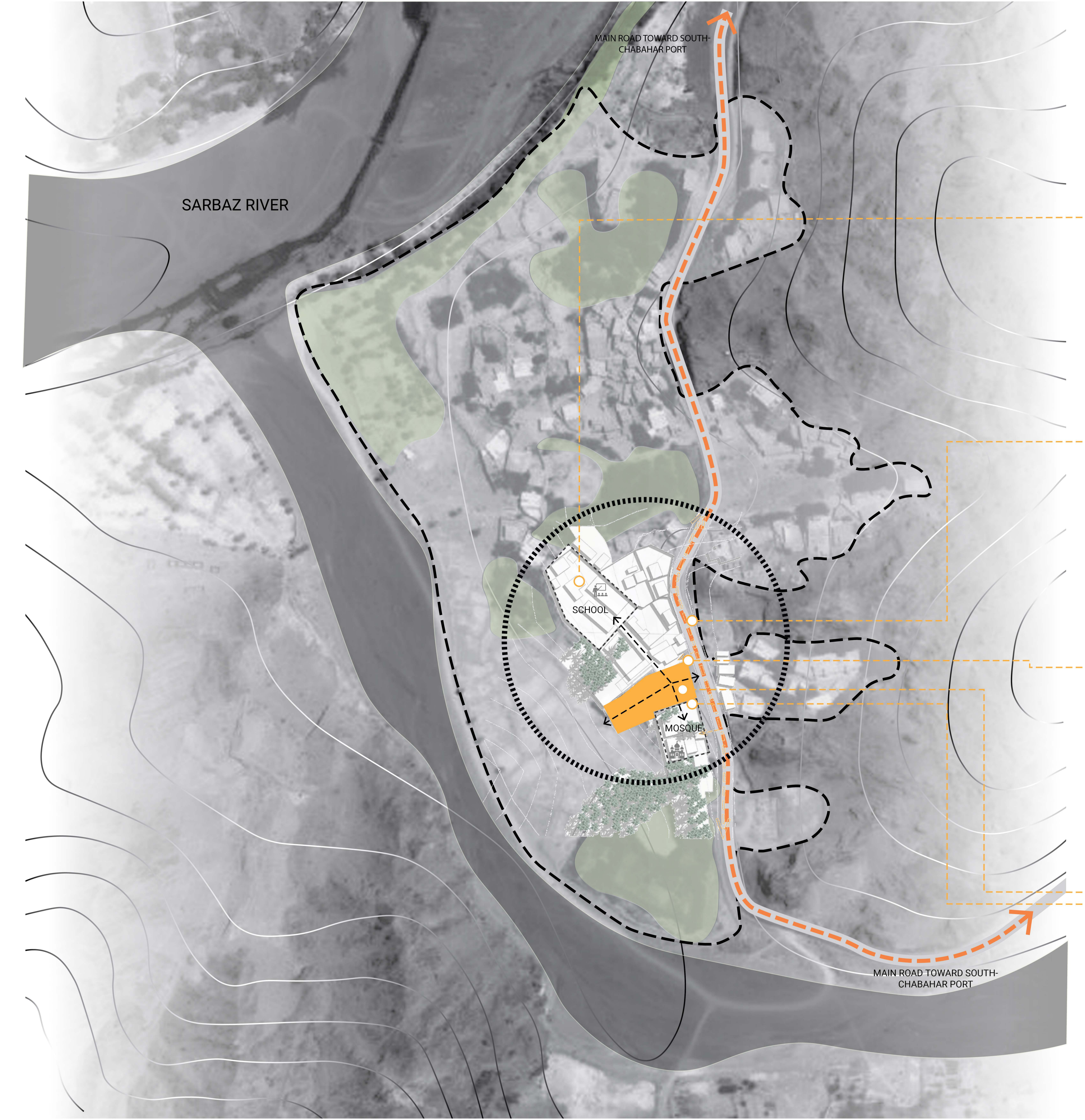
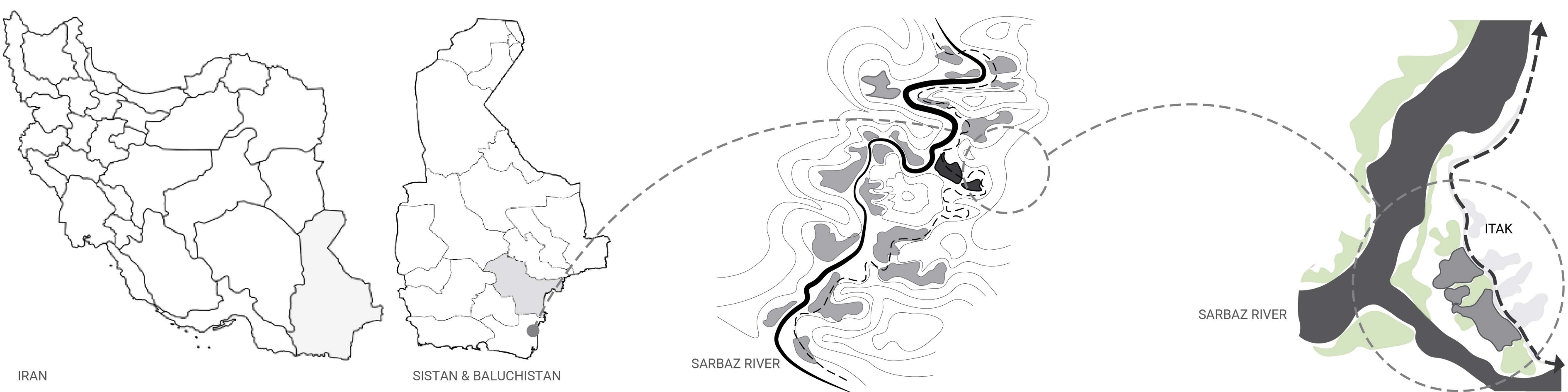


