

## Moments of Understanding

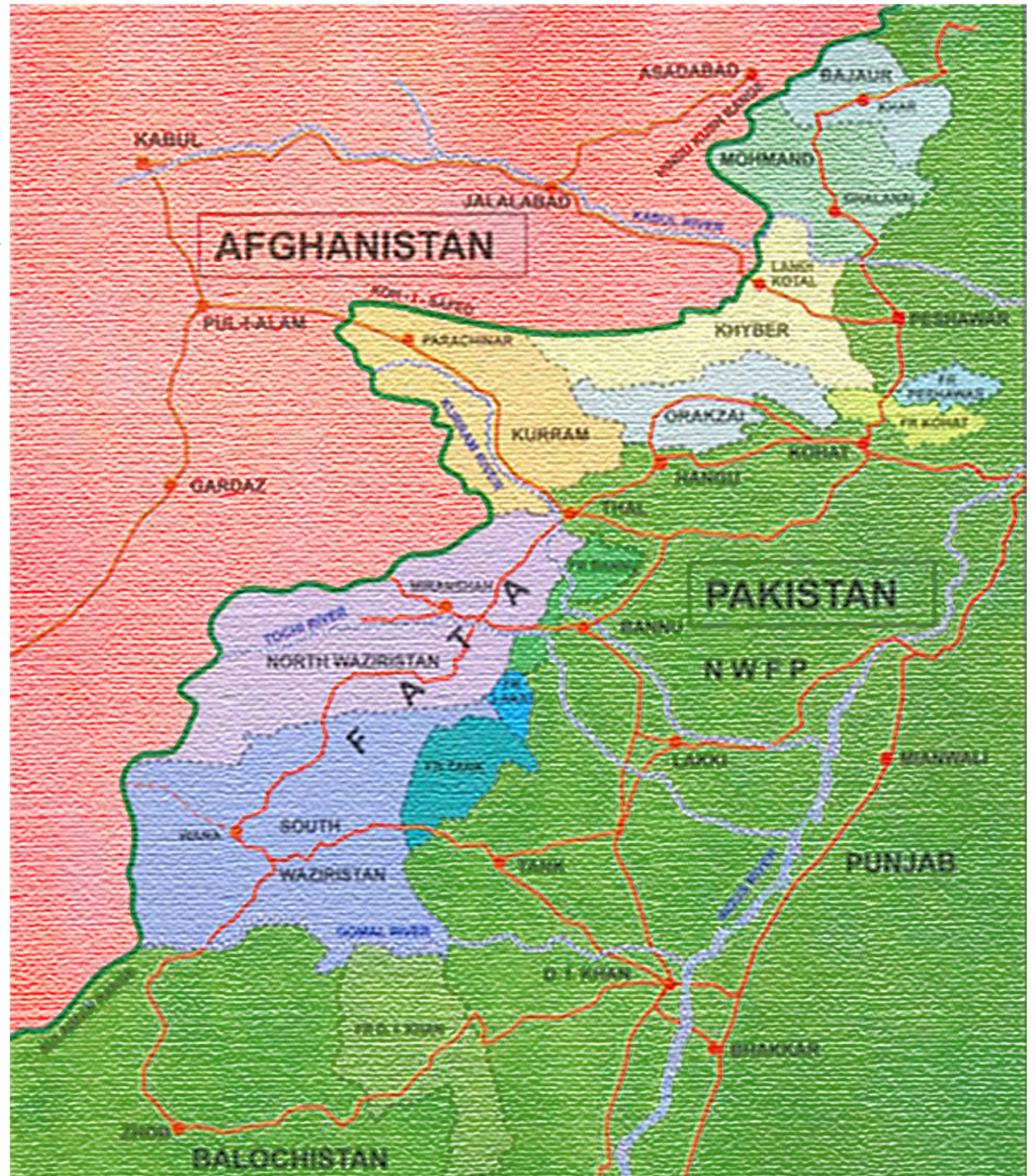
Tribal Culture Center (Orakzai, Federally Administered Tribal Area of Pakistan)

**Moments of Understanding** Tribal Culture Center  
(Orakzai, Federally Administered Tribal Area of Pakistan)

## Abstract

FATA (Federally Administrated Tribal Area) is a semi-autonomous tribal belt in the northwest of Pakistan, neighboring with Afghanistan. It has seven major agencies (Orakzai Agency, Khyber Agency, Mohmand Agency, Kurram Agency, Bajour Agency, North Waziristan Agency and South Waziristan Agency) and six frontier regions. All these agencies share their boundaries with Afghanistan except Orakzai Agency. Some people consider Orakzai word taken from a word "Wrok Zoy" (the lost son of Persian king), who came to this area and ruled here. Second group of people considers of taking its name from the Orakzai tribe.

Orakzai Agency was created after the 1972 census by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the Prime minister of that time. It has 18 tribes (Ali Khel, Malla Khel, Mamozai, A Khel, Rabia Khel, Daradar Mamozai, Biland Khel, Mishti, Sheikhan, Feroz Khel, Utman Khel, Bezoti, Sunni Stori Khel, Shia Stori Khel, Sepoya, Bar Muhammad Khel, Mani Khel, Kalaya Saiydan) but the four major tribes like Shiekhan, Ali khel, Mishti and Malla khel are non Orakzai tribes and the majority of populations consists of these tribes. This complete region is divided into two sub divisions called lower Orakzai and upper Orakzai. Currently, the main head quarter (Main Operating engine from Government) is situated in Hangu district (District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province) outside the Orakzai Agency but the Government also has created sub headquarters in these two major regions called Kalaya district (Lower Orakzai) and Galjo district (Upper Orakzai). The main language is Pashto, and the second language is Urdu (national language of Pakistan) which only 10% can speak and read.





## Moments of Understanding

**Tribal Cultural Center** (Orakzai Agency, Federally Administered Tribal Area of Pakistan)

### Short Description:

Design a **culture center** for bringing the image of local residence's life style, traditions and way of thinking closer to the visitors and people of adjacent areas by using new artist ways of architectural expressionism, modern technology and techniques embedded with vernacular architecture.

For this project, it is quite important to understand the culture and traditions of this area in which any type of physical or other interventions are intended. In order to keep the cultural identity of that area intact, it is important for the space to be designed, which reflects their lifestyle and traditions. The main intention of creating this culture center is to help in enhancement of the importance of communal space and improvement in the life styles of the people with new expressionism in architecture.

### Case Statement (Background)

Orakzai region characterizes by intense cold in winter when the temperature fall below the freezing point. December, January and February are the coldest months, and snowfall happens in these months. Summers are mild and the maximum temperature does not go above 31 degrees Celsius (87.8 F). Surrounding mountains are covered by dense and thick forests, which produce a cooling effect in summer. Due to geographical position of Kalaya and its thick forest cover, raining happens throughout the year. Rainfall is nearly round 36 inch per annum.

The division of sects has been done by natural border. One is living along the south portion of Mastura River from And Khel to Kada. The other one spread almost over the whole of the area. The basic living styles, housing types, construction techniques and Materials, laws and rules of the entire area are more or less same.



### **Major Goals of the Project**

The main purpose of the Tribal Cultural Center is to offer a platform for the local public, tribal country's key leaders to communicate with the goal of promoting peace and prosperity to the region. This project will help these leaders create the moments of understanding for the future of generations to come (Power of democracy). It will also help to educate and train the young tribesmen so they can contribute their knowledge to their local tribes.

Architecturally, site planning, landscape design and using the traditional local materials with modern construction techniques were explored.

### **Design Responses**

Project is important because it would help in gathering the local tribes at one place and resolve their problems within themselves.

To promote their identity from one specific place to outside world.

In current situation, this is "no go area" for tourist, education is lower than 10% and have worse conditions for commerce and healthcare facilities. This project will help to explore new ways of economics, better healthcare facilities etc.

### **Stakeholders**

#### **Owners**

Local leaders and Pakistan Government

#### **Donors**

NGOs (UNDP, NRSP etc)

#### **Users**

Local residents, Tribal individuals from different sections, Visitors

## Traditions and Vernacular Architecture

*"I despise that man who does not guide his life by honor. The very word honor drives me mad"*

Khushal Khan Khattak

The Pukhtoon social structure has attracted the attention of the many scholars is mainly governed by conventions and traditions and a code of honor of the way of the Pathans, known as "**Pukhtoonwali**." This unwritten code is the keystone of the arch of the "Pukhtoons" social fabric. It imposes upon the members of the Pukhtoon society four chief obligations.

First, "**Nanawatey**" or repentance over past hostility or initial attitude and grant of asylum.

Second, "**Teega**" or a truce declared by a Jirga (community gathering) to avoid bloodshed between two rival factions.

Third "**Badal**" or obligation to seek revenge by retaliation.

Forth is "**Melmastiya**" or an open hearted hospitality, which is one of the most sub lines and noble features of Pukhtoon Character. In broad sense hospitality, magnanimity, Chivalry, honesty, uprightness, patriotism, love and devotion for the country are the essential features of Pukhtoonwali.

The history of Pukhtoonwali is as old as the history of pukhtoon and every individual of Pukhtoon society is expected to abide by these age-old traditions. The non-observance of these customary laws is considered disgraceful and many lead to expulsion of an individual or even a whole family. Pukhtoonwali, Pukhto and Pukhtoon have become almost synonymous terms.

### **Nanawatey**

Some European writers have defined it as a grant of Asylum to fugitives or **extreme form of hospitality**. However, As a matter of fact, it also means to end longstanding disputes and blood fends and transforms enmity into friendship. Under "Nanawatey a penitent enemy is forgiven and the Feuding factions resume peaceful and friendly relations. Thus, it creates a congenial atmosphere for peaceful co-existence and understanding through eventual reconciliation.

### **Kanrrey or Teega**

Kanrrey or Teeja stands for cessation of bloodshed between contending parties. "**TEEGA**" (means putting down of a stone in other words means temporary truce declared by the Jirga. The word stone is used figuratively as actually no stone is put at the time of the cessation of the hostilities. Once the truce is enforced, no party dares violate it for fear of punitive measures.)

### **Badal (revenge)**

Self respect and sensitivity toward insult is another essential trait of Pukhtoon Character. The poor have their own sense of dignity and honour and they refuse to submit to any insult. Every individual considers himself equal if not better than his fellow tribesmen which give as scuffle on his character. An insult is sure to evoke insult and murder is likely to lead to a murder.

### **Melmastia**

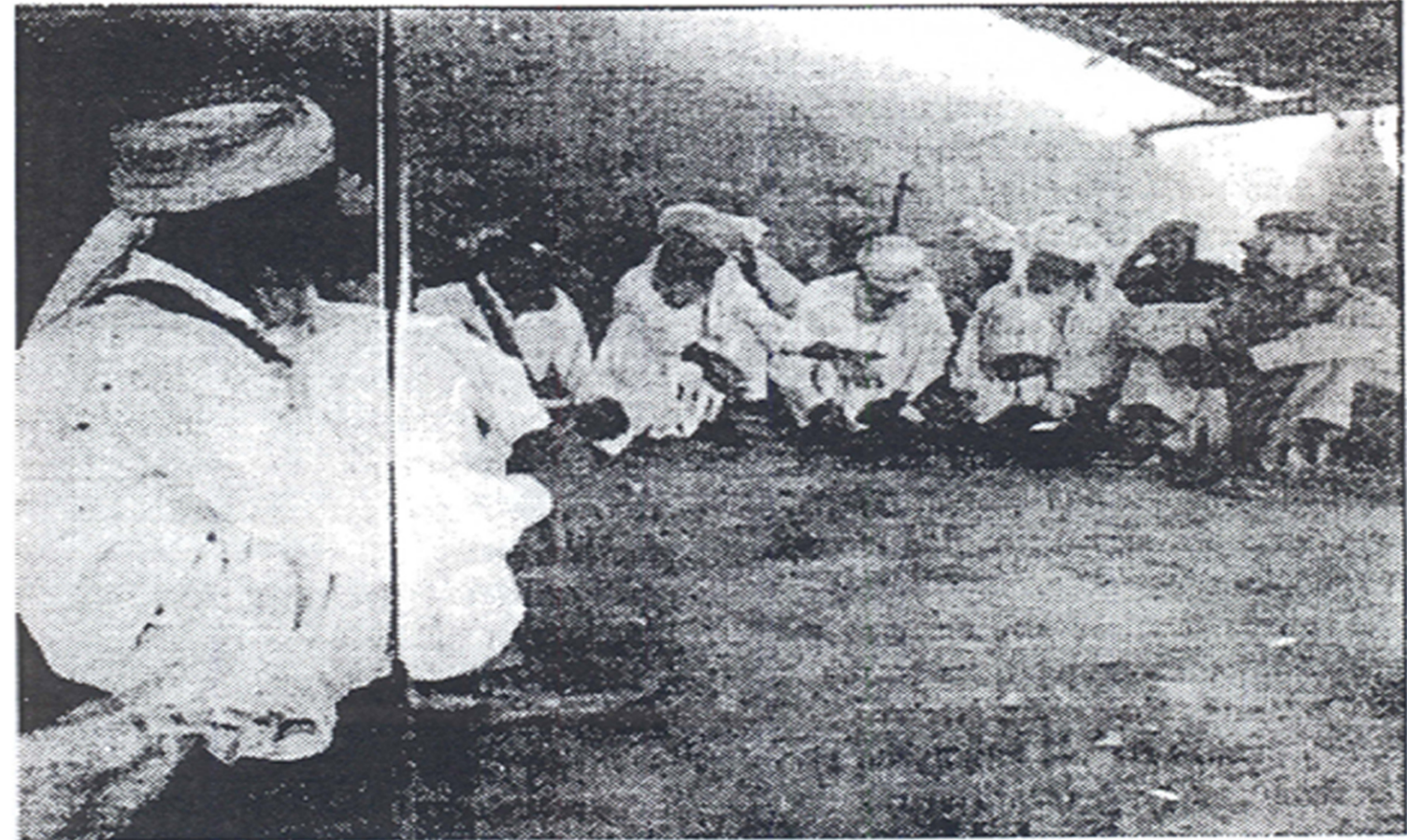
Pukhtoons have been described as one of the most hospitable people in the world. they concede "Melmastiya" or generous hospitality as one of the finest virtues and great their guests warmly with a board smile on their faces. A Pukhtoon feels delighted to receive a guest regardless of his past relations of acquaintance and prepares a delicious meal for him; some people consider it as sacred duty. Guests are usually entertained in a "Hujra." (community house where guests are entertained and routine meetings of the elders are also held.)

## Jirga Community gathering

Jirga is an assembly of tribal elder clan for various purposes, whether waging war or composing peace. Tribal or inter-tribal Tribe's men are basically democratic in outlook and opposed to authoritarian rule. They rule through a council of elders called JIRGA. Each of the divisions has its own representative chief the Malik.



"Loya jirga" in Kabul, Afghanistan, Nov. 16, 2011



: A Jirga Meeting of Village Elders.

