



PORTFOLIO

SIMA ASSAF

# Works

**01**

Co-housing  
Housing Project



**02**

Reclaiming Karama  
Urban Design Project

**03**

Education Academy  
RIBA Exhibited Project

**04**

Music & Art  
Conservatory  
Term Project



**05**

Rooted living  
Urban Design Project

**06**

Miscellaneous

# 01

Location: Knowledge Village, Dubai, UAE  
Project Type: Academy



## ASCENDING AVENUE

A vibrant coliving space centered around a lush green courtyard, designed to inspire connection and relaxation. The stepped seating in this central outdoor haven serves as a versatile gathering point, perfect for unwinding in solitude or engaging in community activities. Seamlessly extending from the shared living areas, the space fosters a profound sense of belonging, encouraging neighbors to come together, share meals, exchange stories, and savor the outdoors. This is not just a shared space, it's a catalyst for togetherness and a reimagining of communal living





Concrete steps, span between buildings. Raw materiality and clean lines define the space. Continuous seating merges circulation and gathering, a social connector in negative space



First Floor Plan



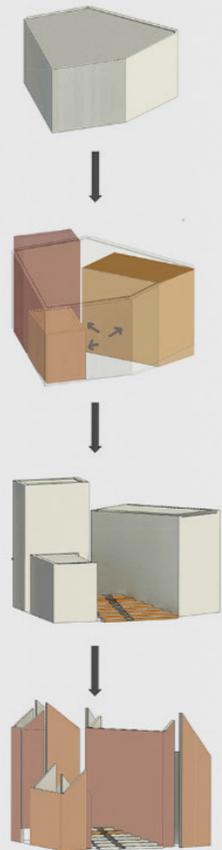
East Elevation



South Elevation



Section A-A



3D Section

A quiet retreat tucked away from the bustle, perfect for reading, reflection, or a peaceful pause. Surrounded by soft light and natural elements, it offers a sense of calm while remaining connected to the communal rhythm. A space to unwind, recharge, and simply be, where solitude and belonging coexist in harmony



# 02

Location: Al Karama, Dubai, UAE  
Project Type: Urban Design (Master Planning)  
Partnered with Lucie Salou, Marieh Khaliginasab, Alia Taher



## Reclaiming Karama

Al Karama ("dignity"), a historic Dubai neighborhood, is defined by its 1970s buildings with Islamic arches, mashrabiya windows, and community-centric design. Modern redevelopment threatens its cultural identity, replacing heritage with generic structures

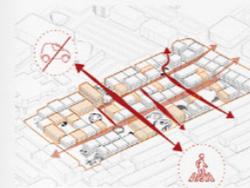
Our vision revitalizes Al Karama by restoring its original architecture through adaptive reuse—honoring history while meeting modern needs. This balances preservation and progress, ensuring the neighborhood retains its soul, vibrancy, and communal roots as Dubai evolves





