

# URBAN OASIS

People Places & Comfort



The project explores how to design comfortable and usable public spaces for neighbourhoods

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With help of Felix Thumm

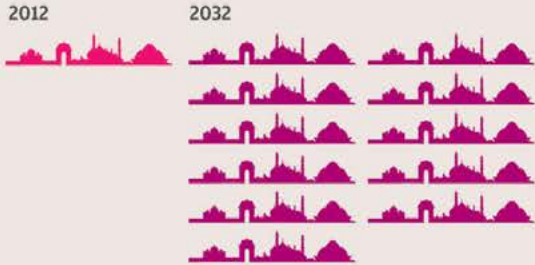
Great Public spaces are a measure of Livable Cities...

**Transsolar**academy  
Mentor : Felix Thumm

# URBAN EFFECT

## CITIES

In 20 years, India's cities will have to accommodate 250 million to 300 million more people than they do today. That's the equivalent of 11 New Delhis.



## ELECTRICITY



Of the 1.4 billion people of the world who have no access to electricity in the world, India accounts for over 300 million.

## WATER



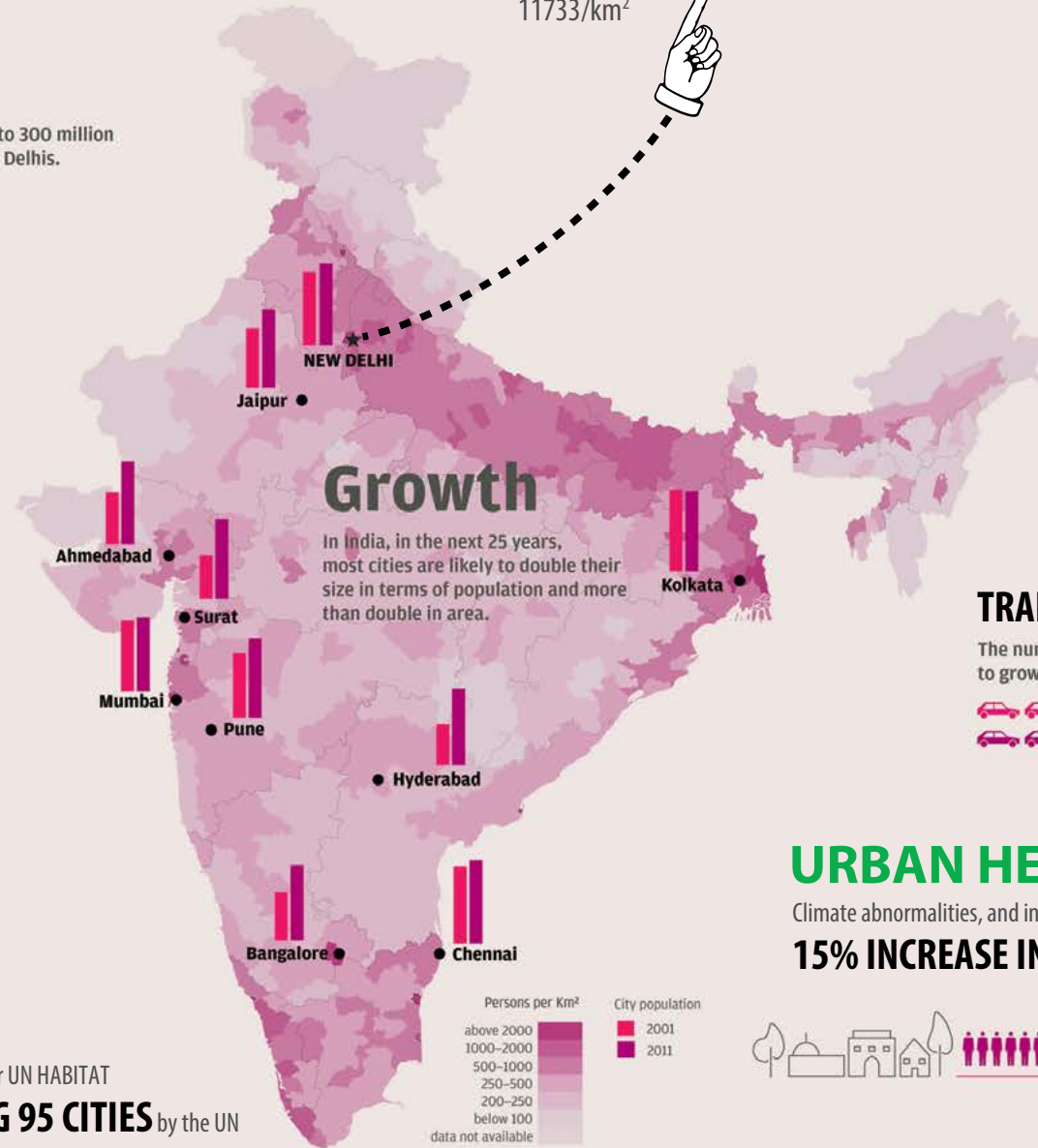
Only 74% of urban households in India are served by piped water supply. No Indian city has piped water 24 hours a day, seven days a week—4 to 5 hours of supply per day is the average.

## OPEN SPACE

Green capita in cities lower than acceptable as per UN HABITAT

**NEW DELHI** placed **LAST AMONG 95 CITIES** by the UN

**NEW DELHI** density 11733/km<sup>2</sup> **> 5x** **FRANKFURT** density 2300/km<sup>2</sup>



1. CHINA



2. USA



3. INDIA



## POLLUTION

By 2015, India is expected to become the world's third largest emitter of carbon dioxide—it ranked fifth in 2005.

## TRANSPORTATION

The number of private vehicles in India is expected to grow by more than 3 times by 2021.



## URBAN HEAT ISLAND EFFECT

Climate abnormalities, and increase in annual mean minimum temperature

**15% INCREASE IN AC DEMAND IN LAST YEAR!**

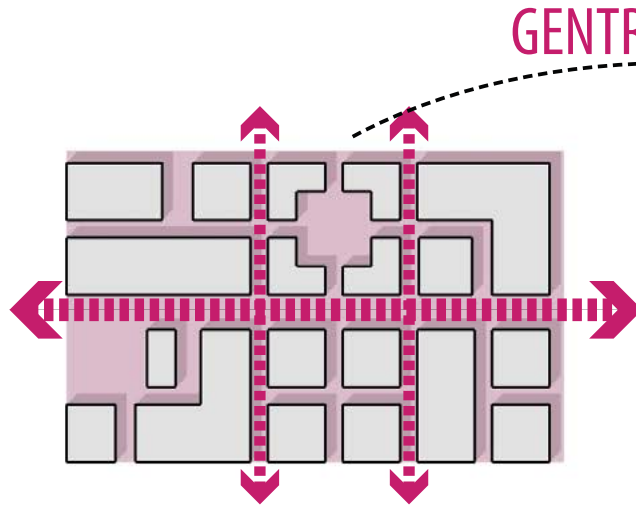


Today cities are experiencing unprecedented densities and on comparing New Delhi is five times greater than the density of Frankfurt. This urban effect puts a lot of pressure on the city including lack of open space, where UN statistics placed New Delhi last among 95 cities evaluated for Green Capita.

This results in rising temperatures in the cities due to urban heat island effect, which in turn increases energy demand.

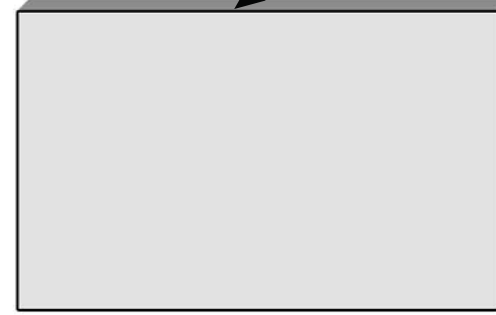
# SHIFT in TYPOLOGIES

**FINE URBAN GRAIN**  
TRADITIONAL MARKET



**GENTRIFICATION**

**ISOLATED BLOCKS**  
MALLS TODAY



Social space  
Congregation

Passively designed

Local Economies  
Community

Inward Looking

Social barriers

Energy Guzzlers

Adverse local economy

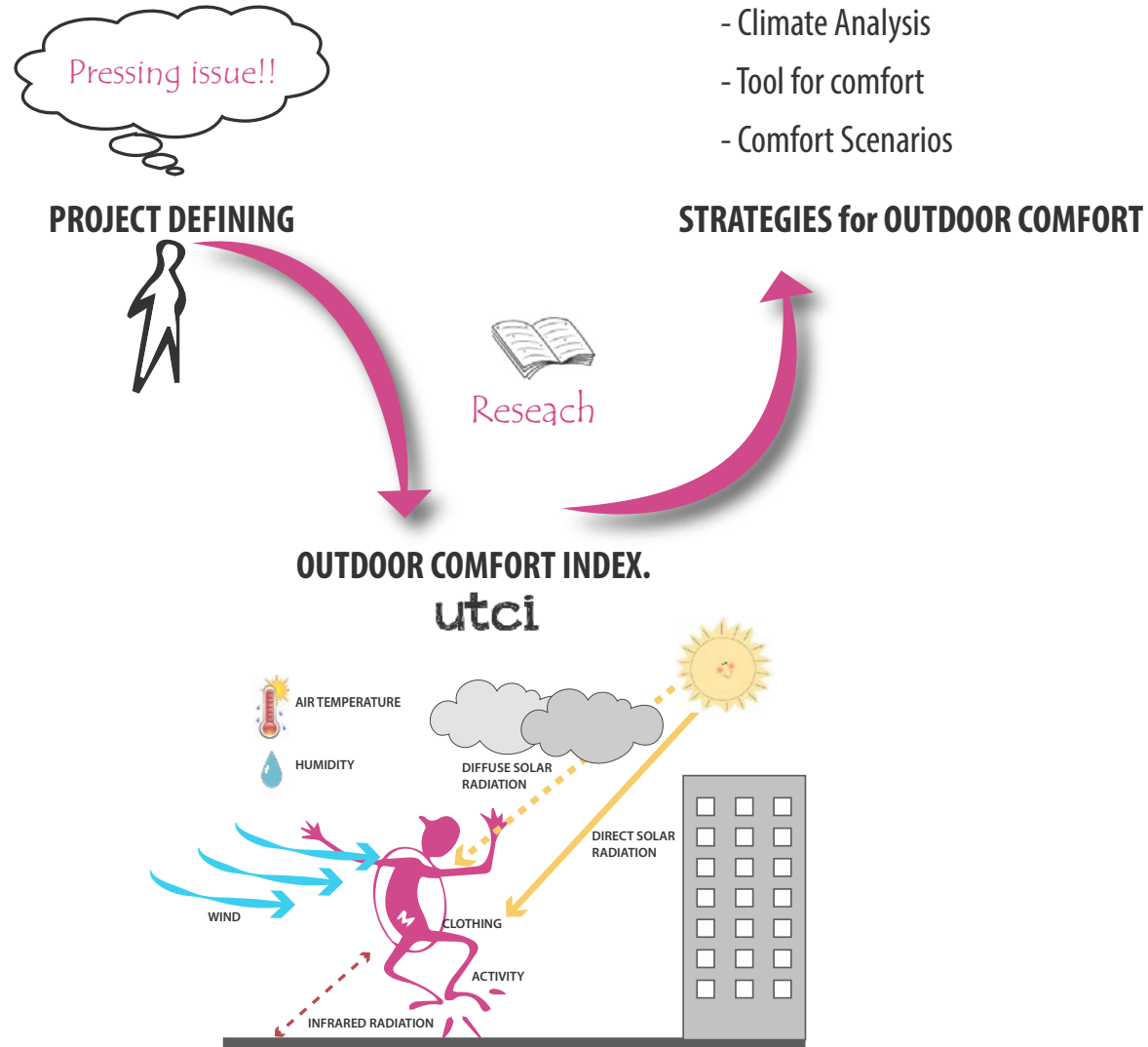


This results in gentrification of our fine grain typologies, embedded with a public realm, into isolated air conditioned blocks. We can take the example of the local market place being replaced with air conditioned malls.

Malls are designed inward away from the public realm. This creates social barriers, adversely affects local economies and consumes more energy and resources. Therefore it is important to demonstrate strategies which can create comfort in outdoor spaces and prolong their use and vitality as urban retreats.

This will promote hybrid typologies for IT parks, recreation parks, educational campuses etc keeping the finer grain.

# METHODOLOGY | RESEARCH



The first part of the project is RESEARCH which included

- 1) Studying outdoor thermal comfort interaction factors. We chose universal thermal climate index (UTCI) to evaluate user comfort, and it takes into account the following :

PARAMETRES

| PARAMETRES          |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| CLIMATIC            | HUMAN    |
| Air temperature     | Activity |
| Humidity            | Clothing |
| Air velocity        |          |
| Solar radiations    |          |
| Infrared radiations |          |

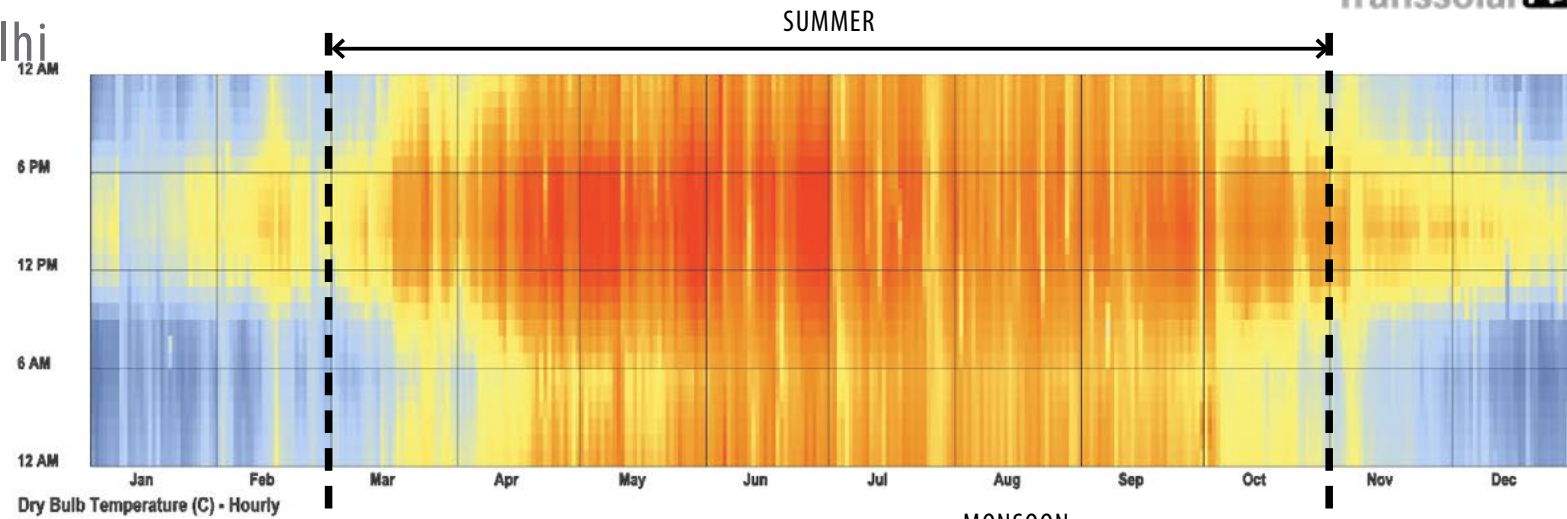
- 2) Finding appropriate strategies to increase pedestrian outdoor comfort in tropical hot and humid climate. Steps followed are:
  - a) Climate Analysis
  - b) Comfort Tools
  - c) Strategies for micro climate

# CLIMATE | New Delhi

## Dry Bulb Temperature

Max. Outside temperature 45°C  
 Min. Outside temperature 4.8°C  
 Yearly mean Outside temperature 24.9°C

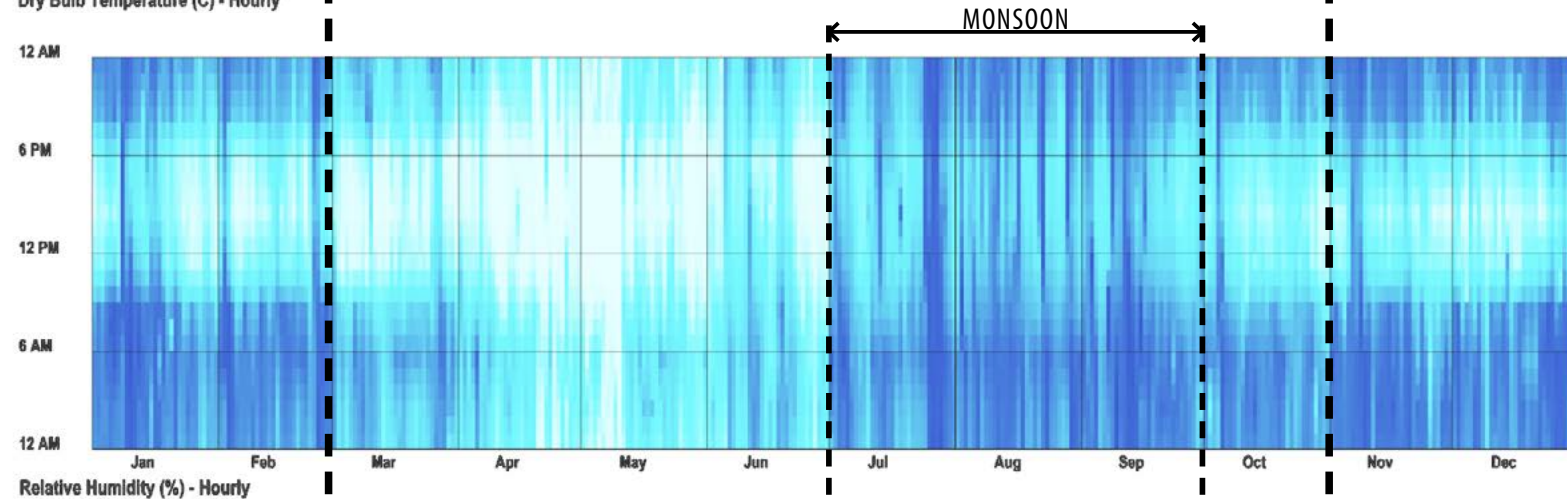
### Summer from March to October



## Relative Humidity

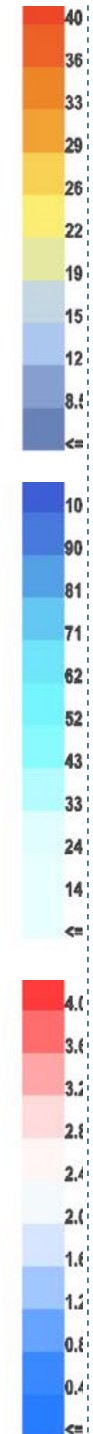
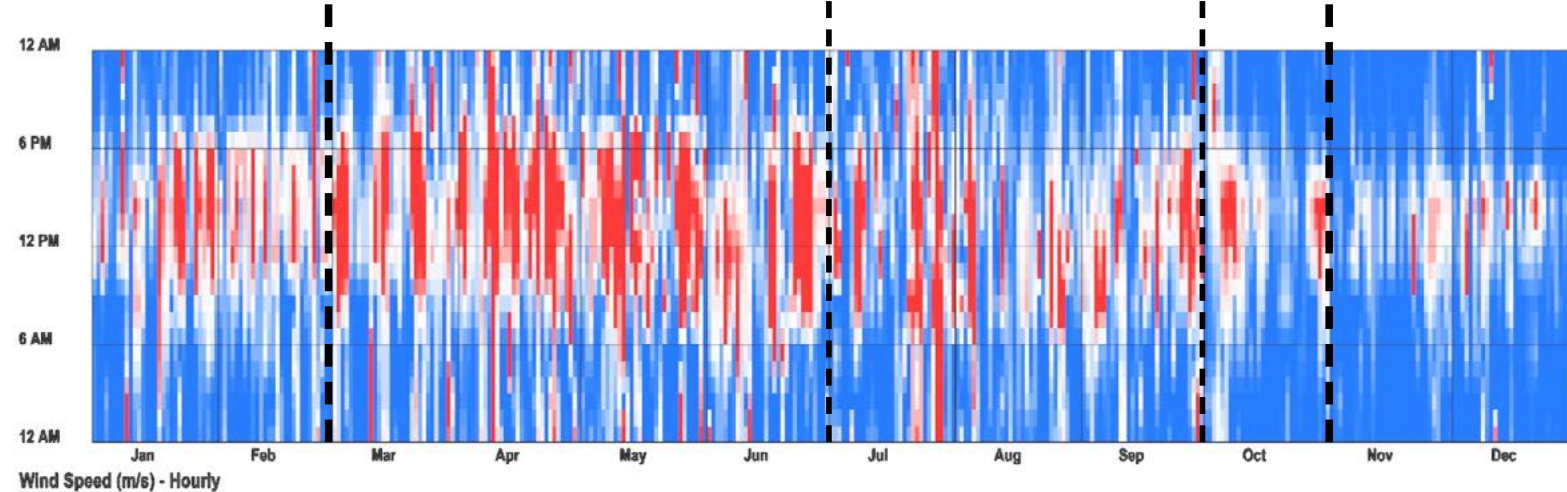
35% Humidity > 14g/kg  
 Annual precipitation average of 700mm

### Monsoon from July to September



## Wind

Average annual wind velocity 1.5m/s  
 Wind relatively more during the hot and dry season, during the daytime.



