

B O R D E R S

B E Y O N D B O R D E R S

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域外

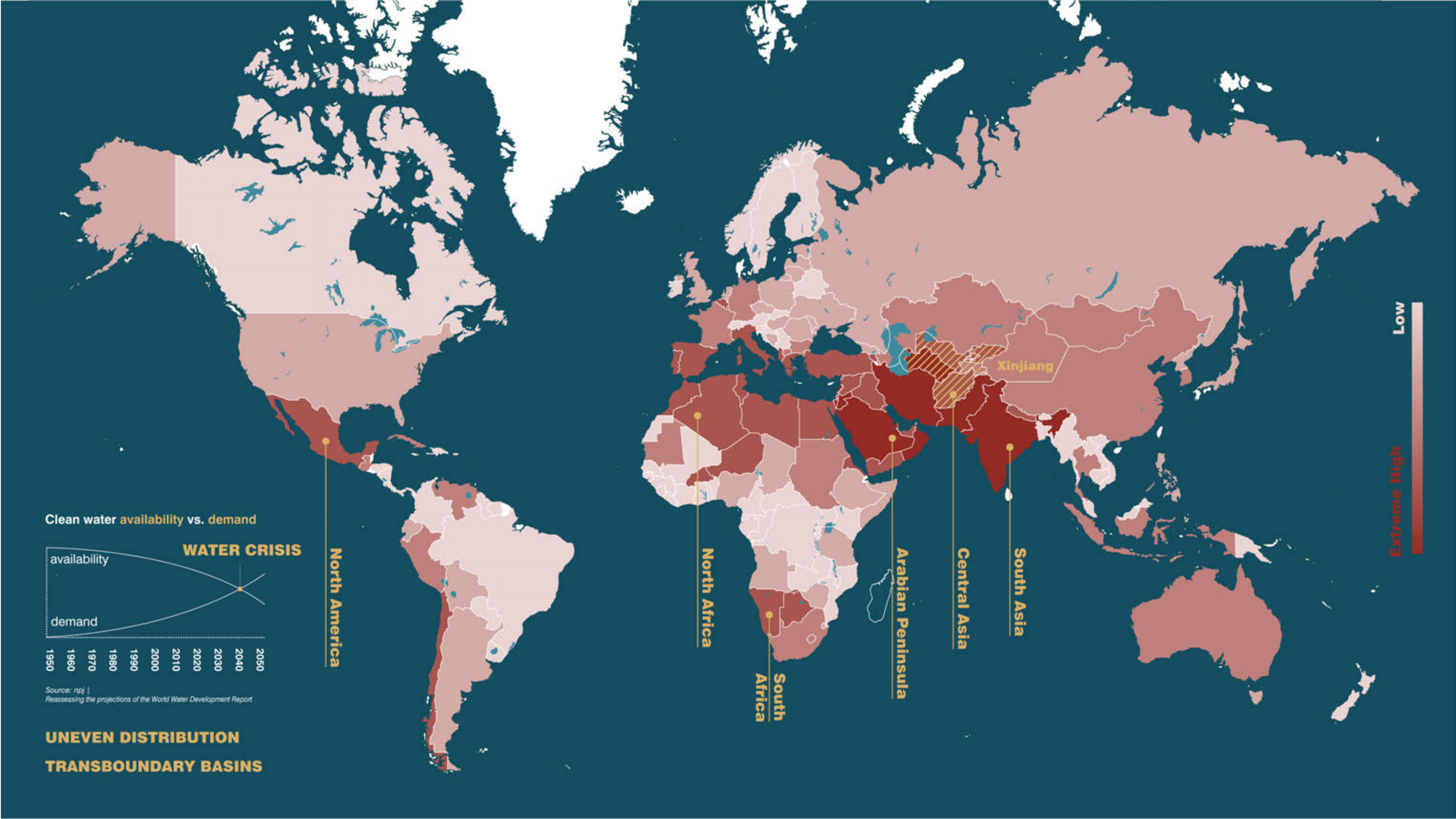
water as a
transboundary
shared resource

xingyao wang “yao”
xingyu guo “alven”

"Borders and Beyond Borders: Thirty-Year Plan" examines the growing concern of water depletion and strategies for poverty alleviation. This development-oriented plan sees water as a catalyst of community cohabitation, and offers the citizens an speculative alternative living experience with revitalized local economy under worsened aquatic

resource condition. In this narrative, the aquatic system foregrounds the reciprocity across the multidimensional borderlines between political entities, between cities and villages, and between artificiality and nature. With infrastructural premise on regional scale, and government-aided upgrading in human scale, the 30-year plan experiments to

help the city adapt to a worsened environmental condition, and it helps every one of your household to achieve and even exceed moderately prosperous lives with stall and courtyard economy. The planning re-imagines for you a living typology that externalizes and monumentalizes the power of nature as a human necessity.



The water crisis was listed as an urgent global issue. And Central Asia is among several most severely impacted regions due to surging demand for economic development as well as geographical features that limit water availability.

MAN | WATER CONFLICT | TRIGGER

Mexican National Guard troops stand guard at Las Pilas dam in Camargo, Mexico, Sept. 10, 2020 (AP photo by Christian Chavez).

Mexico's Water Dispute With the U.S.

Tony Payan Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2020 from WPR

For nearly 75 years, the United States and Mexico have transferred giant quantities of water to each other each year as part of a system set up to ensure the equitable sharing of water sheds that straddle their border. The terms and obligations are clearly laid out in a treaty the two sides signed in 1944: The U.S. sends 489 billion gallons of water southward via the Colorado River, and Mexico allocates 114 billion gallons northward, from the Rio Grande and the Rio Conchos. To deal with the technical aspects of this water exchange

MAN | WATER MISMANAGEMENT

The reservoir on May 8 2020, showing where the dam failed [image by: Lauren Dauphin/NASA Earth Observatory]

Uzbekistan dam collapse was a disaster waiting to happen

Eugene Simonov, June 23, 2020 from thethirdpole

On May 25, the Kazakh government posted for public comment a draft treaty proposing a bilateral commission on transboundary water bodies. It listed several cooperative activities, including information exchange, joint decision-making and financing infrastructure. Provisions for environmental quality, environmental impact assessment and preservation of shared aquatic ecosystems were glaringly absent.

ECOLOGY | WATER CRISIS

Ecosystems supported by Lake Balkhash are in jeopardy as desertification increases.

Save Kazakhstan's shrinking Lake Balkhash

Aizhan Ussenaliyeva October 16, 2020 from AAAS

Kazakhstan is home to Lake Balkhash, one of the largest inland drainless lakes in the world. Estimated to be more than 15,000 year old, this lake has cultural, historical, and ecological value. However, since 1970, a substantial decrease in the Ili river runoff has led to a drawdown of water reaching the lake, leading to a decrease in water depth. Out of the original 16 lake systems around Lake Balkhash, only 5 remain. Preserving this lake ecosystem is crucial to halting the desertification process, which has already claimed a third of the lake and will have devastating effects on the diverse flora and fauna that depend on it.

MAN | WATER CONFLICT | TRIGGER

Water contamination and shortages: If the spark for violent protests in Basra, Iraq in September 2018. (AP Photo/Nabil al-Jurani)

Iraqi City Seethes Over Water Crisis

Qussim Abdul-Zahra September 11, 2018 from AP

BASRA, Iraq (AP) — The brackish water pouring from the taps of homes in Basra has caused stomach ailments and skin rashes for thousands in the southern Iraqi city once famous for its network of freshwater canals that gave it the nickname the "Venice of the East."

MAN | WATER CONFLICT | TRIGGER

Vanished Aral Sea © Arjan Zweijgers Moynag

Tension with Kazakhstan

On May 5, Sergei Gromov, Kazakhstan's vice-minister of ecology, said, "The construction of the indicated reservoir was not agreed with us (as required by treaties)... We insist that the dam is not restored at all, if it is restored, then in smaller volume."

