

**The Value of accessibility and proximity to
neighbourhood public spaces for children use
a case of study from Bam Child Friendly City Workshop, Iran**

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After

The December 2003 earthquake:

Killed more than 30,000 people

More than 75,000 people homeless

Damaged 85% of the buildings

Arg-e-Bam, the biggest citadel
built by adobe in the world and
registered as a UNESCO World
Heritage Monument



Before

Ten young architects (including the first author of this paper) were selected as workshop facilitators. Moreover, two university lecturers supervised the whole process. Each facilitator worked with ten students from Bam aged 10-12. For children participation, different methods were used like: using 2D sketches; 3D models and narrative expertise e.g. informal discussion between the facilitators and children about their life before and after the earthquake; designing games; painting; discussions and filling questionnaires.



The atmosphere of the workshop

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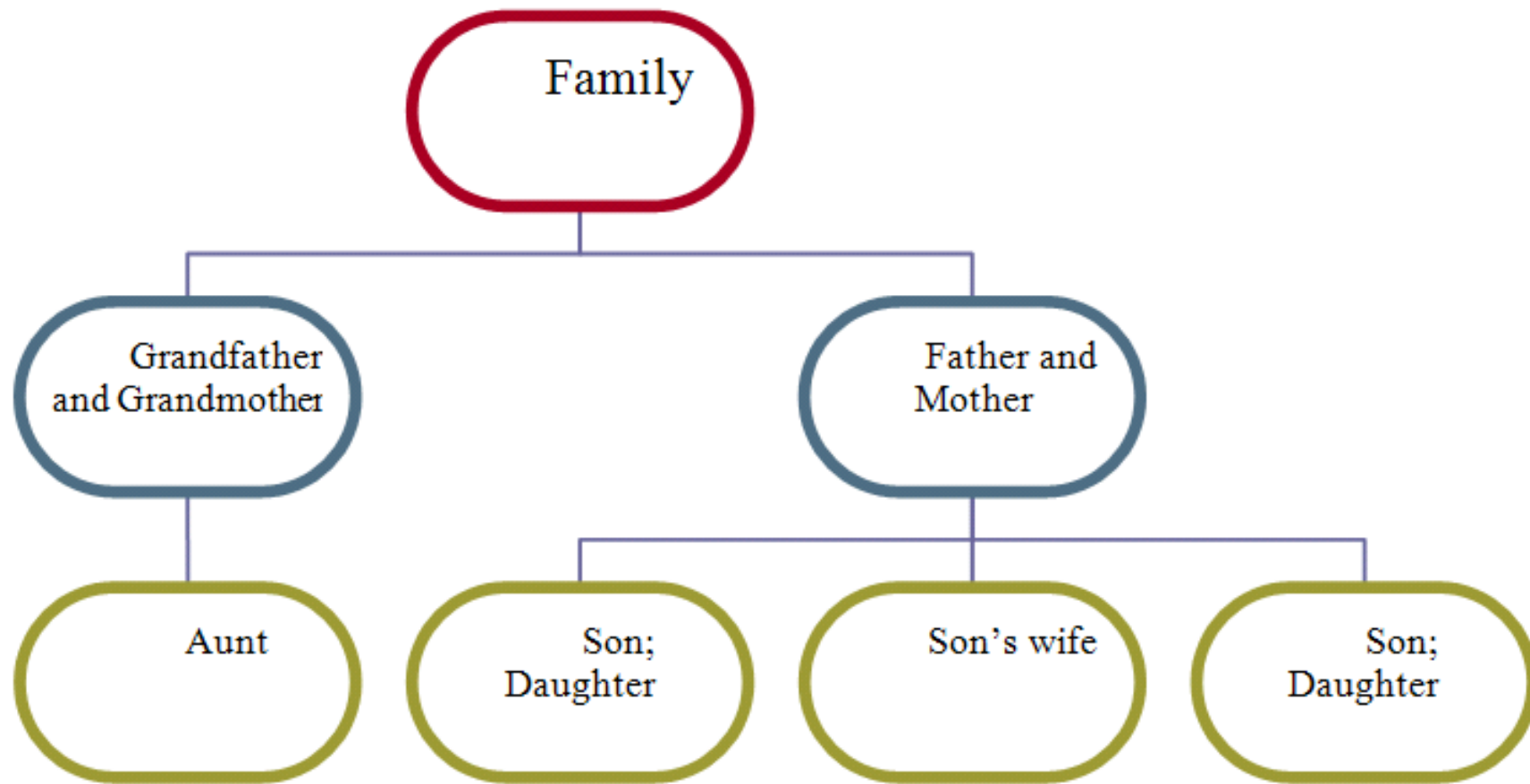


The atmosphere of the workshop

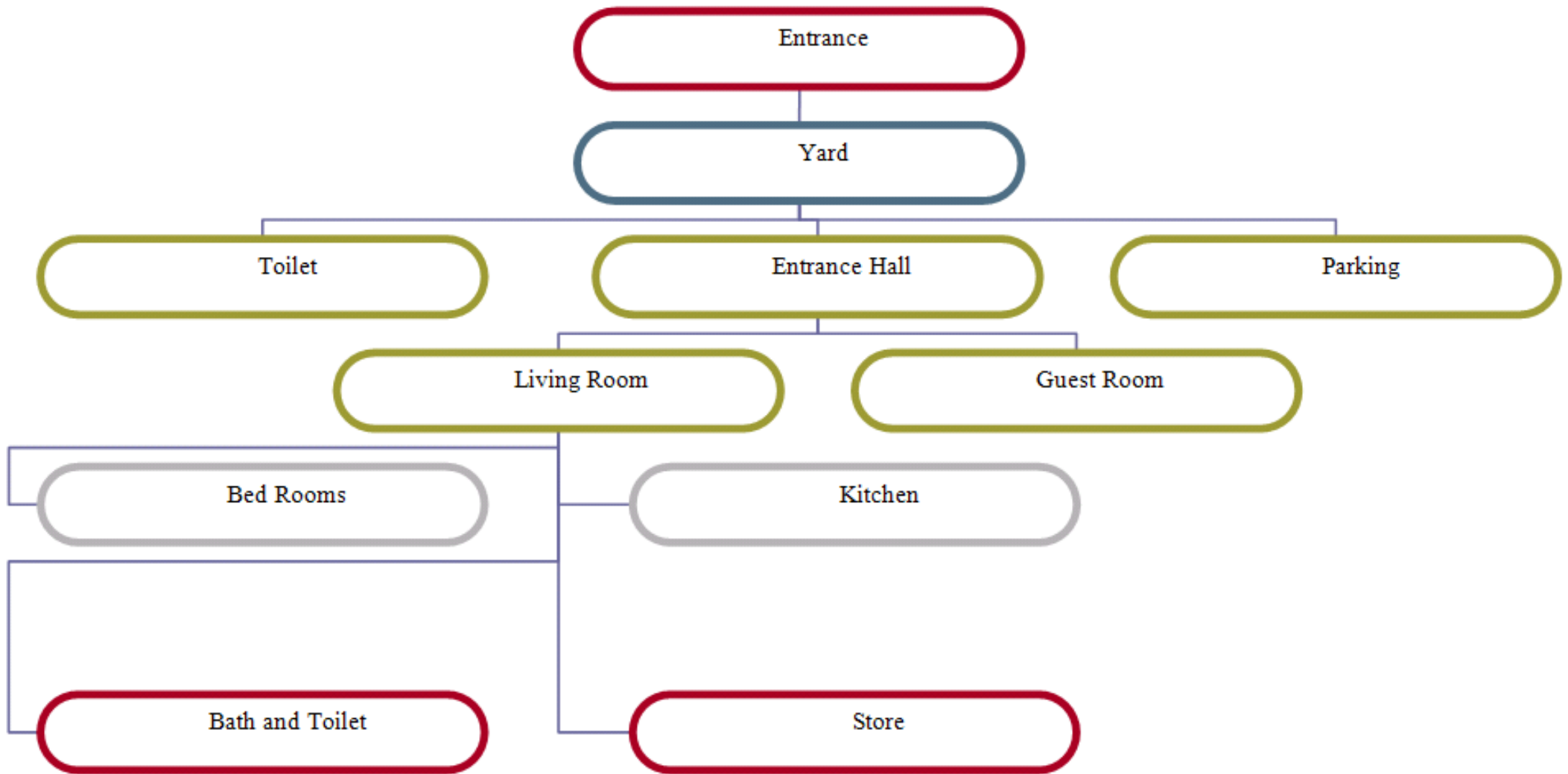
The workshop process is as follows:

1. In **the first two days** the **facilitators and supervisors** were briefed about the workshop and became familiar with the mentioned methods.
2. At **third day** the workshop was started in Bam with the subject of **“house”** to gain information about interior (toilet, kitchen, rooms and lounge) and exterior parts of a house (garden, pond, color, window, materials and entrance). Finally relations between common and private spaces in a house were considered.
3. The workshop was continued at **the fourth day** with the subject of **“school”** to get some information about functions, interior design, furniture, architectural aspects, importance of the entering, green spaces, and existing alternatives in learning facilities, and finally multi functional spaces.
4. **“Playground”** was the subject of **the fifth day**. It considered the scale, color, materials and equipments, plants (type, color, height, smell and etc.) and playing tools (materials and colors).
5. In **the sixth day** some information was collected about **“neighborhood”** like: urban elements and furniture, sense of place, scale, mass, open and closed (outdoor and indoor) spaces and finally proportions.
6. **The seventh day**, i.e. the final working day in Bam, treated the subject of **the “city”**. In this day different aspects of a city were discussed: urban elements, streets, green spaces, hygiene and educational facilities, playgrounds and parks, shops and finally residential spaces.
7. In **the next days**, facilitators **analyzed the results** of the workshop and presented their findings as reports with diagrams, pictures and sketches

