

Can architects, designers, manufacturers keep on keeping the “user” in the center or the environment be kept in the center?

Is it either or?

Are these two separate components of design responsibility

As projects get complex

Which user.. Is a key question in our society

The discourse on public realm is entangled with several issues of equity, larger common good, a divided society, gated and contested spaces

## Position and responses

# Equity



EARLY PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE c.1984  
A CRITICAL LOOK AT HOUSING IN  
AN EMERGING INDIA







# Justice

ENGAGEMENT WITH SOCIETY  
ACT OF BUILDING AS BUILDING SOCIAL PRIDE  
AND  
BUILDING SOCIAL PRIDE AS DESIGN

ਇਕ ਓਕਾਰ  
(one god)

ਇਕ ਇੱਟ  
(one brick)

ਇਕ ਮਨੁੱਖ  
(one person)

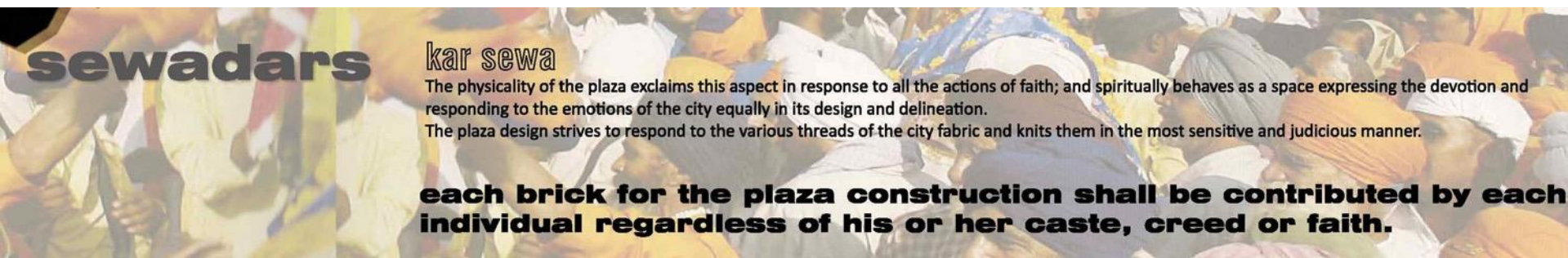
ਇਕ ਵੇਹੜਾ  
(one plaza)

