

THE FILM CITY

A THESIS

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of
Bachelor of Architecture degree

By

S RAGURAM

(39210063)



**DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE
SCHOOL OF BUILDING AND ENVIRONMENT**

SATHYABAMA

**INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY) Accredited**

With Grade "A" by NAAC

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CHENNAI - 600 119**

MAY- 2024



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BONAFIDE CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that Thesis Report is the bonafide work of **RAGURAM.S (39210063)** who carried out the Thesis entitled "**FILM CITY**" under our supervision from December 2023 to May 2024.

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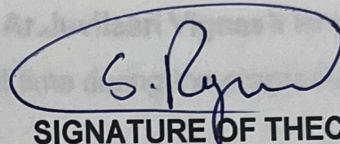
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I, **RAGURAM S** hereby declare that the Thesis Report entitled "The Film city" done by me under the guidance of **Ar.Juvilasri Vignesh** (Internal Guide), **Ar.Anitha Murugan** (Internal Review Member) and **Ar.Stanley Clement Daniel** (External Guide) Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of Bachelor of Architecture Degree.

DATE: 23 - 05 - 2024.

PLACE: Chennai



SIGNATURE OF THE CANDIDATE

I would like to express my sincere and deep sense of gratitude to the Internal guide **Ar.Juvilasri Vignesh**, internal Review Member **Ar.Anitha Murugan** and External Guide **Ar.Stanley Clement Daniel** for their guidance, suggestions and constant encouragement which paved the way for the successful completion of my Thesis work.

I wish to express my thanks to all Teaching and Non-teaching staff members of the Department of Architecture, all my family members and friends **Dinesh** and **Anushree** helpful in many ways for completing this Thesis.

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RAGURAM S

THESIS SYNOPSIS

This thesis explores the design and development of a Film City in Chennai, aiming to create a comprehensive space for the film industry. The project addresses the need for a dedicated area where all aspects of film production can be integrated, from shooting and post-production to accommodation and leisure.

The Film City will be designed to include various studios, sound stages, and editing suites. It will also feature outdoor shooting locations that reflect diverse settings, reducing the need for filmmakers to travel far for different scenes. Accommodations for cast and crew, along with recreational facilities, will ensure a comfortable and efficient working environment.

Emphasizing sustainability, the design incorporates eco-friendly materials and energy-efficient technologies. Green spaces and water bodies will enhance the aesthetic appeal and provide a pleasant atmosphere for creativity. Additionally, the layout will ensure smooth logistics and accessibility, facilitating the movement of equipment and personnel.

The Film City aims to boost the local economy by attracting national and international film projects. It will also create job opportunities and foster talent development in the region. Overall, this thesis envisions a Film City that supports the artistic and economic growth of Chennai's film industry while promoting sustainable architectural practices.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

A Film City is like a big, special place where movies and TV shows are made. It has rooms with everything needed for filming, like special lights and cameras. There are also pretend places called sets, where they film different scenes. After filming, there are rooms where they edit and make the movie look cool. The people who work on movies have offices there too. The Film City helps them by providing everything they need, like costumes and equipment. It's like a big one-stop-shop for making movies. There are many Film Cities around the world, and they make moviemaking easier and more fun for everyone.

1.2 NEED OF THE PROJECT

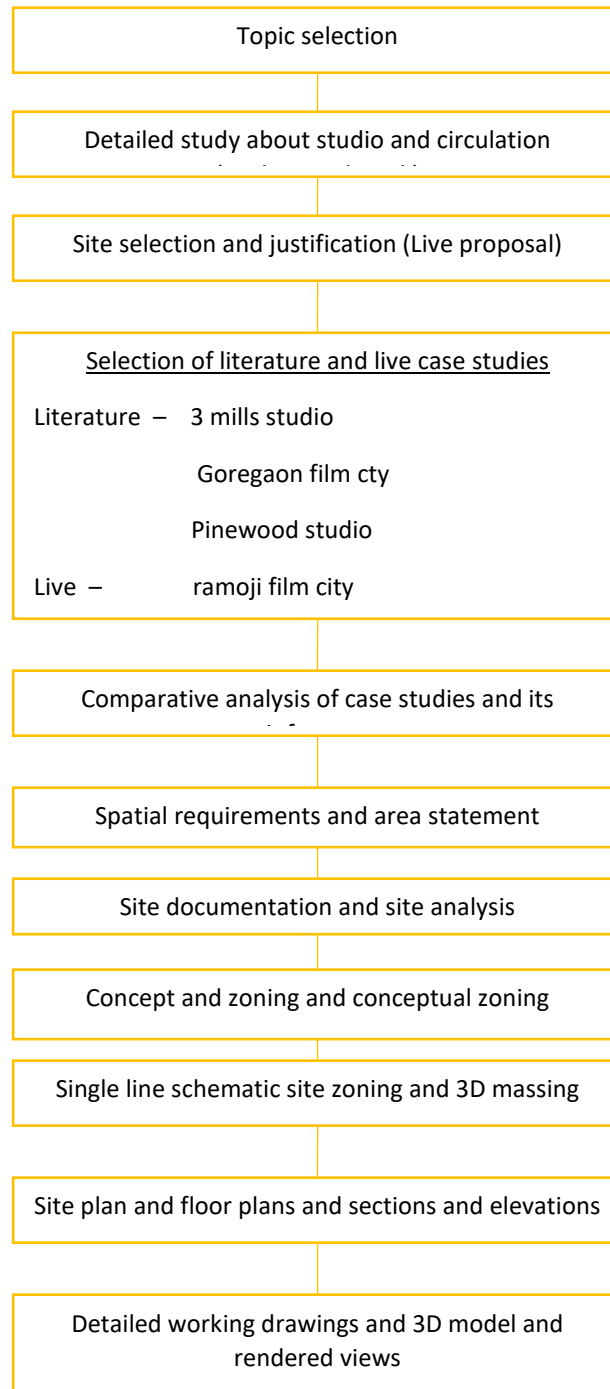
The establishment of a Film City in Chennai would address several crucial needs within the film industry. Firstly, it would provide a centralized hub for filmmaking activities, offering state-of-the-art facilities and infrastructure to support the production process. This would attract both domestic and international filmmakers, bolstering the local economy and creating job opportunities across various sectors.

a Film City in Chennai would help preserve and promote the rich cultural heritage of Tamil cinema. It could serve as a platform for showcasing traditional art forms, fostering talent development, and preserving cinematic history through museums and archives..

1.3 AIM AND OBJECTIVE

Aim is to design an innovative, sustainable, and culturally rich complex in Chennai. It seeks to integrate state-of-the-art facilities with traditional elements, fostering creativity, promoting regional cinema, and enhancing the overall cinematic experience while prioritizing environmental conservation and community engagement

1.4 METHODOLOGY



To preserve the industrial character of the Gin Still, the design comprises a new structure which is 'inserted' into the historic envelope creating 'a building within a building'. This new element will be a simple robust 'kit of parts', with adaptable levels of enclosure and separation between spaces, to allow for flexibility and a variety of different uses.



Fig 2.2: Section of gin still in 3 mills studio

2.1.2 MATERIAL ANALYSIS:

- Steel structure for foundation and super structure
- Brick walls with truss roof in sound stage
- Sound absorbing panels on the walls of sound stage
- Concrete flooring with wooden overlay in sound stage
- Pitched roof with roof.
- PCC on parking

2.1.3 PRODUCTION FACILITY :

- 9 Stages, totalling 75,000 sq. ft.
- 10 Rehearsal Rooms
- A variety of on-site and near-by locations including cobbled streets, historic buildings and canals.
- 90+ Production Offices
- 62-seat Screening Room

- Prop Stores, Workshops, Make Up, Dressing Rooms & more
- Other Facilities: Props Stores, Green Rooms, Warehouse Space, Catering, Grade II Listed Buildings, Cafe, Parking.
- Media Village includes Rigging, Camera Hire, Casting and Crew Agencies.

