



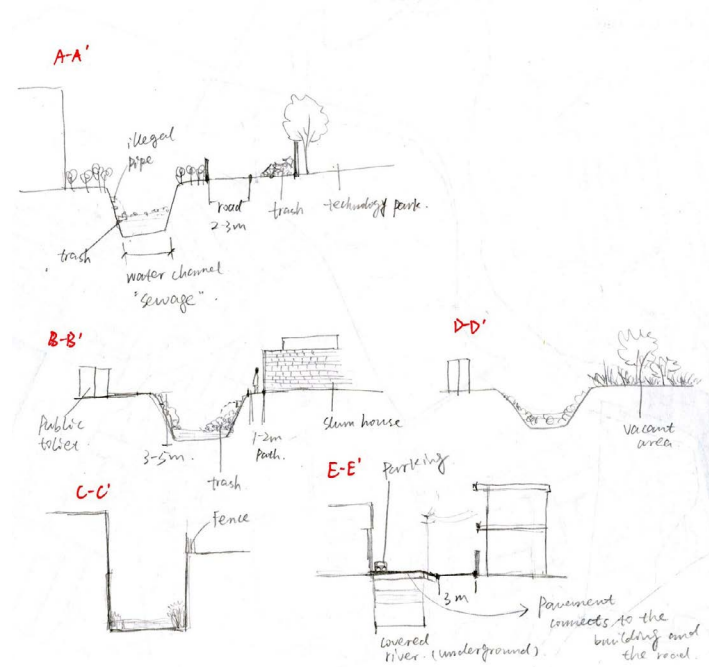
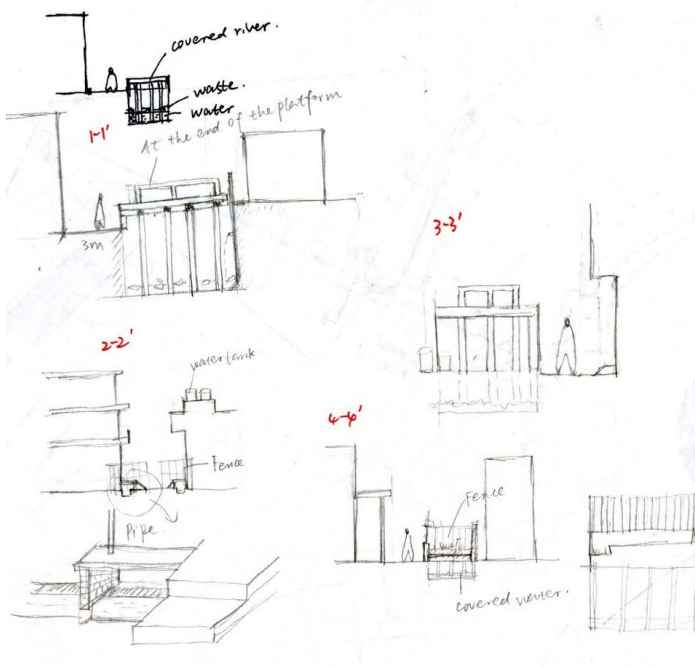


Qinqing Yu

Master of Landscape Architecture

This studio trip unfolded the mystical Indian culture, the living circumstances and lifestyles of local people, which brought a strong and intuitive impact that you can never imagine only from images and text. After exploring the city, I realized that the previous proposal was not feasible due to the complicated living situations, especially the slum conditions. Therefore, I narrowed down the original research range and paid more attention to the area directly surrounding the Amanisha River to discover opportunities of creating an urban green corridor that connects the larger river system and the fragile mountain edge ecosystem.

The site investigation enabled me to have a better understanding of the actual Amanisha River conditions since the information on-line was very limited. I used to think the gray color of the river from Google maps means it was dry, however, the river was actually covered with concrete to conceal the enormous amount of trash and unbearable odor. Along my site, the conditions of the river varied based on its surrounding housing types and land use. It is a great starting point to comprehend the spaces through analyzing the different river sections.



