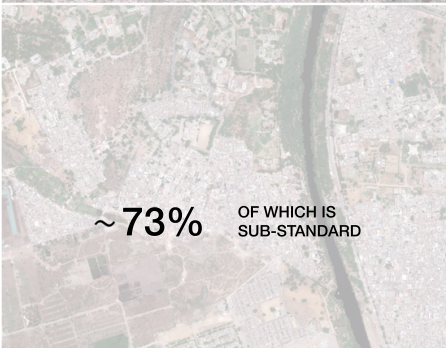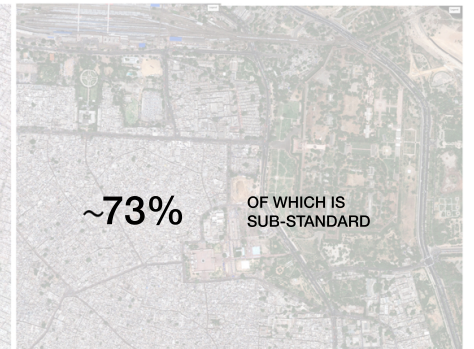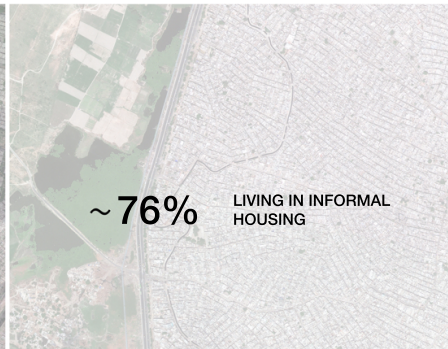# MESS IS MORE

Iterating dwelling design processes for the urban poor of Delhi
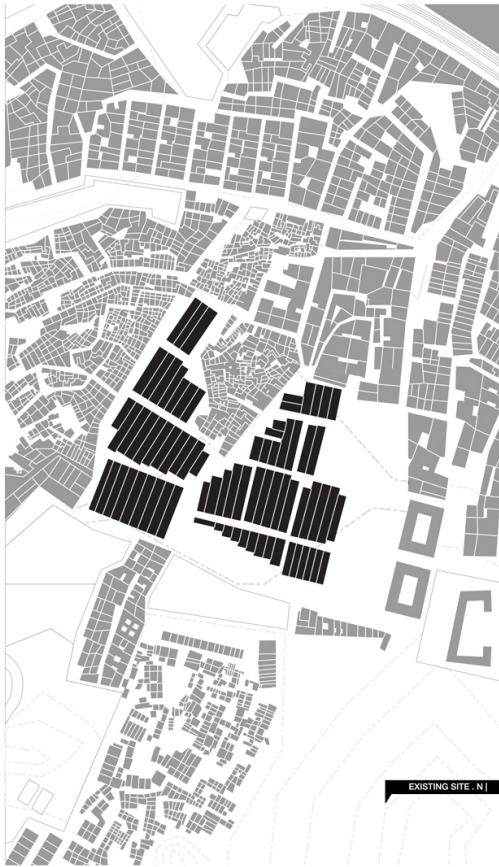
Graduation Portfolio

Urgency

India has been struggling immensely with rapid urbanisation and population boom in the recent years and that is truly reflected in the built environment. The capital city houses about 76% of its population in sub-standard housing and the staggering number calls for urgent attention.

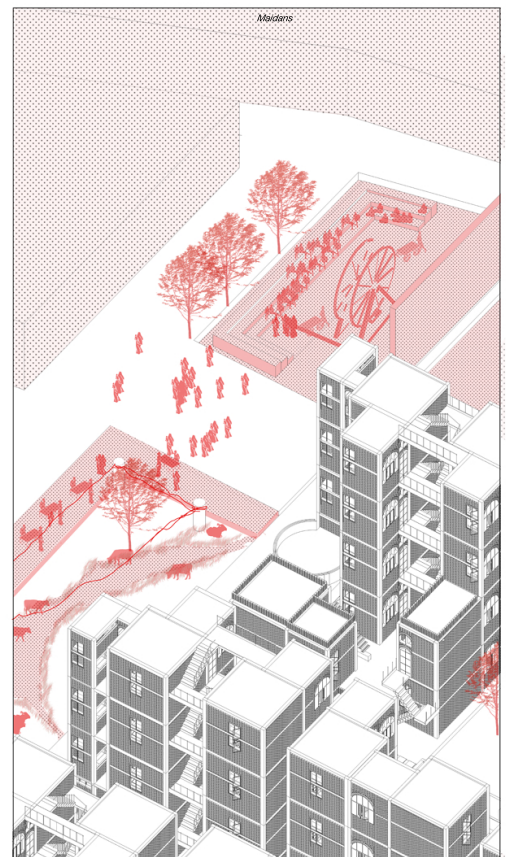~ 97 % URBAN POPULATION OF DELHI, AS OF 2011

