

# ARCHITECTURAL THESIS – OM SHANTI SPIRITUAL RETREAT CENTRE

## OM SHANTI SPIRITUAL RETREAT CENTRE AT SONEPAT

The project is a live project with site in sonapat ,haryana ..

- A centre to educate and train people in raj yoga as per the philosophy of Brahmakumaris
- A retreat centre for people to release tension and find serenity through yoga practices and interactive sessions with Brahmakumaris.
- Brahmakumaris are the people who have chosen to practise raj yoga and aim to attain moksha through purusharth by living a yogi life.

### SITE



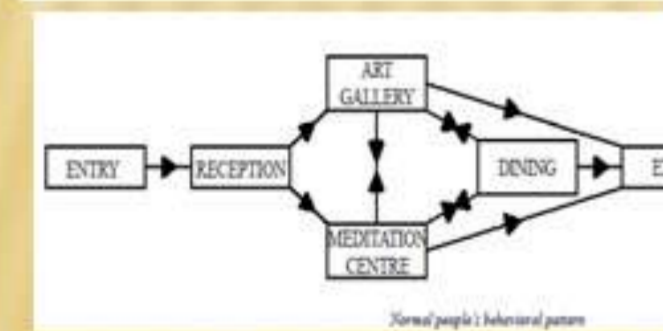
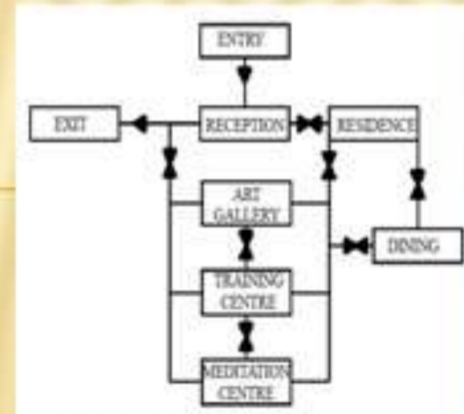
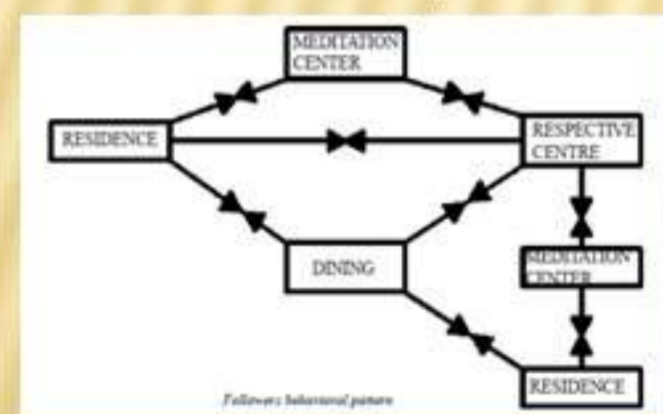
32,374 sqm approx 8 acres  
in Industrial area Sonapat

### USER PROFILE

There are **three major user groups** of the centers. Their activity pattern differ

#### FOLLOWERS

These group of users usually lives in the centres of visits the centre for short period of time to offer their services.



**STUDENTS**  
This group of users visits the centers for a week people visit the center as a pilgrims and tourist.

### MAJOR COMPONENTS

- A Training Centre ,Consisting Of 6 Classrooms /Conference Halls
- An Auditorium With A Capacity Of 500 People
- Residential And Guest House Complex Comprising Of 100 Rooms
- Kitchen
- Dining Hall
- A Meditation Hall
- Admin Block
- Library Cum Video Room
- Gallery For Daily Visitors

### CHALLENGES

To produce an emotionally rich architecture to evoke all senses -visual, touch, smell, sound and last spiritual sense

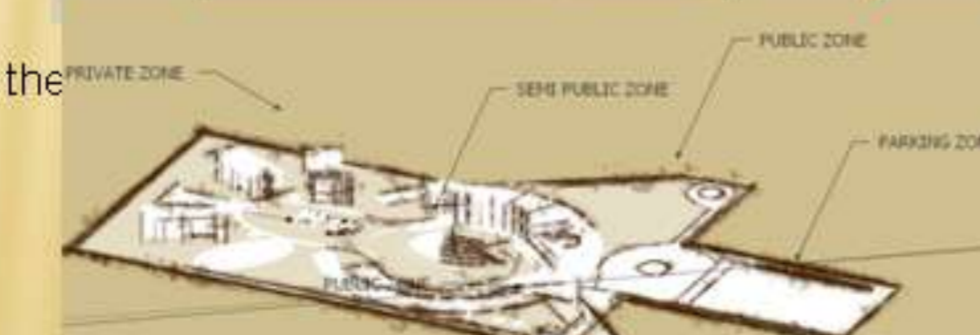
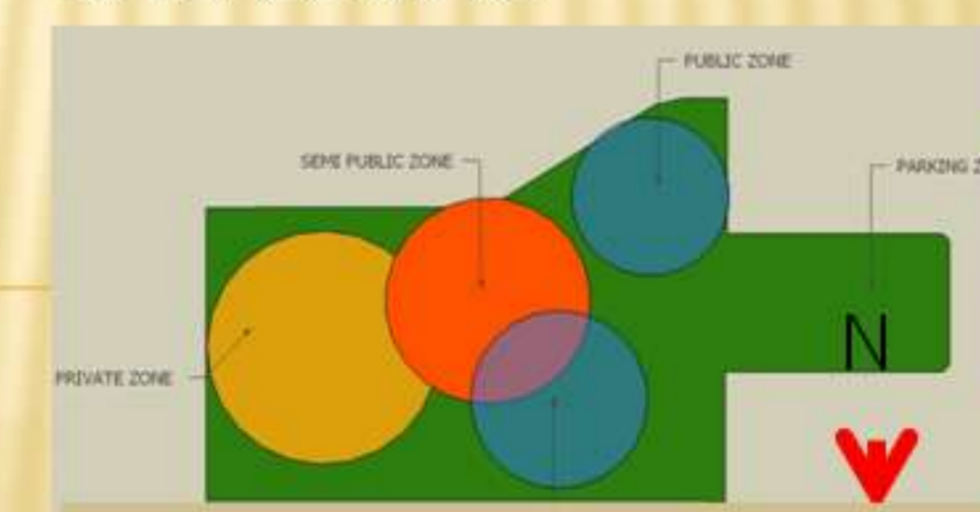
As such om shanti retreat centres have no common set of architectural features or style common in all centres except for use of domes and chattris and extensive use of white colour on facades , so this complex can set a standard architectural vocabulary unifying all centres achieving spiritual aura in the whole complex

To integrate landscape as a part of architectural design of the built complex and not a separate entity.

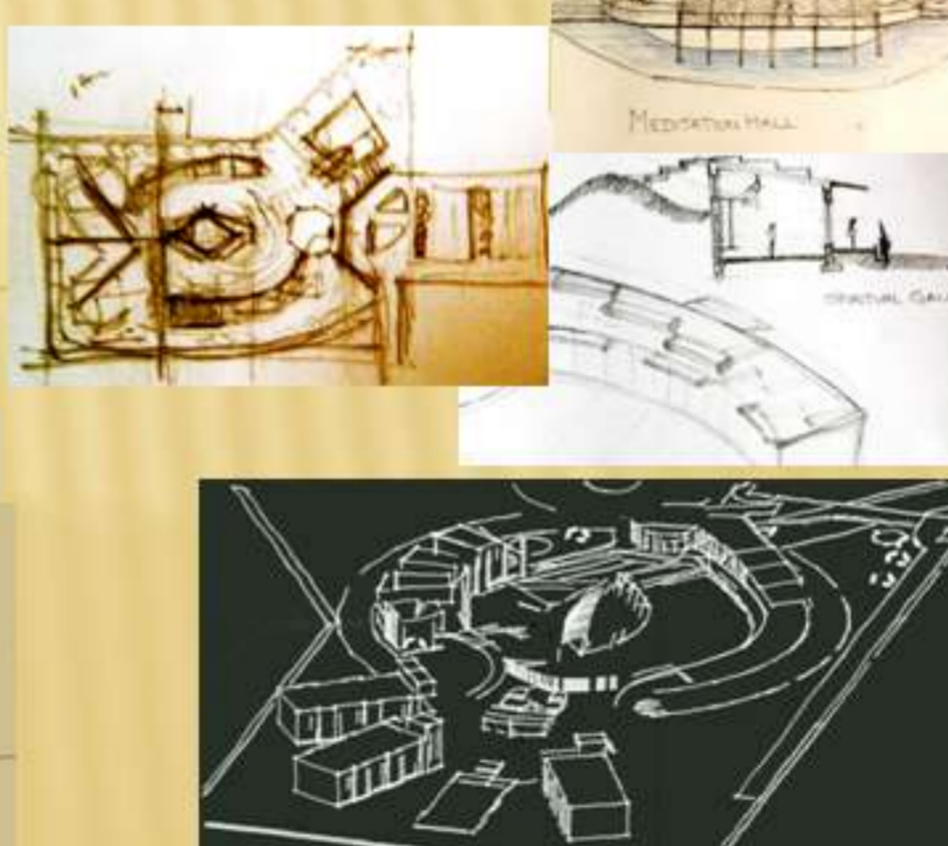
clever use of symbols of belief of the brahm Kumaris sect to be incorporated in the design inconspicuously

*The challenges lies in creating a spiritual environ for the people more than technical aspects yet being a functional design*

### SITE ZONING



### CONCEPT



**GARIMA GUPTA**  
91812067924\  
BATCH 2009-2014  
SUB-ARCHITECTURAL  
DESIGN  
CSPA

## COMPONENTS

## ABSTRACT

- CONCEPT SHEET 1
- .CONCEPT SHEET 2
- SITE PLANNING AND COMPONENTS
- DETAIL OF HOSTELS, KITCHEN, DINING AND SPIRITUAL GALLERY
- DETAIL OF AUDITORIUM
- DETAIL OF TRAINING CENTRE
- DETAIL OF CENTRAL MEDITATION HALL

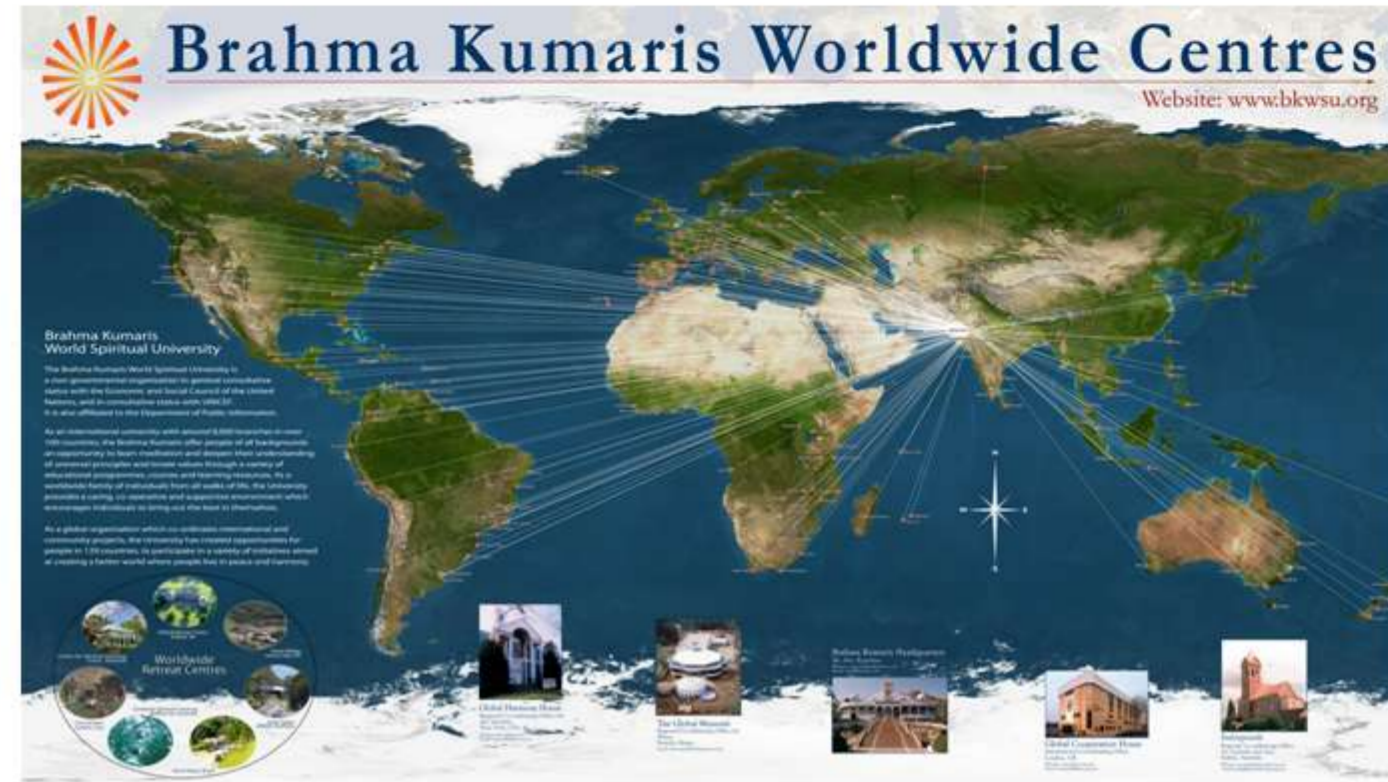
SUBMITTED BY : GARIMA GUPTA  
CHITKARA SCHOOL OF PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE



# OM SHANTI SPIRITUAL RETREAT CENTRE AT SONEPAT

## INTRODUCTION

THE PROJECT IS A LIVE PROJECT WITH SITE IN SONEPAT, HARYANA. BRAHMAKUMARIS ARE RENOWNED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD FOR THEIR PACIFYING SERVICES. THIS PROJECT SPECIFICALLY IS A SPIRITUAL RETREAT CENTRE LIKE OTHER OM SHANTI RETREAT CENTRES ALL OVER THE WORLD. IT IS A PART OF THE BRAHMAKUMARI VISHWAVIDYALAYA - A WELL KNOWN SPIRITUAL VALUE BASED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION WHICH HAS GAINED GLOBAL ACCEPTANCE.



HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM OTHER RETREAT CENTRES  
IT IS A RETREAT CENTRE FOR RELAXATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT OF MIND AND NOT BODY.

### DAY 1 Visitor

#### Prog 1

DURATION: 1 DAY

1. Reception
2. Visit to gallery to understand philosophies and revise the taught lessons.
3. Meditation centre (15 min - 1 hour)
4. Dining hall if visit during meal hours
5. Exit

### 2 DAYS TO 1 WEEK RETREAT FOR 2<sup>ND</sup> TIME VISITOR

#### Prog 2

DURATION: 2 DAYS TO 1 WEEK

### REQUIREMENTS

- RECEPTION AND ADMIN
- HOSTEL 350
- KITCHEN
- DINNING 180
- MEDITATION HALL 250
- AUDITORIUM 500
- LIBRARY
- SPIRITUAL GALLERY
- PARKING 100
- CLASSROOMS 300

| ACTIVITIES                        | TIMINGS         | SPATIAL REQUIREMENTS      |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| WAKE UP                           | 3.30 am         | HOSTEL                    |
| GROUP YOGA                        | 4.00 to 4.45 am | OUTDOOR AREAS             |
| EXERCISE                          | 4.45 to 5.45 am | OUTDOOR AREAS             |
| MEDITATION PRACTICE (INDV/HOSTEL) | 5.45 to 6.45 am | MEDITATION ROOM IN HOSTEL |
| CLASSES                           | 6.45 to 7.45 am | CLASSROOMS                |
| BREAKFAST                         | 8.30 to 9.00 am | DINNING HALLS             |
| DUTIES/SEVA                       | 9.00 to 1.00 pm | OUTDOOR AREAS             |
| LUNCH                             | 1.00 to 2.00 pm | DINNING HALLS             |
| REST                              | 2.00 to 4.00 pm | HOSTEL                    |
| DUTIES/SEVA                       | 4.00 to 5.00 pm | OUTDOOR/INDOOR            |
| PLAYTIME                          | 5.00 to 6.00 pm | OUTDOOR AREAS             |
| GROUP MEDITATION                  | 6.30 to 7.30 pm | MEDITATION HALL           |
| DINNER                            | 7.30 to 8.30 pm | DINNING HALLS             |
| GROUP DISCUSSION                  | 8.30 to 9.30 pm | COMMON AREA IN HOSTEL     |
| SLEEP                             | 10.00 pm        | HOSTEL                    |