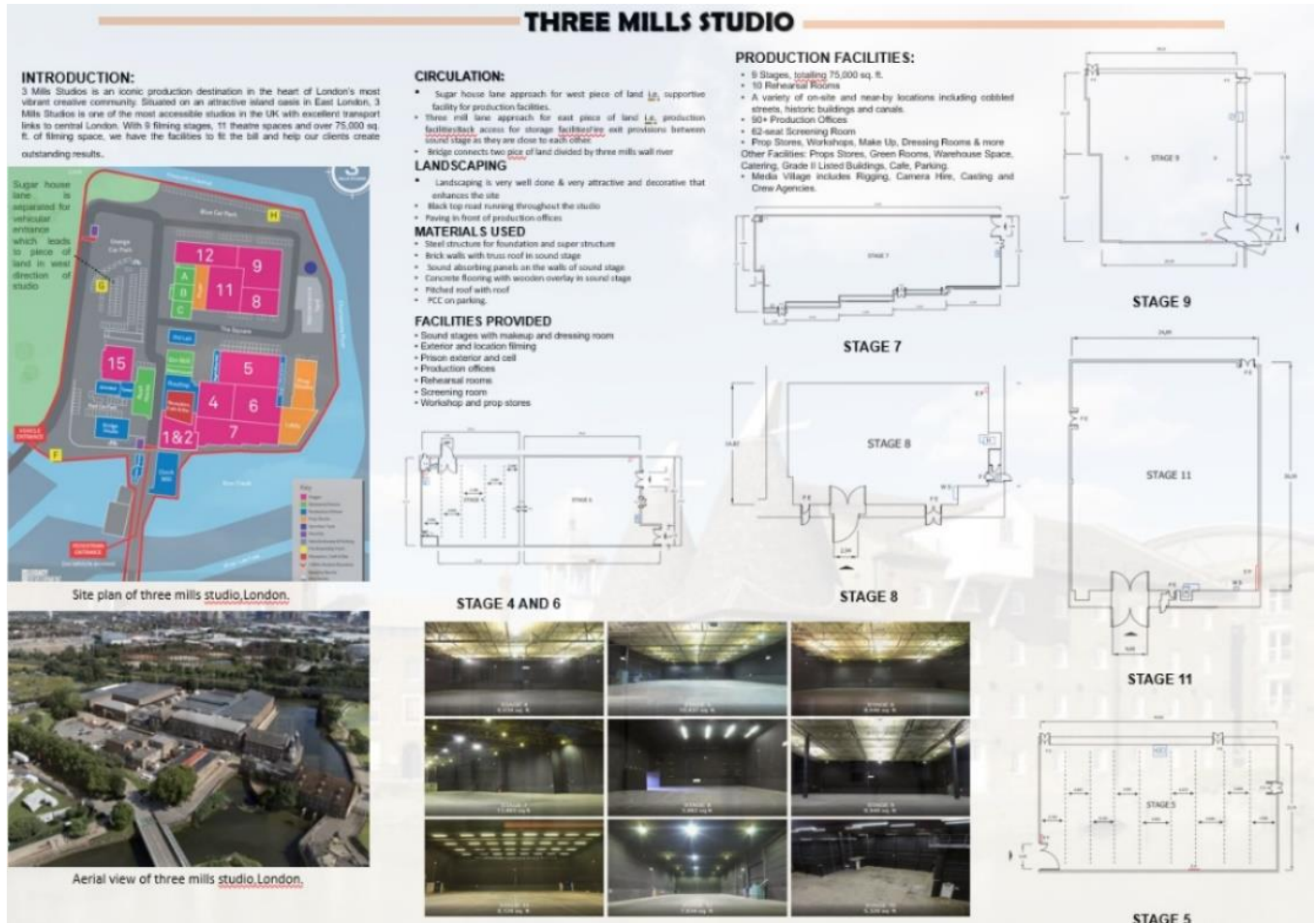


Plate 2.1: St2dy of Thee Mills Studio

THREE MILLS STUDIO

THE GIN STILL:

Three floors of state-of-the-art open office space in a beautiful heritage building, designed with creative projects in mind.

Each floor is kitted out with a modern kitchenette and accessible bathrooms. There is also open load-in access on the ground floor as well as an internal loading dock. The building also features a range of storage units and lockers, units and cabinets. Heating, power points and internet lines are provided in most offices.

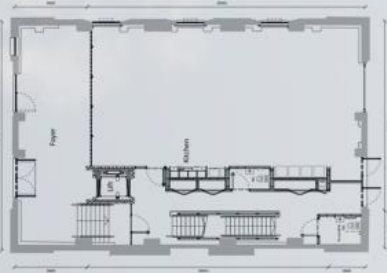
Previously a rehearsal space that was utilized for circus and aerial rehearsals, due to its height, the new Gin Still has been converted to three floors of modern open-plan office space to support the growing need for creative workspace for the film and television industry.



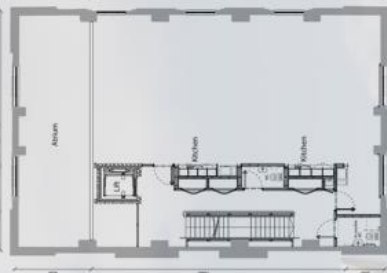
REHEARSAL ROOM:



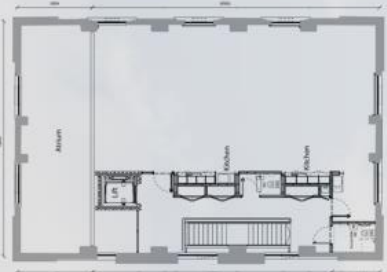
3 Mills Studio, Gin Still - Ground Floor



3 Mills Studio, Gin Still - First Floor



3 Mills Studio, Gin Still - Second Floor



STAGE:



Plate 2.2: Study of Thee Mills Studio

2.2 PINWOOD STUDIO

Location – Iver, England.

Building type – Production Studio

Year of construction – 1936

Area – 506,234 sq.ft.

2.2.1 SPACIAL ANALYSIS:

Pinewood was built in 1936 on a country estate. New stages, viewing theatres and cutting rooms were added in the 1960s and other facilities upgraded. Two new sound stages were opened in 1999, and two digital widescreen television studios were added in 2000-01. Pinewood is approximately 20 miles north-west of London.



Fig 2.3: Plan of Pinewood studio

Facilities at Pinewood Studios:

Production services:

1. Workshops
2. Wardrobe
3. Storage area
4. Dressing are
5. Production Offices
6. Client areas
7. Green room
8. Construction equipment hire
9. Transport offices
10. Backlot

Post-production services:

1. Sound editing
2. Sound Transfer
3. Optical Transfer;
4. 6 Sound recording Theatres
5. 40 Film Cutting Rooms
6. Film Storage
7. Preview Theatres

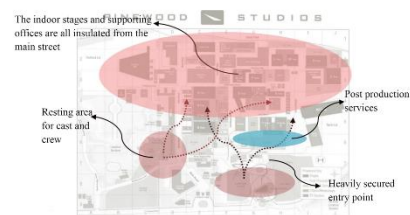
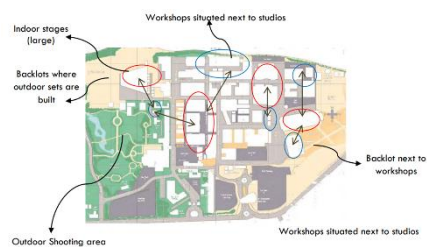


Fig 2.4.: Circulation inside the pinewood studio



Fig 2.5: Aerial view of pinewood studio

2.3 GOREGAON FILM CITY,MUMBAI

Location – Mumbai

Year - 1977

Area – 520 acre

2.3.1 INTRODUCTION:

Established on September 26, 1977, the Film City stretches over around 500 acres of land on the outskirts of Mumbai. It is known as the Dadasaheb Phalke Chitranagari or Film City, Mumbai. It is a small city in itself with temple, lake, forest, bridge, isolated roads passing through

jungle and what not. It is a popular destination for several Indian tele-series and famous Bollywood hits. The current Maharashtra Film, Stage and Cultural Development Corporation (MFSCDC) Limited is all set to give this place a new set of looks. They have hired architect

Sandeep Shikre and acclaimed art Director Nitin Chandrakant Desai to groom in a new master plan for this 500 acre of film haven. The site has an existing 12 m access road that runs from West to East through the centre of the site. The site has many hills, natural water bodies and natural diverse vegetation.



