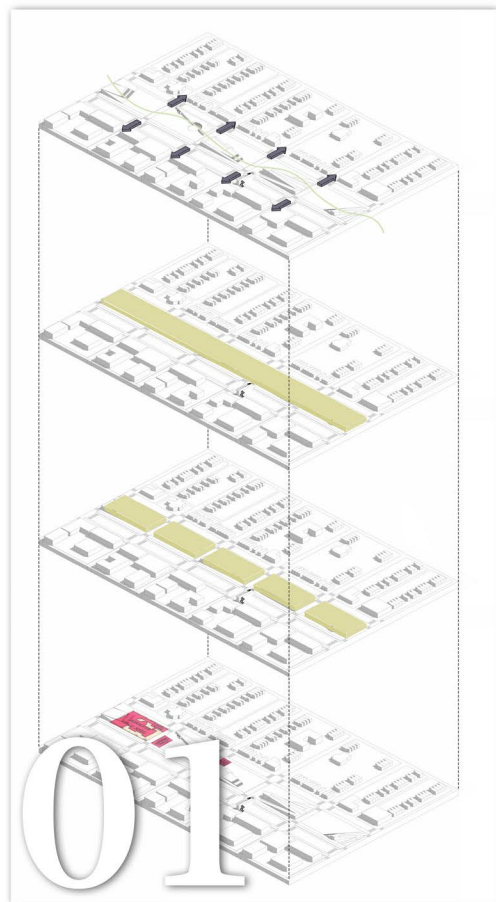


# portfolio

**Rameen Amer**

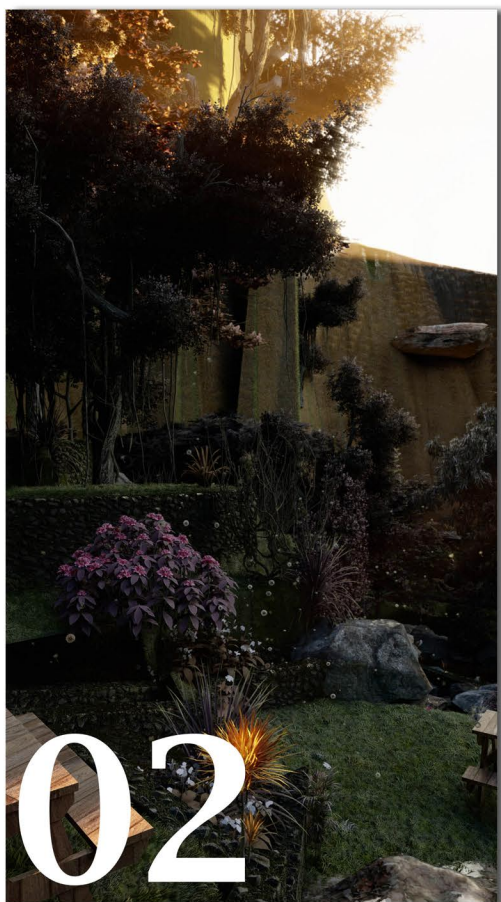
Masters of Urban Design  
Carnegie Mellon University

CONTENTS



01

Palimpsest, Reclaim65



02

Shah Allah Ditta Caves



03

Thandi Chaaon, The Urban Sanctuary



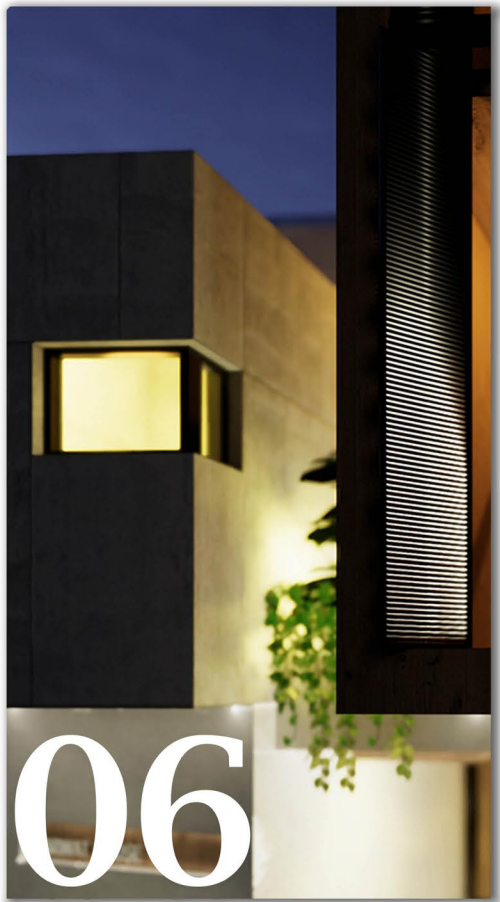
04

The Hidden Backyard



05

Bus Stop



06

House at an Angle



# 01

## Palimpsest Highway Removal *Route 65, Manchester - Chateau* Pittsburgh, PA

As part of the fall Reclaim65 Studio, the project entailed the removal of the highway 65 from the historic Manchester - Chateau neighborhood located in the North side of Pittsburgh. The highway was originally built in the 70's following the demolition of 830 buildings and the displacement of 2700 residents belonging to marginalized communities. The process involved extensive research into the history of the neighborhood including housing typologies, methods of community outreach as well as critical analysis regarding the categorical events that took place. This was then followed by design conceptualization.

I envisioned maintaining parts of the highway, paying homage to the many changes the neighborhood has witnessed in the name of urban renewal. In this project, the palimpsest nature of the land is deeply understood and consequently, a linear park is built on remnants of the highway itself by subtracting the parts that acted as a wall between the adjacent neighborhoods.

The intention is to introduce certain programs where historically significant buildings existed before the conception of the highway. In place of the United Church, we have a community garden, a concept that is native to Manchester. An outdoor amphitheatre exists in place of the Hippodrome theatre and a playground and bleachers commemorate the site of the Manchester Public School.

