

Hong Kong Vernacular Centre

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INTRODUCTION

Hong Kong was a British colony and became a special region in China with its' own language (Cantonese with Traditional Chinese). The language is representing our traditional building structure and vernacular culture. However, with the rapid increase of Chinese immigrants and the political agenda, Hongkongers are worried that when "One country, two systems" expired in 2046, Cantonese and Traditional Chinese will no longer be officially acknowledged.

With the considerable historical value of Hong Kong's identity, I hope my project might serve to educate, preserve and help defend the language and the building traditions for the public and for the future generations.

Through studying, analysing and interpreting the language and architecture in Hong Kong, this project is a centre that aims to revitalize and preserve Hong Kong vernacular culture in both programmatic (language preservation activities) and architectural ways (building materials and method).



10 years, film, 2015
十年，電影

1. (usually **the vernacular**) The language or dialect spoken by the ordinary people in a particular country or region.

2. (of architecture) concerned with domestic and functional rather than public or monumental buildings.

VERNACULAR IN HK

1. Vernacular (**Language**) :

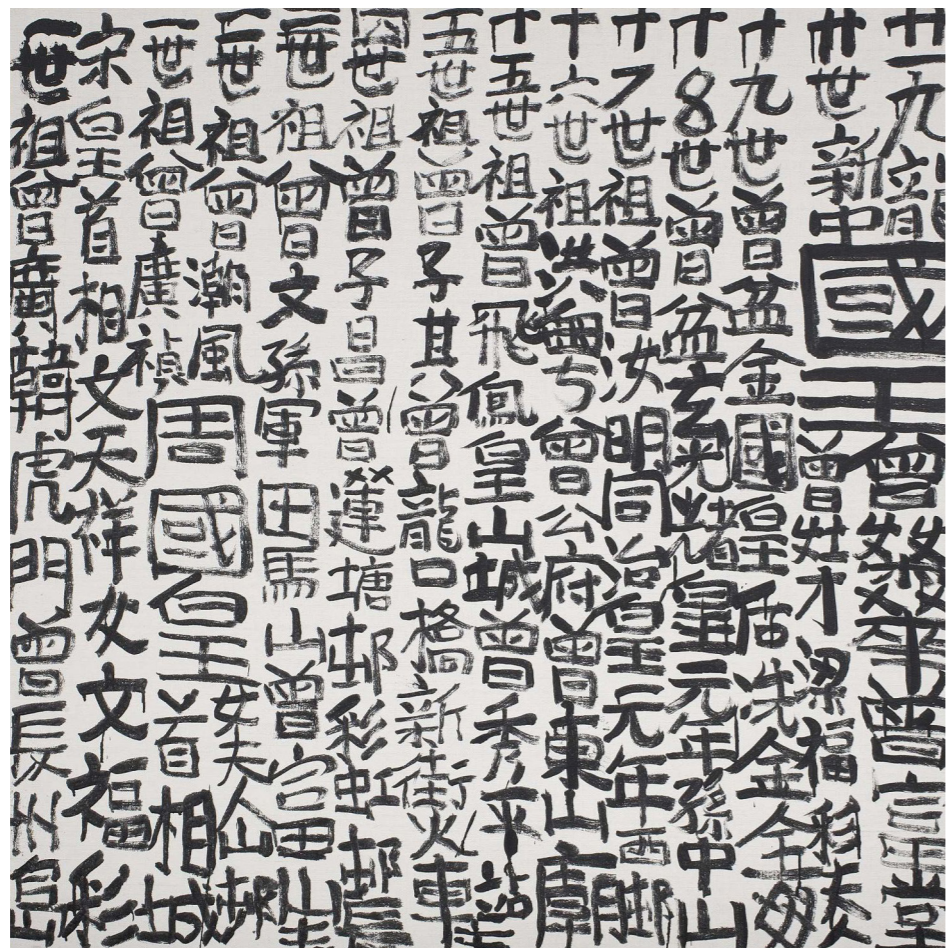
Cantonese and traditional chinese

2. Vernacular (**Architecture**) :

Walled villages (Grey Bricks),

Stilt Houses (Wood),

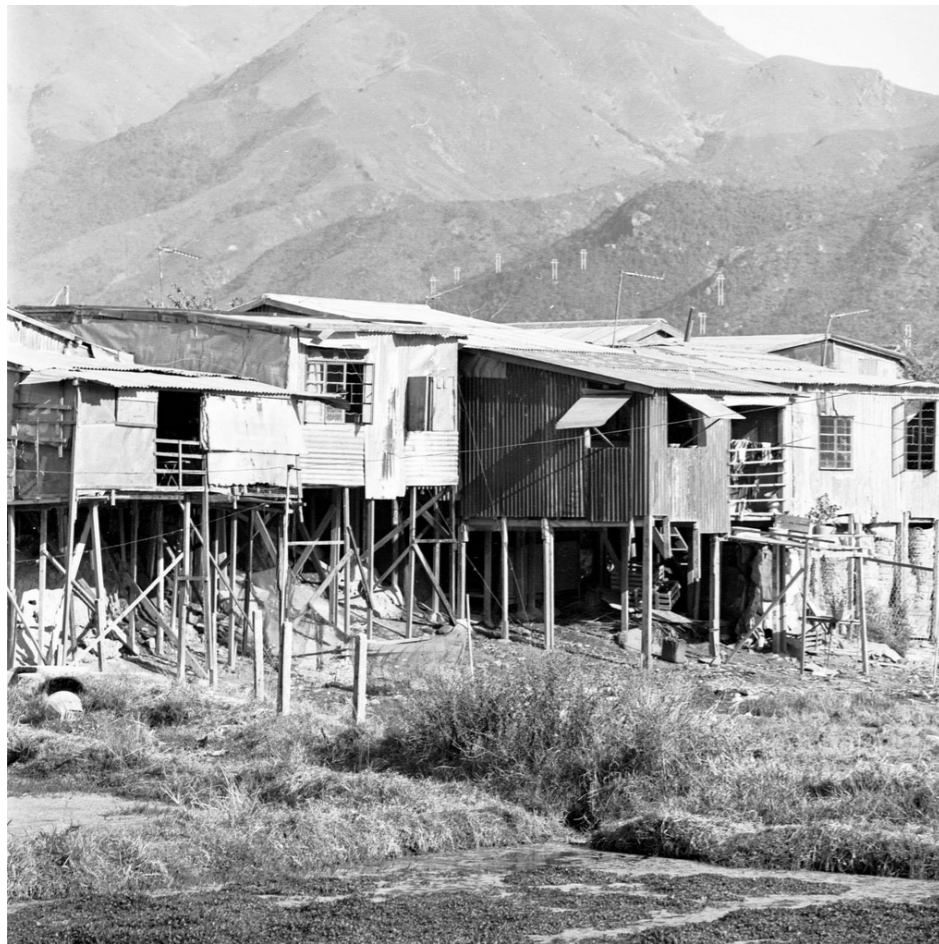
Folks festival pavilions (Bamboo)



Calligraphy graffiti, Tsang Tsou Choi (曾灶財)



Tsang Tai Uk Walled Village (曾大屋)



Tai O stilt houses village



Bamboo pavilion in folk festivals

Analysis and study of the language

築

Build

Axe is a tool to log

Wood as a base

Bamboo as a shelter

Human in working position

Build(Hieroglyphs)

Bronze inscriptions (BC 1600)	Warring States (BC 453)	Seal script (BC 221)	Clerical script (BC200)	Regular script (AD 25 to Now)

亭 亶 問 門 聞
關 圍 園 竹 簾
築 籬 字 家 室
窗 屋 庭 廳 建
架 柱 棚 柵 橋
構 框 牆 磚 船

A selection of words related to my project

我們用部首來造字，有些是最原始的圖像。它們反映物料、結構甚至空間使用和次序，再結合次要的筆劃，形成字。

We use signs to form a character, some are the most primitive of pictograms. They represent materials, construction or even the use of space and order. With the combination of the secondary components, new characters are made.



Door

Gate

Close



Build

Stand

Pillar

Shed

Lattice

Bridge

Examples of different words in the same text frame

在文字的構造中，我們講求對稱和軸心，然而維持字的平衡卻是控制首部與邊旁空間比例的重要一環。在大小相同的字框當中，部首會被邊旁影響，比例亦因此被改變。

Symmetry and axis is found in the tectonic of the characters. Moreover, considering the spatial proportion of different components is crucial in keeping the balance of a character. The size of a sign is being affected by the components in the same text frame, therefore, the proportion of the same sign but in a different characters might change.

The findings from the study and analysis of the words allowed me to further interpret the language in texts, drawings and models.

韋

《廣韻·上平聲·微·韋》圍：守也，圍也，遶也。
To surround and encircle

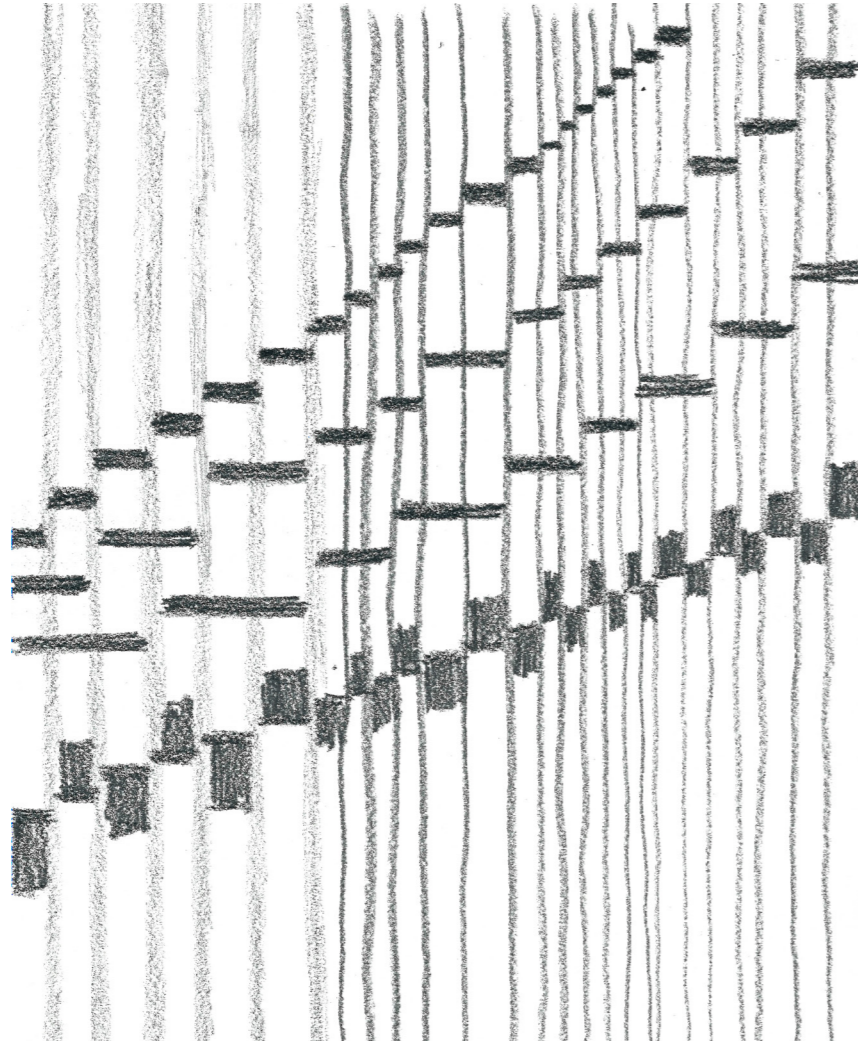


青灰色的圍牆內
擁有各種空間，
讓我們穿梭，
層層遞進，
喚起了歷史，
體驗了現在，
展望了將來。

Spaces surrounded by the walls
Slightly green, Slightly grey
Travelling in between
Step by step with layers
Recalling the past
Experiencing the present
Longing for the future

簾

《太平御覽·雪》：始緣薨而冒棟，終開簾而入隙。
Unsealed bamboo screen

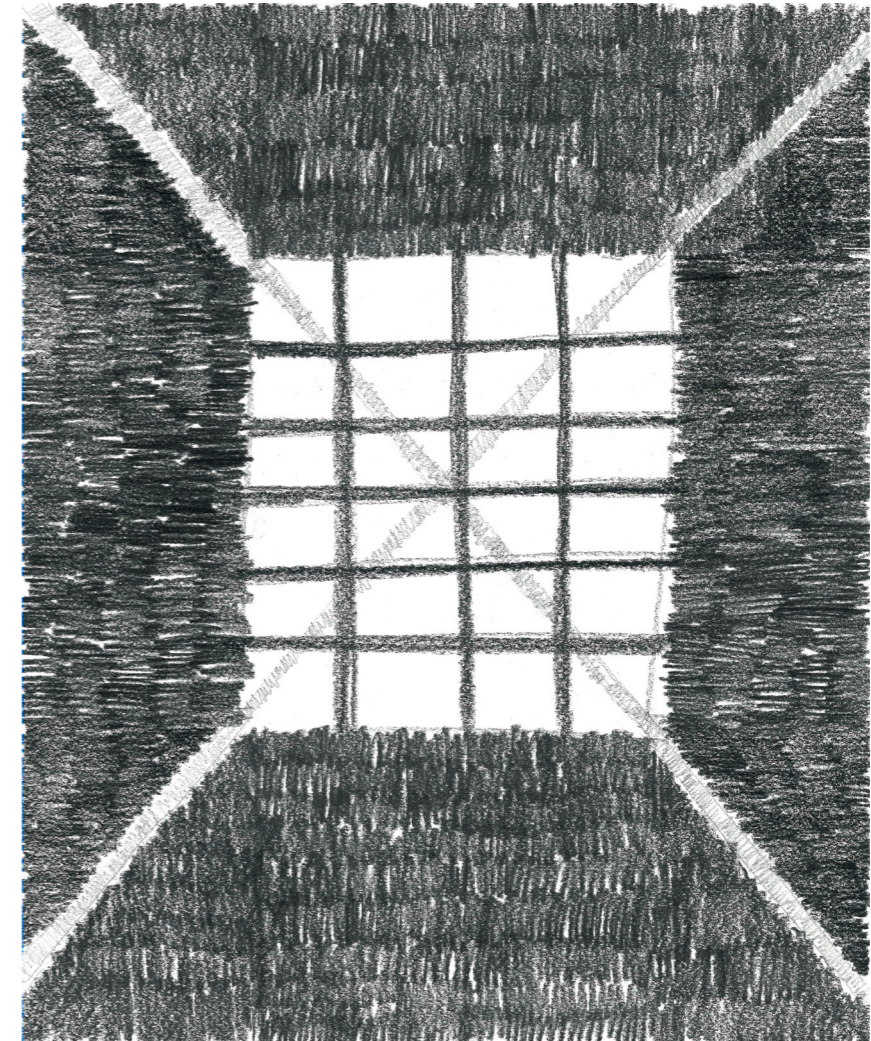


空間，
被簾分隔，
漏著幾段空隙，
人影隱約，
陽光絲絲瀉滿房間，
和暖。

Spaces
Divided by the screen
In between the void
Vague silhouette
Linear light occupy the room
Warm

