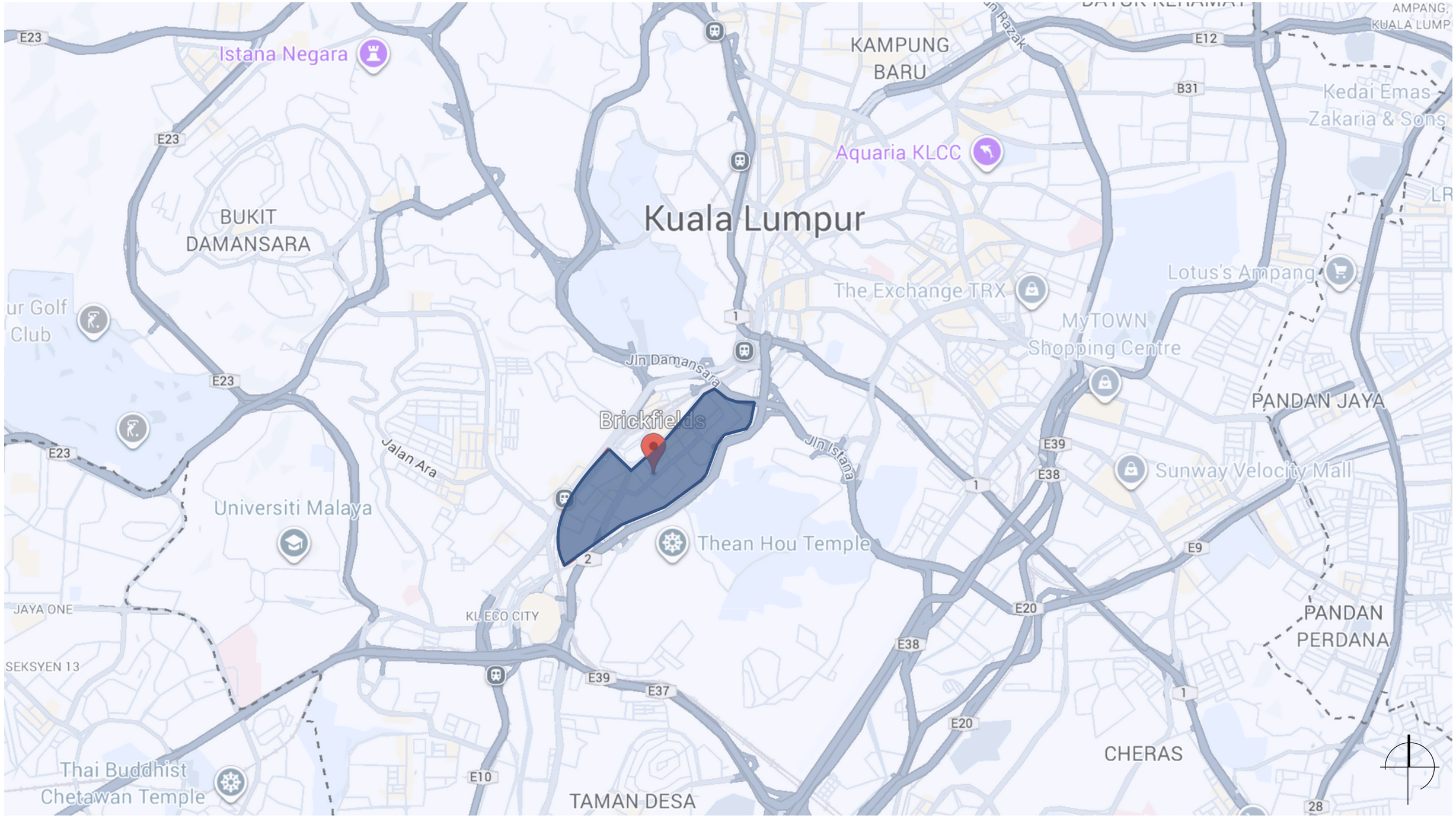
ZONE A

PHASE I

SITE DATA COLLECTION

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN V

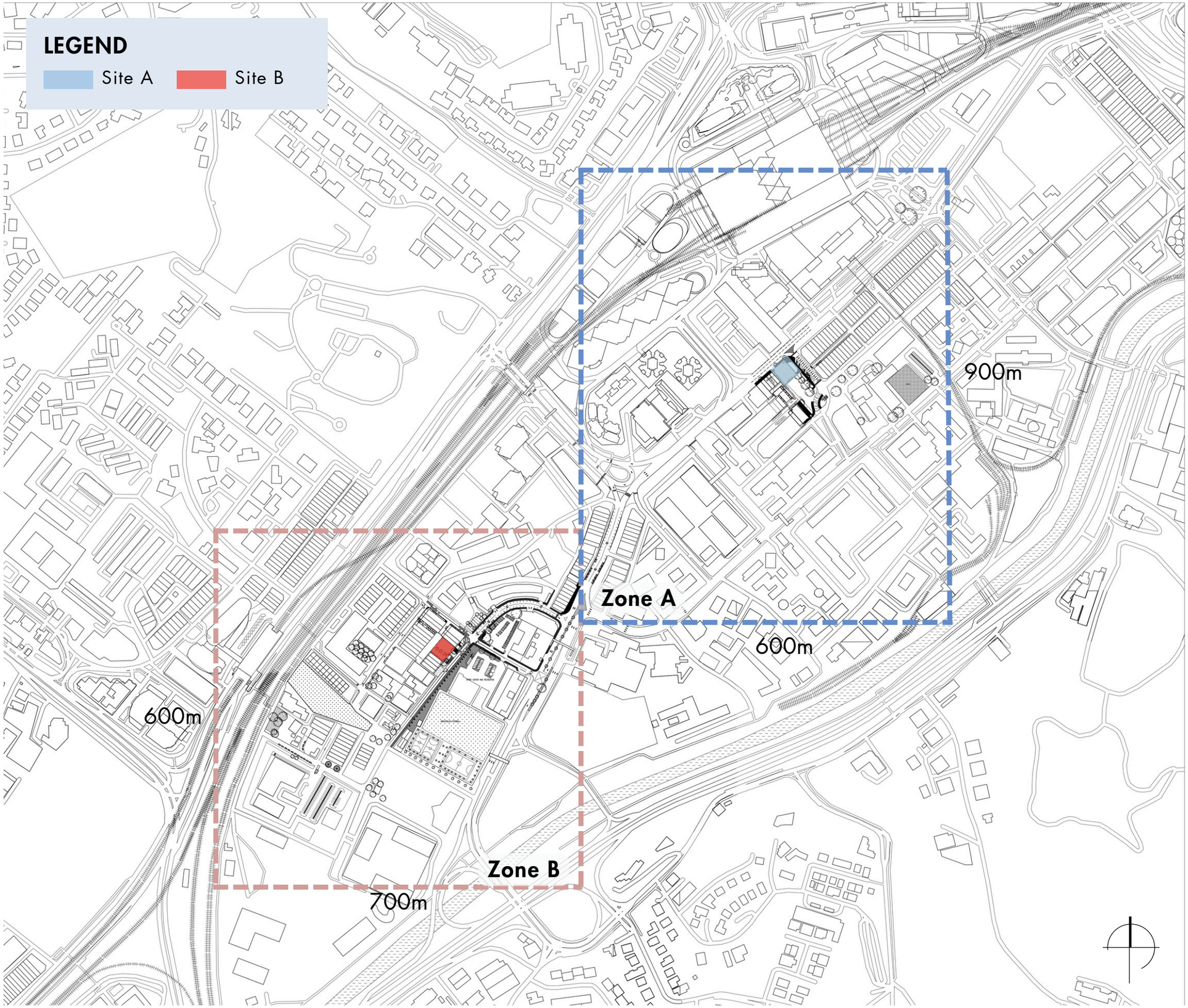
TASK 0 - KEY PLAN



Brickfields holds a strong urban position as the gateway to Kuala Lumpur through KL Sentral, the city's main transport hub. Known as "Little India," it blends cultural heritage, temples, and hawker stalls with modern landmarks like NU Sentral, attracting commuters, office workers, and tourists.

The area's mix of old shophouses and new developments reflects both tradition and change, positioning Brickfields as a key connector between the historic city core and nearby districts such as Bangsar and Mid Valley.

TASK 0 - LOCATION PLAN

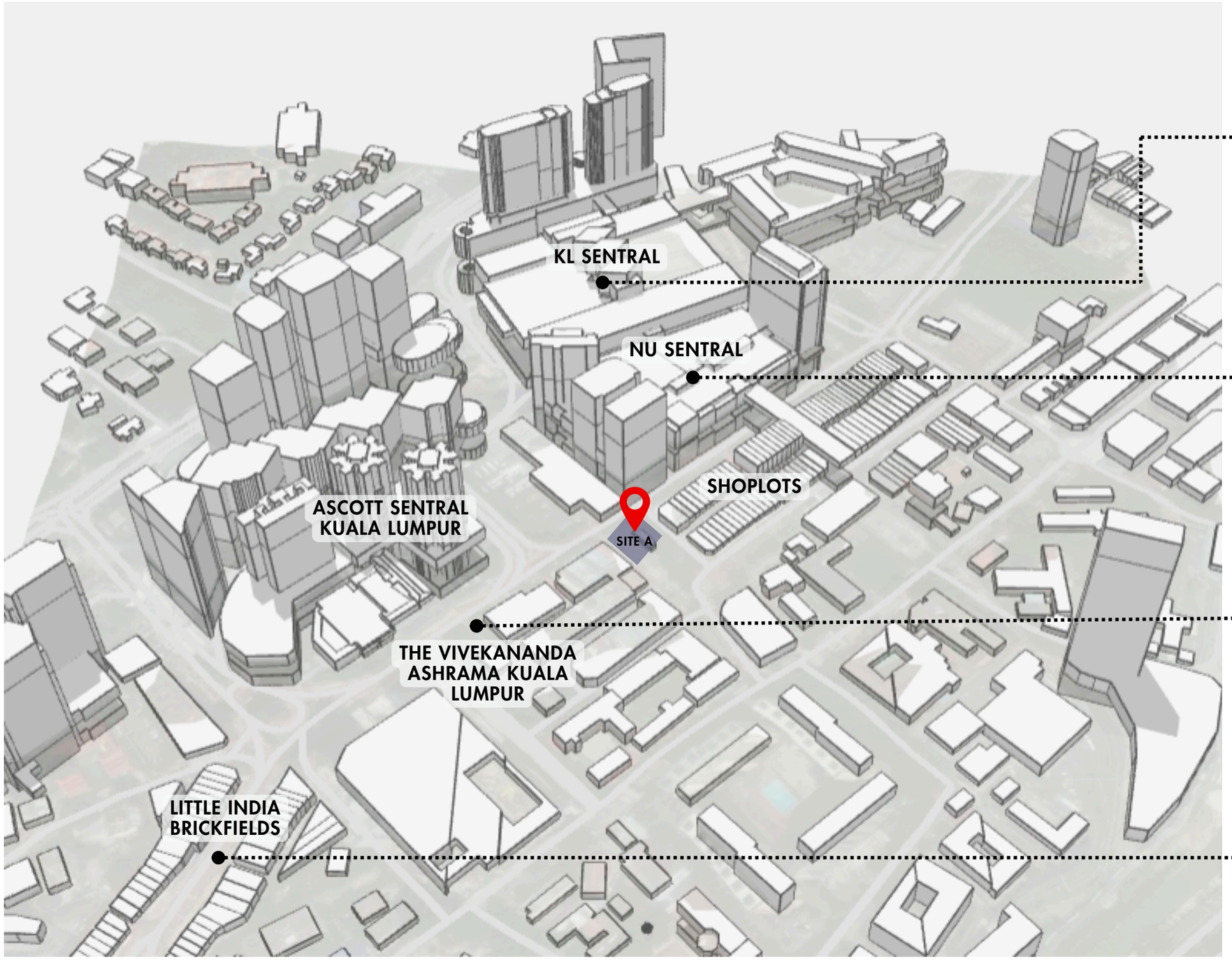


Highlights the wider urban context, with **Zone A**, KL Sentral, and nearby shoplots serving as key anchors shaping the surrounding site activities.

KL Sentral and its surrounding buildings act as a **major node** of daily activity, and **Little India**'s local **culture** creating strong potential for our site to connect with **community life** and **economic vibrancy**.

The site's proximity to KL Sentral and Little India creates a **blend of traditional and modern** activity zones within the area.

TASK 0 - OVERVIEW OF 3D MACROSITE



IMAGES OF SITE

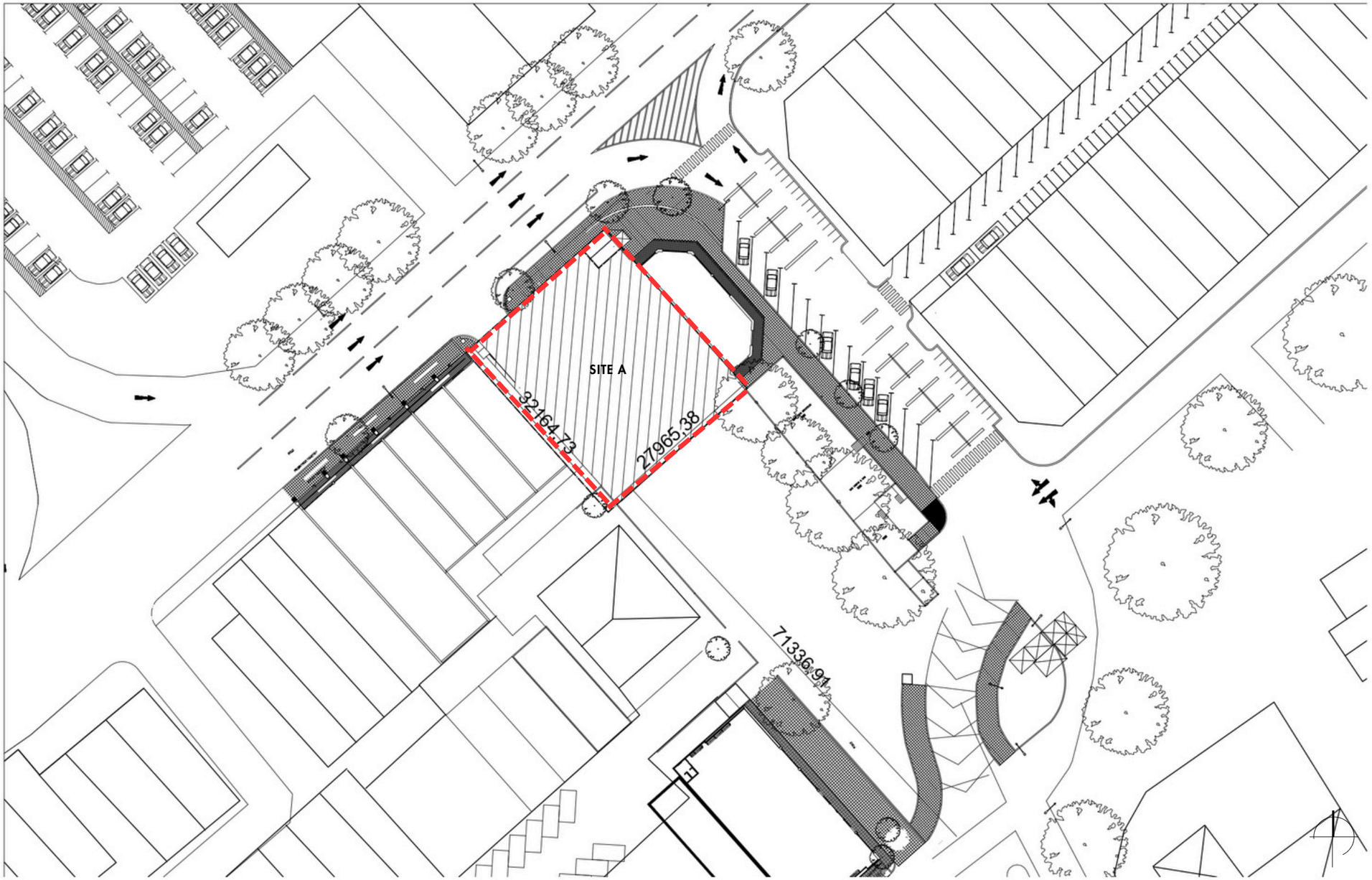








TASK 0 - MICROSITE PLAN



Currently used as a **private parking lot**.

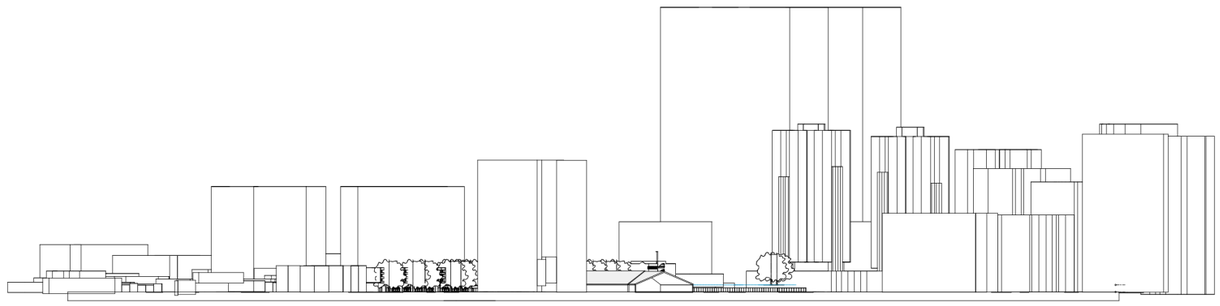
Very close to KL Sentral and Nu Sentral, which is a major transit hub in Kuala Lumpur.

Surrounded **mainly by commercial** activity with **some residential** presence. There are many shops, small businesses, offices and law / professional services in the vicinity.

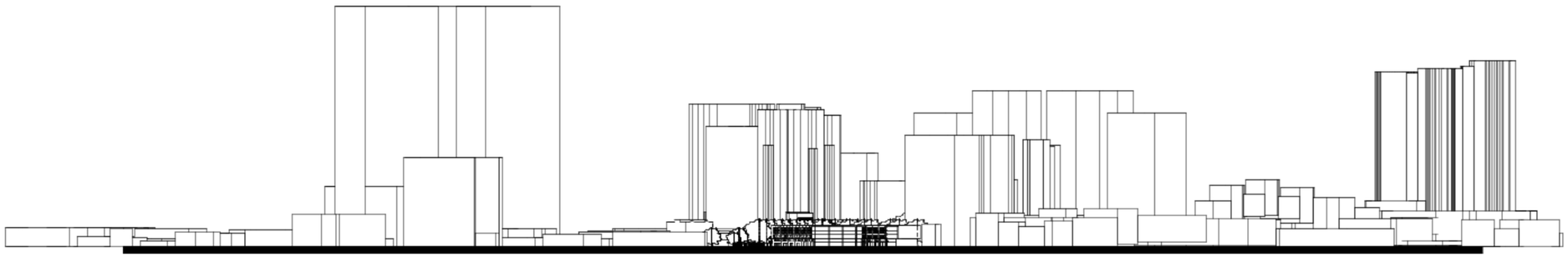
Sits within Brickfields' vibrant "Little India," known for its **cultural and urban mix**.

TASK 0 - MICROSITE ELEVATIONS

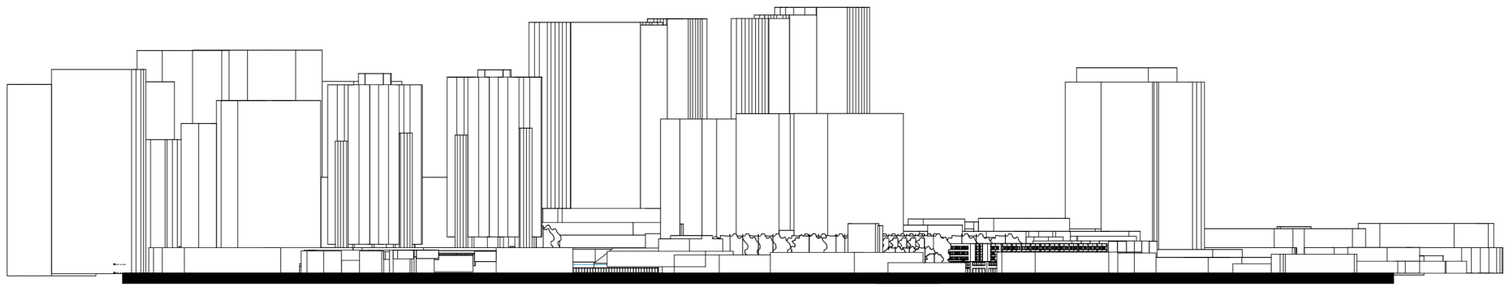
NORTH ELEVATION



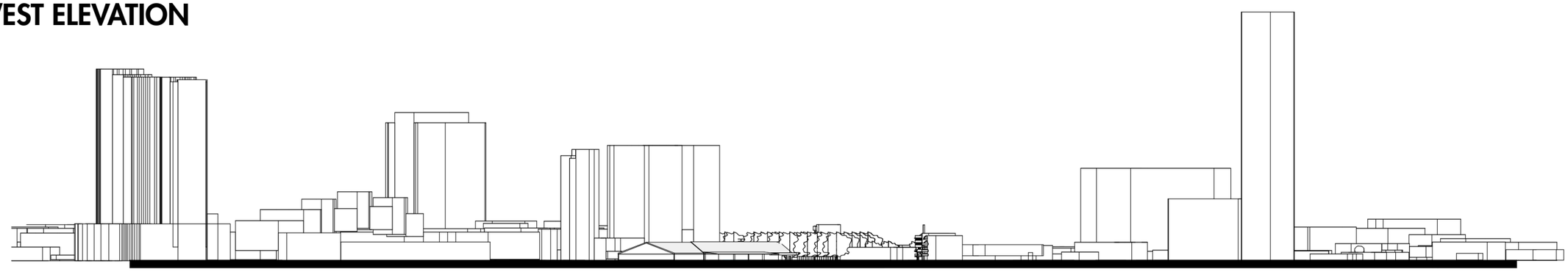
EAST ELEVATION



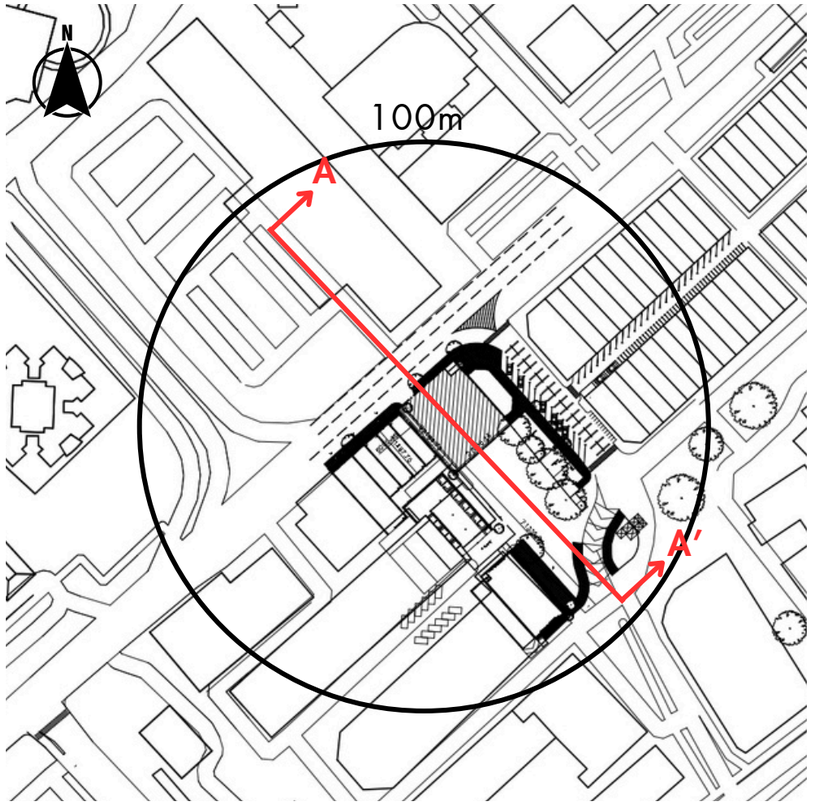
SOUTH ELEVATION



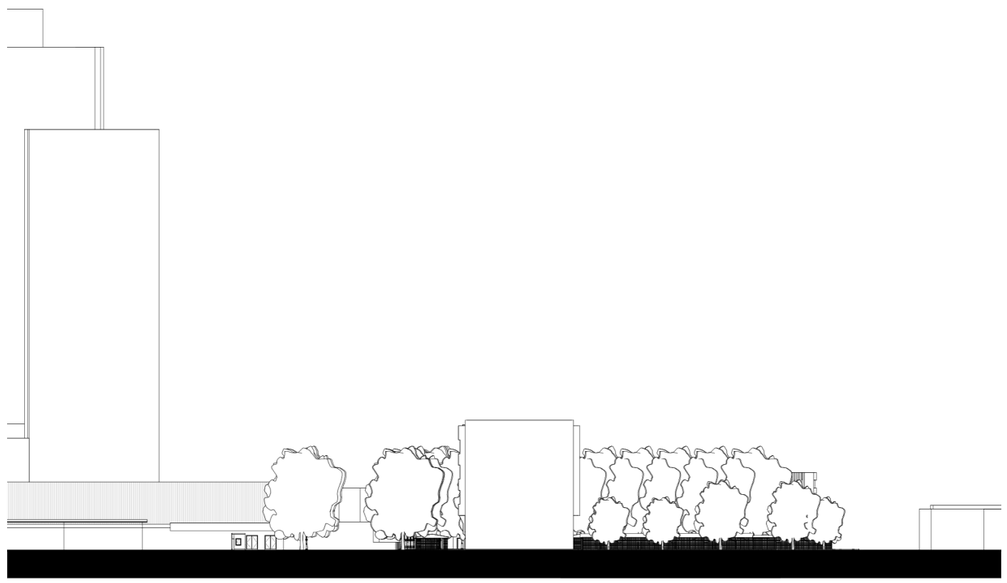
WEST ELEVATION

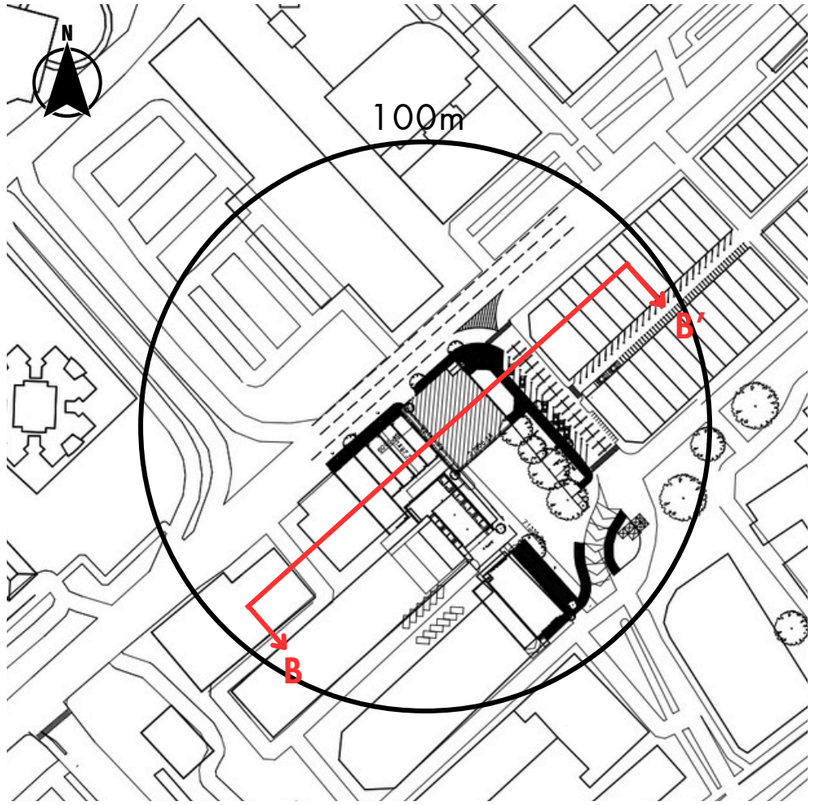


TASK 0 - MICROSITE SECTIONS

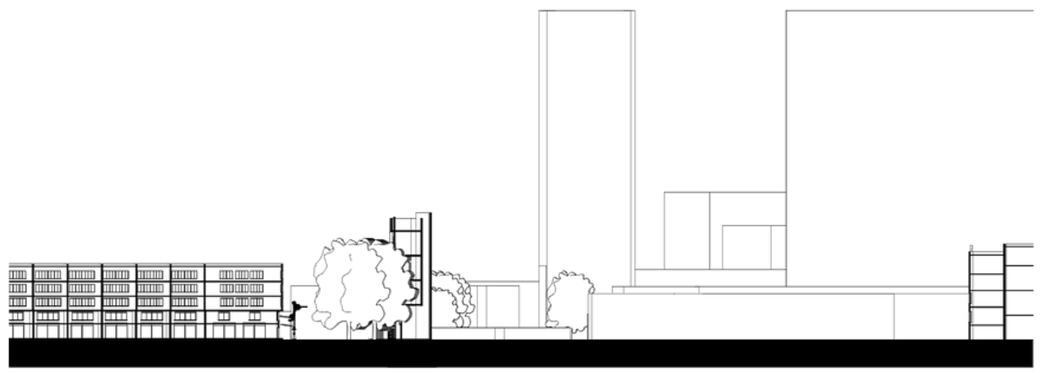


SECTION A-A'





SECTION B-B'



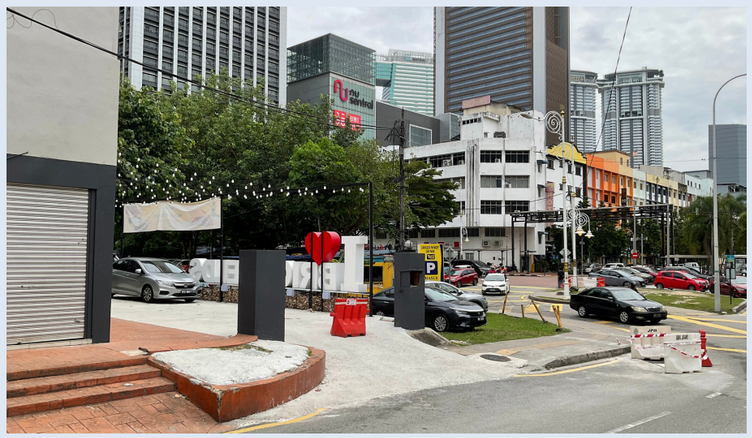
TASK 0 - SITE A IMAGES



NORTH VIEW



EAST VIEW



SOUTH VIEW



WEST VIEW

TASK 0 - SITE A IMAGES



NORTH EAST VIEW



NORTH WEST VIEW



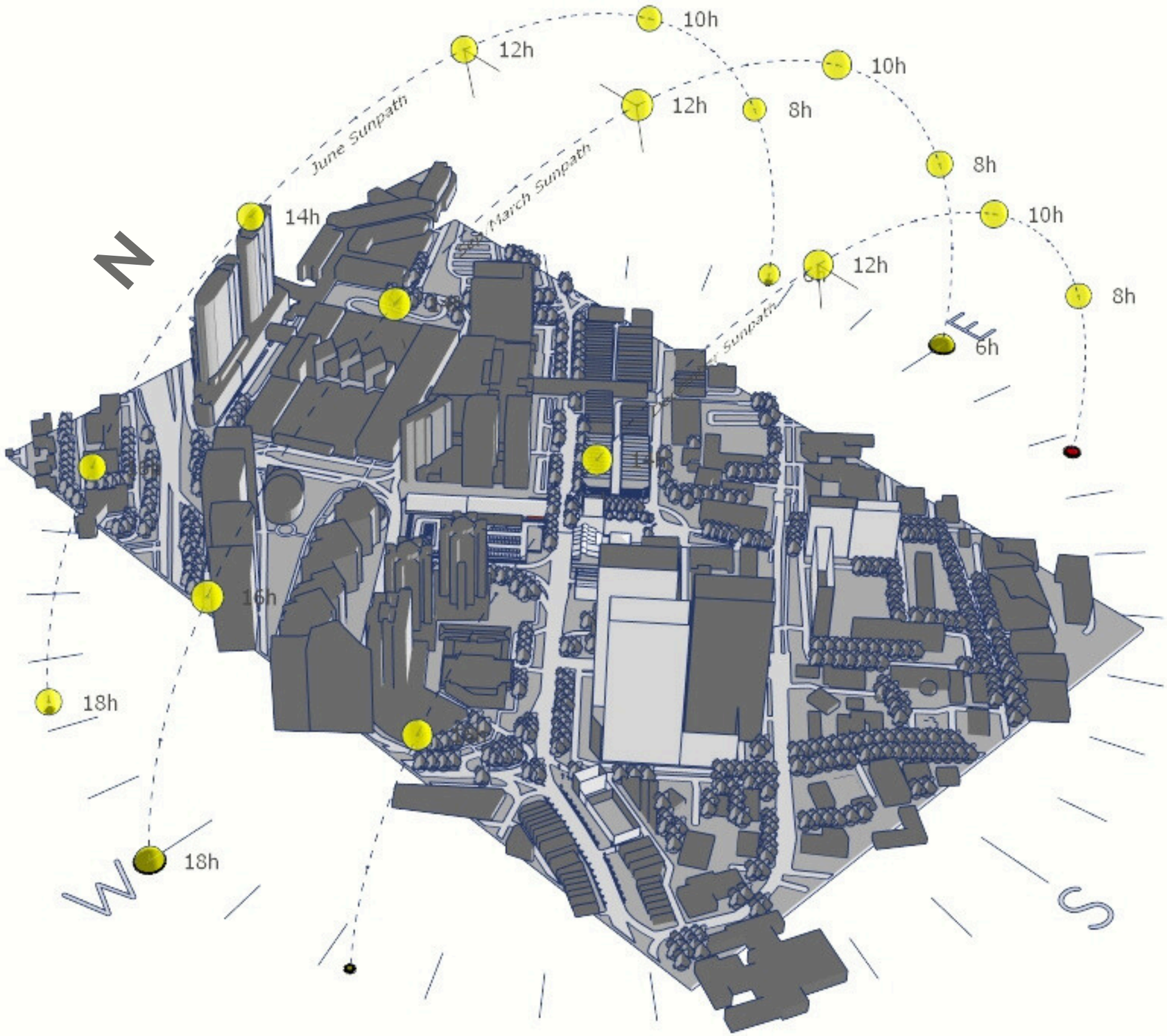
SOUTH EAST VIEW



SOUTH WEST VIEW

TASK 0 - ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

ZONE A : SUNPATH



TASK 0 - ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

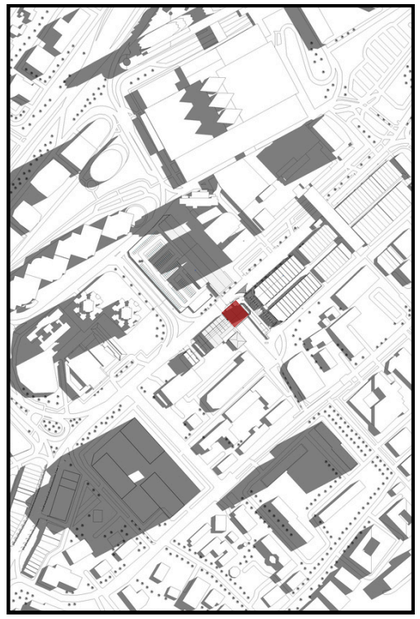
ZONE A : SHADOW ANALYSIS (SUMMER SOLSTICE)

N

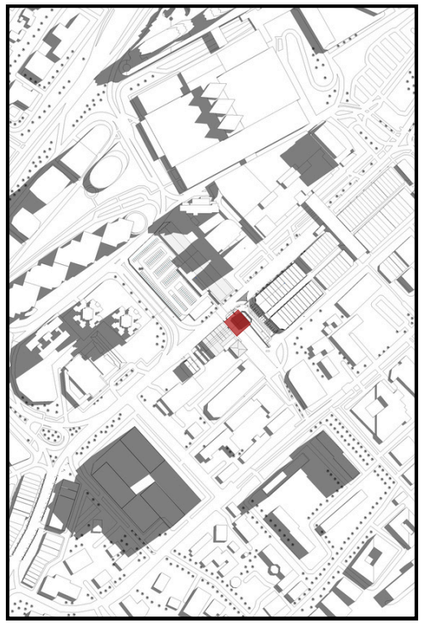
9AM



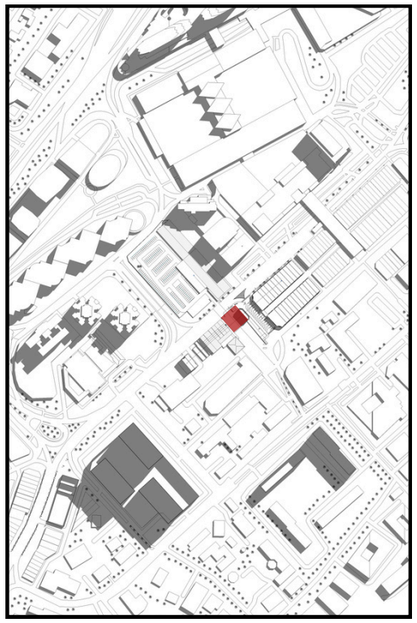
10AM



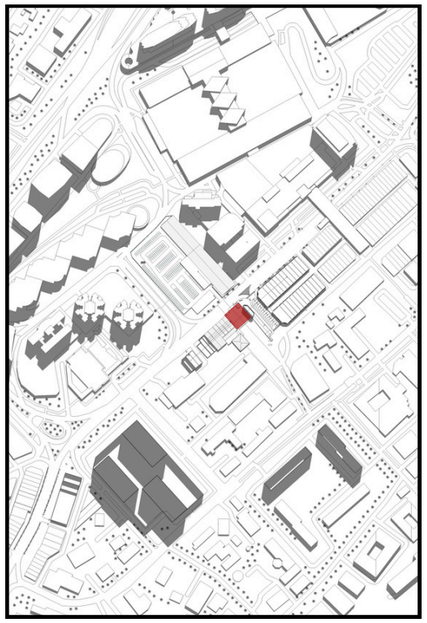
11AM



12PM



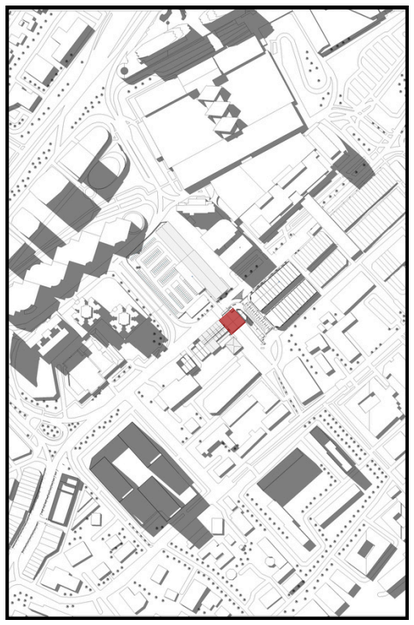
1PM



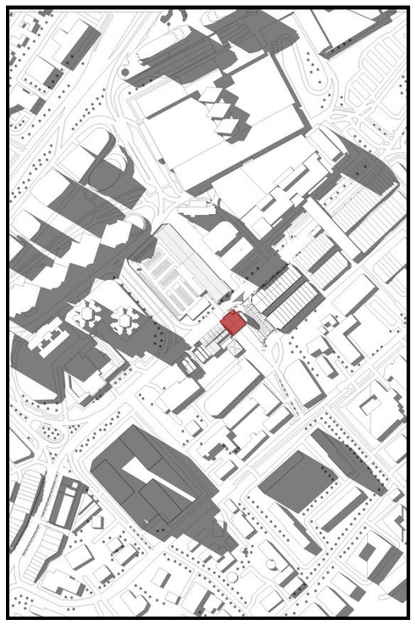
2PM



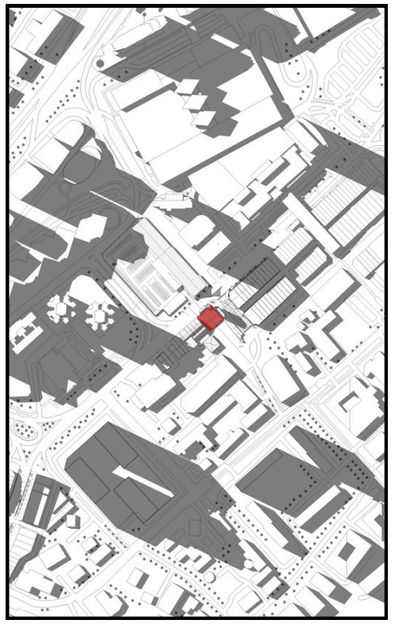
3PM



4PM



5PM



6PM



TASK 0 - ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

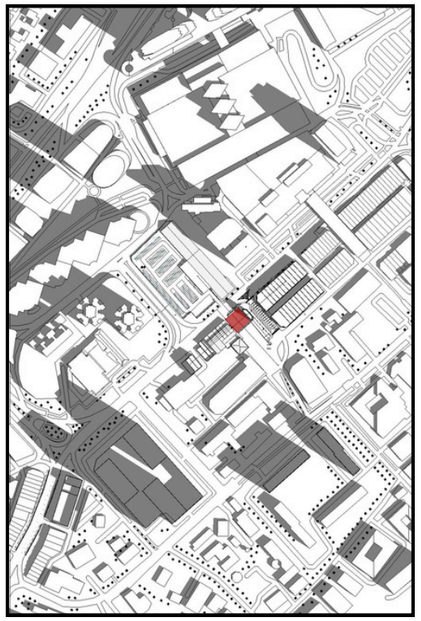
ZONE A : SHADOW ANALYSIS (WINTER SOLSTICE)

N

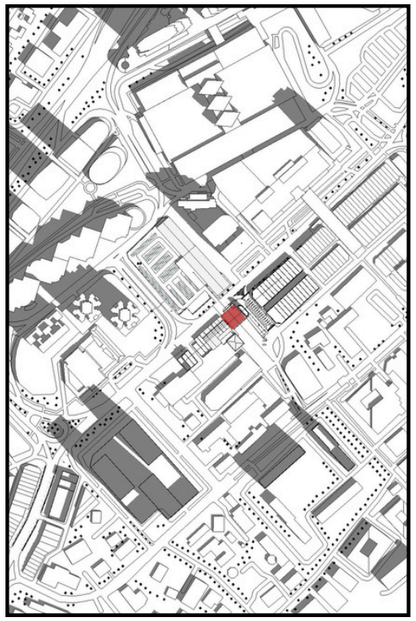
9AM



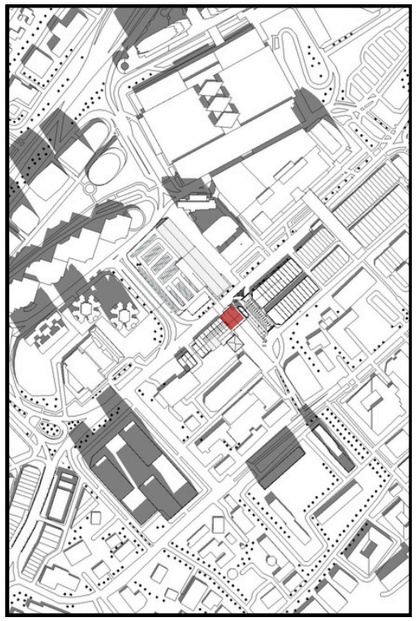
10AM



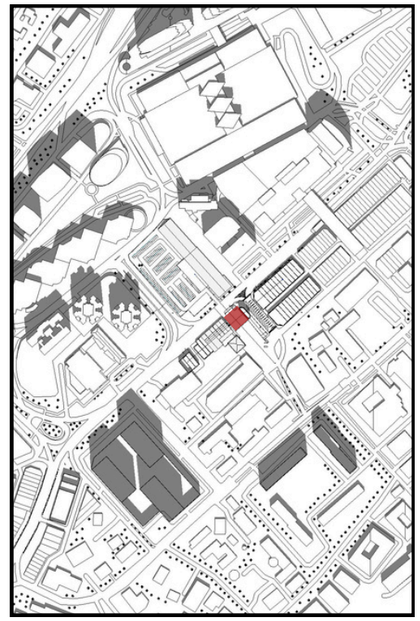
11AM



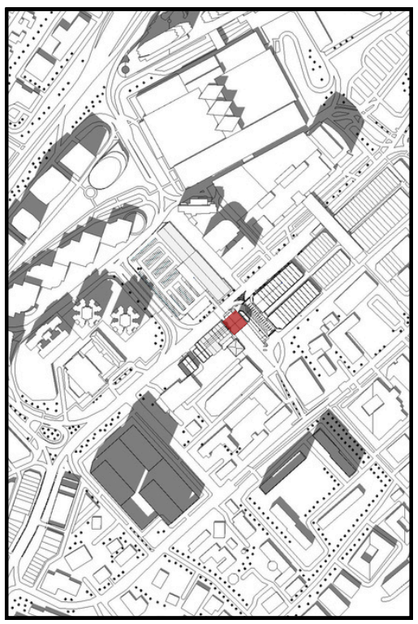
12PM



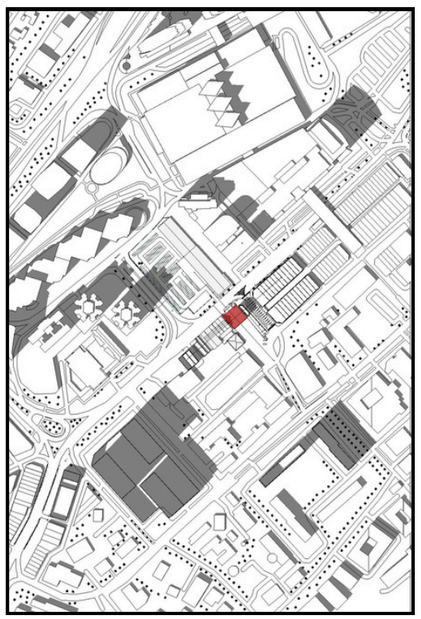
1PM



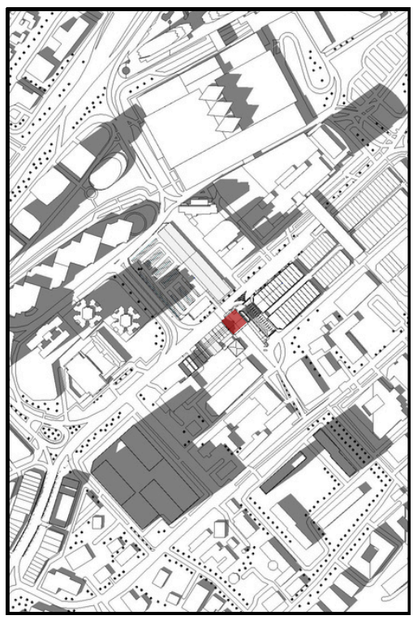
2PM



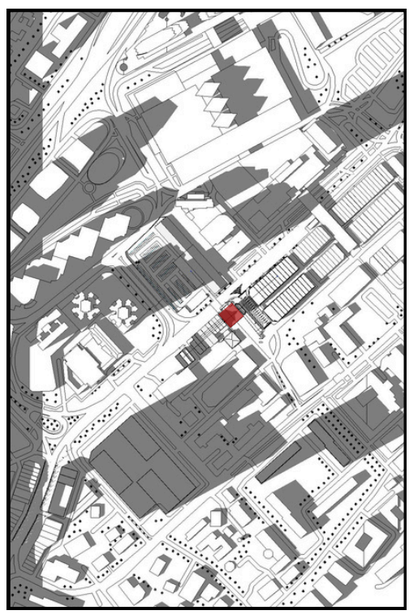
3PM



4PM



5PM

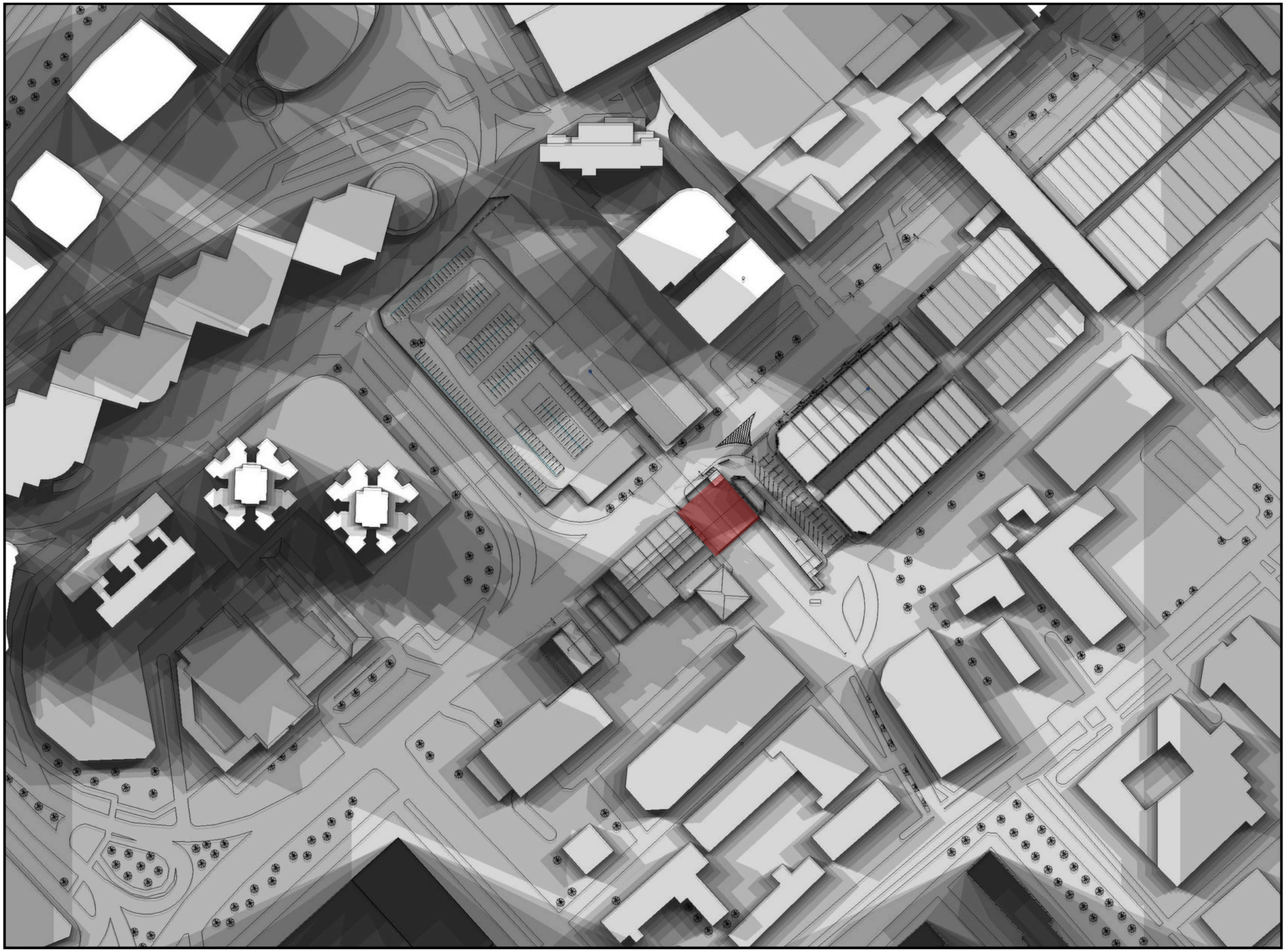


6PM



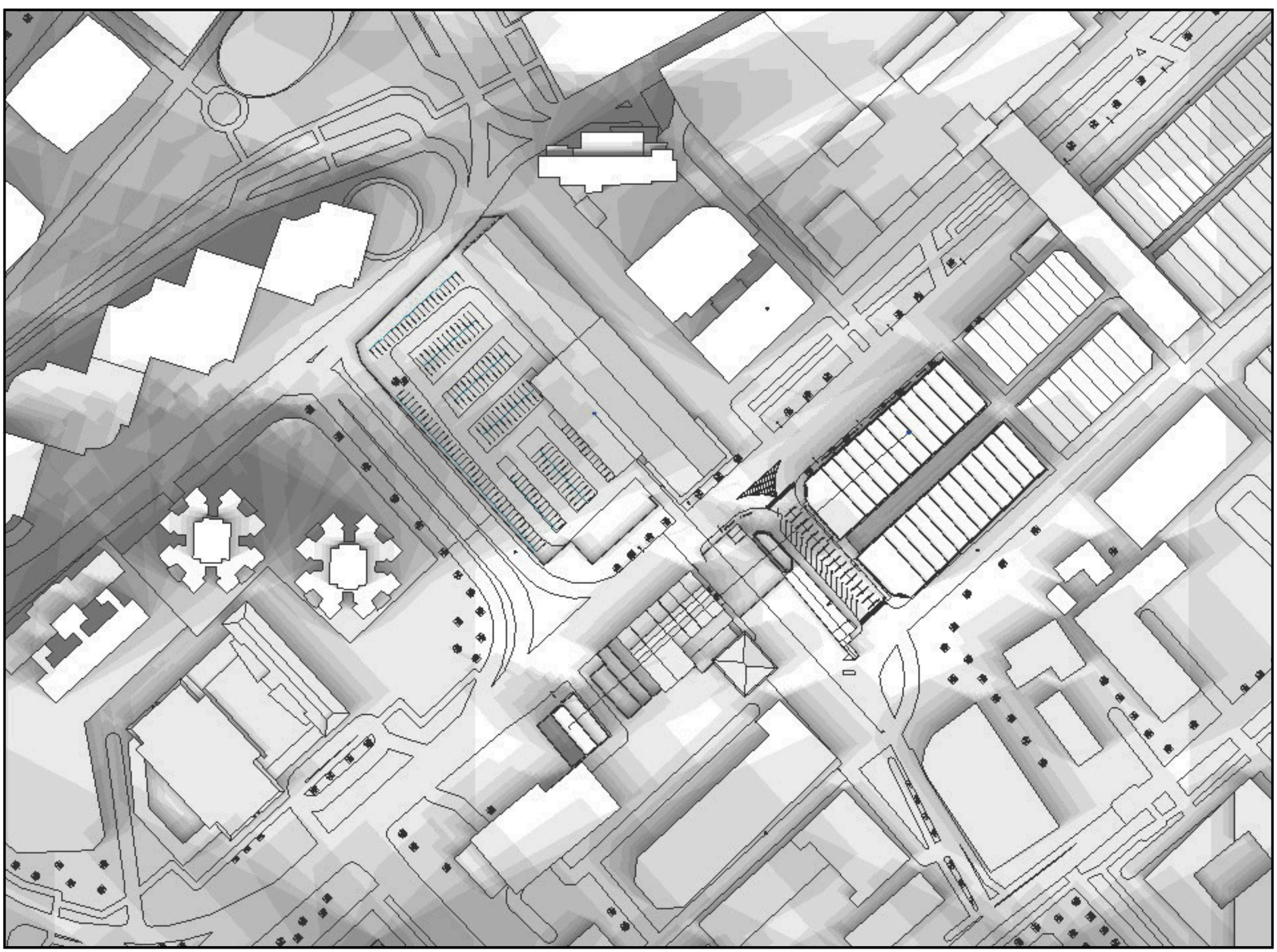
TASK 0 - ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

