



vir.mueller architects

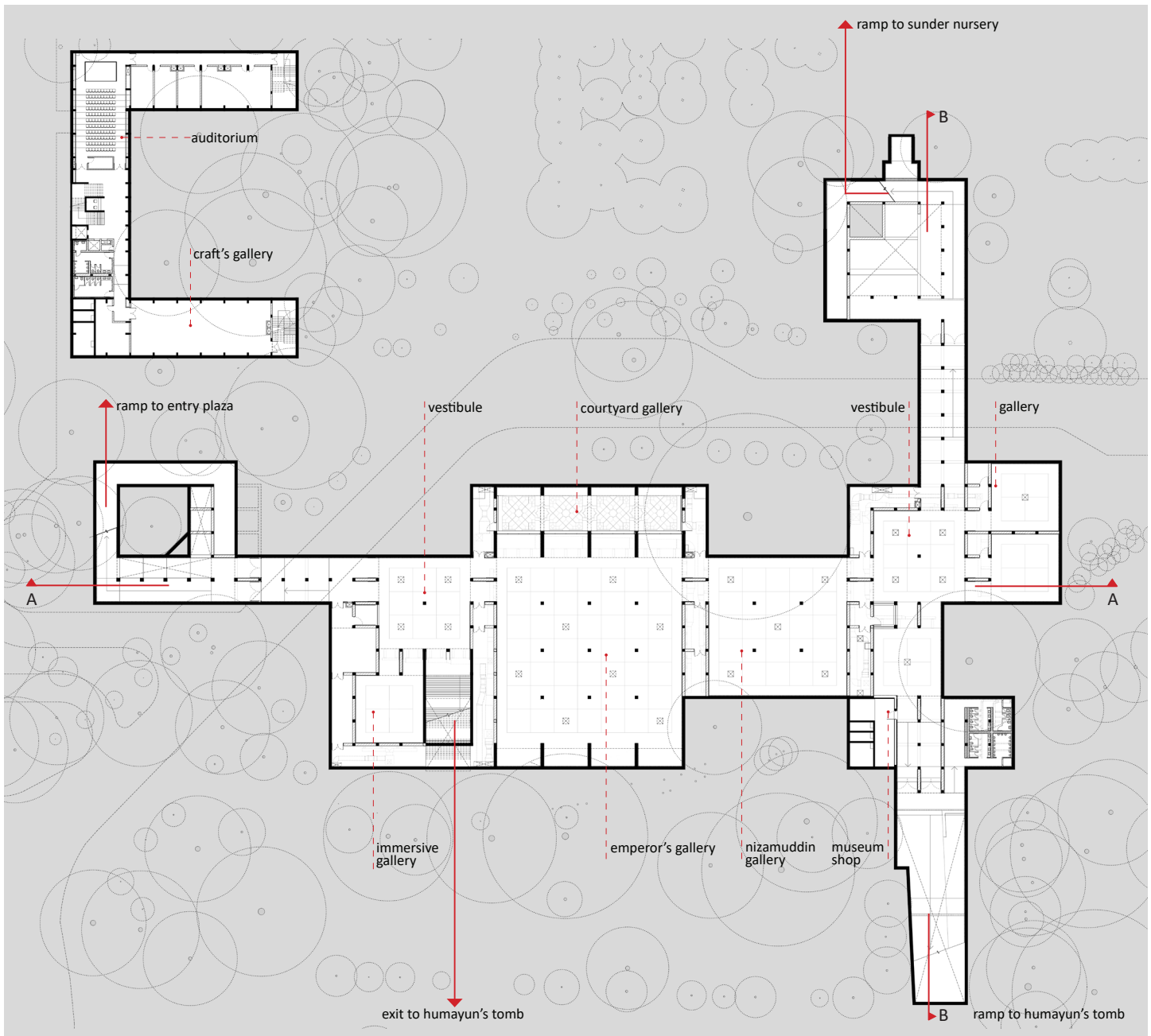




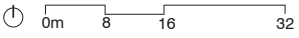
plaza level plan : street level

0m 8 16 32

The Museum for Humayun's Tomb – a UNESCO World Heritage Site - has been envisioned as the spatial link between the historical sites of the Nizamuddin Basti, the Sunder Nursery, and the tomb of the second Mughal emperor, Humayun, completed in 1572. The Ministry of Culture, and the Archaeological Survey of India, supported by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, sought to build the Site Museum as an urban catalyst, a public amenity facilitating the visitor's experience of a remarkable heritage precinct. Organised in two distinct and interlinked zones – the entrance plaza and the subterranean galleries, the Humayun's Tomb Site Museum is anchored by a red sandstone building located adjacent to the historic gardens of Sunder Nursery. The entrance plaza, situated beneath the foliage of mature trees, serves as an arrival court, offering a range of public amenities - cafés and restaurants, as well as a gallery, and an auditorium.

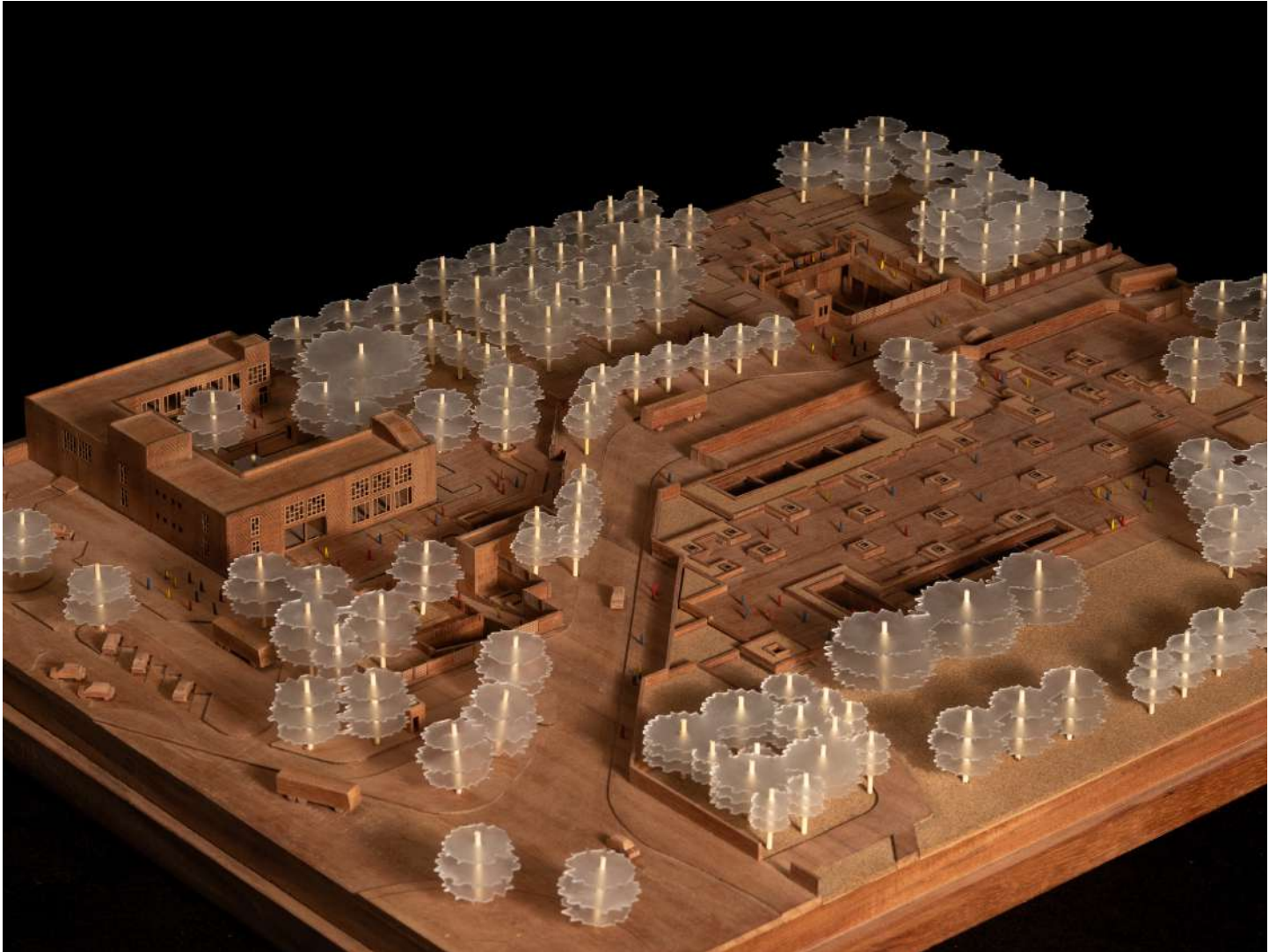


gallery level plan : - 6000 mm



section A





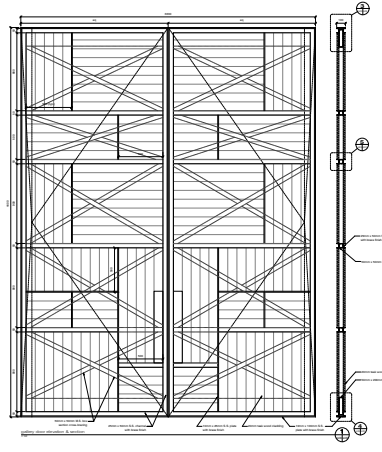
presentation model



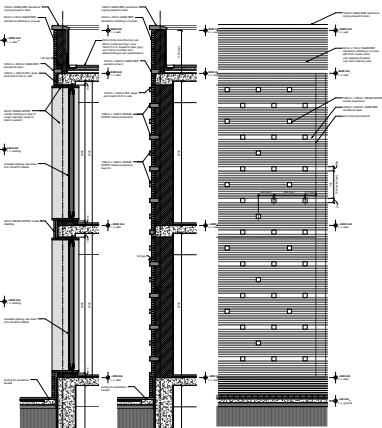
section B

0m 8 16 32

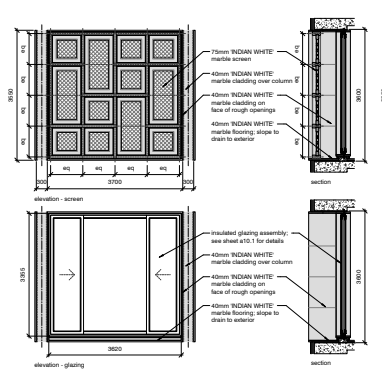




interior doors



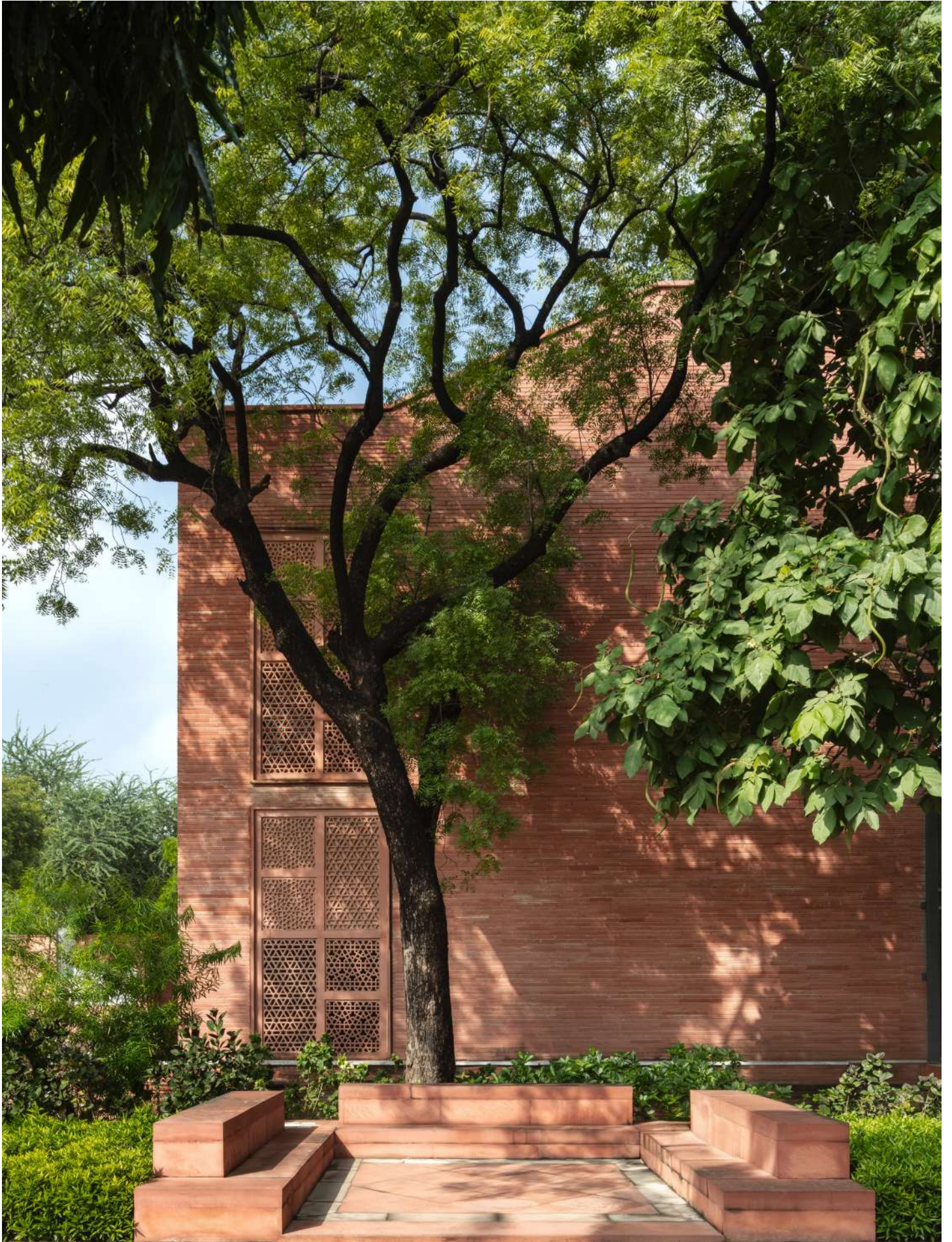
stone cladding



stone screen

The material selection for the museum echoes the language of this architectural history. After the restoration of Humayun's Tomb, remnants of red sandstone weighing several thousand kilograms were left over at the site. These discards inspired our design for the museum façade, created by stacking the salvaged stone in horizontal courses, a material variation amplifying the play of light and shadow on the richly textured surface. To celebrate the procession of visitors from the entry plaza into the museum courtyard, the red sandstone façade transforms into a delicately carved, white marble screen, stirring memories of historic jaalis – expertly carved stone lattice apertures. The fine stone craftsmanship - a defining feature of Mughal architecture – finds renewal in this contemporary expression, enabling stone craftsmen to sustain their livelihoods with a centuries old technique.





