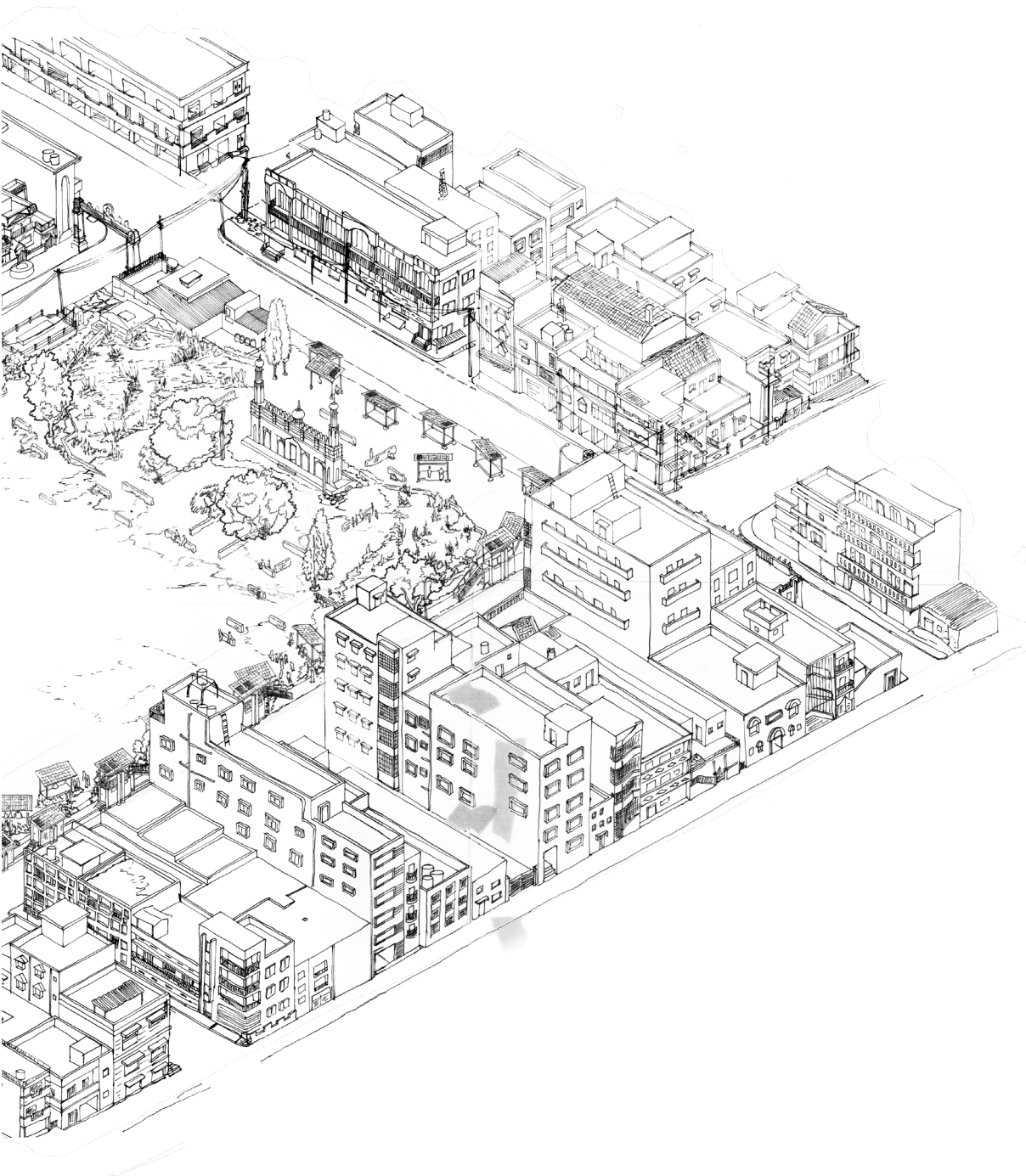


A Graphic Novel
A Trifle Strife?
Public Space, Rituals and Communalism



Ifrah Ariff
AR3CS100 Cross Domain City of the Future Graduation Studio
MSc Architecture 2022/23, TU Delft
Tutors: Joran Kuijper, Maurice Harteveld, Piero Medici

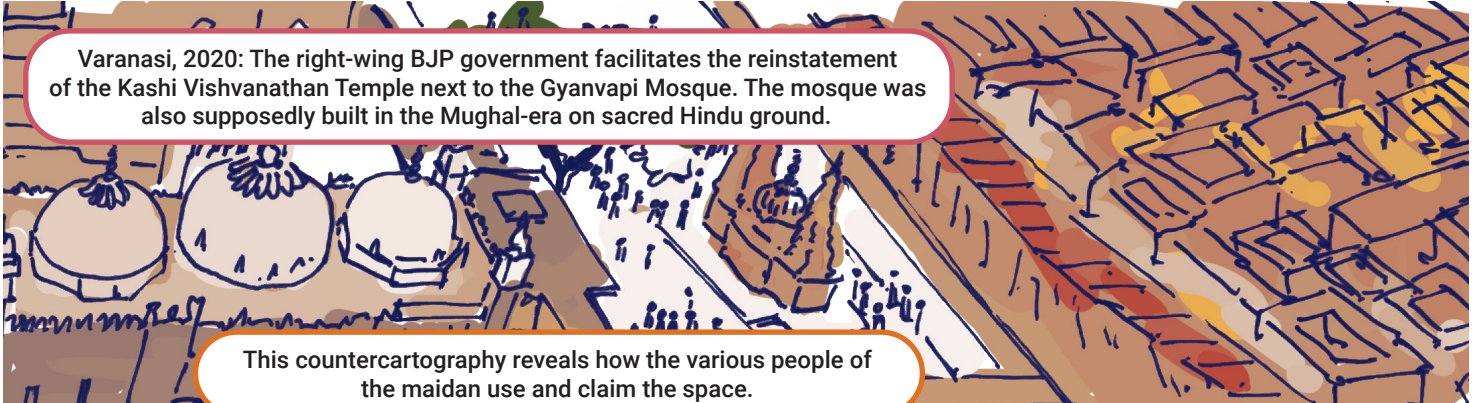
This graphic novel has been prepared to meet the academic requirements of the AR3CS100 Cross Domain City of the Future graduation studio of the MSc Architecture programme at TU Delft.

I would like to thank my tutors, my studio group and my friends for their guidance. I would especially like to thank my parents and family for their support and enthusiasm.

Ayodhya, 1992: the violent demolition of Babri Masjid, a historic, Mughal-era mosque, at the hands of right-wing Hindutva extremists. Supposedly, this was the birthplace of the Hindu deity Ram.



Varanasi, 2020: The right-wing BJP government facilitates the reinstatement of the Kashi Vishwanathan Temple next to the Gyanvapi Mosque. The mosque was also supposedly built in the Mughal-era on sacred Hindu ground.



This countercartography reveals how the various people of the maidan use and claim the space.

Bengaluru, 2022: Hindutva groups seek permission to celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi on an Eidgah. Communal tensions arise but are abated by a status quo order from the Supreme Court.

The ground is to be used only for Eid prayer and as a playground as per the status quo.

But damage has already been dealt. People feel less safe...



The fear is almost palpable not only in Chamarajpet. The kids who play cricket on the maidan come mostly from low-income, Muslim households.



Those kids aren't the only ones who feel scared to go to the maidan...

The goat merchants - who sell to a sizeable Muslim clientele - are nervous...



... and so is the Corporation School. Sports lessons occupy a mere corner of the maidan.

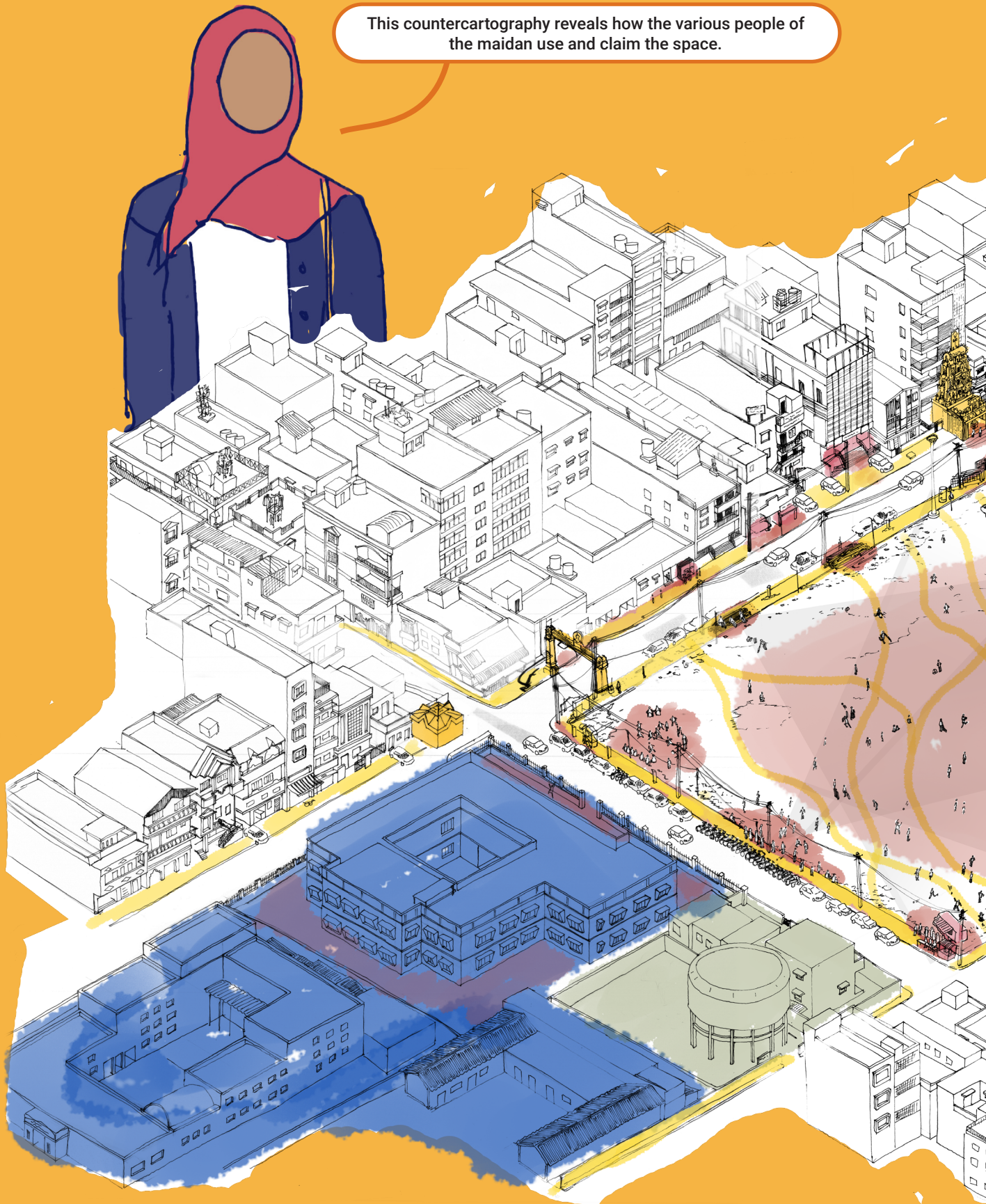


Communalism has disempowered all these everyday activities.



How can spatial design address this, whilst also addressing the interreligious conflict?

This countercartography reveals how the various people of the maidan use and claim the space.



KEY



Human gathering



Goat gathering



Walking zones



Hindu urban symbols



Islamic urban symbols



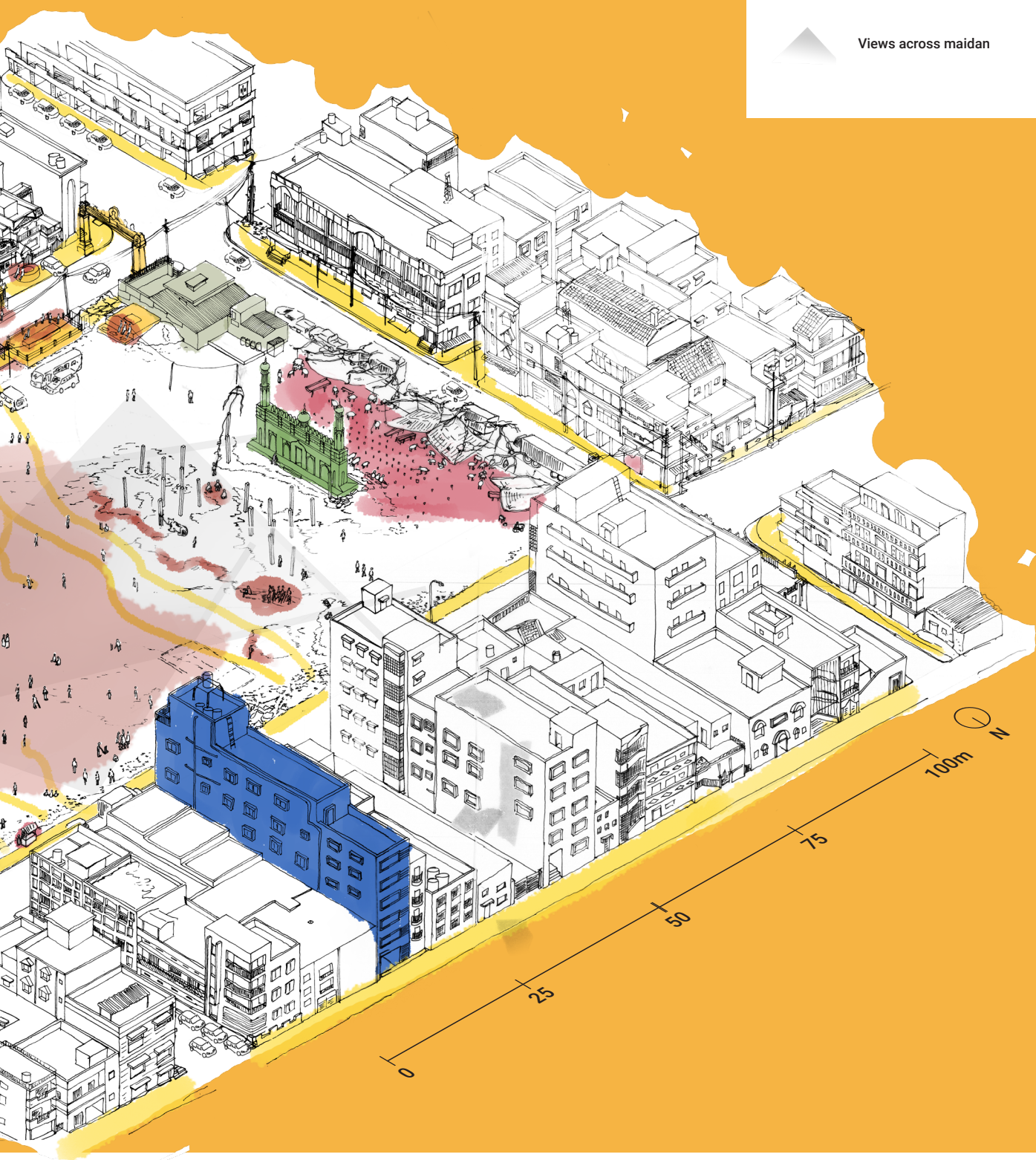
Schools



Government offices



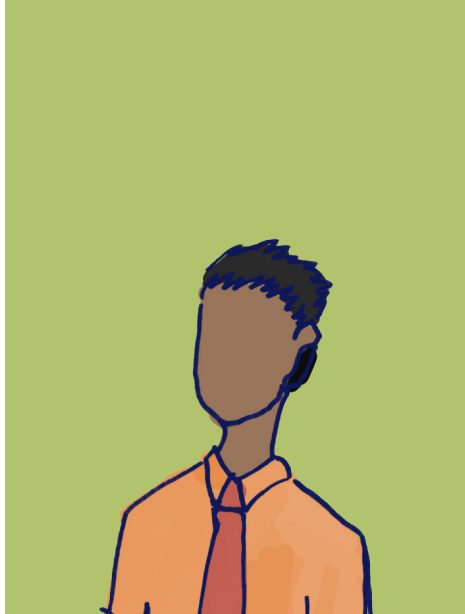
Views across maidan



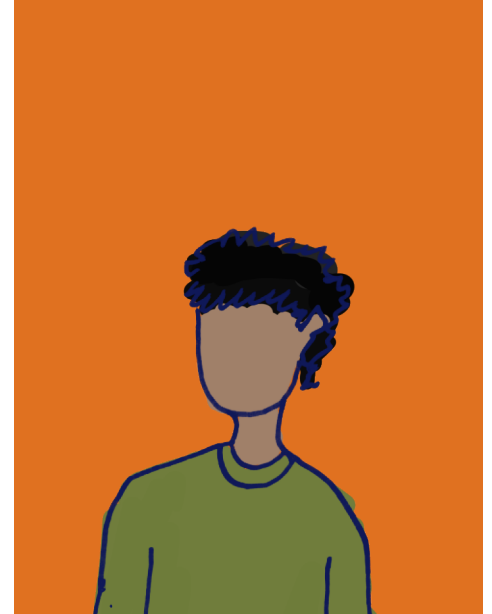
It helps to consider the everyday actors of Chamarajpet Eidgah Maidan in what will be a 'counternarrative'.



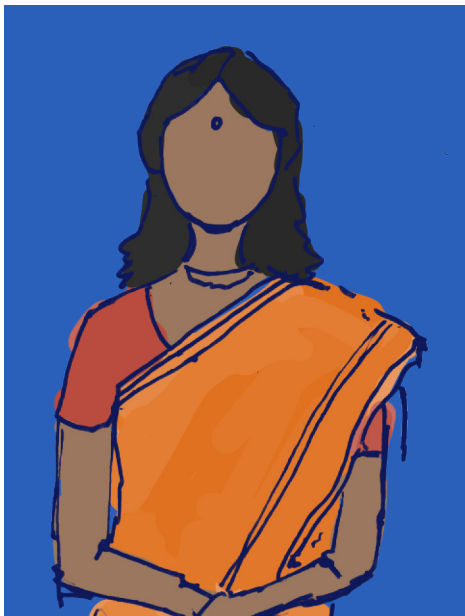
Ifrah Ariff, 23
Architectural Designer



Satish Hegde, 12
Resident of Chamarajpet and pupil at the Corporation School



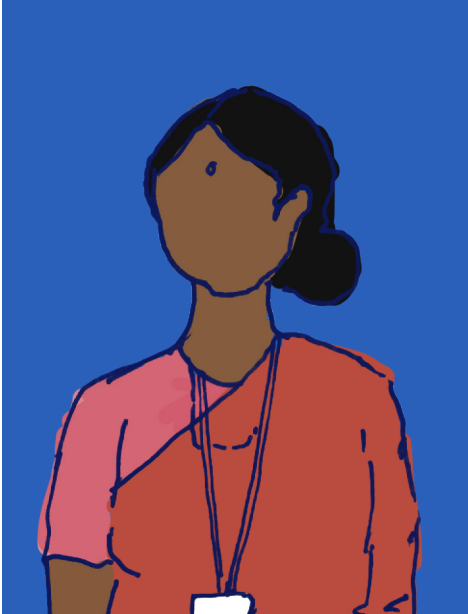
Ali Abbas, 11
Resident of Azad Nagar and scholarship pupil at the Corporation School



Kathyayini Chamaraj, 62
Coordinator of CIVIC Bangalore, an urban-improvement NGO



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



Ramini Murthy, 49
Headmistress of Corporation School, 49



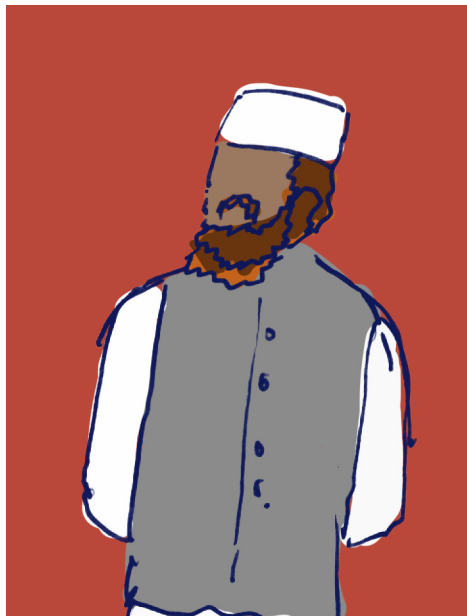
Chetan Anand, 44
Professor of Architecture at Bangalore University, 58



Varsha Shetty, 21
Architecture student at Bangalore University



Bilal Ahmed, 37
Goat Merchant on Chamarajpet Eidgah Maidan



Saeed Sheikh, 57
Chairman of the Karnataka Waqf Board



Gundappa Rai, 58
Leader of the Hindutva group, Vishva Sanatan Parishad

The Hindutva groups wanted to set up marquees on the maidan and have a procession which would circumambulate the maidan and go past Muslim-majority neighbourhoods further out.

Circumambulation in Hinduism is done around a sacred object or space, right?

If the maidan circumambulation was allowed for a few years, the Hindutva could claim they the maidan is sacred to them. They'd then be able to dethrone the Muslim spatial claim quite easily...

That could tip the scale towards urban violence - riots, arson, vandalism, homicide...

So the problem is twofold: one is of religious tensions, and the other is of everyday disempowerments.

PROBLEM ① RELIGIOUS TENSION

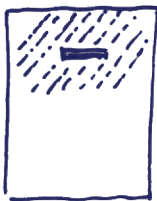
② EVERY DAY DISEMPOWERMENTS

} → NEED FOR "COMMON GROUND"

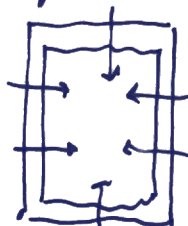
DESIGN BRIEF

RE-WORLDDING THE MAIDAN

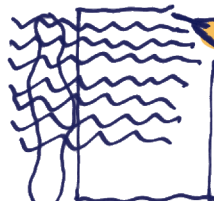
① ADDRESS CONFLICT BY:



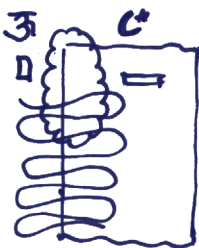
REDUCING RISK OF VIOLENCE NEAR EIDGAH WALL



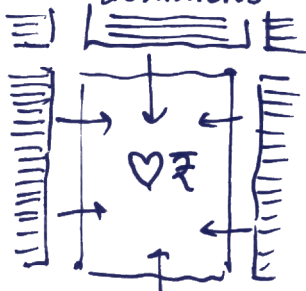
BOLSTERING BOUNDARIES WHILE ENHANCING COMMONS



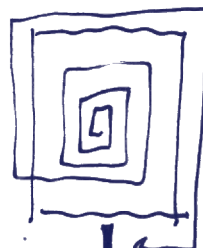
FACILITATING EXISTING RITUALS (WHICH RESPECT THE OTHER RITUALS)



MINIMISING HINDU-MUSLIM (SPATIAL) DIFFERENCE OR BINARISING



FACILITATE PUBLIC LIFE TO AVOID COMMUNAL STRIKES



PREVENT NEW RELIGIOUS CLAIMS, WHICH OCCUR EITHER VIOLENTLY OR OTHERWISE

② EMPOWER EVERY DAY FUNCTIONS: FOR EVERYDAY AGENTS

COMPLEXITY
1 NONE 5 VERY



WALKING

FOR WHOM: MEN

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

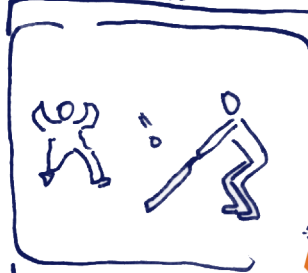
SPATIAL CRITERIA: • ACCESSIBILITY
• SAFETY
• CLEANLINESS



LIVESTOCK TRADING

FOR WHOM: • GOAT SELLERS

- GOATS
- (MUSLIM) BUYERS



PLAYING CRICKET

FOR WHOM:

- (URBAN POOR) KIDS & YOUTH
- LOCAL SCHOOLKIDS

SPATIAL CRITERIA: • OPEN SPACE
(23x4m)



SITTING/SPECTATING

FOR WHOM: • (URBAN POOR) KIDS + YOUTH

- LOCAL SCHOOLKIDS
- LOCAL SCHOOL STAFF SUPERVISORS
- GUARDIANS
- NEIGHBOURHOOD UNCLÉS
- POLICE PATROL

SPATIAL CRITERIA: • CLIMATIC COMFORT
• GOOD VIEWING HEIGHT
• SAFETY



PLAYING KABADDI

FOR WHOM: • LOCAL SCHOOLKIDS

SPATIAL CRITERIA: • 10x13m COURT
• INDOOR/COVERED FROM ELEMENTS



PLAYING

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

It seems that the maidan as an urban commons is a common denominator.

So the maidan should be designed as an urban commons.



SNACK SELLING

FOR WHOM: • SUGARCANE JUICE SELLER
• SNACK SELLERS
• LOCAL & ADULTS
• KIDS



RELIGIOUS WORSHIP

FOR WHOM:

- HINDU GROUPS
- MUSLIMS FROM WIDER AREA

OPPORTUNITIES

- water common
- tree common
- shower area
- washing area
- food market/bazaar
- elevated look

Plus, the maidan qualities as a transient, unsettled and empty space should be celebrated.

