Global Housing

2025-2026

HOME AS A WORKPLACE

RETHINKING HOUSING FOR WOMEN HOME-BASED WORKERS IN AHMEDABAD



Rafaella Giuliana Falquez

WORK

HOME



WORKING FROM HOME CAN SOUND LIKE A DREAM FOR MANY. BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ECONOMIC NECESSITY TRANSFORMS THE HOME INTO A WORKPLACE, AND ARCHITECTURE NEVER ADAPTS?

HOME-BASED WORK AND GENDER INEQUALITY IN INDIA

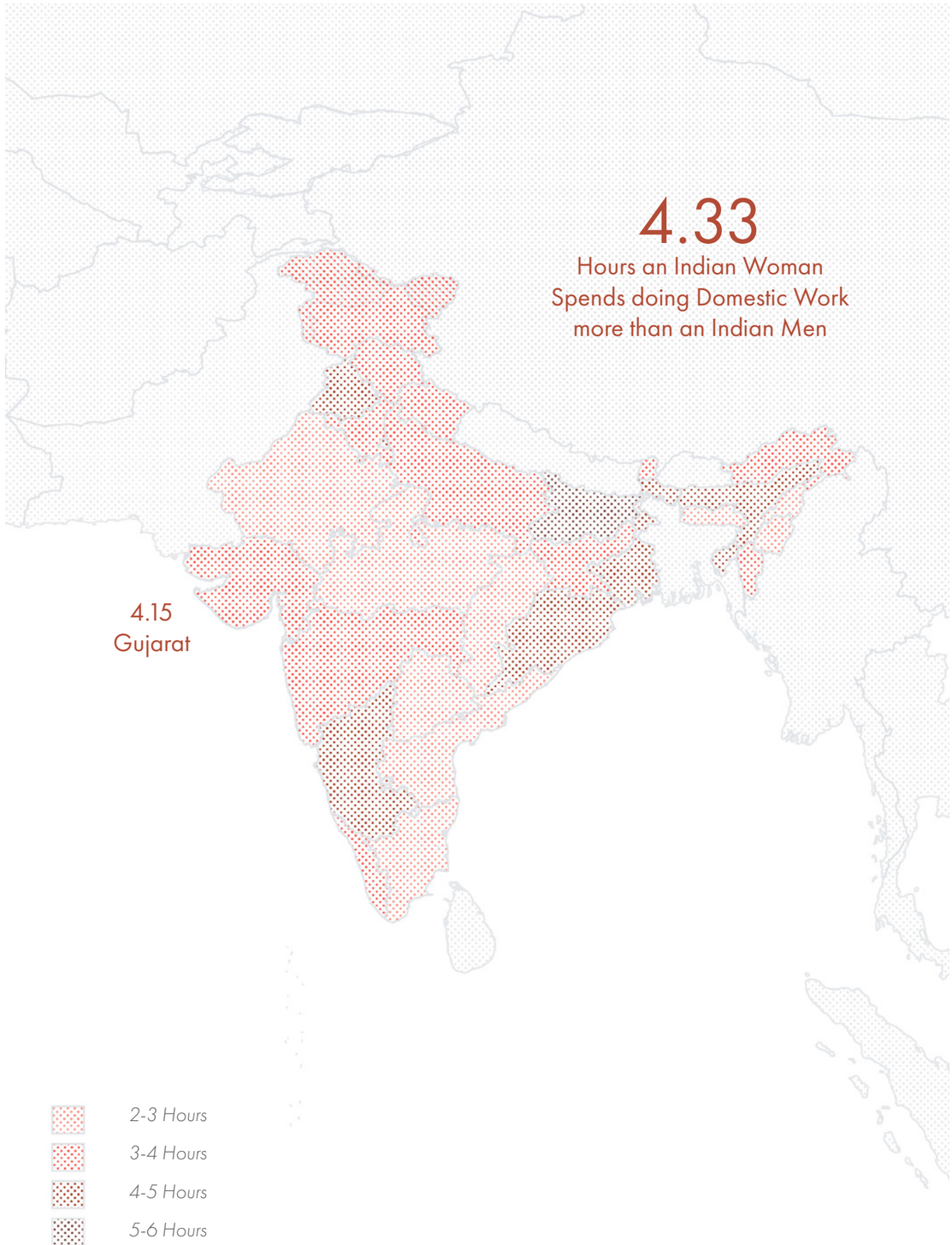
-41.85 million people in India engaged in home-based work

-17.9 million women

-Women often face more restrictive conditions because paid work is carried out alongside unpaid domestic labour.

-Constant negotiation between productive and reproductive labour

-Creates spatial tension as home-based work is often carried out in already constrained spaces.



LOW PAID HOME BASED WORK
AHMEDBAD

Papad Making:
Rs 40 per Kg

Pocket Stitching/Collar Joing:
Rs 80-150 for 50 Pieces

Thread Cutting:
50 Paisa for Each Garment

Stone Pasting Work:
20-150 Per Piece of Garment

Kite Making (Stick Pasting):
Rs 110-125 Per 1000 Piece

Spoon Pacakaging:
Rs 35-35 per 10KG

Kite Making

Embroidery Work

Mala Making

Stitching

Incense Stick Making

Papad Making

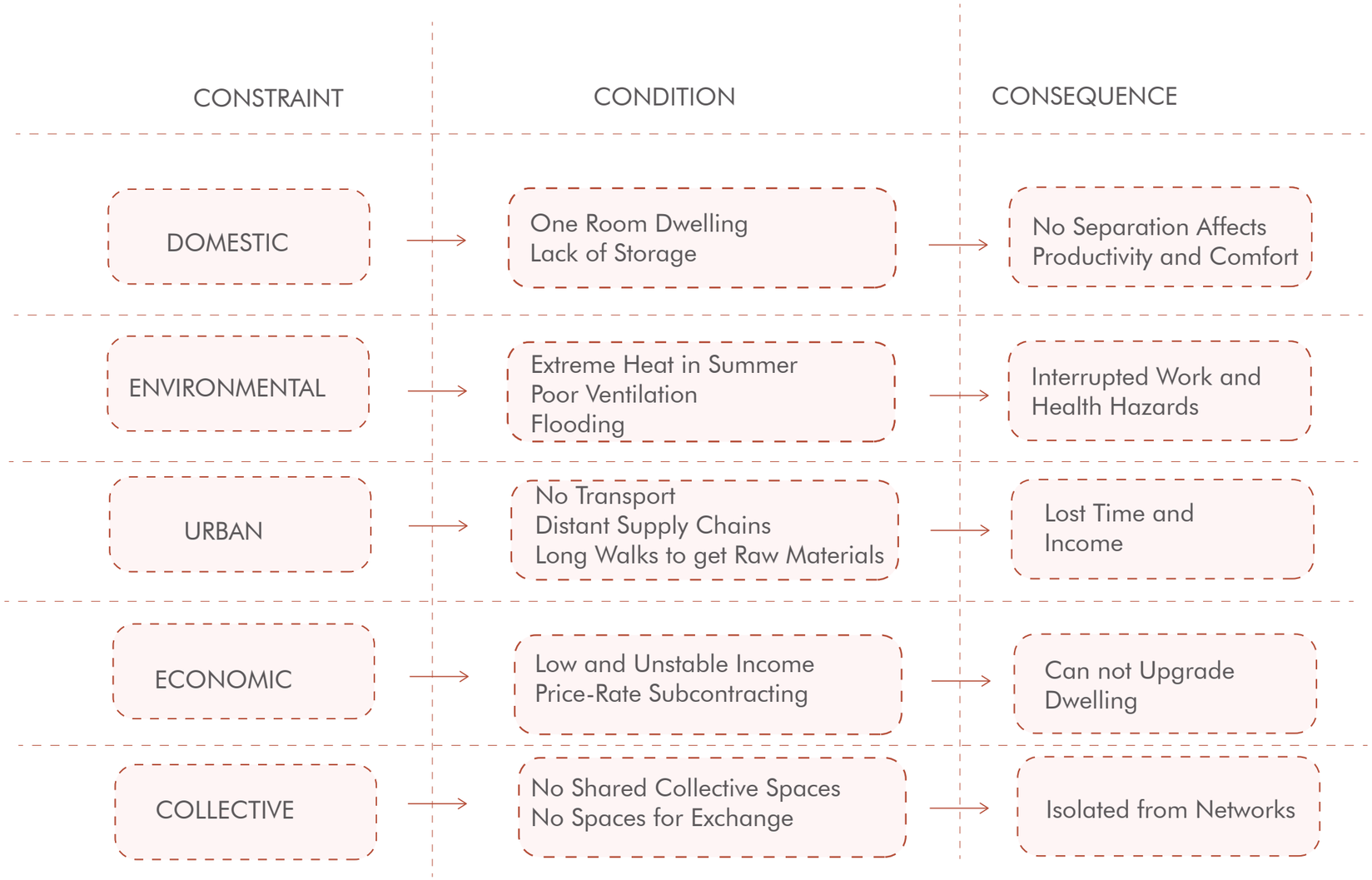
Thread Cutting

Stone Pasting Work

Spoon Packaging



SPATIAL CONSTRAINTS OF HOME-BASED WORK



RESEARCH QUESTION

“HOW CAN HOUSING ADDRESS THE SPATIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC NEEDS OF HOME-BASED WOMEN WORKERS IN AHMEDABAD WITHIN RAPIDLY DENSIFYING URBAN CONTEXTS?”

3 LENSES

1. SPATIAL LENS

How do existing dwelling layouts, everyday routines, and cultural practices shape the way home-based work is integrated within informal housing?

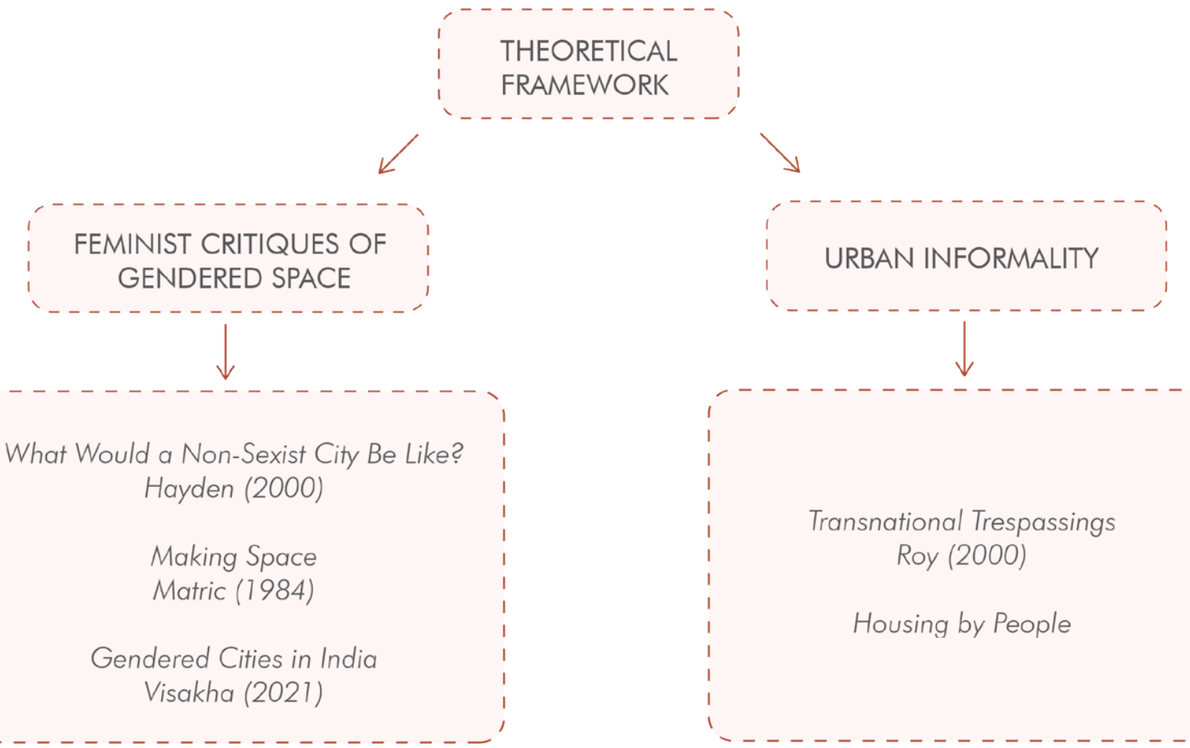
2. ENVIRONMENTAL LENS

How can housing improve the comfort and everyday usability of home-based workspaces in response to heat, ventilation, daylight, and seasonal conditions?

3. SOCIO-ECONOMIC LENS

How can shared productive spaces at the dwelling, cluster, and neighbourhood scale support collective microeconomies, reduce subcontractor dependency, and strengthen women's economic agency?

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK



FIELDWORK







INITIAL OBSERVATIONS
AHMEDABAD'S COMMERCIAL URBAN FABRIC


MINORITY
(HAJJ CELL)
TOURS & TRAVELS
ZIYARAT




॥ શ્રી ગોતમસ્વામીને નમઃ ॥
હીમોગ્લોબીન
કેલ્શીયમ
● બાળકોમાં પ્રોટીન વધારવા
● મીઠાઈ તથા લાડુ બનાવવા
● ખજૂર પાક બનાવવા
● ઈમ્યુન સિસ્ટમ વધારવા
સુગર ફ્રી ડેટ્સ
300
250


ASRA
Ladies' Collection
PARCO





HOW PEOPLE CURRENTLY BUILD?

CALICO MILLS

SITE CONTEXT



The studied settlement contains approximately 5000 to 6000 residents living in approximately 1,200 informal housing units bordering a single linear road.



Site Analyzed *Design Intervention*

SITE CONTEXT: CALICO MILLS


CENTRE FOR SIGHT

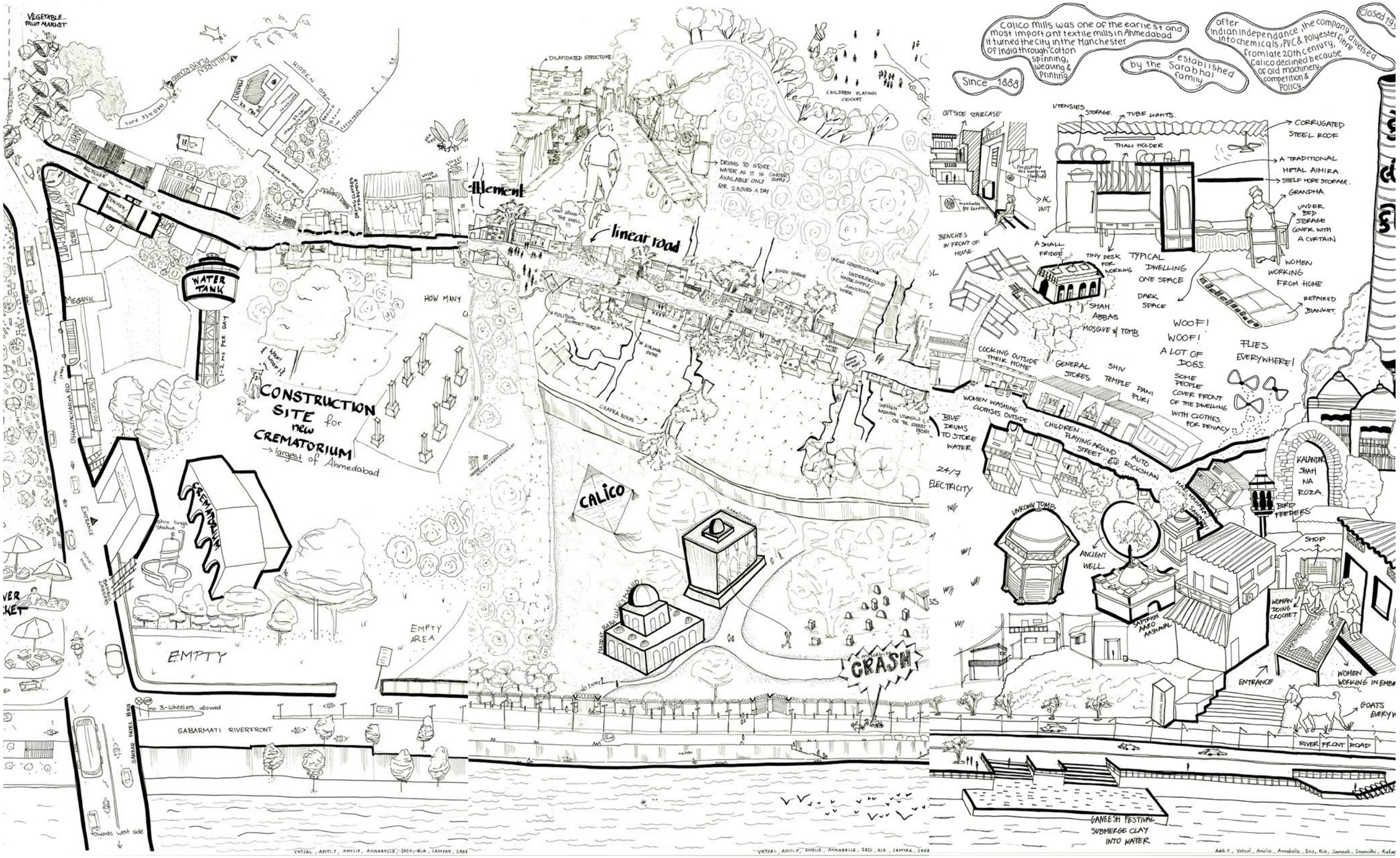

Kaushik
Outdoors
The outdoor publicity professionals


Asha Fish


MOTU PATLU







VATSAL, ADITI.F, AMELIE, ANNABELLE, IRIS, RIA, SAMYAK, SREE

VATSAL, ADITI.F, AMELIE, ANNABELLE, IRIS, RIA, SAMYAK, SREE

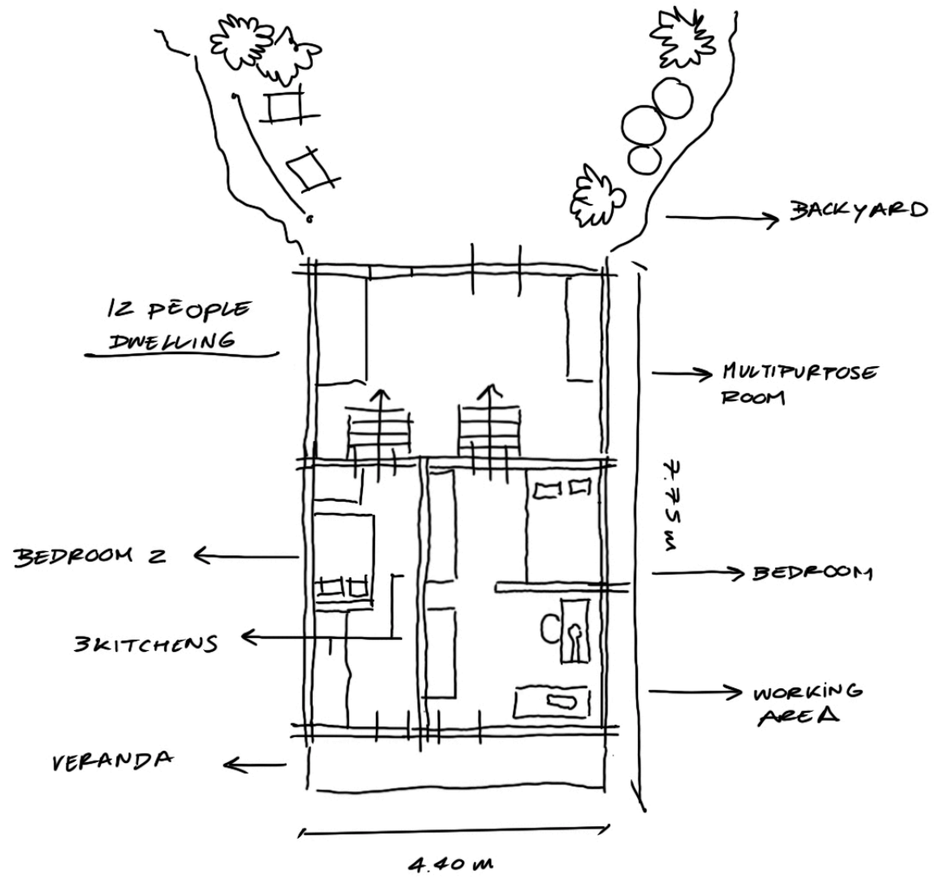
Aditi.F, Vatsal, Amelie, Annabelle, Iris, Ria, Samyak, Sreenidhi, Rafae

OBSERVATIONS IN COLLABORATION WITH CEPT

HOME BASED WORKERS



HBW VISIT #1



NOTES:
- WORK CLOSE TO WINDOW → LIGHT
- KITCHEN REALLY IMPORTANT (X3)
- LACK OF STORAGE (OVERHEAD MAINLY).
- IMPORTANT DOUBLE FACADE CONNECTION TO STREET + BACKYARD / VENTILATION

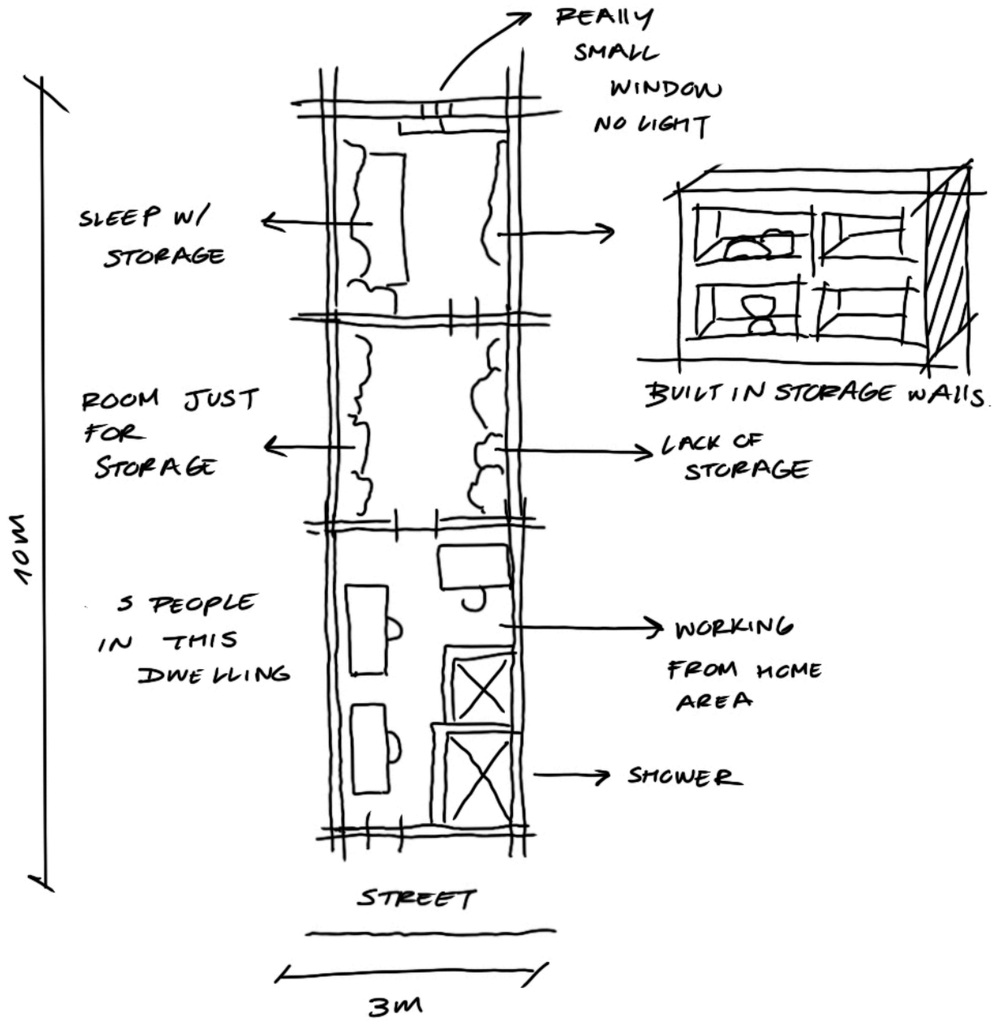
LAYOUT WORKS HOWEVER IT IS OVERCROWDED
↳ TOILET OUTSIDE DWELLING.

