



**Alternative Architectural Solutions:  
Designing equitable paths to sustainable, climate  
resilient housing in Devgain, Jharkhand, India**

**Presentation by Nicole C. Little | University at Buffalo | M. Arch + M.UP Candidate | Travel Duration: January 2018**

# Project Team:

Amrita Project Guide:

**Dr. Anil Kumar Sharma**

University at Buffalo Faculty Mentor:

**Dr. Korydon Smith**

Project Partners:

**Thiviya SK**

**Aswathy G Krishnan**

**Monish Kalathuru**

**Pradhipa Lakshminarayanan**

Live in Labs Amrita Guides:

**Souresh, Soumya**

Ammachi Labs Collaborators:

**Harish, Kripasagar, Sreevidya**





**Civil  
Engineering**

**Architectural  
Design**



## **Civil Engineering**

## **Architectural Design**

**To learn from  
the vernacular,  
and inherently  
smart homes  
of the village  
and also  
cultural  
lifestyles,  
using this to  
inform future  
construction in  
the village.**







**Housing:**

**Amrita Labs hope to win the design and construction contract for the 50 government homes recently funded for the village.**



### **Housing:**

**Typical Government homes are prototypical concrete homes which are unsustainable, inequitable, and do not perform well in this climate.**

# Background

---

Rammed Earth History and General  
Information

Village Familiarization Through  
Previous Reports in Devgain



# Literature

---

Engineering Technology: Structure and  
Soils

\*Material Science: The Utilization of  
Recycled Materials in Rammed Earth  
Construction



