AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

THE RURAL NEXUS:
TOOLS OF REVIVAL

by
YARA ZIAD ABDALLAH

An Undergraduate Architecture Design Thesis
submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements.
for the degree of Bachelor of Architecture
to the Department of Architecture and Design
of the Maroun Semaan Faculty of Engineering and Architecture
at the American University of Beirut

Beirut, Lebanon
May 2021

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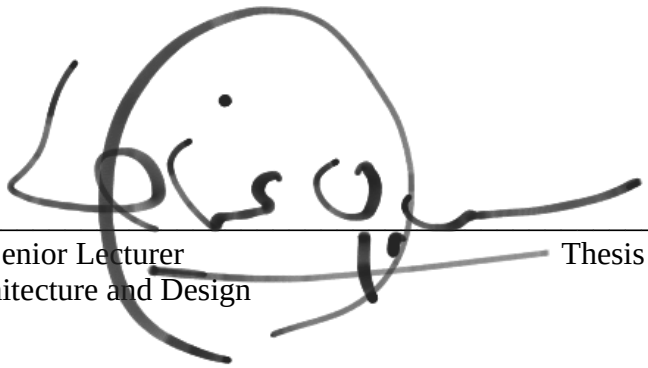
Approved by:



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ABSTRACT

Title: The Rural Nexus: Tools of Revival

My thesis is an exploration of different strategies of intervention in the rural areas of Lebanon, specifically the rural mountains that have adopted a static presence. The current rate of expansion is leading to the exploitation of natural rural areas. The aim is to explore an alternate productive and autonomous character for the rural countryside and avoid the urban sprawl condition infiltrating the suburbs. The central approach is a scheme of empowerment and connectivity to expand the existing reach of the rural and rethink the way we settle and work in rural spaces to introduce multifunctional inserts that revitalize existing practices. This is focused on three essential components for empowerment: Education, Industry & Leisure. The project will explore how these can be inserted and overlapped through different typologies adopted from local practices to engage the community.

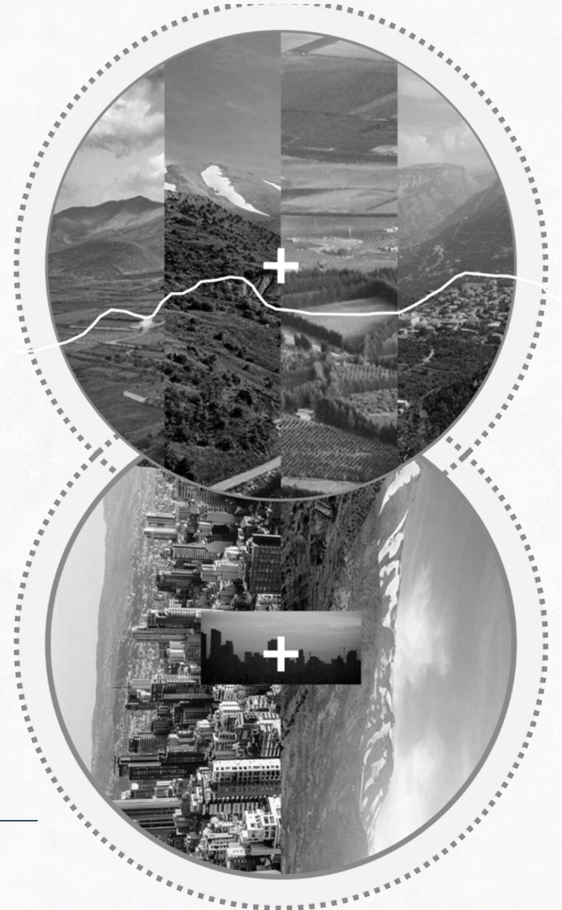
The project aims to challenge depopulation in the mountains, an issue affecting the rural areas in Lebanon through active production and activities of diverse educational levels, while creating a new local economic model. This is achieved by inserting social productive spaces within the existing morphology and proposing synergistic systems. The architecture acts as productive artifacts in which it is shaped by its performative aspect and process.

Special thanks to all my family, friends, best friend, and especially my mother who stood by me through it all.

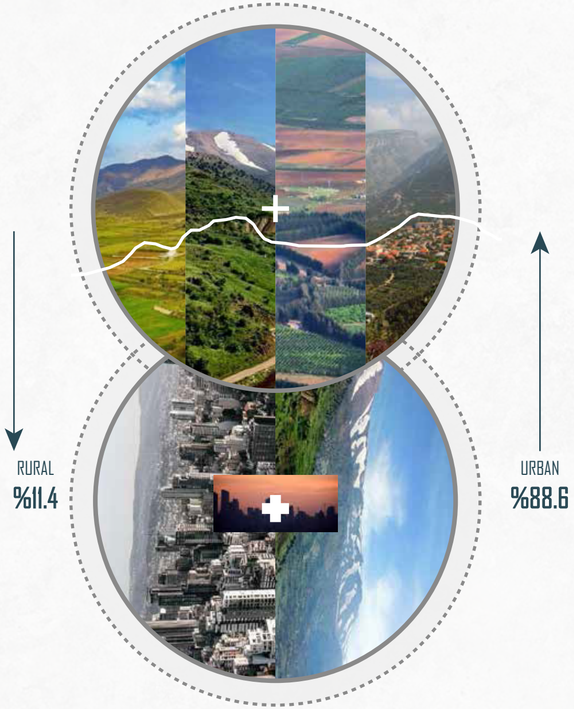
The Rural Nexus

Reversing a Depleting Urban-Rural Cycle

Yara Abdallah



American University of Beirut, Department of Architectue and Design
Architecture Thesis I, Fall 2020
Advisor: Sinan Hassan



Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc.(2018)

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INTRODUCTION

[THESIS ABSTRACT]

The rural is being consumed by the urban condition. Urabnized models of growths are being replicated and expanded into rural areas. In turn these **rural areas have adapted a secondary role in service of the urban center, depleted and extracted to feed the urban community. The rural has subsided as a character or entity on its own, thus decreasing the livelihood of the community in those regions.** In order to **preserve and revive these regions** this thesis seeks to **explore alternative models** and roles for these rural areas to be **self-sustaining, productive, and autonomous**. **The thesis seeks to stabalize the rural condition and allow it to thrive by empowering its sense of community and belonging.** The l**and is a central theme as a mitigator of identity and belonging.** As a result of the concentration of services in urban centers there has been a constant stream of migrations **pressuring and densifying cities beyond their capacities**. This cycle has likewise caused the enlargement of the urban fabric outwards seeping into its peripheries and negatively impacting the rural.

[THESIS QUESTION]

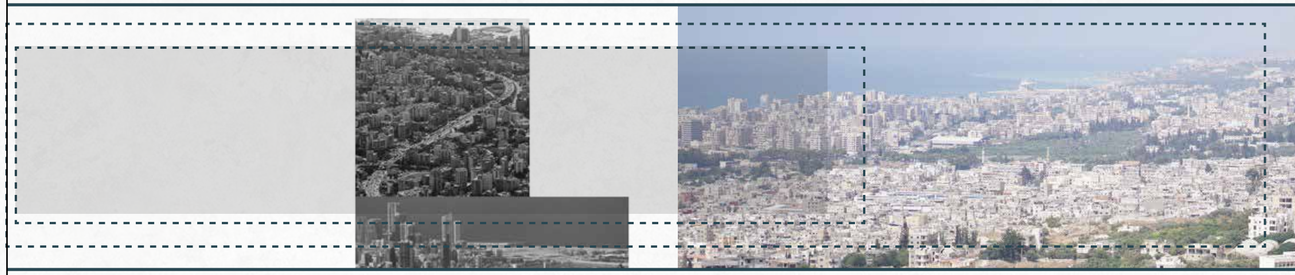
What strategies can sustainably revive and preserve rural areas as productive,autonomous centers to create a rural nexus?

[OBJECTIVE]

Exploration of rural place-making Architectures that empower and respond to community needs

An Alternate Rurality

An Exploration of the Lebanese Rural Regions: Its meanings, perceptions, potentials, archetypes, and conditions of existance



Rural Condition in Lebanon: Background and framework

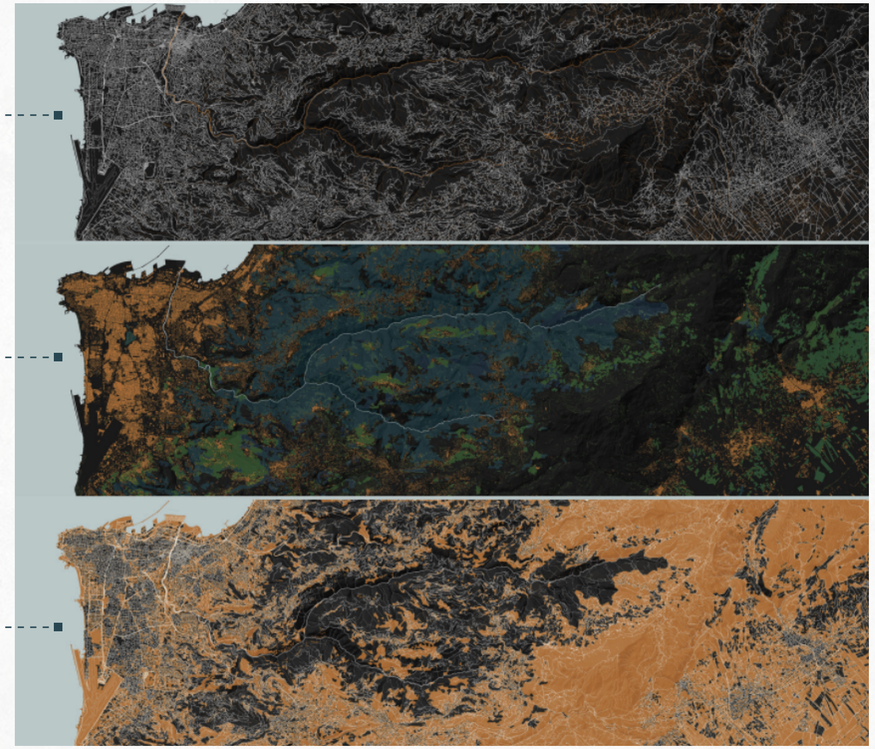
The rural areas and villages of Lebanon today have varied in role and identity. More importantly they have been overlooked with minimal explorations on potential interventions for these natural landscapes beyond **its existing typologies of dwelling and agrarian land.** The rural areas of Lebanon are characterized by the presence of green areas, forest land, and agricultural terraces attached to its slopes that distinguishes it in the region .The current condition of the rural has recently been solely positioned in service of the more dominant urban centers. This was an outcome of the **continuing rural exodus** occurring since the civil war until today that has led to an overwhelming densification of the city capital. Consequentially, the territorial capital is continuously growing with urbanization spreading and subjecting natural and rural areas to immense pressure. This has been translated with **a significant urban-rural divide, informal slums, and urbanized suburbs.**

Dense urbanization has also extended to the rural areas through the growth of villages and along the main road networks in the natural and agricultural zones. As of 2018, Lebanon's population was %88.6 urban which was concentrated on the coastal strip mainly within the capital of Beirut. The remaining %11.4 was concentrated in rural areas, which was situated as peripheral and secondary, now being characterized with different critical issues as social, economic, and ecological poverty. The relationship of the urban and rural positions the role, vitality, and dynamics of each. The rural is being consumed and affected by this urban condition. These socially and physically remote areas have minimal support or engagement. There is an integration between these two typologies of the urban and rural, producing several informalities dotted across the region. **The regional rural scope in Lebanon exemplifies this urbanization with a patchwork of different typologies and towns emerging. This varies from smaller, secluded, and introverted examples to larger, connected, and extroverted examples that a play a more essential regional role. These conditions have situated villages of today within a specific parameter to be assessed and re-evaluated.**

ROAD NETWORK DENSITY

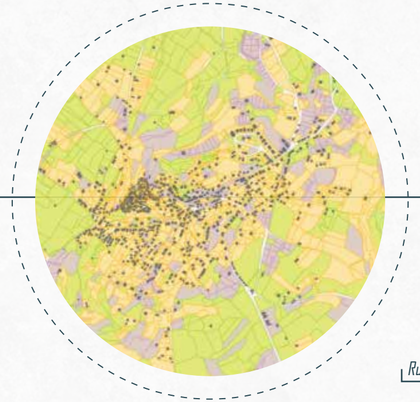
SCALE OF THE TERRITORIAL CAPITAL

THE PLACE THAT REMAINS
"THE CITY OF TOMORROW"
A CONSTELLATION OF POSSIBILITIES



The Place That Remains: Recounting the Unbuilt Territory, Catalogue of the Lebanese Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale 2018.Hala Younes. Assistant for cartography, Ali Dhainy.

Reverse cycle of urbanization of villages and rural areas in a sustainable way diverting from the romantic and nostalgic



Disparity & Underdevelopment of the rural

Immigration cycles, density, and peripherial territories

Current practices in rural settlements negatively impact natural areas

Rural peripheris are overlooked and do not play an essential productive role

Promote local community, identity, and production

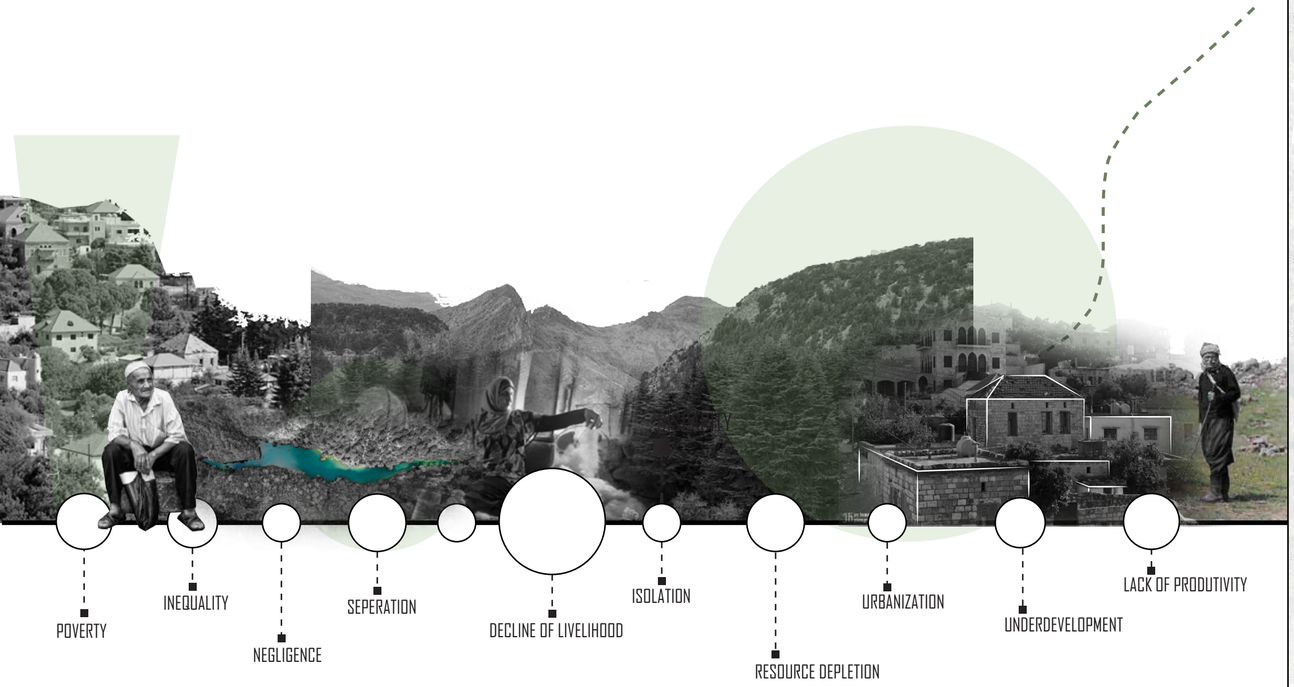
New connective tissues :
Revitalize rural spaces as a Vital organ in the regional economic tissue

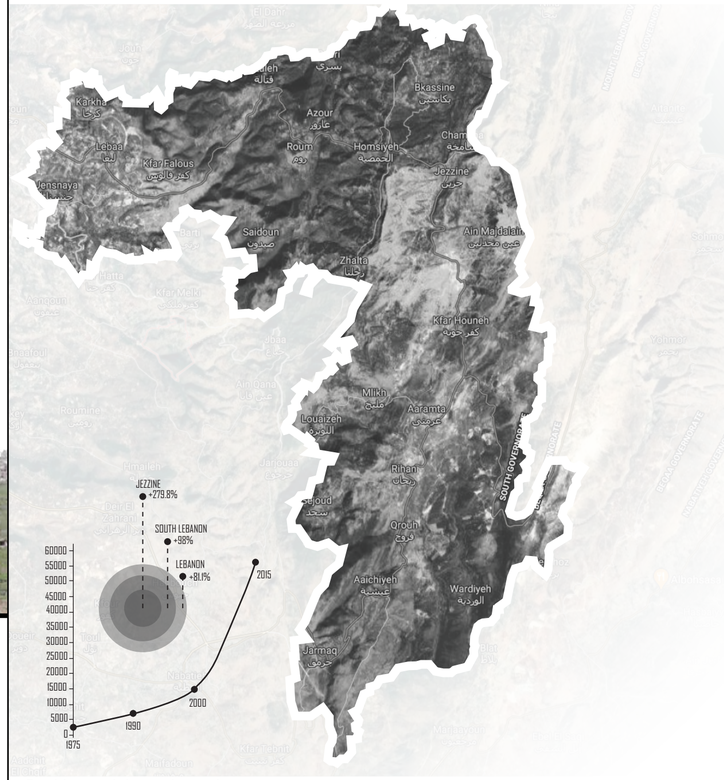
RURAL CONDITIONS
LEBANON

Rural Territories: Critical Position

This condition has had negative impacts on the urban and left a constellation of **forgotten territories in rural spaces. The 'Place that remains' represents the constellation of possibilities for the cities of tomorrow.** Rethinking the place that remains can allow the reversal of the cycle of urbanization that is expanding into, consuming, and depleting the villages and rural areas. **This approach focuses on migrating outside the city to explore new strategies and potentials for communal cultivation in the forgotten landscapes of the peripheries and the rural.** This thesis is critical of **reviving and preserving the rural** by enhancing the **autonomous character** of these areas. To preserve and revive these regions alternative models can be explored for these rural areas to be self-sustaining, productive, and autonomous entities. These methods can stabilize the existing depleting cycle and reverse its effects by allowing the rural condition to thrive by empowering its productive networks, industries, identity, and sense of community/ belonging. Therefore, the land becomes a central theme and a mitigator of identity and belonging. This is to be achieved in a way that considers alternative approaches that diverts from the traditional, poetic, romantic, and nostalgic perception of landscapes and the Lebanese mountains that we see translated in art, music, and poetry. This forms a revolution on the romantic and speculates the static presence projected on these landscapes. **This thesis approaches the condition to reverse the static presence of the Lebanese mountains and its monumentalism in the Lebanese collective consciousness.**

[CRITICAL ISSUES]





Rural Areas in Lebanon: Jezzine Area

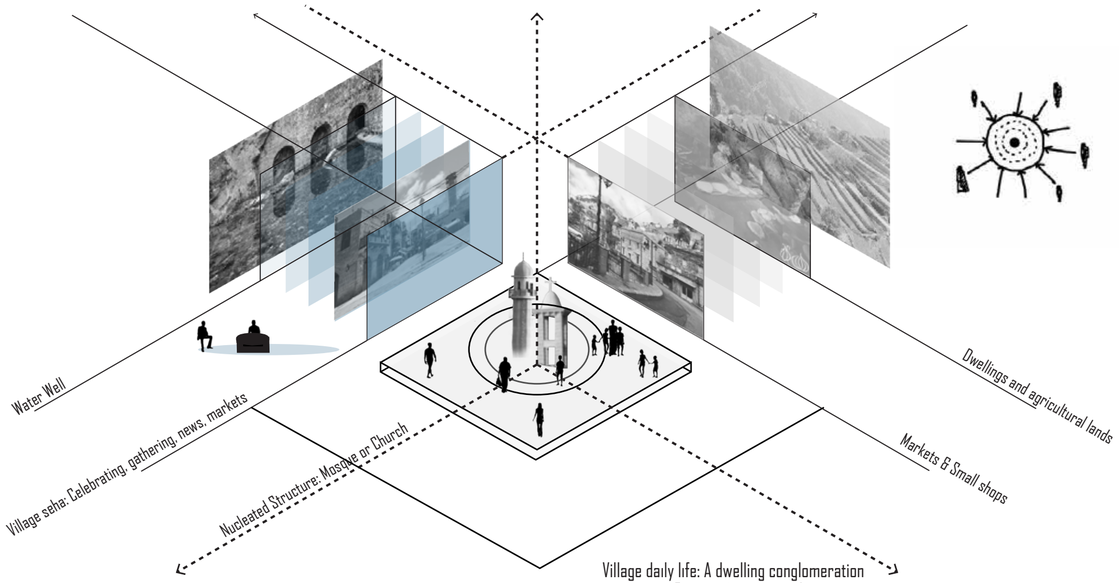
Total population: 56,159

Median Age: 29

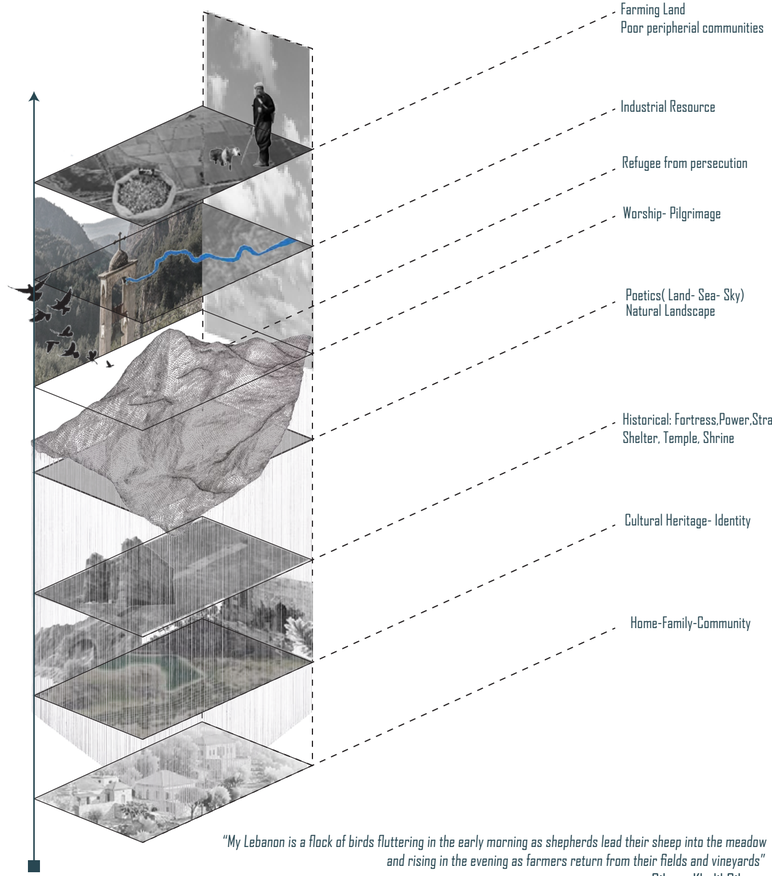
The Existing Rurality: An Assessment based on the District of Jezzine

Rural areas today have their own specific character to deconstruct and classify in order to better understand its existing components holistically. There is however a current condition that is bounded and that poses many critical issues. These issues include disparity, negligence underdevelopment, decline of livelihood, and disconnection. In this particular region the typical typical villages are small-scale in majority, dispersed, and interconnected. The typical model of Lebanese villages is utilized as a case study to understand rural dynamics. Village daily life is constituted of dwelling conglomerations that are community centered. It is formed around a central nucleated structure of the mosque or church around which village life is built. There are different social, cultural, commercial, and productive typologies such as the seha, water wells, markets, small shops, dwellings, and agricultural lands that constitute everyday life in the mountains. Demographically there is a large percentage of the youth population, ages 28-17, in these regions, reaching over 5,000 persons in the Jezzine District. Also, the population numbers in these rural regions have increased substantially by %279.8 compared to the south at %98 and the rest of Lebanon at %81.1. This makes its condition essential to respond to with these growing and emerging communities. The youth population constitutes the largest percentage of migrations, where this occurrence is mainly in response to poverty and to seek opportunity, initiative, and enterprise in urban centers.

