

INTRODUCTION

Visitor's Center:
- A place to showcase and introduce the area to new visitors. This will be done through the museum and the architecture of the building.
- Also used as community center for locals. Library, incubator offices, conference rooms, seminar halls to be used by the locals as well as visitors.

Retreat:
- A quiet or secluded place in which one can rest and relax. Get away from hustle and bustle of cities. Nagar especially suited for this purpose, few people come here in comparison to Karimabad, as it is off the main road, takes an hour to get to the site from KKH (Ganish Bridge)
- A place for universities, schools, offices to bring educational, corporate, and cultural trips.
- Cater to domestic and foreign tourists.

BACKGROUND

Located across the river from Karimabad, Nagar Valley, with a population of 130,000 people is an area of great natural beauty. Lying off the KKH, it is left mostly untouched by commercial tourism, but thus also under-developed.

With the Hunza River acting as a natural border, the once rival states of Hunza and Nagar are divided also by religious sects, the people of Nagar are *Imami* Shias, while Hunzukuts are *Ismaili (a-ga-khani)* Shias.

Spearheaded by the Aga Khan Foundation, the rise of tourism in Hunza through the KKH led to a great effort to conserve the cultural and architectural heritage of the region. The centuries old forts of Altit and Baltit, as well as the fortified village of Ganish were restored to international standards.

However, on the opposite bank of the river, the once grand Nagar fort was neglected and fell to ruin.

OBJECTIVES

This project aims to create an architectural landmark in the Nagar region. Based on vernacular construction materials, methods, and techniques, not only will it help preserve the architectural language of the area, one quickly being lost to concrete block construction, but lead to a rise in tourism, which in turn will lead to greater infrastructure being set in place, for the mutual benefit of the locals and the visitors.

ARCHITECTURAL OBJECTIVES:

- Critical Regionalism (contemporary interpretation of vernacular design methods and techniques)
- Energy Efficiency & Sustainability

SOCIAL OBJECTIVES:

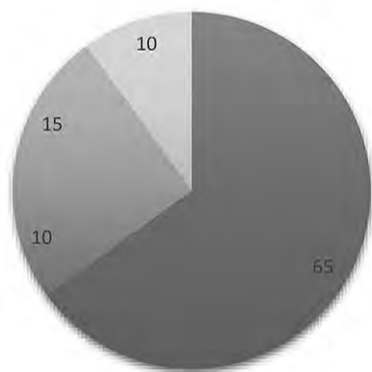
- Creation of spaces meant to be used by both the locals of the area as well as tourists
- Heritage Preservation

USER ANALYSIS

More than 1.72 Million tourists visited Gilgit-Baltistan in 2017

An average of 5,000 a day.
Upto 10,000 people/day during peak season

USER ANALYSIS

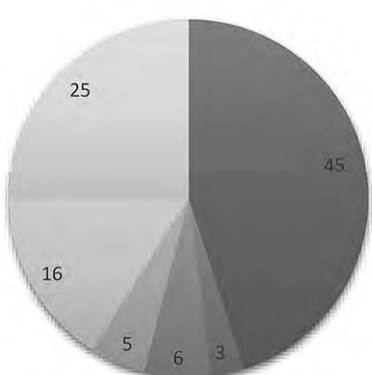


PROGRAM

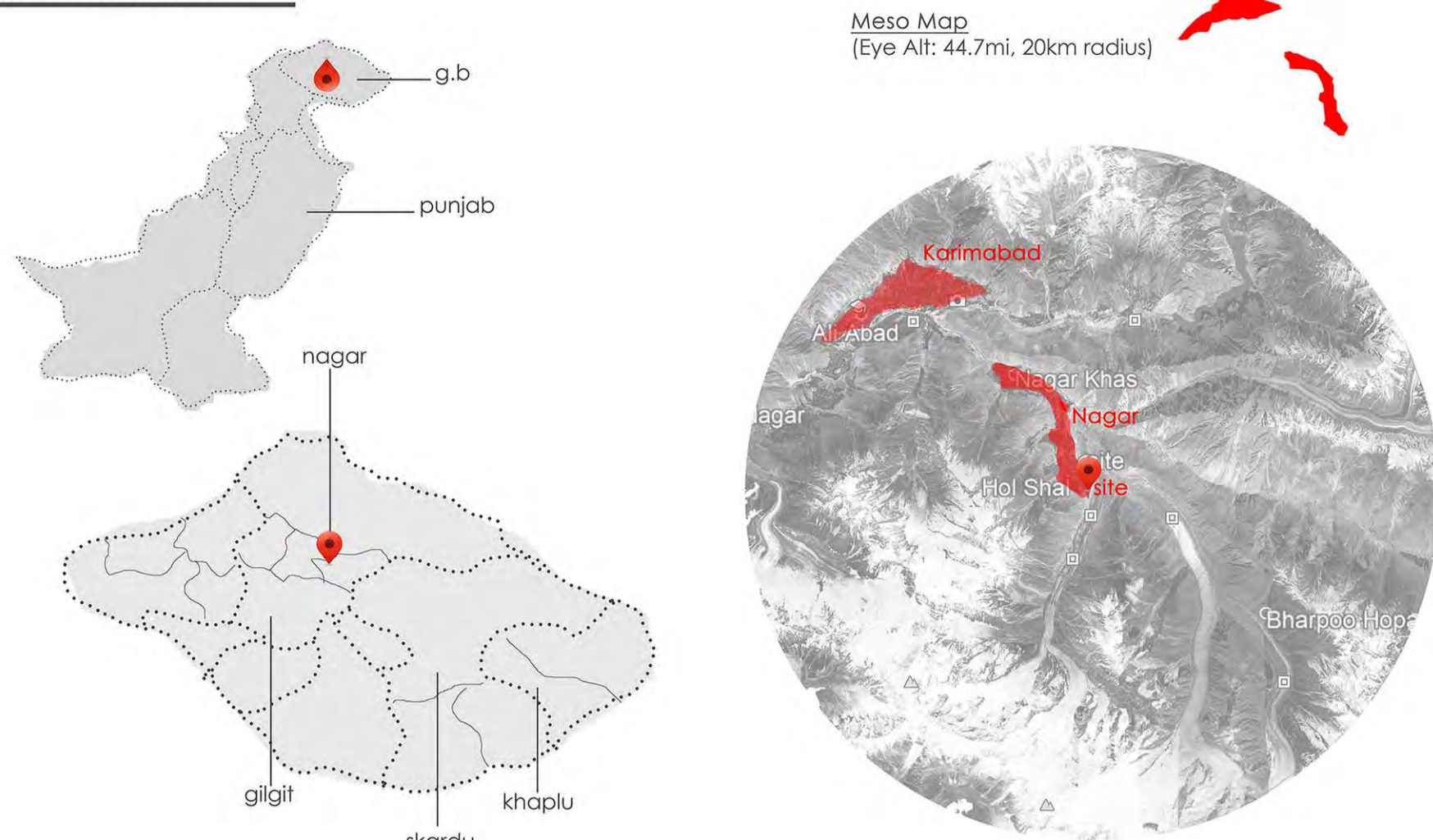
The program for this project is based on all the facilities required for a 'Visitor's Center and Retreat' meant to be used by a variety of demographics, such as but not limited to:

- Domestic Tourists
- Foreign Tourists
- Local Population
- Educational Tours
- Corporate Retreats