## Hujra Guest House

"Hujra" is an Arabic word which means "Room." Hujra is normally a simple building, built in every Village. It represents the sociable character of the Pakhtoons and it is a useful institution which plays an important role in their daily life. Usually, it serves as a normal guest house and a place for ritual and festivals. However, it symbolizes itself as a center for social activities as well as a Council to all for the settlement of family and inter-tribal disputes. It is used as a male dominator where bachelors of the village sleep in a separate portion. It is a guesthouse where the village folks and a community center for betrothal, marriage and social functions jointly entertain the guests. Even condolences are altered on the devise of a person and here sympathy is expressed with the family.



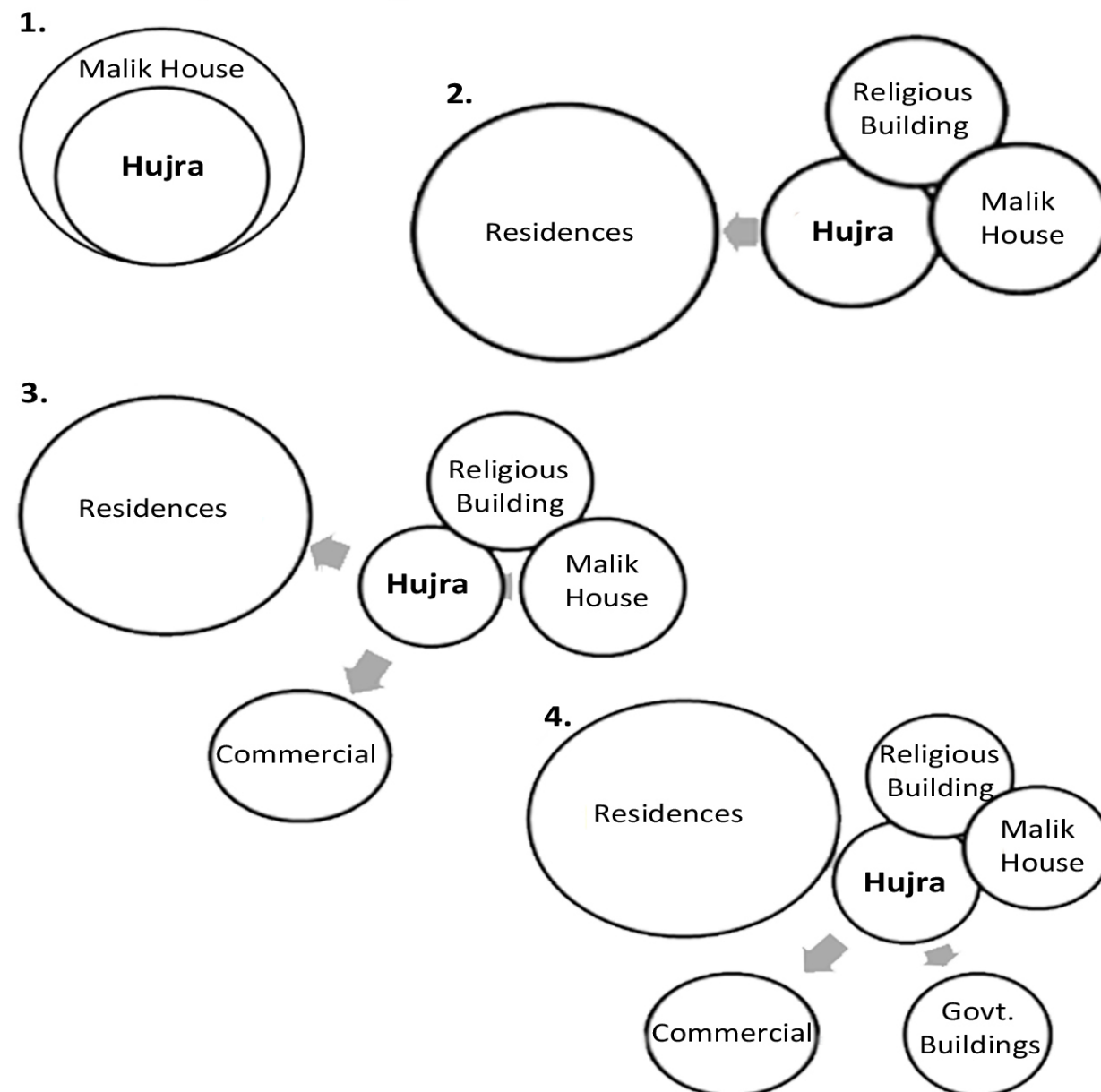
Hujra from frontier region Swat

## Vernacular Architecture

### Observations on the settlement structures and communal spaces relationship

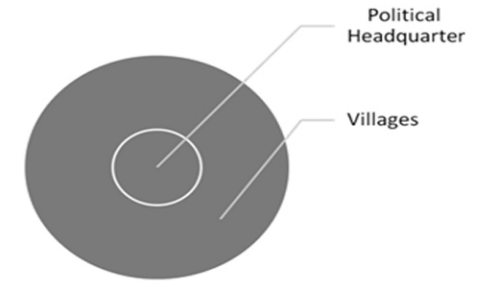
The Major settlements appear to be fortified by walls. The main lane or street leads to central communal spaces, i.e. Hujra, religious building and commercial area, etc.

Following are the series of diagrams showing the various changes in the hierarchy of communal spaces through the centuries.



Development of villages through different stages

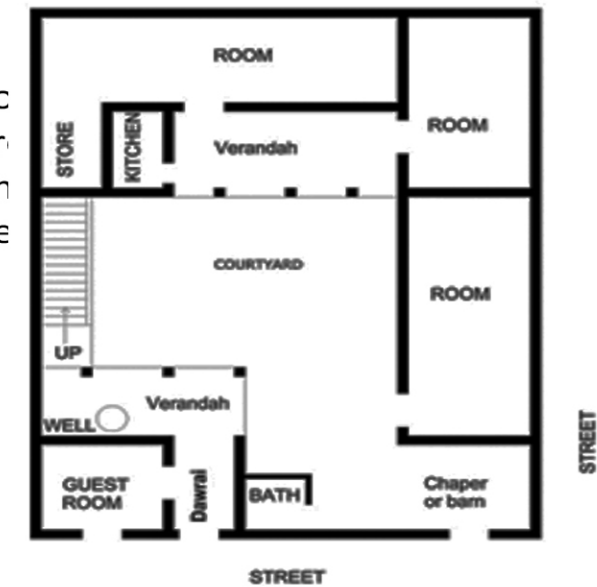
In current situation, the government power has been given to a political headquarters (form of government introduced by the British to control the tribes) where political agent works under the federal government.



### Manmade or Natural Plateaus

These settlements are secured by mountain or river from one side and the other side expose and fortified with watch towers. The dwelling usually occupies the entire ground with different dimension of streets.

The communal spaces located in the center of entire villages. The educational and health centers lie outside the villages. The streets connect residences with deweris (semi covered space or open spaces of Beetaks (Common Lounge)).



### Steeped villages constructed on man made terraces

These villages constructed on man made terraces cut out the mountain slopes. Usually single row of connected tightly packed houses are located along the main lane or street runs between the two terraces or between the terrace and deweri of different height.

### Cluster houses built on flat plateaus










These types of settlements are fortified by walls and for security purpose each cluster keeps the watch towers at the boundaries.





# Bezoti Village











## Existing Land Use

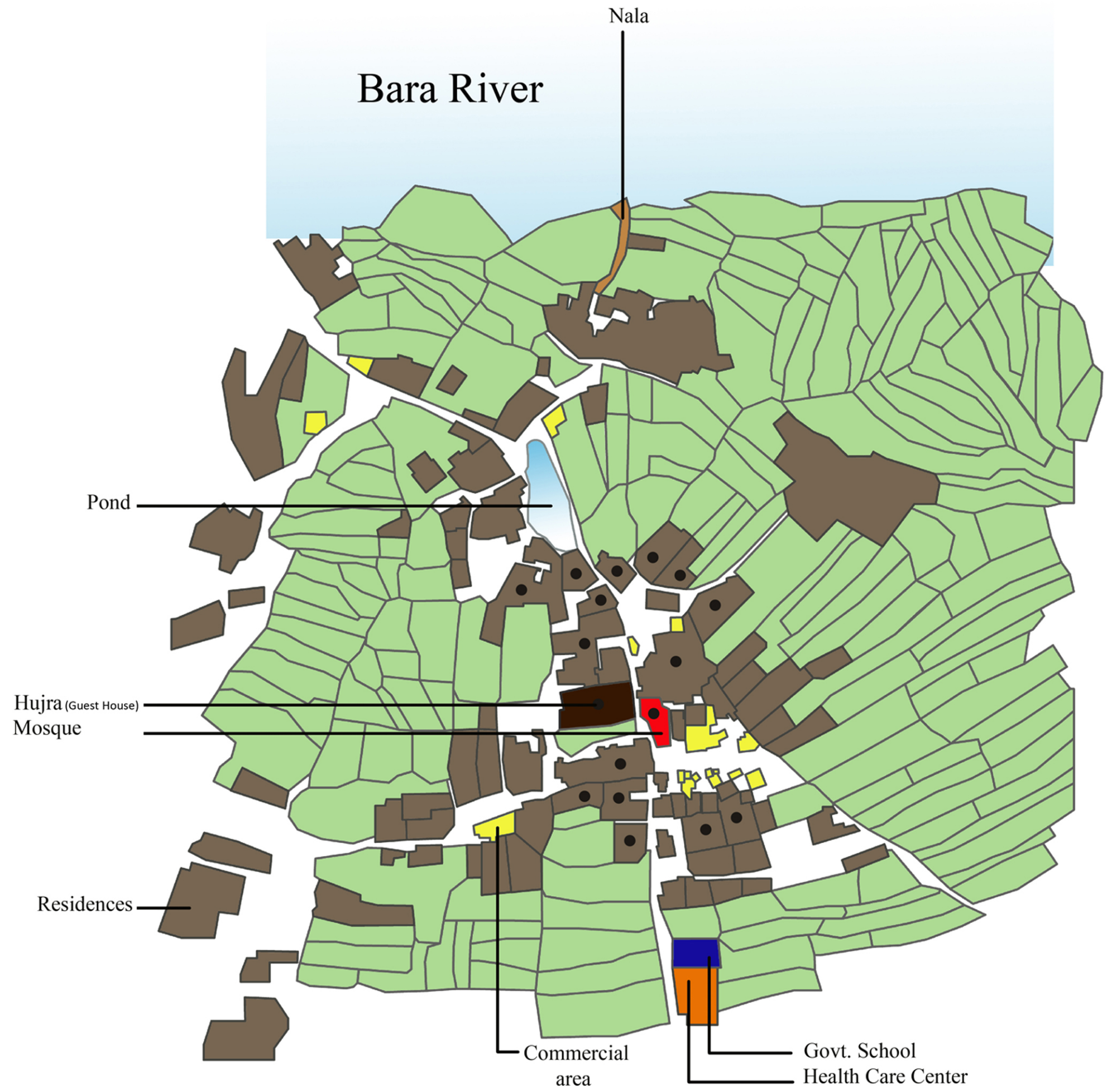
- Historical 
- Religion 
- Residences 
- Commercial 
- Health Center 
- Hujra 
- Nala 
- Feilds 
- School 



# Hajian Village

## Existing Land Use

- Historical 
- Religion 
- Residences 
- Commercial 
- Health Center 
- Hujra 
- Nala 
- Fields 
- School 
- Pond 



**Existing Building Materials and Construction Techniques**

**Material available on site**

Stone (Lime stone), Mud, Limestone or kankars:

**Material available locally**

Lime stone, Marble (white and black marble)

Wood (Deodar, Fir/Spruce, Oak, Walnut)

**Material imported from outside**

Cement, Glass, Corrugated Sheets



## Site Analysis

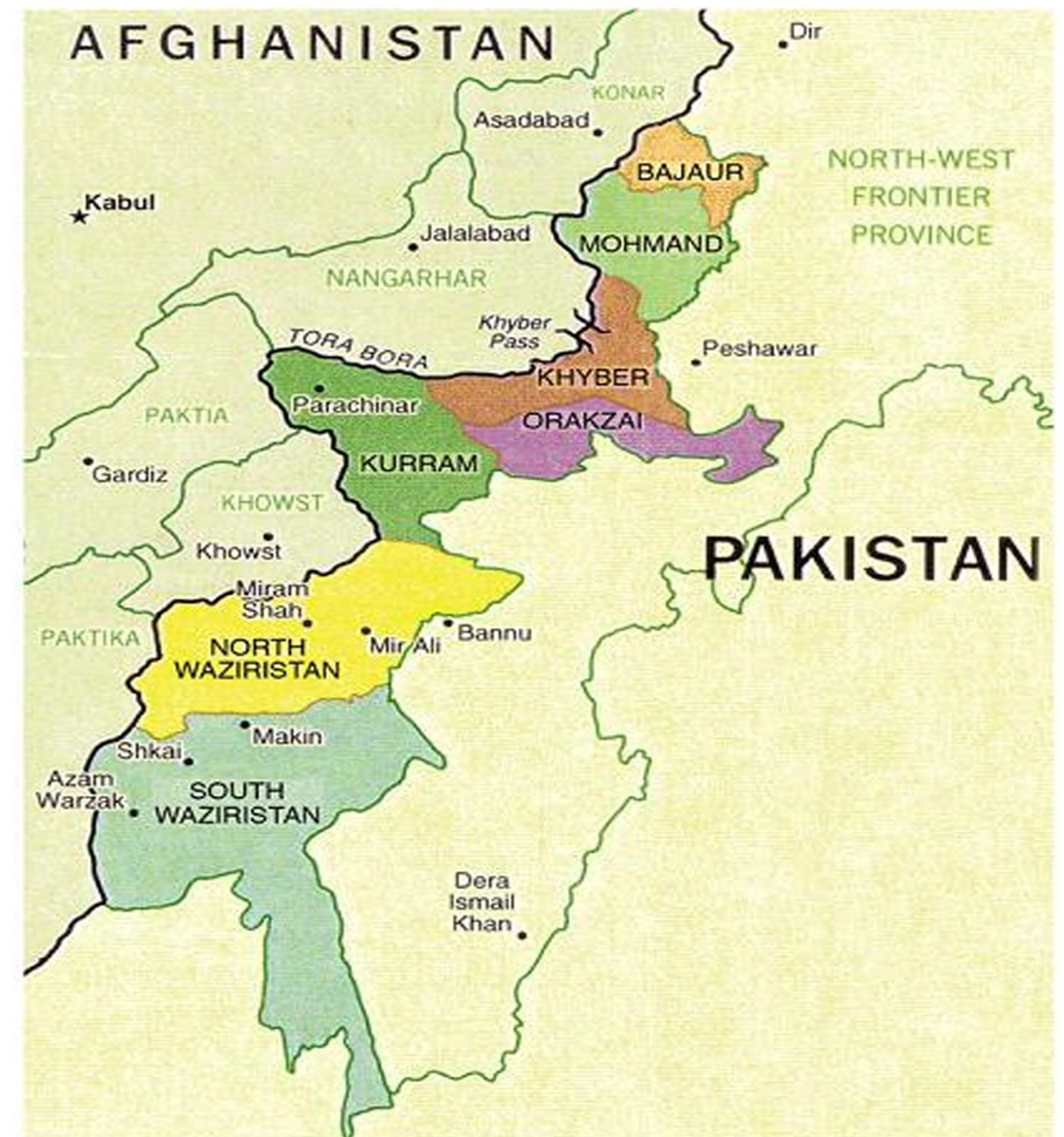
The agency is bounded on the north by Khyber agency, on the east by the tribal area adjoining Kohat district and on the west by Kurram agency. It is located between 33° - 33' and 33° - 54' north latitudes and 70° - 36' and 71° - 22' east longitudes. The total area of the agency is 1,538 sq. km. The total density is 146 Per Sq. Km

