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LADIES TAILOR
ALL TYPE OF BLOUSE PIECE, SALWAR
SUIT, PANTS - EMERGENCY ALTERATION

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सब प्रकार के ब्लाउज पीस,
सलवार सूट और पैट
सोमवार को बंद

VERSHI GRAIN STORE

SHOP NO 23 SANGAM GULLY, DHARAVI-SION MONDAY CLOSED

XEROX
PHOTOCOPY
CENTRE
STATIONERY

वंशी ग्रेन स्टोर

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COMMERCE,
ARTS AND
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SANGAM GARMEN



HOMEGROWN STREET

The Homegrown Street project is a tribute to the unrecognised talent of local contractors and artisans in Dharavi, Mumbai. It spotlights the self-taught process of designing and building affordable and beautiful houses for themselves and their clients from marginal communities. It is a product of our decade long immersion in Dharavi, a homegrown neighbourhood, that is both a result and target of social exclusion. The project attempts to validate the architectural typology embedded in this process through which residents and contractors in high-density, mixed-use settlements create and maintain their neighbourhoods.

The artisans and contractors featured in the project: Giriraj Sherekhan, Mohd. Afsar Shaikh, Firoz Ahmed Noor Ali Shaikh, Irfan Divte, Iktahar Khan (Shabbu), Murugan Sundaram, Jahangir, Naidu Androse, Manoj Vishwakarma, Sarfaraz, Kishor Rokhade, Phool Babu, Abbas Galwani, Vaibhav Kharat, Ashwin Wadhera, Ayyub Shaikh, Pramod Vishwakarma (Pappu), Salim Shaikh, Inhad Ansari, Shafiq Salmani

Our team: Jai Bhadgaonkar, Partha Shrungarpure, Anushka Samant, and Bharat Gangurde with Samidha Patil, Kareena Kochery, Dimple Shah, Urmi Panchamia, Viraj Padhiyar, Srushti Rahigude, Kritika Vidyashankar, Shashank Shankar, Parth Soman, Pranaya Khade, Ashutosh Lohana, Brendon D'Lima, Aditya Warriar

This text explains the genesis and purpose of the project which is primarily to organise a public exhibition in Dharavi and other places.

Matias Echanove and Rahul Srivastava

Co-founders, urbz



HOMEGROWN STREET



The Homegrown Street project showcases the ideas and design imagination of artisans and local contractors.

It is the second phase of the "Design Comes As We Build" initiative when the models, plans and photographs produced were exhibited at the Dr. Bhau Daji Lad City Museum (Mumbai), MAXXI (Rome), House of Architecture (Graz) and Spring House (Amsterdam). The "Design Comes As We Build" is also a part of the permanent exhibition of the M+ Museum of Visual Culture in Hong Kong, which opened in 2020.

Homegrown Street will produce 20 hand-crafted multimedia models of tool-houses from Dharavi, made using leather, glass, steel, wood, brass, cane, embroidery, carving and clay.



Top: The models from "Design Comes as we Build" displayed at the Mumbai Return exhibition at Dr. Bhau Daji Lad City Museum.

Left: A young resident of Mumbai interacting with the model at the Mumbai Return exhibition.

From Cairo to Mumbai, from Sao Paulo to Tokyo, cities work with multiple strategies to fulfill building related demands of urban life. Due to increased pressure, construction activities often spill out from professional boundaries.

Most architecture and civic administrations, urban infrastructure projects and real-estate developments work on a financial model of large scale capital mobilisation, often rooted in speculation. However, a majority of inhabitants raise small amounts of capital from their family and community networks to finance a local economy of incrementally growing construction projects outside this space. Such spaces are often populated by self-taught experts and professionals who have gained design and construction skills through experience and practice.

Rather than see them in opposition to professional and certified practices, or through euphemistic binaries of the formal and the informal, the project sees them as part of a shared space, rich in potential for dialogue and collaboration. The project's departure point is the recognition of the role of local actors in the production of their own habitats. It focuses on the processes at work in Dharavi, a famously unplanned settlement at the heart of Mumbai, that is usually described as Asia's largest slum.

Putting preconceptions aside and using an ethnographic lens that works with the language of architecture, the project explores the design imagination of local artisans who day after day build thousands of tiny houses that accommodate the multitude of low-wage workers sustaining the city's service and manufacturing sectors.

Anonymous "contractors" (builders), who are usually blamed for operating illegally and without formal education, become the heroes of an epic story of creating neighbourhoods out of nothing, transforming meagre local resources into humble yet solid homes. These contractors are typically hired by a family living in the neighbourhood for some time, keen on rebuilding their house. The family selects the contractors on the basis of previous work and common acquaintances. The contractor and his clients typically live in close proximity to each other, often belonging to the same community.

The client and the contractor talk about what should be done, agree on a schedule and budget and start the work. No formal plans or contracts are signed. Trust and reputation are everything. This process is not unique to Dharavi, Mumbai or India. This is the way artisans have been working with their clients since the dawn of time.



Makers of homegrown neighbourhoods: Workers at a construction site in Dharavi



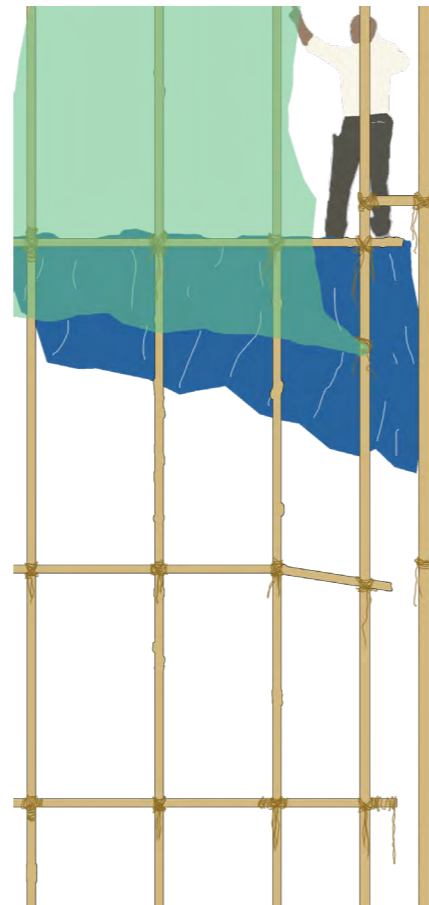


Unlike the old artisanal guilds of Europe, the traditional artisans in India tend to be marginalised due to the dynamics of caste. This happens mainly because of their proximity to materials perceived as unclean, such as leather, earth, and waste products. Such perceptions get translated into a spatial dimension in which entire settlements working with these materials get stigmatised. This is also why they so easily get referred to as slums.

