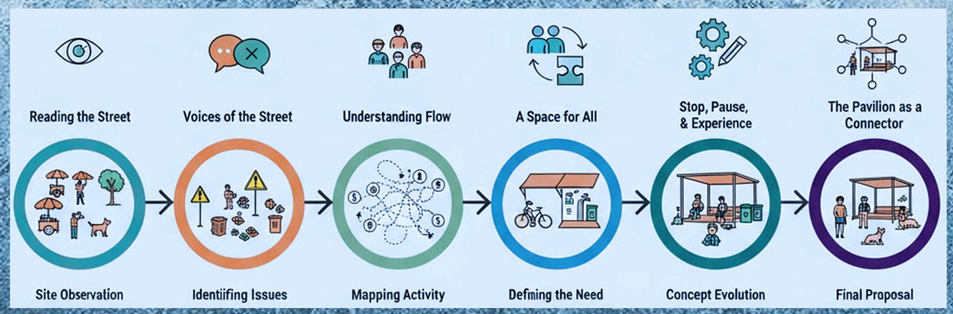
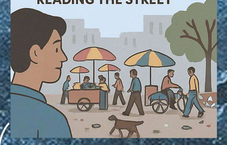
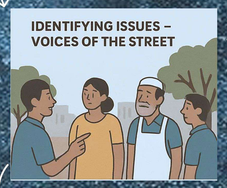
The proposed multipurpose pavilion aims to reorganize the unstructured vendor zones of Kochi into a vibrant and inclusive public space. Designed as a "stop, pause, and experience" point within the urban fabric, the pavilion integrates everyday street activities such as vending, seating, and parking with essential amenities like rain shelters, dustbins, and animal spaces. It serves as a shared platform for locals, tourists, and vendors—promoting interaction, comfort, and community engagement while enhancing the city's street culture and identity.



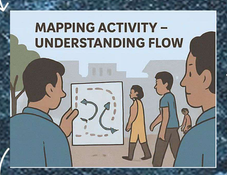
THE PAVILION IDEA: FROM OBSERVATION TO CONNECTOR



1. Site Observation – "Reading the Street"
We began by observing the everyday rhythm of Fort Kochi — vibrant yet chaotic. Vendors occupied unorganized stretches, tourists sought shade under trees, and locals moved through cluttered pathways. Stray animals wandered restlessly without shelter, and though water surrounded the site, there were no accessible drinking water points for the public.

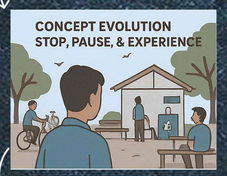


2. Identifying Issues – "Voices of the Street"
Through detailed site interactions, major issues surfaced — unregulated vending zones, lack of sitting and resting areas, absence of animal shelters, improper waste disposal, and no clean water access. These everyday inconveniences highlighted the urgent need for humane, functional public spaces.



3. Mapping Activity – "Understanding Flow"
By mapping user movements and activity zones, we identified key moments of pause, movement, and congregation. Vendors, locals, and tourists shared the same stretch with overlapping needs, leading to congestion and inefficiency.

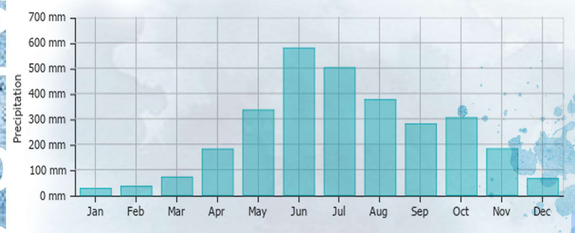
4. Defining the Need – "A Space for All"
The study revealed that segregation wasn't the answer — inclusivity was. A single, adaptable space could integrate vending, resting, animal care, and hydration points, improving quality of life without disrupting the street's dynamic culture.



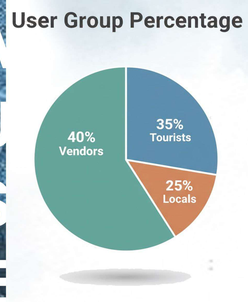
5. Concept Evolution – "Stop, Pause, & Experience"
The concept evolved into a multipurpose pavilion — a modular, climate-responsive structure that brings together shade, seating, cycle parking, waste bins, drinking water taps, and animal shelters. It encourages users to stop, pause, and engage with the surroundings rather than merely pass through.