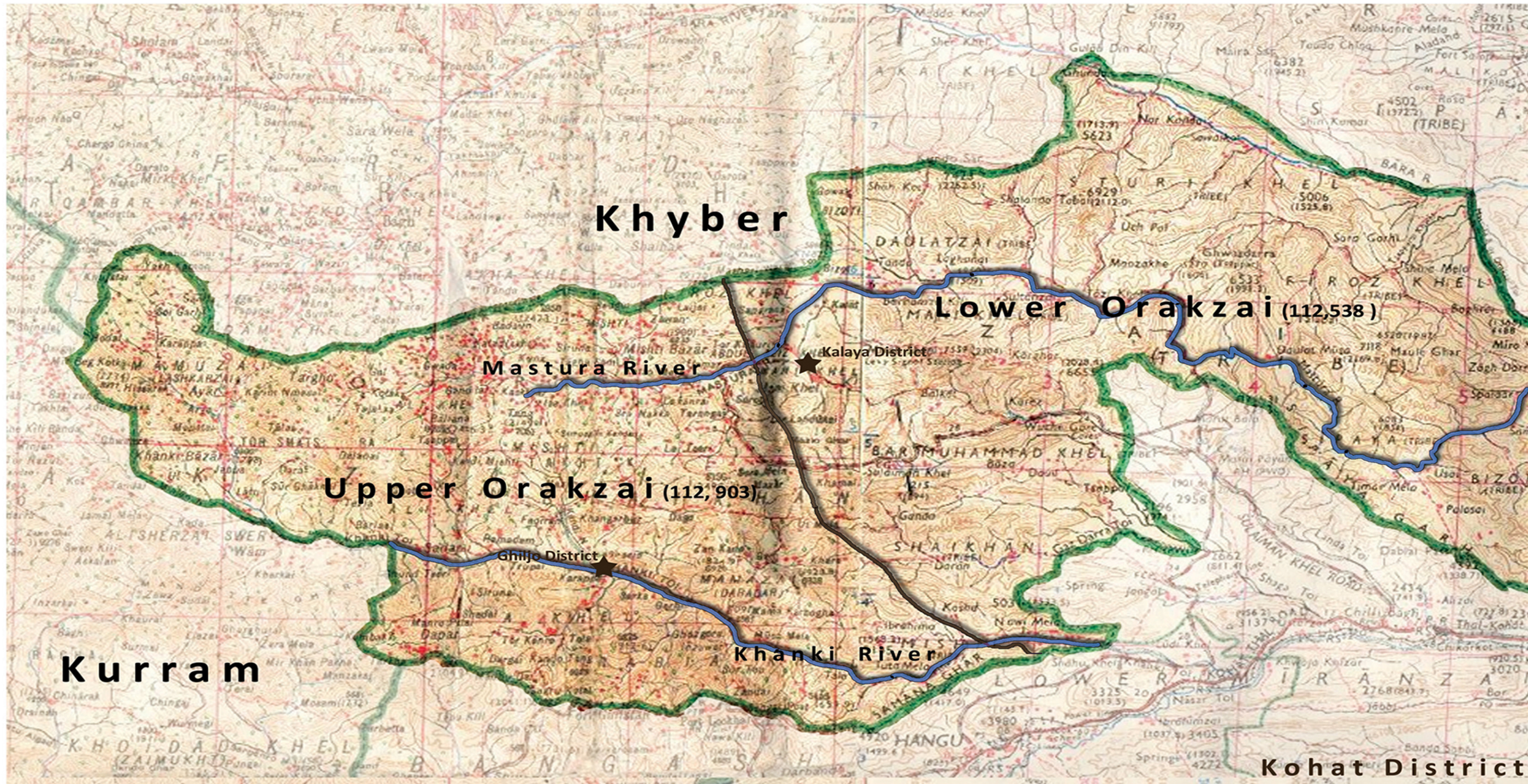
Orakzai Agency is naturally divided into two major sections, Lower and upper Orakzai. The area is composed of huge mountains and cluster of villages besides the roads and rivers, etc. This agency has two main districts Kalaya and Ghiljo, which are denser population, compare to the other villages and have many amenities like schools, health care, Business and government offices, etc. Here, Kalaya district has some potential regarding Access, Centrality, Diverse groups, Educational center, Annual festival priorities, etc.

### Geographical Features

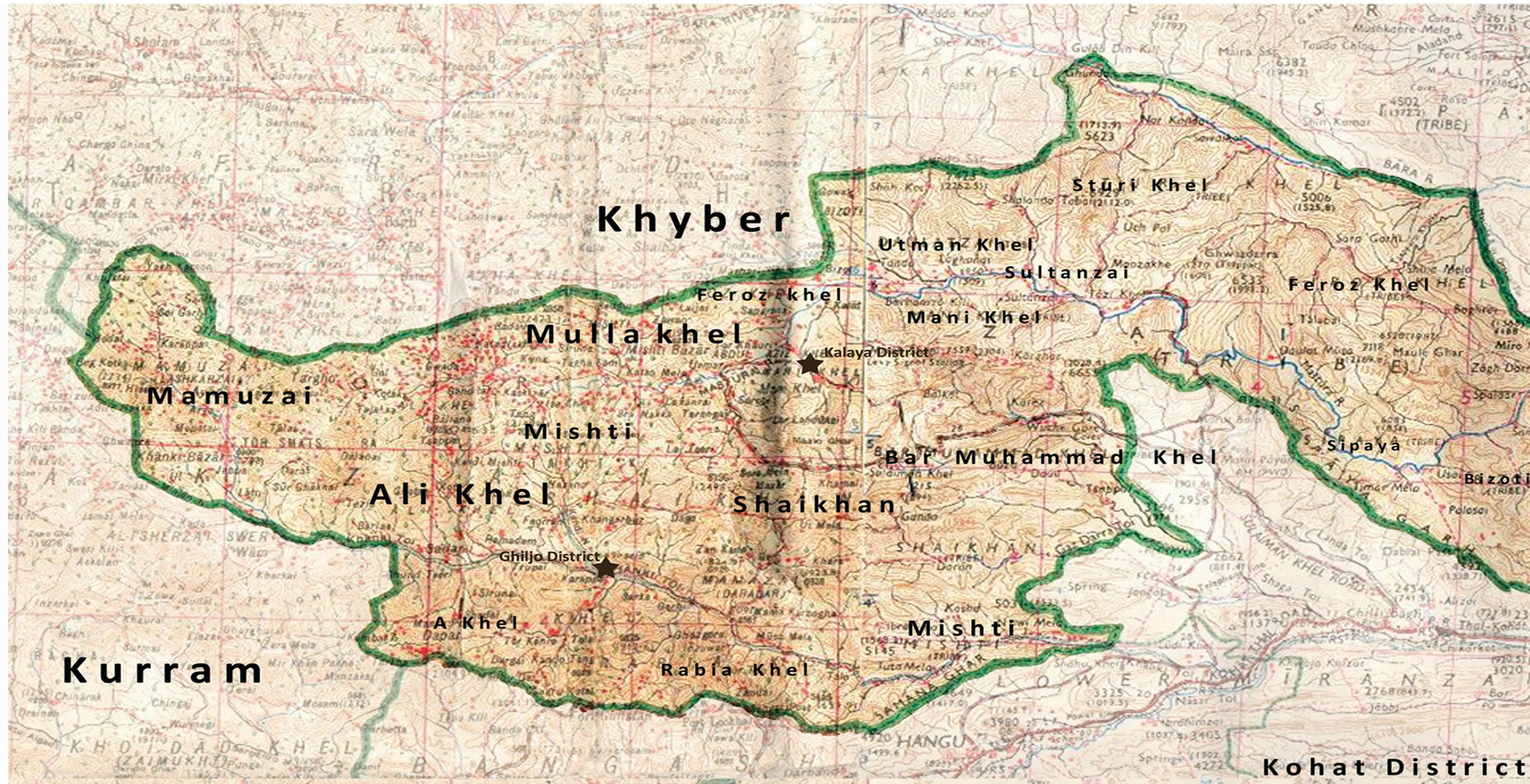
Orakzai agency is a mountainous tract dissected by numerous dry and arid water courses, especially in the southwestern part of the agency. The height of the hills varies from over 3,000 meters in the west to less than 2,000 meters in the east. The Bara River runs along the north-eastern boundary before again entering into Khyber agency. The two other major streams are the Mastura and Khanki River.

## Pakistan's Federally Administrated Tribal Areas





Tribes, Location, Population



**Accessibility**

Kalaya district is easily accessible from the Kohat District of Pakistan through two different ways, one passes through Kurez village and other one passes through Zera (Mainly known for beautiful places for visitors). It also connects to the Ghiljo district and other villages of upper Orakzai.



Transportation Network

Kohat District

## Economical Features

Orakzai agency possesses best quality coal in abundance which have even been exported in limited quantity, the Political Agent informed. However, he expressed regret over growing disputes and difference among tribesmen over coal deposits.

**Major Crops-** Wheat, Maize, Soya Bean

**Fruits-** Apple, Apricot, Peach, Walnut, Wild Olive

**Mineral-** Coal

**Local Material-** Wood- Deodar, Chir, Kail, Fir/Spruce, Oak, Walnut and other broad leafed trees are available at the higher altitude.  
Stone- lime stone, sand stone (kankar), marble





### Climate

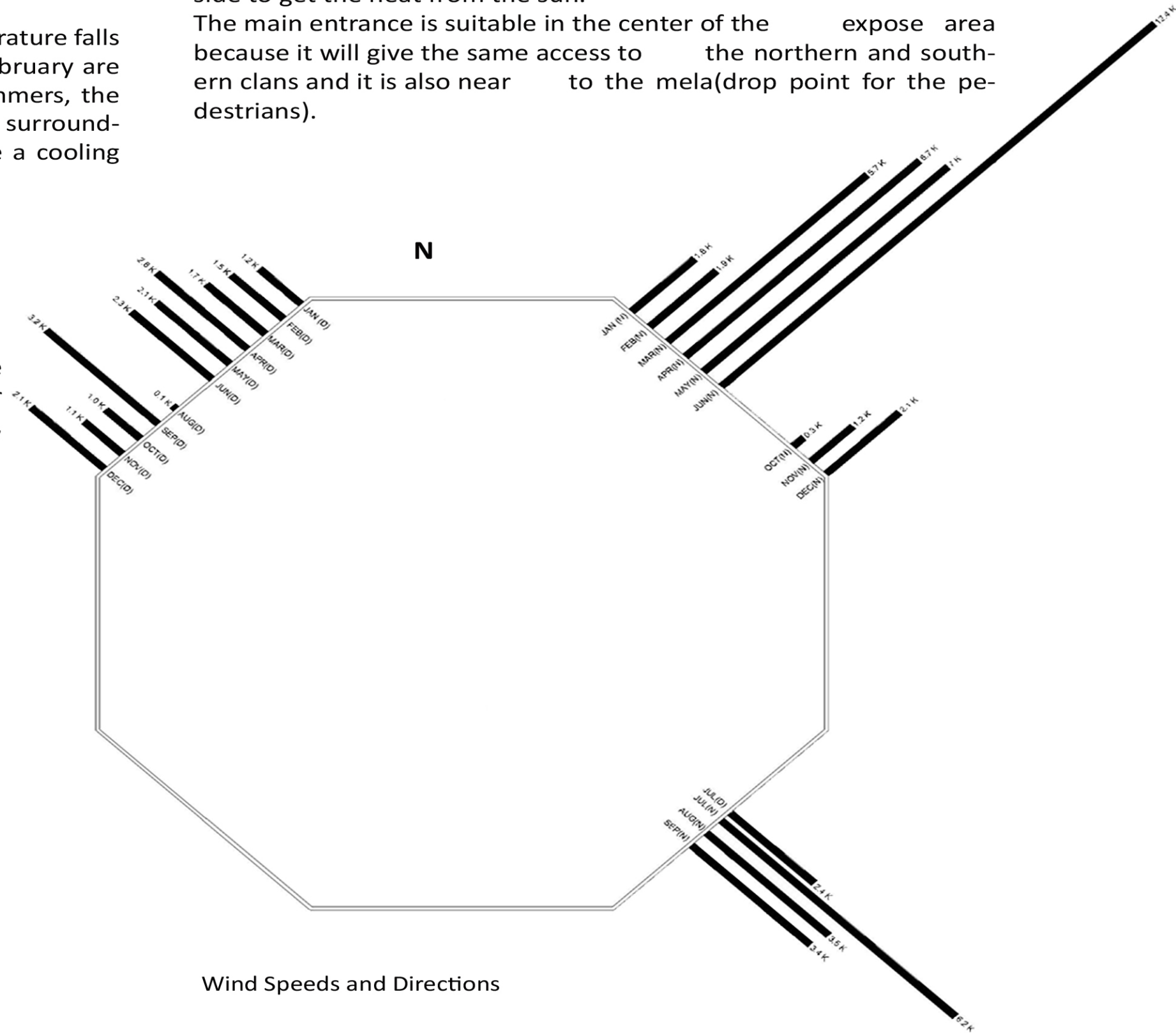
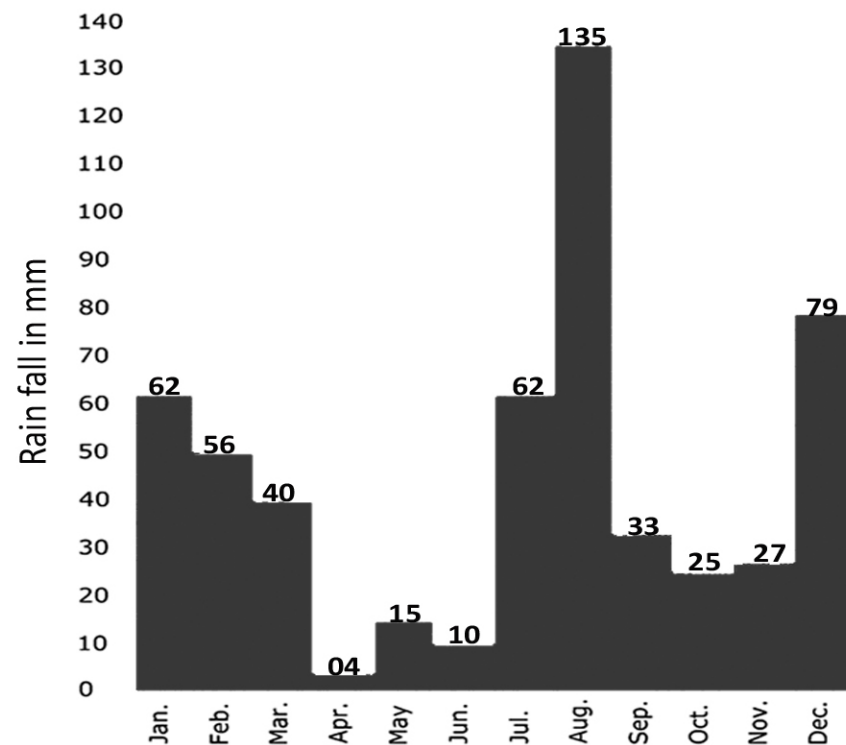
Weather is characterized by intense cold in winter when the temperature falls below freezing and has mild summers. December, January and February are the coldest months and snow fall in some areas. In the mild summers, the temperature usually does not go above 31 degrees centigrade. The surrounding forests are covered in dense and thick forests which produce a cooling effect in summers.

