

TROPICAL CULTURAL PARK

National Visitor Hub

-From Fragmented Destinations to a Unified Cultural Landscape



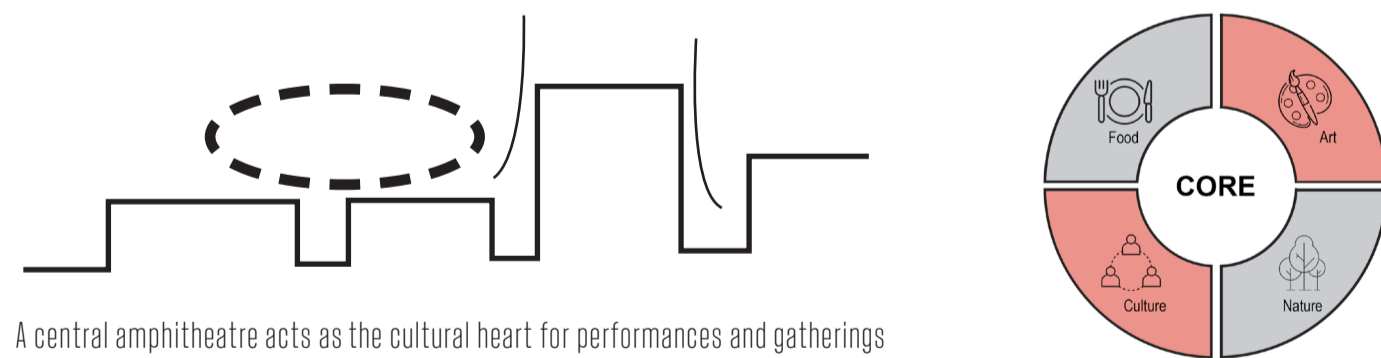
PROBLEM STATEMENT

Kuala Lumpur's city center lacks sufficient public space for both urban greenery and cultural activities. There is a shortage of accessible urban parks where people can gather, relax, and engage with the environment. At the same time, cultural events are often scattered and lack a dedicated, well-designed venue to support performances, festivals, and community interaction.

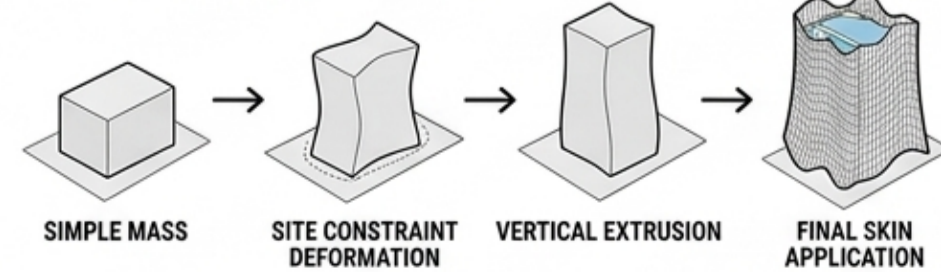
Despite the presence of key landmarks such as Petaling Street, Central Market Kuala Lumpur, Sri Mahamariamman Temple, and Guan Di Temple, there is no proper cultural hub that connects these destinations or acts as a central node. The absence of a unified space limits cultural exchange, weakens the visitor experience, and reduces opportunities for social interaction.

As a result, the city center functions more as a series of isolated attractions rather than a cohesive cultural district, highlighting the need for an integrated urban park and cultural hub that anchors and connects the surrounding landmarks.