Demographically there is a large percentage of the youth population from these regions that have migrated from these rural areas. Also, the population numbers in these rural regions have increased substantially compared to the south and the rest of Lebanon as well as historically over time.



Village daily life: A dwelling conglomeration
Community-centered



"My Lebanon is a flock of birds fluttering in the early morning as shepherds lead their sheep into the meadow and rising in the evening as farmers return from their fields and vineyards"
-Gibran Khalil Gibran

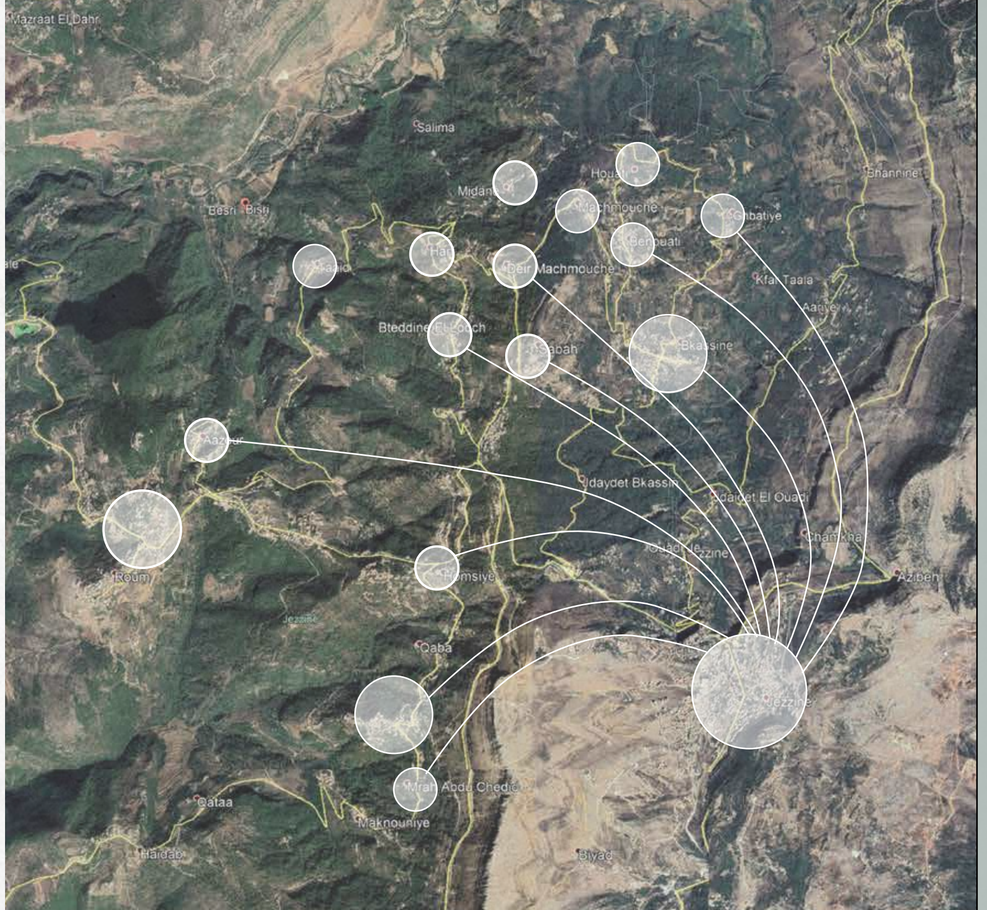
History:
Perceptions of the rural

Different perceptions and meanings of rural areas are embedded in the psychology and memory of the Lebanese people with different symbolic meanings. These vary and are multifaceted, for example as a manifestation of home, community, belonging, refugee, and identity. The land also carries the historic meaning of strategic power with historic fortresses and temples. The poetics of the land is translated in art and poetry through the land, sky, and sea. It further has an embedded character of pilgrimage and worship. More recently, these embedded meanings have been discarded for its character as an industrial resource at one's disposal, agricultural lands for farming, or home to poor peripheral communities. Therefore, one can identify many critical issues for these regions. Essentially these can be identified as an outcome of the current rural condition that include disparity, poverty, resource depletion, negligence, lack of opportunity, underdevelopment, decline of livelihood, and disconnection. Alternative productive schemes can reposition and revitalize rural spaces as a vital organ in the regional economic tissue and as their own autonomous entity.

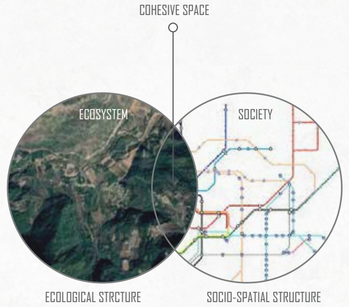
Working in the Lebanese regional context I began by assessing users and their migration patterns/movements based on needs. Based on different collected responses we see a large frequency of migrations due to economic opportunities, education, jobs, and better standard of living. Secondary causes include treatment, other forms of education, training, political and governmental activities, technology, recreation, and its role as a cultural incubator. This is essential to better understand how to develop an efficient network that involves villagers, city dwellers and regional inhabitants as one connected system that benefits the village population by being coactively engaged.

The Lebanese Viallge structure works on a system on interdependency. The small -scale villages service one another and are connected to a larger town center with concentrated services and activities. This network spans the natural morphology vertically, horizontally, and virutally.

RURAL DISECTIONS
RURAL MONOTONY
RURAL INTERSECTIONS
RURAL CONNECTIONS
RURAL SYSETMS



[RURAL REGIONAL CONTEXT] [POPULATIONS]



PHILOSOPHY OF LAND AND EMPOWERMENT

INTERFACE:

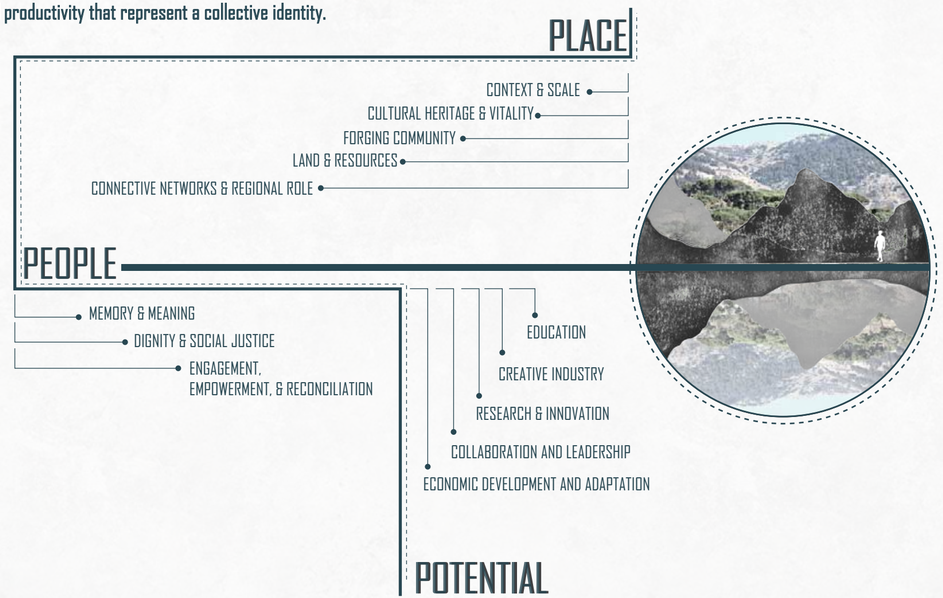
[noun]
the point at which two different systems, activities, etc have an influence on each other
[verb]
to be or become interactive with the other.

EMPOWERMENT:

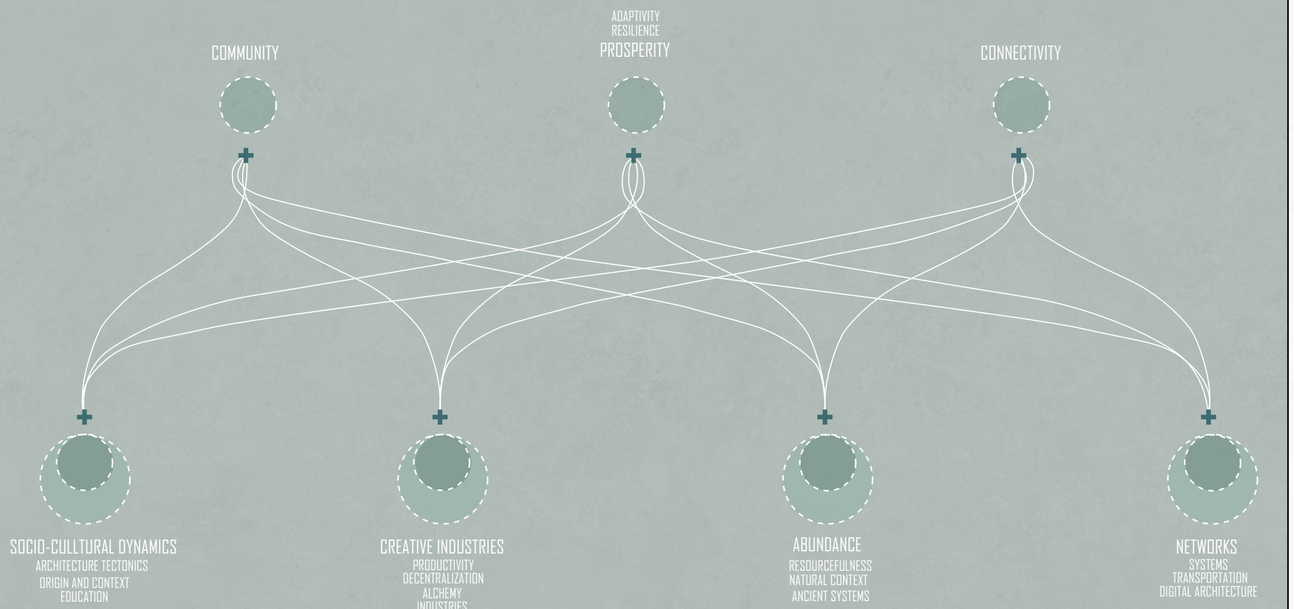
[noun]
the state of being empowered to do something : the power, right, or authority to do something.

The central approach is a scheme of empowerment and connectivity of the rural to expand its existing reach and network. In order to move from redundancy to renewal, the approach seeks to rethink and contemplate the way we settle and work in rural spaces to introduce an interface. This interface is a point of intersection that is multifunctional, interactive, porous ,and a dynamic enviroment allowing an interaction with different aspects of the rural. It is an in-between that reconnets the distant rural in our perceptions to current modes of productivity and movement. It vitalizes the rural for its components and specificities. The approach to **rural regeneration and revival** is centered on establishing a framework for empowerment. This framework is assessed based on a multitude of factors that ties the place, people, and potentials to be extracted such as creative industries and other cultural, connective networks. The place has multiple layers of context, community, land, resources, networks, heritage, and vitality. The people and associated patterns are mapped to form a base to dissect the memory, meaning, and activities to better design for **engagement, empowerment, and reconciliation**.

This approach produces different meanings for implementation such as connectivity, abundance, and prosperity from which a methodology for empowerment is extracted. This is identified as the development of rural systems, enhancing culture, strengthening facilities, introducing creative industries, and creating better living standards. Community development and design is also based on the concepts of unity and collective identity. **This is a system that utilizes the land and its combination of elements: Land, sky, sea, and the natural resource to cultivate collective consciousness, productivity, and a better connection to the natural resource and te rural as a whole. This allows for overlaps of different systems and networks/patterns of work, culture, movement, and productivity that represent a collective identity.**



From Redundancy to Renewal: Framework for Empowerment



1.UNITY

*Unity in the **combination of elements** towards a collective meaning that ultimately gives rise to a singular identity that is greater than the sum of its parts.*

2.EMPOWERMENT

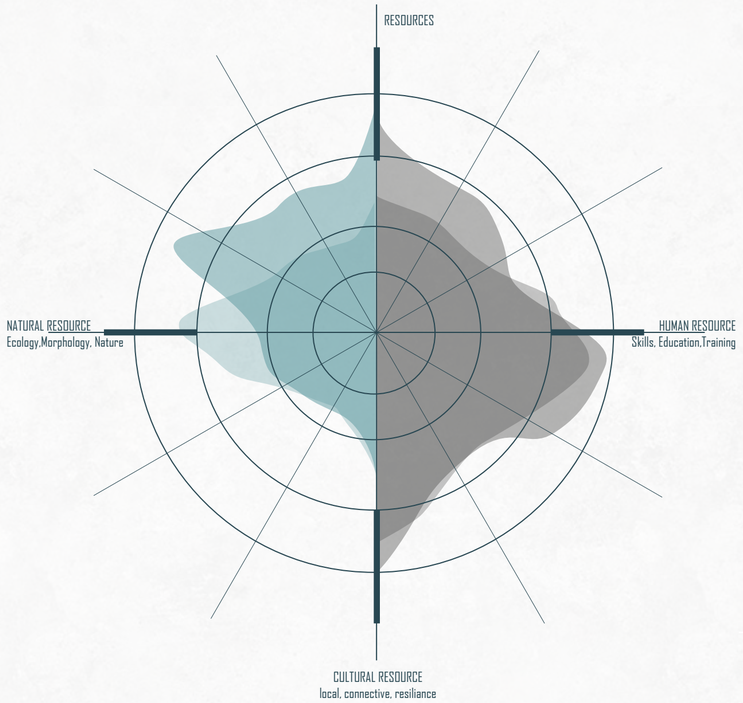
Empowerment is the creation of self-belief within a planned construct and in the pockets of informalities in the process. Attributed in the face of challenges within the framework where the elements come together.

3.CO-CREATION

*By allowing all moving parts to claim their part into the preformance of an activity, a sense of collecive starts to emerge. The process allows the opportunity to integrate individual expertise into a **collective consiousness**.*

4.IDENTITY

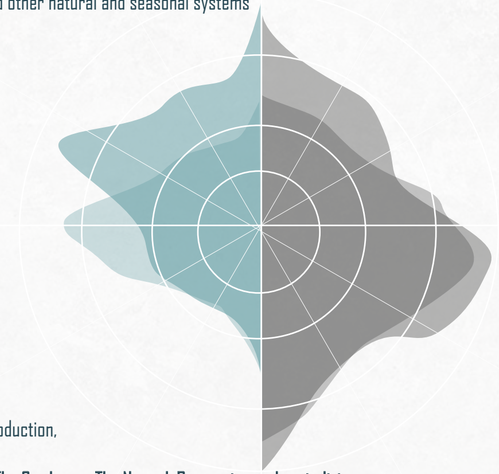
*Architecture that brings together a community must keep in mind the importance of a collective identity, **not through difference but overlaps**. Unity, that leads to empowerment, where co-creation can take place guarantees ndividual expression but a collective spirit, which is what the project aims to resolve.*



The rural as a **rich, vital resource and condition to be explored beyond its static and individual components.** The project will explore **combinations, overlaps, and hybridities to introduce new activators in the rural scene.** Activators that catalyze the production and activities surrounding them. Richness based on the **coexistence and conflict**, with the objective of creating a new economic,productive, social and technological context, in the face of the pictorial ruralscape. The final objective is to defy the notion of rural picturesque by **inserting performative architecture in the remaining spaces and forgotton territories.**

Catalyze on the natural resource:

The Land [HARD]
The Sky[SOFT]
The Sea[FLUID]
The Air[LIGHT]
and other natural and seasonal systems

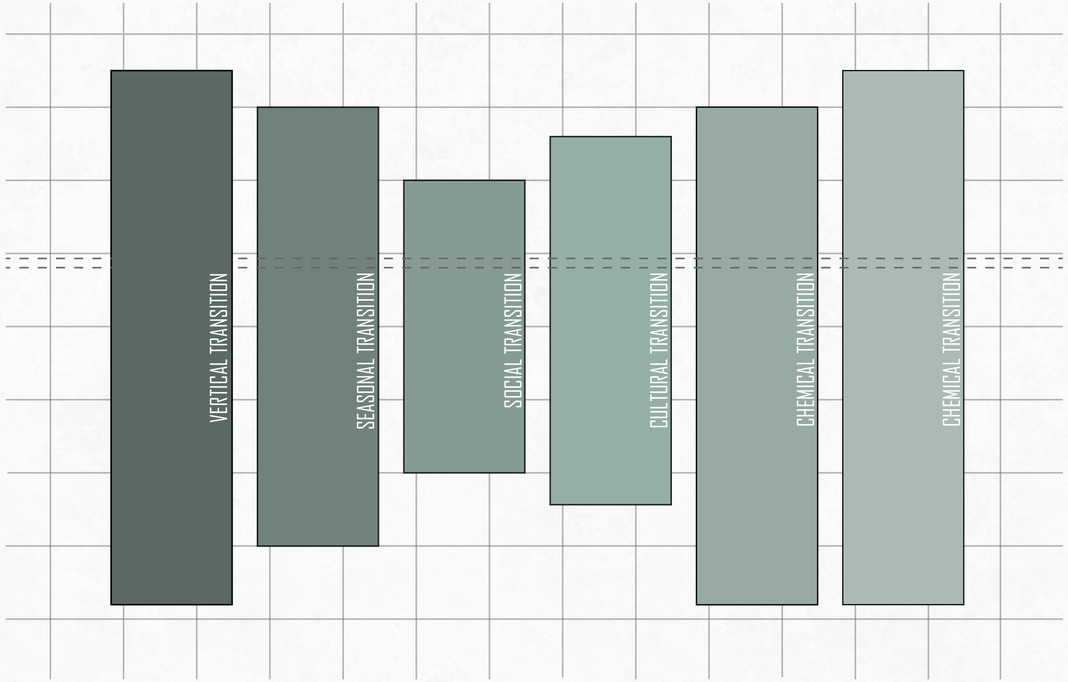


Rural: The dissection and disintegration of its systems
What does the inherited land symbolize and mean to us?

Catalyze on the human and cultural resource:

Artistic production, technical training, skills development, community organization, startups, local initiatives, production, research center , empowerment(women, refugees, minority groups), job opportunities.

Retreat and treatment-Atmospheric settings- Connection to Nature -Migrations- Movements- In transit -Time- The Settler vs. The Nomad. Regerating and revitalizing systems



METHODOLOGY:
THE JOURNEY- THE PROGRESSION
NETWORKS OF MOVEMENTS & NEEDS

" FOR THE NOMAD, '**HOME**' CANNOT BE UNDERSTOOD EXCEPT IN TERMS OF **JOURNEY** JUST AS **SPACE** IS DEFINED BY **MOVEMENT**" - LABELLE PRUSSIN

Nomadic people create communities and build structures that reflect and facilitate a lifestyle based on movements.

By utilizing existing resources and taking accout of the needs, values and politics of the people who spend their lives moving through and creating spaces.

Movement and flexibility are qualities which the nomadic people have instilled in their values throughout time. Design, in correlation, must be specific to the community for which they are built.

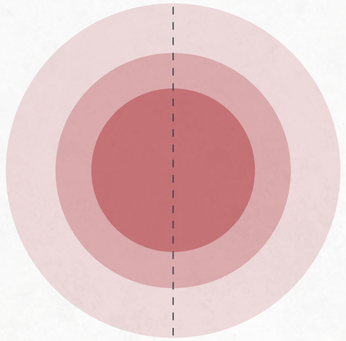
The land, the nomad, the movements, and settlements.

This reasearh is expanded into the history of communal growth and human settlement. Through the allegory of the nomad I begin to interpret home and settlement to be defined by the journey, just as the space is defined by the movement.

Patterns of movements form the space and are the basis from around which the architecture is built. Such qualities allow for the design to be specific to the community it is built for as it reflects needs, movements, and patterns essential to its making. The underlying concept involves the expressed processes taken from the continuity of everyday experience, not single events but the continuous chain and cycle of the everyday rural with all its transitions.

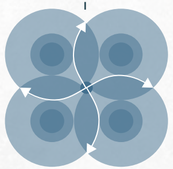
The constant flux of different cycles of the rural. A series of transitions, always in change and a state of transformation that can be manifested in the Architecture.

