



PALIMPSEST BARRAGÁN

17-26 JULY 2024

AA
VISITING SCHOOL
MAJAGUA BEACH MEXICO

Palimpsest Barragán / Abstract

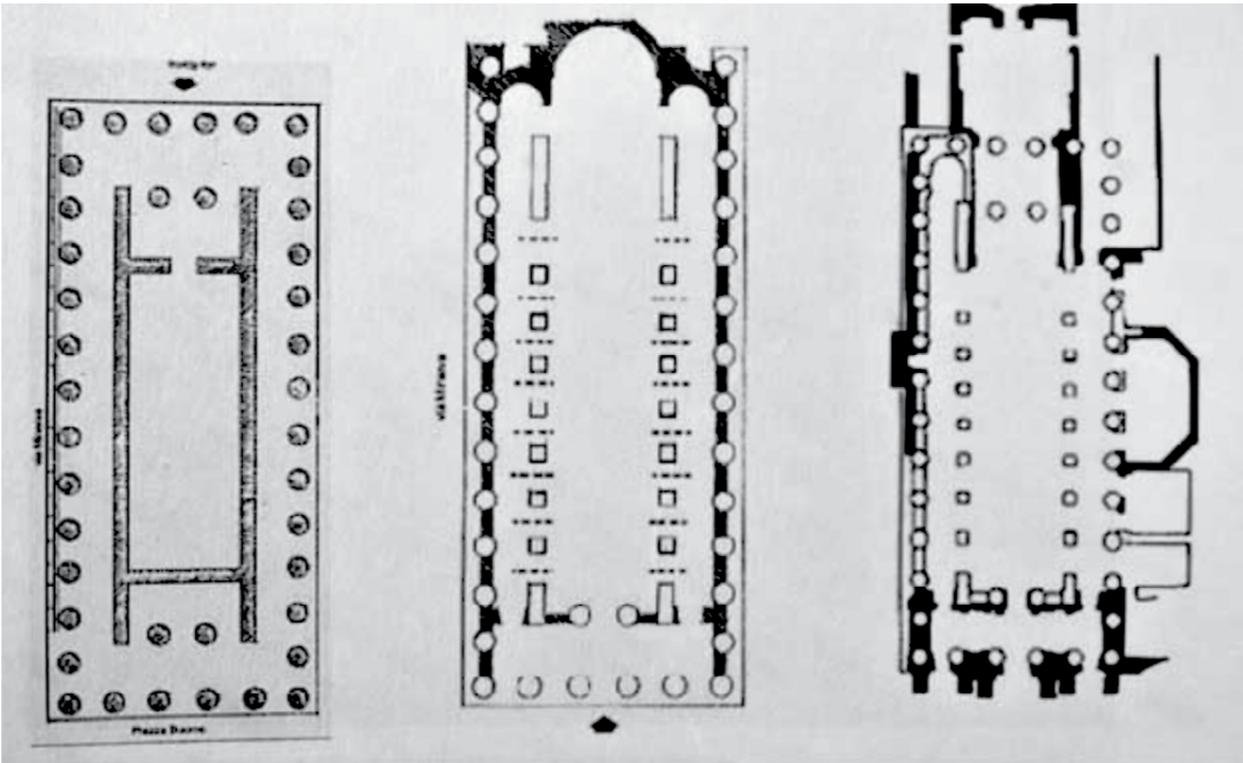
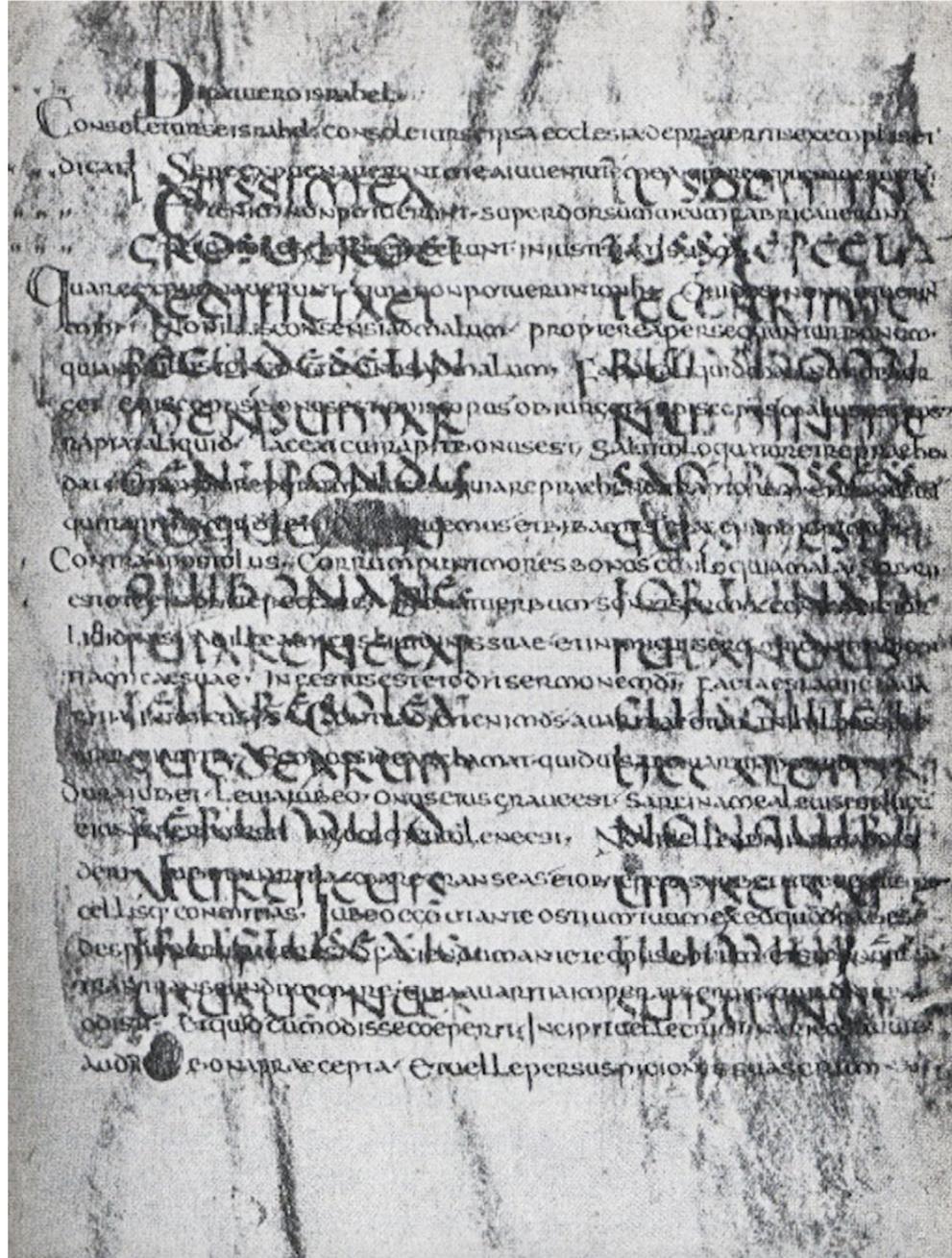
Palimpsest Barragan poses a once in a lifetime opportunity to engage eye to eye with an architectural masterpiece of 20th century modernism by the Mexican architect Luis Barragan. As a hidden and still unknown architectural jewel set amidst a paradisiac jungle on the Pacific coast, the ruins of the never completed building have sunk into oblivion, not unlike the ancient Mexican pyramids, and are currently in progressive decay. The workshop will not only 'unearth' the project and at last put it on the map of architectural discourse, but it might even have a larger impact by kickstarting a debate around the preservation of its ruins from disintegration.

