

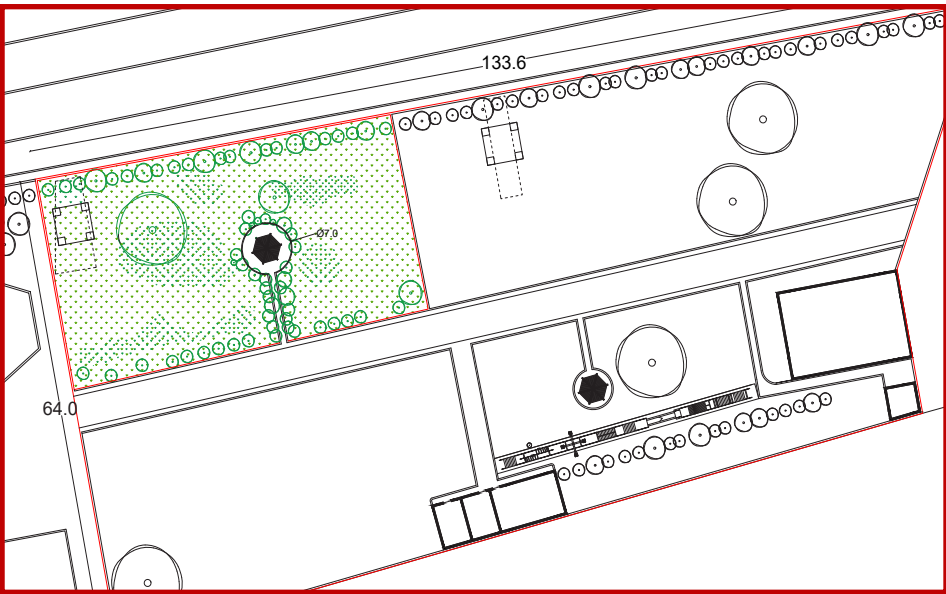


Pergola and Arts Theater
Agouza Children's Park

مظلة ومسرح للفنون
حديقة الطفل بالعجوزة

Agouza Children's Park

Site Plan As-Built



MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF THE AGOUZA CHILDREN'S PARK AND AN IMAGE ILLUSTRATING CURRENT CONDITIONS

Similar to other cities in the Global South, Cairo faces numerous environmental challenges related to climate change: overpopulation, congested traffic, and eroding green surfaces. Further, the economic crisis has added restraints to the already decreasing open space through a neo-liberal policy of commercialization, rendering public access increasingly limited. With the constraints imposed on freedom of expression and cultural events in public space, community parks offer a last refuge to introduce artistic programs to both engage surrounding communities and revive underutilized neighborhood gardens.

There are some challenges in the site which include the following: 1) huge trunk blocking the pedestrian path, 2) manholes due to improper maintenance, 3) stoppers occupying the pedestrian pathway, 4) different levels obstructing the pedestrian pathway, 5) area under the bridge allocated for parking, 6) non-accessible gate for a public garden, and 7) electricity box mislocated, and blocking the sidewalk.

There are many opportunities in this site which were encouraging for our firm to take an initiative in this specific location. These opportunities include the following: 1) potential seating area, 2) potential foldable chairs, 3) potential urban steps, 4) recessed wide building entrances, and 5) potential kiosks.



Agouza Children's Park

Proposed General Layout



AN OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED PERGOLA PROJECT

The local authorities in the Giza District reached out to our company to develop an overall plan for the garden a) as a hub for art and culture, catering to the surrounding community; b) as a site to engage environmental and climatic issues facing Cairo, and c) as an alternative model of public space beyond the commercialized and security-based approach prevailing in other gardens.

These renderings are part of the proposal that the firm presented to the Giza Governorate during one of the meetings in the process of obtaining the approvals for the project.

The proposal encompasses an adjusted plan for the whole park which better-integrates all the zones which were previously isolated and cut through with the main spine.

The proposal also capitalizes on the central spaces which are the existing soccer field as well as the Pergola to be designed in this project. These main spaces are complimented with secondary zones that provide seating and shading where needed.

The Governorate approved the project and the general proposal for the whole site as a baseline to how the park can be revitalized in the future.

Project Proposal

Proposing a Permanent Feature



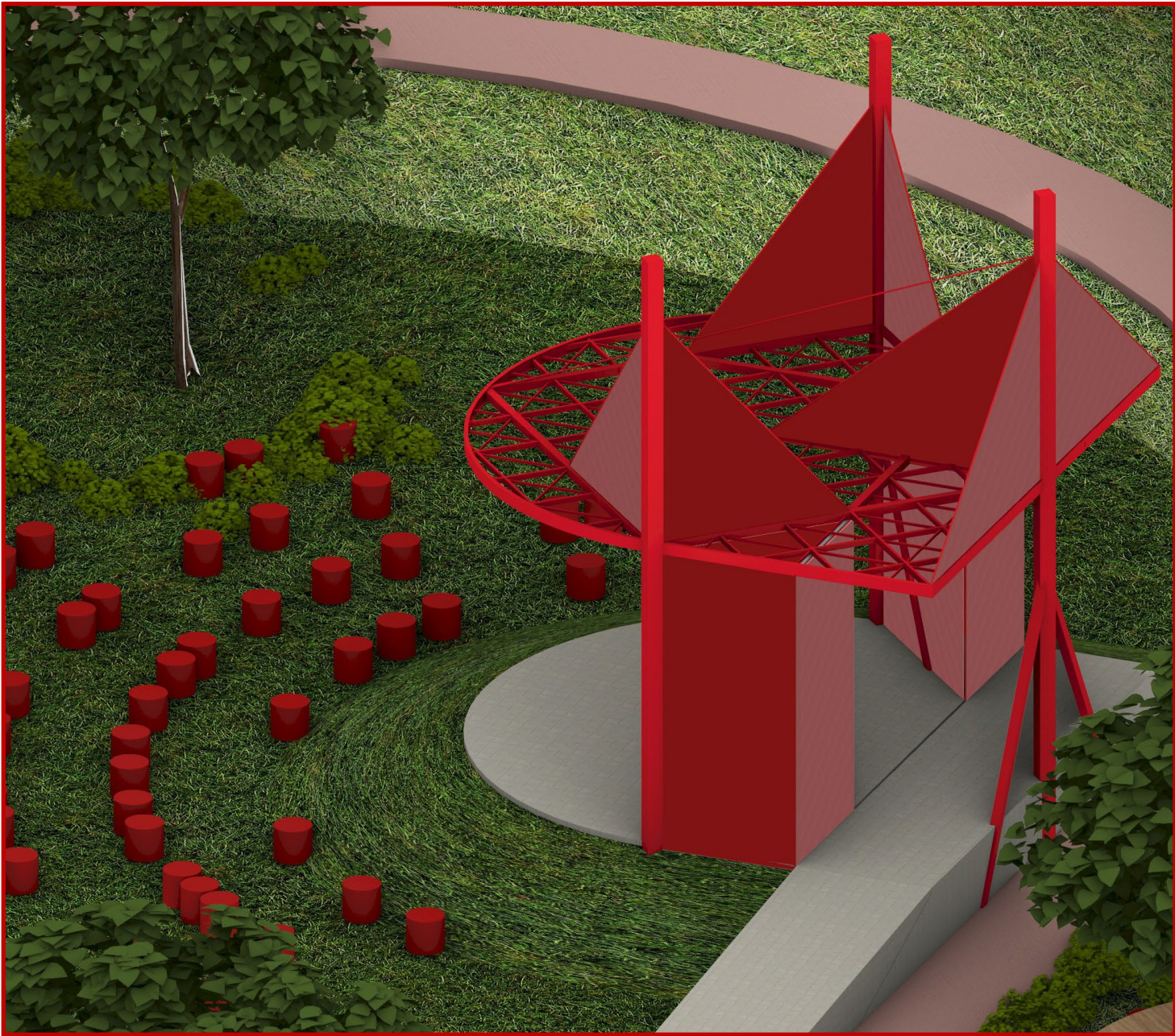
RENDERS OF THE RENOVATION SCHEME PRESENTED TO THE AUTHORITIES

We proposed to address the climate issues of Cairo by celebrating urban gardens as vital green sanctuaries in the city. This was achieved with the design and implementation of an up-cycled multi-functional performance and event space and biodiverse planting that encourages community gathering and engagement with the garden.