DESIGN INTENT



FORM & MASSING EVOLUTION

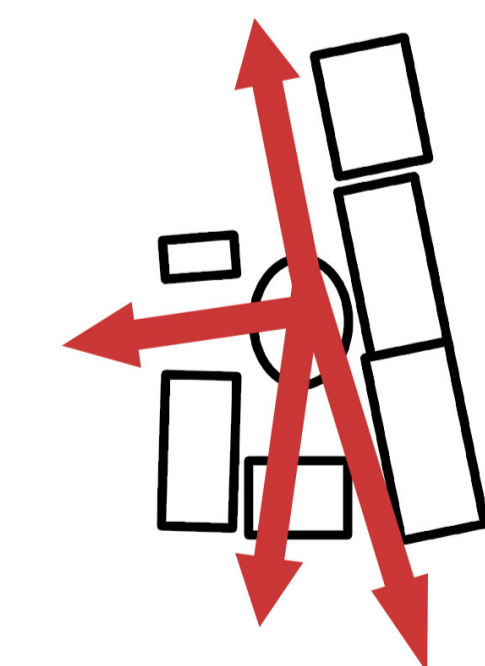
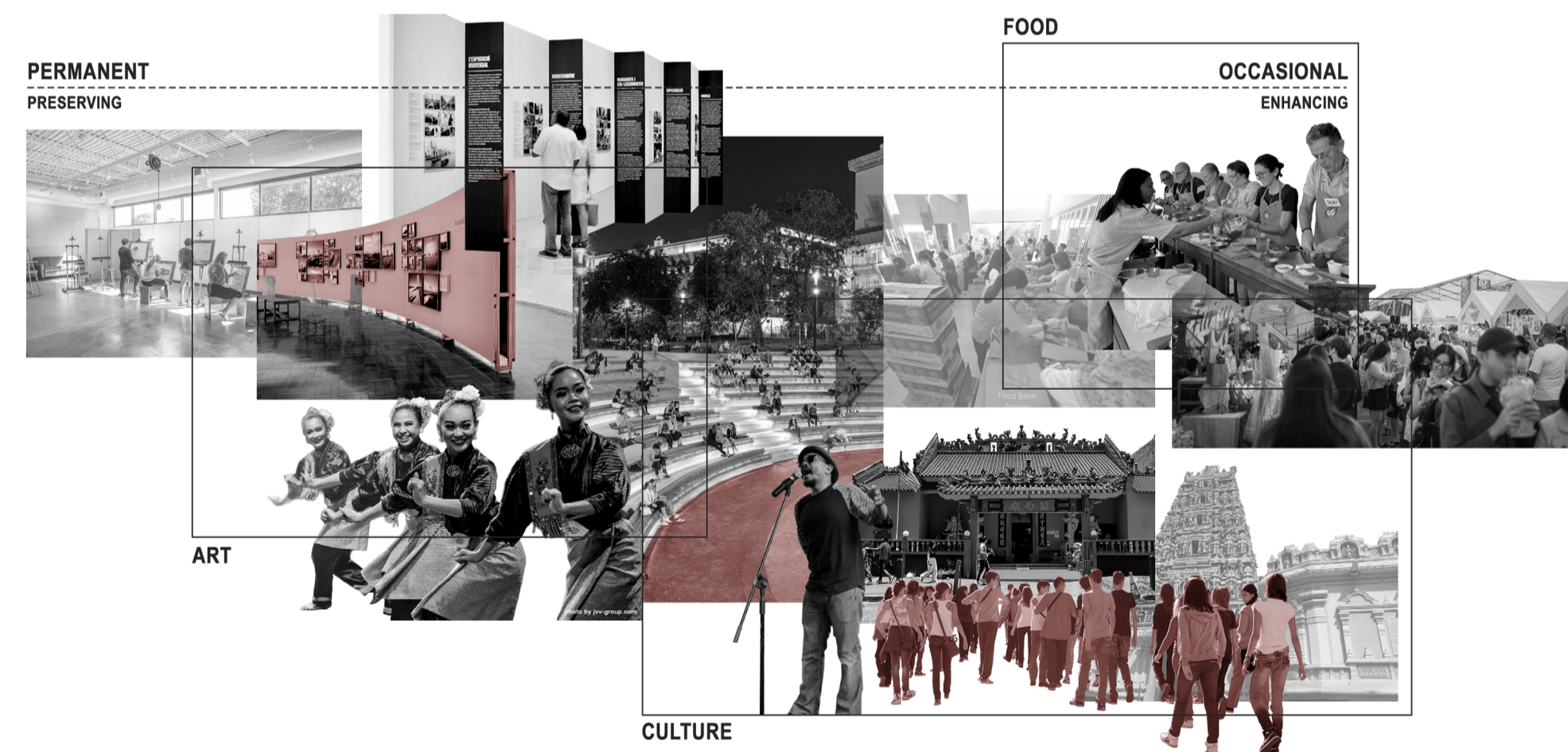


Ultimately, the design intent is to shift Kuala Lumpur from a collection of isolated attractions into a cohesive cultural ecosystem, where public space, cultural expression, and urban life merge into one continuous experience.

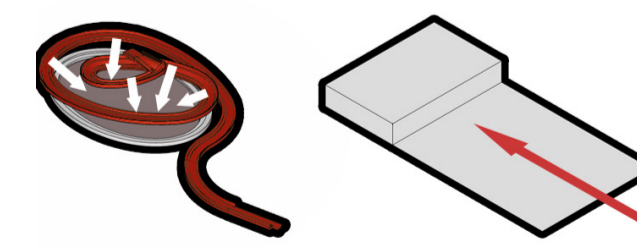
The project aims to establish a **central cultural hub and urban park** that reconnects Kuala Lumpur's fragmented heritage landmarks into a unified, walkable experience. Positioned within the dense fabric of the city, the intervention transforms the lack of public space into an opportunity to create a shared civic ground that supports both everyday use and large-scale cultural events.

Inspired by the idea of openness and inclusivity, the design dissolves the boundary between architecture and landscape. Built form is lifted, layered, and perforated to allow continuous movement, visual connection, and environmental integration. The space operates as an extension of the city—inviting people from all directions, including key nodes such as Petaling Street and the skyline anchored by Merdeka 118.