~76% LIVING IN INFORMAL HOUSING

~73% OF WHICH IS SUB-STANDARD

~73% OF WHICH IS SUB-STANDARD

7 DIFFERENT FORMS OF INFORMAL TYPOLOGIES

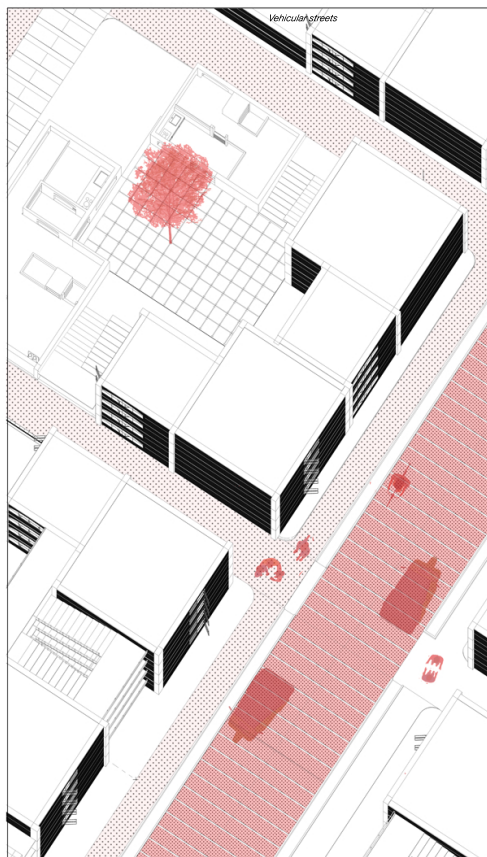~52% EARNING LESS THAN 15000 INR / 200 E PER YEAR

Primer

The figure ground is used as a medium to express vision. The existing built mass seems non-native, almost imposed and that is countered with an anchoring cycle. The site connections are brought in from the neighbouring parcels and the edges are appropriately responded. These lines are then inversed to achieve a conceptual grain. This conceptual grain becomes the primer for the proposal

EXISTING SITE . N |

ANCHORING TO CONTEXT

CONCEPT MASSING. A

RESOURCE POINTS . N |

CONNECTING POINTS . N |

CONCEPTUAL SKETCH. 2

The part and the whole
Between the lines

" Certain functions, time, place and culture modify our cities as they modify the forms of their architecture; but such modifications have value when and only when they are in action, as events and as testimony, rendering the city evident to itself..the city realities in itself it's own idea and registers it in stone." Aldo Rossi, The Architecture of the city

The urban conditions are setout to orchestrate multiple processes and interactions so that the inhabitants feel inclusive and spirited post displacement. The edge conditions and the composition of the master-plan advocates an anchoring in the context, strong and irrevocable.