### Conclusion

70% of the of the site is giving the natural security from the mountain and river side and only 30% is expose and at another hand it is also secure from the winter winds from north, north west and west side.

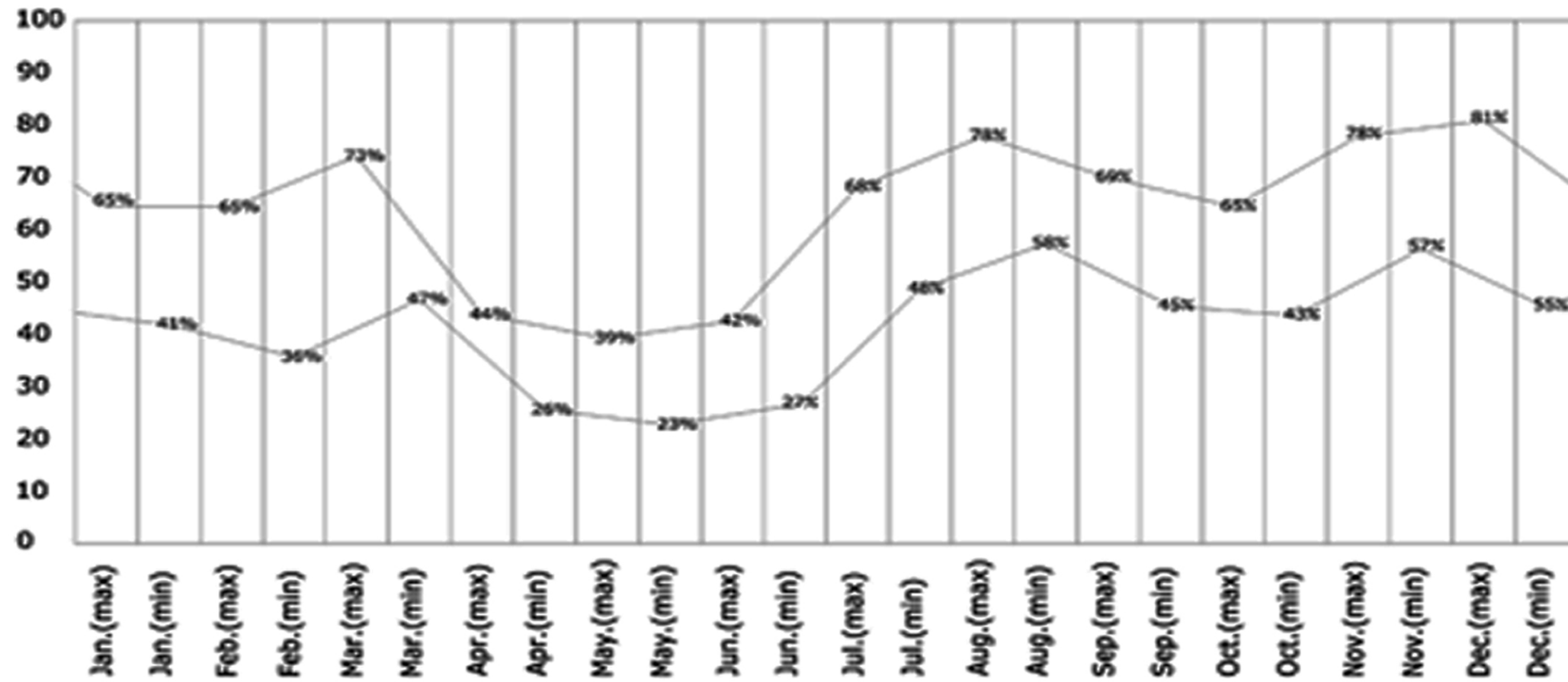
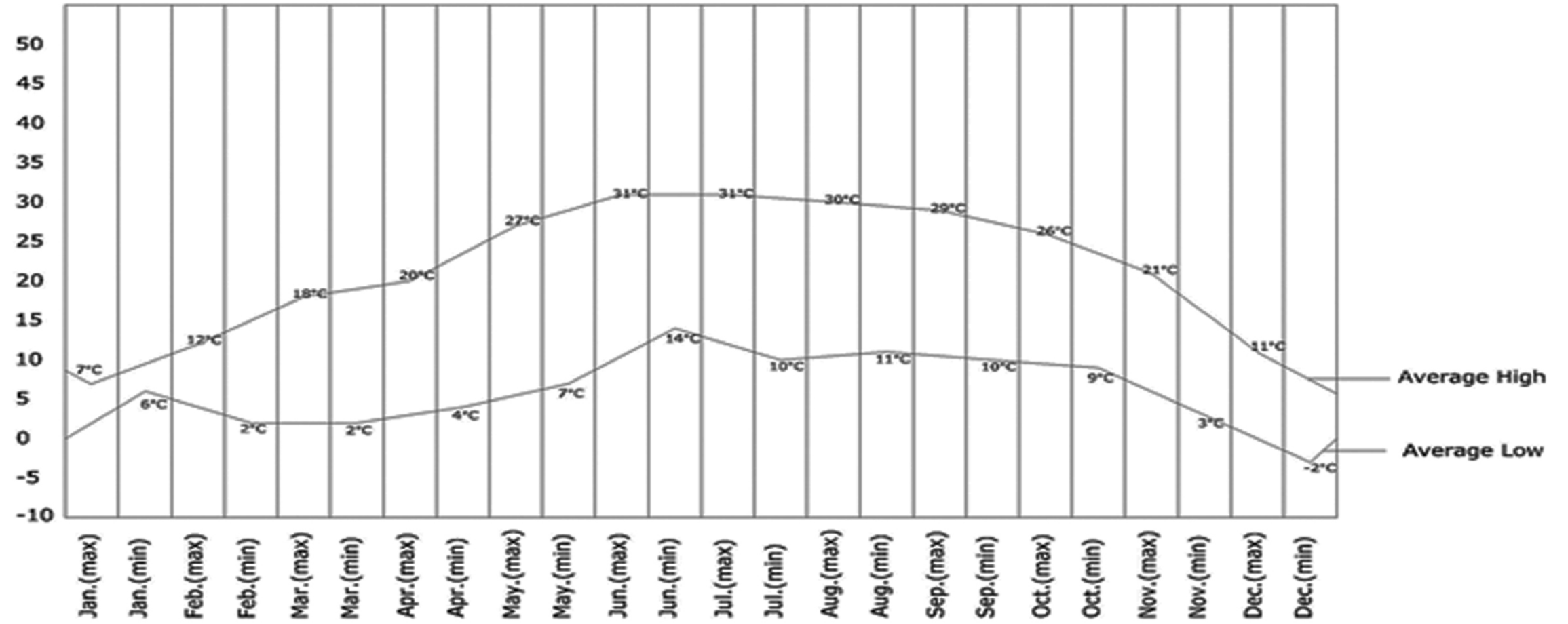
The site is exposing only towards the eastern and southern side to get the heat from the sun.

The main entrance is suitable in the center of the expose area because it will give the same access to the northern and southern clans and it is also near to the mela(drop point for the pedestrians).