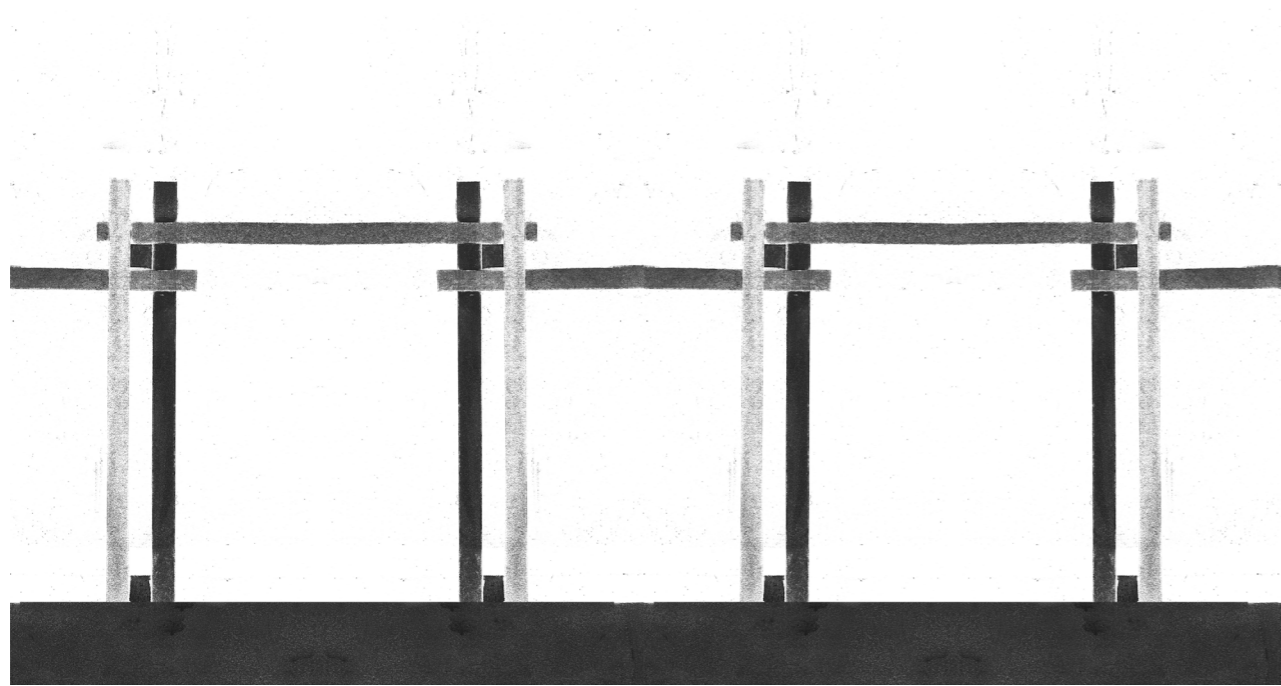
構

《木部》構：蓋也。从木苒聲。杜林以為椽桷字。
Construct and form



以竹建築，輕
以木建築，穩
以磚建築，實
相異物料的共存，成了空間
相異元件的配合，成了文字
在空間中建構文字
虛，
傳承文化，
活演建築。

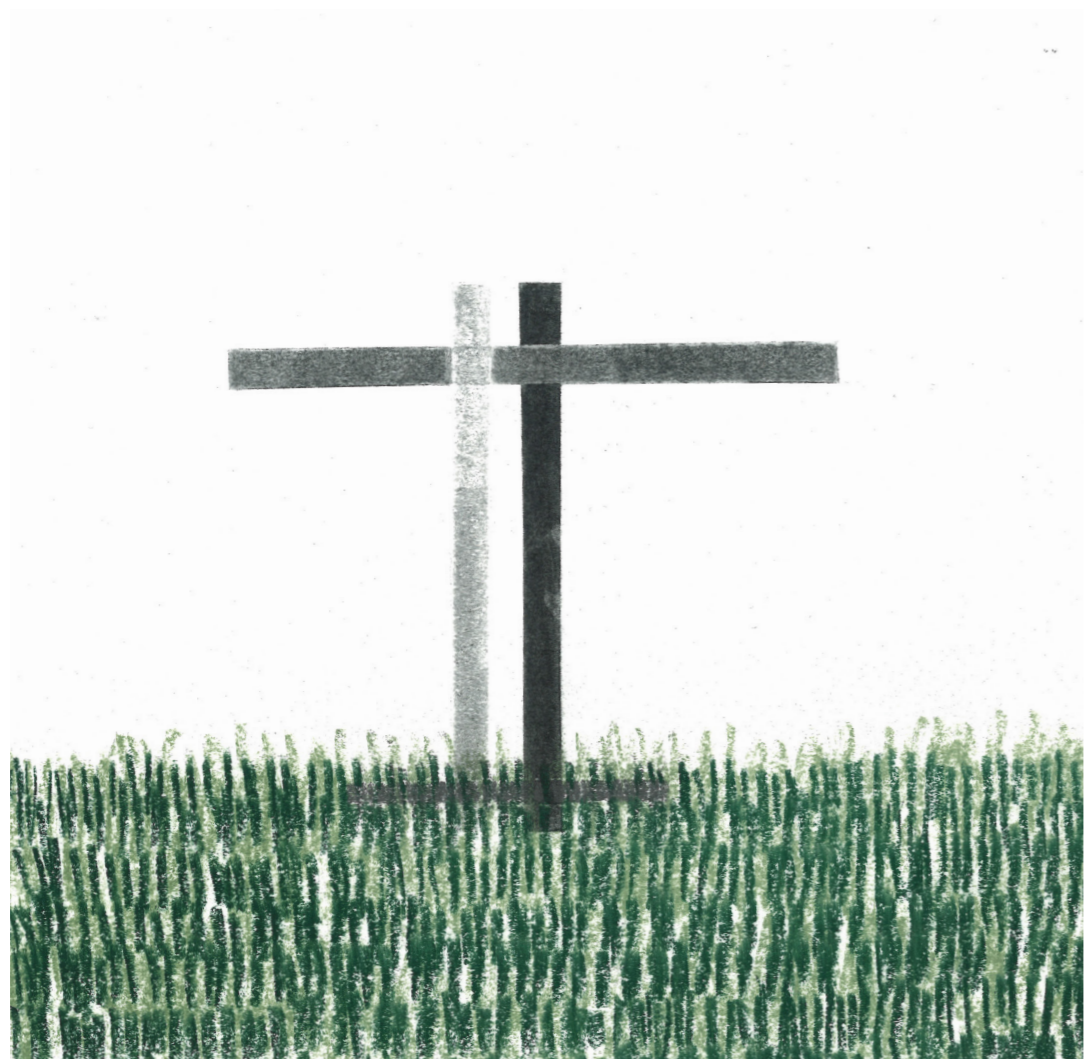
Built by bamboo, light
Built by wood, steady
Built by brick, solid
Co-existence of dissimilar materials, establish spaces
Co-existence of different components, create words
Construct words in spaces
Virtual
Inherit culture
Evolve architecture



