

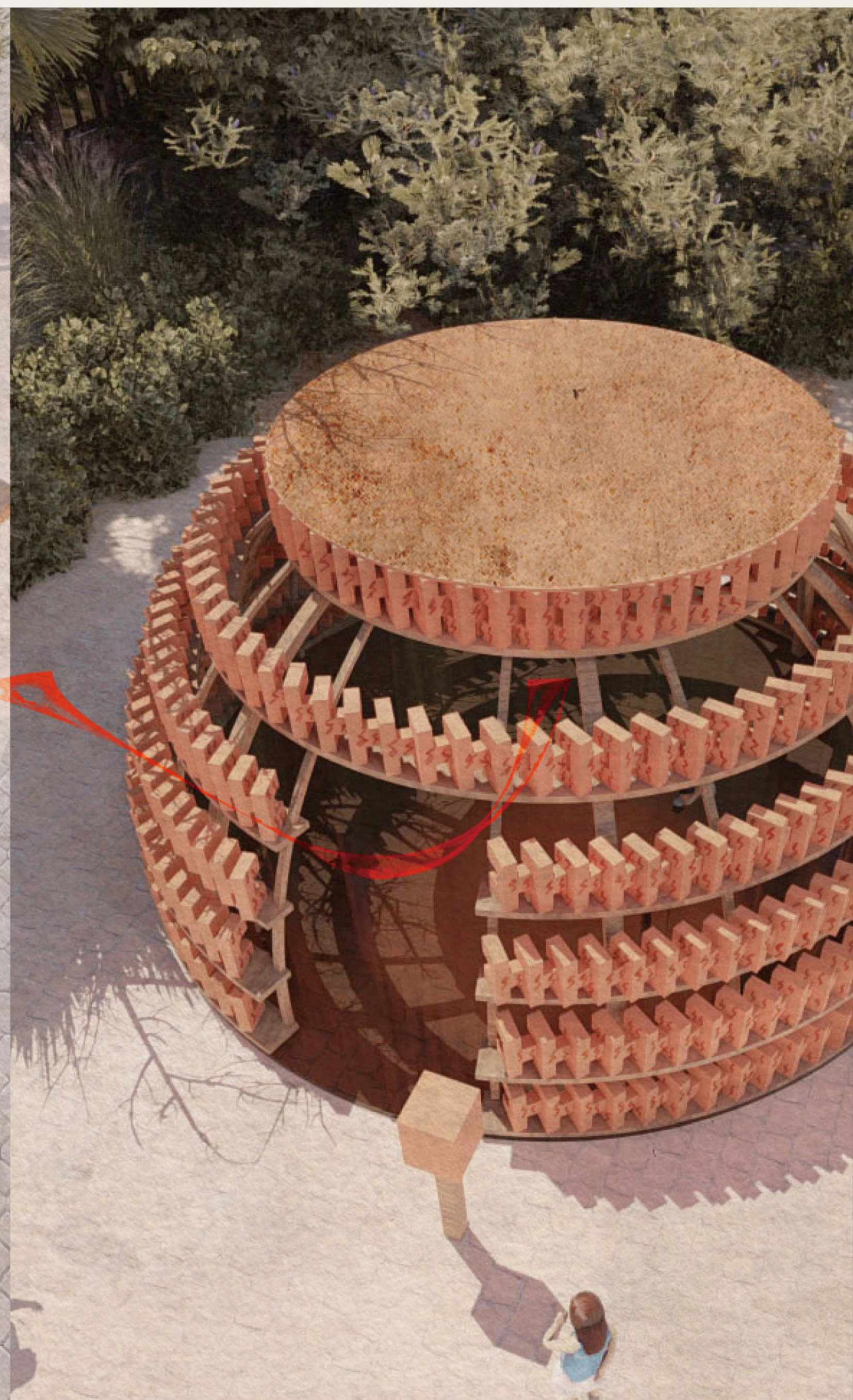
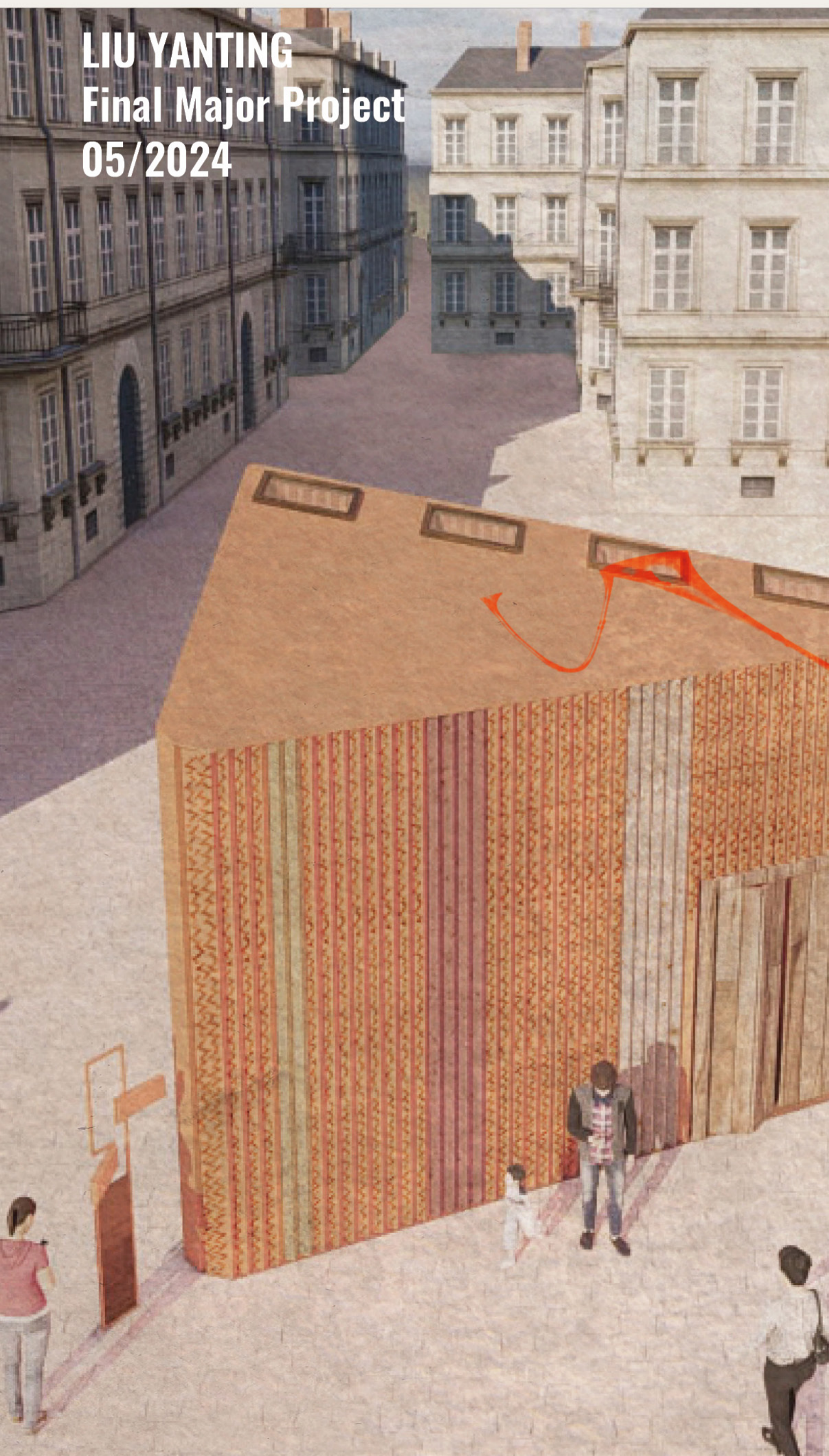
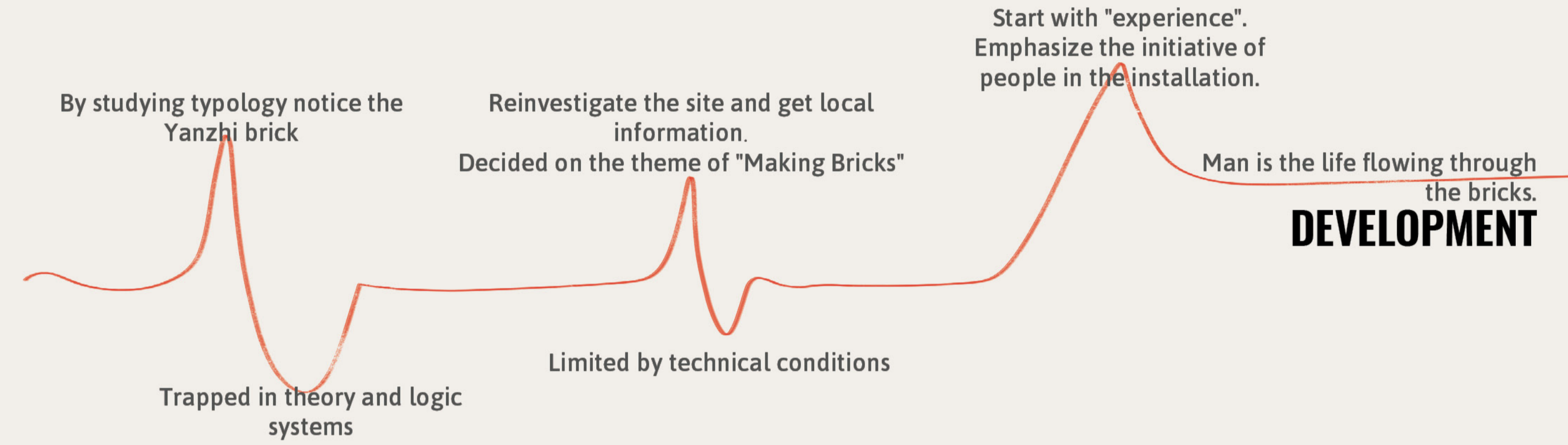
LIFE IN YANZHI BRICKS

A STUDY OF HISTORICAL THRESHOLD IN GU LANGYU ISLAND

Influenced by the global economic tide, the economy dominates the discourse power of the tertiary industry. The tertiary industry accounted for 58.3 percent of Xiamen's GDP in 2022, and its historical tourism sector made a huge contribution. In this context, the meaning of the history of southern Fujian has been redefined and reinterpreted. Meanwhile, fueled by the modern powerful media society, the eyeball economy is more active than ever before. Therefore, in order to enhance the business competitiveness of the history, being symbolized is the general trend of The Times.

People's lives are deliberately guided into a simplified history where what you see is what you get - that's where the threshold comes in. As the economy prospered, the multiple narratives of historical memory were selectively forgotten.





From 8 AD to the present 2023, Yanzhi brick as a building material carries the memory of more than two thousand years of southern Fujian. The existing Yanzhi bricks have undergone transformation and evolution, and can give a unique interpretation of Xiamen's historical threshold.



SITE ANALYSIS

With the opening of Xiamen to the outside world in 1843, Gulangyu began its modernization process. After it became a public land boundary in 1902, with the joint efforts of overseas Chinese and overseas Chinese, its social governance, environmental construction and cultural life gradually formed a diversified pattern.

Influenced by the port trade in modern history of China, Gulangyu Island and its surroundings are the most obvious areas affected by the Yanzhi brick culture in Xiamen city.

-  Green
-  Sightseeing route
-  Attractions
-  Target Area

Shipping Lane

Marine Park

The Piano Dock

Gulangyu historical and cultural Exhibition Hall

Former British Consulate (Now- Gallery)

Former German Consulate (Now- Hotel)

Former Japanese Consulate

Chen Jiayuan Hotel

Catholic church

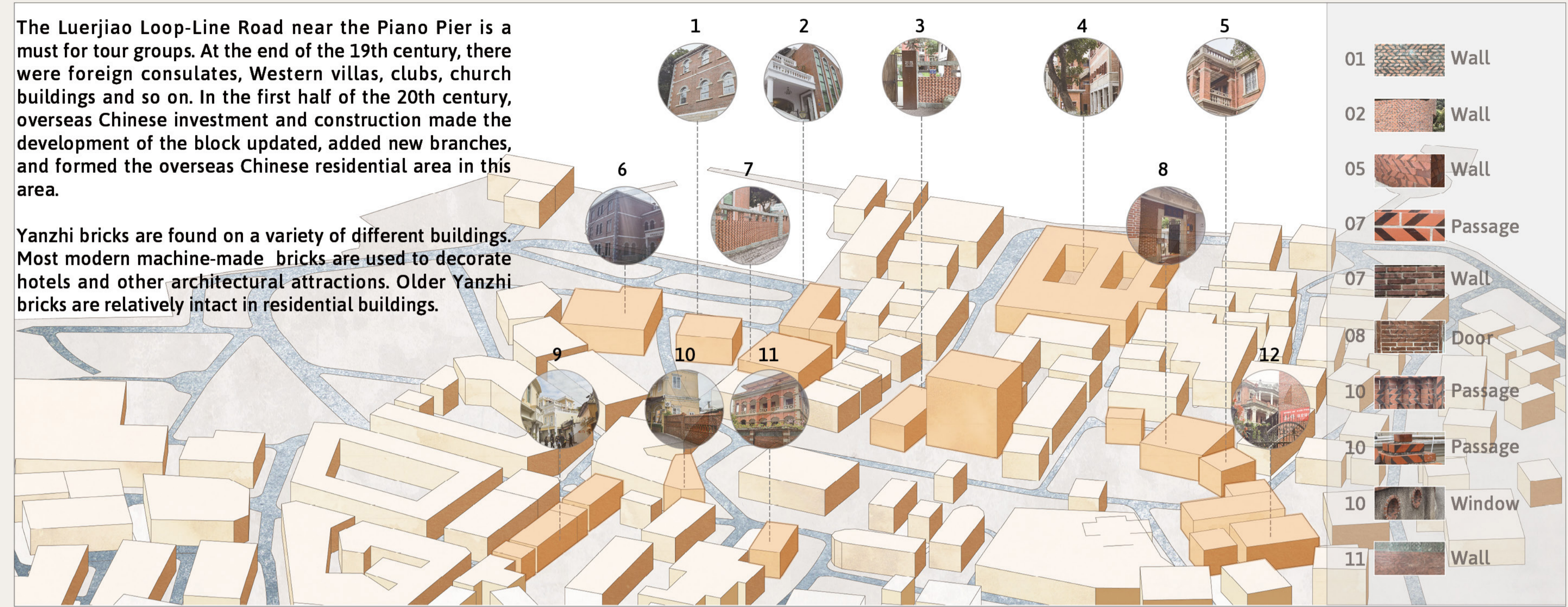
Gulangyu century-old beauty Garden story hall

