

***Home, Homing, Home-Escape:  
Achieving Sustainable Rural Tourism in Post-COVID Huyuan Town, China***

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of Architecture  
Harvard University Graduate School of Design, by

***Annabelle Jiajing Li***

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of  
[Master of Architecture]

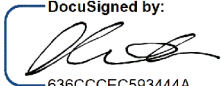
***01/2024***

(Month and Year Thesis Submitted)

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*Jiajing Li*

[Student Name]

DocuSigned by:  
  
636CCCEC593444A... Elizabeth Whittaker

[Thesis Advisor Name]

# Home, Homing, Home-Escape



Achieving Sustainable Rural Tourism in Post-COVID Huyuan Town, China

*Home, Homing, Home-Escape*



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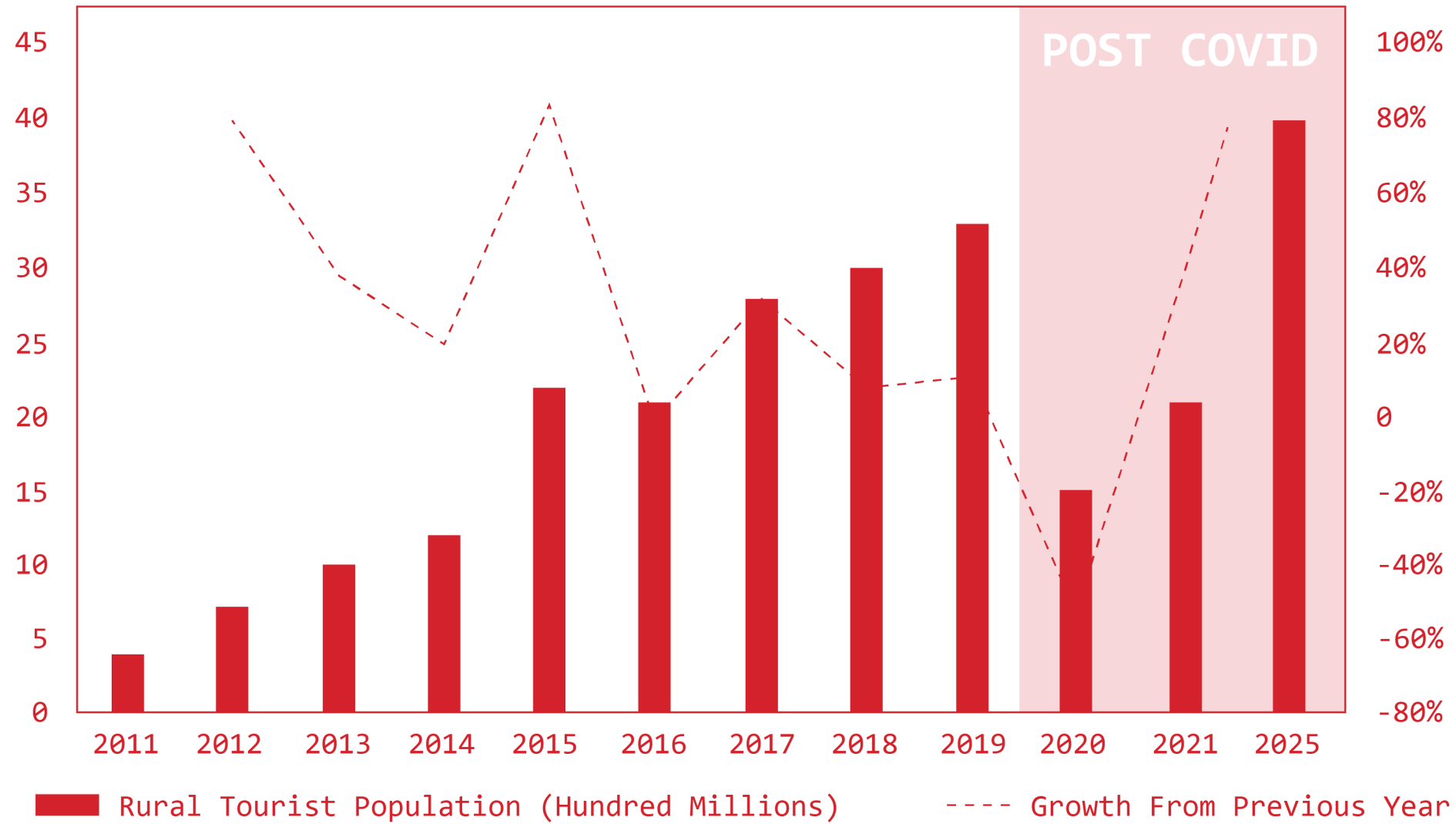
# 1. Background

Rural Tourism in Post-Covid China

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## TOURIST POPULATION GROWTH



\*Data from <https://www.qianzhan.com/analyst/detail/220/230322-7d2b3c73.html>

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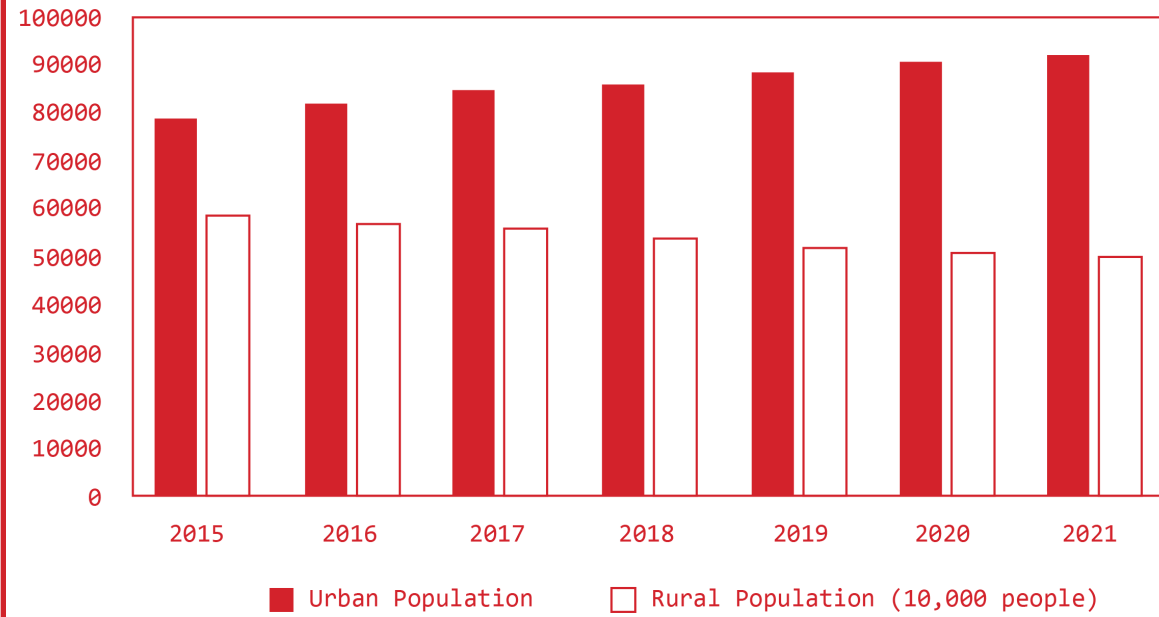
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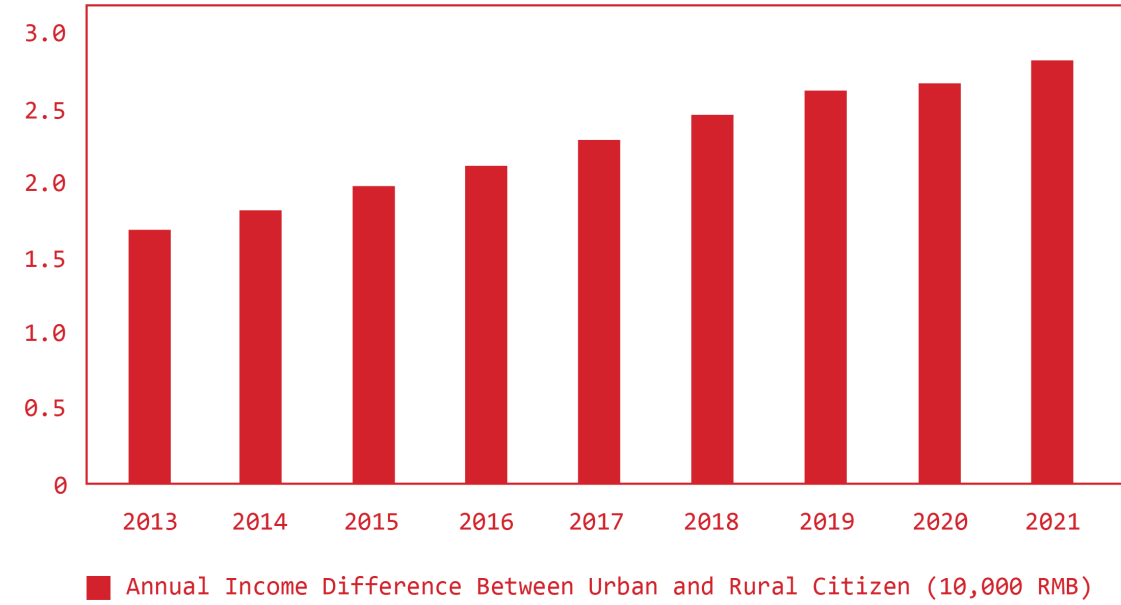
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## RURAL URBAN COMPARISM

\_Urban vs Rural Population



\_Urban vs Rural Income



\*Data from <https://www.chinabaogao.com/detail/607171.html>

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RURAL VS URBAN

Rural? Urban?

*“ The wide-ranging operations and impacts of urbanization process beyond the large centers of agglomeration, including zones of resource extraction, agro-industrial enclosure logistics and communications infrastructure tourism and waste disposal, which often traverse peripheral, remote apparently ‘rural’ or ‘natural’ locations.”*

Neil Brenner

“Implosion/explosions: toward a study of planetary urbanization”

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## RURAL TOURISM

### Rural Tourism = Capitalist Consumerism Playground?



#### 1. Emergence of Middle Class

76% of China's urban population  
became middle class in 2022

#### 2. Consumerism Oriented

Express wealth, taste and identity  
26--35 years old (rural tourist)  
prone to focus on experience, quality  
service, the Chinese Idyll lifestyles

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## \_The Romantisized Chinese Idyll



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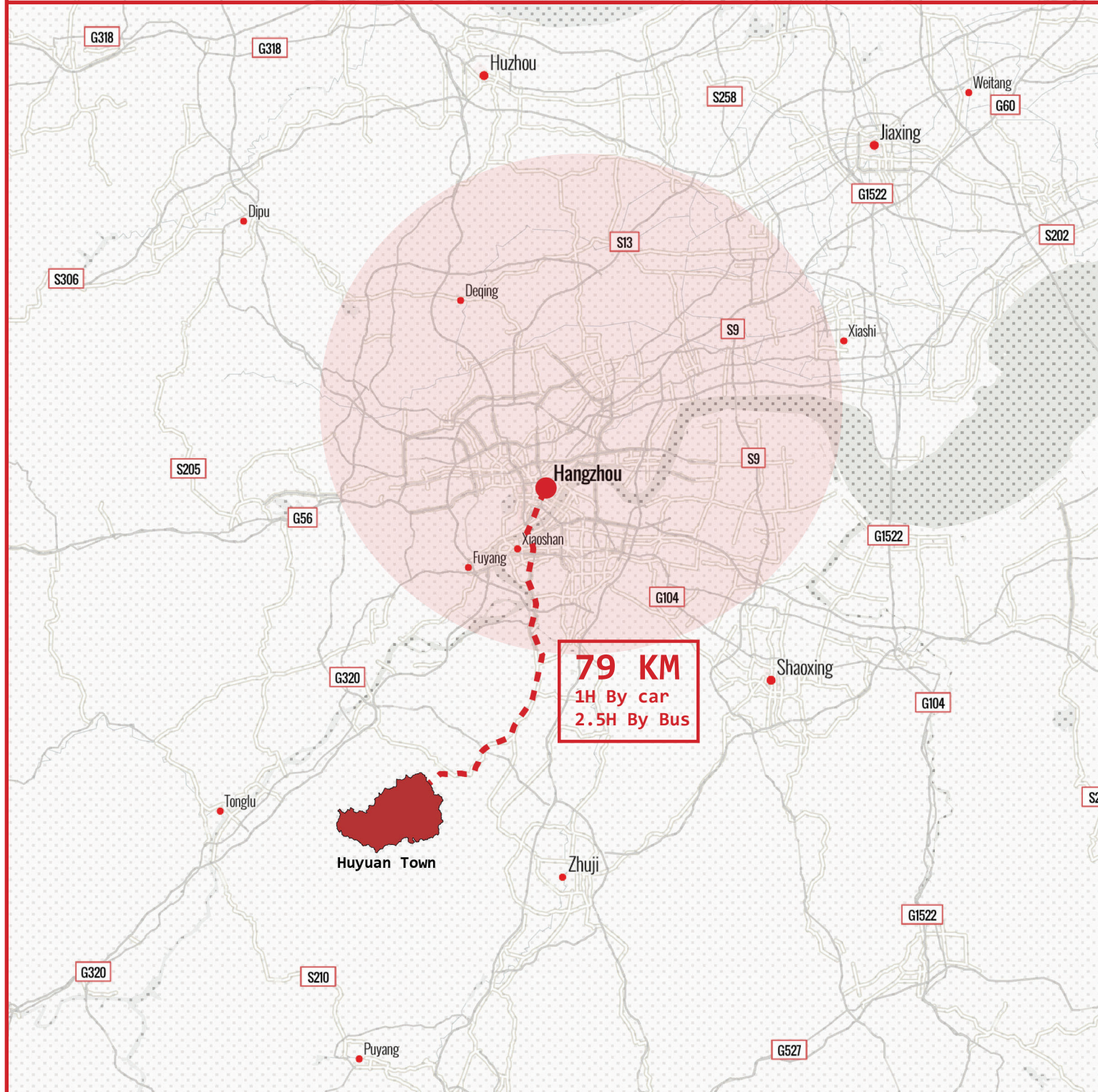
## **2. The Story**

**\_Rise and Disappearance of Huyuan Town**

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## LOCATION



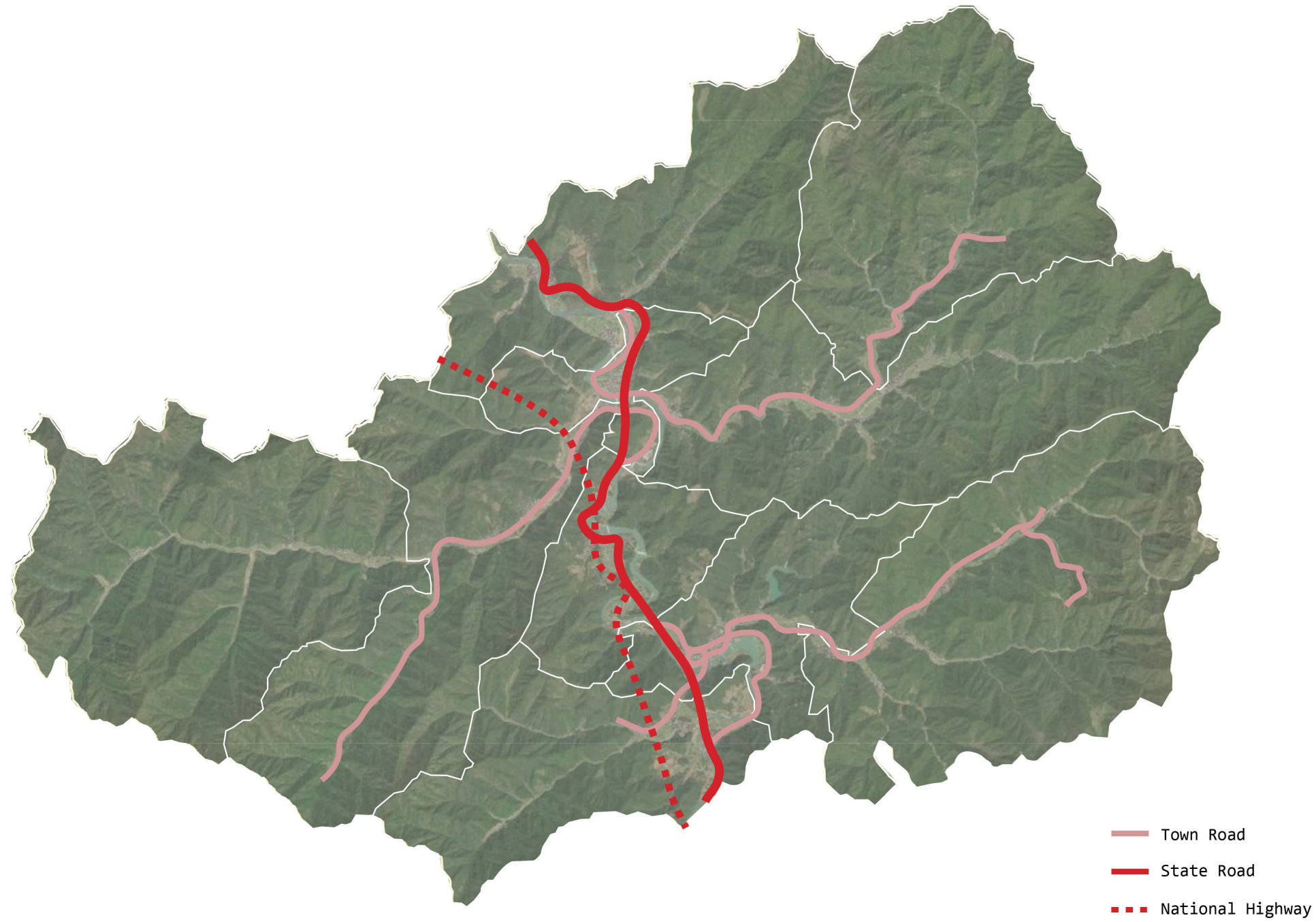
**HUYUAN TOWN**  
Hangzhou,  
Zhejiang

**AREA**  
125.87 km<sup>2</sup>

**POPULATION**  
15,169 (2021)

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## TRANSPORTATION

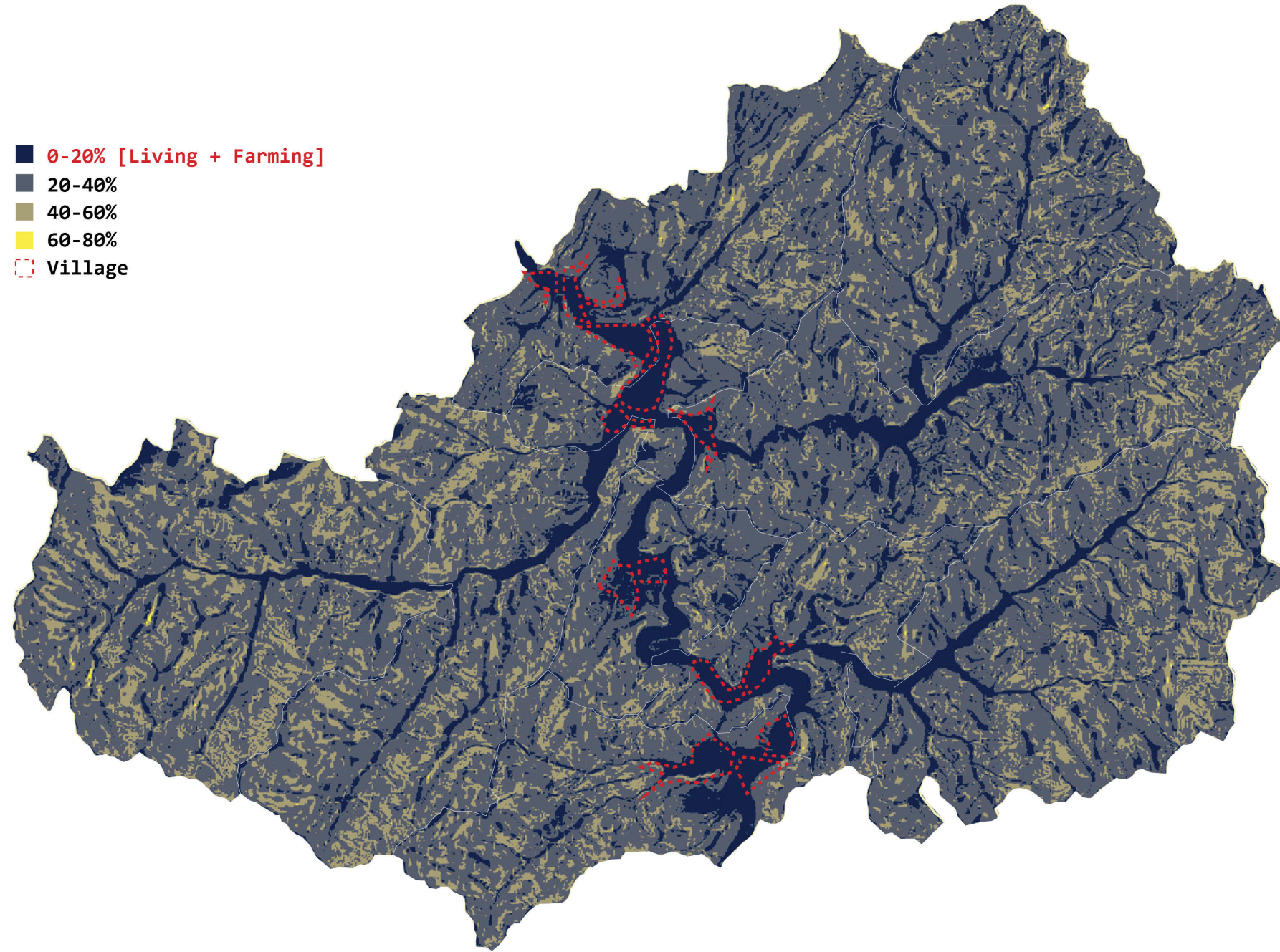


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## TOPOGRAPHY SLOPE

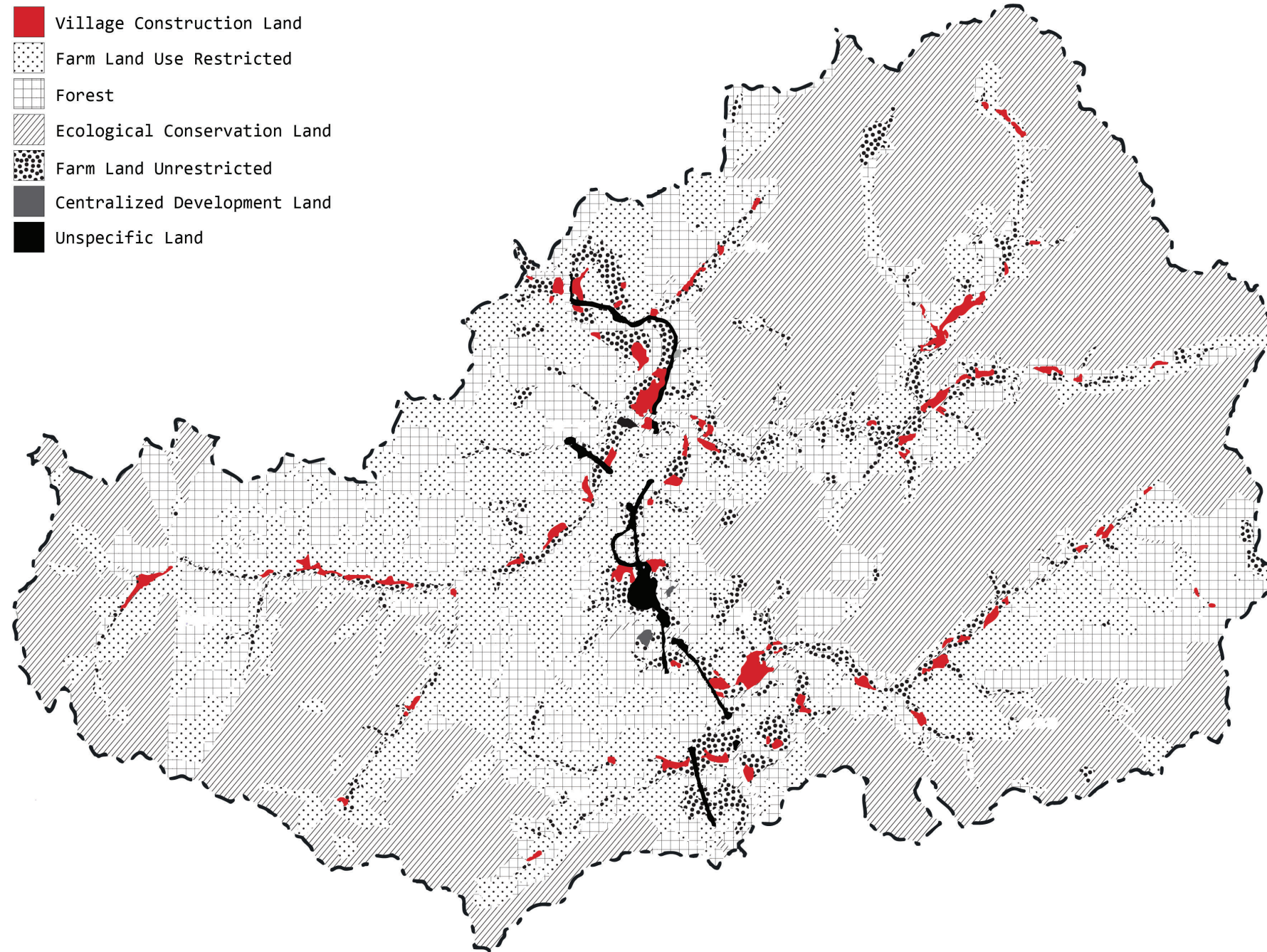
- 0-20% [Living + Farming]
- 20-40%
- 40-60%
- 60-80%
- Village



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## LAND USE

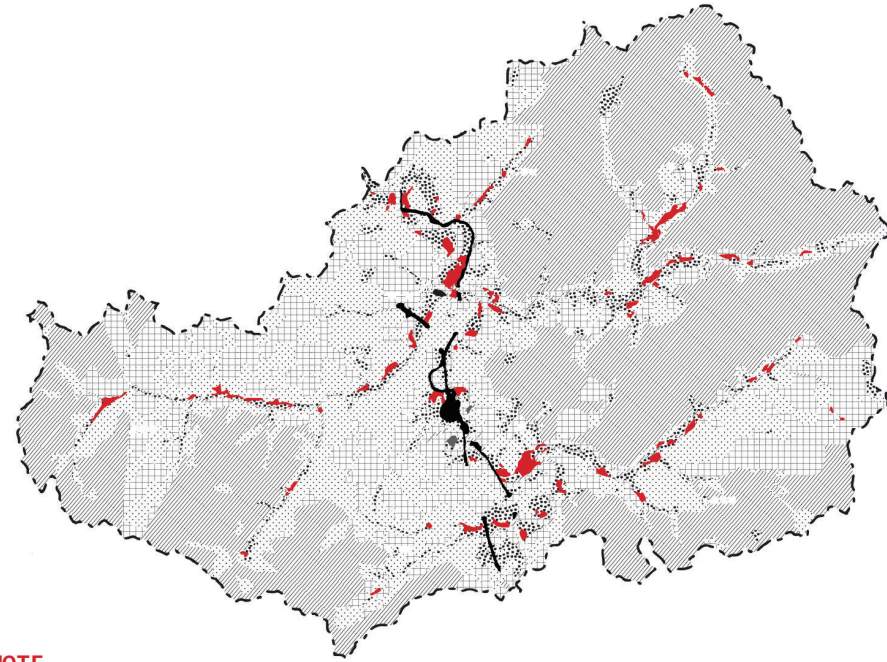


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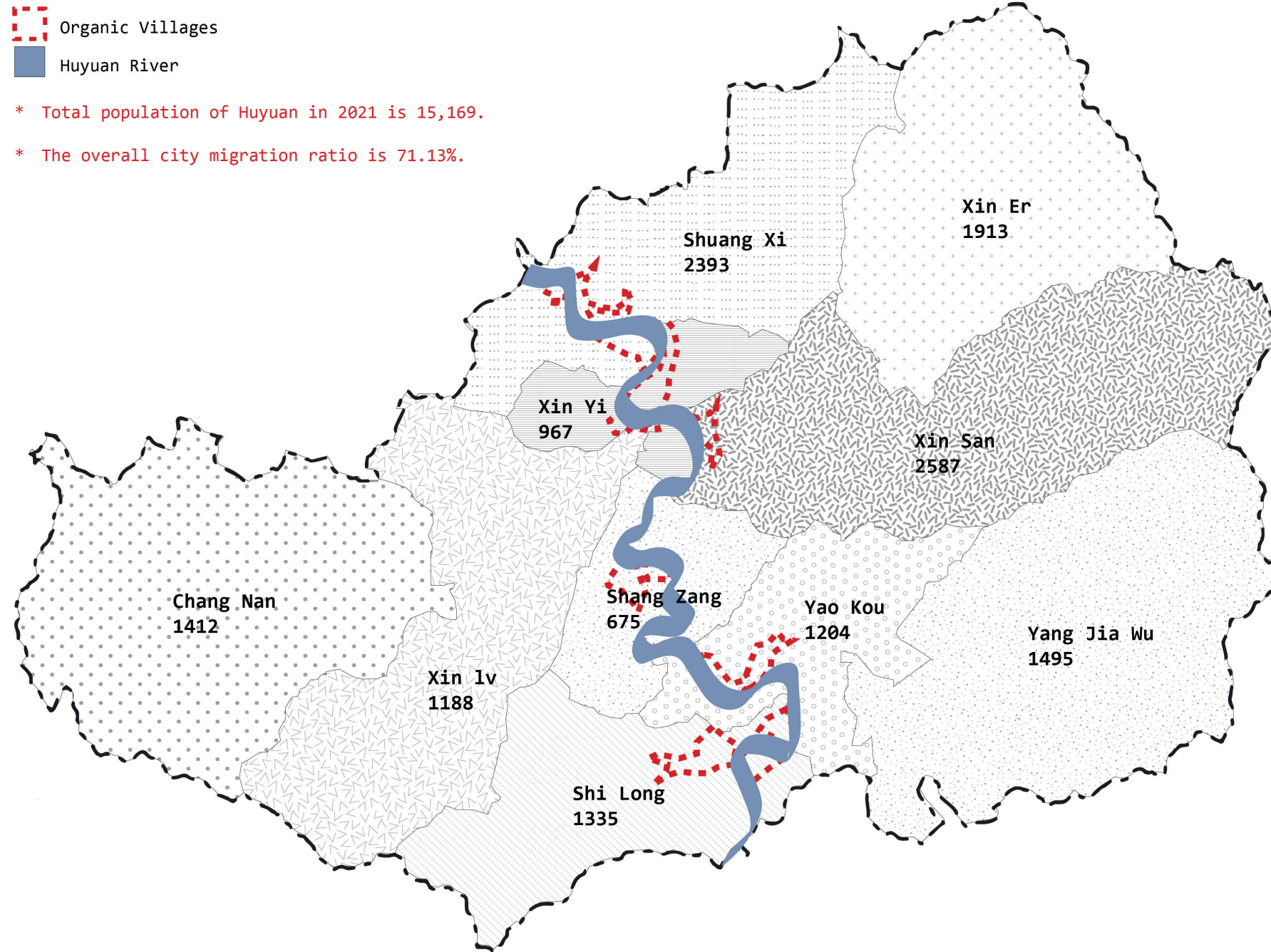
**NOTE**

- \* In Huyuan town the forest and mountain regions cover 91% of all land, and they are protected under environmental laws prohibiting other uses of land.
- \* The Village land is mainly composed of residential areas collectively owned by the village residents as well as commercial rental properties for hotels and restaurants.