As opposed to the ongoing aggressive commercial exploitation of wild locations of the country, we focus on re-use of the ruins and will explore new sustainable ways that will enable a second life for the remains. We reflect on Barragan's dialogue with landscape reminding us of the important correlation of architecture and nature.

A number of ancient manuscripts have survived only as palimpsests, as a hidden layer below new texts on a same parchment sheet. Similarly to historical palimpsests, the current state of Barragan's Colima jungle house can be read as the first layers of a transformative history that has more layers yet to come.

The workshop claims that any restoration or refurbishment of a building's ruins with the attempt to conserve its originality and authenticity can only fail. It rather masquerades the ruins as a grotesque image of what they perhaps never had been. Instead, a building might survive time more gracefully by having its structure transformed into a layer of a whole new identity, by dissolving its ruins into a new building, by becoming part of an 'architectural palimpsest'.

In the students' hypothetical design proposals the existing ruins of Barragan's jungle house get absorbed and dissolved into a new project. If such a new proposal was ever to be built it would become impossible to distinguish between new and old. Like an ancient palimpsest parchment that requires modern technology such as X-Ray or ultraviolet light to decipher the various layers of hand writing, only specific technologies like material sampling and chemical analysis might give a hint as to where the original ruins would end and the new extensions begin. The proposed architectural palimpsests stand confidently in the present with its roots in the DNA of Barragan's original work. The juxtaposition of the existing ruins with new additions or subtractions can become a process without defined end point, an endless drawing of layers, all contributing to the complexity of the palimpsest.



(left) Palimpsest of Bobbio, lower layer: text by Cicero, upper layer: text by Augustin, Enarr. in psalmos.

(right) Cathedral of Syracuse, an architectural palimpsest in three stages: 1. the Athenaiion; 2. the Byzantine church; 3. the present-day plan.

Majagua
Colima, México

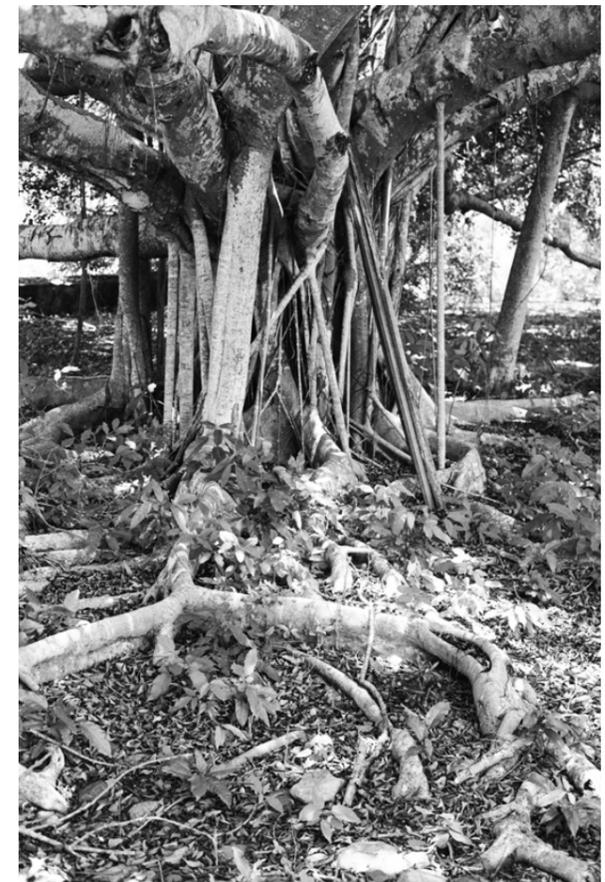
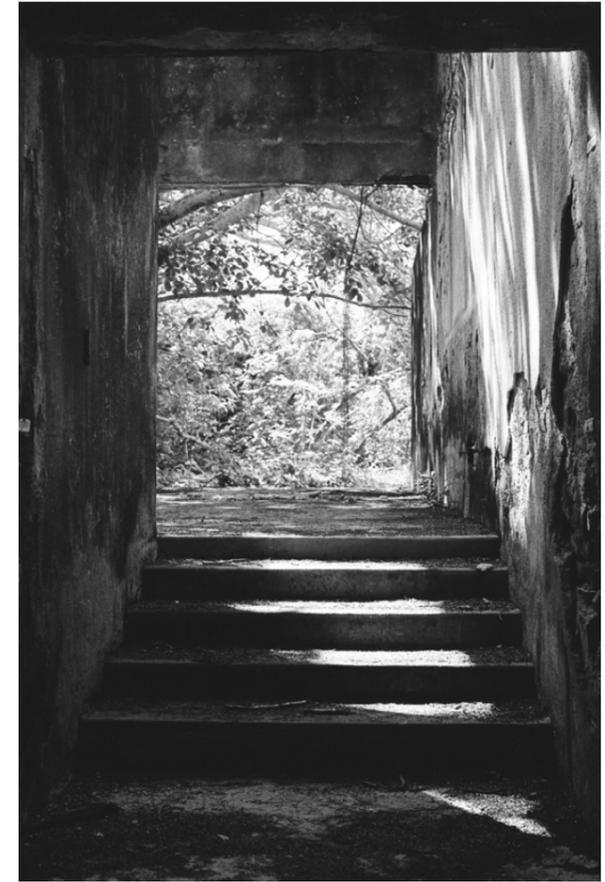




