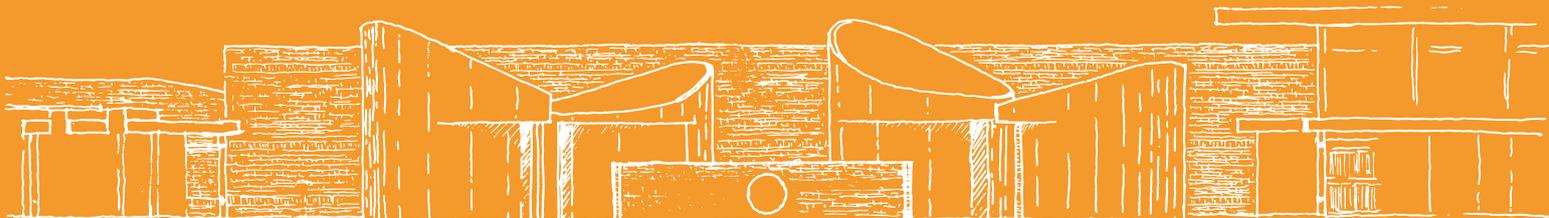


SRI AUROBINDO INTEGRAL LIFE CENTRE

S · A · I · L

AURO UNIVERSITY SURAT

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN & PROGRAM



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ARCHITECT MONA DOCTOR-PINGEL

Studio Naqshbandi offers a personalized approach to holistic solutions for designing and building - stressing on research in the fields of Baubiology (Building Biology) and activating the five senses through architecture, interiors and landscaping while combining beauty and functionality. Sustainability for us is a way of life and not an add-on.

JOURNEY OF THE PROJECT

2010/10	Start of Project
2011/01	1st Concept Designs
2014/02	4th Concept with Meditation Chambers and Apartments
2015/05	2nd Concept Presentation (in Auroville) + Site Location Process
2015/08	Final Allocation + Changes in SUDA Guidelines
2017/11	Final Design

PROJECT TEAM STUDIO NAQSHBANDI

Mona, Ojas, Suraj, Alma, Nehaa, Prakash, Roshita

CONSULTANTS

STRUCTURAL: NPC Builders, Pondicherry
MEPF: Artech Engineering, Ahmedabad
LIGHTING: Light-Fish, Auroville
ACOUSTICS : Sound Wizard, Auroville
INTERIOR DESIGN: Studio Naqshbandi + Prakrit
LANDSCAPING: Studio Naqshbandi + Narad

CLIENT

H P Rama _ AURO UNIVERSITY Surat

“A simply rich and beautiful life” – an aphorism from Sri Aurobindo becomes the guiding principle for the design of SAIL-Center

Simple, yet not austere or barren;

Rich, yet not ostentatious or flouting;

Beautiful, yet not shouting for attention.

It is indeed a research in beauty with an understated elegance that permeates throughout one's life and being.



GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SRI AUROBINDO INTEGRAL LIFE CENTRE

The Sri Aurobindo Integral Learning Centre, dedicated to Sri Aurobindo and his vision and thought, aspires to be a global hub for study and research in his philosophy, vision and work. The Centre consists of a team of scholars, teachers, thinkers and writers engaged in disseminating the vision and works of Sri Aurobindo amongst the young of the world in a language that the young can resonate to.

The Centre was conceived of by Shri HP Rama, founder of Auro University, to become the living soul of the University, a creative hub for in-depth studies in Sri Aurobindo and his vision and works.

«This centre should become the soul of Auro University helping all those open and interested in the human future to come to the new consciousness that Sri Aurobindo represents.»

Shri H P Rama

To interpret this vision in material form, Studio Naqshbandi from Auroville, with its 25 years of experience in building, material research and experimentation, was selected.

Location: Surat, Gujarat - 21°18' N & 72°74' E



Climatic Overview

Sub humid - tropical monsoon climate with prevalent wind directions of S & SW in Summers and NE in winters.