1 5 15 25

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE AND TYPE OF YANZHI BRICKS

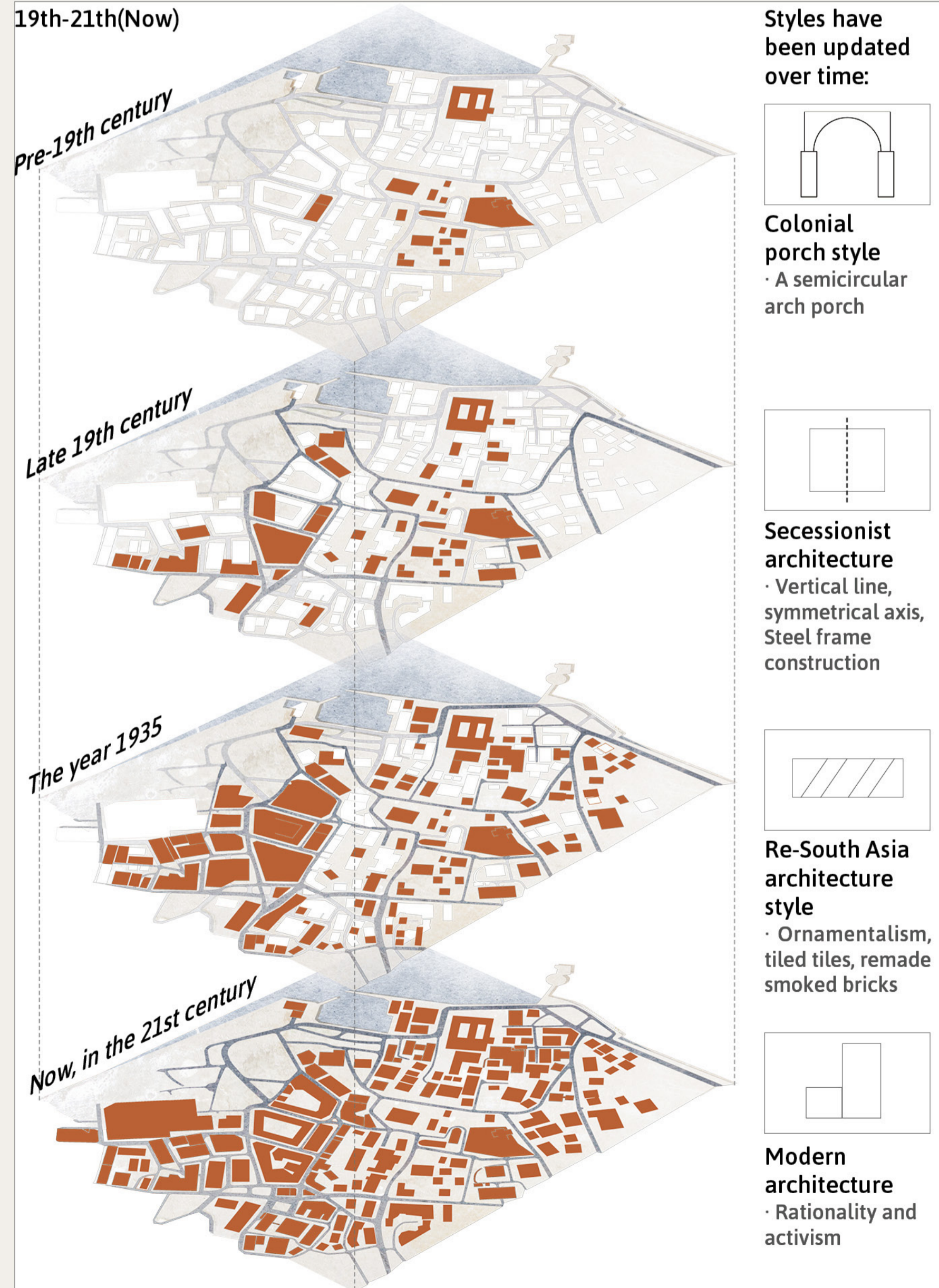
The Luerjiao Loop-Line Road near the Piano Pier is a must for tour groups. At the end of the 19th century, there were foreign consulates, Western villas, clubs, church buildings and so on. In the first half of the 20th century, overseas Chinese investment and construction made the development of the block updated, added new branches, and formed the overseas Chinese residential area in this area.

Yanzhi bricks are found on a variety of different buildings. Most modern machine-made bricks are used to decorate hotels and other architectural attractions. Older Yanzhi bricks are relatively intact in residential buildings.

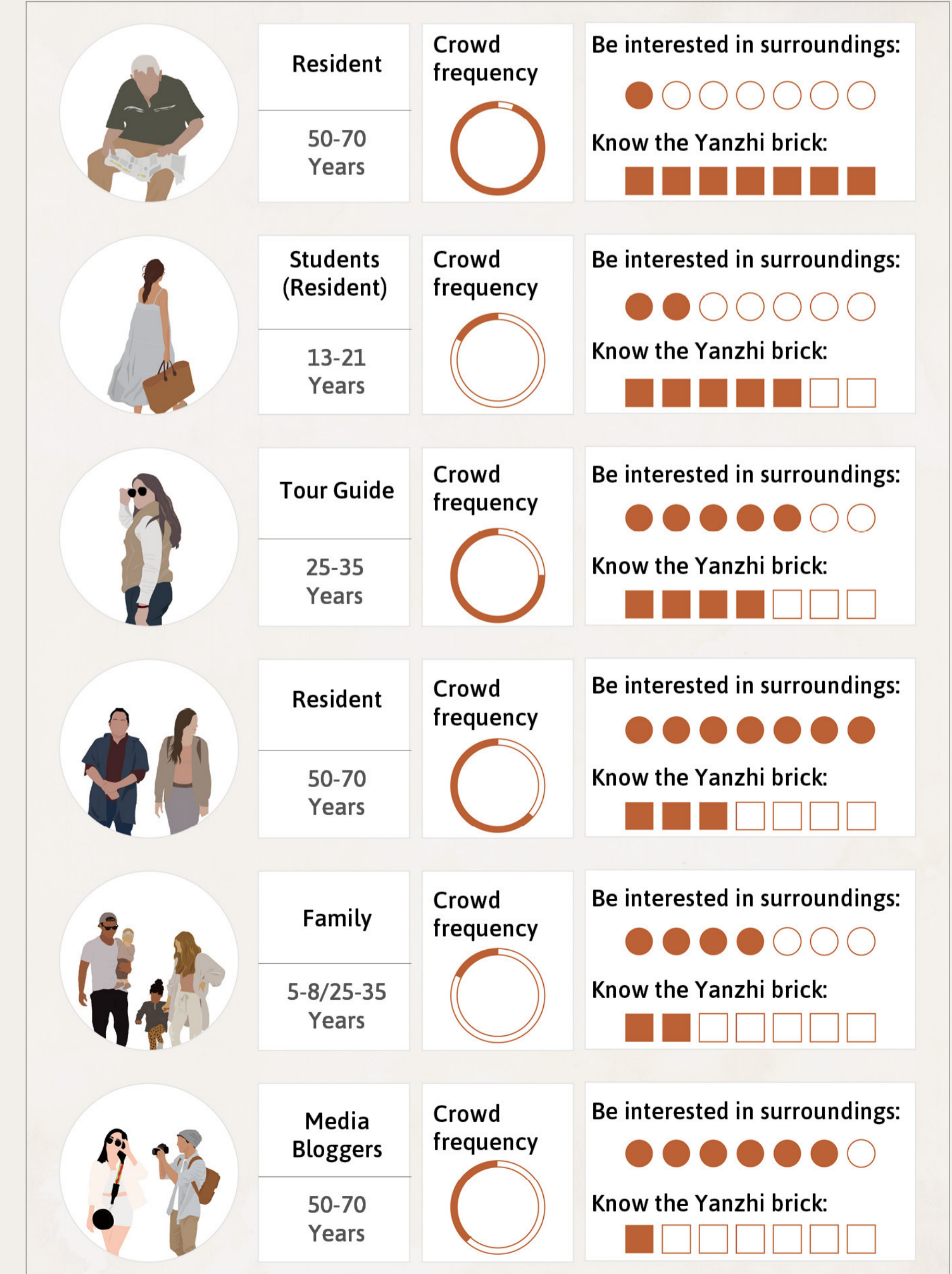


HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

19th-21th(Now)



TARGET AUDIENCE



CONCEPT GENERATION



In ancient times, there were strict restrictions on the use of color, and red generally represented power and status, which reached its peak in the Ming Dynasty. The large area of red brick buildings in Fujian seem to have been a defiance of hierarchy in ancient times.



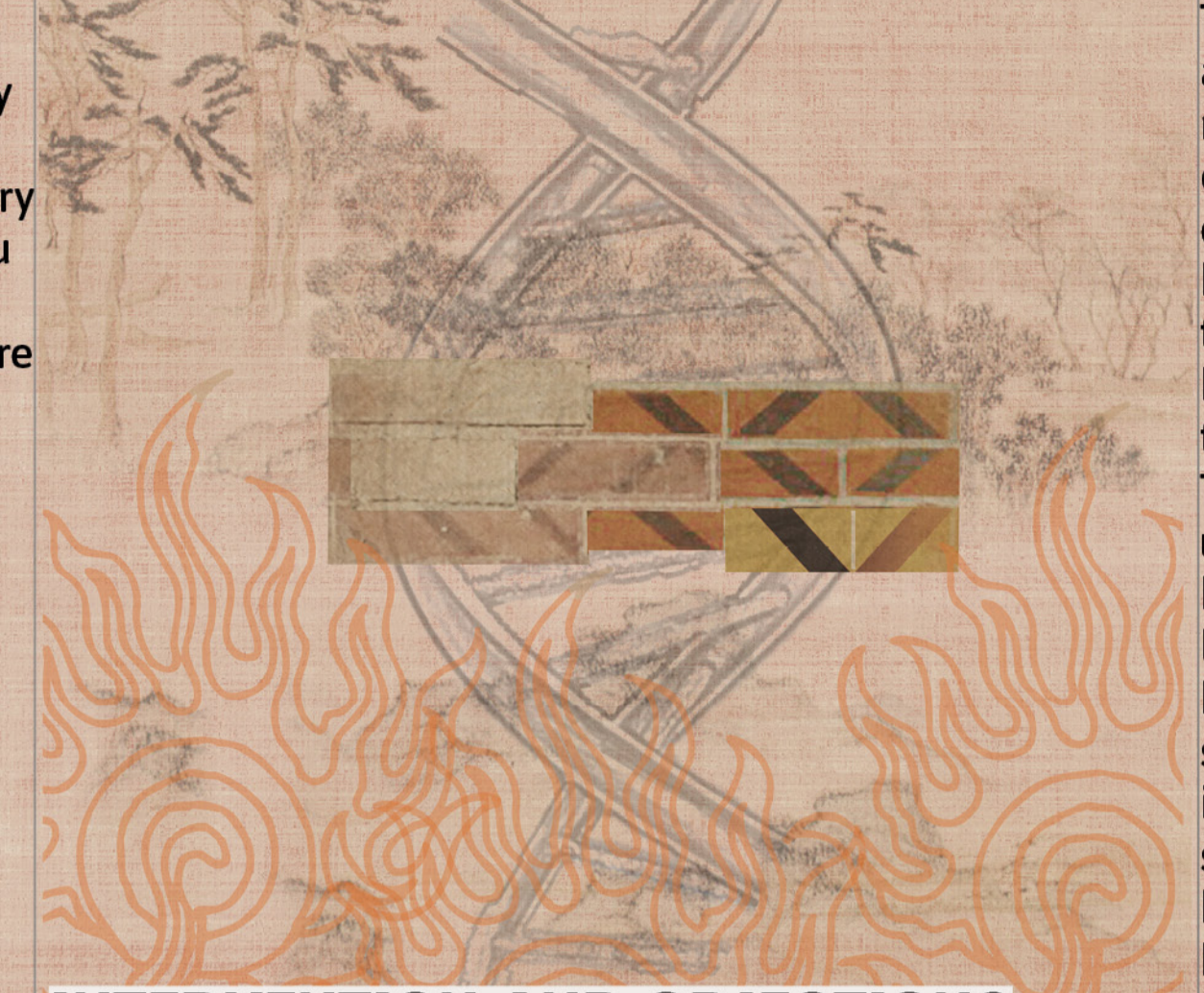
DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

Maritime trade accumulated a great deal of wealth in this region, parallel to the formation of cities, the advancement of brick and tile technology, and the deepening of forbidden houses. Finally in the southern Fujian zone formed a strange scene of yanzhi brick houses.



ECONOMIC NARRATIVE

People's lives are deliberately guided into a simplified history where what you see is what you get - that's where the threshold comes in. As the economy prospered, the multiple narratives of historical memory were selectively forgotten.

