

FALLOUT

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CONCEPT

FALLOUT is based on a family that "falls out" with their home country of Russia as a future nuclear war ensues. Not only are they leaving behind their home, they are also leaving behind a constant fear for their lives. Their journey to Mongolia represents a search for **safety** and a more **sustainable** future for their family. Taking part in the tradition of the **ger** (yurt) accomplishes this; these cozy abodes incorporate objects from home invoking familiarity and function while providing safety and respecting **traditions**. They build the yurt with local materials such as canvas, wood, wool, and cardboard.

JOURNEY MAP



NARRATIVE

In late 2023, Aleksi, Viktoria, and 5-year-old Anya Ivanov had a month to plan their escape from nuclear war-torn Russia. As bombs hit Moscow and later Krasnoyarsk, they decided that it was crucial to escape nuclear fallout and their Irkutsk home while they still could (Wolfson & Dalnoki-Veress, 2022).

After giving away or selling nearly everything, the family packed what remained into their truck. They were escaping south to Mongolia (Kohn, 2022), for a completely new life of safety. Anya convinced her parents to pack her favorite toy, and Viktoria held on to heirloom birch bark boxes with jewelry hidden inside (Bridge, 2022). Aleksi and Viktoria stowed plastic tarps and tools, and they brought what non-perishable food they could. All-too accustomed to bomb threats, the family stowed away a lead blanket in case of radiation exposure (EPA, 2022).

While they looped around Lake Baikal, the family noticed that "CLOSED" signs plastered the towns they passed through. It was a miracle that they still found enough gasoline. As they approached the Mongolian border, the roads became more crowded with fellow Russian refugees. Aleksi & Viktoria looked at their map and realized they still had a long way to their destination.

After the longest drive of their lives, the Ivanovs arrived in the town of Bayankhongor and were relieved to see the yurt village on the horizon. The family pulled up to a less uniform yurt village, marked by a sign, reading "Refugees Welcome" in Russian.

They talked to some of the other refugees, and the family found out there was still a limited supply of materials. While Viktoria explained to Anya what was happening, Aleksi picked out Tamarack wood and wool insulation. He pulled the tarps out of the car and got to work on their yurt.

One more sleepless night in the truck passed, and the next morning was devoted to building the family's yurt. There was a small group of locals helping their new neighbors, making do with limited traditional supplies and scraps of plastic, cardboard, and plywood. Anya missed her friends, but she didn't miss the sirens.



FLOOR PLAN

Legend:

1. Car-seat couch
2. TV trays
3. Woven seat
4. Fire pit
5. Homemade crate storage
6. Table
7. Bunk bed
 - A. Twin size
 - B. Full size
8. Storage chests
9. Dining table
10. Dining chairs
11. Water barrel
12. Compostable toilet (Uddin et al., 2015)
13. Washbasin
14. Russian woven rugs
15. Metal grate