BUILDING PROGRAM



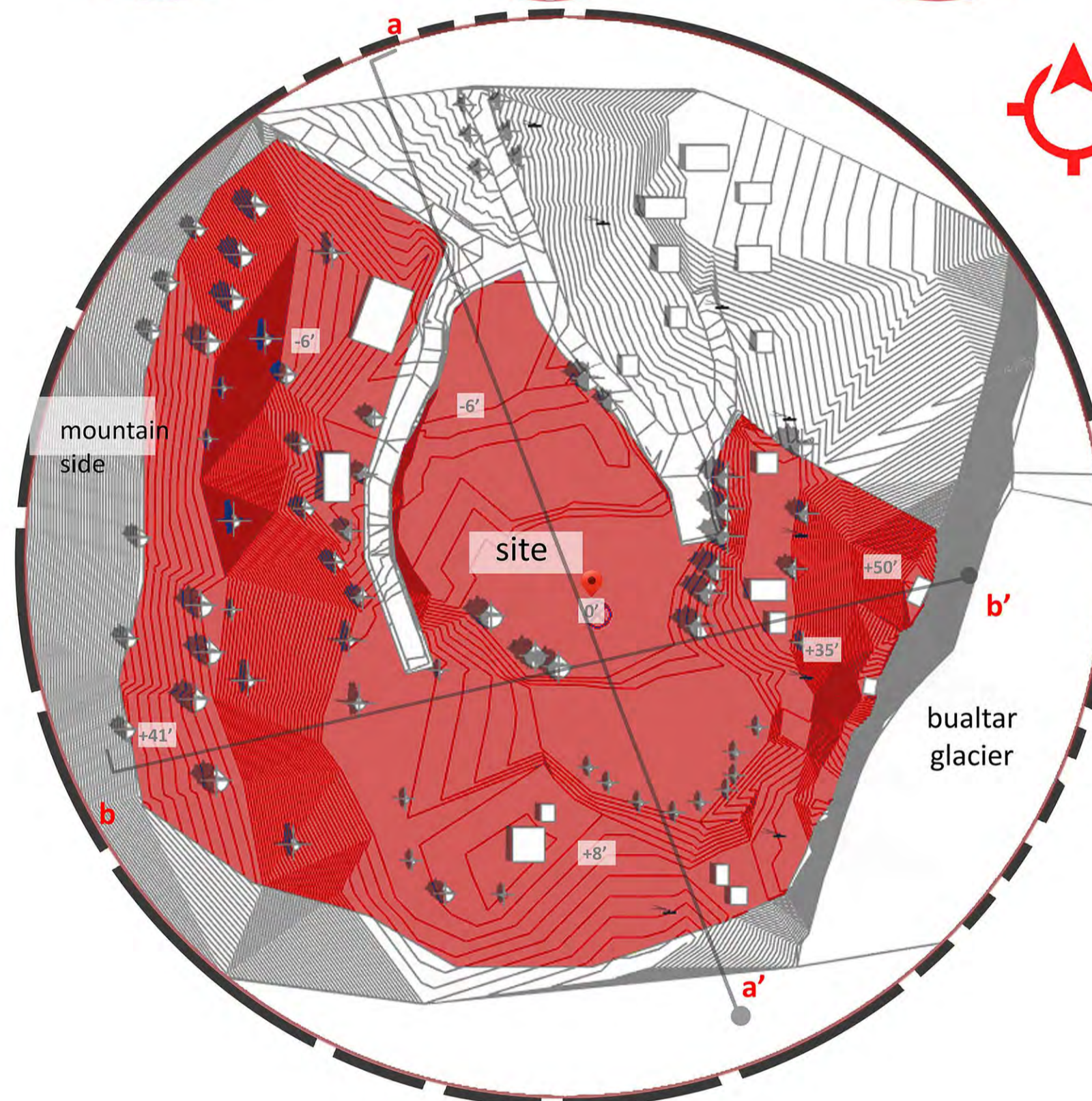
SITE ANALYSIS



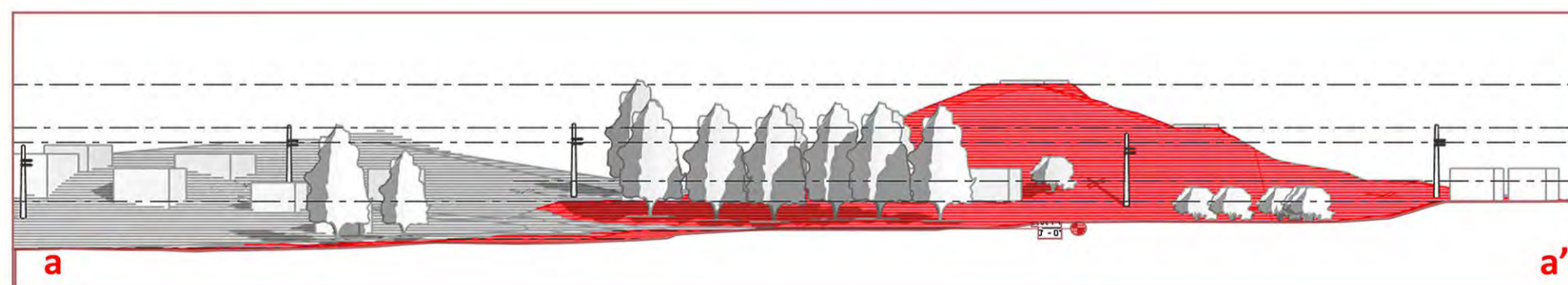
Distances:
Islamabad – Gilgit (via road): 12h 5min (471km)
Islamabad – Gilgit (via air): 1h 15min
Gilgit airport – Karimabad: 2h 8min (98.9km)
Karimabad – Hoper, Nagar: 55min (20.2km)

Major Attractions and Activities
- Baltit fort, Altit fort, Ganish village
- Ultar sar, Rakaposhi, Diran peak, Spantik (golden peak)
- Rush lake, Diran peak base camp, Hoper glacier, Barpu glacier
- Attabad lake

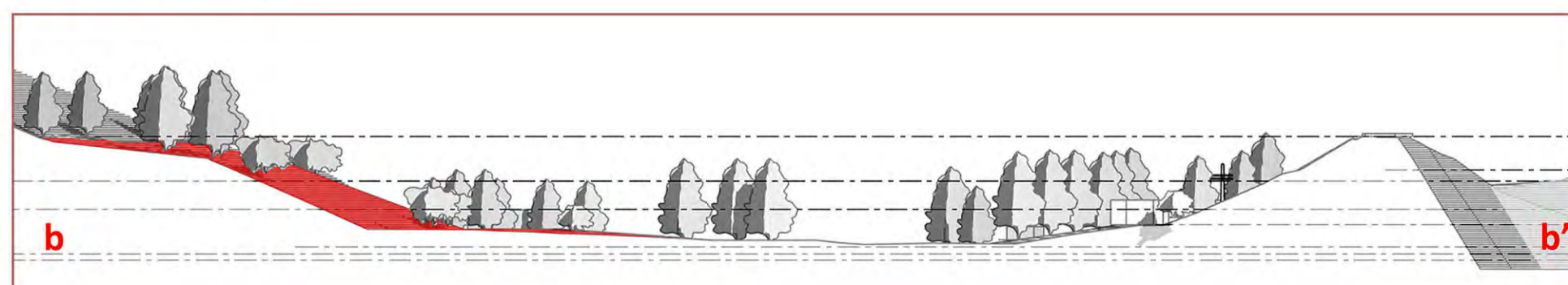
LOCATION



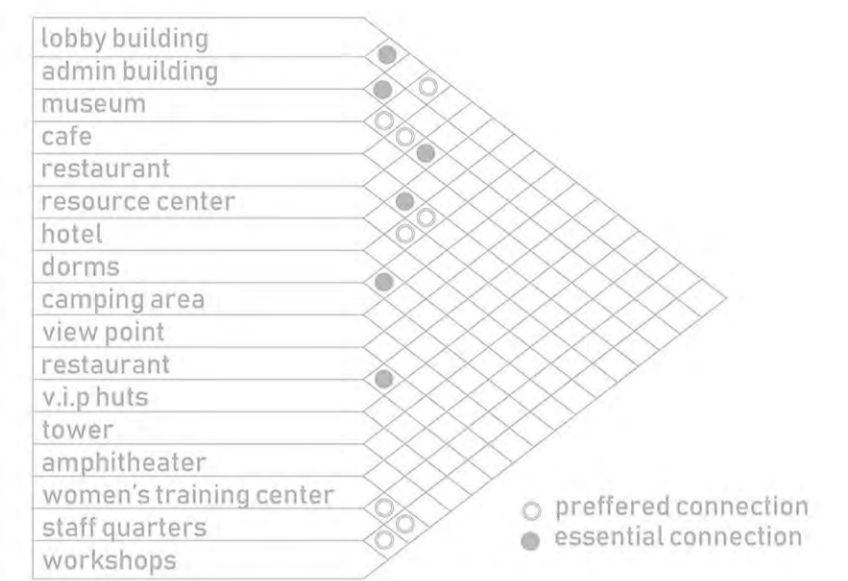
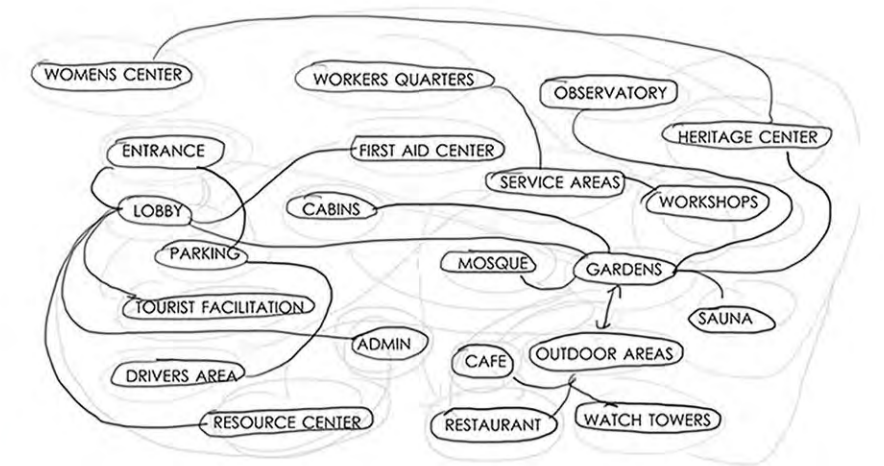
SITE PLAN



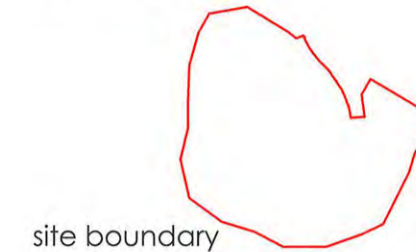
SITE SECTIONS



PROCESS



sun + wind



site boundary



contours



hoper-nagar road



access



existing structures



water + vegetation

ACCESSIBILITY

THE PRIMARY ACCESS TO THE SITE IS FROM HOPER-NAGAR ROAD

TOPOGRAPHY

THE SITE HAS CONTOURS OF UPTO 41° WITH A NUMBER OF TREES ON IT, EXAMPLE, POPLAR, WALNUT, WILLOW, APRICOT, CHERRY

MICRO CONTEXT

THE SITE IS LOCATED AT THE END OF THE MAIN NAGAR ROAD, AT THE VIEW POINT OF BUALTAR GLACIER, MANY POPULAR TREKS OF THE REGION BEGIN FROM HERE. THE AREA IS MOSTLY AGRICULTURAL LAND WITH VERY LITTLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND SMALL HOTELS AND SHOPS