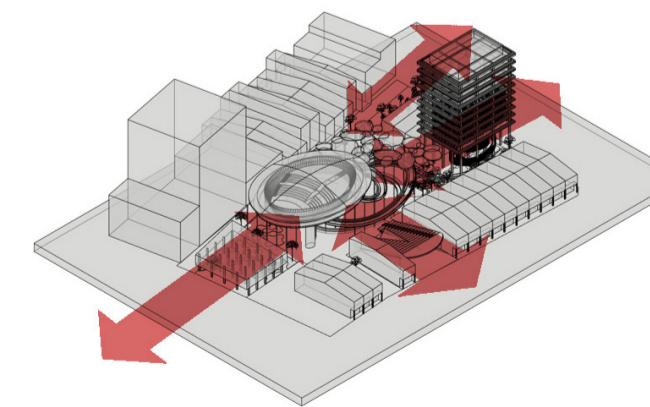
PROGRAMME



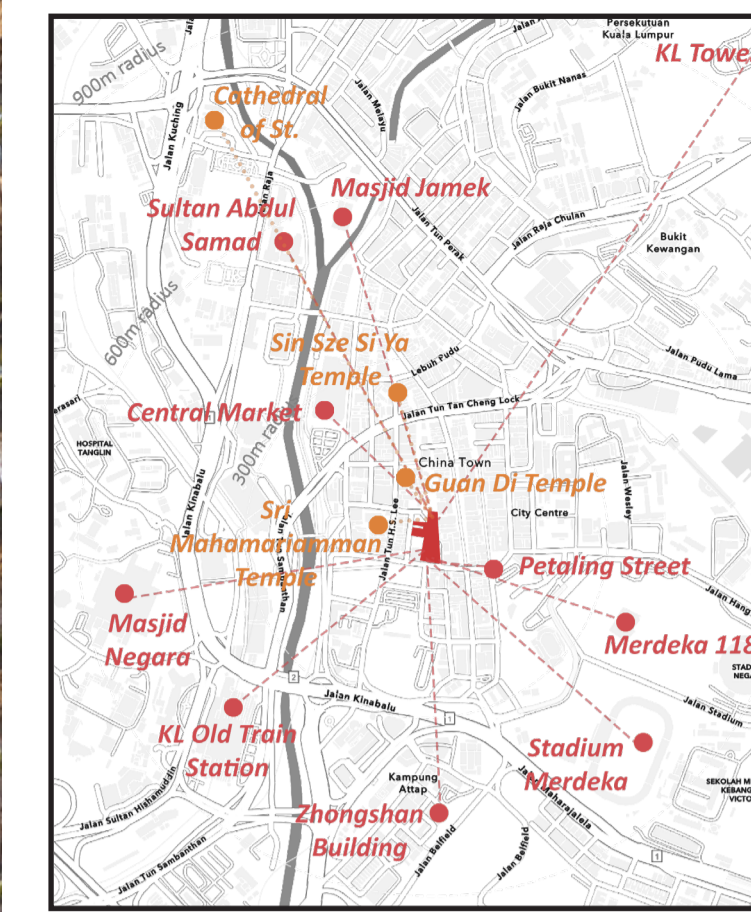
Radial Form - A radial form consists of linear forms that extend outward from a centrally located core element in a radiating manner. It combines the aspects of centrality and linearity into a single composition.



Ramp as Viewing Platform - Connecting the ground level to the auditorium, the circulation ramp doubles as a viewing terrace over the central courtyard. It provides dynamic, multi-directional views of performances instead of a traditional single-angle stage.



Urban Permeability - An open, permeable ground level facilitates fluid pedestrian circulation, linking the site seamlessly with the surrounding Pasar Seni precinct.



