

# Matthew White, Architectural Portfolio



Right: A Library of Cultural  
Heritage Studies

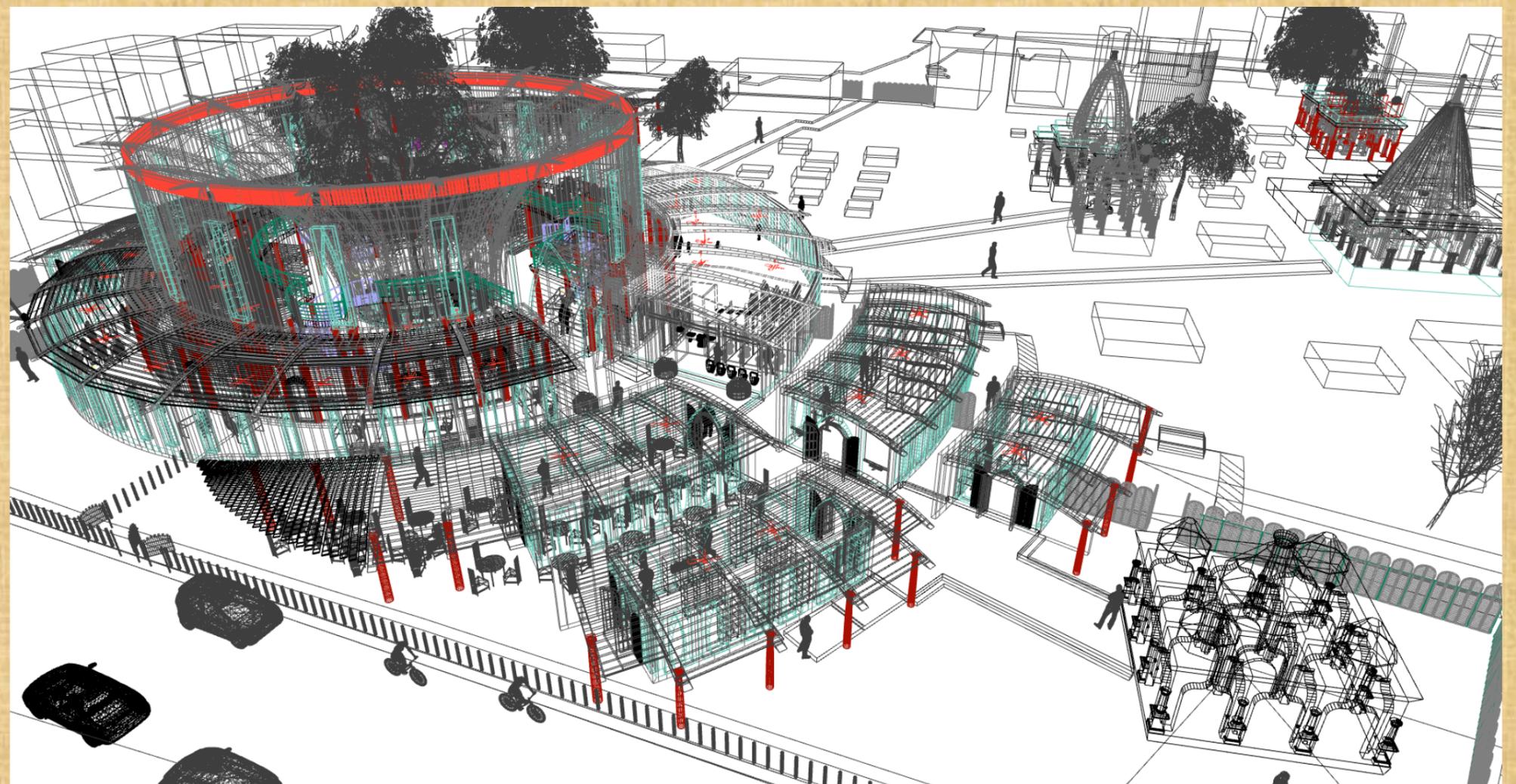


The Concept: The Tree of  
Life

# The Kashibai Life Library, Nagpur, India



The Tree of Life: Above, Indian Jali. Right & Below Jewish Museum, Berlin





Above: View facing North, the Kings Temple is in the foreground surrounded by Mast cemetery trees or Ashoka in Hindi. These have been retained in their original grid layout and new ones planted bordering Shukrawari Road (left side of image). The properties without planning consent that bordered this road have been removed and relocated.