After years of working in such neighbourhoods, we believe it is more accurate to refer to them as 'homegrown settlements'.

The local contractors and artisans who are part of our project not only operate within such traditional 'live-work' contexts, but also produce them.

Sangam Gully adjoins the 90 feet road in Dharavi. The 90 feet road is an arterial road in the neighbourhood.



The enmeshing of spatial, social and economic principles in Dharavi is powerfully symbolised by one ubiquitous house type - a structure and a mode of organisation that we call the 'tool-house. Simply put, the tool-house is a space that is used both for living and for income-generation. And this device is fundamental to the logic that sustains homegrown settlements.

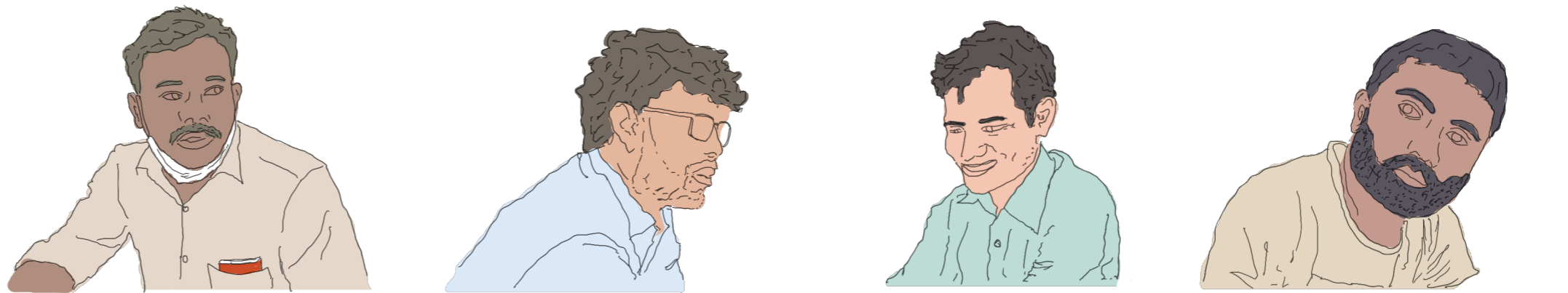
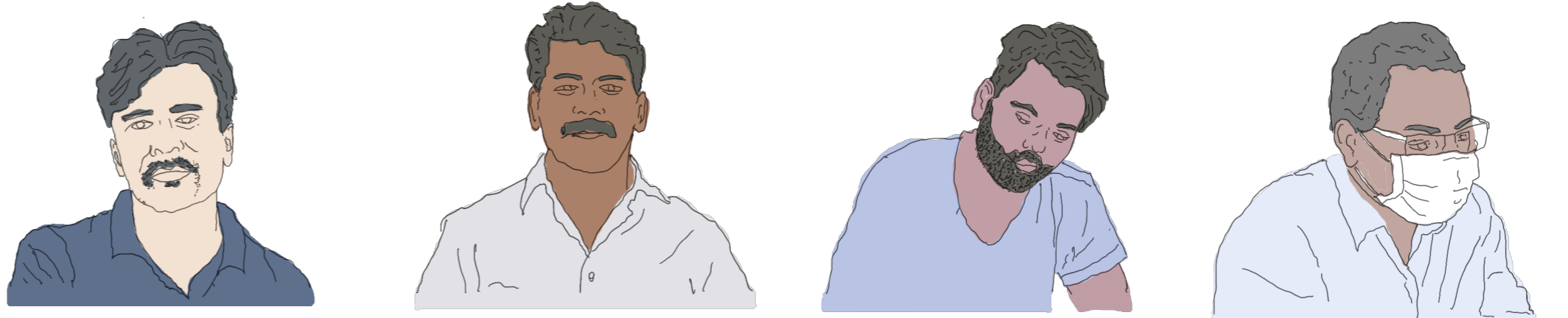
The tool-house is not unique to Dharavi. The traditional artisan's house in pre-industrial Europe was a tool-house. Typically, the master and his family would live on the first floor and the workshop would be on the ground floor which would double up as a dormitory for workers or apprentices. Mumbai's tool-house is also an avatar of postwar Tokyo's home-based manufacturing unit or Singapore's shop-houses.

Tool-houses still exist throughout Asia and the world. And even in the most developed economies, some professions among them lawyers, GPs and architects - have always carried out their business in residential types of buildings.

Echanove, Matias, and Rahul Srivastava.
The Slum Outside: Elusive Dharavi. Strelka Press, 2013.



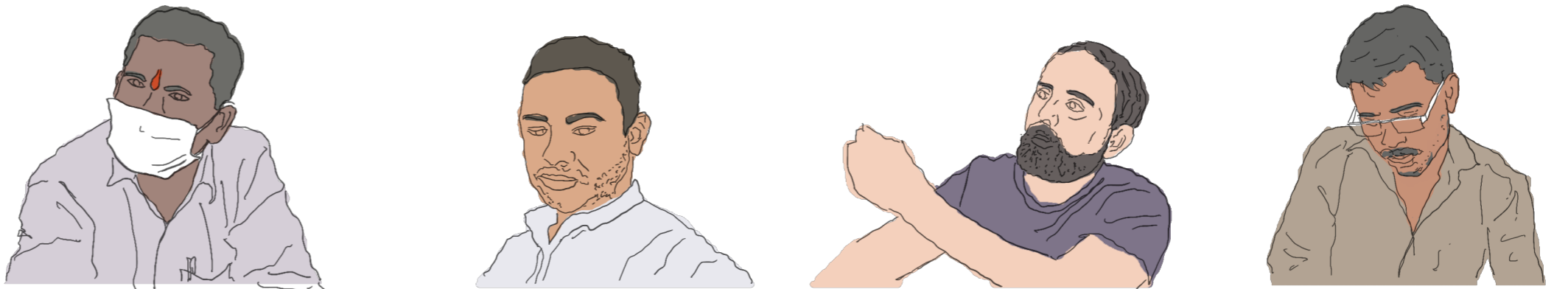
Our project works at two levels. It recognises the skills and craftsmanship of undervalued artisanal communities that make up a large part of the urban poor and sees them as a major resource. Secondly, it validates the live-work typology within formal architectural and planning framework.



