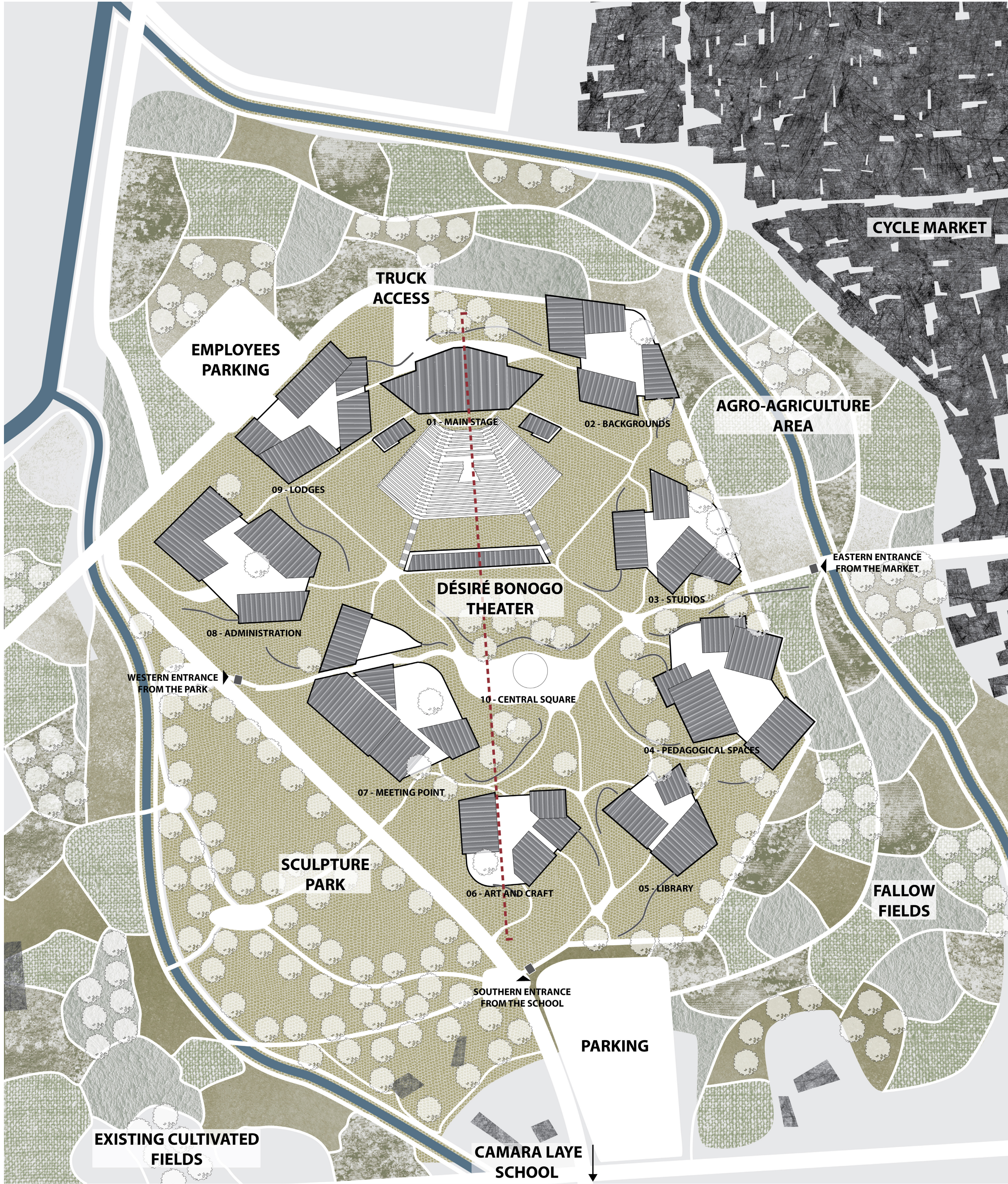
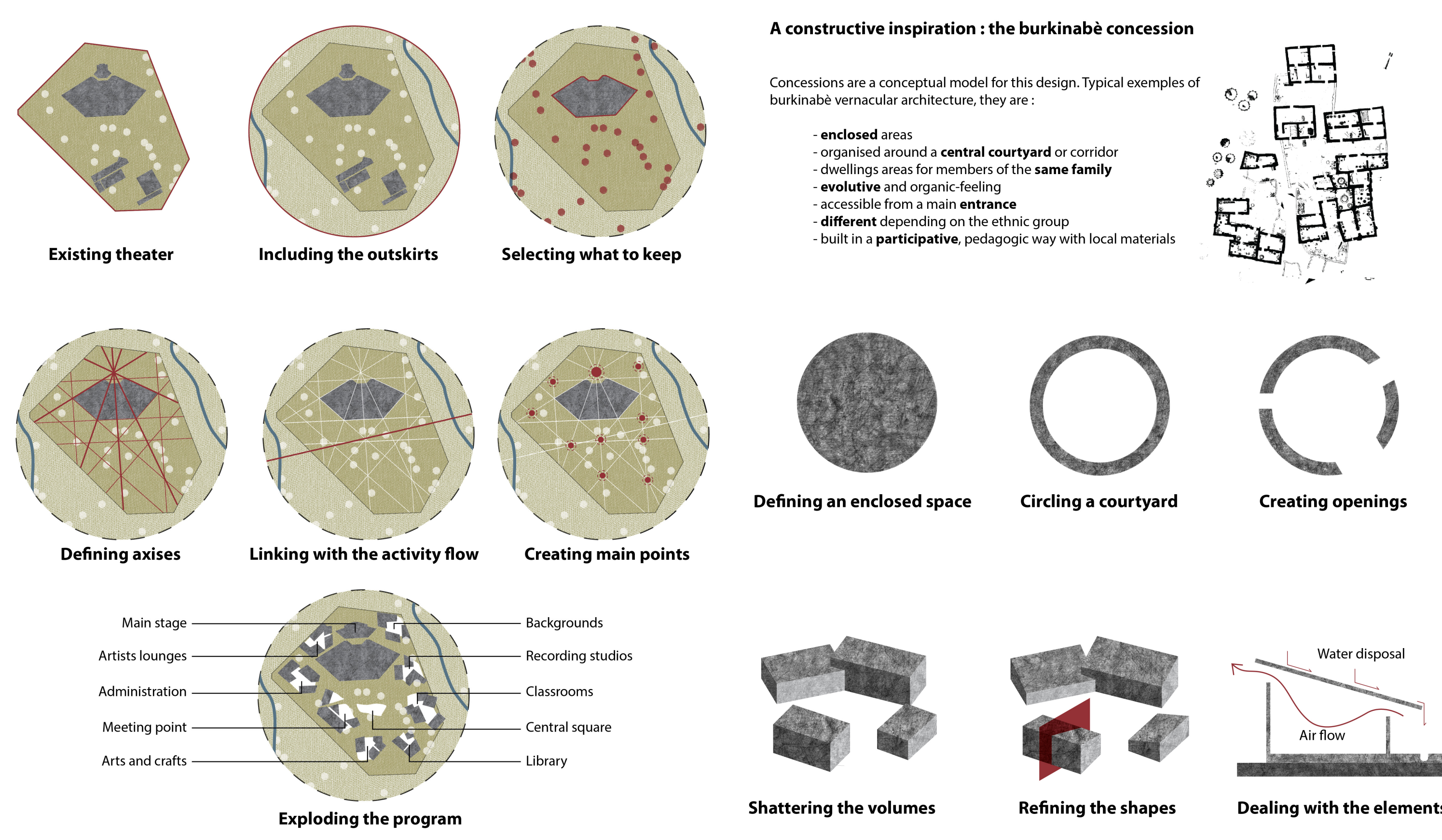


