



Car-free Sector 19

Car-free Sector 19, Chandigarh

Concept by Henrik Valeur and Chandigarh College of Architecture (Ashutosh Mukherjee, Jayant Rathee, Kamal Passi, Saurabh Mittal and Venus Kashyap)

Design by Henrik Valeur, Harman Preet and Sameera Sneha

All rights reserved © 2013



Traffic jam near an exit from Sector 19, 2010

The challenge

"More and more people are moving to the city and over time people will require more and more space, but we don't want the city to expand neither horizontally nor vertically."

The Chief Architect of Chandigarh, Sumit Kaur, October 2010

The answer

We have to use existing space more efficiently - and make better use of it!

Today, a lot of space is used by cars, but cars are neither good for the environment nor for our health or safety.

Opposite: public debate at the Gurudwara in Sector 19, 2010

*Traffic is a big problem
There are no places for the youth to come and interact
Parking space is needed
Too many building by-laws hamper the use of space
There are plans for the rich, but not for the poor
Better public amenities required
There is no swimming pool
There are no job opportunities
Disparity among different housing units in the sector.
Government housing occupies too much space
There are big unused lawns but no scope for expansion
Increase the use of solar energy
Trash management required
There are no hotels*

*Parking in the market should be for the public and not for the shopkeepers
Sector 19 is not overpopulated but the population shouldn't grow
No provision of rooms/hostels
The behavior of people must change
More slums means more crime
Need for a better and well maintained community centre
Good facilities attract more people (not good)
Rich people decide the fate of the city
Higher frequency of public transportation is needed
Dustbins to be given at regular intervals
There is no gymnasium*

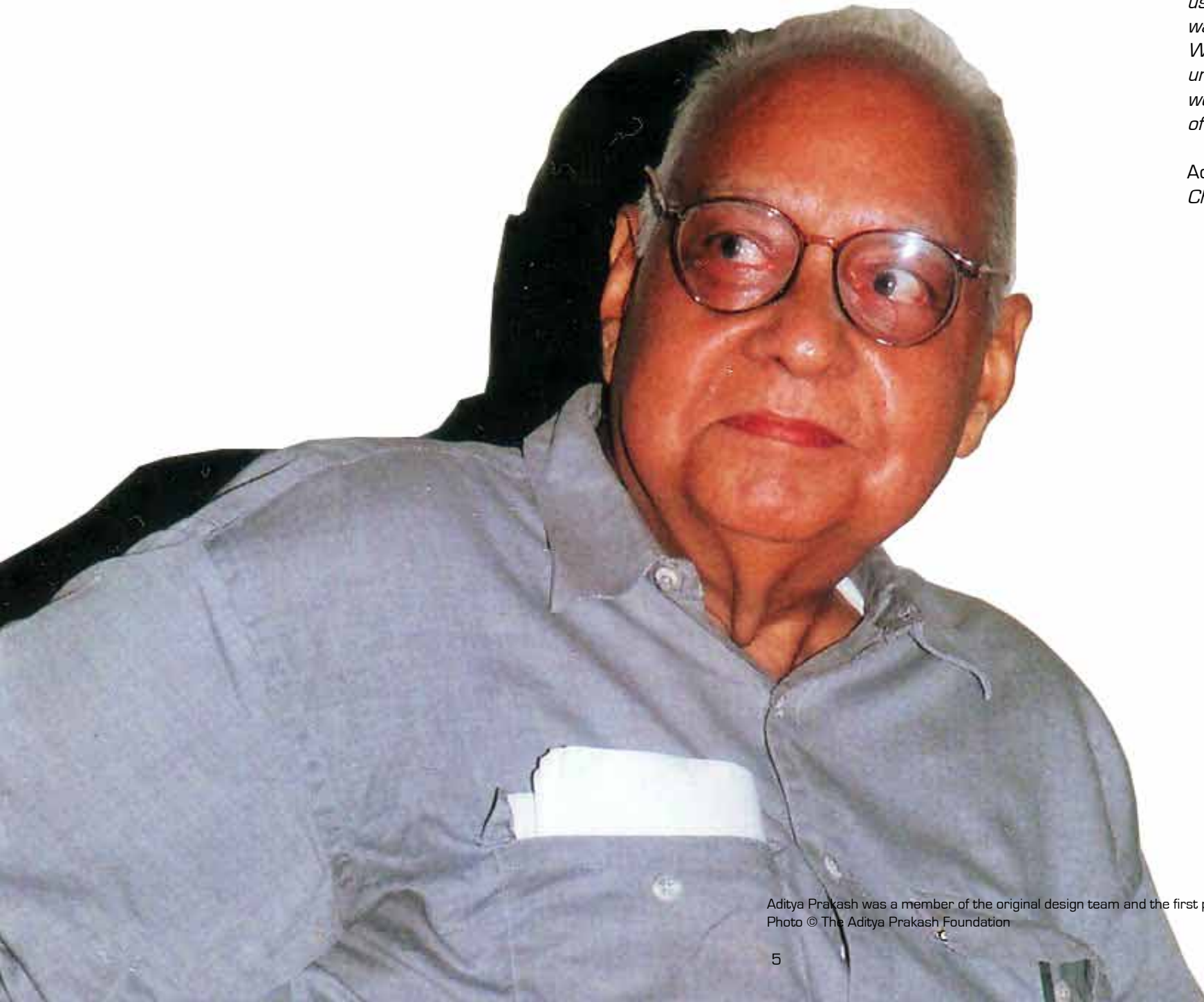


"The intention was to create a human friendly environment in which people would be living close to the ground and next to nature."