Previous page: A metal artisan's setup.

FROM TOP LEFT:

Andrew Naidu, Jehangir Khan, Pramod Vishwakarma, Sarfaraz Mapari, Mohammad Afsar Shaikh, Sudhir Mahandolkar, Vaibhav Kharat, Phool Babu, Murugan Sunadaram, Ikhtahar Khan, Manoj Vishwakarma, Ashwin Wadhera, Joseph Koli, Firoz Shaikh, Abbas Galwani, Salim Shaikh, Giriraj Sherekhan, Irfan Divte, Kishor Rokade, Ayyub Shaikh.





MANSION A-WING
RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATION
SANGAM GALLI SHIV DHARAM, MUMBAI

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9th & 10th 12th SCIENCE COMMERCE
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JAGRUTI BOOK CENTRE
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OFFICE ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE HERE

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SCHOOL BOOKS & STATIONERY
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FASHION INNERS
STAR SOMETHING SEXY

FASHION INNERS

01- Jaya Nadar

02- Bharati Pawar

03- Agsar Ali

04- Bindu Patwa

05- Neemchand Govind

06- Haji Rasheed

07- Ravindra Singh

08- Mohammed

09- Kantilal Vershi

10- Jose (Jijo) Tailor

11- Chandrkant Soni



21- Anil Hinduja

20- Durgah

19- Sajid Ansari

18- Farokh Ansari

17- Kochittli

16- Noor Ahmed Khan

15- Ejaz Khan

14- Ibrahim Ansari

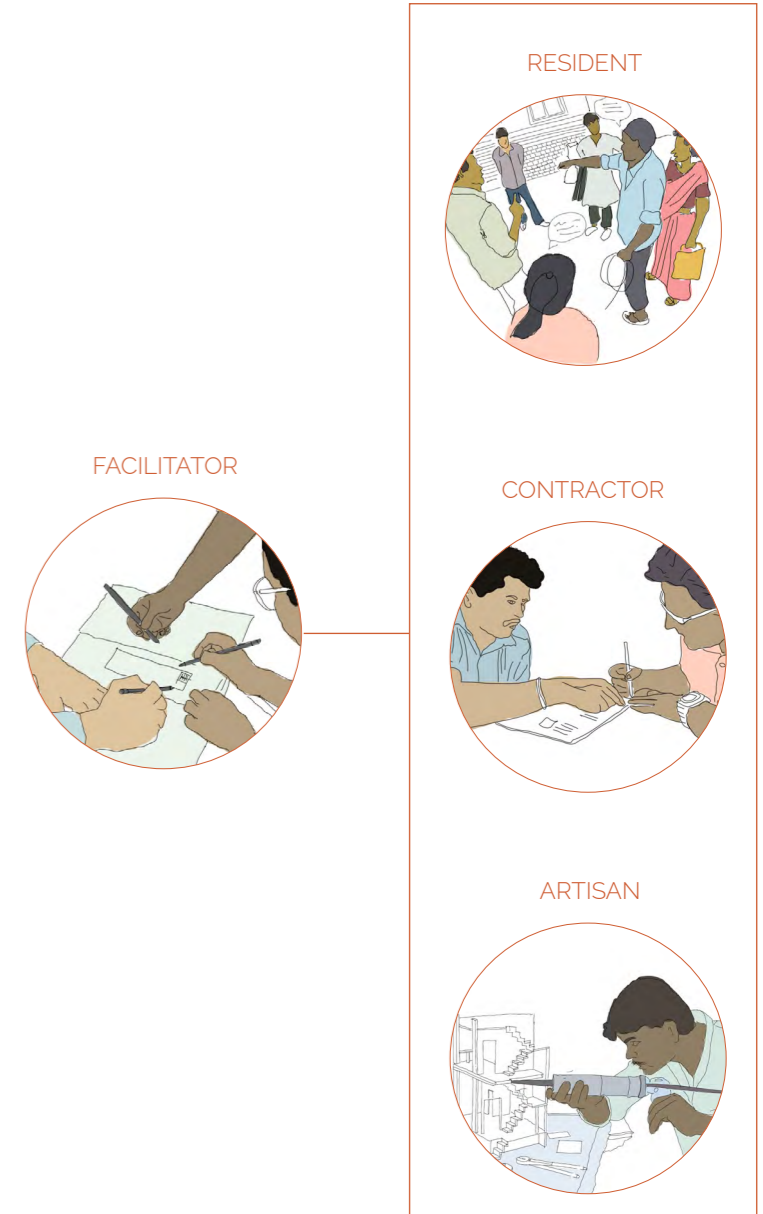
13- Sabdir Hussain

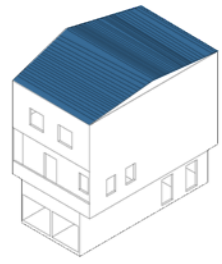
12- Santosh Gupta

The construction of homes by local artisans, with practical skills and no academic training in architecture or engineering, continues to happen throughout the world, even as, or perhaps because, the industry of construction is becoming increasingly expensive and hyper professionalised, leaving hundreds of millions of urbanites.

