

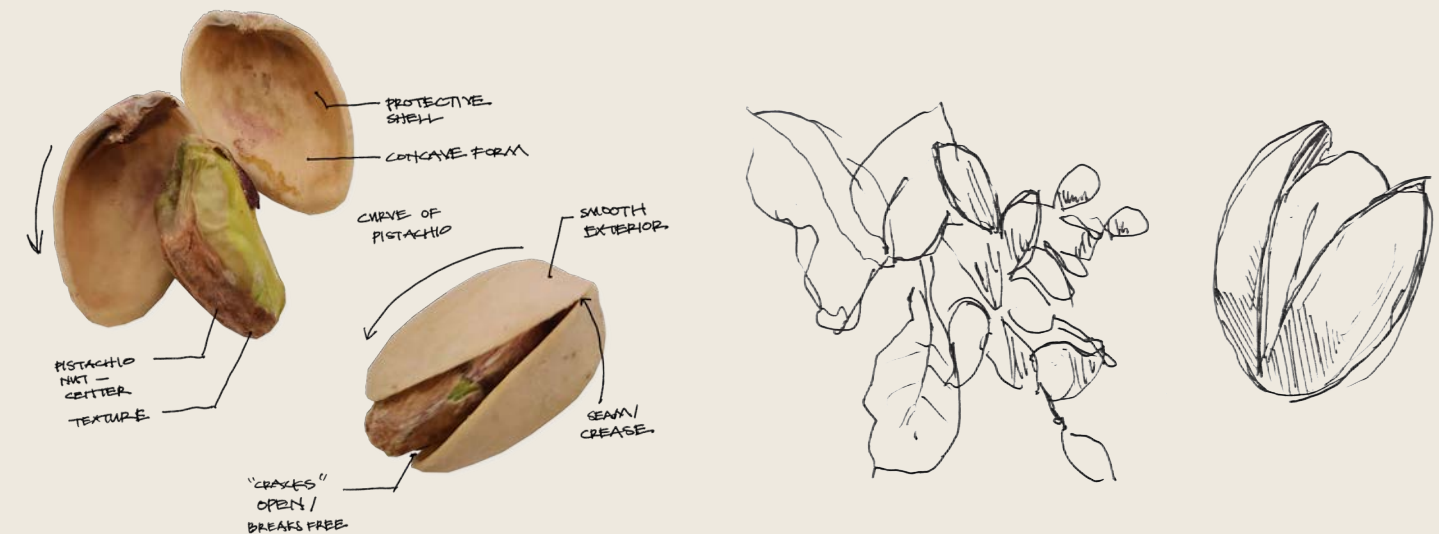
Sakha'

سكحة: Generosity (Arabic)

Concept

Embedded into Syrian culture is their pride and memories of bountiful pistachio orchards. Pistachios represent a time of balance, of giving and receiving. Now, in extreme hardship, the always generous Syrians are to receive. Reviving what they once had, feelings of hope and stability emerge.

From the curvilinear form of the outer fruit to its resilient inner shell, the seam along the pistachio breaks free to embrace light. Following its curves, the interior layout unveils an openness of smooth transitions and adaptable expanses. The repetition of individual units creates a community, representing the clusters of blossoming pistachios on a branch.



Photographed by Designers

Our Project

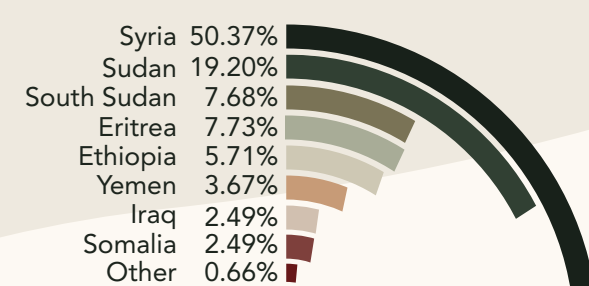
Sakha' is a refugee community located west of El Saf City, Egypt. It provides semi-permanent homes for displaced Syrian refugees and hosts them until they are able to integrate back into society, whether that be in Egypt or beyond. While close enough to the city, resources provided are in careful consideration to minimize any disruption to local villages. Rather, the refugee community establishes a mutual relationship with the locals, improving and enriching the land through sustainable initiatives.

