



JSR ARCHITECTS
ARCHITECTS • INTERIOR DESIGNERS • URBAN PLANNERS

A PROJECT JOURNAL • 2026

From line to landmark.

The making of **the t kadai**, Erode — from the first drawing to opening day.

+0'0" GROUND LVL

the t kadai
a unit of THE CAKE SHOP

CLIENT • MR. ASHOK
18 MAY — 14 SEP 2026



— AT A GLANCE

A tea shop on a 22-foot frontage.

A narrow plot between two buildings, a busy road in front, and one ambition: make everyday chai feel like an occasion.

127

DAYS · SITE TO OPENING

12

STAGES OF WORK

16

DRAWING SHEETS ISSUED

155

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS LOGGED

PROJECT	the t kadai — a unit of The Cake Shop
CLIENT	Mr. Ashok
LOCATION	Erode, Tamil Nadu
TYPE	Tea café & quick-service snacks
PLOT	102'-2" deep narrow urban plot, road-facing
STRUCTURE	RCC footings & plinth beams · painted MS steel frame
ROOF	GI sheet with translucent roofing bands · +18'-0" high
DESIGN & DRAWINGS	JSR Architects · ARC_0052 · 16 sheets
CONSTRUCTION	October 3 Builders
SITE START	10 May 2026
OPENING	14 September 2026

the **t** kadai
a unit of THE CAKE SHOP

— A NOTE TO OUR CLIENT

Dear Mr. Ashok,

A tea kadai is one of Tamil Nadu's great public rooms — the place where a street stops for five minutes. When you asked us to design yours, the site gave us 22 feet of frontage, 102 feet of depth and an old structure to clear. The brief gave us something bigger: make everyday chai feel like an occasion.

This book is the record of how that happened. It holds the drawings we made, the photographs taken on site almost every week, and the people whose hands turned lines on paper into steel, brick and light — from the first wall taken down on 10 May to the doors opening on 14 September.

Thank you for trusting us with the line. It has been a privilege to watch it become a landmark on your street.



Team JSR Architects

ERODE • SEPTEMBER 2026



CONTENTS

Six chapters, one line.

Read it front to back as a story, or open
any page to see how a JSR project is built
— carefully, visibly, stage by stage.

01	The idea	SITE, PLAN, SECTIONS, ELEVATION, DETAILS
02	Ground work	STAGES 01 - 07 • MAY TO JULY
03	The frame	STAGES 08 - 09 • JULY TO AUGUST
04	Craft & detail	STAGES 10 - 12 • SEPTEMBER
05	Doors open	THE FINISHED T KADAI
06	Working with JSR	THE TEAM, THE NUMBERS, YOUR PROJECT

— THE JOURNEY

127 days, 12 stages.

Every stage was drawn, checked and photographed before the next one began.