Fig 2.6.: Site Plan of Goregaon film city

2.3.2 SERVICES IN THE FILM CITY :

1. WAY FINDINGS:

Right from the entry till the convention centre, it is more of a central spine with an easy clue of the zones. The studio complex is channeled off from the central spine to avoid commotion of the public spaces.

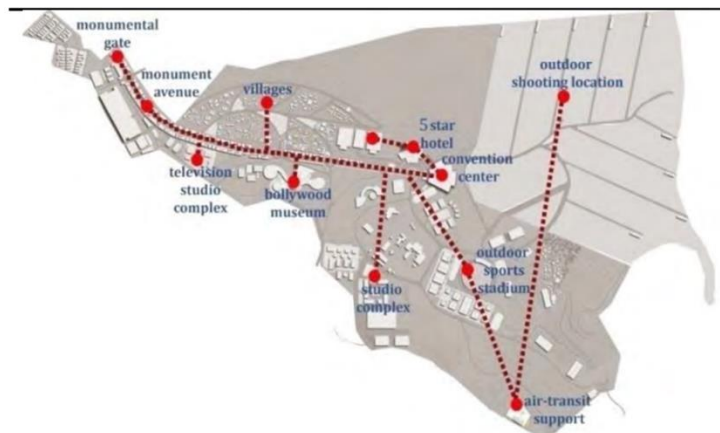


Fig 2.6.: Way finding in the film city

2. SECURITY:



Fig 2.7: Security points in the site.

The entrance is the main security zone. To control the Film Tourism, segregated watch towers and security checks provide additional security to the artists.

3. ELECTRICAL:



Fig 2.8: Security points in the site.

The electrical network system is in direct relationship with the land use. Street and security lighting are also part of the electrical power system and is required during outdoor shooting. The scheme indicates the proposed areas required for utility services.

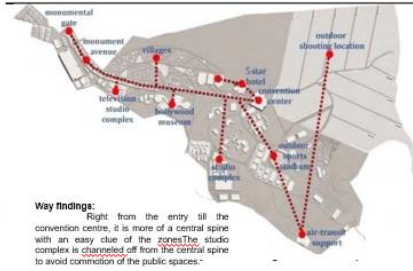
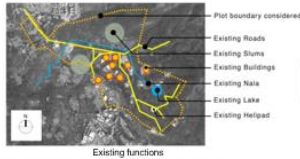
GOREGAON FILM CITY

INTRODUCTION:

Established on September 26, 1977, the Film City stretches over around 500 acres of land on the outskirts of Mumbai. It is known as the Dadasaheb Phalke Chhatrapati or Film City Mumbai. It is a small city (city) with a temple, lake, forest, bridge, isolated roads existing through jungle and what not. It is a major destination for several Indian television and famous Bollywood hits. The current Maharashtra Film, Stage and Cultural Development Corporation (MFSDC) Limited is all set to give this place a new set of looks. They have hired architect Sandee Shikre and acclaimed art Director Nilesh Chandrakant Desai to groom in a new masterplan for this 500 acre of film haven. The site has an existing 12 m access road that runs from West to East through the centre of the site. The site has many hills, natural water bodies and natural diverse vegetation.



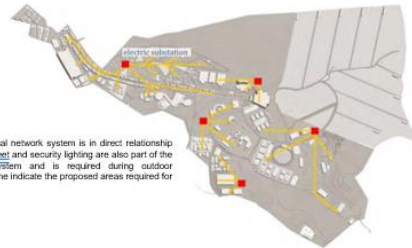
The greatest advantage of Film City is its location and vast area covering more than 520 acres land in suburbs of Mumbai. The Film city has approximately 42 Outdoor Shooting Locations.



Right from the entry till the conversion centre, it is more of a central spine with an easy clue of the zones. The studio complex is chopped off from the central spine to avoid connection of the public spaces.

- Built forms are dynamic
- Buildings built along with the axis of the central spine
- Structures are located on a flatter plateau
- Clearly defined zones
- Outdoor shooting areas can be used according to the script

Security:
The entrance is the main security zone. To control the Film Tourism, segregated watch towers and security checks provide additional security to the artists.



OUTDOOR SETS:



LANDSCAPE:

The entire development is a sustainable and green by nature. The landscape of conversion centre monumental avenue, Bollywood square, Bollywood museum, hotel complex will have more ornamental streetscape features. Studio complex landscape will be more controlled and engineered to facilitate better camera angles. The rest of the site area will be undisturbed.



FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

- Security of the entire site is very important and should not have multiple entry exit points
- All over the complex, several watchtowers and security checkpoints are installed.
- All the functions spread out from a single spine.
- Indoor studios are located at the extreme point of the site next to the outdoor locations.
- For a 500 acre site of which approximately 30 acre has been built, 5 major electrical stations are set up from where these can supply electricity.
- There is also a stadium that can facilitate in shooting a film. The accommodation for the artists in a film is centrally placed in terms of functional arrangement to make studios, outdoor locations and the exit point in an approximately equal distance.

Plate 2.3.: Study of manavsadhna activity center

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Plate 2.4.: Study of manavsadhna activity center

2.4 RAMOJI FILM CITY, HYDERABAD.

Location - Hyderabad, India

Total site – 1600 acre

- Ramoji Film City (RFC) is situated near Hayath nagar on NH9 towards Vijayawada. This is the world's largest integrated film studio complex and also a popular tourism and recreation center. Ramoji Film City is spread over a vast area of about 2500 acres, is a major film-making facility in India. The Film City has been certified by Guinness World Records as the world's largest film studio complex. It can accommodate about 50 film units at the same time. The outdoor locations and lush greenery of Ramoji Film City attract tourists as well. It also serves as the perfect destination for corporate events and lavish weddings.
- The dramatic film city is a best option if you want to spend a fun day with a number of rides and recreational activities.
- It also has two hotels, Tara and Sitara for the guests to stay in.
- **READY TO SHOOT LOCATIONS:** It's a treat to shoot in the wide-ranging realistic ready-made sets, such as modern houses, roads, streets, international avenue, grand mansions, railway station, airport, jail set with central prison/district jail/sub-jail, rustic north and south Indian rural backdrops, and picturesque gardens and avenues that can be visualised and are a part of the fictional universe. No matter what the genre, storyline or the sequence is, these sets offer a lot of room for optimisation and customisation, while help in bringing vision to life•
- **STUDIO FLOORS:** Addressing every production need, so shooting floors in varied sizes, ranging from 2,128 sq. ft. to 28,485 sq. ft. are available. The free standing shooting floors can accommodate giant jibs and make room for flexible camera movement, elaborate walkway and elevated catwalk. The spacious studios are pre-fitted with grids to mount lights, easy cabling facilities and other conveniences. Cyclorama, chroma key and other facilities are best equipped to help setup wide-ranging shots and achieve the desired result. •

- **PROP SHOP:** Be it the clown's shoes, fairy with feathers or an artefact of a bygone era - no matter how fantasy-driven the idea is, Parade - the storehouse of props can pull it off, helping the narrative come alive. Parade is a veritable collection of exhaustive prop ranges, needed for any script. The excellent inventory management gives instant access to our numerous product categories spanning antiques to the ultra-modern variety



Fig 2.9: Tour map of ramoji film city

PROS OF RAMOJI FILM CITY :

- **Size and Scale:**
Ramoji Film City is one of the largest film studio complexes globally, offering extensive studio spaces, outdoor locations, and a variety of sets.
- **Diverse Sets:**
The film city provides a wide range of sets, from historical and cultural themes to modern and futuristic designs, catering to the diverse needs of filmmakers.
- **Infrastructure and Facilities:**
State-of-the-art infrastructure, soundstages, and post-production facilities contribute to high-quality film production.
- **Tourist Attraction:**
Beyond filmmaking, Ramoji Film City is a popular tourist destination, offering guided tours and entertainment options for visitors.
- **Event Spaces**
The film city has facilities for hosting events, including conferences, weddings, and other gatherings.