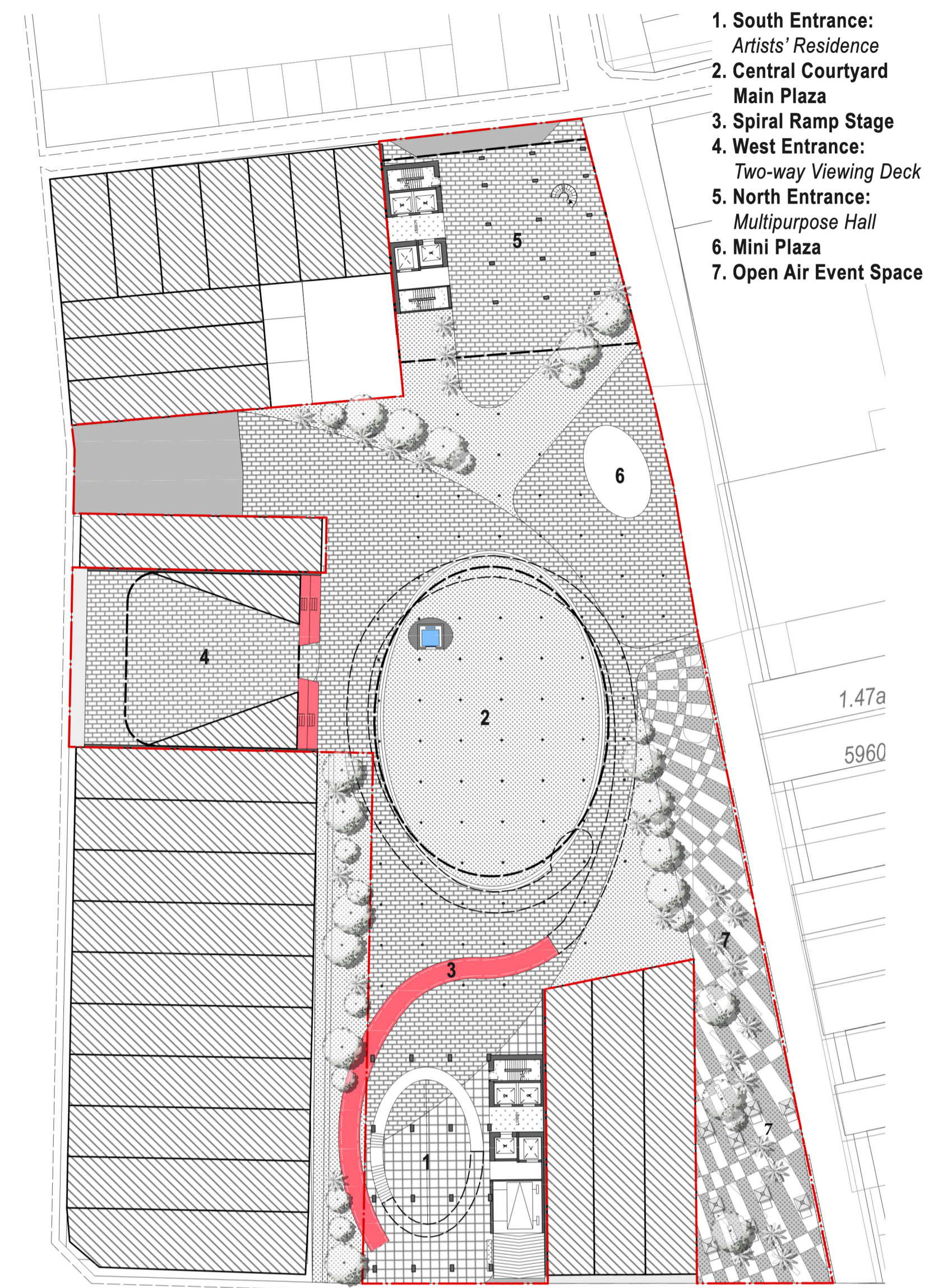
SITE LOCATION

Petaling Street is more than a street market—it serves as a key anchor within the Kuala Lumpur Creative and Cultural District (KLCCD), an initiative aimed at enhancing urban liveability while celebrating the city's layered cultural identity. At present, visitor information points are dispersed across the district, offering maps, historical context, and curated trails. However, their fragmented nature limits their collective impact.

This proposal reimagines a centralized visitor hub as the "front desk" of the heritage network—strategically linking Bukit Nanas, Petaling Street, Central Market Kuala Lumpur, Guan Di Temple, and Sri Mahamariamman Temple into a cohesive experiential journey. Beyond its informational role, the hub functions as a "third place"—a shared social ground where locals and visitors intersect, ensuring the district remains a living, evolving neighborhood rather than a static cultural exhibit.

Furthermore, this visitor hub doubles as an urban forest in Petaling Street is to reintroduces lost tropical ground ecology. While Bukit Nanas (KL Forest Eco Park) is indeed the closest primary urban forest, it currently exists as an "island" of greenery separated from the dense heritage core by major roads and high-rise developments.

PLANS



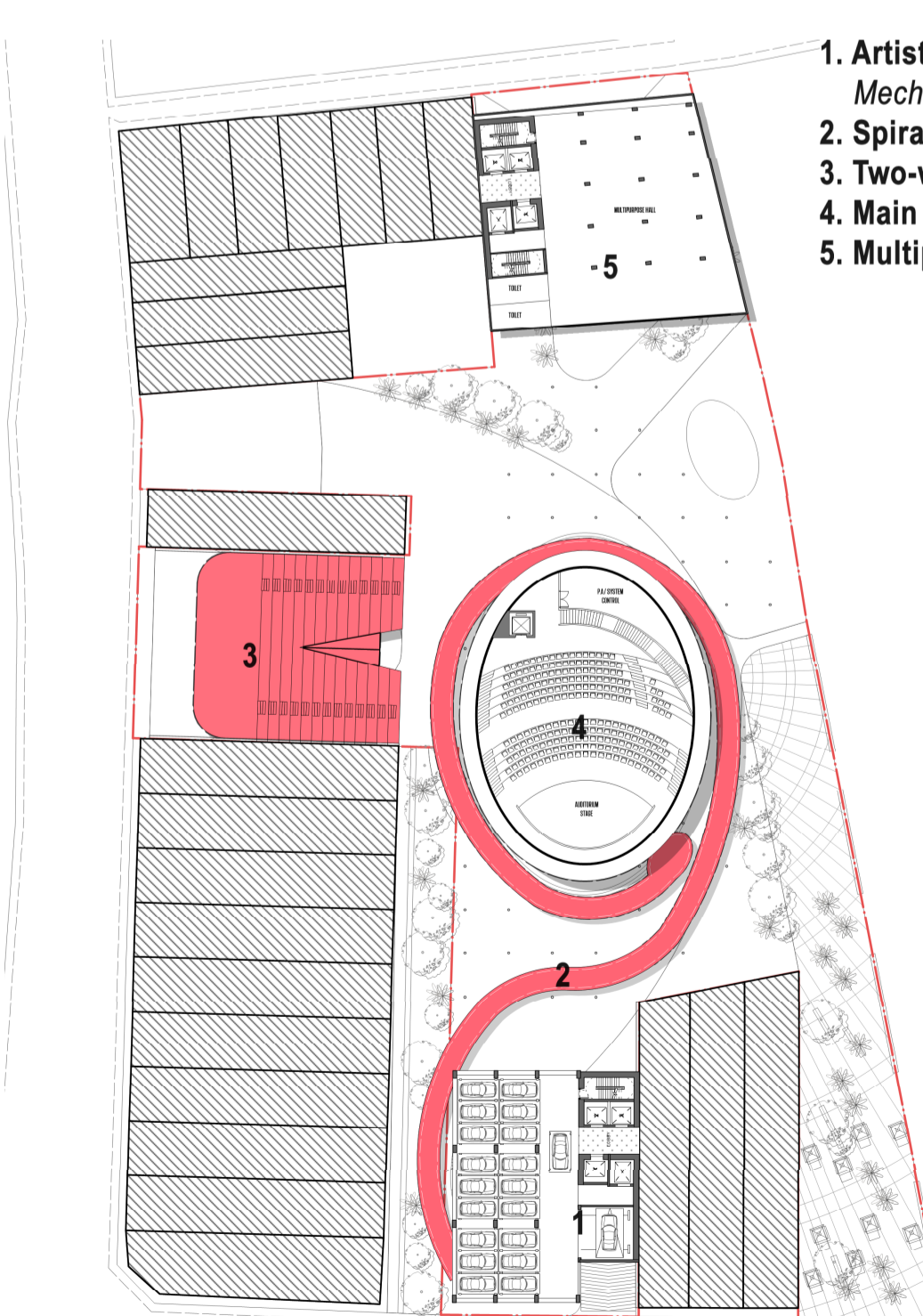
1. South Entrance: Artists' Residence
2. Central Courtyard Main Plaza
3. Spiral Ramp Stage
4. West Entrance: Two-way Viewing Deck
5. North Entrance: Multipurpose Hall
6. Mini Plaza
7. Open Air Event Space

