

# RETROFITTING SUBURBIA

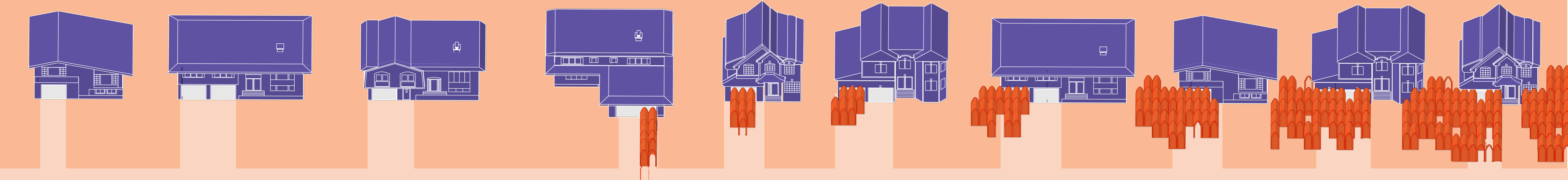
North American post-war suburbs were encouraged by developers. In the automobile-driven economy, neighborhoods far from the city became more accessible. Today, the negative impacts of sprawl are well known; pollution, diminution of biodiversity, expensive infrastructure maintenance, etc.,. The current environmental crisis is exacerbated by droves of commuters, rendering cars less desirable for modern city dwellers. The

economy is no longer exclusively in city centers due to the internet and home delivery. Our approach to the housing dilemma is to revitalize mundane existing housing. By invading the suburbs with multi-use spaces, the communities can become less reliant on the cities they surround. We imagine a reduction in the number of cars in the suburbs, eventually leaving driveways and garages vacant. By occupying these areas with versatile

shelters, the members of the community can create communal spaces that use existing amenities without encroaching on green spaces. These semi-permanent structures would be easily converted for long-term use depending on user needs. Made from bamboo structures and thermal membranes, the frames could be erected by the occupants, like the temporary tents that many use to cover their cars in the winter.

