HP2131

View of Main Entrance from Parking Area

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’.

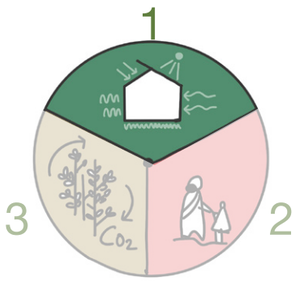
In Nepal, like most patriarchal cultures, girls and boys are expected to participate in society differently and statistics indicate that this bias becomes noticeable, particularly in rural areas, wherein girls are marginalized, educated at lower rates, married early or trafficked for commercial work.

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

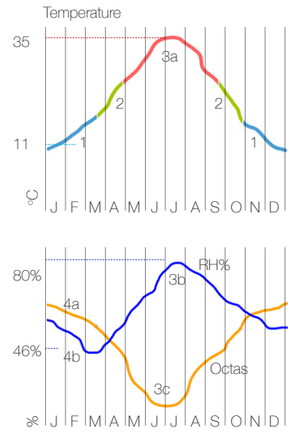
Through **‘her place’** in the village of Devachuli, we intend to propose a safe environment for young girls, where they can learn life skills, have access to information on their legal rights, have guidance on health & well- being, have resources & training to learn & develop skills, have direction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

Bird’s Eye View from the North

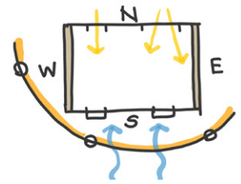
HP2131



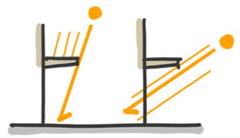
The design achieves high levels of sustainability by:
1 - Adopting a Low energy and climate-responsive approach
2 - Providing user comfort and creating a calm environment
3 - Adopting natural materials only – minimal carbon impact (embodied carbon)



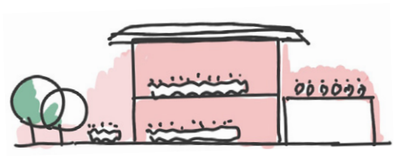
1 and 4 - Cold nights but reatively warmer daytime temperatures.
Strategy: Passive solar gains + Limit ventilation.
2 - Comfortable temperature and humidity levels.
Strategy: Natural ventilation + solar control.
3- High temperature(a) + high humidity(b) levels but low solar radiation(c) - due to monsoons.
Strategy: Maximise ventilation, hot air exhaust + solar control.



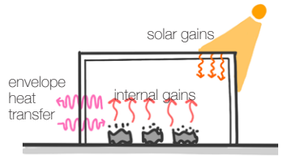
Climate responsive design - orientation, facade design and solidity



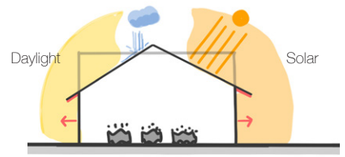
Seasonal variations



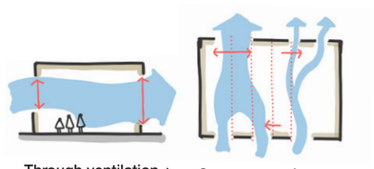
Creating both indoor and outdoor training spaces



Conventional Building



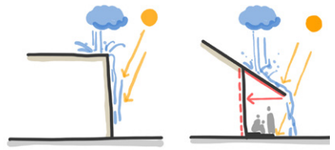
Step 1: Weather protection, roof profile and projections.
Step 2: Facades. North = Daylight. South = Heat.



Through ventilation + use different opening sizes

Stagger opening locations

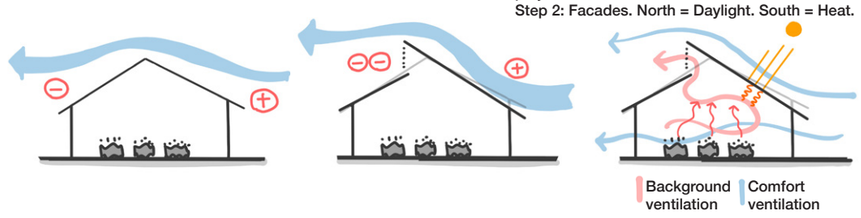
Step 3: Maximise ventilation for warm/hot humid months.



A: Conventional building approach

B: Set back facade + weather protection to users

Step 4: Create semi-outdoor weather protected areas.



