

REJUVENATING CULTURAL ROOTS

The Ethnic Cultural Institute, Rangamati

Rangamati, home to twelve indigenous communities of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, is witnessing a gradual erosion of cultural identity due to inadequate cultural infrastructure and the dominance of mainstream cultural influences. Although indigenous traditions are well documented, their spatial practices and architectural needs remain largely unexplored. This thesis addresses this gap through ethnographic research, field surveys, and community engagement to decode how cultural values, environmental adaptation, and everyday practices shape indigenous built forms. The project proposes a research-driven Ethnic Cultural Institute that translates these insights into a contemporary yet culturally grounded architectural framework, providing spaces for learning, practice, research, performance, and cultural exchange. The design output aims to foster interethnic inclusivity, empower indigenous communities, and support the preservation and evolution of living cultural identities, offering a replicable model for inclusive cultural infrastructure in multiethnic contexts.





PROJECT AIM

To create an inclusive cultural center that unites all indigenous communities of Rangamati, fostering cultural expression, preservation, and architectural embodiment of Chittagong Hill Tracts traditions.



PROBLEM STATEMENT

Erosion of Indigenous Cultural Identity



Absence of Cultural Expression Platforms



OBJECTIVES

Fostering Inclusivity & Cultural Belonging

Facilitating Cultural Expression &

Modern Interpretation of Indigenous Archtype



KHYOUNG-THA

the child of river

Tribes that predominantly reside in the valleys or lower parts of the hills, especially in areas proximate to rivers.



TOUNG-THA

the child of hill

tribes that inhabit the upper regions or peaks of the hills

OCCUPATION



JUM CULTIVATION



বেঙ্গাবি

LARGEST FESTIVAL

বৈশ্ব / বৈশ্বব / বহিস্ব

ত্রিপুরাদের বর্ষবরণ উৎসব

চৈত্র মাসের ২৯ তারিখ হারি বৈশ্ব, চৈত্র মাসের ৩০ তারিখ বিস্বমা বৈশ্ব, বৈশ্বাখের ১ম দিনে আতাদং বৈশ্ব. Includes descriptions of rituals and images of festival activities.

মাংগ্রাই, মারমাদের বর্ষবরণ উৎসব. Includes descriptions of rituals and images of festival activities.

বিবিজু, চাকমাদের বর্ষবরণ উৎসব. Includes descriptions of rituals and images of festival activities.

DANCE FORMS

These dances can be broadly classified into 2 categories:

- Ceremonial or Ritualistic dances
- Recreational dances



Biju Dance



Pankhua & Lushai Bamboo dance



Marma Umbrella dance



Tripura Garia dance

MUSIC & INSTRUMENTS

These ethnic communities possess unique folk music traditions rooted in their native languages, reflecting their cultural identity and oral history.

For example:
3 types of folk songs in Chakma literature, these are: Ubogeet, Genghuli Geet and Hobi Gan



