



# ERÉKÙSÙ AYọ

ISLANDS OF JOY

11TH I-REC STUDENT COMPETITION

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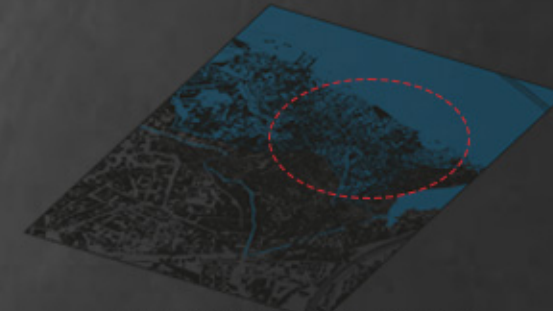
UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI FIRENZE, DIPARTIMENTO DI ARCHITETTURA

SUPERVISER: ROBERTO BOLOGNA

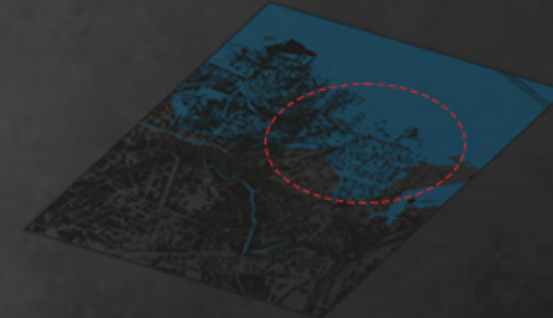


# SITE ANALYSIS 2

MAKOKO IS AN INFORMAL SETTLEMENT LOCATED ALONG THE LAGOS LAGOON IN NIGERIA, HOME TO AN ESTIMATED 200,000 INHABITANTS. OFTEN REFERRED TO AS THE 'AFRICAN VENICE,' MAKOKO IS LARGELY BUILT ON STILTS OVER WATER, WHERE CANOES SERVE AS THE PRIMARY MODE OF TRANSPORT AND FISHING IS A VITAL SOURCE OF LIVELIHOOD.



THE DENSITY DIFFERENCE WITHOUT FLOOD AND WITH FLOOD



AFRICA



NIGERIA



LAGOS

IN NORMAL TIMES, DAILY LIFE IN MAKOKO IS CHARACTERIZED BY A STRONG DEPENDENCE ON THE LAGOON, WITH COMMUNITIES ADAPTING TO THE AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT THROUGH STILT HOUSING AND TRADITIONAL FISHING PRACTICES.

DURING THE DISASTER PHASE, TYPICALLY MARKED BY THE RISING WATER LEVELS AND INCREASED RAINFALL, EARLY SIGNS OF VULNERABILITY EMERGE, SUCH AS RISING DAMPNES IN HOMES AND LIMITED ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES. WHEN FLOOD EVENT OCCURS LARGE PORTIONS OF THE SETTLEMENT BECOMES UNINHABITABLE, HOMES MAY BE DESTROYED OR SUBMERGED, DISPLACING FAMILIES AND EDUCING HEALTH AND SAFETY RISKS.

PRE DISASTER PHASE  
May - June



DISASTER PHASE/ FLOODING  
June & September



ORDINARY TIMES  
January - April



ORDINARY TIMES  
July - August





# 3 LOGISTICS

## STAKEHOLDERS

- Local community
- Architects & Urban planners
- Municipal Government
- International Donors
- Non Governmental organization and community based organization.

- LOCAL COMMUNITY: participate in co- design, labor and maintenance

- ARCHITECTS: design resilient, adaptable housing and infrastructure

- MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT: approve legal project and provide infrastructure

- INTERNATIONAL DONORS: finance, monitor and evaluate

- NGOs and NBOs: provide social services and trainings

## PROJECT IMPACTS

- Food and livelihood security
- Attachment to Local identity
- Economic Recovery

- Integration of workshops like Woodwork, and recycling

- Creation of Job in construction and material supply, while maintaining the fishing lifestyle

- Respect the traditional structures and water based lifestyle
- cultural heritage centers documenting Makoko's history and crafts

## PROPOSED TIMELINES

### 1. SHORTS TERM 0 - 5 MONTHS:

- community engagement, workshops
- training local builders and craftpeople
- setting up coordination office and committees

### 2. MEDIUM TERM 5 - 24 MONTHS:

- Infrastructure, sanitation pods, solar power on roofs
- Scaled construction using phased clusters

### 3. LONG TERM 2 - 4 YEARS:

- Infrastructure reinforcement school, hospital, fishing points.

