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COMMUN
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The Premise

Urbanisation, the key to the future – a good or a bad one at that? On August 2018, Kerala & some parts of Kodagu, India faced one of the worst Floods of the century, with 300+ deaths and infrastructure damages over Rs. 8,000 crores. Every time disaster hits, we as humans do everything in our power to suppress it, provide aid and rehabilitate. But even the most advanced prevention systems and methods fail. The only way out is to fold how humans grow and work together + towards living with the forces of nature collectively.



During flood?

There are different levels of damages in a flood situation - ranging from a limited water logging to total wipe-out. This leads to transportation hamper, slow degradations of infrastructure and a lot more. Many people have to build their lives over again, with all their belongings lost. The damage can be of physical assets at the same time irreparable life losses which make things even tougher.

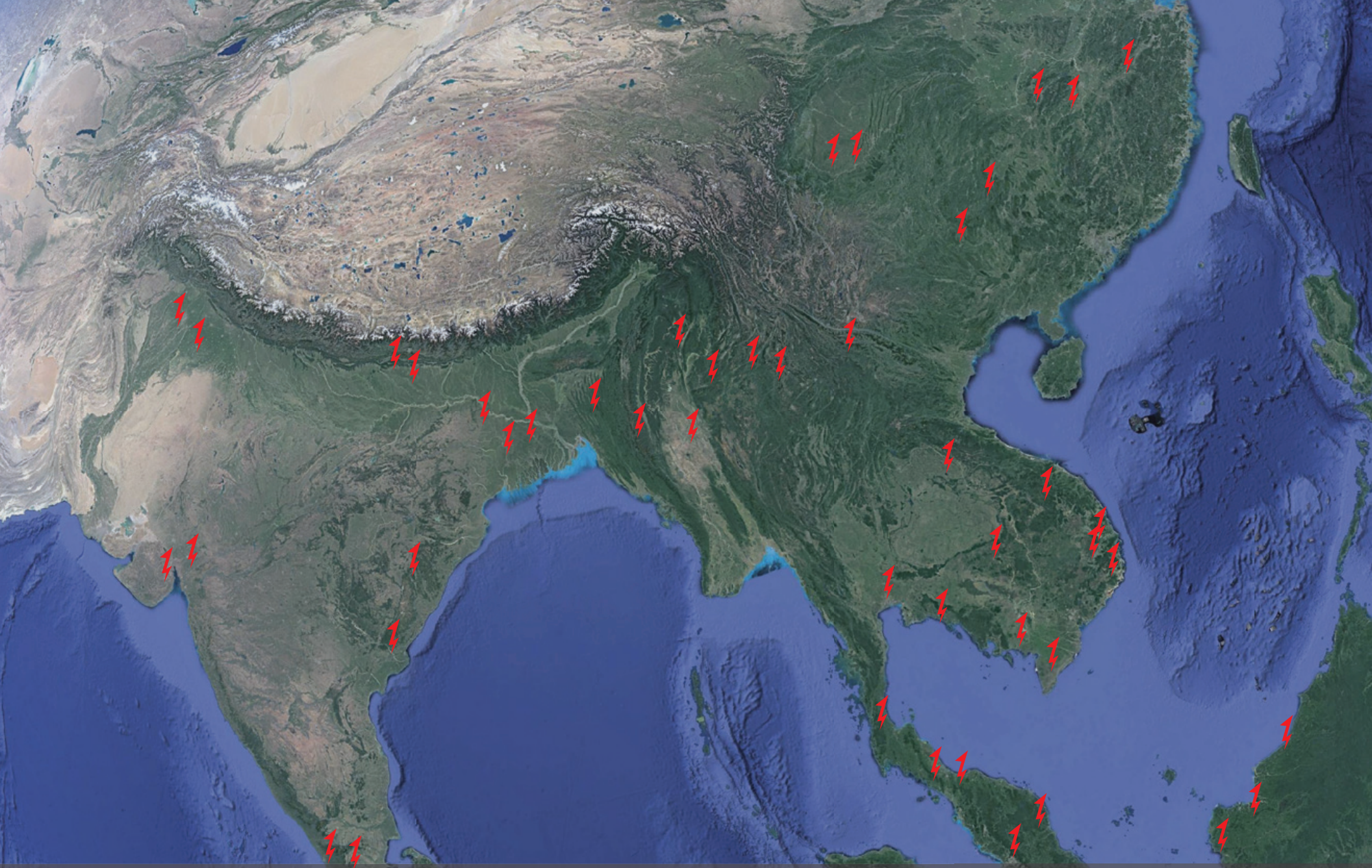
These conditions are not very surprising to note, but the sequence and multiplied chaos they cause is what makes floods a very lethal threat in its entirety. Beyond the physical catastrophe, the mental part of a flood victim works in a dilemma whether to hold on or let go which causes the most trauma. How long do I stay? When will things go right? When will help come in? Or will the help come? And there are much much more.