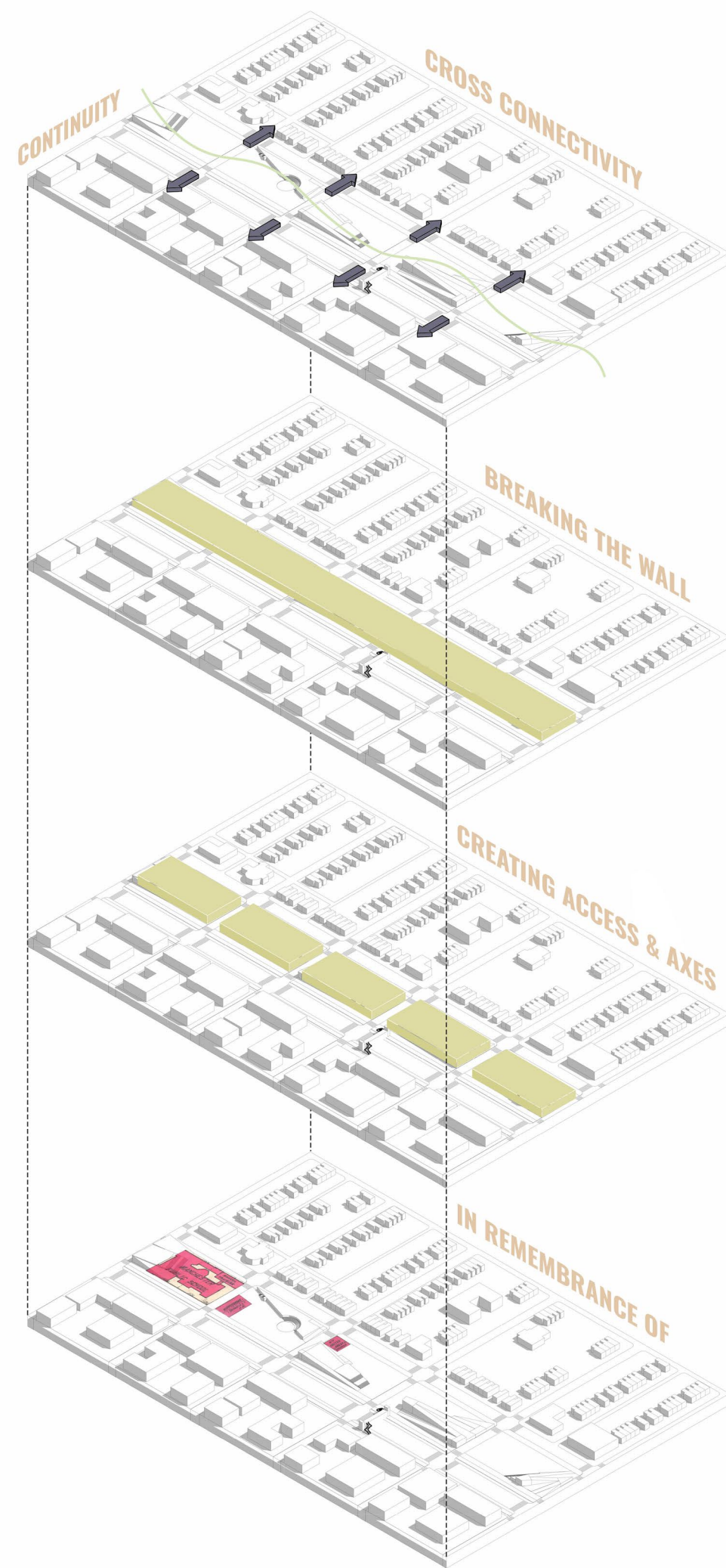


2024, time spent: 3 months





- 1 PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH
- 2 ART GALLERY (PROPOSED)
- 3 GROCERY STORE (PROPOSED)
- 4 CONVENIENCE STORE (PROPOSED)
- 5 COMMUNITY CENTER (PROPOSED)
- 6 ANDERSON MANOR
- 7 MAKER'S HOUSING (PROPOSED)
- 8 PITTSBURGH FURNITURE OUTLET









# 02

## Shah Allah Ditta Caves Preservation D-12, Islamabad

Shah Allah Ditta caves are situated on southern side of the Margalla hills in a small picturesque valley, only 14 kilometers north-west of the capital city of Islamabad. Caves consist of two natural rock shelters of kanjur stone situated on either side of a natural spring of fresh water. Front side of the eastern cave is covered with a wall of undressed kanjur stone laid in mud mortar. A narrow access to the cave is provided in extreme north.

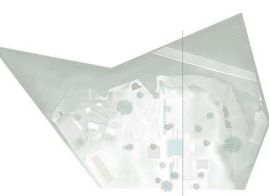
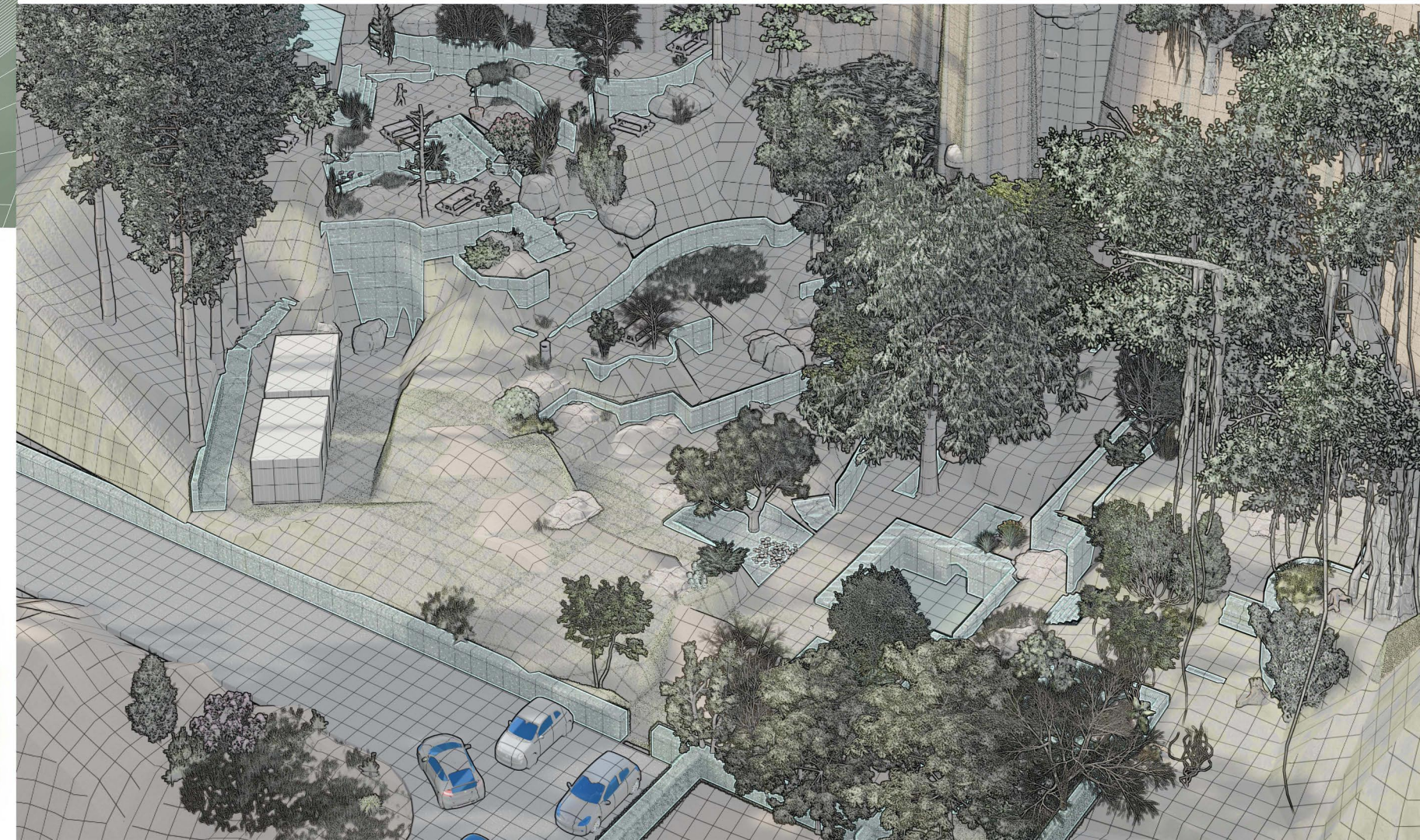
Facade of the cave is covered with mud plaster having many coatings of red color. On the smooth surface of the wall some paintings were executed in black color but in the later period the paintings were covered with a layer of whitewash which is now partially removed, and paintings are visible. The paintings are of Hindu origin, probably of god Vishnu (the savior). Interior of the cave is divided in upper and lower halves.

