



Ecologies of Excess and other Stories

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The proposal reintroduces the core ideas of recognizing the responsible role of urban dwellers in creating sustainable urban environments especially in the urban agriculture and waste management. It takes a role model of a small neighbourhood space, with variety of experiences, to convey the meaning. On the way the processes hold precious lessons of democratic public participation and a sense of belonging in any development work.

This landscape is an attempt to bring to light cause and effect relationships that we as a society have forgotten about. Few of us even see the fuels that deliver our food and power our lights, or know where the food we eat is sourced from. Most of the pollution is invisible, so we don't connect it with our feelings, and rarely even with our thoughts. Carbon-dioxide that you can't smell, garbage that is dumped in landfills a hundred kilometers away—such invisible relationships distance us from the consequences of our actions. Can these connections be reformed in people's minds, over time?

The highly planned, residential area of Basavangudi in Bangalore was looked for landscaping interventions in multiple sites, each with a different character. Each site will have painted red pipes as dustbins for collecting wet waste, (from abandoned drainage pipes found at one of the sites) and

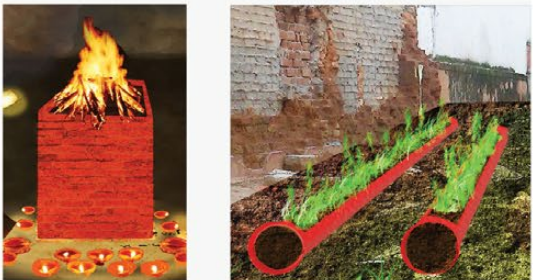
similar tubes will also be used for urban agriculture by the community, fostering the connection in people's minds. This wet waste will in turn be used for composting and bio-char, and it was envisioned that the entire community would come together and celebrate burning for bio-char at the end of one harvest cycle, to produce a carbon sequestering rich soil additive for the next cycle. And suddenly this cycle of growth and decay which you never noticed before, is visible. The food you eat, you see where it comes from. The waste you throw out, you're more aware of its consequences and benefits. These connections cannot be formed in a day. You go around the neighborhood, see the same things over and over again, experience being close to nature and over time and you see the unseen.

JURY COMMENTS

The design connects and communicates a variety of unseen issues that plague urban India, creating a coherent approach without the trappings of an image-making exercise. It is an approach-based idea that can be applied at different scales and different communities and cities. The design helps create a network of productive landscapes and sees a garden beyond its ornamental purpose.



To the left is an image of cast iron pipes which have been partly corroded, abandoned beside the BWSSB building at Krishna Rao park to be picked up by dealers of scrap metal. This design proposes treating the pipes for corrosion removal and treatment and powder coating the pipes red for reuse.



biochar kiln agriculture containers



temporary tents for farmers market wet waste collection containers compost pits



This is a humble beginning. If we were to project into the future, we would see these ideas of urban agriculture and composting creep out into nearby neighbourhoods, and as the community is visibly taking more and more responsibility and ownership, bigger steps can be taken like organic waste converters, biogas plants, etc., and more levels of seeing the unseen will automatically be tapped into.



Ignorance is Bliss?

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A landfill site can offer many new design opportunities and can become a hub of activities for all the users of surrounding area. The very idea of looking at these types of landuses as potential spaces playing a vital role in the urban development is an exciting one.

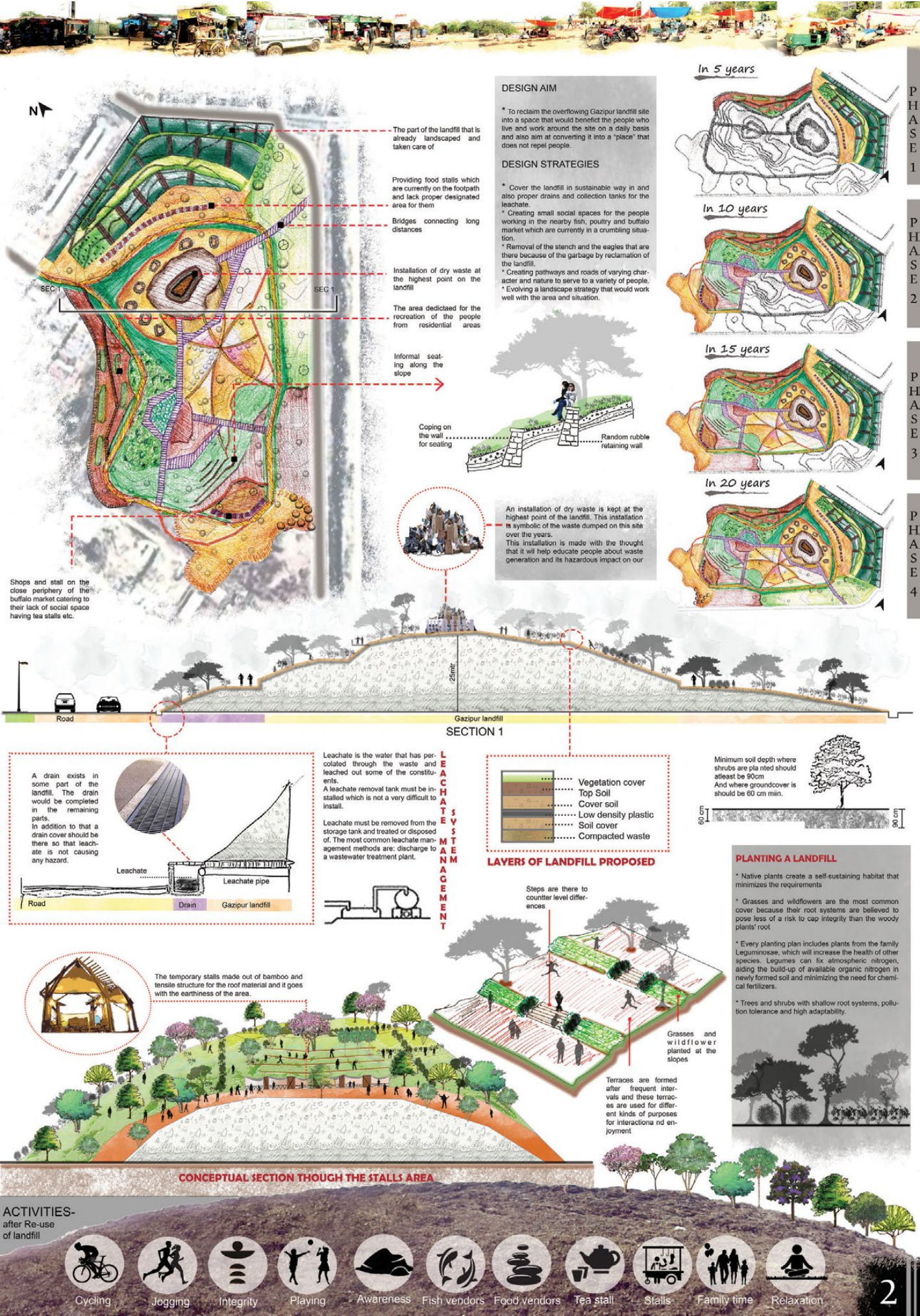
Passing by the Gazipur landfill site a few years back, I could experience atrocious environment even before actually seeing the landfill. The whole area has a crummy ambience and the stinking - overflowing mounds of filth is the reason behind it. Everyone looks and point out the dirty conditions but the fact that people conveniently ignore is that it is their deed and every single person on the planet is responsible for the same. It is not wrong to say that Delhi is facing an impending disaster, and it comes with a killer stench and health hazards, as the waste dumping grounds are pushing limits.

The Gazipur landfill site has reached its terminal point and is proposed to be closed. The unseen character of this place deserves a chance to be seen. The repetition of experience over long periods of time creates the idea of a place and the landfill is just an impression of the seen representation of it. However, such idea of landscape

is formed by the balance of the *seen* mounds of overflowing filth with the *unseen* admirable character it requires. We cannot freeze people and places in an abstract space, but should rather aim to fill in the distance between the spatial representations of the world with our everyday experience of it. The whole *seen-unseen* scenario will be set to reverse itself, once the site is developed. The landfill will be seen as a space which is beneficial to everyone sitting right over the filth which had decreased the positive character over these long years.

JURY COMMENTS

The approach creates a sense of hope for communities that are living in an environment of waste, created and thrust upon localities by a larger network of human life. The design connects the users to the easily discarded and hence unseen production of trash that now becomes the new site for celebrating human and community life. The programme is a vibrant open space and valuable use of land.





Rooh

Ninad Prakash Bothara, Kunaljit Chadha & Snehil Sunil Edlabadkar

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An interesting link of design and spirituality has been explored in the proposal where the idea of celebrating grief with the realization of the reality of life is addresses in context of a walk through a graveyard, adding new meaning and a fresh perspective of looking at it.

Meaning of space is in the duality of 'seen unseen'. Duality of life is the beauty of life. Existence of life has finely woven fabric of the co-existence of duality, gracefully appreciated by us as people.

Reality and its meanings are finely woven within the realm of our feelings. Our experiences are enriched by the beauty of duality – life and death. Between the poles of birth and death are multiple layers of experiences that enrich us.

Our urban fabric is currently under immense pressure of growing and expanding; can we look at spaces used today with the purpose to add new meaning and dimension?

The centrally located graveyard even today with the purpose to add new meanings and dimension...

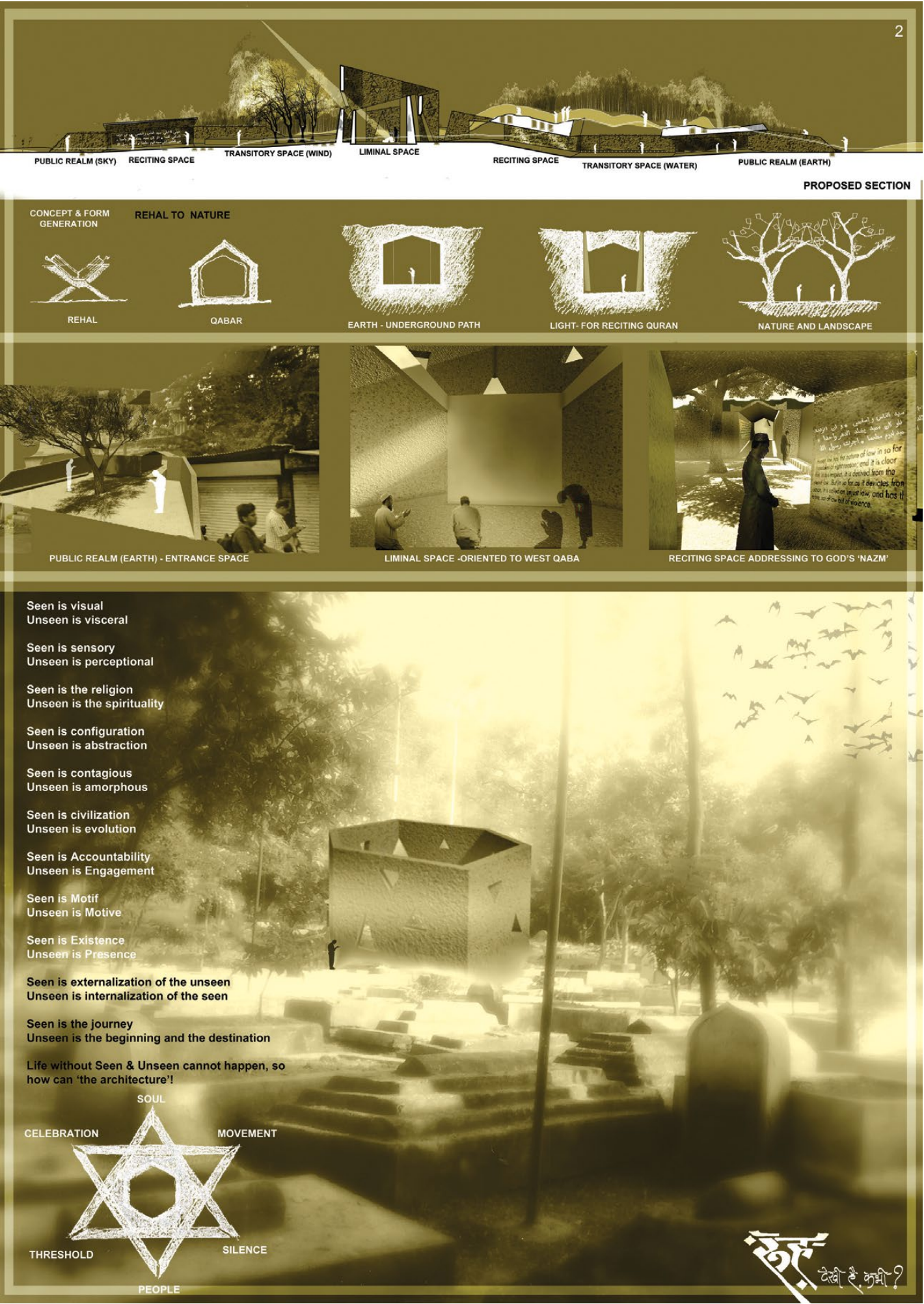
The centrally located graveyard even today continues to function only for the purpose to bury the loved dead ones.

We propose to explore this space— the graveyard. The intent is to celebrate grief with the realisation of the reality that memories shared with the loved ones just a moment ago is life. We have worked on an existing site respecting the way people are currently connected to it and are using it.

We believe in a travel (journey) within that space to pause to reflect upon the loss to celebrate what we had, what we have and what we may have in future...

JURY COMMENTS

The design reclaims the forgotten burial grounds for reflection and remembrance. The insertion of an installation into the neglected landscape of the burial ground comes with the crisp use of light, shadow and aperture, creating an abstract environment that is intimate and comfortable. It becomes a device to connect with the unseen, yourself, as well as others.





The Hidden Souls of the City

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The abandoned back lanes, Bahangi Bol of Tilakwadi, which to date lay in the state of disuse are imagined as potential green ways, sustainable infrastructure components, strong cultural spines and a significant part of mobility infrastructure to give a new meaning and sense of place to the residential use zone.

Infrastructure — the underlying foundation of a system and Urbanism comprehended 'as a way of life' have been understood as mutually exclusive or as existing in some logical relationship with each other. This tension is generated from the fact that infrastructure is typically understood in reference to its 'logistical functioning', and Urbanism as a 'spatial configuration' — thus equating infrastructure within the urban realm as an artefact that exists for the sake of a technical program.

With advancements in technology, patterns of human habitat and urban policy formulations, these 'logistics' either get merely reconfigured as technically sound proof and mostly, with time just obsolete. One such degenerating infrastructure identified in most developing towns is the conservancy corridors established for solid waste management, termed locally *Bhangi Bol* in the city of Belgaum, Karnataka. With current modes of waste infrastructural operation, these corridors once utilized as service

lanes, now project themselves as mere defunct by-product of contemporary living standards.

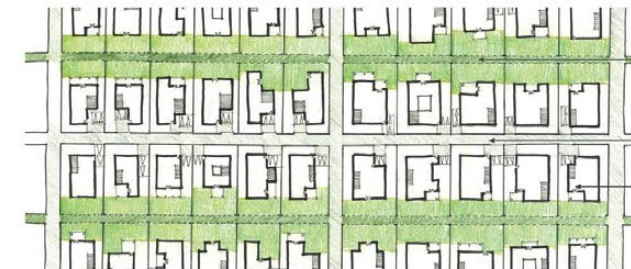
The project based on this finding and the hypothesis of the generic relation between infrastructure and urbanism proposes to strengthen this nominal infrastructure through ecological, social and mobility strategies to redefine and surface the unseen potential of these existing sterile alleyways. By conceiving such strategies the project attempts to reconfigure these corridors as an operational urban infrastructure which takes in account the complexity within certain perceivable systems, material or social, natural or cultural. A performative infrastructure that behaves as a 'catalytic social condenser' — a multi-layered field of action that operates as the active urban/ landscape spatial field, structuring the conditions for new relationships and interactions among the elements it supports.

JURY COMMENTS

The design addresses an urban issue that is socially entrenched within Indian life. The unseen back-alleys once exclusively relegated to use by the lower castes are now inverted and incorporated within the community, through a minimal and sensitive garden-based design approach.

REVEALING THE UNSEEN POTENTIALS OF NEGLECTED WASTELANDS

3. THE GREEN CORRIDORS: the strong connection established



GREEN CORRIDORS: The existing *Bhangi Bol* are now the green corridors connecting the plots along the lengths. These are the pedestrian and bicycle movement paths free from motorized traffic.

VEHICULAR ROADS: The existing vehicular connectors serve the same purpose as before with the only change being that they are lifted off with the load to carry pedestrian and bicyclers.

HOUSE LAYOUTS: The change in character of *Bhangi Bol* impacts the house layout as well. The service units which were oriented towards the backyards will now be laid towards the sides, keeping the front yards and backyards turned to front yards free of services, letting through and through connection of the built element to the landscape.

CHANGE IN SOCIAL INTERACTIONS: The neighbours who were limited to only the people living next door and opposite houses will now be extended on all sides. The people from the back side houses will also be added to the neighbours list hence enhancing the social structure and relation among the residents.

PLAN 4 - URBAN STRUCTURE SHOWING THE CHANGED HOUSE LAYOUTS AS A RESPONSE TO THE CHANGE OF BHANGI BOLS INTO GREEN CORRIDORS

SECTION 1: Showing possible relation of the Bhangi bols across the neighbourhood

SECTION 1a: Showing spatial variations and character along neighborhoods to absorb cultural relations such as festive events, community participatory spaces.

SECTION 2: Longitudinal section of the corridor performing as social spaces across the neighbourhood and providing a sense of identity to the community.

SECTION 2a: Character variation of the corridors absorbing to create event spaces in relation to livelihood patterns and social necessities.

SECTION 2b: Character variation of the corridors absorbing to create event spaces in relation to livelihood patterns and social necessities.

SECTION 2c: Character variation of the corridors absorbing to create event spaces in relation to livelihood patterns and social necessities.

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SECTION 2l: Character variation of the corridors absorbing to create event spaces in relation to livelihood patterns and social necessities.

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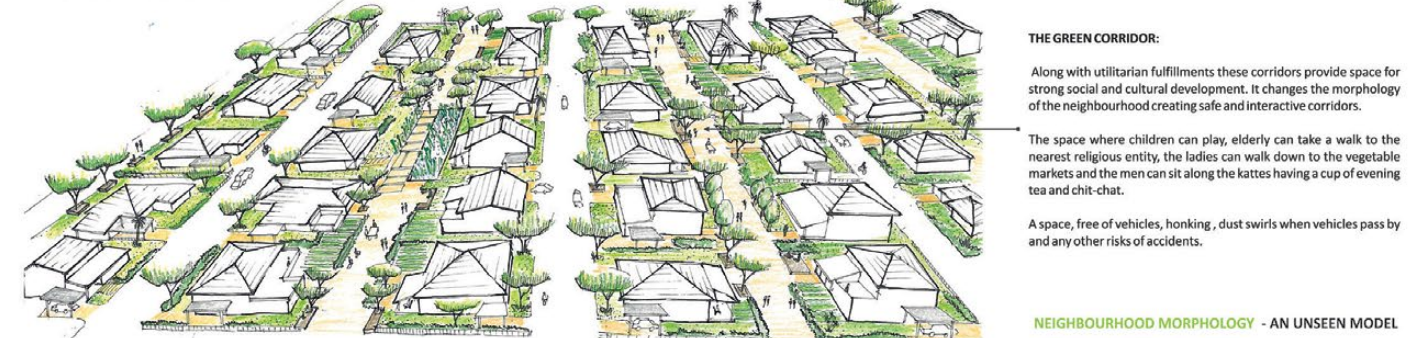
SECTION 2bk: Character variation of the corridors absorbing to create event spaces in relation to livelihood patterns and social necessities.

SECTION 2bl: Character variation of the corridors absorbing to create event spaces in relation to livelihood patterns and social necessities.