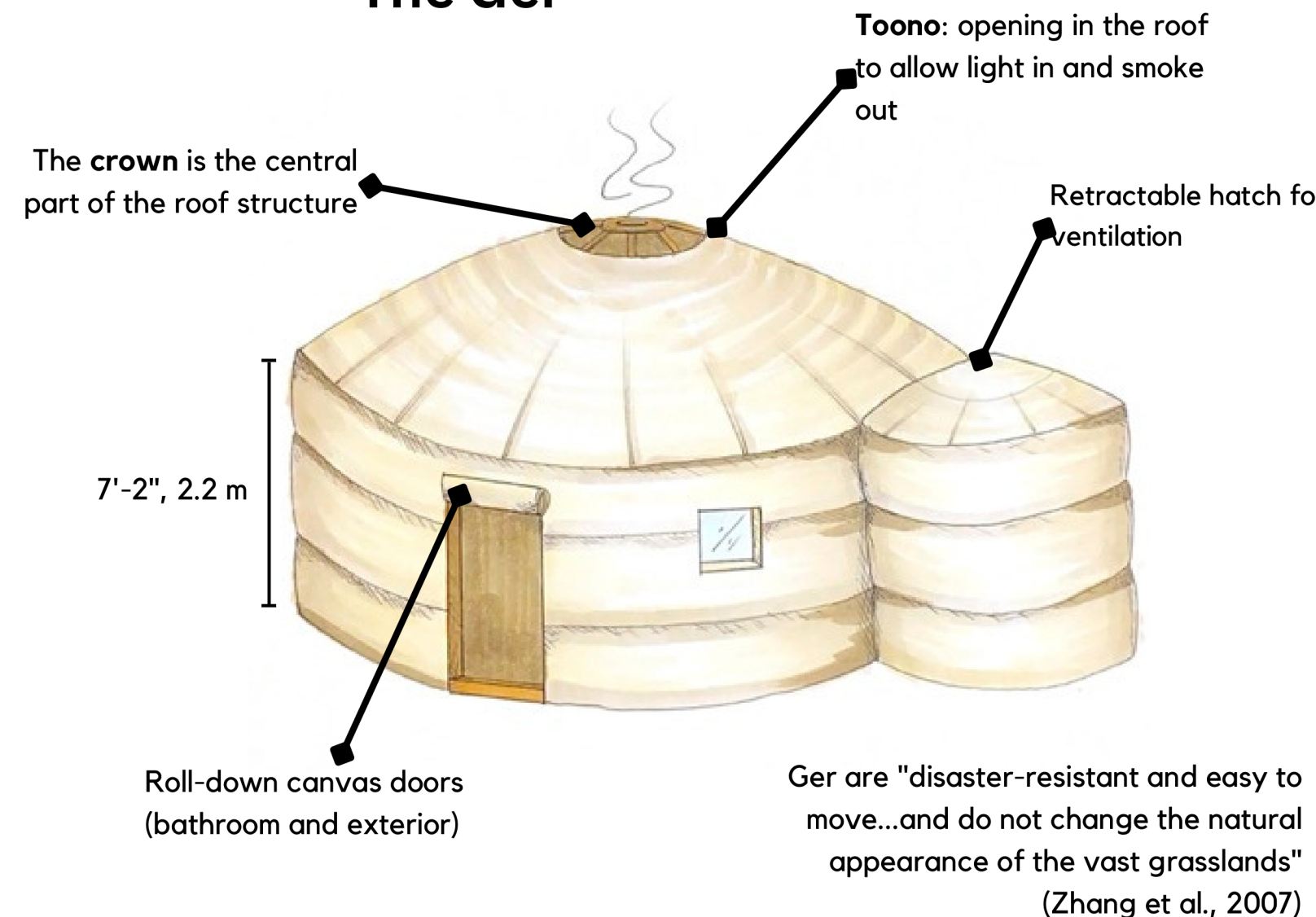


MATERIALS



- Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs provides a beneficial, human-centered framework for refugee responses (Lonn & Dantzier, 2017)
- The Ger provides shelter and promotes safety & security needs by closing the family off from the elements
- As the family works toward the higher levels, they can form a sense of belonging as part of the refugee camp community (McClure & Bartuska, 2007)

