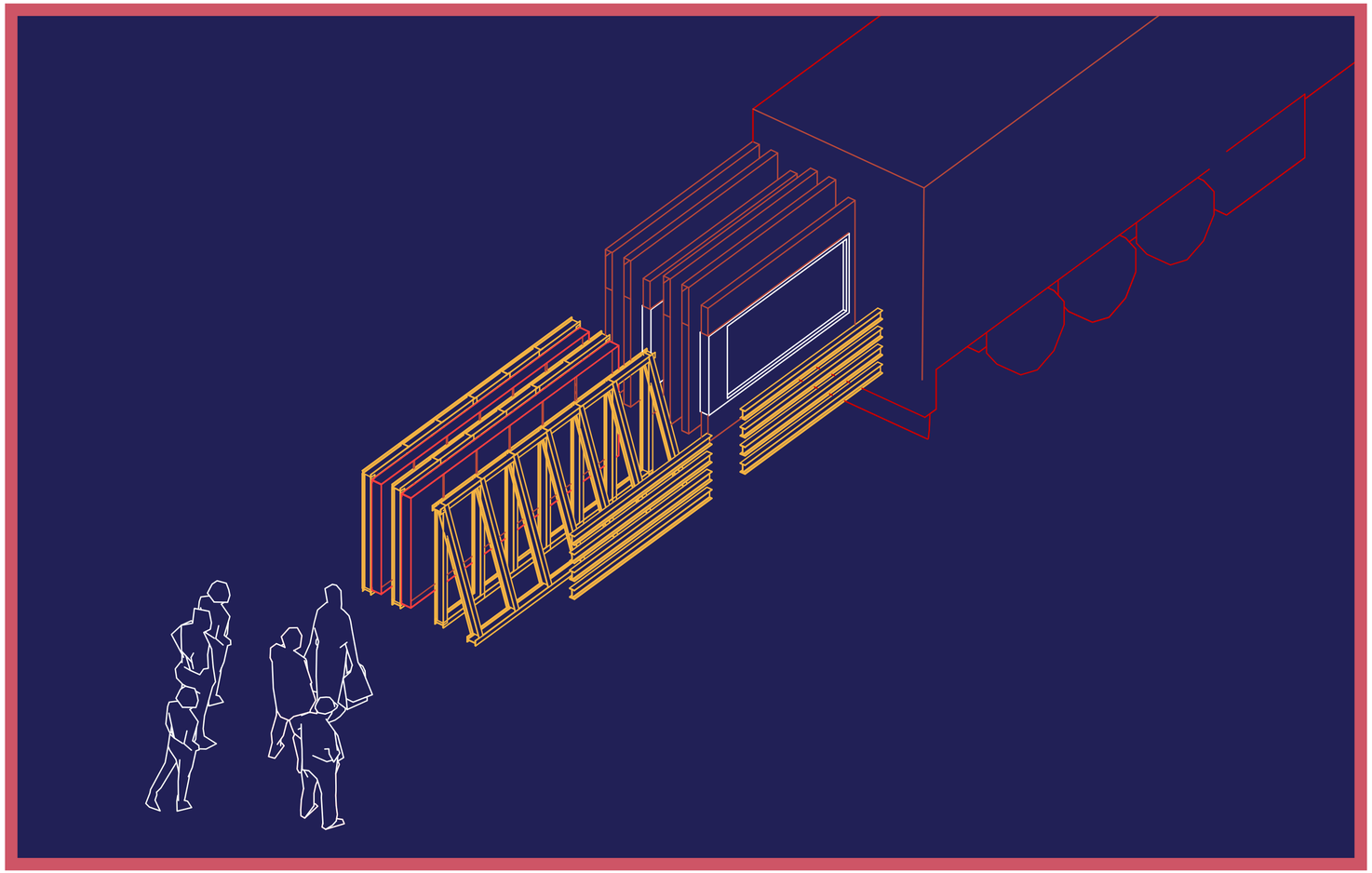
1. EasyPad foundation with
2. Galvanised steel top bracket
3. 125 x 70mm I-beam
4. Ø75mm PVC drainage pipe
5. 2mm waterproof membrane

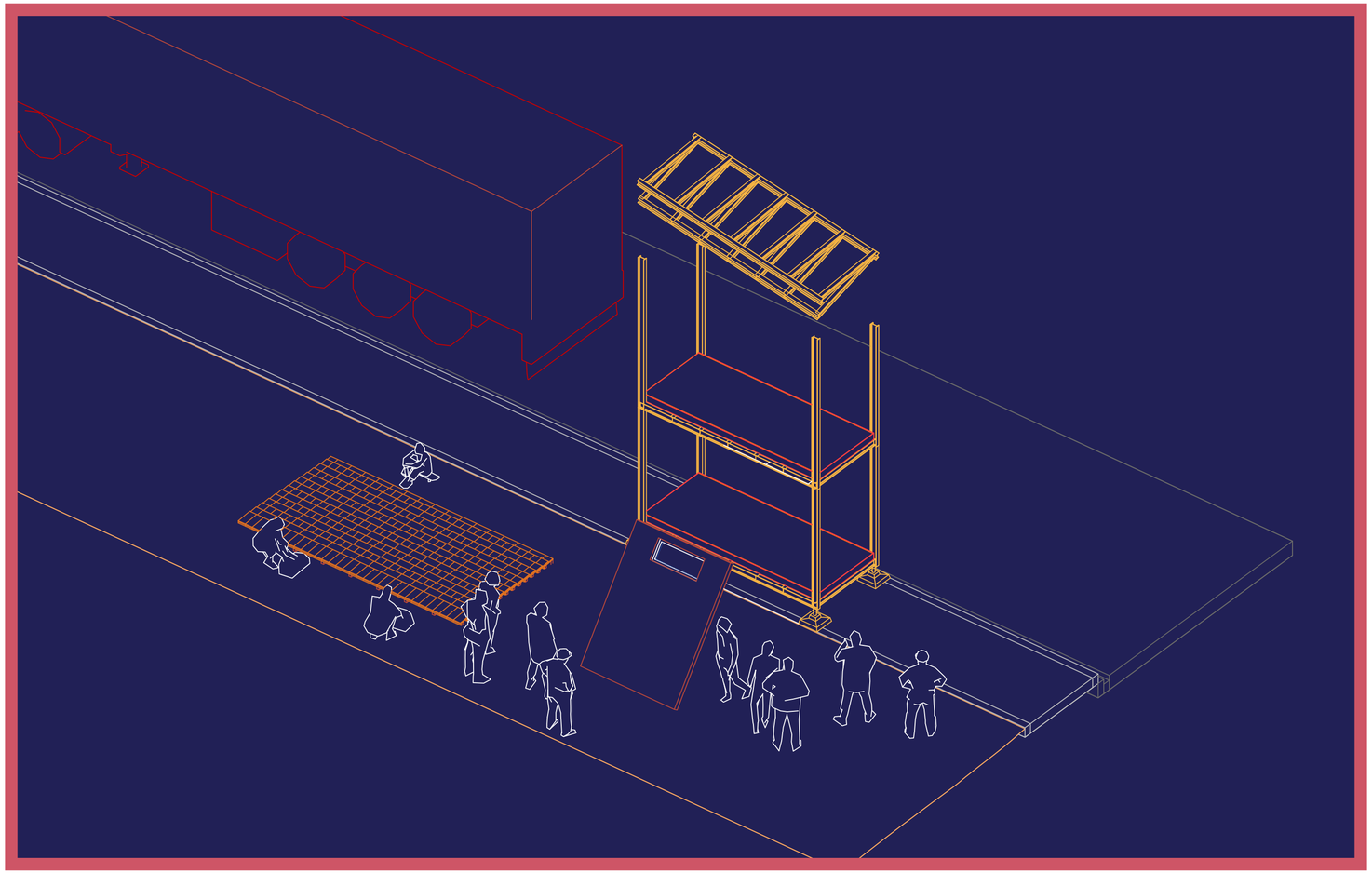


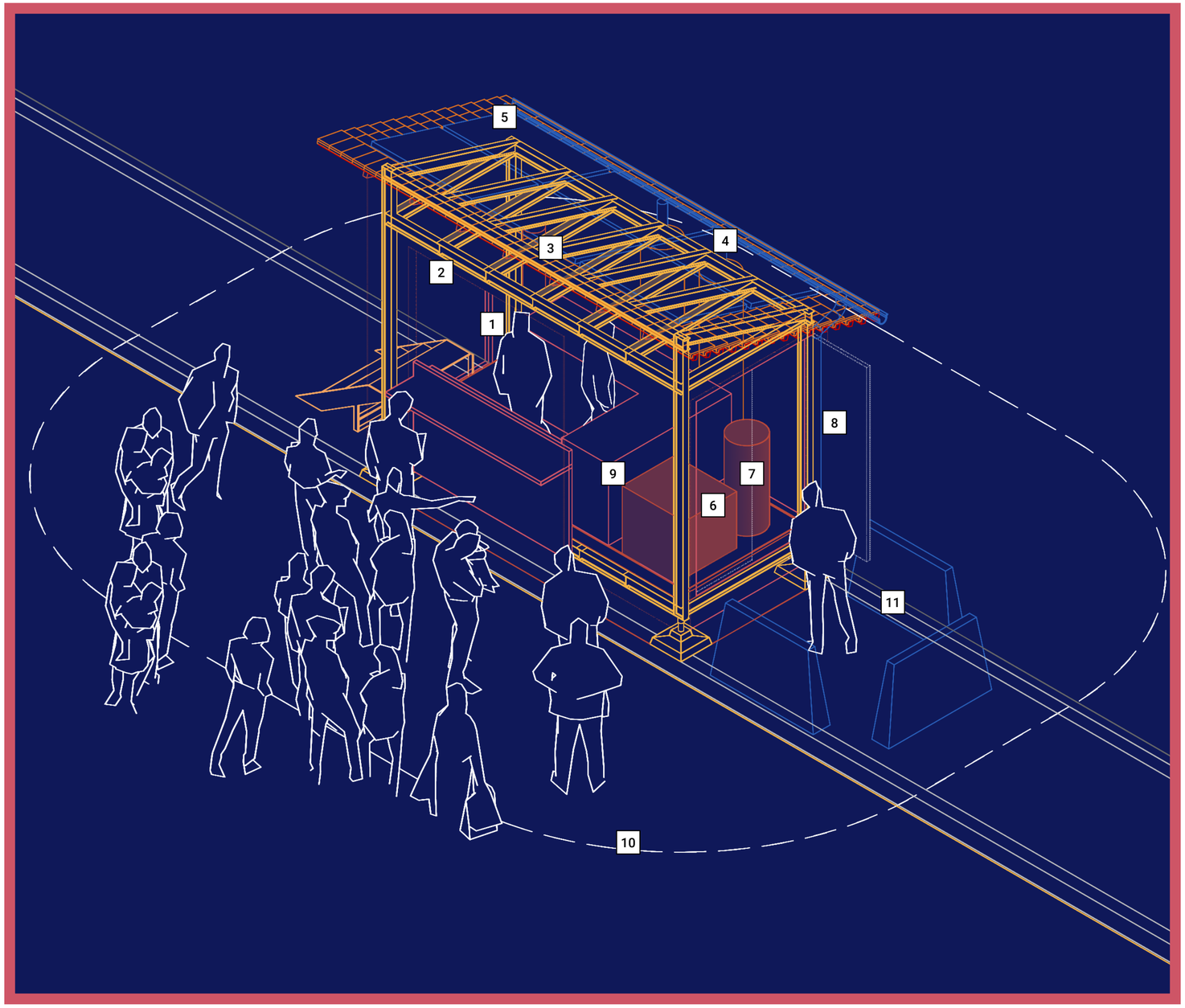











5
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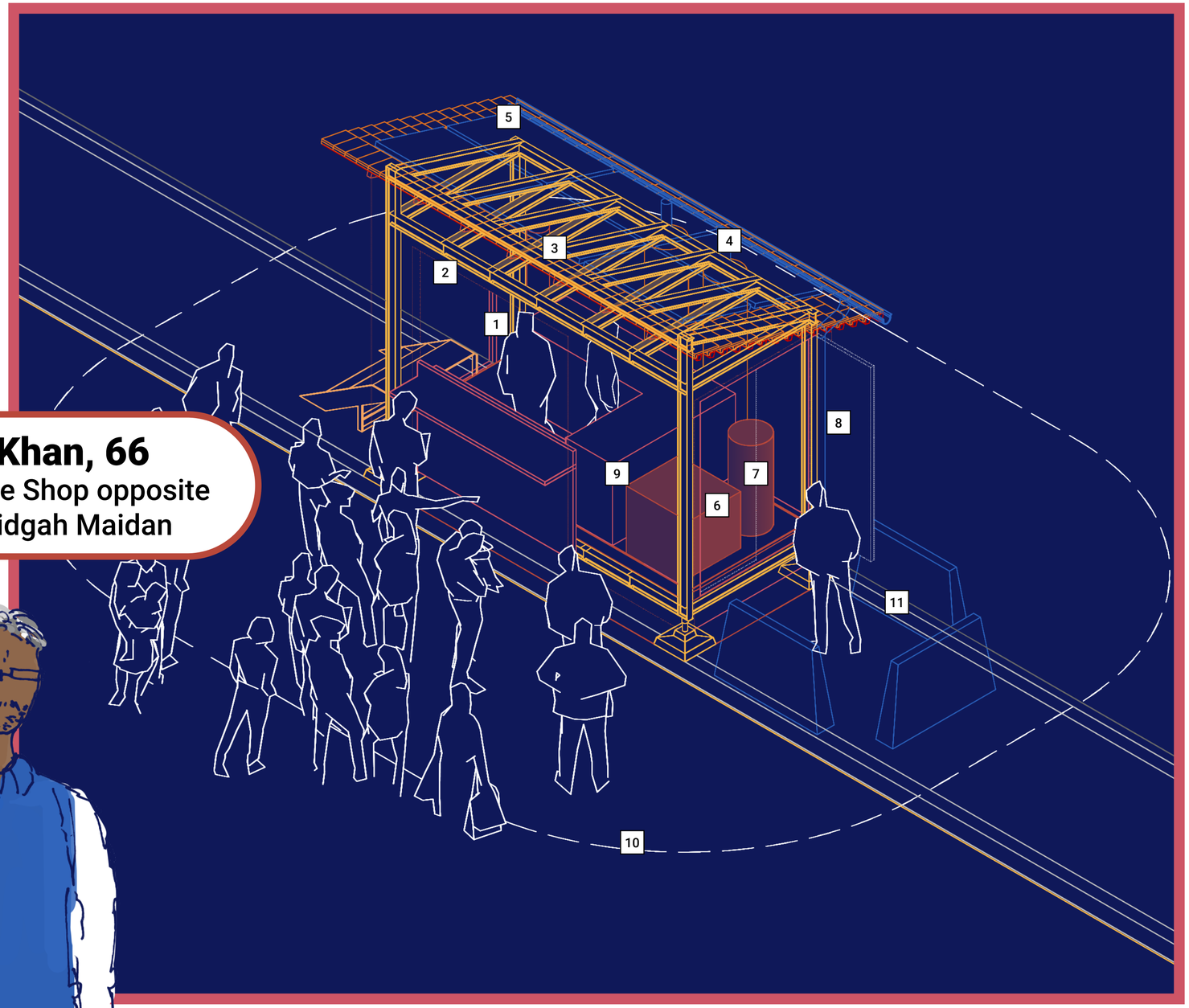


Faizullah Khan, 66
Owner of PVC Pipe Shop opposite
Chamarajpet Eidgah Maidan



1:20 2-Storey Shower Module Section

0

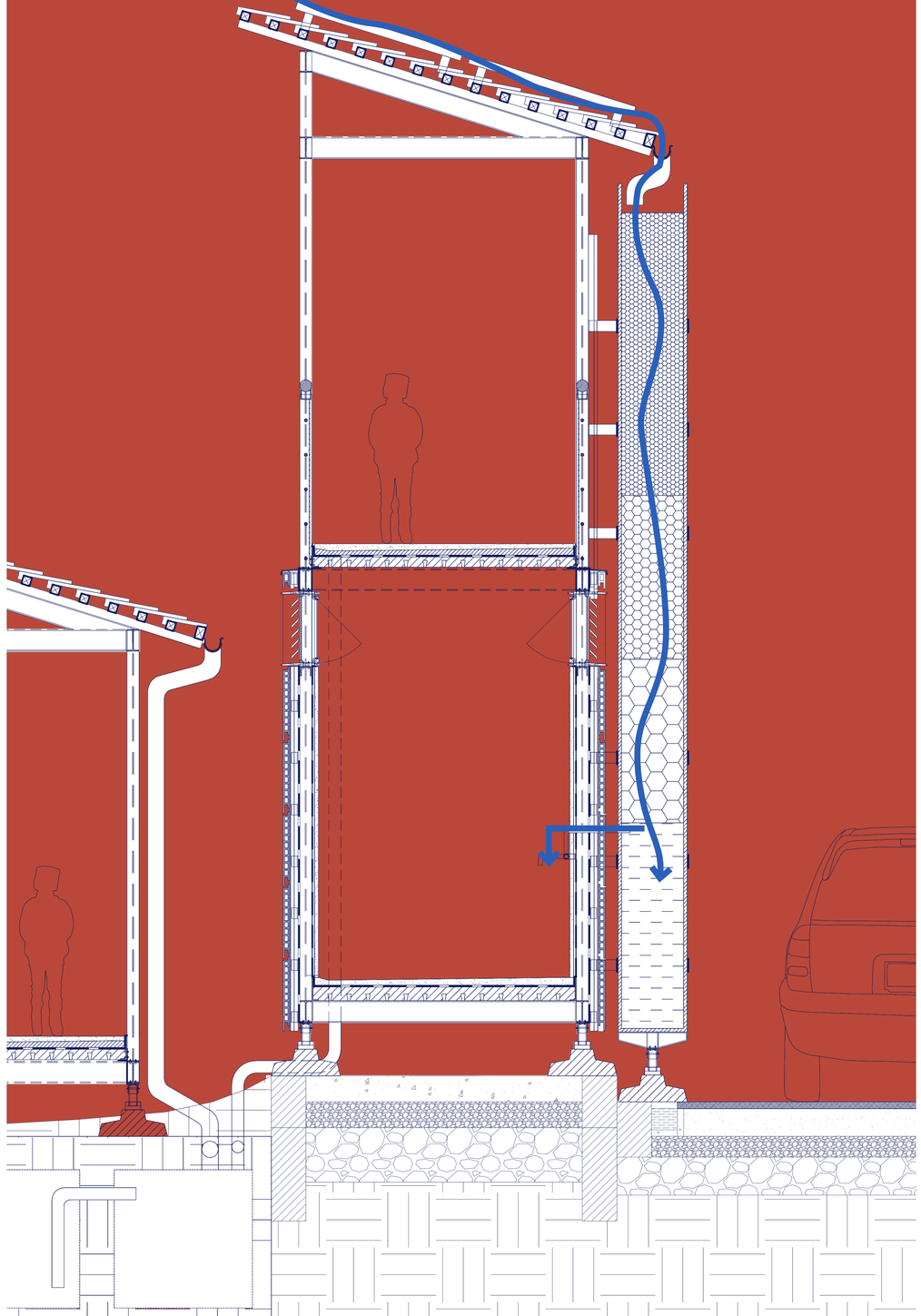
1

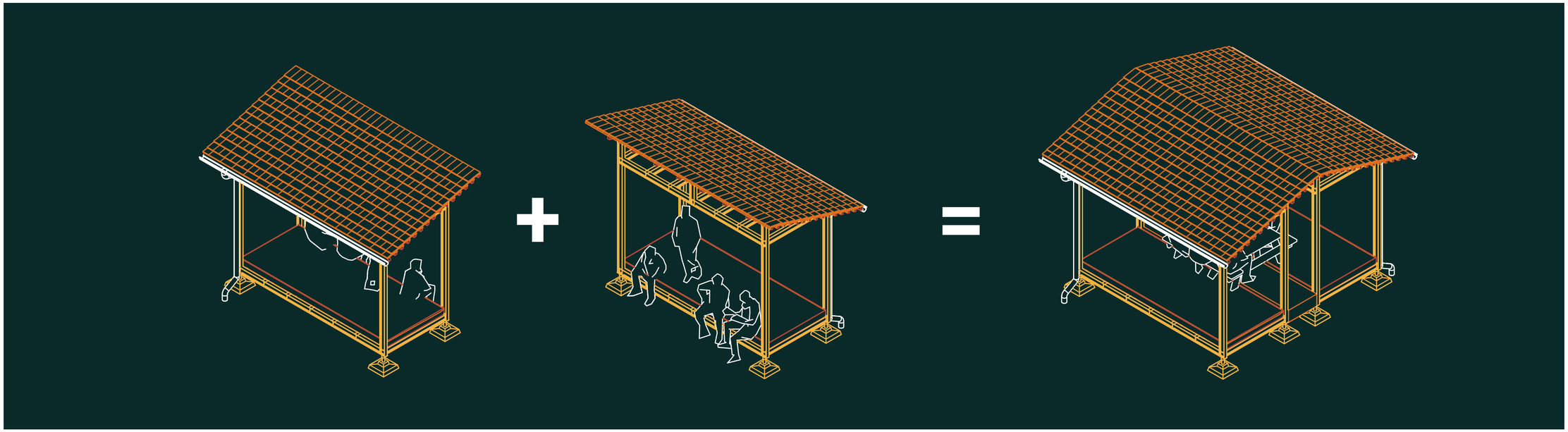
2

3

4

5m






Land Trust Meeting Space, 2025
I've called this meeting at the request of Mrs. Ramini. She had the idea of turning our occupation of 6th Cross Road permanent.
Woah, no way!
How permanent?
I've leave that for you guys to decide ultimately. But my suggestion would be to have a structure that can last 20 - 30 years, but which is demountable, like the modules.