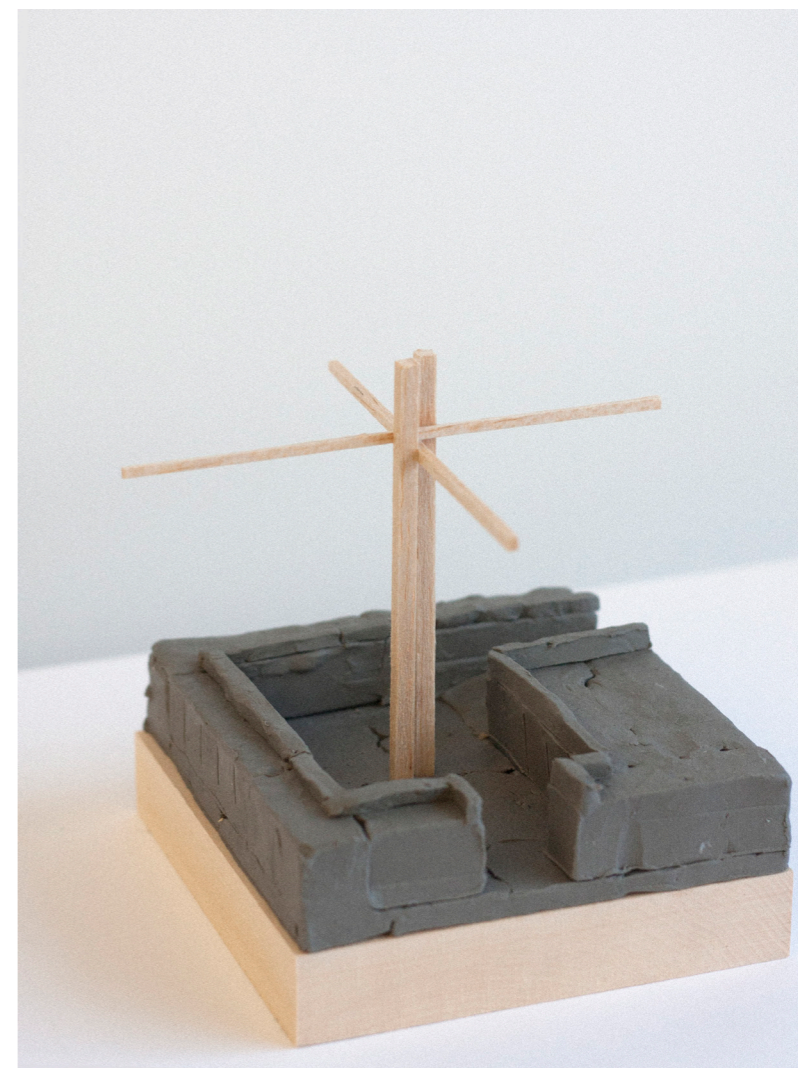
Repetition and Continuous



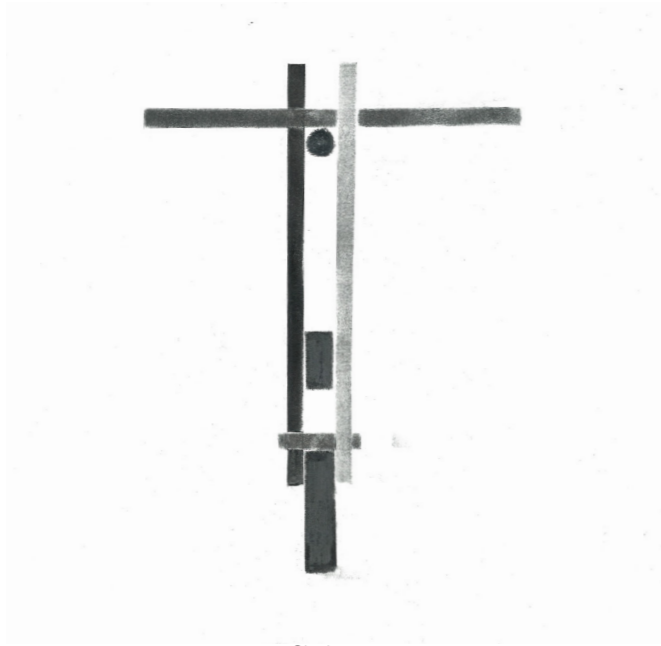
Repetition and Continuous 2



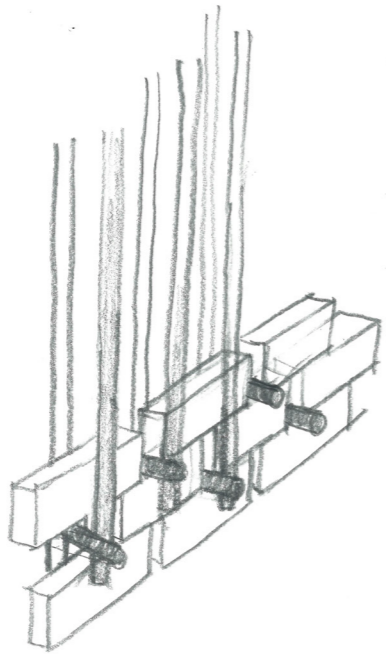
Leaning



Leaning and encircle



Sitting 1

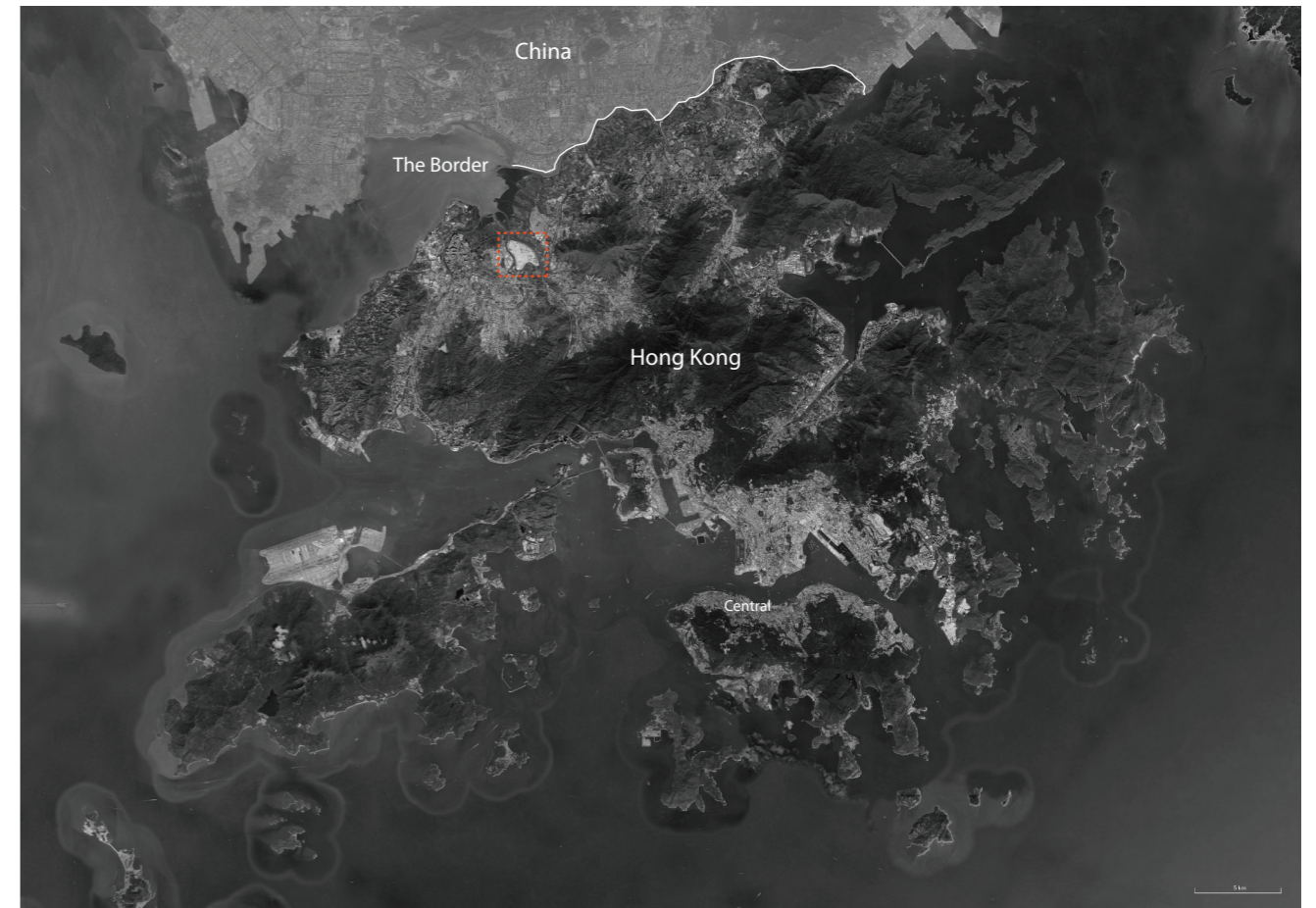


Sitting 2



Sitting 3

The site



The site will be located in Nam Sang Wai (南生圍), Yuen Long, a satellite town in Hong Kong with a significant history in developing vernacular architecture for farming, fishing industry and folk festivals.



● Existing villages

Yuen Long district is the only area in Hong Kong that is surrounded by numerous traditional walled village clusters with rich history of vernacular culture and folks festivals.



— The usual route to explore / visit Nam Sang Wai nowadays

Hongkongers tend to run away from the high-rise city to Nam Sang Wai in their leisure time, the number of visitors to Nam Sang Wai keeps increasing. However, the government is planning to inject commercial activities, luxury housings and shopping malls for the rich and Chinese visitors in this area, as it is easy to access and closes to the border.

This diploma project in Nam Sang Wai can keep it's historical and recreational value to HongKongers and also become a gateway for Chinese visitors to learn about our culture.

Hong Kong Vernacular Centre

The Journey

- Pavilion
-
- Theatre
-
- Library
-
- Multi-purpose hall
-
- Cafe
-
- Office and Info Centre
-
- Cover



亭

(ting⁴)

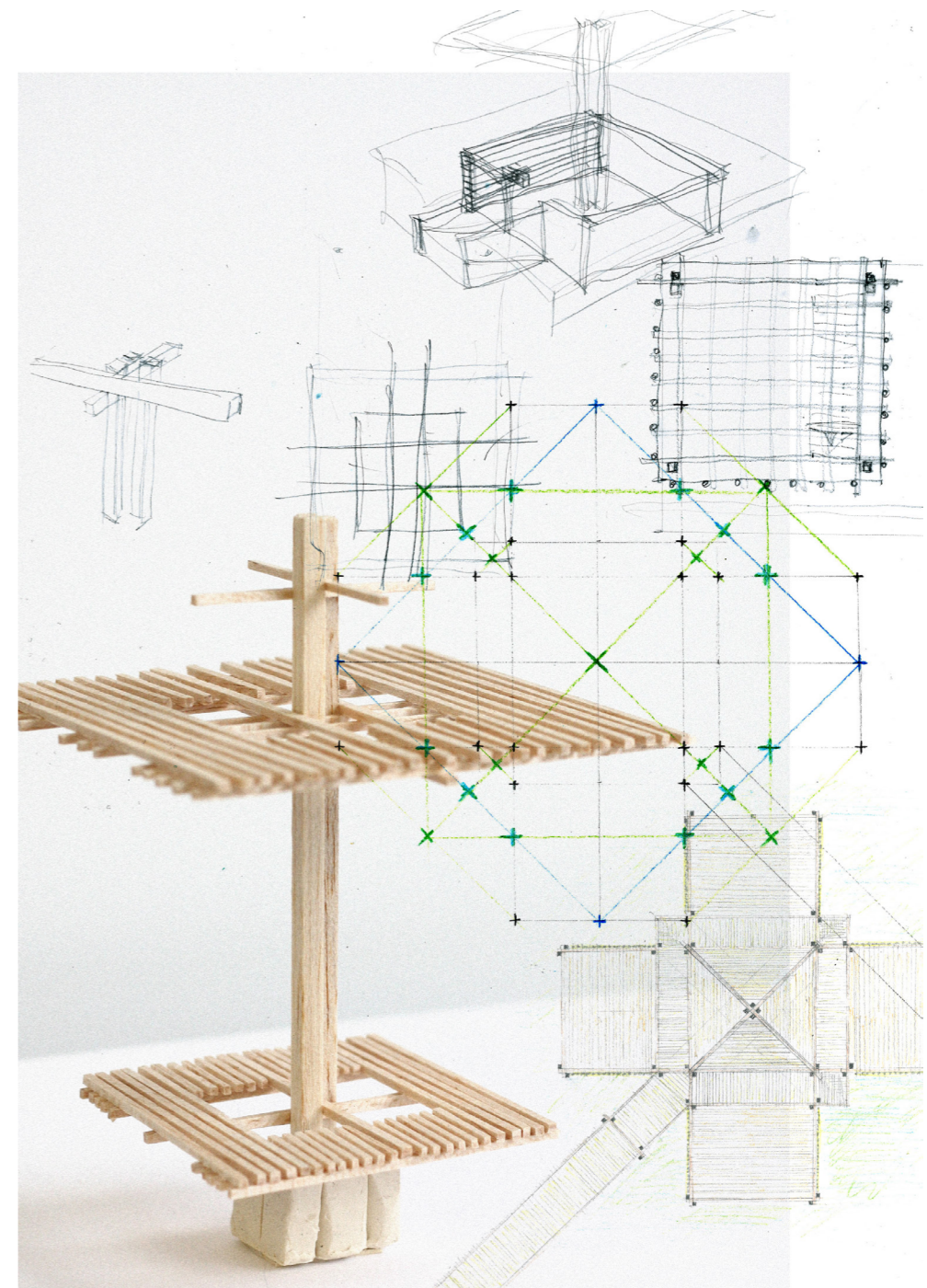
《釋名·釋宮室》：亭，停也，亦人所停集也。

Pavilion

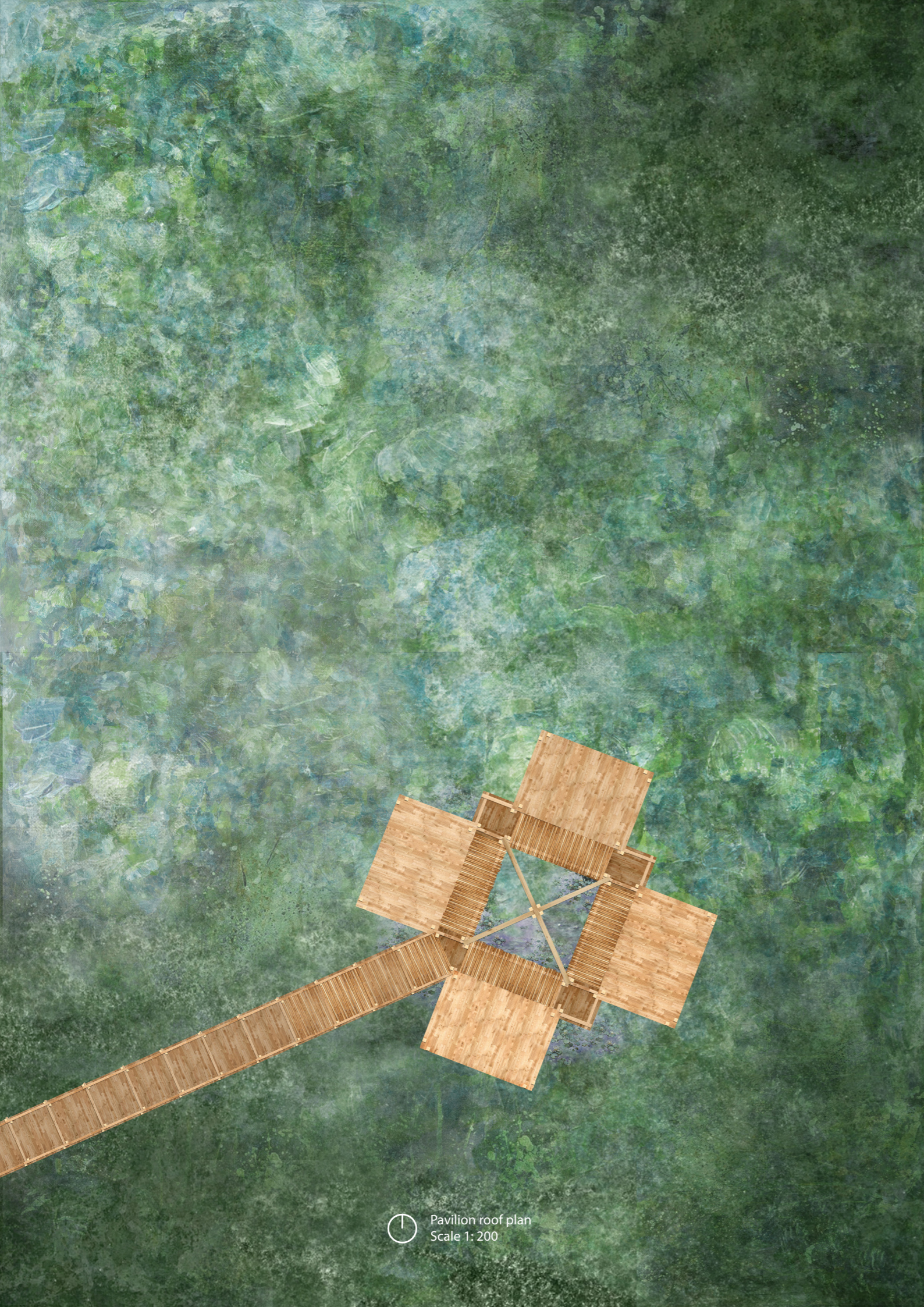
PAVILION

亭中，
我們乘涼。
在柔光下靜心享受，
在微風下遠望景色，
葉子簌簌，
何其坦然。

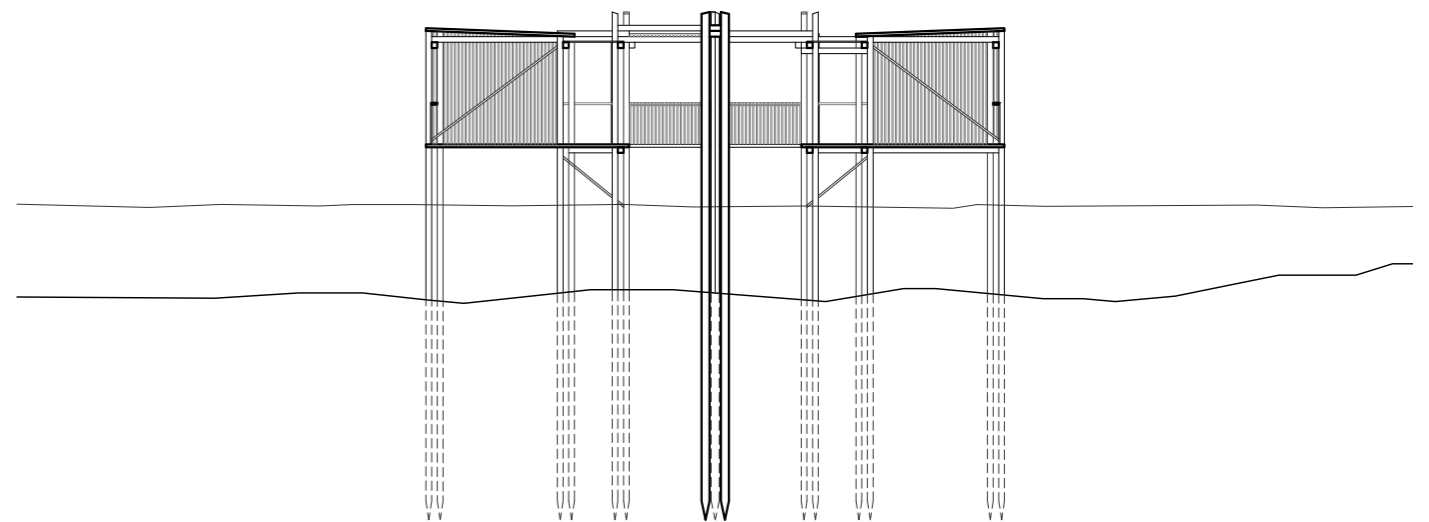
To stay in the pavilion
Enjoying peacefulness
with the gentle sunlight
Overlooking the view with the breeze
Leaves are rustling
Calm



