CARVED PATHS

Carving Connections, Creating Experiences

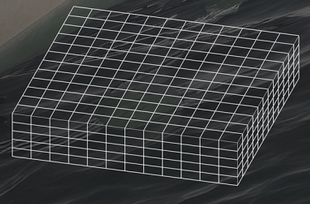
A crafts production hub - At PORTSAID

Presented by: Nour Yasser
Supervised by: Dr. Radwa Tawfik

FORM GENERATION

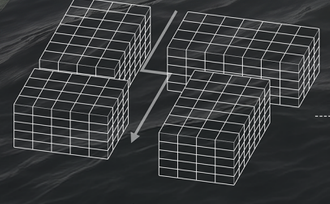
From Modular Craft Units to a Waterfront Cultural Production Hub

01 | ASSEMBLE



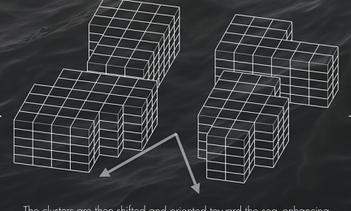
A single compact mass composed of pixelated units, oriented toward the sea to maximize views and establish a strong connection with the waterfront.

02 | DIVIDE



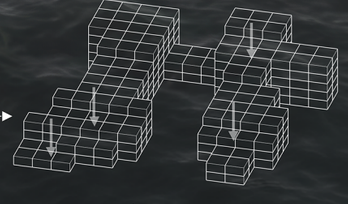
The mass is divided into four clusters representing the main zones, creating voids between them for circulation, light, and ventilation.

03| SHIFT



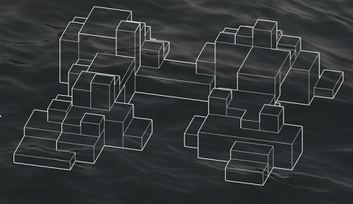
The clusters are then shifted and oriented toward the sea, enhancing views and creating openings that guide movement.

04 | CONNECT



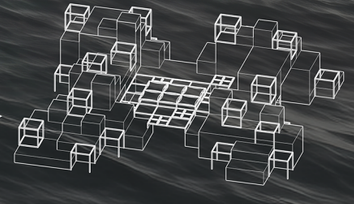
The clusters are linked to form a continuous cycle, with stepped masses enhancing hierarchy and spatial dynamics.

05 | CLUSTERS



Some pixelated units are removed while others are added, refining the form and creating more dynamic spatial variations within the clusters.

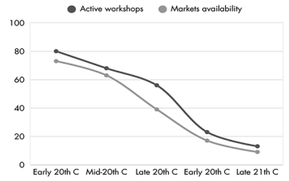
06| ENGAGE

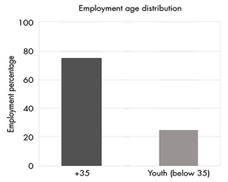


Pergolas are added to provide shading and define outdoor spaces, while the shoreline is enhanced to strengthen the project's connection to the waterfront.

PROBLEM

Port Said depends mainly on port and maritime activities, which limits job opportunities for young people. As a result, traditional crafts are slowly disappearing because skills are not being passed from older generations to younger ones. There is also a lack of spaces where people can learn, practice, and experience these crafts, which has weakened cultural identity and the connection between people and their heritage.

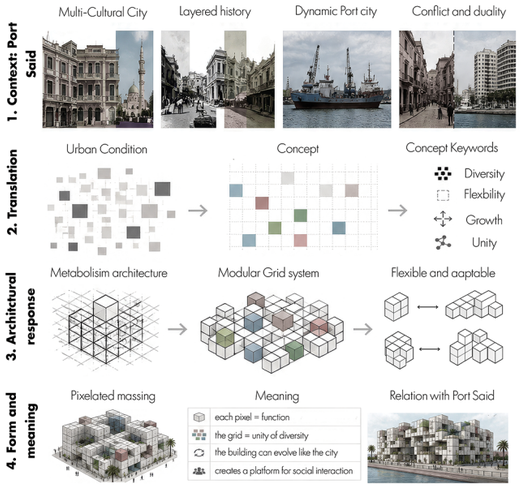




LOCATION

The selected site occupies a strategic waterfront position in Port Said, providing direct access to marine transportation routes while remaining connected to the surrounding residential fabric. Its location supports the movement of goods and materials, strengthens the relationship between craft production and the sea, and creates an accessible destination for both the local community and visitors.

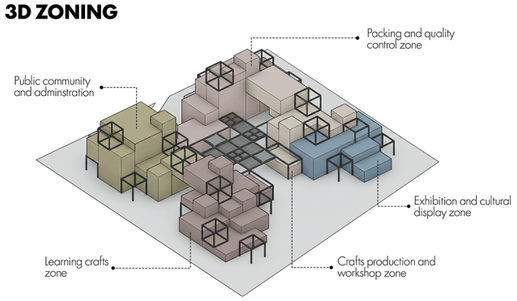
ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPT GENERATION



CONCEPT

Craft is transformed from a fading practice into a visible and shared experience, becoming part of everyday life where people can see, learn, and participate. The project connects making, learning, and interaction to allow knowledge to pass between generations, using a modular grid system where solid and void spaces create connectivity, flexibility, and visual interaction, reactivating traditional crafts as a living part of the city.