THE GOLDEN TEMPLE FORECOURT COMPETITION

## ACT OF BUILDING AS BUILDING SOCIAL PRIDE



## BUILDING SOCIAL PRIDE AS DESIGN



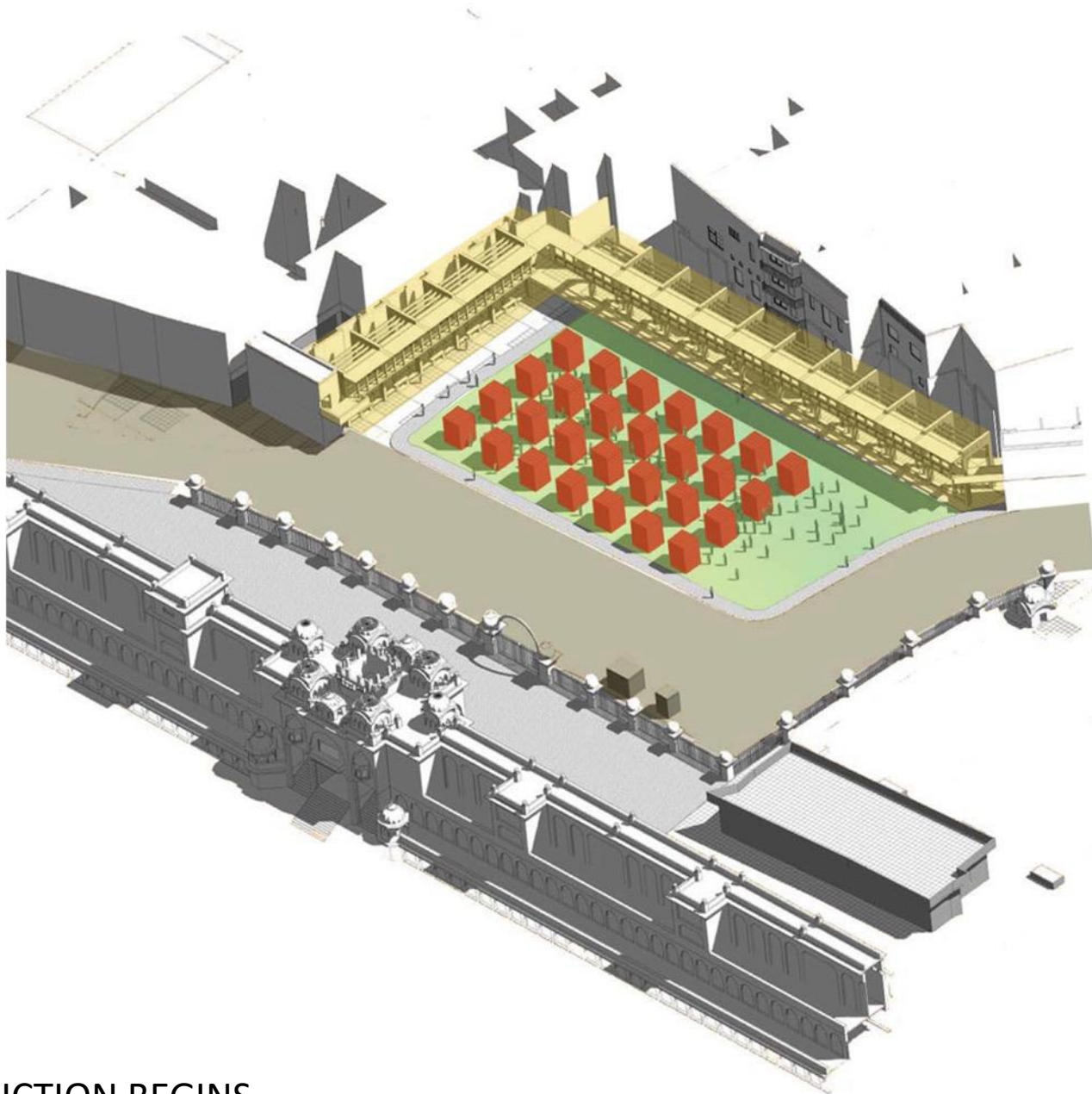


1: ESTABLISHMENT OF PLINTH  
KAR SEVA BEGINS

10<sup>th</sup> GRIHA Summit 2018 | 12.12.2018

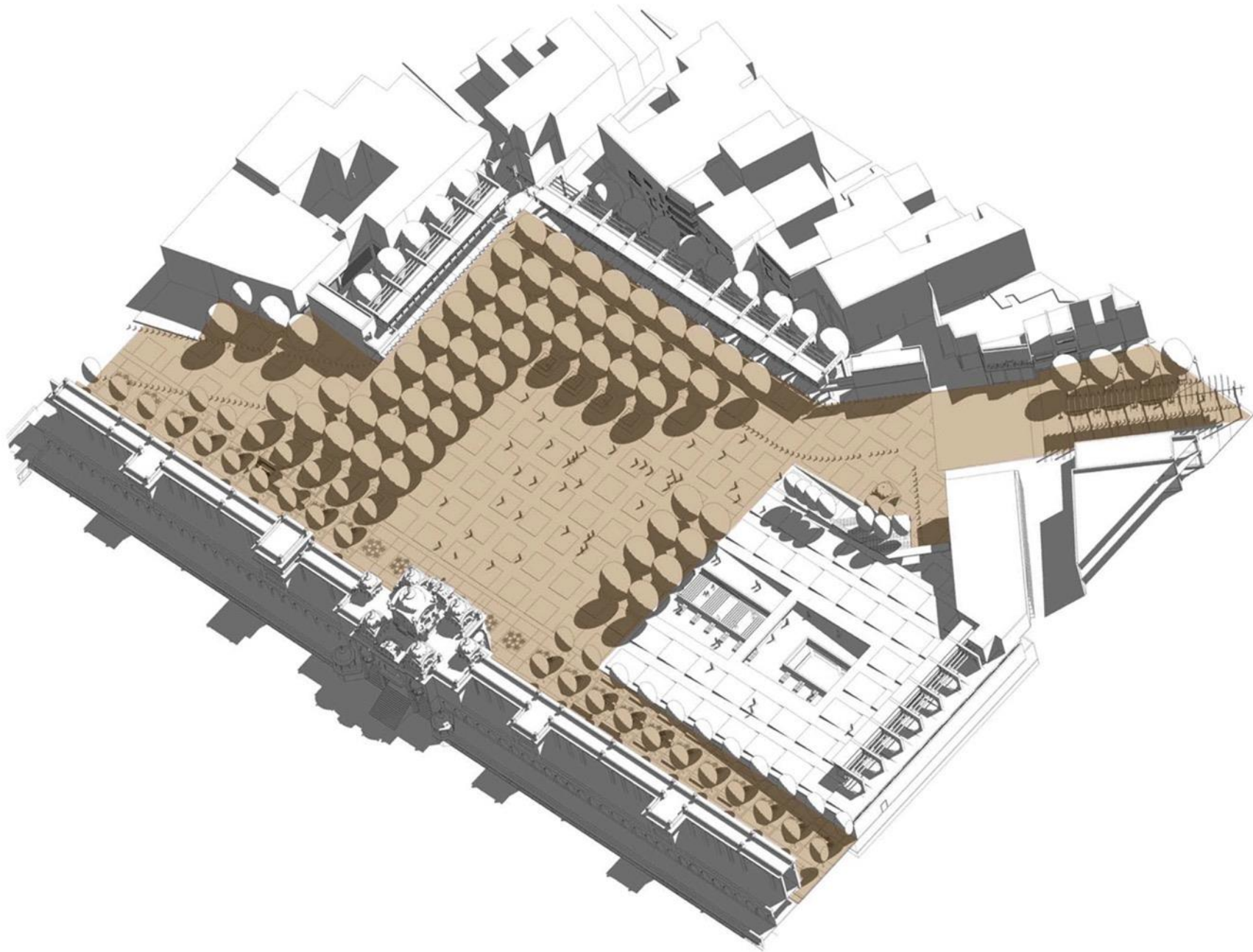
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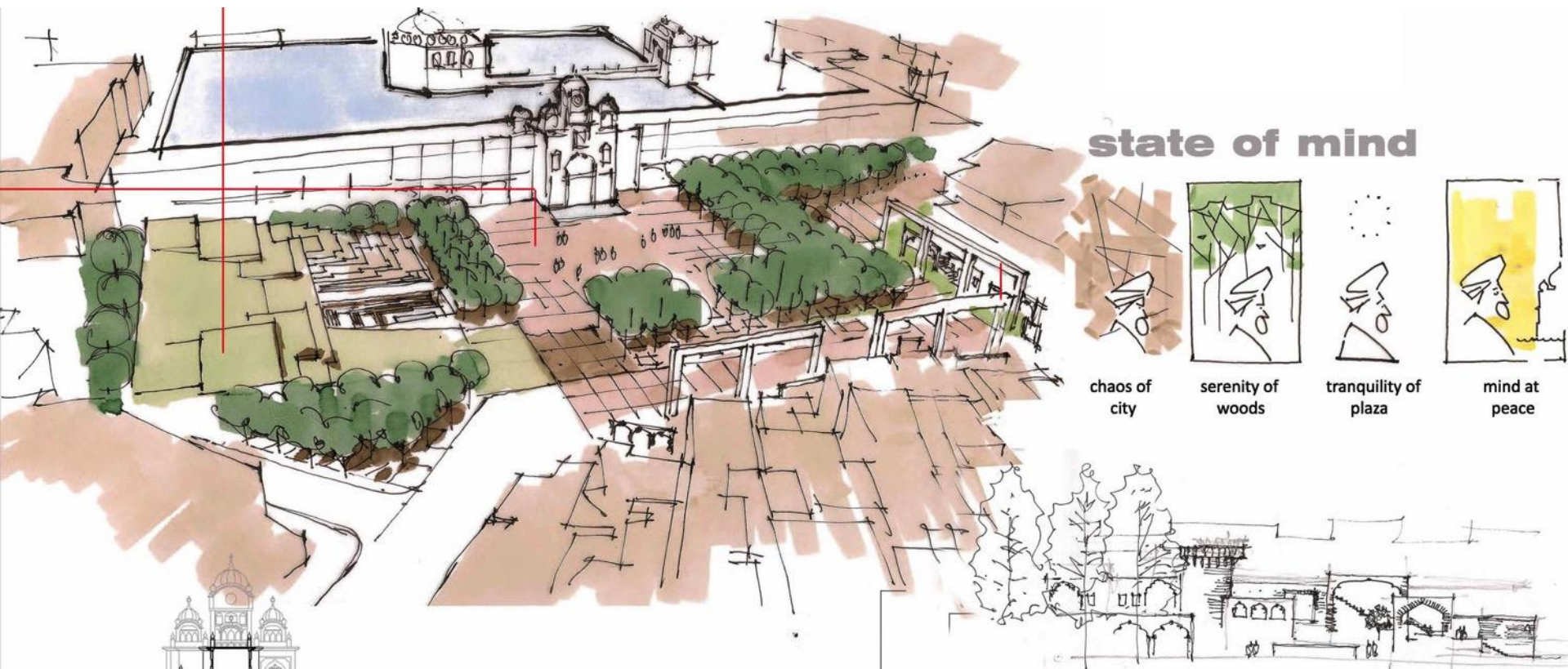




### 3: CONSTRUCTION BEGINS











Resilience

Resource

Equity



## CITY AND ITS LANDSCAPE

## MAHARASHTRA NATURE PARK







## MNP OVERVIEW

### Introduction

**Context:** Maharashtra Nature Park and Mithi river  
This competition is an opportunity to rejuvenate one of the rare parcels of urban forest that lie forgotten within the city and then on, call a spotlight on a much larger area, reaching from the upper reaches of the Mithi and Vikola Nallahs to the forgotten Mahul-Eastern waterfront corner.

