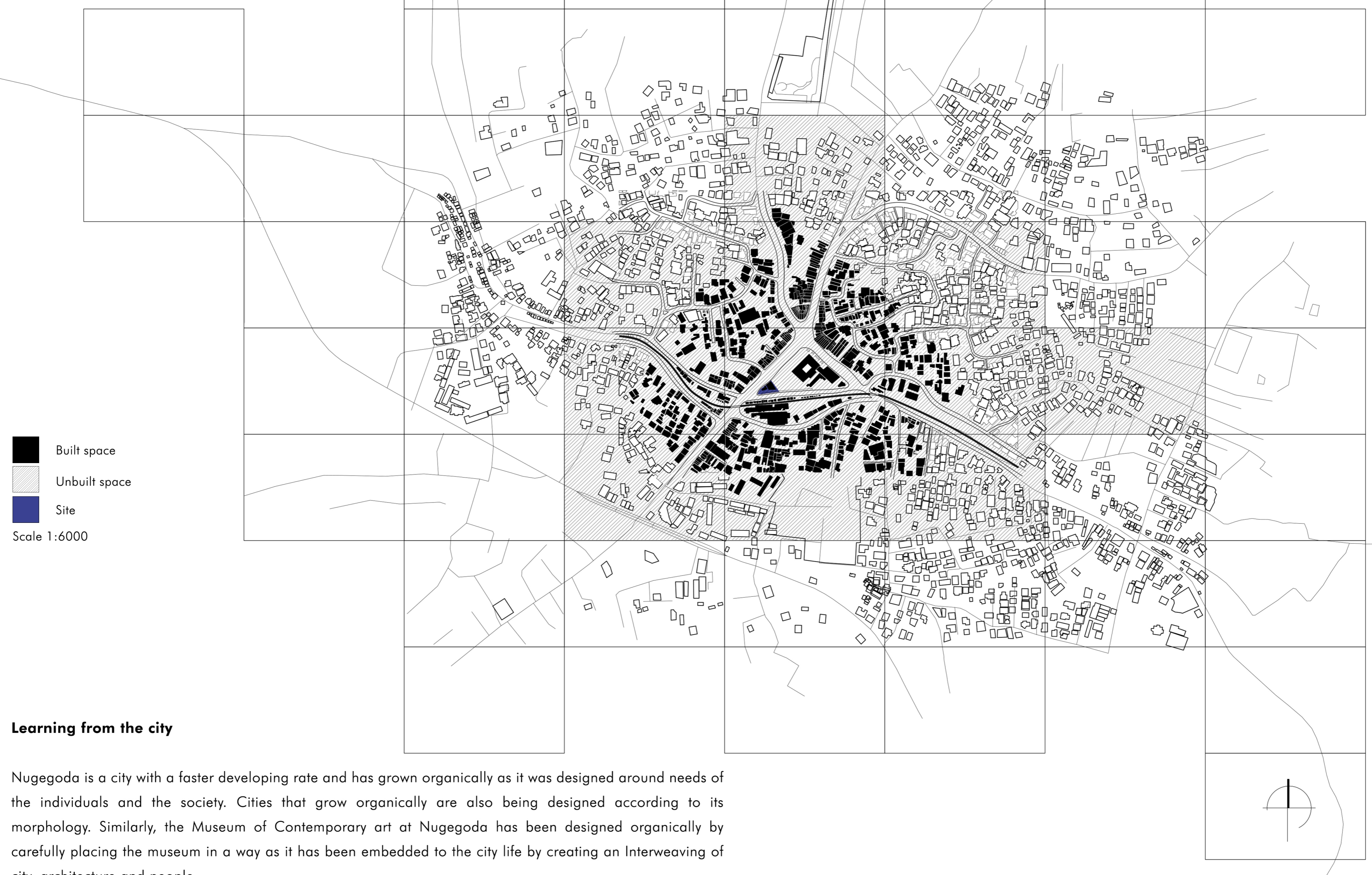


Museum of contemporary art & Artist's retreat // Nugegoda

Site

Nugegoda is one of the largest densely populated suburbs in the city of Colombo, Sri Lanka. Central Nugegoda is a collection of densely packed shops and mixed residential areas. Nugegoda is a city with a higher development rate as it grew larger and faster within a few decades and will keep growing. During the Kingdom of Kotte, art and literature was one of the most flourished fields. At present a number of educational institutes from schools to private classes can be found in Nugegoda and the city can be even called the largest education hub in Colombo.

The site we've been assigned has a lot of potential as it is in an intersection of the two roads. The two roads that face the two adjacent sides of the site have two different characters and densities which gives both a symbolic value and a physical value to the site.



Learning from the city

Nugegoda is a city with a faster developing rate and has grown organically as it was designed around needs of the individuals and the society. Cities that grow organically are also being designed according to its morphology. Similarly, the Museum of Contemporary art at Nugegoda has been designed organically by carefully placing the museum in a way as it has been embedded to the city life by creating an Interweaving of city, architecture and people.

Present situation

Many Sri Lankans have misconceptions about what museums and art galleries are and what they offer. Many think all museums are these quiet halls that have an old-fashioned atmosphere and filled with art appreciators who might judge the average person for having no clue at all. Some art on display might be too mystifying to see and we wouldn't even reveal our confusion for fear of seeming foolish. Hence begins the clear disconnection between the average person and museums in Sri Lanka. People feel like museum are places where they need to be smart, quiet, focused. Instead, museums should be places where people could feel curious, relaxed, entertained and provoke thoughts.

Sri Lankan museums have already set an image on general public's heads where they are perceived as "quiet" and "unapproachable" places, hence they are seen as anti-kid friendly places. In our case it is clear that Nugegoda is acting as an educational hub filled with young students. So, following what locals have been practicing is undoubtedly not an option when introducing a contemporary art museum to the city.

