

MEHRIN

01

Museum of **Water** and the **Blind**

An inclusive museum and sensory-cultural destination connecting water, memory, and human perception.

Project Introduction
Isfahan, Iran.



Water
a shared element



Inclusion
a stronger society



Culture
a richer tomorrow



Perception
a wider humanity



Water does not divide.
It connects.

Where water **leads**,
architecture **listens**.
A museum for **deeper perception**,
a space for everyone.

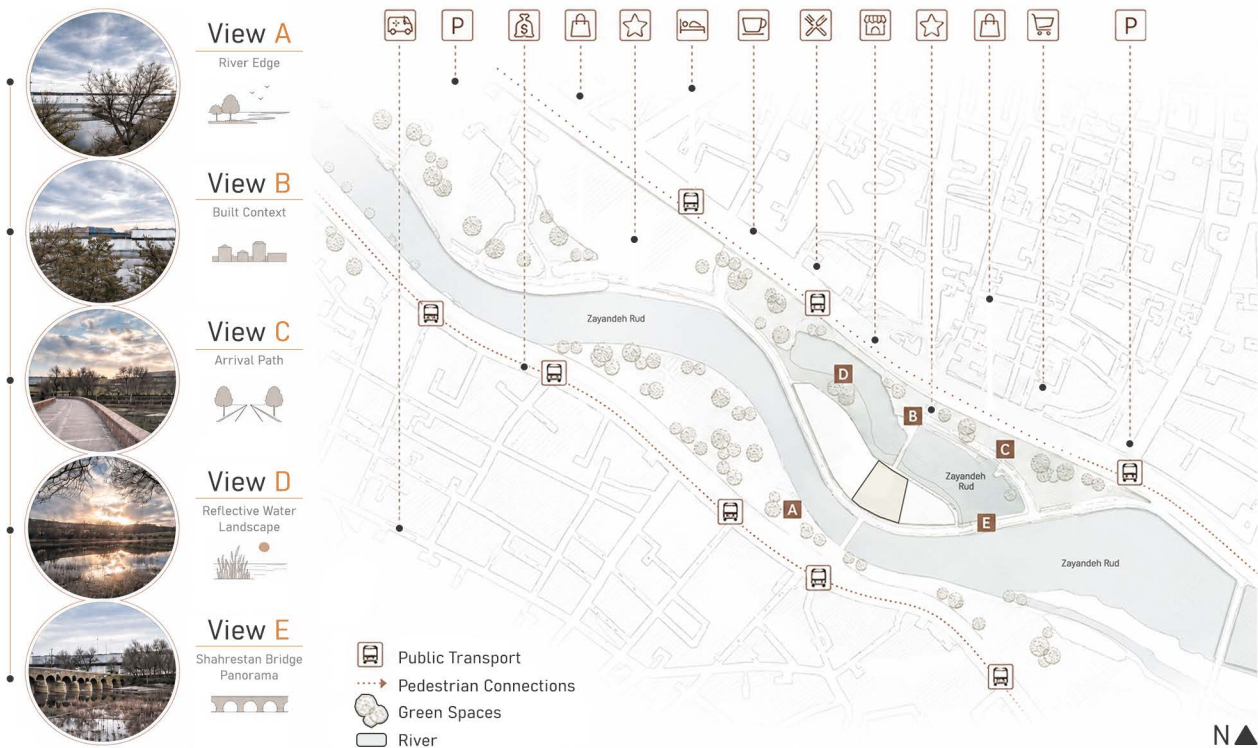
SITE ANALYSIS

02/1

Location, Access, Scale and Urban Context

Pre-Design Study

• Geographic Hierarchy _ From Global Context to Project Site



• **Public Transport Access**
Bus Stops Along Zayandeh Rud
Ensure Easy Access To the Site.

• **Pedestrian Connections**
Continuous Pedestrian Routes Link
the Project To the City.

• **City-River Interface**
A Unique Position Between
Urban Fabric and the Zayandeh Rud.

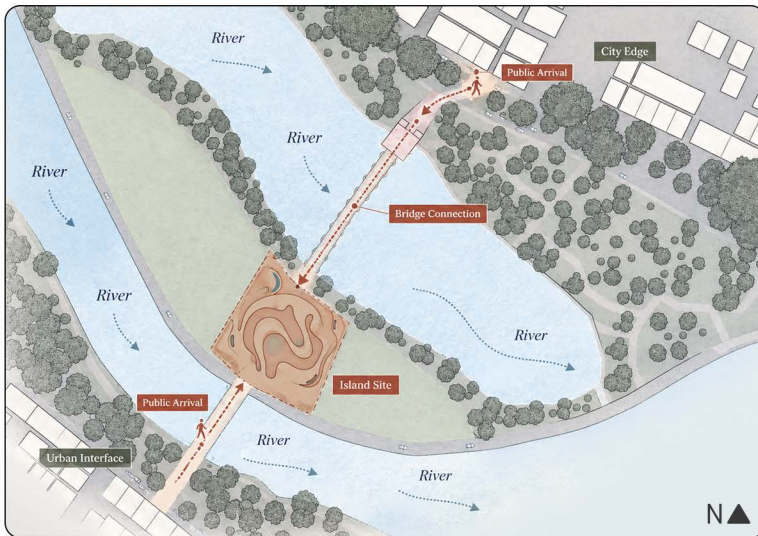
SITE ANALYSIS

02/2

Location, Access, Scale and Urban Context

Pre-Design Study

• Site as a Connector



• Site Information

Location:

ISFAHAN, IRAN.