Multipurpose Hall Ground Floor

1:200

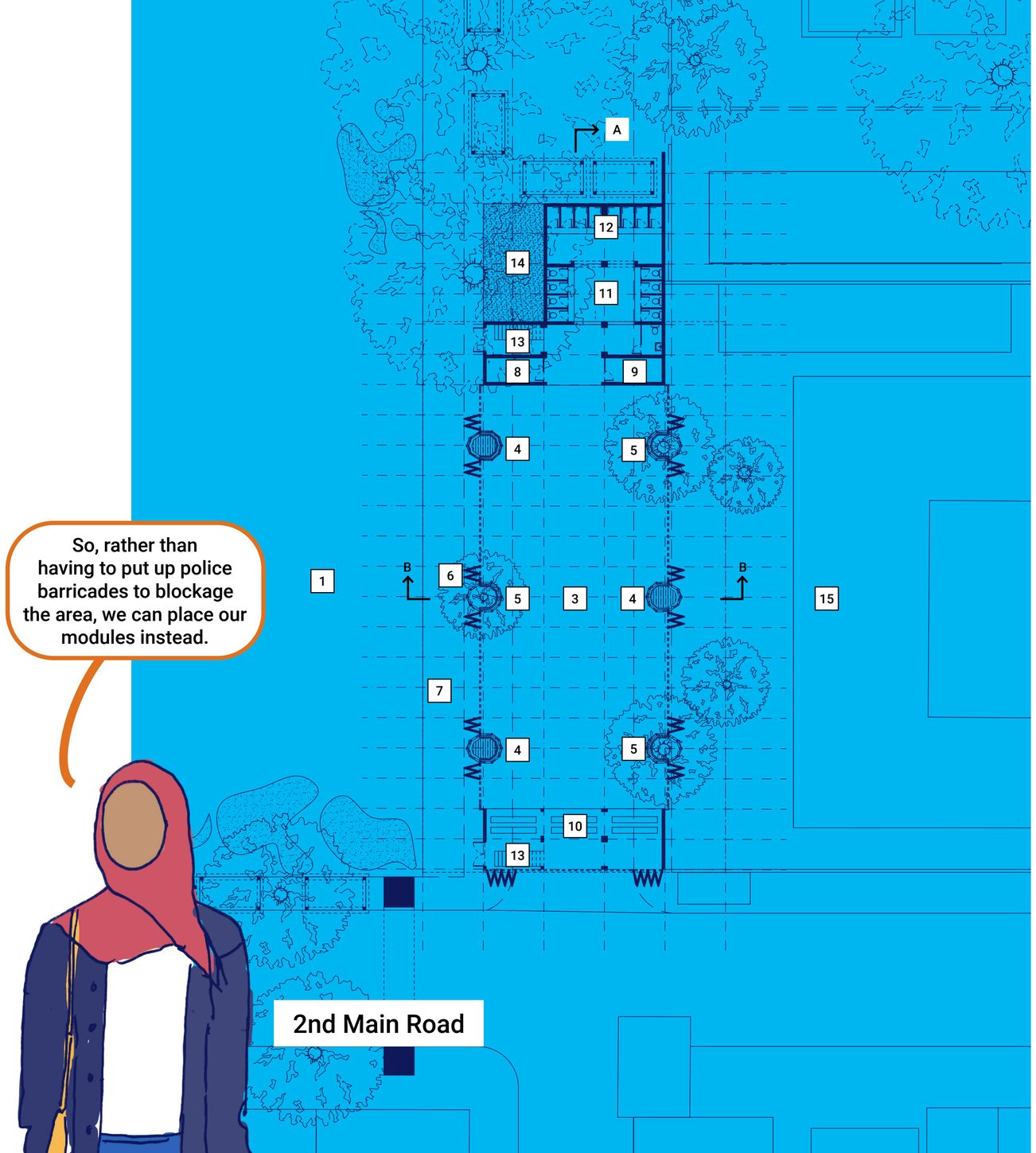
Demolition of existing urban elements are denoted by red dotted lines.

1. Chamarajpet Eidgah maidan
2. Canopy modules
3. Multipurpose hall
4. Rainwater harvesting funnel
5. Tree funnel around existing trees
6. Bifold doors
7. New pavement extending into maidan
8. Store room
9. Plant room
10. Bleachers
11. Toilets
12. Showers
13. Stairs to first floor viewing deck
14. Garden patch
15. Corporation school

1:200 Multipurpose Hall Ground Floor Plan

0 10 20 30 40 50m

N



Multipurpose Hall Ground Floor

1:200

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1:200 Multipurpose Hall Ground Floor Plan

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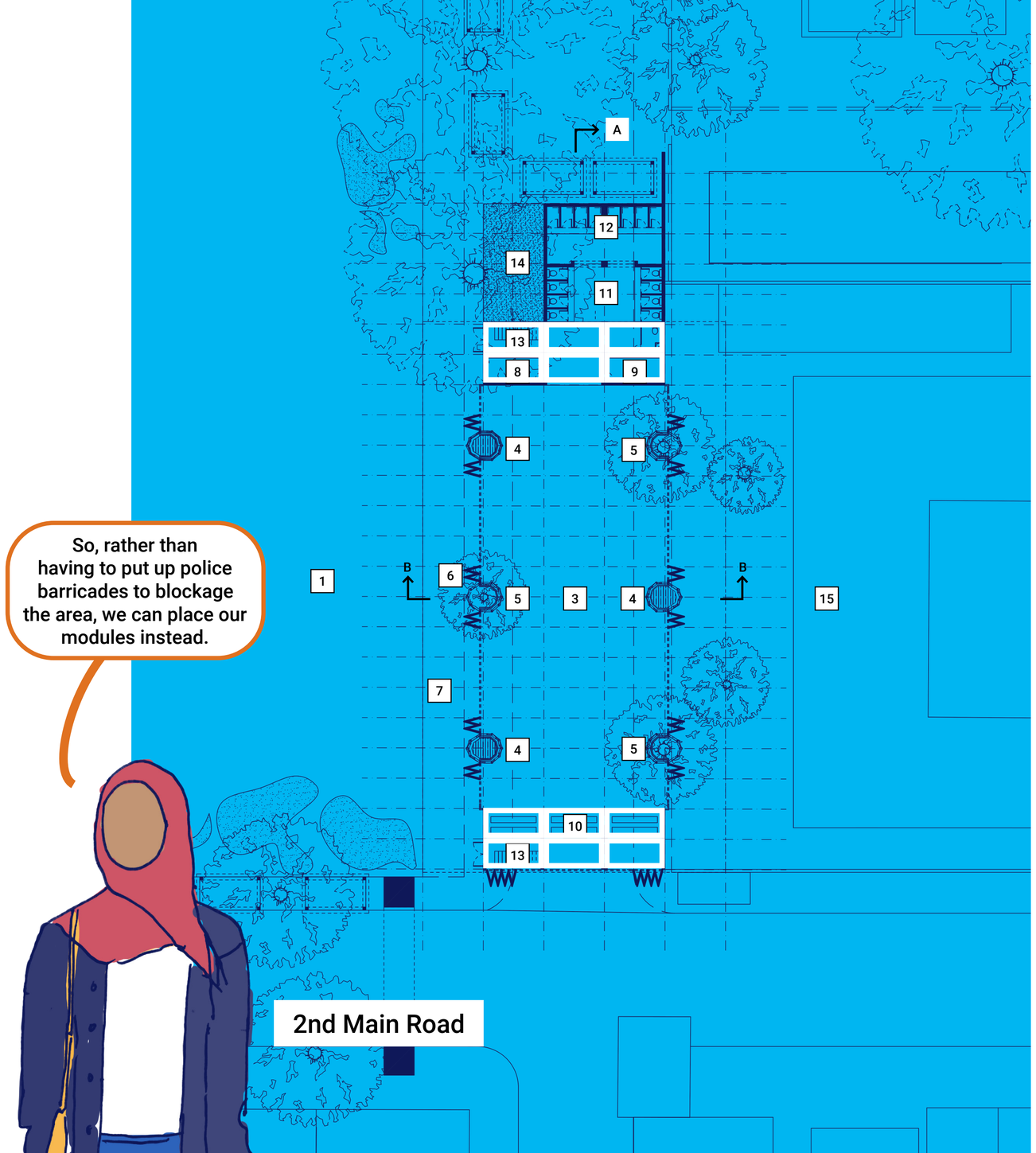
N



1:200 Multipurpose Hall Ground Floor Plan

0 10 20 30 40 50m

N

Multipurpose Hall Ground Floor

1:200

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12. Showers
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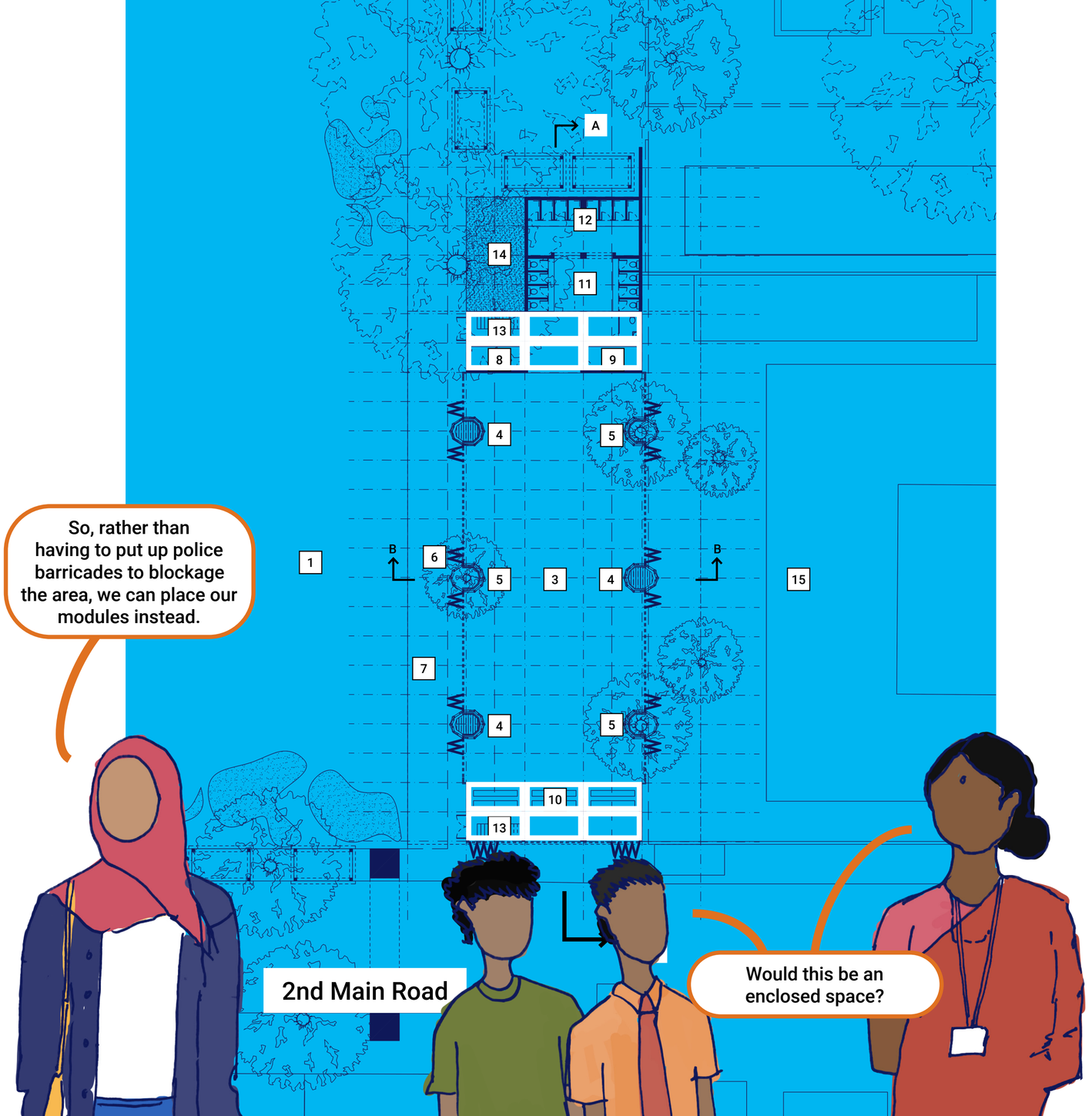
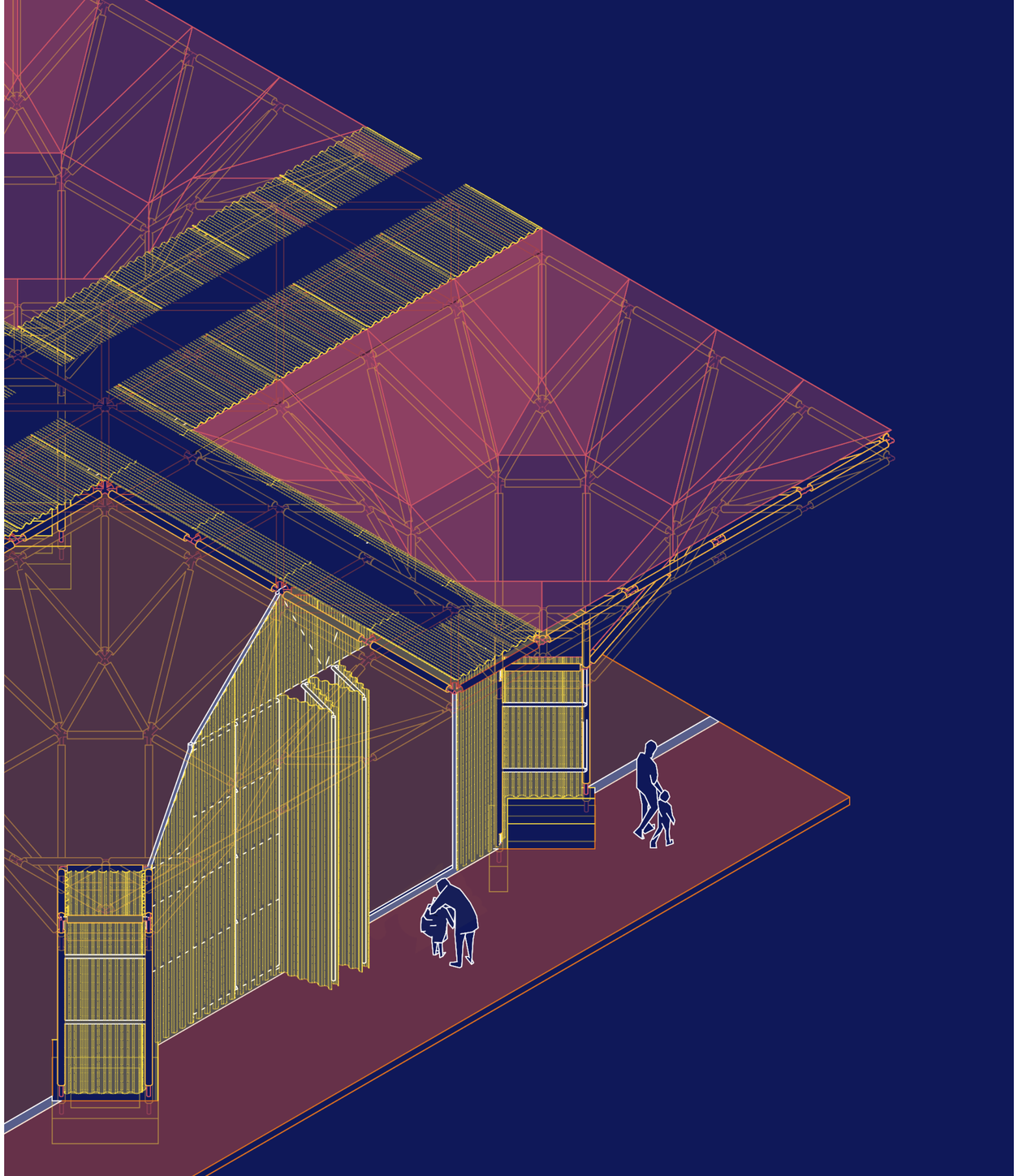
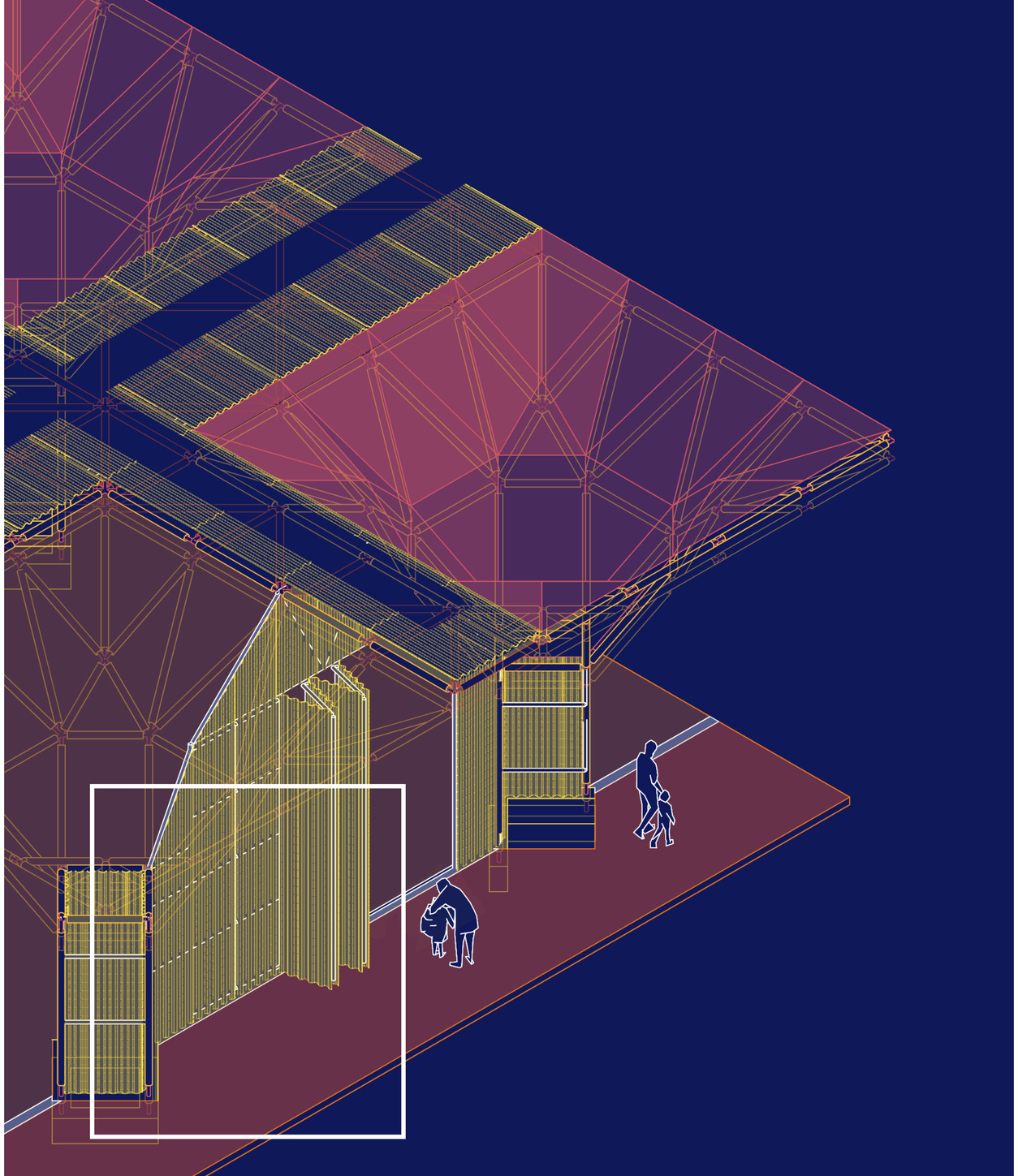
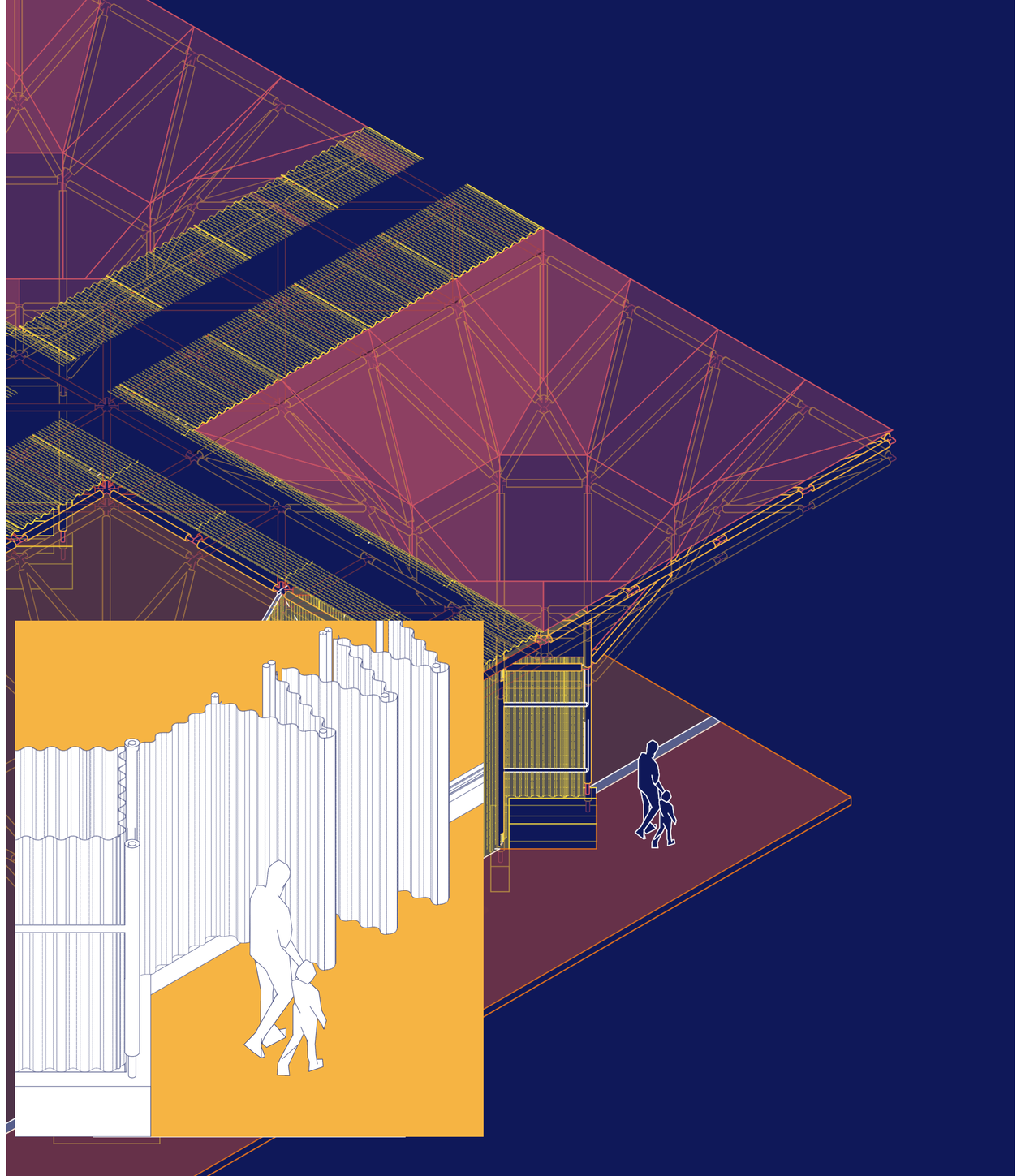