A Cartography of Movements and Moments
A Curated Preformance
A Sequential pilgramege

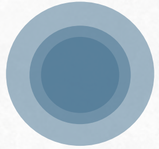


CULTURAL CAPSULES: MOMENTS
SPATIAL DIMENSION

SPECIFIC
INTROVERTED



SHARED EXPERIENCES
POROUS

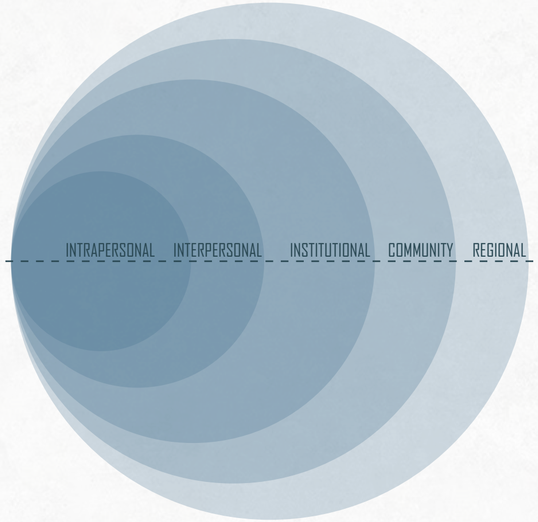


ACTIVITY RINGS
AXIAL/OPEN

CORE
function, overlap, combination of elements

MEDIATOR
curated experience

ACTIVITY
interactive, engaging, and inclusive
Three Concentric Rings- Journey of a Spatial Narrative

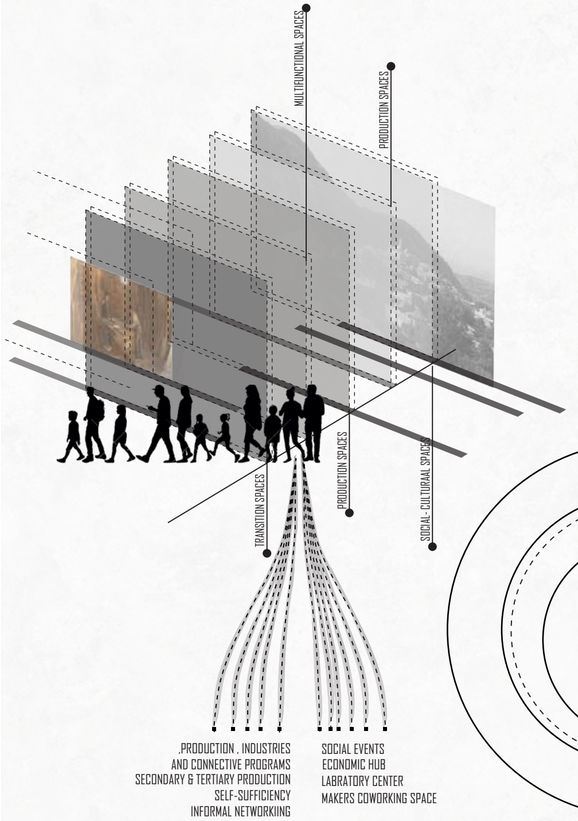


This approach is present in different discourses such as **Maslow's hierarchy of needs** that forms a framework to respond to basic needs focused on user- based design to cater for the specific, **growing cluster of communities** in the regions. These are formed as a hierarchy beginning with **self, livelihood, community, safety, and physiological need.**

This is translated architecturally with different **spatial plug-ins** such as activity rings, shared porous spaces ,or focused introverted spaces projected onto the rural.

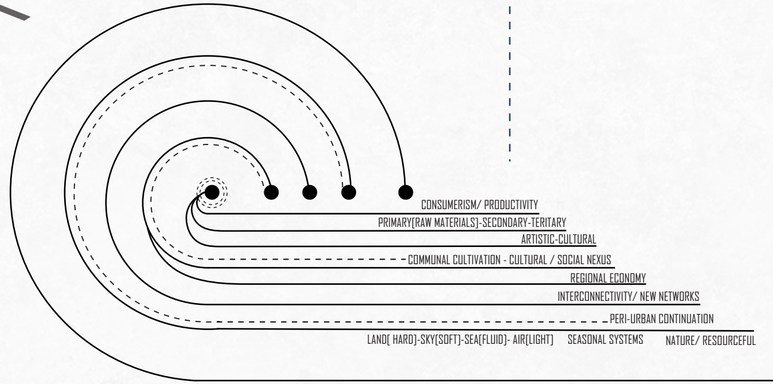
Spatially these have **different levels of engagements and connection to different social circles** starting from the intrapersonal, interpersonal, institutional, and expanding to the community and regional network. This can also be reflected based on different architectural forms such as **the home which refers to the intimate, the square which refers to public, and the limit that refers to sacred.** These can be interperted as a series of typologies and spatial plug-ins manifested as open activity rings, shared experiential porous spaces, or focused introverted spaces.

THE RURAL DECONSTRUCT

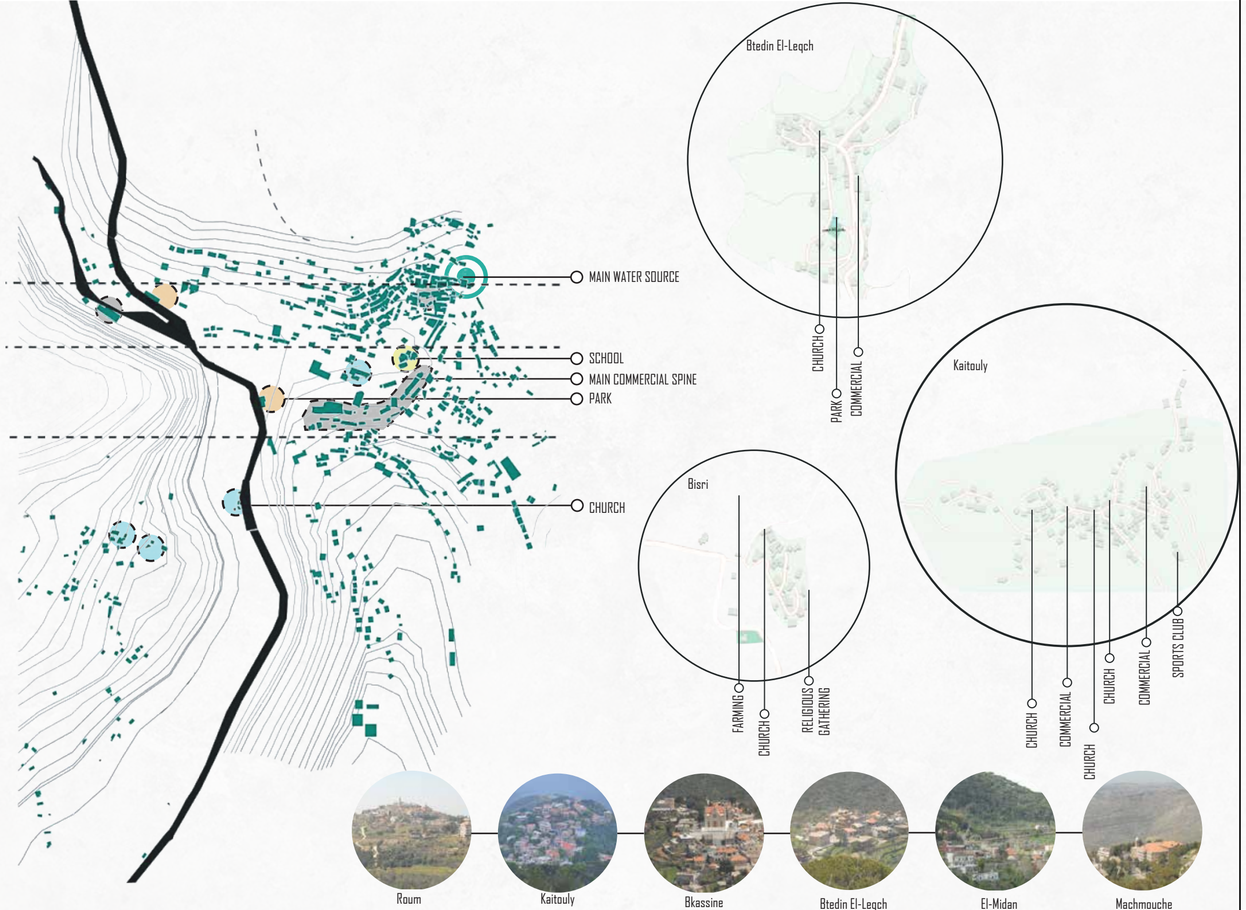


RETHINKING THE RURAL INTERFACE-PRORGAMMING

Based on extracting these embedded qualities the space can be built upon for a larger scheme which is varied and multifaceted. **The Architecture begins to explore how these multiple layers overlap and converge to create a porous layer of interaction,exchange,communal, artistic, and productive cultivation.**
The research on existing activities would form the base that would be expanded upon.



TOWARDS A MULTIFUNCTIONAL RURALITY

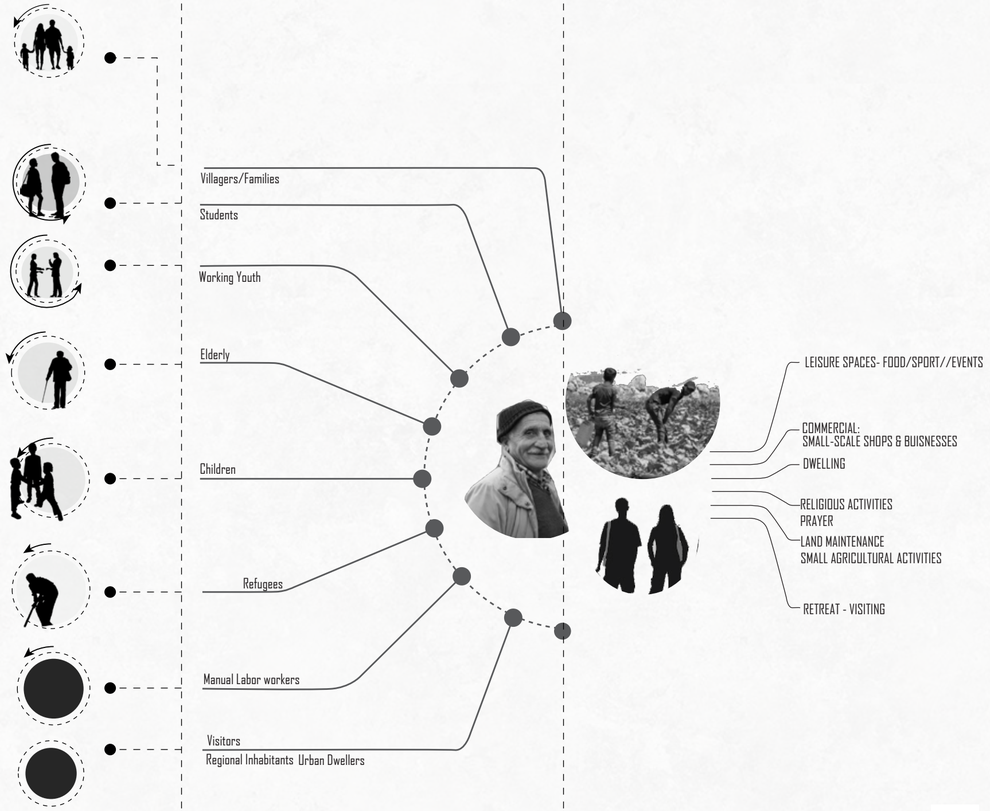


Existing Village Fabric

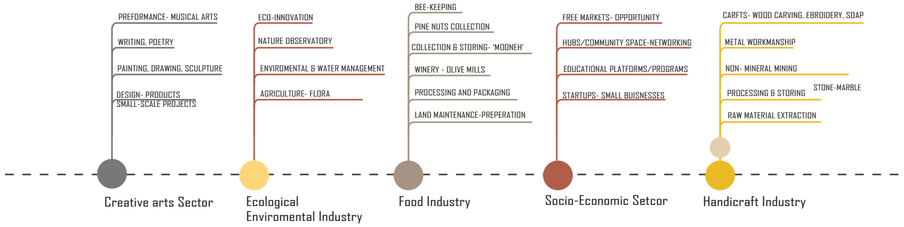
The distribution is focused on dwellings with distributed social, commercial and religious structure. These villages analyzed are in sequence of one another with one connecting to the other. They follow the same typological composition of a independently compact conglomeration that we see repeated as a type across this area (small village type).

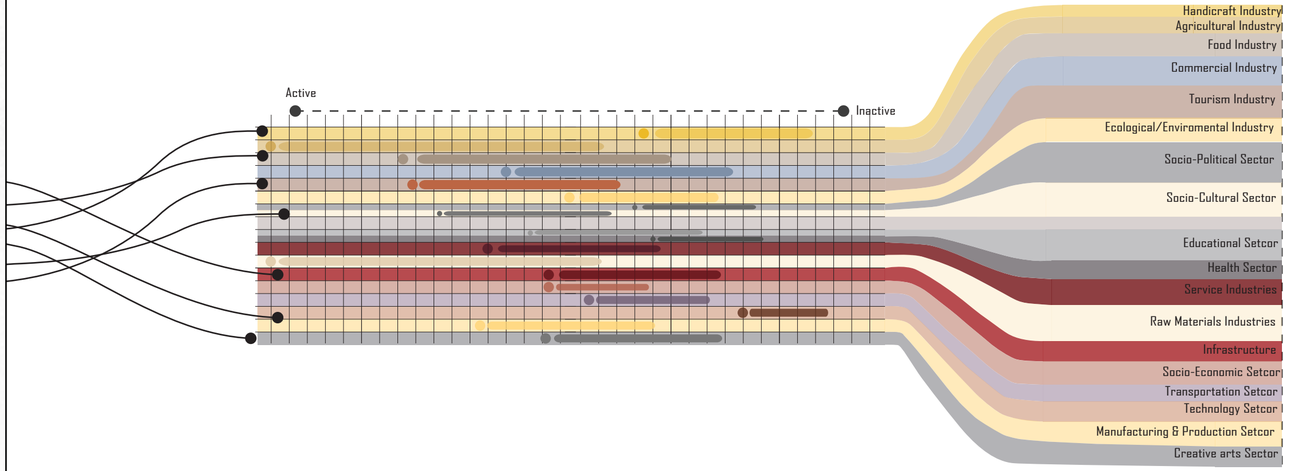
The daily life and patterns shift between commercial, small-scale businesses to agrarian activities, recreation and leisure. The users are mostly villagers, elderly, manual labor workers, and visitors. The extent of migrations from the village throughout the year is mostly present amongst the working youth and students.

The active sectors and industries is examined in the collection of these villages as a whole as they do not function independently for themselves but usually there is one sector in a village which services others as well. I extracted the more promoinent ones in specific such as the productive sectors, and the emerging socio-economic sector that is evolving that I could used to integrate in the multifunctional program.



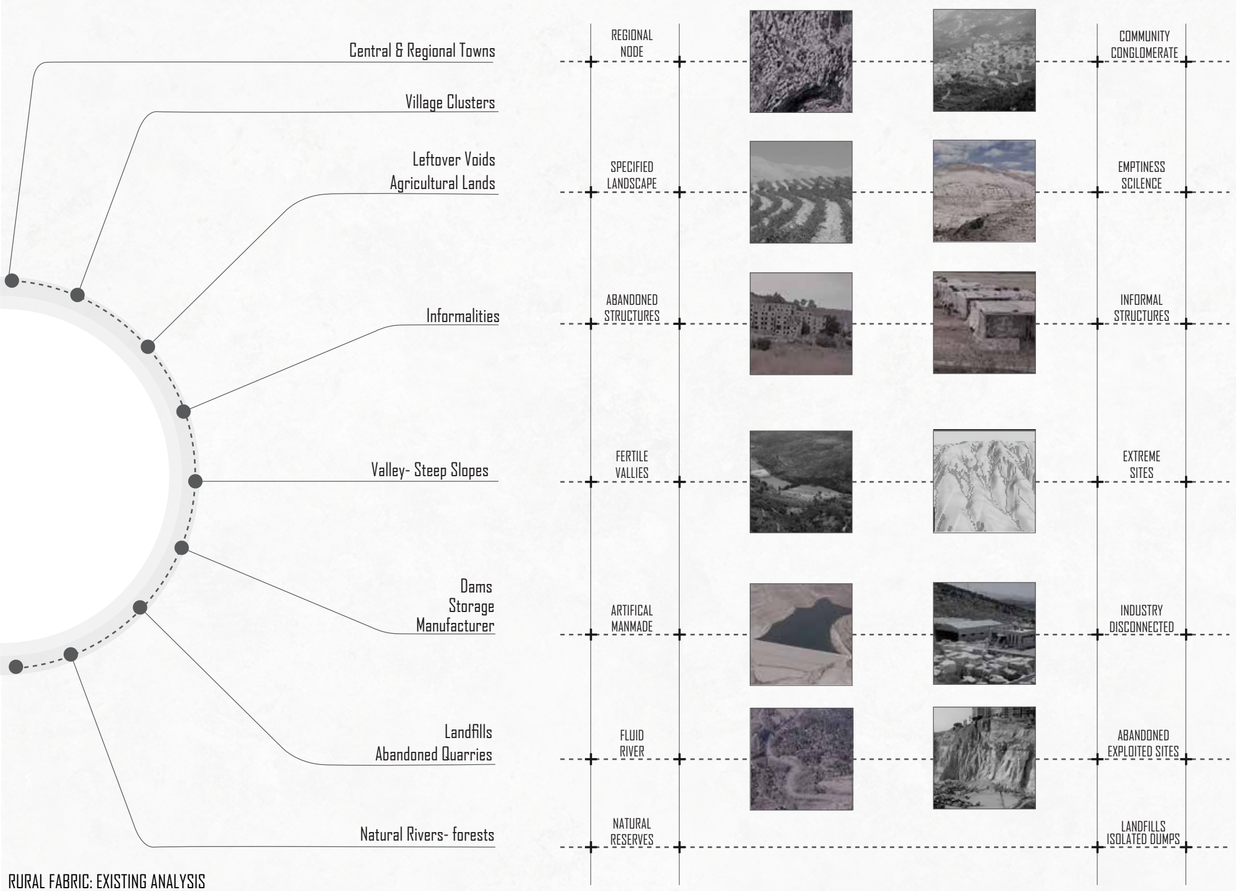
RURAL FABRIC: USER GROUPS, MIGRATIONS, & PATTERNS





Existing operating companies: sectors
Total number of companies----- 33 ------Used for local & external markets

RURAL FABRIC: PATTERNS OF ACTIVITY & PRODUCTIONS



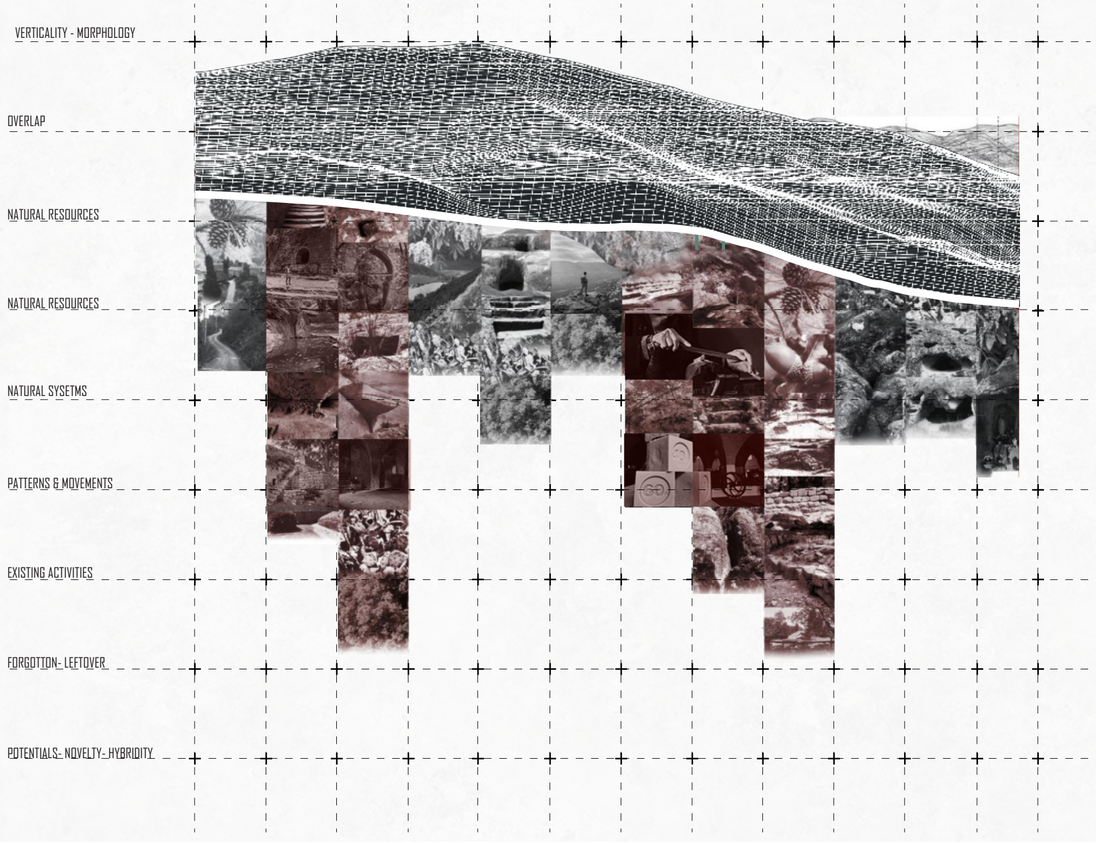
RURAL FABRIC: EXISTING ANALYSIS

Typologies of Spaces of the Rural: Jezzine

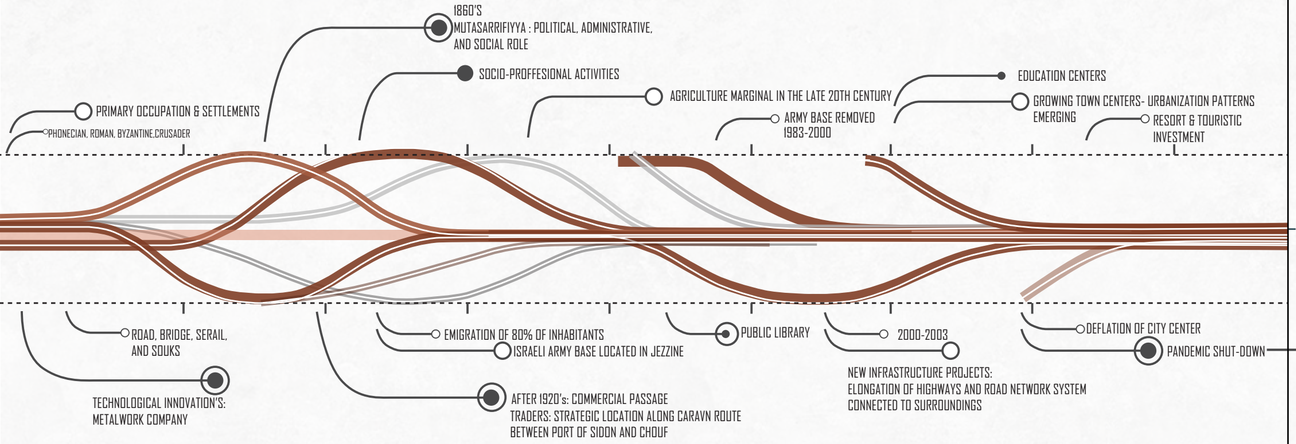
Understanding different conditions, formal, and informal spaces aid to qualify spaces of contestation and interaction. These points fall between the extremes of two scales: The silent and distant in comparision to the situated and intersecting. Each influence these villages indirectly or directly.