The fortunes of the MNP are inextricably linked to it's upstream reaches, so even though not part of the core brief of this competition, one important part of our proposal looks to remediate the contaminated waters that flow through the estuarine delta, creating a more conducive environment for engaging with the riverside through the bridge and the MNP river front edge.

### The Design Elements

#### A. The river's edge as soft infrastructure

The design proposal at the regional level proposes a re-imagining of the existing waterways edges as a dynamic ecosystem that absorbs the monsoon overflow and serves as a green filter remedialling outflows into the water from the immediate surroundings. Parallelly, physical filters are proposed at the estuarine end to filter out some of the solid waste being thrown back by the sea tides. This is aimed at improving the quality of estuarine water, which will make this area more attractive from all banks- BKC and MNP.

#### B. Bridge as a destination

The proposal imagines the bridge as a series of linked nodes/ placemaking for people. The moment the quality of estuarine water improves, the bridge has the potential to become a destination rather than a simple cyclist/pedestrian connect, developing a new format of urban space missing from the city fabric today. It supports activities as diverse as bird watching and board games initiatives, where Mumbaiites can celebrate this forgotten connection with the water and open spaces. The bridge will not only serve as a non-vehicular visual icon connecting BKC and Dharavi but also an infrastructural addition to create social equity and access given its place in the implementation of the Dharavi Redevelopment Plan.

#### C. Spaces for All: The MNP

The Maharashtra Nature Park was developed with the best intentions but has never lived up to expectation as it was viewed in isolation and not within the larger urban context. Our aim is to integrate the MNP into popular perception through a two pronged strategy of upgradation/ intensification and notional expansion, without disrupting its flourishing ecology. Carefully planned educational and leisure activities include a boardwalk connector along the mangroves and mudflats expand the scope of the MNP, landscape interventions along the road front to create a more engaging interface with the city to see the hidden beauty of the estuarine ecosystem that is supported by the MNP

### LEGEND

- |                        |                                   |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 01 ENTRY               | 17 MEDICINAL PLANT SECTION        |
| 02 ENTRANCE PLAZA      | 18 NURSERY                        |
| 03 WELCOME CENTRE      | 19 FARMERS MARKET                 |
| 04 CAFE AND ADMIN      | 20 VERMICOMPOST PIT               |
| 05 REPOSITORY          | 21 FROMENACE                      |
| 06 PLAZA               | 22 JETTY                          |
| 07 KIDS PLAY AREA      | 23 BOARDWALK                      |
| 08 DETENTION POND      | 24 FISH PARKING OBSERVATORY DECKS |
| 09 BUTTERFLY PARK      | 25 AMPHITHEATRE                   |
| 10 SCRUBLAND           | 26 PUBLIC PARK                    |
| 11 EXISTING POND       | 27 BKC LANDING POINT              |
| 12 POND SIDE DECKS     | 28 PAUSE POINT                    |
| 13 WATCH TOWER         | 29 MNP PEDESTRIAN ENTRY           |
| 14 ELEVATED BIRD BLIND | 30 MNP LANDING POINT              |
| 15 ELEVATED WALKWAY    | 31 SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE          |
| 16 WOODLAND            | 32 REED BEDS                      |
|                        | 33 MULTILEVEL PARK                |



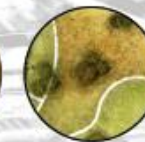
ELEVATED BIRD BLIND



BUTTERFLY PARK



DETENTION POND



SCRUBLAND



SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE



PAUSE POINT



VIEWING DECKS



KNOWLEDGE CENTRE

**Comprehensive Strategy Summary:**  
-Treating the water flowing through the Mahim Estuary will create a more pleasant environment on both the BKC and MNP banks.  
-Linking the two banks with not just the pedestrian bridge but also a mangrove boardwalk creates a recreational pedestrian/cyclist loop that will also rejuvenate the unused BKC cycle trail and make the entire area a vibrant community space.  
-Creating attractive landing points at both ends of the bridge- a plaza/amphitheatre at the BKC and an overlook into MNP at the other end- will invite more people to use the bridge, avoiding the fate of the foot over bridges that fall due to low foot fall.  
-Integrating the pedestrian bridge as one part of the MNP built structure brings more connectivity to the Park, and reduces the amount of net built mass in the park.  
-Providing amenities, albeit temporary, for the local residents at the presently encroached eastern end of the MNP, in the form of public toilets and a public park in the interim to mitigate the perceived threat to the slum redesign by the redesign proposed and address the current issue of open defecation. The bridge embedded in a series of remedialling landscape of reed beds etc, forms a sensitive boundary without being an obvious hard edge to the park.  
-Attempting to understand and alleviate the ecological issues that all the MNP, the interventions will include measures like detention