6. Final Proposal – "The Pavilion as a Connector"
The pavilion becomes an urban connector — supporting livelihood, comfort, and community well-being. It transforms neglected vending zones into interactive micro-hubs that reflect the spirit of Fort Kochi: inclusive, sustainable, and deeply human.

STOP, PAUSE & EXPERIENCE



Fort Kochi experiences a tropical monsoon climate with heavy rainfall from May to October, peaking in June at over 600 mm. The intense monsoon followed by moderate post-monsoon showers creates a high humidity environment throughout the year. These conditions emphasize the need for shaded and rain-protected public spaces, making the pavilion design highly relevant for user comfort and year-round usability.



Category	Details
Total Vendors in Study Area	~120
Type of Vendors	40% food stalls, 25% handicrafts, 20% fish/meat, 15% others
Average Daily Income	₹800 – ₹1,500/day
Monthly Average Income Range	₹20,000 – ₹40,000
Gender Ratio	60% male, 40% female
Education Level	50% below secondary, 35% secondary, 15% higher secondary
Dependents per Vendor Family	Avg. 3–4 dependents
Tourist Customer Base	45% of total customers (peak season)

The survey reveals that Fort Kochi's street economy thrives on interdependence between its three key user groups — vendors, tourists, and locals. Vendors, forming the largest user segment, depend on flexible vending spaces and basic amenities for sustenance. Tourists seek shaded resting spots and cultural experiences, while locals use the streets as everyday connectors for shopping and interaction.

The informal vending community contributes significantly to Fort Kochi's urban life, serving both economic and social functions. Despite modest income levels, vendors demonstrate resilience and adaptability, maintaining trade through monsoon and peak tourist seasons. The user demographic shows a healthy balance between locals and visitors, reinforcing the site's role as both a commercial hub and a cultural interface.

This data-driven insight supports the concept of the "Stop, Pause, & Experience" pavilion as a catalyst for inclusivity — improving street conditions while preserving the authentic rhythm of everyday urban life.

WHY?

01

DESIGN PROPOSAL

1. Unorganized Vendor Shops

To organize scattered vendors into clean, modular stalls that enhance street order and visibility. A space that supports livelihoods while adding visual harmony to the streetscape.

2. Lack of Cycle Parking

Encouraging sustainable mobility by providing safe and shaded bicycle stands. Designed as part of the street rhythm — convenient, compact, and user-friendly.

3. Lack of Ppl Seaters

Inviting seating spaces that let people pause, rest, and interact. Crafted around trees and shaded zones to promote social connection.

4. Animal Shelters Not Available

A small shaded retreat for stray animals offering protection from heat and rain. An inclusive gesture showing care for all living beings in the urban environment.

5. Dustbins - Not Sufficient

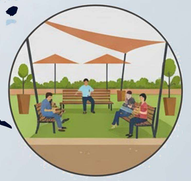
Color-coded bins integrated with the design to ensure a clean, responsible public space. Encouraging segregation and a culture of cleanliness among users.

6. Rain Shelter - Can't Find Any

A semi-open roof form providing comfort during heavy monsoons. Combines function with aesthetics—collecting rainwater while sheltering people.

7. Stop, Pause, Experience (Tag Line) - Proposal

A place to slow down amidst the city's movement—observe, breathe, and engage. Transforms everyday transit into a moment of experience.



8. Tourist Seater Space

Dedicated shaded seating for visitors to rest and explore local life. Blends tourism with community vibrancy, offering comfort and cultural connection.

9. Public Gathering - Community Space

An open plaza that hosts local markets, performances, and small events. Encourages collective activity and strengthens social bonds in the neighborhood.

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SITE ANALYSIS

Site – River Road, Fort Kochi

Located along the Vembanad backwaters, River Road in Fort Kochi is a culturally rich waterfront corridor surrounded by colonial-era buildings and local activity. The area connects key heritage spots like the Chinese Fishing Nets and Fort Immanuel. It's a lively pedestrian zone with moderate vehicle flow but faces issues like waste accumulation and limited shaded seating. The site's historic and scenic setting offers strong potential for a sustainable, context-sensitive public intervention.