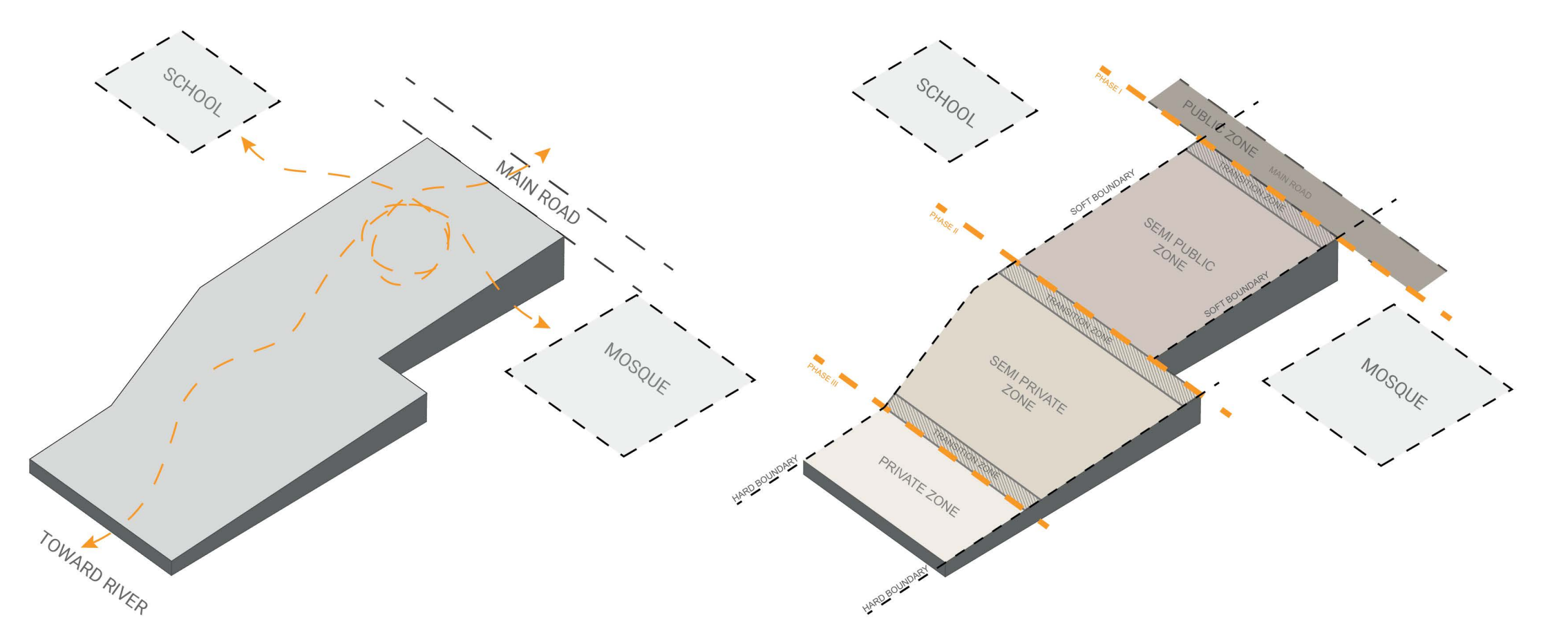
CULTURAL INCUBATOR

Sistan & Baluchistan, located in southeast Iran, is the country's second-largest province, with a population of around 3 million. Severe droughts and poor management have led to agricultural losses, unemployment, and poverty. To make a living, residents often resort to risky and illegal activities such as fuel smuggling to neighbour countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Unfortunately, many die in road accidents yearly, placing further pressure on their families, especially concerning women and children. On the other hand, cultural norms, poverty, and patriarchy contribute to high rates of underage marriage for women. Limited work facilities, security issues, and inadequate transportation hinder women's inclusion in society. This project aims to uplift women's economic status and preserve their cultural heritage by providing a platform for rural women to showcase and sell their handicrafts. The design principle focuses on placemaking, low-budget vernacular architecture, human-centric and promoting community interaction. The project harmonizes with the local context and could promise future development and maintenance without outsourcing by involving local participation and utilizing traditional methods, materials, and aesthetics. The project is structured into three phases, with financial support from each phase propelling the next.

