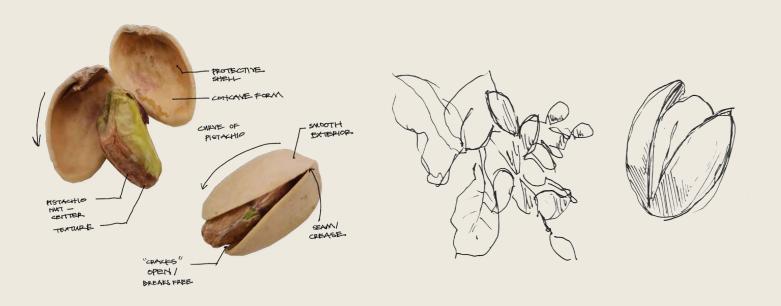
# Sakha : Generosity (Arabic) عراخس

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

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).

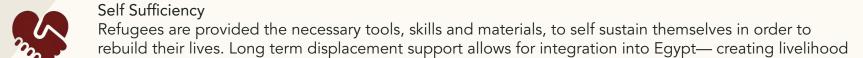
Out of these Syrian refugees, 67% are women and 47% are under the age of 18. Syrian women and girls remain disproportionately affected with inequality and unique challenges created through displacement, causing them to become the breadwinner of their family (Giovetti, 2021).

## South Sudan 7.68 Eritrea 7.73% Ethiopia 5.71% Yemen 3.67% Somalia 2.49% Other 0.66% Refugees in Egypt

### Goals

### Protection and Safety

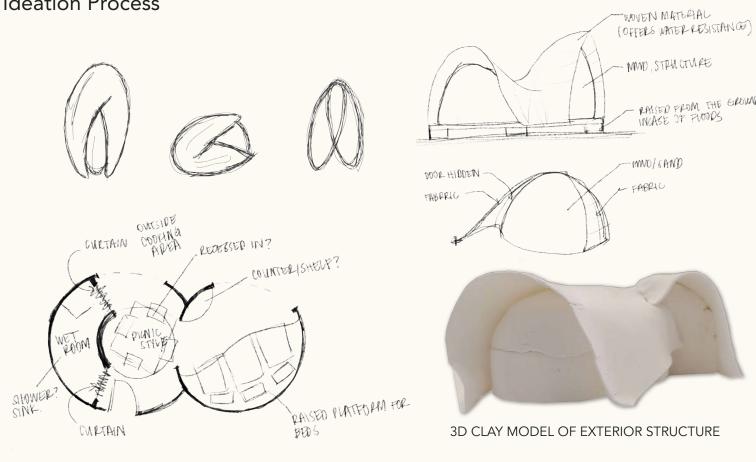
The community provides immediate protection and assistance, allowing a safe and secure environment for refugees and for family reunification.



### opportunities such as housing, health, employment, and education.

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



Migration Journey



Migration Story



widespread fires, burning down years worth of beloved pistachio trees. Unable to escape, both Akilah's parents' lives were lost, leaving her 6 year old sister, Raja, the sole survivor.

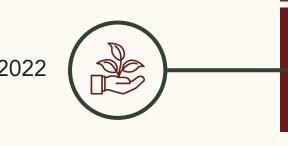
Everything was destroyed, except for a humble bag of pistachio seeds tightly clasped within her



After weeks of travel, they manage to reach a refugee camp in Jordan, but the conditions are brutal, unsanitary, and inhumane. Despite the harsh environment, Akilah gives birth to a healthy baby girl, naming her Nafisa, or precious gem.

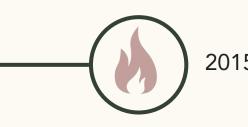


Not until years later, she hears of opportunities for a higher quality of life in Egypt. Due to strict entry regulations, she decides on the alternative route from Sudan to Egypt. Eventually, she obtains plane tickets through underground



#### The civil war in Syria escalates to the point of full military control, threatening the safety of thousands.

18 year old Akilah, the eldest daughter born into a family of pistachio farmers, finds herself in Aleppo as she aids her husband in his textile business.



Due to increasing dangers, Akilah sought safety with Raja, leaving her husband to stay and tend to the business in Aleppo. Hopes of the conflict resolving began to fade and within the following months, Akilah receives tragic news of her husband's passing, without him knowing of their

As violence continues to ensue, Akilah makes the tough decision to flee Syria in prospect of finding a better life for Raja, herself, and her unborn baby.



Akilah becomes the breadwinner for her family and is determined to provide them with everything she can.



Today, they are finally accepted by the UNHCR for migration. Eight years of resilience and determination finds Akilah, Raja, and Nafisa to a place of protection, inclusion, and hope. While the journey is far from over, Akilah plans to revive the cherished memories of her family's deep rooted raditions of pistachio orchards.

### Proposed Site Location



#### Site Selection

Sakah' is located on the outskirts of El Saf, a small city in the Giza Governorate of Egypt known for its clay brick production. The site was selected for its relative proximity to several resources such as Cairo, El Saf City, the Nile River, and fertile farmland. Overall, the climate is hot and arid, with little precipitation apart from rare flash floods. (Climate Change Knowledge Portal, 2020).

