

Community Justice Center for Gender based violence

The Case for Muslayhathi Anjuman Informal Restorative Justice Model

Free, fair, efficient and equitable justice to all, particularly the poor and marginalized

The Case for Muslayhathi Anjumans (Restorative Justice Committees). MAs are formed by elected Union Council Members (13 members of which 4 are women). Police and Courts have the right to refer cases to this community-based justice model while extending police oversight and protection making it an updated version of the traditional Jirgas. Deliberating within the confines of the constitution while creating an informal dialogue that is both cost/time effective, convenient and more relevant to members of the community that see themselves represented and heard.

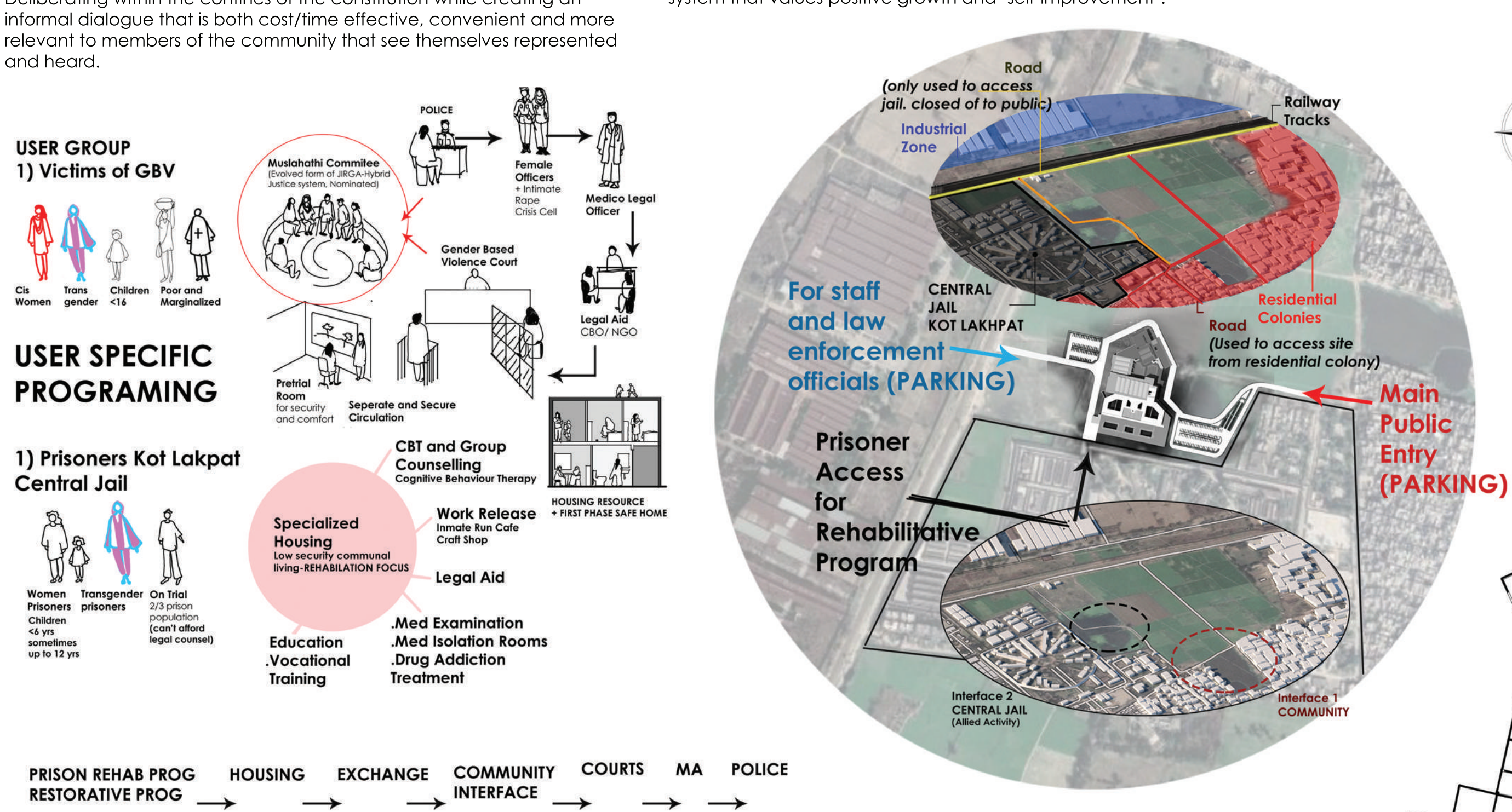
My Justice Center is in part inspired by the Red Hook Court in Brooklyn while contextualizing it to the community of Kot Lakhpat which is already accustomed to the imposing presence of Central Jail(a symbol of institutional failings and colonial legacy of retributive justice model). With 2/3 of the prison Population on trial awaiting lengthy proceedings in an overcrowded prison. A particularly vulnerable sub group are the women prisoners of which 31% are on trial and the trans prisoners with no separate housing. There is a need to shift the current model of justice towards rehabilitation. This starts by (a) bridging the gap between the community and Justice dispensing institutions by streamlining the proceedings making the process efficient (b) Encouraging community presence and active participation at the center so the biases for such institutions can be broken down (c) Ultimately the aim is to restore faith in justice and the concept of rehabilitation whereby marginalized folks can feel taken care of protected within a system that values positive growth and 'self-improvement'.