MAN | WATER CONFLICT | TRIGGER

Vanished Aral Sea © Arjan Zweijgers Moynag

BETTER 2050

MAN | WATER CONFLICT | TRIGGER

Vanished Aral Sea © Arjan Zweijgers Moynag

SHARED TRANSBOUNDARY

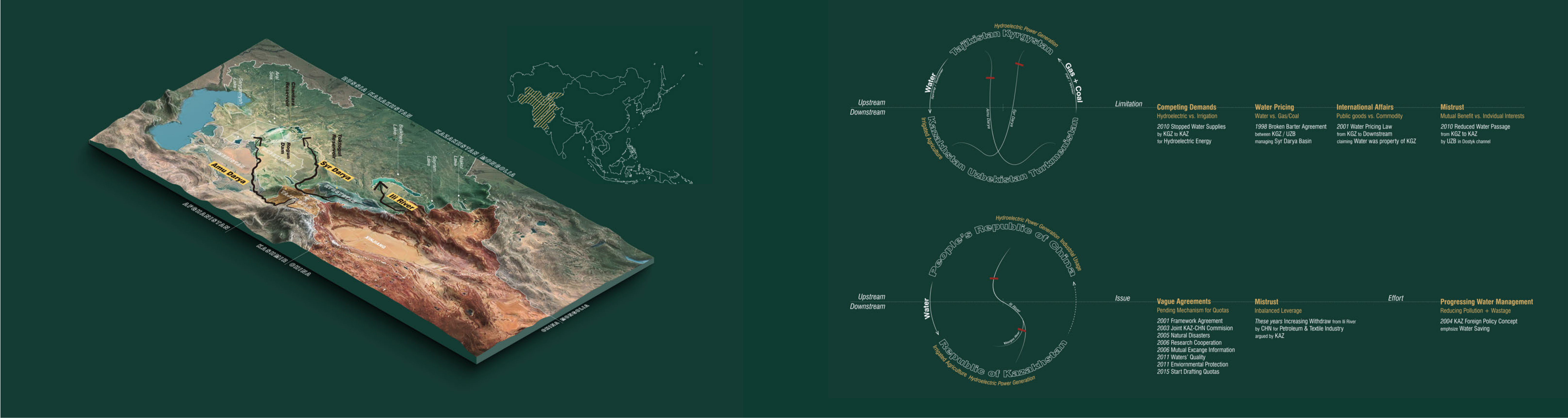
MAN | WATER CONFLICT | TRIGGER

Vanished Aral Sea © Arjan Zweijgers Moynag

SUSTAINABLE >

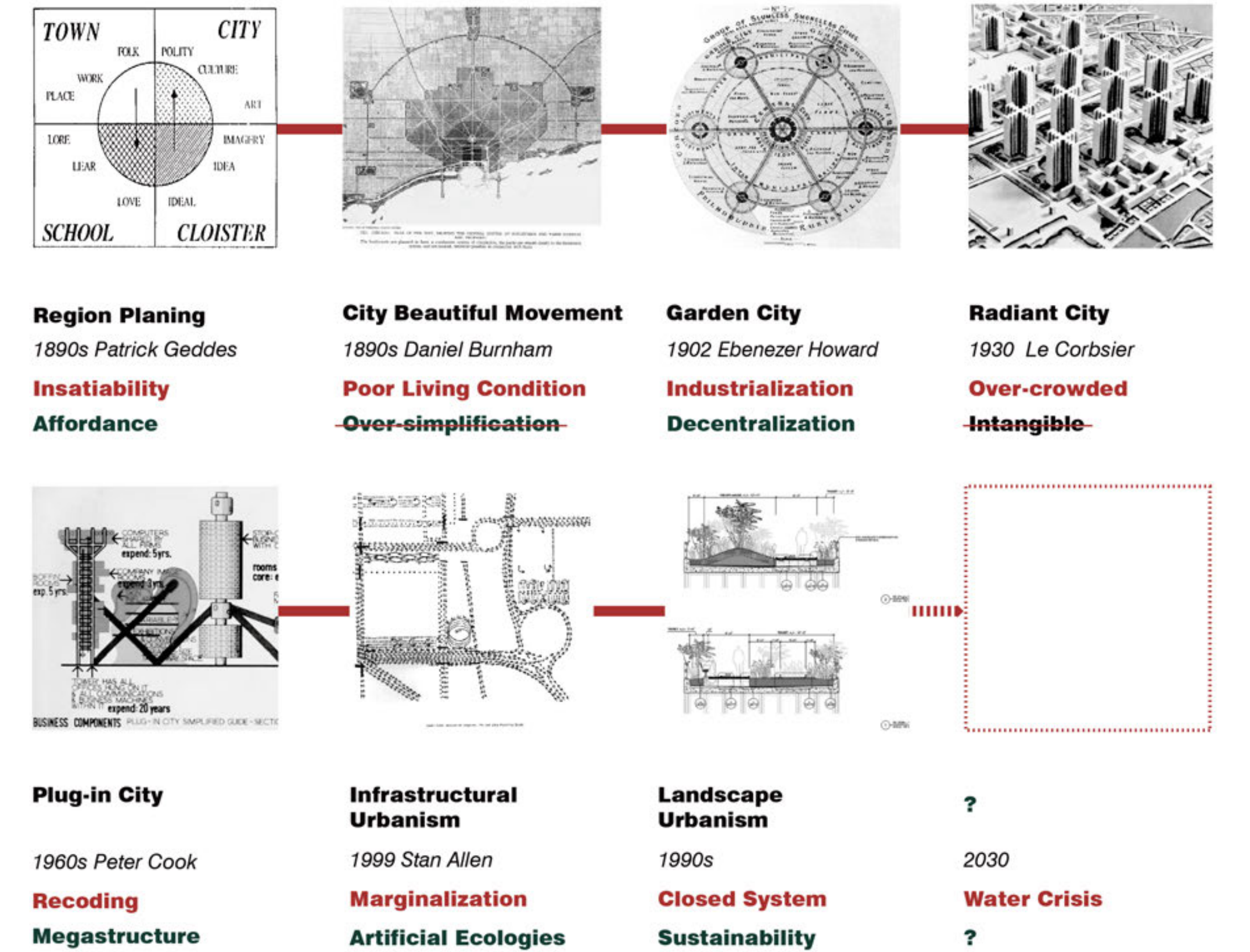
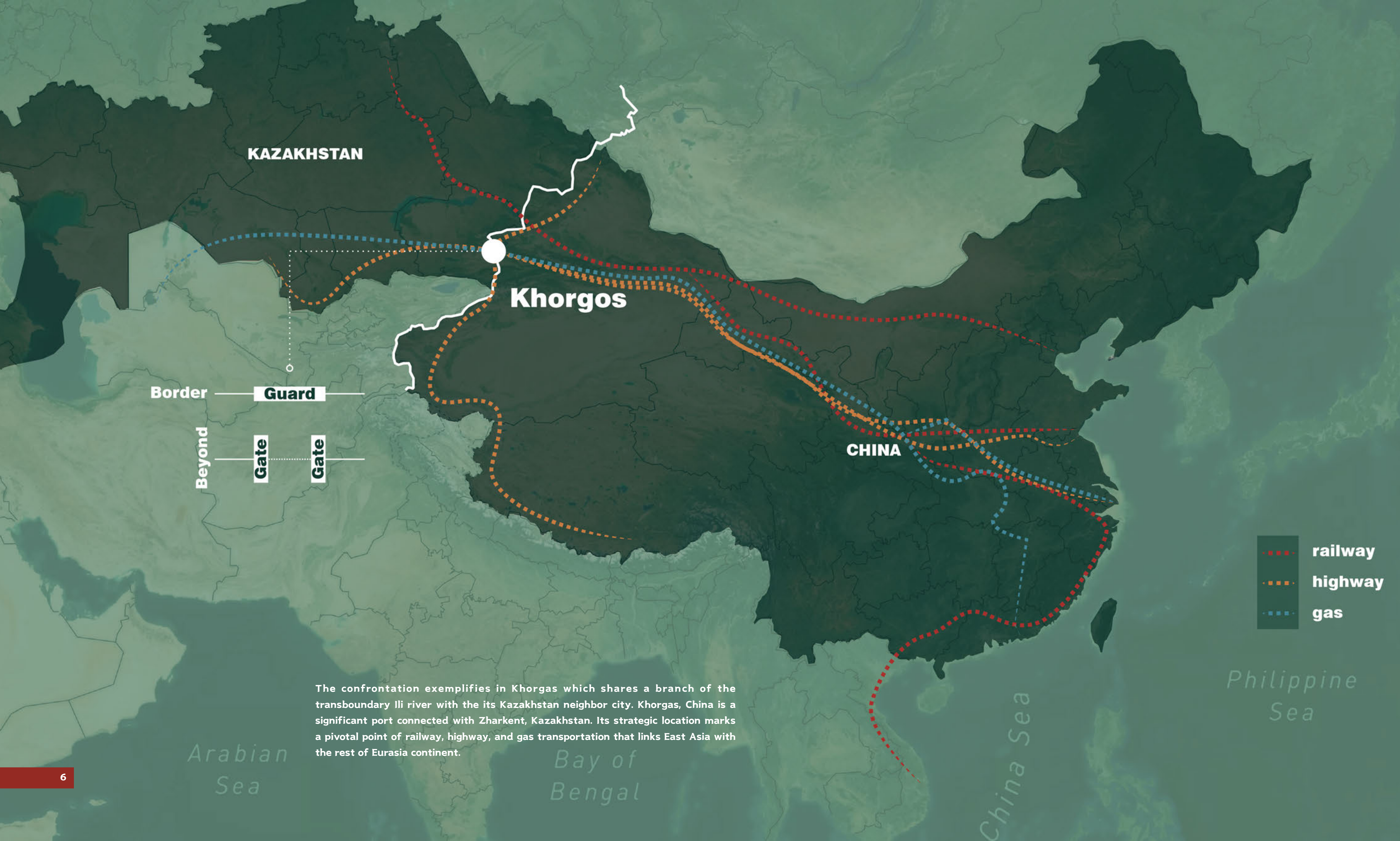
The dispute between countries over the water usage has led to regional conflicts. And a projective vision of the near future of 2050 indicates even more intensified confrontations due to long-lasting drought across countries.

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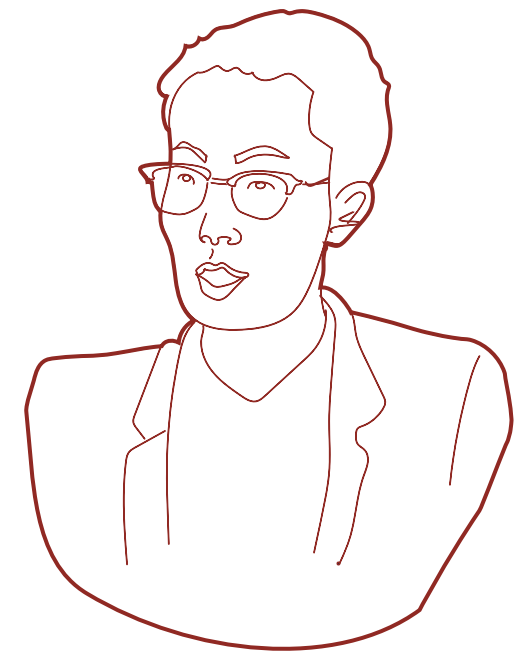


Such issue reaches to a peak especially in Central Asia. Since China is positioned on the upstream of the transboundary Ili River that runs down to Central Asian countries, uneven distribution of that water resource would evoke further mistrust. The concerns of rights of ownership and usage in the area mainly result from water shortage, industrial pollution,

and over-exploitation in agricultural activities. Historically, in between China and Kazakhstan, mistrust often comes along with economic losses in nearby port cities. However, the conflict could be subverted with the implementation of the government-funded 30-year development plan in progress.



In this pilot project, how can we address this regional issue by architectural intervention and urbanism at neighborhood scale? To answer the question, it requires new ways of thinking on urbanism that uses water as a premise to develop alternative life. As past theories have responded to the long-discussed top-bottom relationship from aerial angles, the new aquatic urbanism akclowdges the efficiency that national power offers, while it also values your everyday activities to seek for a middle ground that provides you with half-autonomous living.



Xingyin Zhang

Director of the National Institute of
Satellite Meteorology

“Theoretically, it is possible that
southern water can be extracted for
northern use.”

Yingsheng Ma

Director of Intangible Cultural Heritage

“Xinjiang is a multi-ethnic living
area, especially in Ili and Tacheng
areas. Due to different cultural,
historical traditions and living
habits of each ethnic groups,
they show great varieties in their
housing typologies, in terms of
space, structure and aesthetics.”



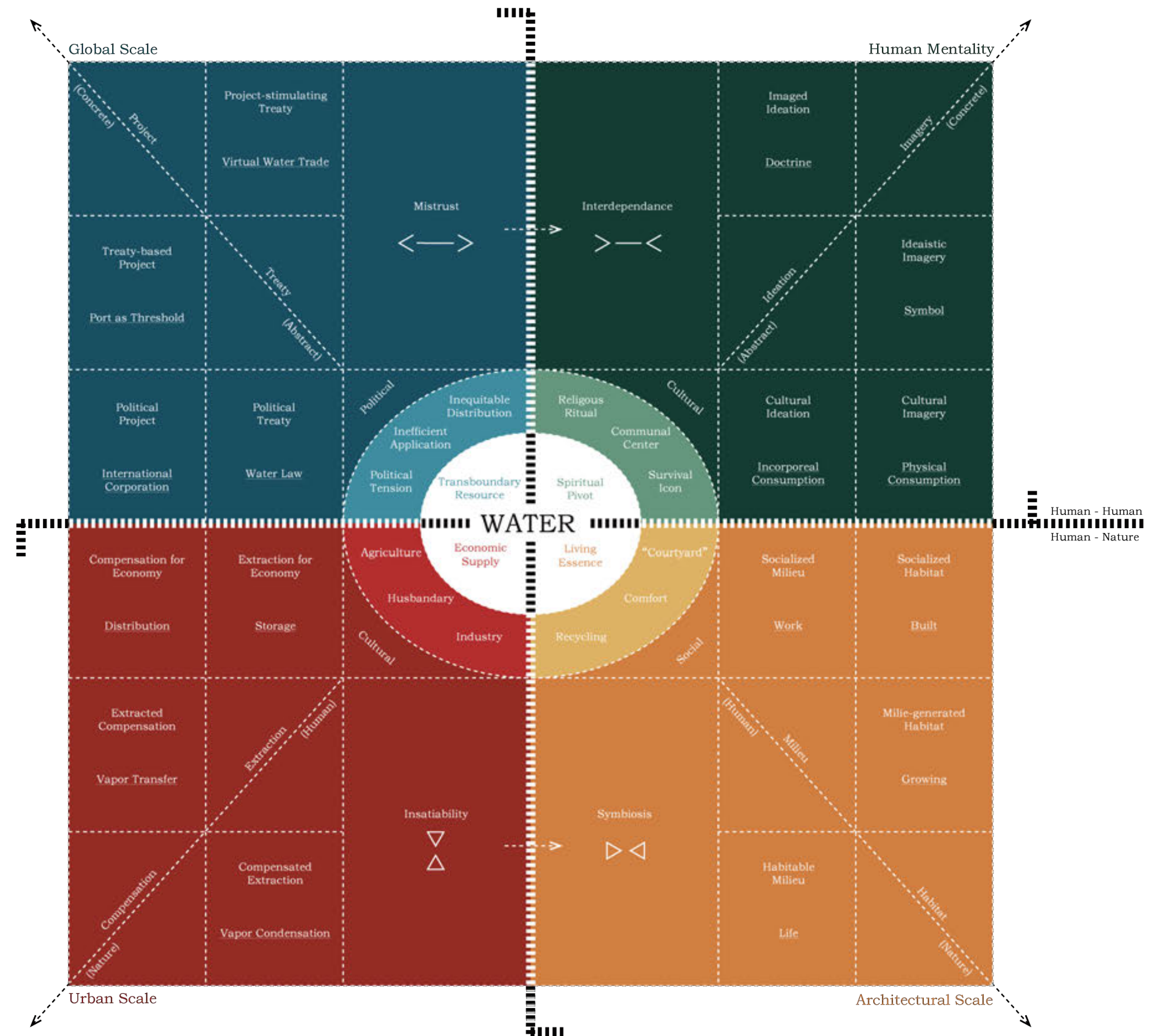
Lihua Feng

Associate Professor of Geological
Engineering, School of Geology and
Mining Engineering Xinjiang University