CONS OF RAMOJI FILM CITY :

- **Distance from Main City:**
Ramoji Film City is located at a considerable distance from the main city of Hyderabad, which may be inconvenient for some visitors and filmmakers.
- **High Operating Costs:**
Operating within such a large and well-equipped facility can incur high costs for filmmakers, particularly independent or low-budget productions.
- **Crowded During Peak Seasons**
As a popular tourist destination, the film city can get crowded during peak seasons, potentially affecting the filming environment.
- **Limited Flexibility for Set Modifications:**
While the film city provides a variety of sets, the fixed nature of some structures may limit filmmakers in making extensive modifications for their specific needs.
- **Environmental Impact:**
The large-scale operations and visitor traffic may contribute to environmental concerns, including energy consumption and waste generation.



Plate 2.5.: Study of Ramoji Film City.

CHAPTER 3

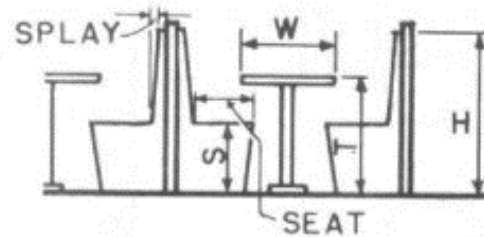
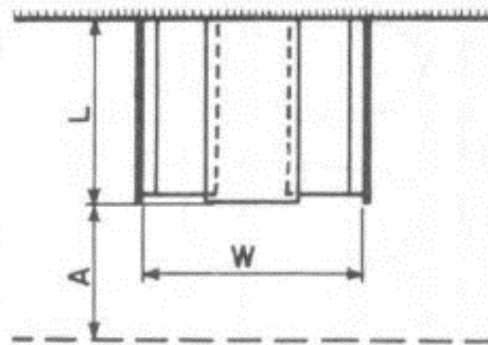
DATA COLLECTION AND STANDARDS

3.1 NEIGHBOURHOOD OF THE SITE :

The site neighbourhood contains the amusement park nearby and a lorry depot nearby. The site main access is a National Highway Which is a positive Aspect for the site.

3.2 STANDARDS:

3.2.1. Restaurant spaces :



4 PERSONS

	Abs. Min.	Des. Min.	Comfortable
Service and pub. circ'n	2-6 to 3-0	3-0 to 4-0	3-6 to 5-0
Length	3-6	3-9 to 4-0	4-0 to 4-2
Width	4-10 to 5-6	5-2 to 5-6	5-8 to 5-10

BOOTH FURNITURE HEIGHTS

	Abs. Min.	Des. Min.	Comfortable
H	3-0 to 3-6	3-6	4-0
S	1-5 to 1-6	1-5 to 1-6	1-6
T	2-5	2-5 to 2-6	2-6
W	1-8 to 2-0	2-0 to 2-2	2-4 to 2-6
Seat	1-4 to 1-5	1-5 to 1-6	1-6 to 1-8
Splay	0 to 0-3	0-2 to 0-3	0-3 1/2 to 0-4

Fig 3.1: Restaurant standards

3.2.2. Museum :

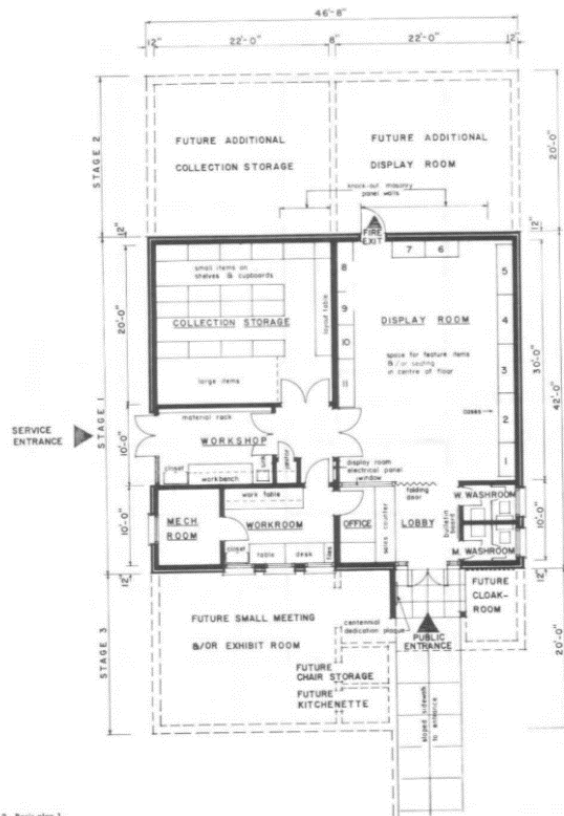


Fig. 2 Basic plan 1.

Fig 3.2: Museum Standards

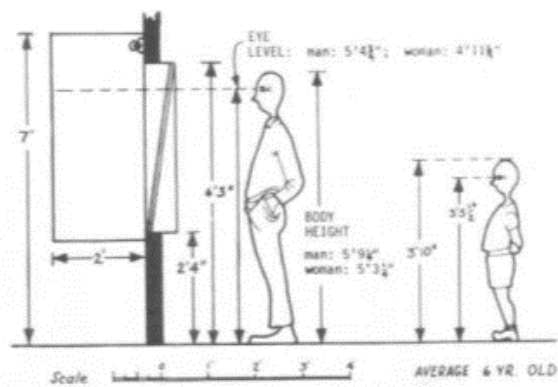


Fig. 4 Measurements of adult and six-year-old visitors in relation to cases.

Fig 3.2.3.: Museum Standards

3.2.3.Parking :