Casa Majagua
by Luis Barragán

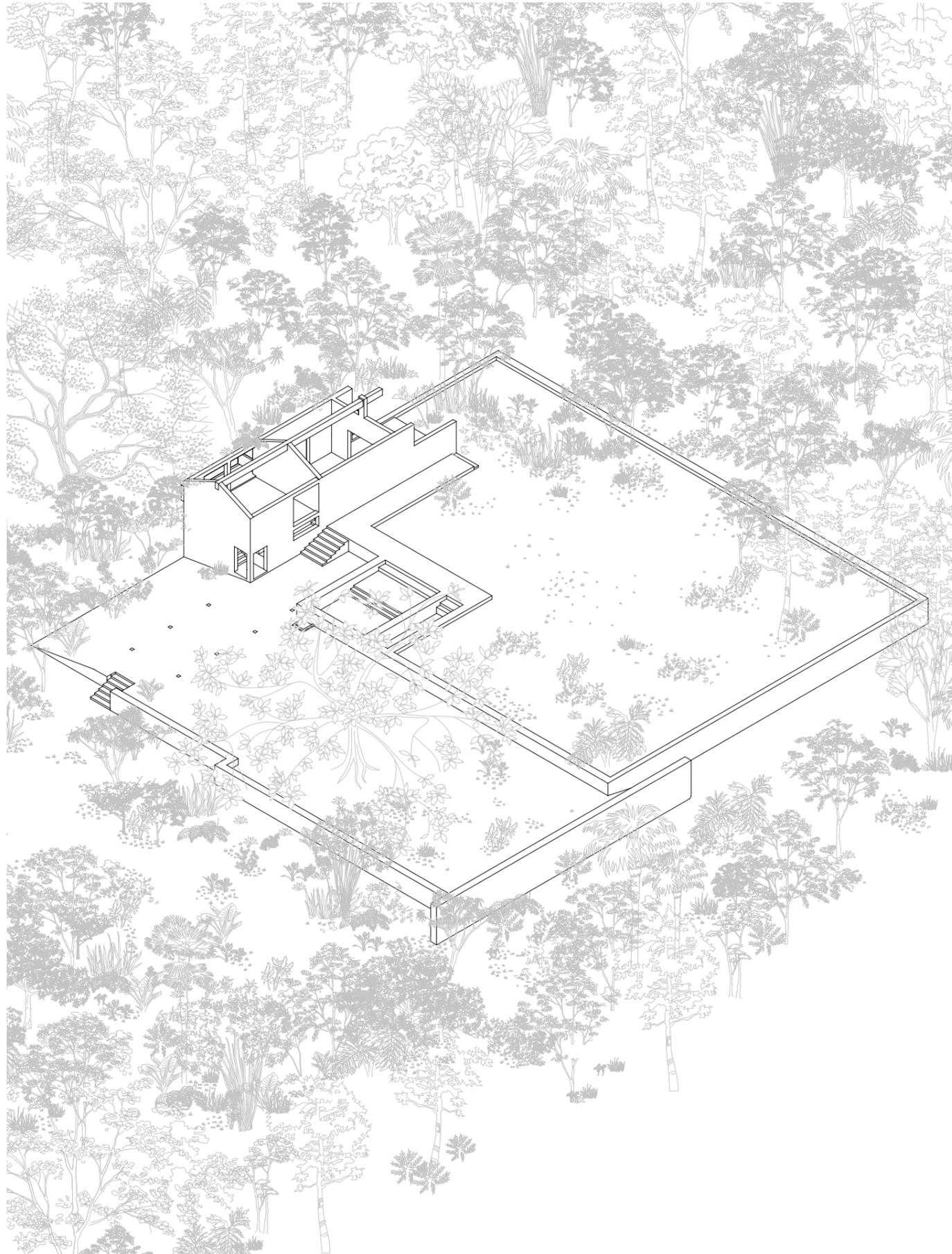


Luis Barragán with Chucho Reyes in Majahua, Colima, 1953.
by Armando Salas Portugal © Fundación Armando Salas Portugal, AC.