Project:

MEHRIN Museum of Water and the Blind

Architect:

Farshid Naderolasli

Broader Site Area:

25,000 m²

Museum Focus Plot:

8,300 m²

Context:

River / Green Park / Urban Fabric / Historic Bridges

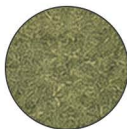
Primary Access:

Pedestrian + Vehicular + Public Transport



WATER

Reflective Surface
Creates Calm and Light



GRASS

Soft Landscape
Brings Life and Contrast



TREE

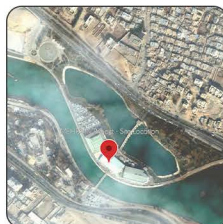
Natural Element
Center of Connection

• Historical Evolution of the Site - Approximately 22 Years of Change

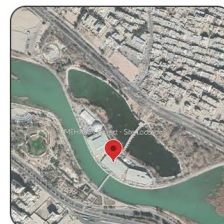
~ 2003



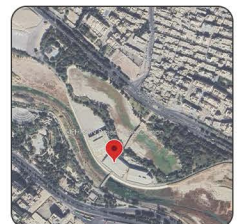
~ 2010



~ 2020



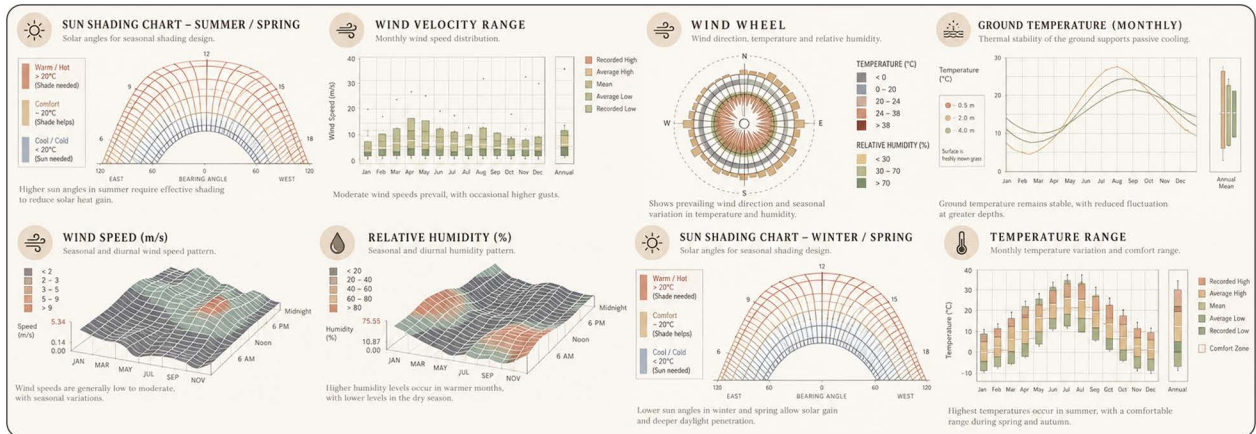
~ 2025



CLIMATE STUDIES 03

Environmental Analysis and Passive Design Considerations

Site Analysis Series



• Access and Circulation



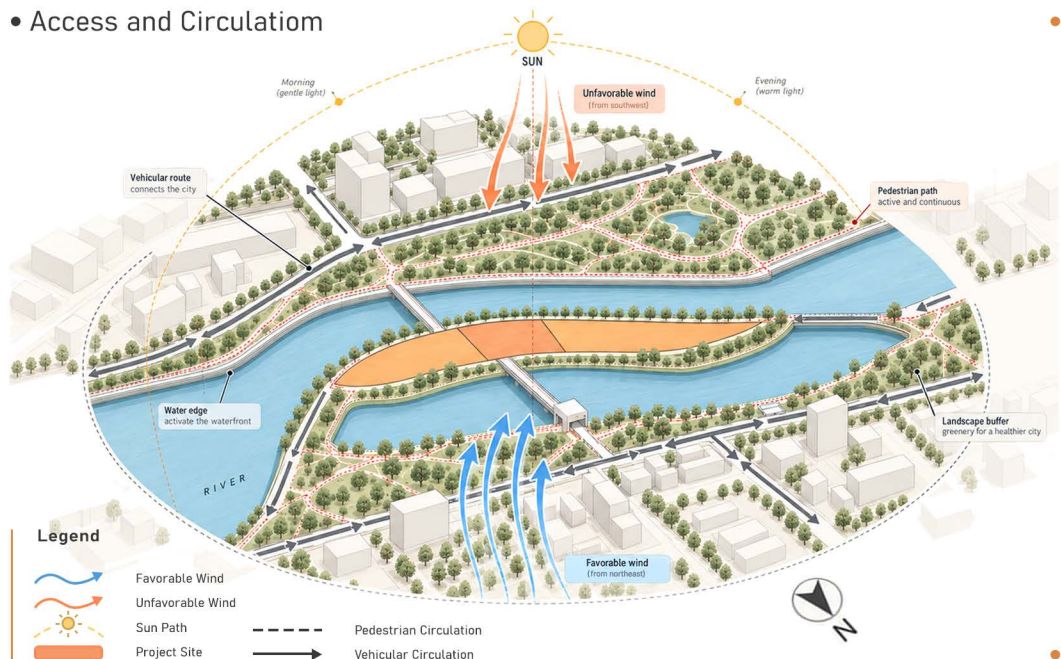
Vehicular Movement



Pedestrian Path



Landscape Buffer



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

04

Site Analysis
Series

Shahrestan, Jay and the Memory of Place

The project site lies within one of the oldest **historical landscapes** of eastern Isfahan, where water, crossing, settlement, and cultural memory have overlapped for centuries.