ZONE A : OVERALL SHADOW ANALYSIS (SUMMER SOLSTICE)



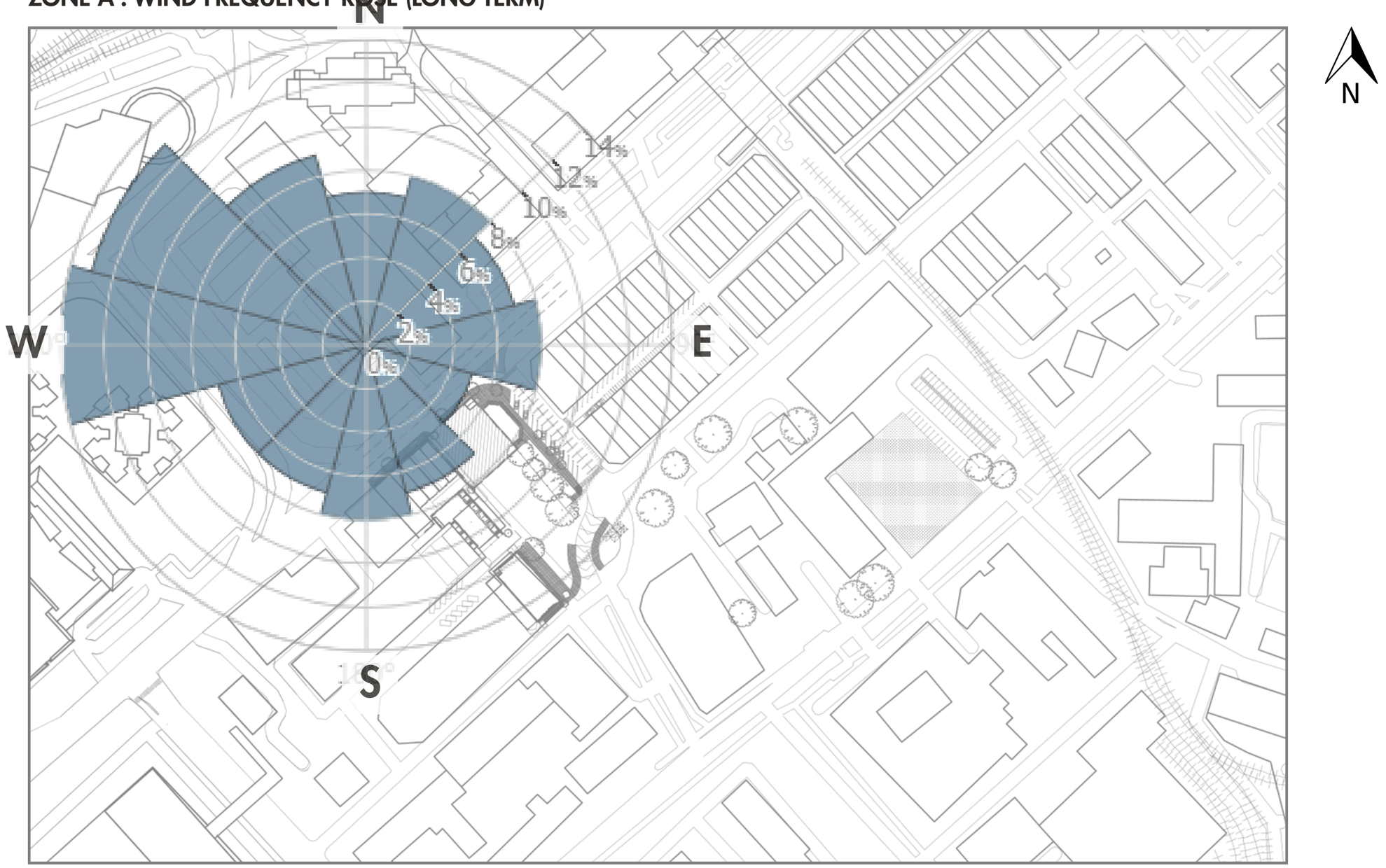
TASK 0 - ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

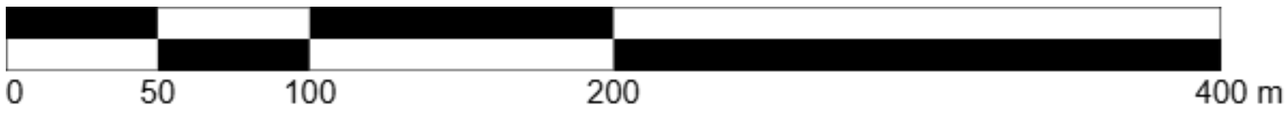
ZONE A : OVERALL SHADOW ANALYSIS (WINTER SOLSTICE)



TASK 0 - ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

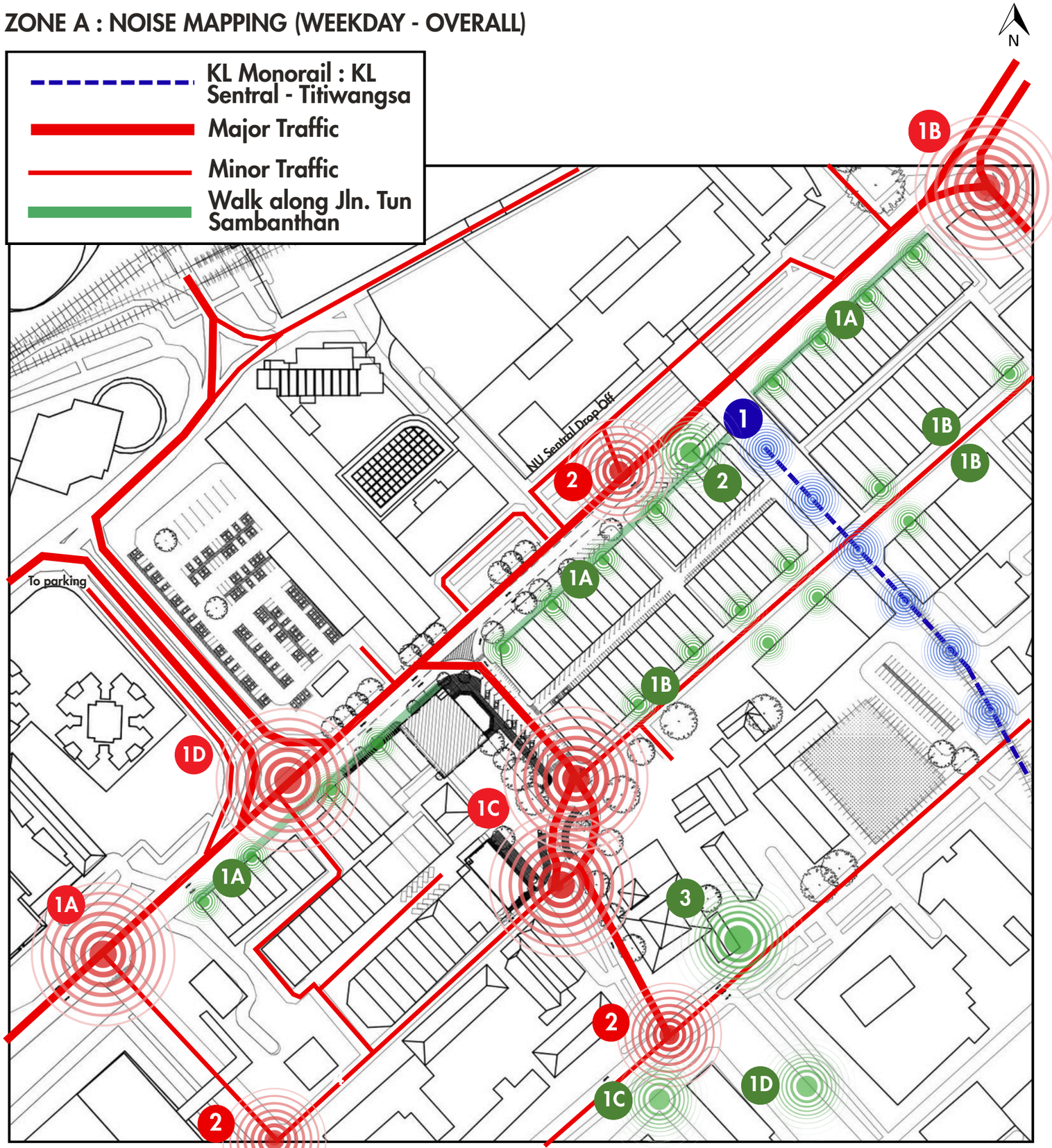
ZONE A : WIND FREQUENCY ROSE (LONG TERM)





TASK 0 - ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

ZONE A : NOISE MAPPING (WEEKDAY - OVERALL)



NEGATIVE NOISE

1 Major Traffic Noise - Intersection (*Frequent honking at each other and at pedestrians): 79dB(A)*



2 Minor Traffic Noise - Secondary: 60-70 dB(A)

NEUTRAL NOISE

1 Monorail Noise: 70dB(A)



POSITIVE NOISE

1 Community Gathering (*Selling/Buying*): 50 - 70dB(A)

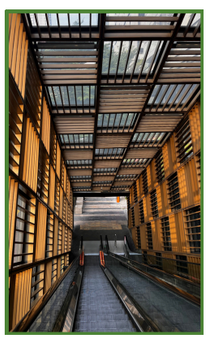








2 Constant movement of pedestrians between NU Sentral / KL Sentral Station and Jalan Tun Sambanthan (*A lively and dynamic atmosphere): 50 - 65dB(A)*





3 Daily MorningTemple Prayers at Jln. Sultan Abdul Samad: 60dB(A)

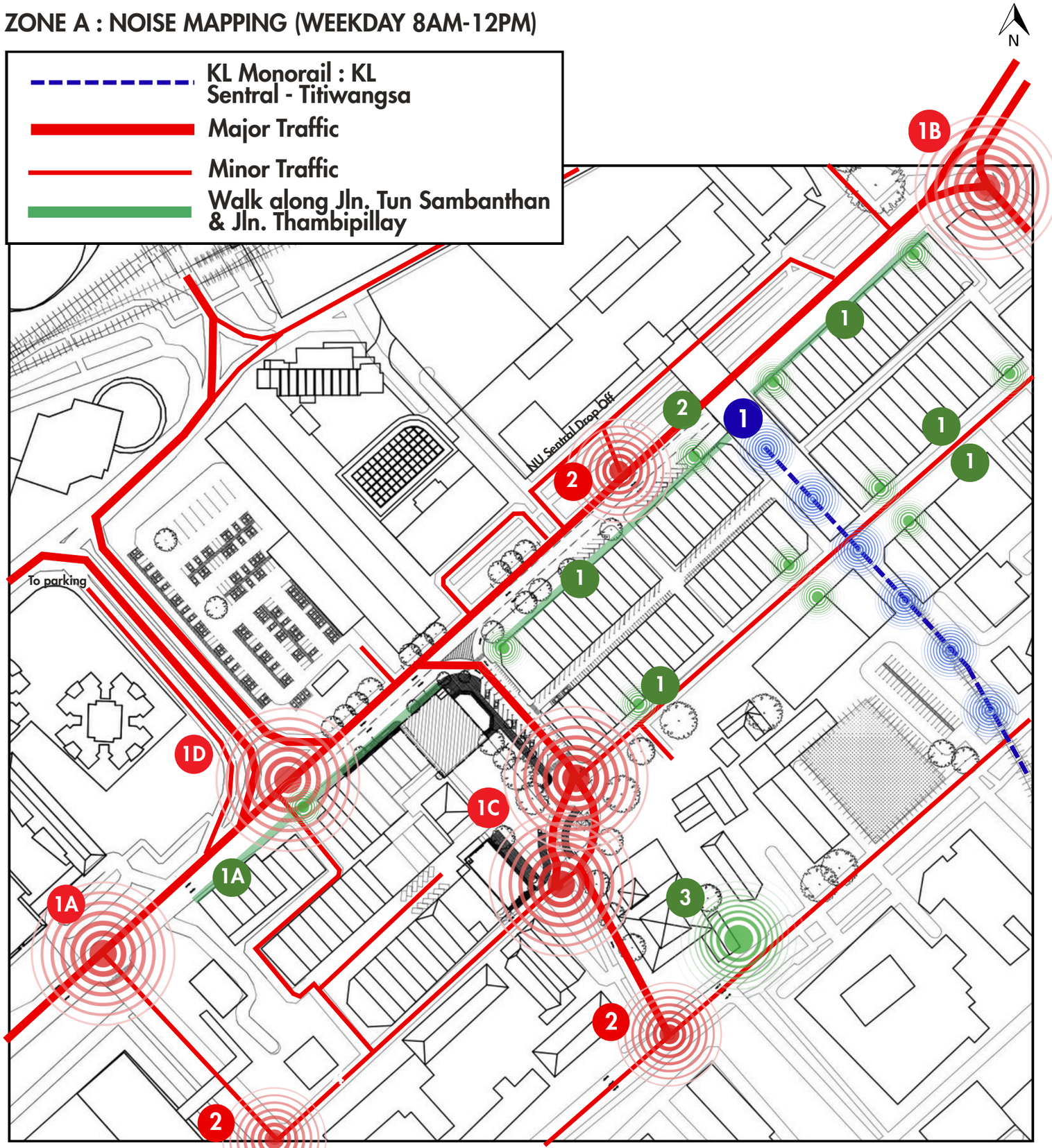


4 Sound of Schools (Assembly, Lunch, Dismissal): 50dB(A)



TASK 0 - ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

ZONE A : NOISE MAPPING (WEEKDAY 8AM-12PM)



NEGATIVE NOISE

1 Major Traffic Noise - Intersection (*Frequent honking at each other and at pedestrians) : 79dB(A)*



2 Minor Traffic Noise - Secondary: dB(A)

NEUTRAL NOISE

1 Monorail Noise: 70dB(A)



POSITIVE NOISE

1 People having breakfast



2 Sound of Schools (Assembly): 50dB



3 Daily Morning Temple Prayers at Jln. Sultan Abdul Samad: 60dB(A)

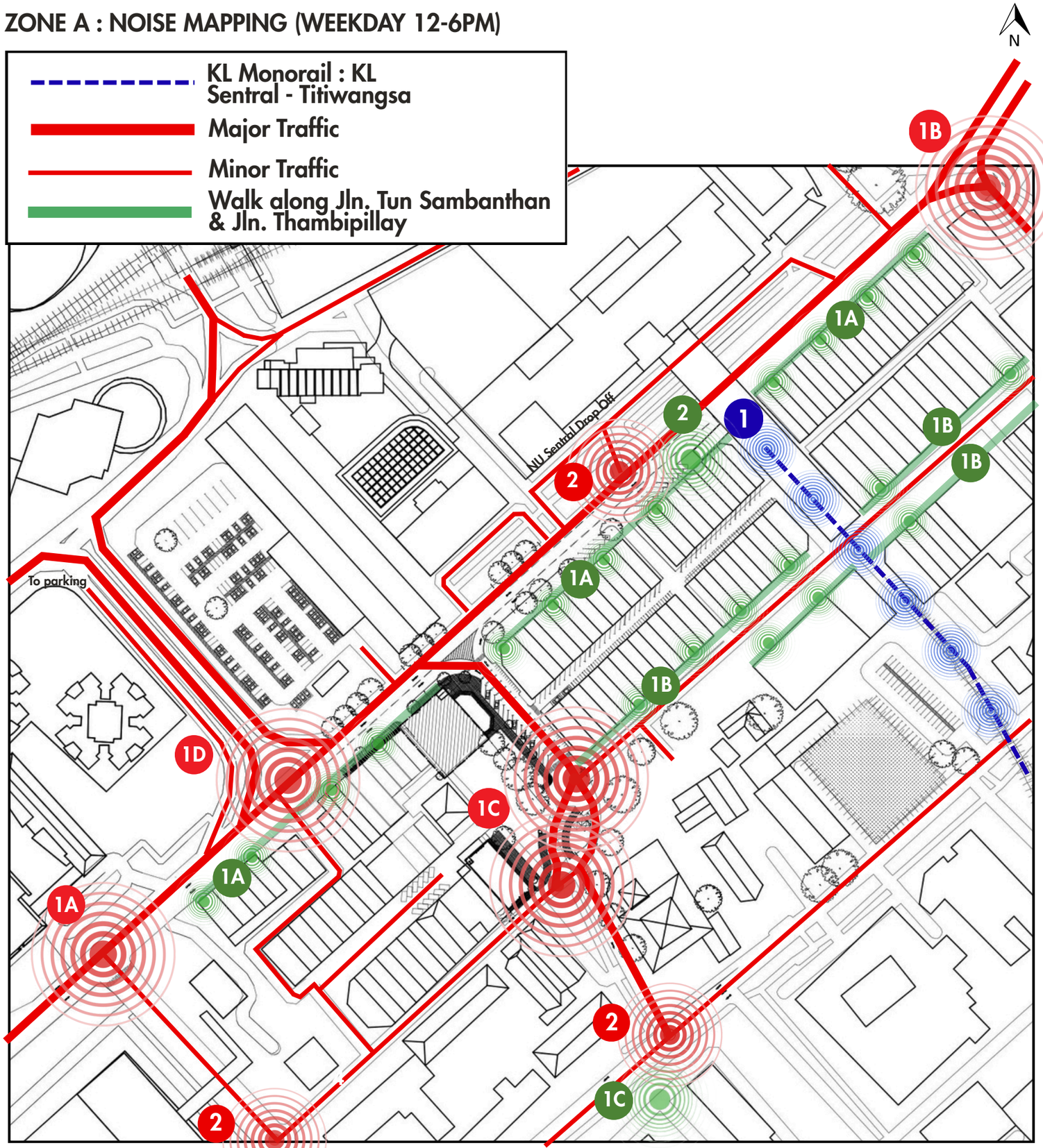


4 Cleaning streets with leaf rakes (across Brickfields)



TASK 0 - ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

ZONE A : NOISE MAPPING (WEEKDAY 12-6PM)



NEGATIVE NOISE

1 *Noisier Major Traffic Noise - Intersection: 79dB(A)*







2 Noisier Minor Traffic Noise - Secondary: dB(A)

NEUTRAL NOISE

1 Monorail Noise: 70dB(A)

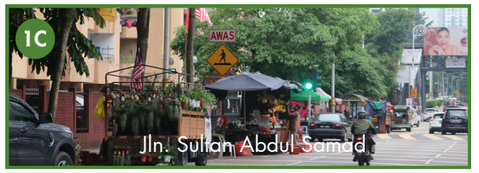


POSITIVE NOISE

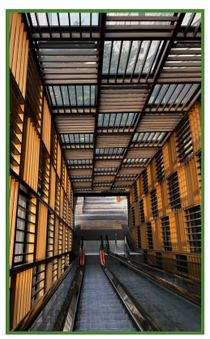
1 Community Gathering *(Selling/Buying/Eating)*: 65dB(A)







2 Movement of pedestrians between NU Sentral / KL Sentral Station and Jalan Tun Sambanthan *(A lively and dynamic atmosphere)*: 65dB(A)



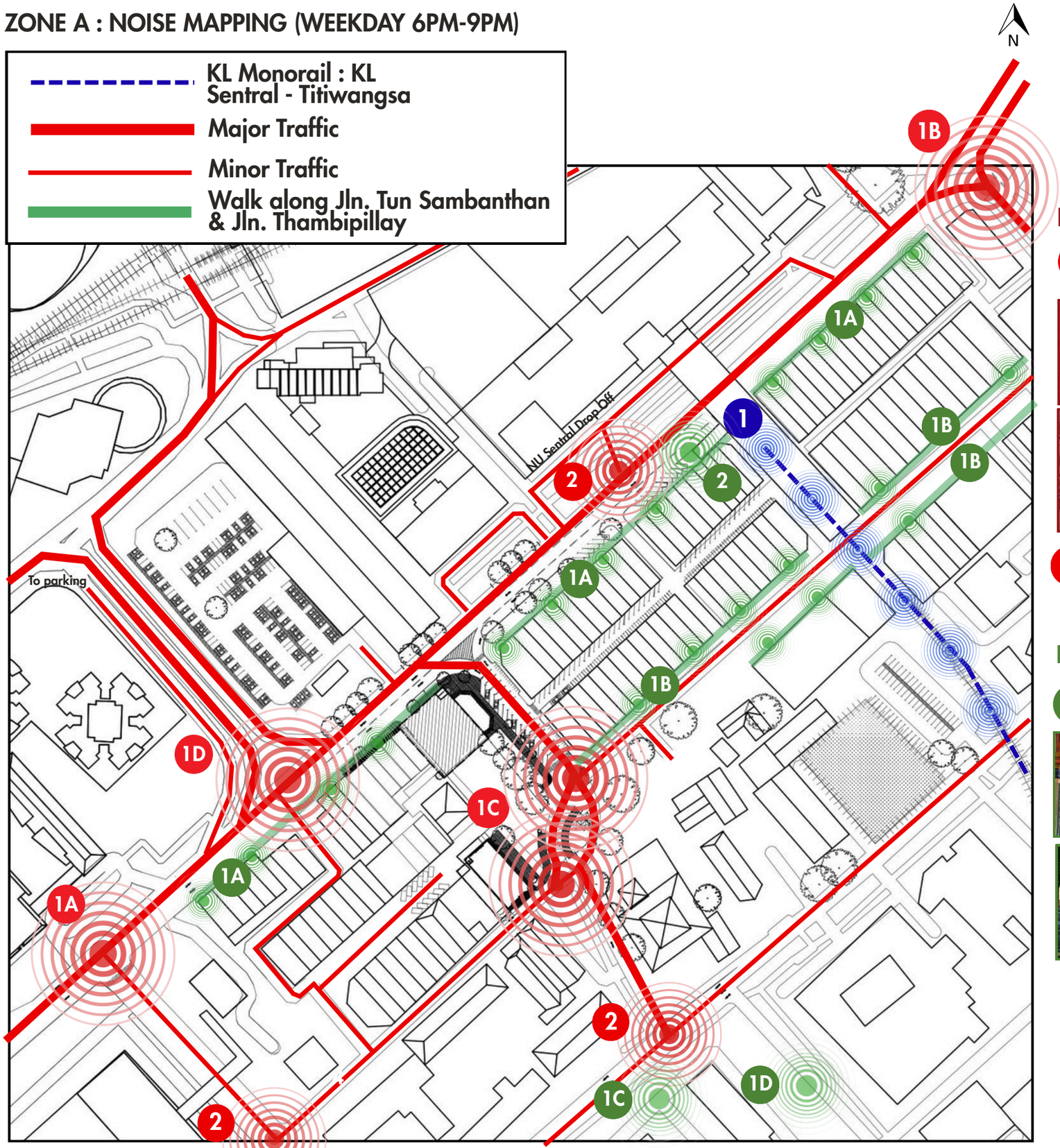


3 School lunch and dismissal: 50dB(A)



TASK 0 - ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

ZONE A : NOISE MAPPING (WEEKDAY 6PM-9PM)



NEGATIVE NOISE

1 *Noisier Major Traffic Noise - Intersection: 75dB(A)*



2 Noisier Minor Traffic Noise - Secondary: dB(A)

NEUTRAL NOISE

1 Monorail Noise: 70dB(A)



POSITIVE NOISE

1 Community Gathering *(Selling/Buying)*: 65dB(A)

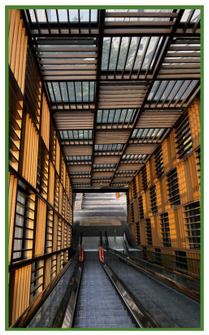








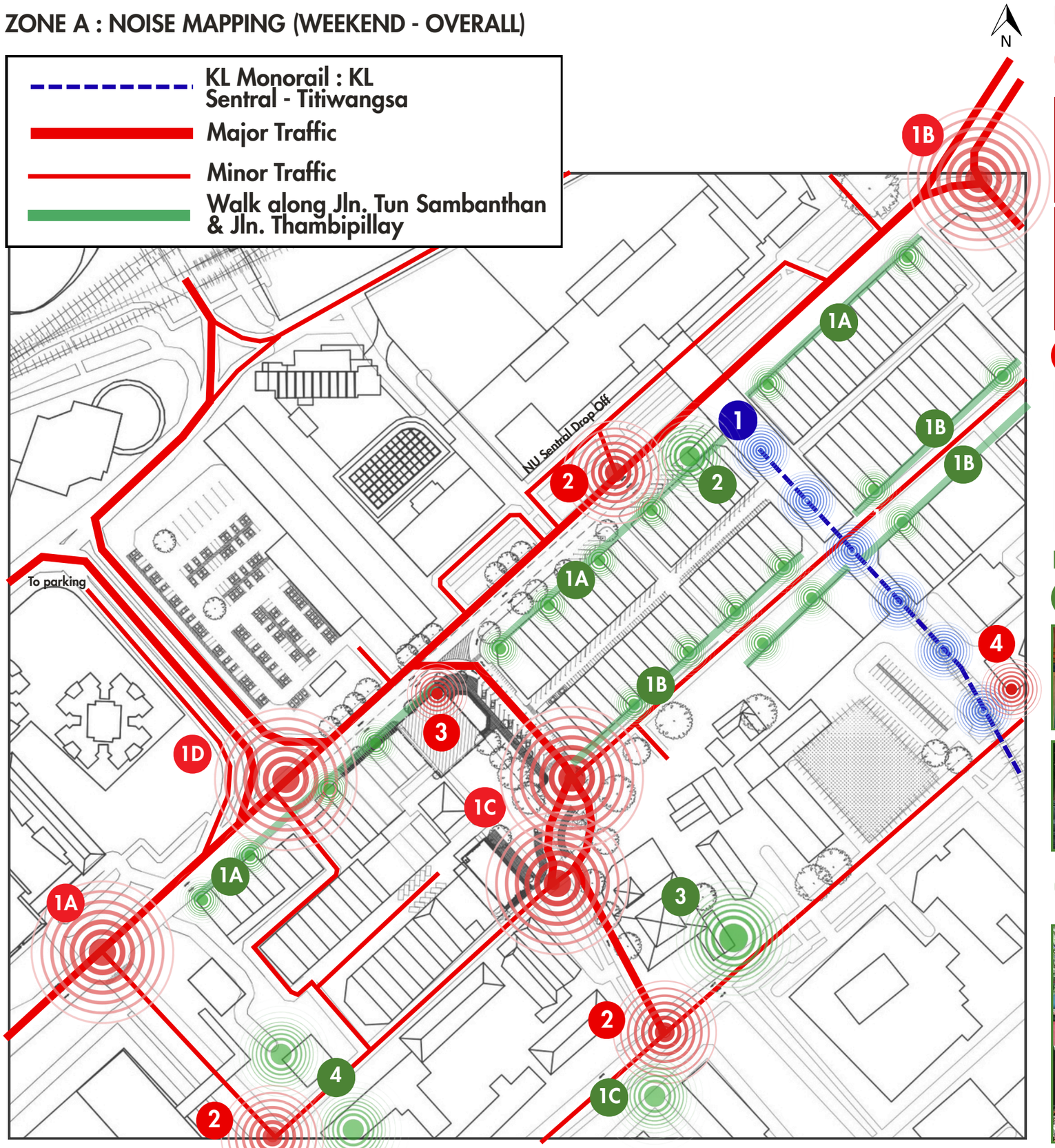
2 Movement of pedestrians between NU Sentral / KL Sentral Station and Jalan Tun Sambanthan *(A lively and dynamic atmosphere)*: 65dB(A)





TASK 0 - ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

ZONE A : NOISE MAPPING (WEEKEND - OVERALL)



NEGATIVE NOISE

1 Major Traffic Noise - Intersection *(Frequent honking at each other and at pedestrians)*: 75dB(A)









2 Minor Traffic Noise - Secondary: dB(A)

3 Restaurant at Site A *(Loud Kitchen Exhaust & Cooking)*: dB(A)



4 Construction Noise at Jln. Sultan Abdul Samad: dB(A)



NEUTRAL NOISE

1 Monorail Noise: 70dB(A)



POSITIVE NOISE

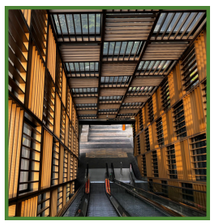
1 Community Gathering *(Selling/Buying)*: 65dB(A)







2 Constant movement of pedestrians between NU Sentral / KL Sentral Station and Jalan Tun Sambanthan *(A lively and dynamic atmosphere)*: 50-65dB(A)





3 Daily Morning Temple Prayers at Jln. Sultan Abdul Samad: dB & Sunday Service: 60dB(A)





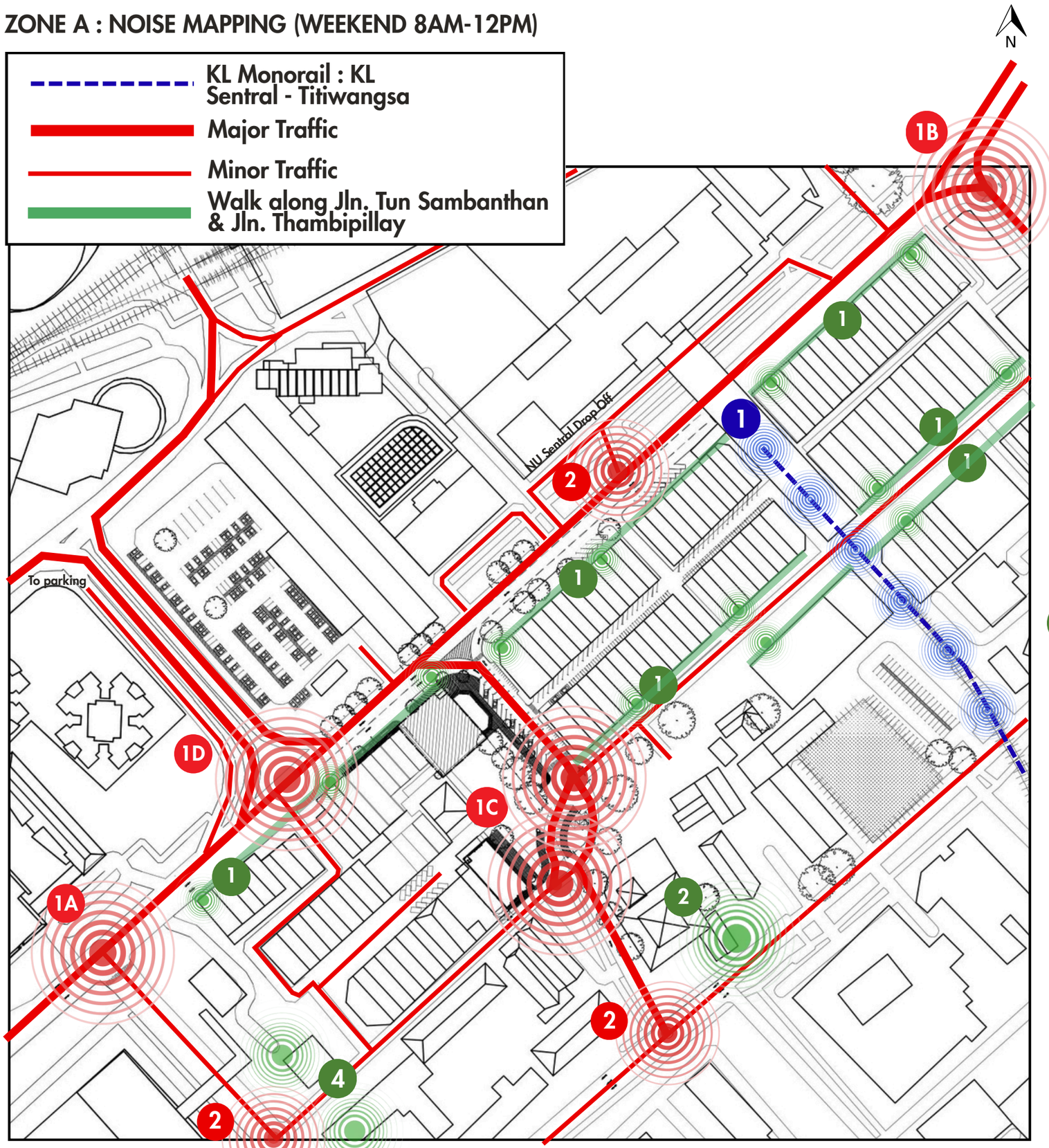
4 Morning Karate (Vivekananda Ashrama) & Gardening Classes (School) at Jln. Rozario





TASK 0 - ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

ZONE A : NOISE MAPPING (WEEKEND 8AM-12PM)



NEGATIVE NOISE

1 Major Traffic Noise - Intersection (*Frequent honking at each other and at pedestrians): 79dB(A)*



2 Minor Traffic Noise - Secondary: dB

3 Restaurant at Site A *(Loud Kitchen Exhaust & Cooking):* dB



POSITIVE NOISE

1 People having breakfast



2 Daily Morning Temple Prayers at Jln. Sultan Abdul Samad & Sunday Service: 50dB(A)





3 Cleaning streets with leaf rakes (across Brickfields)



4 Morning Karate (Vivekananda Ashrama) & Gardening Classes (School) at Jln. Rozario





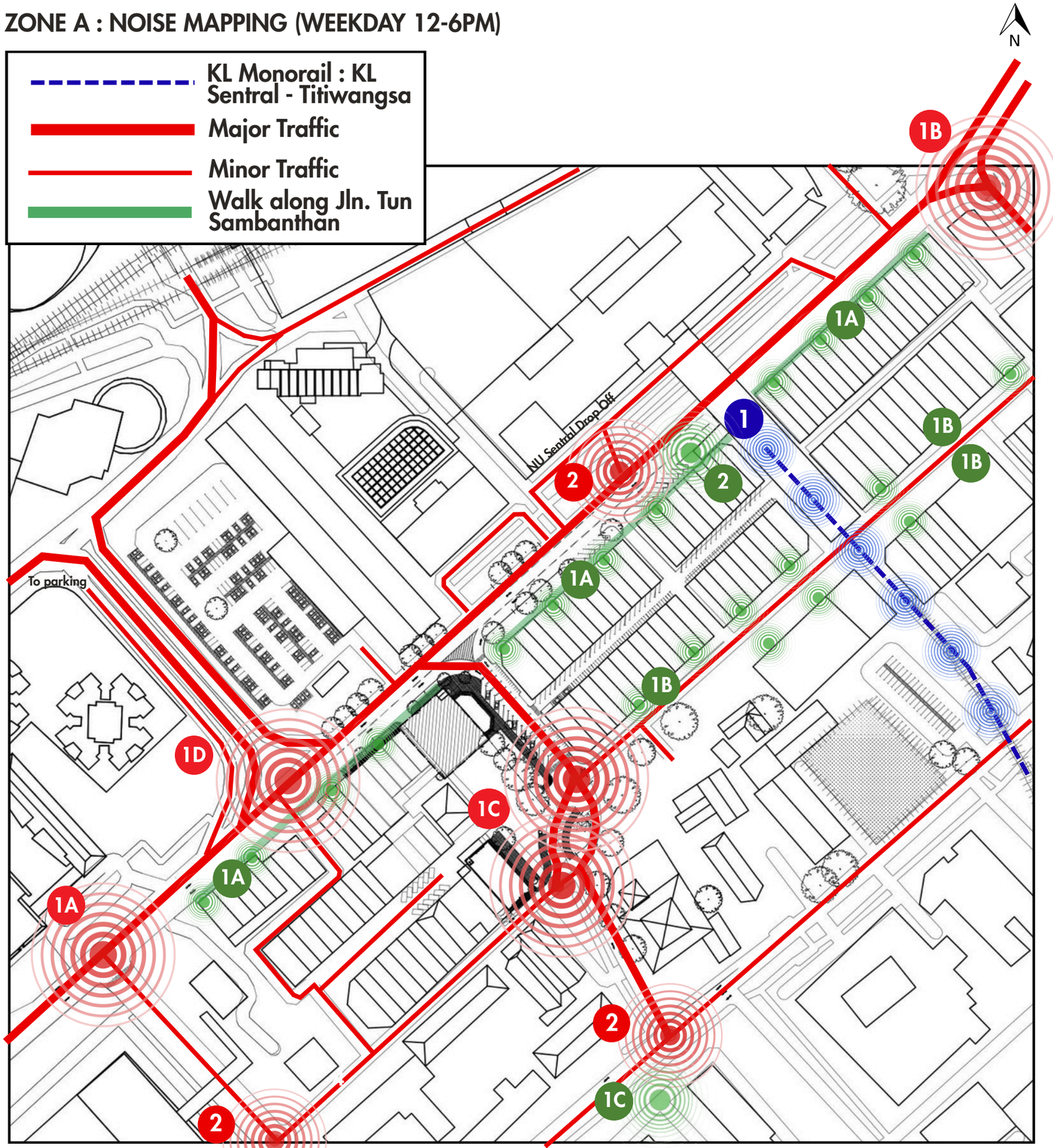
NEUTRAL NOISE

1 Monorail Noise: 70dB



TASK 0 - ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

ZONE A : NOISE MAPPING (WEEKDAY 12-6PM)



NEGATIVE NOISE

1 *Noisier Major Traffic Noise - Intersection: 79dB(A)*







2 Noisier Minor Traffic Noise - Secondary: dB

NEUTRAL NOISE

1 Monorail Noise: 70dB(A)



POSITIVE NOISE

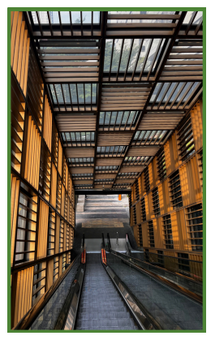
1 Community Gathering *(Selling/Buying)*: 65dB(A)







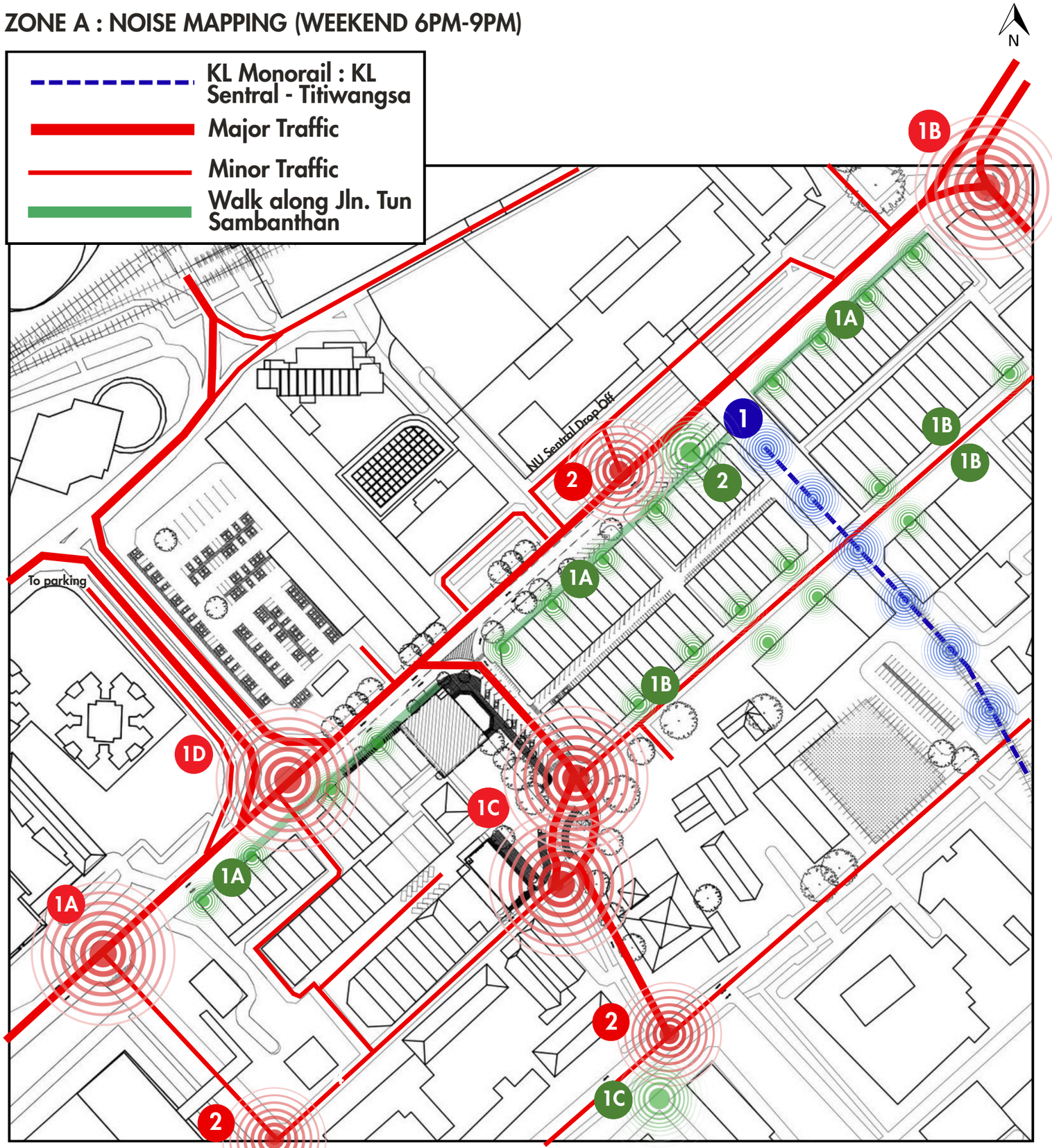
2 Constant movement of pedestrians between NU Sentral / KL Sentral Station and Jalan Tun Sambanthan *(A lively and dynamic atmosphere)*: 50-65dB(A)





TASK 0 - ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

ZONE A : NOISE MAPPING (WEEKEND 6PM-9PM)



NEGATIVE NOISE

1 *Noisier Major Traffic Noise - Intersection:* dB(A)



Noisier Minor Traffic Noise - Secondary: dB(A)