# Drawings

---

Architectural Designs

Construction Details

Formwork Design

Climate Responsive Design  
in Jharkhand, India



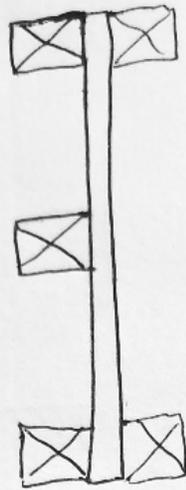
# Formwork Design

---

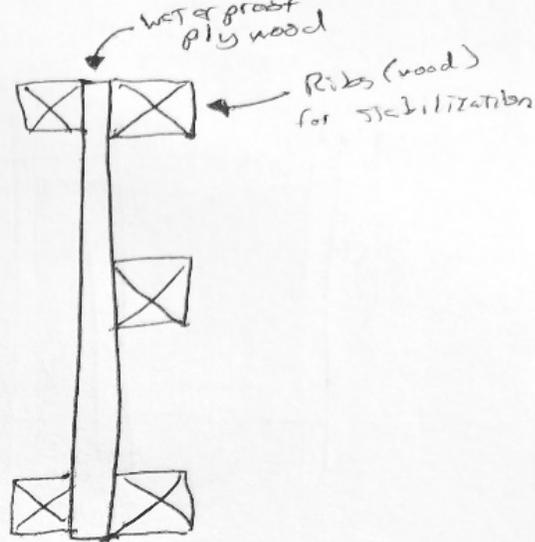
Designs, Communication, and Fabrication



Section



H  
2cm

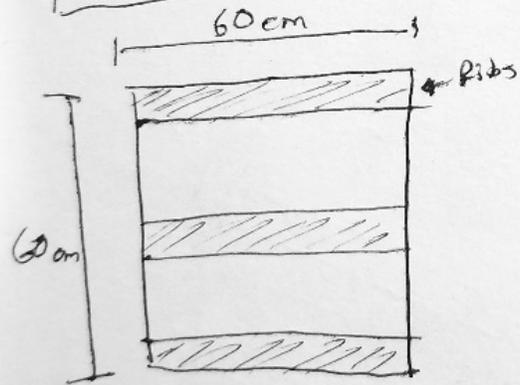


H  
2cm

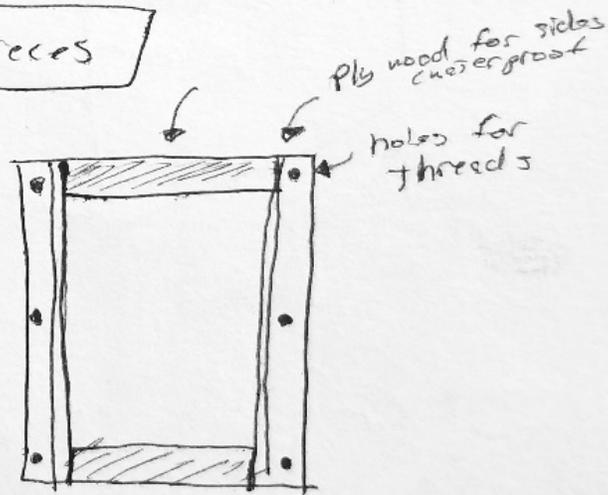
46cm

60 cm

Elevations of Side Pieces

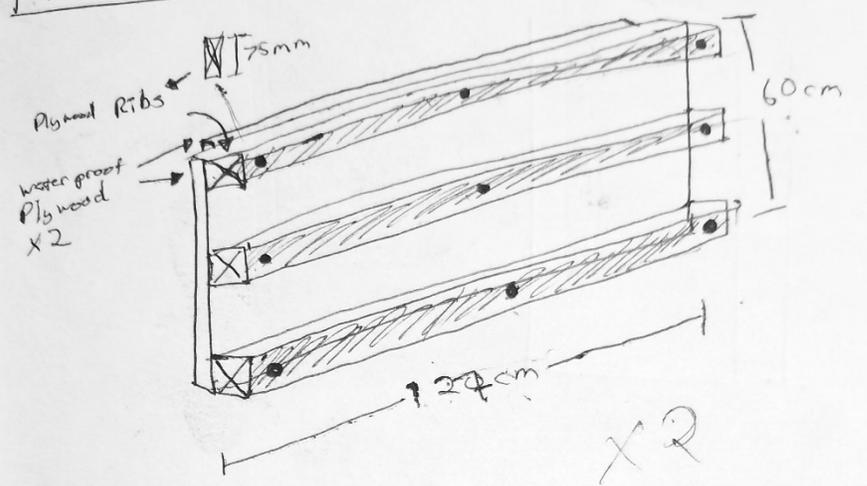


Outer

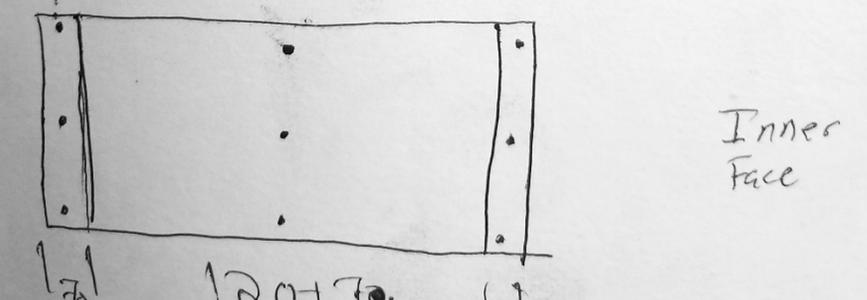
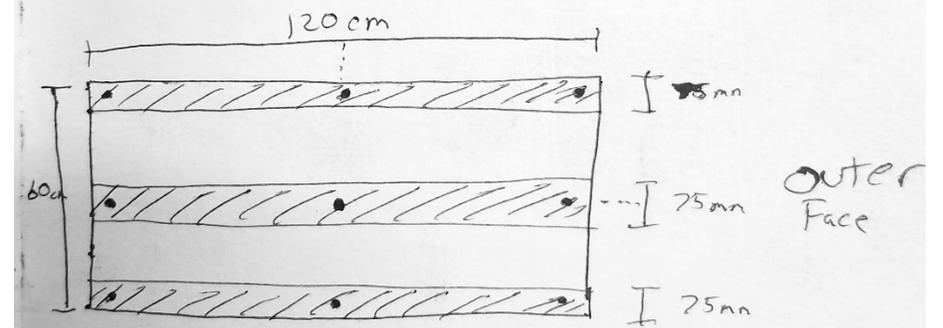