Below: View facing North West. All of the temples can be seen and the new residential accommodation for the on-site caretakers, the Kamdars, can be seen in the right hand corner of this image. The Kamdars have served the Maharaj for generations, they live on the complex and are in need of new housing. The southern boundary of the site is now marked with a high slatted fence instead of a high wall. This provides some permeability whilst maintaining security and order. This can be seen bordering the small street in the bottom left hand corner of the image.



Above: View facing North, the main entrance to the library can be seen. The entrance bears the negative image of the roof top design of a number of the temples on the Kashibai complex, most distinctly the SAMADHI OF RAGHUJI MAHARAJ and the SAMADHI OF KASHIBAI. This image also shows the metaphor of the concentric rings of a tree upon which the layout of the design is based.

Below: View facing South to the SAMADHI OF SAKWARBAI temple in the middle ground (the earliest built on the site) out along the axial approach path to the library. This view also faces towards a large bridge over the river Nag 160 metres along Shukrawari Road from this point.





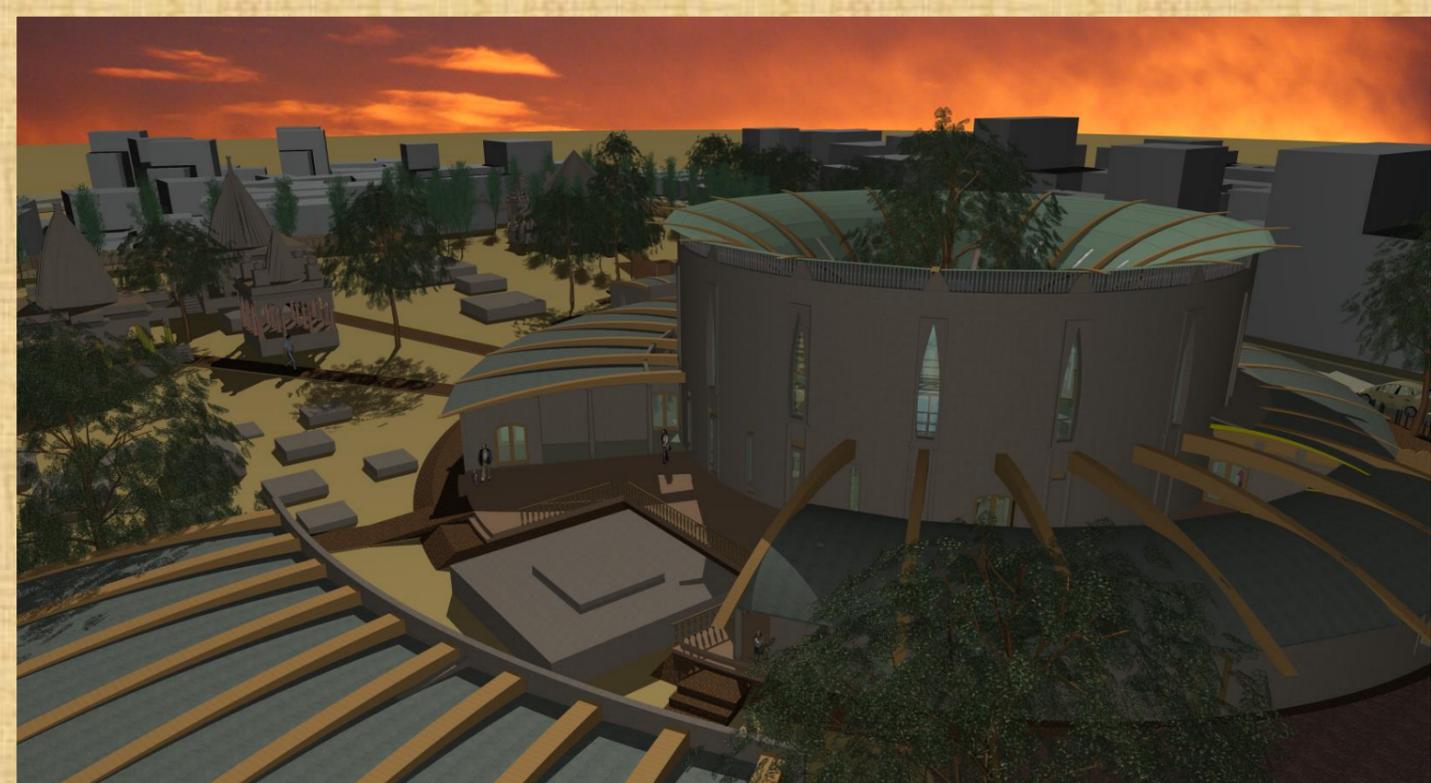
Above: View North to the Library at the boundary of Shukrawari Road and the Temple Complex, the SAMADHI OF SAKWARBAI temple is on the right. A long line of cast iron bollards broken by gateways form a permeable barrier to the busy road providing safety and order whilst allowing freedom of movement.