east facade



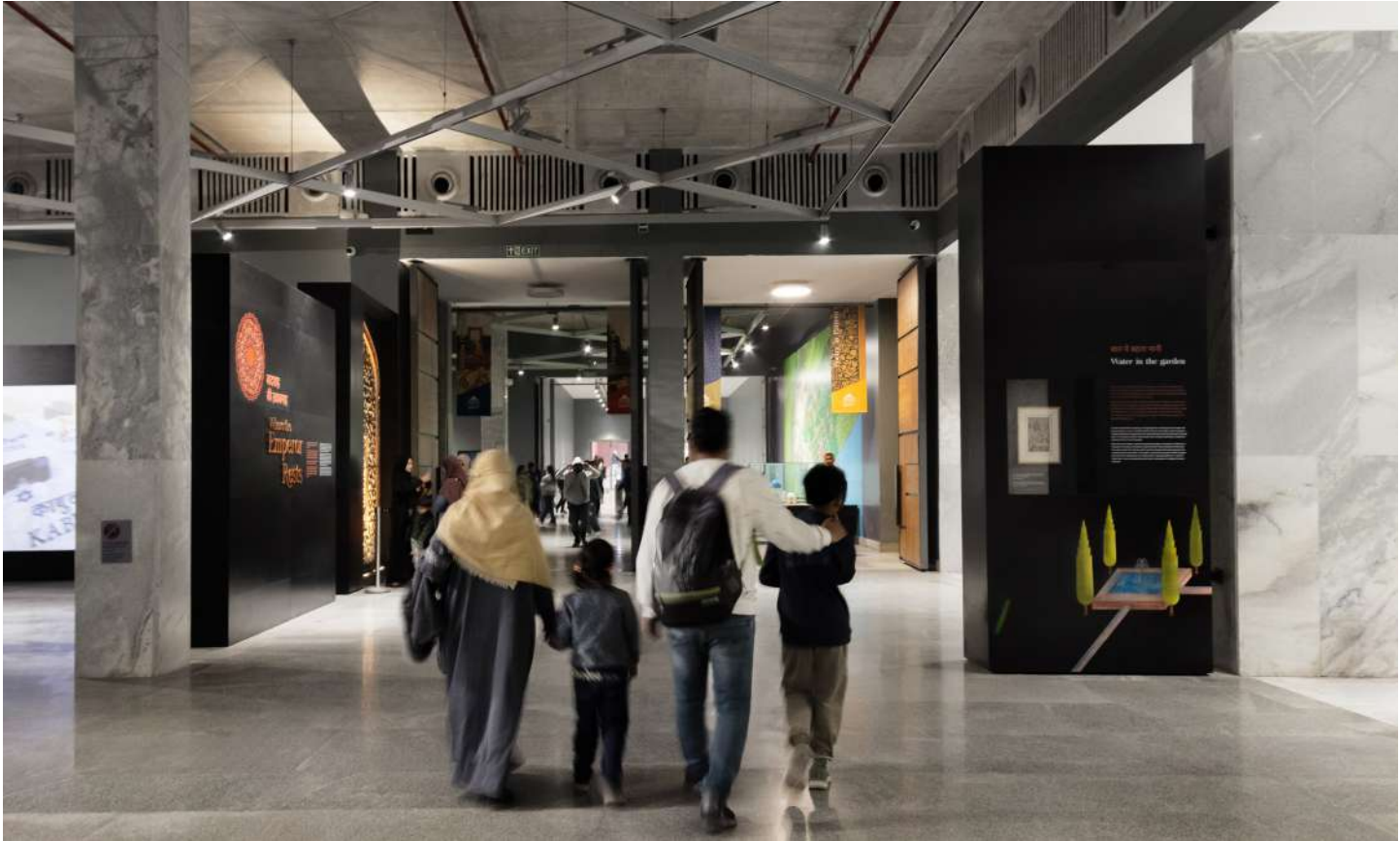


courtyard



plaza





nizamuddin gallery

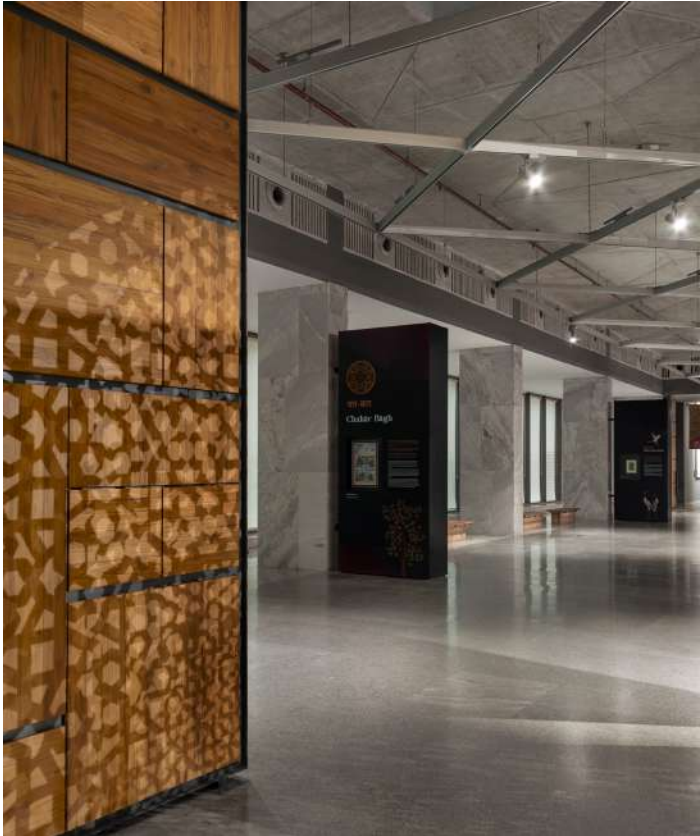


sunken courtyard gallery





emperor's gallery



gallery threshold

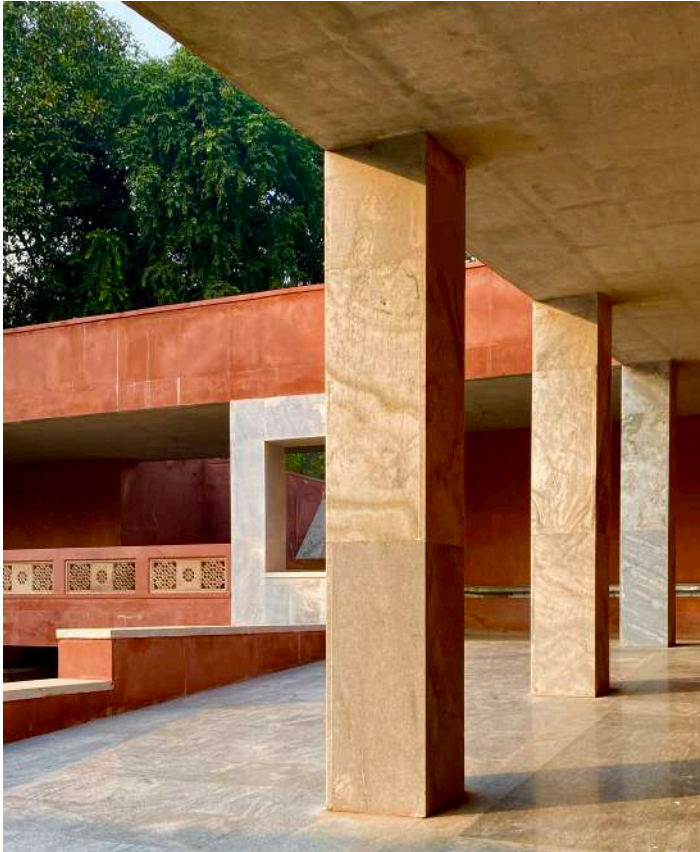


threshold





entry ramp



sunder nursery ramp



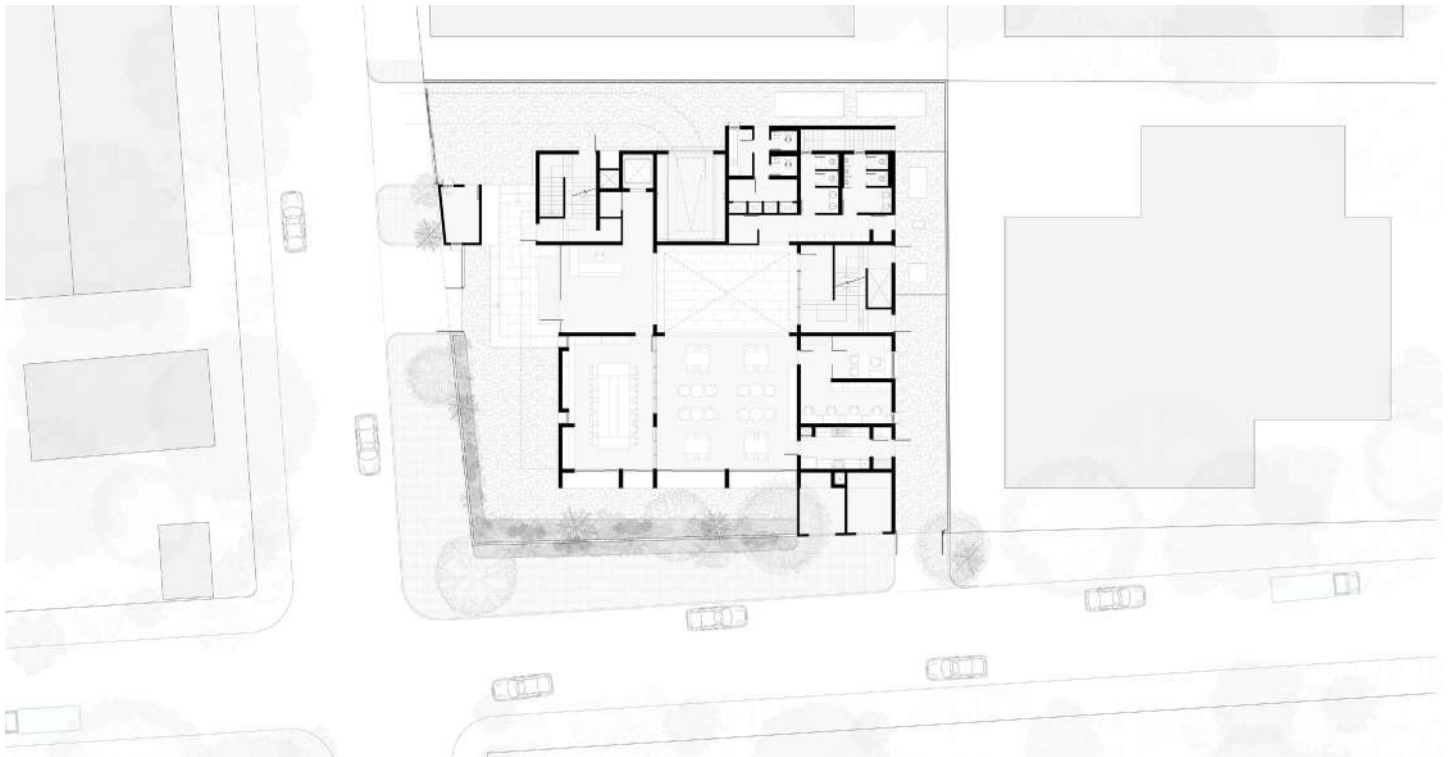
terrace plaza



sunder nursery



A workplace is fundamentally a place of exchange: colleagues, interface dynamically with internal and external agencies, with the geography of a city, and with the traces of its history and ecology. This deep 'reading' of site and program, enables a layered creation. The frame – structural and visual – establishes the primary order for the building. Revealed on the facade as a repetition of reinforced concrete – these horizontal and vertical bands - expressions of engineering logic - establish the rhythm of the exterior. Exposed brick walls and apertures framed in granite, infill the structural frame, establishing the character of surface. The canopy – a slender cantilevered flourish, announces the shadowy relief for entrance.