HBW VISIT #1





HBW VISIT #2

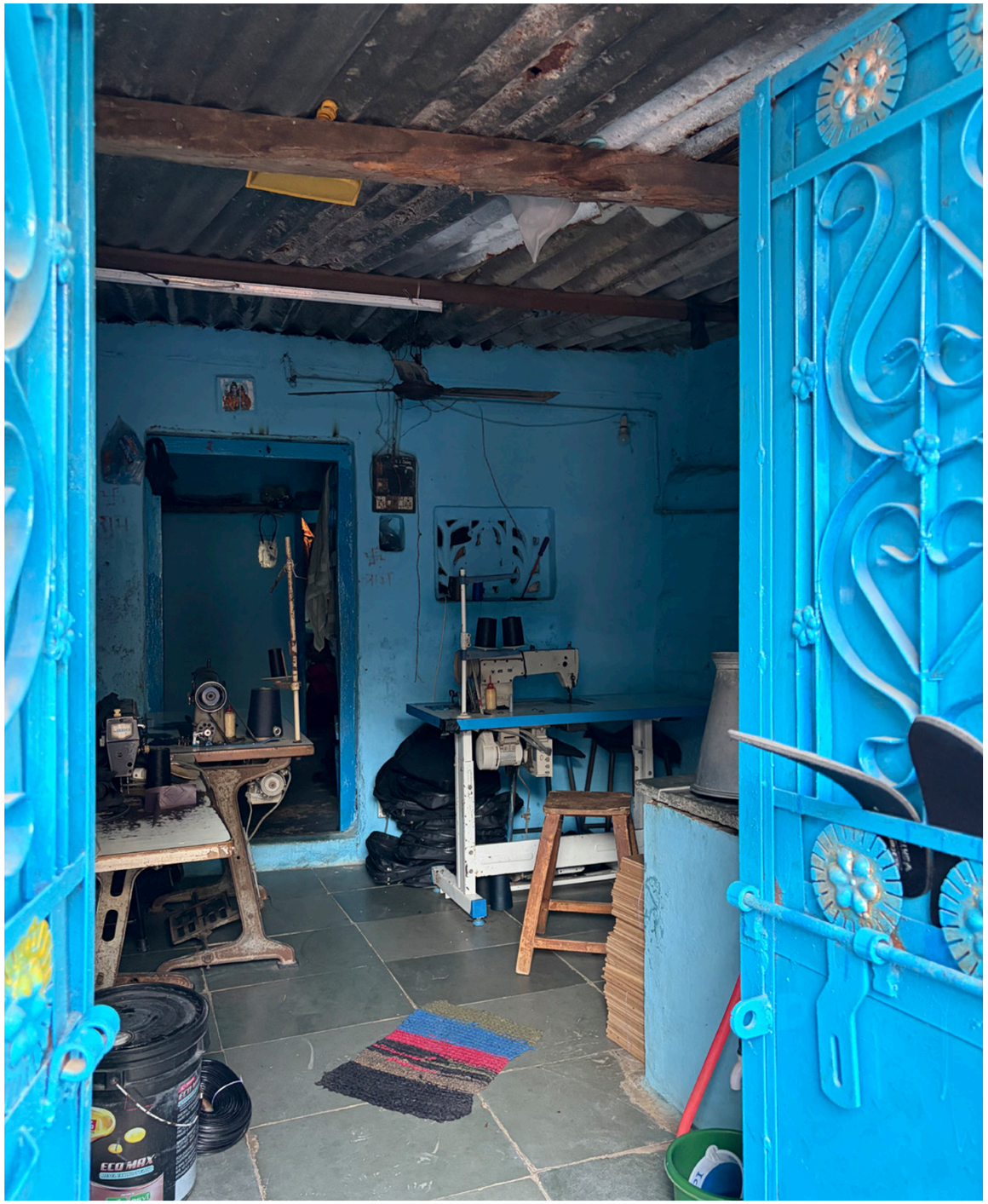


NOTES: - NARROW UNIT

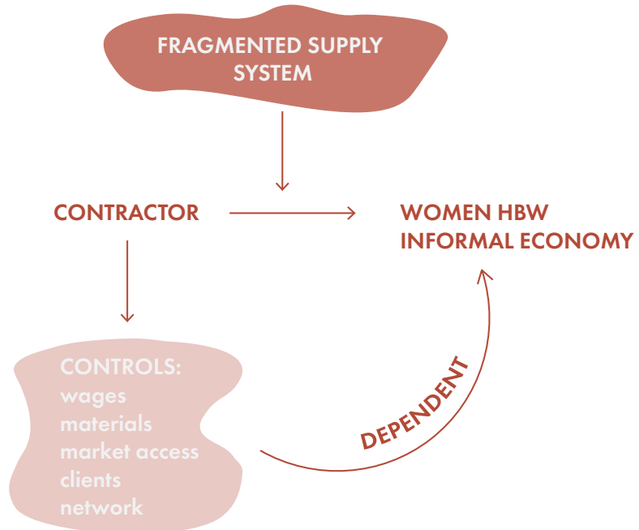
- PRIORITIZE LIGHT FOR WORKING SPACES / CLOSE TO WINDOW
- ONE ROOM STORAGE
- SMALL KITCHEN
- DARK DWELLING / NO NATURAL LIGHT, LACK OF VENTILATION.

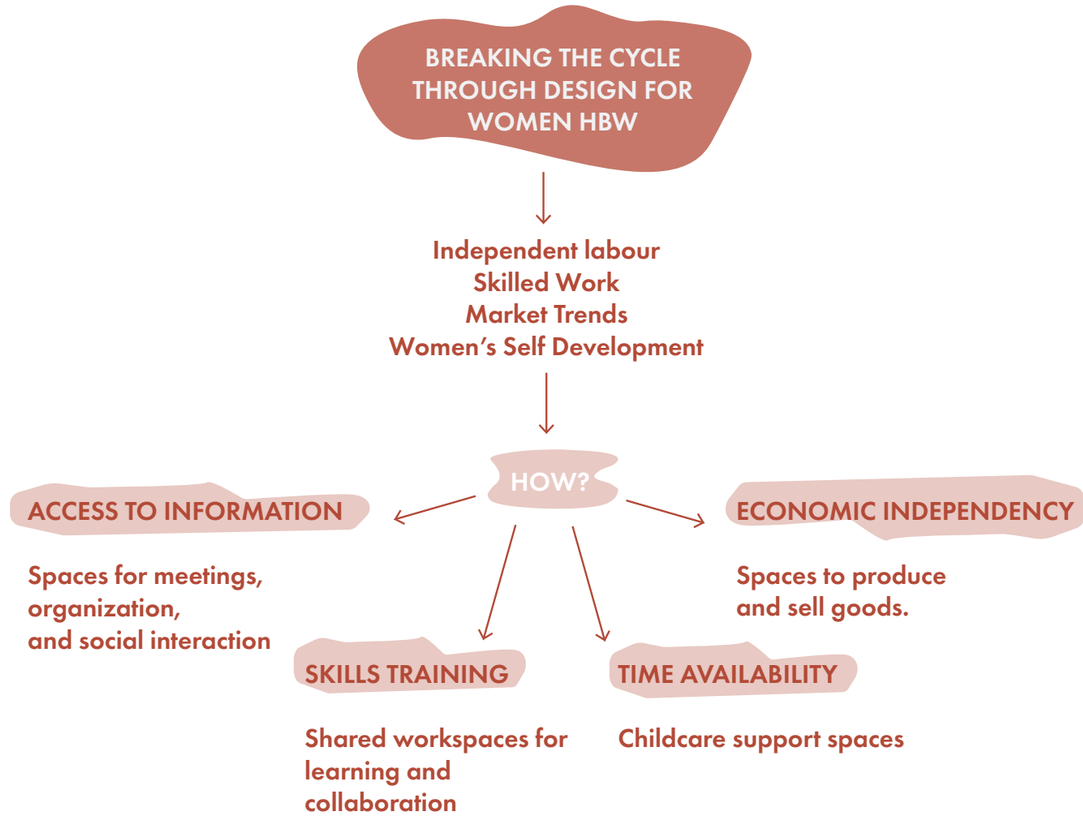
HBW VISIT #2



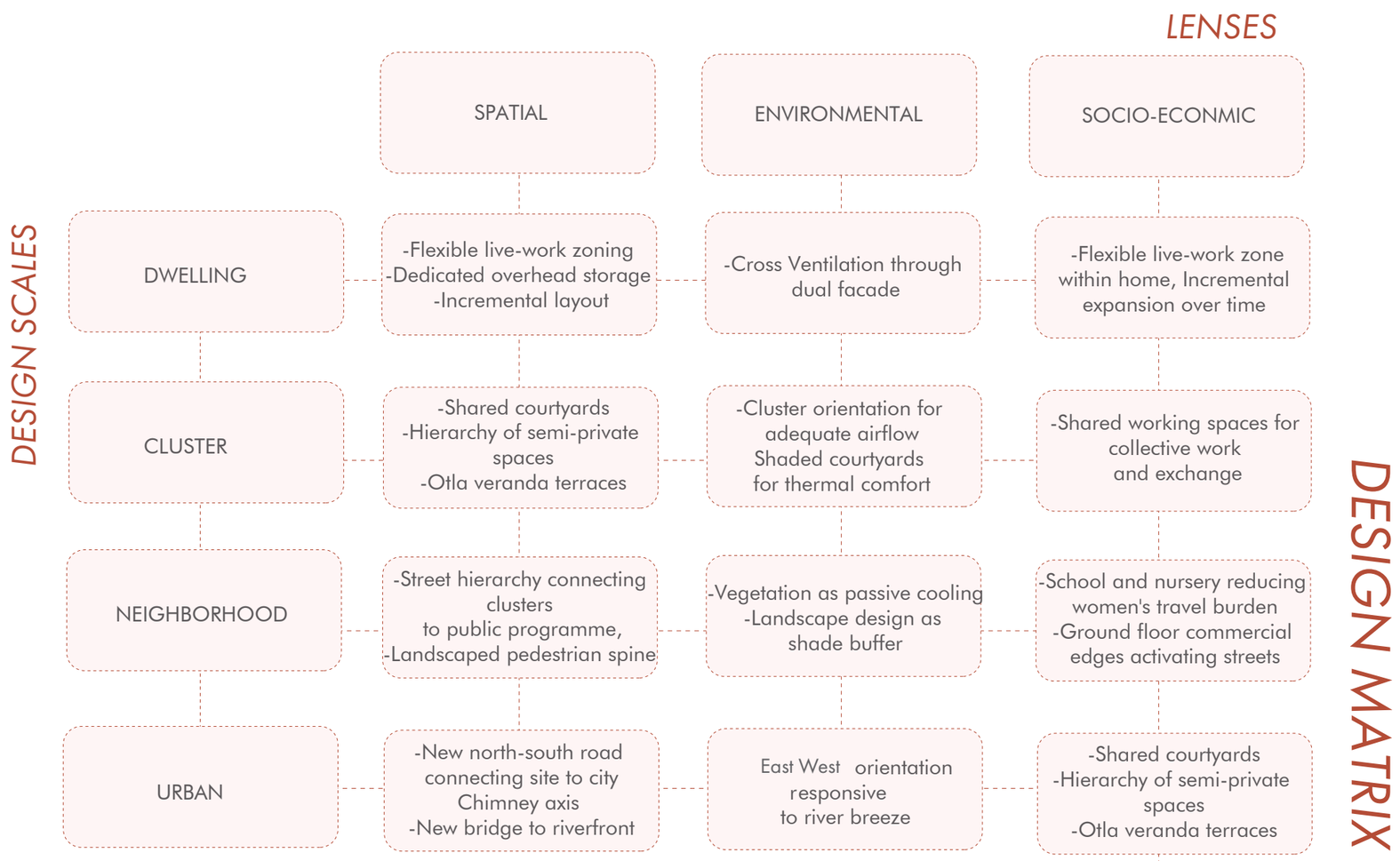


WOMEN'S TRADE UNION ORGANISATION INTERVIEW





DESIGN MATRIX



DESIGN PROPOSAL

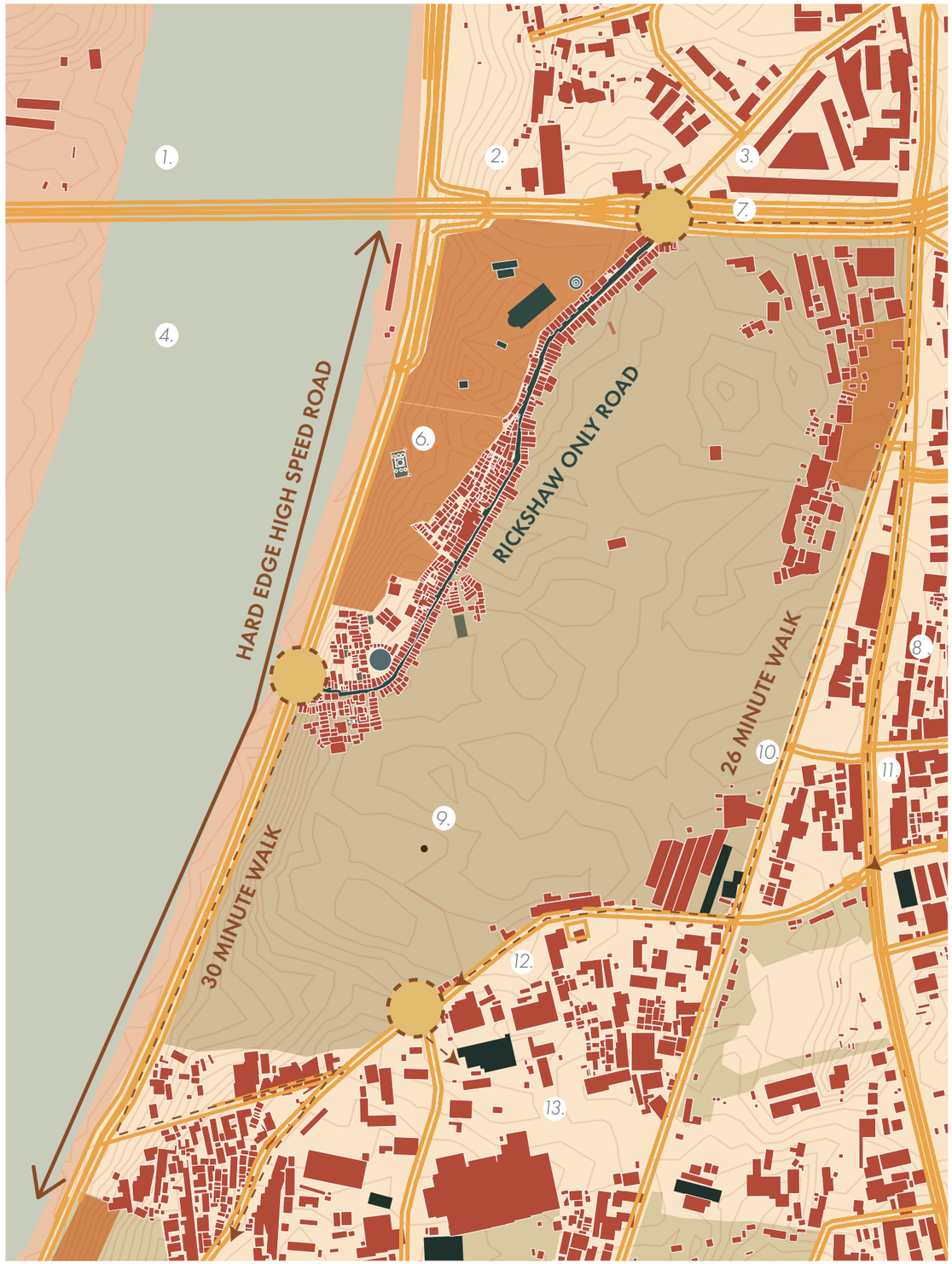


URBAN SCALE

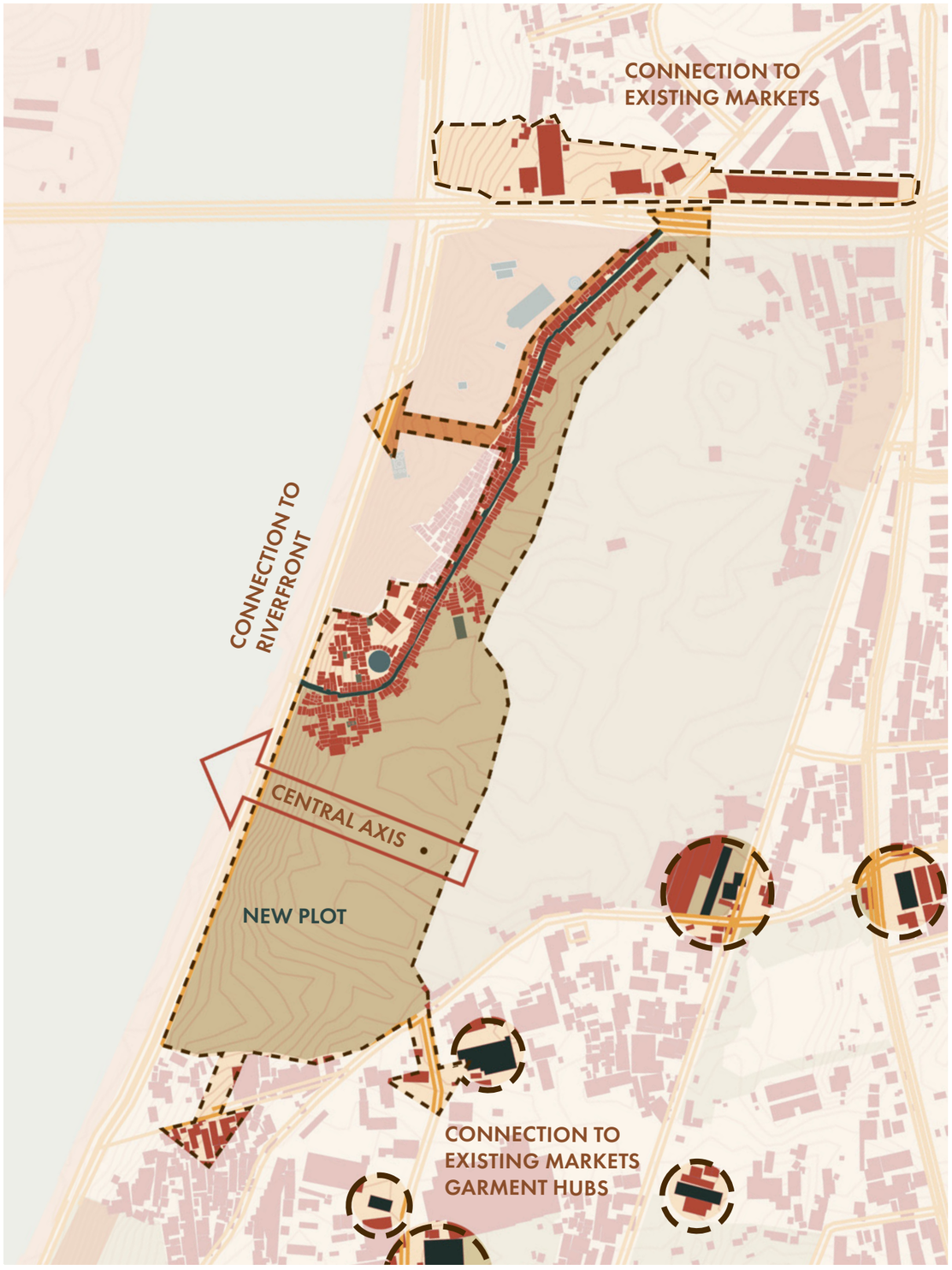
EXISTING SITE PLAN LEGEND

1. Patel Bridge
2. Jamalpur Flower Market
3. Jamalpur Vegetable Market
4. Sabarmati River
5. River Front Rd.
6. Mosque Hazrat Baba Lului's Masjid Jamalpur
7. Bhagtacharya Rd.
8. Behrampura
9. Calico Mill's Chimeny
10.Piplaj-Pirana Rd.
11. Narol Rd.
12. Khodiyar Nagar Rd.
13. Calico Mills South

Existing Buildings
River
Roads
Cemeteries Areas
Landmarks
Vegetation
Garments Hubs
Connection Nodes
Calico Mills Exploratory Boundary Extent