Surrounding Land Use & Character

Mixed-use fabric: cafés, souvenir shops, small hotels, vendors
Adjacent landmarks: Vasco da Gama Square, Chinese fishing nets, Fort Kochi Beach
Character: heritage waterfront with colonial-era buildings, shaded streets, informal markets
Dominant edge condition: sea on one side, urban fabric on the other

SWOT

Strengths:
Strong visual identity (Chinese nets, sea)
Vibrant public activity
Touristic and cultural potential

Weaknesses:
Heat, glare, lack of shade
Waste accumulation
Poor maintenance of public infrastructure

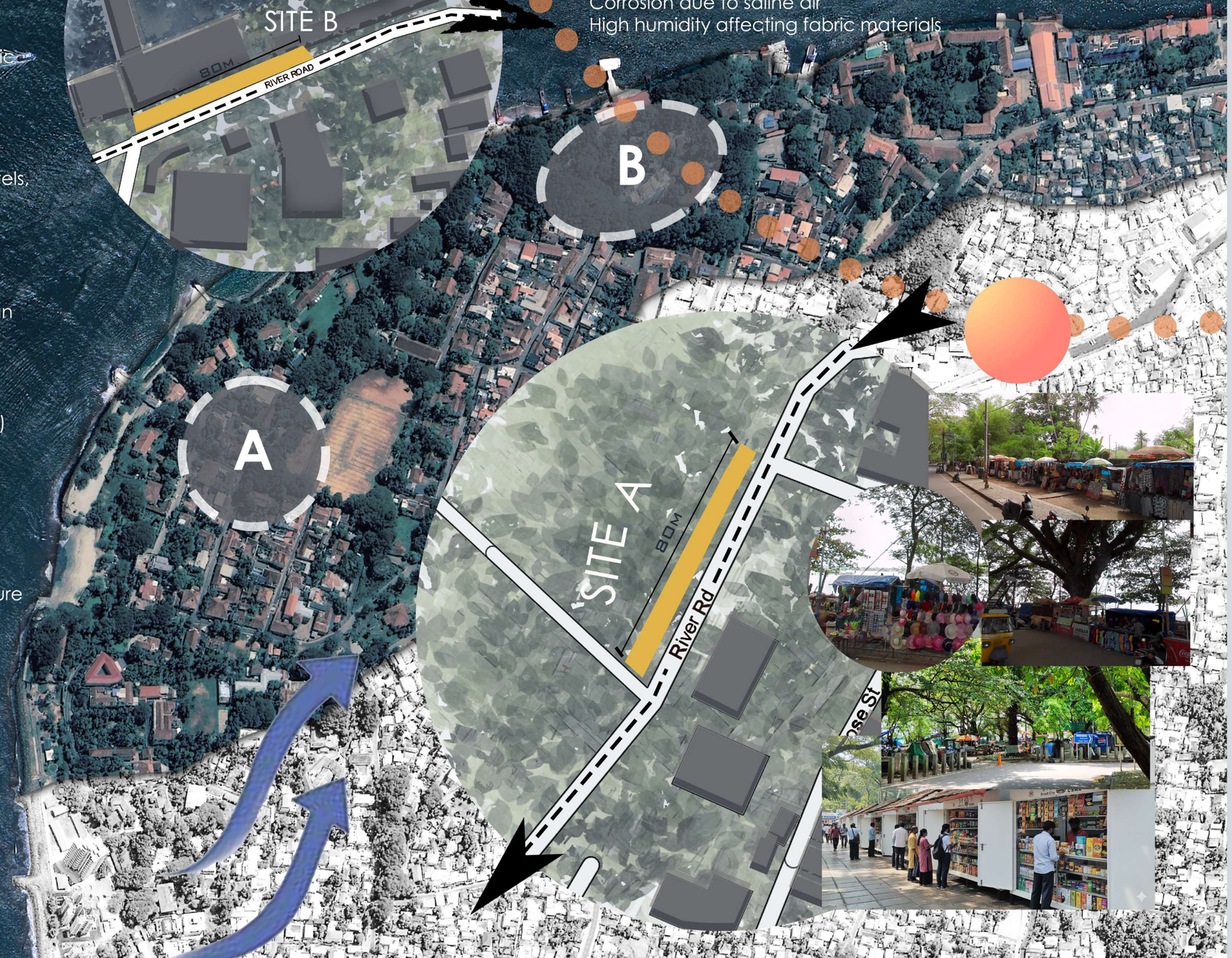
Opportunities:
Create shaded, tensile pavilions symbolizing fishing nets
Activate promenade with seating and cultural functions