PROGRAM AND ZONING

Assuming that the whole campus of Earth Space aims at responding to the four aspects of the human being through its functions and buildings:

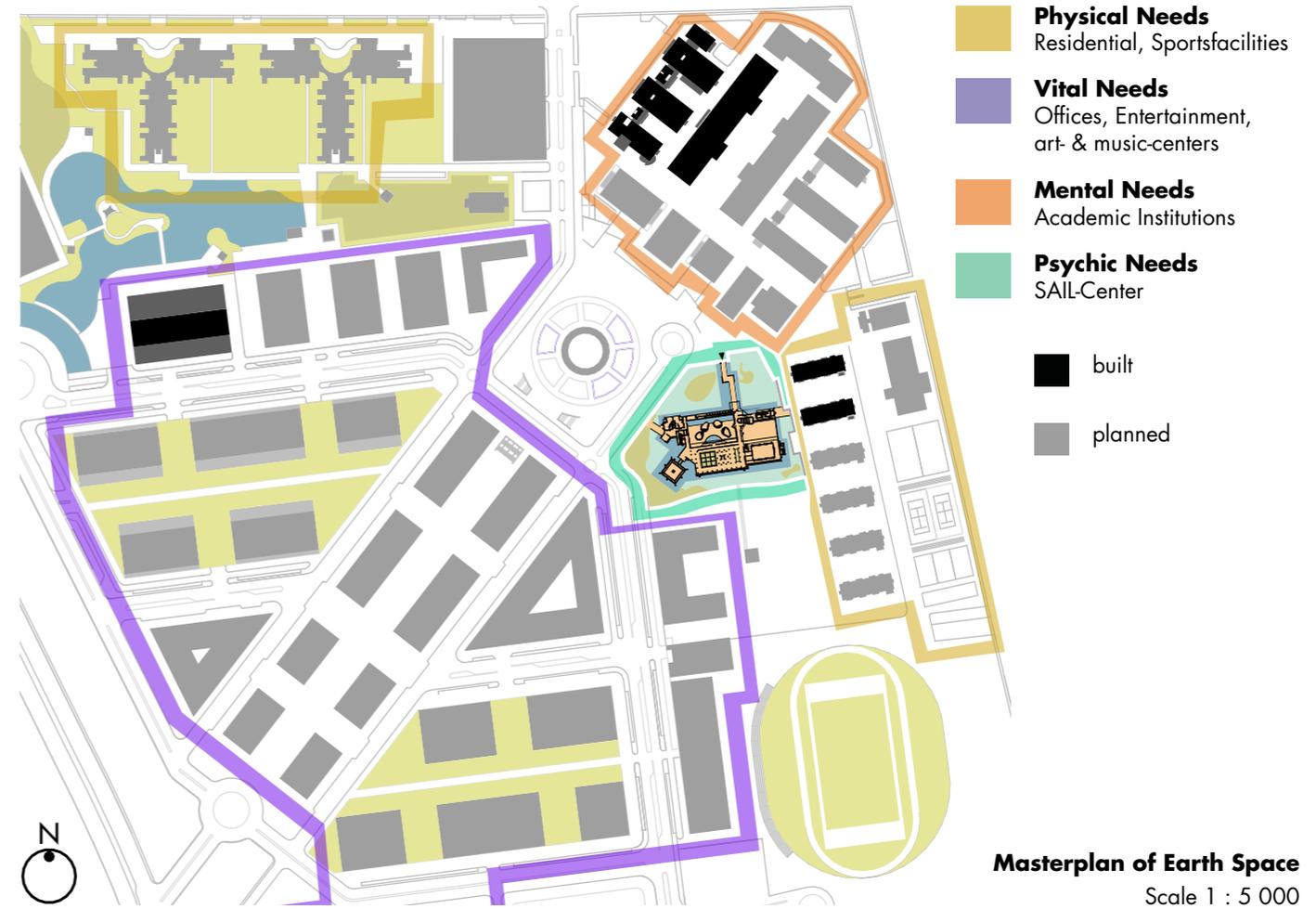
Residential and sports facilities responding to the physical needs.

Entertainment, art and music centers responding to the vital needs.

Academic institutions responding to the mental needs.

*Then the Integral Yoga Center would necessarily respond to the **psychic needs**.*

To interpret this aspect through the built form and its surroundings presents a challenge and a privilege.