Process



⌚ Pavilion roof plan
Scale 1: 200



Pavilion section
Scale 1:200



illustration
View to wetland and China



illustration
View from the grassland

笙堂

(sang¹ tong⁴)

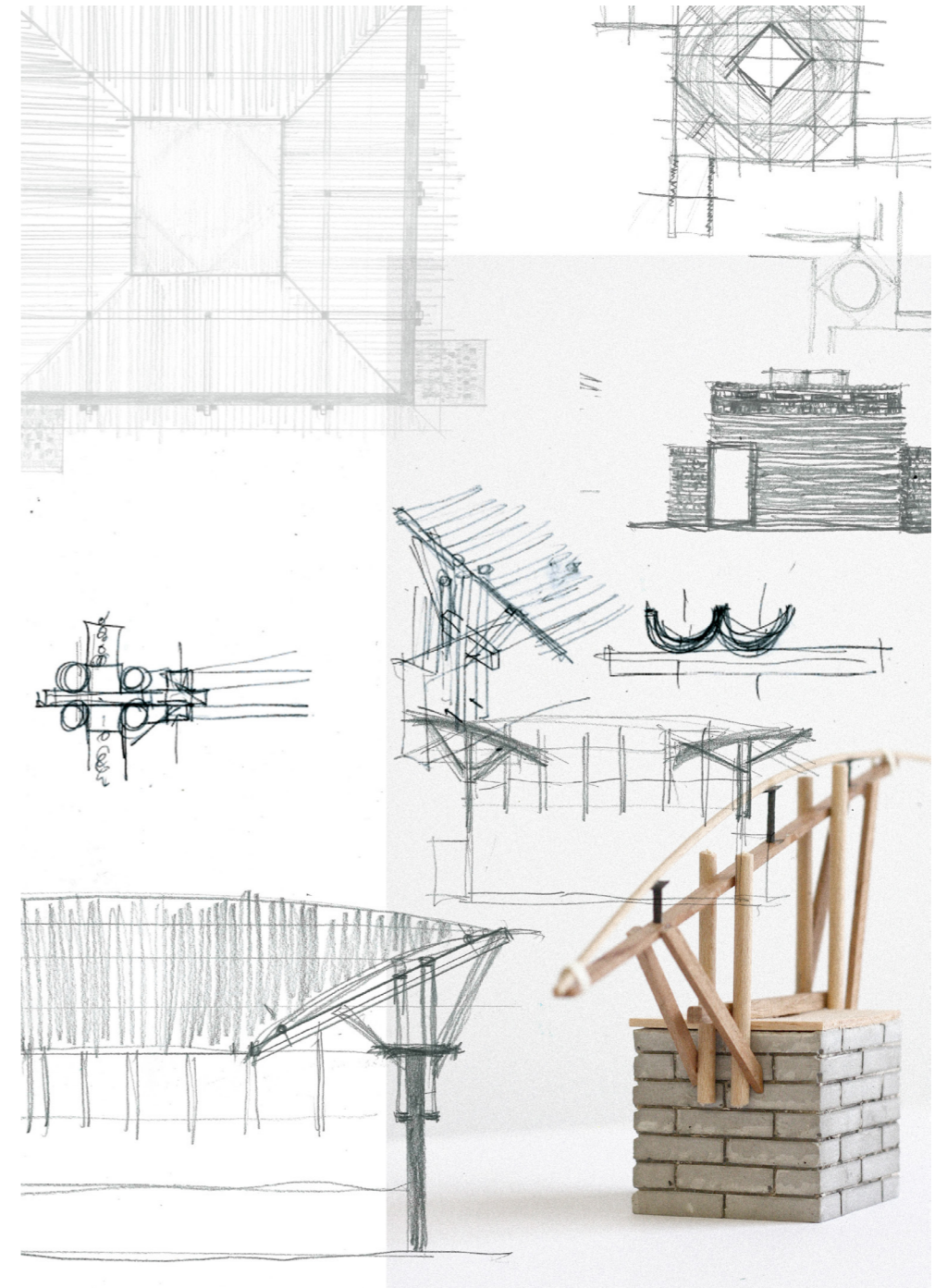
《廣韻·下平聲·庚·生》笙：樂器也，禮記女媧造笙簧。
堂：殿也。从土尚聲。

Song . Hall

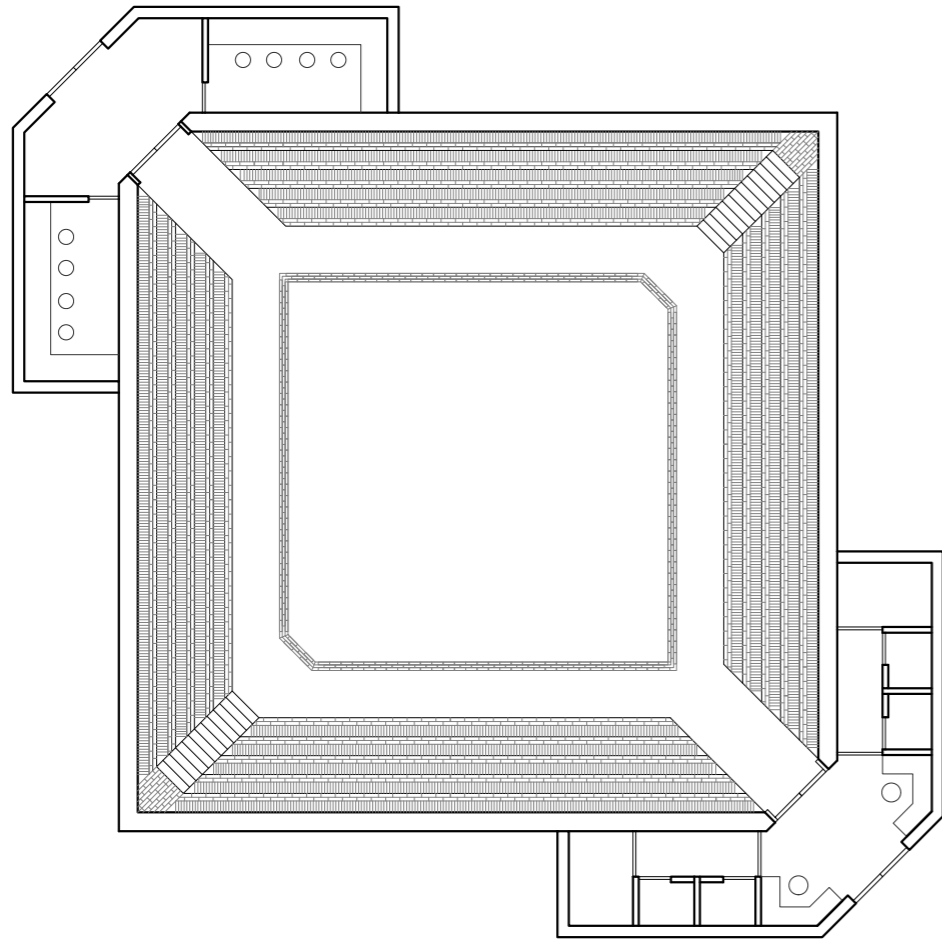
THEATRE


感官來自四方，
春，碧綠，
夏，淅瀝，
秋，橘黃，
冬，稍稍，
演者於庭，欣賞。
友人於庭，交流。
如此熱鬧。

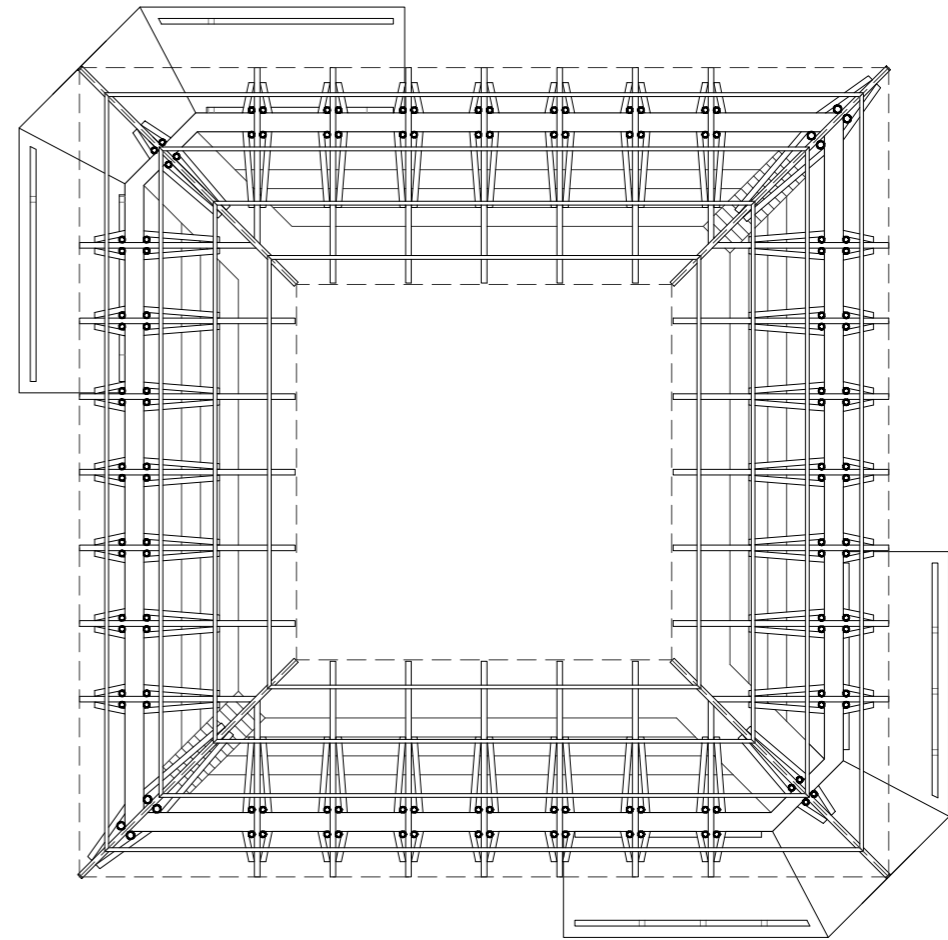
Senses from four directions to the Hall
Spring, jade floods
Summer, rain patters
Autumn, amber enrichs
Winter, wind blows
Performers in the hall, appreciation
Friends in the hall, communication
Lively




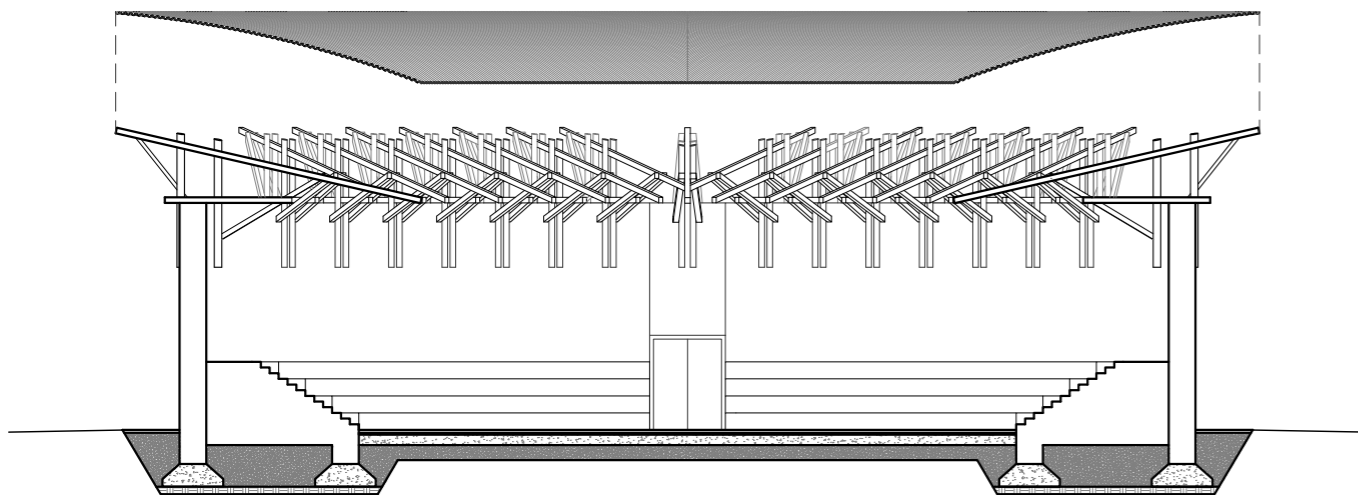
Process



 Theatre plan 1
Scale 1:200



 Theatre plan 2
Scale 1:200



Theatre Section
Scale 1:200







冊 柵

(caak³ saan³)