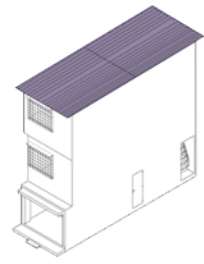
We have taken an existing street in Dharavi, Mumbai - Sangam Gully and invited design proposals and models for 20 houses and shops on either side of the road. All of these houses will be designed by local contractors and artisans.

Previous page: Sangam Gully is a bustling "homegrown" street in Dharavi, Mumbai. Photo by: Archit Patel with urbz

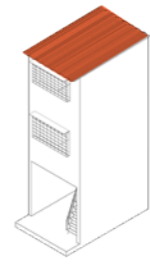




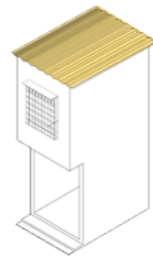
JAYA'S HOUSE



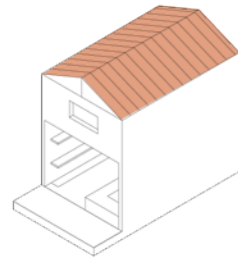
BHARATI'S RENTAL



AGSAR'S HOUSE



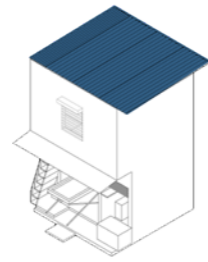
BINDU'S HOUSE



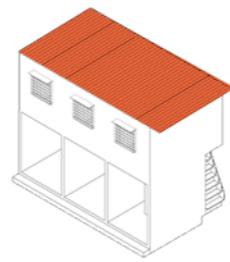
NEEMCHAND'S SHOP



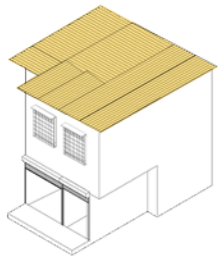
HAJI RASHEED'S RENTAL



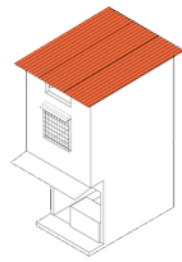
RAVINDRA'S SHOP-HOUSE



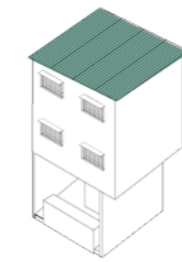
MOHAMMED'S WORKSHOP



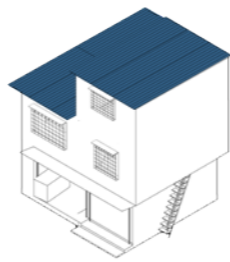
KANTILAL'S SHOP



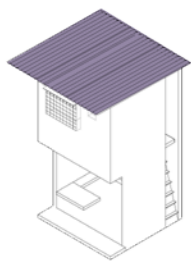
JOSE'S WORKSHOP



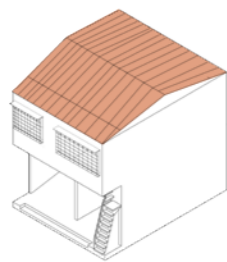
CHANDRAKANT'S SHOP



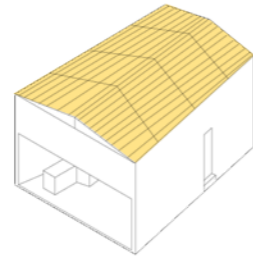
SANTOSH'S SHOP-HOUSE



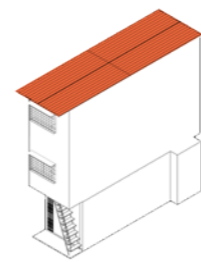
SABDIR'S RENTAL



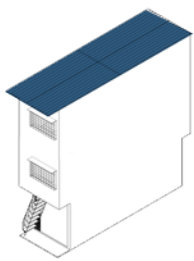
IBRAHIM'S HOUSE



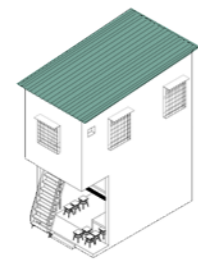
EJAZ'S HOUSE



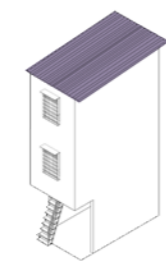
NOOR'S WORKSHOP



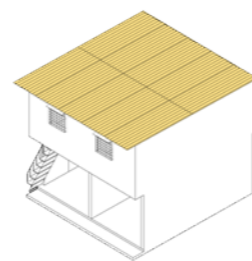
KOCHITTLI'S RENTAL



FAROKH'S WORKSHOP



SAJID'S RENTAL



ANIL'S RESTAURANT

The program for each house and the street will be based on existing and projected uses. This has been done in a participatory way, with the people who currently live there. We asked the residents to project how their family will want to use the house in 5 to 10 years time.



Right: Notes from design discussions between the facilitators and the contractors.

Below: Sangam Gully is a bustling "homegrown" street in Dharavi, Mumbai. Photo by: Archit Patel with urbz



We have then been collaborating with contractors to design these houses which also accommodates some form of economic activity. We sit with the contractors as they describe how the house should be built, translating their vision into 3D drawings. We do not intervene in their designs at all, but encourage them to express their ideas very freely. Once the drawings are done, we ask artisans to build models using the materials they specialise in.

These models produced through this process represent not only the kind of housing typology that exists in Dharavi, but also the capacity of local actors to imagine a better version of their present – as opposed to the dystopian vision that is imposed on them by the builder lobby and civic authorities.

The process and the context will be shown in the video that accompanies the models. It will allow people who are totally unfamiliar with Mumbai and Dharavi to grasp how builders and artisans work, and the kind of environment in which they operate.