THE BURKINABÈ THEATER OF ARTS



THE THEATER AND ITS GREEN RING



LOGIC OF A DESIGN

The Burkinabè Theater of Arts: a cultural showcase

More than the rehabilitation of a theater, it is a cultural center dedicated to the whole Burkinabè population. True showcase of local arts at an international scale, it displays Burkinabè culture and celebrates its many ways of expression through a program that doesn't focus only on the arts of the theater. Seen as a dynamic place, it will allow its users to discover local artists through workshops and exhibitions, encourage artistic expression through an open stage and have a pedagogic approach to show and transmit burkinabè culture to the youth.

As a key point of the city, it is well connected to its surroundings, including the notorious cycle market of Samandin. However, the project is set into an agroecology area that will evolve throughout the seasons. This area contains different kind of plants working together in order to offer a stable ecosystem with a minimal need of maintenance to produce goods usable by the population. On the south-west is organized a sculpture park displaying permanent works of local artists. Linked to the unfarmed fields on the banks of the central channel, this creates a cultivated green ring protecting the theater beyond its borders.

Rather than dividing the project into the three zones depicted as «Work, Show and Labs», it is organized in «concessions», a tribute to Burkinabè vernacular dwellings hosting families together. Here it is the artistic families that are defining spaces, linked to each other by a specific treatment of the greenery.

The site : a dynamic and ever-changing space

The numerous concessions are thus offering various programs: arts and crafts, administration, media library, recording studios, exhibition spaces, restaurants, costume and set design workshop, educational spaces and of course the theater itself. They use the same angles and axes as the ancient theater's geometry to enhance the visual bond with it, and to offer multiple views. Their implantation is guided by those axes as well, every building being placed on a directive line issued from the remaining bleachers.

