

Dwell Mumbai- A Vital Layer

Brief:

The project embraces informality as a method of design. The proposal is to provide the Koli villagers with needed open and enclosed programmed and un-programmed spaces. Dwellings are imagined to increase gradually, adapting to the pace and growth patterns of the existing village. A vital layer is added to the roofs of the introduced dwellings. The proposed roof spaces would allow for other opportunities, more public spaces and new interventions to arise. A playful addition, that engages the youth to contribute to the community's development, acts as an attraction to increase the recognition of the area's diverse productivity and products.

The Urban Approach:

The urban approach in this project started with taking into consideration the needs and the habits of the Koli people living in Mumbai. Putting in mind the way they live and their everyday profession. Scene A describes the in-between of the houses which are the streets. What typically happens is that the public spaces are the streets and in this project the streets are widened and equipped and adaptable for such activities and use of space. Scene B shows a situation where the sea and the people co-exist in a peaceful way. One of the fears the Koli people face is the rise of the sea level and the waves that lead to destruction. The project designs new landscape at the shore that aims to not only break the waves but also act as seating spaces for the people at the waterfront. Scene C shows a fishing hub that is the end destination of the active spine. A hub that looks at the sea where is near the boats. A big market where the selling and trading of fish takes place, a very popular activity amongst the Koli.

The Architecture Approach:

The architecture approach in this project is inspired by the term playful and interactive. The newly invented typologies borrow forms from traditional Indian dwellings and take into consideration modern rapid urbanization, being installed into a flexible structural network, which provides Koli and Worli with all the possible scenarios that the inhabitants would ever desire to create. As for the idea of the newly introduced layer it is to create more public spaces without threatening the existence of the buildings and giving space for the appearance of new activities and functions. The project combines houses of different sizes that are derived from local housing units, trying to make a compact, intimate and memorable neighborhood. The buildings are not only built with the idea of the vital layer on top of it but are built with a principle of playfulness and connectness. A house that is also playful from inside, how rooms and floors connect, how the light enters the inside of the building. This playfulness creates interesting inside spaces that are directed either by light or openness and also creates outdoor interesting spaces for functions. Each set of buildings are connected creating a platform on top that serves as a definite function and creating a public space. Thus, creating a network that is connected somehow with the open spaces in the streets, enlarging the public spaces found. The architecture aims to preserve local life and city fabric and make it continue and grow. Now people can reside closely from their workplaces and are provided both the ways to commerce and live. Most of all, the layer will serve as an attraction.