Edges between Formal and Informal - Creation of Vistas

Edges between keys - Volumetric Harmony

Flexible spaces - open space extension

Pedestrian streets

Vehicular streets

Maidans
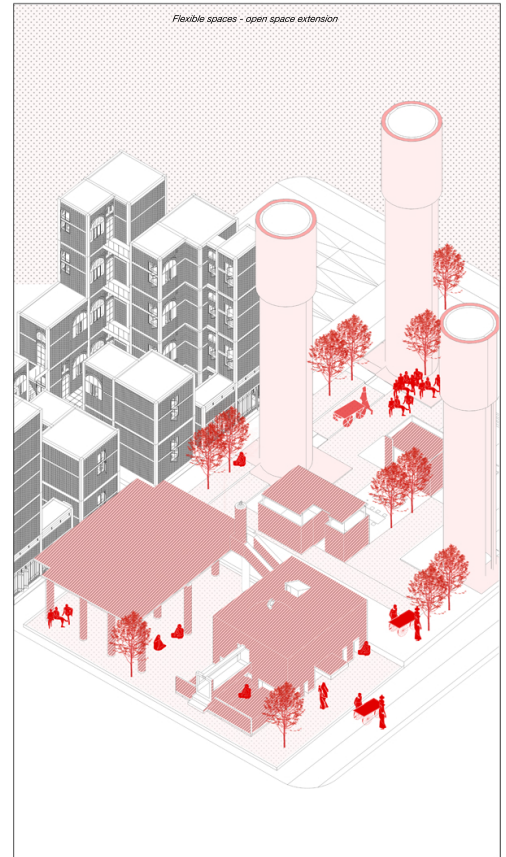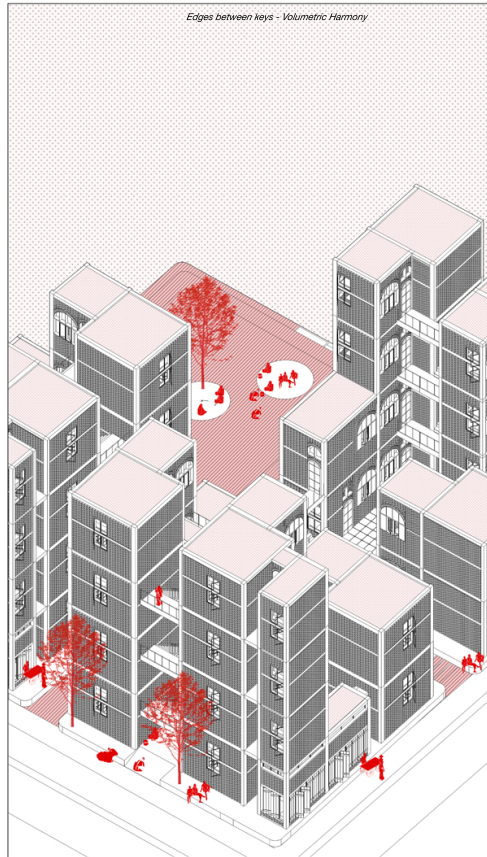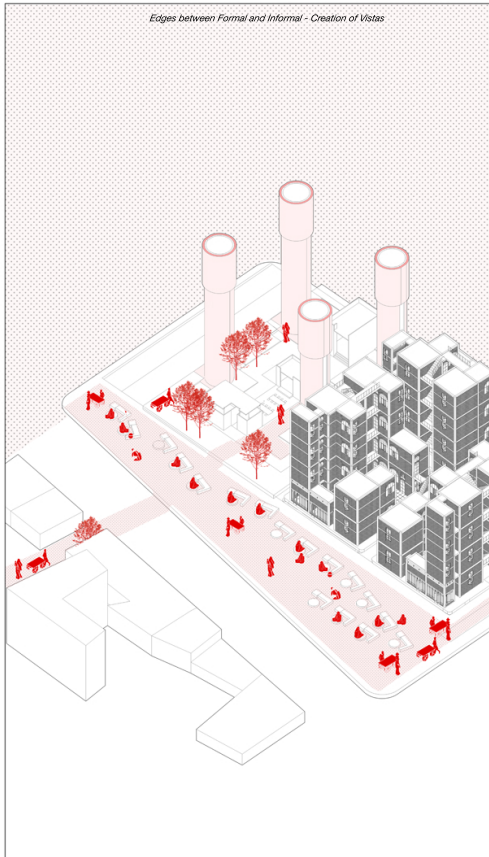
Eclecticism