STRENGTHS

360 VIEWS OF SURROUNDING MOUNTAINS AND FIELDS
TOURISM IS PRESENT

WEAKNESSES

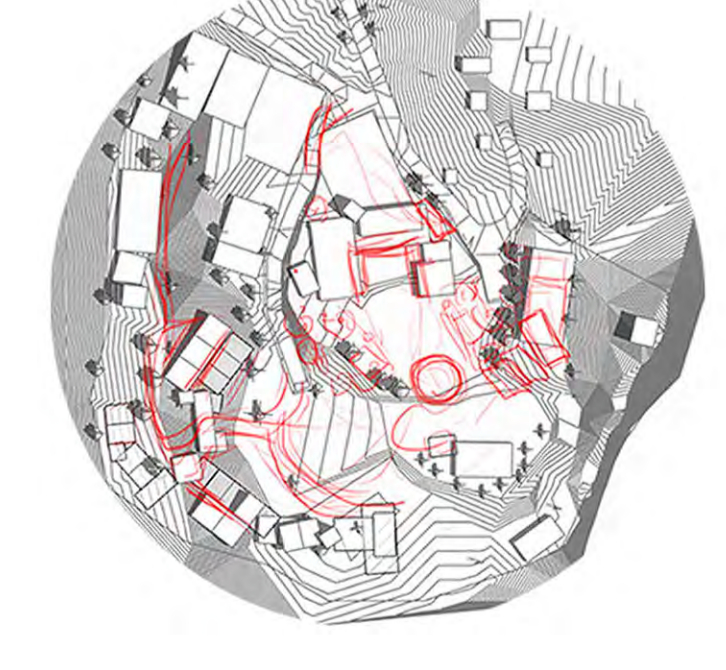
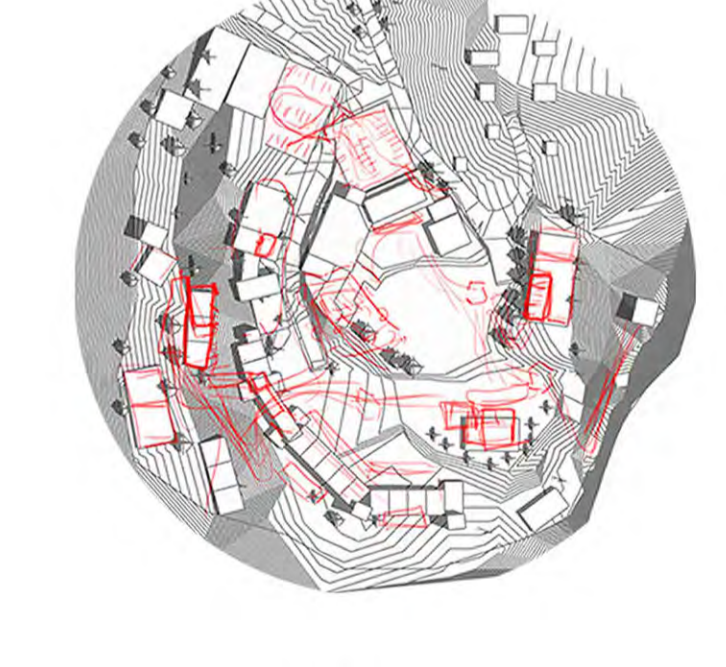
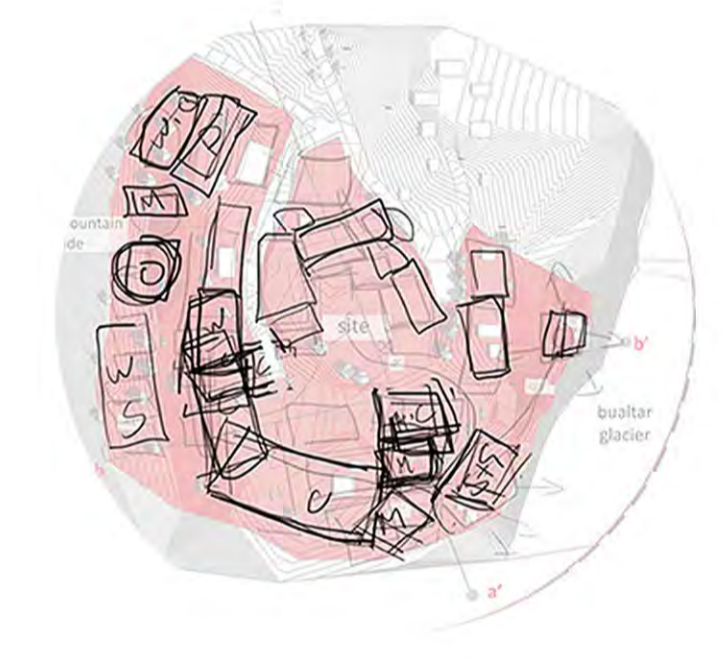
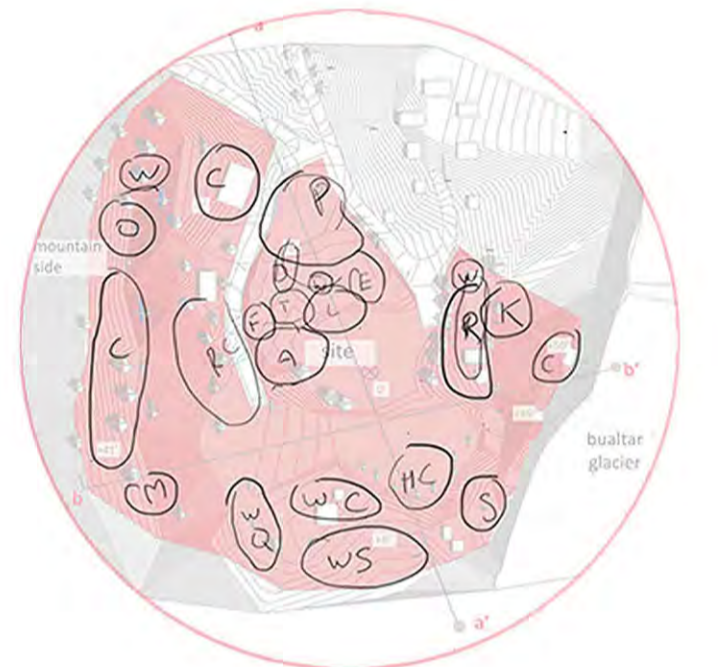
ROUGH UNMETTALED ROAD
NOT OPEN YEAR ROUND DUE TO SNOW
LACK OF INFRASTRUCTURE

OPPORTUNITIES

LANDMARK BUILDING
INCREASE IN TOURISM AND INFRASTRUCTURE
FACILITIES FOR LOCALS

THREATS

SEISMIC ZONE
GLACIAL EROSION
AREA:
3,89,500 SQ.FT. - 8.9 ACRE



CLIENT:

SERENA HOTELS



Their Karimabad branch proving insufficient for the number of visitors increasing each year, they are expanding by building a much larger complex in Hoper Valley, Nagar.

Aspects/Design Requirements/Client's Brief

- 1- Vernacular Architecture
- 2- Hospitality
- 3- Cultural Preservation
- 4- Maximum use of site's contours

Vernacular Architecture:

- Architectural heritage preservation, building materials and techniques – cator and cribbage, stone, wood.

Hospitality:

- Regular rooms, vip rooms, dorms, tents
- Restaurants
- Café

Cultural Preservation:

- Museum
- Workshops
- Women's Training Center

Architect's Brief:

- Lobby Building: 4660 sft
- Admin Building: 3325 sft
- Museum: 8,600 sft
- Cafe: 2600 sft
- Resource Center Building: 7600 sft
- Restaurant: 2880 sft
- Small Restaurant: 1900 sft
- Regular Room Building: 43,600 sft
- Dorm: 8700 sft
- Tents: 2790 sft
- Gym+Sauna: 1460 sft
- V.I.P Chalets: 16,500 sft (15)
- Staff Quarters: 4560 sft
- Workshop: 3340 sft
- Women's Training Center: 1880 sft
- Amphitheater: 3150 sft
- TOTAL AREA : 117,545 sft**

Vernacular Architecture:

- What:
Using traditional materials (stone, wood) and building techniques (cator and cribbage)

- Why:

Losing the tradition means losing the character of the area defined by its architecture. Locals agree this style needs to be preserved. Provides tried and tested structural stability and thermal comfort. Much more suited to the area than contemporary practice of concrete block building. Few masters of the craft still left.

- How:

- Cator = Horizontal Timber Beams**
- Placed on inside and outside wall faces at 0.6-1.3m intervals
- Whole building is strapped together, except for breaks at doors and windows, like rings around a barrel.
- Provide wall reinforcement and strong resistance against tension and bending, complementing the qualities of stone/soil block infill.
- Cators absorb and resist wall cracking and distortion in case of earthquakes.

Cribbage = Open-Frame Timber Columns

- Short Pieces of squared timber stacked up two at a time and in alternate directions to form an open box, rise to become an open-frame column.
- Cribbage tie together walls and floors to effectively transfer loads to foundation.
- Corners become much stronger, allowing ramps to be built taller and narrower for the same amount of rubble infill.
- Column-Beam connections can absorb large dynamic stresses, especially suitable for earthquakes.
- Roof Structure**
- Opening in the roof provides light and ventilation, usually left open and covered in the winters.

CASE STUDIES

More than 700 years old, the Baltit Fort was properly restored in 1992 by the Aga Khan Foundation

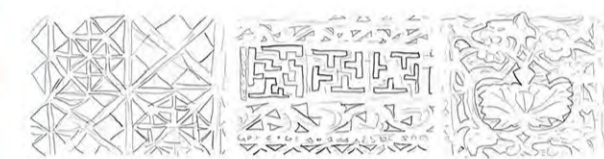


BALTIT FORT



- wood used in cator-and-cribbage structure technique left exposed

INTERIOR



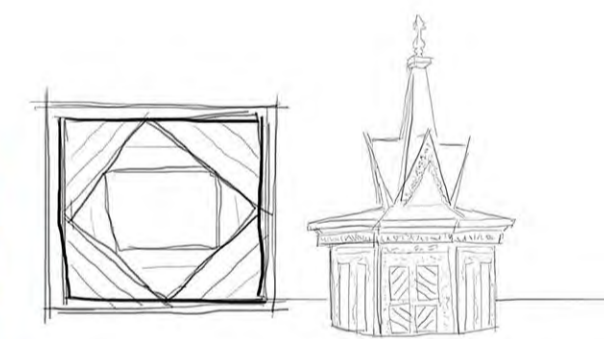
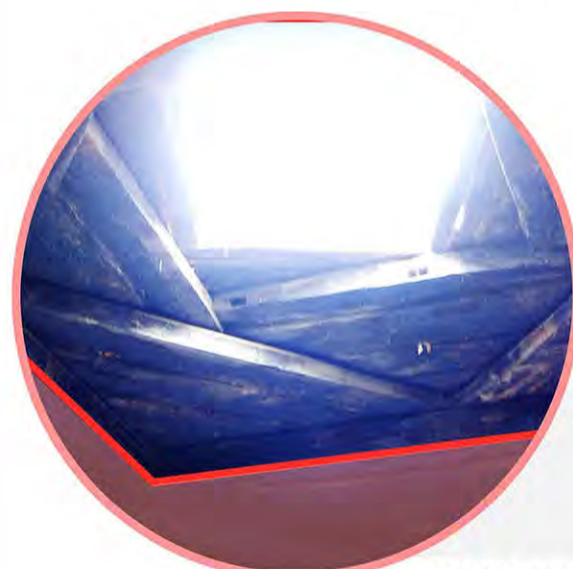
- most wood work carved out in floral and geometric patterns

WOODWORK



- bridges, terraces, units placed on top of passages

PASSWAY



- open squares stacked on top of each other, providing structural rigidity, light, and ventilation

OPEN SKYLIGHT

Around a 1000 years old, the fortified village of Ganish began to be restored in 1996 by the Aga Khan Foundation