Interview with M N Sharma, 2010



M N Sharma was a member of the original design team and the first Indian Chief Architect of Chandigarh



When I was young [...] we could still use the street for anything that we wanted including sleeping at night. We did not realize while planning urban space that the automobile would be the greatest devastator of a city."

Aditya Prakash (in *Reflections on Chandigarh*)

Aditya Prakash was a member of the original design team and the first principal of Chandigarh College of Architecture
Photo © The Aditya Prakash Foundation

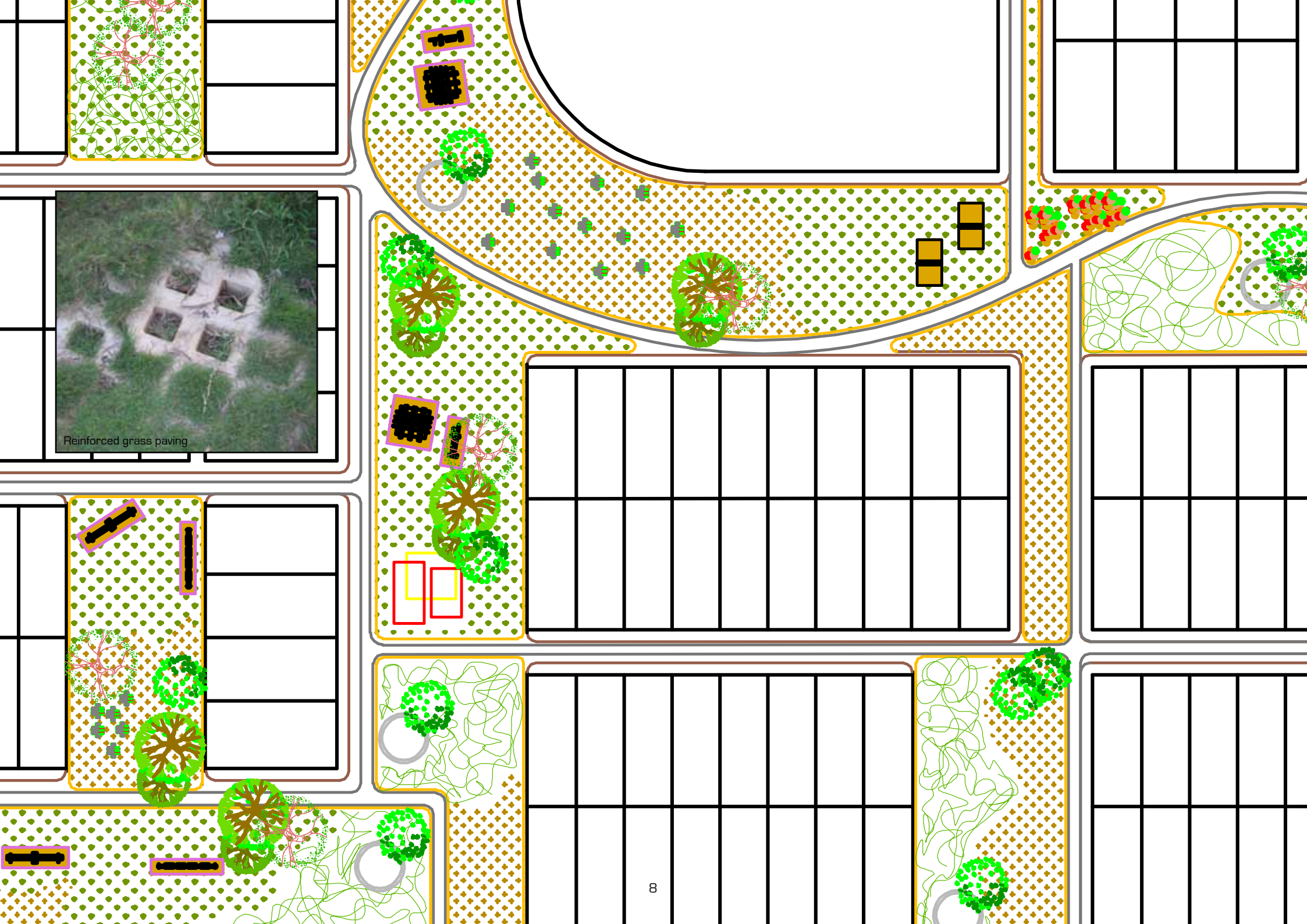


Prashant is 18. He grew up in sector 19 and studies English at CU. He has a motorcycle but complains there are no places for the youth to hang out in the sector. He also wish there was a proper gym facility.