01 · 10-12 MAY
Clearing the site



03 · 15-20 MAY
Down to firm ground



05 · 28-29 MAY
Pedestals & sump



07 · 6-12 JUL
Preparing the floor



09 · AUGUST
Raising the frame



11 · 1-6 SEP
Skin & joinery



02 · 13 MAY
Excavation



04 · 22-25 MAY
Reinforcement



06 · 17 JUN-2 JUL
Plinth & masonry



08 · 10-15 JUL
Steel in the yard



10 · 31 AUG
Light



12 · 11 SEP
The last details

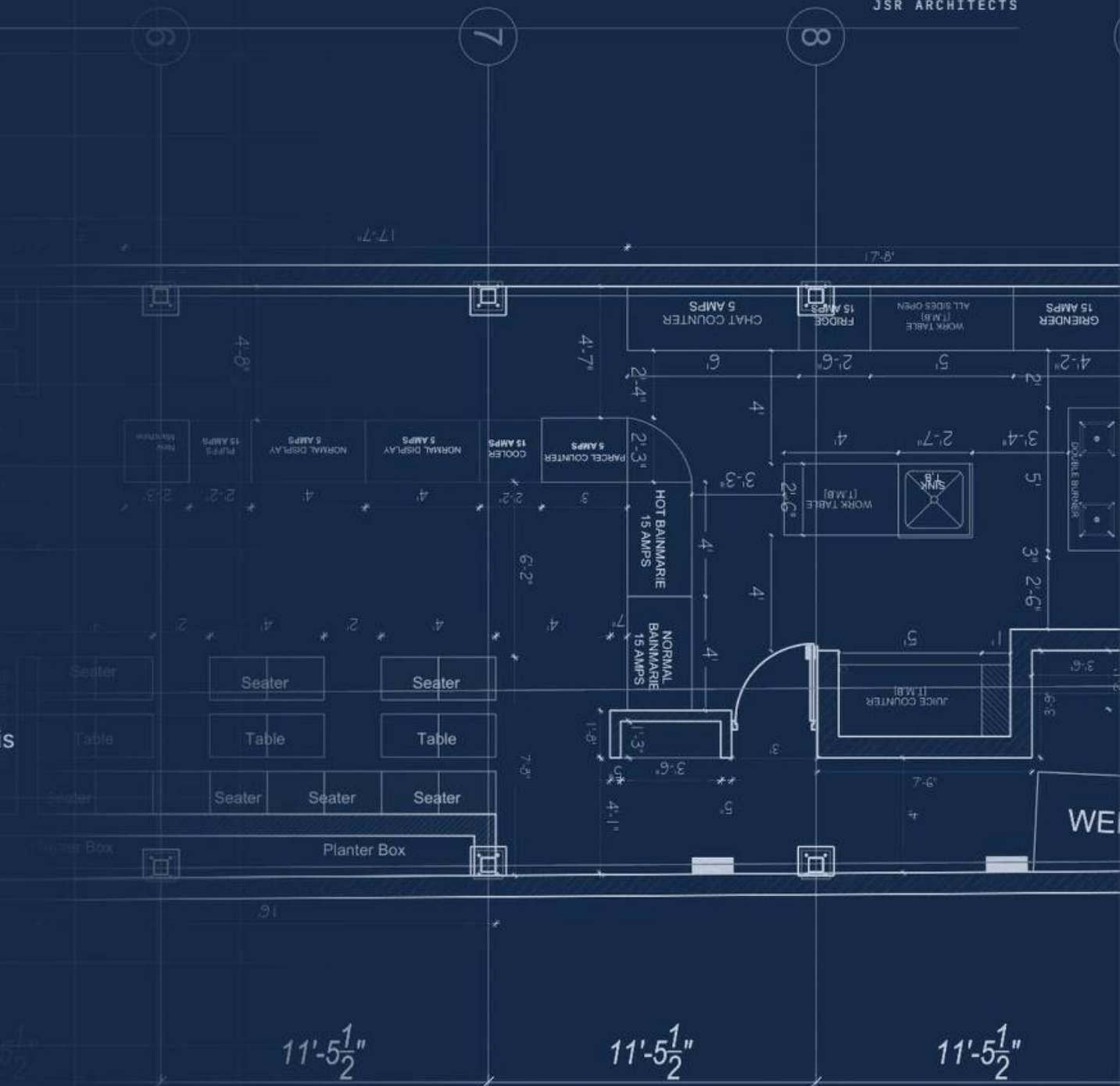
CHAPTER 01

01

The idea

Before a single brick moved, every metre of the t kadai was drawn — how people arrive, where tea is poured, where daylight falls.

SITE • PLAN • SECTIONS • VISION • DETAILS





— THE CONCEPT · 01 MEMORY

It began with a glass of tea under a tree.

Every town in Tamil Nadu has one — a small kadai beneath a big neem, a worn bench, an elder holding a glass of tea with both hands. Shade overhead, green all around, and a reason to stop.

That memory became our brief: keep the feeling, give it a new form.



THE CONCEPT • 02 THEN & NOW

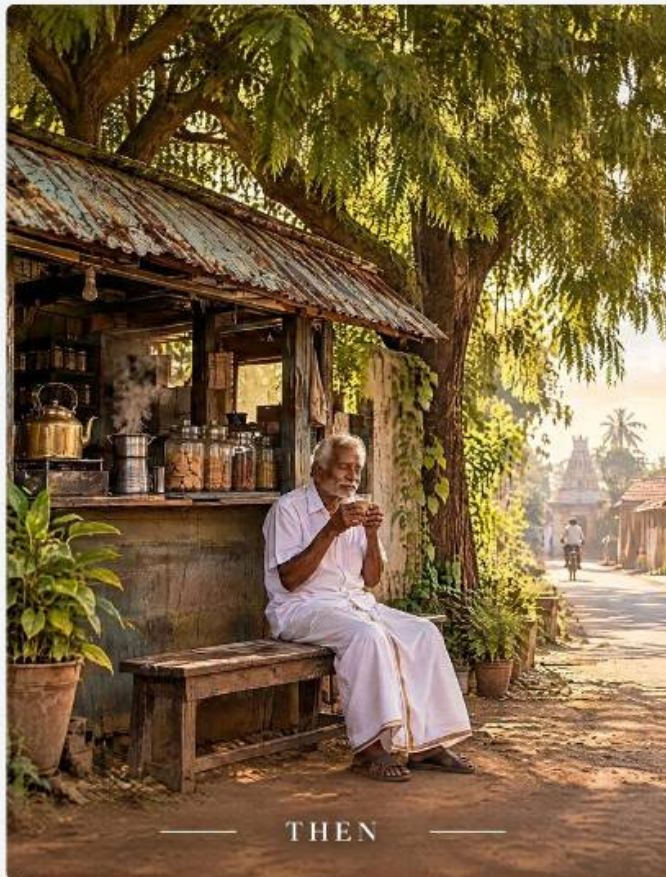
Fifty years apart. The same tree, the same tea.

Modern doesn't have to mean taking from nature. The tree stays, the shade stays, the ritual stays — only the room around it grows up.

— THE CONCEPT • 03 TRANSFORMATION

Then → Building with care → Now.

How we build: protect what is growing, build light around it, and give back more green than we found.



01 • THE SHADE, THE BENCH, THE RITUAL

02 • TREE FENCED, ROOTS UNTOUCHED, A LIGHT FRAME RAISED

03 • MORE GREEN THAN BEFORE, AND THE SAME CUP OF TEA



— THE CONCEPT · 04 SKETCH

Canopy becomes curve.