• Etymology of MEHRIN _ Meaning and Origin

Linguistically, the name is understood as a cultural derivation related to Mehr (Mihr / Mithra). MEHRIN is interpreted as a commemorative name that recalls historical memory rather than claiming a fully verified archaeological fortress identity.

Covenant | Light | Sun → Mehrin
Mehr / Mihr / Mithra



- The project name does not reconstruct the past literally. It respectfully acknowledges the layered memory of the site and its long cultural relationship with water, settlement, and crossing.

Achaemenid

Settlement Traces

Parthian

Burial Evidence

Sasanian

Bridge Foundation

Islamic Period

Urban Continuity

Contemporary

Project

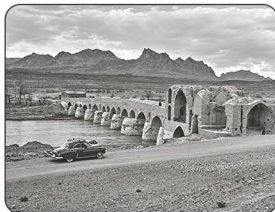
• Shahrestan Bridge

- Oldest bridge on the Zayandeh Rud.
- National Heritage Register of Iran _ No. 889
- Probable Sasanian foundation.
- Later Daylamid and Seljuk repairs.
- 11 arches / 12 piers / approx. 105 m

• Saruyeh Castle or Ashraf Hill

Near Shahrestan Bridge. Saruyeh Castle preserves archaeological evidence from the Achaemenid, Parthian, Sasanian, and later Islamic periods.

- Multi-period settlement evidence.
- Parthian burial discoveries reported.
- Archaeological depth of eastern Isfahan.
- Long-term urban continuity.



1330 SH (1951 CE)



1348 SH (1969 CE)



1348 SH (1969 CE)

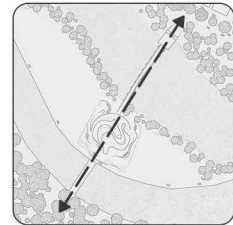


DESIGN CONCEPT FORMATION 05

A Bridge Between Two Bridges (BBTB)

Design Process Series

The project emerges from historical respect and transforms the site condition into the concept of an architectural bridge between two existing bridges.



• Historical Respect

Respecting Shahrestan Bridge skyline establishes a horizontal, low-rise architectural strategy that does not compete with the historic landmark.

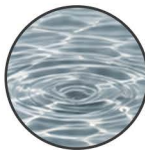
• Vertical Limits

Due to the sensitive historical context, proximity to the river and high ground-water level, the project is limited to a height of +4.50 m and a depth of -4.50 m.

• BBTB

Located on the axis between Shahrestan Bridge in the north and the Pardis Honar bridge in the south, the project becomes an architectural connector rather than a separate building.

• Water Beyond Vision - From a natural element to an architectural experience.



WATER



FLOW



MOVEMENT



MULTI-SENSORY INPUT



PERCEPTION



SPACE

• Inclusive Museum

Different abilities. A shared experience.



Blind Users

Experiencing through senses



Disabled Users

Accessible for all



Everyday Urban Visitors

A shared cultural space



Orientation

Clear wayfinding for all



Accessibility

Physical and sensory access



Participation

Active engagement in culture



Belonging

A more inclusive society

• Key Principles

Designing a museum for everyone.