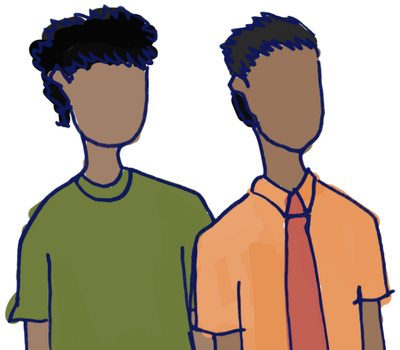
Multipurpose Hall
Ganesh Chaturthi

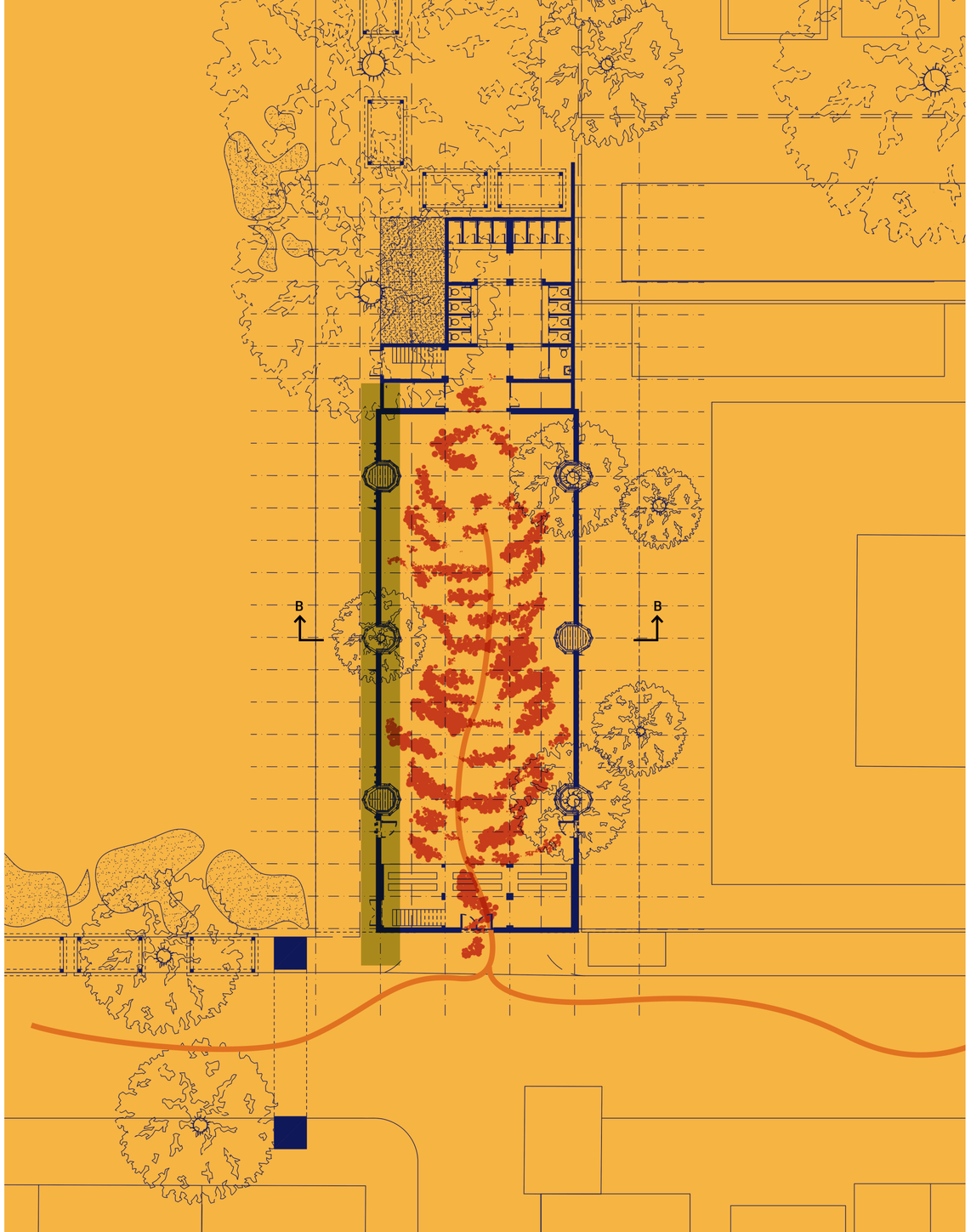
1:200

1:200 Multipurpose Hall Ground Floor Plan

0
10
20
30
40
50m

N







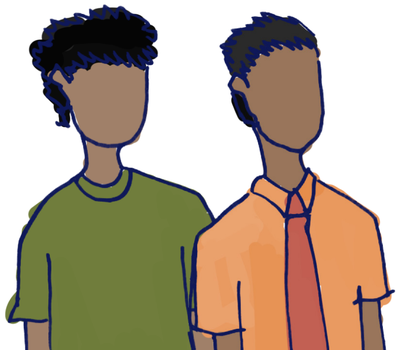
Multipurpose Hall
Eid

1:200

1:200 Multipurpose Hall Ground Floor Plan

0
10
20
30
40
50m

N





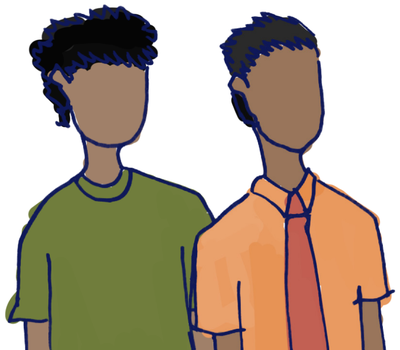
Multipurpose Hall
Eid

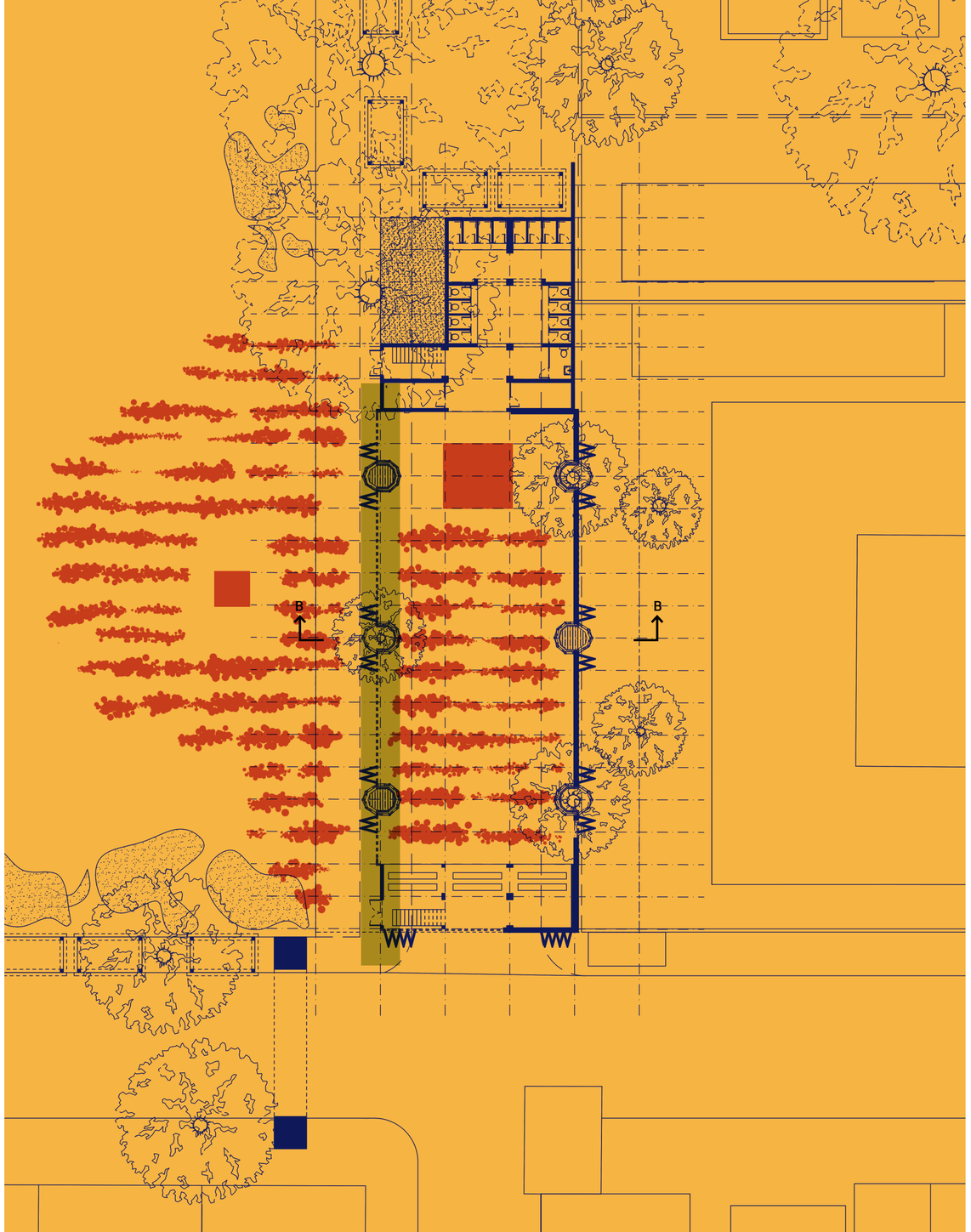
1:200

1:200 Multipurpose Hall Ground Floor Plan

0
10
20
30
40
50m

N







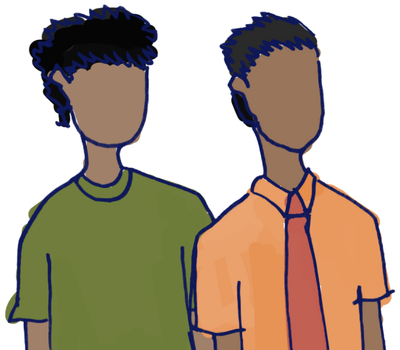
Multipurpose Hall
Eid

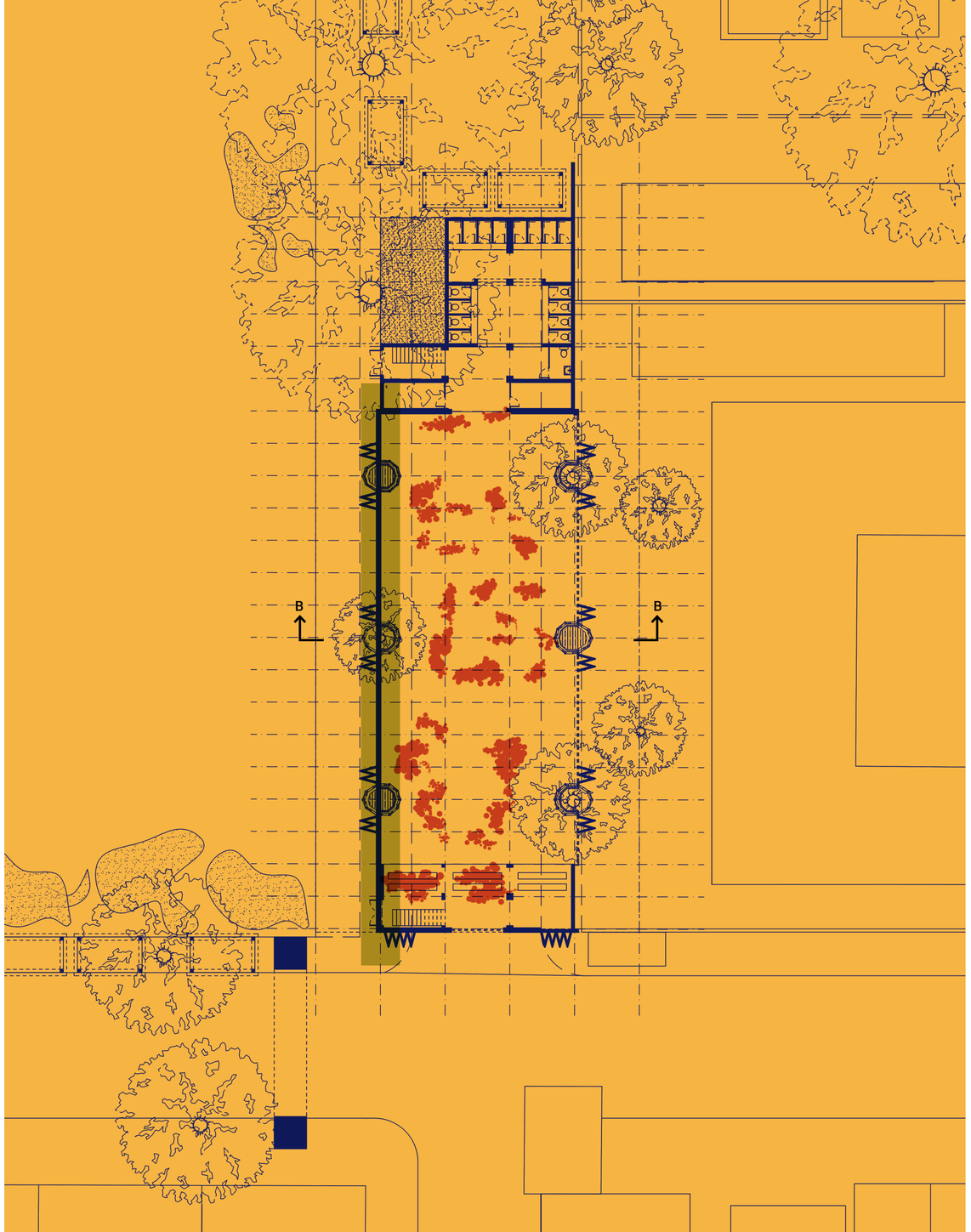
1:200

1:200 Multipurpose Hall Ground Floor Plan

0
10
20
30
40
50m

N





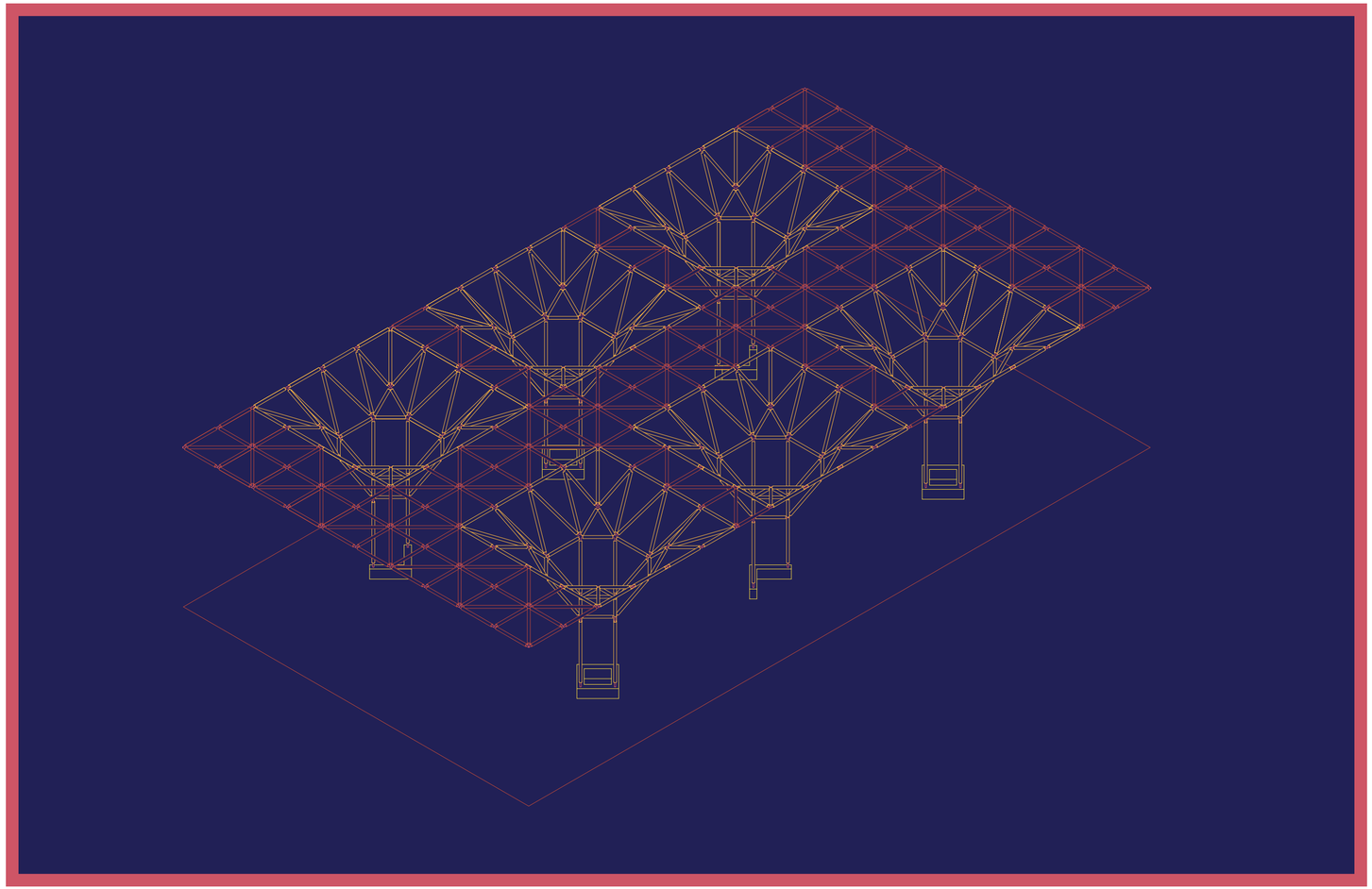


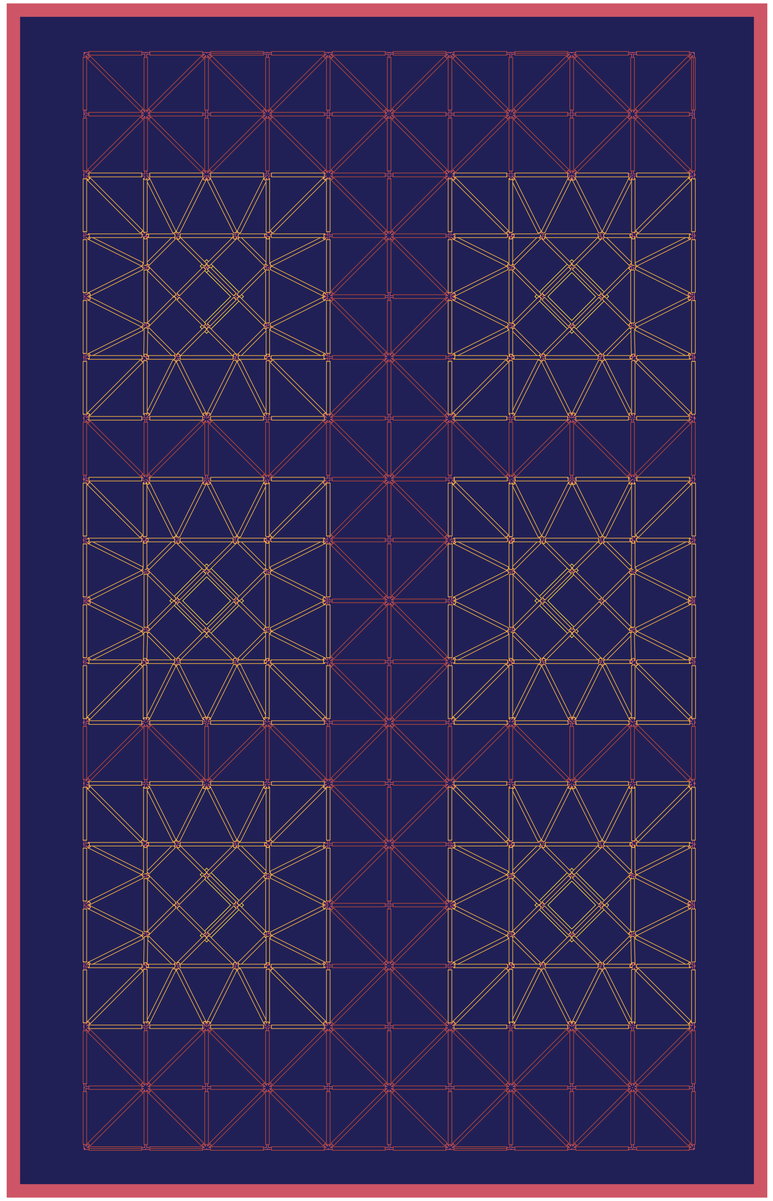
Multipurpose Hall
BB Section
1:50

1:50 Multipurpose Hall BB Section

0
2.5
5.0
7.5
10
12.5m











Traditional Kasuti Embroidery of Karnataka







Traditional Kasuti Embroidery of Karnataka



Multipurpose Hall
BB Section
1:50

1:50 Multipurpose Hall BB Section

0
2.5
5.0
7.5
10
12.5m



Multipurpose Hall
BB Section
1:50

1:50 Multipurpose Hall BB Section

0
2.5
5.0
7.5
10
12.5m



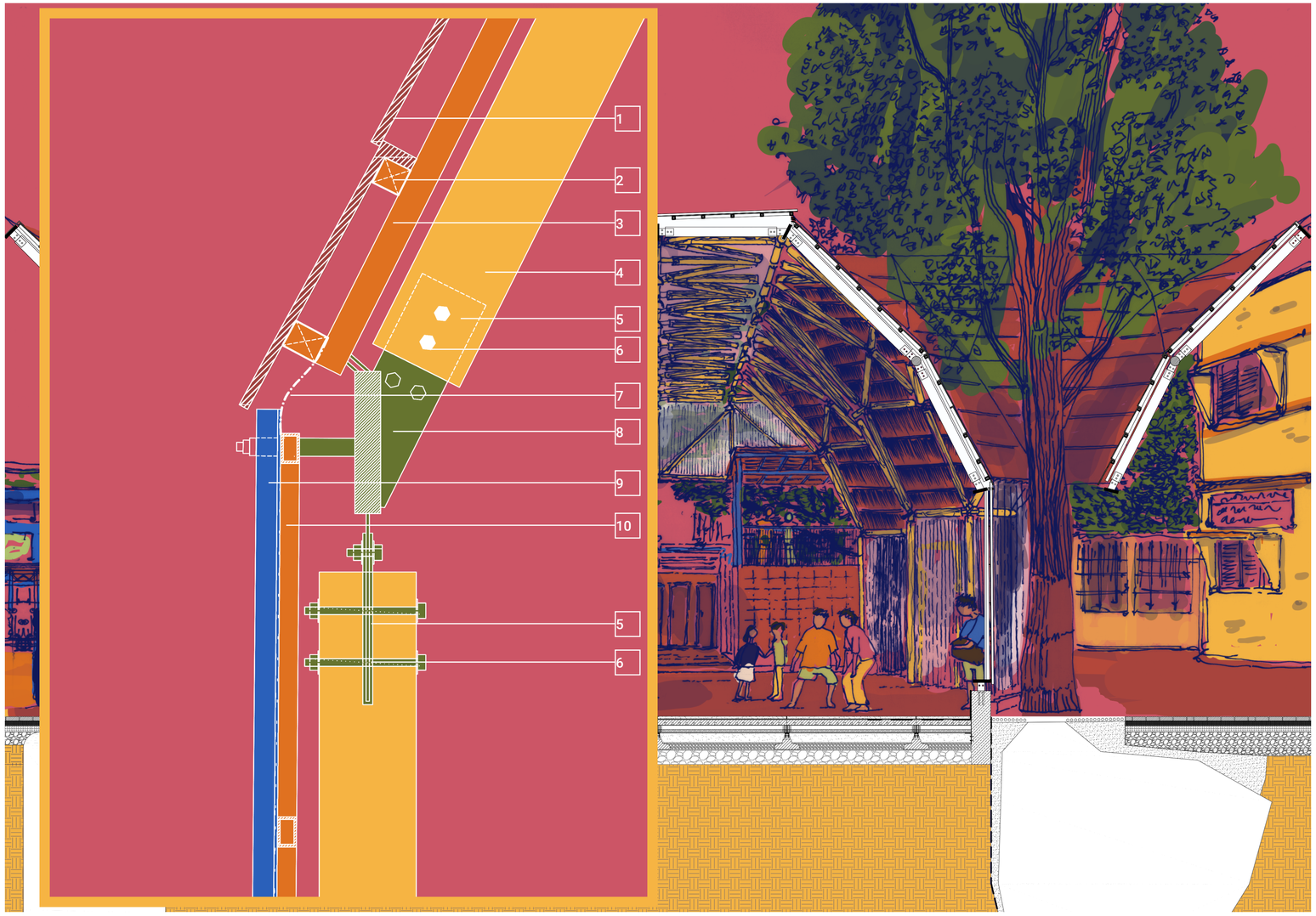
1:5 Roof Node Detail

0
25
50
75
100
125cm

Funnel Roof - Facade

1:5

1. 15 mm terracotta tiles
2. 40 x 40 mm timber battens
3. 40 x 40 mm aluminium counterbattens
4. Ø 150 mm (max.) sal wood structural members
5. galvanised steel flanges with
6. steel nut and bolt connection
7. 2 mm waterproof membrane between waterprood roof and facade
8. custom cast galvanised steel node
9. 5 mm corrugated PVC sheet
10. 100 mm square aluminium profile bolted to galvanised steel node