The Ger

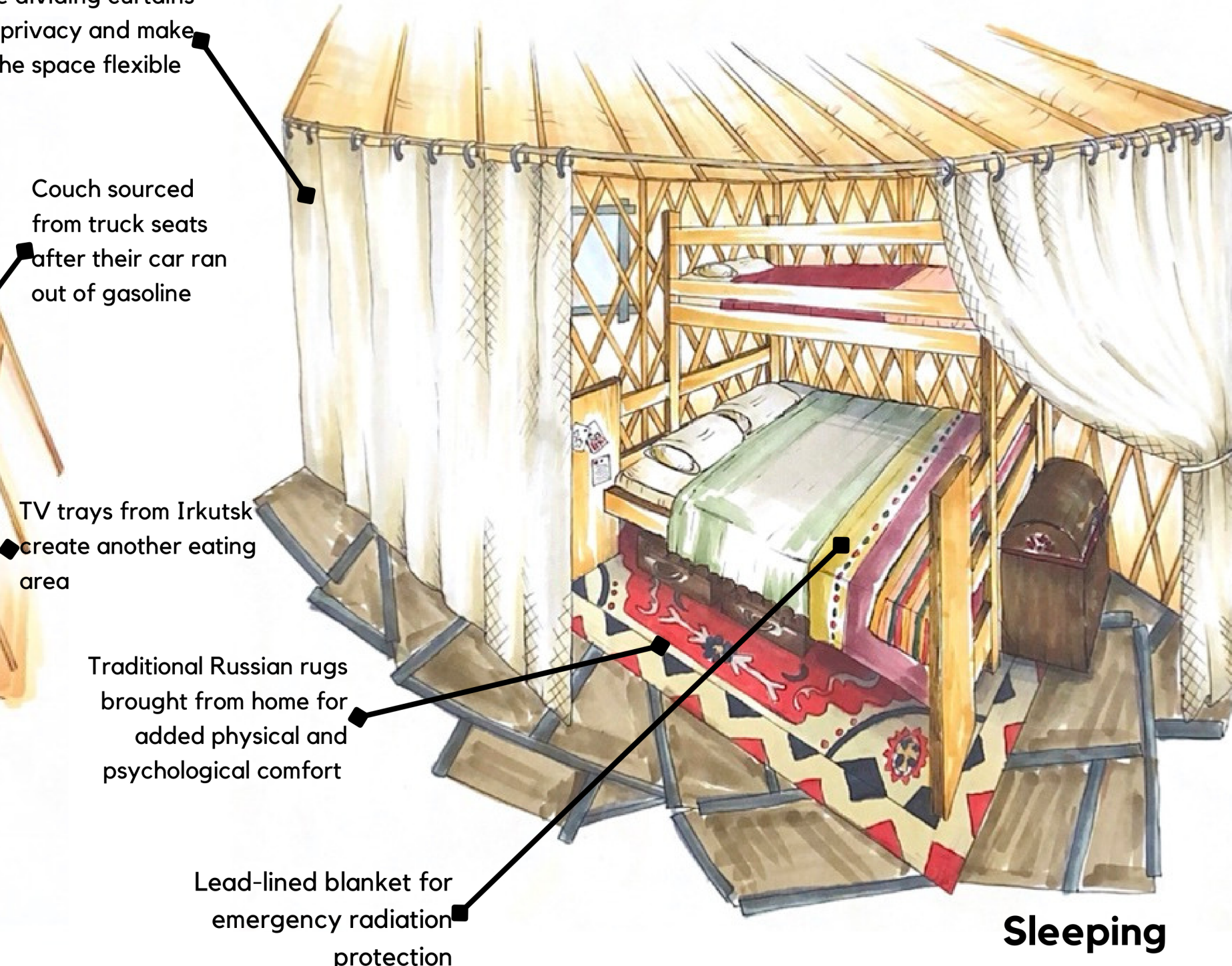
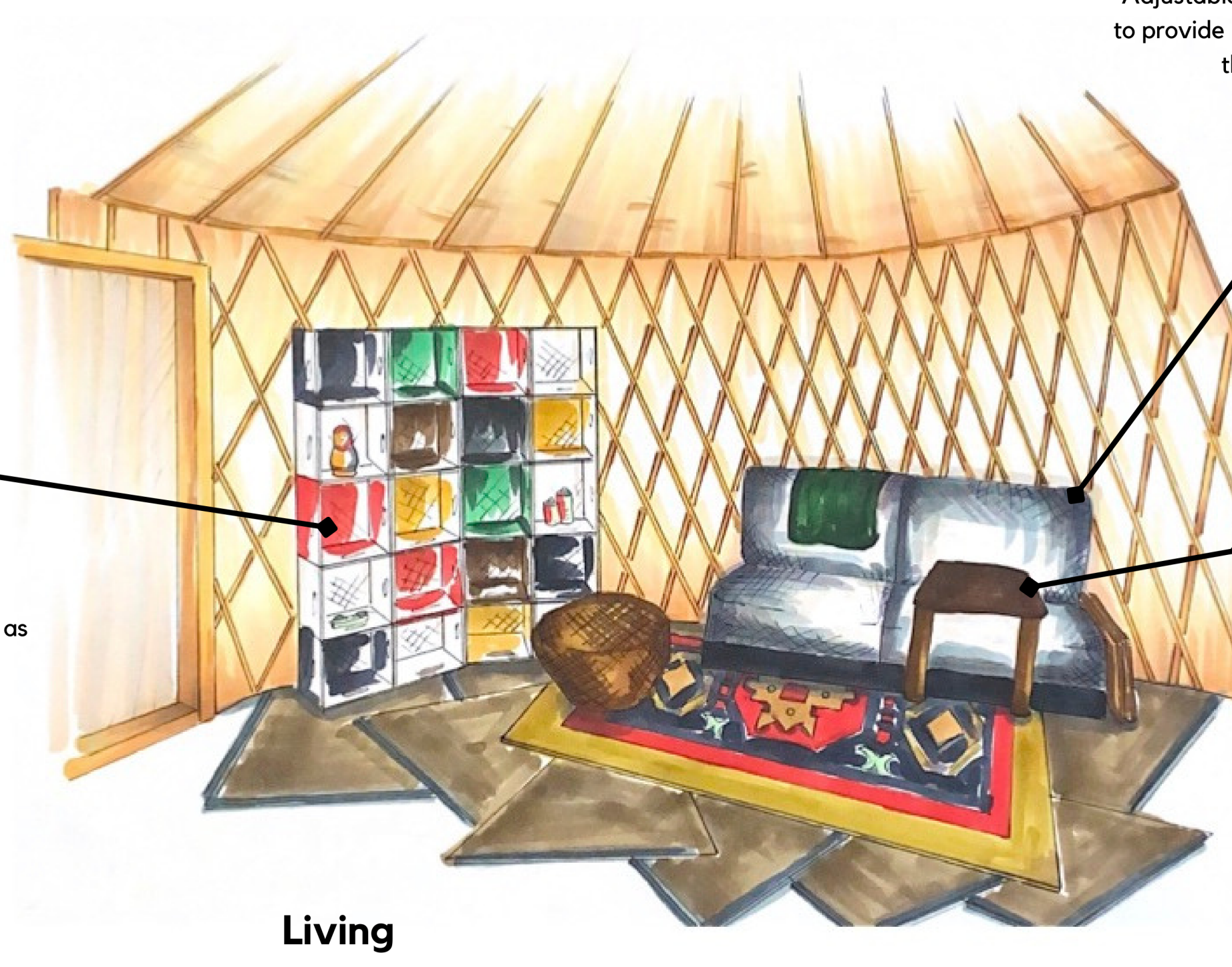
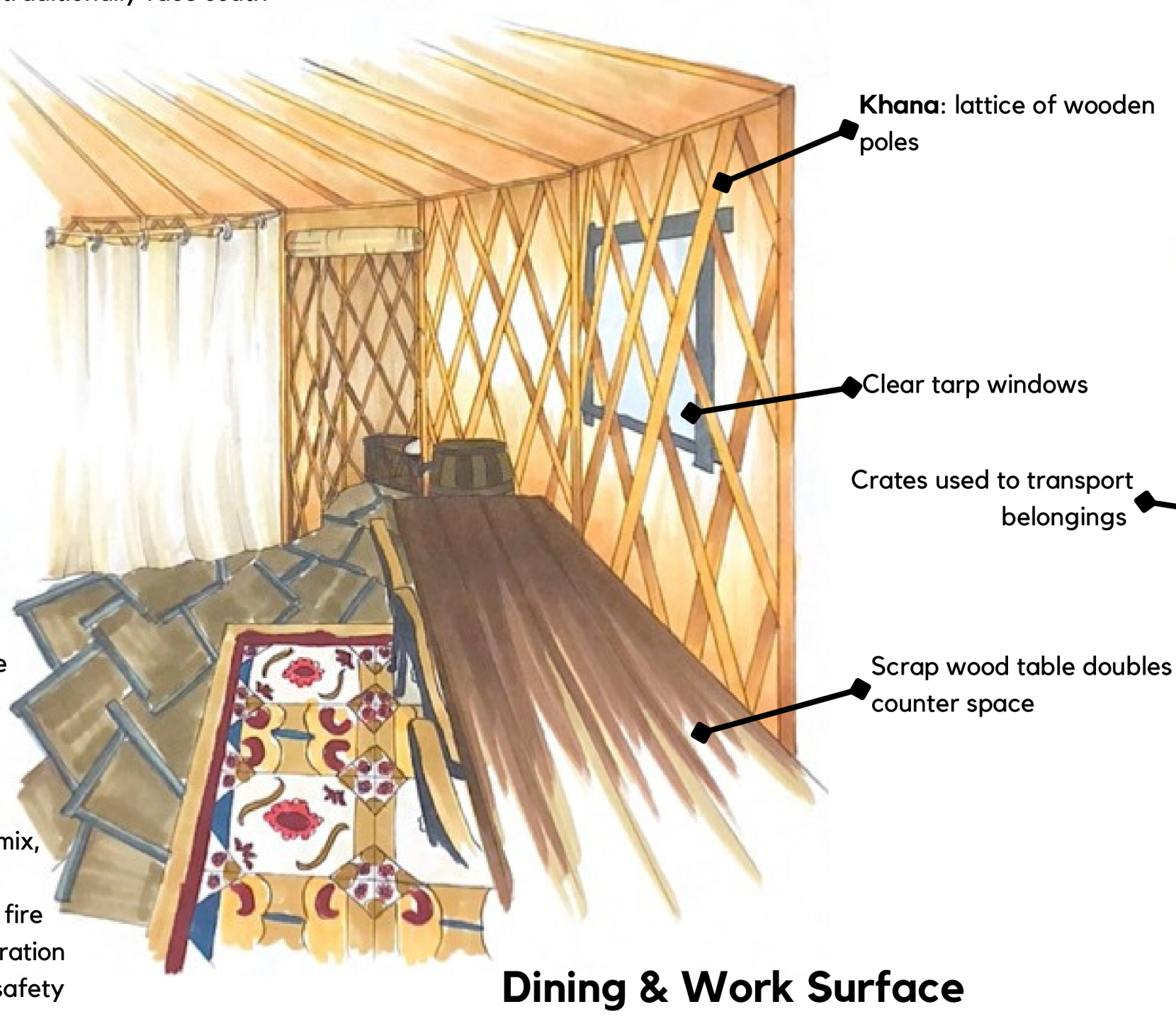