Step 5: Optimise roof profile for increased ventilation and removal of solar gains, internal heat gains.

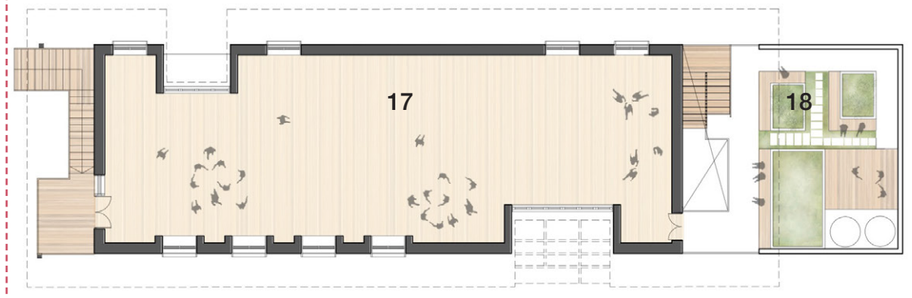
The 100m long site has been divided into zones, from public to semi- private to private.

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. Alternately, with the provision of a temporary fabric shade, the entire court could be covered and used as an extension to the learning building.

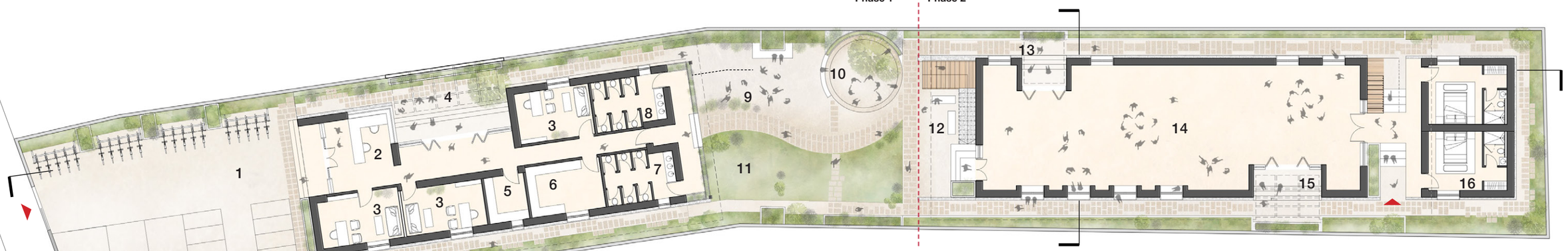
The court leads to the learning building, wherein two training rooms are stacked atop each other, with a width to length ratio of 1:3 (9m x 27m) as recommended for structures in seismic zones. The North and South courts enhance the natural light and breeze within the training rooms and allow the space to be flexible, with the possibility of segmenting it further into cluster 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.

First Floor Plan



Ground Floor Plan

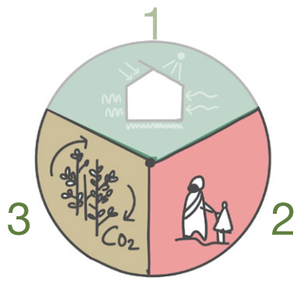
Phase 1 Phase 2

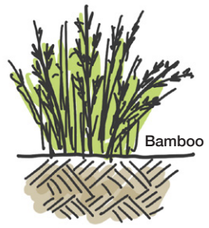


1 Entrance & Parking		**7 Washroom (F)**	**14.6 Sq.m.**
2 Reception & Admin	19.0 Sq.m.	**8 Washroom (M)**	**14.6 Sq.m.**
3 Offices	17.0 Sq.m. each	**9 Martial Arts / Sports**	
4 Courtyard		10 Activity Court	
5 Kitchen / Pantry	7.8 Sq.m.	11 Sit-out & Garden	
6 Store	16.0 Sq.m.	12 Outdoor Classroom	
		13 North Court	
		14 Training Hall 01	181.0 Sq.m.
		15 South Court	
		16 Guest Rooms	19.5 Sq.m. each
		17 Training Hall 02	181.0 Sq.m.
		18 Roof vegetable garden	

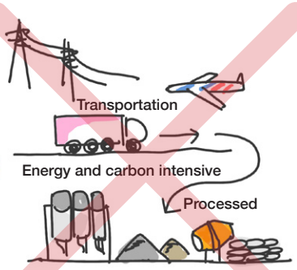
0 1m 2m 3m

Longitudinal Section



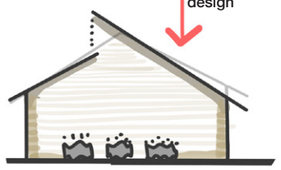


Extraction



"Why not use natural materials directly?" Save carbon + processing and use local materials