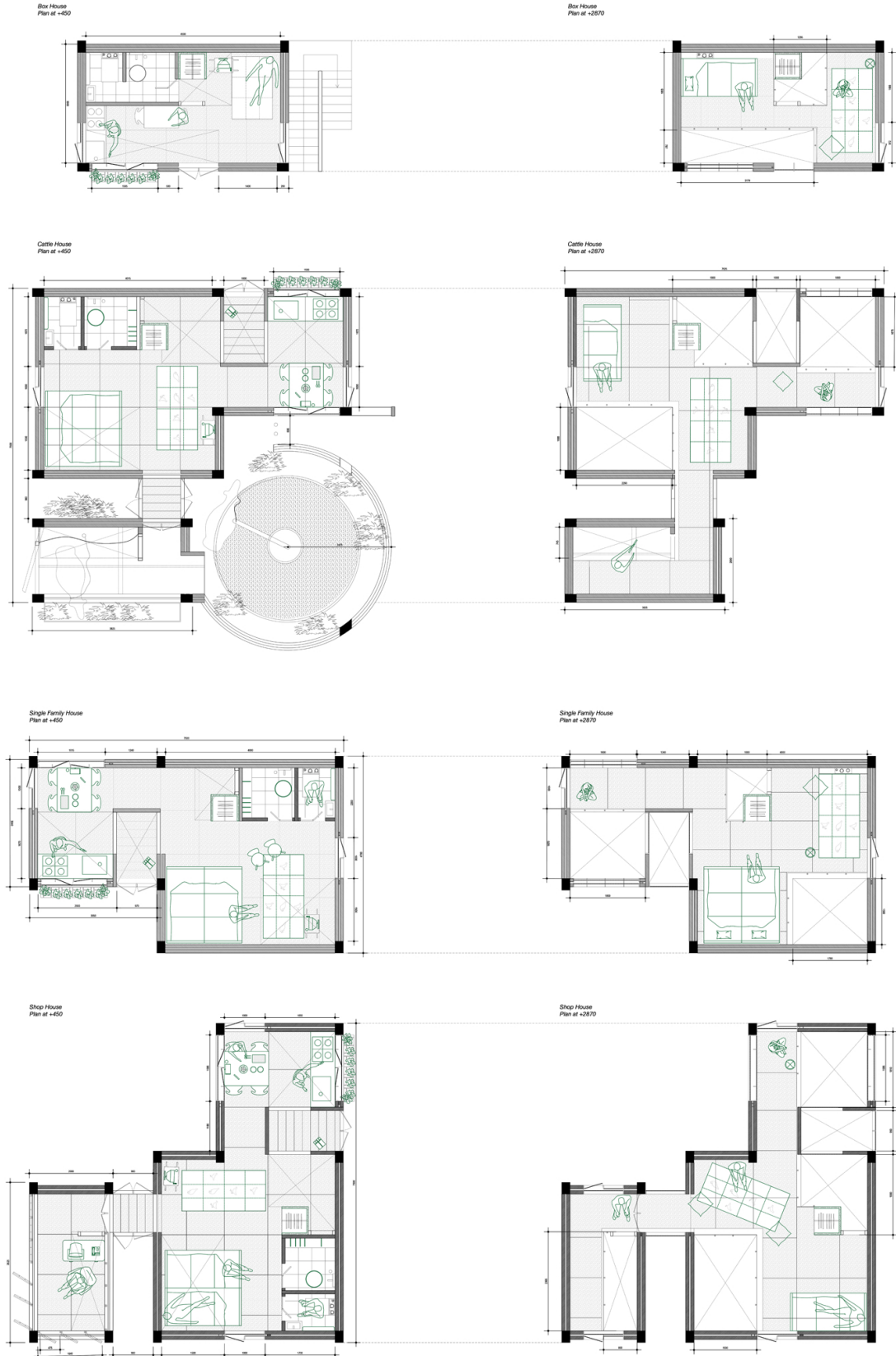*The unit design are approached as a sequence in spatial relationships. Historically, typological development of the houses are born from the agrarian roots to now changing economic scenarios. This results into a series of spatial gradients - the shop, the cattle type, the shared kitchens and plinths, which are observed and translated into the eclecticism of the proposal.*

Permanent Hawking

frontage

frontage

service grid

Encroachment grid

frontage

Hawking zone

frontage

Activation of Temporary Hawking
Might in numbers

frontage

frontage

frontage

service grid

Encroachment grid

frontage

frontage

Encroachment

Extensions

Extension grids

Extensions

33

Enchroachment grid

frontage for produce

34

Space for Animal husbandary

Connection to grazing space

4500

35

6000

Shared open

Shared courtyard

Shared kitchen

Shared eating space

37

The Units
Unfolding spaces

While drawing the units one actively reads the city and its inhabitants. This unfolding domestic space drawing represents the process of examination of minimum volumes required to accomodate everyday functions. At this scale, the same functions and programs are unfolded in 13sqm, 22sqm, 32sqm and 40sqm. (Scale 1.50)

