

wera

About the territory

Unguía: closest municipality to the Embera Dabida reservation. Area of high state abandonment and presence of illegal armed groups, that displace the local communities.

Atrato River: Mayor river of the Chocó state that flows into the Caribbean Ocean. To Embera culture represents the spirit of protection and it's used as a geographical reference.

Quibdó is the capital of Chocó and is one of the main urban centers on the Pacific coast.

Jericó: town in the of Antioquia region near **Medellín**, the second most important city in the country. Close to the main road that connects the Pacific with the interior of the country.



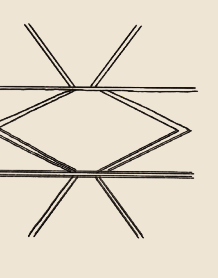
Location rationale

A few blocks west of Jericó's core at the Liceo San José School, Wera shelter can be found; the school has a broad empty area that is used by the municipality for special events. This site provides connectivity to the main urban site but it is also connected with the rural territory that is wooded and fertile. On the other hand, the school allows to offer public service networks and the afferent community allows the development of the refugees.

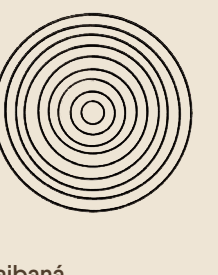
This place has a mild weather (20°C-25°C) and a mountainous topography with clayey soil ideal for construction and availability of 'guadua' sticks.

Site

Behind the main building of the school between the beginning of the forest and the esplanade near the coliseum lies the refuge. That allows you to maintain privacy but connect with the infrastructure of the place.



Puné
God of guidance and protection.



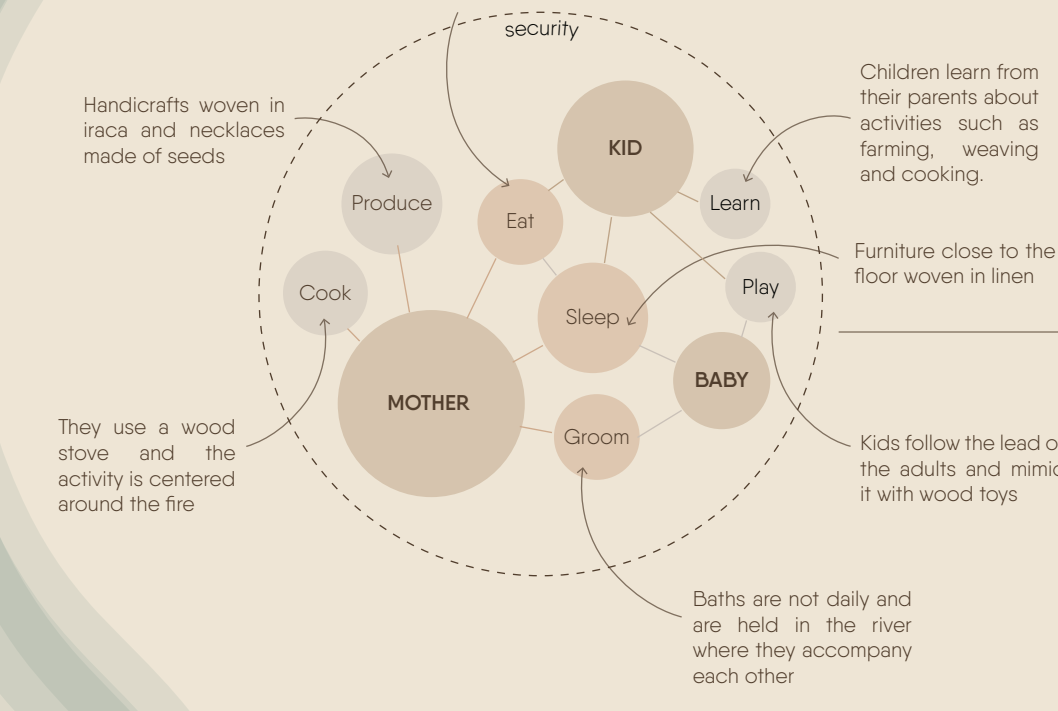
Jelbaná
Wisdom and spiritual knowledge.



Tordúa
Healing leave of life.