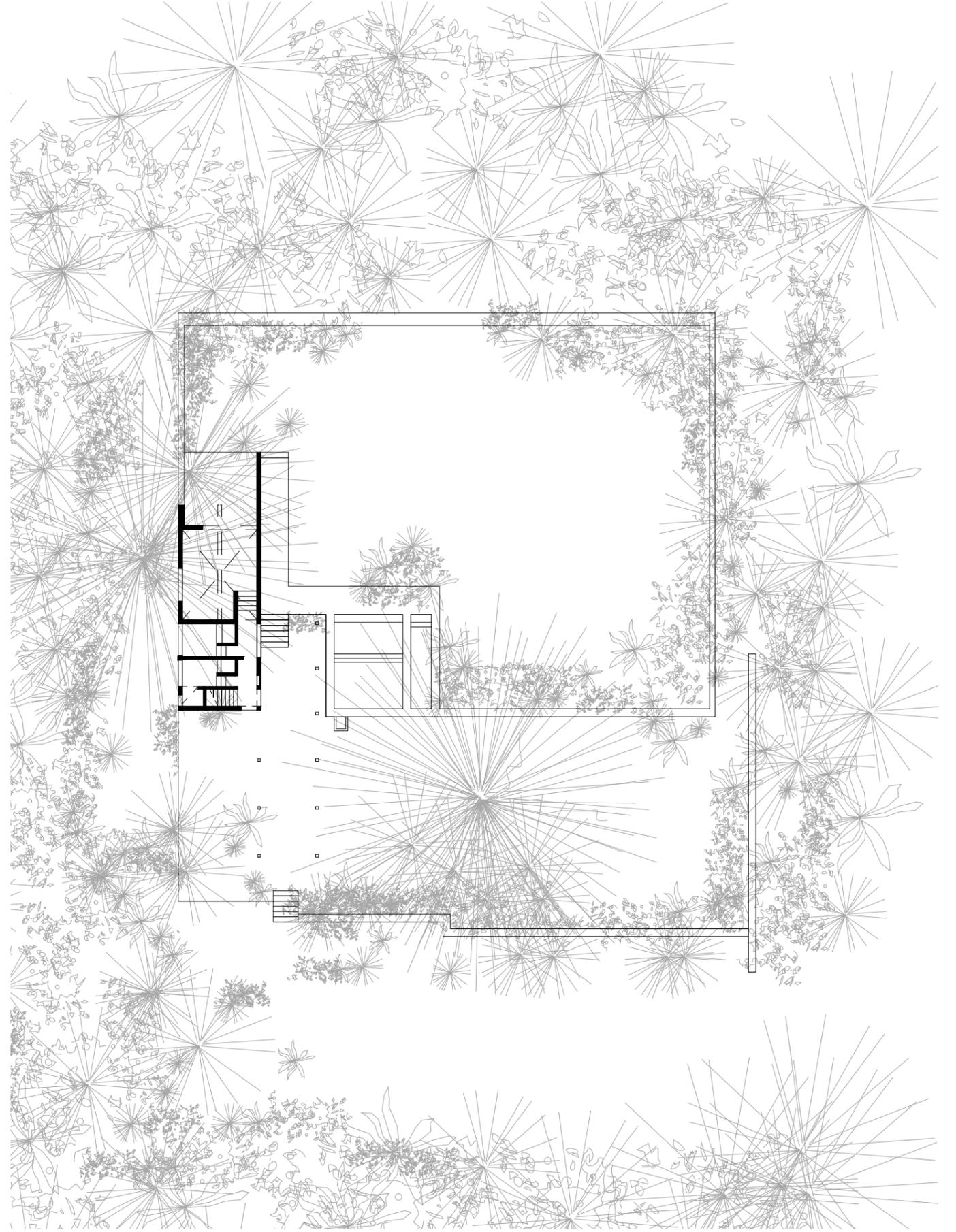


Casa Majagua by Luis Barragán, Colima México
© Carlos Candia 07/2023

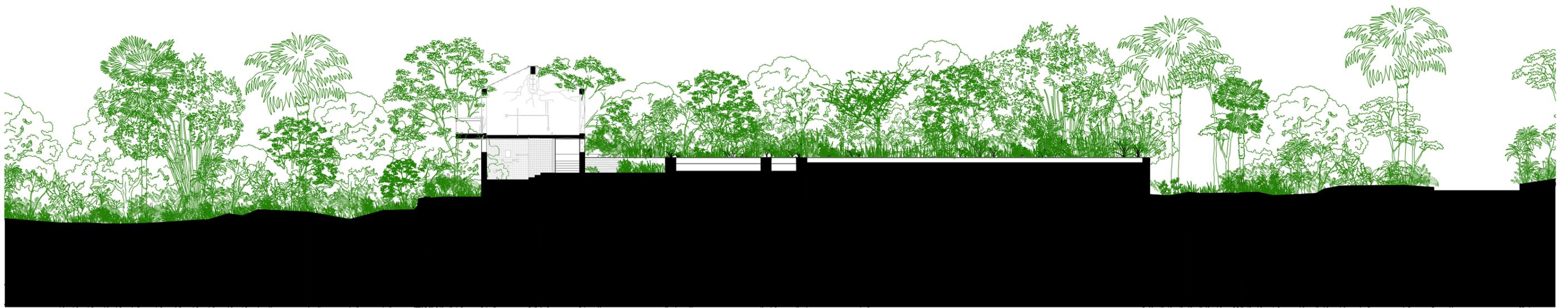