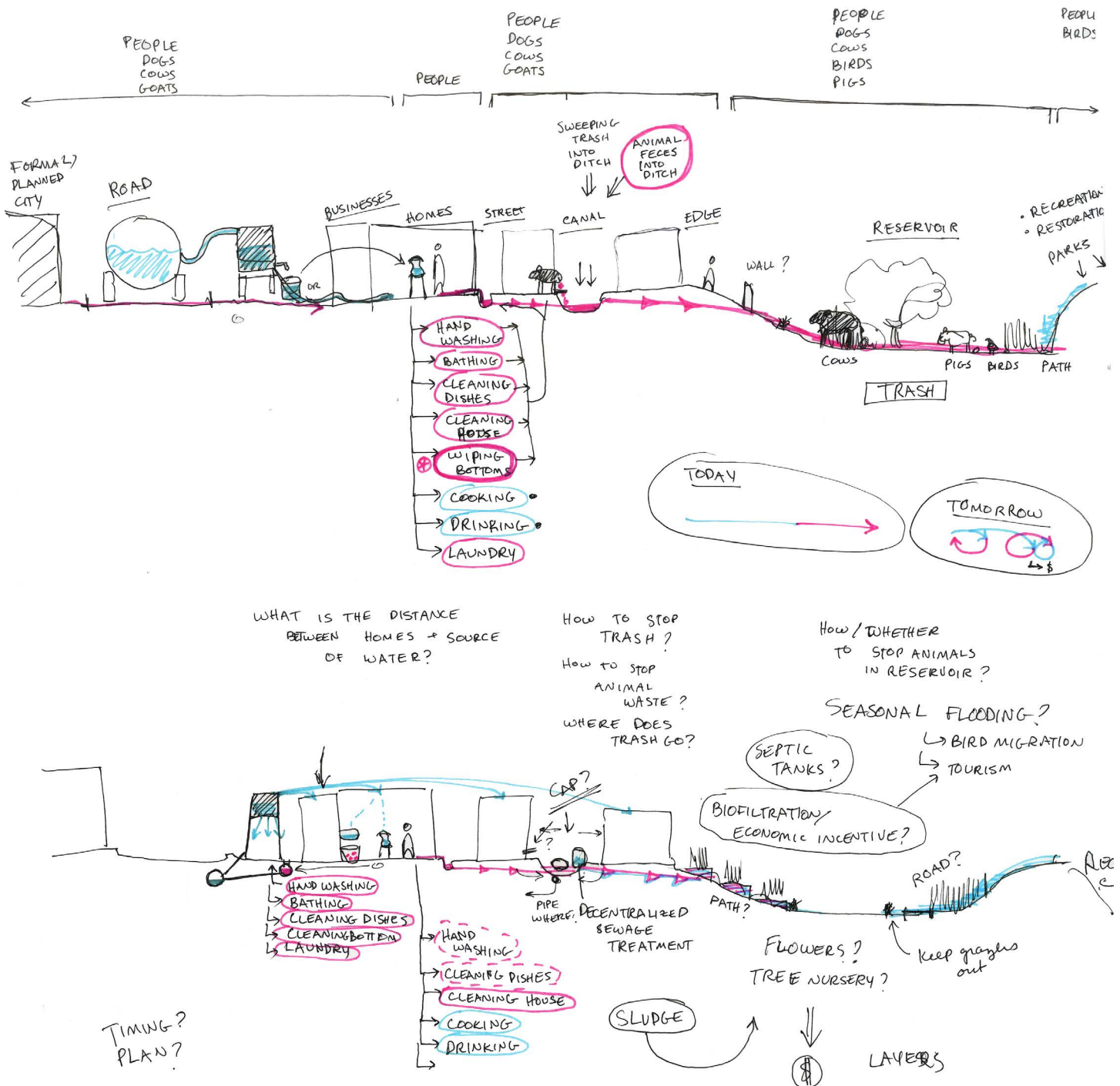


Gaelle Gourmelon

Master of Landscape Architecture

Our studio trip to Jaipur was life-changing. Nothing could have replaced a visit with my own eyes, ears and nose to truly understand how the spaces we are investigating are claimed, inhabited, and navigated. India cannot be understood through satellite images and on-line descriptions. There is a beauty and a chaos that no image can capture. Without going there in person, how could I have known that the green patch I was eying for a project was already inhabited by roaming cows, abandoned toilet infrastructure, and thriving

aquatic vegetation? How could I have expected that smells can render seemingly passable corridors into pedestrian barriers? How could I have heard the pride of someone for a place that I had previously dismissed? Our trip to Jaipur for the Yamuna River Project Studio changed not only the way I think about my project and its possible implementation, but also the way that I see opportunities for landscape architecture in low-resource communities internationally. I will forever be grateful for this opportunity.