Below: View facing East bordering Shukrawari Road of the outdoor seating area in front of the Café'. Shukrawari Road is a very busy dynamic space. The Café' will feed off and add to this energy drawing people into the Library, Shop and Gallery through the small offset streets created by the concentric ring layout. The necessary level of privacy and seclusion of the Temples is maintained. Between the Library complex and the Temples a high slatted fence maintains order and demarks the boundary of the public and semi private space of the Temples. The Library buildings themselves also serve this purpose.



Above: Axial pathway facing North to the Library Entrance. The Reception is immediately right of image and the shop is first door on the left. The Café is second door on the left and the Gallery is first door on the right. Visitors can cross this axial route (West to East) through the small created streets to access the Temple spaces by permission of the Kamdars.

Below: View Facing South showing part of the North Elevation of the Library. The square Sati Pyre can be seen in the foreground. The skeletal roof structure can be seen reaching out to support the roofs as would the shelter of a large tree. The structure is most prominent in doing this over the Pre-School as seen in this view of the North facing side of the Library complex, this is a statement of young children needing nurture, support and protection. The tree in the centre of the library can be clearly seen.





Above: View to Entrance of Library. At Eaves level controllable louvers are employed to control the flow of air circulating within the library other louvers a ground floor level and openings to the courtyard together with fans under the balcony allow for the movement of air regulating the temperature. The thermal mass of the stone outer walls also provide essential regularisation of the temperature.



Below: Inside the Central Courtyard. This is a place to sit, read and relax under the shade of the tree and next to the pool.

Right: View at the Threshold. The internal structure can be seen for the first time. Light filters through the leaves from the centrally planted tree. Immediately to the left and right are two doorways to the West and East wings of the building i.e. the offices and the hall for cultural activities.





Left & Below: From eaves level the structure arrayed around the central courtyard and tree can be seen soaring to meet the circular stone wall. These members are large glued and laminated timber columns. The first floor balcony is accessed by three spiral staircases or a lift. Books are collected on the ground floor and taken to the light of the balcony.



Right: View looking straight up at a threshold to the central courtyard the tree and the metaphor in the structure is clear.

Below: At balcony level two computer suites are positioned either side of the main entrance (and a ground floor level). The staircases give a natural break in the layout to other areas of use as seen on the plans.





Above Left and Left: The Kamdars (The Caretakers) new accommodation. Two houses have been sensitively located and designed to give privacy from the Library yet be completely interwoven into the overall design of the complex.