## DESIGN PROCESS

### HUMAN CENTRIC DEVELOPMENT



### PROPOSED BUILDING USAGE



### PROPOSED PLAZAS



Master Plan

## USER PROGRAM

### EXISTING RESIDENT



### BUSINESS EXECUTIVE

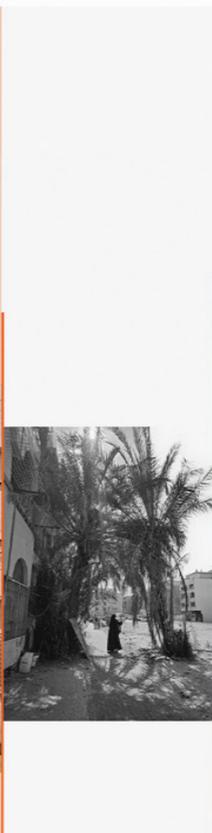


### AMIE TOURIST



### MIKE







### 01 | PRESERVE

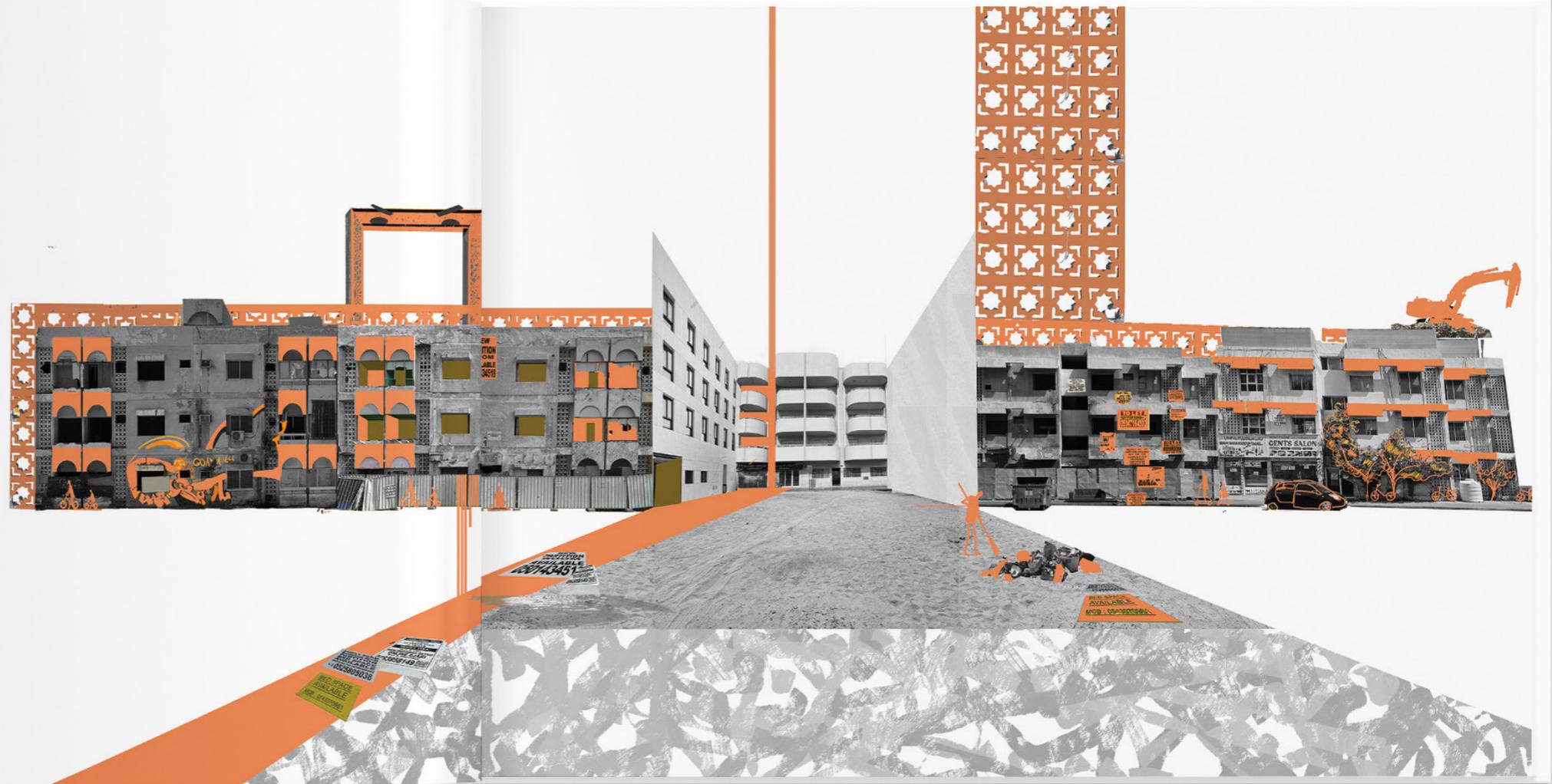
- Preserve old buildings
- Convert them to a new purpose
- Preserve local identity
- Preserve the residents
- Preserve the sikkas

### 02 | DIVERSIFY

- Diversify activities
- Bring tourists in the area
- Diversify the area by adding:
  - Education, Schools
  - Offices, Co-working space
  - F&B, Market, Retail
  - Sport hub, Social hub
  - Boutique hotel
  - Art gallery

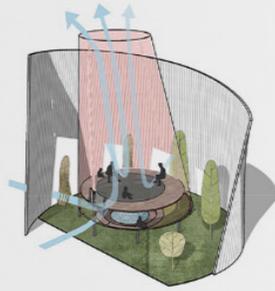
### 03 | HUMANIZED

- Enhance pedestrian experience
- Create playground
- Add natural shading elements
- Inclusive design
- Cycling lane
- Enhance affordable co-housing
- Create social and sport hub
- Introduce Friday market
- Cultural festivals