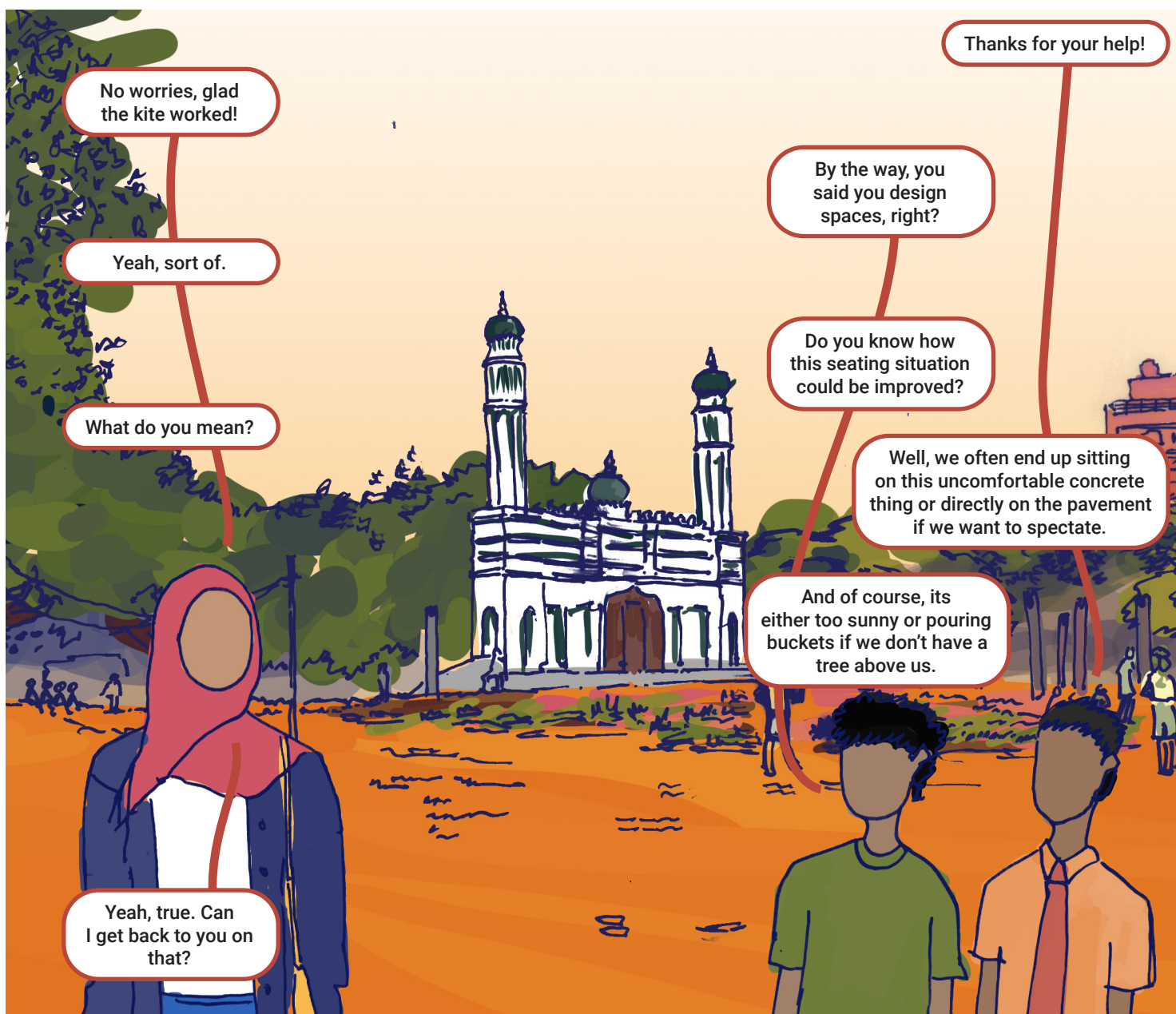
That said, the design brief and outcome need to be distilled by talking to the people there...



You guys trying to fly the kite?

Yeah but the wind isn't strong enough right now.

It's not always about the wind.
May I have a look at the kite please?
Maybe I can help.



No worries, glad the kite worked!

Thanks for your help!

Yeah, sort of.

By the way, you said you design spaces, right?

What do you mean?

Do you know how this seating situation could be improved?

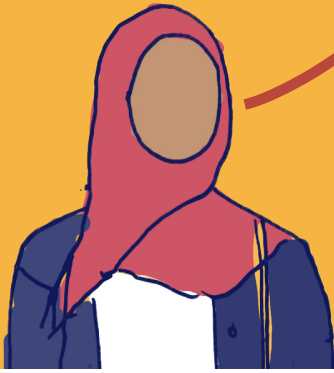
Well, we often end up sitting on this uncomfortable concrete thing or directly on the pavement if we want to spectate.

And of course, its either too sunny or pouring buckets if we don't have a tree above us.

Yeah, true. Can I get back to you on that?

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.



Network of Capacities

to design and build

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



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.

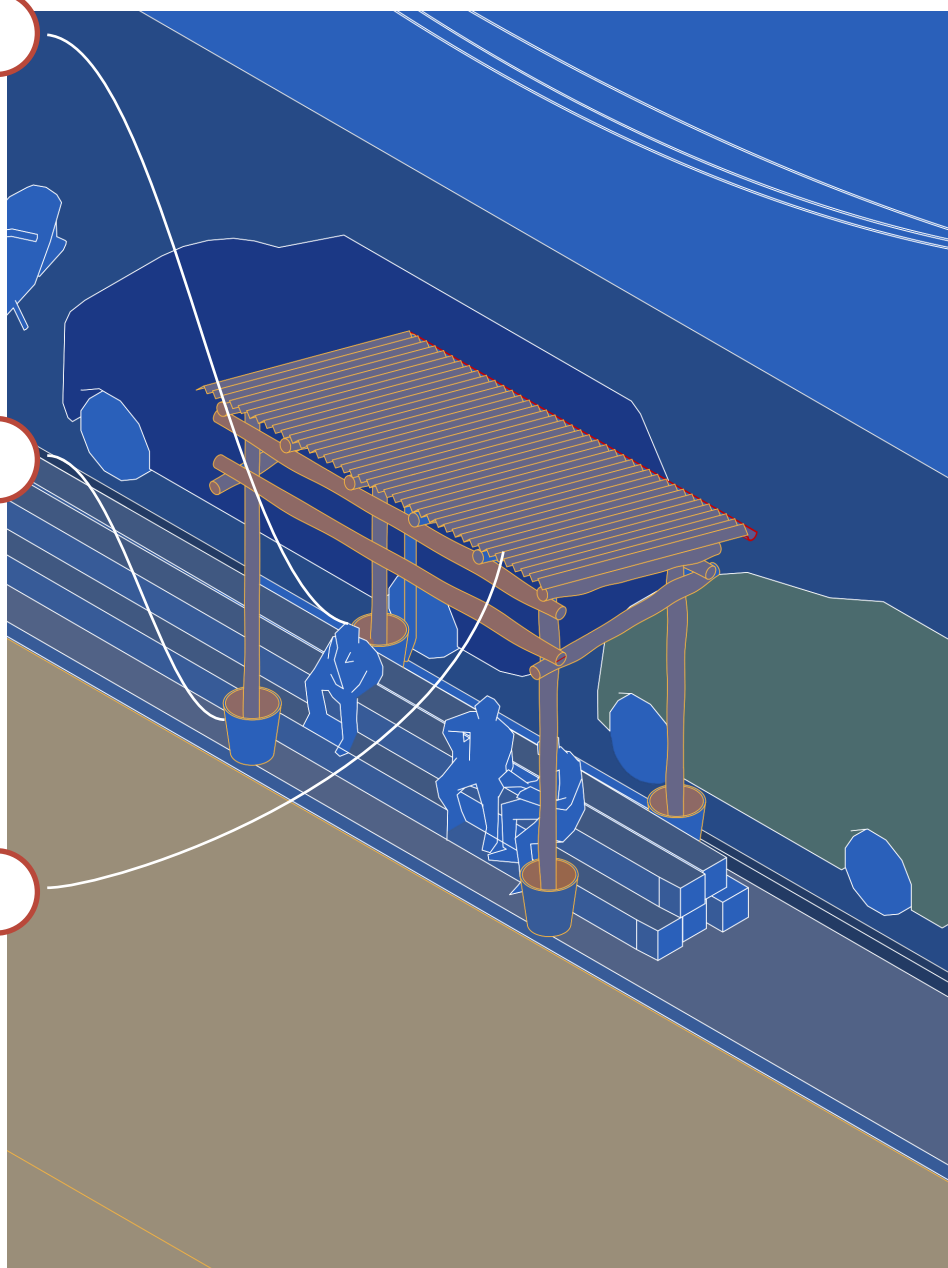
We can use the maidan's earth in buckets as foundations.



Let's take those abandoned scaffolding poles as the structure.



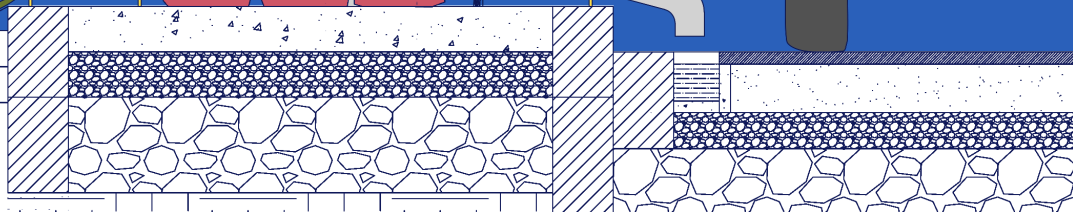
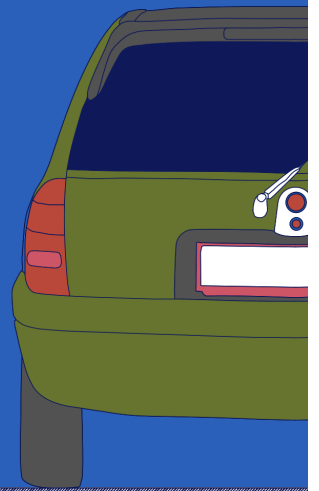
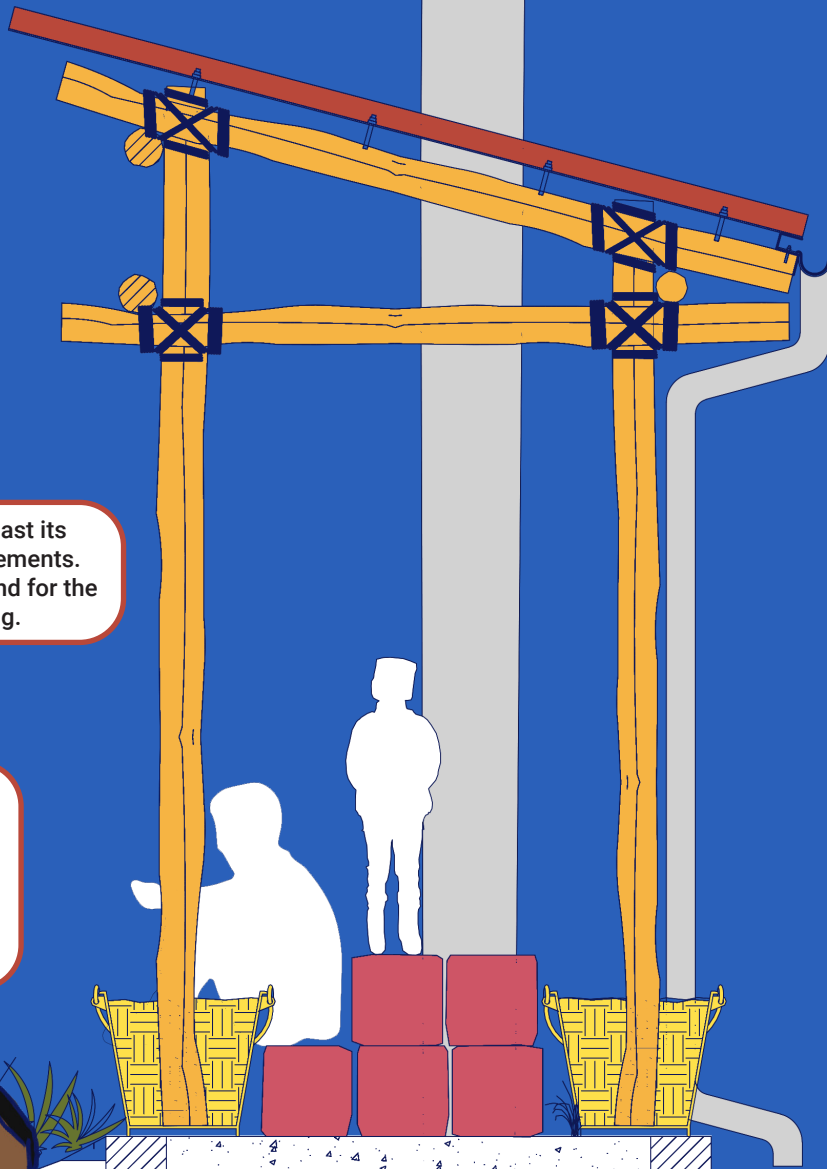
And top it off with a cheap corrugated iron sheet, why not?





It's a bit rickety, but at least its protecting us from the elements. We can't have waited around for the BBMP to do anything.

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.





I called this meeting for Mrs Ramini of the Corporation School.

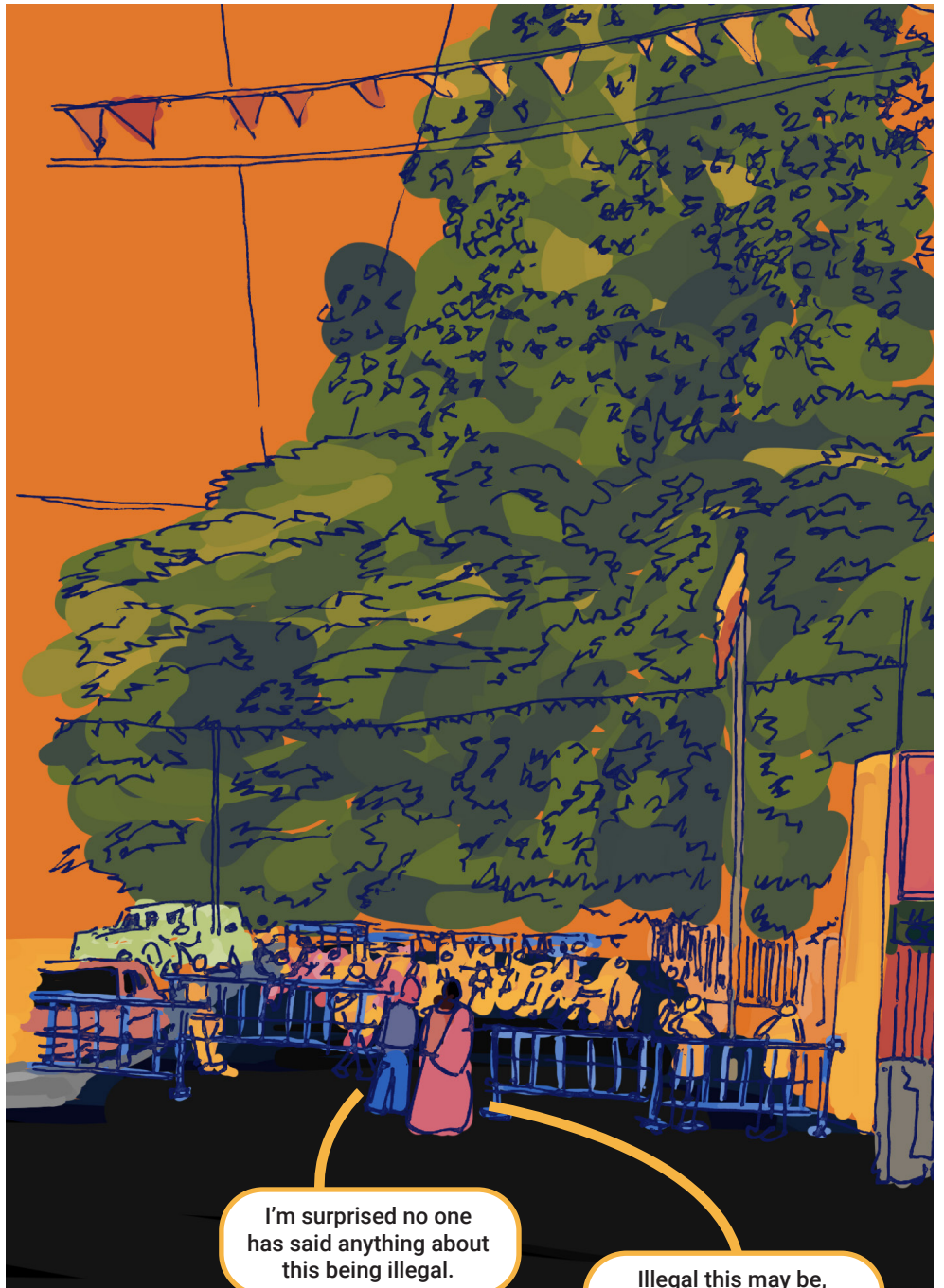
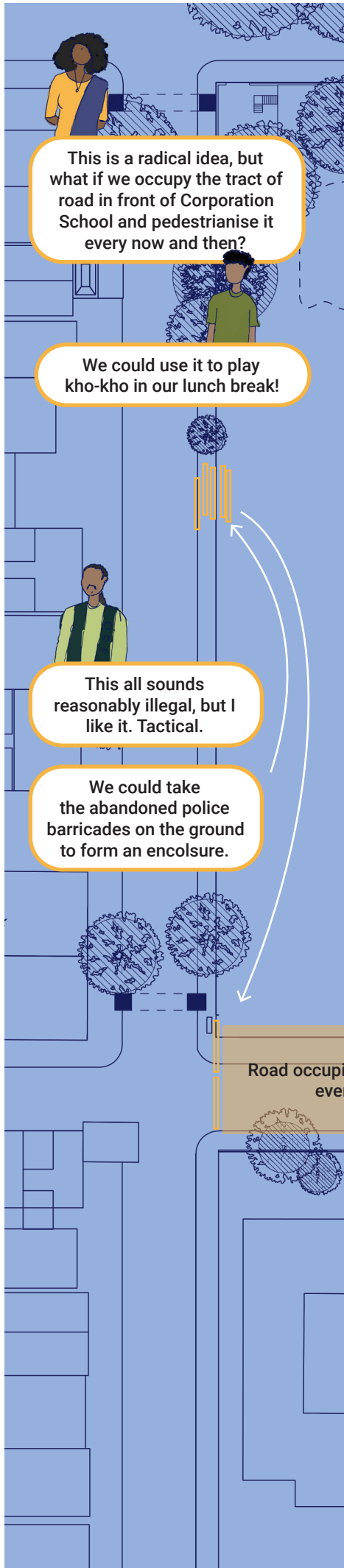
Thanks Ifrah. So I really liked the DIY canopy idea and wonder if there's any lessons from that to create more place to play sports for our schoolkids. The maidan is a bit of no-go zone with the controversy.

Have you ever heard of Raahgiri Day?

In about 2013, some citizen groups went and occupied a vehicular street protesting against the lack of public, pedestrian space provided by the government.

It is now commemorated each year as Raahgiri Day - Raah meaning 'path' and giri referring to Mahatma Gandhi's nonviolent protests.





Illegal this may be, but the police and the BBMP see that people want this. So why would they oppose?

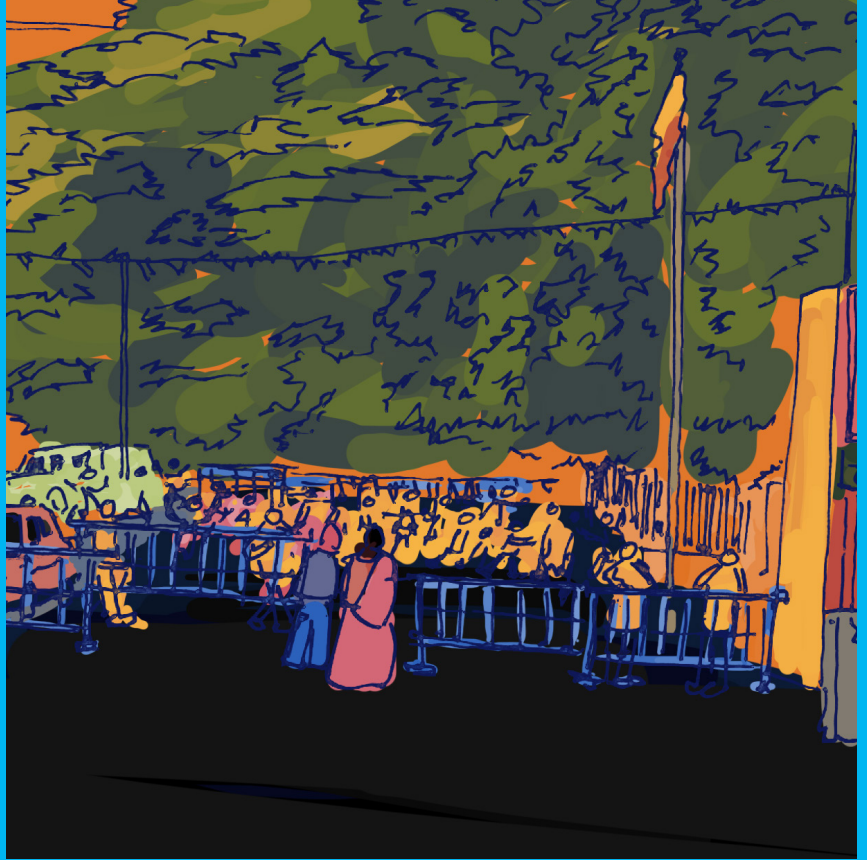
BANGALORE NEWS

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 alleged 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.



There's good news and bad news.

With all this publicity, there is a threat is that the BBMP will kick us off or that this tract of road will be bought up by some private developer.

The good news is that we could form a collective land trust, with the BBMP, and stop the land grab from happening, allowing there to be room for the kids to play.

What's the bad news?

And the good news?



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).

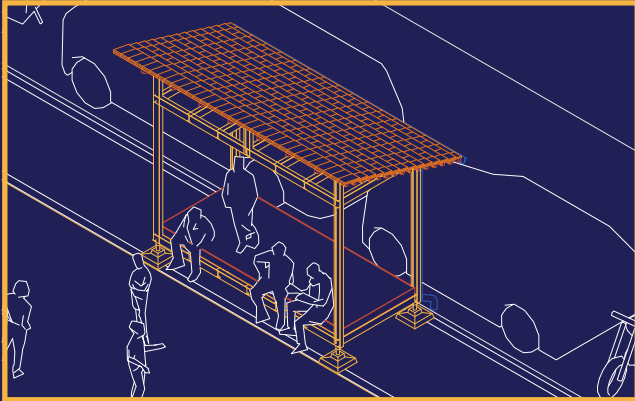


Maidan Module Catalogue

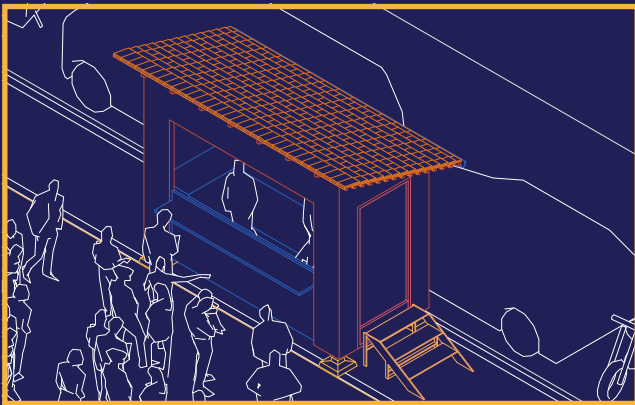
This catalogue offers a range of module options which can be purchased at a turnkey price, including construction costs. Maintenance costs are incurred on a pro rata basis.

Please contact Ifrah Ariff for details.