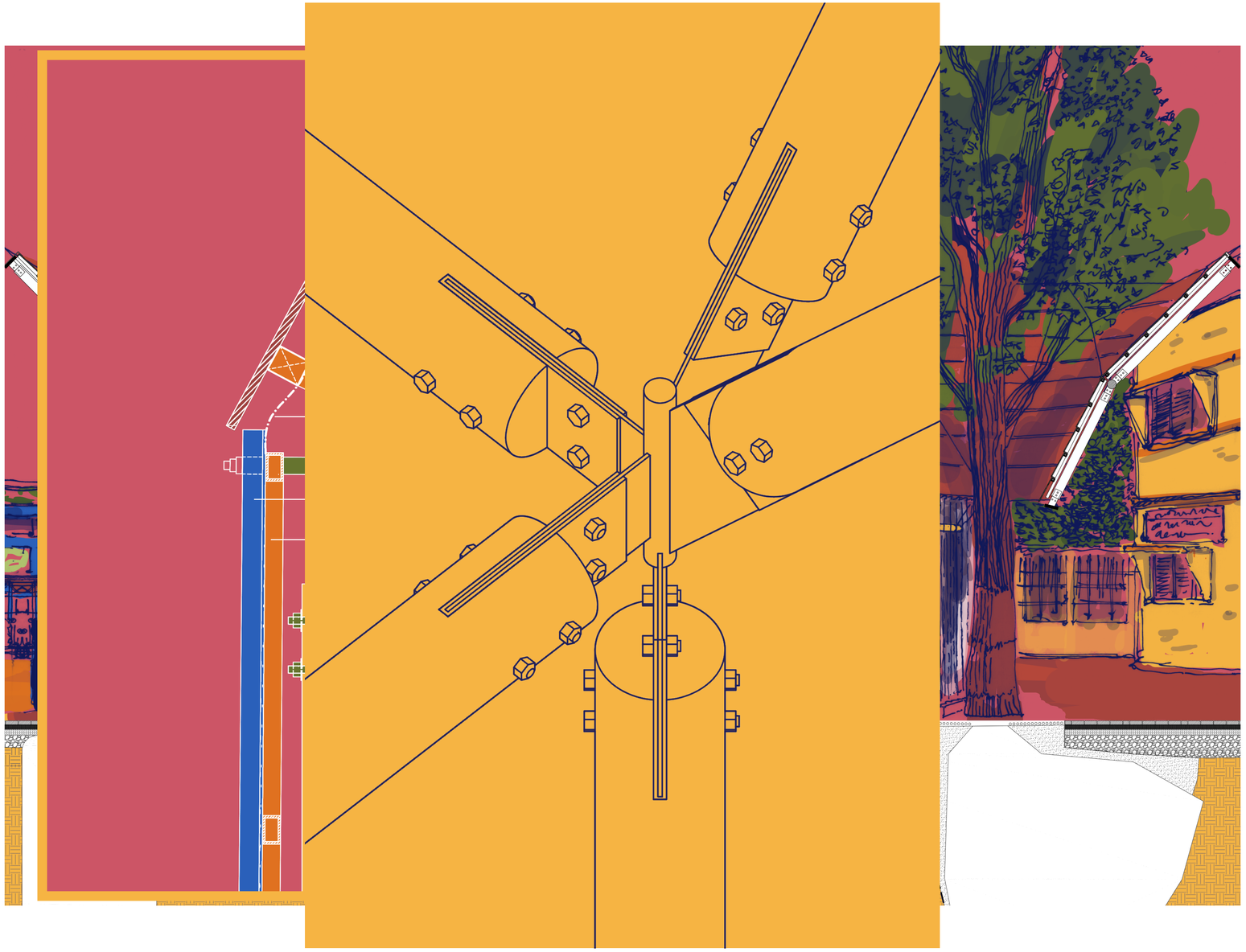
1:5 Roof Node Detail

0
25
50
75
100
125cm

Funnel Roof - Facade

1:5

1. 15 mm terracotta tiles
2. 40 x 40 mm timber battens
3. 40 x 40 mm aluminium counterbattens
4. Ø 150 mm (max.) sal wood structural members
5. galvanised steel flanges with
6. steel nut and bolt connection
7. 2 mm waterproof membrane between waterprood roof and facade
8. custom cast galvanised steel node
9. 5 mm corrugated PVC sheet
10. 100 mm square aluminium profile bolted to galvanised steel node



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Funnel Roof - Facade

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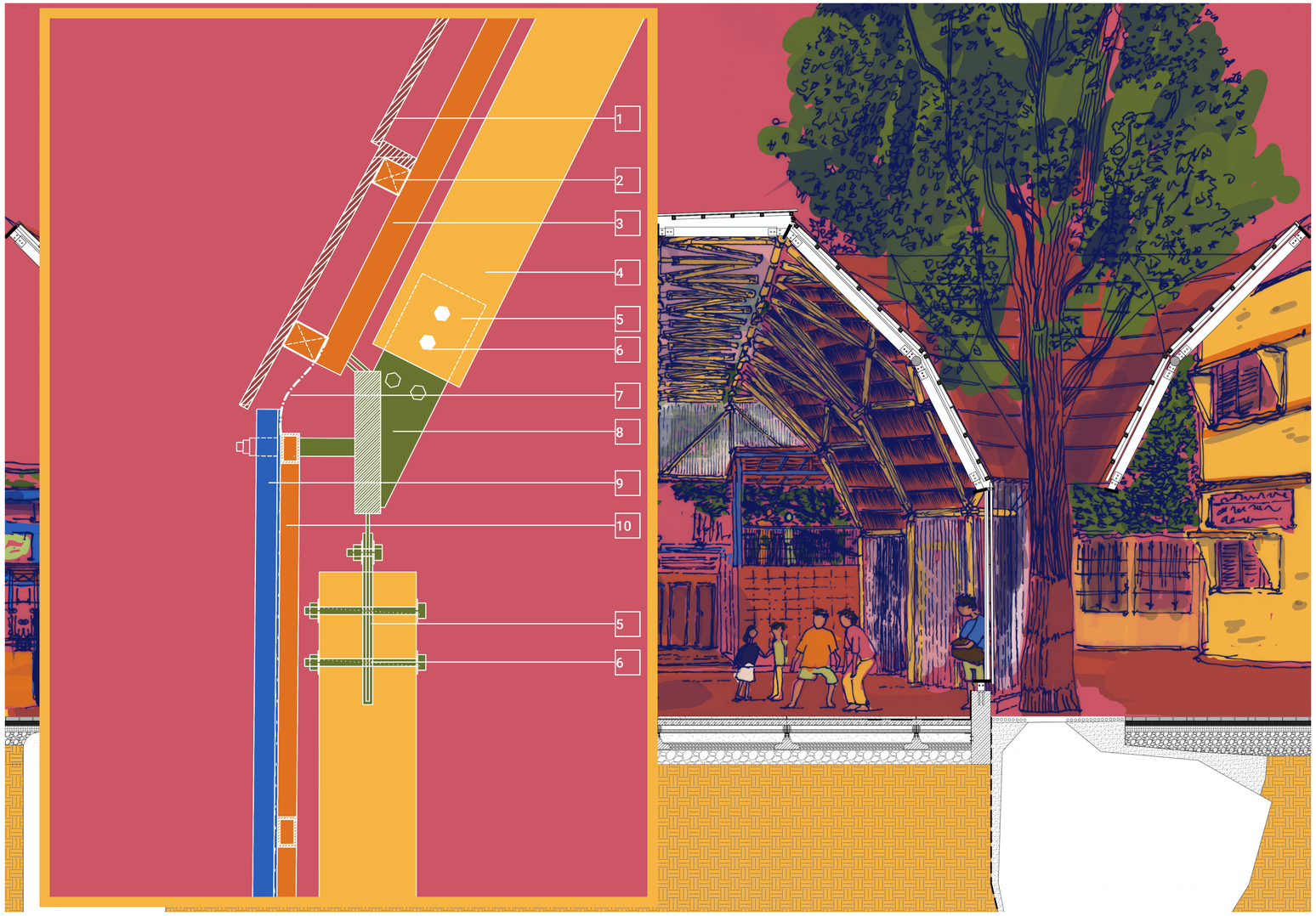


Multipurpose Hall
BB Section
1:50

1:50 Multipurpose Hall BB Section

0
2.5
5.0
7.5
10
12.5m



1:20 Multipurpose Hall Water Funnel Section

0

0.5

1.0

1.5

2.0

2.5m

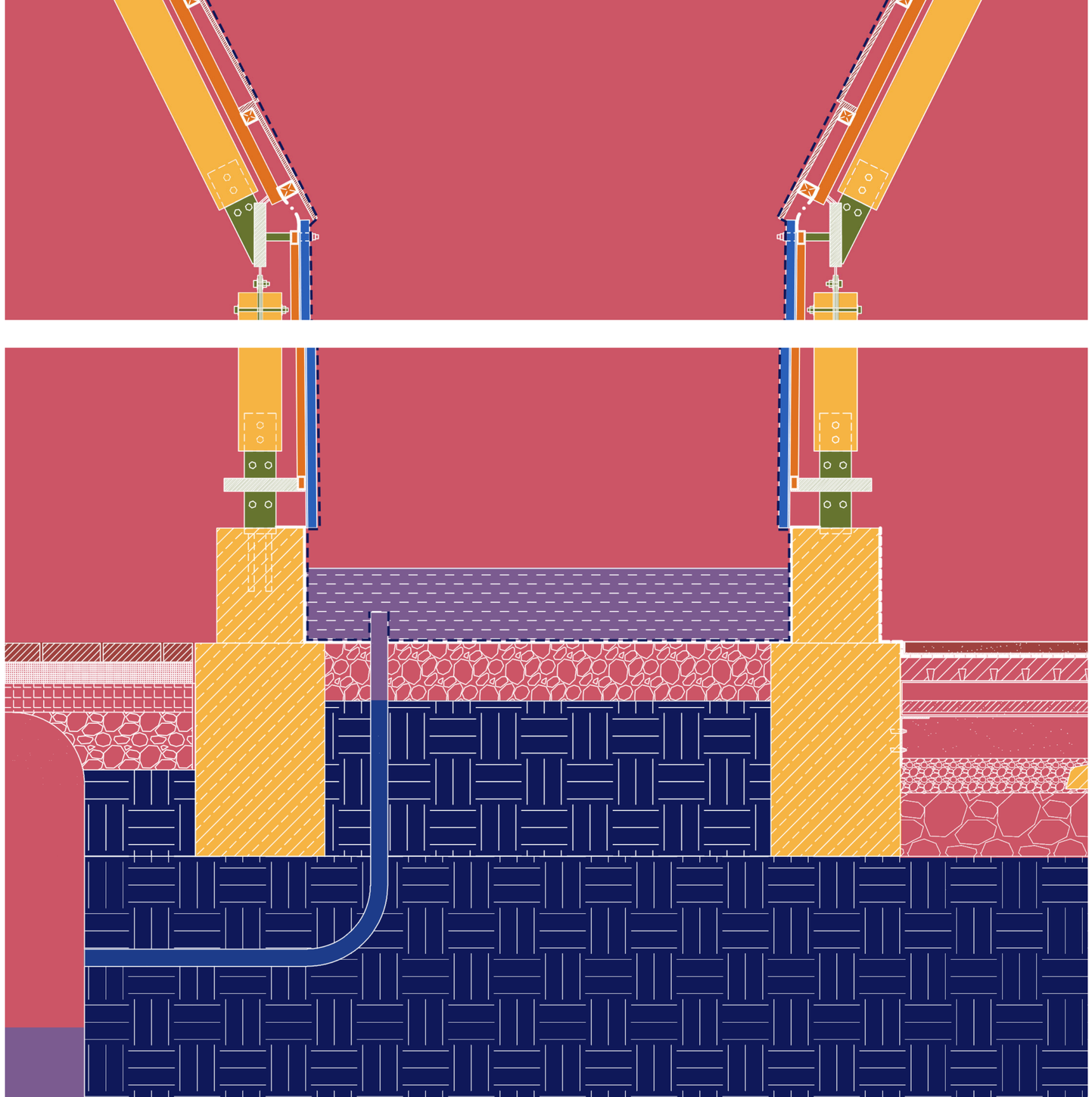
Multipurpose Hall Water Funnel

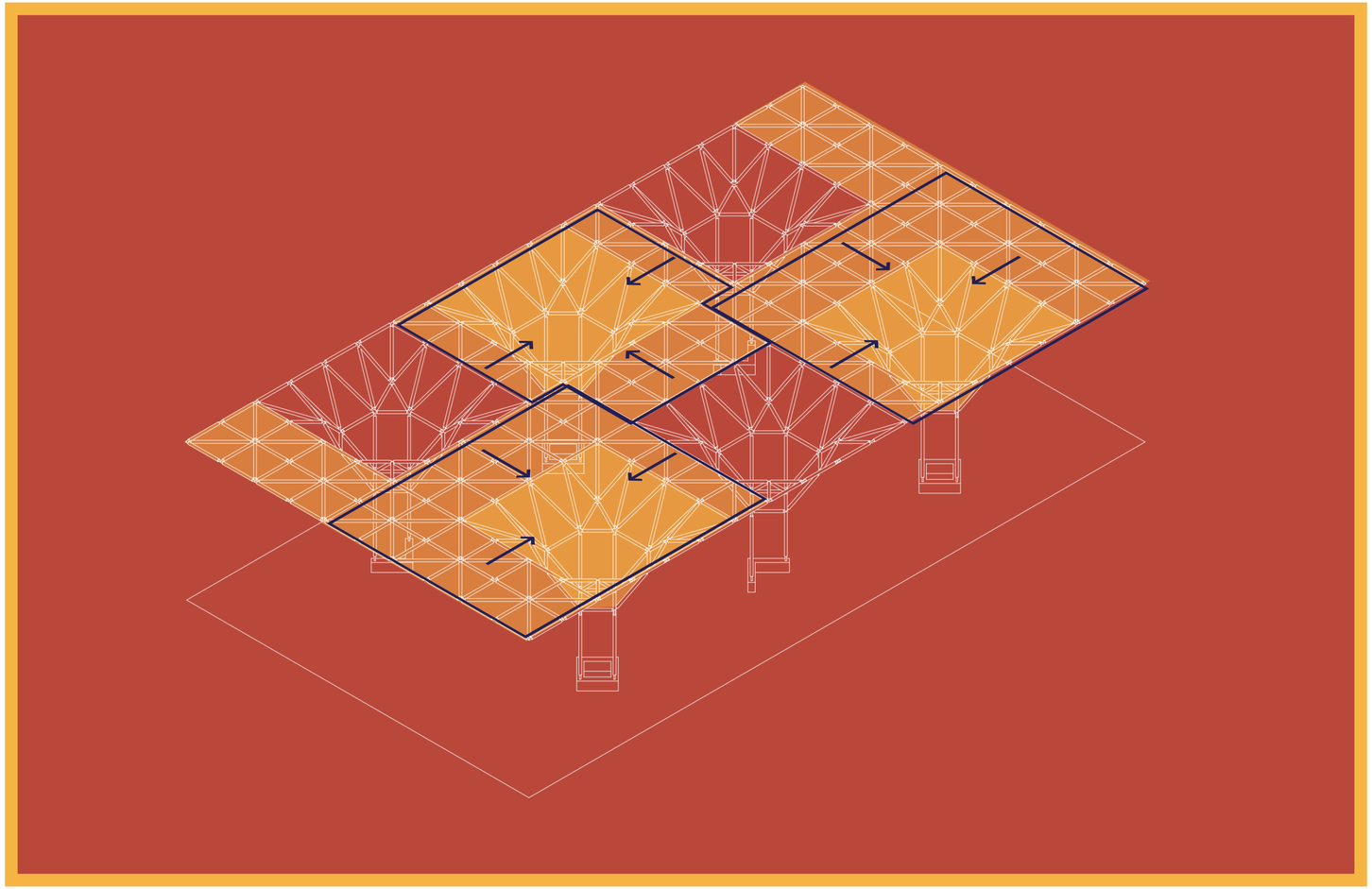
1:20

1. Funnel Siding
15 mm terracotta tiles
40 x 40 mm timber battens
2 mm waterproof membrane
200 x 15 mm marine-grade plywood
80 mm aluminium counterbattens

2. Loadbearing facade
5 mm corrugated PVC sheet
100 mm galvanised steel angle profile bolted to galvanised steel node
timber column truss members

3. Rainwater holding tank
300 mm water collected (maximum depth; after which excess pumped to storage in plant room tank)
5 mm waterproof membrane over reinforced concrete strip foundation and
200 mm aggregate