☐ AUDITORIUM TO BE USED FOR FOR BIG FUNCTIONS PER WEEK

### MAJOR COMPONENTS OF DESIGN SCHEME

- AUDITORIUM
- MEDITATION HALL
- SPIRITUAL GALLERY
- TRAINING CENTRE
- HOSTELS
- KITCHEN
- DINING

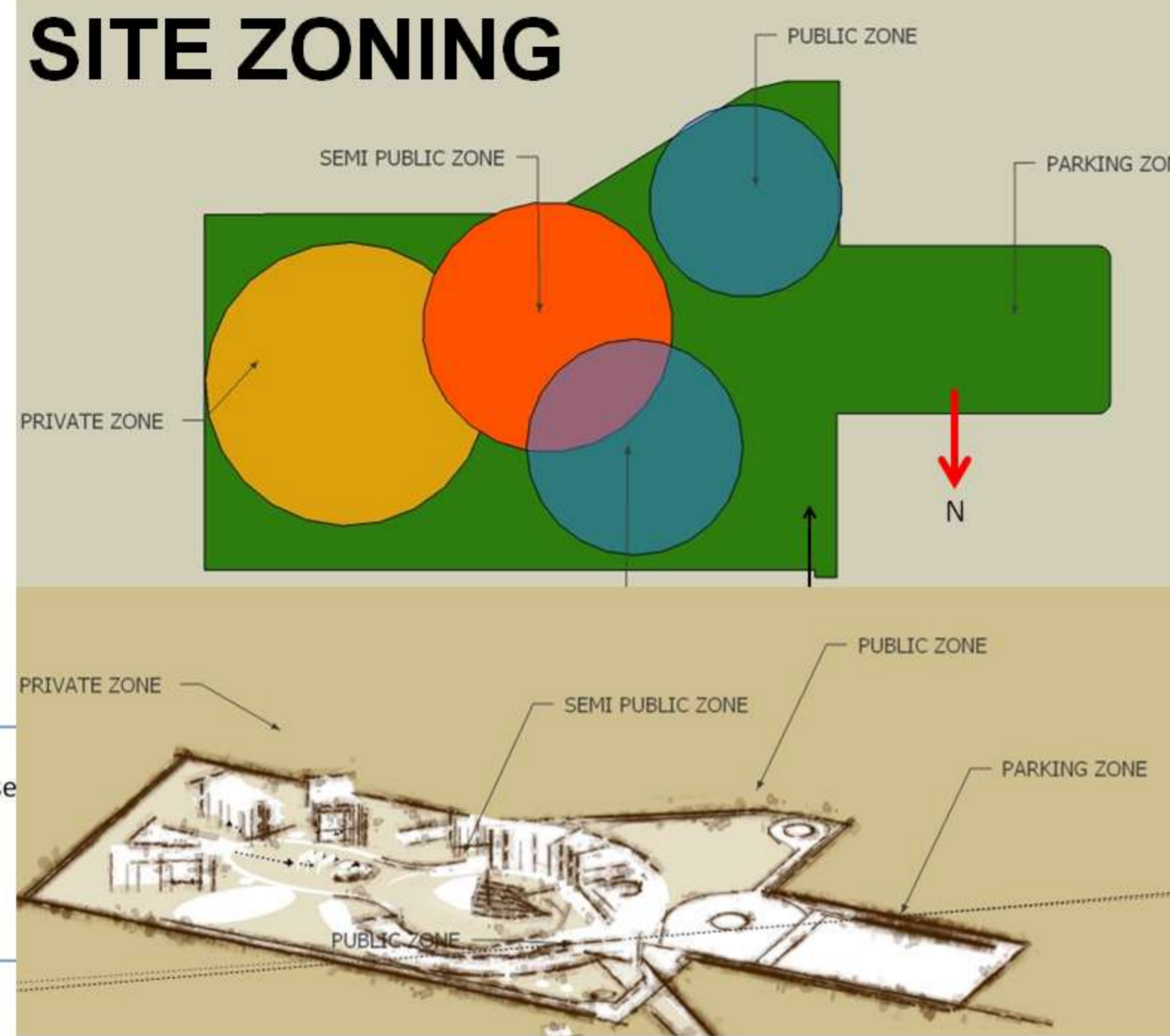
## AIM AND OBJECTIVES

THE AIM IS TO DESIGN SIMPLE YET TIMELESS BEAUTIFUL CENTRE THAT INVOKES POSITIVITY AND SPIRITUALITY IN A PERSON AND INSPIRES NON FOLLOWERS TO ASPIRE TO BECOME A BRAHMAKUMARI

### OBJECTIVES:

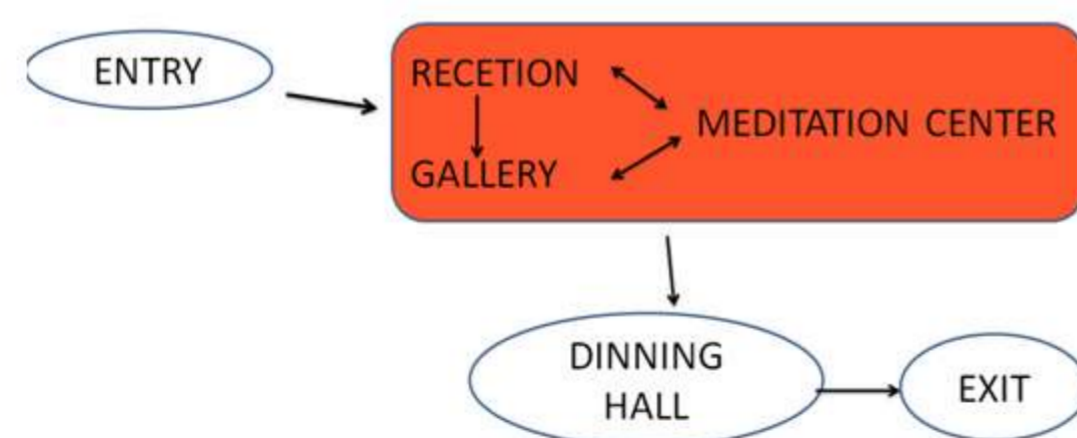
- ☐ TO CREATE HUMBLE AND SOOTHING SPACES
- ☐ REVIVE CONNECTION OF MAN AND NATURE AND PAY NATURE DUE RESPECT
- ☐ TO DESIGN ARCHITECTURALLY IN TERMS OF SPACES AND NOT JUST PLANS AND ELEVATIONS

## SITE ZONING

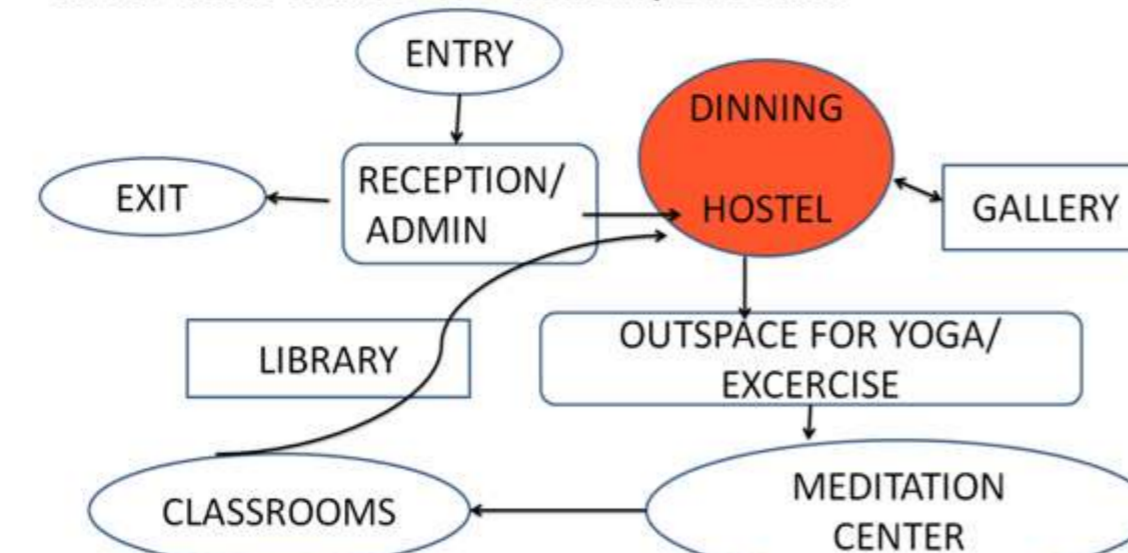


### FLOW CHARTS OF 3 CATEGORY USERS

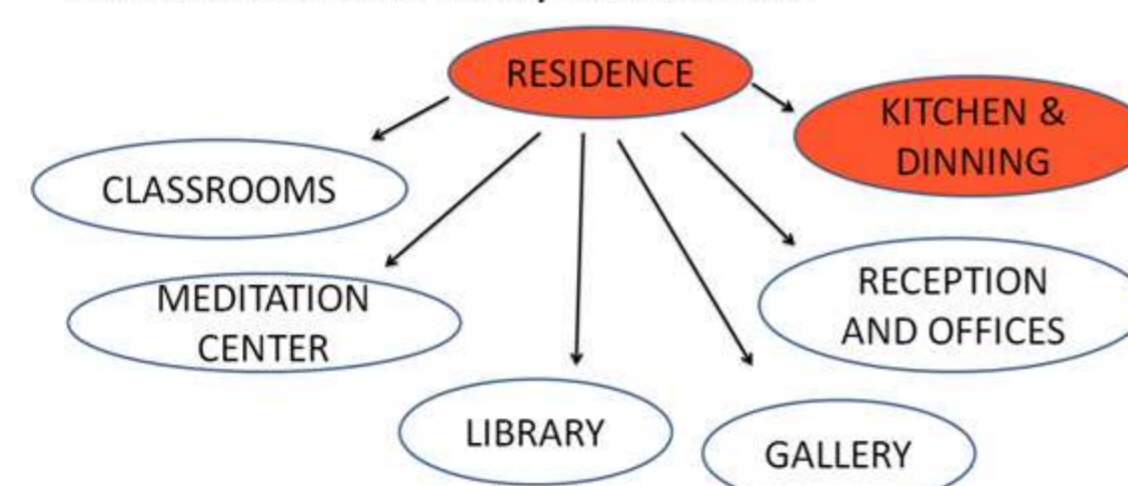
#### 1. 1<sup>ST</sup> TIME VISITOR OR WEEKLY VISITOR



#### 2. 2<sup>ND</sup> TIME WEEK LONG VISITOR / STUDENT



#### 3. PERMANENT MEMBERS / INSTRUCTORS



## CONCEPT



### INSPIRATION FOR LANDSCAPE DESIGN ( GOLDEN ERA)

THE IDEA IS TO CREATE A HEAVENLY EXPERIENCE NATURE INTEGRATED WITH BUILT UP AREAS  
THE PIOUS RELATION OF **PURUSHA AND PRAKRITI ( SHIVA LINGA)**, THE COSMOS (**MANDALA**)  
USE OF SLOPES FOR SMOOTH TRANSITION  
USE OF WATER A REVERED AND PIOUS PART OF NATURE



### INSPIRATION FOR MEDITATION HALL

**SHIVA (GOD)** A METAPHYSICAL POINT A SOURCE OF ENERGY AND LIGHT  
FORM OF HALL IS INSPIRED FROM EGG FORM - SYMBOL OF BELIEF OF BRAHMAKUMARIS  
INTAKE OF LIGHT IS ANOTHER IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE HALL DESIGN

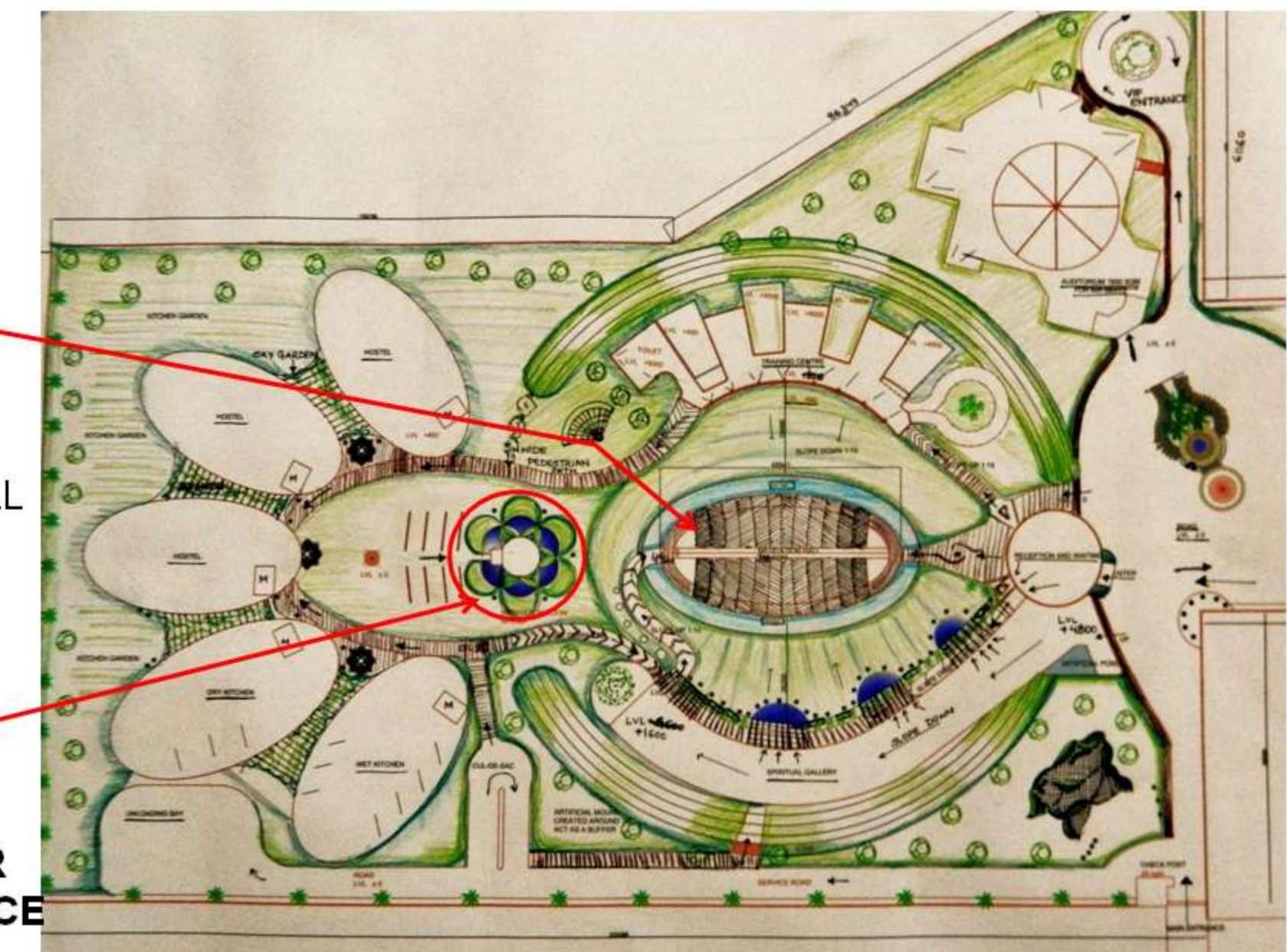
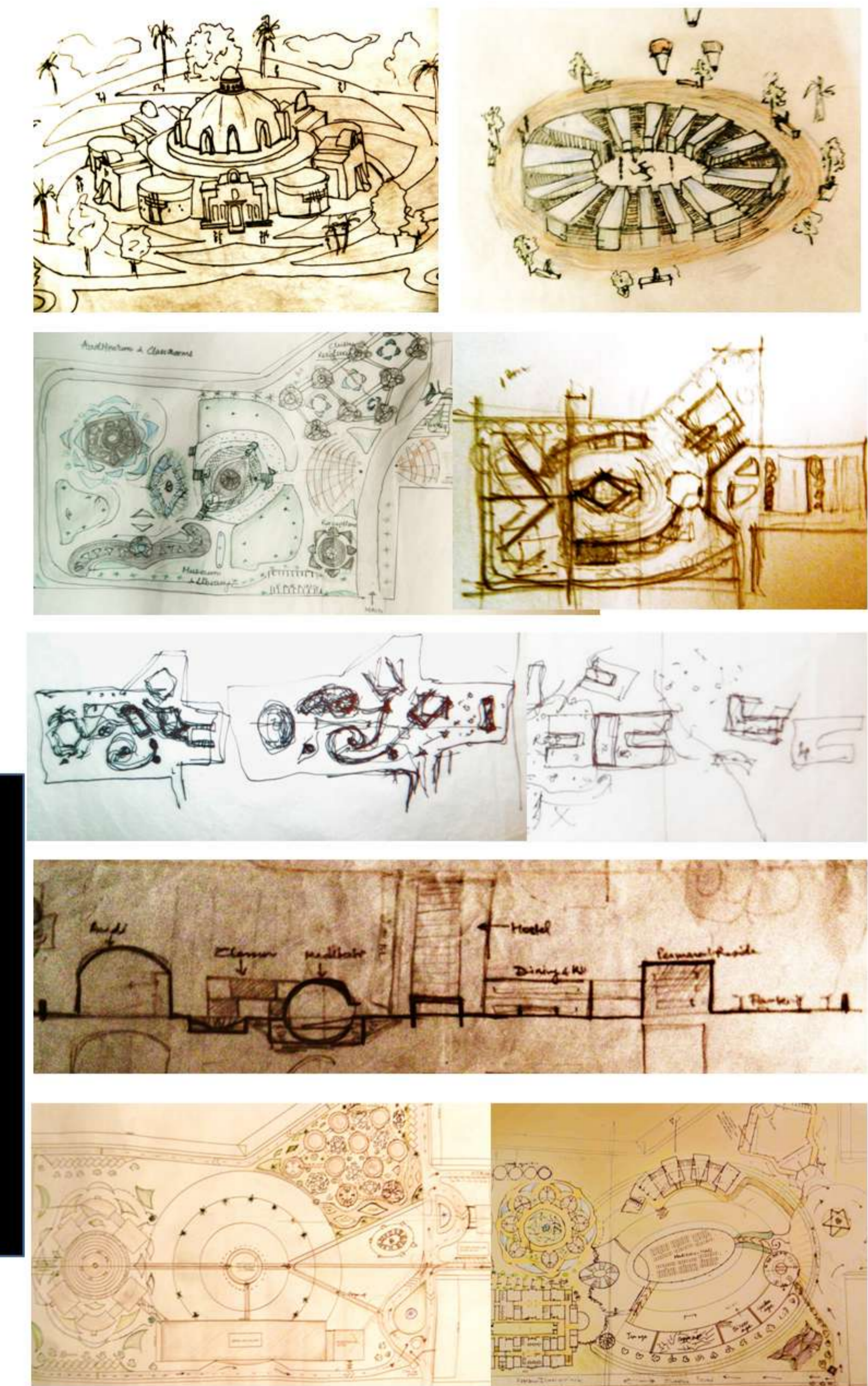