### a) Climate Analysis

Almost 80% of India experiences hot and humid climate and New Delhi is chosen for investigation as it experiences a more extreme summer and winter, compared to most.

Fig 1) Delhi experiences long summer from March to October and the temp rises upto 45°C.

Fig 2) Monsoon occurs from July to Sep. For 35% of the year humidity outside is above 14g/kg which causes discomfort

Fig3) The average annual wind is 1.5m/s and it is more during the daytime in the hot and dry period .

# CLIMATE | New Delhi

**UTCI  $\leq 32^{\circ}\text{C}$**

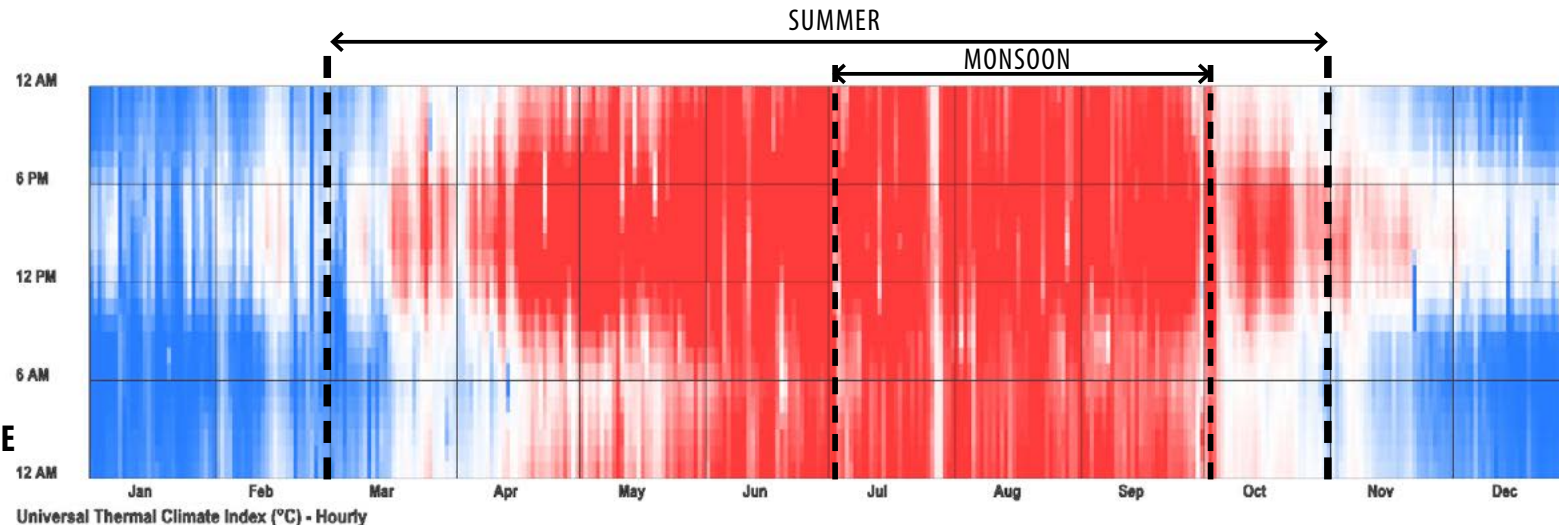
is considered comfortable in hot and humid climate

**UTCI  $< 9^{\circ}\text{C}$**

experiences cold stress

**25% of year UTCI  $> 32^{\circ}\text{C}$**

**72% of Summer UNCOMFORTABLE**  
(Summer- daytime)



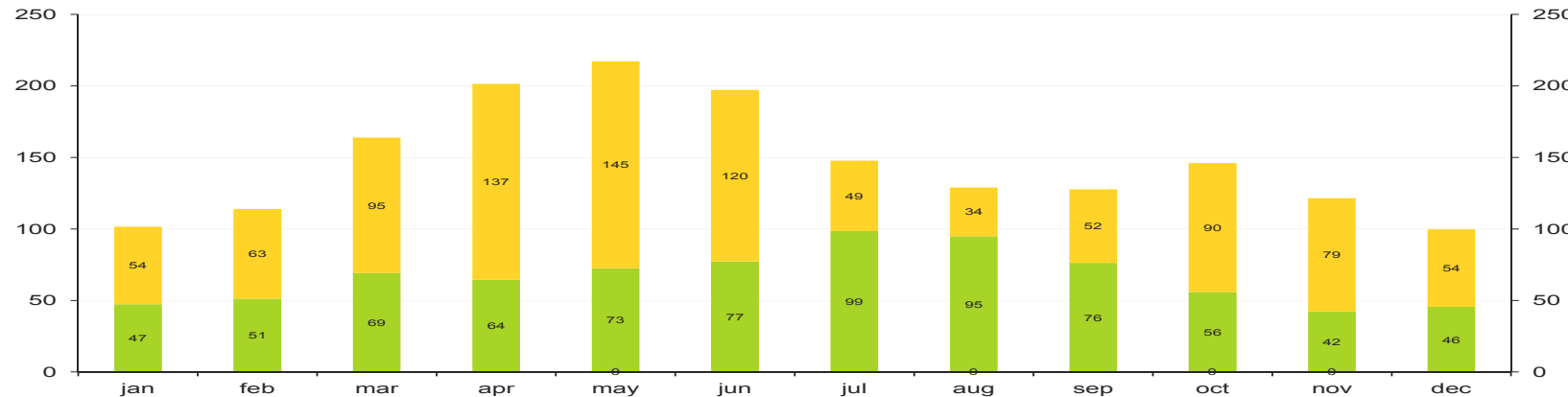
## a) Climate Analysis

We map UTCI over the year; which takes into account the dry bulb temp, relative humidity, wind and considers mean radiant temp of the surrounding same as the ambient temp (open field condition).

In a hot and humid climate UTCI  $< 32^{\circ}\text{C}$  is considered comfortable. We can see here that the monsoon period with high humidity and less wind is most uncomfortable. Winter is not problematic and with a higher clothing factor, thermal comfort can be easily achieved.

72% of summer daytime is uncomfortable. And during the hot and dry summer, due to less cloud cover there is high direct solar radiation.

## HORIZONTAL SOLAR INSOLATION



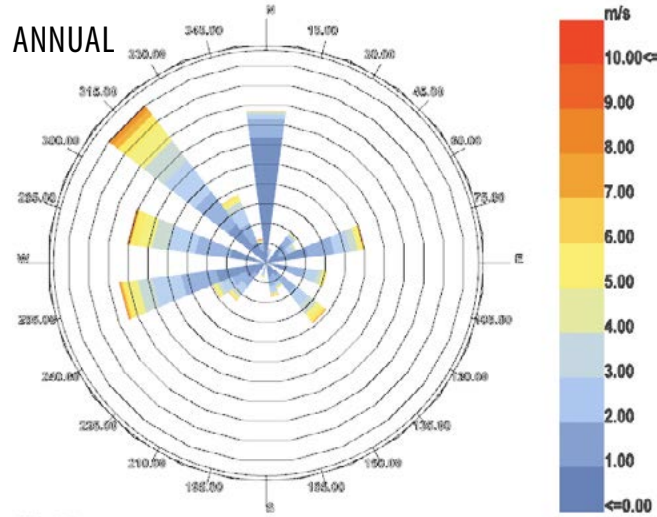
# CLIMATE

## WIND

Average annual wind speed is 1.49m/s

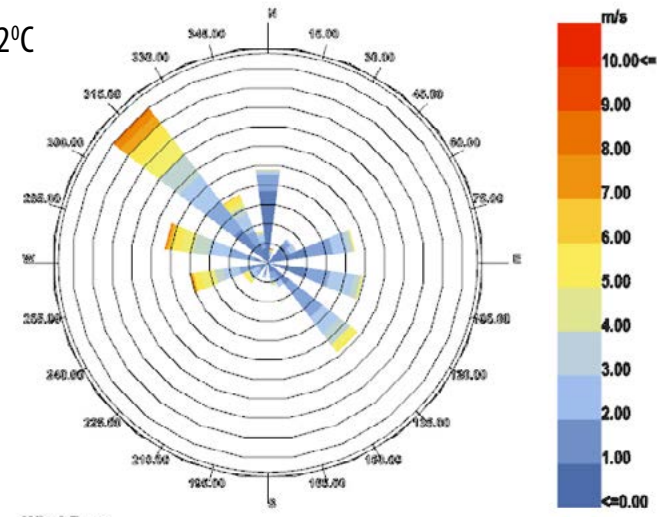
During the **summer** predominant wind is from **NORTH WEST** ( when UTCI > 32°C)

During the **winter** predominant wind is from the **SOUTH WEST** ( when UTCI < 9°C)



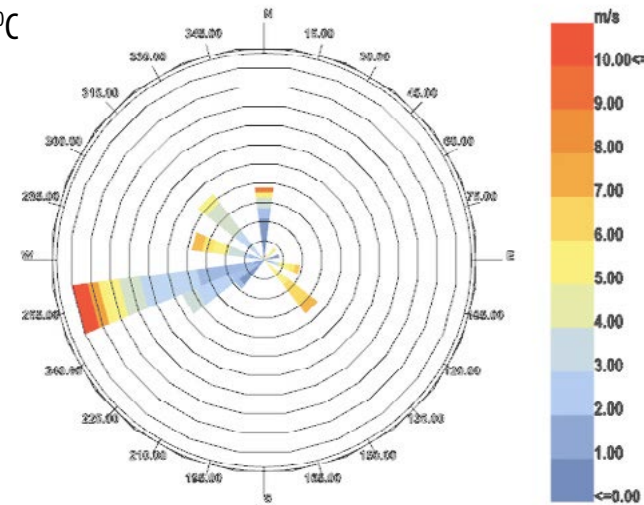
Wind-Rose  
NEW DELHI\_IND  
1 JAN 1:00 - 31 DEC 24:00  
Hourly Data: Wind Speed (m/s)  
Calm for 0.00% of the time = 0 hours.  
Each closed polyline shows frequency of 1.2%. = 103 hours.

## UTCI > 32°C



Wind-Rose  
NEW DELHI\_IND  
1 JAN 1:00 - 31 DEC 24:00  
Hourly Data: Wind Speed (m/s)  
Calm for 0.00% of the time = 0 hours.  
Each closed polyline shows frequency of 0.4%. = 33 hours.

## UTCI < 9°C



Wind-Rose  
NEW DELHI\_IND  
1 JAN 1:00 - 31 DEC 24:00  
Hourly Data: Wind Speed (m/s)  
Calm for 0.00% of the time = 0 hours.  
Each closed polyline shows frequency of 0.0%. = 3 hours.

## a) Climate Analysis

When UTCI > 32°C, the predominant wind direction is from the North-West. This presents an opportunity to channel wind from the NW in site planning to improve comfort.

# TOOLS FOR COMFORT : SUMMARY



**Shading**



**Increased wind**



**Adiabatic Cooling**

## b) Comfort Tools

From the climate analysis we understand the need for **SHADING** to protect from solar radiation

**INCREASED WIND** helps improve comfort

**ADIABATIC COOLING** reduces air temperature



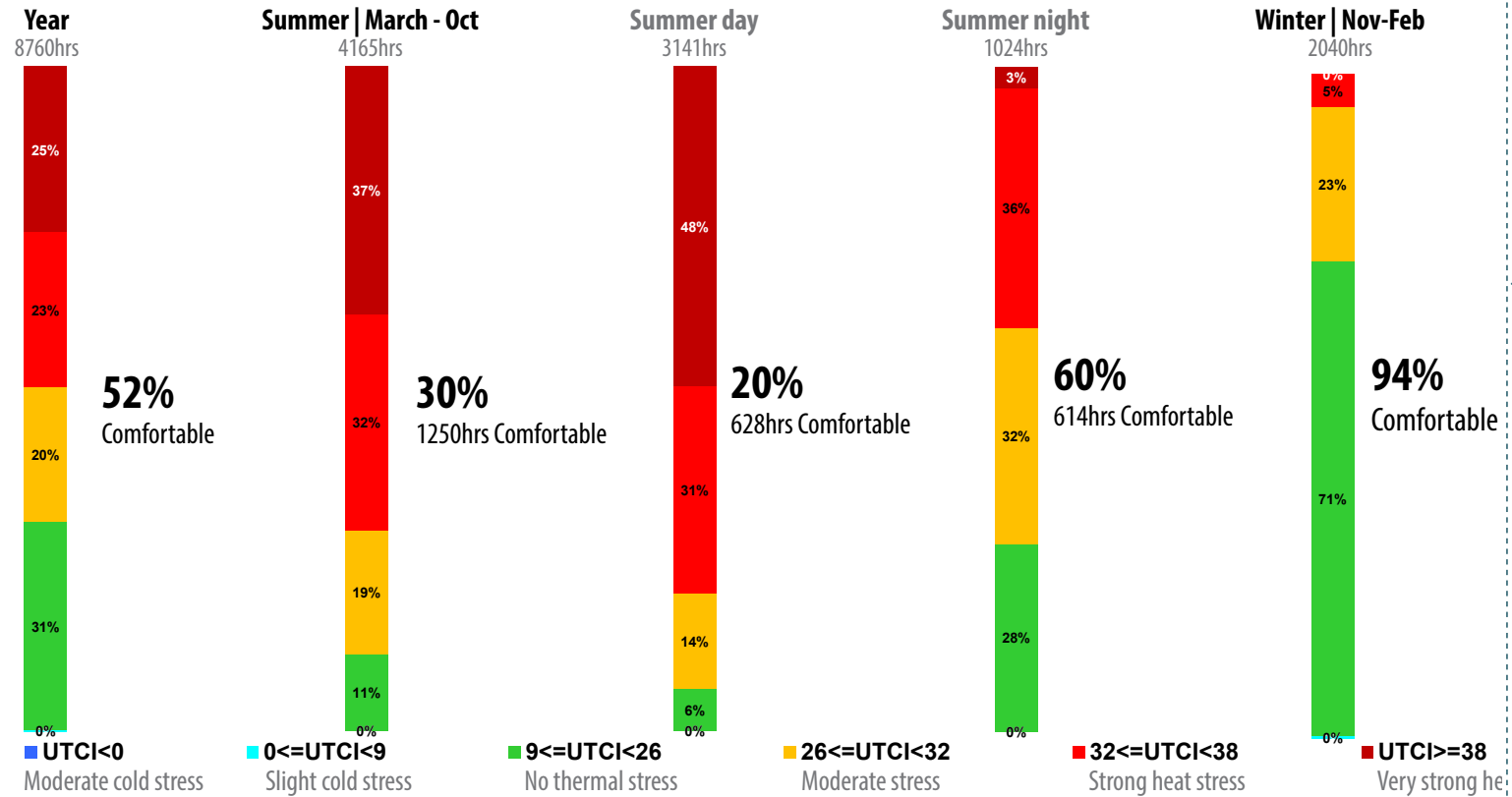
# TOOLS FOR COMFORT



## BASE CASE

A person standing the entire year on a black surface receiving full solar radiation and almost no wind.

BLACK SURFACE  
NO SHADING  
NO WIND



c) Strategies for micro-climate

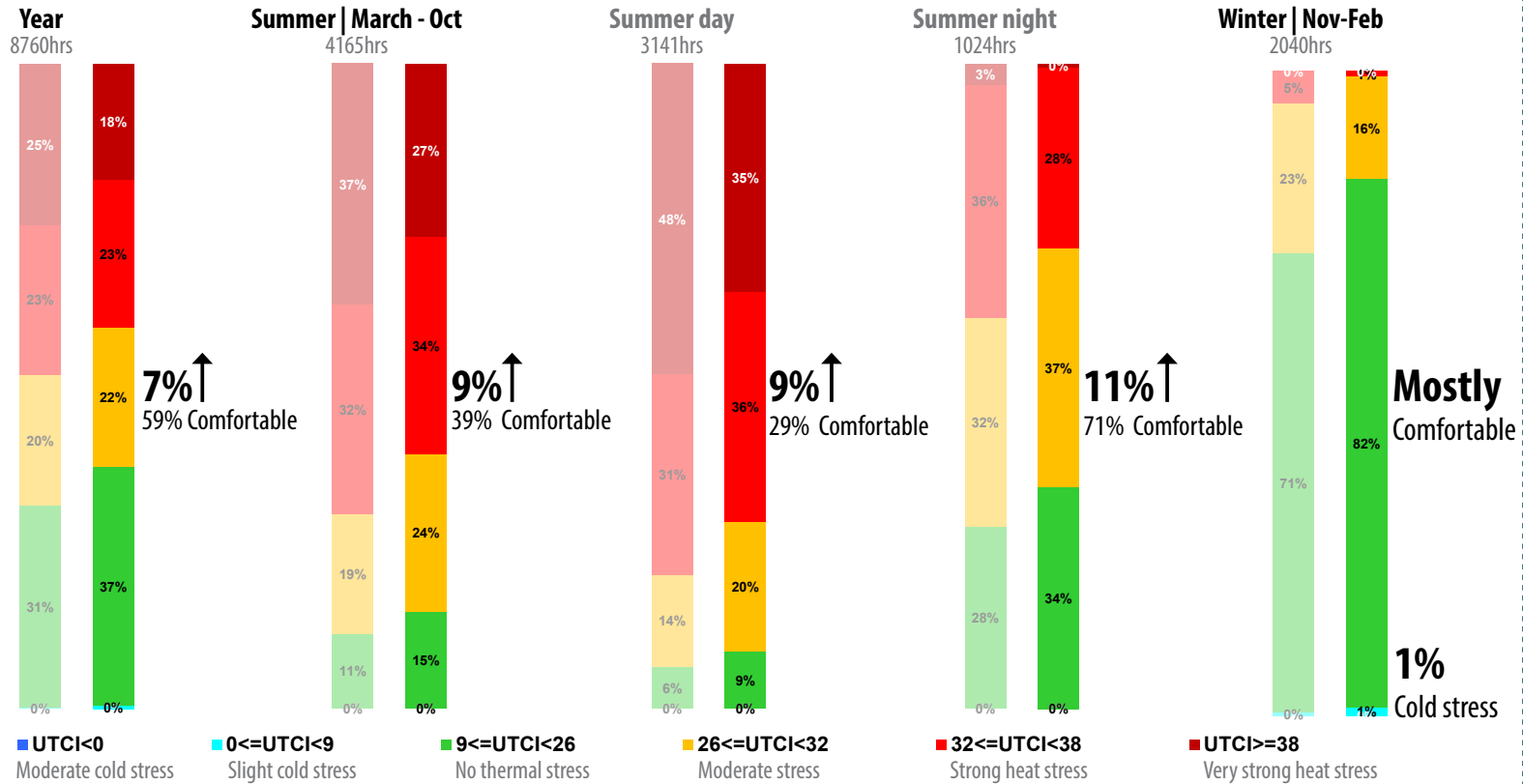
To evaluate the moderation effects of different strategies towards optimizing outdoor thermal comfort, we consider BASE CASE which shows During summer daytime only 20% of the time it is comfortable and during summer night time 60% of the time it is comfortable

# TOOLS FOR COMFORT



## HIGH SOLAR REFLECTIVE SURFACE

WHITE SURFACE  
NO SHADING  
NO WIND



### c) Strategies for micro-climate

For the pavement material solar reflectance or albedo, is the primary determinant of the material's maximum surface temperature.