THE PROBLEM AT HAND

Women and trans folks restricted access to justice in Pakistan, is not only a result of antiquated laws and the judiciary's lack but is also a result of the interplay between various social, cultural, structural & legal complexities that can only be understood and addressed through a keen interdisciplinary analysis of the justice system and its gatekeepers.

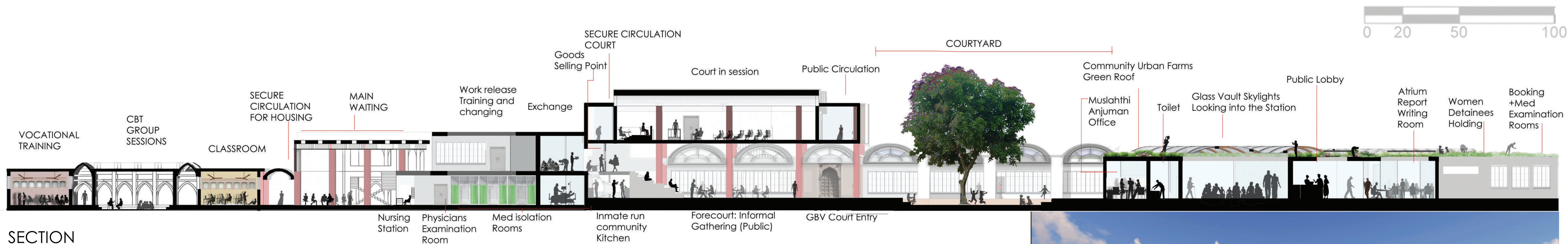
Justice dispensing centers like the Police Stations with their culture of harassing and intimidating victims- the Medico Legal officers with their biases and institutional failures. The sense of disorientation that comes with a Court-room environment coupled with high litigation fee, prying eyes and flat out disbelief that compliant of GBV face. In terms of infrastructure, there are no secure waiting areas and few & dirty latrines, while perpetrators and other under-trial prisoners move about in shackles with Police escorts.

The housing of female and trans prisoners ,on trial or under investigation in over crowded prisons where they languish for years with no ultimate goal of rehabilitation. Shows the final stage of a system that takes victims of neglect and frustration and turns them into socially excluded individuals.