Working with the National Culture and Heritage Divison, our work entailed conducting manual and digital documentation of the caves for preservation and future design purposes. We worked with archaeologists and locals to analyze the site and its many intricacies.

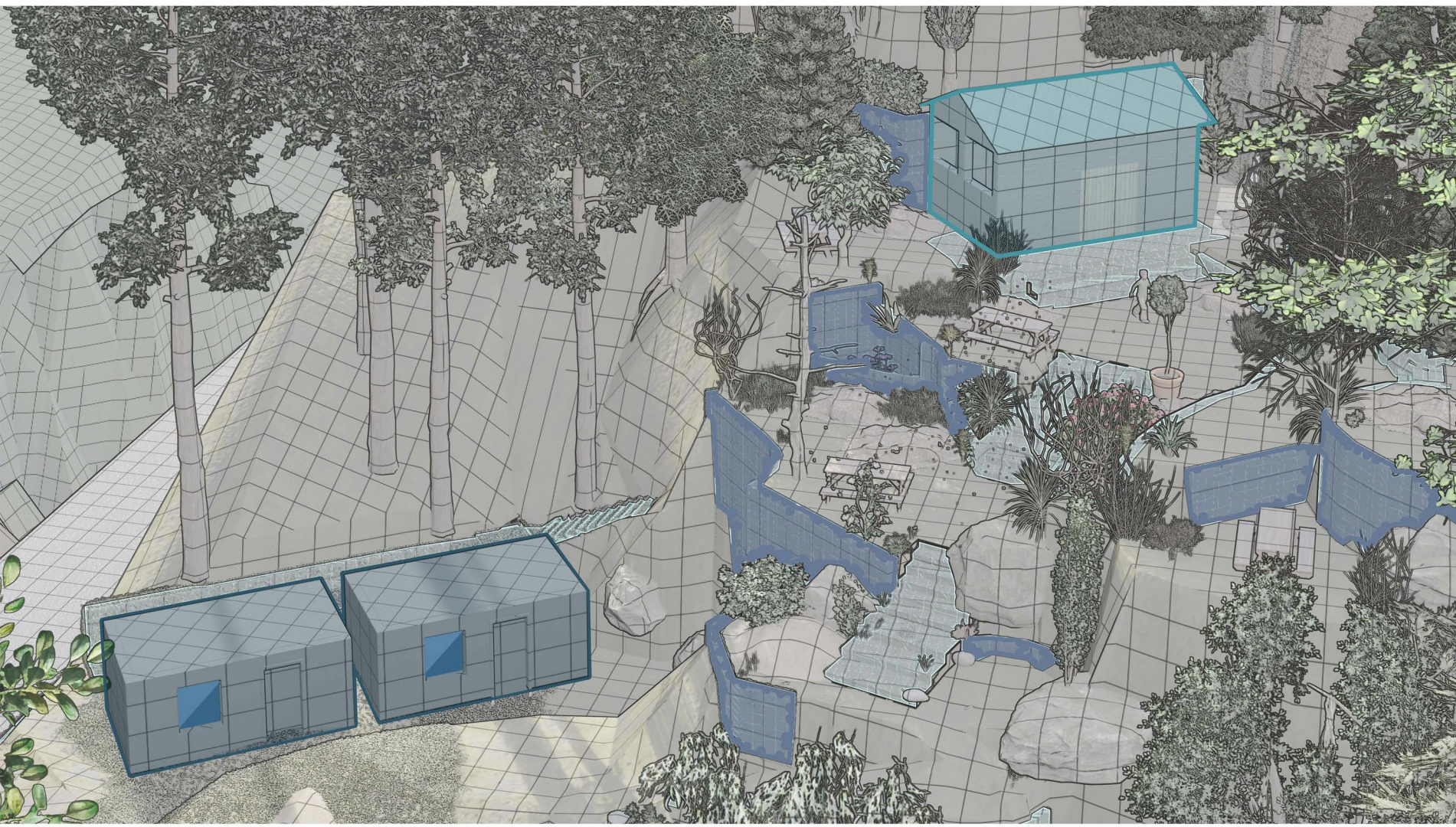


2024, time spent: 2 months











# 03

## ***Thandi Chaaon,*** **The Urban Sanctuary** General Post Office Chowk, Lahore *(Undergraduate Thesis Project)*

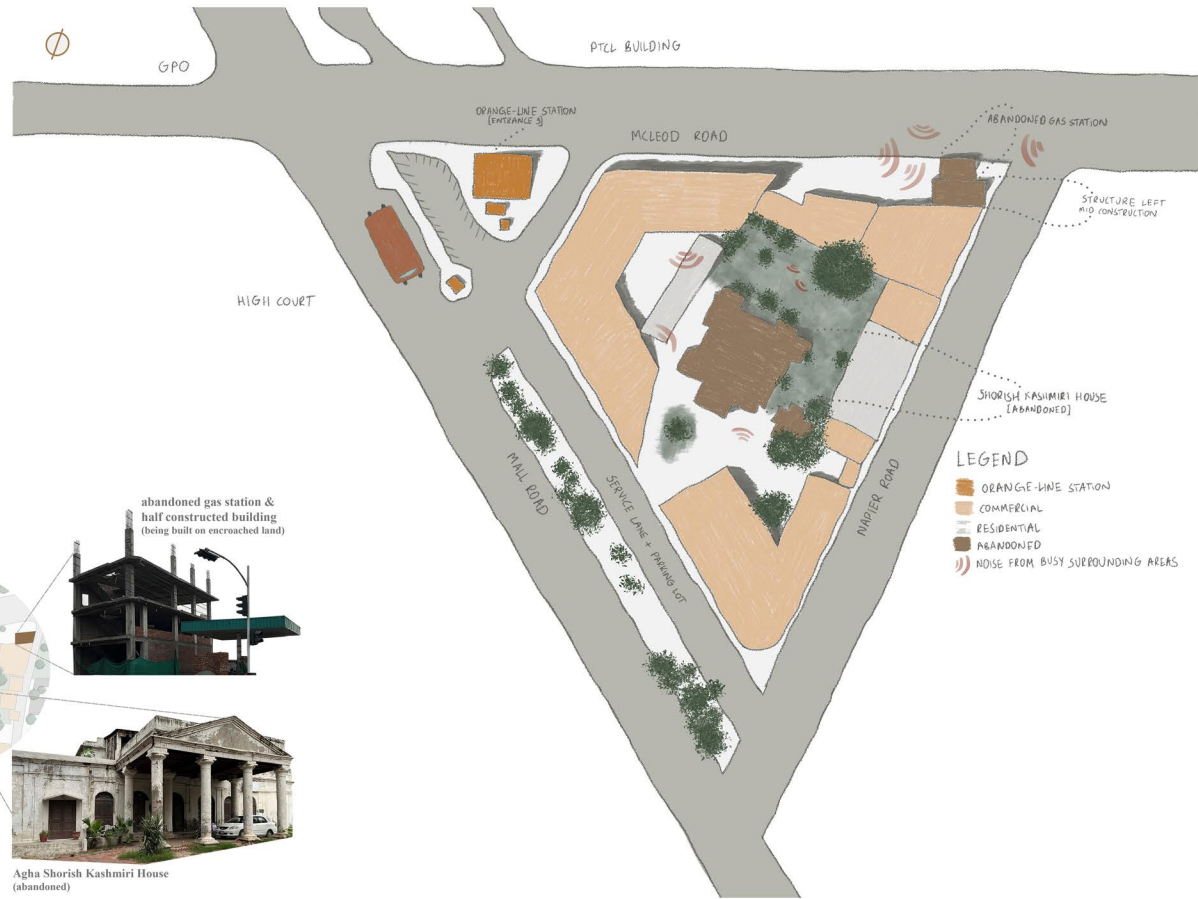
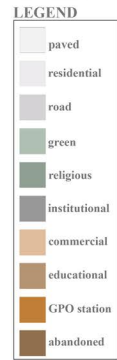
This project explores how the built fabric of the historic urban core of Lahore, The Mall, informs the social fabric of this area and how this has changed over the years owing to large scale development projects being underway in the city. The same Mall Road that was once a third place for its passerbys is now reduced to a mere artery and is slowly losing its essence as the *Thandi Sarak* it used to be. This