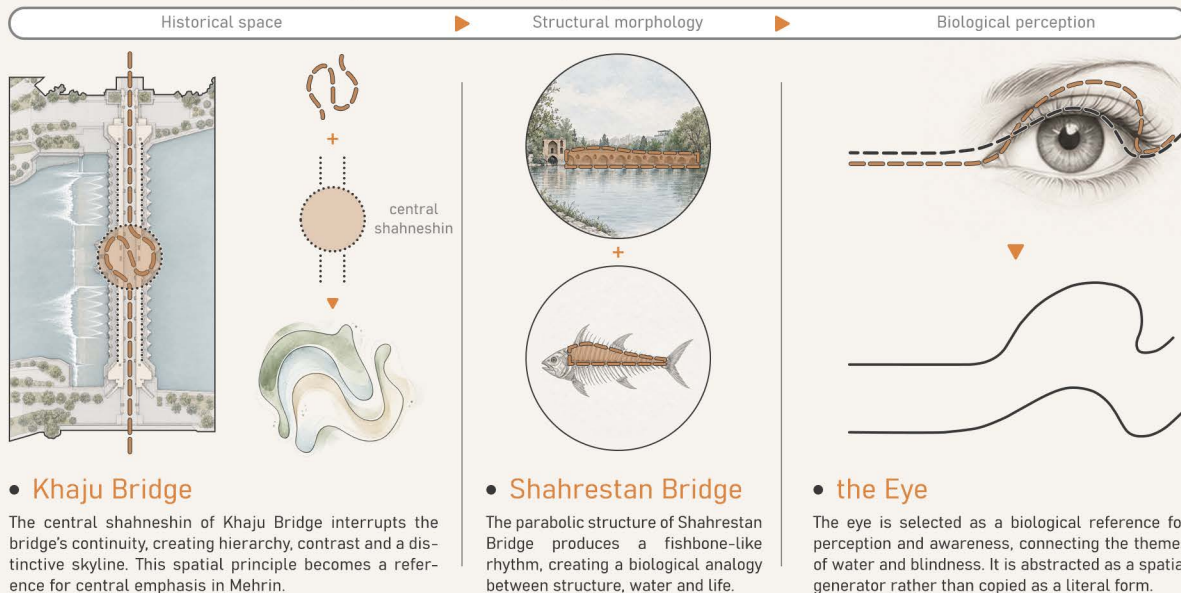
DESIGN LANGUAGE 06 SELECTION

From Historical References to Bionic Architecture

Design
Evolution

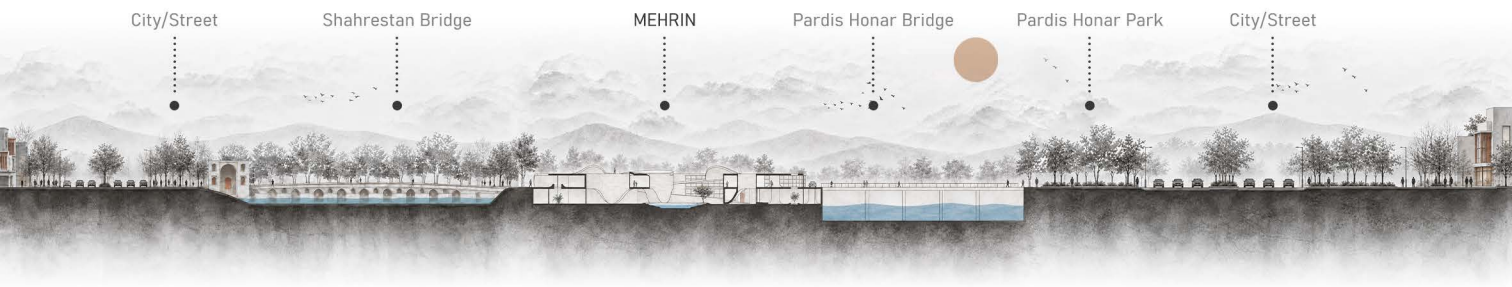
The architectural language develops through three complementary references: the central emphasis of Khaju Bridge, the structural morphology of Shahrestan Bridge, and the eye as an abstract biological reference for perception.

• Three References Shaping the Design Language



• Form in Context _ Urban Section + Relative Scale

Relative scale between the city, two bridges, Mehrin and the public landscape.



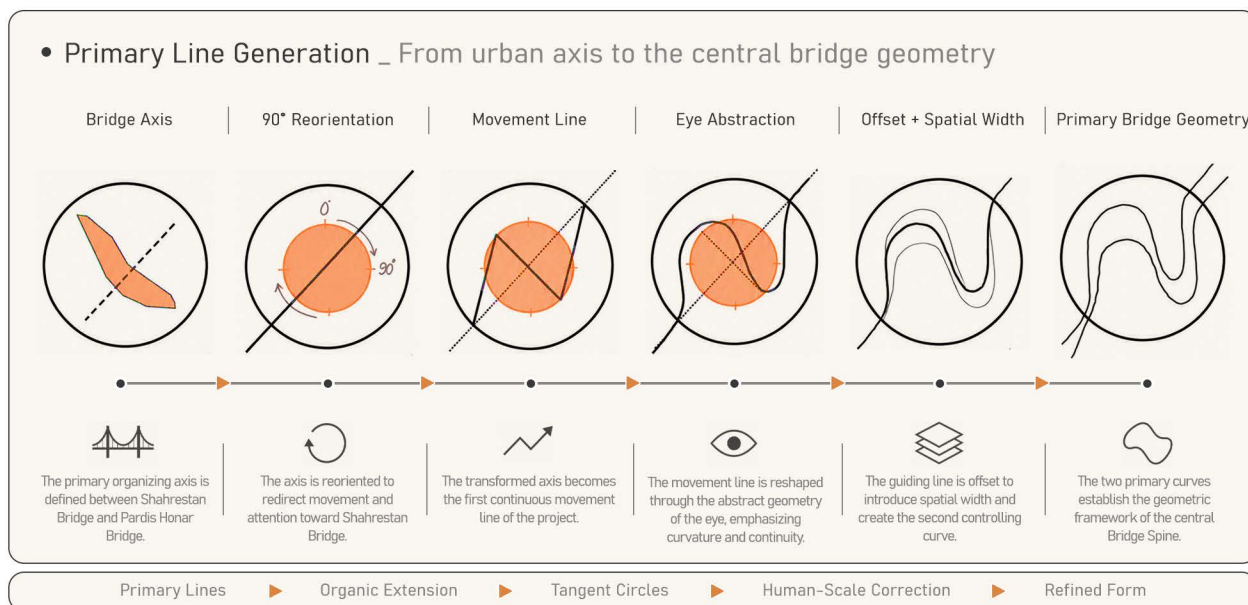
FORM GENERATION STRATEGY 07

From Bridge Axis to Tangency-Based Geometry

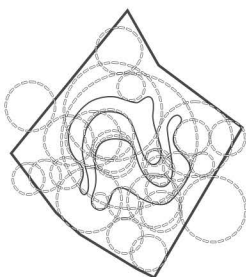
Design
Evolution

The previous conceptual decisions—bridge connection, bionic language and eye abstraction—are translated into a geometric design process. Two primary guiding lines establish the central bridge form and become the basis for the development of the entire site geometry.

• Primary Line Generation _ From urban axis to the central bridge geometry

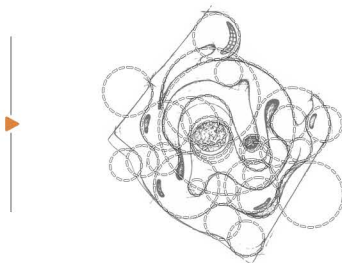


• Tangency _ Based Form Development



• Organic Curve Extension

The two primary bridge curves are extended across the site using the fluid geometry derived from the abstracted eye.



• Tangency Geometry

Tangent circles regulate curvature, continuity and geometric relationships.



• Refined Architectural Form

Tangency geometry and human-scale corrections transform the conceptual lines into a buildable architectural framework.