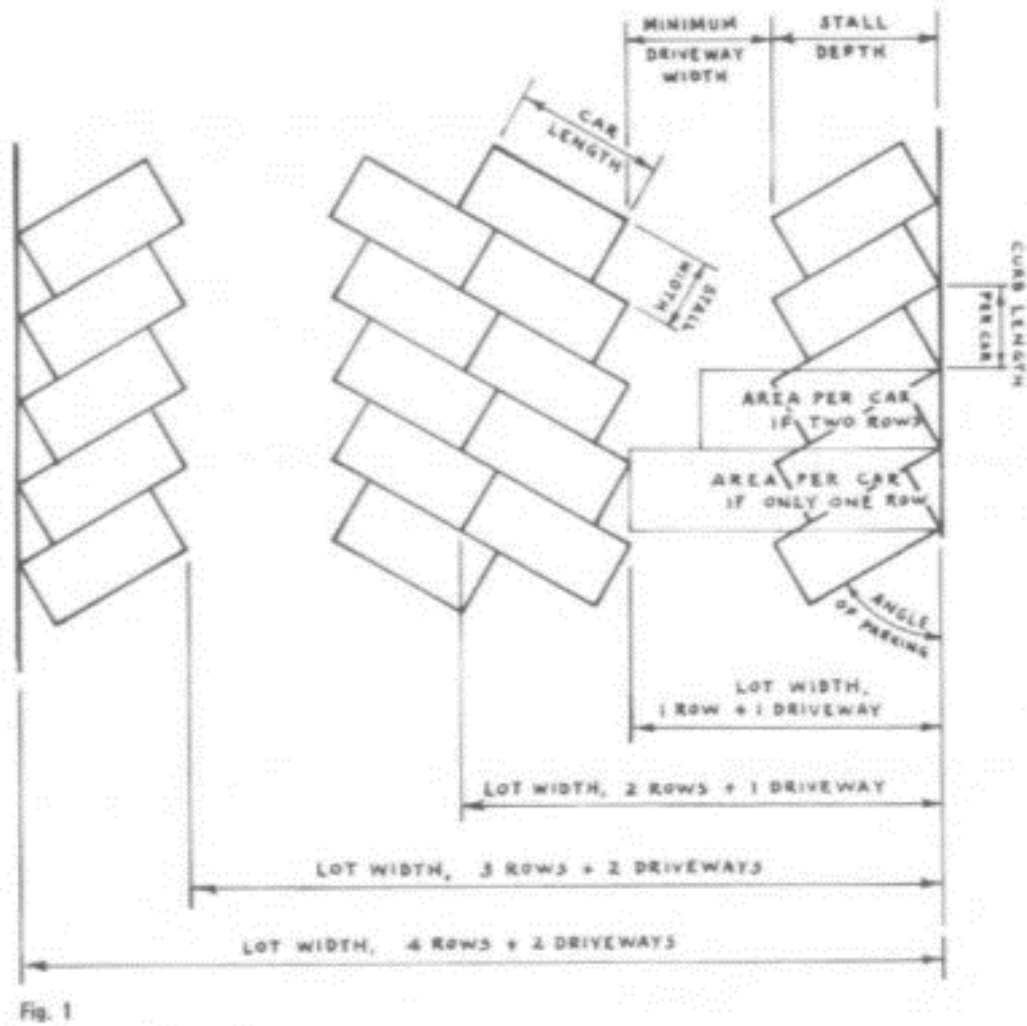


Fig 3.3: Parking Standards

CHAPTER 4

SITE STUDY AND ANALYSIS

4.1 SITE STUDY:

Site is located in kuthambakkam village which is in poonamalle in chennai district. Site is in the vellore to Chennai highway road. Total site is 485,622.77.sq.m which is 120 acre.

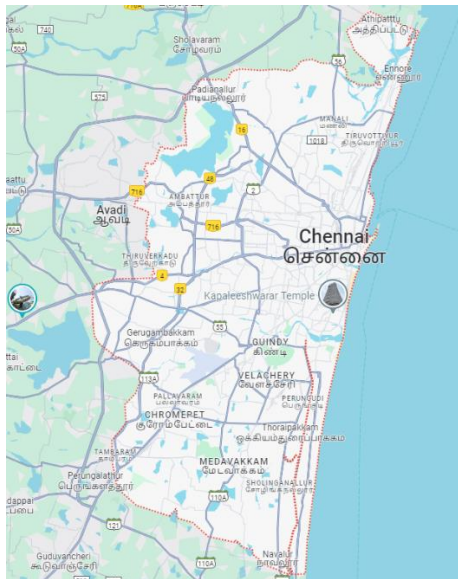


Fig 4.1(a): Chennai map



Fig 4.1(b): The Site View

4.2 SITE JUSTIFICATION AND FEASIBILITY:

The site is a government proposal for the film city which is going to be done in Kuthambakkam village near poonamalle, Chennai.



Fig 4.2(a),(b): Site view

Poonamalle is a suburb of Chennai, the capital city of Tamil Nadu, India. Choosing a location near an urban center can provide easy access for filmmakers, crew, and other industry professionals. The site's infrastructure, including roads and transportation networks, can play a crucial role. Proximity to major highways or transportation hubs can facilitate the movement of equipment and personnel. Film cities require extensive space for soundstages, outdoor sets, and other facilities. If the site in Sholinganallur offers ample space, it could be a determining factor. Film cities can have a significant economic impact on the local area, creating job opportunities and stimulating tourism.

4.3 SITE ANALYSIS:

4.3.1 Neighborhood Context:

Site has one side road axes which is main highway road . There is a amusement park to the west side of the site which is in 500 m. Opposite to the site there are some residential In the east there are electrical lines throughout the street road



Fig 4.3: Site view

4.3.2 Site and Zoning:

Setbacks – South (Front) - 3m
East - 6m
West - 6m
North - 6m

4.3.3 Circulation:

Site has One main road access. Nearby bus stop in 800 metres. Nearby airport is in 26 kms. Nearby railway station is in 24 kms. Nearby hospital is in 1.5 kms. Nearby police station is in 700 m.



Fig 4.4.(a),(b): Site neighborhood view

4.3.4 Man Made Features:

There are no man made features in the site. Power poles are throughout the road in the east side. There are residential buildings in the east and north and there is a health care in the west side



Fig 4.4(c),(d): Site neighborhood view

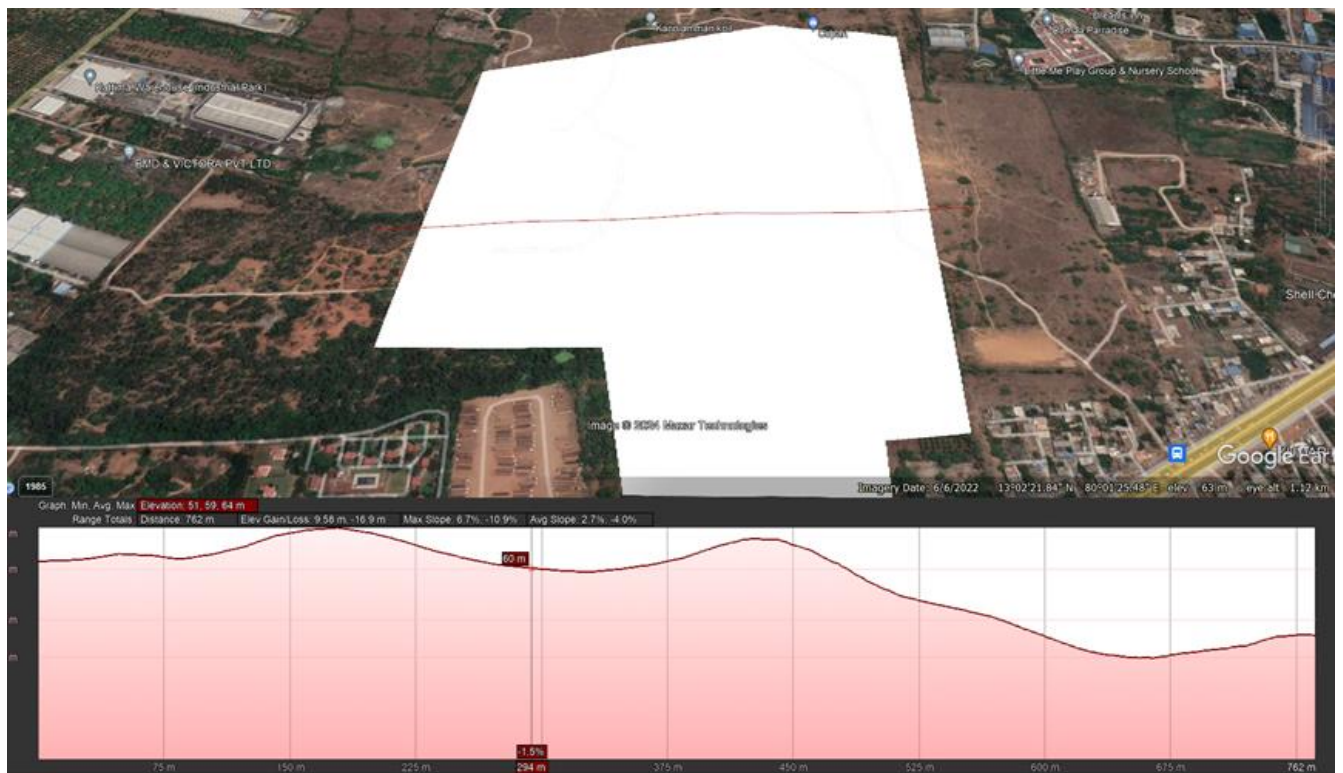


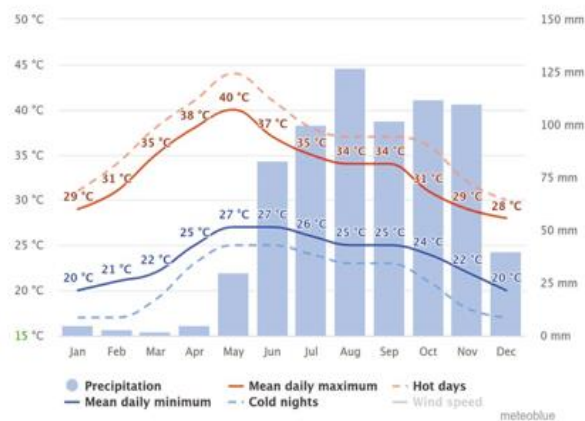
Fig 4.5.: Site analysis plan and section