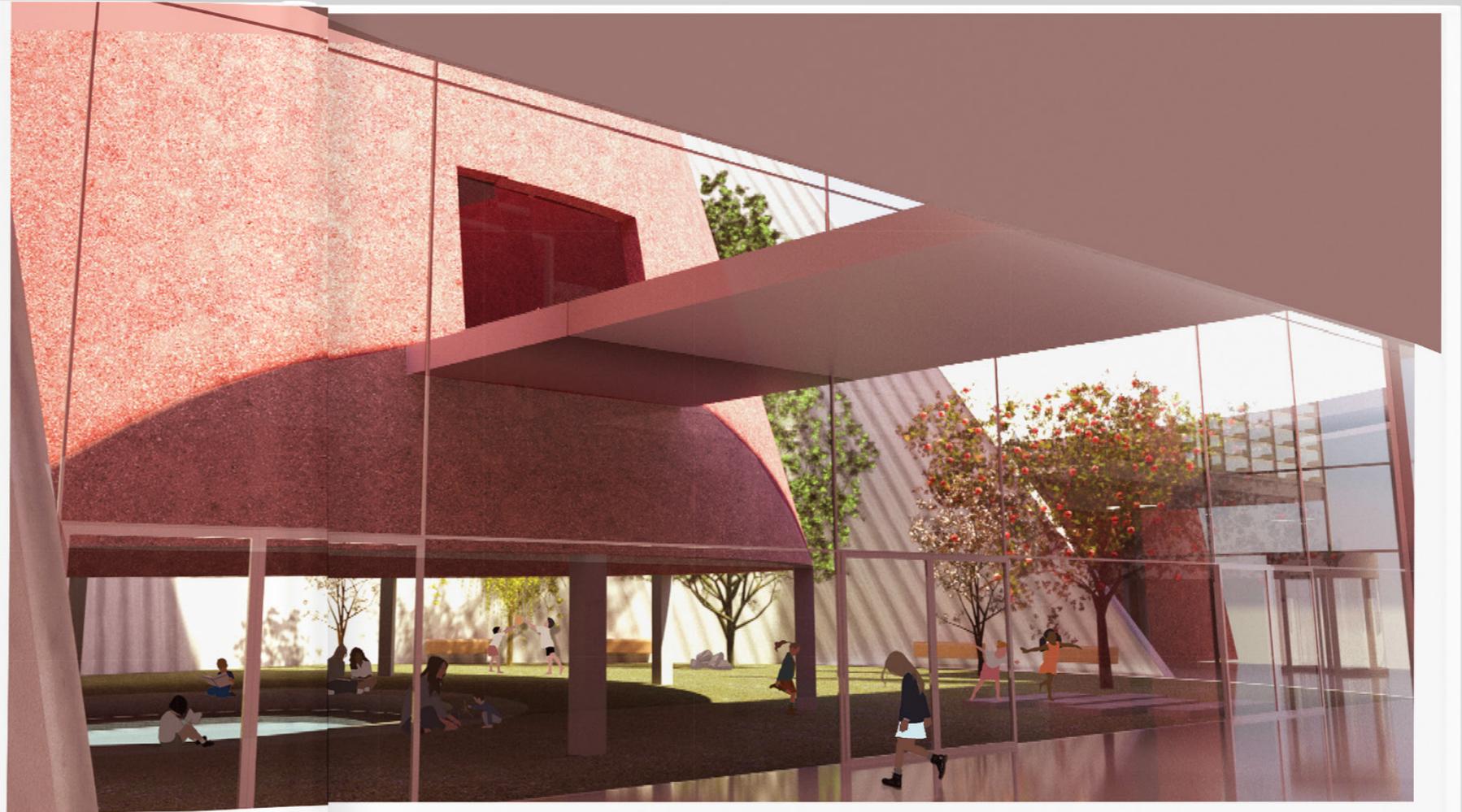
# 03

Location: 18c Street, Dubai, Uae  
Project Type: Academy

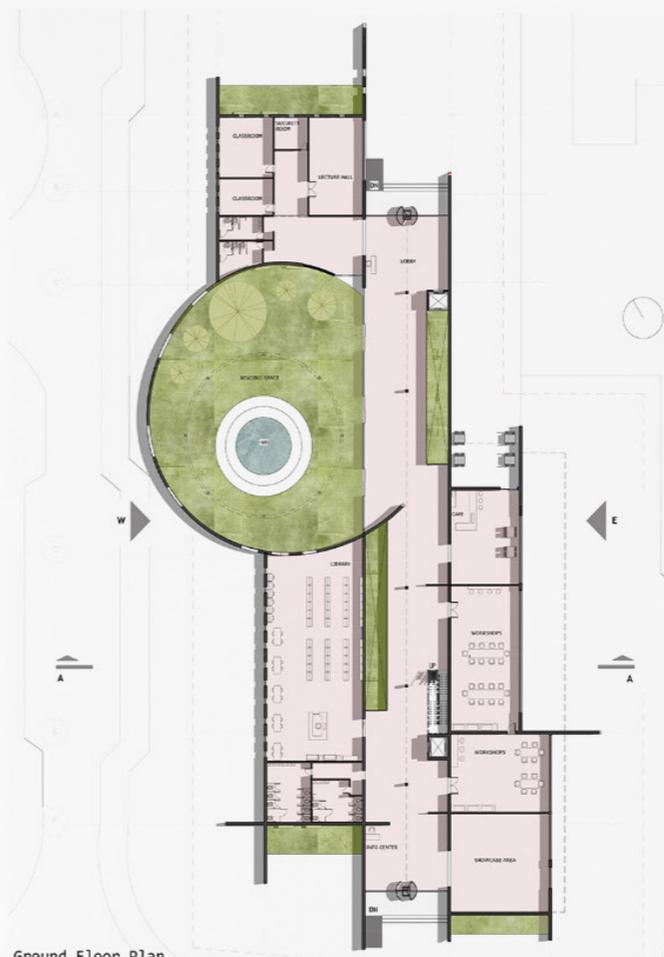


## EDUCATION ACADEMY

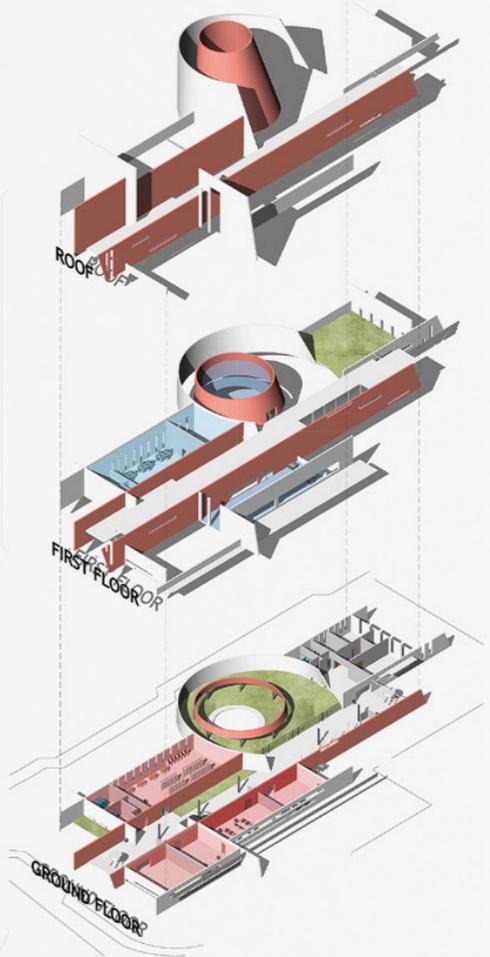
This project guides visitors through workshops, culminating in a serene garden with a traditional wind tower for natural ventilation. Beyond sustainability, it aims to preserve the arabic language, promoting cultural heritage and lifelong learning, ensuring both the language and dubai's traditions thrive in a modern world