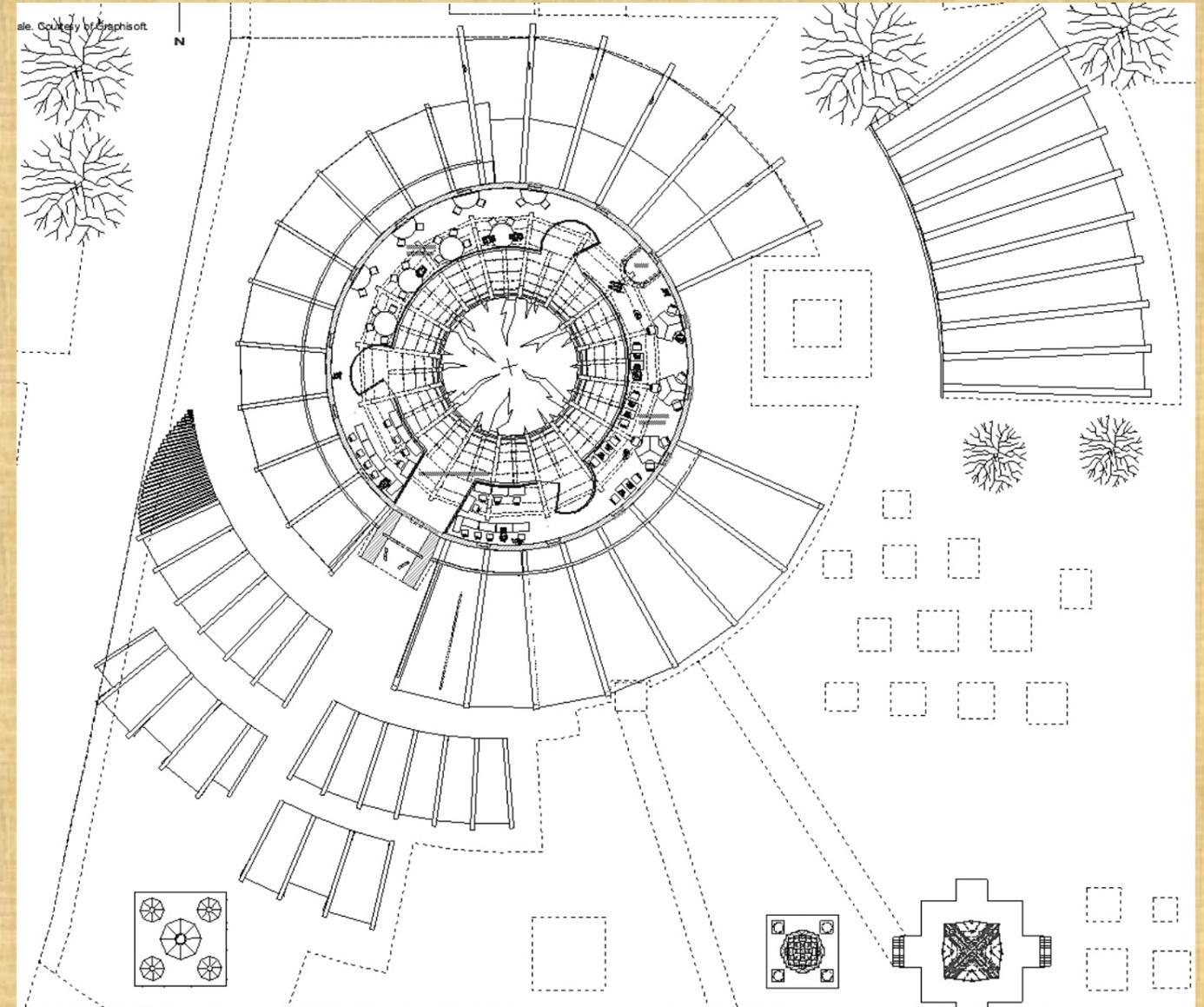
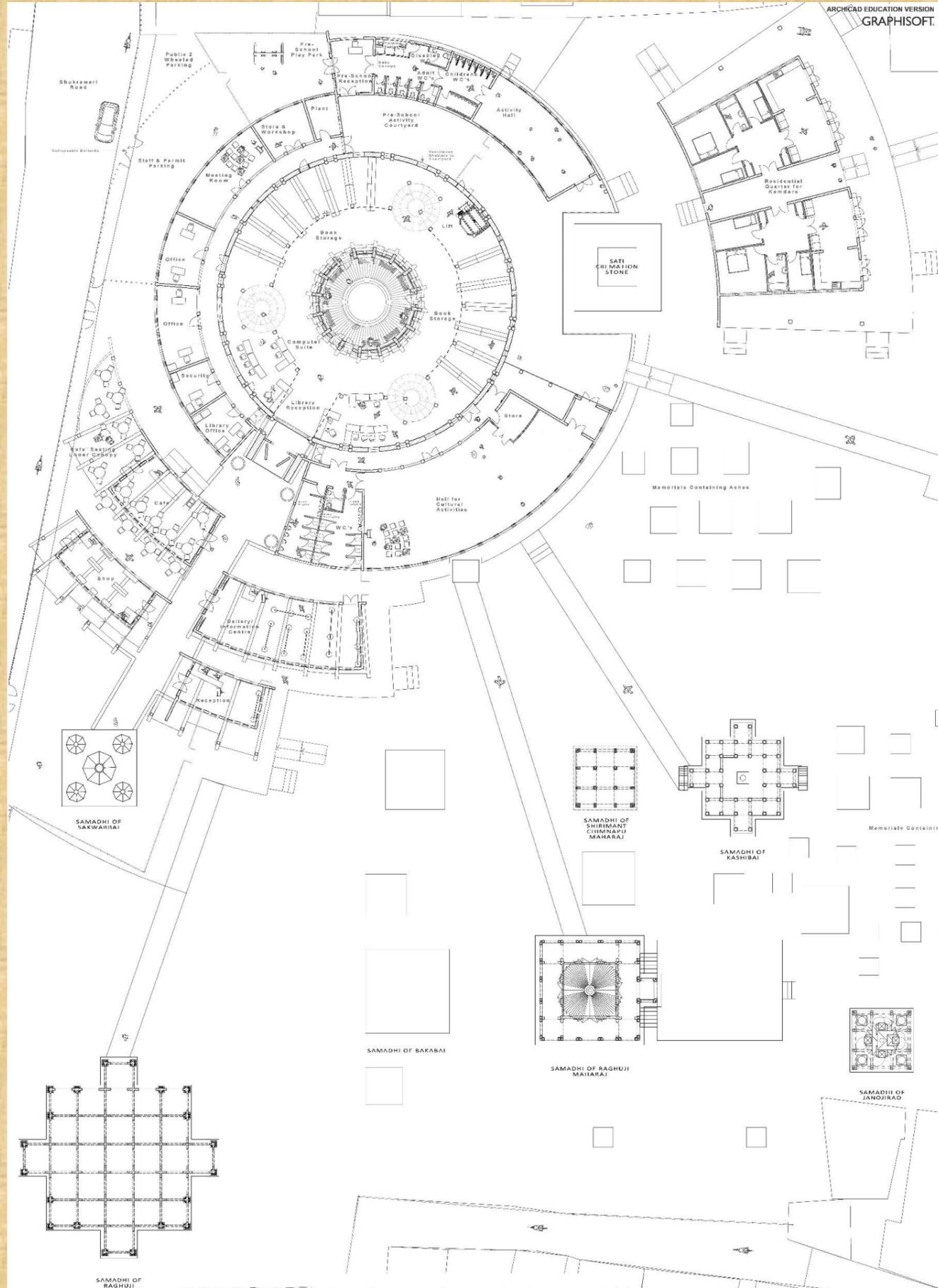
Right Column: The Pre-School is a service to take care of babies and give some education to young children whilst their mothers access the facilities in the Library. The Library is a service to the community to improve education standards for adults and children.