Tripura Wakhorop

Chakma Dhudhuk



Genghuli



Radhaman-Dhanpudi



Mru Bamboo Flute



Bamboo Flute



Tripura Dhodro Banam

TRADITIONAL GAMES



চাকমা ও তঞ্চঙ্গ্যা দেব 'ঘিলা' খেলা

চাকমাদের 'বৌশ হারুম' খেলা

মারমাদের 'খ' খেলা

শিপুরা দেব 'ওয়াকরাই' খেলা

HANDICRAFTS

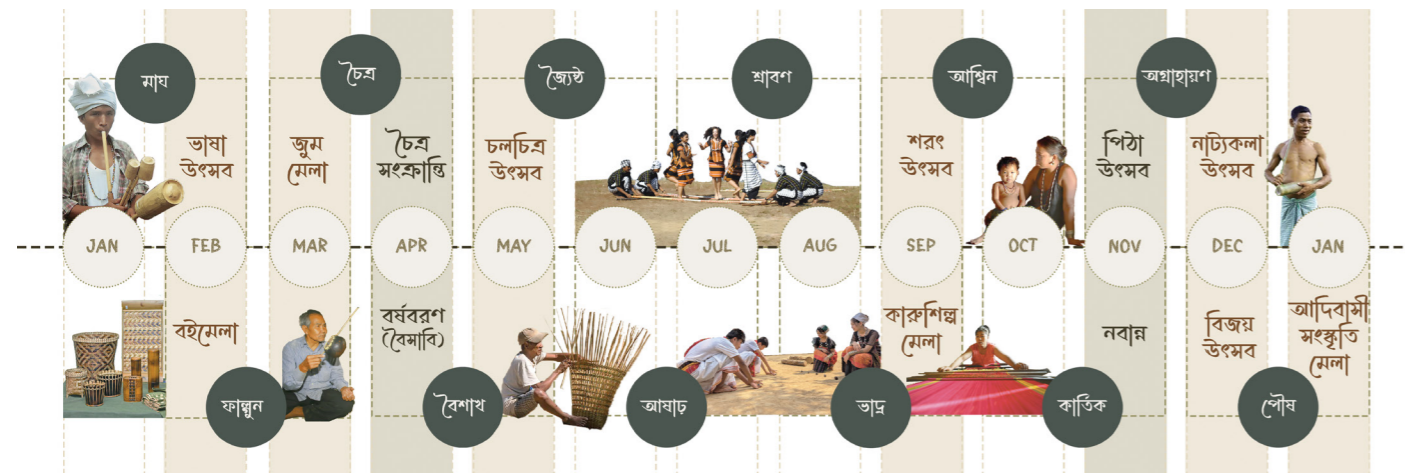
Bamboo, wood, and cane Handicraft



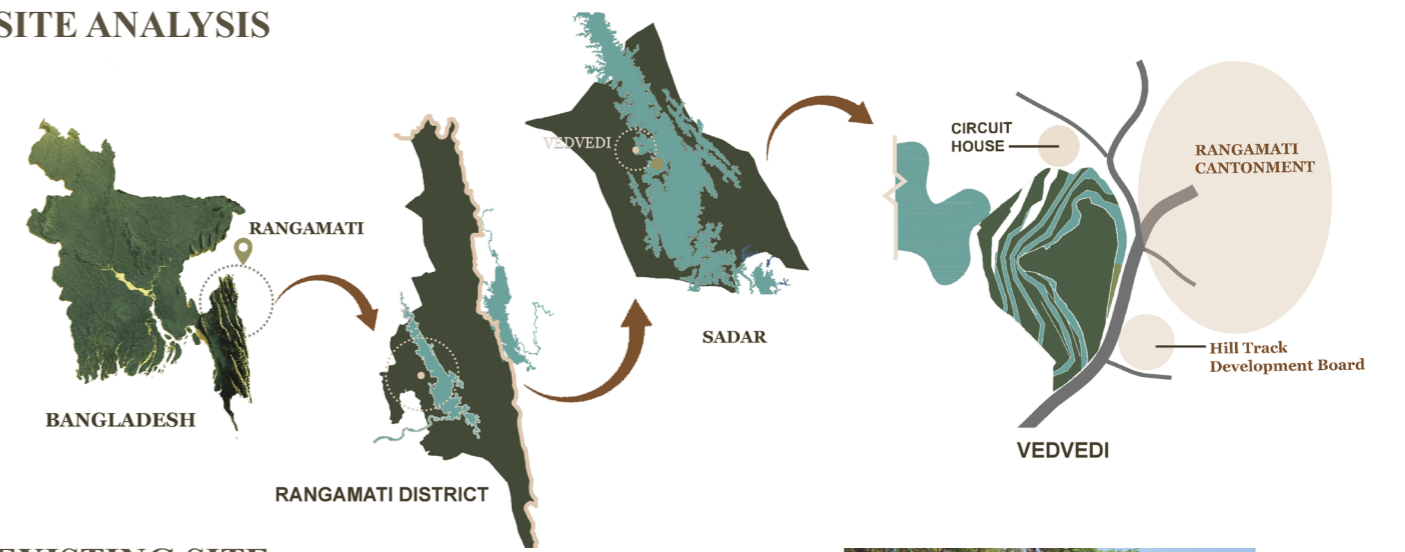
Textile Handicraft



FESTIVITY CALENDAR



SITE ANALYSIS



EXISTING SITE



CONTOUR CHARACTERISTICS



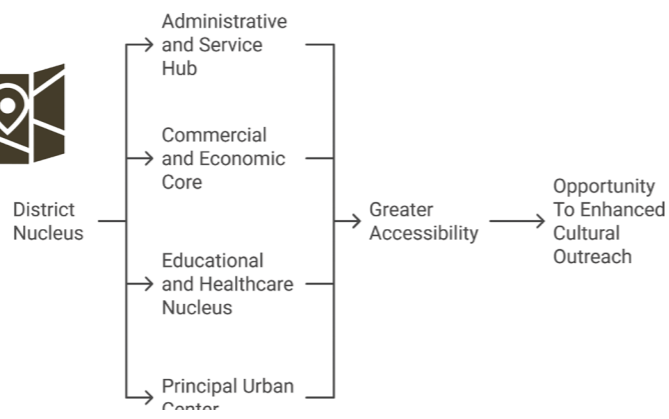
ACCESSIBILITY

Major Mode of Transportation Among Locals: Boat
 Inside Rangamati Sadar: CNG

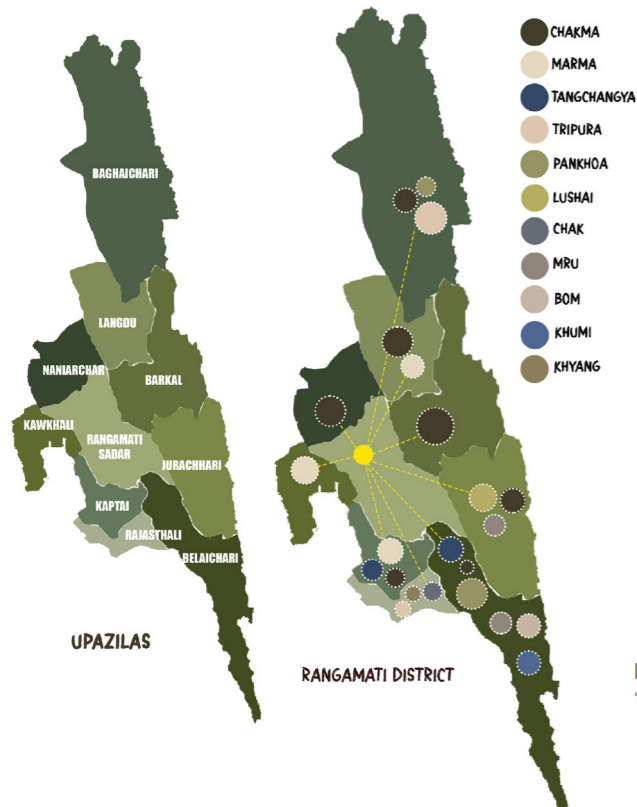


- Legend**
- 1 CO OFFICE GHAT
 - 2 RAJBARI GHAT
 - 3 PUBLIC HEALTH BOAT GHAT
 - 4 SOMOTA GHAT, BONORUPA
 - 5 FISHERY GHAT LAUNCH TERMINAL
 - 6 POLICE SUPER OFFICE GHAT
 - 7 PRESERVE BAZAR LAUNCH TERMINAL
 - 8 BIWTA LAUNCH TERMINAL