**Allie Ta**

Bachelor of Architecture, Pre-Professional

I am so thankful I had the opportunity to travel to New Delhi and Jaipur, India for the Yamuna River Project. I believe this trip has strengthened my research and given me a better understanding about the conditions and challenges of the cities. It allowed me to make inferences and assumptions prior to the visit, and then find clarify and confirmation on site visits and meetings with gov-

ernment officials. It is a critical component to our research studio because it gave us the opportunity to engage and conduct analysis on site through observation, drawing, and conversations. Overall, this experience was truly unforgettable and inspiring as it brought our YRP team closer and motivates everyone to make a powerful difference through our design intentions.



**Audrey Liu**

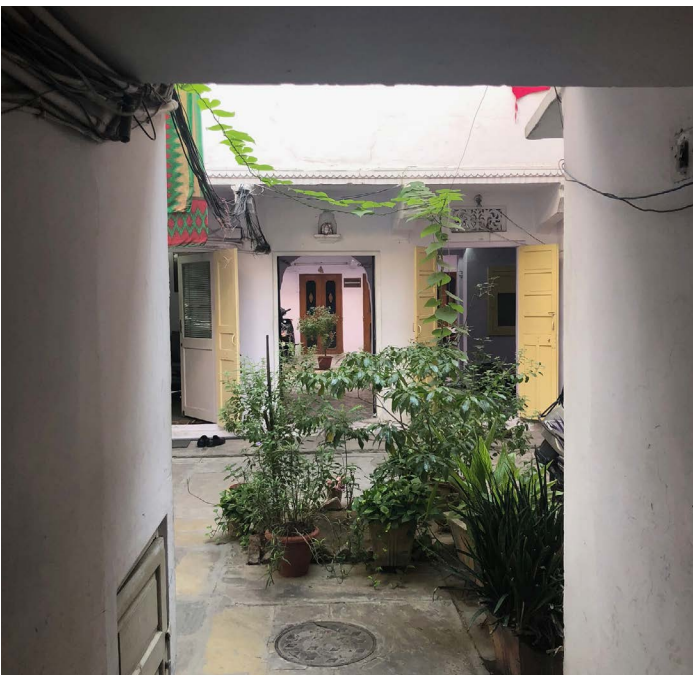
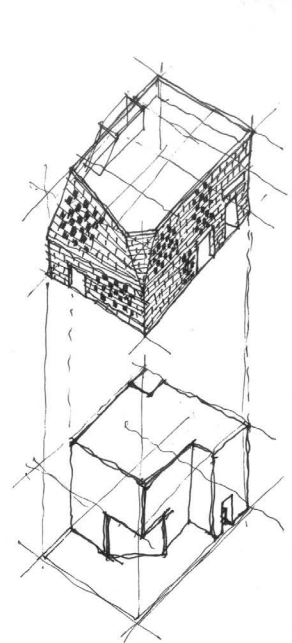
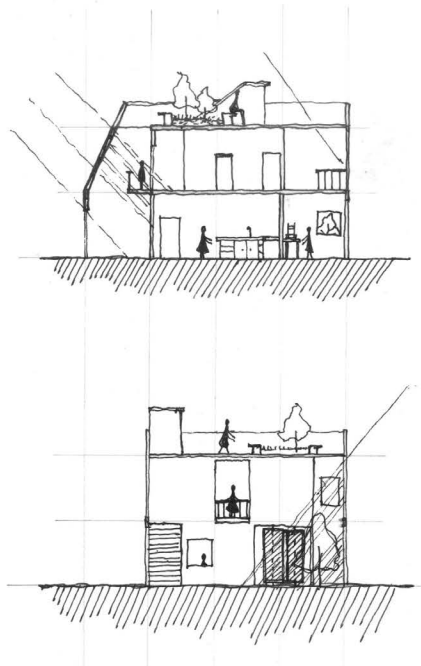
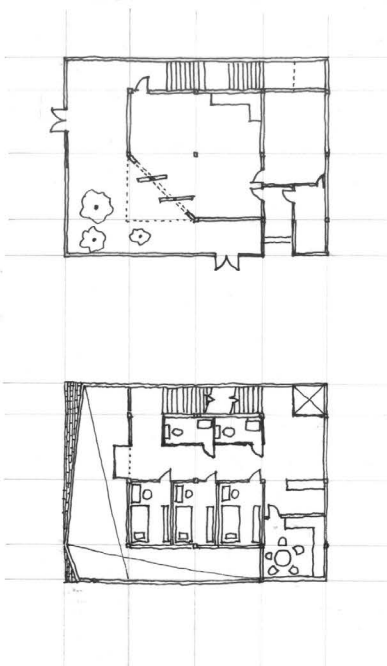
Master of Architecture

