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Fonadhoo

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Introduction

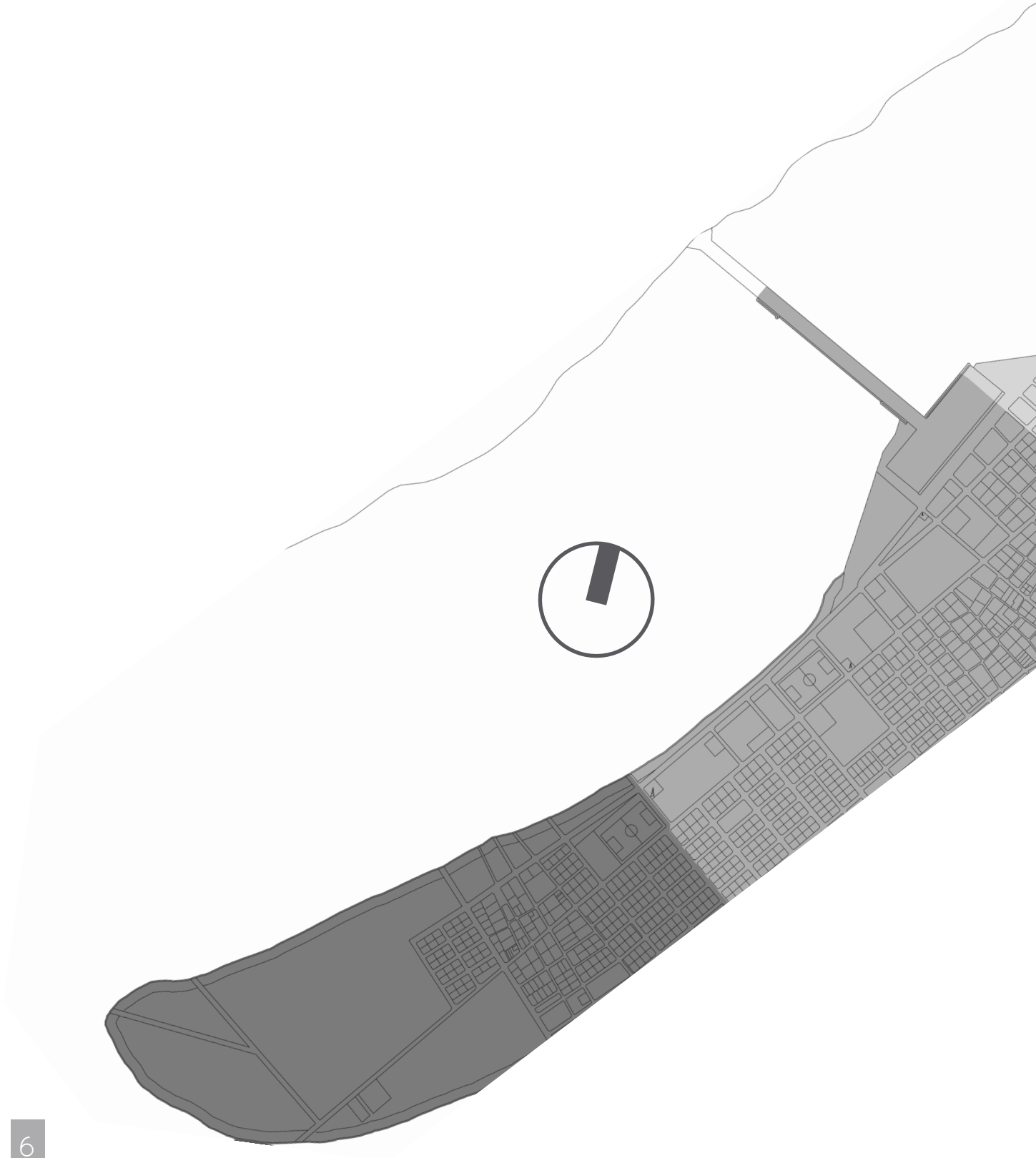
Fonadhoo is the capital island in Laamu atoll of the Maldives. It is inter-connected to three other islands including the Kahdhoo Regional Airport. The exquisite island of Fonadhoo consist of three main districts known as Barasil, Medhu avah and Kurigam. The total area of the island is approximately 1.68 km². The island has a span of 4 kilometres and is relatively 0.480 kilometres wide. Currently the island has a community of 2000 people.