## DECENTRALIZING DECISION MAKING

Makoko community development platform: the Goal is to ensure that the decision making starts at the community levels

- Community committee, elected locals

- Technical Working group such as NGOs and professionals

- Tools: participatory mapping with the community, digital feedback platform.

## RESOURCES

Local skilled and unskilled Labor  
Material: Wood, bamboo and recycled materials

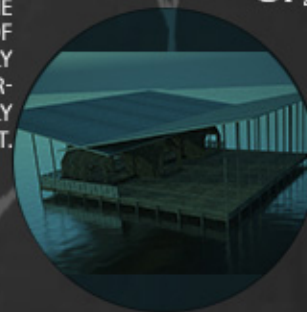
The safety islands will be constructed using the same building techniques and materials traditionally used in Makoko, such as wood, bamboo, and repurposed drums for flotation. The design embraces vernacular architecture while integrating low-cost innovations



# CONCEPT 4

Erékùsù Àyọ  
Islands of Joy

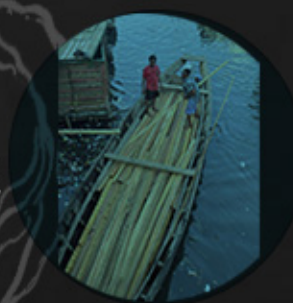
THIS PROJECT PROPOSES THE CREATION OF A LANDMARK STRUCTURE FOR THE MAKOKO COMMUNITY—A PLACE OF SAFETY AND RESILIENCE THAT NOT ONLY PROTECTS RESIDENTS DURING EMERGENCIES BUT ALSO ENHANCES DAILY LIFE IN THE SETTLEMENT.



THESE ISLANDS WILL BE STRATEGICALLY DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT MAKOKO, ENSURING THAT THEY ARE EASILY ACCESSIBLE BY CANOE FROM EVERY PART OF THE COMMUNITY.



ONE OF THE PROJECT'S STRONGEST VALUES IS PARTICIPATORY CONSTRUCTION: THE PLATFORM IS NOT BUILT FOR THE COMMUNITY, BUT WITH THEM.



GROUND FLOOR SERVES AS A COMMUNITY HUB

PRE DISASTER PHASE  
May - June

ORDINARY TIMES  
January - April

ORDINARY TIMES  
July - August

DISASTER PHASE/ FLOODING  
June & September

- SAFE, ELEVATED SPACES DURING FLOODS
- STORAGE OF EMERGENCY SUPPLIES (CLEAN WATER, FOOD, MEDICINE)
- COORDINATION POINTS FOR RESPONDERS AND COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS
- GATHERING AREAS FOR EDUCATION, SUPPORT, AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT







ORDINARY TIMES  
January - April



DISASTER PHASE/ FLOODING  
June & September

Local residents are actively involved in:

- Site selection and needs assessment
- Co-design workshops
- Hands-on building sessions and maintenance training



The structure's pitched roof plays a key environmental role:

It collects rainwater, stored in integrated tanks for safe use.

It supports solar panels, ensuring independent energy for lighting and communication during critical moments.

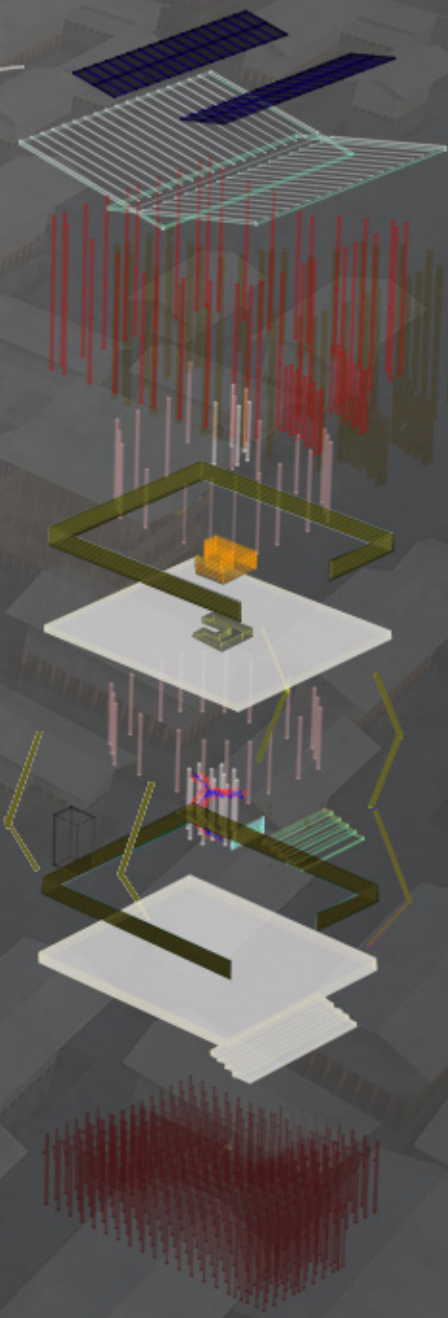


The Aim is to become a replicable model for other vulnerable settlements facing similar climate risks. It not only responds to immediate disaster threats but also strengthens social cohesion, fosters self-reliance, and deepens the connection between the community and its environment.