Land Use	Area / Hectare	Percentage / %
Farm Land	413	3.3
Orchard	123	0.9
<b>Forest*</b>	<b>11463</b>	<b>91</b>
Wet Land	40	0.3
Grass Land	1	0
Farm Facility Land	36	0.3
<b>Village*</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>1.5</b>
Infrastructure	42	0.3
Other Purpose	4	0
Water Body	224	1.8
Remaining	62	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>12587</b>	<b>100</b>

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## VILLAGE POPULATION



Organic Villages  
Huyuan River

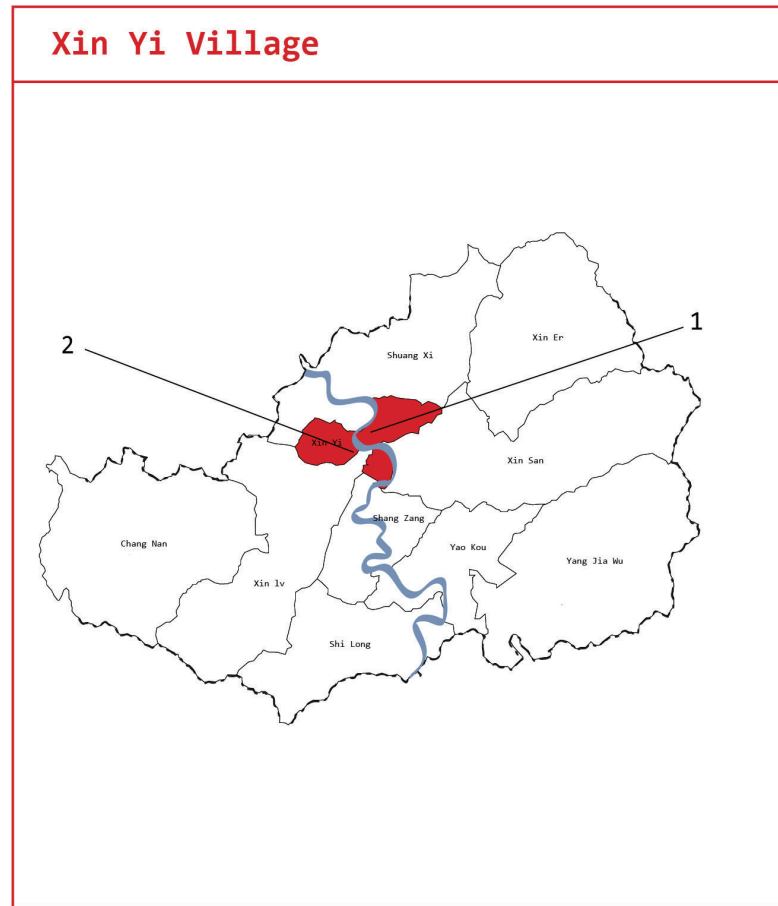
- \* Total population of Huyuan in 2021 is 15,169.
- \* The overall city migration ratio is 71.13%.



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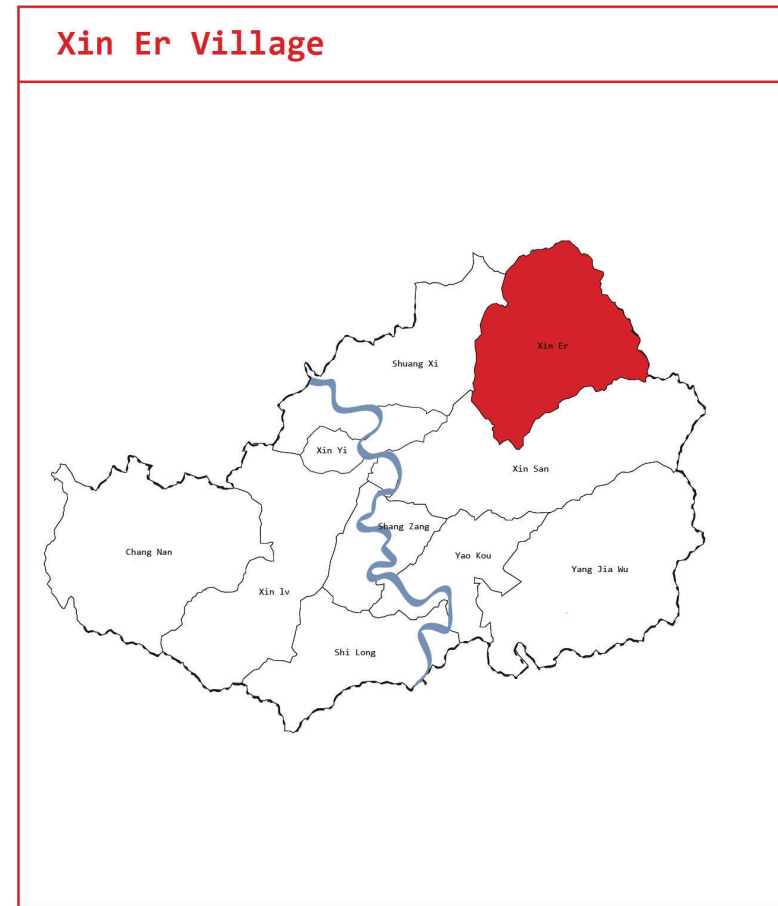


### Population

Household	283
Total Resident	967
Permanent Resident	597
Migrant Worker*	435
New Resident	65
Migrant Ratio*	44.98%

### Age

Under 16	116/12%
17-40	271/28%
41-60	348/36%
Over 60	232/24%
Total Population	967



### Population

Household	574
Total Resident	1913
Permanent Resident	617
Migrant Worker*	1313
New Resident	17
Migrant Ratio*	68.64%

### Age

Under 16	192/10%
17-40	612/32%
41-60	631/33%
Over 60	478/25%
Total Population	1913

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### Population

Household	433
Total Resident	1412
Permanent Resident	305
Migrant Worker*	1107
New Resident	0
Migrant Ratio*	78.4%

### Age

Under 16	226/16%
17-40	385/28%
41-60	466/33%
Over 60	325/23%
Total Population	14112



### Population

Household	358
Total Resident	1188
Permanent Resident	244
Migrant Worker*	948
New Resident	4
Migrant Ratio*	79.8%

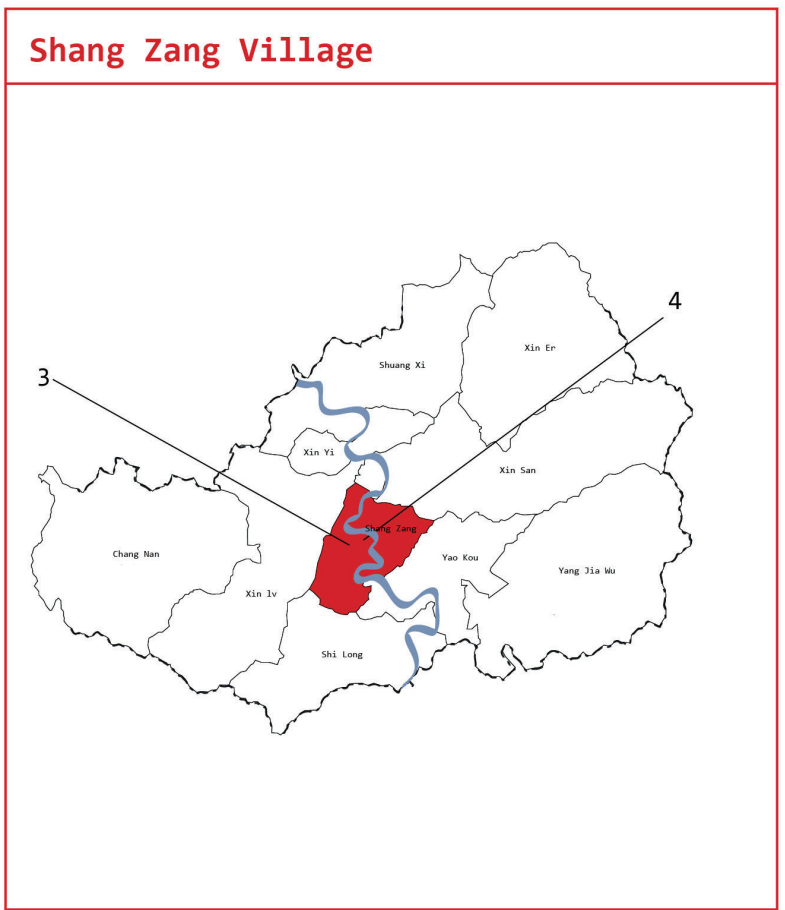
### Age

Under 16	154/13%
17-40	321/27%
41-60	428/36%
Over 60	285/24%
Total Population	1188

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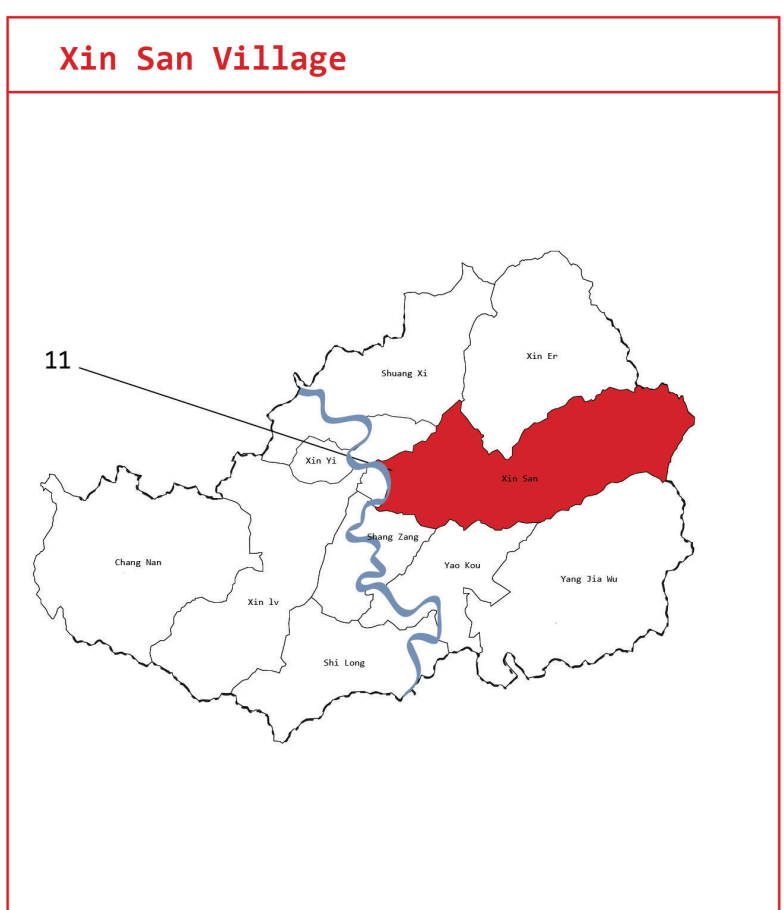


### Population

Household	204
Total Resident	675
Permanent Resident	302
Migrant Worker*	375
New Resident	2
Migrant Ratio*	55.56%

### Age

Under 16	81/12%
17-40	182/27%
41-60	284/42%
Over 60	128/19%
Total Population	675



### Population

Household	786
Total Resident	2578
Permanent Resident	597
Migrant Worker*	2000
New Resident	10
Migrant Ratio*	77.31%

### Age

Under 16	155/6%
17-40	414/16%
41-60	388/15%
Over 60	1630/63%
Total Population	2578

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### Population

Household	405
Total Resident	1335
Permanent Resident	291
Migrant Worker*	1044
New Resident	0
Migrant Ratio*	78.2%

### Age

Under 16	200/15%
17-40	374/28%
41-60	441/33%
Over 60	320/24%
Total Population	1335



### Population

Household	459
Total Resident	1495
Permanent Resident	275
Migrant Worker*	1220
New Resident	0
Migrant Ratio*	81.61%

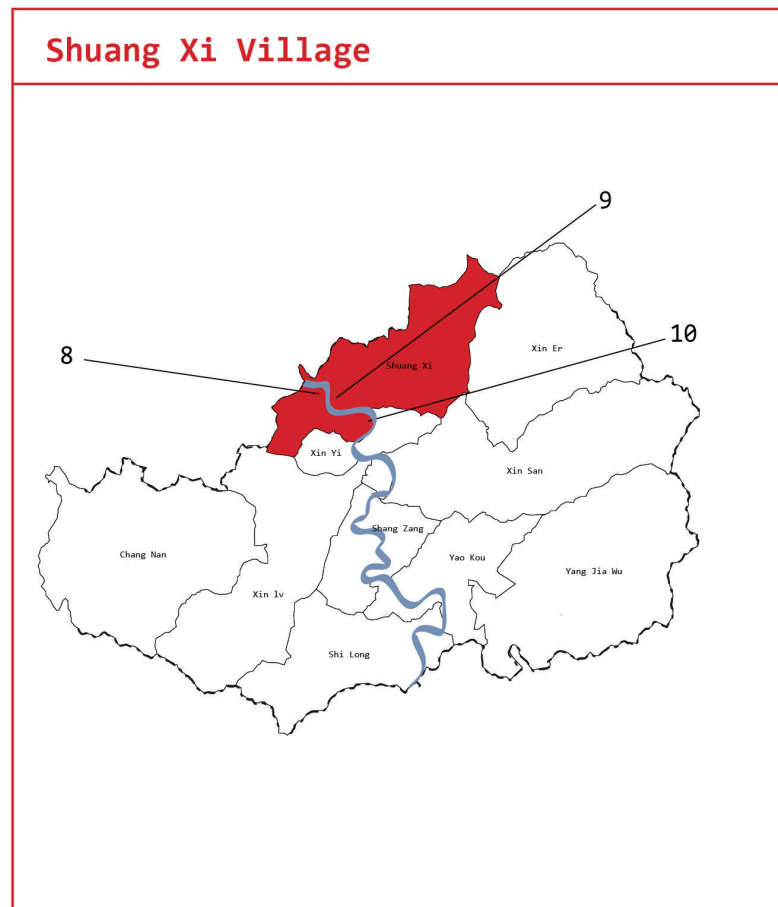
### Age

Under 16	240/16%
17-40	478/32%
41-60	478/32%
Over 60	299/20%
Total Population	1495

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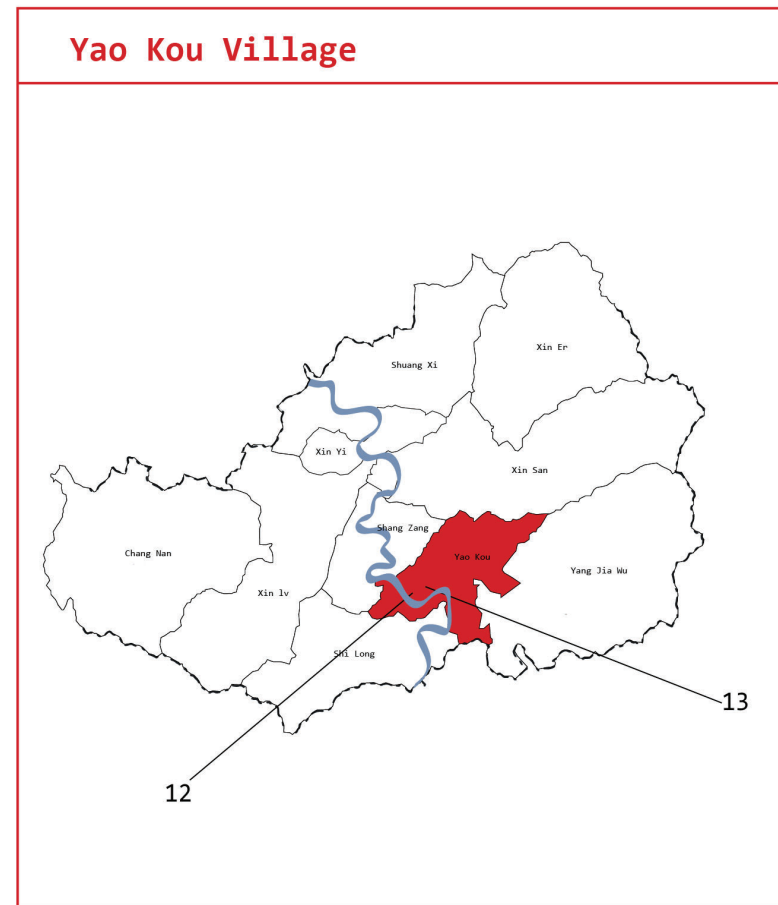


### Population

Household	684
Total Resident	2393
Permanent Resident	789
Migrant Worker*	1604
New Resident	0
Migrant Ratio*	67.03%

### Age

Under 16	239/10%
17-40	479/20%
41-60	718/30%
Over 60	957/40%
Total Population	2393



### Population

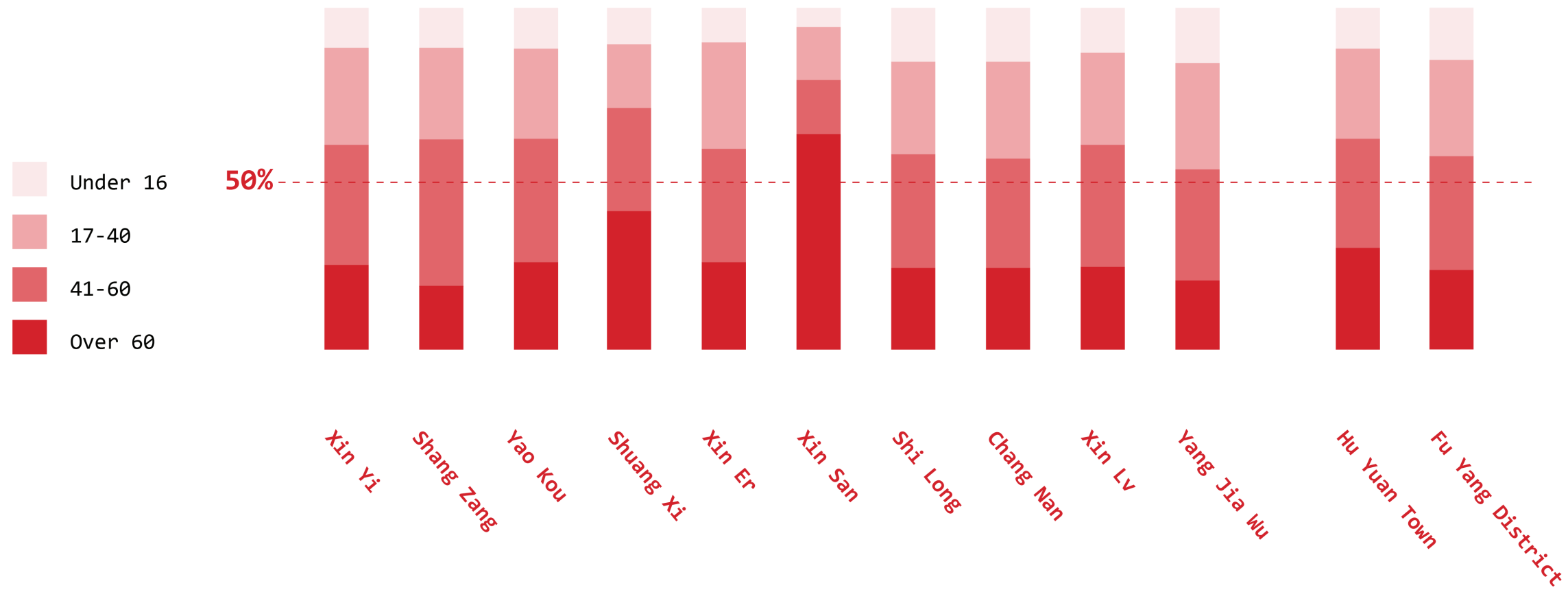
Household	374
Total Resident	1204
Permanent Resident	480
Migrant Worker*	744
New Resident	20
Migrant Ratio*	61.79%

### Age

Under 16	145/12%
17-40	325/27%
41-60	433/30%
Over 60	301/25%
Total Population	1204

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## VILLAGE POPULATION BY AGE



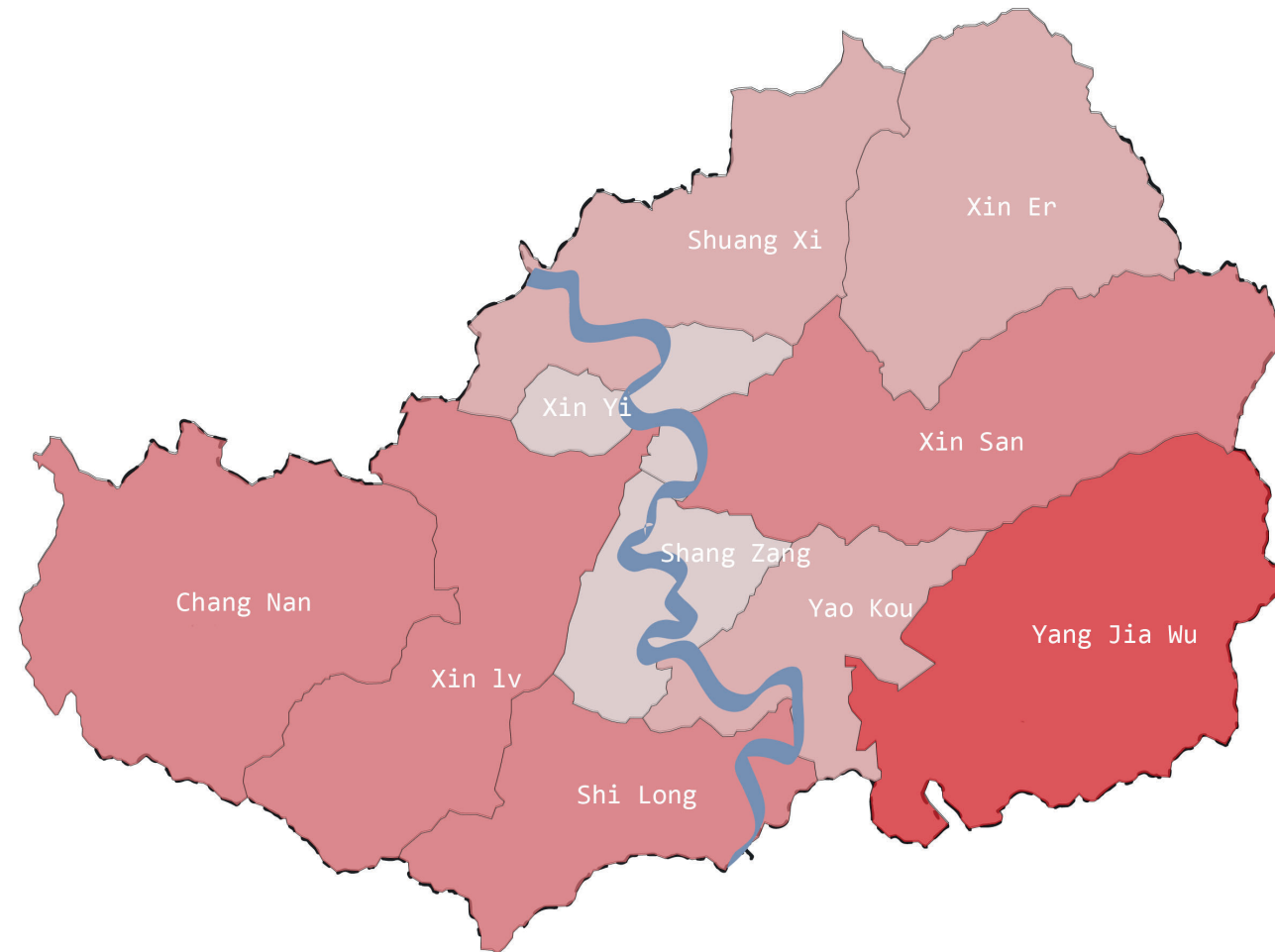
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## CITY MIGRATION WORKER