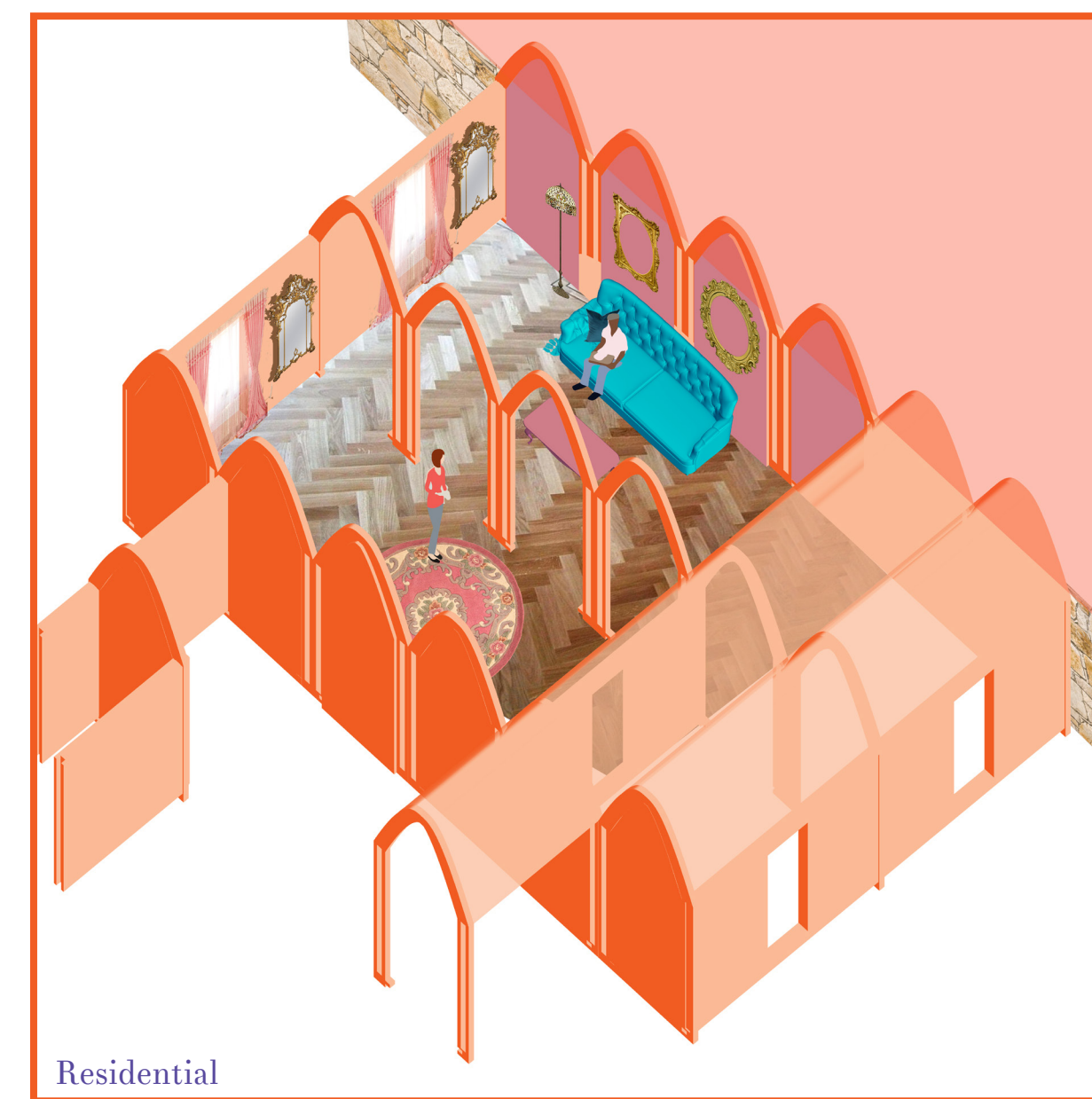