4.3.5 Natural Physical Features:

Site has a natural slope of 2m for the distance of 214.04m. Drainage pattern follows the slope to the east site of the site. Soil type is Black cotton soil

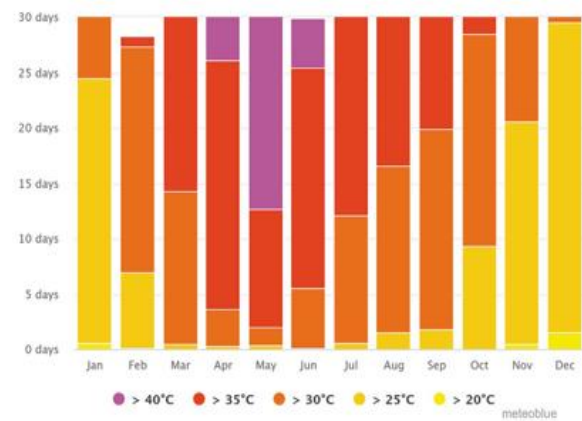
4.3.6 Climate of Andhra Pradesh:

Climate of Andhra Pradesh falls under warm and humid. My site is located in Rayalaseema region here the temperature is more and humidity will be less



AVERAGE TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION

The highest average temperature of the Chembarambakkam area is 40°C in the month of May and the lowest temperature is 20°C during December- January. Precipitation is highest at 125mm during the month of August and the lowest during March



MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES

The graph shows that the hottest days are during the month of May which goes beyond 40°C for 15 days and during December and January the temperature remains at 25°C for about 25 days on both.

Fig 4.6: Climatic data of Chennai

CHAPTER 5

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

5.1 SPATIAL REQUIREMENTS

ADMINISTRATION				
FUNCTION		AREA (sq.m)	NO'S	NET AREA (sq.m)
Entry + lobby space + reception + waiting area		325	1	325
Offices	Chairpersons office (with attach restroom)	27	1	27
	Managing director's office (with attach restroom)	23	1	23
	General Office (30 p)	185	1	185
	Meeting Room	55	1	55
	Conference Room	92	1	92
	Library and Archive	Reading Space	92	1
Audio Visual Area		92	1	92
Archive Office		55	1	55
Librarian office		18	1	18
Rest Area	Sitting Space	92	1	92
	Pantry	55	1	55
	Staff Room	18	1	18
Restrooms	General (M+F)	27	1	27
	Office (M+F)	27	1	27
	Staff (M+F)	27	1	27
	Storage		18	1
Total area of Administration			1228	

EDITING STUDIO					
Entry + lobby space + reception + waiting area			185	1	185
Offices	Chief Editor	27	1	27	
	Assistant Editor	27	1	27	
	General Office	108	1	108	
	Meeting Room	54	1	54	
Editing Suite	VFX Studio Panel	740	2	1480	
	Graphic Studio Panel	370	1	370	
	Special Effect Panel	370	2	740	
	Film Editing Panel	260	3	840	
Storage (per panel)		27	8	216	
Supply Room	Electric Supply	18	1	18	
	Special effect Plug in	18	1	18	
				4083	
COMMON FACILITIES					
Rest Area	Sitting Area	140	1	140	
	Pantry	74	1	74	
	Staff Area	37	1	37	
Restrooms	General (M+F)	27	6	162	
	Office (M+F)	27	3	81	
	RestArea (M+F)	27	1	27	
	Staff (M+F)	18	1	18	
				539	
Total area of Post - Production			7396		

Fig 5.1: Area requirements

5.2 CONCEPT

5.2.1 Strategies can be followed at site level:

(a) Orientation -

The orientation of the studios and the production blocks is faced towards a drop off which have a good amount of landscape views.

(b) Built form -

The vast spaces are there for the studios for the shooting purpose. The landscape spaces are used for the outdoor shooting purposes. The cine museum offers a good aesthetic façade which is done with the vertical fins .

