

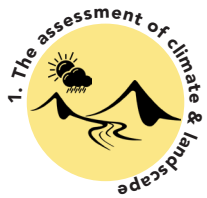
Context Assessment Guide

संदर्भ मूल्यांकन मार्गदर्शिका

Manual to better understand your Surrounding
&
apply Contemporary Vernacular Architecture

CVA Assessment & Implementation Guide

I want to build a in

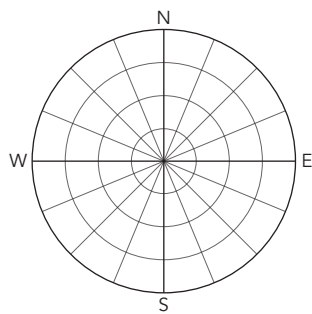


☐ 1. Look at your local climate and landscape characteristics

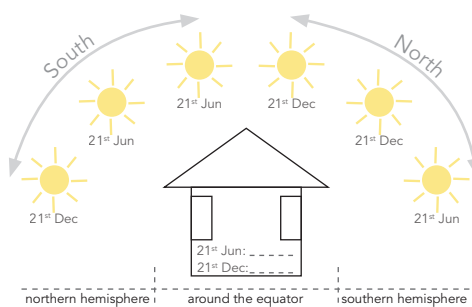
Other points can be added according to the climate and landscape conditions

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dez
temp. max [°C]												
avg. temp. max [°C]												
avg. temp. [°C]												
avg. temp. min [°C]												
temp. min [°C]												
avg. rainy days [/]												
avg. rainfall [mm]												
avg. humidity [%]												
avg. daily sunshine [h]												
avg. wind speed [m/s]												
max. wind speed [m/s]												
min. wind speed [m/s]												
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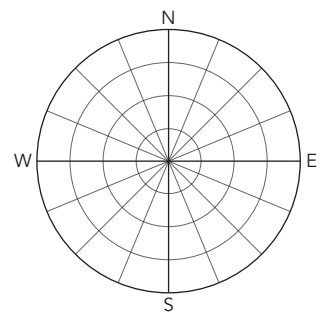
Sunpath diagramme



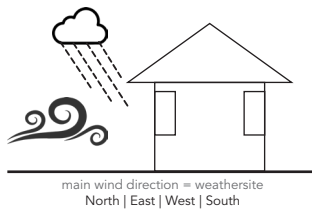
Solar angle



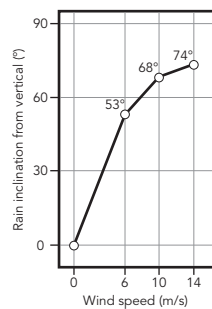
Wind directions



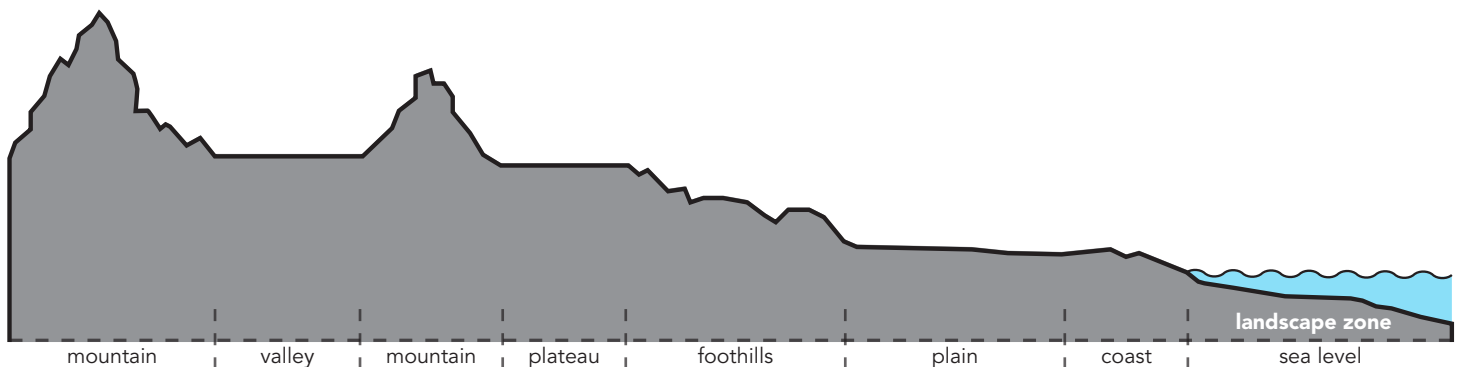
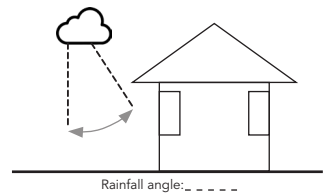
Weathersite



Rain inclination diagramme



Rainfall angle



Notes for any other landscape specific characteristics or hazards:

(E.g. earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, landslides, zunicas, draughts, wild fires, ...)