44.88% 55.56% 61.79% 67.03% 68.64% 77.31% 78.20% 78.40% 79.80% 81.61%



71.13%  
Average City Migration  
Ratio in Huyuan

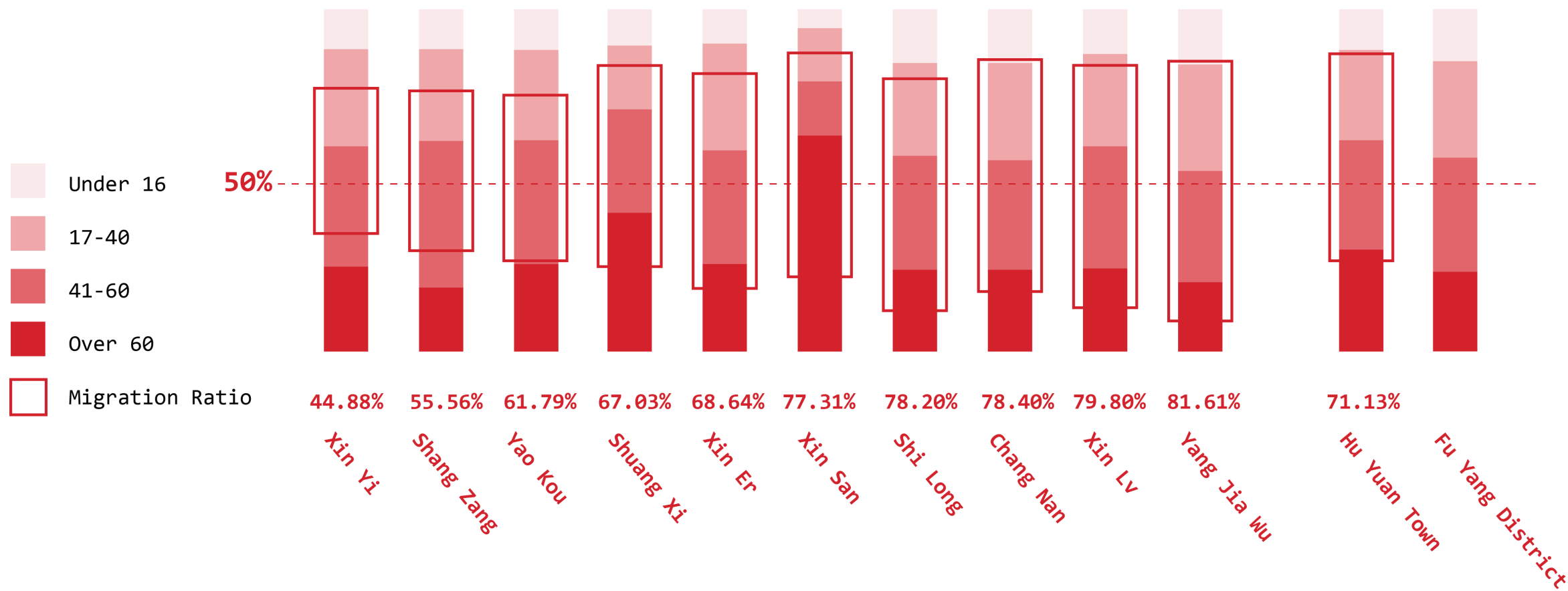
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## VILLAGE POPULATION



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THE RISE OF XIN YI VILLAGE



# Dragon Scale Dam

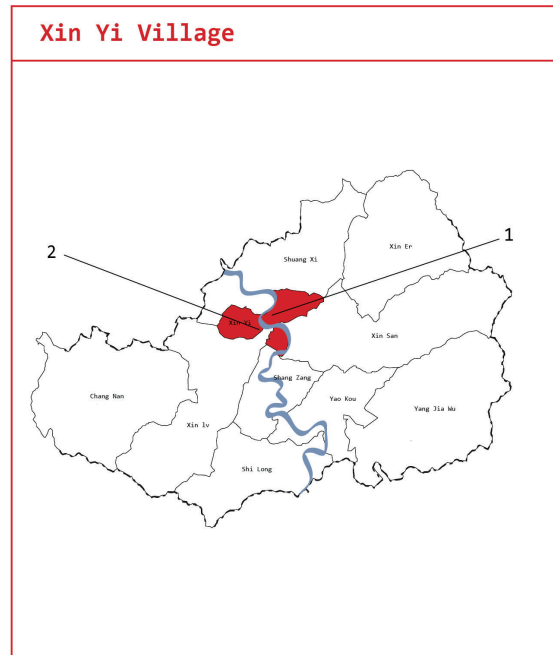
July 6-7th 2019

2 days

17358 Cars

150 Buses

50,000 Tourists



Population	
Household	283
Total Resident	967
Permanent Resident	597
Migrant Worker*	435
New Resident	65
Migrant Ratio*	44.98%

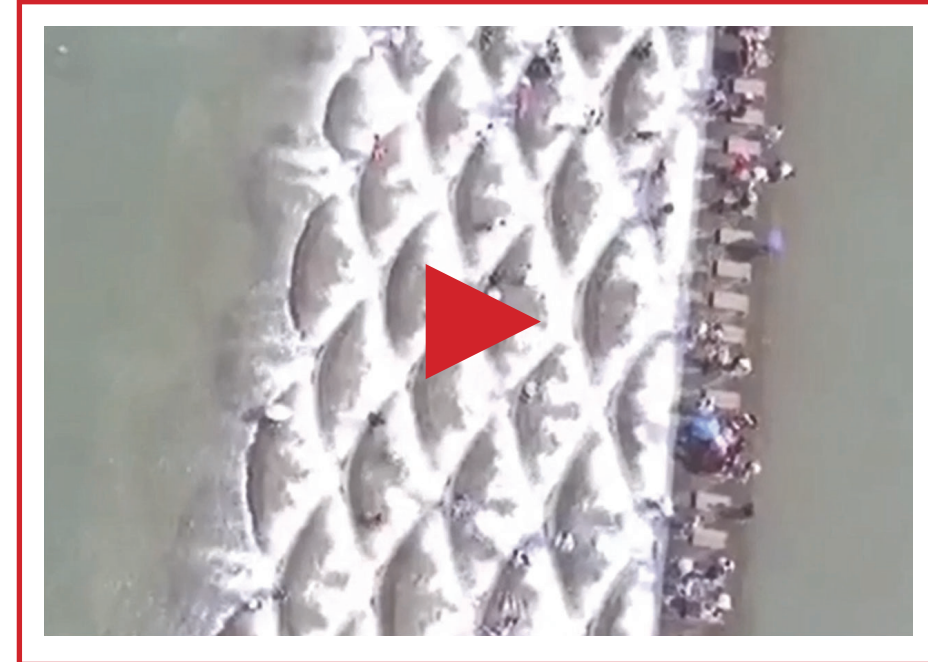
Age	
Under 16	116/12%
17-40	271/28%
41-60	348/36%
Over 60	232/24%
Total Population	967

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## VIDEOS



THE SITE



THE DAM

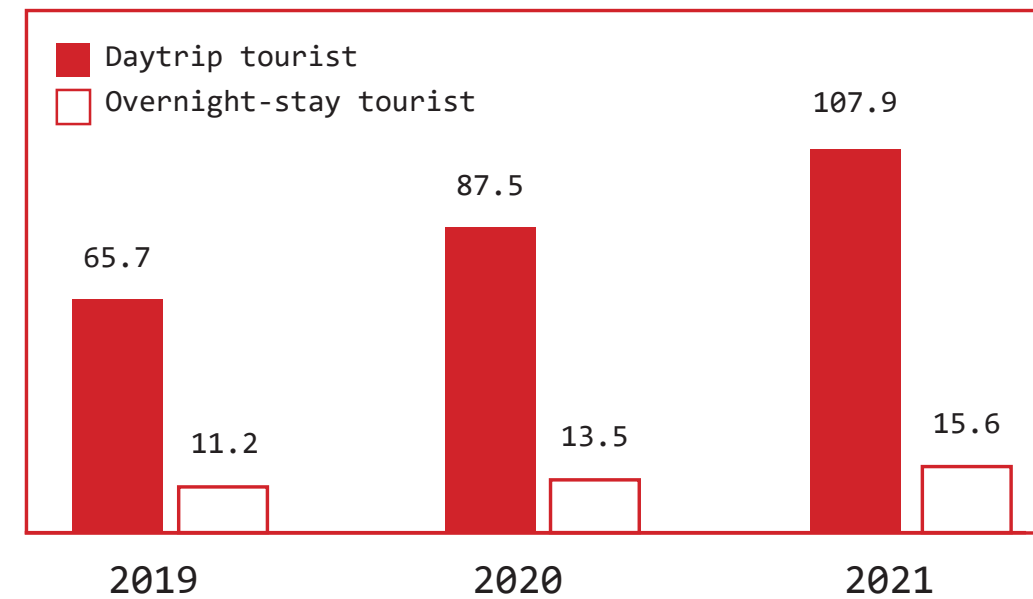
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## THE DISAPPEARANCE OF HUYUAN

### 1. DISAPPEARING POPULATION CAUSED BY HOME CONVERTED HOSTELS AND CMW

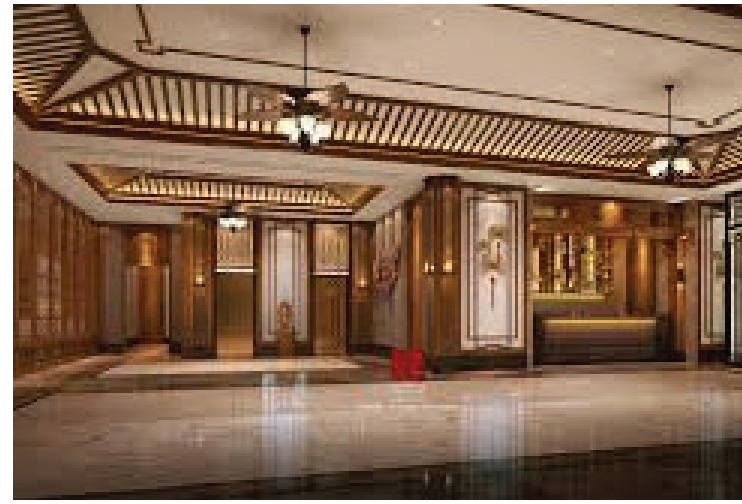
\*Local B&B hotels are mostly converted from private rural houses.



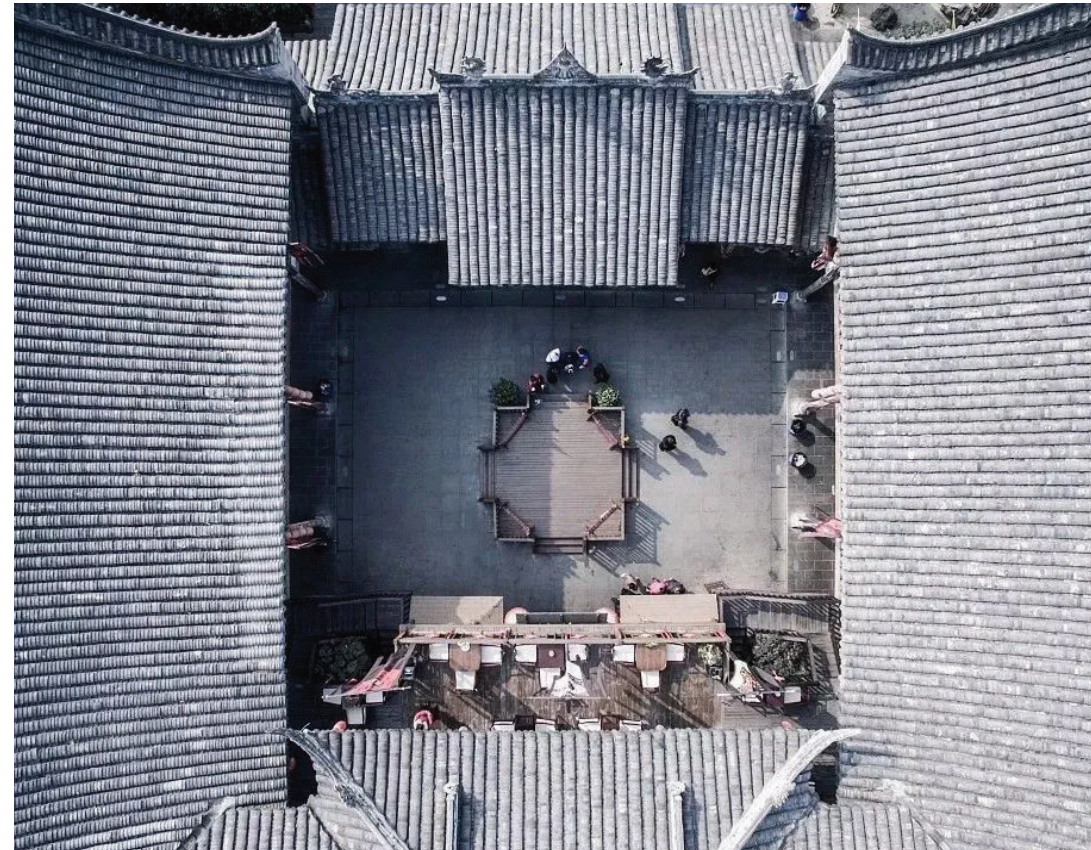
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## THE DISAPPEARANCE OF HUYUAN

### 2. DISAPPEARING CULTURE CAUSED BY LARGE HOTEL CHAIN CATERING TO “THE ROMANTIZED CHINESE IDYLL”



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### **3. Home, Homing, Home-Escape** **\_Finding transiciency**

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# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

Rural Resident



Home

City Migrant Worker



Homing

Urban Traveler




Home-Escape

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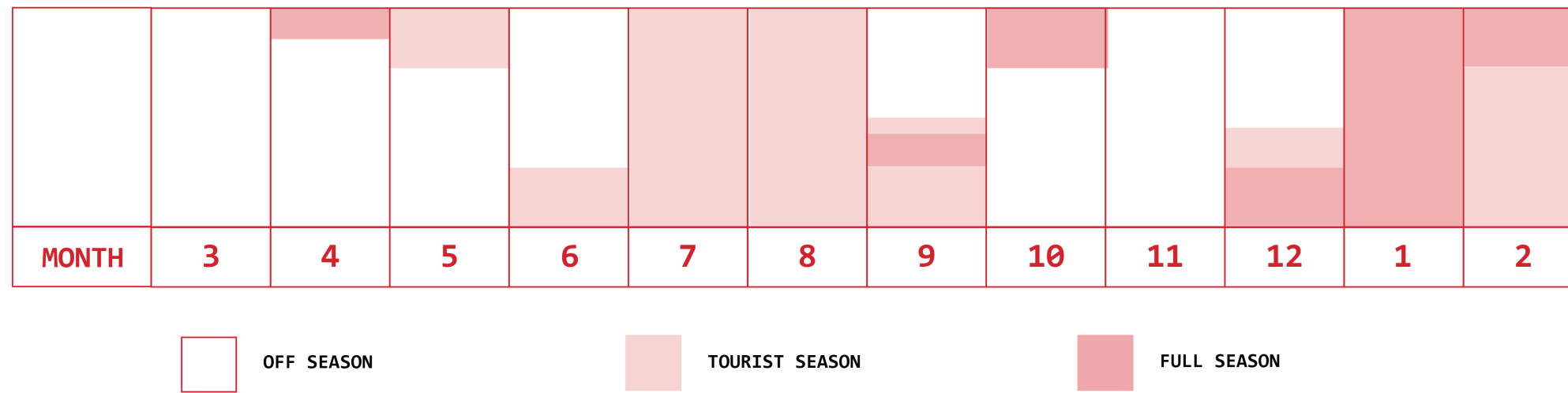
<b>TOURIST</b>												
<b>EVENT</b>		QING MING	LABOR DAY	DUAN WU	SUMMER BREAK	SUMMER BREAK	MID AUTUMN FESTIVAL	National Day		NEW YEAR	SPRING FESTIVAL	SPRING FESTIVAL
<b>RESIDENT</b>												
<b>EVENT</b>	SEEDING	FARMING	FARMING	HARVEST	HARVEST	HARVEST	DRYING	DRYING	STORAGE	STORAGE	PREPPING	PREPPING
<b>WORKER</b>												
<b>EVENT</b>		QING MING					MID AUTUMN FESTIVAL	National Day		NEW YEAR	SPRING FESTIVAL	SPRING FESTIVAL
<b>MONTH</b>	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2
<b>SEASON</b>	SPRING			SUMMER			FALL			WINTER		

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Shared Space

Kitchen

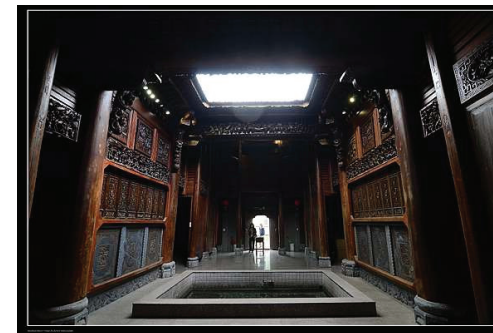
Produce Drying Room

Circulation/  
Corridor

Living Room/  
Room/

Courtyard

Gallery/  
Cafe/



Garden

Ancestral Hall

Living Room

Transient Space

Permanent Space

Guest Room

Farm Storage

Workshop/  
Agriculture  
Equipment Room



Bedrooms



Migrant Worker  
Bedroom

Laundry

Bathrooms

Private  
Farming lot

Private Space

living  
tourism  
production  
ancillary

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Ancestral Hall



Workshop/  
Agriculture  
Equipment Room



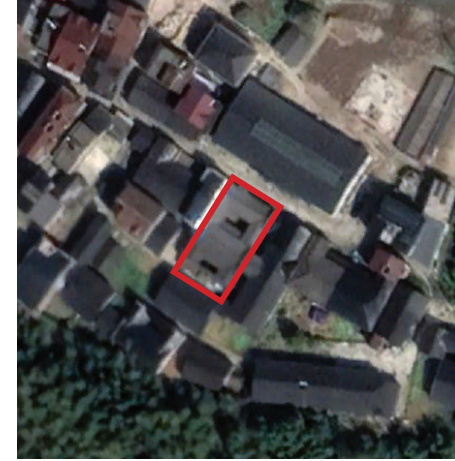
Produce Drying Room



courtyard

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## 三合院

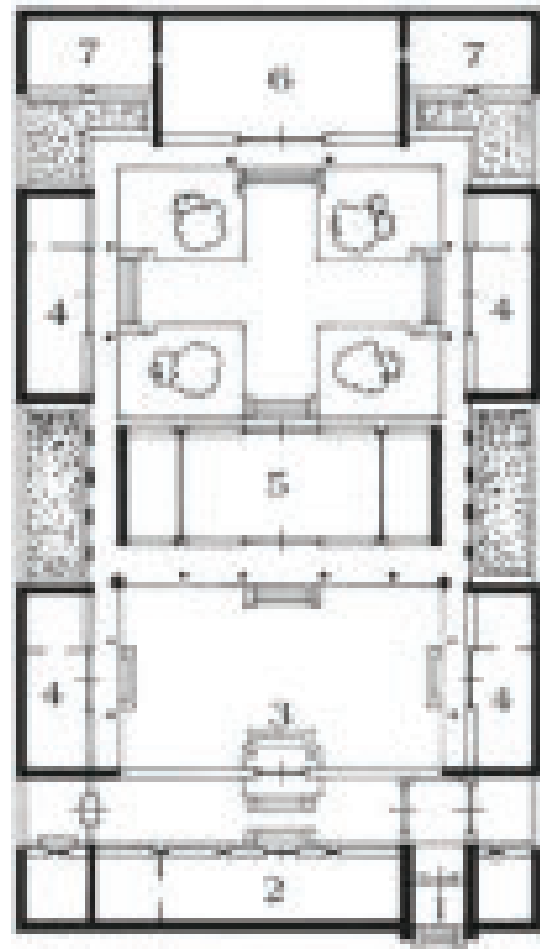
### The Three Bay Courtyard House

The three-bay house can be understood to be the basic unit of Chinese homes. Depending on the size and the wealth of the family, these houses were added on to, often in standard ways. One common extension of the three-bay house was the creation of a courtyard dwelling. Traditionally, one family would share a courtyard space.

Rural homes are typically built on one, two, three or four sides of an enclosed courtyard. Sometimes one family owns all the units around the courtyard, sometimes different families do. Most houses have peaked tile roofs although slate roofs are common and thatch is still used in some places.

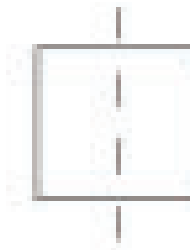
In high-density areas, multi-story houses built in rows along streets predominate. They have a courtyard in the front or the back and have a flat roof. In commercial areas, families often live upstairs and have a shop or business or animals or storage in the bottom floor.

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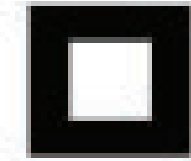
**Typical Layout for a Two-Courtyard House**

1. Main entrance
2. Rooms facing the rear. The rooms facing the back, those near the entrance to the courtyard were reserved for the servants if the family was well-off.
3. First courtyard. Cooking was carried out here, and the second courtyard was a living space.
4. East and west-side rooms, for the sons and daughters, or the sons' families.
5. Inner Hall. Where the members of the family greeted guests or where family ceremonies were held.
6. Main building. Living space for parents.
7. Small side rooms. These used for children.



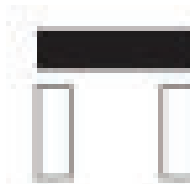
**Symmetry**

A very important feature in Chinese architecture is its emphasis on articulation and bilateral symmetry, which signifies balance.



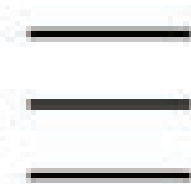
**Enclosure**

Courtyards and sky wells serve as enclosed openings in traditional houses. These enclosures serve in temperature regulation and in venting the building complexes.



**Hierarchy**

Buildings with doors facing the front of the property are considered more important than those facing the sides. Buildings facing away from the front of the property are the least important.



**Horizontality**

Classical Chinese buildings, are built with an emphasis on breadth and less on height, featuring an enclosed heavy platform and a large roof that floats over this base, with the vertical walls not well emphasized.

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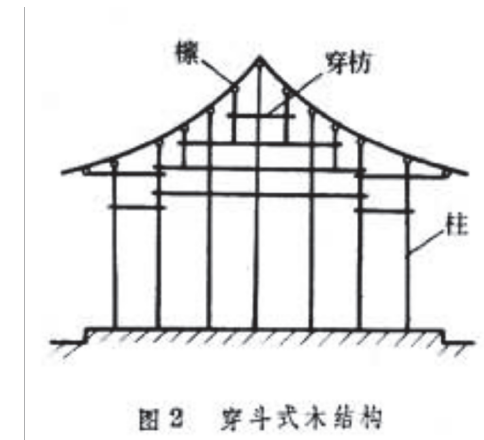
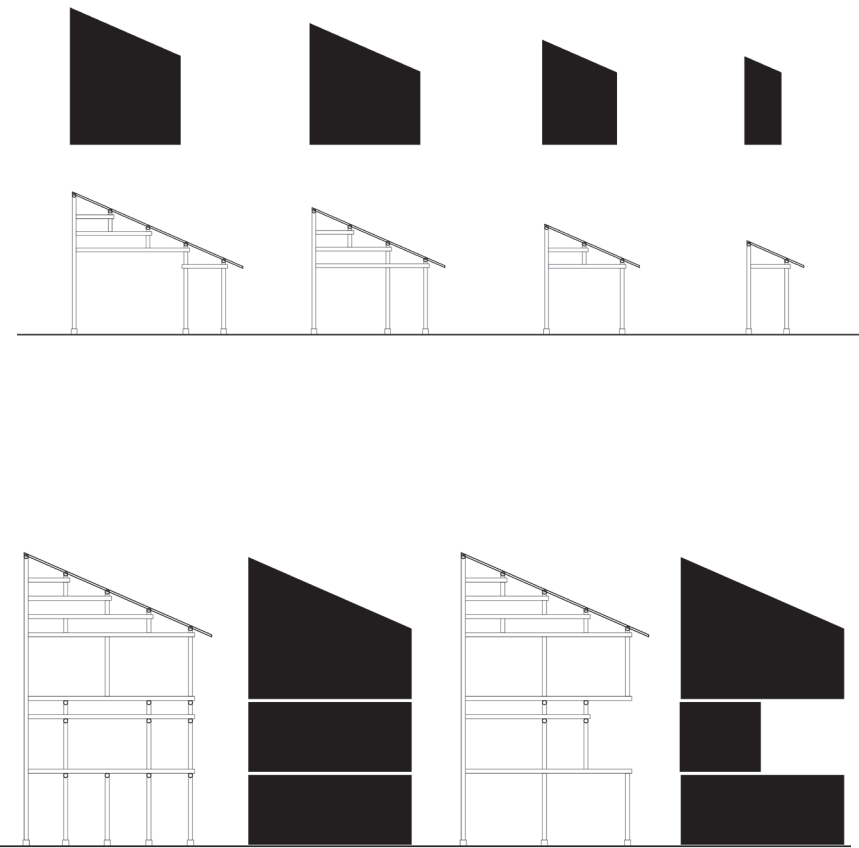
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## **4. The Four Houses** **\_Achieving Sustainable Tourism**

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## THE SCREEN HOUSE



### Built-In Business

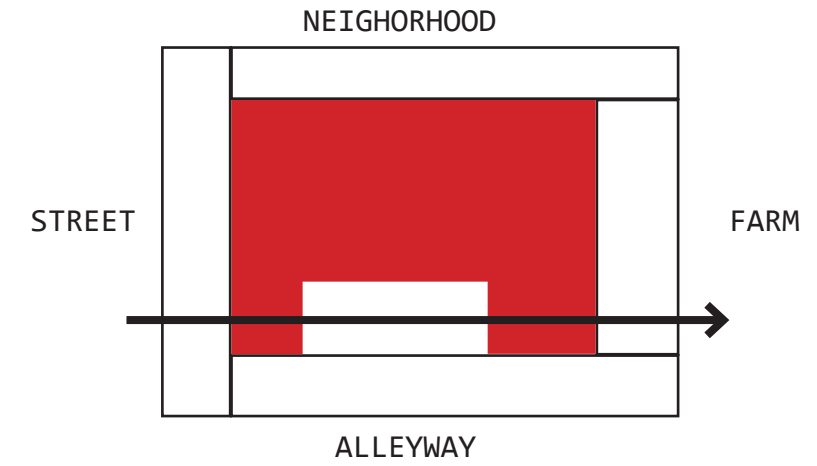
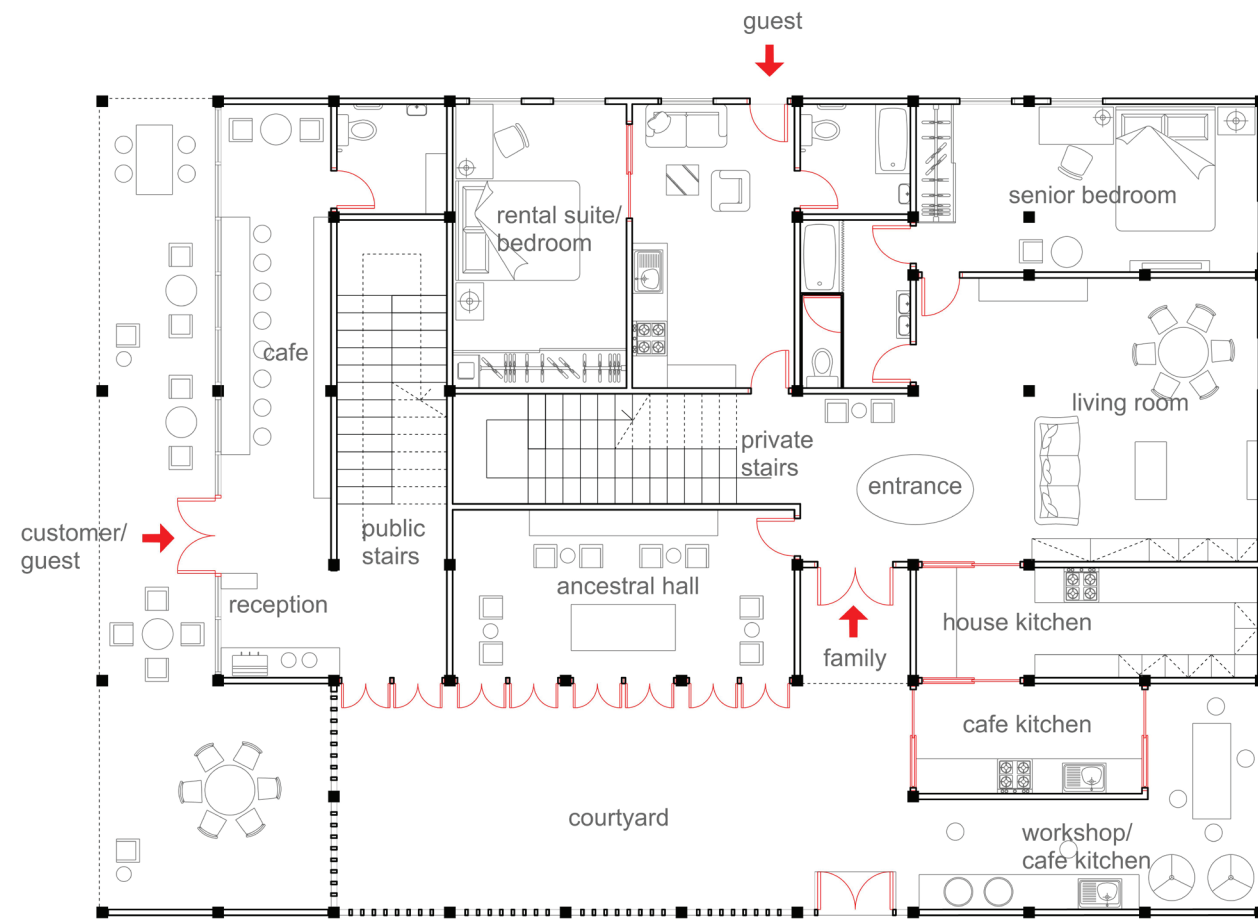
1. two-floor cafe
2. long-term artist apartment with studio rental
3. 2 guestrooms (can be converted to family bedrooms)

