Institute of Design Environment and Architecture - Architecture Department

Course Content Semester 8

Skill Module 8

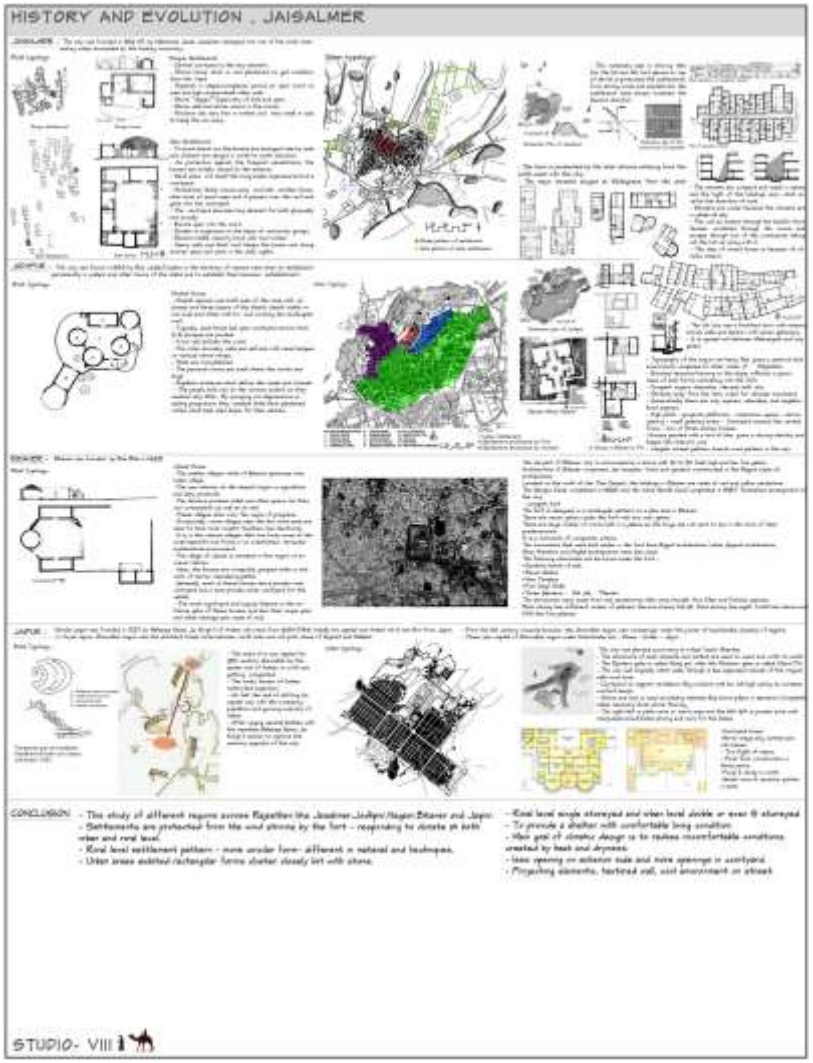
Studying the morphology of the traditional urban fabric of Jaisalmer to create an architectural Urban Insert design project pertinent to the social-economic-cultural patterns of the city. The following parameters (related to the context of Jaisalmer) would be explored during the course of the Design Project:

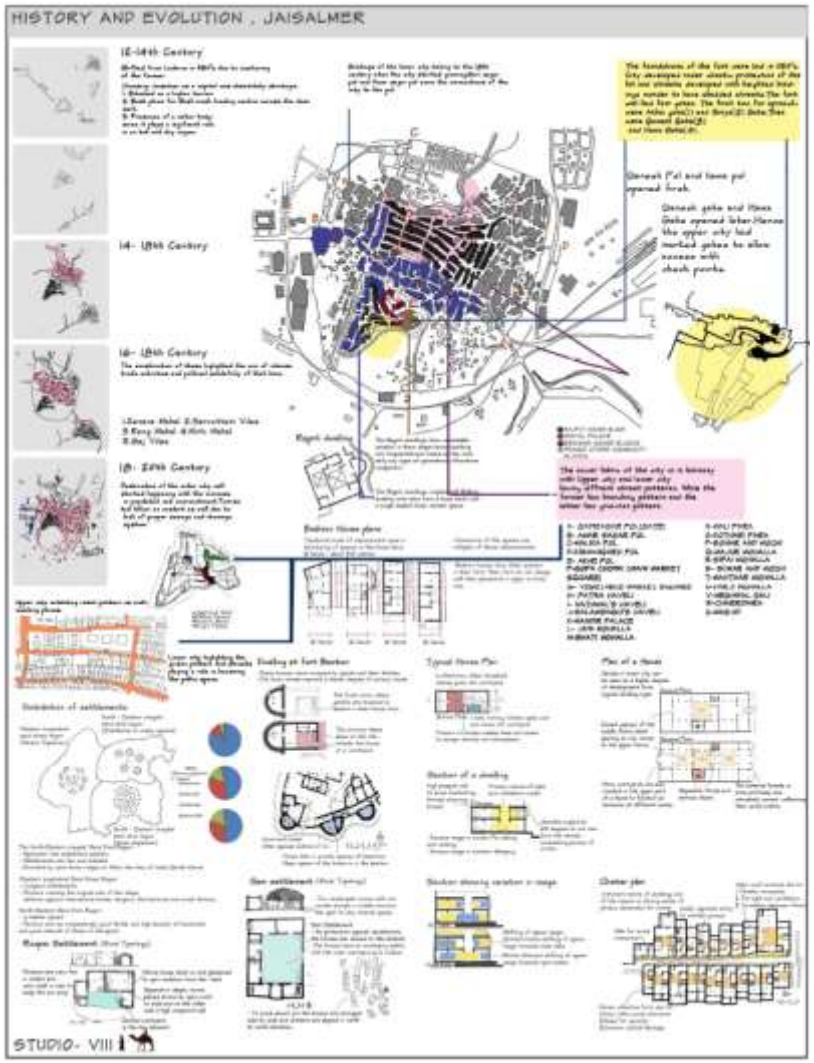
1. Historical precedents and interpretations
2. Global issues regarding urban conservation and revitalisation of historic cities
3. Regionalism- Concerns of the built
4. Climate sensitivity
5. Symbolism of built context
5. Identity of the present conditions- tangible and intangible (architecture)
6. Criteria for value judgement for conservation- social, cultural, utilitarian, etc.

The intent for the Skill Module was to document the tangible and intangible aspects of the of the city fabric of Jaisalmer city. This process undertook documenting the following factors:

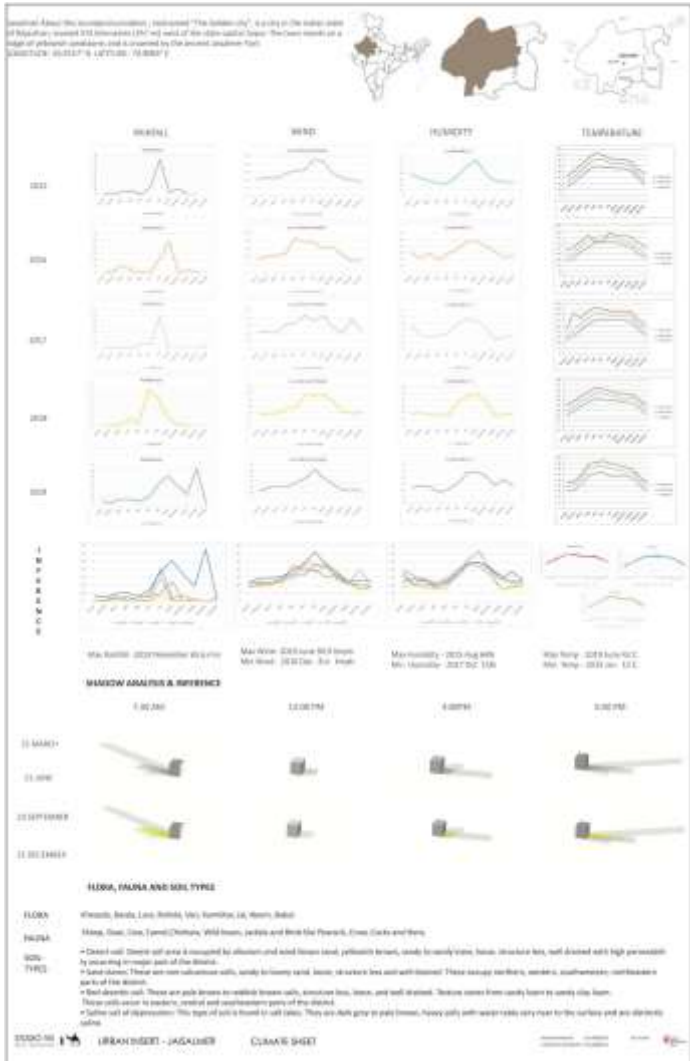
a) Urban mapping
b) Observation of differnet activities, communitites in the city, and the city morphology
c) Translation of observations into mapping the data
d) Working with software to essential data process