CLIMATE-DRIVEN PUSH & PULL

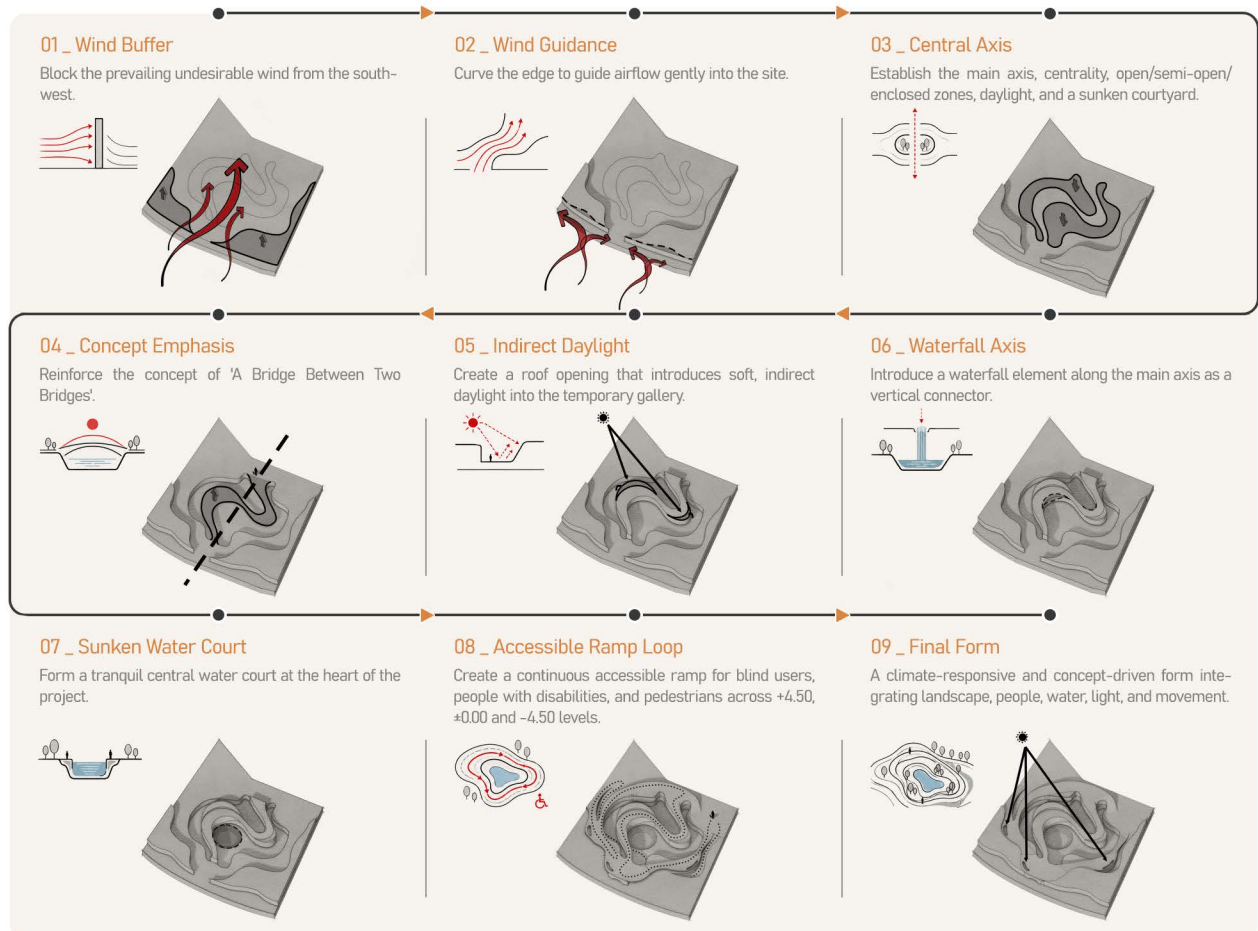
08

Design Evolution
Series

From 2D Plan to Environmental Topography

Environmental forces transform the refined plan into inhabitable topography. Once the two-dimensional architectural geometry is established, the climatic studies introduced earlier become active form-making parameters. Selected areas rise or descend while remaining within the historical and hydrogeological vertical limits of the site.

• Form Development Sequence _ From Climate Response to Final Form



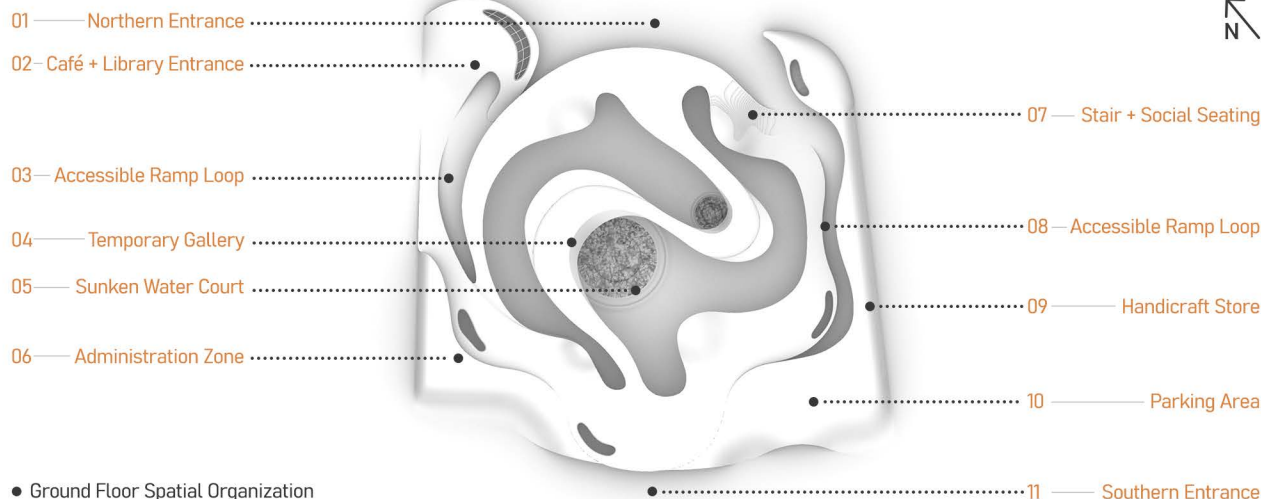
SPATIAL ORGANIZATION

From Form Generation to Spatial Experience

09

Design
Evolution

The final geometry integrates functional zones, accessible circulation and sensory spaces into a continuous architectural landscape.



- | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| 01
Bridge Connection from Shahrestan Bridge | 02
Public social space and secondary entrance connecting visitors with the library zone. | 03
Continuous accessible circulation connecting +4.50, +0.00 and -4.50 levels. | 04
Flexible exhibition space located along the central bridge spine. | 05
Central courtyard inspired by Gowdal-Baghche, combining water, light, shade and sensory experience. | 06
Operational and management spaces supporting the museum activities. |
| 07
Vertical connection and collective pause space for gathering and orientation. | 08
Inclusive circulation route designed for blind users, children and people with disabilities. | 09
Cultural retail space supporting local crafts and social interaction. | 10
Service and visitor parking zone integrated with site access. | 11
Secondary arrival point connecting the project with the southern landscape route. | |

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION

From Form Generation to Spatial Experience

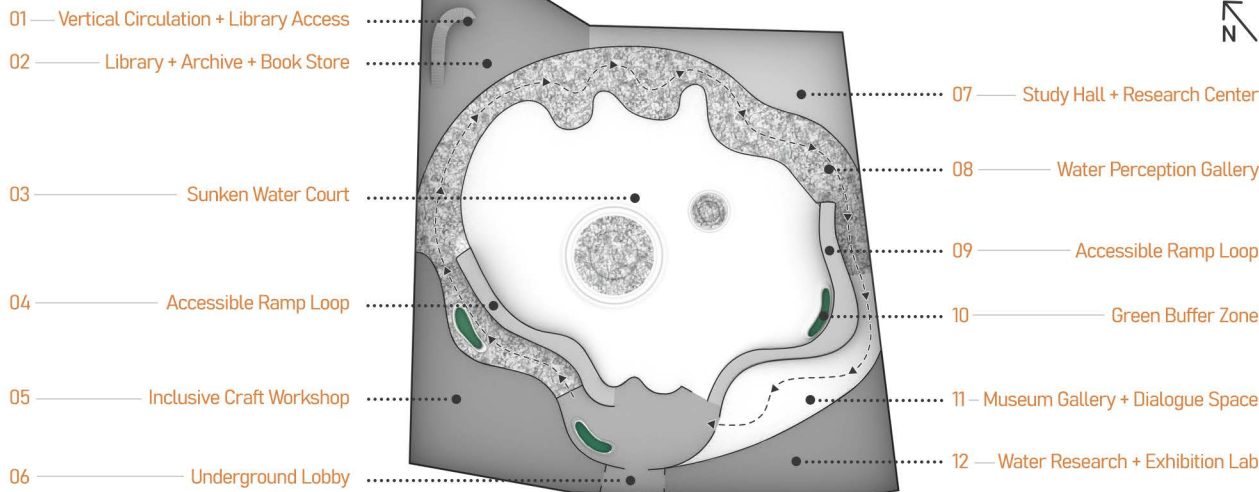
10

Design
Evolution

The underground level extends the sensory experience through water, research, education and inclusive spaces within the continuous architectural landscape.