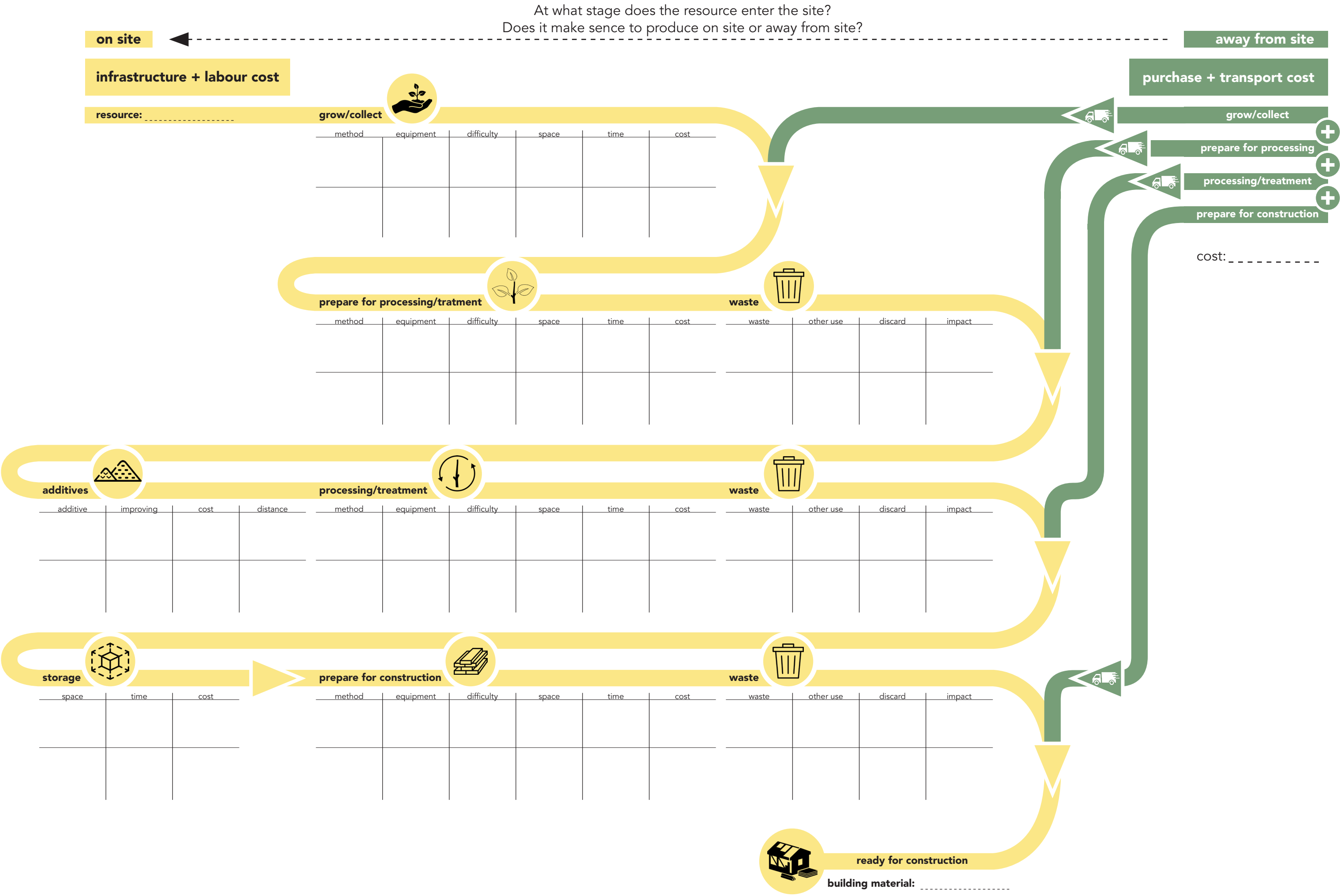
[illegible]

2.2. Look at the production chain your resource has to undergo before it can be used for construction

There might be no or just a very small industry around the resource you want to use, be aware of what it takes to make your resource usable.

The best way is maybe not to grow or collect the resource yourself but to think about at what stage of the production chain you should enter.

Print this page for each material that you consider using and as many times you need it.



□ 3.1. Look at the beneficial principles found in vernacular architecture

The vernacular architecture was built as a response to the local climate and landscape with locally available materials, leading to increased well-being of inhabitants and buildings.

Try to find and understand the principles that were applied back in the day.

Other points can be added according to the vernacular architecture present in your region.

Look also at other examples of vernacular architecture that were built with similar resources or in regions that have similar climate and landscape characteristics as in your location.



natural ventilation

helps to cool the inside but also helps to dry materials in humid climates to prevent mould growth



active integration of landscape

can be used to control/balance natural hazards



use of local resources

provides affordable materials and creates local identity



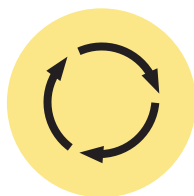
longevity through design

(for humid climates) elevated from the ground and big overhangs to protect from the rain



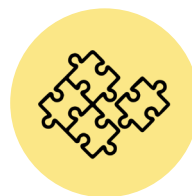
flexibility

allows buildings to cope better with seismic forces



reuse/rethink

allows materials to find a new purpose, maximises material function and minimizes waste



build for disassembly

makes maintenance, disassembly and potential reuse easier



comfort through material choices

takes benefit of imminent material attributes (clay as a natural humidity controller)

Notes for any other beneficial principles found in vernacular architecture:

method:

benefits:

method:

benefits:

method:

benefits:

method:

benefits:

method:

benefits:

method:

benefits:

method:

benefits:

method:

benefits:



After answering more questions and reflecting on them you might get new ideas for previous points, feel free to go back and add more information at any point.