The Bisri valley, for example, combines the ecological and cultural aspect. The projects to be implemented there were used in service of the urban center and depleted the area. This was done while negating the existing communities and not drawing any benefits to improve their livelihood. This led to many protests as well, due to its association with a sense of identity and cultural heritage.

CASE STUDY: LEBANESE VILLAGES



TIMELINE: TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE RULE OF THE RURAL

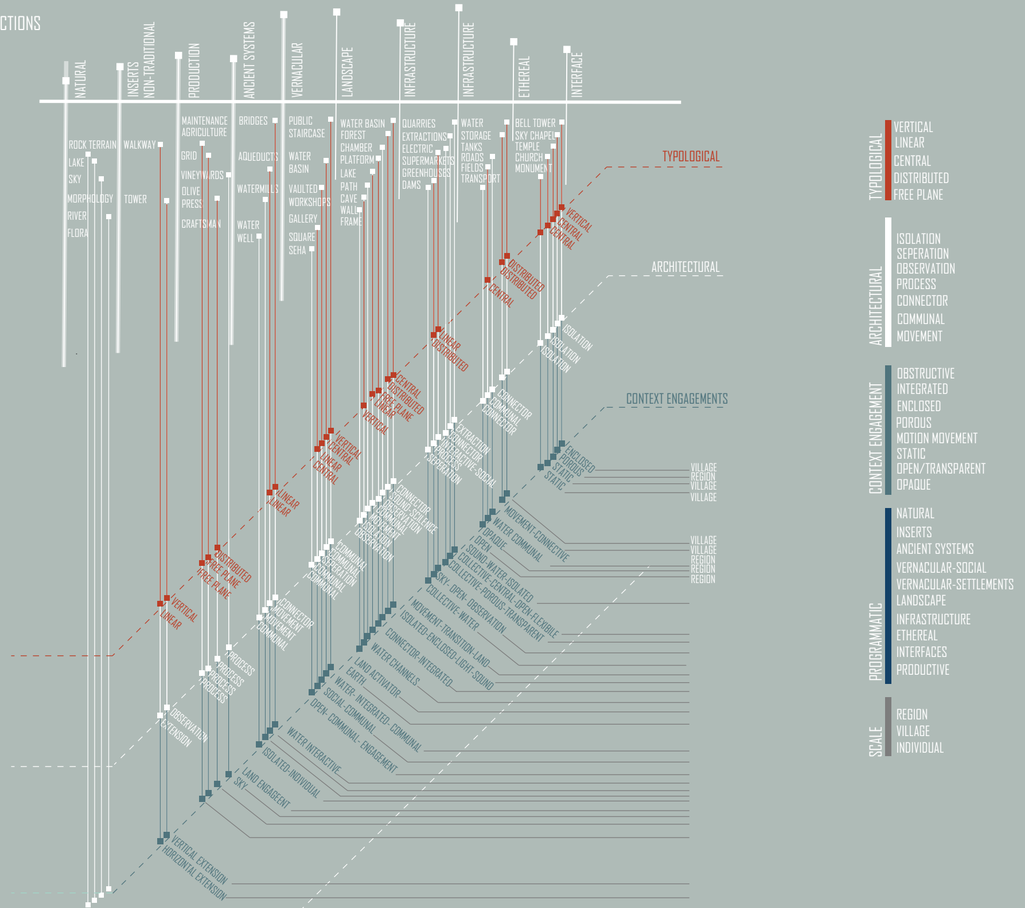


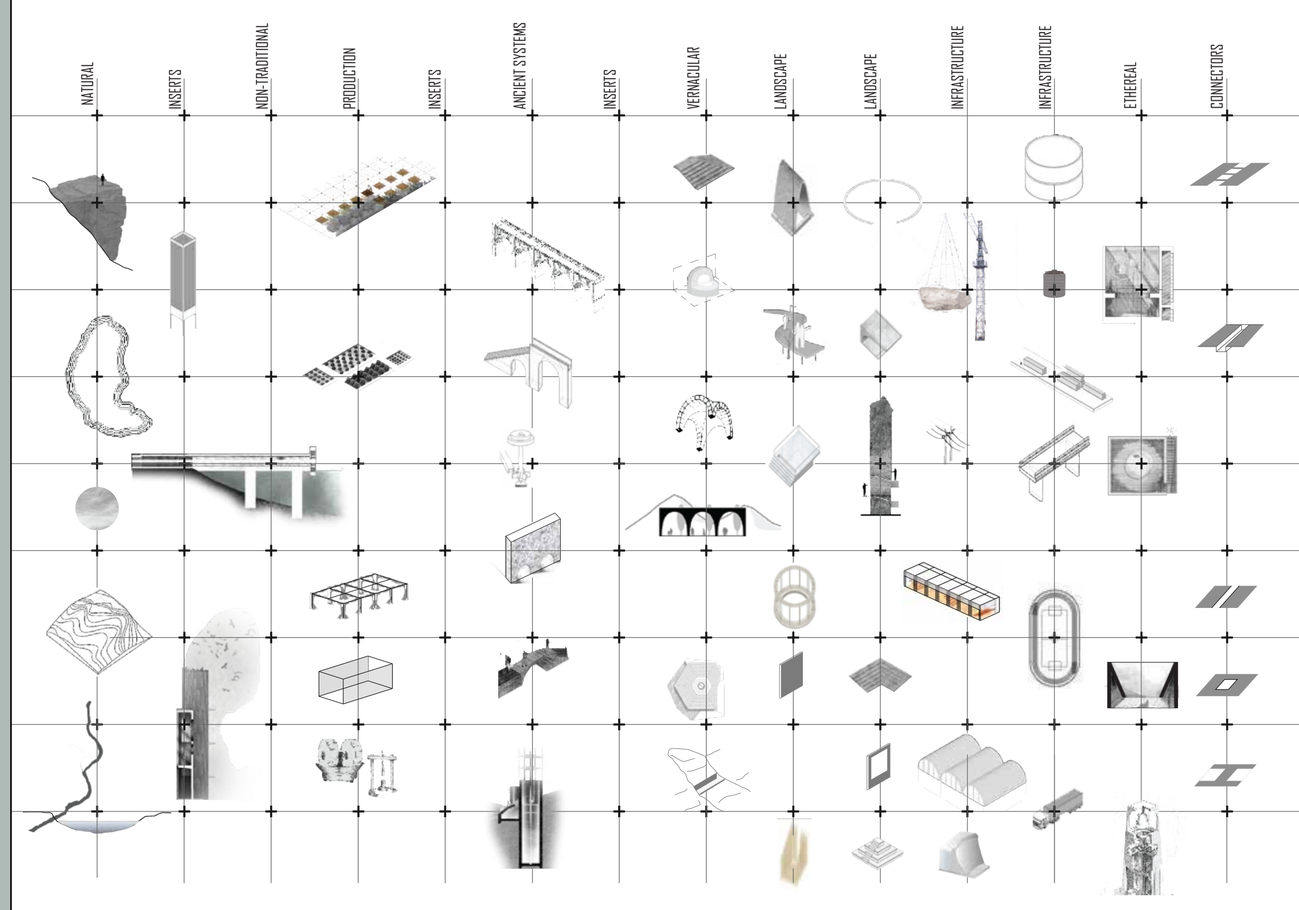
The project aims to challenge depopulation, an issue affecting the rural areas in lebanon, by retaining and attracting talent through active production and activities of diverse educational levels, while generating a new local economic model.**It achieves this by inserting techno-social productive spaces within the existing morphology and proposing an amalgamation of synergistic systems.**The architecture acts as **productive artifacts in which it is shaped by its performative aspect and process** (industrial, social, or vertical).

This assessment analyzes the transformation of essential roles of the rural spaces and how this has contributed to migrations in and out of the village as an outcome of different transforming conditions. These include the period of a capitalist agrarian structure , its previously central political,social,administrative role, its role as a commercial passage and strategic location for traders along the caravan route, the emergence of public social infrastructure such as libraries education centers bridges, etc and the most recent deflation of the city center and pandemic shutdown.

The current pandemic has changed the minds of many, either to look at the countryside as a viable place to live in, or to fight for a change of how we live in cities and to make them healthier.

TYPOLOGICAL DISSECTIONS





Typological Assessment: The Architetcural Tectonics

This deconstruction of the different elements of the rural spatialiy in their variety is distinguished primarly based on program and function as existing archetypes.

Landscape elements are assessd for different communal cultivation, experience, and engagement with light, sky, sea, wind, sound, etc

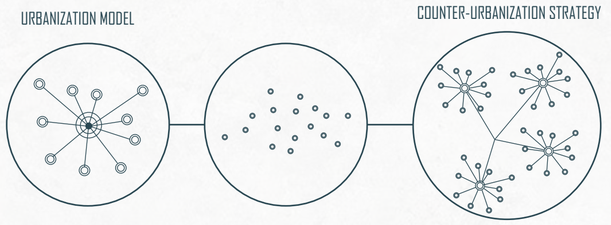
Infrastructural elements that are **productive, proactive, and destructive**, etc. **A hybridity of these systems can produce new conditions and interfaces counter to their individual deisparate state.**

The connector - the interface- between these typologies can be a: connection a void, a separation ,a transition, a space, a volume, a partition, a condition ,open, concave, etc

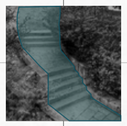
Their typological, architectural, contextual and programmatic value is assessed to differentiate their value as insertions in a hybrid system.

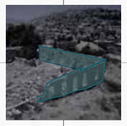
An experimental laboratory of how to re-colonize the countryside by inserting new productive methods that ultimately create a new economic, productive, social and technological context, as well as defying the notion of rural picturesque. The approach values traditional production by trying to maximize and make more efficient the existing production. It also proposes producing goods that might complement the existing ones, or even improve the weak and unsustainable methods.

Architecture as the transitory space and as a process- journey-progression. These extracted systems form an overarching network distributed over the region and network of villages to counter Urbanization in the rural.



DECENTRALIZED
MULTI-NODAL
DISTRIBUTED NETWORK
INTERCONNECTED SYSTEM

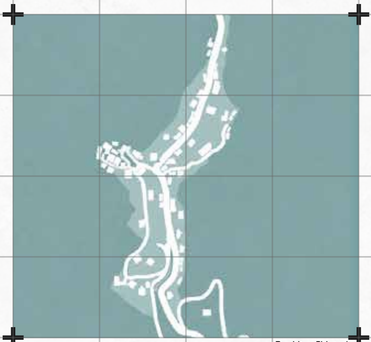




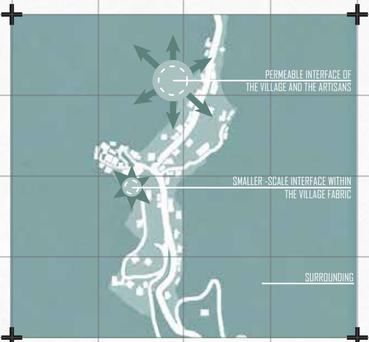
Through an Internal walkthrough of the village, its different social and productive interfaces are identified on the human scale. In terms of territorial strategy, the project raises the question of **sameness in production**; as every town and every individual produce similar products, which results in a declining economic model, due to local competition. To tackle this, it proposes a territorial cooperative allowing to j**ump from the primary sector (extraction of raw materials), to the secondary and tertiary**, not only selling more refined products, but also retaining and attracting talent through providing jobs of diverse educational levels. This is ultimately tested to challenge rural depopulation, whic is a major issue affecting the rural.

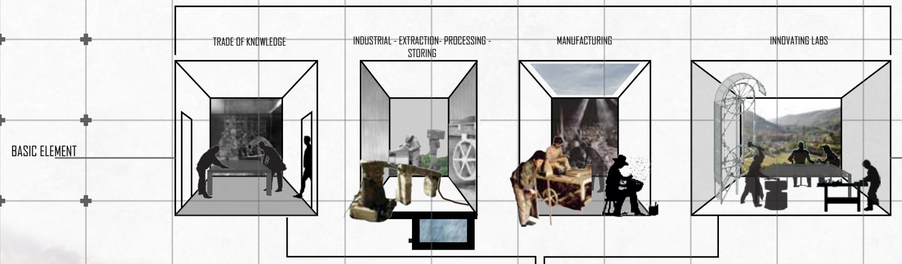
THE VILLAGE: CASE STUDIES

Rachaya



Bteddine El Loqch

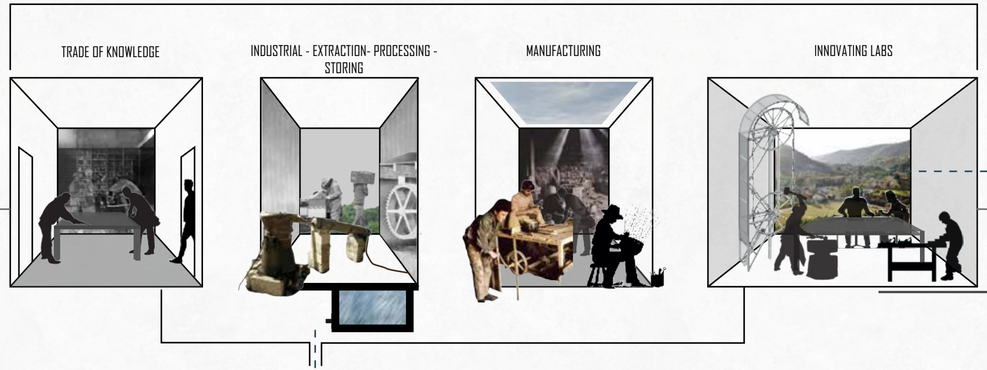




The research aims to explore new modes of the rural and its potential by inserting novel architetcural interventions that counter and complement existing archetypes. The aim is to test new architetcures in areas impacting the smaller villages such as Racaya and Bteddine El Loqch. This intervention aims to resuscitate what is essential to the rural and cannot be provided by the city to ehnance its condition and re-attract the inhabitants of the region. To shift from redundancy to renewal through engagement, regeneration, revival, empowerment, and reconciliation. Essentializing the connection to nature's resources and its elements at the base of human needs.The project will explore combinations, overlaps, and hybridities to introduce new activators in the rural scene. These activators create an interface allowing for interaction between small villages and the remaining regional fabric and its inhabitants.

The natural and fundamental state that is present and transformed. The word "Alchemy" is applied to its architecture where you turn something that apparently has no value into a hybrid of much more value, just as extracting gold from stone.

(A transition- process)



VALUE

RESOURCES

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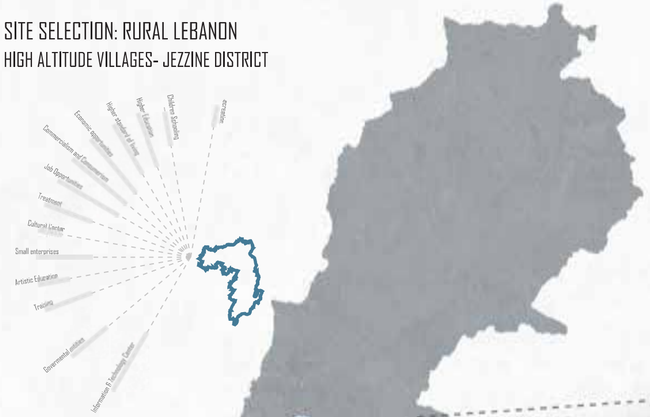
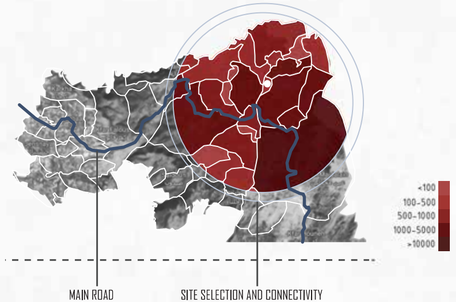
SITE SELECTION: JEZZINE

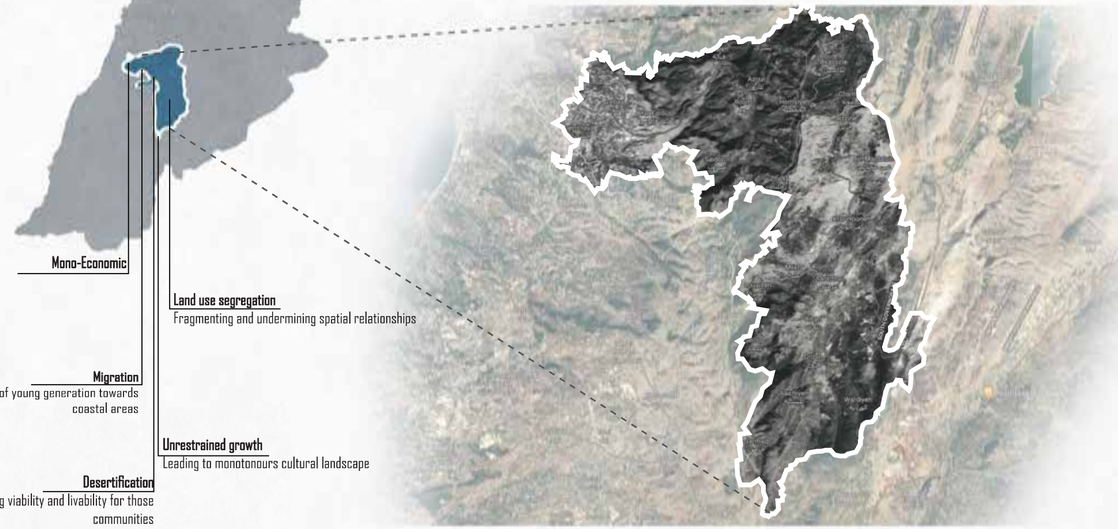
SITE SELECTION: RURAL LEBANON

HIGH ALTITUDE VILLAGES- JEZZINE DISTRICT



POPULATION DENSITY





Mono-Economic

Land use segregation
Fragmenting and undermining spatial relationships

Migration
of young generation towards coastal areas

Unrestrained growth
Leading to monotonours cultural landscape

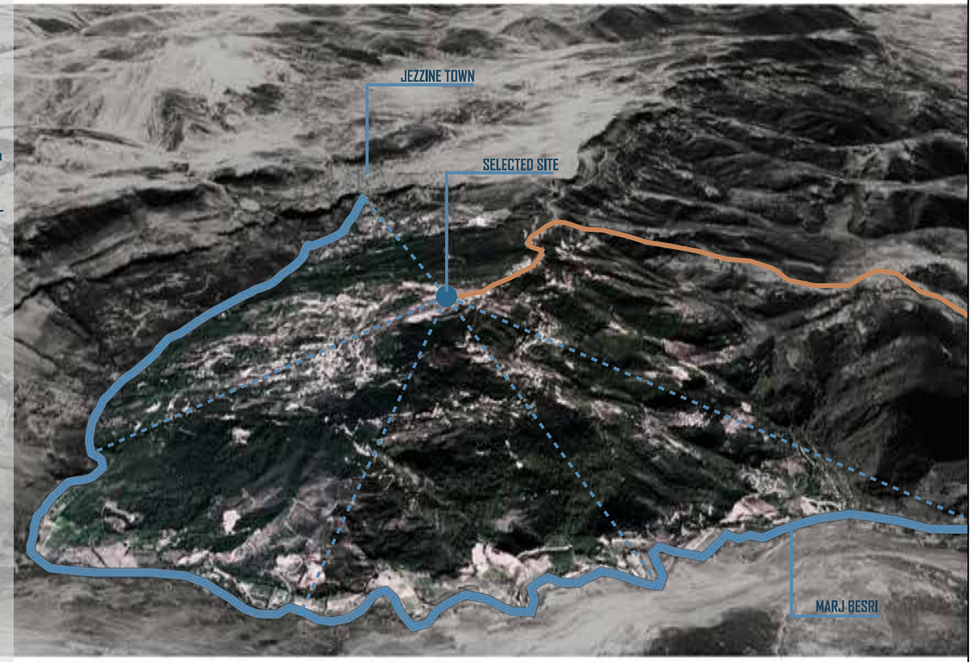
Desertification
Threatening viability and livability for those communities

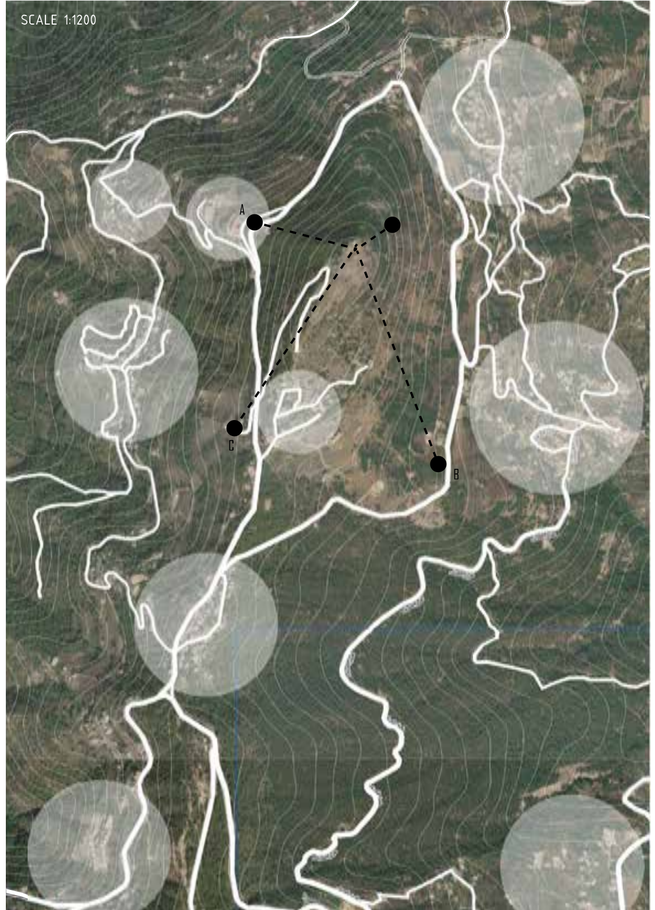
EMPOWERMENT;
An entrepreneurial hub for the people.
The hub serves as a node exuberating empowerment to its users, creating a place of interaction, collective action, and creative output. Fluidity is integrated in the architiectural concept to protect the natural element on site, allowing for a direct connection with it and the spaces created. Allows others to 'take control' over their enviroment and their consequence, being participative and proactive instead of re-active. Empowering the entrepreneurial, working, creative, and young population by creating a social catalyst to instigate experiments and knowledge exchange

Proactive program- The hybrid
Spaces of Production/Industry
Spaces of Knowledge
Spaces of Leisure

System of distributed sequences-
A narrative of the village.
Route as ritual, movement, and program as narrative'