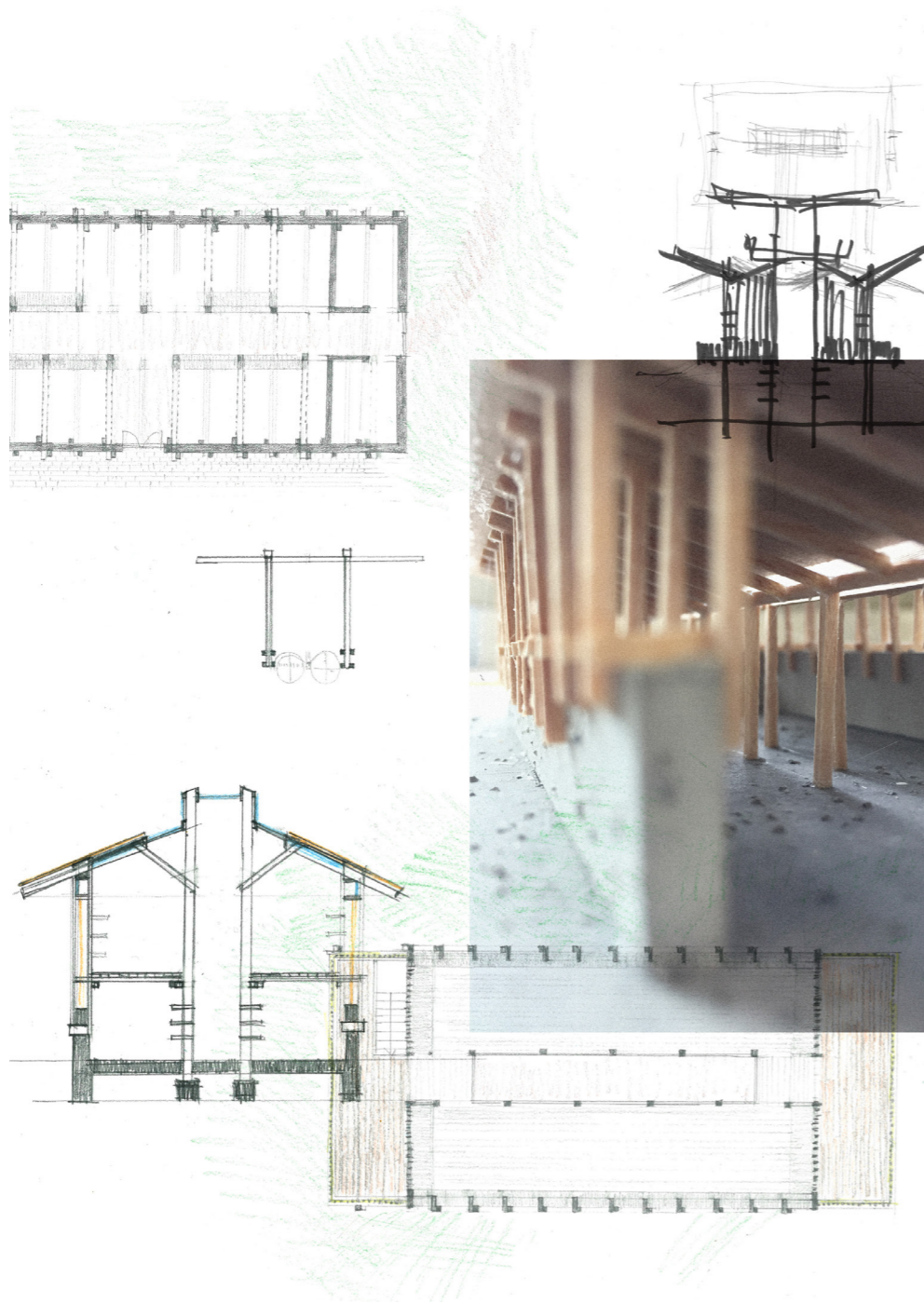
《論語注疏·述而》：《坊記》云然者，禮：夫人初至必書於冊。
《說文解字·木部》：柵：編樹木也。

Script . Lattice

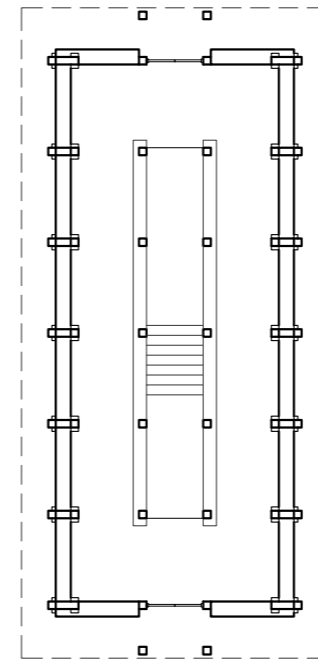
LIBRARY

空間，
被柵包圍，
漏著幾段空隙，
人影隱約。
書冊，
架於支柱，
虛室生白，
陽光慷慨的瀉滿房間，和暖。

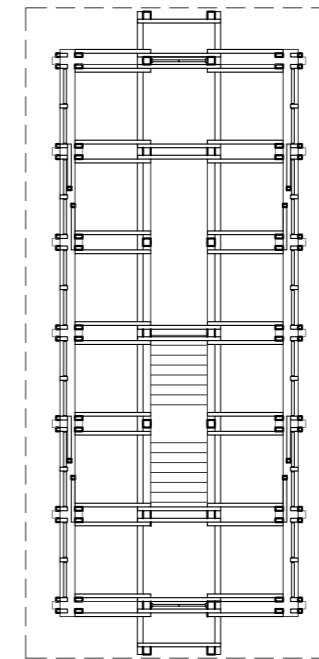
Spaces
Surrounded by the Lattice
In between the void
Vague silhouette
Books place on the shelves
Shelves Interlocked with columns
The room is filled with light, White
Light occupy the room generously, Warm



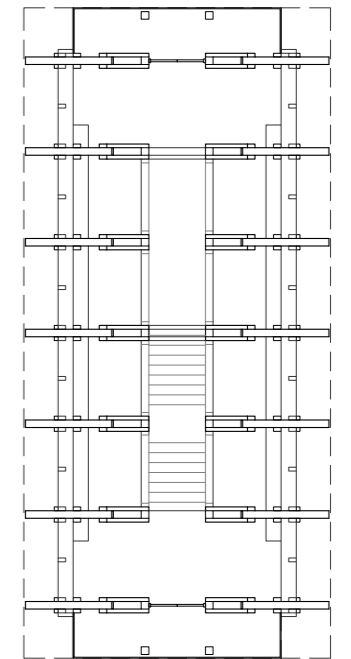
Process



1F

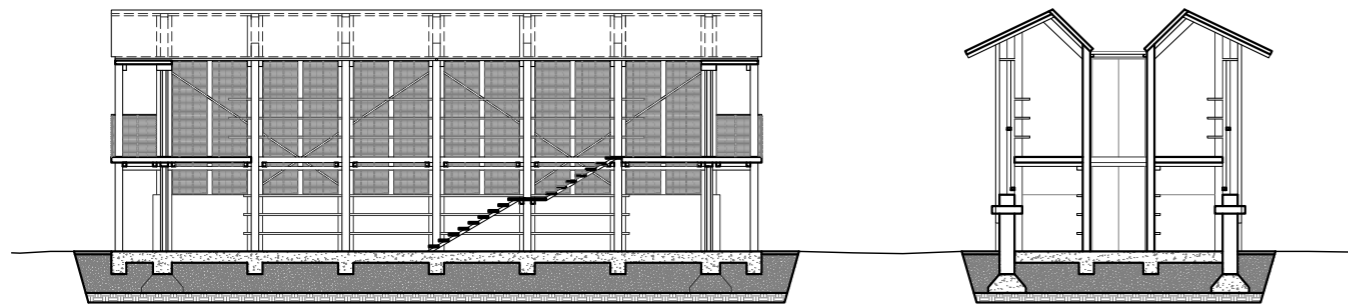


1F Beam



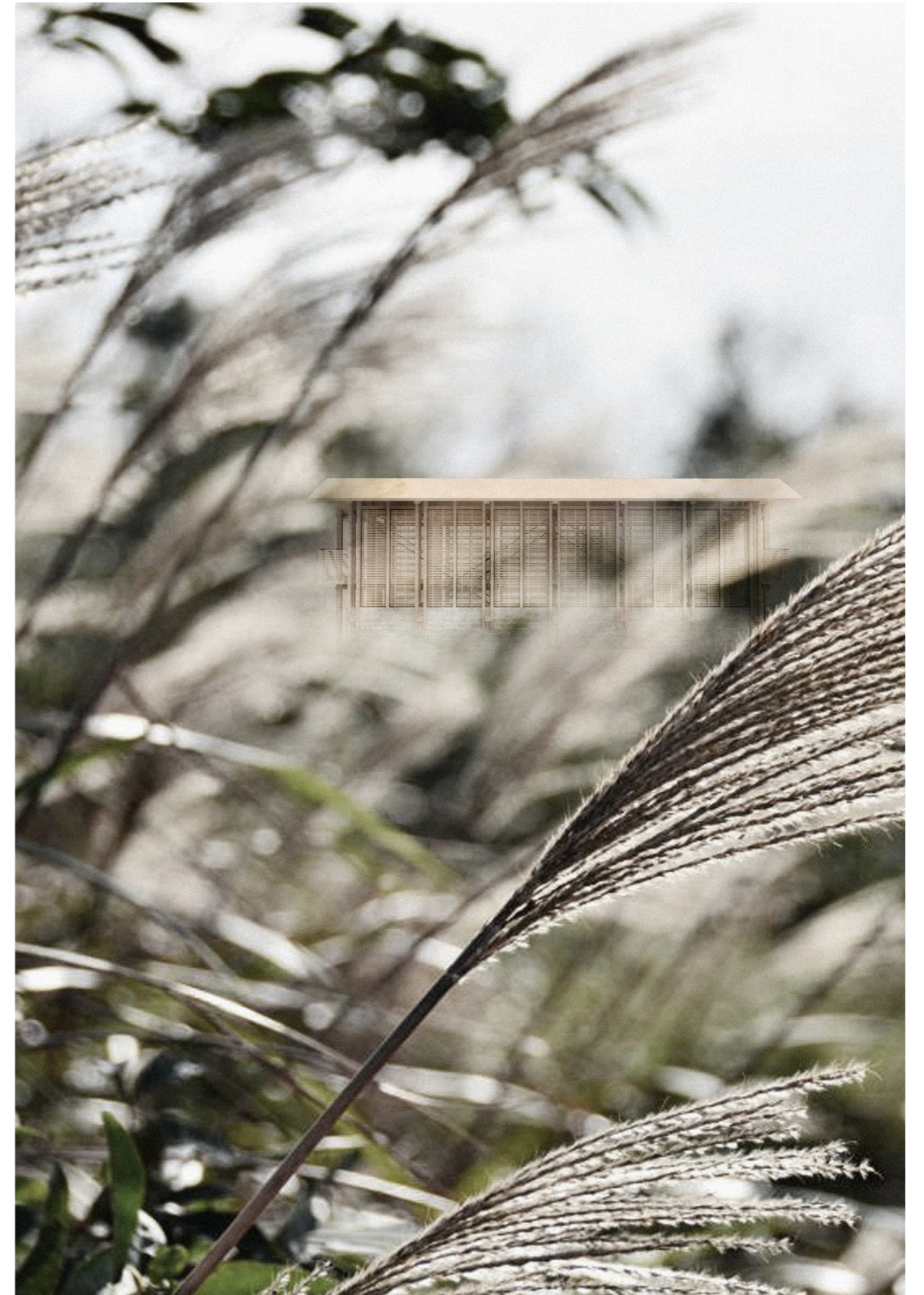
2F Beam

Library plans
Scale 1:200



Library Section
Scale 1:200





構堂

(gau³tong⁴)