CONCEPTUAL SKETCH OF HALL



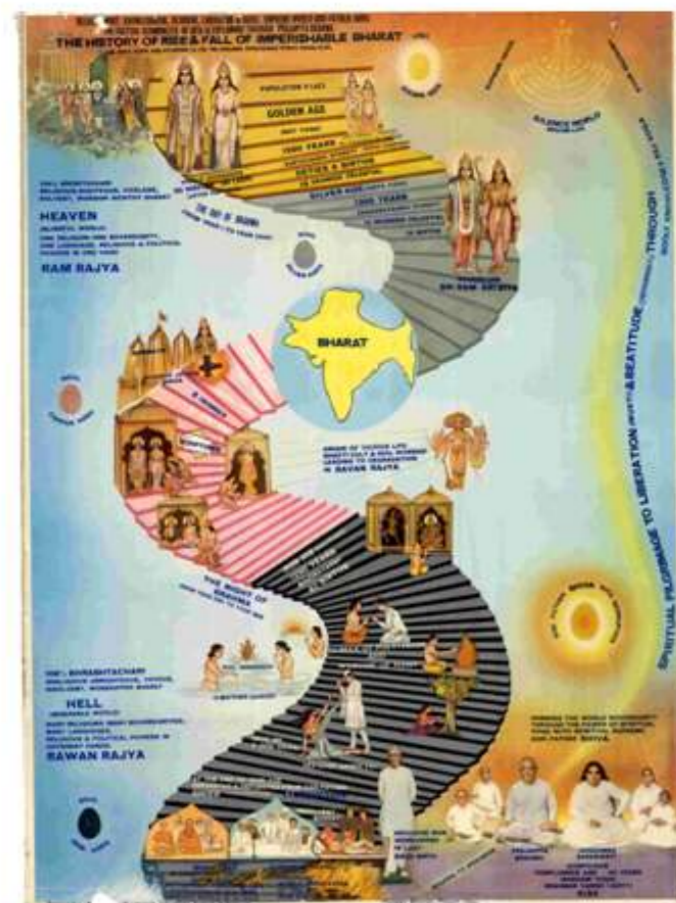
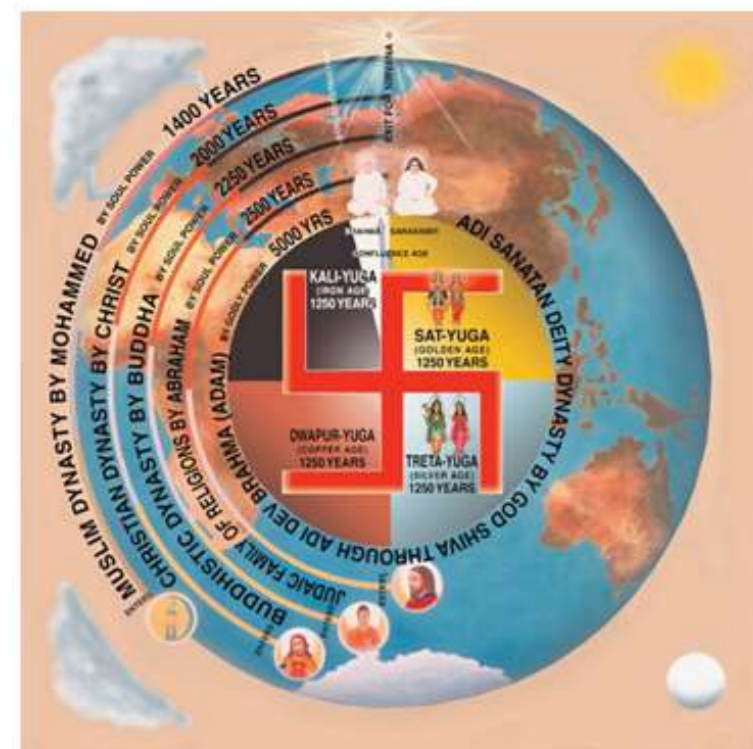
FLOWER OF LIFE INSPIRATION FOR MEDITATION SPACE

## DESIGN EVOLUTION



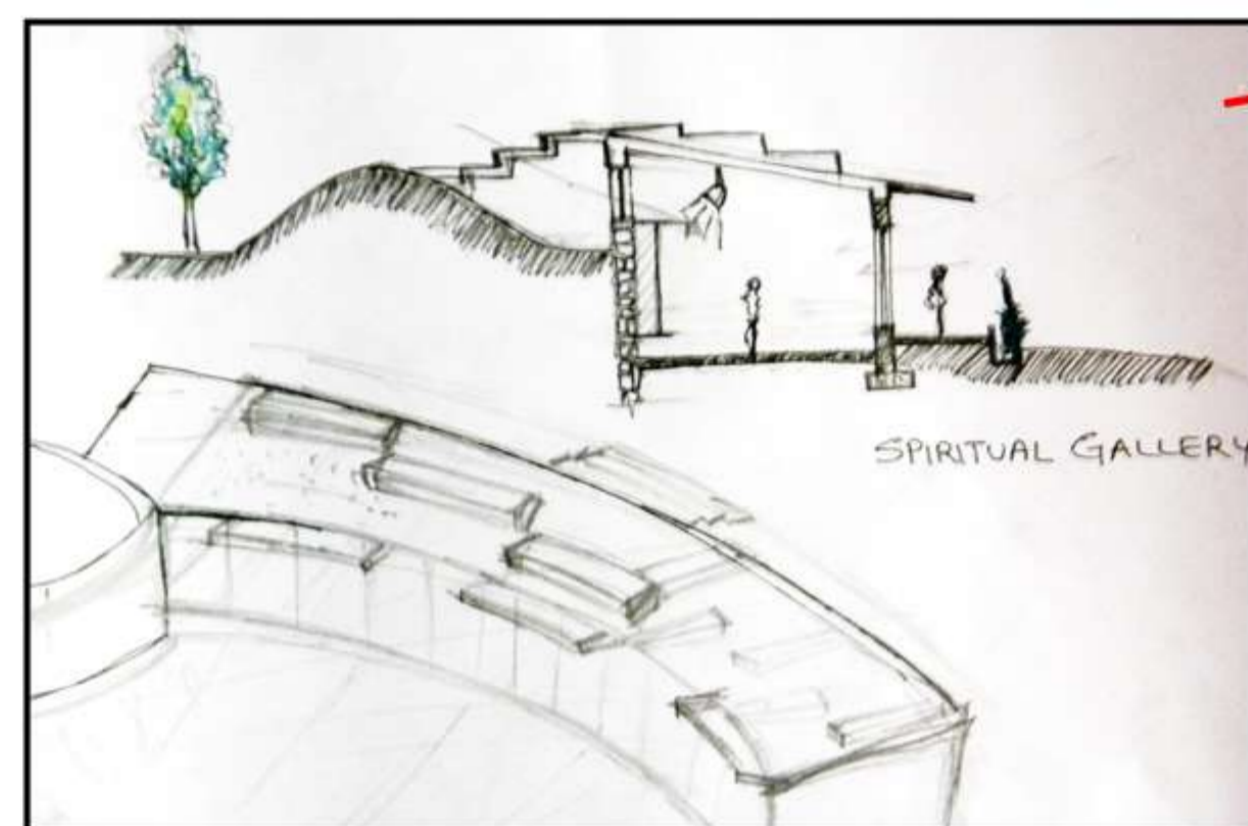
FINAL OUTCOME





INSPIRATION FOR **SPIRITUAL GALLERY**  
 AS WE DESCEND DOWN THE GALLERY THE PERSON EXPERIENCES ALL THE AGES ACCORDING TO THE **WORLD DRAMA WHEEL AND KALPA TREE**

- DIAMOND /PRESENT AGE
- GOLDEN AGE
- SILVER AGE
- COPPER AGE
- IRON AGE



**LESSONS LEARNT FROM BACKGROUND STUDIES**

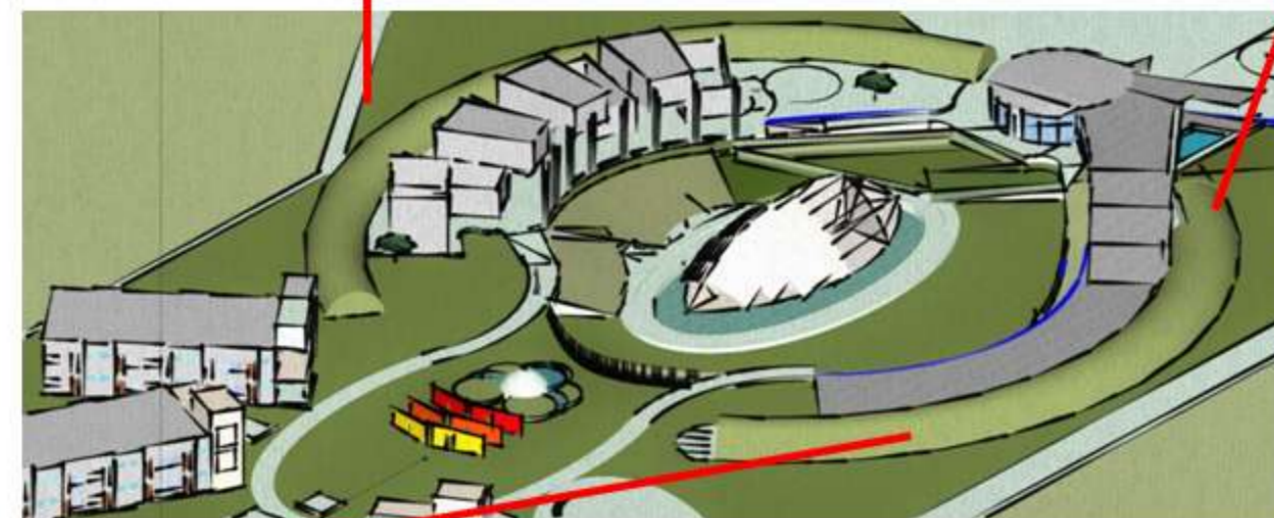
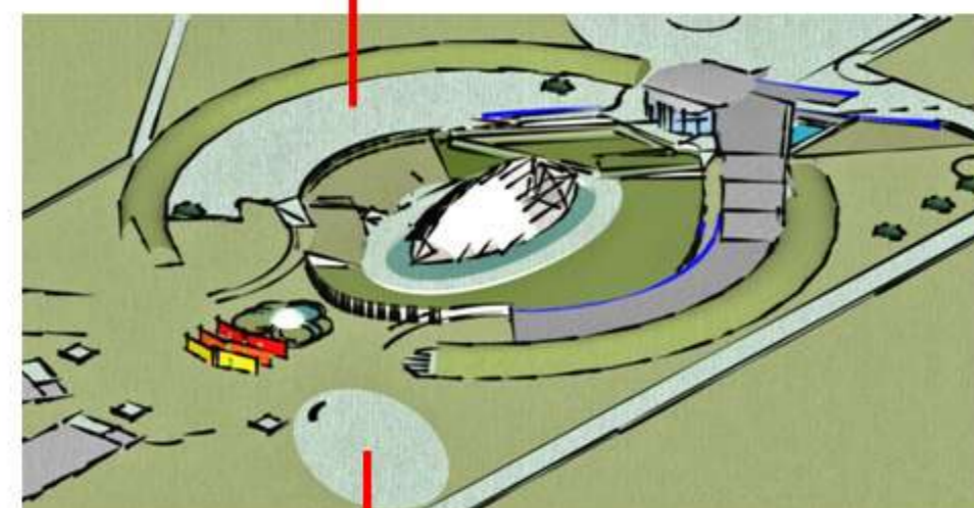
STUDY OF TRADITIONAL SPACES AND TRANSITION THROUGH SPACES HOW IT AFFECTS A USERS MIND REALLY HELPED ME TO UNDERSTAND THE INTANGIBLE ELEMENTS AND ITS USE

FOR EXAMPLE A COURTYARD CAN BRING LIFE TO A SPACE AND IS SYMBOLIC OF A WORLD WITHIN A WORLD

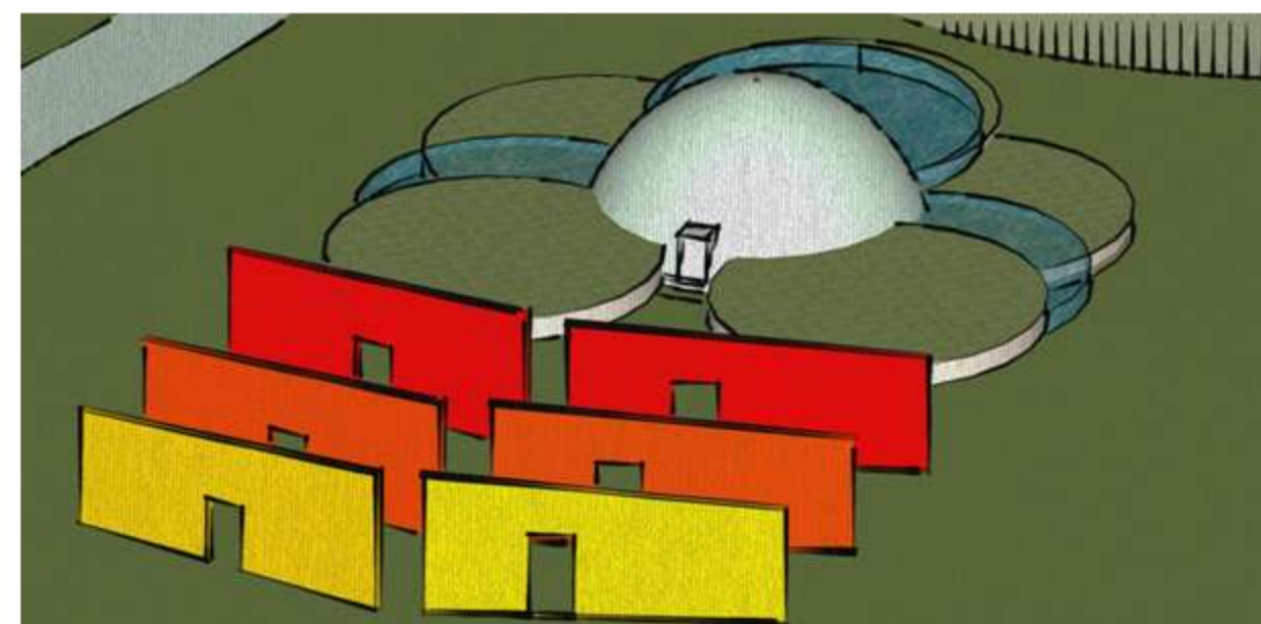
PLAY OF SHADOW AND LIGHT CAN CREATE DRAMA AND SURREAL EXPERIENCE

AN ELEMENT LIKE A TREE WHEN ATTACHED WITH SOME SPIRITUAL VALUE BECOMES WORSHIPABLE AND PIOUS

THE TRANSCENDENCE FROM WORLDLY TO THE METAPHYSICAL, MATTER TO MIND IS ENHANCED THROUGH USE OF ELEMENTS LIKE SCALE, SIZE, VOLUME, DEGREES OF ENCLOSURE, LEVELS OF ILLUMINATION AS WELL AS MOTIFS AND CAN INSTILL AND EVOKE ETHOS APT TO THE PLACE