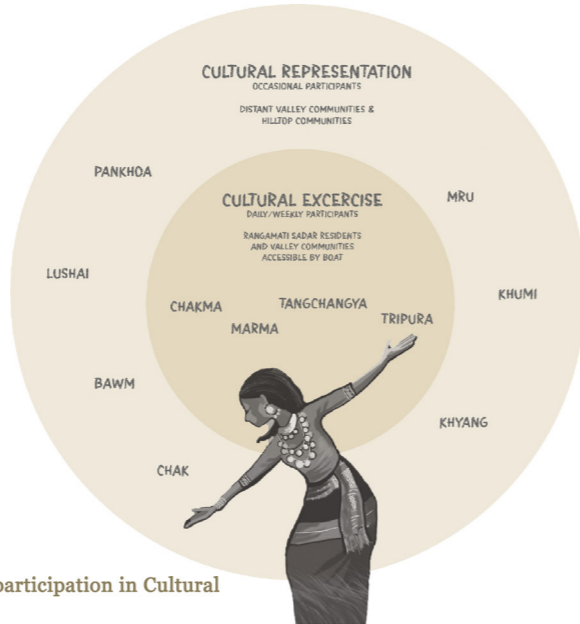
WHY THIS SITE?



DISTANCE FROM COMMUNITIES



RADIUS OF PARTICIPATION



key forms of participation in Cultural reservation:

- Cultural EXERCISE
- Cultural REPRESENTATION
- Cultural PRESERVATION

URBAN VS. RURAL RANGAMATI



Mostly used Tin, Brick, Concrete

Mostly used bamboo, straw, wood Soil

SETTLEMENT ANALYSIS



COMMUNITIES: Chakma
 Marma
 Tangchangya

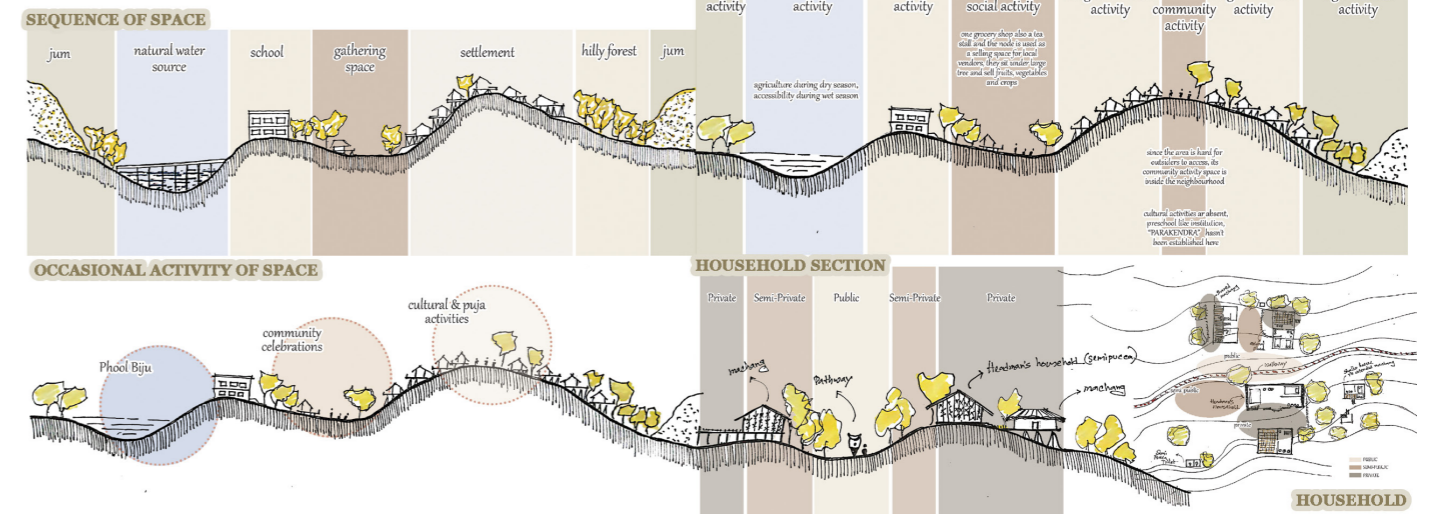
OCCUPATION: Jum Cultivation
 Animal Husbandry

FACILITIES: 8ft brick road
 One primary school

COMMUNITY SPACE:
 One Shop With Tea Stall Bazar
 in front of the shop, under big banyan tree



Dhupshil, Bilaichari, Rangamati



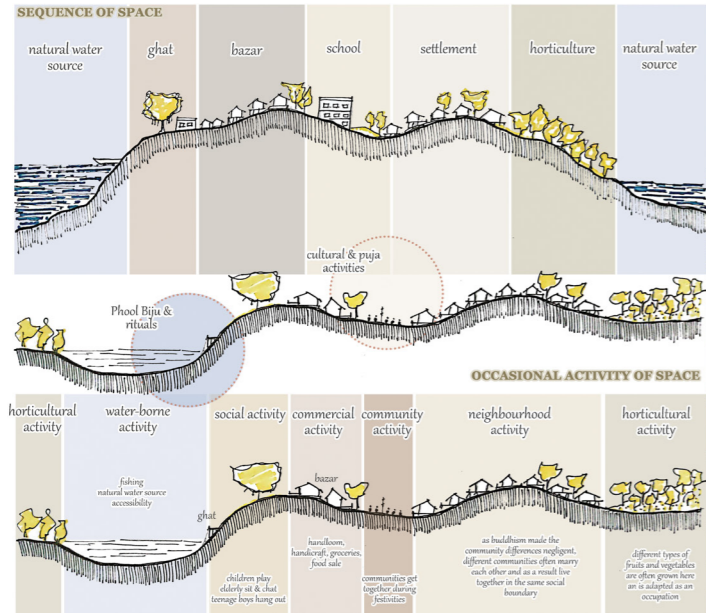
Type 1
 Bamboo posts are arranged on a square grid to create a large horizontal platform. A required number of posts extends above the surface of the floor platform to support the roof structure.

Type 2
 Bamboo posts are arranged on a square grid to create a large horizontal platform and inclined whole bamboo members cross-bracing the posts to strengthen these.