## Erékùsù Ayo



A key principle of this project is the use of traditional construction techniques and locally available materials, fully aligned with the existing building culture of Makoko. The structures are designed and built using the same methods employed by the community for generations—ensuring familiarity, affordability, and



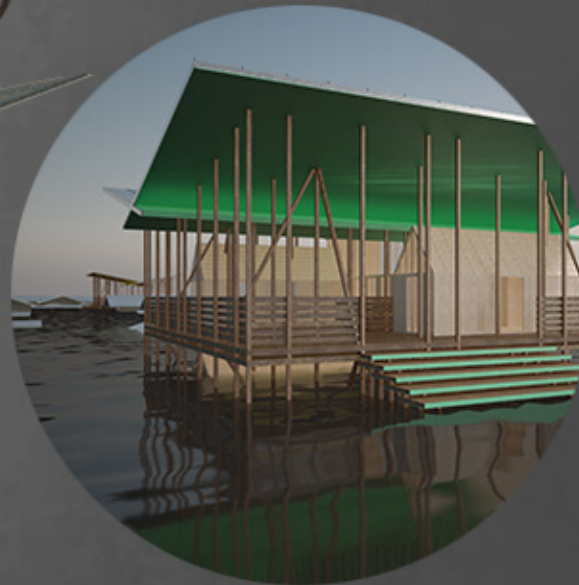
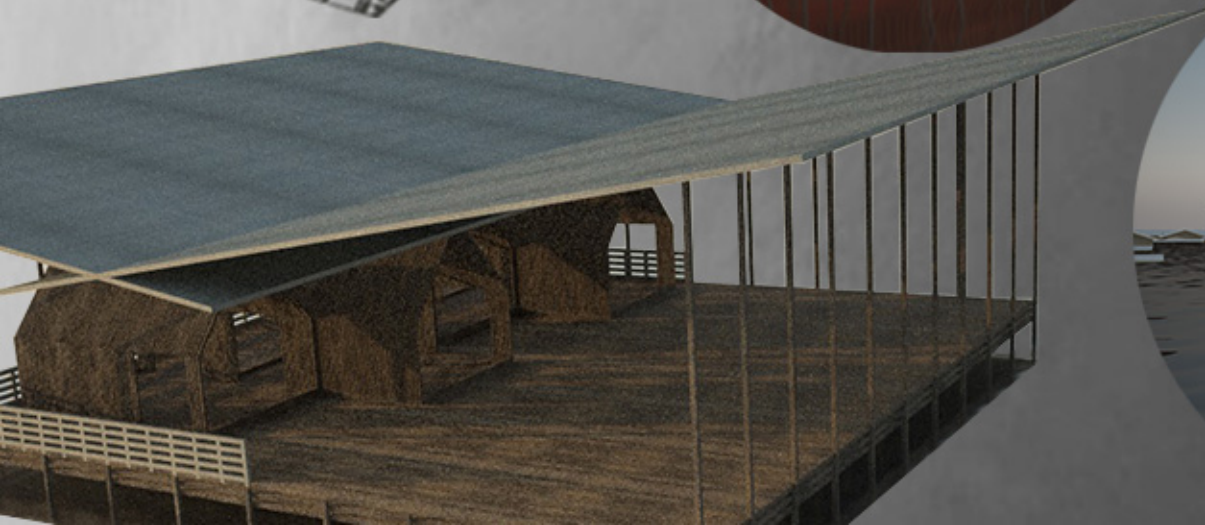
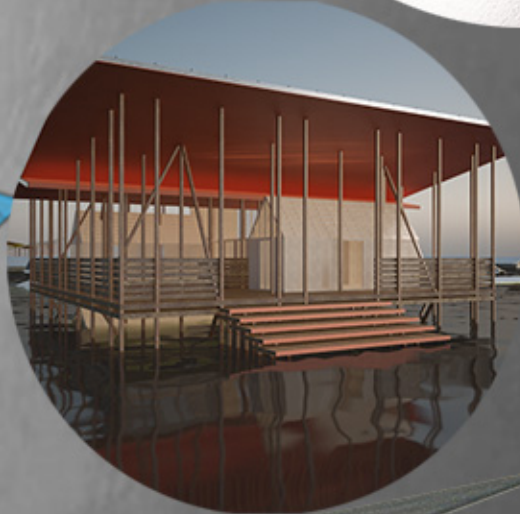
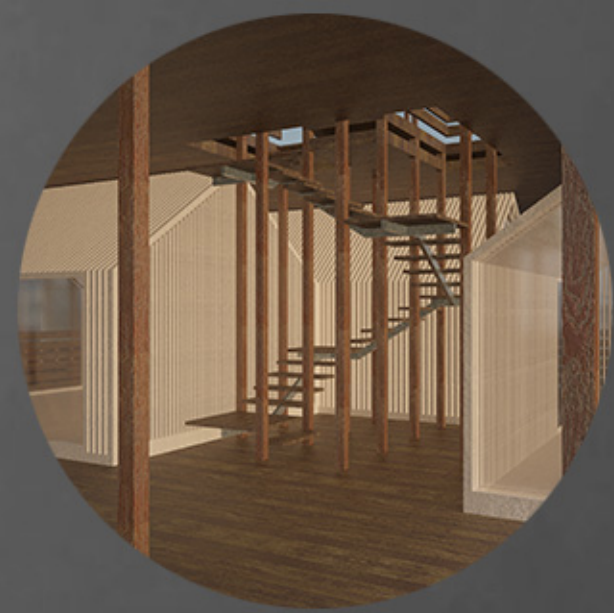