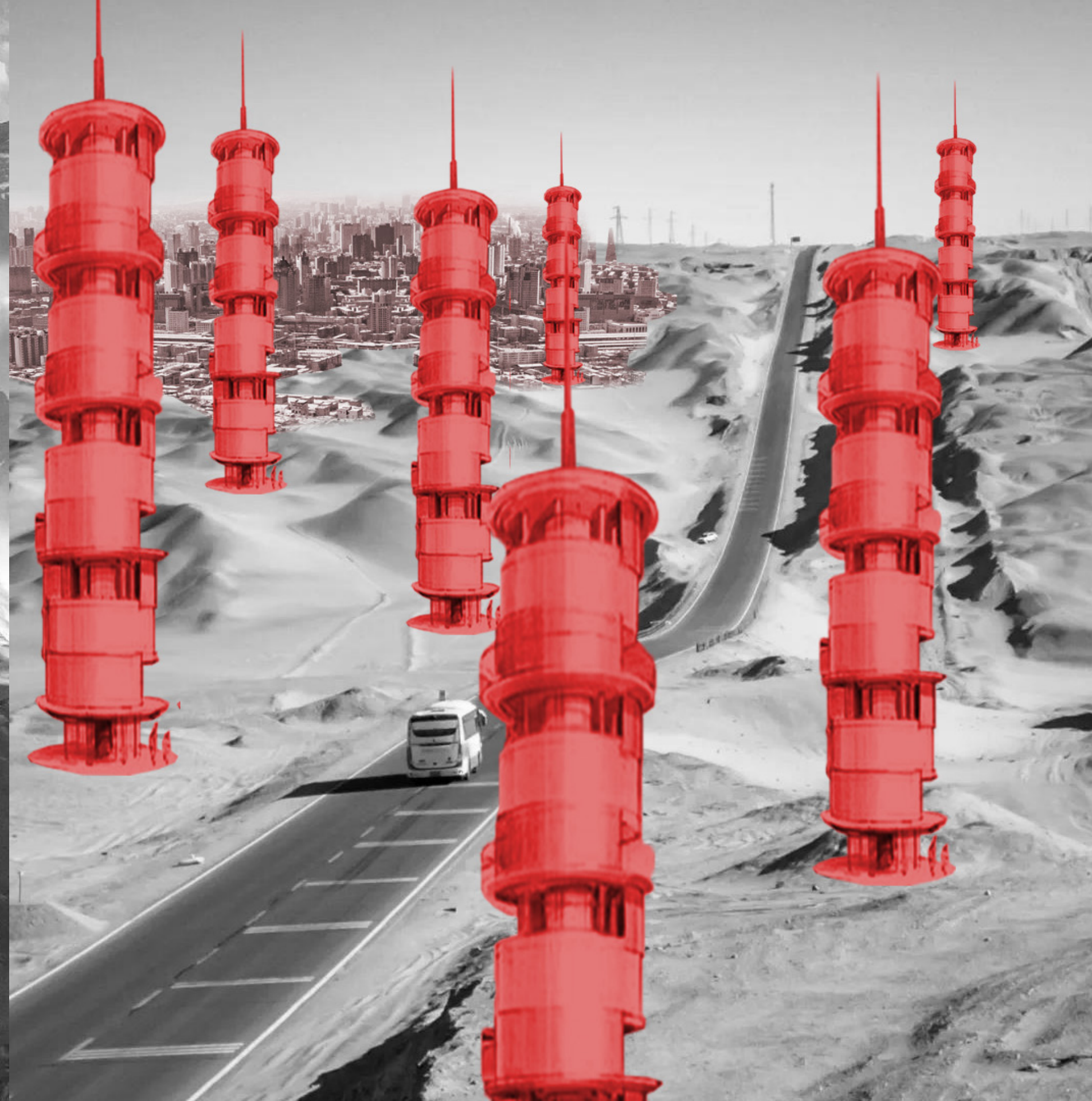
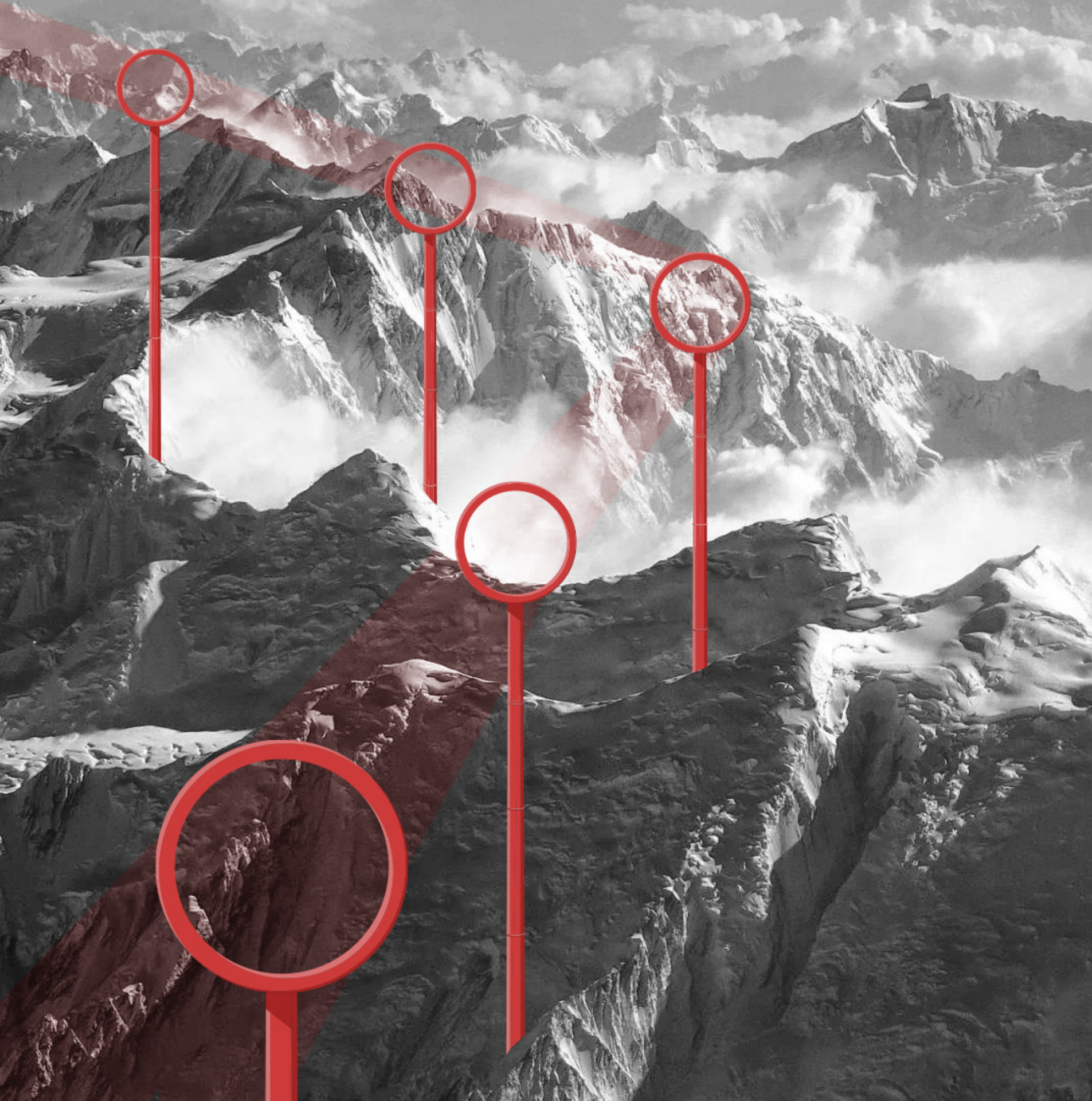
“Kazakhs have a strong sense
of water conservation which
may derived from their ancient
nomadic living style. For example,
they keep a unique habit of
washing hands with special water
pots. Three pours maximum.”



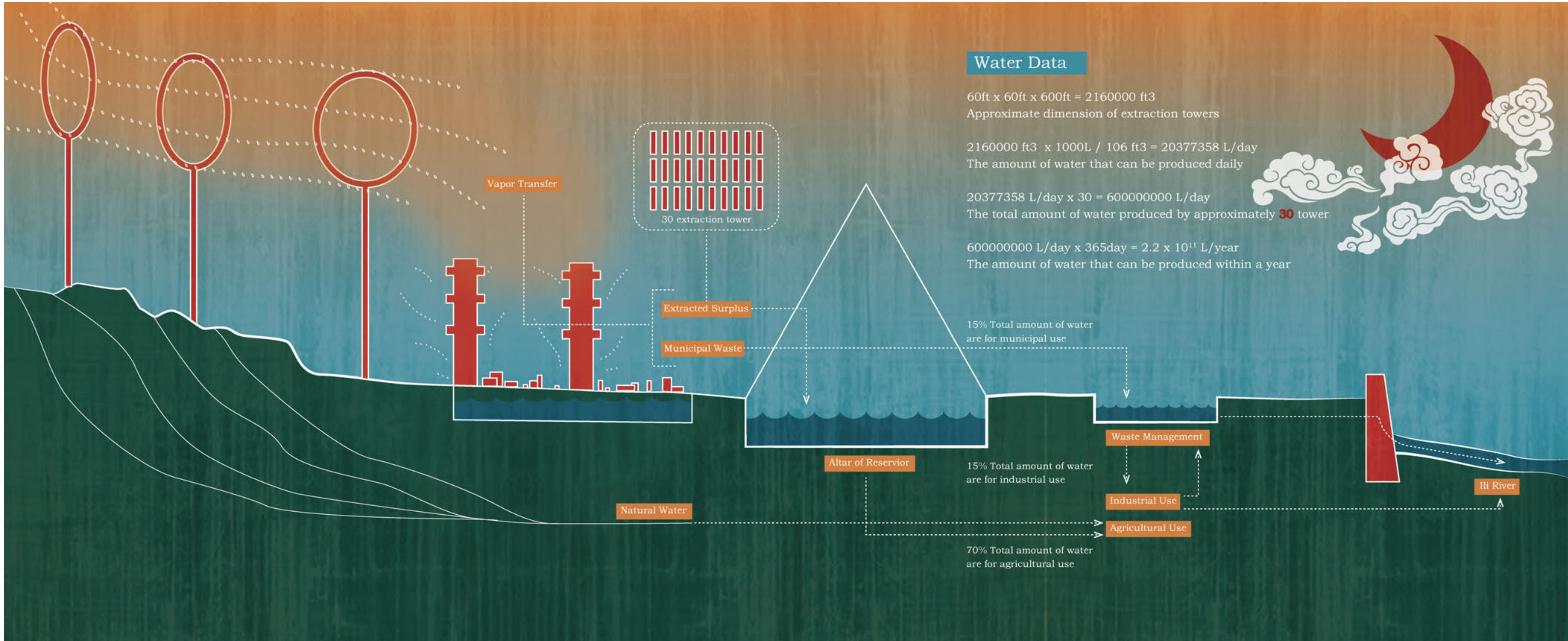
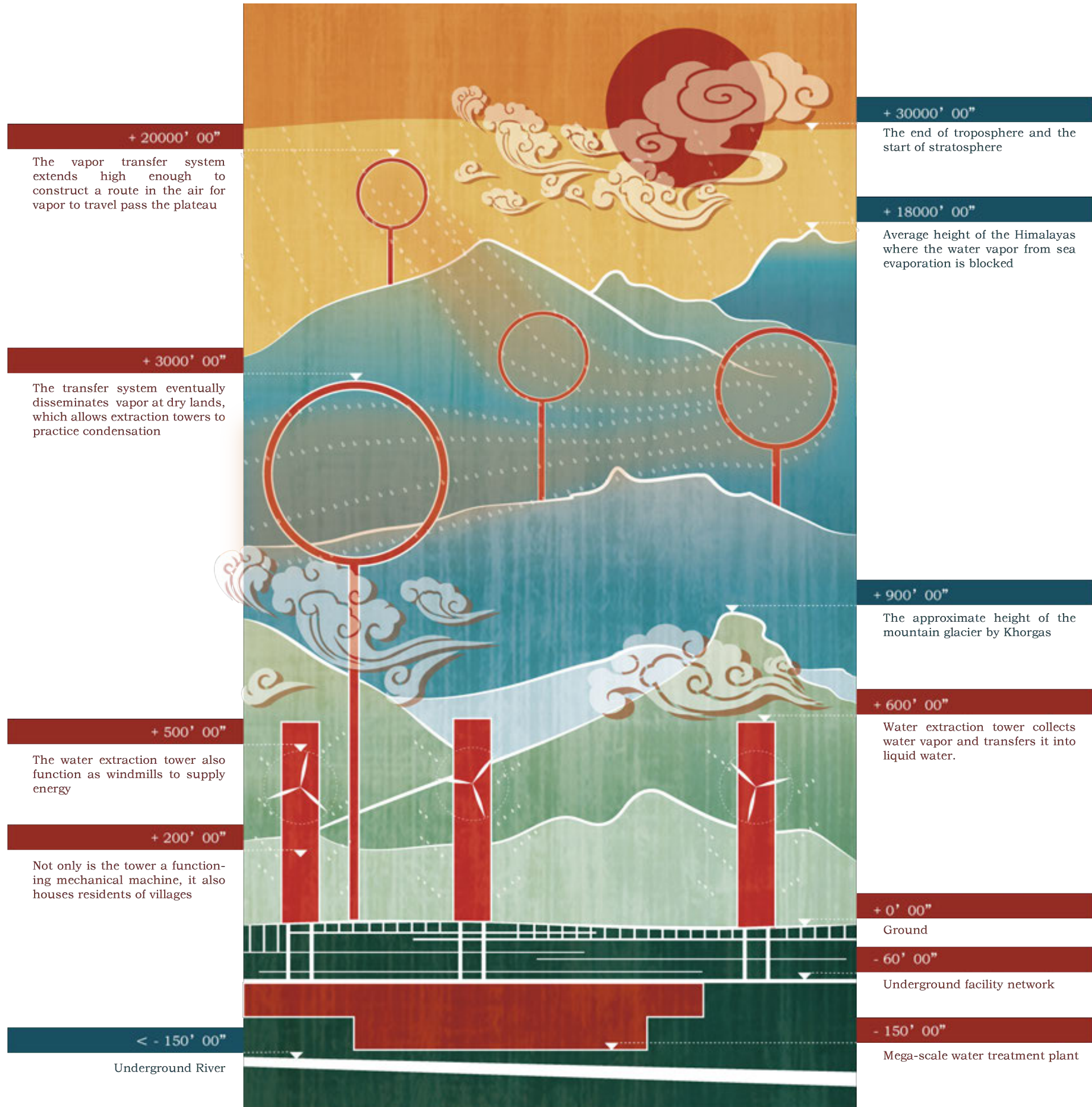
The scale difference in addressing water issue is reflected in our interview with three locals. While Mr. Zhang describes a general blueprint as many city planners do, Mr. Ma and Ms. Feng are more interested in water usage in terms of housing typologies and traditional virtues to conserve water.



When the different perspectives are translated into architectural ideologies, this quadrant chart frames the principals of the aquatic urbanism from global-scale regulations, urban-scale planning, architecture-scale facility, to human-scale reverence on water.



To realize a self-sufficient water supply in Korgas, a set of infrastructure premise is needed. The system will consist of both exploration and conservation mechanisms to transport vapor, and to intake, store, use, recycle, and release water. For this intervention, the project zooms into the integration of water intake and reuse process with citizen's living experience.