Axonometric - east view
Survey 07/2023



Ground Floor Plan
Survey 07/2023

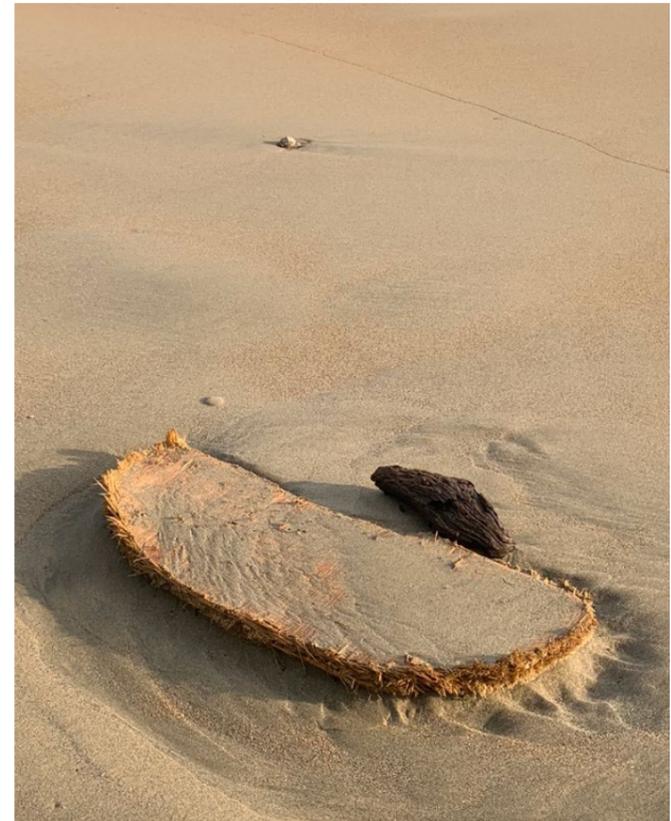
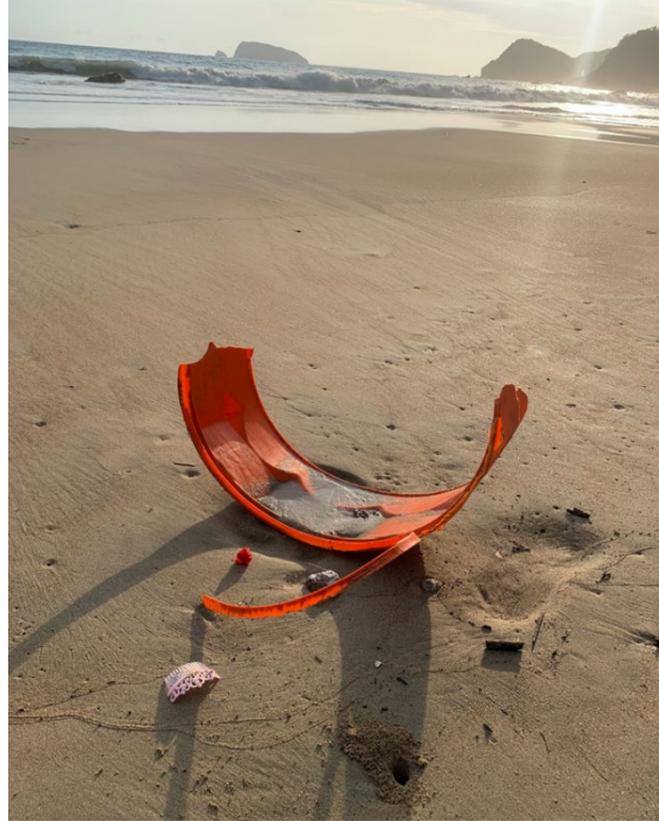