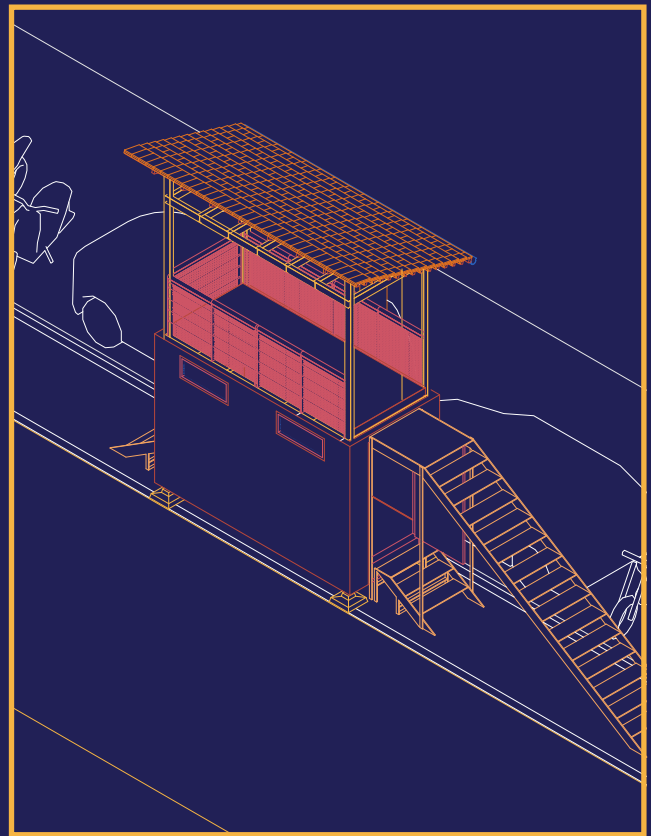
01 Canopy



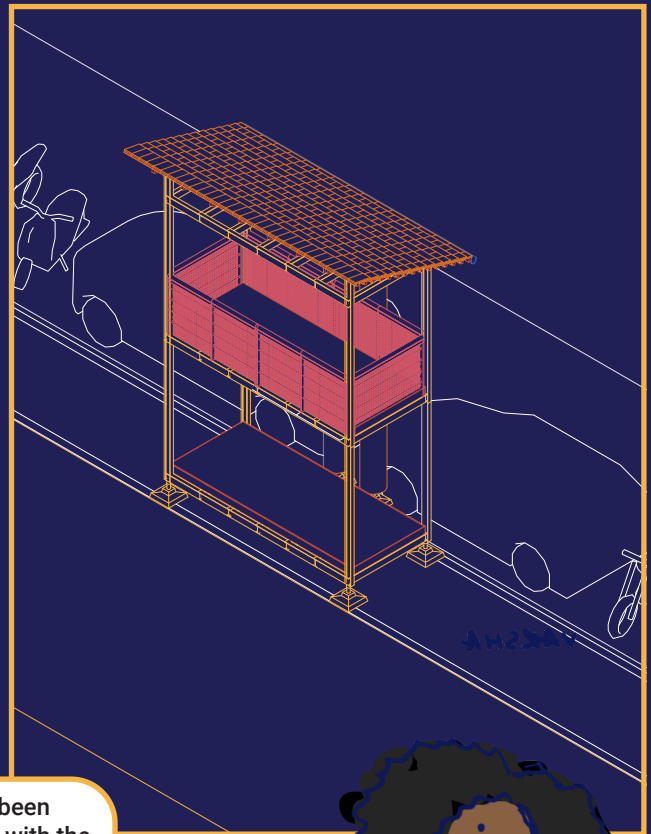
02 Food Stall



03 Shower



04 Shower + Lookout



05 Canopy + Lookout

For this land takeover, I have been thinking of these modules, along with the guys at Bangalore University.

These are basically formal versions of the DIY module we made last year.

They're 2 metres wide, designed for wide, but perhaps dilapidated, pavements.

And the idea is that they can be purchased by anyone and placed on the Land at the Trust's discretion.



Our recommendation, based on the counter-cartography, 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

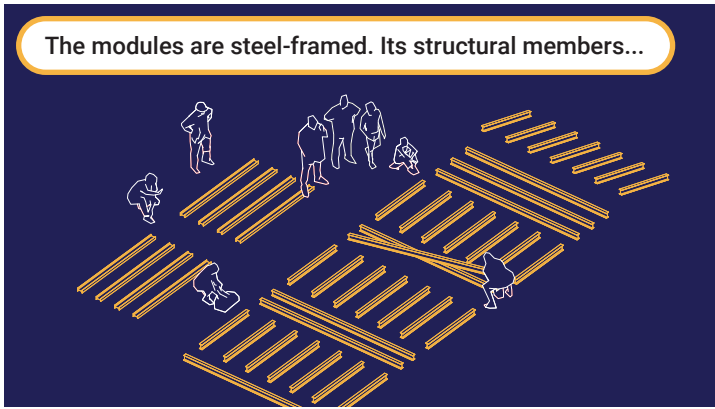
02 Food Stall

Road occupied at lunchbreak,
every Friday.

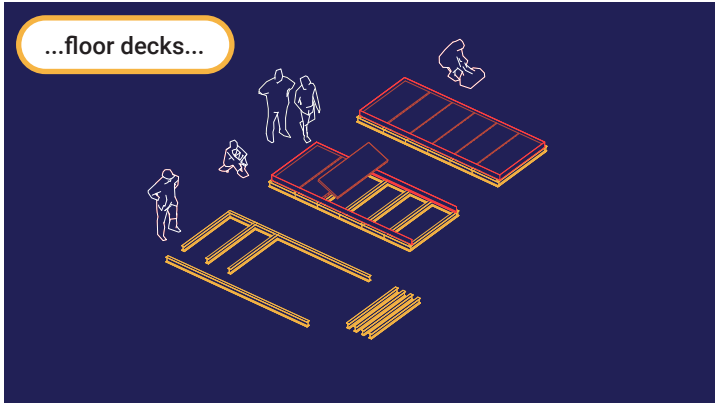


Of course, what we ought to consider is campaigning to expand the Land in the Trust to include the pavement around the maidan and the full length of 6th Cross Road next to the maidan.

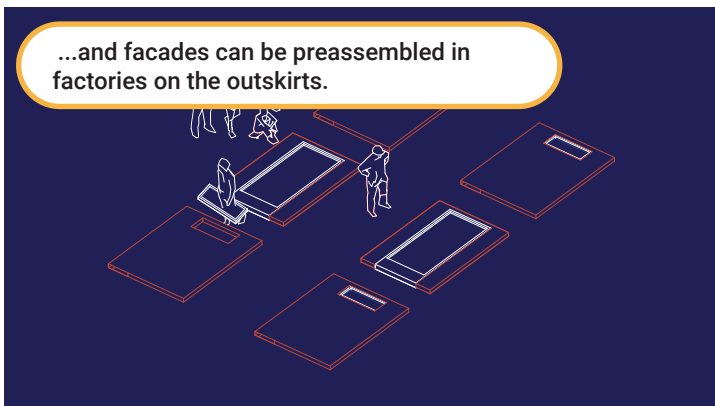
The modules are steel-framed. Its structural members...



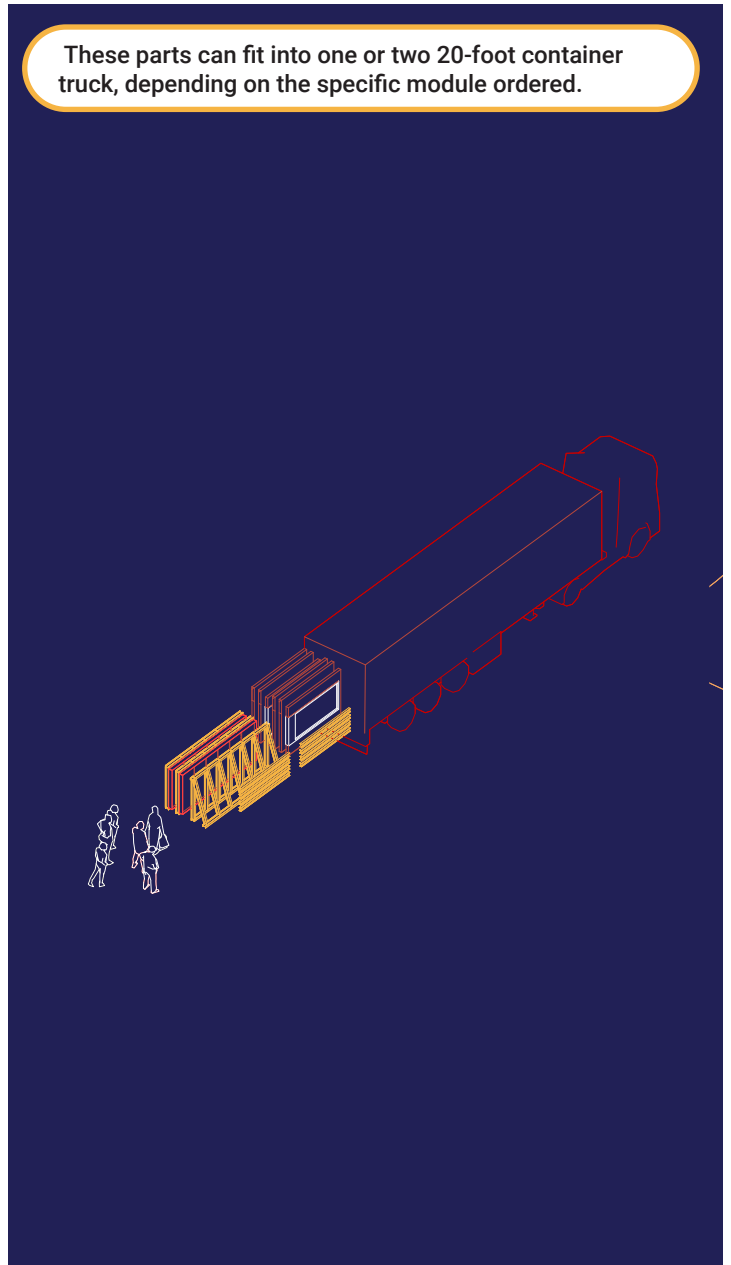
...floor decks...



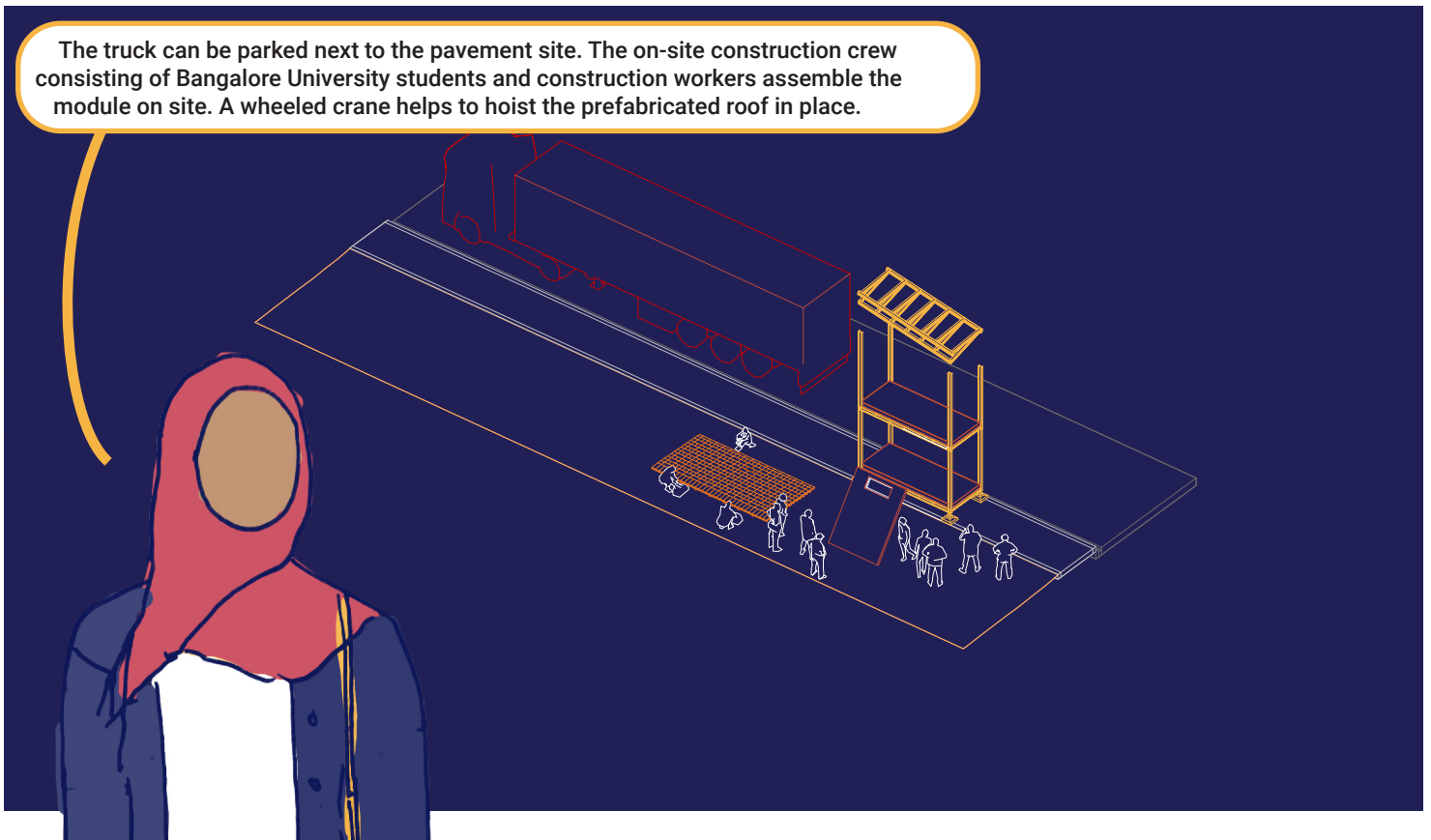
...and facades can be preassembled in factories on the outskirts.

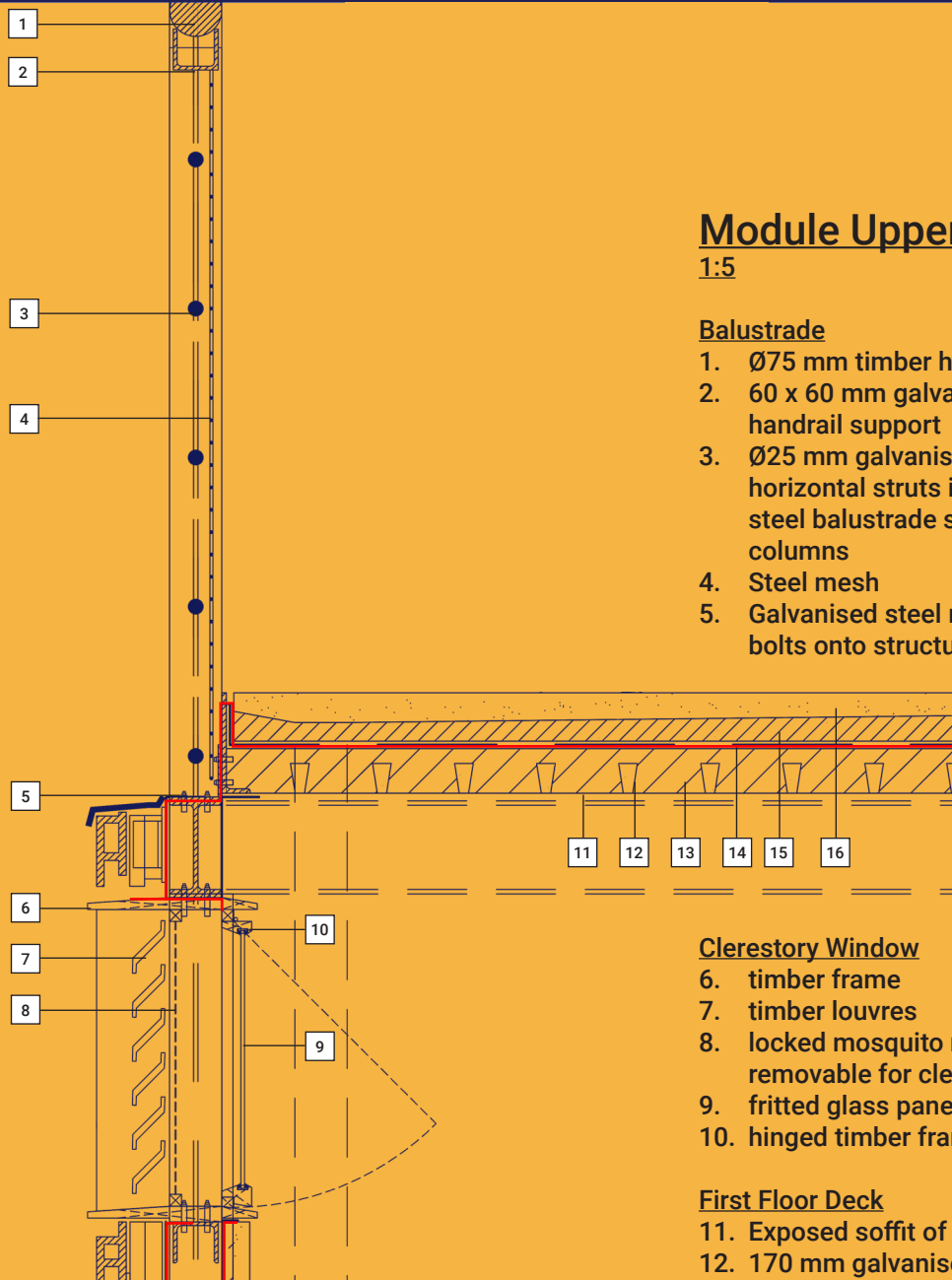


These parts can fit into one or two 20-foot container truck, depending on the specific module ordered.



The truck can be parked next to the pavement site. The on-site construction crew consisting of Bangalore University students and construction workers assemble the module on site. A wheeled crane helps to hoist the prefabricated roof in place.





Module Upper Deck 1:5

Balustrade

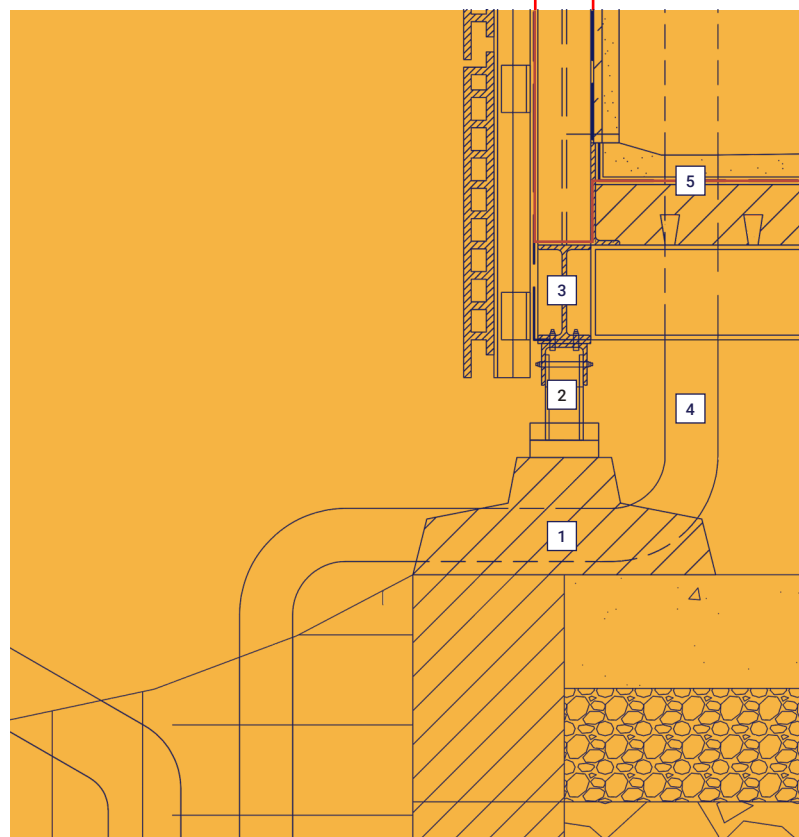
1. Ø75 mm timber handrail
2. 60 x 60 mm galvanised steel handrail support
3. Ø25 mm galvanised steel horizontal struts in between steel balustrade supporting columns
4. Steel mesh
5. Galvanised steel nuts and bolts onto structural I-beam

Clerestory Window

6. timber frame
7. timber louvres
8. locked mosquito net, removable for cleaning
9. fritted glass pane in
10. hinged timber frame

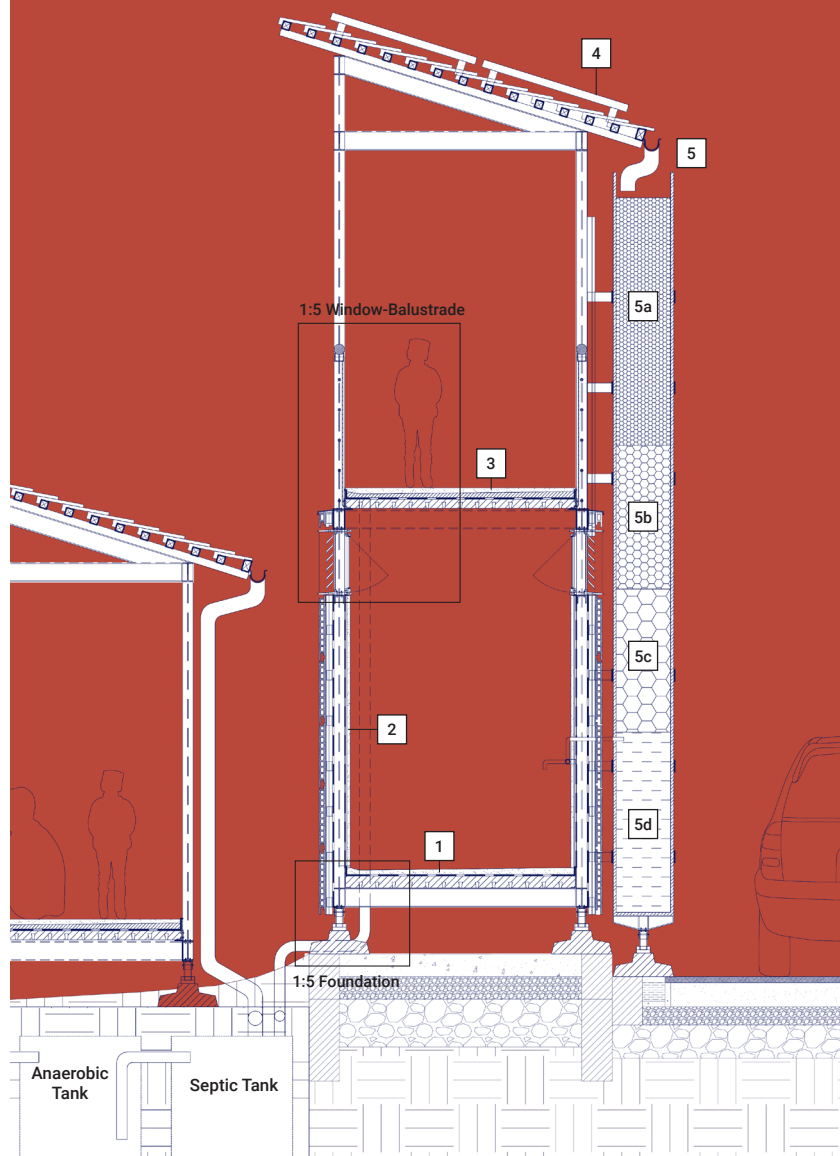
First Floor Deck

11. Exposed soffit of
12. 170 mm galvanised steel &
13. reinforced concrete deck with
14. 3 mm damp proof membrane
15. 20 mm cementitious clay screed, laid to fals towards drain
16. 20 mm cement-clay screed, finished with linseed oil



Module Foundation 1:5

1. EasyPad foundation with
2. Galvanised steel top bracket
3. 125 x 70 mm I-beam
4. Ø75 mm PVC drainage pipe
5. 2 mm waterproof membrane



Shower Module

1:20

1. Ground Floor Deck

125 x 70 mm I-beam structural deck, bolted onto EasyPad foundation
170 mm galvanised steel deck with
3 mm damp proof membrane
20 mm cementitious clay screed, finished as 1% slope towards drain
20 mm tadelakt plaster

2. Facade

40 mm unglazed terracotta rainscreen panels fixed onto Vertical aluminium rainscreen bracket & rail system
2 mm damp proof membrane
60 x 60 mm U-section galvanised steel section

2 mm vapour barrier
12 mm waterproof plywood board
20 mm tadelakt plaster

3. First Floor Deck

125 x 70mm I-beam structural deck
170mm galvanised steel deck with
3mm damp proof membrane
20mm cementitious clay screed, finished as 1% slope towards drain
20mm cement-clay screed, finished with linseed oil

4. Roof

125 x 70 mm I-beam purlins, 15 degree slope
50 x 50 mm square section galvanised steel counterbattens
50 x 50 mm square section galvanised steel battens

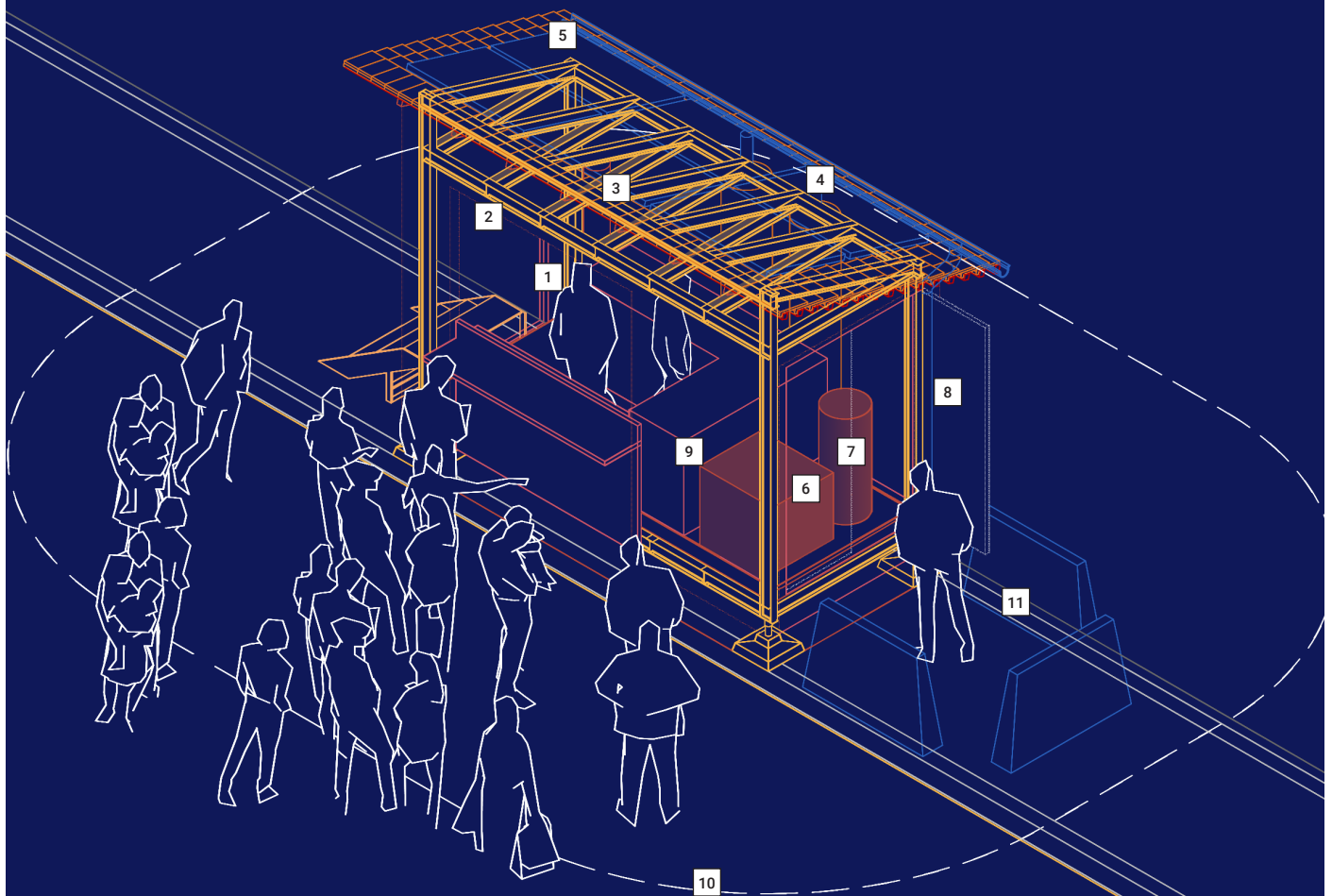
20mm unglazed terracotta roof tiles 300 x 300 mm
Photovoltaic panels affixed onto steel battens

5. Rainwater Collector

Ø96 mm PVC gutter
Ø96 mm PVC downpipe to Ø400 mm steel culvert, repurposed as rainwater filter
a. fine sand filter
b. aggregate filter
c. aggregate filter
d. excess filter water storage

Ø410 mm galvanised steel sleeve, tied to facade U-sections
95 x 65 mm I-beam structural deck, bolted onto EasyPad foundation

Food Stall Module



1. Fire extinguisher
2. Fire-safe shutters
3. Sprinklers
4. Rainwater harvesting column
5. Photovoltaic array
6. Propane generator or PV battery

7. Propane gas cylinder
8. Doors to gas and electric compartment
9. Separating wall
10. Minimum 3m clearance from buildings, structures, vehicles, and any combustible materials.