The garden is visually dominated by several large roadside billboards that provide advertising hoardings to the nearby overpass, disrupting the tranquil atmosphere and harming the garden's natural beauty. Our proposed spatial element reclaims the focus from these structures by providing a vibrant and striking centerpiece to serve the interests of the park and

community that uses it. At a scale to rival the billboards, it is highly visible, playful and brightly colored, offering a multi-functional space for gatherings, performances and events, and an everyday sanctuary away from the hustle and bustle of the city. As a staging ground for diverse programming, the intervention fosters intergenerational engagement.

Through co-design we explored and tested ideas of material reuse, taking a low-carbon architectural approach. We re-purposed ubiquitous materials found in and around the park to create the piece, using rudimentary stacking and innovative fixing techniques to create a strong and sturdy inhabitable structure. We finished it using weather-resistant materials and



THE PROPOSED PERGOLA ARTS THEATRE

bright colors to ensure a long life in the garden. Thoughtfully-placed native aromatic flowers and flowering trees further enhances the holistic design of the garden, cultivating an urban refuge for people and wildlife alike. The eye-catching nature of the piece set within a biodiverse garden highlights the importance of conservation and encourage the preservation of green space, a key cultural driver to improve the climatic issues facing Cairo today.

Project Site

Site Selection Justification



EXISTING SITE PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION OF THE PERGOLA

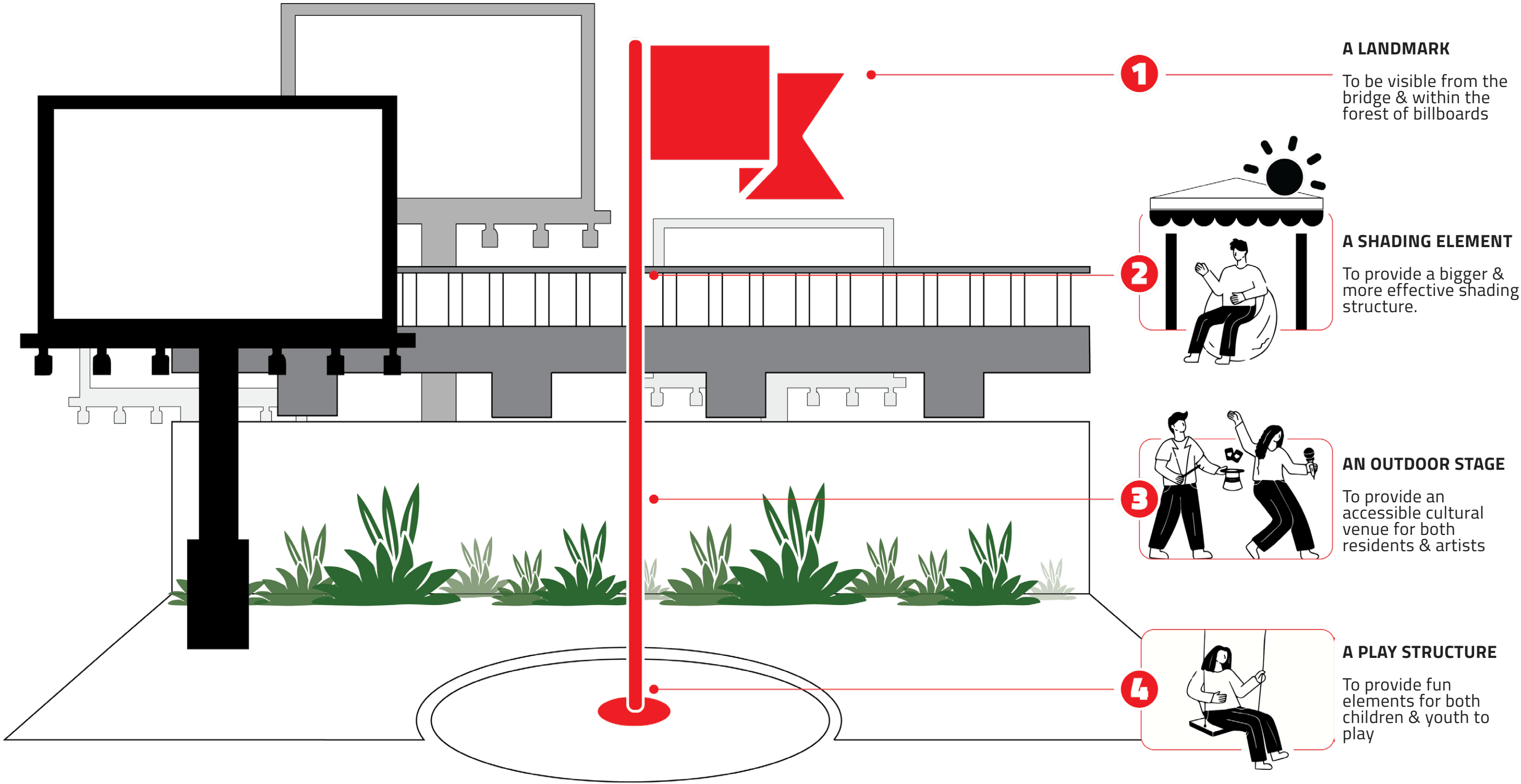
The site selection process began with an evaluation of various locations within Agouza Children's Park that could accommodate the proposed intervention.

The first potential site was a large open area currently used informally as a soccer field by local children. A second option was located to the right of the park's main entrance, featuring a small fountain surrounded by seating. A third site was found at the far end of the park—an underutilized open space with no seating, largely inactive due to its secluded location. The final option was an open area containing an existing pergola and a bench.

After careful consideration, the team identified the fourth site—the one with the pergola—as the most suitable location. It offered a balanced position within the park: not too remote to be disconnected from activity, nor too central to disrupt existing uses. Additionally, the surrounding space was sufficient to support the scale and nature of the planned intervention.

Design Proposal

Concept



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Billboards illustration are the copyrights of "Marco Livolsi" & retrieved from the Noun Project website.
Bushes illustration are the copyrights of Farra Nugraha" & retrieved from the Noun Project website.