A key reference book to introduce the city form and community of Jaisalmer was ‘Elements of Space-Making’ by Yatin Pandya.

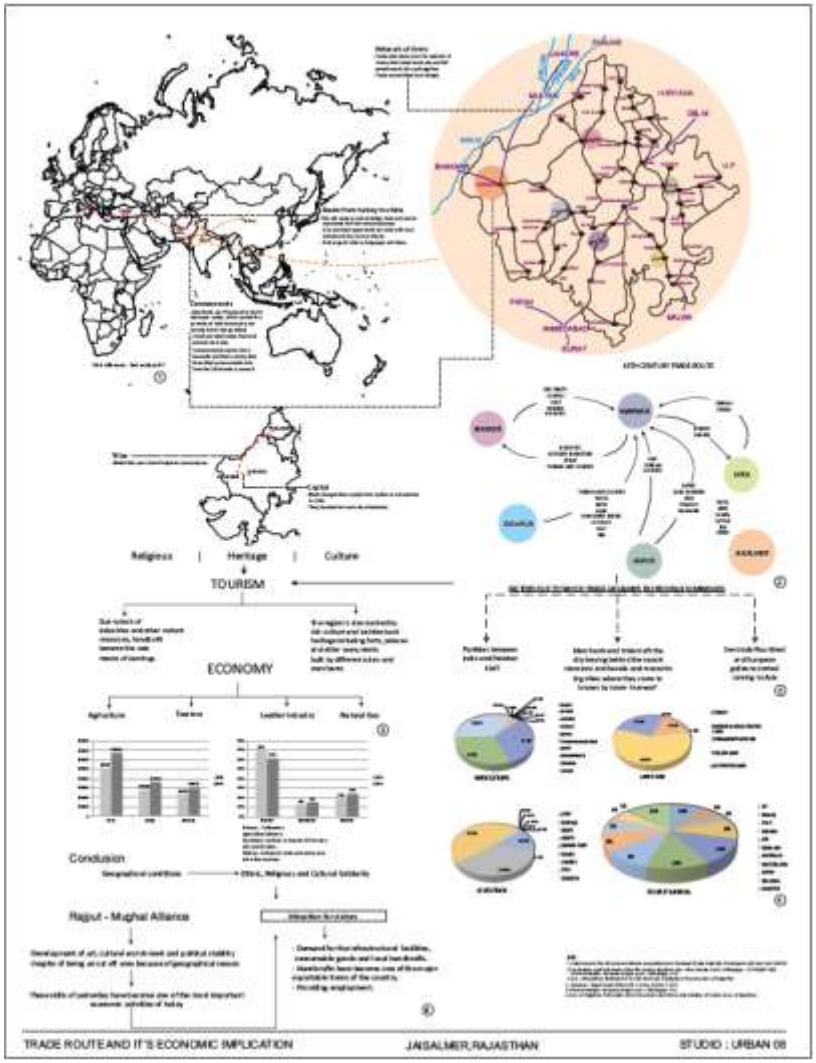




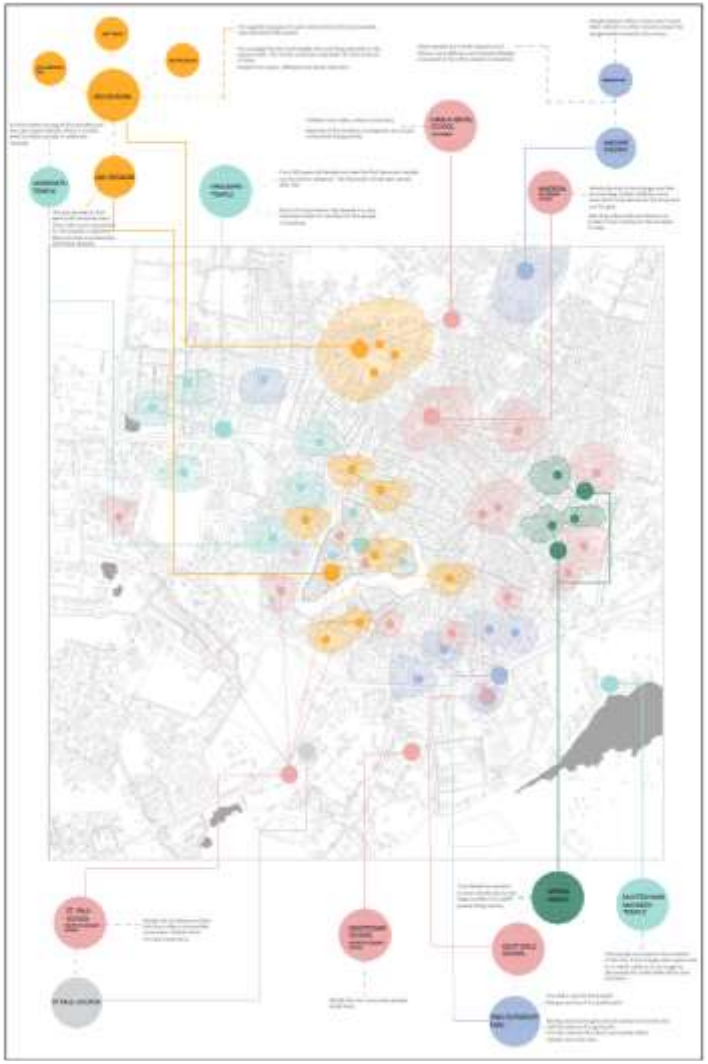
History and Evolution Study

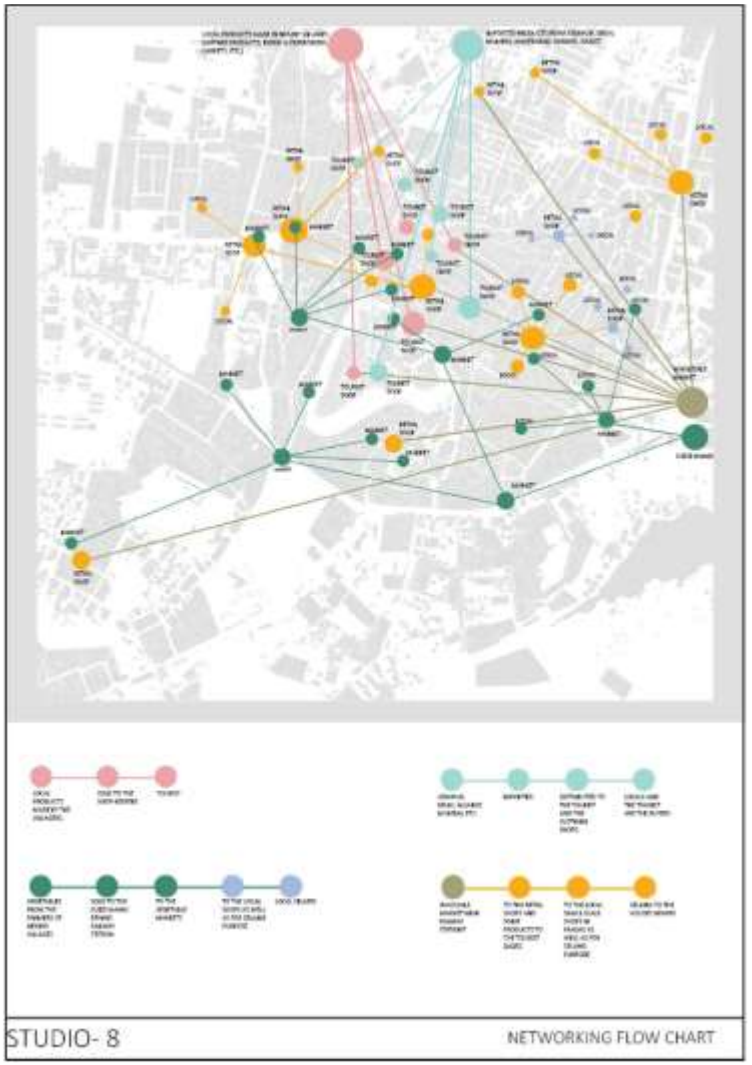


Climate Study



Trade Route Study





Network Diagrams

Tile Study

Through the site surveys done in the city of Jaisalmer, the students encountered a degree of complexities in the architectural, social, cultural, and economic systems in the city. The concerns were directly proportional to the number of layers that come together to form the city fabric that were overlapping through time and getting manifested through the built environment.