NEUTRAL NOISE

1 Monorail Noise: 70dB(A)



POSITIVE NOISE

1 Community Gathering *(Selling/Buying)*: 60-75dB(A)





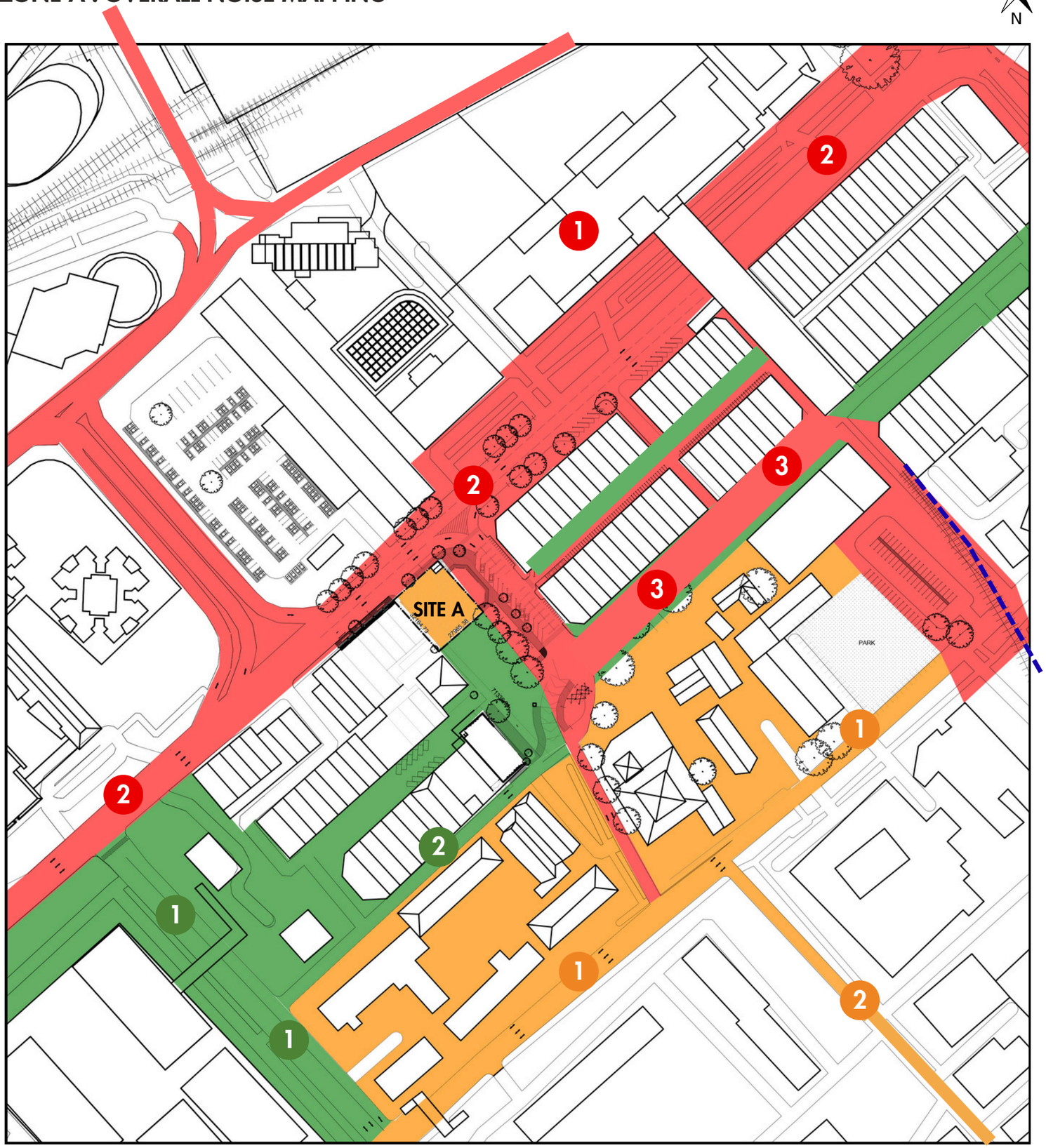


2 Constant movement of pedestrians between NU Sentral / KL Sentral Station and Jalan Tun Sambanthan *(A lively and dynamic atmosphere)*: 50-65dB(A)



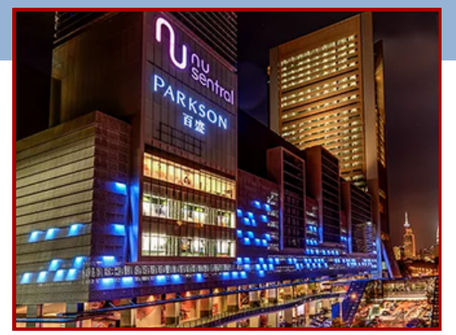
TASK 0 - ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

ZONE A : OVERALL NOISE MAPPING



HIGH NOISE VOLUME

1 NU SENTRAL



2 JALAN TUN SAMBANTHAN



3 JALAN THAMBIPILLAY



AVERAGE NOISE VOLUME

1 JLN. SULTAN ABDUL SAMAD



2 JALAN BERHALA



LOW NOISE VOLUME

1 JALAN ROZARIO



2 JALAN VIVEKANANDA



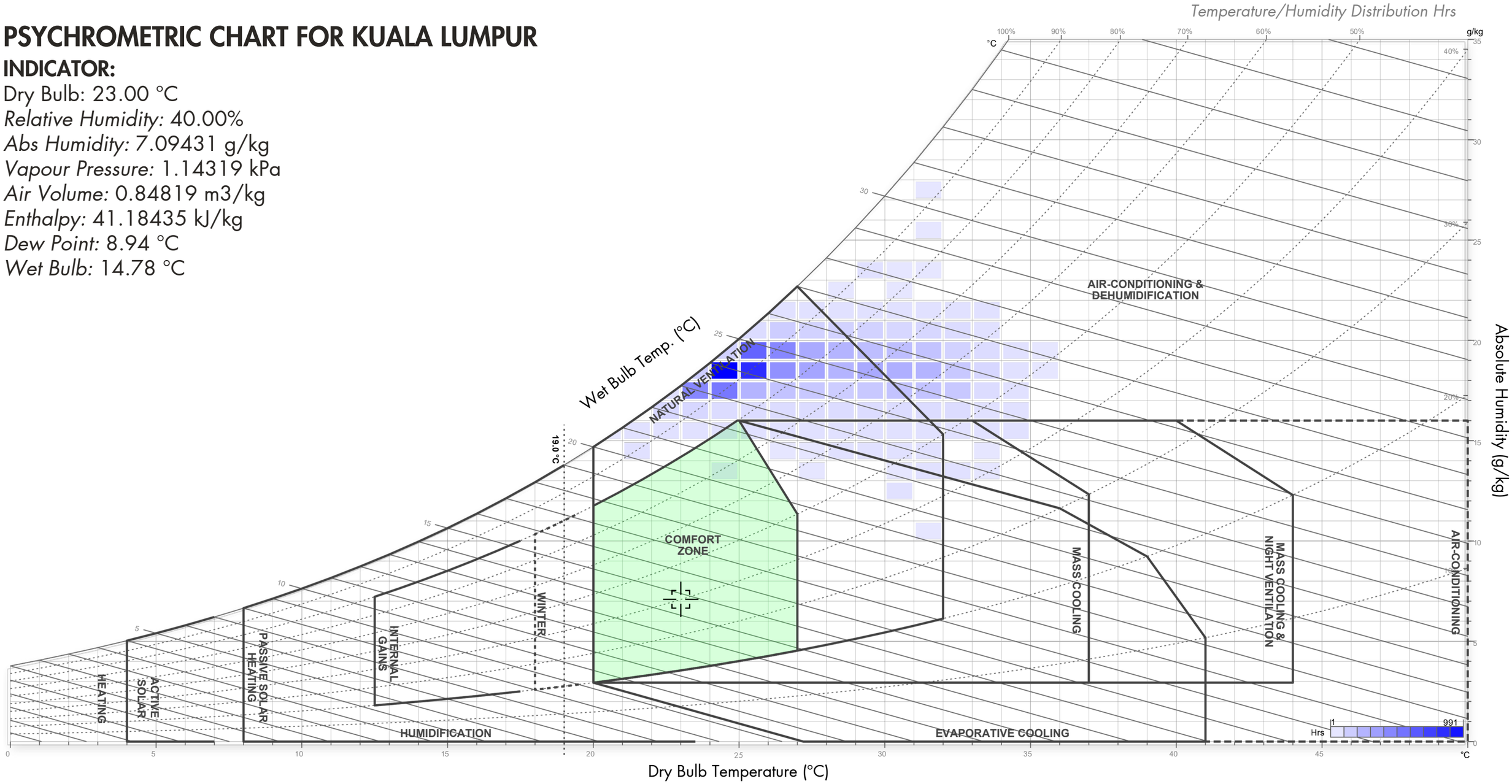
TASK 0 - ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

ZONE A : MICROCLIMATE ANALYSIS

PSYCHROMETRIC CHART FOR KUALA LUMPUR

INDICATOR:

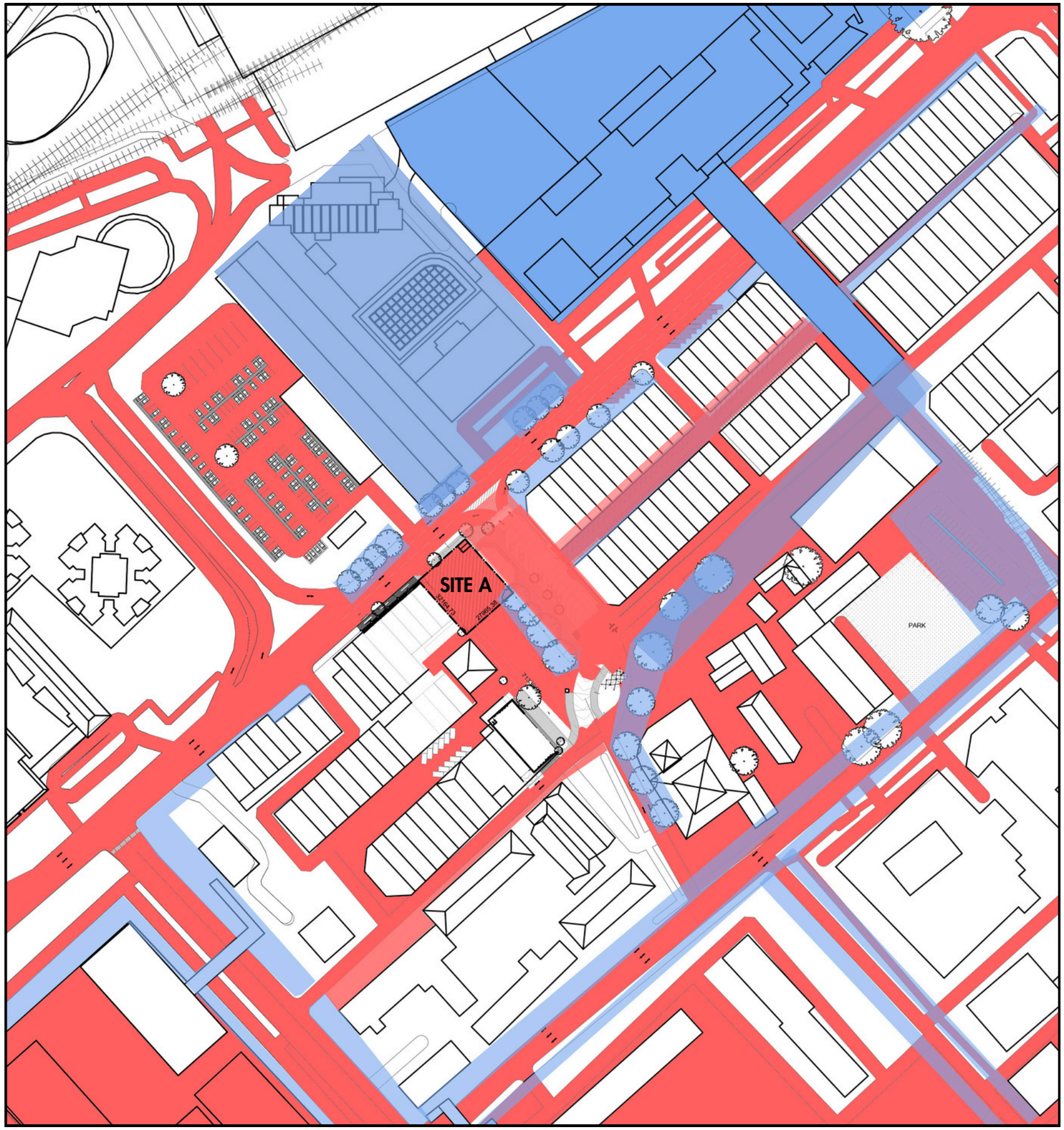
Dry Bulb: 23.00 °C
Relative Humidity: 40.00%
Abs Humidity: 7.09431 g/kg
Vapour Pressure: 1.14319 kPa
Air Volume: 0.84819 m3/kg
Enthalpy: 41.18435 kJ/kg
Dew Point: 8.94 °C
Wet Bulb: 14.78 °C



Typical data points for Kuala Lumpur on such a chart show average temperatures around 29 to 33 °C, with relative humidity often ranging from about 50% to 80%. Typical comfortable thermal zones in Kuala Lumpur relate to temperatures between 25 °C and 29 °C combined with relative humidity levels around 70% to 80% and moderate air velocity.

TASK 0 - ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

ZONE A : MICROCLIMATE ANALYSIS - HEATMAPPING



RELATIVELY WARMER AREAS

1 ROADS

Asphalt can absorb up to **95%** of the sun's energy, becoming **very hot** under direct sunlight; when it **rains**, the **heat is released**, which **can be felt** when walking near the road, making it an **uncomfortable** experience.



2 SITE A

Exposed to direct sun ; Lack of planted trees



3 JALAN VIVEKANANDA

Exposed to direct sun ; Lack of planted trees



RELATIVELY COOLER AREAS

1 NU SENTRAL

Mall uses shading devices, planted trees and overhangs



2 JALAN TUN SAMBANTHAN

Planted trees & Kaki Lima



3 JALAN SULTAN ABDUL SAMAD

Planted trees, Covered Walkway & Pedestrian Bridge



4 JALAN THAMBIPILLAY

Trees planted on both sides of the road, Overhang & Walkable Space Under Monorail Line



5 JALAN ROZARIO

Trees planted on both sides of the road, Overhangs & Pedestrian Bridge



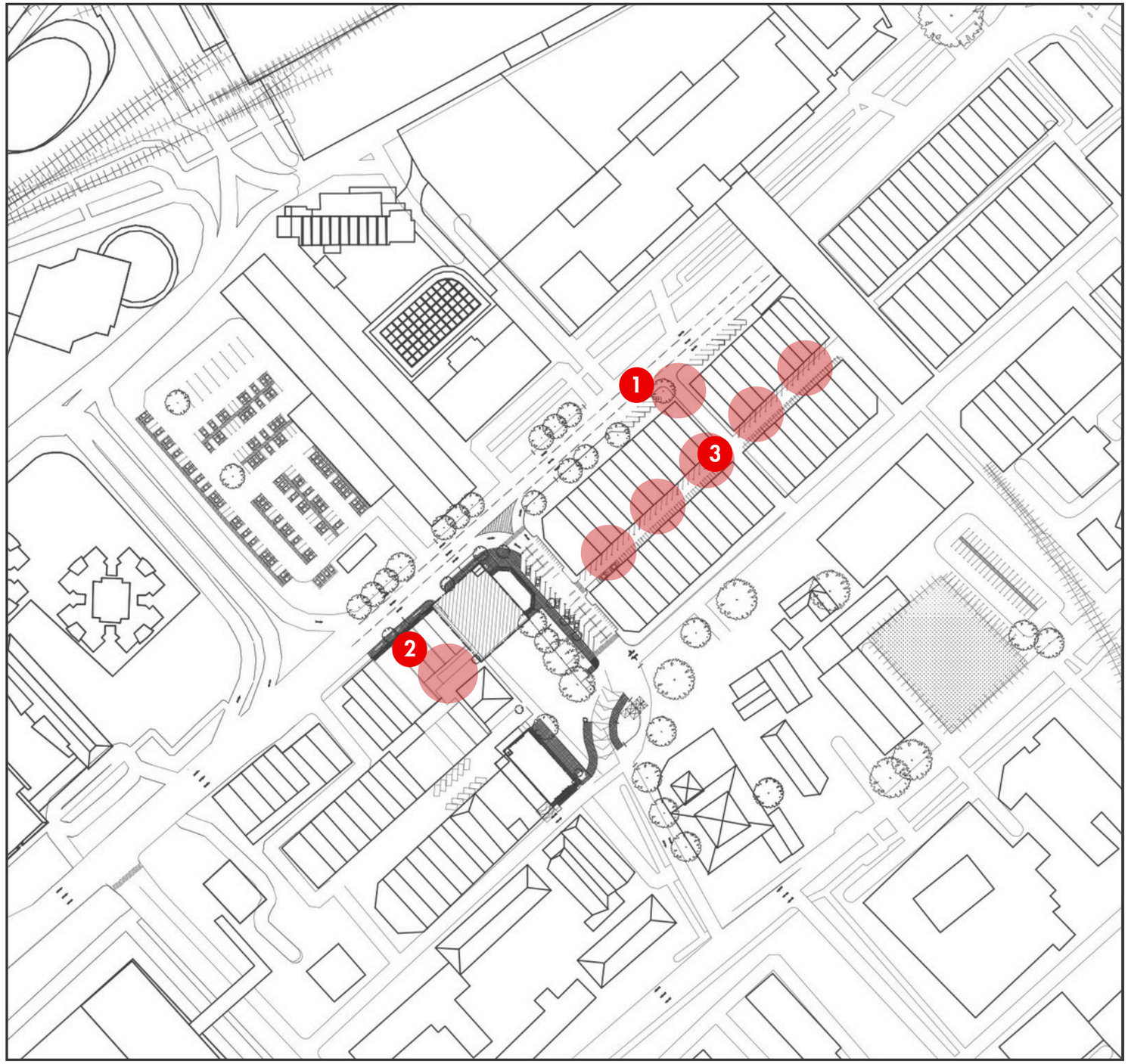
6 JALAN BERHALA

Tall trees & Covered Walkway



TASK 0 - ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

ZONE A : BLOCKED VS. OPEN VENTILATION ZONES



MOST AREAS ARE WELL VENTILATED

GAPS BETWEEN TALL BUILDINGS AND UNDER TALL STRUCTURES ALLOW BREEZE THROUGH ; ROADS ARE WIDE









KAKI LIMA AND ARCHES ALLOW BREEZE THROUGH



EVAPOTRANSPIRATION COOLS THE SURROUNDING AIR



The heat exhaust from multiple units can reduce the effectiveness of natural ventilation, causing stagnant or slow-moving air pockets that worsen air quality and heat build-up.

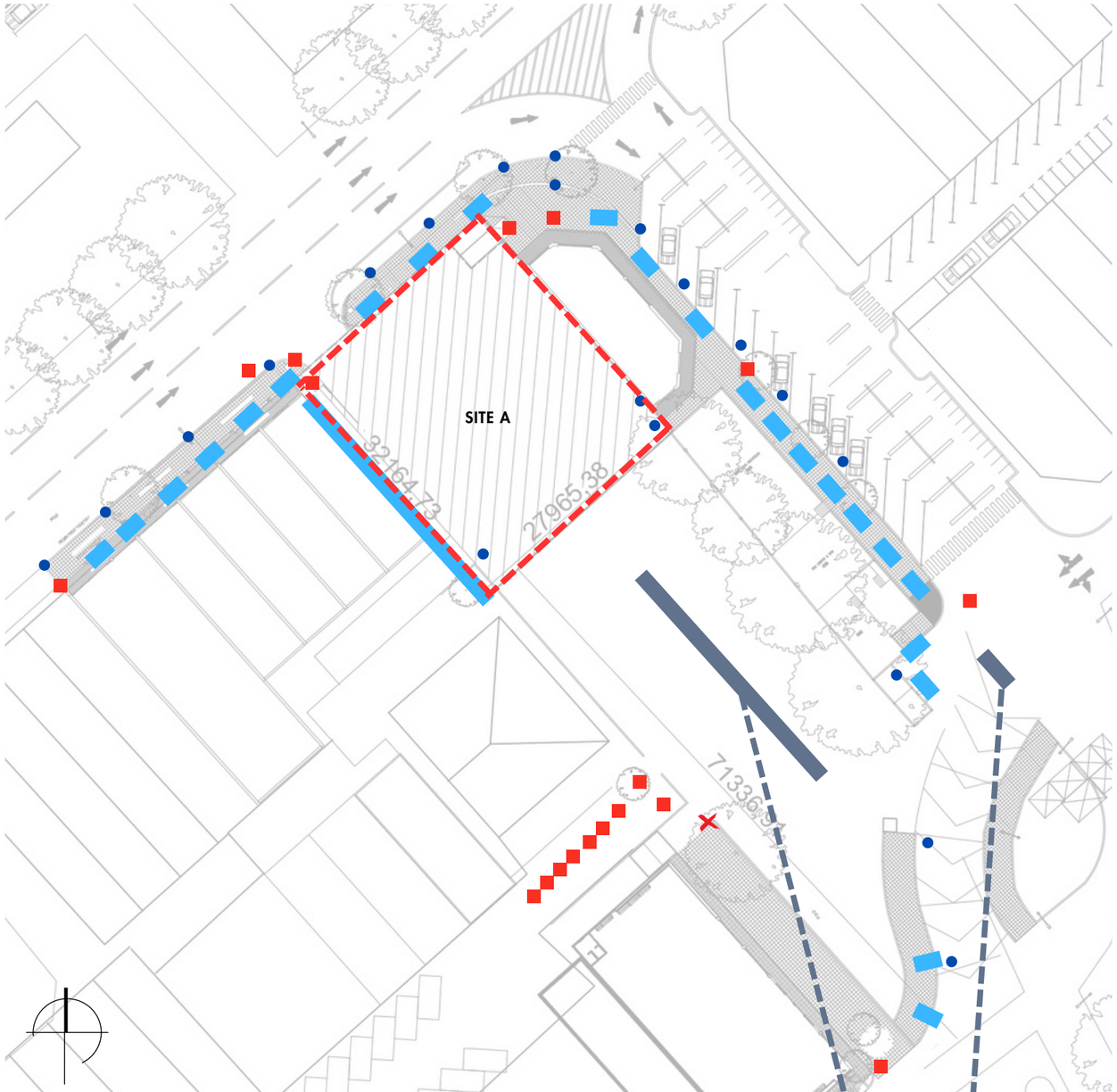
AREAS THAT HAVE BLOCKED VENTILATION







TASK 0 - DRAINAGE



Scupper Drain

Total Number : 20



- Surrounded the parking lot
- To channel the rainwater towards the stormwater drainage

Pipe

Total Number : 1



- Connects indoor plumbing to external drainage system
- Ensures proper waste and wastewater disposal

Surface Drainage

Total Number : 29



- Collects rainwater directly from the ground or paved surface.
- For quick water removal

Manholes

Total Number : 18



- Provides access to underground utilities
- Allows workers to inspect, clean, maintain, or repair

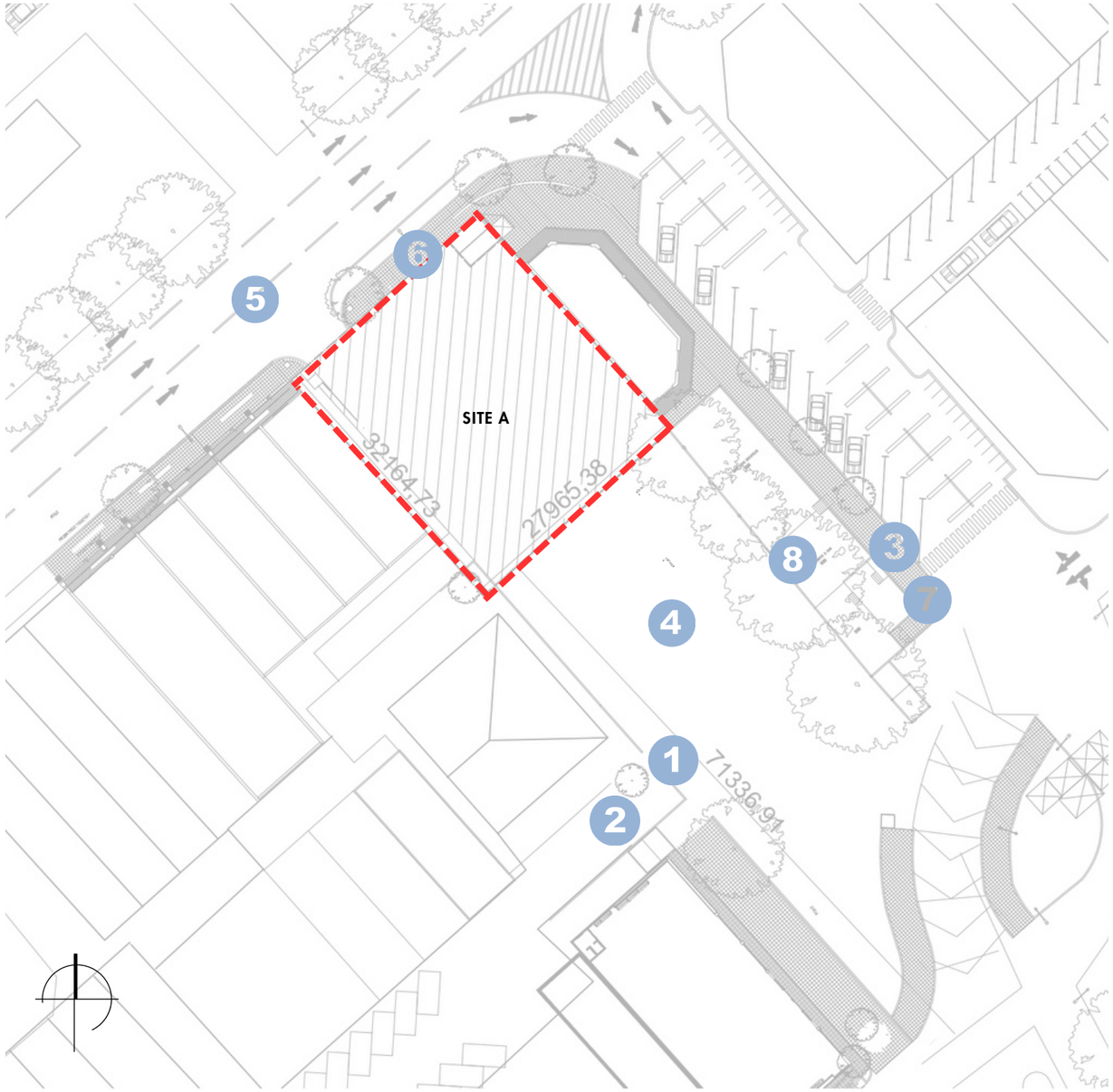
Waterlogging

- Observed at the entrance and the middle areas
- Caused by uneven ground levels and presence of holes and cracks traps water
- Poor drainage flow leads to water accumulation



- **Drainage system runs along the site boundary**, connected to 29 surface drains and 18 manholes.
- Around 20 scupper drains are positioned at the parking curbs, **channeling rainwater collectively into the Klang River**.
- **Waterlogging** still occurs at entrance and middle areas due to uneven ground levels and surface cracks.

TASK 0 - SURFACE PERMEABILITY





1 Crushed Stone

- **Highly** permeable surface
- Allows rainwater infiltration into soil
- Reduces surface runoff and flooding



2 Concrete

- Generally **impermeable**
- Prevents water infiltration
- Increases surface runoff



3 Concrete Pavement

- Dense and **non-permeable**
- Requires drainage systems to handle runoff
- Contributes to heat retention



4 Gravel Stone

- Naturally **porous and highly** permeable
- Promotes water infiltration and filtration
- Reduces erosion and runoff



5 Asphalt

- **Impermeable**
- Causes water pooling and runoff
- Contributes to flooding and heat island effect



6 Interlocking Concrete Pavers

- **Low to moderate** permeability
- Water seeps through sand/aggregate joints
- Reduces runoff, recharges groundwater

- The site includes permeable surfaces like crushed stone, gravel, interlocking concrete pavers, interlocking brick pavers, and natural soil that **help manage runoff and prevent flooding.**
- For impermeable surfaces like asphalt and concrete, **proper drainage is essential** to avoid runoff and flooding.



7 Interlocking Brick Pavers

- **Moderately** permeable depending on installation
- Gaps between bricks can allow limited infiltration
- Reduces runoff compared to concrete



8 Natural Soil with Vegetation

- **Highly** permeable
- Allows direct infiltration into the ground
- Supports groundwater recharge and biodiversity

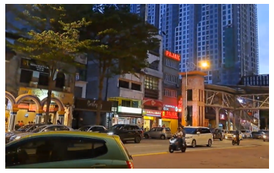
TASK 0 - NIGHT ANALYSIS



DIM → BRIGHT

5 LUX | 10 LUX | 100 LUX | 120 LUX | 250 LUX



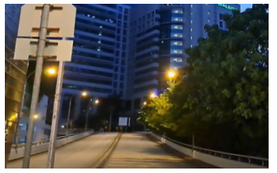





Cultural landmarks, temple towers, and neon signage stand out as the brightest points in Brickfields at night. These illuminated icons act as visual anchors, drawing visitors for exploration and reinforcing the identity of Little India.





Along Jalan Tun Sambanthan, street lamps and shopfront LEDs brighten the roads and walkways. This level of illumination ensures safety, encourages heavy pedestrian flow, and gives the streets a festive, bustling character.






Shops and eateries provide moderate glow, improving visibility but with uneven lighting, leaving some areas less safe for pedestrians.





Backstreets are dimly lit with weak lamps, creating shadows and a sense of insecurity, mostly used by residents at night.

TASK I

GENIUS LOCI

HISTORICAL AND URBAN MORPHOLOGY

TASK 1 - HISTORICAL TIMELINE

Pre 1881
Before formal urbanisation, much of what is now Brickfields was undeveloped or lightly used, including plantations and natural land. It was around 15 miles (hence "Batu Lima Belas") from the village of Damansara.



1881
A major fire and flood destroyed Kuala Lumpur's timber rumah attap. British Resident Frank Swettenham then required buildings to be made of brick and tile, sparking high demand and giving rise to Brickfields.

Shortly after 1881
Yap Ah Loy purchases land in Batu Lima Belas (Brickfields) to set up brick kilns and rebuild Kuala Lumpur. It becomes a centre for good quality bricks.

<u>Chinese Community</u>
Yap Ah Loy, then brought in Chinese workforce for the brick making and tin mining industry.





Late 19th to early 20th century
<u>Indian and Sri Lankan Migrant Workers</u>
Migrants from India and Sri Lanka were brought to Brickfields for railway construction, railway work, and brick kiln operations after the 1881 Kuala Lumpur fire. Many settled there with their families, shaping Brickfields into a cultural enclave with temples, religious societies, and community institutions reflecting their heritage.

1900s-mid 20th century
The British built government quarters like the "Hundred Quarters" in Brickfields to house many **Indian migrant** railway workers, along with schools, worship places, and shops.

Malay Families - Arrived in small numbers, working in markets, government service, and later in railway jobs.

Christian - Churches and later schools run by Christian missionaries attracted both Eurasian and Indian Catholics.
These developments encouraged settlement, transforming Brickfields from an industrial hub into a dense residential and cultural district.





Mid-20th century
Batu Lima Belas → Jalan Brickfields → Jalan Tun Sambanthan
Jalan Brickfields, once called Batu Limabelas (15th mile), grew into a key thoroughfare and was later renamed Jalan Tun Sambanthan to honour MIC leader and independence figure Tun V.T. Sambanthan.

1970s-2000s
Brickfields remains a working-class and cultural neighbourhood, with many small shops, temples, traditional businesses. But with growth, it faces pressures of congestion, land value, etc.



2008-2015
The former railway marshalling yard was redeveloped into KL Sentral, a big mixed-use transport hub + offices + condos + shopping. Nu Sentral mall opens in 2014.

2000-2010
KL Sentral effect
The building of KL Sentral shifted demographics: foreign workers moved into cheap flats as older families sold or rented out their homes.
Little India formalized (2010)
The government designated Brickfields officially as "Little India", cementing its image as the Indian heart of Malaysia.
Chinese small businesses
Continued running provision shops, tailoring, and hawker stalls.
Torana Gate (2015)
A gift from India reinforced the symbolic presence of the Indian diaspora.





2015
Demolition of the "100 Quarters". The building had fallen into deteriorating condition and seemed unsafe, leading to the relocation of long-time residents and the loss of a historic landmark that once reflected Brickfields' railway heritage and close-knit community.

2018
Kuala Lumpur City Plan (KLCP) 2020
Brickfields is mentioned as a Tertiary Heritage Zone





Today
Today, Brickfields is a mix of old and new communities. Long-time residents and cultural businesses—temples, eateries, tailoring shops—remain active but under pressure from rising costs. At the same time, new high-rise developments, malls, and upscale residences bring in younger professionals and commercial activity, gradually reshaping the neighbourhood's urban identity.

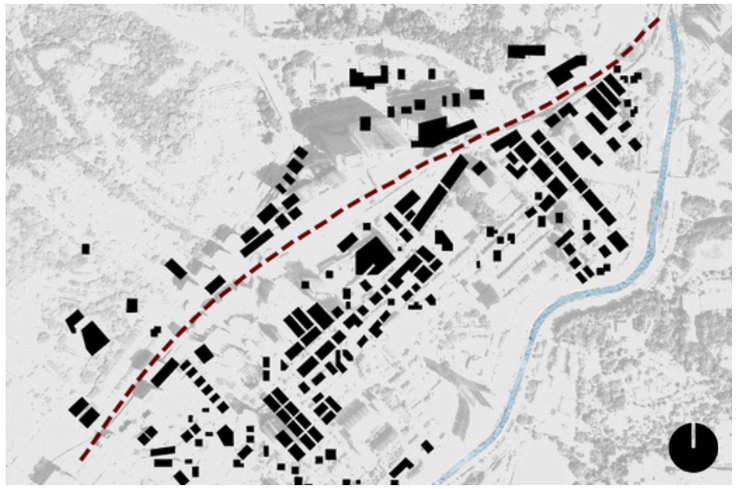
TASK I - URBAN MORPHOLOGY

Railway Road Klang River



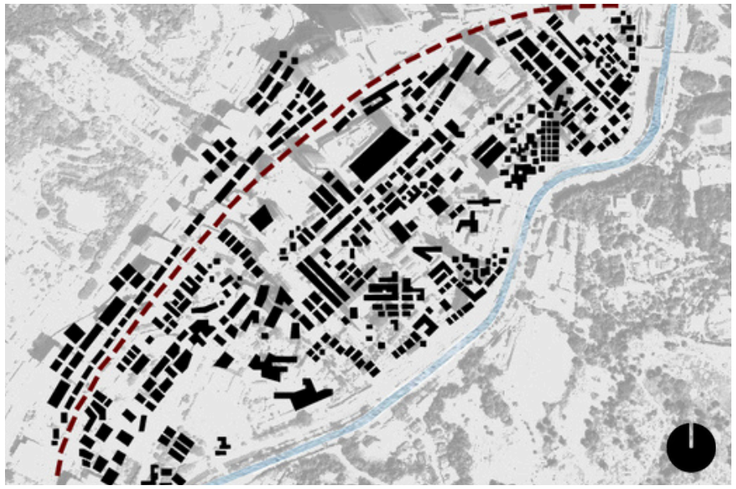
1920

The area first developed along the railway tracks, with most of the buildings serving as government offices. Its early community was made up of settlers, government servants, and industrial workers. Settlements were established beside the railroads, as the site's topography created a natural boundary between the railway line and the Klang River.



1957

Brickfields experienced rapid expansion, with new buildings marking the community's steady growth. The establishment of more schools reflected the increasing number of families in the area, while family-oriented entertainment venues, such as a cinema, were also introduced.

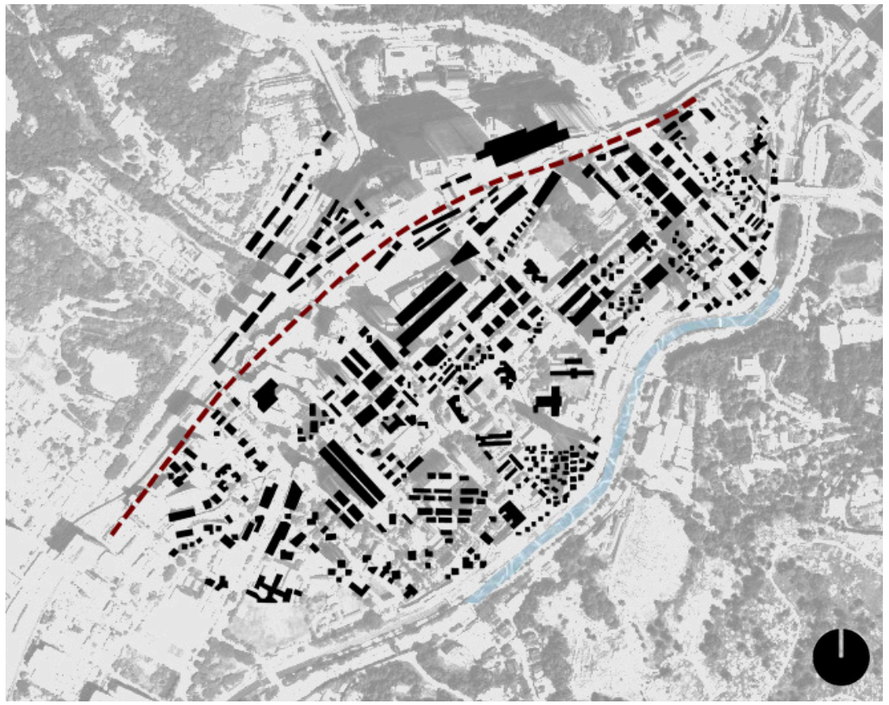


1963

Additional shophouses and residential areas were constructed, reflecting the area's growing population. The abundance of shophouses highlighted the strong presence of a thriving neighborhood and community in Brickfields.

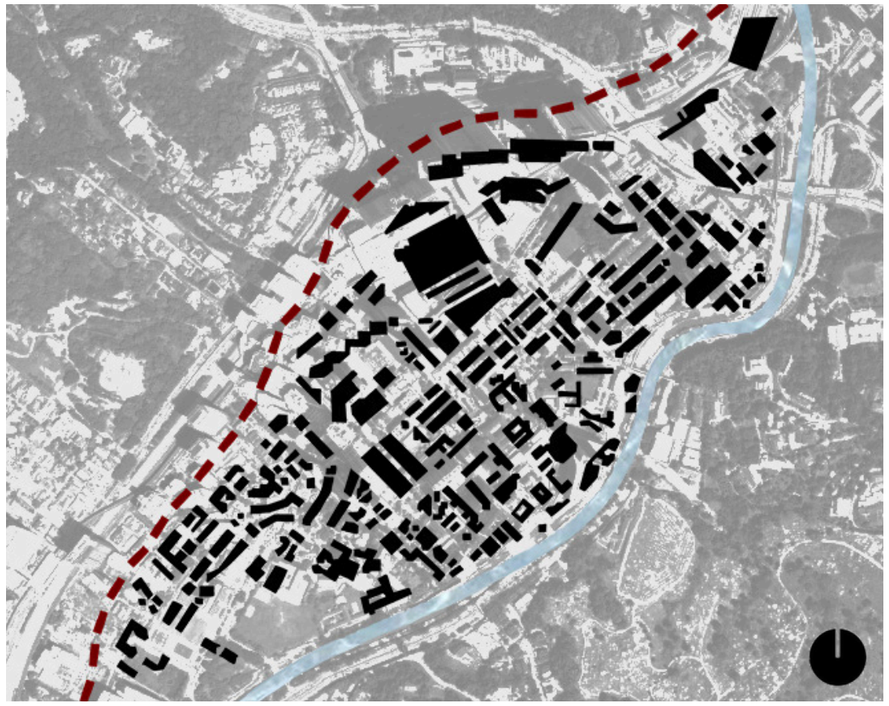
TASK I - URBAN MORPHOLOGY

Railway Road Klang River



1980

Brickfields expanded further as Kuala Lumpur grew economically into a major city.



2000

Significant new developments began to emerge, transforming the area's figure ground into a mix of both small- and large-scale buildings.

TASK I - URBAN MORPHOLOGY

Present



Train Line Indication



TASK I - URBAN MORPHOLOGY

Grid and Lot Layout

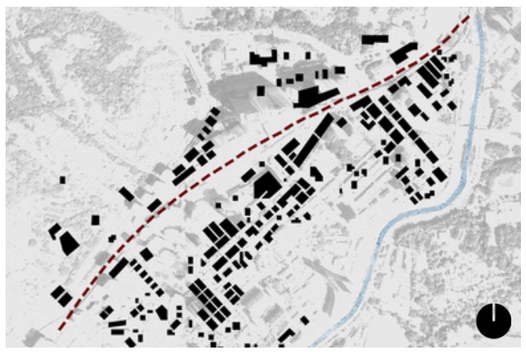


1920

Regular grid

Original layout was a regular grid, designed for efficient transport of bricks and workers to/from brick kilns.

Main roads are straight and orderly; secondary streets follow a grid logic but less strictly.



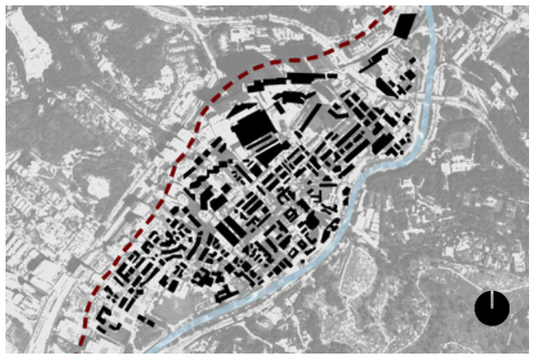
1957



1963



1980



2000

Influence of the Railway

Tracks and stations acted as barriers → lots adjusted around them, some irregular; development clustered near transport nodes.

Klang River

Lots along the river follow its curves, creating irregular shapes that break the grid pattern.

Over Time

Subdivision, merging, and informal alleys added organic irregularities.

Impact

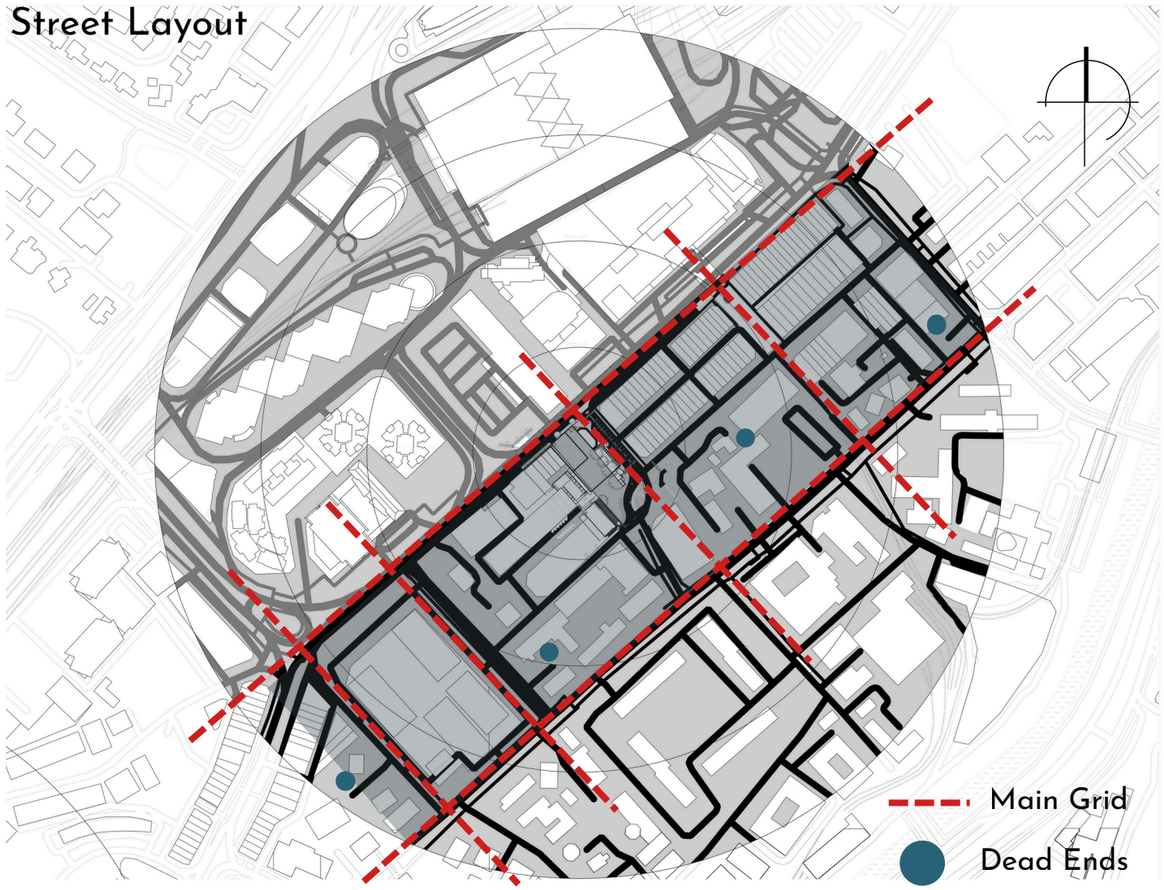
Hybrid urban fabric — main roads mostly grid-based, side streets and lots shaped by river, railway, and informal growth, producing a fragmented but human-scaled layout.

TASK I - URBAN MORPHOLOGY

Grid and Lot Layout

Irregularities

Street Layout

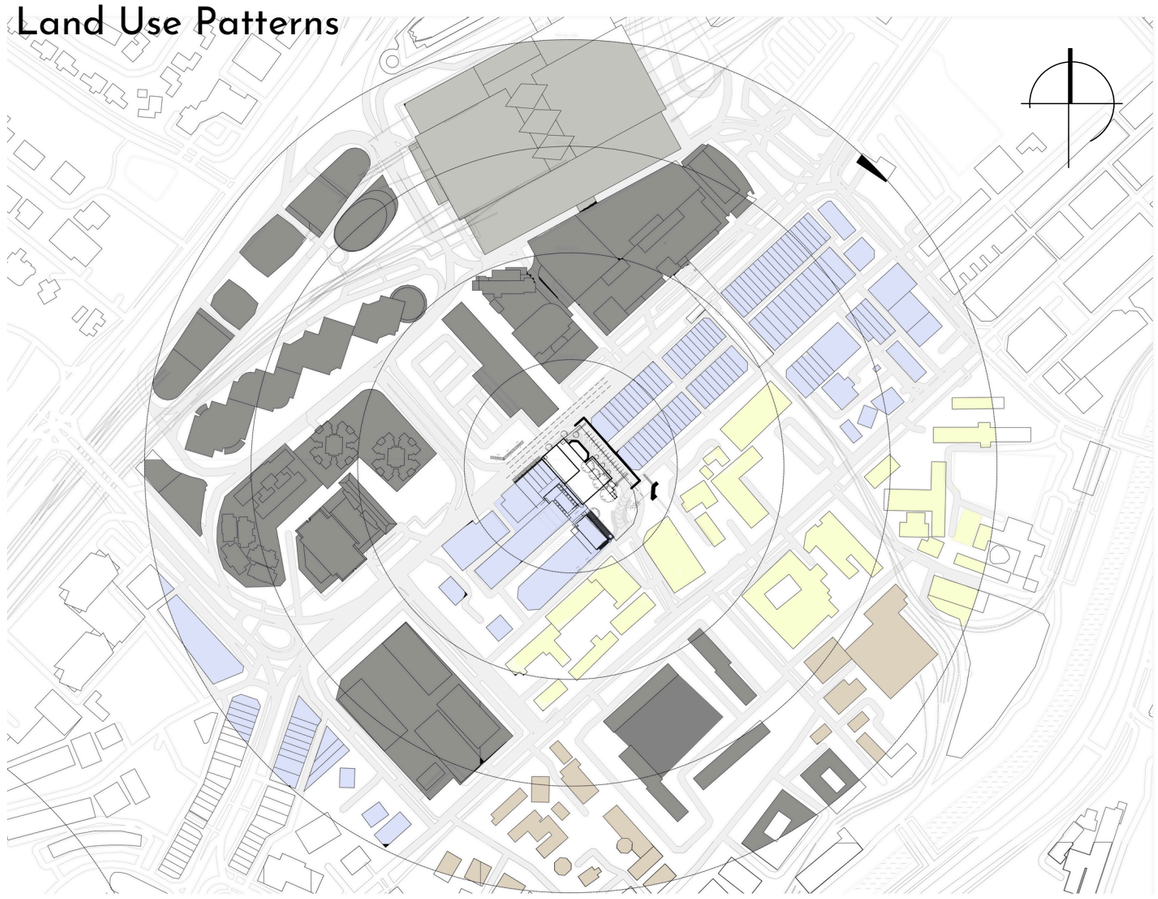


Main roads follow a grid-like colonial pattern, but side lanes and alleys are organic and irregular

- Why: Grid was laid out for early brick kilns and housing; later side lanes and alleys grew organically to support commerce and daily life.

- Impact: Creates a maze-like network → confusing for outsiders but fosters shortcuts, vibrancy, and community interaction.