The initial phase includes two workshops, a connected store, and a women-run café. Furthermore, the attached square is an established connection node between the women's centre, mosque, and school, serving as a marketplace and promoting interaction among community members, including men, women, and children. In the next phase, lessons learned from the initial phase are applied, supported financially by its success. This phase focuses on providing training, resources, and dedicated spaces for children, in addition to working spaces. The third phase involves implementing additional programs and initiatives when the community achieves financial stability. This approach ensures long-term sustainability and effectiveness. The ultimate goal is to empower women and establish a replicable model for positive change in similar communities.



DESIGN STRATEGY



- The plot sloped toward the river, and the road and river level differences are about 8 meters. Two central axes are the school's connection to the mosque and the main road to the river, shaping a kind of gathering or market square.

- To ensure privacy and a smooth transition between phases and neighboring areas, distinct zones and boundaries are defined on the plot based on the program, neighborhood type, and phasing.

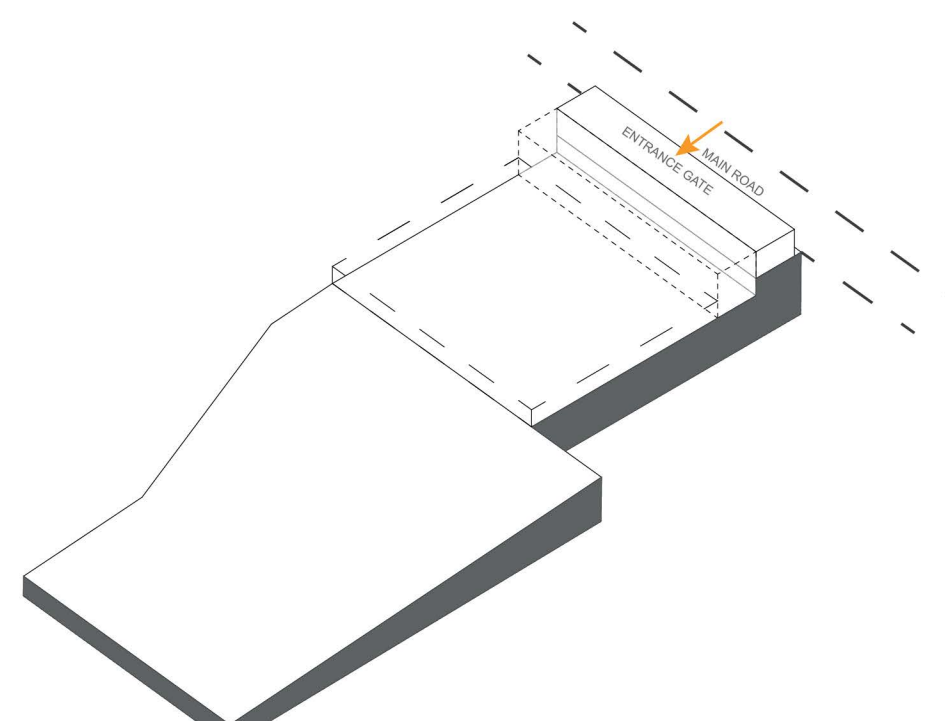
PHASING STRATEGY

PHASE I

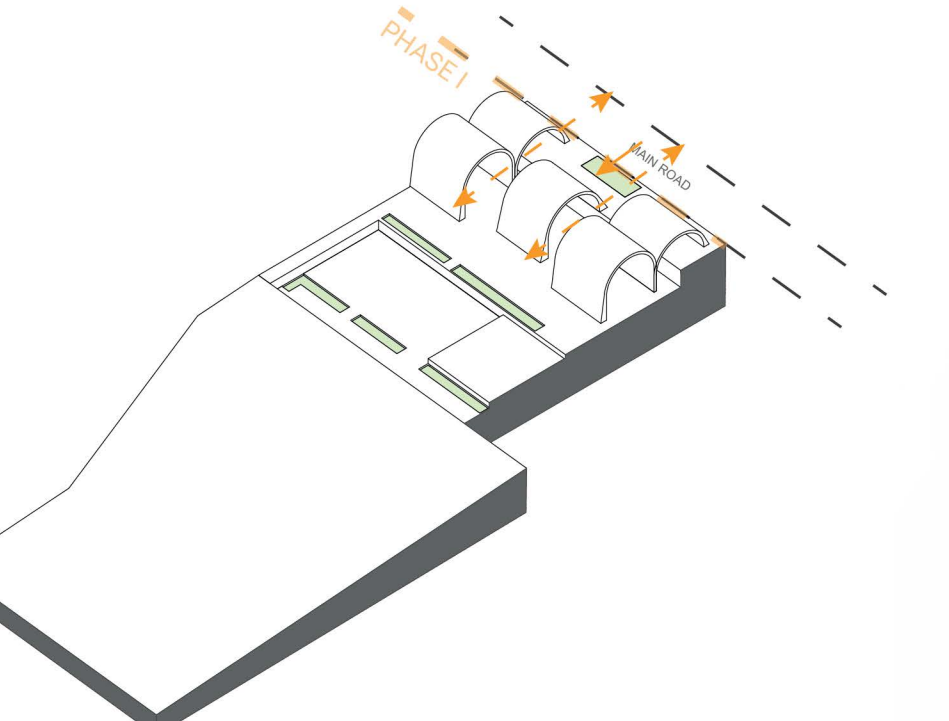
Users: 10-15 women

- Function:
- Embroidery and Mat weaving workshop with attached showroom/store-Café
 - Open multi-functional square

- Goal:
- Establish a women's cooperative
 - Create a showroom to increase their visibility and exposure to potential customers.
 - Partner with local organisations
 - Increase community interaction through different activities in the multifunctional squares
 - Financial support for the next phase



- The front volume of phase I performing an entrance gate from the public zone to the complex. The height difference from the road and mosque level to the school and residential zone level is 2m; therefore, the square level drops to the same level to engage the gate to both road and school level.



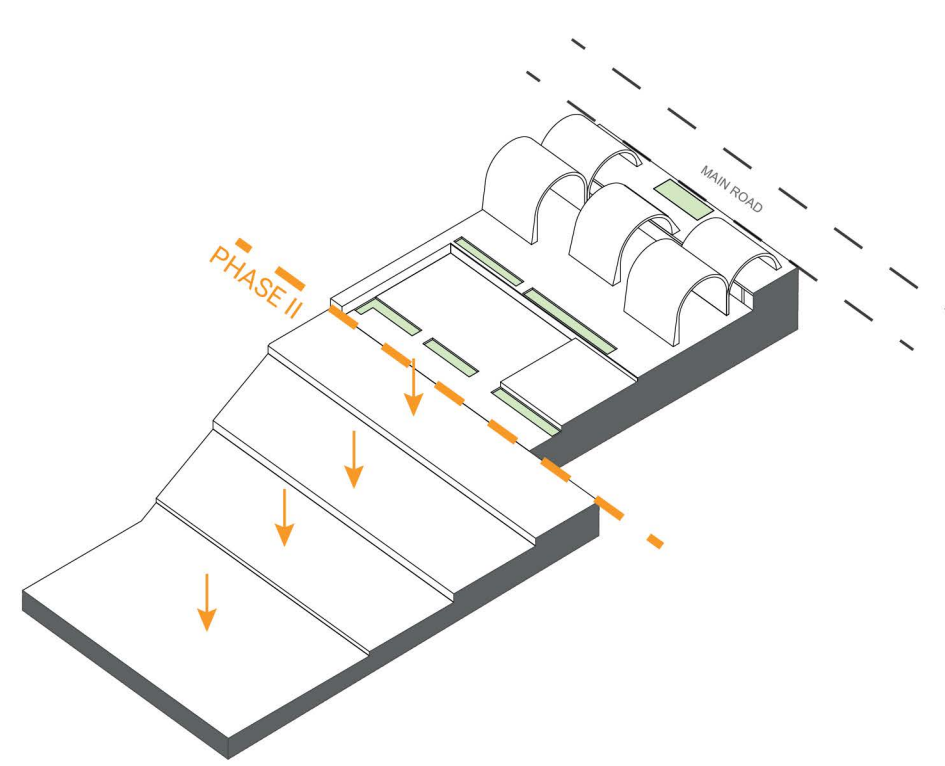
- Soften the form to the vault and divide the square into two levels, creating dynamic space, forming a marketplace and a stage for various activities through day and night. The design enhances circulation, visual connectivity, and the interplay of light and shadow. It includes strategically placed openings, a seating square, and green bands to create distinct zones.