Land Acknowledgment

With gratitude, we acknowledge that we are building, gathering, and benefiting from the ancestral lands of the Amazigh peoples. We express our gratitude to these original peoples whose stewardship, wisdom, and innate connection to the land, air, and water, have allowed us a site to house and protect thousands of refugees.

Background Research

Over ten years have passed since the start of the Syrian Civil War. Syria remains the country with the largest global displacement crisis (UNICEF, 2022). Thus, this project places focus on providing support to Syrian refugees and migrants. Egypt was selected as our host country as there are support systems in place. Organizations such as the UNHCR and other humanitarian services are dedicated to provide financial, medical, and mental health aid for Syrian refugees and migrants who have been displaced. As a host country, Egypt abides by refugee rights that include core principles of inclusivity and protection. (UNHCR, 2020). In addition, statistics show that of the 273,152 refugees and asylum-seekers Egypt hosts, approximately 50% are from Syria. (UNHCR, 2022).



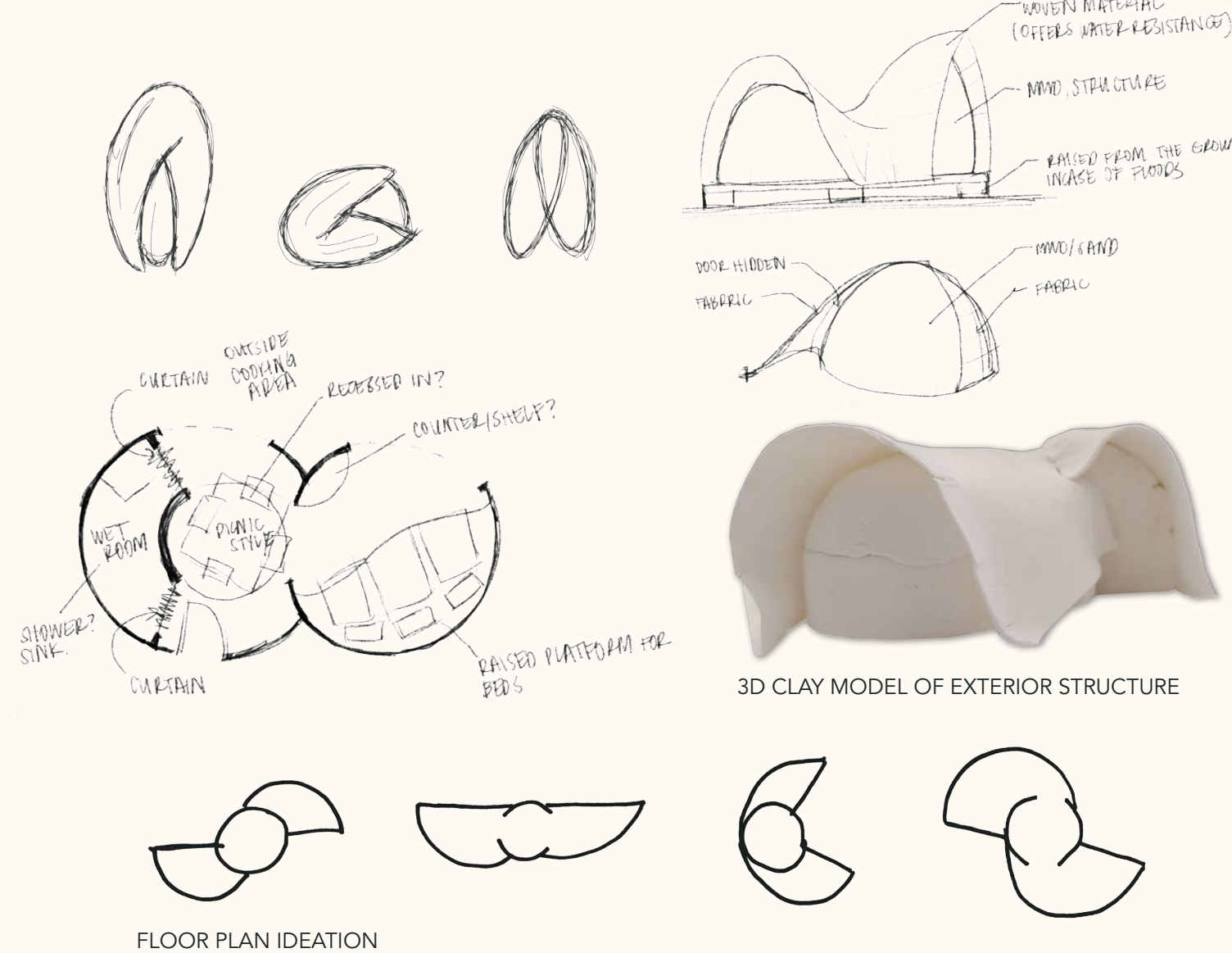
Refugees in Egypt

Out of these Syrian refugees, 67% are women and 47% are under the age of 18. Syrian women and girls remain disproportionately affected with inequality and unique challenges created through displacement, causing them to become the breadwinner of their family (Giovetti, 2021).