**TRANSITION SPACE**



TRANSITION SPACE TOWARDS THE MEDIATION ROOM

EACH COLOURED WALL WITH A PUNCTURE DEPICTS OUR STATE OF MIND WITH TIME AND VISUALLY CREATES A FRAME TOWARDS THE ROOM

**INDIAN DECIDUOUS FLOWERING / SACRED TREES PROPOSED**



QUEENS MYRTLE



RED SILK COTTON TREE

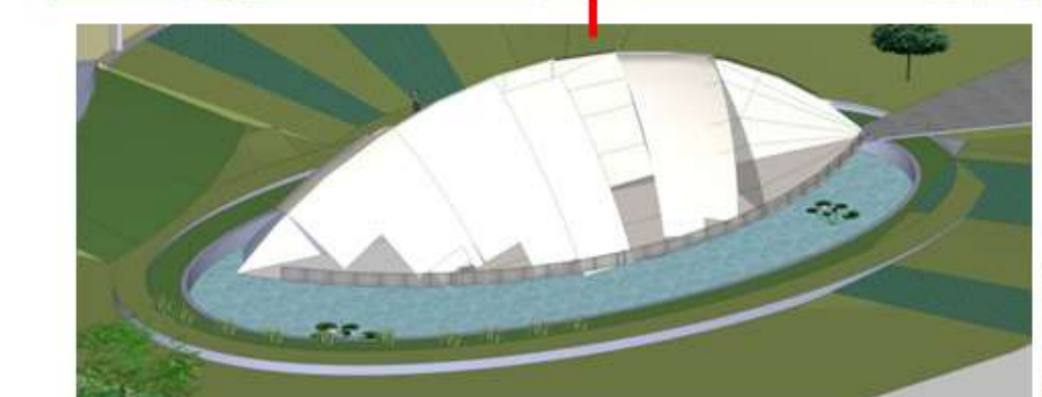


PEEPAL TREE  
 GULACHIN  
 AMALTAS  
 GULMOHAR  
 LOTUS (CLOCKWISE)



**IMPLICATIONS IN DESIGN**

- PLANNING ALONG CENTRAL AXIS WITH MEDITATION HALL AND ROOM AS THE FOCAL POINT
- SINCE LANDSCAPE IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT THERE IS A VERY SMOOTH TRANSITION BETWEEN BUILT AND OPEN SPACES WITH BUILT SPACES BEING AN EXTENSION OF THE OUTDOORS RATHER THAN THE OTHER WAY ROUND
- SPIRITUAL YET NOT TRADITIONAL AND SANS ANY OSTENTATIOUS ORNAMENTATION ON BUILDING FACADES
- ARTIFICIAL EARTH MOUND CREATED AROUND TO ACT AS A BUFFER BETWEEN THE INTERNAL ZONE AND THE PERIPHERAL ZONE
- CENTRAL OPEN AREAS GENTLY SLOPING TOWARDS THE CENTRAL WATER BODY OVER WHICH THE MEDITATION HALL RESTS AS PURUSHA RESTS UPON THE COSMOS
- THE MEDITATION SPACE IS A BUILT CENTRE WHERE THE SITE'S SACRED ENERGY IS CONCENTRATED
- HOSTELS AND KITCHEN ARE ALL SPREAD IN PRIVATE ZONE WITH THE MEDITATION ROOM AS THE FOCUS
- ALL TRANSITION SPACES ARE SMOOTH WITH RAMPS AND GENTLE SLOPES
- GRADUAL UNFOLDING OF SPACES CREATES A SENSE OF CURIOSITY AND INVOLVEMENT
- DESIGNED KEEPING IN MIND SPATIAL EXPERIENCE
- COLOUR SCHEME USED THROUGHOUT  
 ORANGE- SACRED  
 WHITE - PURITY AND PEACE



**MEDITATION HALL** VISUALLY AFLOAT ON A WATER BODY TAKES IN SUNS REFLECTION THROUGH GLASS FLOOR THE WATER BODY AS A REMINISCENT TO CLEANSE YOUR MIND BEFORE ENTERING THE HALL THE EXTERIOR JALI COVERS THE INSIDE SHELL TO GIVE A SENSE OF ENCLOSURE AND PRIVACY WITH GOD YET TAKE IN LIGHT DRAMATICALLY THE HALL IS AN EXPRESSION OF PURITY, BEAUTY AND SERENITY AND THE SUPREME SOUL

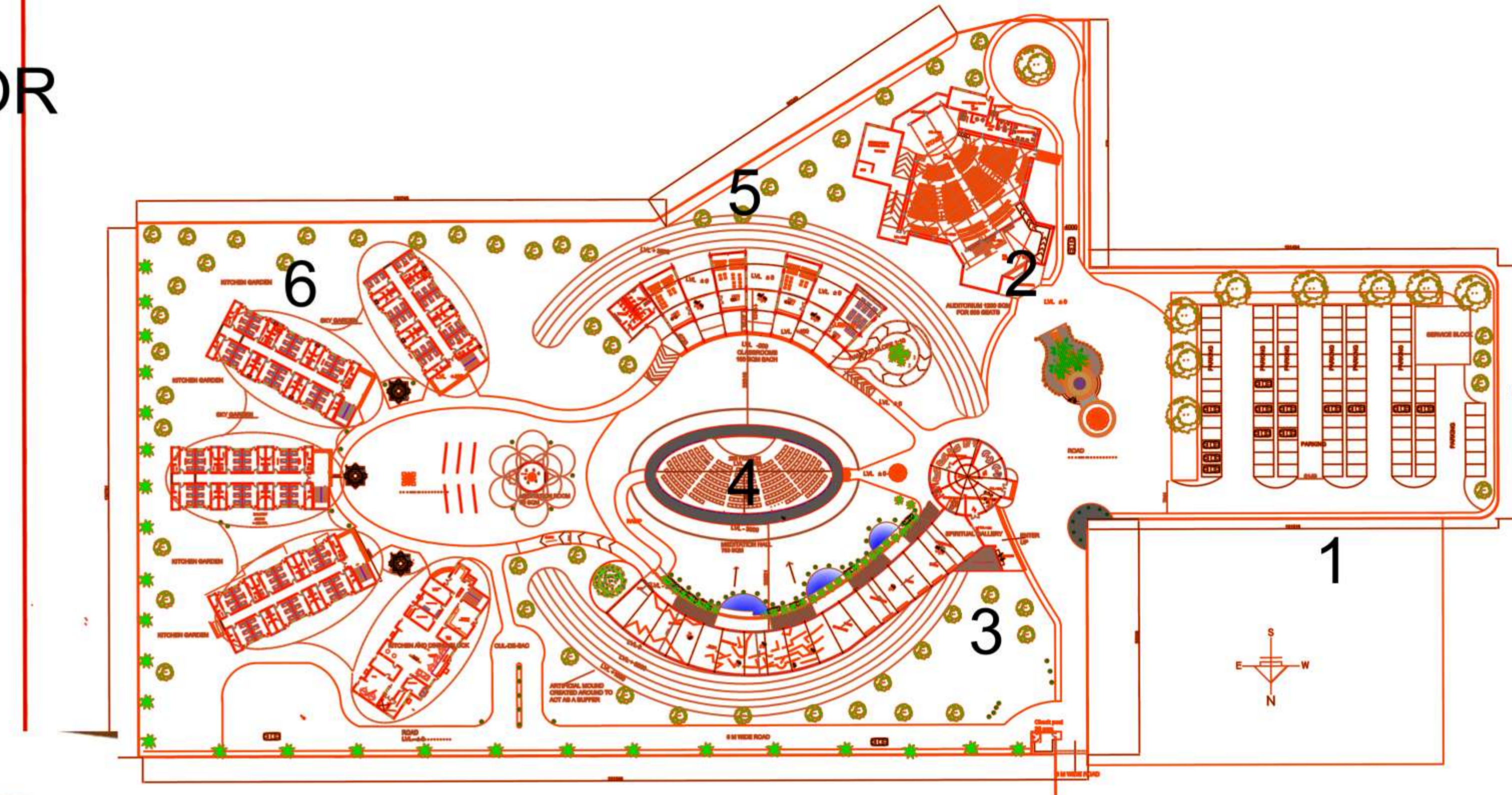






# SITE ZONES AND MAJOR COMPONENTS

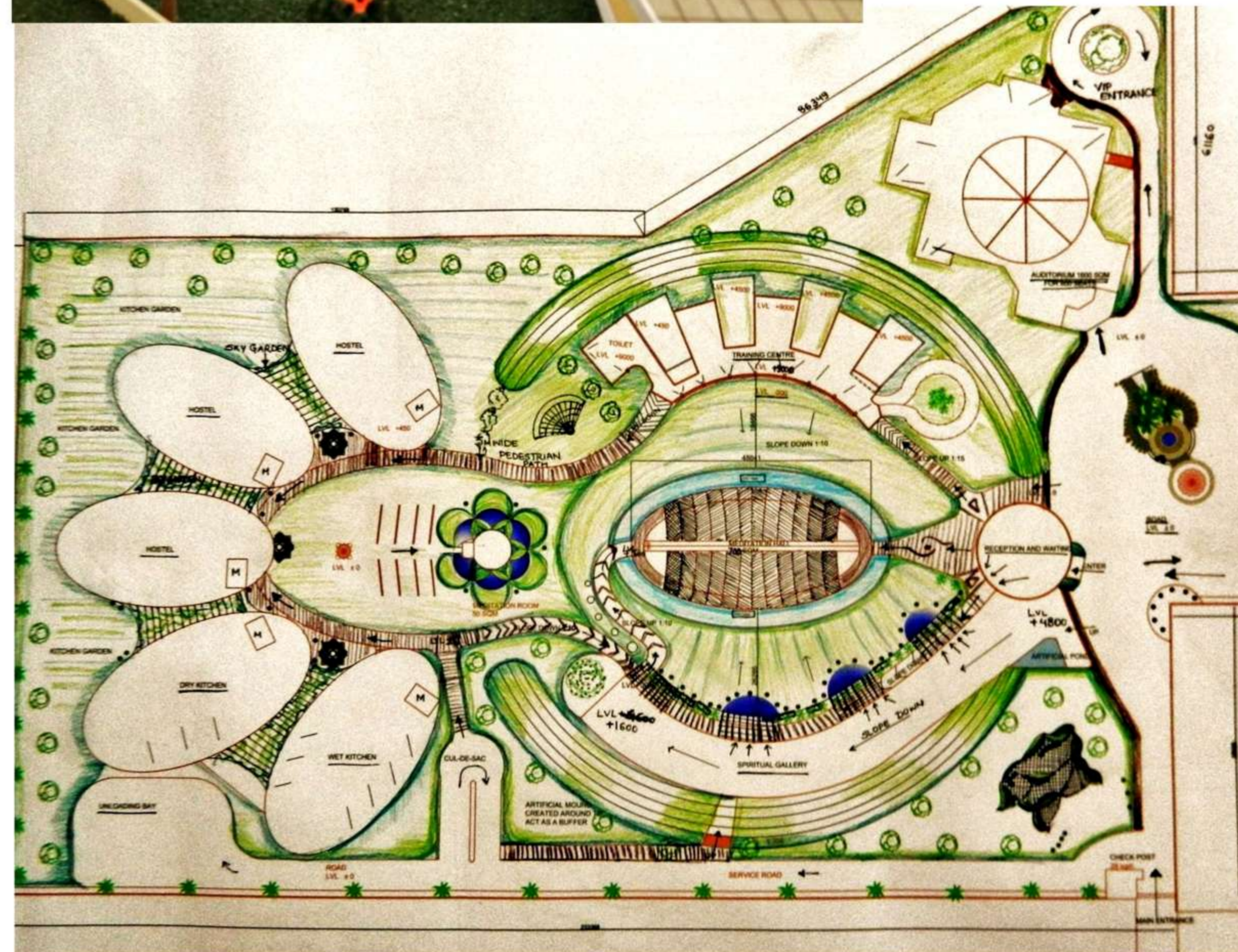
- 1 PUBLIC PARKING GALLERY AND OFFICE AUDITORIUM
- 2 SEMI PUBLIC SPIRITUAL MEDITATION HALL TRAINING CENTRE
- 3 PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL ZONE MEDITATION ROOM KITCHEN AND DINNING



|  |                |                                 |                               |                           |                  |
|--|----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| CHITKARA SCHOOL OF PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE | FREE SITE PLAN | PROMOT SPIRITUAL RETREAT CENTRE | SCALE 1:500 ALL DIM ARE IN MM | SUBMITTED BY GARIMA GUPTA | SESSION MAY 2014 |
|--|----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|

## GROUND FLOOR SITE PLAN

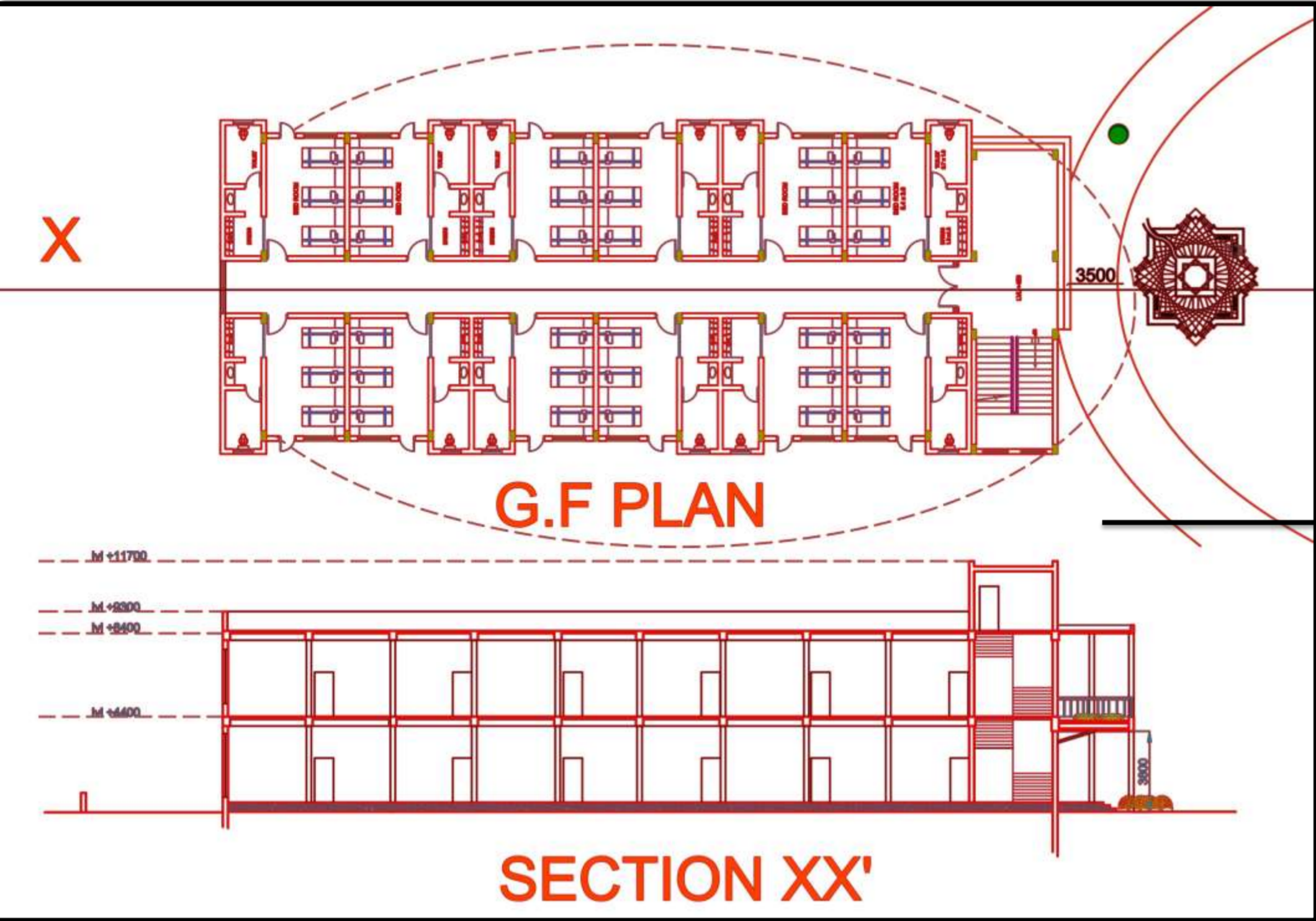
- 1. PARKING
- 2. AUDITORIUM
- 3. GALLERY
- 4. SPIRITUAL MEDITATION HALL
- 5. TRAINING CENTRE
- 6. HOSTELS AND KITCHEN