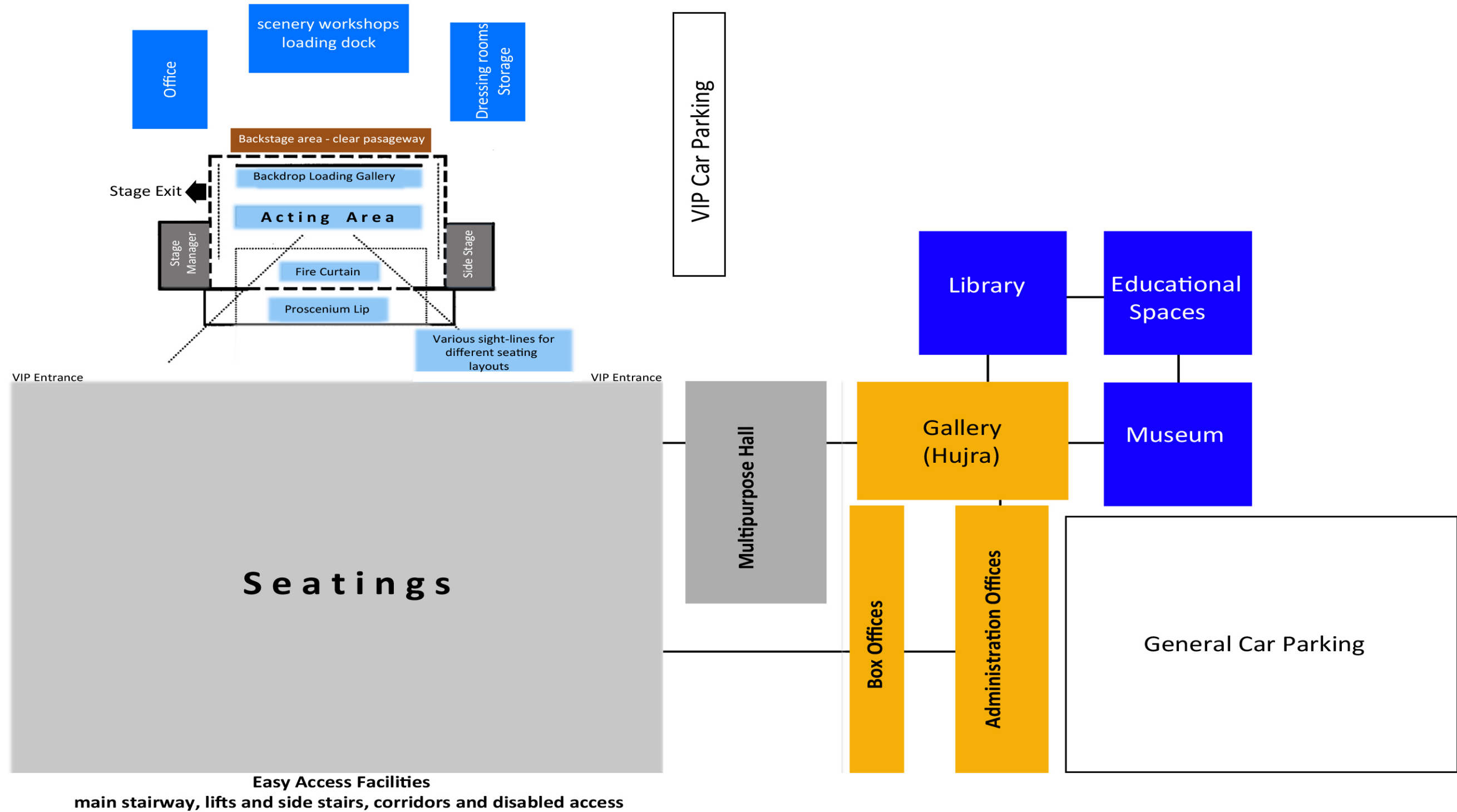


Wind Speeds and Directions

### Climate



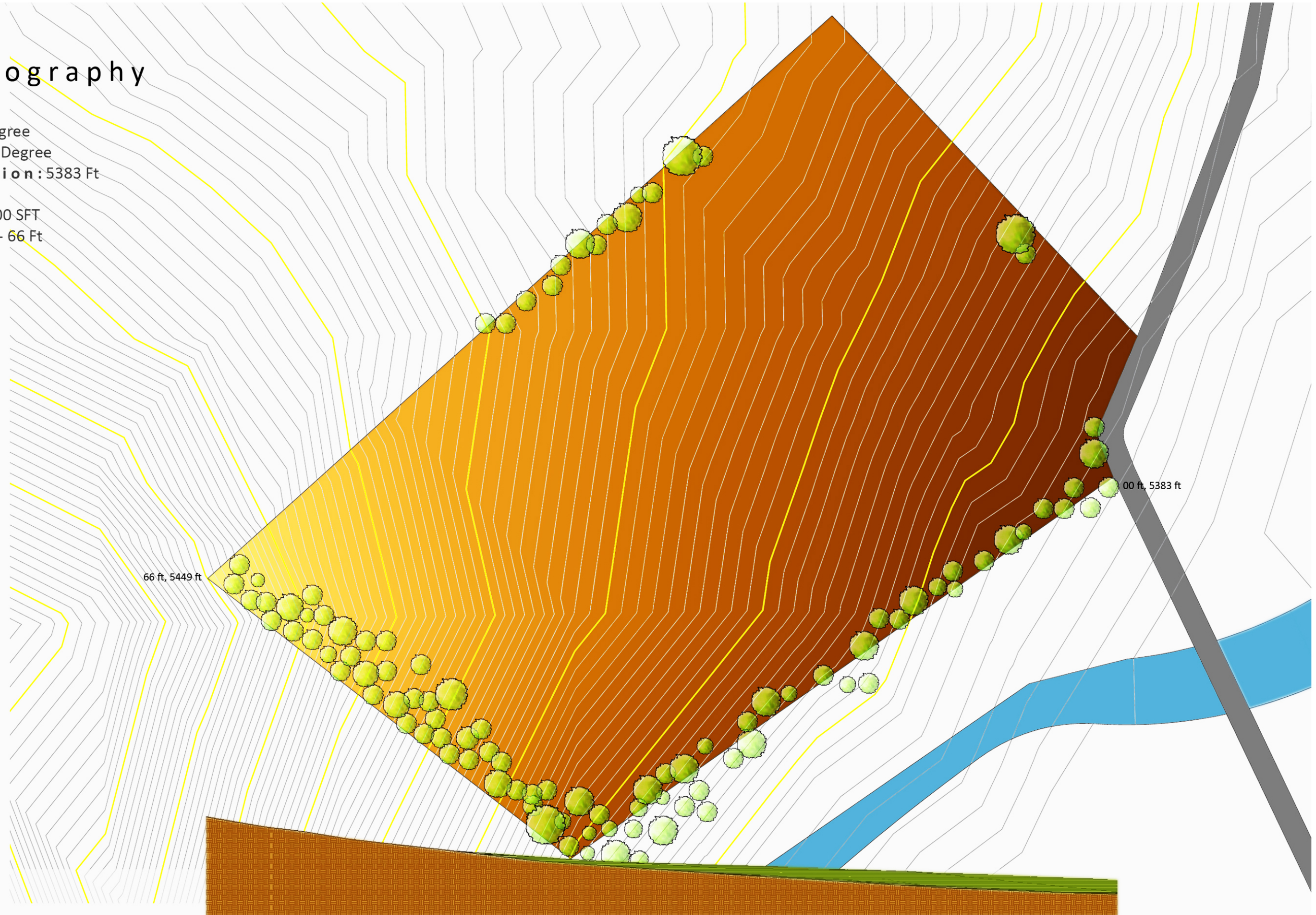
Diagrammatic layout



# Site Topography

Latitude: 33.7 Degree  
Longitude: 70.95 Degree  
Ground Elevation: 5383 Ft

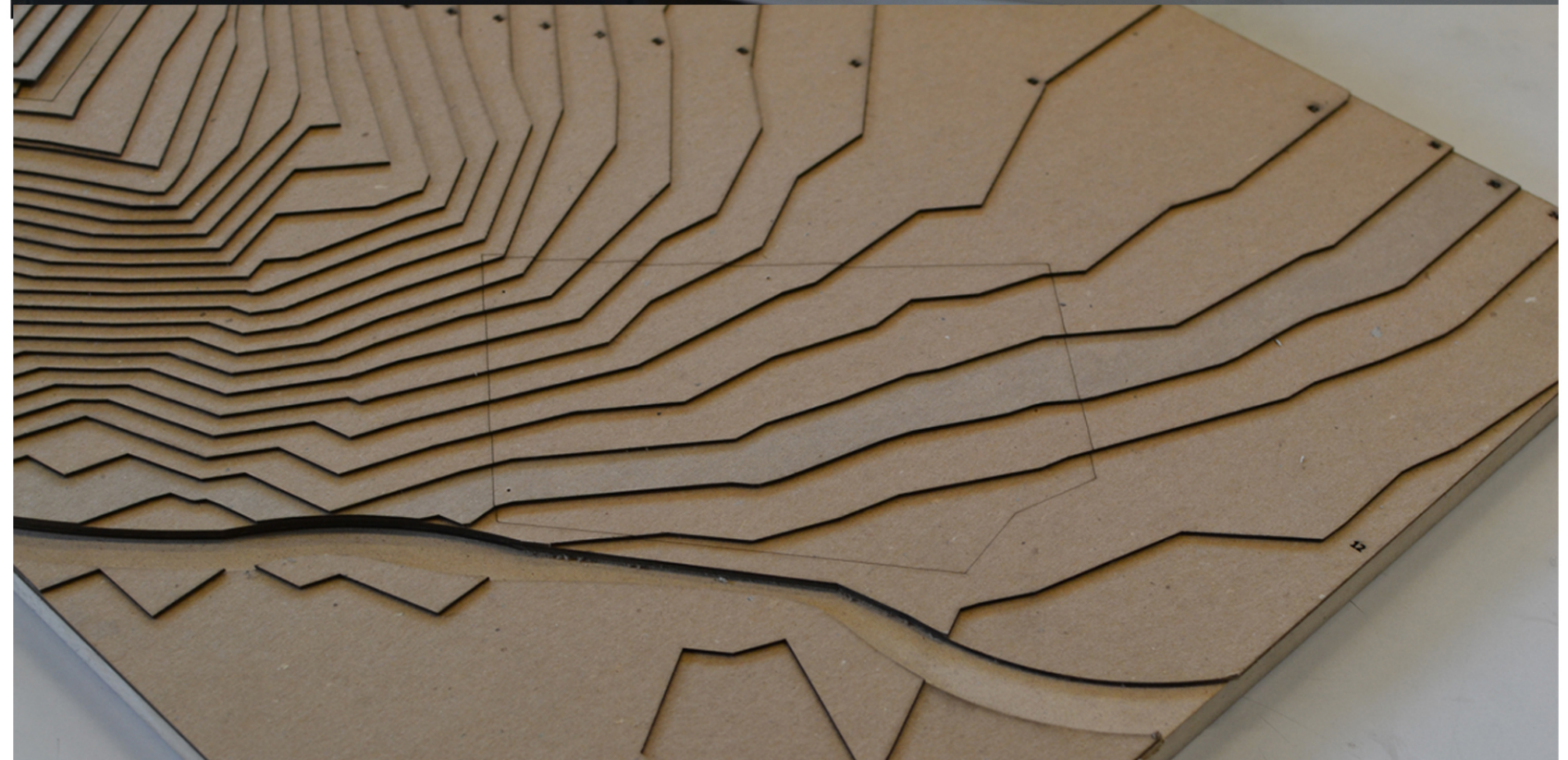
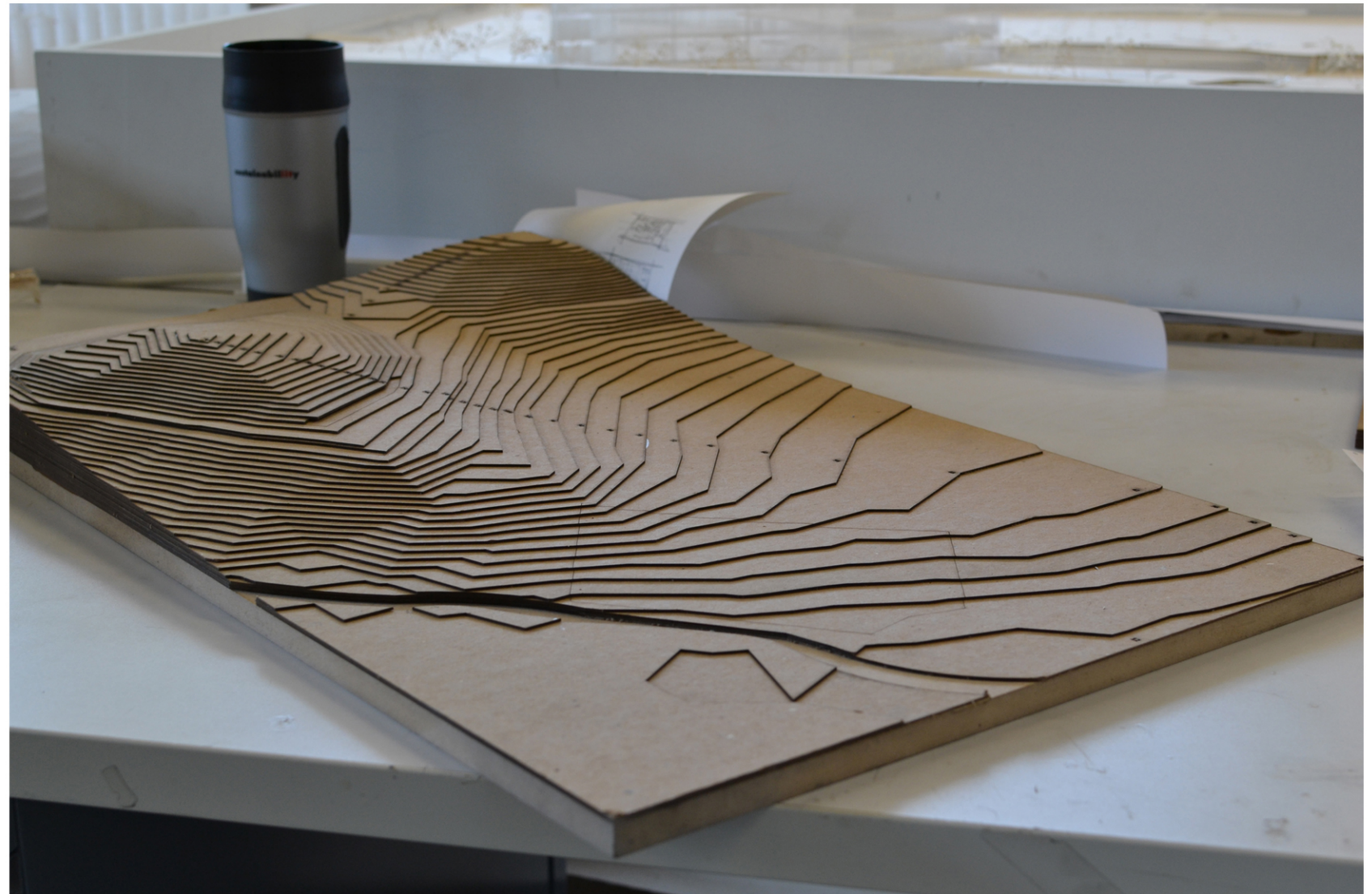
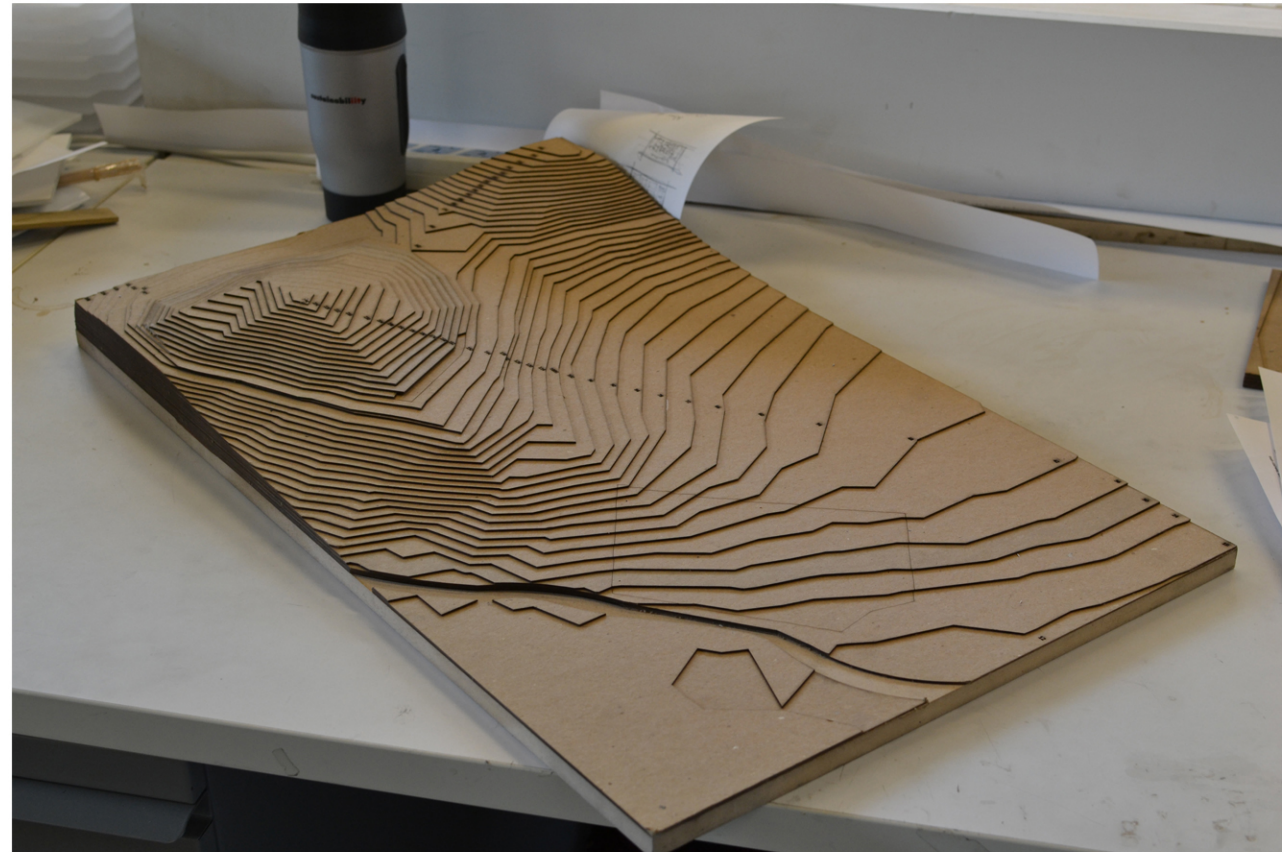
Site Area - 298,000 SFT  
Site Elevation - 66 Ft



Existing Topographic Features

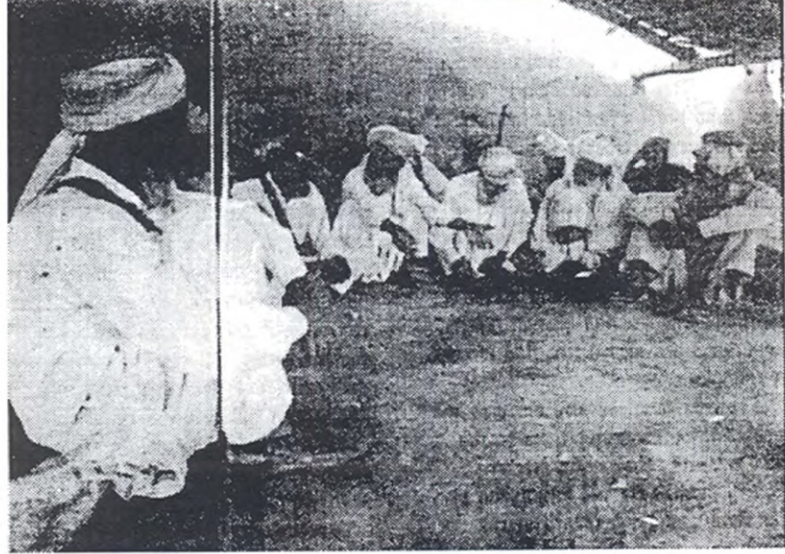


Tribal Culture Center

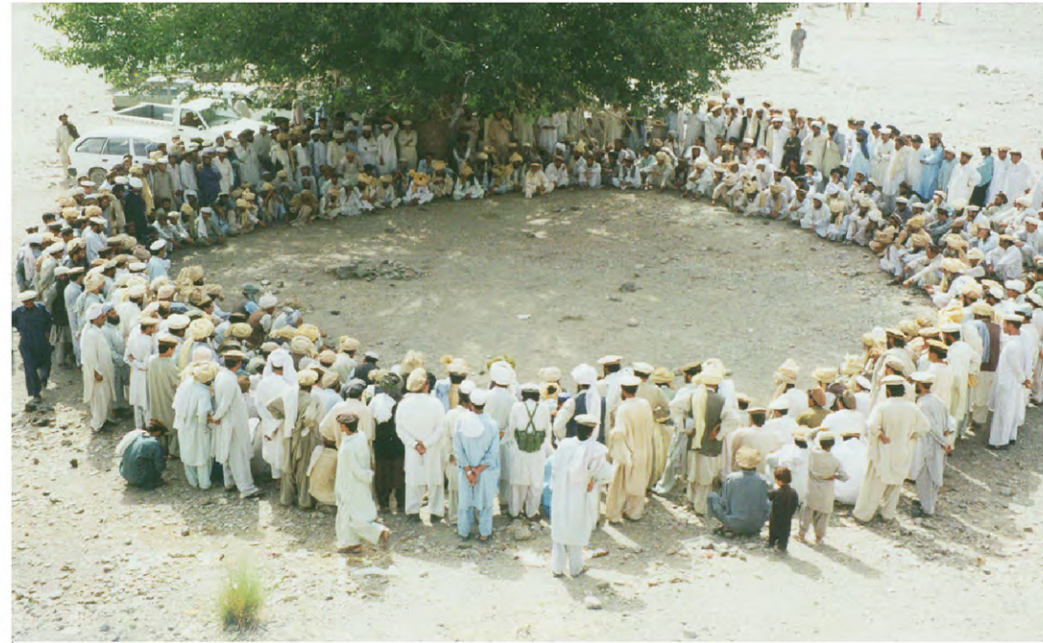


Tribal Culture Center

Jirgas Setups (movement of understanding)



: A Jirga Meeting of Village Elders.