PHASE II

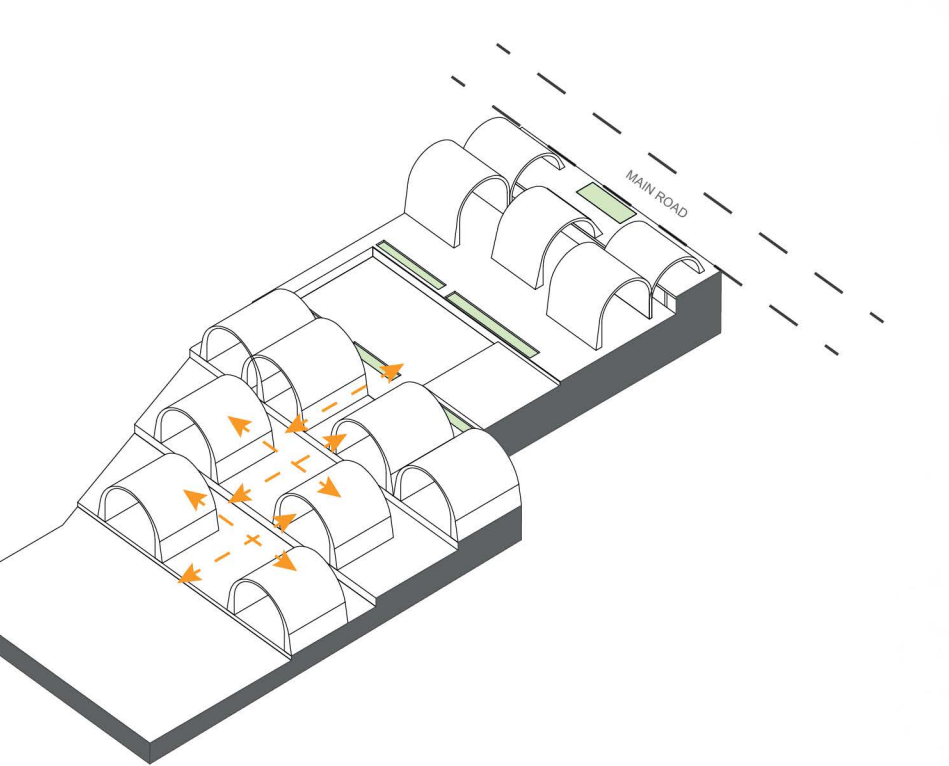
Users: 15-30 women

- Function:
- One Embroidery and one Mat weaving workshop (Each has two attached workshops)
 - Library and Computer room
 - Classrooms
 - Playground
 - Toilet
 - Storage

- Goal:
- Provide training and resources
 - Create a supportive community
 - Providing a safe playing zone and access to the library for community member's their kids and students from the school
 - Attract external visitors/ tourist



- The terraced terrain offers a practical solution for constructing structurally stable platforms that blend harmoniously with the surrounding landscape.



- The buildings are strategically positioned to offer a view of the river and the site while protecting it from sunlight from the south.

PHASE III

(Future Development)

Users: above 30 women and tourists

- Function:
- Guest rooms
 - Gym
 - Nursery
 - Pray room and etc.

- Goal:
- Improve their physical and mental health
 - Improve their social connections
 - Create women guest room for external visitors

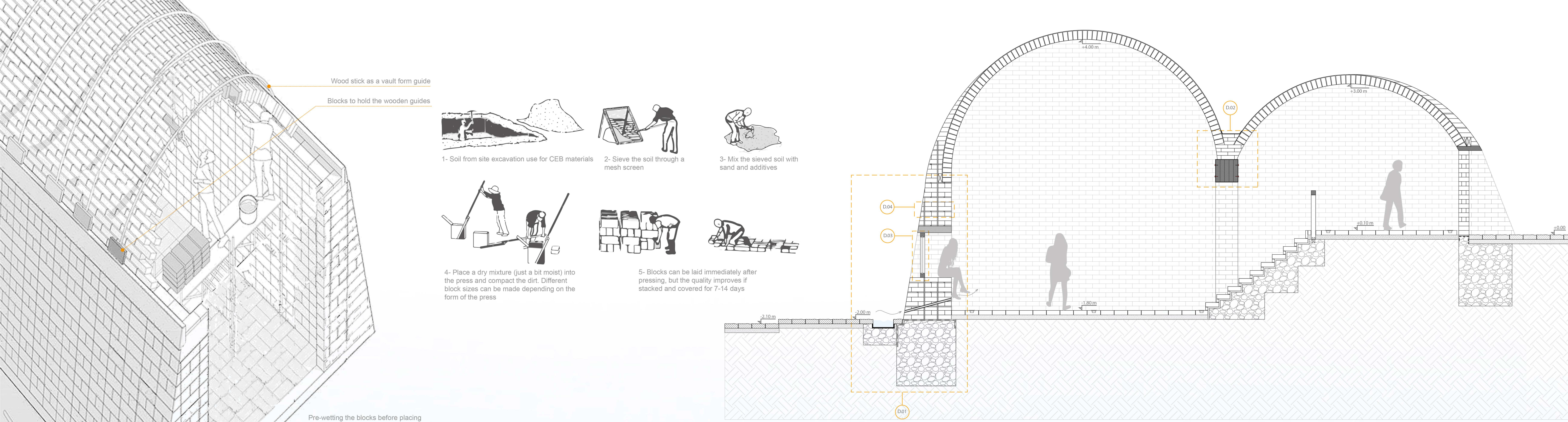


- The assumption is that the community is economically more robust and ready to include other types of programmes.