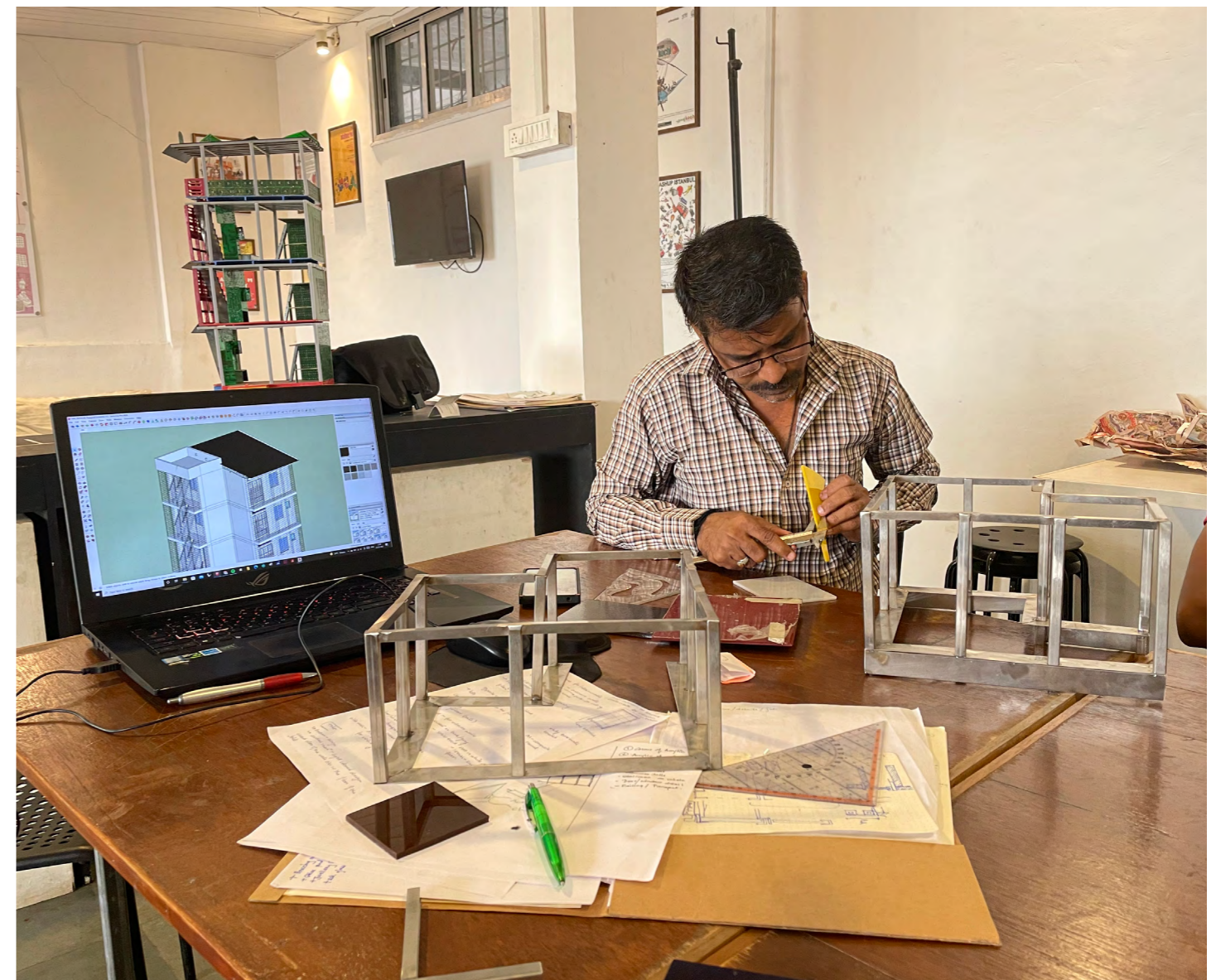
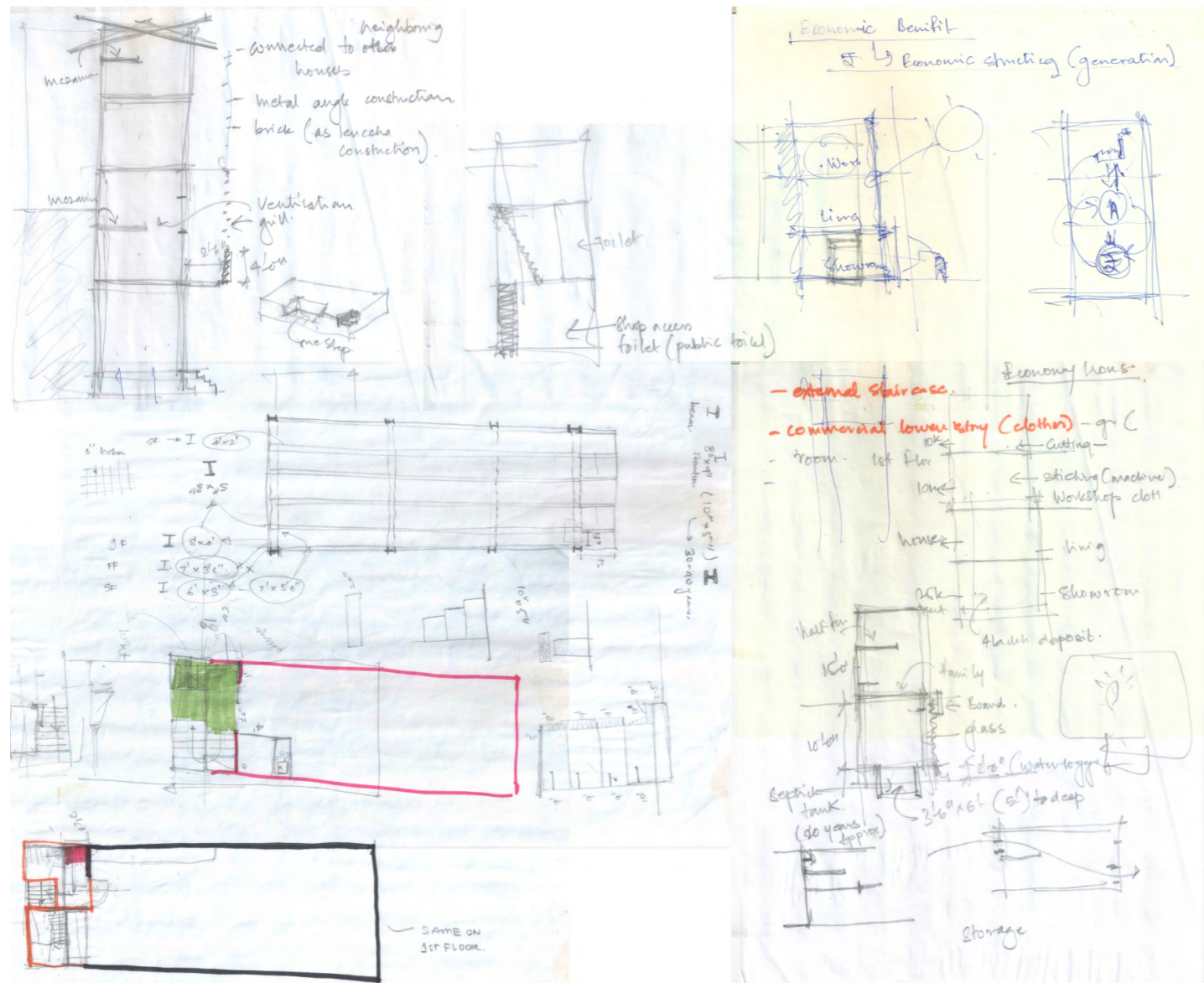
The models will be accompanied by photo portraits of each of the contractor and artisans in their usual working environment. While architects and artists can add value to their work by signing their name to it, builders and artisans are usually faceless. These photos put a face on a process that is usually invisible.