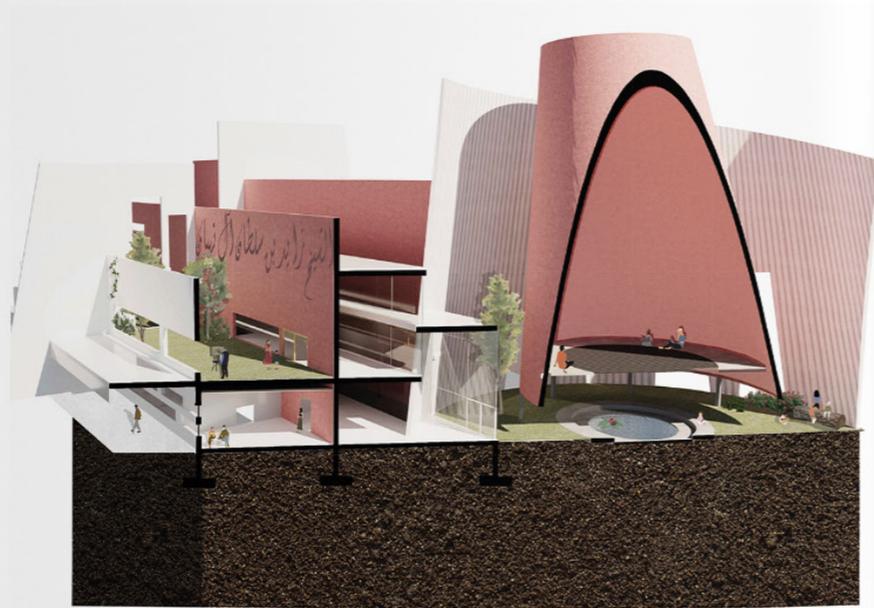


Ground Floor Plan





Images from DXBDW X RIBA:Future Architects



3D Section



NORTH ELEVATION 1/250



SOUTH ELEVATION 1/250



# 04

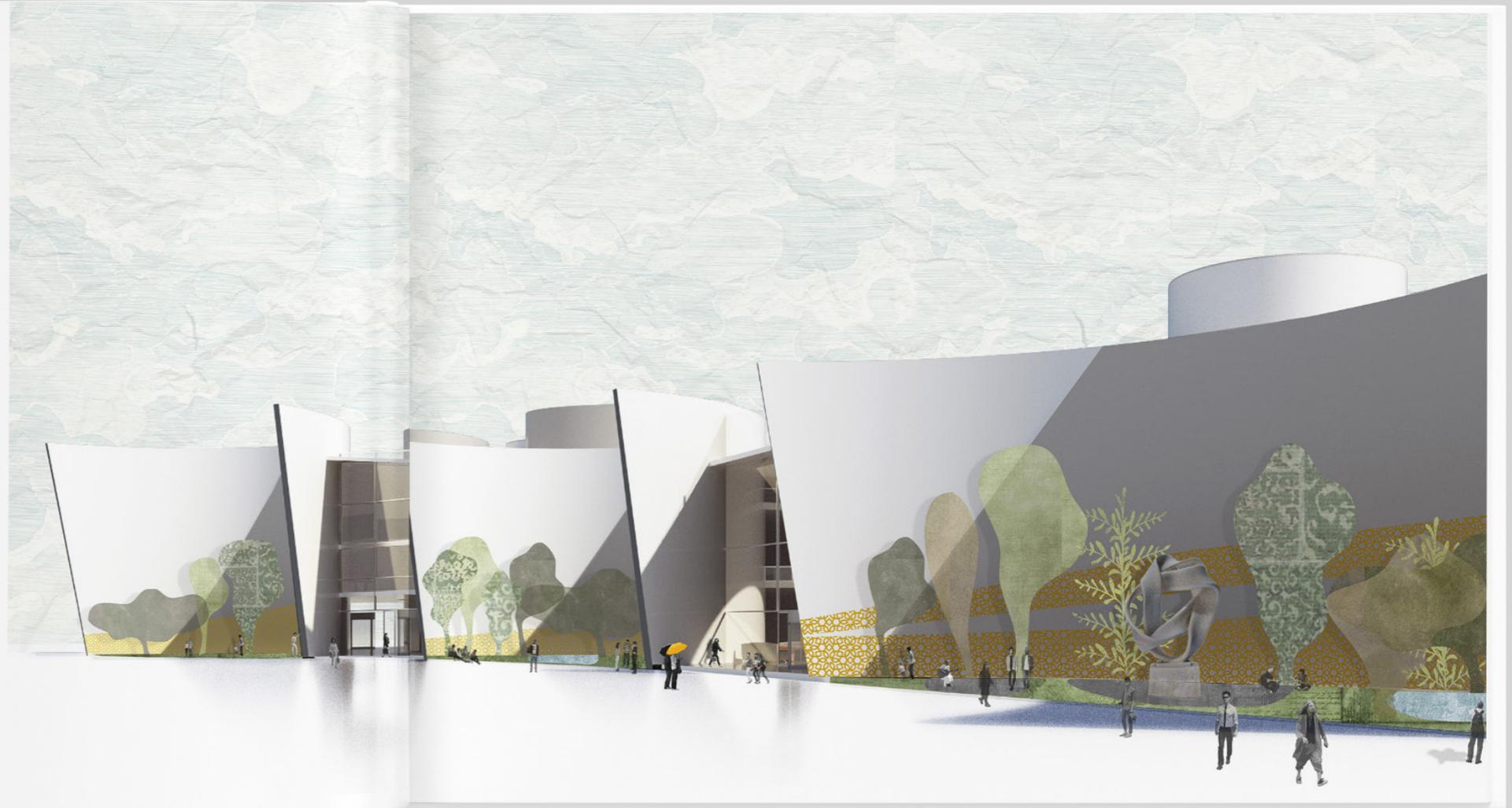
Location: Knowledge Village, Dubai, Uae  
Project Type: Conservatory