Conventional paving materials such as asphalt and concrete have solar reflectances of 5 to 40 percent, which means they absorb 95 to 60 percent of the energy reaching them. Light-colored pavements with solar reflectances greater than 75 percent reduces surface mean radiant temperature. We see 9% improvement in summer with just improving the ground material.

Alternately permeable pavements also helps keep surface temp lower through evaporative cooling.

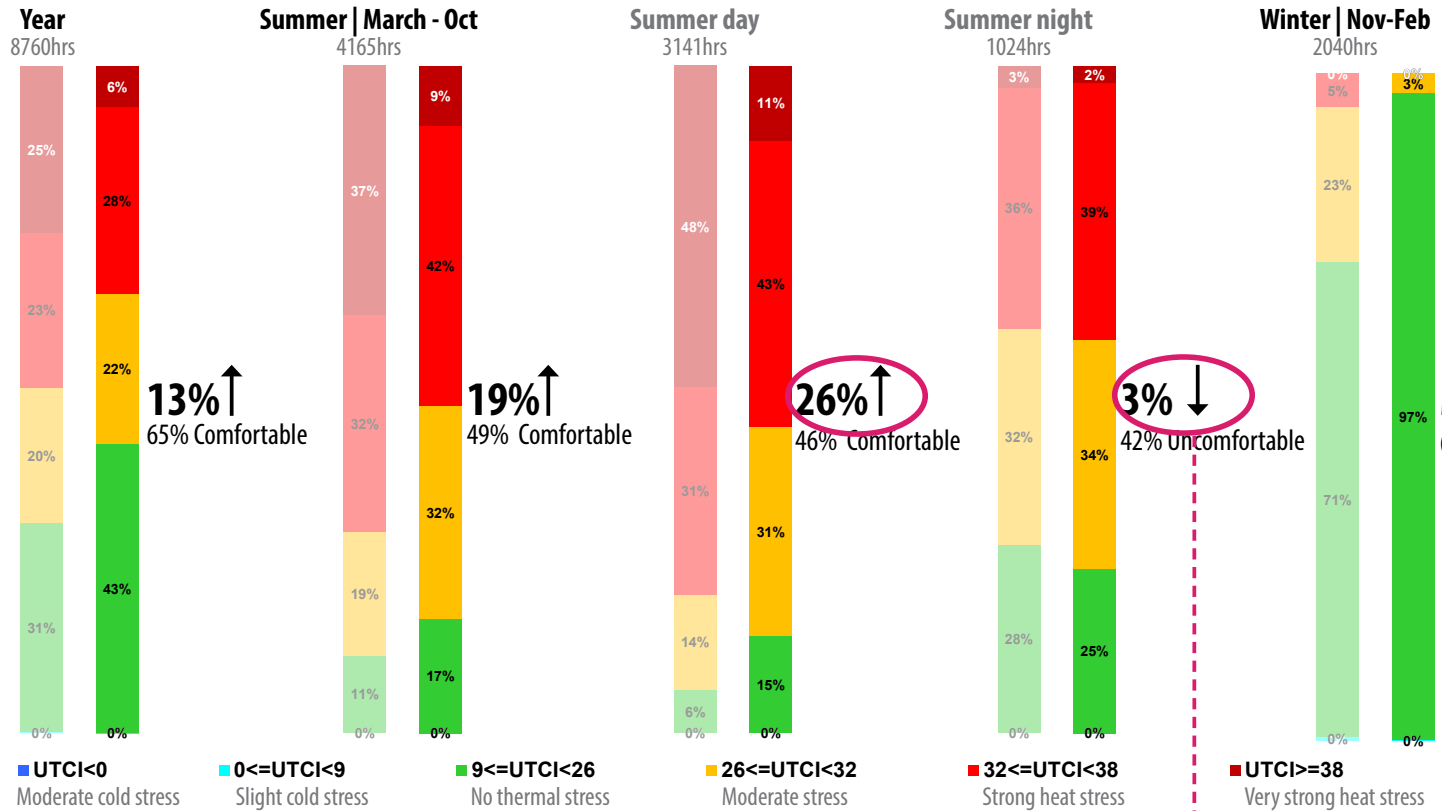
# TOOLS FOR COMFORT



## FIXED SHADING

0% Transmittance

BLACK SURFACE  
0% TRANSMITTANCE, SHADING  
NO WIND



13% ↑

65% Comfortable

19% ↑

49% Comfortable

26% ↑

46% Comfortable

3% ↓

42% Uncomfortable

Mostly Comfortable

Operable shading will allow the ground to reject heat absorbed during the day to the sky

## c) Strategies for micro-climate

Opaque fixed shading reduces exposure to solar radiation including infrared-radiation, which keeps the surface temperature lower and thus improves comfort. However the heat transmitted during the day through the shading is trapped even during night, creating a reverse effect. Hence we see a decrease of 3% in comfort hours during the summer night when compared to base case. In order to take advantage of night sky cooling potential, operable shading is advisable.

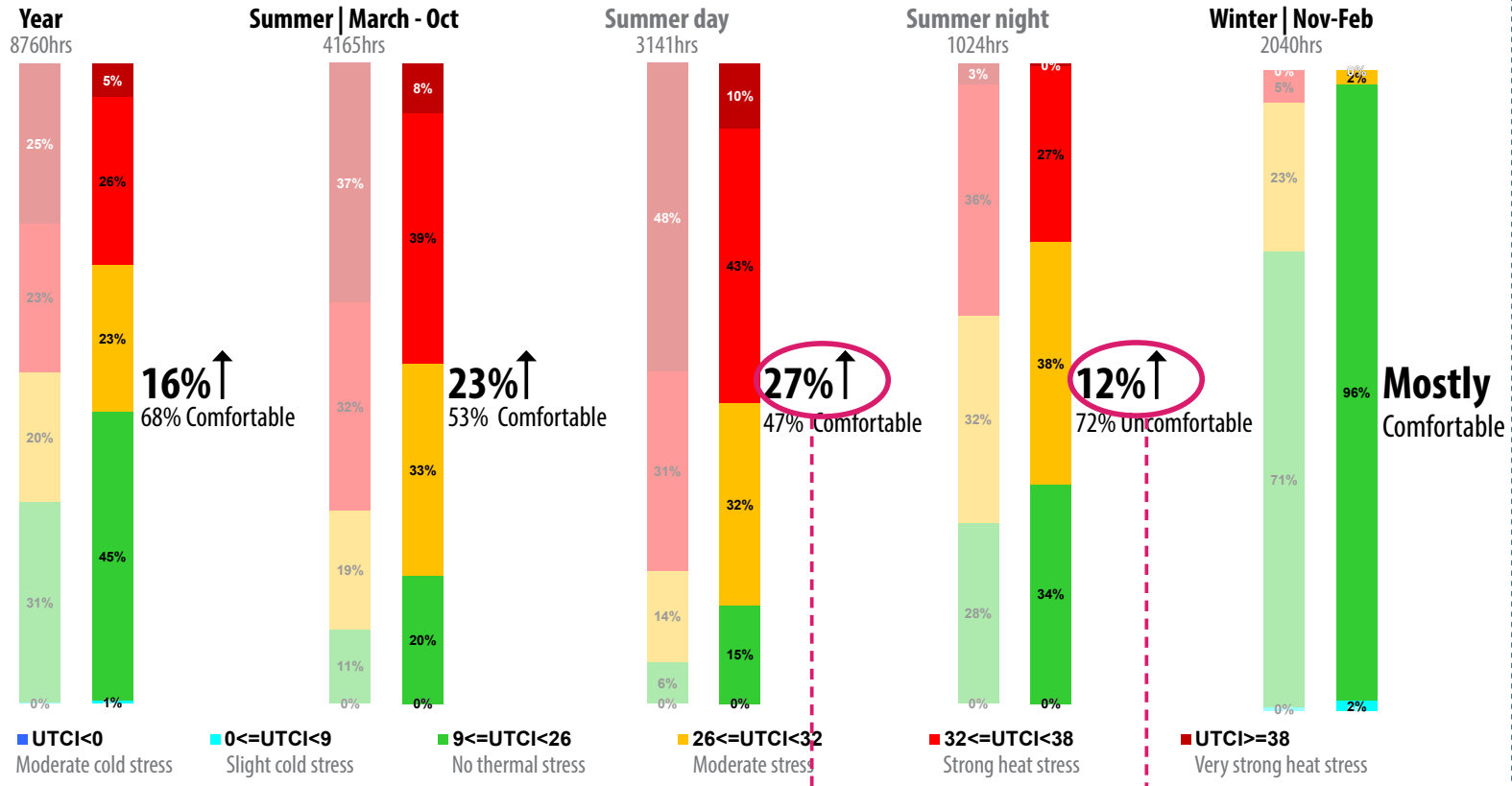
# TOOLS FOR COMFORT



## OPERABLE SHADING

0% Transmittance

BLACK SURFACE  
0% TRANSMITTANCE, OPERABLE SHADING  
NO WIND



16%↑  
68% Comfortable

23%↑  
53% Comfortable

27%↑  
47% Comfortable

12%↑  
72% Uncomfortable

Mostly  
Comfortable

Significantly more comfortable days and also improves Nighttime comfort

c) Strategies for micro-climate

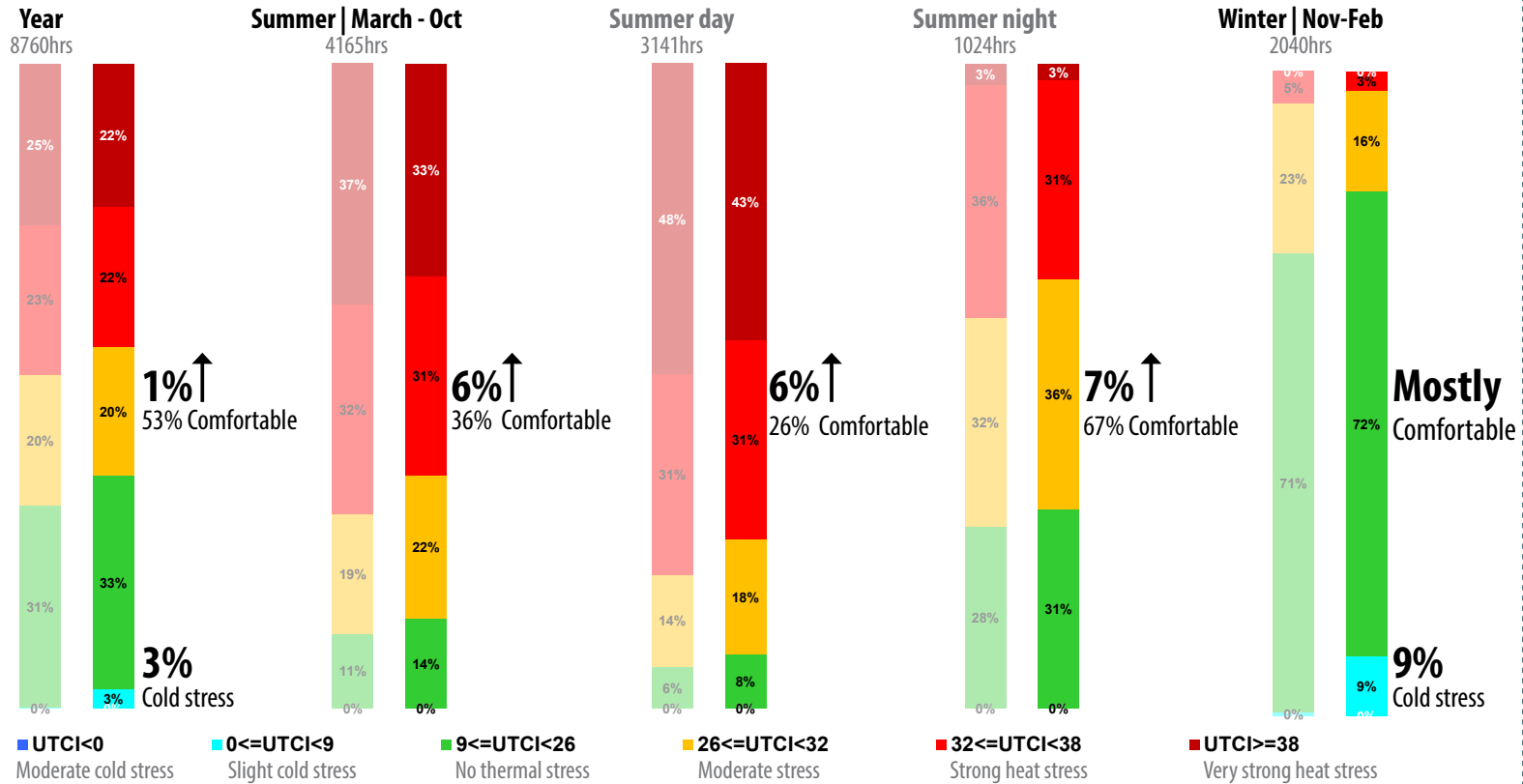
Operable shading takes advantage of night sky cooling potential, and allows the ground to reject heat absorbed during the day to the sky. This lowers the surface mean radiant temperature. Therefore we see a 12% increase in comfort hours during summer night when compared to the base case.

# TOOLS FOR COMFORT



## INCREASED WIND SPEED 2m/s

BLACK SURFACE  
NO SHADING  
2m/s WIND



c) Strategies for micro-climate

Elevated wind improves comfort, especially during the hot and humid days of the year and we see an overall improvement of 6% in comfort hours during summer, when compared to the base case.

Mostly Comfortable

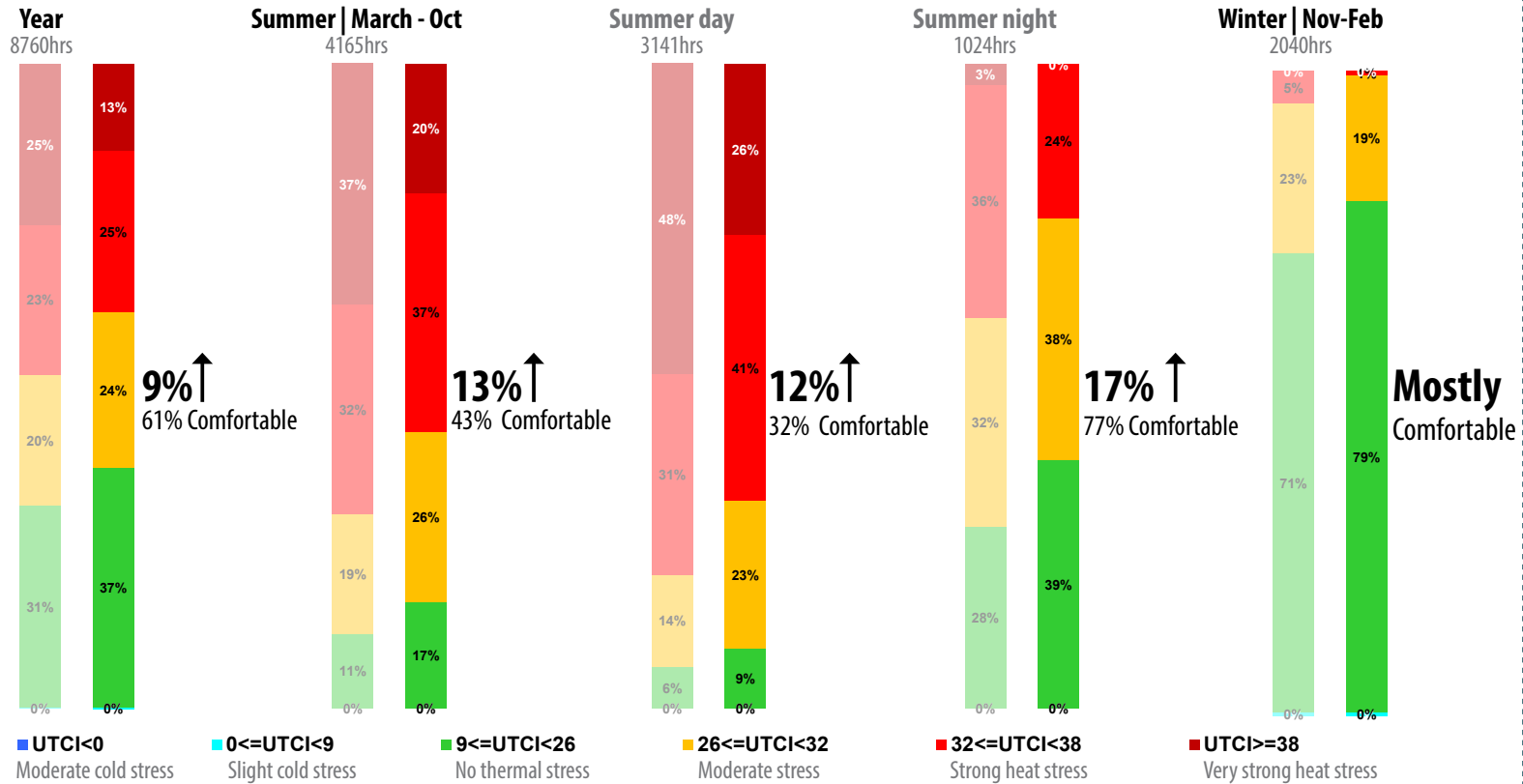
9% Cold stress

# TOOLS FOR COMFORT



## ADIABATIC COOLING

BLACK SURFACE  
NO SHADING  
NO WIND  
90% HUMIDIFIER EFFICIENCY



c) Strategies for micro-climate

Adiabatic cooling using a high humidifier efficiency improves the comfort hours significantly.

Here it is critical to use the right equipment to ensure evaporation without leaving a damp feeling on the user.