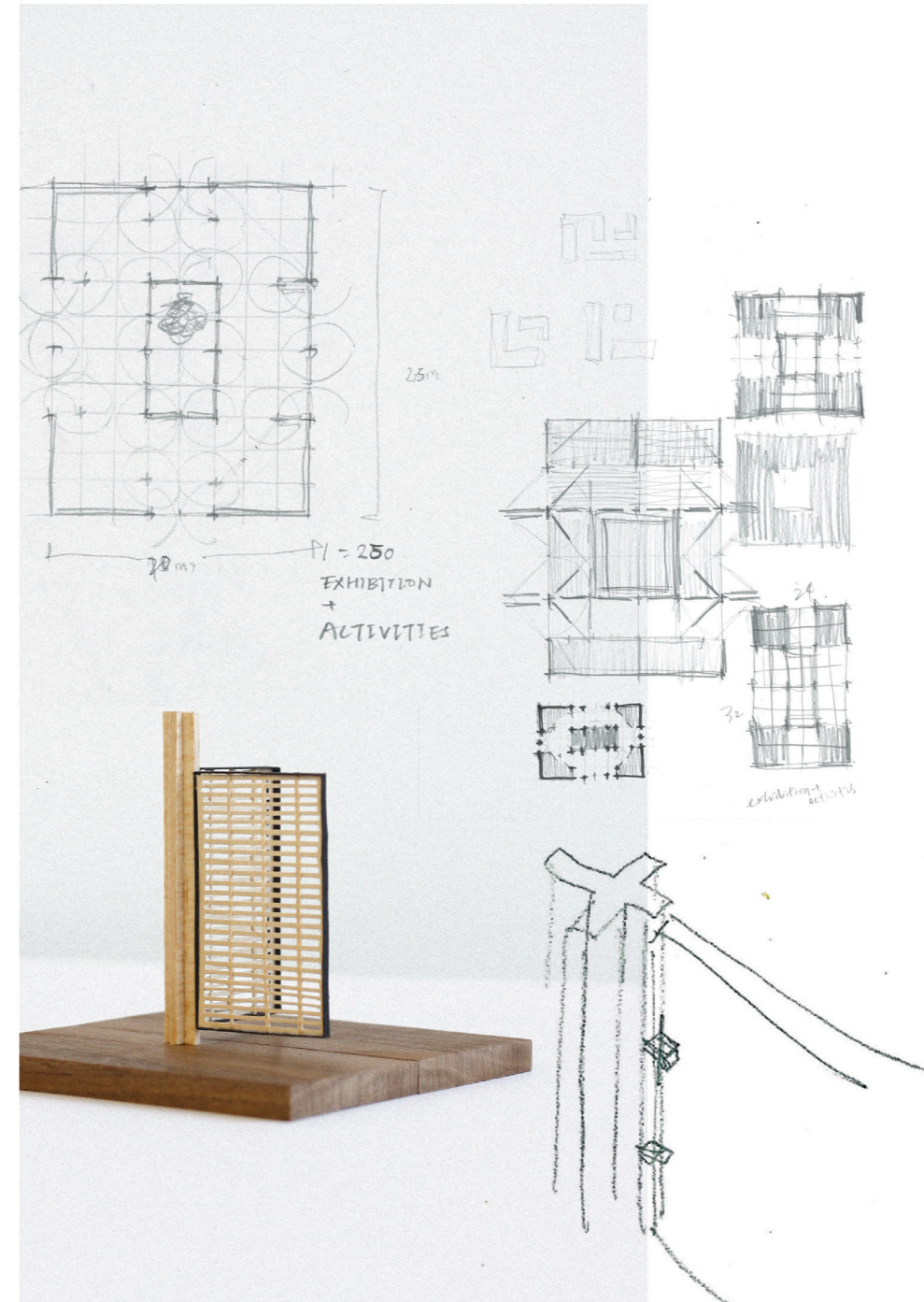
《木部》構：蓋也。从木莧聲。杜林以為椽桷字。

Construct . Hall

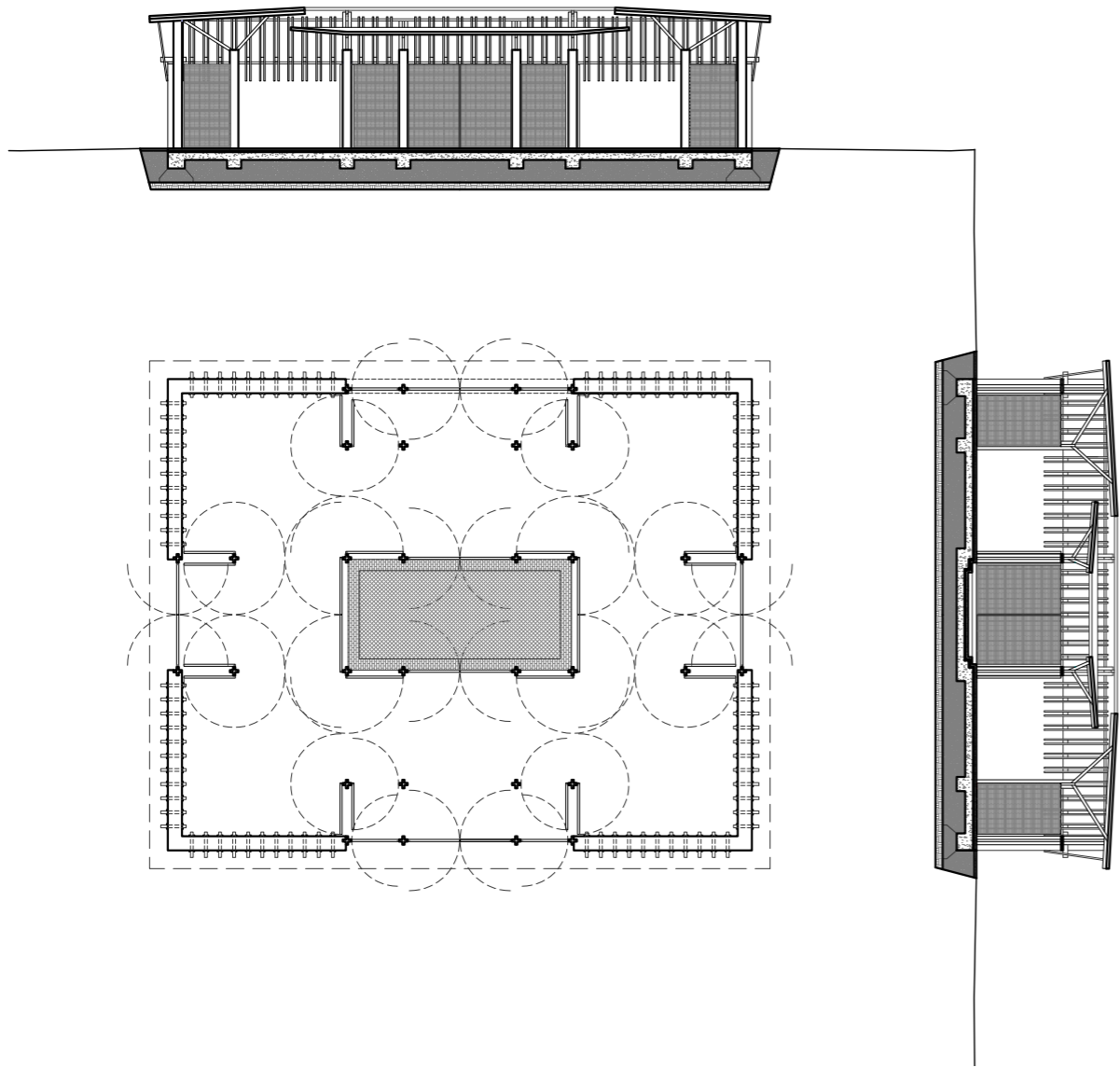
MULTI-PURPOSE HALL

青灰色的圍牆內
擁有各種空間，
被簾分隔，
讓我們穿梭，
層層遞進，
在空間中建構
虛，
傳承文化，
活演建築。

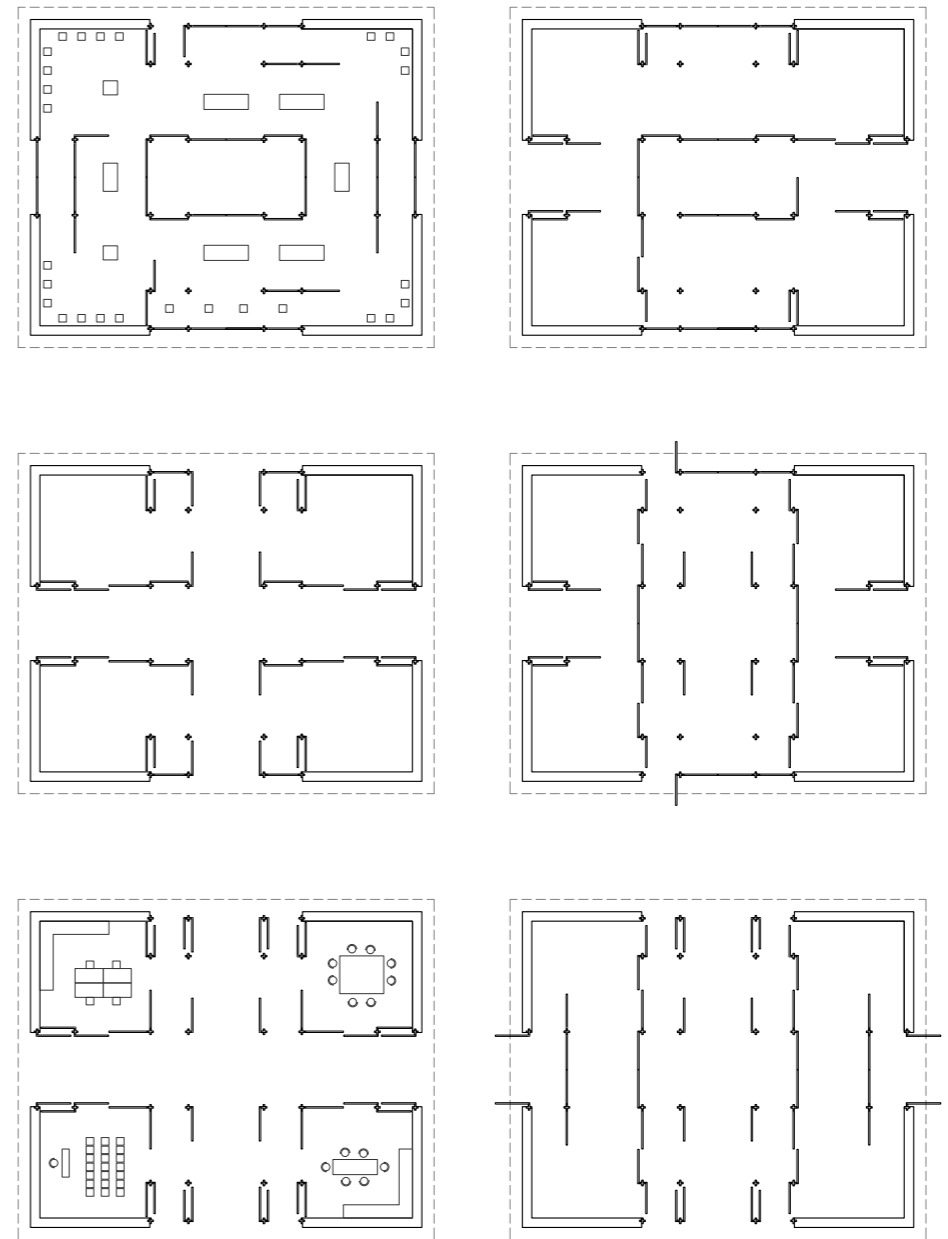
Spaces surrounded by the walls
Slightly green, Slightly grey
Divided by the screen
Travelling in between
Step by step with layers
Constructing in spaces
Virtual
Inherit culture
Evolve architecture



