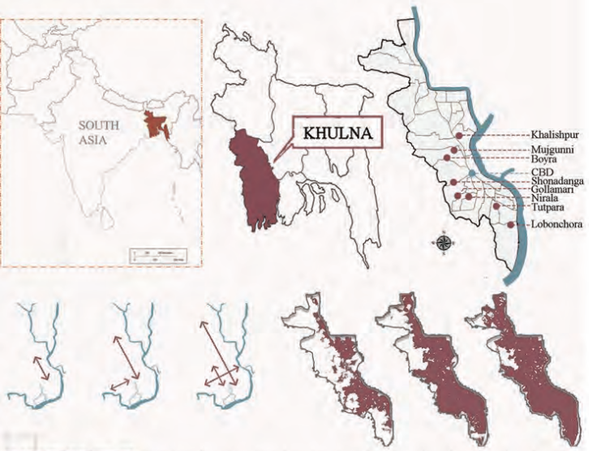
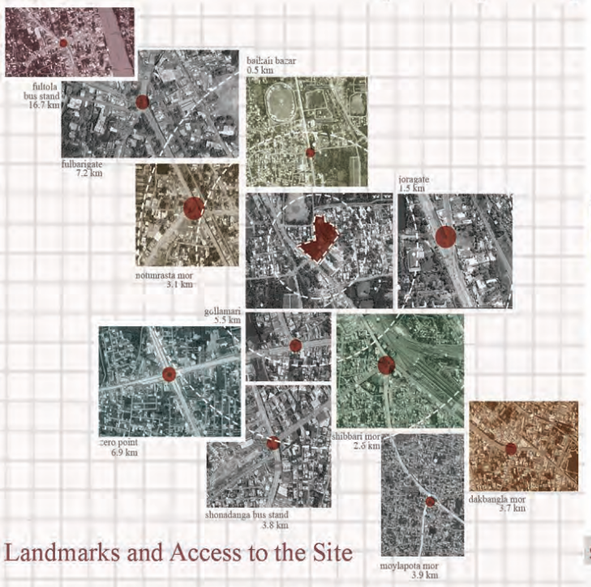
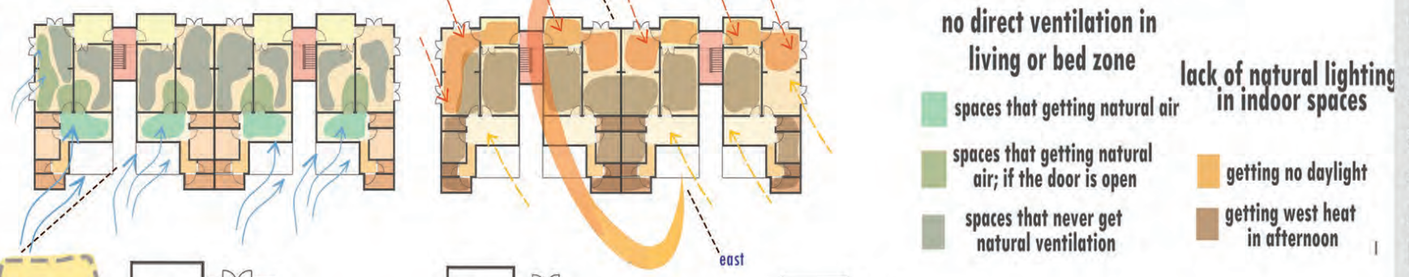
Site Location and Context