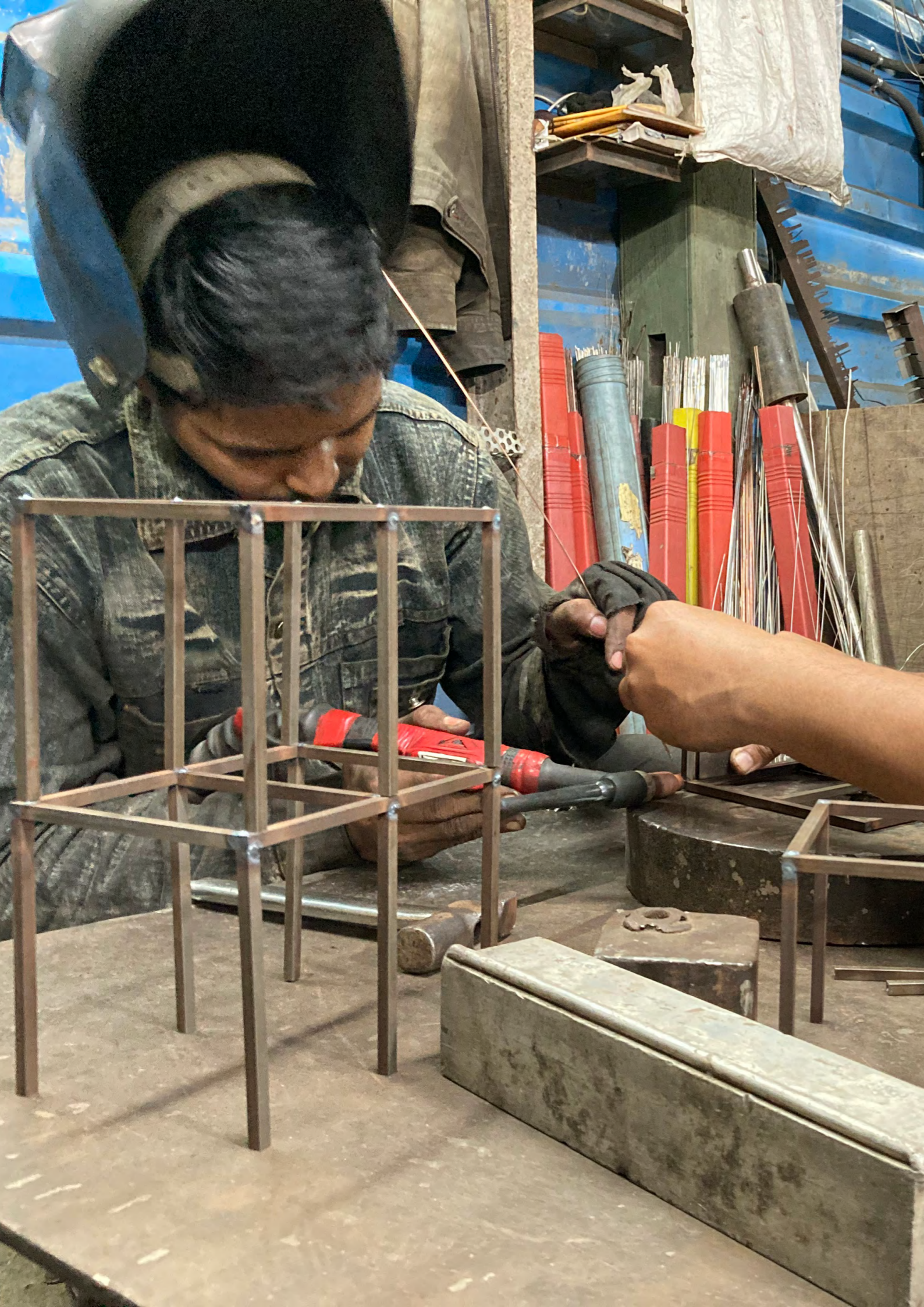
The contractor and architect discussing the preliminary design based on the client's brief.



Left: Notes from design discussions between the facilitators and the contractors.

Below: Ayyub, a gift-maker and artisan measuring the steel model with reference to the 3D computer model.