Box House
Plan at +450

Box House
Plan at +2870

Cattle House
Plan at +450

Cattle House
Plan at +2870

Single Family House
Plan at +450

Single Family House
Plan at +2870

Shop House
Plan at +450

Shop House
Plan at +2870

The Housing block
### Constructor of the settlement

Anand Parbat is made of six dominant cluster types with slight modifications as per climate and site conditions. It is derived out of various anomalies and endless variations found in the informal sections of Delhi but here these clusters try and induce the same. The process of inhabitation over time and across scale, would allow for encapsulating its fundamental complexity. In a meaningful transition, this seemingly formalized proposal would grow informally.
(Scale 1.50)
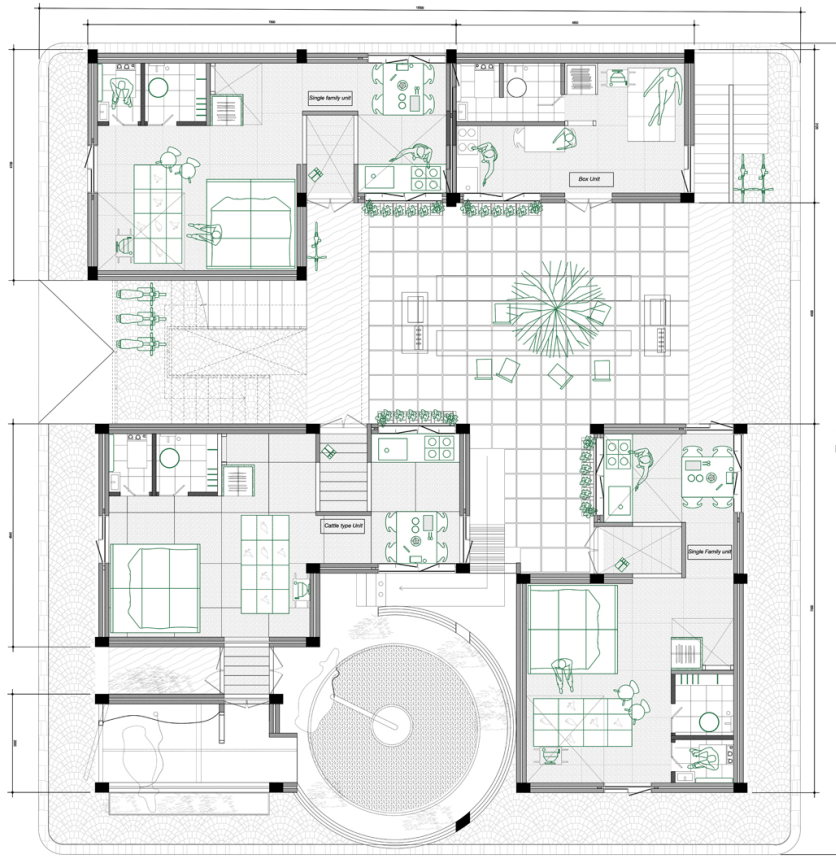
The room and the axis

" I no longer know what is behind this wall, I no longer know if there is a wall, I no longer know if this wall is a wall, I no longer know what a wall is .."
George Perec, Species of spaces