• Underground Spatial Organization



01
Vertical connection providing access between levels and the library zone.

02
Knowledge space combining reading areas, book storage and cultural resources.

03
Central courtyard inspired by Gowdal-Baghche, combining water, light, shade and sensory experience.

04
Inclusive circulation route connecting different levels through continuous accessible movement.

05
Production and employment space supporting blind and disabled users through traditional crafts.

06
Arrival and orientation space connecting visitors with underground programs.

07
Quiet learning environment with digital resources and research facilities.

08
Museum of Water and the Blind. Multisensory water gallery exploring sound, touch and water perception.

09
Inclusive circulation route connecting different levels through continuous accessible movement.

10
Vegetated areas enhancing atmosphere, orientation and environmental quality.

11
Exhibition and interaction space for cultural exchange and collective learning.

12
Research and experimental space exploring water systems through educational displays.

SPATIAL EXPERIENCE

Temporal Operation & Material Identity

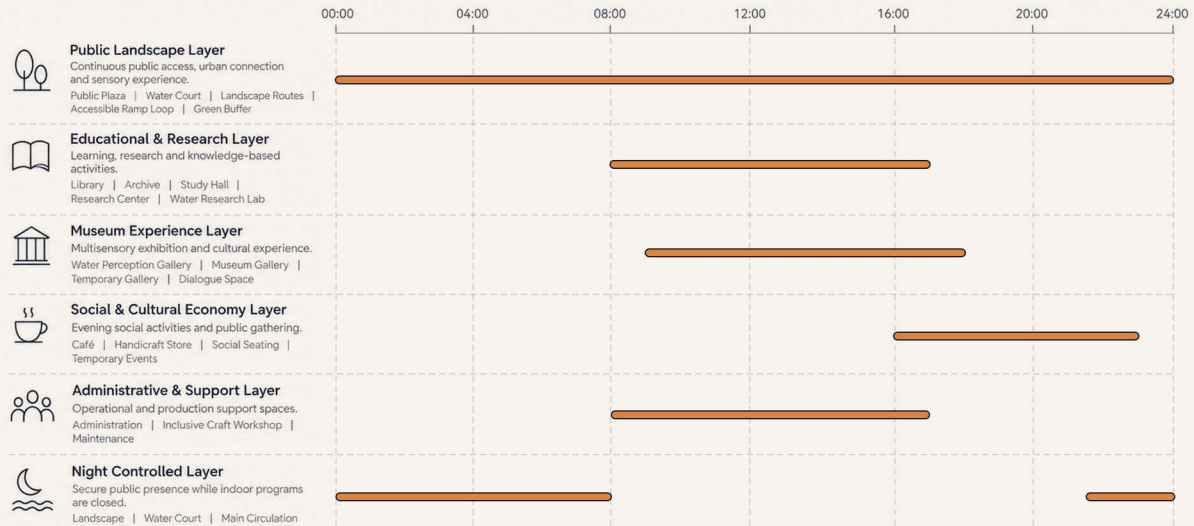
11

Design
Evolution

The project operates as a continuous cultural landscape, integrating public space, educational programs and sensory experiences through a 24-hour operational strategy.

• 24H Cultural Plaza Strategy

Temporal organization of public, cultural and service spaces. The project functions as a 24-hour cultural plaza, combining continuous public access with time-based indoor activities.



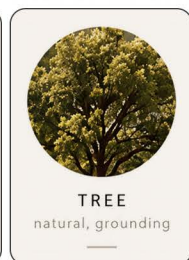
• Material & Natural Palette

Material choices reinforce the sensory character of the 24-hour cultural landscape.

BASE MATERIALS



NATURAL ELEMENTS



SPATIAL EXPERIENCE

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Design
Evolution

Sensory Experience & Inclusive Architecture

The architectural experience is shaped through inclusive circulation, sensory guidance and spatial orientation for all users.

• Accessibility Strategy _ Integrating People, Space and Perception

• Guidance



Tactile Path



Braille Information



Handrail Guidance

• Comfort and Orientation



Safe Turning Points



Pause Nodes



Controlled Contrast

• Inclusion and Experience



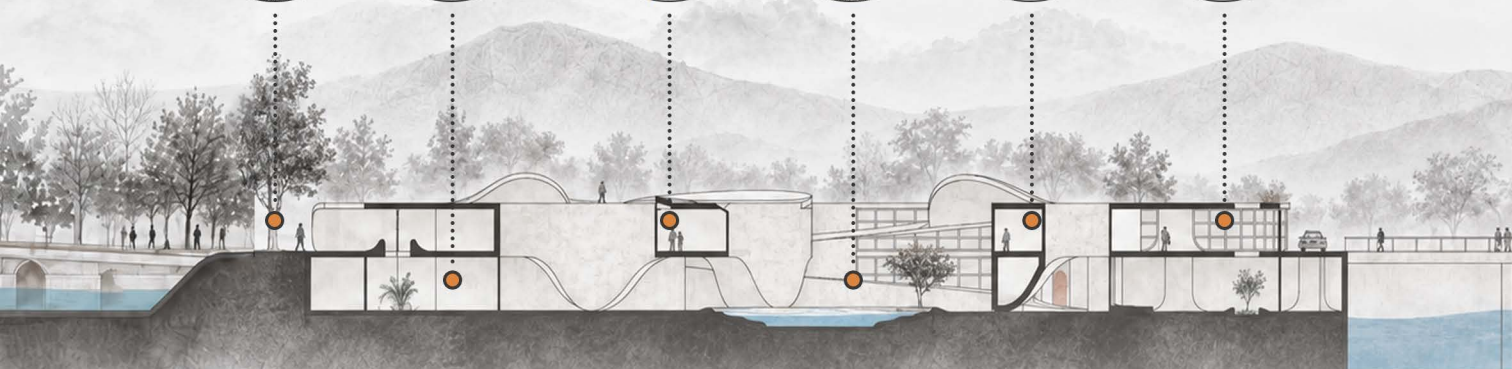
Gradual Transitions



Multi-Sensory Cues



Inclusive Circulation



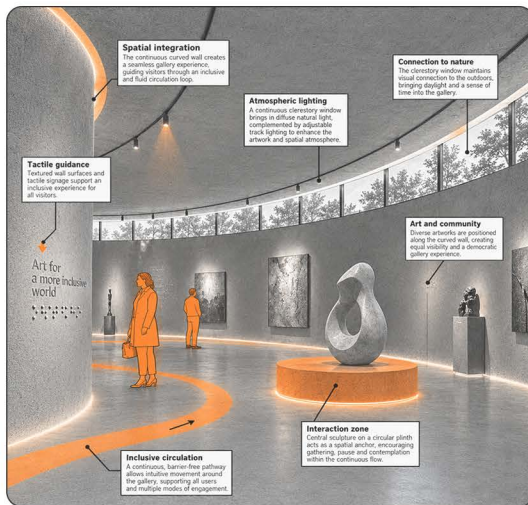
SPATIAL EXPERIENCE

Sensory Experience & Inclusive Architecture

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Design
Evolution

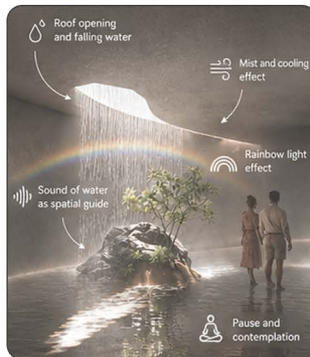
The architectural experience is developed through sensory perception, inclusive movement and spatial orientation, allowing all users to experience water, light and space.