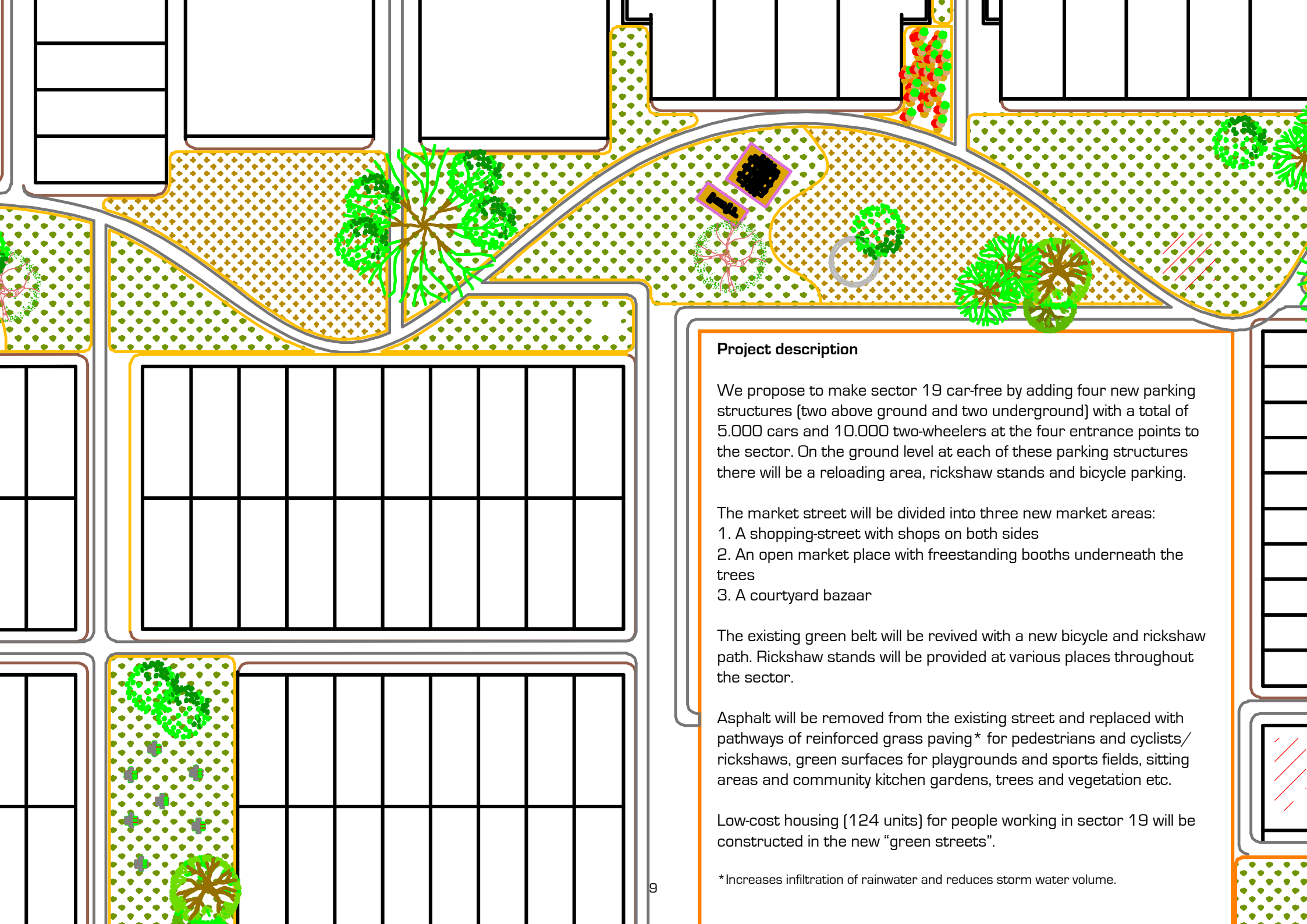


Kamla is 50. She lives in a large house in sector 19 with her husband. Their children no longer live at home yet they have 2 cars and 3 scooters. They have a lot of problems finding parking space and thinks the public playground should be converted into a multistory parking structure.

Ramsharan is 28. For the past fifteen years he has been working as a dhobi, doing the laundry and ironing of other people's clothes at a small informal shop in sector 19, which his father set up some thirty years ago. He lives in the village of Kishangarh, 6-7 km away, and goes to work on bicycle everyday.



Reinforced grass paving



Project description

We propose to make sector 19 car-free by adding four new parking structures (two above ground and two underground) with a total of 5.000 cars and 10.000 two-wheelers at the four entrance points to the sector. On the ground level at each of these parking structures there will be a reloading area, rickshaw stands and bicycle parking.

