SOCIALL HOUSING: Towards a Typology for a Model Tourism and Agricultural Village in the Valiyaparamba Backwaters, in Kerala South India. The project aims towards developing a Housing Typology, which could be multiplied across the waterlogged areas of the state as Kerala’s Backwater Tourism Industry continues to boom, bringing with it both financial benefits and social and environmental consequences.

By balancing tourism activities with traditional agricultural activities, the project provides employment opportunities and enable households and individuals to produce and supply agricultural products that are demanded by the tourism industry so that local people will be able to get maximum economic benefit out of the increase in tourism in the area, whilst preserving the agricultural landscape and traditions.

The illustrated masterplan describes how the typology could be implemented across the site, to create a landscape of cluster houses and Kaipad Fields. The length and width of the family houses depend on situations such as number of children etc. The angle between the houses and the central communal space is dependent on environmental factors, such as to take advantage of the prevailing wind direction for maximum natural ventilation.

In a similar way that one can see from an Indian village where member of the same families live from the same colours of their houses, one will be able to understand the environmental and social context including the complex family ties and social circumstances by ‘reading’ into the way in which the architecture sprawls across the site.
SOCIAL HOUSING: Towards a Typology for a Model Tourism and Agricultural Village in the Vathyaparamba Backwaters, in Kerala South India.

Hand drawn circular section showing how the daily lives of the occupants are played out within the architecture and agricultural landscape.
All houseboat tourism in the backwater districts of Kerala has increased significantly over the past decade. The cultural traditions of those who live along the water's edge have come under threat.

An experimental timber model testing materiality and internal experience of the semi-enclosed, semi-floating bathing dwelling, where locals can bath in the backwaters in privacy, away from the prying eye of tourists. The model is clad in timber shingles which absorb oil pollution from the water surface, left by tourist boats, thus creating a safe and protected bathing environment inside.
Private bathing dwelling, Kerala, India. As houseboat tourism in the backwater districts of Kerala has increased significantly over the past decade, the cultural traditions of those who live along the waters edge have come under threat. An experimental timber model testing materiality and internal experience of the semi-enclosed, semi-floating bathing dwelling, where locals can bathe in the backwaters in privacy, away from the prying eye of tourists. The model is clad in timber shingles which absorb oil pollution from the water surface, left by tourist boats, thus creating a safe and protected bathing environment inside.

Pavilion Project in collaboration with MAMM, Colombia.

Section of a 1:10 Model testing materiality, construction techniques and user experience. The model was constructed during a field trip to Medellin as part of a collaboration between unit 22 and MAMM.