Left: On the West Wing between offices this is the meeting hall. It has a visual connection to the ground floor of the library across the corridor. Blinds can be added for greater privacy where necessary. The view through the discrete windows to the left look across a small car park straight to the bustling Shukrawari Road. This design is saturated with layers of typologies and architectural character from the temples on the complex whilst expressing these in a modern contemporary style.



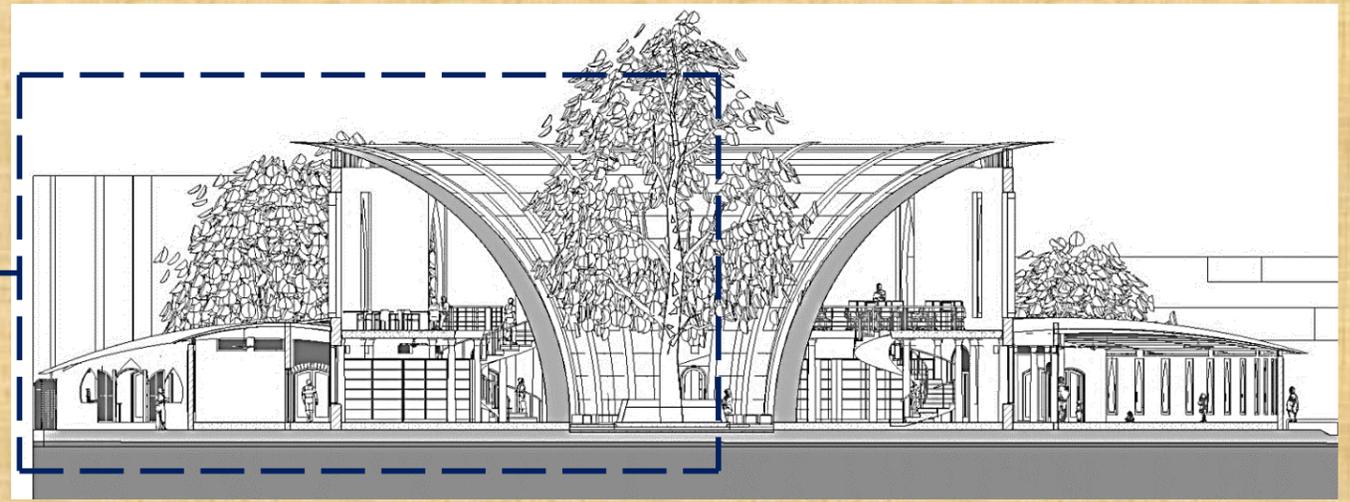
# Plans



Above: Mezzanine Level and Roof Plan

Left: Ground Floor and Site Context

# Sections



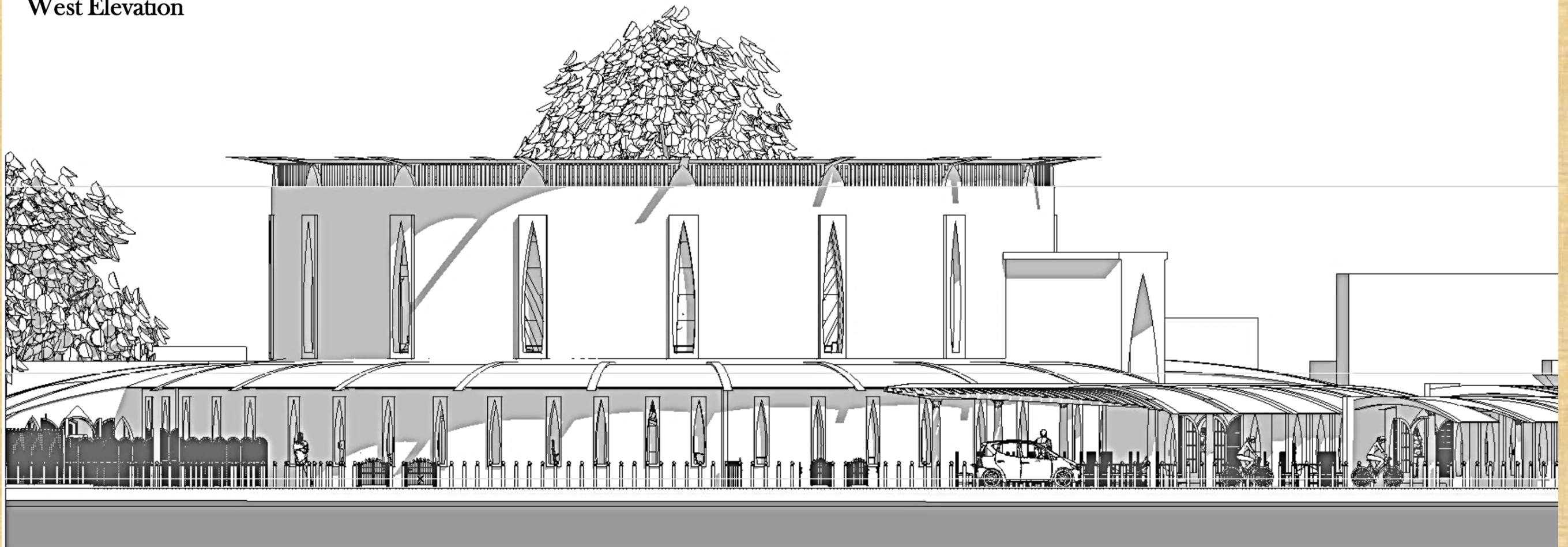
ArchiCAD Educational version, not for resale. Courtesy of Graphisoft.