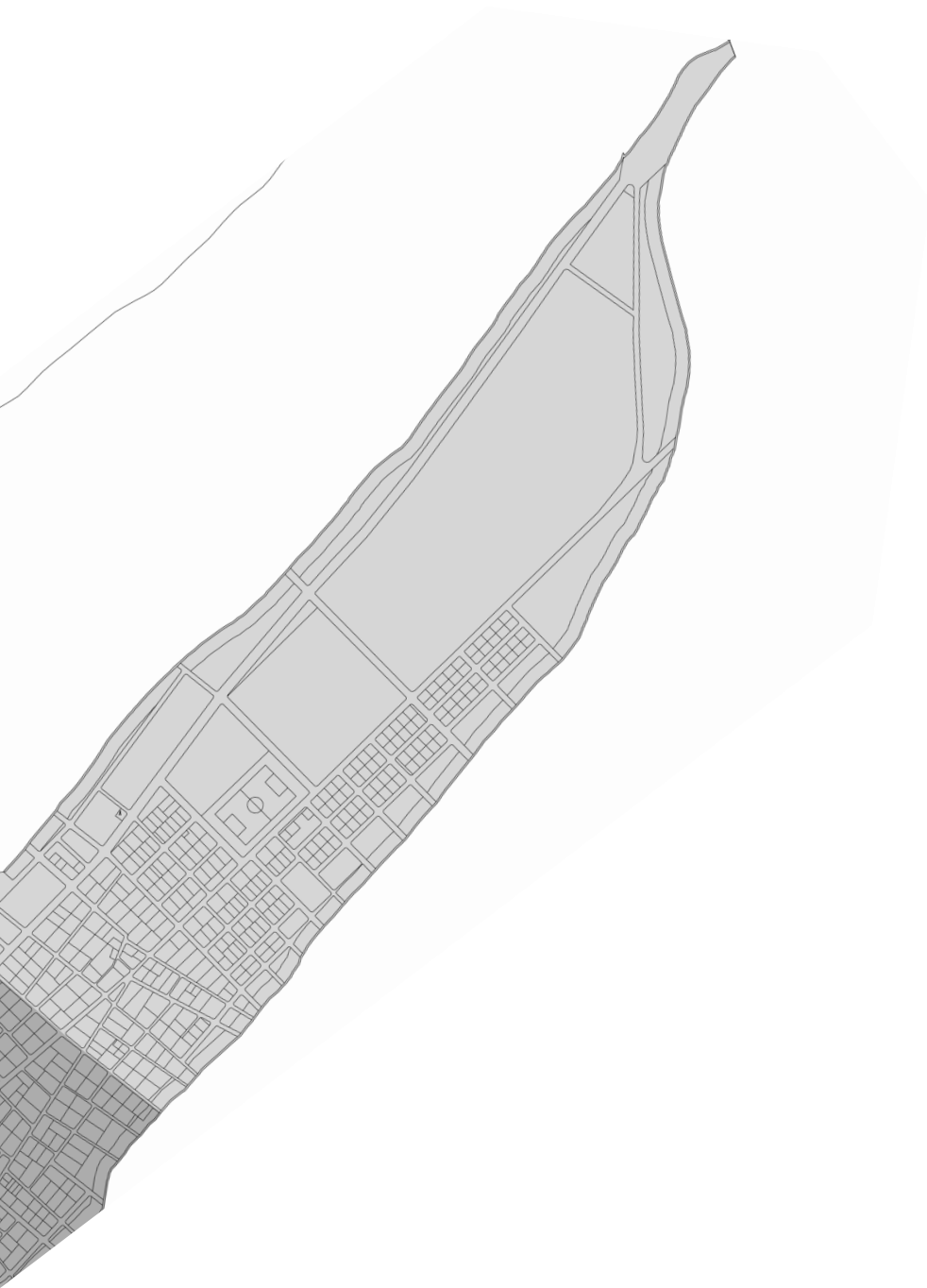






Maps





BARASIL AVAH

MEDHU AVAH

KURIGAM AVAH

GREEN / BUFFER/ SPORTS AREA

RESIDENTIAL AREA

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

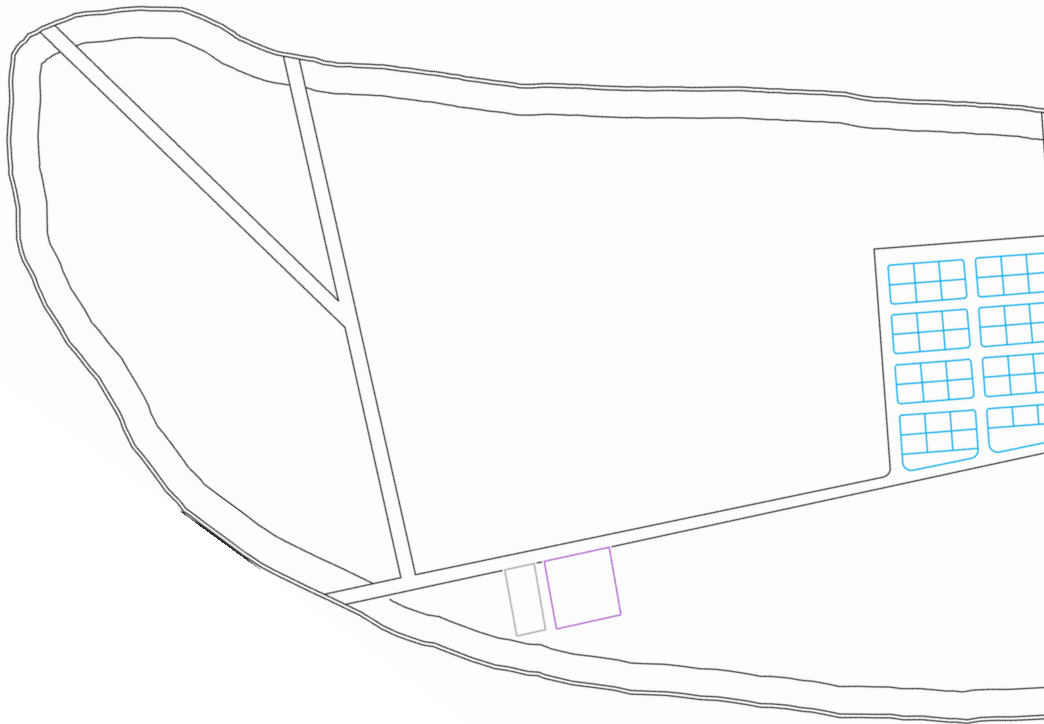
INSTITUTIONS

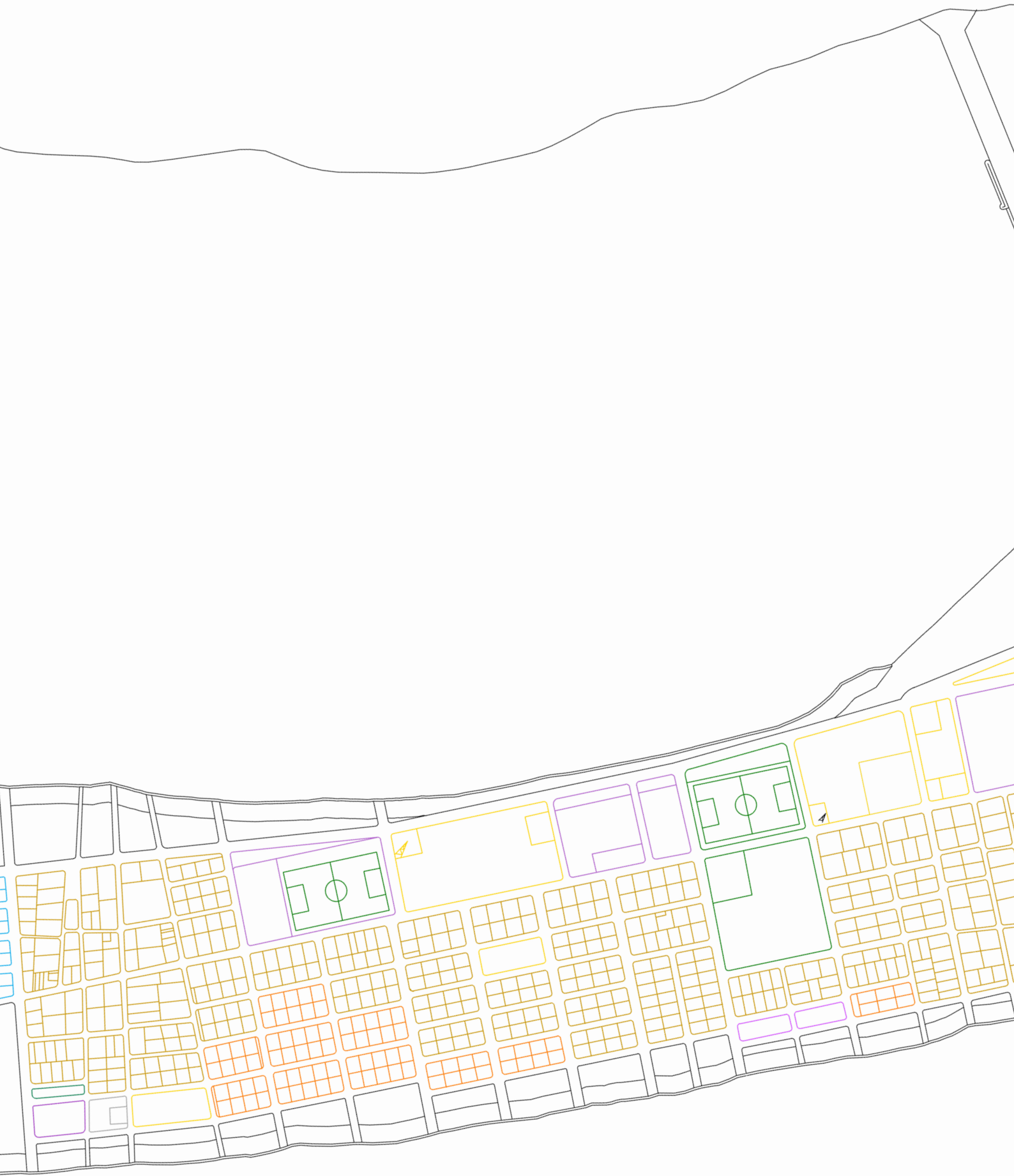
RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE

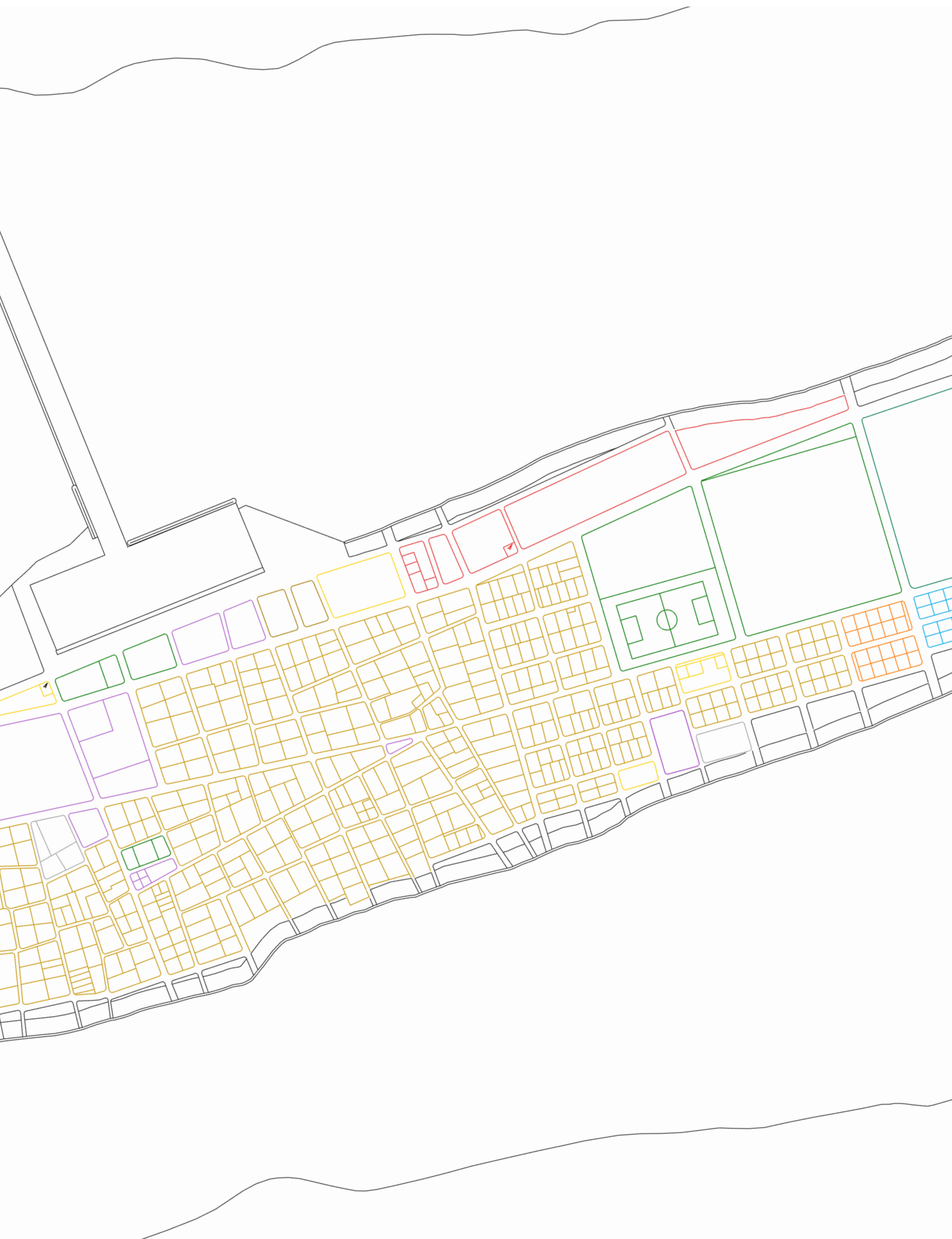
RAW HOUSES

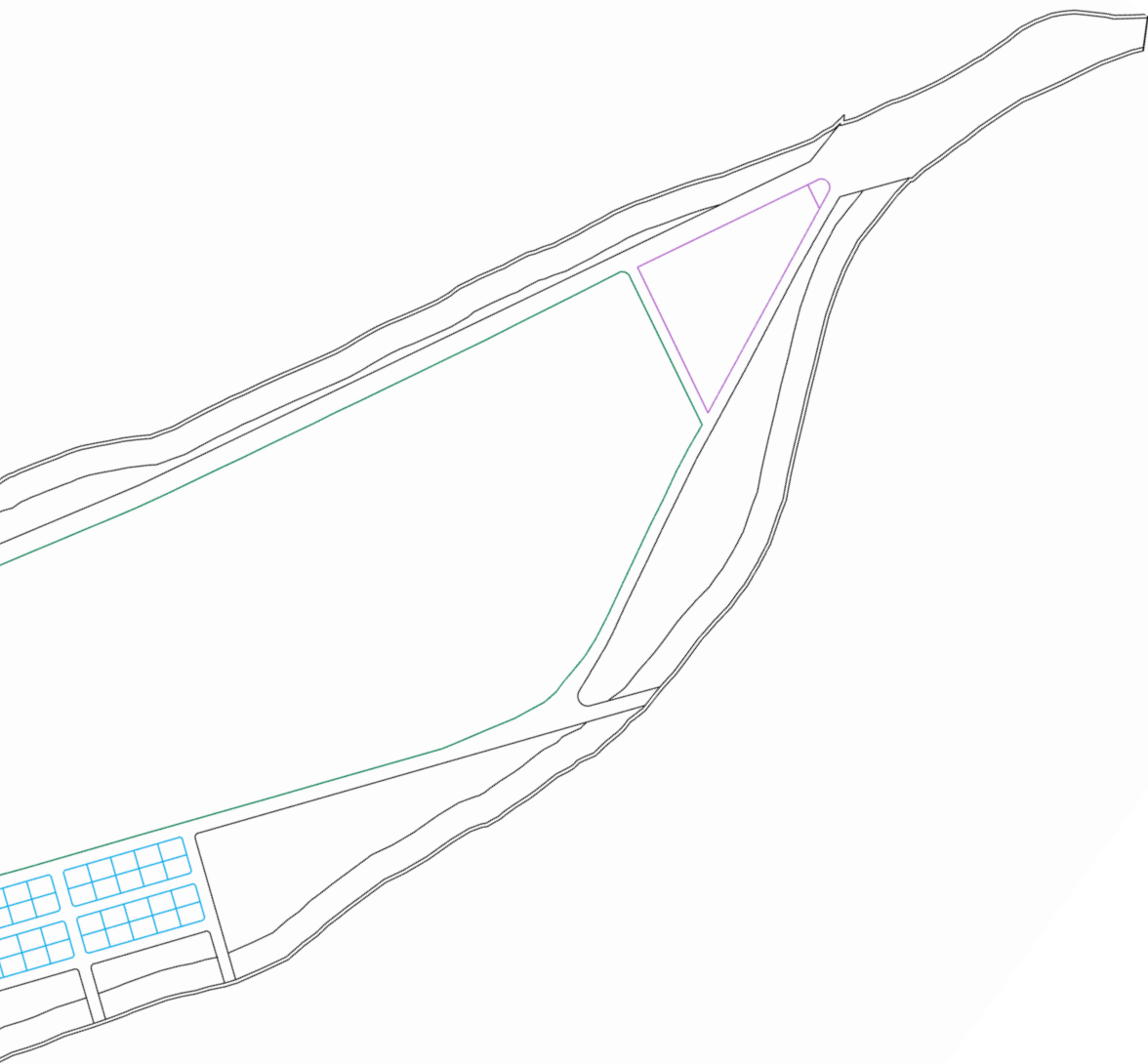
UTILITY ZONE

PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS









- GREEN / BUFFER/ SPORTS AREA
- RESIDENTIAL AREA
- COMMUNITY FACILITIES
- INSTITUTIONS
- RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE
- RAW HOUSES
- UTILITY ZONE
- PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS

History





The exact date and first settlers of Maldives is still unknown. Many researches had been conducted in order to find the information about the early settlers of Maldives. By the result of these findings some beliefs had been made about this topic. It is believed it had been more than 2500years since the first settlers settled in Maldives.

Likewise the exact settlers of Laamu Fonadhoo is still unknown but due to some historical evidences found from different islands of the atoll it is believed that Buddhists were the first settlers of the island. The island is known to be inhabited for hundreds of years.

It was said that the first settlers of Fonadhoo settled in the north-eastern side of the island known as “Bumberu” area. The residents is said to have moved from this area to the center of the island due to a folk story. From the center the people spread throughout the island.

OCCUPATION

Similar to other islands of Maldives, the main source of income for the residents during the 20th century was Ruh Erun, Vakaru Vikkun, and Fishing. Woman of the island mostly practiced Roanuveshun, Farahdhiyun and farming (Kattala and Ala). Through time the practice of fishing has almost disappeared from the island. Now only a few citizens fish during the evening as a hobby.



EDUCATION

As for education people paid more attention to religious learning back in that time. Children learnt Quran and studied Thauleem Dhiyaanaa at a young age. But During Amin Didis time he built a Madharusaa for the locals of Fonadhoo, where they taught Dheeniyyaathu, Quran, Ahlaq, Arab, Thaana, Maths and Thajuveedhu. Around 20 students were in each class. After every year 2 students from Madharusa was sent to male' to study. Due to some reasons after Amin Didi they stopped to teach in this Madharusa. After this again people went back to old methods to study their basics till the current school was opened in 1983.