Seasonal Phenomena- Translucence and Transparency

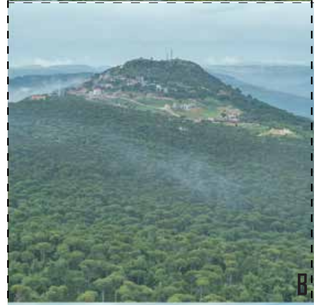




VIEWS AND CONTEXT

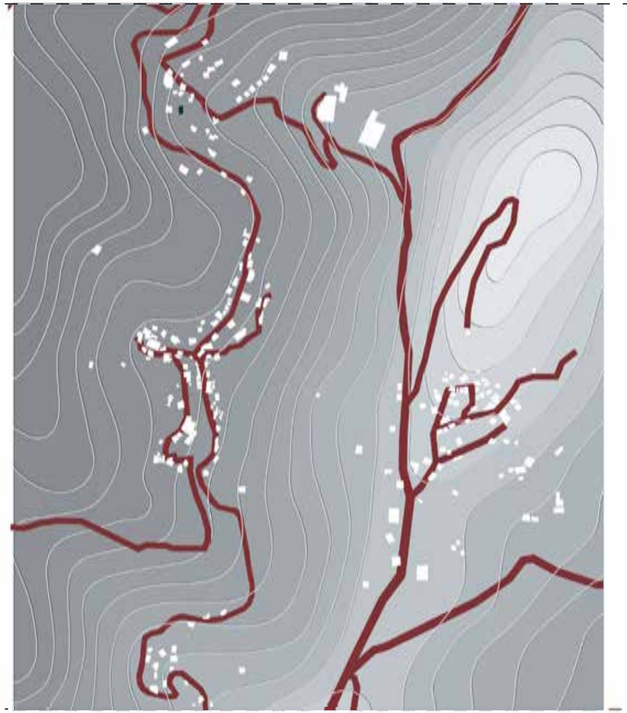
TOWARDS SAIDA PORT AND SEA

SURROUNDING VILLAGES

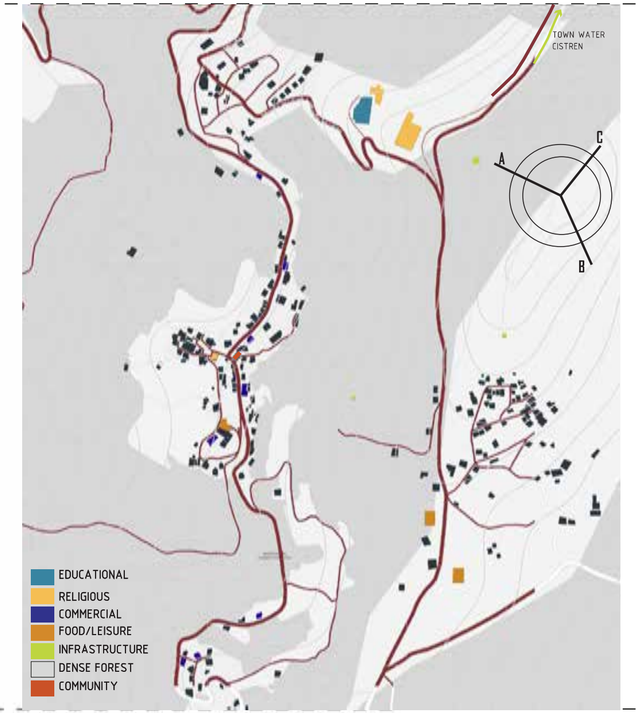


TOWARDS PINE FOREST

TOWARDS BESRI VALLEY

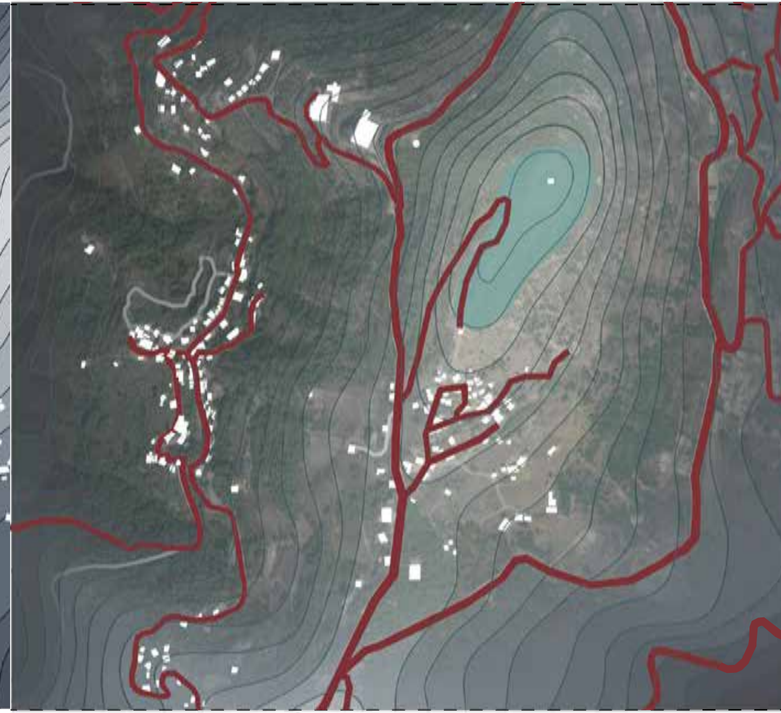


MAIN ROADS



LAND USE

MASSING & TOPOGRAPHY



SITE & GEOGRAPHY

MAIN ACCESS FROM MAJOR ROADS

1 RUINS

2 COMMON WATER CISTREN

3 MAIN ROAD PEDESTRIAN-FRIENDLY

4 WALKABLE DISTANCE INNER STREETS

5 SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH SQUARE

6 AGRICULTURE CULTIVATION OF OLIVE, PINE AND FRUIT TREES.

5 SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH WITH SCHOOL ANNEX

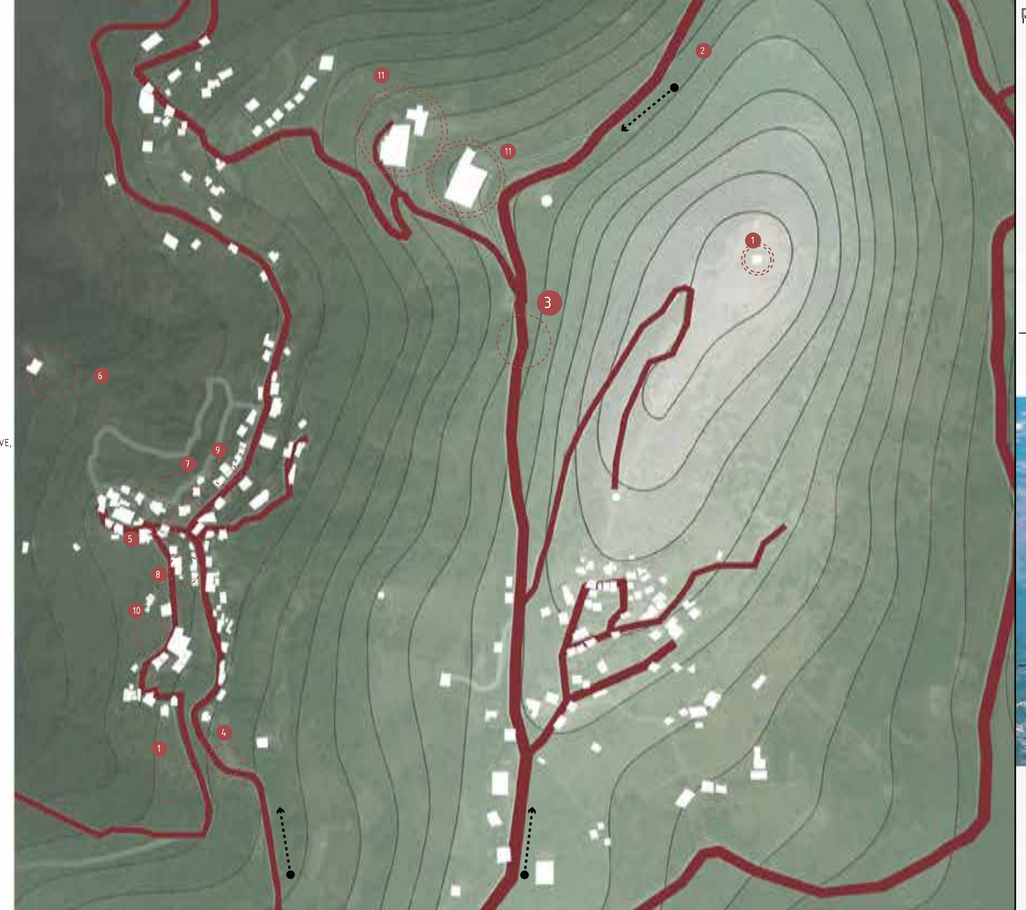
7 TOWN SQUARE

8 ANNUAL FESTIVALS LEFTOVER PLOTS AND SQUARES

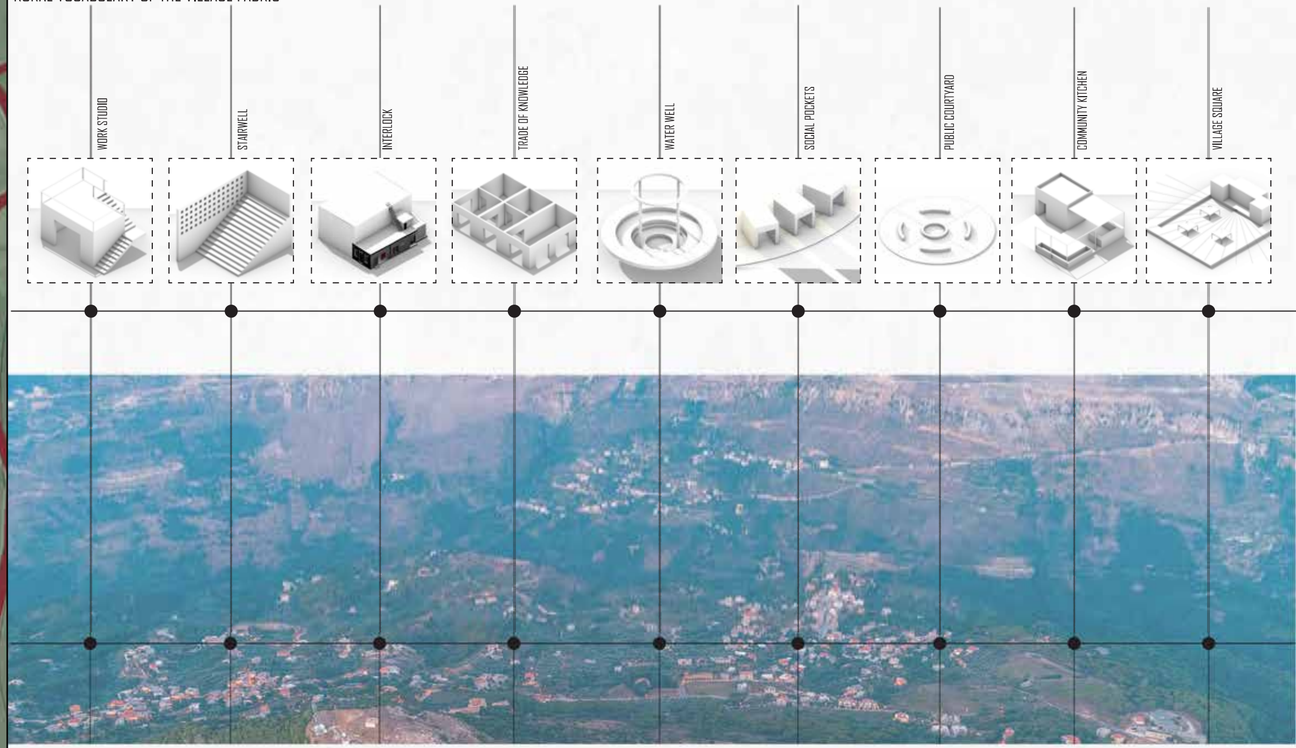
9 TOWN HALL

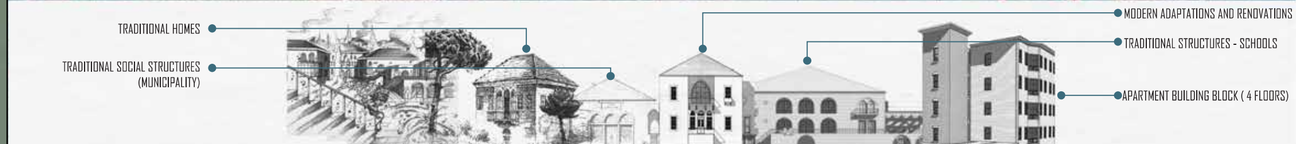
10 BTEDDINE PARK

11 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS



RURAL VOCABULARY OF THE VILLAGE FABRIC





SITE PROGRAM STRATEGY

Program Assessment

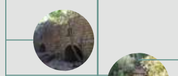
EDUCATION
INDUSTRY
LEISURE

Rural Experiences study

Ecological experience
- Agriculture
- Organic homemade mouneh
- Protected natural areas
- Medicinal plants
- Nurseries for seed production

Socio-economic experience
- Municipalities, organizations, initiatives and clubs(Cultural and sports clubs)
- Jezzine Hub
- Annual festivals(August & September)
- Technical skills workshops, and small businesses
- Traditional craft-stone, pottery, metals,wood,etc
- Architectue & building skills

Educational experience
- Poetry and arts
- Libraries and Technical schools
- Saint Coeur Jezzine and Jezzine secondary school
- Ecole Notre Dame De Machmoucheh
- Monastries and convents
- Abandoned school structure & the Academic city project



Sustainable Infrastructure
Community
Education Knowledge

EDUCATION
INDUSTRY
LEISURE

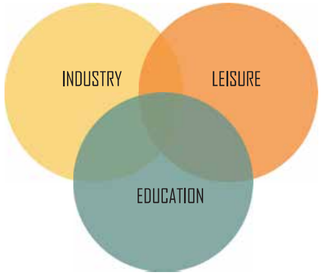
Rural factory

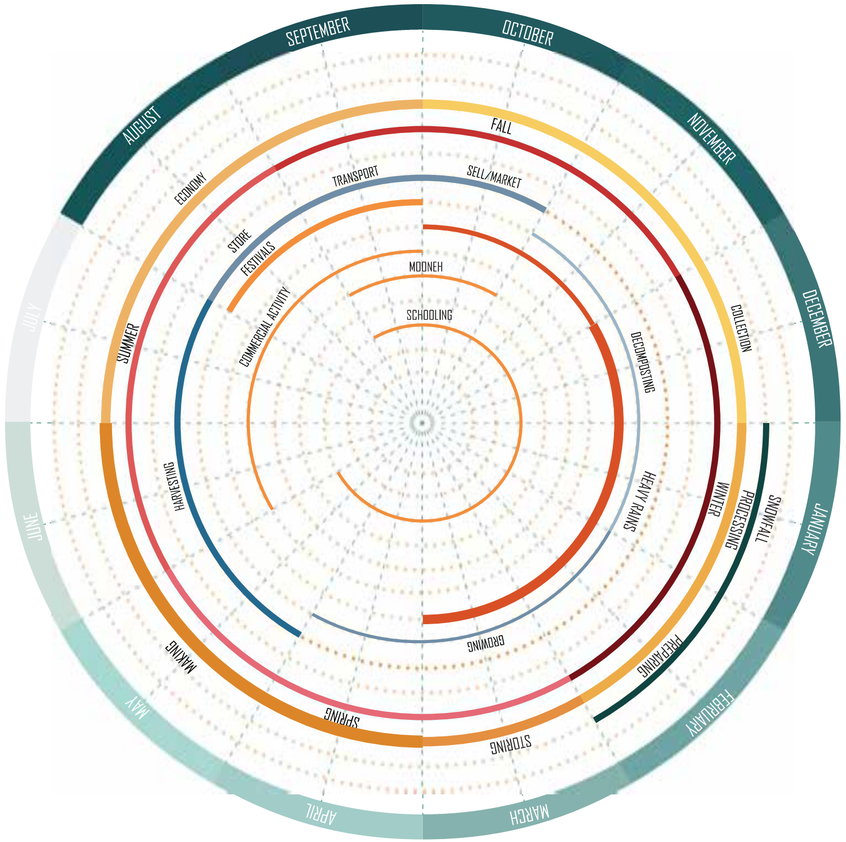
Community Kitchen	Outdoor workspace Individual Studios	Common rooms	Lecture Halls
Primary Industry	Workshops Material Archives	Community Makers space Libraries	Technical Schools Soft & Hard skills
Retreat Lookout/ Observatory	Pathways within nature	Meeting spaces Square & water well typology	Event Hall Auditorium

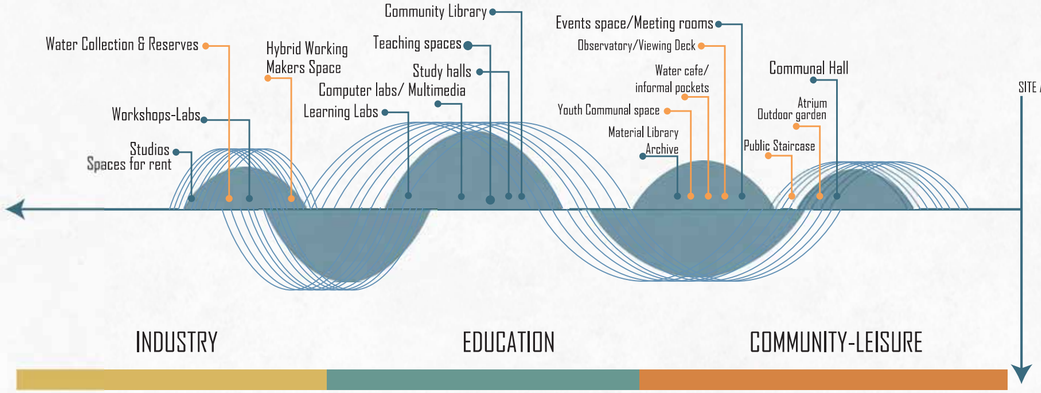
Preforming Making
Study
Innovation Technology

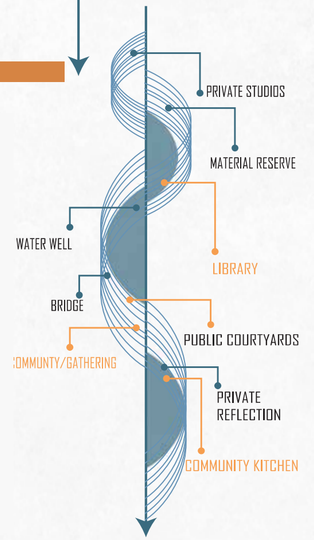
Creative and Intellectual Industries Intervention

DYNAMICS OF THE RURAL









Program is based on daily cycles and activites observed in the village, to catalyze the production surrounding each village and turn something that apparently has no value (source) into a hybrid of much more value. The program overlaps three main structures: Industry, Education, and Leisure. Move from redundancy to renewal: explore how multiple layers overlap and converge to create a porous layer of interaction and exchange that would enhance communal, artistic, productive cultivation by inserting new productive methods through inserting performative architecture in the remaining spaces and sites.

Different active typologies can be extracted from the fabric such as the garage workshops, communal staircases, informal classrooms, and events spaces that are inserted as additions to the traditional fabric- markets. In addition to places where people meet to converse such as water wells, informal pockets for social exchange, squares, the mooneh kitchens, and public parks. People can work learn and engage based on the already existing natural and social cycles, patterns and activities that shown here on a yearly basis. The program can be distributed vertically along the slope of the mountain in a disconnected matter or horizontally.

As a design approach two specific conditions were tackled: firstly, within the village fabric then also in the peripheries and nature consuming sites with less dwellings and structures. It is essential to test both out to understand how to tackle rural spaces. This node system works to attract beyond the building and extends to the neighborhoods and the town scale wherever such nodes are introduced, attracting the public, working class, students, youth, and community members.