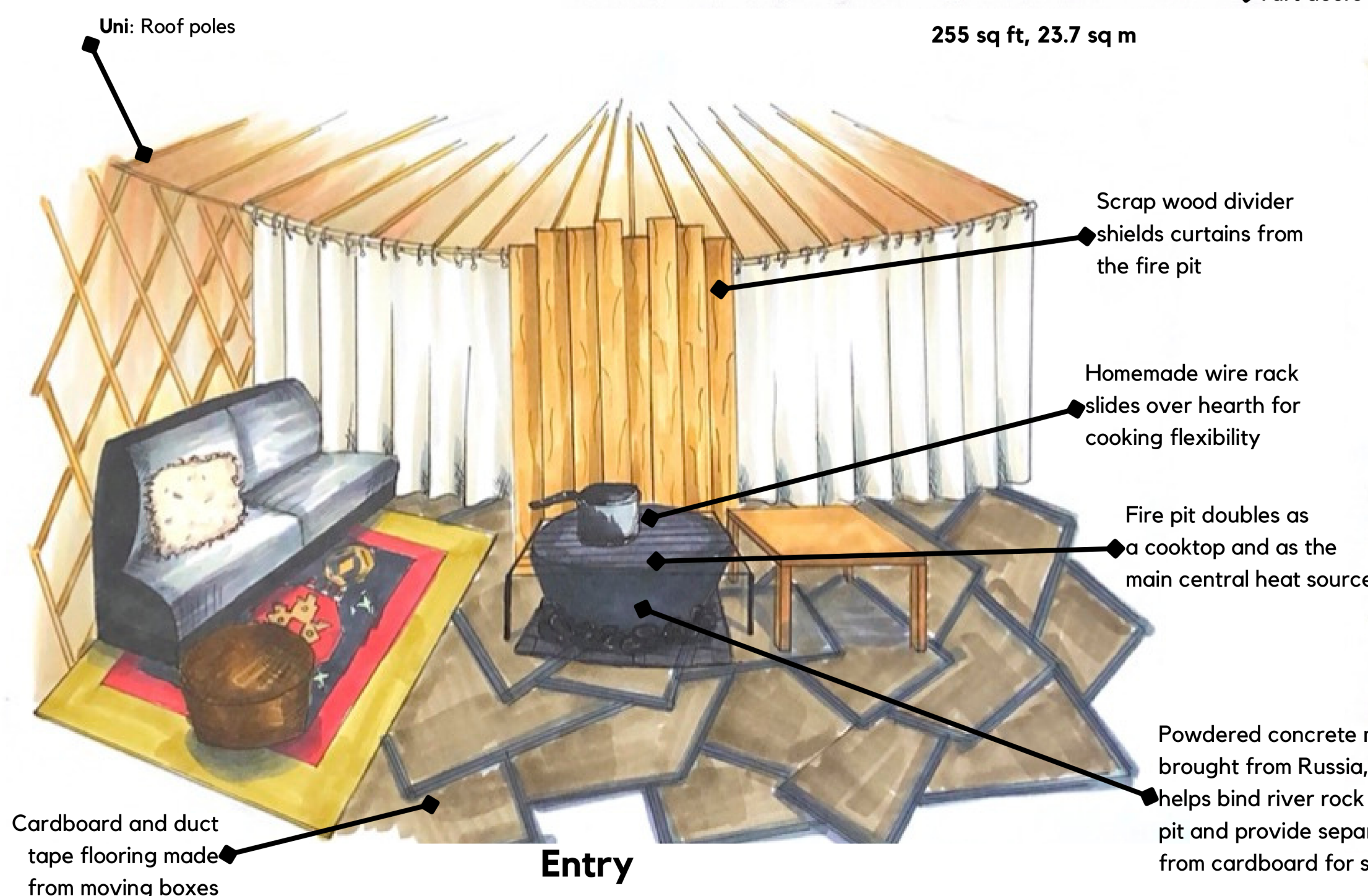
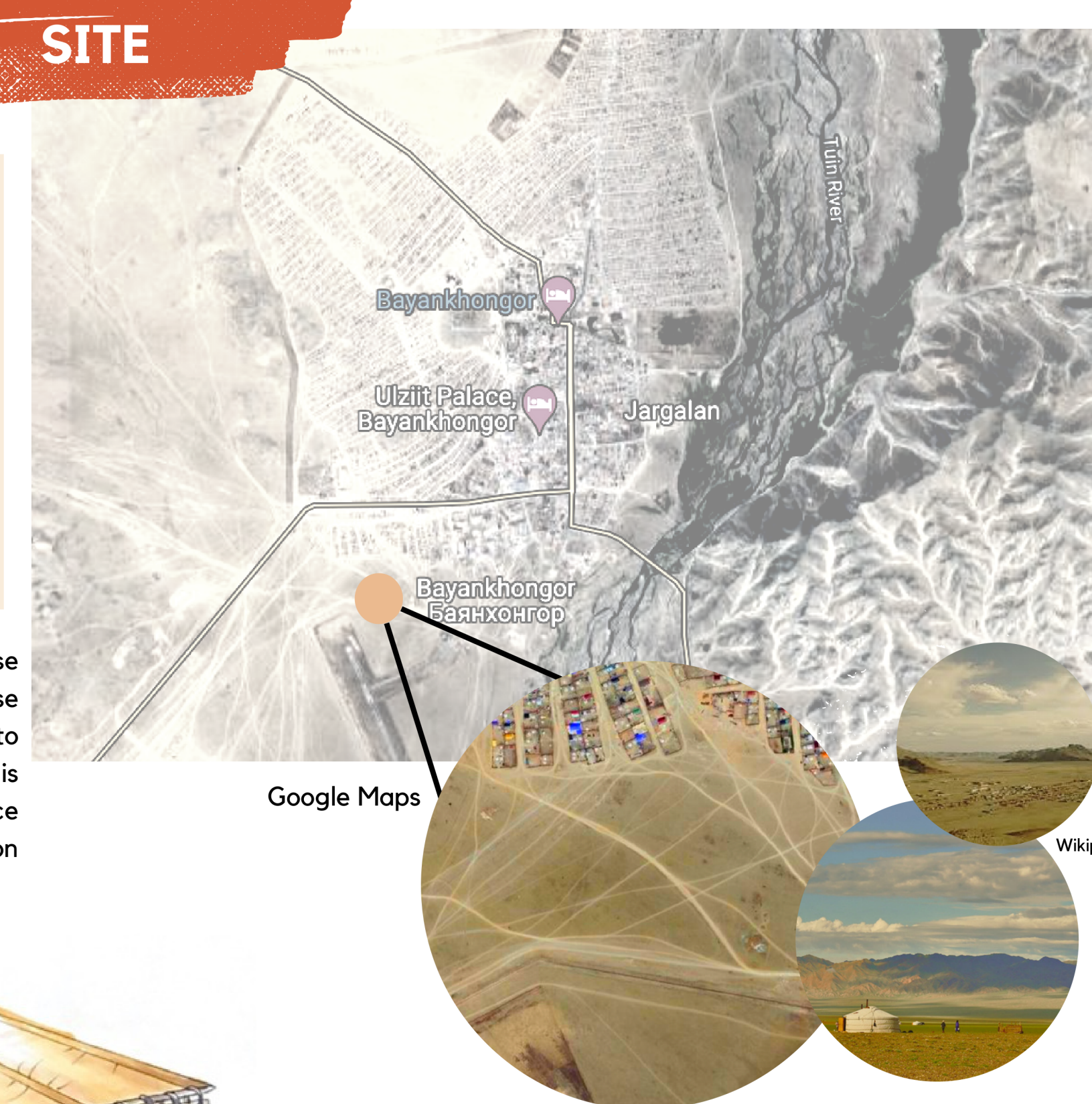


SITE

Bayankhongor, Mongolia:

- Population: 28,219
- Elevation: 6,099 ft, 1,859 m
- Area: 24.71 mi², 64 km²
- Climate: cold semi-arid, long cold winters, short warm summers (Mongolia Guide, 2022)
- Common resources: wool and Tamarack wood (The Groovy Yurts Team)

Alexsi and Viktoria chose Bayankhongor because it is far enough from Russia to avoid nuclear fallout, and it is near a natural river water source available for filtration



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