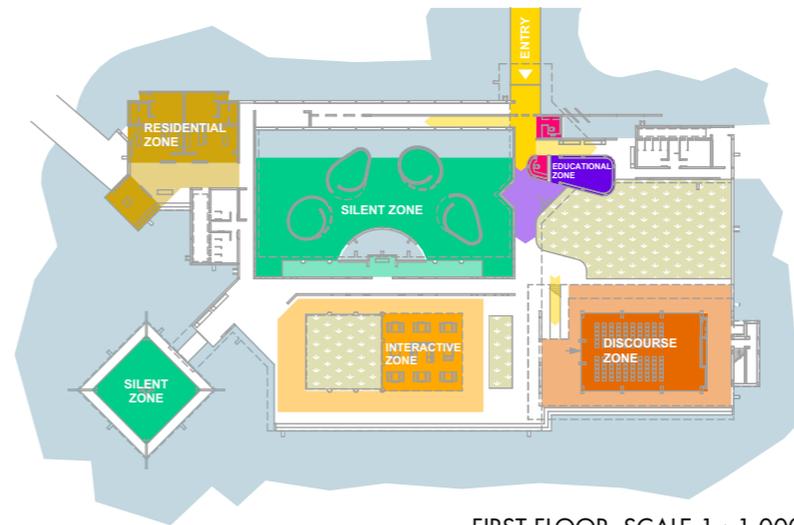


Masterplan of Earth Space

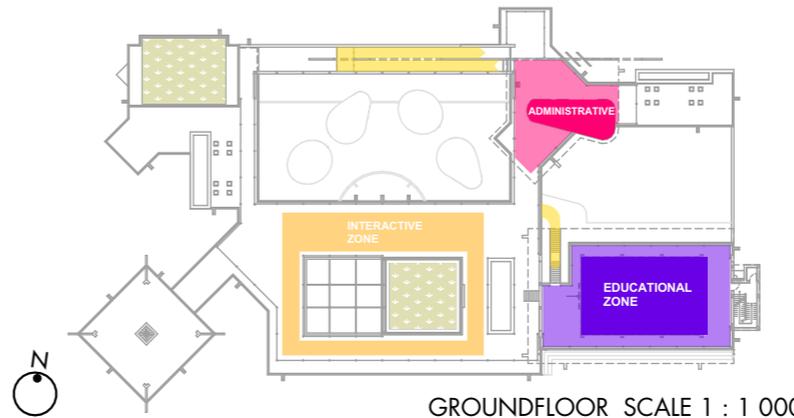
Scale 1 : 5 000



PHYSICAL MODEL SCALE 1 : 200



FIRST FLOOR SCALE 1 : 1 000



GROUND FLOOR SCALE 1 : 1 000

There are 4 main functions housed within the Center:

Satsanga Space / DISCOURSE ZONE

capacity 120 persons – air-conditioned but usable also without it.

Library, Exhibition Space and Orientation Room / EDUCATIONAL ZONE

Orientation Room for films about Integral Yoga and making of SAIL.

150 m² library housing books on Integral yoga and for exhibitions on works / topics related to Integral Yoga.

Tea Garden / INTERACTIVE ZONE

for small intimate discussions in a quiet atmosphere within nature. The green roof on top of the tea garden and connecting passages is also meant for informal interactions.

Meditation Spaces / SILENT ZONE

Four cave-like, inward looking spaces with air-conditioning, related to the four aspects of the Mother 25 m² each and Pavilion Meditation 100 m² – floating on water with lilies, a pavilion, surrounded by bamboo, creating a natural ambience.

DESIGN APPROACH AND INTENTION

The visitor to this center needs to discover the unfolding layers playing with the senses. The Journey is as important as the goal; the process as important as the product.

To this end the SAIL-Centre does not reveal itself immediately to the visitor. The Center is hidden within green and lush surroundings, like a jewel (the psychic) to be discovered. The Entrance to the Center aims to arouse a sense of curiosity to discover what lies beyond the wall, at the same time the lotus pond (A lotus flower indicates the open consciousness. Sri Aurobindo) creates a sense of sanctity.