The market street will be divided into three new market areas:

1. A shopping-street with shops on both sides
2. An open market place with freestanding booths underneath the trees
3. A courtyard bazaar

The existing green belt will be revived with a new bicycle and rickshaw path. Rickshaw stands will be provided at various places throughout the sector.

Asphalt will be removed from the existing street and replaced with pathways of reinforced grass paving* for pedestrians and cyclists/ rickshaws, green surfaces for playgrounds and sports fields, sitting areas and community kitchen gardens, trees and vegetation etc.

Low-cost housing (124 units) for people working in sector 19 will be constructed in the new "green streets".

*Increases infiltration of rainwater and reduces storm water volume.



Car-free sector 19 plan with existing functions, new market areas, green streets and parking

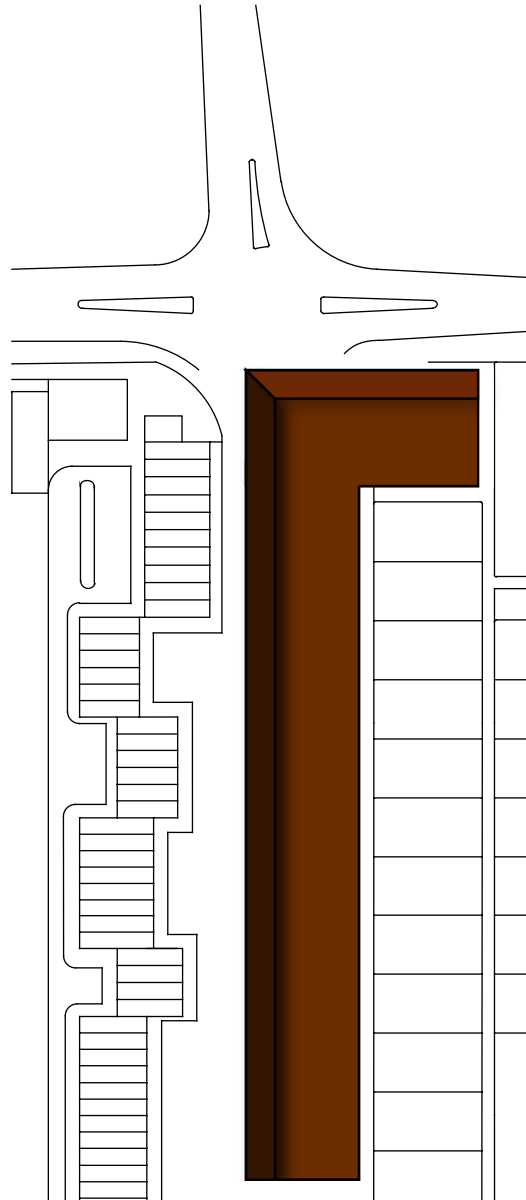


Car-free sector 19 plan indicating 300 m distance from parking

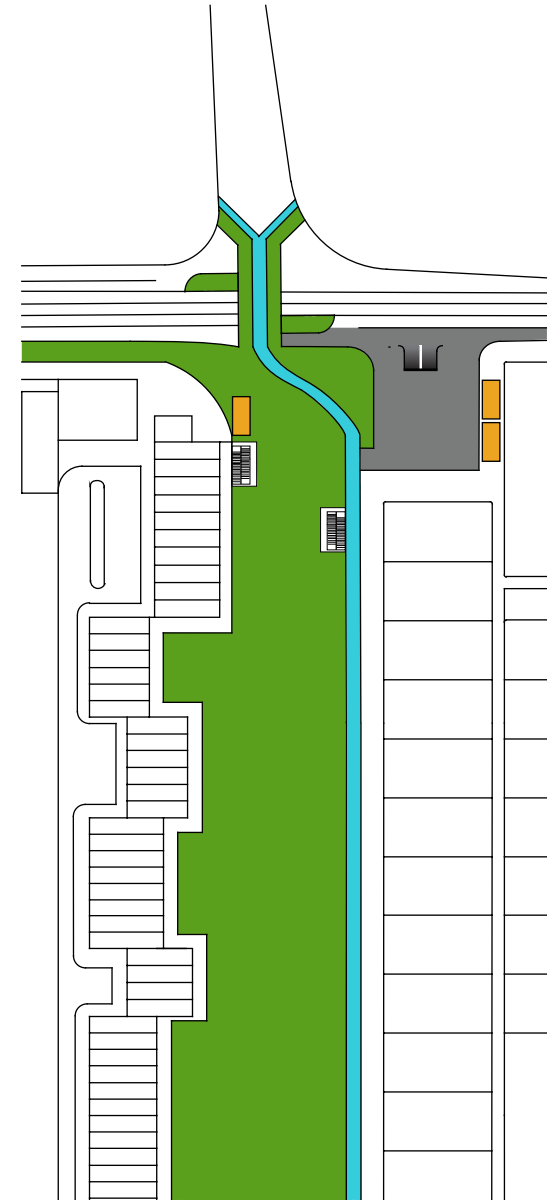
Implementation process 1-10



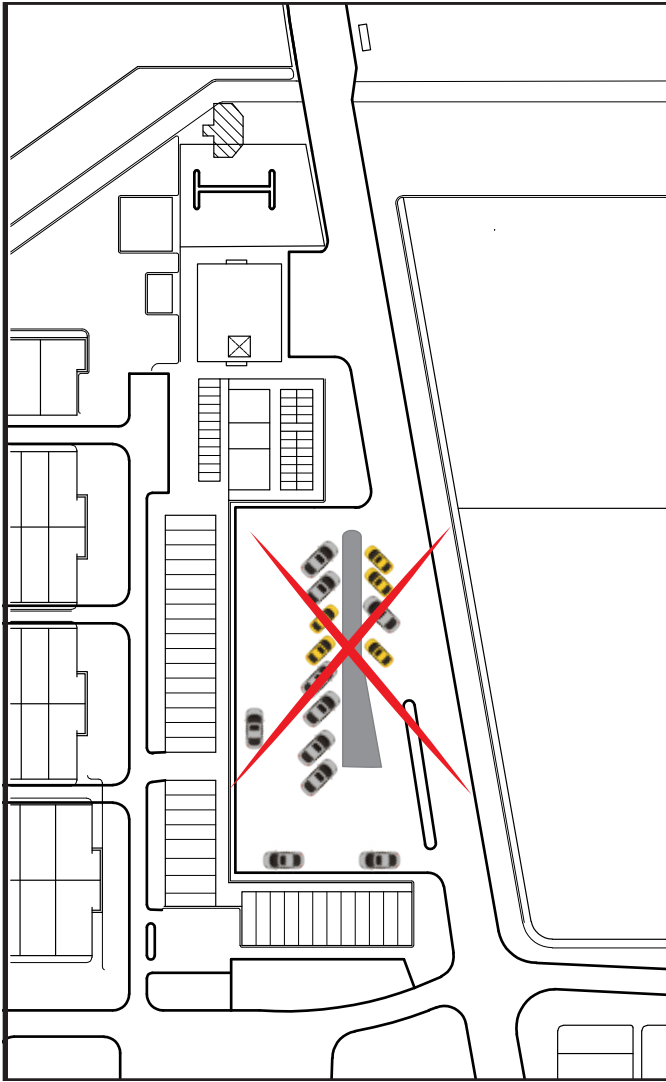
1) Close car-entrance to the market street from Sarovar Path



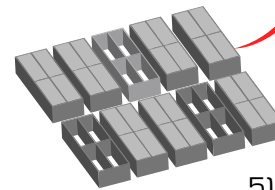
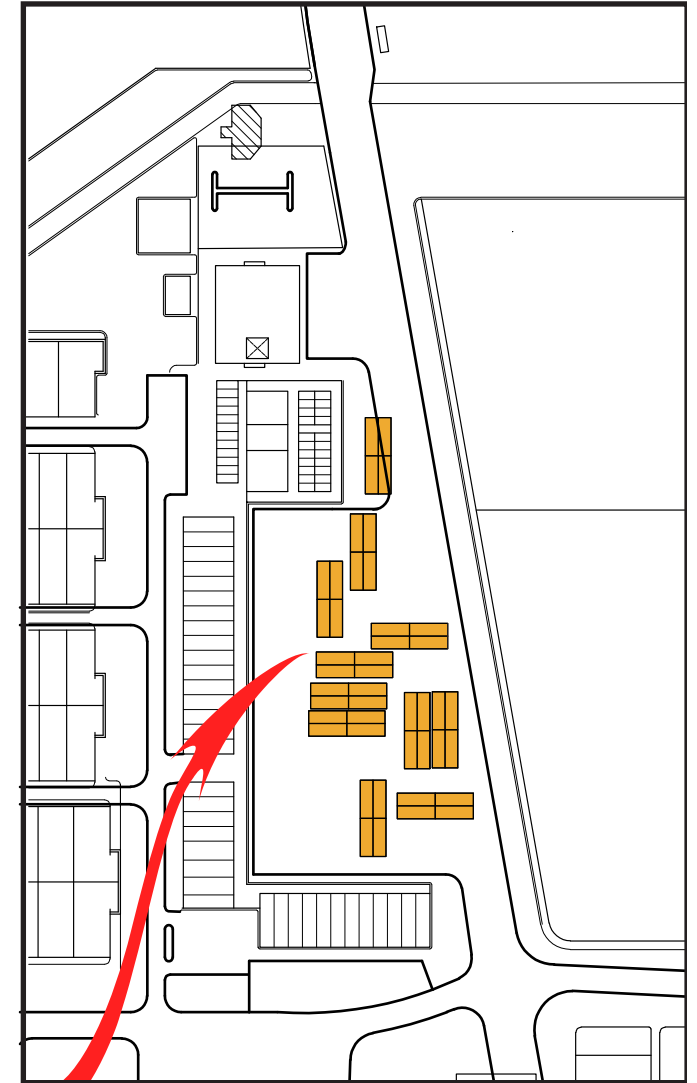
2) Construct multi-storey parking [underground]