project aims to rejuvenate a portion of the General Post Office (GPO) Chowk, a social node of its time. This will be done by nestling a library and a café alongside a promenade which will then act as a thoroughfare between Mall Road and Mcleod Road.

A vital part of the project is to address the issue of how the area surrounding the Orange-line station at the GPO Chowk isn't very pedestrian friendly and how it primarily caters to vehicular traffic, although it should be the opposite when such a means of public transport is located at the heart of the city. Another aspect of the project is to create connectivity between the proposed building and the existing (abandoned) Agha Shorish Kashmiri house, while keeping a sensitive approach to such a historically relevant building of its time.

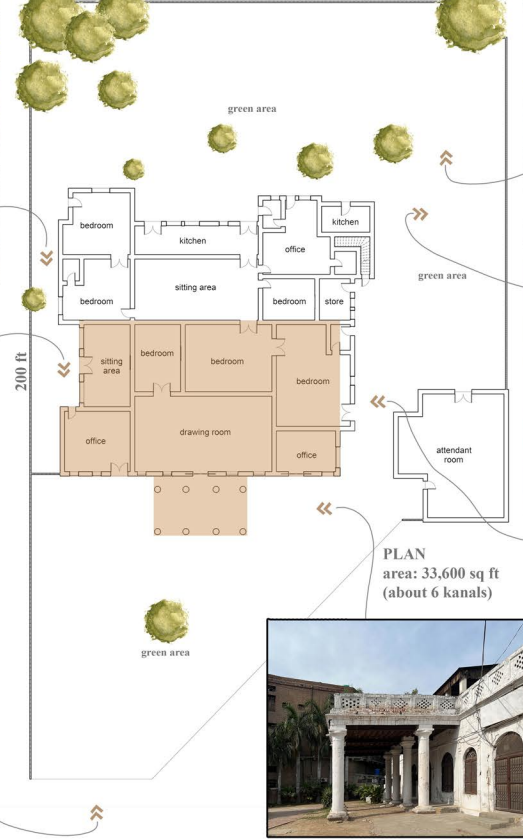


2022, time spent: 9 months





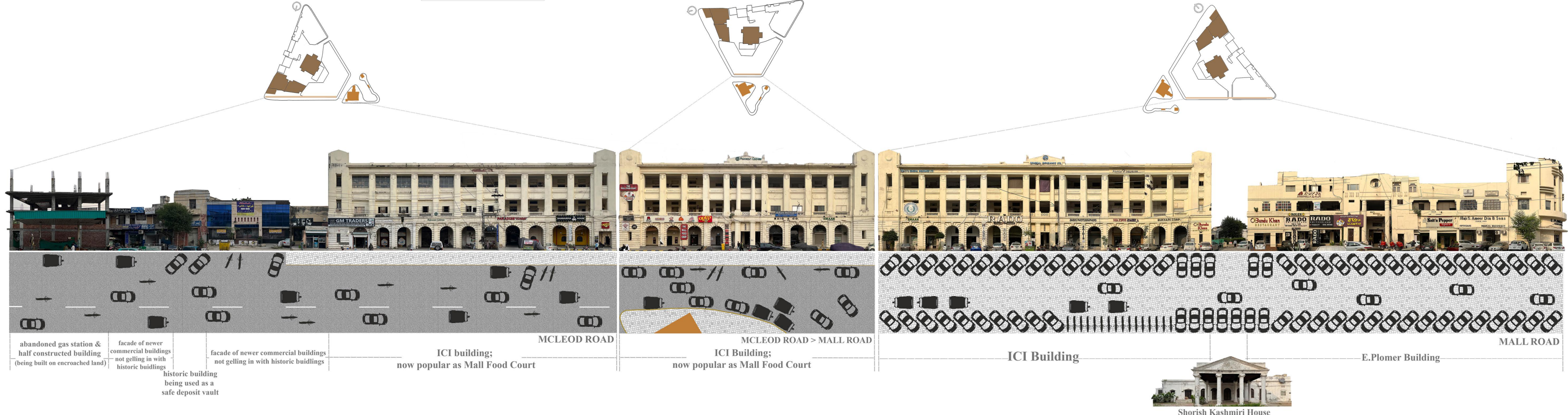
Agha Shorish Kashmiri House Plan  
168 ft



