

DOCUMENTATION OF THEERTHAM

THEERTHAM : NARNA THEERTHAM DOCUMENTATION



NARNA THEERTHAM LOCATED IN THE VOLIKUDA VILLAGE, MAJORLY OCCUPIED BY FISHING COMMUNITY. DISCONNECTION OF THE OLD PILGRIM PATH AND LACK OF MAINTAINANCE, THEERTHAM DOES NOT REMAINED AS SACRED. RESIDENCES AROUND THIS THEERTHAM USES THEERTHAM WATER FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSE INCLUDING WASHING CLOTHES AND VESSELS. "GREEN RAMESHWARAM" HAS TAKEN INITIATIVE TO CONSTRUCT COMPOUND WALL AROUND THEM TO PROTECT IT.



NARNA THEERTHAM VIEW



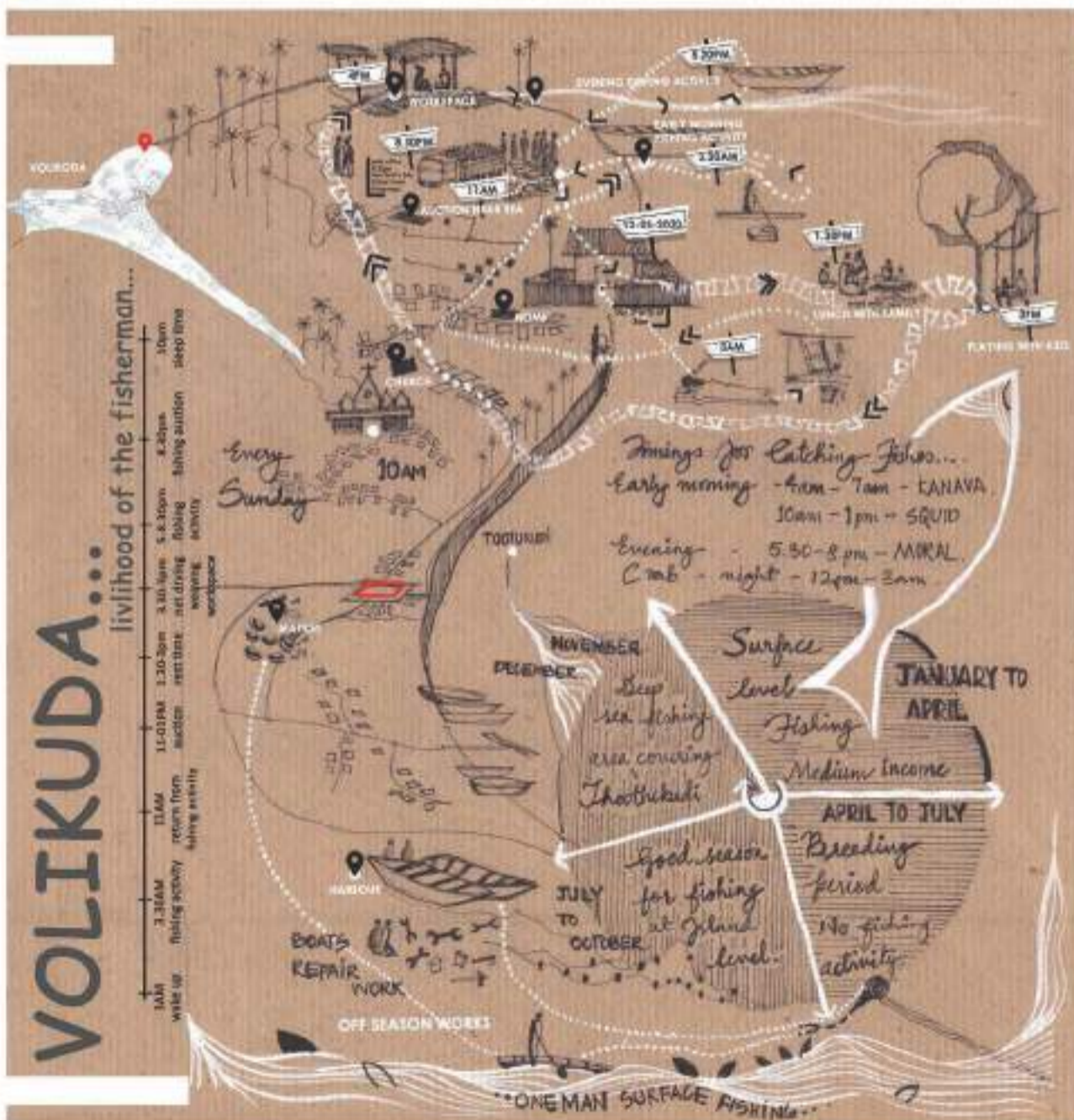
HOUSING TYPOLOGY



STATUE OF MOTHER MARY

STREET EDGES

STAKEHOLDER STUDY :



STAKEHOLDER : FISHERMAN OF OLAIKUDA REGION



NAME : YESUDAS  
AGE : 42 yrs  
OCCUPATION : fishing

Yesudas belongs to CHRISTIAN community, lives in Volikuda fishing village, his whole family depends on fishing activities. He is the third generation of his family who involved in fishing occupation.

INCOME : normal days : 90 to 150rs/day during season : 800 to 1300/day

FESTIVAL : CHRISTMAS - community festival. KATCHATEEVU - fishermen of Rameshwaram celebrates.

FOOD STYLE : Rice and Rason along with fish.