11. Routine inspection of compartment during non-operation hours



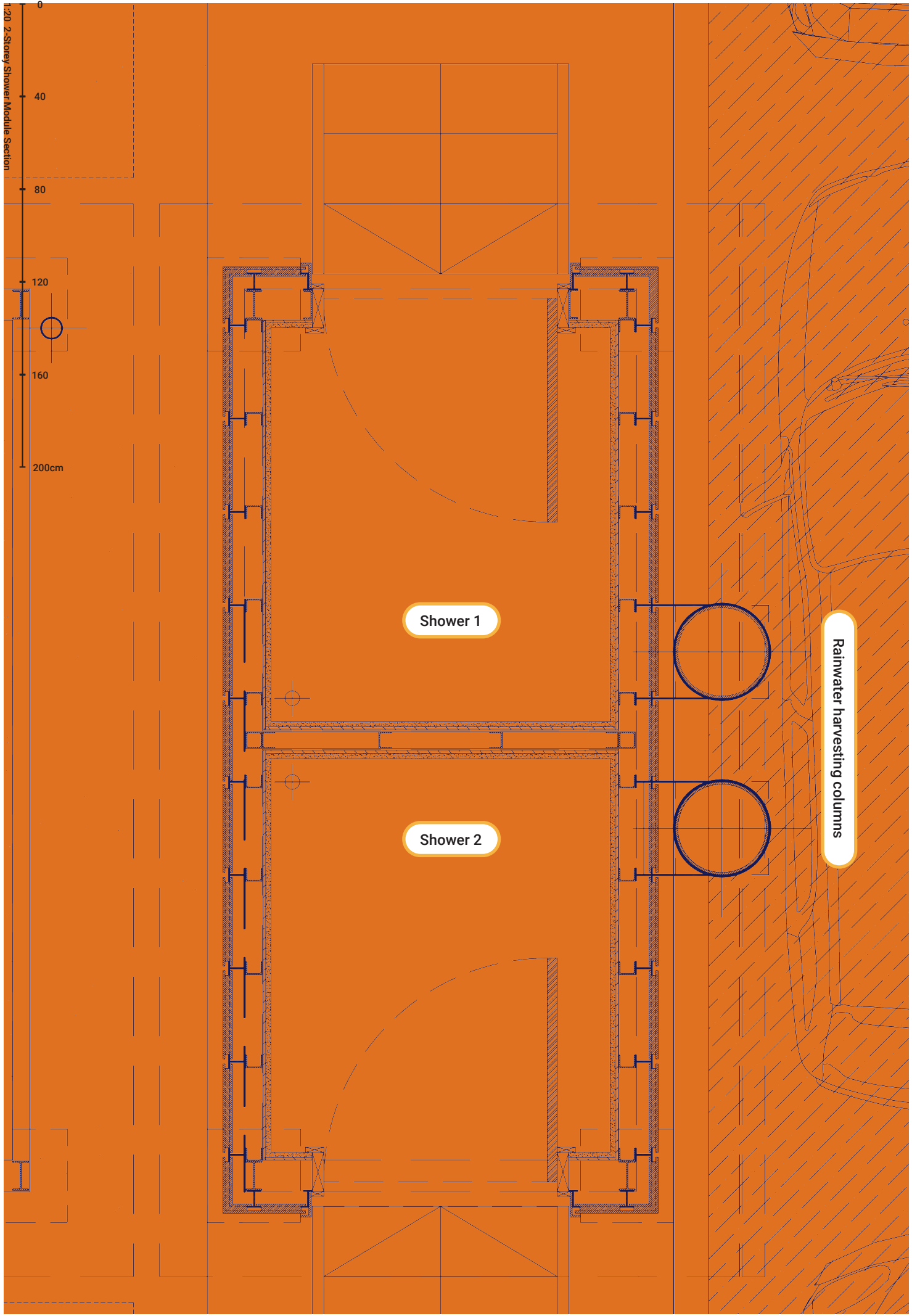
I'd like to buy one I think. Tell me more.

Gas stove?

The stall costs INR XX to build. The running costs depend on your gas and electricity usage, of course.

Yes, but induction is also an option. Either way, there are safety mechanisms in the module to ensure fire safety.



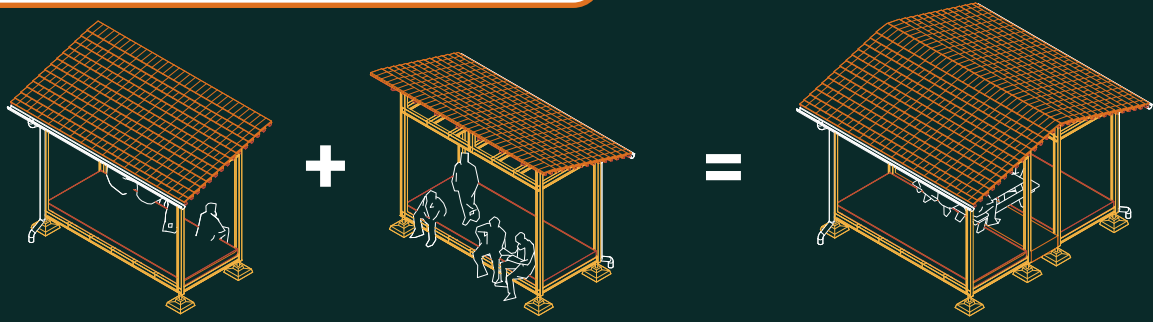


Shower 1

Shower 2

Rainwater harvesting columns

The canopy modules can be combined to create an outdoor room.



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?

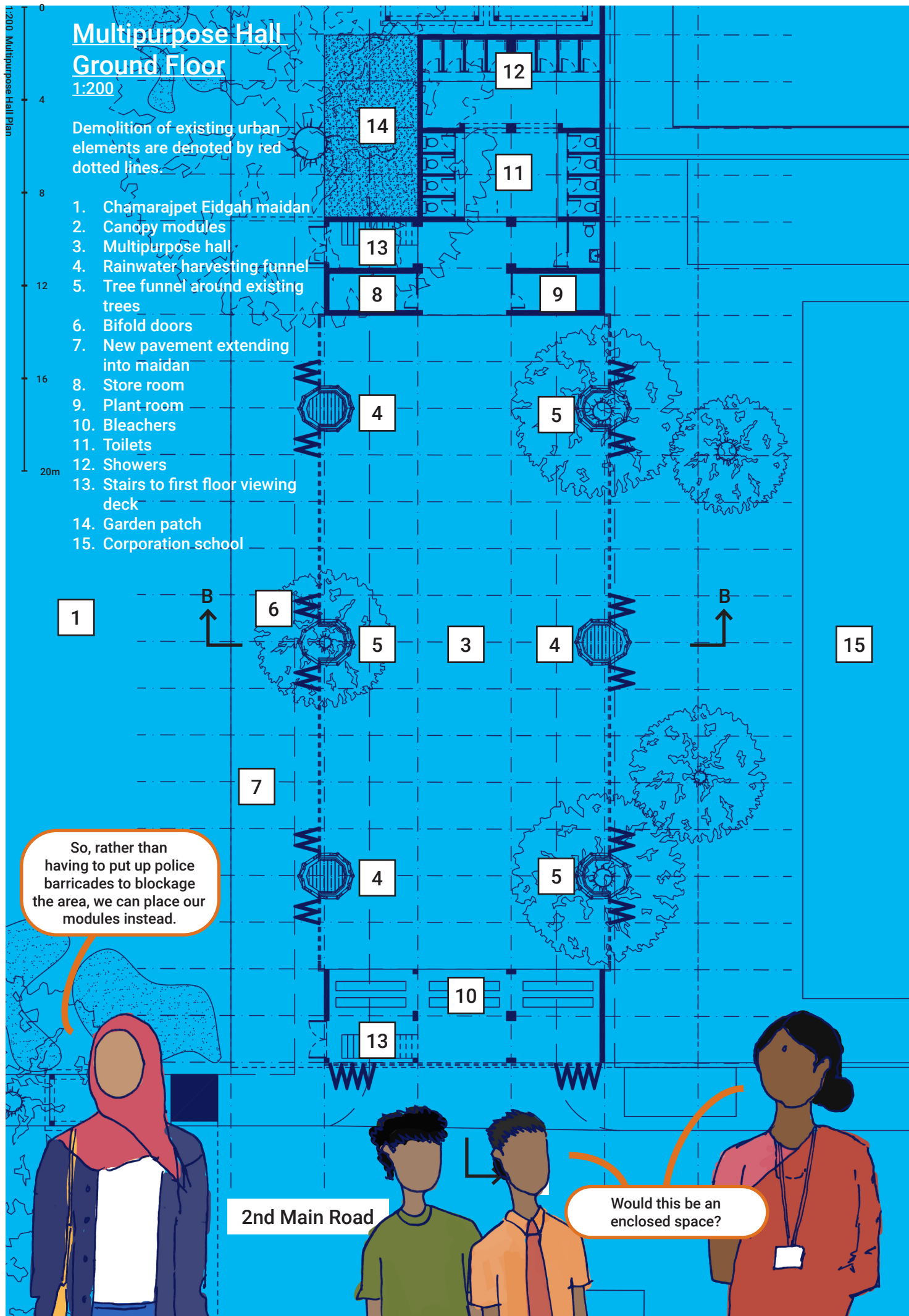
I've leave that for you guys to decide ultimately. But my suggestion would be to have a structure that can last 20 - 30 years, but which is demountable, like the modules.

Multipurpose Hall Ground Floor

1:200

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

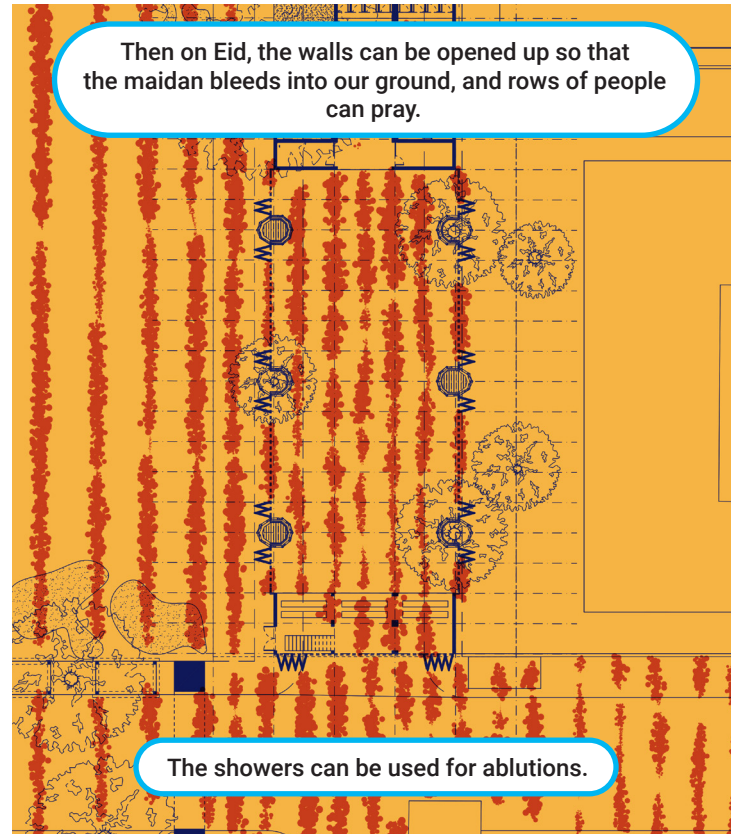
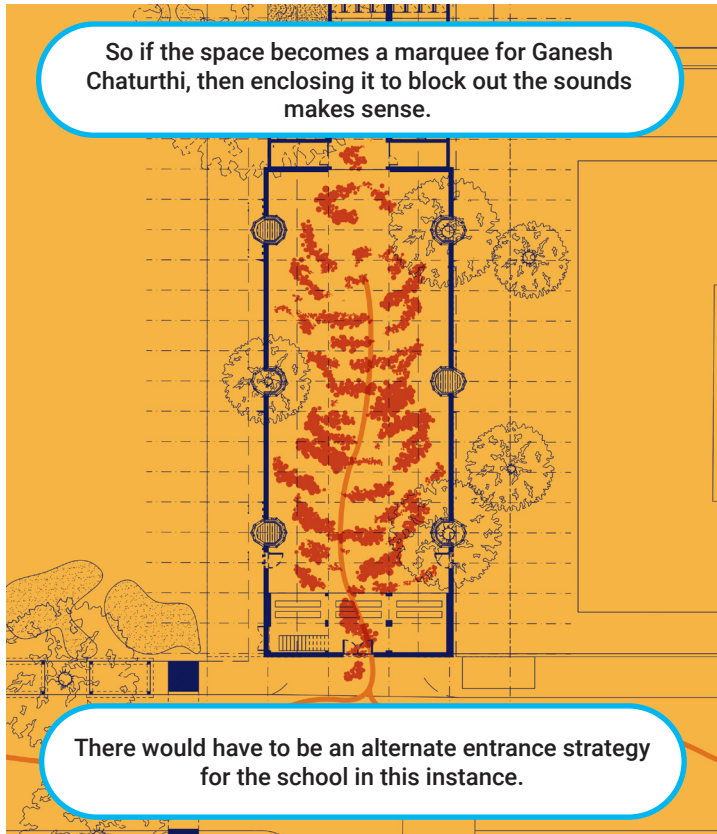
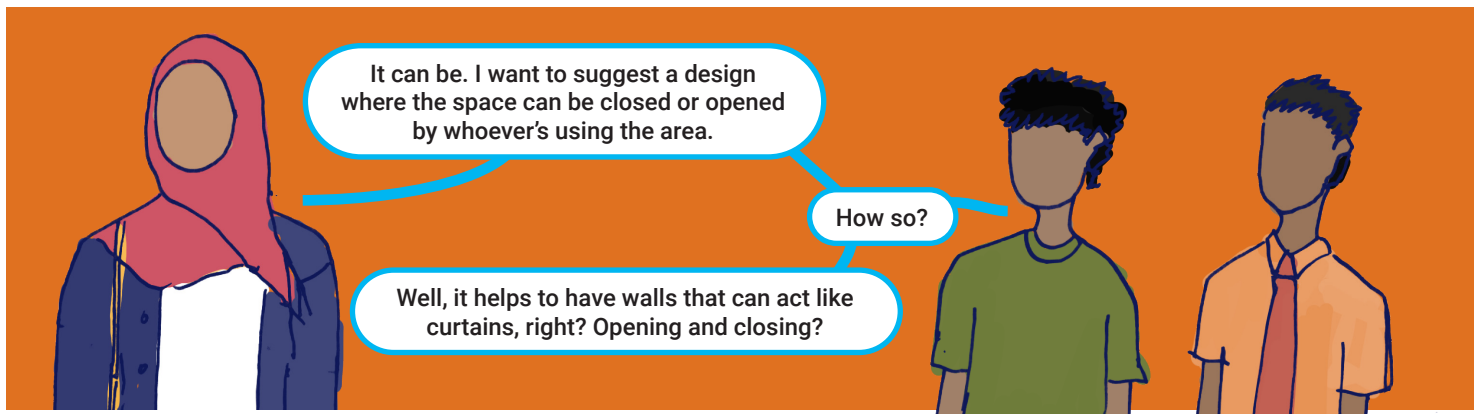
1. Chamarajpet Eidgah maidan
2. Canopy modules
3. Multipurpose hall
4. Rainwater harvesting funnel
5. Tree funnel around existing trees
6. Bifold doors
7. New pavement extending into maidan
8. Store room
9. Plant room
10. Bleachers
11. Toilets
12. Showers
13. Stairs to first floor viewing deck
14. Garden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

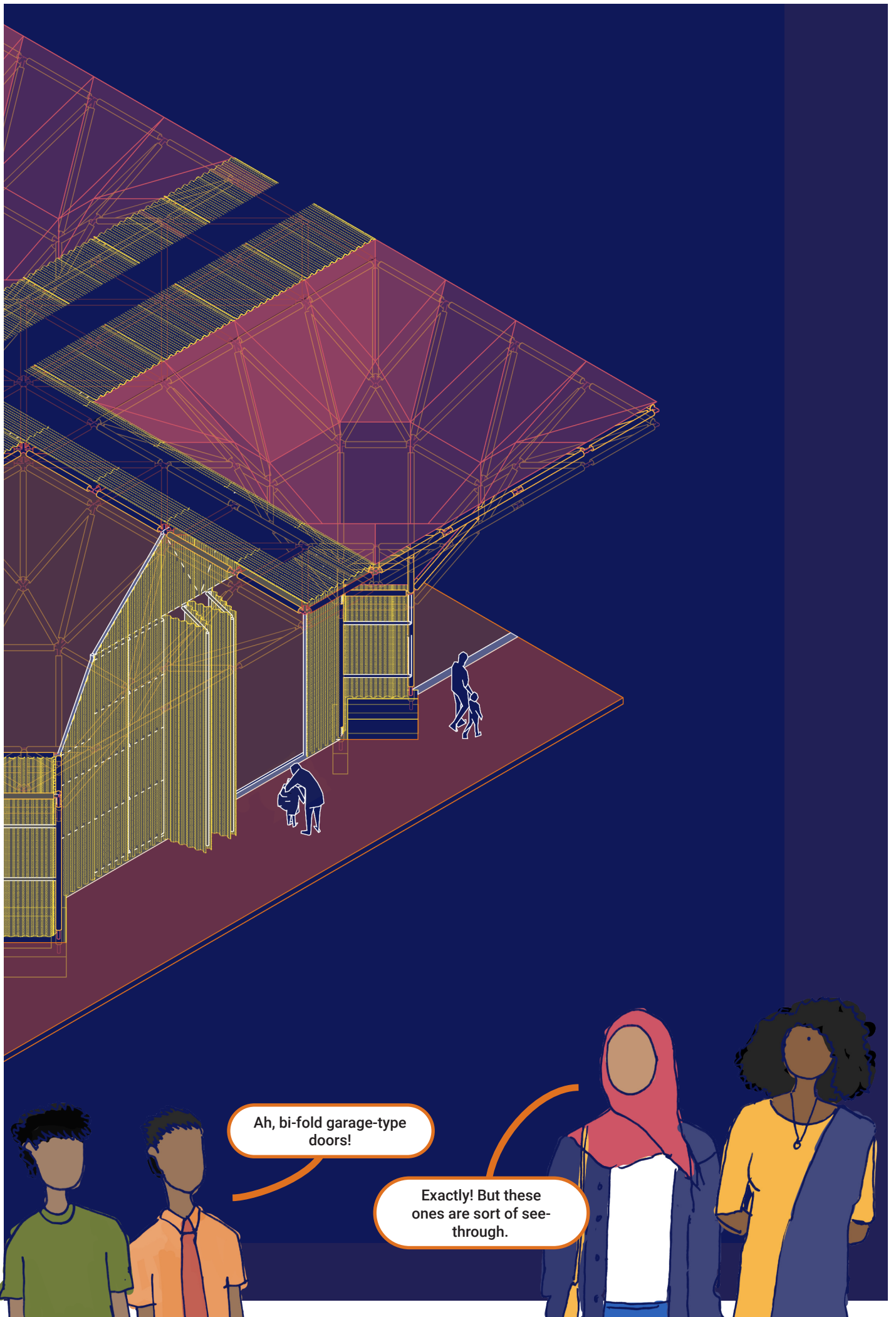


So, rather than having to put up police barricades to blockage the area, we can place our modules instead.

2nd Main Road

Would this be an enclosed space?





Ah, bi-fold garage-type doors!

Exactly! But these ones are sort of see-through.

Multipurpose Hall

Facade Door

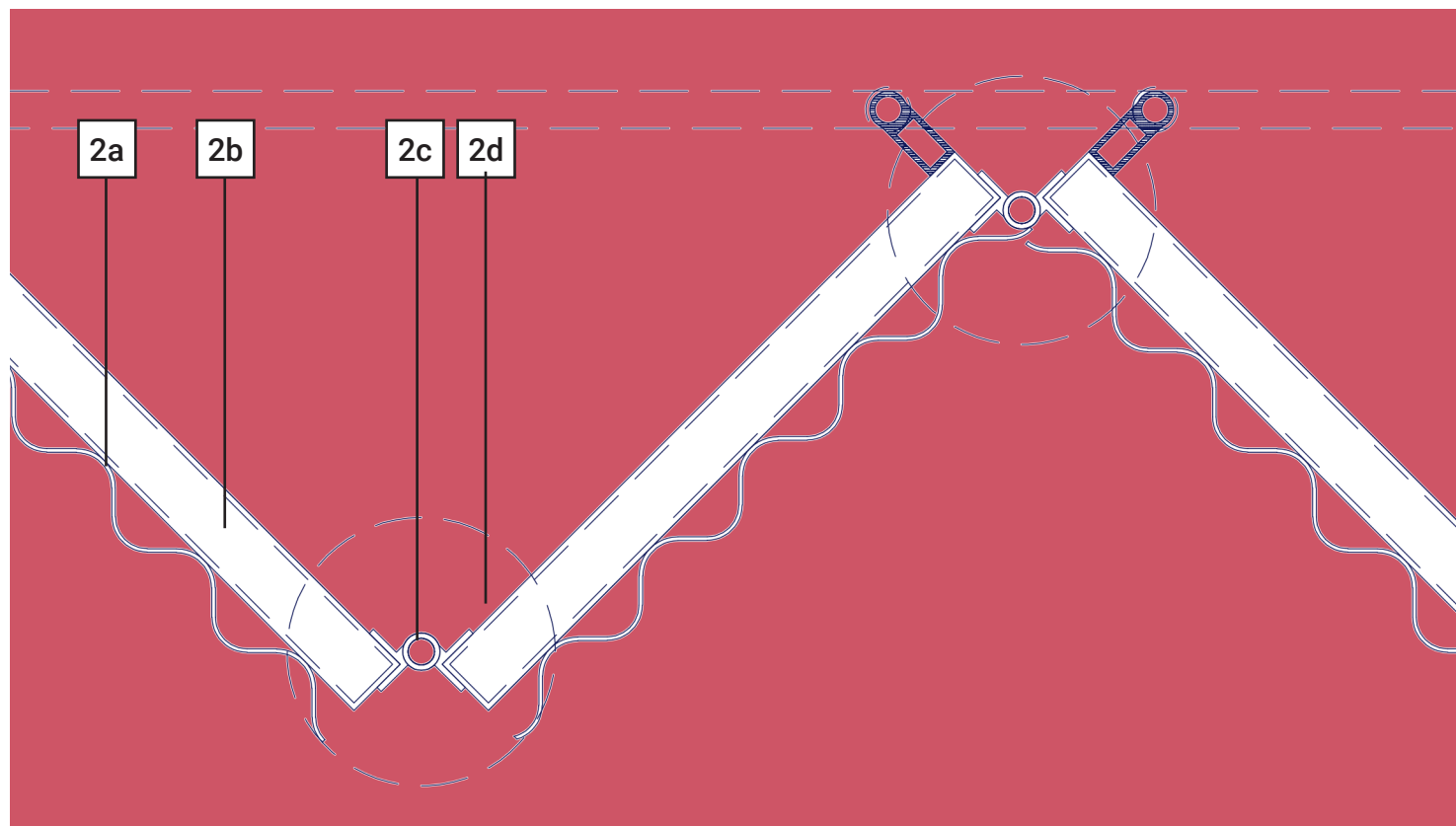
1:20 Plan (Below)

1. Water Harvesting Column

- a. sal wool column members
- b. aluminium facade battens
- c. 5 mm corrugated PVC with
- d. removable clear rubber weather strip between facade panels

2. Facade Door

- a. 5 mm corrugated PVC panels
- b. 50 x 50 mm aluminium battens forming a frame, affixed to
- c. Ø75 mm galvanised steel hinge of door height
- d. Rubber wheels affixed to hinges





Here's a model of the canopy.
Feel free to pop your head inside it!