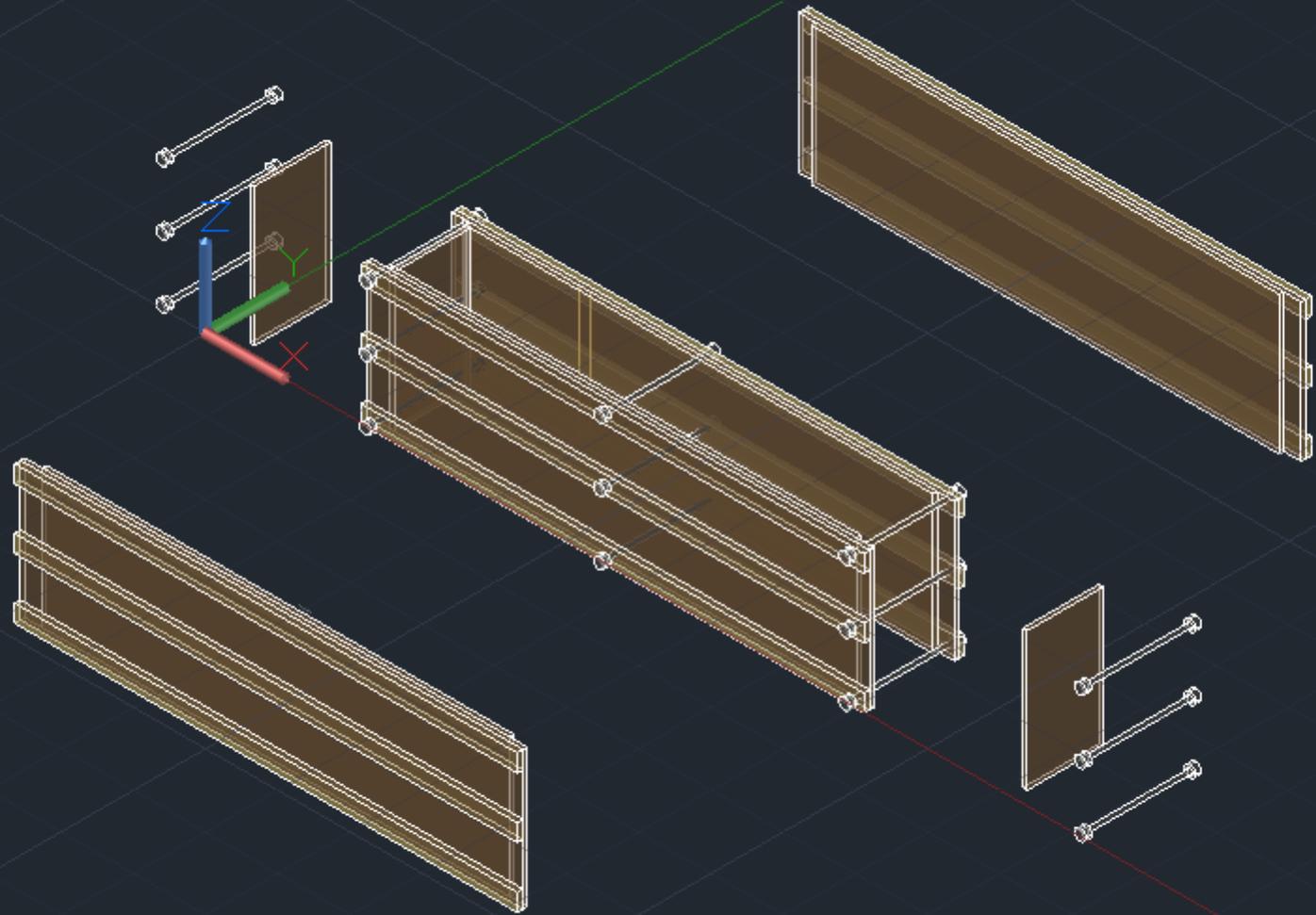
Inner

Side wall  
Quantity = 2



Elevations







**Environmental  
Benefits**



**Social  
Benefits**



**Economic  
Benefits**



**Health  
Benefits**



# Action Plan

---

Defining Objectives (Survey,  
Demonstrations, Soil Collection)  
and Timeline







# Mud House

+ Generally Very Happy

+Comfy During Hot Summer Months

+Almost All Materials are Free

- Cold in the Winter

- Clay Tile Roofs Tend to be Leaky

Frequent, Labor Intensive Maintenance

- Termite Issues with Timber Frames



# Concrete

- + Warm in Winter
- + Minimal Maintenance
- Expensive to Build
- Perception of Wealth
- Very Hot in Summer



# Brick Houses

- + Warm in Winter
- +Less Maintenance
- Expensive to Build (many incomplete)
  - Perception of Wealth
  - Very Hot in Summer



**Housing:**

**Amrita Labs hope to win the design and construction contract for the 50 government homes recently funded for the village.**



**Community Center:**

**Amrita University itself is funding a Community Center for the village that also doubles as visitor accomodation.**



### **Housing:**

**Typical Government homes are prototypical concrete homes which are unsustainable, inequitable, and do not perform well in this climate.**



### **Community Center:**

**The current meeting space is in bad condition and too small. Current visitor accommodations are in a health clinic and tuition center which is disruptive to functions on either end.**



Site 2:  
Area: .088 ha  
Distance to Village  
Center: 131m

Site 2

Site 2: Distance to Vi...