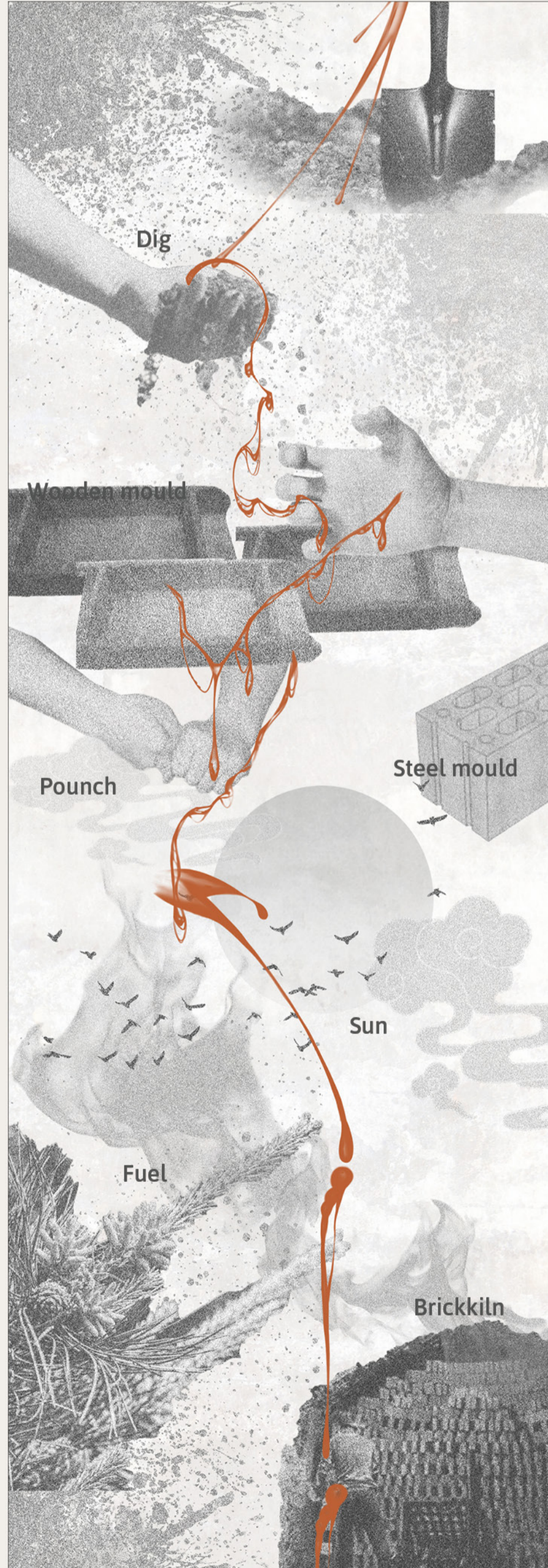


INTERVENTION AND OBJECTIONS

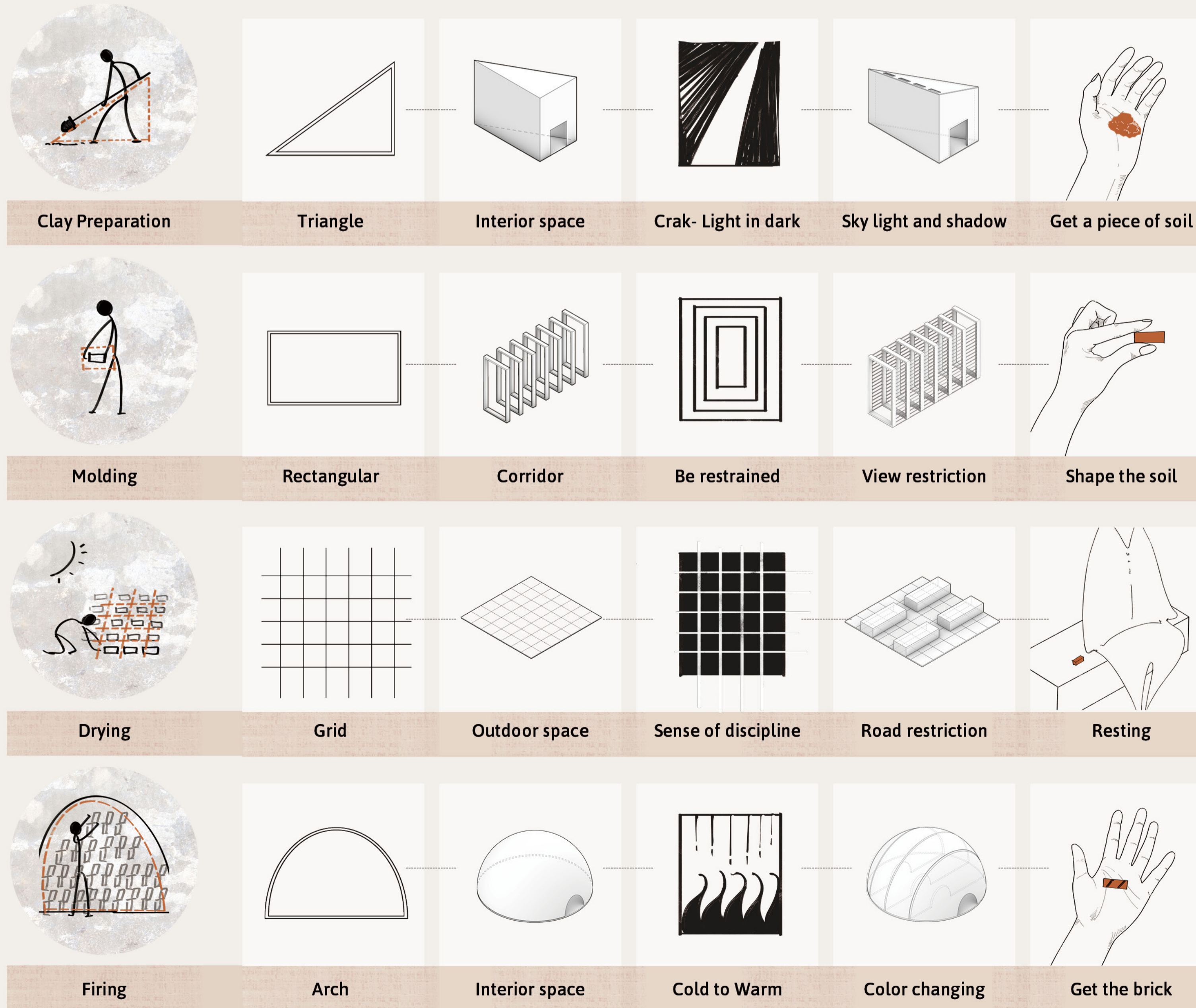
This is a cultural awakening in response to an oversimplified, efficient society, by experiencing the original brick-making technique. The vast universe, the brevity of human life, when people be aware of the slightly changes in their lives, such as the bricks, they won't be lost in times.

IMAGINE YOU ARE A BRICK

Iron is what makes bricks and blood red. We can become the blood and life flowing inside the brick, step by step, accepting our own birth. There are four steps, each with a different experience. By becoming a brick, we can feel that our own life and the life of the brick are closely connected.



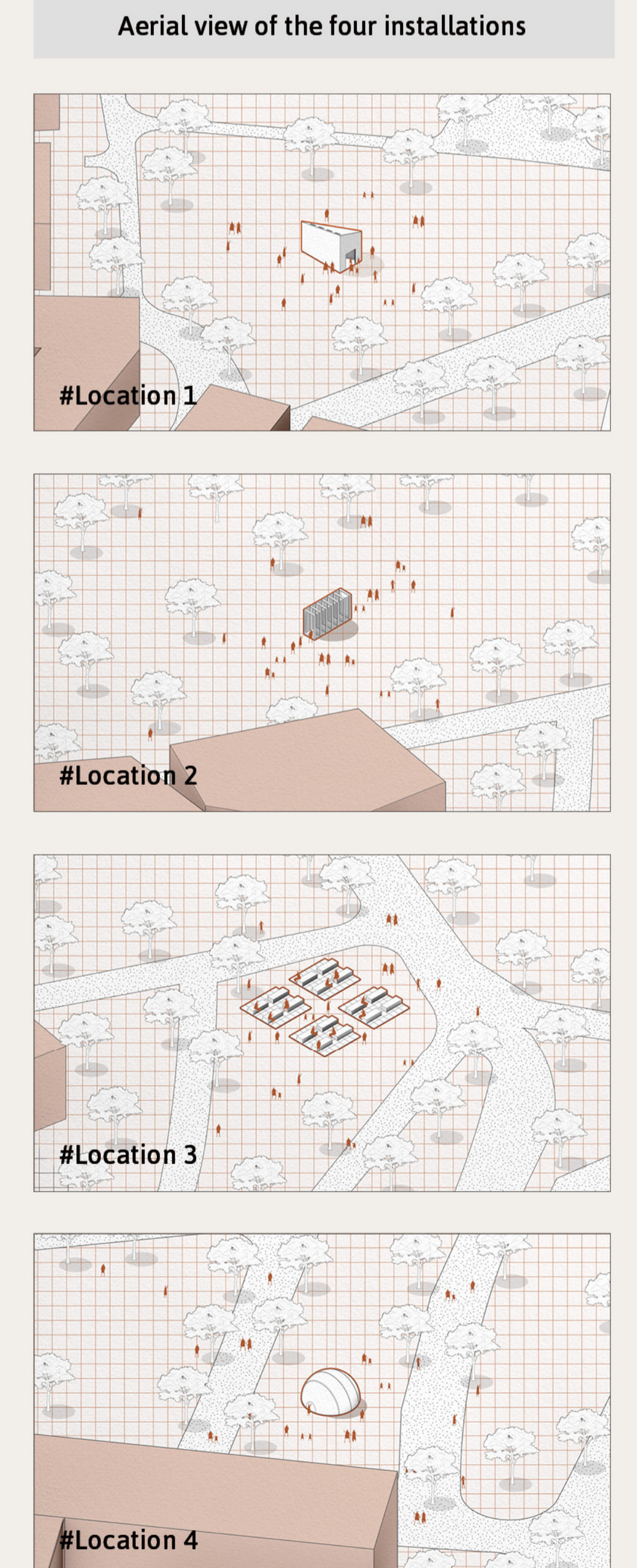
0-Steps for making 1-Extract shape 2-Assigned volume 3-Sentimental feelings 4-Transformation 5-People's activities



LOCATION CONTEXT

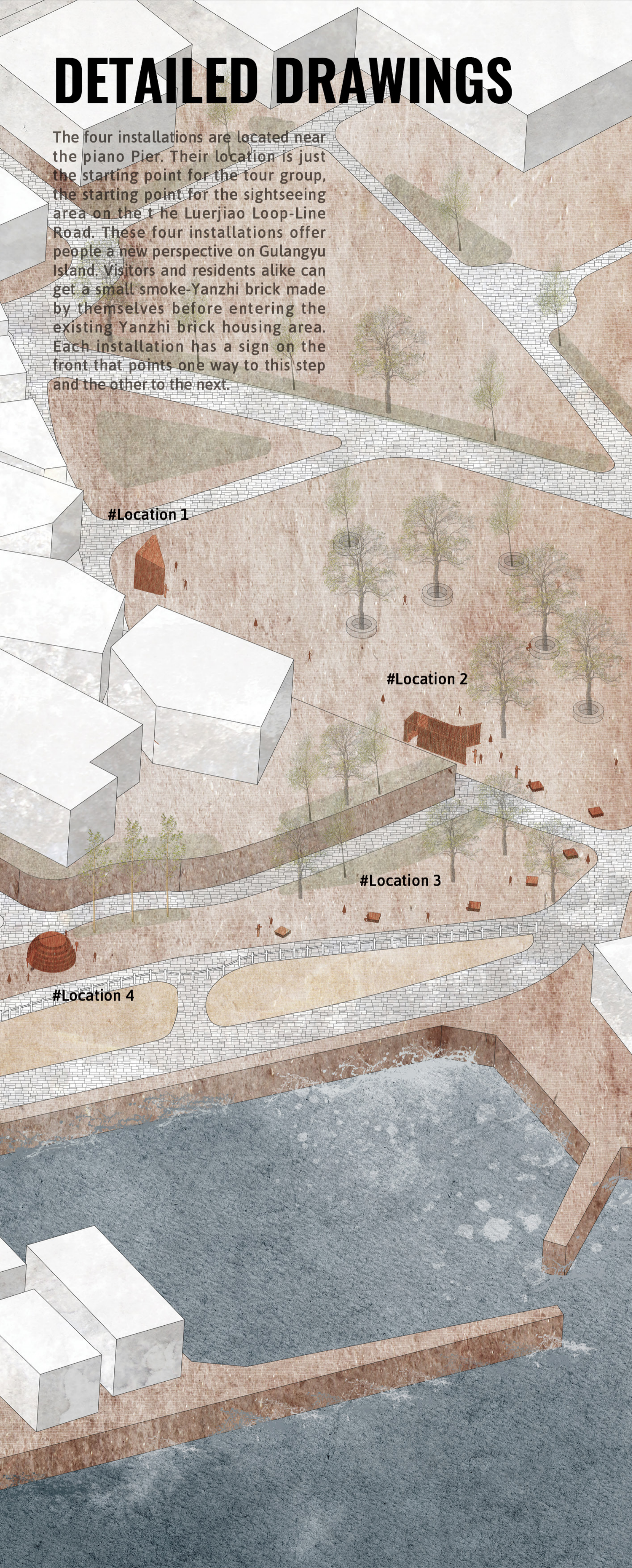


Before tourists go into the scenic area, they will have a preliminary understanding of the bricks.

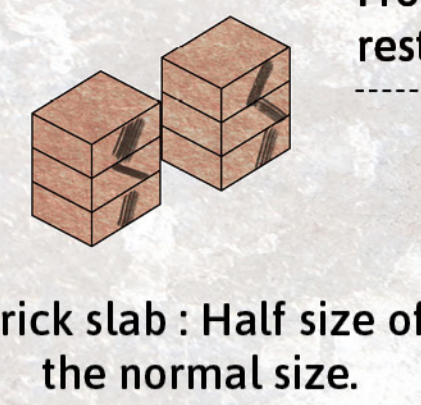
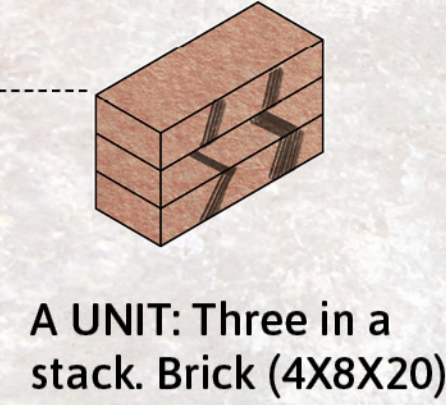
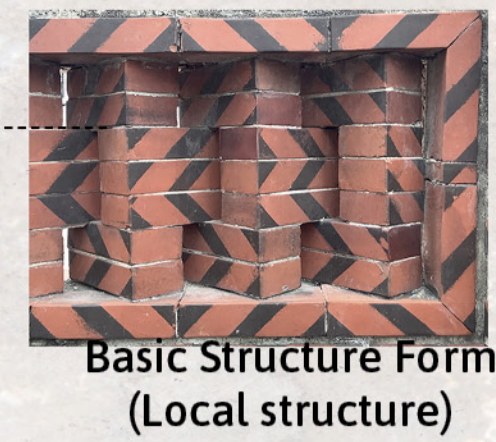


DETAILED DRAWINGS

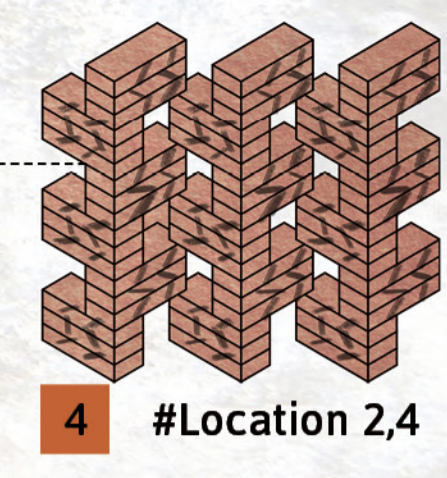
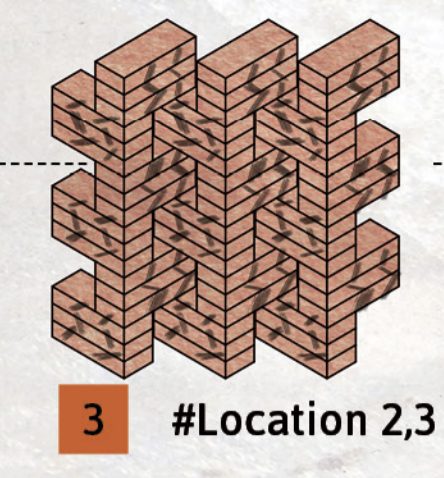
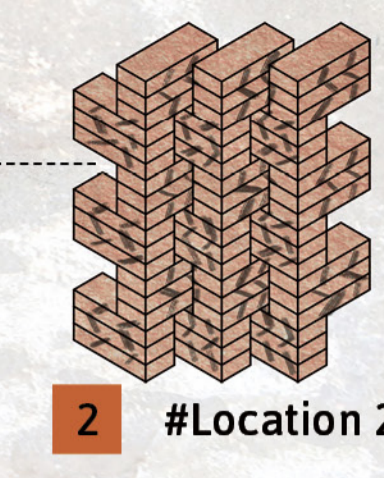
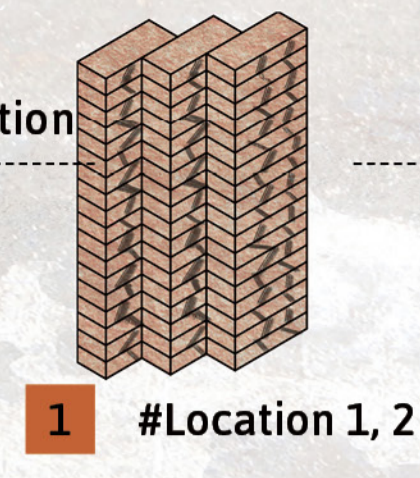
The four installations are located near the piano Pier. Their location is just the starting point for the tour group, the starting point for the sightseeing area on the Luerjiao Loop-Line Road. These four installations offer people a new perspective on Gulangyu Island. Visitors and residents alike can get a small smoke-Yanzhi brick made by themselves before entering the existing Yanzhi brick housing area. Each installation has a sign on the front that points one way to this step and the other to the next.