GANISH VILLAGE



- covered corridors for movement and sitting spaces, with protection from rain

ARCADE

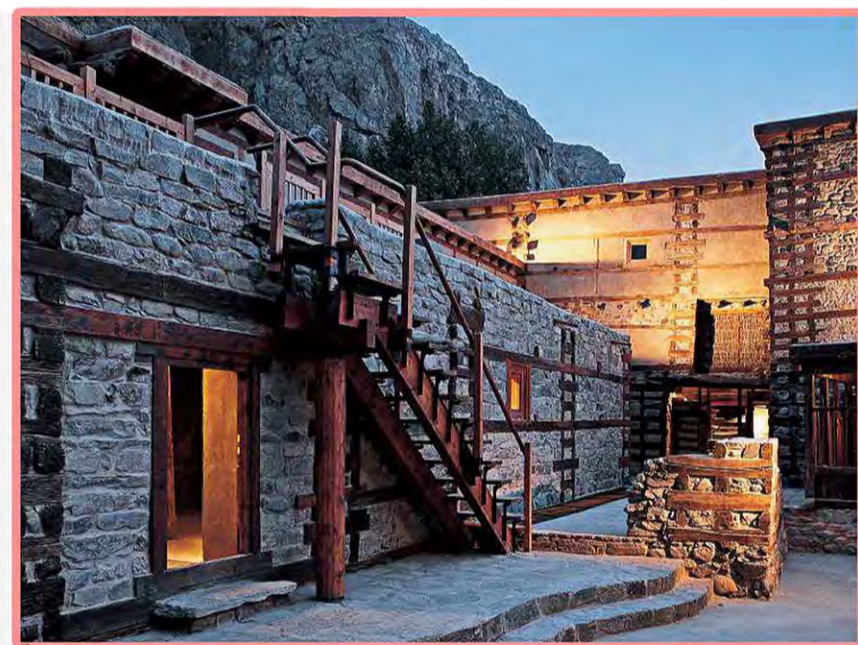


- towers upto 5 stories high, built for protection of fortified village

WATCHTOWER

SHIGAR FORT

Developed out of the Kashmiri fortified house, the Shigar Fort, dates from the 17th century AD.



BROUEN'S CORNER FACIOL:
The wall structure is made of stone masonry being made of all the blocks. It covers the main structure of the building, as an open frame. This structure is constructed on the corner (Fig. 10) and has both the core and the facade. The height of the wall, on the second floor, creates a big window (Fig. 11) overlooking the street of the town. The wall-structure of the blocks II was made of stone masonry.

THE TOP CORNER (Fig. 12) OVER PART OF THE WALL:
1. Terrace
2. Terrace

PLAN CORNER FACIOL:
This floor is composed of six corners with a central square. The central square is an outdoor hall (50' x 50') and is used as a meeting place. The corners are made of stone masonry. The corners are made of stone masonry. The corners are made of stone masonry.

ULTRA CORNER FACIOL:
The ultra corner is made of stone masonry. It is made of stone masonry. It is made of stone masonry. It is made of stone masonry.

LEGEND:
1. Minimum wall thickness (Fig. 10)
2. Maximum wall thickness (Fig. 11)
3. Minimum wall thickness (Fig. 12)
4. Maximum wall thickness (Fig. 13)
5. Minimum wall thickness (Fig. 14)
6. Maximum wall thickness (Fig. 15)
7. Minimum wall thickness (Fig. 16)
8. Maximum wall thickness (Fig. 17)

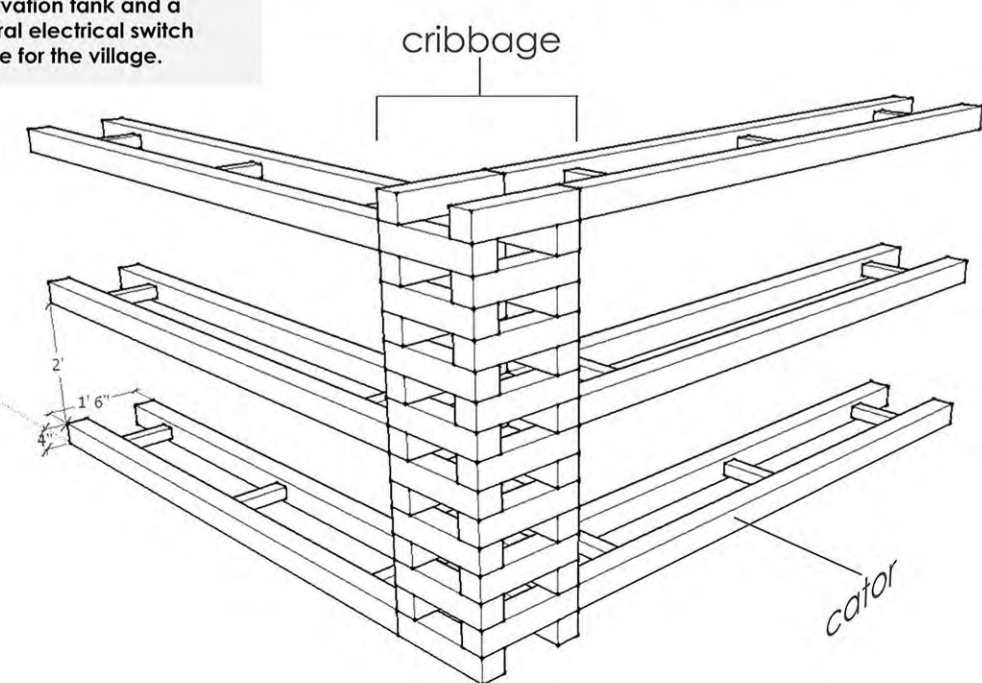
FIG. 10-14: PLAN OF THE FLOOR:
The plan of the floor shows the layout of the building. It shows the main structure and the surrounding walls. The plan is made of stone masonry.

FIG. 15-17: SECTION OF THE FLOOR:
The section of the floor shows the vertical structure of the building. It shows the main structure and the surrounding walls. The section is made of stone masonry.

TIBET NAMCHABAWA VISITOR CENTRE / standardarchitecture

Year: 2008
Area: 1500 sqm

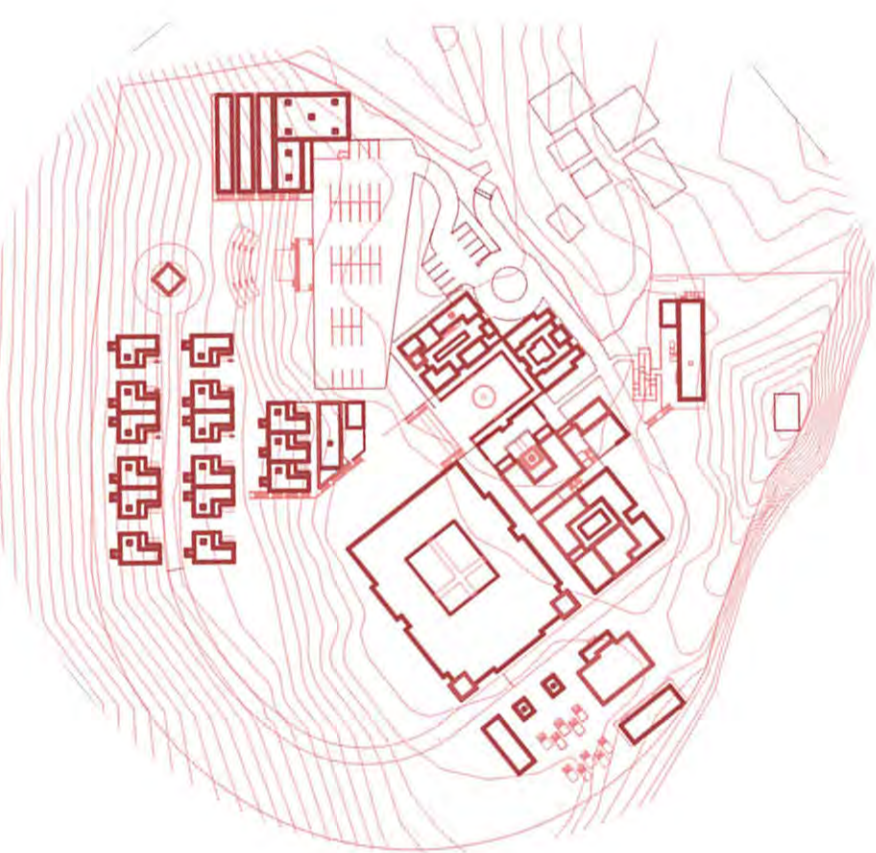
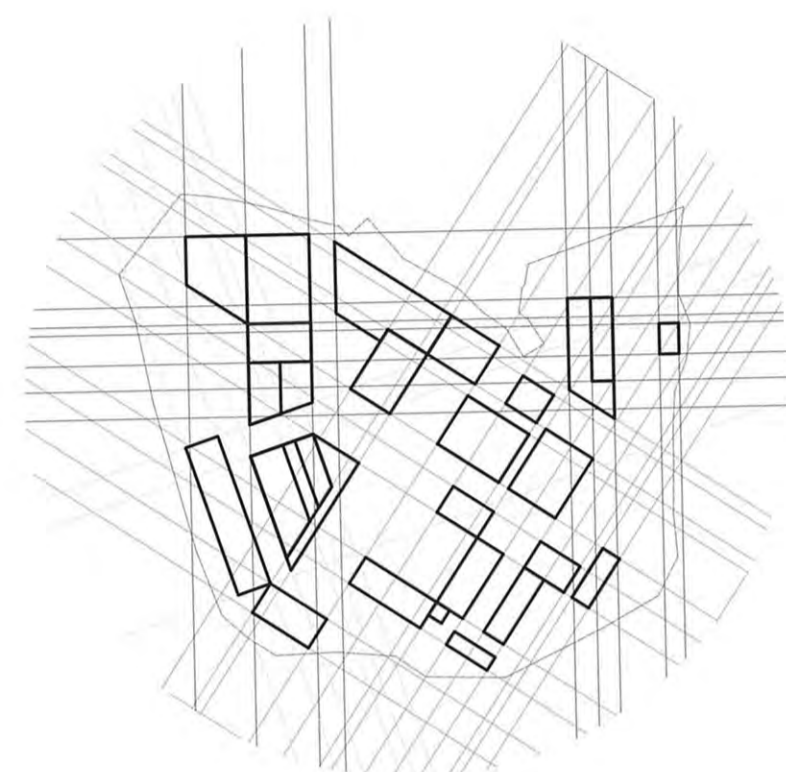
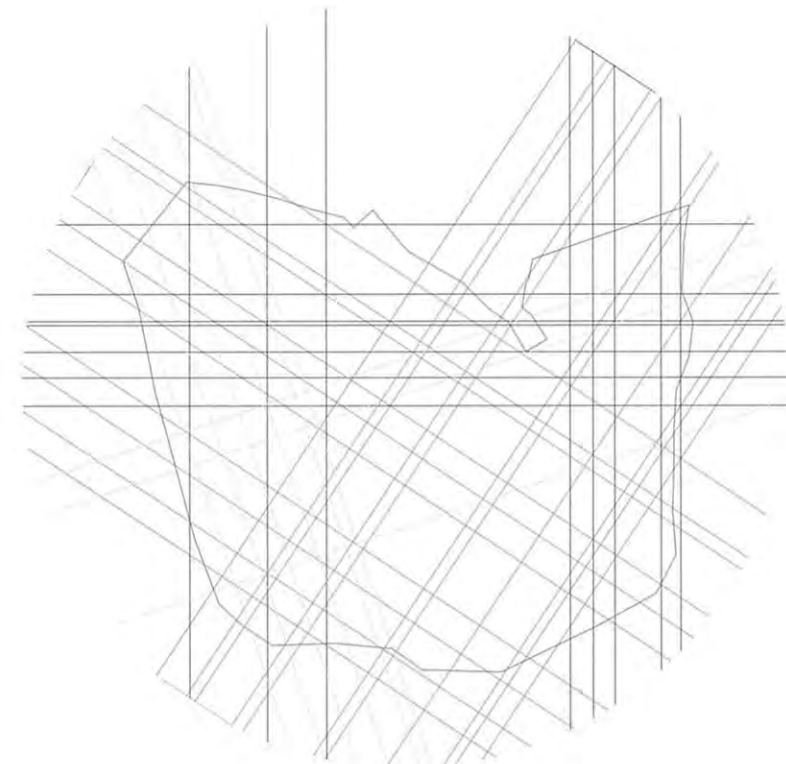
The 1500 sqm building serves as a visitor welcome centre providing comprehensive information about Mount Namchabawa and Yaluntzangpu Grand Canyon. It serves also as the "town centre" for the villagers as well as the supply base for the backpack hikers exploring the canyon. Therefore the program is quite complicated. It's PROGRAM includes a reception/information hall, public toilets, a supply store, an internet bar, a medical center, locker room for backpackers, meeting rooms, offices for four guides and drivers, a water reservation tank and a central electrical switch house for the village.