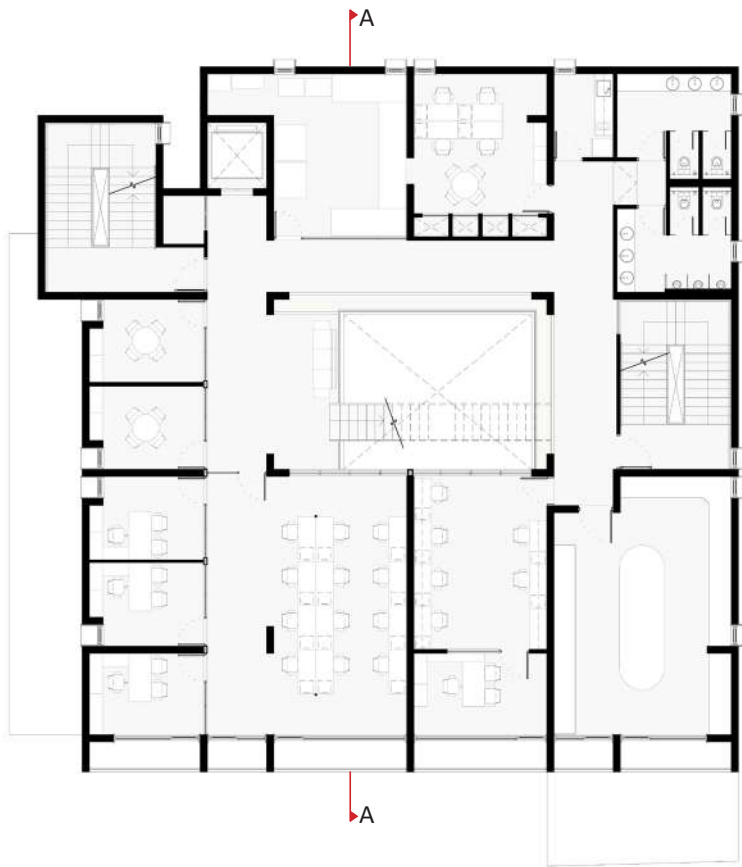


site plan

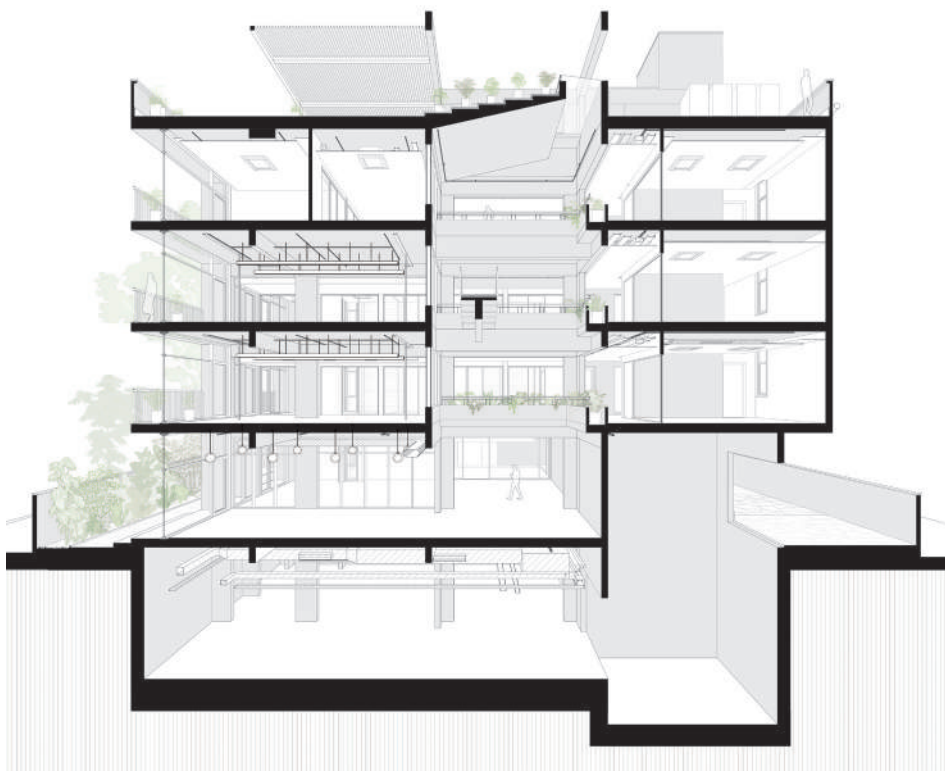
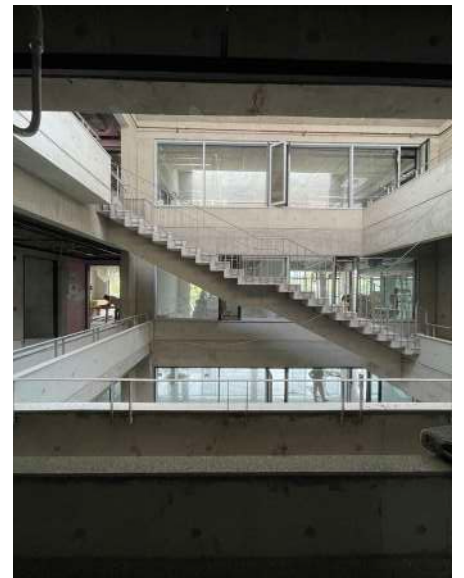
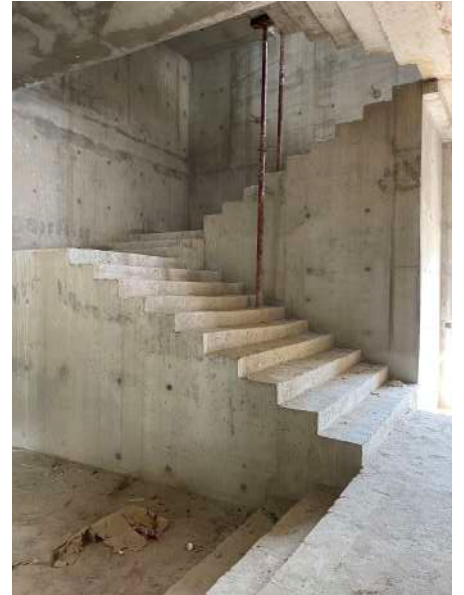
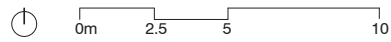