All four installations use the same stacked structure, which is from Gulangyu Island. This structure is subdivided into four types. From restriction to freedom, there are four stages. Different degrees of restriction correspond to different steps. (For example, STEP 2 is a state of gradual constraint, so it is composed of structures from 1 to 4)

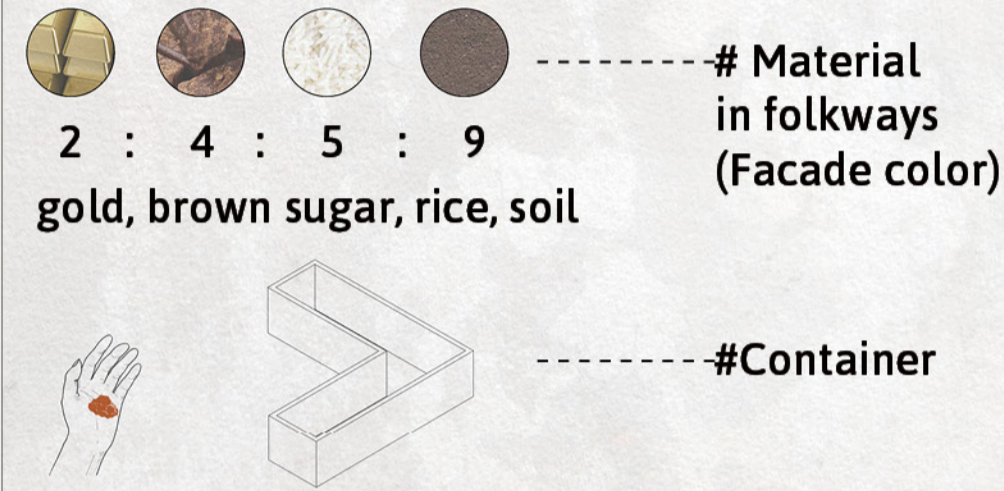


From restriction

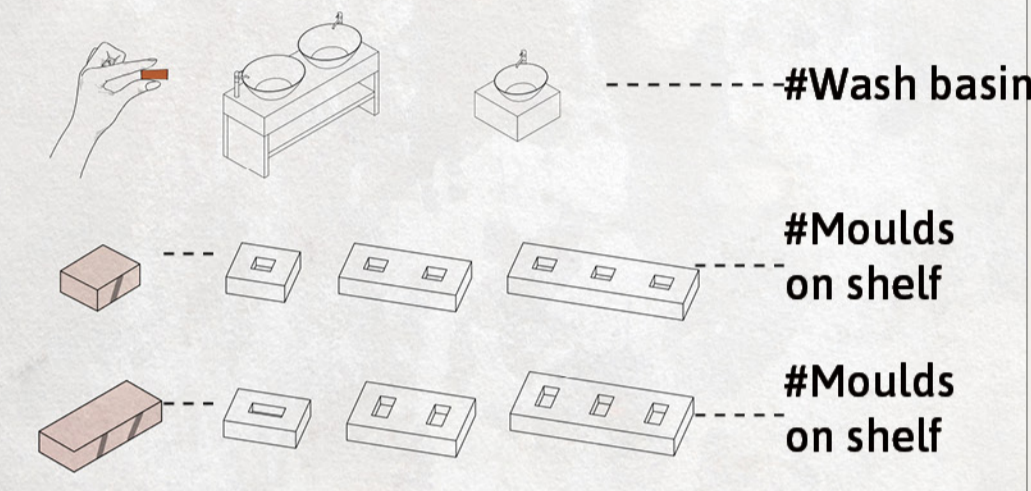


To Less limitation

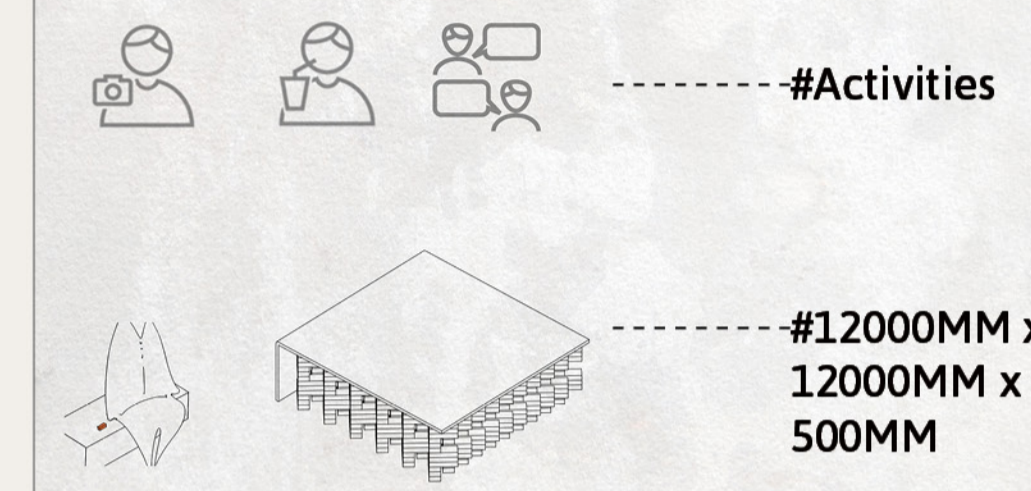
LOCATION 1



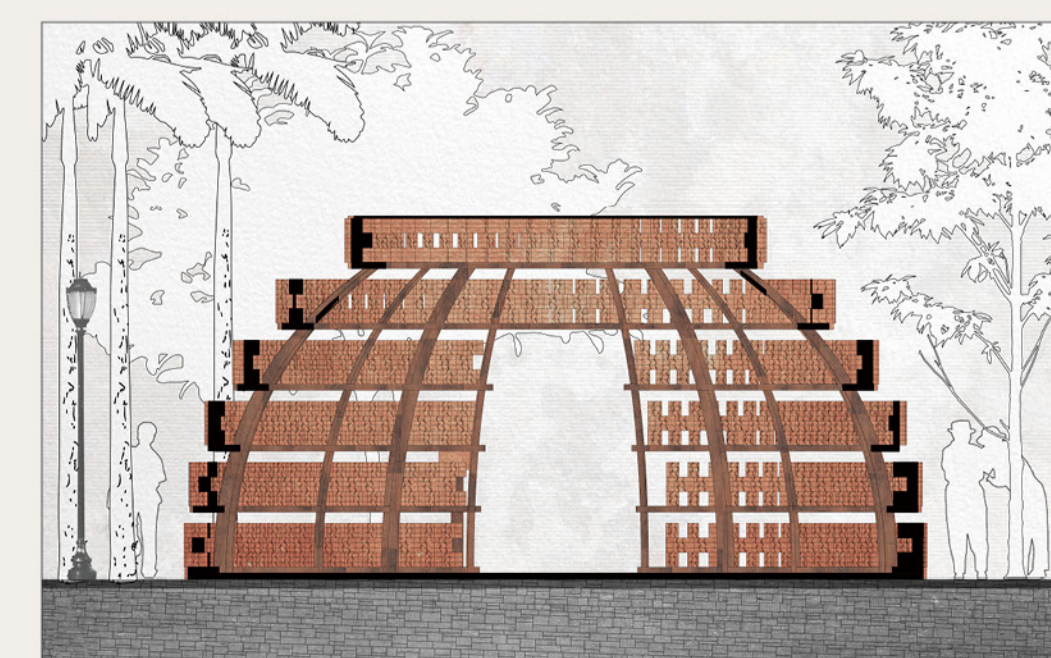
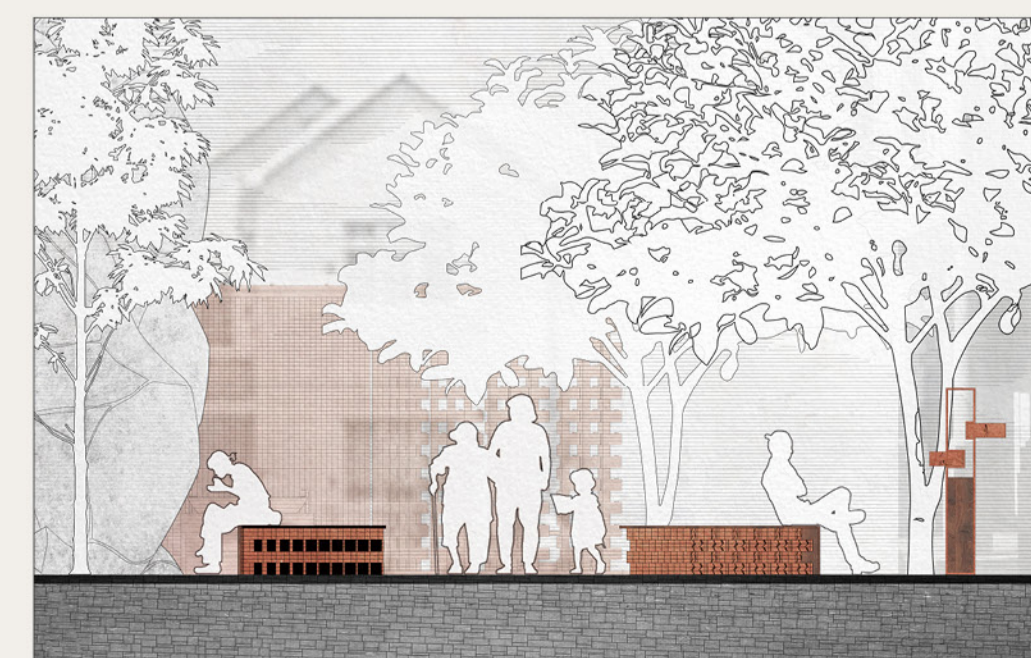