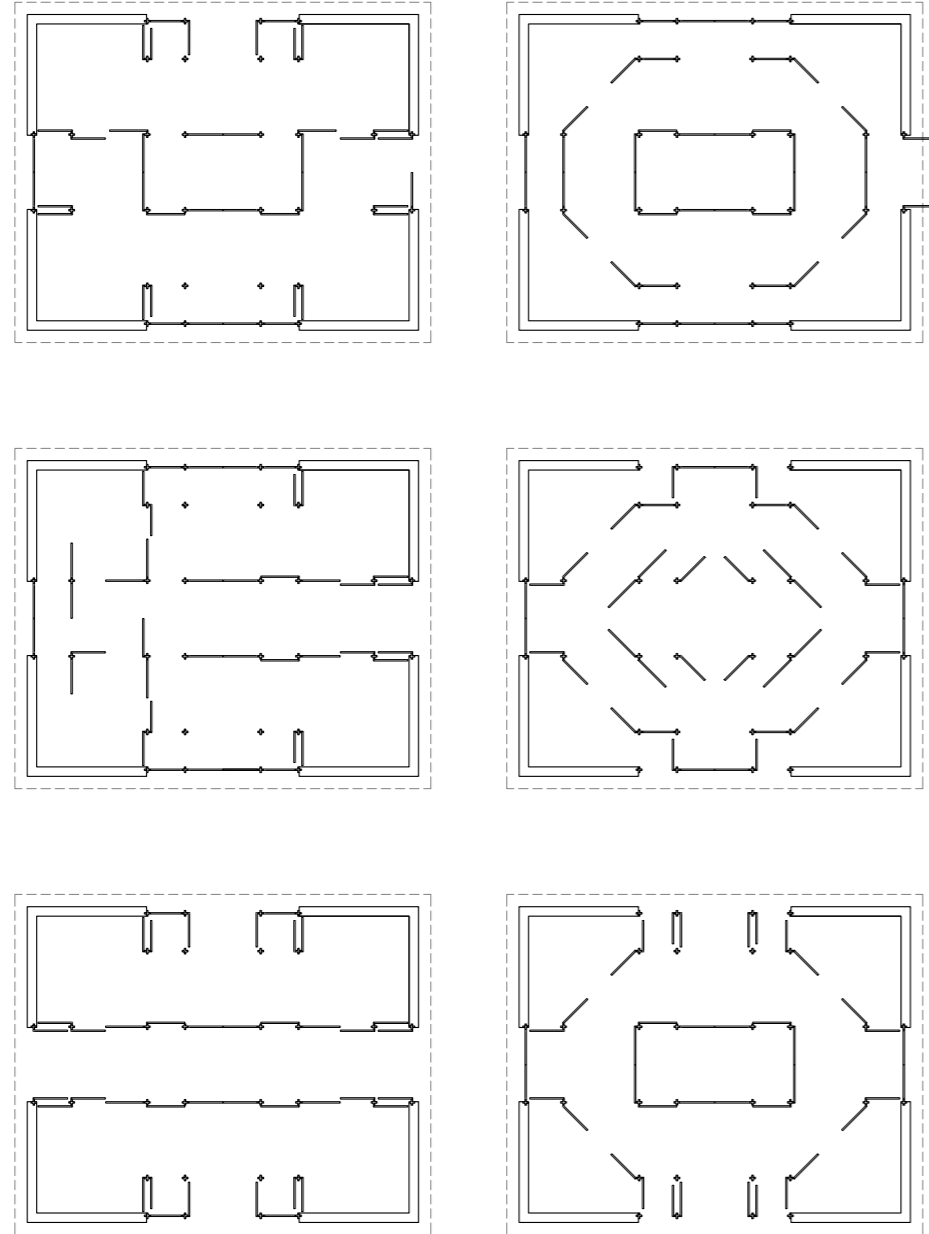
Process



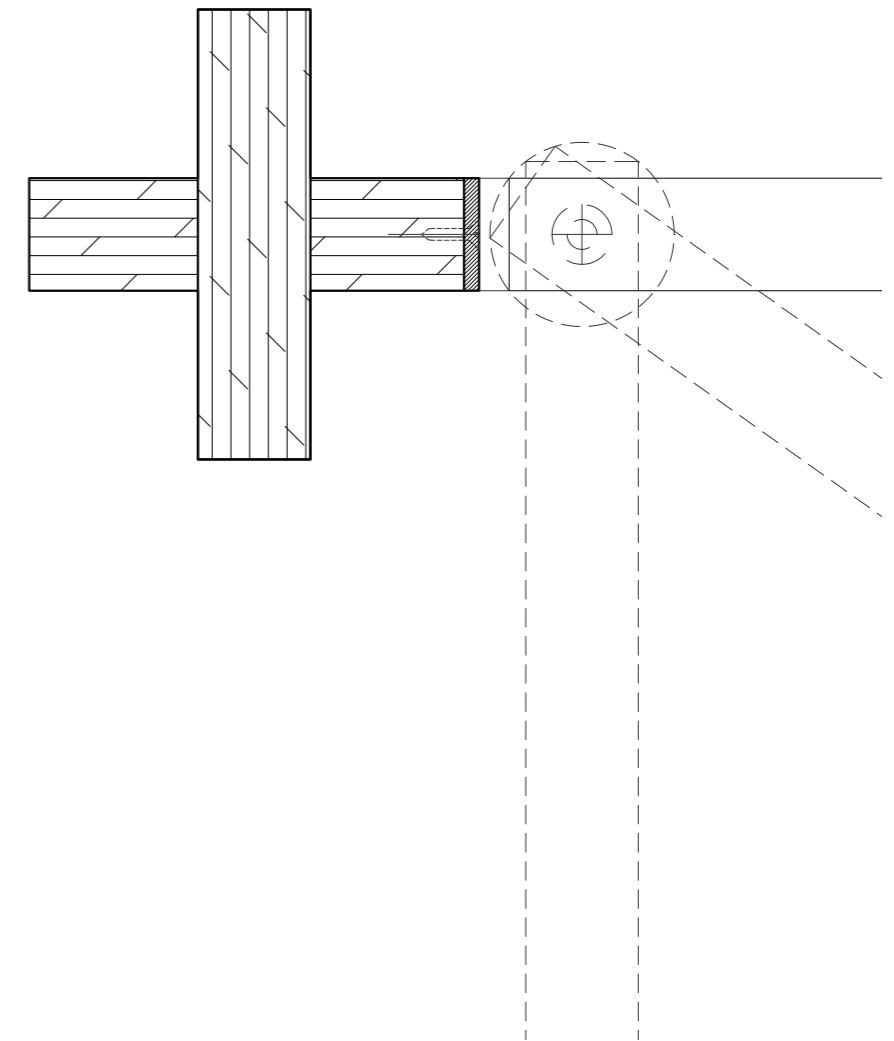
Multi-purpose hall
Scale 1:250



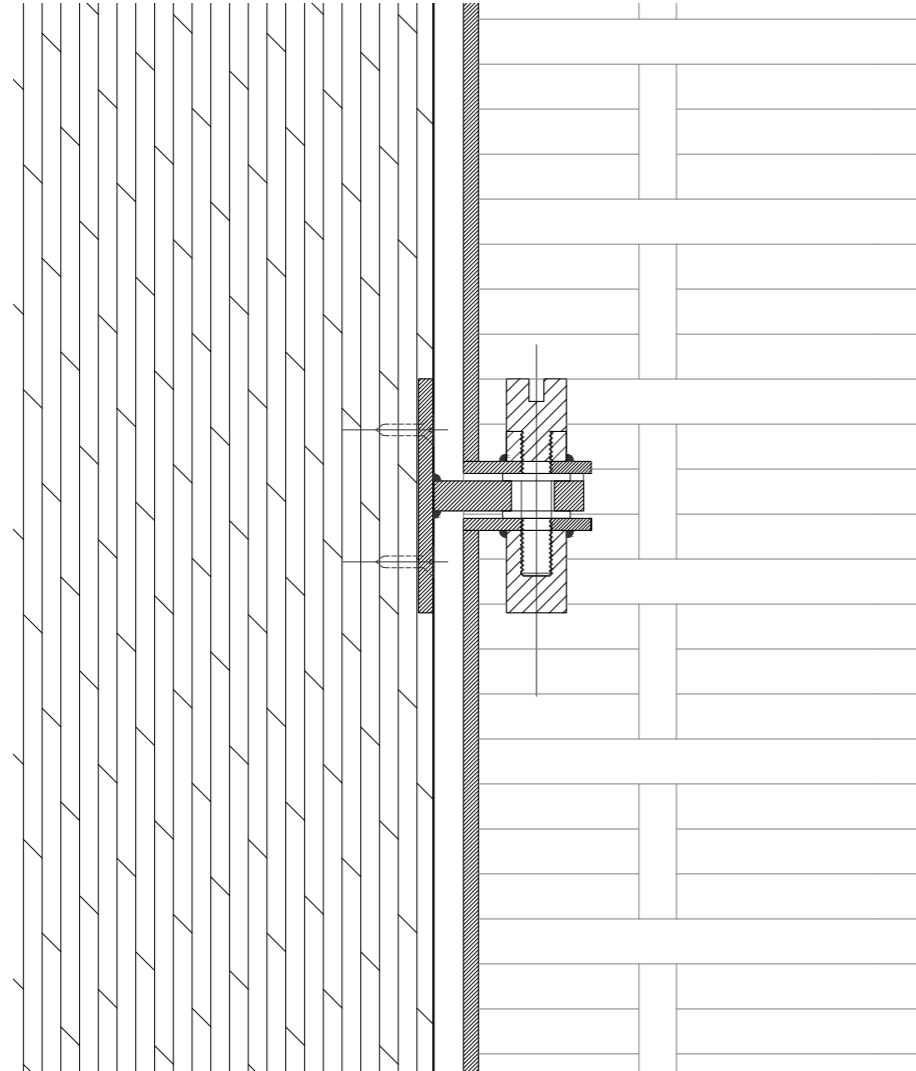
Configuration



Configuration



Swing door detail - Plan
Scale 1:5



Swing door detail - Section
Scale 1:5



illustration



Cafe, office and info centre plan
Scale 1: 200

井棚

(zeng²paang⁴)

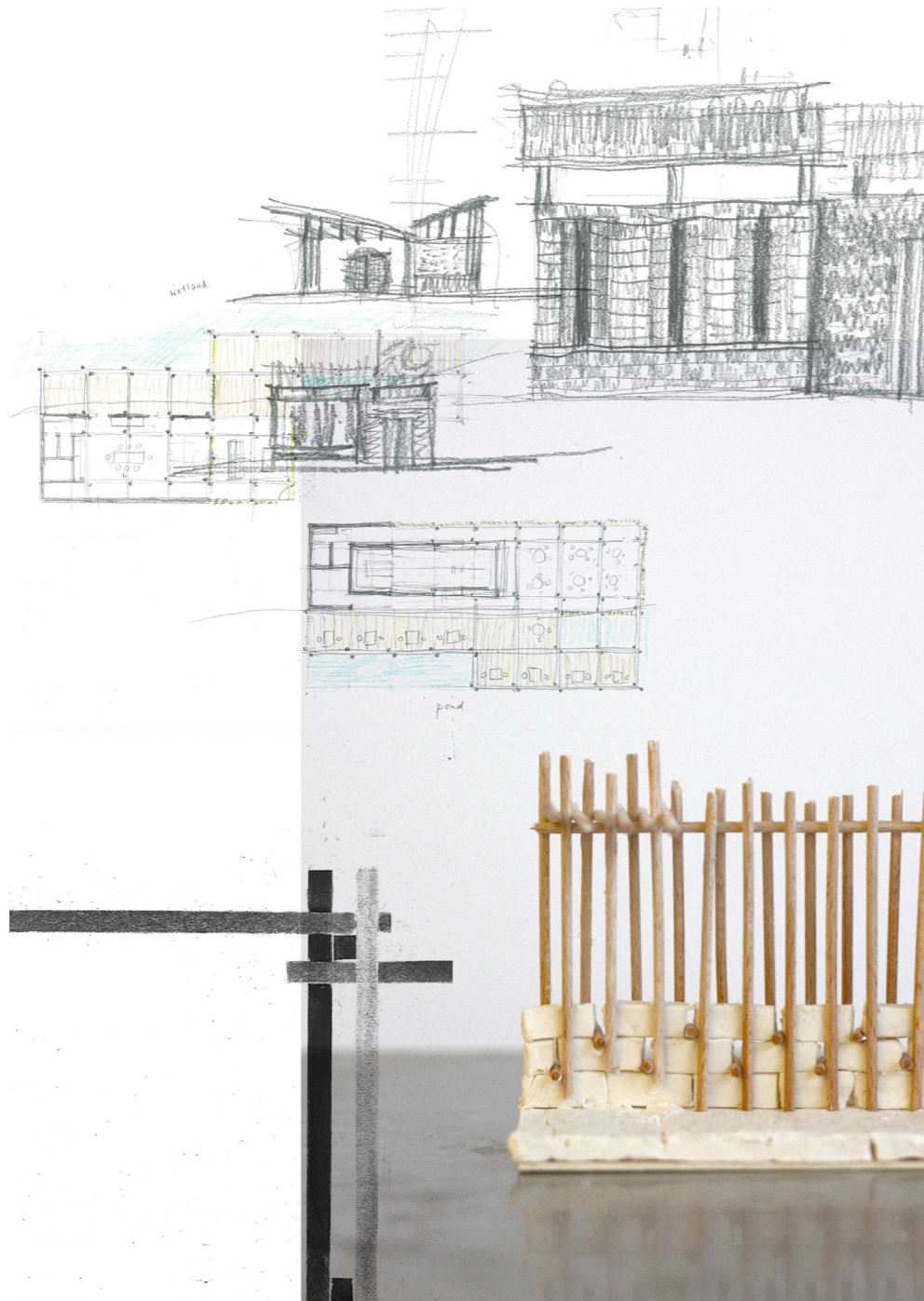
《淮南子·齊俗訓》：鑿井而飲，耕田而食。

Waterwell . Shed

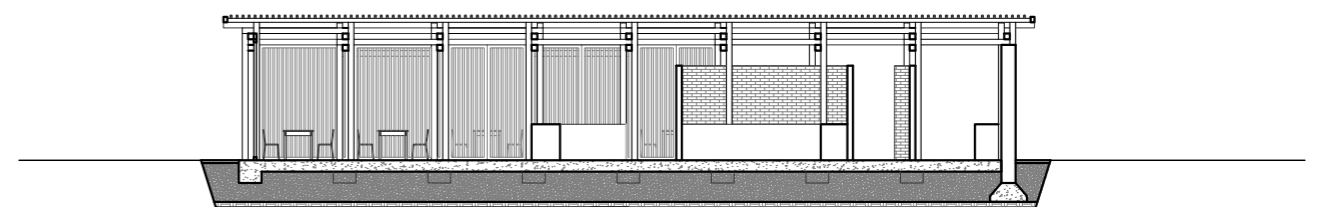
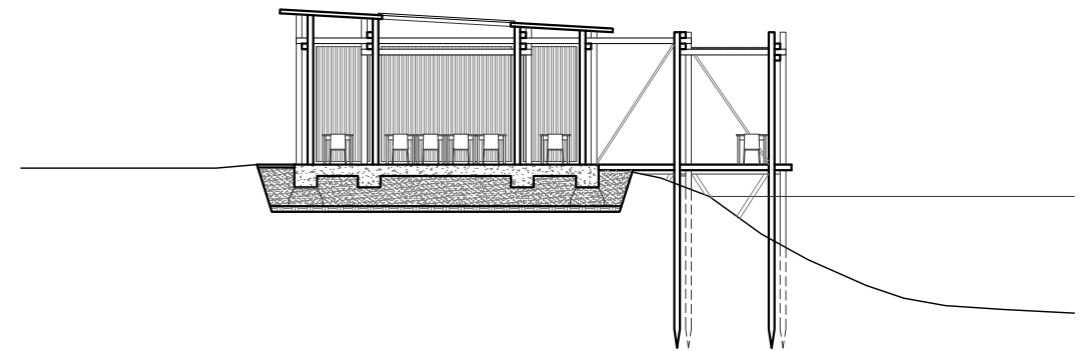
CAFE

牆
是一種依靠
有孔
光柔灑地穿梭
平整
光線被調暗，
活動被隔絕
堅固並安全地保護

Walls
is a type of reliance
With holes
Light gently go through
Neat and uniform
Intended to dim the light
Activities got isolated
Firm and secure to protect



Process



Cafe Section
Scale 1:200

工棚

(gung¹ paang⁴)