Top: Manoj Vishwakarma, a master artisan who works in wood and acrylic, working on the walls of Agsar's house

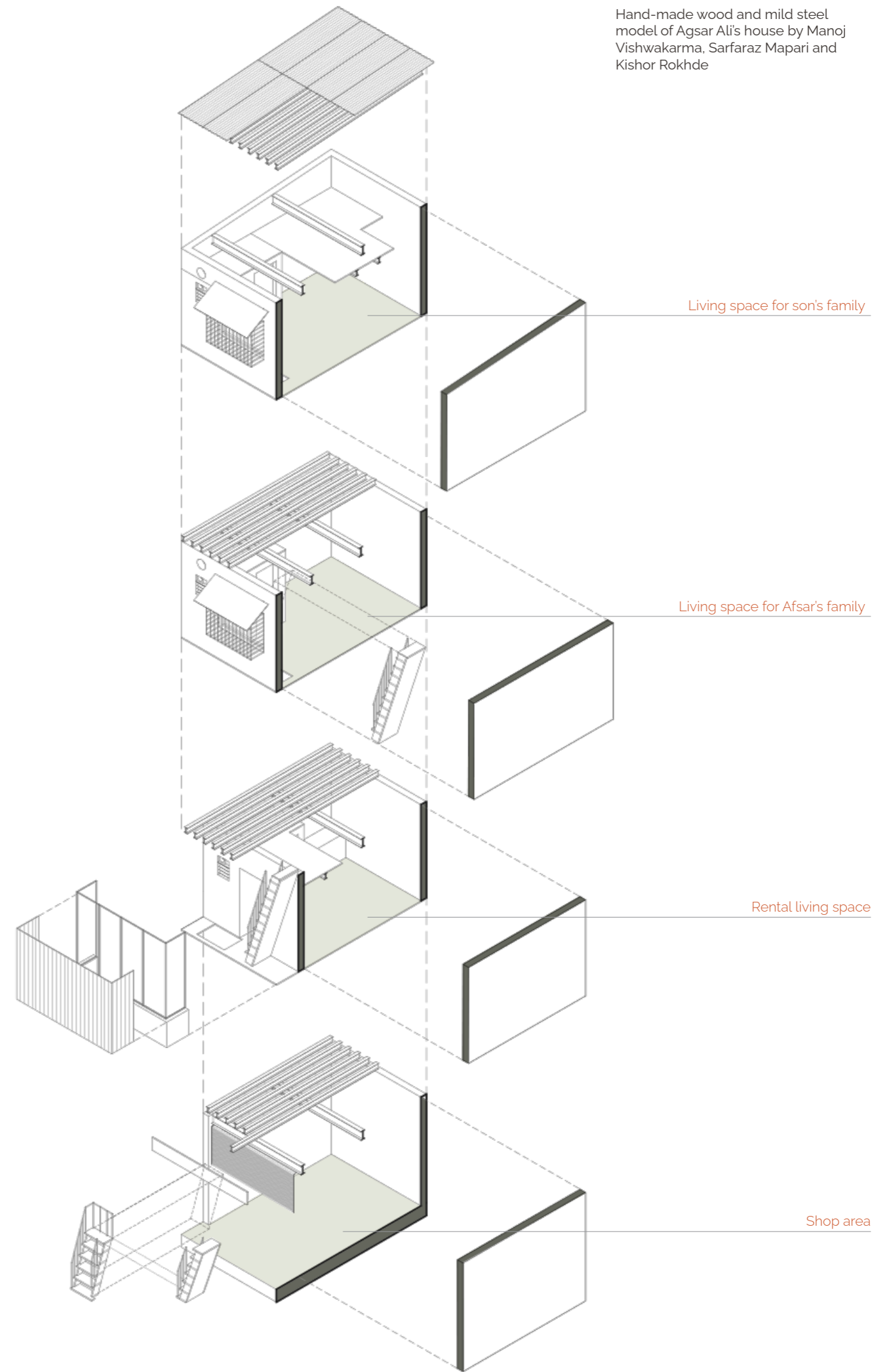
Left: Metal artisans in Kamathipura working on the joinery for the model.



Agsar Ali and his family reacting to their future house.



Hand-made wood and mild steel model of Agsar Ali's house by Manoj Vishwakarma, Sarfaraz Mapari and Kishor Rokhde