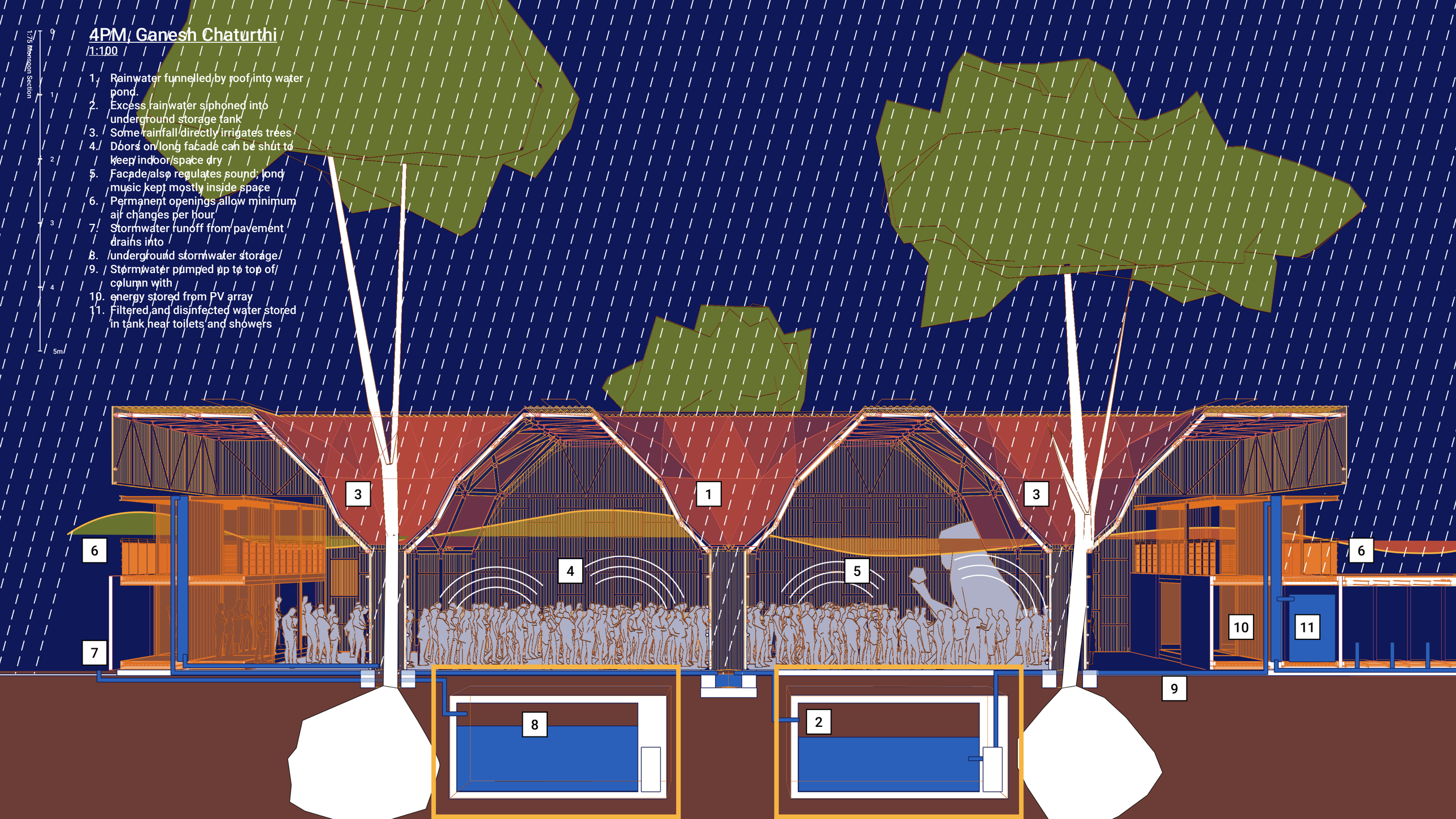
4PM, Ganesh Chaturthi

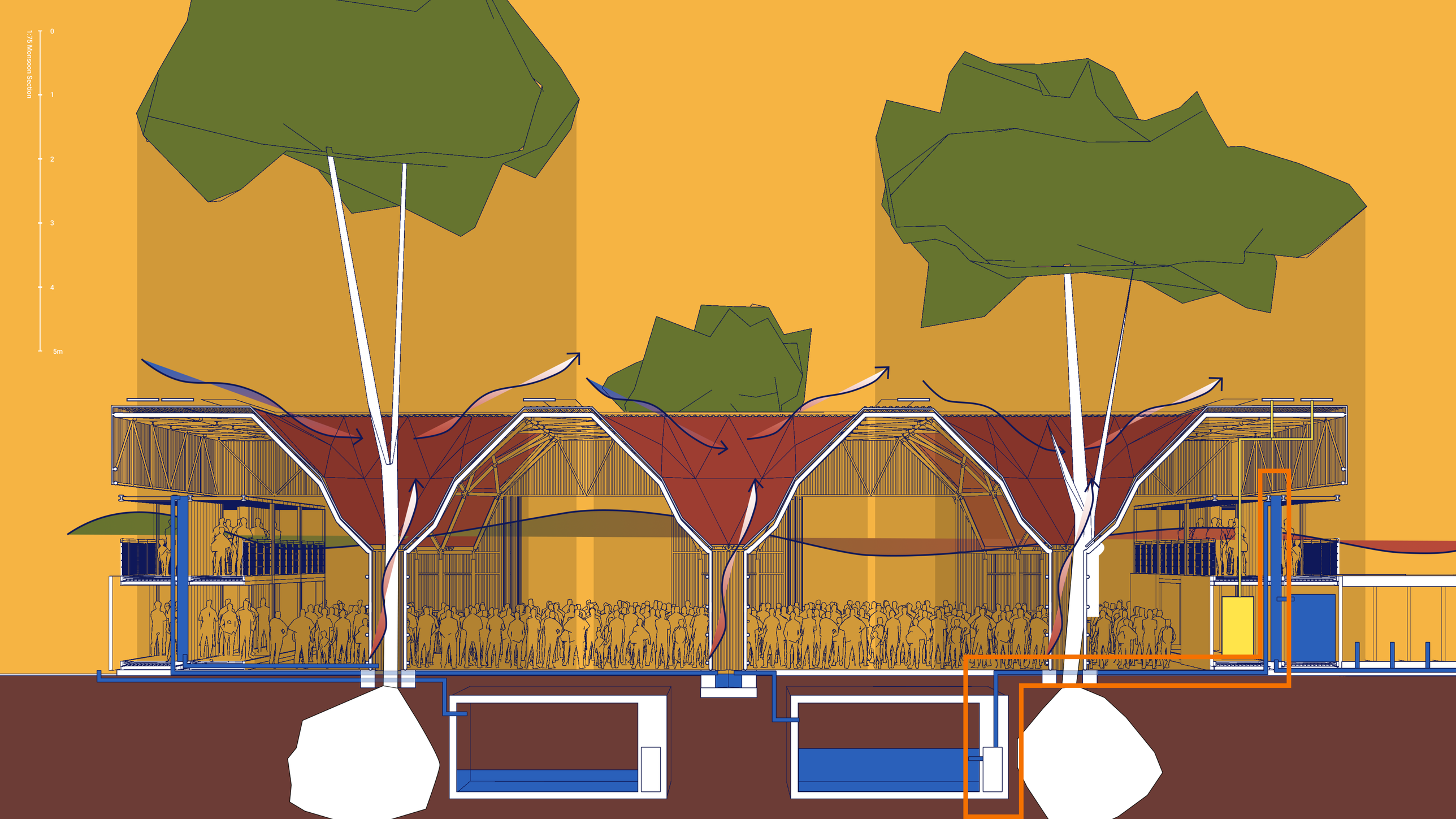
1:100

1. Rainwater funnelled by roof into water pond.
2. Excess rainwater siphoned into underground storage tank
3. Some rainfall directly irrigates trees
4. Doors on long facade can be shut to keep indoor space dry
5. Facade also regulates sound; loud music kept mostly inside space
6. Permanent openings allow minimum air changes per hour
7. Stormwater runoff from pavement drains into
8. underground stormwater storage
9. Stormwater pumped up to top of column with
10. energy stored from PV array
11. Filtered and disinfected water stored in tank near toilets and showers

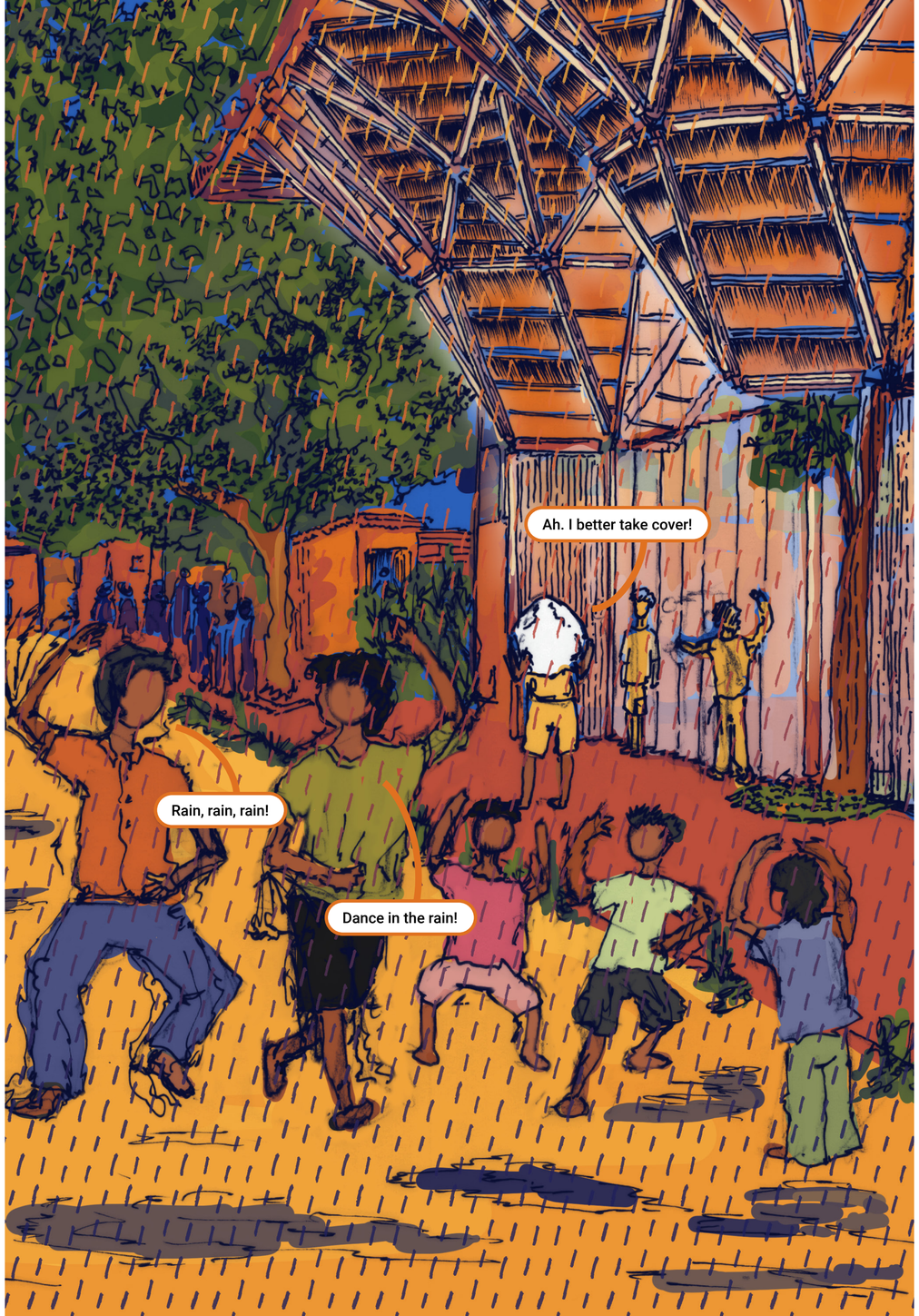
1:75 Monsoon Section

0
1
2
3
4
5m




1:75 Monsoon Section
0
1
2
3
4
5m


1:75 Monsoon Section
0
1
2
3
4
5m


Ah. I better take cover!
Rain, rain, rain!
Dance in the rain!


Chamarajpet, 2026
Demolish the wall!
Beat the traitors with shoes!
Long live Hindustan!


This small protest could escalade very very badly.
Yeah. We need to so something to diffuse the tension here.
I have an idea.
What?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Yeah. We need to so something to diffuse the tension here.
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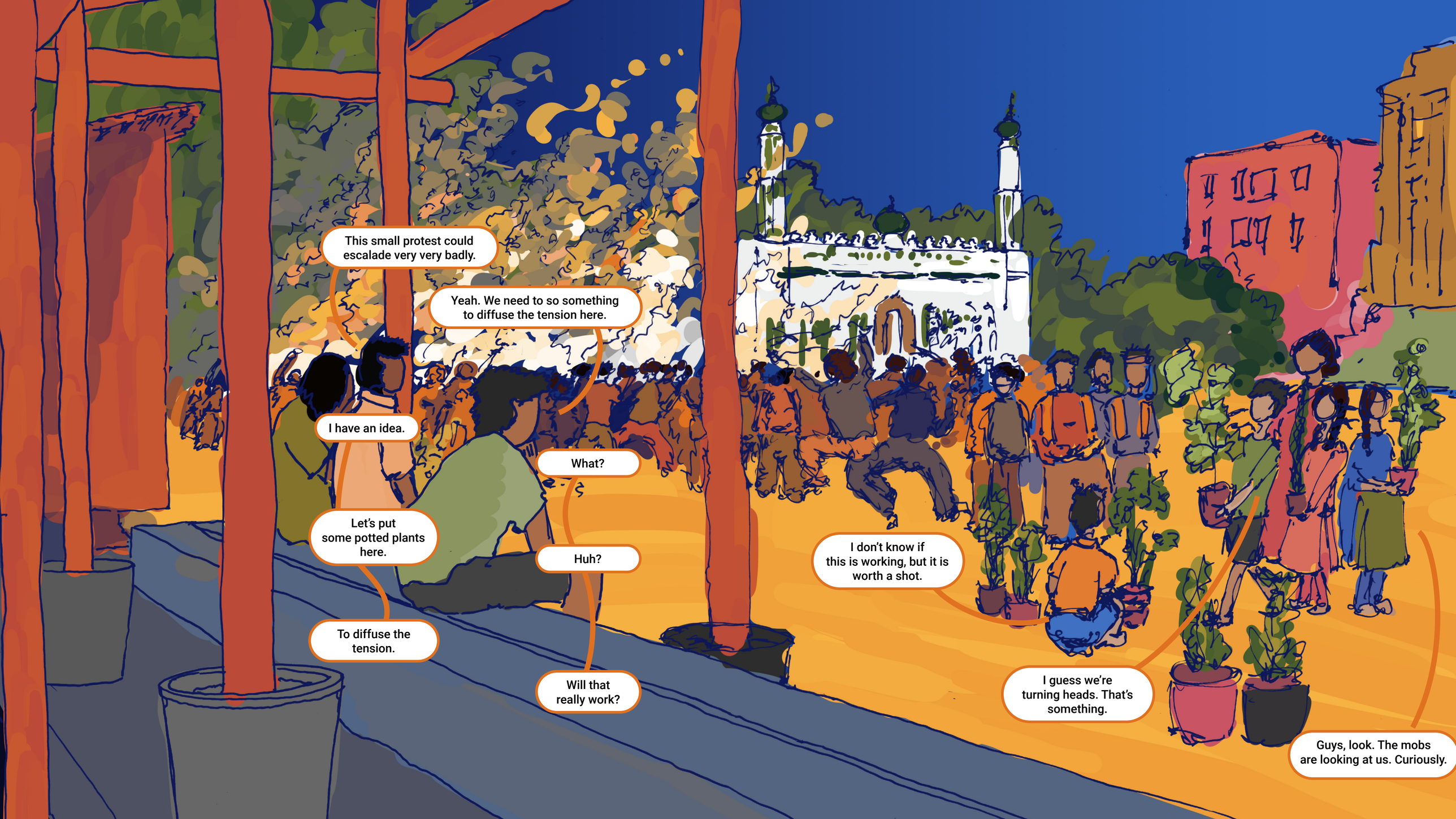
What?
Let's put some potted plants here.
Huh?
To diffuse the tension.
Will that really work?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What?
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Huh?
To diffuse the tension.
Will that really work?
I don't know if this is working, but it is worth a shot.
I guess we're turning heads. That's something.
Guys, look. The mobs are looking at us. Curiously.


Let’s get these pots all over the maidan quick.
Ah, the Tulsi plant. Yes, take good care of it. It would be sacriledge for the Hindutva to destroy that.

Raahgiri

Multipurpose Hall

Urban Public Space and Water Management



to present ideas

to design and build

Architecture Students

to formalise a design course

Architecture School



to link academia and community

Architecture Professor

to guide construction

Local Construction Workers

to offer input based on their own use of the maidan

to signpost to relevant material suppliers



Corporation School

to vocalise the need for more sports space

to stake a claim over road next to their premises

to offer their advice on Islamic land trusts (Waqf) to help the Maidan Land Trust

to donate the Eidgah land to the Maidan Land Trust



to campaign for the right to pray Eid prayers on the land

Waqf Board

to campaign for the right to celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi

to threaten demolition of Eidgah Wall



Vishva Sanatan Parishad



Chamarajpet Maidan Land Trust

to want to improve the land they administer

to specify design requirements

to pool resources



Architect

to provide spatial guidance for Land Trust

to ideate design & construction

to coordinate between stakeholders

to identify opportunities and threats



to provide a vision

to mediate between conflicting parties

to manage funds at the behest of trust

to contract a familiar construction team

to actualise design vision

to ensure continuity of urban commoning

to invite conflicting parties to Land Trust



Local Youths

to be guardians of the urban space

to organise social events



Local Entrepreneurs

to sponsor part of the project

to be interested in better public amenities for their revenues



NGOs

to provide spatial guidance for Land Trust

to provide avenues for funding

to publicise the benefits of public commons

CIVIC Bangalore

State-Level Organisations & Initiatives

to use taxpayer money for urban design improvements & water managemetn

BBMP

to offer grants to Land Trust

Revenue Board

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

TenderSURE

Bengaluru Smart Cities Initiative

Water & Sewerage Board (BWSSB)

to connect proposed bioswale to existing water treatment & storage infrastructure

to offer expertise on water management

Ford Foundation

World Resources Institute

Raahgiri → Multipurpose Hall → Urban Public Space and Water Management



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World Resources Institute



Urban Proposal

1:500

1:500 Urban Proposal

0 25 50 75 100 125m

N

Proposed

1. DIY module
2. Canopy module
3. Shower modules
4. Food stall modules
5. Green thresholds
6. 1000 mm high urban walls
7. Stepped bioswale
8. Multipurpose hall
9. Trees near Eidgah Wall
10. Underground water channels from bioswale
11. Underground rain and stormwater storage

Existing/ enhanced

12. Municipality office perimeter wall demolished
13. Tree shrines retained
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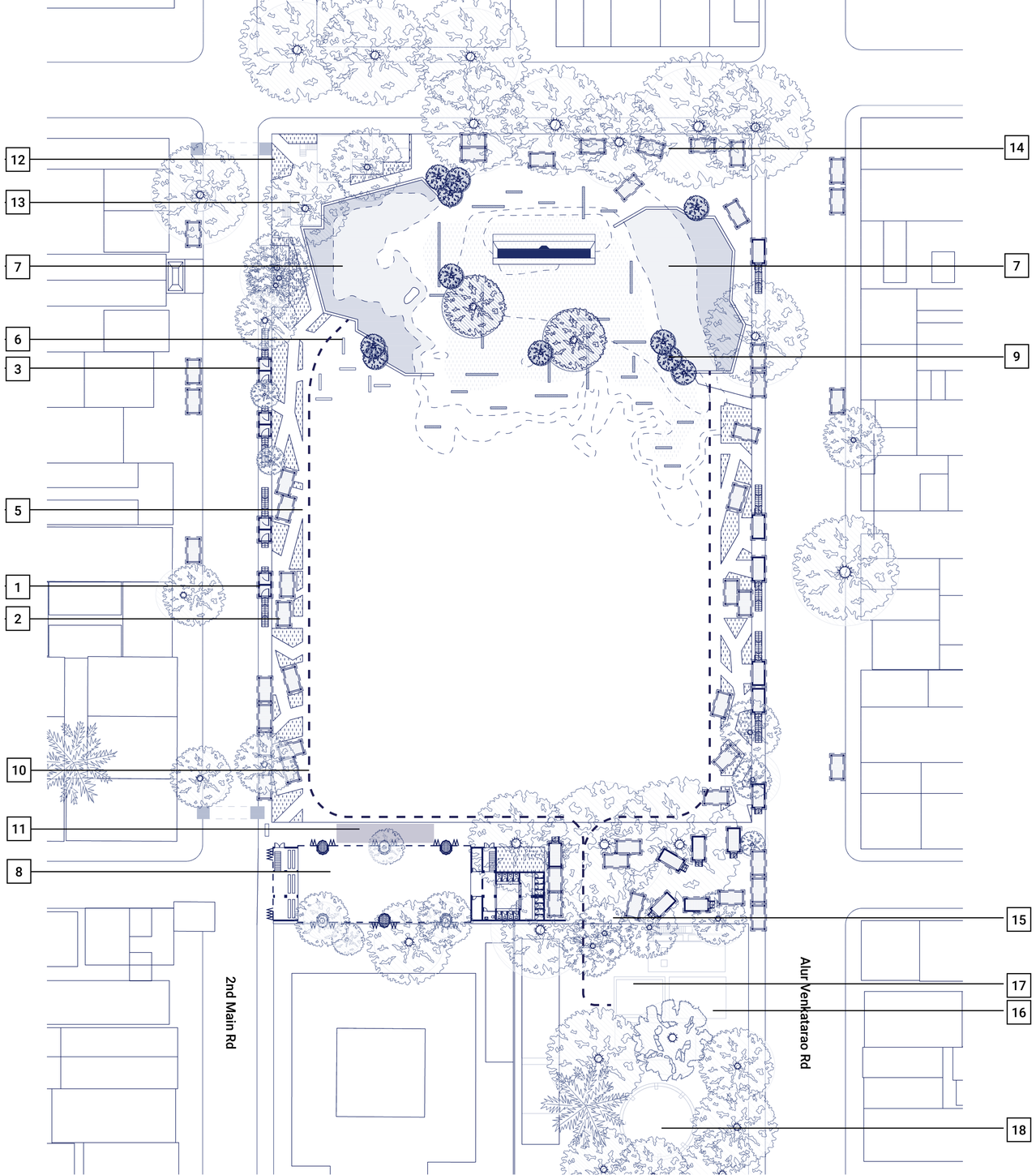

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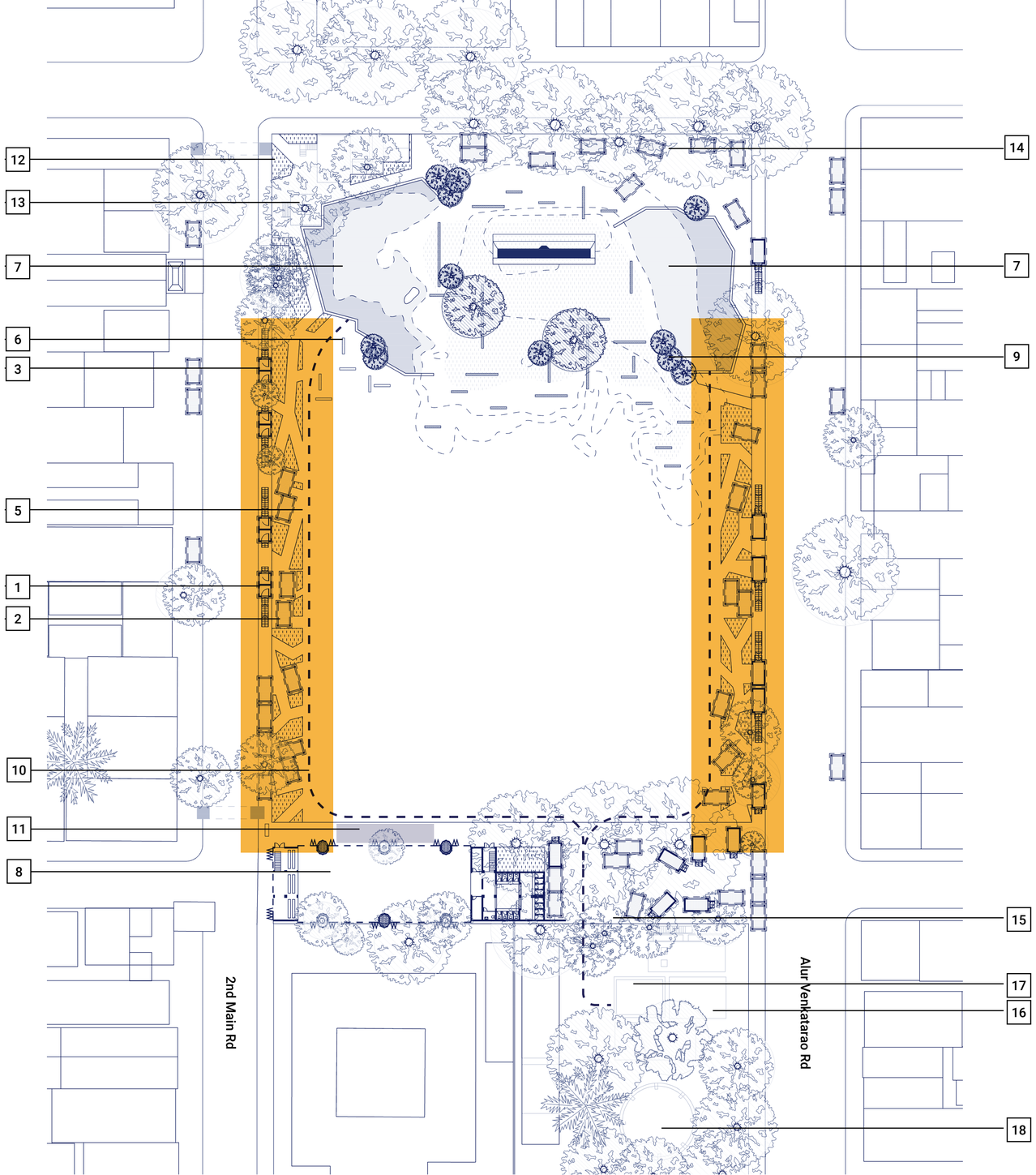