Water Data

60ft x 60ft x 600ft = 2160000 ft³

Approximate dimension of extraction towers

2160000 ft³ x 1000L / 106 ft³ = 20377358 L/day

The amount of water that can be produced daily

20377358 L/day x 30 = 600000000 L/day

The total amount of water produced by approximately **30** tower

600000000 L/day x 365day = 2.2 x 10¹¹ L/year

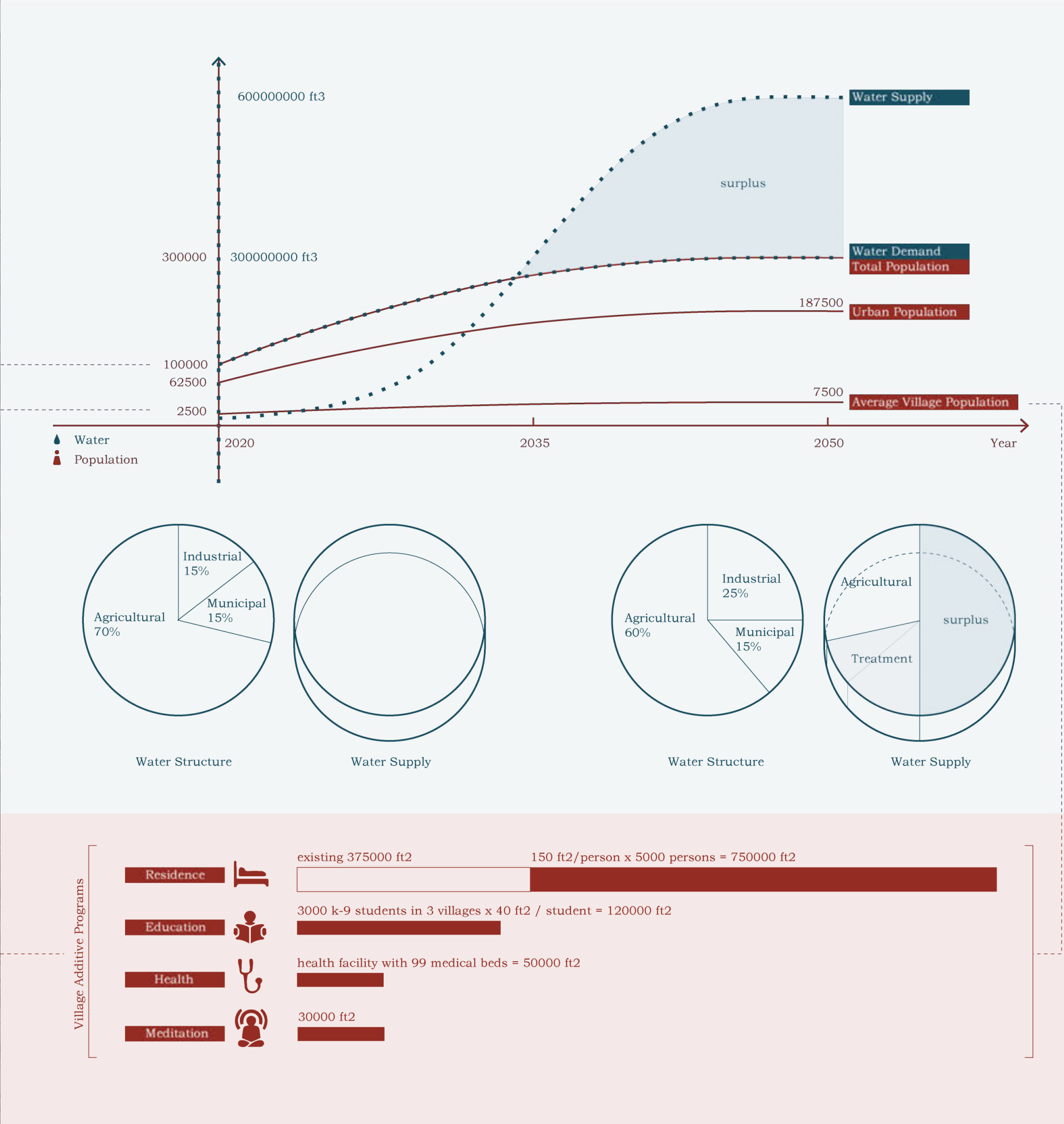
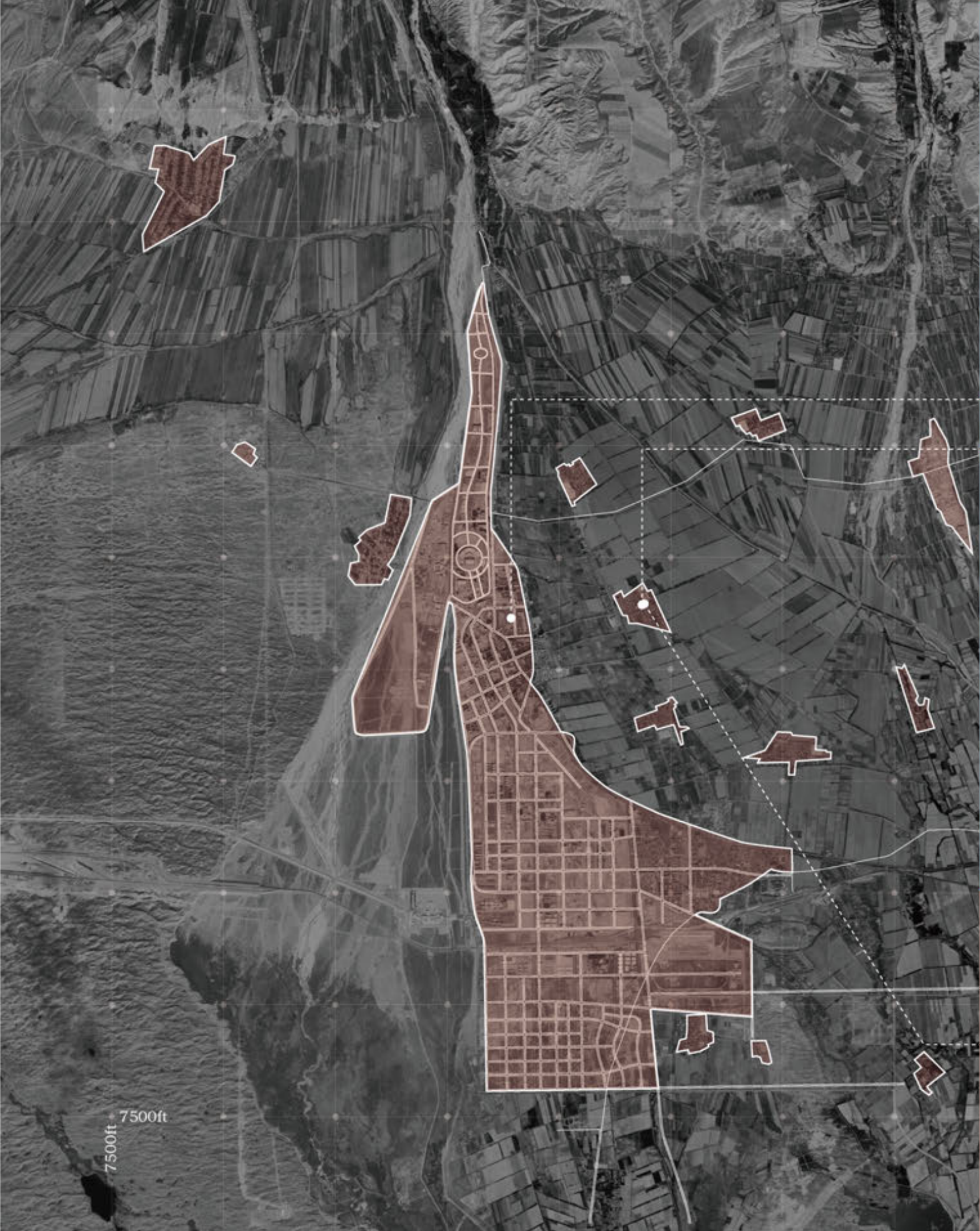
The amount of water that can be produced within a year

15% Total amount of water are for municipal use

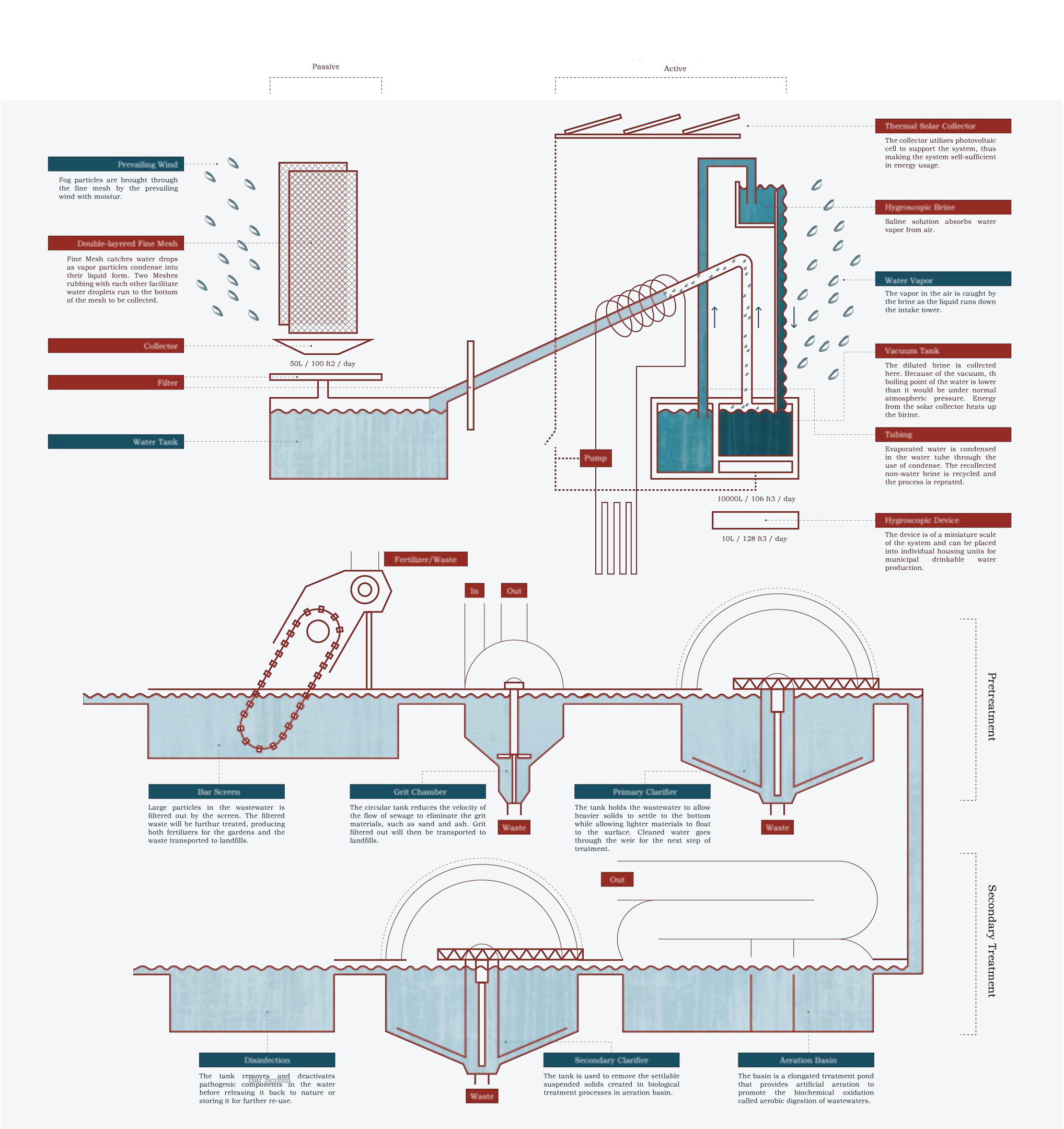
15% Total amount of water are for industrial use

70% Total amount of water are for agricultural use

When no interventions are placed, the city and its settlements use mostly underground and surface water from the river of Ili, many times leaving the downstream countries short of supply. With the urban system built, the city becomes mostly self-sufficient with water intake. Surplus of water production would be further used to ecologically compensate the Ili River so as to alleviate and avoid upstream and downstream dispute.



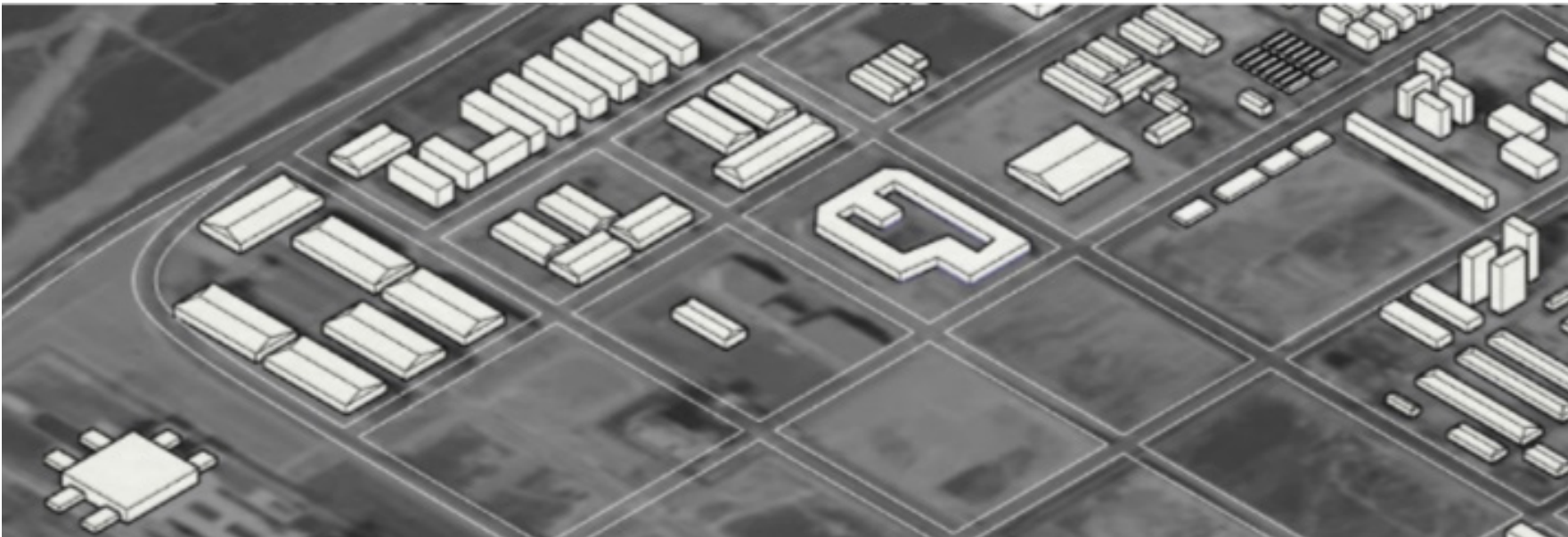
It is expected that the population of Khorgos will grow from 100 thousand to 300 thousand by the year of 2050, making required amount of water growing as well. Ideally with the most efficient production, the new water infrastructure will be able to produce surplus for natural compensation. In addition, with population growth also comes the need for more facilities. Here are calculated building areas for overall expected residence, education, health, and meditation spaces in a typical village.