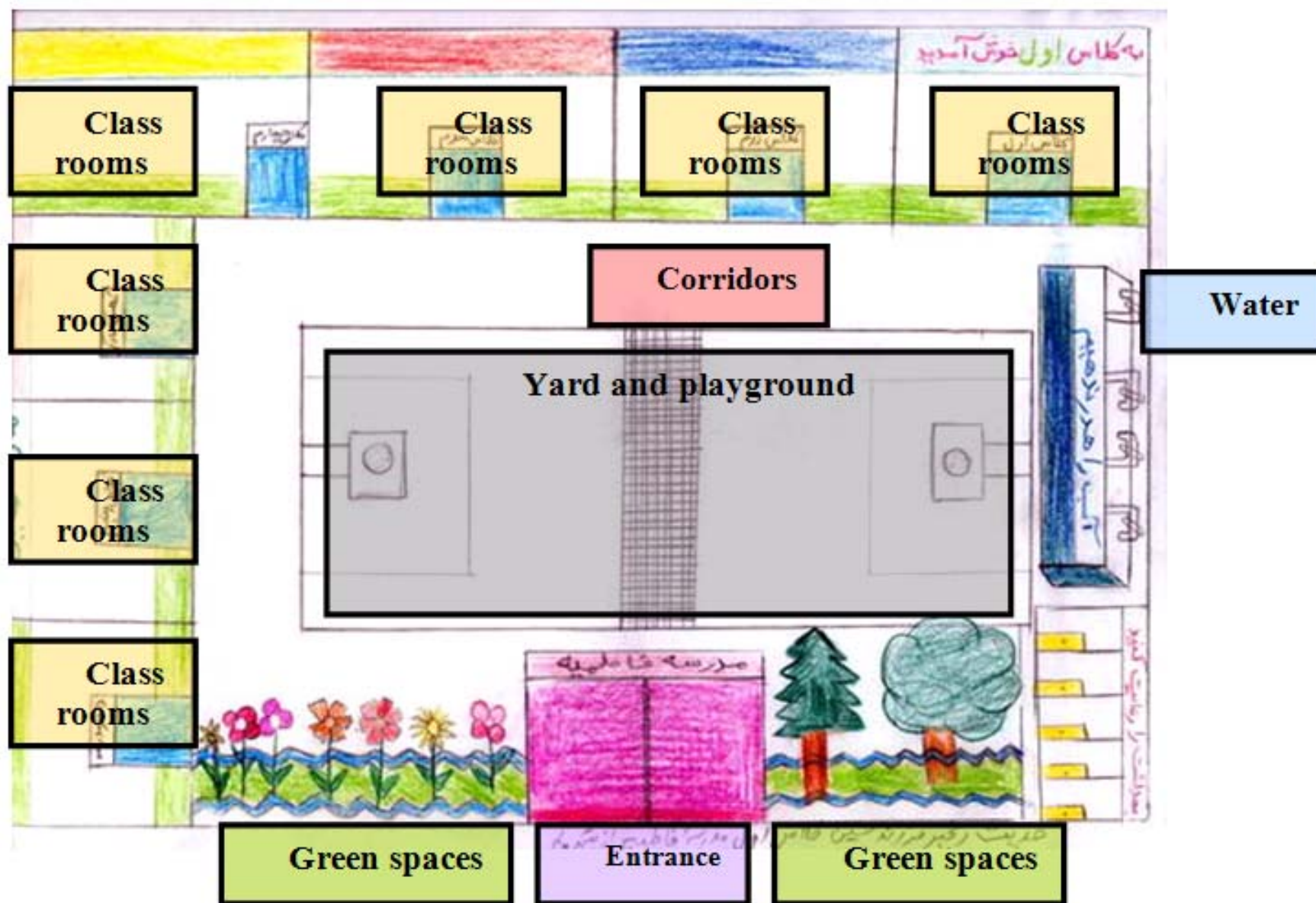
The structure and size of the family



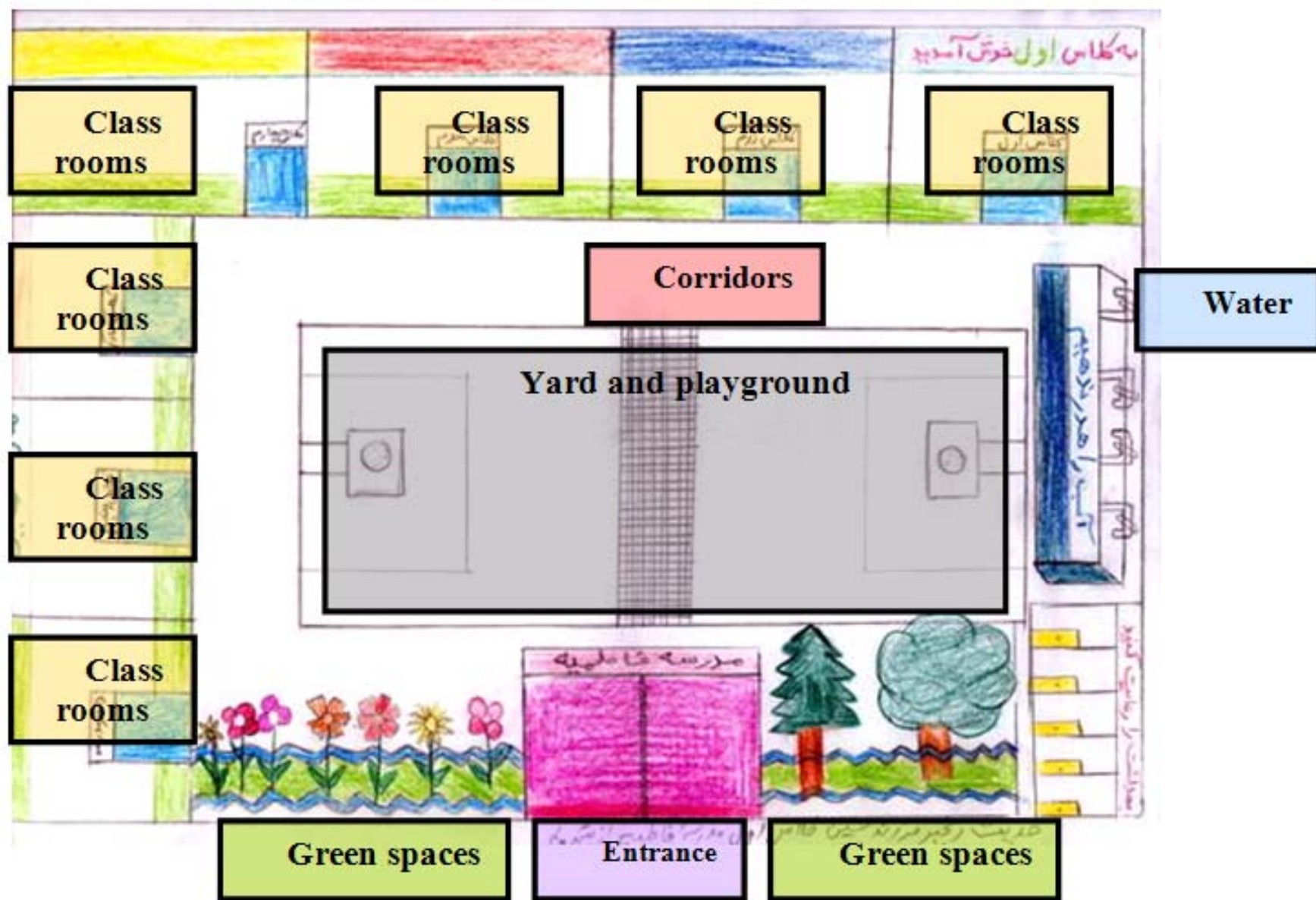
The spaces and sub-spaces of the houses



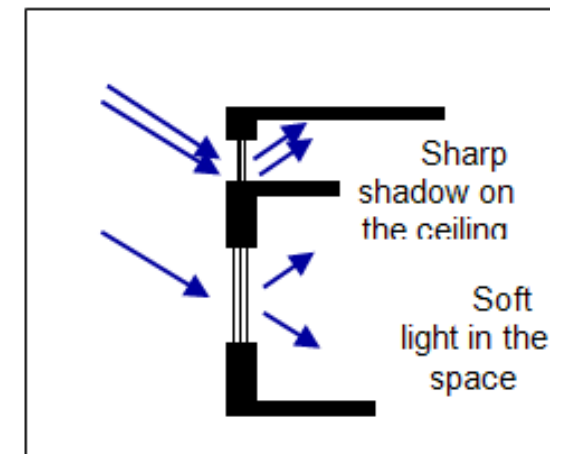