3D ZONING



1. Main Entrance lobby and reception
2. Lobby
3. Waiting area
4. Packing zone
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6. Administration zone
7. Cafeteria
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9. Maintenance workshop
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11. Experimental crafts lab
12. Support and safety zone
13. Material Testing Lab
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16. VR Rooms
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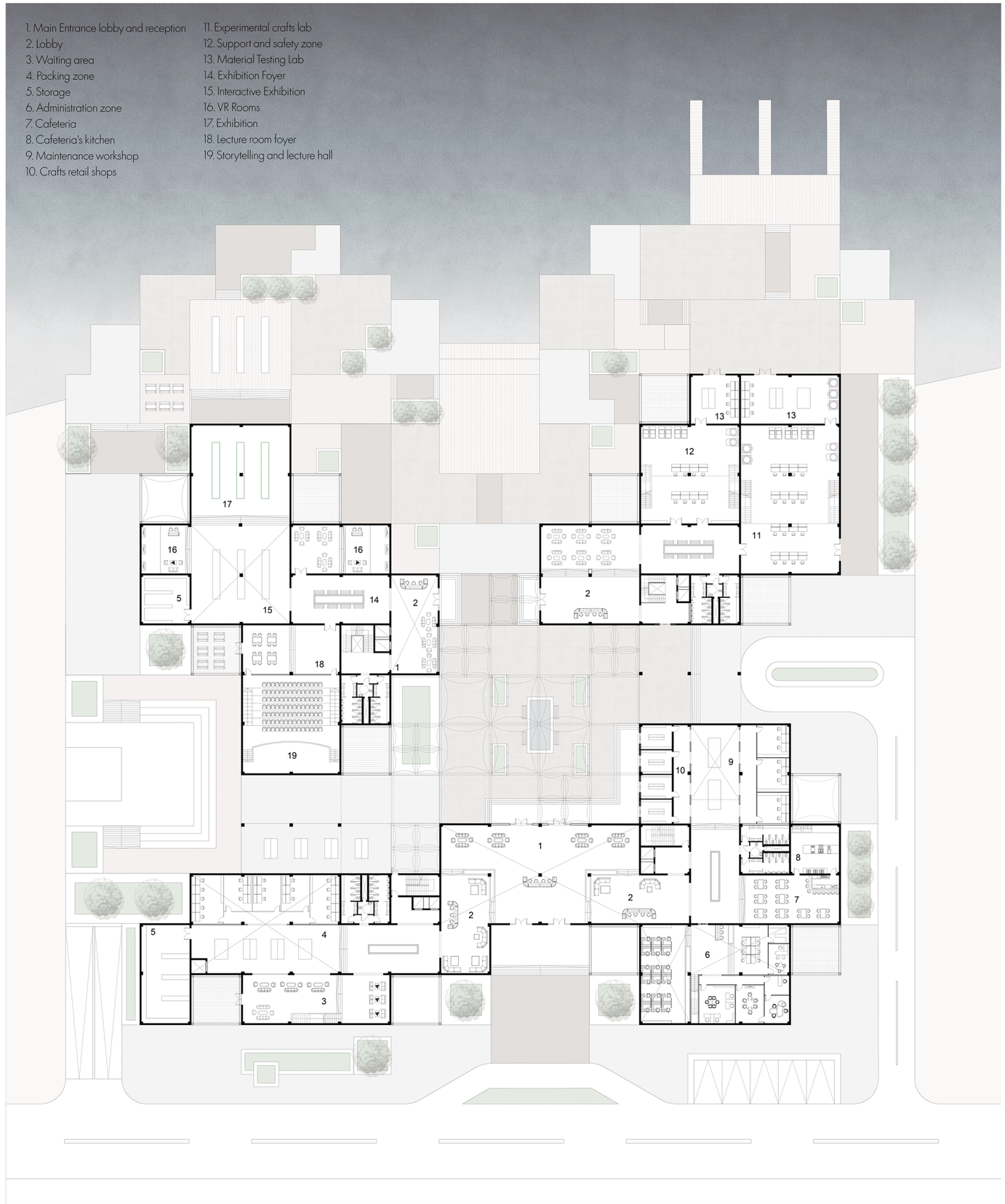
19. Storytelling and lecture hall



GROUND FLOOR PLAN SCALE 1:250

VISITOR EXPERIENCE

01 | ARRIVAL

Visitors arrive from the main entrance and waterfront promenade, where the project emerges as a contemporary interpretation of Port Said's craft heritage.

02 | EXPLORATION

The central public plaza acts as a gathering space, encouraging movement, interaction, and visual connections between the different workshop clusters.

03 | CULTURAL

Visitors discover the history of local crafts through exhibition spaces showcasing traditional carving techniques, tools, and artisan stories.