HEALTH

The Traditional medicine known as Dhivehi Beys was used when people were ill in the early days. In addition to that Quran was used by Fandithaverin to heal people. The traditional medicine was made using the herbal ingredients they obtained from their surrounding environment.

In early days locals ate food that grew in the island. They ate Kudhibai, Binbbi, Rukura, Dhiyaahakuru, Banbukeyo , and Falho. Rice or flour was not available till 1970s.

WASTE

There was no plan for waste management in early days. As people ate things from their environment they did not have any harmful waste. People threw their waste to the sea side of the island. This would naturally disintegrate.



HOUSING METHODS

In the early days locals of Fonadhoo used to build their home using the materials which was available in their habitat. It is known that the first masonry work done at the island was during 1930s. They built their houses as 3 parts (Maige (Main house), Gifili (Toilet) and Badhige (Kitchen)). Mostly Maige and Gifili would be next to each other and Badhige a bit far from the main house. The belief behind this is that even if any fire breaks out in Badhige it should not reach Maige.





HUKURU MISKIY

Hukuru Miskiy of Laamu Fonadhoo was built in a near date to the Hukuru Miskiy of Male'. Every one of the island gather at this Miskiy for every Hukuru or Friday prayer.

Over time the Miskiy have now aged and the Ziyaarai (memorial) of Siraajuhdheen is built on the premises of the Misky. Siraajuhdheen was a judge in Male' and when he was offered the thrown of Maldives he rejected it and fled to Fonadhoo. He is a respected figure among the residents due to his good manners and abundant knowledge.

TRANSPORT

People of the island use to travel by sail boats across the seas of Maldives. It mostly took 15 days to travel from the island to the capital of Maldives. This duration mostly depends of the wind direction. They used Bokkuraa and Kandhufathi to travel within the atoll.





