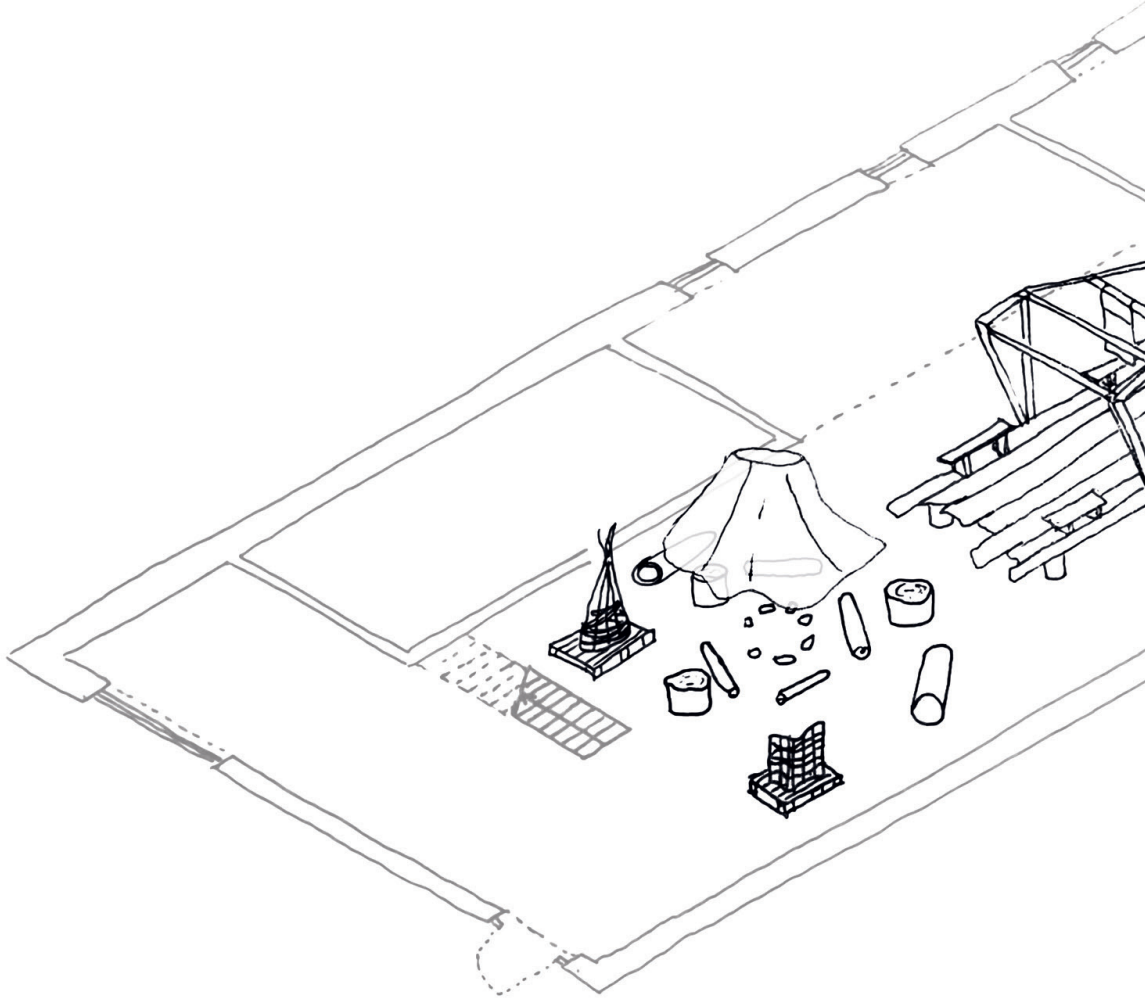
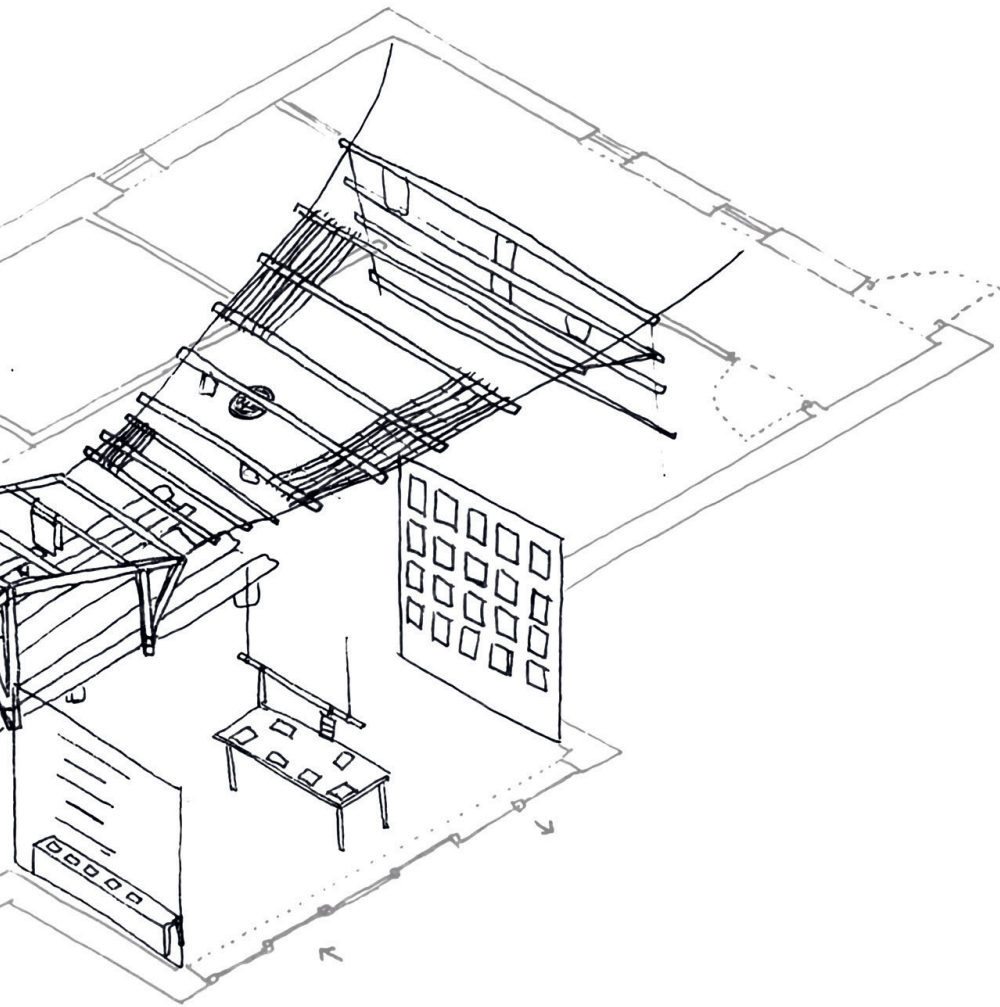