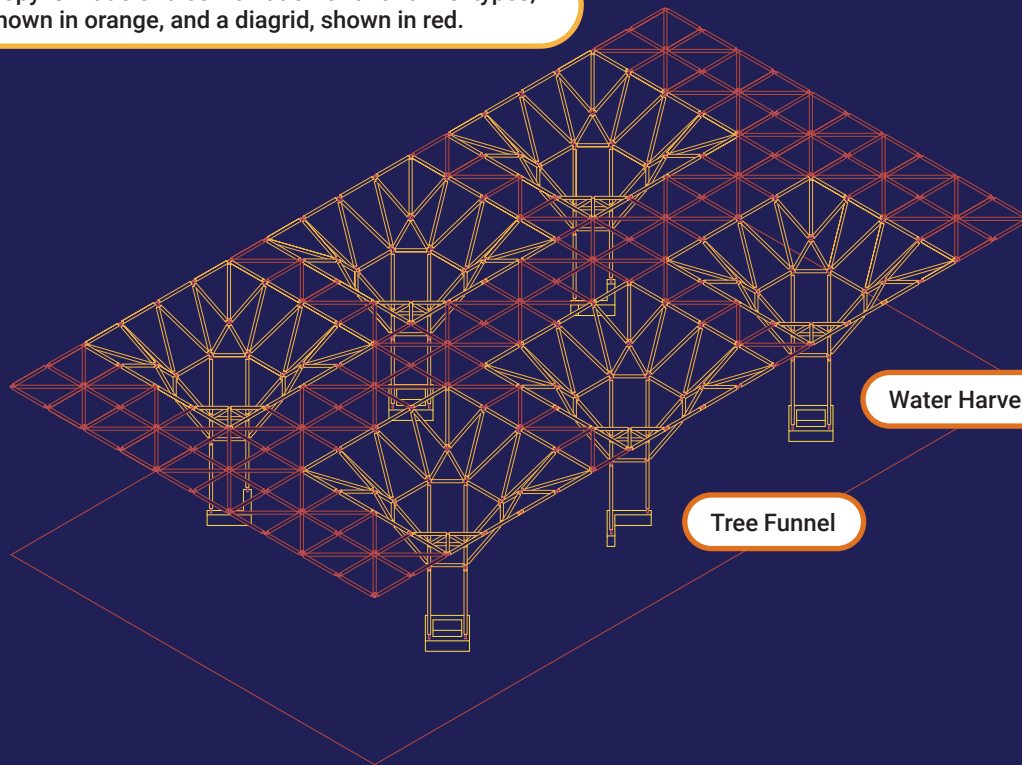
This is cool!

This looks great. But won't
this cost us a fortune?

It looks more complicated
than it really is...

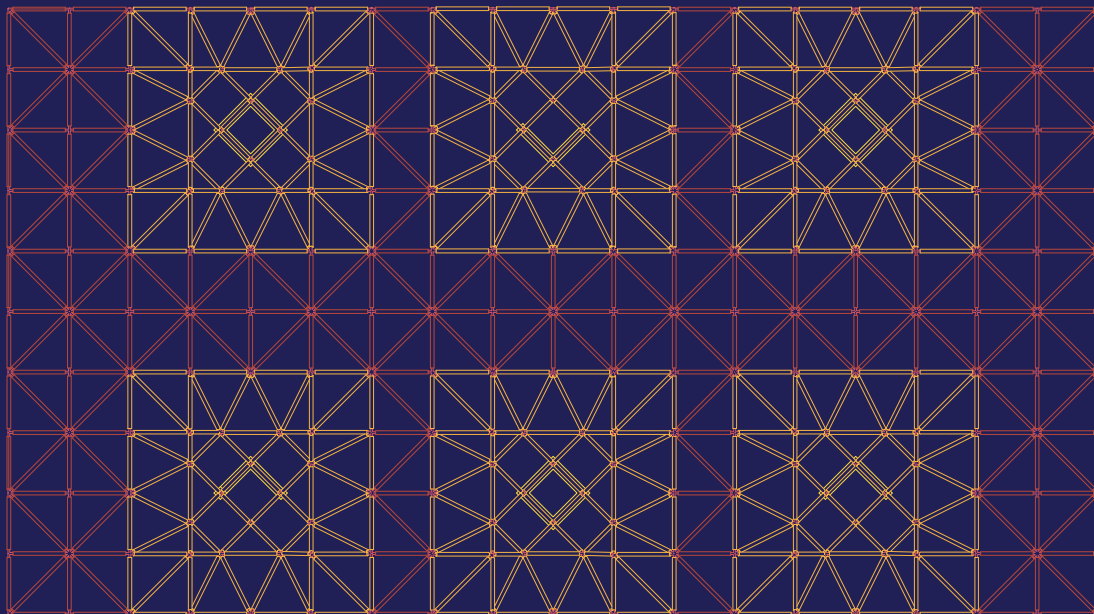


This canopy is made of a combination of two funnel types, shown in orange, and a diagrid, shown in red.



Water Harvesting Funnel

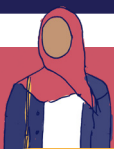
Tree Funnel



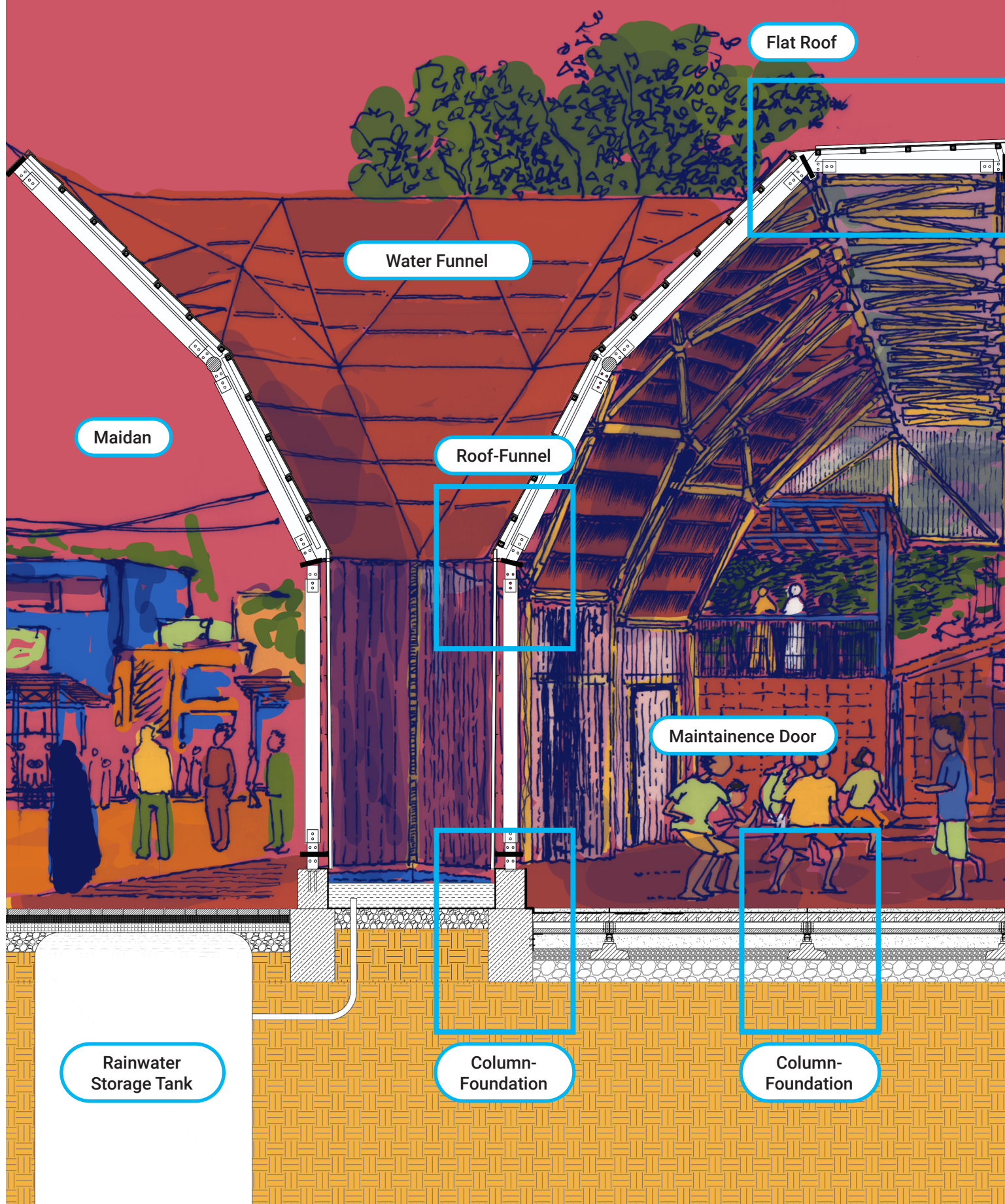
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
mm	2000	2800	3000	2400	3500	2200	1400
#	290	84	120	48	18	48	96

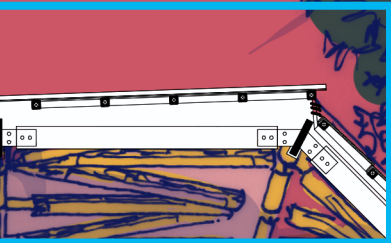
If I look at it from above, it looks a bit like the traditional Kasuti textile patterns of Karnataka. I like it.





By default, I recommend that the hall is used primarily by the Corporation School, but which could be used by other members of the community for other events too. This, of course, would be based on whether the Land Trust grants permission fairly.





Tree Funnel around
existing tree

School

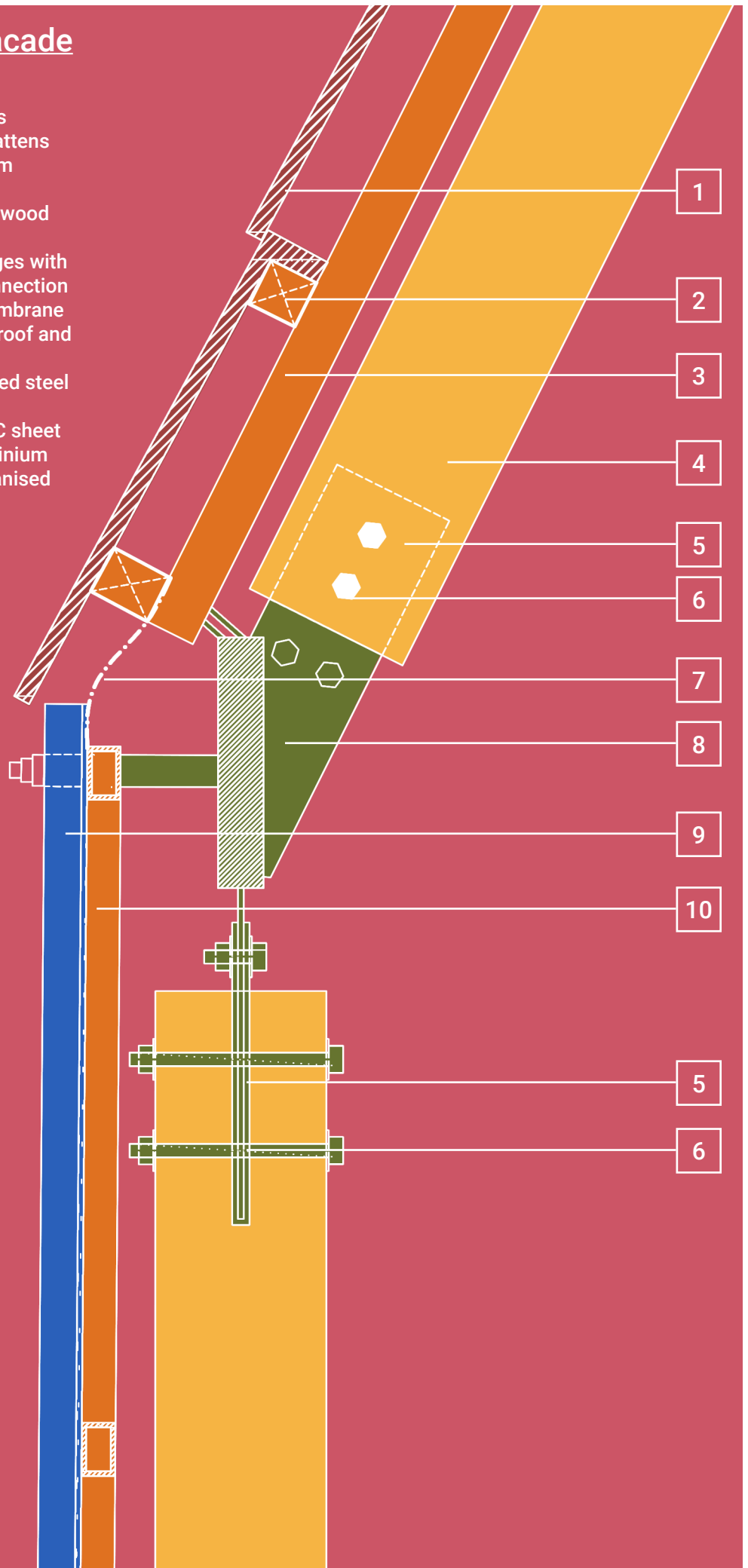
Existing Tree's
Root Growth

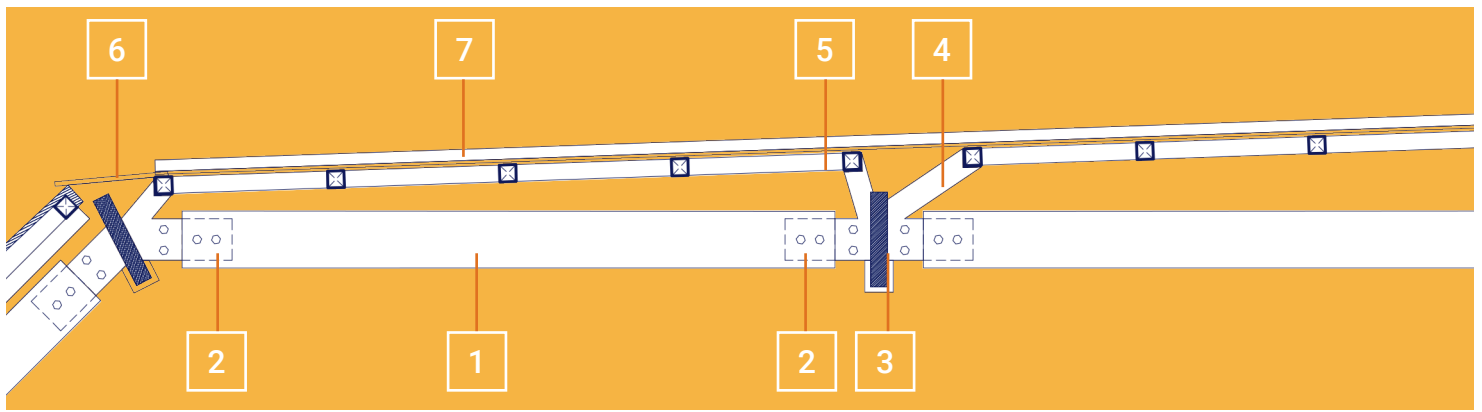


Funnel Roof - Facade

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 steel nut and bolt connection
6. 2 mm waterproof membrane between waterproof roof and facade
7. custom cast galvanised steel node
8. 5 mm corrugated PVC sheet
9. 100 mm square aluminium profile bolted to galvanised steel node
10. 100 mm square aluminium profile bolted to galvanised steel node





Canopy Flat Roof

1:20

1. Ø150 mm (variable depending on member length) sal wood member
2. galvanised steel flanges bolted into sal wood members, attached to
3. galvanised steel node
4. galvanised steel roof bracket
5. aluminium roof frame
6. 2 mm PVC waterproof membrane
7. 5 mm corrugated PVC panels, bolted to aluminium frame

Column-Foundation

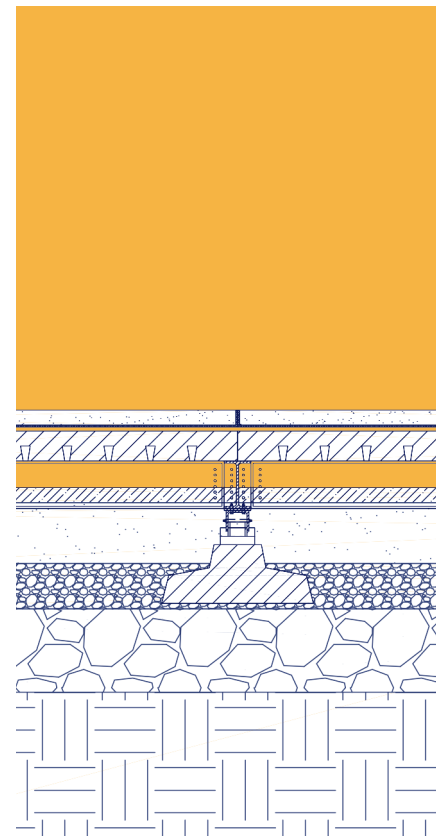
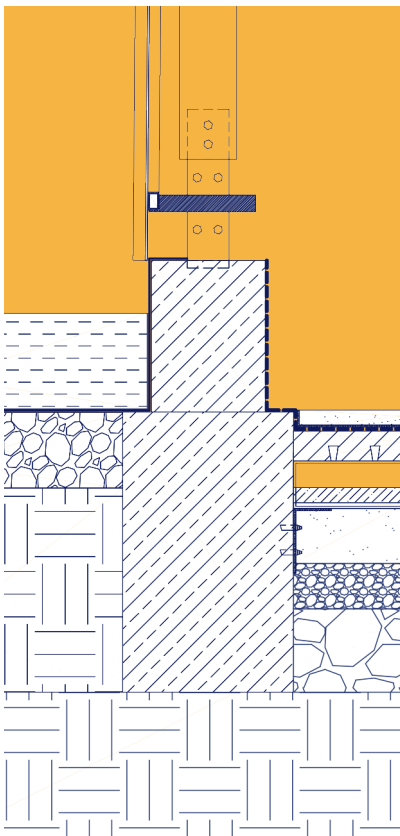
1:20

1. Ø180 mm (variable depending on member length) sal wood member
2. galvanised steel flanges bolted into sal wood members, attached to
3. galvanised steel node
4. galvanised steel roof bracket
5. aluminium profile roof battens
6. 2 mm waterproof membrane
7. 250 x 15 mm marine-grade plywood
8. 2 mm copper sheet with seams

Hall Floor

1:20

1. Ø180 mm (variable depending on member length) sal wood member
2. galvanised steel flanges bolted into sal wood members, attached to
3. galvanised steel node
4. galvanised steel roof bracket
5. aluminium profile roof battens
6. 2 mm waterproof membrane
7. 250 x 15 mm marine-grade plywood
8. 2 mm copper sheet with seams



Water Funnel

1:20

1. Funnel Siding

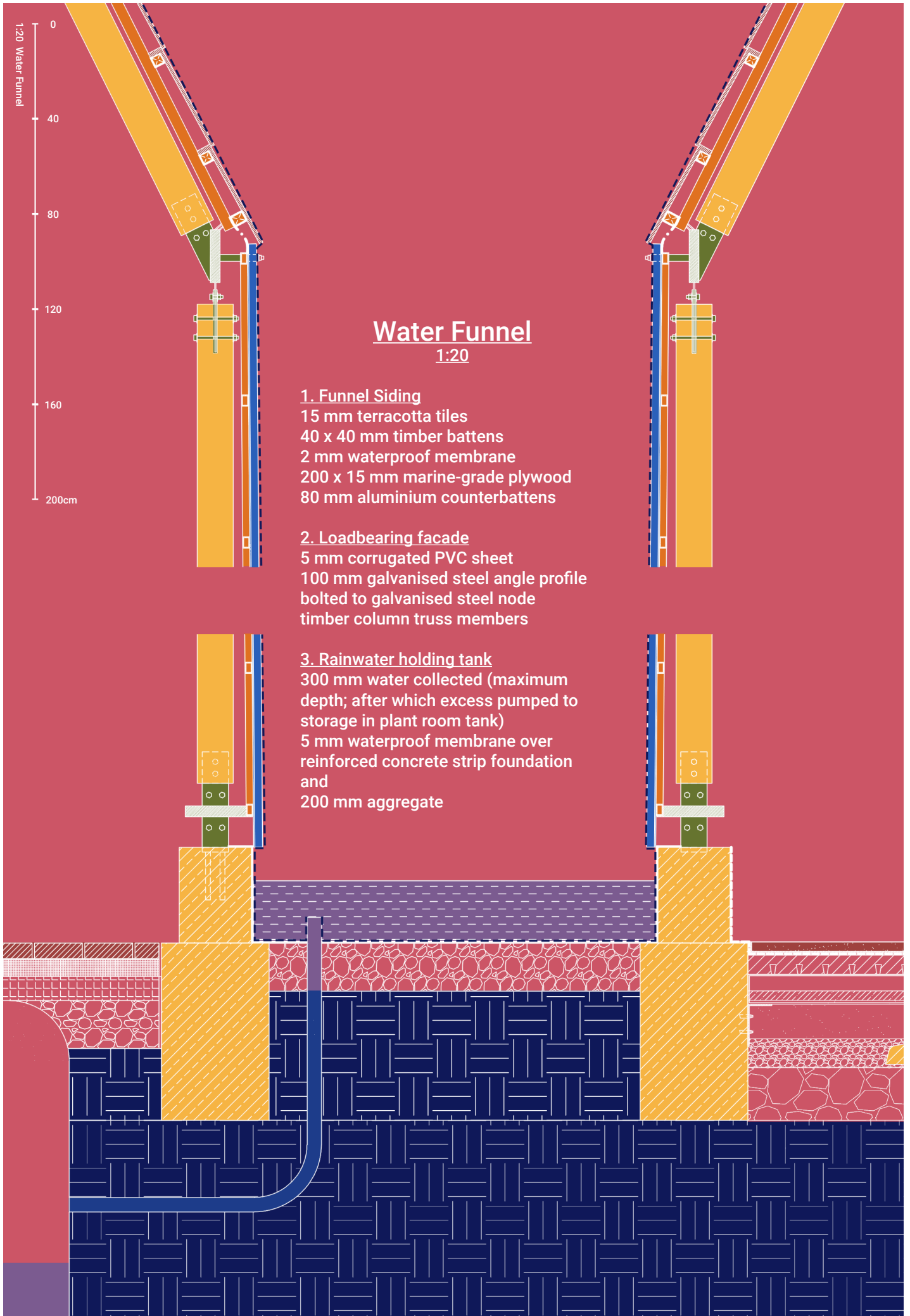
15 mm terracotta tiles
40 x 40 mm timber battens
2 mm waterproof membrane
200 x 15 mm marine-grade plywood
80 mm aluminium counterbattens

2. Loadbearing facade

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

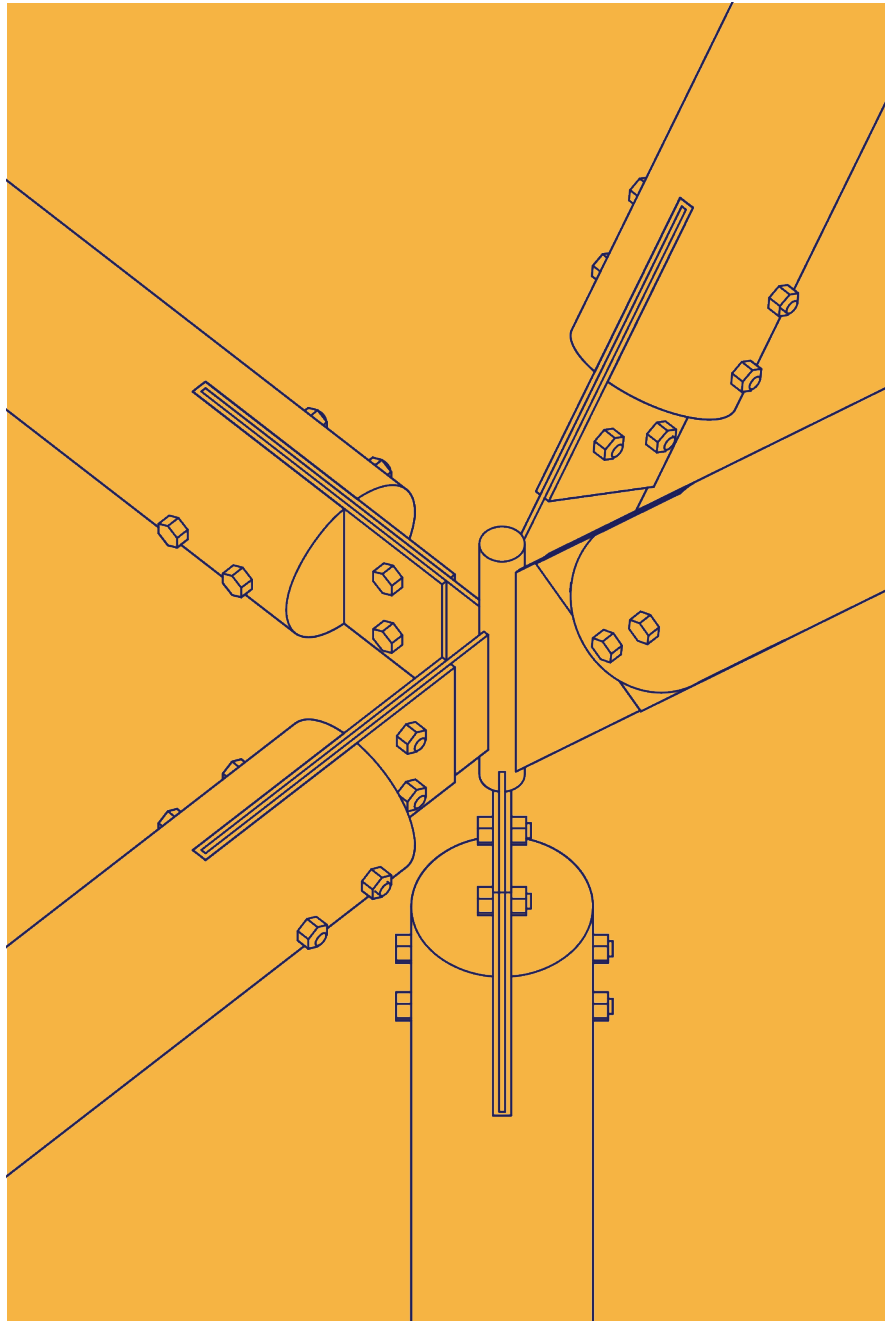
3. Rainwater holding tank

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



Column-Roof Node

Type A





Woah Satish, check this. We could have such a cool place to play at school.