Design Proposal

Concept



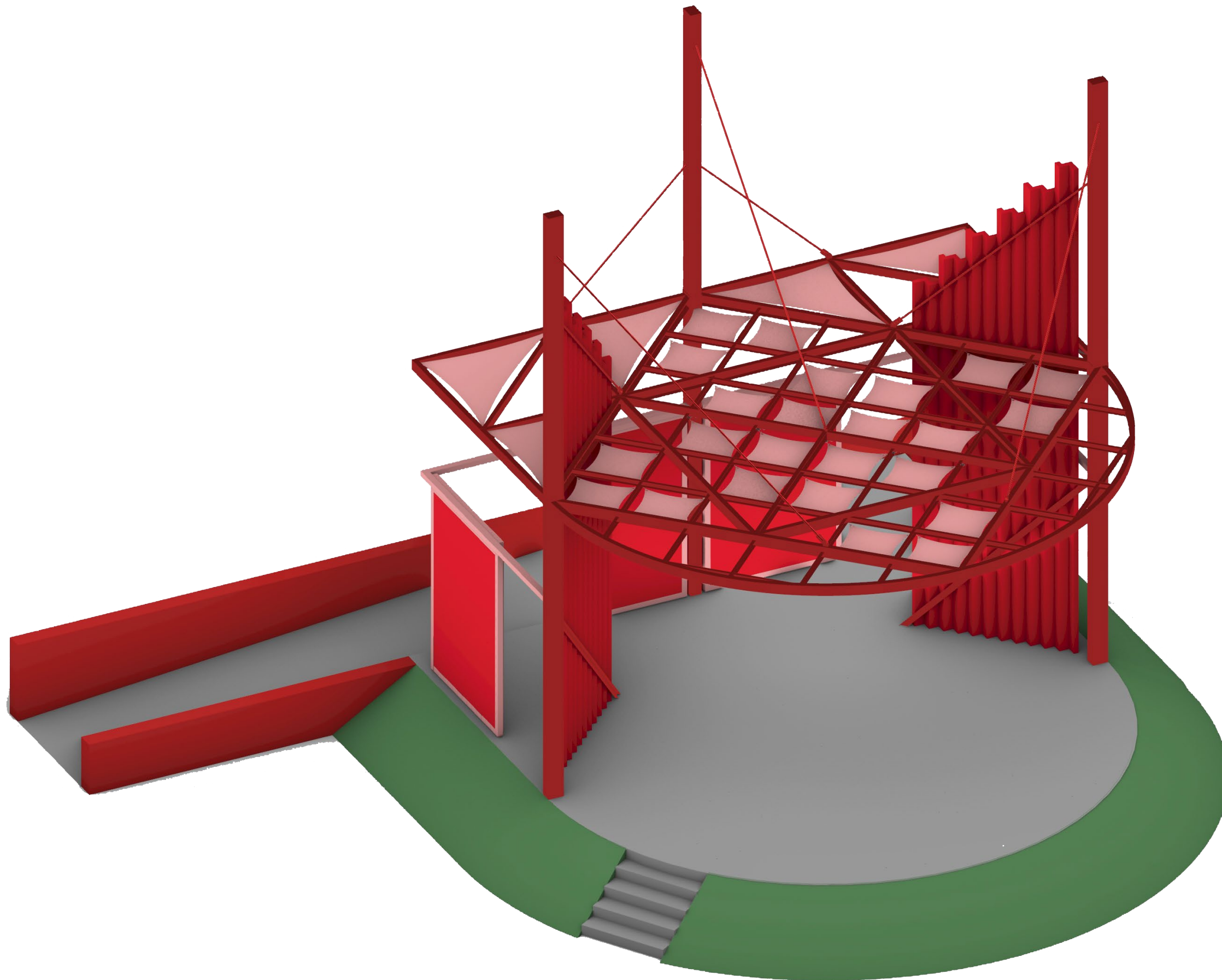
CO-DESIGN WORKSHOP WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY AND PARK USERS. PRESENTING CONCEPT DESIGN OPTIONS

The team had a series of sessions where designers came together to come up with possible designs for the Pergola. This series of sessions began with sessions for designing at Cairo's main office. Then there came sessions for modeling at the workshop. After the workshop, our team invited the Agouza residents and the park users to a public movie screening event in the garden as a casual way of gathering opinions on the Pergola that is to be added to the park.

The latest design which was developed in the workshop was displayed and discussed with the residents and the users.