# TOOLS FOR COMFORT : SUMMARY



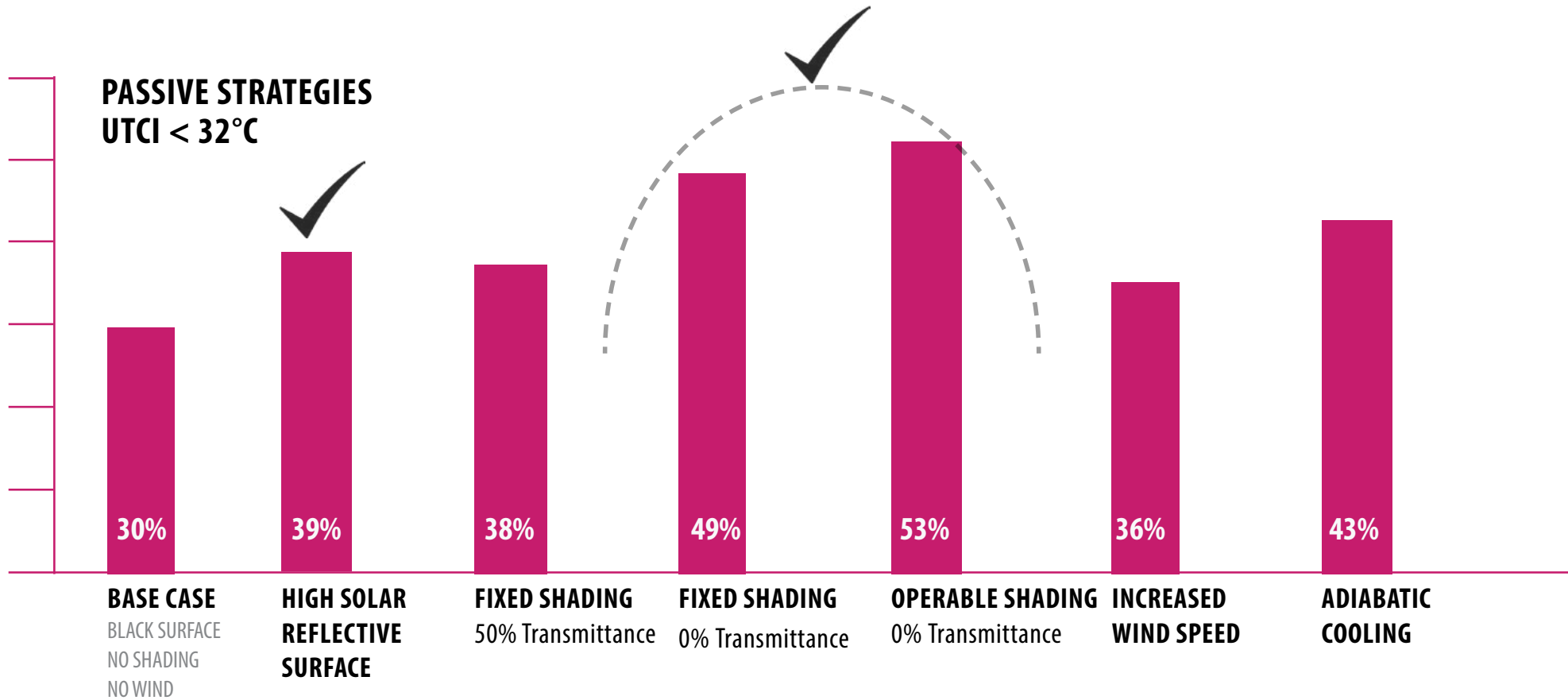
**Shading**



**Increased Wind**



**Adiabatic Cooling**



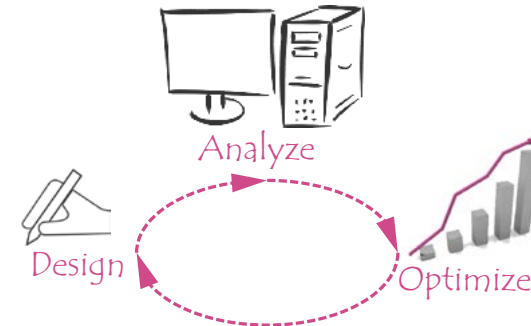
c) Strategies for micro-climate

To conclude from the analysis we find use of high albedo material and shading as the most effective and economical passive strategy to achieve outdoor comfort.

# METHODOLOGY | DESIGN



- Climate Analysis
- Tool for comfort
- Comfort Scenarios



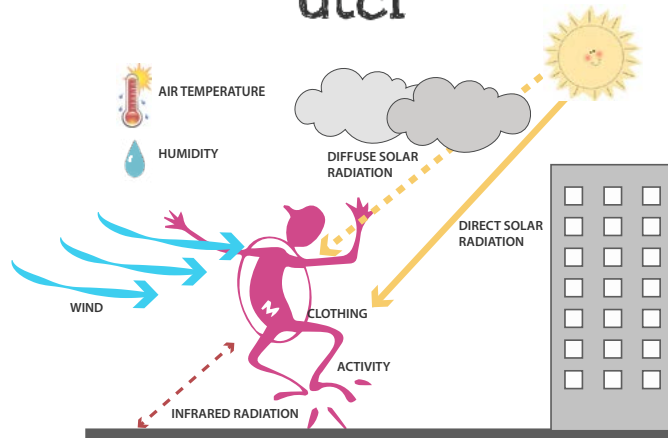
## PROJECT DEFINING



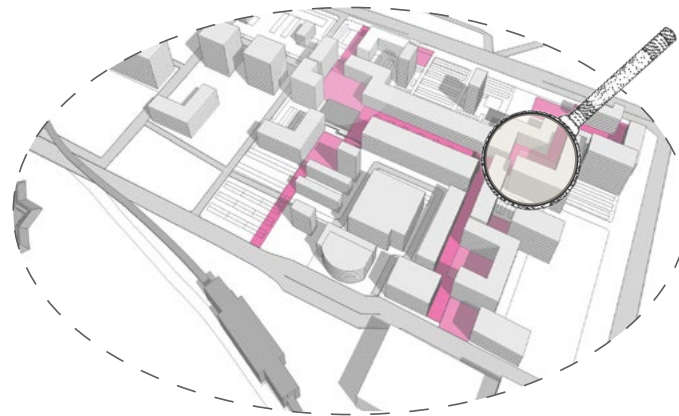
Research

## STRATEGIES for OUTDOOR COMFORT

## OUTDOOR COMFORT INDEX. utci



## SITE ANALYSIS



## APPLICATION IN TEST-BED

The second part of the project is DESIGN

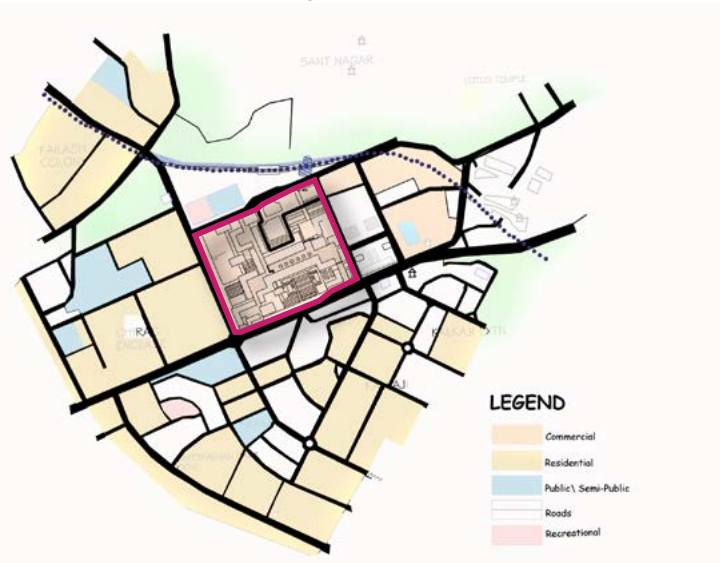
To demonstrate application of the strategies in a test-bed plaza.

To understand at the fine grain, what layers impact design decisions.

A design process to convert climate strategies into concrete solutions.



# DEMONSTRATION PROJECT : New Delhi



Dying Urban District

Detoriated conditions

Gentrification

## NEHRU PLACE

Not Comfortable

Not Programmed

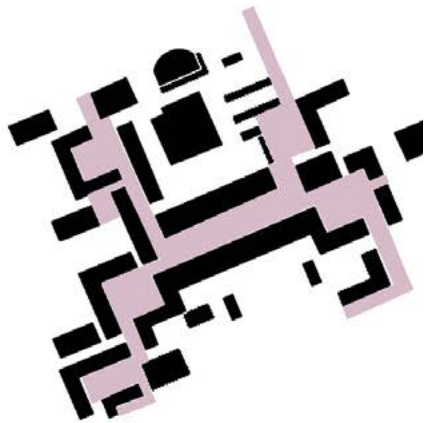
No Green Provision

Water problems



Site selection:

We choose a dying commercial district, in New Delhi, Nehru Place which is ear-marked for gentrification.



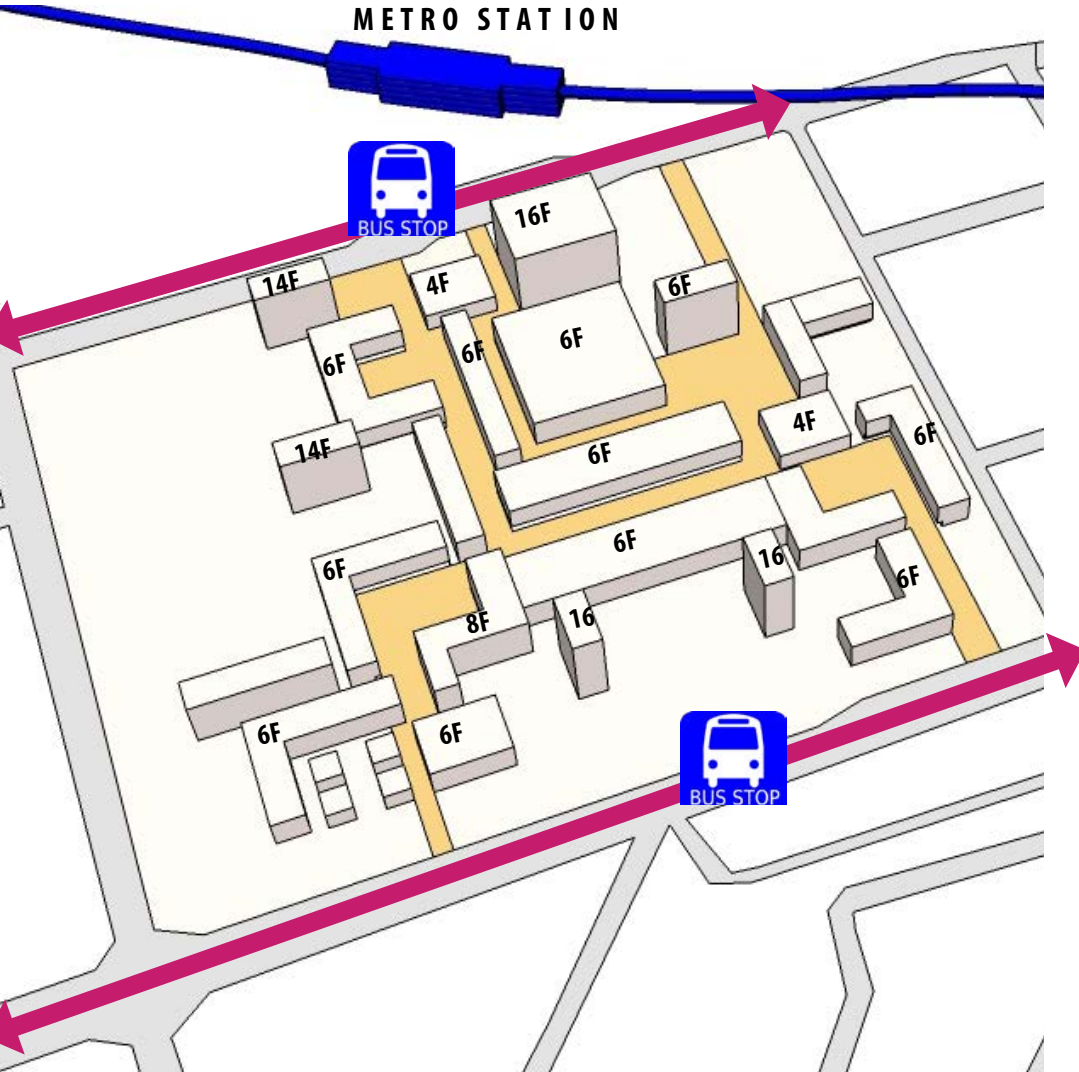
ALL OF THESE ACTIVITIES BRING

**1,30,000**

PEOPLE TO NEHRU PLACE EVERYDAY

# MACRO SITE ANALYSIS

OFFICES LOCAL ECONOMIES EATERIES  
 COMMERCIAL ENTERTAINMENT SMALL SHOPS



NEED COMFORT FOR MORE RATIONAL USE OF SPACE



## Site problem

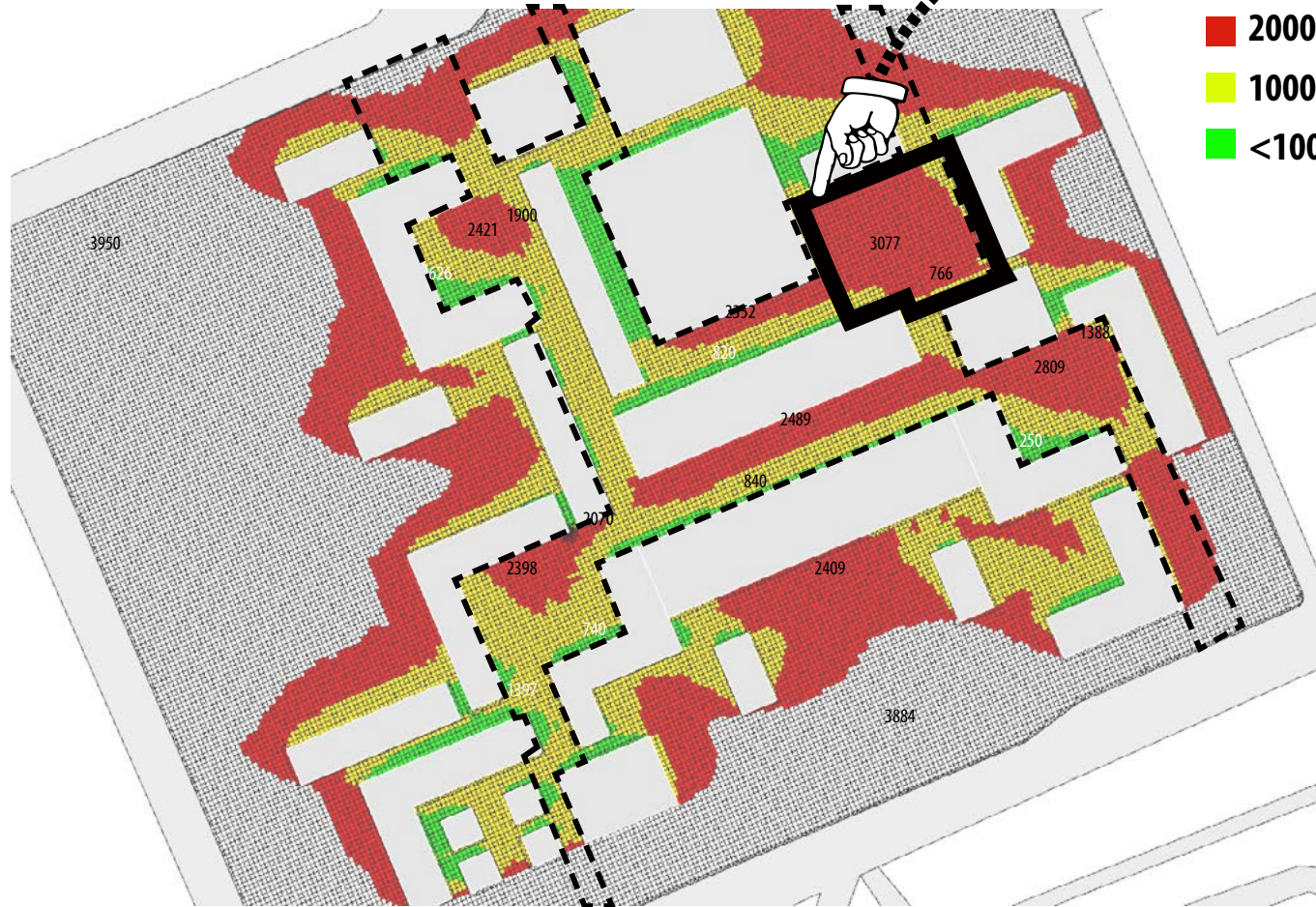
Nehru place already has a fine-grain network of pedestrian streets and plazas. However from the picture we can identify that the self shaded narrow streets are over used whereas the large plazas are uncomfortable and hence under utilized.

If we can program and create comfort in the large plazas, we will decongest the bottle neck areas, and at the same time support more local economies.

# MACRO SITE ANALYSIS | SUNHOURS

ANNUAL 4198 hours

TEST BED

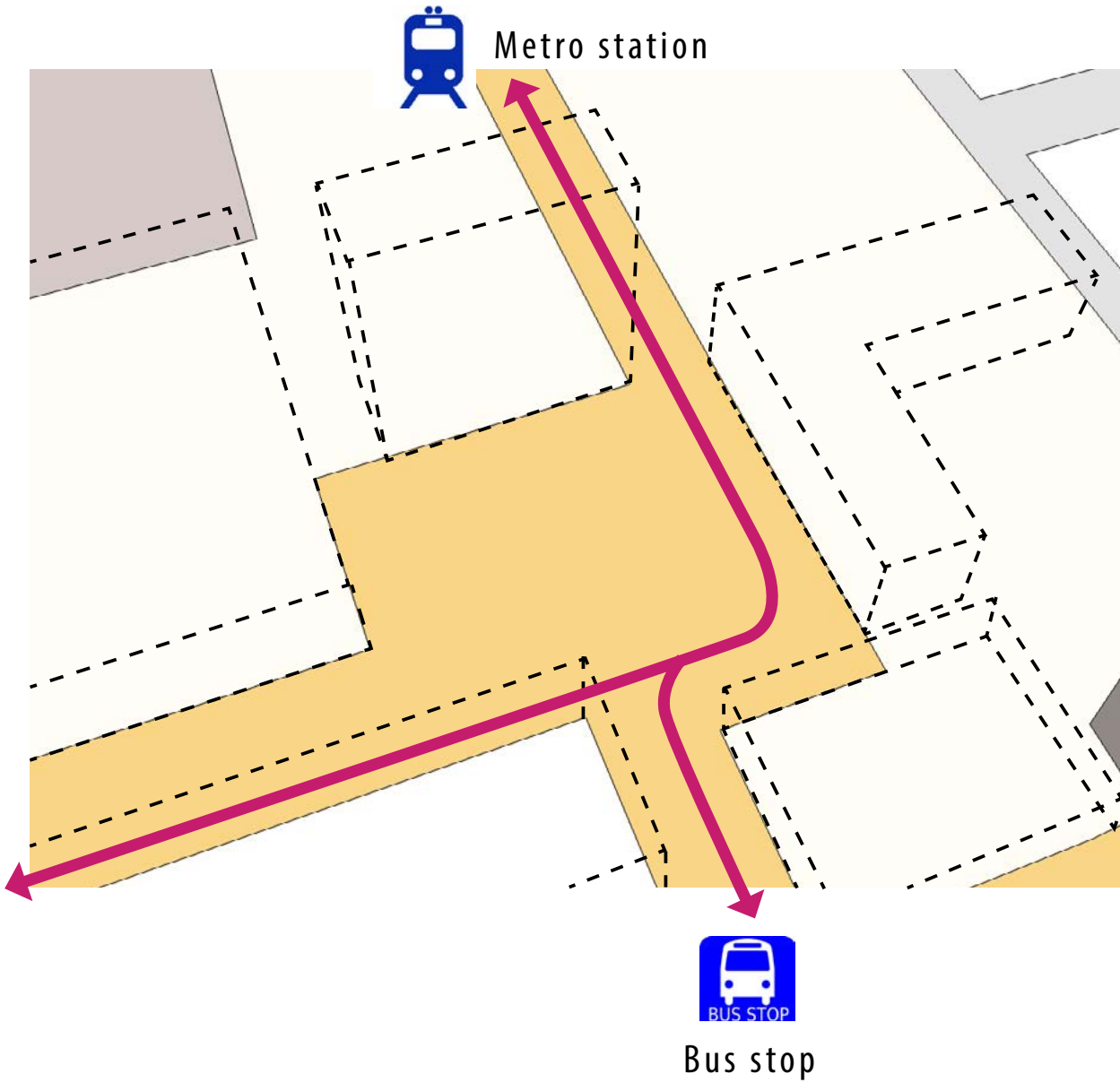


- 2000-3000
- 1000-2000
- <1000

Plaza selection

We use sun hours to indicate the worst case plaza, which is selected for redesign.