Moving Borders
Threads of Innovation III





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Monday, October 10th

After 24 hours of traveling, we arrive in Delhi, India. We are tired, quiet and overwhelmed. We are eight architecture students enrolled in the Master course Experimental Practice at NTNU Trondheim. The chances of us all ending up in the same course were slim. After two years of a global pandemic, applications to various Master programs and exchange Universities, cancelled internships and other desired courses we are here. Standing outside Delhi airport, trying to hold onto our suitcases, backpacks, passports and most importantly each other. It is hot and humid. For most of us it is our first time in Asia, for some it is the first time outside Europe. Shoved into a taxi, sitting on each other's laps, our well protected belongings strapped onto the top of the car we head into the vibrant, loud, colorful and chaotic city that is Delhi.

Throughout the next ten days we explore the city of Delhi, travel to Ahmedabad, get to know our hosts and fellow students at CEPT University, take a night train to the crafts region Kutch, participate in a Block-Printing workshop and get to curate our own exhibition with the textiles we create. Every day we experience something surprising and new. We learn new techniques, meet new people and enjoy the new academic and architectural perspective we gain. We try new food, lose our fear of crossing the streets and after hesitating for the first few days enjoy every TucTuc ride to the fullest. We get used to the spices, the colors and the life that fills the streets around us. Even though our itinerary was well thought through, and our days planned ahead of time the most beautiful moments occurred spontaneously: singing together with the Indian students on the bus, learning the traditional Gerba dance and spotting monkey while walking around.

Thursday, October 20th

We are heading to the airport. It is time to fly back to Norway. Even with a long traveling day ahead of us we are happy. The quiet and overwhelmed girls that arrived in India ten days ago have grown. We ordered our taxis ourselves, negotiated the price and confidently spent our last Indian rupees. Our mosquito sprays our empty and most of our traveling medicine we carefully picked out beforehand is still untouched. Waiting by the gate we share cookies and laughter while reminiscing about our trip.