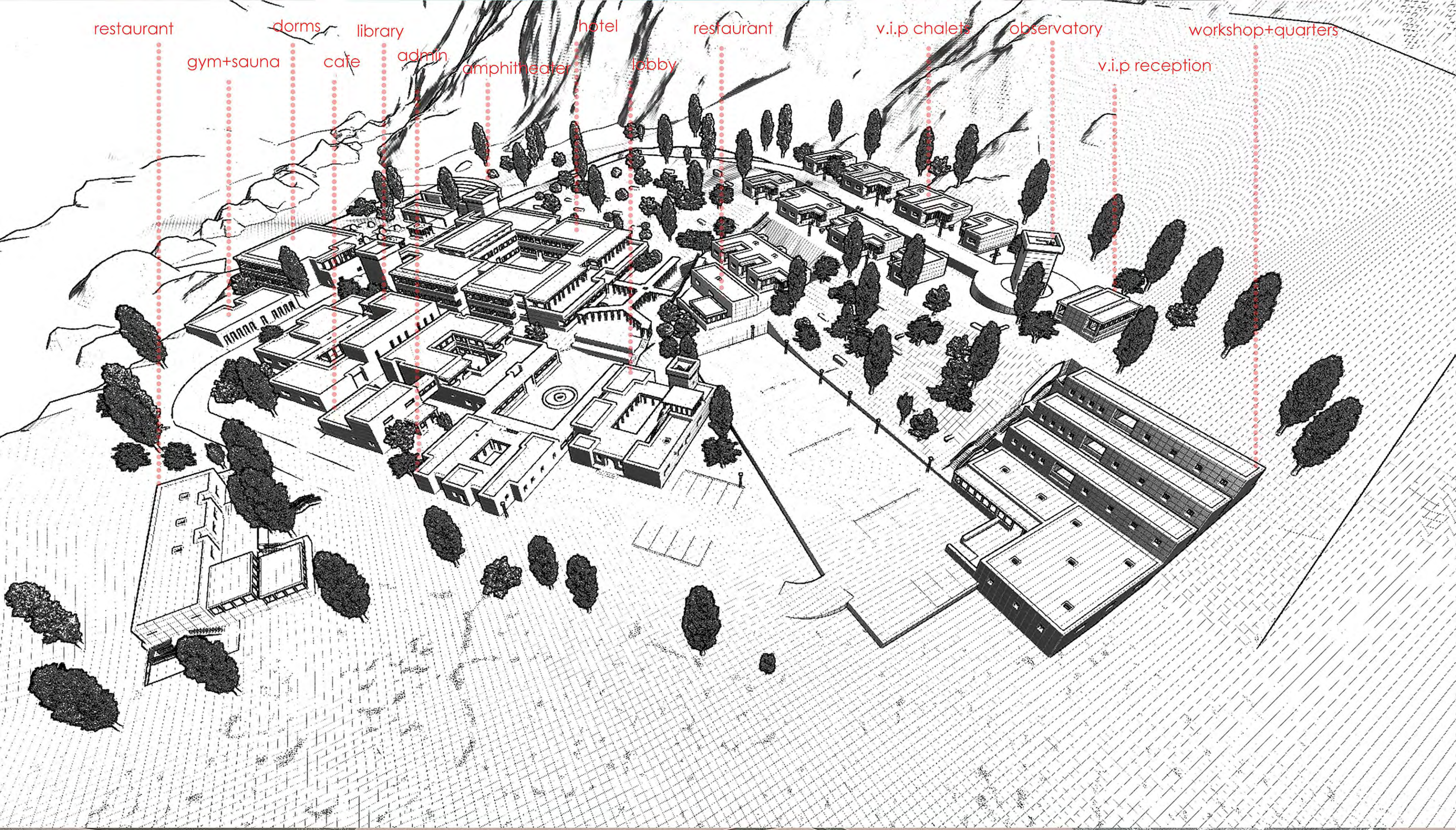


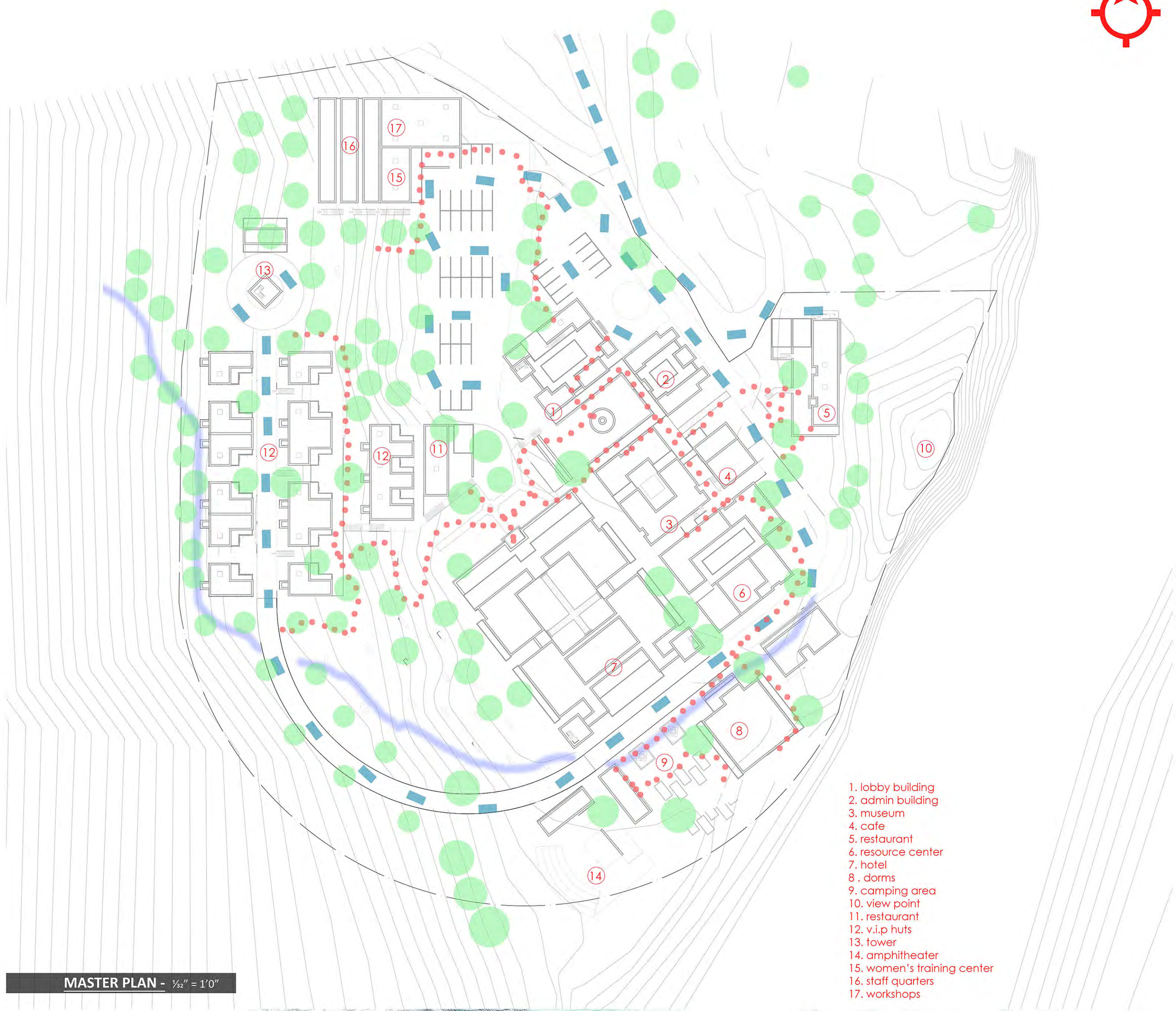
JIANAMANI VISITOR CENTER / TeamMinus

Year: 2013
Area: 1100 sqm

The Jianamani Visitor Center serves both visitors and the local community. To visitors and pilgrims, it provides information about Jianamani and its history complemented by viewing the surrounding historical sites. To local Yushu-ers, it provides a post office, a clinic, public toilets and a small research archive.