PLAN  
area: 33,600 sq ft  
(about 6 kanals)



original structure



abandoned gas station & half constructed building (being built on encroached land)

facade of newer commercial buildings not gelling in with historic buildings

facade of newer commercial buildings not gelling in with historic buildings

ICI building; now popular as Mall Food Court

ICI Building; now popular as Mall Food Court

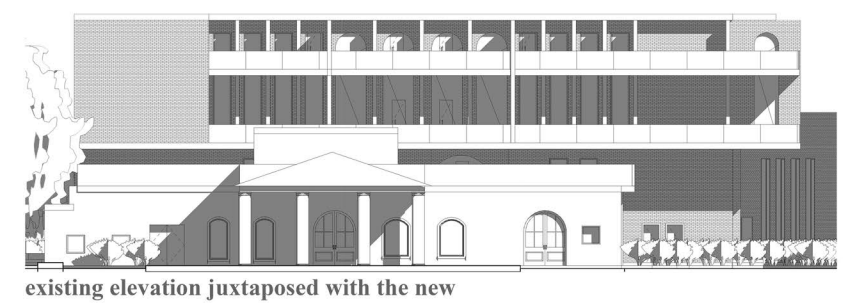
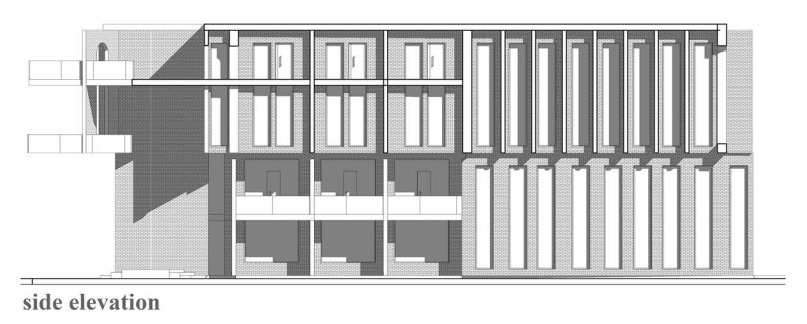
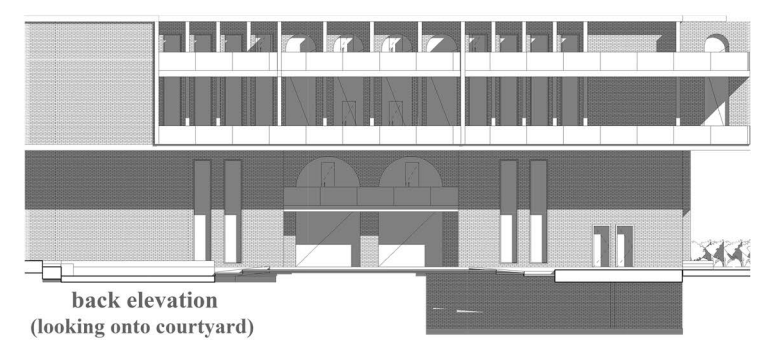
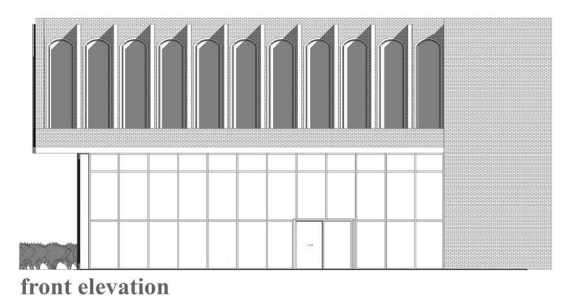
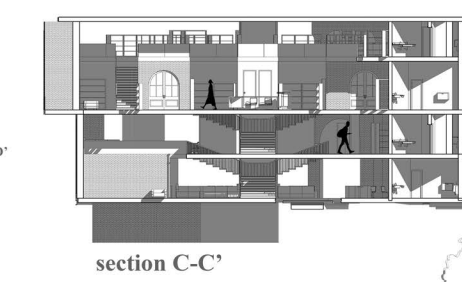
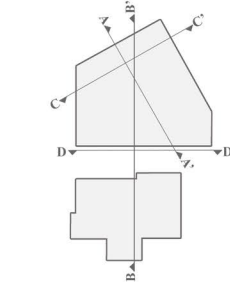
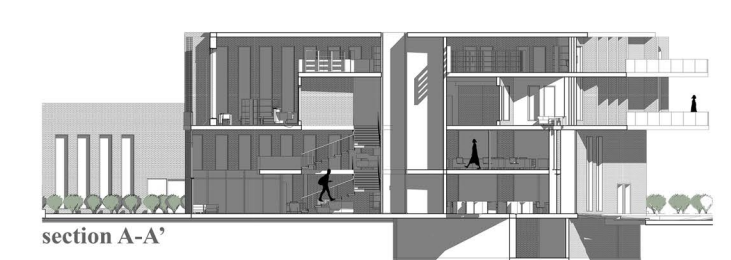
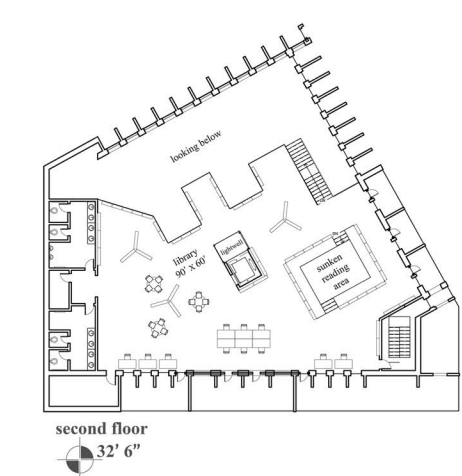
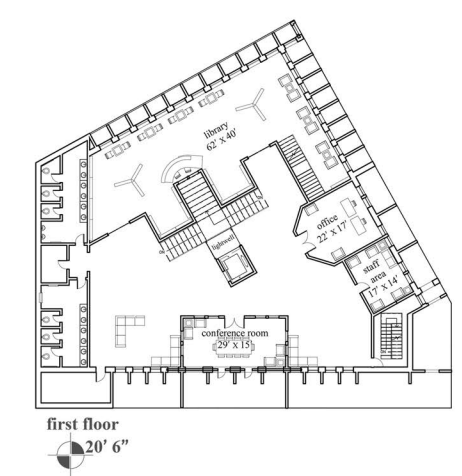
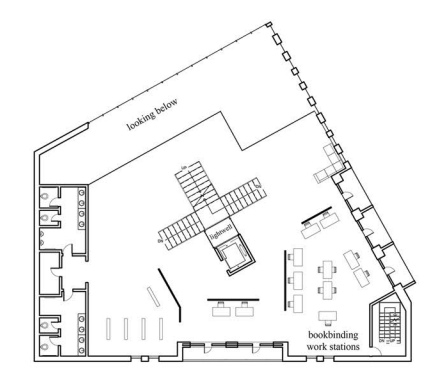
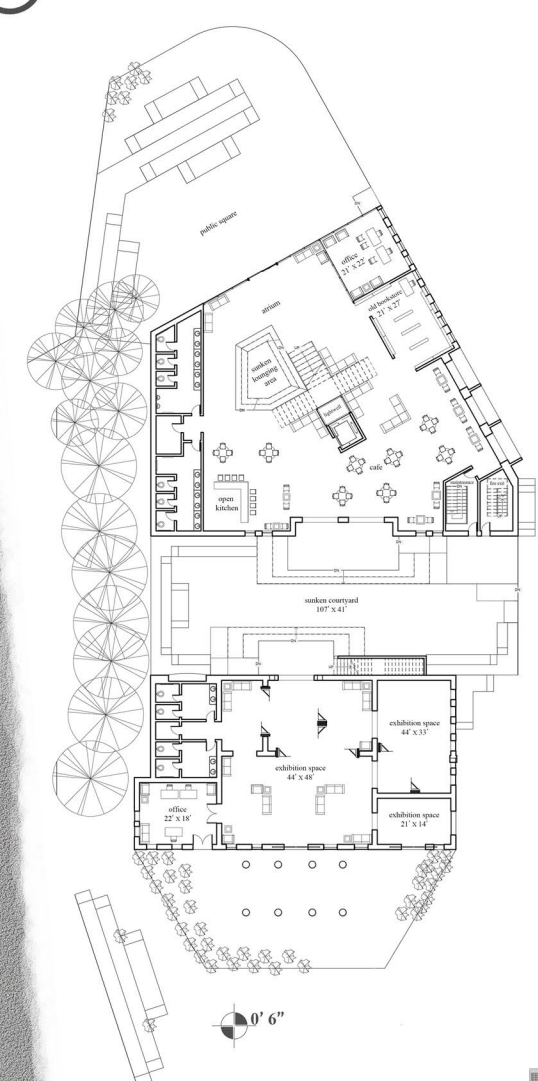
ICI Building