EXISTING URBAN PLAN & KEY CHALLENGES



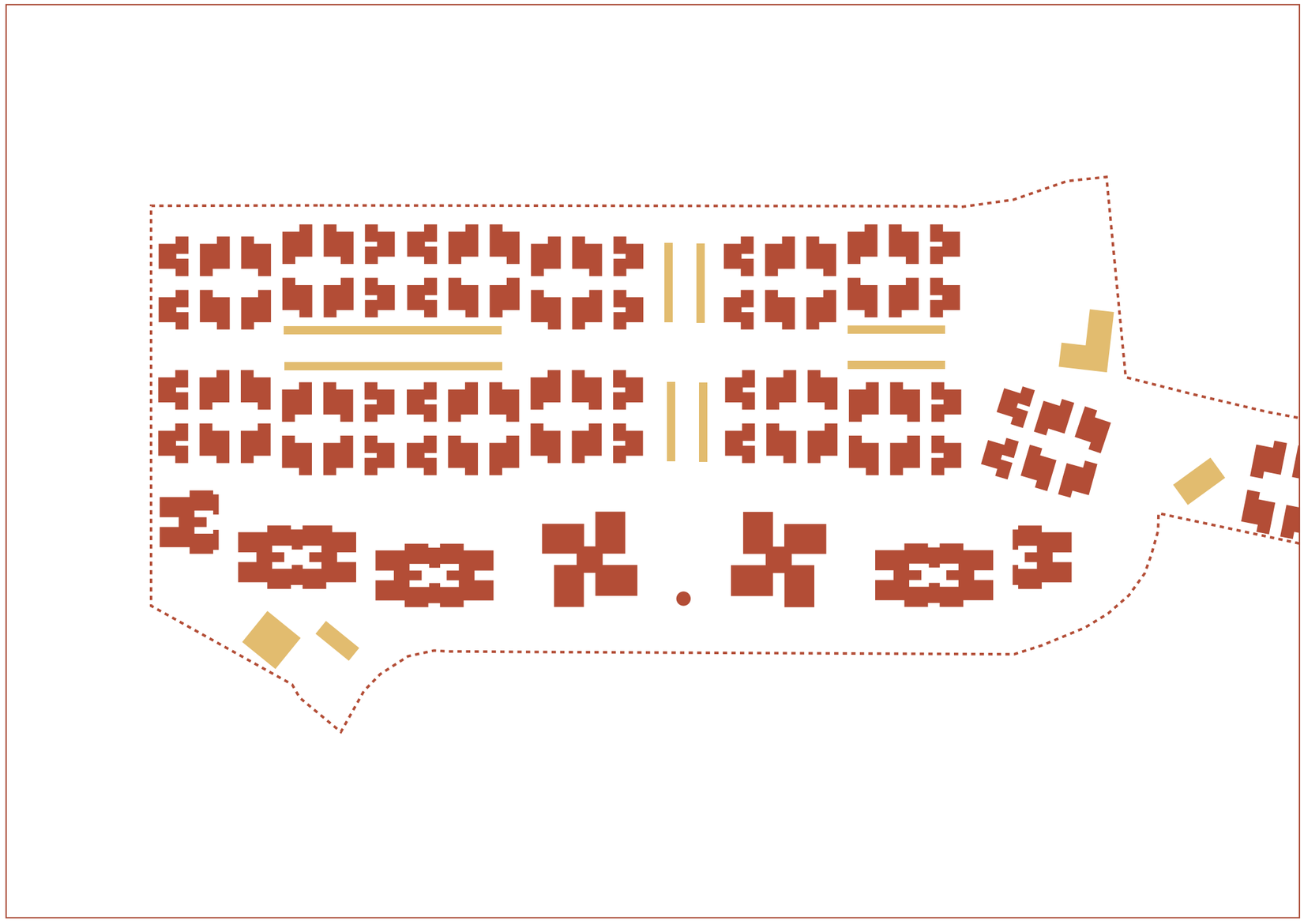
URBAN STRATEGY



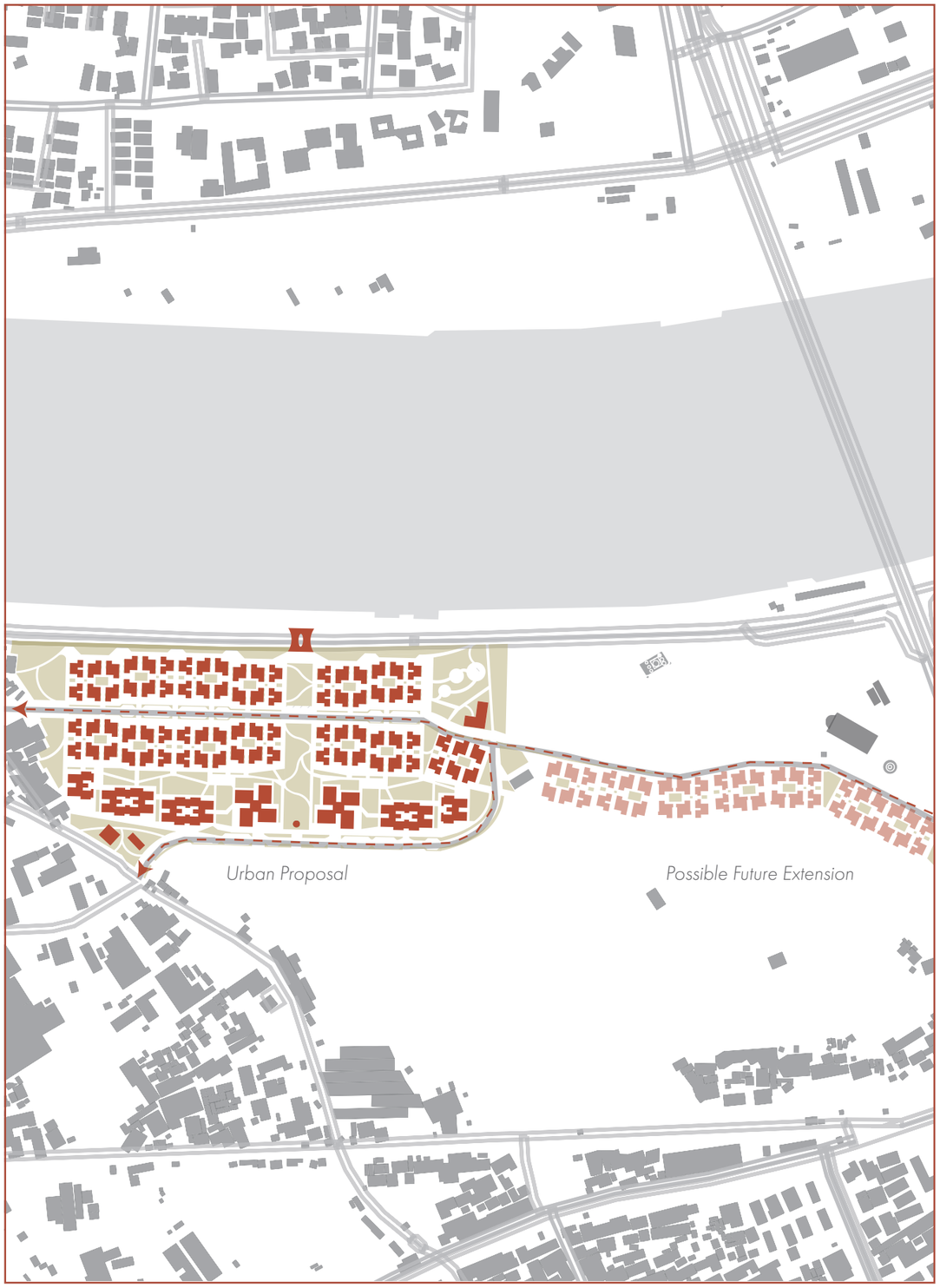
SPATIAL AXES & URBAN STRUCTURE



SOCIOECONOMIC DISTRIBUTION



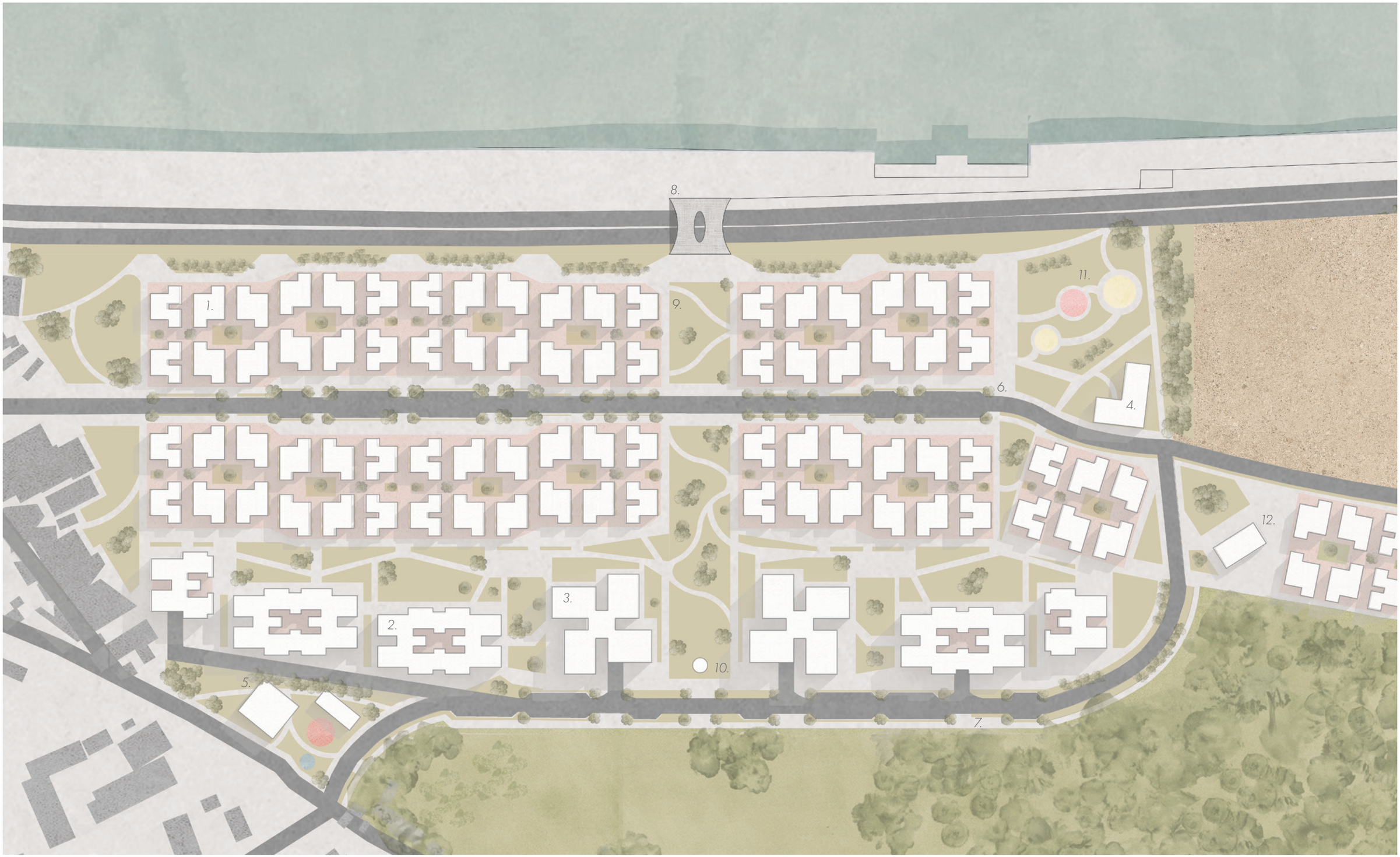
COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC NODES



1:5000 0 50m 100m

PROPOSED URBAN PLAN

NEIGHBOURHOOD SCALE



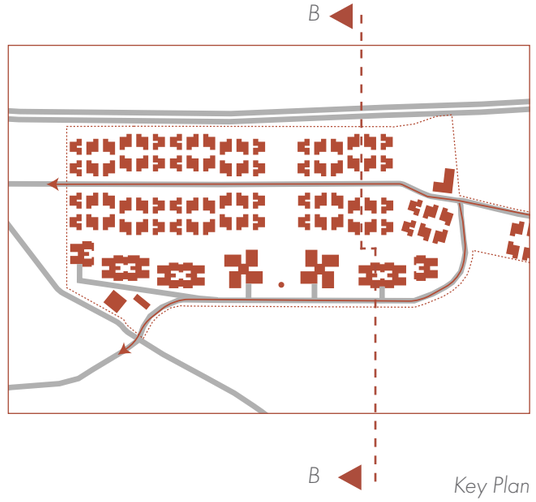
Key

1. Low Income Housing
2. Mid Income Housing
3. High Income Housing
4. Nursery
5. School
6. New Market Street Rd
7. Secondary Rd
8. New Bridge
9. Central Park
10. Chimney
11. Playground
12. Mosque

1:1000 at A2
(scale bar only)