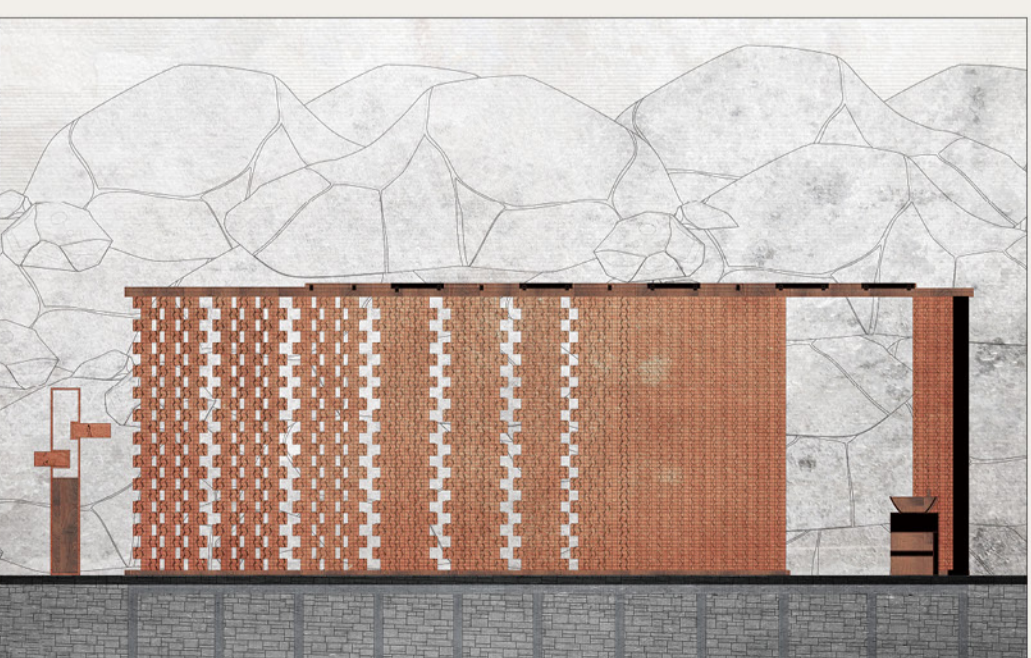
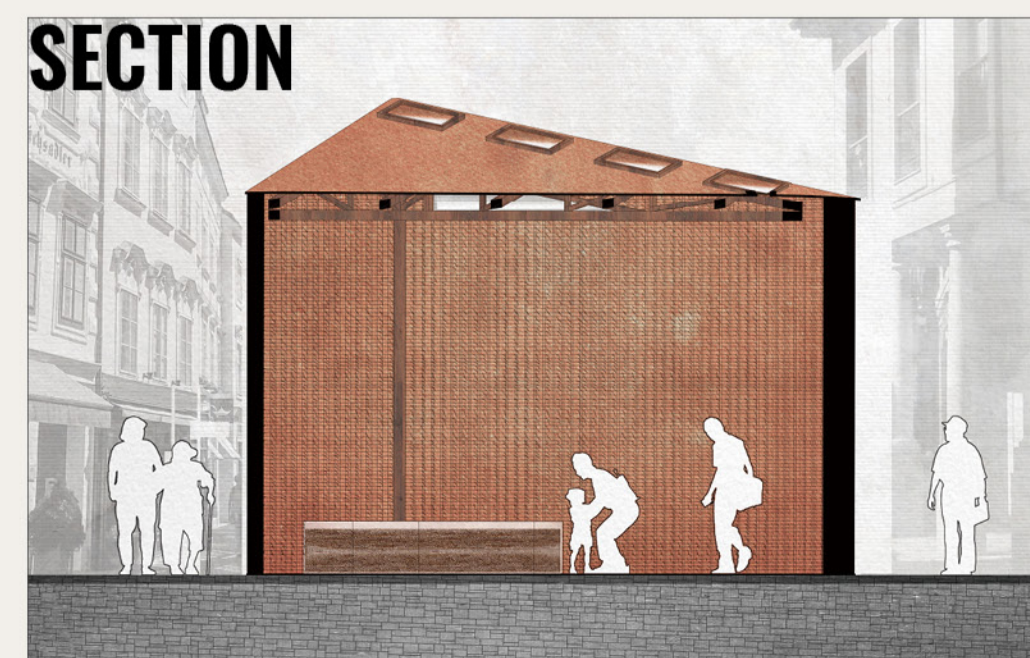
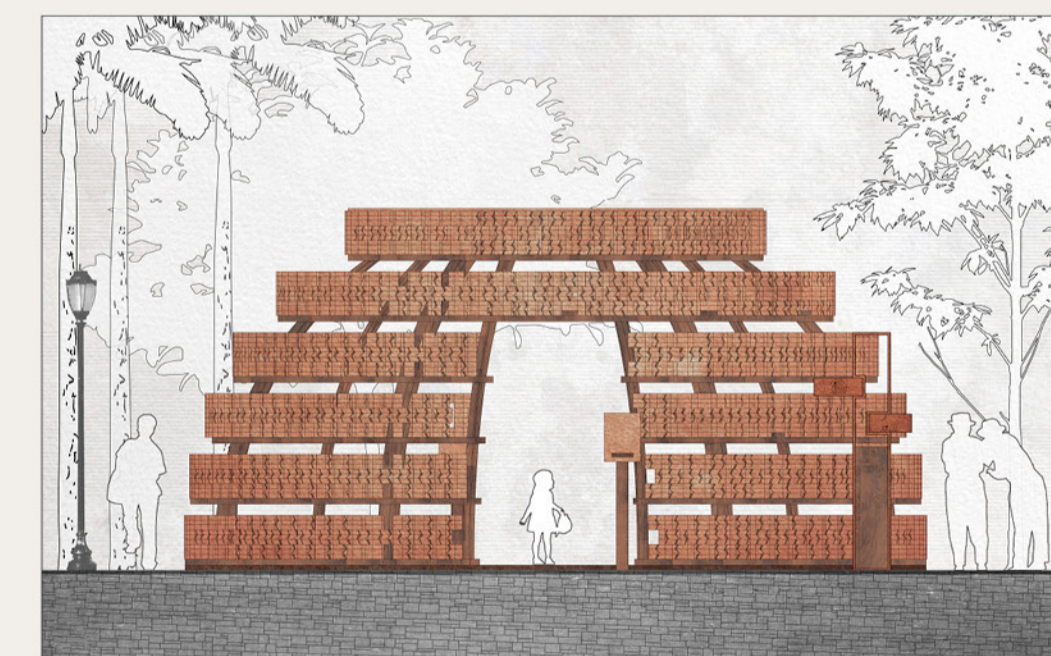
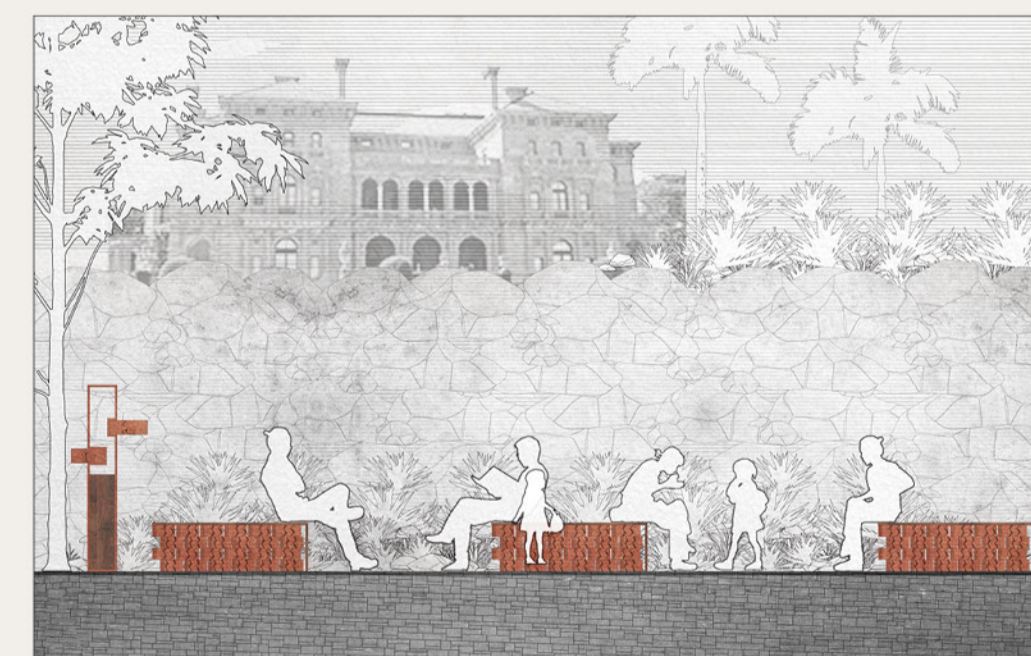
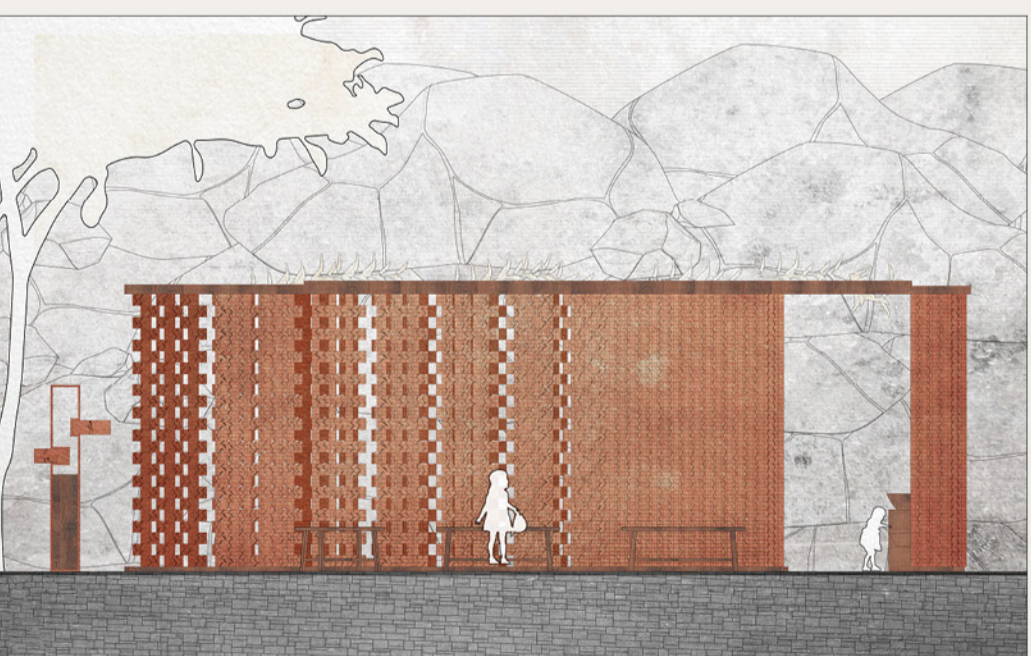
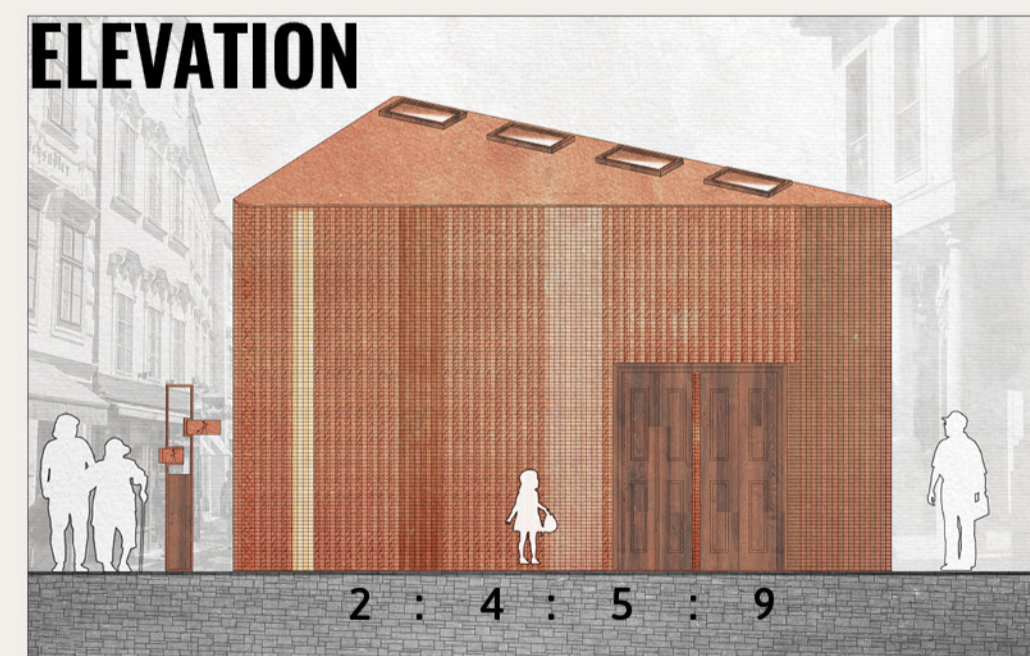
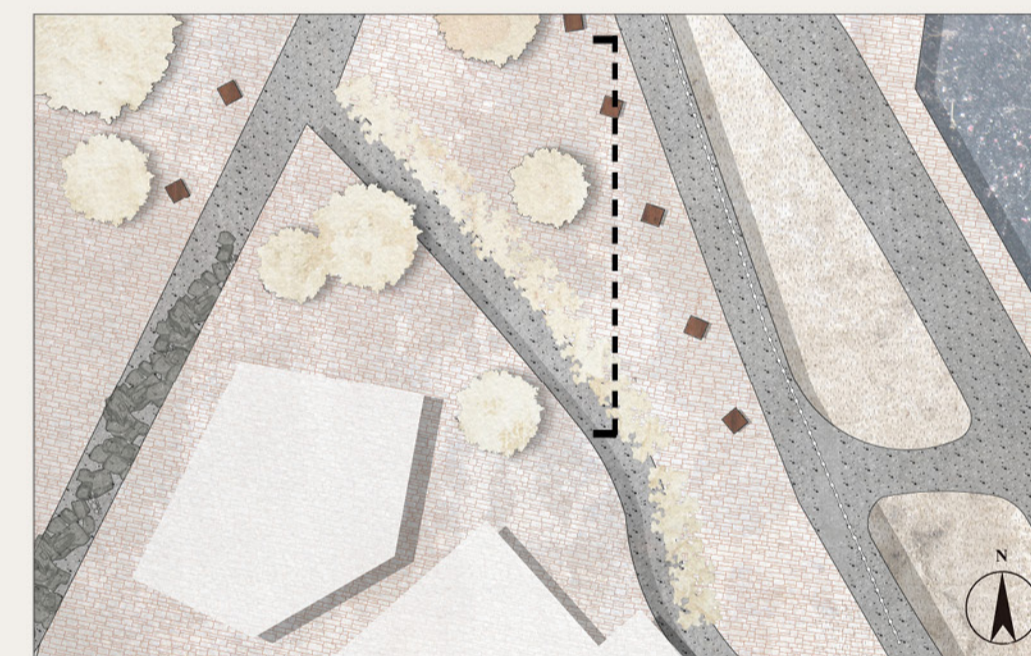
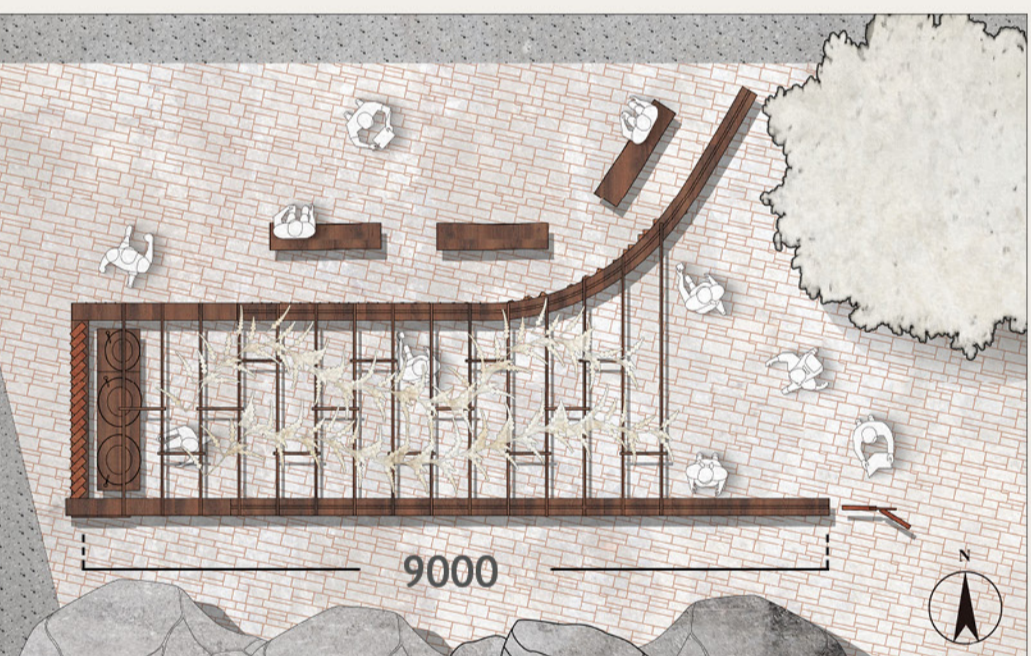
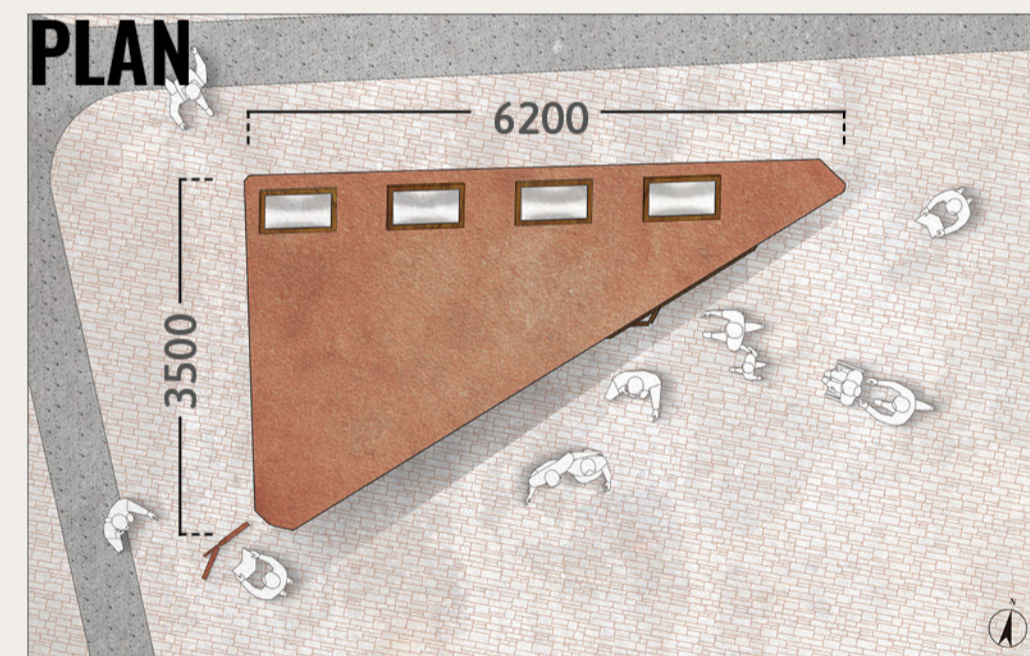
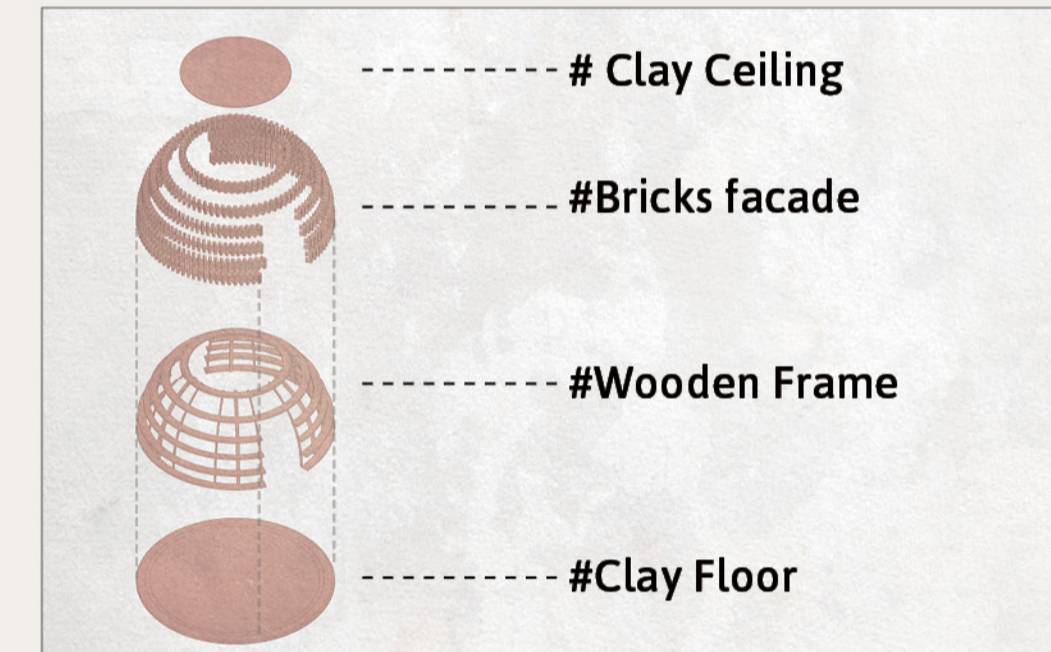
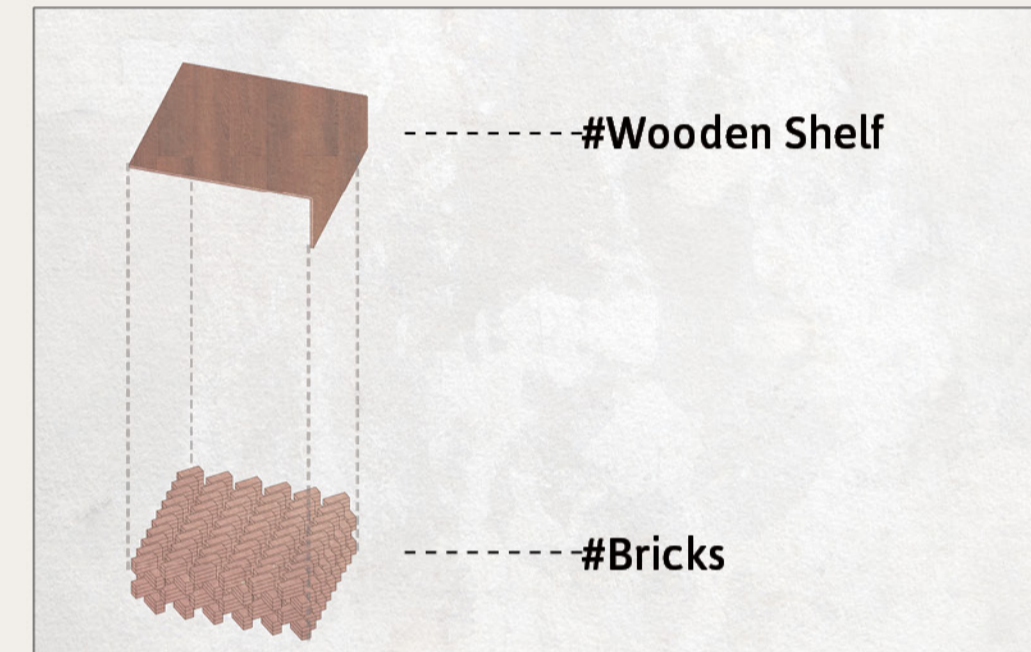
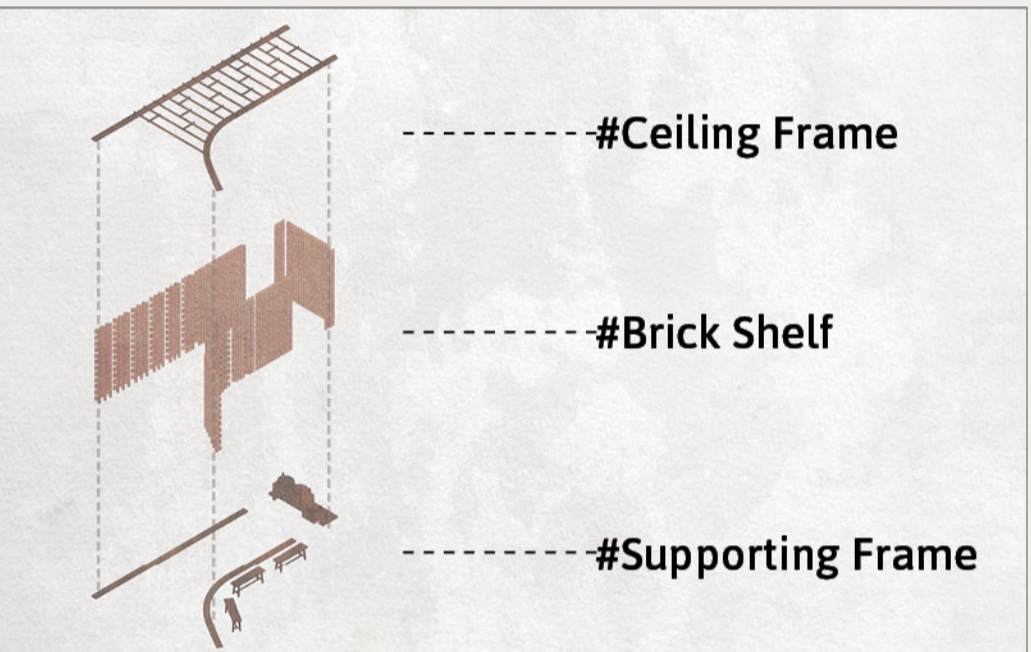
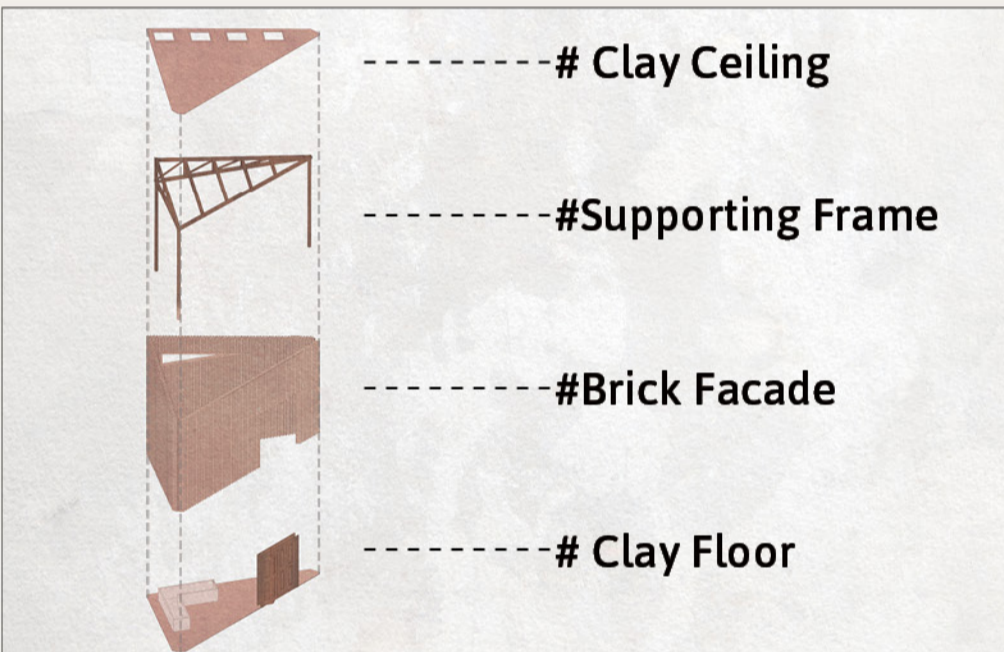
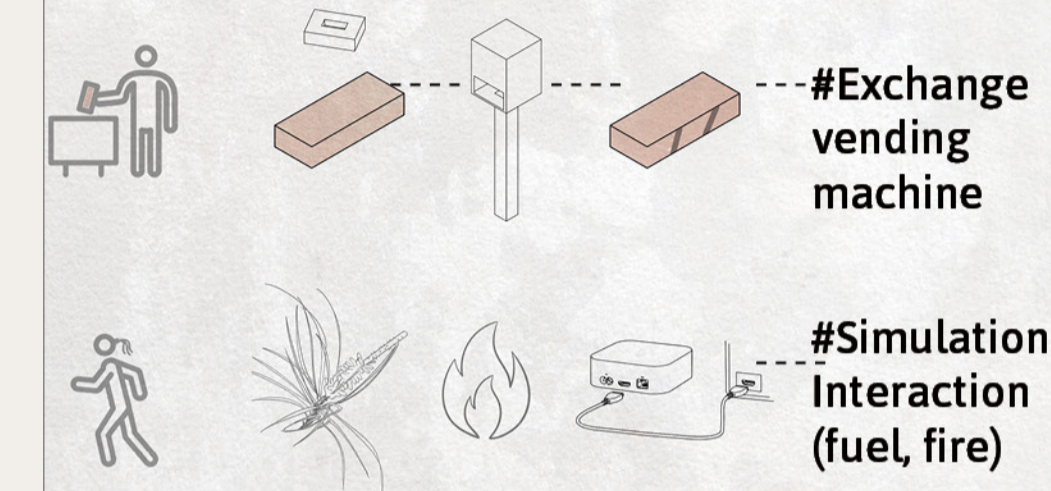
LOCATION 2