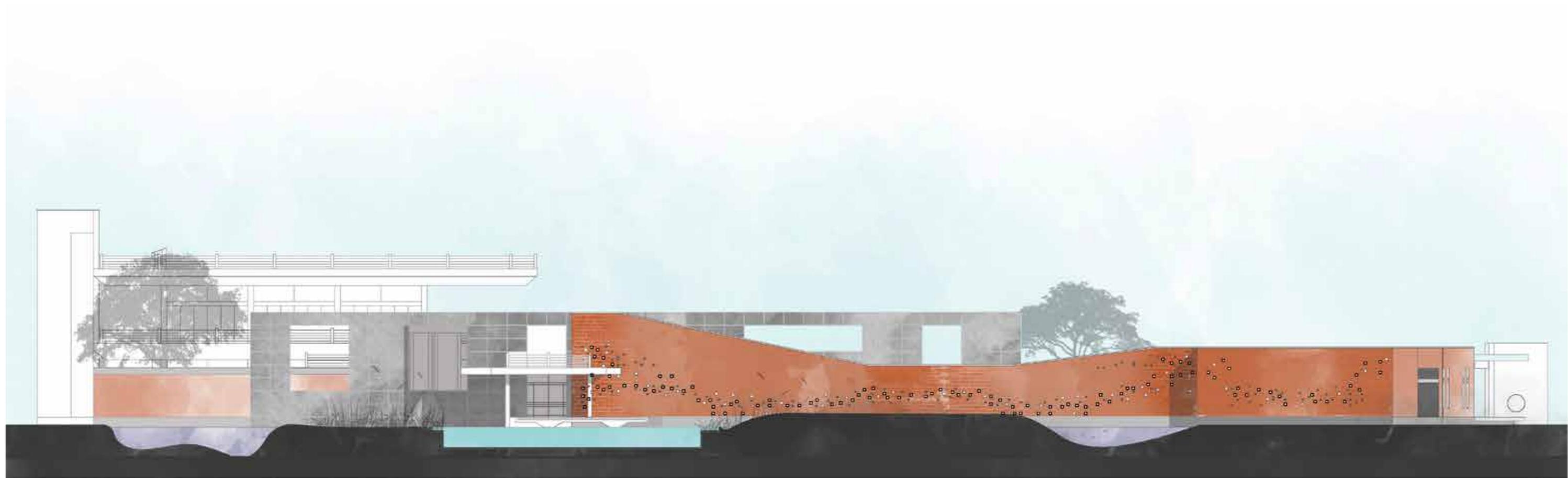
The Centre sits on a low lying land, which becomes a rainwater harvesting lake, landscaped with indigenous plants that can survive varying water levels. A bridge cutting across this dry landscape with green islands symbolises crossing over to another realm. Meandering between ramps and walls the visitor is invited to 'slow down' while entering the Center. A ramp between exposed brick and concrete walls leads one to the upper level, 3 meters above the ground, giving an overview of the center with a view of its green terraces.