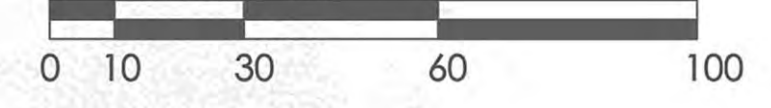
- 1. lobby building
- 2. admin building
- 3. museum
- 4. cafe
- 5. restaurant
- 6. resource center
- 7. hotel
- 8. dorms
- 9. camping area
- 10. view point
- 11. restaurant
- 12. v.i.p huts
- 13. tower
- 14. amphitheater
- 15. women's training center
- 16. staff quarters
- 17. workshops

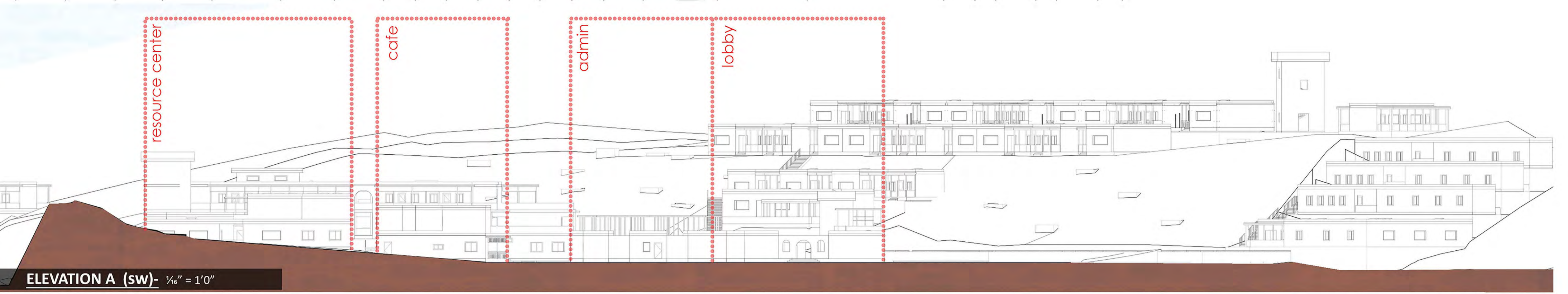
MASTER PLAN - $\frac{1}{32}'' = 1'0''$



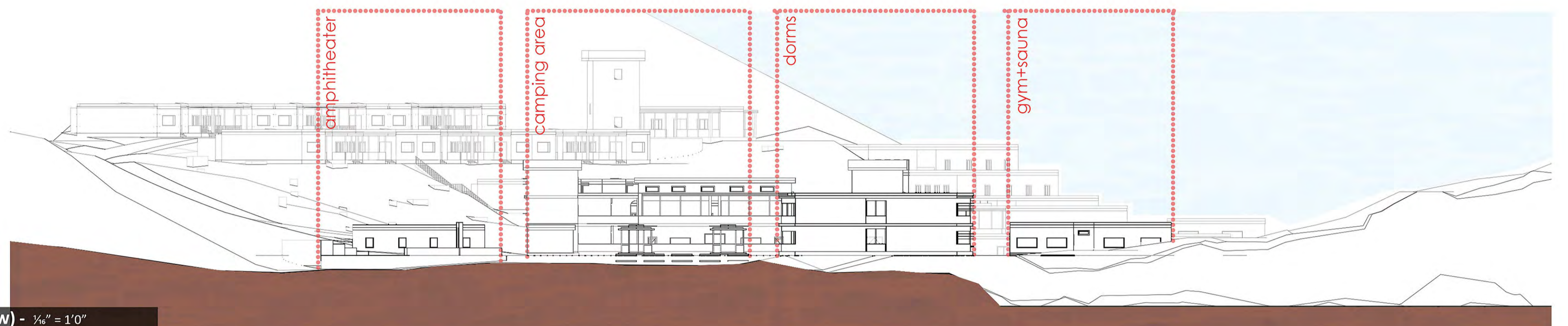


GROUND FLOOR PLAN - 1/4" = 1'0"





ELEVATION A (sw) - 1/16" = 1'0"



ELEVATION B (nw) - 1/16" = 1'0"



ELEVATION C (w) - 1/16" = 1'0"

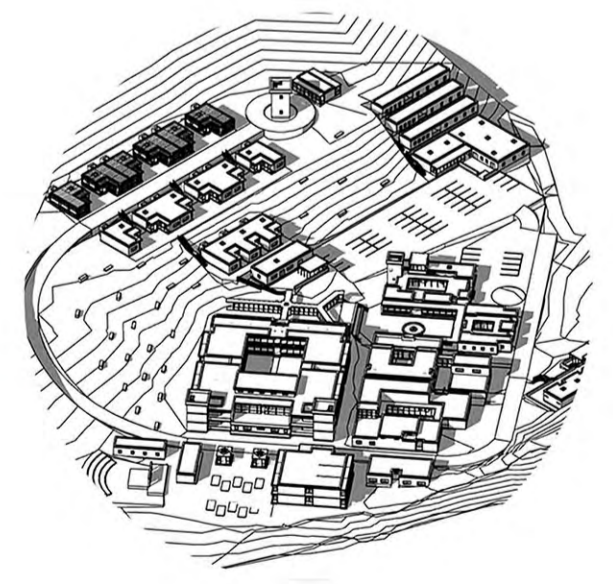


ELEVATION D (s) - 1/16" = 1'0"