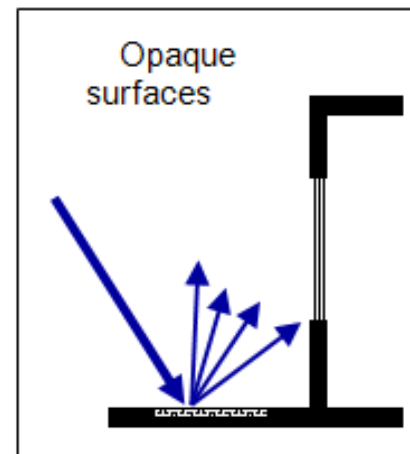
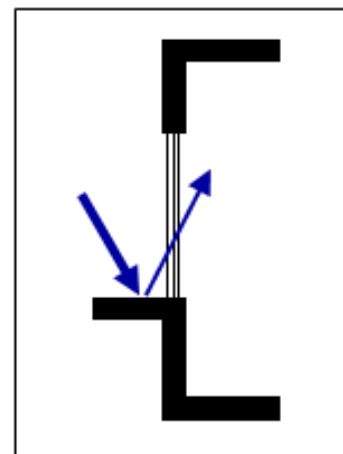
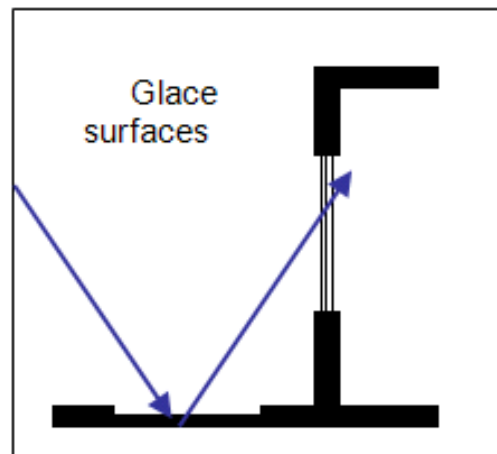
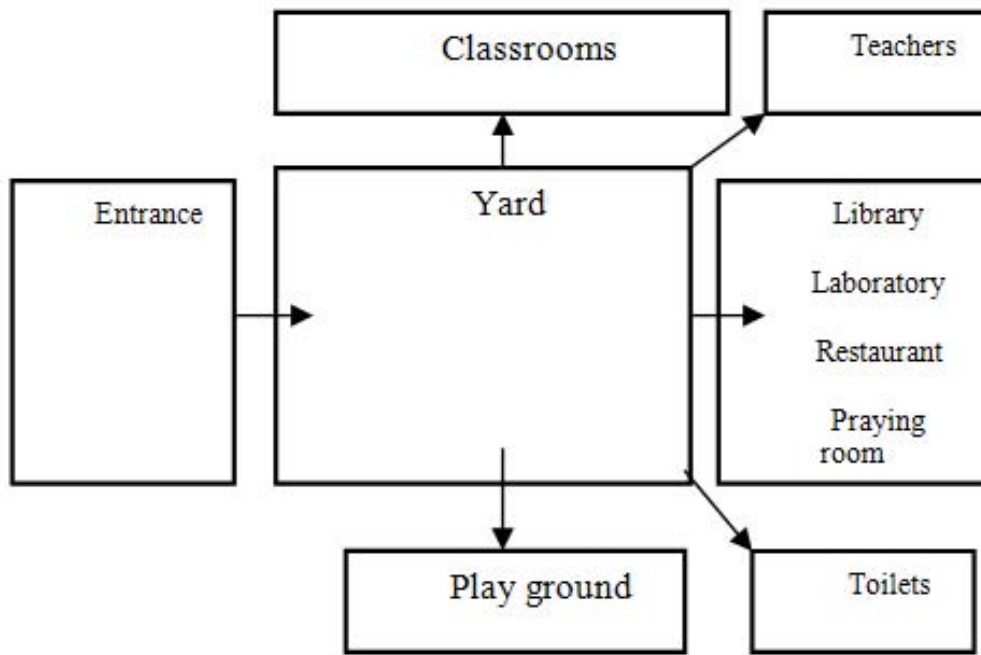
Child Friendly School



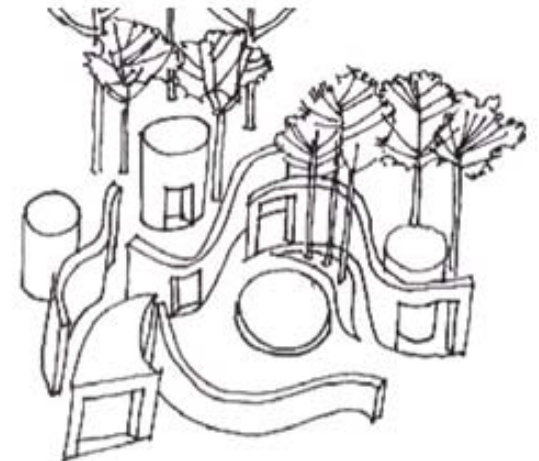