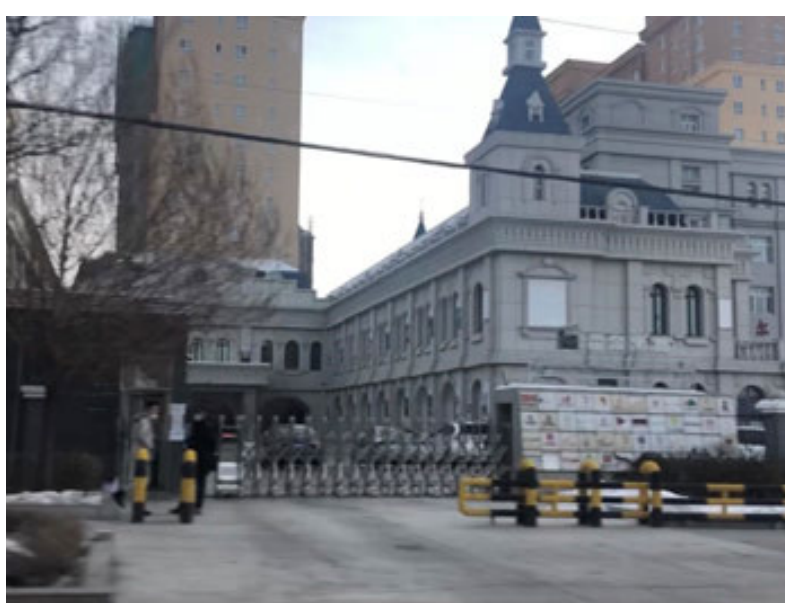
To meet the aquatic demand of increasing human-based programs, both passive and active systems of water extraction are used and made affordable for family installation. After calculation, the active condensation system equating the volume of 30 vertical structures of the size equating to 60' x 60' x 600' will be the leading component that produces enough water resource for the city. They will be scattered around in the 12 rural settlements.



Central Commercial Zone



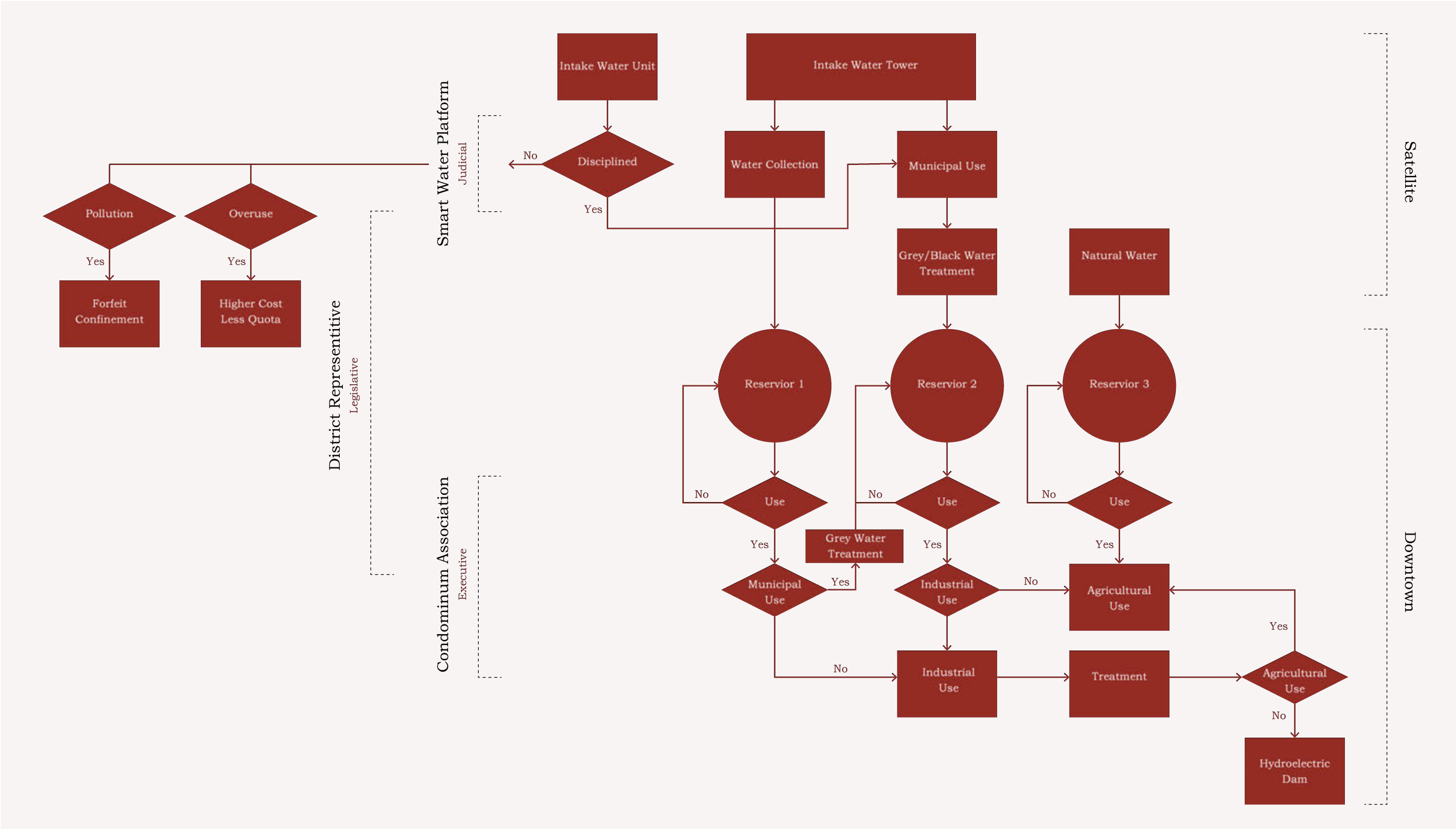
Industrial Zone

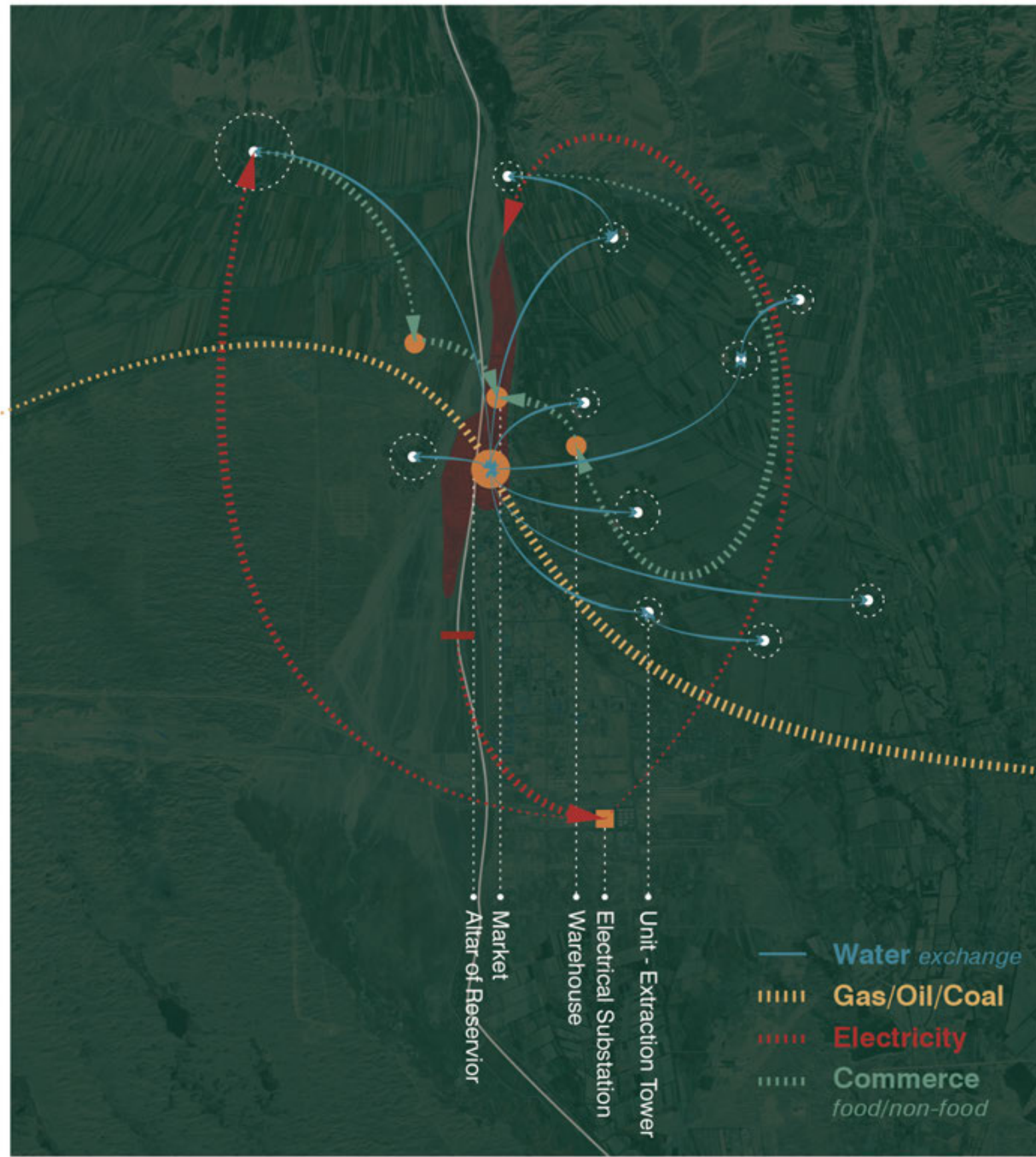


Rural Settlement

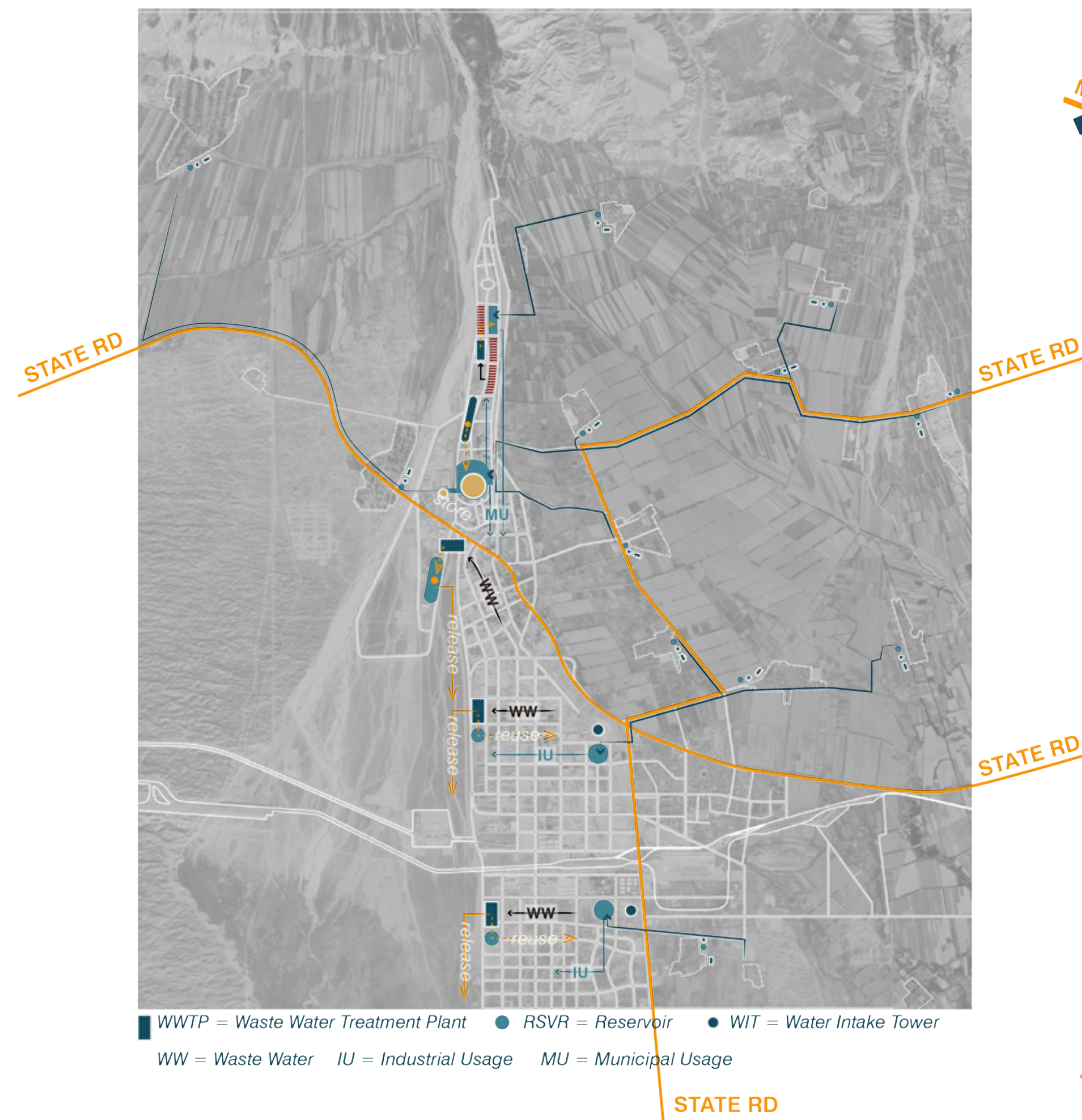


Like other border cities, the existing planning of Khorgas only focuses on industrial and commercial zones and is void of consideration on water-centered development plan. Therefore, there is intentionally a shift of focus back to the rural neighborhoods that serves as the source for the machenism of water flow chart implemented in Khorgas.