OCCUPATION

During the earlier days, the people of Fonadhoo were really familiar with cultural work such as thatching and making coir rope. Such unique methods were the only way they earned income and made a living. Furthermore, fishing was also a part of their daily lives until Kahdhoo Airport was established in 1986. As soon as the opening of the airport, islanders were offered job opportunities and the number of fishermen, coir rope weavers and thatch makers decreased by a large scale. Approximately, 65% of the people now work at Kahdhoo Airport, around 30% of the people work at government jobs, where mostly women work as teachers and nurses and about 5% of the people work for the private sector. On the other hand, construction works are only done by expatriate workers.



ENTERTAINMENT

There are a lot of exciting and interesting methods of entertainment that the active people of Fonadhoo have. Fonadhoo people are known for their famous traditional art of “lagiri jehun”, which is a traditional dance usually held on the special occasion of Eid. Furthermore, “Bandi” is also a popular sport enjoyed among the men of Fonadhoo along with “Bodu beru jehun” and having traditional barbeques. The women of Fonadhoo also take part in “Bandiyaa jehun” which is common in the past and present as well. The whole island participates in all of the mentioned activities can mostly be seen during the special occasion of Eid.



LIFESTYLE

As we look into the lifestyle of the people of Fonadhoo, it was found that the island was distributed into three district. The three districts are known as Barasil, Medhu Avah and Kurigam. According to the knowledge from the islanders, the people from each of the district do not communicate with people other than from their own district.

The main reason for this as told by the islanders, was due to the feuds and problems that caused between the people of Barasil and Medhu Avah during the past. During that time, Kurigam used to be isolated. As a result, the people got separated and got categorized. Even though they had faced problem in the past, all the people from the districts were really kind and friendly.

In earlier times, people used to gather at huts where they communicate and engage in activities for entertainment, leisure and pleasure and be more socially active. However, there are less social gatherings and no such places to hang out except for a park in the jetty area which is in a damaged state.

People mostly gather inside their homes to make 'Olhaali' and talk. Some people gather at joali's placed outside their homes which is very uncommon. Mostly the joalis are placed inside the courtyard of the houses. In Barasil and Medhu avah people usually stay at home and rarely go out, but in Kurigam people usually go out in the evening.





The people of fonadhoo are known by their kind gestures and friendliness. They serve their guests with snacks and black tea and provide them with excellent hospitality. As a matter of fact, there is noticeably low crime rates and no gangsters. Moreover, women in fonadhoo are very responsible, dominant, hardworking, independent and usually owns a bike while men go to work to support their families. They save money rather than spending money and prefer to live with their immediate families.





It's quite refreshing to know that the people in Fonadhoo are sticking to a simple lifestyle even during the 21st century. They eat traditional maldivian food such as Garudhiya, Roshi, Rihaakuru, Bai etc. Furthermore, they make a traditional Mas'huni in the mornings during Eid. They used to eat Binbi when agriculture was rich back then. One of the most interesting things they do to ward off mosquitoes is burning "Bonbi" in a pot which is very effective.





Health & Education

EDUCATION

Education is the process of facilitating learning. Knowledge, skills, values, beliefs, and habits of a group of people are transferred to other people, through storytelling, discussion, teaching, training, or research. If we take a look at Fonadhoo education system we see that the system is poor and needs a lot of improvement despite having only one school.

According to some of the parents classes are often cancelled due to the lack of teachers and there is discrimination between students. In the interview with the school heads they have also shared their concerns for the facilities provided by the school as it affects the education. Children also have expressed their difficulties in transportation especially on rainy days.

However the O level results has increased by 25% in 2014 which is a huge improvement. The levels of education are primary, secondary and higher secondary education. Fonadhoo school started providing education up to A levels in the year 2004.





The school practices a one session learning system but next year onwards there would be two sessions as they would be providing preschool education. Currently around 495 students study there. The school consists of 25 classrooms including the old dhanaal. The activities held in the school include football, volleyball, debates, speaking competitions and madhaha competition and all kinds of quizzes.





HEALTH

A proper health care system is important to deliver the health care services to meet the health needs of the target population. During the interviews with the local people of Fonadhoo, it is known that the health post is located at laamu gan, therefore the expenses to travel to L.Gan costs between rf 350-450/- which is very difficult for the citizens of fonadhoo to pay such a huge amount. Furthermore, there are no services provided during the Fridays. On the other hand, there are no specialized doctors and it causes a lot of complications between the patients and the doctors. Along with that, there is no ambulance at the health post. The people of fonadhoo wish to have better health care facilities.

Architecture

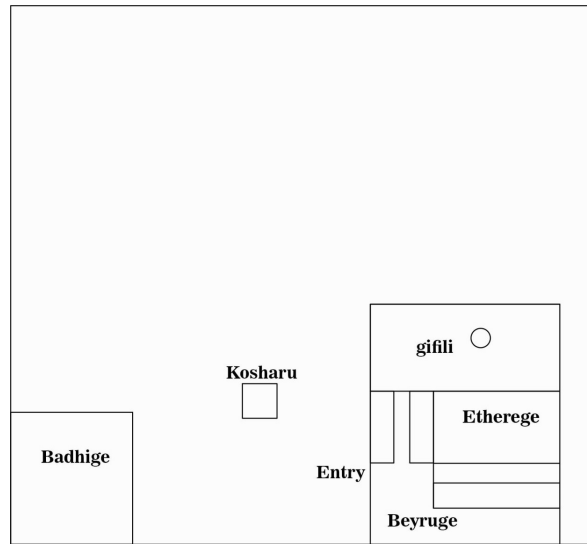
The size and arrangement of the plots which were given before indicates that the island did not have a master plan when it was developed. But in recent times it has been improved and is currently managed under a plan of development.

The first homes were built from materials locally available, like leaves of coconut palm and such.

OLD HOUSE

The layouts of the houses were very different back in those days. It is believed that all the islands of Maldives followed this layout back then. The old house we studied in L.Fonadhoo is Gasdhoshuge in Kurigam district. This house is divided into Etherege, Beyruge, Gifili, and Badhige. Thelhiga is used as a main construction unit and Uva is used as the bonding agent.