# SITE ANALYSIS | PROGRAM

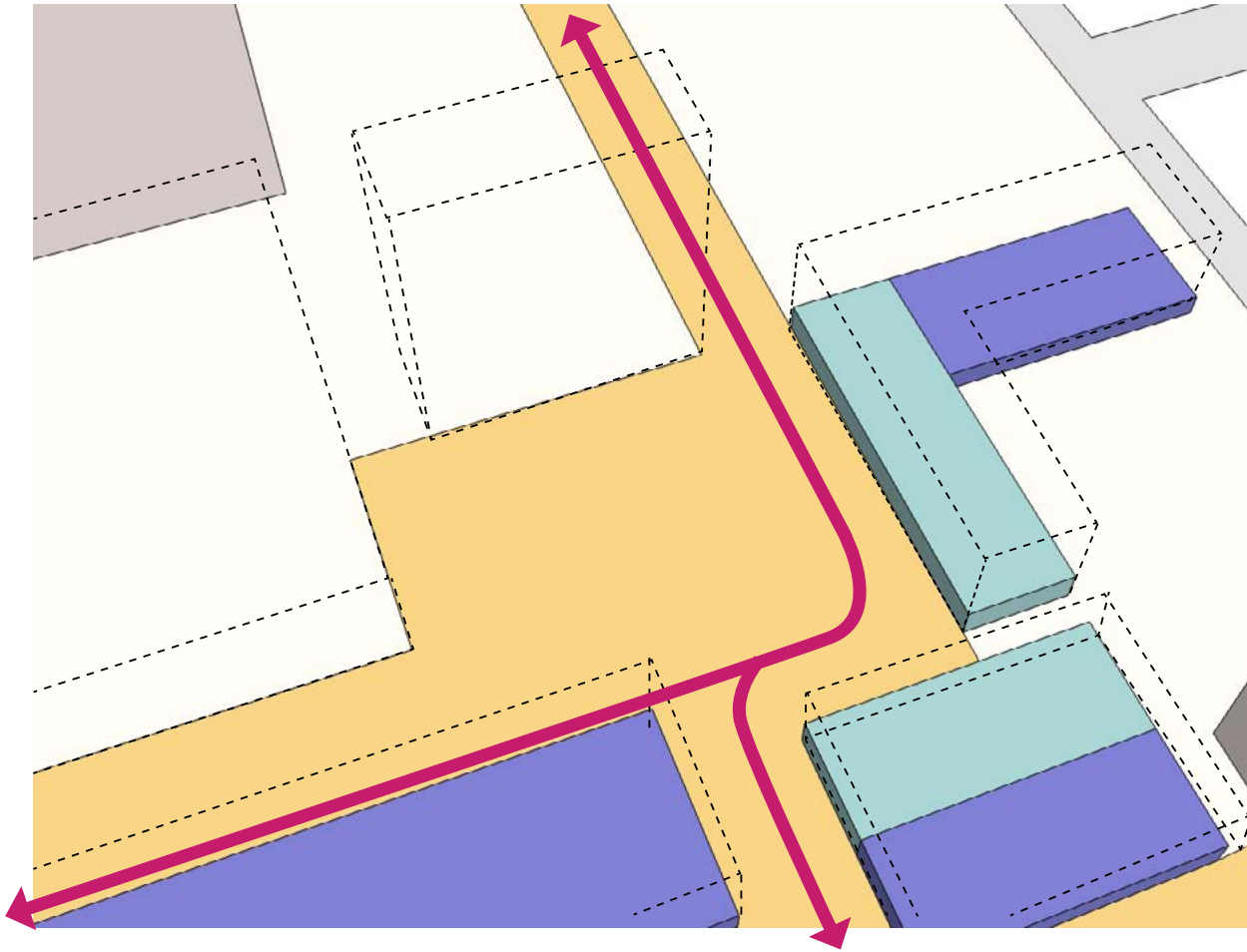





## Movement

### Site program analysis

This plaza is in the pedestrian path connecting the two transit stations (Metro and Bus) on either end of the precinct. Hence a lot of people move via this area during the day.

# SITE ANALYSIS | PROGRAM

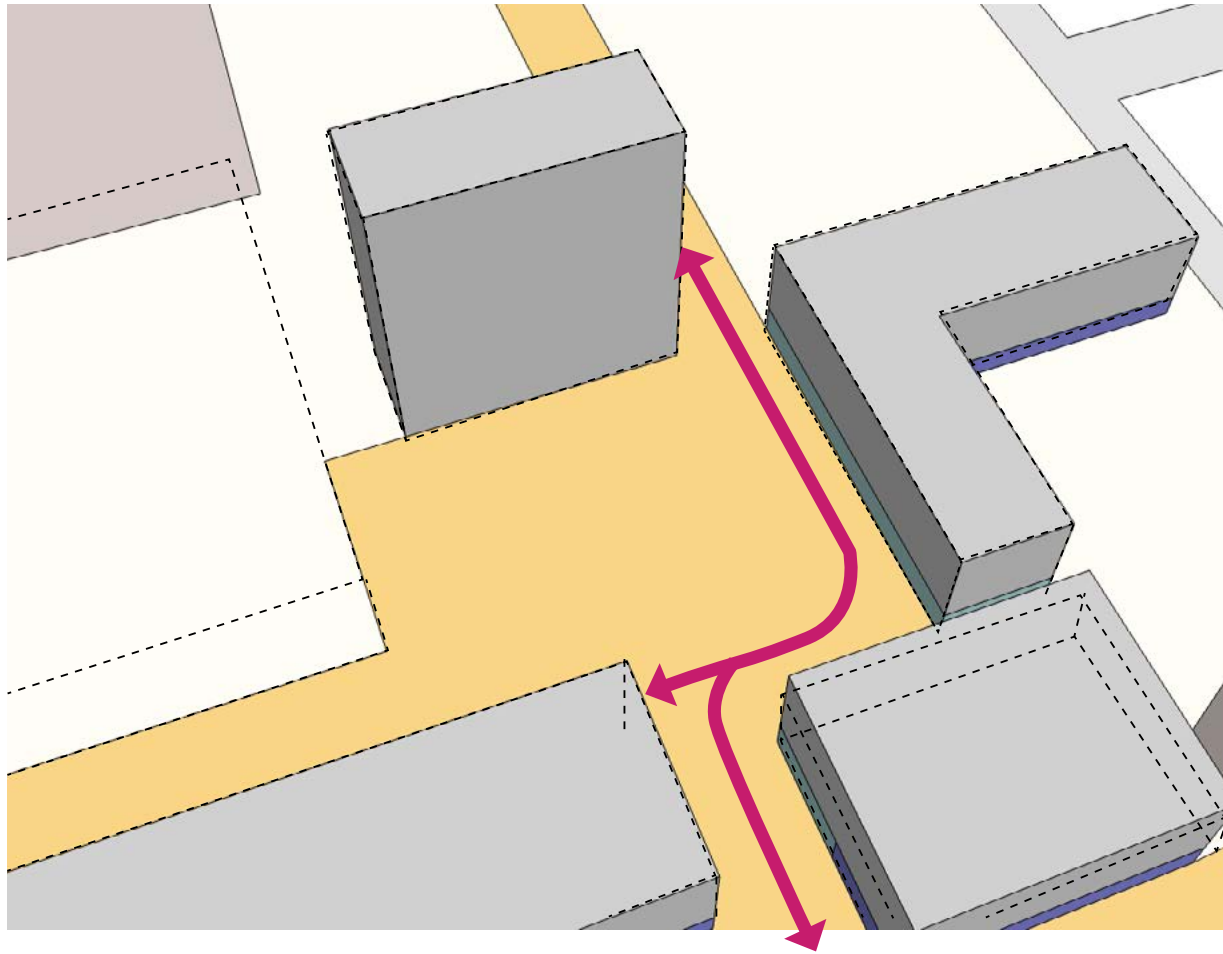


-  **Movement**
-  **Restaurant**
-  **Commercial**

## Site program analysis

The ground floor is mostly commercial and restaurants, which can spill on to the plaza and activate the ground floor

# SITE ANALYSIS | PROGRAM



-  **Movement**
-  **Restaurant**
-  **Commercial**
-  **Offices**

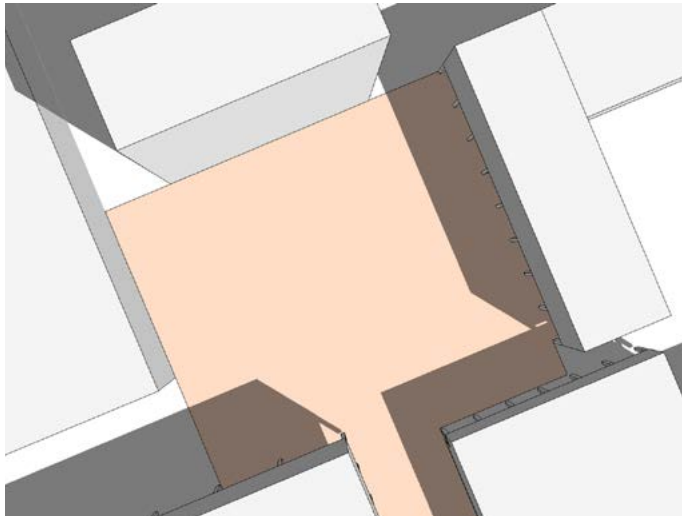
## Site program analysis

The offices surrounding the plaza will bring large footfall to the plaza during the lunch hour and after office hours. This makes it a viable location for local economies to be set up.

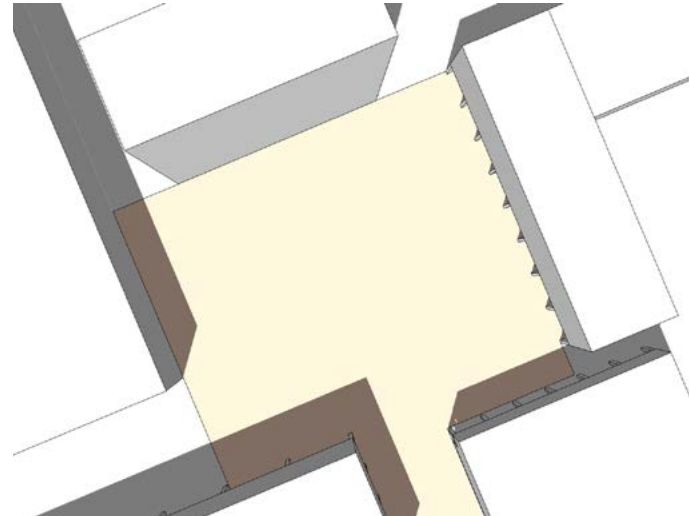
# SHADING STUDY | 21 March sunrise 06:28, sunset 18:27

**25%** shade in plaza

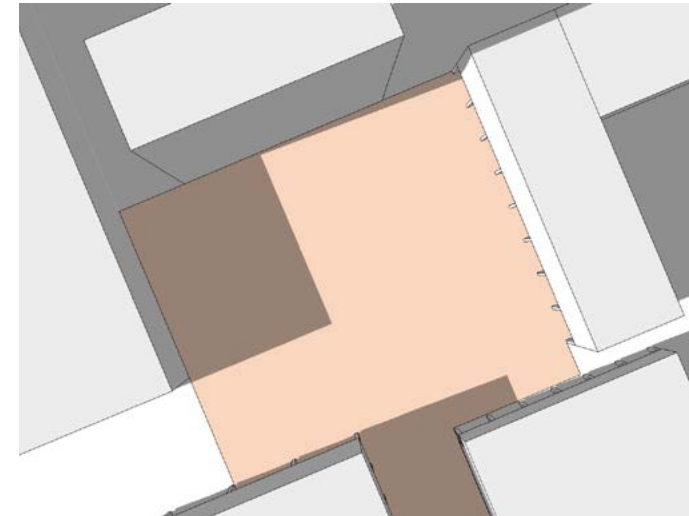
10:00



13:00



16:00



## Site analysis

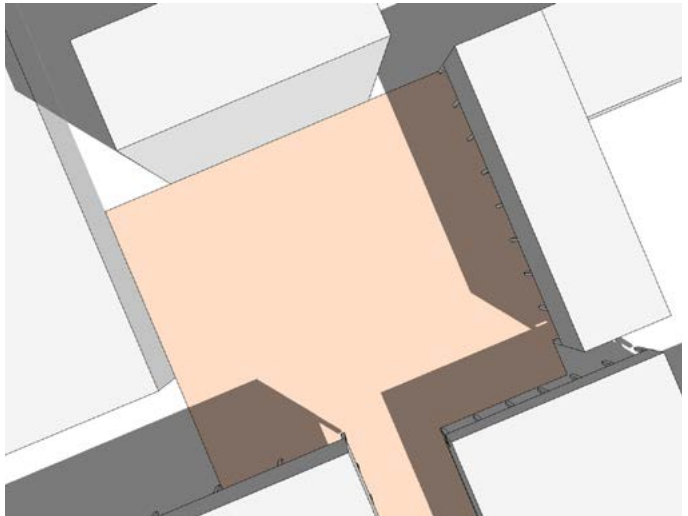
March 21st is used to evaluate the shading condition on the plaza, as similar condition will prevail for most part of the summer.

The buildings itself shade 25% of the plaza.

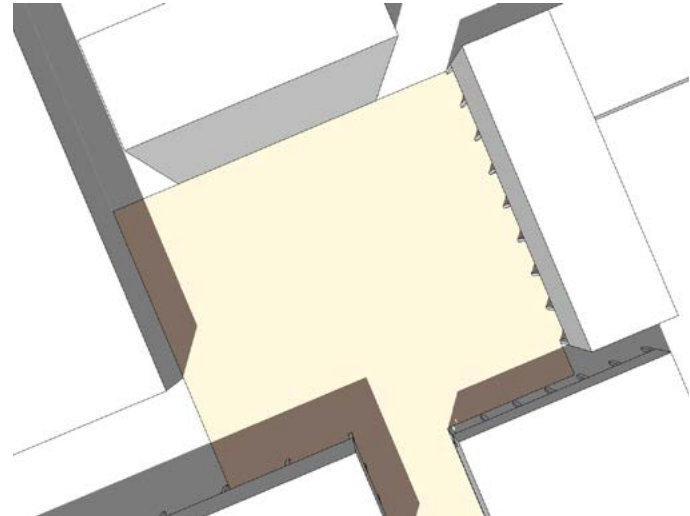
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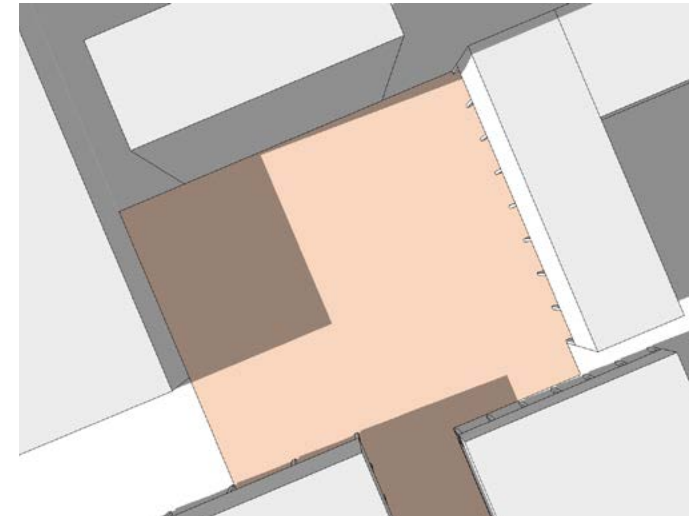
10:00