0 10m 20m

PROPOSED MASTERPLAN



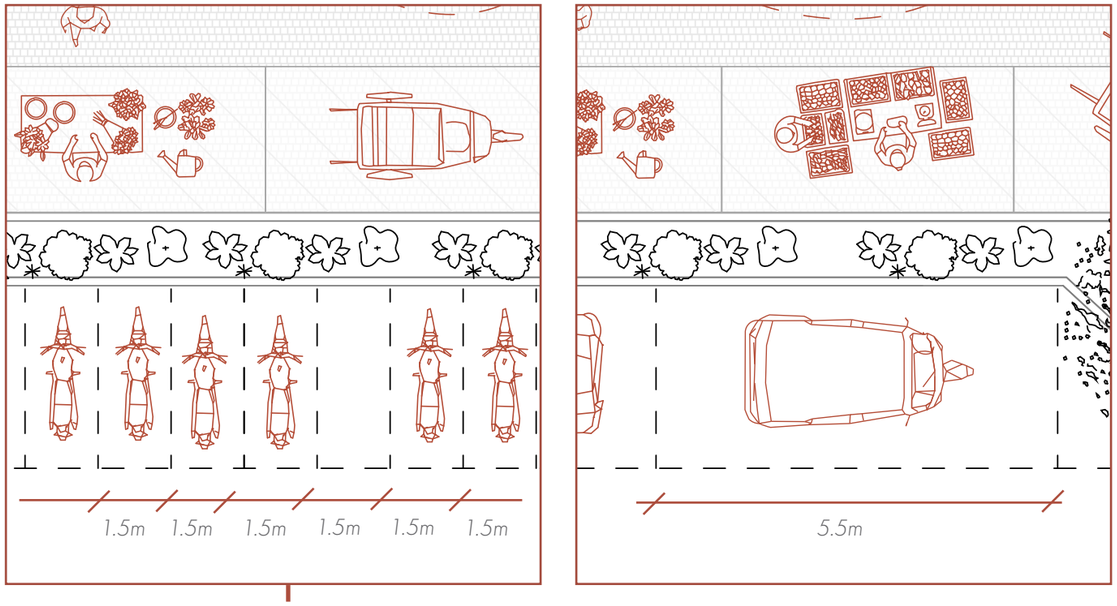
Key Plan

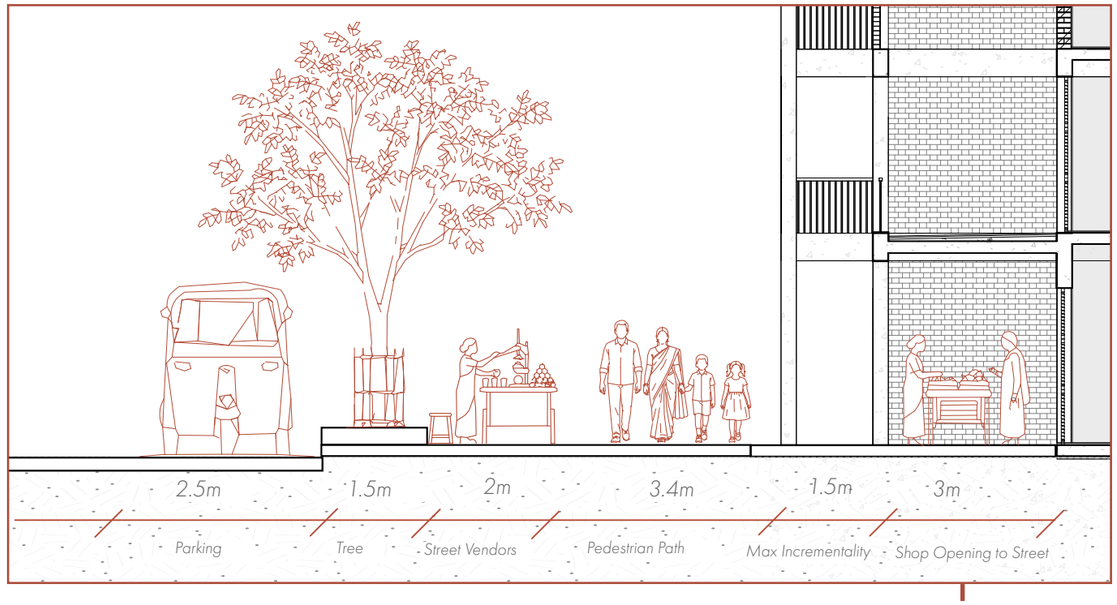


1:500

0 10m 20m

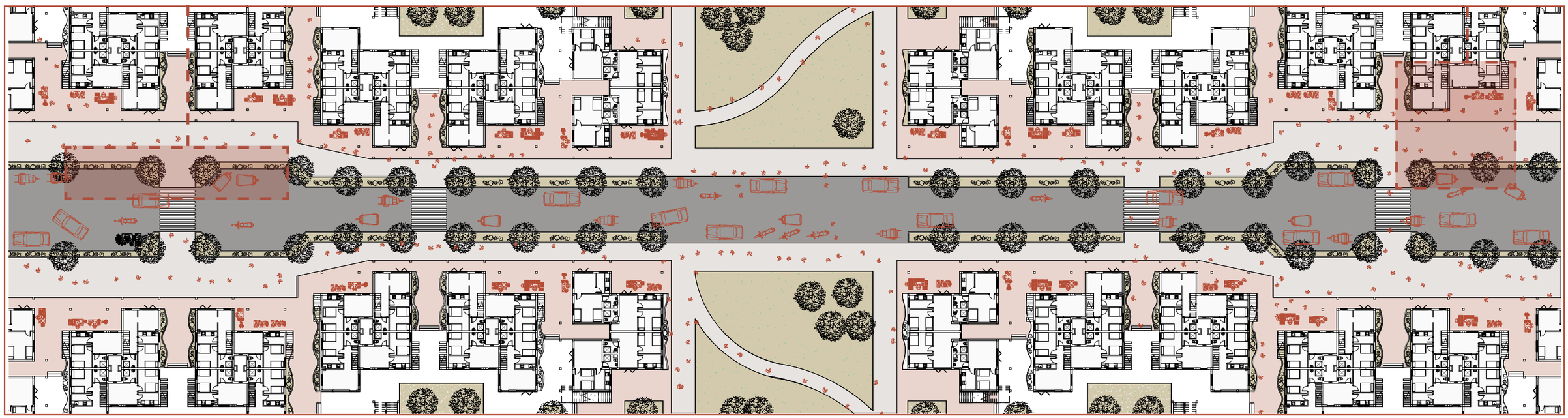
SITE SECTION B-B





PARKING

COMMERCIAL ACTVITIES POCKETS



1:500

0 10m 20m

PUBLIC REALM & MARKET STREET STATEGY

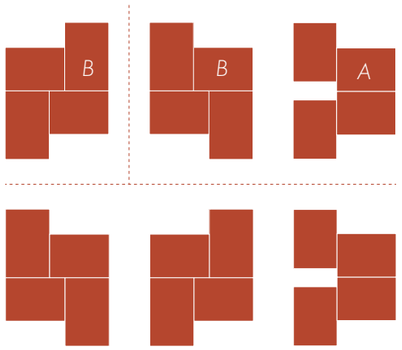


CENTRAL AXIS PERSPECTIVE

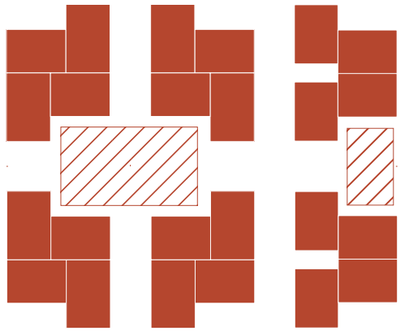


RIVERFRONT PROMENADE

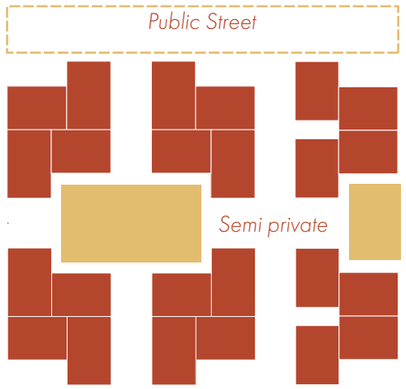
CLUSTER SCALE



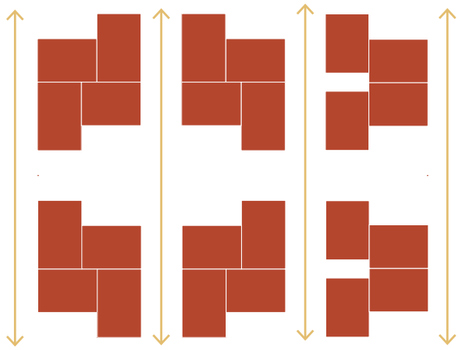
Mirroring Strategy creates Courtyard



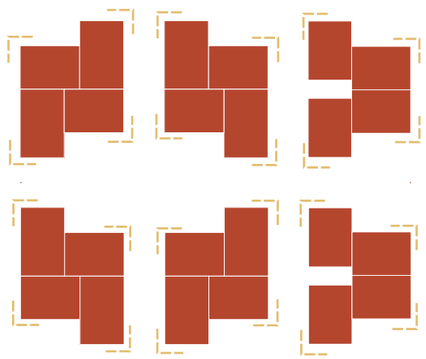
Shared Otla Ground Floor



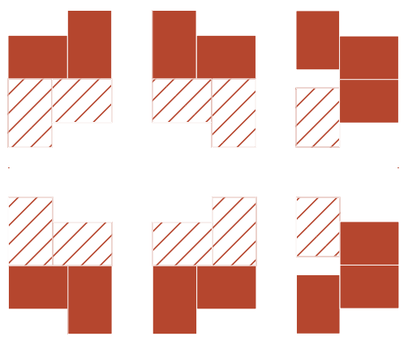
Public vs Semi-Private Women's safety



5m Gap Circulation and Ventilation Tunnels



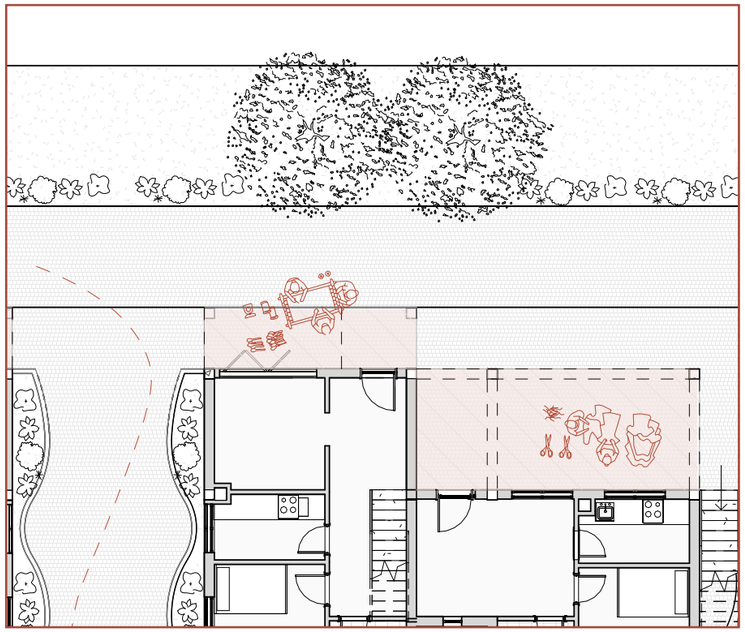
All units acting as corner units



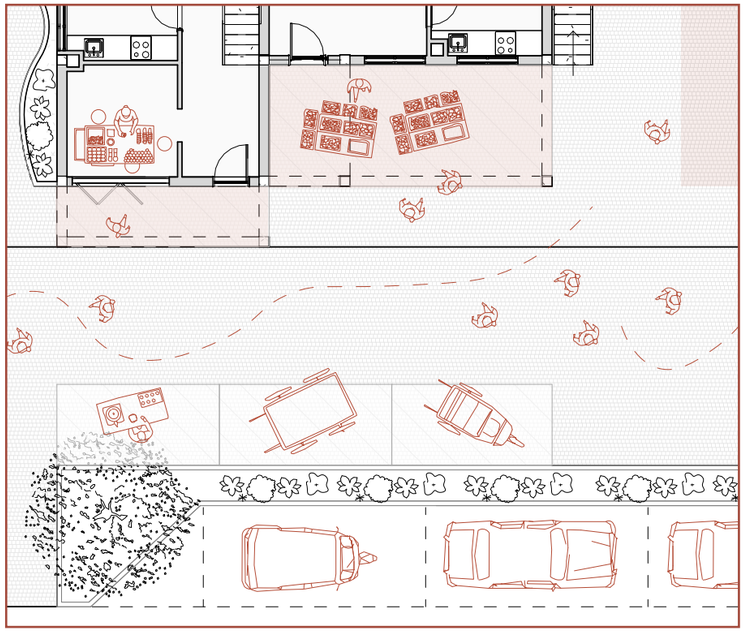
Dwellings Removed for Shared Terraces

CLUSTERING STRATEGY

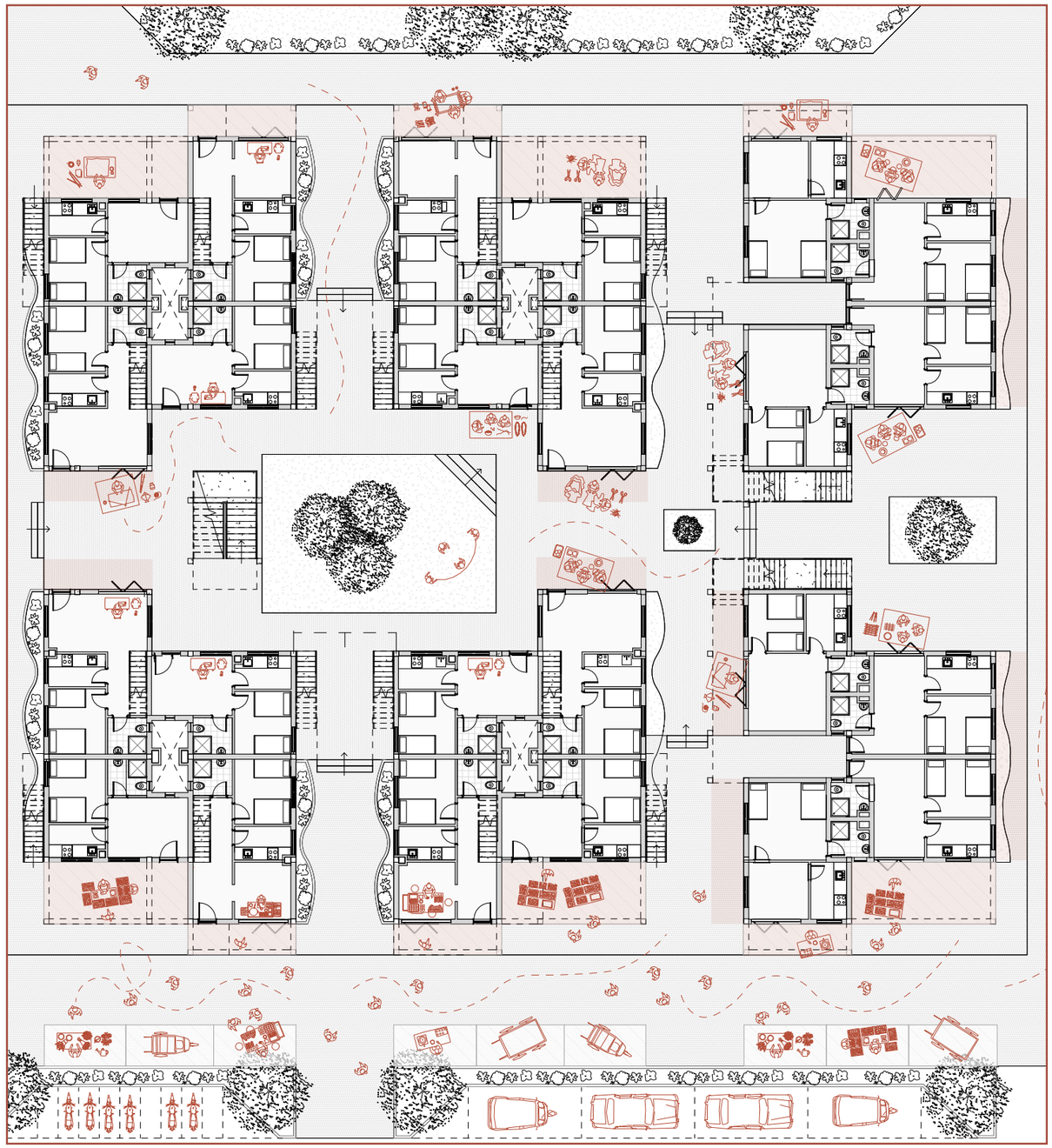
HBW DWELLINGS OPENING TO STREET



DWELLINGS WITH SHOPFRONT FACADES



INCREMENTALITY

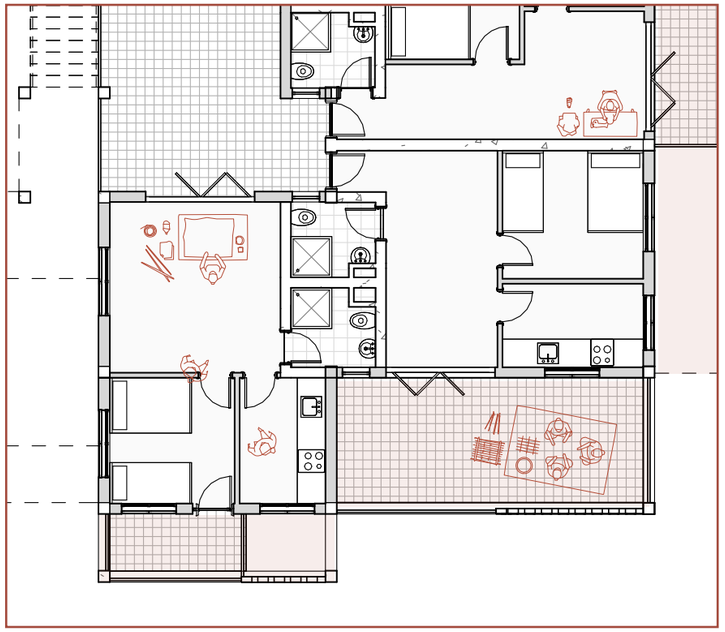


1:200

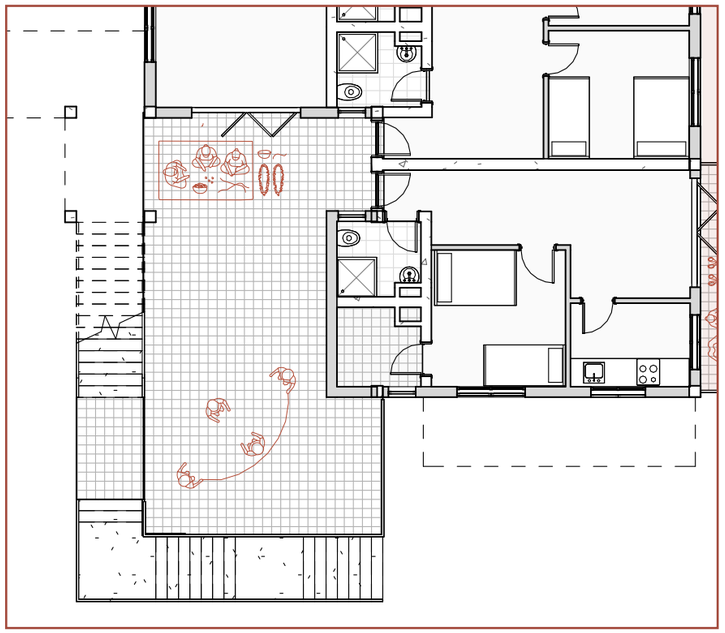
0 5m 10m

CLUSTER GROUND FLOOR PLAN

BALCONIES WITH JALIS CREATE PRIAVATE POCKETS FOR HBW



HBW WORKING WHILE OBSERVING CHILDREN



INCREMENTALITY

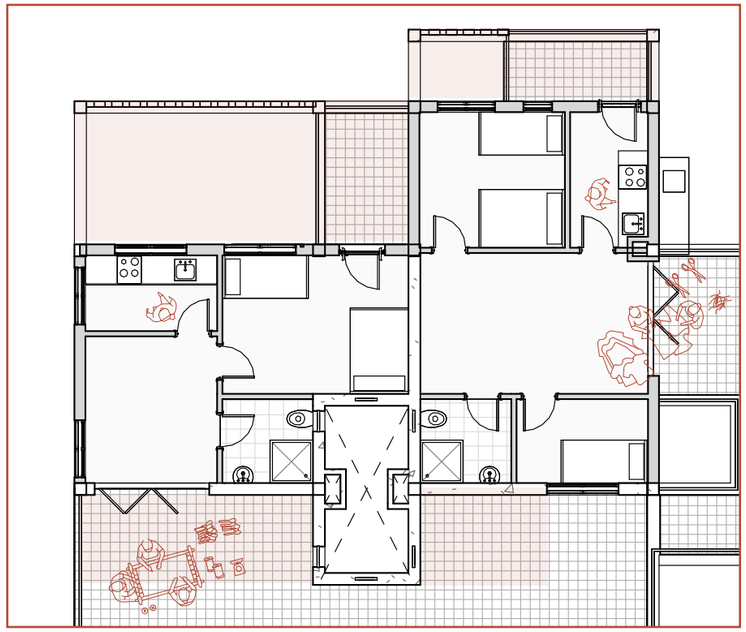


1:200

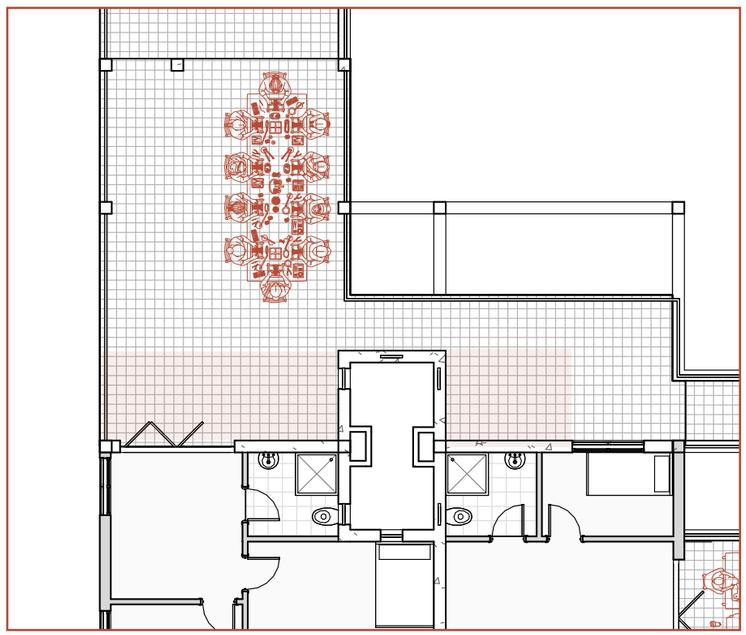
0 5m 10m

CLUSTER FIRST FLOOR PLAN

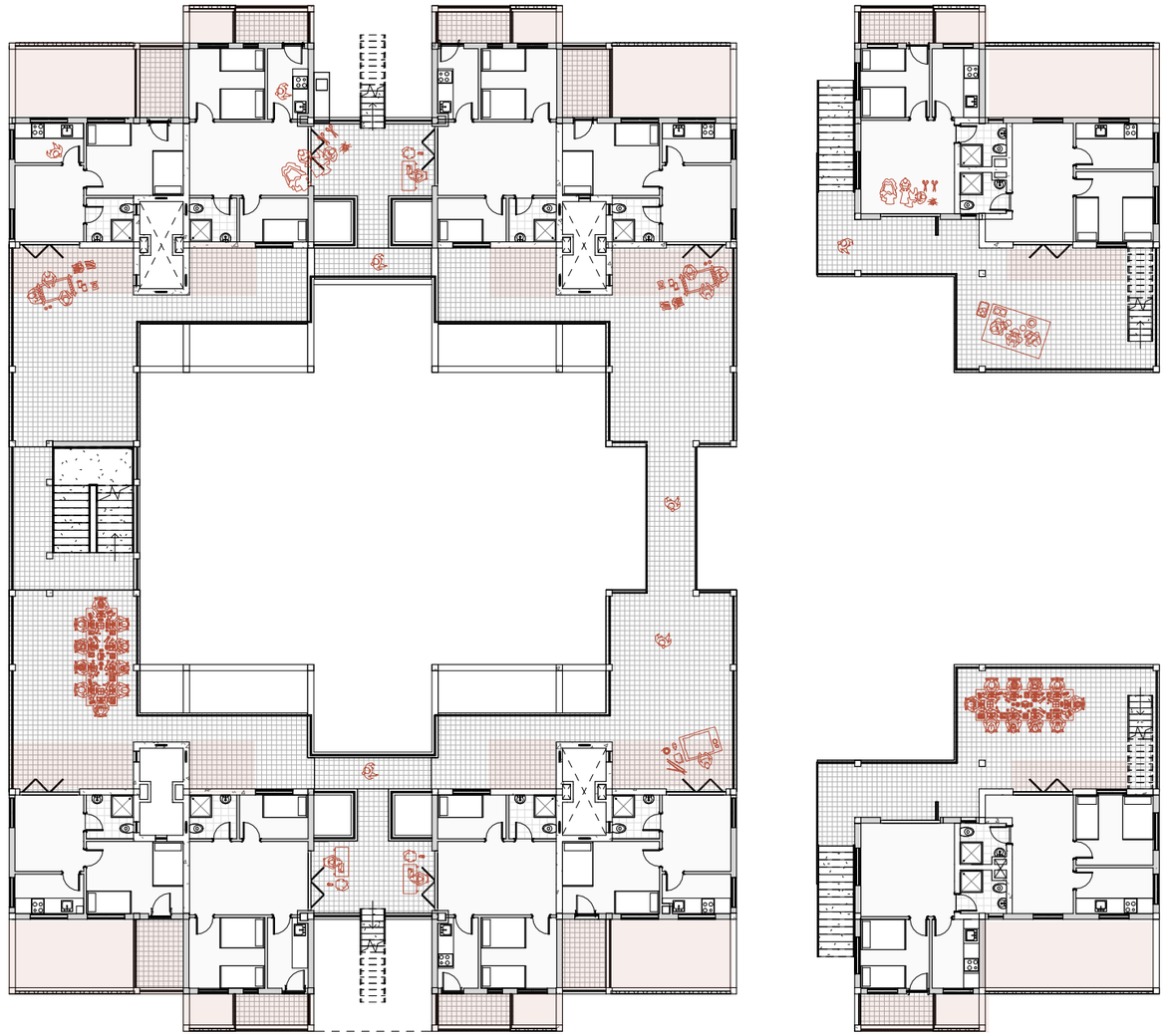
CLUSTER 3 FLOOR 1:200



COLLECTIVE TERRACE FOR HBW



HBW HAVING SKILLS WORKSHOP IN TERRACE



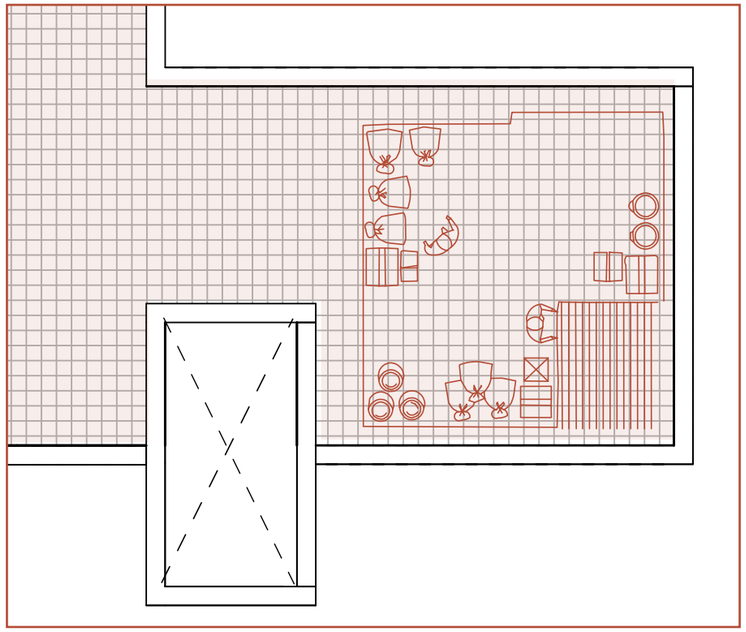
INCREMENTALITY

1:200

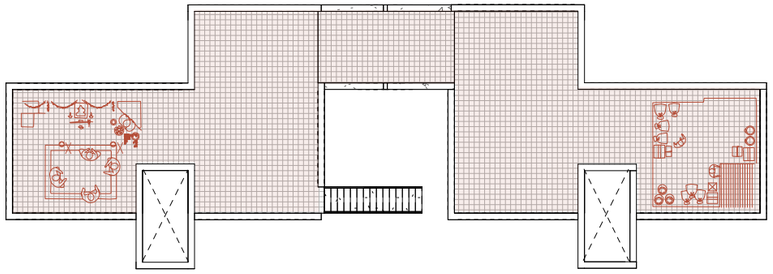
0 5m 10m

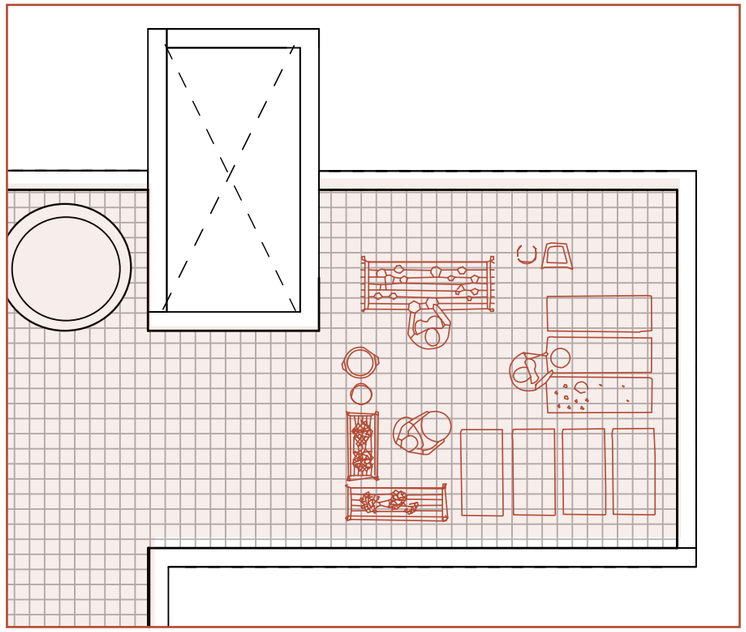
CLUSTER THIRD FLOOR PLAN

CLUSTER 5 FLOOR 1:200



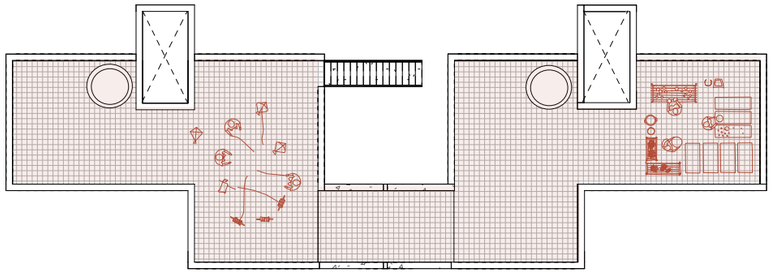
STORAGE





ROOF USED FOR DRYING GOODS

INCREMENTALITY



1:200

0 5m 10m

ROOF PLAN



1:100 at A2
(scale bar only)

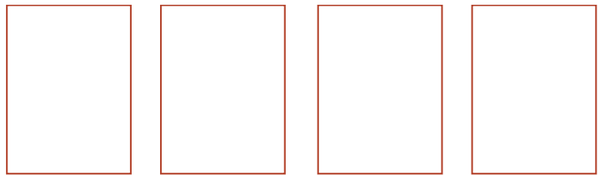
0 1m 2m

SOUTH ELEVATION D

PERSPECTIVE INTERIOR COURTYARD

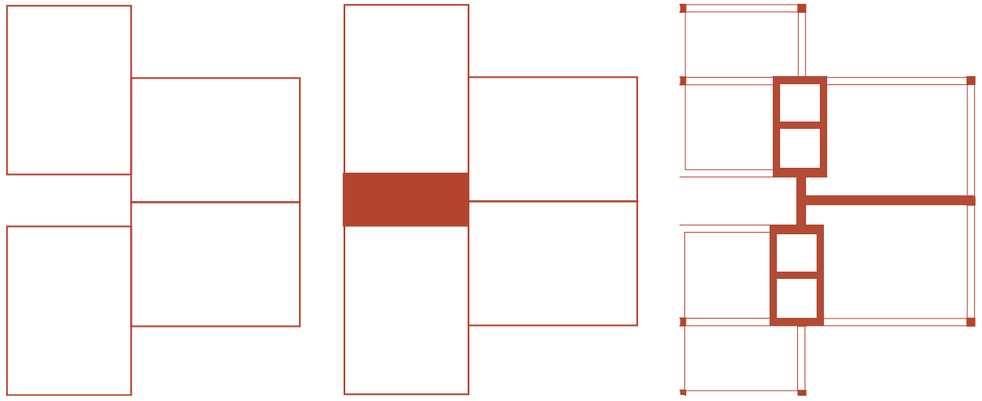
DWELLING SCALE

CLUSTERING STRATEGY TYPE A

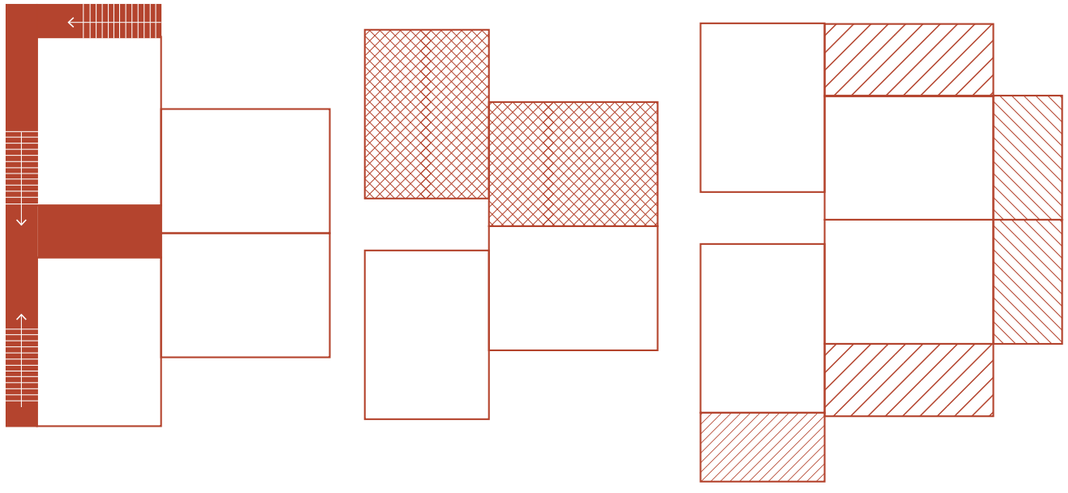


CLUSTERING 4 UNITS

5M X 7M

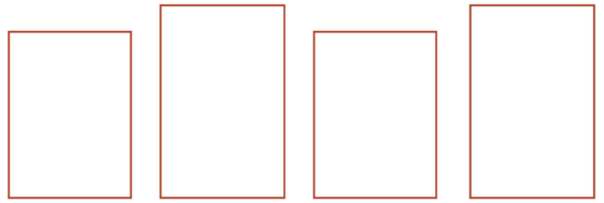


CLUSTERING *VENTILATION* *STRUCTURE*



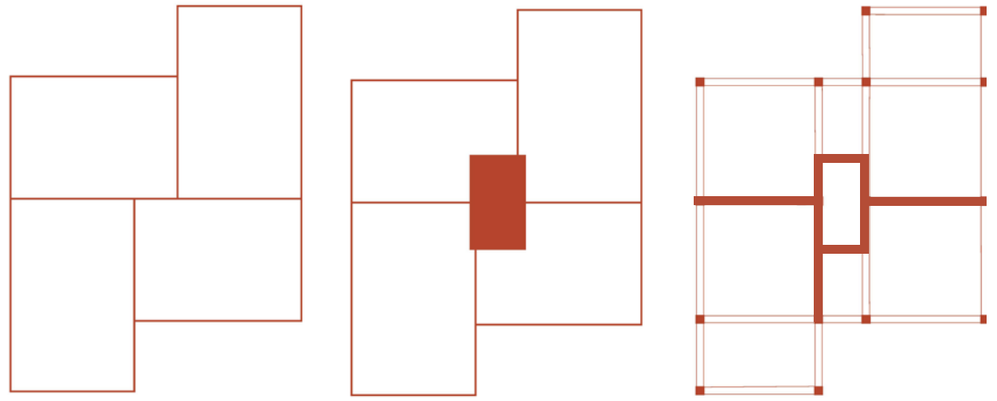
CIRCULATION *LIVE-WORK SPACES* *INCREMENTALITY*