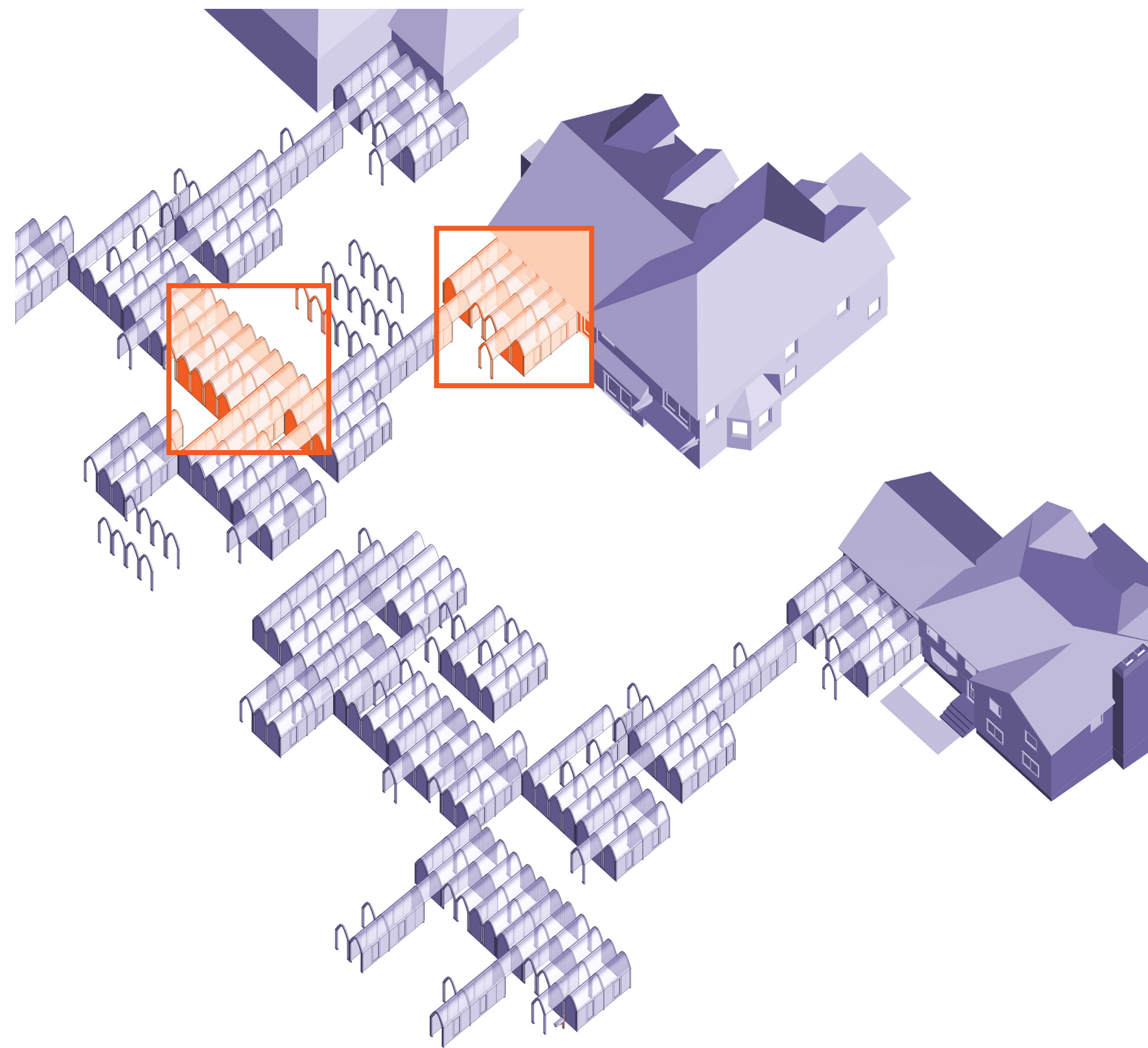