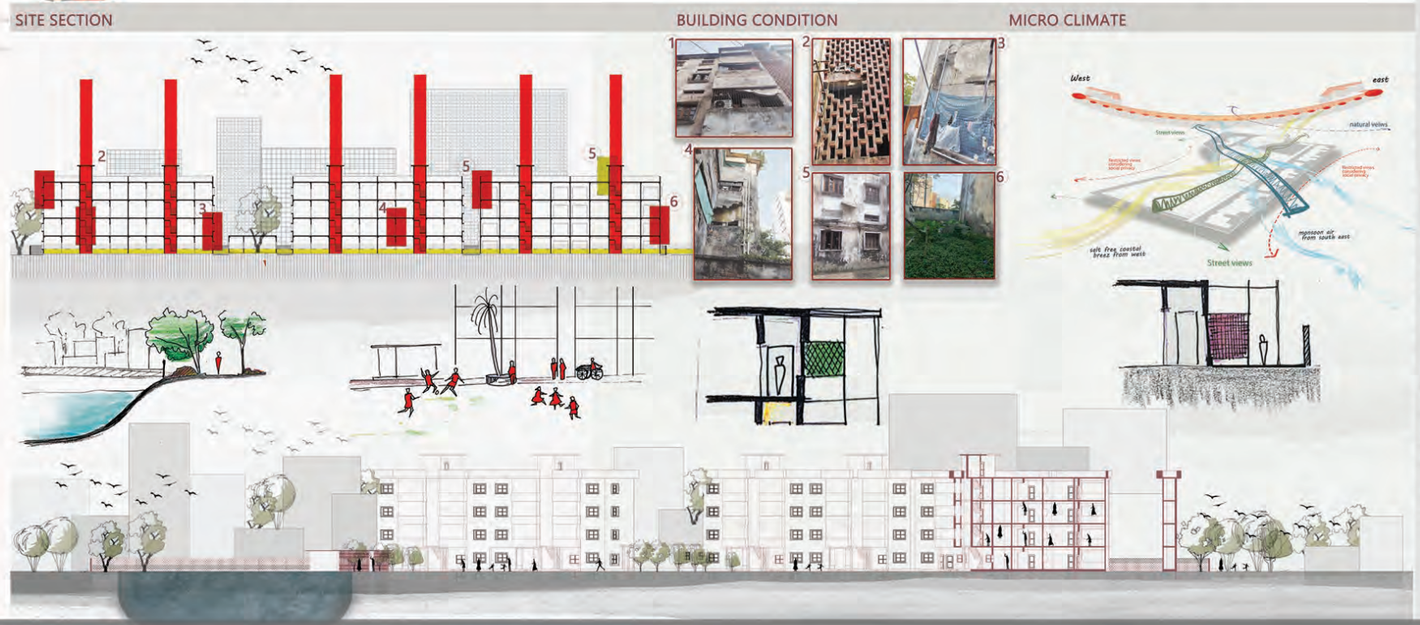




Landmarks and Access to the Site

Existing Site plan





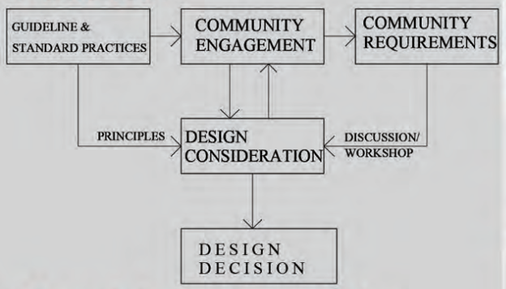
The primary idea for conceptualizing formal housing beyond brick and mortar is to **foster the socially responsible role of built environment professionals (The Hasselt Charter- 2)** by making a shift in approach: from traditional 'provision', a static product, to 'participation', a dynamic process, where residents actively engage and contribute. The concept of assembly captures this transformation, representing the convergence of diverse actors, such as developers, designers, and community members, toward **a shared, collaborative agenda.** Approaching policies from a human-centric view can make a difference. **Creating spaces for the people, with the people,** rather than producing the housing in terms of materialistic quality, not considering the object-user relationship.

Contextual understanding: Having the study site in Khulna, Bangladesh, a South Asian region shaped by rapid urbanization and rich traditions. The selected study site is located on land owned by Sonali Bank Limited, designated for its employees. **A micro-scale analysis** of the existing site condition is added, through in-depth assessments of zoning, building condition, indoor space quality, micro-climate analysis, in-site temporal activity, spatial sections, SWOT, and such. **These insights form the foundation for a context-responsive and participatory housing framework.**