After the flood?

A series of events follow after flood where people try to rebuild their lives after claiming aid from insurance agencies, savings and government aid that is given to affected areas based on losses of property and the lives. The already struck down transport network has costs of resources surged which makes the rebuilding slow and even more costly. With already a weak support / resource / strength they are burdened not only with survival but challenges that are beyond generic living.

As they start rebuilding their lives the priorities are still running different ways where every person is running again for himself/herself . Can this change?



In perspective

And this is not just India, several places in southern Asia suffer from flooding as an issue annually. With rising sea levels and climate change the coastlines are becoming areas of risk as our sea levels rising very fast.



Our reality

India has a huge territory with the world's second largest population to nourish. These two divided factors make the top down approach in dealing with disaster relief and planning issues very complex. A huge coastline with rivers running across the subcontinent, the scope of the problem is wider than just a state. Larger cities with concentrated populations have structured urban management policies, and are easier to cater. With around 70% of the population still in villages and in peri-urban areas, this makes the marginalized communities too scattered to be helped. A larger action plan after the disaster is not enough, but it requires a two-way action. We have to make solutions that can scale.



The Questions

With floods being an inevitable problem with drastic climate change and rising sea levels,

1. Can we build **habitats** that accept **water surge as a reality?**

2. Can we design buildings that help people to **get back on their feet much faster** than before?

3. As everybody is rebuilding in the same battle **can they do it together?**

4. If India is too big to be planned 'outside in', can we **create habitats** that are **planned 'inside out'?**

5. If a flood rises to a wipeout situation can there be **places of refuge built or made accessible** beforehand?

6. Can habitats be **prepared for the next disaster** already irrespective of time while rebuilding?



Region

Coordinates: 10.107596, 76.347493
Location: Aluva, Kerala, India
Site area: 7.18sqkm

The site for this intervention is in Aluva, with its majorly affected/at risk region shown over the map. This belongs to a suburban region next to Kochi and lies between the airport and the main city. This peri-urban location is a bridge to span rural and urban areas as models of habitat and helps an idea to scale both-ways.



Response to crisis

In a situation of crisis like this, the whole country came together to support Kerala by sending aid and relief - in an unprecedented amount. But what stood out was the contribution made by people who came down to help the affected areas. From fishermen to the local population, every contribution coupled with the Government's swift efforts enabled Kerala to hold back against the storming waters. It's evident that we work together in a situation of crisis, which is the most beautiful gesture humanity exhibits.

But what happens after the crisis? When we get back into our struggles of getting lives back together, why can't we make an effort for safeguarding our neighbours as it will safeguard us in return as well?

The Design Challenge

Brief: A 'community housing' proposition that is scalable, heals when damaged and regenerates faster than before when broken down.

The design problem is to build unit **micro-neighborhood for 100 families**, **with a case of use established in Aluva.**

Housing development in most of the peri-urban and rural Kerala is organic and spread out which cannot change. State government cannot bring forces to secure each of these households, with its limited funds/strength. The challenge is to gather 100 households that work together to make a habitat which stands/works together in a situation of a flood.