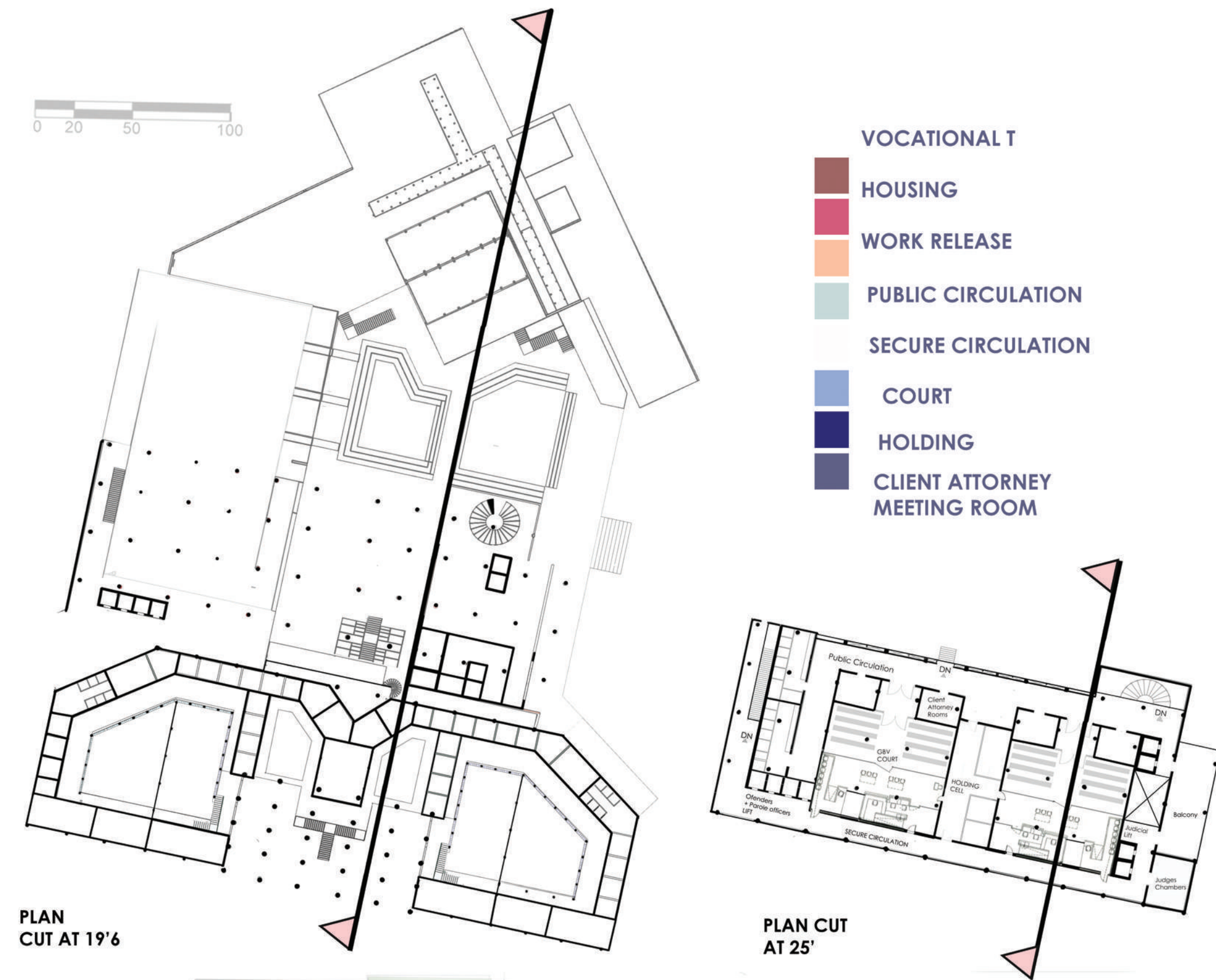


SITE PLAN





SECTION



PLAN CUT AT 19'6'

PLAN CUT AT 25'

SOUTH FACADE



VIEW FROM KOT LAKHPAT CENTRAL JAIL



VIEW OF THE COMMUNITY COURTYARD FROM THE MA OFFICE AND COMMUNITY COURT



VIEW OF SPECIAL HOUSING'S DAYROOM COURTYARD AND EXERCISE YARD FOR ON TRIAL/ LOW LEVEL CRIMINALS/WOMEN/TRANS



VIEW OF THE GREEN ROOF URBAN FARM ATOP THE POLICE STATION SKYLIGHTS PROVIDING VIEWS INTO THE COMMUNITY POLICING ROOMS TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESSIBILITY