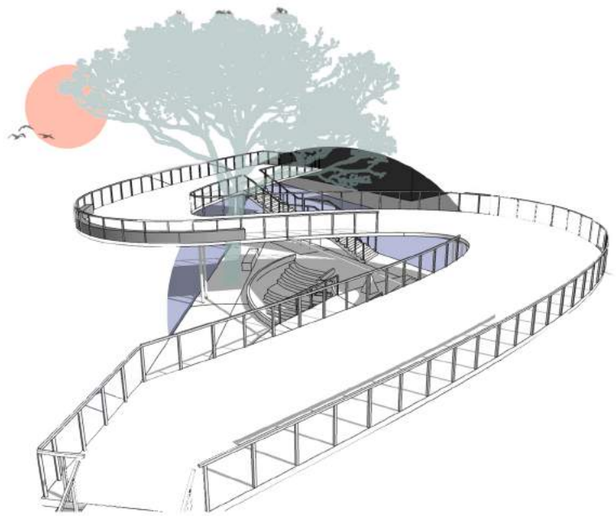
PEOPLE AND HOPE



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WHY IS THERE A NEED FOR PUBLIC SPACES?

In today's virtual world the last individual in the every strata of society has access to everything and anything in the real world, detaching the human beings from the reality of his ecosystem. Gone seem the days, when one could knock on a neighbour's door and ask for a cup of sugar and end up having hour long conversations. This coupled with a lack of respect and understanding of why public spaces are necessary has led to a sad demise of these spaces. Once at the forefront of our psycho-social practices and culture, the public places were strength of our society , hence there is an urgent need of intervention to resuscitate them .

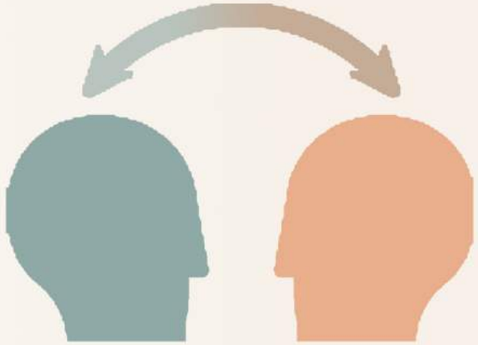
PROJECT INTENT/VISION

"When strangers act as neighbours, the community is reinvigorated"
-Ralph Nader

The intent of the project is to reinstate the concept of **"Love thy Neighbour"** by creating an environment conducive to meaningful interactions between members of the community which, eventually will foster closer relations within the community. It will also enable the community to take ownership and have a sense of belonging for these public spaces. This in turn will ensure the relevance and significance of such spaces in psycho socio culture of our urban ecosystem.

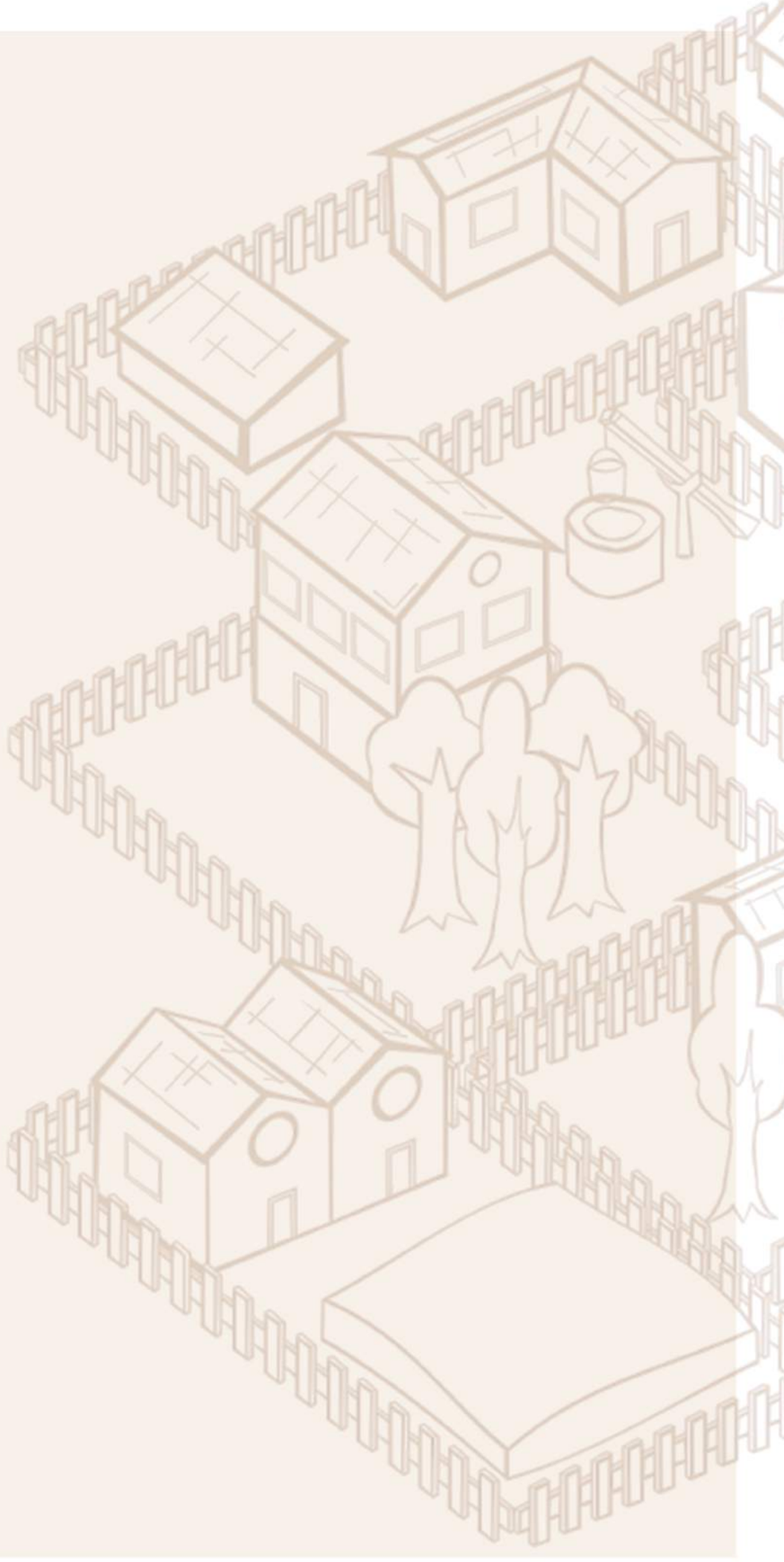
FUNCTION

Space where people can have healthy interactions with each other as well as their surroundings. The space will also motivate people to come out of their houses. It will facilitate the user to utilse the space as they desire



USER GROUP

The Design will cater for every member of the community irrespective of age, gender and class making it an egalitarian enclave for the community to flourish



CASE STUDIES

BACKYARD EXPERIMENT

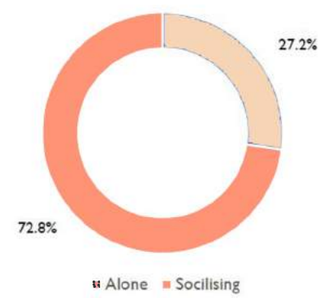
Location
Garema Place, Canberra, Australia
Project by
Street furniture Australia, Australian institute of landscape architects
Area
The grass turf is 100 sq.m
Objective of the experiment
The experiment was aimed at testing out how well do people perceive activated public spaces and how can they enhance community engagement

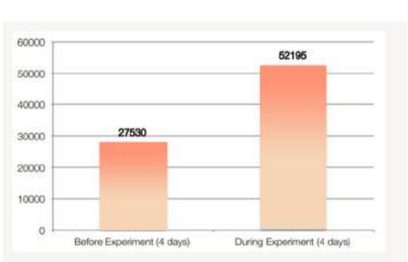
BEFORE ACTIVATION

AFTER ACTIVATION

Community involvement

The covers on the trees and the street art are made by individuals of the community making the space an expression of themselves an make it more likely that they will come back. Since the area is in a high resource neighbourhood it is constructed using the funds collected from the community with little help from the local government.

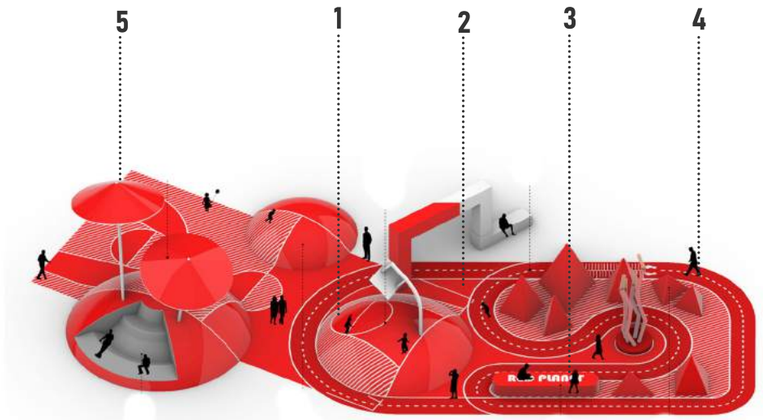




foot fall increased after activation

RED PLANET

Location
Life Hub, Jinqiao Block Pudong Xinqu , Shanghai Shi China
Project by
100architects
Area
245 sq.m
Context
Located within the courtyard of a shopping complex.



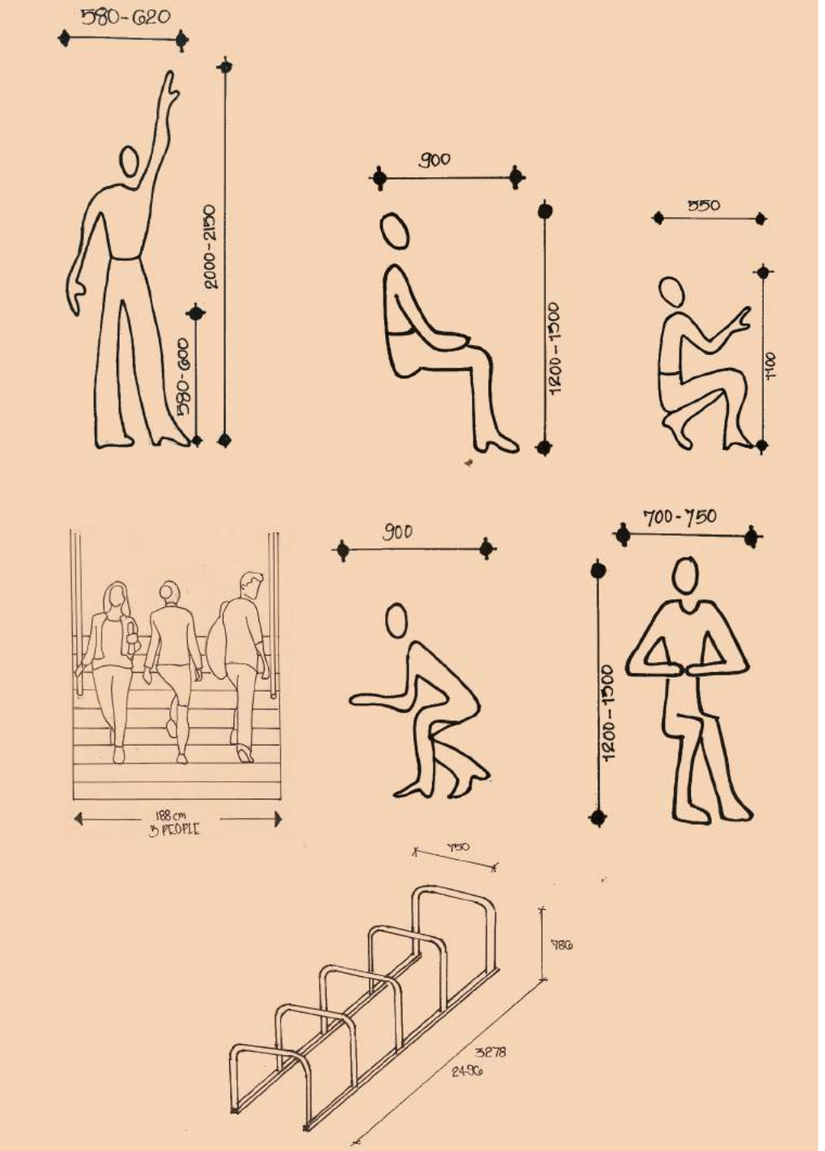
1.Distorted basketball ground
basketball field provides an artificial topography for playing, climbing, sliding, sitting, laying.
2. Use of red
Makes the place stand out and grabs the attention of the people
3.Games
Random games enhance user interaction
4.Walking track
Adds a sense of boundary
5.Umbrellas
Add a sense of playfulness and provide shade

The space has no definite boundary which makes it more inviting to the passers. It also lacks any kind of dictated circulation making it free for however the people want to use it It has paths approaching it from three sides.

Conclusions

·Easy access and permeability are a good to attract people
·Creating a unique and unforgettable experiences is key
·Community engagement is the ultimate determinant of the success of the space
·It should have something for everyone to do
·Architecture elements need to be something that aids the imagination and creativity of the user
·The space should let the user decide the activity and aid it and not dictatewhere and how the user must move.

ANTHROPOMETRY



SITE ANALYSIS

Location
Trikoni Park,
Shankar Nagar,
Nagpur,
Maharashtra

Why this site?

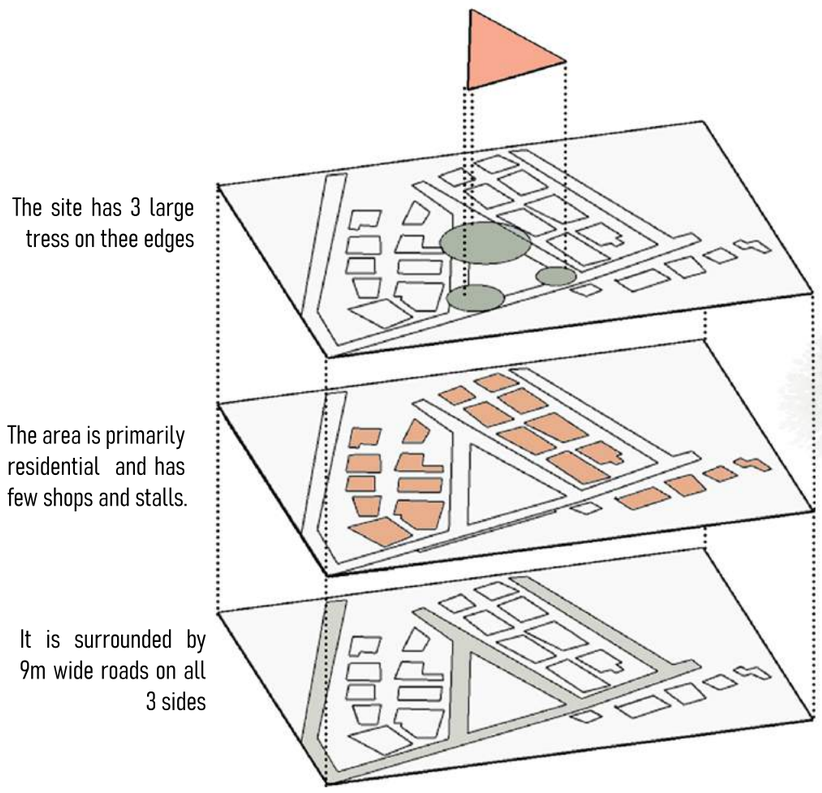
Located in the heart of a middle-class neighbourhood, this site sees multiple activities throughout the day which are an essential part of peoples lives. Despite people using it almost everyday the space is often disregarded as an asset community and overlooked and as a result is in a dire state currently. Hence, a facelift for this site would increase the likelihood of people using it often and take the responsibility to maintain and appreciate the space they have.

Gulmohar tree

Sheesham Tree

Vegitation around the site

1. The north has a deciduous gulmohar tree of around 14m radius
2. The other 2 trees are of shesham/ Indian Rosewood of around 12m and 7m radius .
3.All the trees provide ample shade to the site all throught the day

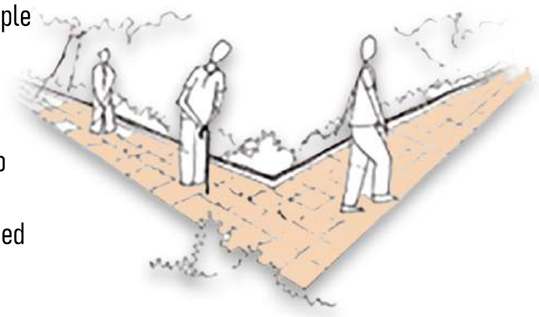


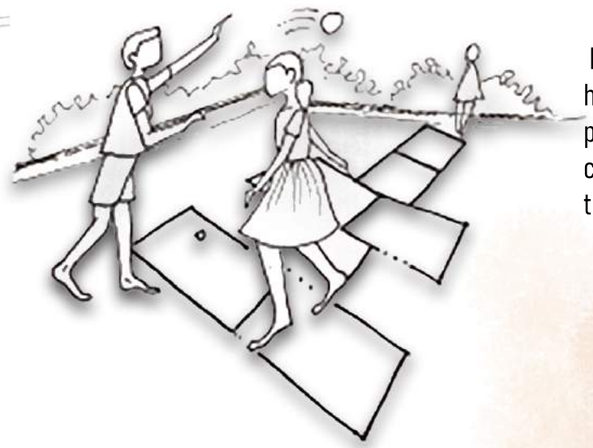
The site has 3 large tress on thee edges

The area is primarily residential and has few shops and stalls.

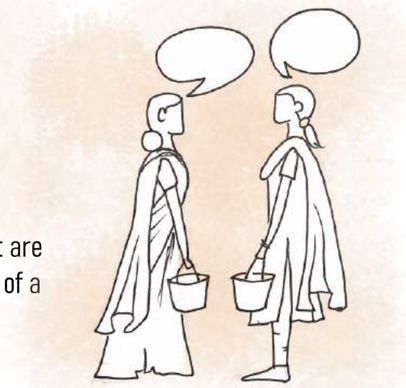
It is surrounded by 9m wide roads on all 3 sides

The walking track is used by people frequently throughout the day.
1.Early mornings -most crowded(from 5:00 AM)
2.In the evenings(from 5:30 PM to 7:300 approx)
3.Night after 9:00PM Least crowded





Mostly used by kids in the evening hours. Even though no formal playground is created people have created their own ways to make that space into a play area



Rendezvous often occur when people come to shop in the nearby shops, but are brief since they happen in the middle of a busy street

The park is used by older ladies in the early morning hours, where they come in, collect flowers and sit and interact.

CONCLUSION

All the activites can be grouped in 3 categories-
1. ACCESS-Walkways, paths, trails where people can walk
2.SEATING-Resting and interacting spaces.
3.ACTIVE SPACES- Playgrounds and space that promote physical activity.
These activities currently happen on site and need to be taken in consideration for design.

CONCEPT
ACTIVATED PUBLIC SPACE

What is an activated public space?

A space that attracts people of all ages, identities, and backgrounds

These places foster healthy social settings ensuring safety and security.

It encourages people to interact and socilaise

These places serve as authentic anchors, offering a unique sense of belonging and memorable experiences.

Why activated public space?

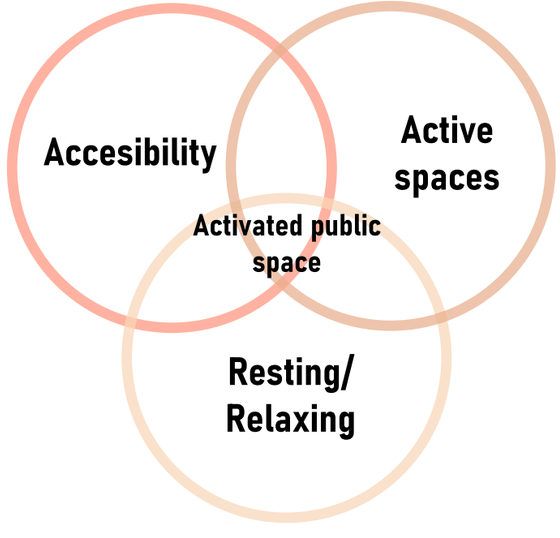
An activated public space allows freedom of activity and thoughts within the framework of social norms to the user. Once inside, the space doesn't differentiate thus an 80-year-old person could enjoy as much as a 5-year-old child would and vice a versa. These spaces also serve the many to rest, recoup and re-energize from their daily stresses, thereby acting as a societal stress buster.

Parametres of a healthy and happy public space

Accesibility- Access into the space from outside as well as circulation within the space

Active Spaces- Casual spaces that promote fun physical activites

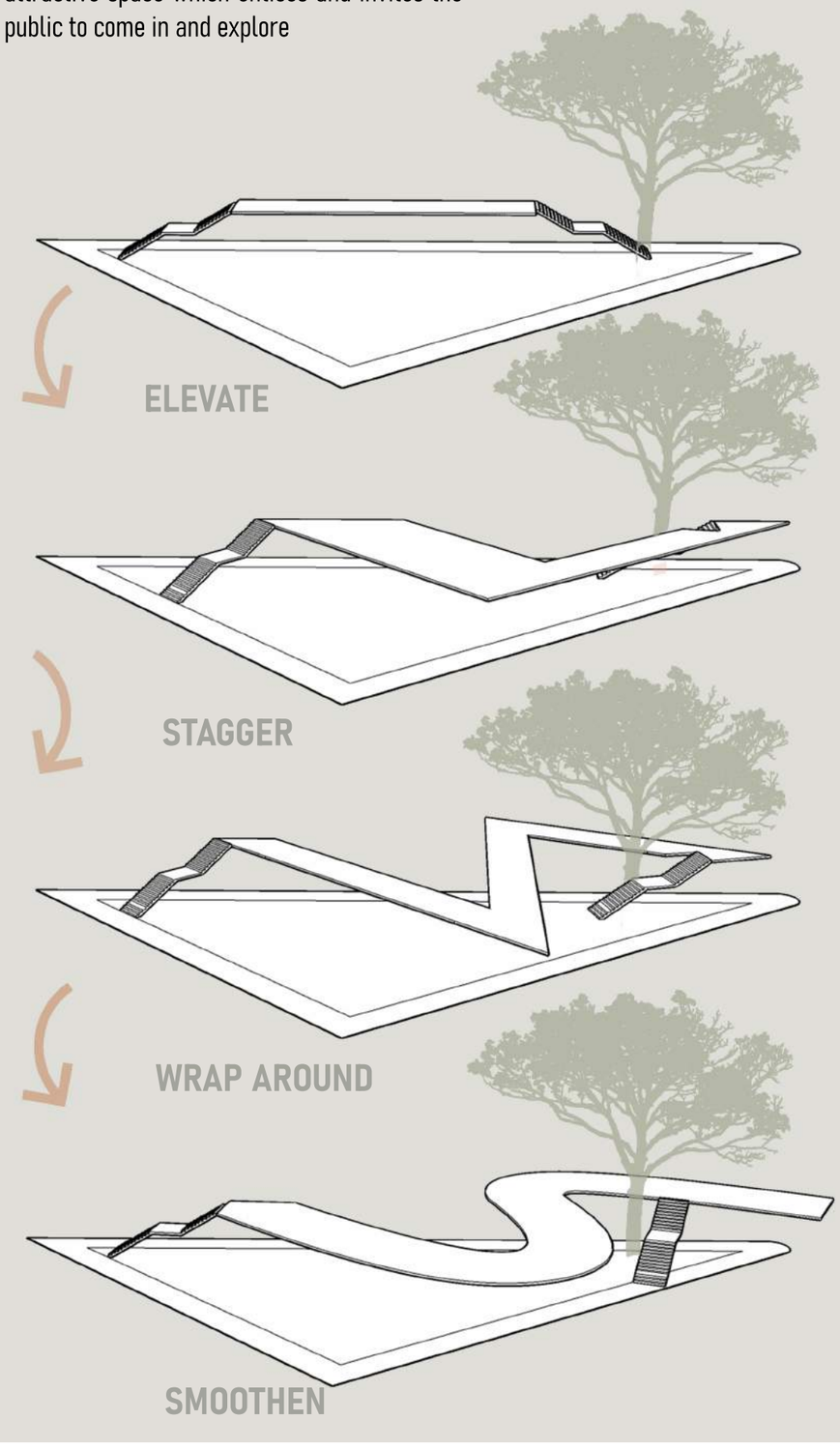
Resting/Relaxing- Spaces for sitting and relaxing where one can interact with others



Integrating these activites together would let people interact with each other while still doing separate activities.

FORM DEVELOPMENT

The curvilinear form create a visually attractive space which entices and invites the public to come in and explore



DESIGN PROPOSAL

PLANNING-

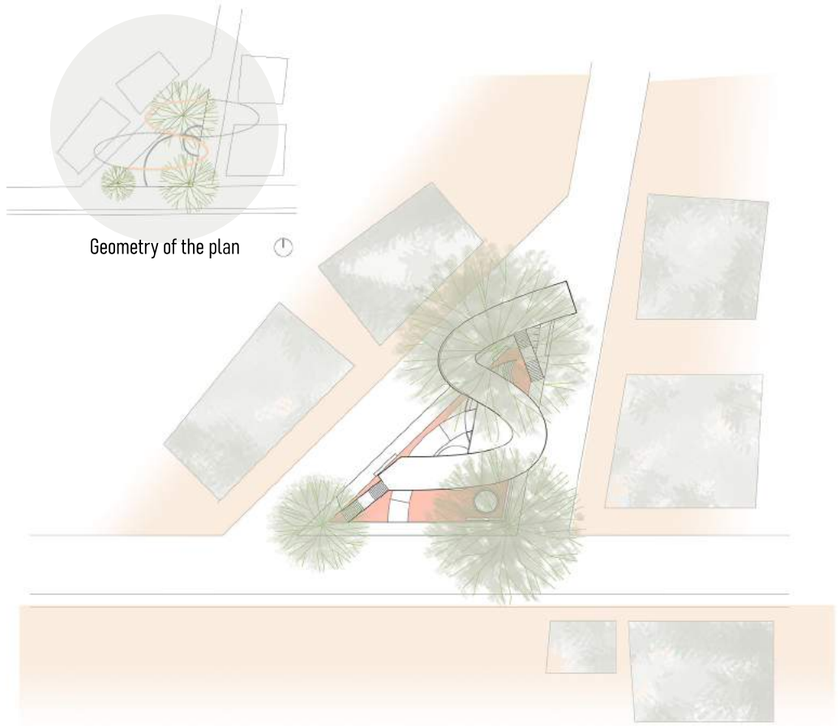
The planning revolves around preserving the tree trees on the site. Hence the spaces are organized in a way as to receive ample benifits of the trees shade, view and the ambience they create

OPEN CIRCULATION-

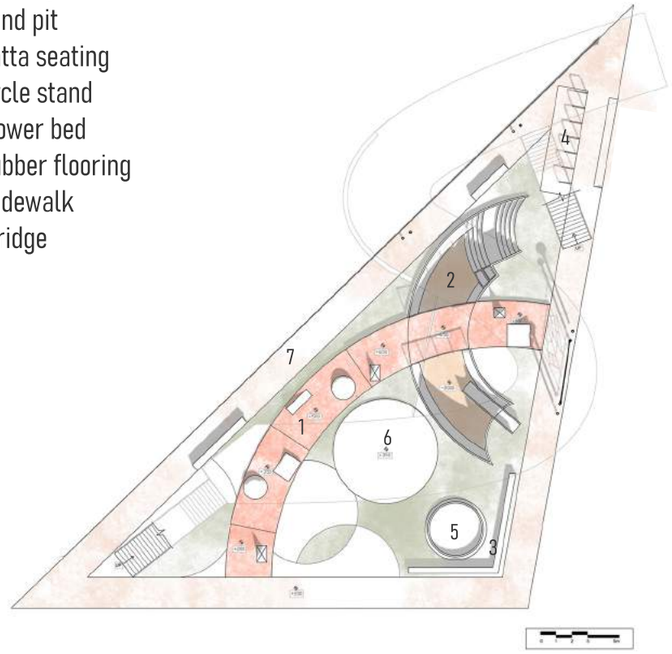
The design has no specific entry or exit points, the user is encouraged to come in and colonize the space as they wish to,sit, play and interact with each other.

LEGEND

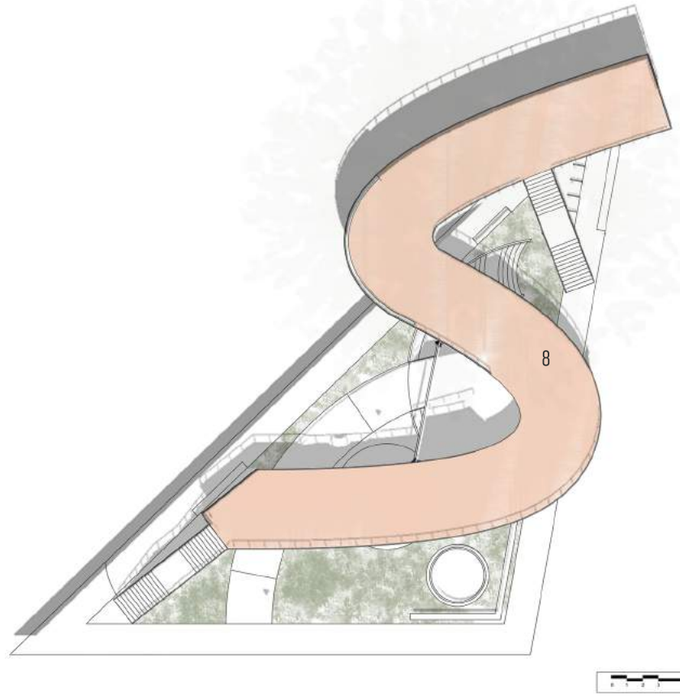
1.Drawing street
2.Sand pit
3.Katta seating
4.Cycle stand
5.Flower bed
6.Rubber flooring
7. Sidewalk
8. Bridge



SITE PLAN



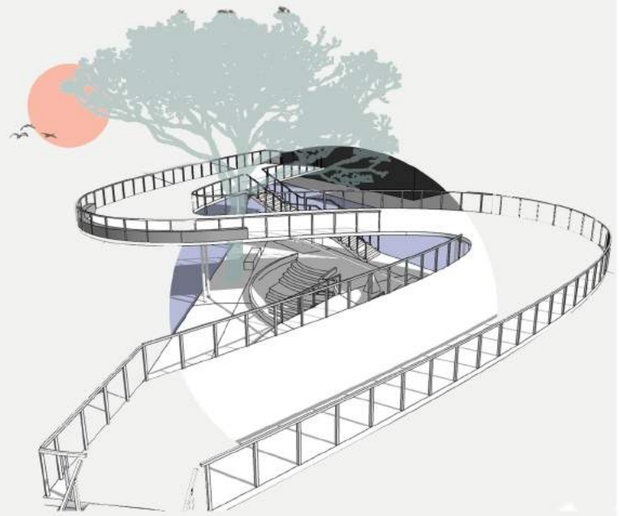
PLAN @ 1.5M



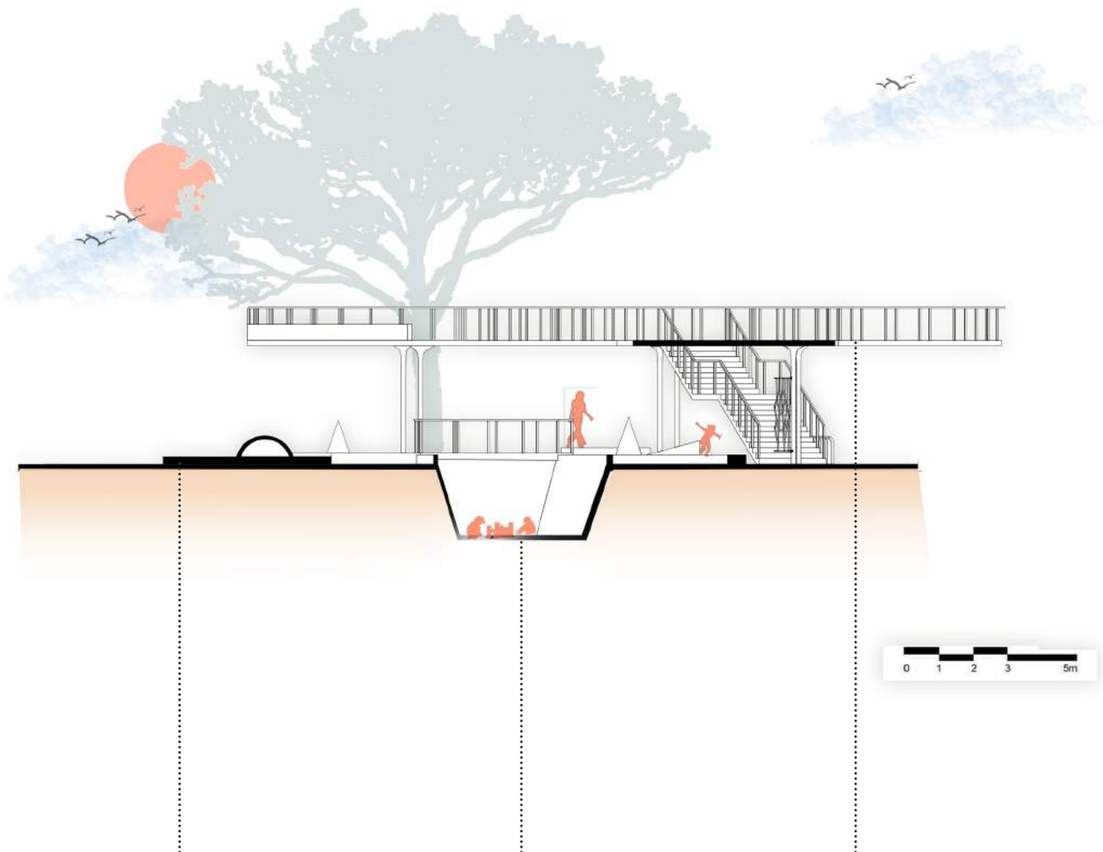
PLAN @ 4.5M

THE BRIDGE

A SYMBOL OF HOPE

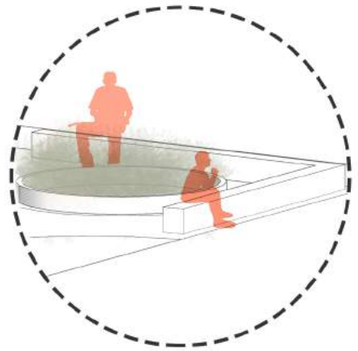


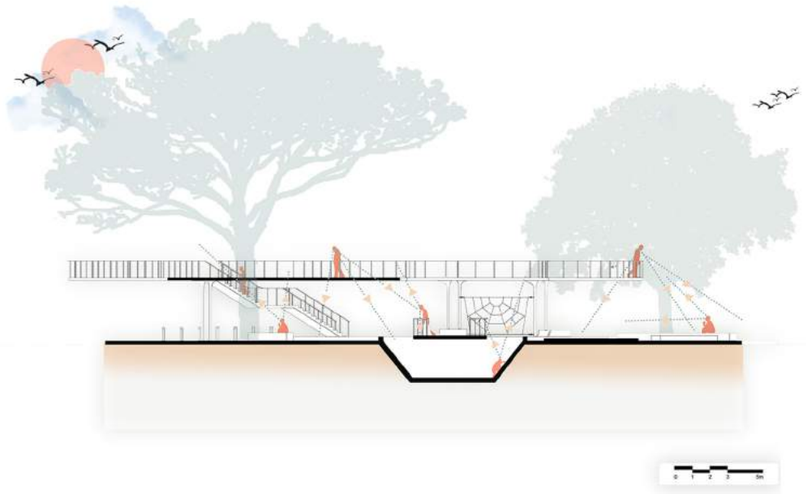
We build bridges to overcome obstacles and take us to new places. Bridges connect one isolated place to another and allow people to come together. We mention the concept of building bridges whenever we want to unify places or people that are otherwise separated. If you can just get over that bridge, you may find yourself in a better place on the other side. Some bridges are harder to cross than others. In some ways bridges represent a rather treacherous struggle, but one with the hope of better things on the far shore. For these reasons, the image of the bridge represents a powerful connection to hope.



OVERLOOKING SPACES AND CURVES

The curved physical form allows us to distinguish the space from its surroundings as a clear and identifiable Public place. Typically, this creates a sense of enclosure without the need of physical barriers. These curved forms are also double up as overlooking spaces that provide natural surveillance to various other spaces as well as the streets. One is aware and intrigued by the activities going on at distinct levels and hence more and more people are involved.





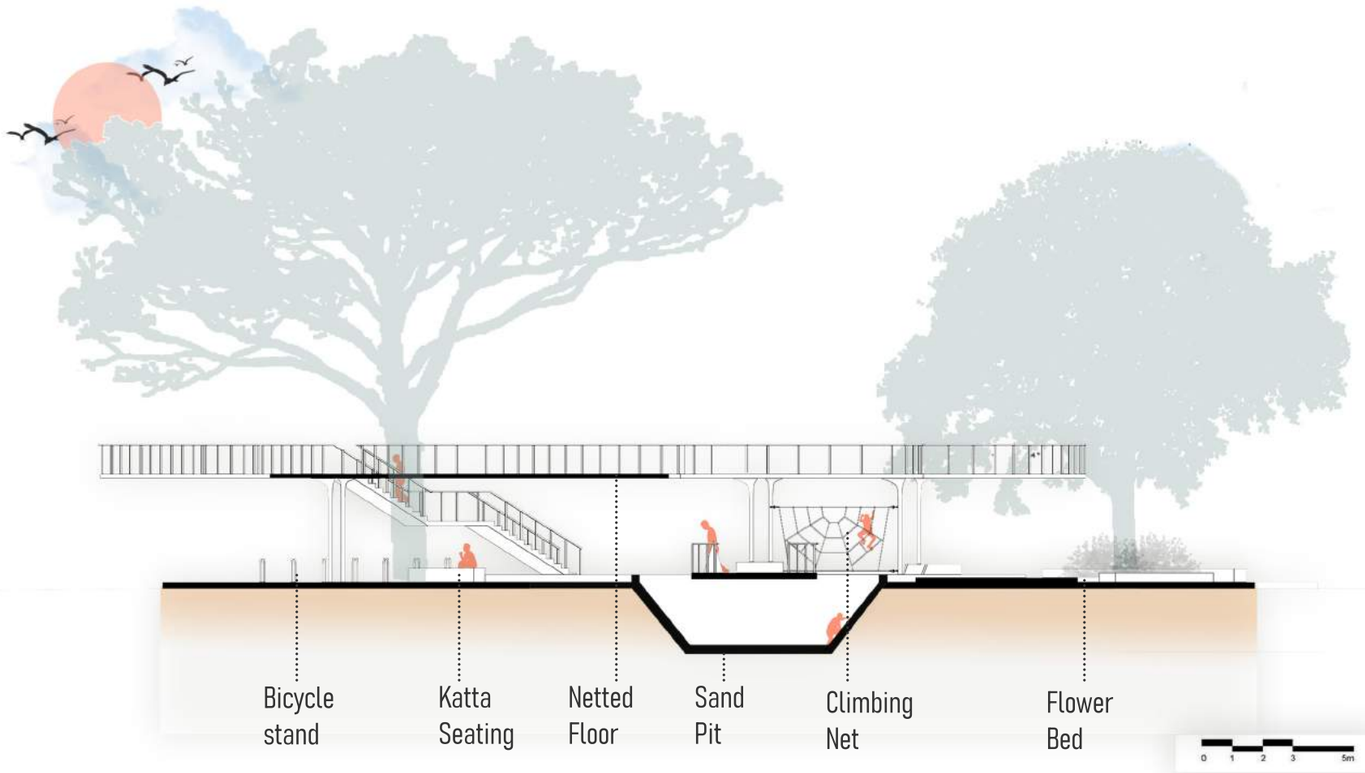
INWARD AND OUTWARD

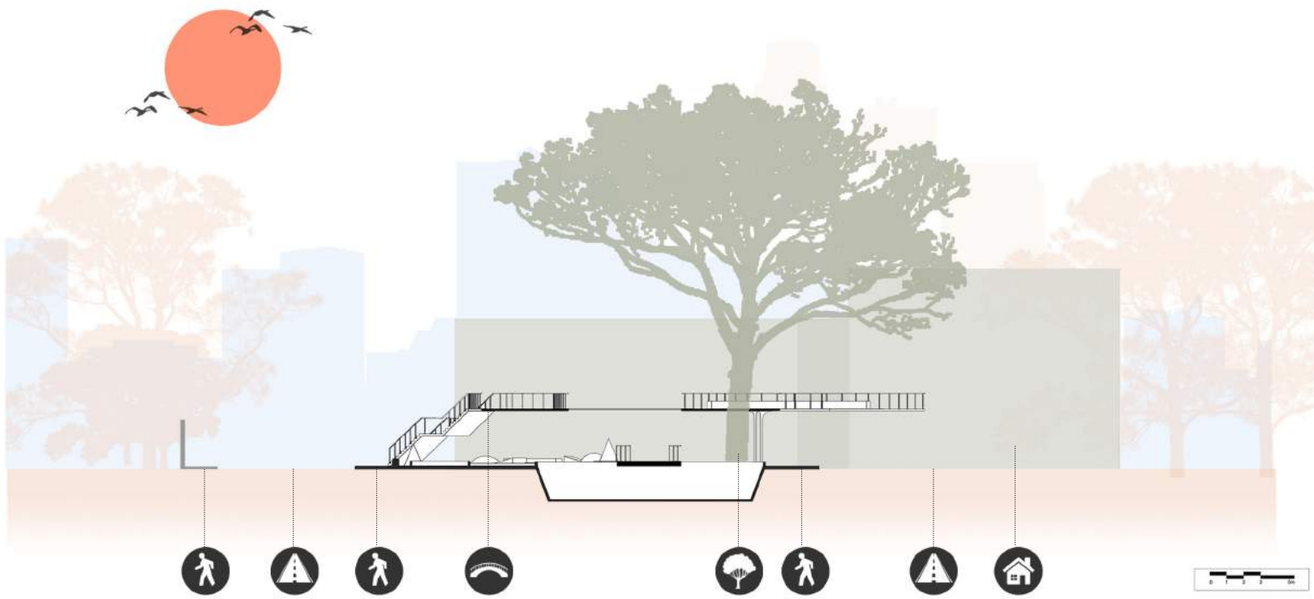
The seating is designed in such a way that the user can sit viewing either inwards or outward facing the streets. In this way it can create an alluring space for both long and well as short casual conversations to take place. This concept of in and out is also applied to the bridge which hovers over the street so that streets, though not actually part of the site feel like they are and are activated in the process.

The drawing street helps explore the creativity and imagination of the user by giving them the liberty to play and experiment with art in the way they want. The artificial topography can be used to play, sit or draw

Sand pit gives people the opportunity to experiment and create anything with sand. The recessed feature creates a space that can be overlooked from multiple levels and also acts as a rock climbing wall

The bridge curves across the Gulmohar tree taking people more close to nature and making it a part of the activation process. Its also has seating underneath so that people and enjoy the tree when in full bloom



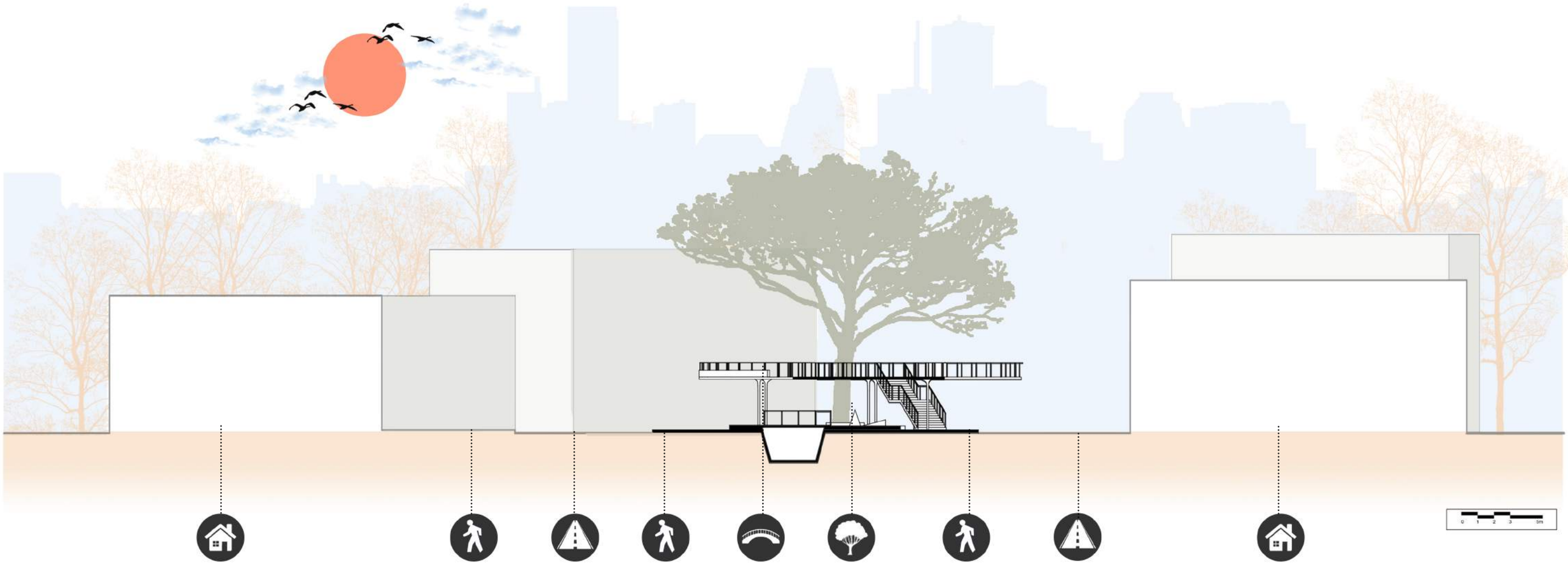


FOOTHPATHS- Thses act as a buffer between the street and the space since there are no boundry walls

ROADS- The boundry wall is absent so as to let the space flow out into the street and make it a part of the activation.

BRIDGE-The curvilinear form of the bridge creates a contrast with the surroundings in order to grab the attention of the people.

TREES- The design is based around the exsiting trees, as the seasonal nature of these trees add intregue and charecteristic to the space.



IEW FROM THE STREET

VIEW OF THE SEATING

VIEW OF NETTED FLOORING

VIEW FROM THE STREET

Social media need not be necessarily viewed as a killer of social interaction. Since it has become such an integral part of our lives it would be wrong to completely stop using it when entering the public space. The space would encourage users to take pictures and post them over social media using various hashtags. This promotes and informs people about the place and eventually attracts more people.

The **ownership and maintenance** and upkeep of the space would be in the hands of the community as the ownership of this space is returned to them. It would bring people closer together as well as closer to the space. This would cultivate respect and help the community cherish the presence of a public space.

The intervention tries to reinstate the charm and awe back into a public space .The **ultimate aim** would be to encourage human contact, harbour meaningful conversations and enhance the community as a whole. It would be a small but significant step towards the larger goal of connecting people in the real world.

VIEW FROM THE MEANDERING BRIDGE