Literacy Rate Tribal Areas (2007)

17%

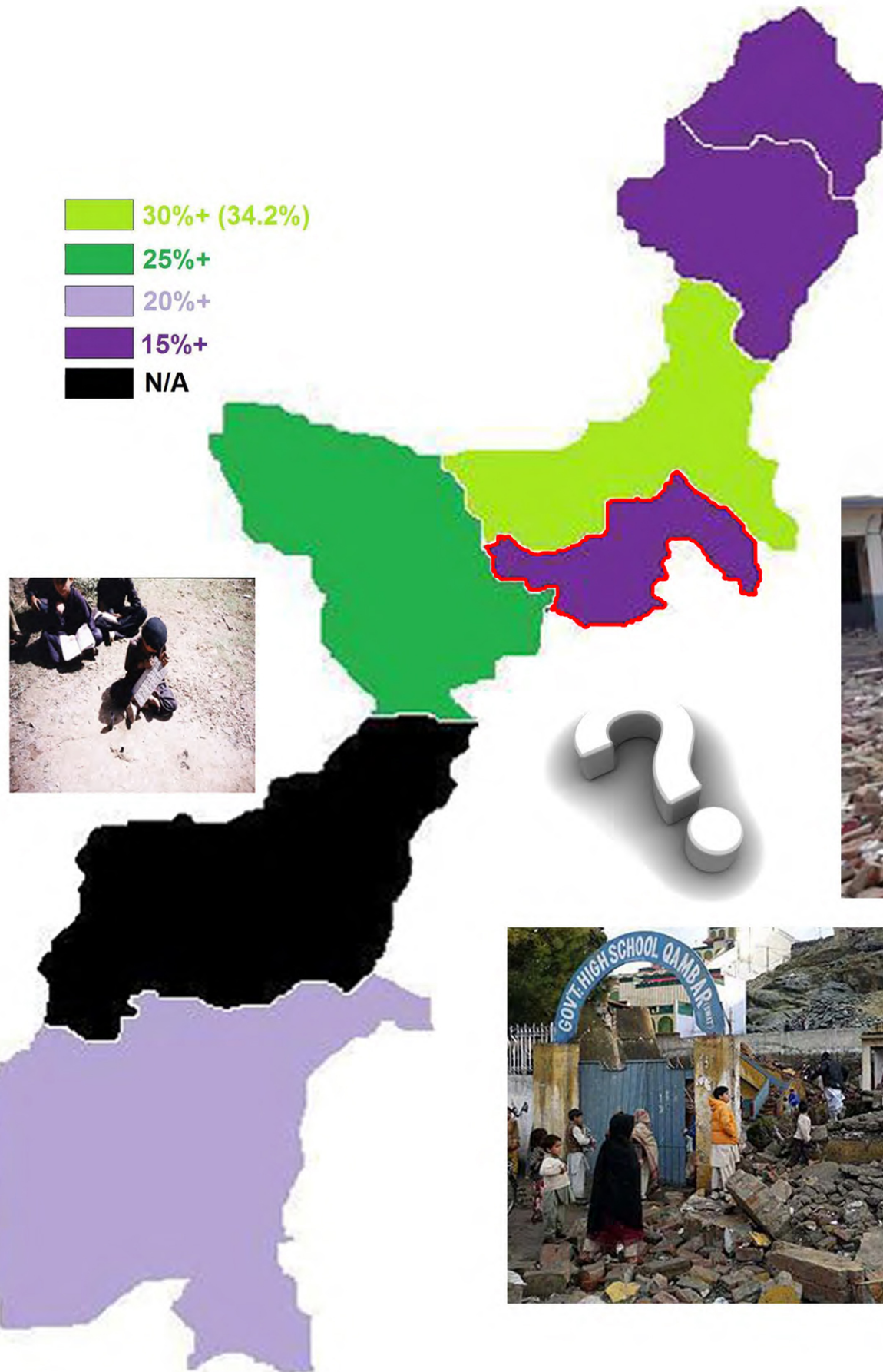
Agency	Literacy rate 2007		
	Male	Female	Total
Khyber	57.2%	10.1%	34.2%
Kurram	37.9%	14.4%	26.5%
South Waziristan	32.3%	4.3%	20%
<b>Orakzai</b>	<b>29.5%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>17%</b>
Mohmand	28.5%	3.5%	16.6%
Bajour	27.9%	3.1%	16.5%
North Waziristan (1998)	26.77%	1.47%	15.88%

Wikipedia

Literacy Rate Tribal Areas (2008)

11%

<b>Orakzai</b>	<b>19.8%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>11%</b>
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Literacy Rate Tribal Areas (2012)

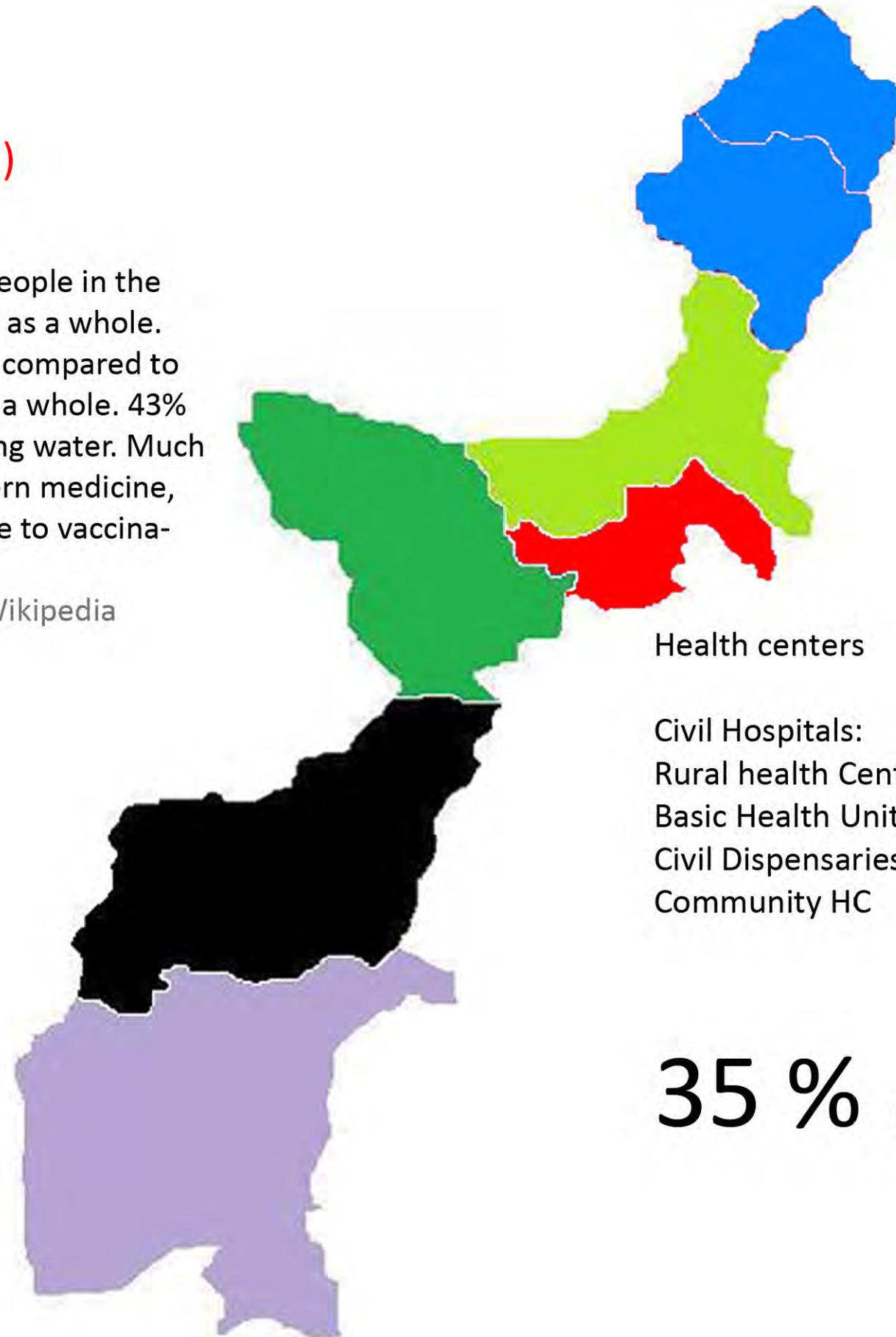




## Health Sector Tribal Areas (2007)

There is one hospital bed for every 2,179 people in the FATA, compared to one in 1,341 in Pakistan as a whole. There is one doctor for every 7,670 people compared to one doctor per 1,226 people in Pakistan as a whole. 43% of FATA citizens have access to clean drinking water. Much of the population is suspicious about modern medicine, and some militant groups are openly hostile to vaccinations.

Wikipedia



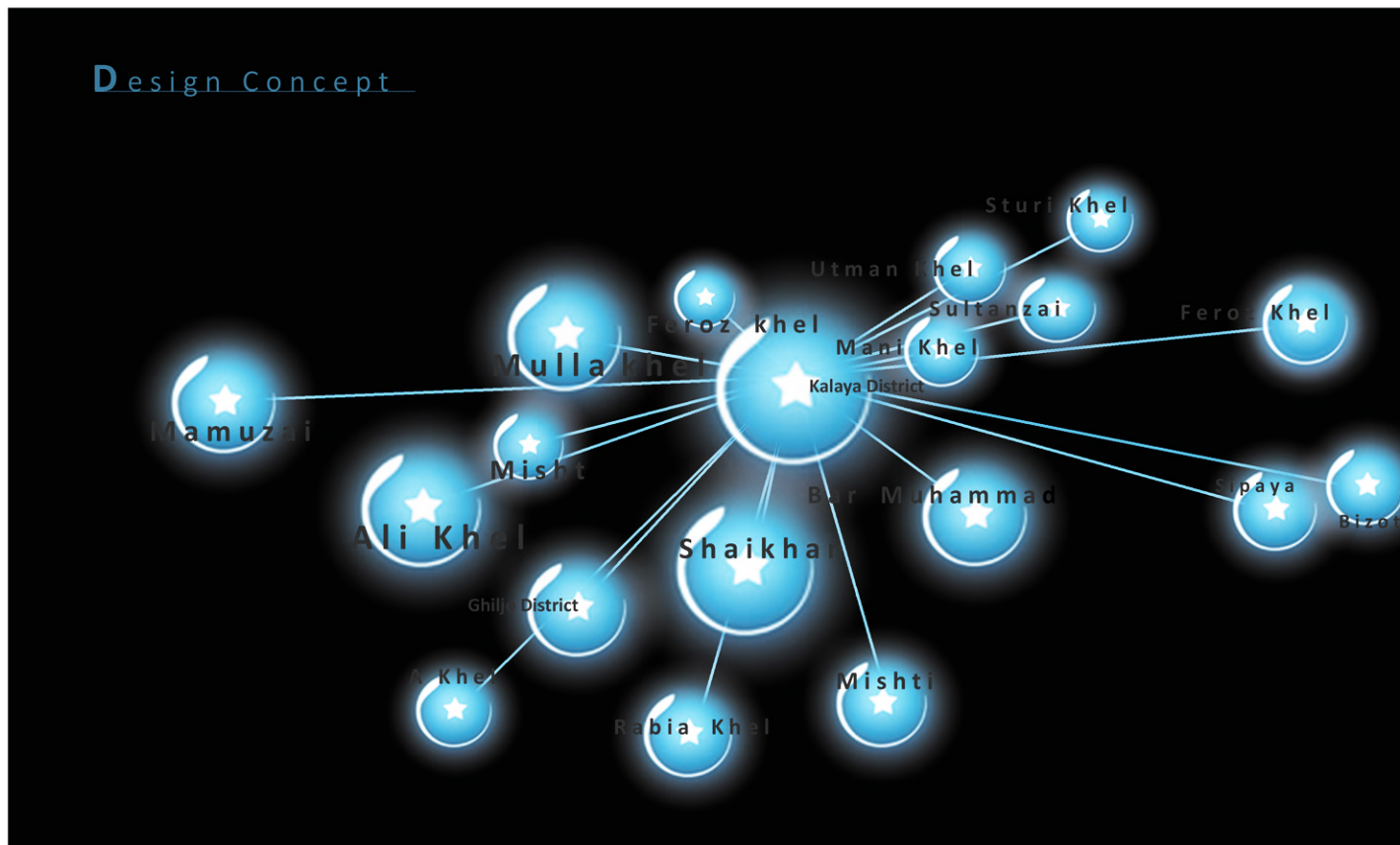
Health centers	Nos	Upper	Lower
Civil Hospitals:	03	02	01
Rural health Centers:	02	01	01
Basic Health Units:	25	09	16
Civil Dispensaries:	19	14	05
Community HC	03	02	01