The domestic spaces have been left at the threshold of defined and non-defined. In this contemporary context of Anand Parbat where the programs are forever shifting within the architectural context, conditioning it, the domestic space emulates this spirit. It doesn't dissolve domestic space but uses walls as definers and articulators so much so to render the plan with depth and premise
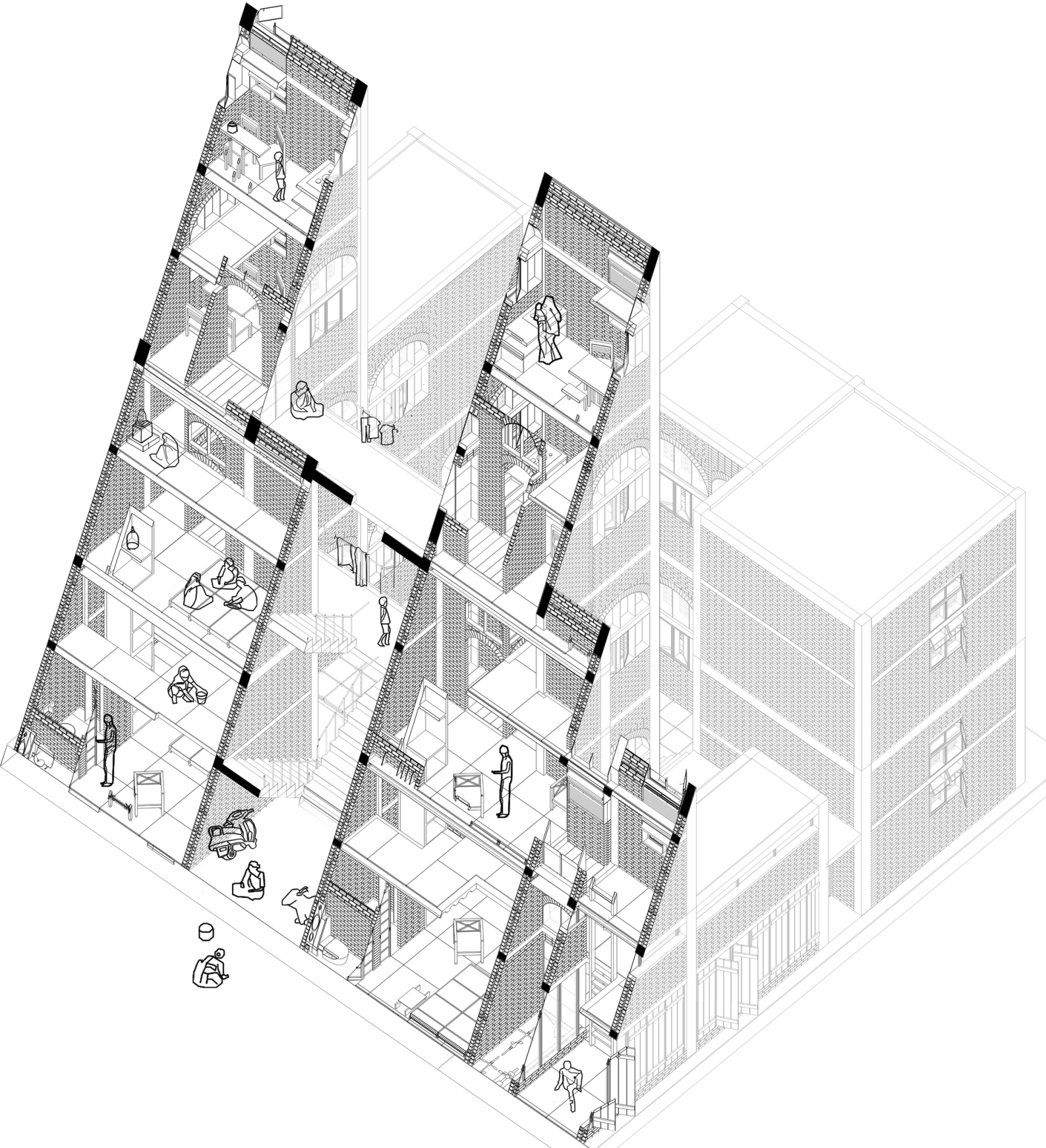
The Interior for the most vulnerable