presentation model

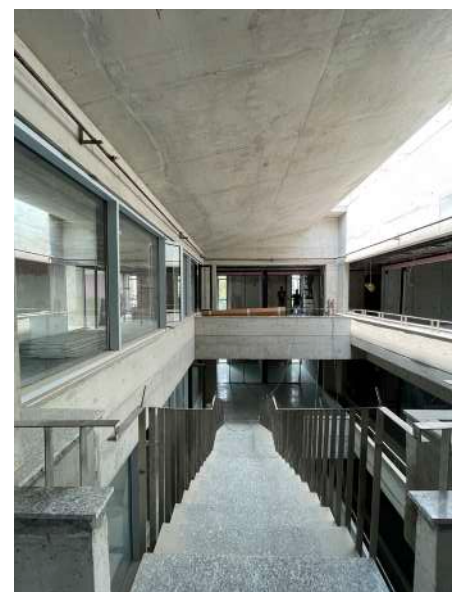




second floor plan

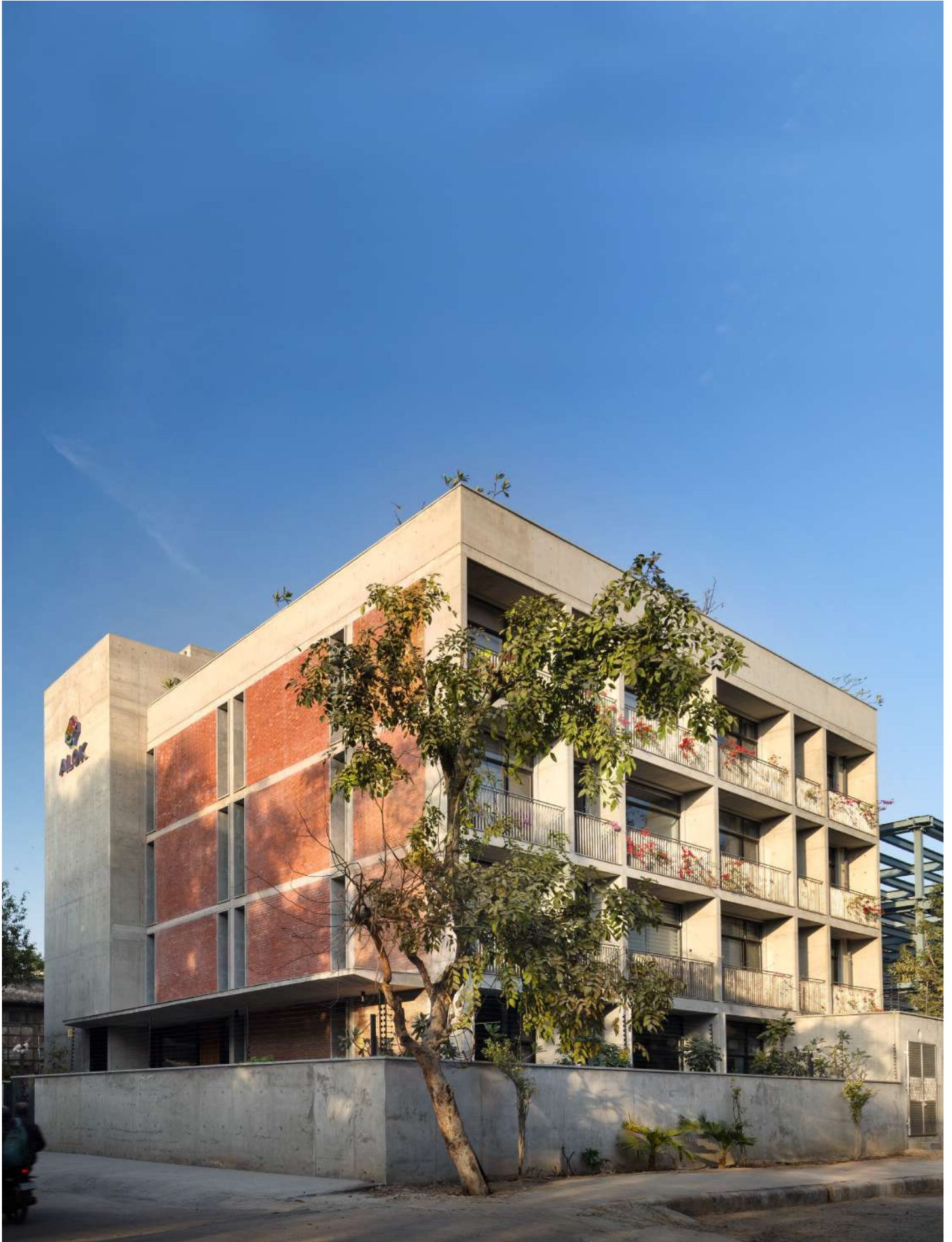


section A



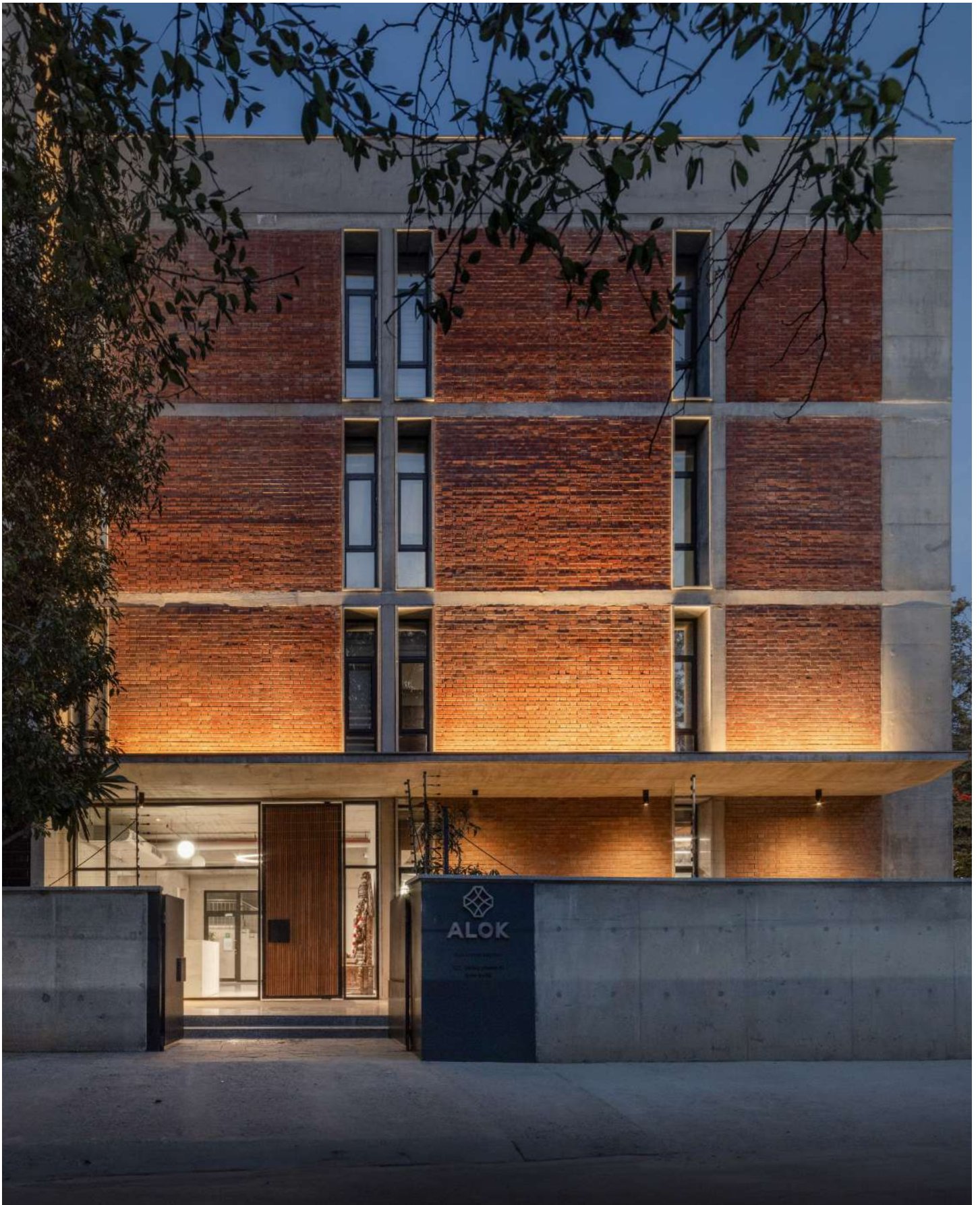
construction process





south-west elevation





west elevation





atrium





entry



interior



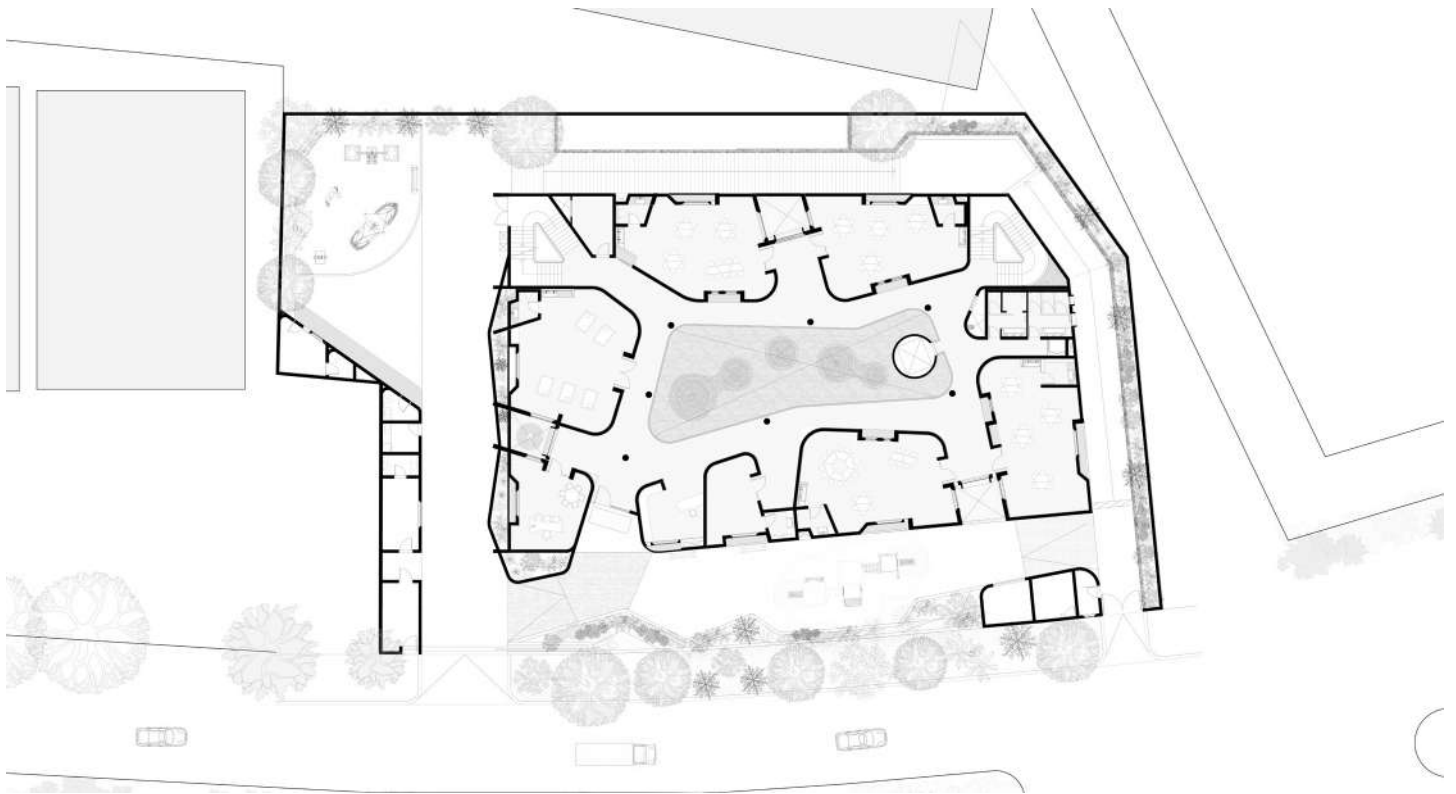


interior



atrium



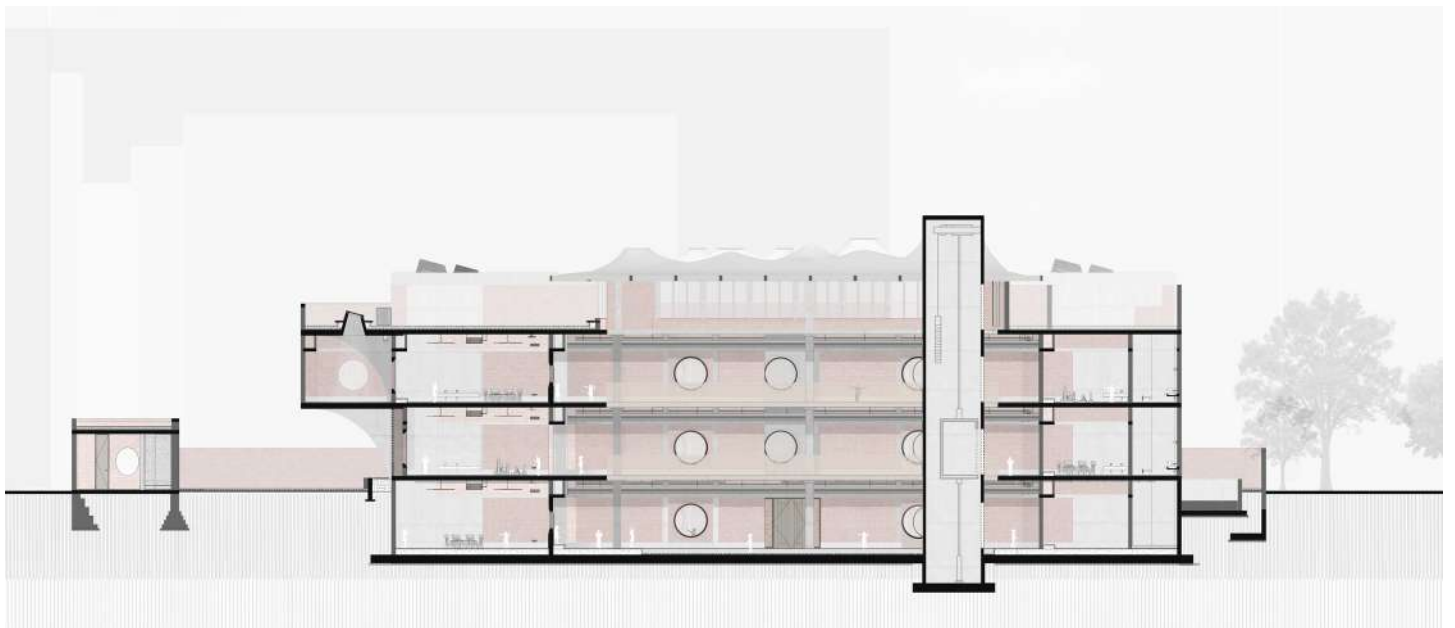
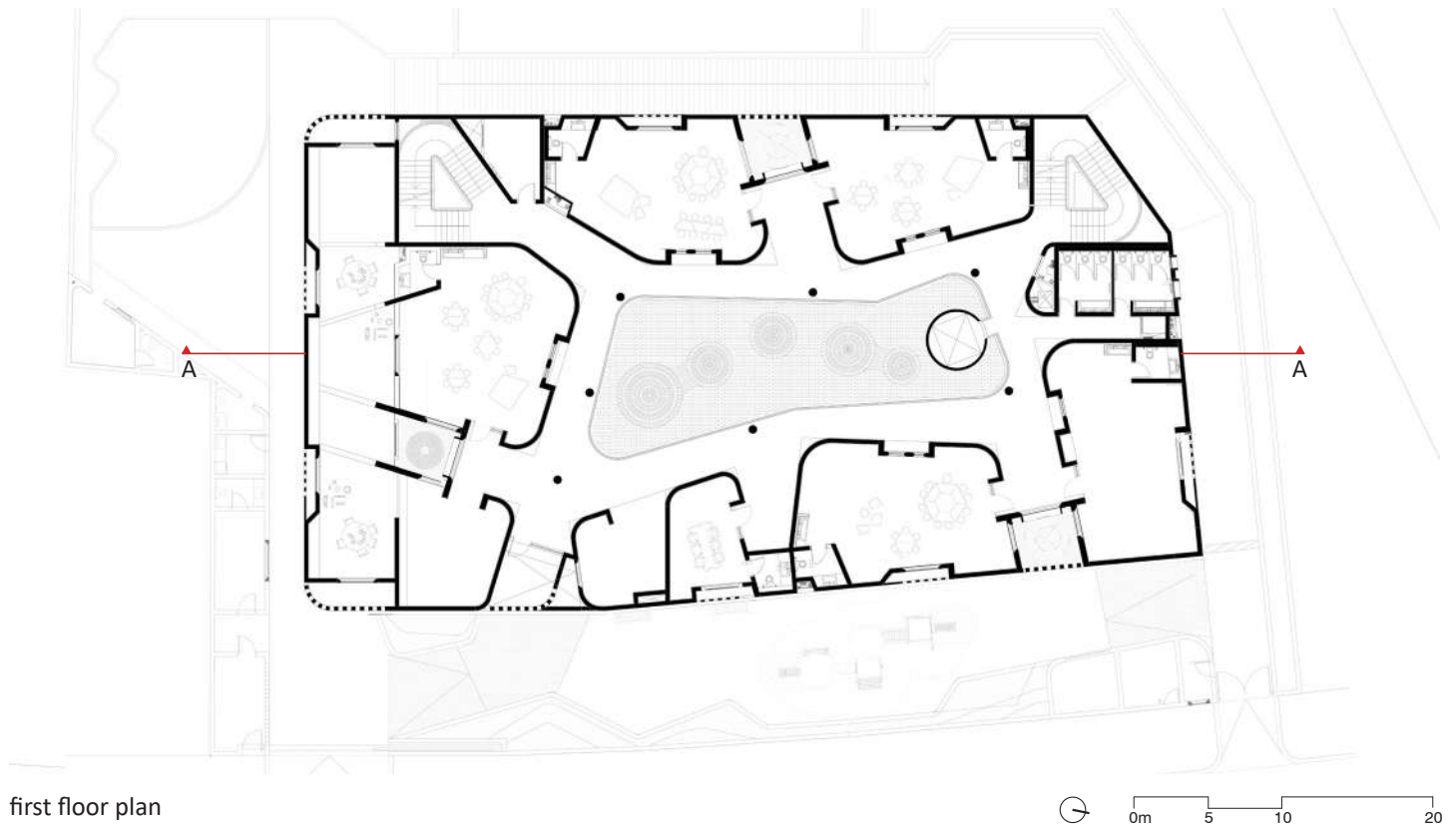


site plan



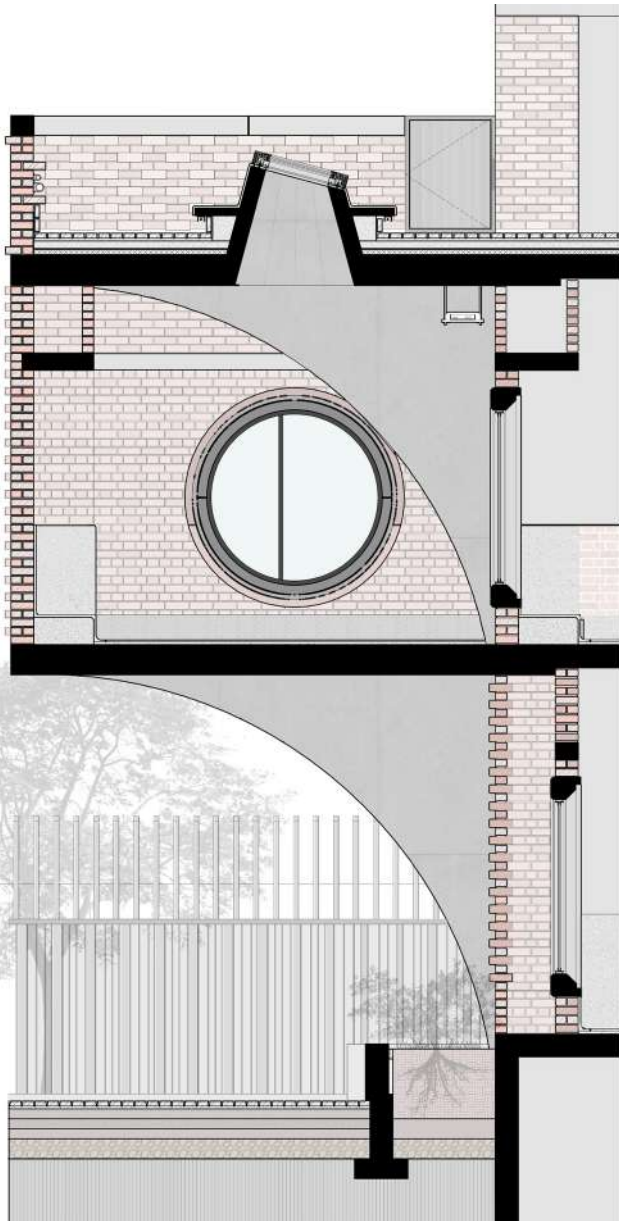
presentation model



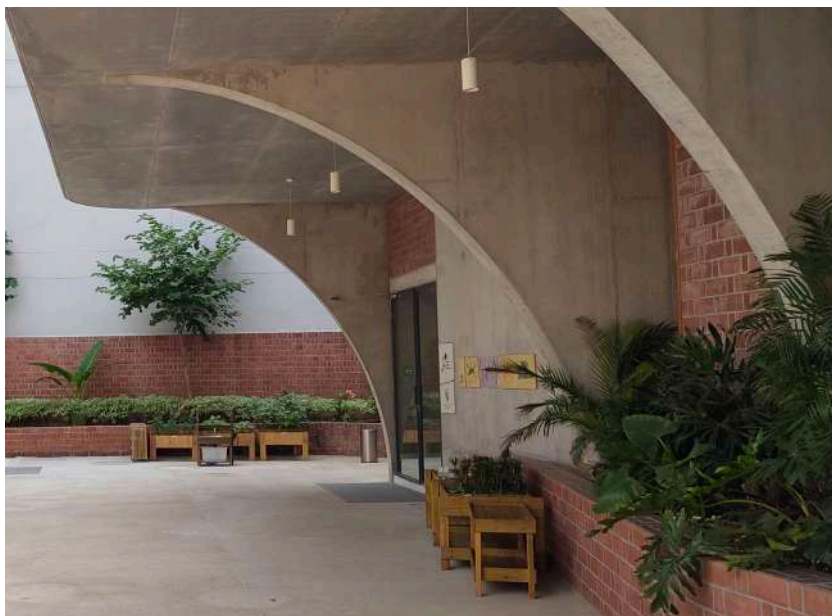
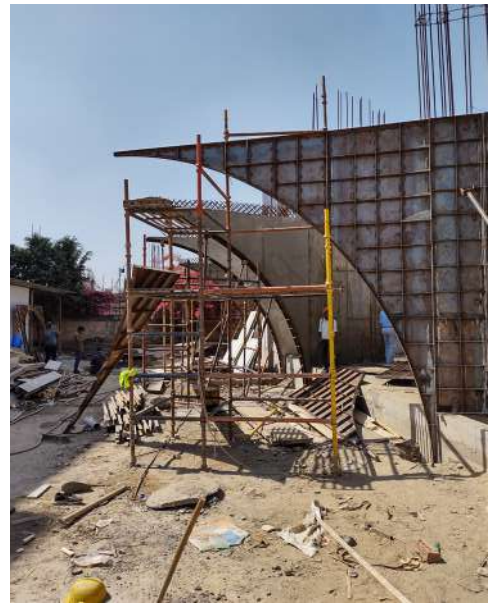


The project is conceptualized as a cocoon – a safe and delightful haven for young children as they engage with early-years learning. The school is organized as a set of organic ‘cells’ classrooms centered around a courtyard. Using exposed brick, concrete and coloured terrazzo as the primary materials for the project, the architecture maintains a serene yet robust presence in a complex urban landscape. According significance to the circulation areas, the galleries and courtyard are softly illuminated by skylights in a tented roof. The moments of arrival, of ascent and descent, and of the circulation throughout the building, are simple and self-orienting to the central court, where the play of light and shadow remains a constant kinetic presence.