Applied to design



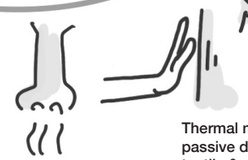
Design made of natural materials

Design to create a CALM and COMFORTABLE environment

Visibly robust envelope provides sense of security

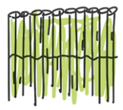
Natural materials provide earthy and connected environment

Thick earth walls provide acoustic isolation and opportunity to express.

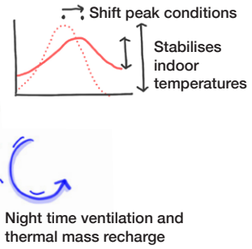


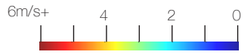
Natural materials imply VOC free environment.

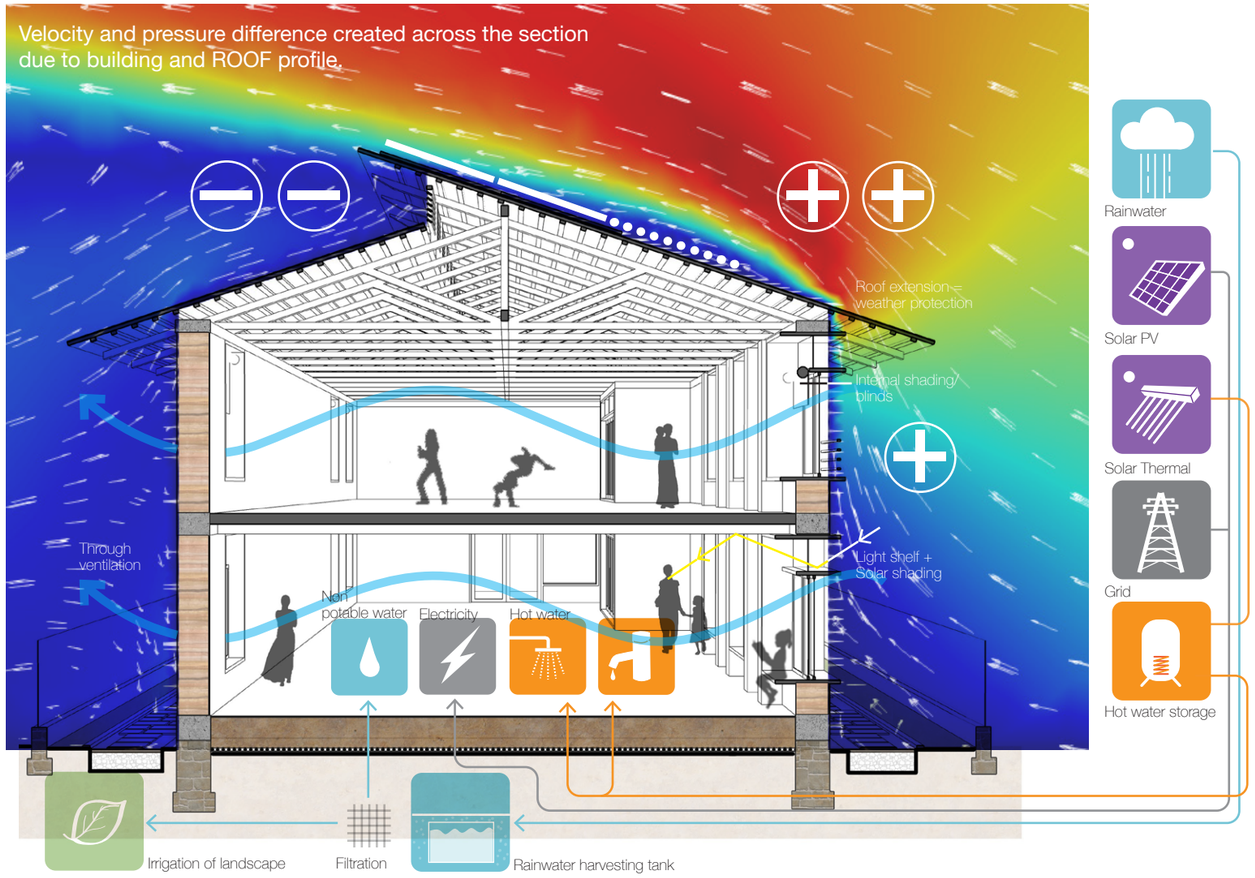
Thermal mass and passive design create tactile & mild surfaces to touch, sit on and sit next to.