Border Gardens

1:200

1:200 Border Gardens

0

10

20

39

40

50m

N

12

13

7

6

3

5

1

2

10

11

8

14

7

9

15

17

16

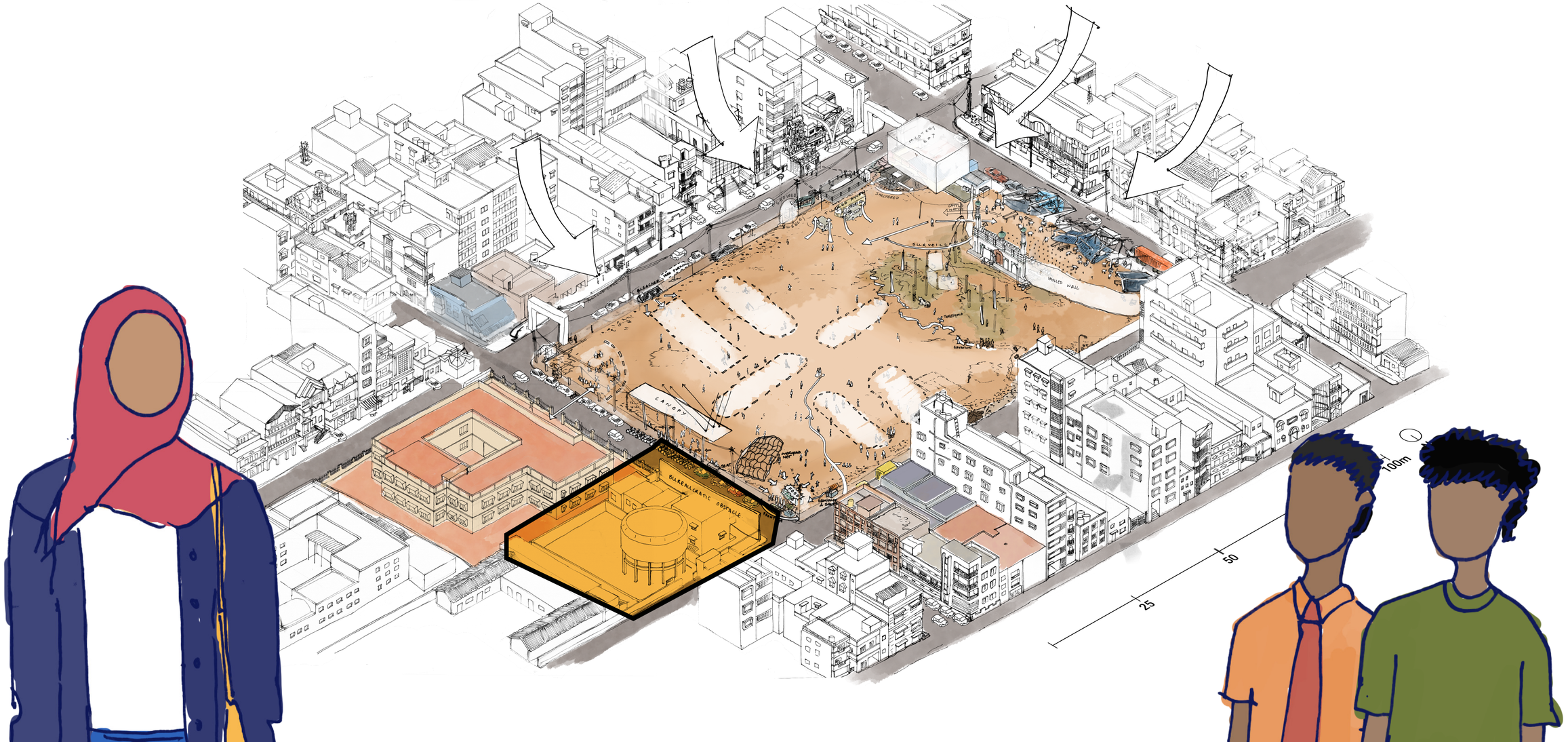
18

Alur Venkatarao Rd








CANOPY
SURVEILLANCE
SURREALISTIC OBSTACLE
100m
50
25

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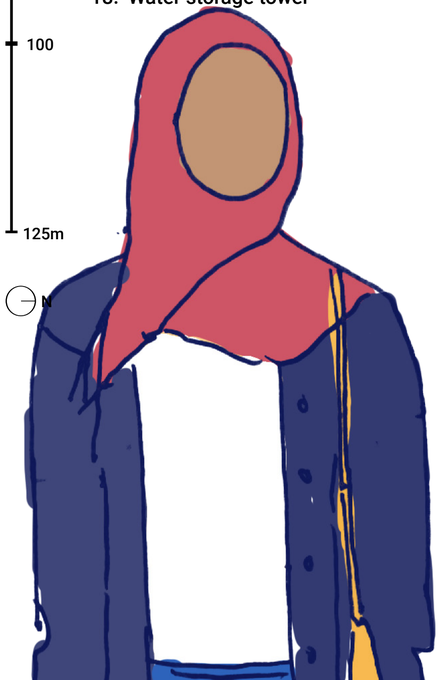

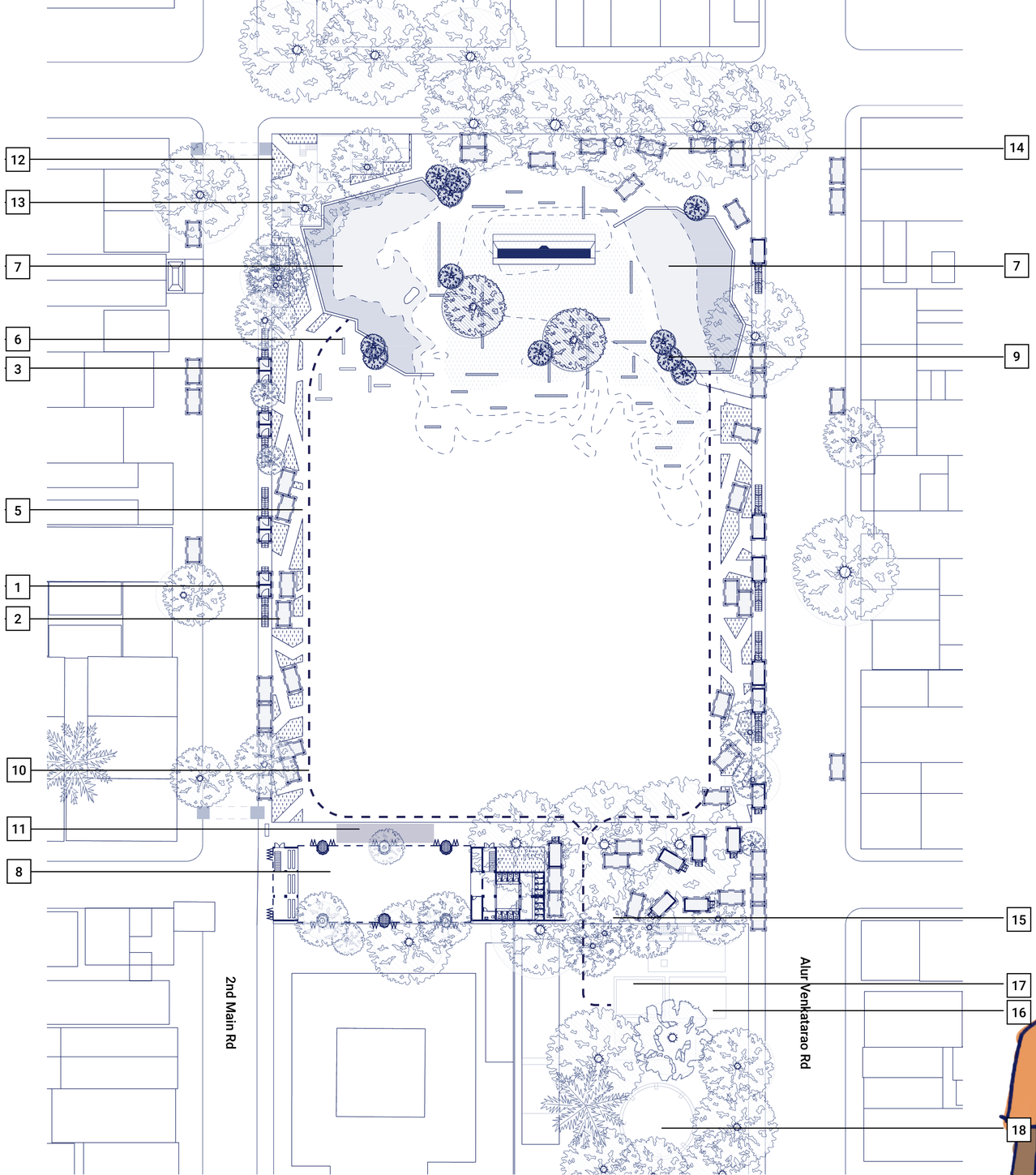

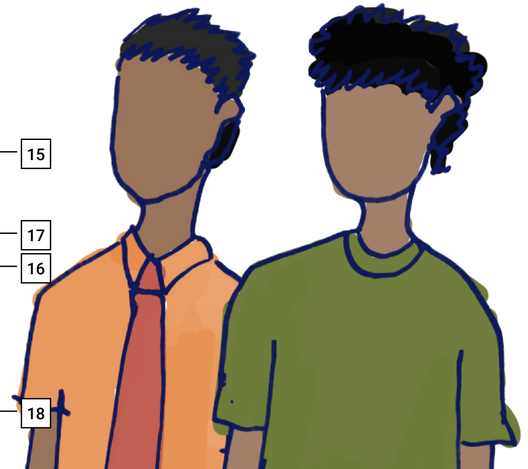

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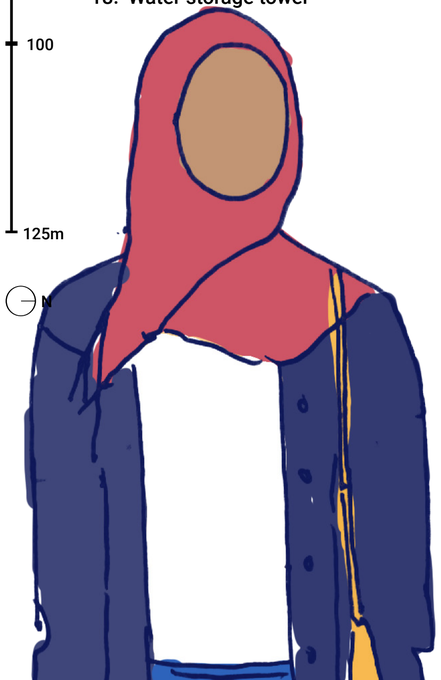

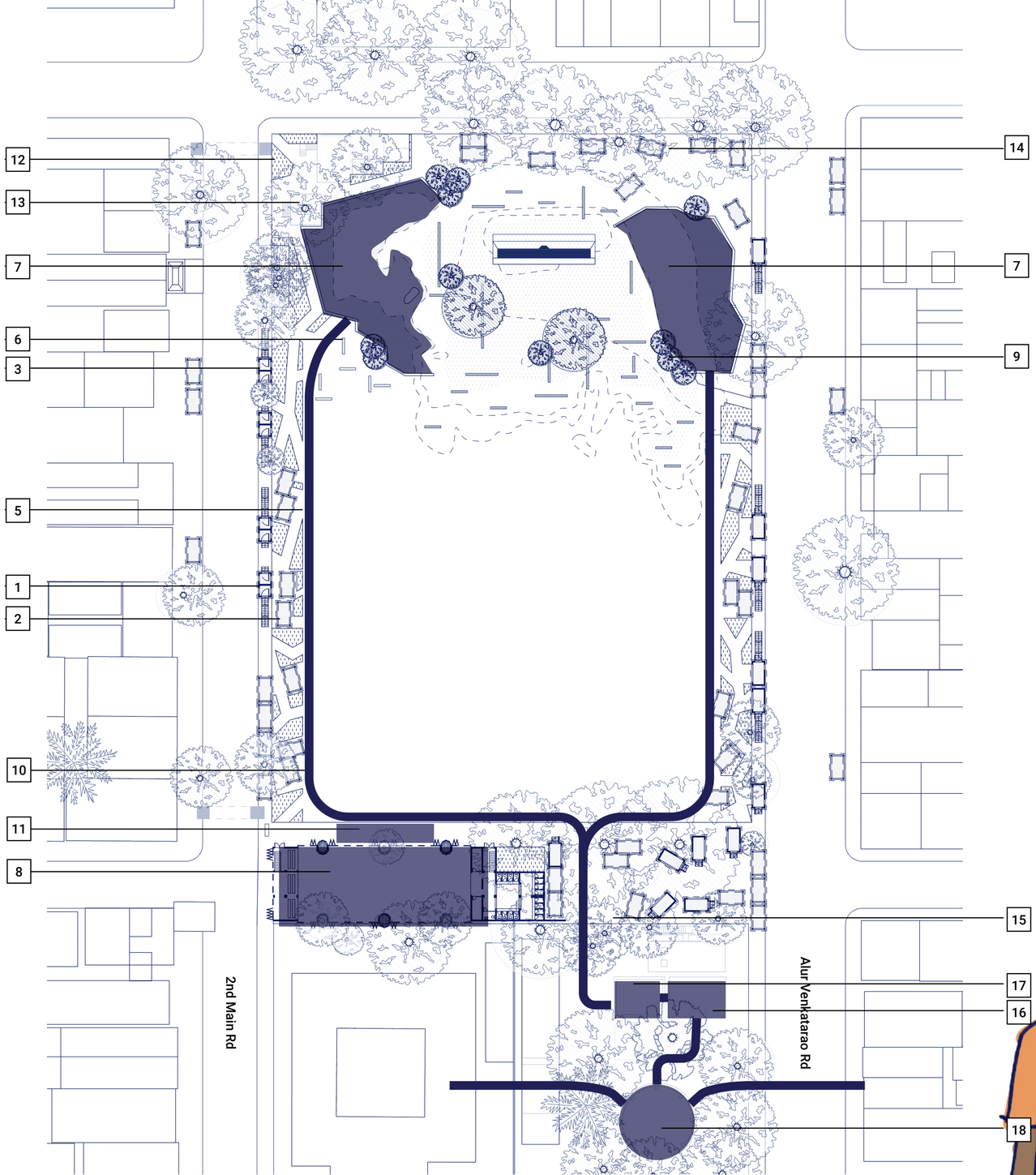

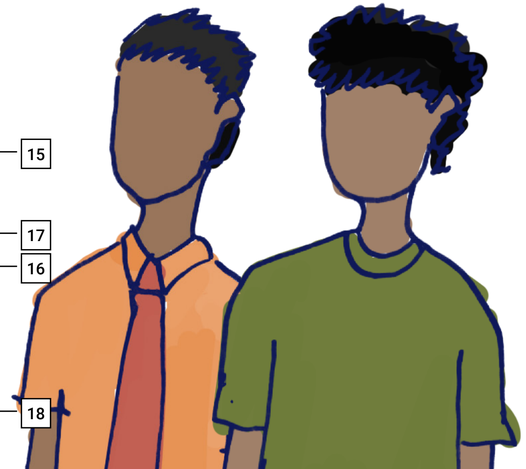

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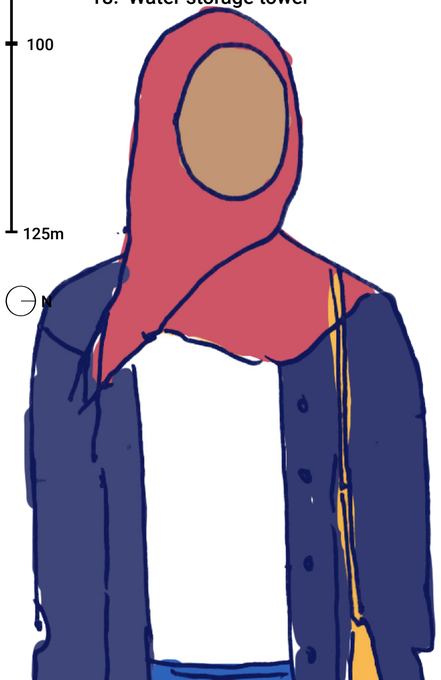