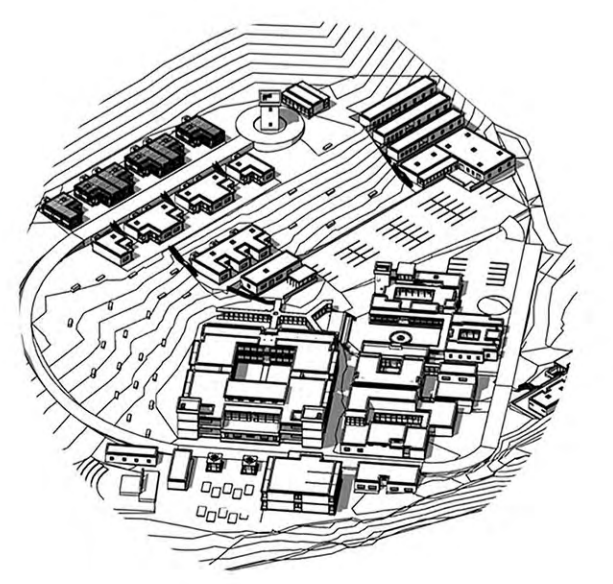
equinox - september/march 21, 12pm



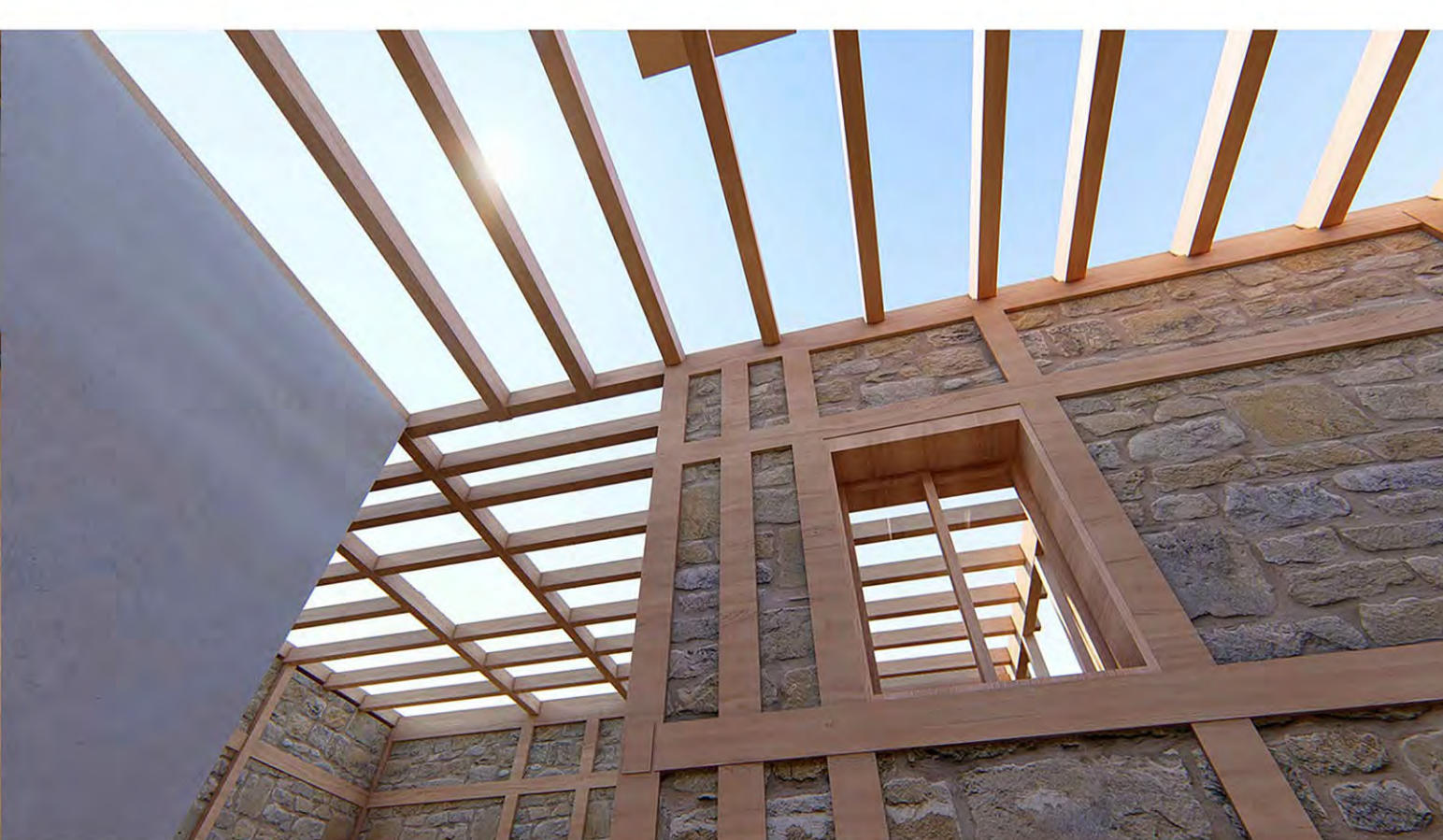
winter solstice - december 21, 12pm



summer solstice - june 21, 12pm

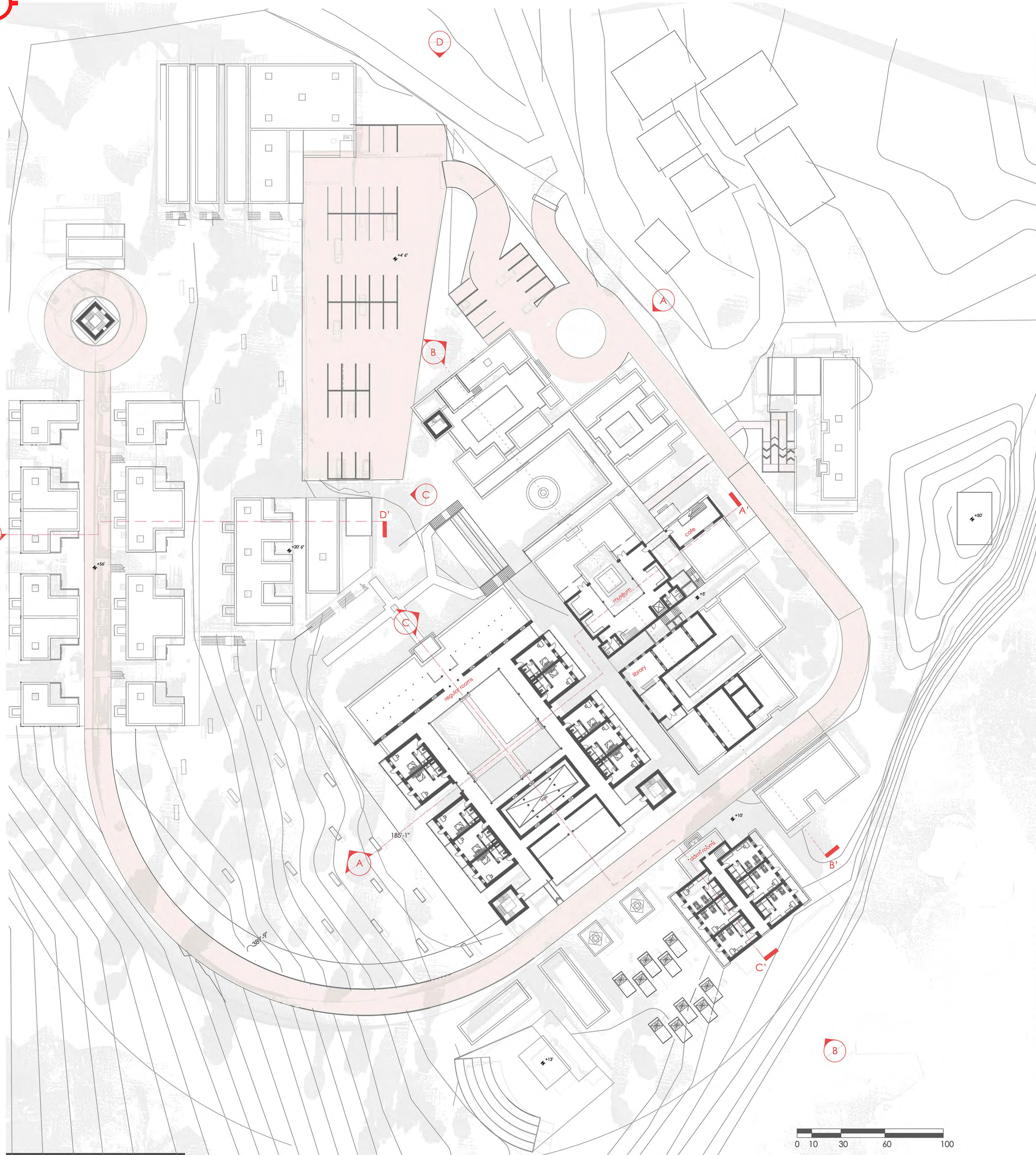


v.i.p chalet interior



v.i.p chalet roof detail





FIRST FLOOR PLAN - 1/4" = 1'0"