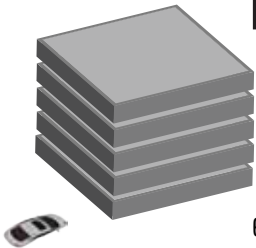
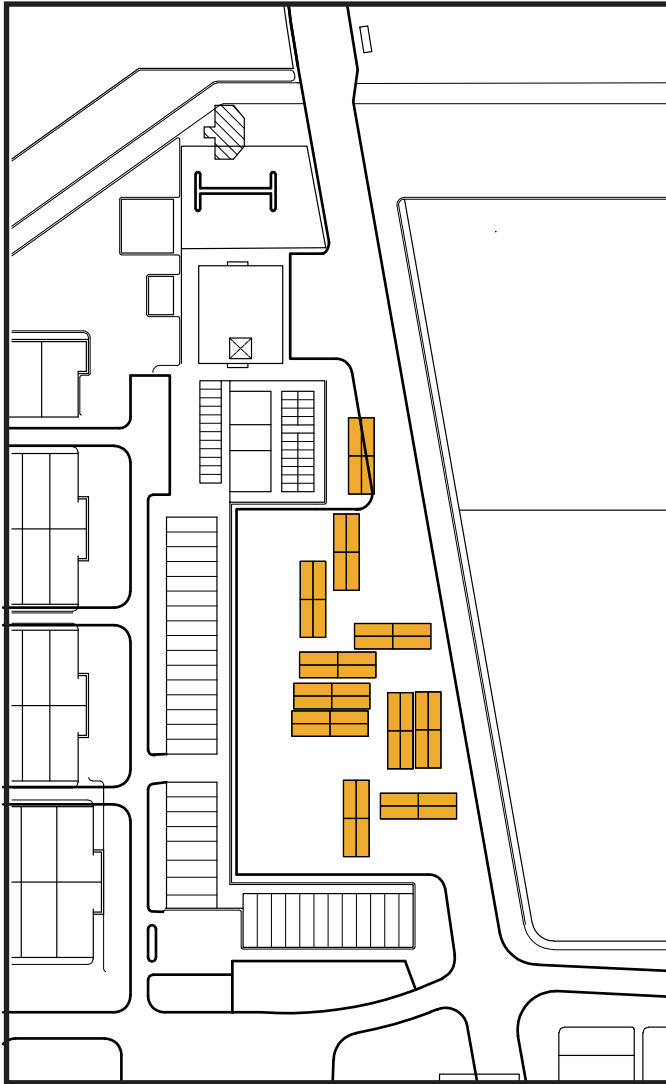
3) Create reloading area with rickshaw stands at underground parking, safe crossing to sector 18 and cycle path through the market street



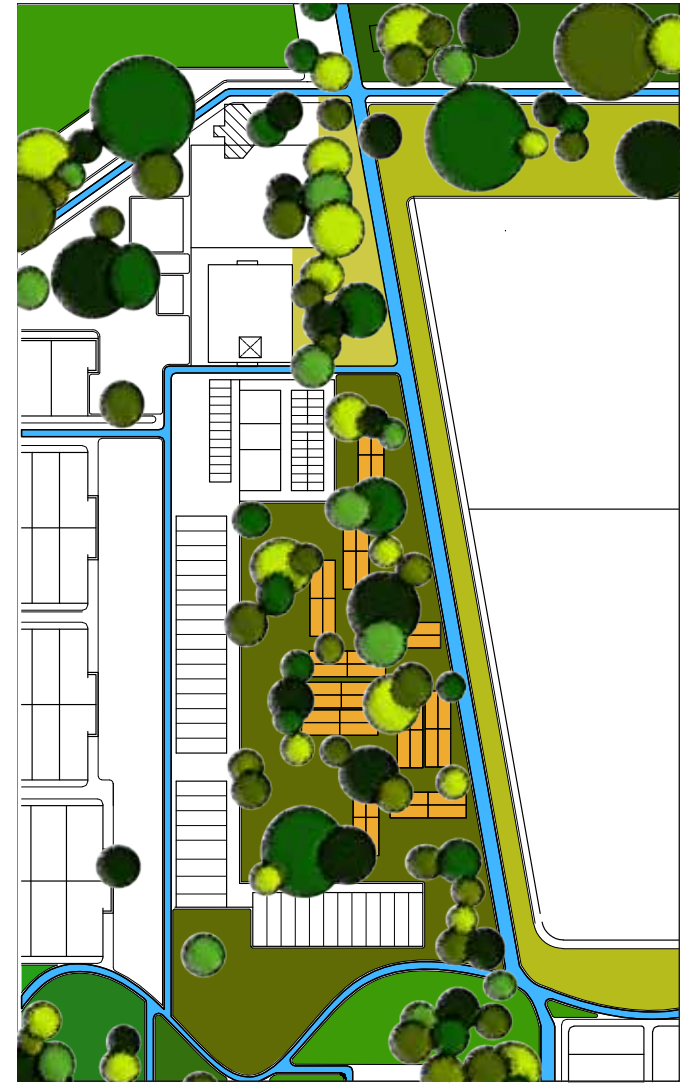
4) Remove car parking from the central part of the market street