After the trip to India, I found my ideas evolved a lot imperceptibly just by seeing those real street-scapes and experiencing the culture. Although we had been doing in-depth research through different lenses about Jaipur before the trip, to be there in person and investigate the current situation of the city is another level of understanding.

During the site visit in Walled City, I found there are a lot of double-courtyard conditions with various levels of privacy. Therefore, I decided to incorporate this concept into the design of women's

safe house. Having a series of open, semi-open, in-between, and closed spaces to create different levels of privacy for different programs.

Combining the research completed before the trip and the conditions discovered during the trip, my excitement and confidence in continuing the development of my project have greatly increased.





Chloe Skye Nagraj

Master of Landscape Architecture

Traveling to Delhi and Jaipur as part of the YRP studio was essential, humbling, and exhilarating. It was essential to groundtruth our research, to better understand the cultural context of the city for which we will create design proposals. It was humbling in that so many of our assumptions, research, and ideas going into the trip were over-

turned on the ground. And this, along with the ability to research, travel, and work alongside colleagues both from UVA and Tulane, as well as meet with government officials, was thrilling. This trip has completely altered how I will approach my design work both within and outside the bounds of this studio.



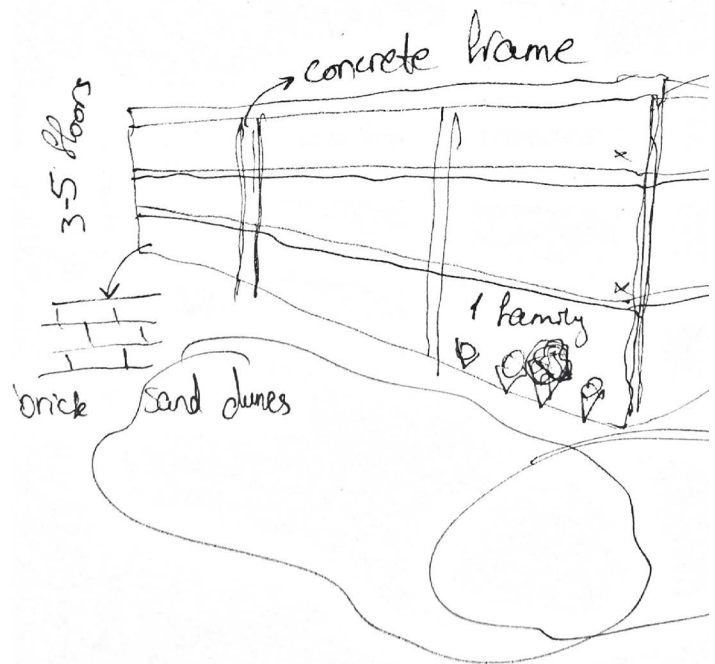


Karim El-Araby

Bachelor of Architecture, Pre-Professional

In a studio that tackles some of the most complex urban and humanitarian problems in the modern world, the issues we have been confronting in the research and design processes would have never been this clear to us before our visit to Jaipur. The city is such a spectacle, and the problems it faces are so critical and multi-faceted, that no imagery or precedent research could have described them well enough. We had to feel the information, not just to know it; not to just look at informal settlements, but to walk through them; not to just check the topography and calculate

grade changes, but to climb mounds and sand dunes and hike our way up hills; not to just analyze population density in certain areas, but to get into the flesh of the city, roam through its bustling streets, cross unmanaged roads, talk to locals, observe craftsmen, and recognize people in the periphery of urbanity as ones that need us to be there. This studio travel component has been one of the most eye-opening experiences in my short career, and one that will remain as a set of invaluable lessons of humanity for however long my career will last.