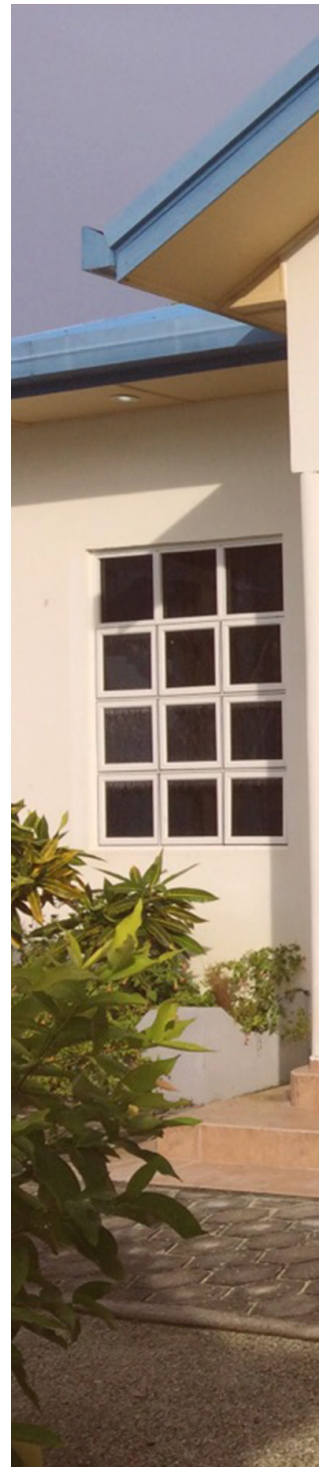


Back in those days people used to go to reefs in order to collect these stones to build their homes. These huge stones are crushed into small pieces which are then used to build the walls of the houses. Most of the time Fangji is used to cover the roof of the house but in these house tin sheets is used.

CONTEMPORARY HOUSE

Contemporary houses built in fonadhoo are mostly single storey buildings. They are constructed using concrete masonry walls. all the spaces of the houses are mainly interconnected to each other. In almost all the houses, there is a frontyard at the entrance. Usually, for the interior of the building and roof, blue paint is used. The people of fonadhoo tend to use excessive decorative ornamentation for aesthetic purposes.

Reinforced concrete foundation was used in this contemporary house located in fonadhoo. This house consists of four rooms with attached toilets, living room and a dining room along with a kitchen. This section shows part of the living room and a bedroom.









Infrastructure

Fonadhoo was one of the islands that suffered a lot of damage during the event of Tsunami that occurred in 2004. A lot of houses were completely destroyed and money was provided by the government to rebuild the houses.

There is only one park in Fonadhoo which is located in the jetty area. Most of the park is in ruins as it is very old. The main branch of Bank of Maldives present in Fonadhoo was built in 1999 which is 10,000 square feet. In 1993, the land area became a property of the citizens.

A total number of 10 staffs work from 08 00 to 14 00 hours. The bank consists of four counters, where only two counters are functioning actively. Furthermore, Gan booths are also located at different areas in Fonadhoo.





Rashu Council in Fonadhoo was built in 2006 by the Japan Council. It is a two storey building where the plot area is approximately 25413 square feet. The place also consists of a store and a garage on the ground floor. Furthermore, a total of 30 employees including 2 counselors work from 08 00 to 15 00 hours.

ELECTRICITY

Before Fenaka was established, the island had separate generators for each district. The island needed more electricity than the generator supplied. Hence, the need of electricity is always more. Back then there were three generators one with capacity of 280 kva. And the rest were 150 kva each. Electricity cables were installed during 2007.

The island has its own generators to supply electricity. There are three generators at the plant. The largest generator has the capacity of 750 kva. The rest have 500kva each. The generator comes to its peak on hot days. During the peak load the generator reaches 600kv. Since the allowance for a generator is 80% the secondary generator is switched on.

In 2013, there was a power failure crisis during Ramadan. They brought an emergency 500kva generator to recover.



SEWERAGE SYSTEM

Mainly all the sewerage system in Fonadhoo functions manually. Altogether there are five pumping stations which are installed almost 20 feet deep. Moreover, there is a backup generator for all pumping devices. According to the station, two pumps has been already been used.

The main purpose of installing sewers is to dispose all the waste materials. The waste is disposed 30 meters out from the reef. However, the treatment plant is not functioning properly during these days, due to the long cables and as the voltage is lowered.



WASTE MANAGEMENT

During the earlier times, people from three districts gather to clean the island. However, this has stopped now, and the islanders believe that the council is responsible for cleaning the whole island. The issue first arose, when they didn't have a place to dispose the waste. Therefore, the wastes are disposed on to the beach areas. As a consequence, it spreads a lot of harmful diseases and children have nowhere to go when they want to swim. Unfortunately, there is no awareness programs held for waste management.





“ I think we should run awareness programmes among the society about waste management, not only it harms the people but destroys the environment too ” - Niuma



Vegetation



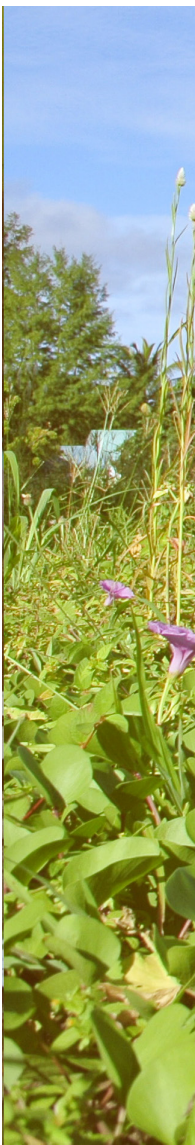
VEGETATION

There are different varieties of trees found all around Fonadhoo. From Coconut palms, Hirundu, Dhon keyo, Banbu keyo, Papaya tree, Bageecha gas, hithi gas, ofieley, Mango tree, Ahivah, Kaani, Magoo, Madu gas and even Mangrove etc. Farming is also practiced in the District of Kurigum.