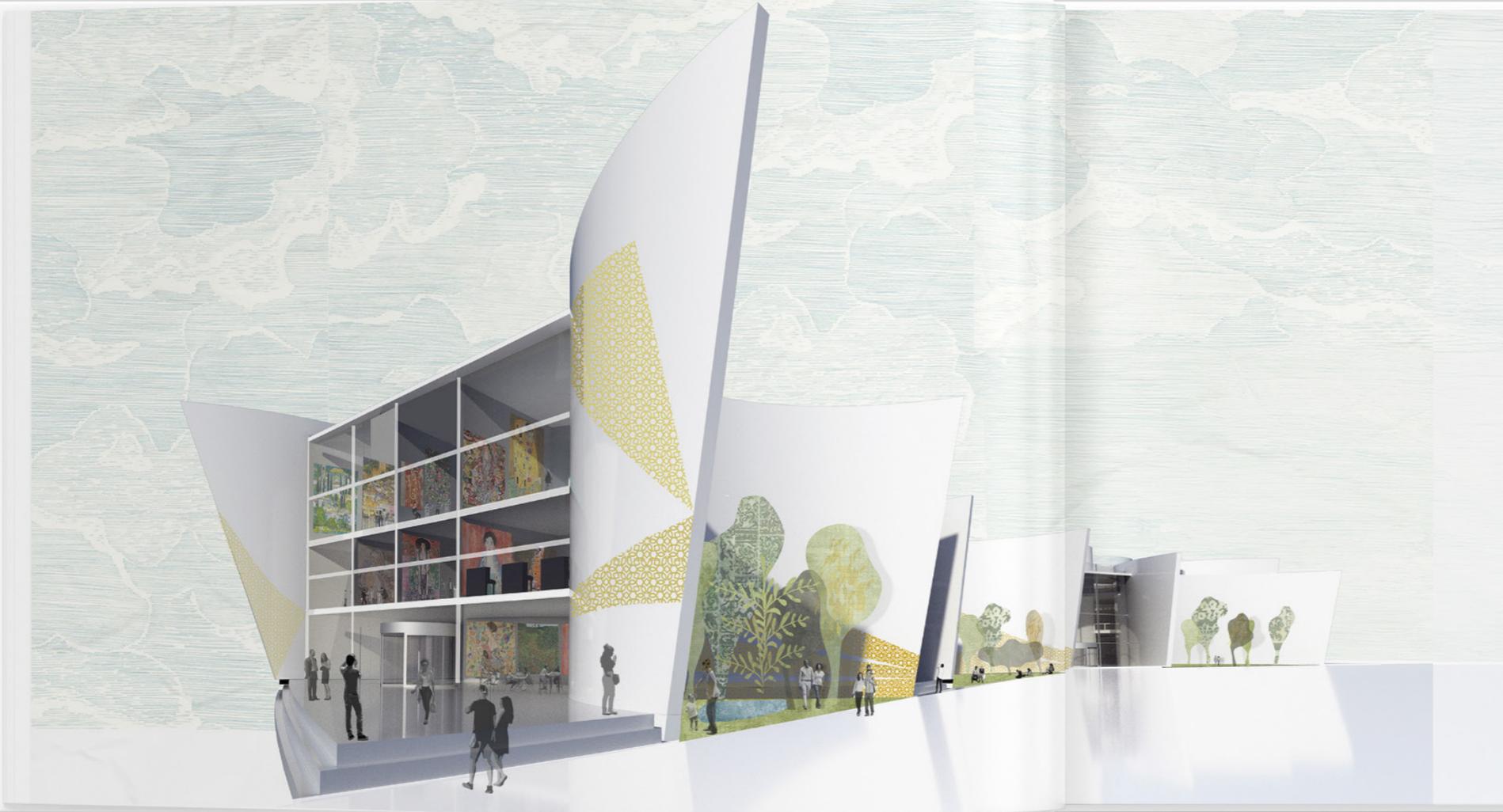


## MUSIC & ART CONSERVATORY

A symphony of design and artistic pursuit, crafting a space where creativity flourishes

Anchored by an indoor/outdoor amphitheater ensconced in glass, it blurs the boundaries between interior and exterior, serving as the heart of the Conservatory. This sanctuary, designed for impeccable acoustics and visual inspiration, invites musicians and artists alike to rehearse, create, perform, and inspire