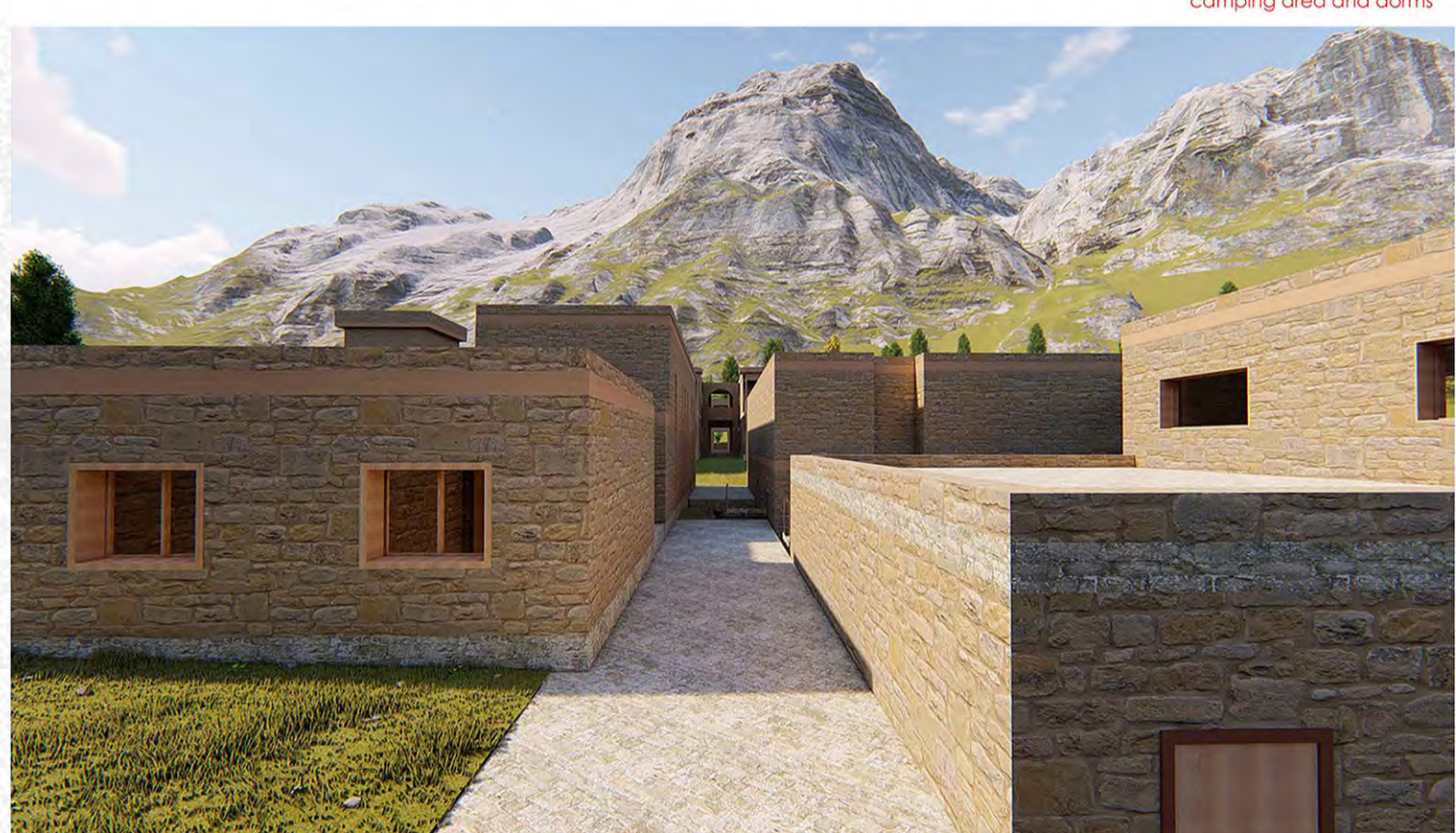
covered walkway to hotel



arcade outside lobby



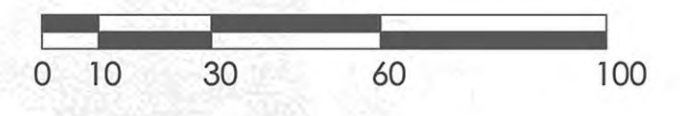
camping area and dorms

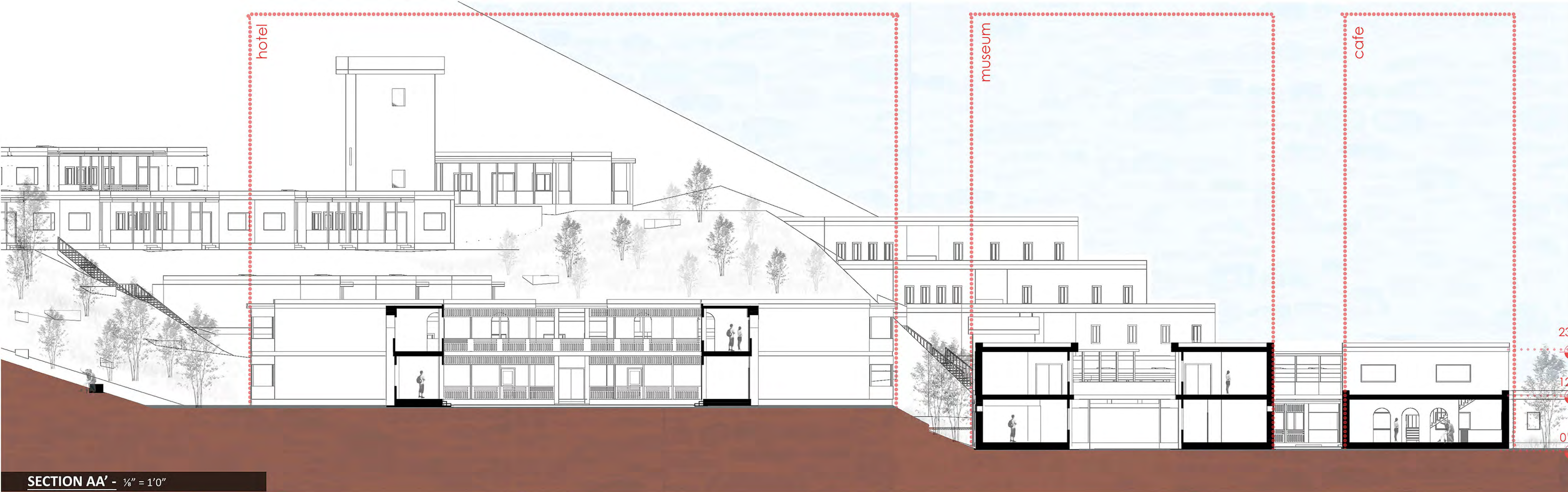


passage between resource center and cafe

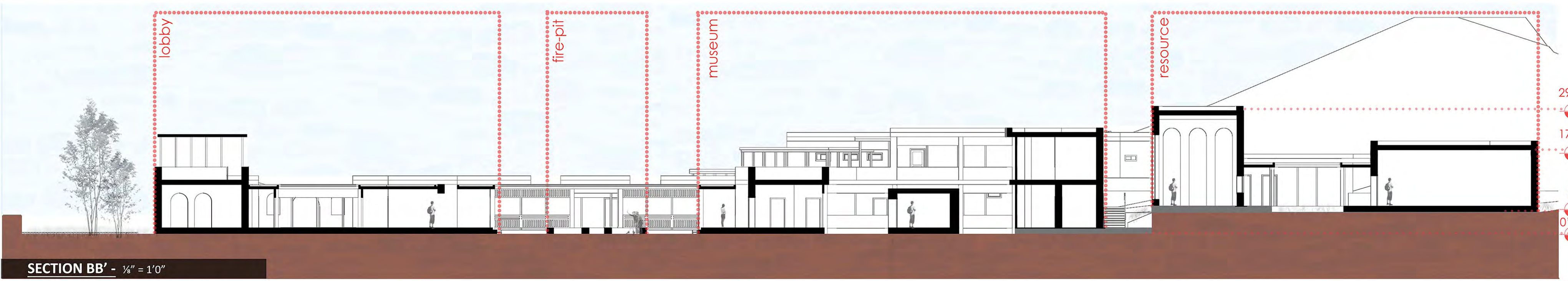


cafe and bridge to museum

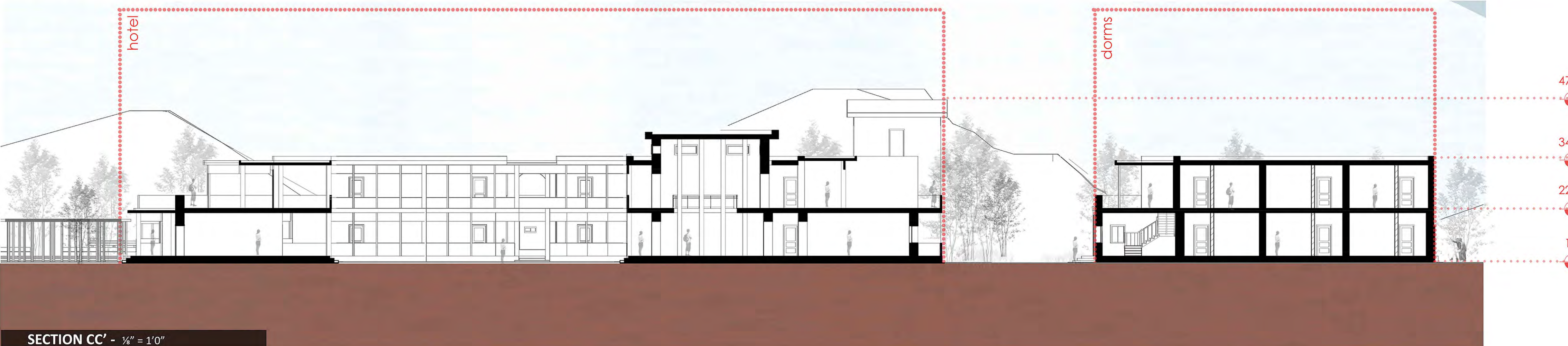




SECTION AA' - 1/8" = 1'0"



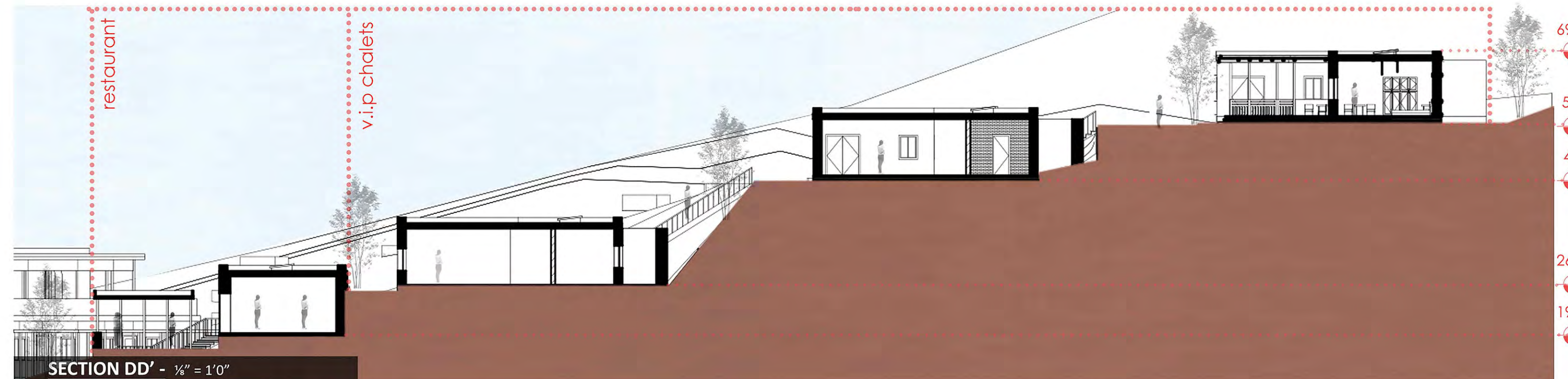
SECTION BB' - 1/8" = 1'0"



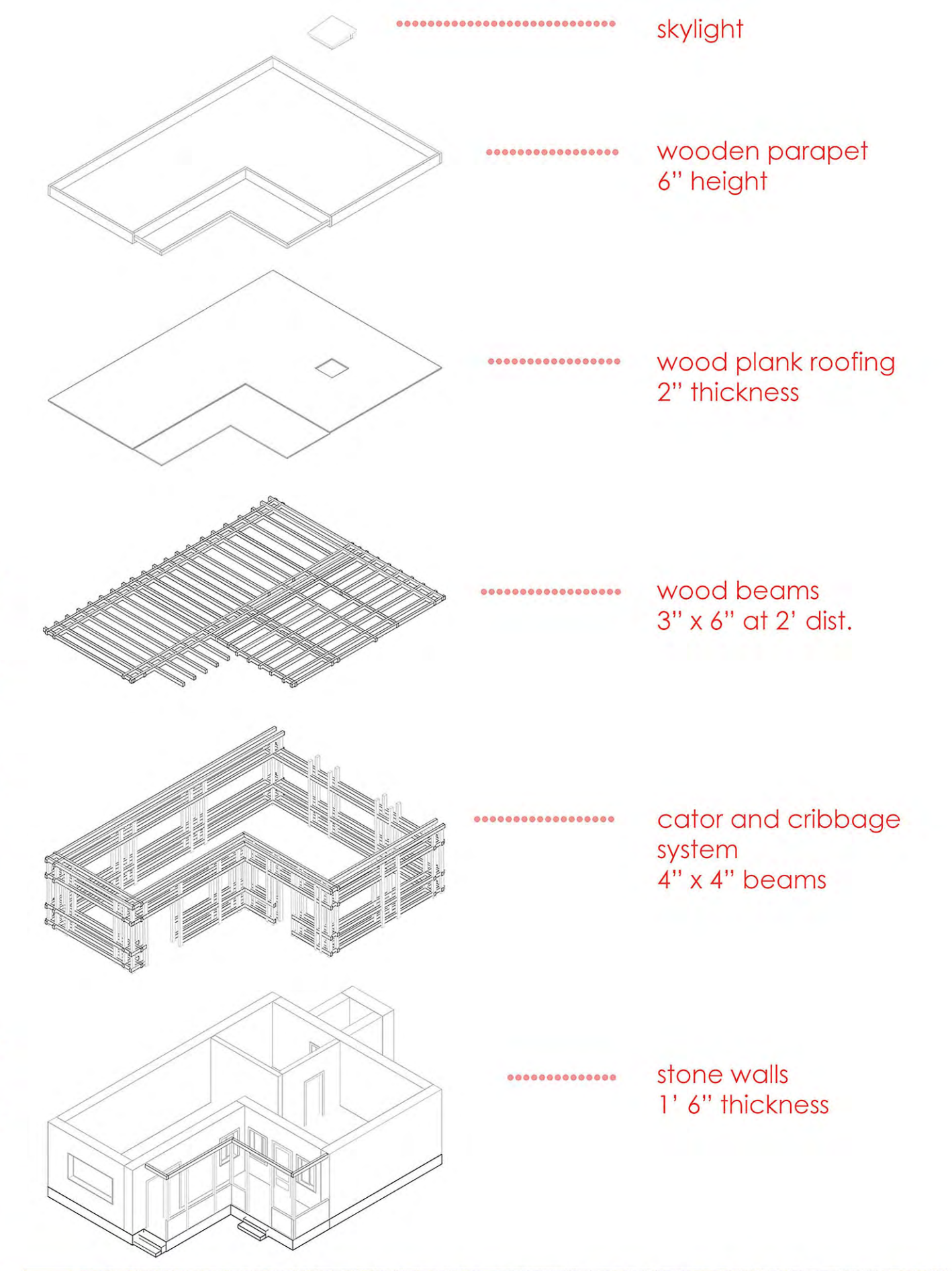
SECTION CC' - 1/8" = 1'0"



v.i.p chalet exterior



SECTION DD' - 1/8" = 1'0"



view from observatory tower



v.i.p chalet porch