“Suburban areas make up approximately 80% of Canada’s metropolitan population and 66% of the total Canadian population” - Gordon D., Janzen M.(2013)



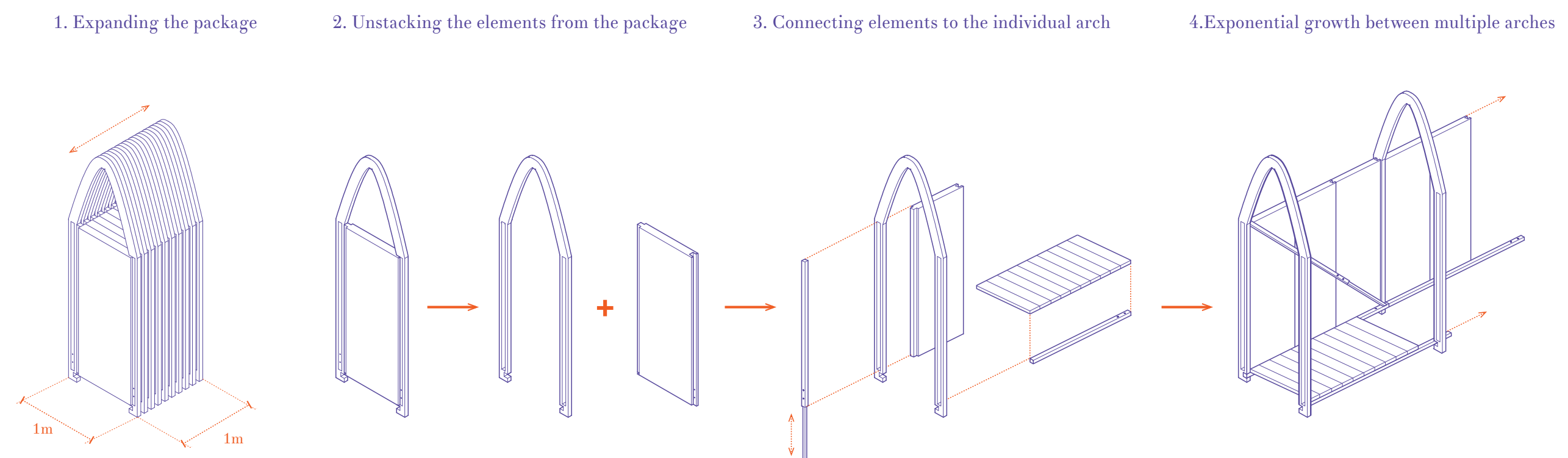
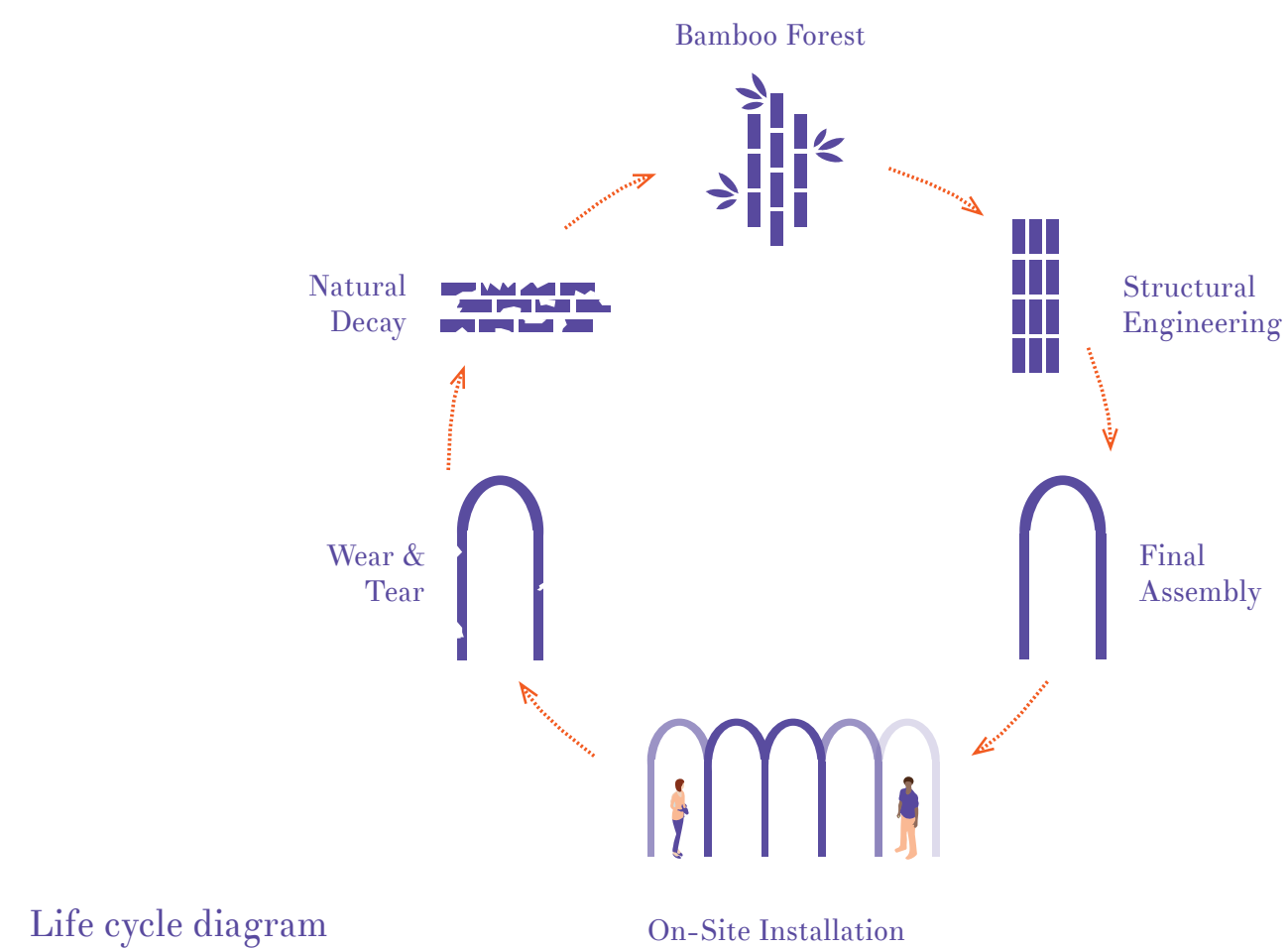
Timeline of development





The advantage of the temporality of the initial structure is that it encourages soft densification. Gradually, the successful spaces will be made more permanent and unused areas can be uncovered, and eventually rot into compost.

The approach does not dictate the outcome of the intervention. The communities will develop their own way of connecting, changing, and preserving spaces.



Assembly diagram