THE EDGE OF TUTI
Different layouts for the Edge site

The intention is to carry out the concept of the courtyard which is surrounded by scattered rooms. Here the courtyard is enclosed by the market, mosque and supporting buildings.

The model photos show different layouts, where in fig (2,3) the courtyard is hidden behind the buildings to emphasize the concept of privacy and expected space. In fig (4,5) the courtyard is a space that welcomes the bridge and used as a point of assembly.
The need for a permanent link was an essential task for the Tutians, but there was always the fear it would change and affect their identity. Accordingly, the aim was to conceive a design originated from the Vernacular architecture of Tuti and merge it with the fast and busy modern world that surrounds it, producing a homogeneous language that speaks for both worlds.

But the question was what type of link? Tuti Island is not equipped to accommodate vehicle traffic, thus it is pointless to provide the Island with a vehicle bridge. It is therefore logical to establish a pedestrian bridge that would require a minimal space, cost and less structure. The pedestrian bridge will flitter the influence of the outer world at a slower rate, making it easier for the Tuti to come to terms and to handle.

The design of the edge is based on the design of a traditional house, where it involves the wall, the courtyard (open and partially shaded) and the scattered rooms.

The layout of the Island itself symbolizes the layout of a traditional house, since it is surrounded by water from all sides which depict a barrier. In the traditional houses, there is always a wall that encloses the scattered rooms which apparently could be expressed by the layout of Tuti. Where the water (the Blue Nile) would represent the wall, the center of the old village and area around the mosque where people gather, would represent the courtyard, and the scattered houses replace the scattered rooms in a house.

Tuti Island, as mentioned before, is totally separated from the surrounding cities, although it is linked by the ferry whose functions is subject to changes in the Nile flow.
The attempt is to produce a surprising place which would introduce visitors to Tuti, as well as introducing the Islanders to the city.

The site is enclosed by a 9.00 m high and 4.00 m wide load bearing brick wall, that extends about 25.00 m before it descends to form a side walk. The aim as well as being a barrier is to establish the element of surprise is reflected alleys of the old village, where you can not predict what is behind the wall unless you pass through.

The concept of the wall is similar to that of the walls around the houses. Here the wall maintain the enigma of the interior. As the wall represents a barrier between the two worlds, it requires a threshold that acts as an entrance or a porch, where the visitor would pause before entering. It symbolizes the entrance of a house, where you wait to be ushered.

The threshold houses a spiral staircase that is in line with the bridge structure, which is composed of tapering cylindrical steel columns, it starts with 1.00 m in diameter and ends with 50 cm diameter. The concept is to have the spiral staircase to represent an ending for the bridge, as it is shaped in a cylindrical shape that follows the shape of the columns which symbolize the continuity of the trees that are planted along the Nile shore (following the vertical and cylindrical shape of a tree).

The spiral staircase leads to three different levels in the wall (the barrier), that provide the option of either to walk within the wall towards the center or walk towards the water.

The edge is composed of a courtyard that is surrounded by two blocks of buildings and a mosque that is located in the Northeast side. The courtyard is divided into two parts, open and semi-shaded. The semi-shaded part accommodates the market (suq) area. The courtyard is an essential place in any house and community as it represents the hearth. There is a service courtyard that is placed on a different level, that receives the delivered construction materials and different commodities from the city through the Nile.
The brick is used for the main structure, the walls, while concrete is used for the floors and roofs, that facilitate the use of larger spans. The buildings surrounding the courtyard are constructed of load bearing brick walls and one-way slab concrete beams.

The courtyard is divided into 2.10 x 2.10 m grid, composed of concrete intersecting strips filled with bricks. These tiles are transformed into concrete columns at the market area, which carry concrete beams and wood trellis. This will highlight the continuity of the grid which makes the market an important part of the courtyard. A part of the edge is the public plaza, the place where the visitors and the Tutians meet. It consists of the ferry dock.

At the level of materials, the aim is to maintain the use of brick since it is the most dominant material in the Island, and to combine it with concrete, which is the material that has been introduced to the place. Although in doing so, it is fundamental to preserve the identity of the island's architectural language.

The plaza follows the courtyard grid, although the grid is wider about 4.00 x 4.00 m. It embodies different levels that help to provide a wide ranging of variety in the space.

The dock which is placed at a lower level, extends above water about 6.00 m, it is constructed of wood and supported by wood pillars, it used to dock the ferry as well as the Tutians boats.
LEGEND

1- Pedestrian bridge.
2- Entrance
3- The wall (the threshold)
4- Courtyard
5- Bus station.
6- Ticket office.
7- Post office.
8- Post office boxes room.
9- Male and female rest rooms.
10- Women's ablution area.
11- Mosque Sahan.
12- Men ablution area.
13- The Mosque (prayer hall).
14- The suq (market).
15- Service courtyard.
16- Manager office.
17- Offices.
18- Covered suq.
19- Stores.
20- Books and gifts shop.
21- The public plaza.
22- Ferry deck.
23- Services deck.
24- The tower.
3- The wall (the threshold), second level.
25- The bridge connecting the women level to the minaret.
26- Women mezzanine.
27- The cafeteria.
28- Outdoor cafeteria.
29- Second level balcony.
30- The tower second level.
1- View of the Island from Khartoum city.
2- The public plaza and the entry point to the island from the Nile.
3- View from the public plaza towards Khartoum City.
4- The island from Khartoum City.
5- The ferry stop in Tuti Island.

The arrows show the location of the proposed project of Tuti’s edge.
THE FERRY DOCK
The attempt is to develop a welcoming place for the bridge and for people to meet before departing or arriving to Khartoum city, and also to be in harmony with the surrounding since it is an intermediate place between the two different worlds (the contemporary and the vernacular).

These sketches show different proposals for the site, where the curved shape is more dominant, trying to differentiate between the edge site; where it is more to do with straight lines and corners; while here it has the potential of generating curves and free shapes that has to do with the Nile movement. These curves are in contrast with the situation on the Khartoum city side, where it represent the fast pace of life and very busy streets.

The Blue Nile is famous for its current which caused some changes in the shape of the Island. It started to curve in the North and Northeast of the Island which resulted in the concave shape in that side of the Island.

In Khartoum city the shore is very homogeneous and straight, and the aim is to emphasize that gathering place by being different in shape and height. It is elevated about 1.20 m from the Nile Avenue and steps down, it combines brick and concrete by having concrete floors and brick walls.

Originally this site was used as a ferry station, the ferry will still functions but from a different level, and all commuters meet in the same place with those using the bridge.