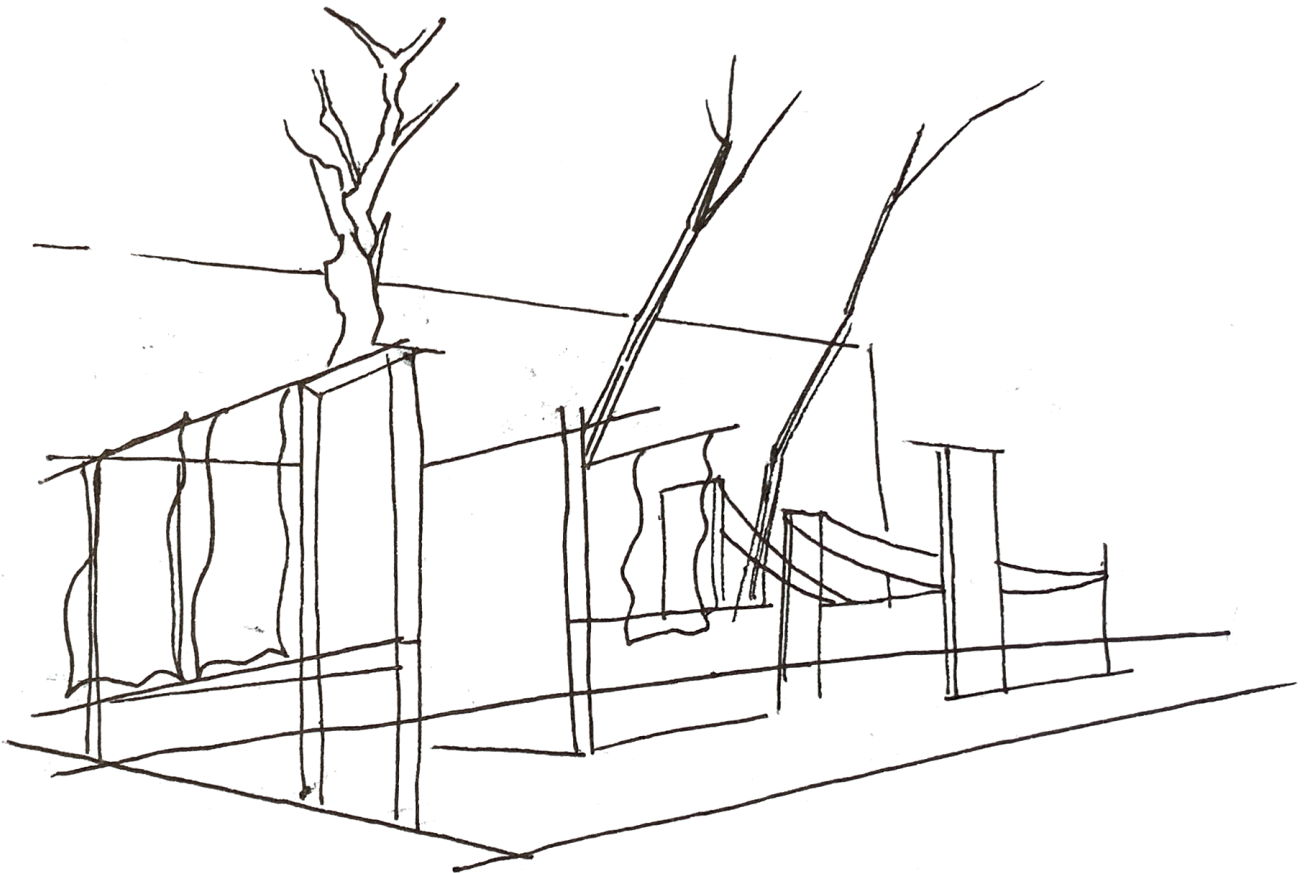
Idea

How to combine art and architecture?

The idea for the exhibition was to showcase the printed textile from Bhuj, and to give the audience some insight in to the process of Ajrakh printing.

How could we use the textile and the metal frames to create interesting rooms?

We decided to build a structure that incorporated the trees on site and also showed the different patterns from various perspectives. Therefore some fabrics were hanging loose on metal rods while others were attached to the metal frame. In this way we could show all the qualities of the fabric.