Site 3: Distance to Vi...

Site 3

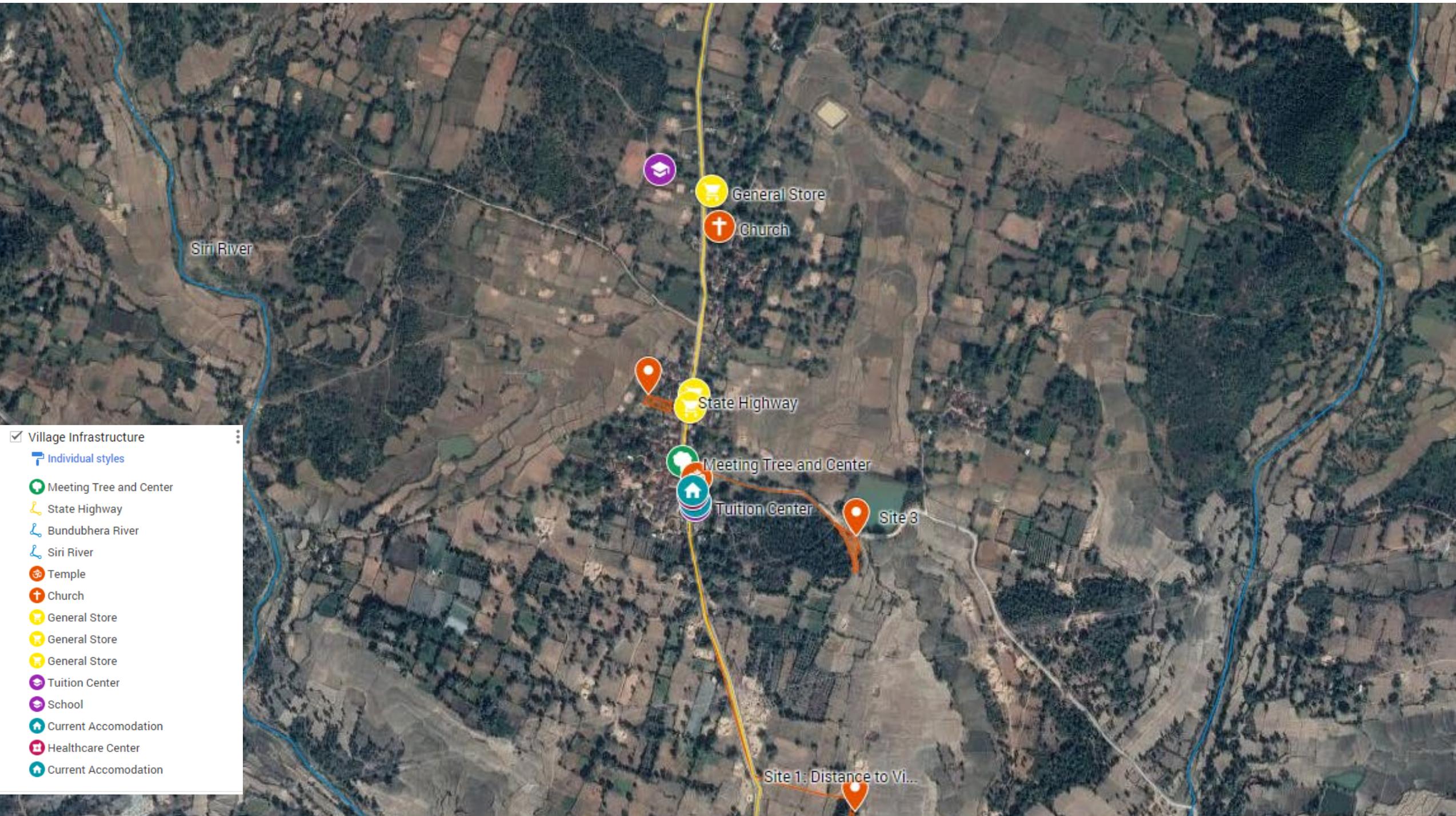
Site 2:  
Area: .135 ha  
Distance to Village  
Center: 276m

Site 1:  
Area: .01 ha  
Distance to Village  
Center: 749m

Site 1: Distance to Vi...

Site 1





Siri River

General Store

Church

State Highway

Meeting Tree and Center

Tuition Center

Site 3

Site 1: Distance to Vi...