4. EPHEMERAL QUALITIES OF THE BHANGI BOLS ABSORBING VARIOUS CULTURAL AND DAILY NEEDS OF THE CITY.



PLAN 5 - SHOWING THE POTENTIAL OF THE 'BHANGI BOLS' TO CHANGE THE MORPHOLOGY OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD



THE GREEN CORRIDOR: Along with utilitarian fulfillments these corridors provide space for strong social and cultural development. It changes the morphology of the neighbourhood creating safe and interactive corridors.

The space where children can play, elderly can take a walk to the nearest religious entity, the ladies can walk down to the vegetable markets and the men can sit along the kattes having a cup of evening tea and chit-chat.

A space, free of vehicles, honking, dust swirls when vehicles pass by and any other risks of accidents.

NEIGHBOURHOOD MORPHOLOGY - AN UNSEEN MODEL

"THE HIDDEN SOULS OF THE CITY" ...may just be in our backyards!



The Bus Stop

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An insignificant urban infrastructure element is looked at with fresh eyes so as to make it a strong medium of dissemination of knowledge and information with an interesting undercurrent of play of light and shadow.

City of Lakes – these words pop up instantly when we think of Bhopal. Taking a glimpse back into the history of this beautiful city, one is reminded of 3rd December, 1984 – the dark night that never really ended. The city is still recovery and struggling to get the justice from past, for its present and the future. There is a limited public involvement and political will and the need of hour is awareness.

One observes a lot of messages across the streets but the passer-by hardly stops and see or observe. Here, we are proposing a design, where people sit and wait and eventually see the unseen. The bus stop... general public uses this mode of transport everyday. Then why not its unused space be utilized for creating awareness—as a reminder or a warning?

The proposal is to use the canopy of the bus stop shelter, without disturbing its functional value. The shadow cast by the canopy is same, but will vary throughout the time and season in a graphical or written form, using local languages and the textures and patterns extracted from the archives and the current issues.

With almost 250 bus stops in the city, they will act as a messenger, portraying a dynamic pattern of light and shadow with a hidden message. Some may not care, some may be curious, questions shall be asked from a child to his mother, students to the teachers, from tourist, the passer by and to oneself...

A message will rise with the rising sun, with a hope to be seen and set in the dusk, waiting for the new dawn.

JURY COMMENTS

A thoughtful approach that keeps an old important issue from becoming 'unseen'. It enlivens a common-place urban element such as the bus stop as a creative canvas.





Respite from a pause - Thol Lake

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The site of a lake is re-looked at with proposals of subtle design interventions keeping in mind primarily the natures' brief - the bird behaviour, existence of tree groves, tree canopy, water edge and related biodiversity. The relationship with nature in a natural habitat has many nuances, some of which are explored in this proposal.

Experiencing Thol is a momentary frame of mind. It acts as a pause for migratory birds before moving to Nalsarovar or back to countries of origin. What people take back mentally are images, which they conclude to be the holistic vision of Thol. This collage of images is arranged chronologically. Intention is to provide a series of pauses which give the spectator visions which show him how Thol changes. These pauses can be used as milestones to compare on successive visits to Thol and control pace at which visitors perceive it. It will enhance their experience by introducing a new level of detail to see finer aspects.

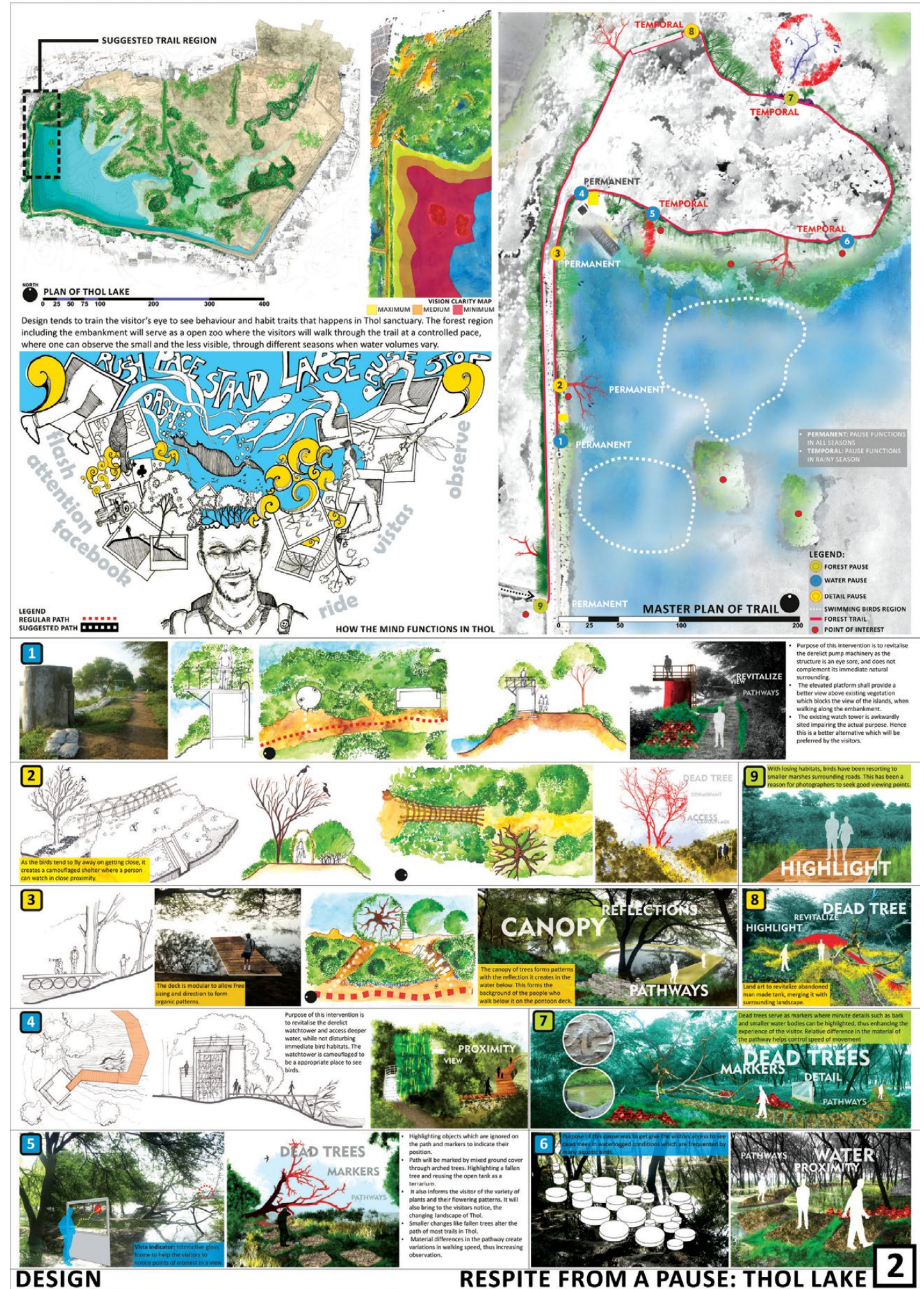
The design proposal includes a recreational nature trail which encompasses entire lake periphery, for hiking through the undulating terrain. The park needs to be viewed as an open

zoo, where most probable locations for viewing changes will be highlighted; and a series of destinations connected by the trail, which create a loop so visitors return at the origin.

The design proposal includes various *pauses* — *Forest pause*: Showing largely visible features of Thol which are changing how people experience it; for example, paths changing due to dead trees, seasonal flowering trees attracting langurs. *Detail pause*: Showing macro details of Thol which are normally ignored by visitors; for example, dragonflies on the embankment, spider webs covering the trees, anthills on trees. *Water pause*: Training visitor's eye to see aspects in vistas missed when looking at prominent features in view; for example, ignoring larvae on leaves when viewing the island of birds in the distance.

JURY COMMENTS

Using minimal interventions the design creates a linked approach to highlight and frame easily unseen elements in the natural landscape.





Transitional Lenses – ATIRA

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Ahmedabad Textile Industrial Research Association ATIRA's 75 acre campus of wilderness is taken as a site to explore and create various possibilities of bringing the users more closer to the nature, bringing to notice various unseen components of varied experiences molded by nature – forest, wilderness, plains and all.

With high rates of urbanization every city is confronted with the issue of loss of open spaces. In such situation ATIRA, a gated campus in Ahmedabad offers unparalleled experience of wilderness right at the heart of dense urbanization. Our design interventions aim at amplifying the experiences of various interactions among the natural elements, seasonal variations and spatial characteristics of spaces. This will cascade into elevating the awareness of ATIRA and conserving the urban wildlife habitat.