Land Use Patterns

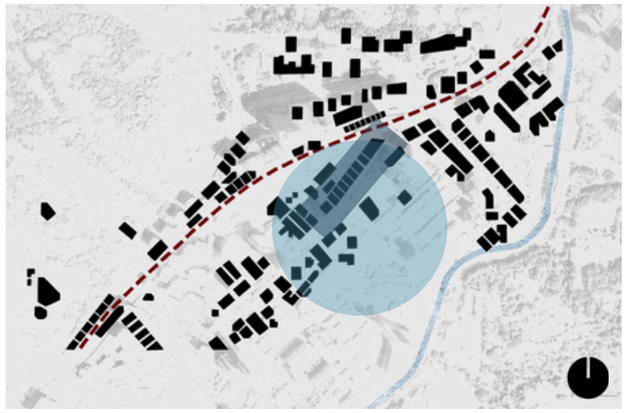


- Why: No strict zoning; mix of commerce, religion, housing, and informality (hawkers).

- Impact: Creates cultural richness and vibrancy, but also congestion and overlaps in functions.

TASK I - URBAN MORPHOLOGY

Solid and Void

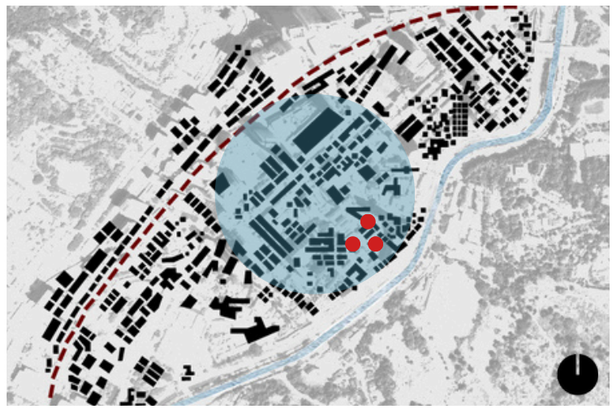


1920

Original Settlement Patterns

Workers' housing shows where built areas (solids) were originally planned.

Main roads and shophouse rows reflect **continuous solids,** while streets and alleys are the voids.

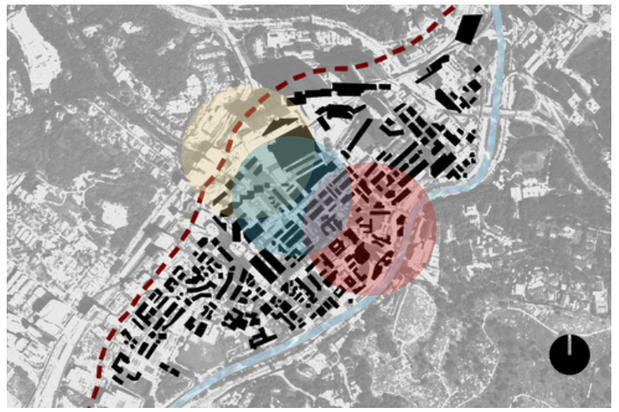


1963

Historical Changes in Land Use

Over time, plots were subdivided or merged, and commercial, residential, and religious buildings were added.

These historical layers reveal **clusters of solids** (dense built fabric) and **fragmented voids** (alleys, spill-outs, small plazas).



2000

Historical Infrastructure & Natural Features

The railway and Klang River shaped lot boundaries and disrupted the grid, creating **irregular solids and voids.**

Areas along the river or railway were often left as open strips, courtyards, or informal paths, adding to the void pattern.

Site Area **Affected by Railway Track** **Affected by River**

TASK I - URBAN MORPHOLOGY

Built and Unbuilt (400m radius)





Contrast between built and unbuilt areas

- Dense shophouses and high-rises, but many narrow streets and alleys create porous spaces.
- Highlights the balance between compact urban fabric and open movement paths.

Built

Unbuilt

TASK I - URBAN MORPHOLOGY

Built Area (400m radius)

Jalan Tun Sambanthan as main spine:
Organizes activity- uses cluster along road.

Typology hierarchy: →

Gradual transition from public to private—commercial → institutional → residential.

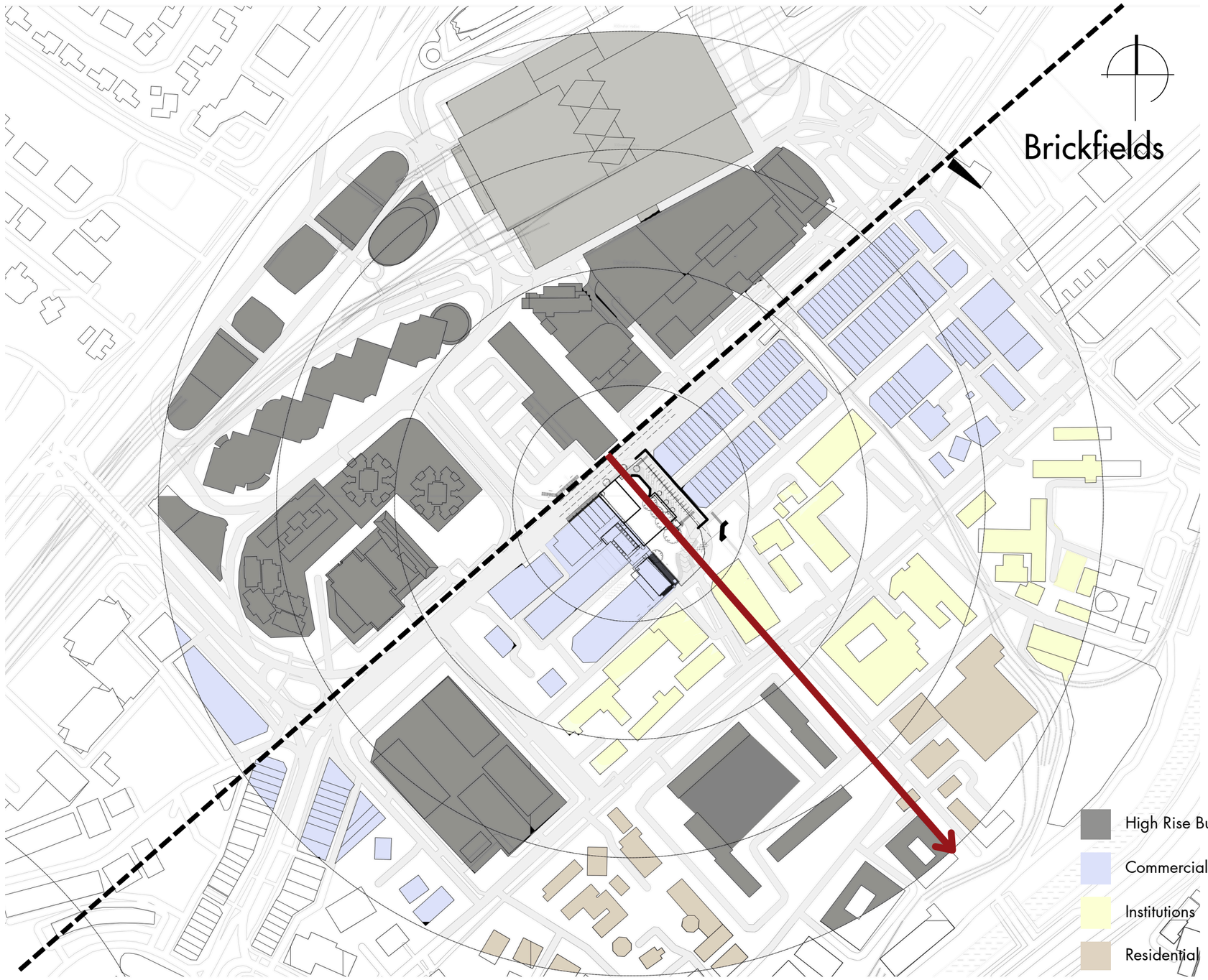
Road as barrier:. - - -

Physical, psychological, and visual separation between Brickfields and KL Sentral.

KL Sentral side: Formal, cosmopolitan transit hub-designed for diverse users and high activity.

Brickfields side: small-scale, community- or ethnicity-specific shops and services.

Contrast highlights socio-economic differentiation, spatial hierarchy, and influence of infrastructure on movement and perception.



TASK I - URBAN MORPHOLOGY

Unbuilt Area (400m radius)

Planned open spaces are very limited, consisting mainly of parking lots, small green spaces, and plazas.

- Green spaces are scarce and mostly private or confined , offering little public recreational use.
- Plazas exist only in front of religious buildings, serving as small communal gathering points.
- Overall, the majority of unbuilt areas are spill-outs, sidewalks, and leftover spaces, with minimal intentional planning for public open space.



Brickfields; A Cultural Enclave of Contrast



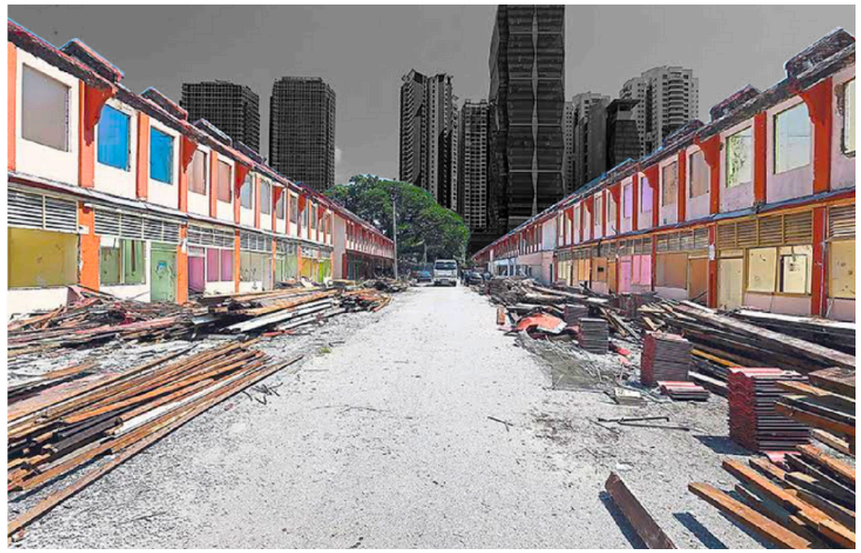
a fast paced, busy & striving business hub
BY DAY



a lively, spirited, bustling human-centric hub
BY NIGHT

TASK I - GENIUS LOCI

Contrast creates Place





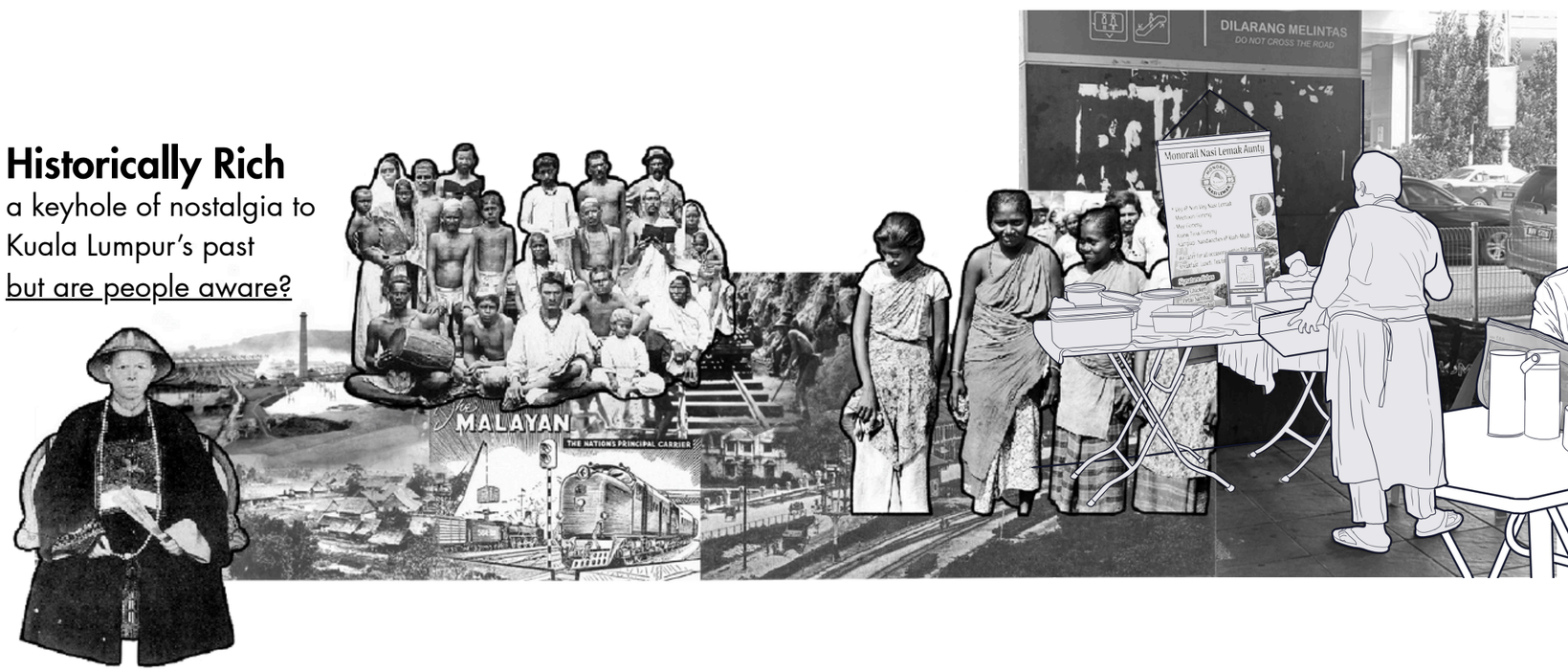


the offset between new and old is apparent in Brickfields

Historically Rich

a keyhole of nostalgia to Kuala Lumpur's past

<u>but are people aware?</u>



Nostalgic yet Moving Forward

Nasi Lemak Shop under the station "Monorail Nasi Lemak Aunty"

Mr. Lee reminiscing his young days in Brickfield 100 Quarters, now demolished over breakfast at a food stall

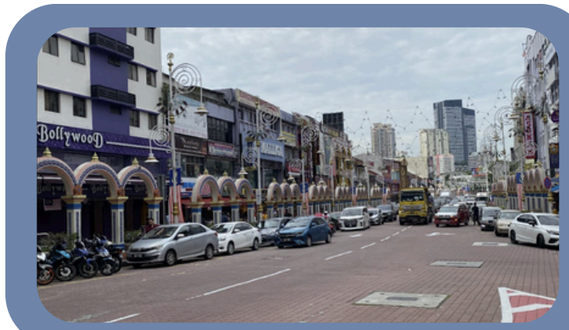
TASK 2

IMAGEABILITY & URBAN STRUCTURE

K. LYNCH'S IMAGE OF A CITY

TASK 2 - PATHS

MAIN PATH (VEHICULAR)



JALAN TUN SAMBANTHAN

Serves as the primary urban axis, articulated by rhythmic shopfront façades, cultural ornamentation, and continuous pedestrian flow



JALAN SULTAN ABDUL SAMAD

Functions as a transitional boulevard, defined by wide carriageways, framed vistas of high-rise forms, and the threshold to KL Sentral



JALAN RAKYAT

Reads as an intimate neighbourhood street, characterized by low-rise shophouses, institutional landmarks, and a human-scaled streetscape

MINOR PATH (PEDESTRIAN)



FIVE-FOOT WALKWAYS

Continuous covered arcades in front of shophouses offering shaded pedestrian circulation



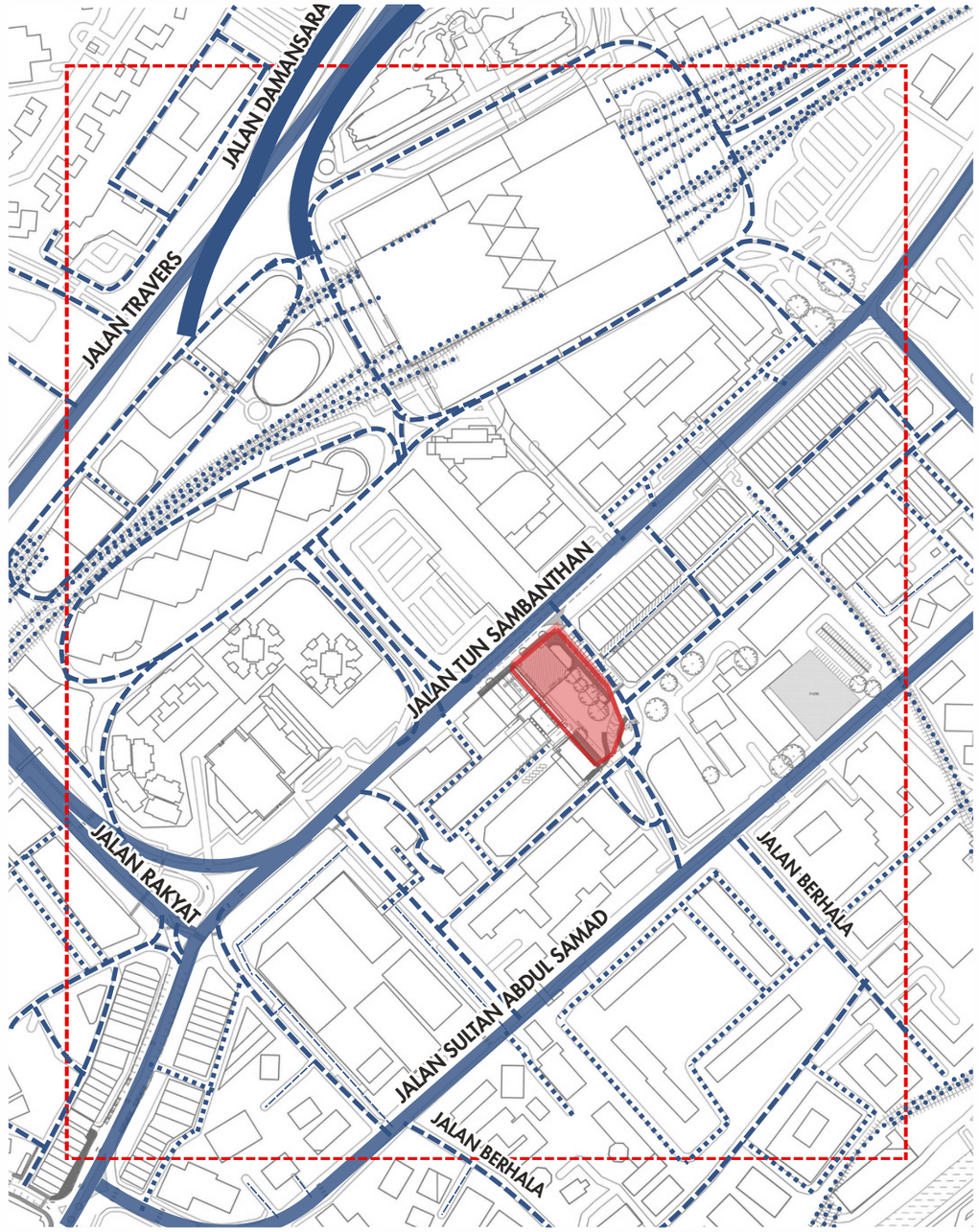
BACK LANES

Narrow alleys behind shophouses adapted for small-scale commerce or informal pedestrian shortcuts



SKYBRIDGE

Serves as an elevated pedestrian path, providing sheltered connectivity while framing urban views above the traffic



INTERNAL CIRCULATIONS



SECONDARY PEDESTRIAN LANE

Parallel to the five-foot walkway but open-air, often spilling over with vendors



MALL

Wide, climate-controlled spaces that guide shoppers smoothly between retail fronts and anchor spaces



TEMPLE

Spiritual landmark, with axial pedestrian approaches and ornate gateways that anchor community movement and orientation

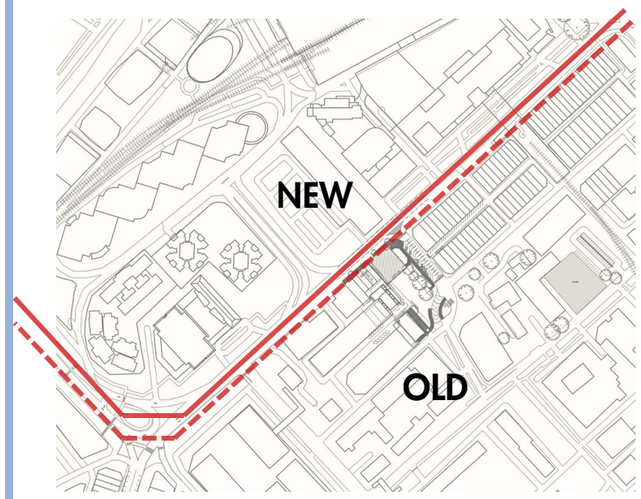


RAILWAY

LEGEND

- HIGHWAY
- MAIN PATH (VEHICULAR)
- SECONDARY PATH (VEHICULAR)
- MINOR PATH (VEHICULAR & PEDESTRIAN)
- INFORMAL PATH (PEDESTRIAN)
- RAILWAY

TASK 2 - EDGES



More modern high-rise buildings can be seen at the northwest of Brickfields, while the southeast retains low-rise traditional shophouses, creating a striking urban contrast between vertical density and historic human-scale fabric

Modern high-rise buildings

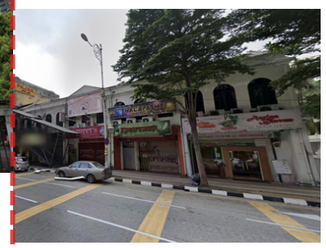




Low-rise traditional shophouses







PASSABLE/ PERMEABLE EDGES



STREETS ORNAMENTS

The Ornamental Indian arches create permeable edges that guide and invite pedestrian flow



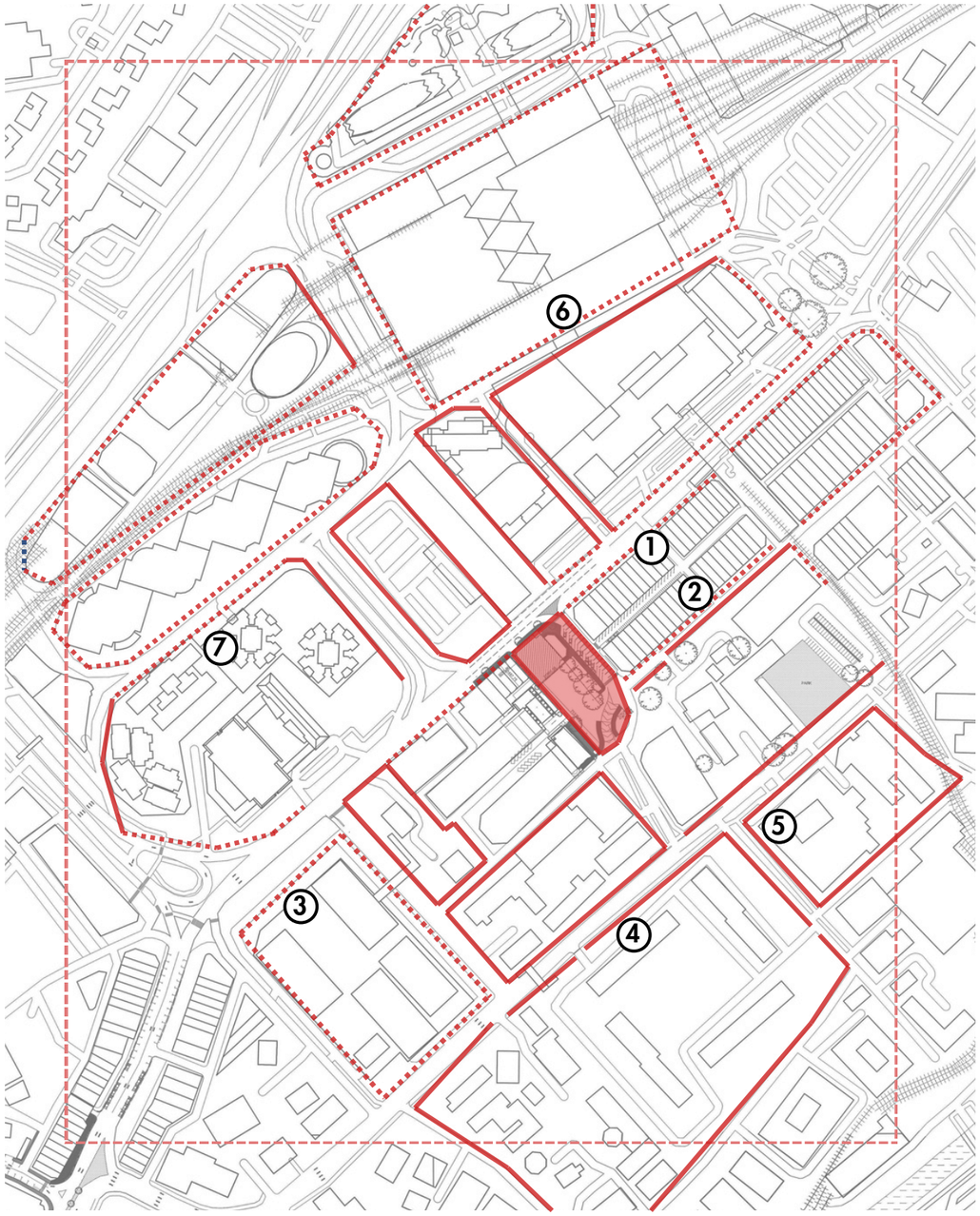
PARKED VEHICLES

Form temporary barriers that narrow walkways and reduce pedestrian permeability



VEGETATION

Roadside trees in Brickfields offer shade while keeping paths permeable



IMPASSABLE EDGES



BUILDING WALLS

Low building walls in Brickfields act as impassable edges, restricting movement and blocking visual permeability



FENCES

Serve as impassable boundaries, clearly separating public and private spaces while blocking both pedestrian access and visual permeability



ROAD BARRIERS

Function as rigid impassable elements, controlling traffic flow while obstructing pedestrian crossing across the street



SHRUBS/BUSHES

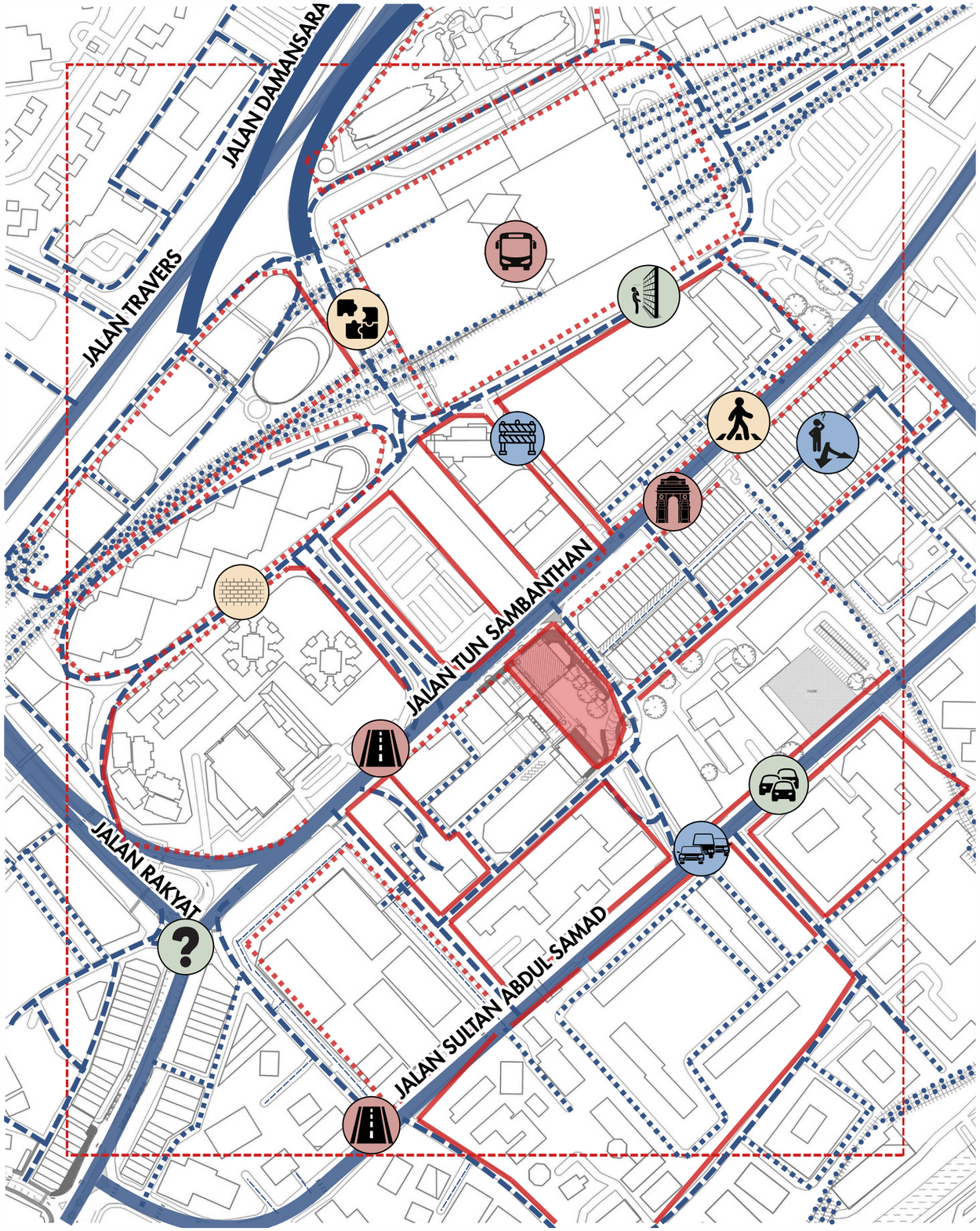
Shrubs and bushes create impassable, visually impermeable edges by forming thick vegetation barriers that block sightlines and restrict pedestrian access

LEGEND

IMPASSABLE EDGE

PERMEABLE EDGE

TASK 2 - THE IMAGEABILITY OF BRICKFIELD



Strength

Clear main spines
Jalan Tun Sambanthan & Sultan Abdul Samad

Transport access
Strong links to KL Sentral

Permeable Edges
Open garden & street ornaments

Weakness

Fragmented lanes
Narrow, hard to navigate

Traffic-heavy roads
Poor pedestrian comfort

Harsh barriers
Railway & blank podium walls

Opportunity

Activate edges
Improve riverbanks & blank walls

Better walkways
Shaded paths & wayfinding

Seam integration
Connect Brickfields–KL Sentral

Threats

Loss of identity
Over-commercialization diluting Little India's character

Traffic growth
Worsening congestion

Reinforced barriers
New KL Sentral edges

LEGEND

PATHS

- HIGHWAY
- MAIN PATH (VEHICULAR)
- SECONDARY PATH (VEHICULAR)
- MINOR PATH (VEHICULAR & PEDESTRIAN)
- INFORMAL PATH (PEDESTRIAN)
- RAILWAY

EDGES

- IMPASSABLE EDGE
- PERMEABLE EDGE

TASK 2 - COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS



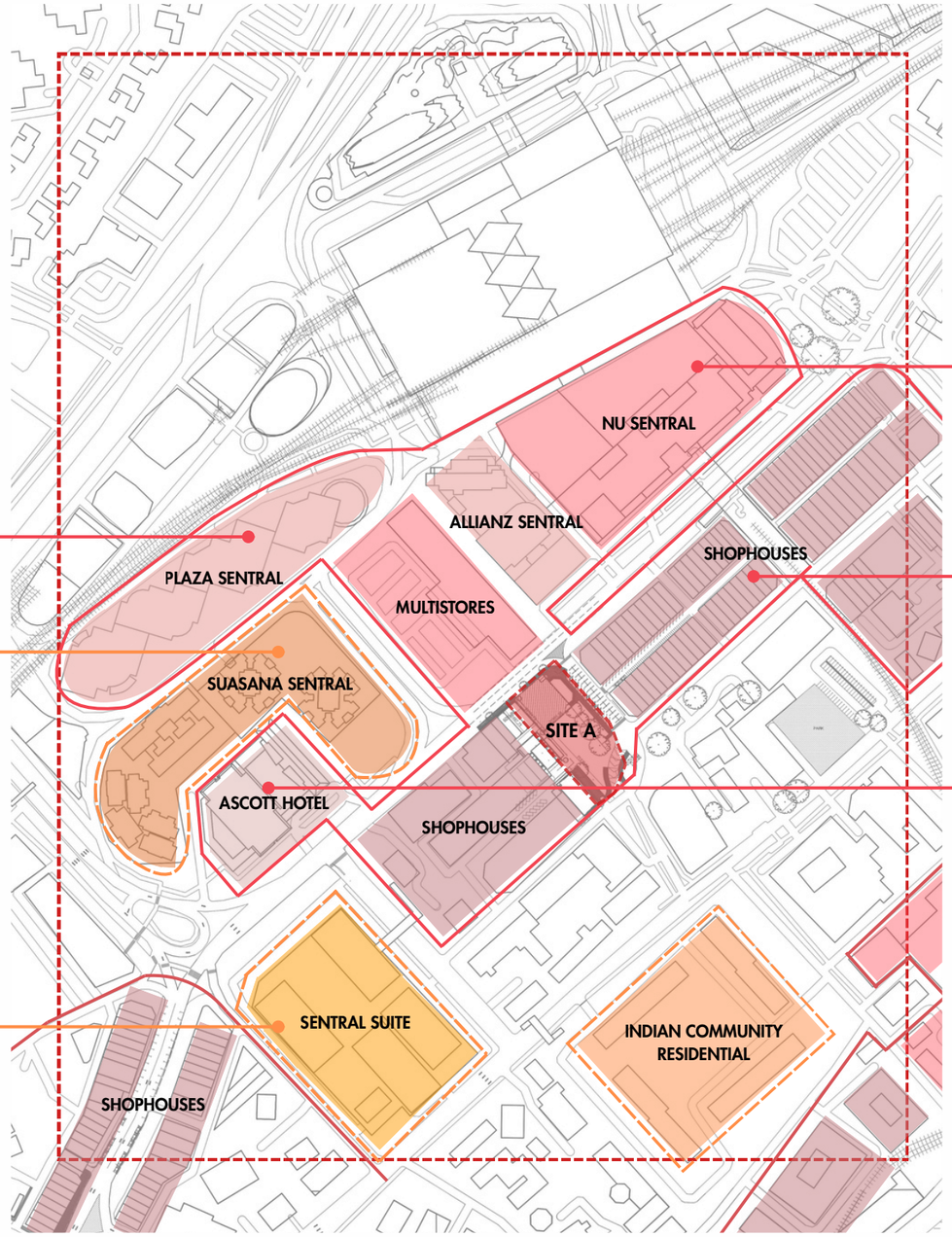
OFFICE/ BANK
Cluster of modern office towers that houses corporate and business activities in Brickfields. Its sleek design and strategic location make it a central node for professionals working near KL Sentral



CONDOMINIUM
Upscale condominium development in the heart of Brickfields. It provides premium residential units designed for city dwellers seeking comfort and connectivity



APARTMENT
Modern high-rise apartment complex that embodies dense urban living. It offers contemporary facilities within close proximity to the commercial core



LEGEND

- COMMERCIAL DISTRICT
  - OFFICE
  - MALL
  - HOTEL
  - SHOPHOUSES
- RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT
  - APARTMENT
  - CONDOMINIUM



MALL
Major retail and lifestyle mall directly linked to KL Sentral station. It integrates shopping, dining, and leisure, serving as both a transit hub and a commercial magnet



SHOPHOUSES
The Indian shophouses of Brickfields are low-rise structures rich in cultural identity. They host eateries, boutiques, and traditional trades, creating a vibrant streetscape



HOTEL
High-rise hospitality landmark catering to business and leisure travelers. Its facilities and central location highlight Brickfields' role as a gateway for international visitors

TASK 2 - INSTITUTION & TRANSPORTATION DISTRICTS



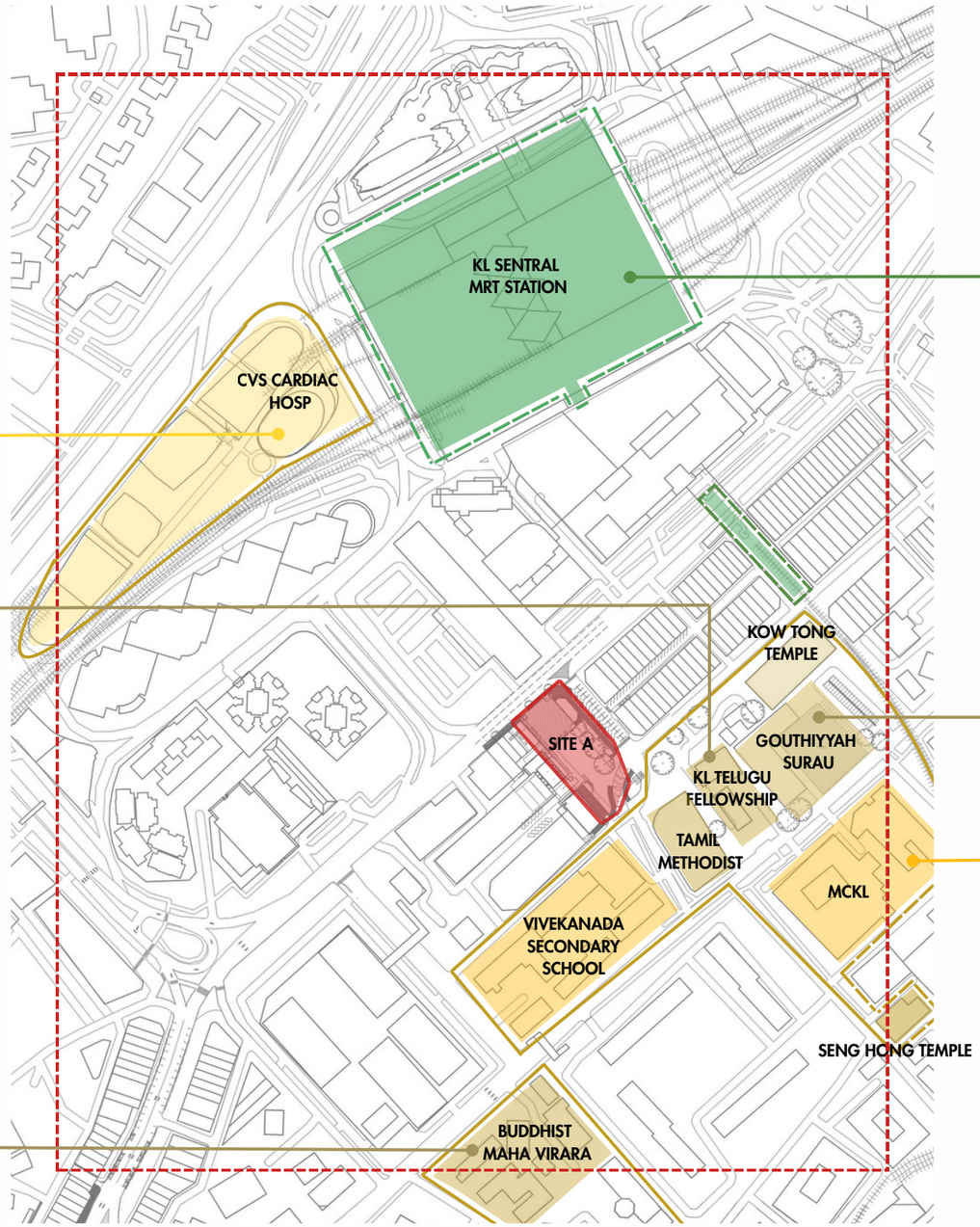
HOSPITAL
Positioned in a vibrant urban setting, this cardiac hospital ensures accessibility while serving as the core healthcare hub of Brickfields



CHURCH
Methodist Church in Brickfields is a prominent Christian worship space with a simple yet recognizable design. It hosts Sunday services, weddings, and community gatherings, serving both spiritual and social needs of the local congregation



TEMPLE
Brickfields' most prominent landmarks. With its traditional Buddhist architecture, it provides spaces for prayer, meditation, and cultural festivals, serving as both a spiritual and cultural hub for the Buddhist community



LEGEND

- INSTITUTIONAL DISTRICT
- HOSPITAL
- SCHOOL
- TEMPLE/ CHURCH/ SURAU
- TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT
- LRT / MRT STATION



TRANSIT-ORIENTED ZONE
KL Sentral serves as both a major transportation hub and a commercial district Function like a mall while providing seamless access to destinations across Kuala Lumpur

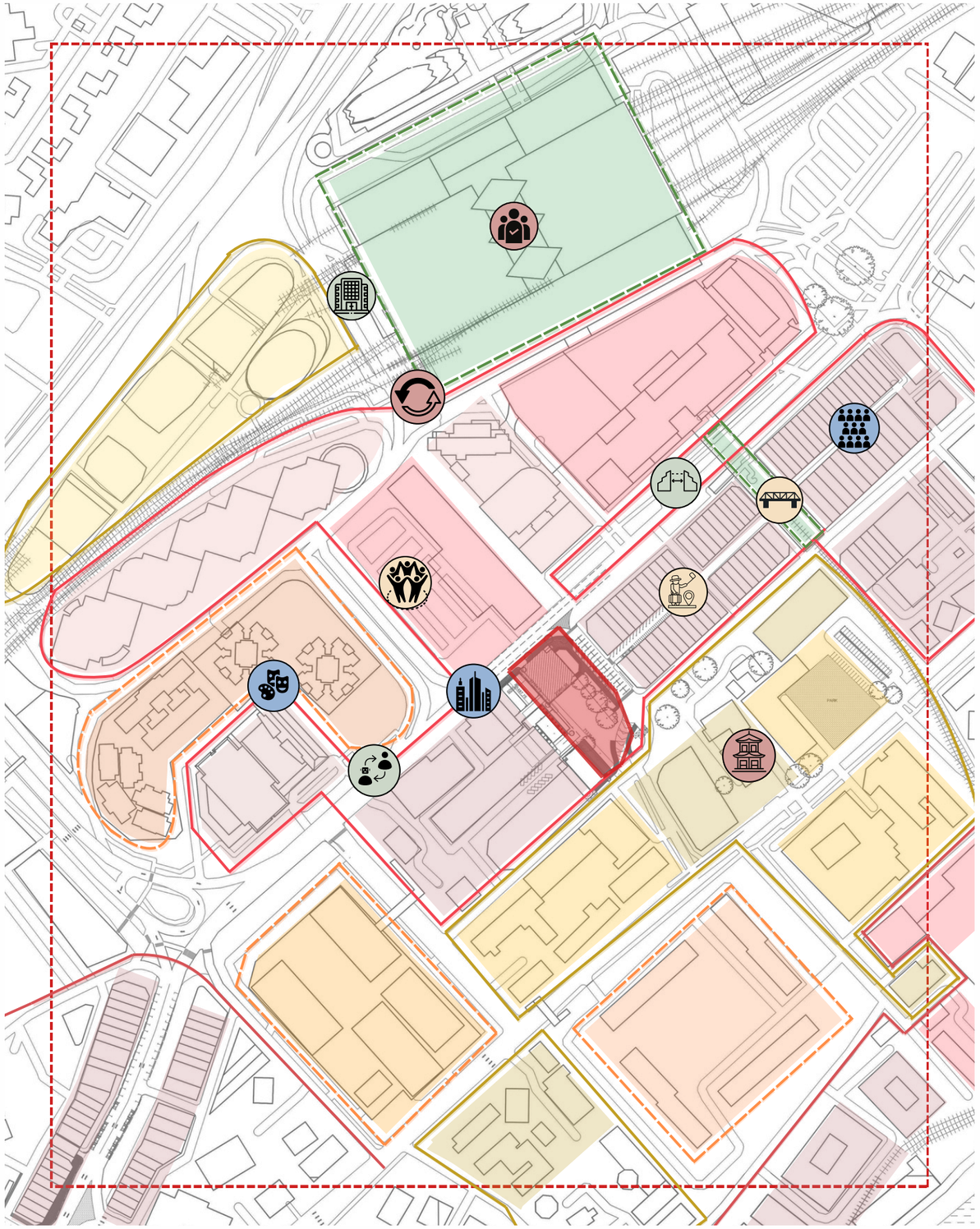


SURAU
Small scale prayer space for local Muslim community. Offers daily and Friday prayers, religious classes, and a place for residents to gather for spiritual activities



SCHOOL
Long-established educational institution for students and offers center not only for education but also values-based learning

TASK 2 - THE IMAGEABILITY OF BRICKFIELD



N

Strength

Strong cultural character
Temples, shophouses, Little India

Diverse functions
Mix of residential, commercial, and religious

Accessible district
Compact scale with strong KL Sentral connections

Weakness

Heritage vs modern contrast
Sharp divide between old Brickfields & KL Sentral towers

Overcrowding
Narrow streets, heavy foot & vehicle congestion

Lost of culture
Urban growth driven by the erosion of cultural identity

Opportunity

Cultural tourism
Promote Little India's heritage, food, and temples

District integration
Bridge old Brickfields with KL Sentral

Community spaces
Reuse vacant lots for social/green nodes

Threats

Cultural displacement
Gentrification and commercialization harming Little India's identity

District divide
widening gap between modern towers and older neighborhoods.

Overdevelopment
KL Sentral overshadowing historic districts

LEGEND

DISTRICTS

- COMMERCIAL DISTRICT
- OFFICE
- MALL
- HOTEL
- SHOPHOUSES
- TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT
- LRT / MRT STATION
- RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT
- APARTMENT
- CONDOMINIUM
- LANDED RESIDENTIAL
- INSTITUTIONAL DISTRICT
- HOSPITAL
- SCHOOL
- TEMPLE/ CHURCH

TASK 2 - NODES



KL SENTRAL

As the city's central transport interchange, concentrating high pedestrian flow and linking regional, commercial, and cultural districts



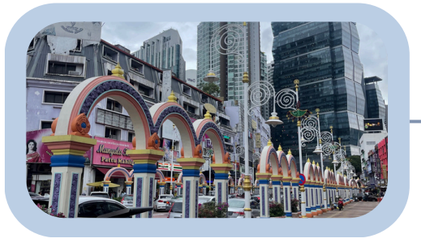
SKYBRIDGE

Node of connectivity, channeling heavy pedestrian flow between KL Sentral, NU Sentral, and the surrounding districts



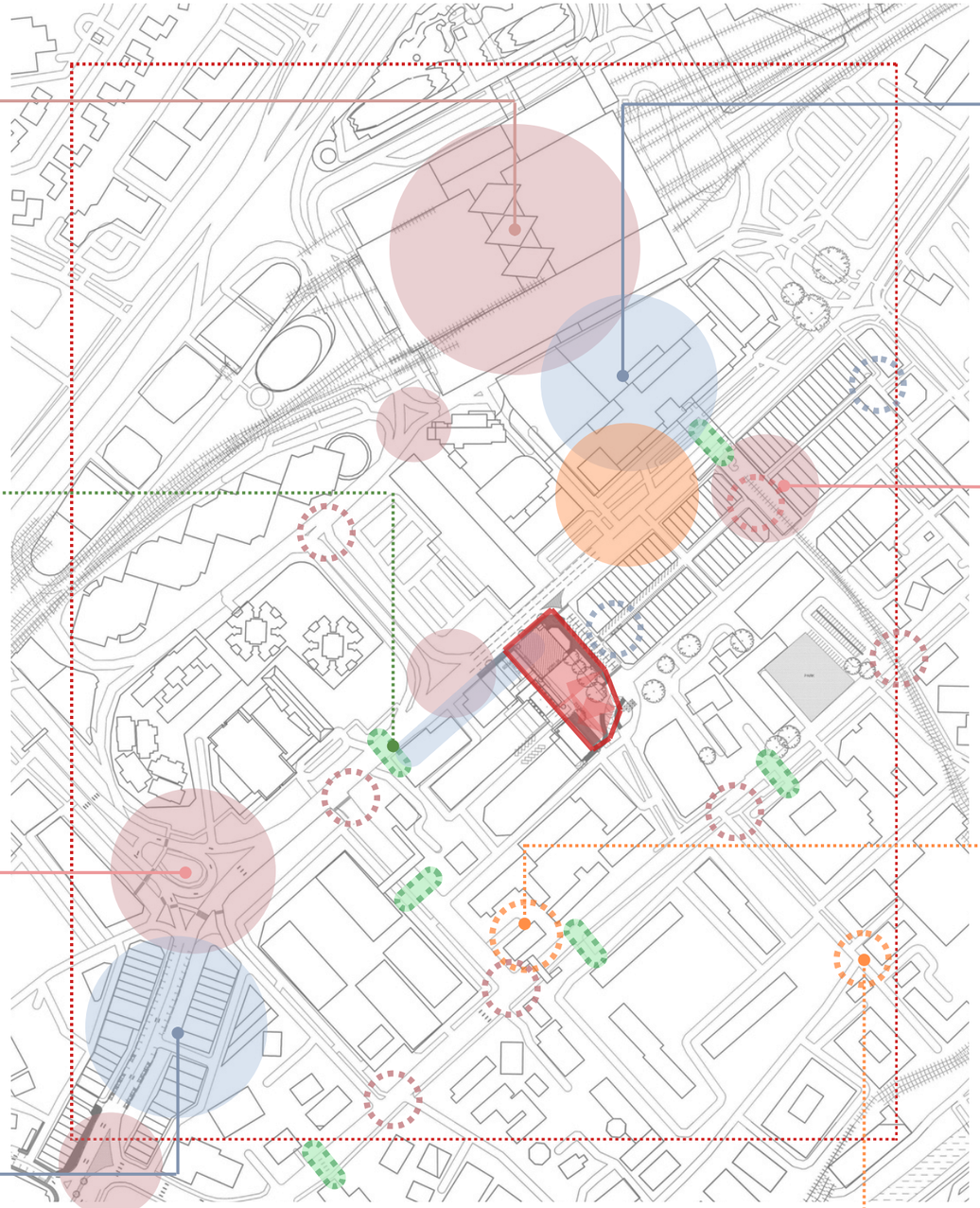
JALAN RAKYAT TRANSIT INTERSECTION

Major transportation intersection and pedestrian crossing at Jalan Rakyat forms a vital node channeling movement.