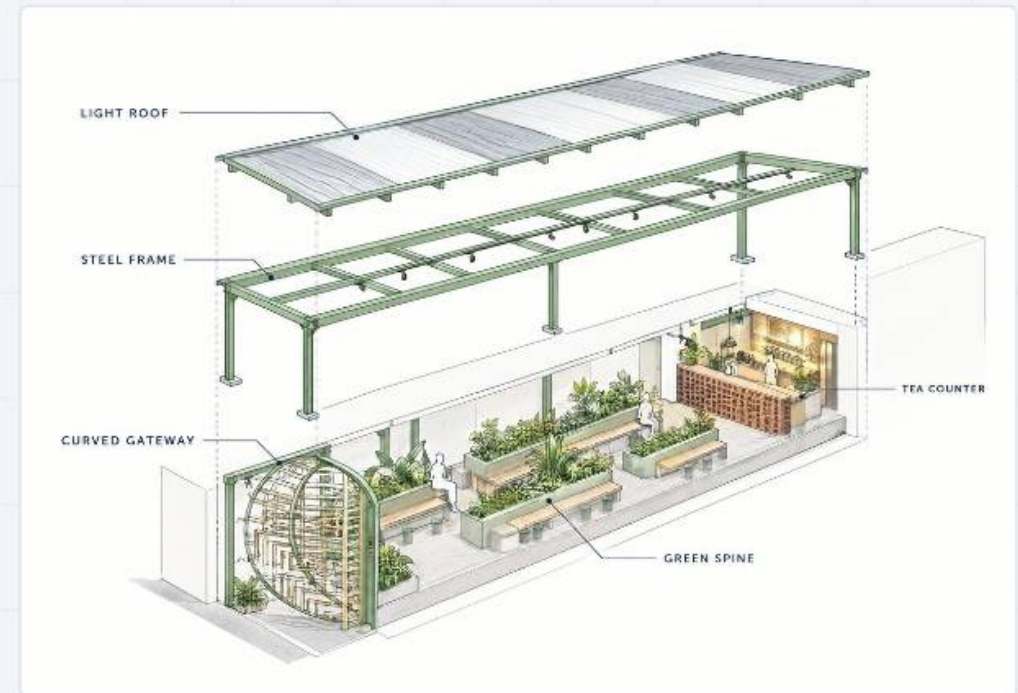
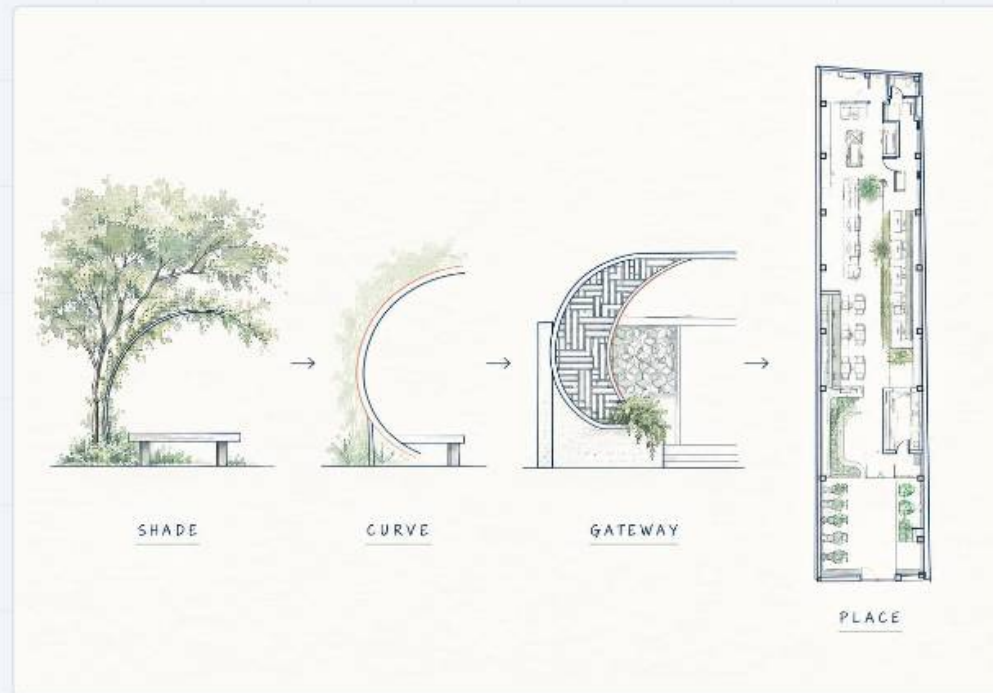
On tracing paper, the arc of the tree turned into a clean curve, the bench into a built-in seat, filtered leaf-light into a jali — and the green stayed.



— THE CONCEPT · 05 FROM IDEA TO PLAN

Shade → Curve → Gateway → Place.

A roadside memory, abstracted step by step into a plan and a structure for a 102-foot plot.



EVOLUTION

The tree's shade becomes a curve, the curve becomes the gateway, and the gateway leads into a long green room.

FIVE LAYERS

- Light roof
- Curves that greet the street
- Tea counter as the warm heart
- Slim green steel frame
- Green spine of planters

— THE SITE & THE BRIEF

Long, narrow, and full of possibility.

22 feet wide, 102 feet deep, hemmed in by walls on both sides and facing a busy road. Our job was to pull light, air and a sense of arrival all the way in.