E. Plomer Building



Shorish Kashmiri House









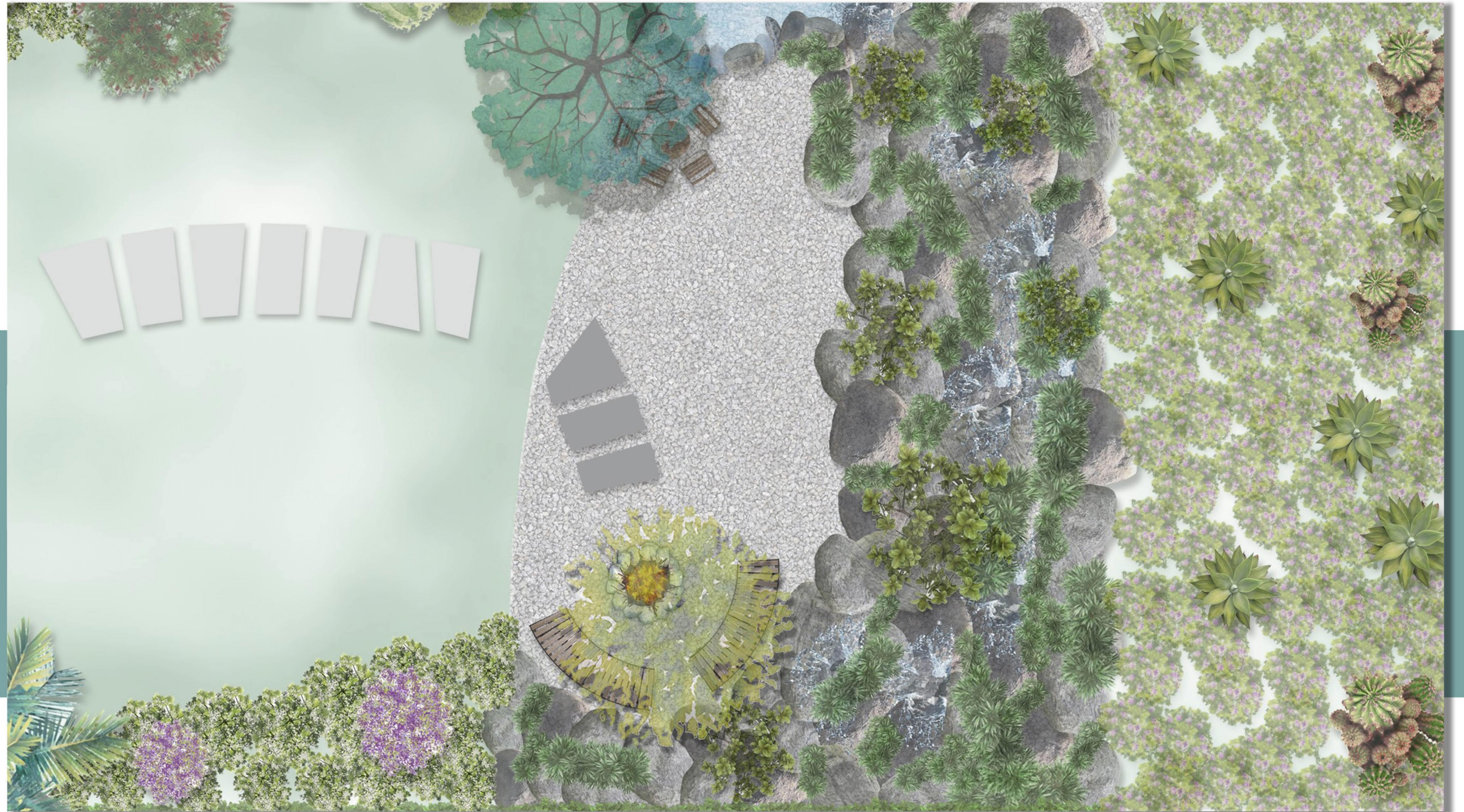


# 04

## The Hidden Backyard Landscape Design 25-A, Park Enclave, Islamabad

The project was to design the backyard of a house on an equally sized plot. While designing, it was important to keep the privacy of the inhabitants in mind as one side of the plot is right next to the main road. In order to prevent unwanted access, defensive plants such as agave and cactii are placed on the periphery. Similarly, tall, dense trees such as bamboo and bonsai are used in abundance on the sloped part of the backyard to limit visual permeability from the outside.

Another requirement of the client was to execute the design entirely in softscape and so, the use of gravel and grass is prevalent. The design includes a featured waterfall rockery which sits comfortably alongside the pond and firepit on opposite sides of the extent of the backyard.