### For Family

1. 2-4 bedrooms
2. 3 bathrooms
3. full workshop with outside kitchen
4. rooftop harvest drying space
5. farm produce storage

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## THE SCREEN HOUSE\_FLOOR1



- public
- transient
- shared with permission
- private

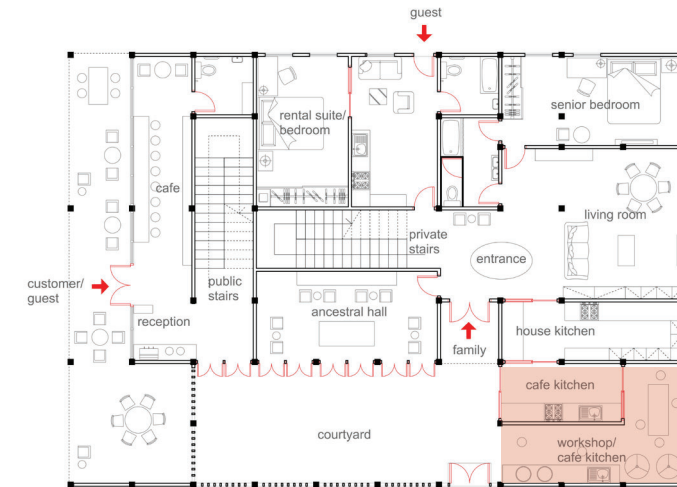
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WORKSHOP

## THE SCREEN HOUSE\_FLOOR1\_WORKSHOP



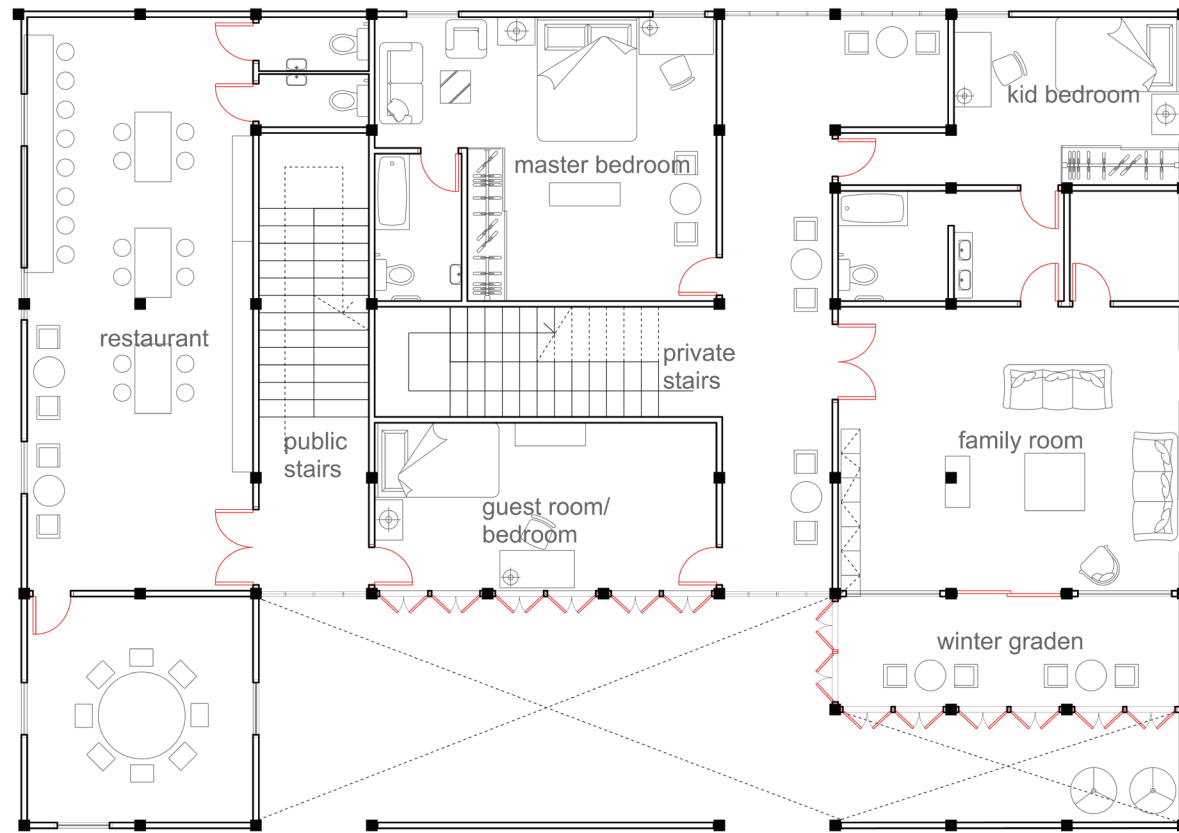
Annabelle Li MArch'24

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# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

## THE SCREEN HOUSE\_FLOOR2



- public
- transient
- shared with permission
- private

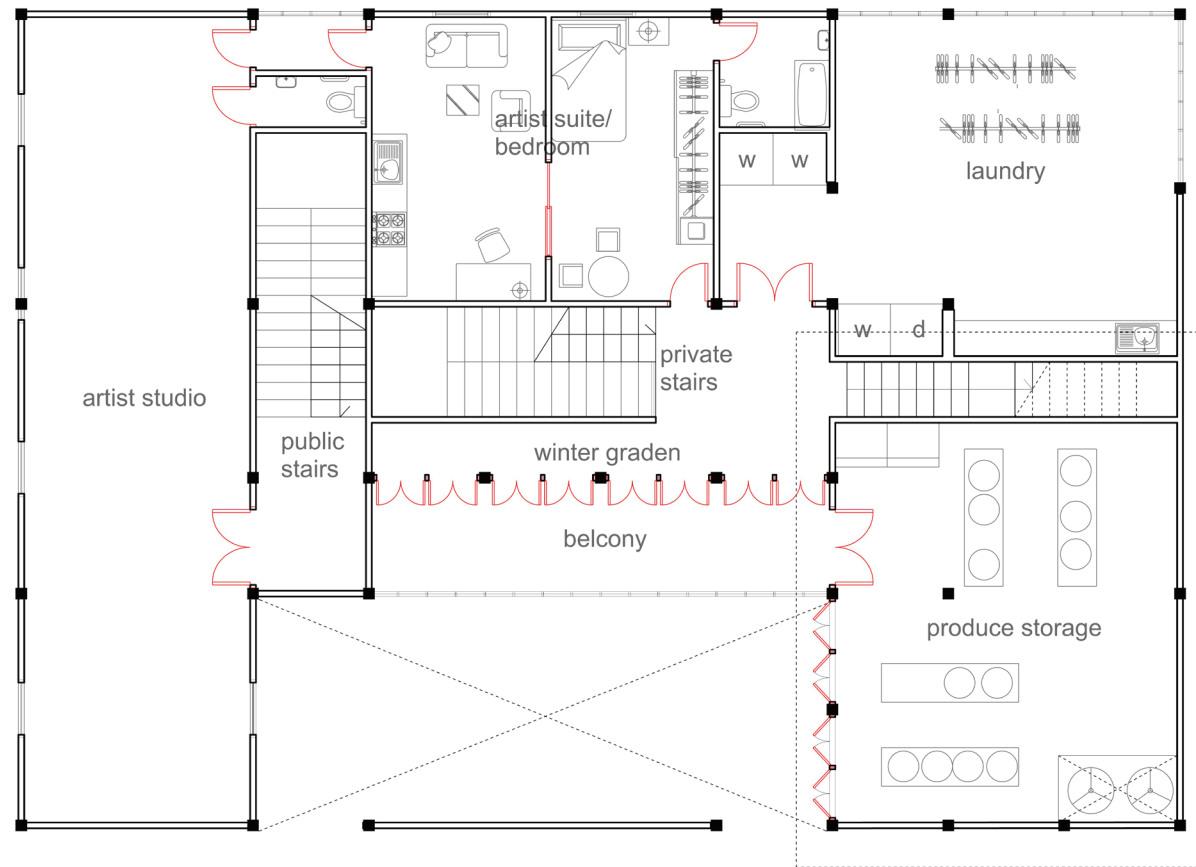
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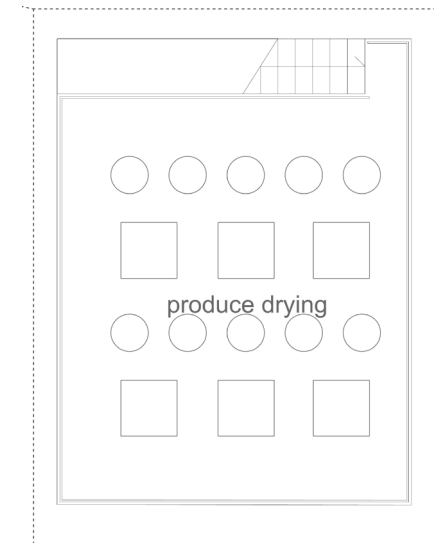
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# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

## THE SCREEN HOUSE\_FLOOR3

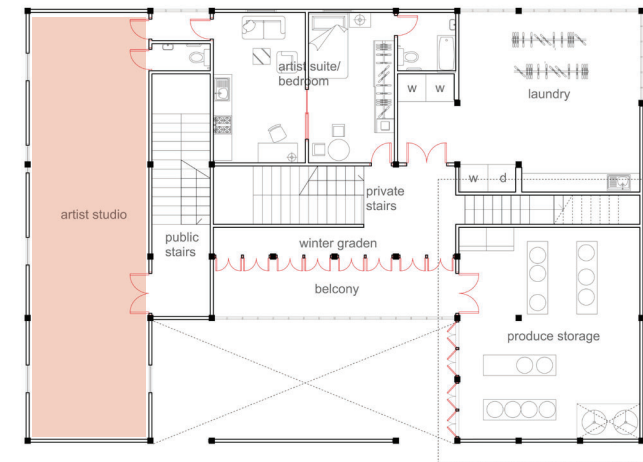


- public
- transient
- shared with permission
- private



# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

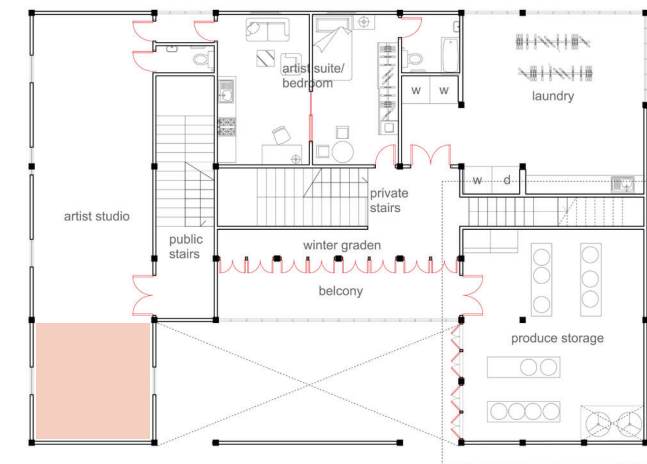
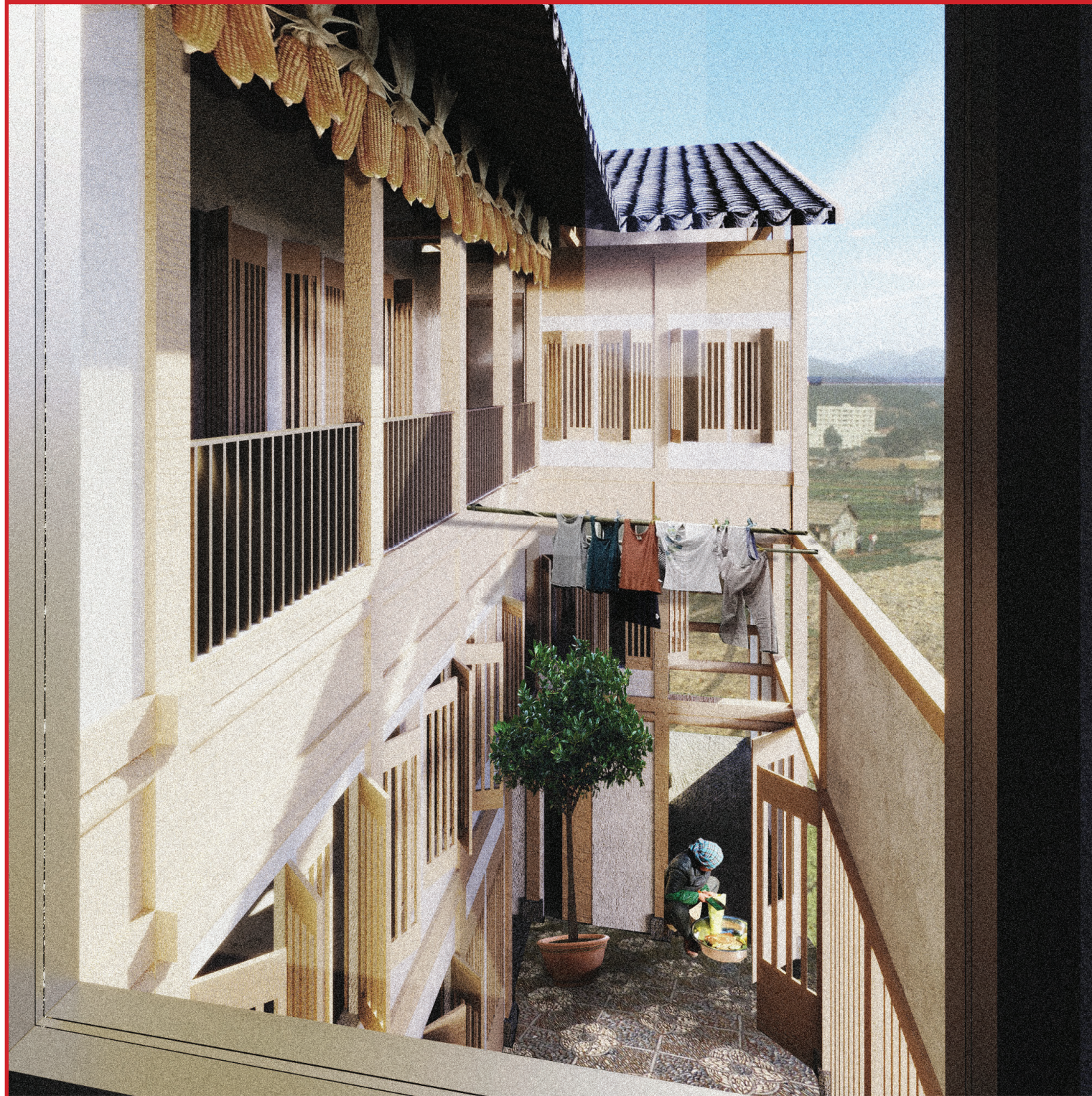
## THE SCREEN HOUSE\_FLOOR3\_ARTIST STUDIO



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# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

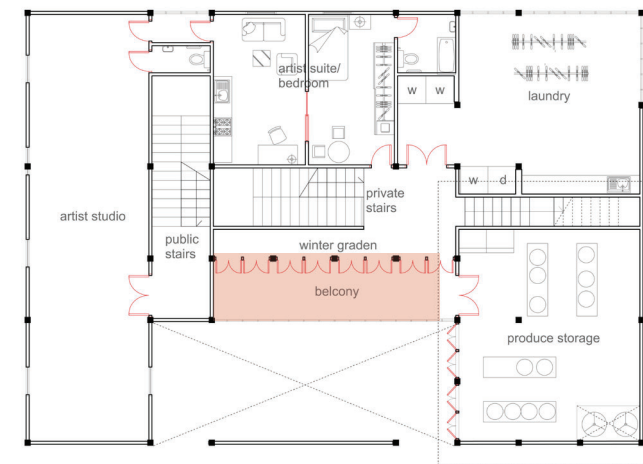
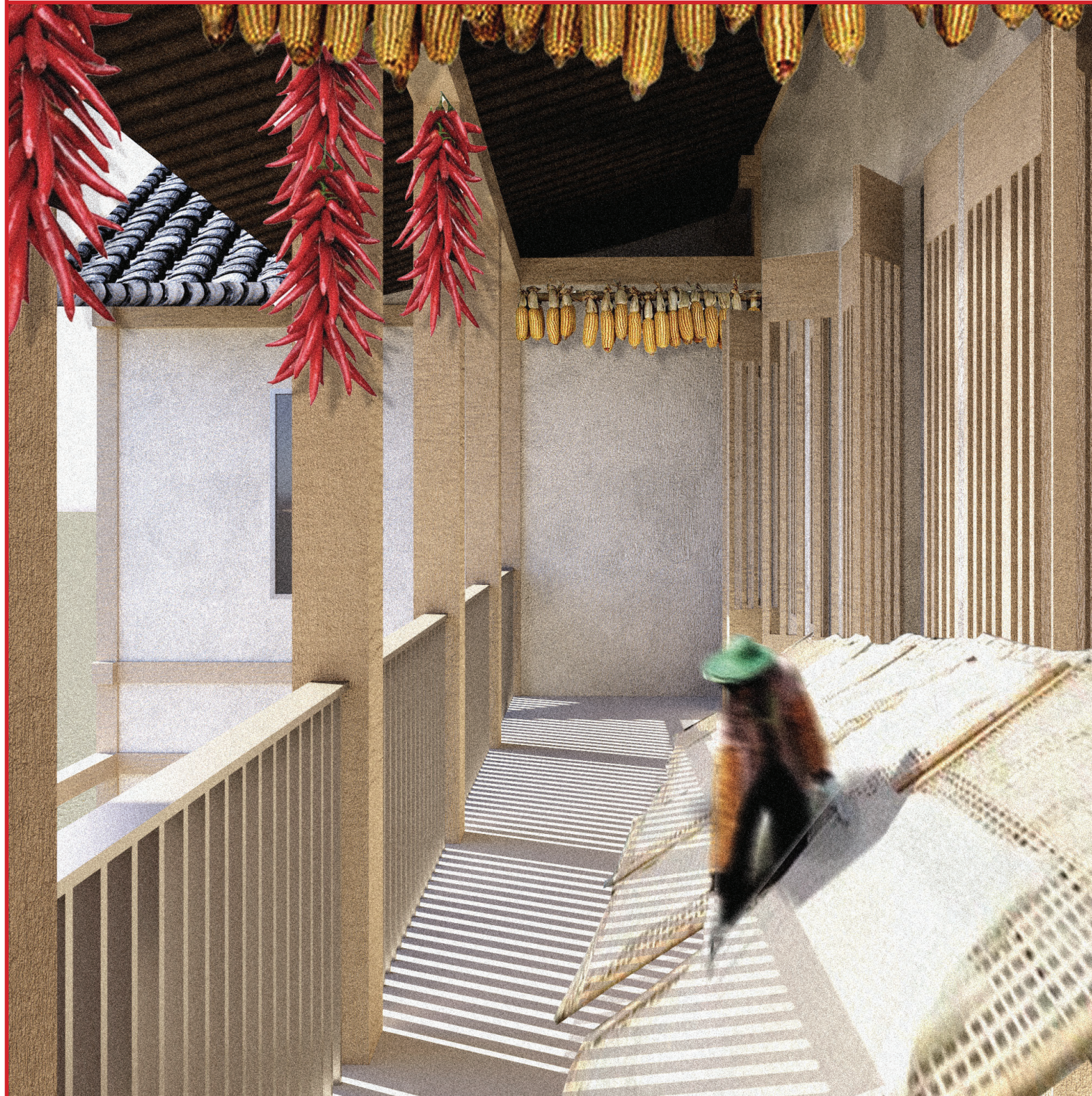
## THE SCREEN HOUSE\_FLOOR3\_COURTYARD



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# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

## THE SCREEN HOUSE\_FLOOR3\_WINTER GARDEN

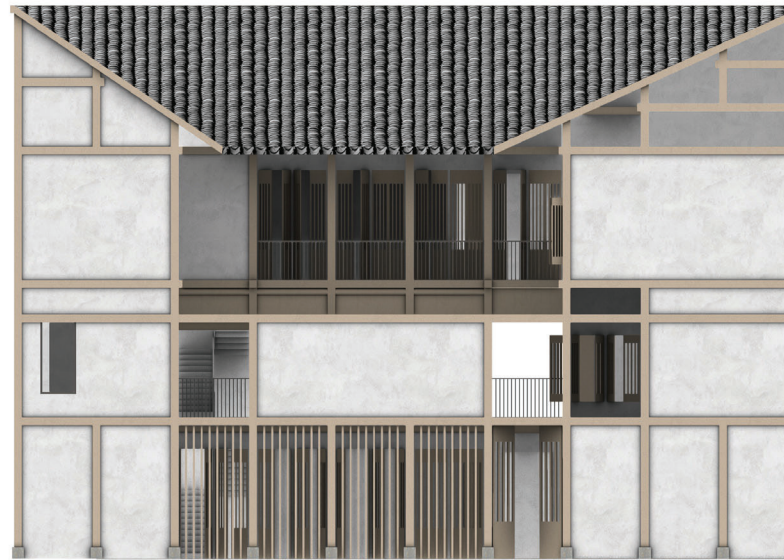


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# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

## THE SCREEN HOUSE\_FACADES



PRIVATE ALLEYWAY



STREET FACING



NEIGHORHOOD

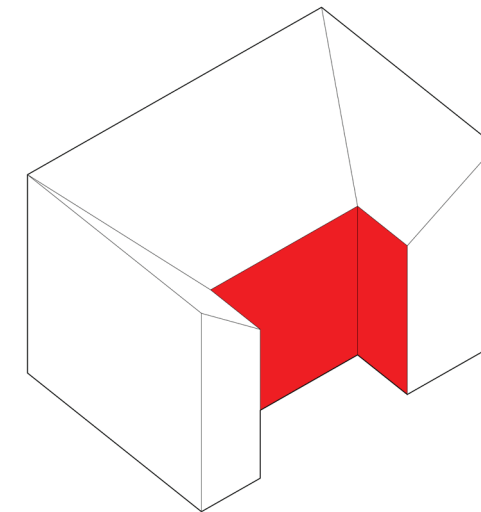
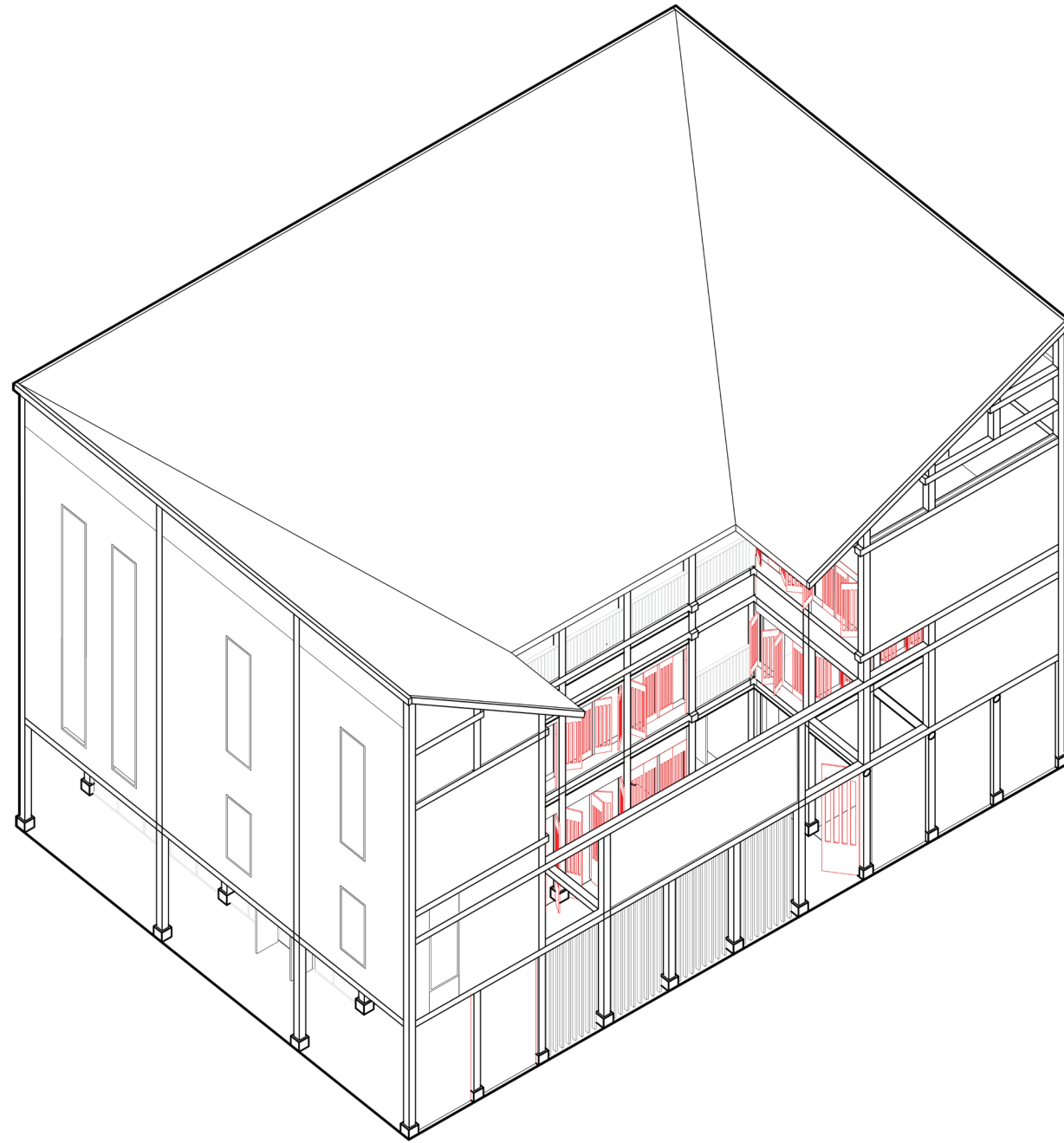