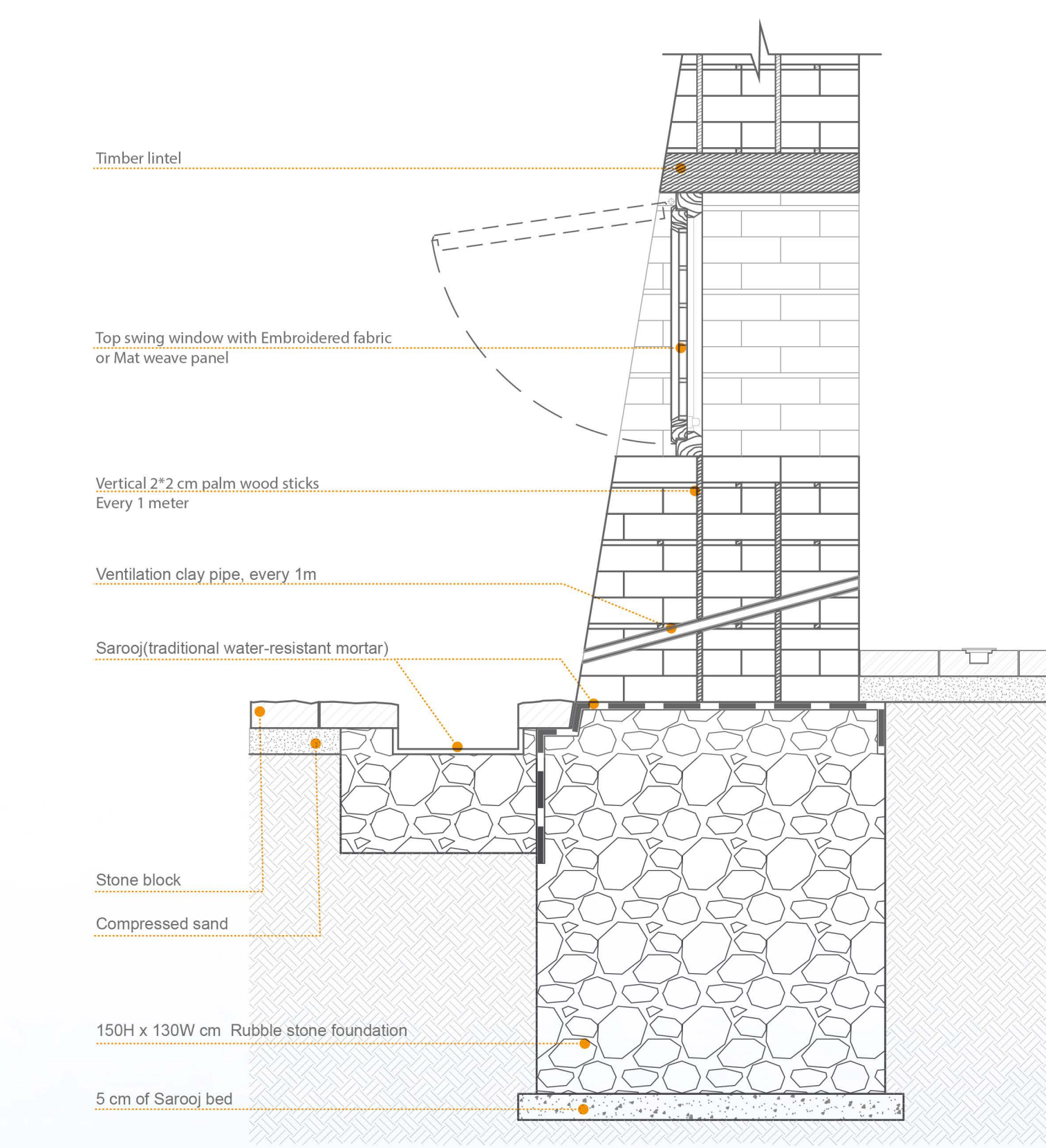
USER CIRCULATION PATTERN



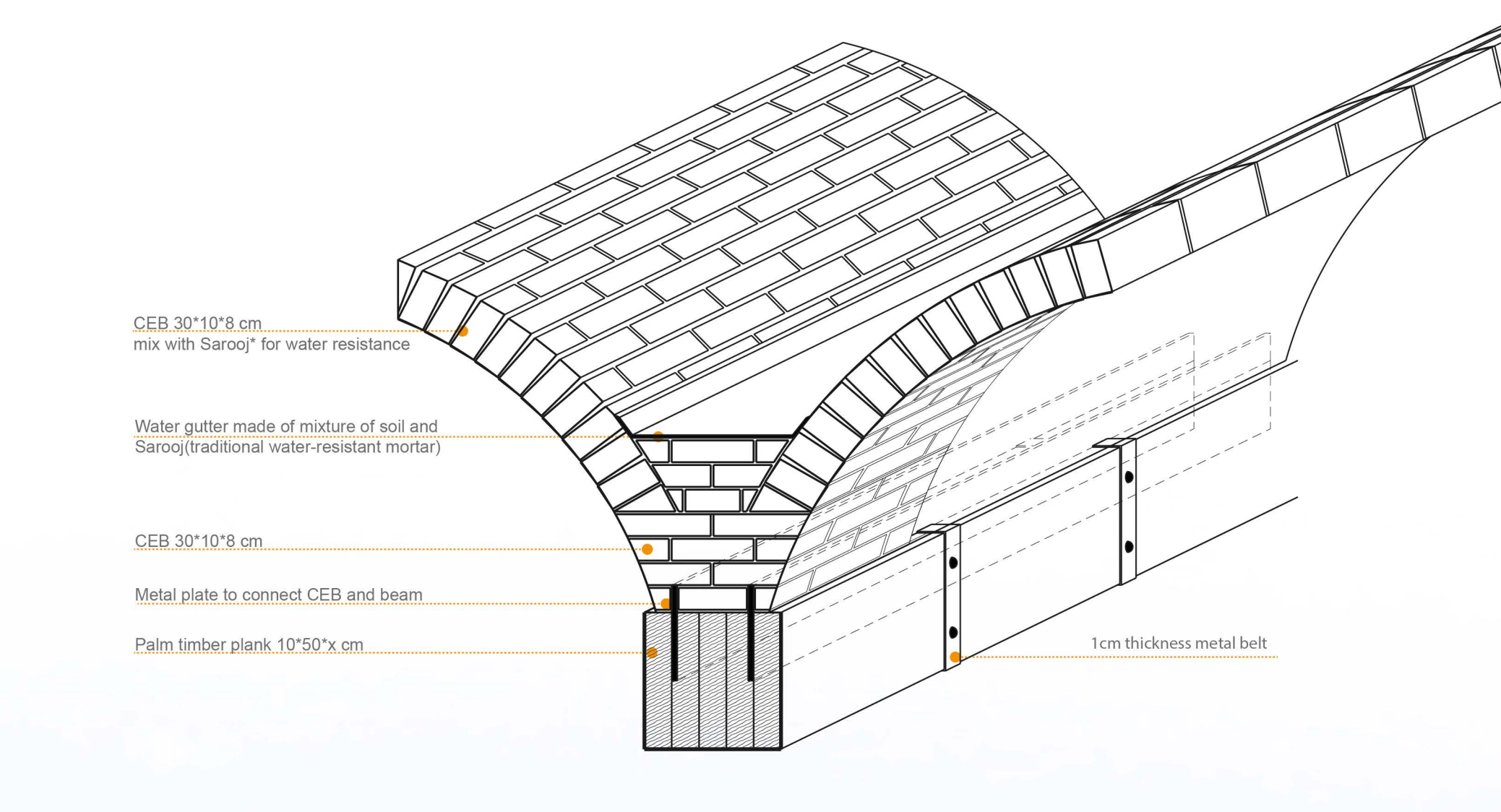




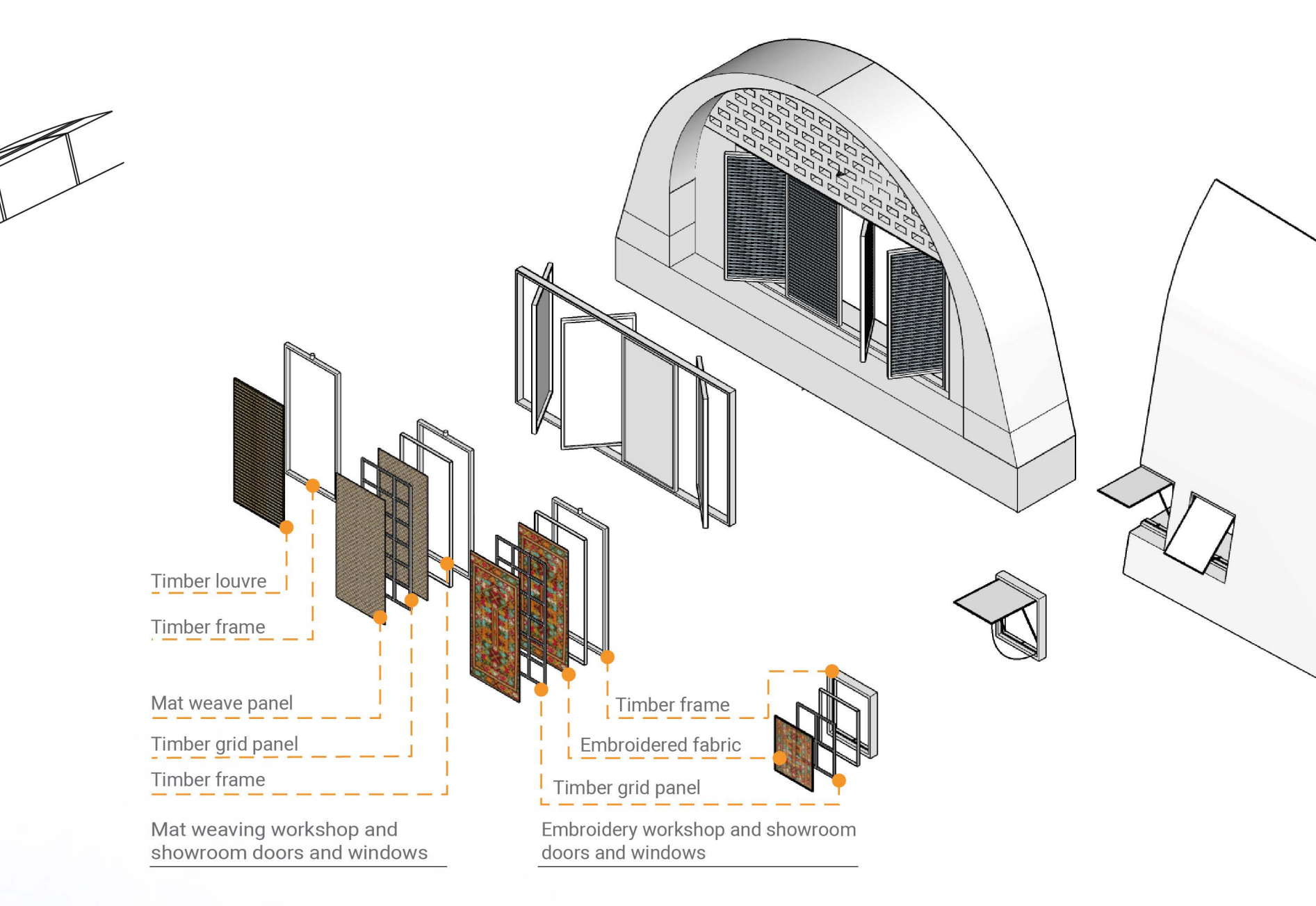
VAULT SECTION



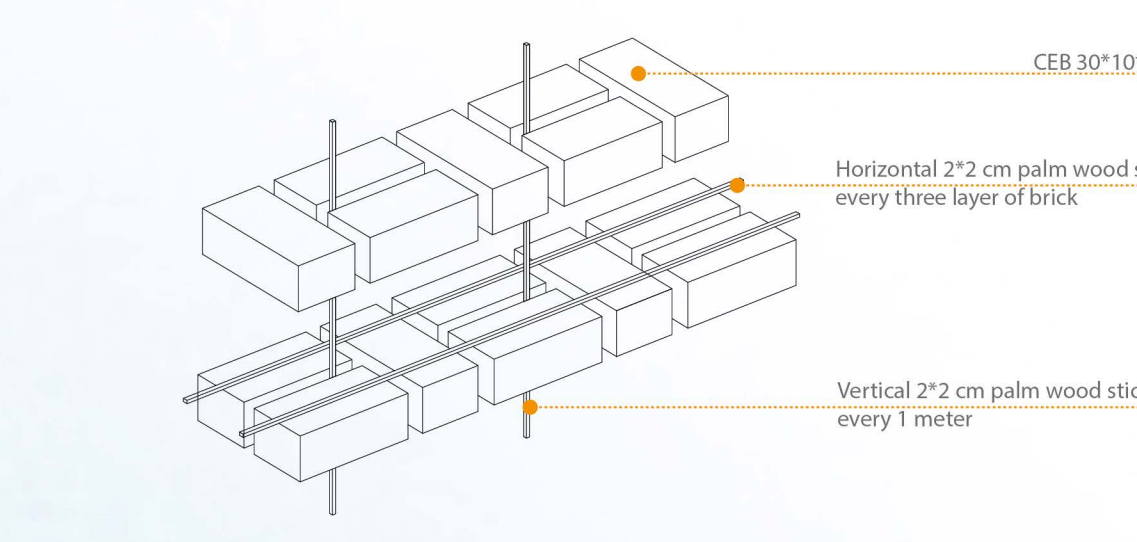
DETAIL 01 Foundation



DETAIL 02 Vault connection and wooden beam



DETAIL 03 Door and windows typologies and layer



DETAIL 04 Earthquake resistant solution



CED
Compressed earth brick, mixture of Soil, Water and palm fibre



Palmwood



Rubble stone



Sticky Mortar
80% soil + 20% gypsum and water, a very sticky mixture to keep the bricks stick together while making the vault. Slacking the bricks with this mortar doesn't need any frame underneath to support the vault



Mat
Locally woven material by women with palm leaves for door and window panels.



Sarooj (water-resistant mortar)
This traditional mortar mixes clay and limestone with a six-to-four ratio plus sand, palm fibre, animal wool and egg. To make a stiff mix and knead for three days.



Sarooj (water-resistant mortar)
A semi-liquid mixture of water and gypsum as a final coat layer to fill in all the pores and tie all the material firmly together