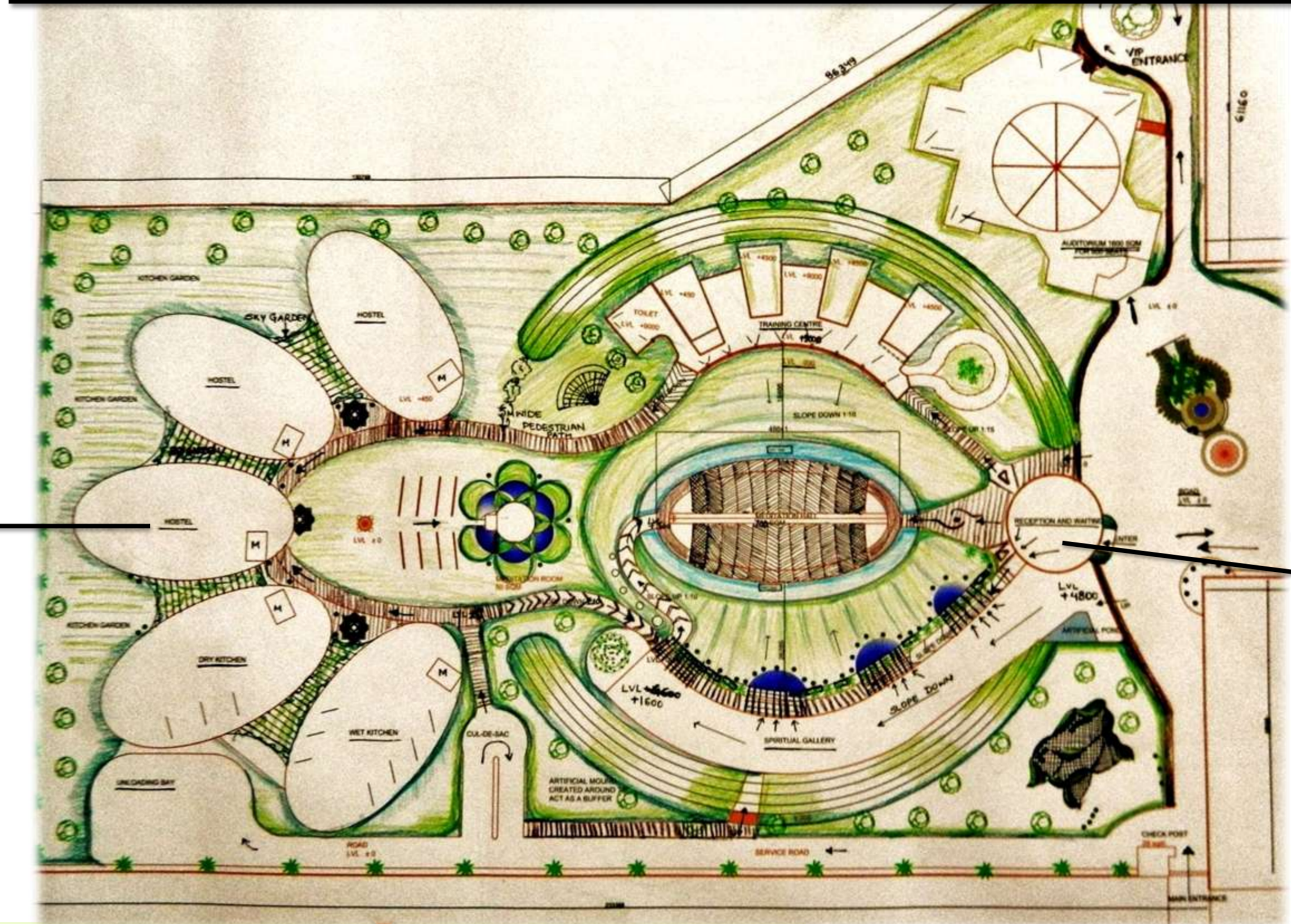
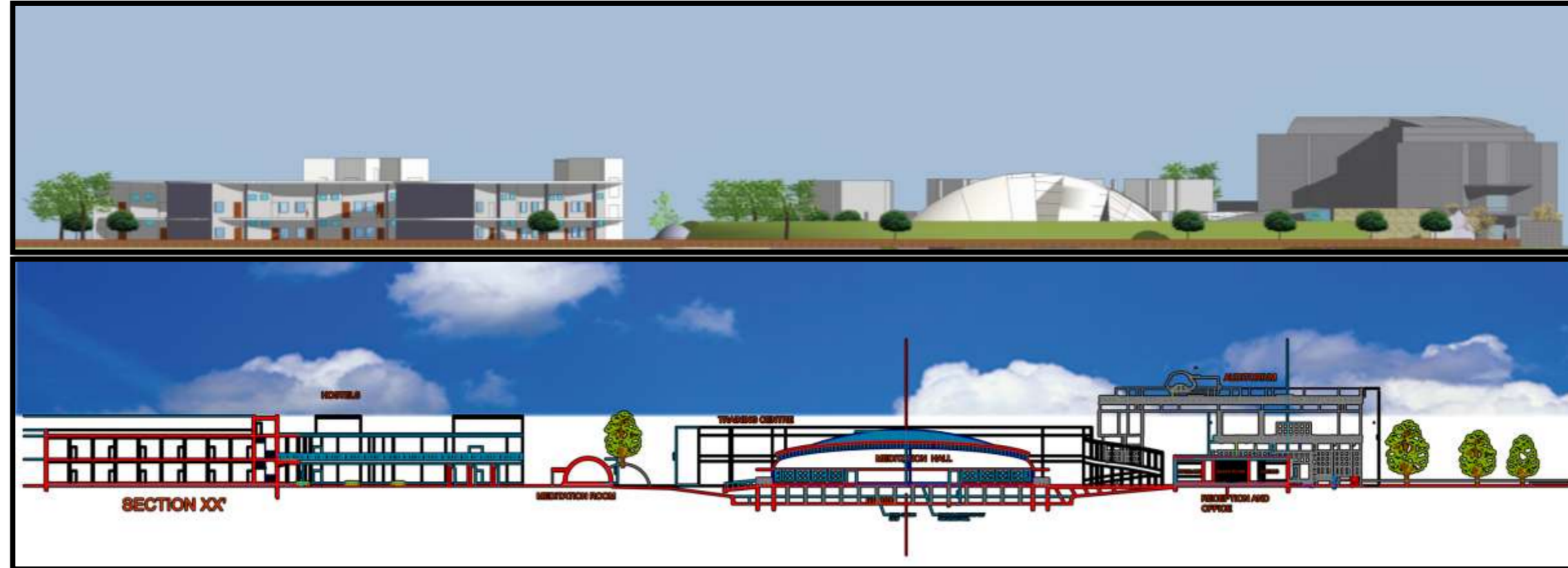
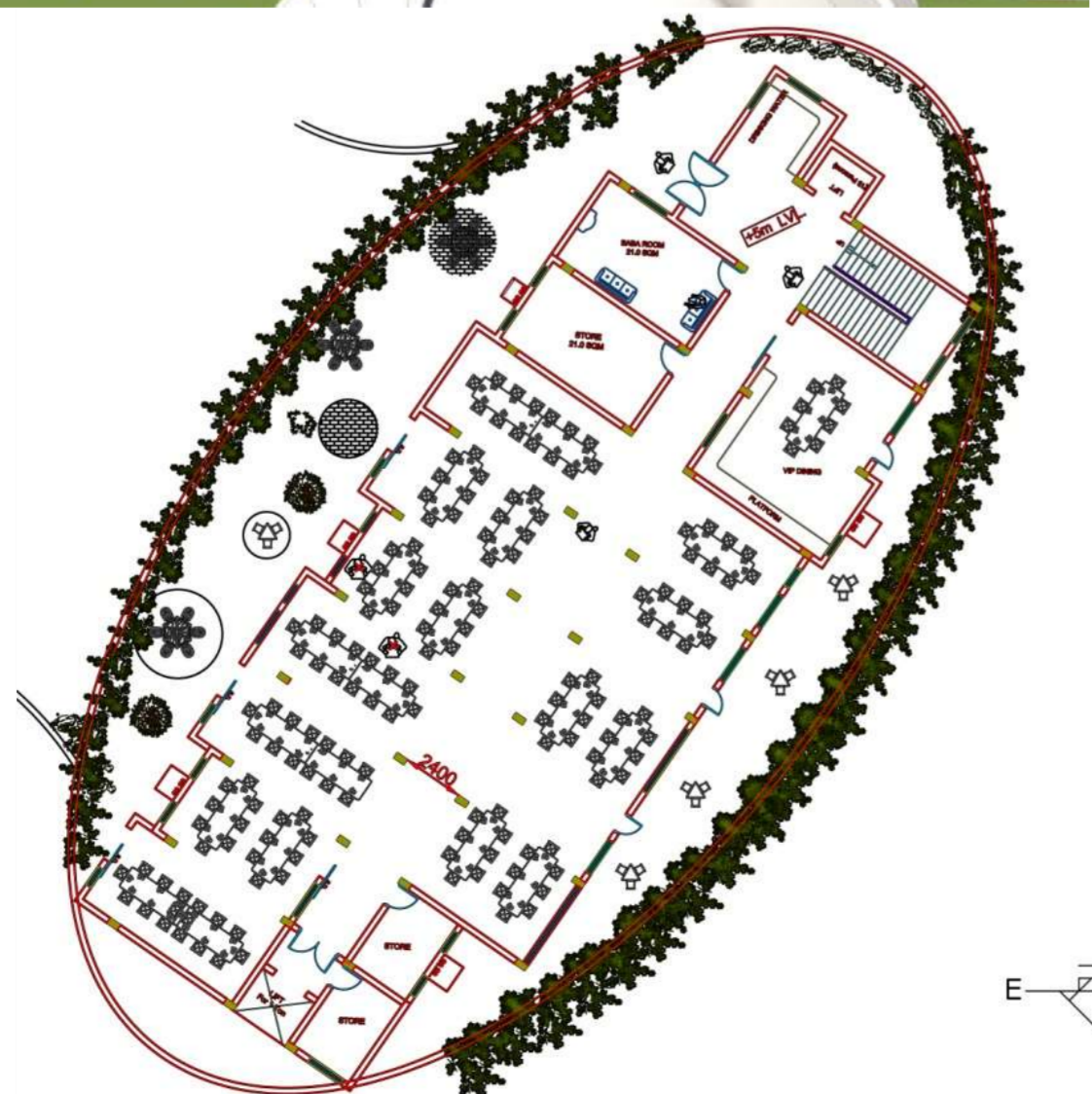
FINAL MODEL