Goals

- Protection and Safety**
The community provides immediate protection and assistance, allowing a safe and secure environment for refugees and for family reunification.
- Self Sufficiency**
Refugees are provided the necessary tools, skills and materials, to self sustain themselves in order to rebuild their lives. Long term displacement support allows for integration into Egypt— creating livelihood opportunities such as housing, health, employment, and education.
- Dignity**
Everyone, no matter their background, is welcome and treated with respect. The community aims to restore access to fundamental human rights of food, shelter, clean water, and clothing. A sanitary space is provided to prevent diseases and promote better health standards.

Ideation Process



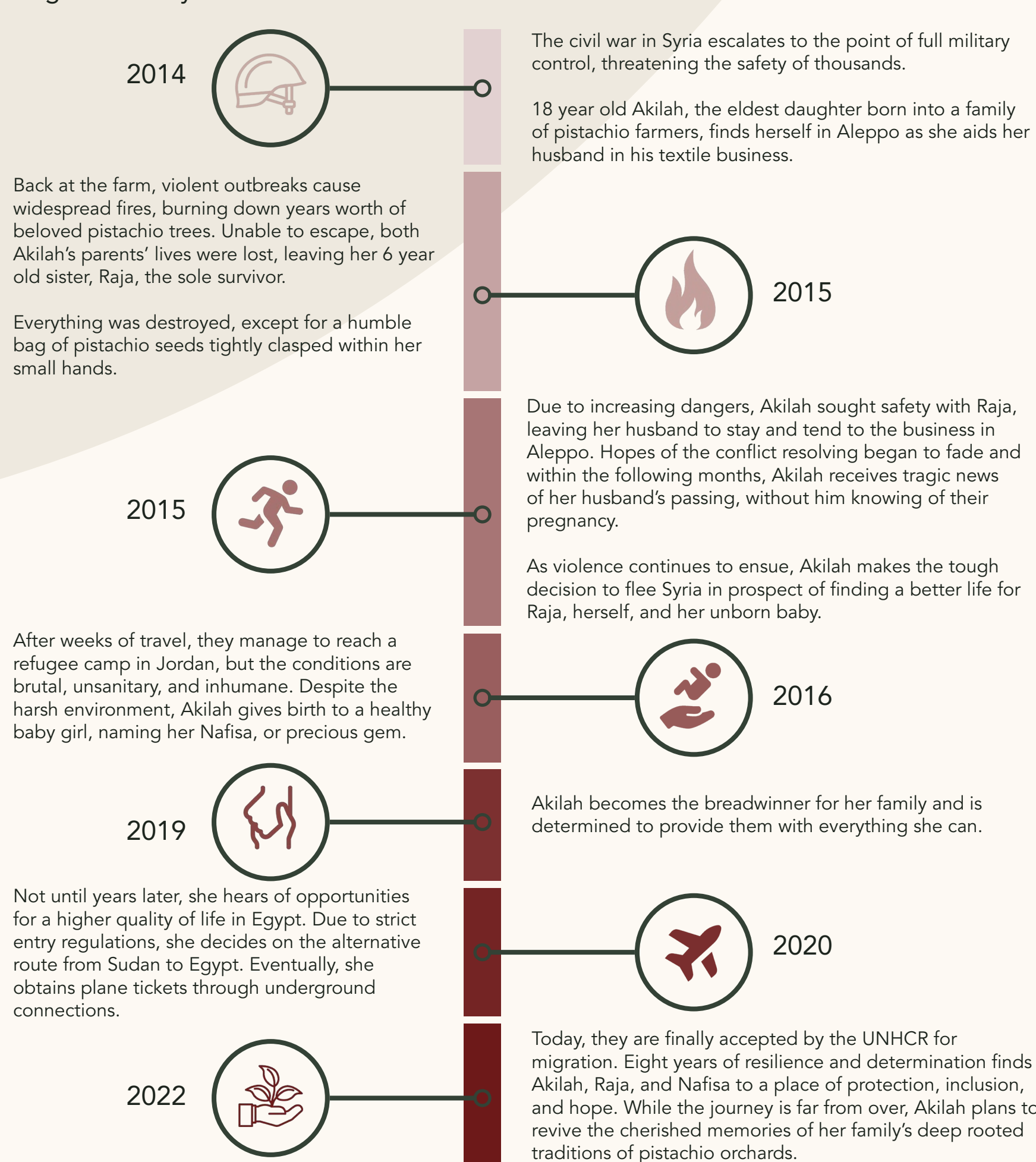
3D CLAY MODEL OF EXTERIOR STRUCTURE

FLOOR PLAN IDEATION

Migration Journey

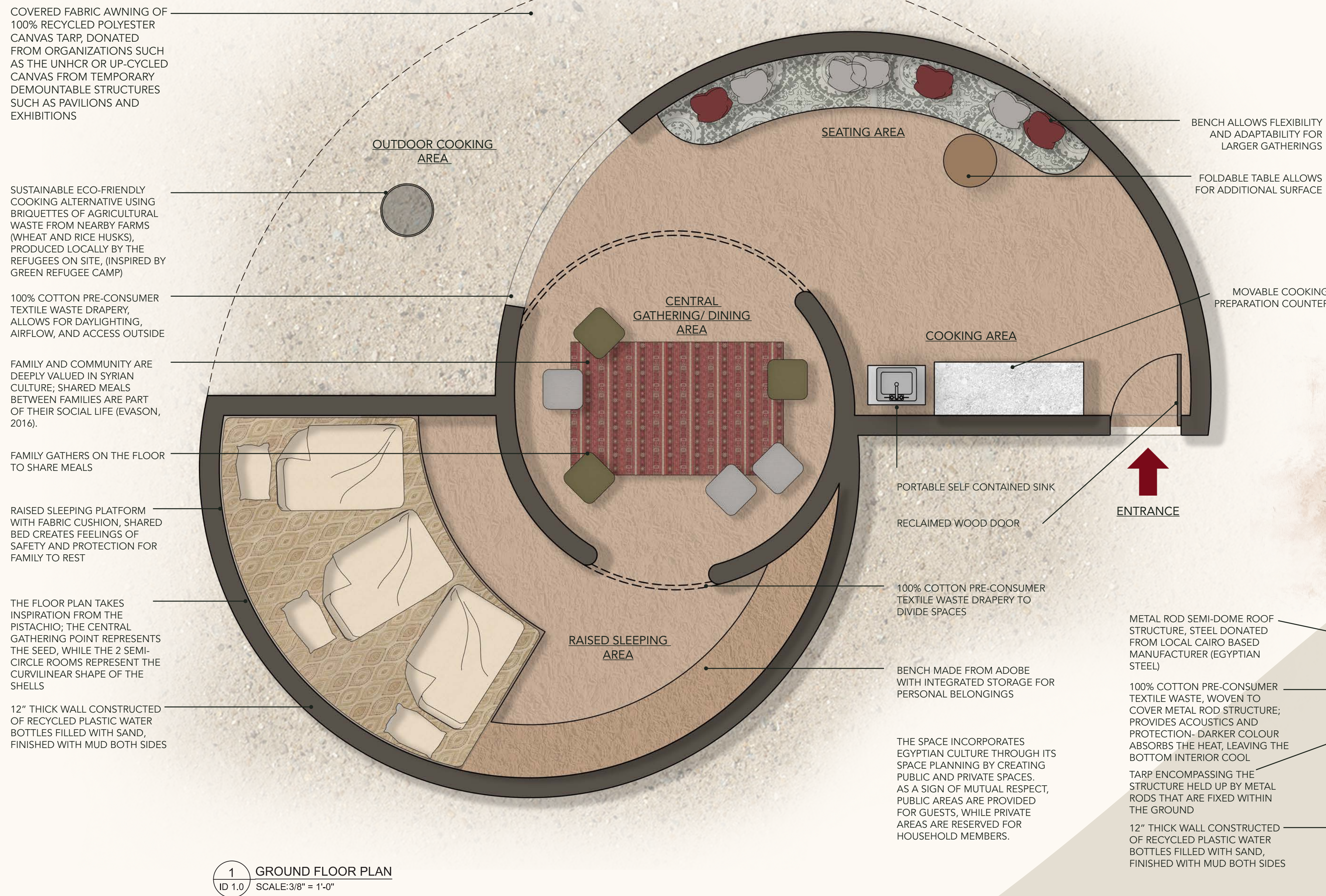


Migration Story



Ground Floor Plan

Total Area: 47.38 m² (510 Sq. Ft.)



