The project as a whole mixes comfort and respect for the environment in order to best welcome not only the teenagers from the program but also people from the surrounding communities.

The entrance opens to a pleasant amphitheater that will allow women of the Girls Empowerment Project, as well as all the people from the communities around, to attend different programs.

The bamboo structure is designed to hold a movie screen for projections, addressing all generations. The building offers exterior and interior areas where the teenage girls can practice martial art classes. Cloakrooms and a kitchen have been added to the original program for greater convenience. The guest rooms are located in a separate building, independent from the rest of the center, to ensure a higher level of security. An exterior passageway links all the structures together adding homogeneity and practicality to the whole. The large hall can be completely adapted depending on the activity.

The building has been designed considering the practicality of each space as well as the respect of the local environment. To do so, all materials used (rammed earth, bamboo, thatch) are locally sourced, aiming to boost the local economy and enhance the traditional techniques. The strong focus on ecology is also shown by the implementation of a phyto-filtration system to filter the waste water. Moreover, the risk-prone condition of the area, earthquake and monsoon flooding, is mitigated by the use of a seism-resistant structure and foundations and elevating the floor. This way, the structure can become a safe haven for the surrounding inhabitants in times of natural disaster.
ADAPTING TO THE TERRAIN

The terrain is uneven, being an elevation difference of about 3m. There are also some trees in the plot, which we maintain. We benefit from the existing landscape and adapt our building including a terraced seating area at the entrance.

NEIGHBOURHOOD CONNECTIVITY

The entrance to the plot is directly linked to a motorized road, being this our main entrance. We have maintained the access via the back of the plot, as a pedestrian walk across the area. The way the new building naturally integrates into the neighborhood.

LANDSCAPE AND SURROUNDING

PRIVACY

Public and private areas are differentiated to provide a safe space for girls and women. The semi-open facade provides a certain level of privacy from the entrance.

SECURITY

The roof is designed without interior visual barriers, so that there are passive observers. From the entrance, we have several filters to control the entrance.

HYGIENE

The washroom and changing room provide a clean and safe space for girls and women. The private rooms and kitchen are near to the private washrooms facilitating high comfort.

GENDER PERSPECTIVE

NATURAL MATERIAL SELECTION

The proposed materials, the rammed earth and the bamboo, are an environmentally friendly construction material. Not only it is easy to build with, but it also provides a high level of comfort.

The materials are locally available, and the construction techniques are part of the traditional knowledge of the communities in the area.

The earth is a very cost-efficient material, as it is found on the plot and can be handled by any person. The bamboo is also a cheap material that can be easily transported, treated and handled.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION

NATURAL VENTILATION

The facade is permeable so that the cross-ventilation is guaranteed. The roof is designed to let the hot air come out while maintaining a fresh atmosphere inside.

THERMAL COMFORT

The permeable facades and the verandas create a filter to contribute to cooling. The consumed vegetation and additional trees create a natural barrier to maintain the interior climate.

RAINWATER CATCHMENT

The rainwater from the roof is collected in tanks under the floor to be filtered. The water is partially filtered through vegetation, partially treated with quicklime. The rest of the water flows through a sand filter to be stored in the tanks.

BIODIGESTOR GAS/COMPOST

The organic waste produced in the kitchen is introduced in the biodigester to produce gas for the kitchen, and as a substrate of the process compost is also formed. This is utilized in the garden.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

EARTHQUAKE

Light structure and using flexible materials - bamboo

TREATMENT BUNKER

Bamboo treated with borax for fire and insect protection

FLOOD

Floor elevated Rainwater catchment filtering pavement

GENDER PERSPECTIVE

PLAN

1 - Parking area
2 - Amphitheatre
3 - Reception (120m²)
4 - Office rooms (52m²)
5 - cloakrooms (12m²)
6 - Washrooms (26d toilets)
7 - Training hall (210m²)
8 - Training rooms (2x60m²)
9 - Storage area (2x20m²)
10 - Kitchen (17m²)
11 - Ensuite guest rooms (2x25m²)

GENDER PERSPECTIVE

ZOOM SECTION