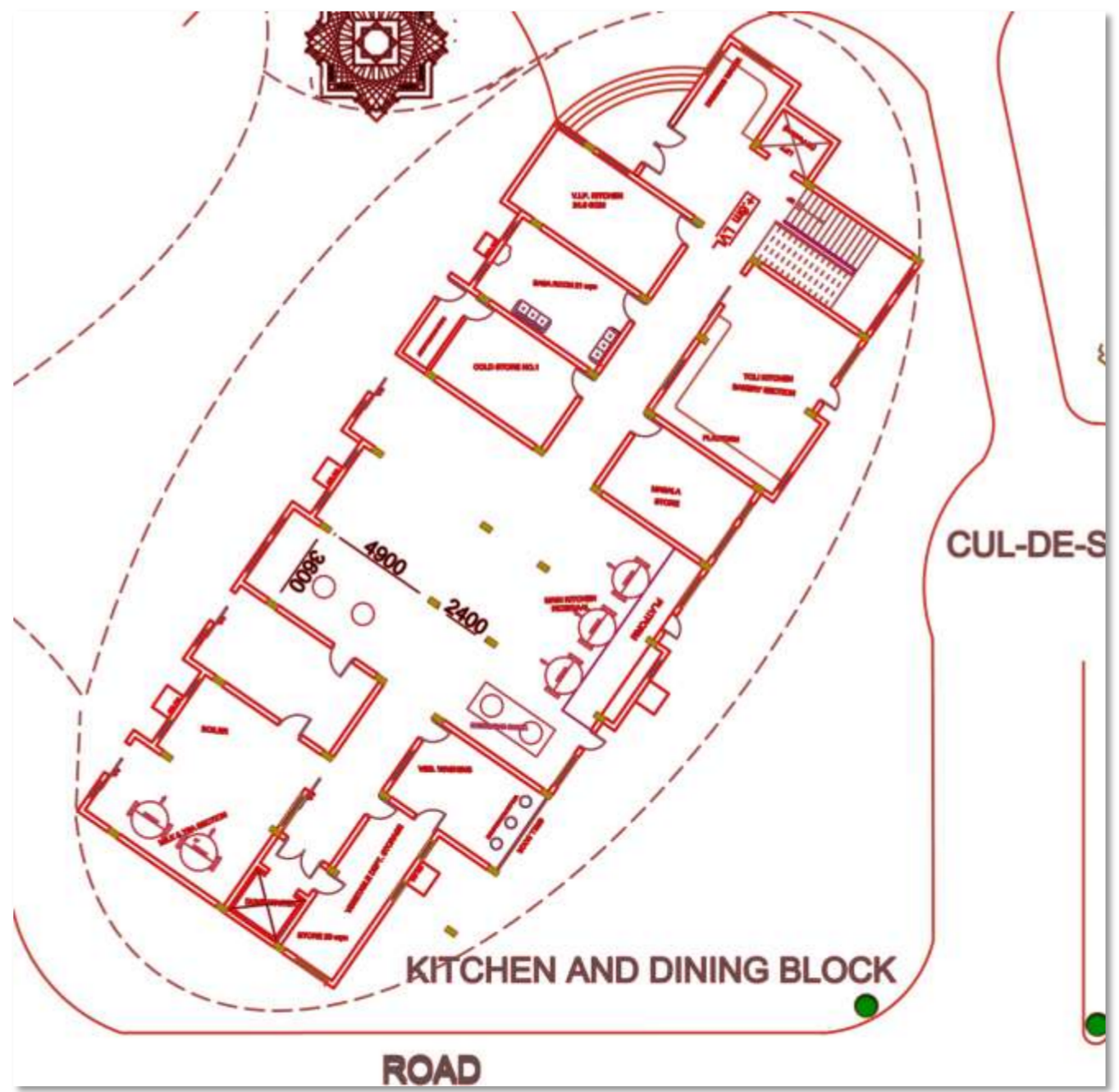
# HOSTELS ,KITCHEN AND DINING HALL



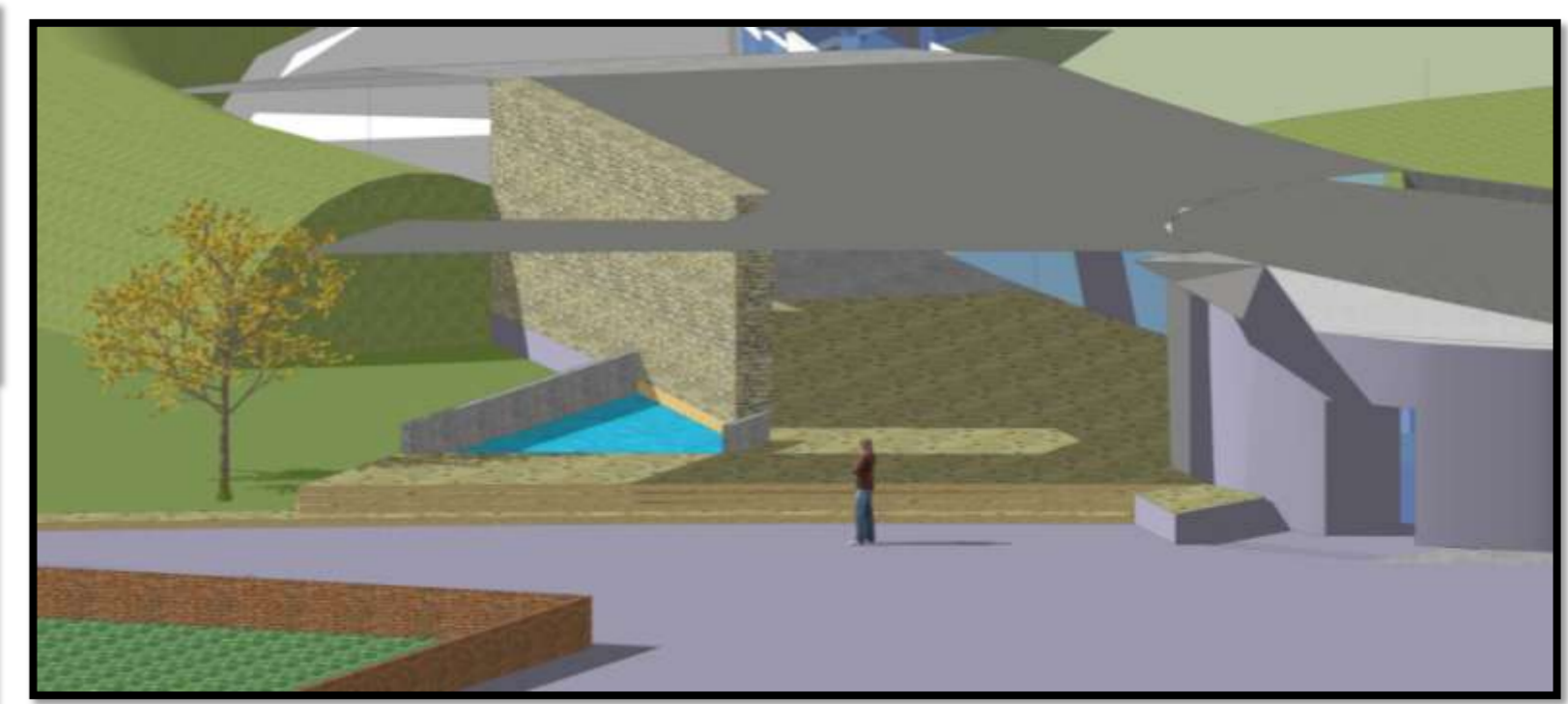
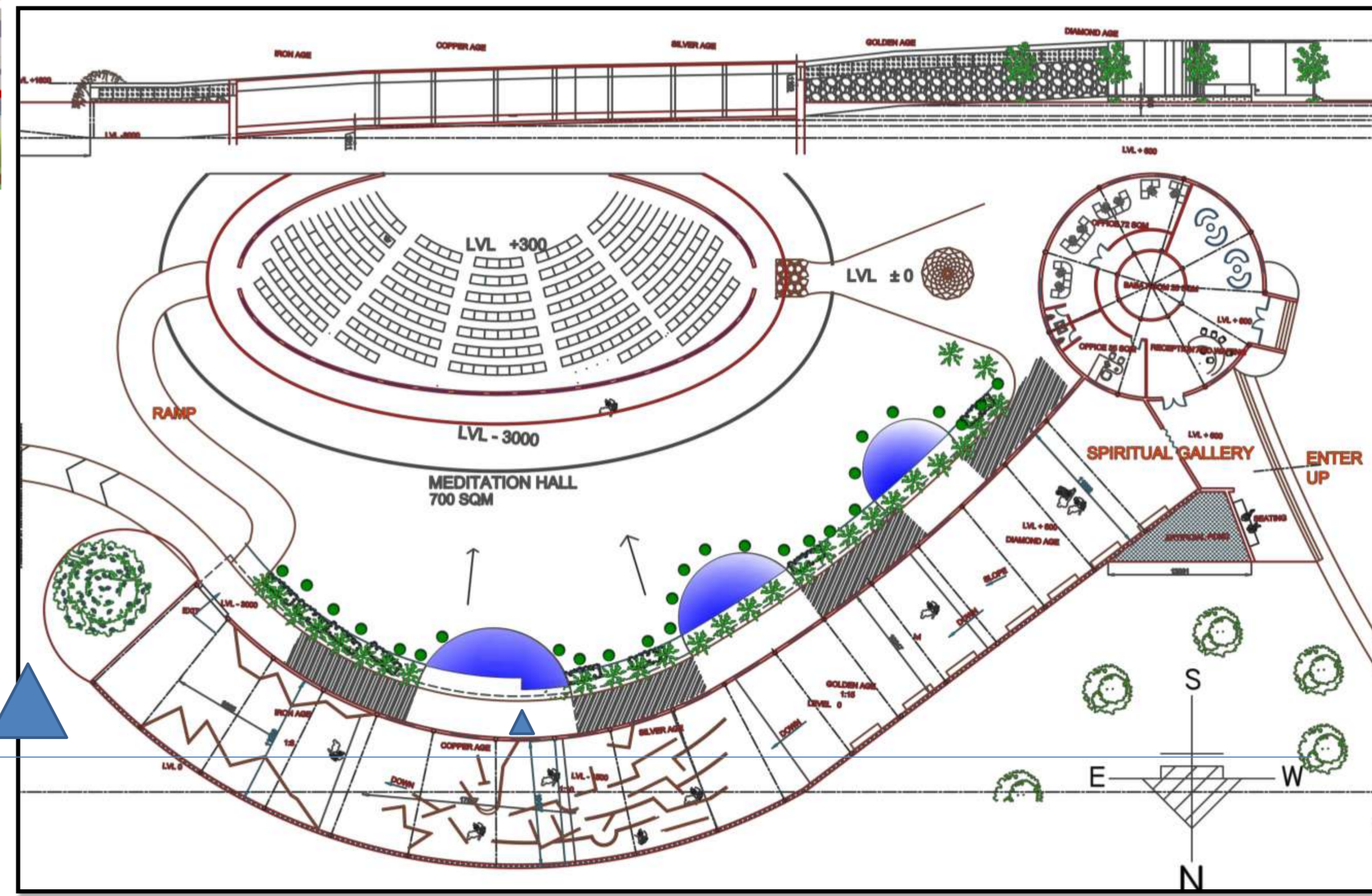
HOSTEL DETAILS



KITCHEN AND DINING BLOCK DETAILS



# SPIRITUAL GALLERY SECTIONAL ELEVATION AND PLAN DEPICTING THE AGES



ENTRANCE TO GALLERY

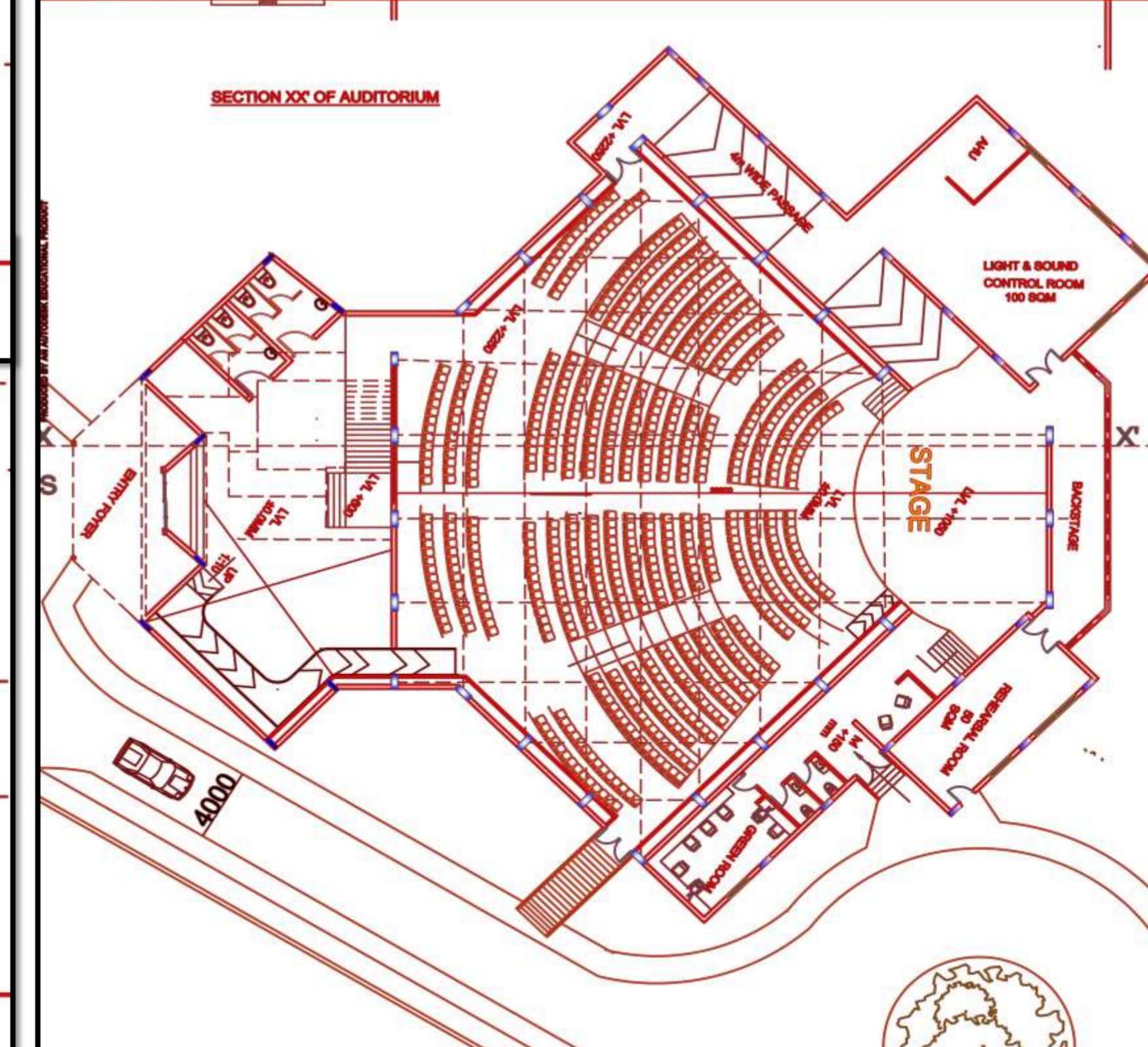
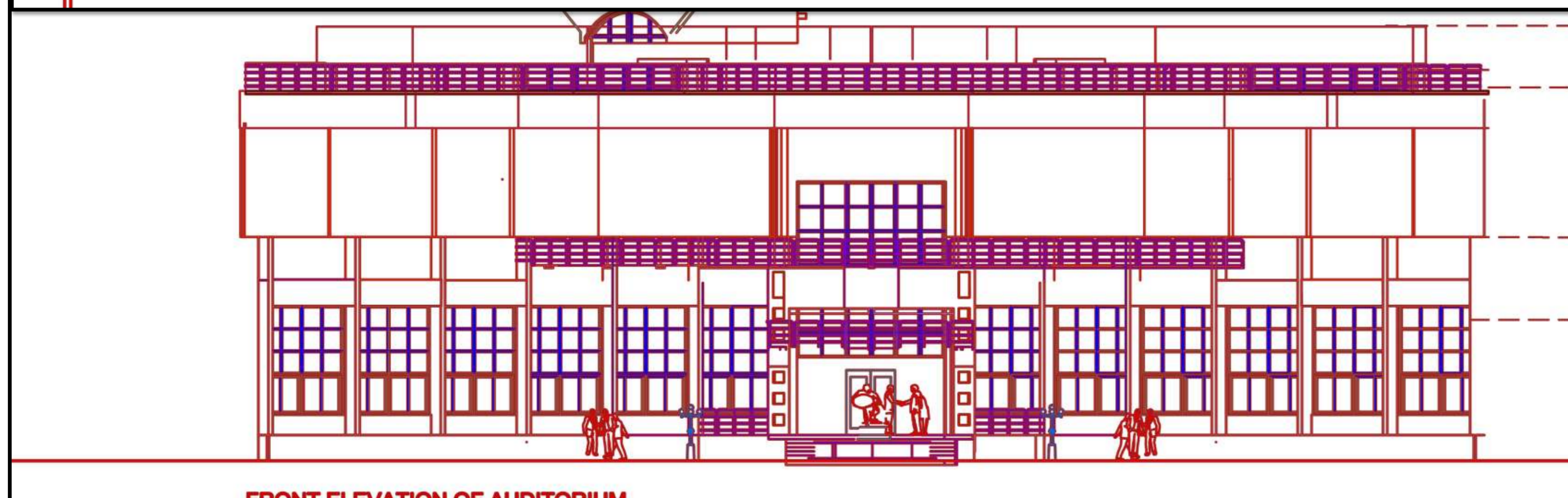
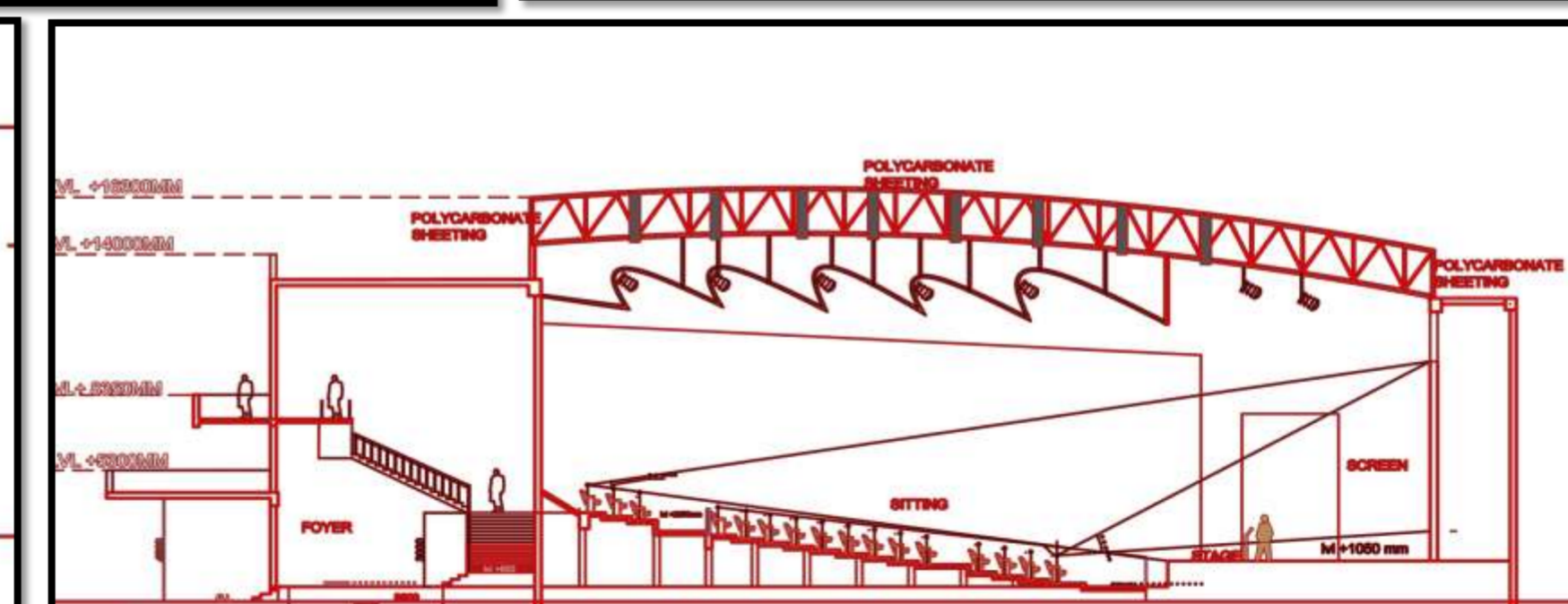
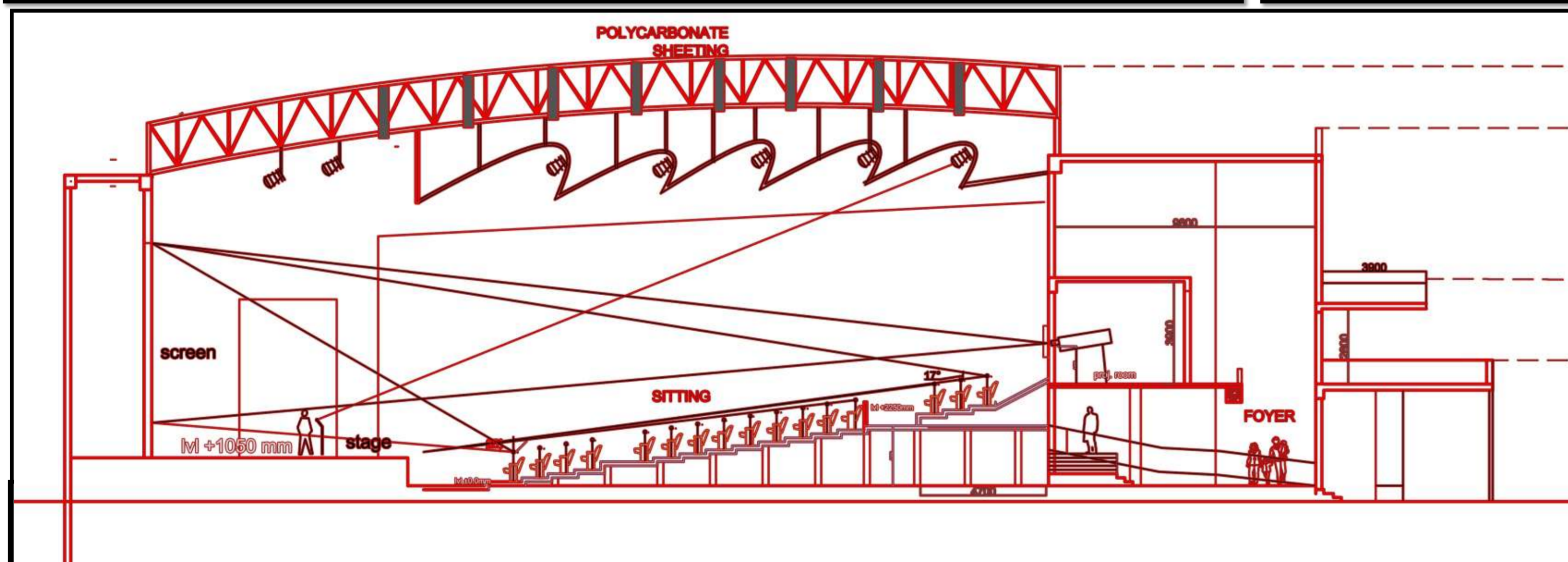
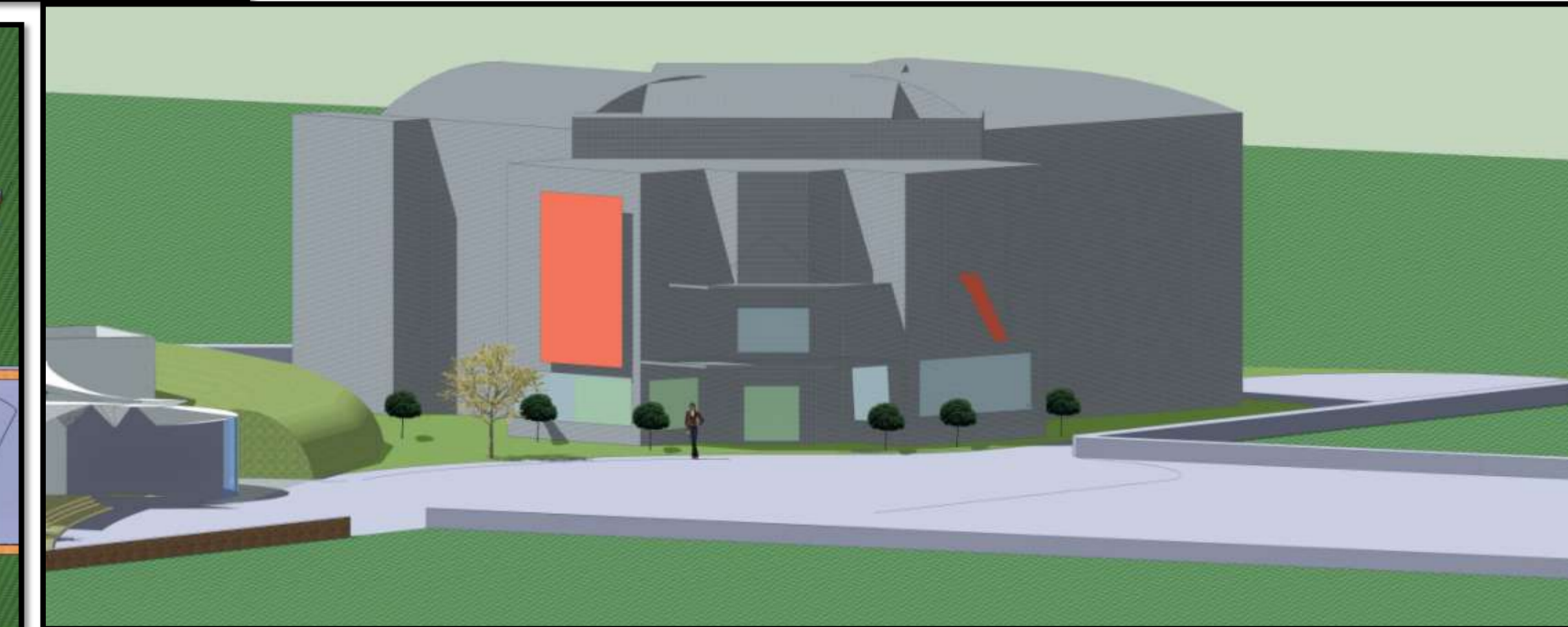
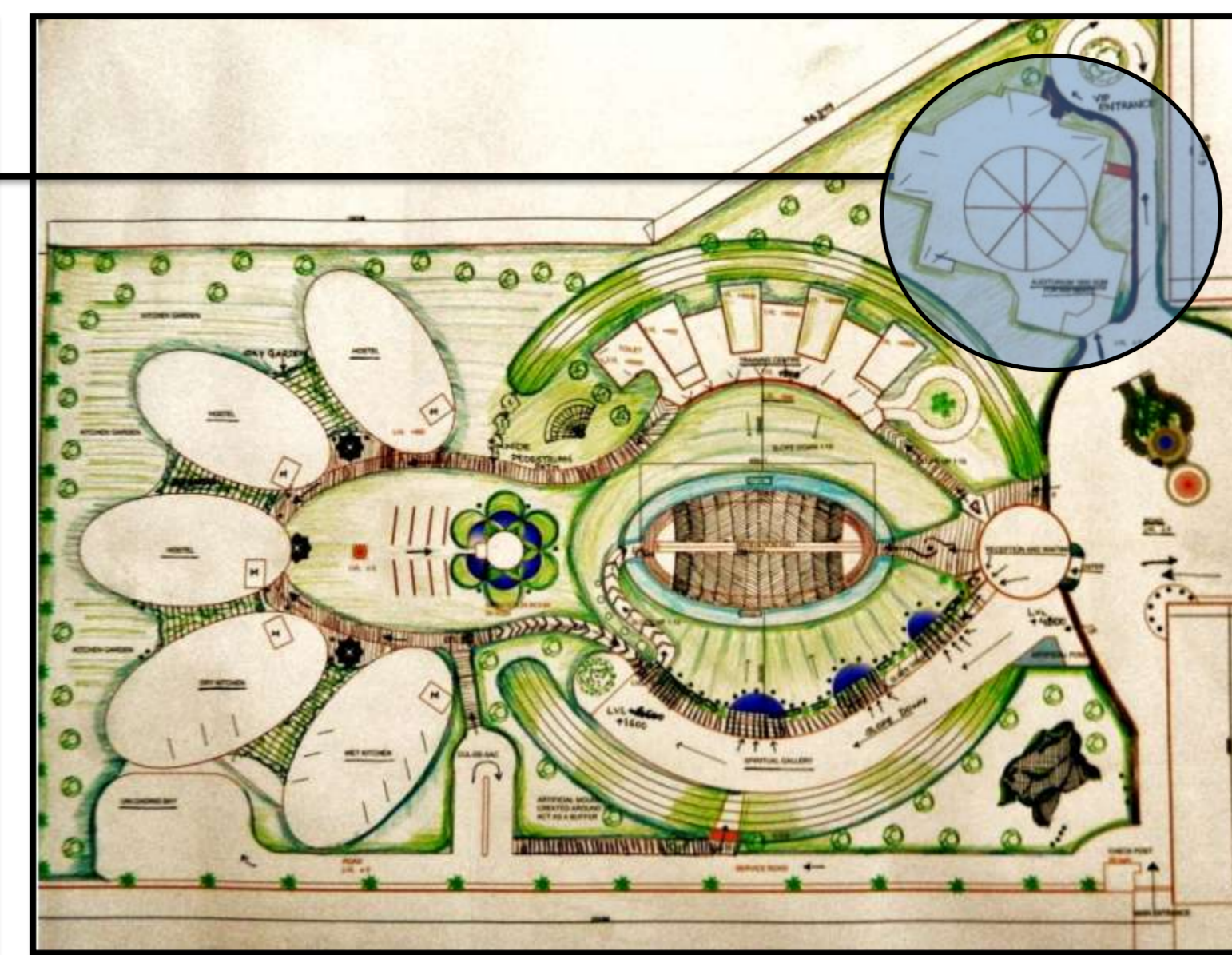
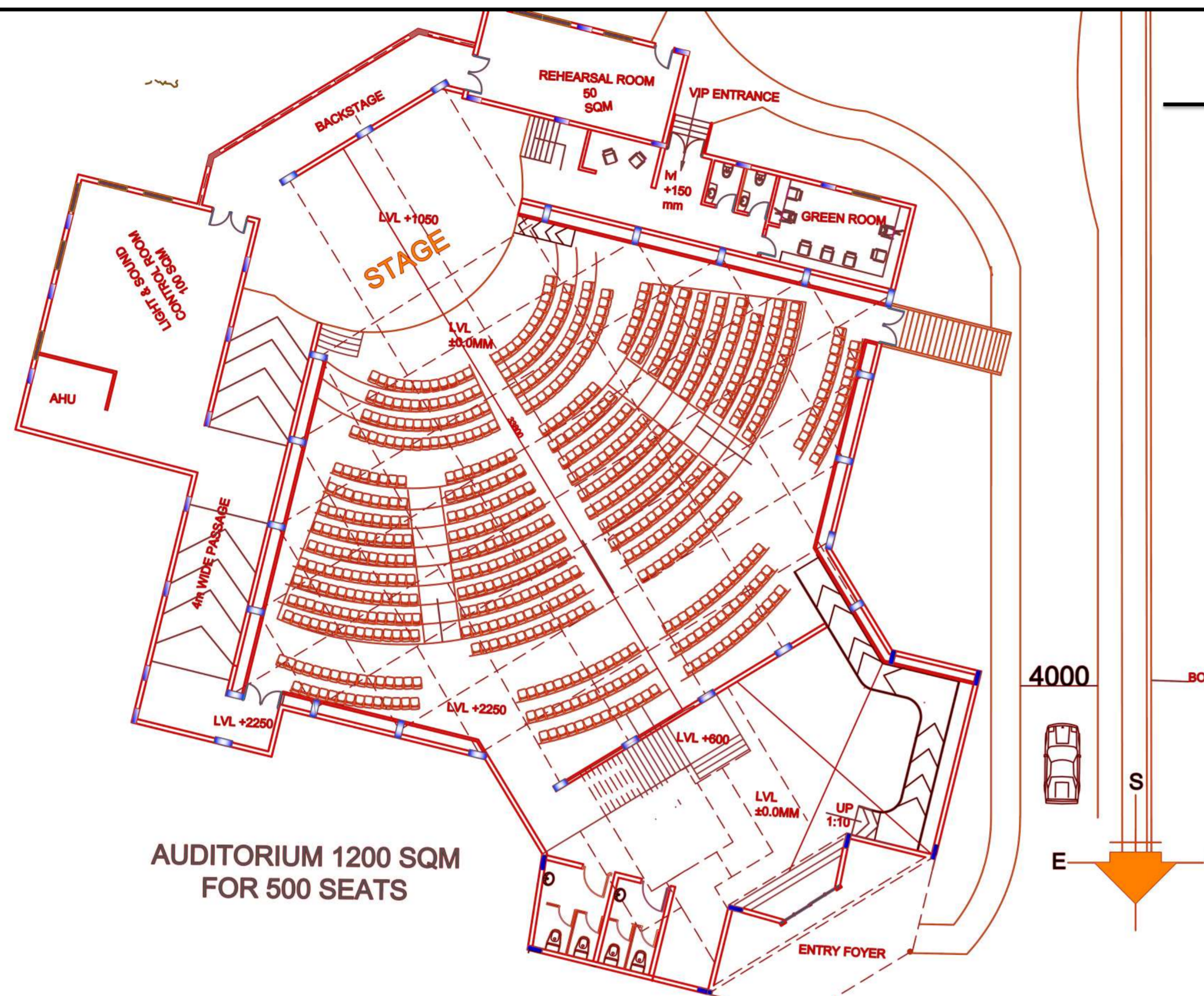