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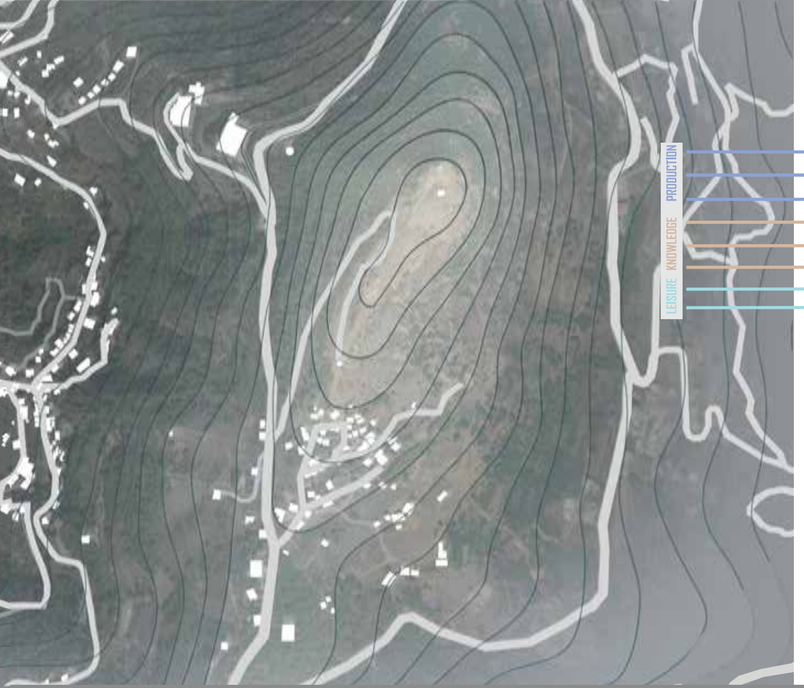
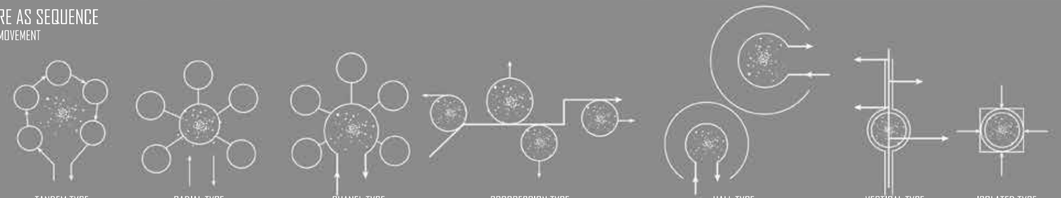


PRODUCTION
KNOWLEGDE
LEISURE

PRIVATE WORK/ BUISNESS- PLACES FOR RENT
WORKSHOPS- PRODUCTION FACILITIES
ARTISTS STUDIOS- CO-WORKING AREA
PRODUCT LIBRARY
COMMUNITY LIBRARY
STORAGE FACILITY(RESOURCE)-ARCHIVE
WATER COLLECTION FOR PRODUCTION & DISTRIBUTION
LABS- STUDIO SPACES
LECTURE HALLS/ STUDY HALLS
MEETING SPACES-EVENTS-CLUBS
PUBLIC SPACES- GATHERING
NATURE OBSERVATORY/ VIEWING DECK

ARCHITECTURE AS SEQUENCE

CIRCULATION AND MOVEMENT



TANDEM TYPE
RADIAL TYPE
CHANEL TYPE
PROGRESSION TYPE
HALL TYPE
VERTICAL TYPE
ISOLATED TYPE

CREATIVE MANUFACTURING/ STUDIOS

ATELIER/WORKSHOP
MEETING ROOM
MANUFACTURING
REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE

STUDY CENTER
ARTIST STUDIOS
EXHIBITION

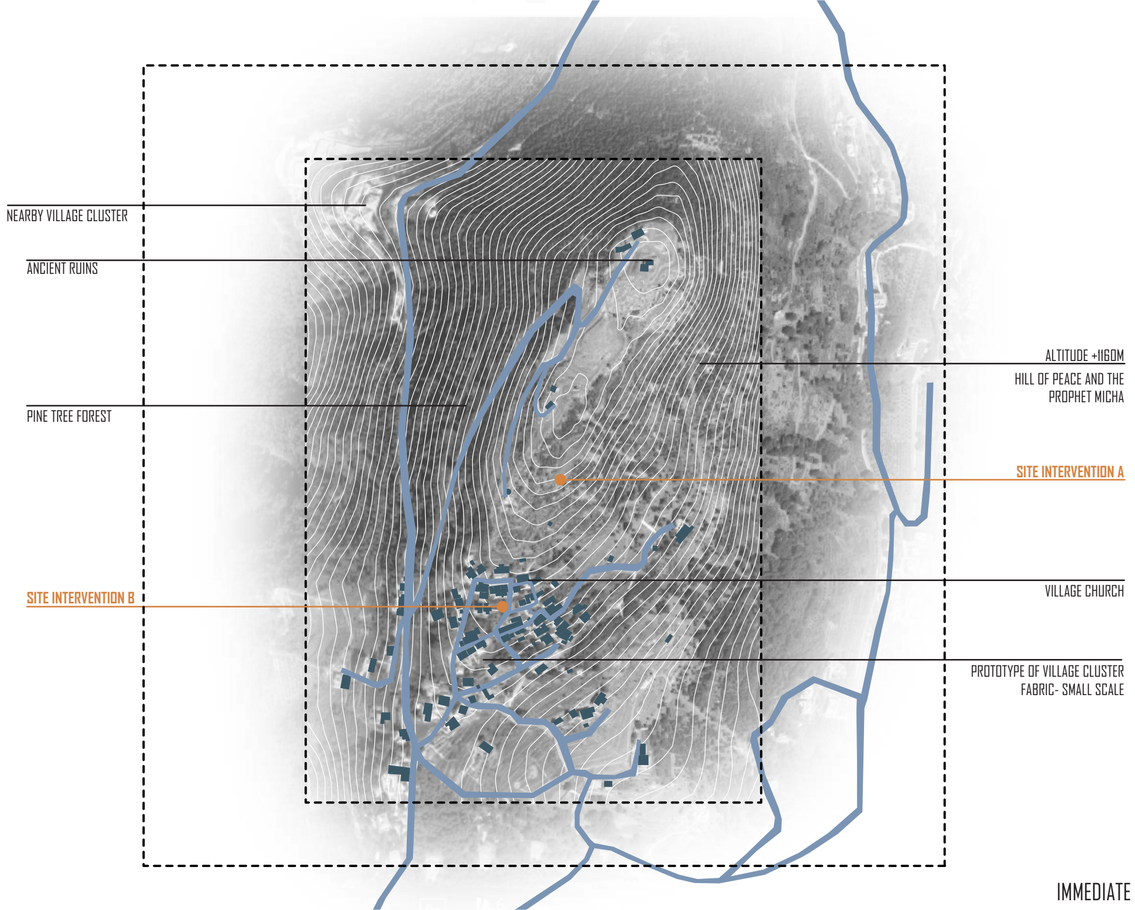
CAFE
CARPENTRY
BLACKSMITH SHOP
HANDCRAFT SHOP

SERVICES/RECREATION

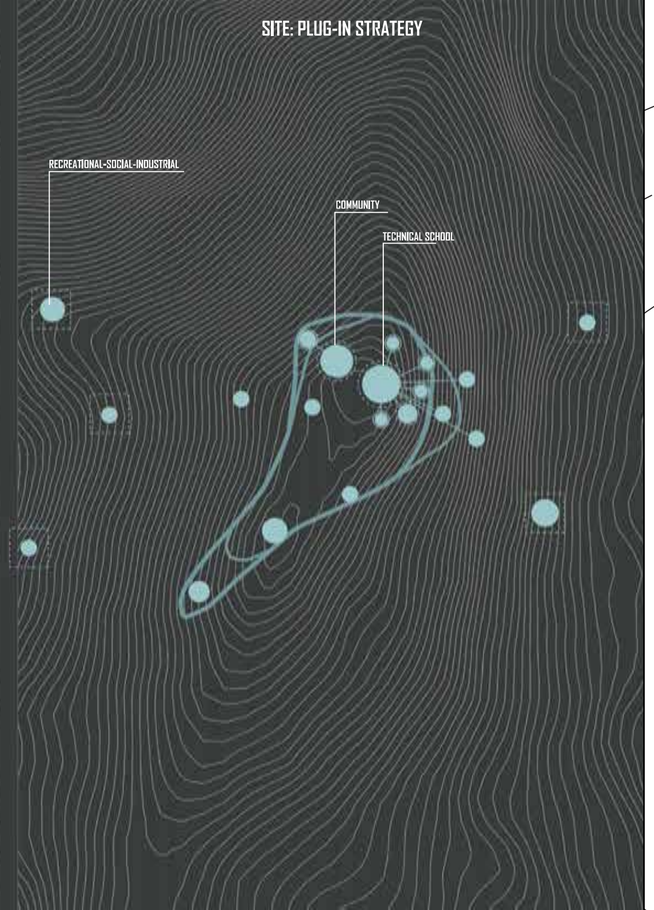
STORAGE/REPAIR
ELECTRICIAN/PLUMBER
STUDY HALL

CONCERTS
LECTURES
EVENTS

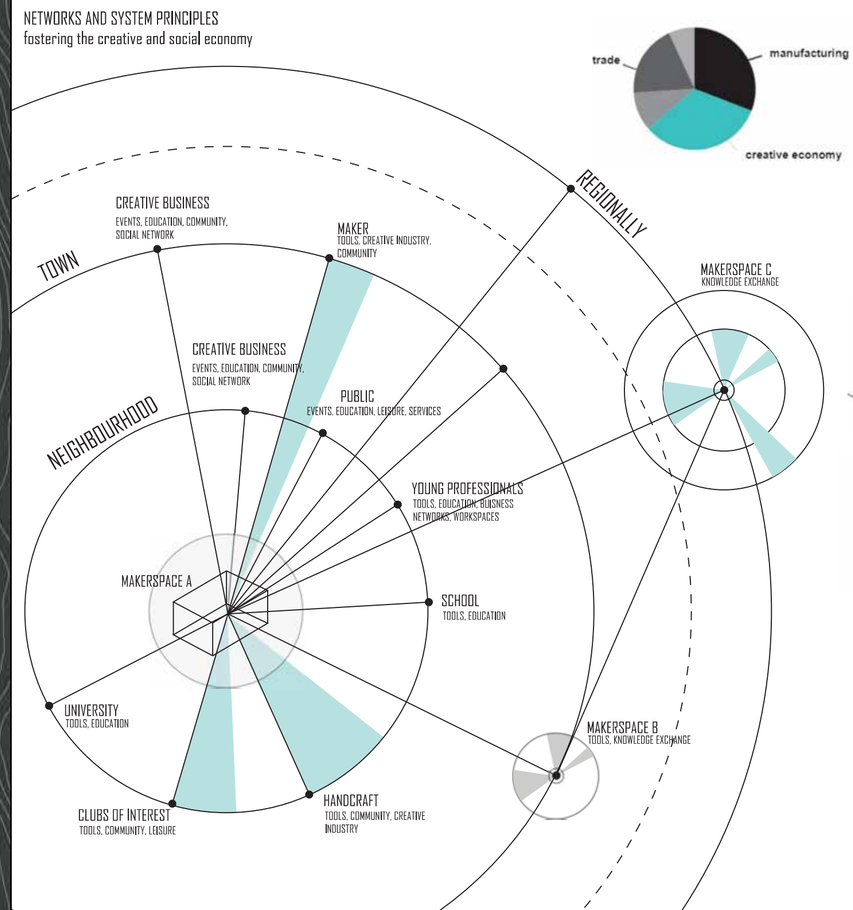
DESIGN PROPOSAL



IMMEDIATE SITE CONTEXT

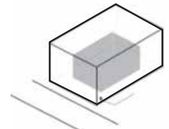


NETWORKS AND SYSTEM PRINCIPLES
fostering the creative and social economy

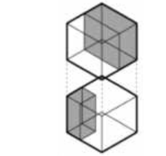


STRATEGIES TO ANIMATE WORKSPACES

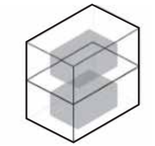
FLEXIBILITY

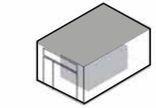

TRANSPARENT

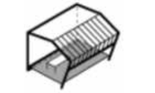
LIVE & WORK


LAYERED PROGRAMMNG

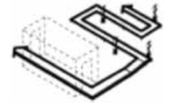
PLACES FOR PAUSE AND PLAY


CONNECTIVITY - COMMUNITY


OCCUPIED ROOF


OUTDOOR ACTIVITY INFRASTRUCTURE

POROUS GROUND FLOOR


PLACES FOR EXPLORATION

VILLAGE LIBRARY

VILLAGE SQUARE

ABANDONED LAND

LEFTOVER PLOTS

PERIPHERIES

FOREST

SCALE 1:2000

LIBRARY EXTENSION

VILLAGE LIBRARY

THEATRE
GATHERING AND
SOCIAL SPACE

VILLAGE SQUARE

SOCIAL FUNCTION-
MUNICIPALITY-
EVENTS- NGOS-
CUBS
EDUCATIONAL CORRIDOR

ABANDONED LAND

CAFES
INFORMAL GATHERING
INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMUNITY KITCHEN-GAR-
DENING- LEARNIG SPACE