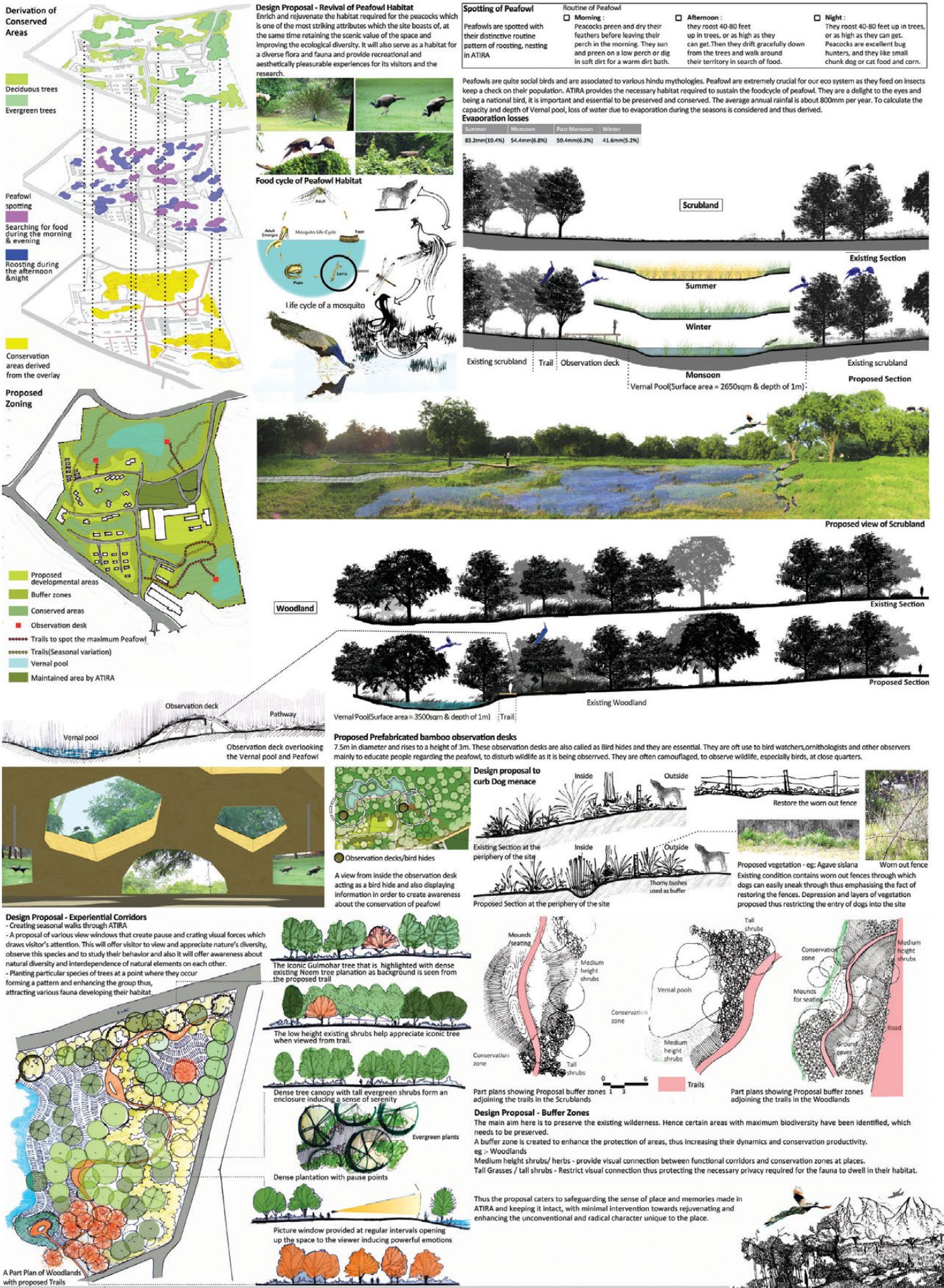
Proposals cater to enhance and rejuvenate the habitat required for the peafowl which are one of the most striking attributes the site boasts of. Respecting and preserving the scenic value of the place, amplifying human-landscape relationship and improving the ecological diversity. It will also

support habitat, sensitive to diverse flora and fauna by providing buffer zones at necessary places. Recreational and pleasurable experiences are created for the visitors and researchers by designing a seasonal walk through ATIRA. These distinct experiential values associated to each space stimulates one's sensory receivers igniting one's mind to observe the elements that usually go unseen.

Thus, the proposal caters to safeguarding the sense of place, further creating possibilities for people to have memories of unconventional and radical character unique to the place.

JURY COMMENTS

Working with what already exists the design uses simple unseen devices to strengthen and amplify the experience of a particular natural environment within an urban setting.





River in City – Plethora of Experiences

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Mahananda riverfront in Siliguri, plaguing with the issues of urban neglect while passing through the city is rejuvenated with an active natural and cultural spine by bringing the river ecology layer in the city accompanied by other citizens' based design interventions, hence forging a new relationship between city and the river.