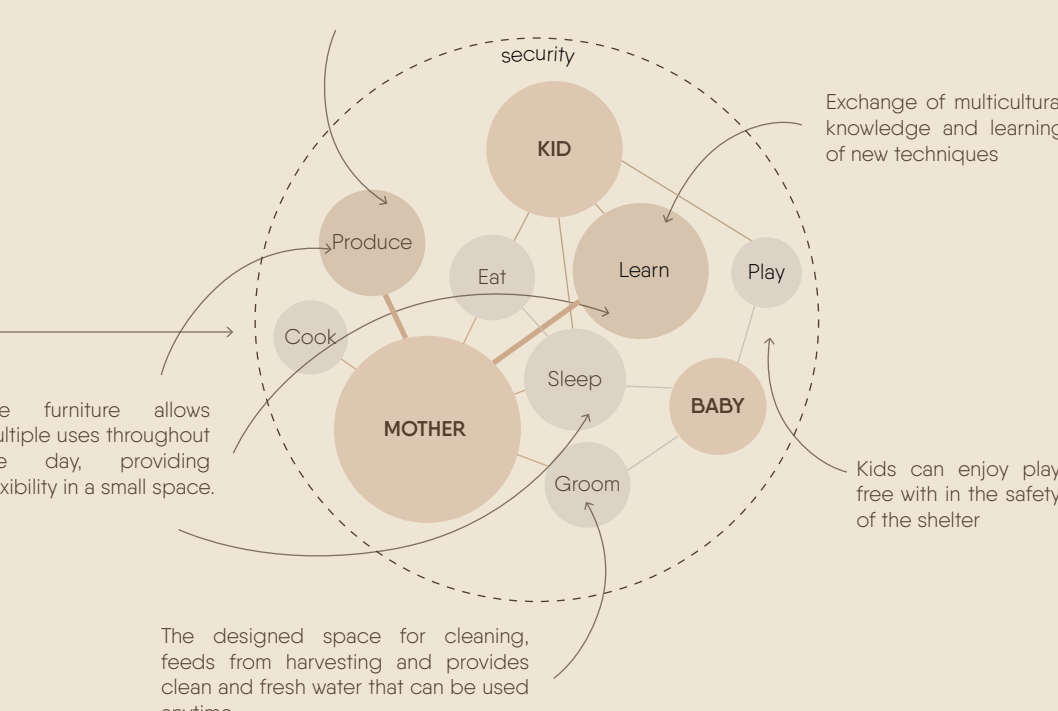
Design process

The shelter is based on the habits of the Embera women to provide basic services and also respond to the particularities of their culture.



The Design After

Understanding the abilities of refugee women, some activities that promote adaptability to the new territory are potentialized.



Today, as we pack our belongings, we are remembering how it all began. After having left our territory in a hurry, with only what we could carry on our backs, we walked through the territory of **Unguía** along the **Atrato river**. After several moons of despair, walking with our sisters and with our daughters, passing through the city of **Quibdó** and being rejected, we finally found this place, **Jericó, Antioquia**. This territory welcomed us and gave us a moment of peace, rest and safety.

At first, they gave us a bed and a roof, just like a small tambo, or how they call it: room. They also gave us food and warmth. Over time they taught us to manufacture compressed earth bricks with which we were able to build our shelter, our sanctuary. Our **tambo** grew over time, we constructed a space to cook, a bathroom and even a small pond from which we could collect clean water. We started knitting mats and baskets, applying our ancestor's knowledge and sharing it as they did with us. Although we were far away from home, being surrounded with our techniques and our culture, evoked in us the essence of our place of origin, of our home.

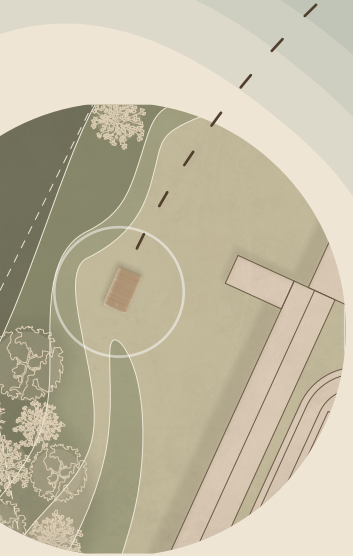
We have been here for a lot of moons. Here we are happy and safe. We weren't displaced by the armed groups, there was no danger. In here, we have had the opportunity to develop socially an economically, to get back on our feet.

Today, is time to return to our territory. We aren't leaving in a hurry. We aren't leaving with only what we can carry. We leave with new skills to transmit the knowledge about our culture to more people, and to be able to teach what we learned to ours. We have learned the art of manufacture of bricks, of construction of earth houses. We have possibilities ahead from us.