external wall section

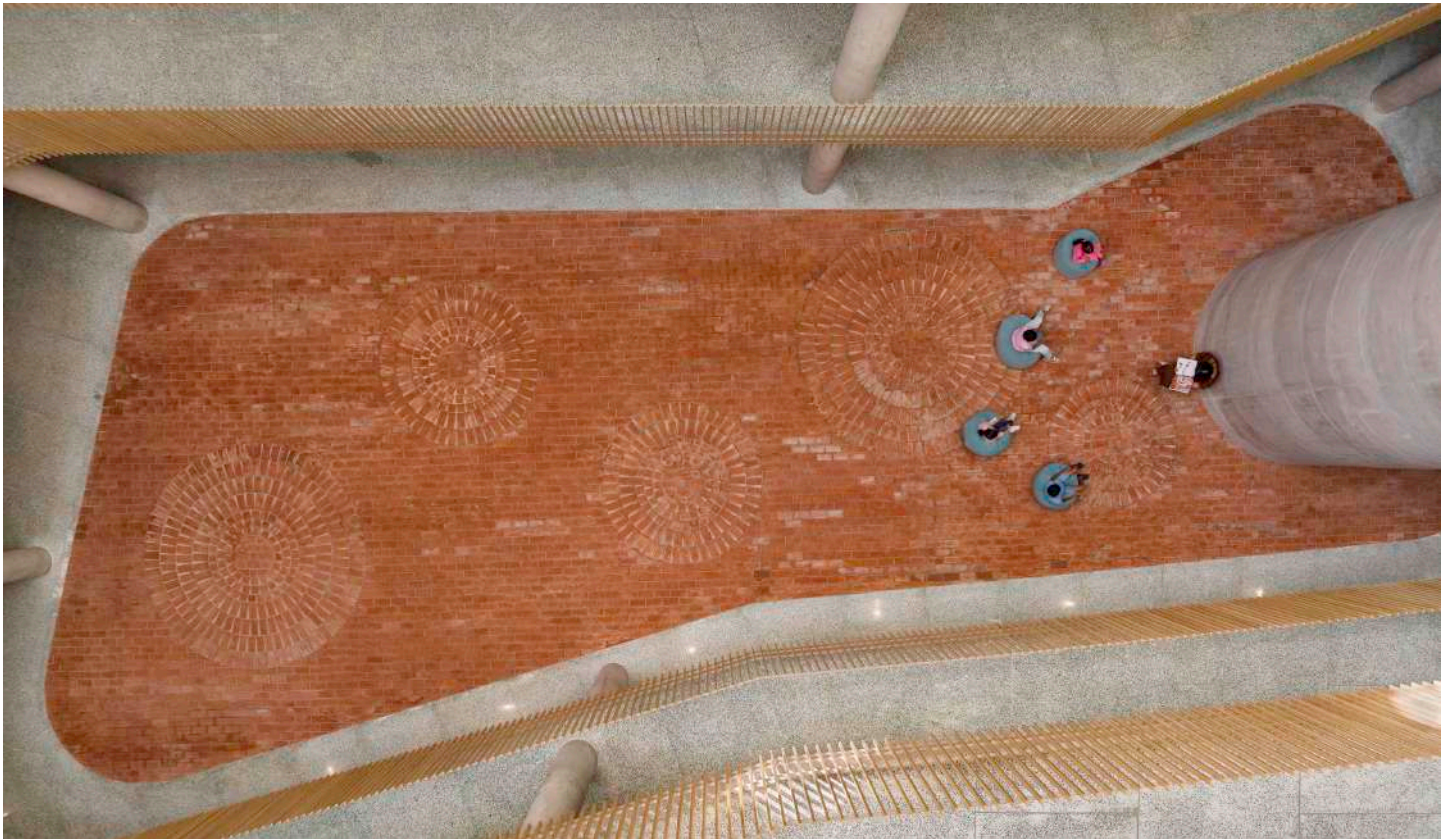
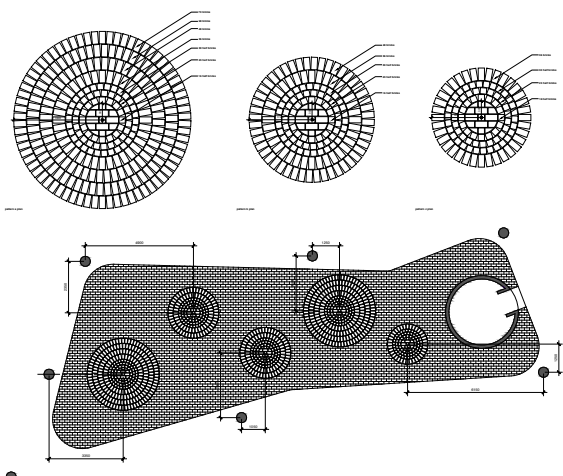


construction process





brick wall



atrium flooring





entry facade





corridor

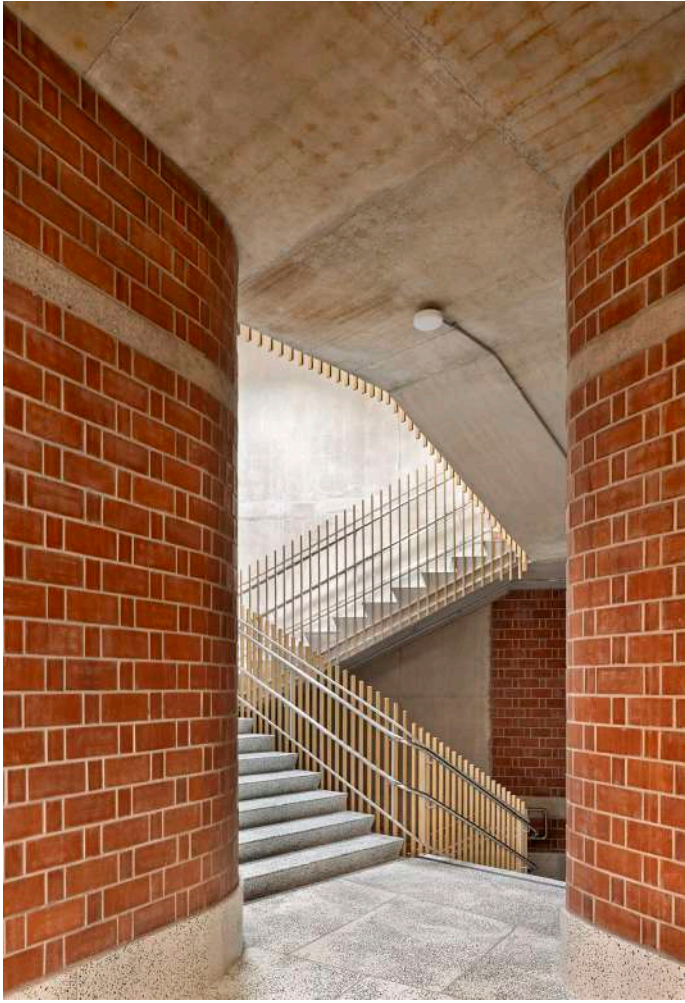


classroom





courtyard

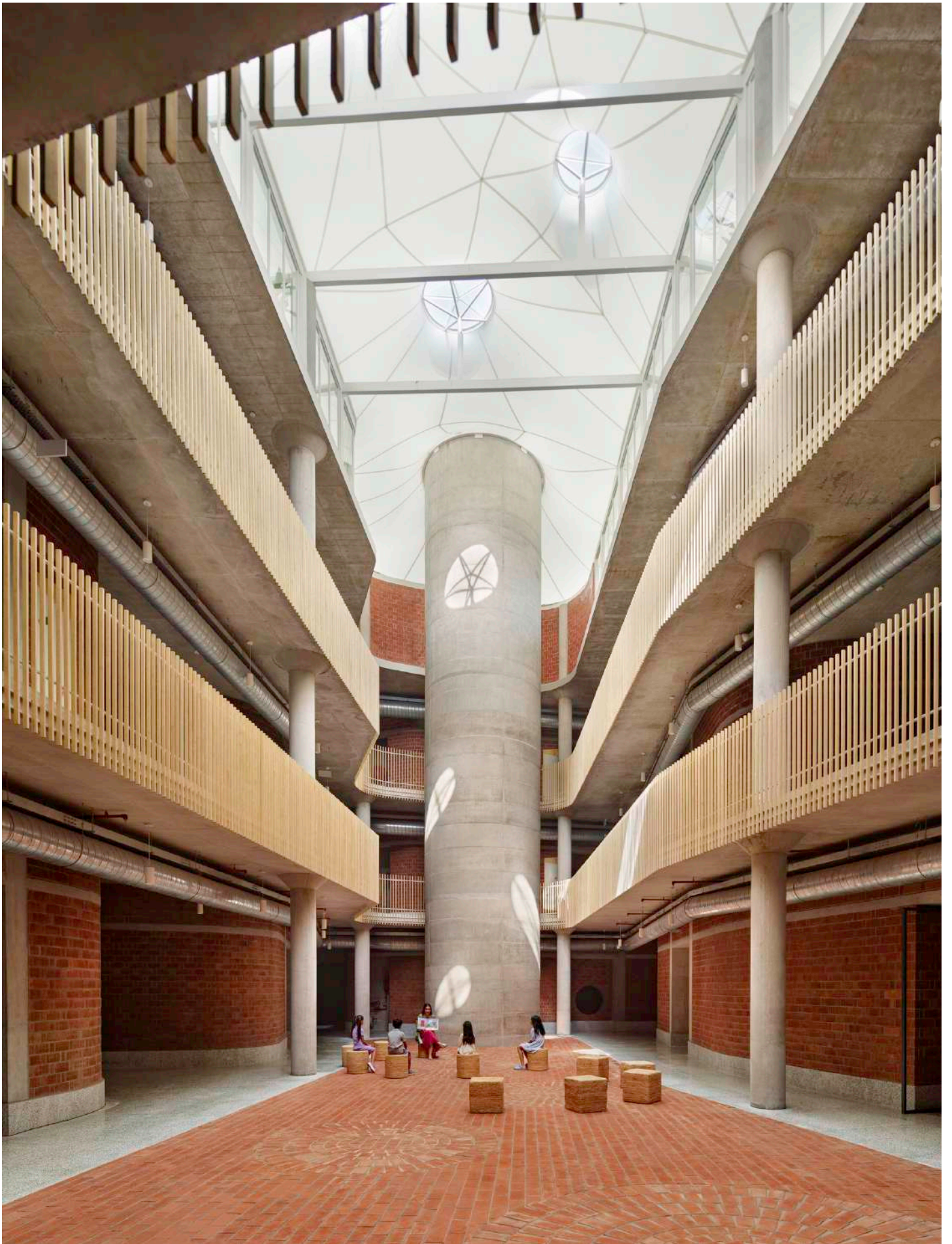


staircase



play area: first floor

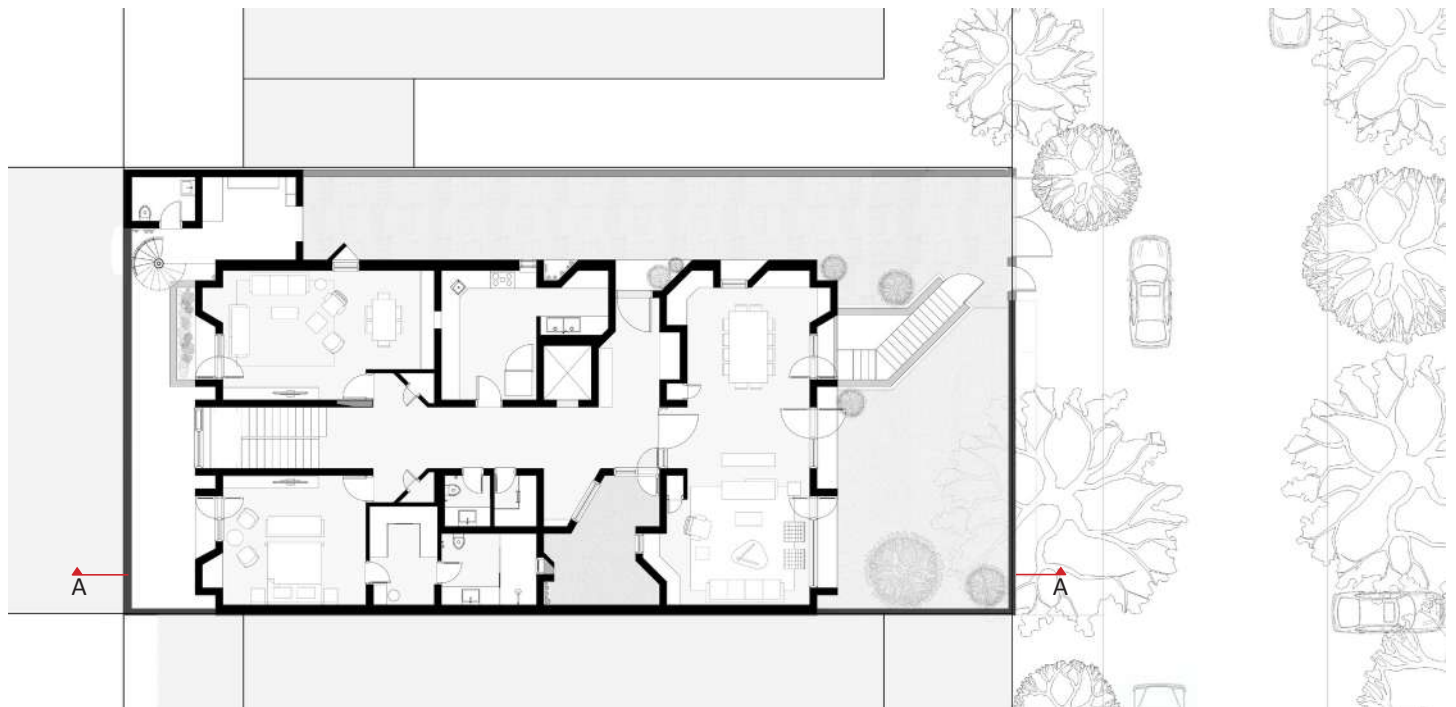




courtyard



The Singh Residence embodies the context and its material culture; and as canvas, records the light and circumstance of the setting. This brick home has been designed for the co-habitation of several generations on a close-knit Indian family. The main entrance of the house arrives at an interior courtyard, offering light and ventilation in the heart of the home. The courtyard is richly patterned in brick, playing with dramatic shadows from the opening to the sky. The central 'street' axis of the house is lined with brick masonry walls and punctuated with openings to the main rooms. The interior floors are a mosaic of the Indian Dungri white marble, while the exterior of the house a simple play on weaving the bricks as a kinetic element - offers a tough skin to the heat and dust of the site.