FARM

Achieving Sustainable Rural Tourism in Post-COVID Huyuan Town, China

# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

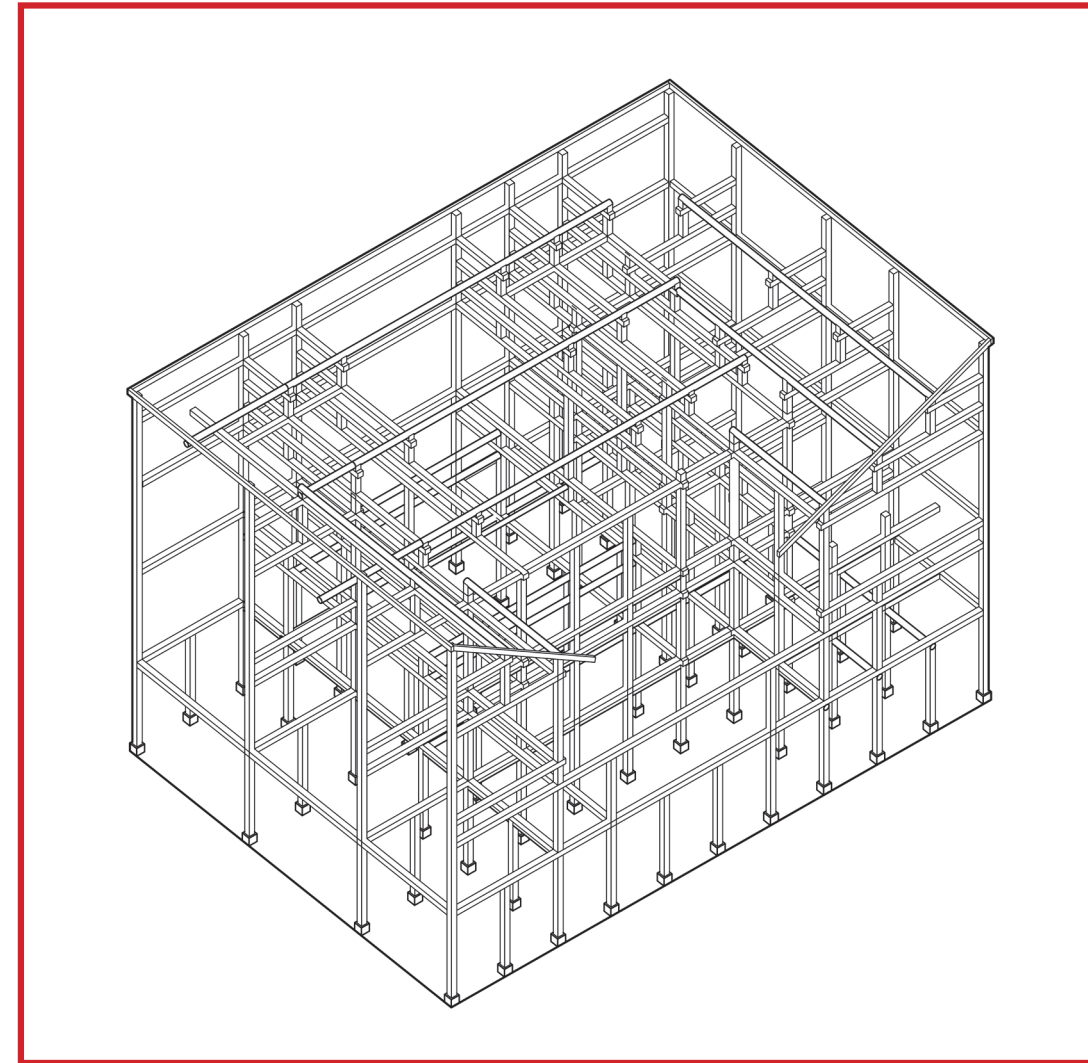
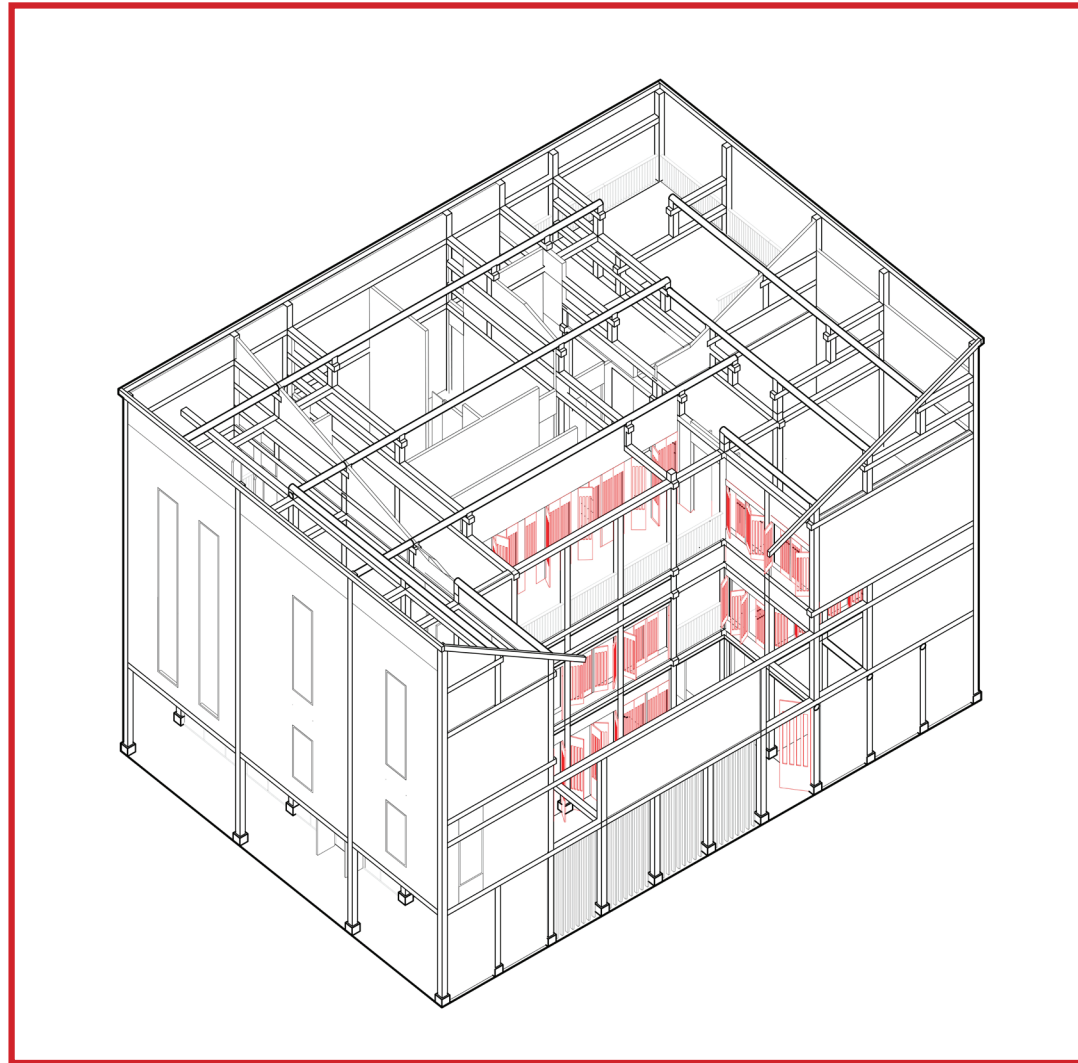
## THE SCREEN HOUSE\_AXONS



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# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

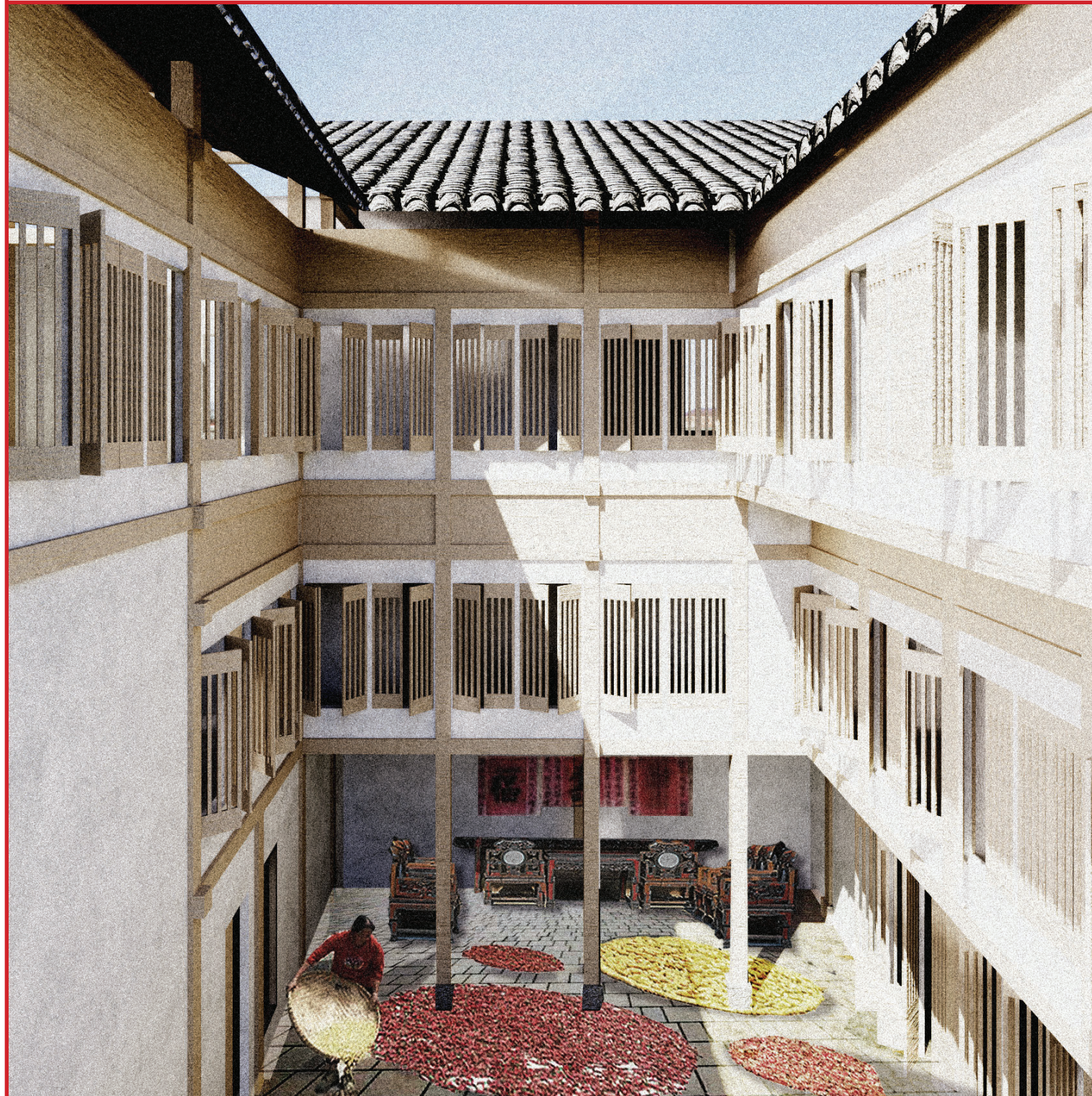
## THE SCREEN HOUSE\_AXONS



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# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

## THE STACK HOUSE



### Built-In Business

1. two-floor cafe
2. art gallery for rent or self owned

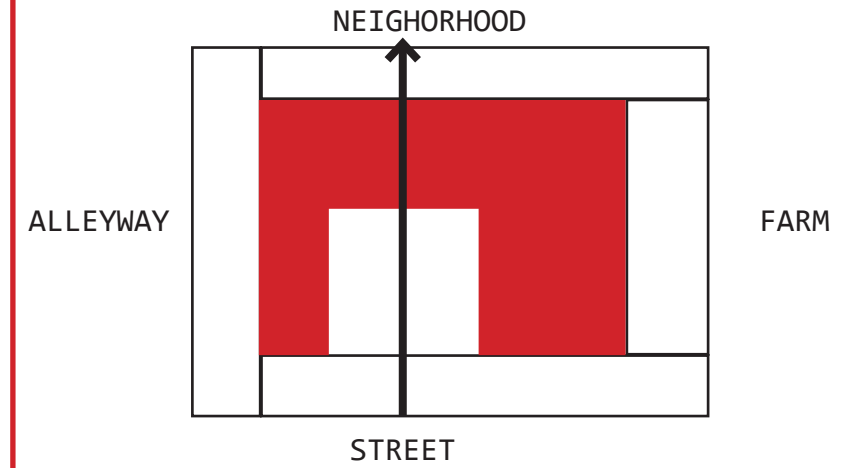
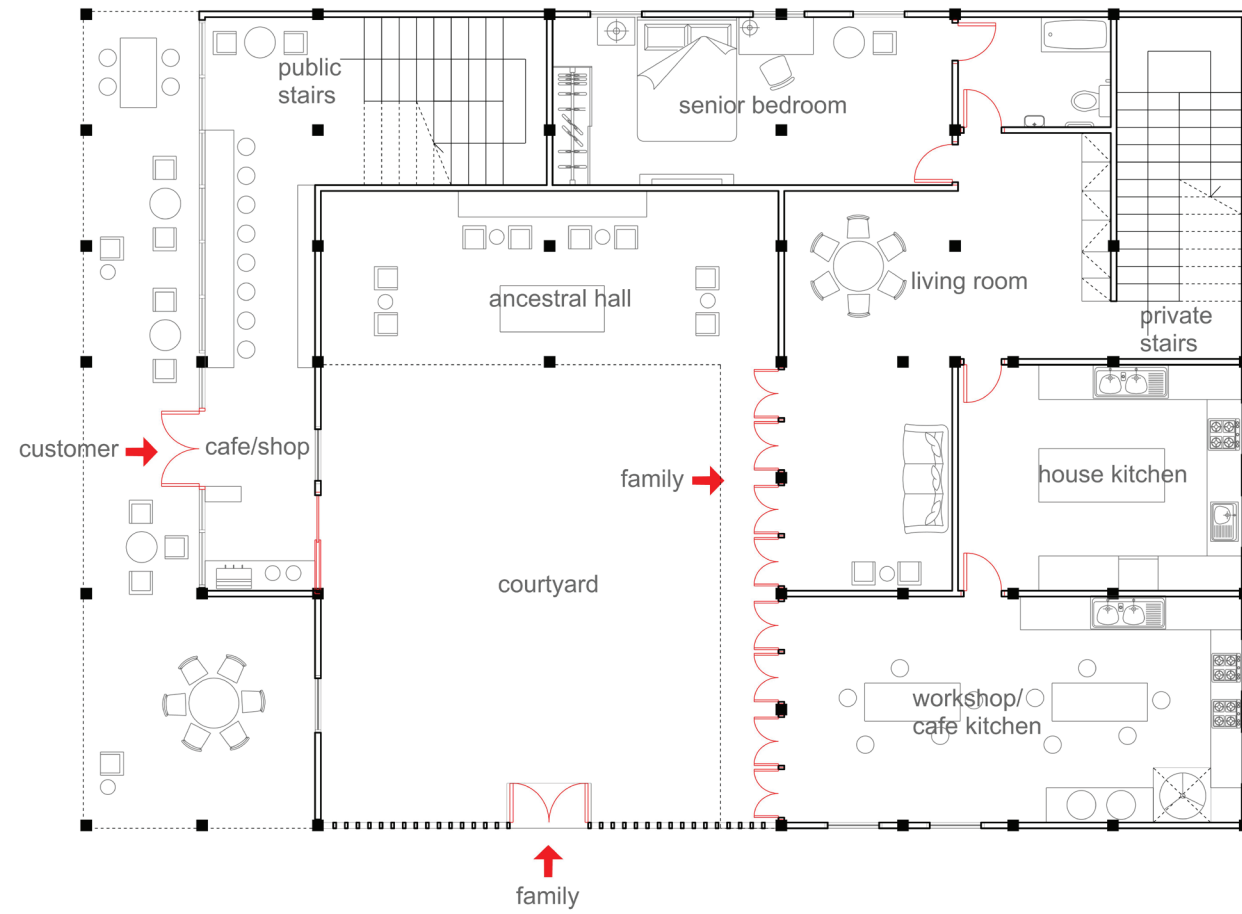
### For Family

1. 5 bedrooms
2. 4 bathrooms
3. full workshop with outside kitchen
4. rooftop harvest drying space and terrace
5. farm produce storage

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# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

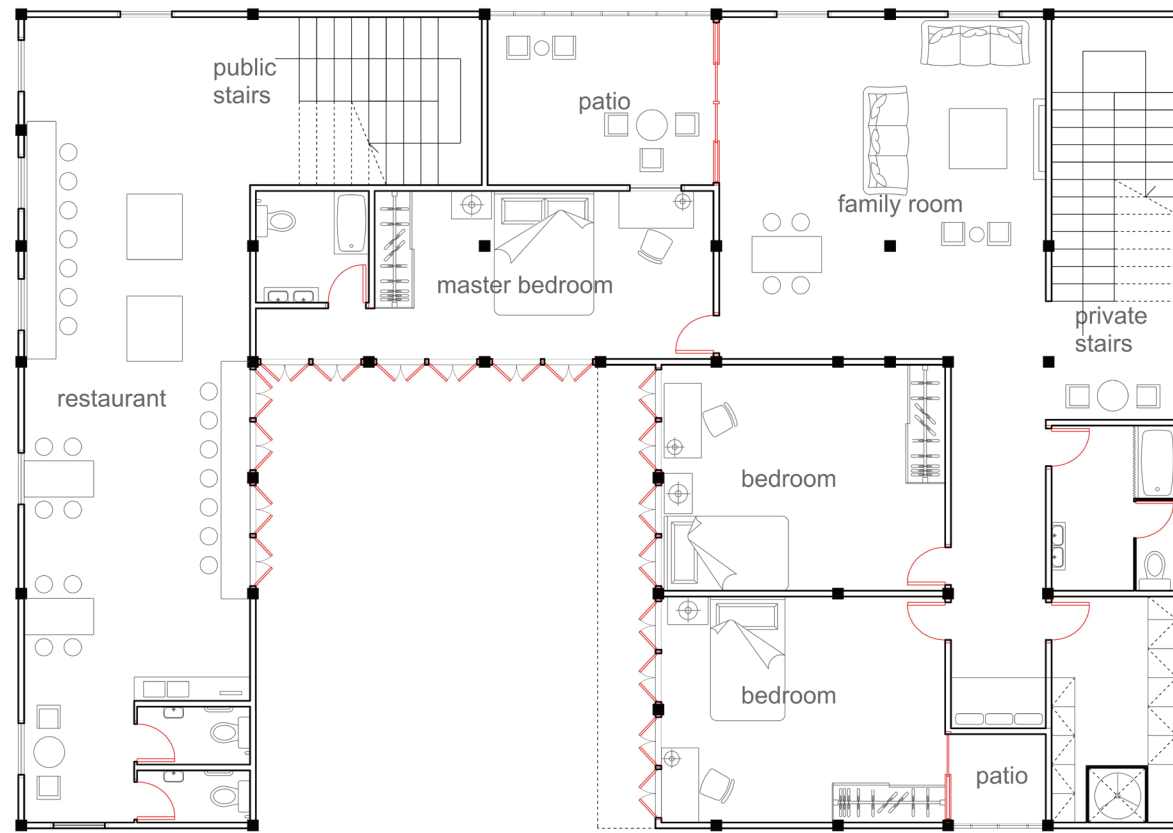
## THE STACK HOUSE\_FLOOR1



- public
- transient
- shared with permission
- private

# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

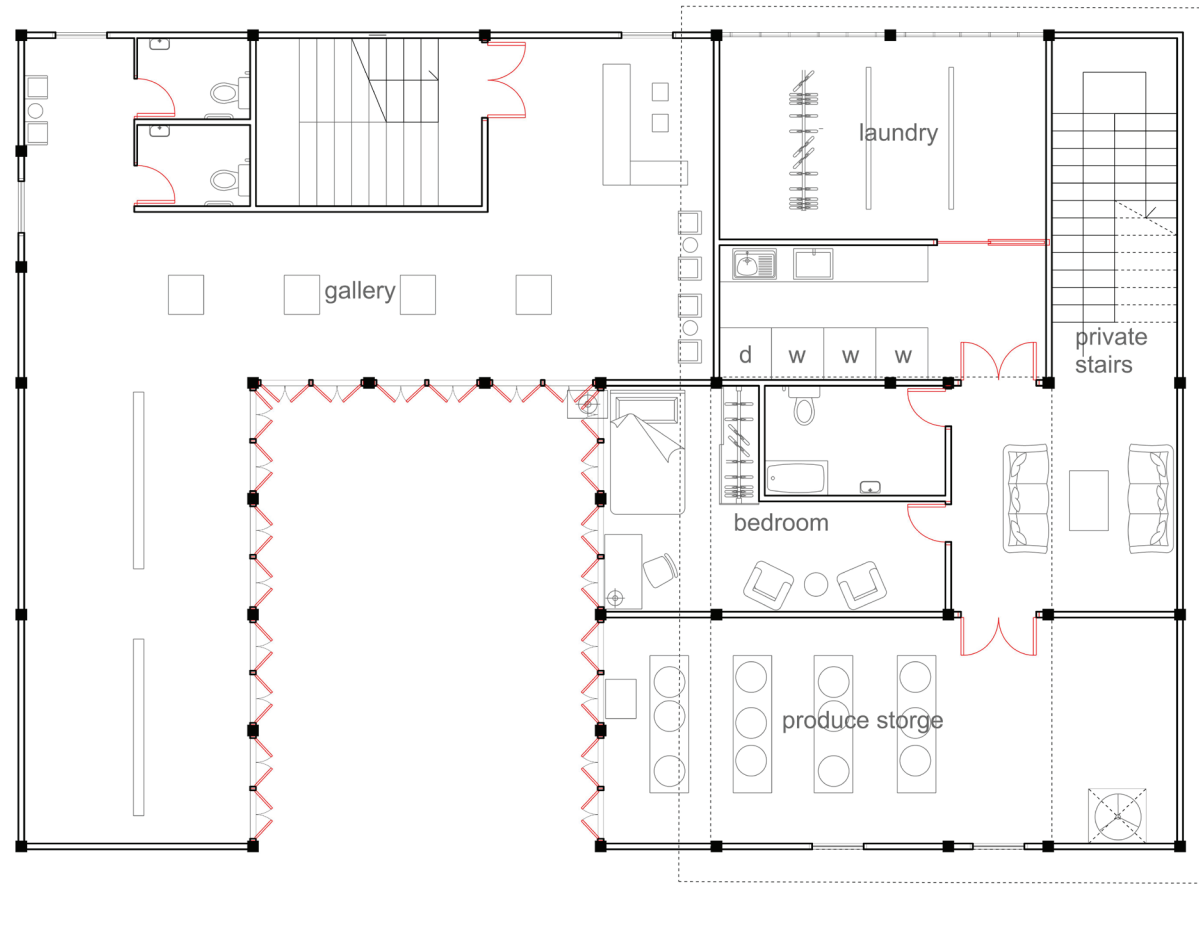
## THE STACK HOUSE\_FLOOR2



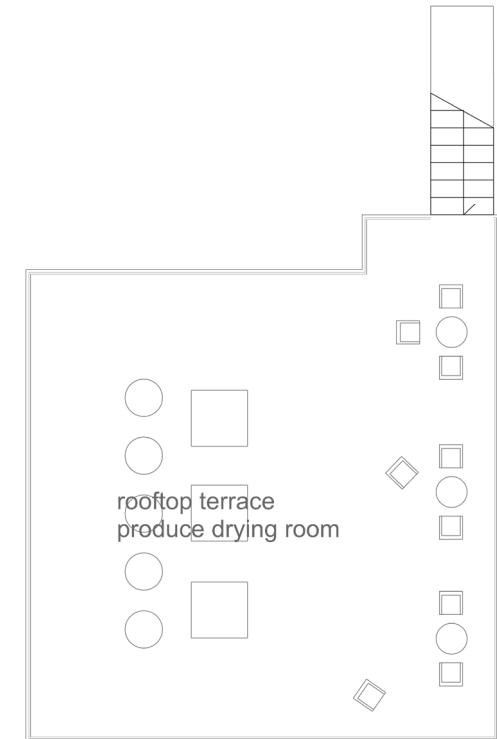
- public
- transient
- shared with permission
- private

# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

## THE STACK HOUSE\_FLOOR3



- public
- transient
- shared with permission
- private



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# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

## THE STACK HOUSE\_FLOOR3\_GALLERY



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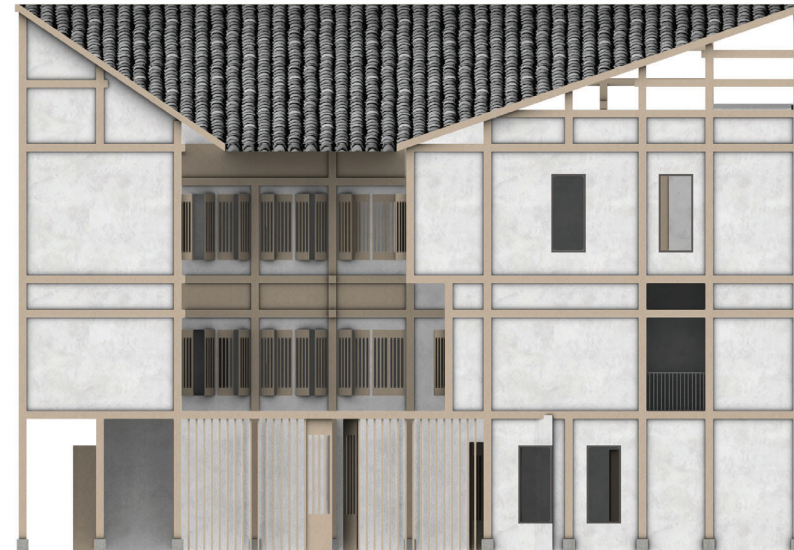


# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

## THE STACK HOUSE\_FACADES



PRIVATE ALLEYWAY



STREET FACING



NEIGHORHOOD

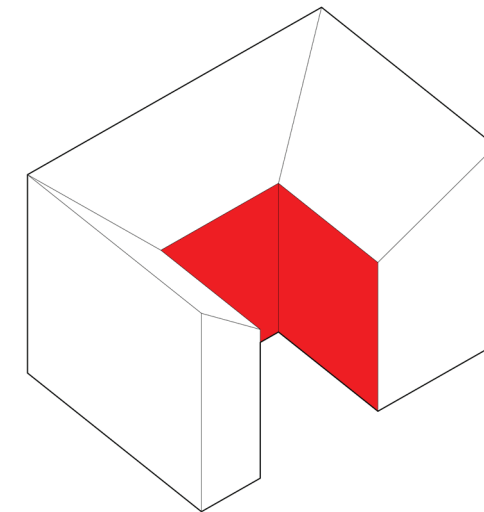
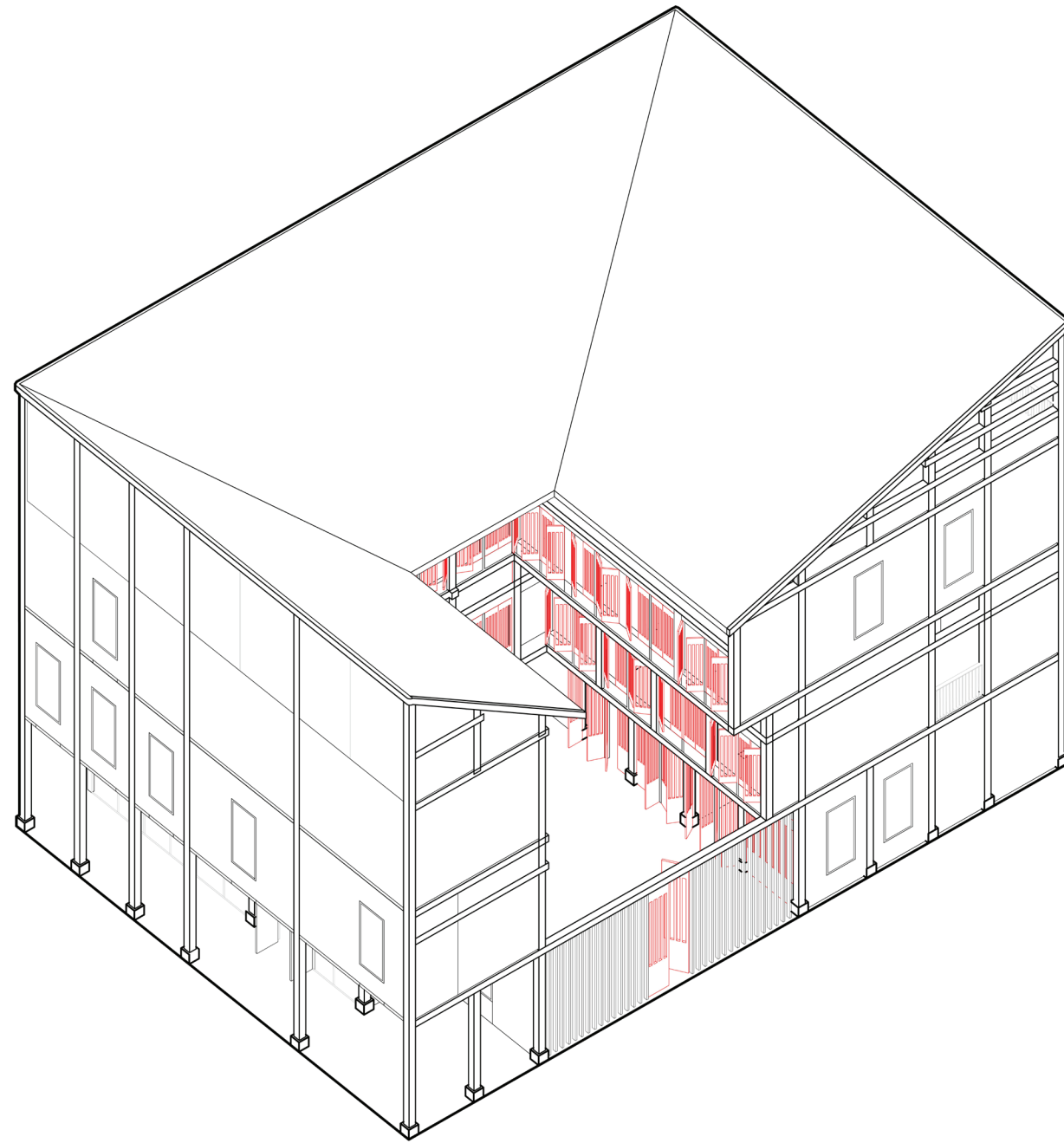


FARM

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# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

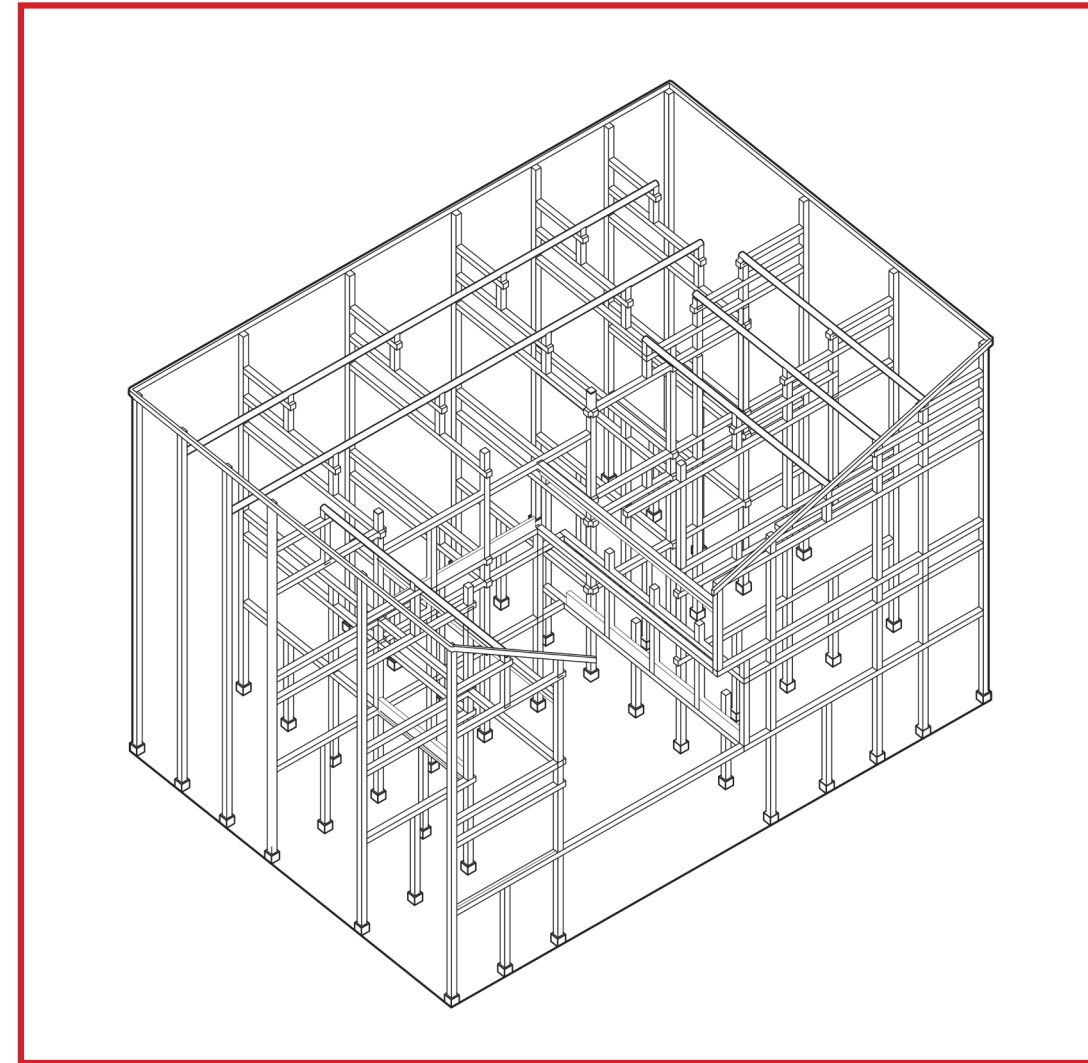
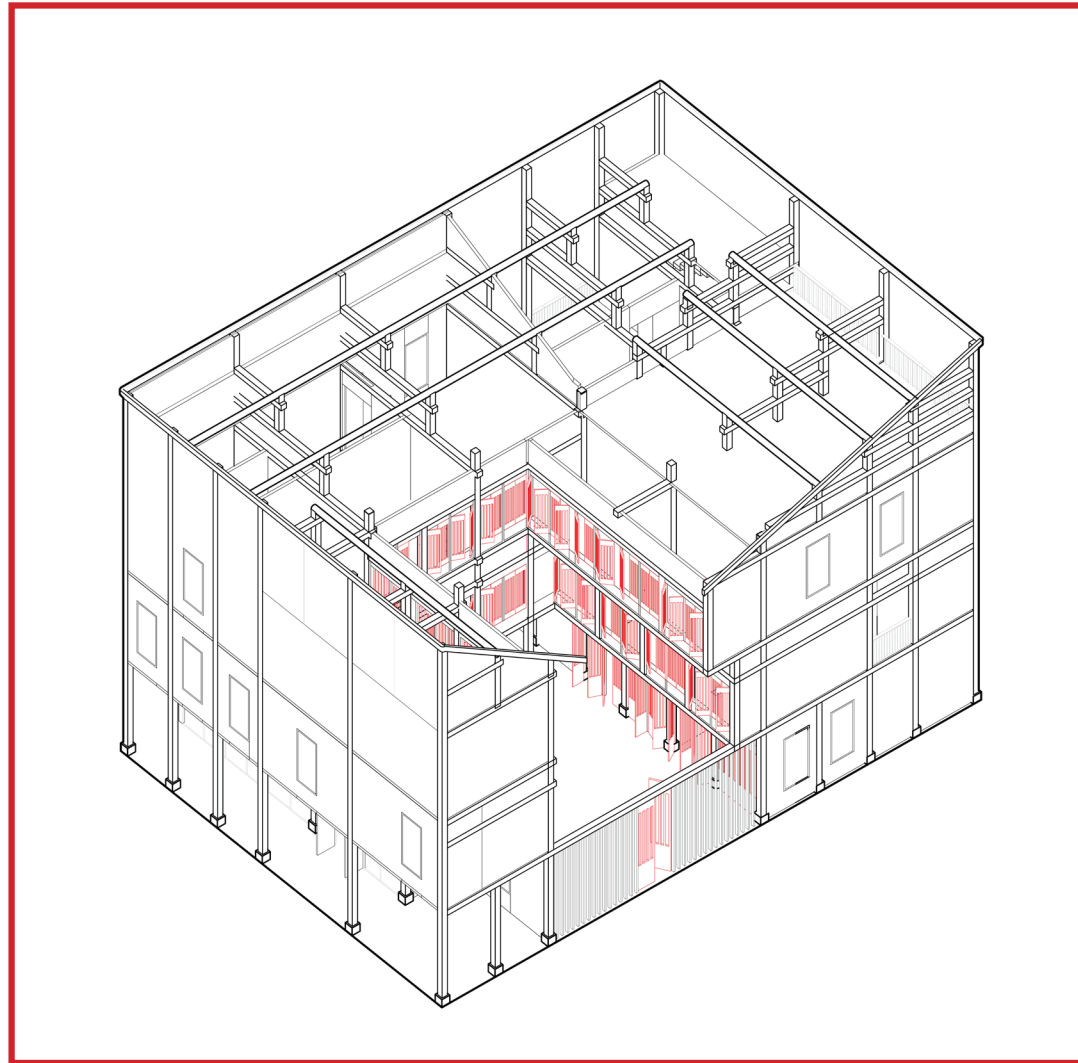
## THE STACK HOUSE\_AXONS



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# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

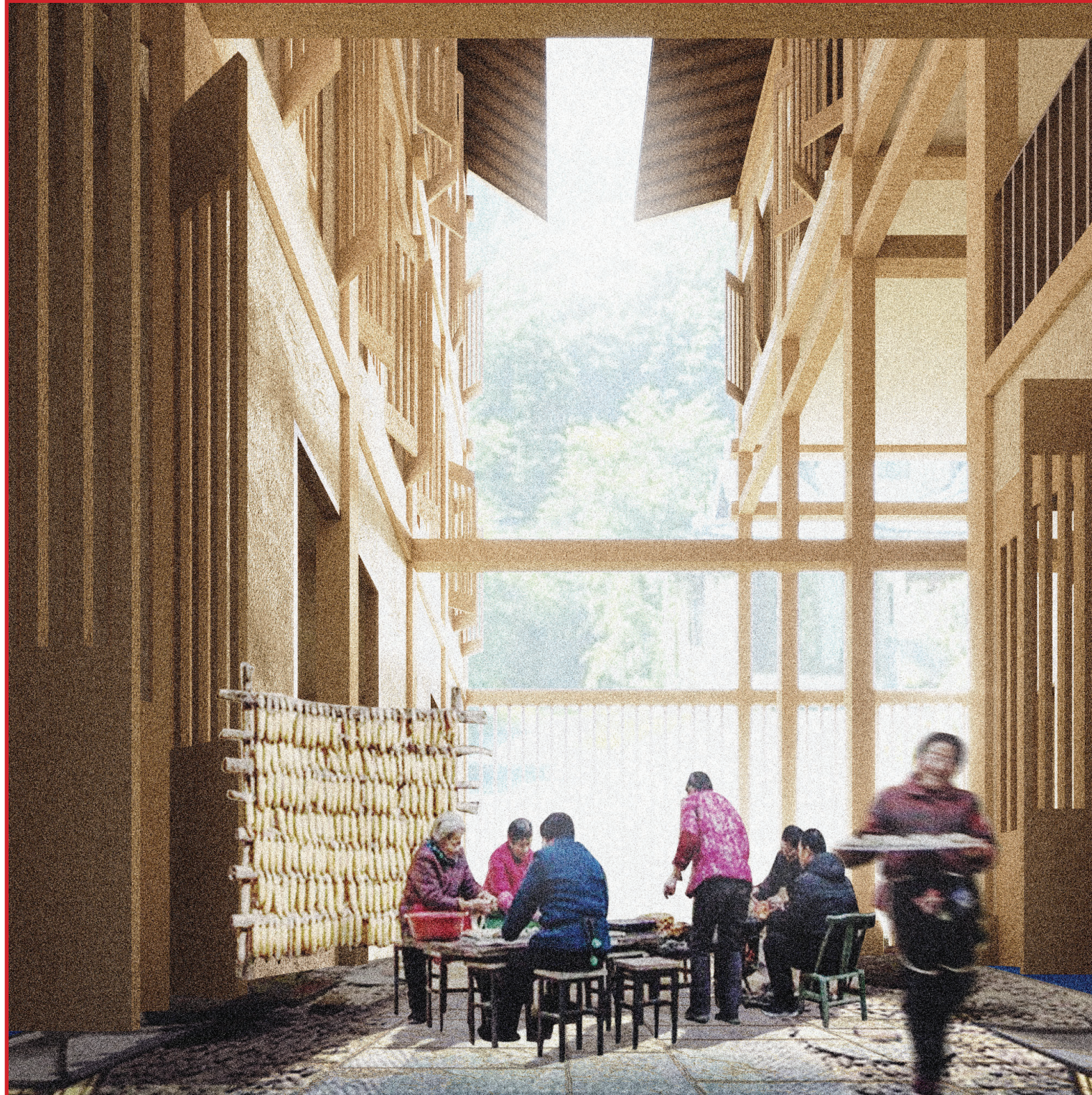
## THE STACK HOUSE\_AXONS



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# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

## THE DEEP HOUSE



### Built-In Business

1. ground floor shop
2. rooftop cafe
3. 4 guestrooms  
(can be converted to family bedrooms)

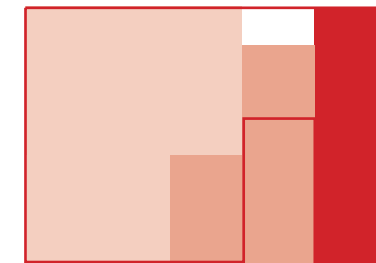
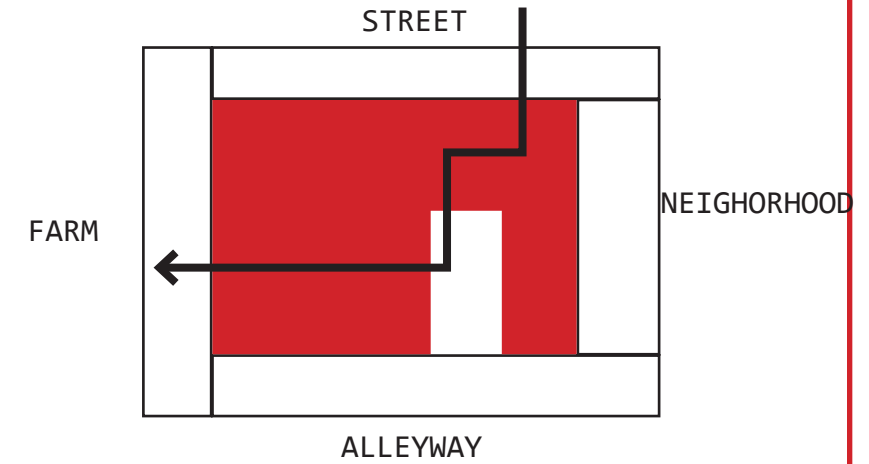
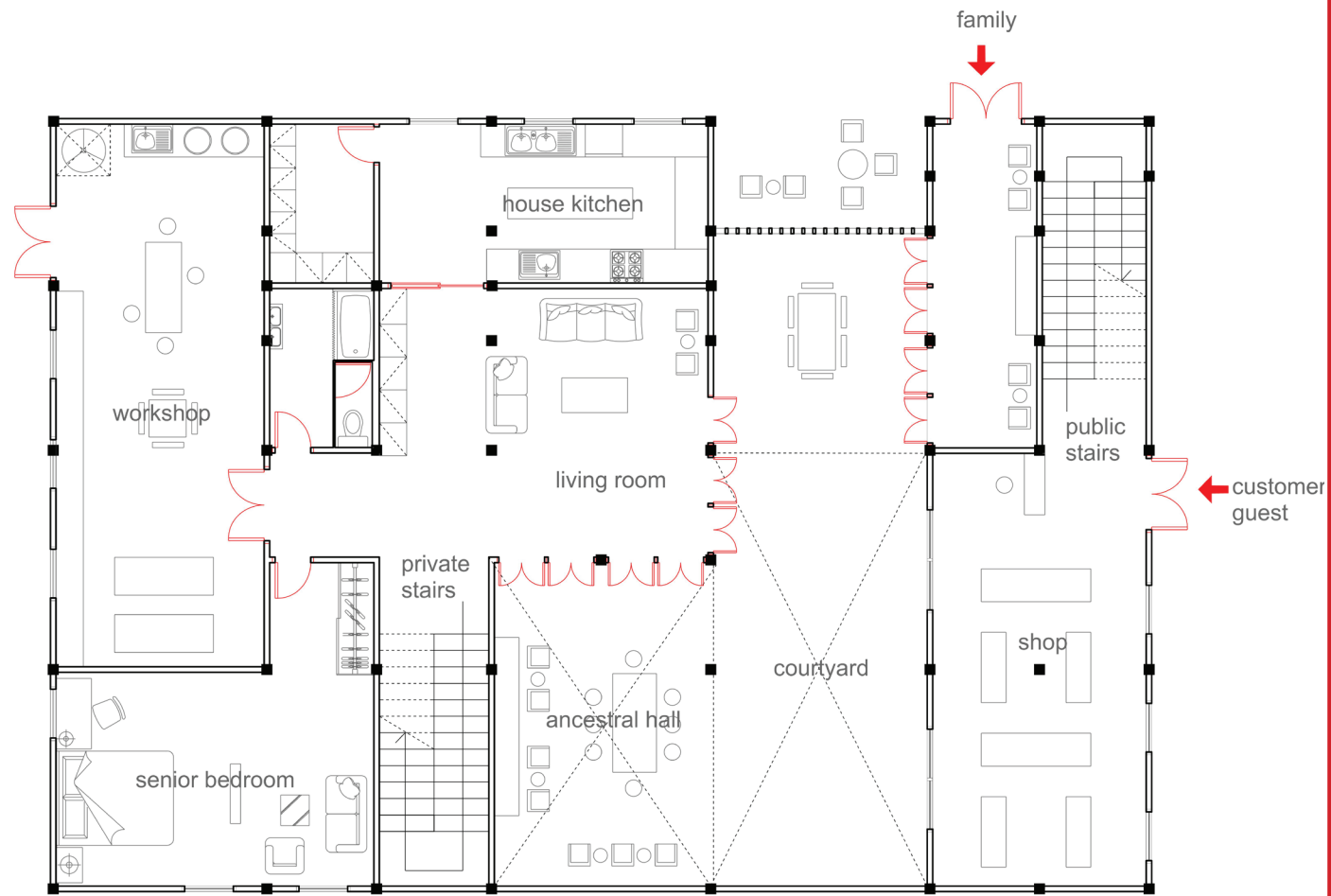
### For Family

1. 4-6 bedrooms
2. 4 bathrooms
3. full workshop with outside kitchen
4. rooftop harvest drying space
5. farm produce storage

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# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

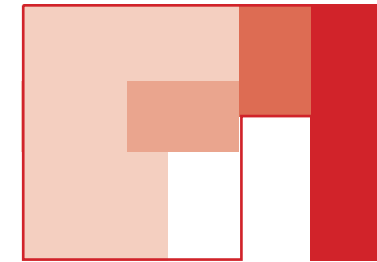
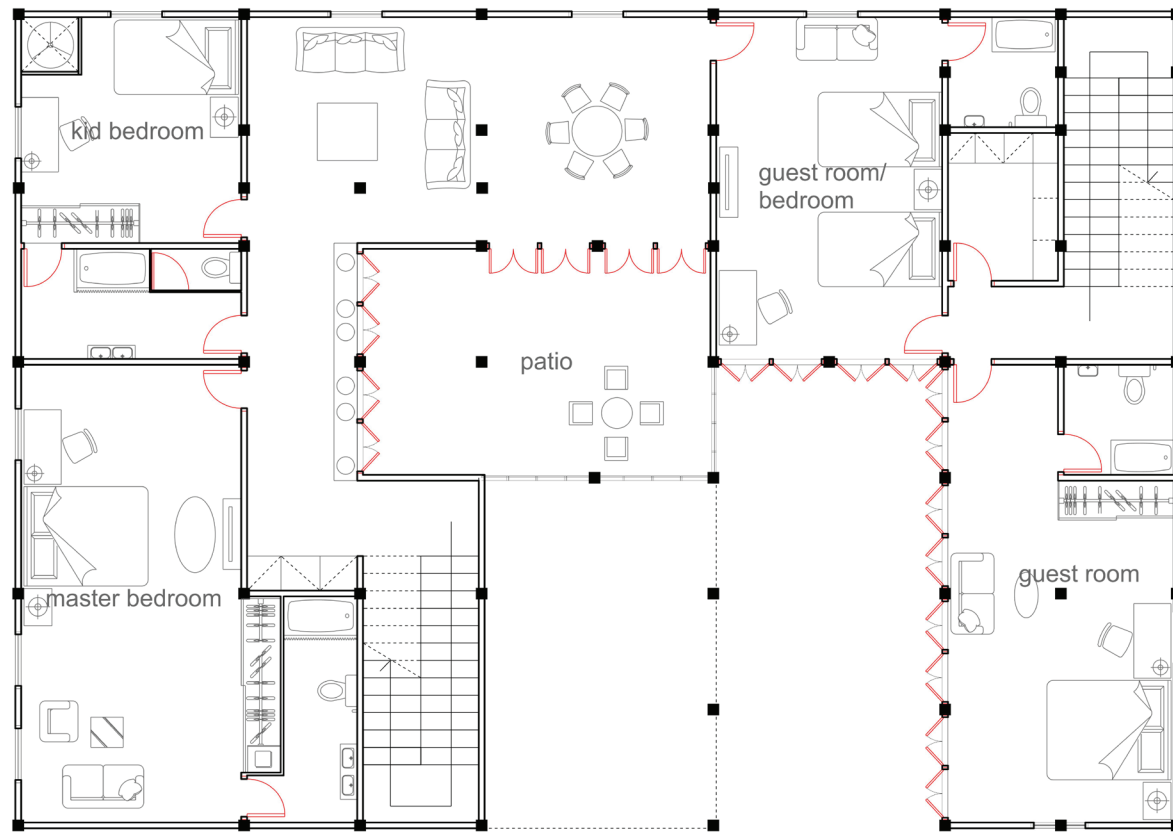
## THE DEEP HOUSE\_FLOOR1



- public
- transient
- shared with permission
- private

# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

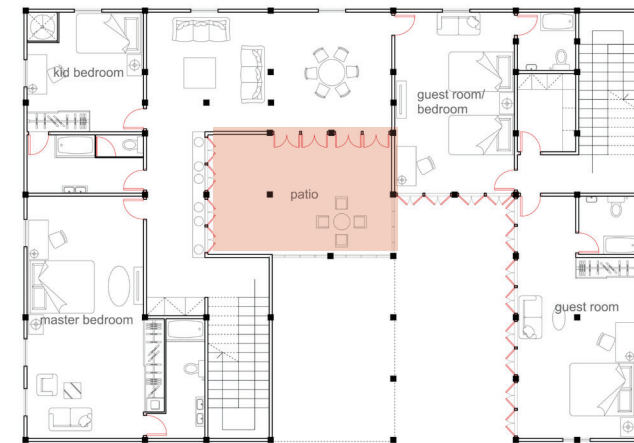
## THE DEEP HOUSE\_FLOOR2



- public
- transient
- shared with permission
- private

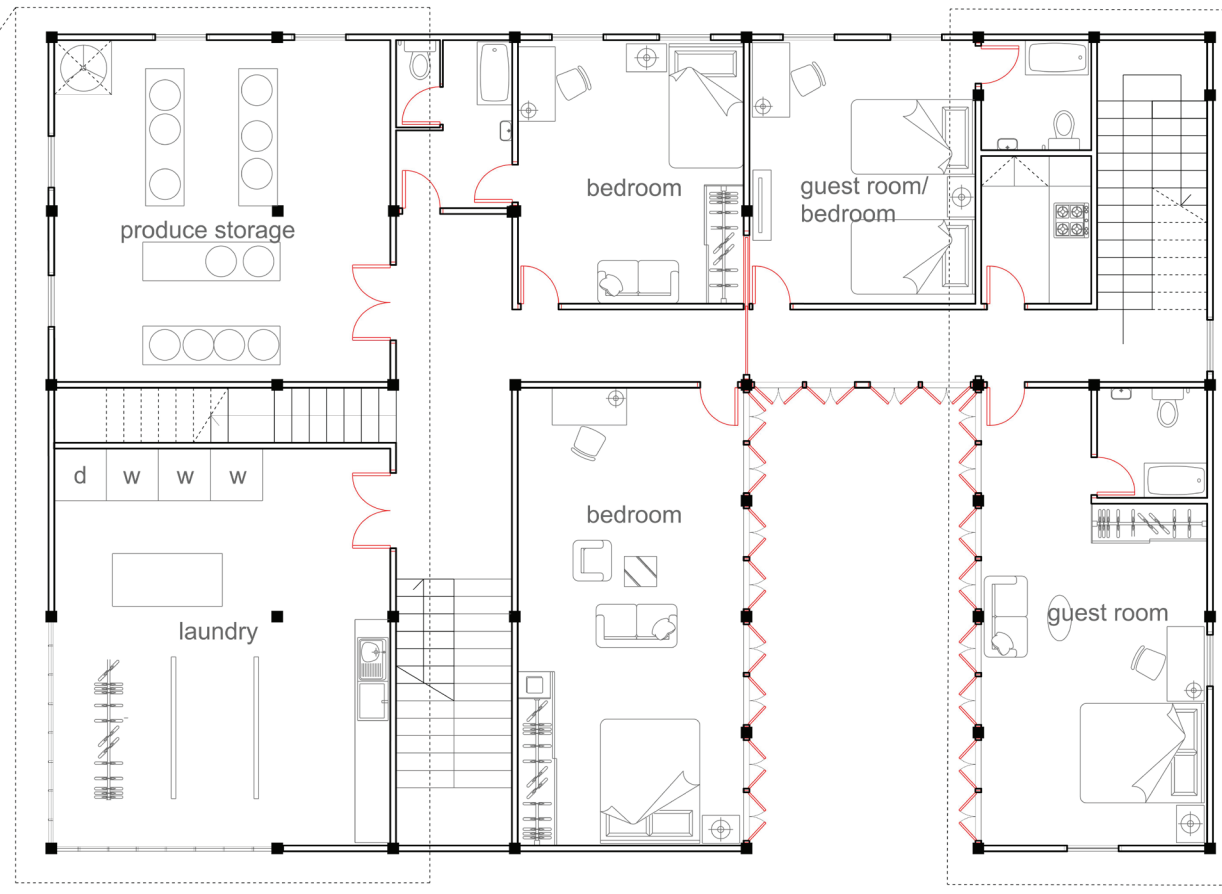
# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