FOUR DESIGN MOVES

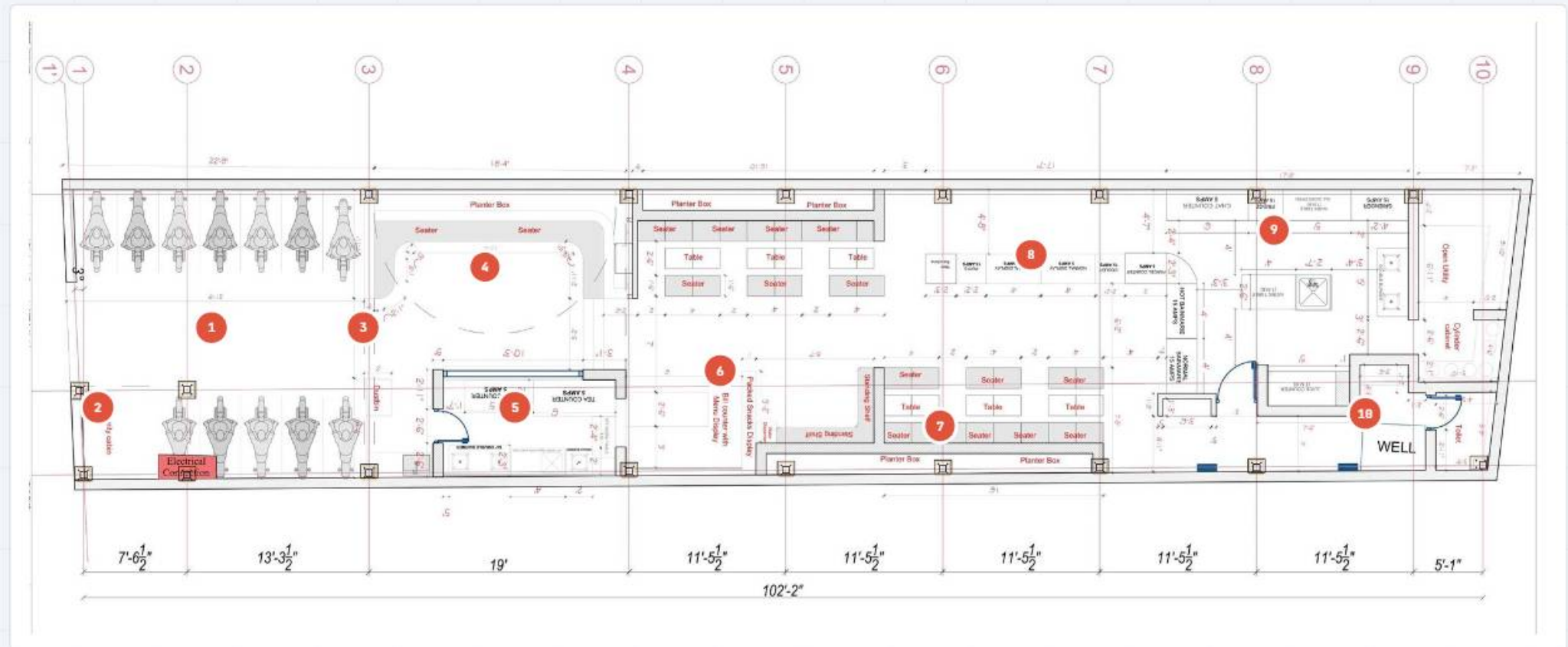
- A sweeping curved entrance that turns a narrow frontage into a landmark you notice from the road.
- A light steel frame with translucent roofing so daylight reaches deep into the plot.
- Planter-lined seating that brings green into the middle of the café.
- Kitchen, well and utilities pushed to the rear; guests and counters up front.



DRAWING 01 • WORKING PLAN

The plan: a street that walks inside.

Read left to right the way a guest does — from the road, through the curved entrance, past the tea counter, into planter-lined seating, with service tucked behind.



- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 ROAD & TWO-WHEELER PARKING | 2 SECURITY CABIN | 3 CURVED ENTRANCE | 4 CURVED LOUNGE SEATING | 5 TEA & VADAI COUNTER |
| 6 BILL COUNTER & MENU DISPLAY | 7 PLANTER SEATING & TABLES | 8 DISPLAYS, COOLER & JUICE | 9 CHAT COUNTER & KITCHEN | 10 WELL, TOILET & UTILITY |

DRAWING 02 • SECTIONS

Cut through, top to bottom.

The sections set every level before site work began — so the builder, the fabricator and the electrician all worked to the same numbers.

+18'-0"

SECOND ROOF LEVEL

+13'-0"

FIRST ROOF LEVEL

+1'-6"

GROUND FLOOR ABOVE ROAD

102'-9"