1 GROUND FLOOR PLAN
ID 1.0 SCALE: 3/8" = 1'-0"

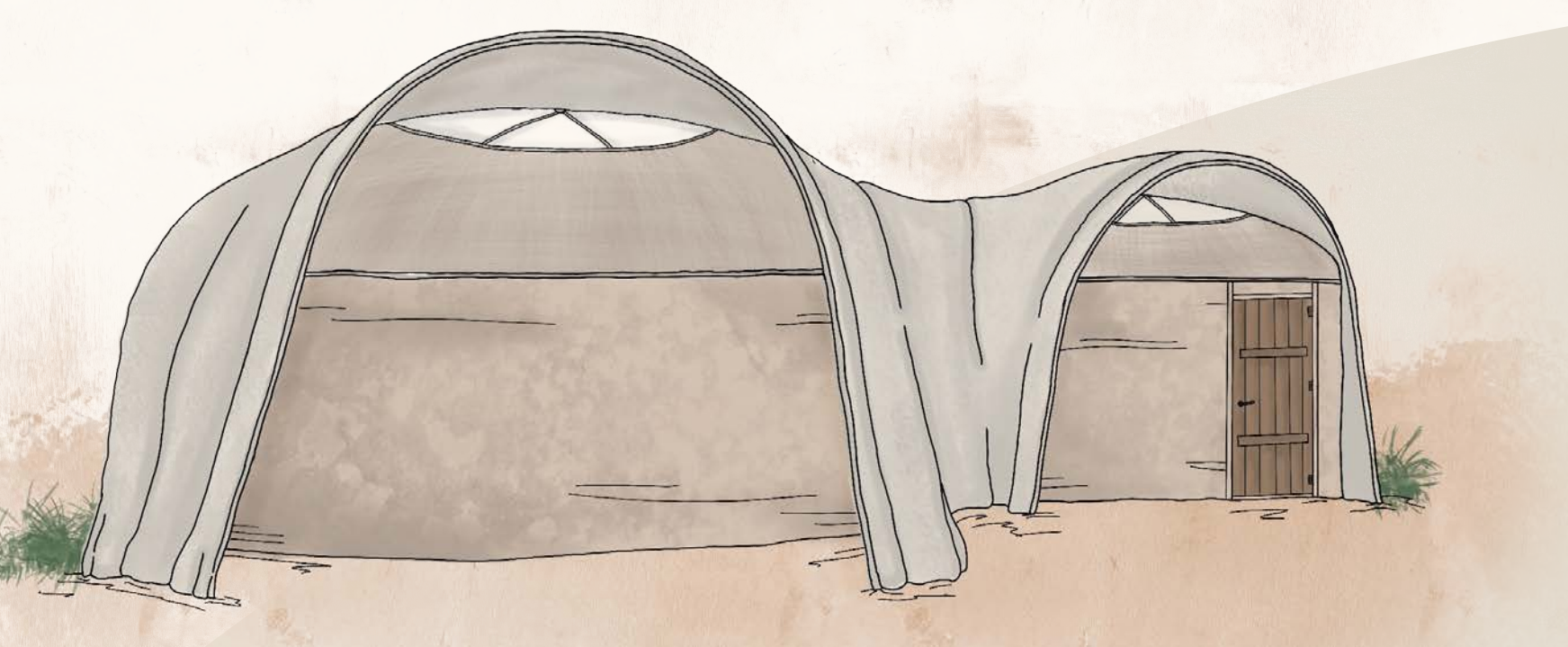
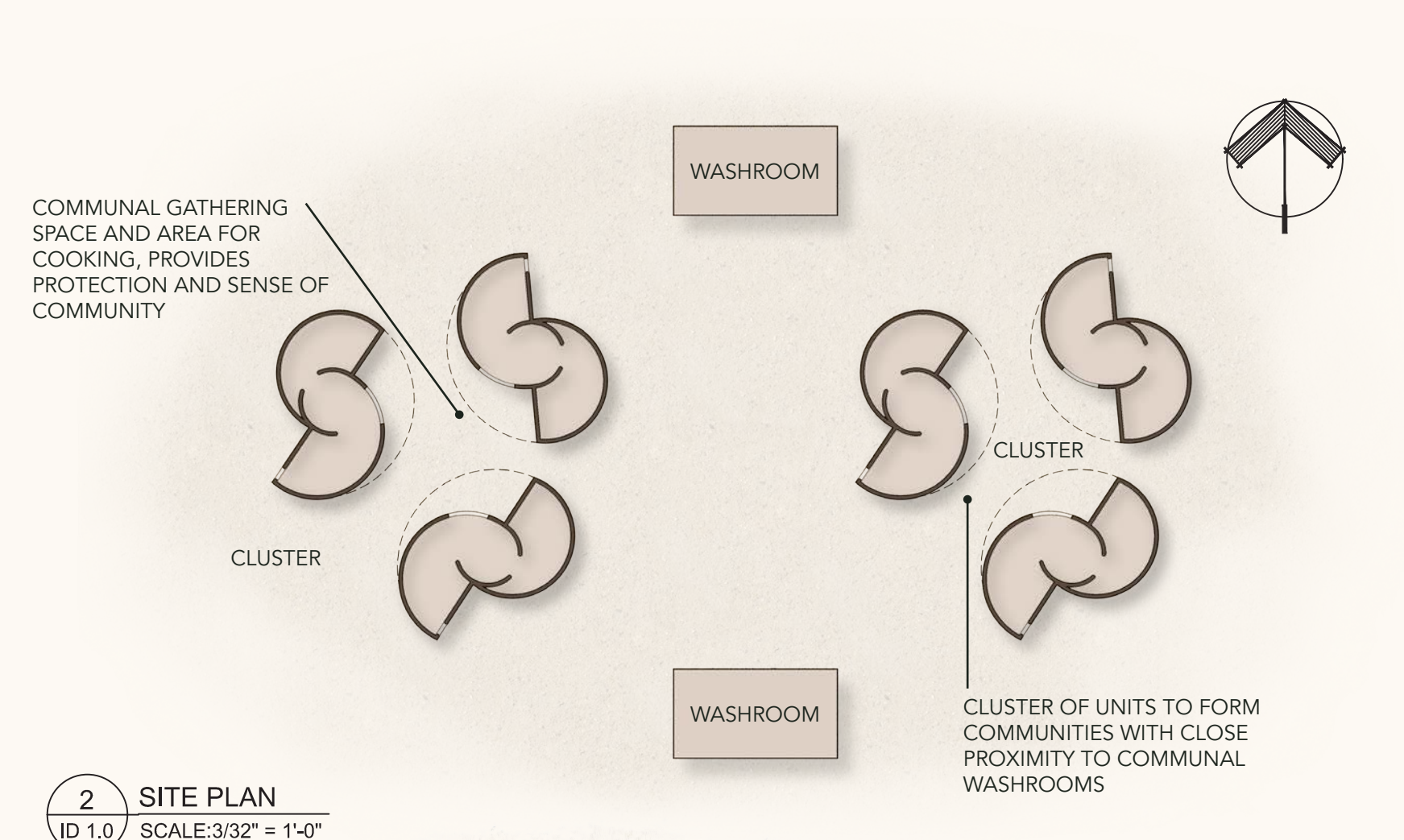


