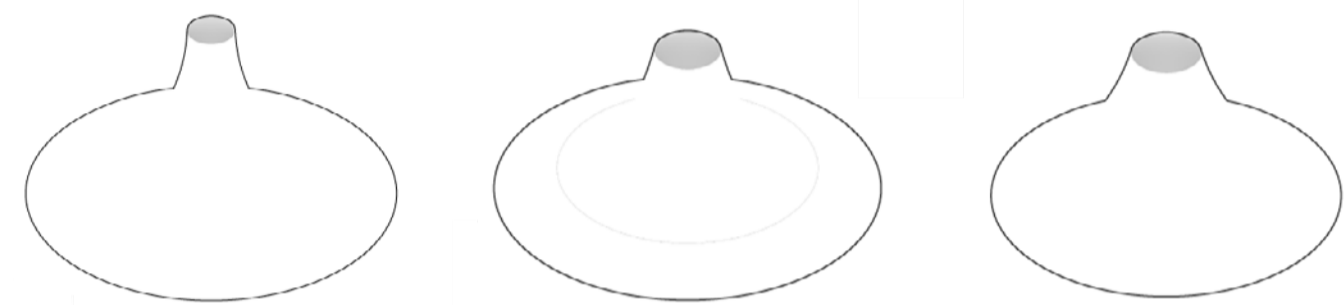


Ghomama: Community Pavillion

A Project By: Raghad Al-Amoudi

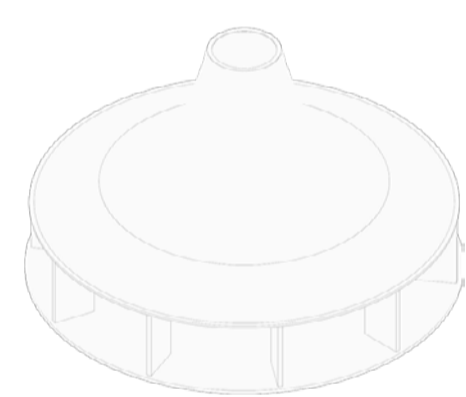
The Women Goat Herders of Hadhramout.

In the valleys and mountains of Wadi Hadhramout, flocks of goats move across the harsh landscape under the guidance of women goat herders — figures both powerful and mysterious. Veiled in black garments and wearing tall woven straw hats known as modhalla or **ghomama** ("umbrella"), these women have become an iconic symbol of Hadhrami rural life, where tending and caring for goats has long been a role carried almost exclusively by women.

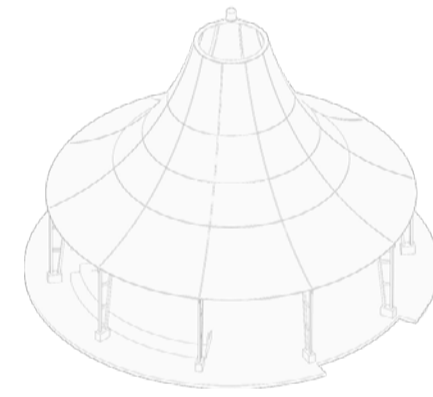


The formal inspiration

The project's formal inspiration is derived from the traditional hats worn by women goat herders in Hadhramout, locally known as "Modhalla". Woven from dried date-palm leaves, these hats are distinguished by their tall conical form and wide circular brim. Beyond their cultural significance, the hats function as a passive environmental system, providing shade while allowing air to circulate above the head, helping women endure the extreme desert climate.



Design Iteration 2



Design Iteration 1



isometric cutaway



Beyond Form: Potential Uses

The project was not tied to a specific function; rather, it was conceived as a flexible architectural structure capable of adapting to the needs of the site and the local community. It can be used as:

▲ It could be developed as an architectural pavilion inspired by local heritage, to be used for cultural events, exhibitions, or community gatherings.

▲ A separate restroom facility can be provided for the convenience of road users or travelers.

▲ As a tourist stop, it introduces visitors to the culture of the Hadrami shepherdesses.

▲ Small rest stops dotted along the valley provide shade and shelter from the sun for shepherds and visitors.

Why dried palm leaves?

Palm weaving was chosen for its direct connection to the project's inspiration: the traditional hats worn by women goat herders in Hadhramout, woven from dried date-palm leaves. Its lightweight, breathable nature and ability to provide shade reflect the project's environmental and cultural principles, while reinforcing its connection to local craftsmanship and Hadhrami identity.