*Embera word reference to "house"
*Embera: Native indigenous community of the Colombian Pacific territory
*Embera word reference to walking during days and nights

Concept

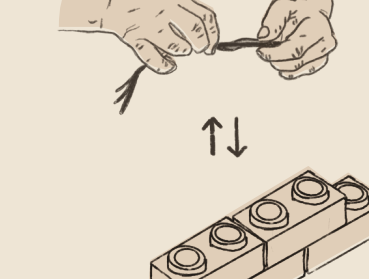
Wera provides a space of complete well-being from the physical, mental, and social integrity based on the protection that the mother provides to her baby through the womb, this translates into a space where the comfort of the design stands out from the understanding of the personal, as well as the protection against the vulnerability. The value of the proposal directly involves people in the process of building the space and the design elements inside, using local materials, as well as the exchange of knowledge between communities, in this way, the condition of migrant is transformed through learning new skills in the activities carried out to build the refuge, developing a new character and identity to face this condition.



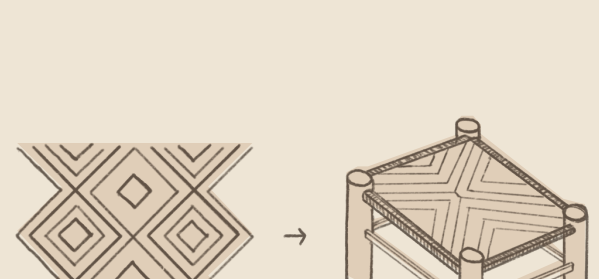
SAFEGUARD
Protection based on the safety of the mother's womb.



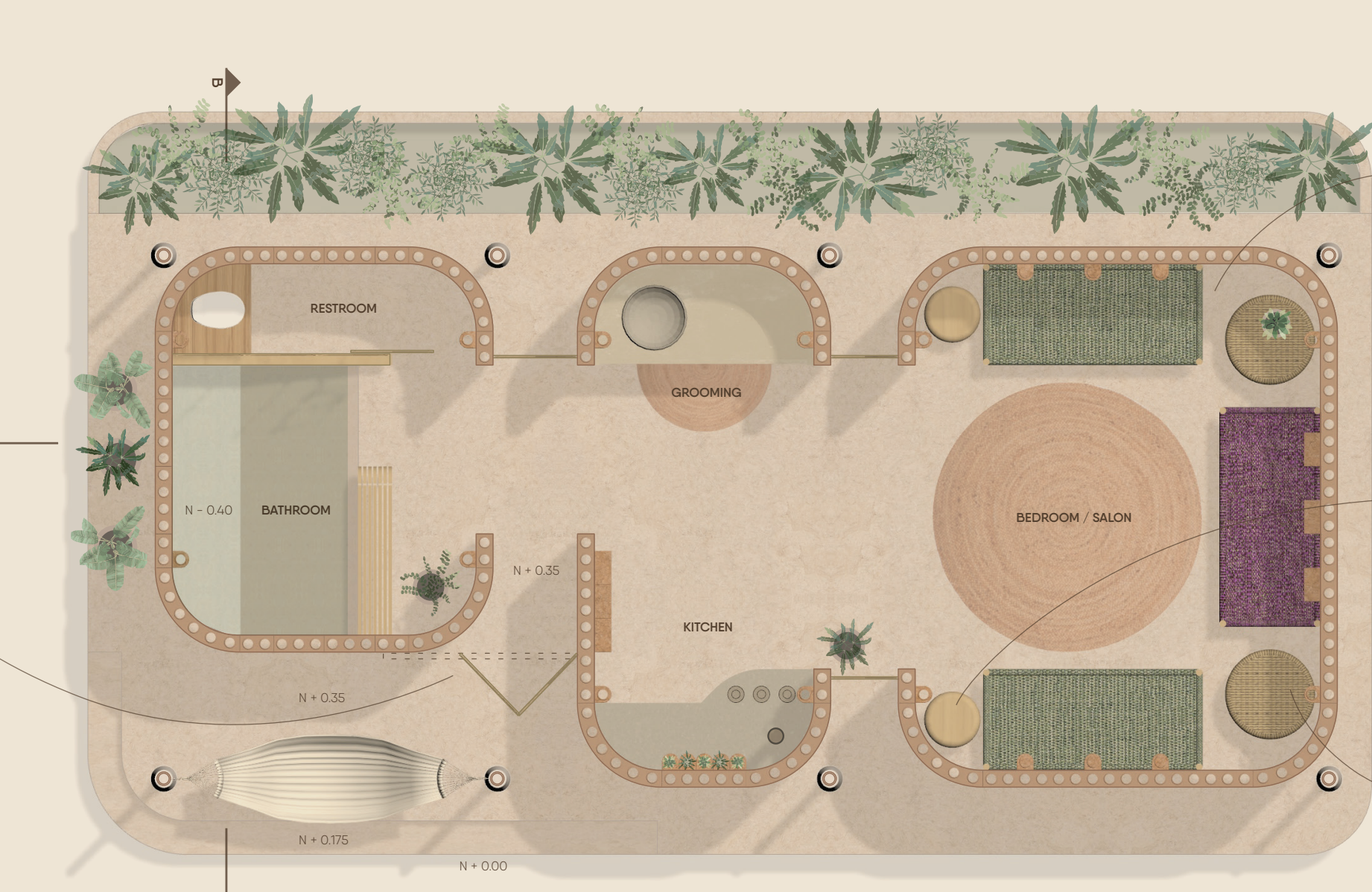
PROGRESSIVE
Modular spaces that allow the shelter to be built in stages.