The inside-outside relationship plays a key role in the design of the center. The landscape interweaves itself at all levels from the green roofs to the ponds helping to create a world within. Open courtyards and informal meeting spaces lend themselves to so-called 'no space' which become starting points for unplanned interactions and planned performances when necessary.

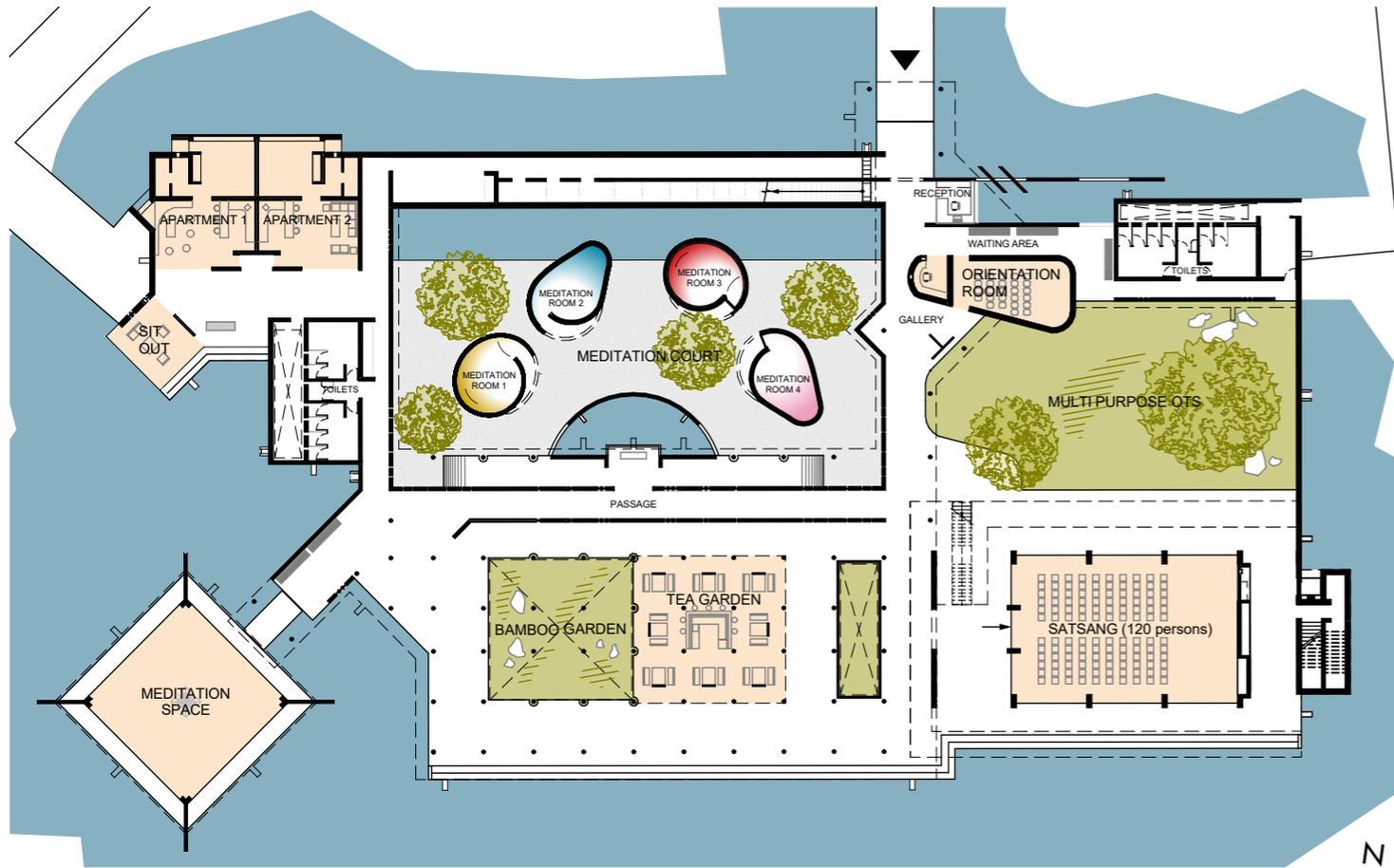
Keeping in mind international norms most of the spaces shall be accessibility for disabled persons.