# 6 INTEGRATION TO CONCEPT

Based on community input, it can integrate essential services such as health clinics, classrooms, storage units, or micro-workshops—spaces that address daily needs and improve quality of life.

This platform is designed first and foremost as a safe space during flood emergencies, offering shelter and protection without forcing people to abandon their environment or way of life.

The platform functions as a flexible infrastructure base: a core structure that, in times of emergency, can be rapidly adapted or expanded by the community to include the services most vital for survival and continuity.



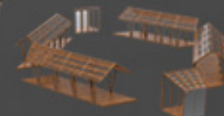
MEDICAL CLINIC



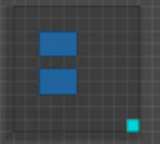
SCHOOLS



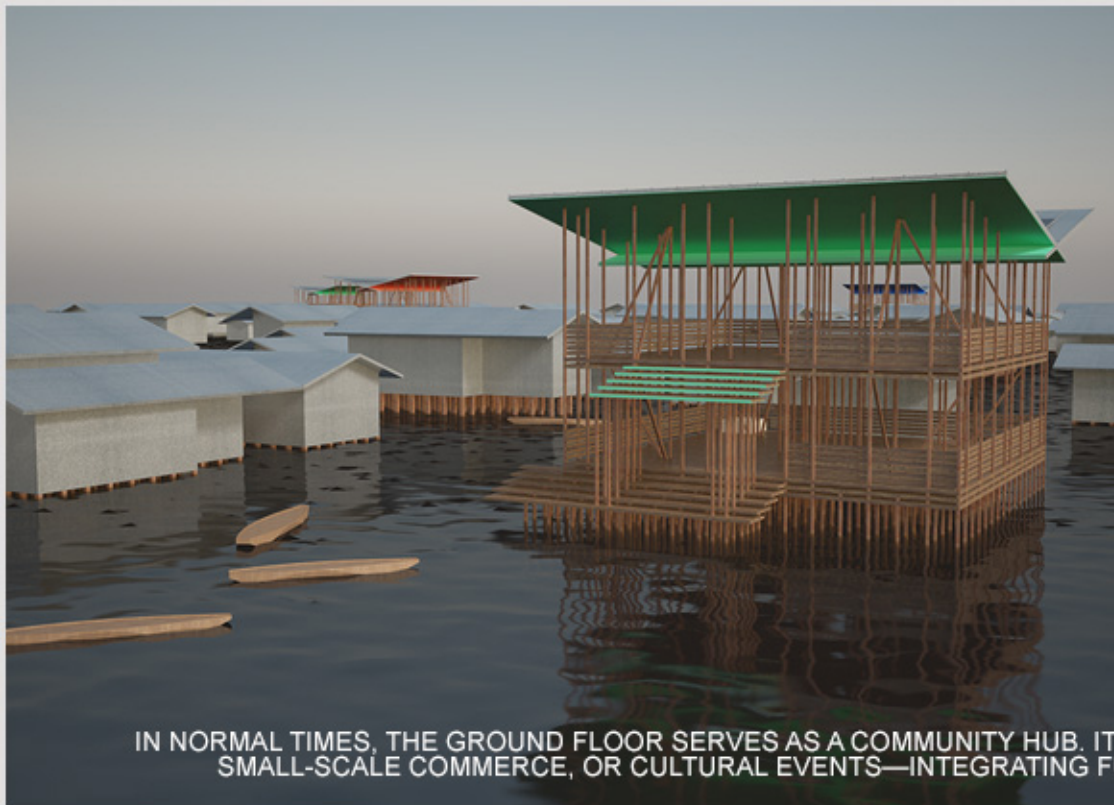
TEMPORARY  
HOUSING



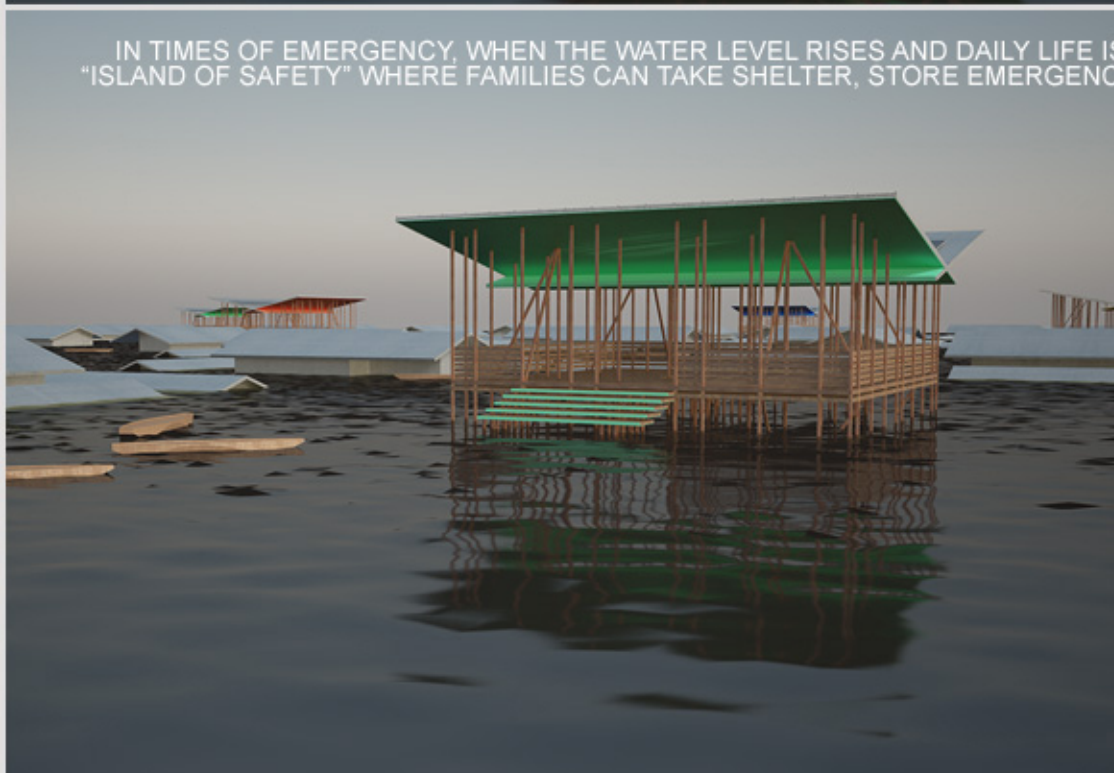
- PUBLIC SPACE  
for fishing  
and public interaction







IN NORMAL TIMES, THE GROUND FLOOR SERVES AS A COMMUNITY HUB. IT CAN BE USED FOR FISHING ACTIVITIES, LOCAL GATHERINGS, EDUCATION, SMALL-SCALE COMMERCE, OR CULTURAL EVENTS—INTEGRATING FULLY INTO THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FABRIC OF THE COMMUNITY.



IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY, WHEN THE WATER LEVEL RISES AND DAILY LIFE IS DISRUPTED, THE UPPER LEVEL TRANSFORMS INTO A SAFE REFUGE—AN "ISLAND OF SAFETY" WHERE FAMILIES CAN TAKE SHELTER, STORE EMERGENCY SUPPLIES, AND ACCESS LIGHT, CLEAN WATER, AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.