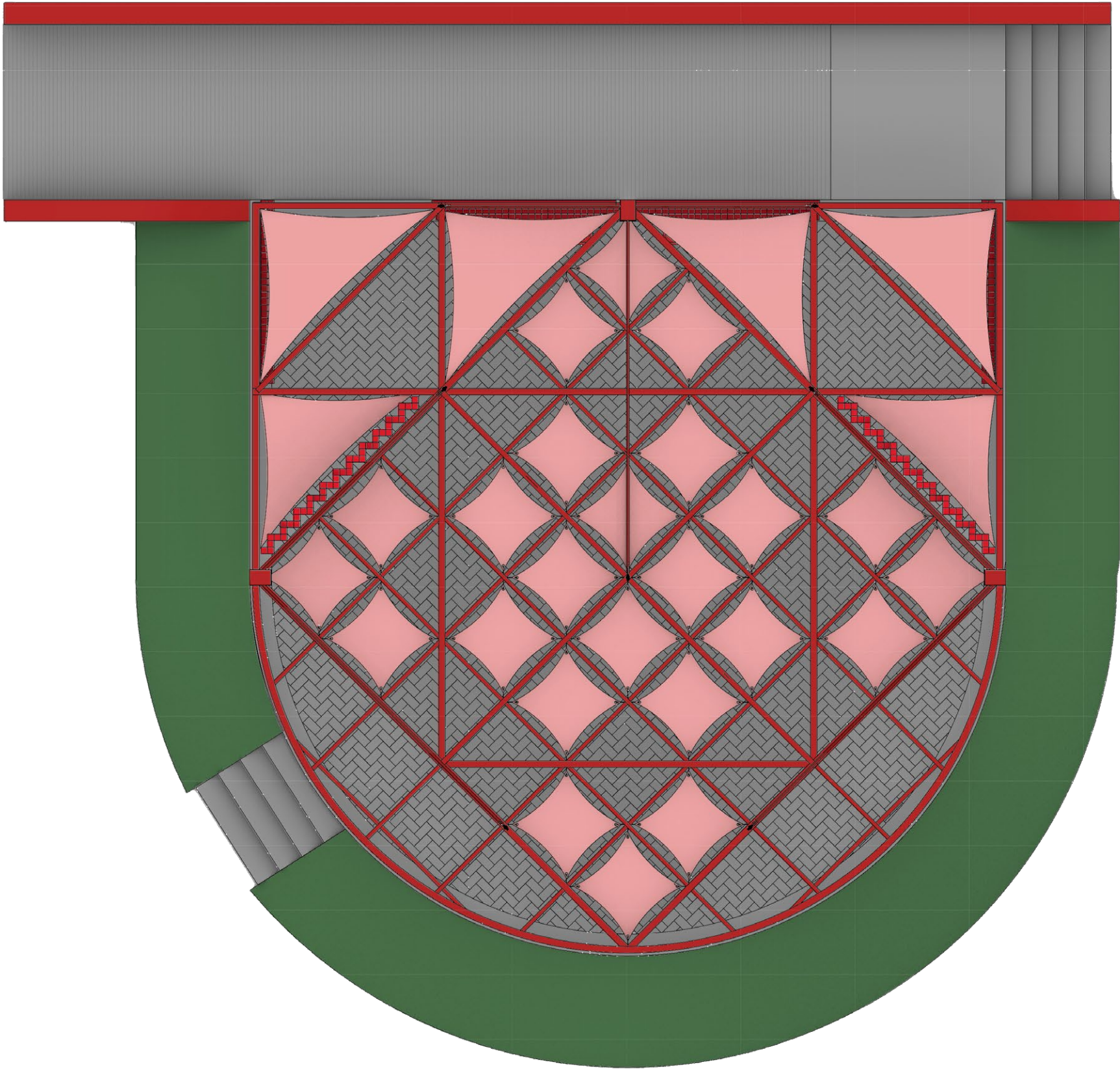
Design Proposal

3D View



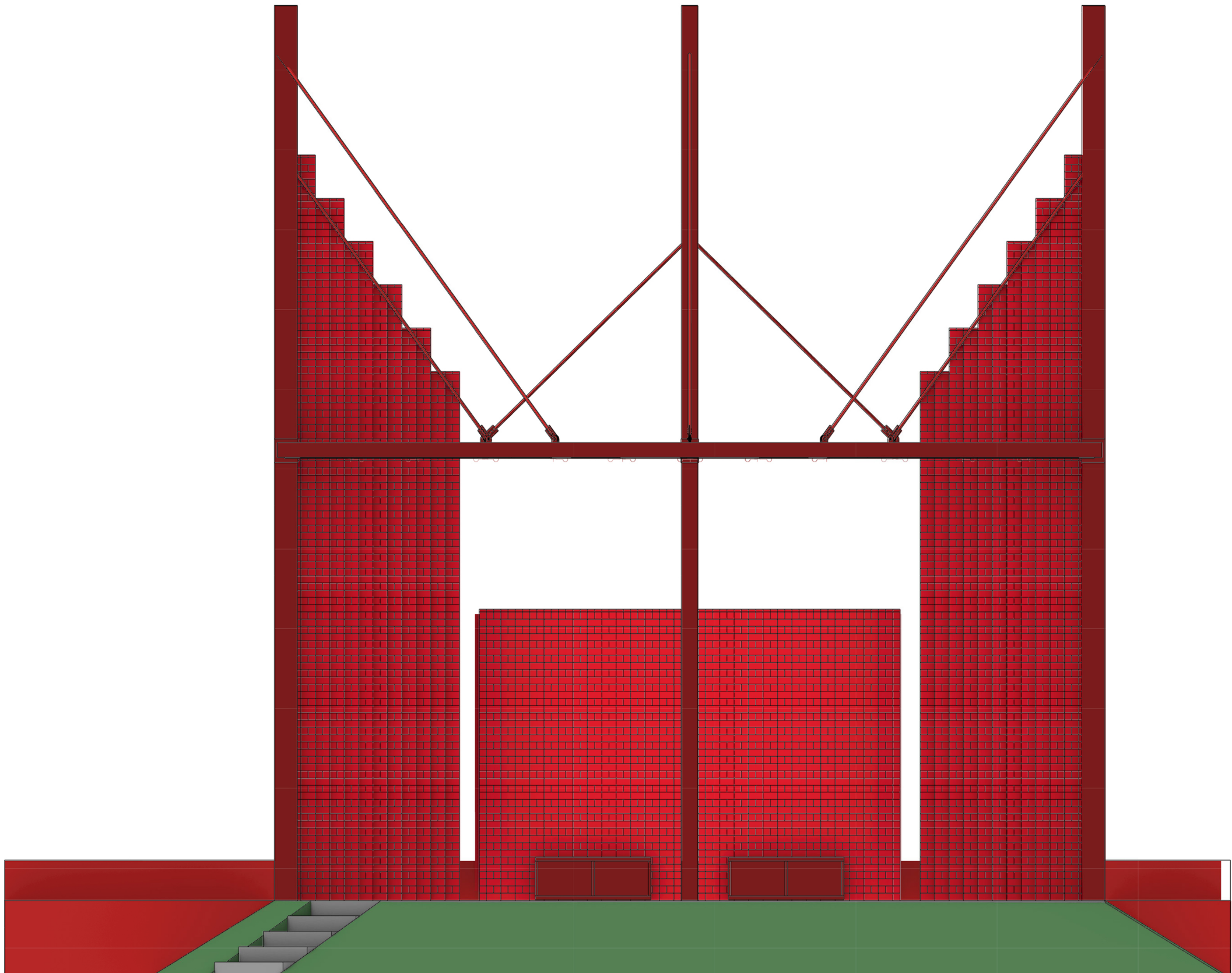
Design Proposal

Top View



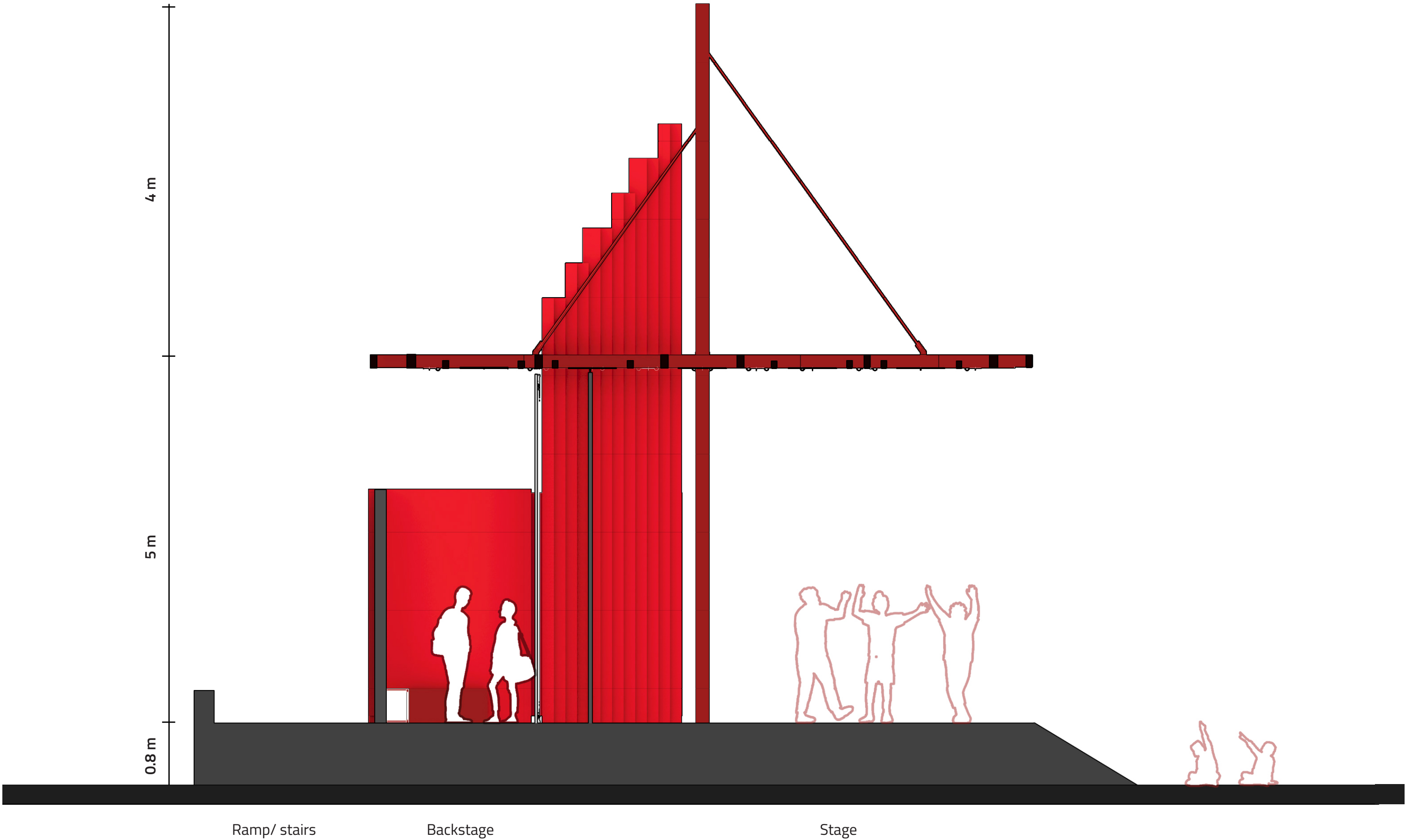
Design Proposal

Front Elevation



Design Proposal

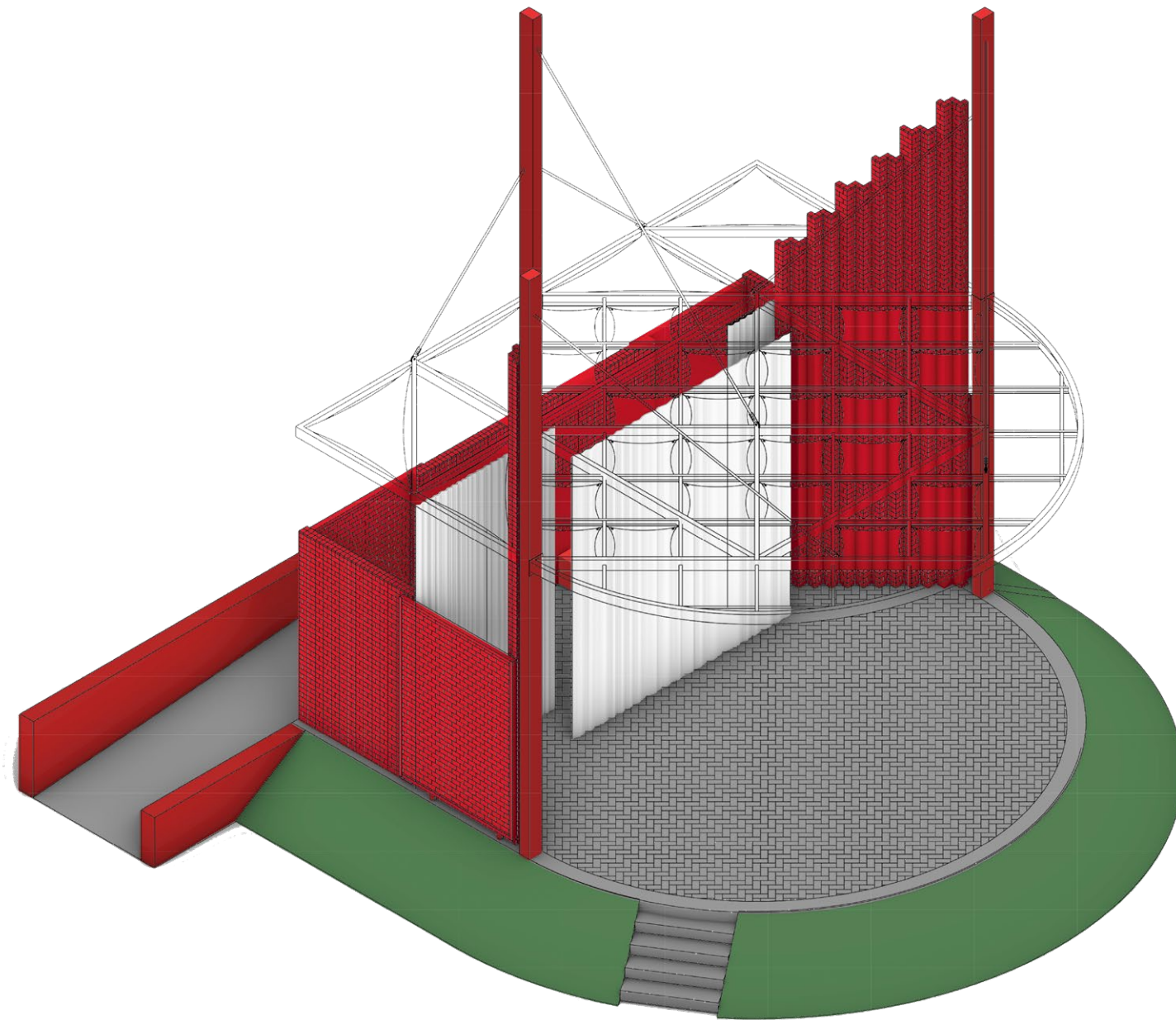
Section



- The section shows the relation between the circulation, the backstage and the stage

Design Proposal

Backstage & Changing Rooms



EXTROMETRIC PROVISION OF THE BACKSTAGE