GROUND FLOOR LEVEL

SCALE 1:500

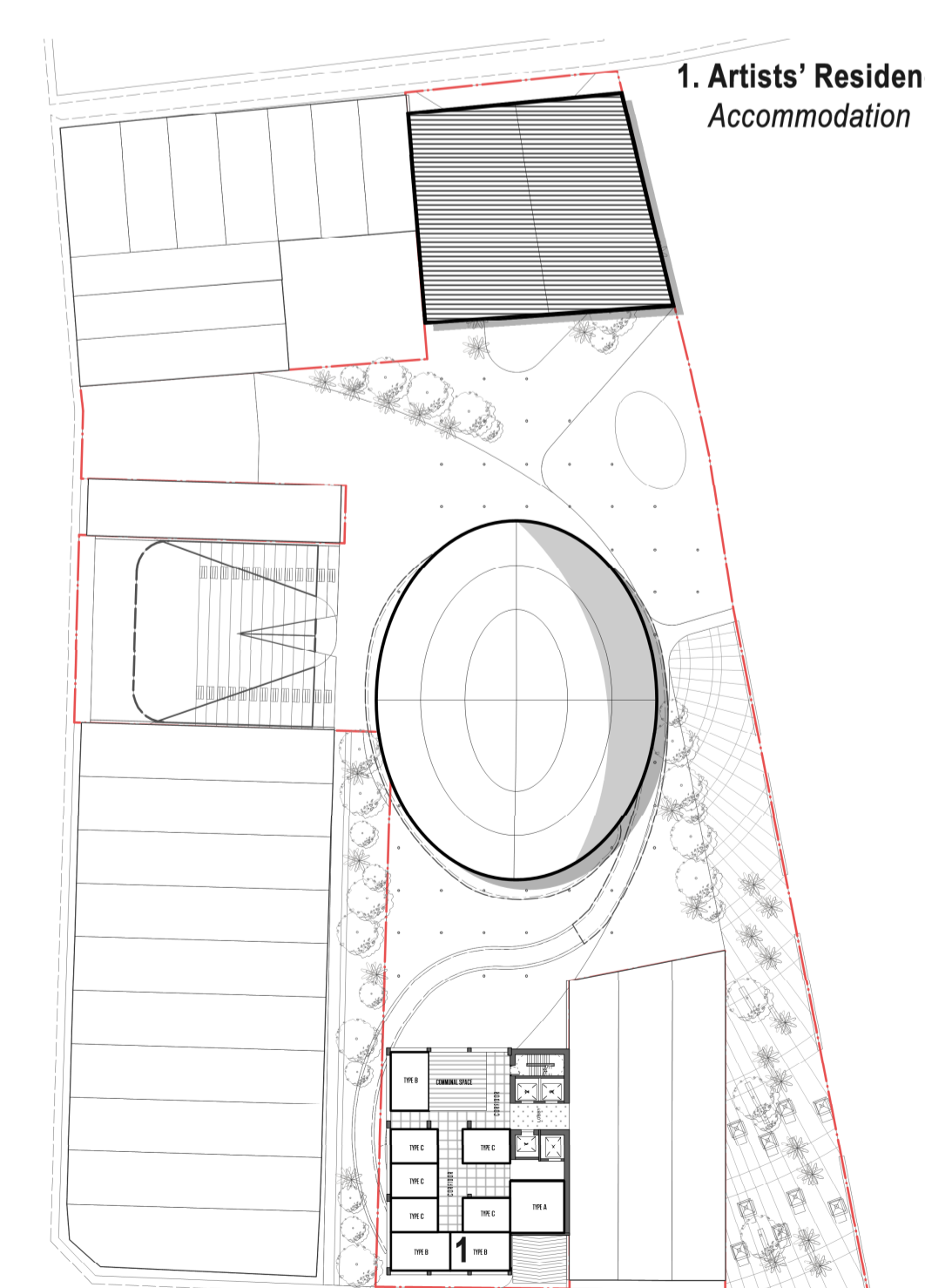
1. Artists' Residence: Mechanical Carpark
2. Spiral Ramp Stage
3. Two-way Viewing Deck
4. Main Auditorium
5. Multipurpose Hall