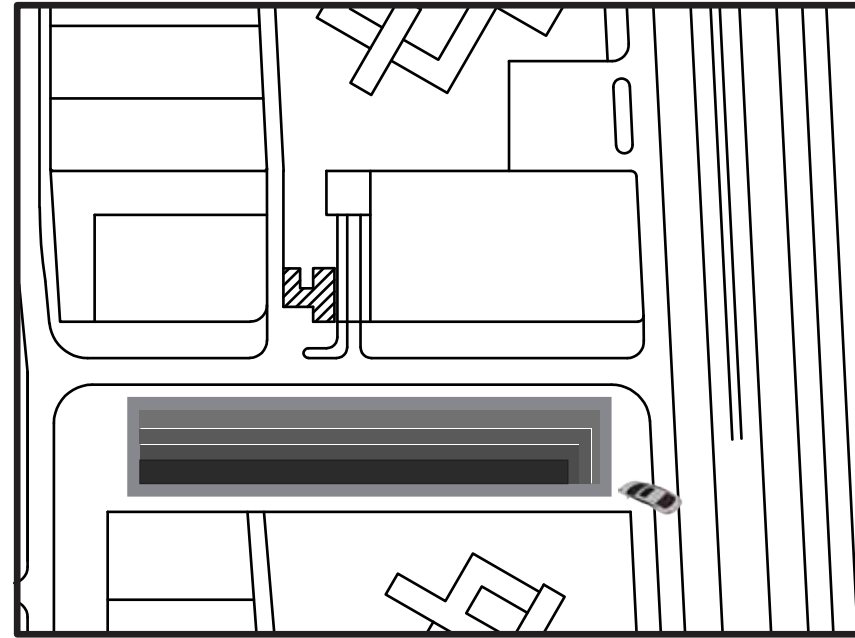
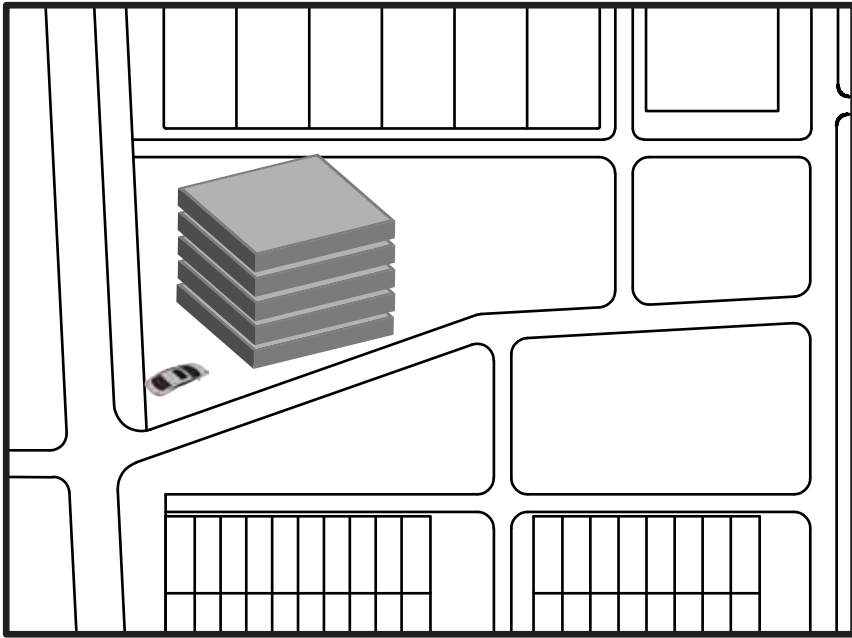
5) Shift the existing *Rehri* market to new booths in the central part of the market street