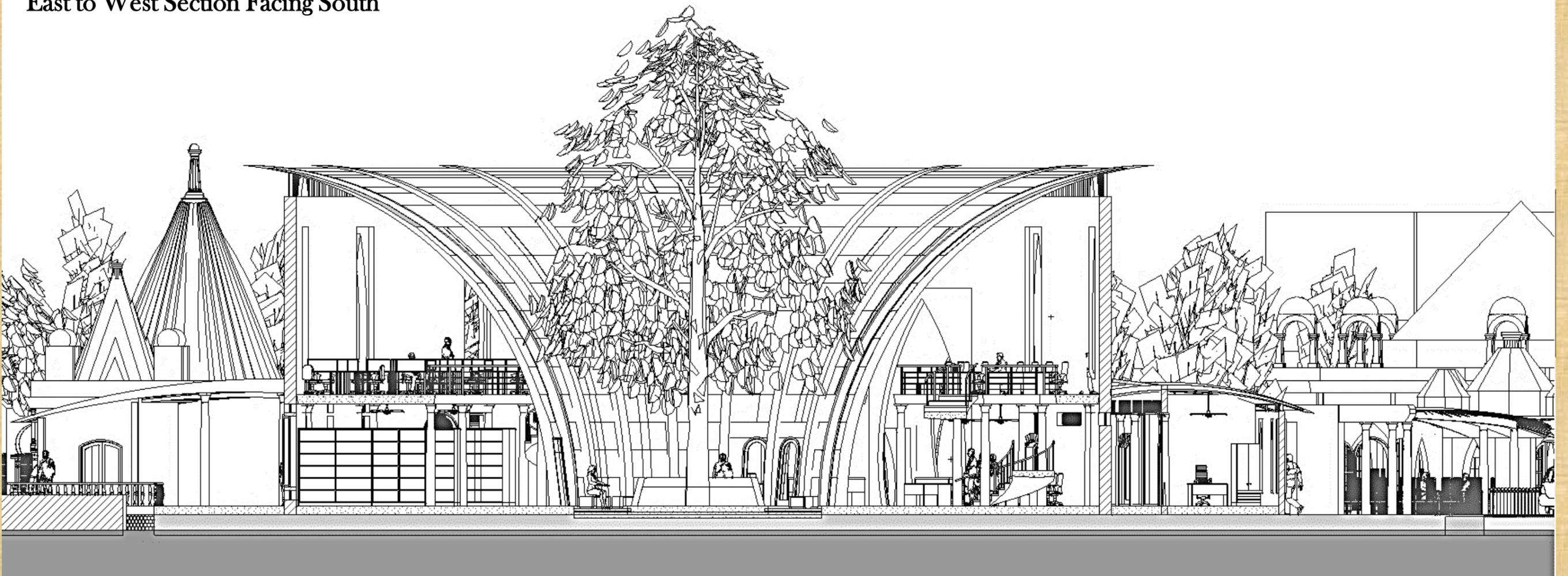
Above: North to South Section Through the Main Library Facing East

Left: Large Section on the North Side Showing (From Right to Left) Courtyard, Mezzanine & Book Storage at Ground Floor, Corridor, Office and Pre-School Entrance

West Elevation



East to West Section Facing South



# South Elevation