LITTLE INDIA COMMERCIAL STREET

Drawing people with its dense concentration of shops, eateries, and cultural activities along Jalan Sultan Abdul Samad



LEGEND

- MAJOR TRANSPORT NODE
- MARJOR COMMERCIAL NODE
- MAJOR SOCIAL NODE
- PEDESTRIAN CROSSING NODE
- MINOR TRANSPORT NODE
- MINOR COMMERCIAL NODE
- MINOR SOCIAL NODE



NU SENTRAL

Social node in Brickfields, offering gathering spaces, dining, and leisure activities that foster interaction among locals, commuters, and visitors



MONORAIL STATION

Providing elevated connectivity and linking the district seamlessly to Kuala Lumpur's wider transit network



SENTRAL SUITS OUTDOOR SEATING

As a minor social node, providing residents and visitors with a communal space for relaxation, interaction, and casual gatherings



HINDU TEMPLES

Two temples facing each other with a narrow road to the residential area form a social node, uniting communities through worship, festivals, and cultural gatherings

TASK 2 - LANDMARKS



CARDIAC VASCULAR SENTRAL (CVS)

As a state-of-the-art specialist hospital, symbolizing advanced healthcare infrastructure and serving as a critical institutional anchor for the community



MENARA SHELL

Modern high-rise form and green design making it a visible orientation point near KL Sentral, contrasting with the surrounding low-rise areas



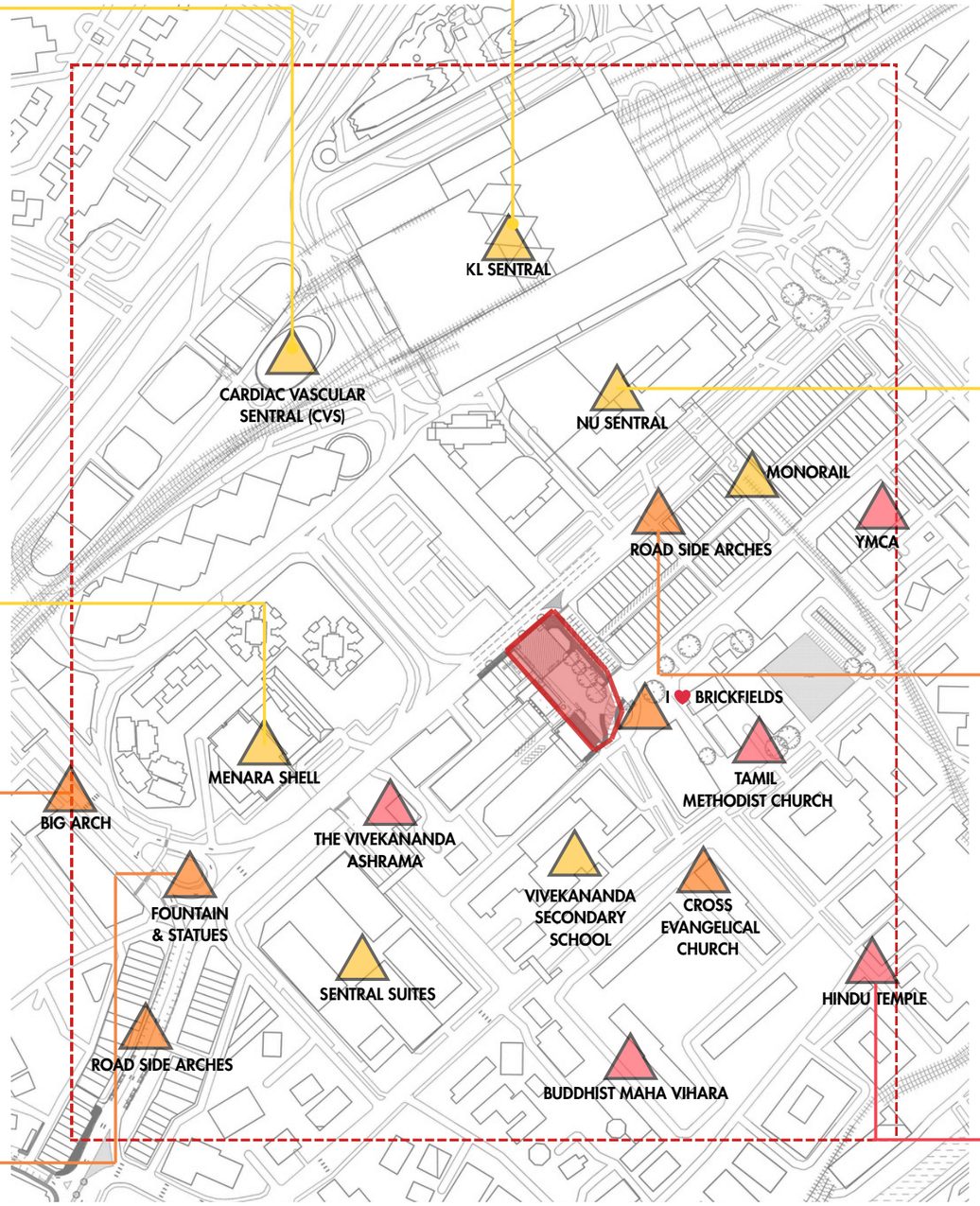
BIG ARCH

The big welcoming arch symbolise gateway landmark, marking the entrance to Little India and reinforcing the district's cultural identity



LITTLE INDIA FOUNTAIN & STATUE

Acts as a symbolic Brickfields landmark, with its distinct form at a key roundabout marking the entrance to the cultural district



LEGEND

HISTORIC BUILDINGS WAYFINDING BUILDINGS SCULPTURES



KL SENTRAL

Acting as the city's central transport hub and a key orientation point that integrates rail, commercial, and urban districts



NU SENTRAL

Large scale and modern design serving as a visible orientation point linking transport, commercial, and cultural districts



ROAD SIDE ARCHES

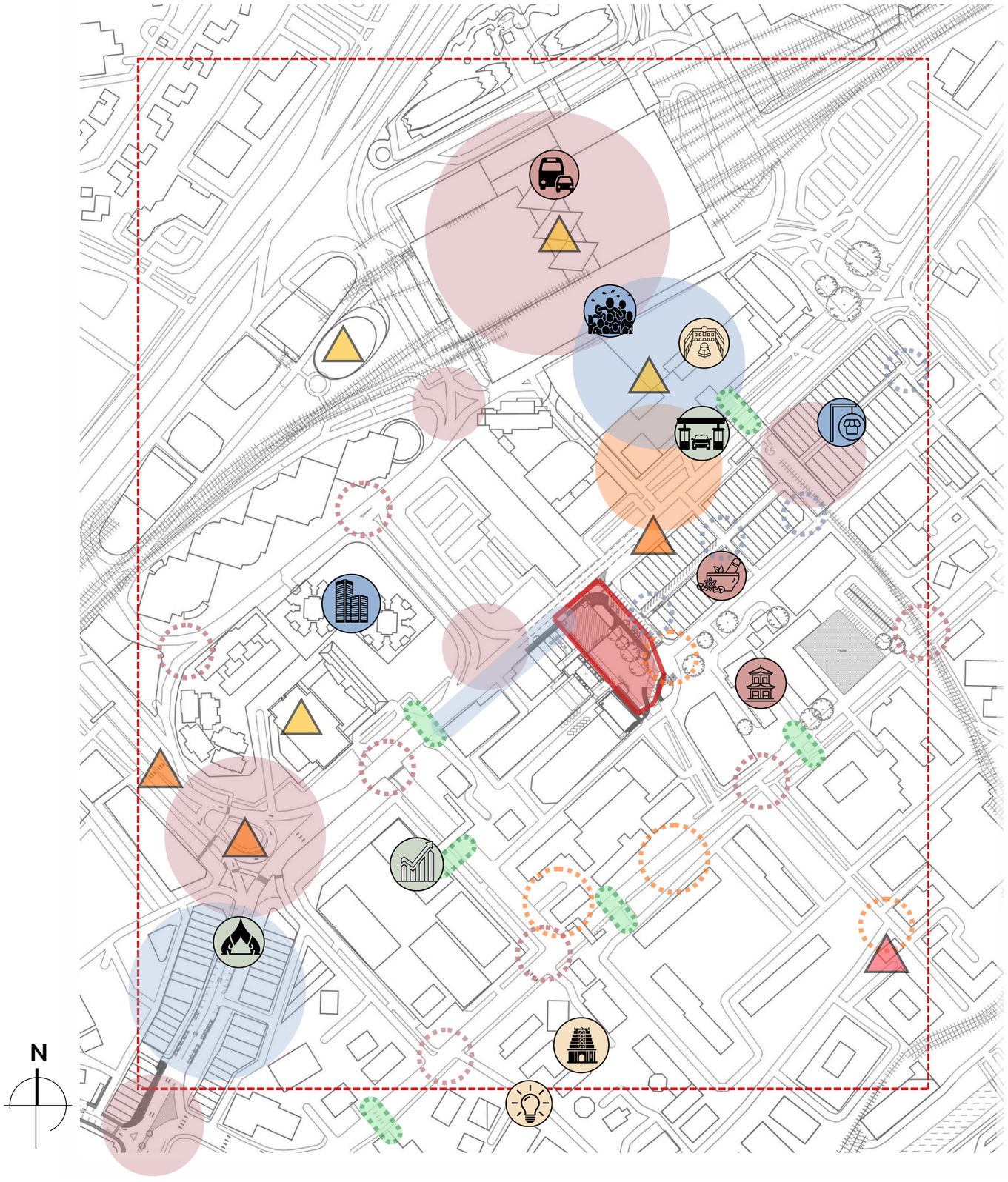
Marking the entry into Little India and creating a memorable cultural gateway for pedestrians and drivers



HINDU TEMPLE

Distinguished by its ornate architecture and spiritual significance as a focal point for the local community

TASK 2 - THE IMAGEABILITY OF BRICKFIELD



Strength

Transport anchors
KL Sentral, Monorail, and KTM as major city nodes

Cultural icons
Temples, churches, and Vivekananda Ashram as memorable landmarks

Vibrant clusters
Little India junctions with shops, food, and colorful arches

Weakness

Overcrowding
Key nodes (KL Sentral, Little India) often congested

Visual clutter
Excessive signage and ads weaken landmark legibility

Disjointed visibility
Heritage landmarks hidden by towers or narrow streets

Opportunity

Heritage reinforcement
Preserve temples, arches, and cultural icons

Public realm upgrades
Improve plazas, forecourts, and social gathering spaces

Lighting & wayfinding
Enhance nighttime identity and orientation

Threats

Overdevelopment
Tall towers overshadow historic landmarks

Commercial dominance
Retail and transport nodes outshine cultural ones

Neglect & dilution
Poor upkeep and branding weaken Little India's character

LEGEND

NODES

- MAJOR TRANSPORT NODE
- MARJOR COMMERCIAL NODE
- MAJOR SOCIAL NODE
- MINOR TRANSPORT NODE
- MINOR COMMERCIAL NODE
- MINOR SOCIAL NODE

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING NODE

LANDMARKS

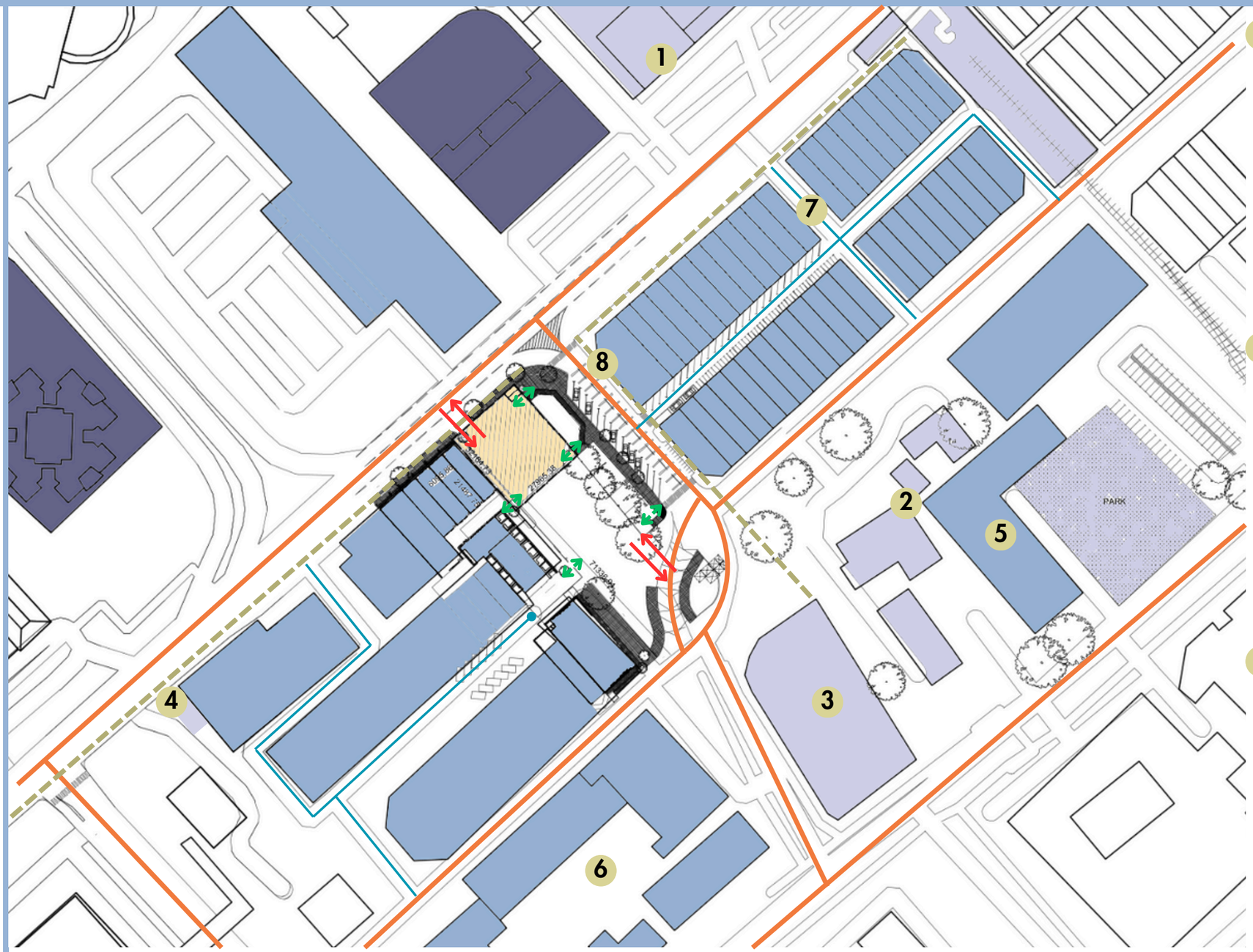
- HISTORIC BUILDINGS
- WAYFINDING BUILDINGS
- SCULPTURES

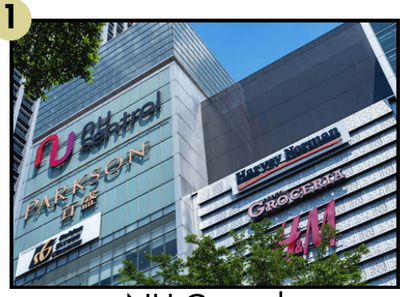
TASK 3

CHARACTER OF PLACE

BENTLEY'S RESPONSIVE ENVIRONMENT

TASK 3 - PERMEABILITY

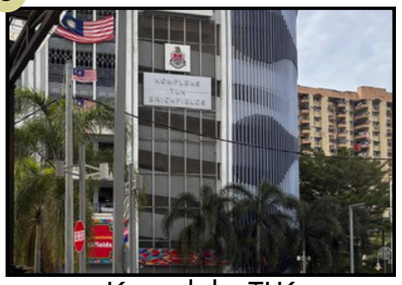




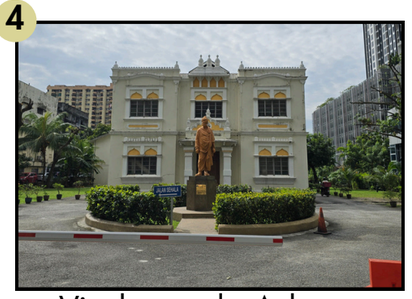
NU Central



Tamil Methodist Church



Kompleks TLK



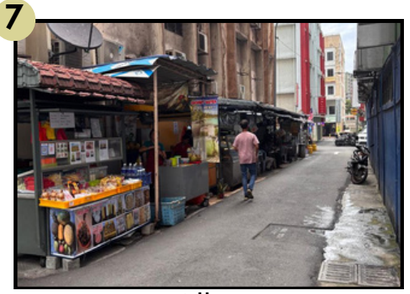
Vivekananda Ashram



Wisma Pandu Puteri



Vivekananda School



Alley



Covered Pathway

Site A

Semi Public Space

Public Space

Private Space

Vehicle Primary Road

Main Entry and Exit (Vehicle)

Pathway

Unofficial Entry and Exit

Alley

Dead End

TASK 3 - PERMEABILITY

Streets & Alleyways

Permeability obstructed by :



Ongoing construction sites along the street **reduce visibility and create potential hazards** for pedestrians.



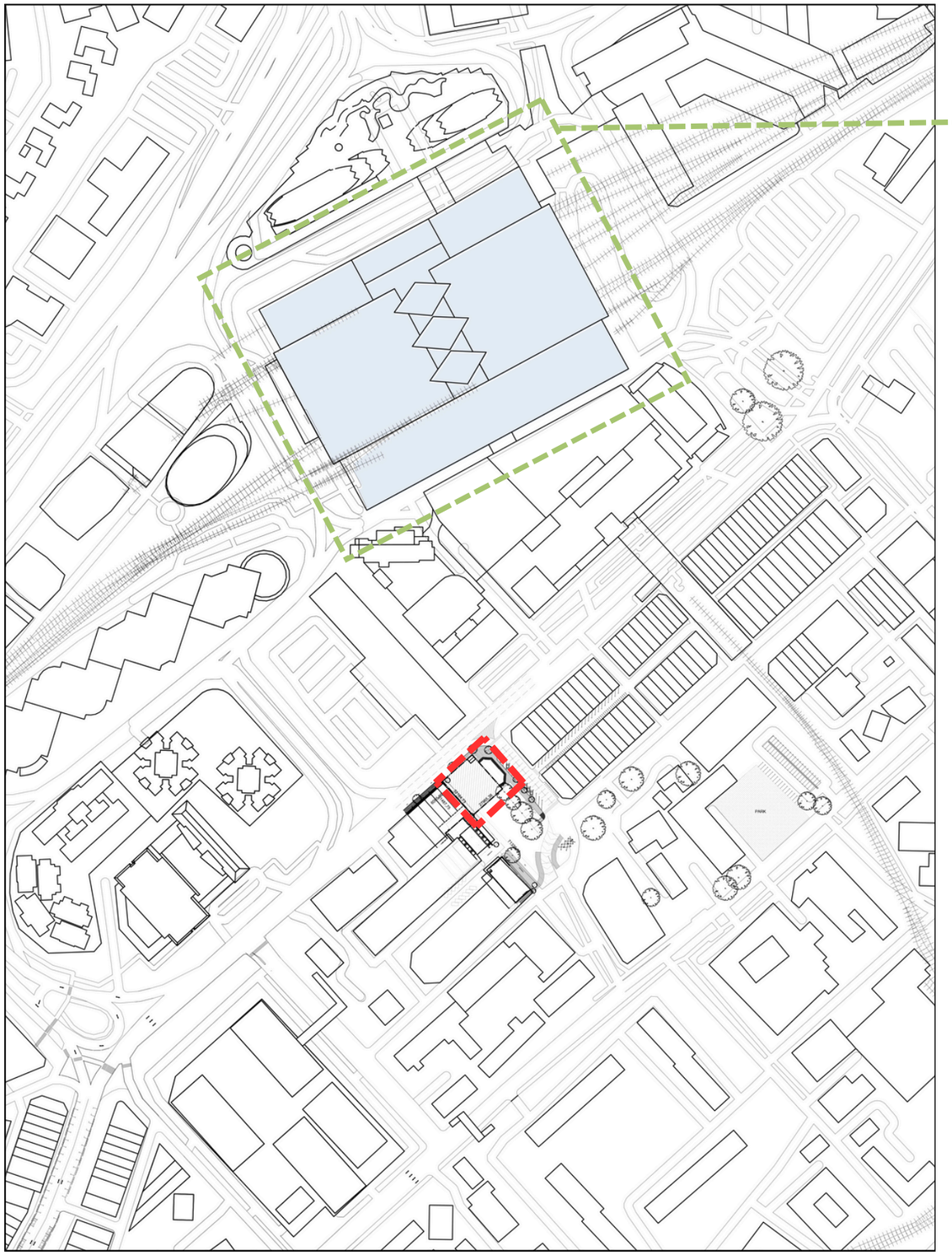
The pathways are unsafe for visually impaired users because there are **no guiding blocks or tactile paving,** making it difficult for them to navigate safely.



The obstruction of pathways by restaurant seating limits free pedestrian flow and reduces accessibility, especially for **wheelchair users or parents with strollers.**

TASK 3 - PERMEABILITY

Accessibility





Public Transport Linkages

- Brickfields is strategically connected to KL Sentral (train, LRT, MRT, monorail, buses), making it a transport hub.



Inclusive Design

- Continuous tactile paving along main routes.
- Supports blind users, influenced by the nearby Malaysian Association for the Blind (MAB).
- Makes Brickfields more inclusive



Barrier-Free Access

- Wheelchair accessibility is inconsistent.
- Steep curbs, uneven surfaces, and narrow sections create mobility challenges.
- Parents with strollers and elderly pedestrians face similar difficulties.



Walkability

- The pedestrian walkways are narrow, uneven, or broken.
- Pathways often end abruptly or are blocked, forcing pedestrians onto the road.

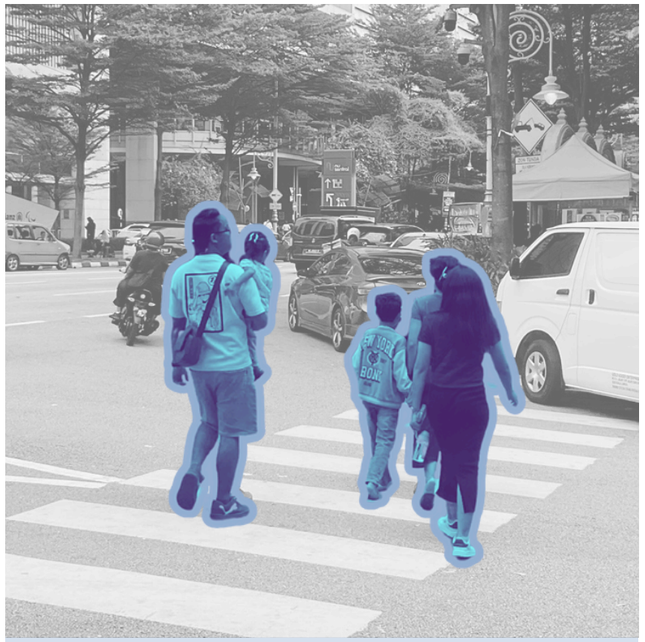
TASK 3 - PERMEABILITY

Traffic Volume

Pedestrian



Low



Moderate



High

Vehicular



Low



Moderate

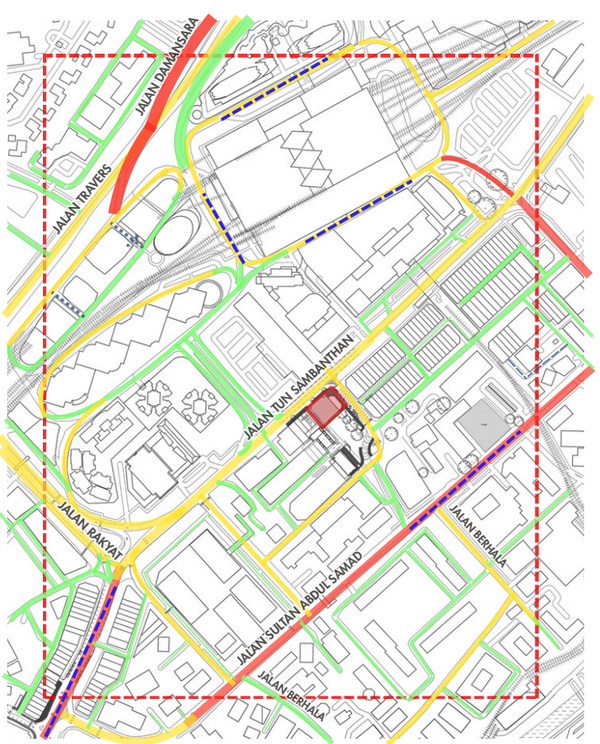


High

TASK 3 - PERMEABILITY

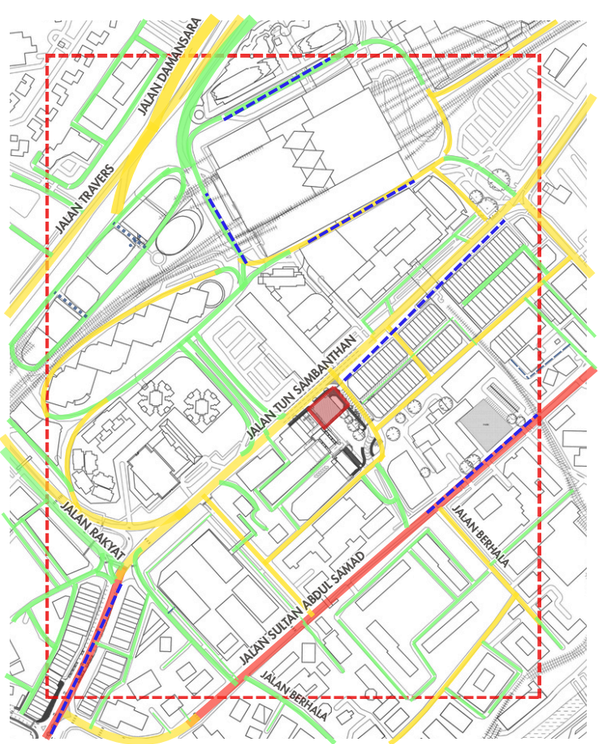
Traffic DENSITY - WEEKDAY





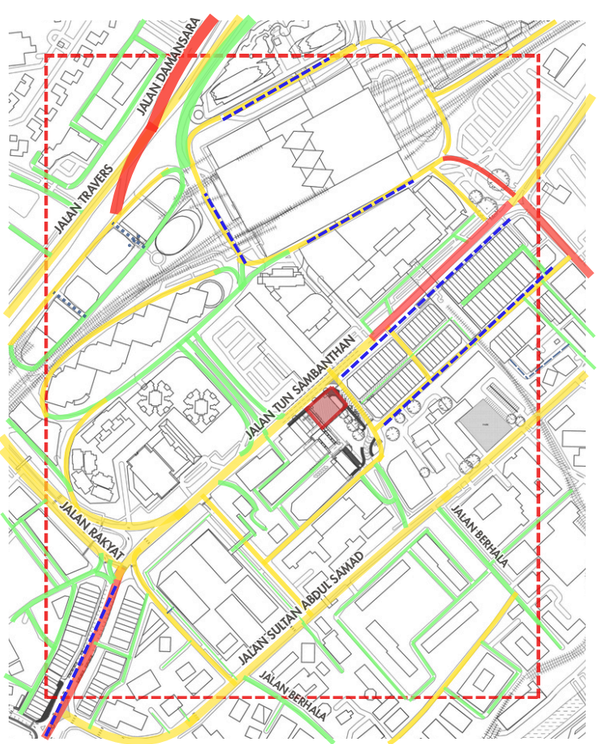
Morning 6am - 8am

- Heavy traffic along Jalan Sultan Abdul Samad, influenced by nearby schools.
- Jalan Tun Sambanthan generally experiences moderate traffic conditions.



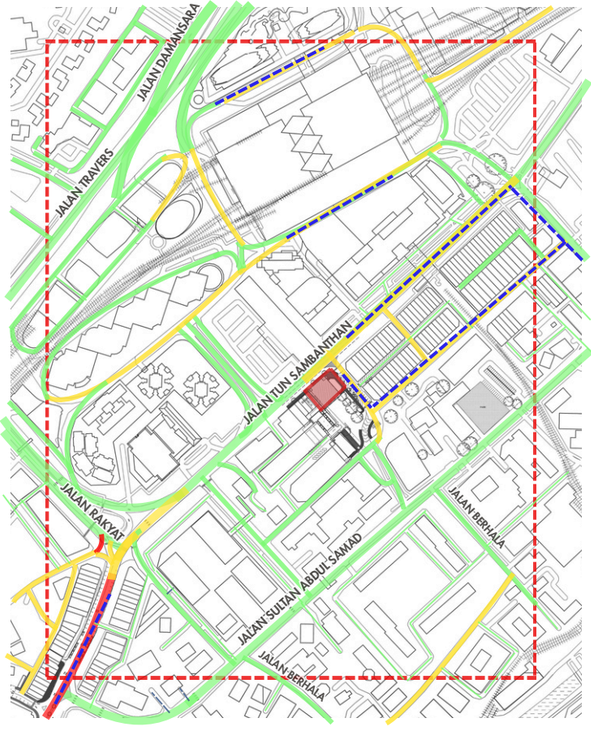
Afternoon 10am - 2pm

- The row of shophouses along Jalan Tun Sambanthan contributes to a moderate level of traffic, as vehicles frequently stop for customer access and parking.
- Walkways around the shophouses support pedestrian movement for locals and tourists.



Evening 4pm - 7pm

- Heavy traffic at Jalan Tun Sambanthan shophouses due to nearby restaurants.
- Traffic in Brickfields, particularly near KL Sentral, tends to be moderate but increases during peak hours when office workers commute home.



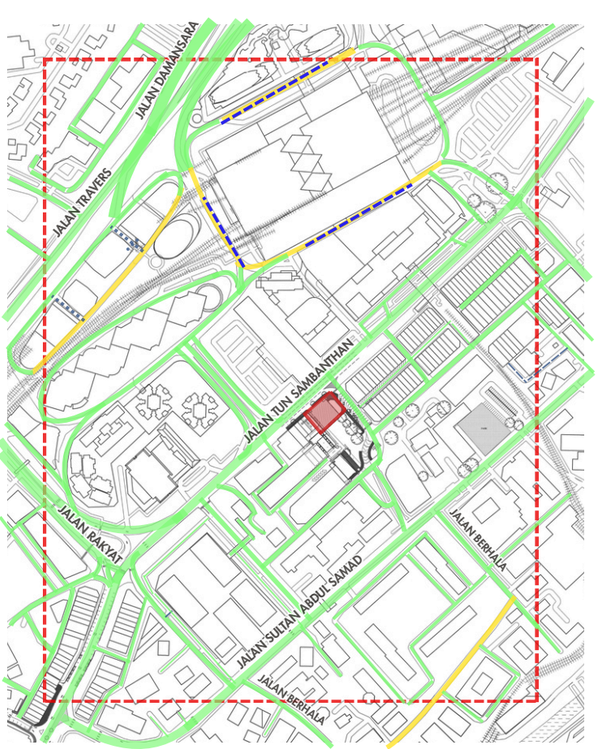
Night 8pm - 11pm

- Heavy to moderate traffic at Jalan Tun Sambanthan near shophouses and eateries during dinner hours.
- High pedestrian activity at night from tourists and locals visiting food spots.

TASK 3 - PERMEABILITY

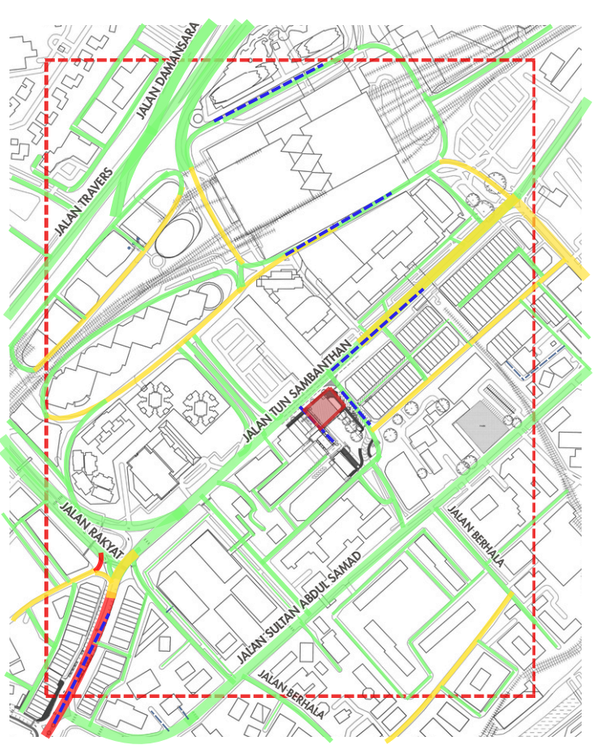
Traffic DENSITY - WEEKEND





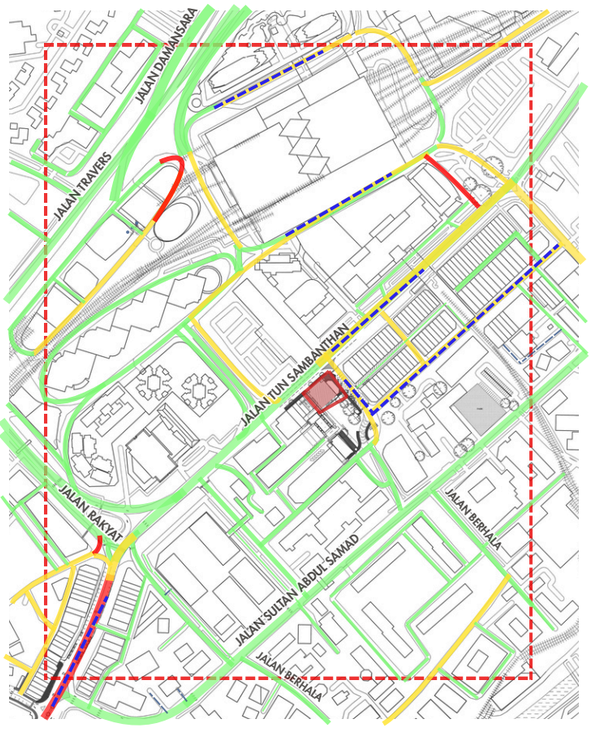
Morning 6am - 8am

- Roads are generally quieter compared to weekdays.
- Jalan Stesen Sentral and Jalan Stesen Sentral 3 experience moderate traffic due to proximity to KL Sentral.



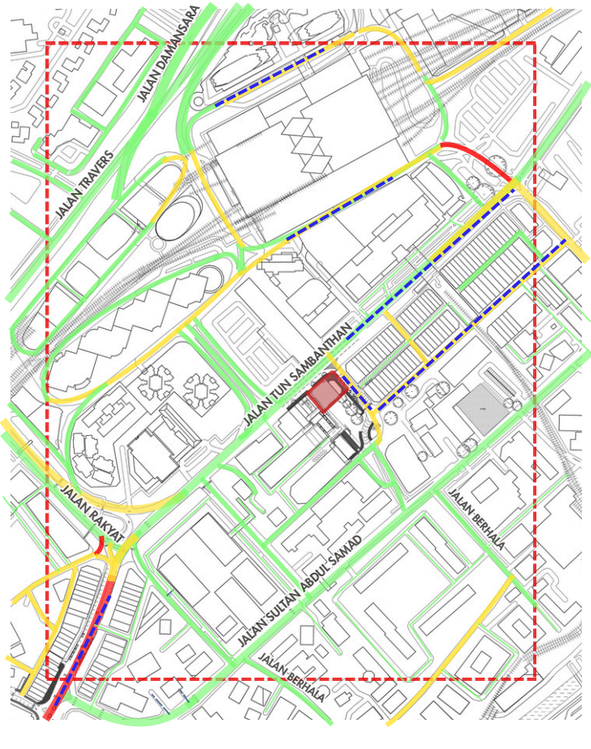
Afternoon 10am - 2pm

- Jalan Tun Sambanthan records moderate vehicular traffic, with many pedestrians heading to shophouses and nearby restaurants during lunch hours.
- Jalan Stesen 5 also experiences moderate traffic as office workers leave during break times.



Evening 4pm - 7pm

- Jalan Tun Sambanthan remains moderate vehicular and pedestrian traffic due to surrounding commercial buildings.
- Traffic around KL Sentral becomes moderate as many people rely on public transportation for outings and dinner.

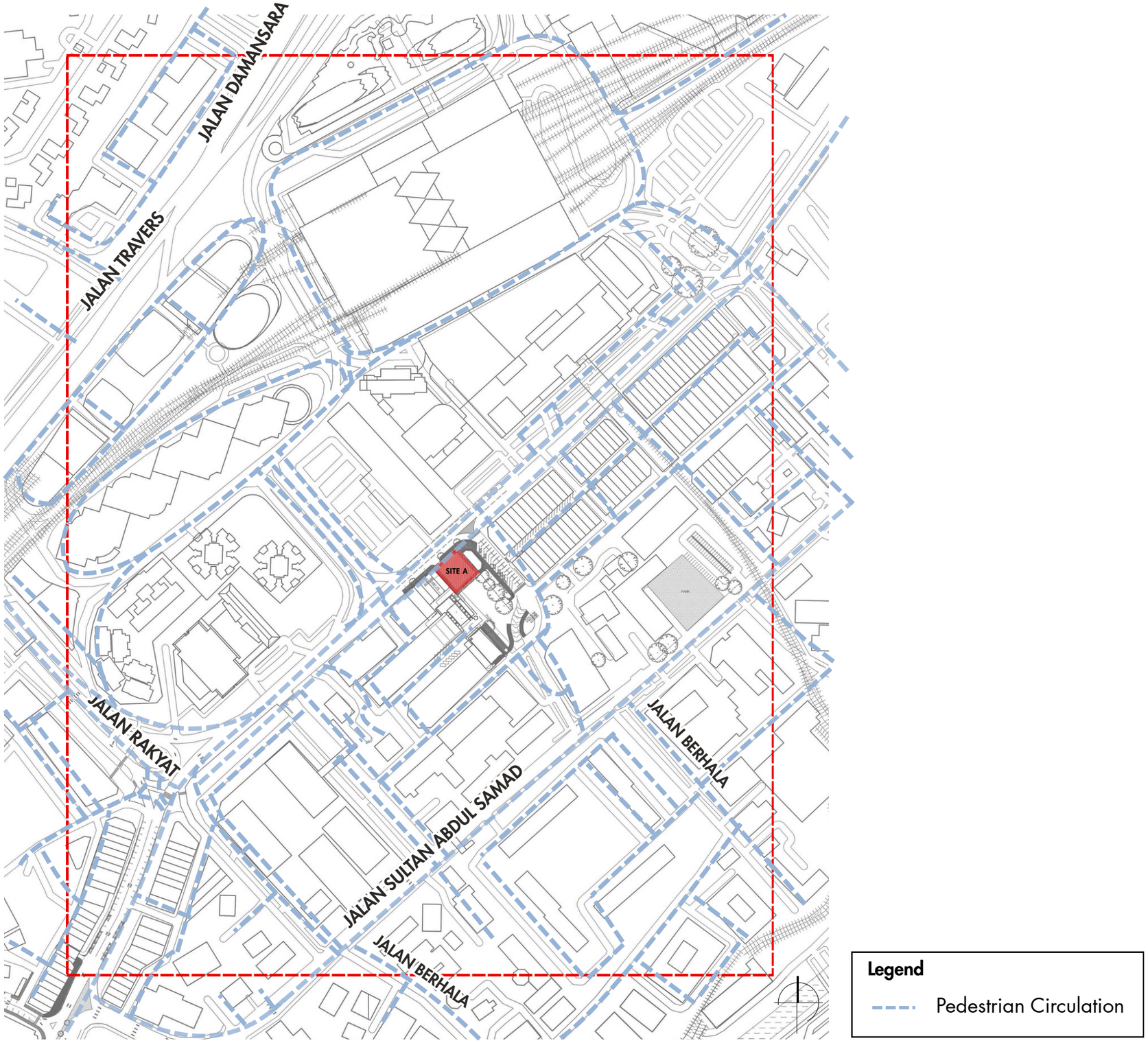


Night 8pm - 11pm

- Tourists and local families visiting food spots increase nighttime vehicular traffic.
- Roads around KL Sentral face moderate congestion as commuters return home before the last train.

TASK 3 - PERMEABILITY

Pedestrian Circulation

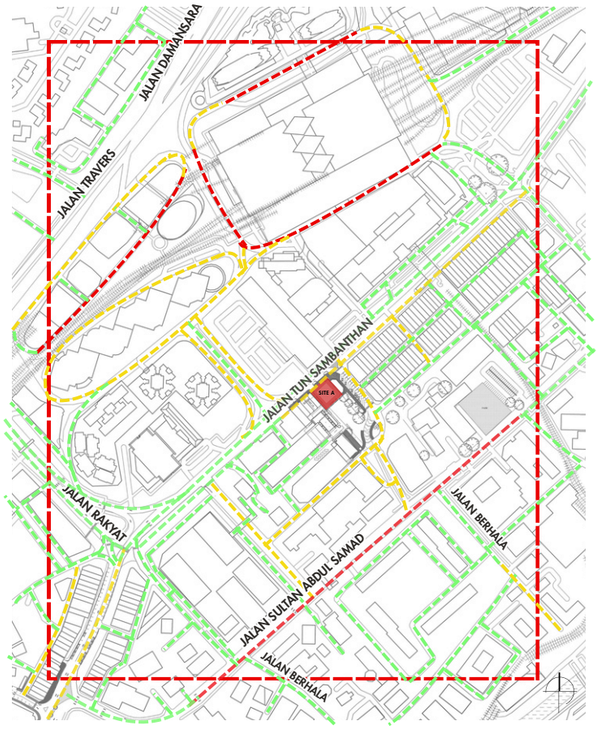


TASK 3 - PERMEABILITY

Pedestrian Traffic DENSITY - WEEKDAY

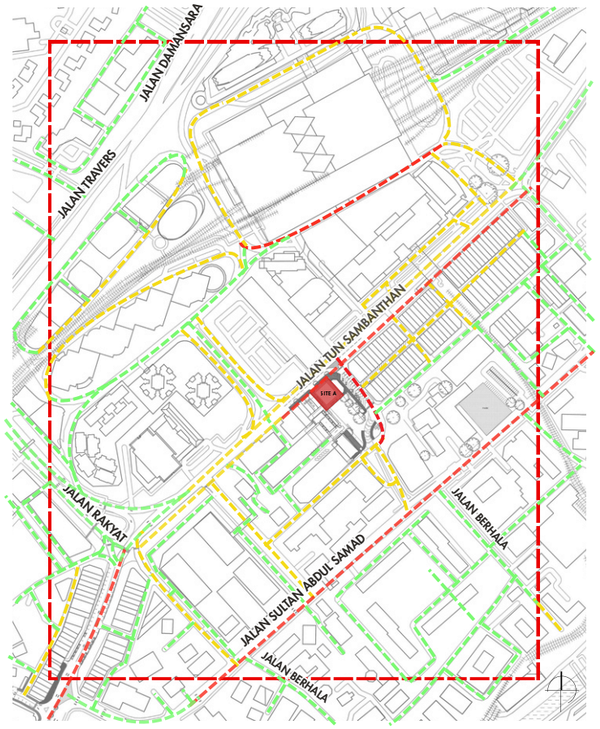
Legend

Low — Moderate — Heavy



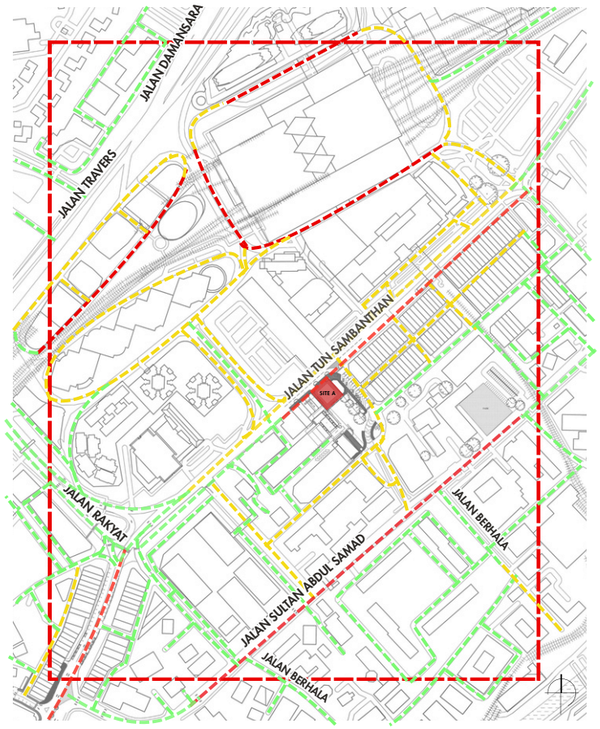
Morning 6am - 8am

- Heavy pedestrian traffic occurs near KL Sentral and office buildings in the morning peak hours as office workers commute.
- Jalan Sultan Abdul Samad experiences quite heavy pedestrian congestion due to nearby schools.



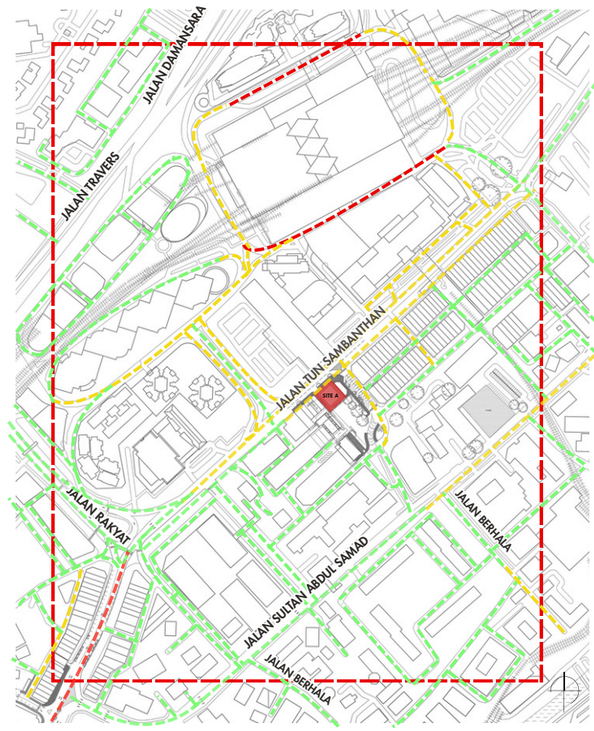
Afternoon 10am - 2pm

- Most roads experience moderate pedestrian traffic during lunch hours as people head to shophouses and nearby restaurants.
- Jalan Sultan Abdul Samad experiences heavy pedestrian traffic during school dismissal hours and from nearby temples.



Evening 4pm - 7pm

- In the evening, pedestrian traffic is heavy around KL Sentral and Jalan Tun Sambanthan as office workers commute home or stop by nearby restaurants for dinner.
- Jalan Sultan Abdul Samad continues to experience heavy pedestrian traffic during school dismissal hours.



Night 8pm - 11pm

- Moderate pedestrian traffic occurs along Jalan Tun Sambanthan near shophouses and food spots.
- Heavy to moderate pedestrian activity is observed around KL Sentral as many commuters use public transport to return home.

TASK 3 - PERMEABILITY

Pedestrian Traffic DENSITY - WEEKEND



Morning 6am - 8am

- Pedestrian traffic is moderate around Jalan Tun Sambanthan near NU Sentral due to early commuters and breakfast-goers.
- Jalan Stesen Sentral 3 records high pedestrian traffic, reflecting strong movement around KL Sentral.

Afternoon 10am - 2pm

- Jalan Rakyat experiences heavy pedestrian flow from nearby offices, eateries, and movement to Little India.
- Jalan Tun Sambanthan record moderate density, reflecting lunchtime crowds around NU Sentral and shops.