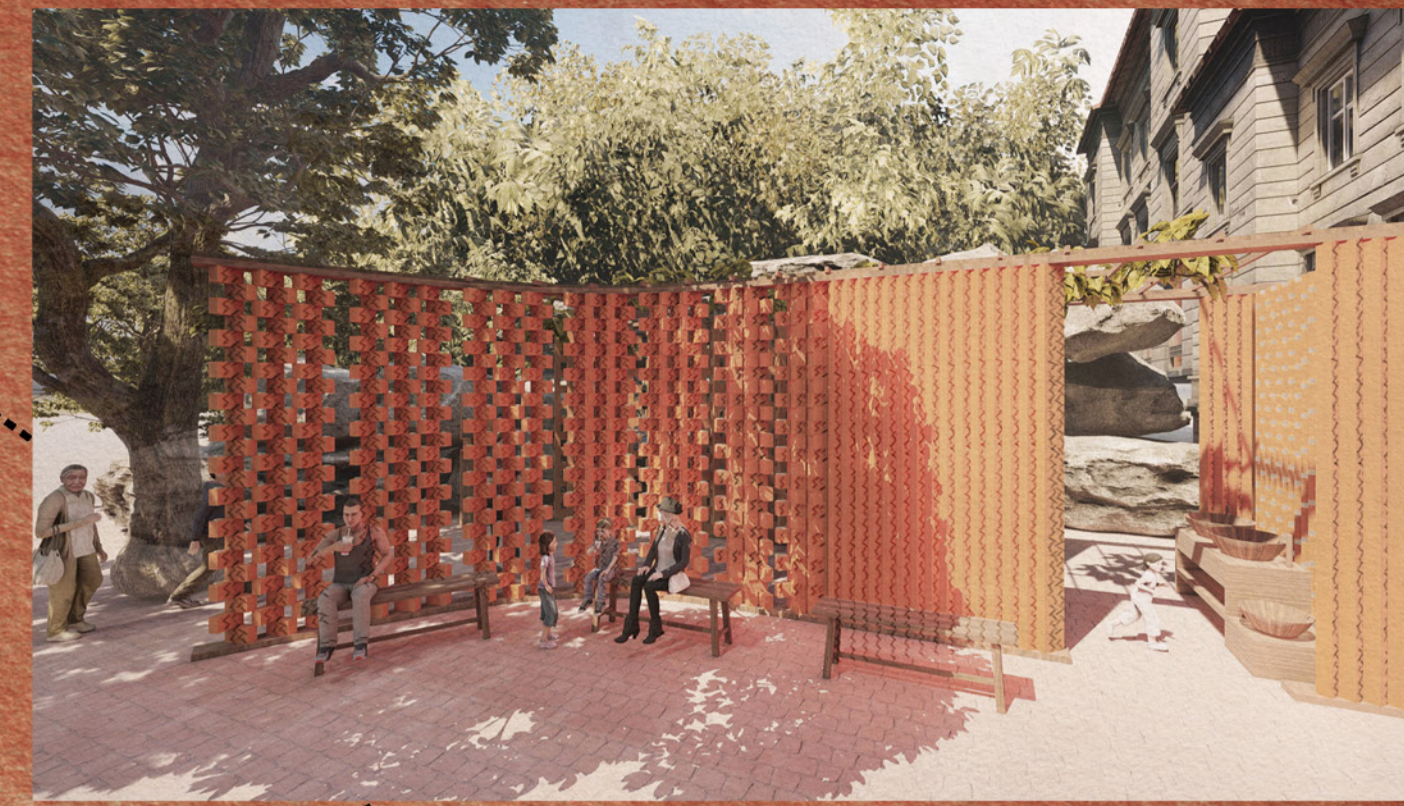
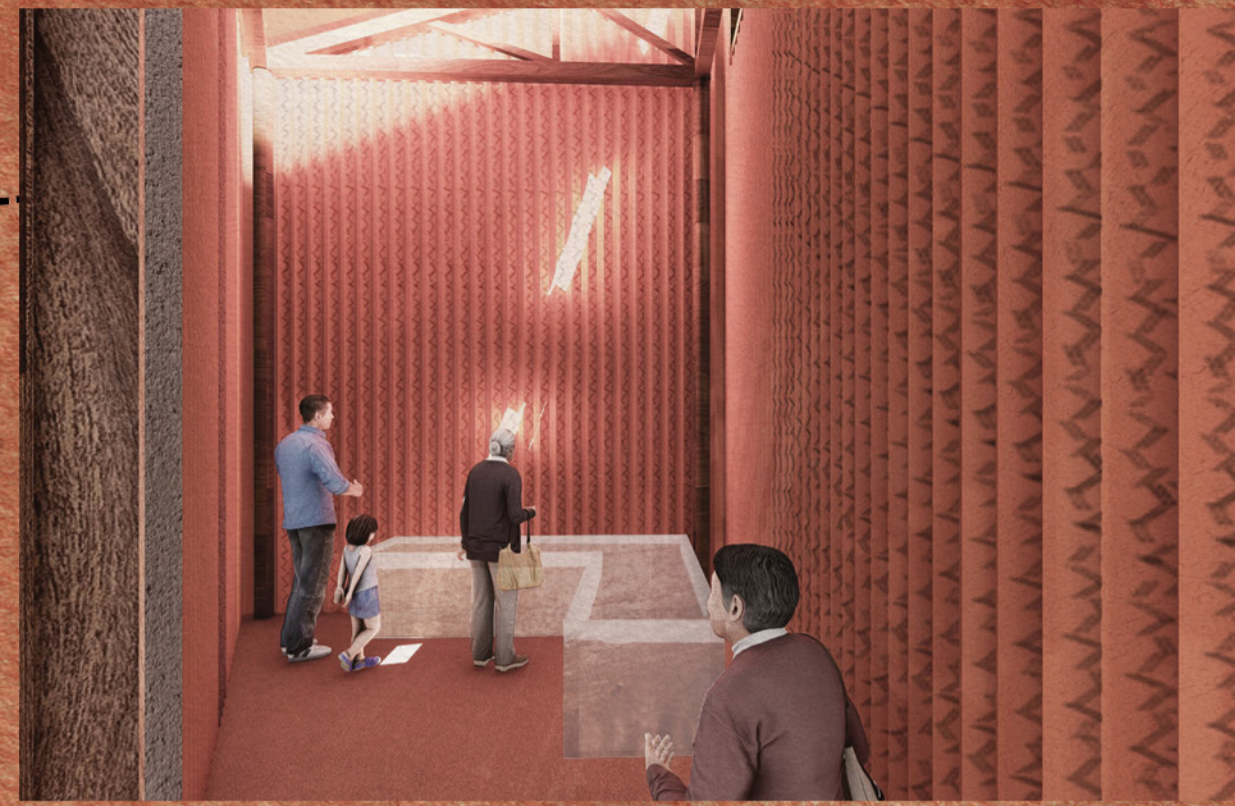
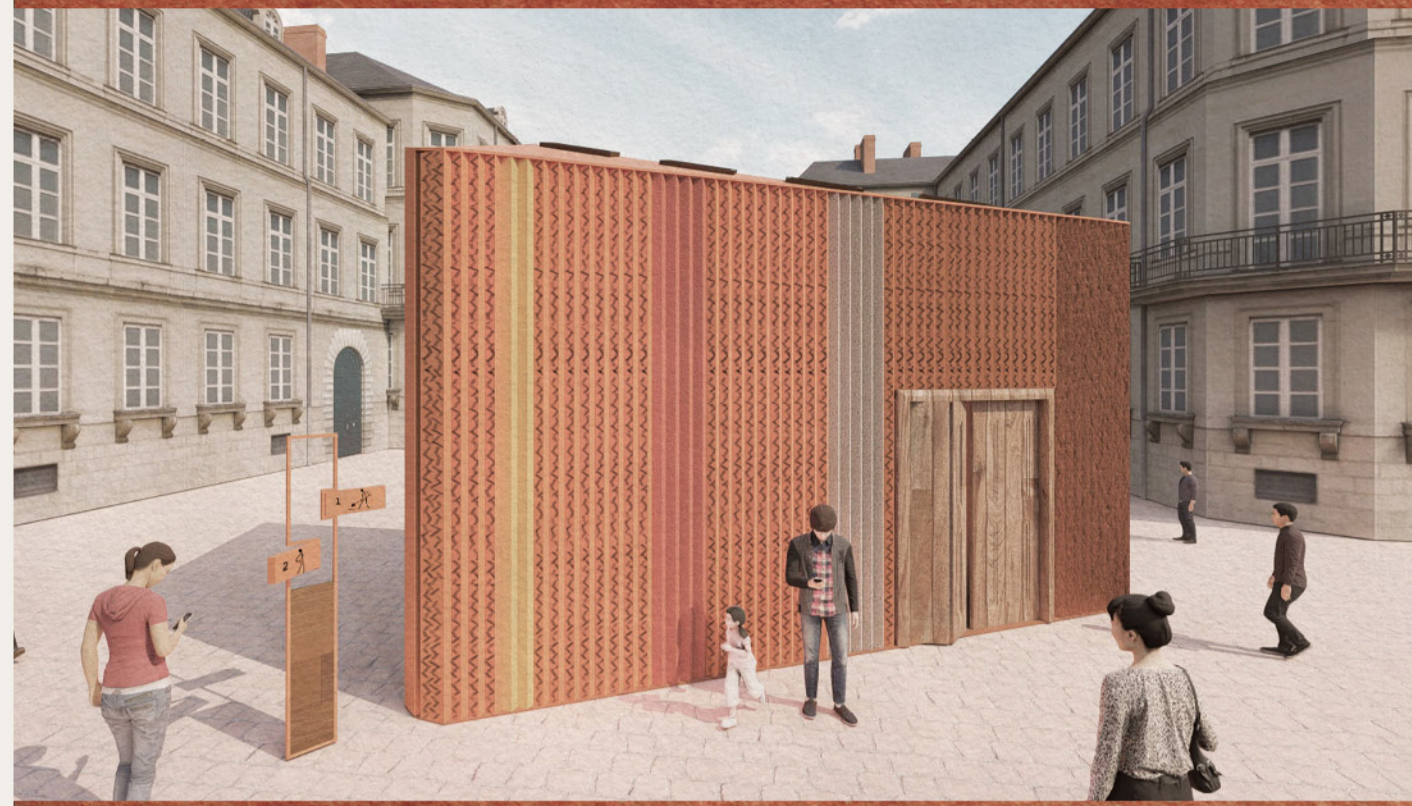
LOCATION 3