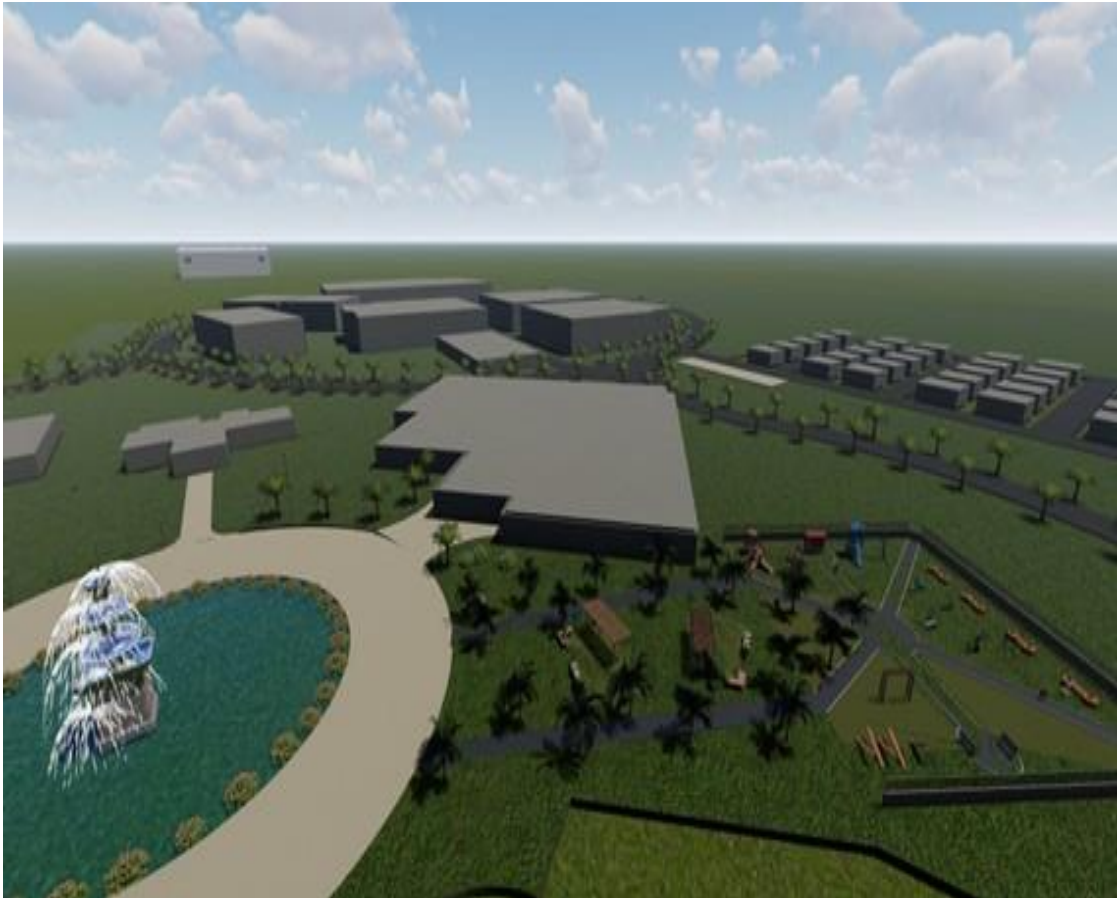


Fig 5.2: Site view

5.3 DETAILED DRAWINGS

5.3.1 Site plan:

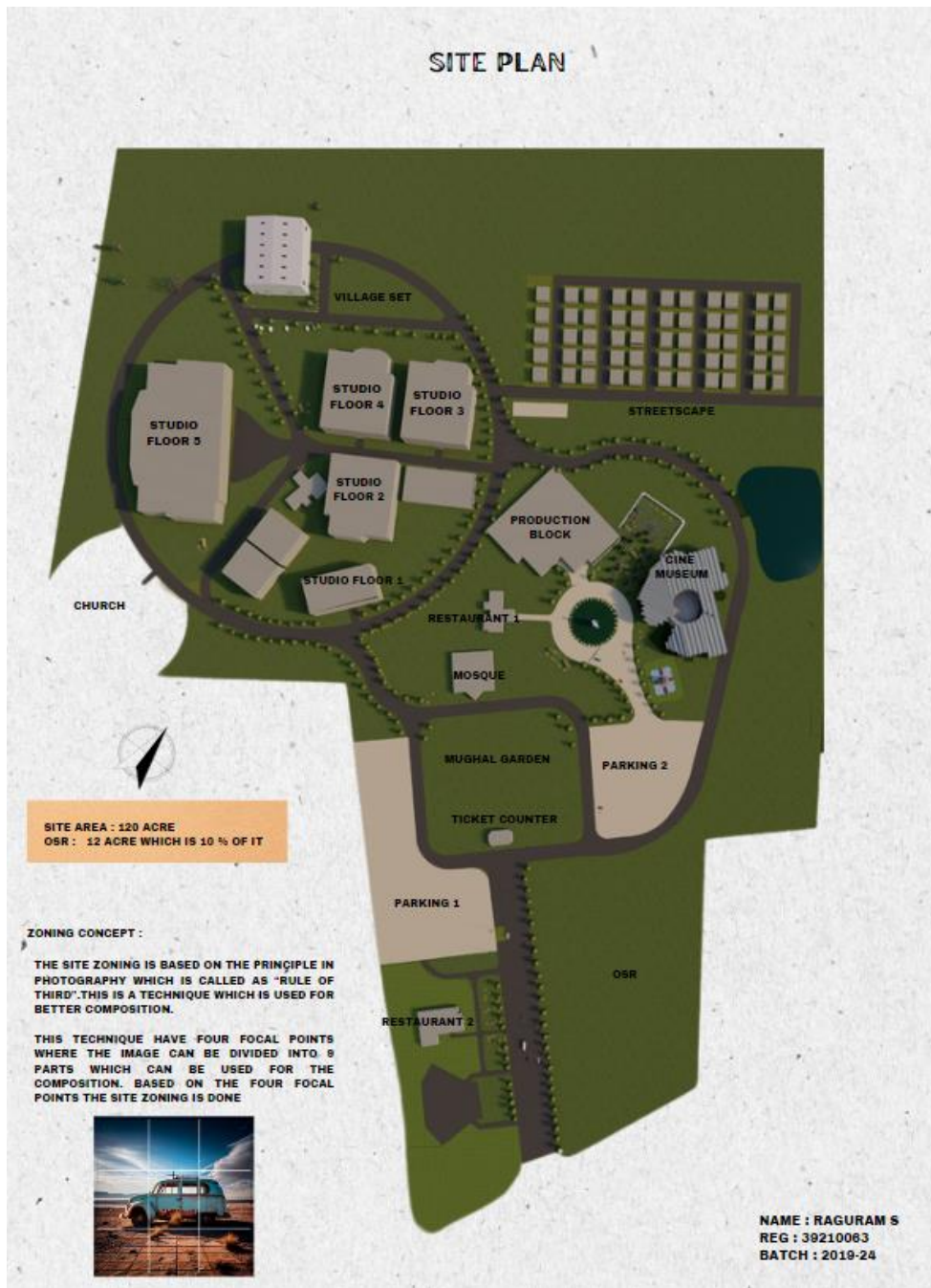


Fig 5.3.: Site plan.