## THE DEEP HOUSE\_FLOOR2\_PATIO

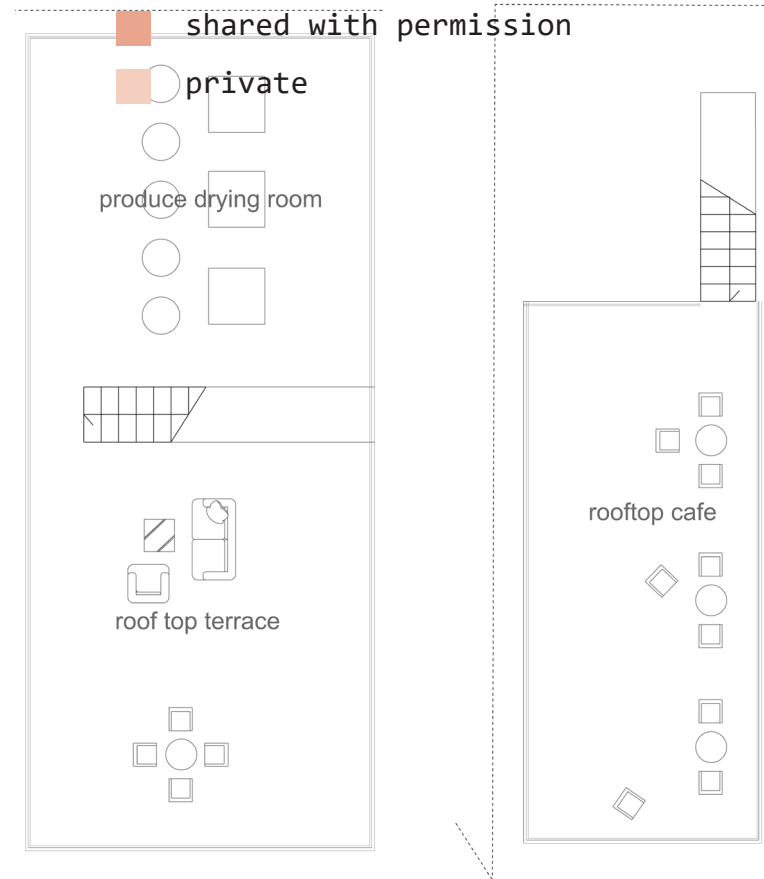


# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

## THE DEEP HOUSE\_FLOOR3



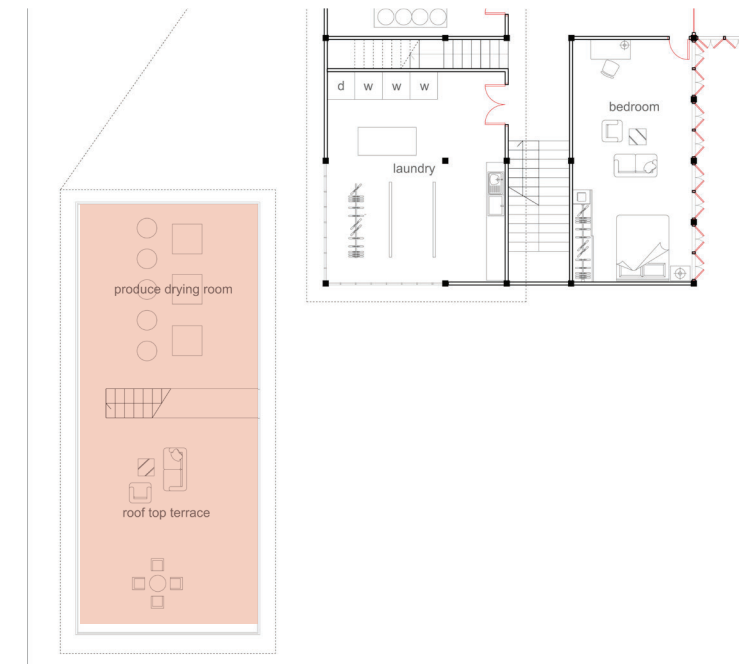
- public
- transient
- shared with permission





# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

## THE DEEP HOUSE\_FLOOR3\_PRODUCES DRYING ROOF TERRACE



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# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

## THE DEEP HOUSE\_FLOOR3\_COURTYARD



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# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

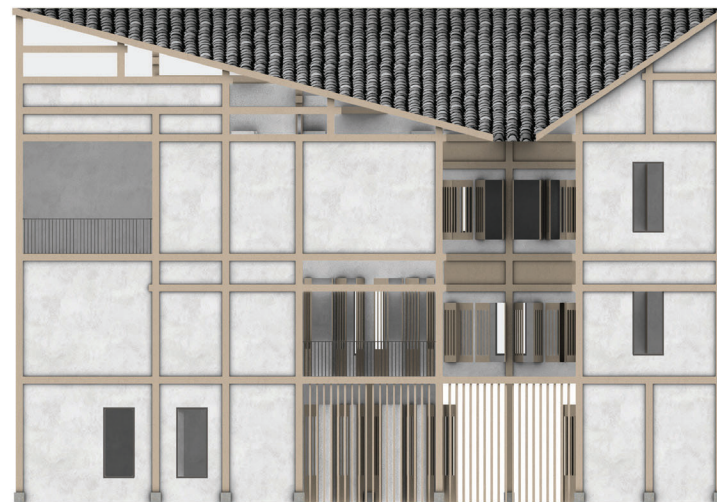
## THE DEEP HOUSE\_FACADES



STREET FACING



NEIGHBORHOOD



PRIVATE ALLEYWAY

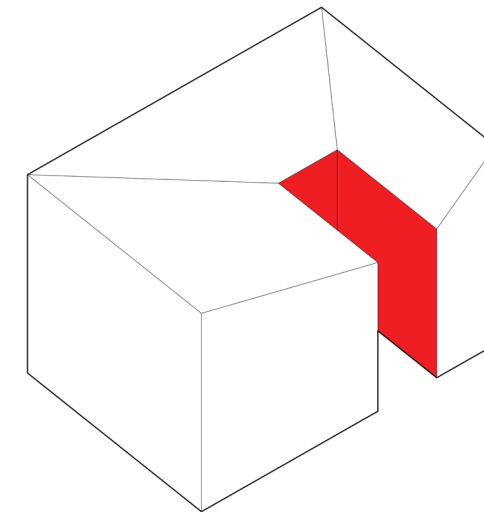
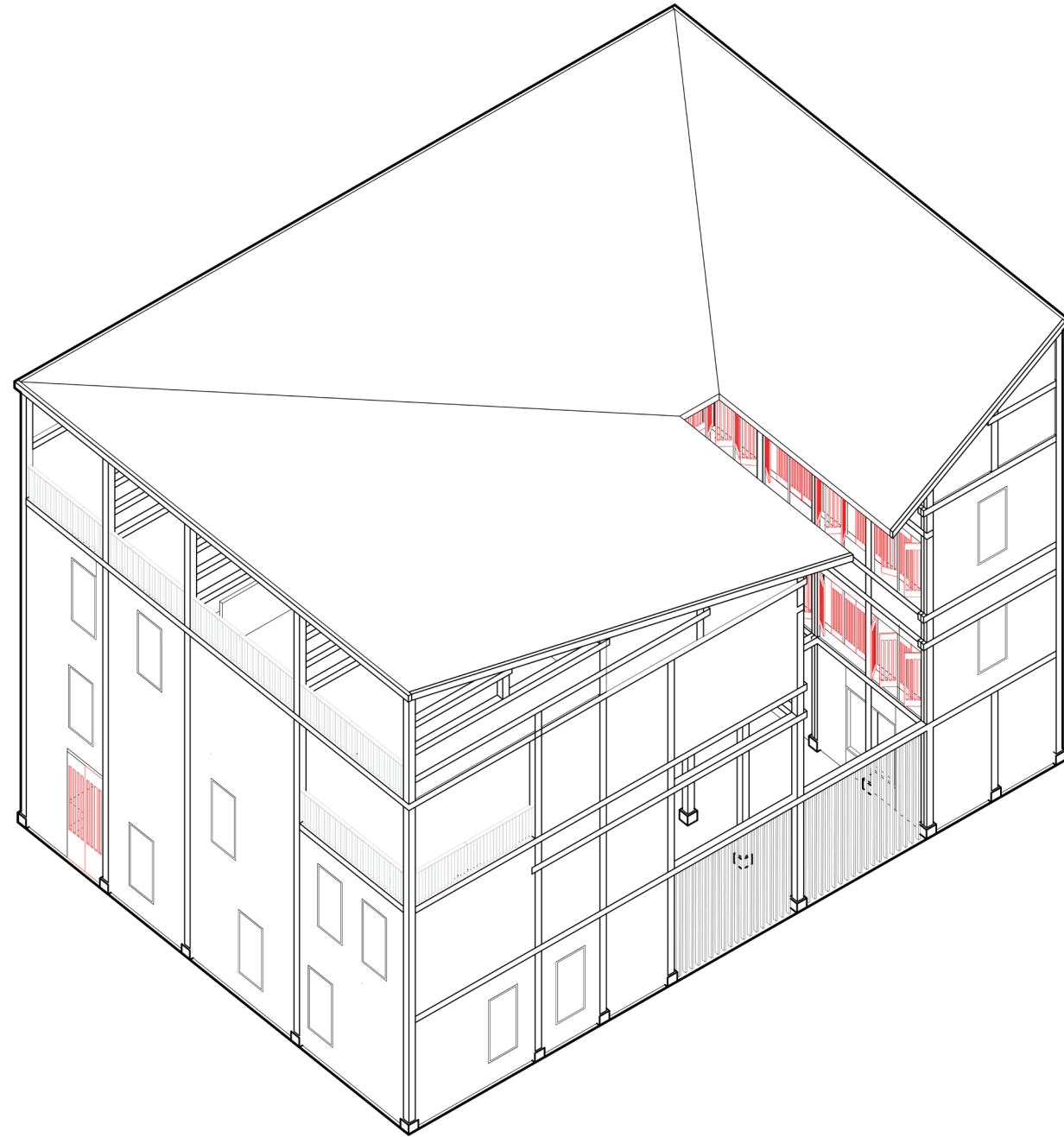


FARM

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# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

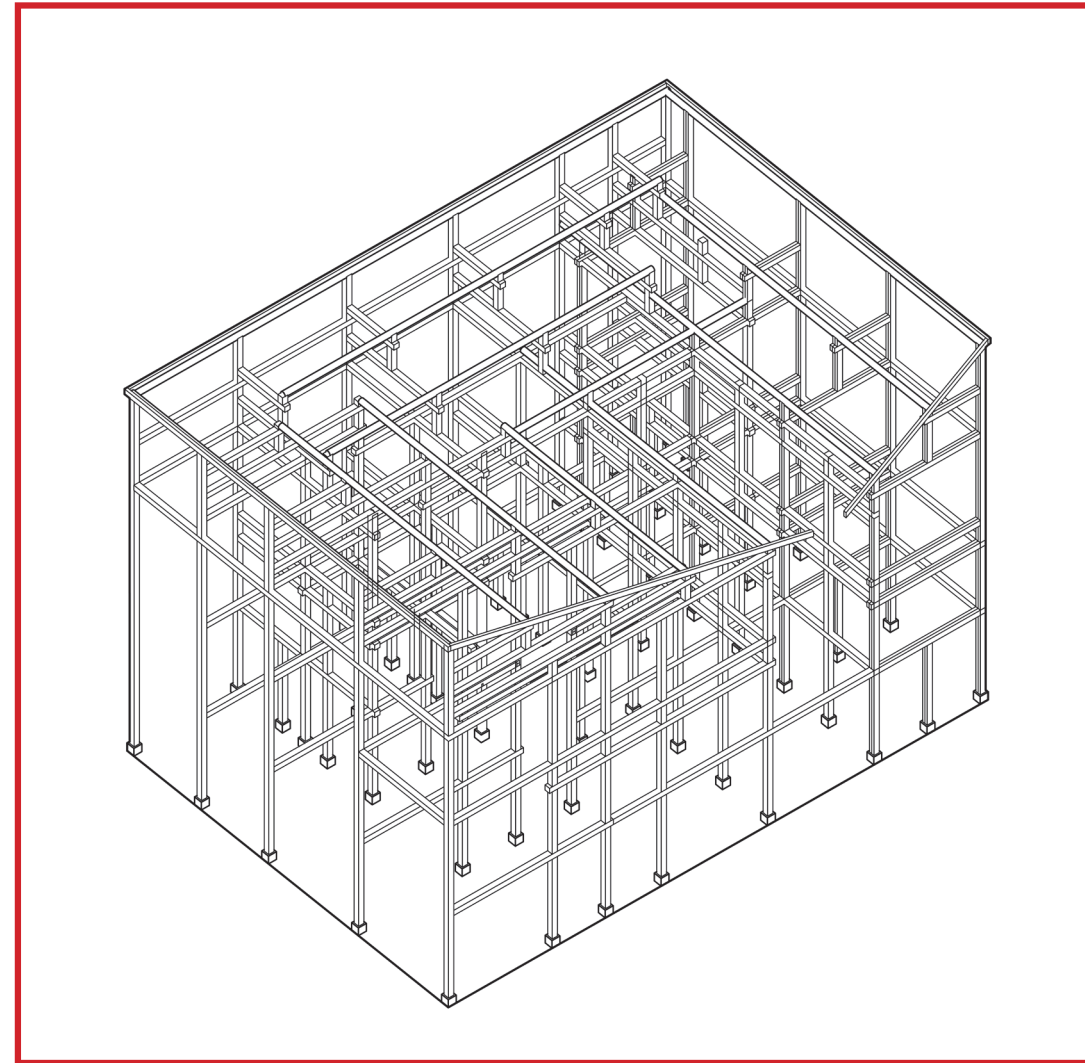
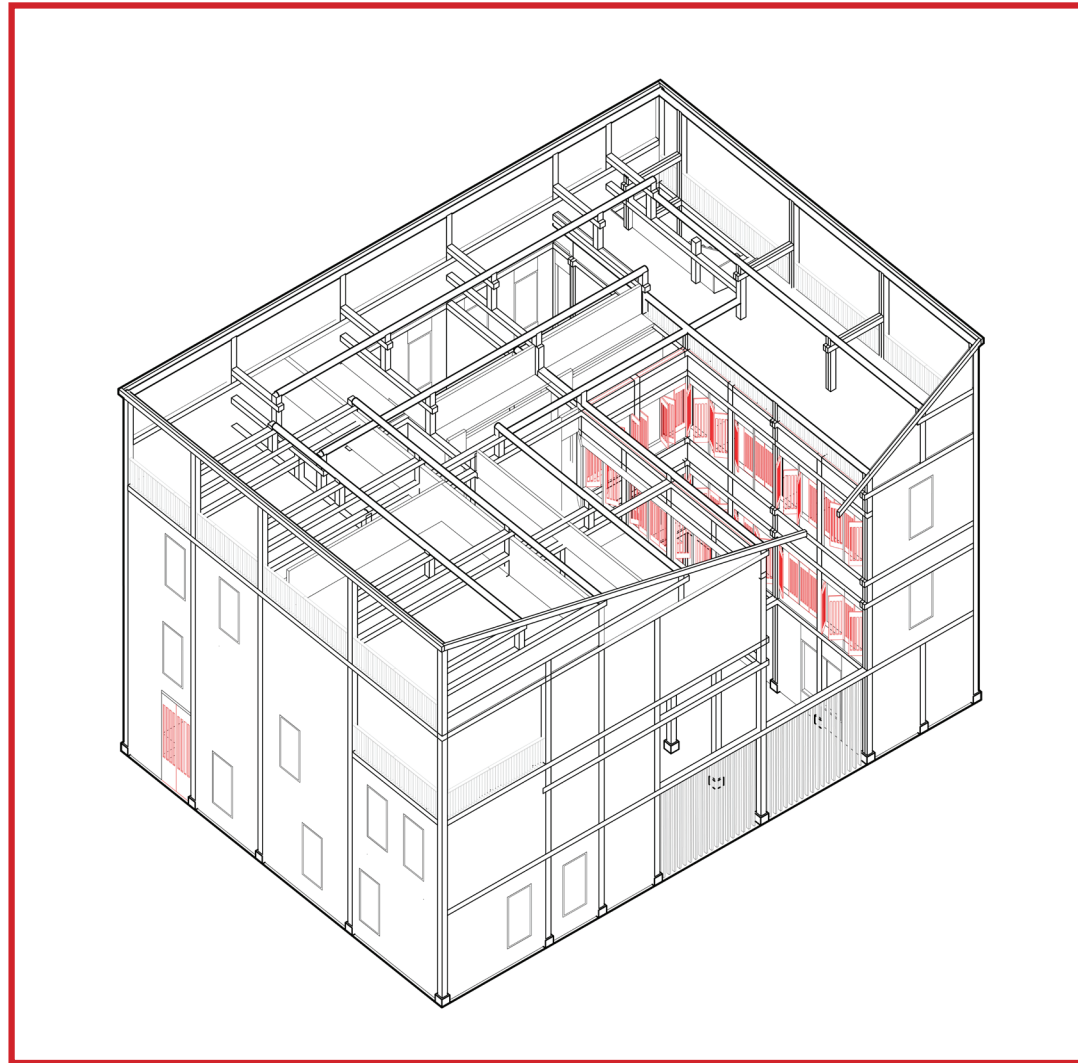
## THE DEEP HOUSE\_AXONS



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# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

## THE DEEP HOUSE\_AXONS



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# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

## THE DOUBLE HOUSE



### Built-In Business

1. Duplex for smaller families
2. 3 guestrooms each side

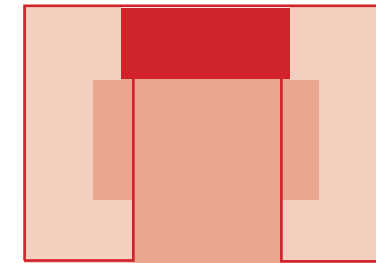
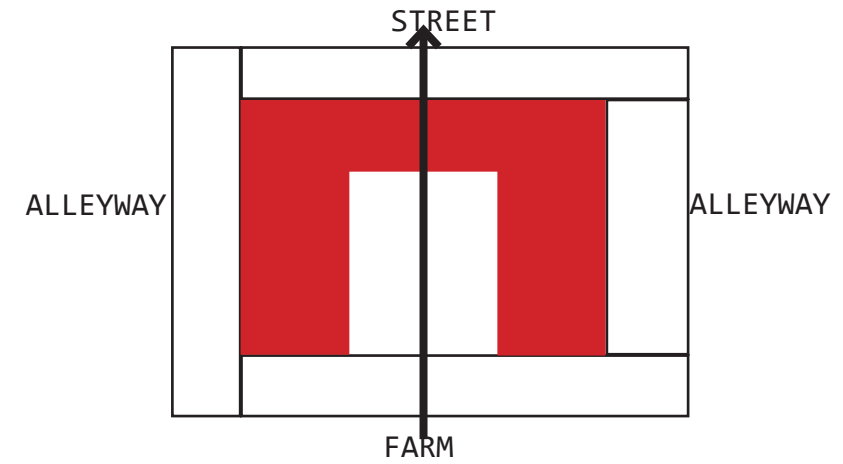
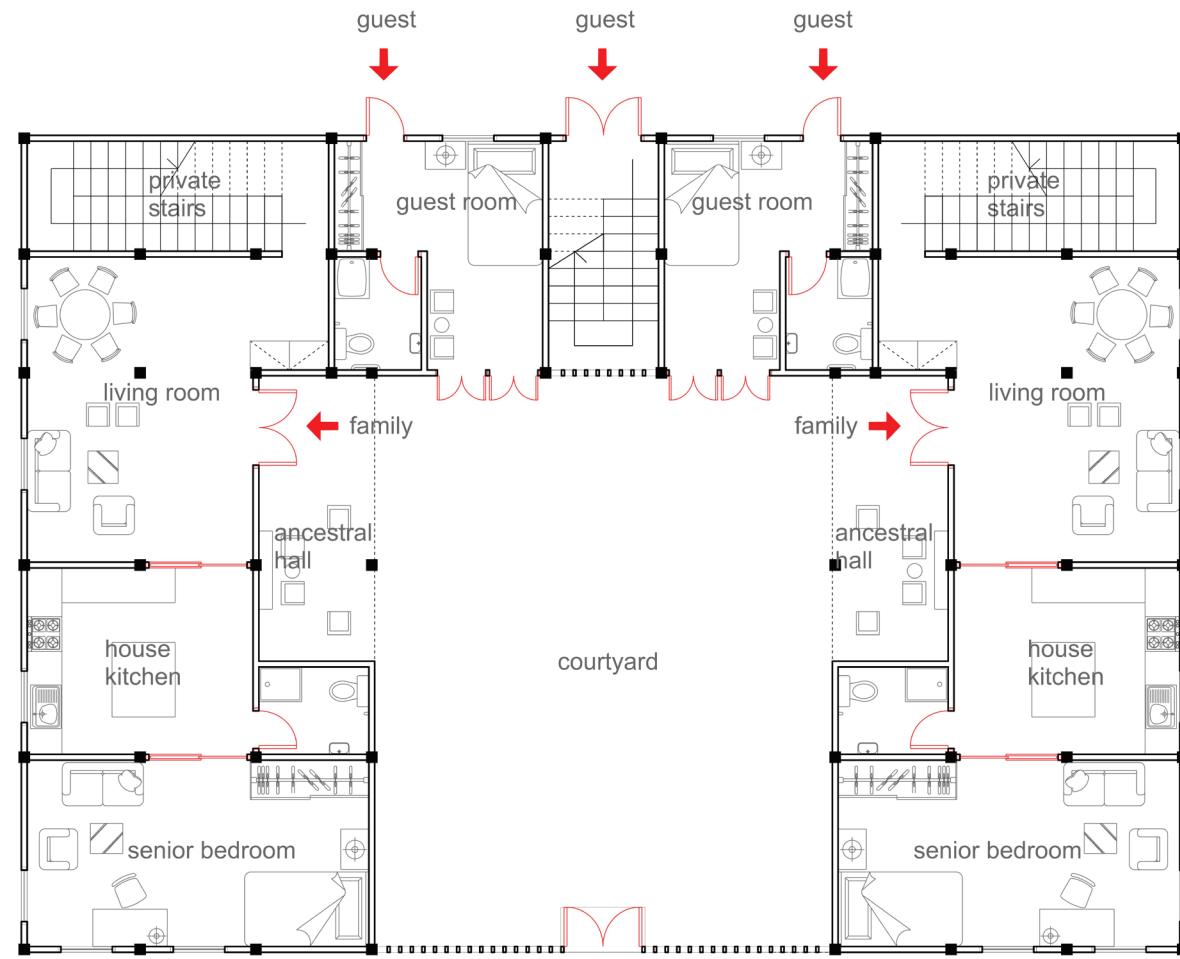
### For Family

1. 3 bedrooms
2. 3 bathrooms
3. rooftop harvest drying space
4. farm produce storage

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# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

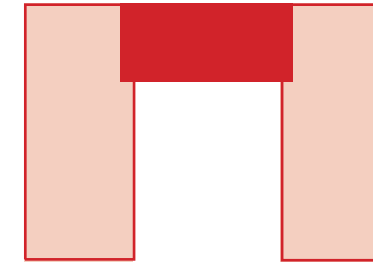
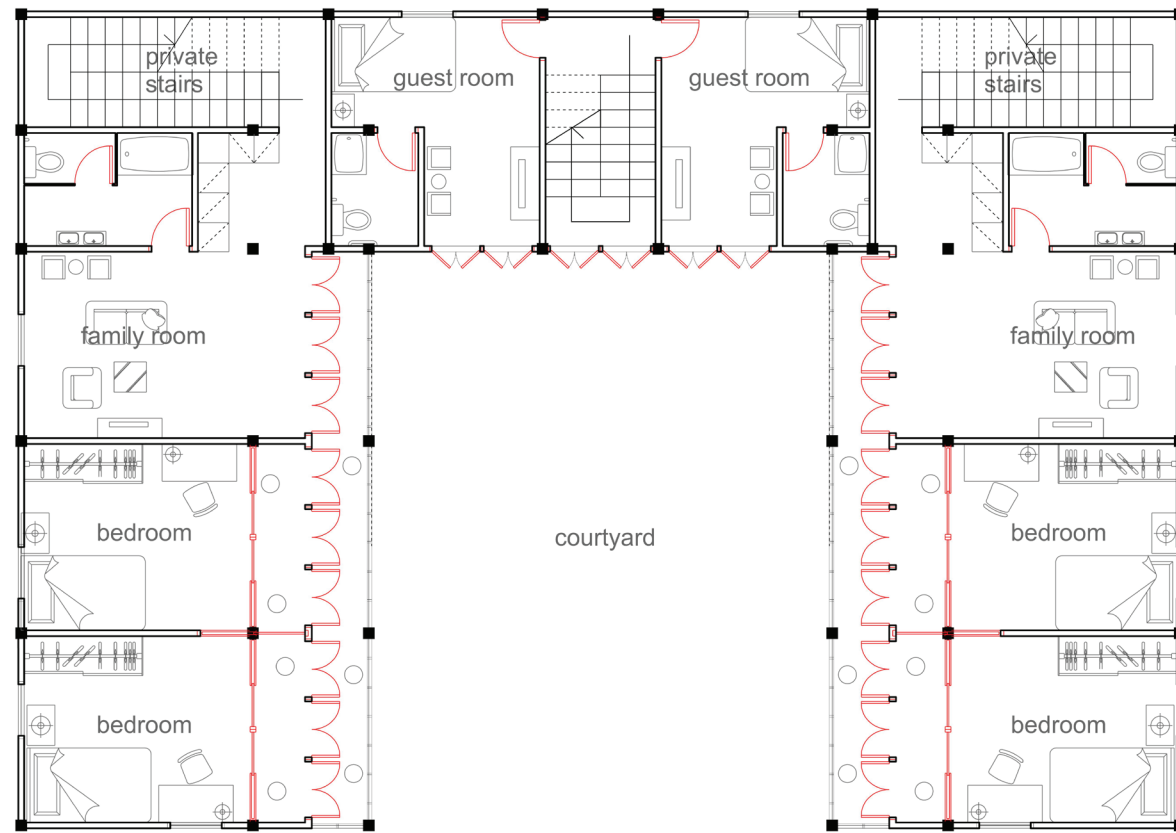
## THE DOUBLE HOUSE\_FLOOR1



- public
- transient
- shared with permission
- private

# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

## THE DOUBLE HOUSE\_FLOOR2



- public
- transient
- shared with permission
- private

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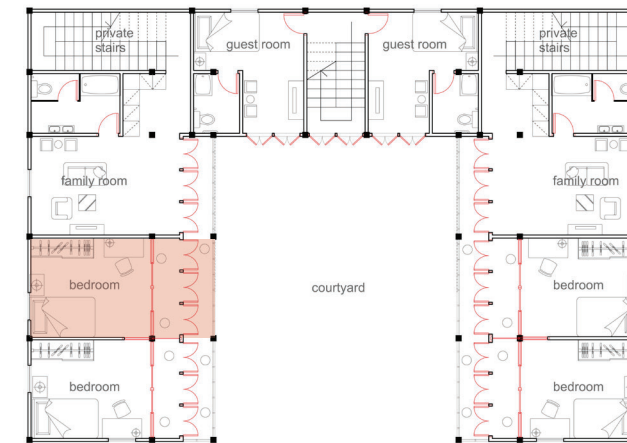
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# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