The problem is expected to be answered at a point of time in a **post flood scenario**, where people are **rebuilding their partially damanged/wiped-out /degraded homes**. The idea is not to spend all the private resources of a person on a planned cooperative housing redesigned from scratch, but **on pre-conceived shared systems** that help to sustain the direct (residents) and indirect population (marginalized communities, livestock, etc.) of this unit neighborhood which contains households/owned plots already.

The shared systems can help battle floods, or store essential items, or build places of refuge, or have a function designated to these colonies, etc. for 100 households at a time by the people. The **next step would be how a top-down entity (government) help these unit neighborhoods** and make them thrive at a large level integrating them into an action plan in the next hazard scenario.

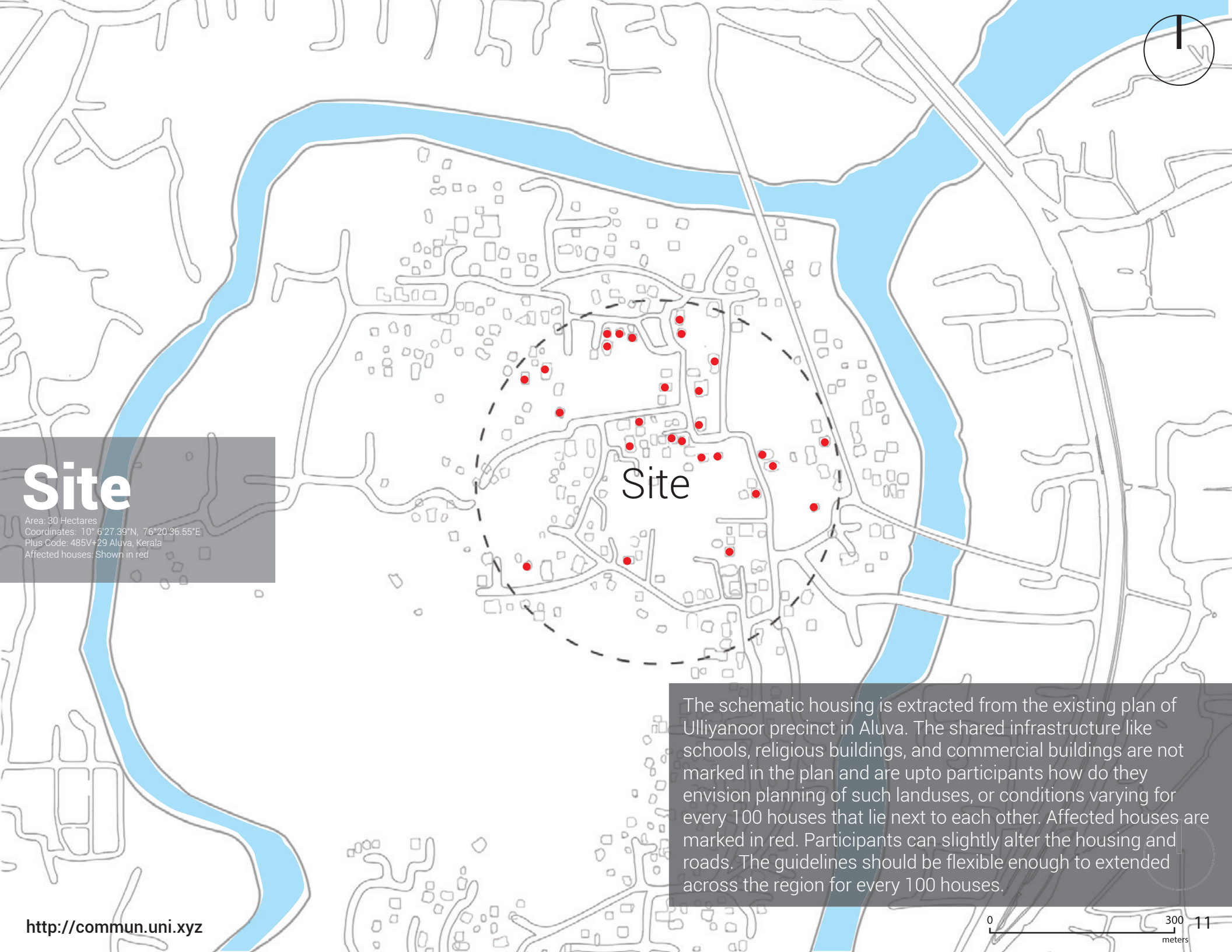


Context

Uliyannoor is a small river surrounded precinct connected by bridges to the other parts of the Aluva municipality.