site plan



section A





north elevation



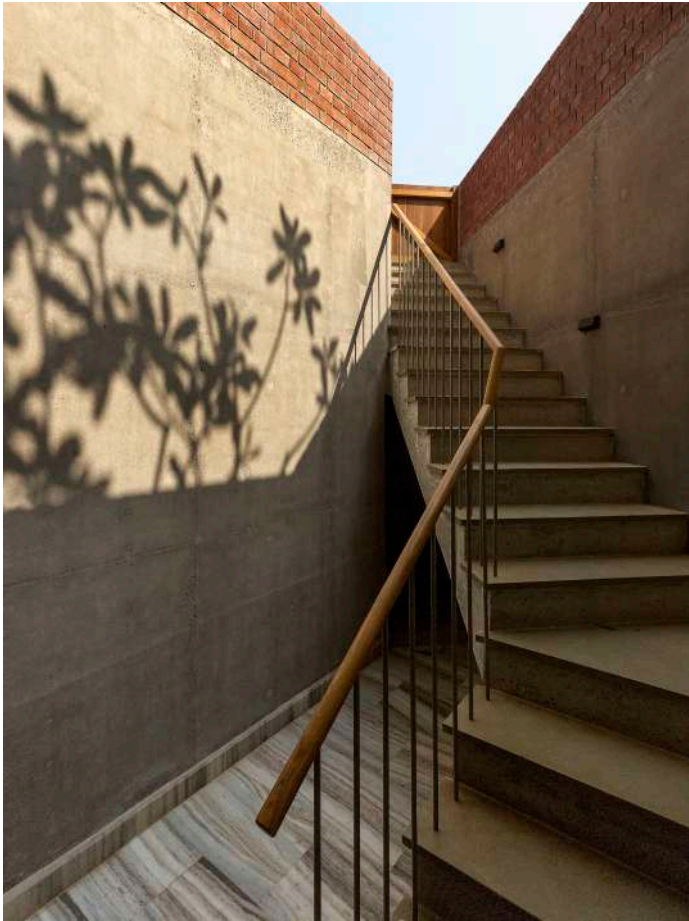


entry

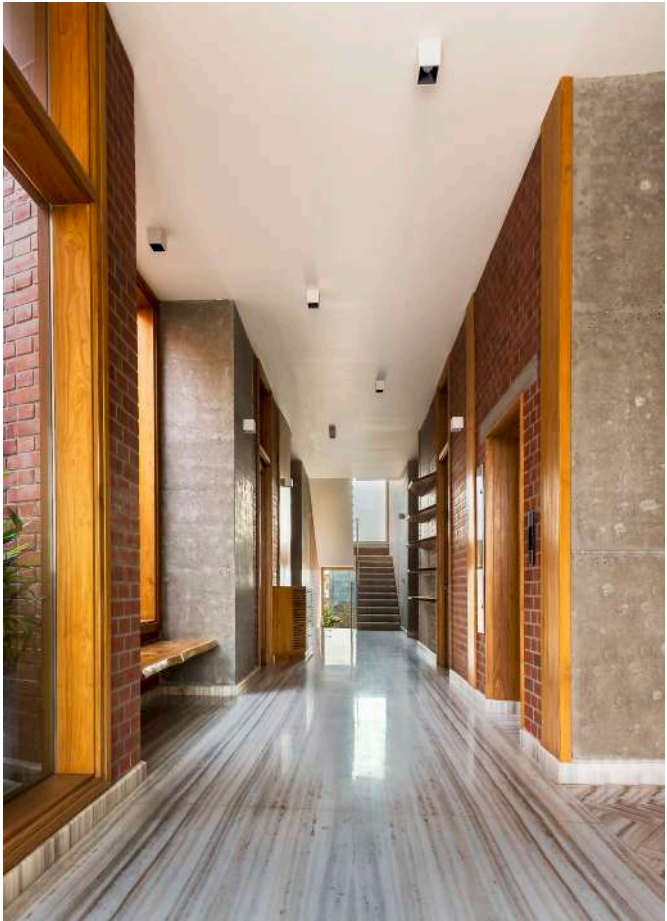




west elevation



garden court

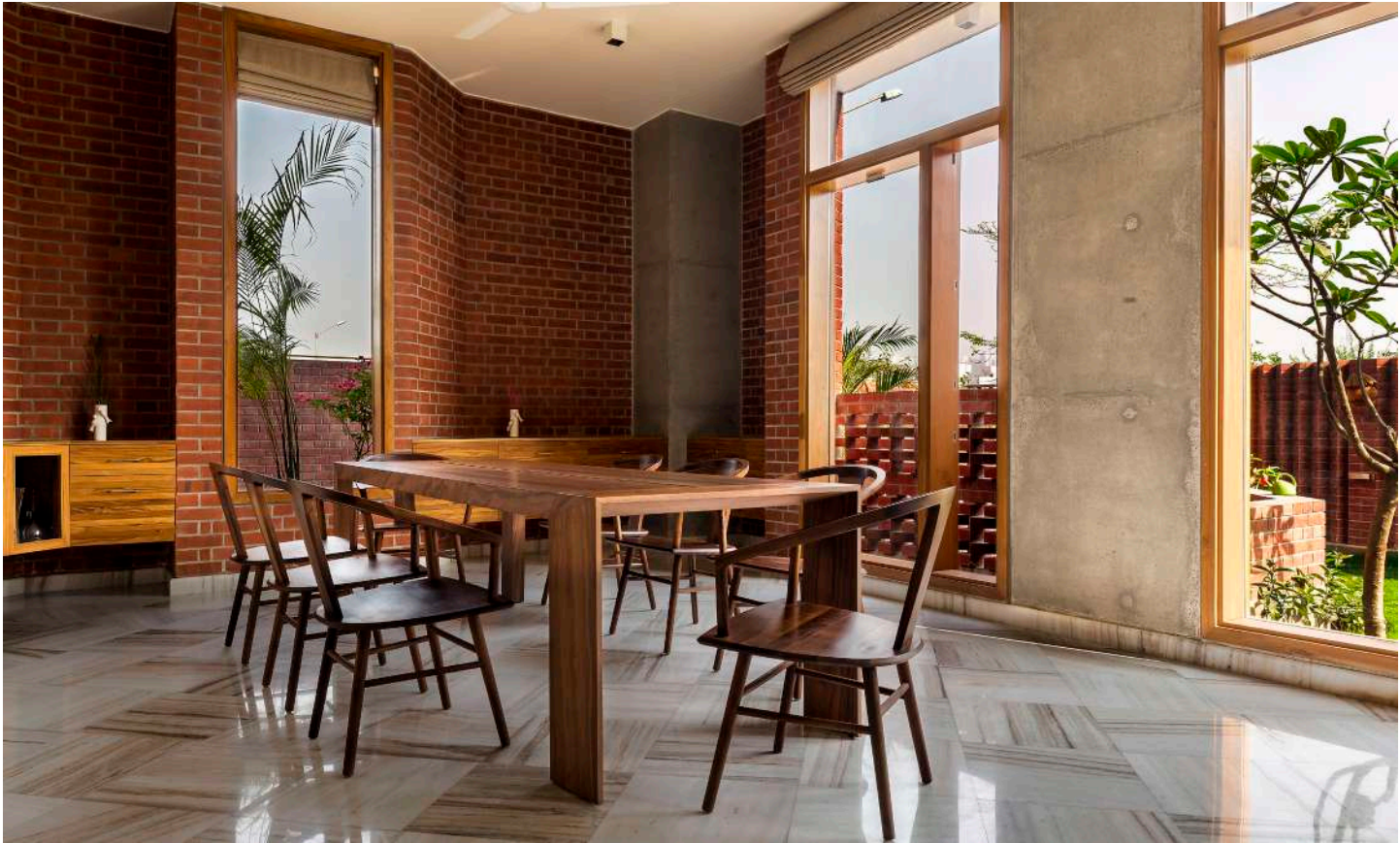


gallery





interior



interior



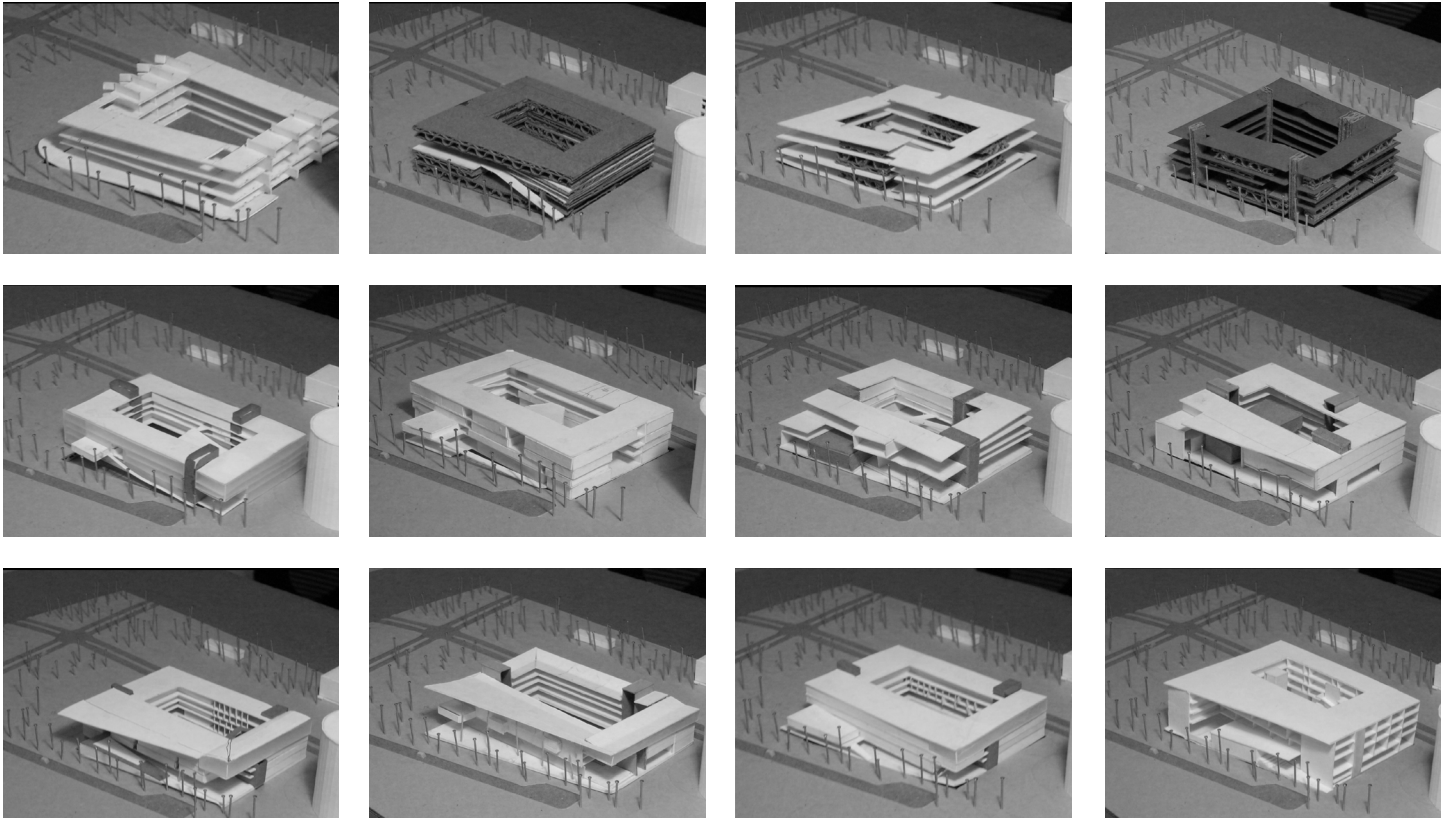


The architectural design for the Institute of Engineering and Technology at Ahmedabad University exemplifies the typology of an academic quadrangle - a central courtyard garden, flanked by student and faculty rooms. Timeless yet contemporary, this cloister anchors a community of students and scholars - many of whom are the first in their families to attend college. The architecture engages an intense climatic condition with sensitivity, employing red sandstone screens to filter the sun while enhancing the play of light and shadow in the rooms. The landscape design evokes micro-climates within the building: a sunken garden “kund” is situated between the canteen and the auditorium, creating an informal gathering space for students; the roof of the auditorium is designed as a shaded terrace “madaan” - a paved garden - offering views of the Ahmedabad University plaza.