01 → 02 → 03

04 | WORKSHOP

Open and semi-open workshops allow visitors to observe craftsmen at work, creating a direct connection between production and public engagement.

05 | LEARNING & CRAFT

Interactive learning spaces and workshops provide opportunities for visitors to learn, practice, and experience craft-making activities, transferring knowledge to future generations.

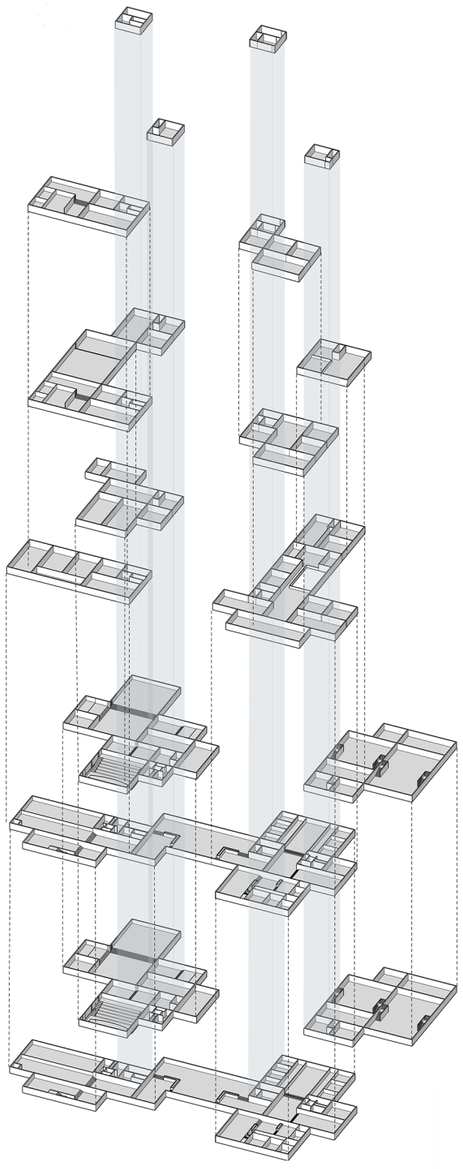
06 | COMMUNITY & WATERFRONT

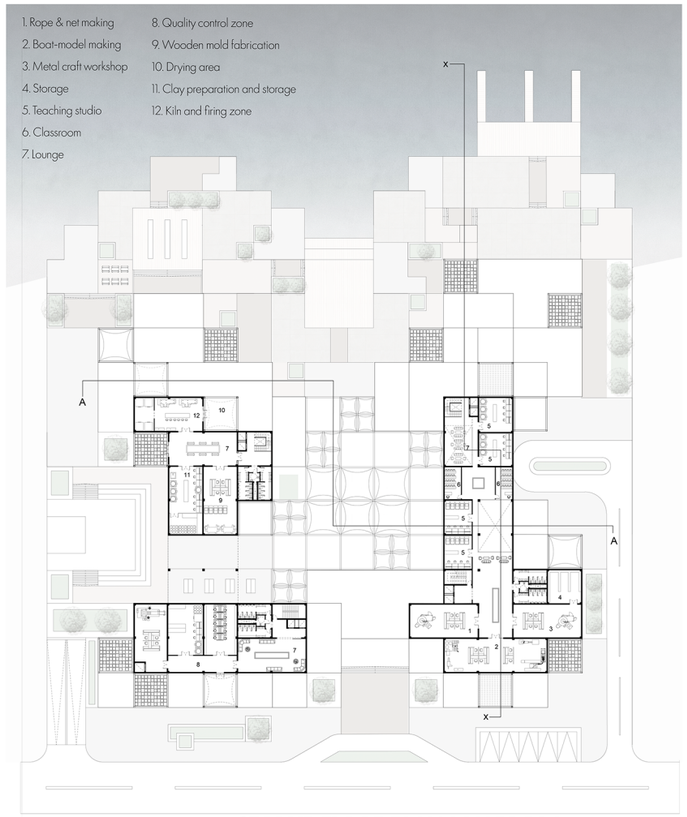
Shared social spaces foster interaction among artisans, visitors, and the local community, culminating in a waterfront setting for relaxation and reflection.