CLUSTERING STRATEGY TYPE B

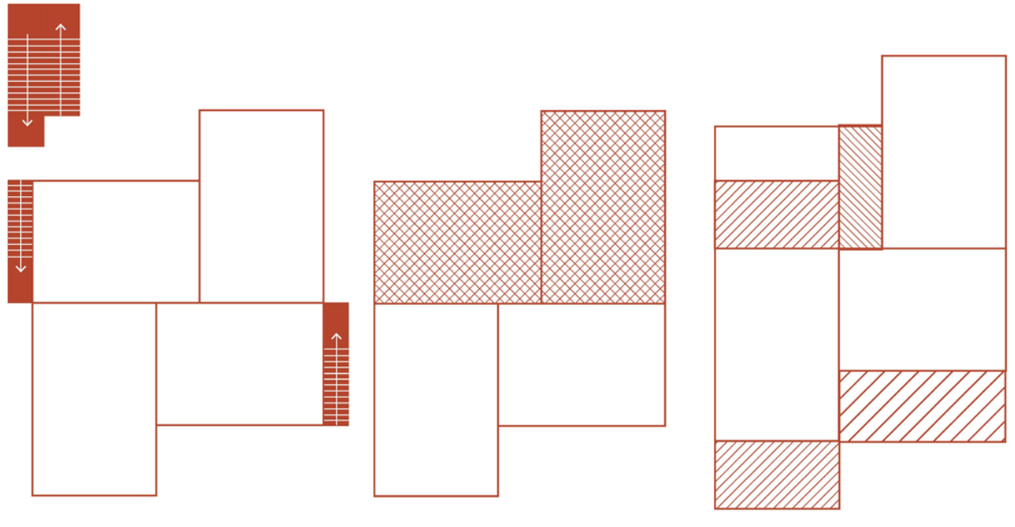


CLUSTERING 4 UNITS

5M X 7M (X2)
5M X8M (X2)



CLUSTERING *VENTILATION* *STRUCTURE*



CIRCULATION *LIVE-WORK SPACES* *INCREMENTALITY*

DWELLING TYPE A & B GF

TYPE A

GFA: 36 sqm

OF PEOPLE HOUSEHOLD: 4- 5

INCREMENTAL GROWTH:

TYPE 1A: 48 sqm

TYPE 2A: 58 sqm

TYPE B

GFA: 36 sqm

OF PEOPLE HOUSEHOLD: 4- 5

INCREMENTAL GROWTH:

TYPE 1B: 43 sqm

TYPE 2B: 64 sqm

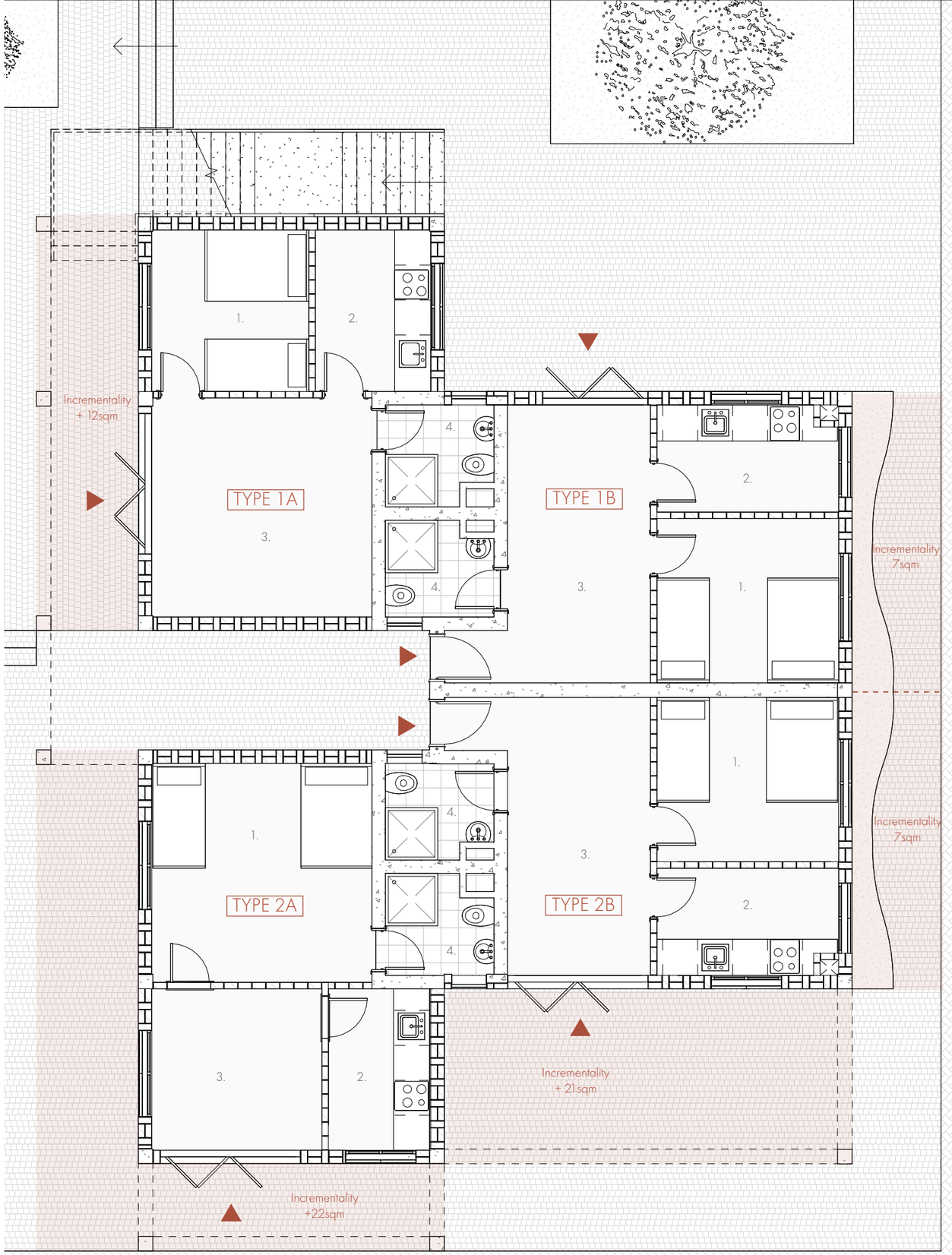
KEY

1. BEDROOM

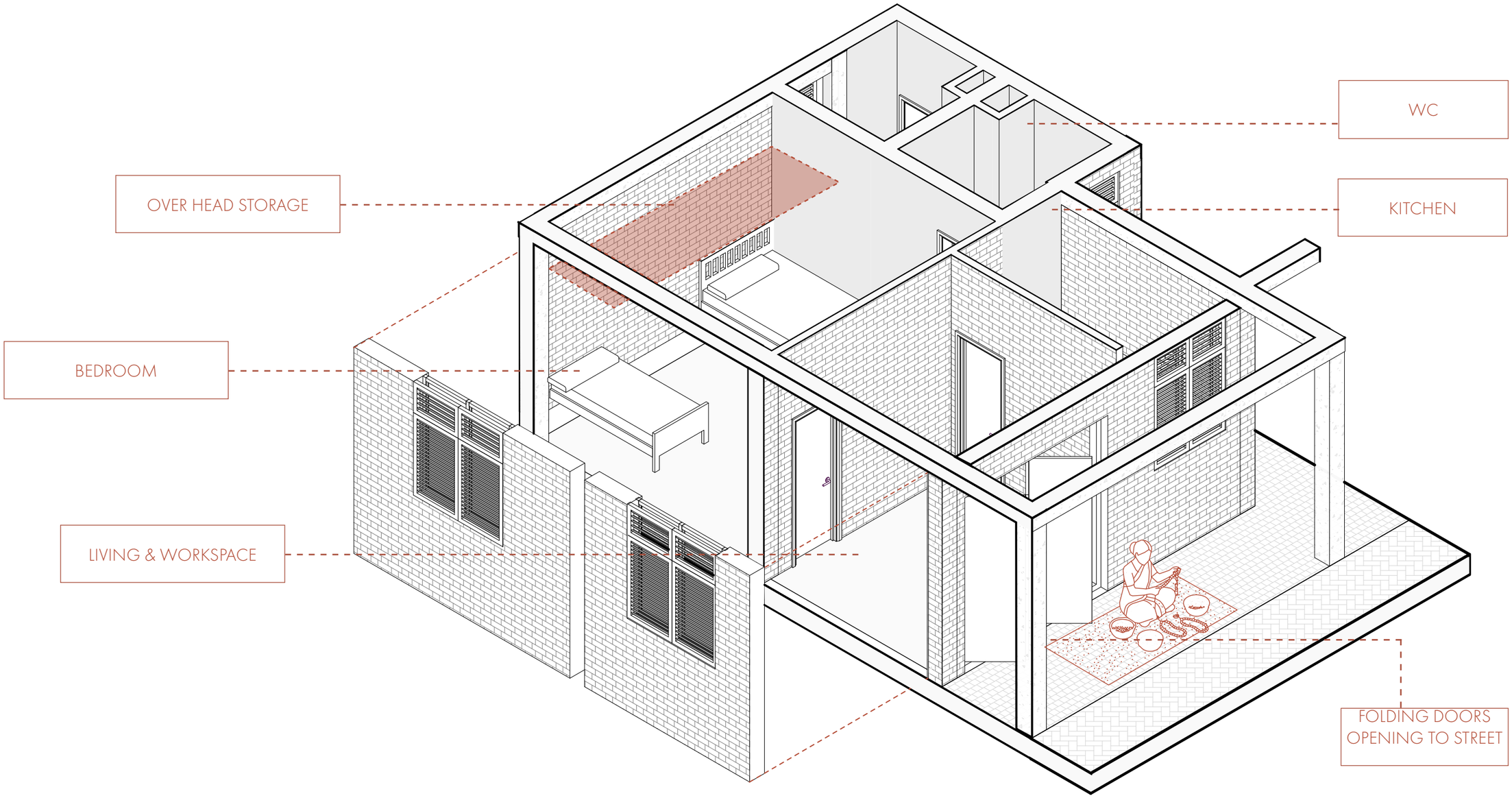
2. KITCHEN

3. FLEXIBLE LIVE-WORKSPACE

4. TOILET



DWELLING TYPE A AXONOMETRIC



DWELLING TYPE C & D GF

TYPE C

GFA: 86 sqm

OF PEOPLE HOUSEHOLD: 10-12

INCREMENTAL GROWTH:

TYPE 1C: 102 sqm

TYPE 2C: 94 sqm

TYPE D

GFA: 36 sqm

OF PEOPLE HOUSEHOLD: 4- 5

INCREMENTAL GROWTH:

TYPE 1D: -

TYPE 2D: 57 sqm

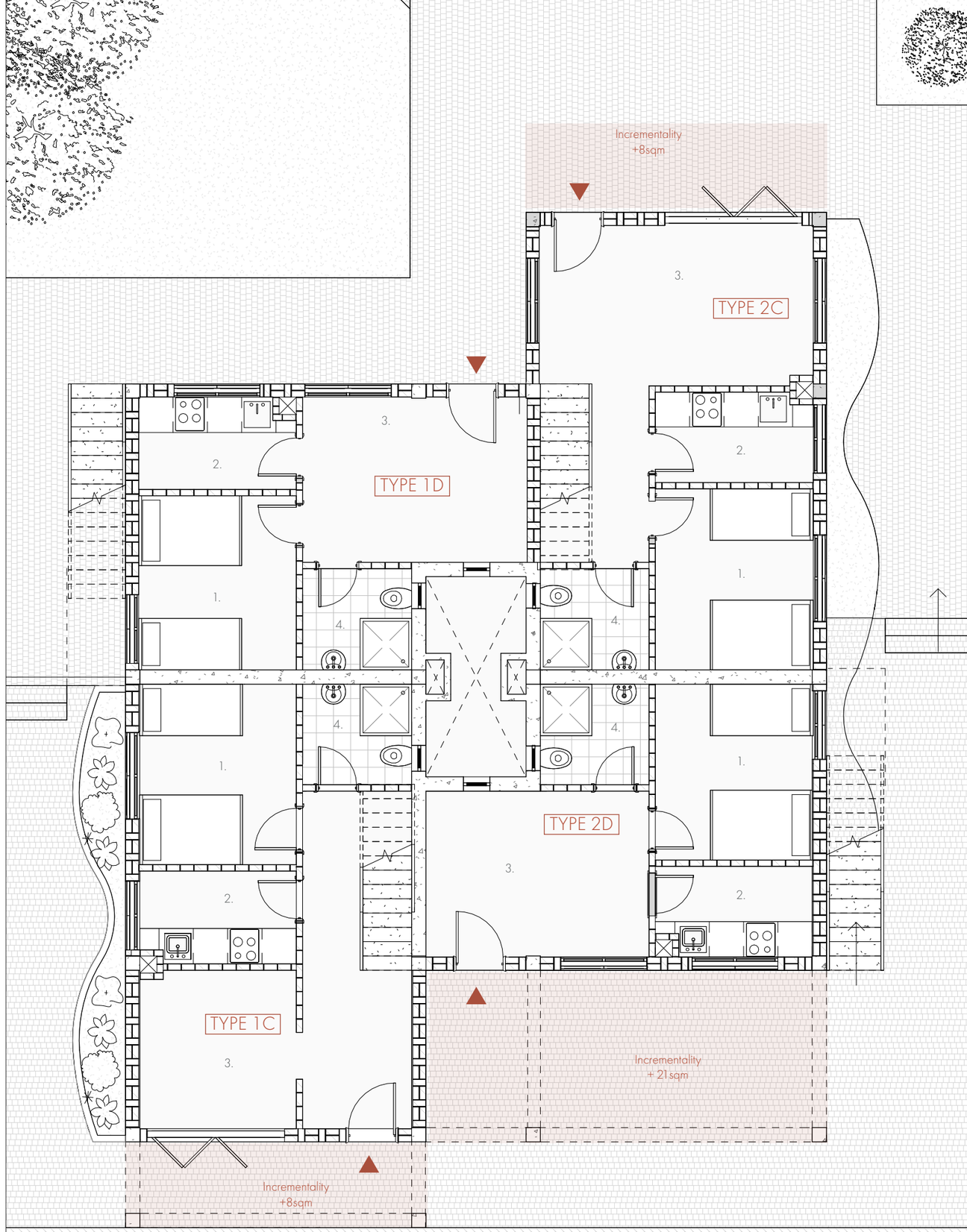
KEY

1. BEDROOM

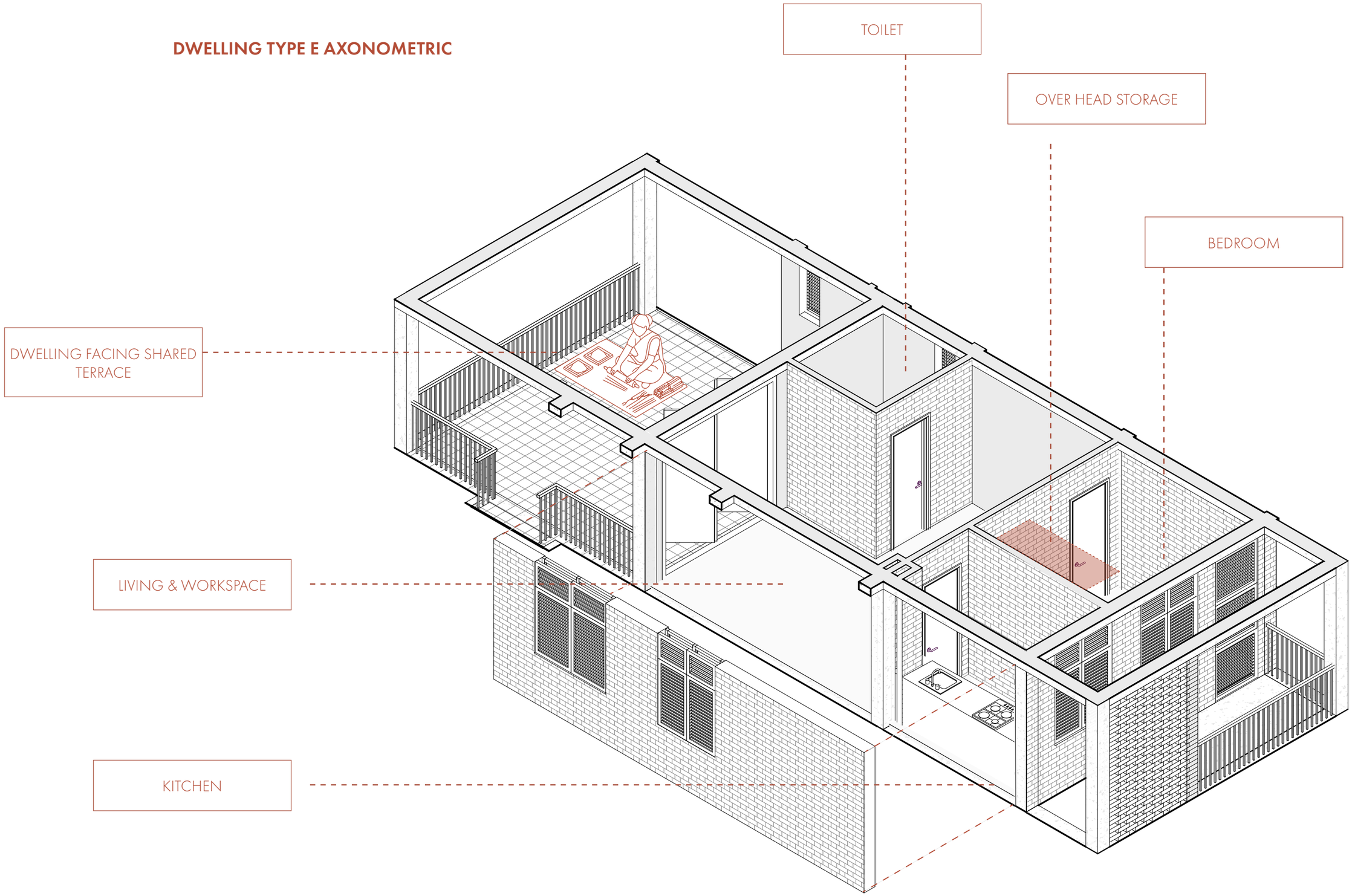
2. KITCHEN

3. FLEXIBLE LIVE-WORKSPACE

4. TOILET



DWELLING TYPE E AXONOMETRIC



INTERIOR PERSPECTIVE



PERSPECTIVE COMMON TERRACE



PERSPECTIVE CLUSTER TYPE A



1. Concrete Slab, IPS Floor finish, manglore tiles balcony and terrace and kota stone toilet

2. Concrete Beams

3. Concrete Columns

4. Concrete Structural Walls

5. Steel frame louvres and doors

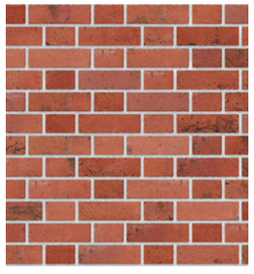
6. SIngle plane Glaizng

7. Brick Jali Wall

8. Balustrade

9. Infill brick wall with flemish bond

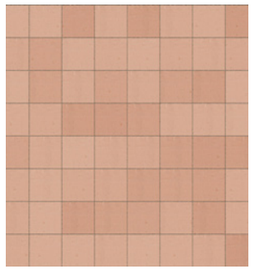
10. Brick walls interior wall



BRICK



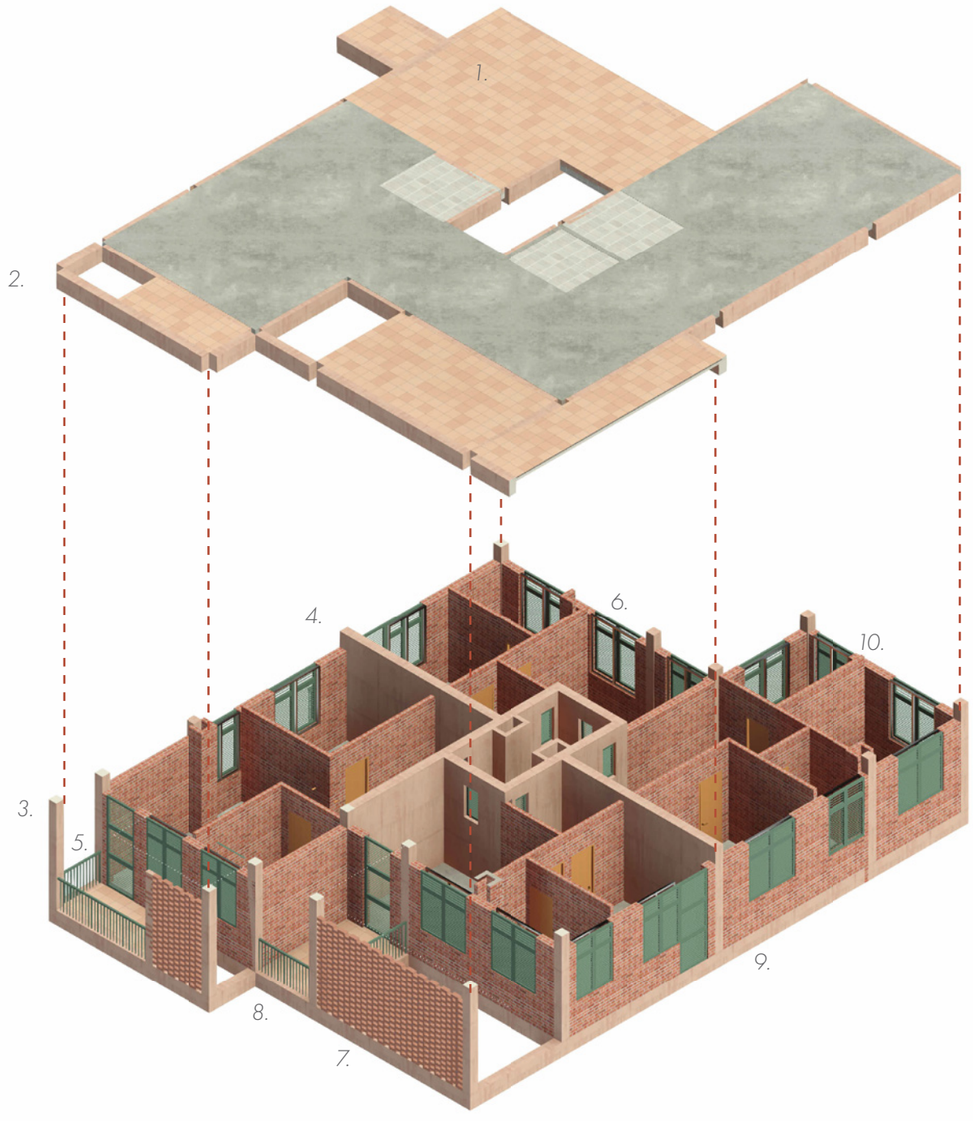
CONCRETE



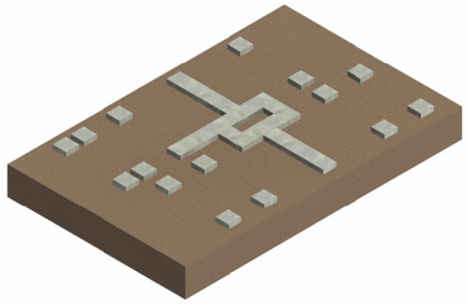
MANGALORE TILES OVER LIMESTONE



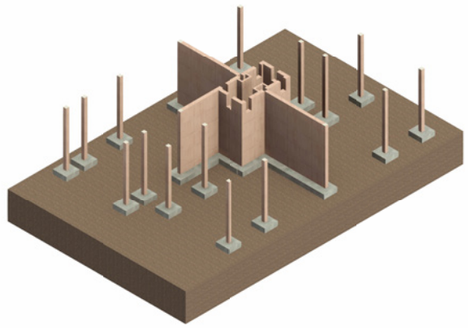
STEEL



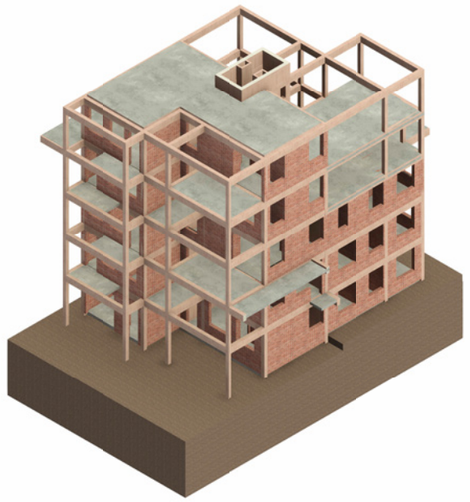
MATERIAL SPECIFICS



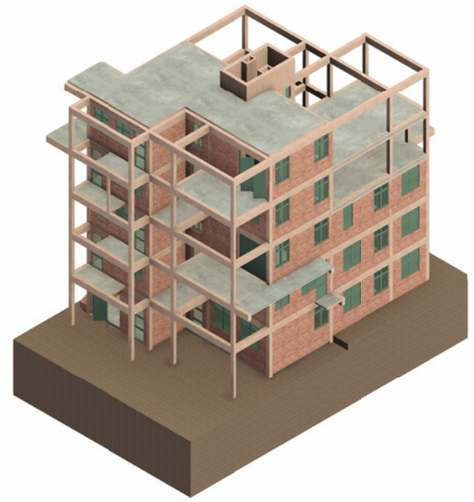
1. Excavate gorund, RC strip foundations and pad foundation.