OVERALL SECTION LENGTH



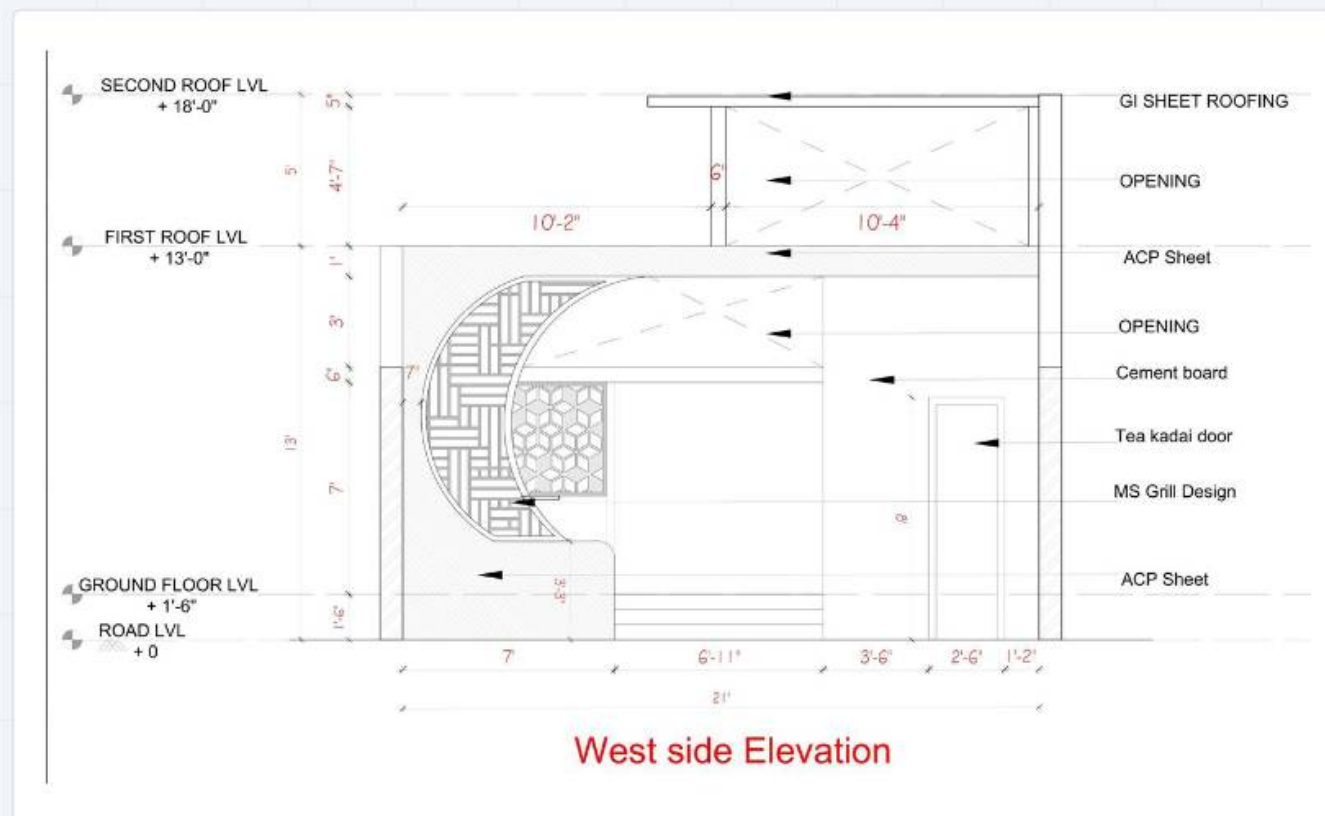
DRAWING 03 · WEST ELEVATION

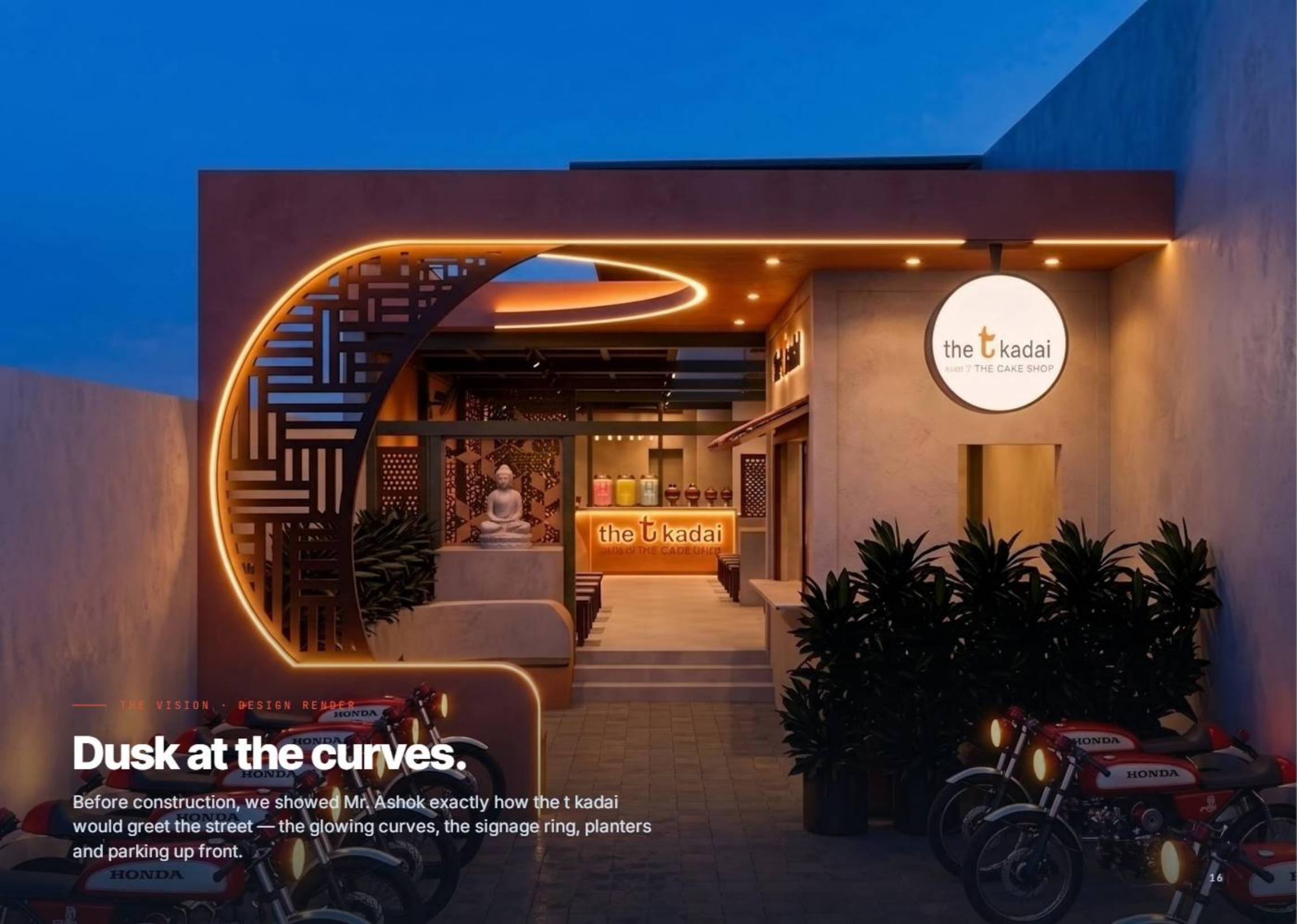
A face for the street.