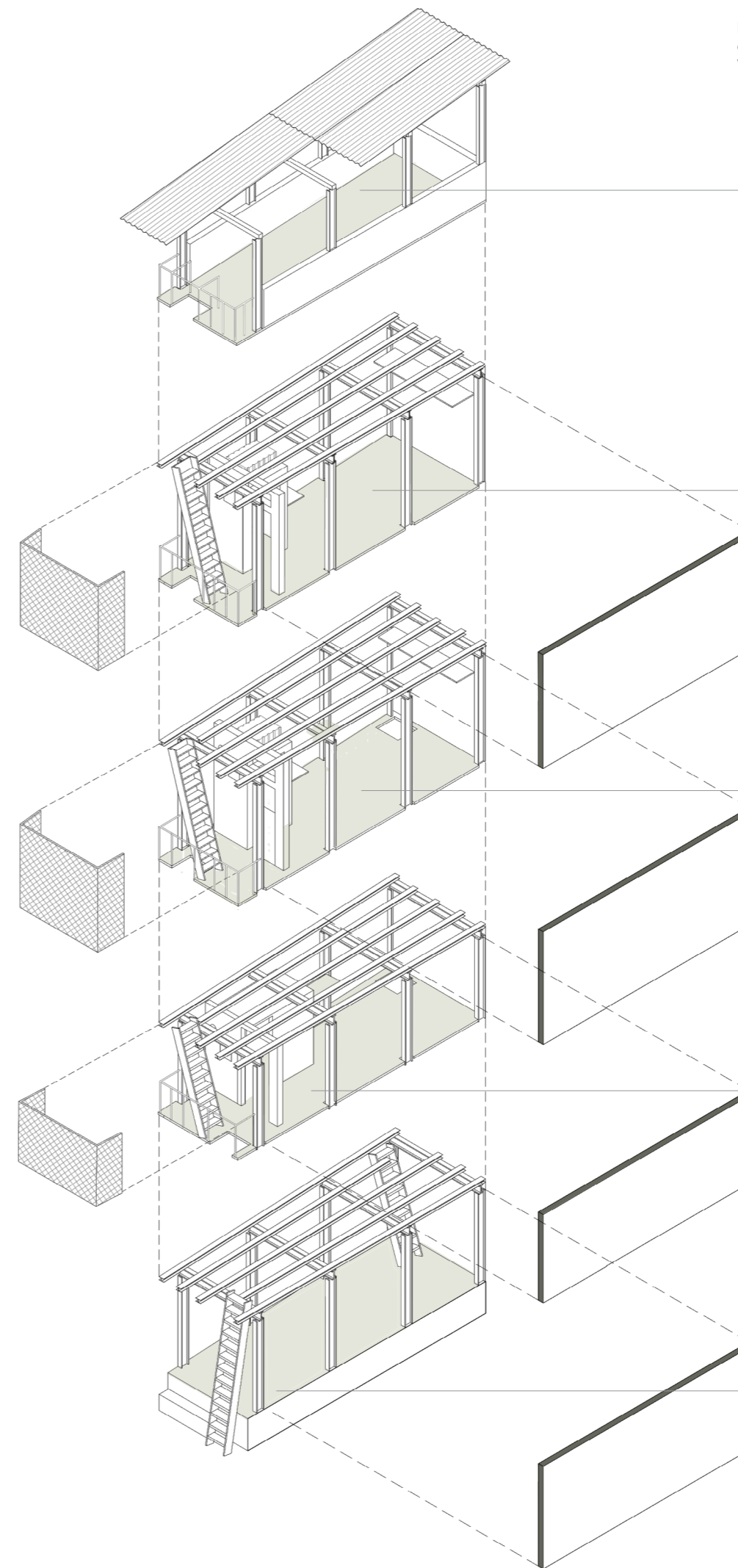
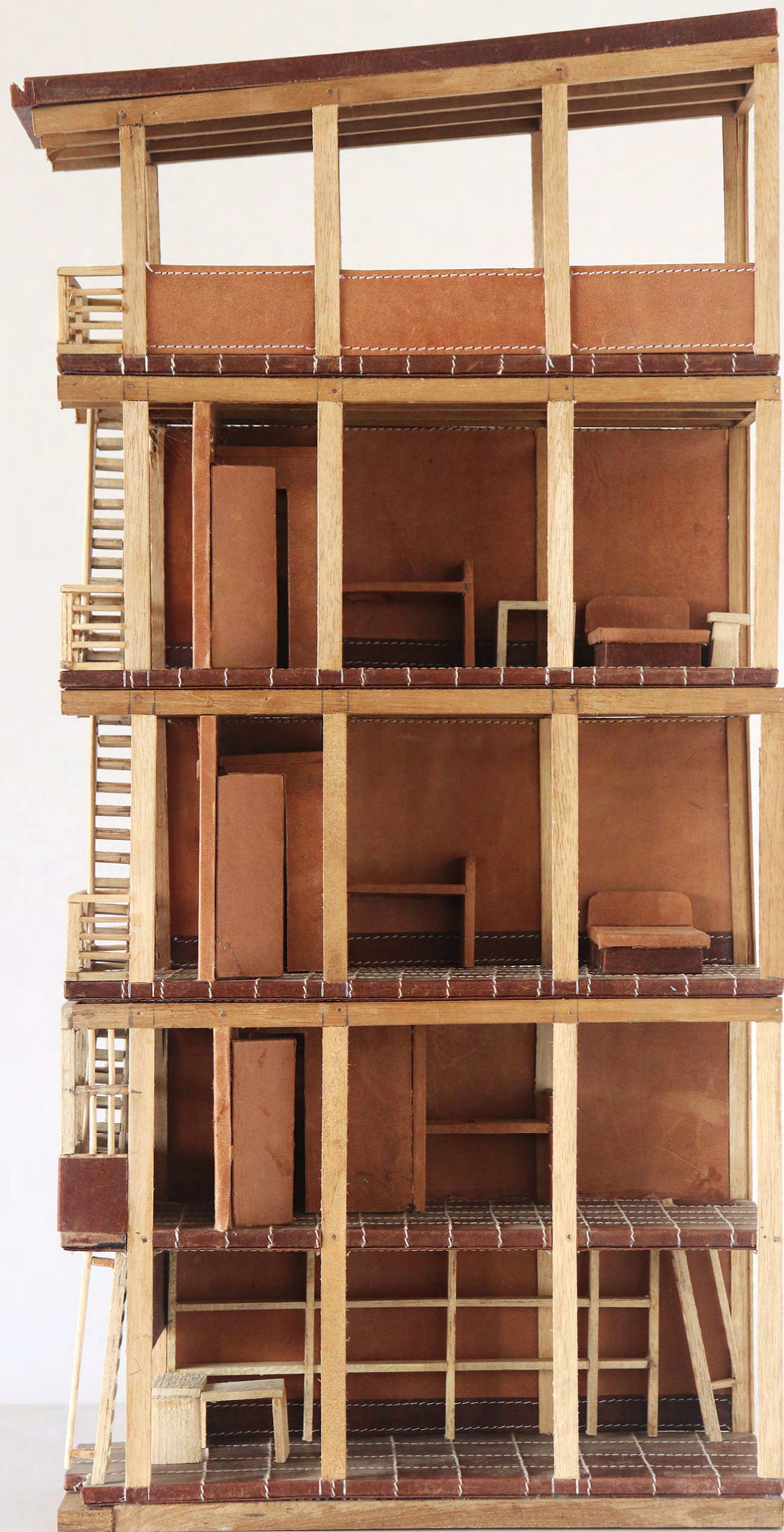
Top: Manoj and Phool Babu, discussing the intricacies and details of how the leather could be used with wood.

Right: Manoj detailing the facade of Noor Ahmed's workshop.



Thread stitched on leather to make a pattern that resembles floor tiles.

Hand-made wood and leather model of Nour Ahmed's tool-house by Manoj Vishwakarma and Phool Babu



Multi-functional terrace

Rental workshops/
manufacturing units

Rental workshops/
manufacturing units

Living

Retail rental



See more: urbz.net/homegrown