Sustainability



Sustainability

- Awareness and sensibility for the surrounding ecosystem
- Appreciation of cultural heritage of on-site ruins by Luis Barragán
- Analysis on local materials and sustainable construction methods
- Round table discussions
- Lectures on alternative means of construction
- Sustainable design exercises
- Digital detox
- Slow down and connection with nature
- Group experience and exchange
- Collection of rubbish on site



Plastic rubbish collected by students
Playa Majgua 07/2023

Programme



July 2024												
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	TRAVEL	COLIMA	COLIMA	COLIMA	COLIMA	COLIMA	COLIMA	COLIMA	COLIMA	COLIMA	COLIMA	TRAVEL
	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 am - 1 pm	Arrival in Colima	Introduction: - Students - Architectural Association - Visiting School - Palimpsest Barragán	On-Site	Visit of Site of Interest Cuyutlán	Workshop	Intermediate presentations Jury TBC - Juan Palomar (architect) - Jaime Ashida Cueto	Workshop Santiago Arau Fotógrafo	Presentation CEMEX on Sustainability - Daniel Sastre Lombera - Rocío de la Luz Bautista Palacios Ramirez - Aldo Rogelio Capuchino Cardenas - Raul Juarez Perezlete Santiago Arau Fotógrafo	Workshop	Preparation for presentation	Final presentations Jury TBC - Juan Palomar (architect) - Agustín Solórzano (Sorórzano Fischer) - Surella Segú (El Cielo)	Colima - CDMX
1 pm - 3 pm		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		Lunch		
3 pm - 5 pm		First visit to the ruin 'Casa Majahua' Introduction: - Organisation	Design Review	Design Review	Presentation Juan Palomar	Gathering at the beach Drinks	Design Review	Design Review	Design Review	Design Review	Gathering at the beach Drinks	
5 pm - 7 pm		Workshop	Workshop	Workshop	Workshop	Free	Workshop	Workshop	Workshop	Preparation for presentation	Cleaning & Packing	
7 pm - 9 pm												

Workshop

Process

1. Memory

- free-hand floor plan drawing from memory after first visit
- individual work

2. Survey

- further detail and amendments to existing survey drawing set
- preparation of elevations: drawn analysis on site with documentation of wear of time in
- format: hand drawing, pencil on paper
- work in groups

3. Overgrowth I - House

- transformation into weekend house
- second layer to existing ruins, forms of controlled overgrowth
- format: floor plan drawing at 1:100, pencil on paper
- collective overlay palimpsest drawing
- individual work

4. Overgrowth II - Satellites

- exploring ideas of building satellites on the beach based on phase 3
- format: floor plan drawing at 1:100, pencil on paper
- individual work