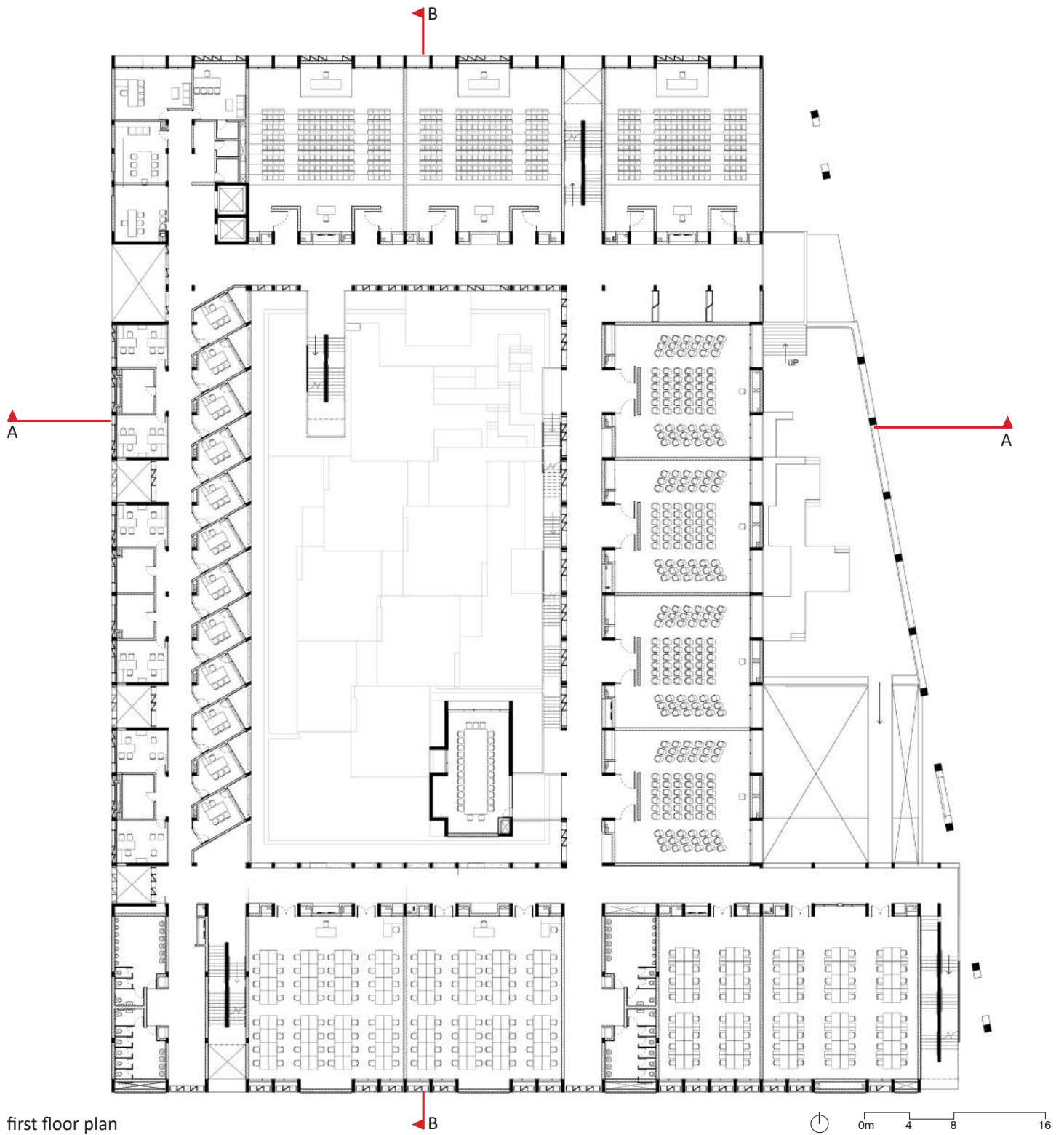


presentation model



study models









facade screen



gallery



courtyard



gallery



student plaza



section B

0m 4 8 16



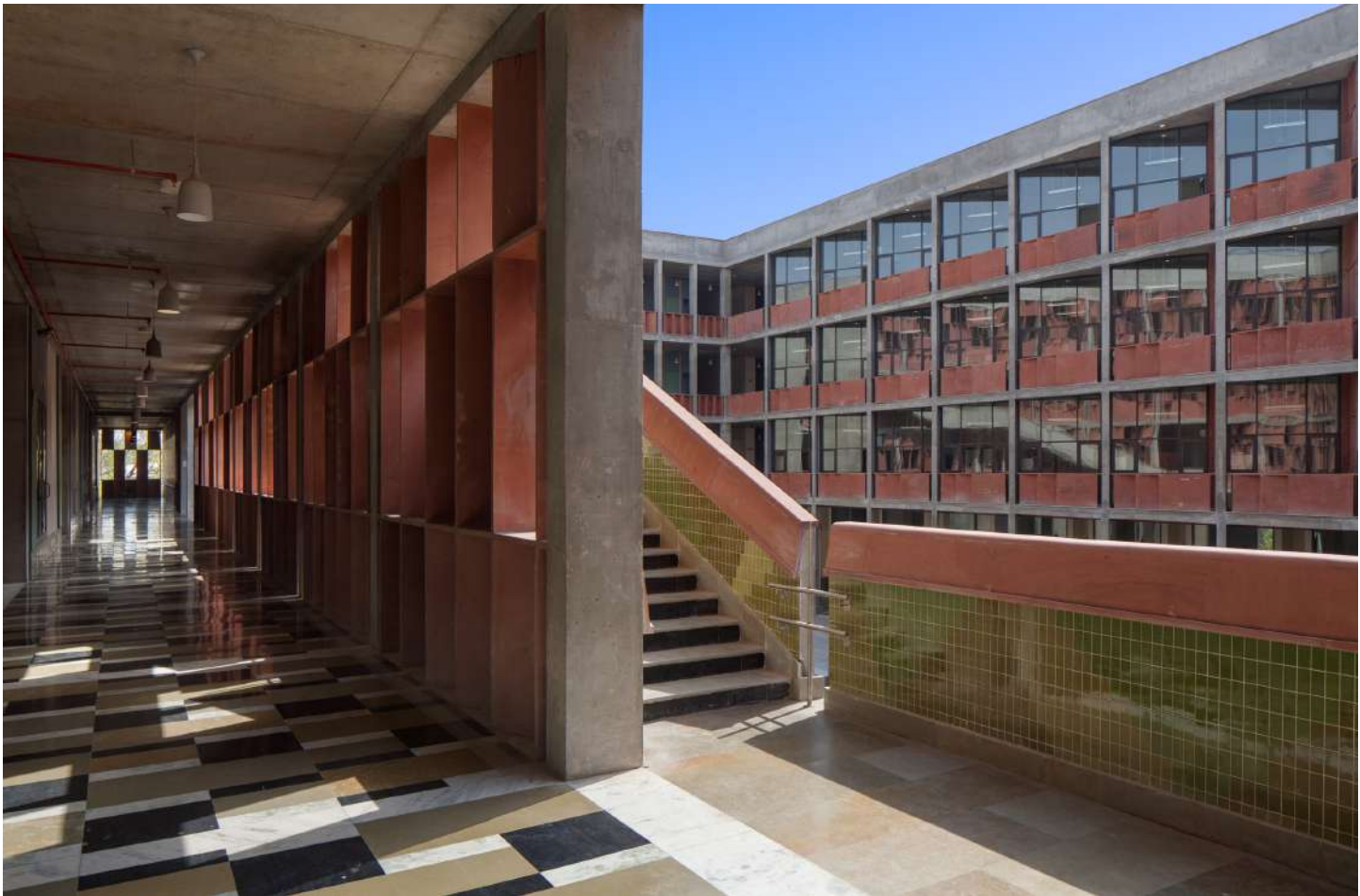


east elevation



south east elevation





gallery



courtyard





pavilion



student plaza



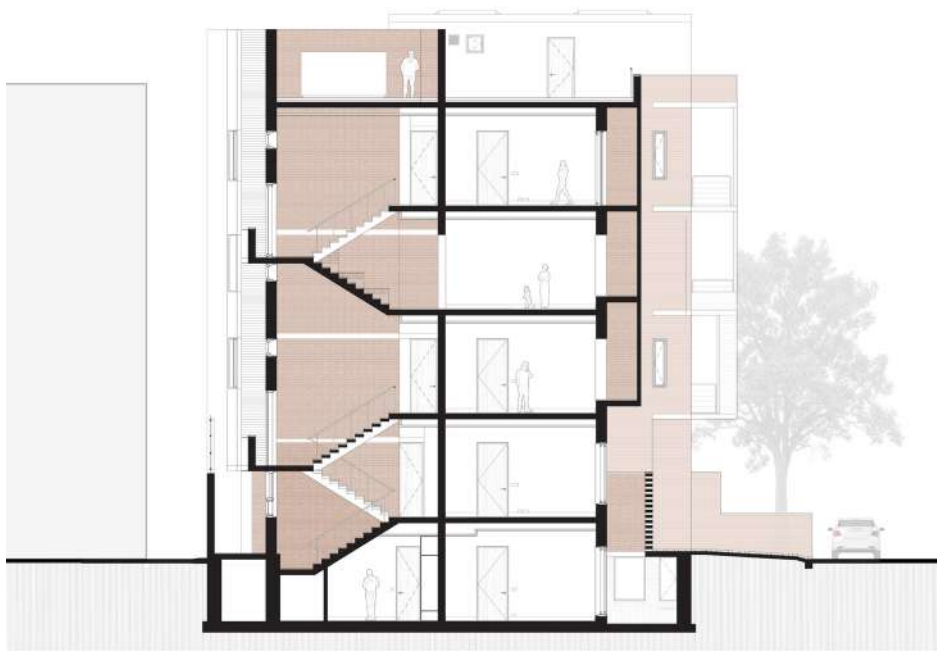
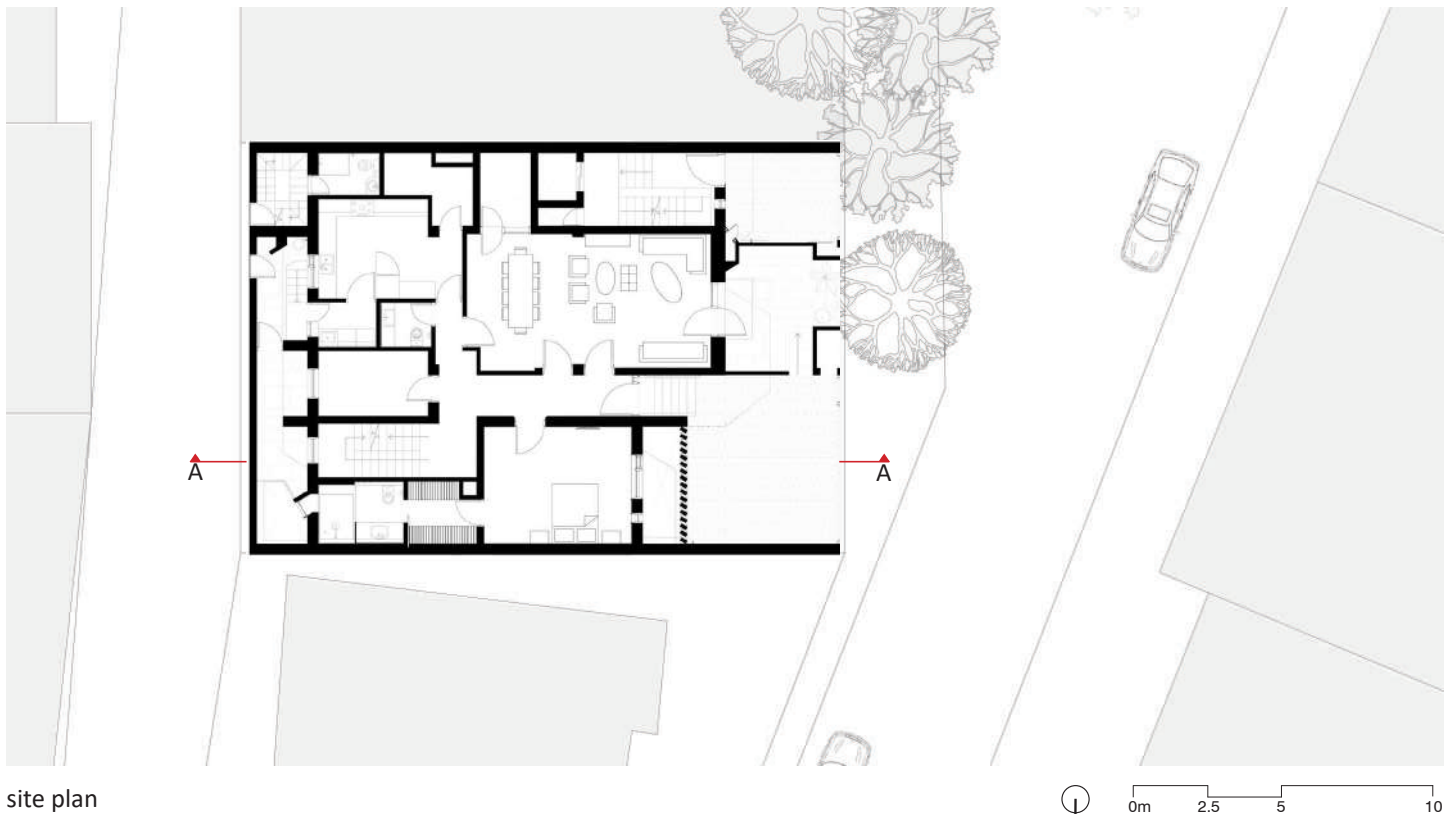
courtyard





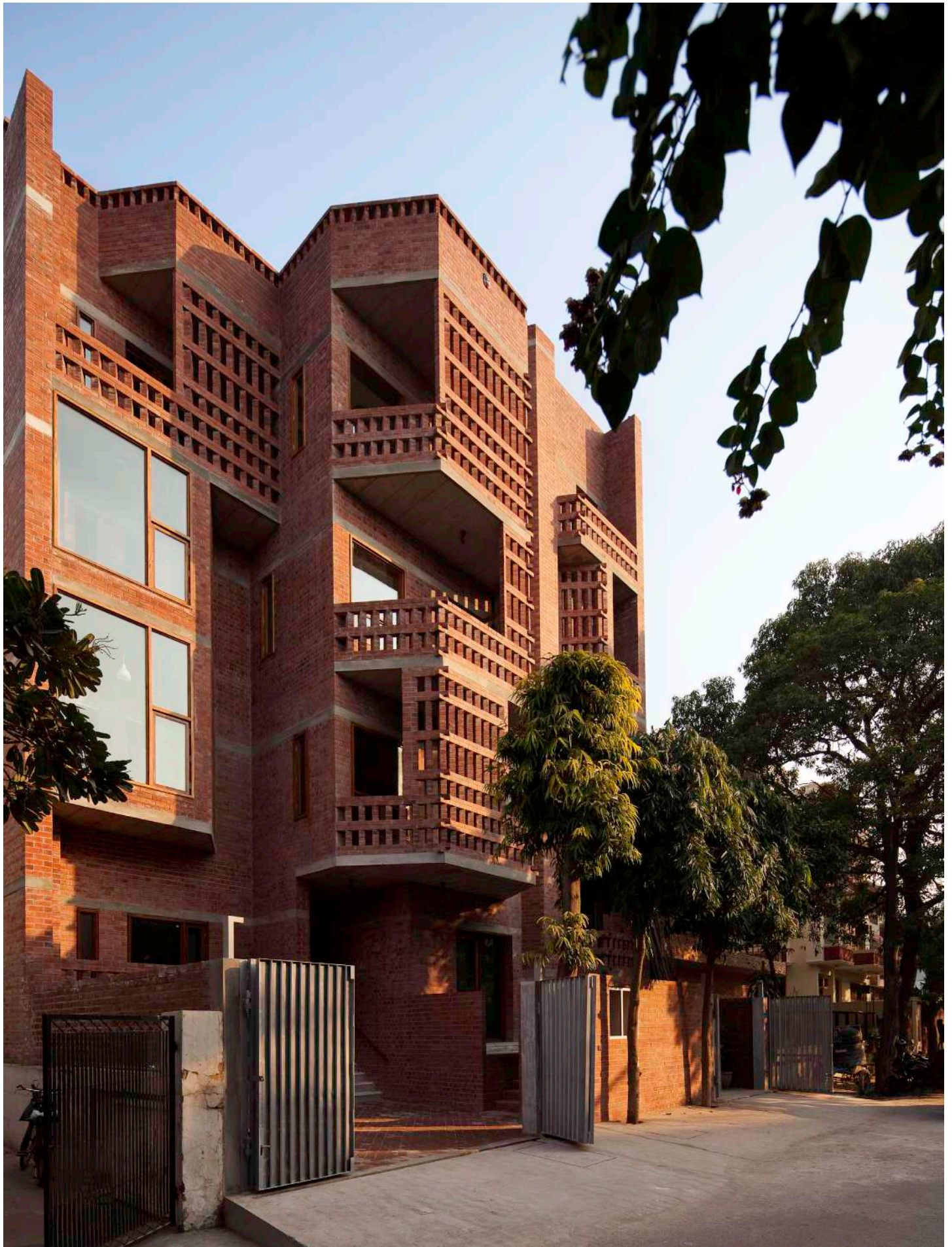
south elevation





In New Delhi, the streetscape - balancing the scale between private buildings and public streets in the city - is rapidly diminishing. This project aspires to actively create a dynamic, visually permeable street edge. The Defence Colony residence - comprising of two duplex apartments - derives its material and tectonic vocabulary from tombs and palaces - fragments of 15th century Islamic medieval architecture - that anchor the landscape of Delhi. Built with load-bearing masonry walls, and designed to withstand the exigencies of a Zone 4 seismic location, the residence creates its sense of architectural and urban identity by adhering to one primary material - compressed red brick.