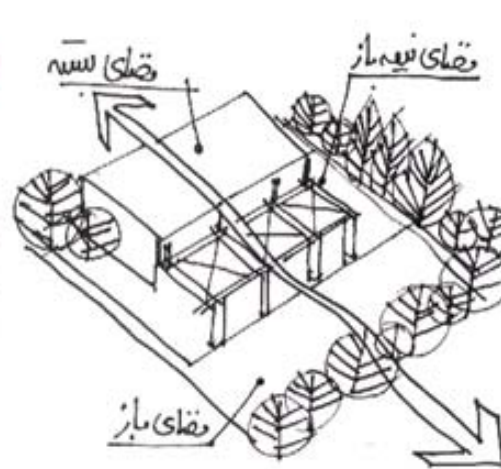
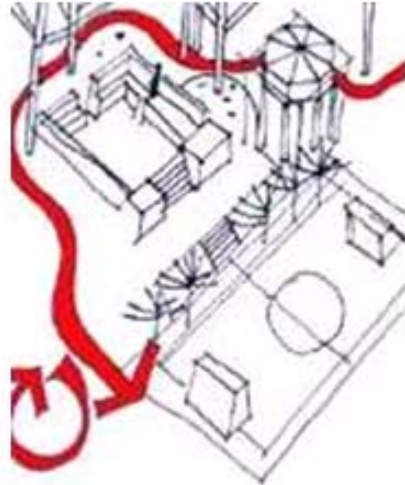
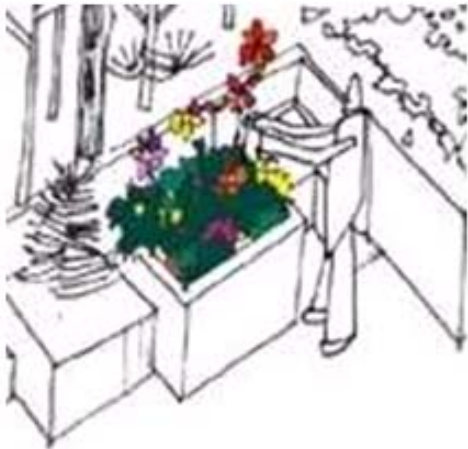
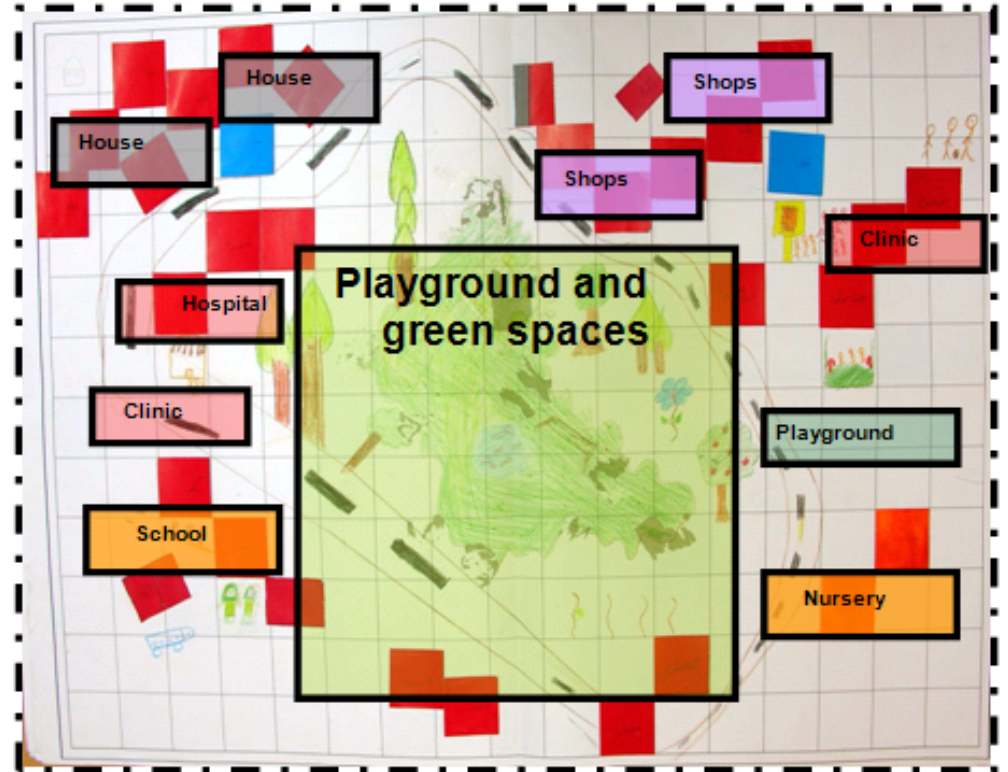
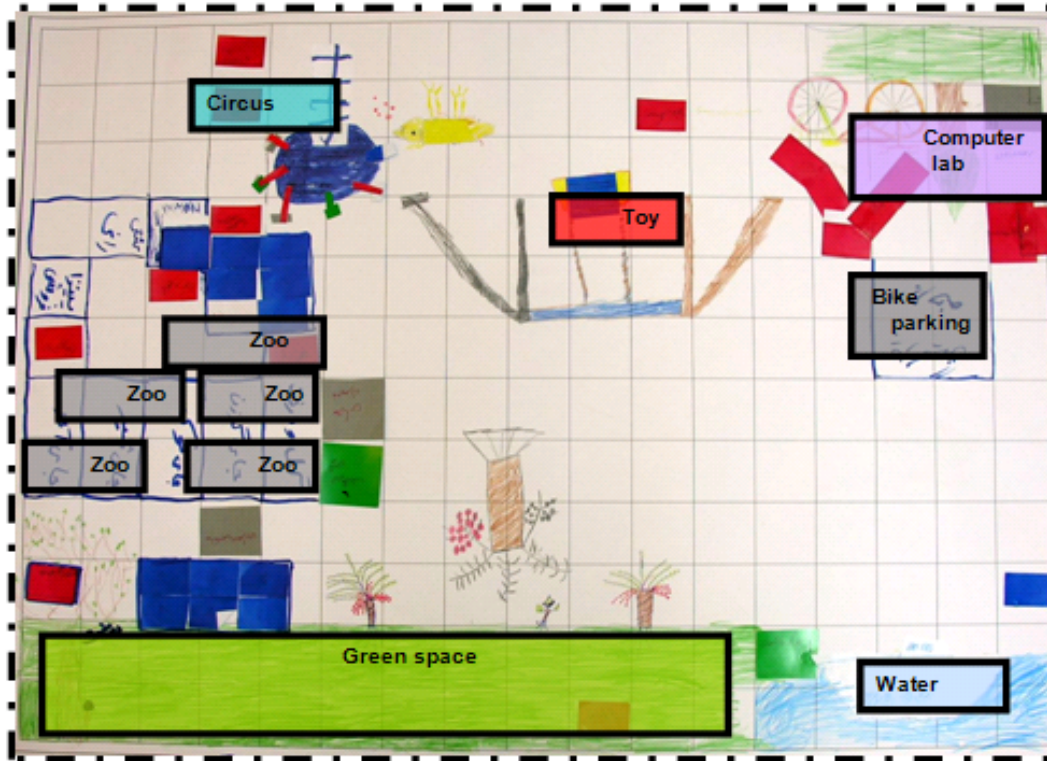
Child Friendly School