Contemporary vernacular architecture takes time and requires you to reflect on each decision you take, but only through this process you will be able to reach the necessary maturity and understanding you need to practice contemporary vernacular architecture.

□ 3.2. Look at the limitations of vernacular architecture

While vernacular architecture has a variety of qualities that would greatly benefit the well-being of inhabitants, sustainability goals and climate-responsive design of modern buildings it does not adequately represent the contemporary desires and needs of people.

Try to identify the limitations.

Other points can be added according to the vernacular architecture present in your region.



**the necessity of
frequent maintenance**



vulnerable to fire



**lack of contemporary
comfort**
(natural light/big spaces)



**does not align with
contemporary
desire and needs**



**can not be built higher
than one story**



**regulations make the
necessary resources
harder to get**



**lack of experienced
craftsmen**



lack of safety

Notes for any other limitations of vernacular architecture:

limitation:

limitation:

limitation:

limitation:

limitation:

limitation:

limitation:

limitation:

□ 4.1. Look at how an active implementation of vegetation and landscape can benefit your project

The vernacular architecture was built with a balance of nature and people in mind.
Try to find and understand the principles that were applied back in the day.
Other points can be added according to the climate and landscape conditions.



active implementation of waterbodies

helps to regulate heavy rainfalls and droughts but also keeps the property cool



vegetation as a barrier

protection from wind, air pollution, sound, sun and creates privacy



vegetation as a sponge

plants absorb excessive water during heavy rainfall preventing floods and releasing water in a dry period



vegetation as reinforcement

the roots of plants help to reinforce the ground around them, which helps against erosion and earthquakes

Notes for any other benefits:

method:

benefits:

method:

benefits:

method:

benefits:

method:

benefits:

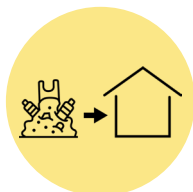
□ 4.2. Look at what benefits the circulation of waste products back into the production chain could have for your project but also on the ecosystem on site and around the site

Other points can be added according to the locally available waste and its environmental impact



cheap resource

waste is often perceived with no potential or value, which makes it cheap and full of potential



beneficial construction applications

industrialized materials like plastic waste can find beneficial applications in your project (e.g. damp barrier)



environmental benefits

less waste that would end up in landfills, be burnt or pollute the oceans
it passively creates an awareness of pollution



support of local economy

it can become a viable resource, creating a new market with new job opportunities

Notes for any other benefits:

method:

benefits:

method:

benefits:

method:

benefits:

method:

benefits:

□ 5.1. Look at the contemporary architecture practice and understand how it has a negative impact on the well-being of its inhabitants and the environment

The introduction of industrialized materials and advanced technologies in contemporary architecture promotes a practice that no longer considers the climate and landscape but exists despite these conditions. A perfect example is air conditioning, which makes concrete structures without natural ventilation suitable to a hot climate.

Other points can be added according to the contemporary architecture, climate and landscape present in your region.



harmful industry

manufacturing of materials like cement and steel plays a major part in the pollution of the planet



resisting the local context

safety only comes from the strength of the materials because it has to resist the context, making safety a privilege to the rich while promoting more hazards for others



high initial investment

the high cost leaves financially disadvantaged people behind, expanding the gap between rich and poor



comfort depends on technology

well-being and comfort depend on technologies like airconditioning making it a question of wealth

Notes for further reasons how the current contemporary architecture has a negative impact:

negative impact:

negative impact:

negative impact:

negative impact:

□ 5.2. Look at the contemporary architecture practice and understand what techniques could have a positive impact on the resilience of your project and could help to achieve contemporary needs

Construction is in constant evolution but the biggest improvements we can witness today are thanks to a few simple techniques. Understanding what these modifications are and why they are possible, will help you to make your project more efficient and resilient.

Other points can be added according to the contemporary architecture, climate and landscape present in your region.



comfort

created by a lot of natural light, big spaces and a pleasant temperature



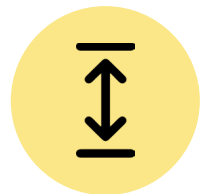
quicker building time

created by prefabrication and standardization of materials



less frequent maintenance

created by advanced materials that are more resilient



multi-story construction

created by advanced structural and material compositions

Notes for further techniques in the current contemporary architecture that could have a positive impact:

positive impact:

why:

positive impact:

why:

positive impact:

why:

positive impact:

why:



To distinguish between needs, wants and desires will ultimately help you to identify what is really important for the project.

The user can be any potential person that uses or takes advantage of the building. If necessary, you can distinguish between primary and secondary user.

Things we crave but may not be able to afford