On a 21-foot frontage there is room for one big idea. Ours: a sweep of steel curves that frames the entrance, with a hexagonal CNC jali set inside it.

SPECIFIED

- 2" MS frame with 1" MS square-pipe curved grille
- CNC-cut hexagonal jali panel
- ACP sheet fascia & cement board cladding
- GI sheet roofing over a raised opening





— THE VISION · DESIGN RENDER

Dusk at the curves.

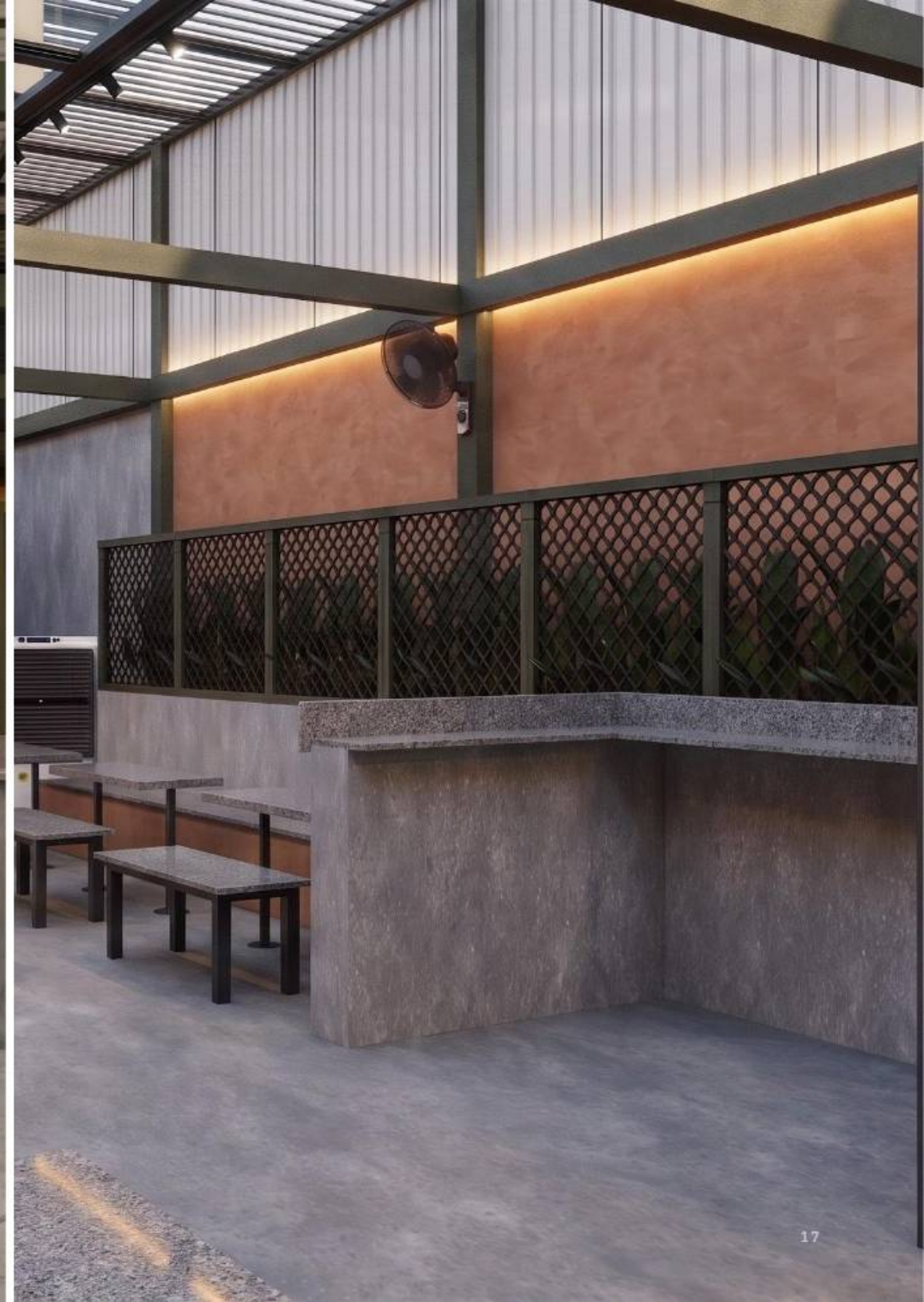
Before construction, we showed Mr. Ashok exactly how the t kadai would greet the street — the glowing curves, the signage ring, planters and parking up front.



— THE VISION • INTERIOR RENDERS

A long room under a light roof.

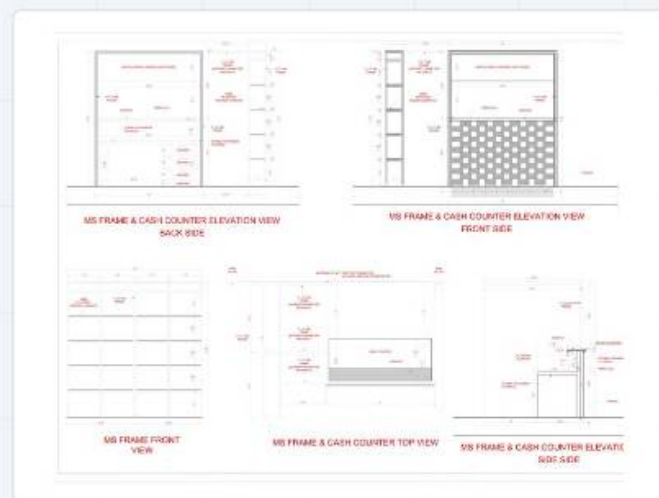
Steel frame, translucent roofing, planter screens, a brick-jali bill counter and the tea counter as the glowing focal point at the far end.