# AUDITORIUM

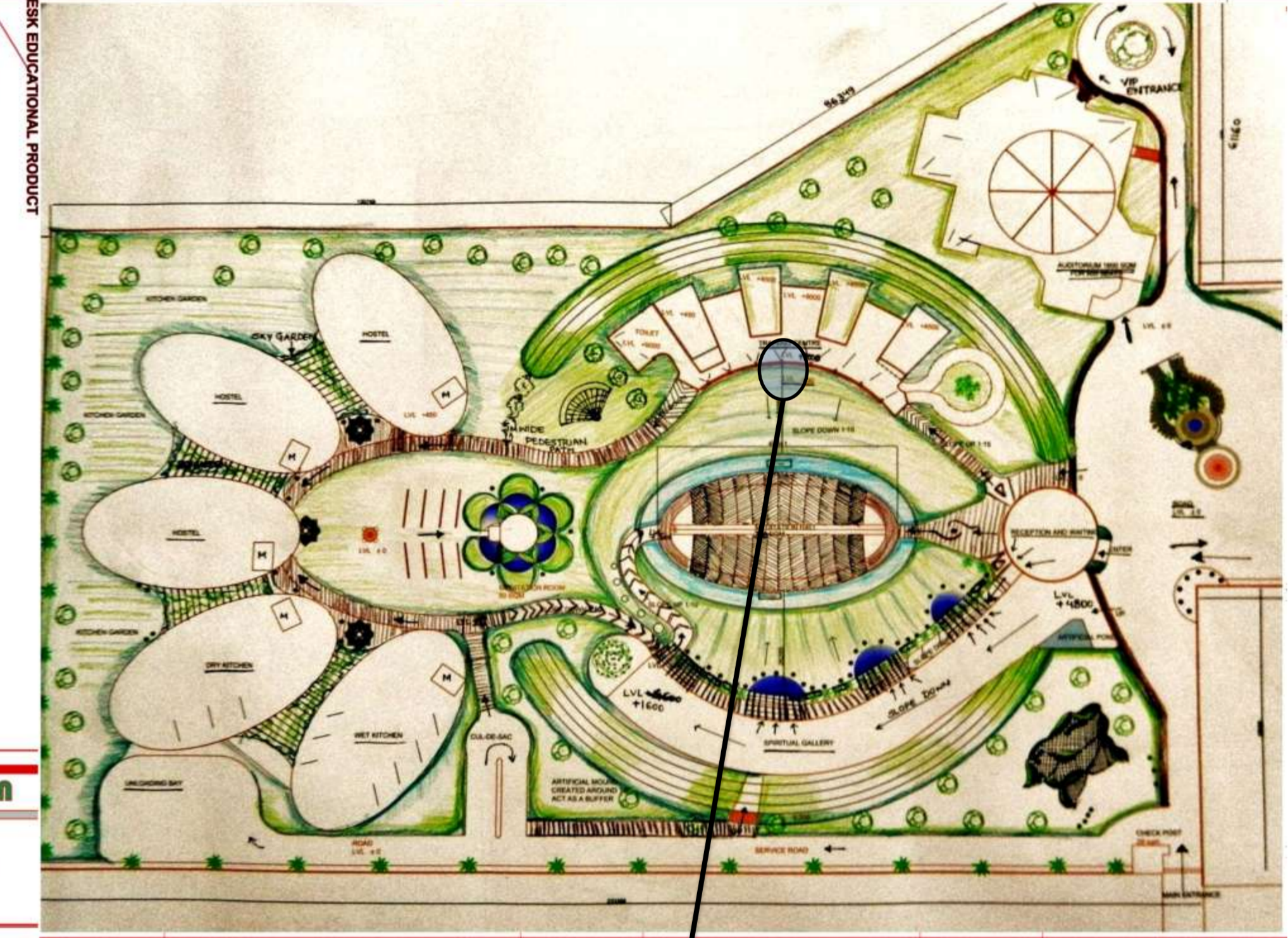
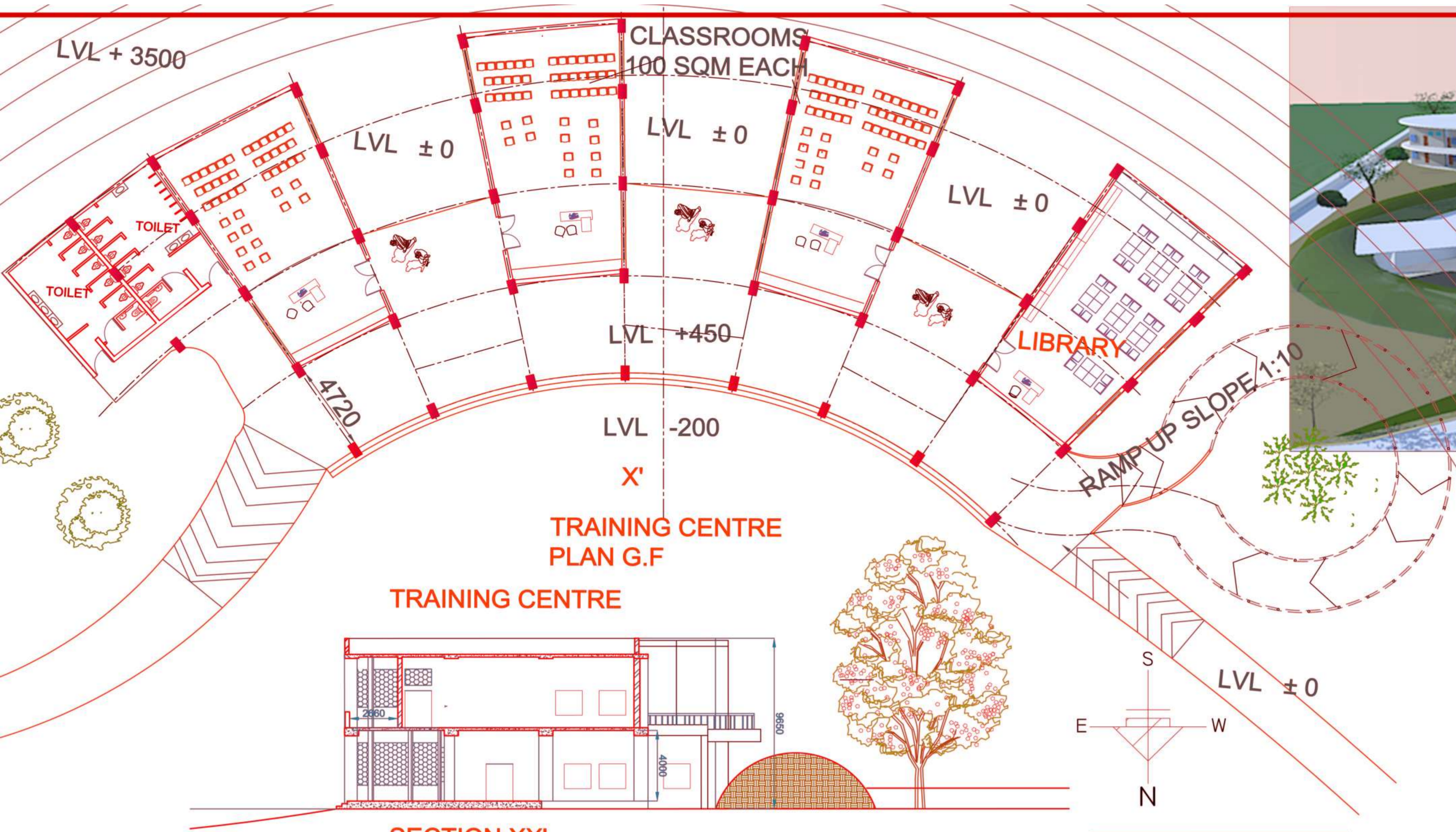
## CAPACITY OF 500 SEATS