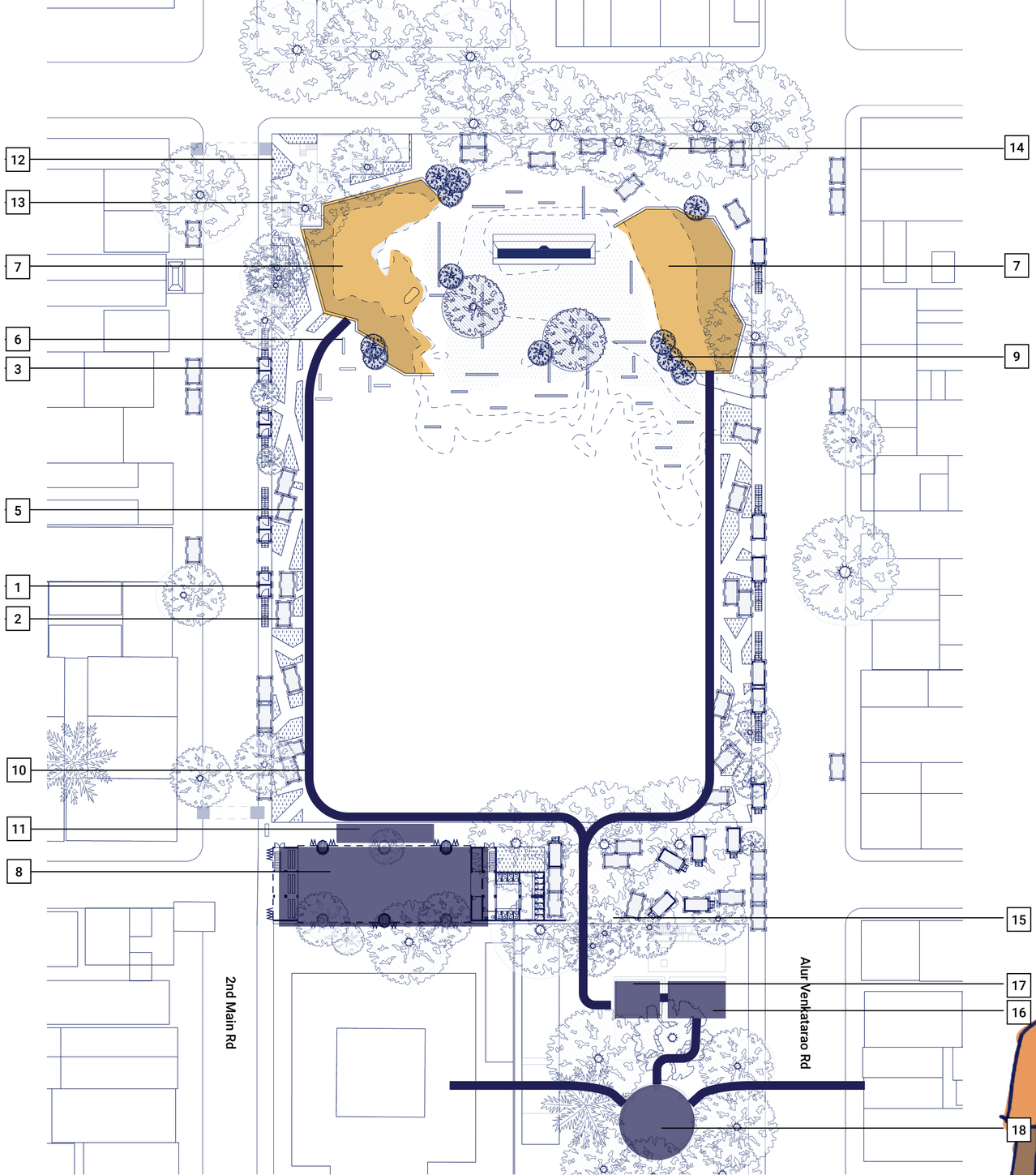

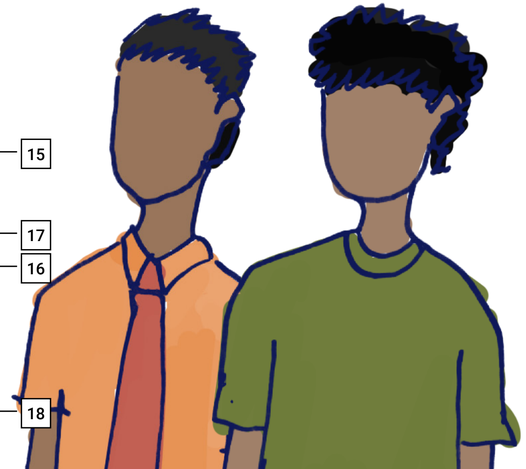

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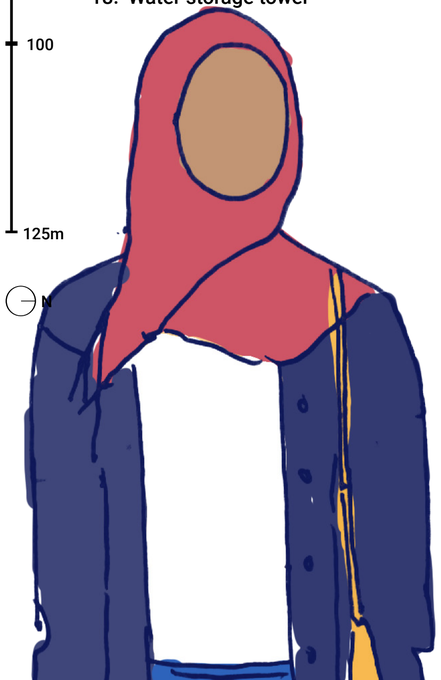
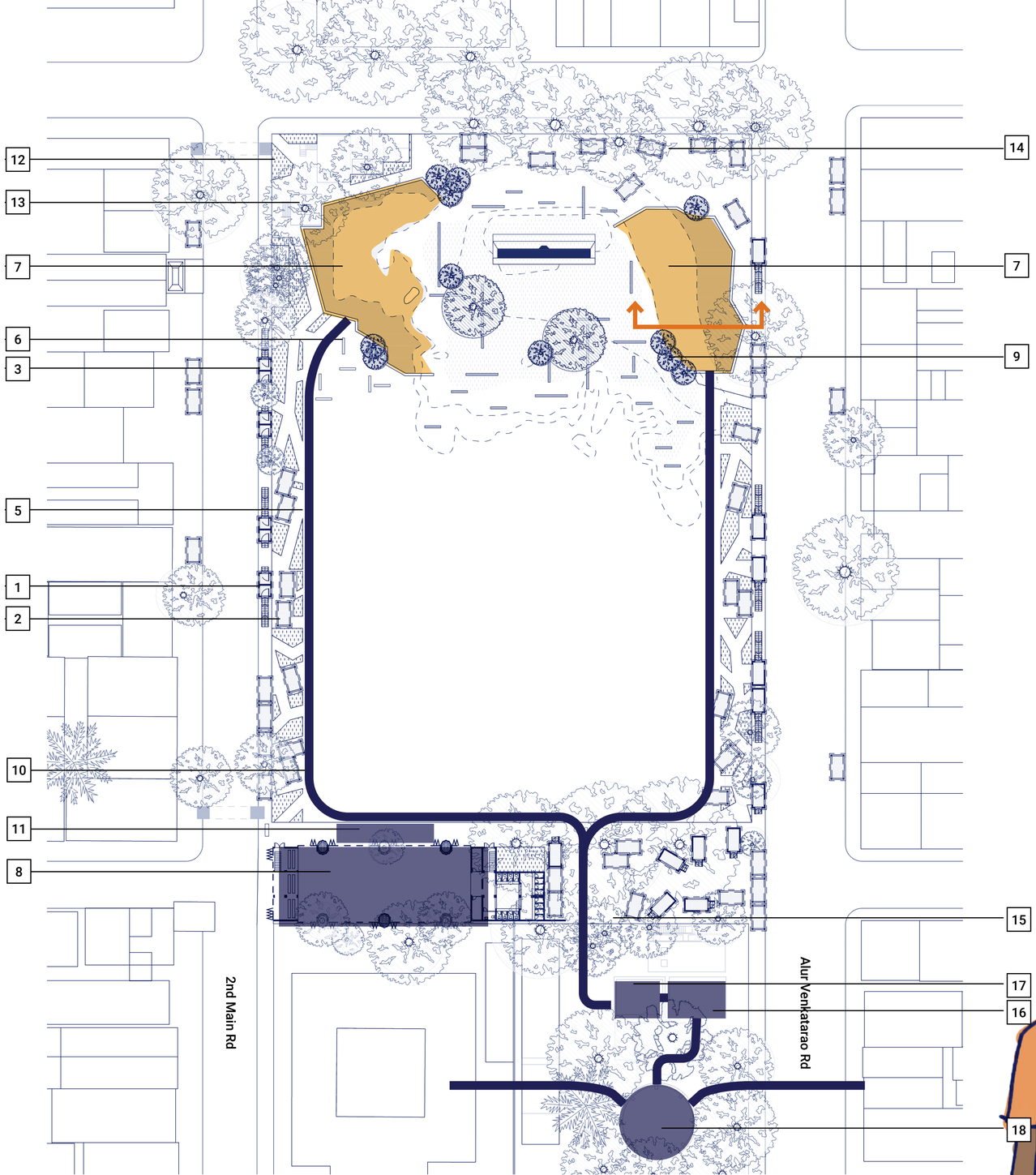
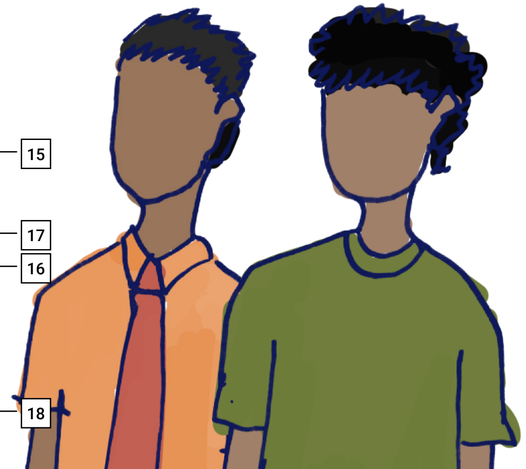
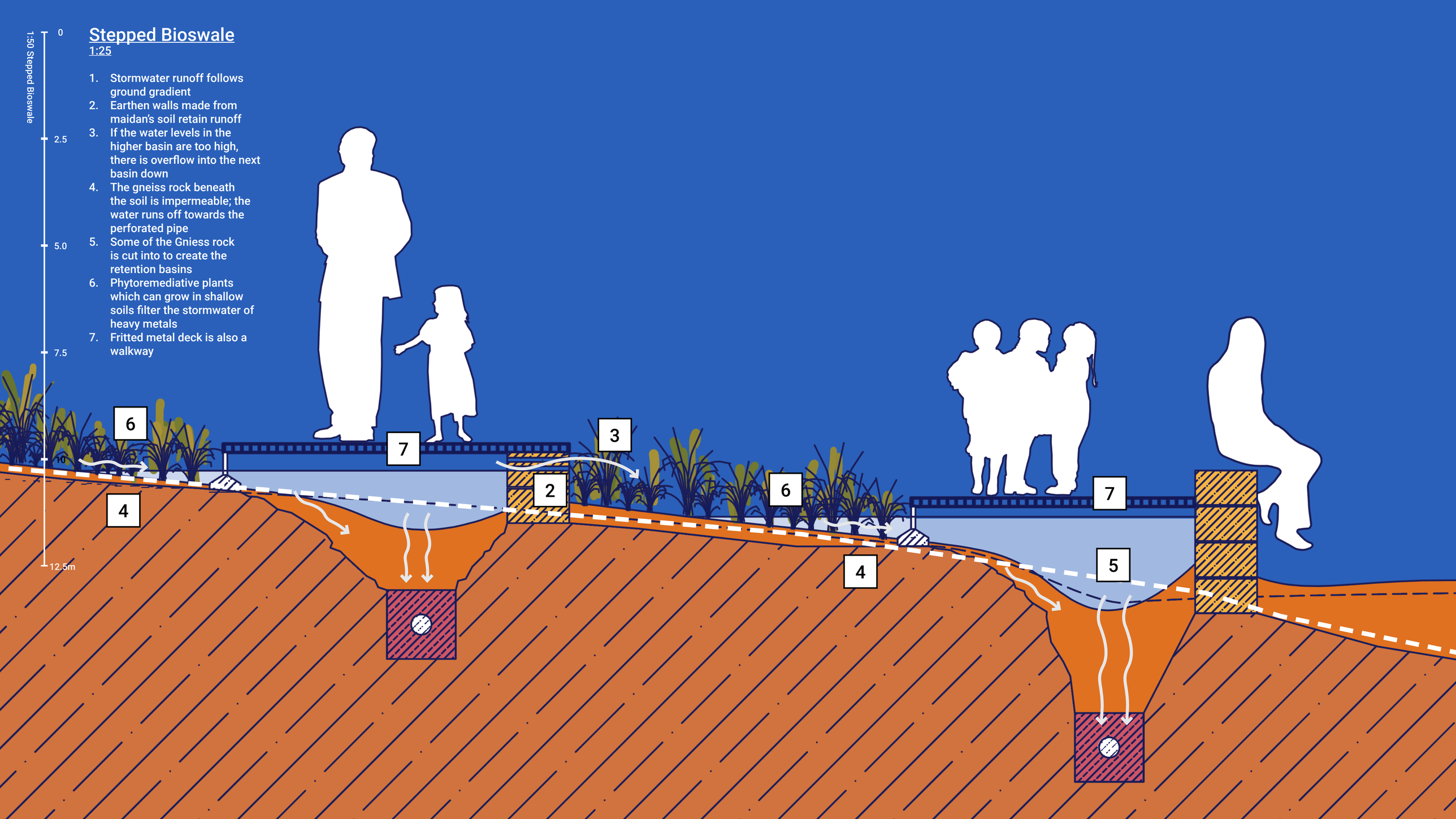
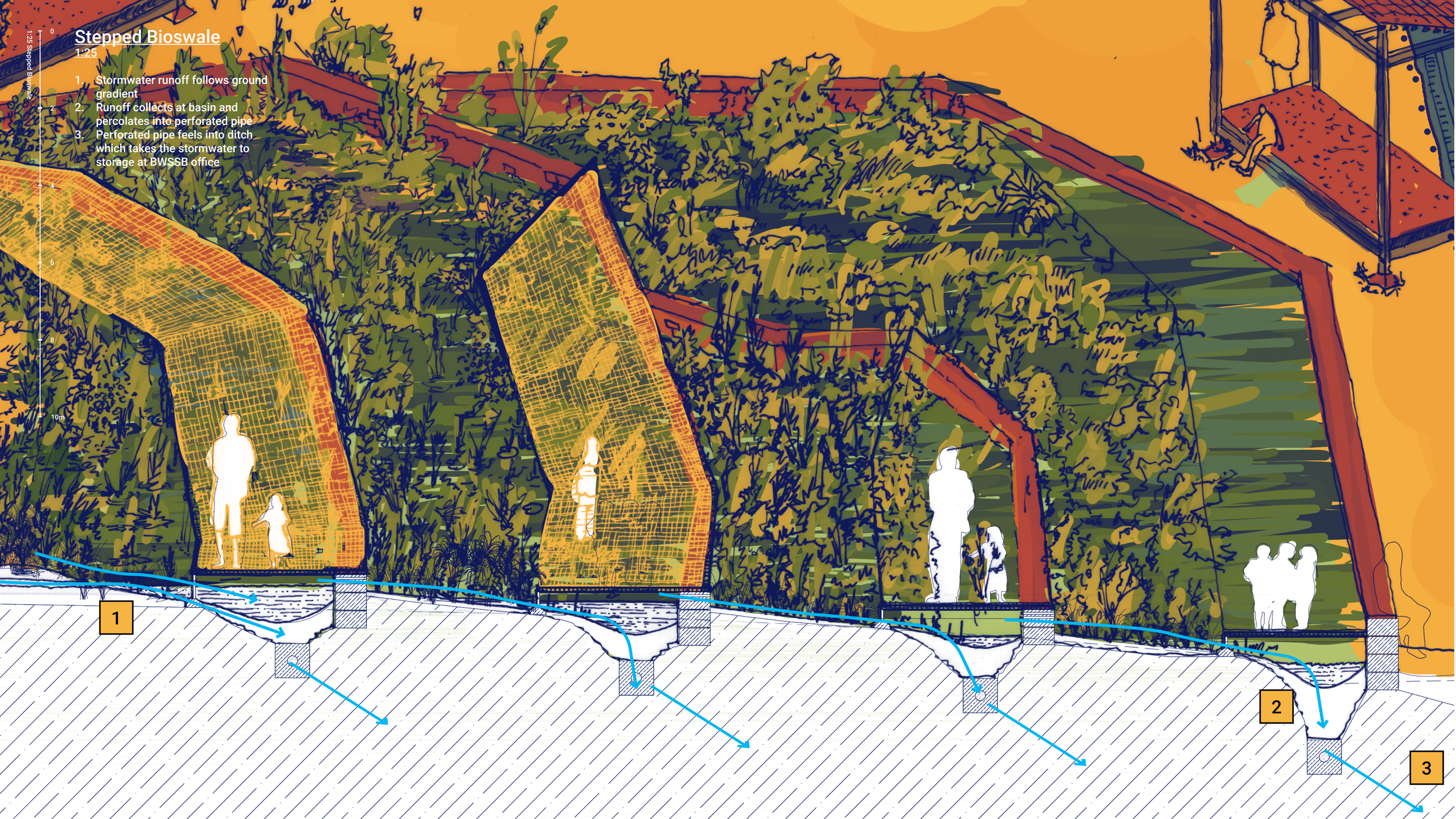







1:50 Stepped Bioswale
0
2.5
5.0
7.5
10
12.5m
Stepped Bioswale
1:25
1. Stormwater runoff follows ground gradient
2. Earthen walls made from maidan's soil retain runoff
3. If the water levels in the higher basin are too high, there is overflow into the next basin down
4. The gneiss rock beneath the soil is impermeable; the water runs off towards the perforated pipe
5. Some of the Gniess rock is cut into to create the retention basins
6. Phytoremediative plants which can grow in shallow soils filter the stormwater of heavy metals
7. Fritted metal deck is also a walkway
6
7
3
2
4
6
4
7
5


Stepped Bioswale
1:25
1., Stormwater runoff follows ground gradient
2. Runoff collects at basin and percolates into perforated pipe
3. Perforated pipe feels into ditch which takes the stormwater to storage at BWSSB office
1:25 Stepped Bioswale
0
2
4
6
8
10m
1
2
3

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1:500

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0 25 50 75 100 125m

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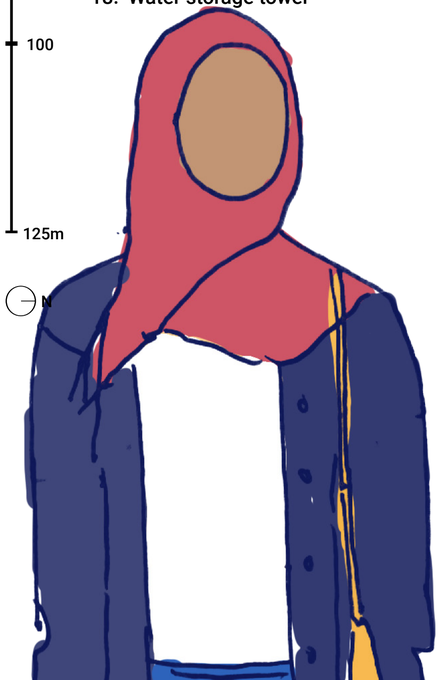
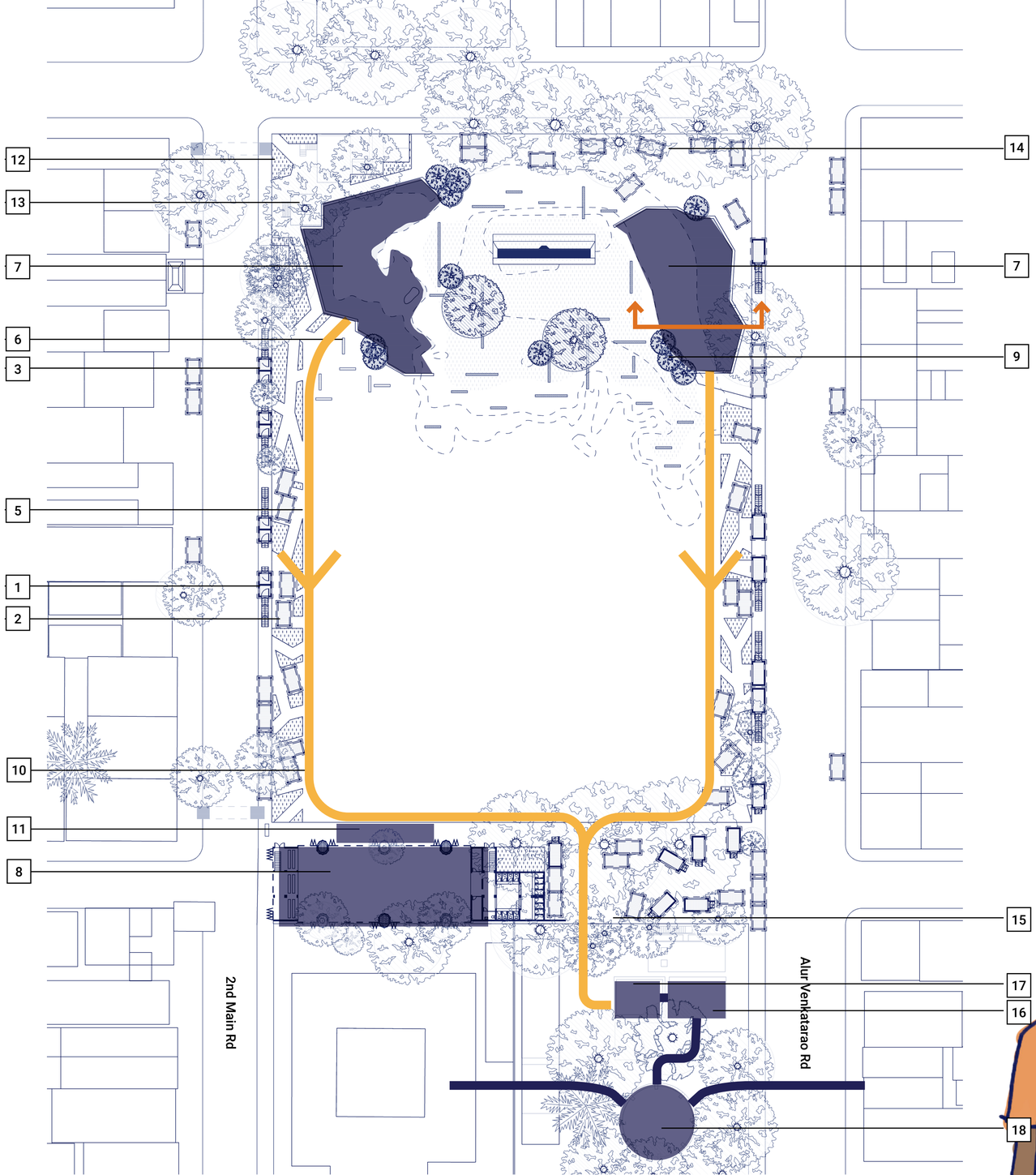
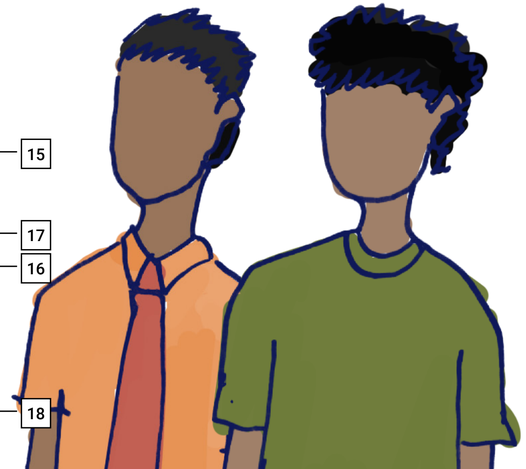






Urban Proposal

1:500

1:500 Urban Proposal

0 25 50 75 100 125m

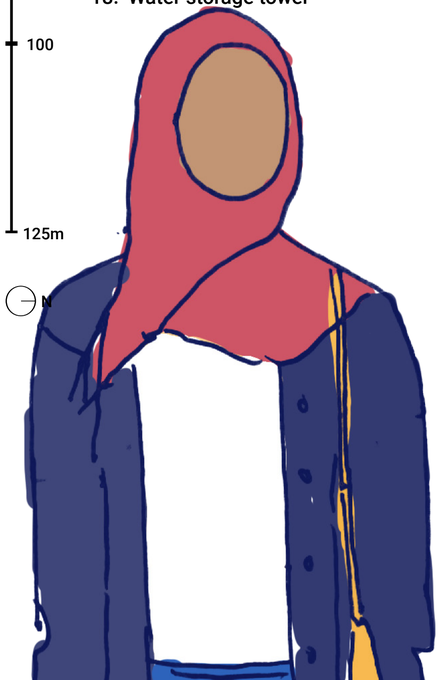
N

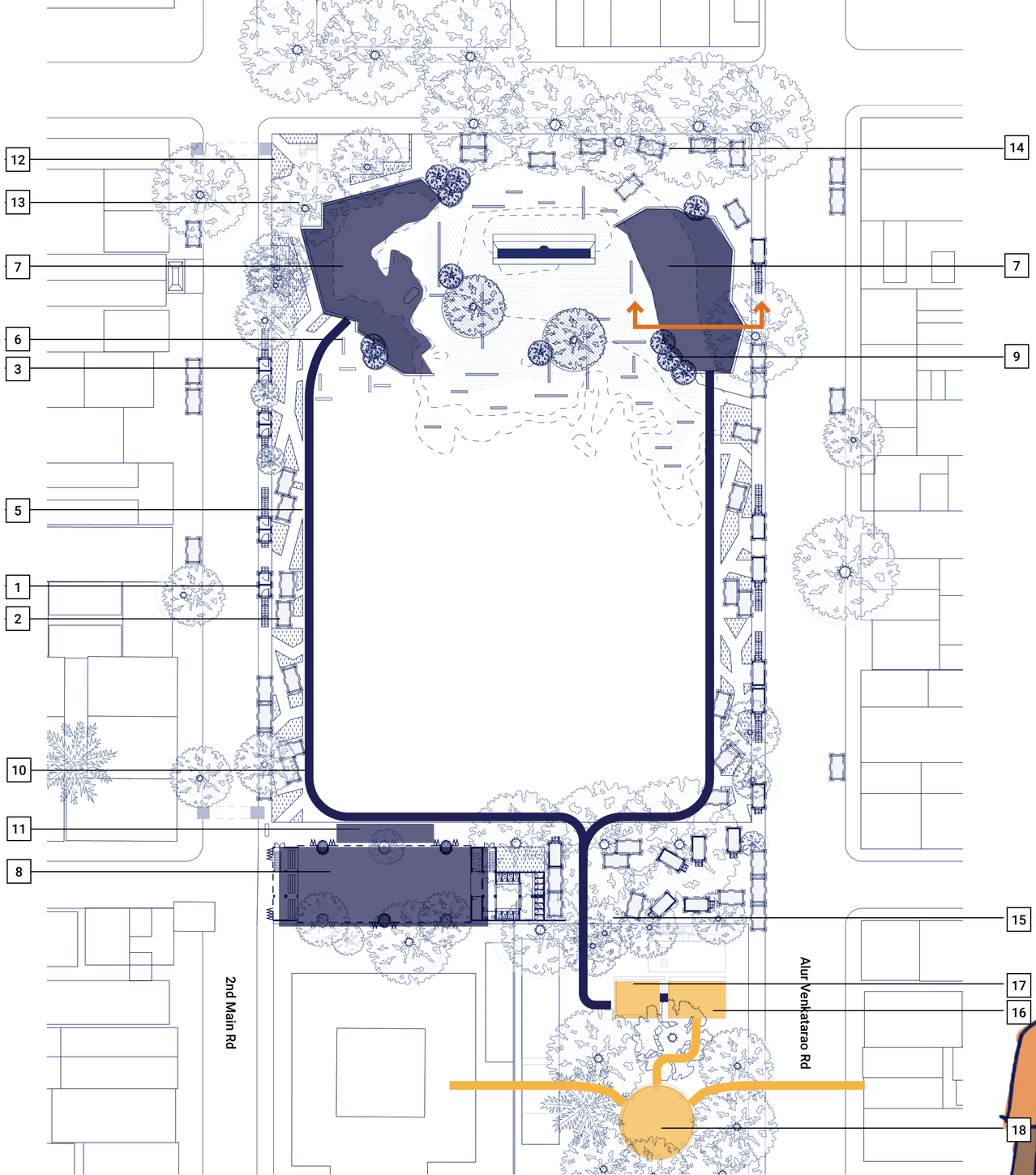
Proposed

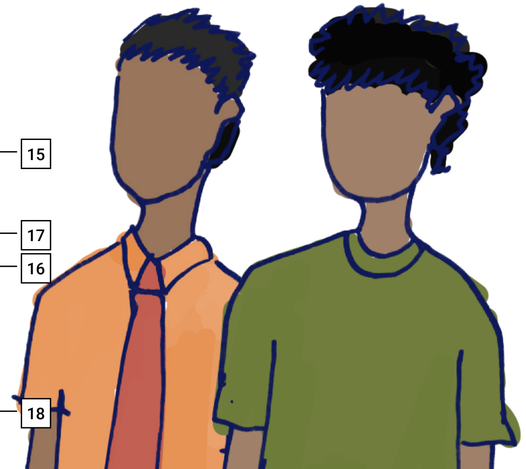
1. DIY module
2. Canopy module
3. Shower modules
4. Food stall modules
5. Green thresholds
6. 1000 mm high urban walls
7. Stepped bioswale
8. Multipurpose hall
9. Trees near Eidgah Wall
10. Underground water channels from bioswale
11. Underground rain and stormwater storage