I know! Doesn't matter if its raining. Doesn't matter if the cars are coming. Doesn't matter if our parents are calling for us. We can play here not just at school, but literally anytime.



Ganesh Chaturthi, 2025



Om Gan Ganpataye!!

Om Gan Ganpataye!!

Om Gan Ganpataye!!

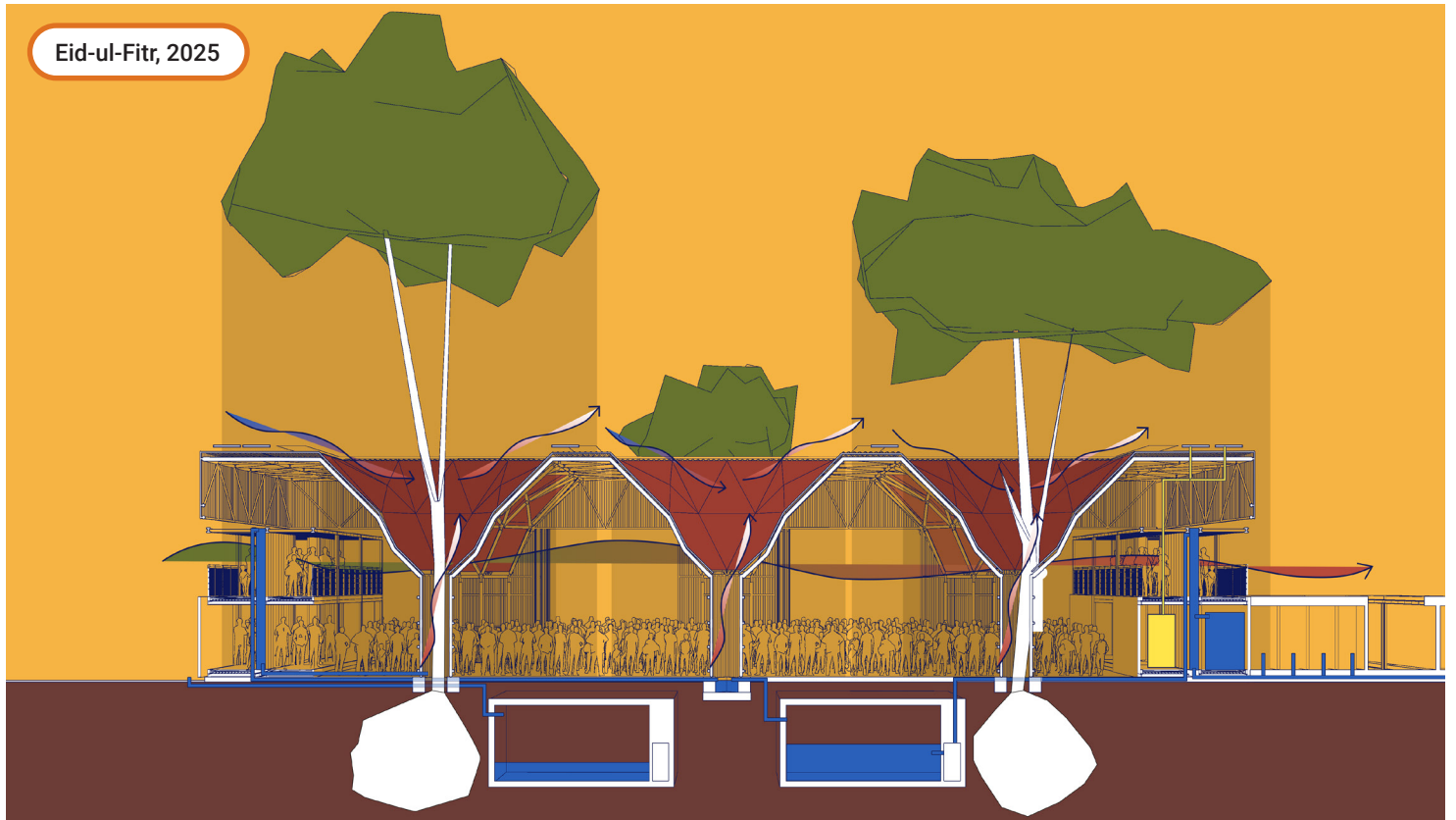
Om Gan Ganpataye!!

Om Gan Ganpataye!!

Om Gan Ganpataye!!

Om Gan Ganpataye!!

Eid-ul-Fitr, 2025



Ganesh Chaturthi, 2025



The canopy regulates indoor climate in Bengaluru's climate.

In the hot summers, it provides shade and prevents glare.

In the monsoon season, it collects rainwater for use in showers and toilets; and to irrigate trees.



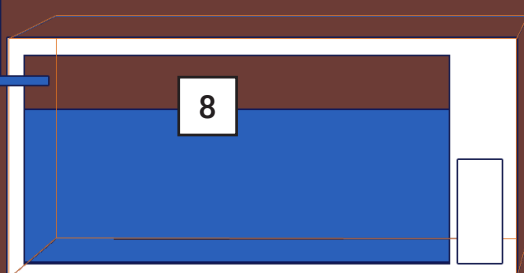
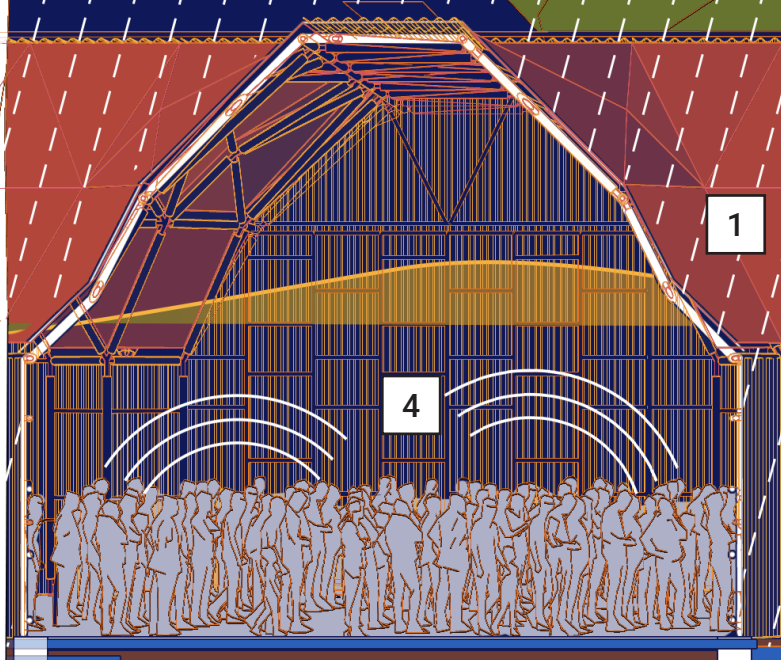
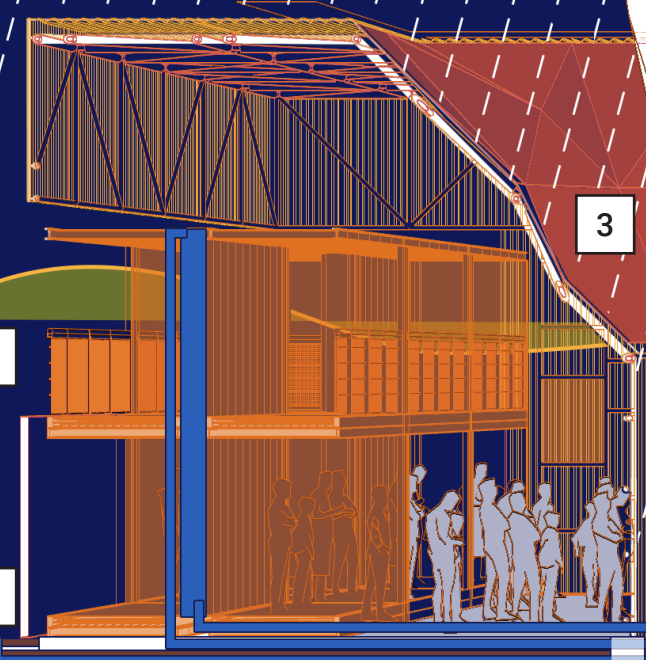


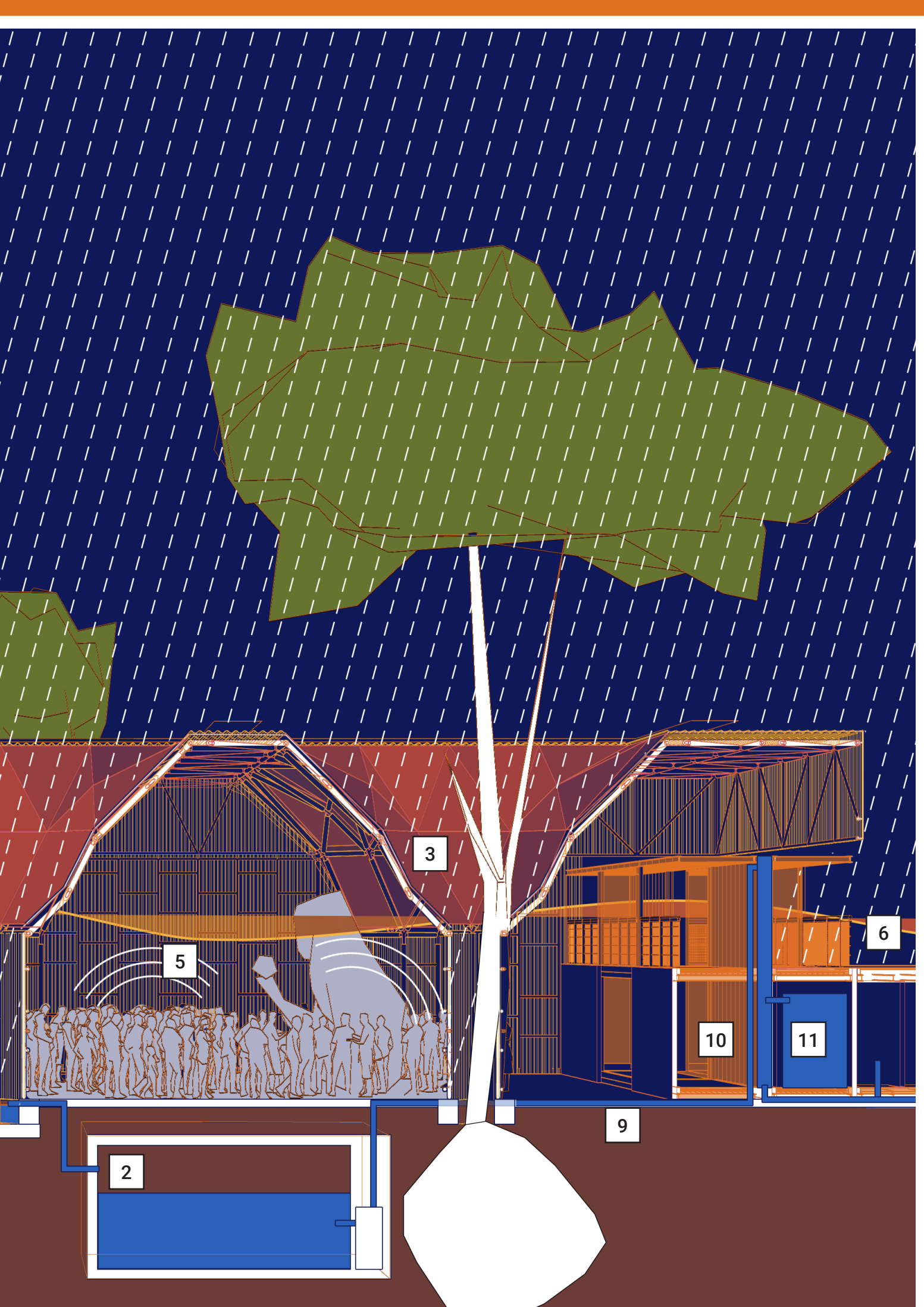


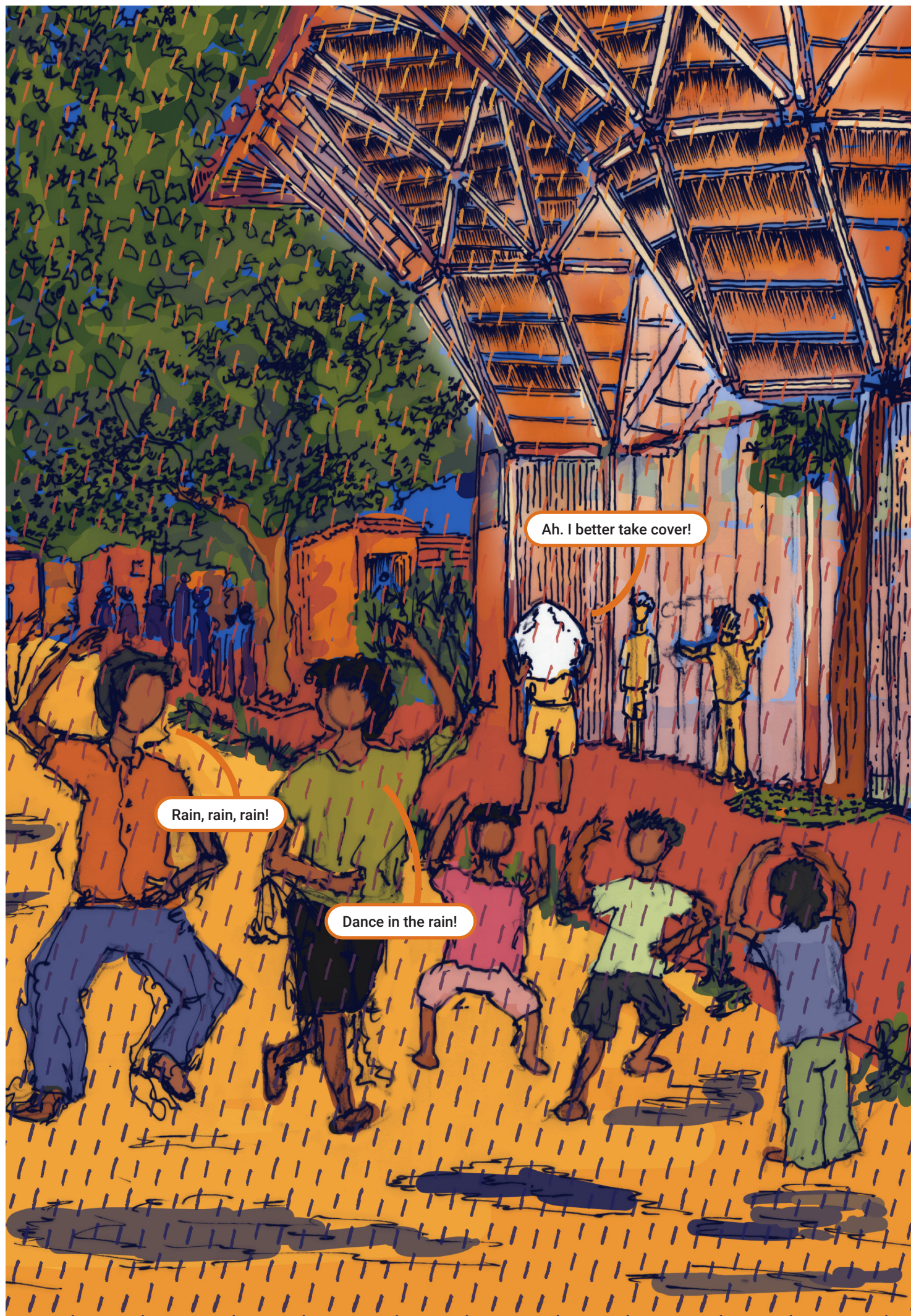
4PM, Ganesh Chaturthi

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



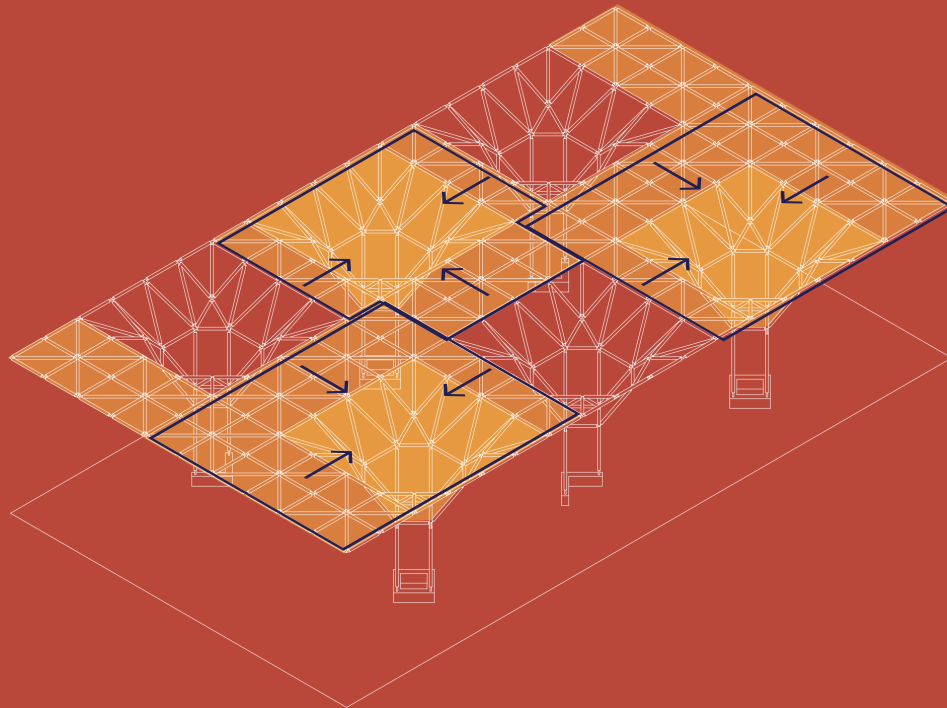




Rain, rain, rain!

Dance in the rain!

Ah. I better take cover!



The canopy is designed so that most of the rainwater harvested goes into the water funnels, preventing the trees from getting flooded.

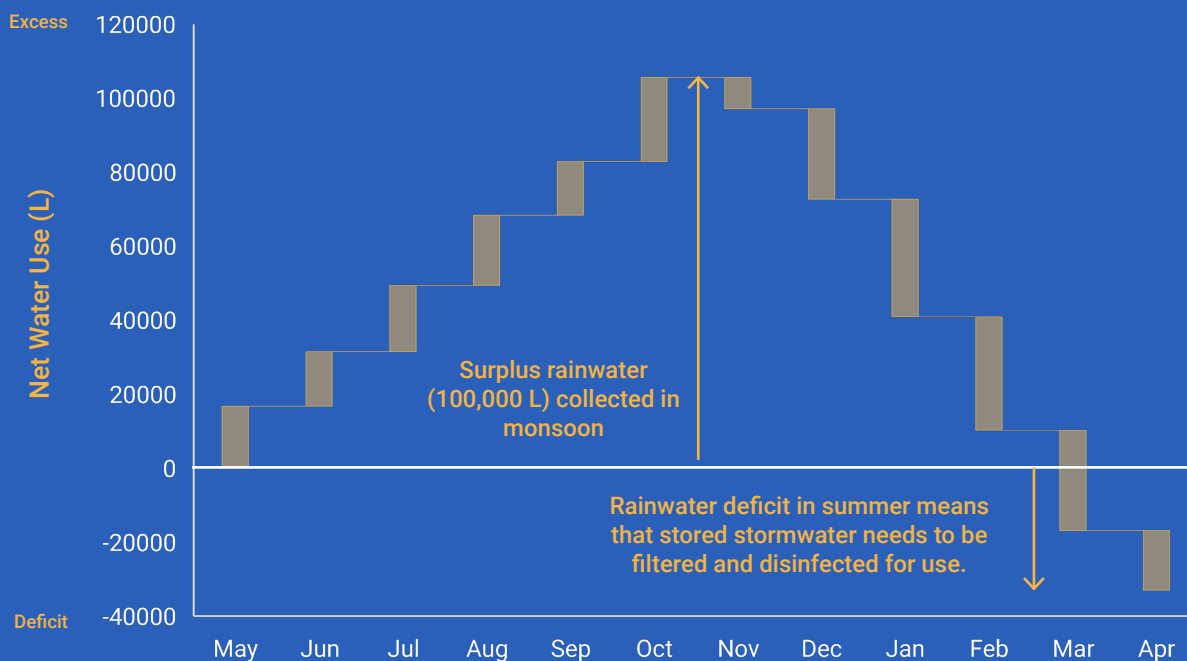
The roof has a rainfall catchment area of about 600m². Annually, this would collect about 400,000L of water.

Of course, most of this is collected in the monsoon. Excess rainwater would be stored underground for use in the summer months in the toilets, showers, and irrigating the trees.

This, of course, does not include stormwater from the pavements surrounding. That can simply be collected, filtered, and used for irrigating the maidan.



Monthly Rainwater Balance





Chamarajpet, 2026

Demolish the wall!

Long live Hindustan!

Beat the traitors with shoes!



This small protest could escalate very very badly.

Yeah. We need to do something to diffuse the tension here.

I have an idea.

What?

Let's put some potted plants here.

Huh?

To diffuse the tension.

Will that really work?

A few weeks later...



Let's get these pots all over the maidan quick.

Ah, the Tulsi plant. Yes, take good care of it. It would be sacrilege for the Hindutva to destroy that.



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.