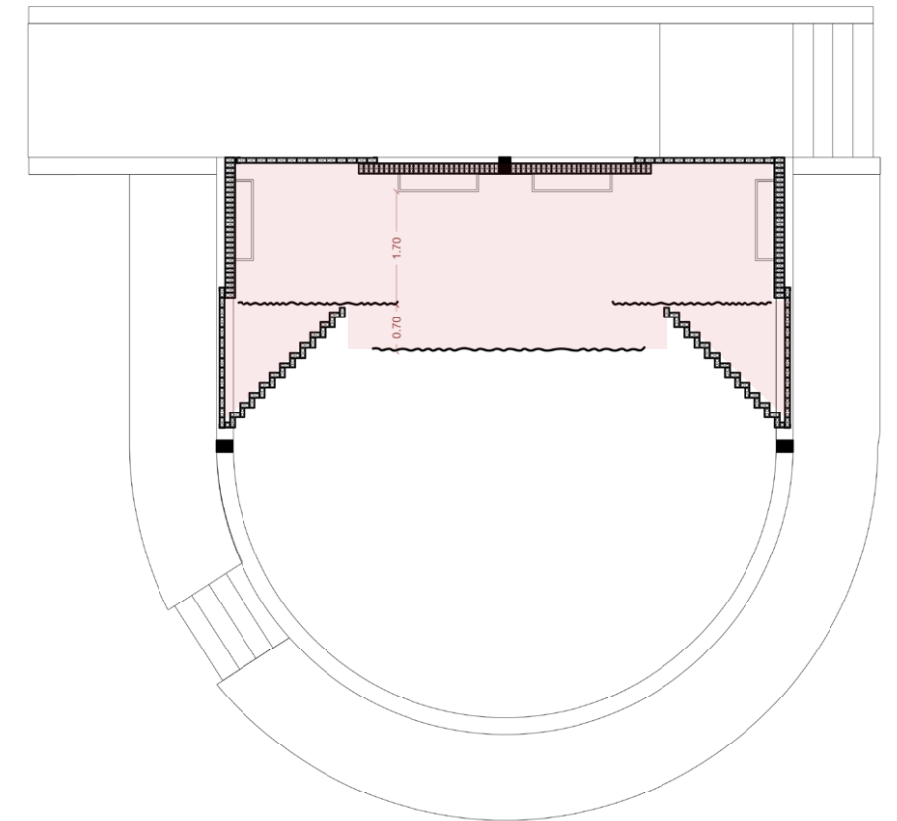
The proposed design includes a flexible backstage area equipped with enclosed changing rooms to accommodate performers as they prepare for their appearances. This space is designed with adaptability in mind—rather than being permanently enclosed, the backstage area can be temporarily partitioned when required for performances and easily opened up when a larger performance floor is needed. This flexibility allows the space to respond to a variety of event