Threats:
Salt-laden air corroding structures
Coastal erosion and flooding risk
Over-commercialization reducing authenticity

Climatic & Environmental Analysis

Climate type: Tropical coastal — hot, humid, with high rainfall
Prevailing wind direction: From the west-southwest (Arabian Sea breeze)
Sun path: Harsh western sun in the afternoon; strong glare from water surface
Rainfall: Heavy monsoon (June–September)
Temperature: Average 24–32°C; emphasize passive cooling and shade

Environmental issues:
Litter accumulation along the coast
Corrosion due to saline air
High humidity affecting fabric materials



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FORT KOCHI URBAN CANOPY – A PAVILION FOR PEOPLE & CULTURE.

A MULTIFUNCTIONAL PUBLIC PAVILION THAT CELEBRATES THE CITY'S RICH CULTURAL IDENTITY & COASTAL HERITAGE. LOCATED ALONG RIVER ROAD, THE PROJECT DRAWS INSPIRATION FROM THE RHYTHMIC GEOMETRY OF **THE CHINESE FISHING NETS**, TRANSLATING THEIR LIGHTNESS AND STRUCTURE INTO A CONTEMPORARY TENSILE CANOPY.

THE PAVILION ACTS AS AN URBAN SHADE AND CULTURAL INTERFACE, OFFERING FLEXIBLE SPACES FOR SOCIAL GATHERINGS, ART DISPLAYS, STREET PERFORMANCES, KIOSKS, & CASUAL SEATING. IT AIMS TO REVITALIZE THE WATERFRONT STRETCH BY PROVIDING COMFORT, VISUAL COHERENCE, & OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERACTION BETWEEN LOCALS AND VISITORS. THE OPEN, BREATHABLE DESIGN ENSURES CLIMATIC RESPONSIVENESS WHILE FRAMING VIEWS OF THE SEA AND THE HERITAGE STREETSCAPE.

MORE THAN JUST A SHELTER, THE URBAN CANOPY BECOMES A LIVING EXTENSION OF FORT KOCHI'S SPIRIT— ***A PLACE WHERE CULTURE, CLIMATE, AND COMMUNITY CONVERGE SEAMLESSLY UNDER ONE ADAPTIVE ROOF.***

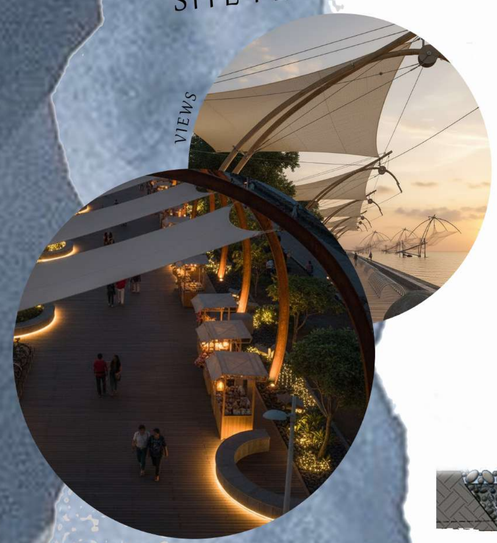
FURNITURE DESIGN

SITE PLAN

SITE PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

- LINEAR PAVILION LAYOUT — AN 80-METRE STRETCH ALONG RIVER ROAD DESIGNED AS A RHYTHMIC SERIES OF 10-METRE TENSILE MODULES.INSPIRED GEOMETRY — FORM DERIVED FROM THE TRADITIONAL CHINESE FISHING NETS, REINTERPRETED IN A CONTEMPORARY TENSILE STRUCTURE.
- FUNCTIONAL ZONING — INTEGRATES SEATING BAYS, BICYCLE RESTING RACKS, & KIOSKS WITHIN LANDSCAPED POCKETS FOR FLEXIBLE PUBLIC USE.
- CONTEXTUAL EDGE DESIGN — WATER-SIDE KEPT OPEN FOR UNINTERRUPTED VIEWS; ROAD-SIDE ANIMATED WITH SHADED ACTIVITY ZONES.
- LANDSCAPE INTEGRATION — NATIVE TREES, STONE PAVING, AND OPEN POCKETS CREATE NATURAL SHADING AND POROUS MOVEMENT.
- CIRCULATION FLOW — CENTRAL PEDESTRIAN SPINE SUPPORTED BY PAUSE POINTS THAT ENCOURAGE SOCIAL INTERACTION AND RELAXATION.
- SPATIAL RHYTHM — REPETITION OF MODULES ESTABLISHES VISUAL CONTINUITY WHILE ALLOWING ADAPTIVE FUNCTIONS ALONG THE PROMENADE.