13:00

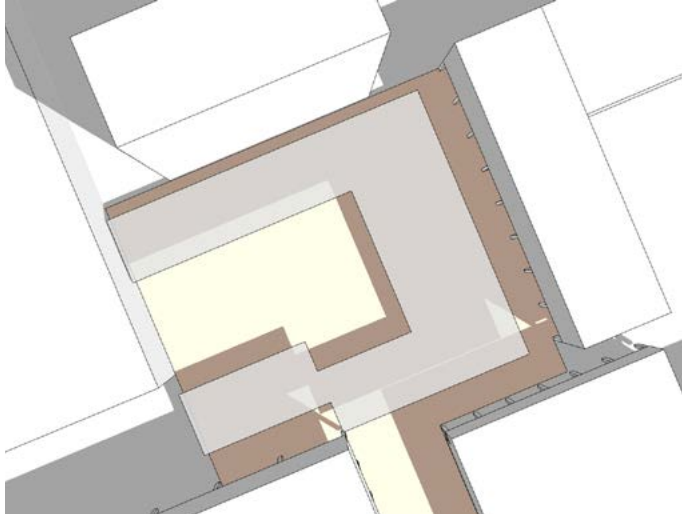


16:00

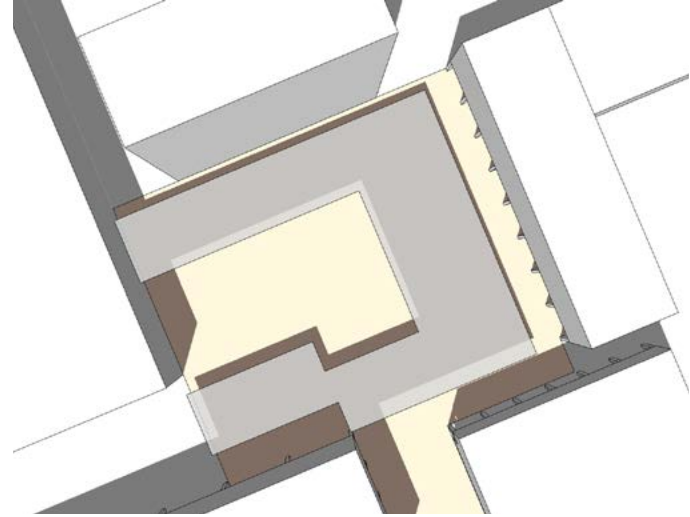


**70 - 75%** shade in plaza by **covering 45%** of the area

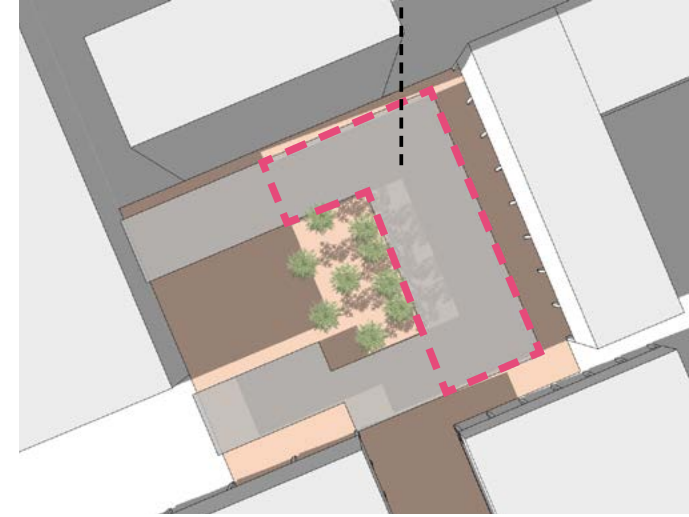
10:00



13:00



16:00



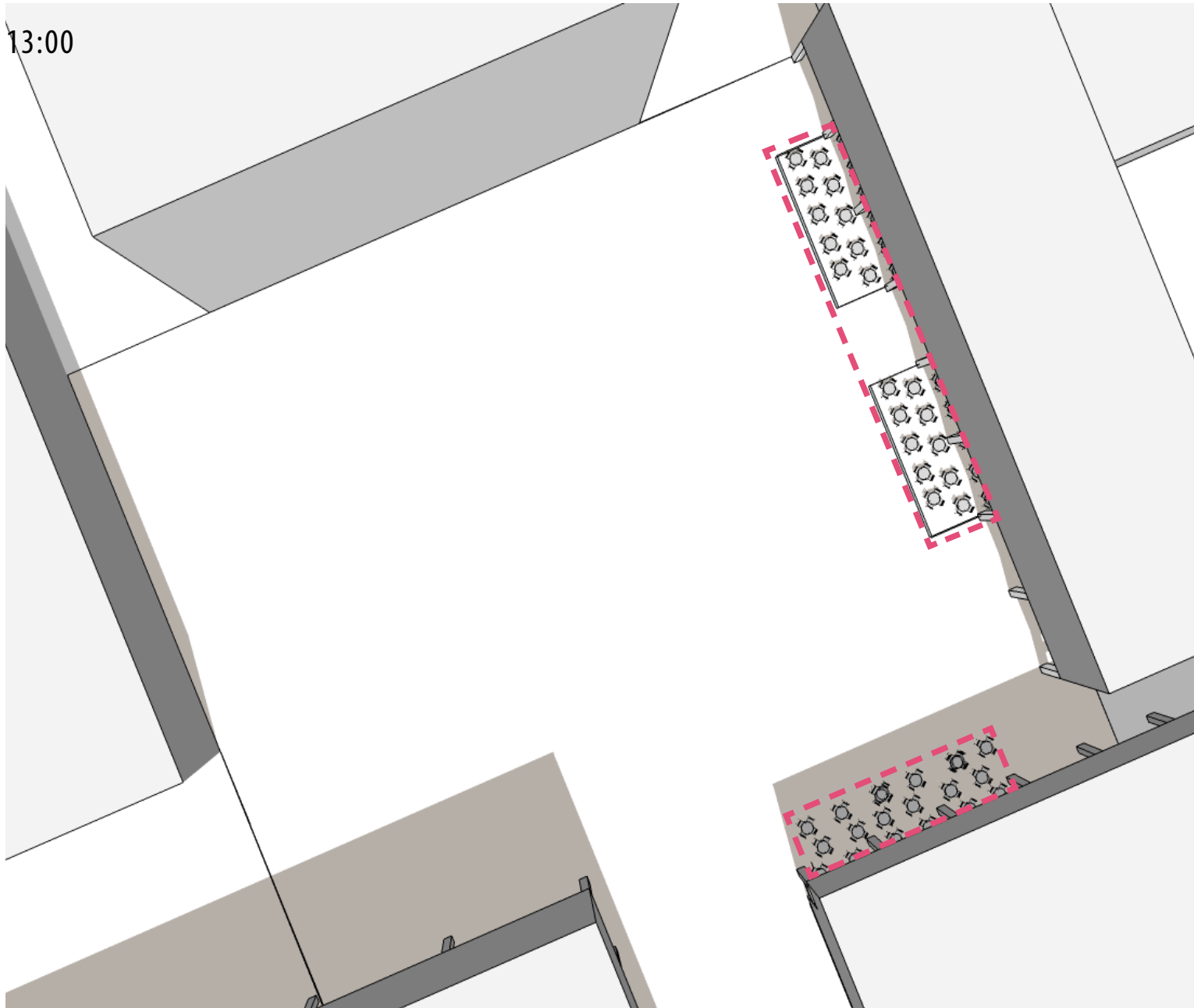
## Site analysis

Evaluating different shading configurations, we find that by providing shade over 45% area, as shown here, we ensure 70-75% shaded areas in the plaza.



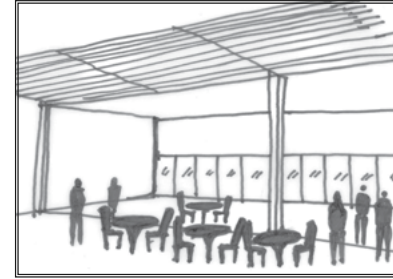
## SITE DESIGN | PROGRAM COMFORT

13:00



## SPILL OVER CAFES

12:00 - 15:00 | 19:00 - -23:00

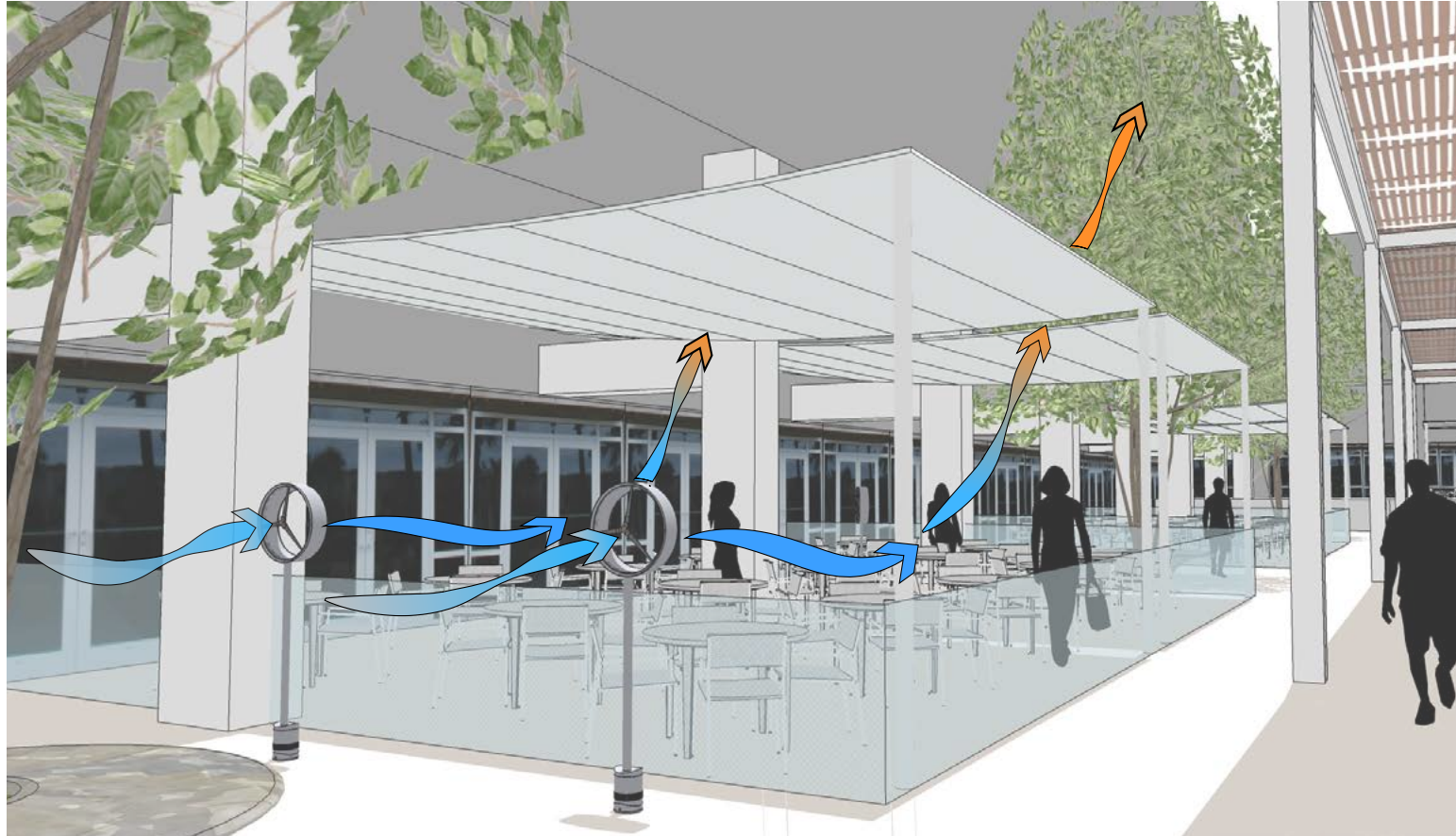


Programming the plaza

The cafes are programmed to spill onto the plaza. They cater to the people working in the surrounding offices. They will operate during lunch hour and after office hours until late night.

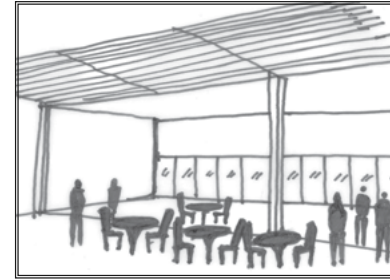
# SITE DESIGN | PROGRAM COMFORT

13:00

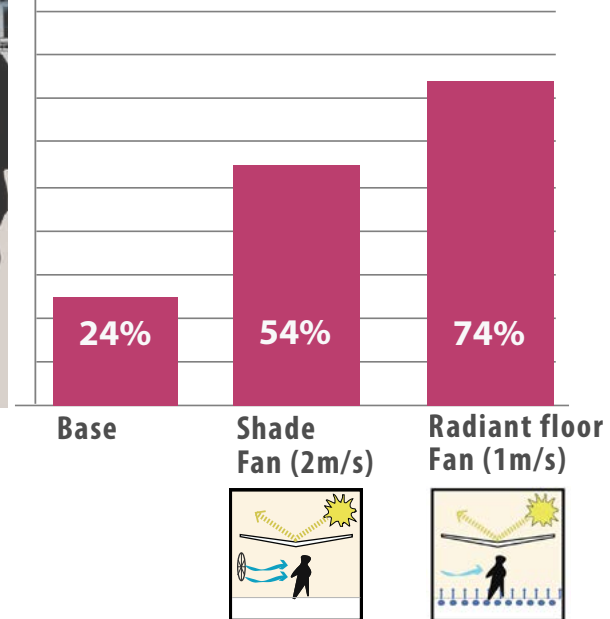


## SPILL OVER CAFES

12:00 - 15:00 | 19:00 - 23:00



Summer | Mar - Oct | UTCI < 32°C



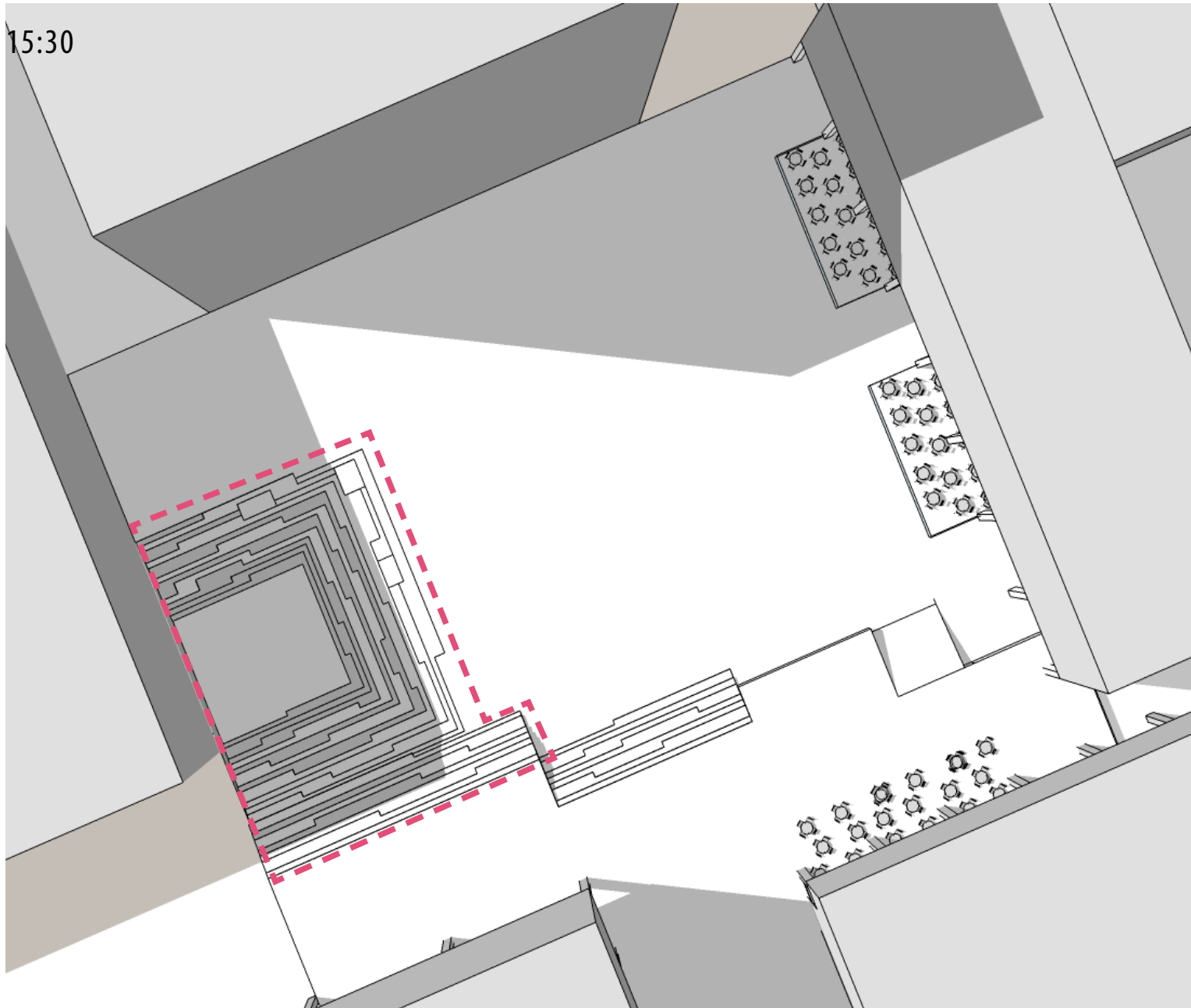
### Programming + Comfort

Providing shade and elevated air speed improves comfort hours by 30%, however in a dining scenario draft may not be preferred.

For fine dining restaurants, cooled floor with activated slab and low wind speed can provide much more comfort. We must bear in mind that this would mean more investment in construction and maintenance.

## SITE DESIGN | PROGRAM COMFORT

15:30



## CONGREGATION | AMPHI

18:00 - 23:00



Programming the plaza

After office hours the plaza will be used for congregational.

We program the congregational zone in an area which is in shade after 3:00pm, so by evening when it is used by people, the surface temperature is much lower.

# SITE DESIGN | PROGRAM COMFORT

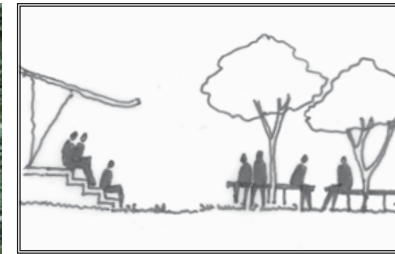
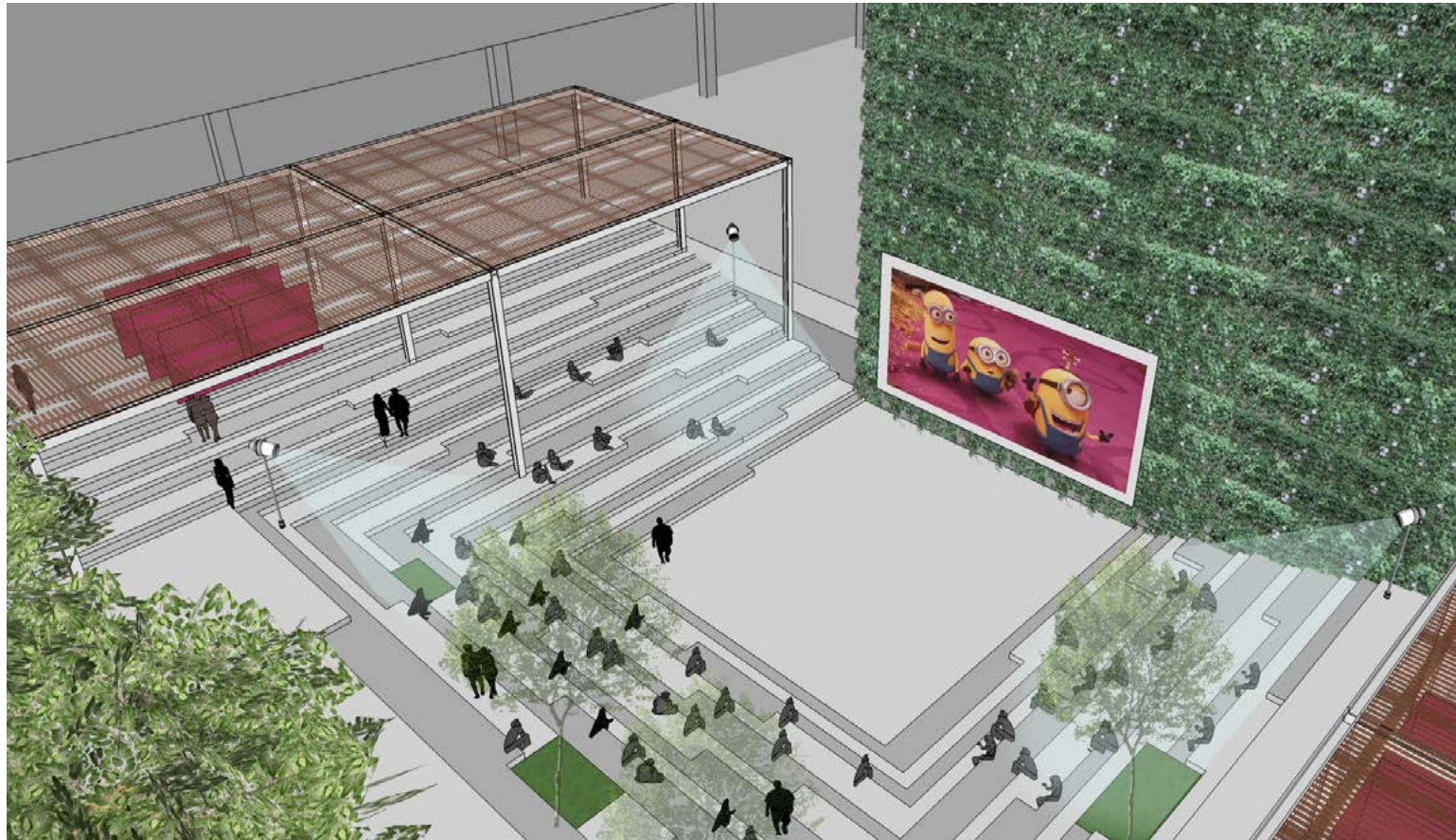
## CONGREGATION | AMPHI

18:00 - 23:00

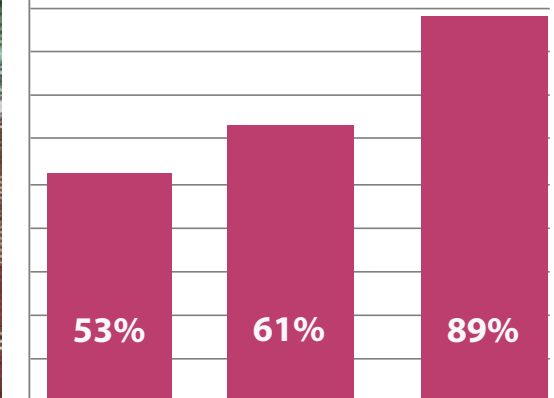
Programming + Comfort

Just with the right programming we improve the comfort hours to 61%, when compared to programming it in an area always exposed to sun.