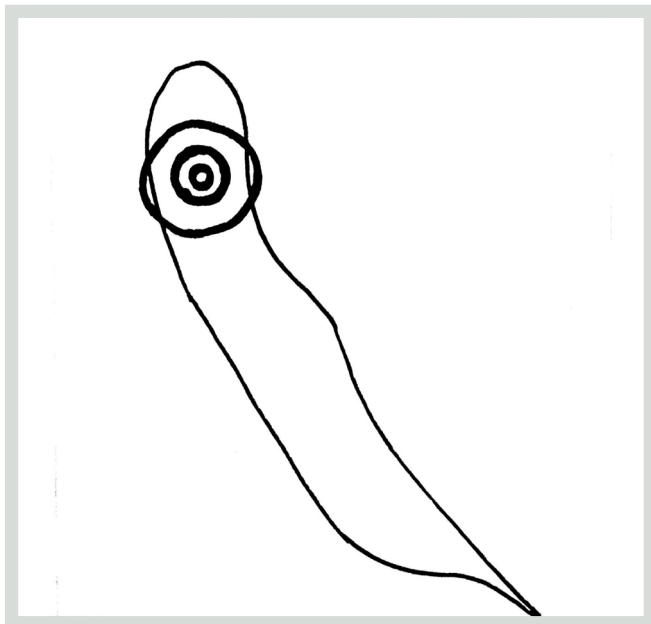
Circulation

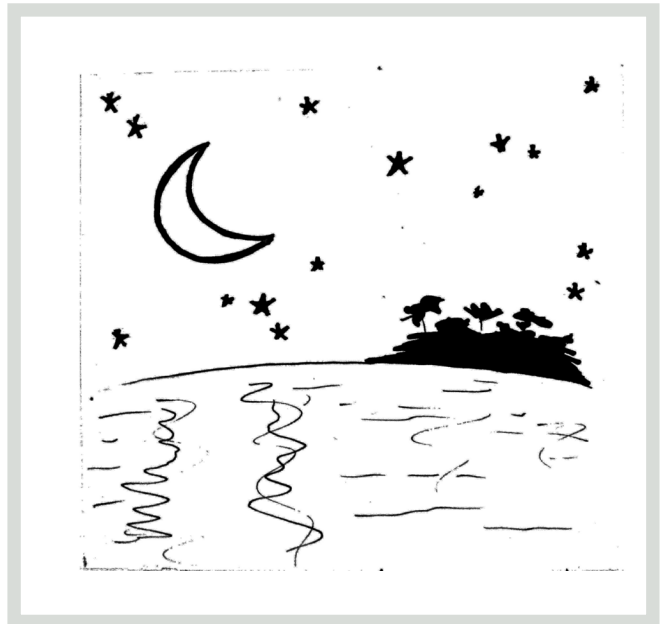
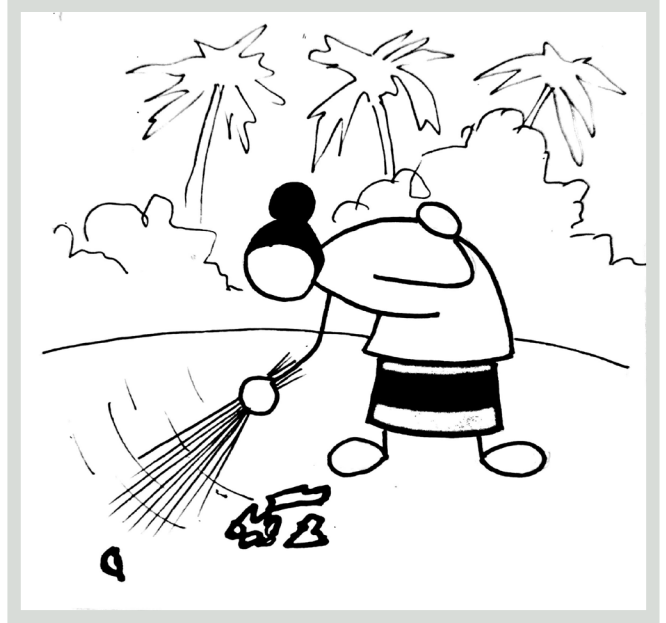


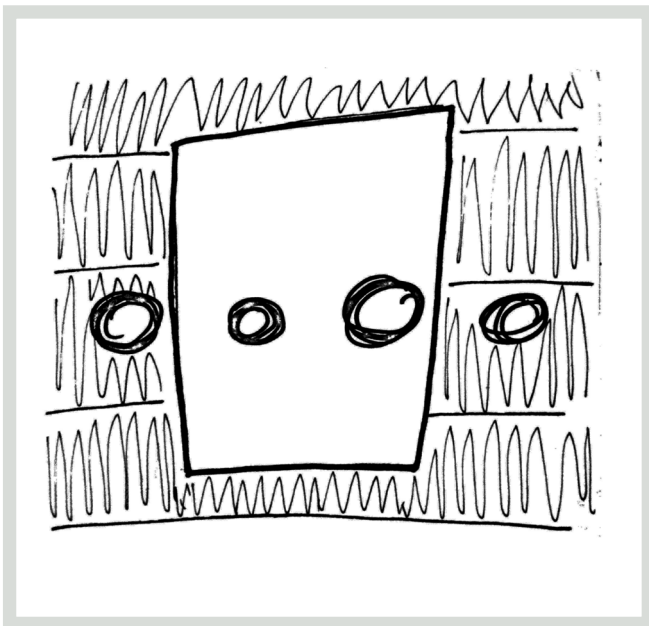


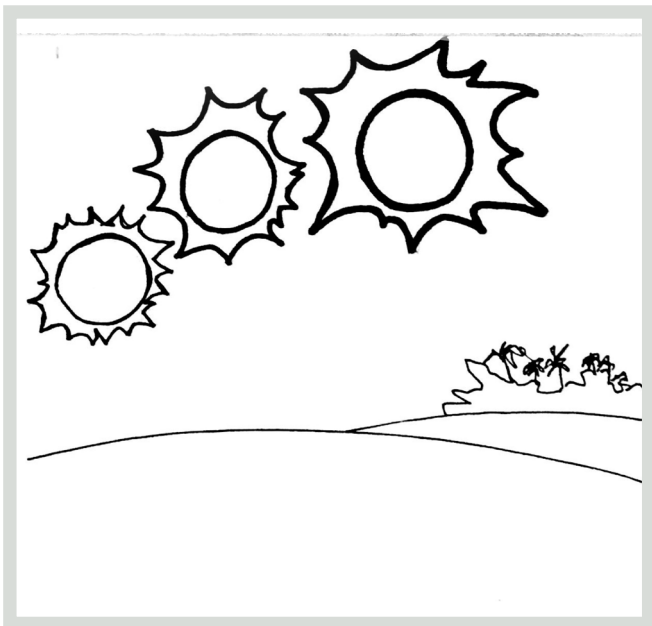
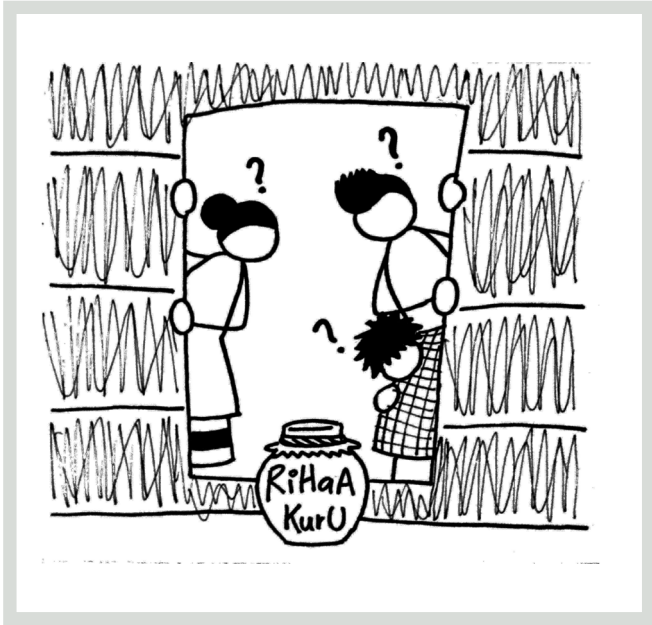
Generally, there are few people and vehicles in contrast to the size of Fonadhoo. The island itself is peaceful and the time where the traffic will be only heavy during the school hours and working hours.