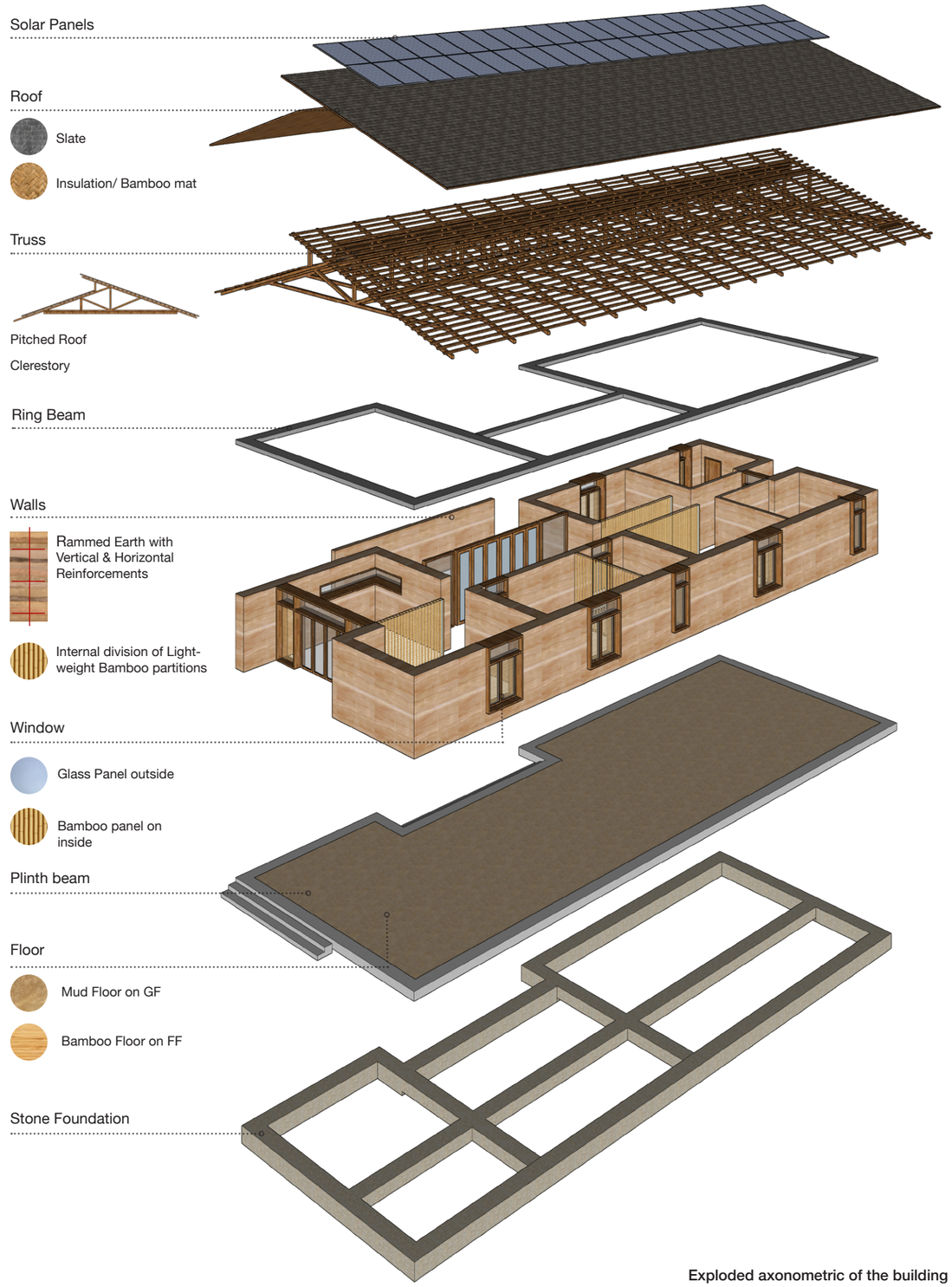


Lightweight bamboo construction for internal walls - promotes ventilation and minimises heat storage capacity.









Exploded axonometric of the building

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.