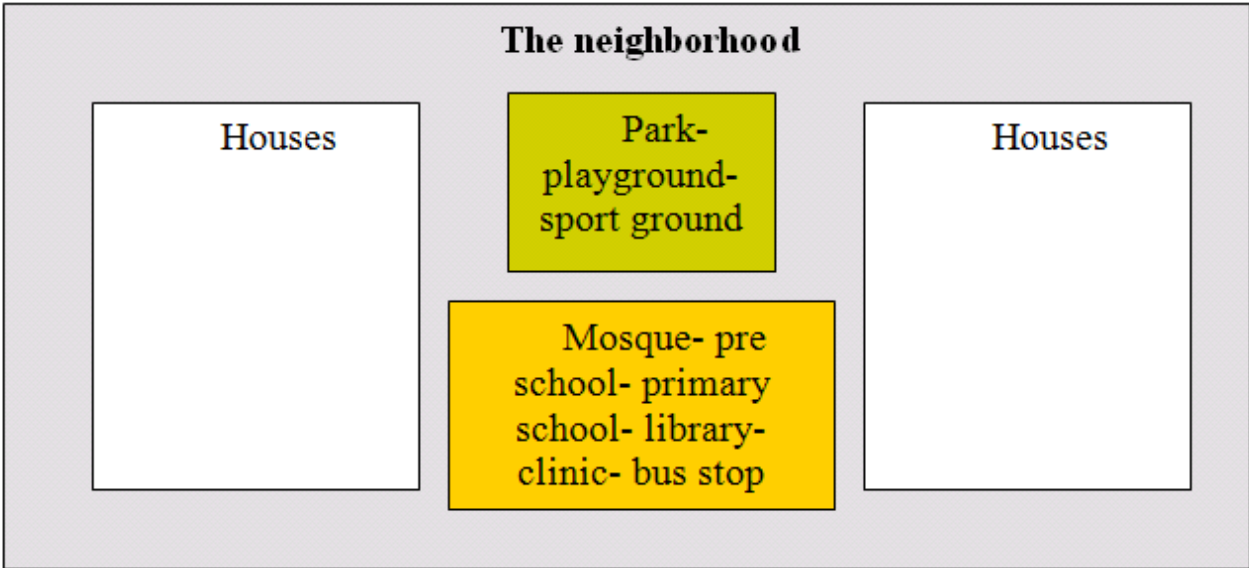
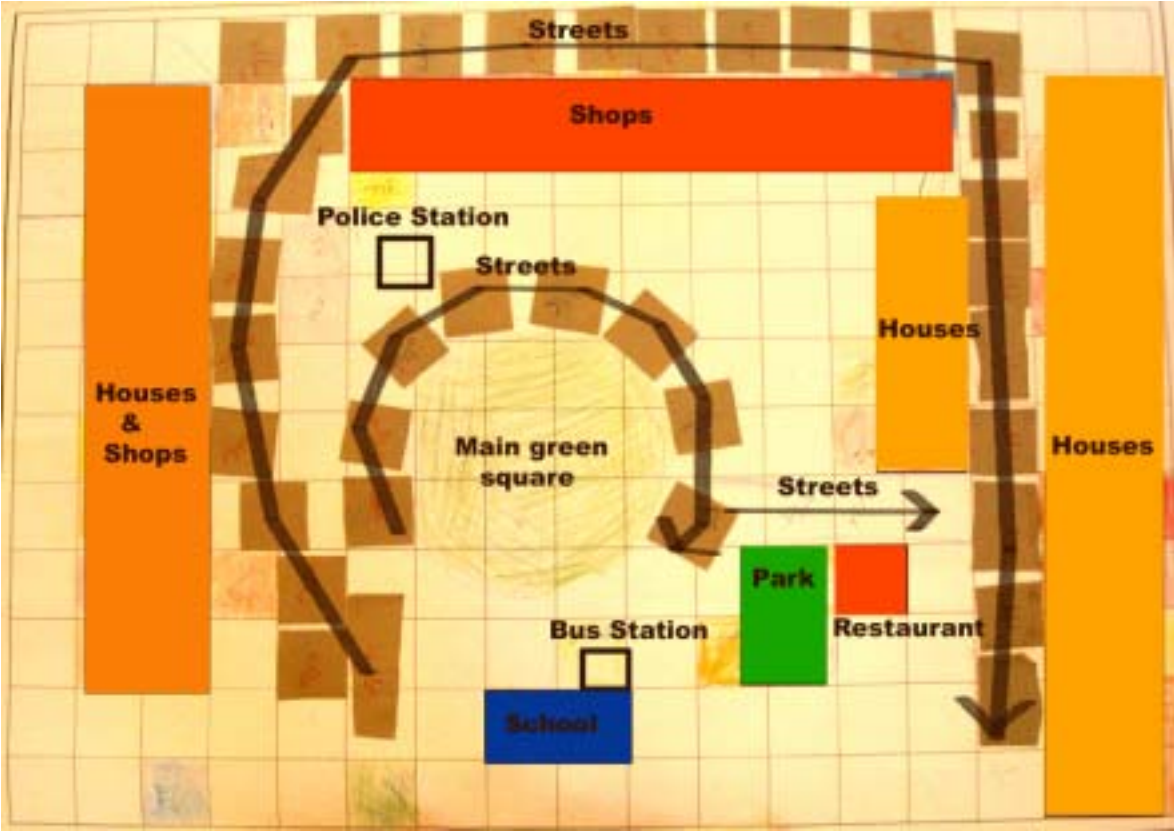
Child Friendly School