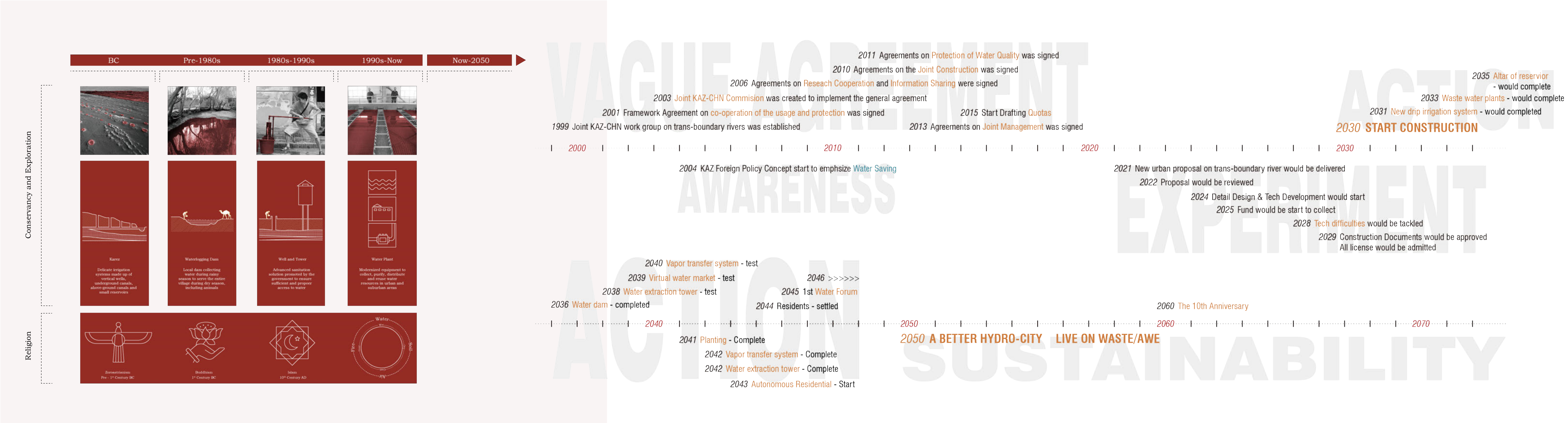




Since we regard water crisis as an urgent issue and village interaction with water an essential component, the project planning subverts the existing planning and puts the concentration back to the dispersed neighborhoods who not only demonstrate close connection to water, but also feed back the city as well as the agricultural land around with their water production, leaving the central zone to conduct mainly treatment and ecological compensation to release surplus back to Ili river.



A typical rural settlement is expected to be self-sufficient in its water usage. With the support of governmental funding, household-scale water intake system is suggested to be installed for every family to encourage courtyard economy. Located in the entry point of the village, a growing high-rise of homestead is another option for you to build your own home with the installed hydro system and participate in village stall economy. Both excessive water supply and agricultural product will be transported to urban area.



This aquatic urbanism will be implemented step by step in a 30 years period. As the city of Khorgas take targeted measure in economic development to benefit both current residents and influx of immigrants, the aquatic system will grow as population goes up. The 30-year plan highlights the reciprocal relationship between rural and urban areas in aquatic and

economic exchange, and also suggests a recycling process of water from nature and back to nature. In the first stage of the plan, everyone of the citizen would play a big part in both contributing to and benefiting from the water intake process in satellite villages by choosing desired packages to reinvent their new homes!

In this narrative, the aquatic system foregrounds the reciprocity across the multidimensional borderlines between political entities, between cities and villages, and between artificiality and nature. With infrastructural premise on regional scale, and government-aided upgrading in human scale, the 30-year plan experiments to help the city adapt to a worsened environmental

condition, and it helps every one of your household to achieve and even exceed moderately prosperous lives with stall and courtyard economy. The planning rejects the emptiness of warehouse-like households, and re-imagines a living typology that externalizes and monumentalizes the power of nature as a human necessity.

COME TO KHORGAS

EMBRACE INFRASTRUCTURE

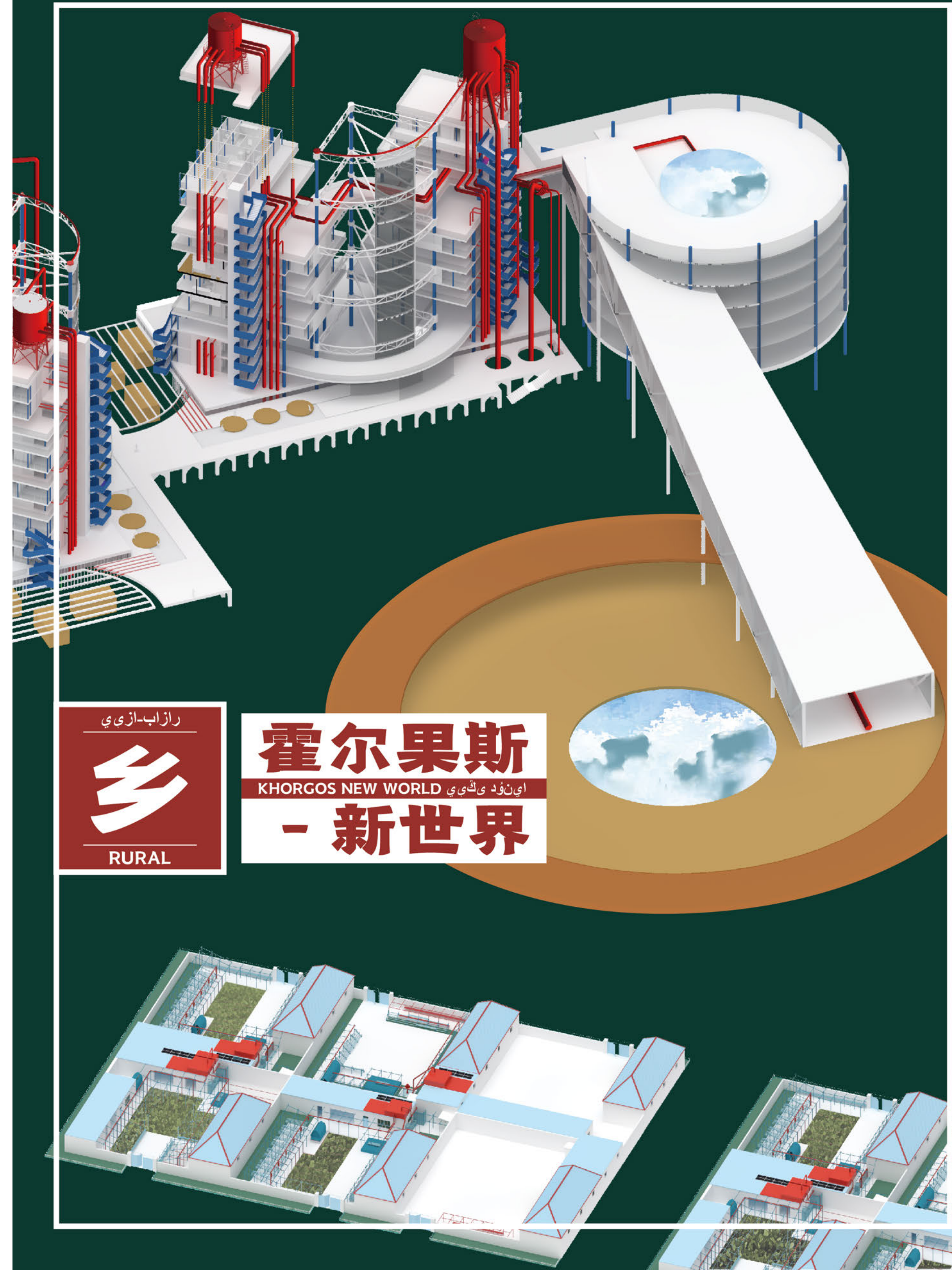
PRESERVE WATER

ENJOY A NEW WAY OF LIVING

到边疆来 拥抱基建 打破壁垒 享受生活

**KHORGAS RURAL VILLAGE**

Both single household and the homestead high rise look into different types of water usages in rural living. The incorporation of upgraded water system not only bring back your memory of close human-water interaction that has existed for long in central Asia, but also facilitates the on-going development of both courtyard and stall economy in Khorgas that creates more local income opportunities and alleviate poverty.



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家居水务

HOUSEHOLD WATER SYSTEM

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COURTYARD

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美丽乡村

RURAL BEAUTY



HOUSEHOLD COURTYARD

For existing villagers currently living in single households, they may have benefited from the recent "toilet project" implemented by Khorgas government. And now the spatial and functional properties of the newly developed smart water system will further help them retrieve back to beauties of traditional Ili housing typology from their current home built in the form as warehouses due to economic concerns. Compared to traditional Ili households, rarely do all 3 types of existing households make uses of the courtyard. Meanwhile, each family room is scattered around the courtyard without much communication. Therefore, by preserving and restoring levandas, spaces for outdoor dining, sitting and planting zones, their household courtyard would regain aesthetics and economic opportunities rather than being left empty.

The domestic water upgrading process is largely funded by the government. In consideration of low-income families, the start-up basic set of water and attached systems is free of charge. With the compact water intake unit installed, they will be able to self-sufficiently supply their water demands for home, cultivation and breeding uses. In addition, water-saving irrigation structure and animal coop serve as add-ons to help realize economic productions in courtyards. As profit accumulate and if they plan to invest more into the courtyard production, their family could purchase advanced systems that are made affordable through another portion of governmental funding.

These add-ons could be combined with the water system in multiple ways. While irrigation framing can be transformed into greenhouse, levanda, and terraces, the 8-chicken coop structure can be extended. The wastewater produced through these activities will be eventually collected in the treatment plant across the village entrance, and release back to irrigate the agricultural land around. Together, the basic courtyard economy is expected to bring the locals at least additional 3000 RMB per month, which is comparatively high to the 1100 average monthly wage for rural residents in Xinjiang.