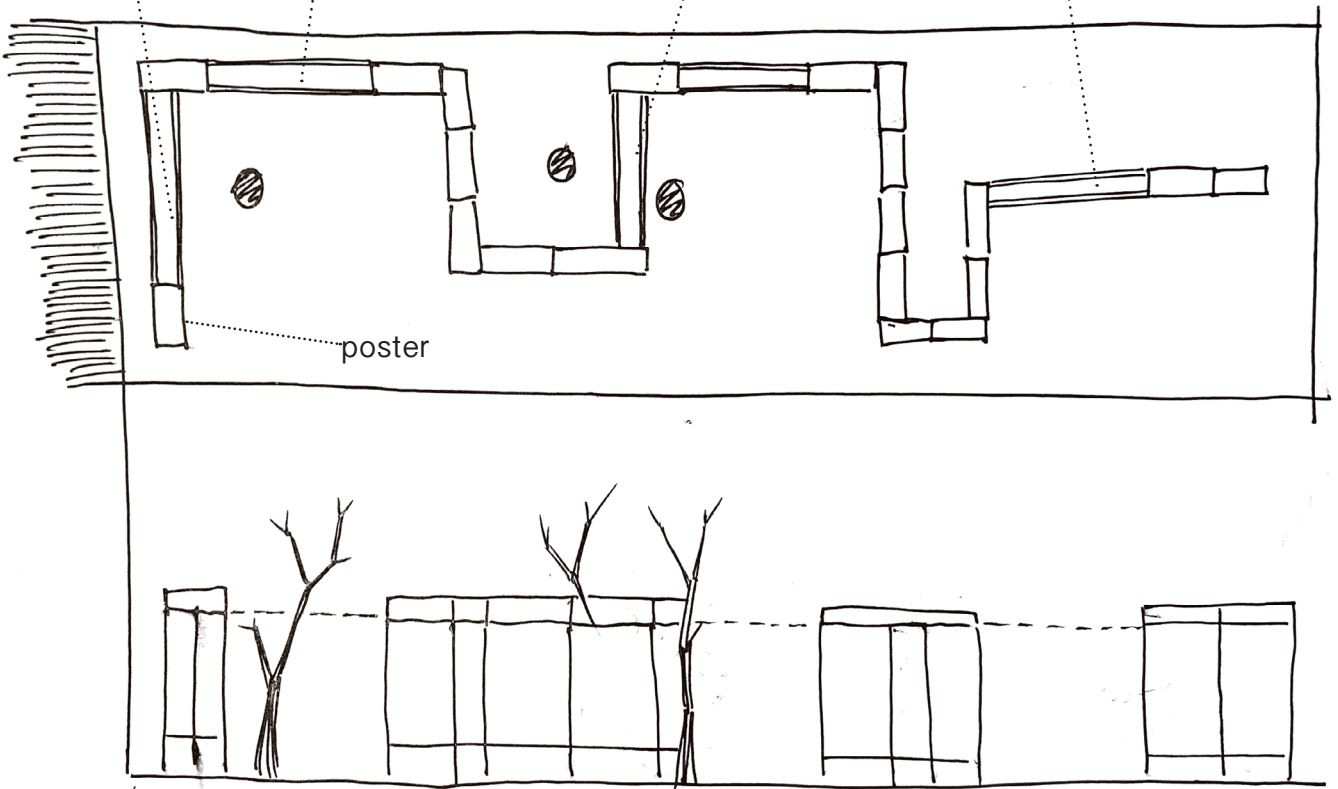
long pieces
of printed
textile

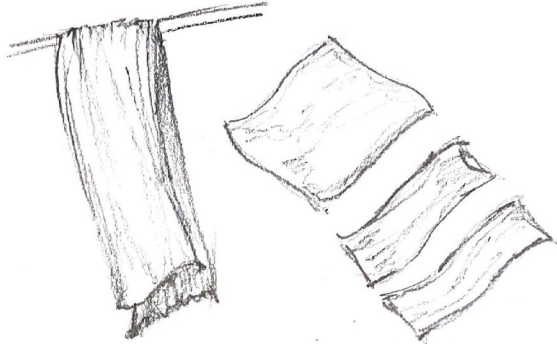
double metal rods

curtains for video

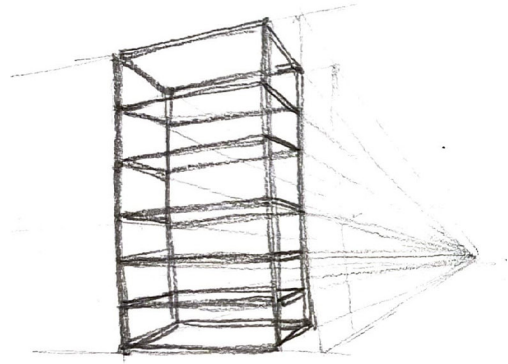
blue textile

poster





pieces of fabrics



metal frames

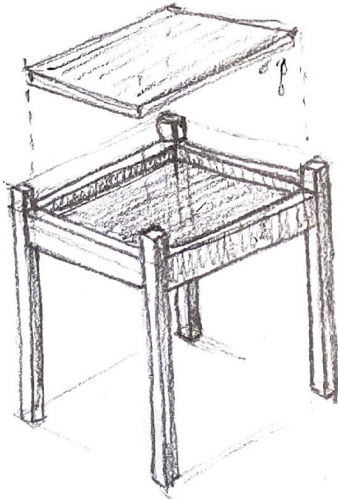


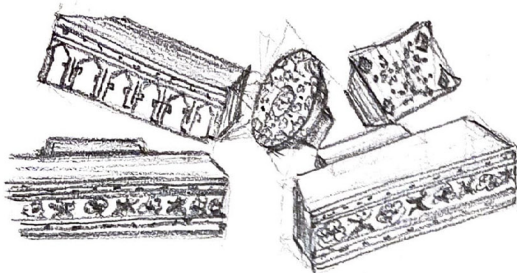
table with dye for dipping the wooden blocks