**35 %** Population coverage

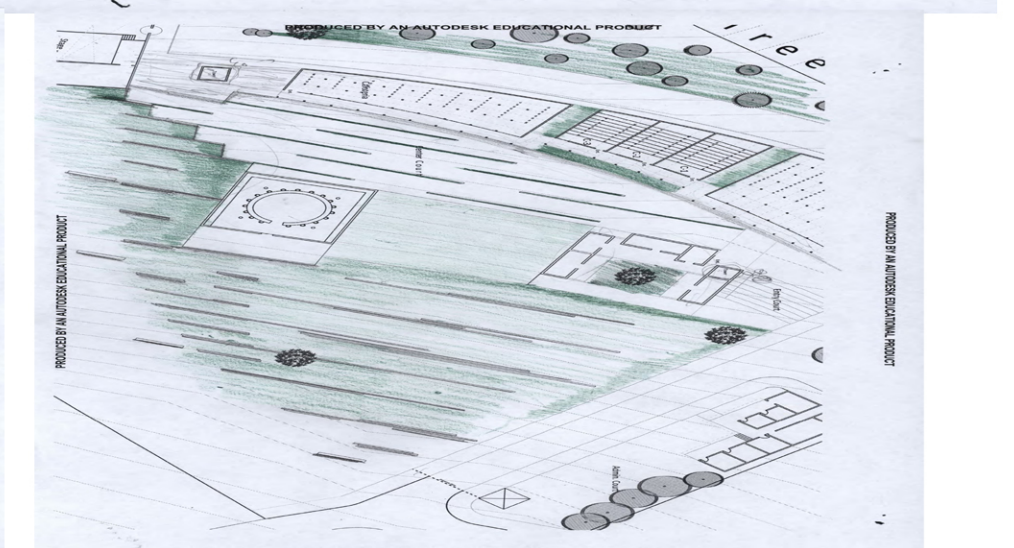
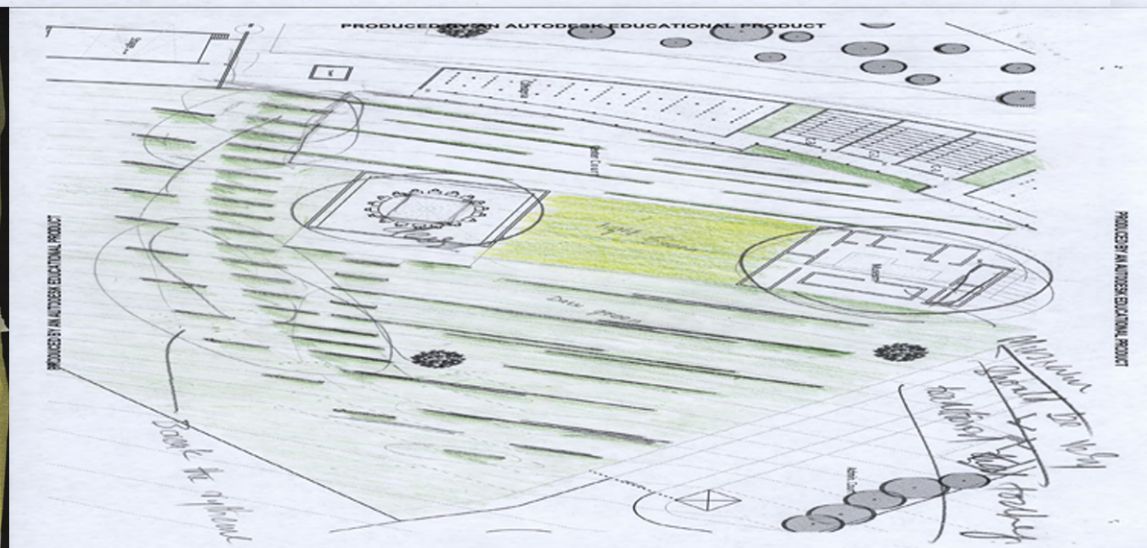
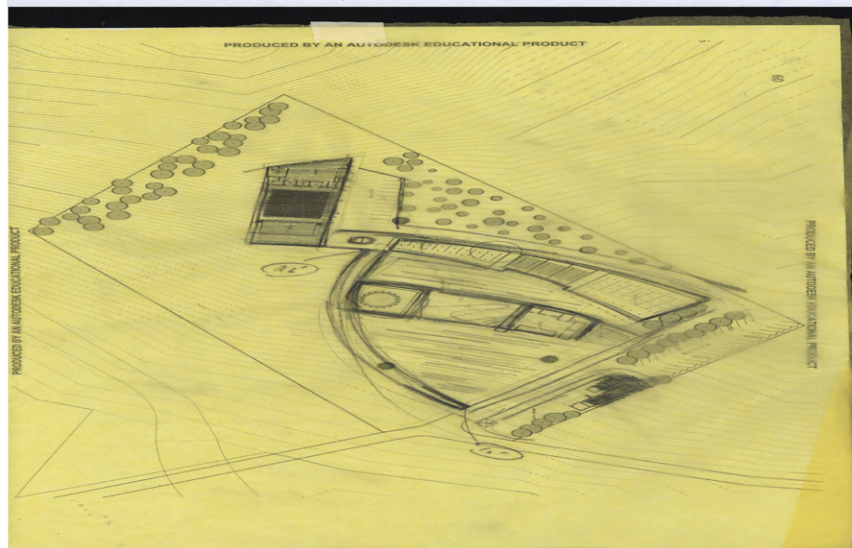
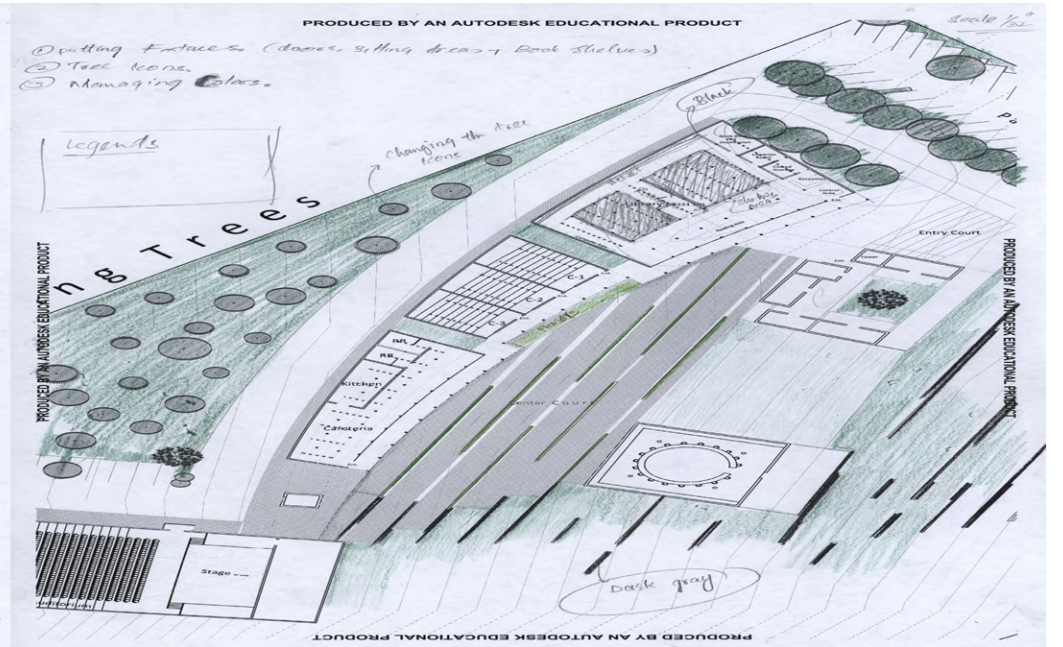
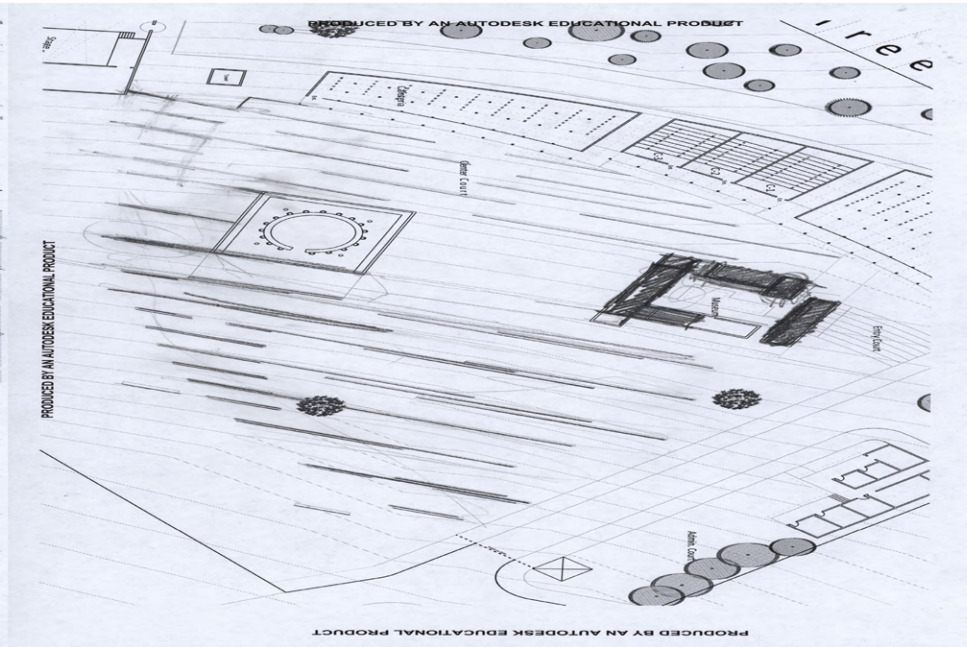
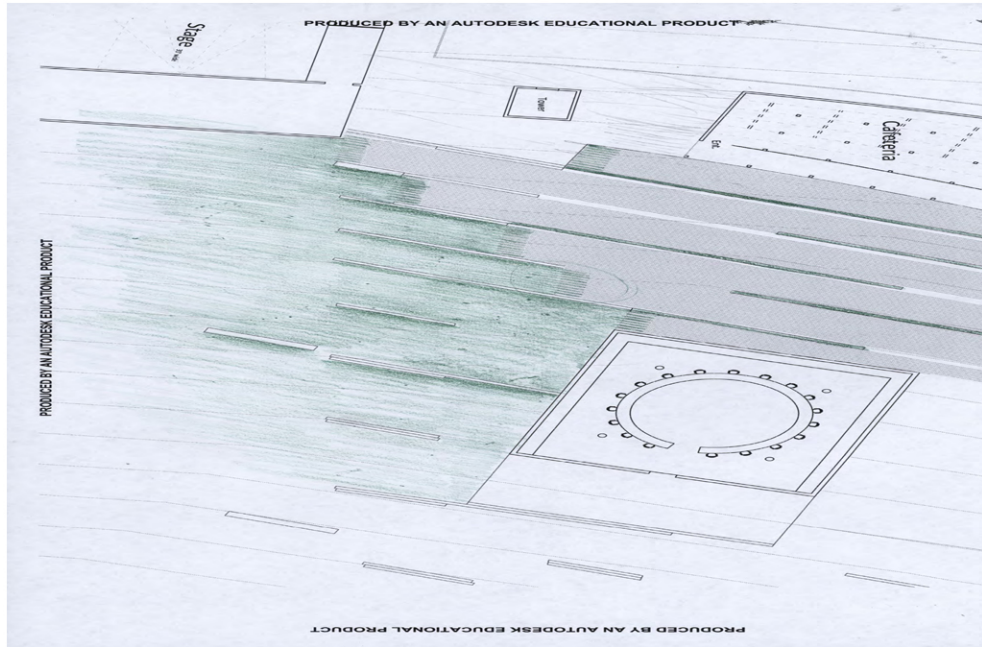
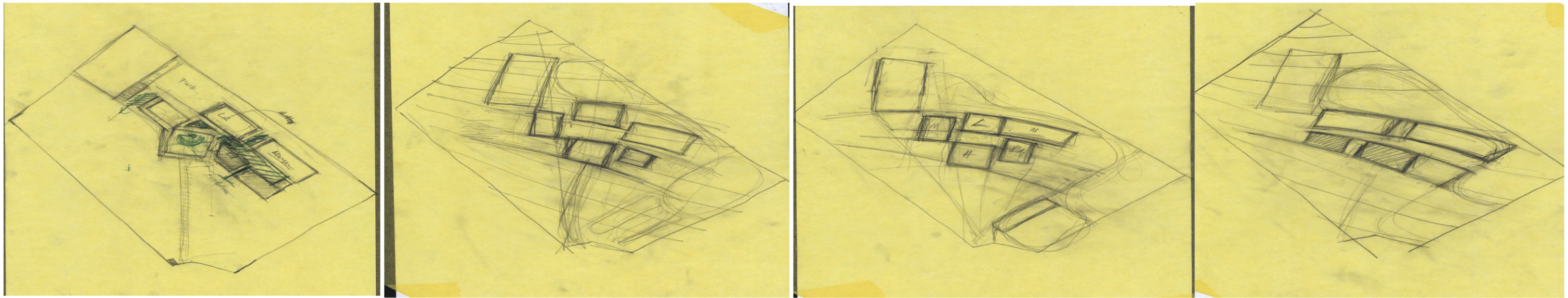
Orakzai Agency sources



# Tribal Culture Center



Tribal Culture Center

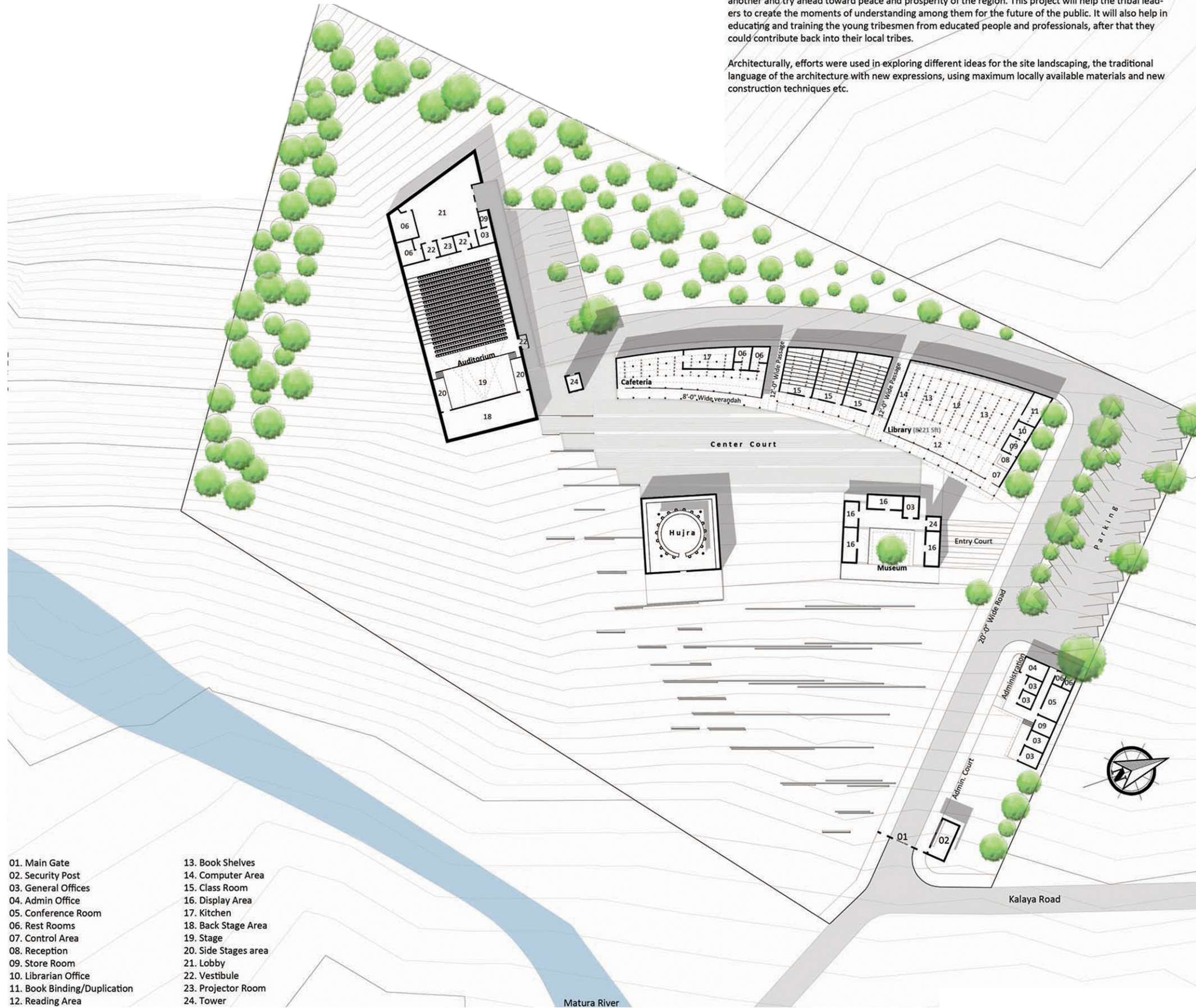


Master Plan

Site Area : 298,000 SFT  
 Site Elevation : 66 Ft

The main purpose of this project (Tribal Cultural Center) is to offer a general platform for the local public, tribal leaders and country's key persons, where they could understand and communicate one another and try ahead toward peace and prosperity of the region. This project will help the tribal leaders to create the moments of understanding among them for the future of the public. It will also help in educating and training the young tribesmen from educated people and professionals, after that they could contribute back into their local tribes.