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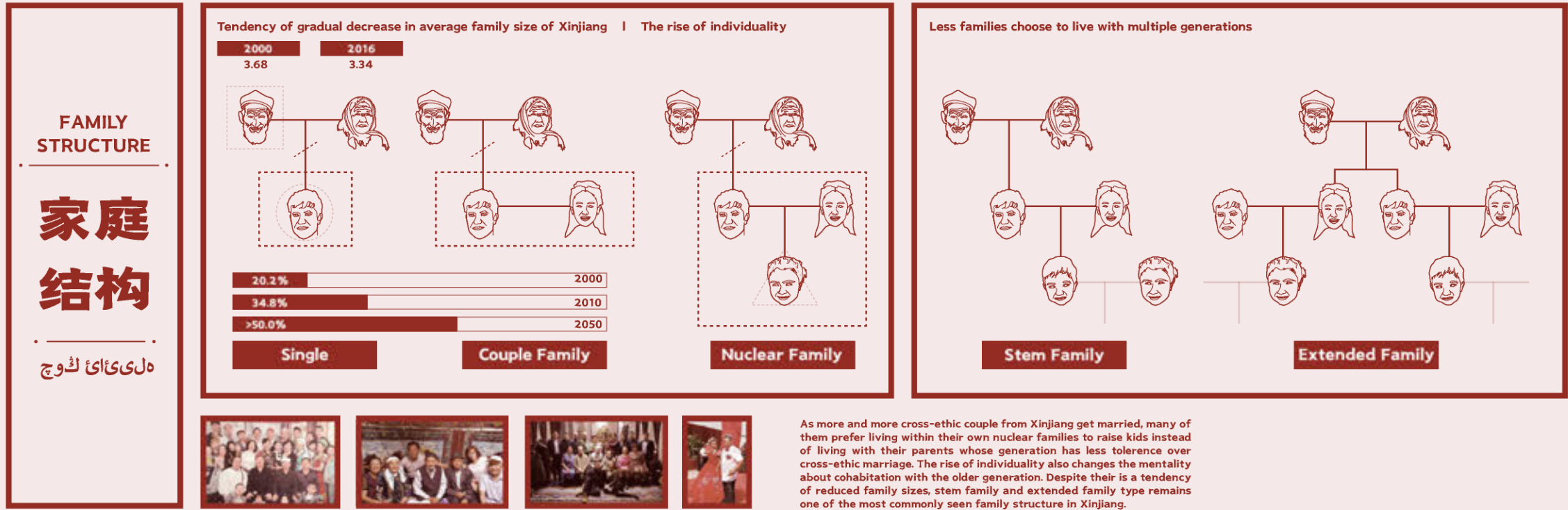
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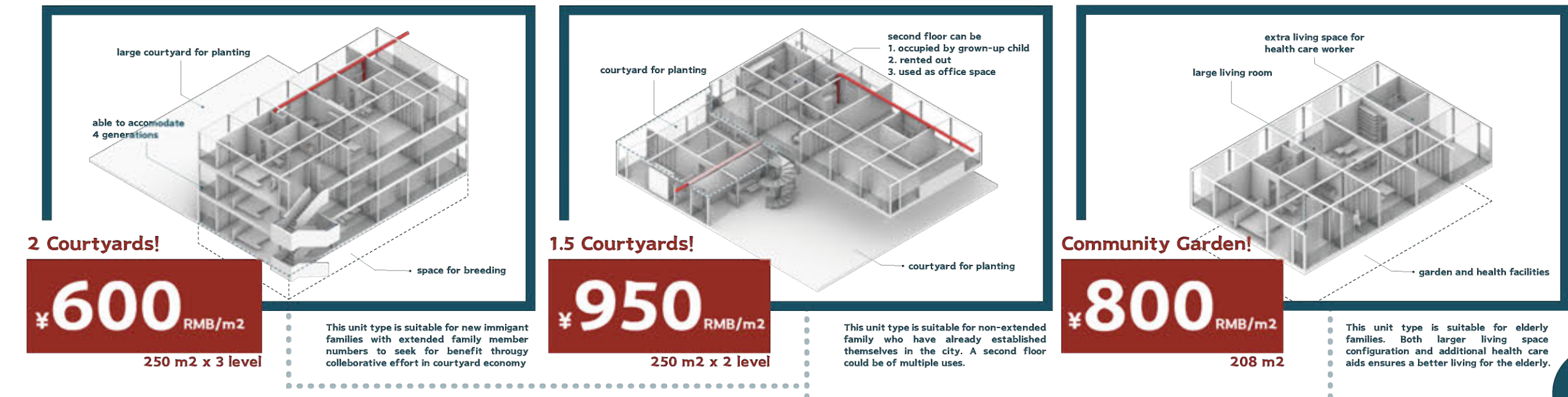
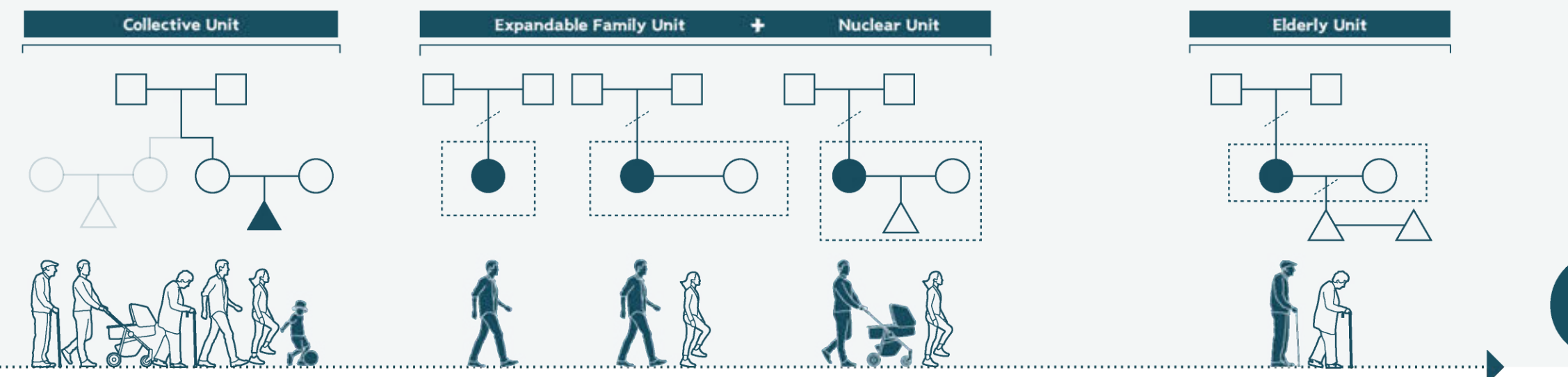
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COURTYARD



PROPOSED LIFE PHASES

生命历程

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Courtyard Additon Pricing

庭院增值
项目价格

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Please refer to the courtyard page for more information on pricing

HOMESTEAD

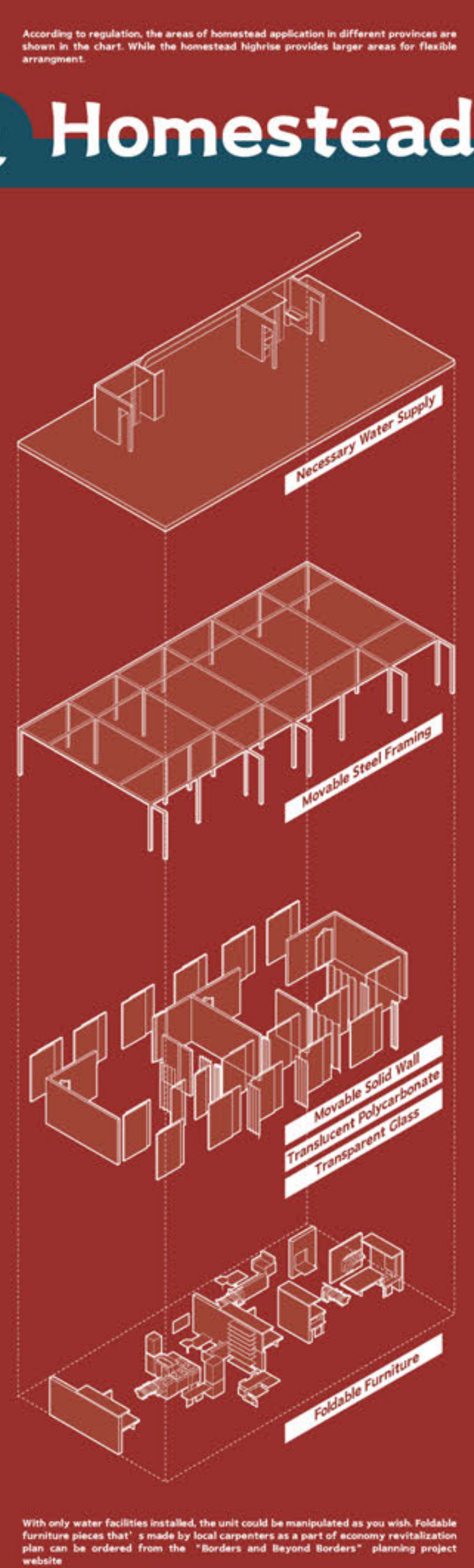
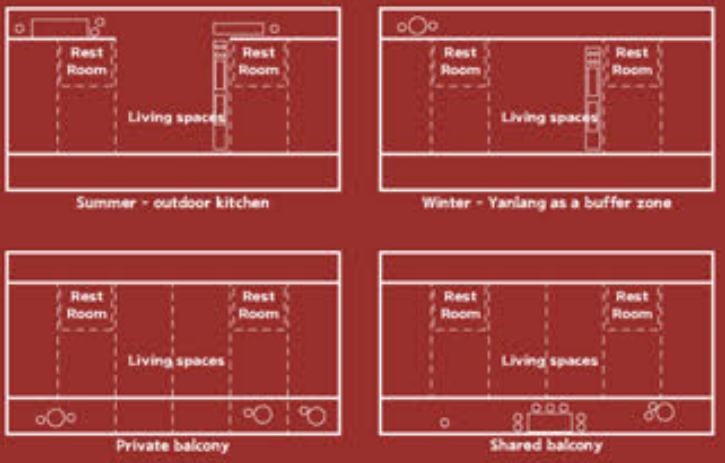
定基地

يىساى ياج گەت

1 Levanda

2 Homestead

3 Flexibility



With only water facilities installed, the unit could be manipulated as you wish. Foldable furniture pieces that is made by local carpenters as a part of economy revitalization plan can be ordered from the "Borders and Beyond Borders" planning project website

HOMESTEAD HIGH RISE

While the single household upgrading is available for current villagers, a homestead high-rise located on the anchor point of the village is another option for incoming settlement immigrants to establish their lives through also courtyard and stall economy aided by smart water system.

The first feature that highlights the residential unit is the adaptation from the traditional Ili households. As most Ili houses are oriented in line, the south-facing levanda appears to help moderate domestic microclimate and allow families to reach to the outside natural world. Therefore, a double levanda configuration becomes functional in both summer and winter regardless of building orientation. The unit also uses a 12 feet module system with only the restroom space being stationary, so that family members could manipulate the room arrangement and also open up or close the levanda connection with their family.

The second highlight is the large homestead area provided to the new residents. According to regulations, the areas of homestead application vary from province to province. While many places only allows for 100 m2, this high rise provide you with 250 m2 of land on each level for residents to decide on uses for either domestic living, renting, cultivation, and working office.

To support such functional freedom, the unit is designed with flexibility with already installed water facilities inside and outside. The modular unit is framed with movable steel framing and filled with movable walls accompanied by foldable furniture pieces.

We have suggested 3 types of homesteads responding to the changing family structure in Xinjiang. There is an obvious tendency of gradual decrease in average family sizes in the past decades along side the rise of individuality that changes the mentality about cohabitation with the older generation. However, despite there is a tendency of reduced family sizes, stem and extended family type remains one of the most commonly seen family type, and this homestead high rise will provide flexible options for all family preferences.

The first unit type with 3 floors and 2 courtyards is suitable for big family seeking for collaborative effort in practicing courtyard economy; the second type with 1.5 courtyards are for non-extended families that allows the youth to choose which life style to follow after growing up and getting married; While the third type is for elderly's collective living. As the chart demonstrates, the unit accommodates a variety of arrangements.