clips to attach the fabric to the frame



natural ingredients to dye the fabrics



carved wooden blocks



final product



Saaj

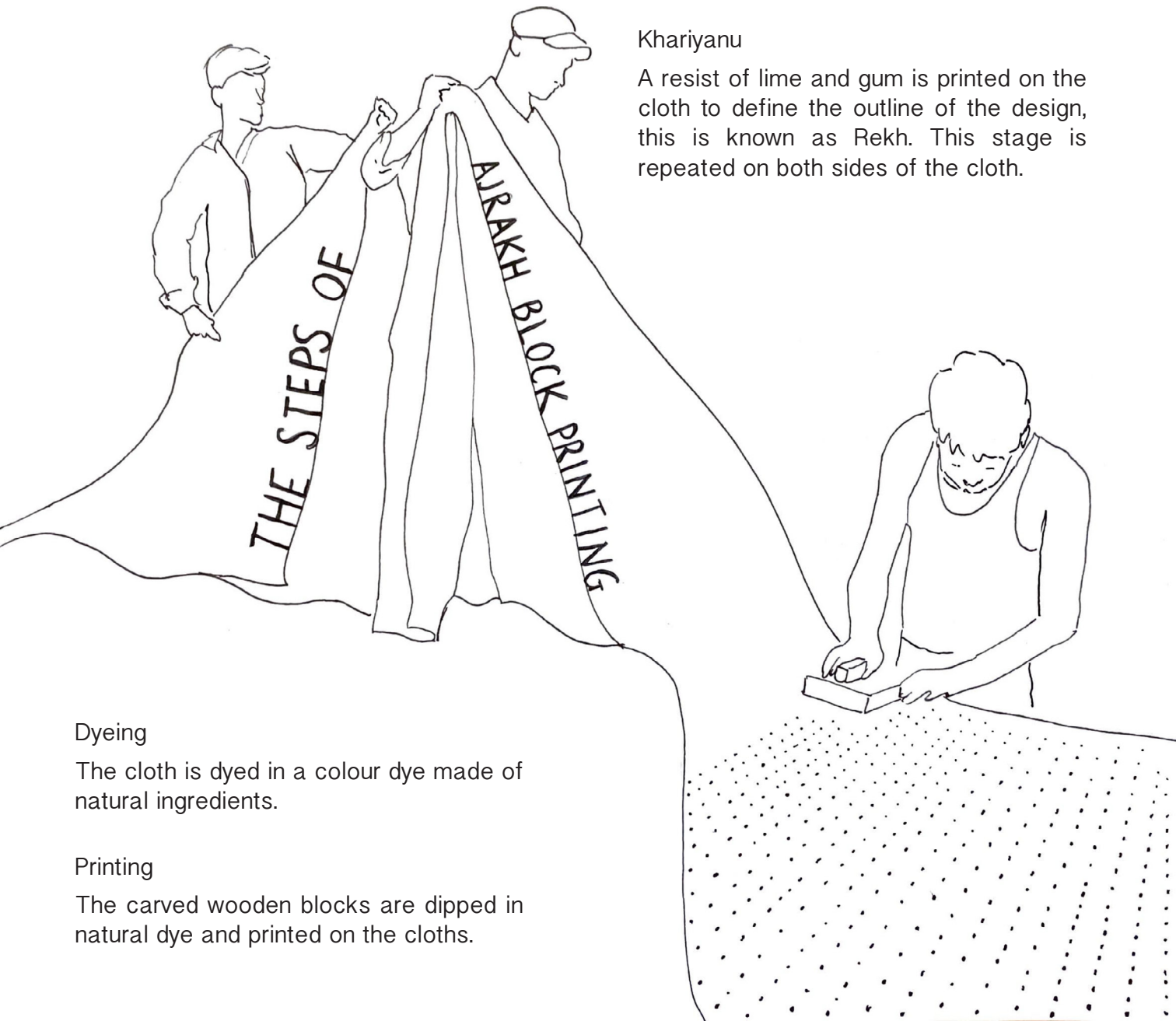
Washing the cloths in water to remove any finish applied in the mill or workshop.

Kasanu

The cloth is dyed in a cold solution of Myrobalan, this turns the cloth into a yellow colour when it is sundried.

Khariyanu

A resist of lime and gum is printed on the cloth to define the outline of the design, this is known as Rekh. This stage is repeated on both sides of the cloth.