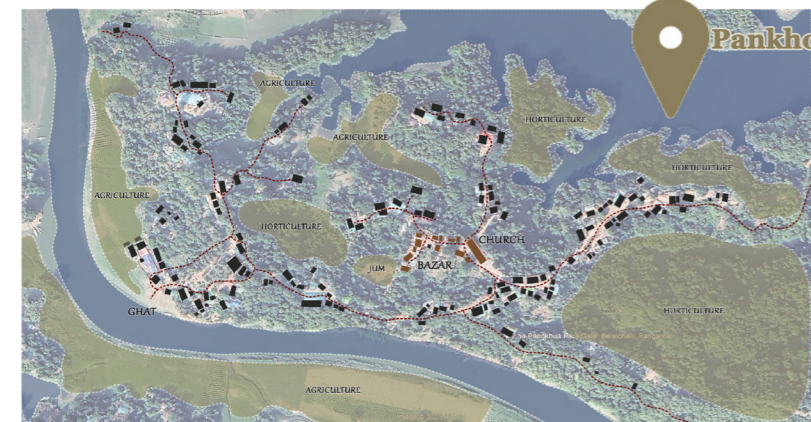
Type 3
 Bamboo posts are arranged on a square grid to create a large horizontal platform and inclined whole bamboo members to strengthen these.



Dokhaiya Para, Dhonpata Notun Bazar, Kaptai, Rangamati

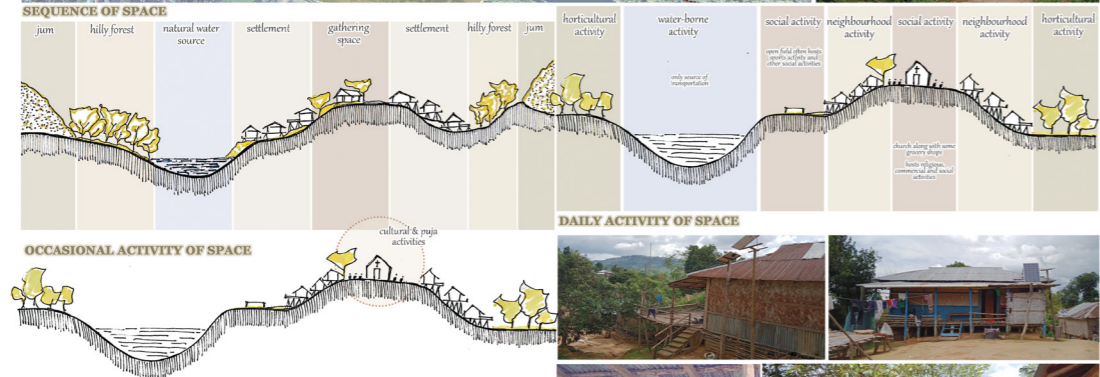


COMMUNITIES: Chakma
OCCUPATION: Horticulture, Fishery
COMMUNITY SPACE: Bazar, Ghat
FACILITIES: One primary school, Pucca Bazar, Parakendra



Pankhoa Para, Bilaichari, Kaptai, Rangamati

COMMUNITIES: Pankhoa
OCCUPATION: Horticulture, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry
FACILITIES: Church, Primary School, Bazar



ISSUE	OBJECTIVE	INDICATOR	VARIABLES
Topography & Site Context	The design shall respect the site's contours, ensuring accessibility and structural integrity in hilly terrain.	Minimal Intervention in existing Terrain	Contour Accentuation Freestanding Construction (on stilts)
		Structural & Material Efficiency	Local Construction Techniques Usage of bamboo and Thatch (locally Available)
Functional Zoning	Harmonious blending of functions creating a Cultural Journey	Spatial Flow and Connectivity	Main Circulation Spine Visual or Physical Connections Between Spaces
		Programmatic Integration and Interaction	Flexible Multi-functional Spaces Incorporation of Interactive Elements
Community Engagement & Ownership	Fostering A Sense Of Ownership	Symbolism and Identity	Use of local symbols, motifs, & architectural styles
Modern vs. Traditional Balance	Integrating modern architecture and materials with tradition for cultural relevance and sustainability	Hybrid structural solutions	Sustainable materials
		Aesthetic Harmony	Façade treatment
Climate Responsiveness	Utilizing Design Strategies to adapt Environmental Conditions	Building Orientation and Massing	Orientation & shape of massing
		Natural Ventilation and Airflow	Position of openings & open spaces



CONCEPTUALIZATION

CONCEPT

Roots to Resonance

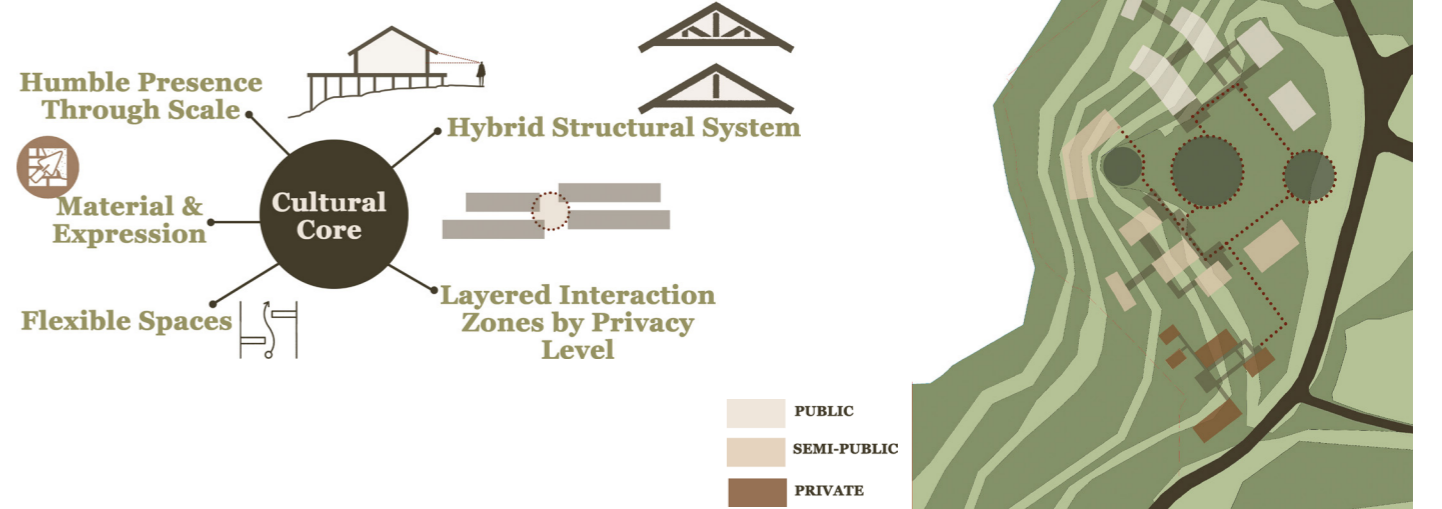
WHAT BINDS THEM TOGETHER?