LEFTOVER PLOTS

CAFES
INFORMAL GATHERING
STUDIO
COMMUNITY KITCHEN-GAR-
DENING- LEARNIG SPACE
MATERIAL STORAGE

PERIPHERIES

OBSERVATORY
RECREATION
MULTIFUNCTIONAL SPACE

FOREST

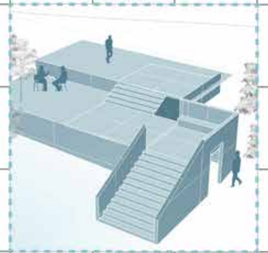
ACTIVITY RINGS
AXIAL/OPEN

POROUS
SHARED EXPERIENCES

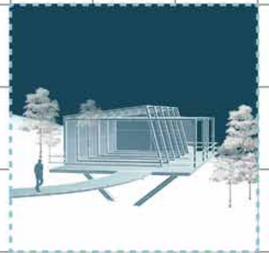
INTROVERTED

SCALE 1:2000

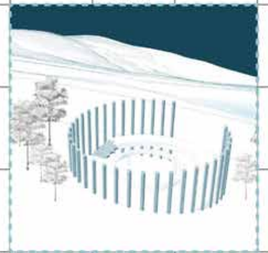
STEPPED



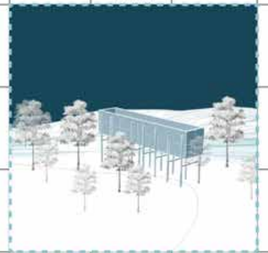
ELEVATED



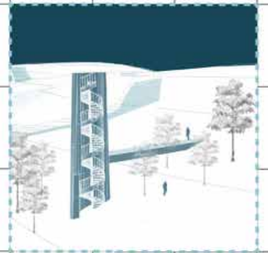
HIDDEN



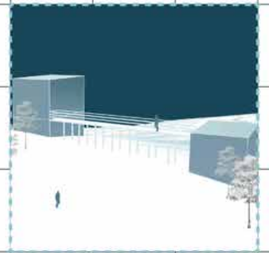
LINEAR



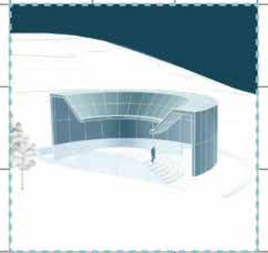
TOWER



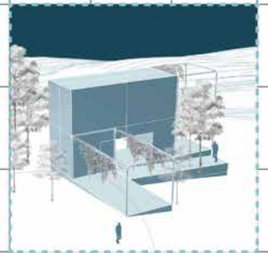
CONNECTING



WATERWELL

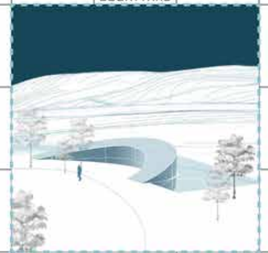


STITCHED



VOID

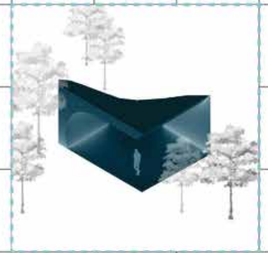
SUNKEN COURTYARD



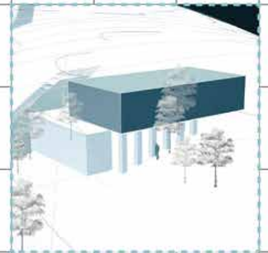
INDIVIDUAL

TRANSPARENT

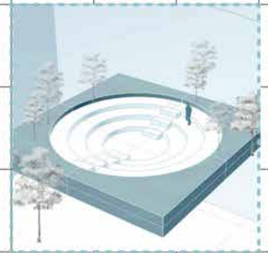
CAVE



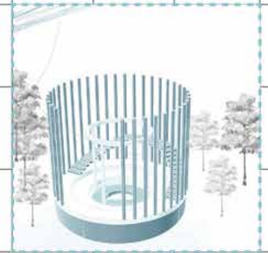
BURIED

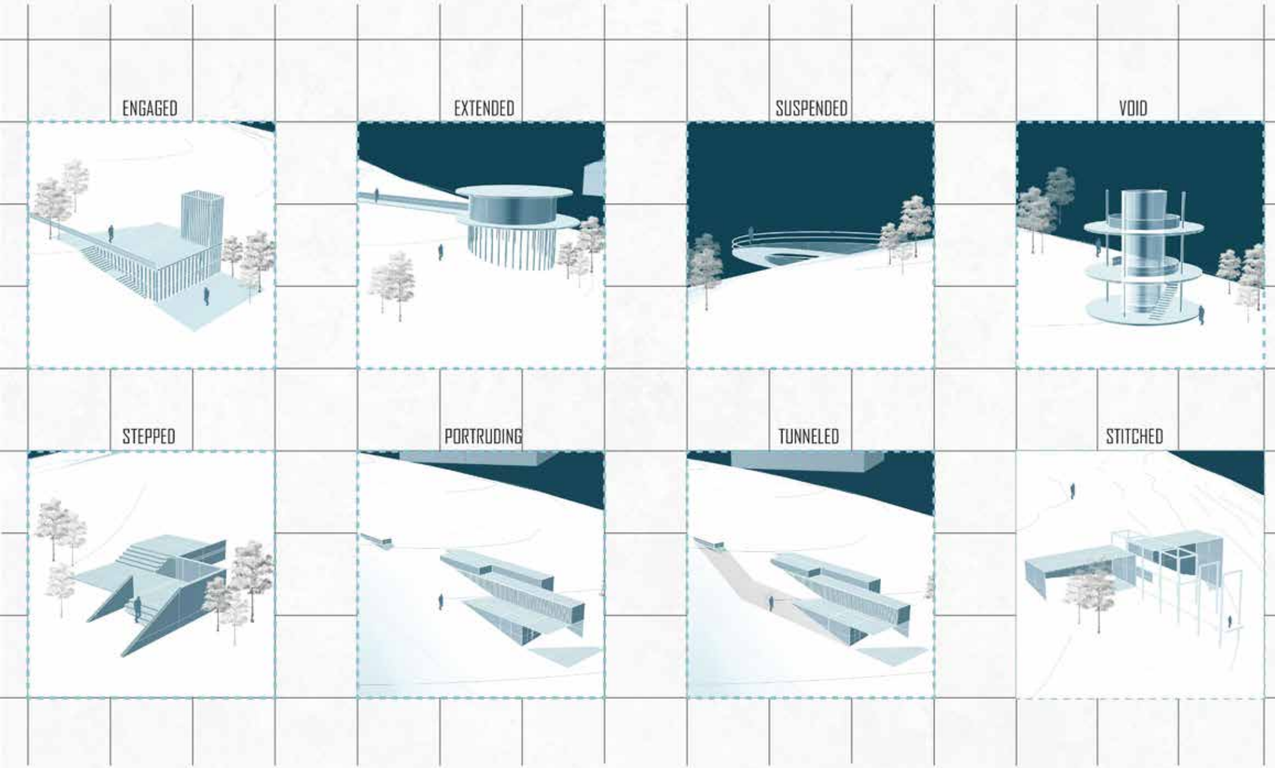


CENTRAL



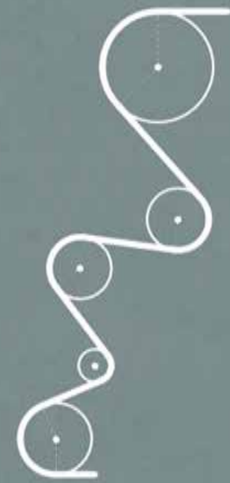
COLLECTION

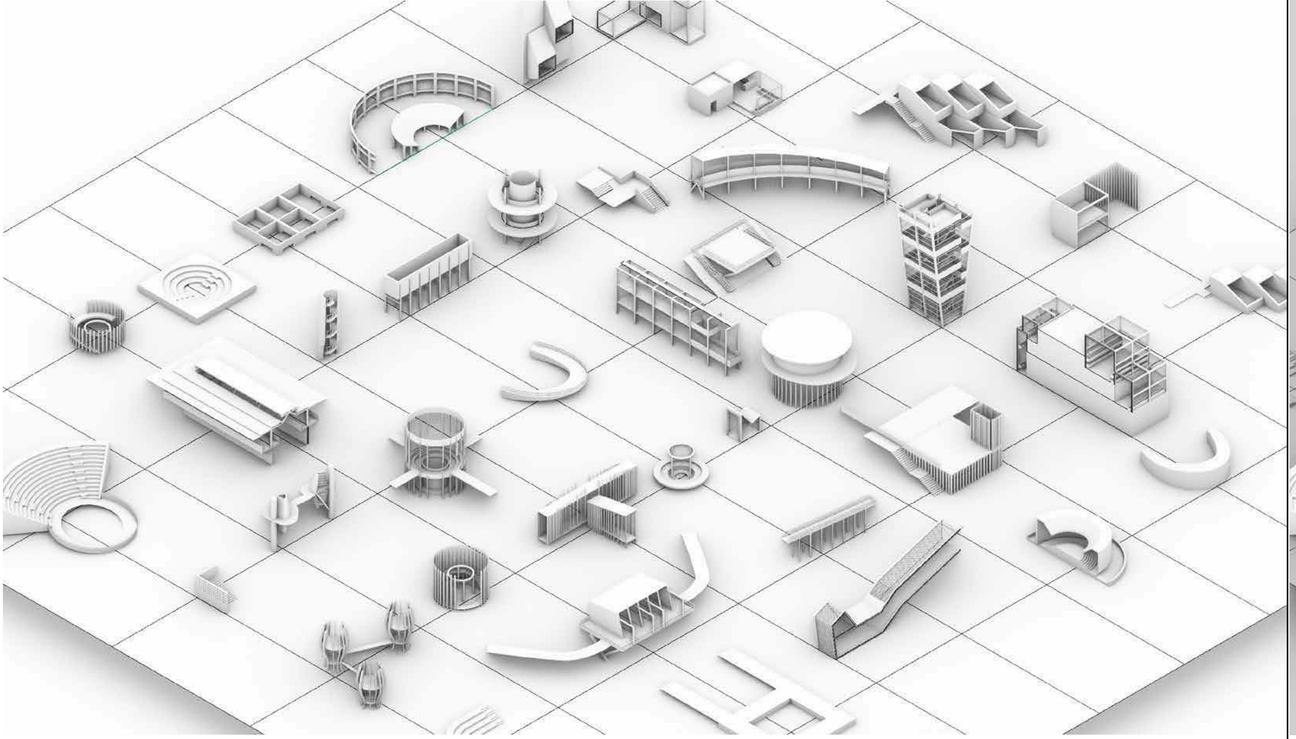


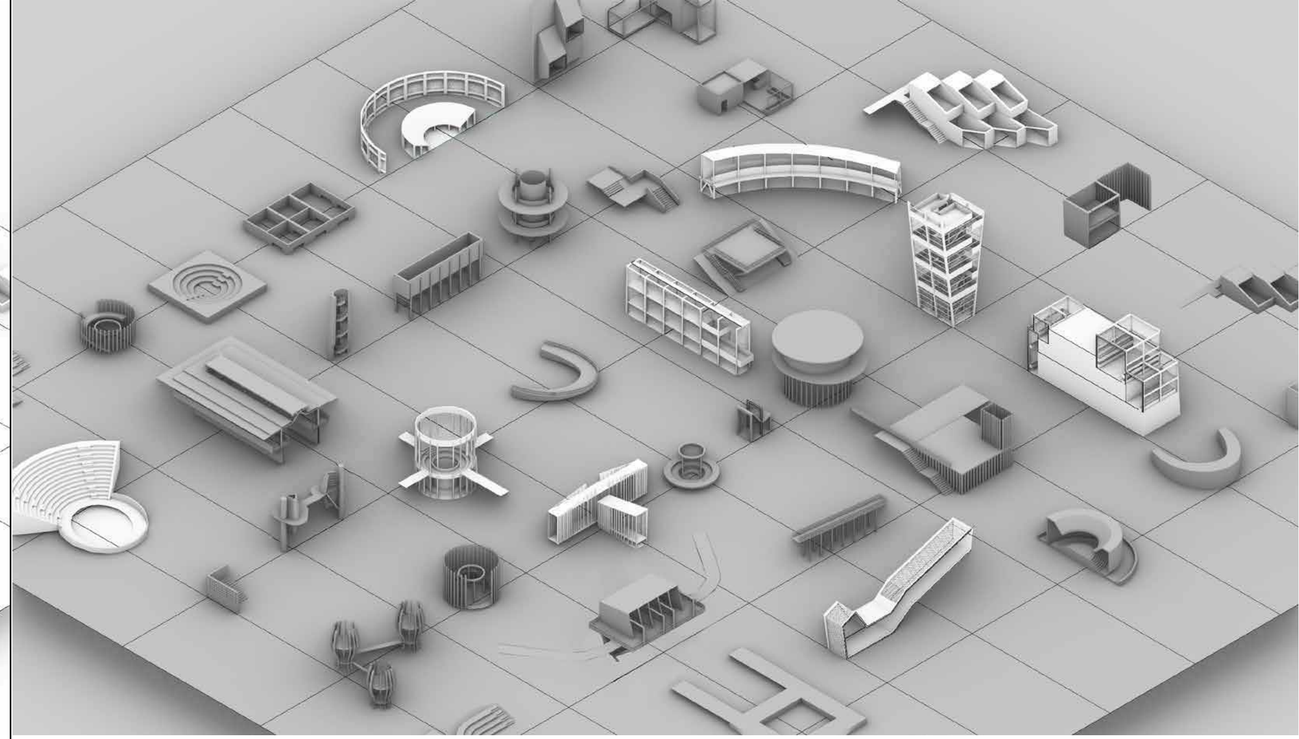

ENGAGED
EXTENDED
SUSPENDED
VOID
STEPPED
PORTRUDING
TUNNELED
STITCHED

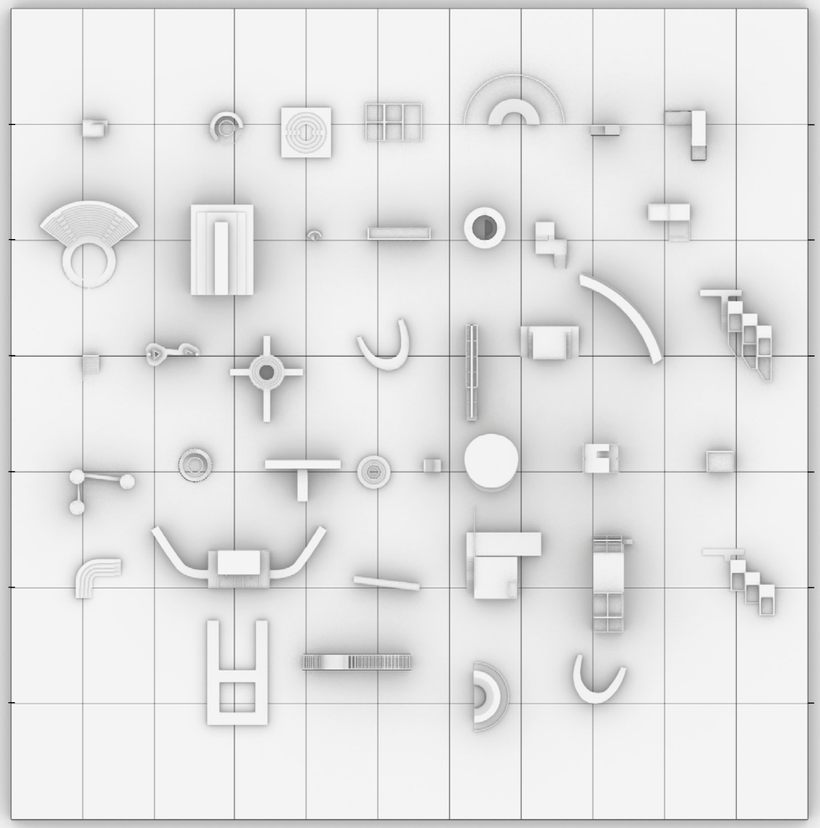
ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN INTERVENTION

CONCEPT		DESIGN SRATEGIES
PHYSIAL CONNECTIVITY	⟷	PATHWAYS AND ARTICULATION OF MOVEMENT
VISUAL CONNECTIVITY	⟷	TRANSPARENCY AND VOIDS
PRIVATE WORK AND INDIVIDUAL	⟷	OPAQUENESS
SYSTEM OF CONNECTIVITY	⟷	NODES AND PROXIMITY
INFORMAL INTERACTIONS	⟷	IN-BETWEEN SPACES
ENGAGING AND INTERACTIVE	⟷	SENSE OF PLAY
EVOKNG NATURE	⟷	ENGAGING WITH NATURAL ELEMENTS
NARRATIVE AND JOURNEY	⟷	ARCHITETCURAL SEQUENCE

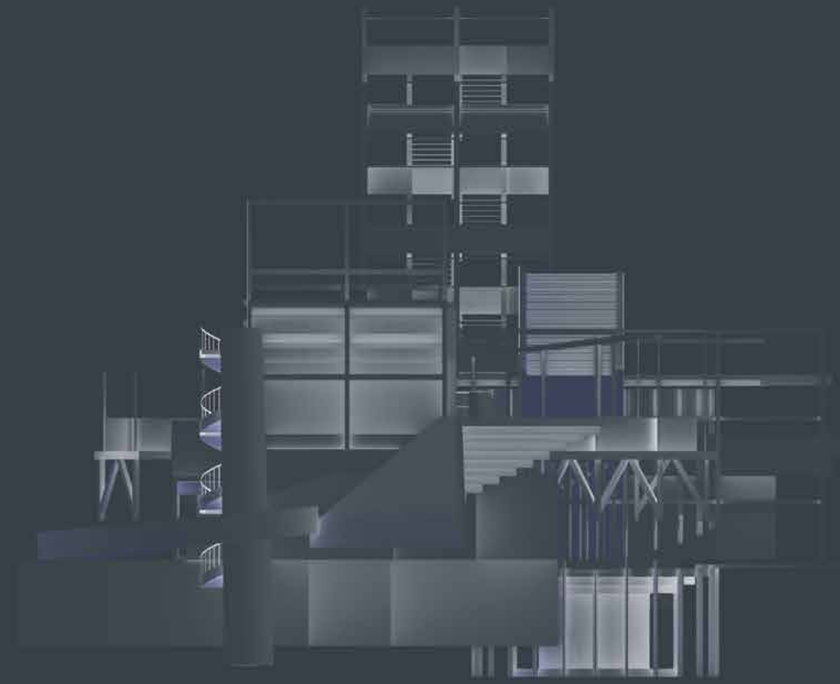




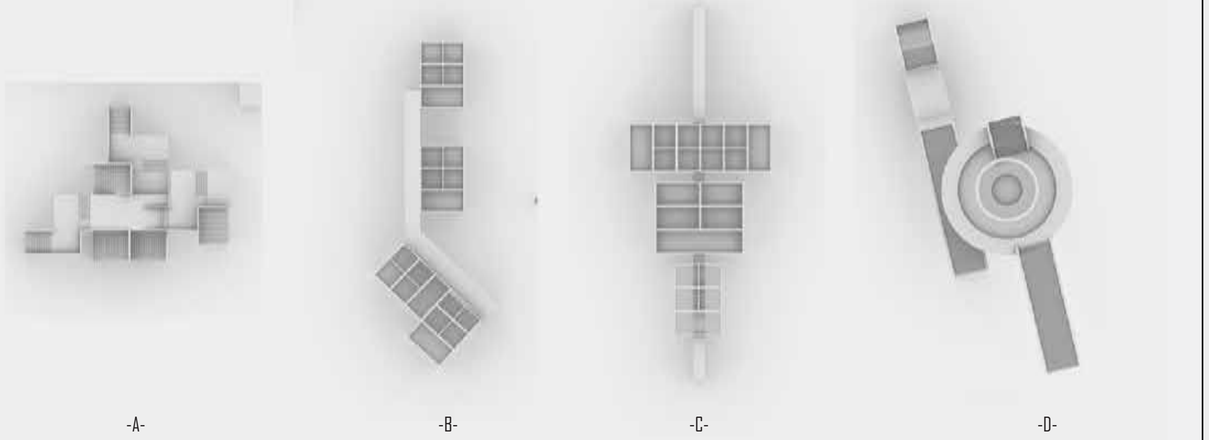




ARCHITECTURAL VOCABULARY: THE RURAL

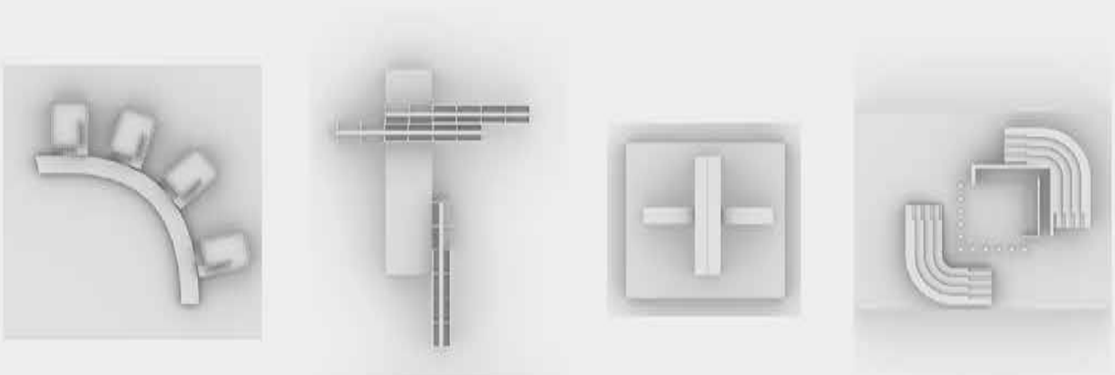


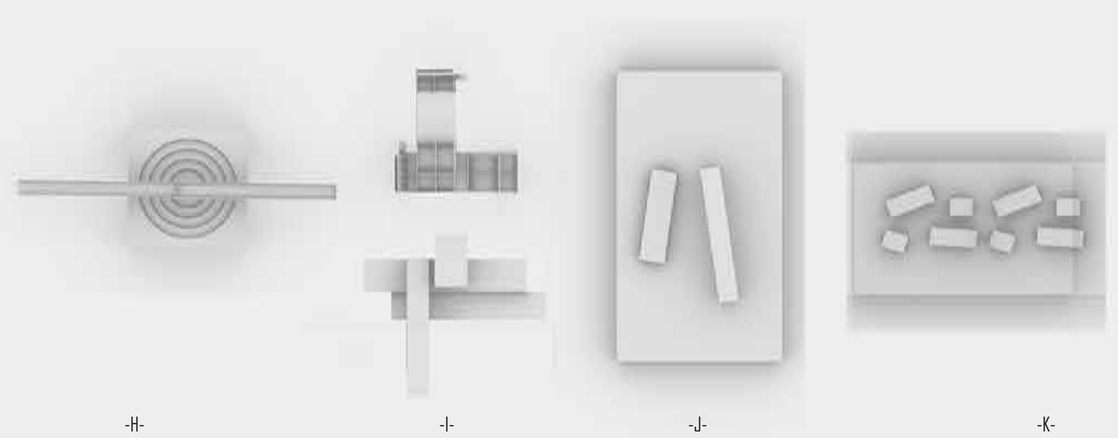
HYBRIDS



-A- -B- -C- -D-

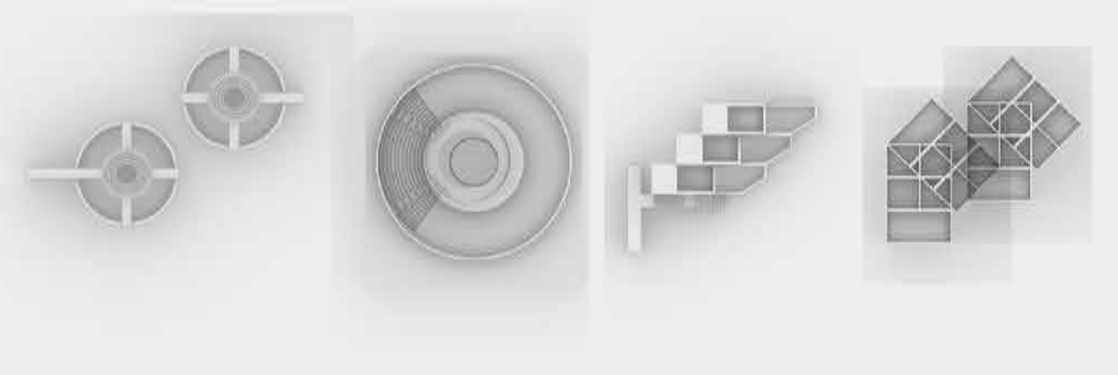
-E- -F- -G- -H-



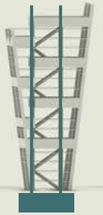


-H- -I- -J- -K-

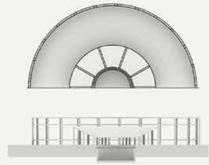
-L- -M- -N- -O-



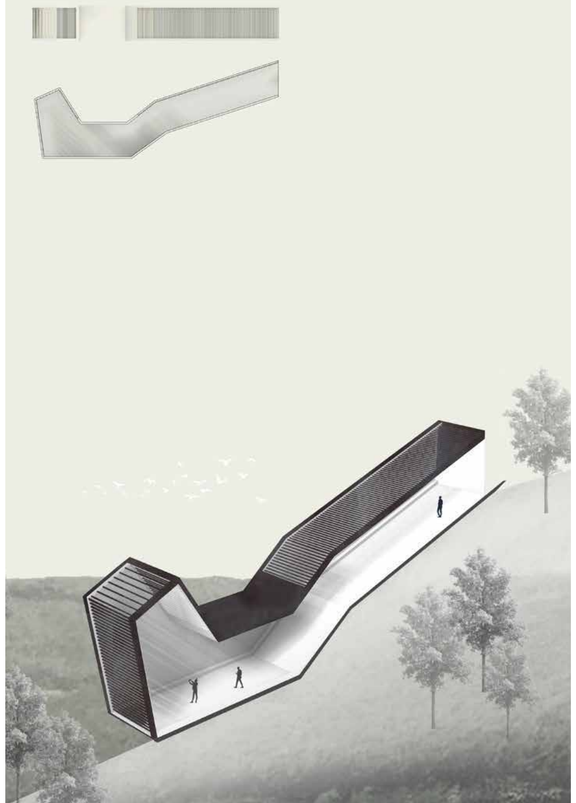
THE WATCHTOWER



THE WATERWELL

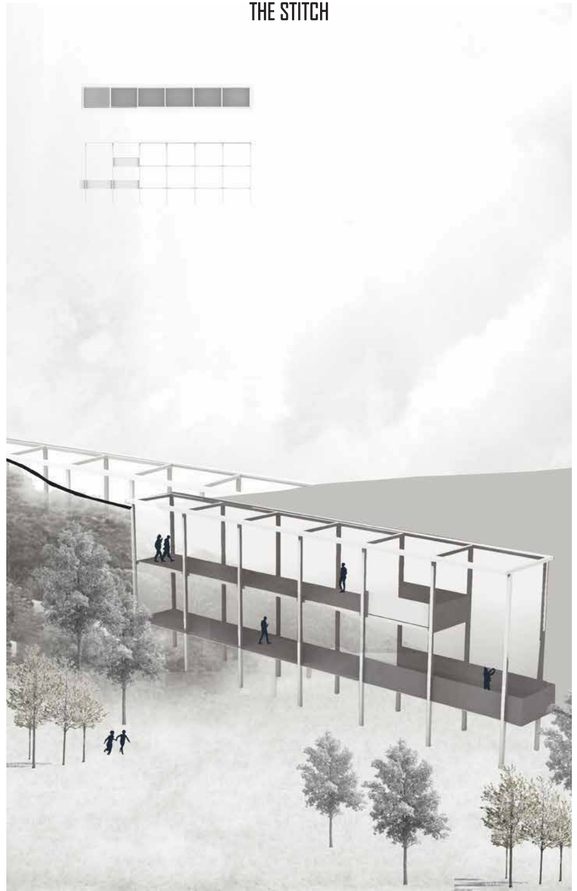


THE LIGHTWELL



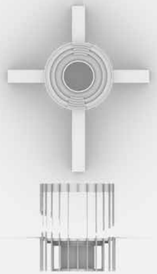
THE PERGOLA

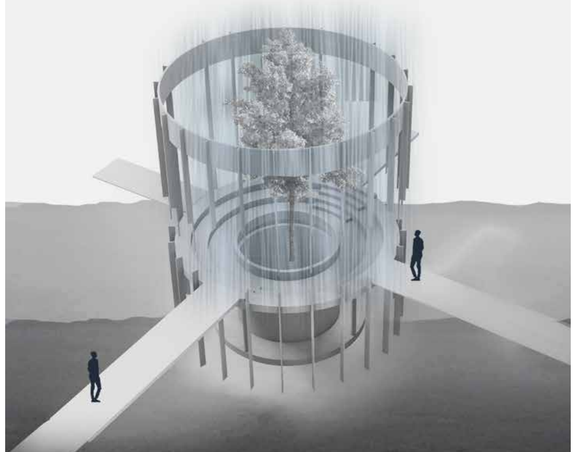
THE STITCH



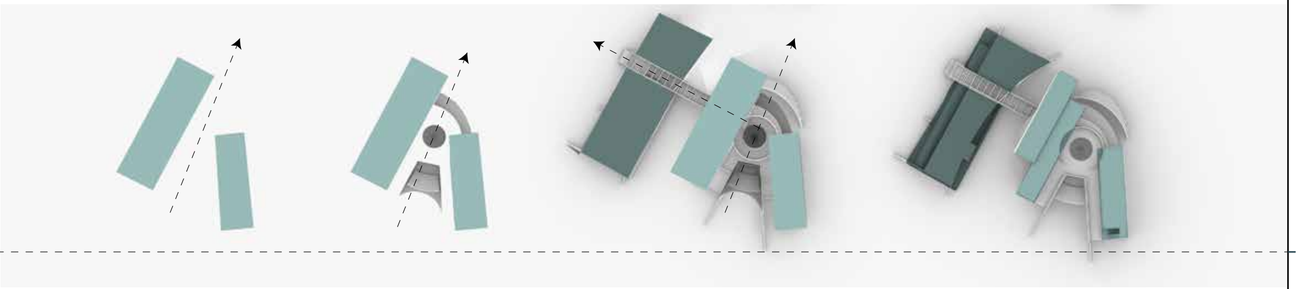
THE BRIDGE

THE CONNECTOR





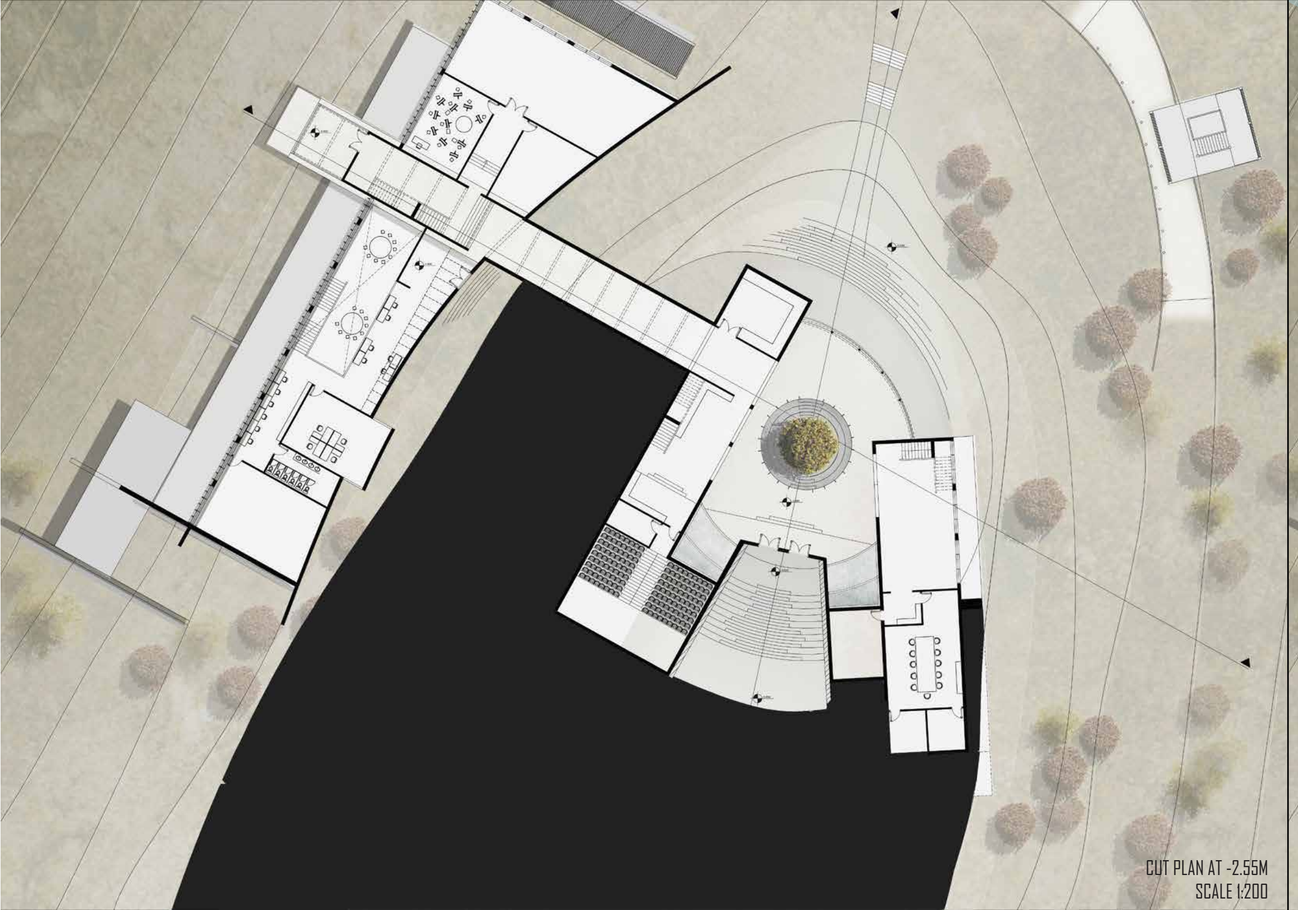
THE CAVE



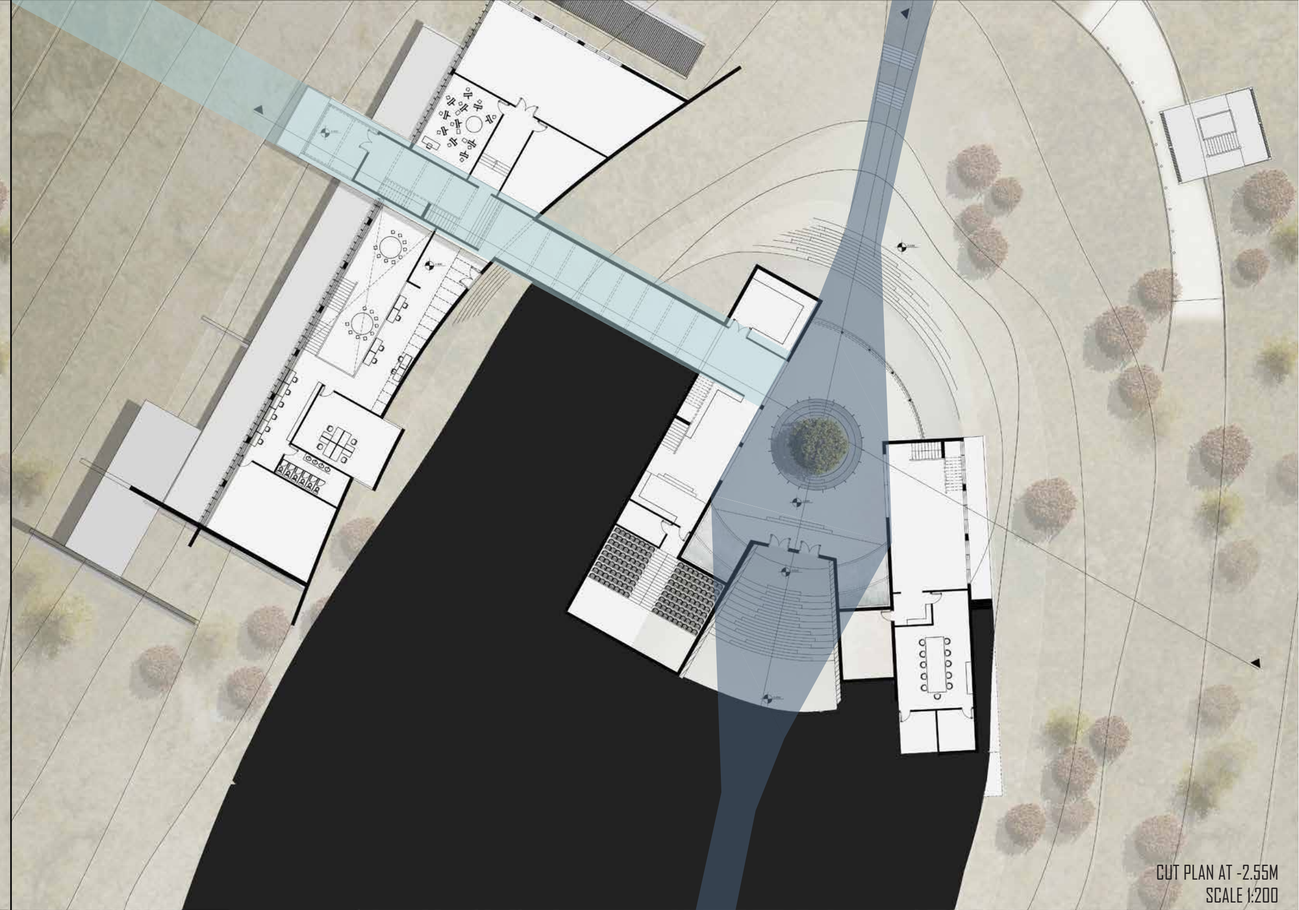
AN ASSEMBLY OF PARTS: THE HYBRID INTERVENTION