拥抱基建 打破壁垒 享受生活 拥抱基建 打破壁垒 享受生活

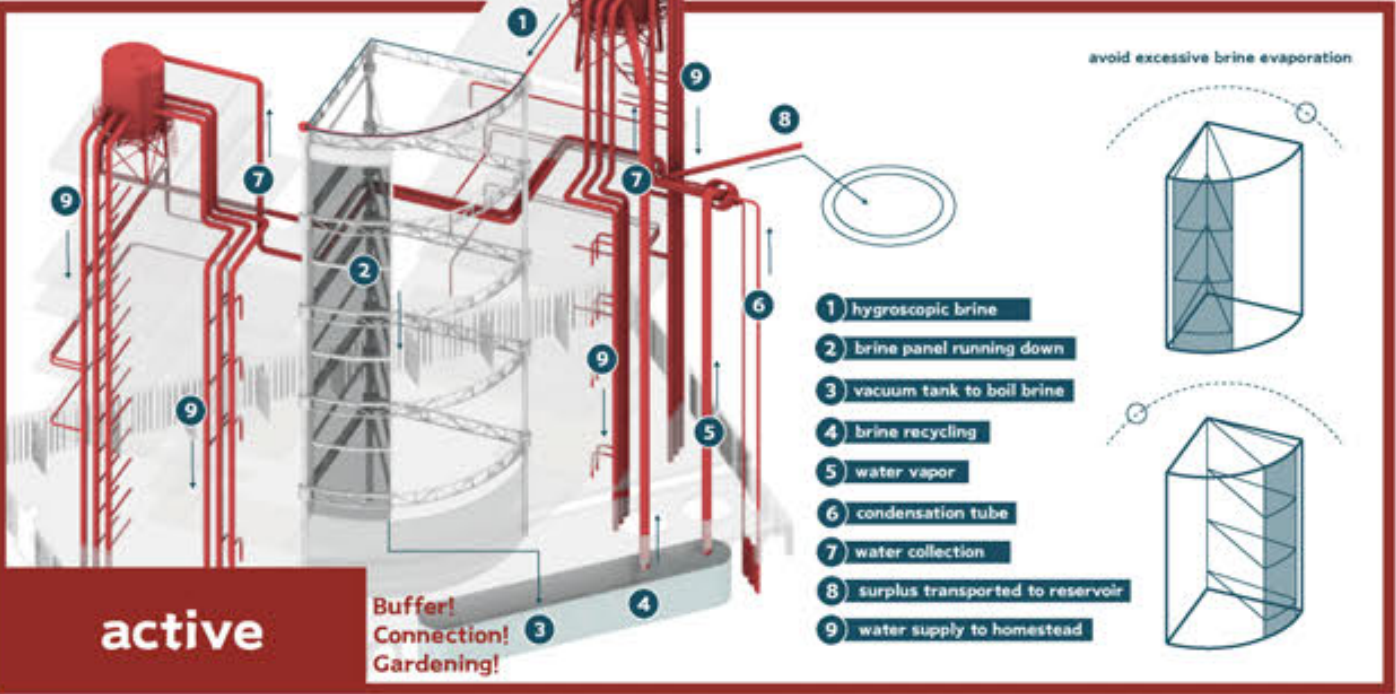
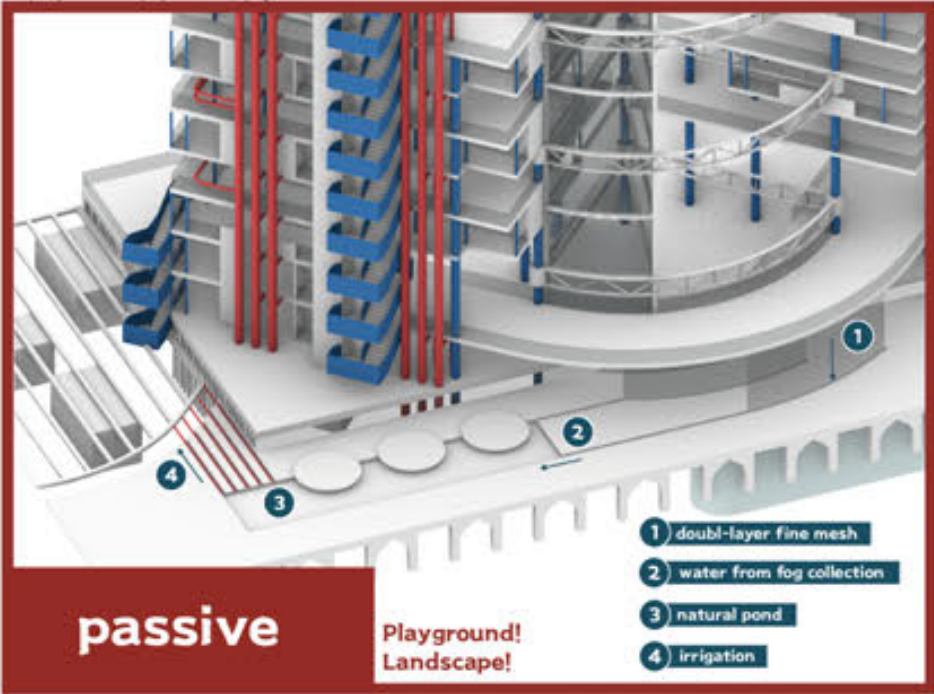
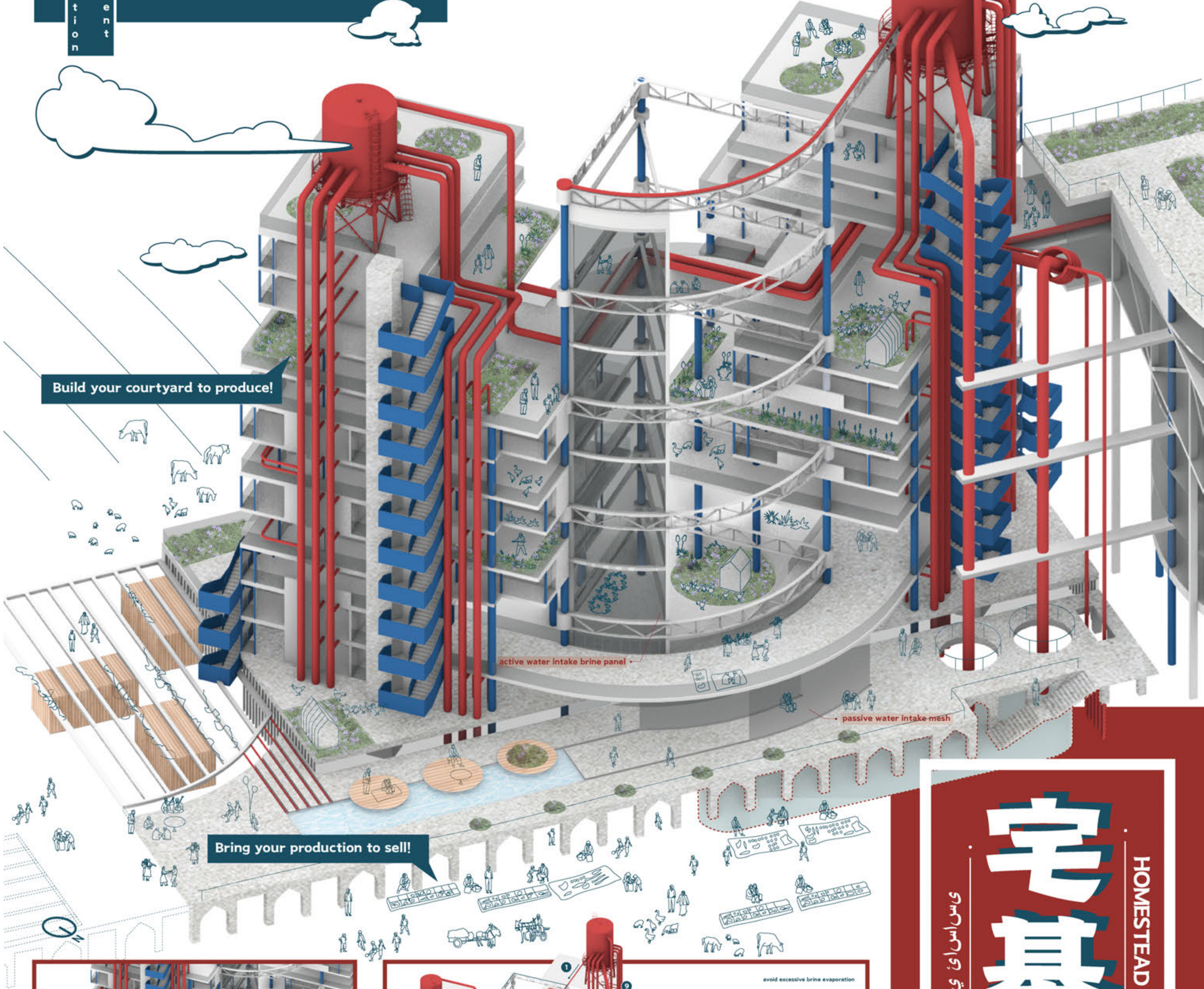
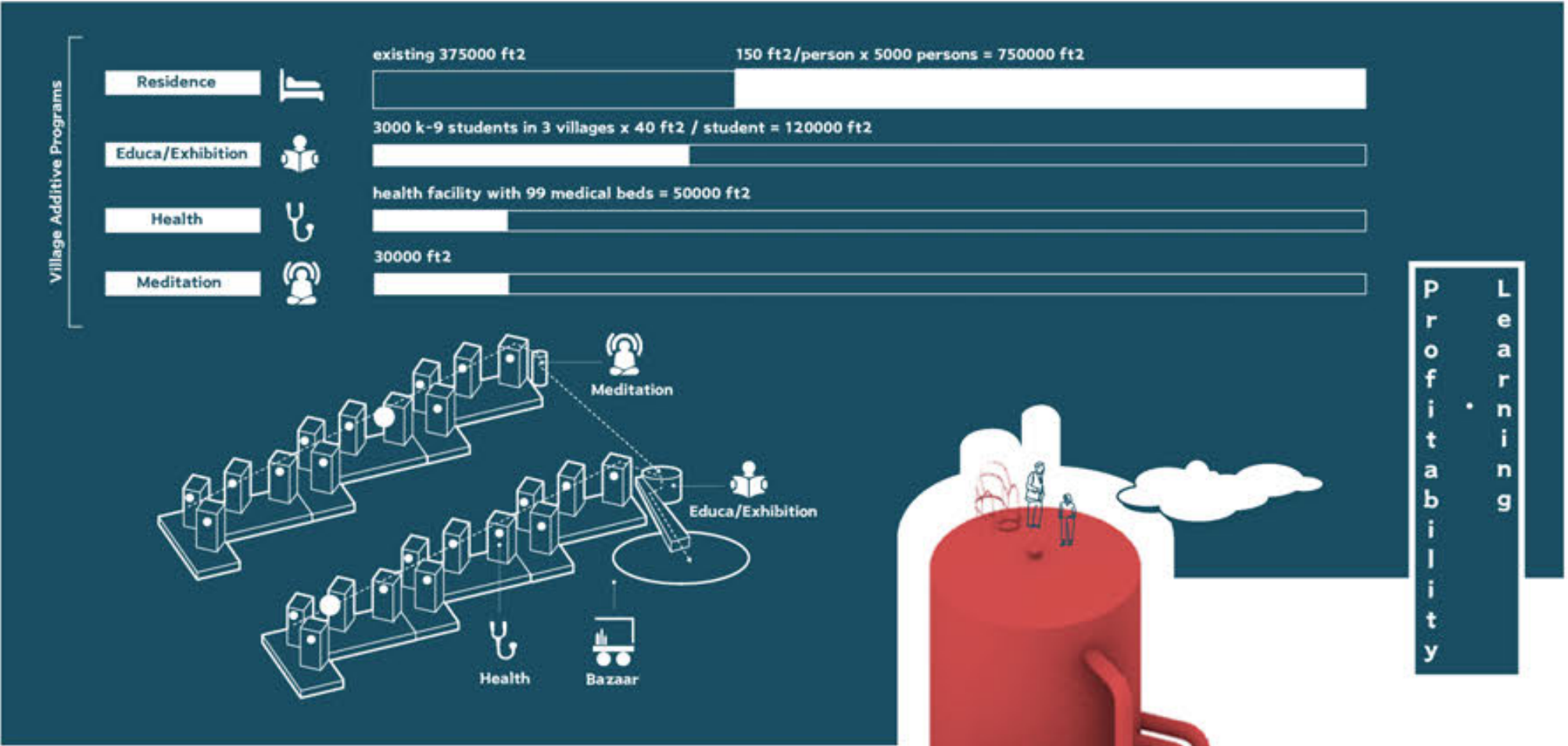
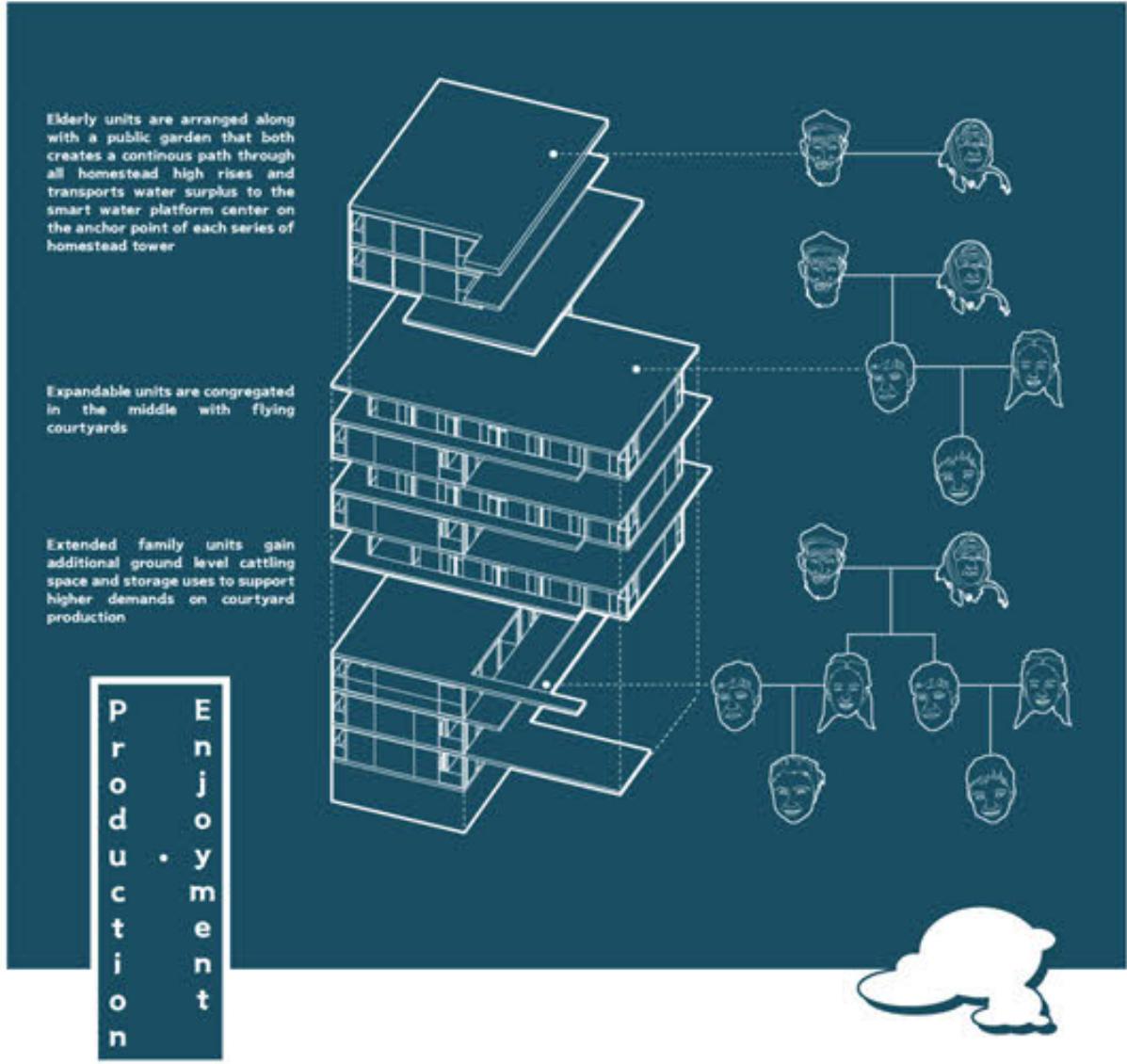
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When configured in to a vertical homestead group, the 3 floor family remains on lower levels to occupy more courtyard space, while the elderly units on upper levels are connected with a continuous public garden that also functions as water surplus transportation path.

The public programs are dispersed around the high rise with health care facilities adjacent to elderly unit, and education/exhibition space arranged in the large water exchange portal on the anchor of the village. From that anchor point, the high rises will be built gradually as population goes up.

The ground floor and raised platform with exposed passive and active water intake systems marks the vibrant market space and public landscape. After courtyards produce, the product is brought to bazaars for selling, excessive product will be transported to urban center for larger sales. Mean while, excessive water supply will also be transported to village anchor point and then urban center. In a sense, each homestead feeds back the village's economy and water usage, and the village again feeds back the city.

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HOMESTEAD HIGH RISE

يساسی یاج گهت

宅基塔

