Our vision for ‘her place’ is to empower young teenage girls in rural Nepal and provide them the tools and the opportunities to help them find and claim ‘their place’.

In Nepal, like most patriarchal cultures, girls and boys are expected to participate in society differently and statistics indicate that this bias becomes noticeable, particularly in rural areas, wherein girls are marginalized, educated at lower rates, married early or trafficked for commercial work.

The gender discrimination, inequity and the associated violence can be challenged and combated only through education and employment.

Through ‘her place’ in the village of Devachuli, we intend to propose a safe environment for young girls, where they can learn life skills, have access to information on their legal rights, have guidance on health & well-being, have resources & training to learn & develop skills, have direction on managing their earnings & financial independence and ultimately flourish by supporting each other.
The design achieves high levels of sustainability by:

1. Adopting a Low energy and climate-responsive approach
2. Providing user comfort and creating a calm environment
3. Adopting natural materials only – minimal carbon impact (embodied carbon)

1 and 4 - Cold nights but relatively warmer daytime temperatures.


2 - Comfortable temperature and humidity levels.

Strategy: Natural ventilation + solar control.

3 - High temperature(a) + high humidity(b) levels but low solar radiation(c) - due to monsoons.

Strategy: Maximise ventilation, hot air exhaust + solar control.

The 100m long site has been divided into zones, from public to semi-private to private.

The entrance court provides parking for cars, two-wheelers and bicycles, as per brief. The one- storey entrance building accommodates reception, offices and other ancillary facilities and creates a secure buffer between the street and the training rooms. The entrance building, with its reconfigurable spaces, together with the entrance court, provides flexibility and opportunity to host health or education campaigns for the village.

The heart of the project ‘the central court’, enclosed between the entrance building and the learning building, can be simultaneously used by multiple groups – as an amphitheatre for teaching sessions, paved areas for martial arts and green areas for relaxation. Alternatively, with the provision of a temporary fabric shade, the entire court could be covered and used as an extension to the learning building.

The court leads to the learning building, wherein two training rooms are stacked atop each other, with a width to length ratio of 1:3 (9m x 27m) as recommended for structures in seismic zones. The North and South courts enhance the natural light and breeze within the training rooms and allow the space to be flexible, with the possibility of segmenting it further into clusters of classrooms. To the rear of the training rooms are two guest rooms, with a secure access along the south boundary. The terrace to the guest rooms, accessible from the training room on level 1, is a sheltered space for a vegetable garden.
The building is designed keeping in mind the traditional construction methods and materials available in the region around Devachuli. Rammed Earth is used as the primary material for building the enclosure, along with wood and bamboo as secondary materials. Rammed Earth construction uses local materials and low-tech methods, to build strong, high thermal resistance walls, which can be adapted for varied temperatures and seismic sensitive zones with the addition of reinforcement bars and tie members. Wood, which can also be recycled or repurposed, is used for the pitched roof and fenestrations. Bamboo is used as a shading material in all the windows and openings towards south, flexible internal partition panels, flooring, and roof insulation material. Stone is used at the base, as a structural material to provide stability to the building. Careful juxtaposition of different building materials and systems has enabled us to design a building that will be environmentally sustainable, cost-effective, durable and low maintenance.