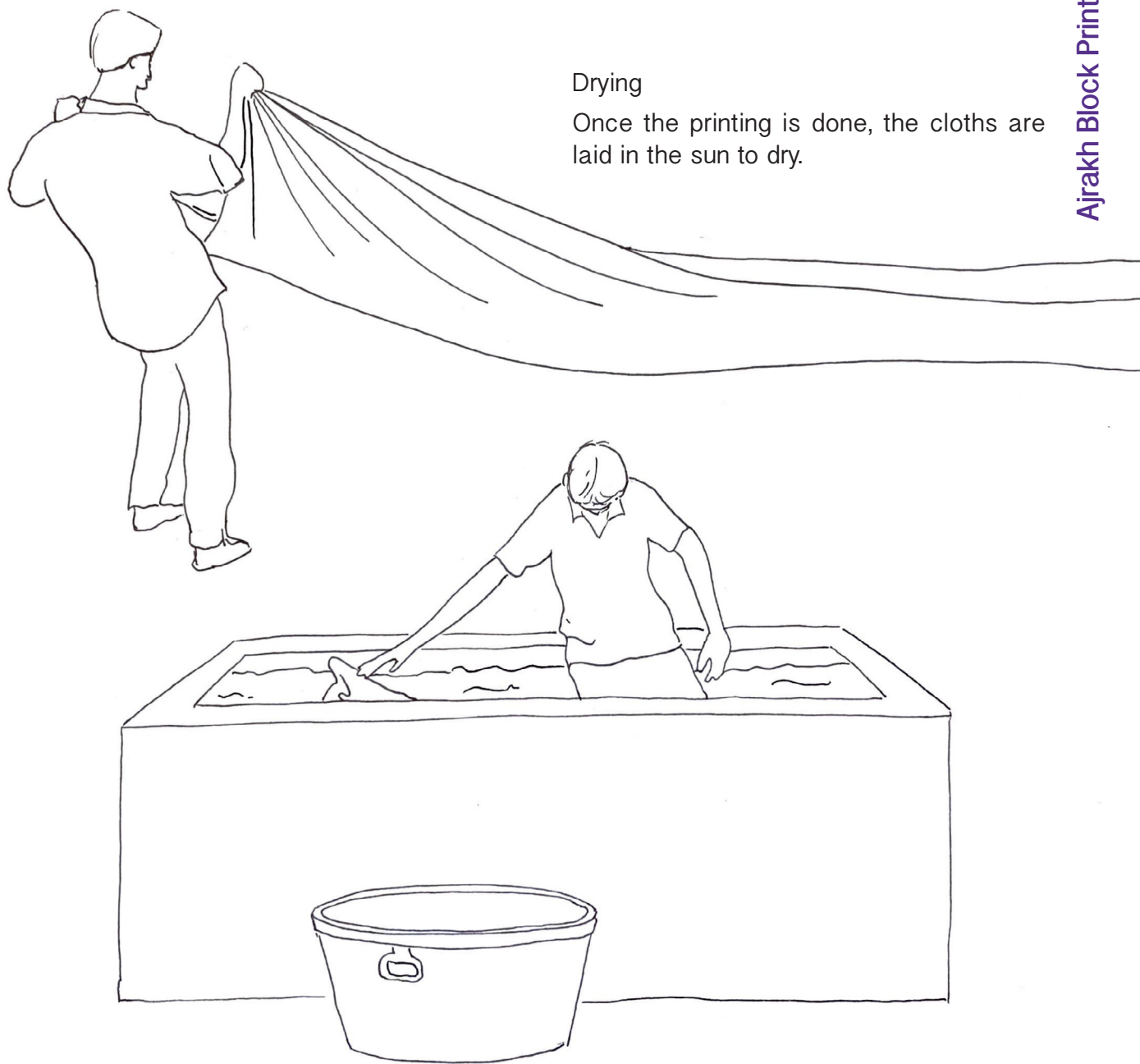


Dyeing

The cloth is dyed in a colour dye made of natural ingredients.

Printing

The carved wooden blocks are dipped in natural dye and printed on the cloths.



Drying

Once the printing is done, the cloths are laid in the sun to dry.

Vichharnu

The cloths are washed in running water.

Boiling

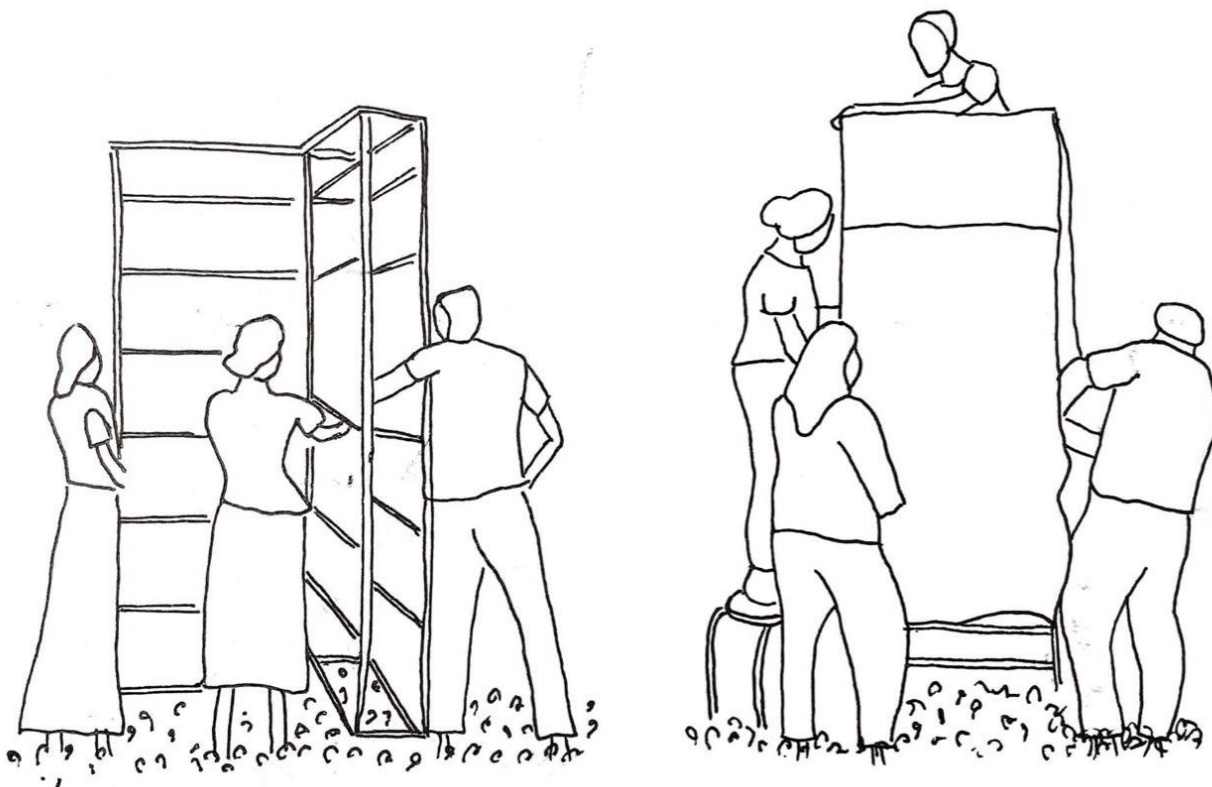
The cloths are washed and boiled in an alum solution.





The fabric was categorized into different modules depending on the patterns that complemented each other. As the pieces of fabric had two different sizes, the modules consisted of either one big piece and two small, four smaller pieces or two big. Consequently, making the modules the same size. When the sorting process was complete a local tailor stitched the pieces together.





Different concepts of the structure were tried out, and once the concept was finalized, local craftsmen welded it together. At last the fabrics were attached to the metal structure using clips.