- Village Infrastructure
- Individual styles
- Meeting Tree and Center
- State Highway
- Bundubhera River
- Siri River
- Temple
- Church
- General Store
- General Store
- General Store
- Tuition Center
- School
- Current Accomodation
- Healthcare Center
- Current Accomodation



Site 2



# Pros (+)

Closest to Village Center

Ample in Size

Closest to Village Amenities  
Including General Store and Tea Shop,  
Temple and Church

Cohesive Soil

Close to Main Road

High Density Housing



# Cons (-)

Farthest Distance to Water Source  
(100m to well)

Least Amount of Privacy











**Overall Project Basis**



**The need for equitable, climatic and culturally responsible construction improvements**



**The construction of a community center using the rammed earth method allows indirect exposure to earth building technology**



**The rammed earth technique used at the community center will be familiar with villagers by the time government funded houses are built**

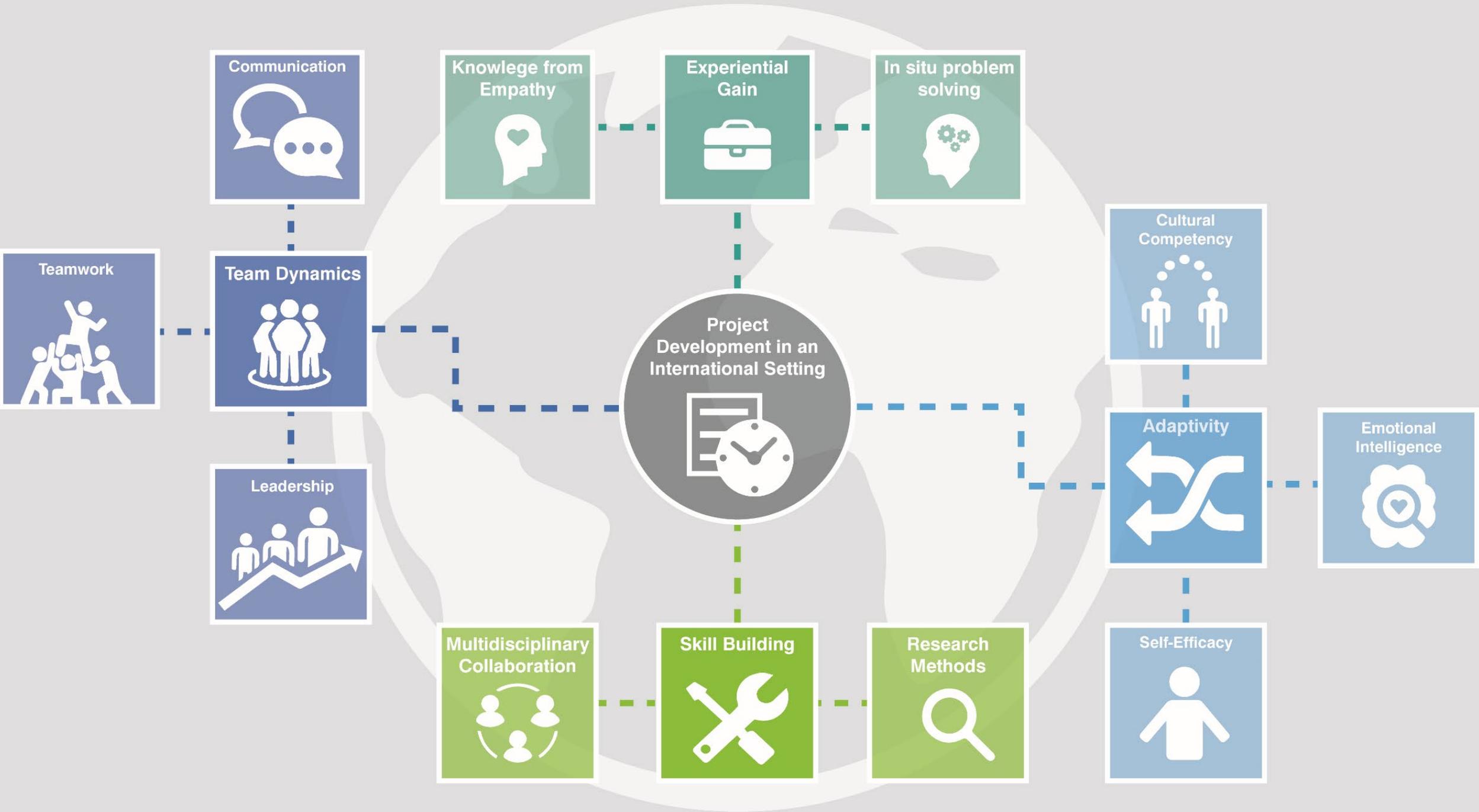


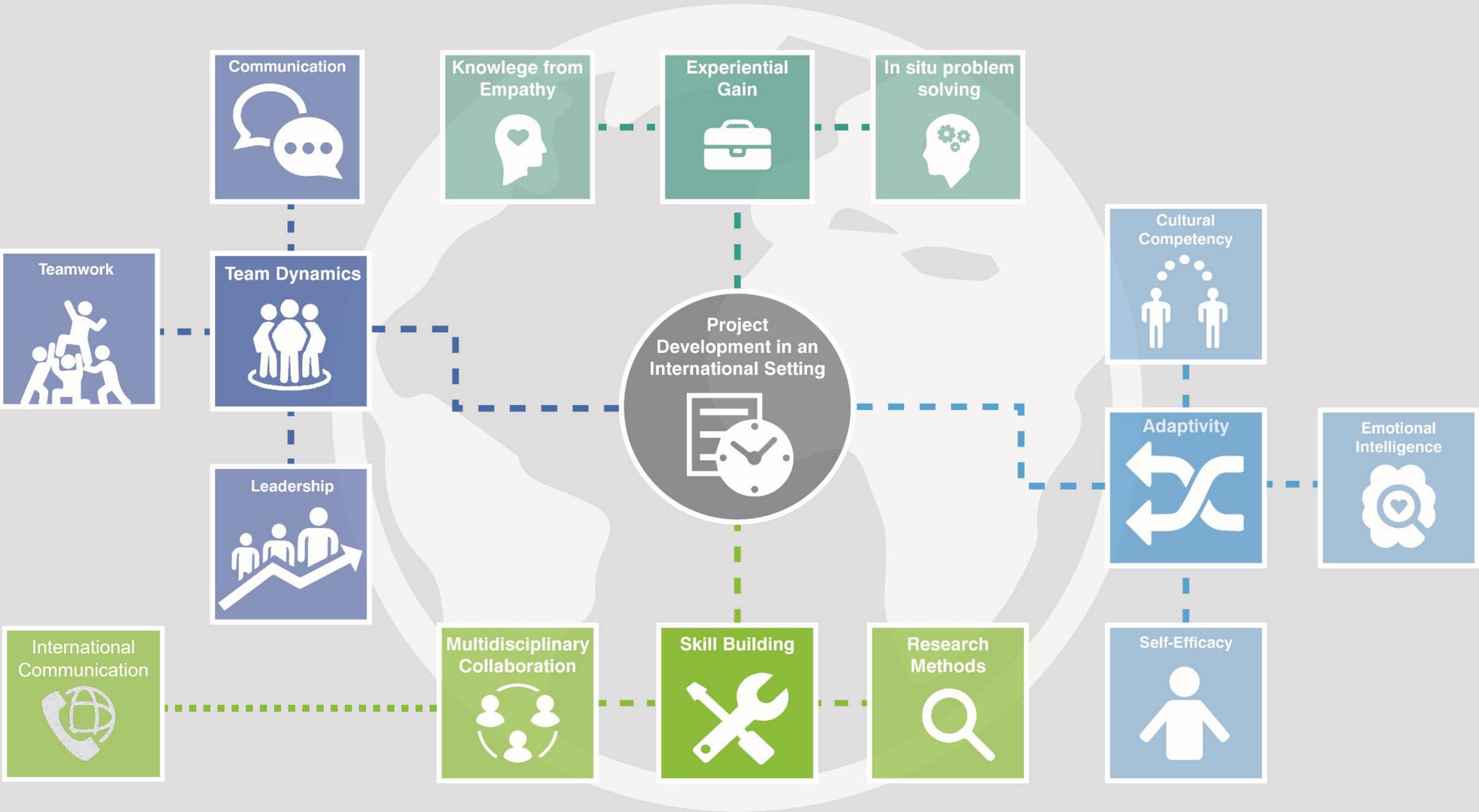
**The need for equitable, climatic and culturally responsible construction improvements**

**The construction of a community center using the rammed earth method allows indirect exposure to earth building technology**