• Spatial Analysis _ Sensory Experiences



Tactile Orientation
Guidance through touch, light and water



Atmosphere of Water
Sound, mist and light create emotional space



Readable Circulation
Clear, safe and inclusive movement

SPATIAL EXPERIENCE

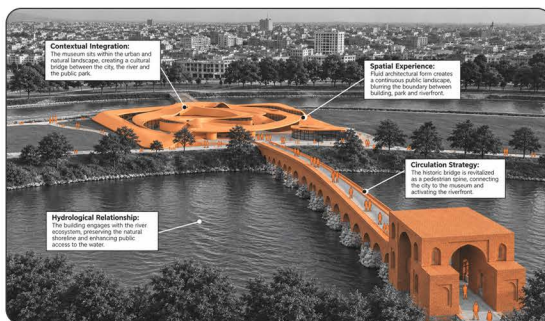
Sensory Experience & Inclusive Architecture

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Design
Evolution

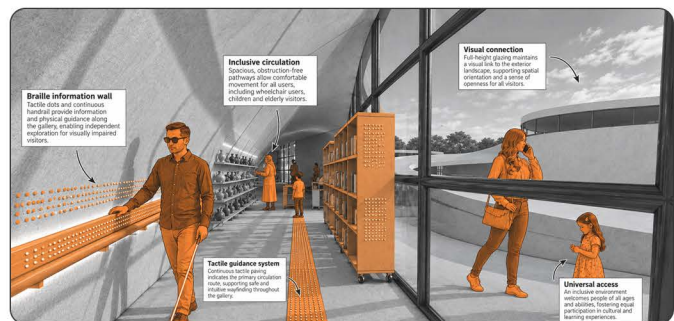


• Spatial Analysis _ Experiential Moments



Bridge Between Two Bridges

Connecting historical context, landscape and public movement



Readable Circulation

Continuous and inclusive movement through sensory guidance

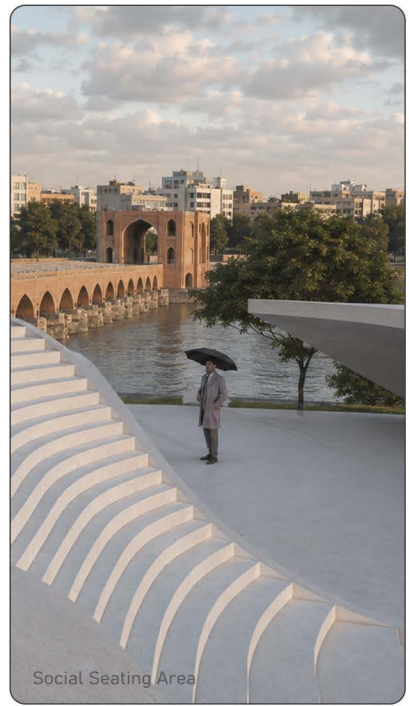
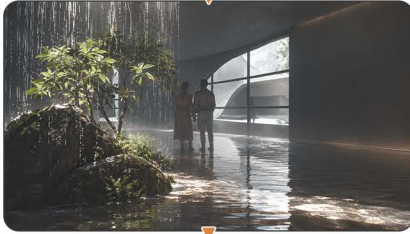
SPATIAL EXPERIENCE

Sensory Experience & Inclusive Architecture

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Design
Evolution

- Water Perception Gallery _ Museum of Water and the Blind



Social Seating Area

- Temporary Gallery _ A flexible exhibition space supporting cultural events and changing displays.



SPATIAL EXPERIENCE

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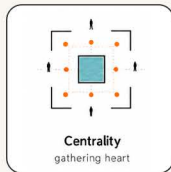
Design
Evolution

- Iranian Spatial Logic Contemporary Interpretation

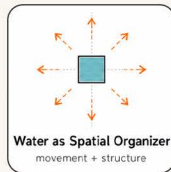
- Spatial Principles



Gowdal baghche
central water court

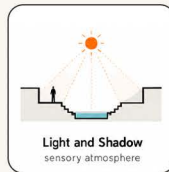


Centrality
gathering heart

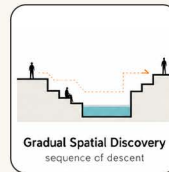


Water as Spatial Organizer
movement + structure

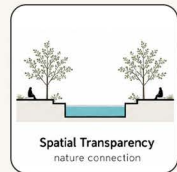
- Experiential Qualities



Light and Shadow
sensory atmosphere



Gradual Spatial Discovery
sequence of descent

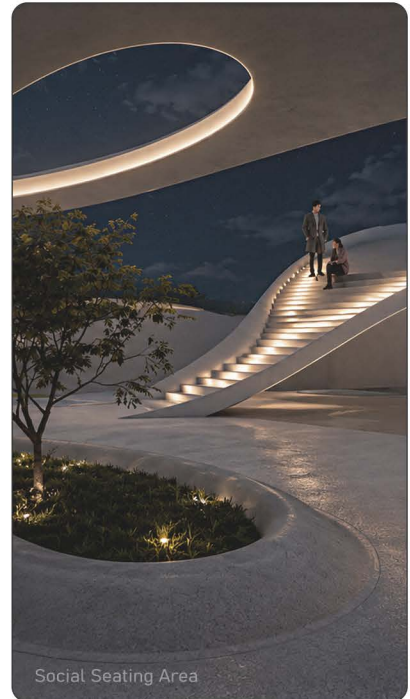


Spatial Transparency
nature connection

- Northern Entrance Experience



- Handicraft Store & Cultural Exchange



Social Seating Area

SPATIAL EXPERIENCE

Water, Landscape & Spatial Experience

17

Design
Evolution



The project integrates water, landscape and architecture into a continuous spatial experience connected to the river context.

- Sunken Water Court Experience