MUTUAL
Exchange of knowledge based on construction techniques (masonry and wicker weaving).



CUSTOM MADE
Furniture designed according to cultural representations.



Floor plan
SCL 150

0 0.5 1.0 2.0m



B'B Section
SCL 150

0 0.5 1.0 2.0m

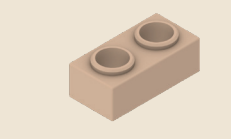


A'A Section
SCL 150

0 0.5 1.0 2.0m

CUSTOM COMPRESSED EARTH BLOCKS

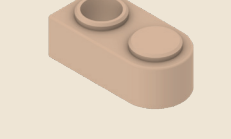
Each CED constructive piece is design in order to provide constructive versatility as well as make the piece a useful interior design element.



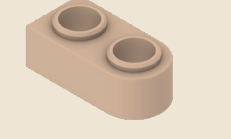
STRUCTURAL
Walls, Lattices and fixed furniture.



ROUND CORNER
Walls, Lattices and fixed furniture.



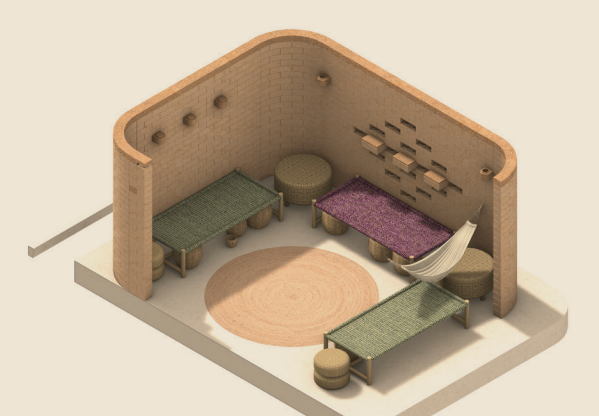
NON-PERFORATED FILLET BLOCK
Hangers and shelves.



PERFORATED FILLET BLOCK
Lighting and indoor vegetation.



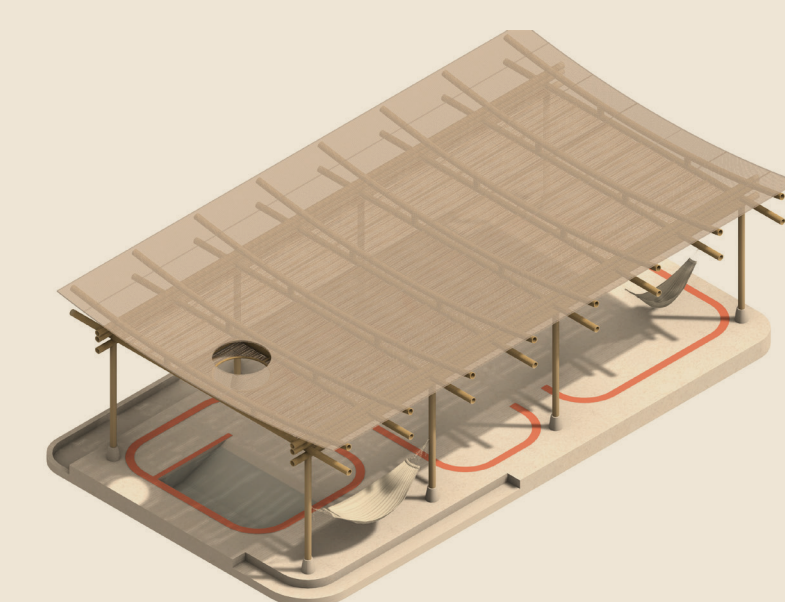
PERFORATED HALF ROUND BLOCK
Walls and fixed furniture.