types and audience sizes without compromising functionality or spatial efficiency.

Additionally, the design integrates the option of using enclosing curtains. These can be installed or removed depending on the nature of the event, offering another layer of adaptability. The

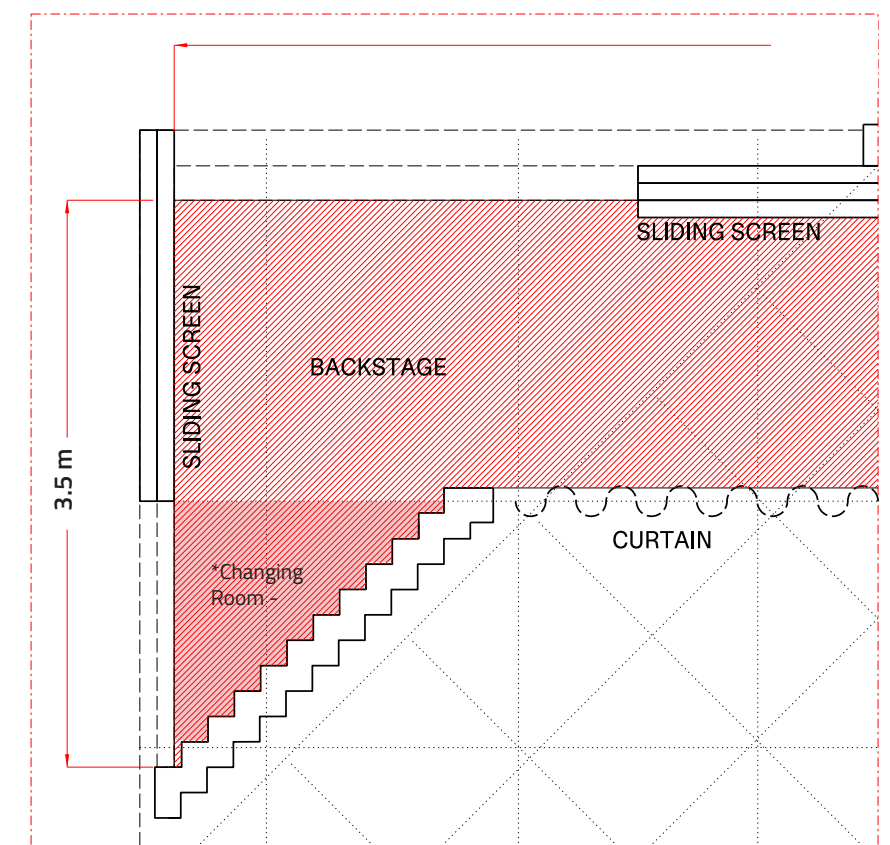
curtains provide visual and spatial separation when needed, while still allowing the overall space to remain open and versatile when enclosure is unnecessary.