Evening 4pm - 7pm

- Jalan Tun Sambanthan records heavier pedestrian activity than in the morning and afternoon, as shopping, dining, and tourist visits increase.
- Jalan Stesen Sentral and Jalan Stesen Sentral 3 remain moderate to heavy.

Night 8pm - 11pm

- Jalan Tun Sambanthan maintains heavy pedestrian activity, with tourists and locals visiting restaurants, food stalls, and night spots in Little India.
- Jalan Stesen Sentral 3 becomes moderate, slightly quieter after peak hours.

TASK 3 - VARIETY

> **Variety, refers to "variety of uses" on site which then unlocks other forms and levels of variety in a place.**
>
> **— Ian Bentley, Responsive Environments (1985)**

1. Variety of Uses

Brickfields has varied uses, varied building types and activities.

Commercial uses

1. Traditional stores



Flower garland stores



Sari shops



Goldsmiths



Spice stores

2. Food culture



Mamaks



Roadside stalls



Modern indian restaurants



Fruit & sweet stalls

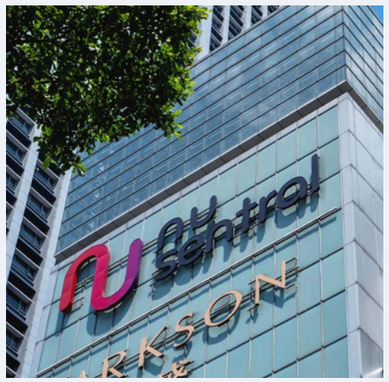
3. Retail outlets



Small supermarkets



Convinient stores



NU Sentral mall

The **primary mall** located in Brickfields is Nu Sentral, **an integrated shopping, dining, and entertainment complex** directly connected to **KL Sentral**, the city's main transportation hub.

Religious uses [multi-faith]



Hindu temples



Churches



Suraus / mosques

Residential uses



Highrises near kl sentral



Housing for long time indian families



Migrant workers housing

TASK 3 - VARIETY

2. Variety of times

Time of Day	Key Activities	Spaces Activated	Character of Place
Morning	Temple rituals, devotees offering prayers, vendors setting up, locals cycling	Temples, sidewalks near stalls, streets	Sacred, spiritual, fragrant (incense)
Afternoon	Shops busy, schools and offices active, lunchtime food crowd	Commercial shops, eateries, schools,	Bustling, functional, high pedestrian flow
Evening	Street dining expands, bazaars lively, social gatherings	Restaurants, mamaks, open spaces, Traditional shops	Vibrant, social, noisy (traffic)
Night	Festival lights (ocassionally) , late-night dining, some areas quieter	Streets and walkways, mamaks, main roads	Festive, colourful, partly calm in residential pockets

3. Variety of people & meanings

Local Tamil Community




Long-term communities, including many Indian families and small business owners, contribute to the strong cultural identity of the area.

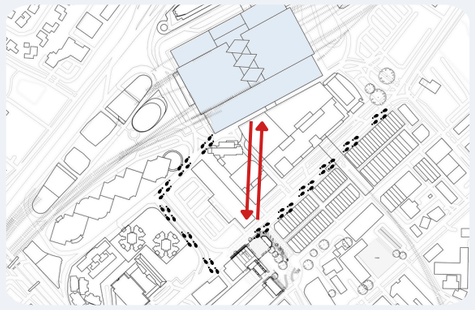
Tourists





Attracted to the “Little India” atmosphere, colorful streets, temples, and food culture.

Commuters from KL Sentral



Passing through daily due to the proximity to KL Sentral, especially during peak hours.

Visually Impaired Community



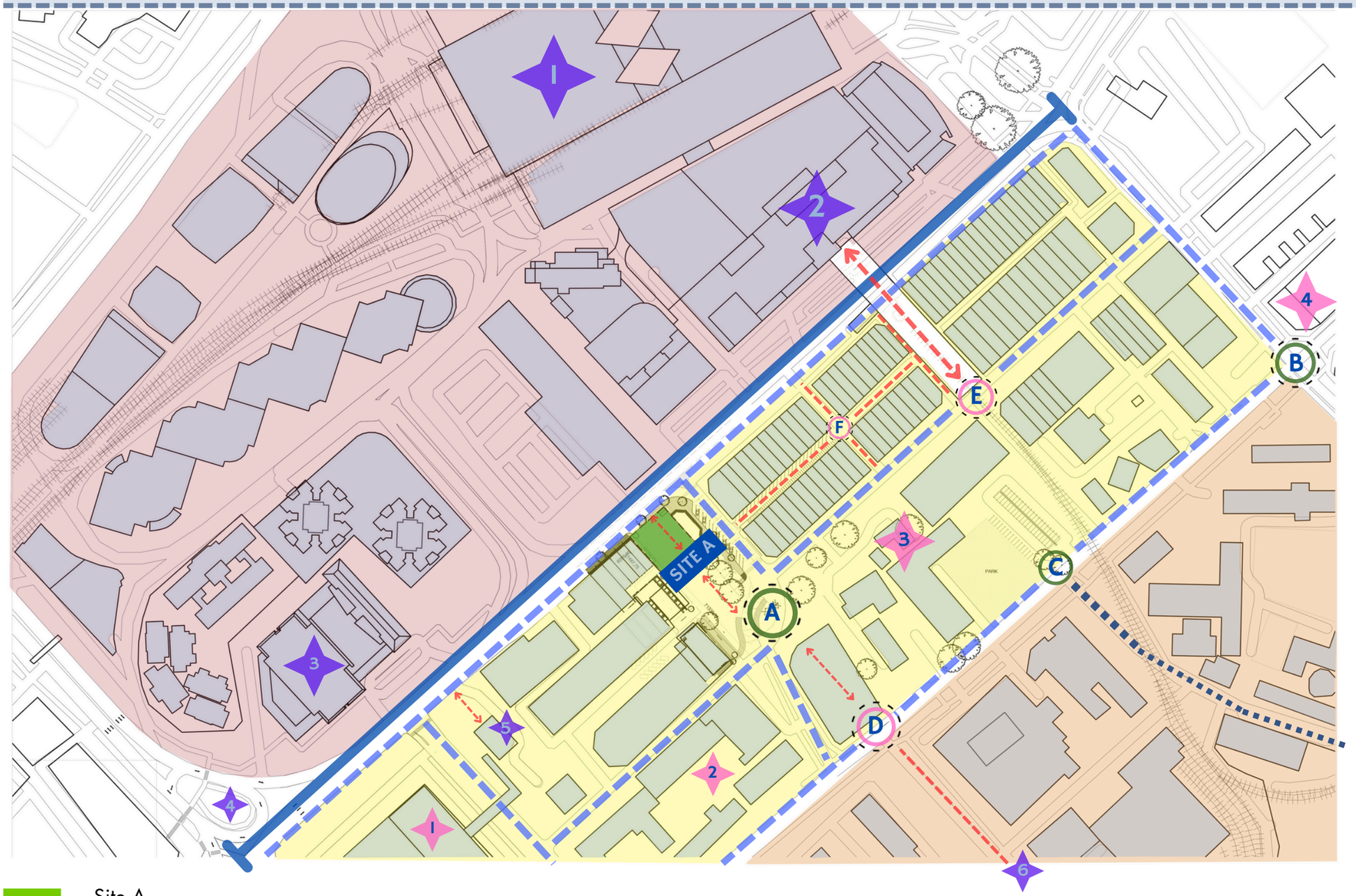


Brickfields is home to the Malaysian Association for the Blind (MAB), so blind and visually impaired individuals are a notable presence, supported by tactile paving.

TASK 3 - LEGIBILITY

"Legibility is the quality which makes a place graspable. People can only take advantage of the choice which those qualities offer if they can grasp the place's layout, and what goes on there."

— Ian Bentley, Responsive Environments (1985)



LEGEND

- PERMEABLE EDGE
- MAJOR ROAD AND PATHWAY
- MAJOR PATHWAY AND MINOR ROAD
- MINOR ROAD FOR PARKING AND PATHWAY
- LANDMARK
- PLACEMAKER
- MAJOR NODE
- MINOR NODE
- MAJOR PEDESTRIAN NODE
- MINOR PEDESTRIAN NODE

- Site A
- Urban Commercial District
- Shop-House District
- Civic and Residential District

Brickfields features a clear and linear street layout that makes navigation intuitive. Distinct landmarks such as transport hubs, temples and cultural elements strengthen wayfinding and identity, while active nodes and placemakers create memorable reference points. Together these elements enhance the overall legibility and cultural character of the district.

TASK 3 - LEGIBILITY

"Major transport and commercial landmarks such as KL Sentral and NU Sentral create strong visual reference points that aid orientation for both locals and visitors. Their scale and prominence anchor the district within the larger city context."

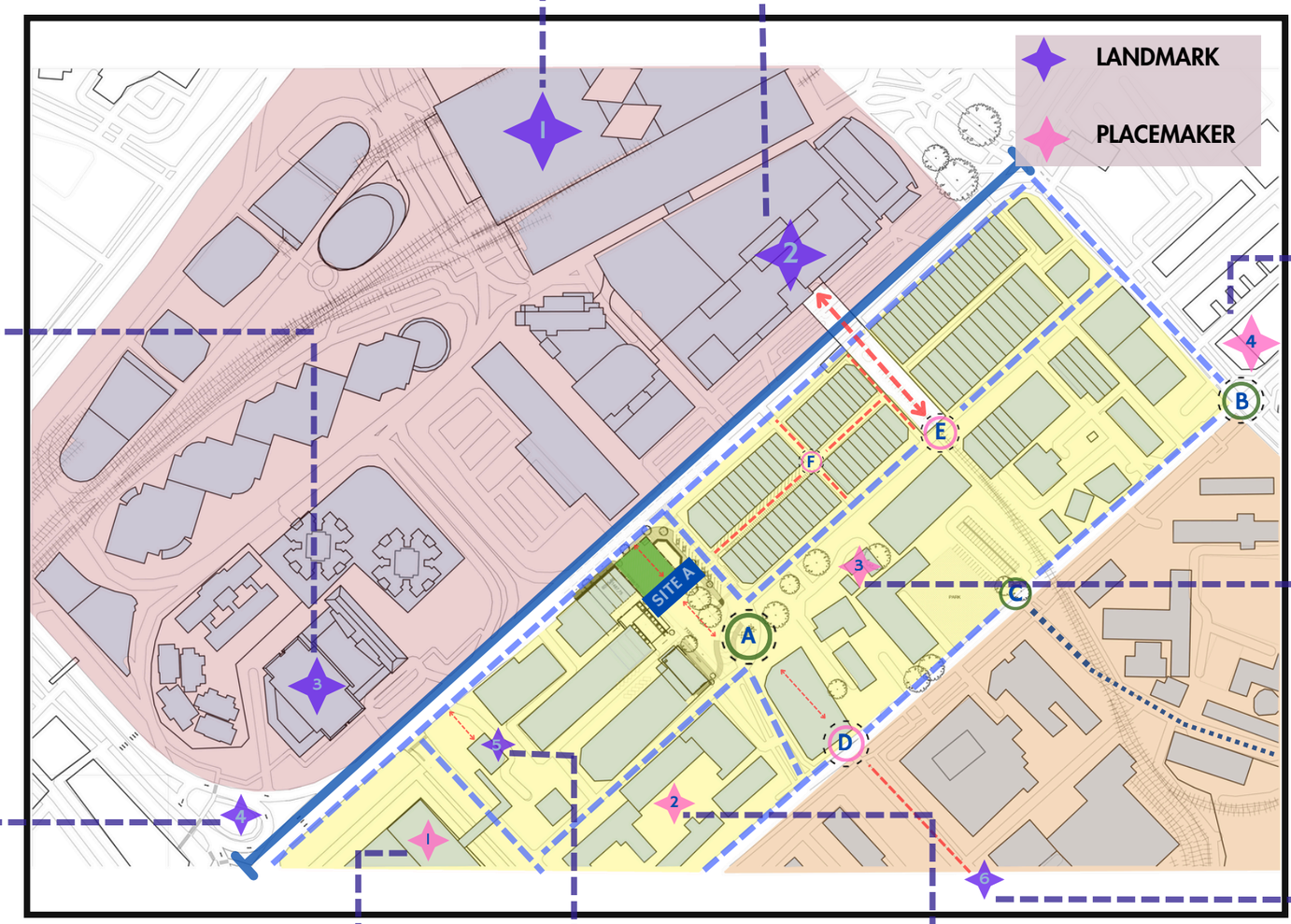


KL Sentral



NU Sentral

"Community and institutional buildings like the YMCA and Tamil Methodist Church provide recognizable edges and landmarks that help users navigate through the finer street network."

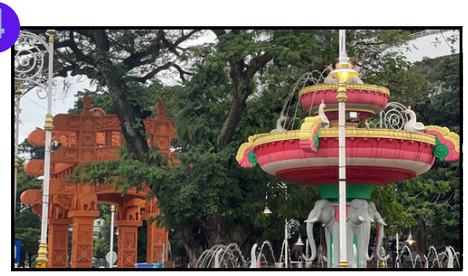




Menara Shell



YMCA

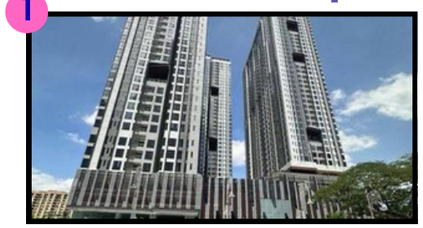


Elephant Fountain



Tamil Methodist Church

"The Elephant Fountain and surrounding cultural elements act as a symbolic gateway into Brickfields, marking a clear transition point and strengthening the district's identity."



Sentral Suites



Vivekananda Ashram



Vivekananda School



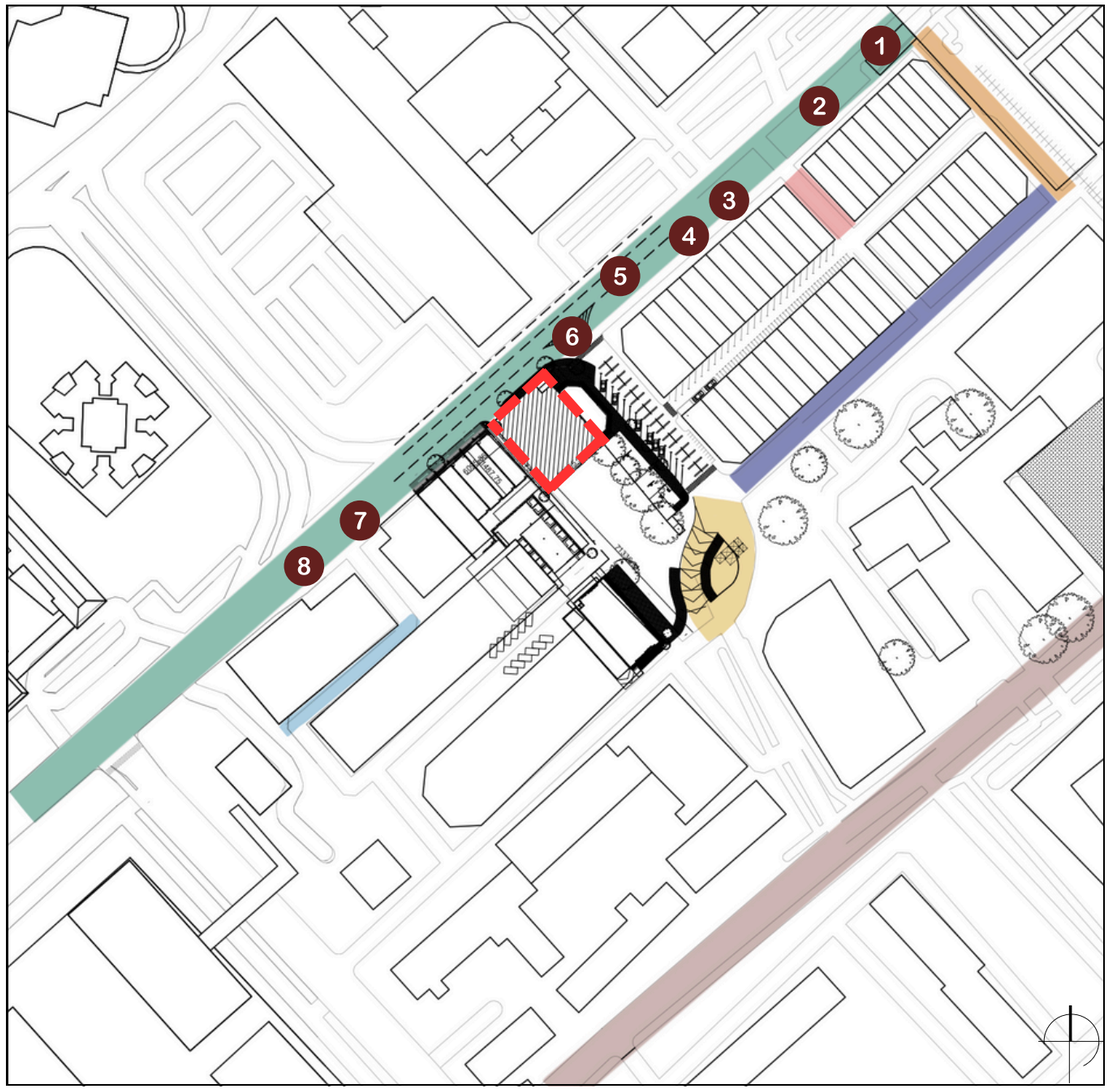
Hindu Temple

TASK 3 - ROBUSTNESS

> **"Places which can be used for many different purposes offer their users more choice than places whose design limits them to a single fixed use. Environments which offer this choice have a quality we call robustness."**
>
> **— Ian Bentley, Responsive Environments (1985)**

ROBUSTNESS OF PLACE: ADAPTABILITY & INFORMAL USE IN BRICKFIELDS

● High Robustness



Jalan Tun Sambanthan

1 Street Vending



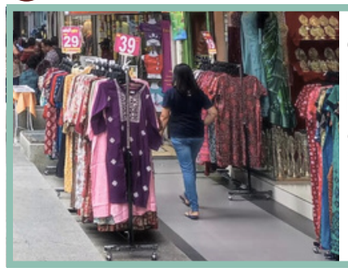
Vendors line the walkway outside KL Sentral, **turning pedestrian paths into food stalls** and creating an **active marketplace** during commute hours.

2 Busking



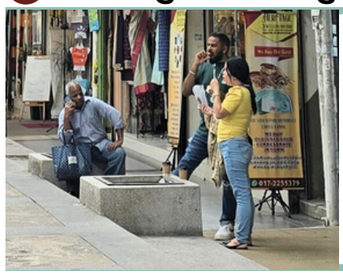
A **disabled street performer turns the sidewalk into a stage**, adding music and life to the streetscape while drawing passersby to pause and gather.

3 Outdoor Extension of Business



Clothing shops **extend racks onto the walkway**, blurring shop boundaries and reshaping the path into a browsing zone.

4 Resting & Chilling



Drainage structures and walkways become informal places for **resting, eating, and casual socializing**.

5 Motorcycle Parking



Walkways beside the road are **repurposed as informal motorcycle parking**, reducing pedestrian space but showing adaptable street use.

6 Food Truck Vending



Parking space is repurposed by food trucks, showing how vehicles transform streets into **temporary vending zones**.

7 Eating & Gathering



Spaces outside shops are adapted for **dining and social gatherings**, as people enjoy open-air seating and street ambience.

8 Dining



Five-foot walkways are used for **dining spillover**, blending circulation space with everyday eating activity.

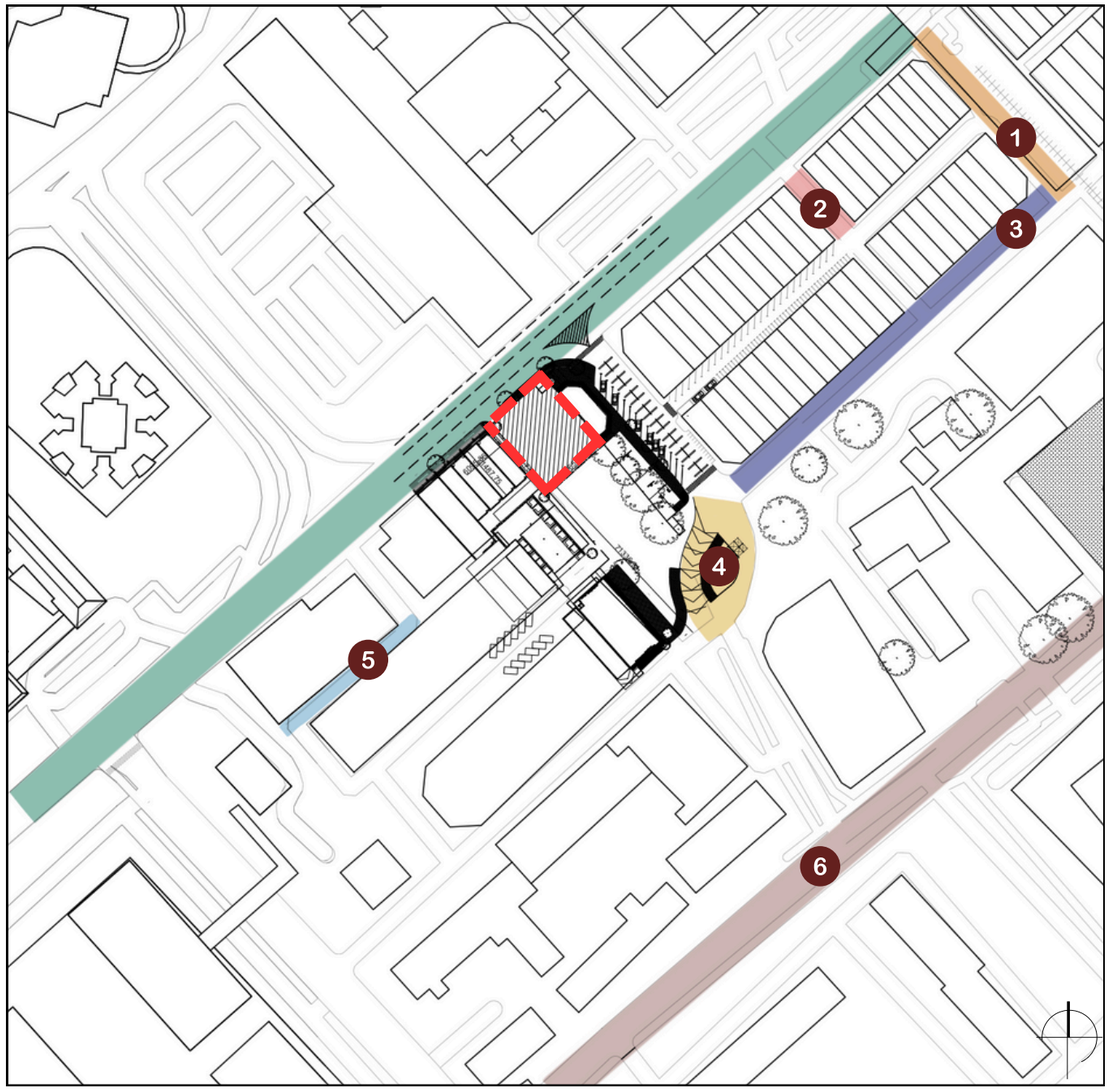
LEGEND

- Site A
- Jalan Tun Sambanthan
- Jalan Tebing
- Unnamed Back Lane
- Jalan Thambipillay
- Jalan Berhala
- Jalan Vivekananda
- Jalan Sultan Abdul Samad

TASK 3 - ROBUSTNESS

ROBUSTNESS OF PLACE: ADAPTABILITY & INFORMAL USE IN BRICKFIELDS

● Low Robustness



Jalan Tebing

1 Dining



Dining spills out of the food court onto the walkway, extending indoor activity into public space and adding street vibrancy.

Unnamed Back Lane

2 Hawker Dining



Back lanes transform into informal hawker stalls, turning service areas into lively dining spaces.

Jalan Thambipillay

3 Street Vending



Sidewalks outside restaurants are used for street vending, extending food activity into public space.

Jalan Berhala

4 Vending on the Traffic Island



Traffic islands are adapted as vending spots, converting **leftover road space into active marketplaces**.

Jalan Vivekananda

5 Dining



Back lanes are transformed into open-air dining areas, where temporary tables and canopies create informal eating spaces.

Jalan Sultan Abdul Samad

6 Street Vending



Roadside corners are adapted for small-scale street vending, with makeshift stalls turning unused edges into active trading spots.

LEGEND

- Site A
- Jalan Tun Sambanthan
- Jalan Tebing
- Unnamed Back Lane
- Jalan Thambipillay
- Jalan Berhala
- Jalan Vivekananda
- Jalan Sultan Abdul Samad

TASK 3 - VISUAL APPROPRIATENESS

> This is how the appearance of a place signals its choices and meanings. It's about whether the look of spaces and buildings helps people understand their functions and cultural context.
>
> — Ian Bentley, Responsive Environments (1985)

STRONG VISUAL CUES

[Help Legibility and reinforce Brickfields cultural image]

Jalan Tun Sambathan



Tamil-language shop **signs** and **bright façades** signal **ethnic/cultural orientation** and **commercial purpose.**

Decorative arches and **motifs** like street lights **visually reinforce** Brickfields' **"Little India" indentity.**



Temple gopurams clearly **communicate sacred function,** visible from afar.



Little India **Gateway Arch** visually marks the **entry to Brickfields,** signaling a **rich Indian cultural identity.**



Decorations and **string lights** transform streets and **communicate the temporality of celebrations** and **festivals.**

TASK 3 - VISUAL APPROPRIATENESS

NEGATIVE VISUAL CUES



Some areas have **visual clutter (too many signs** and boards overlapping, **uncoordinated facades**).



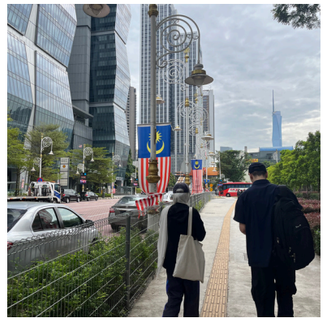
New **high-rise developments** near KL Sentral **clash with Brickfields' cultural scale** and **image.**

Brickfields' visual appropriateness lies in its **strong cultural markers,** which clearly **communicate identity and function.** However, **visual clutter** and **contrasting modern developments challenge coherence.**

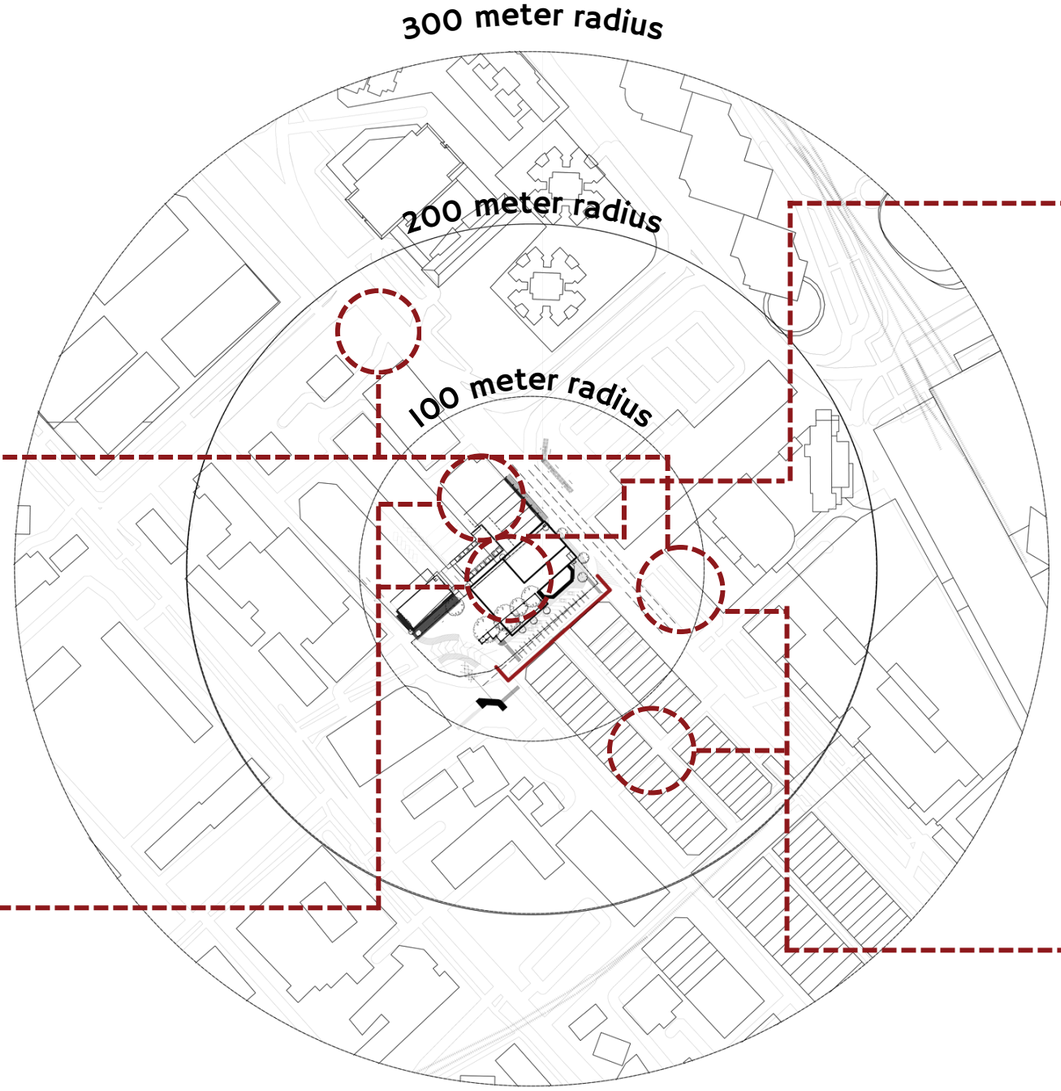
TASK 3 - RICHNESS

SMELL SENSORY SITE A





Jalan Tun Sambanthan is a major road lined with shopping malls, hotels, residential apartments, corporate buildings, and numerous food stalls. This mix of activities makes it a busy area with heavy traffic. Despite the presence of trees and shrubs along the roadside, the smell of vehicle and motorcycle emissions still impacts the site.





Birds are attracted to the food waste from the nearby stalls, so large numbers gather around the site throughout the day. Because they are often fed, the flock keeps growing, and more birds return regularly to look for food. Over time, their droppings and leftover scraps build up on the pavement and surrounding areas, creating distinct odors that stay in the air.









The site is located in a prime spot along Jalan Tun Sambanthan, making it an attractive area for different kinds of businesses to grow. Many restaurants line this busy stretch, most of them serving traditional Indian cuisine popular with both locals and visitors. All day, the rich aroma of spices and herbs from their cooking drifts across the road, blending with the sounds of traffic and conversation. These smells and lively activities give the street a distinct and memorable character, turning it into a well-known destination for food and culture and helping it stand out from surrounding neighbourhoods.





With this strategic location, many street food vendors also set up along and beside Jalan Tun Sambanthan, adding even more life and energy to the already busy atmosphere. Their cooking releases a variety of rich, tempting aromas that mix with the scents from nearby restaurants, further contributing to the distinctive smell of the area.

TASK 3 - RICHNESS

SIGHT SENSORY SITE A

Building materials used on site



Glass



Fiber Cement



Concrete finish



Tiles



Brick

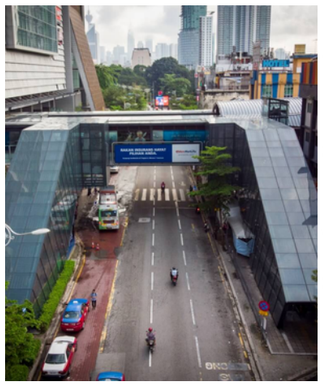


Aluminium

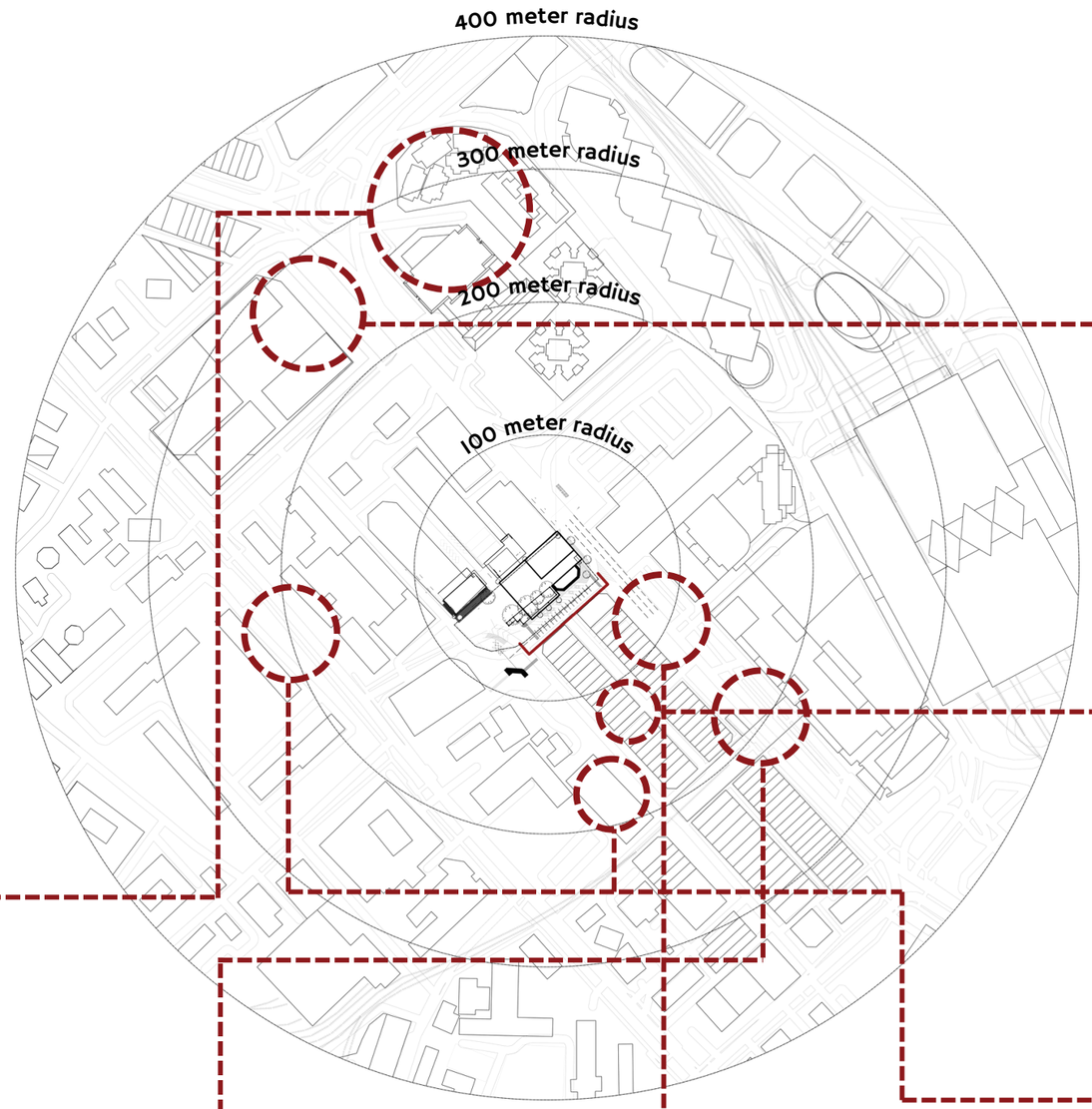


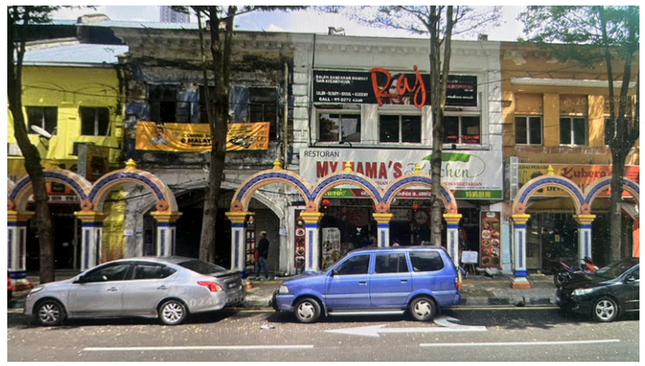


Modern high-rise buildings in Jalan Tun Sambanthan, mostly finished with glass and aluminium panels. These towers include offices, hotels, apartment buildings, and shopping malls.

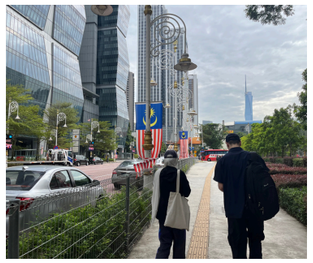


Pedestrian pathways that connect to the LRT station seamlessly blend modern elements with the traditional shophouse architecture that lines the road.





Colorful ornaments, with their unique curved shapes and intricate decorative details, help bring vibrant character and rich culture to the streetscape of Jalan Tun Sambanthan.





Along Jalan Tun Sambanthan, fences, shrubs, and water features create clear boundaries between the pedestrian walkway and the roadway. These elements define two distinct spaces—one for people to walk and gather, and another reserved for vehicle traffic.



The narrow road between Jalan Tun Sambanthan and Jalan Thambipillay is used for selling food and now serves as both a busy walkway and a vehicle lane at the same time.



Along Jalan Thambipillay and Jalan Vivekananda, both streets showcase rows of traditional shophouses with shops below, featuring a variety of businesses

TASK 3 - RICHNESS

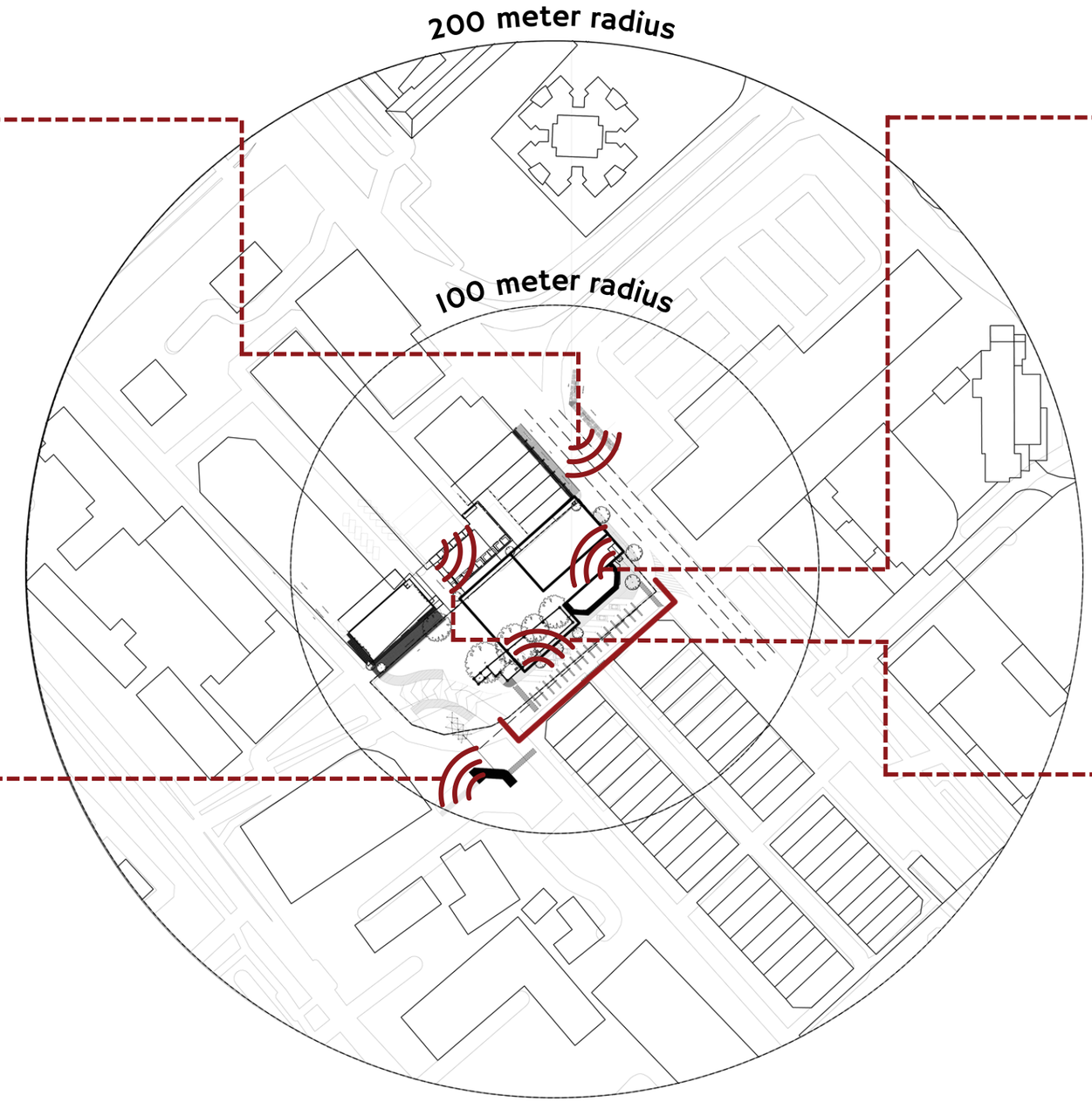
HEAR SENSORY SITE A



With its strategic location filled with high-rise buildings, this road serves as a main route. Noise mainly comes from Jalan Tun Sambanthan, and the constant loud vehicle sounds make the busy area feel even more crowded.



Along Jalan Thambipillay and Jalan Vivekananda, both streets are less crowded than Jalan Tun Sambanthan, but passing cars and motorcycles still create noise.





Groups of birds fed by nearby stalls have created a large population in the area, making the constant sound of their chirping a familiar and noticeable part of the site's daily atmosphere.

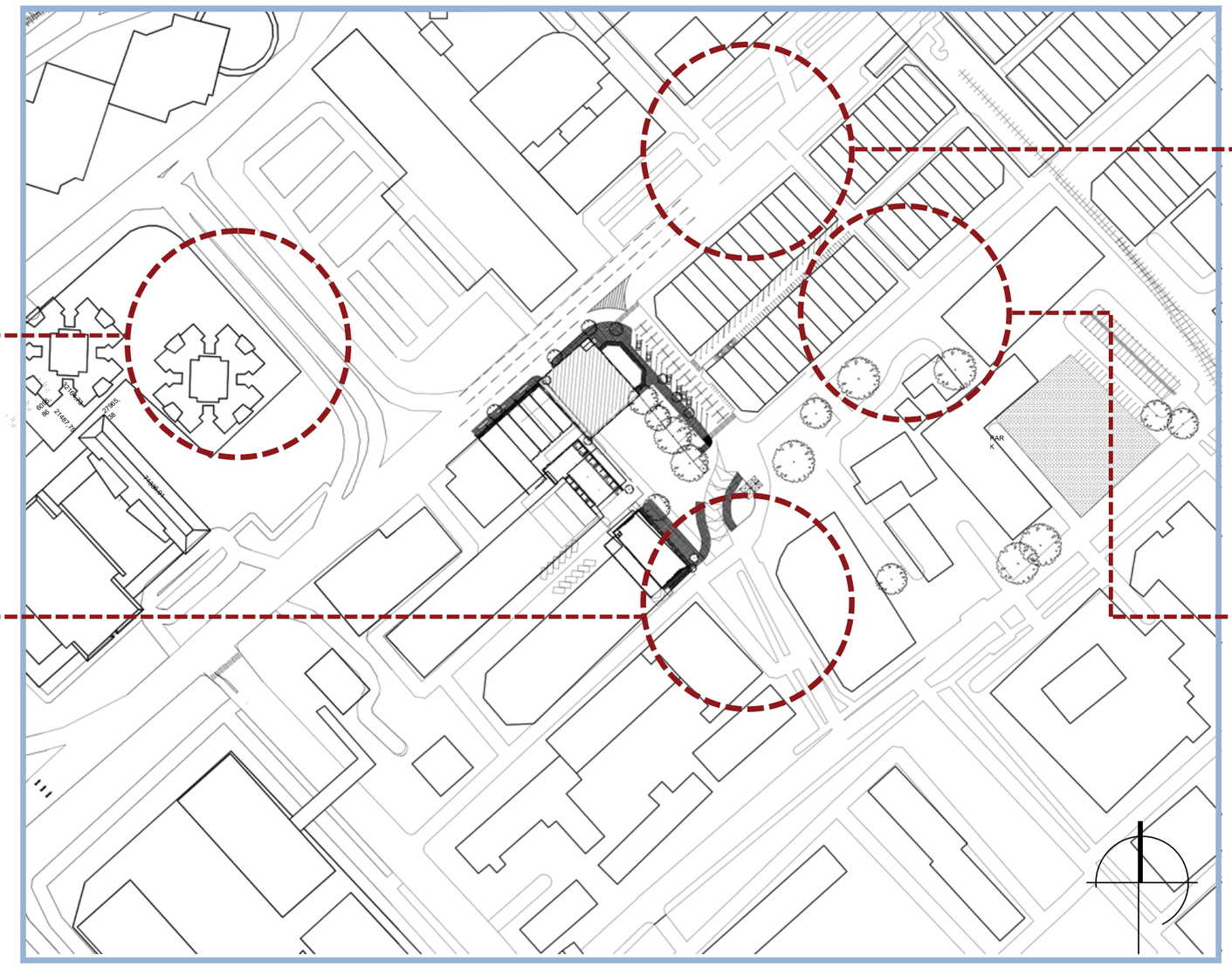


Due to its strategic location, food stalls are the most common businesses in the area, and the sounds of people cooking and chatting inside these stalls are often heard.

TASK 3 - RICHNESS

COLOR SCHEME AROUND THE SITE A











Views To Site A





TASK 3 - PERSONALISATION

"Stamps of identity" on Brickfields

Functional Personalisation elements

1. Shop Extensions

garland stalls spilling into walkways, eateries extending tables into the 5 foot walkway.



2. Informal vendors

mobile carts, food stall popups along the streets, vibrant night markets.



3. Improvised street furniture

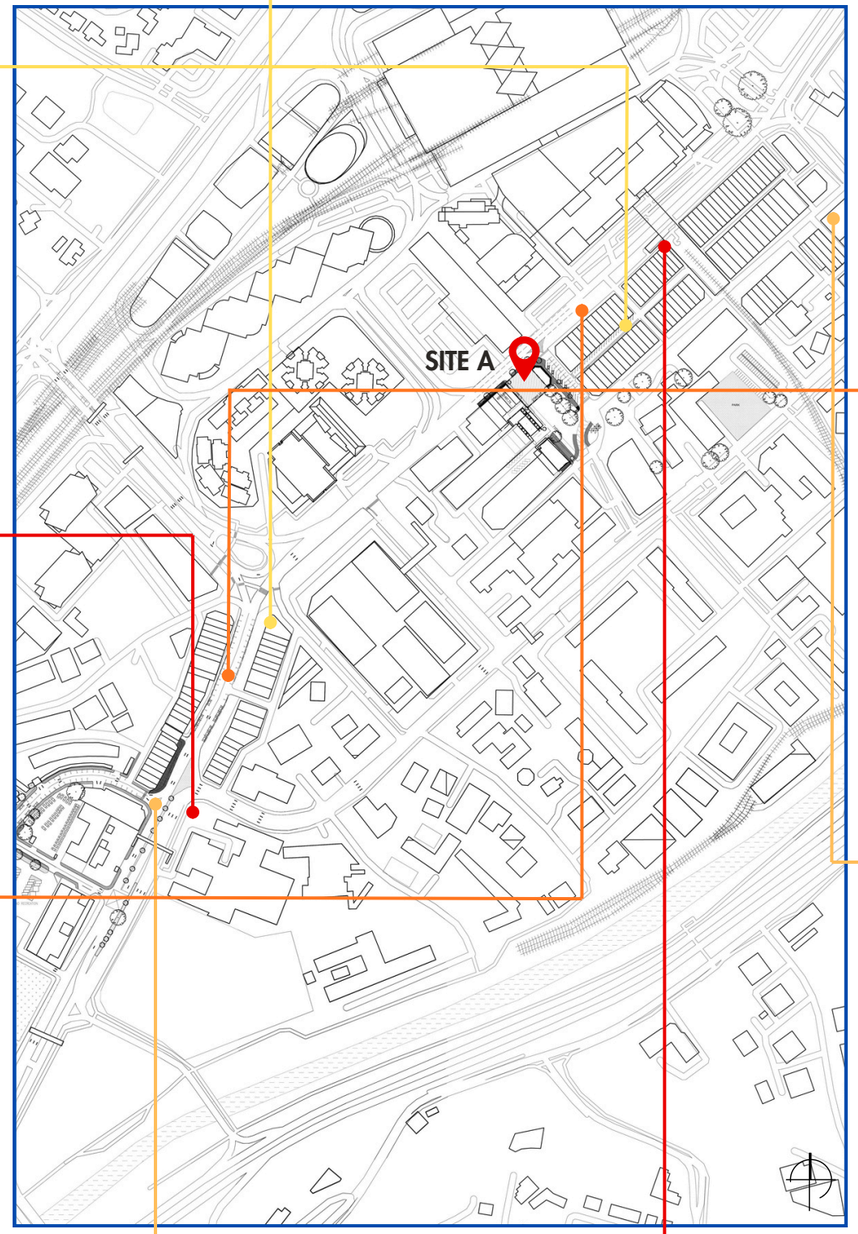
temporary tarps, coverings and umbrellas by locals as well as plastic chairs.