Fig 5.4.: Site main entrance



Fig 5.5.(a),(b): Park And landscape views

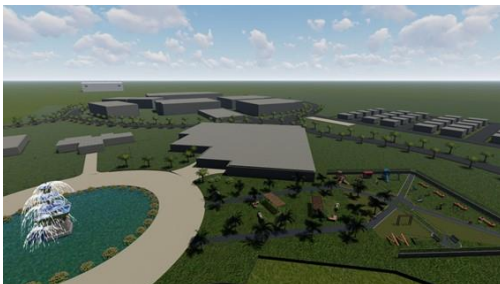


Fig 5.6.(a),(b): Studio floor views



Fig 5.7.(a),(b): Cine museum views

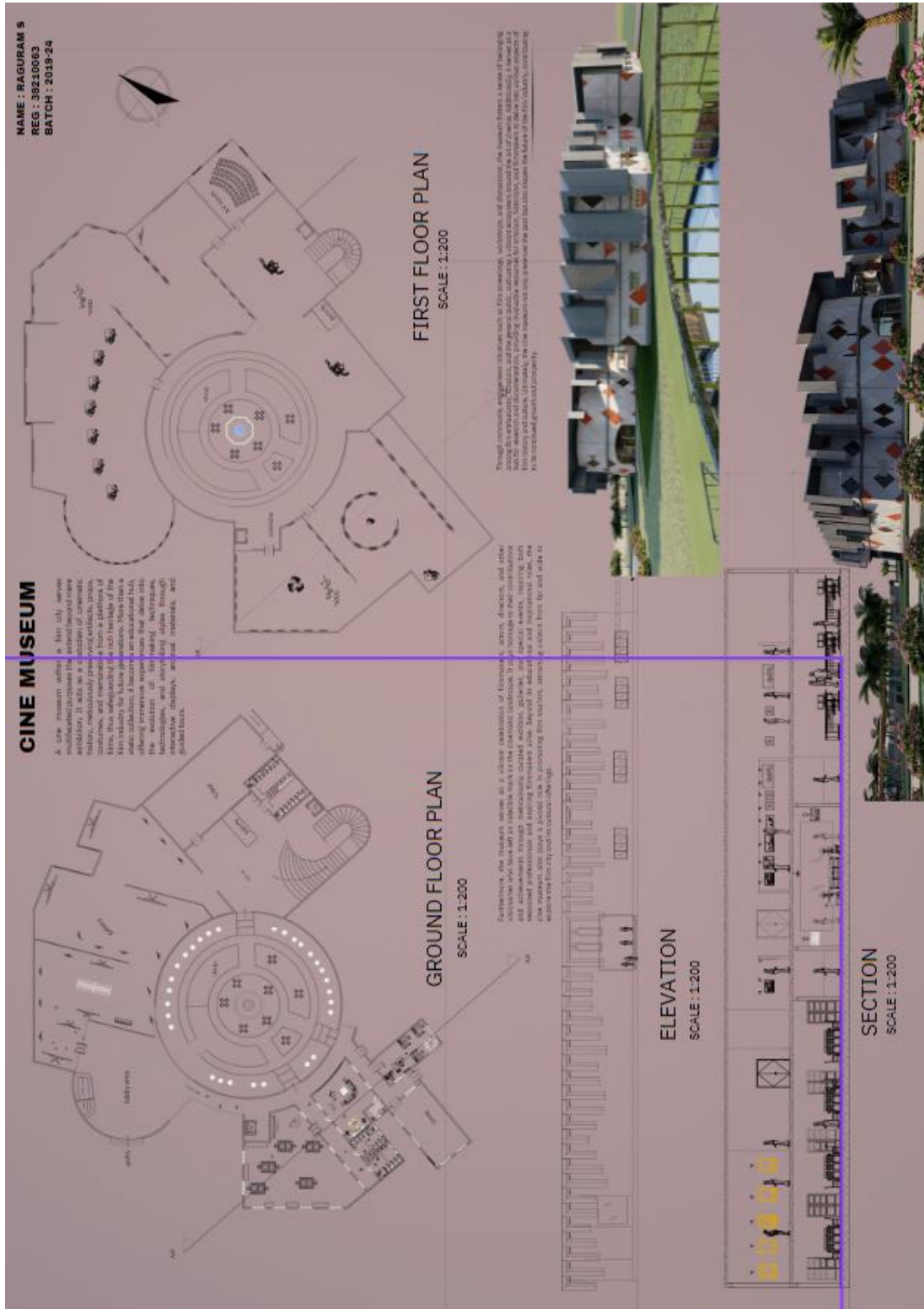


Plate 5.1: Cine museum

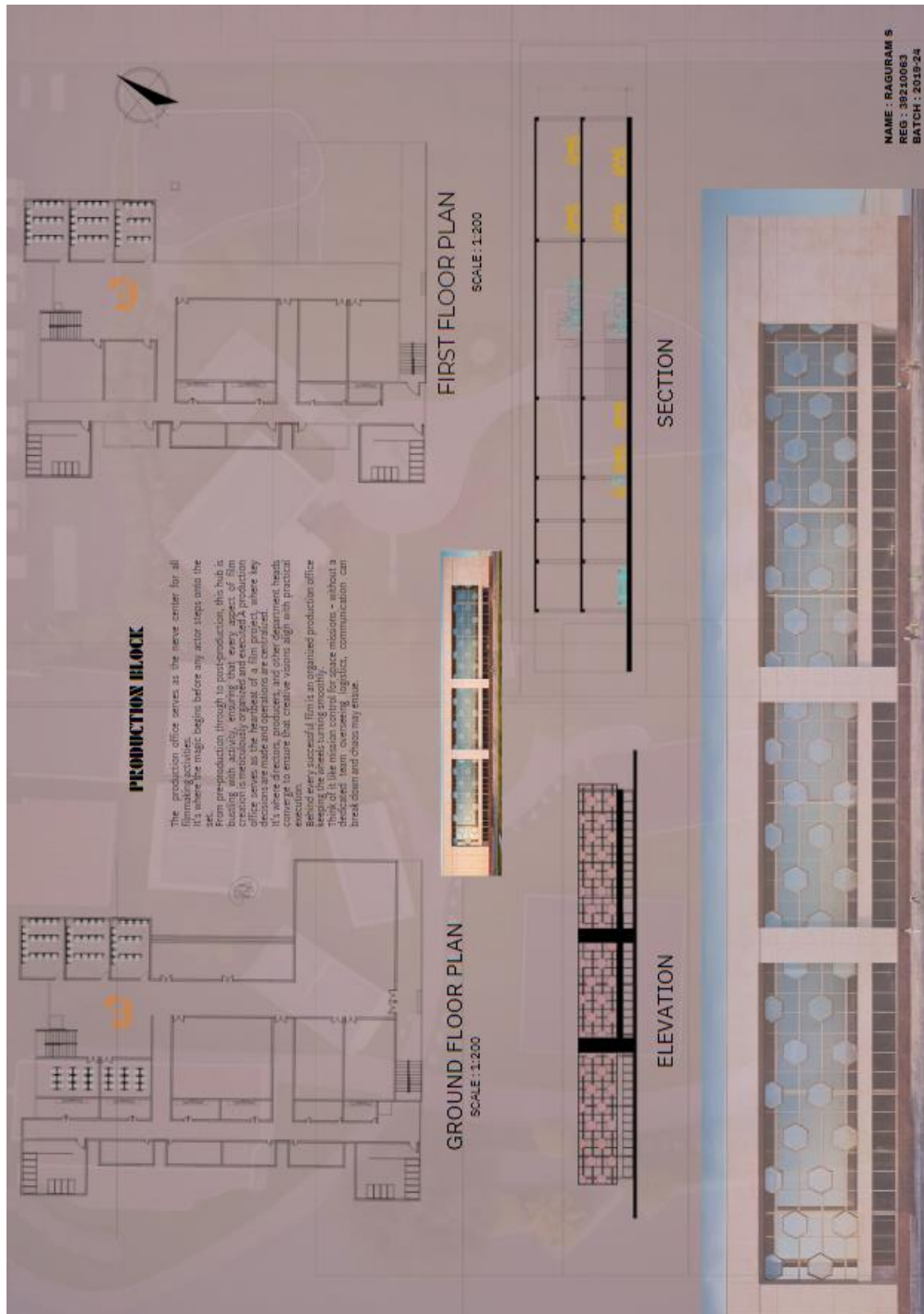


Plate 5.2: Production block

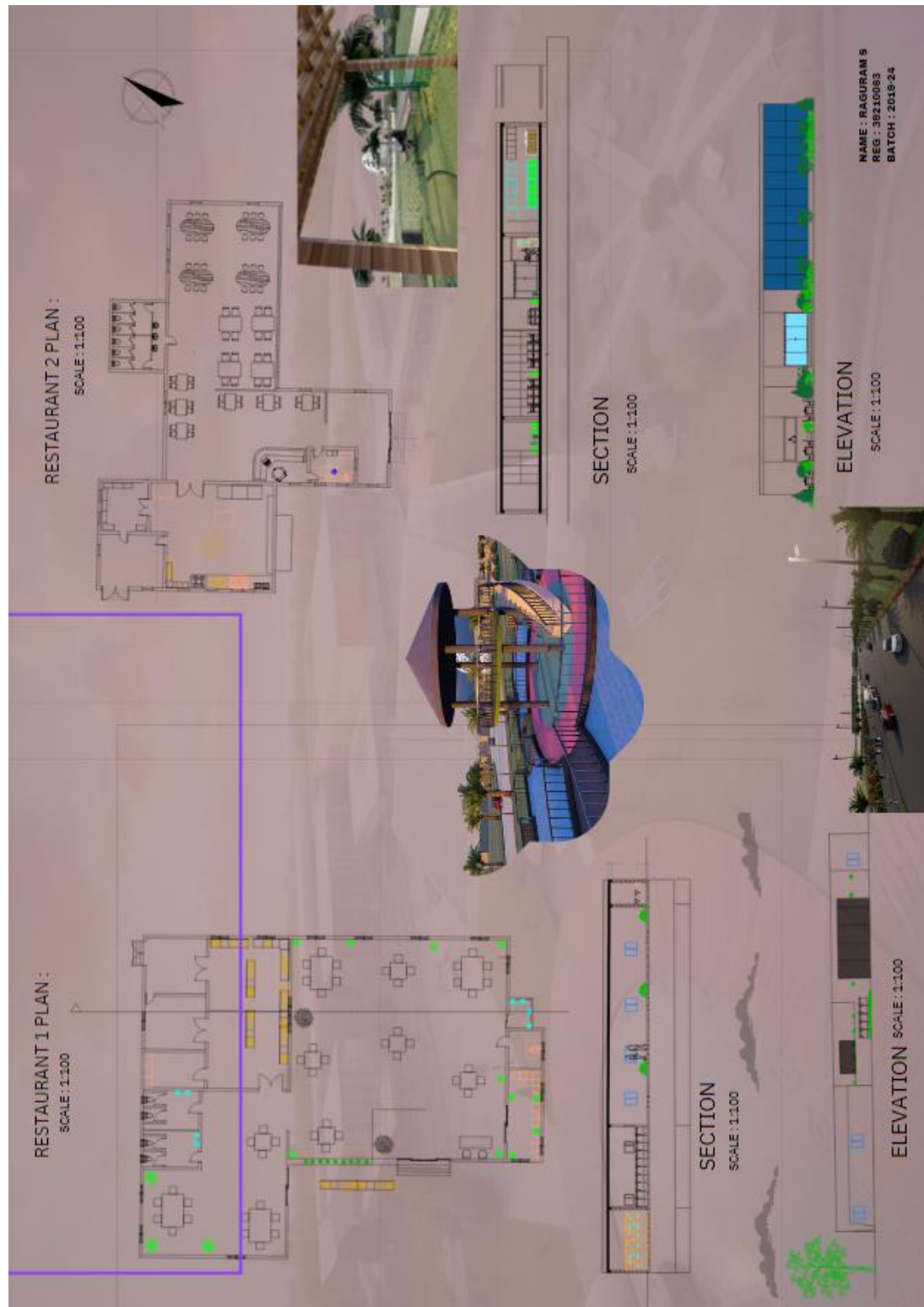


Plate 5.3: Restaurants



Plate 5.4: Studio floors.

5.4 MODEL:



Fig 5.8.: Over all site view from the top

CHAPTER 6

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