BEYOND BRICK AND MORTAR: REFRAMING FORMAL HOUSING AS A VERB OF ASSEMBLY

Design Team: Abu- As- Samad Sojib, Fariha Tasnim Supty, Md. Asfaquzzaman Rahad*

Framework

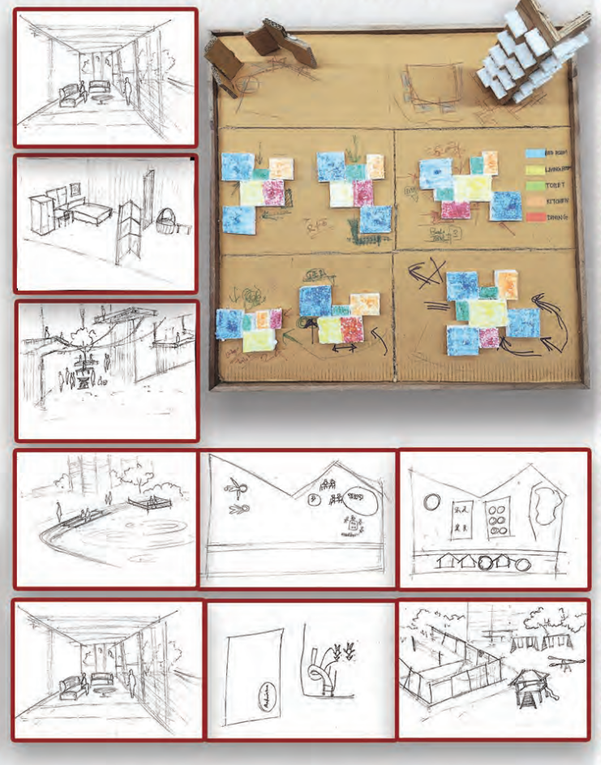


Phase I- Invitation and idea discussion

Brochure distribution & mood-board development with the community.

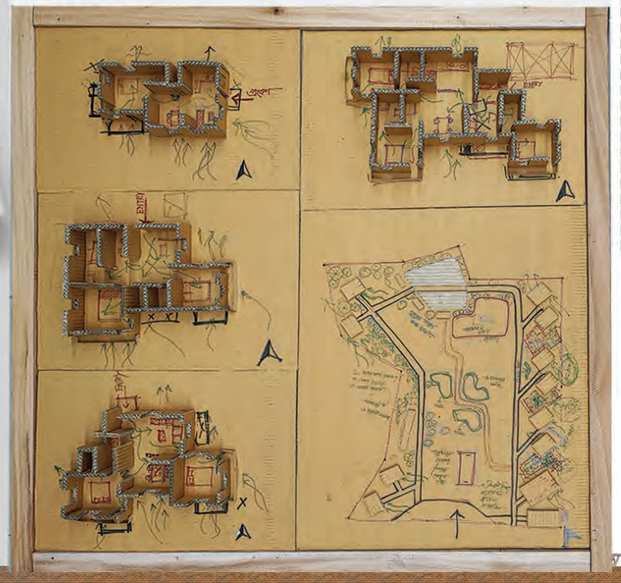
Phase II- Conceptualization & model making.

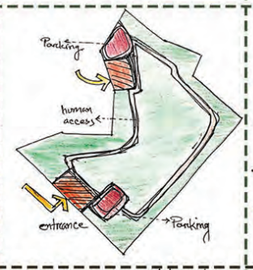
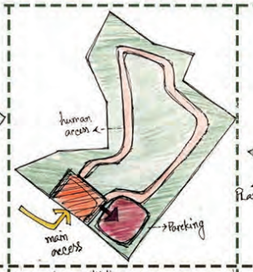
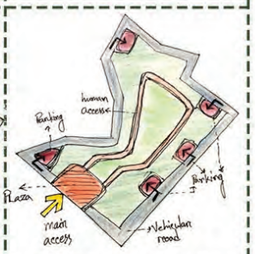
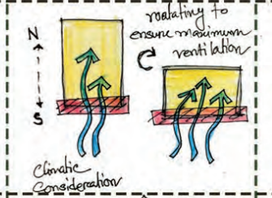
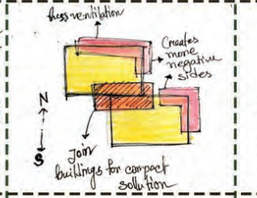
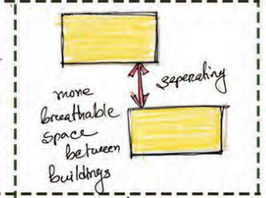
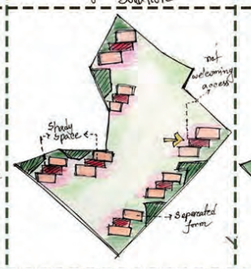
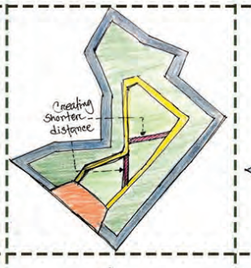
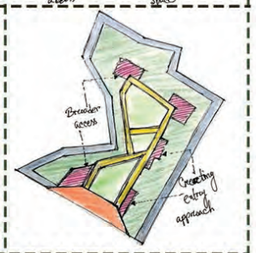
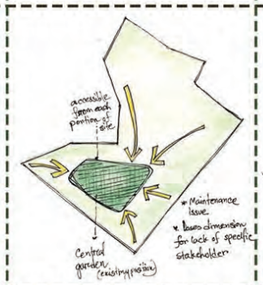
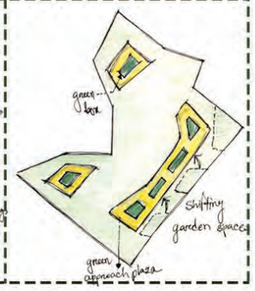
Co-conceptualizing the spaces, sketches and mass-model for home unit.