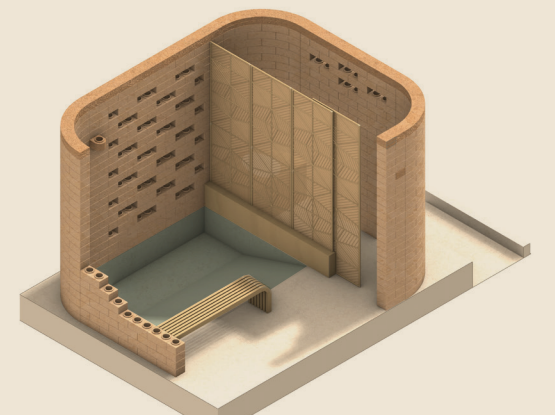
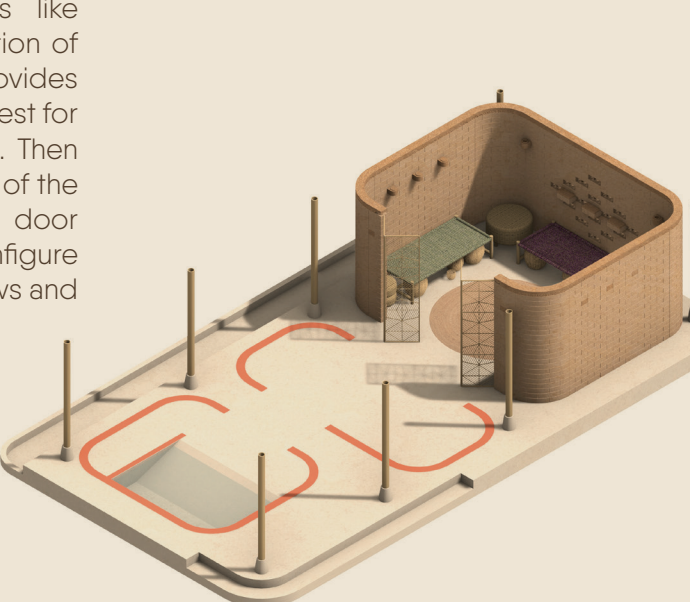
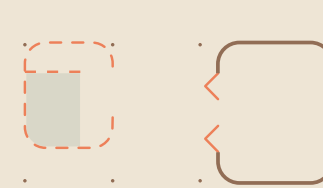
MAIN ROOM
Living, Working and Bedroom

PROGRESSIVE AND COLECTIVE CONSTRUCTION

1 Upon arriving at the place, the school provides the women with a covered structure made of bamboo perched on a concrete base ideal for the construction of the shelter and demarcated with the spaces that will be built later. Further, in the space they will be found a small well for collecting rainwater. In this stage, all of the infrastructure is provided by the community of the school and the training activities begin to be able to develop the construction of the shelter in an autonomous way.

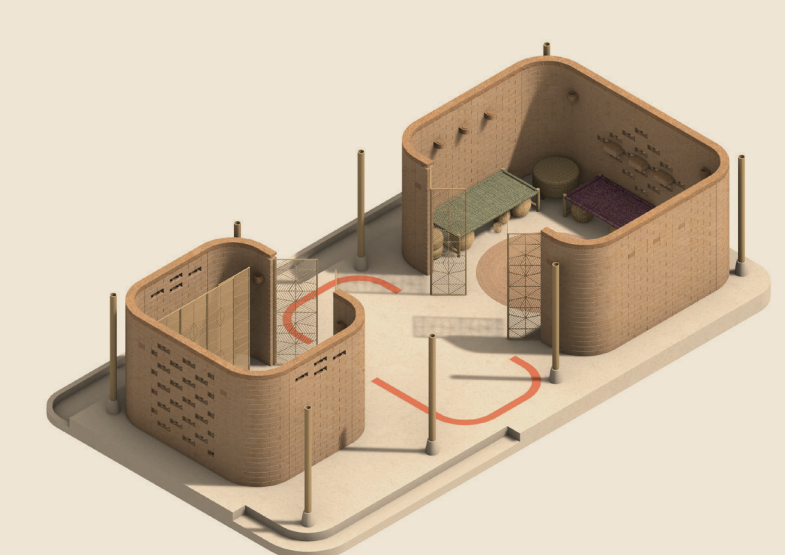
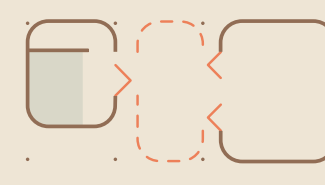