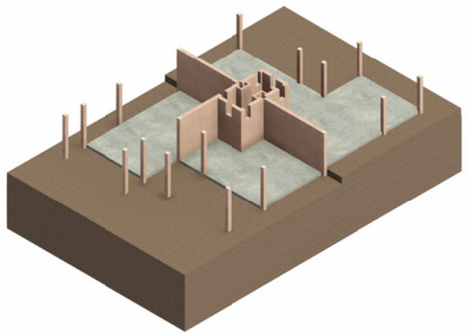
2. Ground floor structural walls and columns cast in.



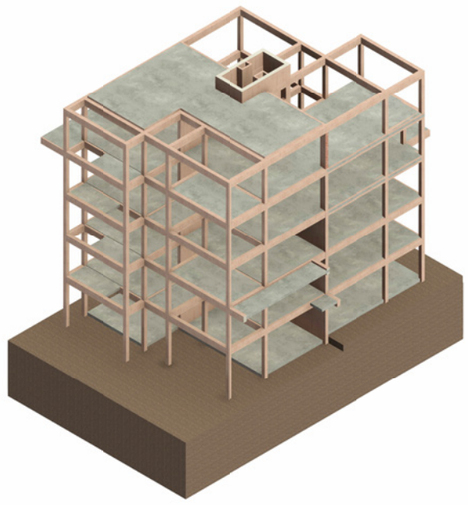
5. Brick infill walls added between concrete frame, leaving openings for windows, doors



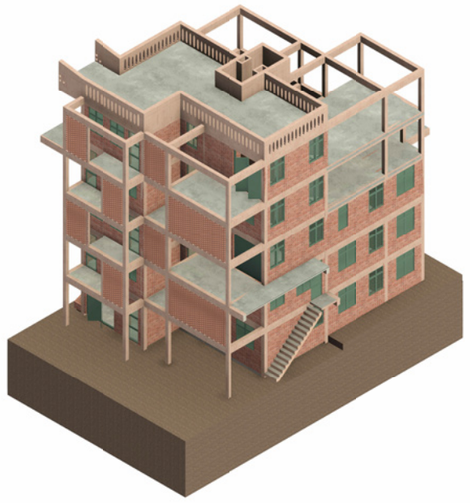
6. Steel Windows and Steel Louvres are installed.



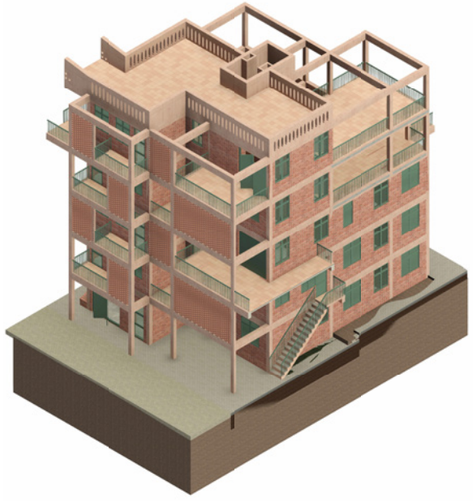
3. Soil infill is finished and ground rc slab is casted.



4. Full concrete frame completed floor by floor insitu columns, beams and slabs are casted



3. Jali wall and staircase are installed. Parapet with detail is casted in.



4. Floor roof finsihes are placed. Steel balustrades are installed.

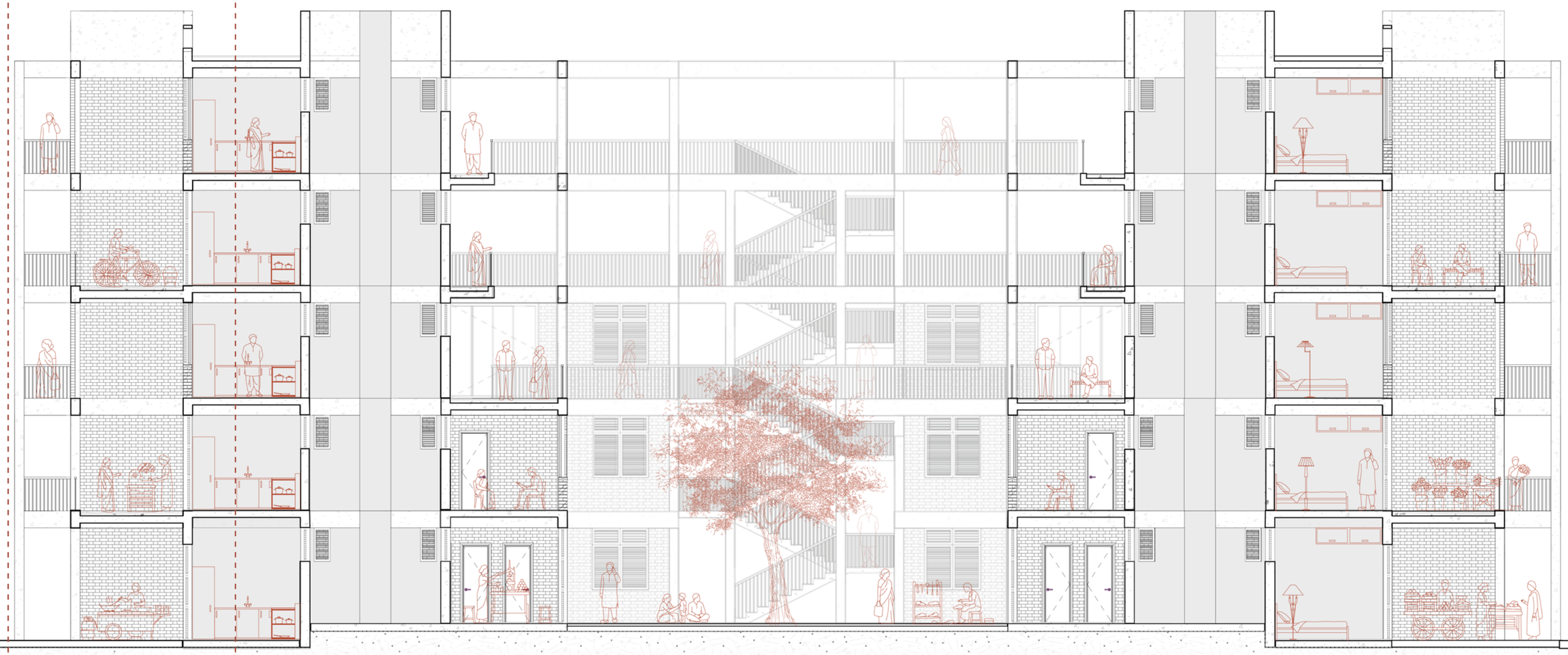
CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCE

DETAIL 1:20



ELEVATION 1:100 SCALE

DETAIL 1:20

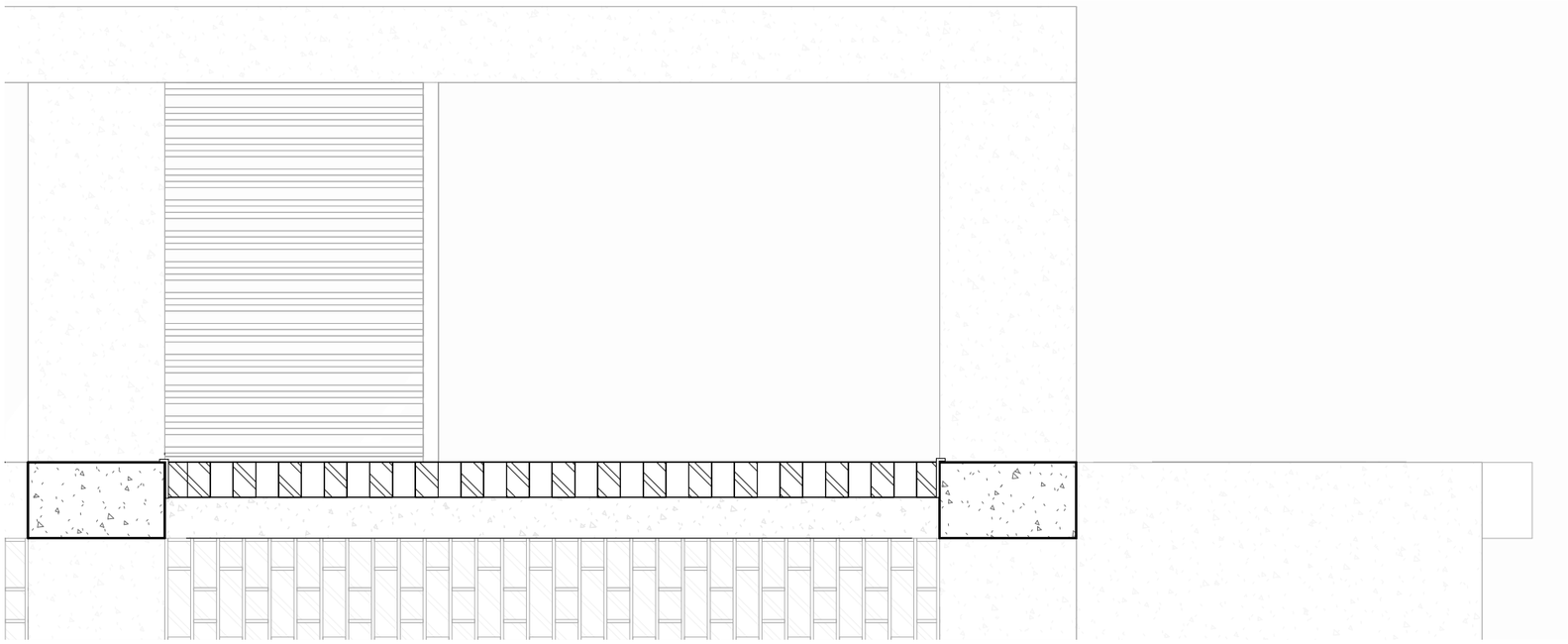


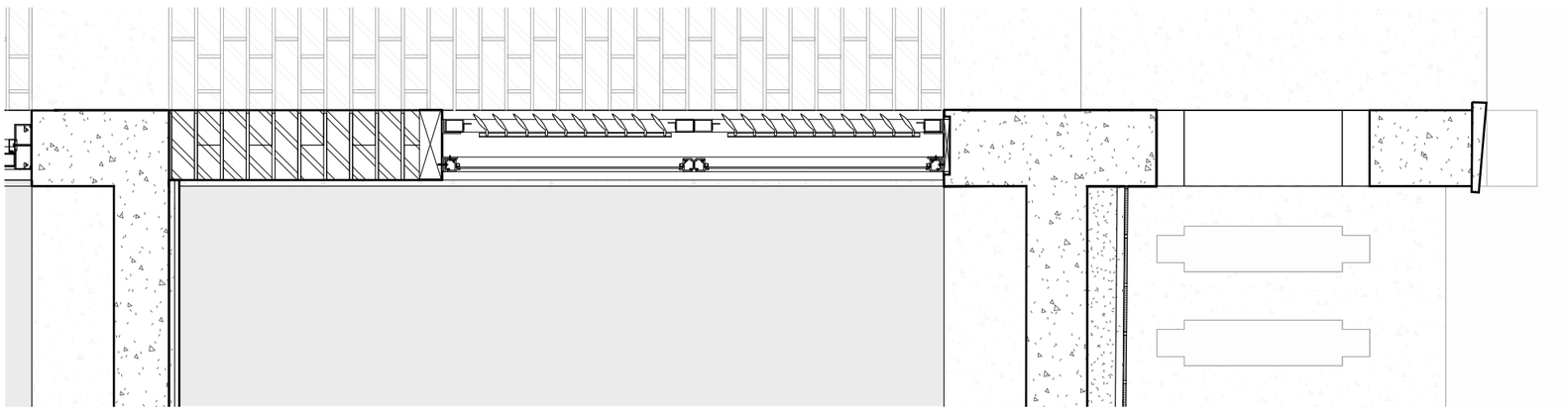
1:100

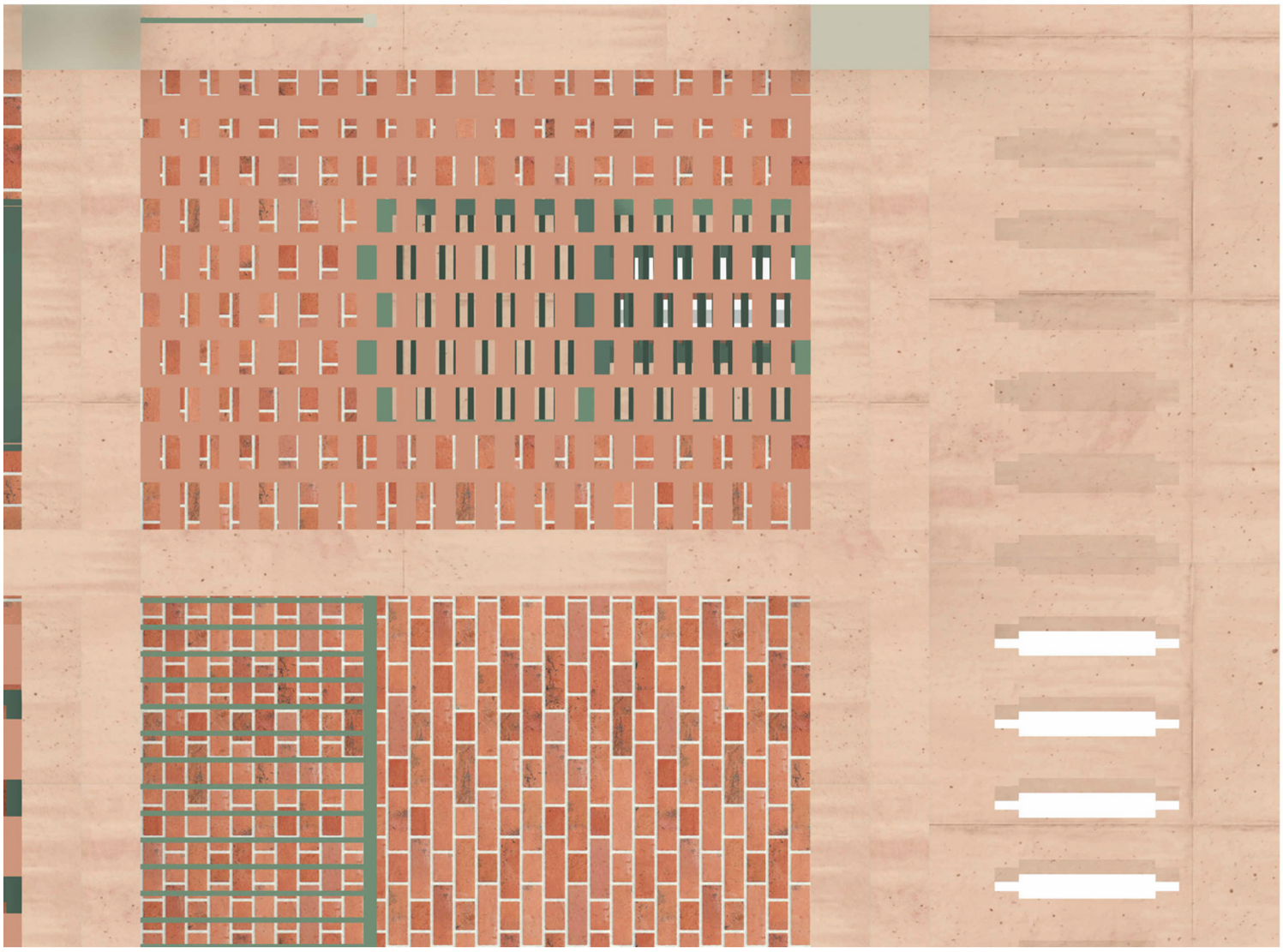
0 1m 2m

DETAIL SECTION 1:100 SCALE

DETAIL 1:20

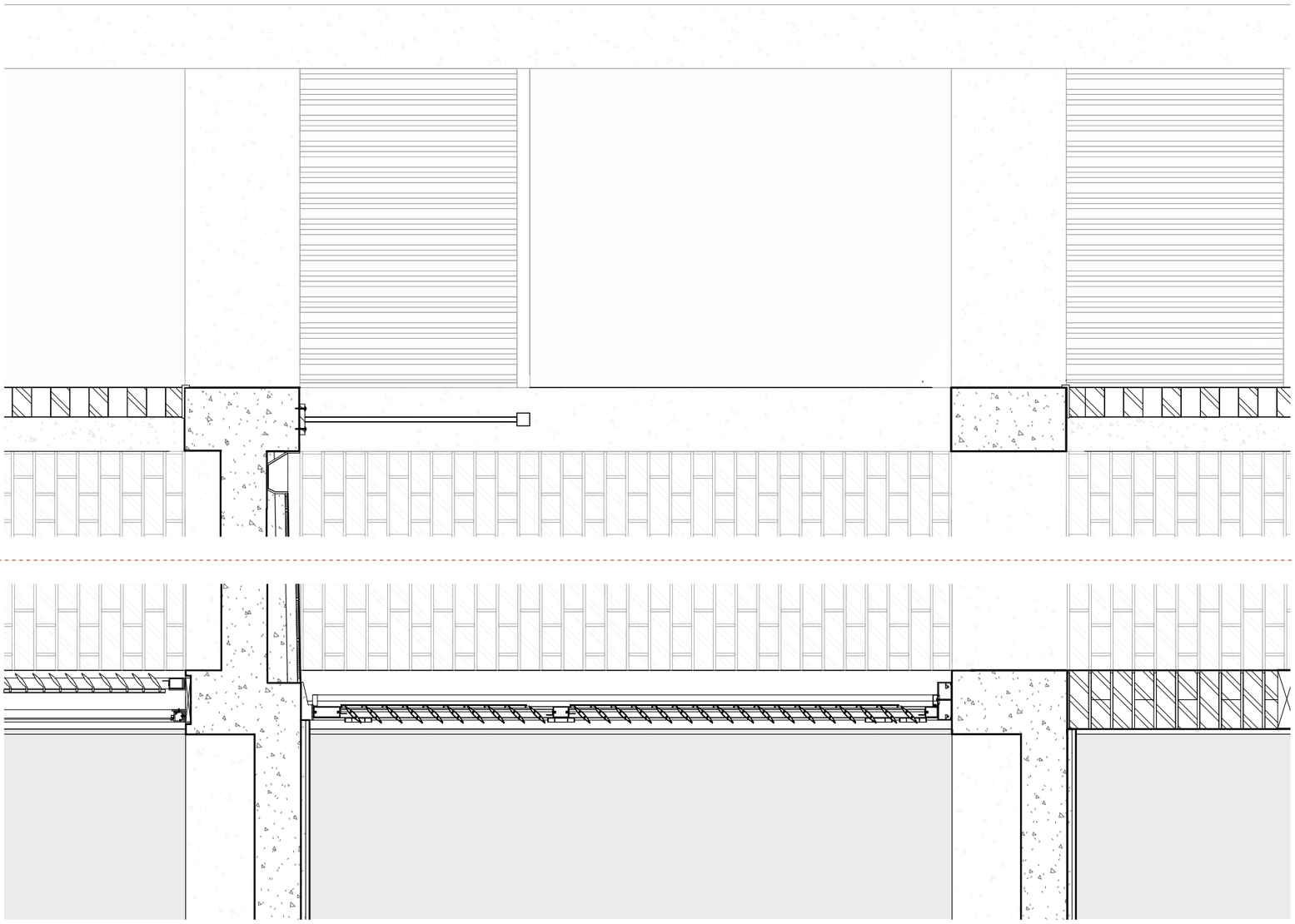


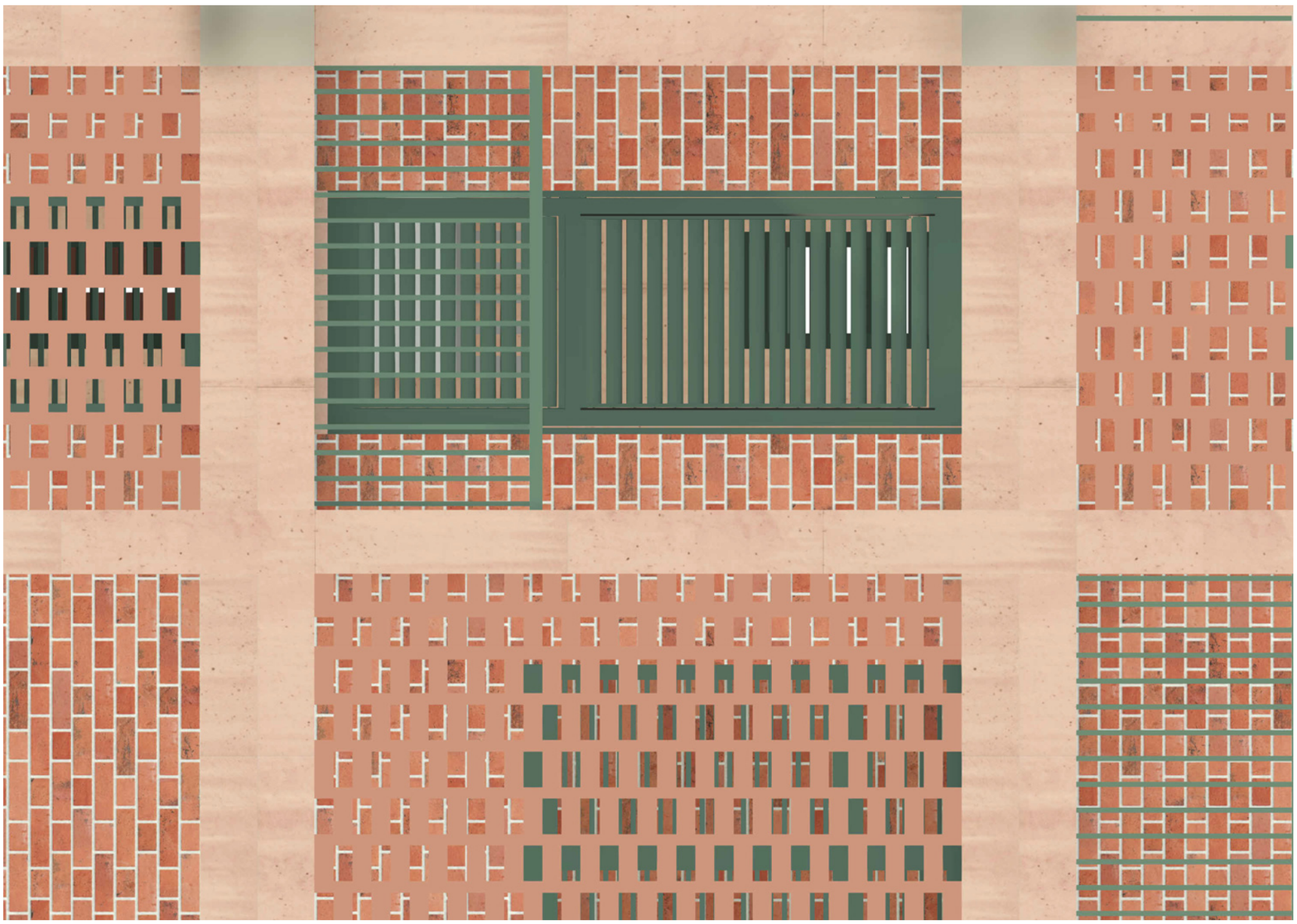




ELEVATION 1:20

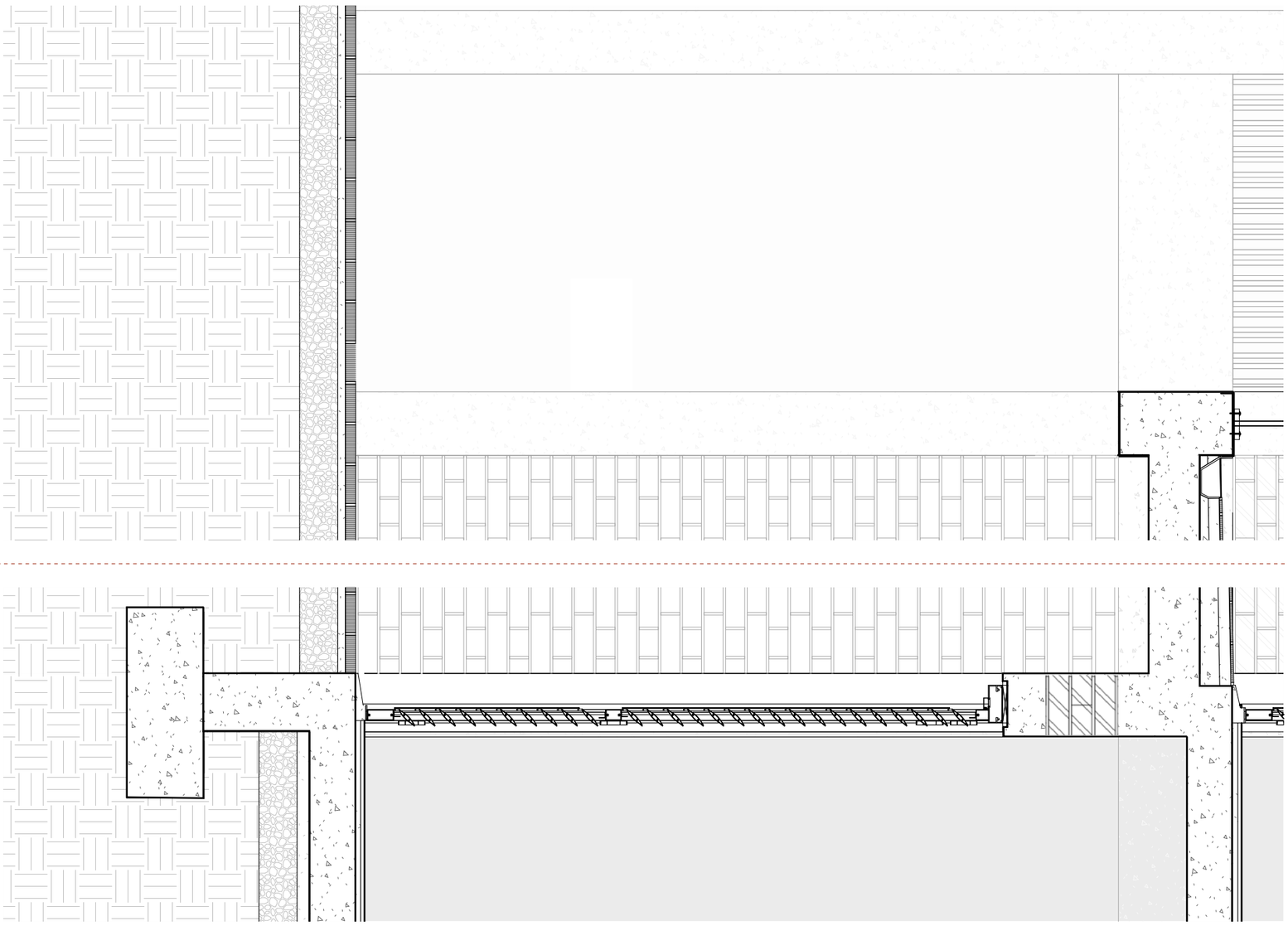
DETAIL 1:20

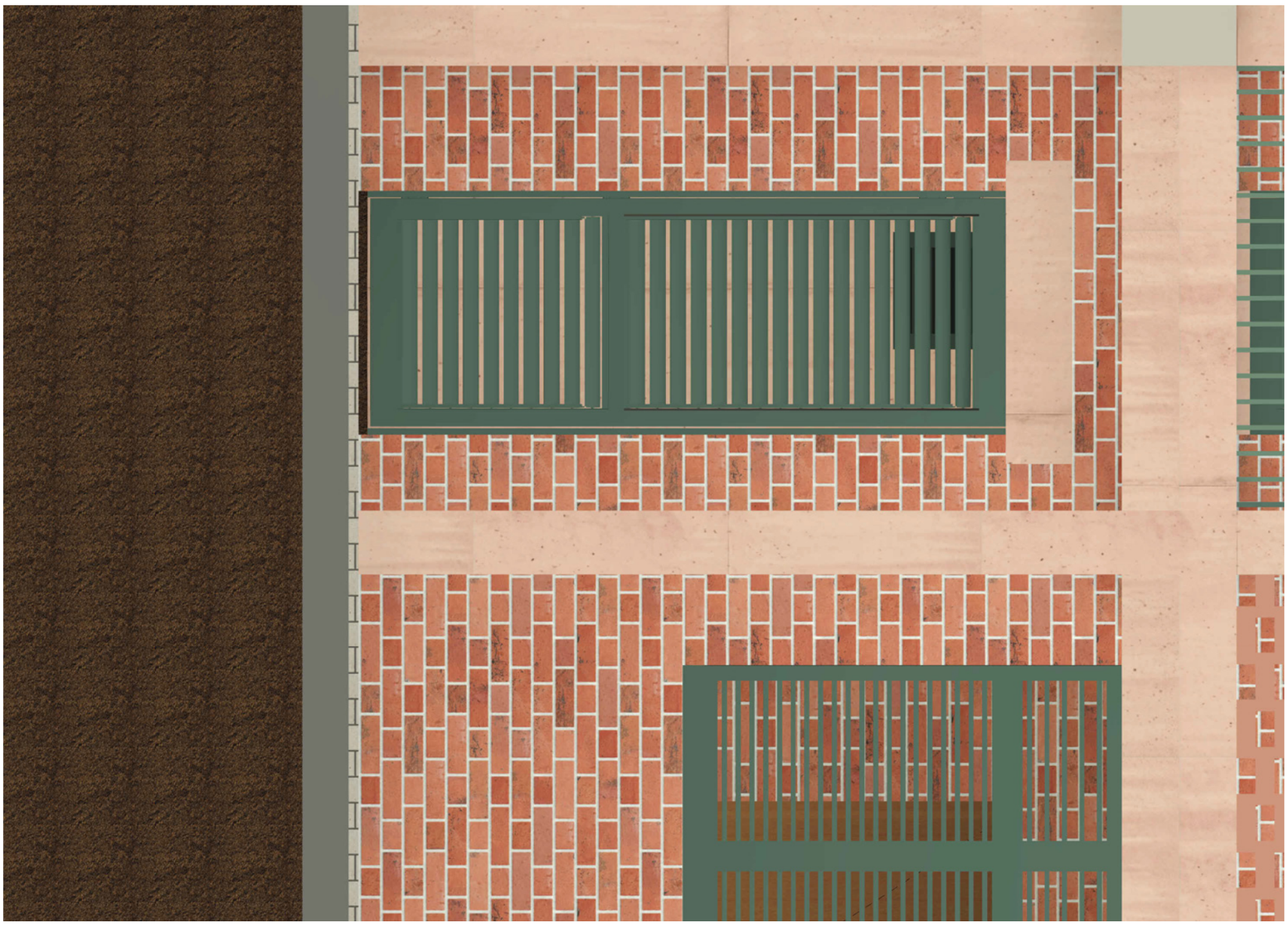




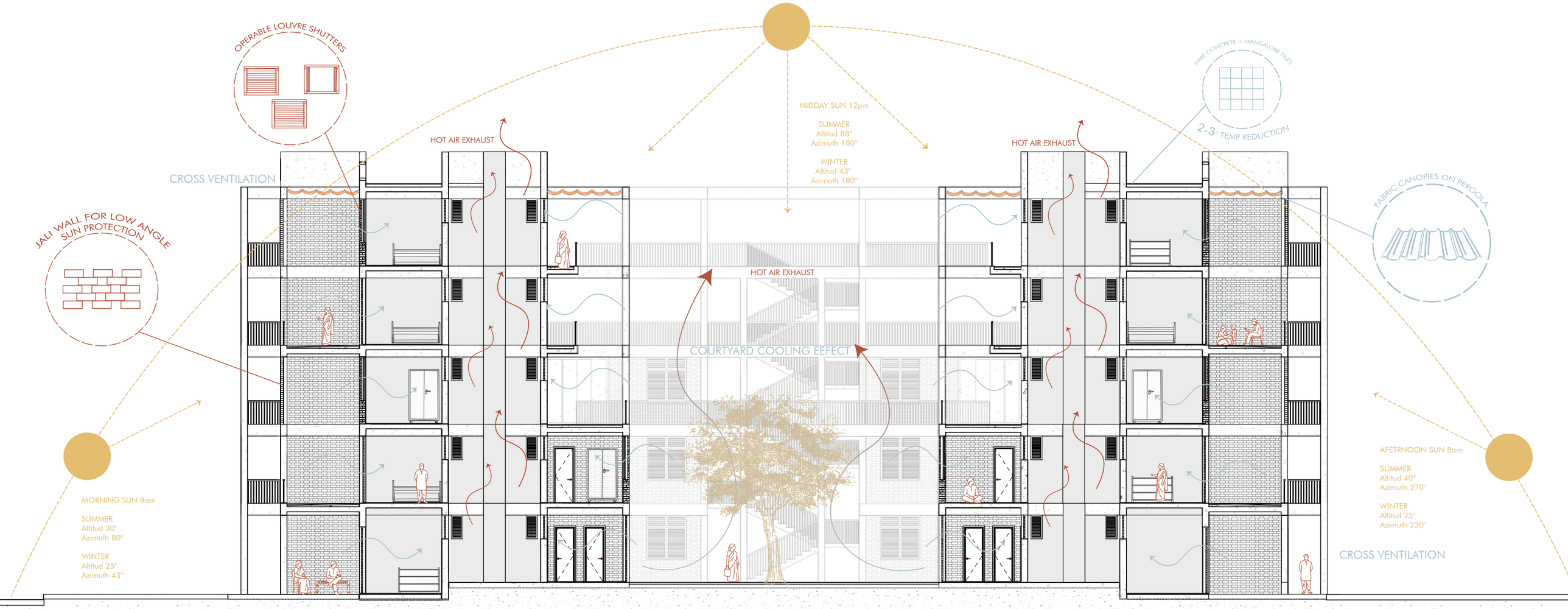
ELEVATION 1:20

DETAIL 1:20

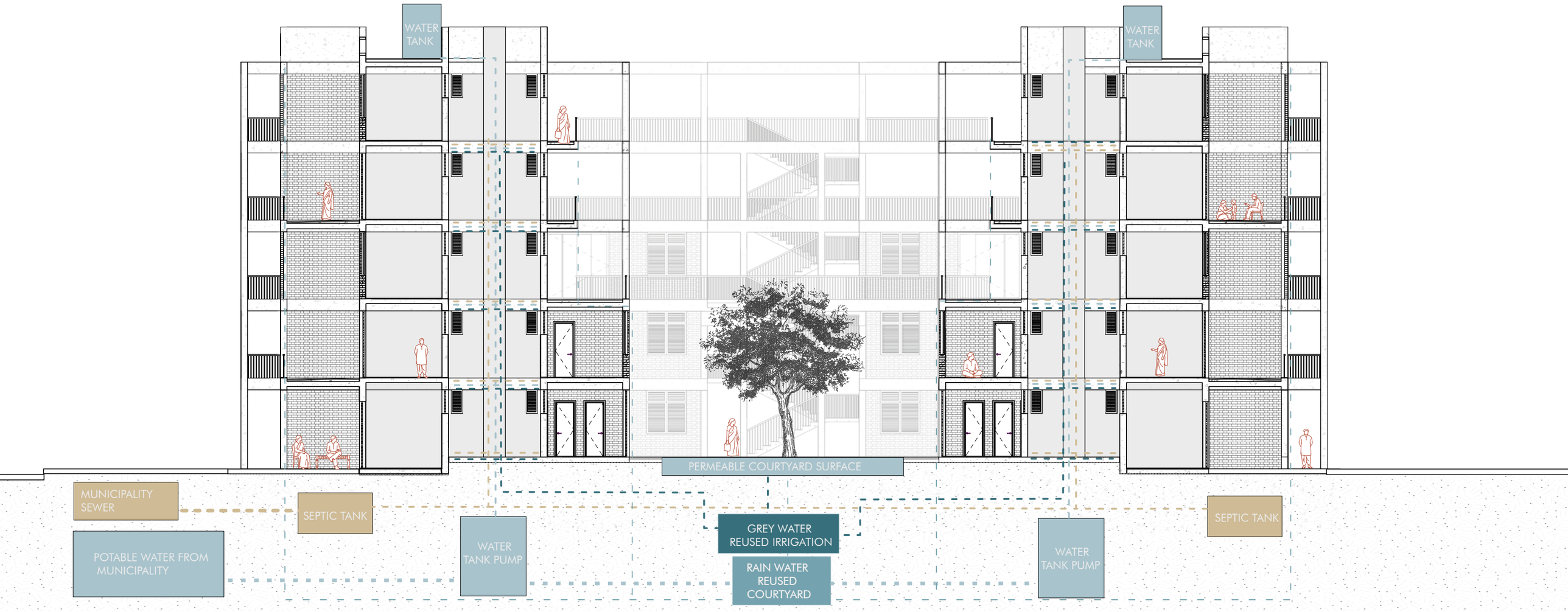




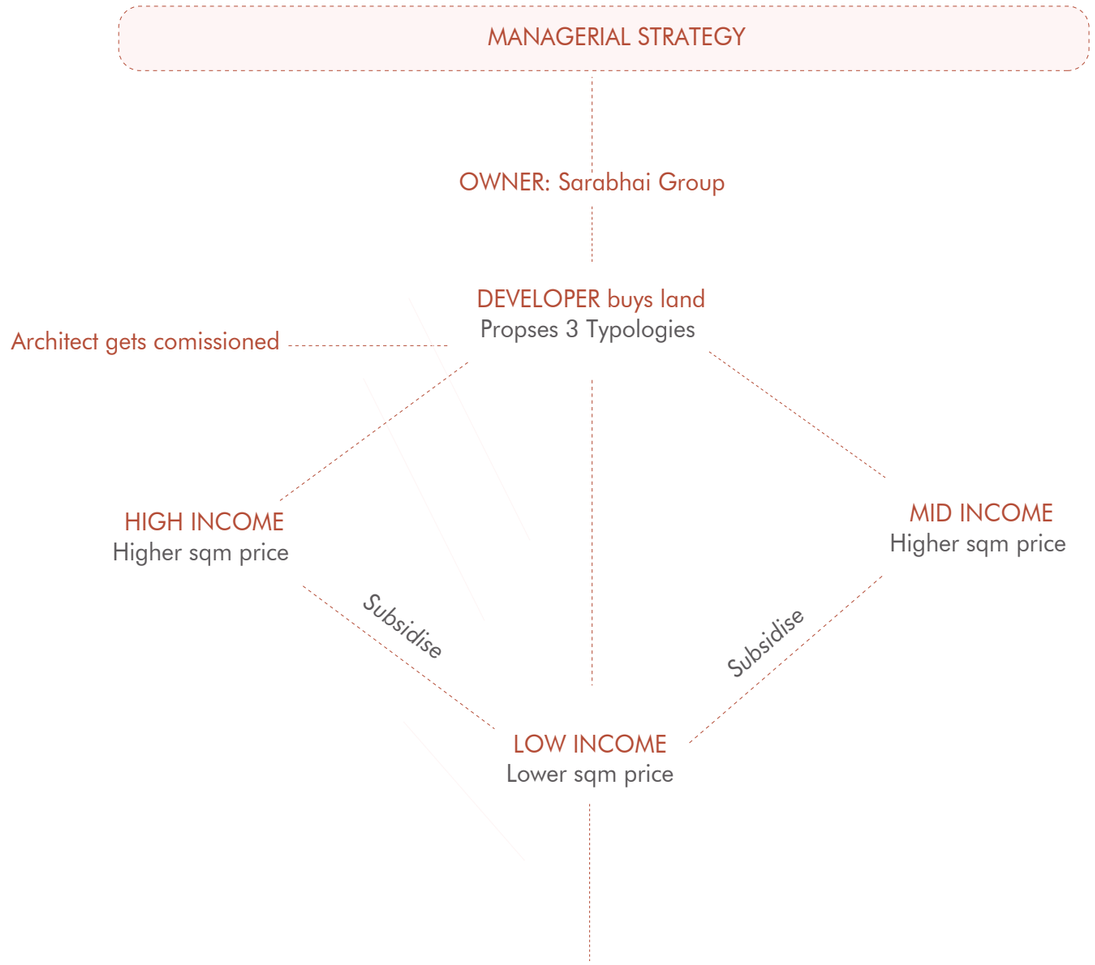
ELEVATION 1:20



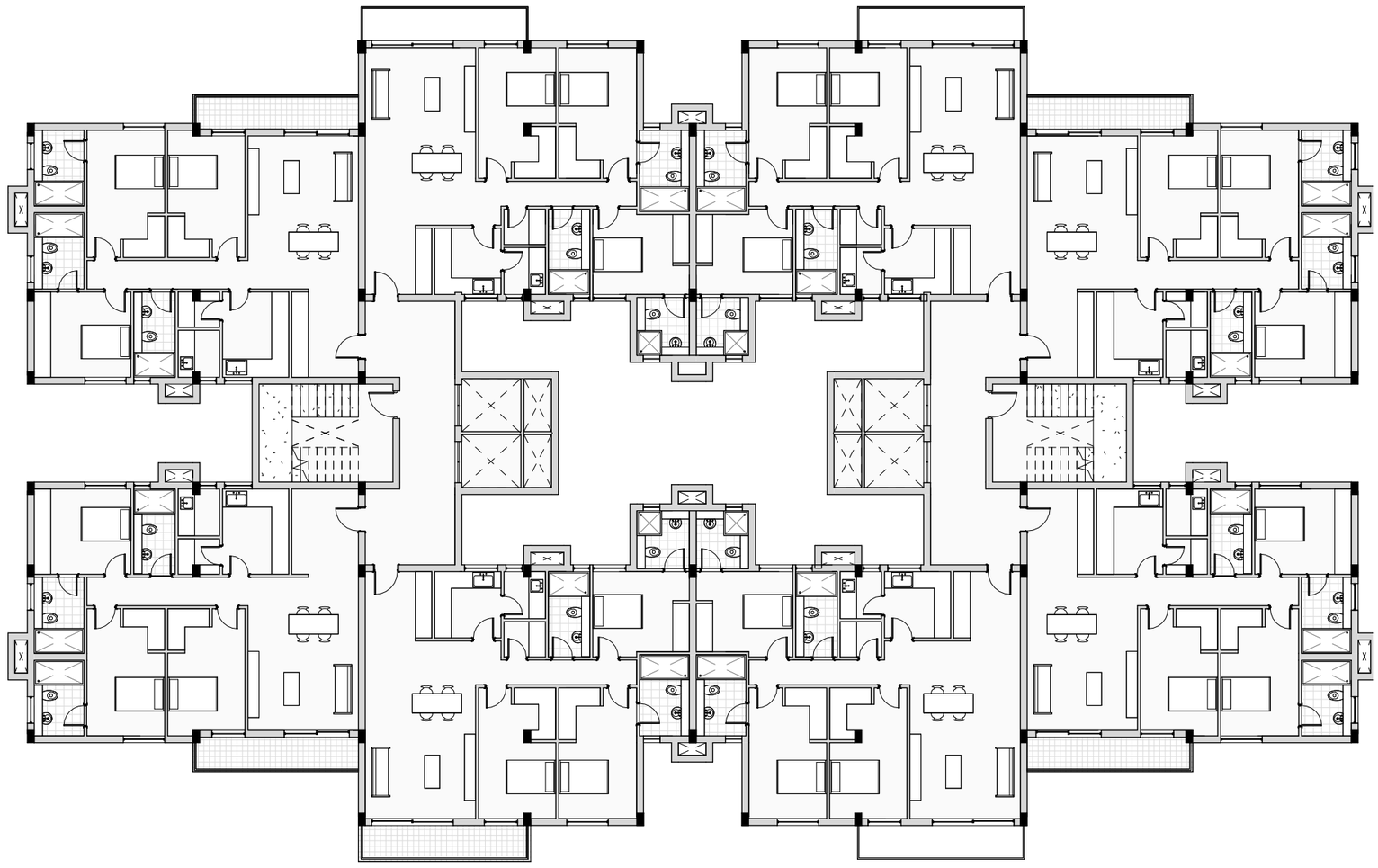
CLIMATE STRATEGY



WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY



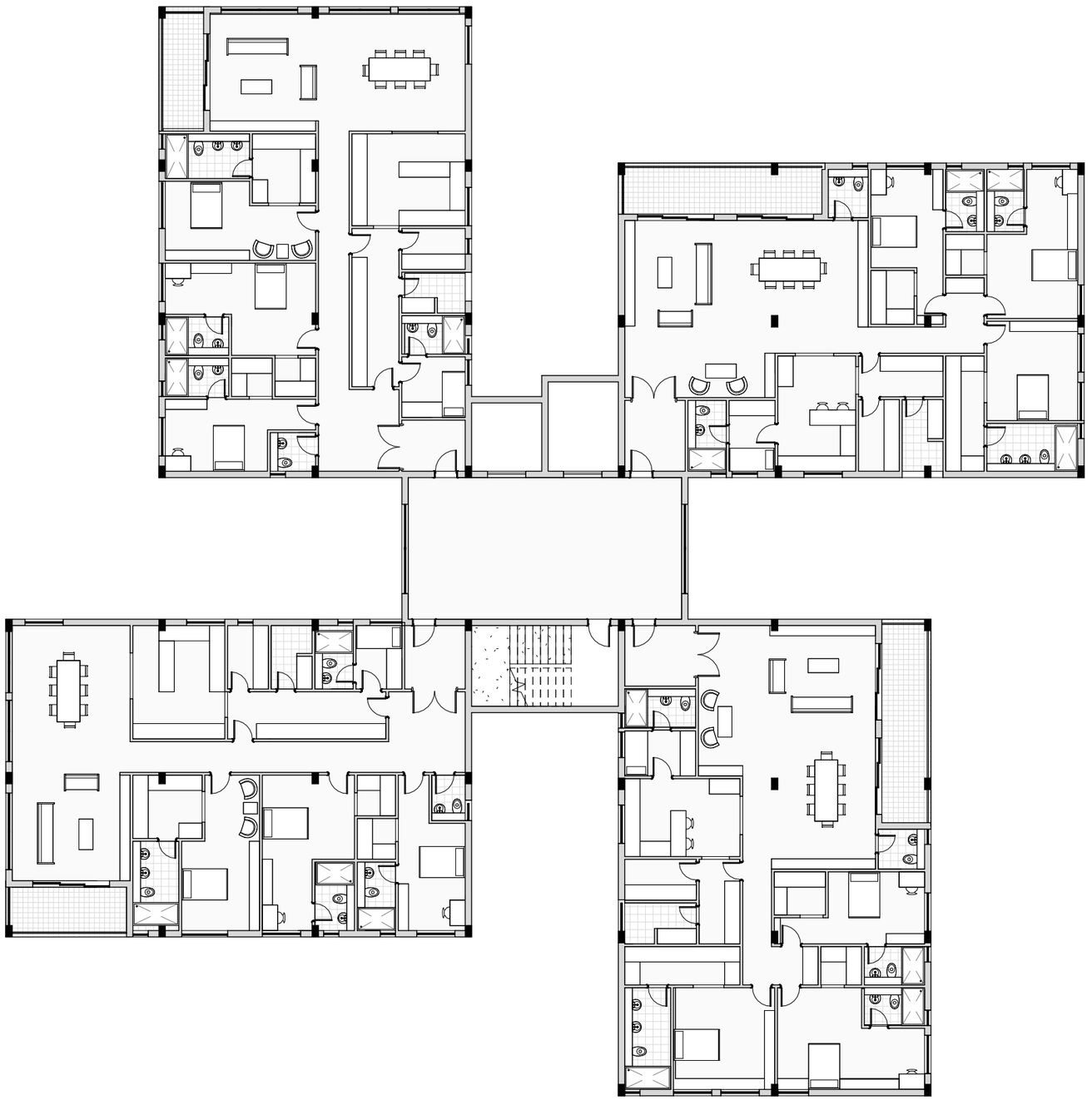
MANAGERIAL STARTEGY



1:200

0 5m 10m

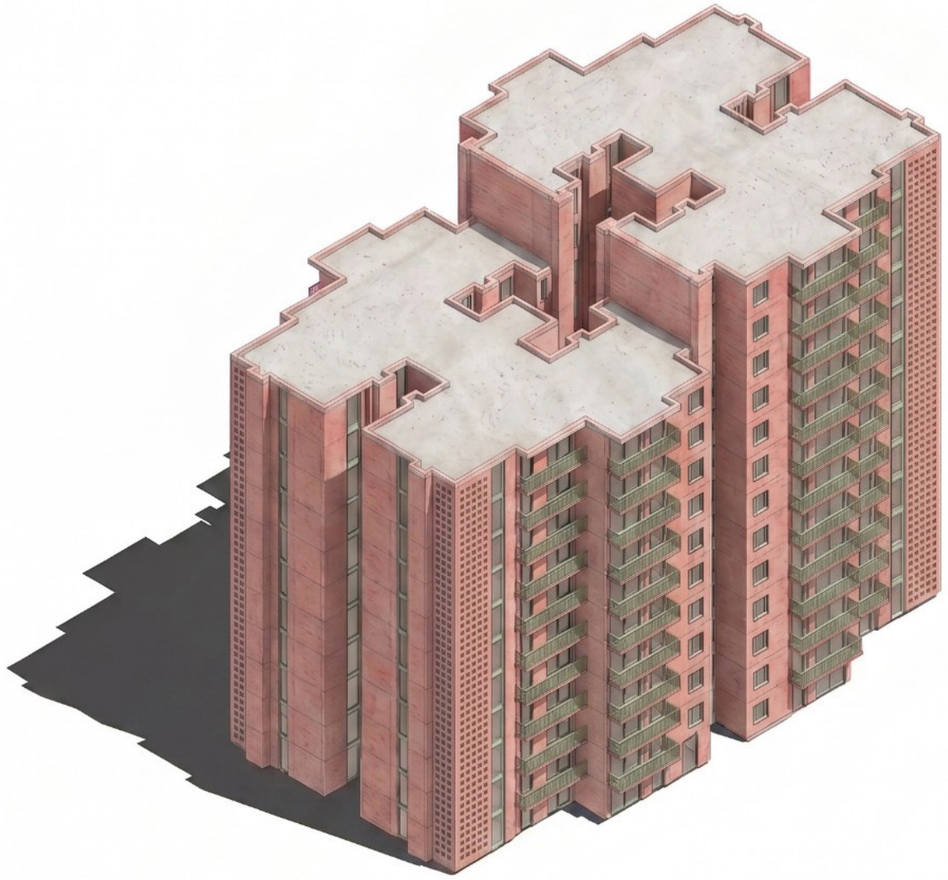
MID INCOME TYPOLOGY



HIGH INCOME TYPOLOGY

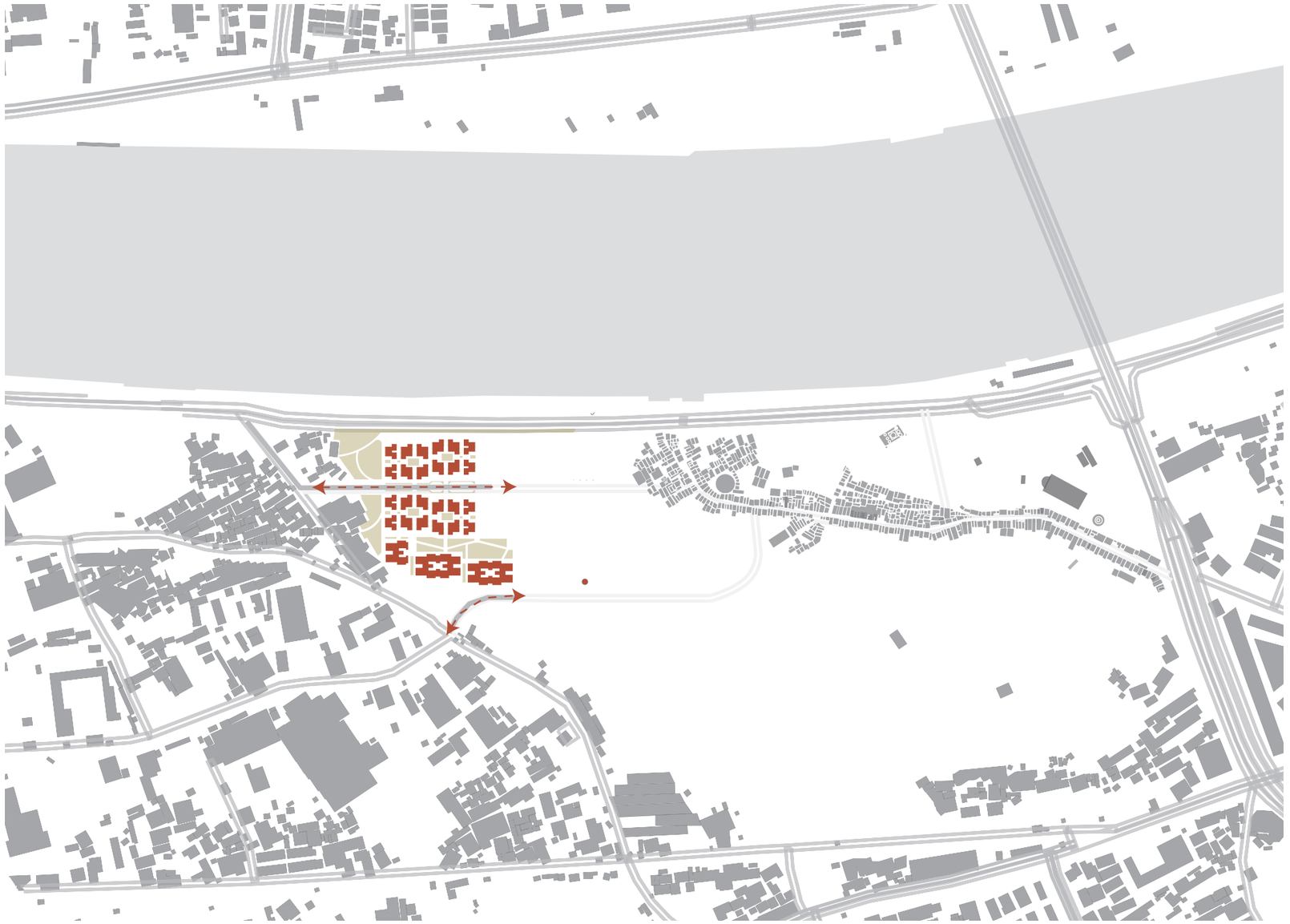
1:200

0 5m 10m

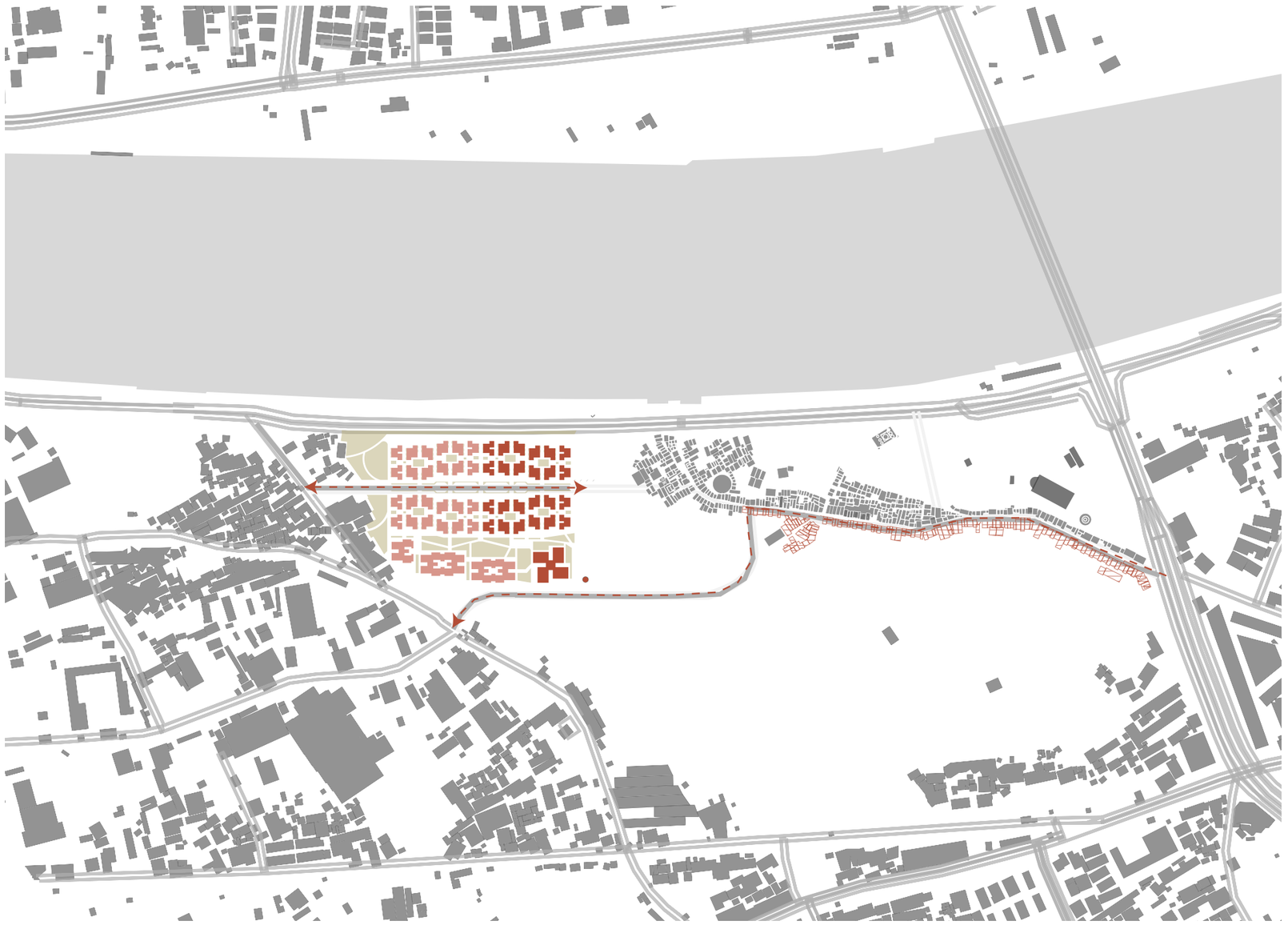




AXONOMETRIC IMPRESSIONS