4. Temporary festival infrastructure

lights, banners and other decorations set up during festivals like Deepavali/Thaipusam
.





Cultural/Visual Personalisation elements



1. Bilingual signage

shopfronts are dominated by signage in both English and Tamil.



2. Colorful shophouses and infrastructure

Buildings and decorative arches painted in bright colors to make the area more vibrant.



3. Religious symbols and shrines

small Hindu altars, incense and flowers on sidewalks.



4. Street art, banners and posters

cultural motifs, community murals, advertisements and public notices

TASK 3 - SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths

- **Walkable streets** with **pedestrian pathways** around shophouses.
- **Active street life** with **diverse users** (locals, tourists, workers).
- **Vibrant community life expression**
- The strategic location is centrally positioned with **high visibility**, making it a main road and an **attractive spot for businesses.**

Weaknesses

- **Traffic congestion** during peak hours and at night near eateries.
- **Noise and air pollution** from the constant vehicle flow.
- **Encroachment into walkways** (reduces pedestrian comfort.
- **Distinct odors** from vehicle emissions, food stalls, and bird droppings can be overwhelming.

Opportunities

- Opportunities for **tourism growth** by highlighting cultural heritage trails.
- Potential to **enhance pedestrian-friendly design** (wider walkways, shaded paths).
- **Organise informal** and **festival activities** into **designated areas.**
- **Enhancing landscaping and maintaining water features** can boost the area's appeal.

Threats

- **Gentrification is pushing out local communities** and small businesses.
- **Increased vehicle dependency** is **worsening congestion and pollution.**
- **Redevelopment pressures** (high-rises near KL Sentral) risk **erasing personalised character.**
- Heavy traffic and growing businesses **reduce walkway space, increase noise, and lessen pedestrian comfort and safety.**

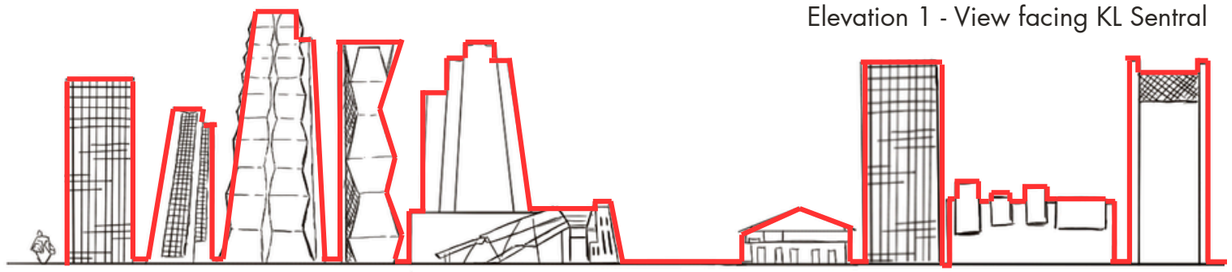
TASK 4

IDENTITY OF A PLACE

S. SHAMSUDDIN'S TOWNSCAPE REVISITED

TASK 4 - URBAN FORM & VISUAL LINKS

Elevation 1 - View facing KL Sentral



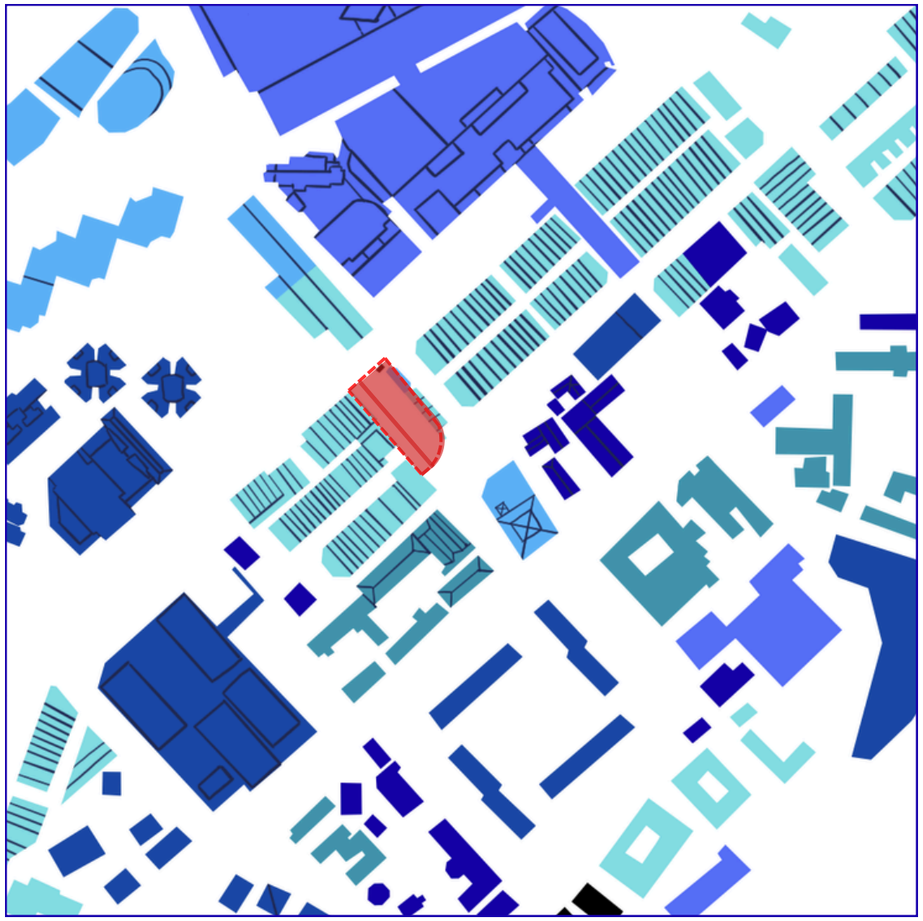


Figure ground legend

- Shop lots
- Mall/Transportation
- Places of Worship
- Schools
- Residency/Hotels
- Banks/Offices

Zone A's urban form combines fine-grain shop lots with coarse-grain malls, hotels, and offices, creating contrast and hierarchy. Compact shop lots provide rhythm and continuity, while high-rises appear uneven in height and spacing, generating openness and visual contrast in the skyline.

A figure ground map of Zone A

Elevation 2 - Shop lots on the left of Site A



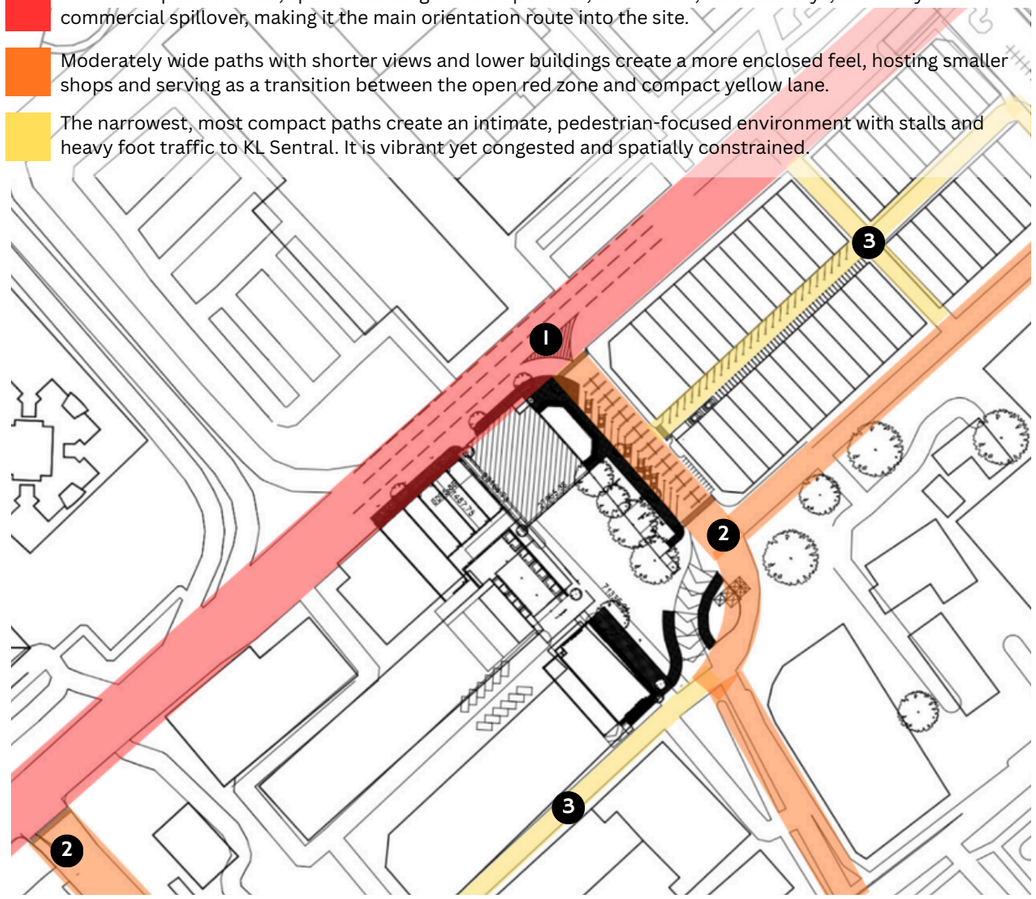




The widest path with tall, spaced buildings offers openness, clear views, safe walkways, and lively commercial spillover, making it the main orientation route into the site.

Moderately wide paths with shorter views and lower buildings create a more enclosed feel, hosting smaller shops and serving as a transition between the open red zone and compact yellow lane.

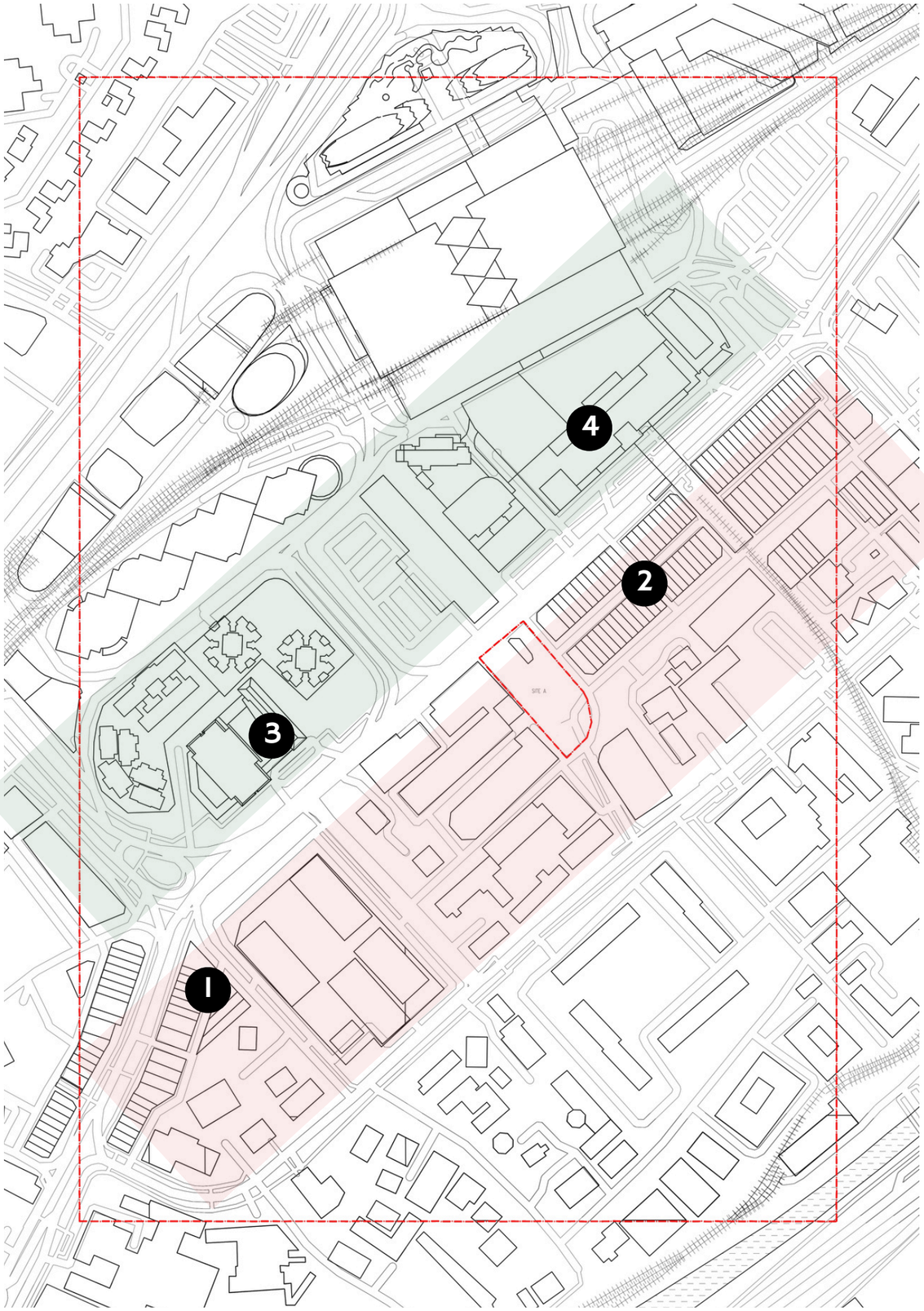
The narrowest, most compact paths create an intimate, pedestrian-focused environment with stalls and heavy foot traffic to KL Sentral. It is vibrant yet congested and spatially constrained.





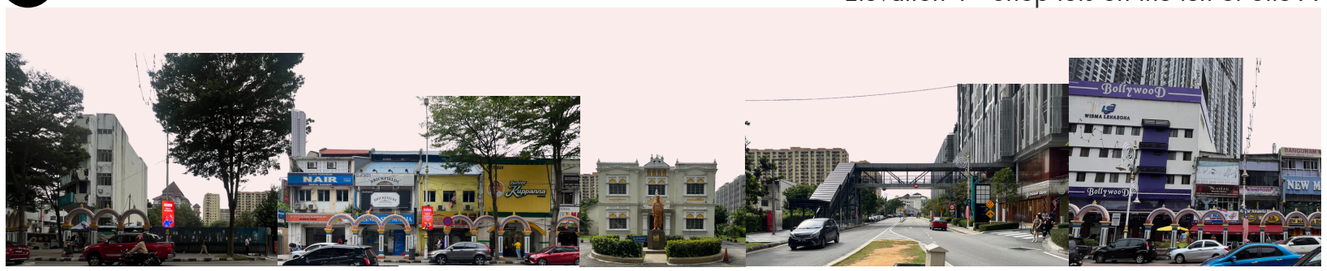


TASK 4 - SERIAL VISION



1

Elevation 1 - Shop lots on the left of Site A



Corridor of cultural expression

-Blending of decorative arches and shopfronts shapes a sense of enclosure, immersing visitors in the cultural identity of the street.

2

Elevation 2 - View facing KL Sentral

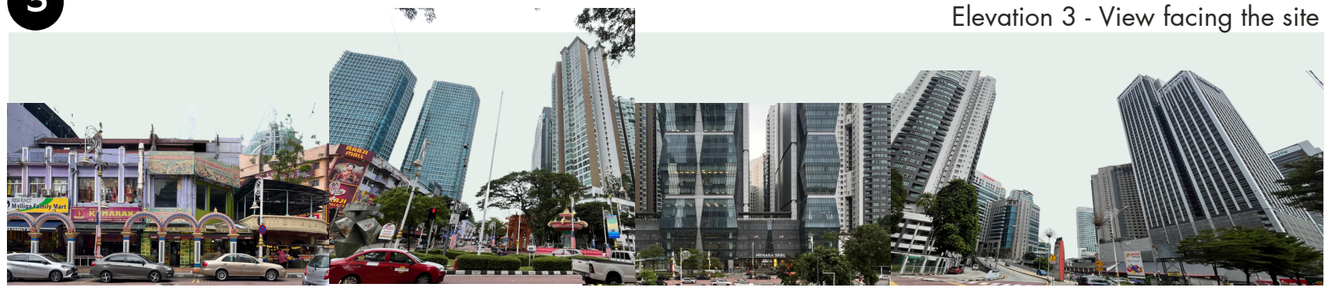


Streetscape

–Repetitive facades, signage, and occasional adaptations shape the character of the streetscape.

3

Elevation 3 - View facing the site



Asymmetrical street profile

-Height contrast between left and right edges creates asymmetry.High-rise towers dominate above low traditional buildings, producing vertical contrast.

4

Elevation 4 - View to KL Sentral

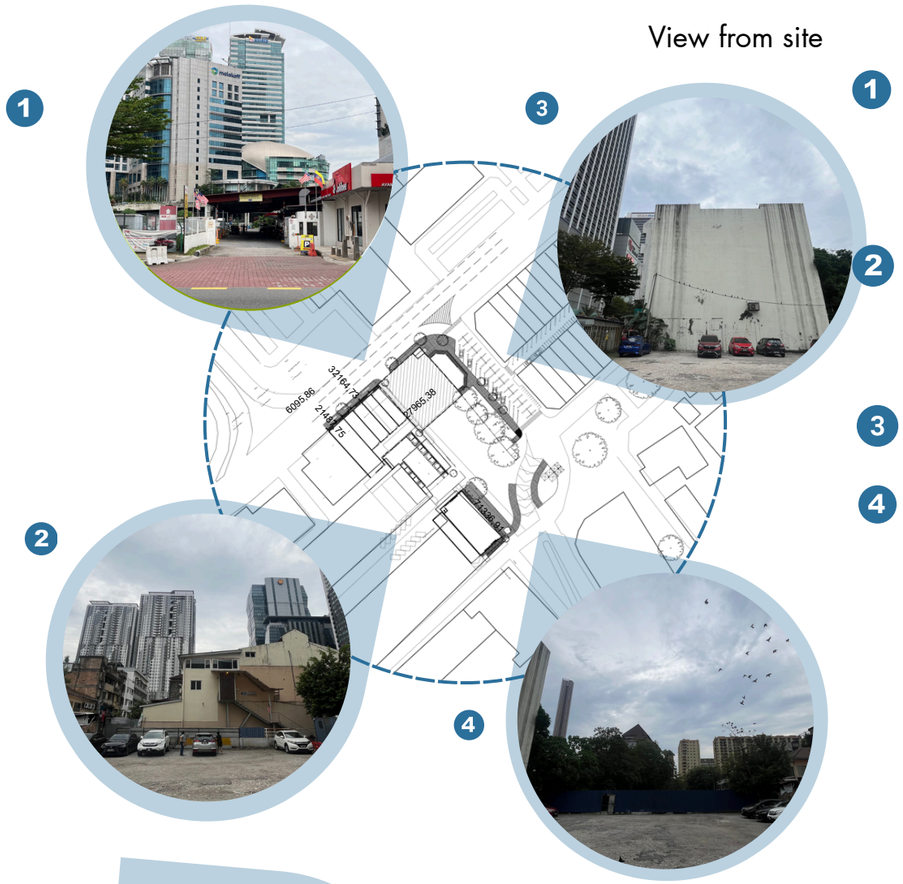


Open View

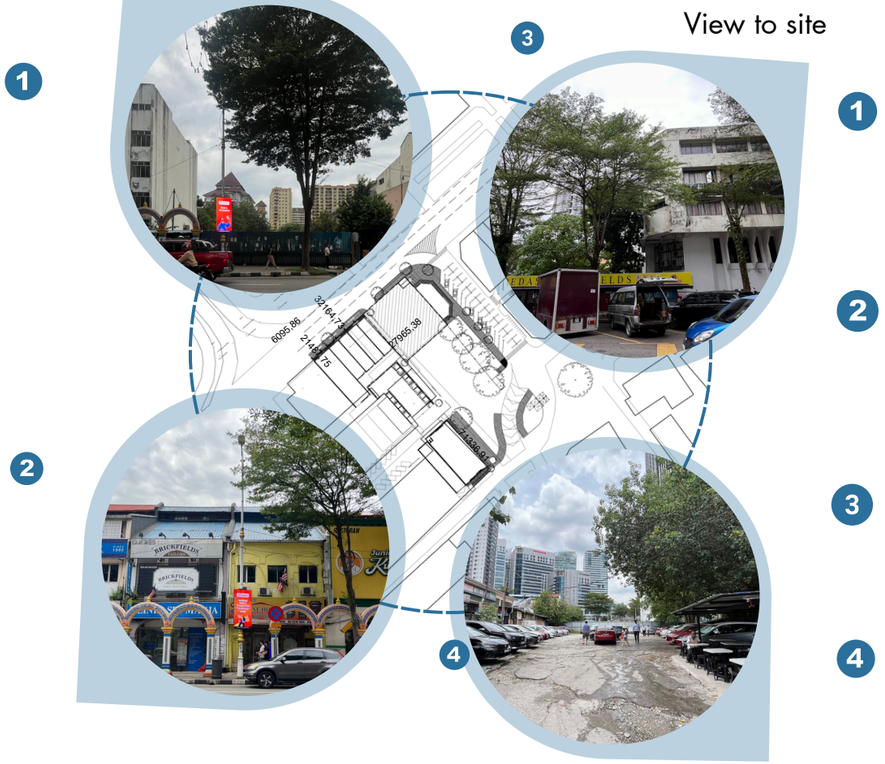
-The street opens up into a wide, open space, allowing clear sightlines along its length.

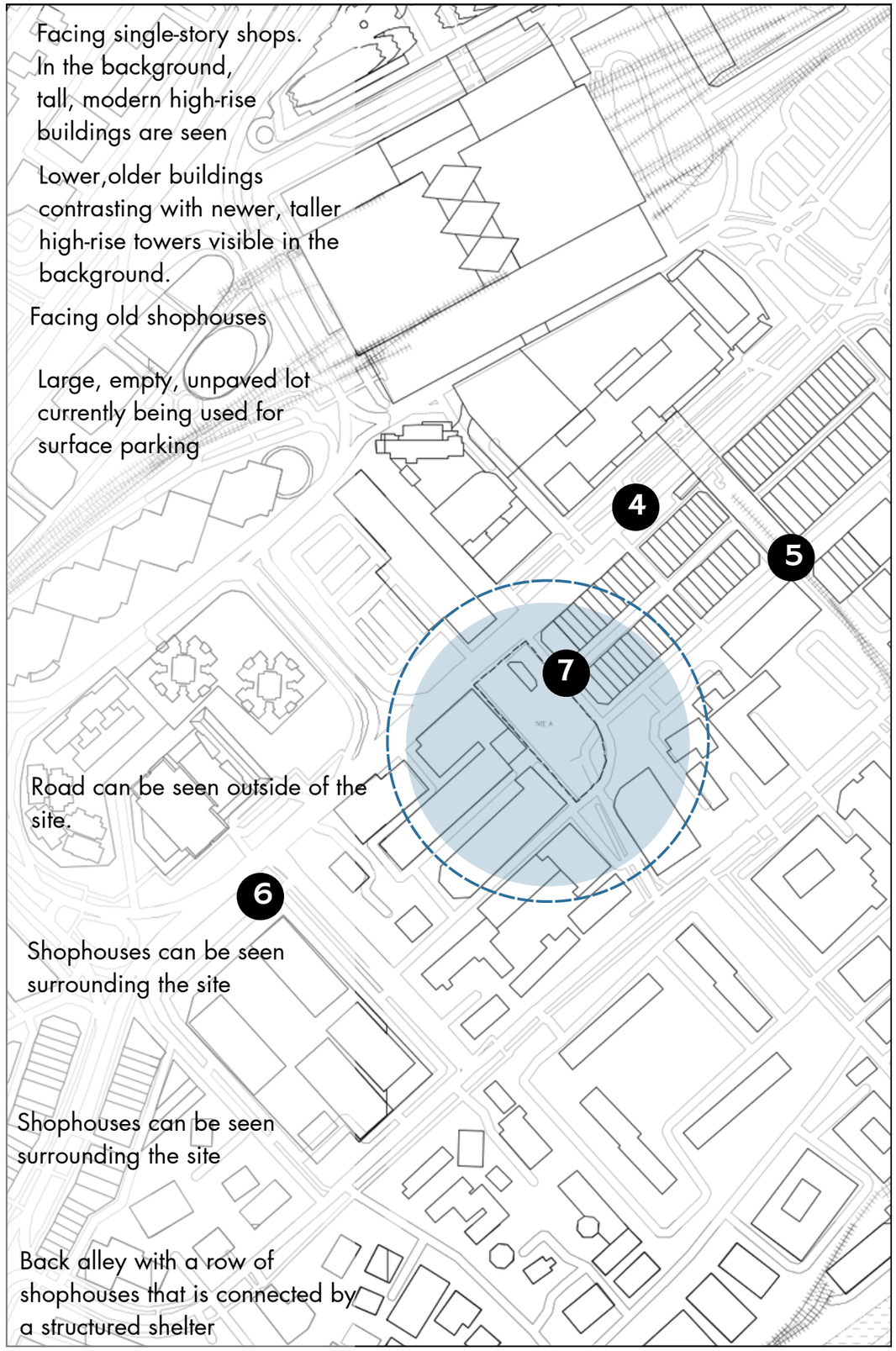
TASK 4 - QUALITY OF VIEWS

View from site



View to site



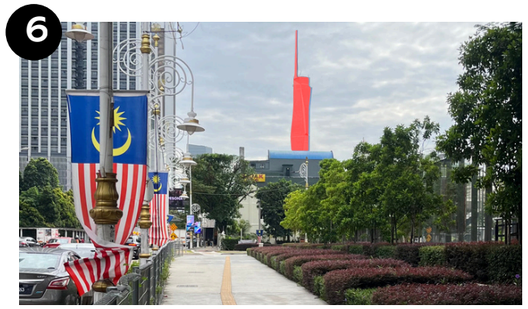




Arches along the street to frame the shophouses.



Back alley that get to capture far view of the Menara 118 building.



Street view along Jalan Tun Sambanthan that get to capture the view of Menara 118.



A structured shelter that can frame building on the other side of the shophouses.

TASK 4 - FOCAL POINTS

Major Placemarkers

- what locals name as important points in the neighborhood.



Vivekananda Ashram

A historic cultural landmark visible from Site A, adding heritage character to the area.



Torana Gate

A symbolic Indian gateway positioned near site A, marking the transition into Brickfields.



Little India Fountain

A vibrant feature along the main street near Site A, strengthening its community identity.



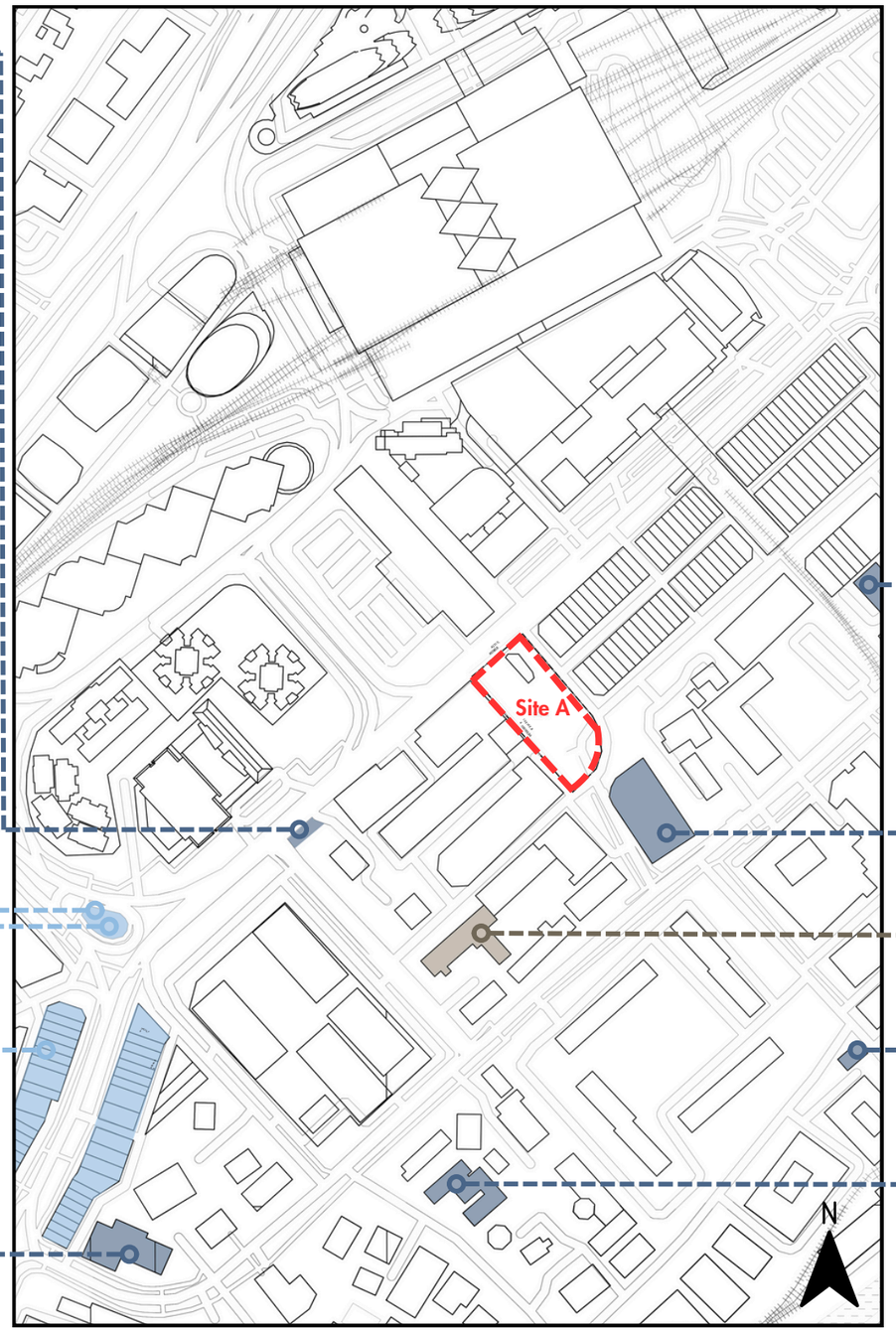
Little India Shoplots

A lively stretch of heritage shoplots with arcades and colorful façades, forming the commercial heart of the community.



Church of Our Lady of Fatima

A small neighborhood church close by that adds to the mix of cultures.





Sam Kow Tong Temple

A tucked away temple nearby gives the area some quiet cultural depth.



Tamil Methodist Church

A nearby local church that adds to the area's cultural and faith mix.



Vivekenanda Secondary School

A nearby school that brings students and daily activity to the nearby streets.



Sri Saktho Karpaga Vinavayar Temple

A colorful temple close to site, contributing to its cultural setting.



Buddhist Maha Vihara

A major Buddhist landmark a short walk away, enriching the spiritual context of the site.

Cultural and Religious

Heritage and Identity

Institutional and Community

TASK 4 - FOCAL POINTS

Micro Placemarkers

- the small, everyday nodes that give texture and atmosphere.

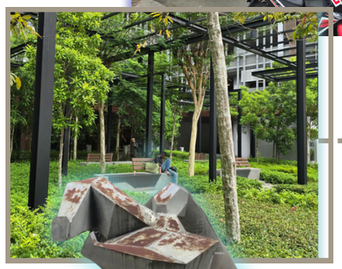
Restaurants and Shoplots

A mix of small restaurants and a variety of shoplots can be seen just beside the site.



Shaded Resting Areas

Resting areas surrounded by nature can be seen nearby condominiums such as Sentral Suites.



Little India dancers sculpture

Two of the dancing sculptures placed in the center of the roundabout.





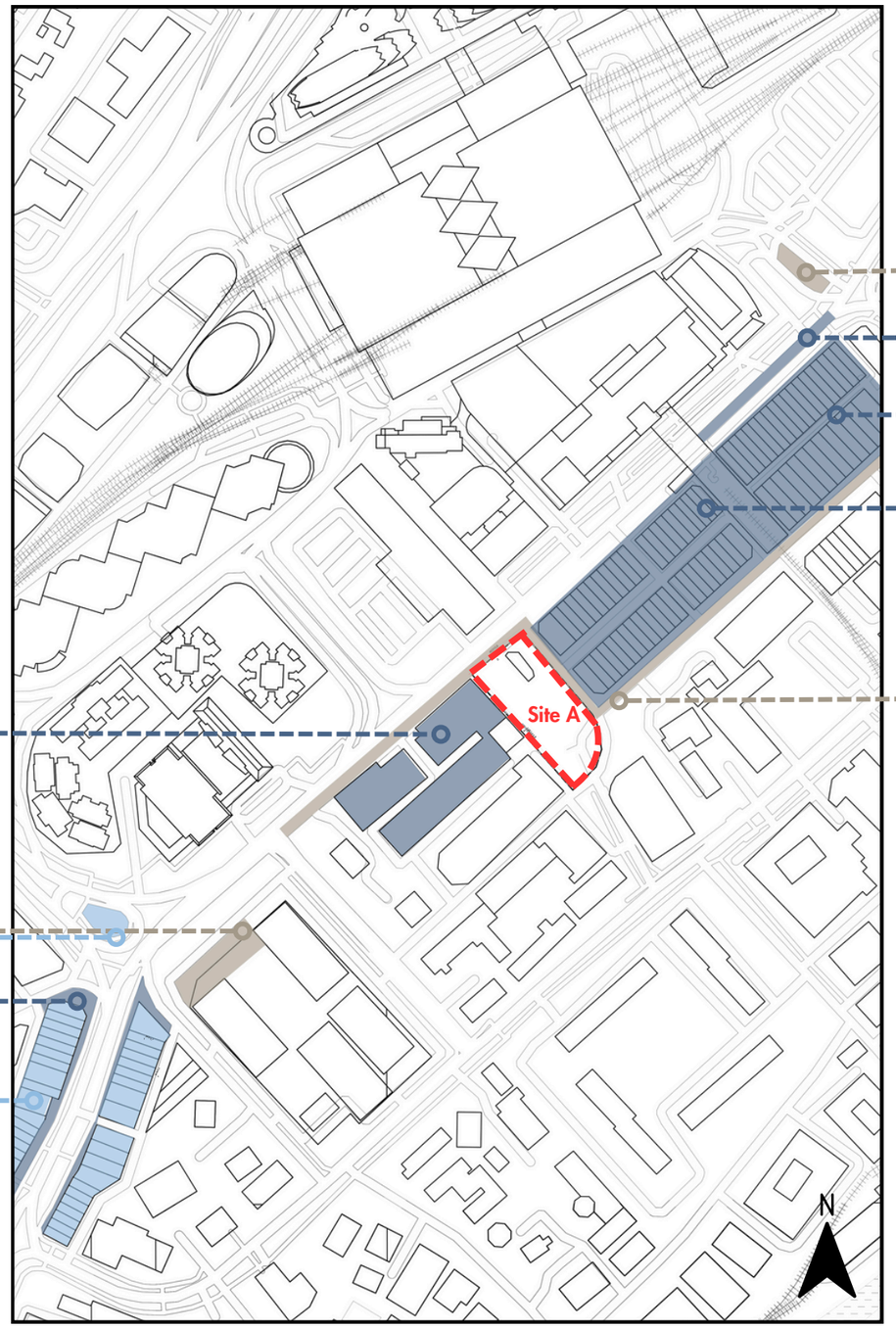
People eating and gathering

People can be seen gathering and chatting infront of food stalls along Little India Street.



Shops selling flower garlands

Flower garlands that are used for festivals and religious offerings can be seen in many shops



Smoking Areas

A spot the near NU Sentral where people gather for a quick smoke, often doubling as a casual meeting point.





Food Stalls Beside Roads

Informal roadside stalls cluster can be seen around the site selling food and fruits.

Food Stalls on Pedestrians

Stalls along walkways close to the site keeps the area busy.



Tailoring and Clothing Shops

Narrow fronted shops with colorful textiles and tailoring services, continuing the tradition of street retail.





Shaded Walkways

Tree lined pedestrian routes makes the surrounding more accessible and comfortable.

Food and Commerce

Cultural Symbolic and Identity

Social and Public Spaces

TASK 4 - VISUAL STOPS

1



In front of the site, the tree blocks the view of the building behind, forming a visual stop that makes the eye pause.

2



From this angle, the shoplots appears as a solid wall that blocks the view, creating a strong sense of enclosure and acting as a visual stop.

3

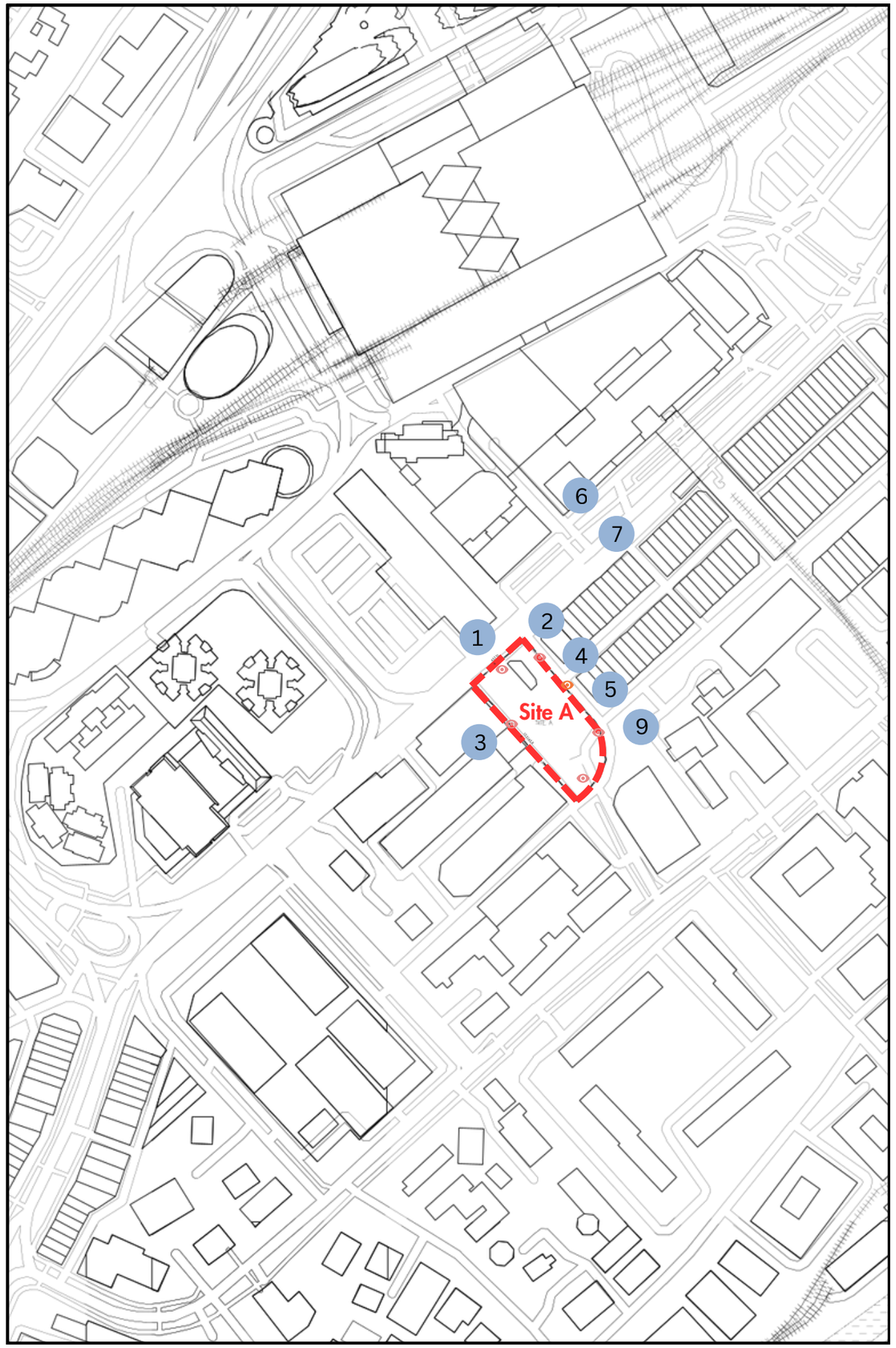


From this viewpoint, the shoplots wall blocks the sight from the site, yet the taller residential building behind still emerges in partial view, creating a contrast between enclosure and openness

4



The street frames the distant building, making it the focal point and a clear visual stop.



6



In front of the site, the tree blocks the view of the building behind, forming a visual stop that makes the eye pause.

7



The bridge structure creates an overhead visual stop, compressing the view and then revealing the market stalls beyond.

8



The road leads to an intersection where a residential building forms a visual stop, terminating the view.

9



From the back of Site A, the corner shoplot blocks the background view, forming a visual stop that defines the edge of sight.

TASK 4 - SWOT

Strength

- -Strong landmarks (Dravidian temples, churches, heritage buildings) reflect cultural identity.
- Colorful shopfronts, murals, festive lights, and night views act as visual anchors.
- Narrow streets create intimate, human-scale pedestrian experiences.
- Shaded walkways, active street edges, and landmarks make movement engaging.
- Dense shop lots and transport hubs highlight the site's void, drawing attention.
- Red main road ensures safe connectivity with clear views of PNB 118 and KL Tower.

Weakness

- Streetscape is visually cluttered with signage, cables, and traffic.
- Smaller temples and churches are overshadowed or hidden.
- Poor maintenance, high-rise overshadowing, and limited greenery weaken character.
- Crowded parking and cluttered walkways disrupt pedestrian flow
- Site feels like a transition space, not encouraging lingering
- Narrow yellow lanes overcrowded with stalls, causing congestion and poor accessibility.

Opportunity

- Streetscape upgrades (lighting, walkways, facades) can enhance visual landmarks.
- Promote local food, festivals, and cultural identity.
- Frame temple views, add murals, greenery, and creative lighting to improve comfort.
- Activate walkways and corners with stalls or seating to create vibrancy.
- Formalize pop-up stalls along yellow/orange paths to strengthen cultural character.

Threat

- High-rise and modern developments overshadow or erase heritage landmarks.
- Poor maintenance and neglect risk eroding cultural value and obstructing key views.
- Over-commercialization and competing districts may dilute Brickfields' authenticity.
- Heavy traffic and inconsistent facades disrupt safety, comfort, and visual rhythm.
- Spillover from stalls/restaurants reduces walkability and long-term image of the area.

TASK 5

SENSE OF A PLACE– S. SHAMSUDDIN'S TOWNSCAPE REVISITED

TASK 5 - KINAESTHETICS SENSES

Path along Jalan Tun Sambanthan



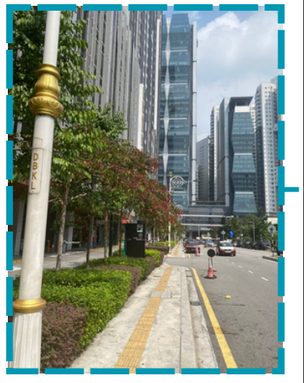
The ground level is even. Paths are relatively smooth with minimal interruptions and wide walkways allow free and easy movement. Many shops are located along this path, making the atmosphere very vibrant and lively. However, during peak hours it can get very noisy and busy.

Overhead Bridge along Jalan Tun Sambanthan



Road traffic beside the walkways are especially heavy during peak hours, causing a lot of noise. Pathways along this area are slightly disrupted by weaving corners around the bridge entrances and non-uniform shop fronts. Walking experience is interrupted by obstacles, requiring higher caution.

Path along Jalan Rozario

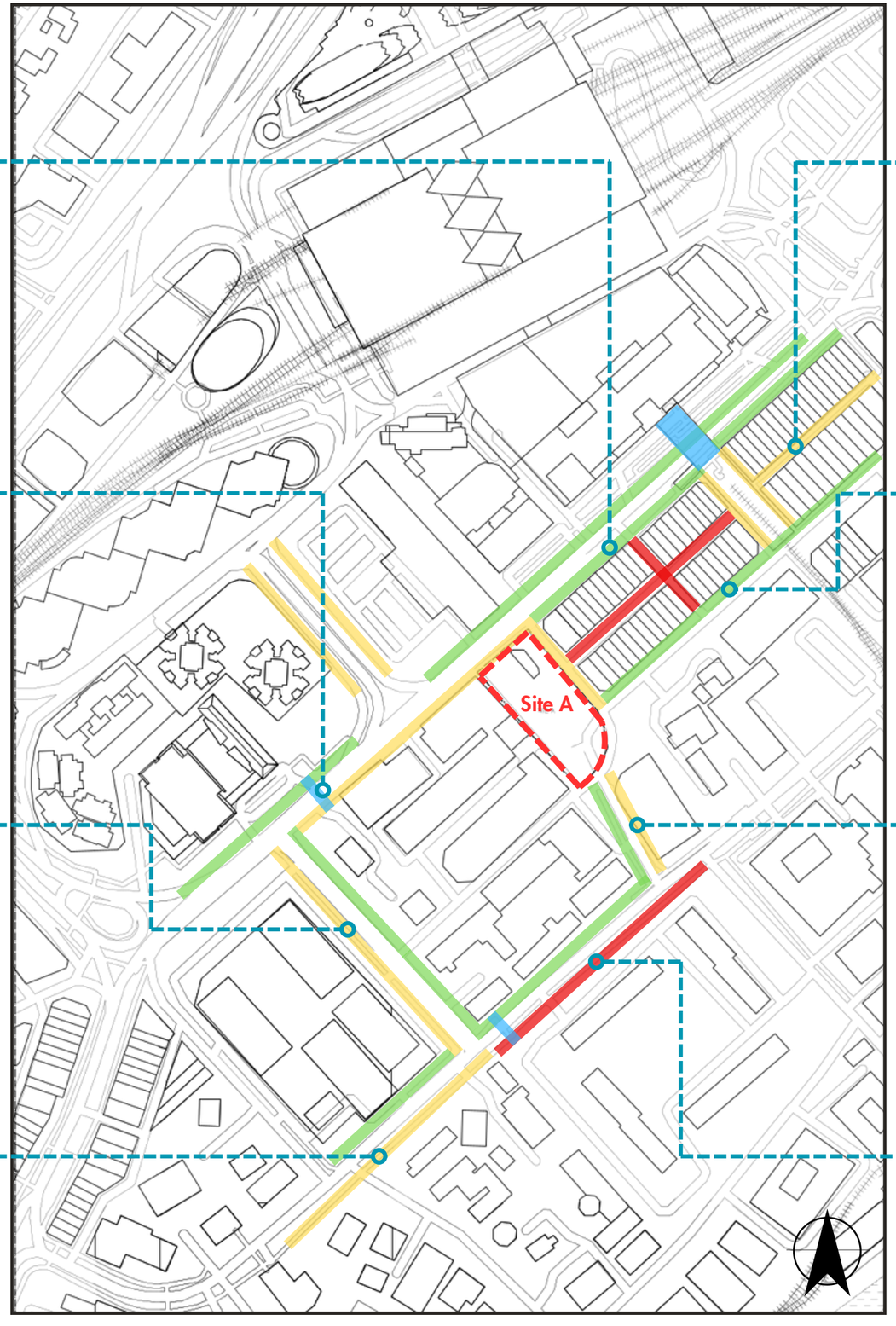


Path here is smooth and level with no noticeable slope, making it comfortable for walking. Comparably narrower pathway mainly just for walking by the road. Very open area, slightly shaded by surrounding greenery, creating a bright but pleasant experience despite the narrow path.

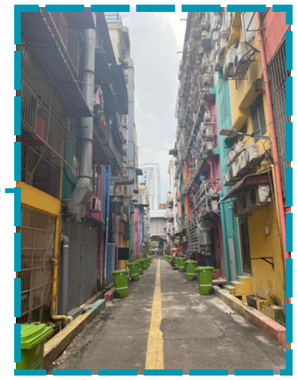
Along Jalan Sultan Abdul Samad



Very noticeable downhill slope going southwest, accompanied by decently smooth pathways. Paths are covered by satellite trees acting as a shade, providing a more comfortable walking experience. Fewer cars pass through here, making the area less busy throughout the day.



Back alley between shop lots



No definite pathways, requiring high caution when walking along this area. Road is narrow but smooth, relatively clear of debris or any passing vehicles. Atmosphere is warm due to multitude of vents releasing hot air. Vibrant colours painted along the building walls soften the industrial feeling, overall creating a more comforting vibe.