Phase II- Masterplan & home unit finalizing.

Workshop and group discusion with cart-board models. Going through trail & errors.



	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Road, entrance, parking			
Form orientation			
Build-froms arrangement			
Pedes-trian			
Garden			

From Provision to Participation: The change begins with the development of a design framework to **share knowledge, discuss, and collaborate in the advancement of the 'social production of habitat', adhering to user-led project principles(The Hasselt Charter-6).**

Personal storytelling: Residents shared their thoughts and lived experiences.

Community workshops: Interactive sessions using hand-crafted models.

Collaborative solution-building: Group discussions and key-person interviews reveal deeper.

Later, a video-documentary is co-produced with the community which **support participatory, democratic, multicultural and interdisciplinary processes and approaches in strengthening community solidarity (The Hasselt Charter-8)** by present their stories of unmet needs, the absence of communal spaces, hobby zones, adequate rooms, and meaningful neighborhood connections .

Link to documentary:
https://youtu.be/wOIWqE9HUuI

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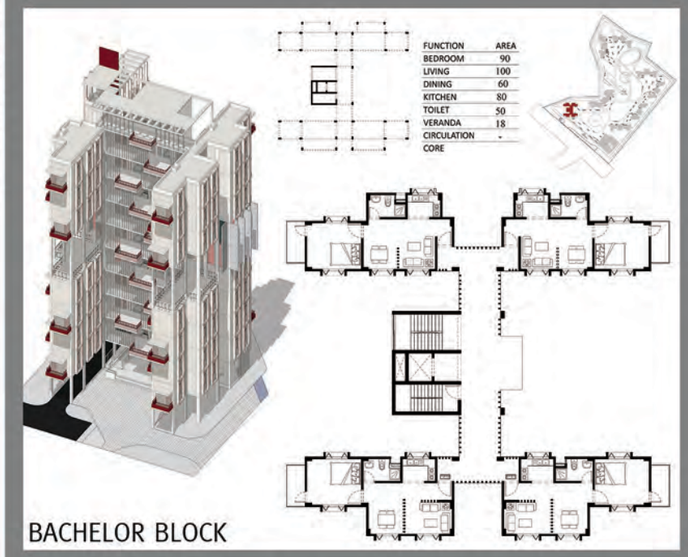
Speaking of functionality, a variety of buildings of different sizes (Bachelor Group- 400 sqft, Lower Income Group, LIG- 650 sqft, Middle Income Group, MIG- 850 sqft, Higher Income Group, HIG- 1150 sqft) for different income groups is developed. Each building contains of social void and a central community block is arranged to accommodate a society office, multipurpose rooms, medical rooms, and such.