During the installation making all the students were divided in teams. While some were busy working on the structure or the posters, there was also a team devoted to videomaking. They produced two video's that accompany the installation and was projected on the installation during the opening. One video shows the process of the Ajrakh block printing, the other video gives an overall impression of the whole trip. Scan the QR-codes on the next page to see the video's.



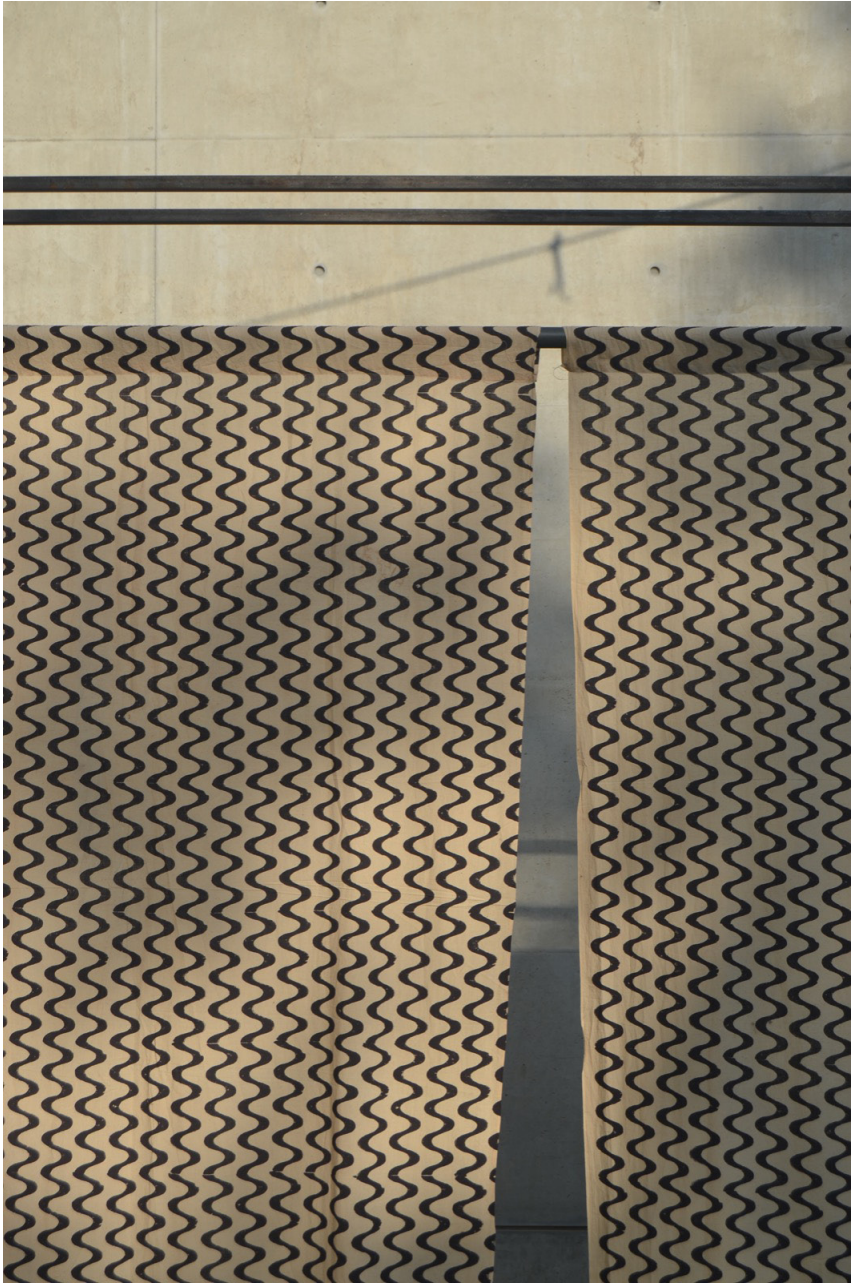
Ajrakh block printing process



Aftermovie



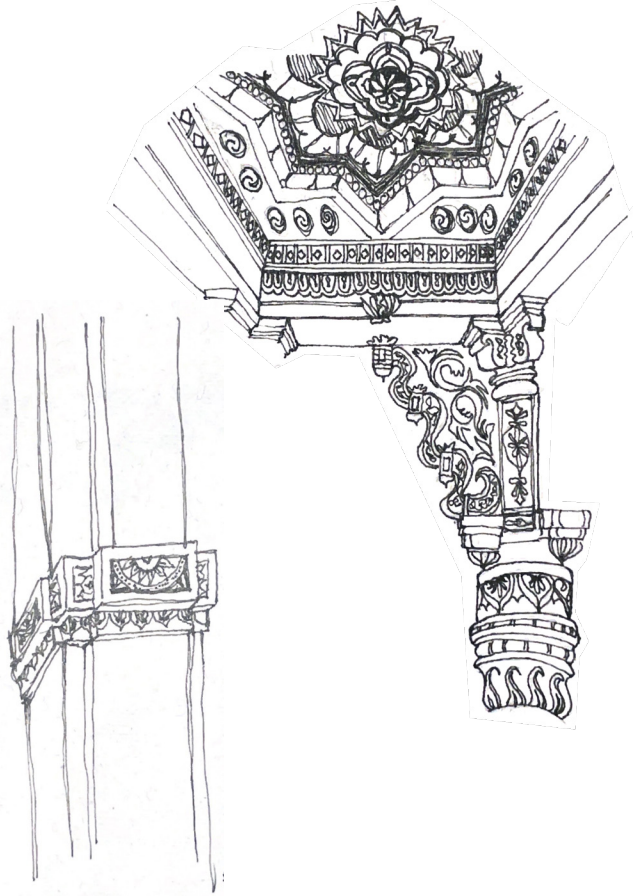




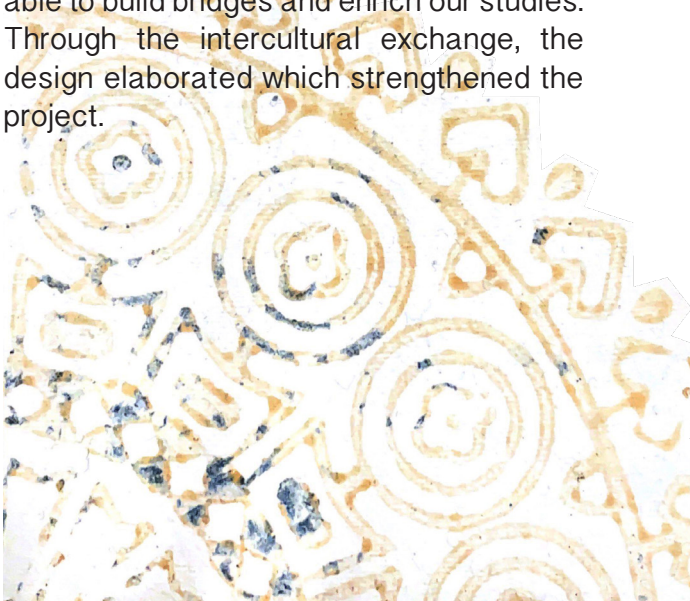


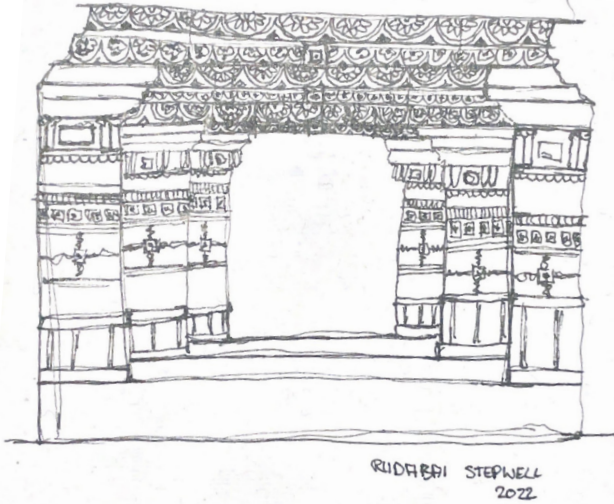






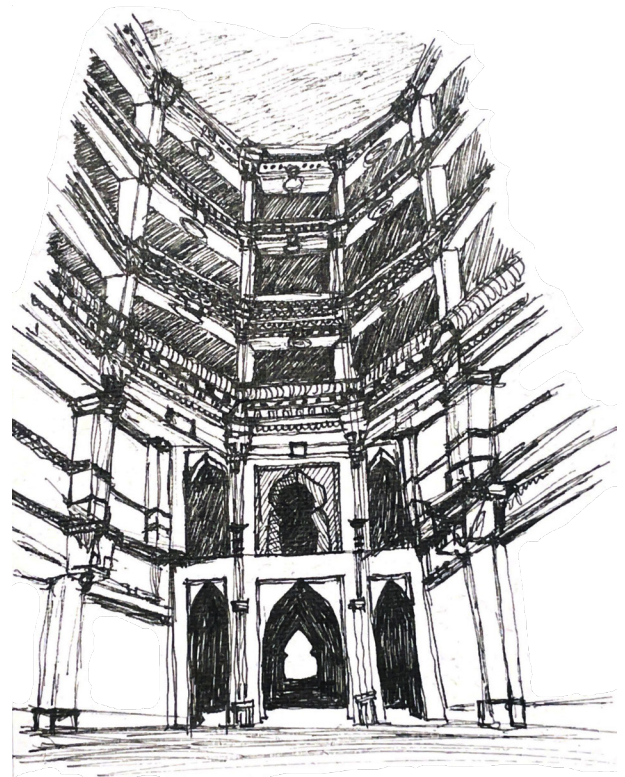
The India excursion gave us the opportunity to broaden our horizons and see architecture from a new perspective. The Threads of Innovation project has created relationships between continents, countries and above all people. We were able to build bridges and enrich our studies. Through the intercultural exchange, the design elaborated which strengthened the project.





Through the numerous visits to different cultural sites, we were able to find new inspiration and integrate it into new projects. Among other things, we were able to marvel at the precious old city of Ahmedabad, as well as the Shree Swaminarayan temple in Bhuj and the Adalaj stepwell. Very impressive was also the trip to the earthquake museum, where it was shown in an impressive way how people dealt with the earthquake and how this event had a lasting influence on architecture and urban planning.

All in all, this trip was very inspiring and formative.



Experimental Practices A
Moving Borders