04 → 05 → 06

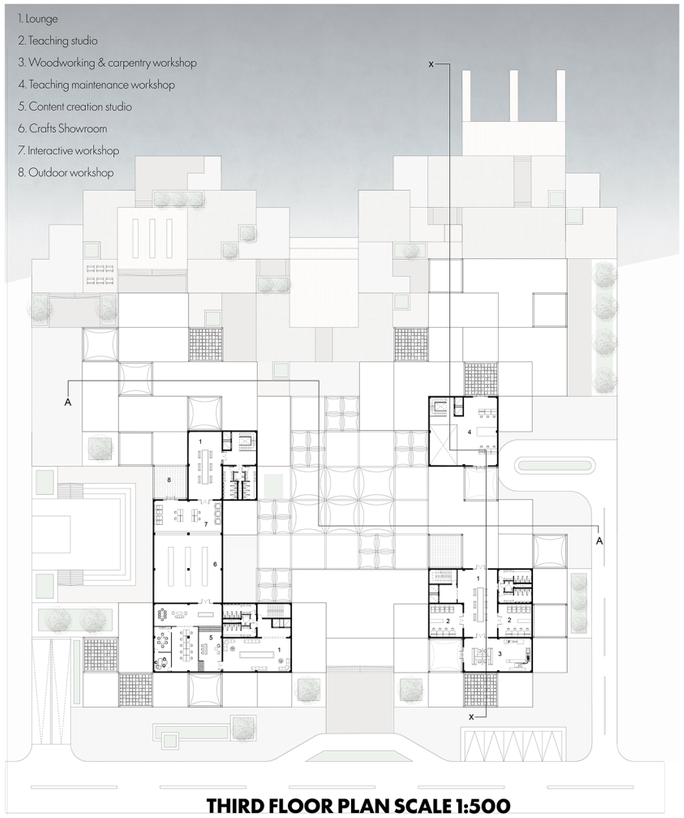
LAYOUT SCALE 1:500

EXPLODED MODEL





SECOND FLOOR PLAN SCALE 1:500



THIRD FLOOR PLAN SCALE 1:500

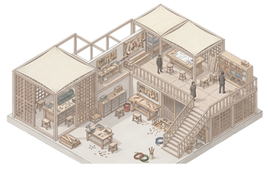
WORKSHOP FLEXABILITY STUDY

01 | SINGLE WORKSHOP

A small workshop unit dedicated to fine craftsmanship and the production of smaller craft components.

02 | COURTYARD CLUSTERS

Multiple workshop units are organized around a shared courtyard, encouraging interaction, collaboration, and knowledge exchange among artisans.

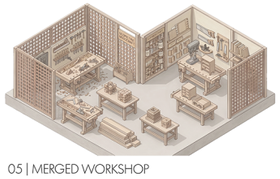


03 | VERTICAL EXPANSION

A mezzanine level is introduced to expand the workspace while maintaining a direct visual connection with the craft activities taking place on the ground floor.

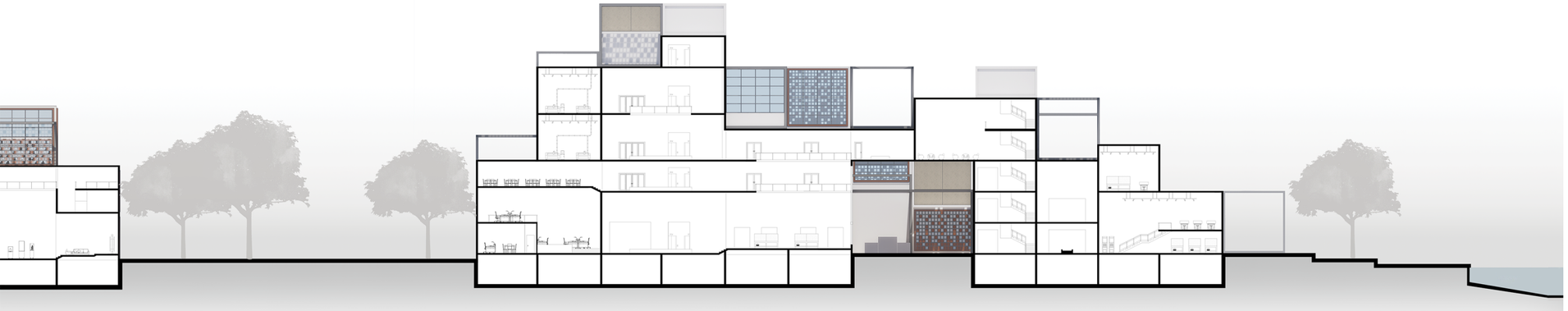
04 | OPEN STUDIO

A flexible open-plan configuration that supports multiple workshop activities, collaborative workspaces, and educational programs.

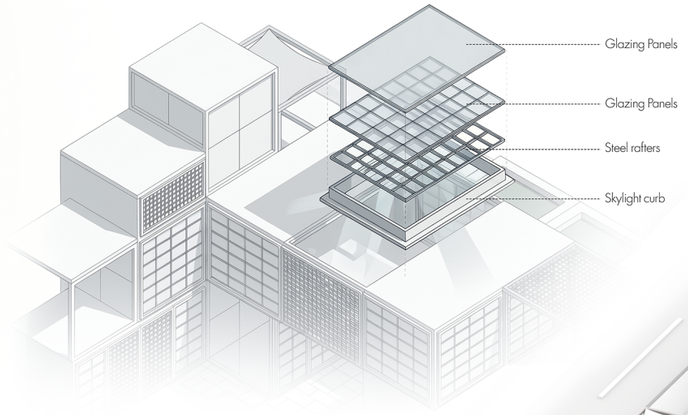


05 | MERGED WORKSHOP

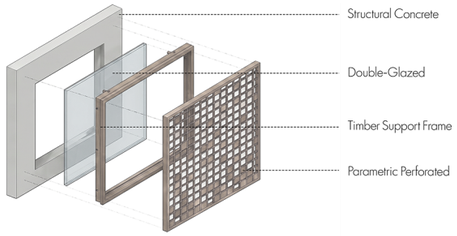
A flexible workspace formed by combining multiple workshop units, encouraging interaction, collaboration, and efficient use of space.