**Desired Project Outcomes**





Communication

Knowledge from Empathy

Experiential Gain

In situ problem solving

Teamwork

Team Dynamics

Leadership

Cultural Competency

Adaptability

Emotional Intelligence

International Communication

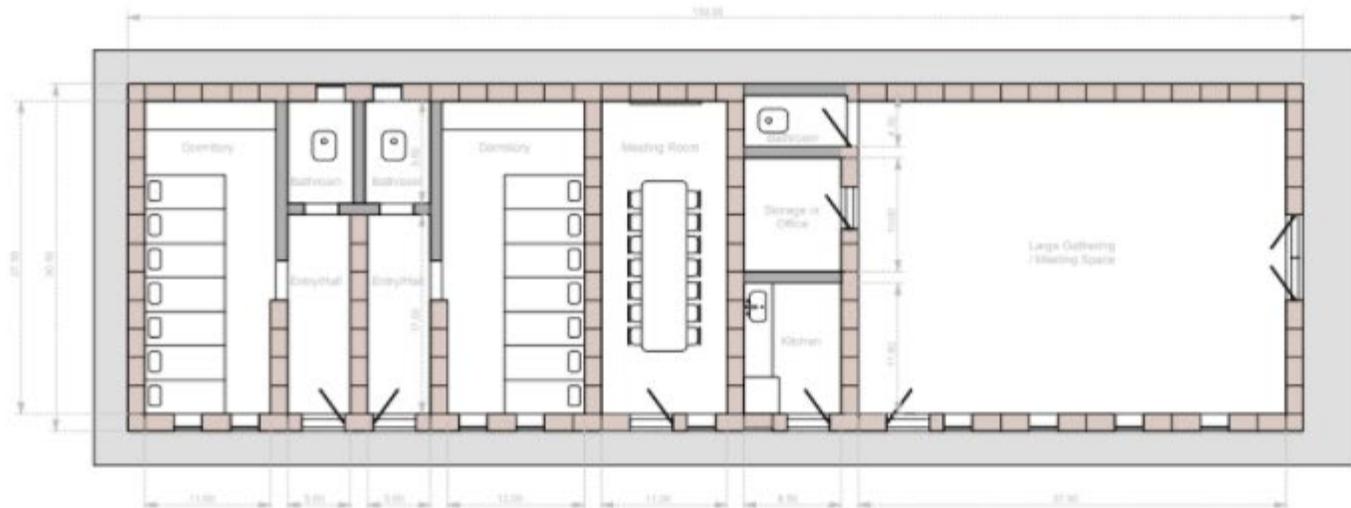
Multidisciplinary Collaboration

Skill Building

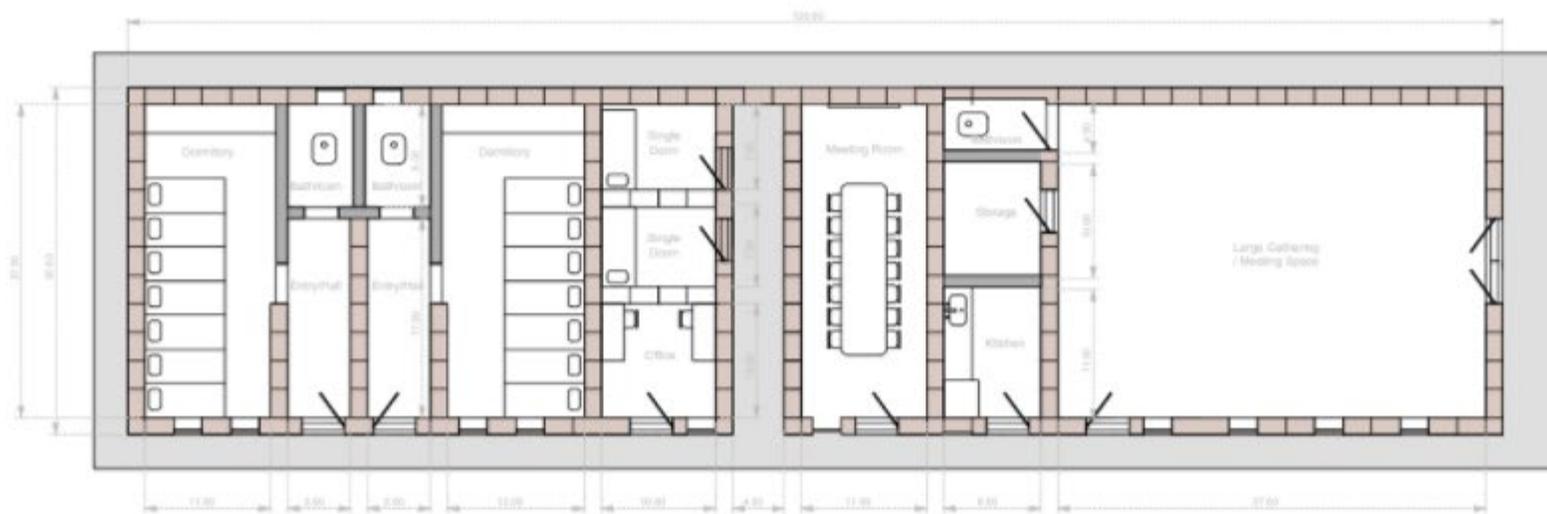
Research Methods

Self-Efficacy