1. Cochin Airport
2. Aluva Railway Station
3. Aluva Metro Station
4. Sree Narsimha Swami Temple
5. Manappuram Community Centre
6. Government Hospital
7. St. Joseph's Church
8. St. Josephs Seminary Church
9. Kochi Metro Yard

With the peri-urban town having demarcated plots and partially left household the challenge is much wider than a clean slate housing. Thinking strategies that can scale from small to big, analyzing interdependencies and defining how these colonies can work together. Aluva being at a very nascent stage of a peri-urban town, holds a lot of potential to inspire colonies that emerge in and around Kerala.



Site

Area: 30 Hectares
Coordinates: 10° 6'27.39"N, 76°20'36.55"E
Plus Code: 485V+29 Aluva, Kerala
Affected houses: Shown in red

The schematic housing is extracted from the existing plan of Ulliyanoor precinct in Aluva. The shared infrastructure like schools, religious buildings, and commercial buildings are not marked in the plan and are upto participants how do they envision planning of such landuses, or conditions varying for every 100 houses that lie next to each other. Affected houses are marked in red. Participants can slightly alter the housing and roads. The guidelines should be flexible enough to extended across the region for every 100 houses.

Programme Guidelines

As the existing houses are not in a uniform state, we limit the ideation to concept level ideas only. The structure of ideation here will be the factor of commonality.

The programme is targeted towards concept of a family housing of 5 people per family. The major economic strata is defined as people who cannot afford to hire technical experts Eg: Architects/Engineers (in post-flood scenario and mostly planning to construct everything by their own). Aspects like costing and finances will not be a part of this submission, but the key here is incrementally growing to a robust habitat or a place that quickly adapts to sustain its people.

The submission has to be made in 3 major outlines in 'Short & Long term':

1. Action Plan - Overall plan of the affected region in post flood scenario.
2. Master Plan - Multi-unit neighborhood plan working.
3. Dwelling unit Concept - House/Street level concept.

You may use the site plan(in additional materials folder) to begin the design with context plan in the larger volume. Existing houses are placed as an organic housing settlement would be. A few partially damaged houses are also kept in place to explore ideas to use these houses as well. The direction of idea building is up to participants from dwelling unit level to an action plan or vice versa, or any new method, but the information has to be structured/or has to begin in above 3 levels only.

Short-term is the next 1-year action, long-term can change as your concept evolves. The idea should compound security/safety of the whole unit by each passing year.

Submission Guide

• **A maximum of 6 – A3 sheets in PORTRAIT digital format (JPEG)** (150 ppi)

• Answer 6 mandatory questions (in the additional material) and 2-self formulated questions in the discussion section as given on the next page.

Minimum requisites in the sheets (For a complete submission):

- Site plan with Action plan / Context plan (Compulsory)
- Key conceptual sections of Dwelling unit / street level x 2 (Minimum)
- 3D views x 3 (Minimum / Should include 1 aerial view)
- Short & Long term strategies of each level

• Cover image of size 1500 x 600 px or larger in aspect ratio 1 : 2.5.

• Floor plans, images, sketches (if any) can be added to support the entry in the form of additional images.

+ Participants are encouraged to submit additional materials such as prototype images and textual material on the submission page. However, submission of such material is not obligatory, nor shall their submission/non-submission influence the evaluation process. This information will be helpful in conveying your design on the web.

+ Use exploded views to discuss multi-levelled conceptual models better.

+ Ensure that the final sheets which are submitted do not include your name or any other mark of identification. Also mention a small sheet number on the corner of every sheet.

+ To learn about the best practices of submission refer to this pdf here.
https://goo.gl/fmmcP7

+ Refer to the additional drawings, list of the questionaire, PDF references and site pictures in the additional materials folder.