Despite the thoughtful integration of these flexible elements, both time and budget constraints posed limitations on the full realization of the enclosed backstage area as initially envisioned in the time being. As a result, the permanent or fully operable enclosure of this space has been deferred. It remains a key consideration for future development and enhancement of the project, contingent on the availability of additional resources and project phases.

- The curtain at the center is pushed to the front into the stage



PLAN VIEW OF THE BACKSTAGE



Structural Metalwork

Ceiling & Columns Preparation

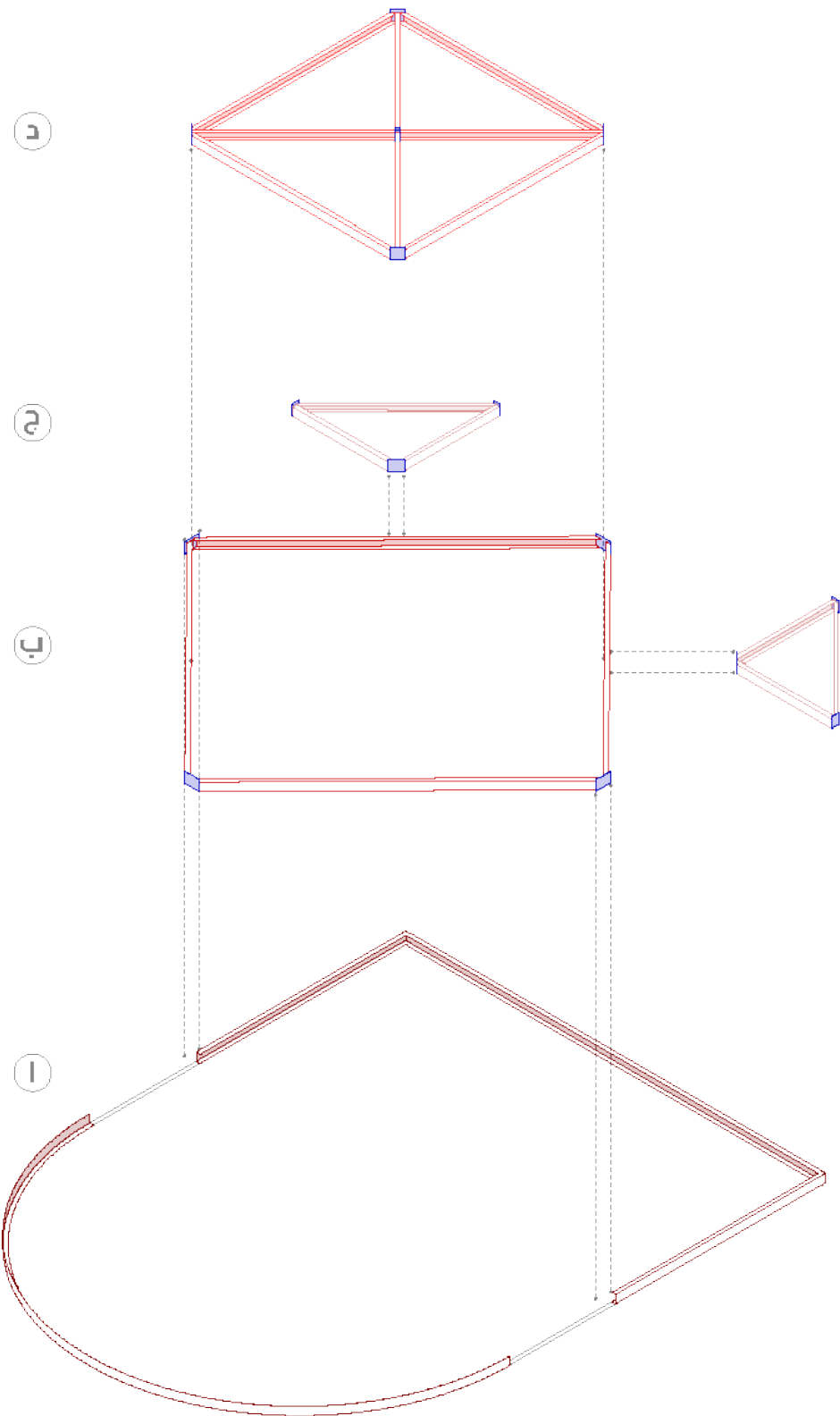
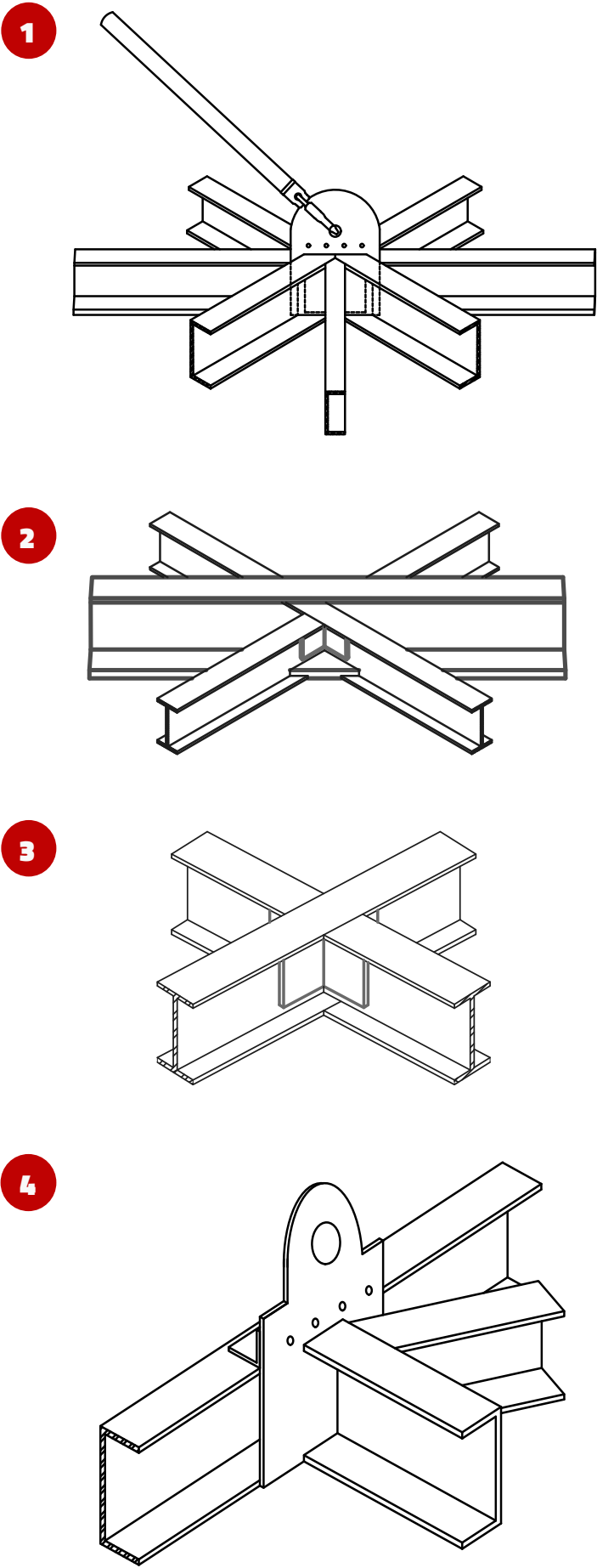
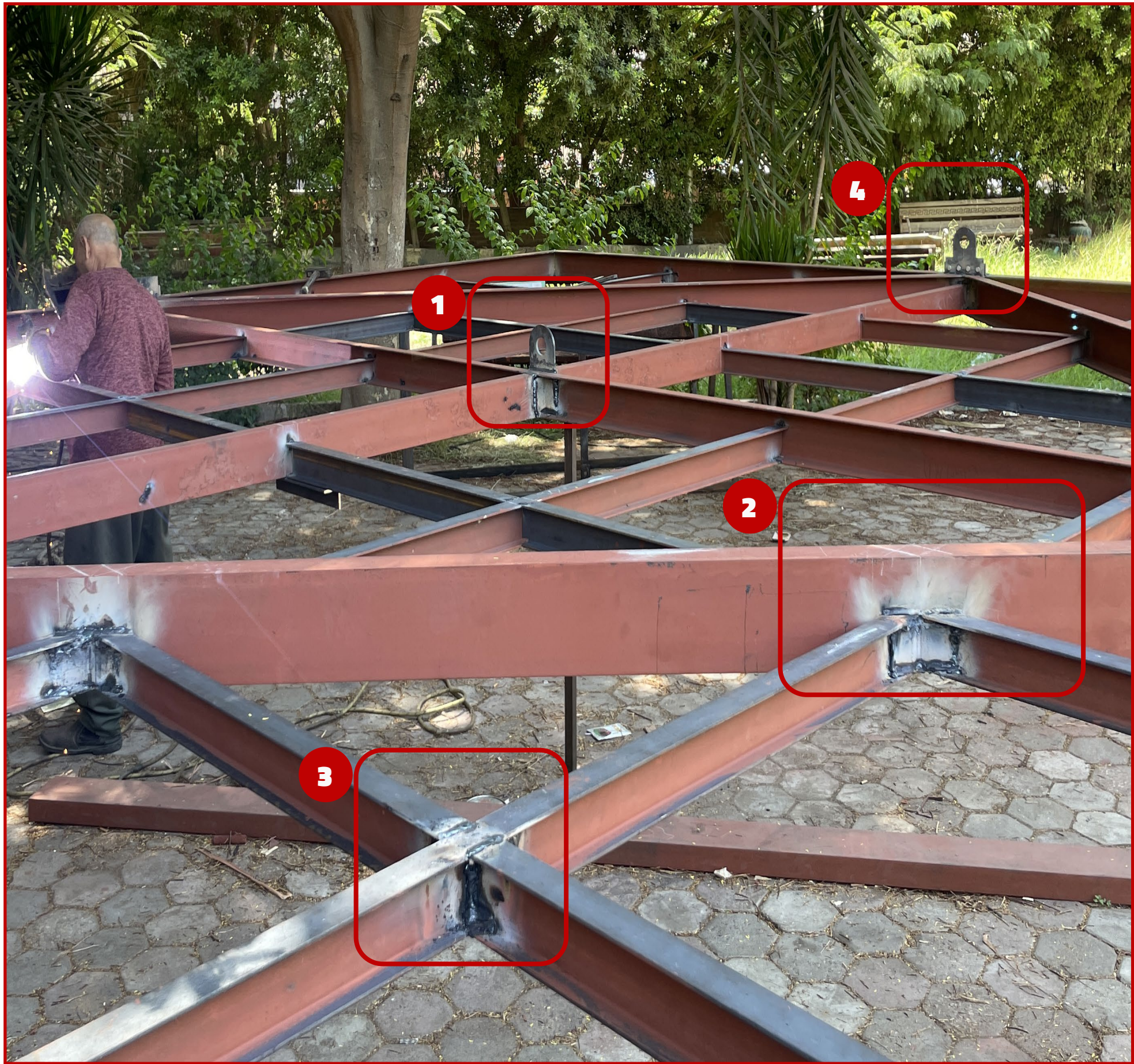