TOPOGRAPHY- SETTLEMENT PATTERN, LIFESTYLE, OCCUPATION
WEATHER- BUILT FORM, ORIENTATION, PLATFORM HOUSES
FADING TAPESTRY OF CULTURAL IDENTITY- FOLK CULTURE, ORAL & WRITTEN LITERATURE, DANCE FORM
INFLUENCE OF ANIMISM- মর্ডানবাদী বিশ্বাস (influences seen in LITERATURES, MUSIC, DANCE FORM, SOCIAL NORMS, FESTIVITIES etc)

Spatial Interpretation
 Spatial Organization Developed Concentrically Around the Cultural Core

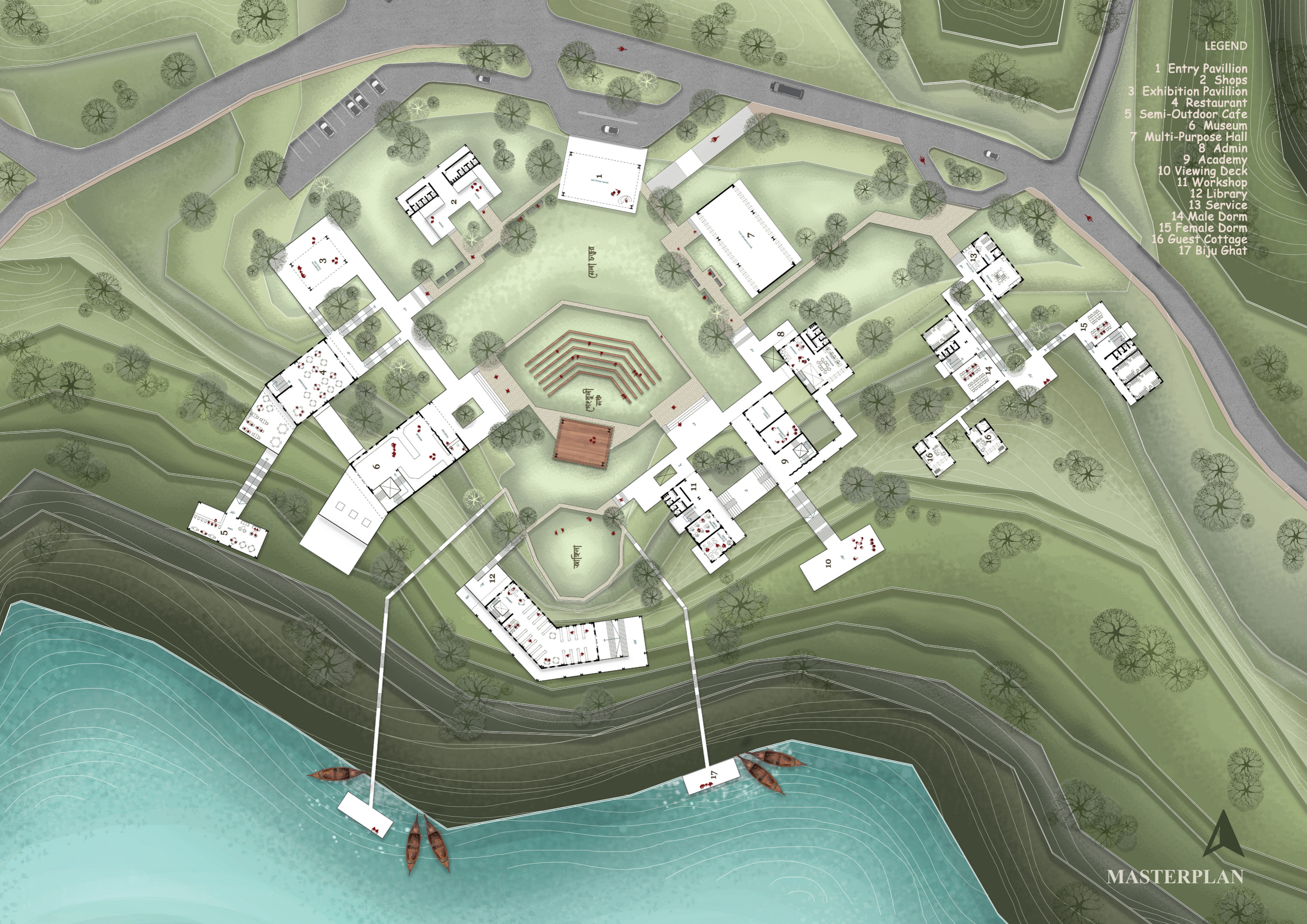
SHIKOR

DESIGN STRATEGIES



LEGEND

- 1 Entry Pavillion
- 2 Shops
- 3 Exhibition Pavillion
- 4 Restaurant
- 5 Semi-Outdoor Cafe
- 6 Museum
- 7 Multi-Purpose Hall
- 8 Admin
- 9 Academy
- 10 Viewing Deck
- 11 Workshop
- 12 Library
- 13 Service
- 14 Male Dorm
- 15 Female Dorm
- 16 Guest Cottage
- 17 Biju Ghat