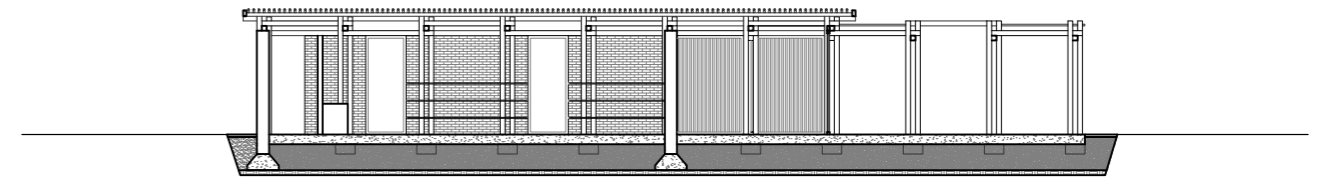
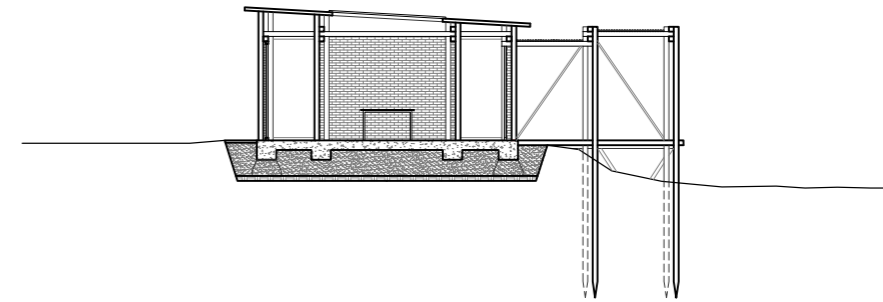
《工部》工：巧飾也。象人有規榘也。
《廣韻·下平聲·庚·彭》棚：棧也，閣也。

Work . Shed

OFFICE AND INFO CENTRE

從牆壁鑿開窗戶、門，
此為室。
坐下，
提筆書寫，
孕，字。
育，文化。

The door and windows are cut out from the walls
to form a room
Take a seat
Lifting a pen
Breeding words
Cultivating culture



office Section
Scale 1:200



office illustration
view to wetland



(saan³)

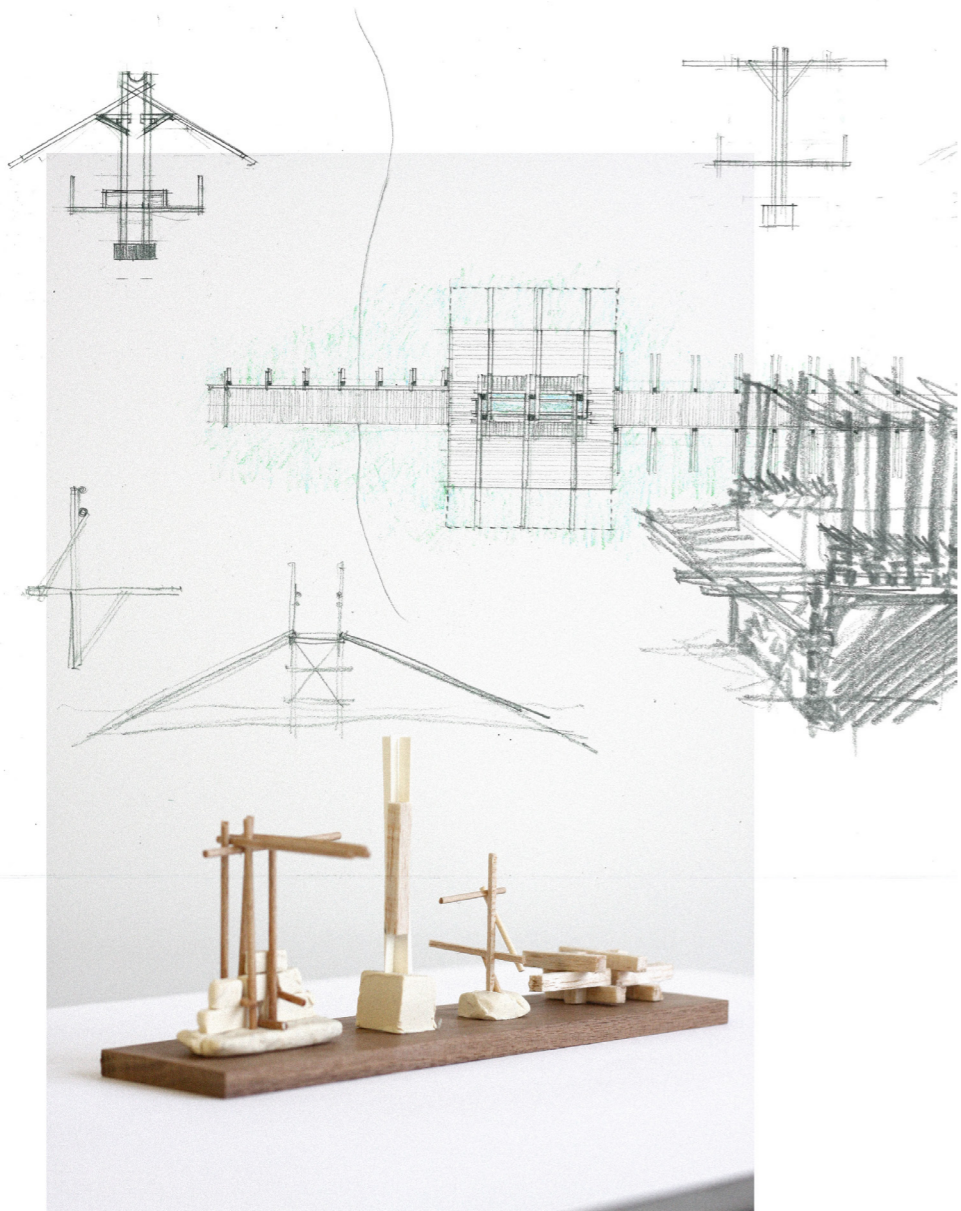
《廣韻·上聲·旱·散》傘：傘蓋。

Cover

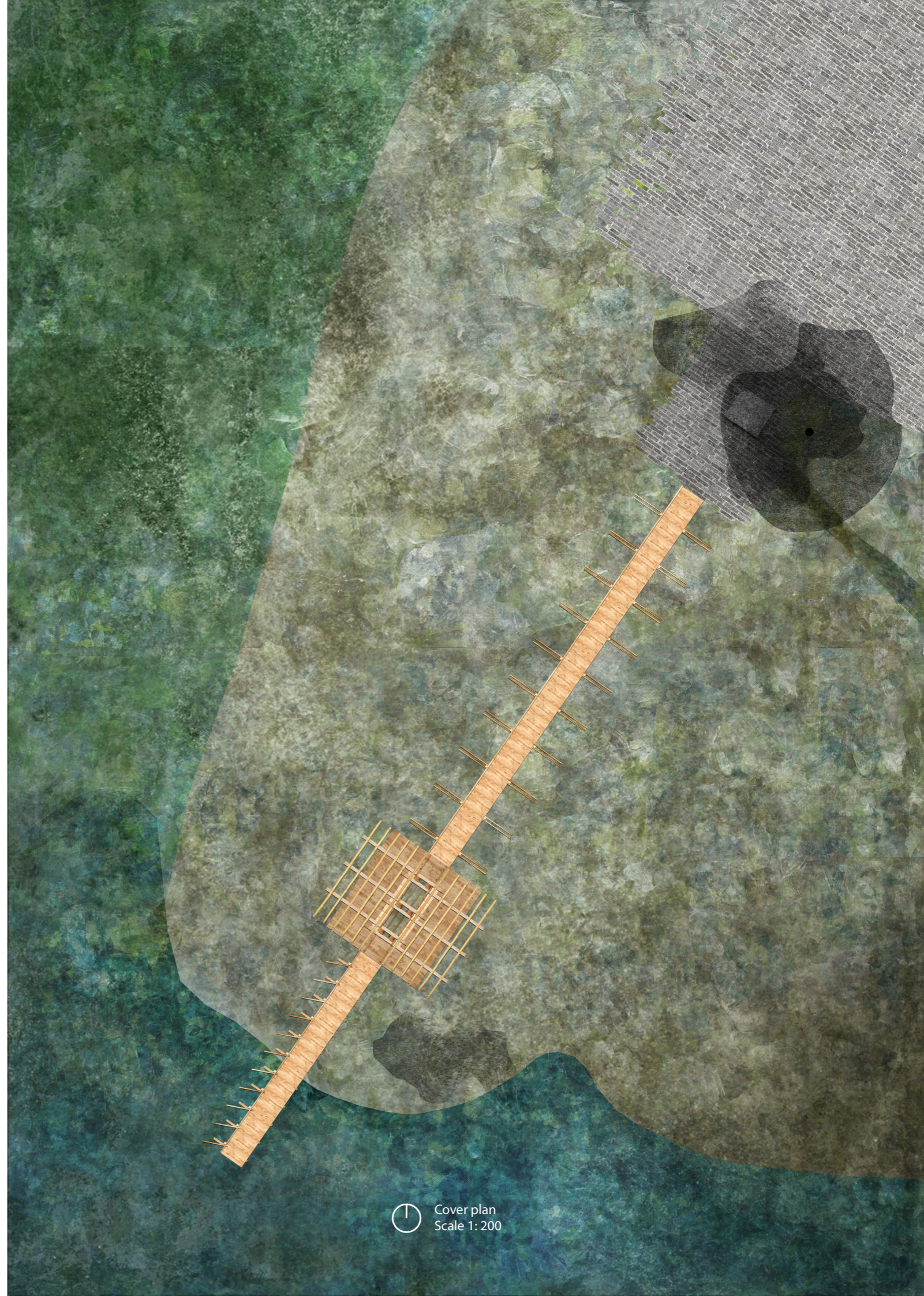
COVER

咯噠的踏上木橋，
「小橋流水人家」
扶著竹枝，
沿著樹影，
欣賞著湖水漣漣
從磚牆走到庭園，
遊走青壁到翠綠，
悠揚的下午。

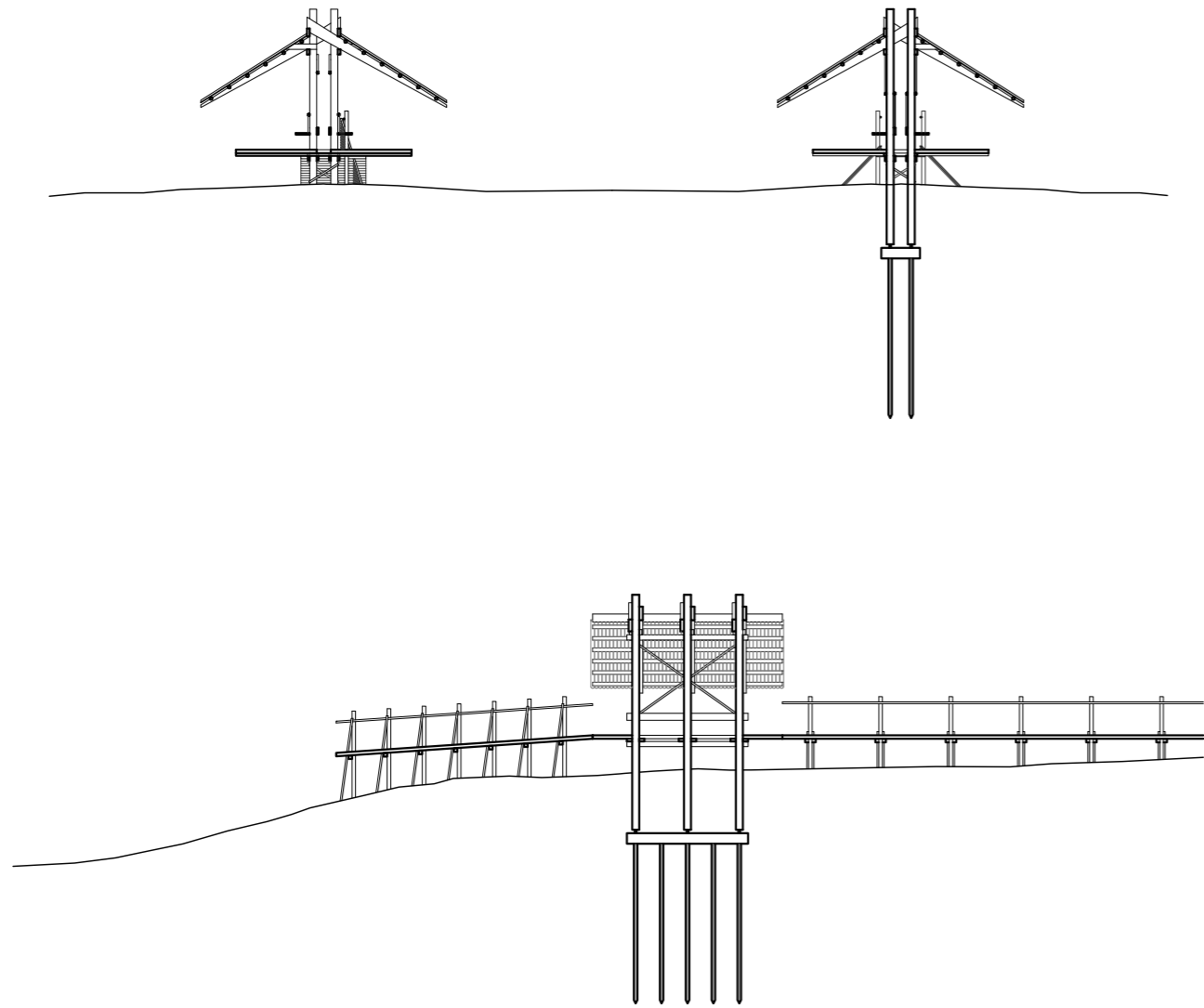
Clacking of the bottom of the shoes on the wooden bridge
"The small bridge with the flowing water, dwellings of people"
Holding the bamboo
Following the shadow of trees
Appreciating the slow-moving water
From the brick wall to the garden
Walk around the pale greyish green to different shades of emerald
A melodious afternoon



Process



Cover plan
Scale 1: 200



Cover Section
Scale 1:200



illustration
boat to city