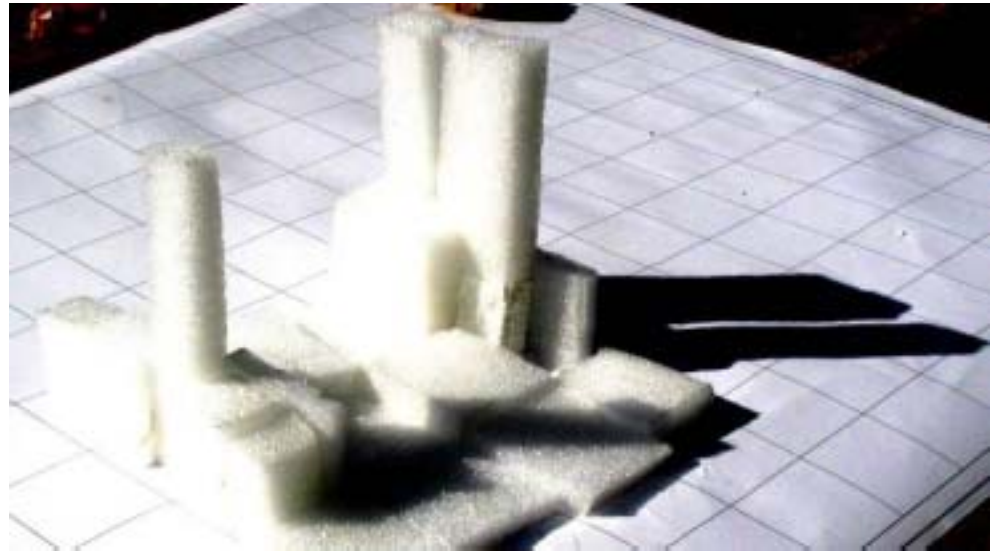
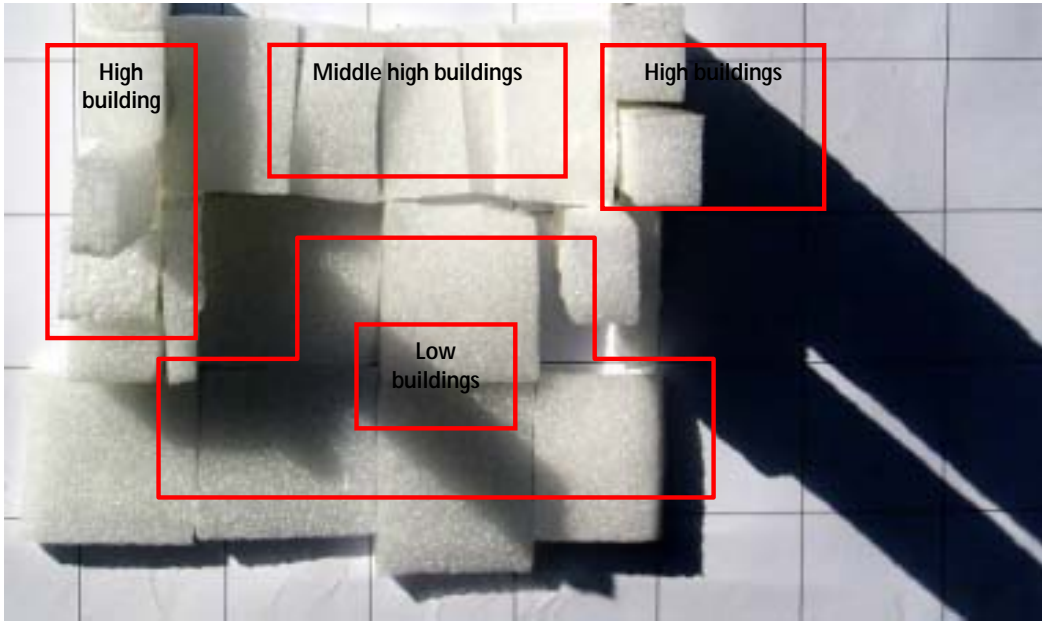
Child Friendly Landscape and Playgrounds