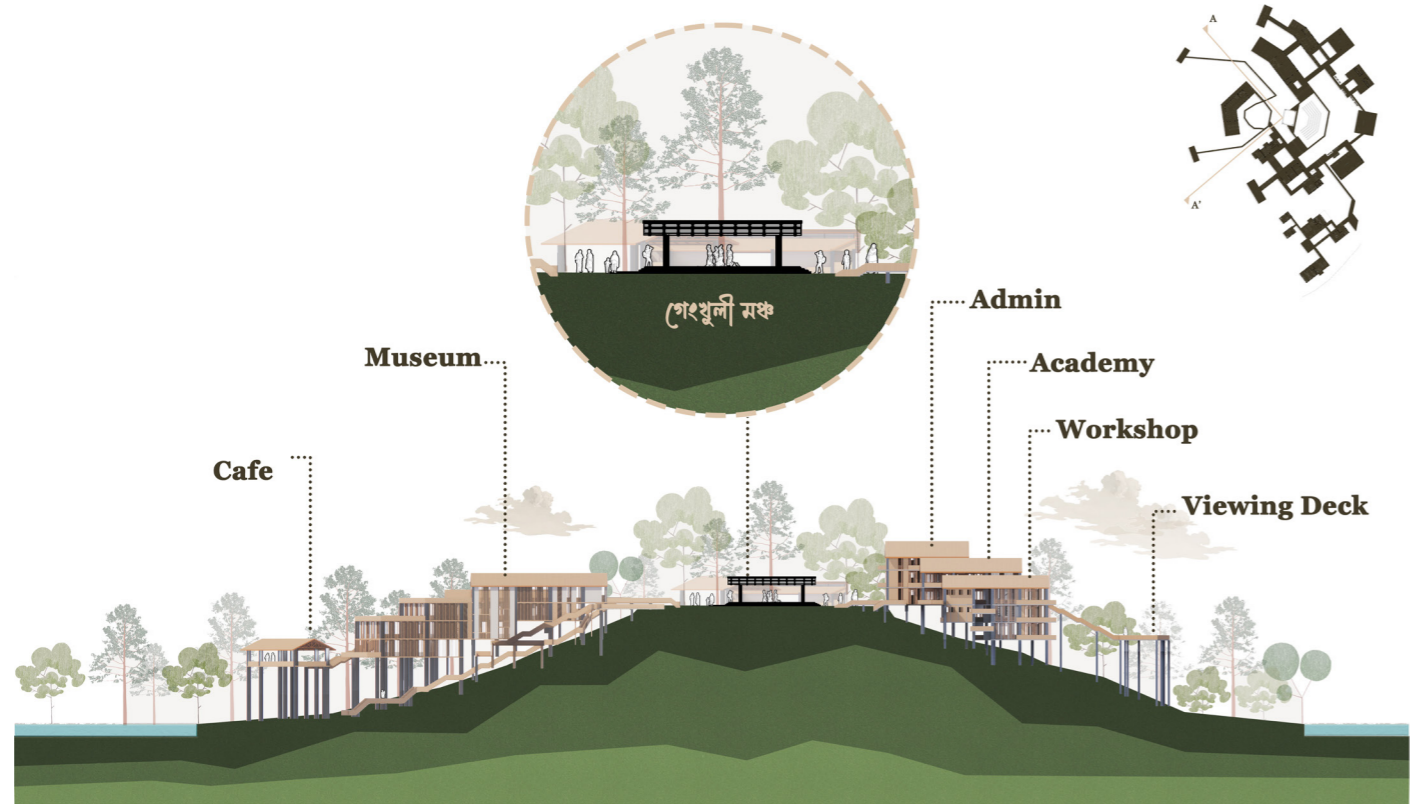
ମେଳା ଚତୁର

ମେଘନା ଚକ୍ର

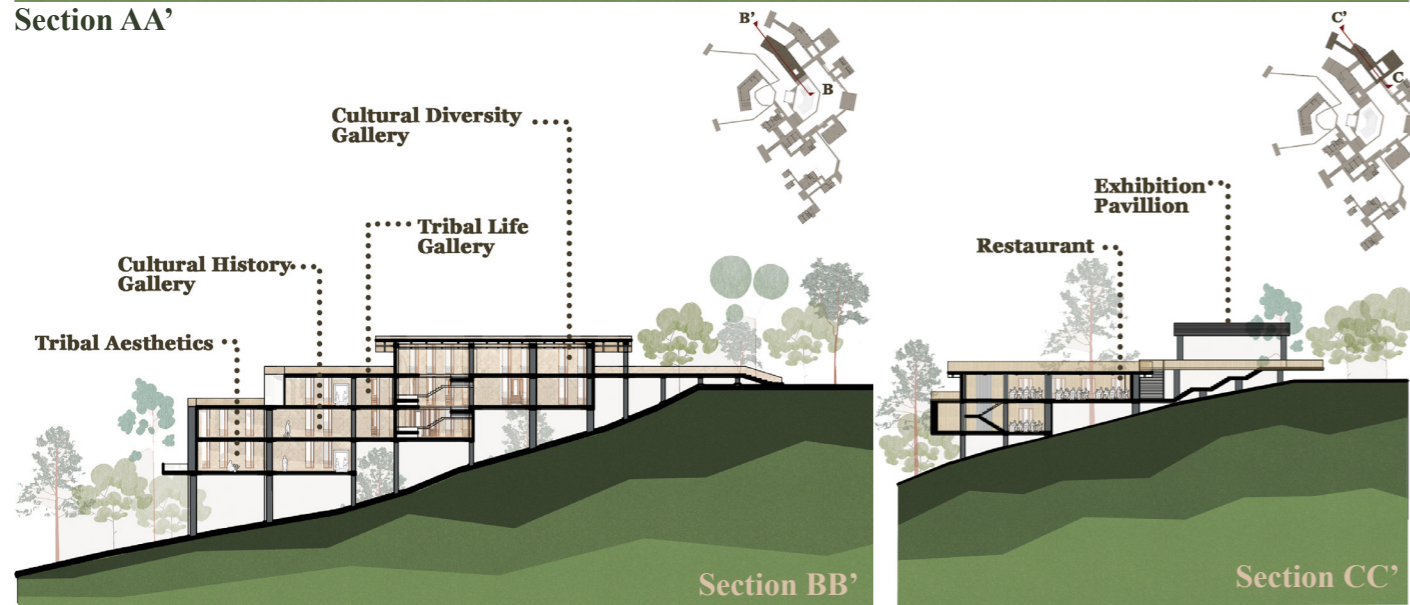
ଆସିନା

PLANS