2023, time spent: 3 days







# 05

## Bus Stop

F-10, Islamabad

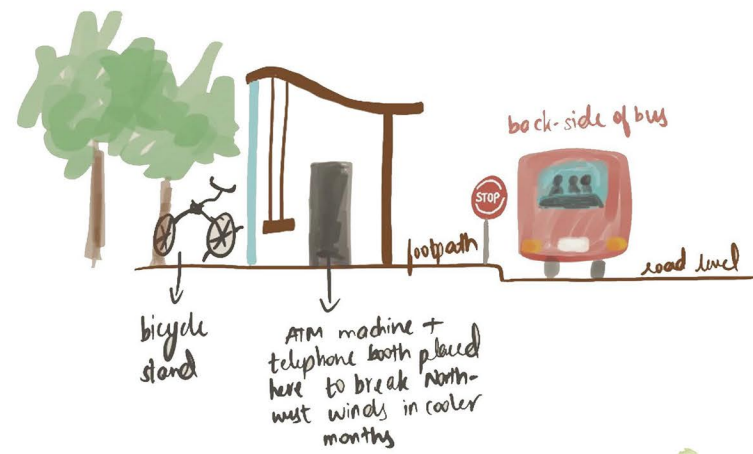
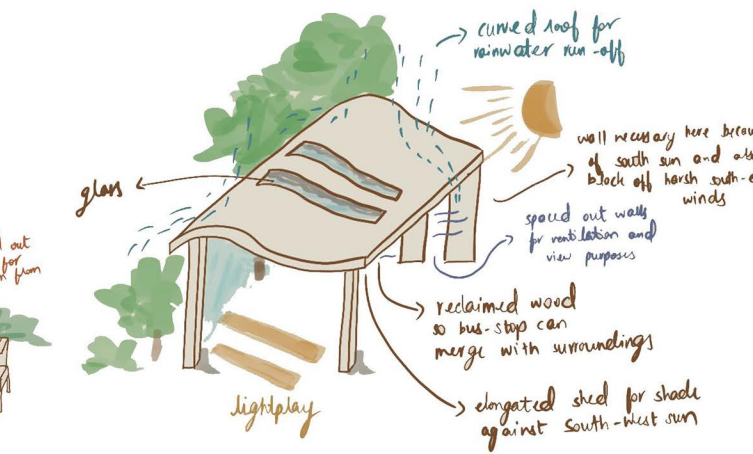
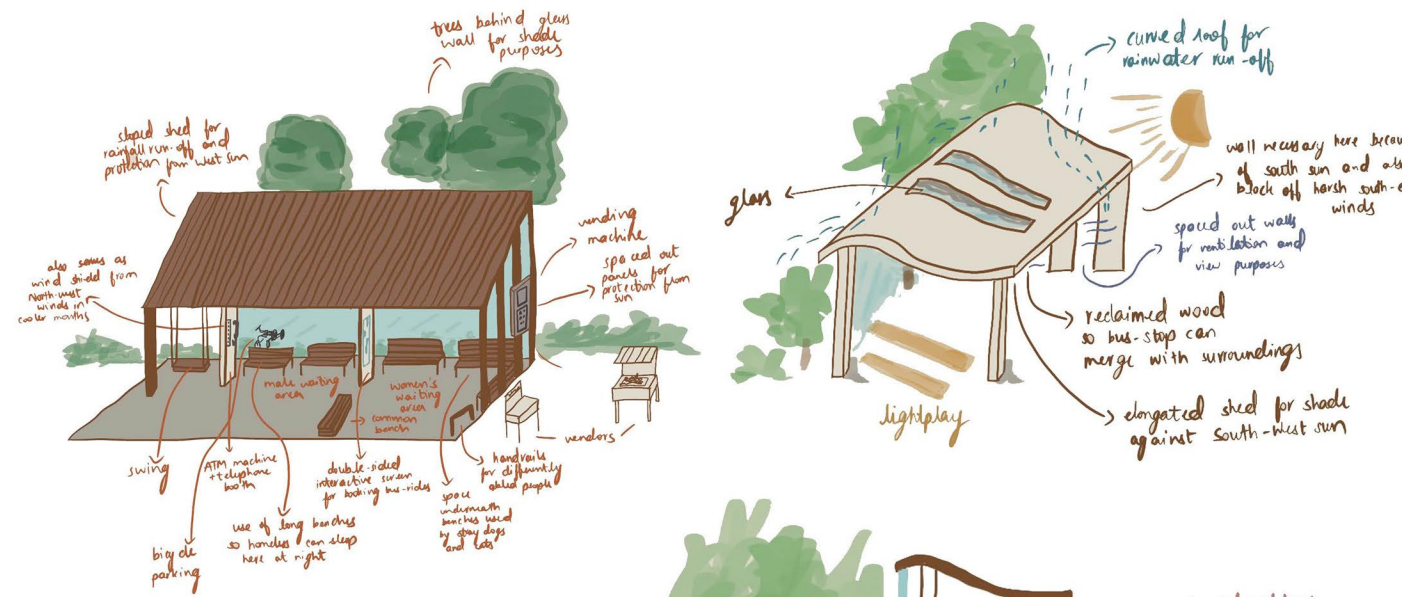
The project was to design a public bus stop, located in one of the major arteries of the city, while including side programs of our choice. The main objectives were to recognise this space as a 'social hotspot', while keeping enviornmental constraints in mind. Another aim was for it an inclusive and safe space for everyone; especially women, children and the differently abled.

The chosen site was an existing bus stop in F-10, Islamabad. The side program included an ATM machine, a telephone booth, an interactive screen for booking rides, vendors both female and male so human surveillance is present at all times, a bicycle stand and provision for sleeping space for the homeless during off hours. The design was informed by the existing tone of the city as well as weather constraints and ease of use.