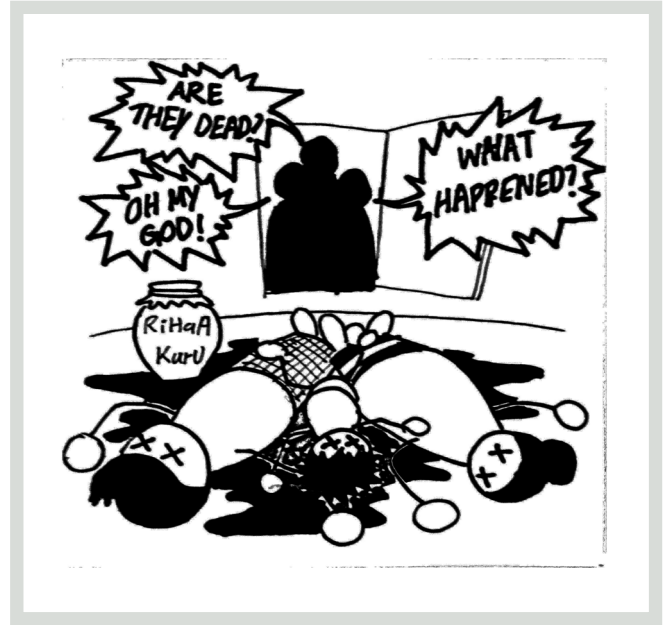
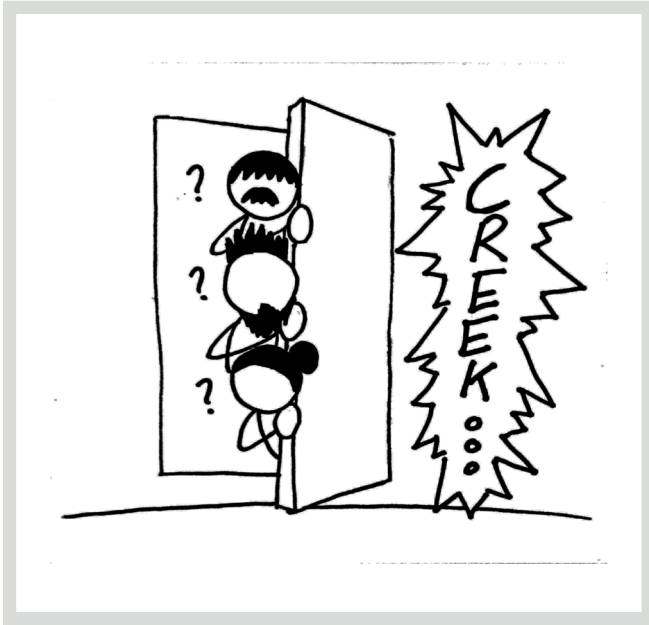
The Bunberu Story

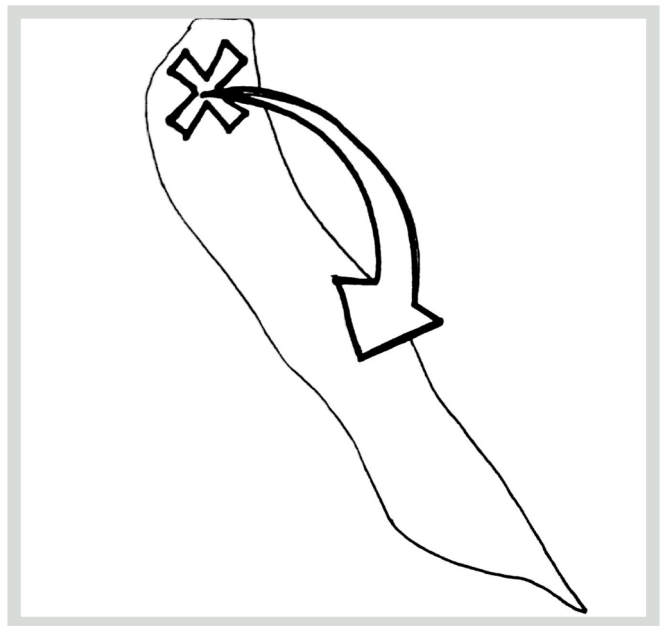
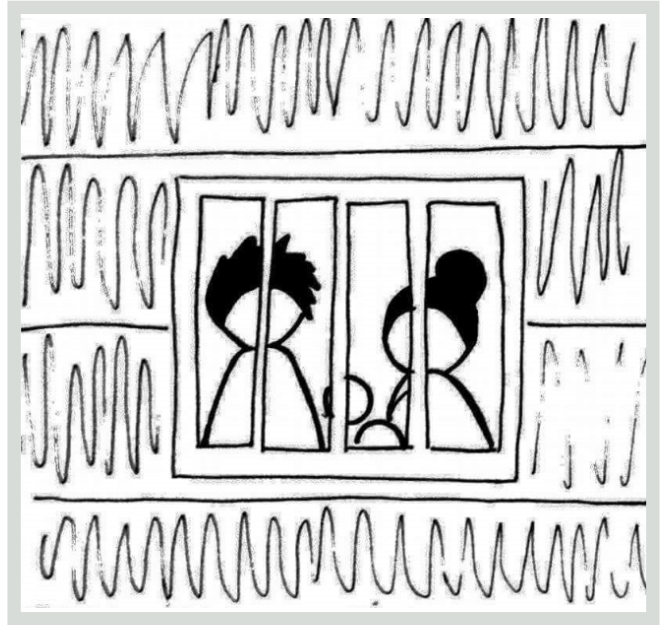












Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Design

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