FAMILY : Father works as a watchmen in restaurant of Rameshwaram. Wife helps in his fishing activities and he has 3 kids.

OCCUPATION : Yesudas goes to early morning fishing activity every alternate days and other day he will be involved in catching SQUIDS in the surface water. Fishing activities are mainly depends on the natural lighting techniques, few fishes like to float on the surface of the water due to the sunlight and moonlight, based on that timing fishermen catches the fish. During breeding time fishermen involved themselves in boat repairing works and net wearing works.

ISSUES : Major issue faced by this fishermen are connectivity to main fishmarket. Since the only one road available to connect main harbour and market from Volikuda which is majorly covered by sanddunes, fisherman faces challenge in transporting fishes. These fishermen houses lacks basic facilities including water supply and sanitation.



CHURCH



RESIDENCE



**RAMESHWARAM...journeying through the sands of time through Shala theertha and alyo**

**redefining the STREET EDGE CONDITIONS**  
multifunctional, active all the time,  
provider/better for homeless.

**Street or a RUPTURE**  
URBANOIDS

**converging and reconnecting old paths to  
out or a SHORTCUT and ALTERNATIVE path  
for local.**

**FACT:**  
RACE 1 DIRECT WATER TO HANDS  
WATER SUPPLY WILL BE FLAT WITH  
OR MAKE PEOPLE RISKY  
UNSAFE.

**CON:**  
WILL AS CONVEY AND  
WATER SUPPLY  
21:10:00

**PRO:**  
WE DON'T KNOW ANY  
GREAT IDEAS TO OFFER  
GIVE US RECOMMENDATIONS

**PRO:**  
PROVIDING  
MULTIFUNCTIONAL  
SPACE FOR  
WORK

**CON:**  
WE DON'T HAVE  
ANY IDEAS

**PRO:**  
ROADS ARE THE  
BEST OPTION  
FOR US TO STAY  
RISHY RIVER  
AND SLEEP  
EVERYDAY

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

**URBAN SPACES**

**VOID**

**CONNECTIVITY**

**STRUCKS, RETAINS**

**ADAPTIVE**

**NEW TYPOLOGY**

**PEDESTRIAN HUB**

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

**PIGIRIMAGE**

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

**VISUAL INTUITION**

**TOSS CONDOMS**

**DENSE**

**COMPACT**

**LAND PRESSURE**

**FISHING**

**RECREATING THE JOY URBAN LANDSCAPE OF RAMESHWARAM INTO ITS OLDER FABRIC THROUGH  
NEW DESIGN STANDARDS AND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PUBLIC REALM TO RECREATE THE  
IMAGE OF THE CITY.**

**PEDESTRIAN HUB**

**VENDORS**

**SMILING**

**VEHICLES**

**Introducing new STREET DESIGN STANDARDS.**

**Introducing new building bye-laws  
and BUILT TYPOLOGY**

**buildings are disturbing view betw...  
daddy...  
lift me up I can't see Gopuram**

**I am looking  
my new address  
can't reach home  
entry from school  
way**

**gopuram are all  
the way in  
our street now,  
what!**

**even though I  
handle?  
all are on top of me  
together in same  
street!**

**FORMATIVE PERIOD**

During this period many pilgrims traveled bare footed from across the various regions of India mainly from north part and used to stay for long time till their pilgrimage is done. In 700AD Adi Shankaracharya traveled to Rameshwaram as a part of teaching the principles of Advaita. The existing Theerthams in the island were created by pilgrims which catered for their livelihood and the pilgrims used to stay around it. Theerthams were named on the characters in Ramayana.

**PRE COLONIAL PERIOD**

**URBAN DESIGN STUDIO**

Batch 2019-20 2nd Sem M.Arch

During this period regional rulers donated few lands, villages and dharmashalas around Rameshwaram to accommodate pilgrims who travel from other regions. Temple prakarams, Devasthanam houses were also constructed to accommodate pilgrims.

- Cultural markers
- Settlements
- Dharmashalas
- Theerthams

- Cultural markers
- Devasthanam Houses
- Settlements
- Dharmashalas
- Theerthams
- Pandas Houses/ Mutts



**COLONIAL PERIOD**

Introduction of railways increased the influx of pilgrims to Rameshwaram. Many Chattrams were built to accommodate pilgrims, out of which Tanjore Rajah Choultry, Ramanad Rajah Choultry and Venkata Rao Choultry were the big Chattrams and would cater to large number of people. Those who doesn't wish to stay in Chattrams had an opportunity to stay in Devasthanam houses or in the panda house. Thriupanni buildings were built to accommodate temple construction workers. Temple management buildings were built on the east street to accommodate trustees.

**POST COLONIAL PERIOD**

Dhanushkodi suffered from Cyclone in 1964, which destroyed the complete town. So all the infrastructures and the settlements were shifted to Rameshwaram. A new railway line was constructed in Rameshwaram. Many people migrated from other cities and settled here because of the new development happening in the city. Many commercial activities started along the middle street. Old mutt/residential buildings were converted to commercial shops/hotels. The city grew towards SW side because of the movement of pilgrims from railway station to temple.

- Theerthams
- Cultural markers
- Devasthanam Houses
- Thriupanni buildings
- Temple buildings
- Chattrams
- Chank stores
- Pandas Houses/ Mutts
- Chattrams
- Railway Station
- Hospital
- Settlements

- Theerthams
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- Chattrams
- Railway Station
- Settlements



**HOW SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURES AND ECONOMICAL FORCES WEAVE THEIR NETWORK WITH PILGRIMS?**