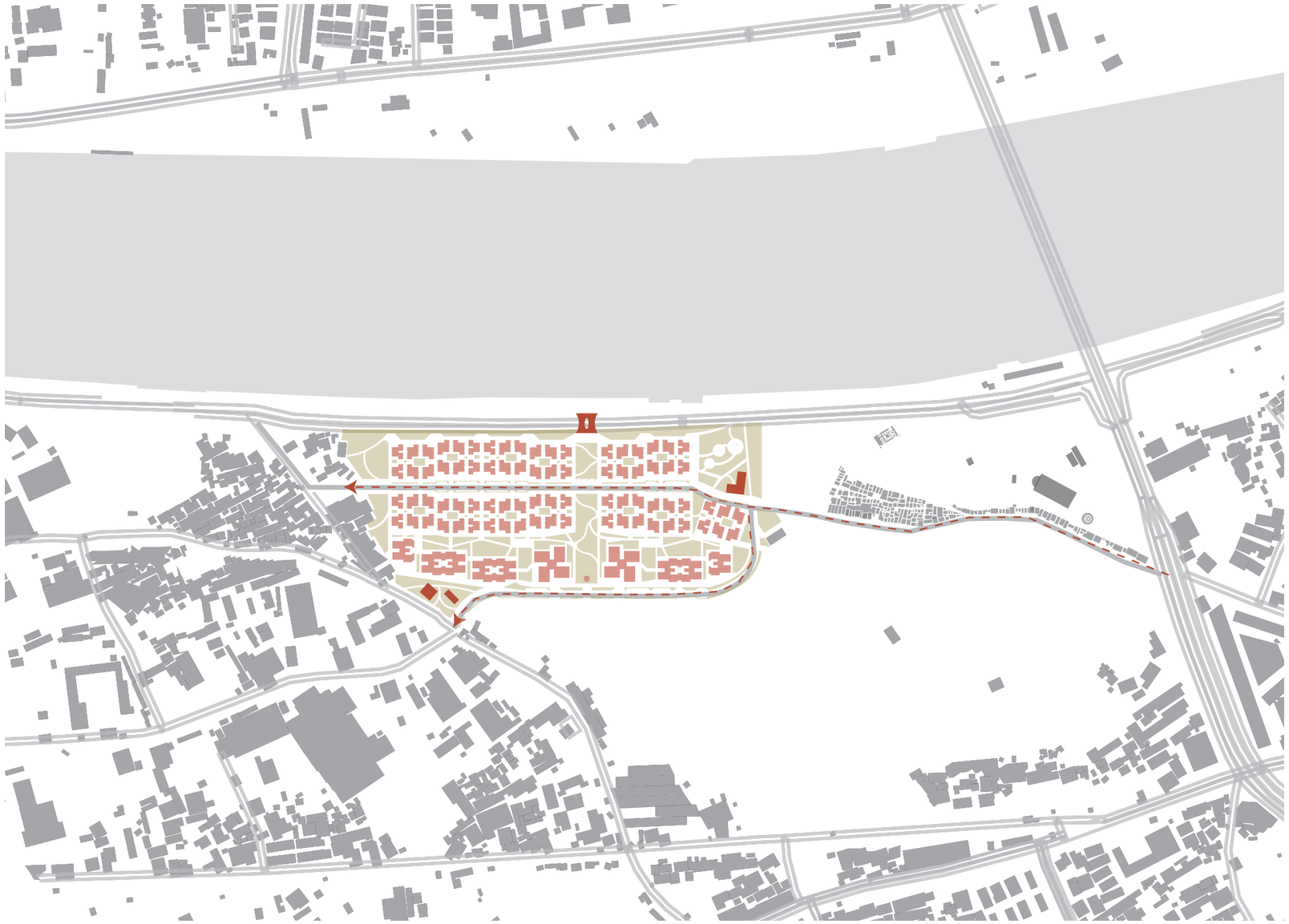
PHASING STRATEGY: PHASE 1



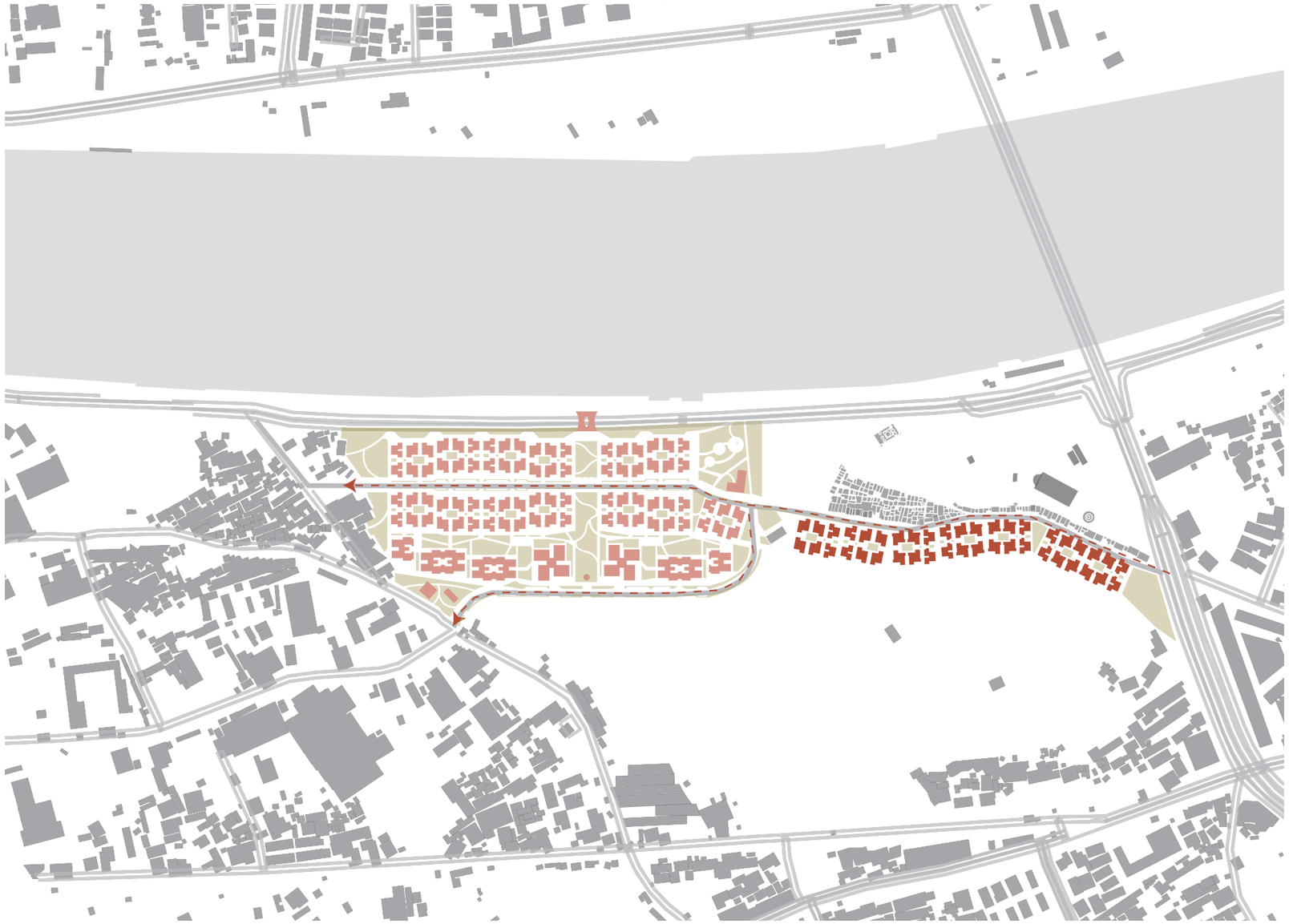
PHASING STRATEGY: PHASE 2



PHASING STRATEGY: PHASE 3



PHASING STRATEGY: PHASE 4



PHASING STRATEGY: PHASE 5

PROJECT ABACUS		
Plot Area	5.8	ha
Total Built Area	99,832	sqm
Total Ground Footprint	17,864	sqm
FSI	1,72	-
GSI	0.31	-
Total Units	1384	units
Dwelling Density	239	units/ha
Low Income Units	988	units
Mid Income Units	284	units
High Income Units	114	units

DWELLING TYPES				
GROUP	TYPE	UNIT SIZE	PER CLUSTER	TOTAL UNITS
Low	Type A	36 sqm	10	130
Low	Type B	36 sqm	14	182
Low	Type C	36 sqm	28	364
Low	Type D	43 sqm	16	208
Low	Type E	86 sqm	8	104
Mid	Type A+B	115 sqm	4/floor	284
High	Type A+B	226 sqm	4/floor	112

If all households incrementally expand to their maximum permitted capacity, the FSI would increase from 1.72 to 2.07. This figure is indicative, as expansion remains subject to individual household resources, needs, and timing

FSI AFTER FULL INCREMENTAL GROWTH: 2.07

PROJECT ABACUS

CLUSTER AXONOMETRIC

CLUSTER AXONOMETRIC