LOCATION 4



STORY BOARD & RENDERING



LOCATION 1 - CLAY PREPARATION



People can enter this place to collect soil. In addition to the four skylights, there is only one window in the wall, and the space is very tight. The contrast between light and dark in the room is very strong, with a sense of holiness, a sense of ritual. People will take the soil under a beam of light and will hold it in their hands until the second stage.

LOCATION 4 - FIRING



When the person walks on the ground, the flames and ashes on the screen will move together according



to the person's steps. "Exchange" and "interactive technology" are used here to create Spaces for people to fire bricks. People put moulds of bricks with mud in boxes at the entrance and come out with a yanzhi brick with black stripes.

LOCATION 3 - DRYING



There is so much greenery in this area (including many large banyan trees) that it would not be appropriate to cut down. So the seats were replaced with "yanzhi benches" with the least impact. These seats act as a connection between step2 and step4.



LOCATION 2 - MODELING

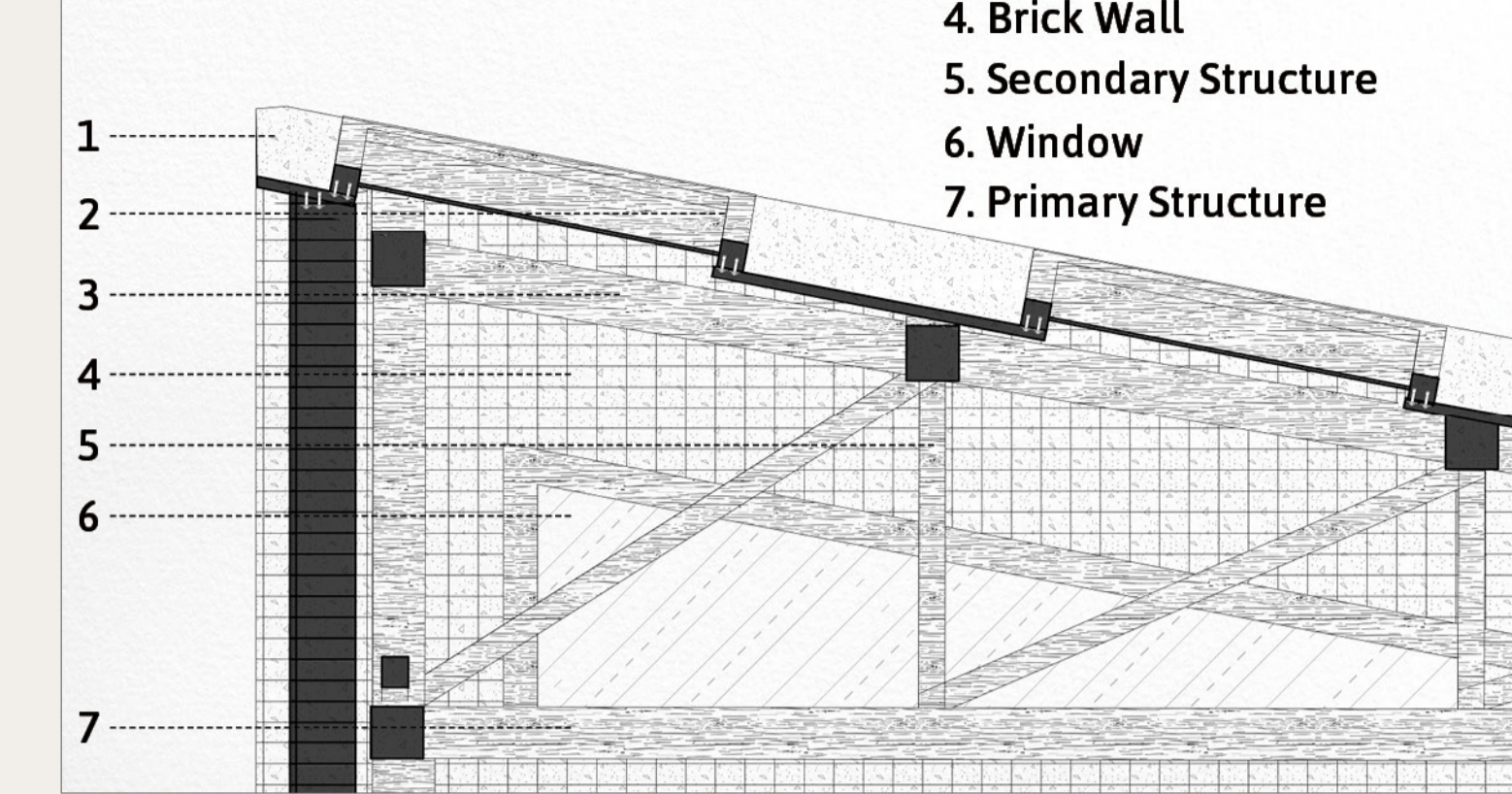


The bricks on both sides serve as both walls and shelves. On the "brick shelf" near the outside are regular sized brick molds. The side of the "brick shelf" against the stone wall holds the mold of half the brick (brick slab), which is half the size of the normal brick. These are the two specifications used in yanzhi brick construction.