**Emmett DeBree**

Bachelor of Architecture, Design Thinking

The closest analogy I can think of for describing the nine day trip to India was a roller-coaster. Emotions, environments, experiences, and everything in between. While we were in India it was hard to collect my thoughts on what exactly I was experiencing. An immersive culture shock. I was fully aware before the trip that major cultural

differences existed between my well known world in the States and India. However, words and images alone can never fully encompass the experience of it all. Real human contact is needed to truly understand how differently we perceive the world. While at the same time, understanding the deep similarities we hold as fellow human beings.



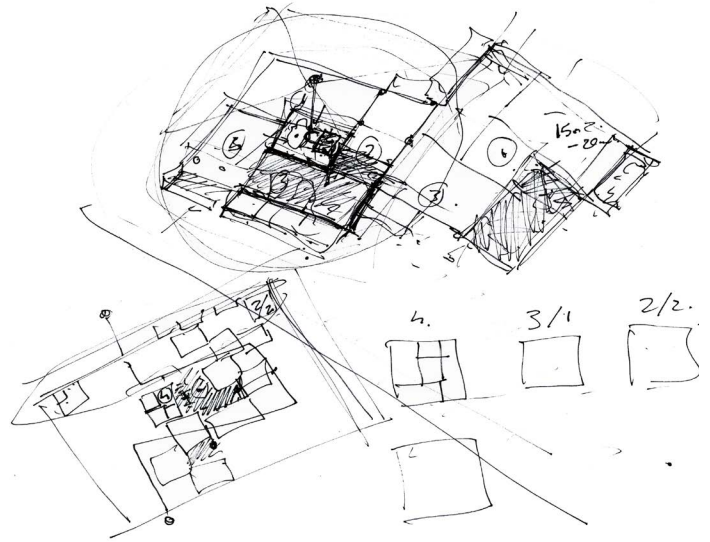
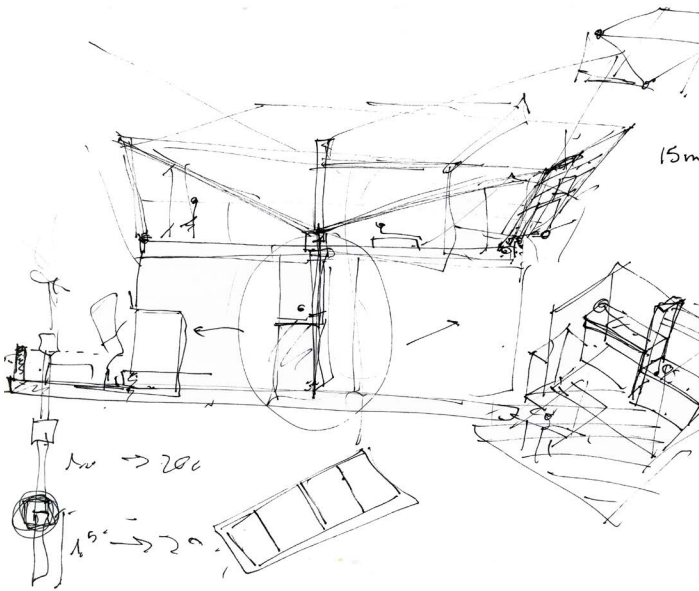


Grace Douthit

Bachelor of Architecture, Pre-Professional

India's impact will last far beyond the duration of the studio. The visit was enlightening due to the knowledge supplied by city officials and the vibrancy of the cities. The decades of layered infrastructure and unique ways of getting people what they need, like electricity, was a true inspiring factor. There was a stark contrast to the way we live, but the innovation was fascinating in the way that people can intricately and efficiently make use of any open available space. The constant competition amongst cars, people, and livestock breeds congestion, pushing me away from the traditional economic hubs for a site, but that did not take

away from the beauty of it. While the walled city was filled with history and beauty, it was hard to focus on that when the chaos of the markets daily routine over shadowed it. However, its dynamic and captivating to be surrounded by hundreds of people's businesses, seeing them on display. People would be gathered at various market stalls, going about their lives while passersby would observe. A similar experience was felt in the slums. People would be sitting outside their home, watching others passing by. Out of everything, it was the sense of community the people emitted that was most impactful to me.