1. Artists' Residence: Accommodation



1ST-3RD FLOOR LEVEL

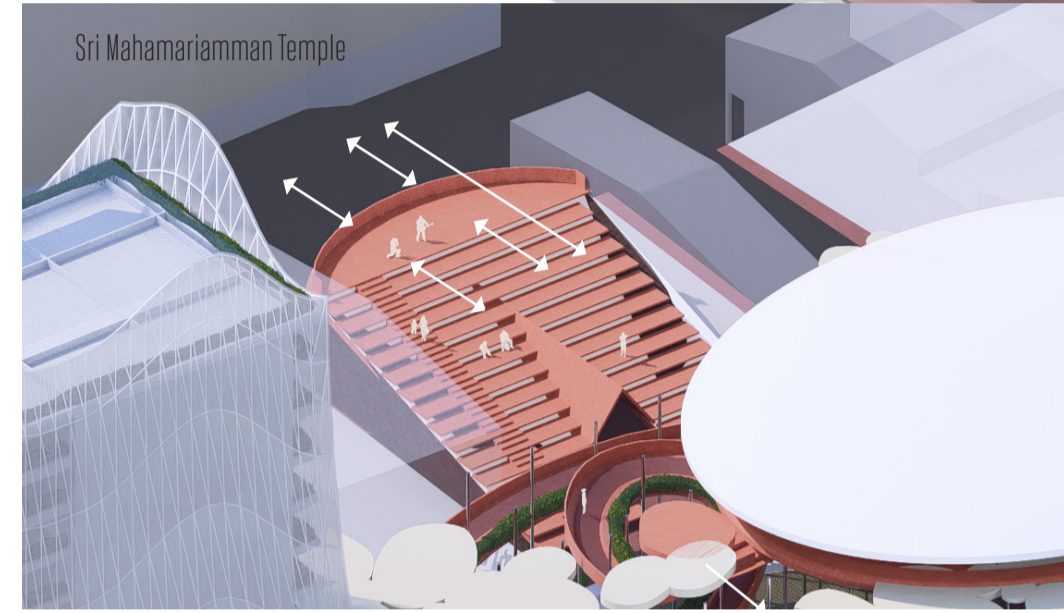
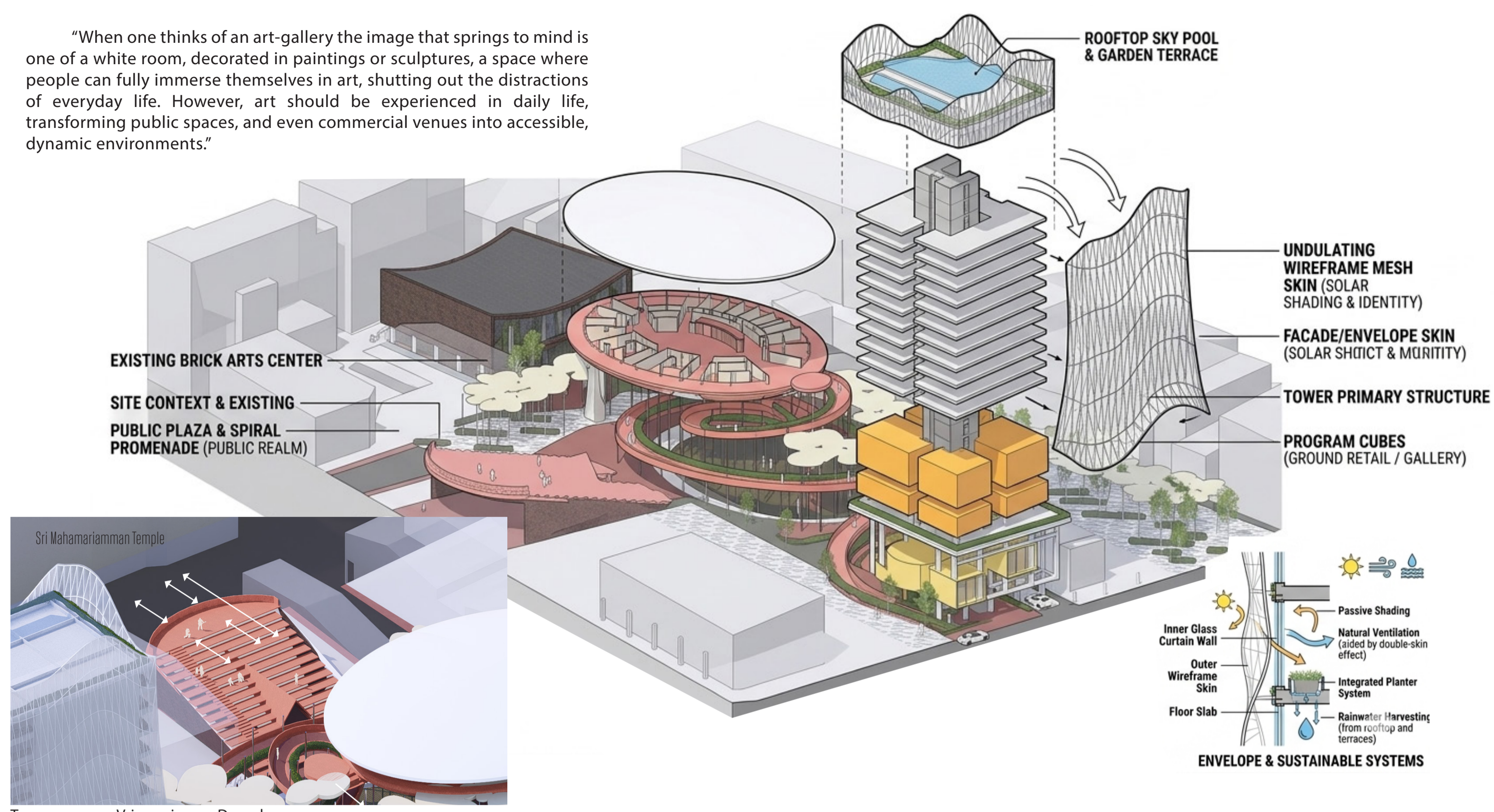
SCALE 1:500