Gathering Space

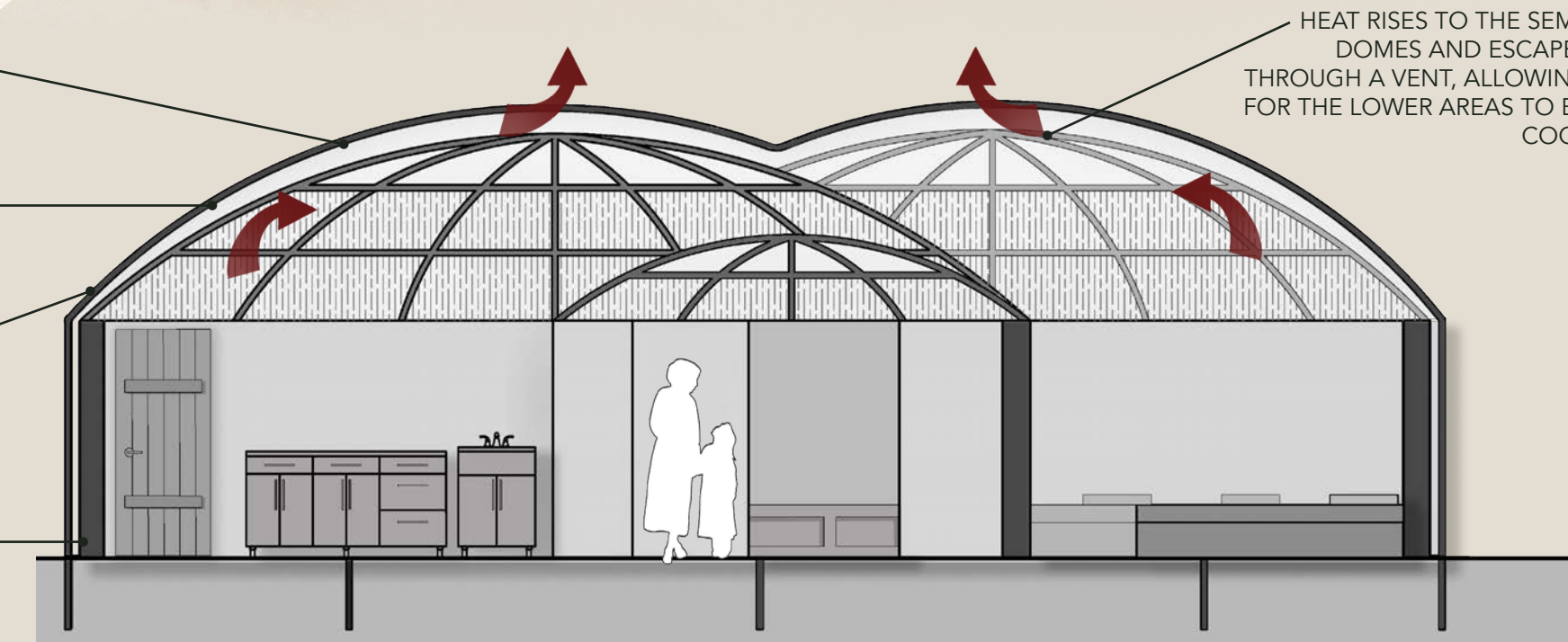


Seating Area

Community Plan View

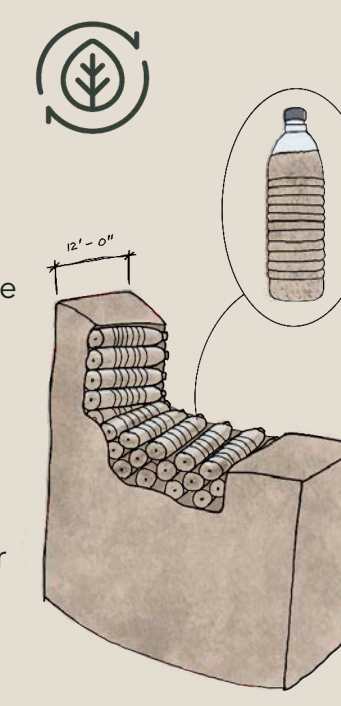


Exterior View



Materials and Sustainability

Sakha' is built by the people for the people. The buildings are cost-efficient and easy to construct, taking into account the ability for refugees to contribute their skills. Inspired by Tateh Lehibb Barika's sand filled plastic bottle houses in Algeria, Sakha' aims to reduce pollution in the Nile, all the while providing material to create homes for refugees. Within the community, refugees can find a sense of purpose as they are employed to collect and fill these bottles.



Plastic Pollution

With companies such as Zero Co. planning for large-scale cleanups, rivers such as the Nile have had the equivalent of around 1 million plastic bottles retrieved from its waters. (Corby, 2022). Our project aims to not only clean up the river, but utilize this "waste" as a building material.

Textile Waste

Egypt's textile industry produces over 200,000 tons of pre-consumer textile waste per year, with 28,000 tons considered as "cotton-rich" waste (Switchmed, 2022). With a circular economy approach, the community aims to use this textile waste to create woven materials of drapery, bedding, and roof assembly.

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