Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

HOUSE FOR indigenous People

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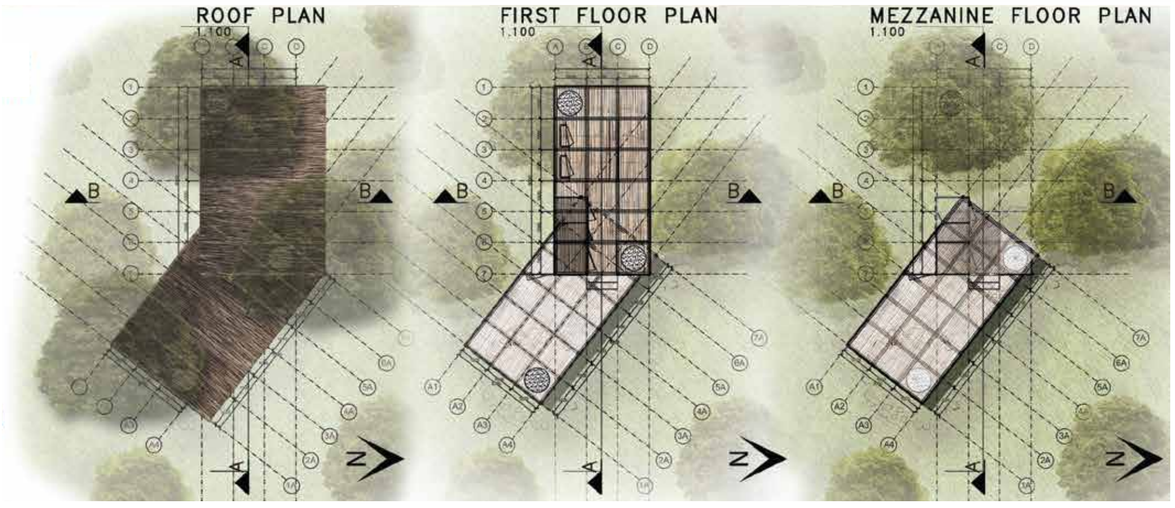
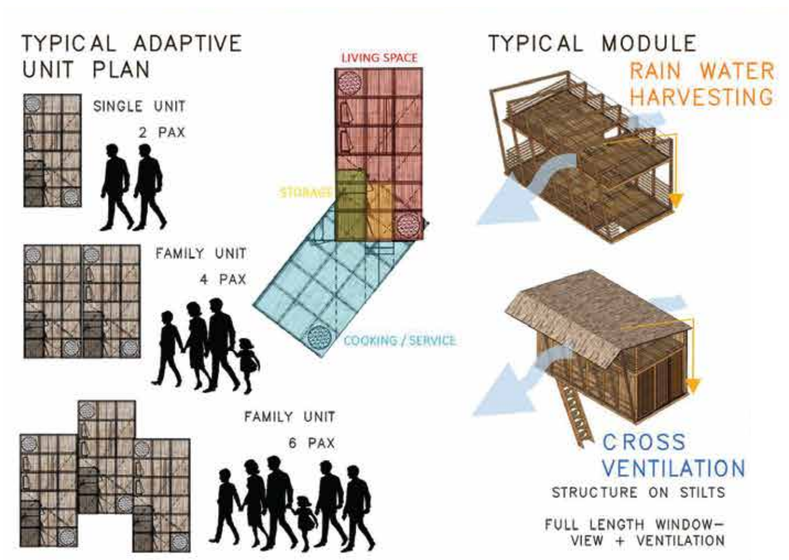
This design proposes a housing solution for a small indigenous community known as the Orang Asli that lives in the Belum Rainforest of Malaysia. The greatest challenge facing the Orang Asli today is the loss of native lands which they depend on for their livelihood. While the government implemented development programs for the indigenous community designed to improve their standard of living, government housing has largely been inadequate. The housing units are small with concrete walls and heat-trapping zinc roofs and are uncomfortable when compared to traditional Orang Asli housing.

The design for this treehouse adopts traditional Orang Asli housing elements and merges them with modern concepts to create comfortable housing units for the displaced indigenous community. Traditional Orang Asli housing is typically made from leaves with a wooden floor and is located near a river that acts as a water source. While the Orang Asli move infrequently, they are nomadic and can construct a house in 2 to 3 hours. This solution is therefore designed to be easily transported and rebuilt in a better location. The modular system uses local materials and small timber sections in order to be built in remote locations that lack infrastructure and skilled builders.





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The building is shaped like a boomerang to maximize the use of resources and to provide a few of the natural environment. The zero-energy house relies on renewable energy and provides homes for the indigenous community that has stewardship over this land.