# Plans



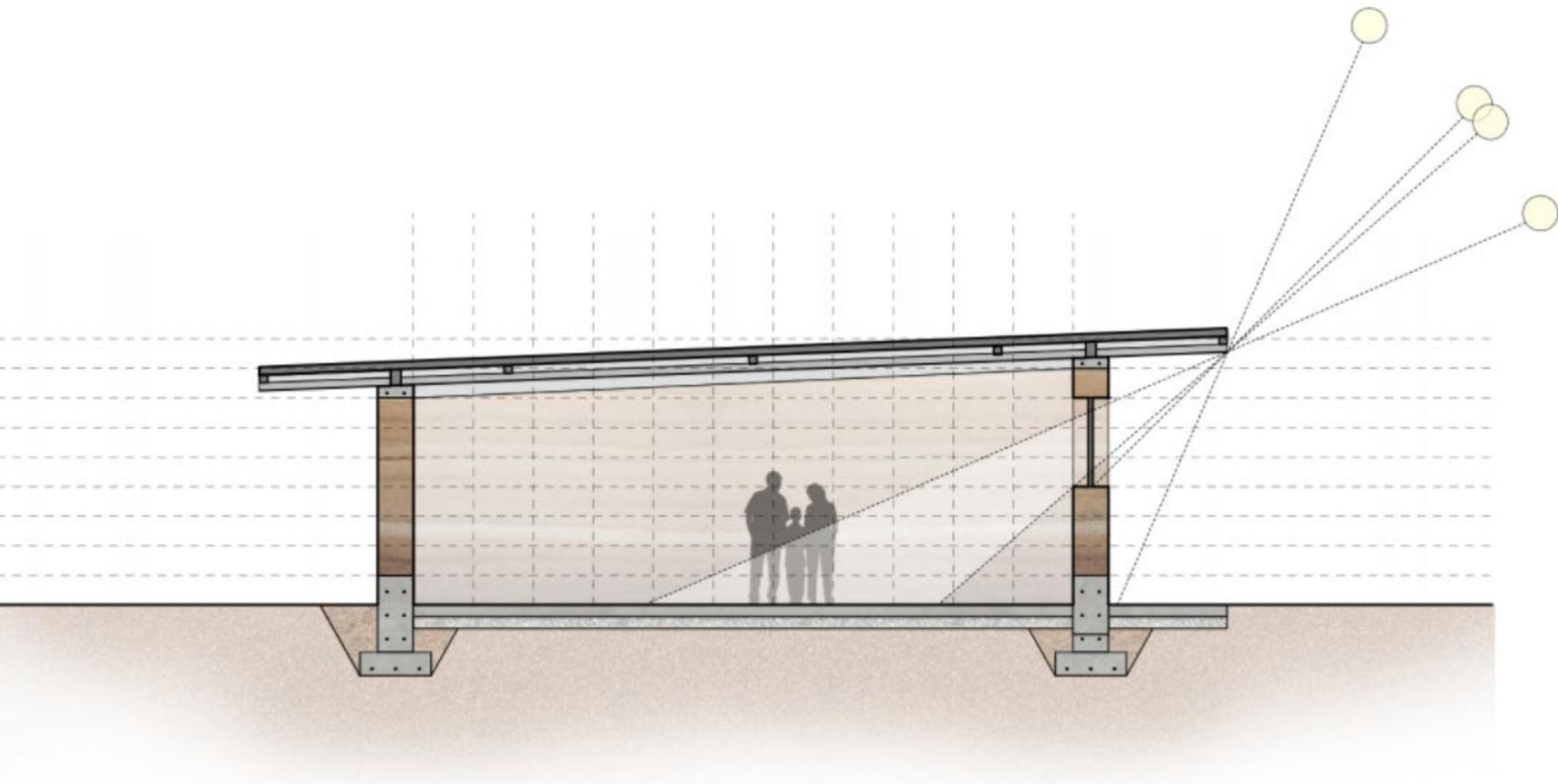
Full Build - Option A  
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"



Full Build - Option B  
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"



# Section





# Interior



# Exterior

GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING  
LABORATORY





























**Thank you LILA and UB CGHE for an incredible learning experience!**



**Questions?**