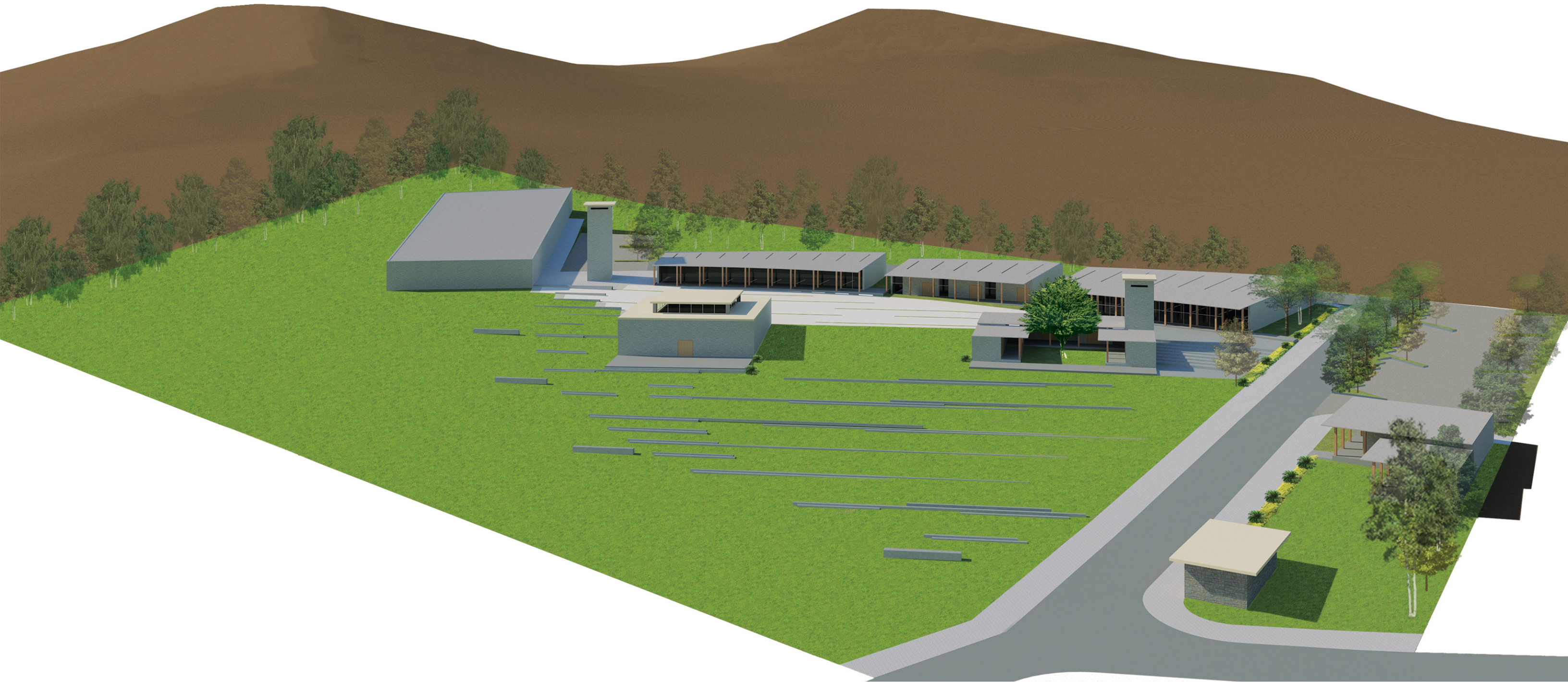
Architecturally, efforts were used in exploring different ideas for the site landscaping, the traditional language of the architecture with new expressions, using maximum locally available materials and new construction techniques etc.



- |                              |                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 01. Main Gate                | 13. Book Shelves     |
| 02. Security Post            | 14. Computer Area    |
| 03. General Offices          | 15. Class Room       |
| 04. Admin Office             | 16. Display Area     |
| 05. Conference Room          | 17. Kitchen          |
| 06. Rest Rooms               | 18. Back Stage Area  |
| 07. Control Area             | 19. Stage            |
| 08. Reception                | 20. Side Stages area |
| 09. Store Room               | 21. Lobby            |
| 10. Librarian Office         | 22. Vestibule        |
| 11. Book Binding/Duplication | 23. Projector Room   |
| 12. Reading Area             | 24. Tower            |

Tribal Culture Center

**Project Perspective**



Tribal Culture Center

Administration View



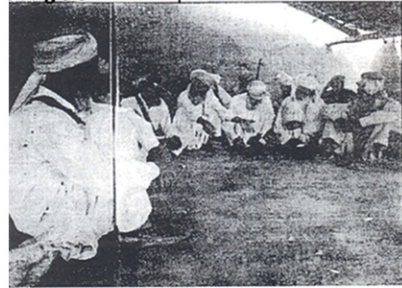
Administration

## Hujra View

**"Hujra"** is an Arabic word which means "Room." Hujra is normally a simple building, built in every Village. It represents the sociable character of the Pakhtoons and it is a useful institution which plays an important role in their daily life. Usually, it serves as a normal guest house and a place for ritual and festivals. However, it symbolizes itself as a center for social activities as well as a Council to all for the settlement of family and inter-tribal disputes.



Jirgas Setups



A Jirga Meeting of Village Elders.



Hujra Interior View

Museum View





Courtard View



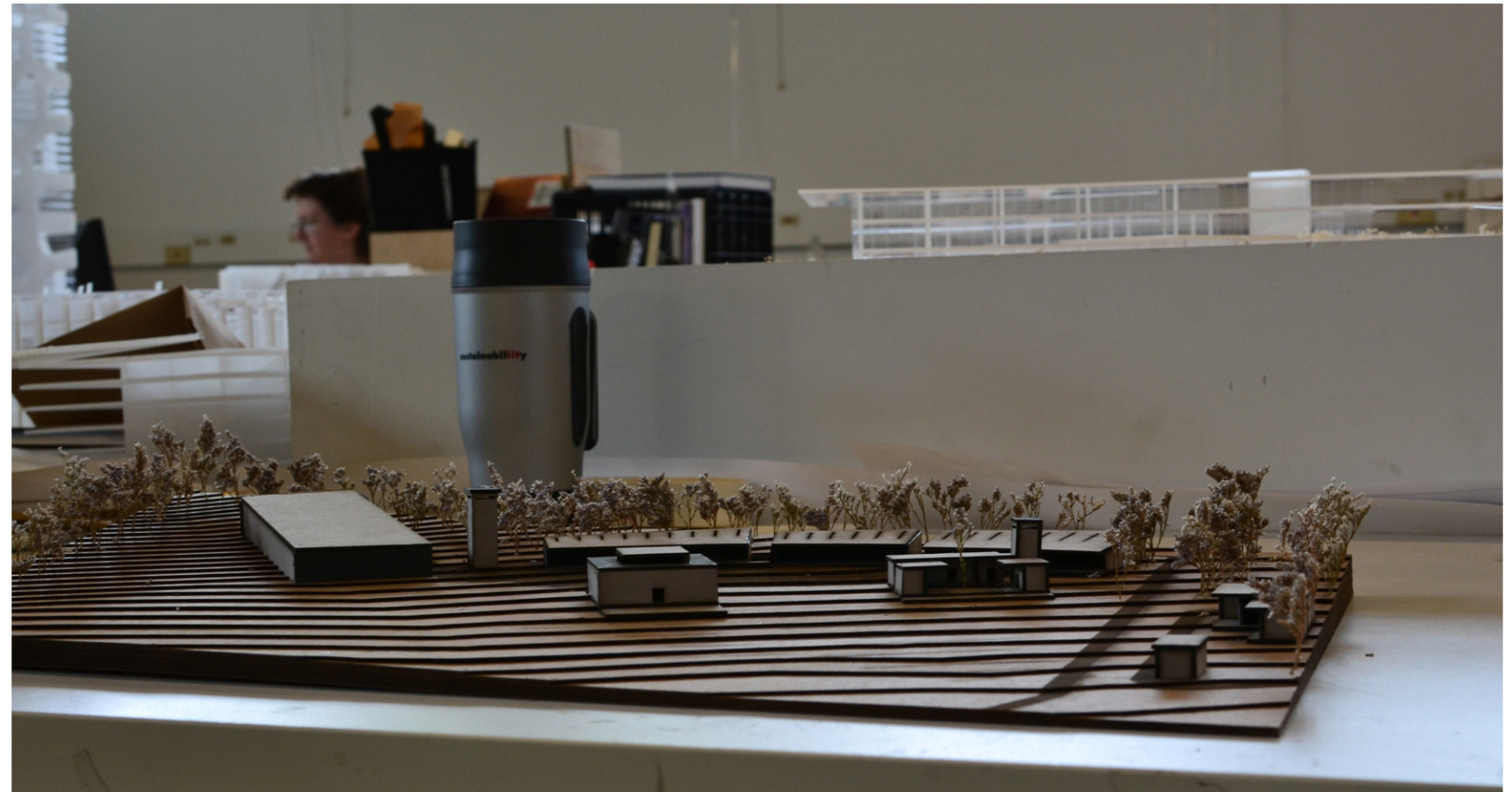
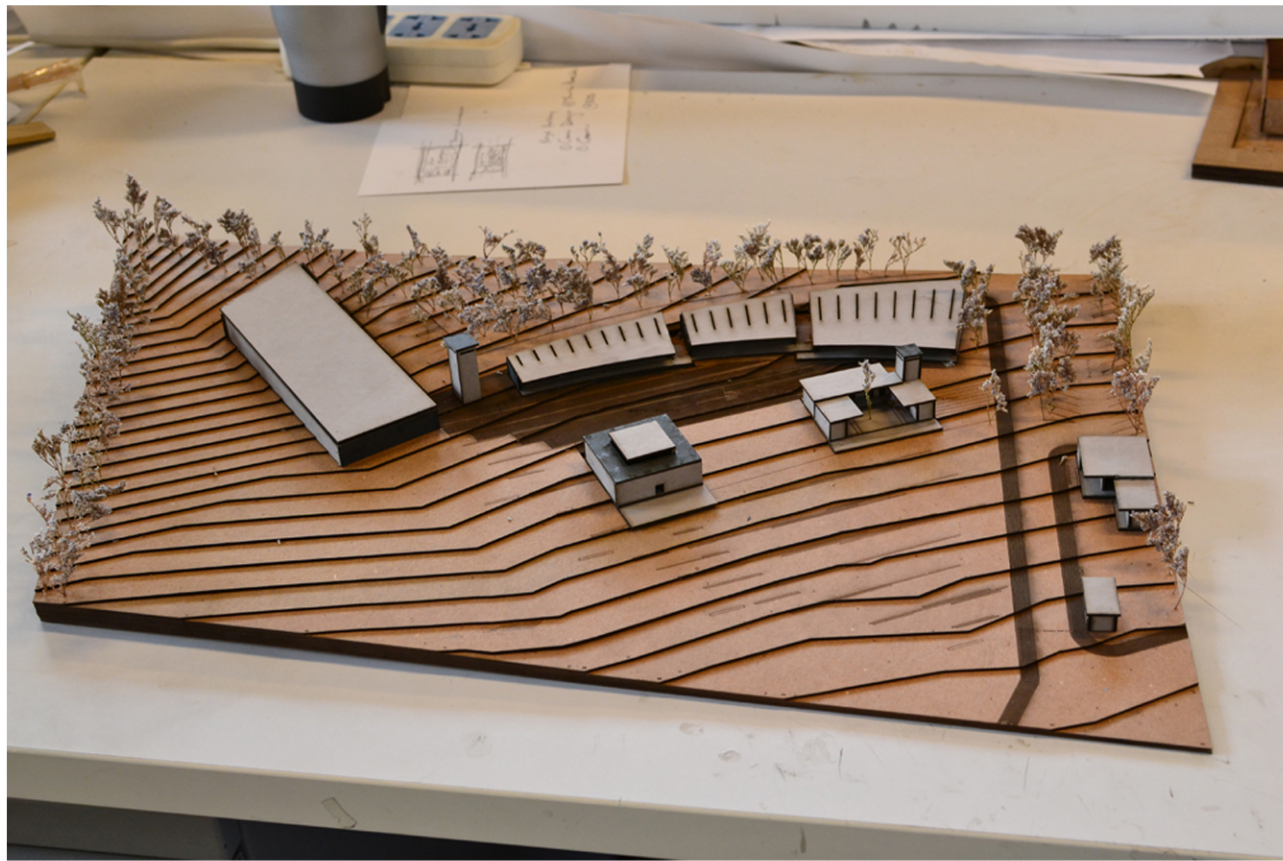
Tribal Culture Center



South Elevation



Tribal Culture Center



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