### Ground Floor Plan

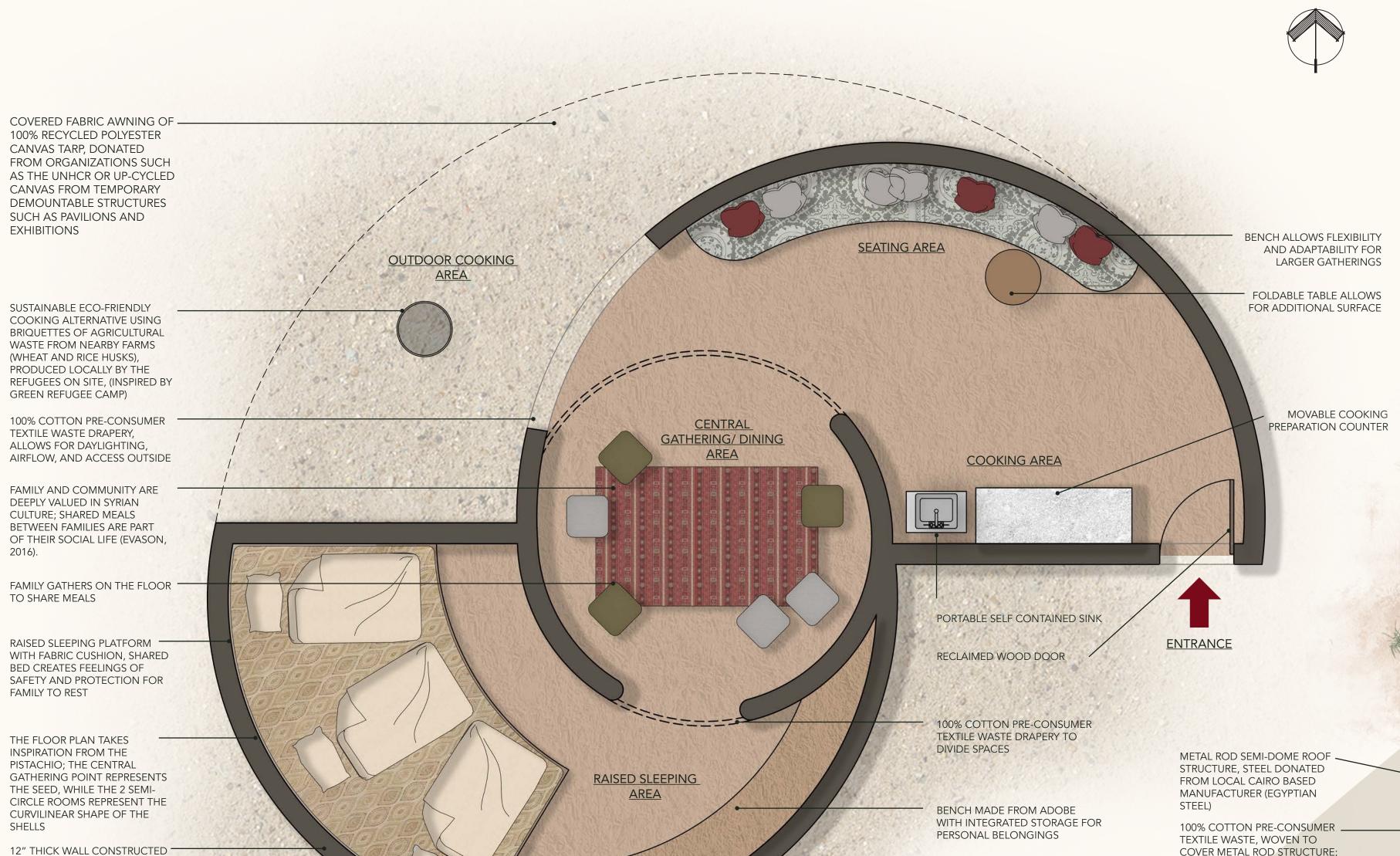
OF RECYCLED PLASTIC WATER

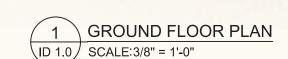
FINISHED WITH MUD BOTH SIDES

BOTTLES FILLED WITH SAND,

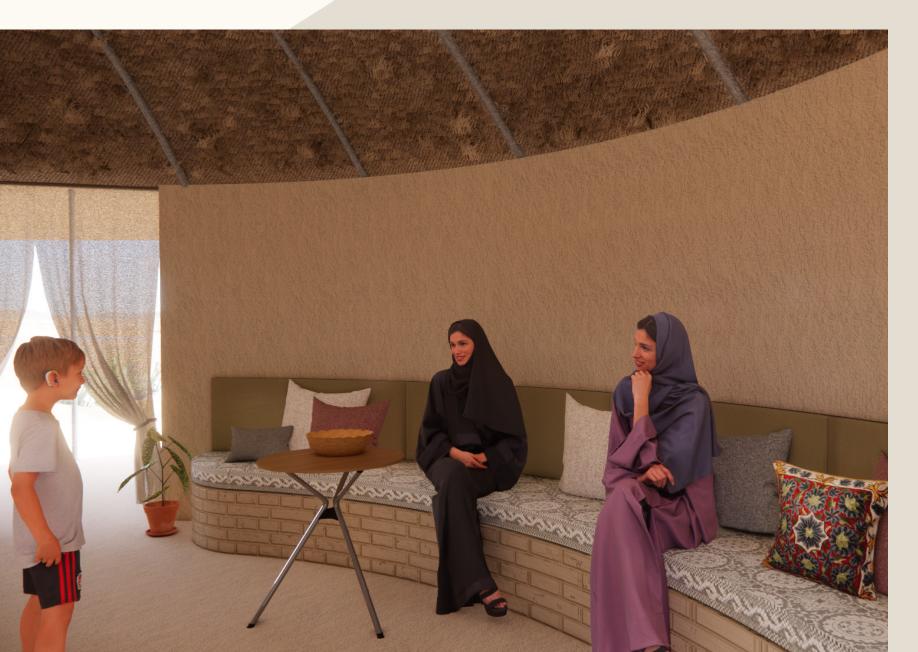
**Gathering Space** 

Total Area: 47.38 m<sup>2</sup> (510 Sq. Ft.)





ENSEMBER SE



THE SPACE INCORPORATES

**EGYPTIAN CULTURE THROUGH ITS** 

SPACE PLANNING BY CREATING

AS A SIGN OF MUTUAL RESPECT

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPACES.

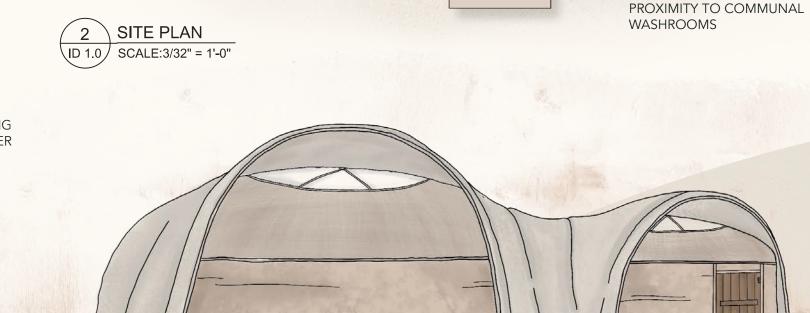
PUBLIC AREAS ARE PROVIDED

FOR GUESTS, WHILE PRIVATE

AREAS ARE RESERVED FOR

HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS.

Seating Area



WASHROOM

WASHROOM

**Exterior View** 

Community Plan View

COMMUNAL GATHERING

PROTECTION AND SENSE C

CLUSTER

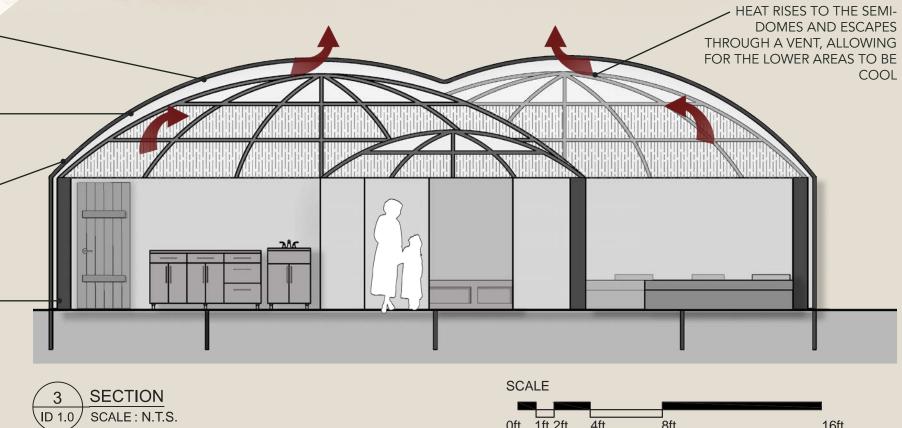
SPACE AND AREA FOR

COOKING, PROVIDES

COMMUNITY

COVER METAL ROD STRUCTURE; PROVIDES ACOUSTICS AND PROTECTION- DARKER COLOUR ABSORBS THE HEAT, LEAVING THE BOTTOM INTERIOR COOL TARP ENCOMPASSING THE STRUCTURE HELD UP BY METAL RODS THAT ARE FIXED WITHIN THE GROUND 12" THICK WALL CONSTRUCTED OF RECYCLED PLASTIC WATER

BOTTLES FILLED WITH SAND, FINISHED WITH MUD BOTH SIDES



#### 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 Lehbib 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.

The structures take inspiration from vernacular and indigenous building methods— they are reflective of Egypt's climate and the materials found in the area.

## 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. (Corbly, 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

**CLUSTER OF UNITS TO FORM** 

**COMMUNITIES WITH CLOSE** 

aims to use this textile waste to create woven materials of drapery, bedding, and roof assembly. Climate Change Knowledge Portal. (n.d.). Egypt - Climatology | Climate Change Knowledge Portal. Climate Change Knowledge Portal. Retrieved December 1, 2022, from https://

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