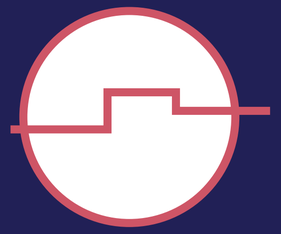
Existing/ enhanced

12. Municipality office perimeter wall demolished
13. Tree shrines retained
14. Goat market canopies
15. Sewerage board office perimeter wall removed; small square created
16. Small-scale water filtration and disinfection facility
17. Water pumping station
18. Water storage tower









Threshold

surface

operable

ponds and plants

elevation increase

bioswales

storage tanks

roof catchments

permeable surfaces

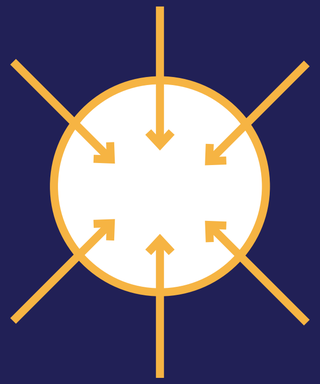


Managing Rainfall

no uninviting obstacles

flexible for celebration

specator-friendly

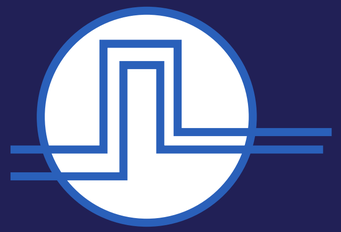


Shared Placemaking

group sitting areas

open cricket ground

trading zones



Reinterpret Existing

open for sport

anti-litter design

space for existing

trees as gathering

land trust

social events

hardware store network

construction workshops



Do-It-Yourself

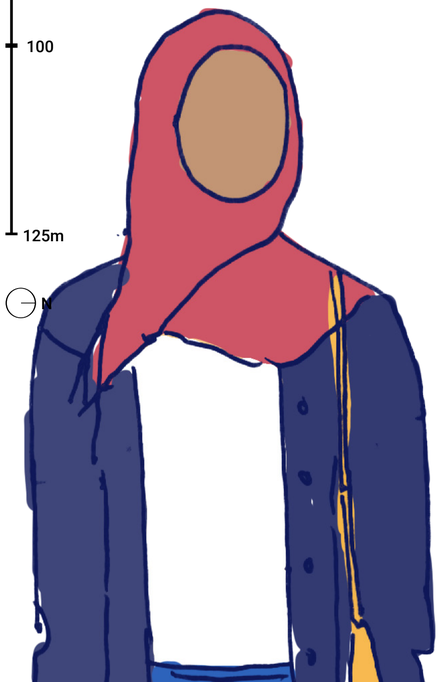
Alternative Urban Proposal

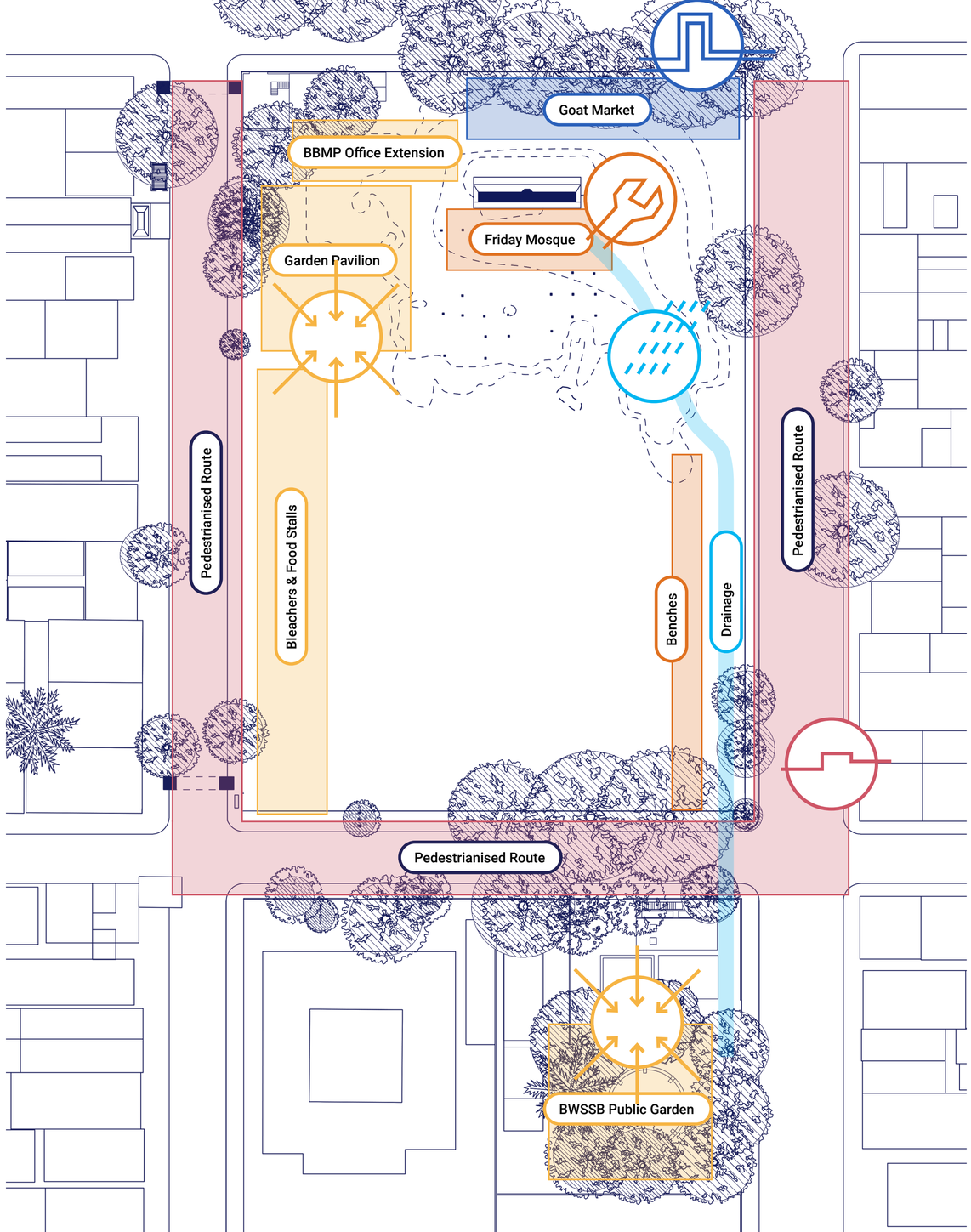
1:500

1:500 Alternateive Urban Proposal

0
25
50
75
100
125m

N





1:2500 Chamarajpet

0

125

250

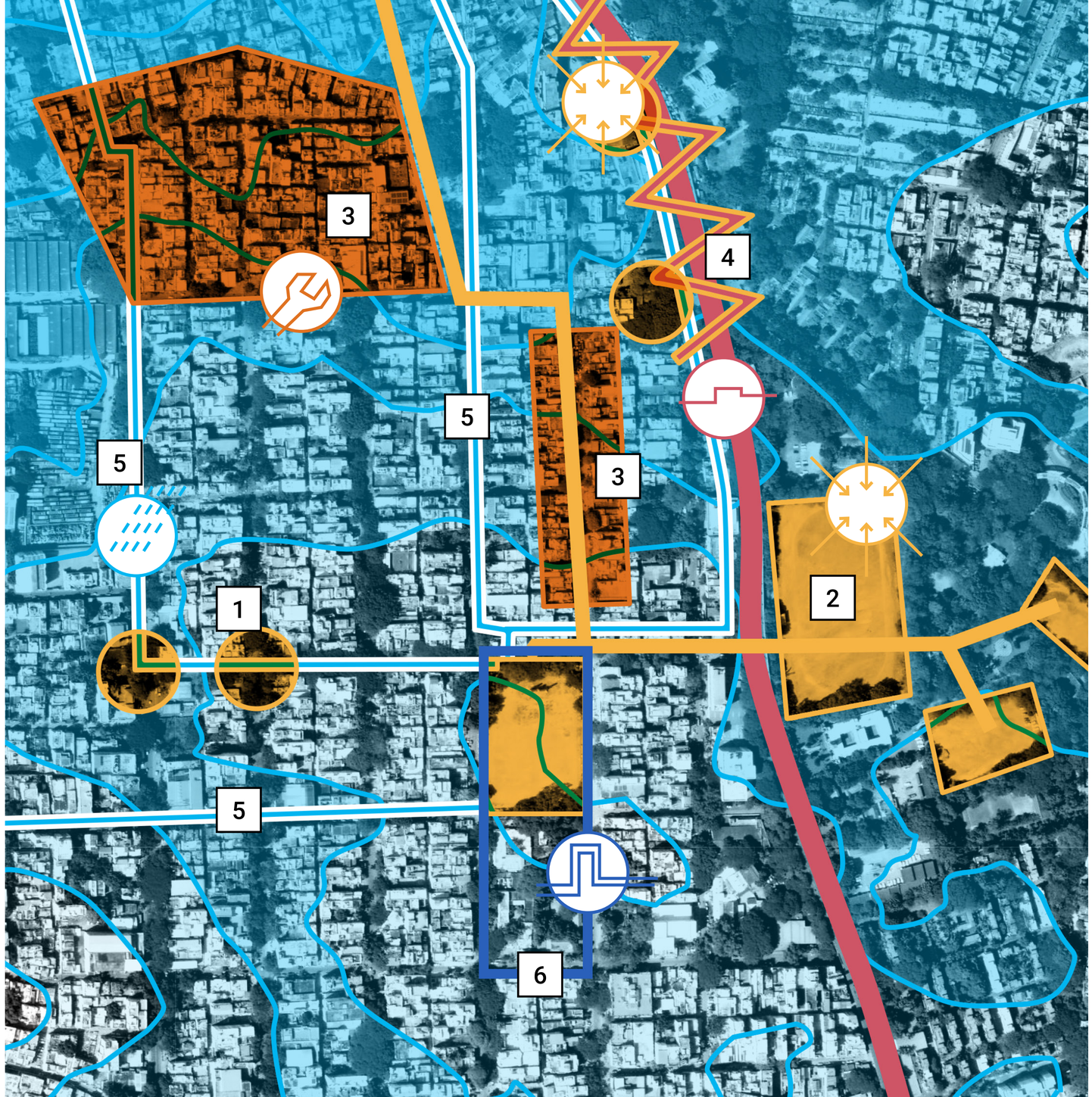
375

500

Chamarajpet

1:2500

1. SHARED PLACEMAKING Street junctions as placemakers can be reinforced by adding canopies and benches at street corners.
2. SHARED PLACEMAKING The neighbouring maidans can be occupied by the public through tactical urbanism methods such as ad-hoc takeovers.
3. DO-IT-YOURSELF Nearby hardware stores are material repositories to enable a DIY approach to urbanism.
4. THRESHOLD The hard threshold created by Mysore Rd can be softened by placemaking interventions such as benches, food stalls and temporary vehicle blockades along the road.
5. MANAGING RAINFALL With involvement from the BBMP and the bottom-up land trust, collaborations with neighbouring wards can result in rainwater canals which siphon water down Bengaluru's undulating terrain.
6. REINTERPRETING EXISTING The pedestrianisation of 6th Cross Road causes the Eidgah site to merge with the schools' sites, bringing back the historical condition.



1:2500 Hubli Eidgah

0

125

250

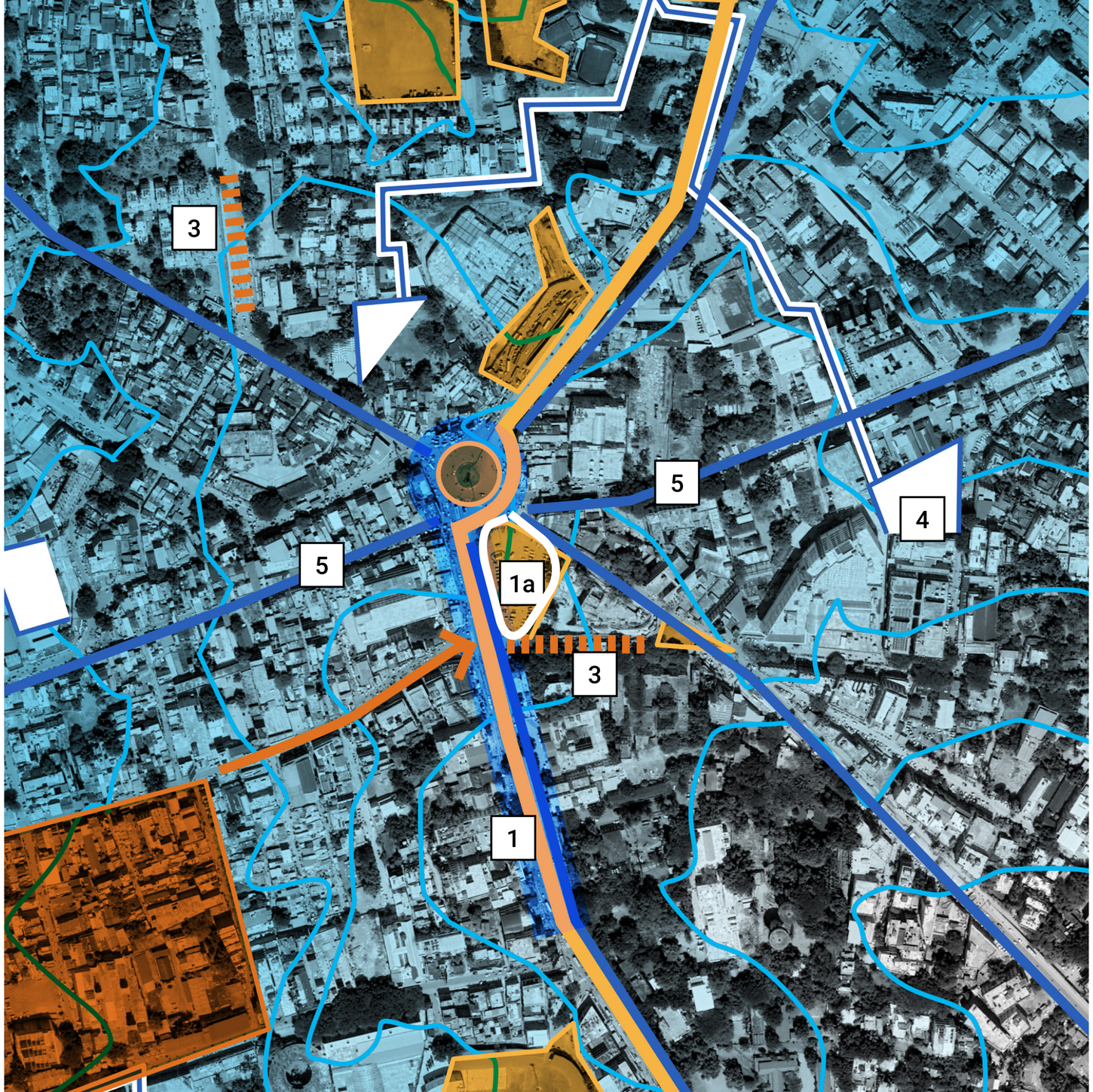
375

500

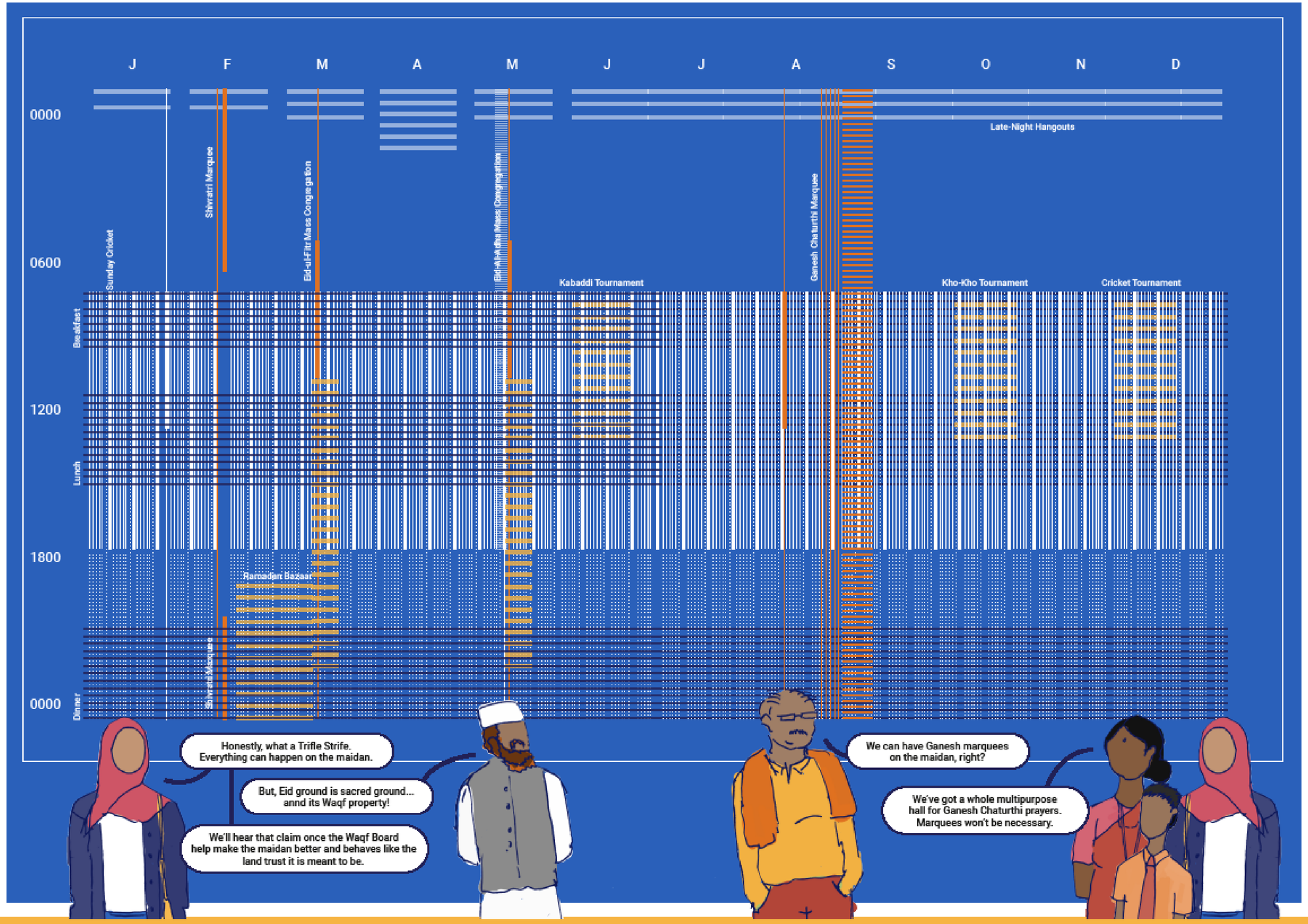
Hubli Eidgah

1:2500

1. SHARED PLACEMAKING An arterial road's non-vehicular access can be improved to link the different gathering spots, with Hubli Eidgah in the middle (1a).
2. DO-IT-YOURSELF Nearby hardware stores are material repositories to enable a DIY approach to urbanism.
3. DO-IT-YOURSELF Canopy modules can be deployed at urban thresholds.
4. MANAGING RAINFALL The land's gentle slope with many open space provide an opportunity for open spaces to be used as rainwater catchment tanks.
5. REINTERPRETING EXISTING All the roads converge at Hubli Eidgah's roundabout. This space can be converted into a transport hub which allows intermodal transport interactions.



A Trifle Strife?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Late-Night Hangouts
Sunday Cricket
Shivratri Marquee
Eid-ul-Fitr Mass Congregation
Eid-ul-Adha Mass Congregation
Kabaddi Tournament
Ganesh Chaturthi Marquee
Kho-Kho Tournament
Cricket Tournament
Breakfast
Lunch
Dinner
Ramadan Bazaar
Shivratri Marquee
Honestly, what a Trifle Strife. Everything can happen on the maidan.
But, Eid ground is sacred ground... annd its Waqf property!
We'll hear that claim once the Waqf Board help make the maidan better and behaves like the land trust it is meant to be.
We can have Ganesh marquees on the maidan, right?
We've got a whole multipurpose hall for Ganesh Chaturthi prayers. Marquees won't be necessary.