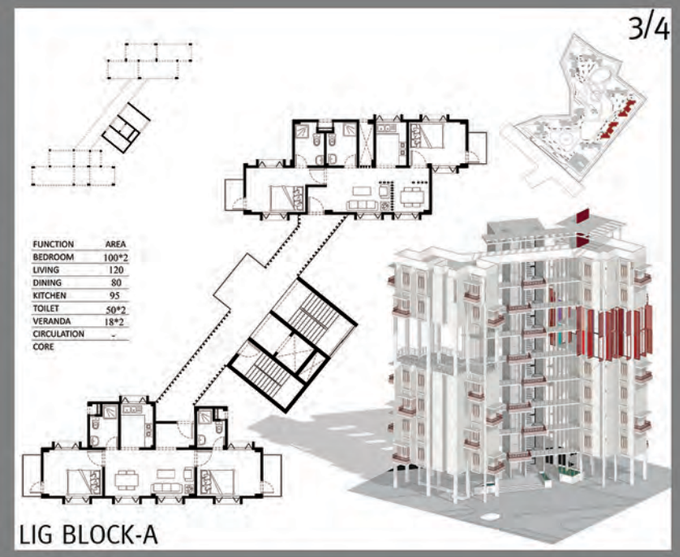
SITE PLAN
SCALE 1:400

GROUND FLOOR PLAN
SCALE 1: 150 LEVEL @2400MM

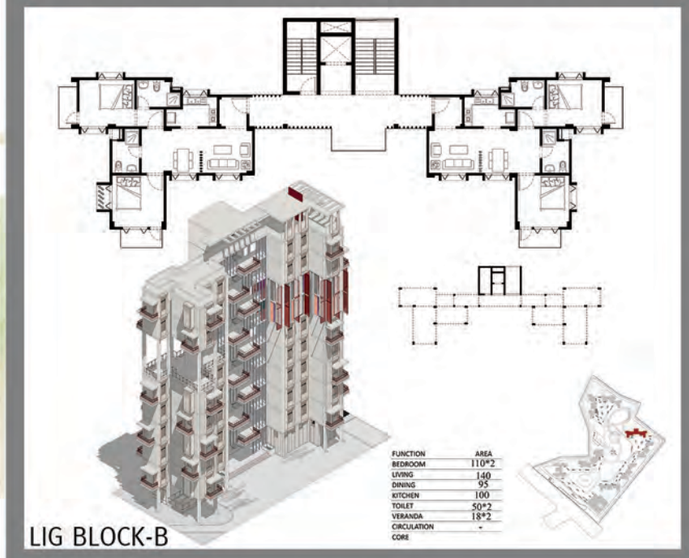
TEMPORAL USE OF OPEN SPACE



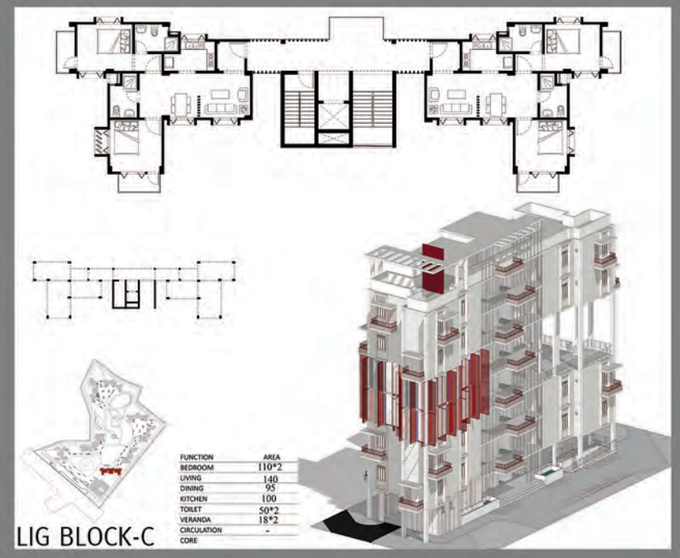
BACHELOR BLOCK



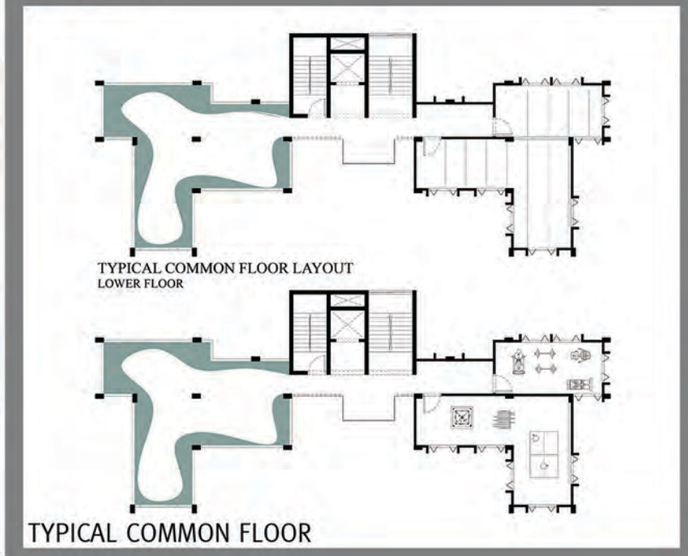
LIG BLOCK-A



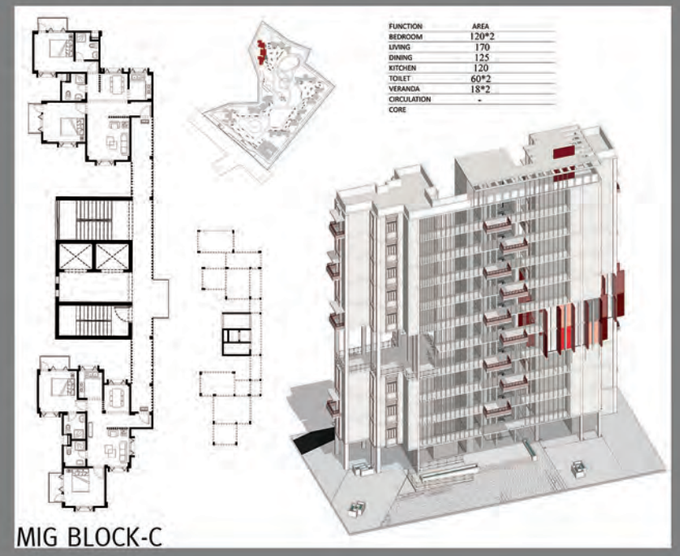
LIG BLOCK-B



LIG BLOCK-C



TYPICAL COMMON FLOOR



MIG BLOCK-C

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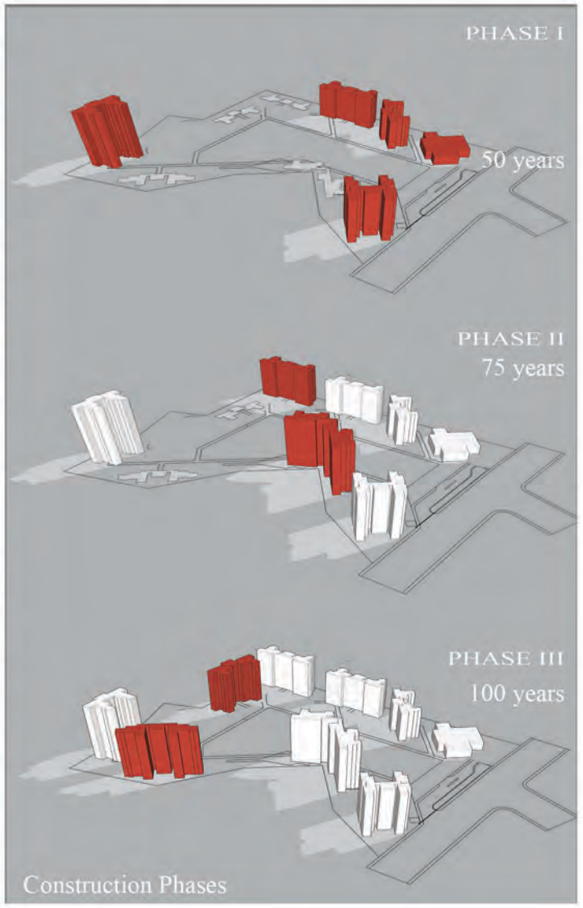
Minimal and soft, the renders illustrate “The Fourth Place” — a vibrant communal core nestled within formal housing. Featuring a crafting wall and shared leisure zones, the space fosters creativity, connection, and belonging. Designed for all ages and incomes, it becomes the emotional anchor of sharing knowledge, discussion, and collaboration in everyday life.

Construction Phases- Importantly, future adaptability is considered through a three-phase construction strategy, to be built over 50, 75, and 100 years, allowing for incremental growth without compromising community structure or spatial logic.



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