**Chenjie Xiong**

Master of Urban Planning

I would never know the real daily life in India without physically being there. Before going, I was about to focus on developing water harvesting strategies for Indian cities because of its severe water scarcity especially in Jaipur, the area of our project. But when I was there, I was shocked at the severe gap between the poor and the rich. I realized that it is impossible to improve people's lives there by only collecting and providing more water, because the very basic water treatment and sewage infrastructures are still not accessi-

ble by many people. Solid wastes and waste water were disposed on streets and the Amanishah River without management, resulting in pollution and poor living conditions. It was these serious issues that pushed me to devote myself to the project and try hard to really help the city to be better. Apart from site visiting, we also went to many tourist attractions, from which I learned a lot of amazing historical and cultural background knowledges of India that would definitely contribute to my future research.





Wenyan Yu

Master of Architecture

Before I went to India, I did research on tourism and markets in Jaipur at the urban scale. The analysis results were limited to the information available online, plus my own subjective impression. As India is famous for its handicrafts, the preliminary research was about exploring possibilities from making of handicrafts, business life of craftsmen and areas where businesses gather. After the trip to Jaipur, I was able to experience and record culture, architectural space, environment, scale and materials that are different from where I live, and see the relationship between these elements in contemporary life of Indians. In

the process, I realized that moving to on-line retail and highly organized big box retail may not be what the city needs for traditional bazaars in India. Jaipur is not short of advanced, comfortable and attractive shopping areas, how to improve the quality of the domestic neighborhood is more important. The problem is not what is selling here, but completely redefine the relationship here. During the trip, I no longer just shuttle through the market to explore the secrets of handicrafts, but record the streets and surrounding environment of different scales in the city to deal with the multi-level demands in a more systematic way.