The students registered and overview of the history and evolution of the city, climatic response, topography, water systems, built and unbuilt spaces, open spaces, street networks, landmarks, etc. After all overall survey of Jaisalmer city, we identified 10 tiles (150 x 150 meters on site) that had varying residential and commercial typologies with an array of street networks, junctions, as well as different communities residing in the tile area. The entire class was divided into 5 groups (2 tiles per group) with 4-5 students in each group. Each group documented the following parameters for the each of the 10 tiles:

1. Tile Mapping in 1:1000 scale
    - Tile Location
    - Mass and Void
    - Landmarks
    - Street Network and Open Spaces
    - Activity Zoning
    - Building Heights
    - Building Use
    - Grain Pattern and Lay of Land

2. Tile Mapping in 1:500 scale
    - Documenting the Plinth and Projections of a residence cluster within a street system
    - Landscape
    - Activity Zoning
    - Movement
    - Grain Pattern

3. Tile Mapping in 1:200 scale
    - Documenting the Plinth, Projections and Courtyards of a residence cluster within a street system
    - Street Plans + Sections + Elevations
    - Isometric Drawing of the Cluster
    - Activity Mapping
    - Circulation

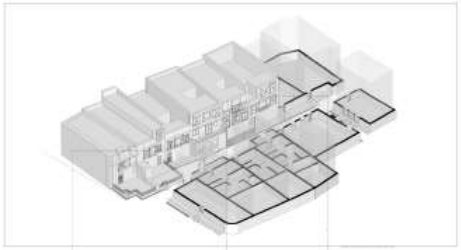
4. Tile Mapping in 1:100 scale
    - Documenting the residence typology
    - House Plans + Sections + Elevations
    - Spatial Organisation
    - Climatic Response
    - Material Study
    - Building Elements Study

5. Tile Mapping in 1:10 scale
    - Documenting the residence typology
    - Wall Sections

GROUP 2_TILE 1

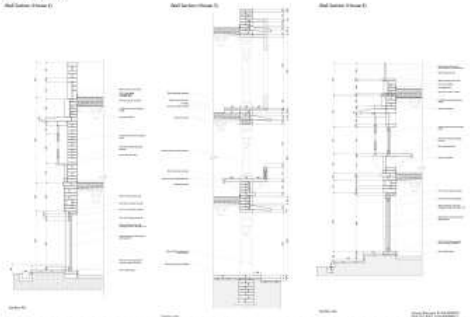
MAPPING (1:500)

ISO : Cluster 2



House forms (1:100)

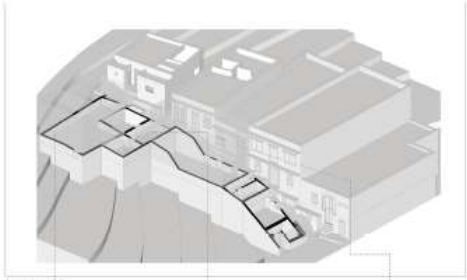
Wall section (1:20)



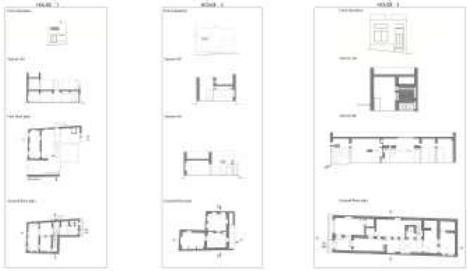
GROUP 2_TILE 2

MAPPING (1:1000)

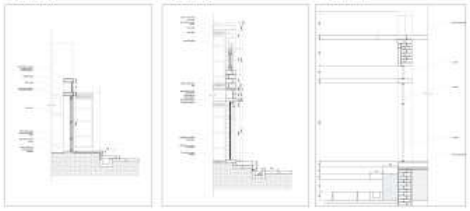
ISO : Cluster 1



House forms (1:100)