Child Friendly Neighborhood



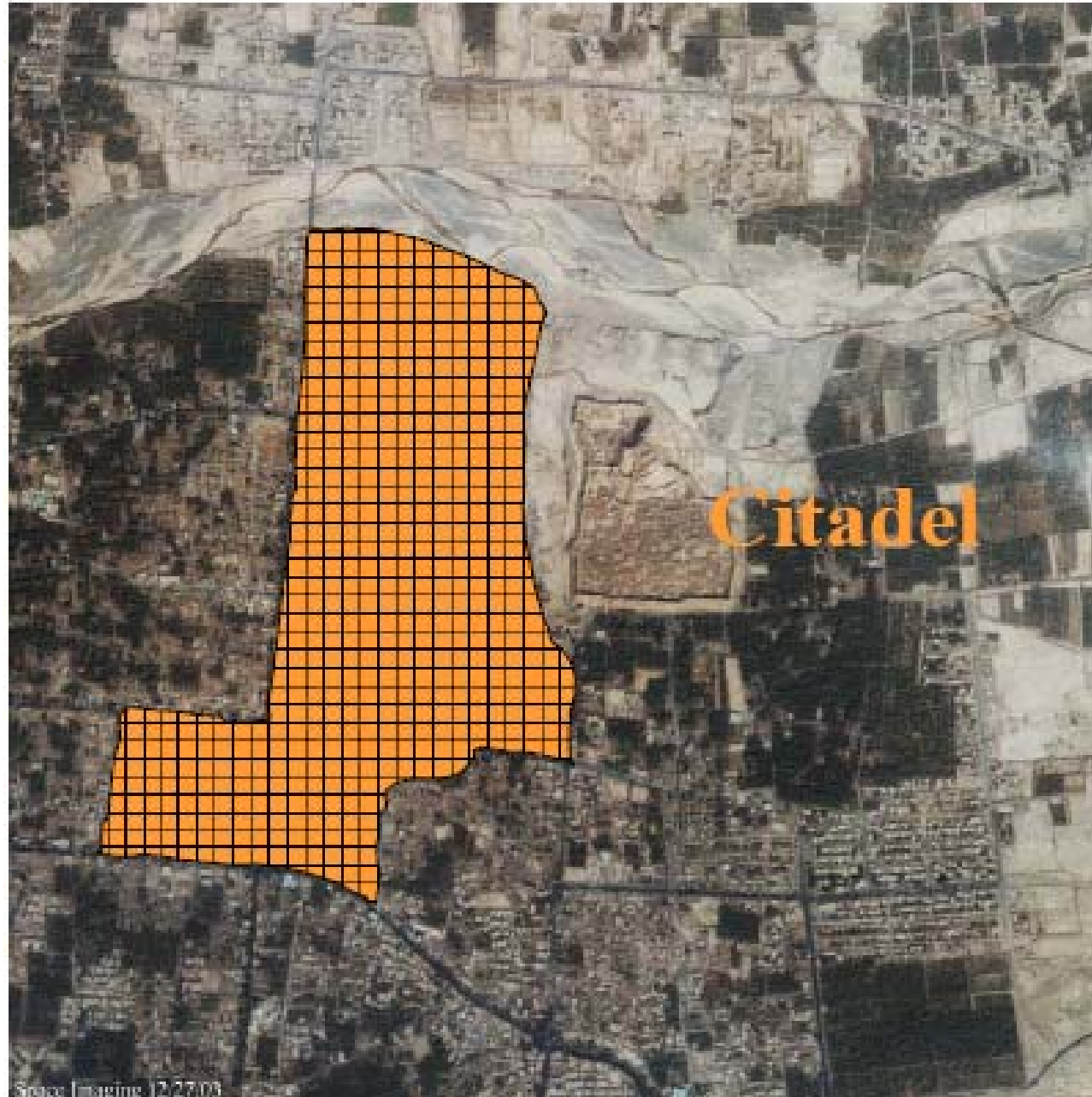
Child Friendly City



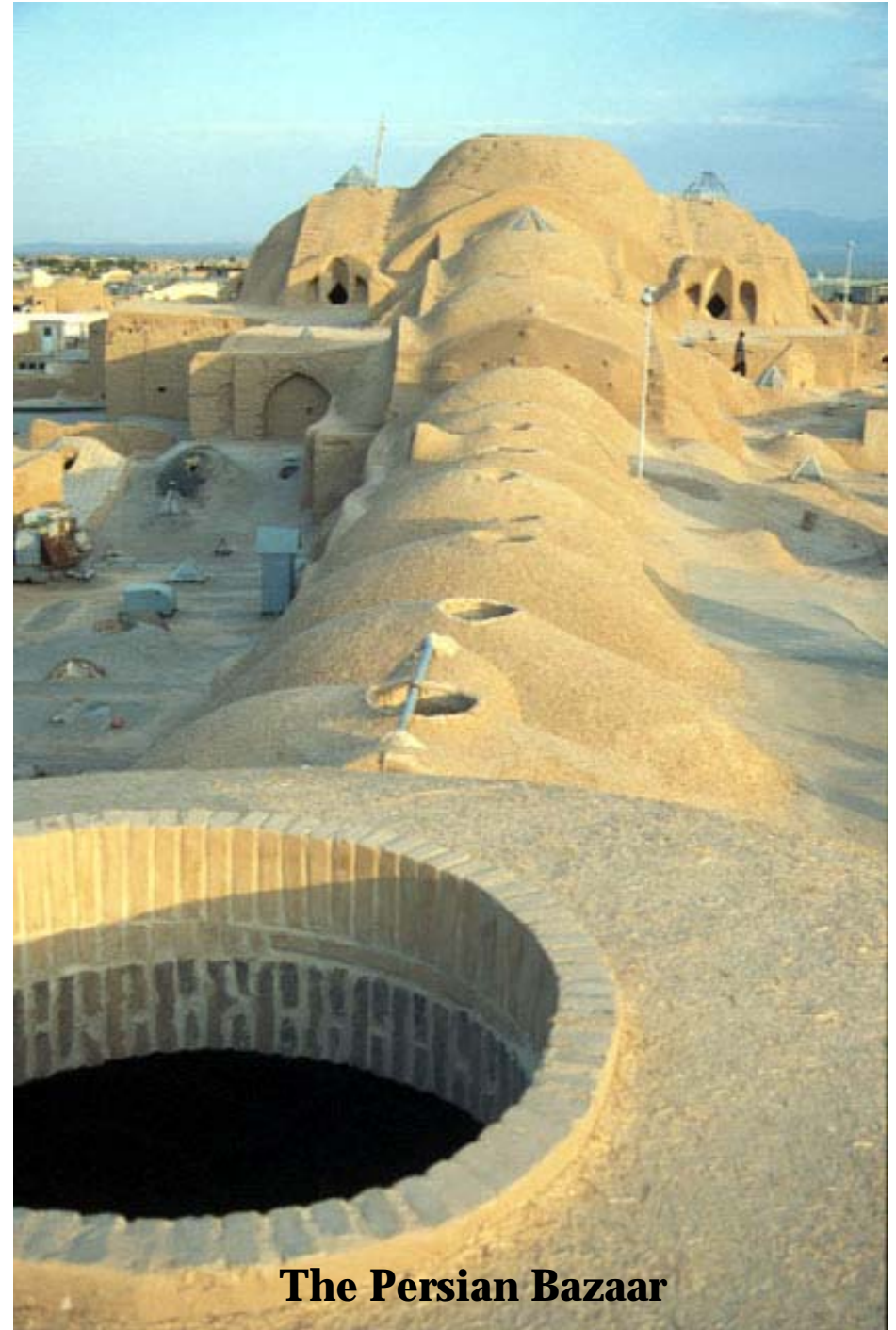
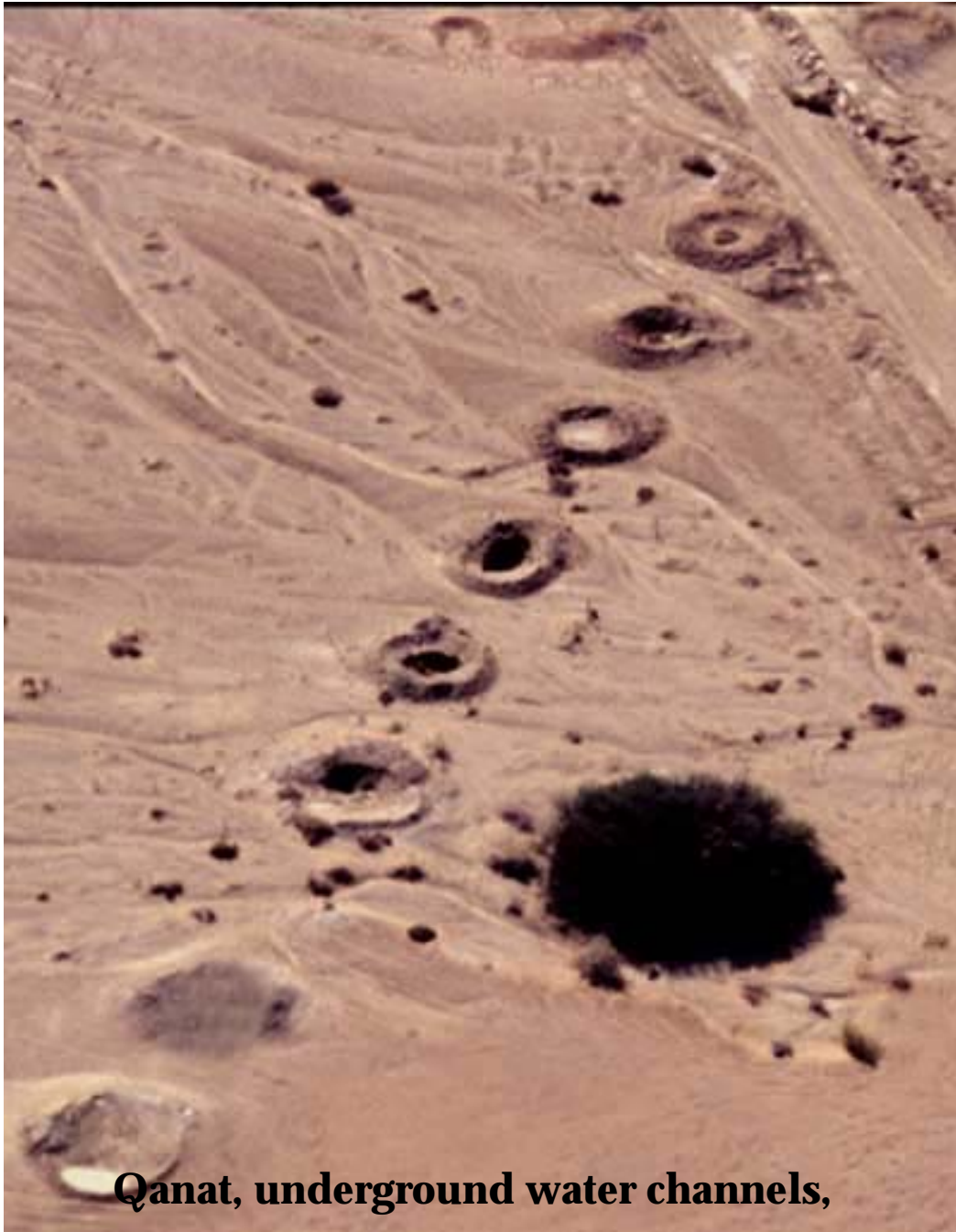
The Outcome of the Workshop

Bam is the only garden-city in Iran and the result of the workshop for more green spaces, surprisingly revealed the importance of accessibility and proximity to the green spaces for children. The participatory decision making highlighted the primitive needs of Bami children, the facts which could never be discovered without people participation. Based on the outcome of the workshop, several child friendly projects have been run in Bam by the municipality.

The Outcome of the Workshop



The Green Network Concept



The Green Network Concept

URBAN GREEN ROUTES:

1. Linear parks
2. Greened Streets
3. The street Plaza
4. Shared use spaces
5. The Pedestrian and transit mall

POTENTIAL VALUE OF THE INTER-NEIGHBOURHOOD GREEN NETWORK:

1. Health and wellbeing values
2. Social Value
3. Environmental values
4. Physical Values

On-going research



On-going Research



Conclusion

The 'green route/network' has been proposed as an accessible form of green spaces which can accompany everyday life with leisure in order to support public use, security especially for children, with a high level of surveillance. It has been discussed that how the proposed green space can fulfil the common expectation such as social, health and physical values as well as the need of children who can use it in their everyday life. The main conclusion of this study could be that in semi-arid cities such as Bam, the development policy of green space to make them more useful and supportive for public use is much more important than the quantity of the green spaces which could be neglected by the lack of sufficient access. By identifying the needs of people, through participation, it would be possible to get the most benefit with the least cost through fulfilling their needs directly by proper approaches of planning and design.

Another important point is the decisions could be made by the authorities based on the participation. Although the proposed green network is done by architects and urban planners, it has indeed people support which made it easier to be accepted in the municipality. It was by the workshop and people participation that the municipality could make the sense of unity in the community and attracts people's trust in renewing the city. The result of the workshop is more than one proposal indeed however, the green network discussed above is just an example of its benefits.