Raahgiri

Multipurpose Hall

Corporation School

to vocalise the need for more sports space

to stake a claim over road next to their premises

Chamarajpet Maidan Land Trust

to want to improve the land they administer

to specify design requirements

to pool resources

Local Youths

to be guardians of the urban space

to organise social events

to present ideas

Architecture Students

to formalise a design course

Architecture School

to link academia and community

Architecture Professor

to design and build

to guide construction

Local Construction Workers

to offer input based on their own use of the maidan

to signpost to relevant material suppliers

Architect

to provide spatial guidance for Land Trust

to ideate design & construction

to coordinate between stakeholders

to identify opportunities and threats

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

Urban Public Space and Water Management

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



to provide a vision

to mediate between conflicting parties



Chamarajpet Maidan Land Trust

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

State-Level Organisations & Initiatives

to use taxpayer money for urban design improvements & water management

BBMP

to offer grants to Land Trust

Revenue Board

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

TenderSURE

Bengaluru Smart Cities Initiative

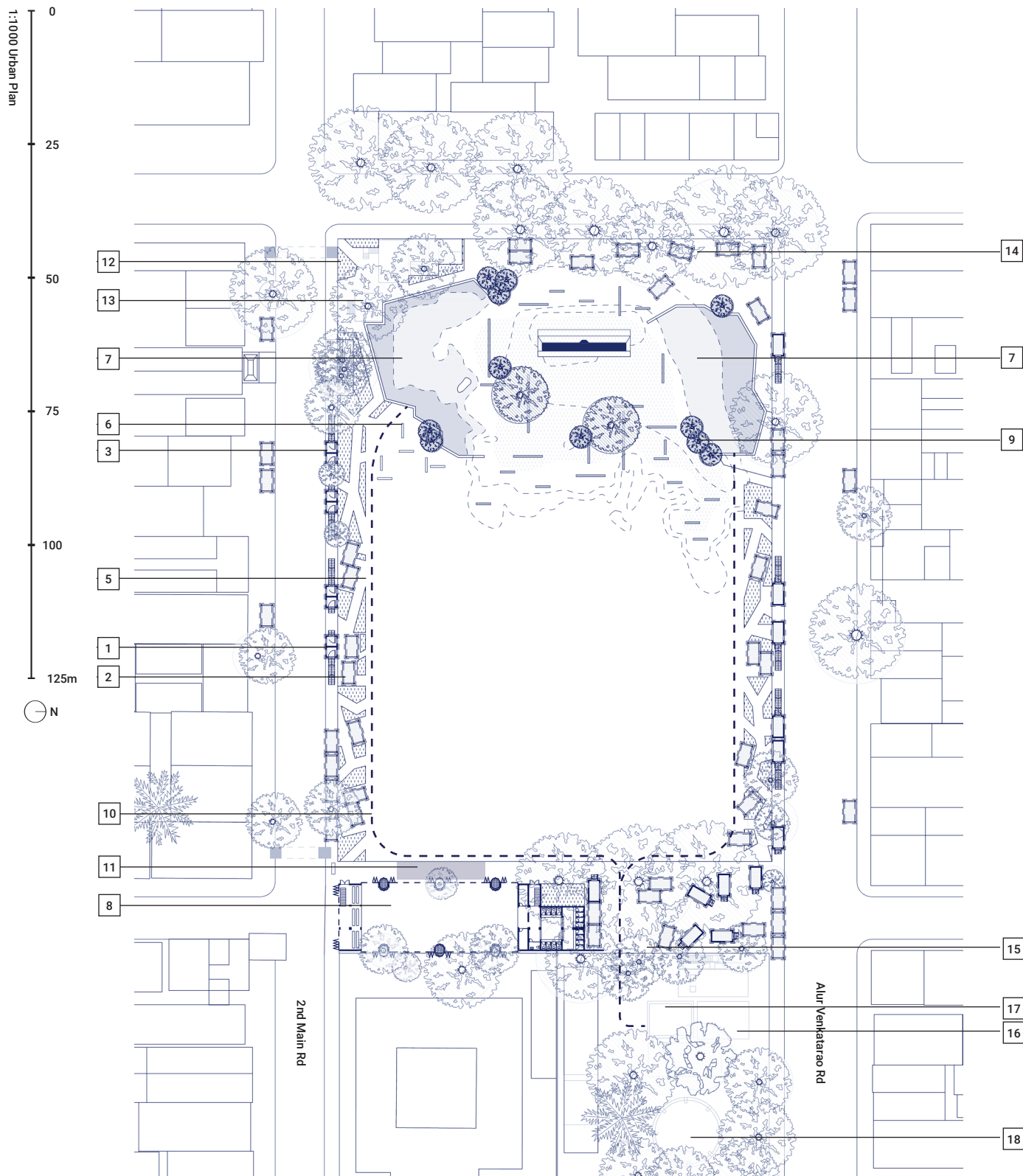
Ford Foundation

World Resources Institute

Water & Sewerage Board (BWSSB)

to connect proposed bioswale to existing water treatment & storage infrastructure

to offer expertise on water management



Urban Proposal

1:1000

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

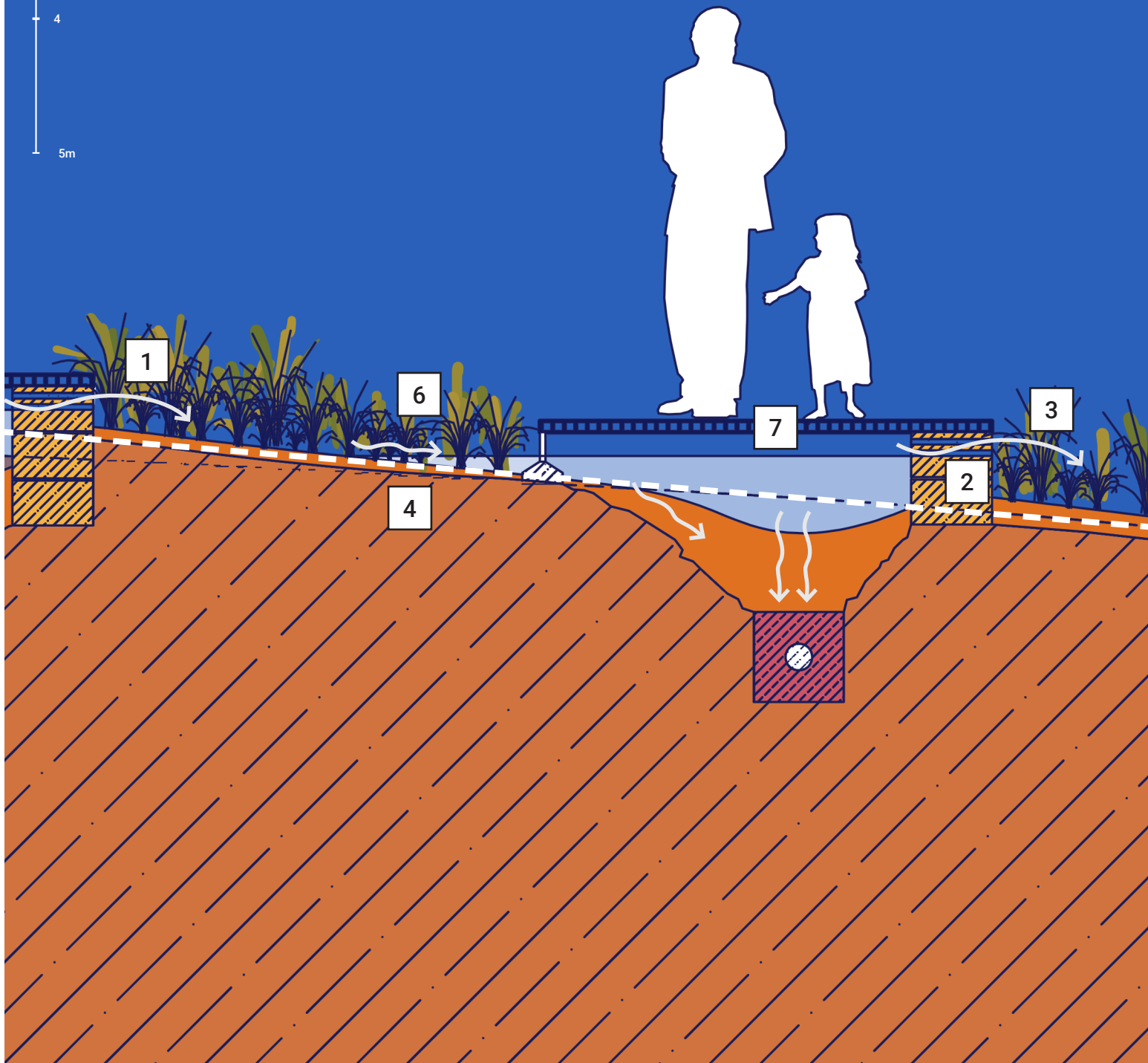
15. Sewerage board office perimeter wall removed; small square created
16. Small-scale water filtration and disinfection facility
17. Water pumping station
18. Water storage tower

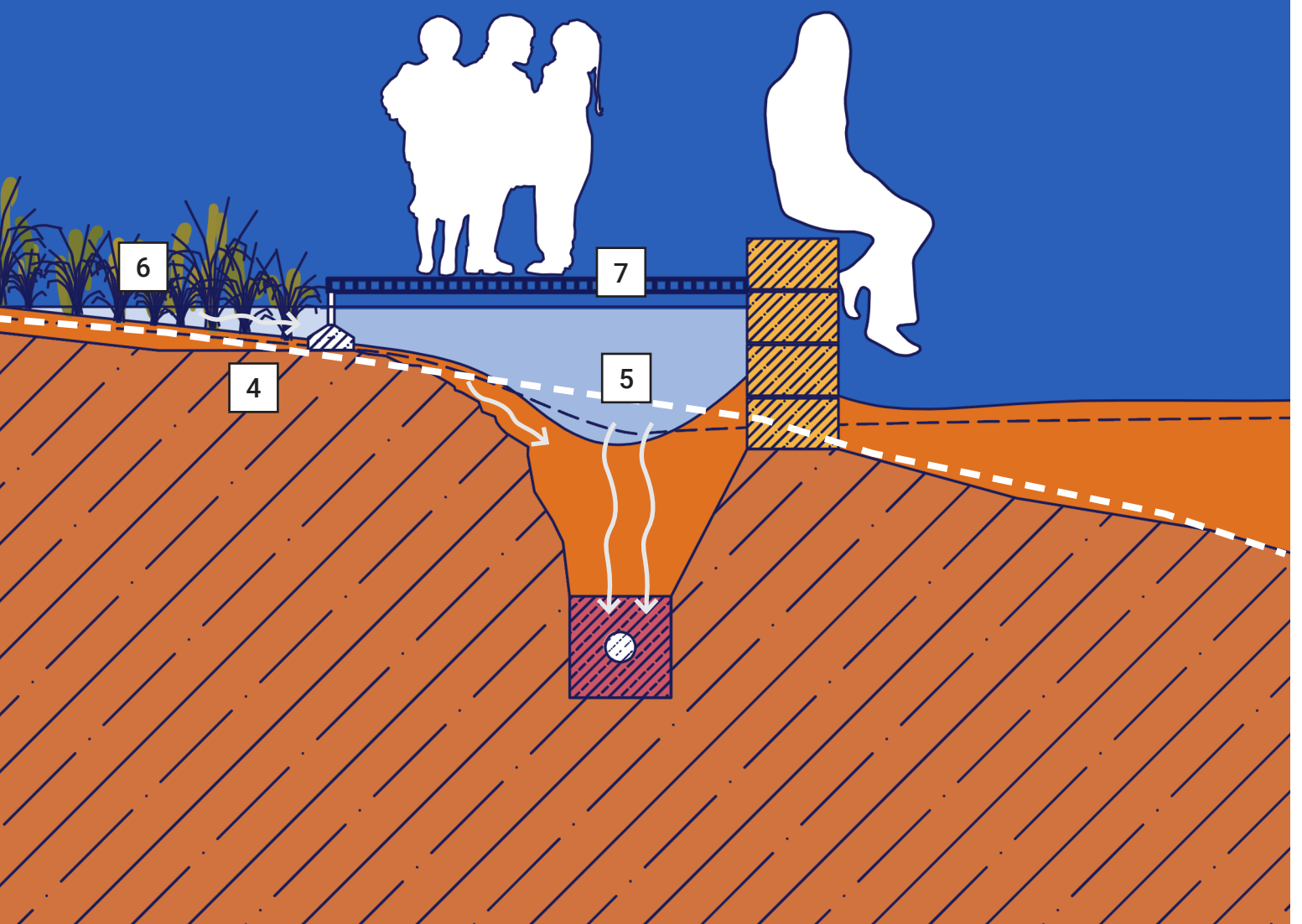


Stepped Bioswale

1:25

1. Stormwater runoff follows ground gradient
2. Earthen walls made from maiden'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



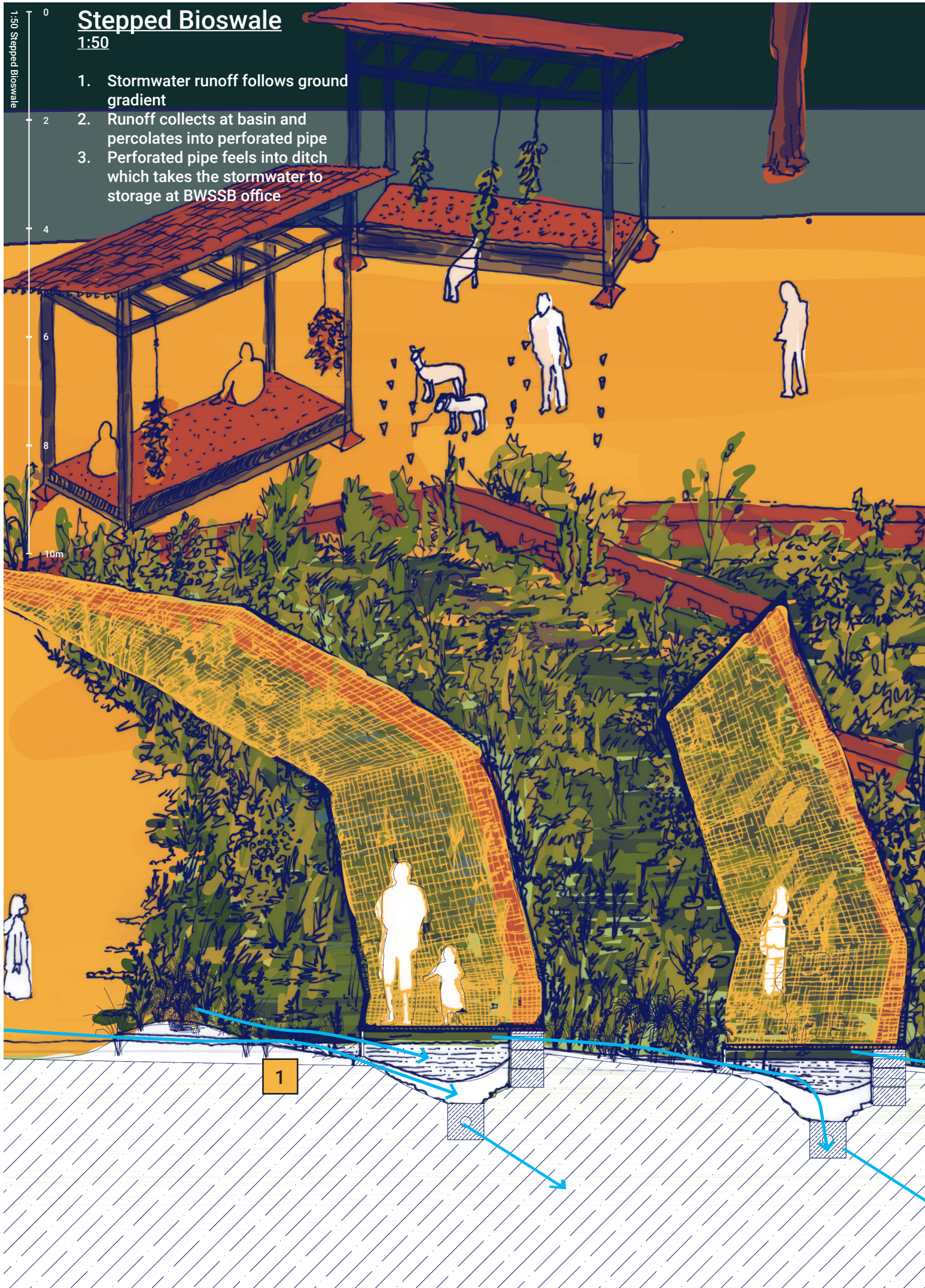


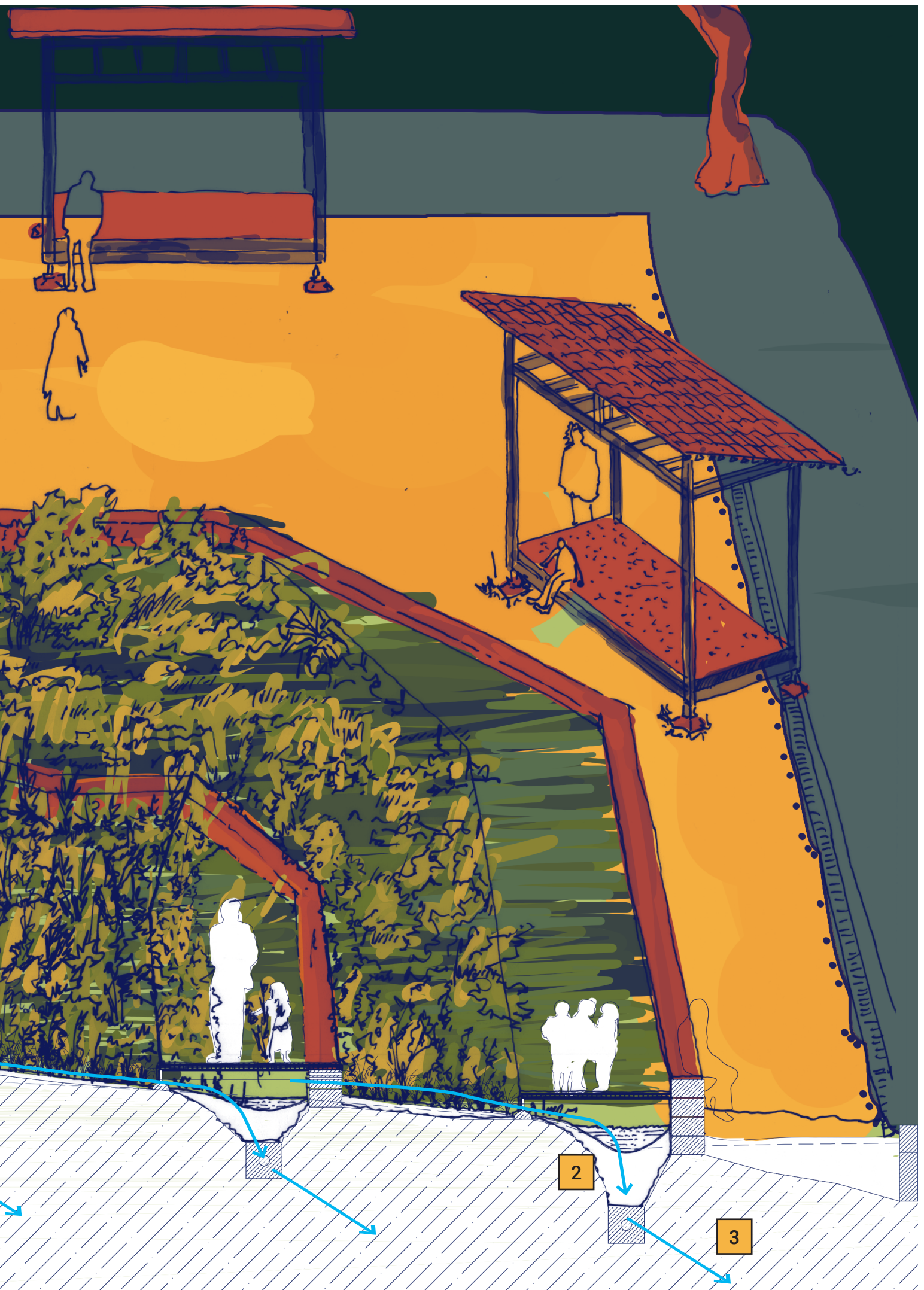
1:50 Stepped Bioswale

Stepped Bioswale

1:50

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









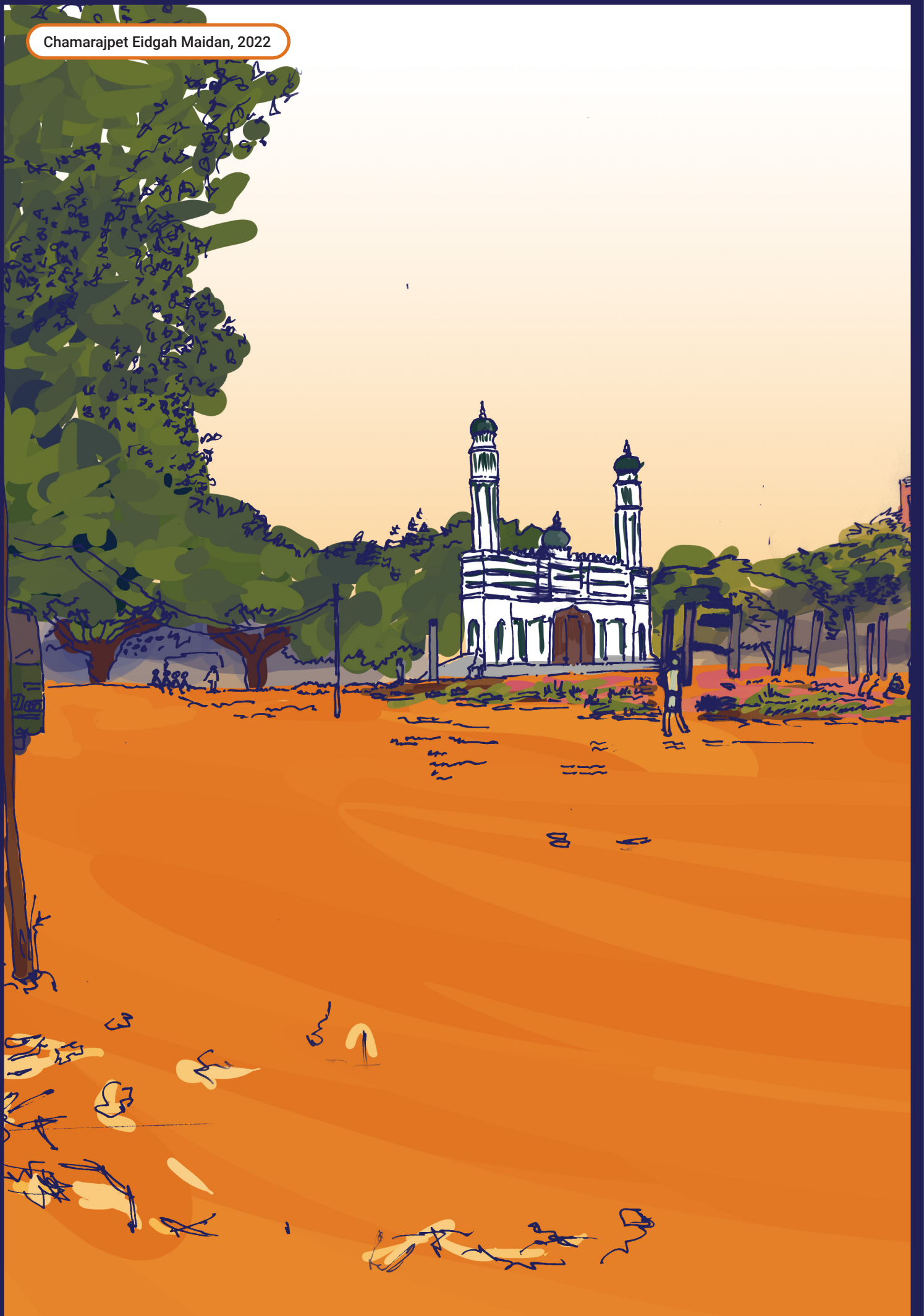
We're not building anything in the middle?

Nope.

That's great for our cricket. But for how long can it remain empty?

Until the next person along decides to buy this Land Trust out. Which I trust you won't let happen, right?

The goats finally have a place! No more scrambling under tarp when it rains.



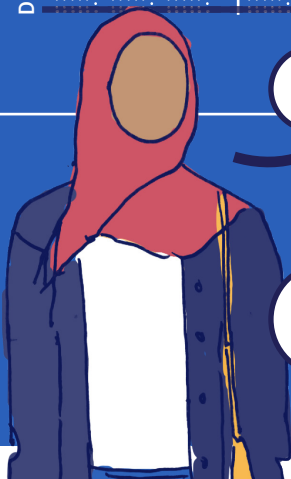
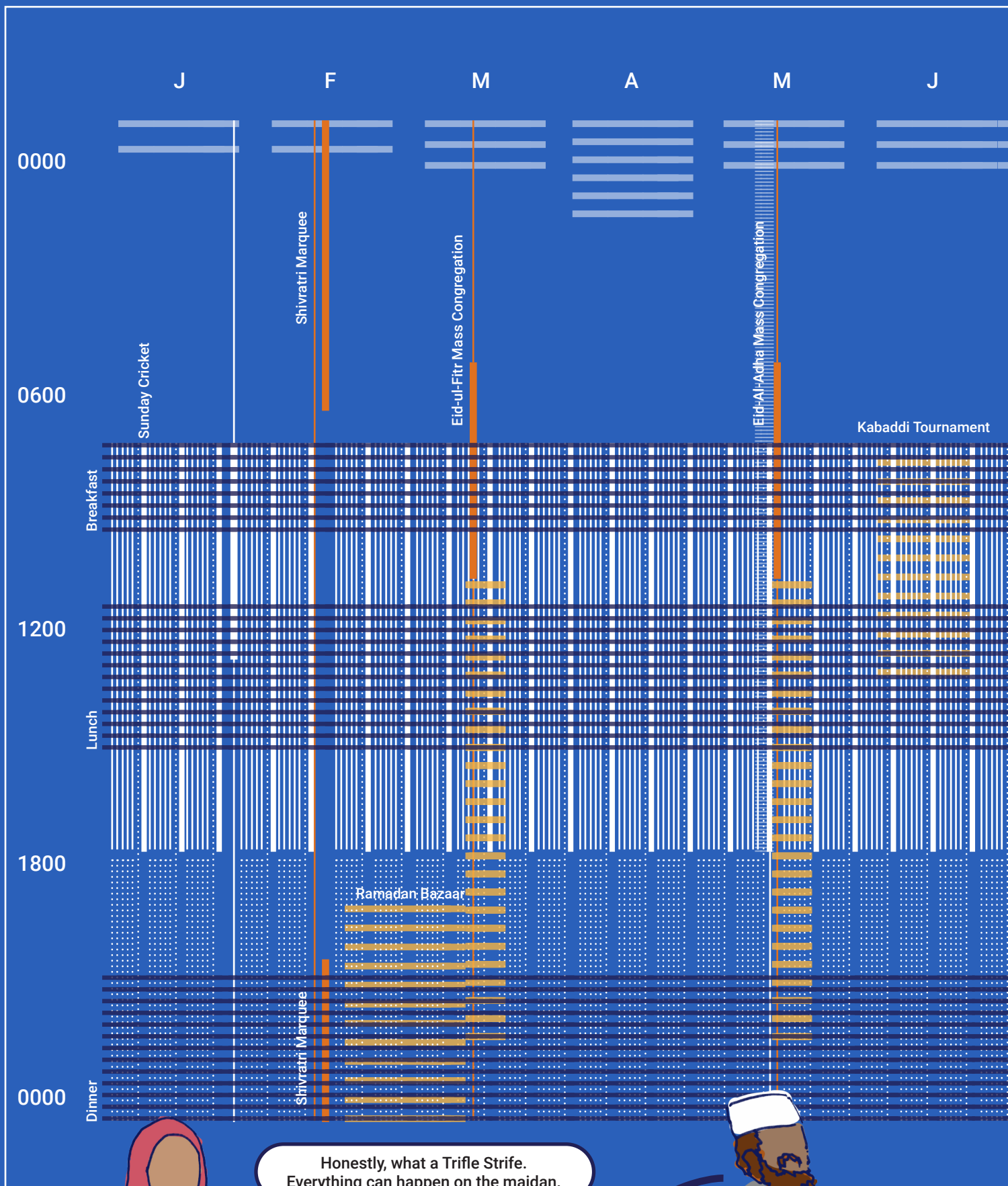












Honestly, what a Trifle Strife.
Everything can happen on the maidan.