In order to maintain the links between them, curved and undulating walls as well as some paths guide the visitor on the site. They are made with the same materials as the concessions themselves. Breaking with the geometric rigidity of the frame and varying in height, they offer a route, sometimes some seats, and orient the views, notably on the concession themselves or towards the center of the site, considered as the very heart of the project.

This place is occupied by the massive main stage and its bleachers, but also by other equipment. Down the existing slope, nearby the trees that we kept as much as possible untouched, are set up a well and a secondary stage. Without bleachers or spotlights, the sobriety of this space, which consists only of one circular slab a bit elevated from the ground level, invites to spontaneity and appropriation. This central space can easily welcome street performances, market's stands or other outdoor events.

CREATION OF A CONCESSION

The construction : a shape guided by the elements

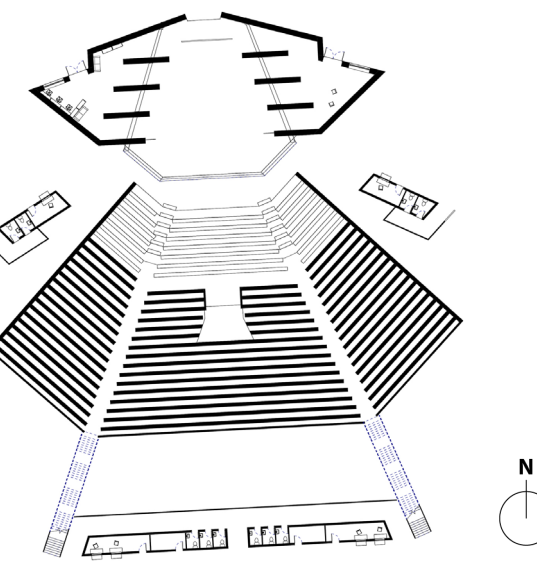
Each concession is built following the same principles. A mineral slab separates the concession from the ground, preventing the bottom of the clay walls to be exposed to water during the flows of the rain season. On top of it, sun-dried adobe walls are built in a participative manner to bring a pedagogic approach to the making of the theater. A concrete chaining then crowns the walls, linking them together and ensuring the junction with the roof. According to the uses of the building, a concrete slab will or will not come to rest on these walls to close the space under.

Made out of metallic sheets fixated on arborescent steel structure, the roof protects the walls and even offers a sheltered passage by largely exceeding the limits of the rooms below. Like Francis Kéré's creations, we therefore integrate the principles of natural ventilation into our design for an optimal ratio between user comfort and maintenance costs. Each concession is organized around a cooler inner courtyard raised above the surrounding ground. These light roofs are tilted on the courtyard's side and detached from the walls in order to allow this natural ventilation in the building. In this way, the colder air can easily cool down and regulate the temperature inside

each building. Moreover, this specific inclination towards the courtyard enable the rainwater to flow towards the center of the concession where it will be collected by a small channel.

The theater : a landmark true to its roots

Due to its dimensions, the theater appears as a true monument. Around the site we see it emerging from the treetops. If the rest of the concessions are rather staying low, closer to human scale, the main stage is covered by a long span vault. The site entrances, also marked with brick vaults, echo it. The bleachers were kept untouched however the scene went through transformations allowing it to host performances requiring modern staging techniques.



THE SITE AND ITS SLOPE



- BACKGROUNDS**
Where the scenery used on the main stage is made and stored.
Contains a makers studio, a storage space and a space for repairs, all of them being as always organized around a central courtyard.
- STUDIOS**
A space to record artistic works on different mediums.
Contains a music recording studio, a cinema studio, an editing room, sanitarries and a complete photography studio.
- PEDAGOGICAL SPACES**
Rooms dedicated to the teaching of various forms of art.
Contains a puppet theater, a storage space, a circus space, music rehearsal rooms and a dance hall with dressing rooms.
- LIBRARY**
A dense concession to ease the access to culture.
Contains a storage room, a books library, a media library, sanitarries and a coworking space.
- ARTS AND CRAFTS**
An interaction with local artists through the making of objects.
Contains sewing and costume spaces and a building dedicated to arts such as pottery and painting.
- MEETING POINT**
A space largely opened to the center of the theater.
Contains the main ticket bank, sanitarries, the theater's shop, an exhibition space and a cafeteria-restaurant.
- ADMINISTRATION**
The offices organizing the whole theater and its activities.
Contains offices with sanitarries, accommodations for artists, as well as a restaurant for employees.
- LODGES**
Where actors and actresses dress up before a performance.
Contains separated lodges and dressing rooms for males and females, sanitarries and a sewing space where the costumes of the artists are made.

CONCESSIONS AND THEIR FUNCTIONS