After assessing individual components, a toolkit of parts is formed that can be used by rural settlers, designers, or anyone to pick and choose to assemble an architectural narrative based on different specific program and site requirements. This methodology can be applied in rural areas with the agenda to empower and push forward community, education, and leisure. This example of an archietctural assembly is situated on a hilltop amongst clusters of villages. It functions as a production center and technical school, interjected with community spaces. This methodology follows from the greek architetcural example for the Lebanese mountians. I begin with a single axis that become a fluid place submerged in the topography and made transparent with community spaces. Then developed to iclude complementary plugins for the program.

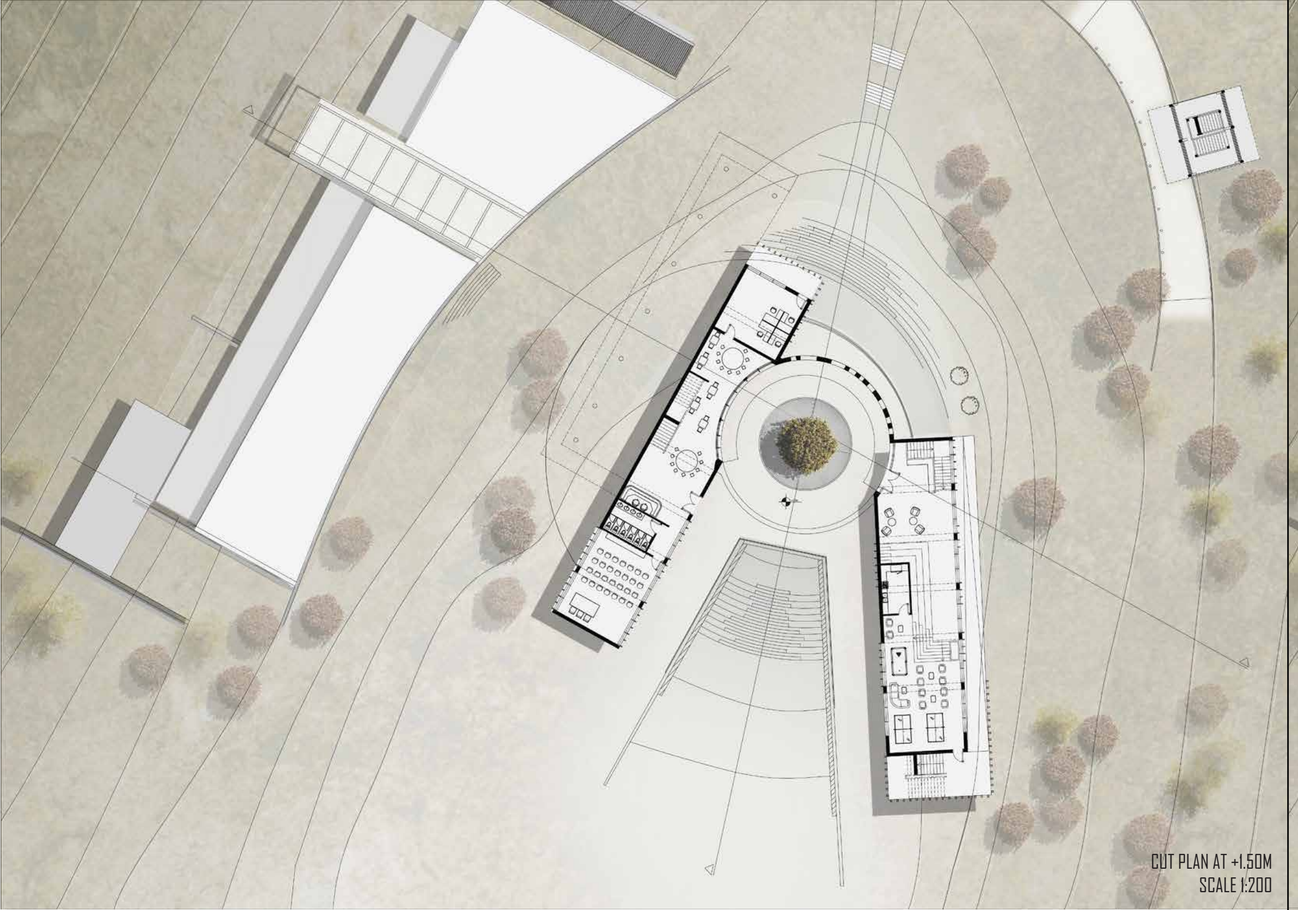
MASS PLAN
SCALE 1:500



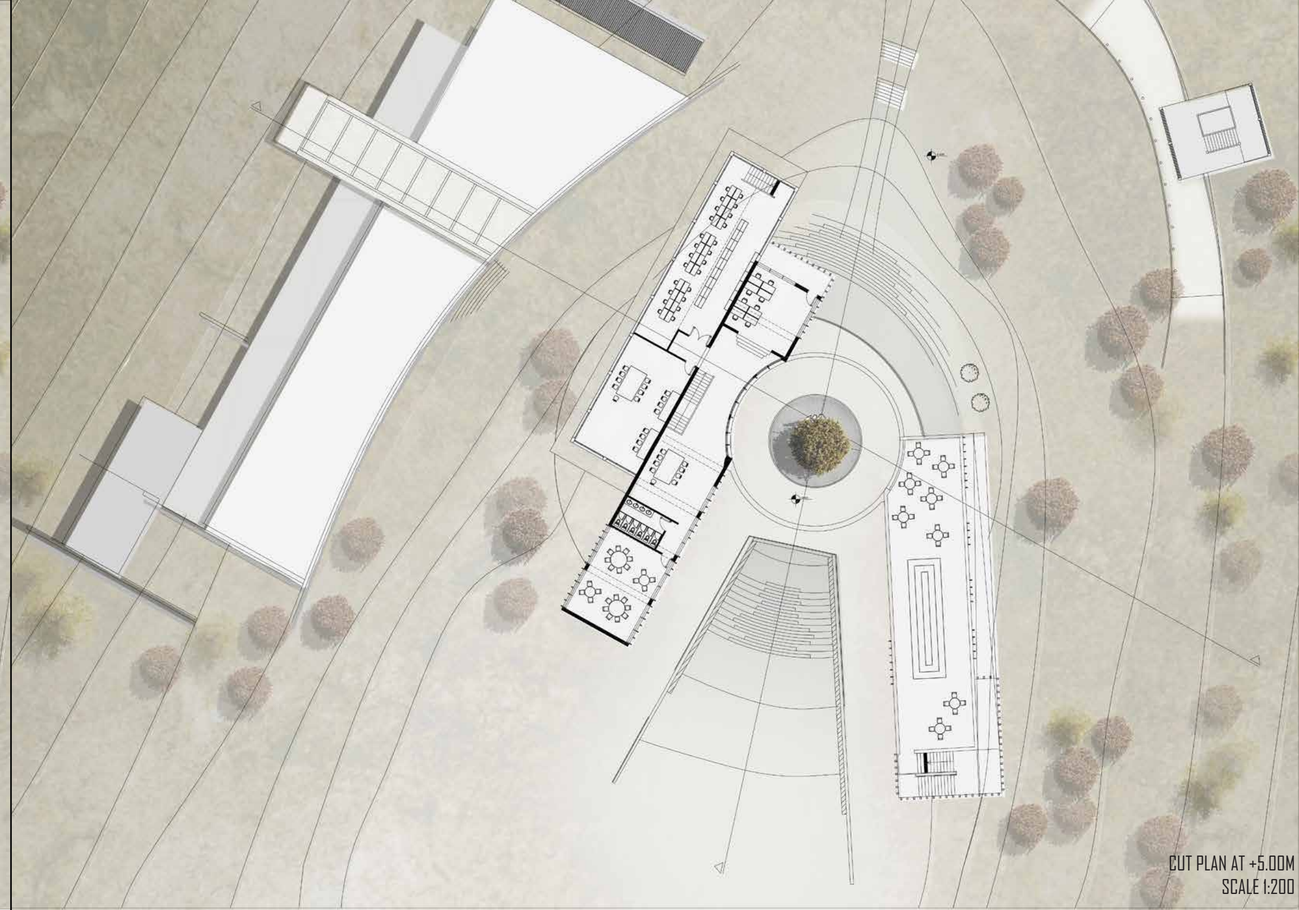
CUT PLAN AT -2.55M
SCALE 1:200



CUT PLAN AT -2.55M
SCALE 1:200

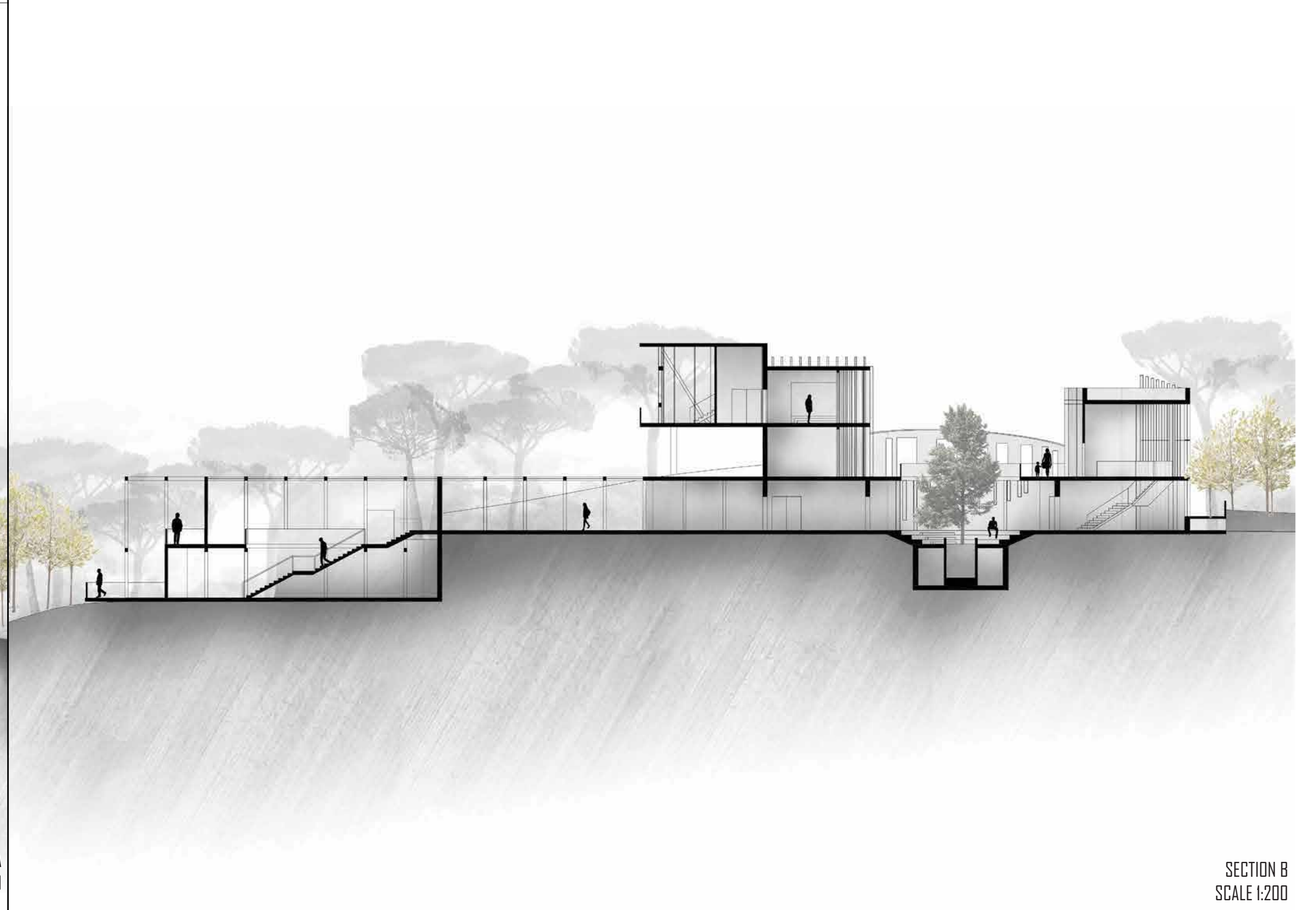


CUT PLAN AT +1.50M
SCALE 1:200

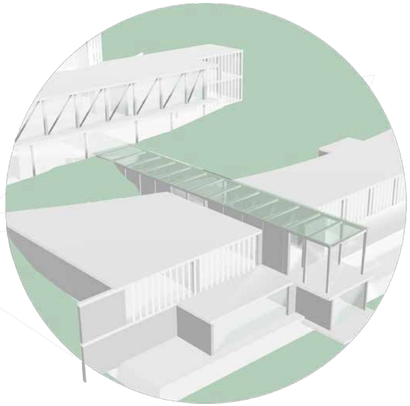


CUT PLAN AT +5.00M
SCALE 1:200

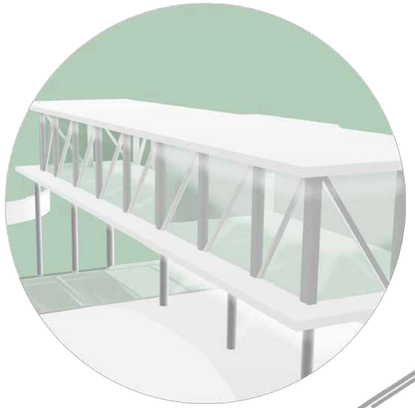
SECTION A
SCALE 1:200



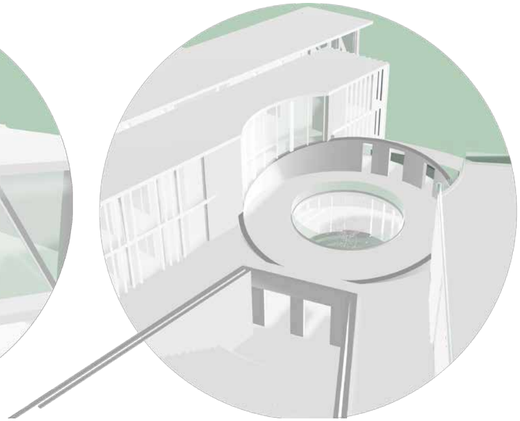
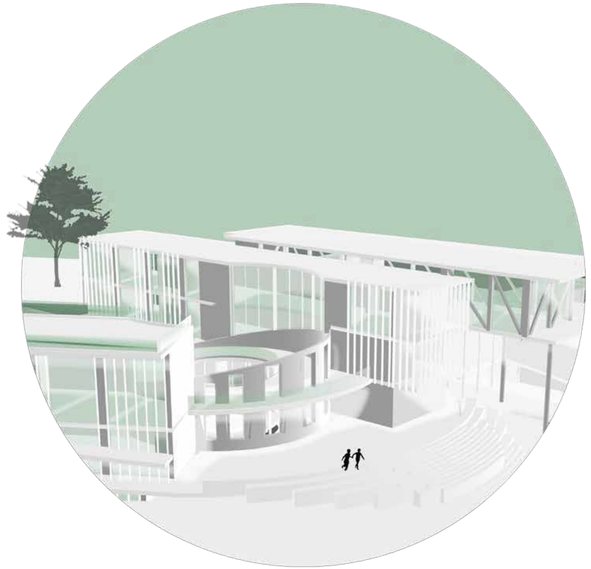
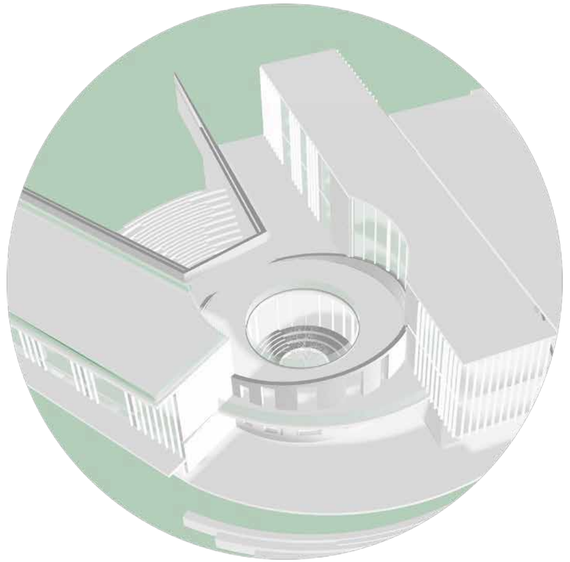
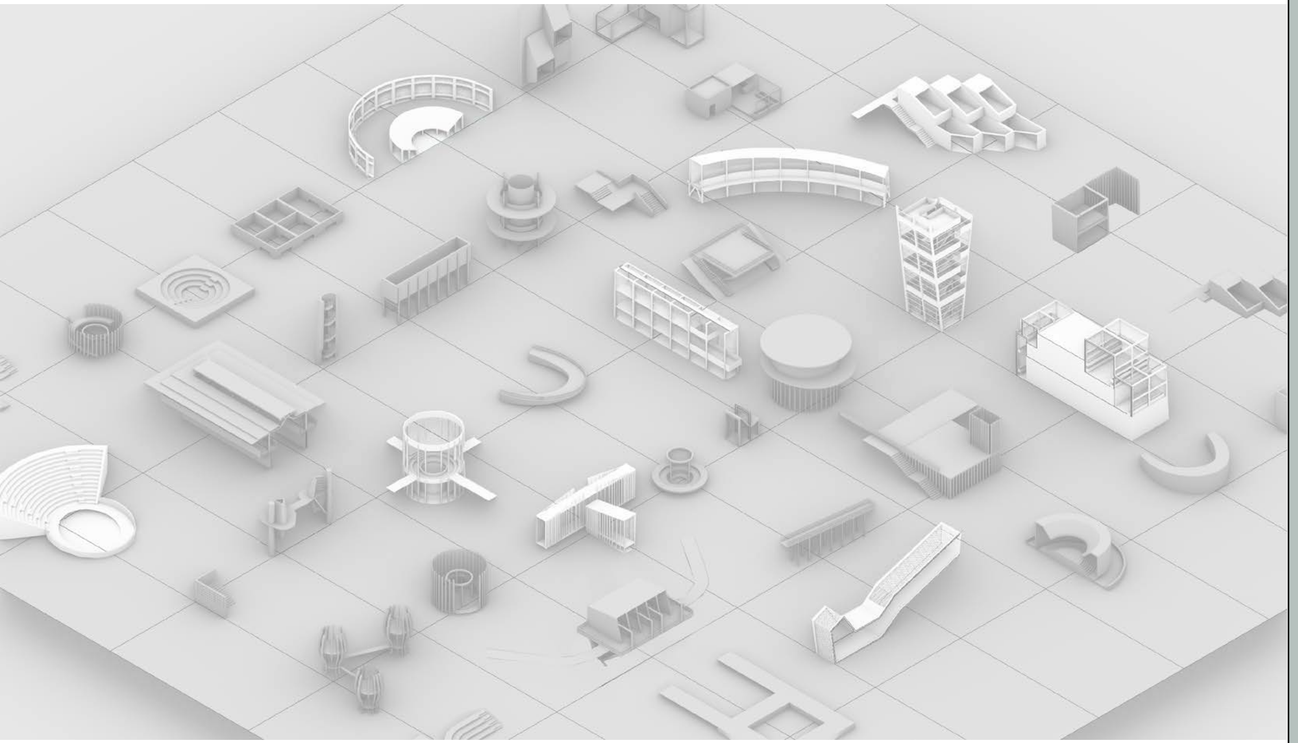
SECTION B
SCALE 1:200



-STITCH-
-PORTRUSION-



-SUSPENDED-



-SUNKEN COURT-
-WATERWELL-