2 The built spaces are made according to the urgency. The first space to be built is the one destined for rest and daily activities like nursery, learning, and production of artisan pieces. The room provides the first closed area for a safe rest for the women and their children. Then in later stages, some elements of the main room, such as the door screens, will be reused to configure other elements such as windows and dividers in other spaces.

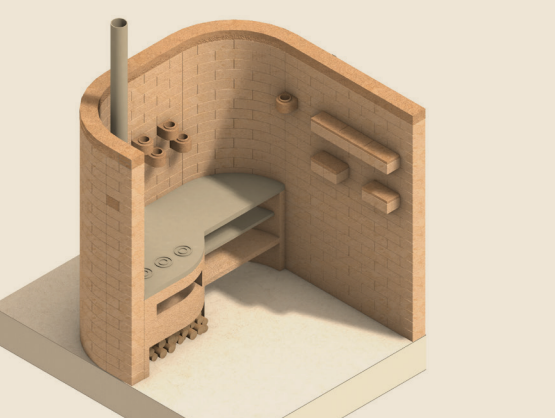
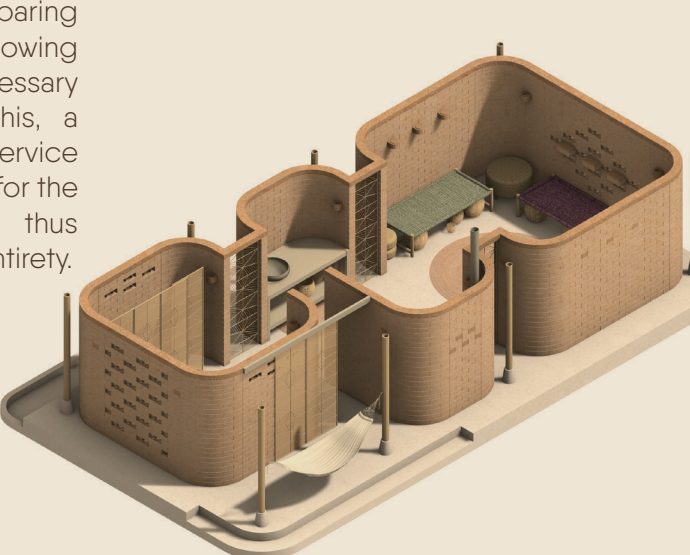
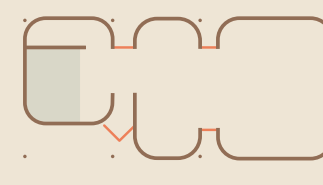


LAVATORY
Grooming and restroom

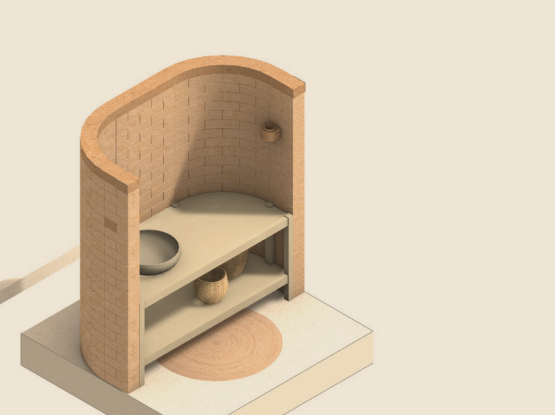
3 Then, the priority urgency is sanitary, for this reason the next built area is the bathroom, which has a lavatory whose purpose is to be able to have a self-sufficient system that does not depend on an aqueduct infrastructure, for this, it is fed by a rainwater collection system and also has a dry toilet for basic needs which allows composting the waste generated.



4 Lastly, the center piece of the shelter is made, which is between the main room and the lavatory, and provides spaces and elements for preparing food around the fire, allowing cooking and storing the necessary provisions. In addition to this, a complementary space to the service areas is also developed, ideal for the maintenance of the refuge, thus configuring the refuge in its entirety.



KITCHEN
Cooking and shelving



WASHER
Cleaning and washing