AUDITORIUM IS PLACED IN PUBLIC ZONE AS IN CASE OF WEEKLY GATHERINGS THE PUBLIC WOULD BE VISITING THE AUDITORIUM

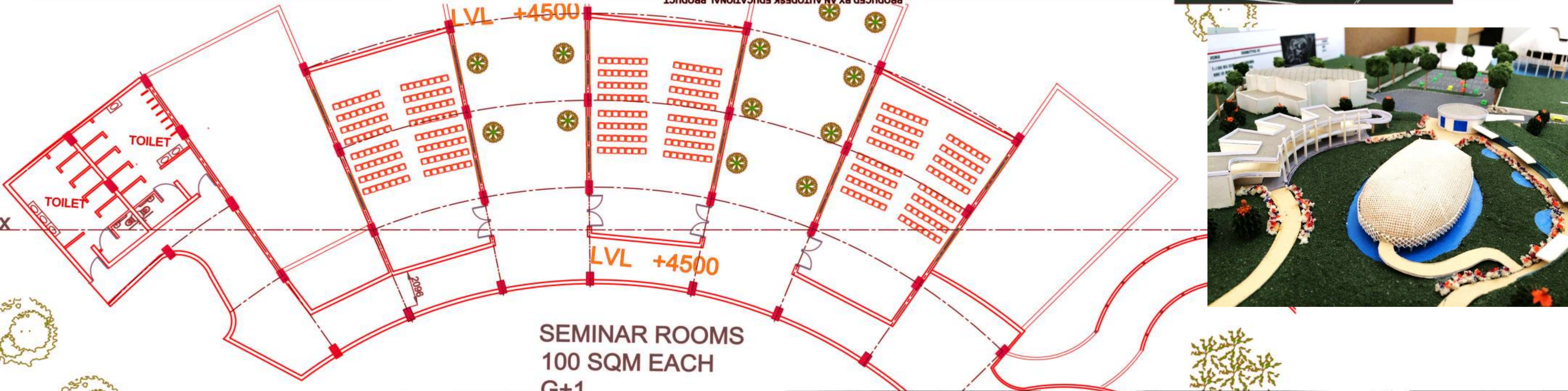


Relation of auditorium with parking and training centre





|  |  |  |                                       |                                 |                        |
|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| CHITKARA SCHOOL OF PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE | SHEET<br>TRAINING CENTRE<br>GF PLAN AND<br>SECTION | PROJECT<br>SPIRITUAL<br>RETREAT CENTRE | SCALE<br>1 : 100 ALL DIM<br>ARE IN MM | SUBMITTED BY<br>GARIMA<br>GUPTA | SESSION<br>MAY<br>2014 |
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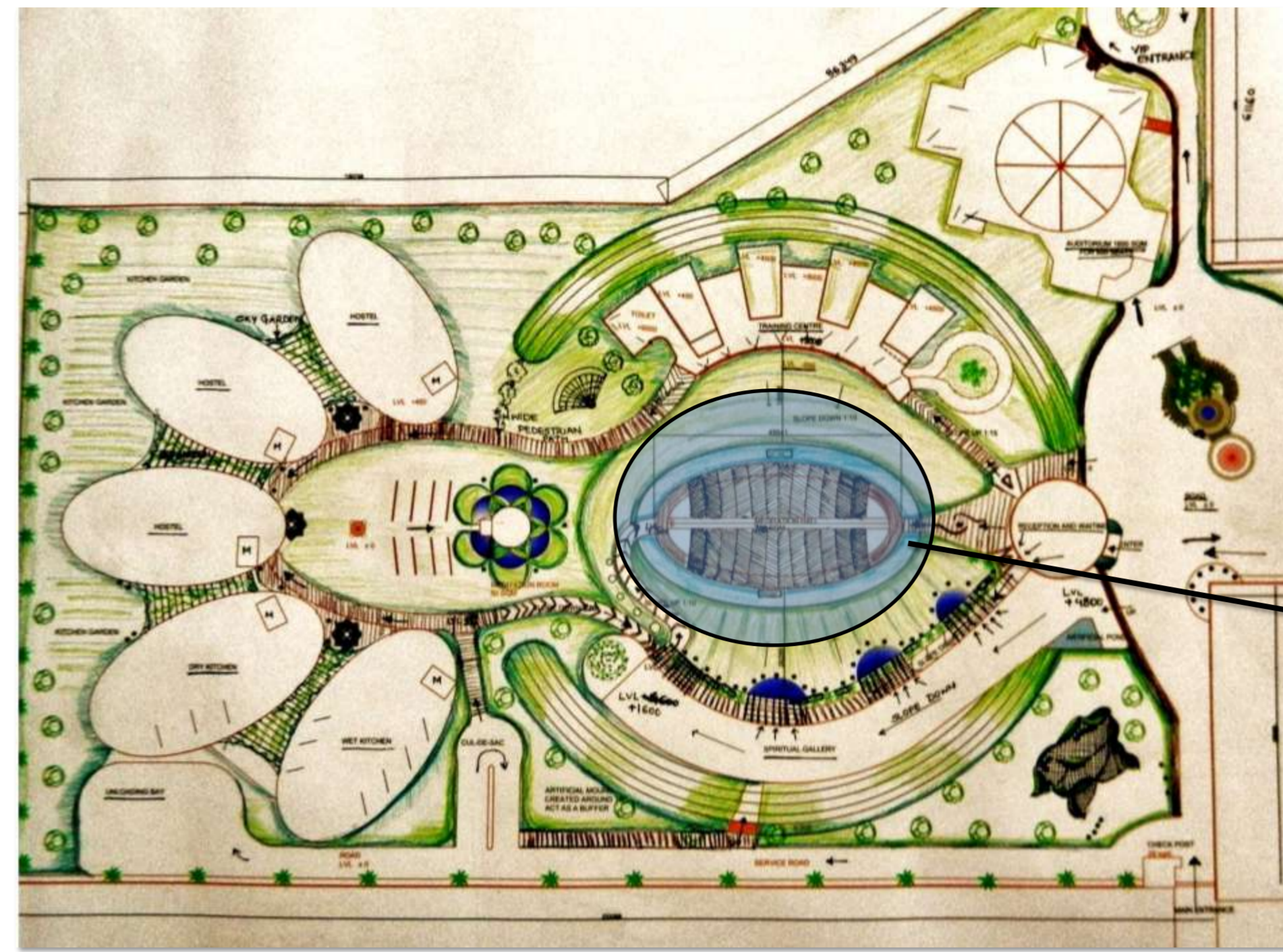
**Training Centre**  
PLAN SECTION , SITE PLAN ,  
ELEVATION, UPPER FLOOR PLAN  
(CLOCKWISE)

It consists of the classrooms, library and lecture rooms  
The classrooms have been kept staggered so as to allow ample interactive areas for students and better connection with the outdoors

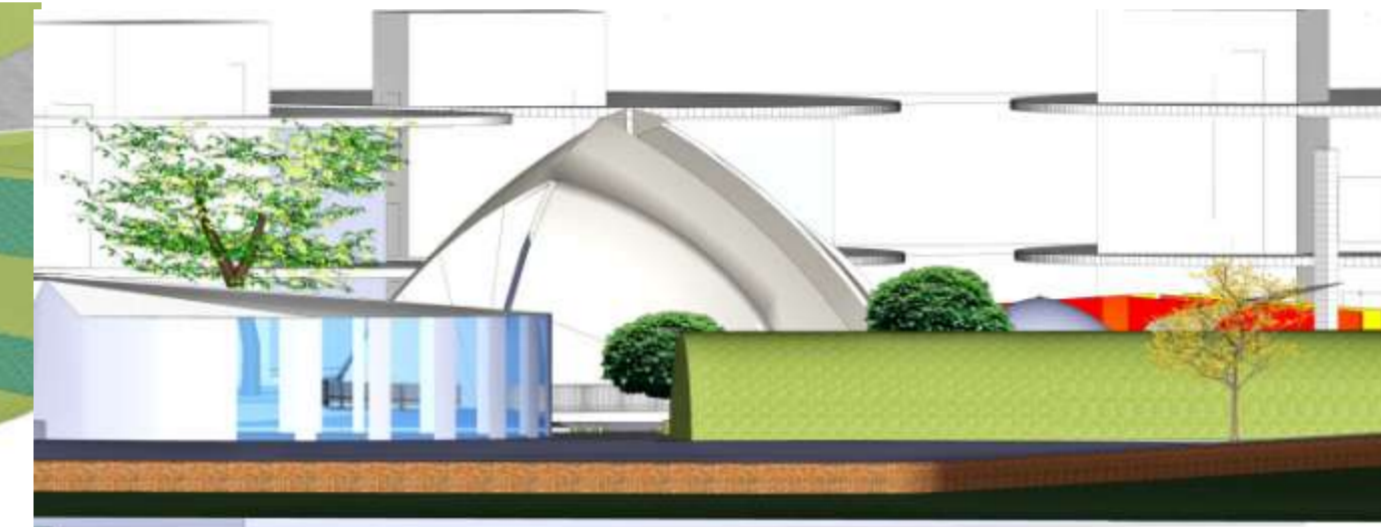
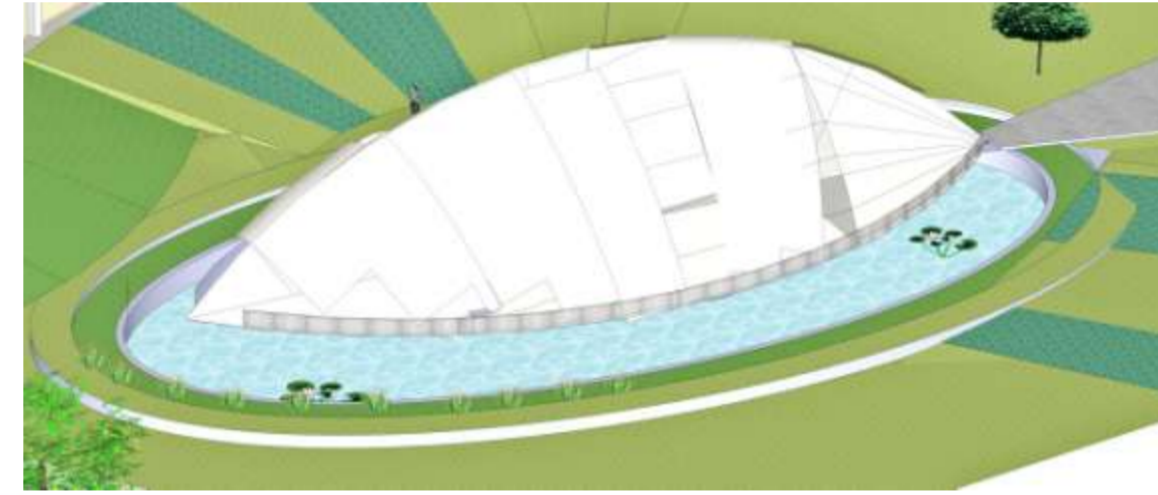
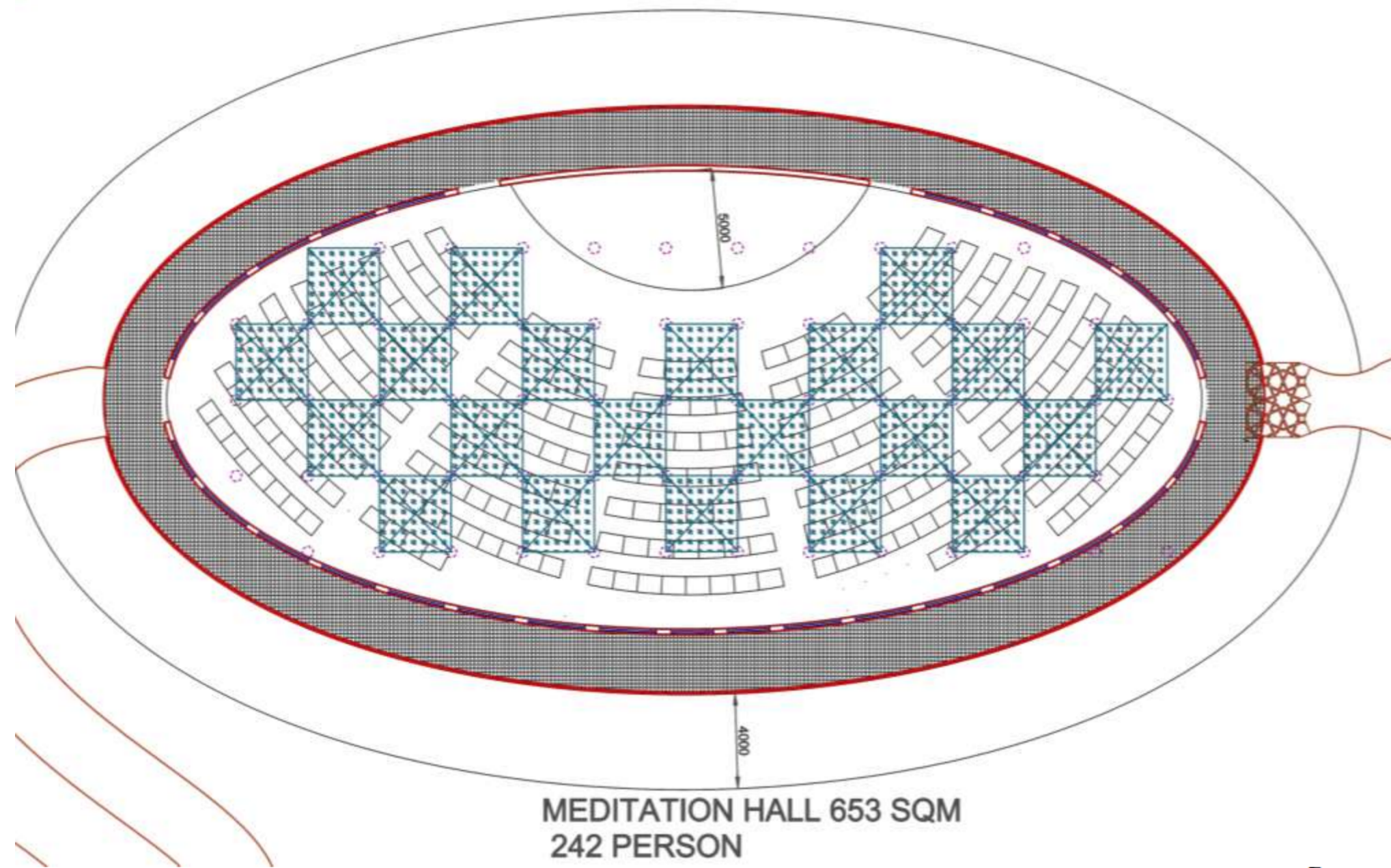




# MEDITATION HALL



- ❖ MEDITATION HALL VISUALLY AFLOAT ON A WATER BODY TAKES IN SUNS REFLECTION THROUGH GLASS FLOOR
- ❖ THE WATER BODY AS A REMINISCENT TO CLEANSE YOUR MIND BEFORE ENTERING THE HALL
- ❖ THE EXTERIOR JALI COVERS THE INSIDE SHELL TO GIVE A SENSE OF ENCLOSURE AND PRIVACY WITH GOD YET TAKE IN LIGHT DRAMATICALLY
- ❖ THE HALL IS AN EXPRESSION OF PURITY, BEAUTY AND SERENITY AND THE SUPREME SOUL



KITCHEN AND DINING BLOCK

HOSTELS