Activating the 5 senses of touch, sound, vision, smell and taste through the exploration of the 5 elements of earth, water, wind, fire, space is the red thread that provides continuity through the project. This will be achieved using different materials, plants and objects placed throughout the center. Many of these will also showcase art and products from Auroville, bringing in a touch of the experiments being carried out there. It is proposed that the Pavilion meditation space will have music from Mother constantly playing in the background, whereas the Chamber meditation shall have different lighting according the four different aspects of the mother. Darshan days can have special lighting situations.

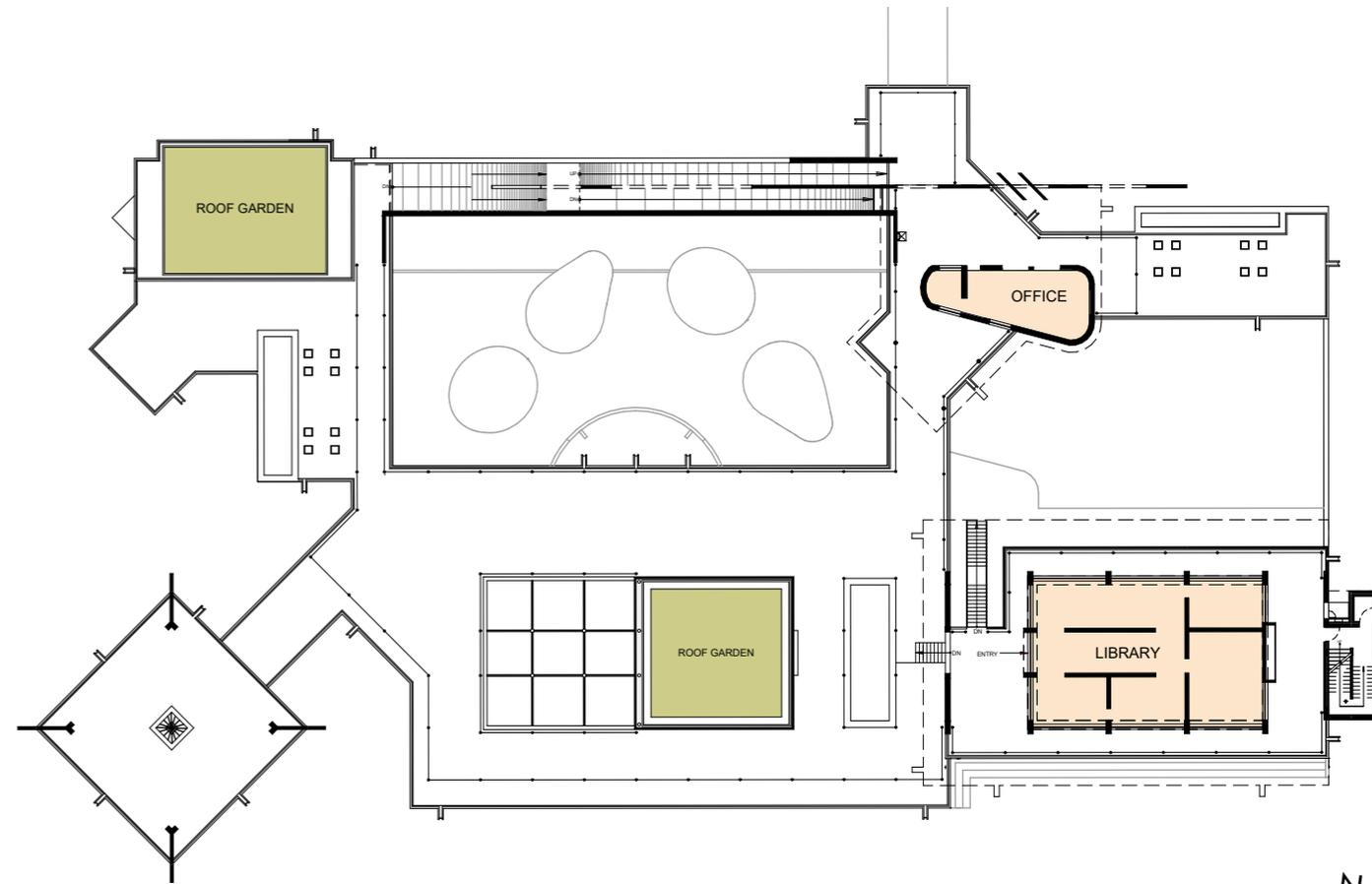




NORTH FACADE / MAIN ENTRANCE



GROUND FLOOR PLAN SCALE 1 : 500

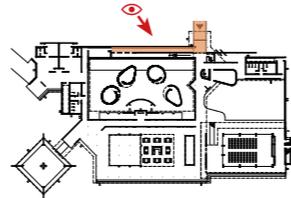


FIRST FLOOR PLAN SCALE 1 : 500



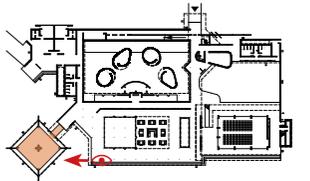
NORTH FACADE WITH ENTRANCE

The Entrance to the Center aims to arouse a sense of curiosity to discover what lies beyond the wall, at the same time the lotus pond creates a sense of sanctity.



MEDITATION SPACE

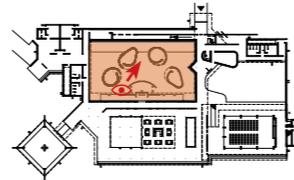
Set in a serene atmosphere surrounded by water, the meditation space will be finished in polished white makrana marble and enclosed by glass on all four sides, enabling it to commune with nature.





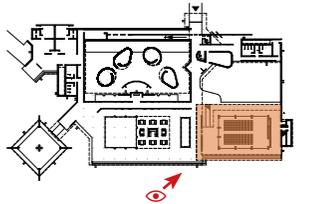
MEDITATION COURT

Inspired by the form of petals themselves, the Meditation Petals sprout from the meditation court soaring up to the sky and each Petal will relate to one of the four aspects of the Mother.



SATSANG AND LIBRARY

A place of discourse about Integral Philosophy and Life Practice, designed as a multi-functional space to accommodate up to 120 people. On the upper floor is the library housing books on Integral yoga and for exhibitions.





AREA STATEMENT

Entrance and Ramps _____	327 m ²
Orientation Room and Office _____	282 m ²
Apartments _____	211 m ²
Meditations Petals _____	106 m ²
Meditation Space _____	153 m ²
Tea Garden _____	250 m ²
Satsang _____	389 m ²
Library _____	434 m ²
Passage & semi-covered Spaces _____	668 m ²
OHT _____	15 m ²

TOTAL BUILT UP AREA 2835 m² /30516 sq.ft

Landscaped and Pond Area _____ 2791 m²

Terrace Gardens _____ 175 m²

TOTAL LANDSCAPED AREA 2966 m² /31926 sq.ft

TOTAL SITE AREA 9171 m² /98717 sq.ft