IMAGE AND DIAGRAMS OF THE MANUFACTURING OF THE FRAME

Structural Metalwork

Ceiling & Columns Preparation



THE DESIGN DETAILS OF DIFFERENT JOINTS AND HANGING BRACKETS OF THE STEEL FRAME

Structure Installation

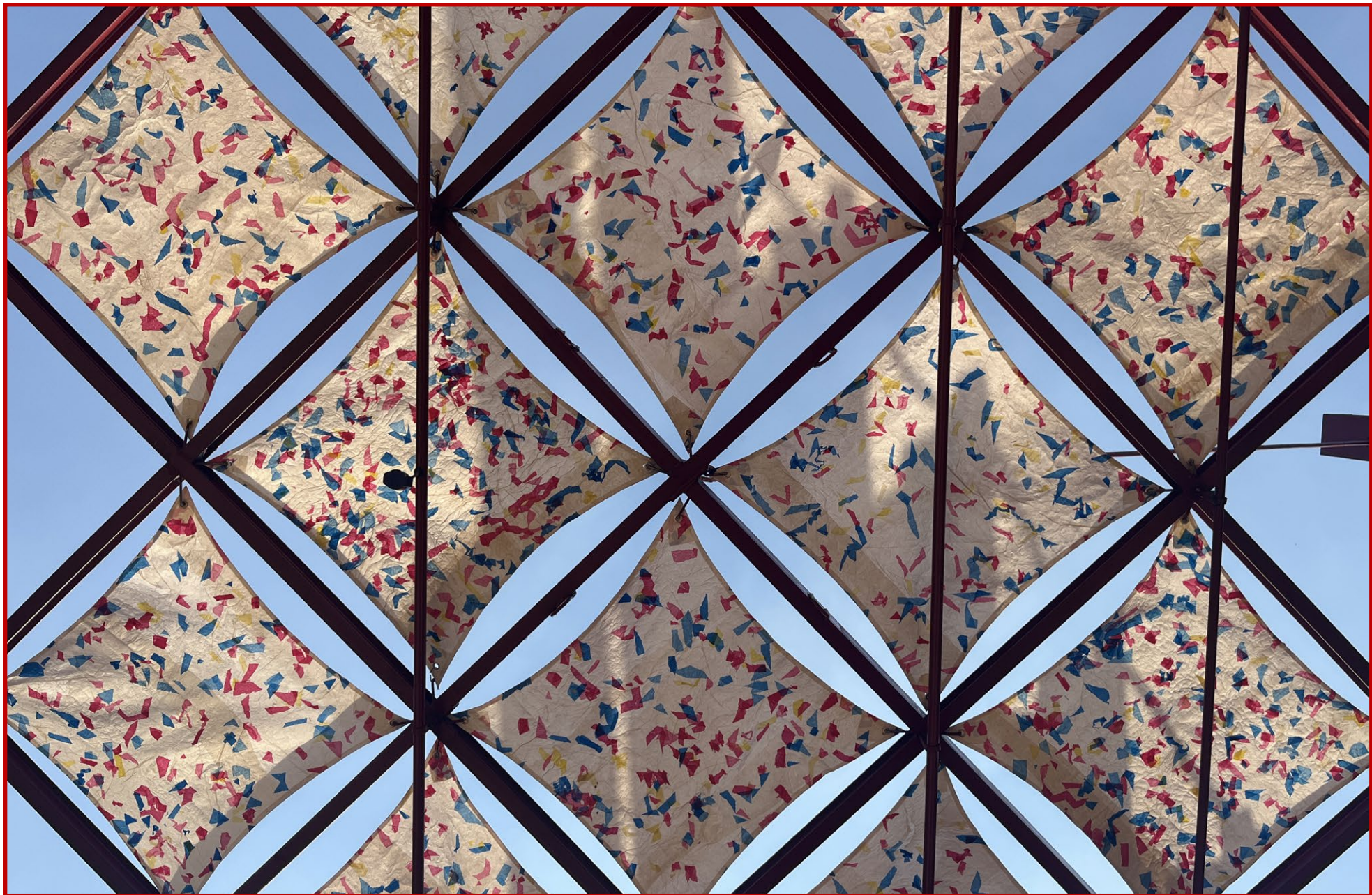
Ceiling & Columns



INSTALLING THE FRAME

Local Collaborations: Sustainable initiatives

Shading elements and Stage tiling



SHADING ELEMENTS USING UPCYCLED PLASTIC BY VARIOUS INITIATIVES

A deliberate decision was made by the project partners to source materials almost exclusively from local companies and grassroots initiatives. This approach was driven by a commitment to sustainability, social responsibility, and support for the local economy.

Three key local partners were identified for their alignment with the project's environmental values and innovative approaches to recycling and material production. The first is a Cairo-based initiative dedicated to cleaning and restoring the Nile River. This organization collects plastic waste from the river and surrounding areas, which is then recycled into practical, usable products.

The second is a local company that specializes in transforming plastic waste into high-performance building materials. These materials are produced through a sustainable process that captures more carbon than it emits, offering an environmentally superior alternative to traditional construction products.

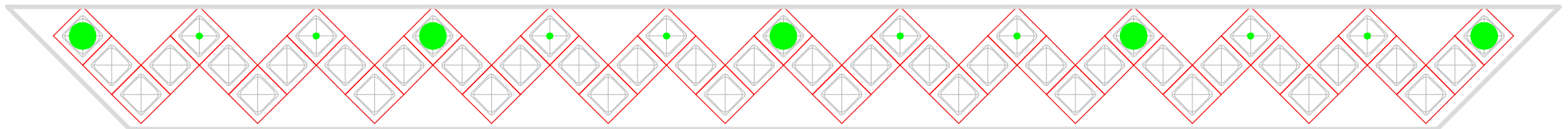


GREEN FLOOR TILING USING UPCYCLED PLASTIC BY VARIOUS INITIATIVES



Local Collaborations: Sustainable initiatives

Walls



CONSTRUCTION PROCESS OF THE SIDE WALLS



SIDE WALLS WITH UPCYCLED PLASTIC MATERIAL

The third key local partner involved in the project is a Cairo-based company that specializes in recycling plastic waste into innovative building components. This company produces modular building blocks made entirely from recycled plastic, designed to interlock in a manner similar to LEGO bricks.

These blocks are not only environmentally friendly, but also offer a highly adaptable and user-friendly construction solution. Their interlocking design allows for rapid assembly and disassembly.

Final Architectural Design

Visualisation in Context



RENDERING OF PERGOLA USED AS PERFORMANCE STAGE
OR A COMMUNITY GATHERING AND ACTIVITY PLAZA

While the primary function of the Pergola is to act as a stage that brings together artists, residents, and park visitors for a variety of social and cultural events—serving as a key element in the broader effort to reactivate and enliven the park—it was also carefully designed with versatility in mind.

Recognizing that such events do not occur every day, the structure was conceived to remain useful and engaging even outside of scheduled performances. On a typical day, the Pergola can be transformed into an inviting and interactive public space by incorporating swings and seating elements suspended from its framework.

These additions provide playful experiences for children and youth, while also offering comfortable, shaded seating for adults. In this way, the Pergola serves as both a cultural hub and a flexible, multi-purpose structure that responds to the varying needs of the community throughout the day and across seasons

Built Pergola

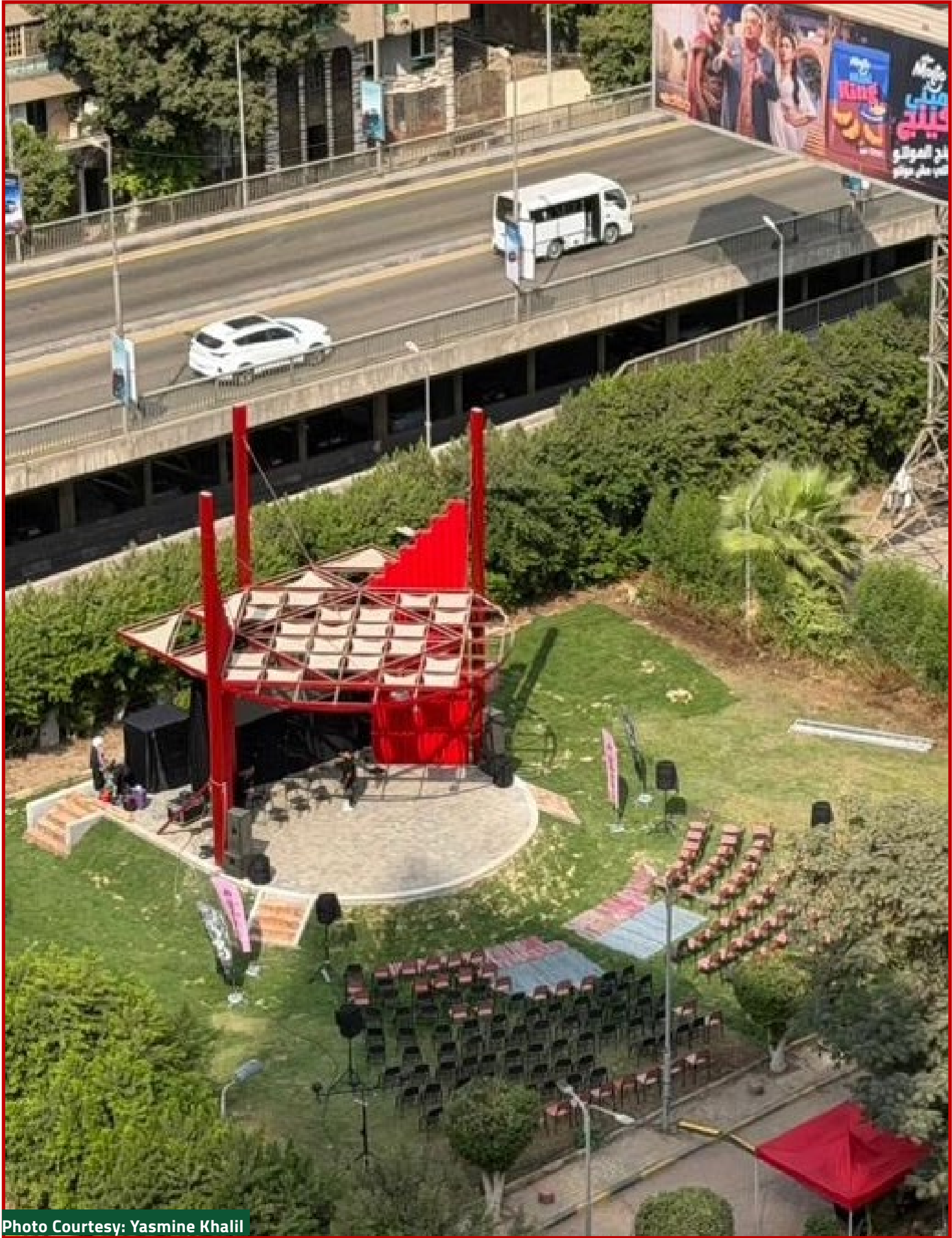


Photo Courtesy: Yasmine Khalil

Opening Event



Photo Courtesy: Reem Ayman