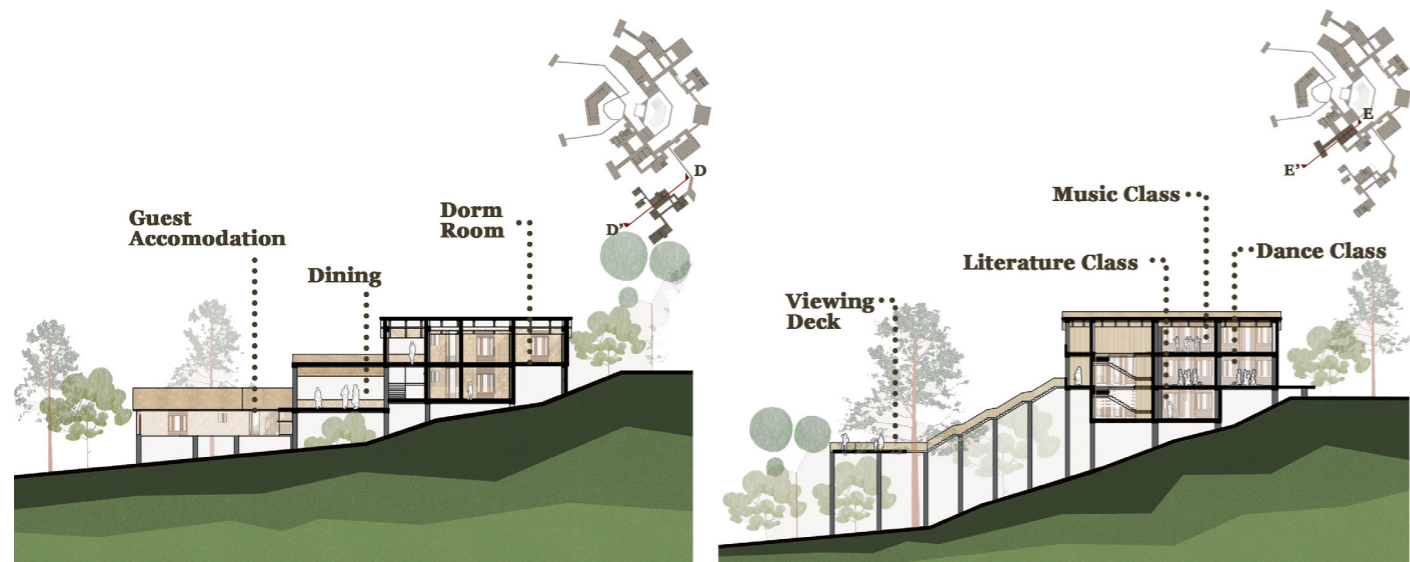


Section AA'



Section BB' (MUSEUM)

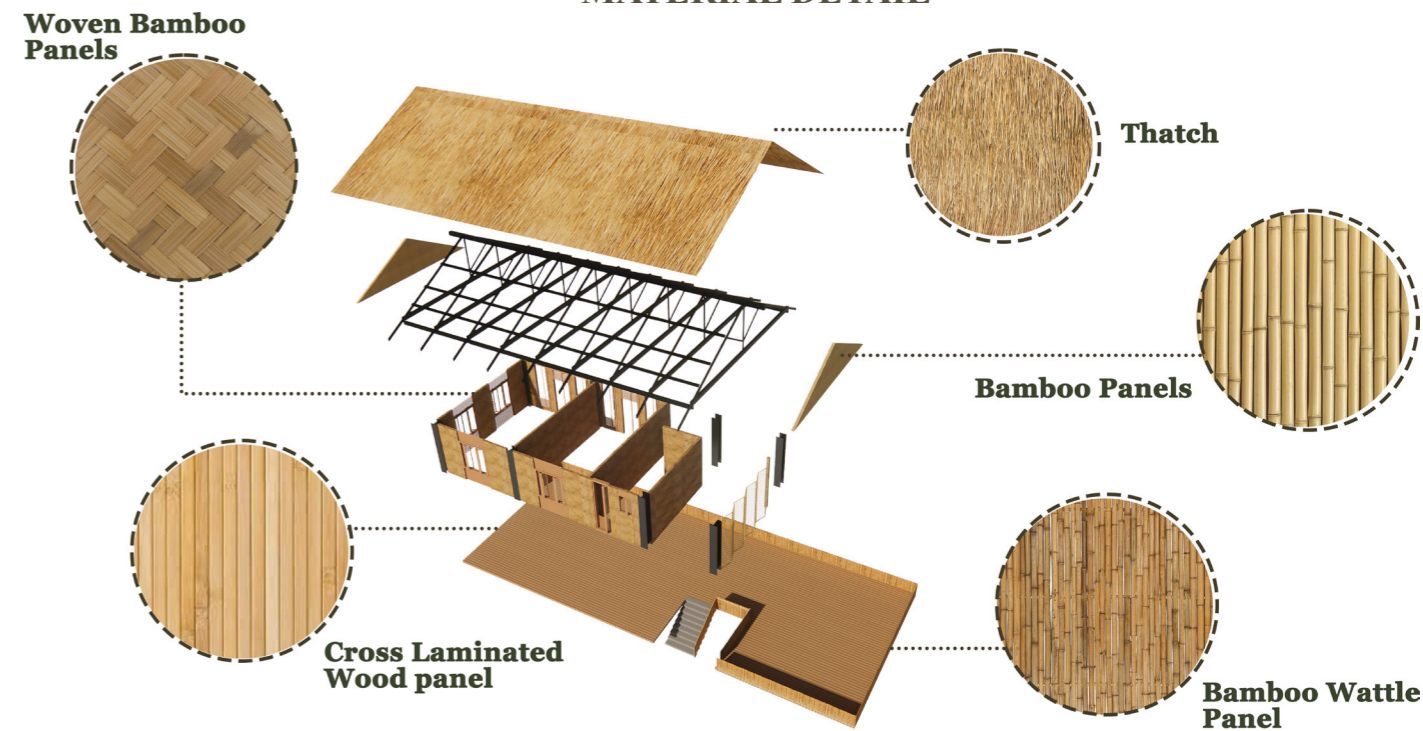
Section BB' (RESTAURANT)