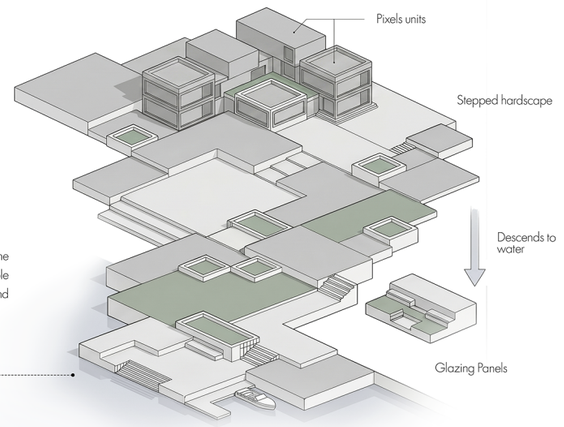
SECTION X-X SCALE 1:250



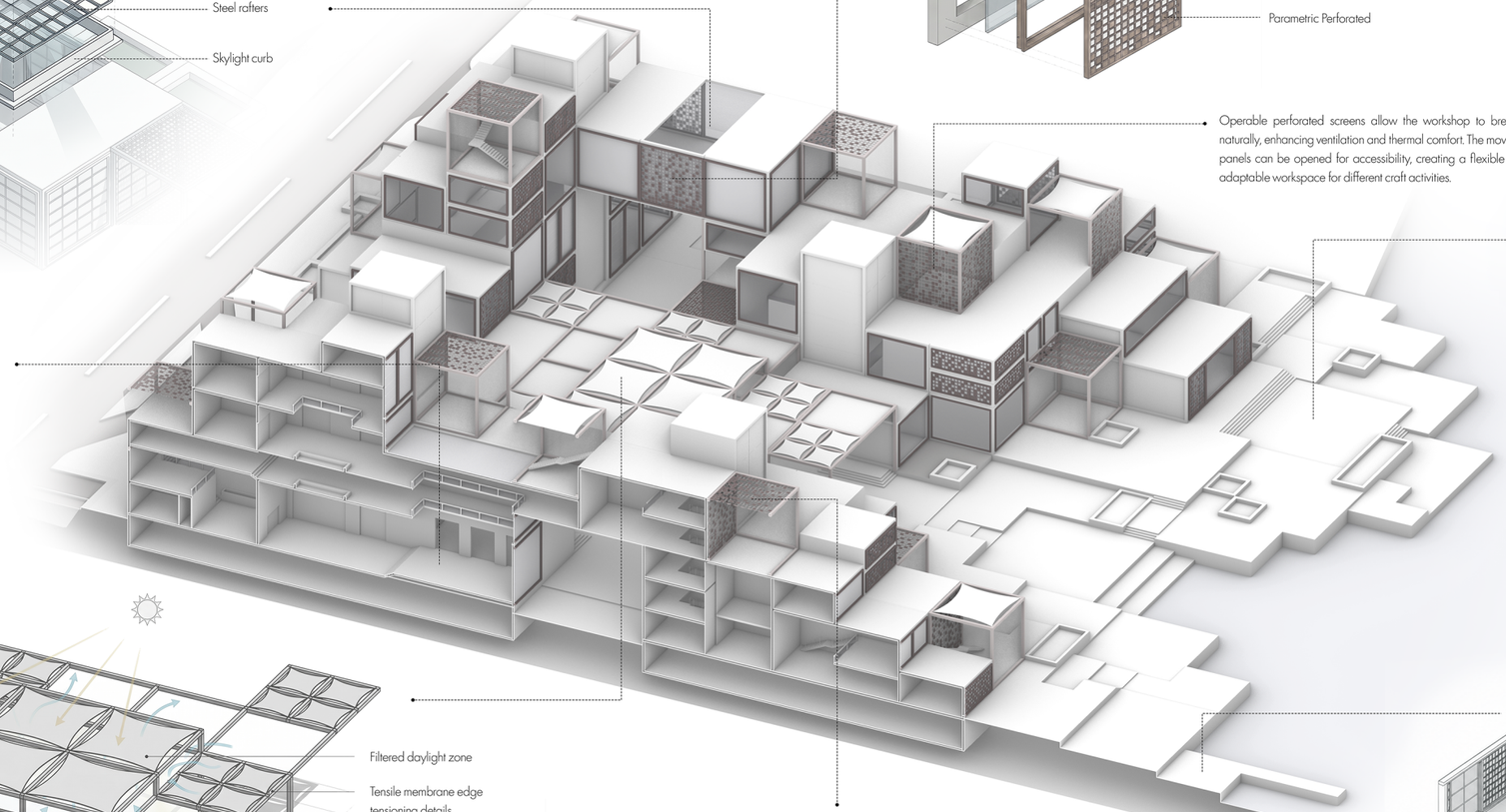
The modular skylight system introduces controlled natural daylight deep into the interior spaces, reducing reliance on artificial lighting while enhancing visual comfort. Layered glazing panels and steel rafters diffuse sunlight, minimizing glare and heat gain. Positioned above the central circulation space, the skylight creates a bright, welcoming environment that improves spatial quality and energy efficiency.