Path along Jalan Thambipillay



Pathways are hardly interrupted, being smooth and safe most of the way. Main path is very wide, offering a lot of space to move freely. Shop fronts and large trees along the path act as shading elements which make walking more pleasant. Most blind people frequent this path, emphasizing the requirement for safer pathways along this area.

Path along Jalan Berhala



Slight interruptions due to road entrances to Lestari Niaga MADANI @TLK Brickfields. Path is smooth with no slope, but narrow compared to other main paths. Traffic noise can be heavy during school days when highschoolers are dismissed in the afternoon times. Large canopy trees provide good shade and encourage windy breezes along this area, creating a pleasant environment.

Path beside Palm Court Condo



This path is narrow and heavily obstructed by vendors selling by the streets. No significant change in ground level along this pathway. However extra caution is needed when walking through this area due to heavy traffic along the roads. The area is quite busy with many stalls selling different things. Atmosphere is lively but can be improved.

TASK 5 - IMPACTS OF NEW BUILDINGS (JUXTAPOSITION)



Heritage vs. High-Rise

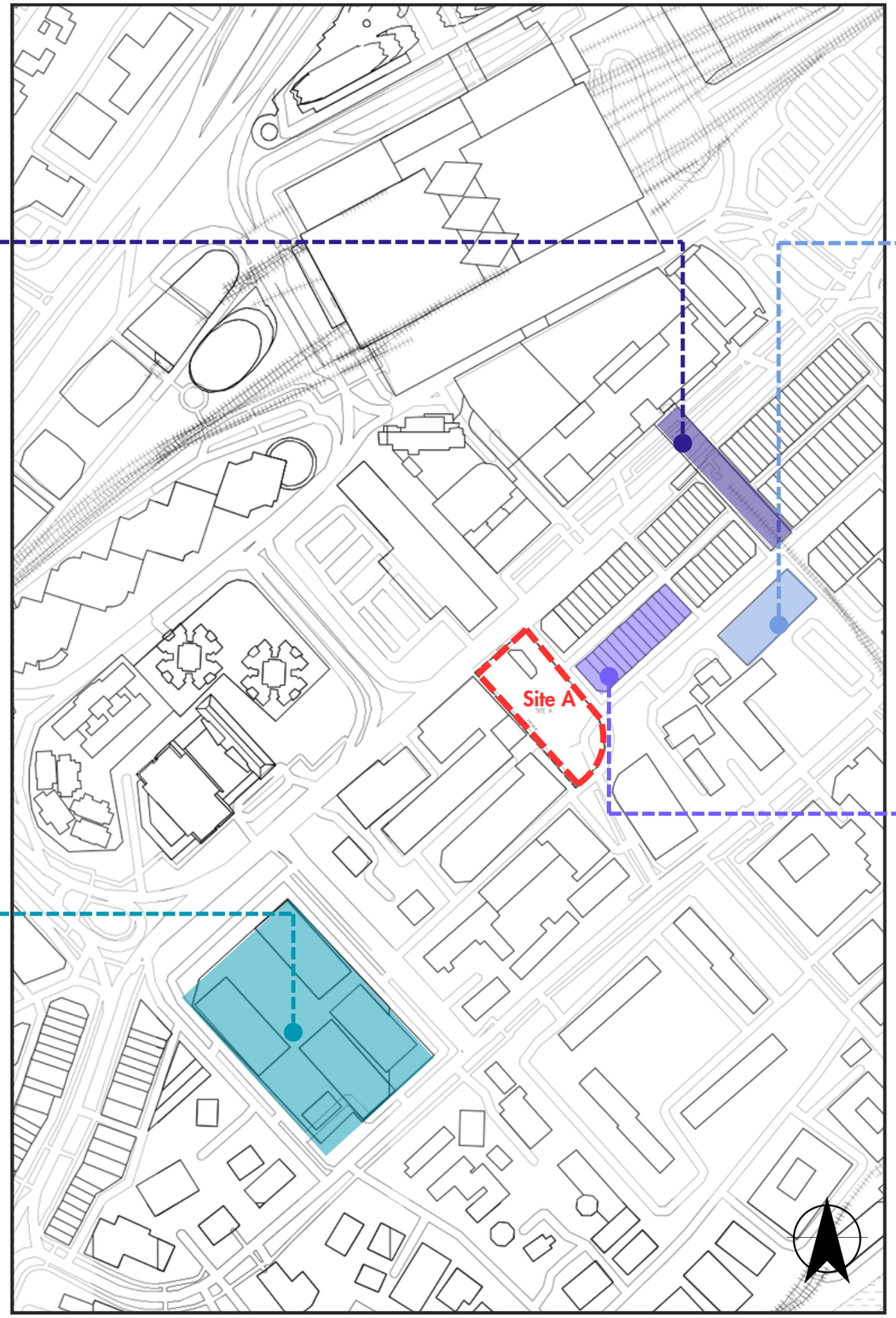
Shoplots vs. mega mall and towers, divided by main road, fragmentation of scale and identity

- Mall facade is set back and much taller, breaking the rhythm.
- The main road acts as a hard divide between “old scale” and “new scale.”
- Creates a visual and cultural tension, local vs. global identity.

Luxury in a Working-Class Context

Modern condo disrupts the working-class character of Brickfields, redefining its skyline and sense of place

- Sentral Suites luxury condo rises in contrast to Brickfields’ modest shoplots and flats, highlighting social and economic disparity.
- Exclusive gated living contrasts with the open, working-class character of surrounding streets.





The Old and The New

Newer facade interrupts the visual flow of heritage shoplots, fragmenting the street’s sense of place

- A modernized shopfront sits directly beside a heritage facade, breaking continuity of rhythm.
- New facade treatments contrast sharply with the aged character of adjoining buildings.
- Juxtaposition of styles creates tension in street identity, cohesion disrupted.



Overpowered Scale

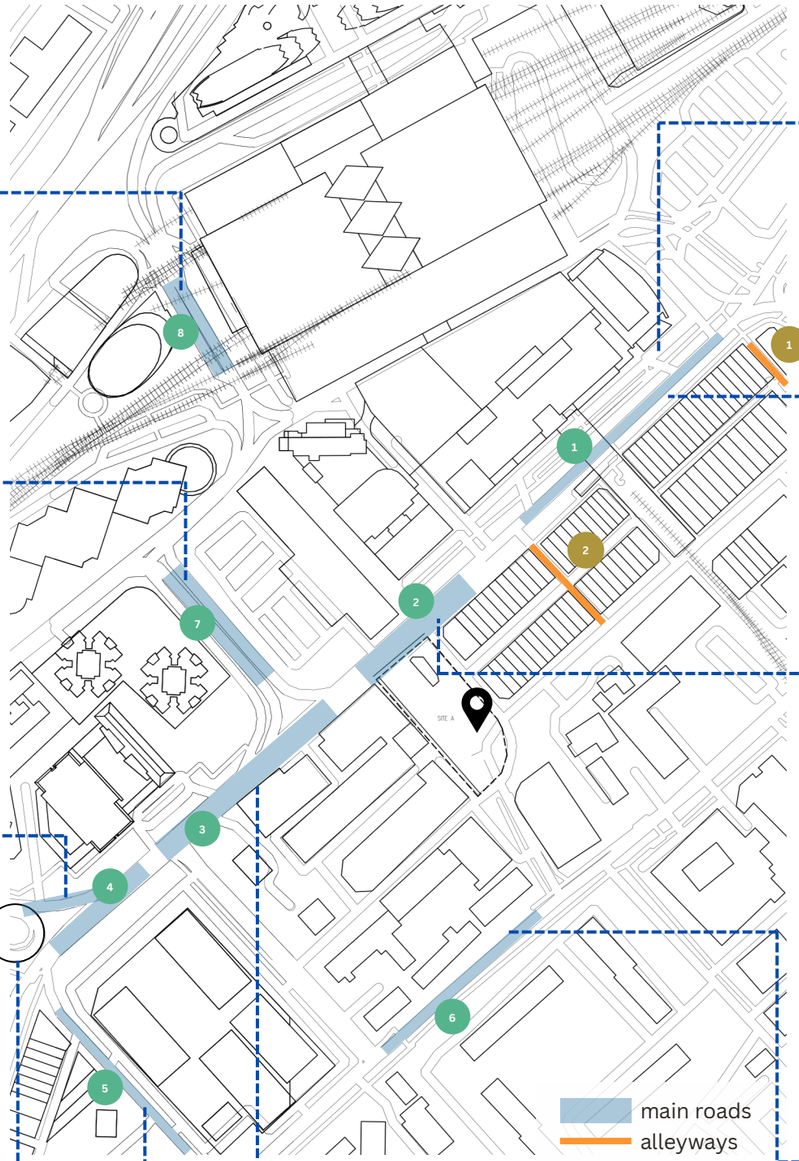
High-rises dominate the skyline, dwarfing old shoplots and reducing the sense of human scale

- Modern high-rises loom over traditional shoplots, disrupting the human scale of the street.
- Tall towers create a visual imbalance, overshadowing the low-rise heritage fabric.
- The contrast in height and bulk weakens the continuity of the older streetscape.

TASK 5 - SPATIAL EXPERIENCE AND ENCLOSURE

road is 4 lanes wide with same character of skyscrapers surrounding, with multiple train tracks due to kl sentral station







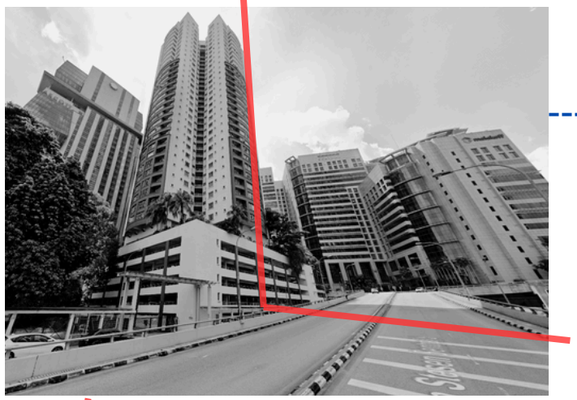
skyscraper, with 3 lane road and open resting areas in front





narrow alleyways in contrast to wider main roads

road has a slight ramp, 2 lanes wide with mainly skyscrapers surrounding





5 storey high buildings, with 3 lane road with drop off lane and carparks along road



in front of site A height is of 5 storey high, road is slightly wider 3 lane road with bigger drop off lane. Intersection also makes space feel more open



road splits into two, total of 6 lanes 3 each, surrounding structures are skyscrapers however spaces feel open due to much wider road



across from site A structures are 1 to 2 storey high, making road seem wider



at the center of these skyscrapers are the subtle traditional structures, creating a calm center to the space



road decreases drastically 2 lanes and parking spots on both sides. Same pattern of skyscraper on one side and other side with around 6 storey high

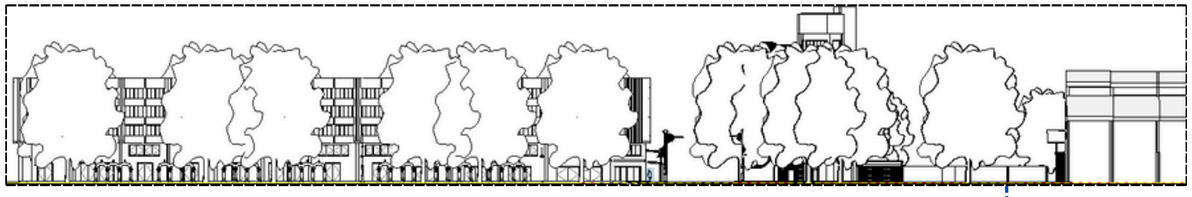


same pattern continues, skyscrapers on one side and in contrast other side of road with short buildings

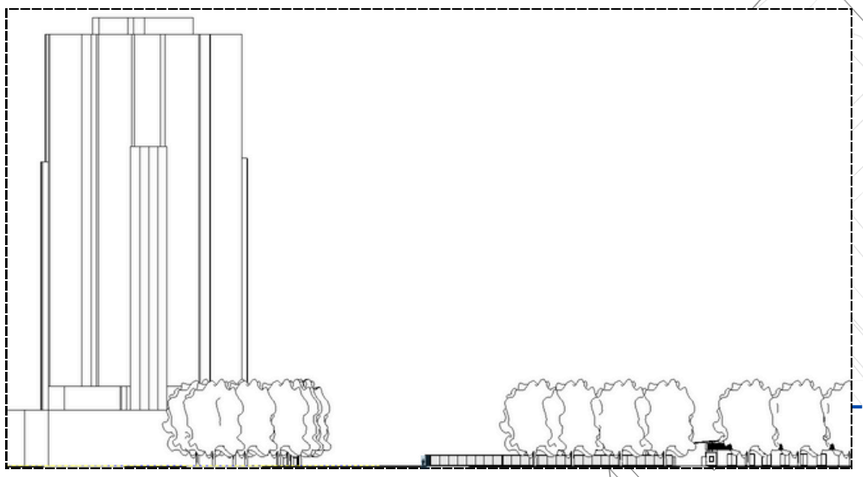


structures generally shorter, 3 lane with carparks and buildings range from 3 to 20 storey high, space feels more open

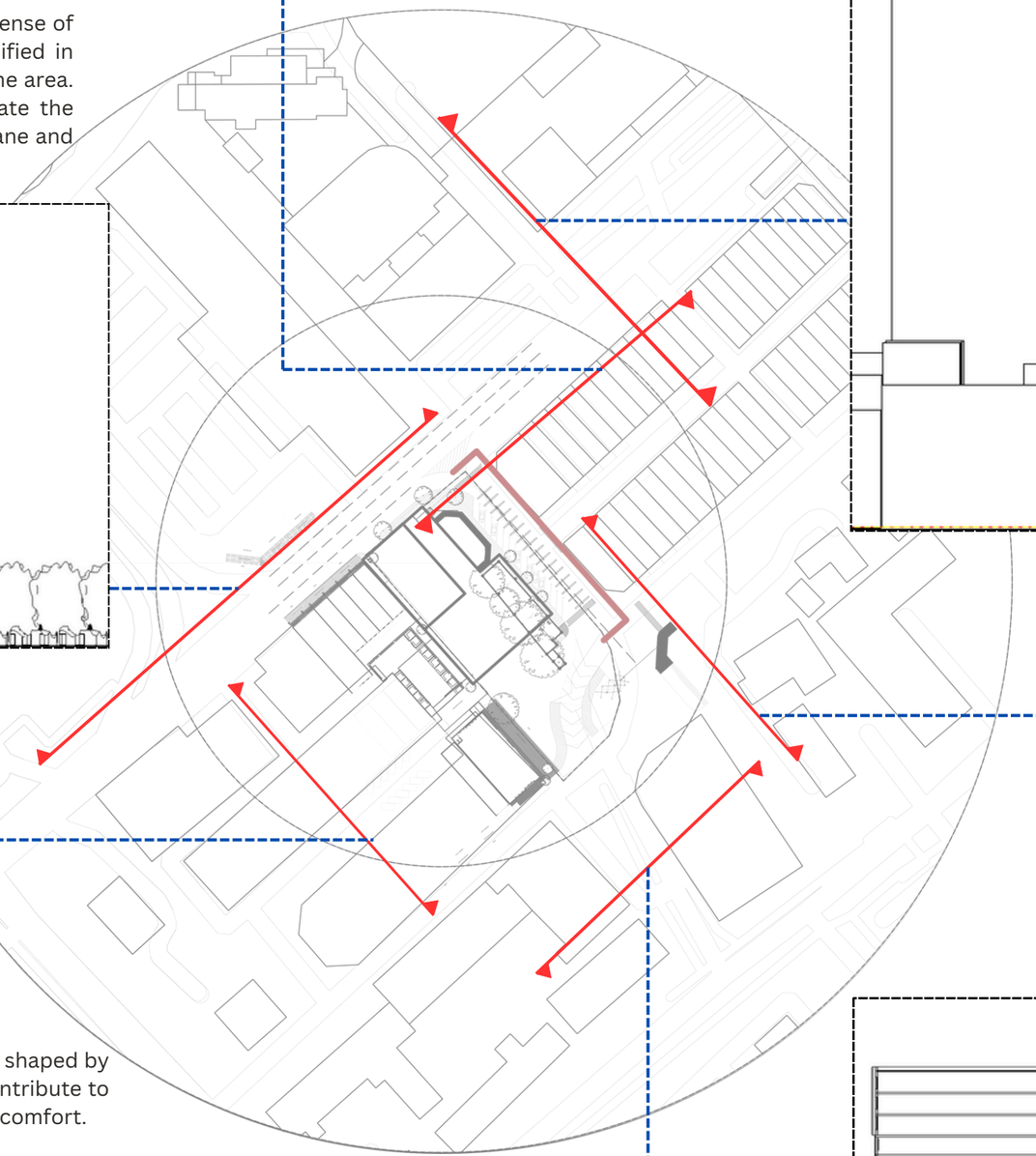
TASK 5 - SPATIAL EXPERIENCE AND ENCLOSURE WITHIN RADIUS

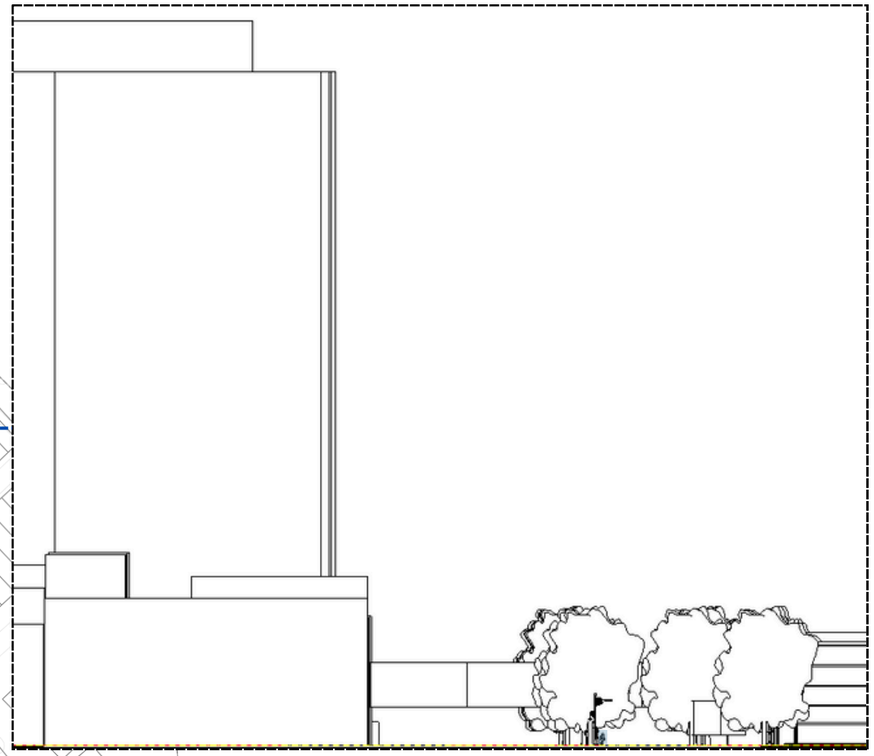


Walking along Jalan Tun Sambanthan in front of the site evokes a sense of openness. The streetscape is defined by low-rise shophouses, unified in style and scale, reflecting the historical and cultural character of the area. In contrast, high-rise developments on the opposite side dominate the skyline, disrupting the intimate, culturally rich atmosphere of the lane and diminishing its traditional urban fabric.

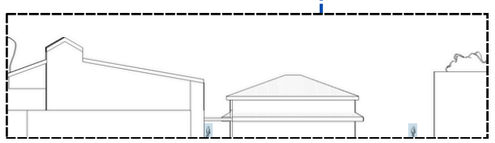


At the junction of Jalan Stesen Sentral 3 and Jalan Tun Sambanthan, the skyscrapers to the left visually dominate the surrounding context. However, the presence of an open car park on the opposite side, along with the generous road width, mitigates this vertical intensity and allows the space to retain a sense of openness.

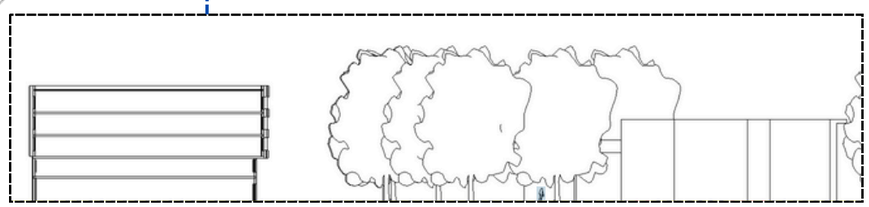


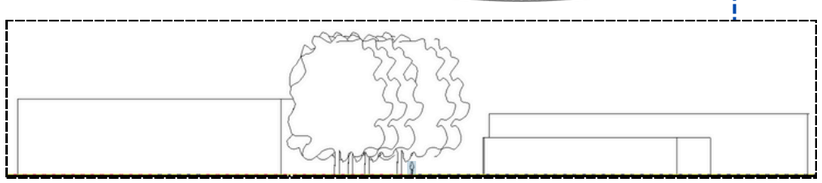


The stark contrast between the low-rise shoplots and adjacent skyscrapers generates a recurring sense of visual dominance and spatial imbalance within the urban fabric.



The character of this area is more subtle and intimate, shaped by the low-rise built form and narrower streets, which contribute to a heightened sense of spatial intensity and pedestrian comfort.





same sense of subtle and intimate, shaped by the low-rise built form and narrower streets

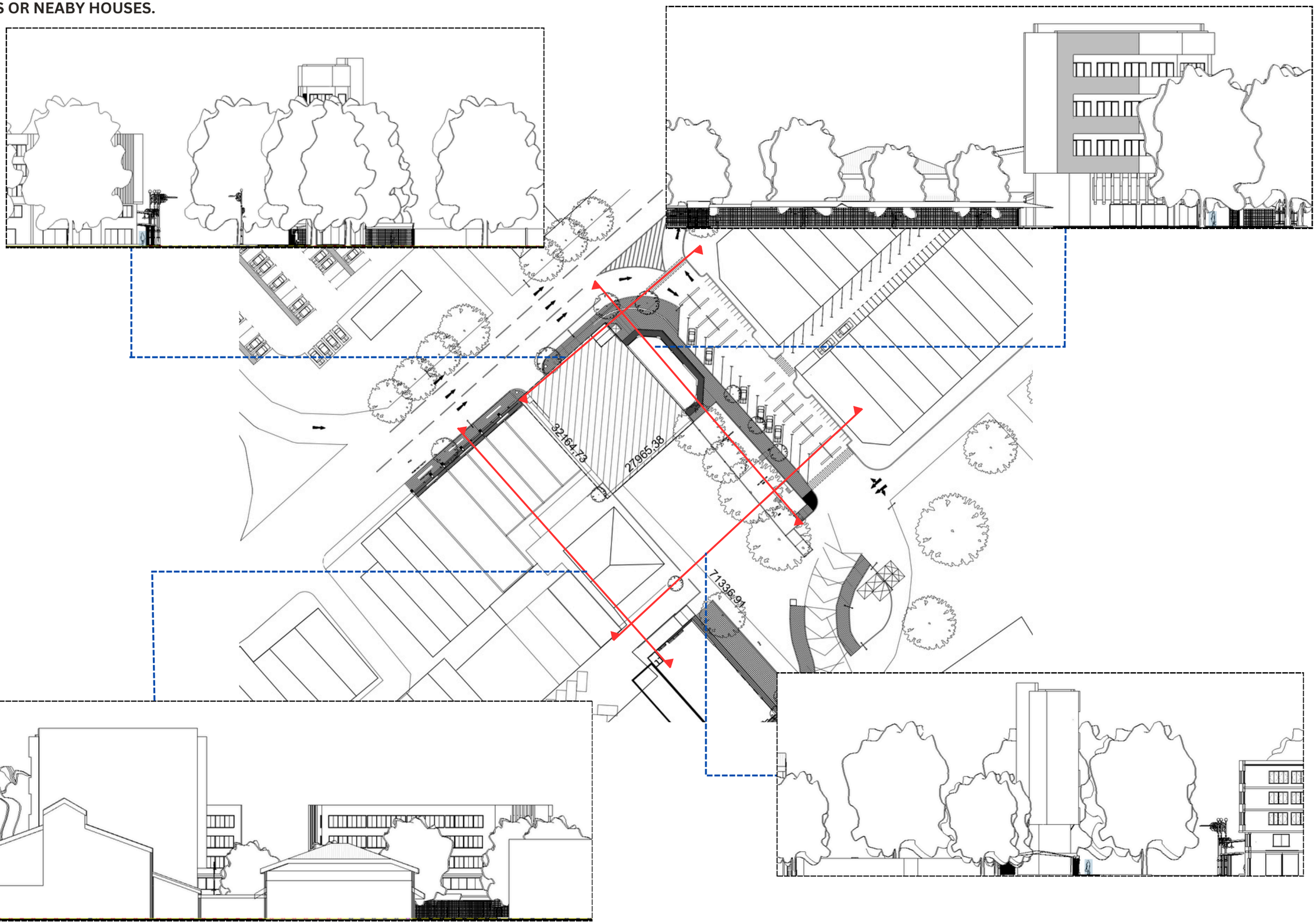
NOTE:

- the size of the images is scaled so you can sense the proportion of the spatial enclosure
- zoom in to view human figures

Sama Tawfik

TASK 5 - SPACIAL EXPERIENCE AND ENCLOSURE MICROSITE

SITE IS MAINLY ENCLOSED AND HIDDEN FROM MAIN ROADS BY TREES OR NEABY HOUSES.



TASK 5 - CULTURAL & SOCIAL ASSOCIATIONS

Cultural/ Religious buildings

Vivekananda Ashrama



A **historic landmark** in Brickfields established in **1904.** Designed in **colonial-style architecture** with a striking statue of Vivekananda at its entrance.

Cultural& social role:

- **cultural** and **educational hub** for the **Indian community**

Sam Kaw Tong Temple



Established in **1916**, one of Brickfields' oldest Chinese temples, dedicated to Taoism, Buddhism, and Confucianism. Once a wooden structure, **rebuilt** in **2001** with **traditional architecture**, **curved tiled roof**, ceramic dragons, and symbolic motifs.

Cultural& social role:

- cultural hub for the **Chinese community**

Sri Sivan Alayam Brickfields



A Brickfields **Hindu temple** dedicated to Lord Shiva, showcasing **South Indian architecture** with ornate sculptures and vibrant deities.

Cultural& social role:

- cultural hub for the **Hindu community** and hosts regular poojas and offerings

Church of Our Lady of Fatima



Catholic church established in **1963**, serving a diverse community with Masses in English and Tamil. Fairly **modern church architecture**.

Cultural& social role:

- Serves a **multi-ethnic**, **multi-national congregation**

TMC KL, Brickfields



The church acquired its Brickfields site around **1960** and the **current sanctuary** was dedicated in **1961**. In December 2014, it was reported the church was to undergo redevelopment

Cultural& social role:

- Provides a **multilingual space** that unites diverse congregations.

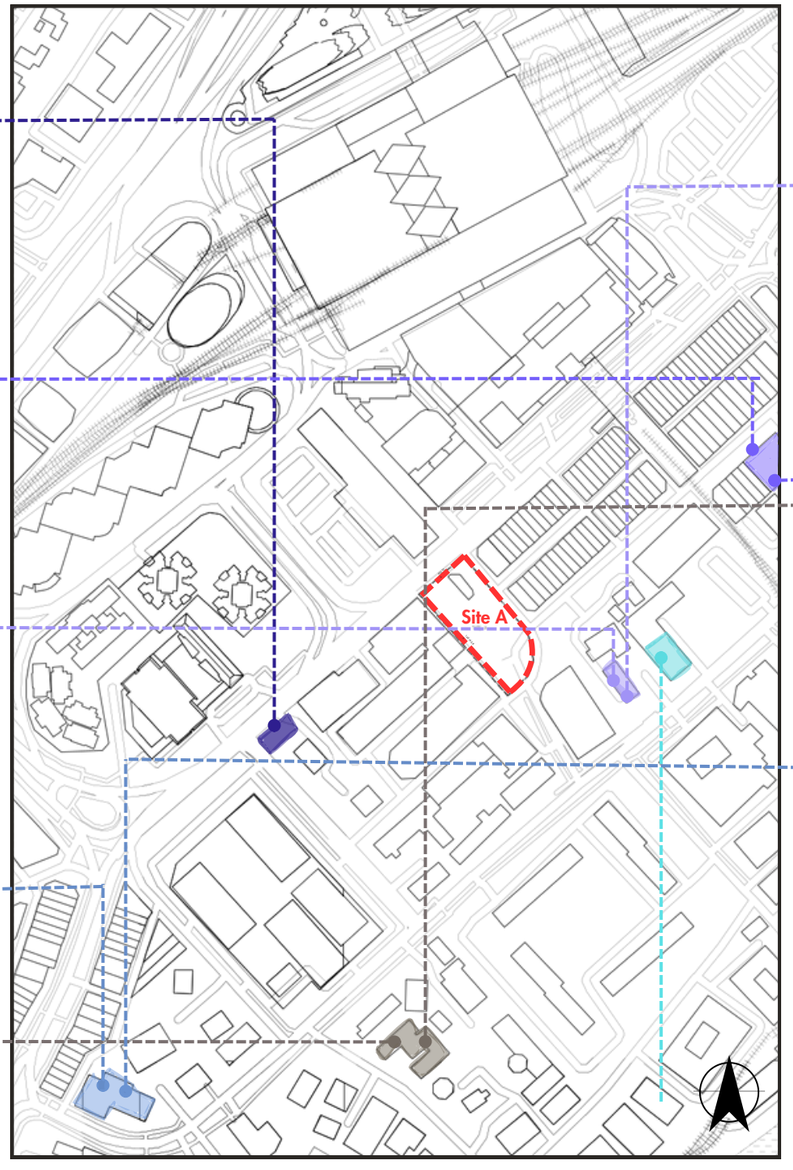
Buddhist Maha Vihara



Established in **1894**, this Sri Lankan Theravāda temple features shrine halls, a Bodhi tree, and cultural spaces, serving as a key spiritual and community hub.

Cultural& social role:

- hosts **Wesak Day**, offers Dhamma classes, and serves as a **community hub** promoting **Buddhist heritage** and interfaith harmony



Cultural Symbols/ Arts



Murals painting



Torana Gate



Little India Fountain



Little India Dancers Sculpture



Arches decoaration

Festivals& Rituals

Hindu community



Vinayagar Chaturthi



Thaipusam



48-Days Mandala Abishegam

Chinese community



Wesak Day



Chinese New Year



Ghost Festival

Christian community



Feast of Our Lady of Fatima

Shop styles



Multilingual signage
Tamil, English, Malay and Chinese



Bold colors and fonts
often in bright reds, yellows, and blues



Traditional motifs
Hindu symbols or religious imagery

TASK 5 - ACCESSIBILTY AND UNIVERSAL DESIGN

Steps on Five-footway



The five footway facing Jalan Tun Sambathan, is separated into two levels of steps with the higher level of pavement. This design helps to **disperse the flow of pedestrians,** which are quite congested since it is nearby the KL Sentral monorail stations, NU central and office buildings.

Deflection of Pavement



Clearly marked zebra crossing at T-junction. Gentle slope of ramps and blind pathway ease the access for **wheelchair users** and **people with visual impairment.** However, no traffic lights are there, imposing risks of accidents to pedestrians.

Straight Pavement



Towards the west of Jalan Tun Sambathan, the pedestrians can access to a wider, tranquil and calm walkway under a residential apartment, called **Sentral Suites, KL Sentral.** At this area, people are walking at low-pace manner.

Broad Walk

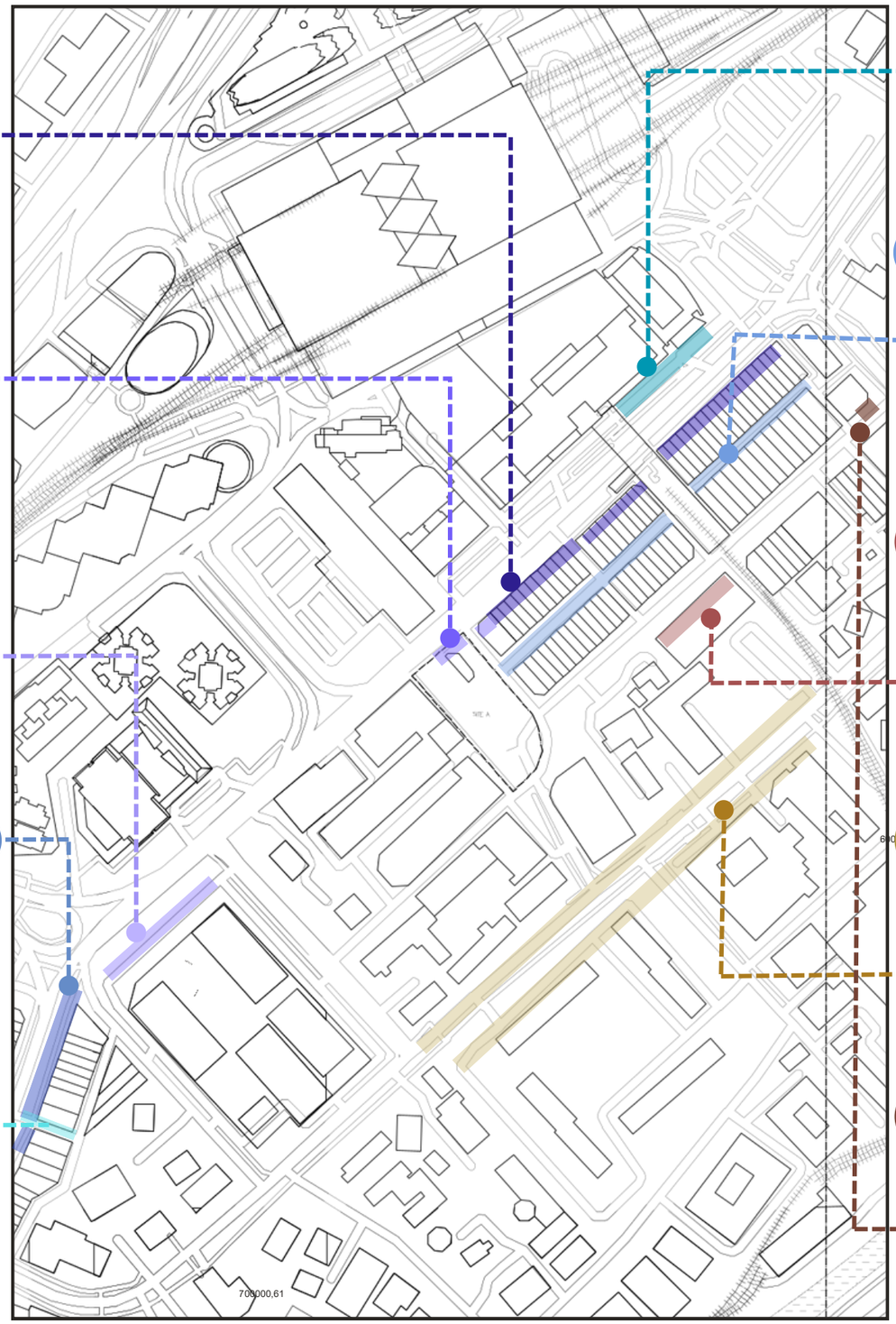


At Little India, there is a broadwalk next to the shoplots. Since the broadwalk is at a longer distance from the monorail station, the broadwalk is quite clean and serene by comparison.

Side Lane



The site lane of the street provides an alternative routes for pedestrians to connect to different locations. This enhances the permeability of Brickfield area and time-saving for the pedestrians.



Greenery of Pavement



The pavement in front of NU Sentral mall planted **two rows of trees** of approximately 5m tall. It provides decent shading and is visually pleasing by walking through it.

Backlane



Alternative routes for pedestrians and vehicles to access. It serves important function for business activities such as unloading stocks and parkings. Rarely used by pedestrians due to **odour released** from kitchen through air duct.

Double Volume High Five-footway



This five-footway have a ceiling of two-storey height, **introduce natural lighting** into it, therefore pedestrians would not oppressed by walking along the narrow corridor.

Sheltered Pavement



Some pavements which are not located besides the shop-lots, are covered with roof. The roof along the path enable **sun-shading** and **provide shelter** for pedestrian on **rainy days.**

Street barriers



The steel cylinder posts prevent the access of vehicles like motorbikes, ensuring safety of pedestrians. Whereas the two big steel structures with wider gap are positioned for people with **strollers**, **wheel chair** to access.

Since it is newly installed in recent years, it forms an apparent contrast with the old buildings that emphasise a **sense of dissonance**

TASK 5 - CONTINUITY, RHYTHM & UNITY

Facade Styles



-The arches have bright colors, purple, blue &orange.
-it shows an indian style decorations with curved shapes.





-Old shops: Faded paint, rough texture, colorful.
-Street art: colourful walls mural with an Indian cultural theme.





Many buildings use plasters walls, concrete, and glass for new ones.

Repeating Patterns / Rhythm

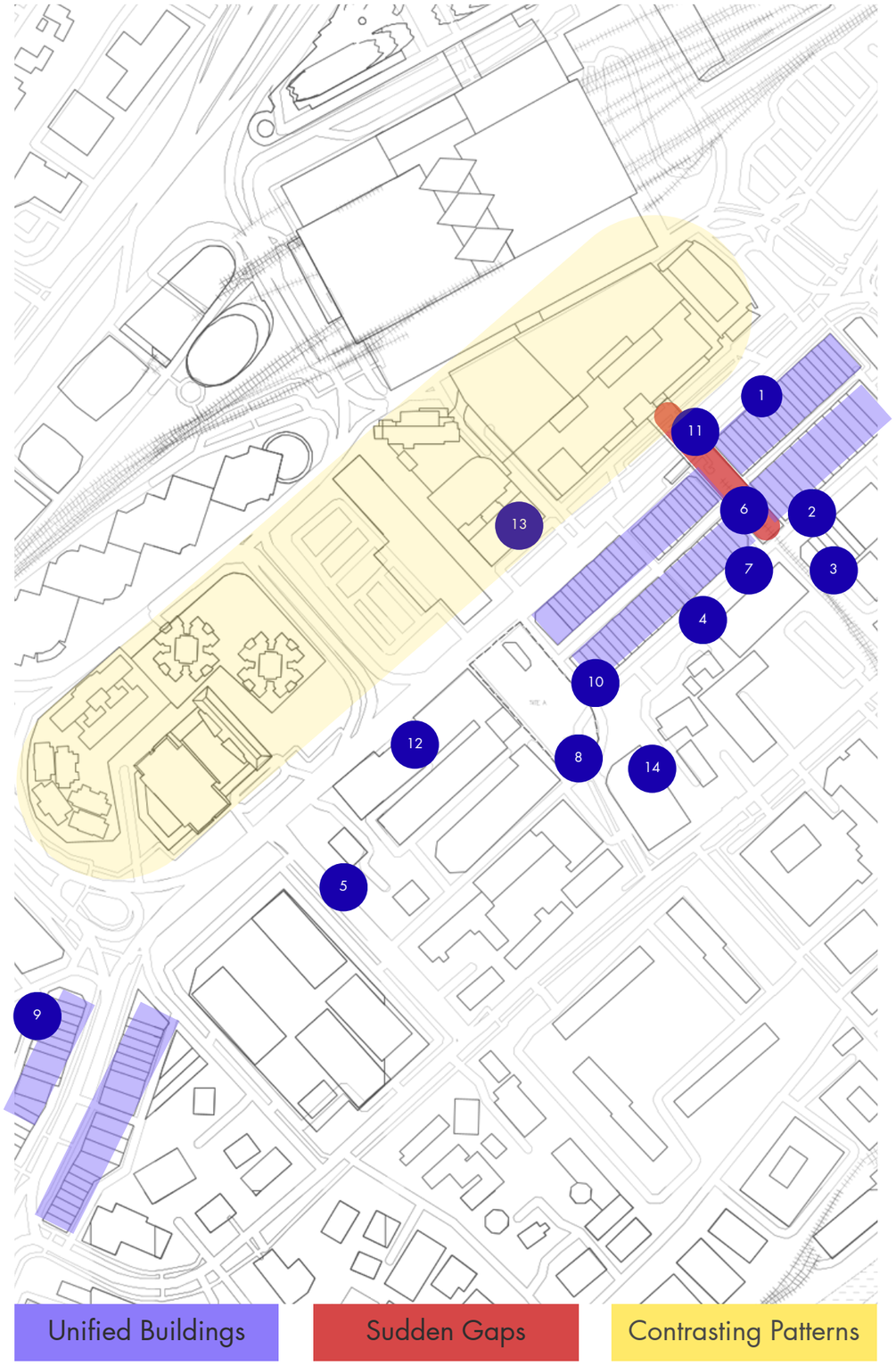




-The arches repeat in a line with the same shape & colors.
-The floor tiles also repeating in a grid pattern.



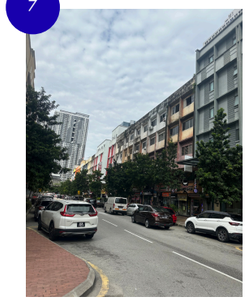
-Shops rows looks the same height, windows, repeated air-conditioners & aligned shopfronts.
-Modern buildings: glass panels and metal patterns repeat.



Unified Buildings

-Shops forms clusters with similar height and function.
-Modern glass blocks form a separate cluster with their own unity.

traditional low rise with modern highrise.



Sudden Changes

-Big difference between low & old shops and tall glass towers.
creates contrast breaking the older street scale.



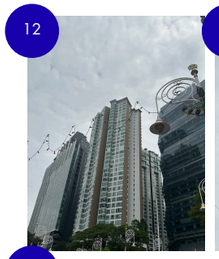


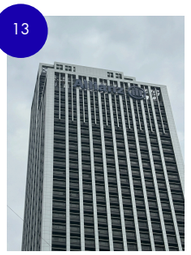
-Skybridge and steel structures introduce modern design in older area.





Roof Shapes





-Skyline shows mix of heights and styles.
-Skybridge cuts across street view.

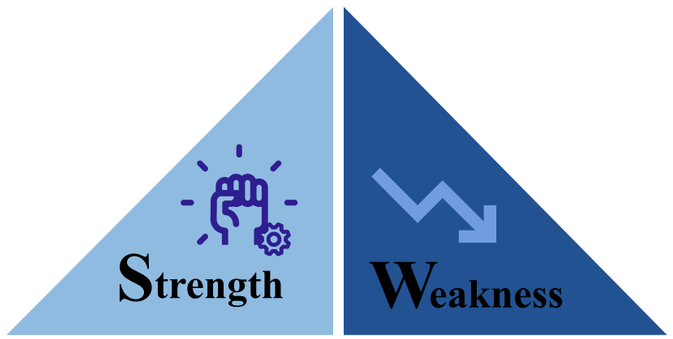


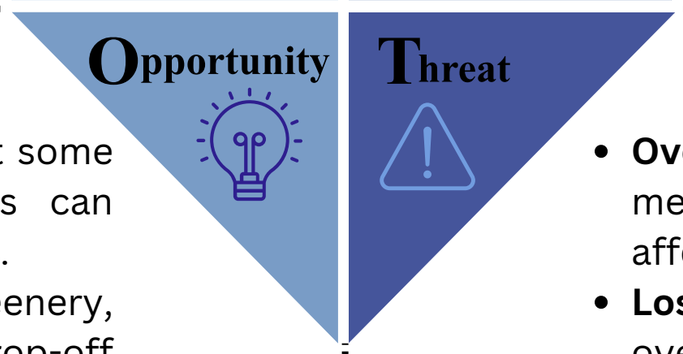
pitched roofs on older buildings (like the church).

TASK 5 - SWOT

- **Weather protection -** Five-footway of shoplots and some roofed pavement offer comfortness and connectivity to different places during sunny and rainy days.
- **Diverse Urban Fabric:** The site features a mix of high-rise skyscrapers and low-rise traditional buildings, adding character and variation.
- **Rich cultural diversity** and strong community identity supported by **religious buildings** especially Hindu community

- **Steps on five-footway -** Steps along some five-footways restrict the accessibity to strollers, wheelchair users and people with mobility impairment.
- **Lack of Uniform Street Edge:** Building setbacks and varying heights impact the street wall definition, leading to a fragmented sense of enclosure.
- **Overcrowding** during festivals may strain infrastructure and accessibility





- **Improving accessibility -** Introducing ramps at some five-footway and traffic lights at junctions can enhance accessibility and safety of pedestrians.
- **Human-Scale Urban Design:** Integrating greenery, seating, or pedestrian-friendly features in drop-off lanes or underutilized zones can enhance comfort and walkability.
- Potential to promote Brickfields as a **multicultural tourism hub**

- **Overcrowding -** Due to proximity towards NU sentral megamall and office, pavement often congested, affecting the comfort and walkability.
- **Loss of Cultural Identity**: Modern high-rises could overshadow traditional elements if not protected or celebrated.
- **Traffic congestion** and **lack of parking** during festivals may discourage visitors

TASK 6

TOWNSCAPE QUALITY

SWOT ANALYSIS (COMPOSITE DIAGRAM)

TASK 6 - SWOT ANALYSIS

STRENGTHS

Street Vibrancy & Foot Traffic
- Situated right across KL Sentral, a main transportation hub, offers high pedestrian activity and public exposure to a street filled with sensory richness (colours, sounds, smells) and street life character.

Distinctive Cultural Identity
- rich Indian influences and cultural heritage expressed in temples, colourful shopfronts, signage's, institutions

Community-Oriented Potential
- With schools (including for visually impaired students), religious centers, and local shops nearby, the area already supports a vibrant community, creating opportunities to design inclusive and socially connected public spaces.

Strong Imageability & Landmarks
- Temples, mosques, and cultural landmarks serve as recognizable nodes (Lynch's principles), strengthening orientation and identity within the area.

WEAKNESSES

Poor Pedestrian Connectivity And Accessibility
- Infill-lot sites are fragmented with narrow walkways, uneven paving, and unclear crossings that reduce permeability and legibility. Students with visual impairments face added risks as tactile paths are broken or unclear.

Limited Shading & Thermal Comfort
- Insufficient tree cover and shading along Brickfields' walkways make the hot, humid climate uncomfortable, reducing pedestrian activity and outdoor social life

Visual & Functional Incoherence
- The area mixes old shophouses, tall towers, and empty lots, creating a lack of visual harmony and identity. Some poorly kept buildings also weaken the overall image.

Underutilized & Neglected Spaces
- Vacant lots, back lanes, and leftover spaces are often used for parking or dumping rather than as active public areas, reducing social life and leaving 'dead edges' in the townscape.

OPPORTUNITIES

Walkability Through Architectural Edges
- Redesign walkways with arcades, colonnades, or shaded shopfront canopies to guide pedestrian flow.
- Add landmark nodes (pavilions, gateways, shelters) at crossings for orientation.

Shaded Microclimates via Architectural Insertions
- Insert tensile canopies, pergolas, and green walls to cool streets.
- Use cohesive shopfront extensions/awnings blending tradition with modern tech.

Cohesion Through Façade & Infill Design
- Restore shophouses and align infill design with contextual massing, materials, and Indian heritage motifs.
- Establish an identity code unique to Little India.

Adaptive Reuse of Underutilized Spaces
- Convert vacant lots/back lanes into courtyards, bazaars, or pocket parks.
- Activate edges with modular stalls, pavilions, and lightweight cultural structures.

THREATS

Redevelopment are generic or disjointed with Brickfields urban morphology and without local consensus.
- Demolition of the 100 Quarters with promises of heritage conservation and failure of MCRB to follow through with promises to locals.
- The arches along Jalan Tun Sambanthan are visually jarring, lacking any connection to the neighbourhood's deep cultural and historical roots.
- Locals want new development plans to benefit their community instead of making their quality of life worse.

Traffic issue increasing due to inadequate structure
- Lack of public parking to facilitate influx of cars entering so less customers for local businesses.
- High density development such as the Sentral Suites that worsen congestion in an already busy area. Thus, introduce public parking spaces and encourage pedestrian flow with better pedestrian connection from LRT.

Lack of green and open spaces such as the Chan Tong Ah field due to development of Sentral Suites.
- Urban heat island effect causing higher temperatures.
- Loss of public gathering space which could weaken community connection.
- Loss of open spaces that act as buffer space which can make urban space feel more congested /cramped and the loss of transitional spaces between private and public.

Brickfields could become another generic city due to heritage site erosion or neglect
- Historic site lose their visual and cultural setting without buffer zones. Developments such as Sentral Suites are within 20m of the 200m Heritage buffer zone around Vivekananda Ashrama.
- Locals were promised when the 100 Quarters were demolished that the two units of the 100 Quarters would be preserved and shown in a heritage cultural center, but no cultural heritage center built to show the importance and history of the 100 Quarters.
- Risk of losing Vivekananda Ashrama which was started by Tamil immigrants who are the main residents of Brickfields. Despite the Vivekananda Ashram having been gazetted as a heritage site in 2016, the land was not indicated as such in the KLLP2040 and is designated as a major commercial area.

THANK YOU