Ground Floor Plan

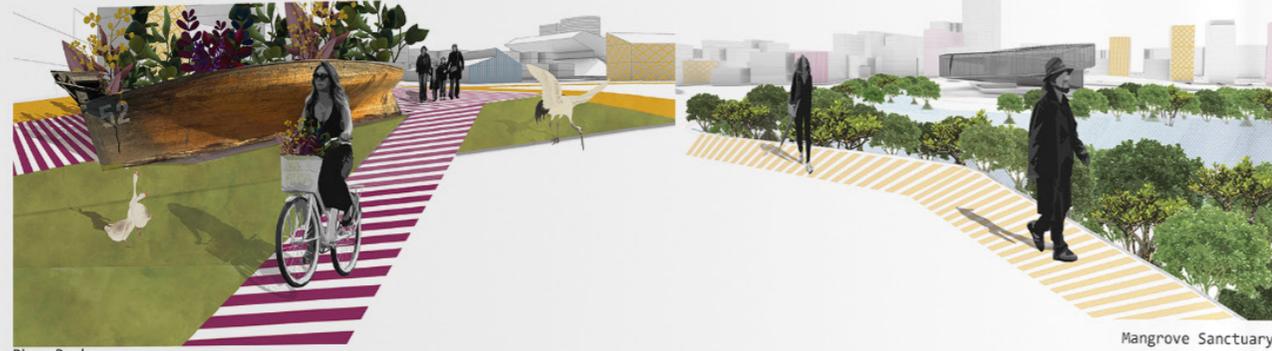
# 05

Location: Al Jaddaf, Dubai Creek, UAE  
Project Type: Urban Design (Master Planning)  
Partnered with Lucie Salou, Marieh Khaliginasab, Alia Taher

## Rooted Living

Located near Ras Al Khor, this project blends nature and urban life, focusing on sustainability and the restoration of Dubai Creek. By integrating mangroves and green spaces, it fosters ecosystem growth while creating a dynamic environment for living, working, and learning. Thoughtfully designed openings will support mangrove planting, enhancing biodiversity and resilience. This project highlights mangroves as key to sustainable urban living, strengthening the connection between people and nature while promoting a greener, more climate-conscious future.





Dhow Park

Mangrove Sanctuary

**S**

**Strength**  
 Metro station: Creek Station  
 3km away from Ras Al Khor  
 Mohammed Bin Rashid Library  
 Facing Festival city  
 5-min to Jameel Arts Centre

**W**

**Weakness**  
 Empty plot  
 Industrial site nearby  
 Lack of life (resident, activities)  
 Al Khail Road Traffic  
 Coastal development endangering Ras Al Khor

**O**

**Opportunity**  
 Easy access with metro station  
 Empty plot to develop  
 Prime location in the creek  
 Nearby natural treasure with mangrove