facade



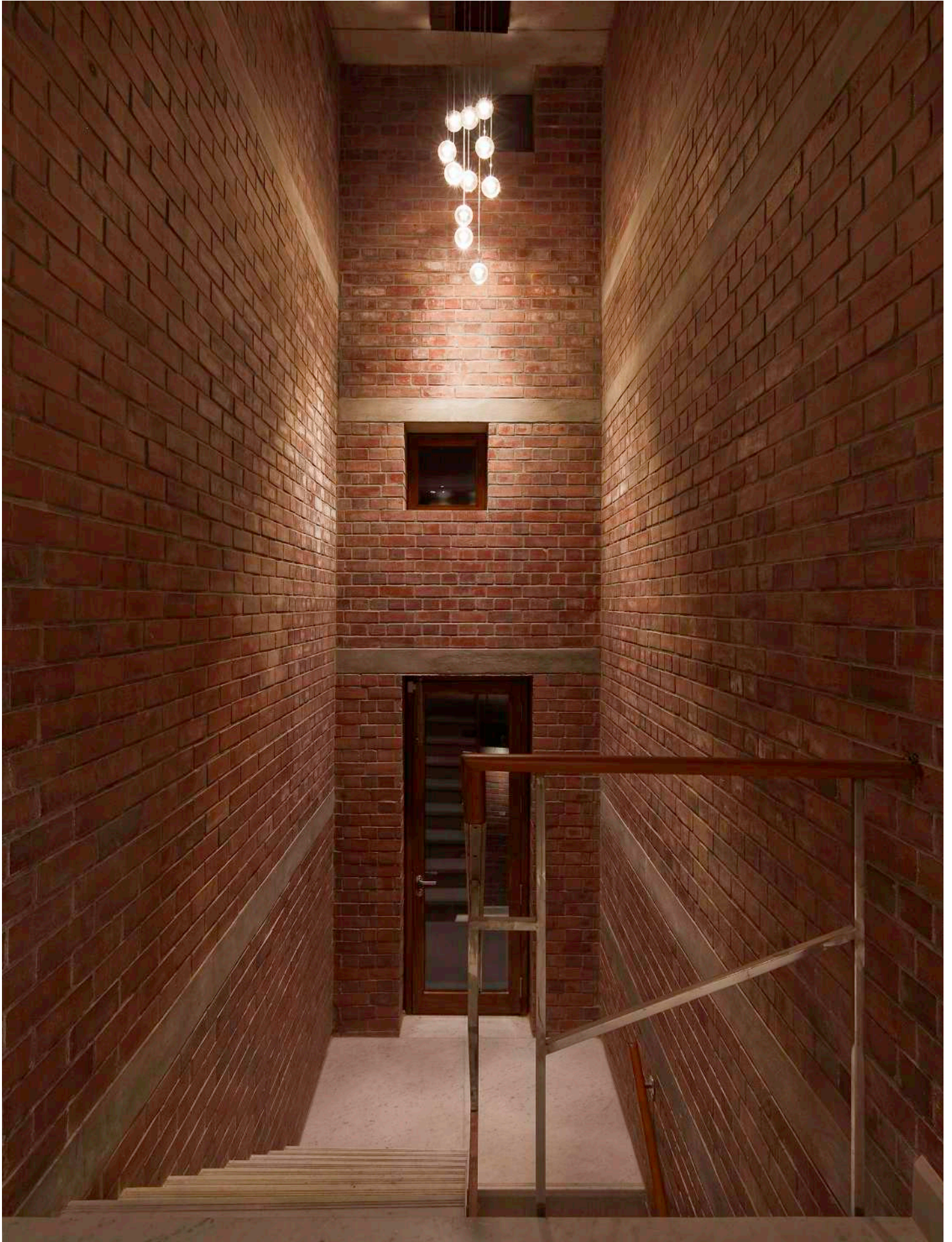


entry



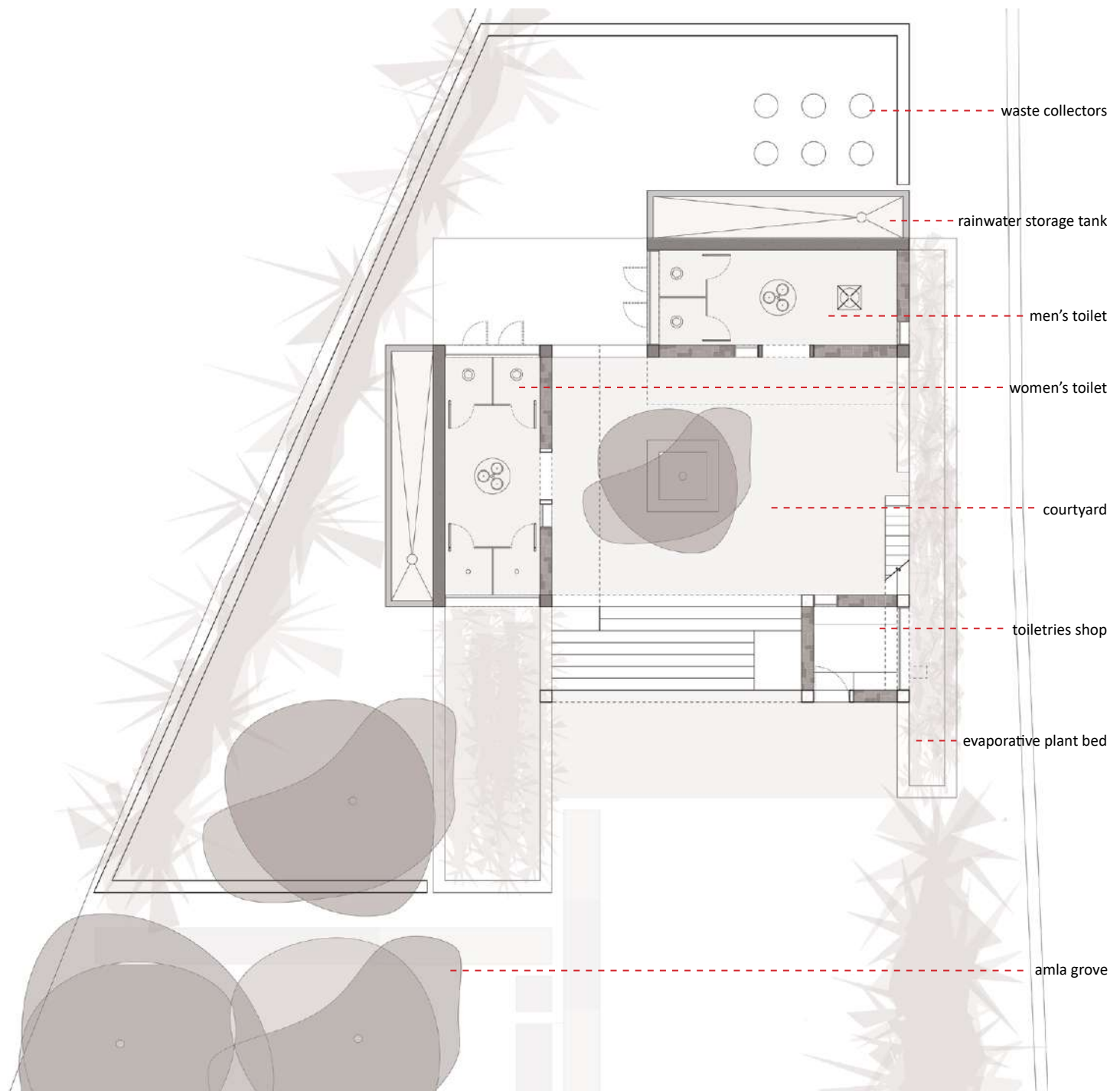
interior



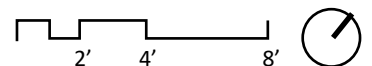


staircase



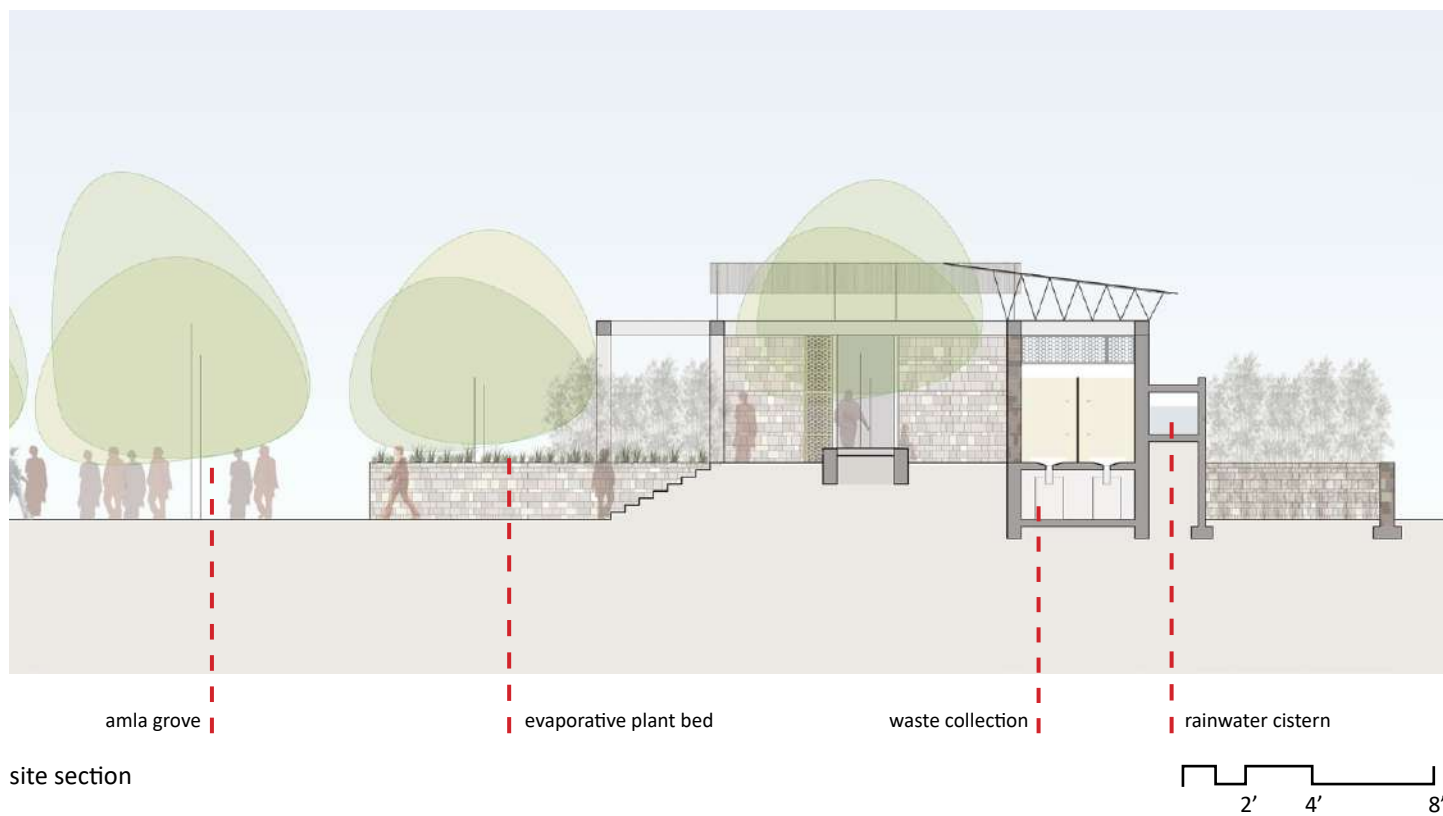


site plan



The project sought to create the fundamental infrastructure required for a community toilet -the first of its kind in the town. Given the scarcity of water in the desert and the high levels of ground-water contamination from septic tanks, a dry-composting prototype was selected as the optimal model for this site. Incorporating rubble masonry for walls, and a bamboo framing system for the roof, the design emphasizes an aesthetic of non-industrial materials crafted by local artisans. The scale of this project was determined by the limitation of semi-skilled and skilled craftsmen working entirely by hand - the villagers are skilled in stone masonry and carving and proposed to participate in the construction. The site for the toilets was selected with the consent of the Delwara community. A shaded central plaza anchors village gatherings adjacent to the community toilet. Rainwater collected from the roofs is directed into concrete cisterns containing sand and charcoal filters.





presentation model





courtyard



interior





interior





entry