2021, time spent: 1 week

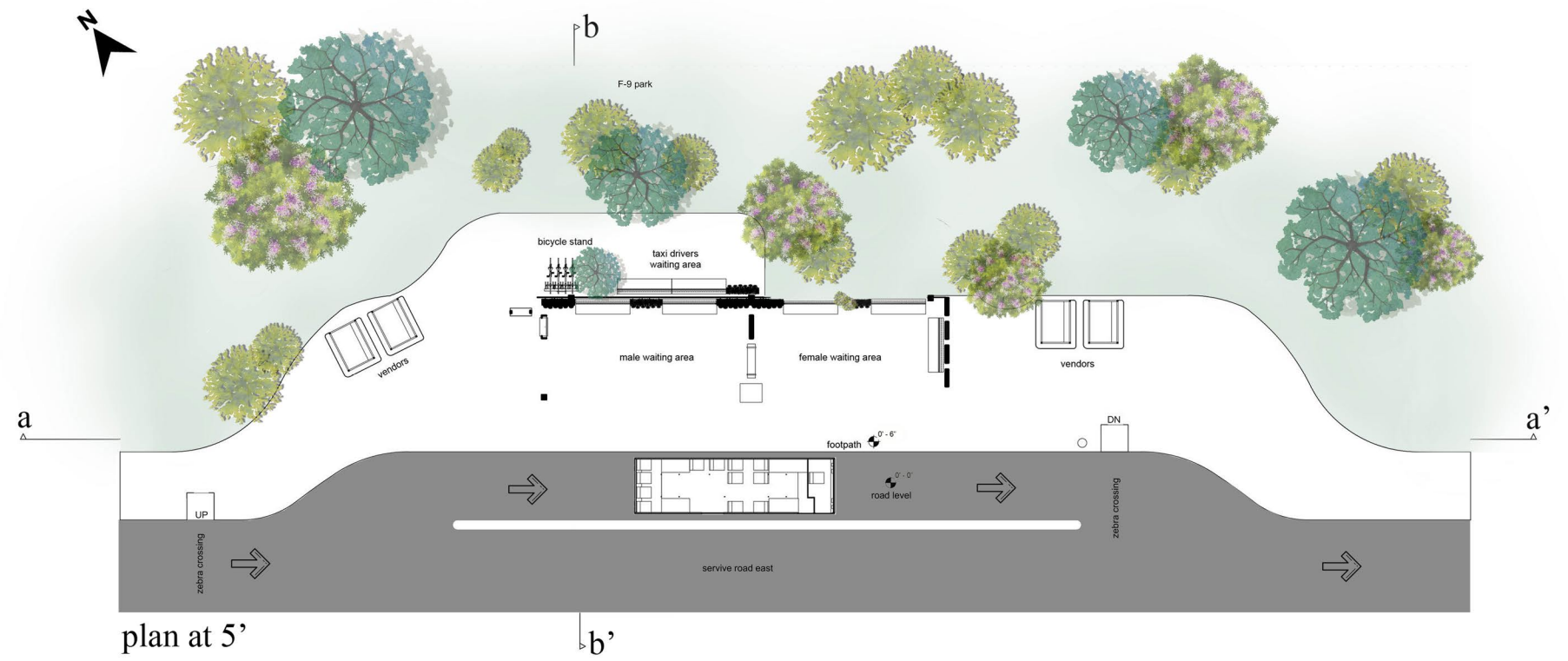




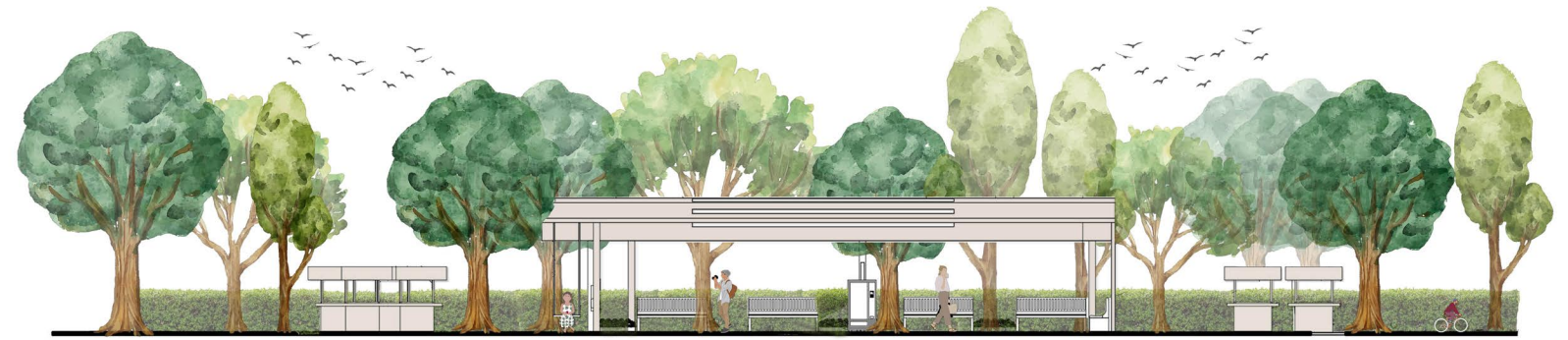
section b-b'



elevation (west)



plan at 5'



section a-a'





06

## House at an Angle Residential (Under Construction) 2, Chatha Bakhtawar, Islamabad

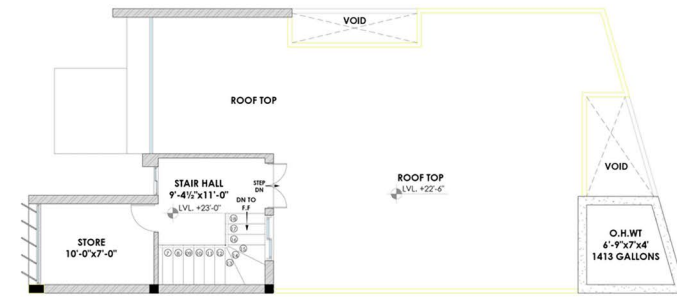
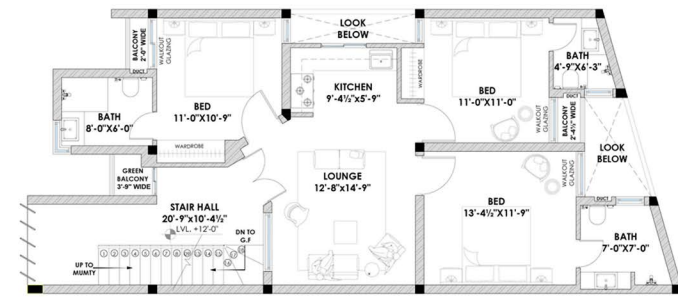
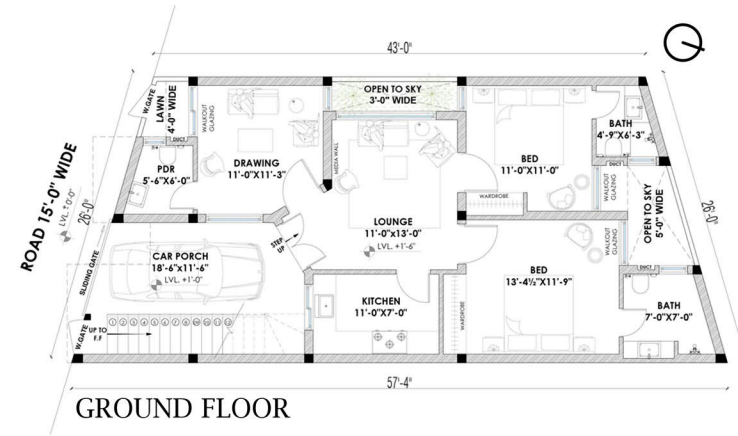
This project entailed designing a compact house in one of Islamabad's rapidly developing sub-urban areas. The client wanted a form that would stand out amidst the monotonous row of houses so I chose a dark mahogany for the outer envelope of the stair hall which is a cantilevered cuboid. With the addition of openable fins, the inhabitants have the option to rotate the fins for maximum or minimum privacy depending on their needs. This will also result in increased ventilation and sunlight for the first floor.

Adjacent to this cuboid is another extruding form which is lined with grey concrete panels which perfectly compliments the warm wood and the textured white plaster. The design is very three dimensional and continuous in nature which separates it from the surrounding houses.



2023, time spent: 1 week









**thank you**