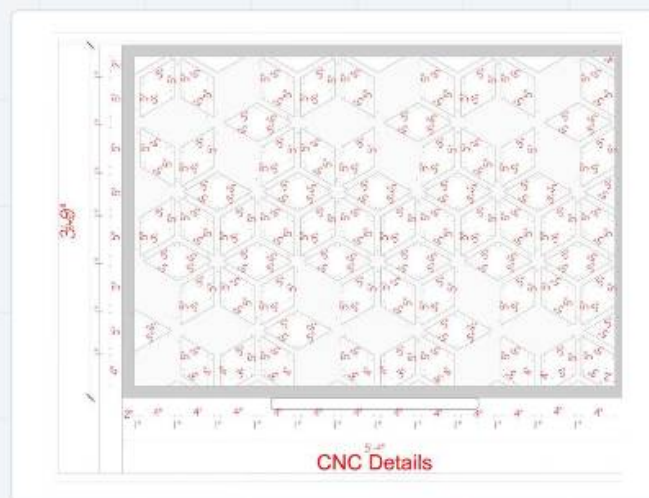
DRAWINGS 04 - 09 • DETAILS

Designed down to the last joint.

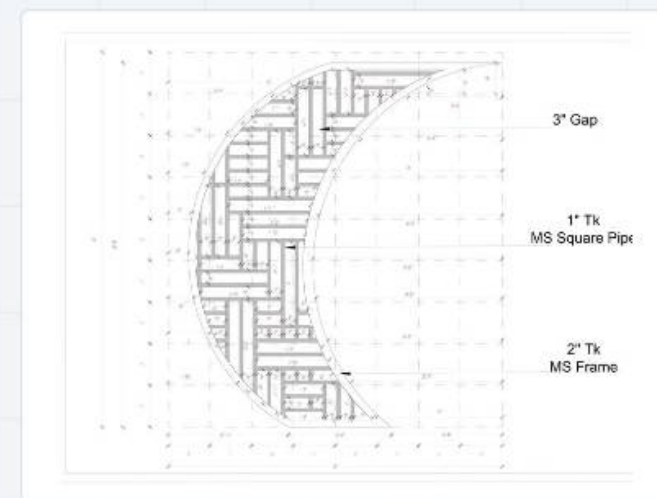
Counters, seats, tables, grilles and jali — each drawn with sizes, sections and materials, so what was built is exactly what was designed.