But, Eid ground is sacred ground...
and 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.



J A S O N D

Late-Night Hangouts

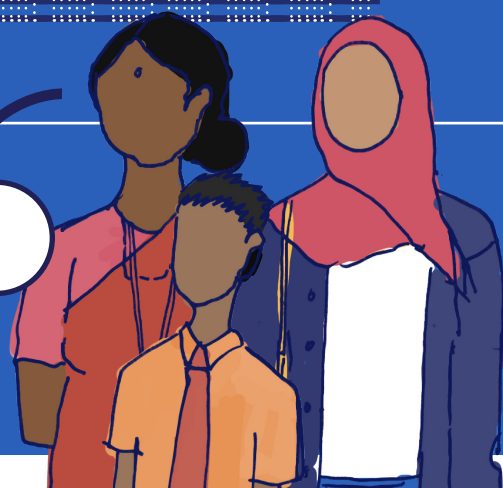
Ganesh Chaturthi Marquee

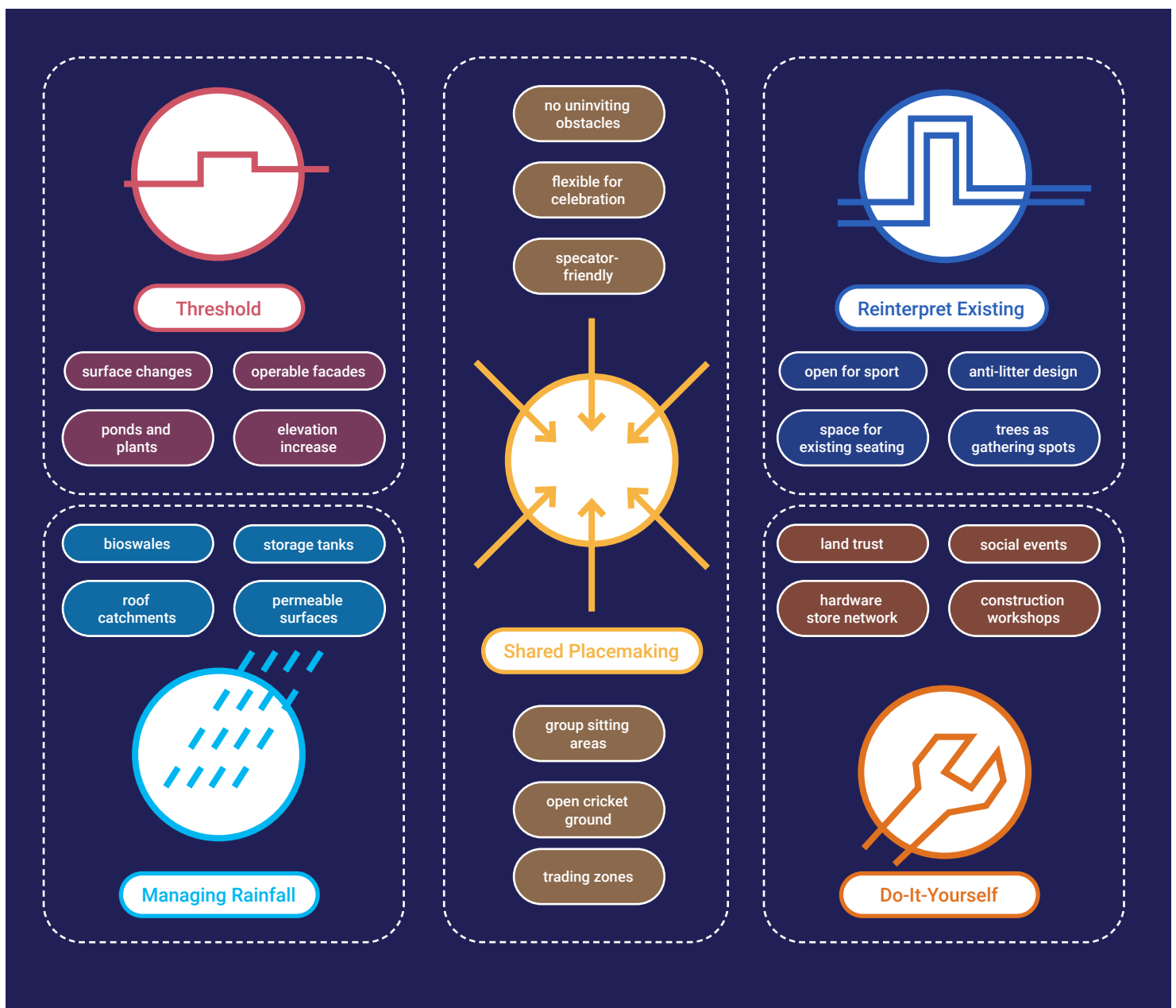
Kho-Kho Tournament

Cricket Tournament

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.



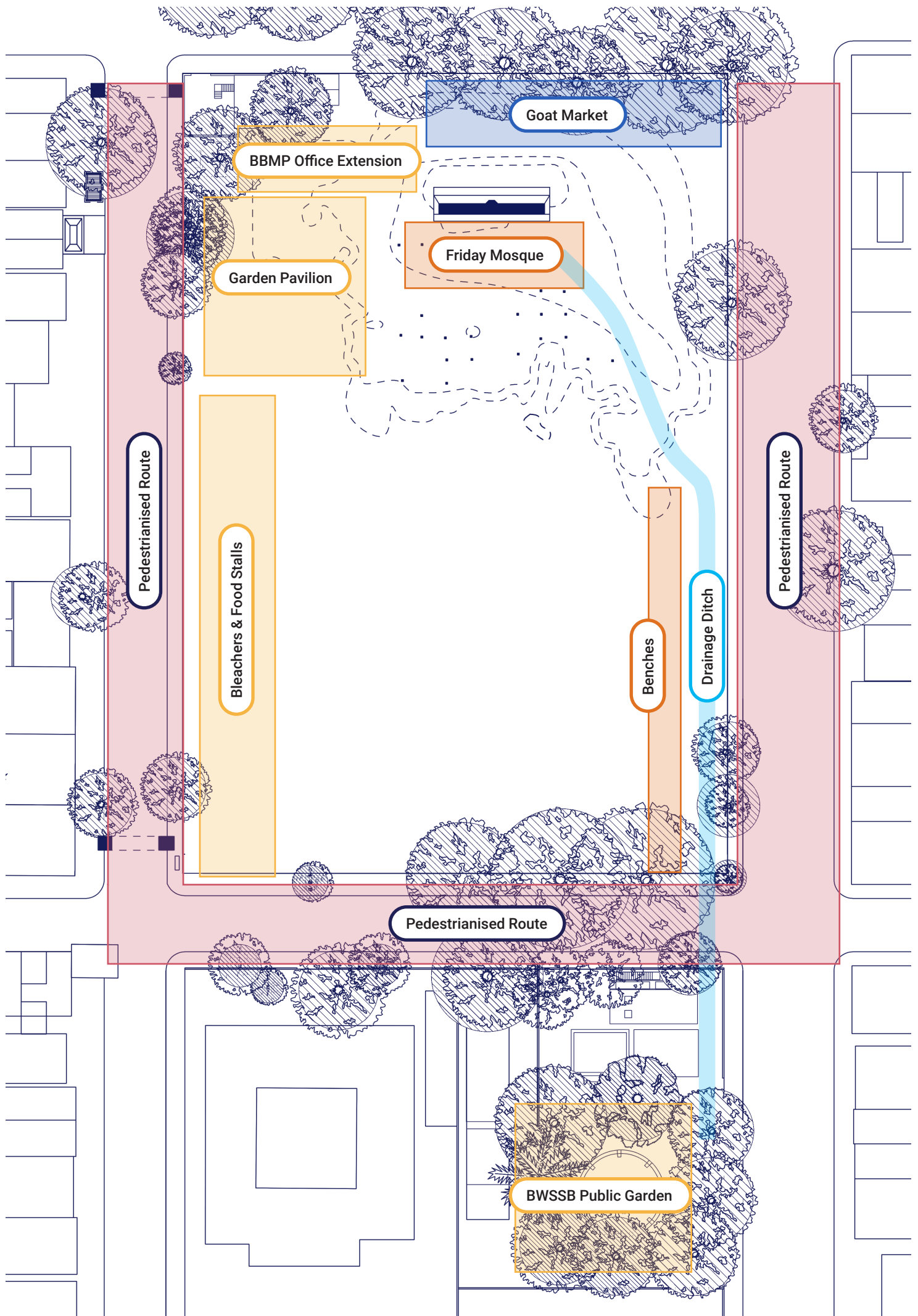


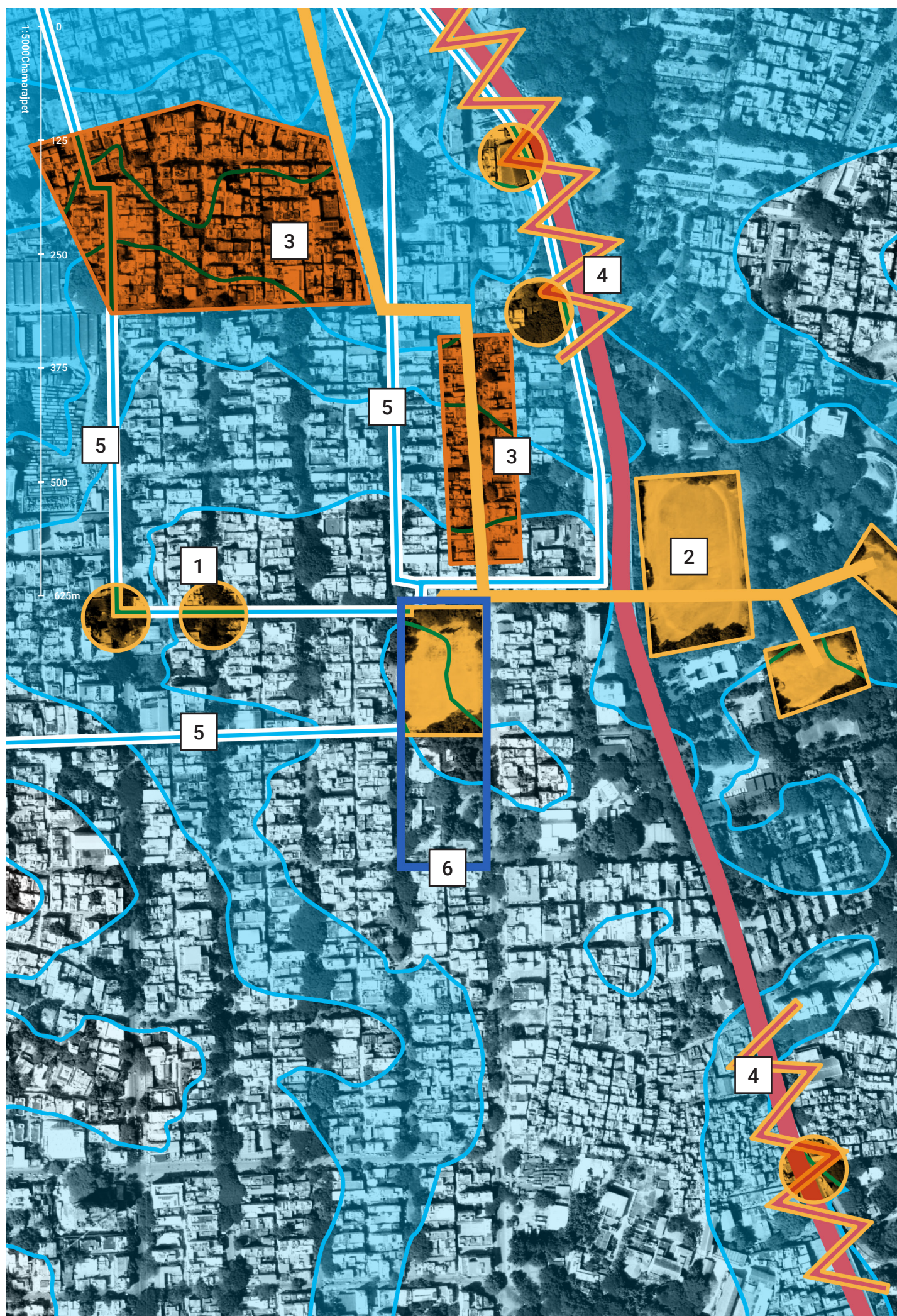
If we treat the design proposals for the maidan as not just spatial designs, but as spatial *strategies*, then we might consider what alternative design outcomes.

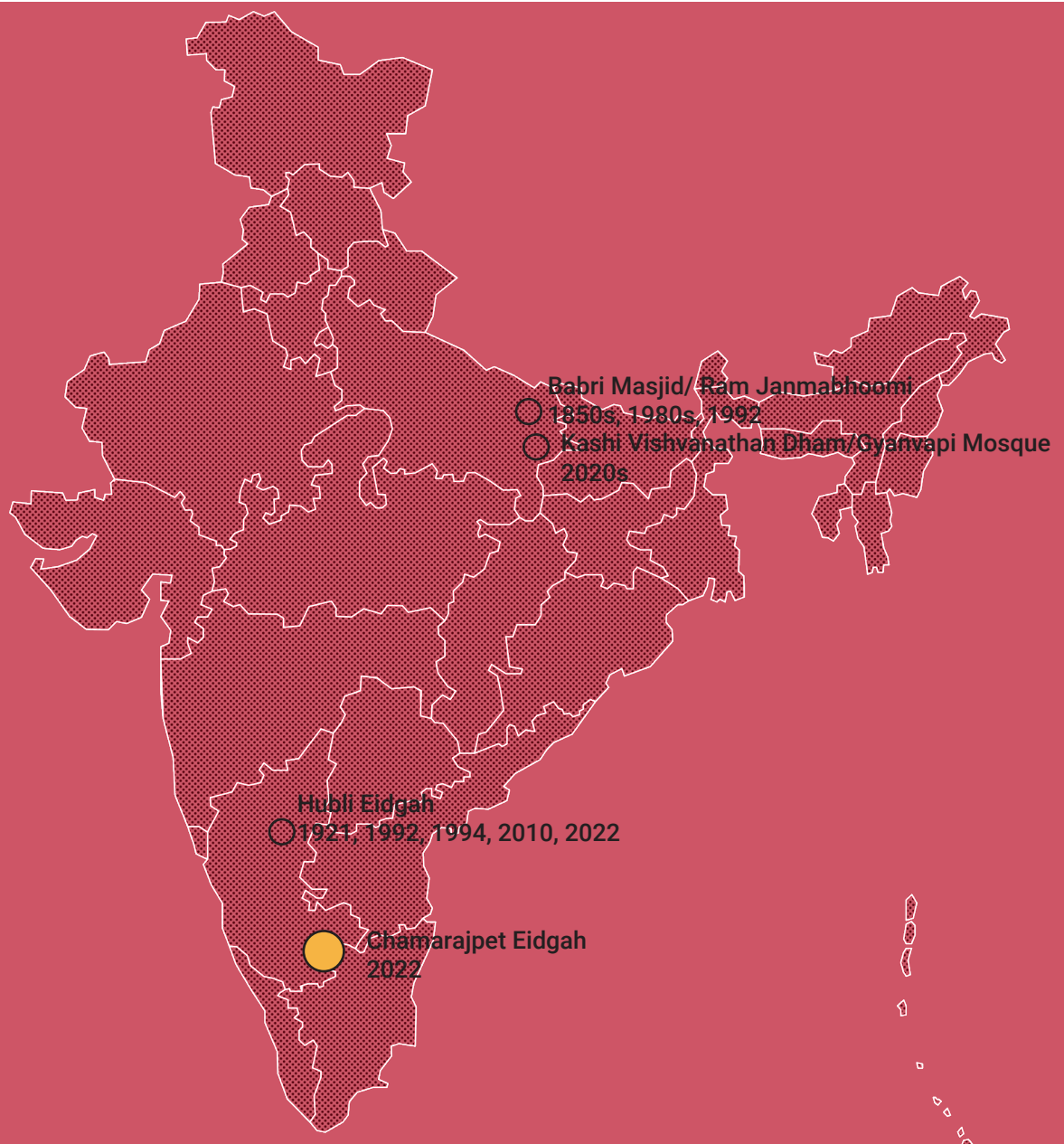
For instance, if we had cooperated with the Waqf Board and the BBMP from the outset, then perhaps the shared placemaking strategy would have entailed the making of more robust pavilions near the Eidgah Wall and the BBMP office.

But perhaps that would never have led to the kind of grassroots Land Trust movement we just saw.

That said, the toolkit has different meanings for different actors and different contexts. The idea would be that the strategies are springboards for discussion.







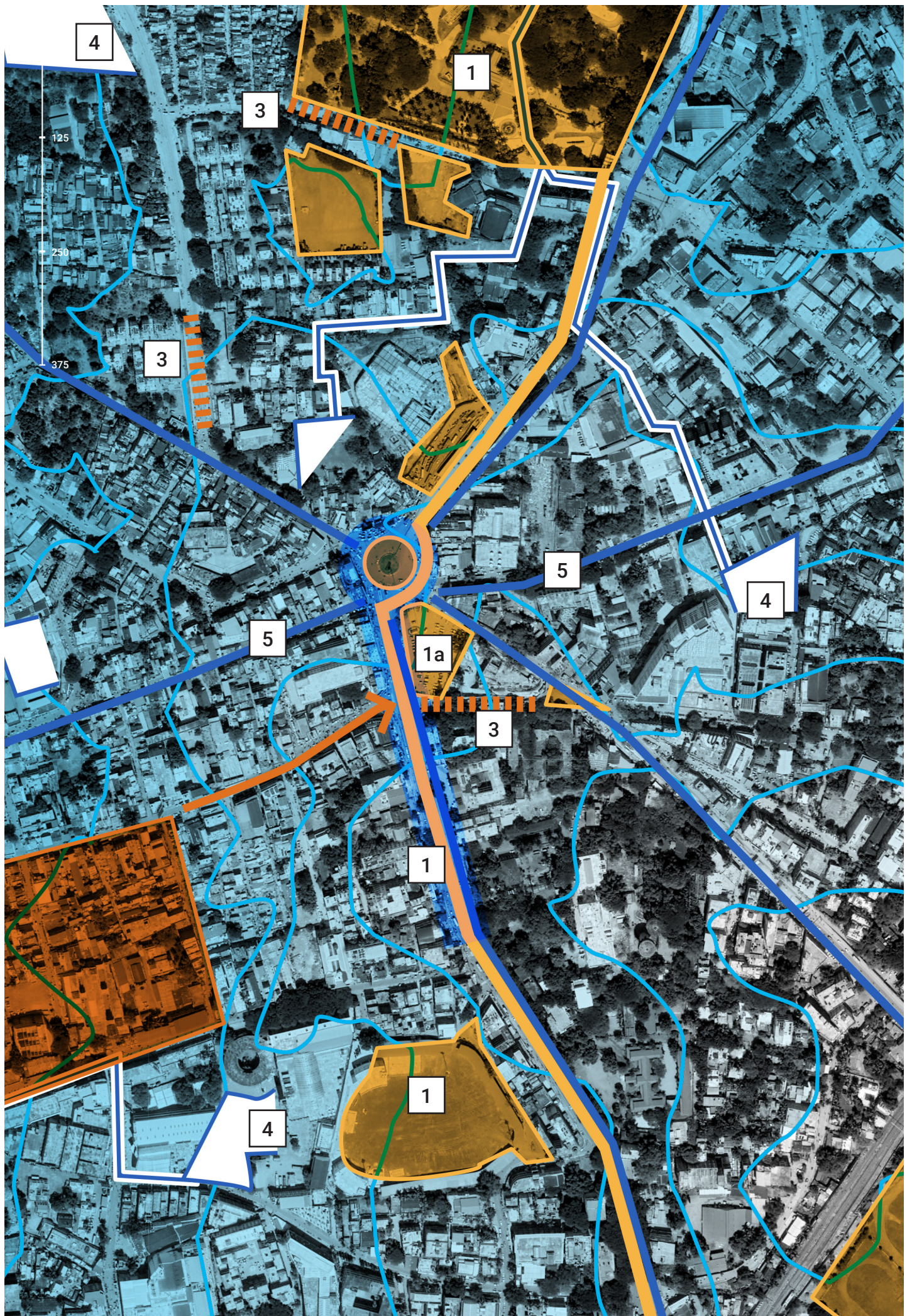
Scaling up the design strategies for Chamarajpet, it is possible to consider an integrated maidan and rainwater management so that various maidans in the neighbourhood can be used as a network of public amenities.

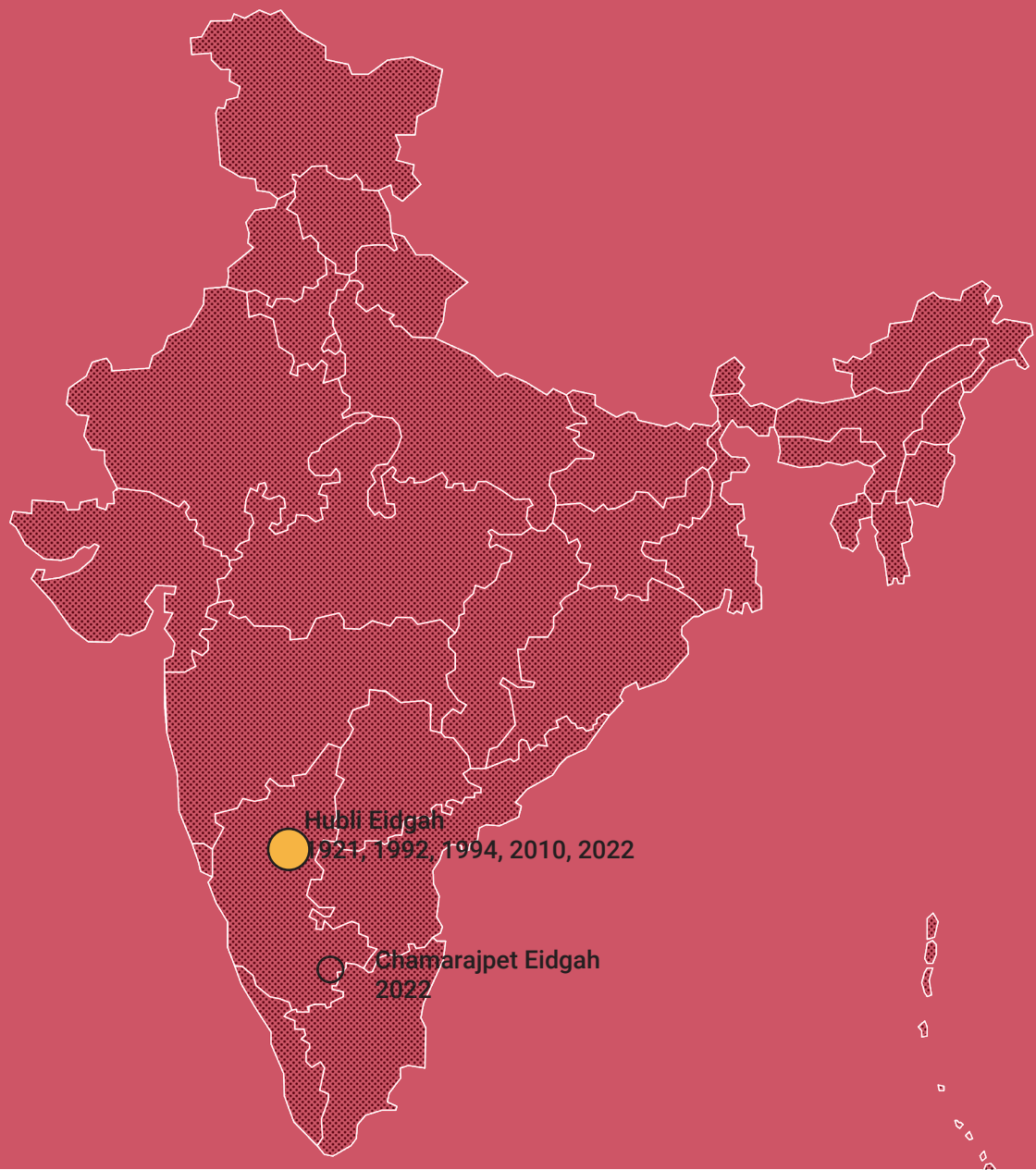


Urban Strategies for Chamarajpet

1:5000

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.





We can also turn our attention towards other contested sites across the country.

The toolkit could, for example, be applied to Hubli Eidgah.



Urban Strategies for Hubli Eidgah

1:5000

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.



...or even the Ram Temple
in Ayodhya, built on the site of the
demolished Babri Mosque.



But maybe we should start with
one small place at a time.



Yeah. Let's all play cricket...



...and have good times together.