VIEWS

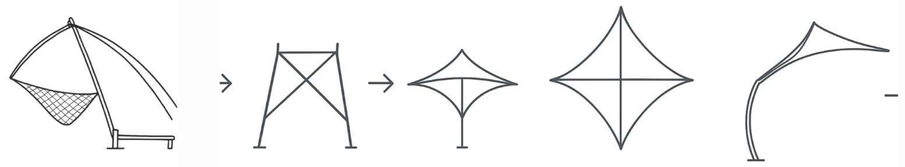


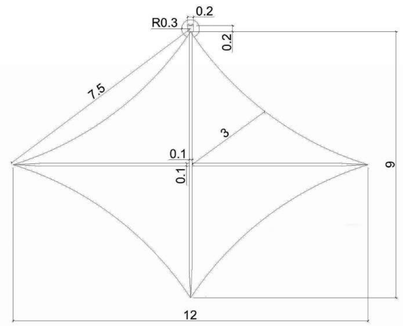
RAINWATER HARVESTING METHOD

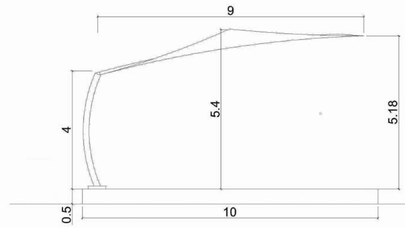
RAINWATER FROM THE TENSILE MEMBRANE IS COLLECTED AT THE CONCAVE LOWER EDGE THROUGH THE GROOVE, GUIDED BY A SLIGHT FALL INTO A COLUMN-INTEGRATED DOWNPIPE, AND DIRECTED TO AN ON-SITE GRAVEL FILTRATION TRENCH FOR RECHARGE AND REUSE.

FORM DERIVATION

INSPIRED BY CHINESE FISHING NET







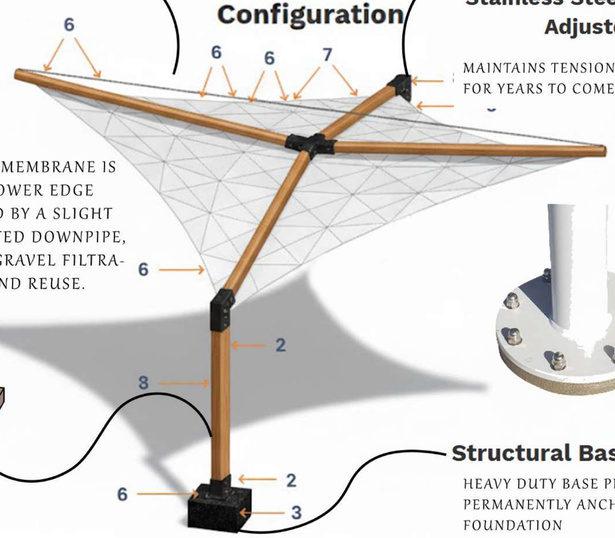
Recycled rPET Membrane

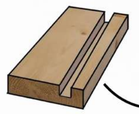
A SEMI-TRANSLUCENT TENSILE FABRIC MADE FROM RECYCLED PET BOTTLES, OFFERING DURABILITY, UV RESISTANCE, & SUSTAINABLE LIGHT DIFFUSION.