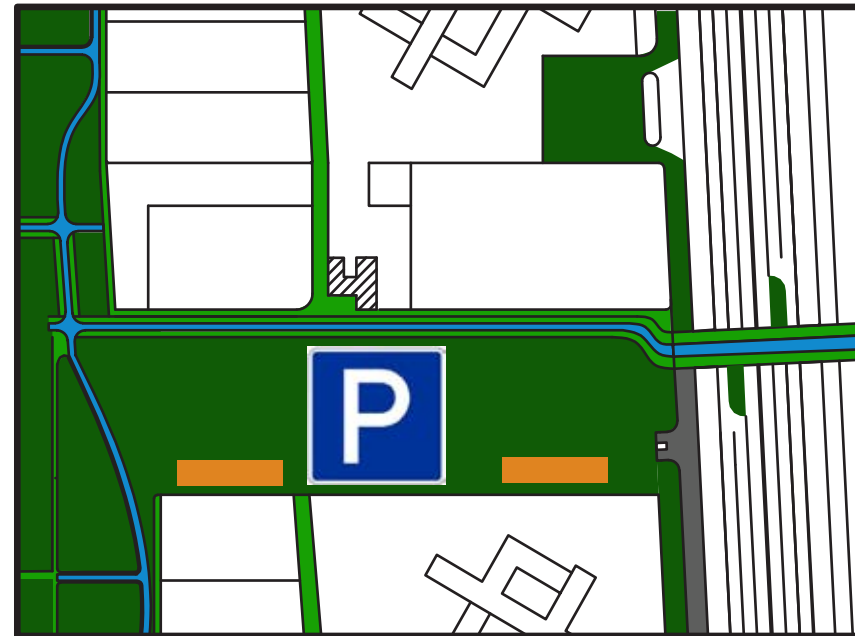
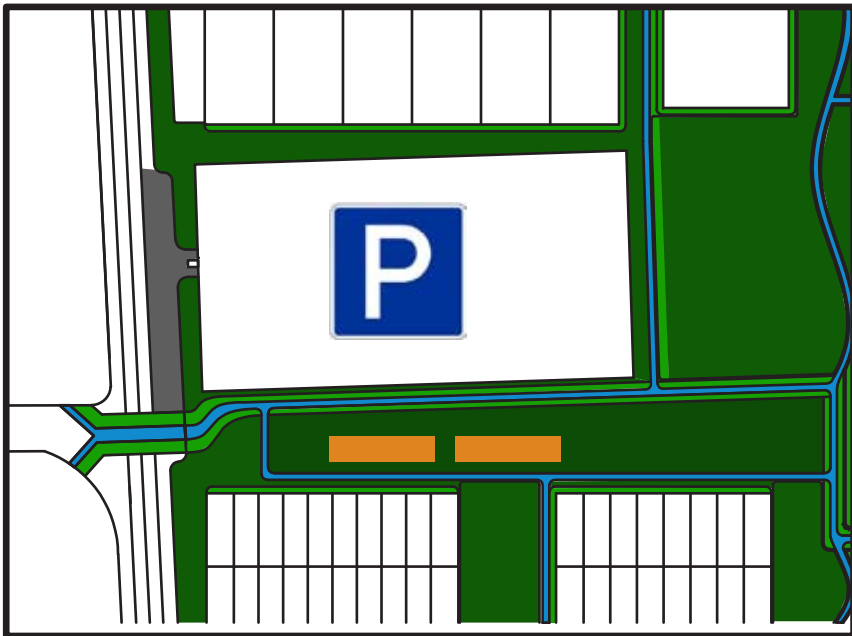
6) Construct multi-storey parking [above ground] at Subhna Path (where the *Rehri* market was located)



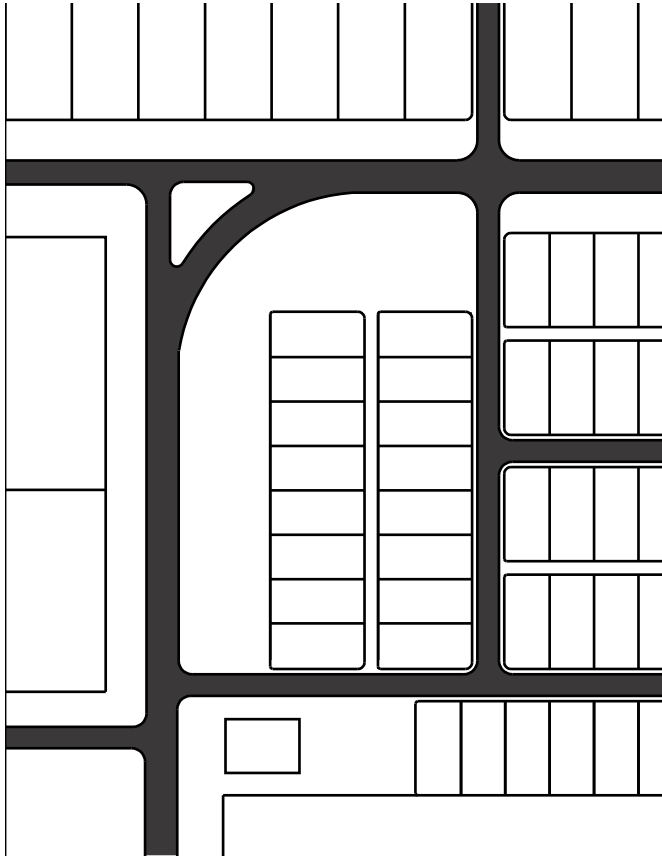
7) Close car-entrance to market street from Subhna Path and make the entire market street car-free. Remove asphalt, plant trees, make rickshaw stands and cycle path



8) Construct multi-storey parking at Ydyog Path (above ground) and at Madhya Marg (underground)



9) Make safe crossings to sector 20 and 7, rickshaw stands near parking, and cycle paths.



10] Remove asphalt, plant trees, create communal facilities, build affordable housing ...



Underground parking and crossing to sector 18



The Open Market and the Courtyard Bazar

Low-cost housing



Green street