4TH-6TH FLOOR LEVEL

SCALE 1:500

"When one thinks of an art-gallery the image that springs to mind is one of a white room, decorated in paintings or sculptures, a space where people can fully immerse themselves in art, shutting out the distractions of everyday life. However, art should be experienced in daily life, transforming public spaces, and even commercial venues into accessible, dynamic environments."



Two-way Viewing Deck



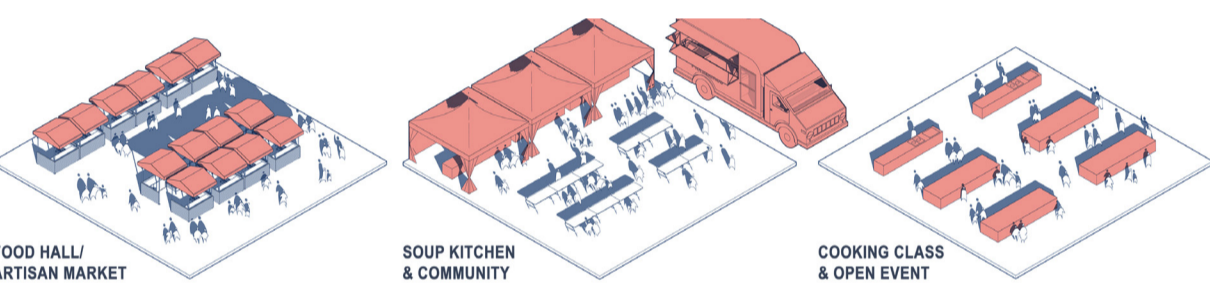
This new approach causes art that was previously contained in a single space to be diffused into public space, allowing people to interact with art in new ways. We are not just adding another gallery, the artist residence ensures continuous creation, allowing art to emerge from ecological, cultural, and social interaction and keep the place lively. Art isn't just brought in from the outside or curated in a isolated studio; it can be created on the spot, fueled by the surrounding nature, culture, and community. Art helps to reinterpret traditional symbols, rituals, crafts, allows younger generations to engage and keeps the heritage alive.

Nature in the site offers endless inspiration, fostering creativity and enhancing well-being of artist. All in all, this proposal aims to combines art with culture and nature. Art cannot exist without nature and culture cannot evolve without art.

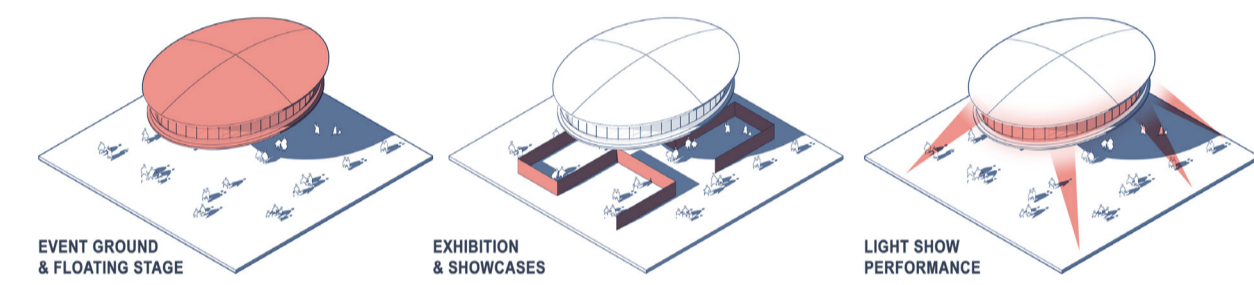
In conclusion, The proposed visitor hub redefines culture/art/food + economy + environment into one system that has production, participation, and exchange. Through immersive galleries, living craft workshops, culinary programs, and festival spaces embedded within an urban forest, culture is not only preserved but continuously practiced and evolved. By linking these programs along a cohesive public pathway, the project enhances cultural awareness while generating a sustainable micro-economy—supporting local communities and transforming the area.