Stainless Steel Tension Adjuster

MAINTAINS TENSION IN MEMBRANE FOR YEARS TO COME

Configuration





GROOVE

Structural Base Plate

HEAVY DUTY BASE PLATE PERMANENTLY ANCHORED TO FOUNDATION

1.FOOTINGS- TO SUIT LOCAL CONDITIONS
2.COLUMN - ZINC & POWDER COATED
3.TENSIONER - STAINLESS STEEL
4.EDGE CABLE- STAINLESS STEEL FITTING
5.RAFTER STRUTS- ZINC & POWDER COATED
6.MEMBRANE- STAINLESS STEEL
7.GUY CABLE - STAINLESS STEEL
8.WIND LOAD - 41M/SEC

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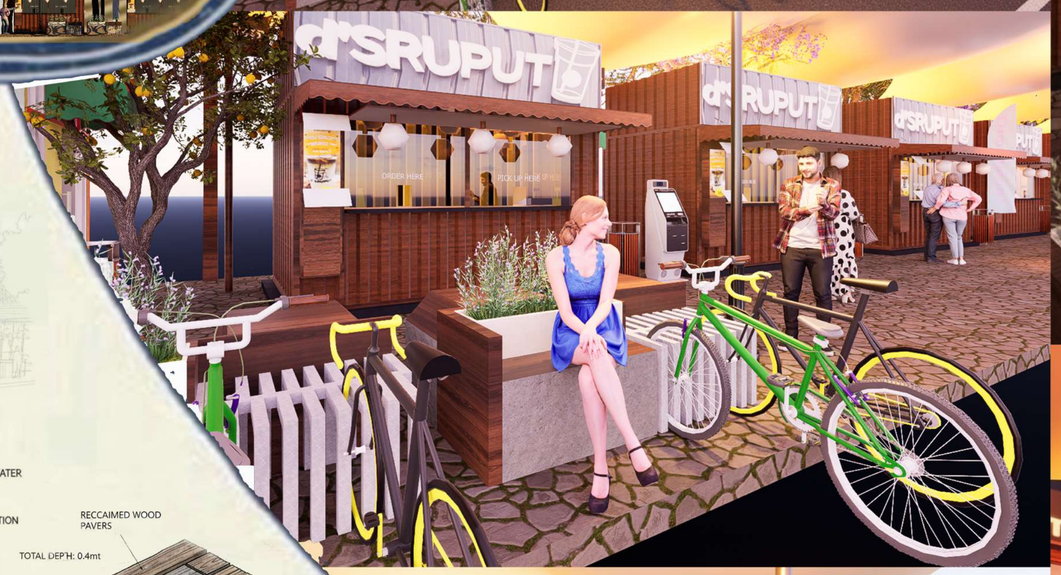
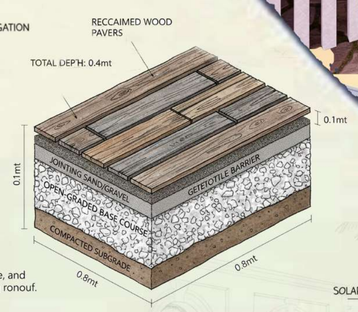
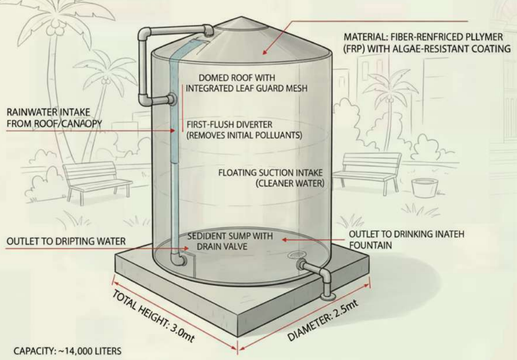




PROCESS:
Rainwater filters through gaps, into base course, and slowly percoulates into ino subgrade, reducing ronouf.

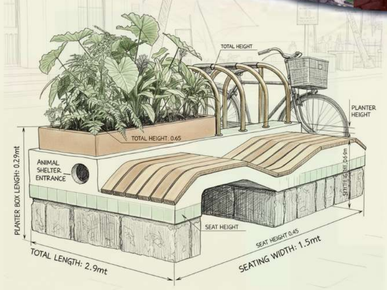


CAPACITY: ~14,000 LITERS

PROCESS: RAINNI\NR IS COLLECTED, FOLET WER DERILS, AND PUMPPED TO THE PURIFICITATEER (SEE)
MAINTENANCE: ANNUAL SUMP CLEANING & FILTER INSPECTION

IP65
WEATHERYPROOF RATING
RATING

PROCESS:
Solar panel charges battery during day.
Motion sensor activates LED'S at dusk.
Provides pathway illumination.



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