I. Memory





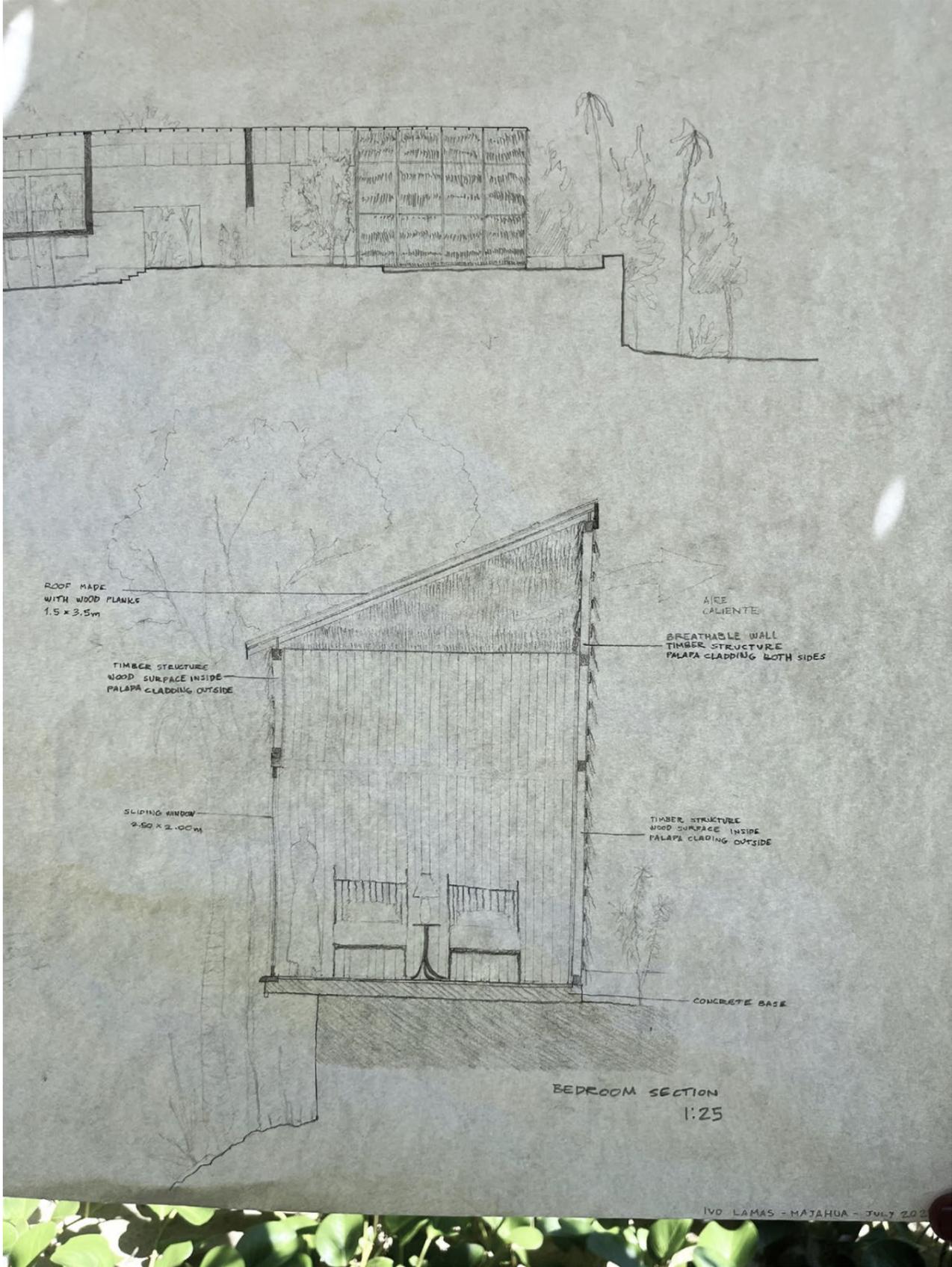
2. Survey







3. Overgrowth I - House







4. Overgrowth II - Satellites



Guests Critics & Lectures











Excursion





Team Spirit













Contributors

- **Students:** Pablo Aguilar (Iberoamerican University), Patricio Arouesty, (Anáhuac University), Josef Grillmeier (University of Applied Sciences Würzburg-Schweinfurt), Nina Kirste (University of Applied Sciences Munich), Ivo Lamas (Mckenzie University), Ricardo Matute (Iberoamerican University).
- **Programme Directors & Tutors:** Ingrid Moye, Christoph Zeller.
- **Assistent:** Julio Cavallucci.
- **Architectural Association:** Christopher Pierce, Mariia Pastukh.
- **Guest Critics:** Jaime Ashida (curator), Juan Palomar (architect, founder of Fundación de Arquitectura Tapatía Luis Barragán), Surella Segú (architect, El Cielo), Agustín Solórzano (architect, Solórzano+Fischer).
- **Guest Lecturers:** Santiago Arau (photographer), Juan Palomar (architect, founder of Fundación de Arquitectura Tapatía Luis Barragán); Aldo Rogelio Capuchino Cardenas, Daniel Sastre Lombera (CEMEX).
- **Special guests and supporters:** María Álvarez del Castillo (cultural promotion), Fernando Palomar (artist), Julien Devaux (artist), Paula Valdez (cultural promotion), Raul Juarez Perezlete (professor, TEC de Monterrey, Guadalajara).
- **On-site service & Catering:** Adela Rentería González and family.
- **Sponsor:** CEMEX / Rocío de la Luz Bautista Palacios Ramirez, Aldo Rogelio Capuchino Cardenas, Juan Miguel Gutiérrez Rodríguez, Daniel Sastre Lombera.

The AA Visiting School 'Palimpsest Barragán, Majagua Beach Mexico' is made possible thanks to the support by CEMEX.