Operable perforated screens allow the workshop to breathe naturally, enhancing ventilation and thermal comfort. The movable panels can be opened for accessibility, creating a flexible and adaptable workspace for different craft activities.



The marina acts as a direct connection between the project and the sea, facilitating the transportation and receiving of goods through maritime access. Its strategic waterfront location enhances movement efficiency while reinforcing the site's strong relationship with Port Said's marine and industrial character.



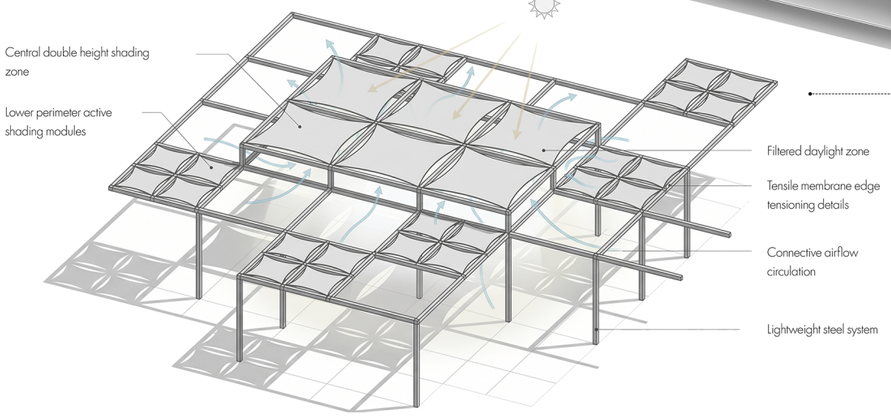
MARITIME INTERFACE
The platform establishes a direct physical connection between the naroor edce and the cultural production spaces.

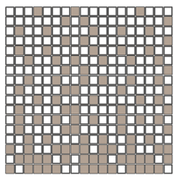
PUBLIC WATERFRONT EXTENSION
The marine edge extends public activity beyond the shoreline, creating a continuous waterfront experience

VISUAL CONNECTION
Uninterrupted sightlines strengthen the visual relationship between visitors and the sea

MATERIAL ARRIVAL
Raw materials arrive directly from the waterfront, reinforcing the historical relationship between maritime trade and local craftsmanship.

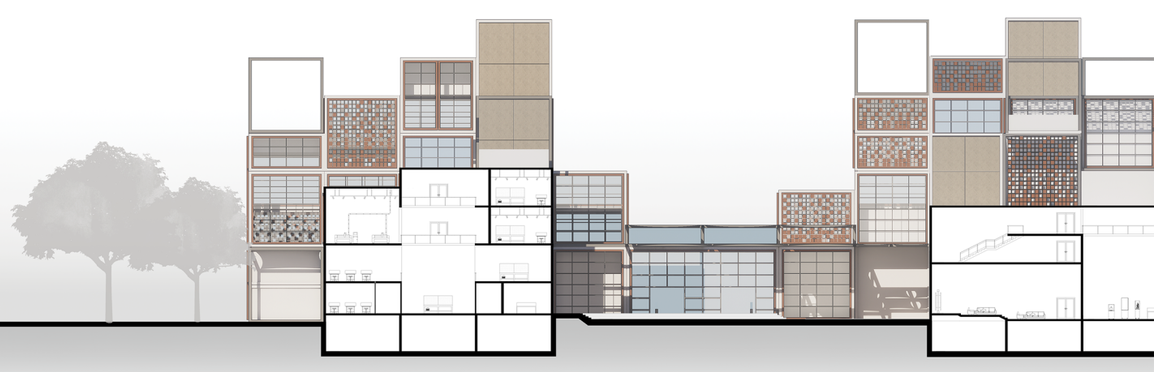
The modular tensile membrane canopy enhances outdoor comfort by combining passive shading, filtered daylight, and natural ventilation. A raised central zone promotes stack-effect cooling, allowing warm air to escape while drawing fresh air through the surrounding shaded modules. Supported by a lightweight steel structure, the system creates a comfortable microclimate while reducing solar heat gain and maintaining visual openness.





The perforated façade gradually opens toward the waterfront, with the density of the blocks decreasing and the openings widening as they rise. This transition enhances transparency, allowing more natural daylight and sea breezes to penetrate the building while strengthening visual connections to the waterfront. The evolving pattern creates a responsive façade that reflects the project's relationship with the sea and its surrounding environment.