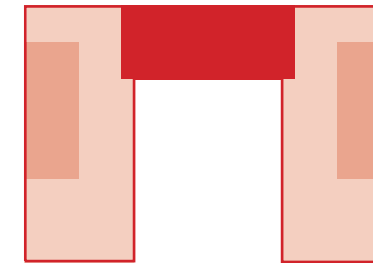
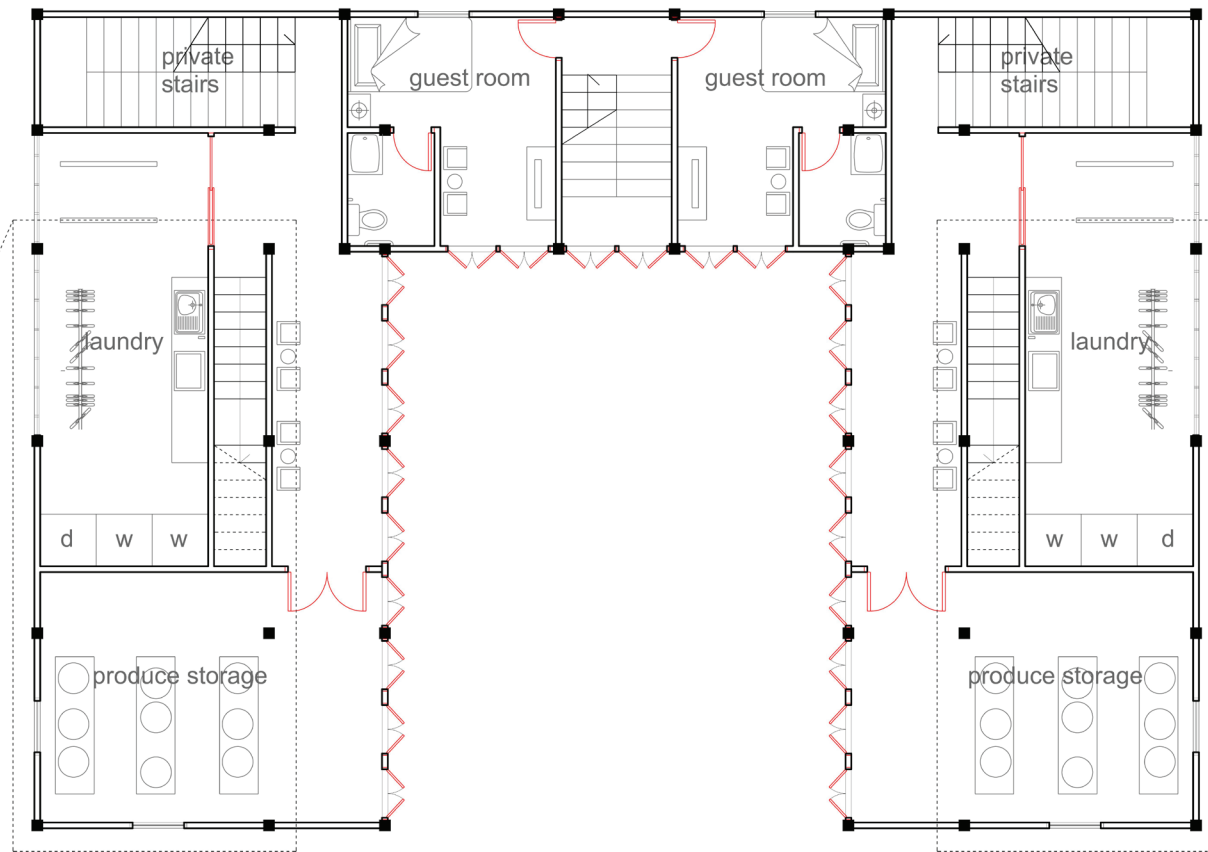
## THE DEEP HOUSE\_FLOOR2\_BEDROOM



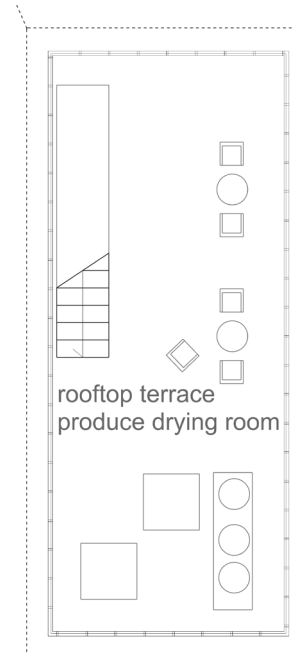
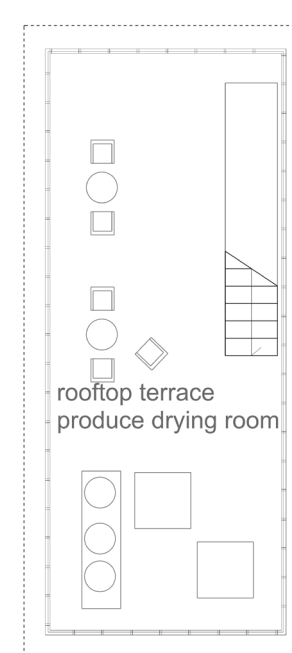
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# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

## THE DOUBLE HOUSE\_FLOOR3



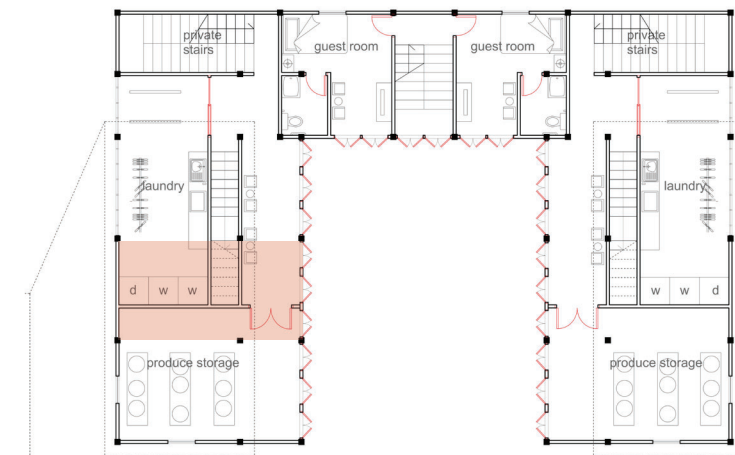
- public
- transient
- shared with permission
- private



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# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

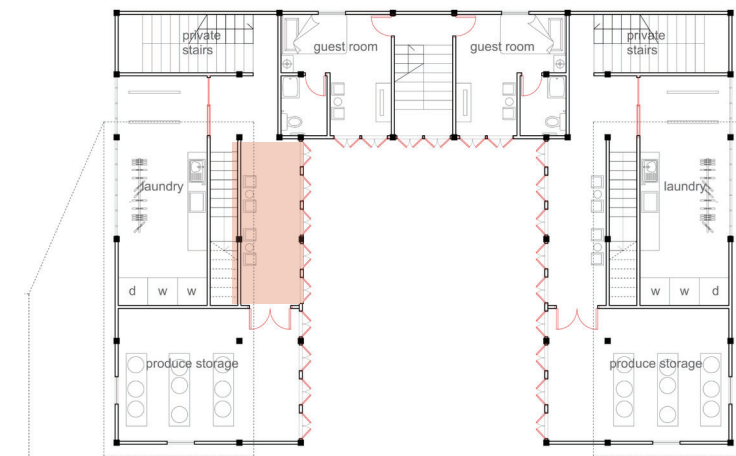
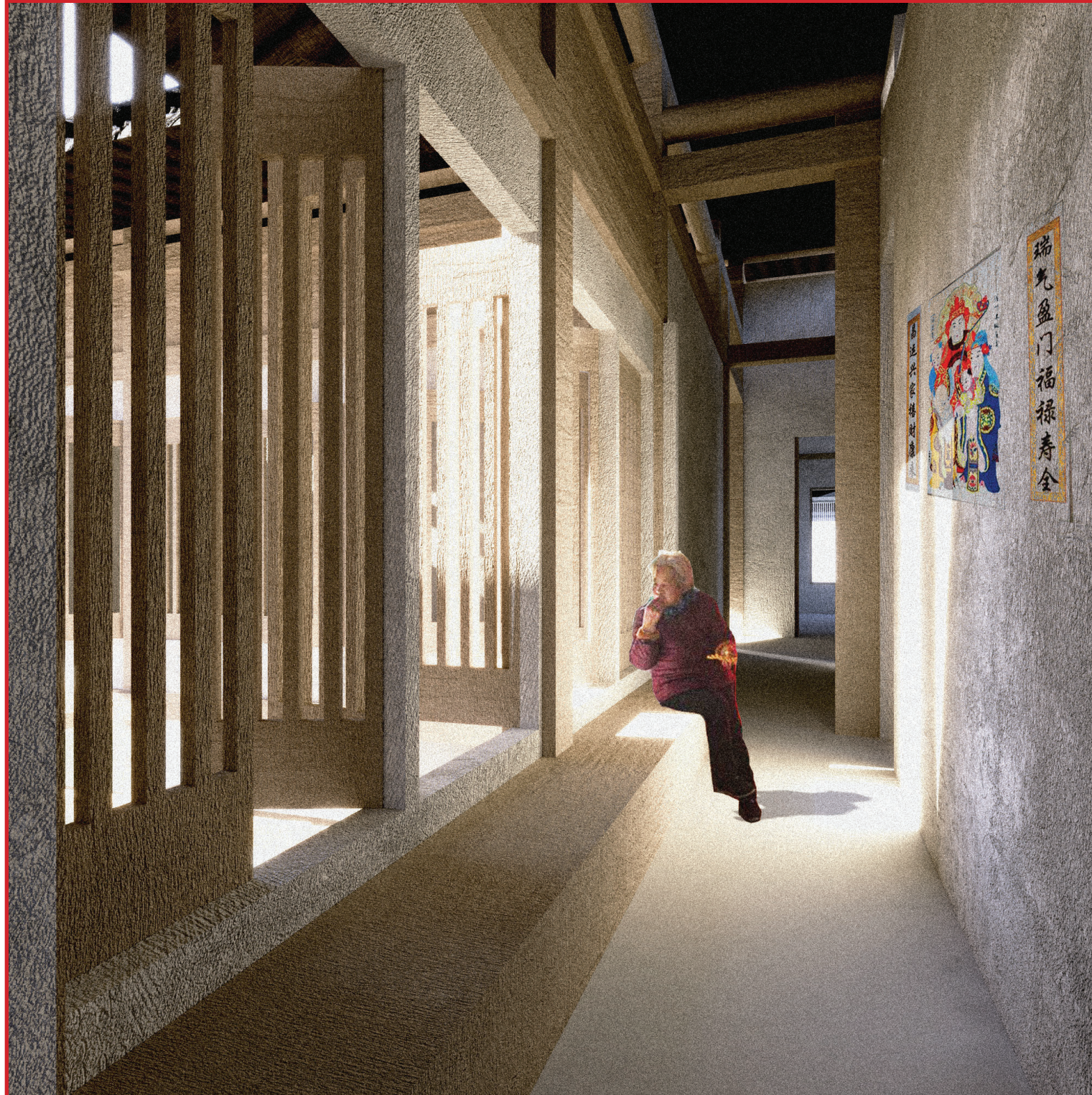
## THE DOUBLE HOUSE\_FLOOR3\_CORRIDOR



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# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

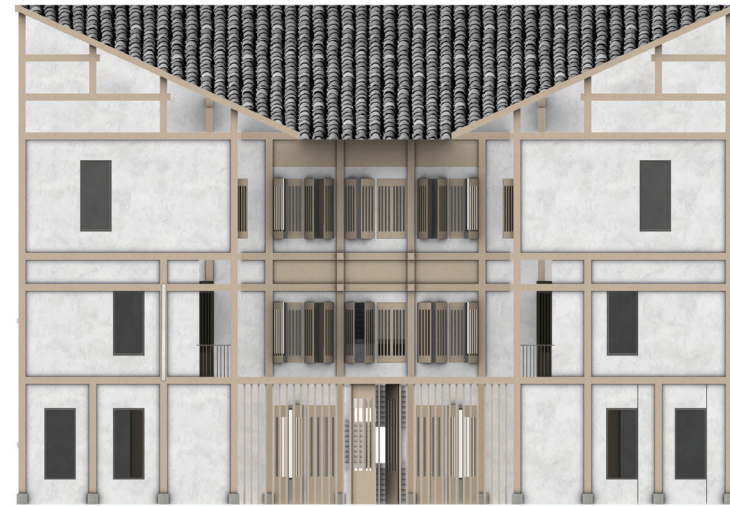
## THE DEEP HOUSE\_FLOOR3\_COURTYARD



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# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

## THE DOUBLE HOUSE\_FACADES



FARM



PRIVATE ALLEYWAY



STREET FACING

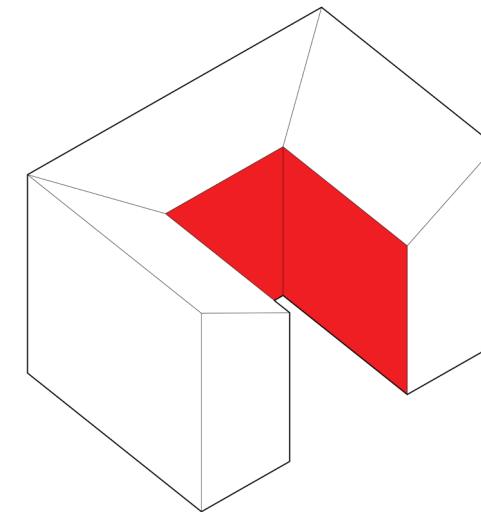
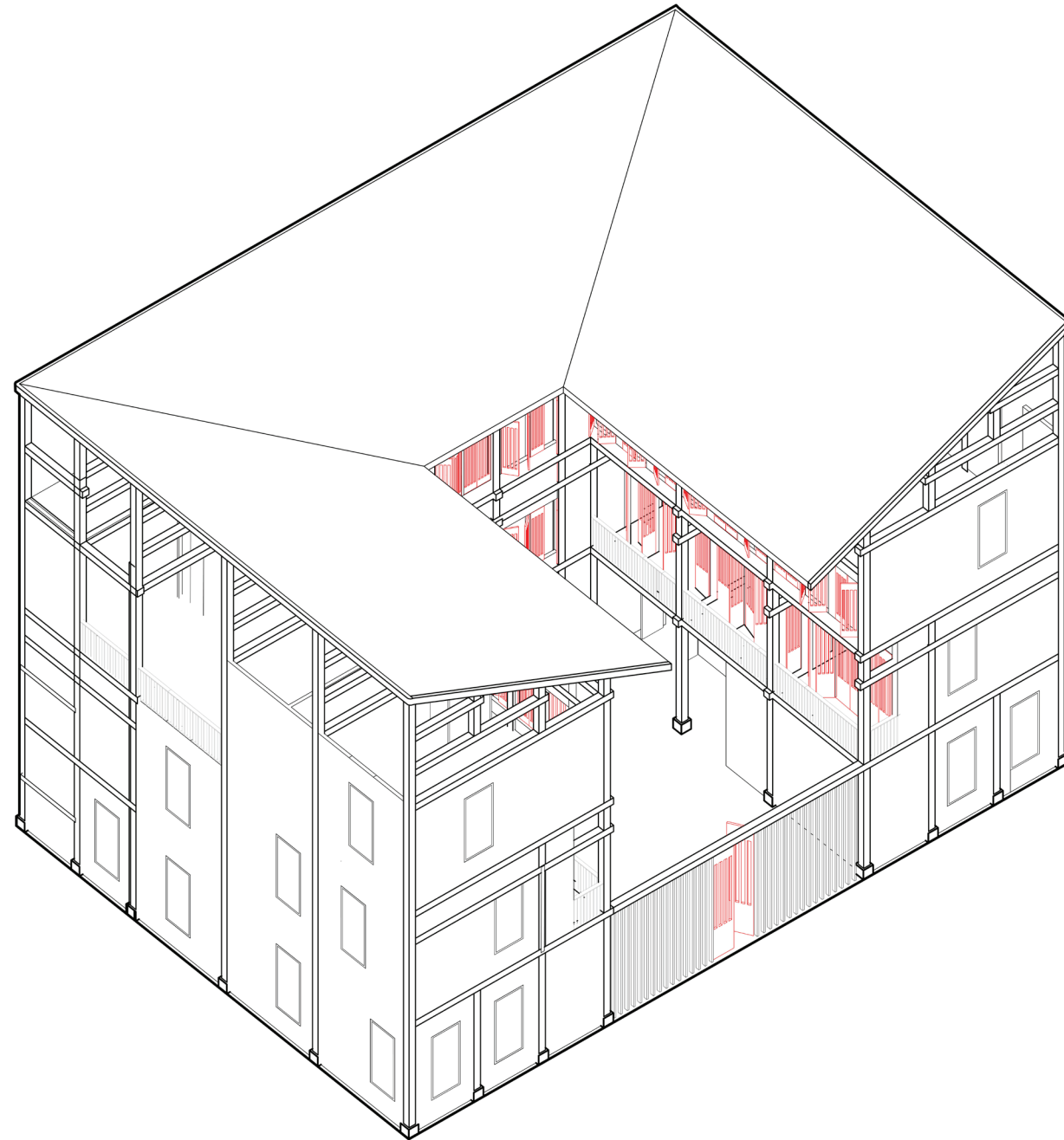


PRIVATE ALLEYWAY

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# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

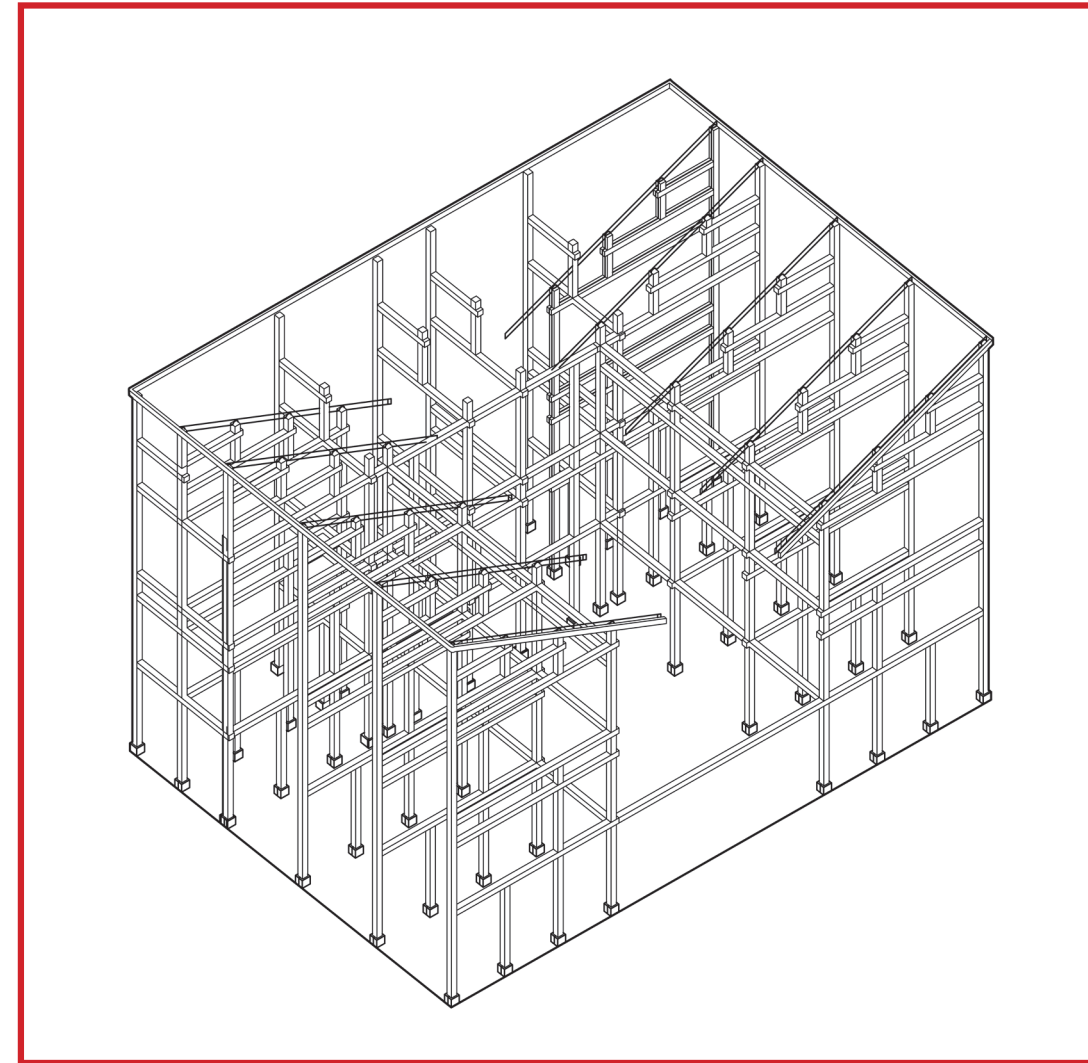
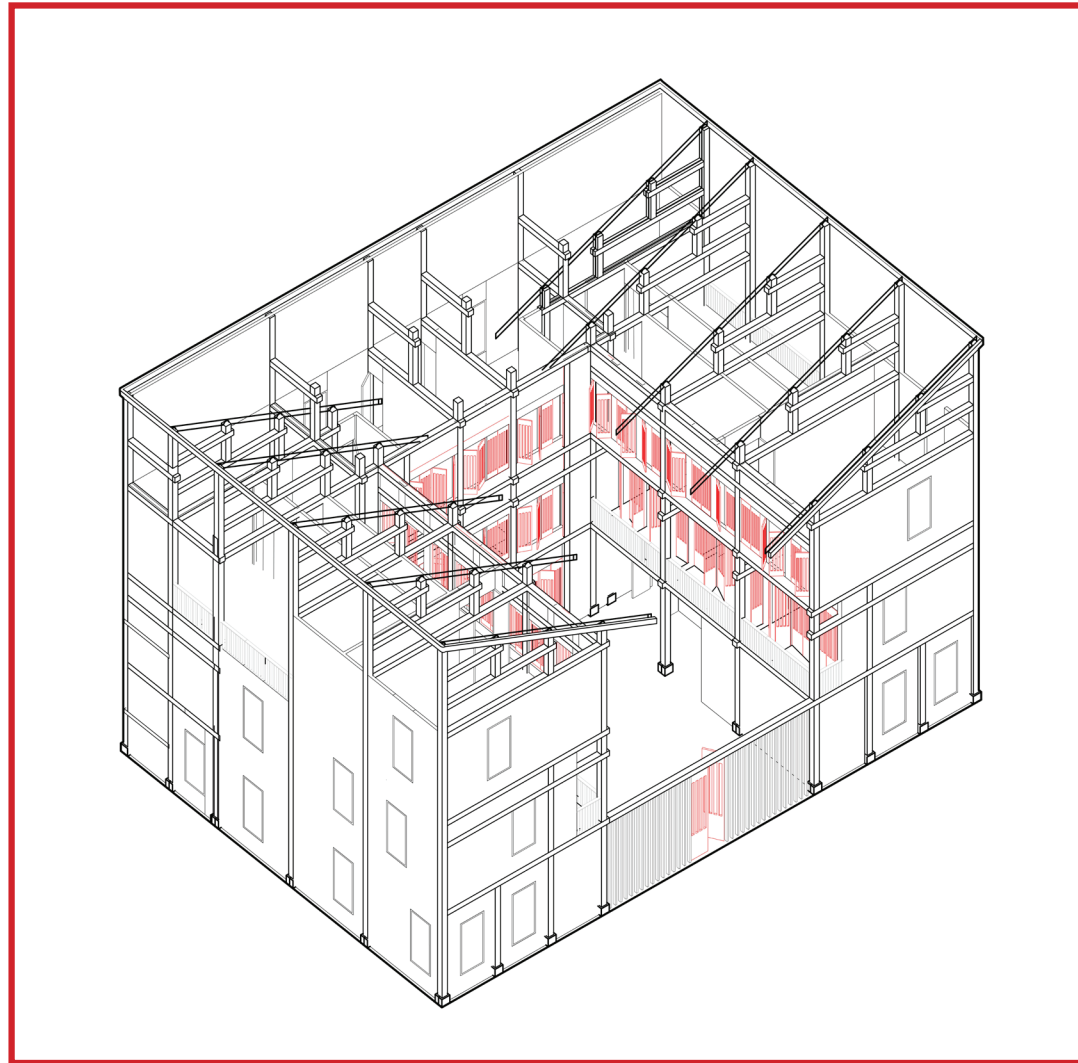
## THE DOUBLE HOUSE\_AXONS



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# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

## THE DOUBLE HOUSE\_AXONS



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## **5. CHOOSE YOUR NEIGHBOR** **\_CLUSTER AND INFILL PROGRAM**



# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

## THE CLUSTER SITE



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# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

## THE CLUSTER SITE



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# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

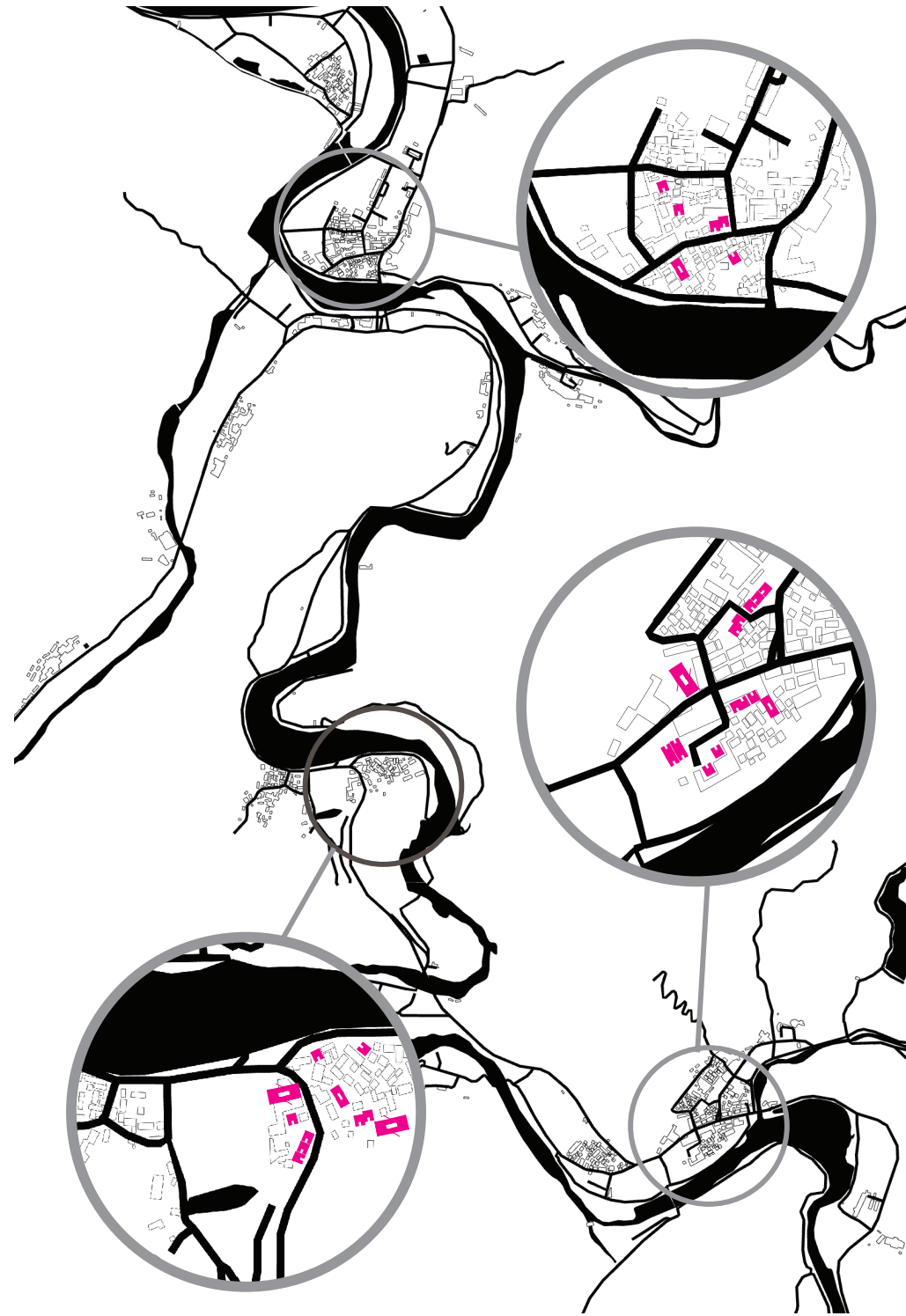
## THE CLUSTER SITE



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# Home, Homing, Home-Escape

## THE INFILL



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*Home, Homing, Home-Escape*



**Thank You**

**Achieving Sustainable Rural Tourism in Post-COVID Huyuan Town, China**