The soil condition with climate and the spirit of progress were two invisible parameters for articulating the materialization. Delhi sits on earthquake belt four and is prone to strong earthquakes, the climate is rapidly changing with unprecedented cold and dust storms. Simultaneously, the poor desire to shun their nostalgic traditional roots and acquire a new aesthetic expressing their deepest desires to grow. Hence, the aesthetic of the interior is defined with a combination of two. A rigid frame concrete structure with brick infills are added for stability. To reduce the costs, terracotta half-cylinders are used as cof-
fers. The terracotta blends the grey concrete with the crimson red of the bricks. The interior and exterior materialization is just the same, however, the cavity creates an atmospheric change between the outside to the relatively cooler or warmer interior. (Section through cattle type cluster, 1.50)
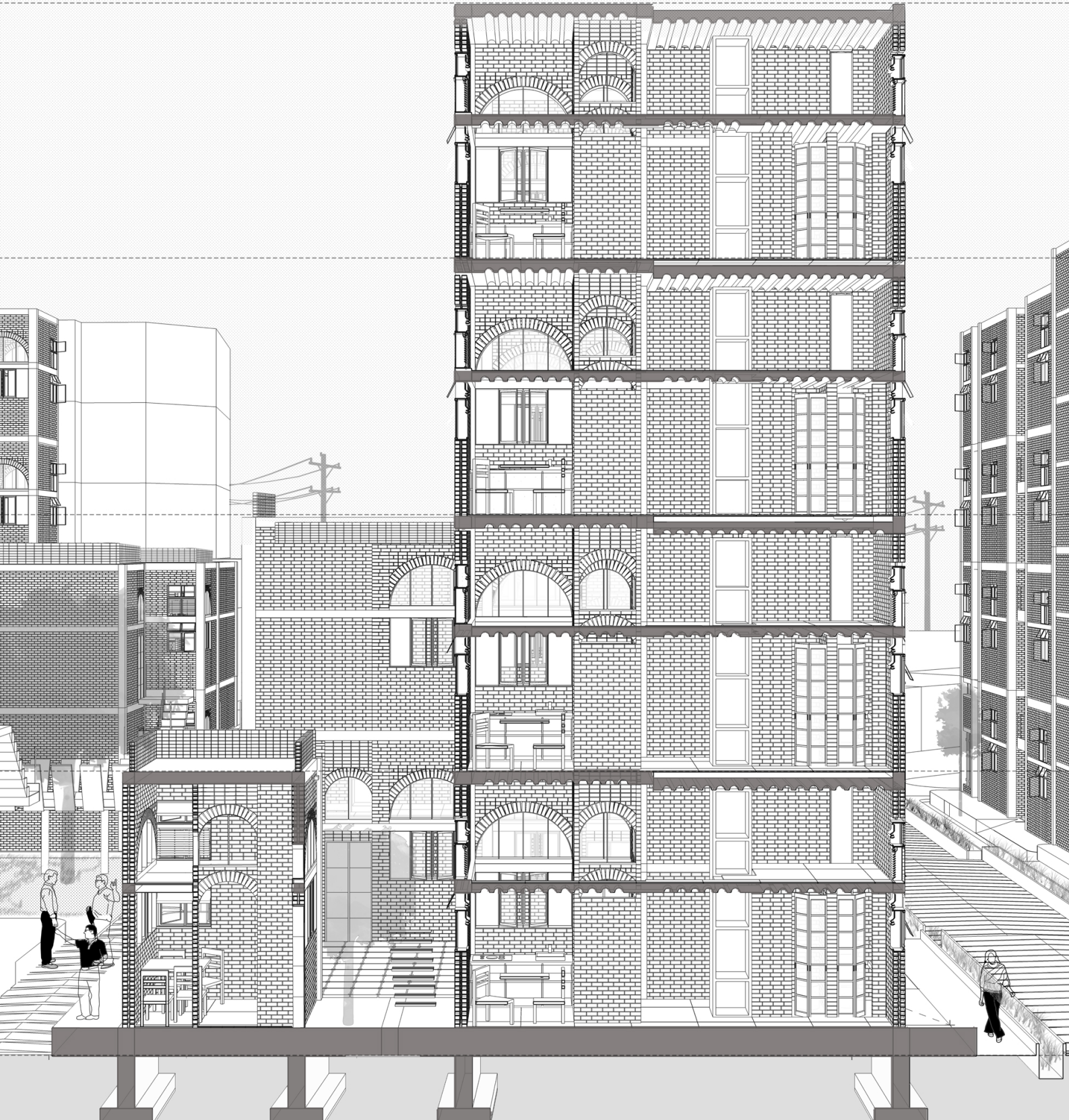
Technical resolution

Four fragments are detailed for its technical resolution : The roof is added a layer of mud insulation much like the houses of the historic city; The window is a four partitie component with an openable window and vent below the mezanine and a fixed window with monsoon cut bamboo shutters and openable window above the mezanine; The foundation is as deep as the consolidated soil layer and in no case could be deeper than 2 feet; The root and planting scheme in the courtyard for the fruit trees.(Section through shop type cluster, 1.50)