ELEVATION SCALE 1:250



SECTION A-A SCALE 1:250

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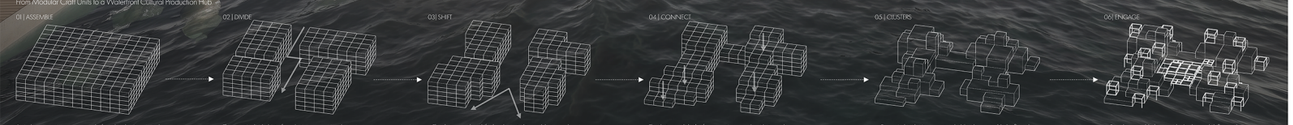

A single compact mass composed of pixelated units, oriented toward the sea to maximize views and establish a strong connection with the waterfront

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The clusters are then shifted and oriented toward the sea, enhancing views and creating openings that guide movement.

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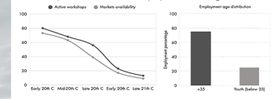

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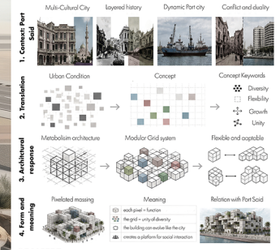

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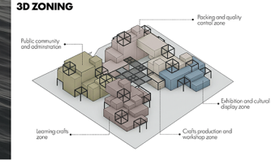

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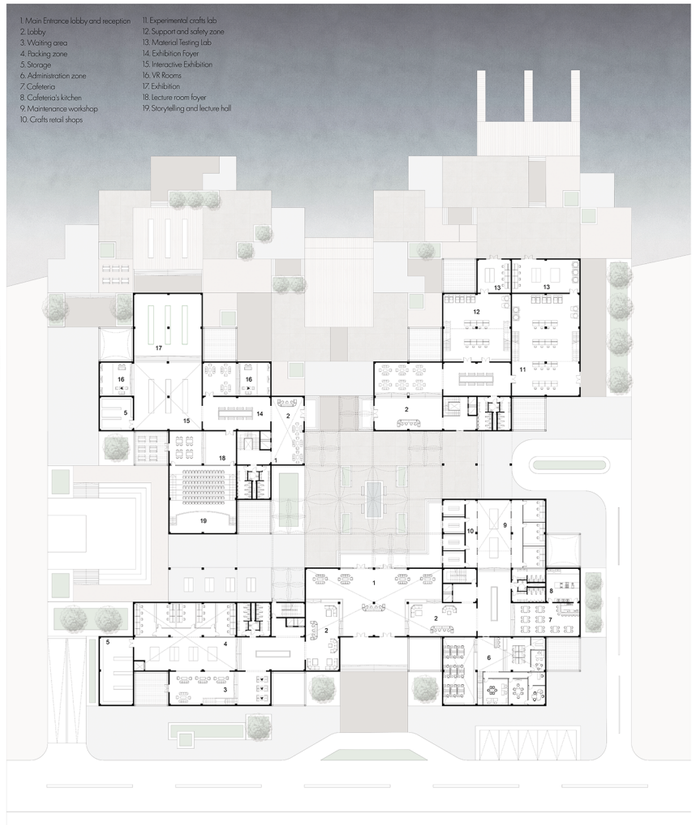
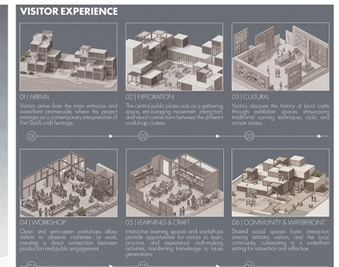