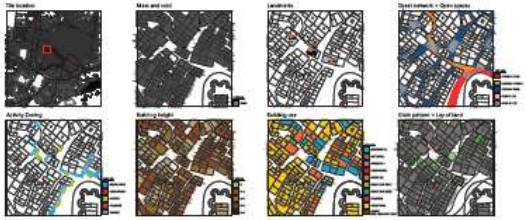
Wall section (1:20)



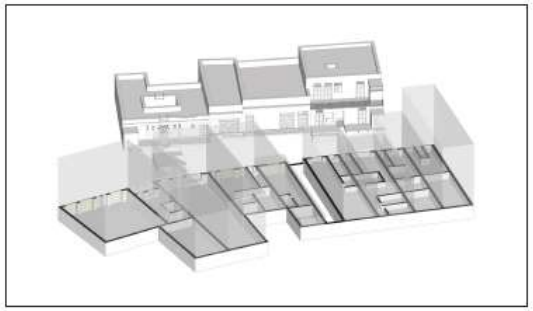
GROUP 5_TILE 1

TILE 1

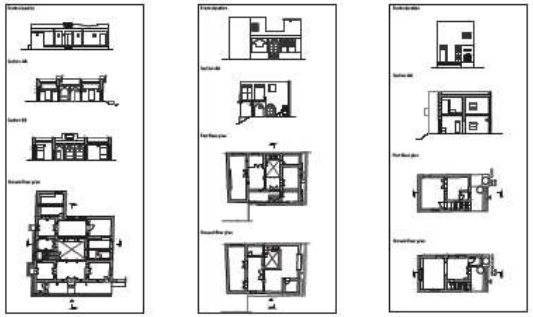
MAPPING (1:1000)



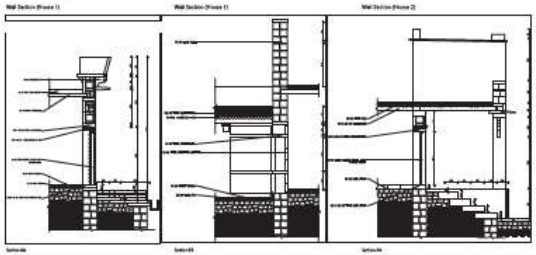
ISO - Cluster 1



House forms (1:100)



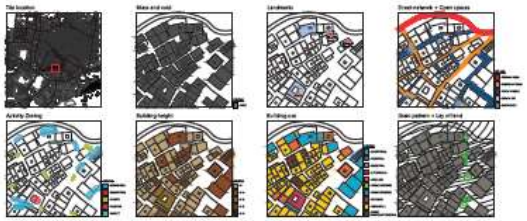
Wall section (1:20)



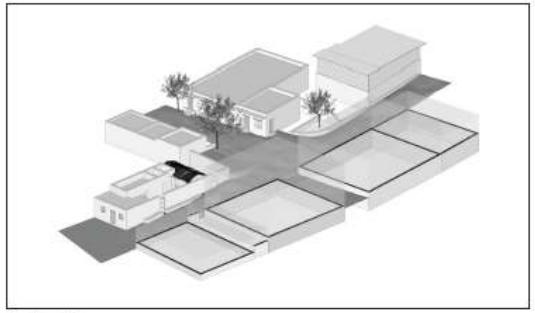
GROUP 5_TILE 2

TILE 2

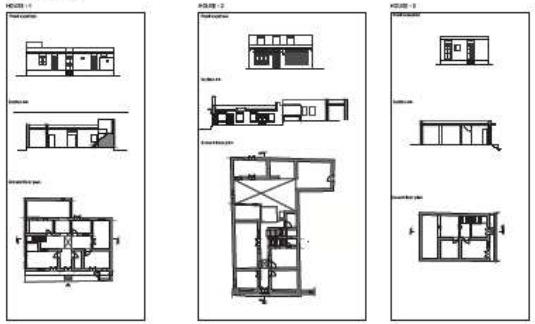
MAPPING (1:1000)



ISO - Cluster 1



House forms (1:100)



Wall section (1:20)