Terrace Level
LVL +16580

Unit 4 finish floor
LVL +12435

Unit 3 Finish floor
LVL +8290

Unit 2 Finish floor
LVL +4545

Mezzanine Unit 1
LVL +2780

Courtyard level
LVL +400

Soap Bubble
The art of Balance

" A building is like a soap bubble. The bubble is perfect and harmonious if the breadth has been evenly distributed from the inside. The exterior is the result of an interior " - Le Corbusier, Towards a new architecture

In Anand Parbat, Le Corbusier's soap bubble has exploded. The facade manifests in surface the effect of massive inner pressure on the house due to maximised domestic space. Formally, this is interpreted as an array of columns with brick infills, which nests within a second language of windows - arches demarcating the private interior and long windows marking the exterior. (Elevation impression for Cattle type cluster)

The Facade
Facade as a canvas

The floor becomes central to the domestic space and the wall is straightened with the exerted pressure. But no surface in Anand Parbat is rendered reduntant, the human agency at play is imagined to appropriate the facade with activity - economic and domestic. These expressions of activity add color and tonality to the otherwise red brick infill. So where the floor is quickly appropriated, the facade is more nuanced and layered and in years to come a true testament to inhabitation. (Facade for Shop type)

PREM STUDIO
493-494, Esplanade Road, Delhi-110006

The house that grows with you, the house that grows on you
Flexibility and Appropriability

" The type can thus be thought of as the frame within which change operates, a necessary term to the continuing dialectic required by history...rather than a frozen mechanism...a way of looking at the future" - Rafael Moneo-on typology

The house is bound to grow and the extent of change is projected. In instances, people are projected to add walls, alter opening sizes, nature of windows, color schemes, spatial arrangement, sizes of the domestic spaces, add shading devices, add doors but in all cases even in the most disruptive ones, the underlaying layer of design ideals are observed as resilient

Flexible grids : Connection with street

Flexible grids : Conenctions disrupted, spaces appropriated

Flexible grids : Expansion of the shops

Flexible grids : Addition of sun shades

Flexible grids : Connection with street

Flexible grids : Conenctions disrupted, spaces appropriated
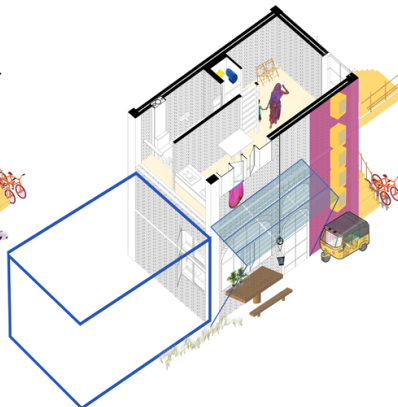

Flexible grids : Color of the shops

Flexible grids : Graffiti on the wall

Flexible grids : Connection with street

Flexible grids : Conenctions disrupted, spaces appropriated

Flexible grids : Addition of the coolers

Flexible grids : Shared spaces

Synecdoche
Reading the new Anand Parbat

As I draw the interior of the housing block, I understand how they are heavily mediated by courtyards and enveloped with a rather mute facade. In this way, the courtyard becomes the nucleus of domestic spaces and its possible extension whereas the commercial activities punctuate the facade with a dash of activity.

The Project is illustrated for its performance in time. First, the project in its early inhabitation would invite careful appropriations or lets say more quiet encroachments, with corners of the clusters taken over by everyday programs and courtyards decorated for color and activity. The second draws the instance when the community would take the first pro-active step towards restructuring the dwellings - around an Indian festival of Diwali. The shades of celebrations would manifest in more than one ways. The third, when the inhabitation has weathered - the paint falls off, the colors fade away, the temporary appropriations become more permanent, however the design ideals prevail.

Masterplan 1.500, n^

A. Women's Market and Learning
   center
B. Primary School
C. Farming Units
D. Farming Lands
E. Sports Rink
F. Primary school and capacity
   building
G. Healthcare
H. Electricity Distribution
I. Center with a religious
   establishment
J. Mosque existing
K. Moharram Route
L. Informal markets
M. Hawking zones