GROUND FLOOR PLAN SCALE 1:250

VISITOR EXPERIENCE



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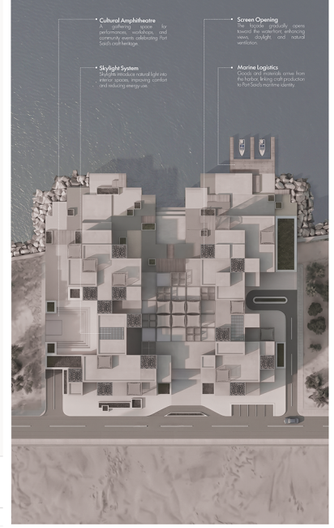
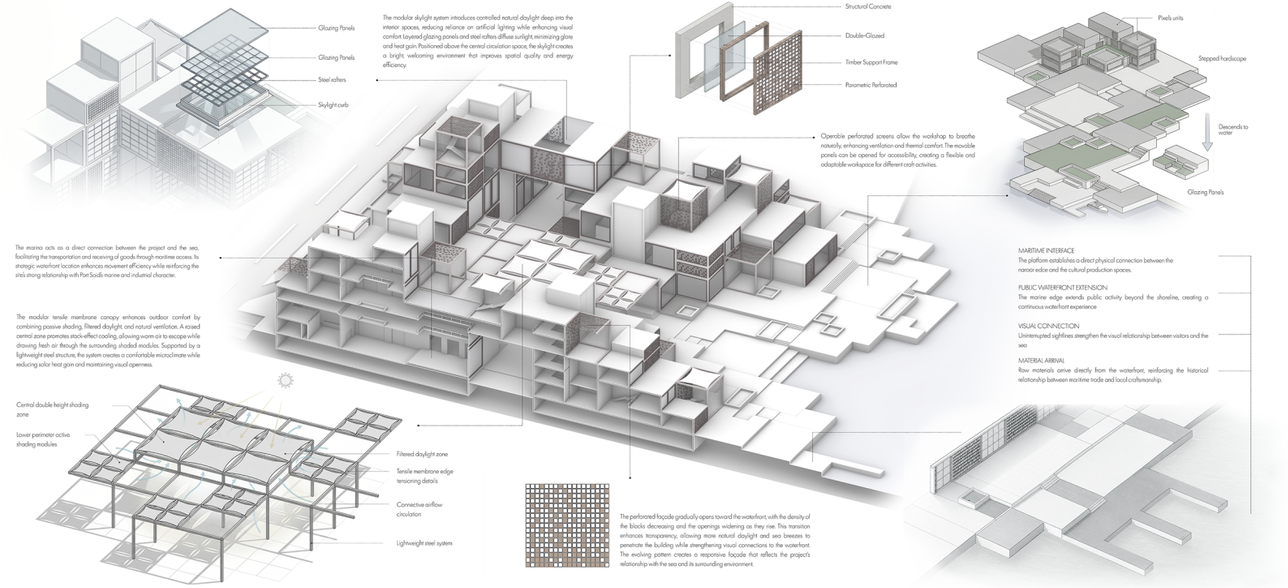
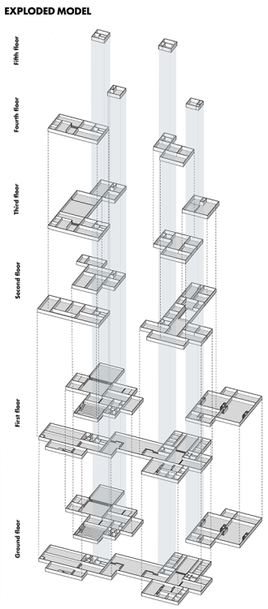
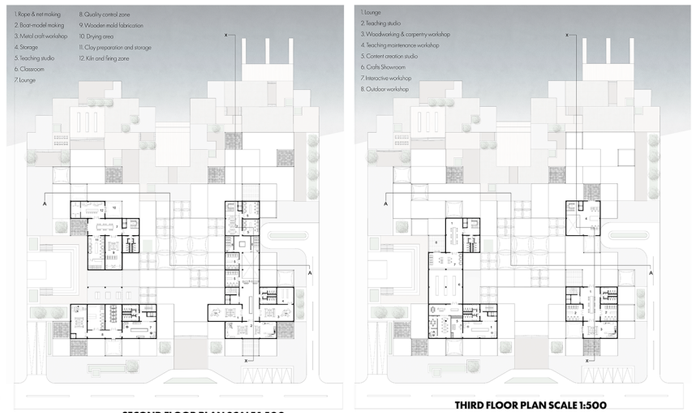


LAYOUT SCALE 1:500



EXPLODED MODEL





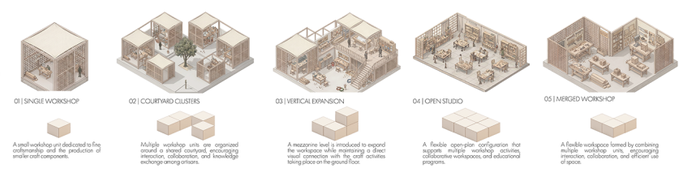
1. Rope & net making
2. Boat-model making
3. Metal and workshop
4. Storage
5. Teaching studio
6. Classroom
7. Lounge
8. Quality control zone
9. Wooden mold fabrication
10. Drying area
11. Clay preparation and storage
12. Kiln and firing zone

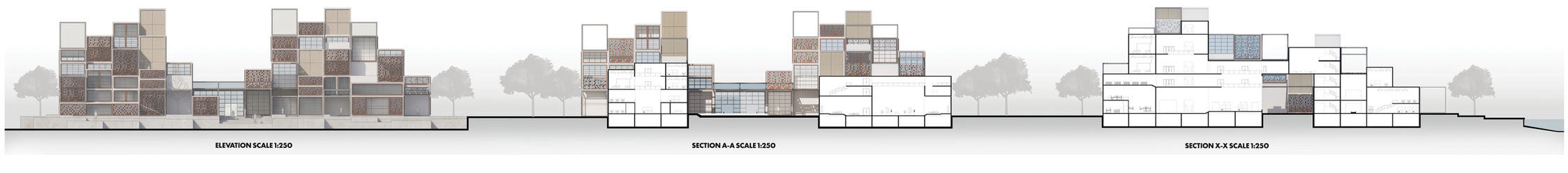
SECOND FLOOR PLAN SCALE 1:500

1. Lounge
2. Teaching studio
3. Woodworking & carpentry workshop
4. Teaching maintenance workshop
5. Content creation studio
6. Crafts Showroom
7. Interactive workshop
8. Outdoor workshop

THIRD FLOOR PLAN SCALE 1:500

WORKSHOP FLEXABILITY STUDY





ELEVATION SCALE 1:250

SECTION A-A SCALE 1:250

SECTION X-X SCALE 1:250