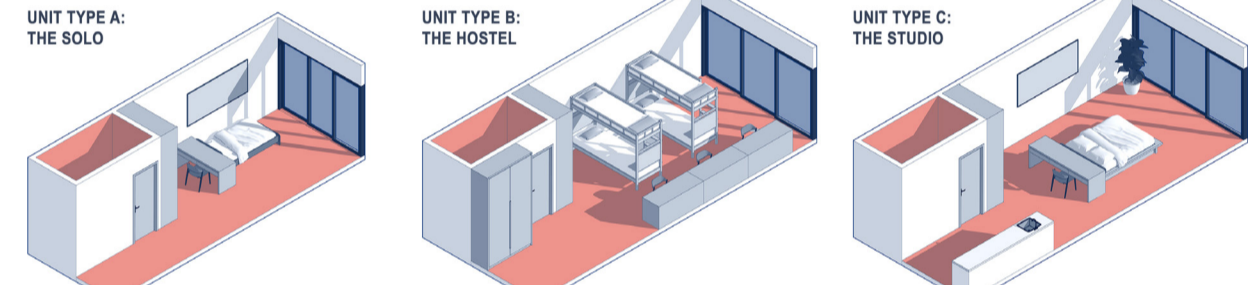
STALL TYPOLOGY
Mini Market Place



OPEN PLAZA
Centre Plaza Event Hub

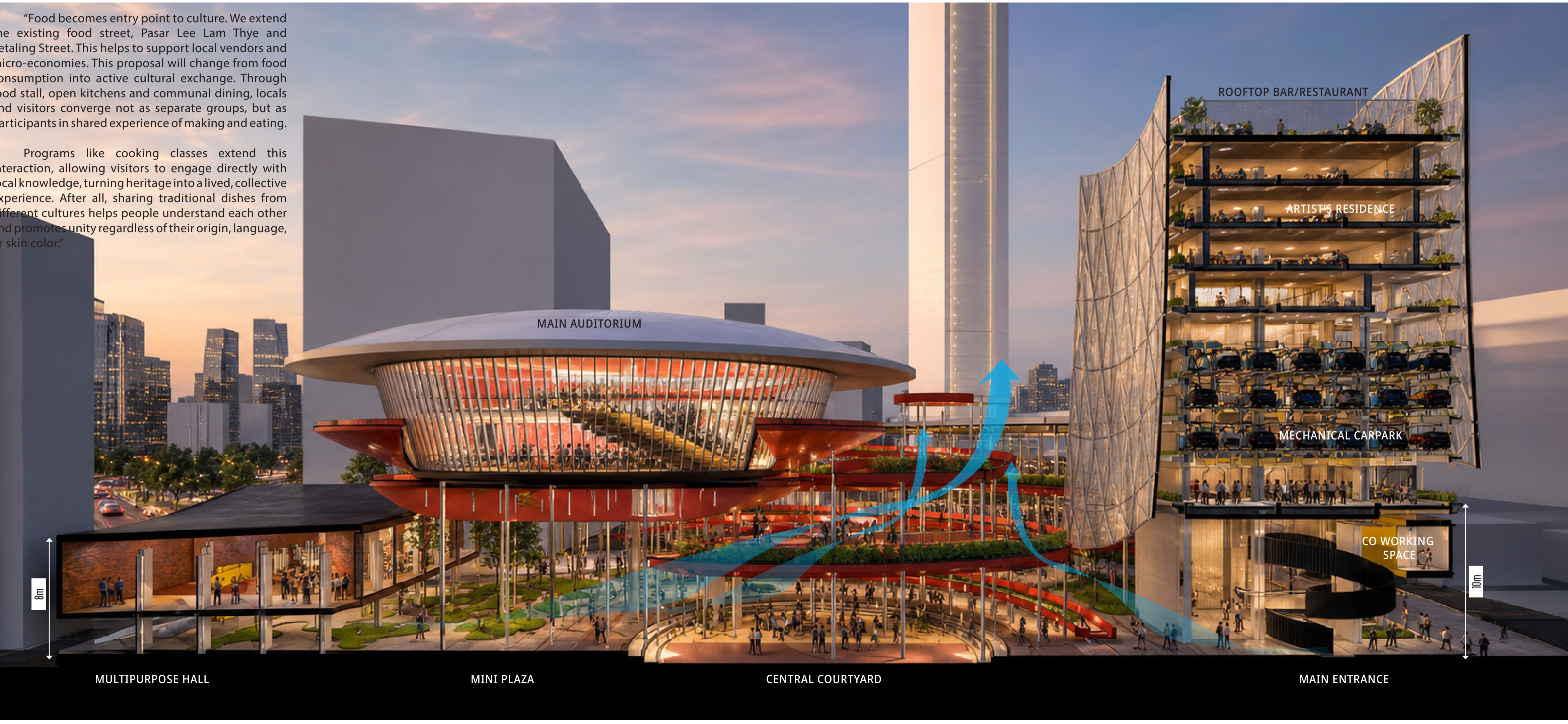


ARTIST'S RESIDENCE TYPOLOGY
Adapt reused building



"Food becomes entry point to culture. We extend the existing food street, Pasar Lee Lam Thye and Petaling Street. This helps to support local vendors and micro-economies. This proposal will change from food consumption into active cultural exchange. Through food stall, open kitchens and communal dining, locals and visitors converge not as separate groups, but as participants in shared experience of making and eating.

Programs like cooking classes extend this interaction, allowing visitors to engage directly with local knowledge, turning heritage into a lived, collective experience. After all, sharing traditional dishes from different cultures helps people understand each other and promotes unity regardless of their origin, language, or skin color."



Multipurpose Hall, Mini Plaza, Central Courtyard, Main Entrance, Rooftop Bar/Restaurant, Artist's Residence, Mechanical Carpark, Co Working Space