Judging Parameters

Concept / Strategy

Concept level and strategy level merit in design.

Scalability

How the model housing is scalable in similar sizes to different places.

Functionality

How well the design support quantitative requirements of flood survival.

Issue to Sensible Innovation

Bridging the stated issue into an outcome that is sensible and innovative.

Context adoption

How well the design dips down into Kerala's context.

Incremental

How well incrementally the plan strengthens the survival during flood crisis by time.

Eligibility & Rules

1. **Minimum eligible age for participation is 18years. This competition is open for both students and professionals. Team size is maximum 4 members per team. All disciplines are eligible.**

2. Team: Teams with all student participants (with valid id's required) will be categorized under the student teams. Teams with even one professional participant will be categorized under professionals team. Teams participating in student category will be verified during the judging process. Failure to meet the eligibility requirements or falsely participating under a separate category will disqualify the participating team.

3. To submit a valid entry minimum submission requirement has to be met as per 'Submission guidelines' page.

4. There is no compulsion of using statutory building codes. Only bye-laws mentioned on the 'Site' page shall be considered.

5. Functional requirements like detailed area chart / Parking etc. are not mandatory. As this is an open ideas contest, logical assumptions can be made wherever necessary based on existing conditions on site/codes/guidelines/references.

6. There should be no names/identification marks of participants on the sheets. You can add your team and their roles directly on Uni platform while submitting.

7. Contacting jury during the competition tenure will lead to straight disqualification.

8. Any form of plagiarism in all the reported entries will be scrutinized by competition management team, and may lead to disqualification if found true. This verdict will be final and binding.

9. There will be two parallel stages of judging: (a) Jury round - Where judges will evaluate the received submissions. (b) Public voting - Entries with the maximum number of appreciations + discussions wins.

10. Creating multiple/fake accounts to vote/discuss for entries will not count, and will be automatically nullified by the voting platform in the final count.

11. Sheets should ideally consist of not more than 200 words at large for better retention. You can write all your ideas in the FAQ section and support it with images/sketches too.

12. Refer to Uni - Terms of Services, Section 6 for detailed description of the above rules. Contact us at commun@uni.xyz for any competition related query.

Prizes



Winner

1 x Students & Professionals

80,000INR

+ Trophy
+ Certificate
+ Publication



Runner Up

1 x Students & Professionals

50,000INR

+ Trophy
+ Certificate
+ Publication



People's Choice Students

Via online voting.

25,000INR

+ Trophy
+ Certificate
+ Publication



People's Choice Professionals

Via online voting.

25,000INR

+ Trophy
+ Certificate
+ Publication



Honorable Mention

1. Students

12,000INR

+ Certificate
+ Bi-annual digest



Honorable Mention

2. Students

12,000INR

+ Certificate
+ Bi-annual digest



Honorable Mention

3. Professionals

12,000INR

+ Certificate
+ Bi-annual digest



Honorable Mention

4. Professionals

12,000INR

+ Certificate
+ Bi-annual digest

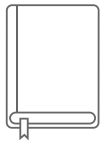


Honorable Mention

5. Professionals

12,000INR

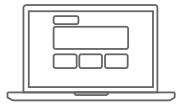
+ Certificate
+ Bi-annual digest



Publications

All trophies and medal holders

Elaborate section in Uni 2019 Design Book



Online Promotion

20 Shortlisted entries

+ E - Certificate
+ Entries promoted on Unfuse, Uni and our partner websites

Timelines

Early bird registration ends (Students: 15$, Professional: 25$) + Taxes	:	07th November 2018
Standard registration ends (Students: 25$, Professional: 35$) + Taxes	:	22nd December 2018
Late registration ends (Students: 40$, Professional: 60$) + Taxes	:	05th February 2019
Submission deadline	:	10th February 2019
Public voting begins	:	11th February 2019
Public voting ends	:	20th March 2019
Display of shortlisted entries	:	15th March 2019
Result announcement	:	30th March 2019

HEAL

Regenerative housing for Kerala

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