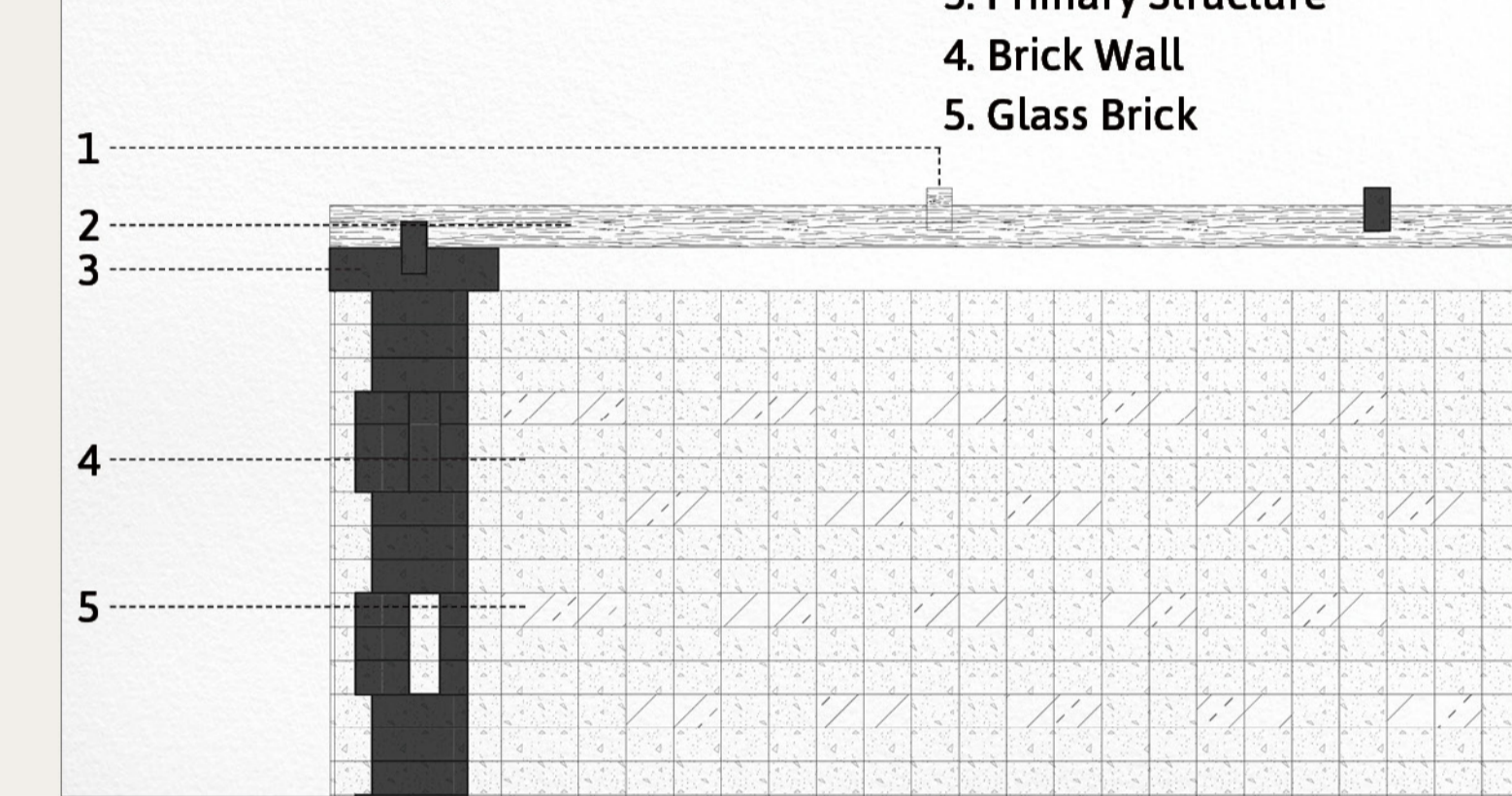


TECHNICAL DRAWING

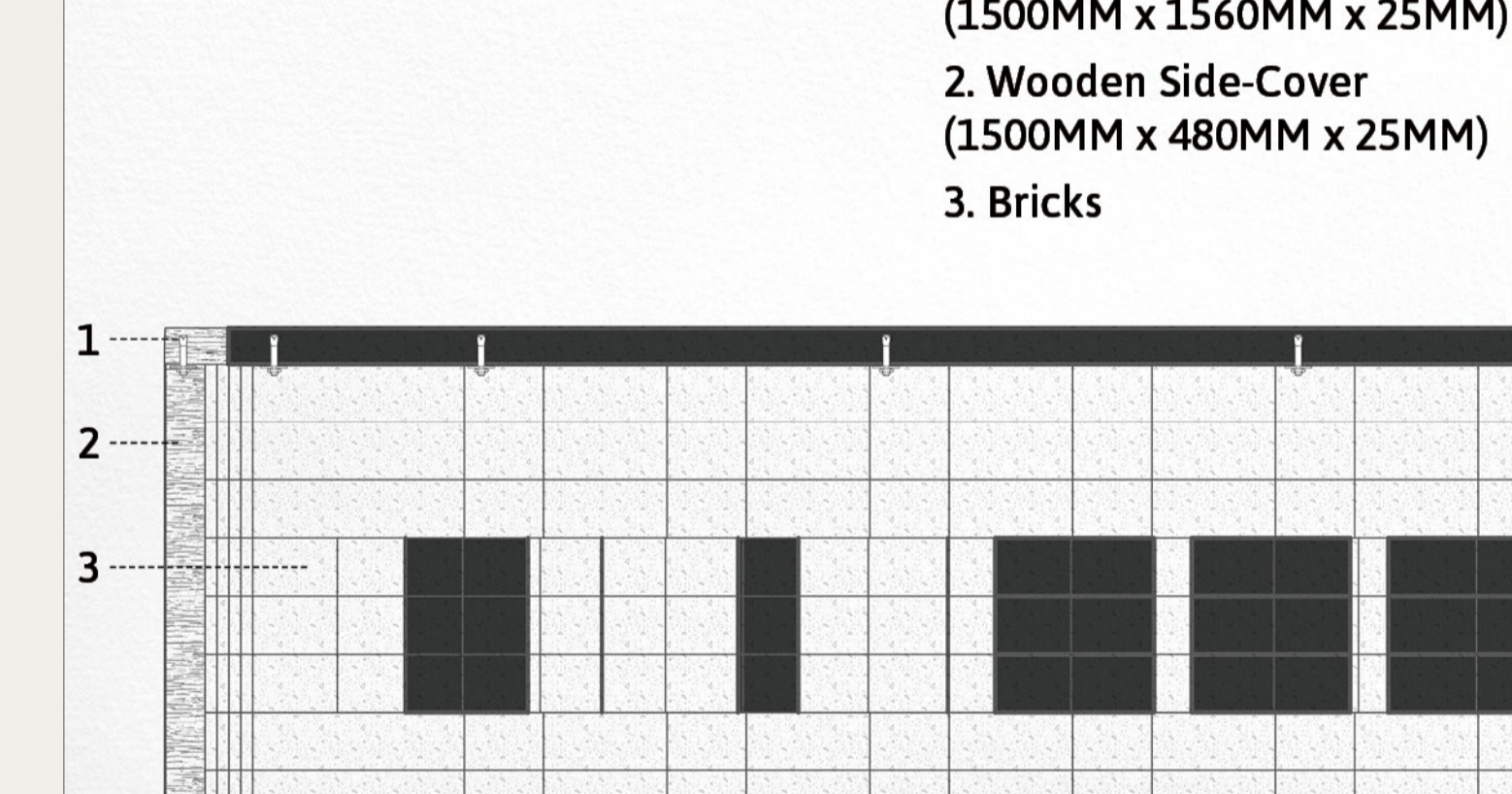
#Location 1 - Ceiling



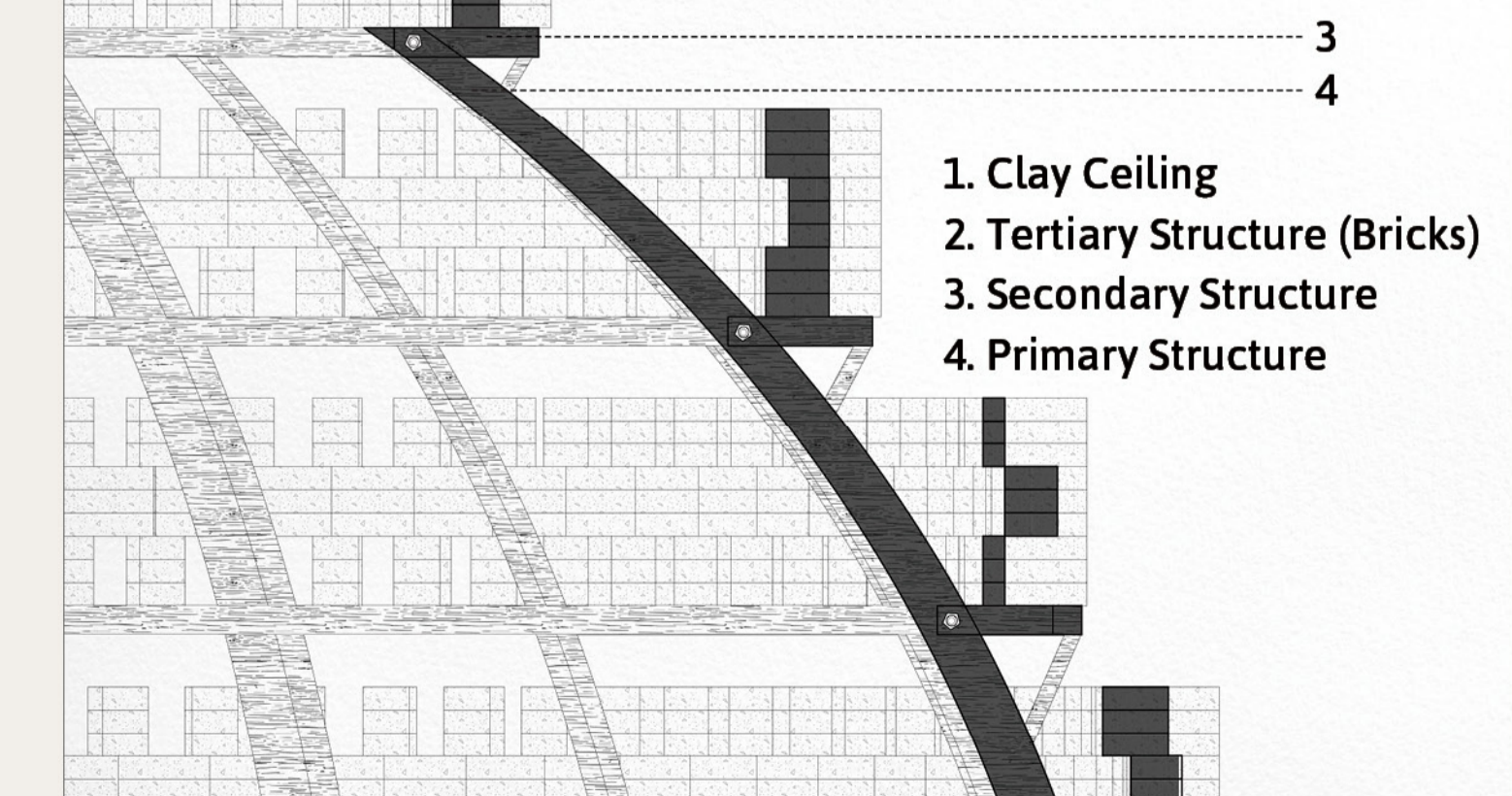
#Location 2 - Ceiling



#Location 3 - Seat



#Location 4 - Structure



MATERIAL

The four installations are mainly made of yanzhi brick with auxiliary materials of wood and glass. The wood is small leaf rosewood, which is the customary building material used in Gulangyu Island and even southern Fujian region. Here, small leaf rosewood is mainly used for furniture and wooden structures. The bricks are bonded together with mortar, the original wall building technique.

#Yanzhi Bricks	#Rosewood	#Glass & Acrylic	#Clay	# Concrete	# Screen
Handmade Yanzhi brick with irregular black lines on the surface. With two size: Brick and Brick Slab.	For stools, sinks and frames. Keep it retro. Use local materials and keep it local.	Modern elements add a little vitality to the original handicraft. (The brick mold's material)	Materials for roof and floor. The color matches the color of the bricks.	Only in step 1, use different colors to represent different materials. It's shaped like bricks.	Only in Step 4: Interactive design of the floor

SITE MODEL (1:1250)

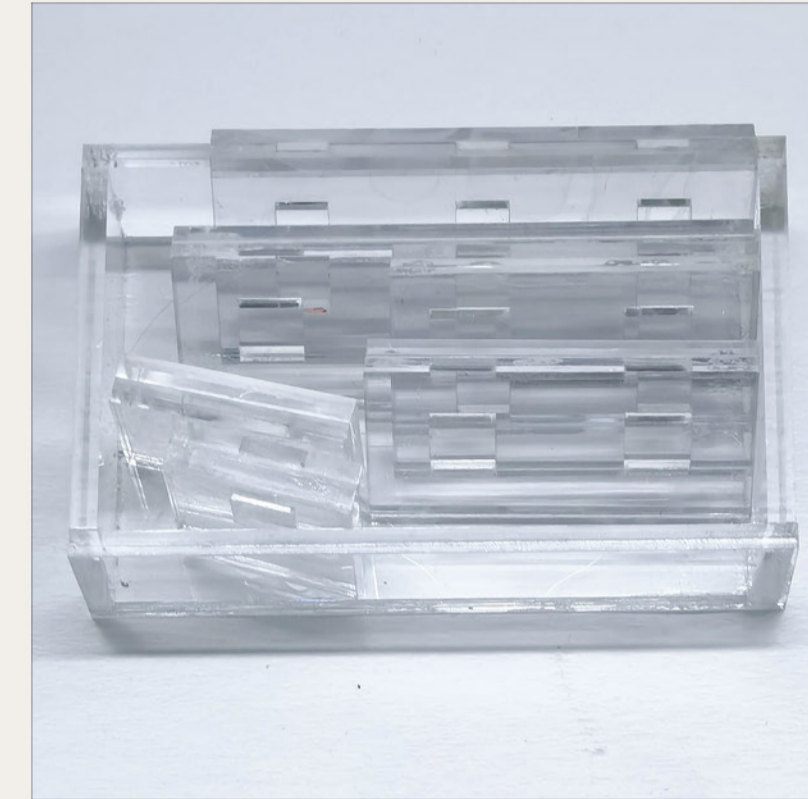


CONCEPT MODELS (1:1) & DETAILED MODELS (1:16)

Site Model: The contour line is five meters. With sea level as the horizon, the slope increases as you exit the Piano Pier. The slope is divided into five grades, the highest being 20m. Red thumbtacks represent the locations of the four installations. The red lines show tourist routes in the area. It can be seen from the site model that the four installations are located on relatively flat ground.

Concept Models: The scale of the Bricks is 1:16. In the "Life in Yanzhi Bricks" project, bricks are also made of this size. The model tested the stability of the underlying structure - three bricks stacked on top of each other. This structure is very stable and can be stabilized without any other material support (such as steel or wood).

Detailed Models: People can make bricks of two sizes with brick molds. One is regular size and the other is half brick (brick slab). Each size of brick has three molds, each corresponding to a different number of one-time production. One can put soil into the mold and then take the mold to the fourth stage to obtain the finished smoked brick by exchange. There will be enough moulds for people to take some away as souvenirs. There are two reasons to use acrylic as a mold material. 1. Easy to clean and can be recycled. 2. Let people see the soil inside.



The detailed model is presented as part of STEP 2 as an example. Because the structure of STEP 2 covers all the different types of basic structures, it shows the process from low to high brick seam density. This corresponds to the concept of "restriction" in the second step, a process from freedom to constraint. /STEP 2's installation is versatile. It exists both as a wall and as a shelf. The area where the brick sticks out is where the brick mold will be placed. There is a big banyan tree next to this site, which can provide shade for people. Outside the walls, there are also wooden chairs for people to rest on.