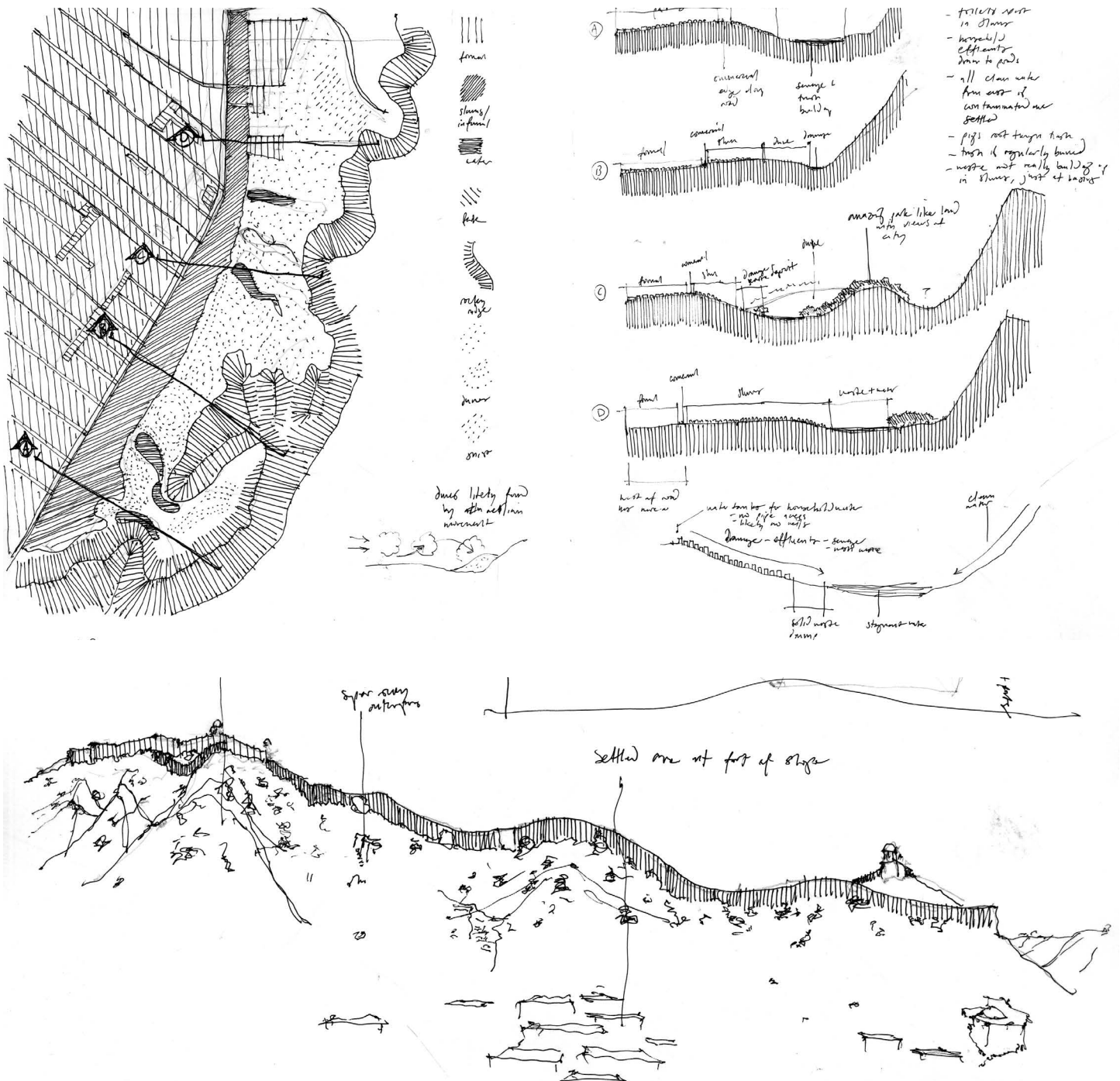


Nick Wittkofski

Master of Landscape Architecture

Before the studio trip to Jaipur, there were things I knew, things I knew I didn't know, and then of course things I didn't know I didn't know. Preparation for this studio included sifting through piles of data, maps, etc., trying to piece together information to paint a picture of the past, present and future conditions in Jaipur. With that, I felt I had somewhat of an understanding of what to pay attention to in order to make a short visit efficient and productive. It became clear upon arrival that things I thought I knew were not necessarily accurate, and what I didn't know I didn't know was almost infinite. The only way to enrich under-

standing of the city and sites was to visit. My project changed upon this visit, there were variables, such as aeolian dunes, steep slopes, and slum conditions that I was not able to grasp in remote research, yet they have become a critical component of my design intervention for the remainder of the semester. The travel component of this studio is critical to understanding true conditions of the city. If not for travel, I would have proposed a design that simply doesn't work. But after seeing it, I feel I can take what I have seen and translate it into a meaningful spatial and functional proposal that could benefit citizens of Jaipur.



**Mary Kate Graeff**

Bachelor of Architecture, Pre-Professional

The opportunity to travel to India for the Yamuna River Project studio was without a doubt the most impactful thing I have ever done while at the University of Virginia. Seeing the city of Jaipur was crucial to my understanding of the project, but the experience changed my life in ways much larger than a single studio project. Having experienced for a short time a culture so beautiful and unique was entirely transformative in the way I view architecture, cities, and people. I was able to understand the congested streets, pollution in the air, lack of air flow in the dense urban fabrics. Before the visit, these feelings were things I could have

only imagined. As a design student, being able to feel the reality brings a validity to our projects which would be non-existent through research from a distance. In addition, the students and professors in the studio are among some of the most talented and passionate people I have ever encountered and I am especially grateful for the opportunity to learn about and work with them on critical complex issues in a truly unique place like Jaipur.





Huiru Shen

Master of Landscape Architecture

As one whose studio lens is “public space”, I have to say that this trip really re-framed my understanding and thinking of public space not only in Jaipur, but in India. My experiences of walking through vibrant residential streets, documenting common moments, talking with local people, and learning from different professionals, all refreshed

my knowledge of India and pushed me to re-think the meaning of public space in such a different and complicated country. From the perspective of a landscape architect, it is always inspiring to go outside to the real site and experience every true moment. By doing so, the meaning and mission of design can finally be achieved.