**T**

**Threat**  
 Industrial site  
 Sea level change  
 Car Traffic  
 Boat Flux  
 Coastal development endangering Ra



Mangrove Visitor Hub

6.7 HA

NEW MANGROVE HABITAT

718

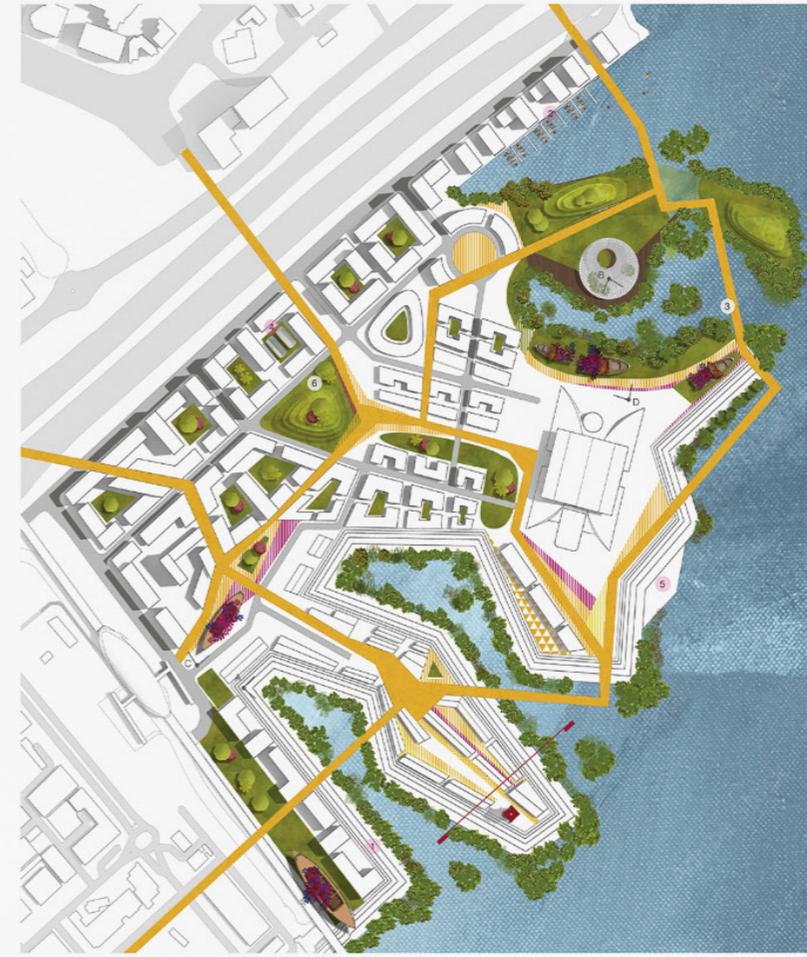
HOMES ENERGY

16750

MANGROVE TREES

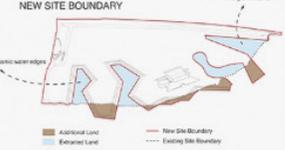
7,370

TONS OF CARBON



Master Plan

DESIGN PROCESS





Scrub Land

Redshank (*Tringa Totanus*)

Interceptor

Mangrove Aerial Root

Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus Roseus*)

Grey Mangrove (*Avicennia Marina*)

# 06

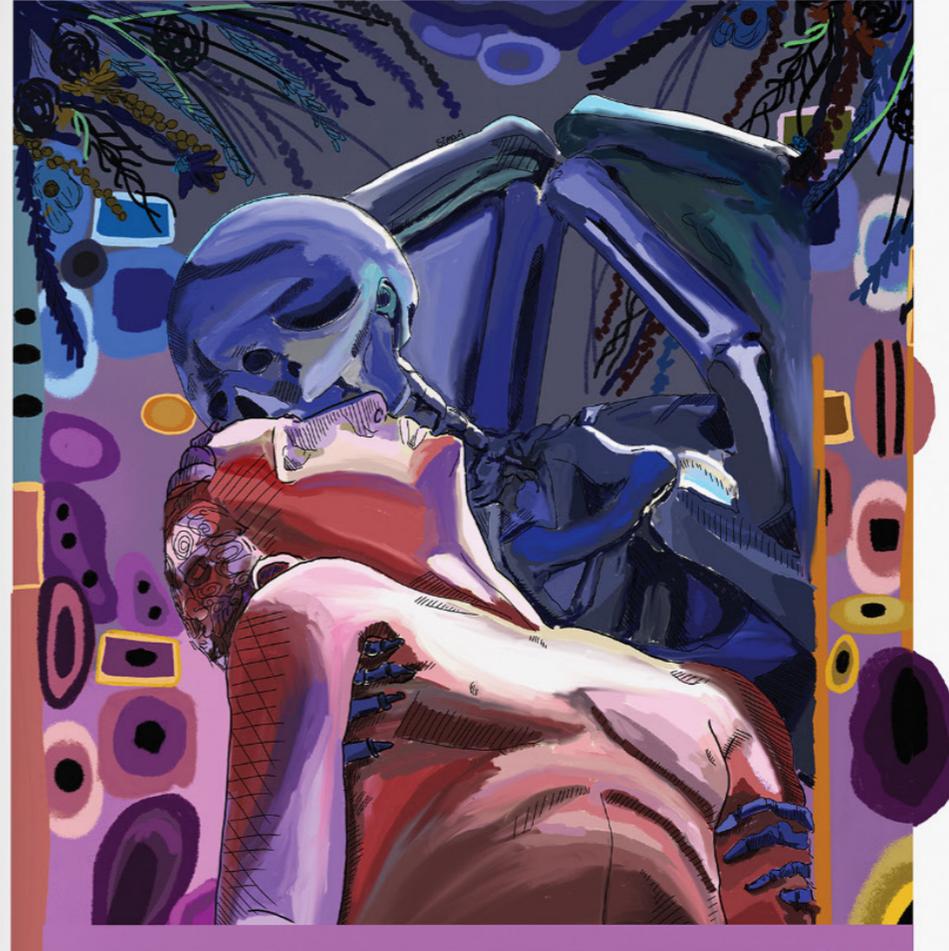
## Miscellaneous

I've been creating for as long as I can remember, from drawing on walls as a child to painting on canvas and exploring digital art. I work with watercolor, gouache, oil, acrylic, and ink, each bringing a different feel to my process. Each step has been a new way to express myself, to turn ideas into something real. Art isn't just what I do, it's how I see the world, how I grow, and how I bring imagination to life



Gouache on canvas-2020

Digital on  
photoshop-2024



Digital on procreate-2021



