SITE and SPACE

Her village is located in an area close to the mountains, therefore the design philosophy was to construct a nature-resembling figure that mirrors the hills nearby, while gaining visibility from afar. The KANALLAN girls’ development centre is not only a building but more so a place that welcomes girls and young individuals in need. The region and its municipalities long for an institution where emancipation is taught and individuals can form their own character. For that the design on the property, which is embedded in its surrounding nature, is formulated in a way that supports learning processes in a collectively and playful way. The layouts provide adaptable spaces that cater to many of the difficult challenges the children bring with them, while the conglomerate of buildings is meant to mimic a village of their own: where they can feel safe, have own rules and are encouraged to learn, as well as befriend fellow peers.
CONCEPT and DESIGN

The architecture is composed of two larger training halls on each end of the site. The space in between is loosely formed by small huts, but they restrict to no means fluid movements throughout the site. Amongst the huts is plenty of unbuilt, adaptable space which is structured by wood pillars. These are flexible and designed depending on the student’s needs, they can take command of the space around them, instead of being subservient to the environment. The open, nature-bound and light-filled layouts of the training halls are suitable for workshops and activities of all kind. The interior sections can be tied together or be separated for more introverted settings, so that the space grows and shrinks according to the challenges the girls bring with them. A variety of visual relationships are created throughout the elongated property, the entrance as well as the terrace allow the students insights into the training hall but also provides a sheltered outdoor space, which opens itself towards nature and makes views into the nearby mountains possible.

ENTRY NUMBER: HP2105
Due to its geographical location the buildings are planned with local materials such as stone and wood. The design adapts common building techniques from Nepal, which are already known to the builders in the area and are sustainable and resistant in case of earthquakes. The thermal skin of the small huts and the two halls is made out of stones and stiffed out with layers of steel and wire bolts. To assure safety the stone is only used three meters in height, this single-storeys thick and heavy facade binds the huts and halls together and communicates a feeling of safety and strength. The stone is then supported by a wooden structure that convey lightness and transparency but is also known for its resistance and durability during earthquakes. The simple roof construction is held by a grid of wooden pillars which are connected with a double layer of jaw joists. The shed roof opens in height towards the entrance and the terrace, while a staircase and a movable facade are integrated on the north of the halls.