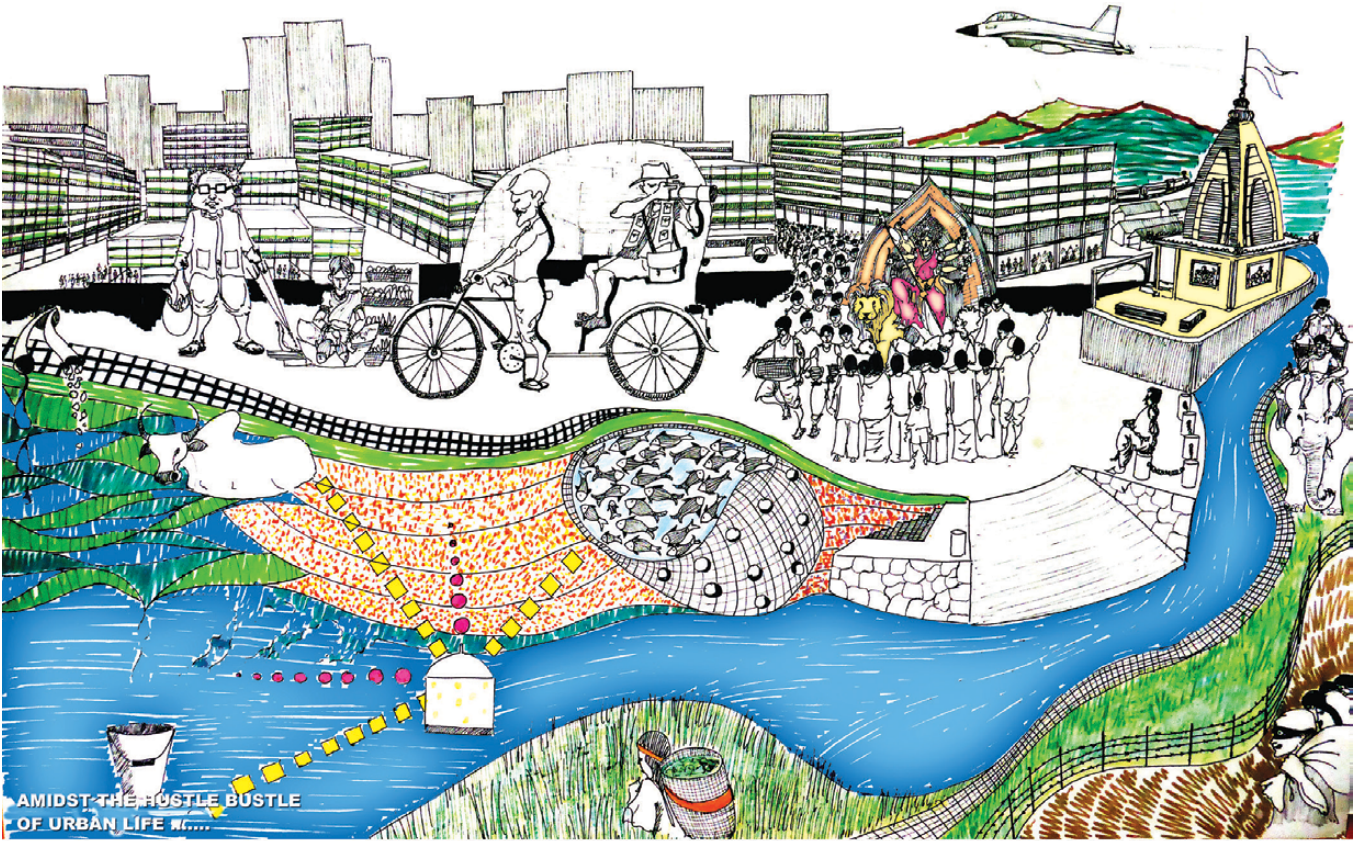
Amidst the hustle bustle of the urban life in Siliguri, runs Mahananda River which carries sewage of the city through its course. Since Siliguri has evolved due to its transport infrastructure and not the river. Unlike other Indian cities along the river, it predominantly faces its back to the river and hence the exploitation. This thus becomes a classic example of how urban areas have been exerting pressure on the natural ecosystems.

Hence, the intervention tries to reverse this relationship wherein the nature and ecosystem is at the forefront and urban systems of the city take a back seat. Aspects of nature and environment become the central focus for rejuvenation and other urban and economic strategies evolve as an outcome of it. With primary focus on nature, it offers a variety of

ways of experiencing nature and its systems amidst the busy urban life. Man would become more sensitive to nature and appreciate its complex interconnectedness that he shares with it. Traditionally, man has been dominating and shaping nature to favour his needs. Our critical positions aims at changing this phenomenon where nature is allowed to take its own course in environment and human activities would not hinder its processes. And in turn, man would benefit in various ways as demonstrated which would support its existence and provide respite from the mundane urban chores.

JURY COMMENTS

The unseen relationships between the river's natural life and its urban pressures are highlighted and creatively interwoven through the design. It consciously tries to stay away from the image of a riverfront as a hard urban edge.



PLETHORA of experiences, memories, narratives....





Her-Etage, Abandoned Leisure

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Site of an abandoned building—or so called urban decays—is proposed to be developed as a public landscape zone for people belonging to all economic and social strata, right in midst of the city's most busy business district. Relationship with nature is explored in all the fifteen floors of the building creating a variety of experiences from silent contemplation zones on lower levels to the viewing galleries on top... buildings serving people rather than serving business.

Ever imagined a building that serves not business but people? One that exists on the busiest road, yet gives you the happiness of melancholy? That provides a natural feast within the polluted commercial lanes?

Leisure, to most of us means a change in pace and place in the usual routine. Studies prove that public spaces are most functional when they meet the recreational needs of the everyday schedule rather than the manicured gardens located in one isolated corner of the city. The capital city lacks large-scale public spaces saved from the web of private sectors charging for their quality socio-leisure time. The concept is to intervene into the unseen abandoned structures amongst the designed urban fabric, and convert the ugly grey structures into a living environment. The incomplete building

on the overcrowded Barakhamba Road, witnesses thousands of people pass by everyday, belonging to all socio-economic strata, each one demanding a 'break free' space during his hectic schedule.

The intervention idea includes landscape, which can be perceived beyond the clichéd definition and focus more on the natural elements which are unobserved from our daily sights yet they play a vital role in bringing sense of life. The design creates a space, for the working class people to have their doze of landscape into their congested air-conditioned office chambered lives. The project imagines a space where people could just arrange informal meetings, or have their morning coffee under a tree, or take few fresh air breaths in their spare time.

JURY COMMENTS

The design sees wasted space such as abandoned or derelict urban structures and converts them into vertical ecological urban parks.