During performances or cinema, use of mist jet fans provide comfort for 89% of the scheduled time.



Summer | Mar - Oct | UTCI < 32°C



Base

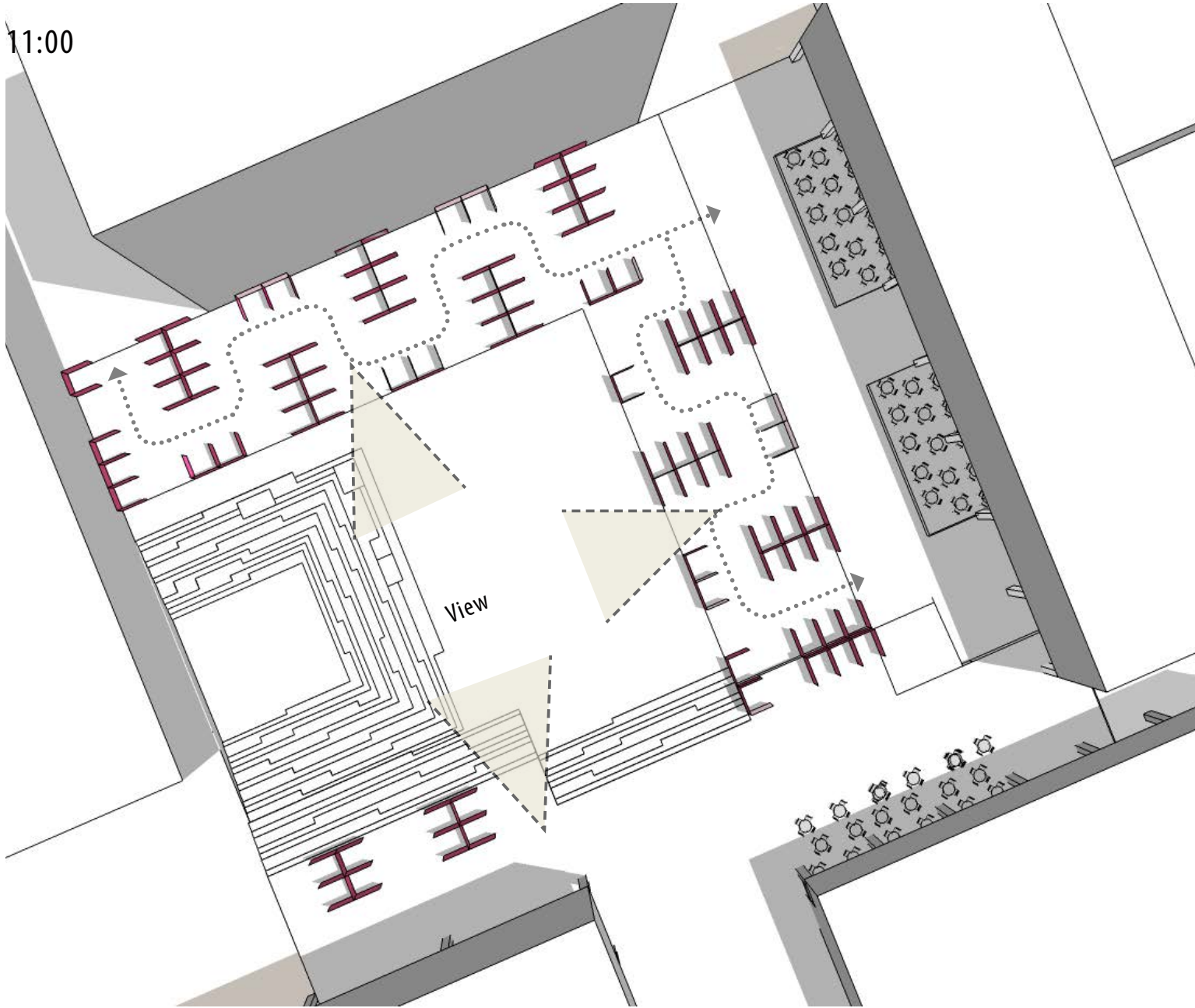
Self Shade

Shade Mist Jetfan



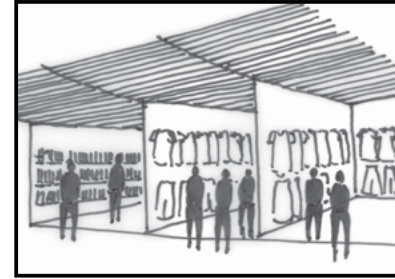
# SITE DESIGN | PROGRAM COMFORT

11:00



## KIOSK | Local economy

11:00 - 23:00

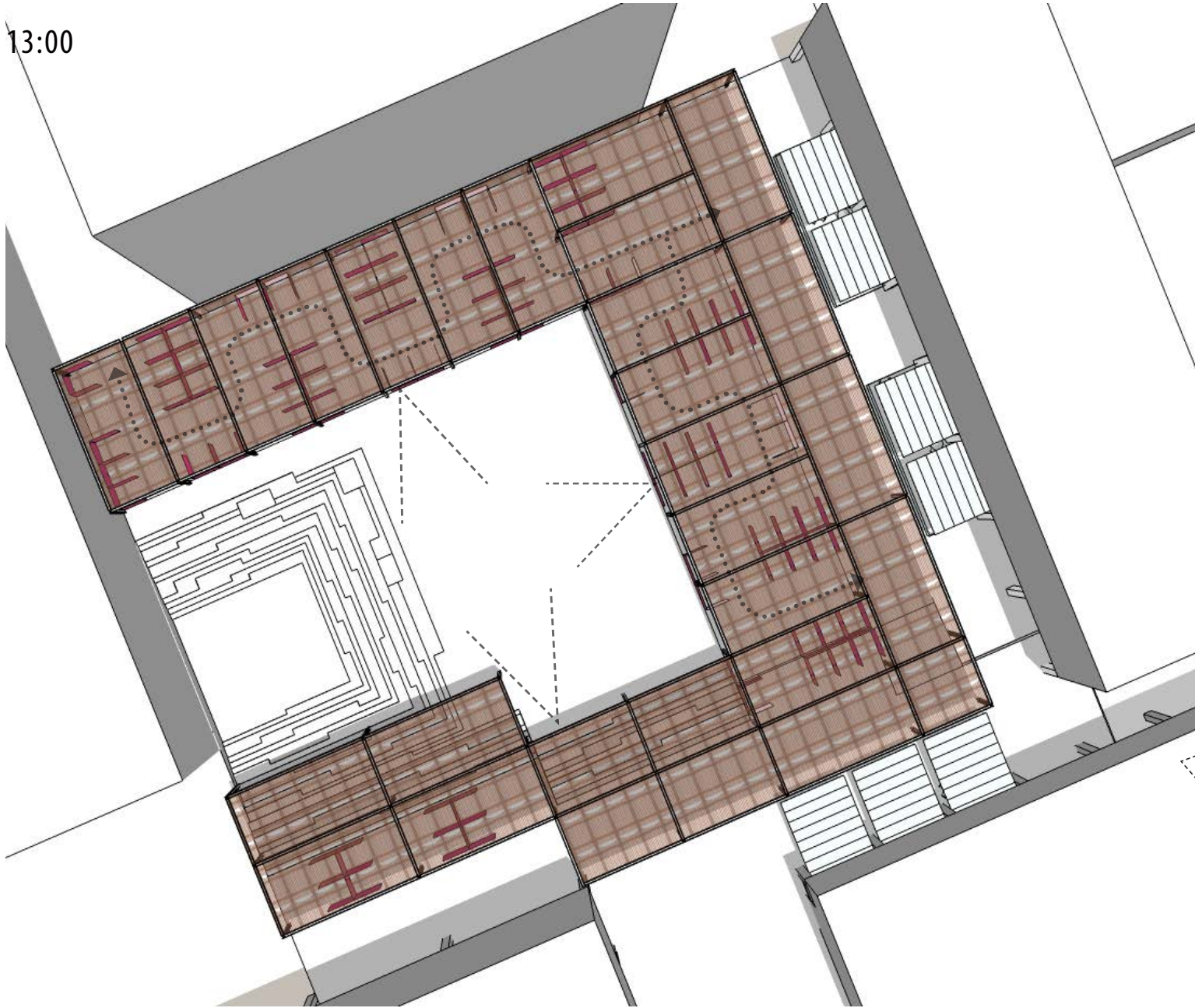


Programming the plaza

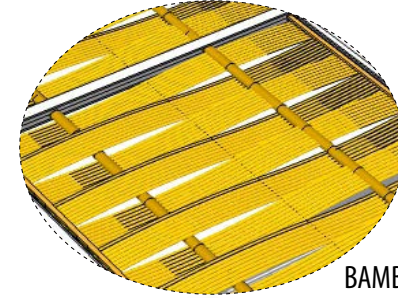
Local kiosk zone programmed along pedestrian movement, allows users to always stroll under shade. This maintains wind movement and visual connection from one side to the other.

# SITE DESIGN | PROGRAM COMFORT

13:00



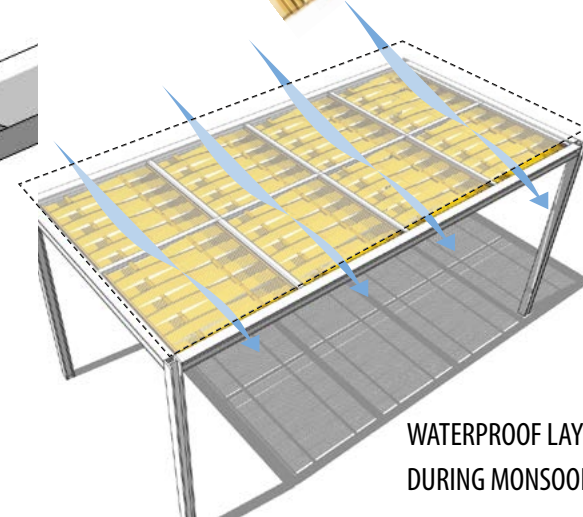
## KIOSK | SHADE



BAMBOO WEAVE



BAMBOO MOVABLE



WATERPROOF LAYER DURING MONSOON

### Programming + Comfort

Using local material like bamboo will be a cost effective solution which will engage local craftsman.

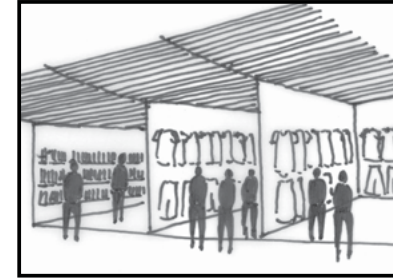
Bamboo mats can be made operable, to use night sky cooling potential and allow the ground to reject heat absorbed during the day to the sky

During monsoons a rain protection layer is added leaving an air gap allowing ventilation, ensuring no heat is trapped inbetween the two layers.

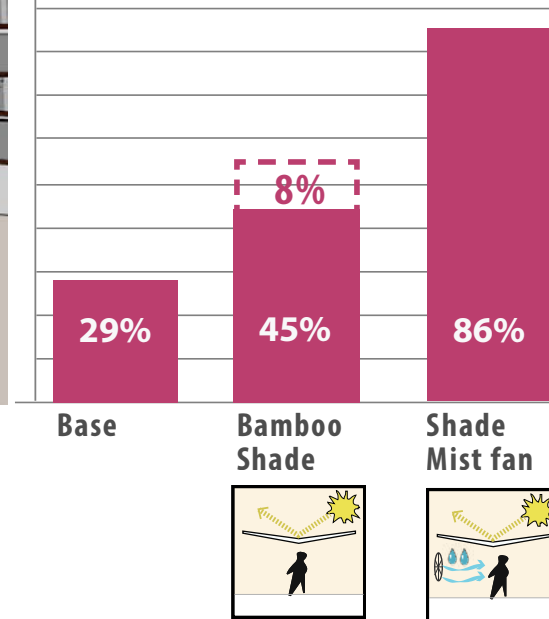
# SITE DESIGN | PROGRAM COMFORT

## KIOSK | Local economy

11:00 - 23:00



Summer | Mar - Oct | UTCI < 32°C



Fan only 5% improvement

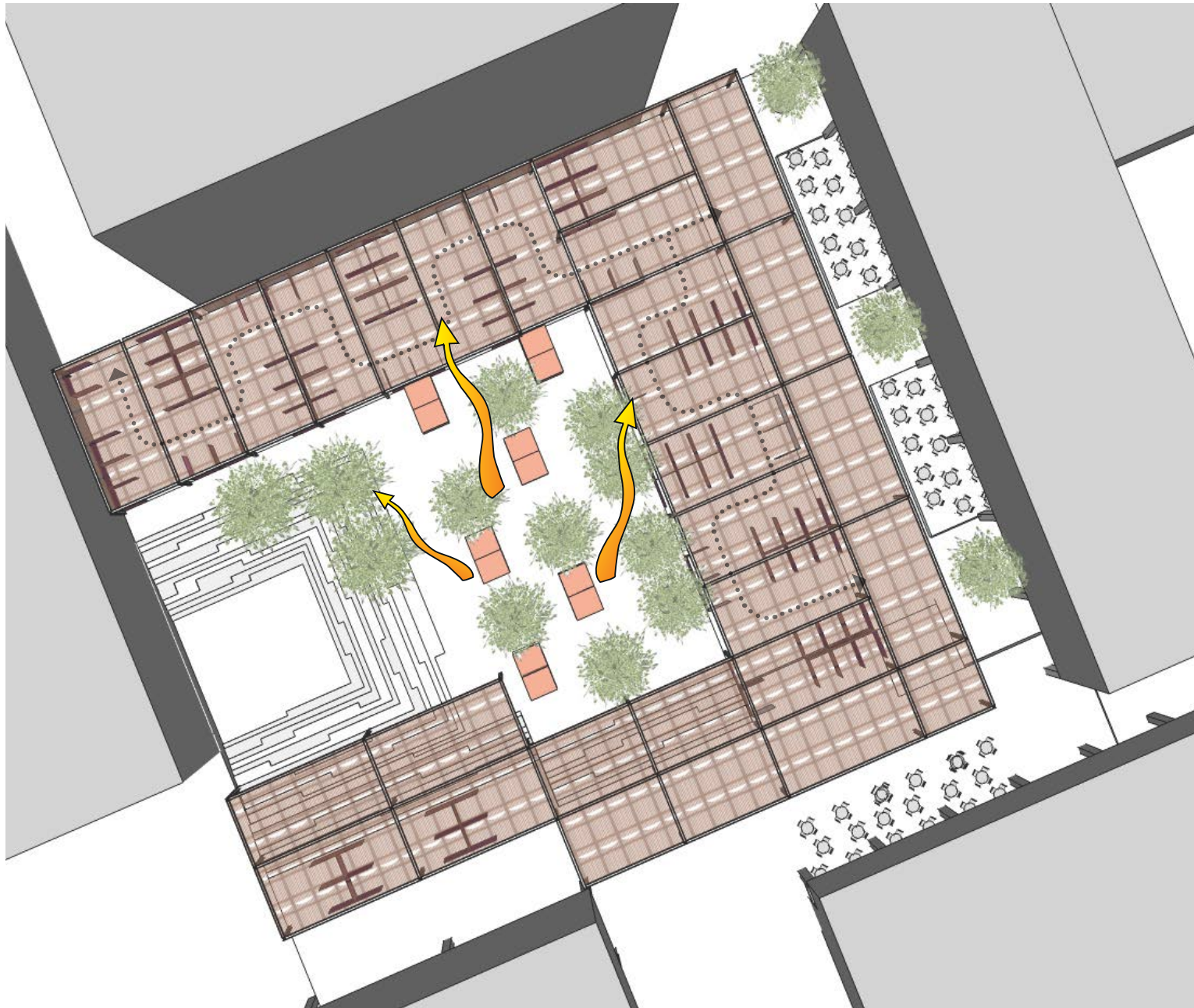
Programming + Comfort

Using an operable shade will increase comfort hours by 8%, compared to a fixed shade.

Elevated wind and adiabatic cooling using mist fan creates localized comfort pause points, where people can stop and relax.

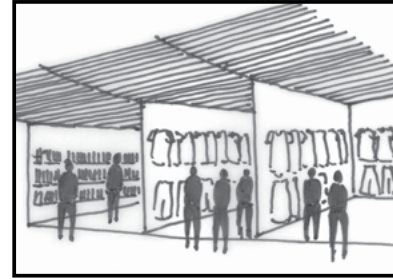
These pause points are comfortable for 86% of the scheduled time.

# SITE DESIGN | PROGRAM COMFORT

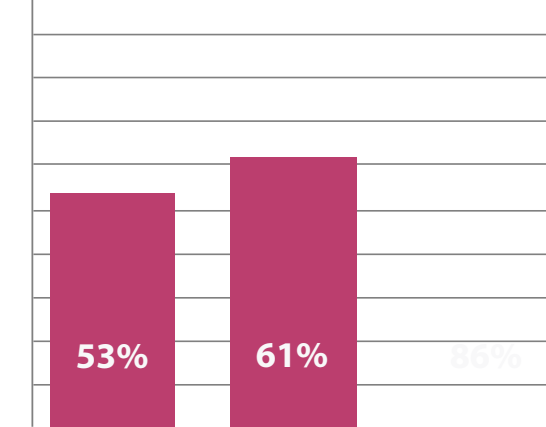


## KIOSK | Food Bazar

18:00 - 23:00



Summer | Mar - Oct | UTCI < 32°C



Base

Tree shade



Programming the plaza

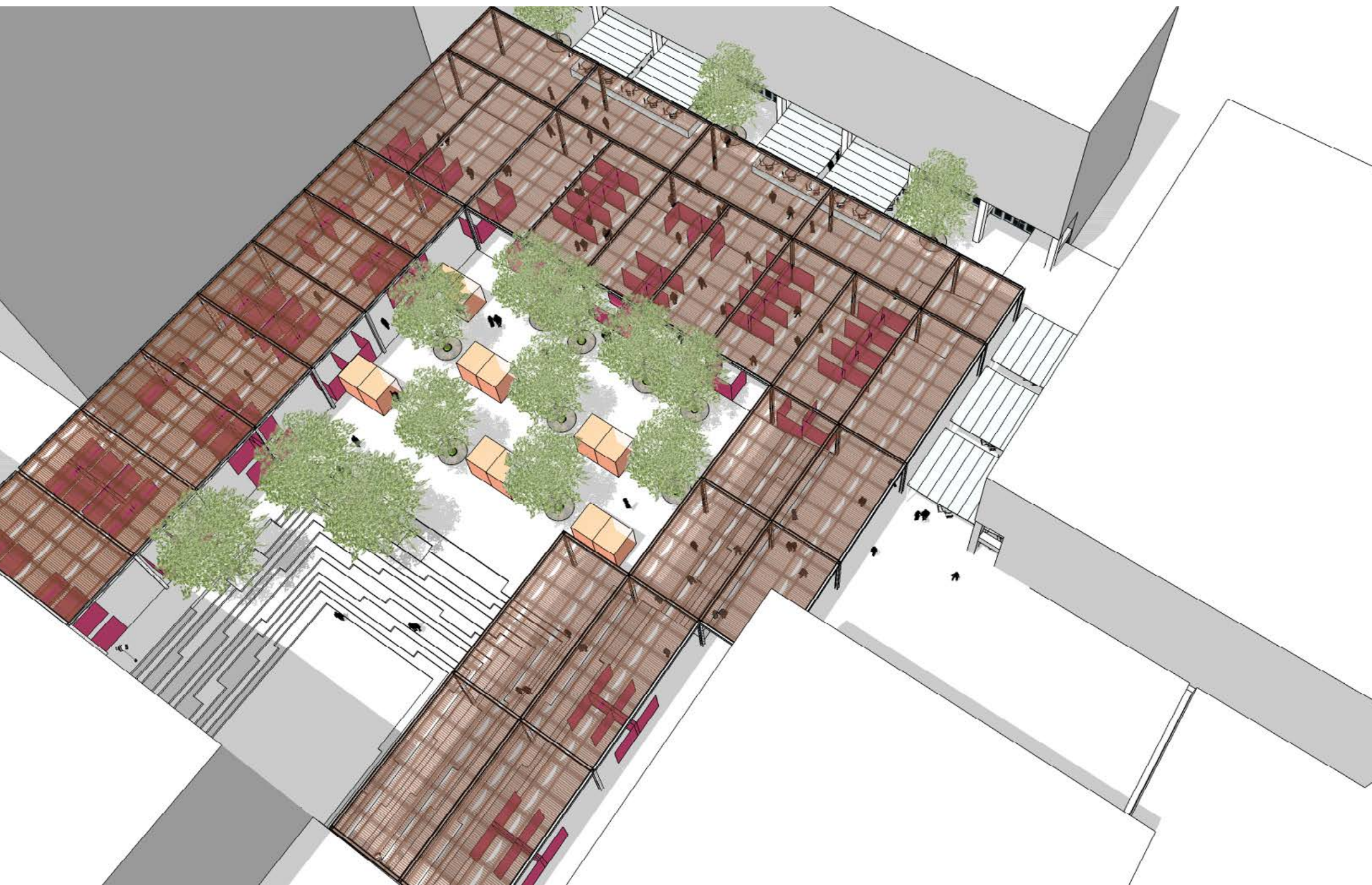
The central area is programmed as a night food market. It is shaded with trees which reduces the amount of solar radiation during the day and it will be comfortable for use during the evening and night. The no-shade zone allows for the fumes to exhaust easily.