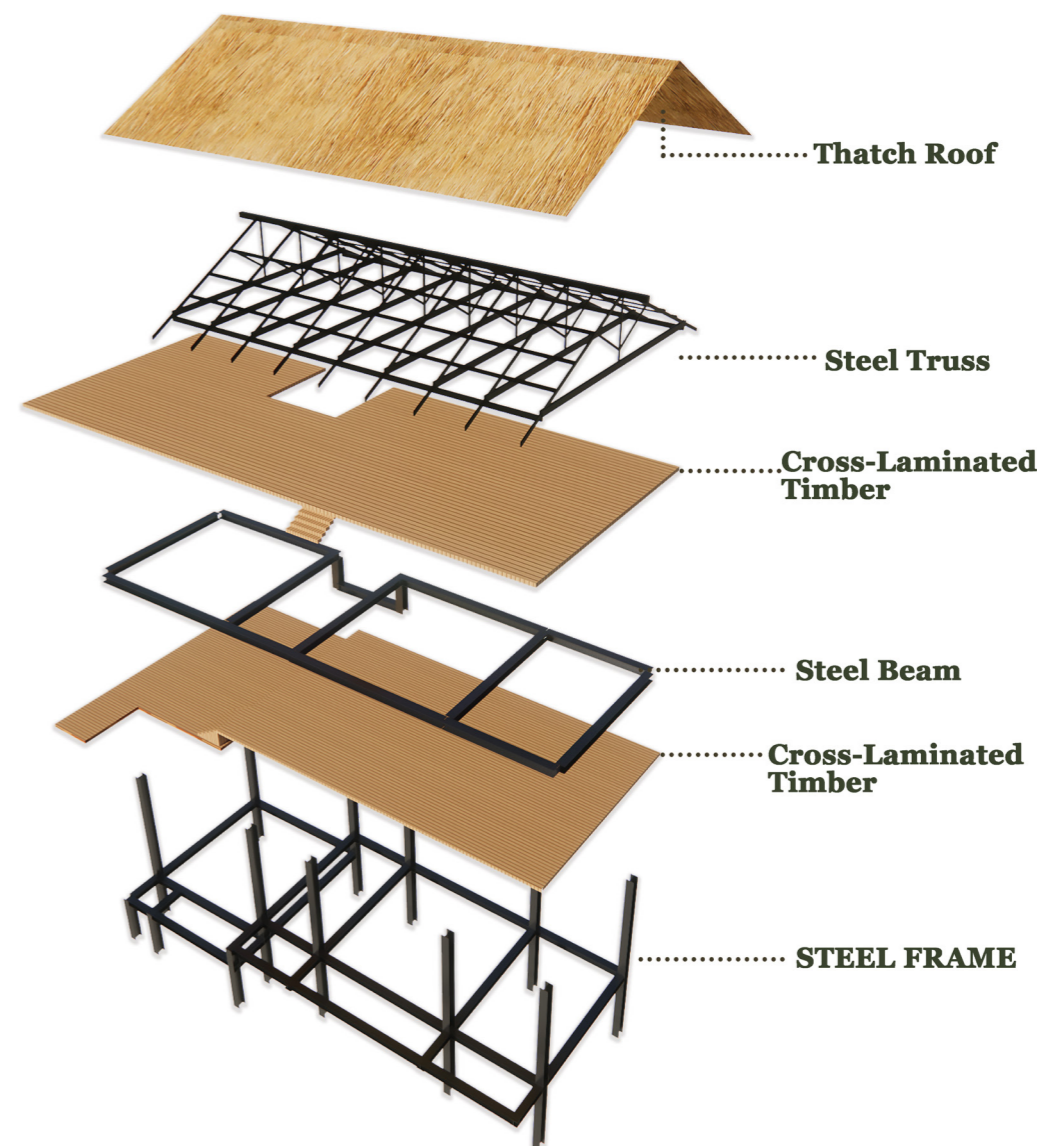
Section DD' (DORMITORY)

Section EE' (ACADEMY)

MATERIAL DETAIL



STRUCTURAL DETAIL





EXHIBITION
PAVILLION

SHOPS

LIBRARY

ADMIN

MALE
DORMITORY

RESTAURANT

MUSEUM

WORKSHOP

MULTI-PURPOSE

SERVICE

FEMALE
DORMITORY

CAFE

ACADEMY

GUEST
HOUSE

BIRDS EYE VIEW

VISUALISATIONS





ENTRY PAVILLION



EXHIBITION SPACE



ETHNIC SHOPS



ACADEMY PAVILION



MUSEUM BLOCK



ACADEMY BLOCK



DORMITORY



ACADEMY CIRCULATION

MODEL