Programming

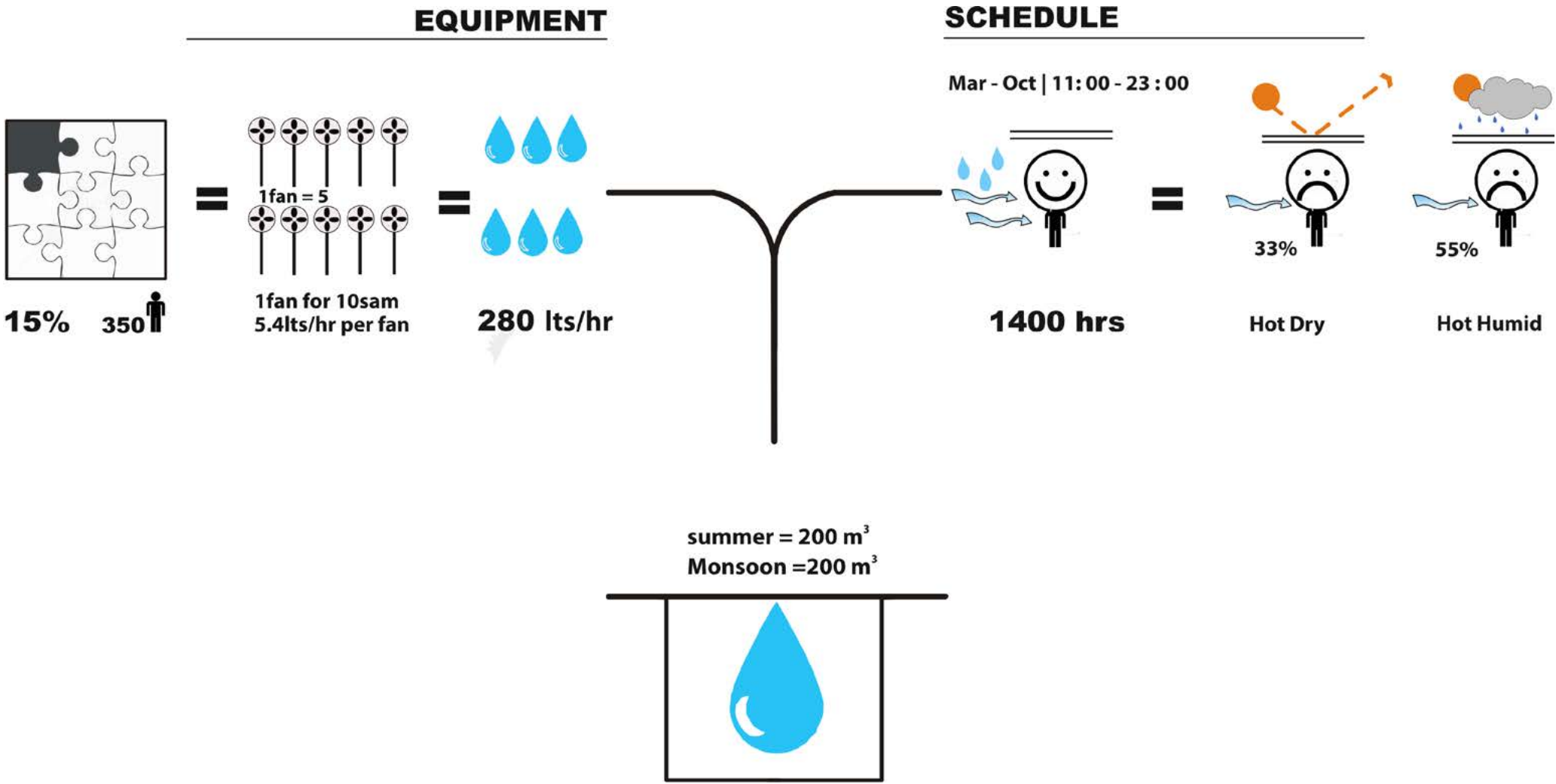
Overall program of the plaza



Comfort

Shading for comfort

# WATER



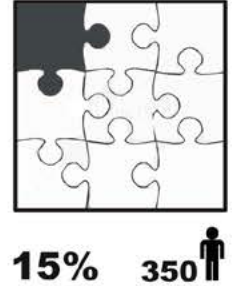
## Use of water for Mist fans

We require 280lts of water per hour for the mist fans proposed to create localized comfort in 15% of the plaza area. It is important to schedule when the mist fans are working to minimize consumption.

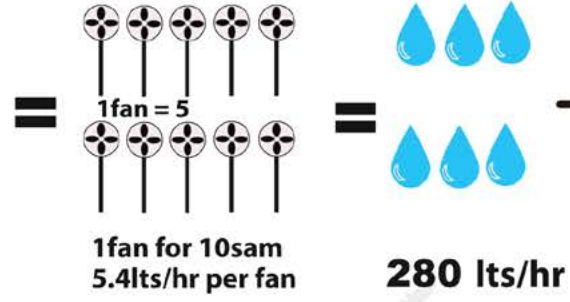
The analysis shows with shading and elevated air speed for 55% of the hot and humid summer and 33% of the hot and dry summer are still uncomfortable and need misting for comfort.

This helps us estimate the quantity of rainwater harvesting needed to meet the requirement.

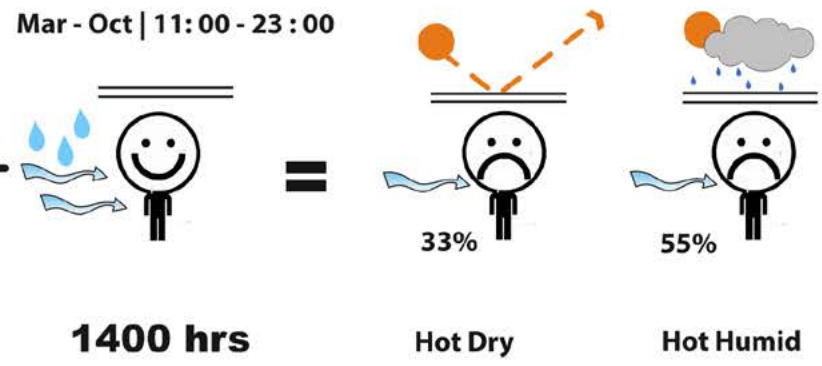
# WATER



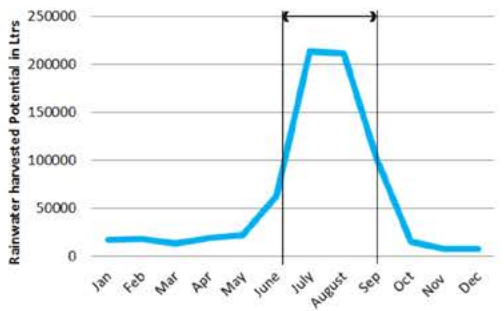
## EQUIPMENT



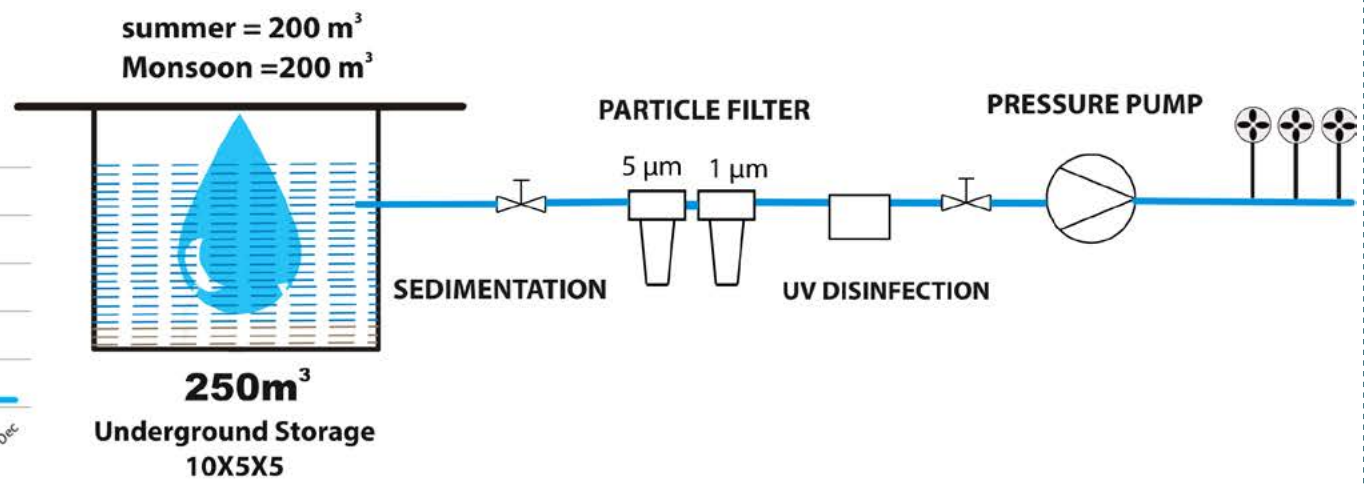
## SCHEDULE



## AVAILABILITY



## USE



Availability of water on site & water quality

1/4th of the rainwater harvested from the adjacent car-park roof is sufficient to meet the total need for all the mist fans.

We should bear in mind the importance of maintaining water quality when using misters. Legionella bacteria can breed in water stored between 20°C - 60°C, and prove fatal when sprayed. It is important to ensure proper disinfection and filtration before the water is used in mist fans.

# LEARNINGS

Major factors contributing to thermal comfort in Hot & Humid

## LANDSCAPE & BUILDING MATERIALS

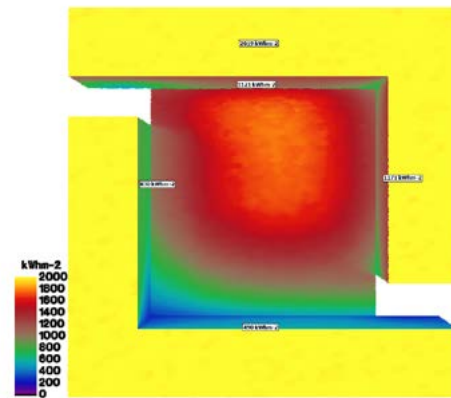
Surface Temperature

High Solar reflectance (Albedo) - Limit heat gain\*  
Pearmeable surfaces permit evaporative cooling when moist  
Vegetated Surface temperature lower than ambient air temp

COOL PAVEMENTS reduce MRT

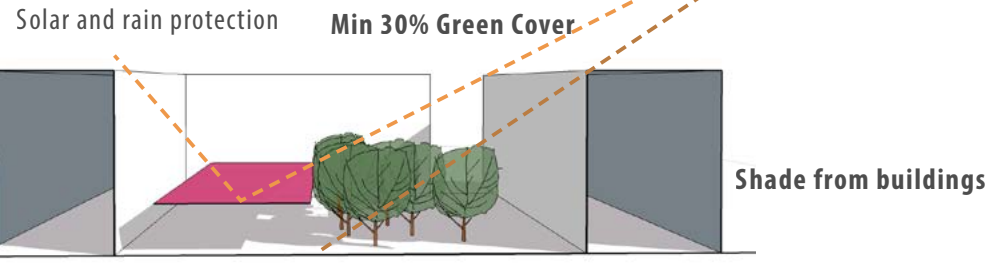


\*Wearing of material can reduce performance over time



## SHADING CONDITIONS

Shading  
Low Solar transmittance (Opaque)  
Low Sol. absorption ( White high reflectance)  
Emissivity  
Operable : Sky cooling potential



## EVAPORATIVE COOLING + INCREASED WIND

To conclude:  
Outdoor thermal comfort is regulated by atmospheric environment and urban density.

The surface materials and vegetation cover significantly help improve comfort. High albedo paving materials or permeable surfaces can help reduce the surface temperature. Vegetated surfaces lower the ambient air temperature due to evapotranspiration.

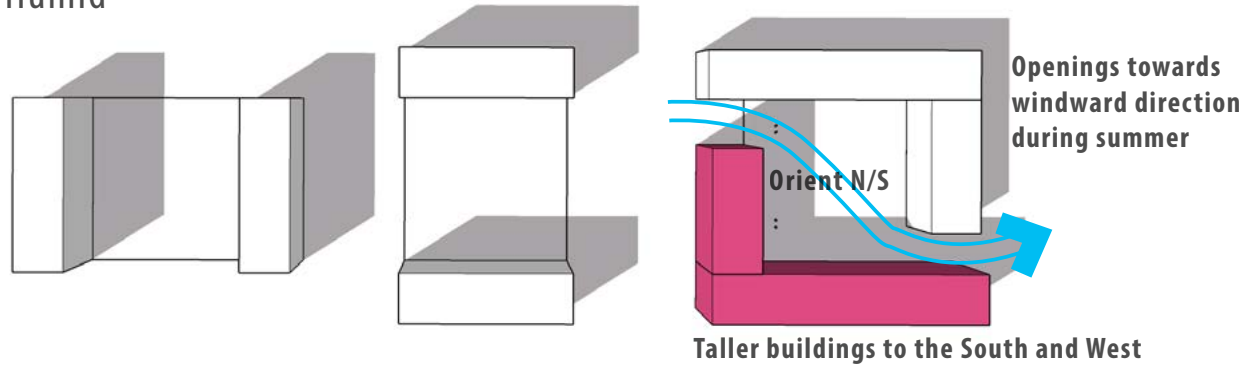
Shading is a cost effective passive measure to create comfort. Low solar transmittance (i.e opaque) and low solar absorption ( i.e white) material is recommended. Using operable shading allows to benefit from night sky cooling potential.

Increased air speed and adiabatic cooling is effective to improve comfort in hot and humid climate like Delhi.

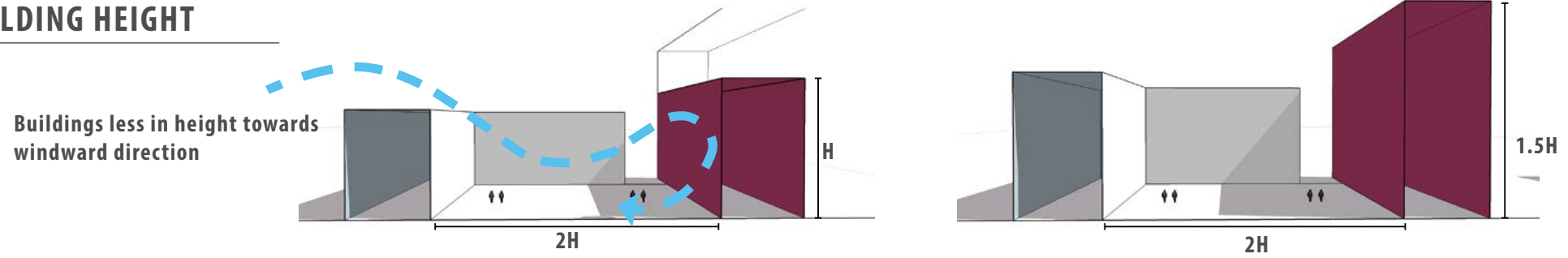
# LEARNINGS

Designing plaza India | Hot & Humid

## SHADE WITH BUILDINGS

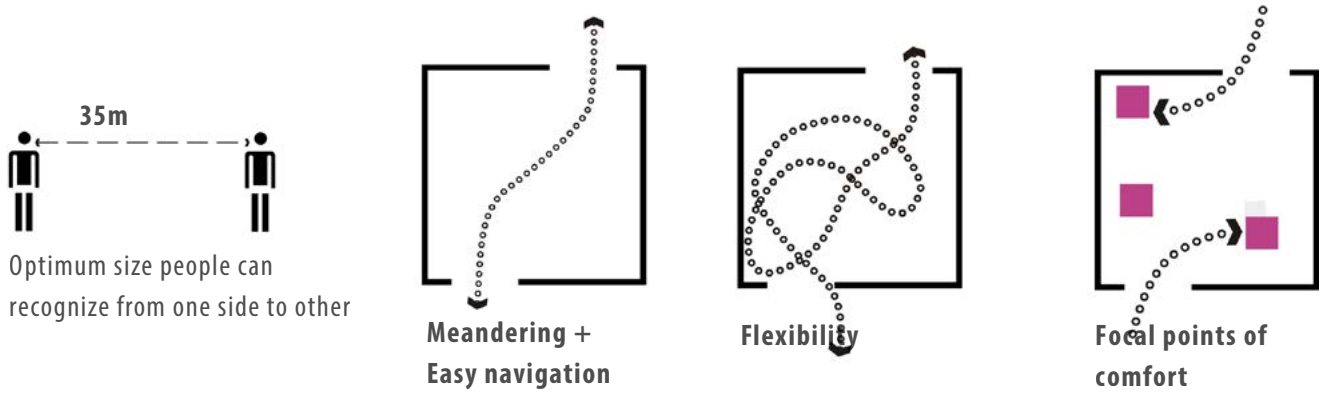


## BUILDING HEIGHT



## PROGRAMMING

Flexibility  
Variety



## OPTIMIZE COMFORT requires site specific study

To translate into design guidelines  
First optimize the surrounding massing to create shade in the plaza and at the same time allow it to be cross ventilated.

Building height to plaza width is important to consider to create self shaded areas with appropriate scale. Height to width ratio of 1:2 to 1.5:2 is reasonable. Building heights should be planned to redirect the wind downward.

At the fine grain the surrounding context and program need to be analyzed to design for optimized comfort.

Jan Ghel recommends a plaza width of 35m, and if more the plaza should be divided into smaller programs. Rather than creating comfort in the entire plaza, create comfortable pause points which people will navigate towards

DANKE SCHÖN for a great year! Cheers!

Mentor : Felix Thumm

Alejandra Cassis, Christian Degenhardt, Christian Fenzel, Joshua Vanwyck, Mathias Ramming, Matthias Schuler, Martin Engelhardt, Moni Lauster, Raphael Lafargue, Tommaso Bitossi, Thomas Aver, Wolfgang Kessler + All Transsolar

Academy family . . .