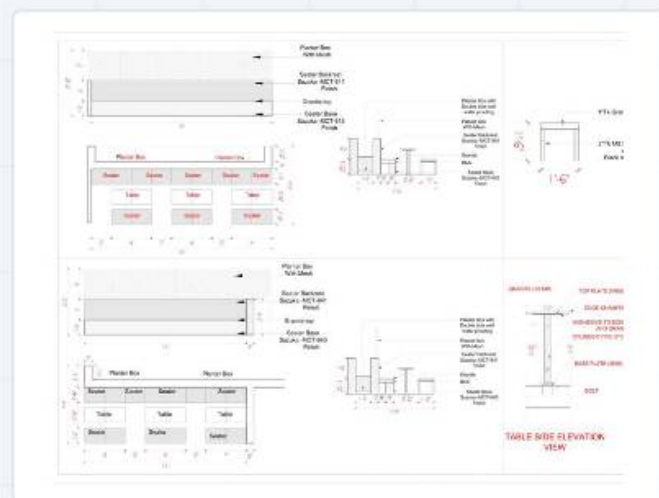
BILL COUNTER • DRG 87



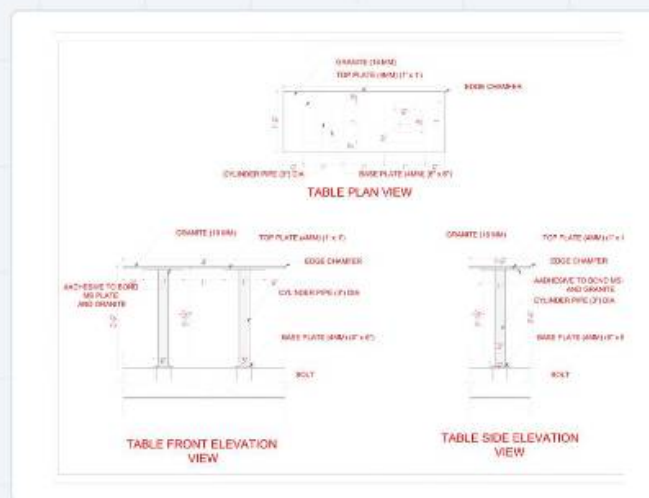
CNC JALI • DRG 89



CURVED GRILLE • DRG 88



PLANTER SEATING • DRG 85



DINING TABLE • DRG 86



TEA KADAI COUNTER • DRG 84

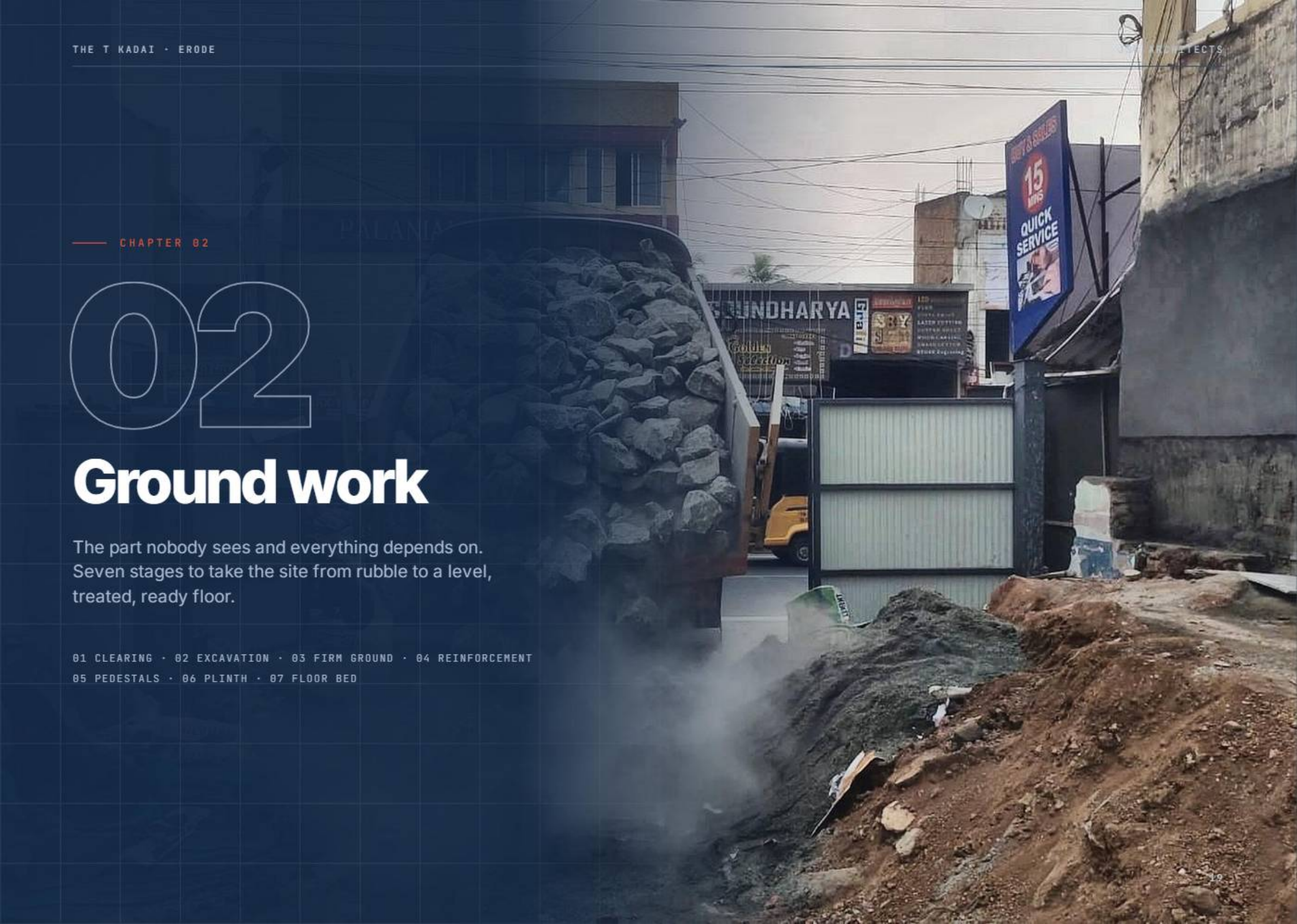
CHAPTER 02

02

Ground work

The part nobody sees and everything depends on.
Seven stages to take the site from rubble to a level,
treated, ready floor.

01 CLEARING • 02 EXCAVATION • 03 FIRM GROUND • 04 REINFORCEMENT
05 PEDESTALS • 06 PLINTH • 07 FLOOR BED



STAGE 01 · 10 - 12 MAY 2026

01

Clearing the site.

The old structure came down by hand and machine. Before any digging, the neighbouring walls were inspected and marked so the new work would never compromise them.

ON SITE, WE MADE SURE

- Site barricaded from the road for public safety
- Neighbouring wall conditions surveyed and marked up
- Debris removed and the plot opened end to end

**3 days**

DURATION

Day 1

PROJECT START

STAGE 02 · 13 MAY 2026

02

Opening the ground.

Excavators and a hand crew opened the footing pits along the column grid, with depths checked pit by pit against the drawings.

ON SITE, WE MADE SURE

- Column grid set out on site before digging
- Every pit depth measured and recorded
- Soil strata inspected before approval

1 day

MACHINE EXCAVATION

10

COLUMN GRID LINES



STAGE 03 • 15 - 20 MAY 2026

03

Down to firm ground.

Each footing went down to hard strata, was packed with rubble soling and sealed with a levelling PCC bed — a solid base for everything above.

ON SITE, WE MADE SURE

- Pits taken to hard strata before soling
- Rubble soling packed and compacted
- PCC levelling bed laid in every footing

**6 days**

DURATION

Rock

FOUNDING STRATA

STAGE 04 · 22 - 25 MAY 2026

04

Steel that holds the ground.

Footing mats and column cages were tied, spaced and aligned to string lines before a single bag of cement was opened.

ON SITE, WE MADE SURE

- Footing mats tied to specified bar spacing
- Column cages plumbed and aligned to the grid
- Cover blocks placed before concreting

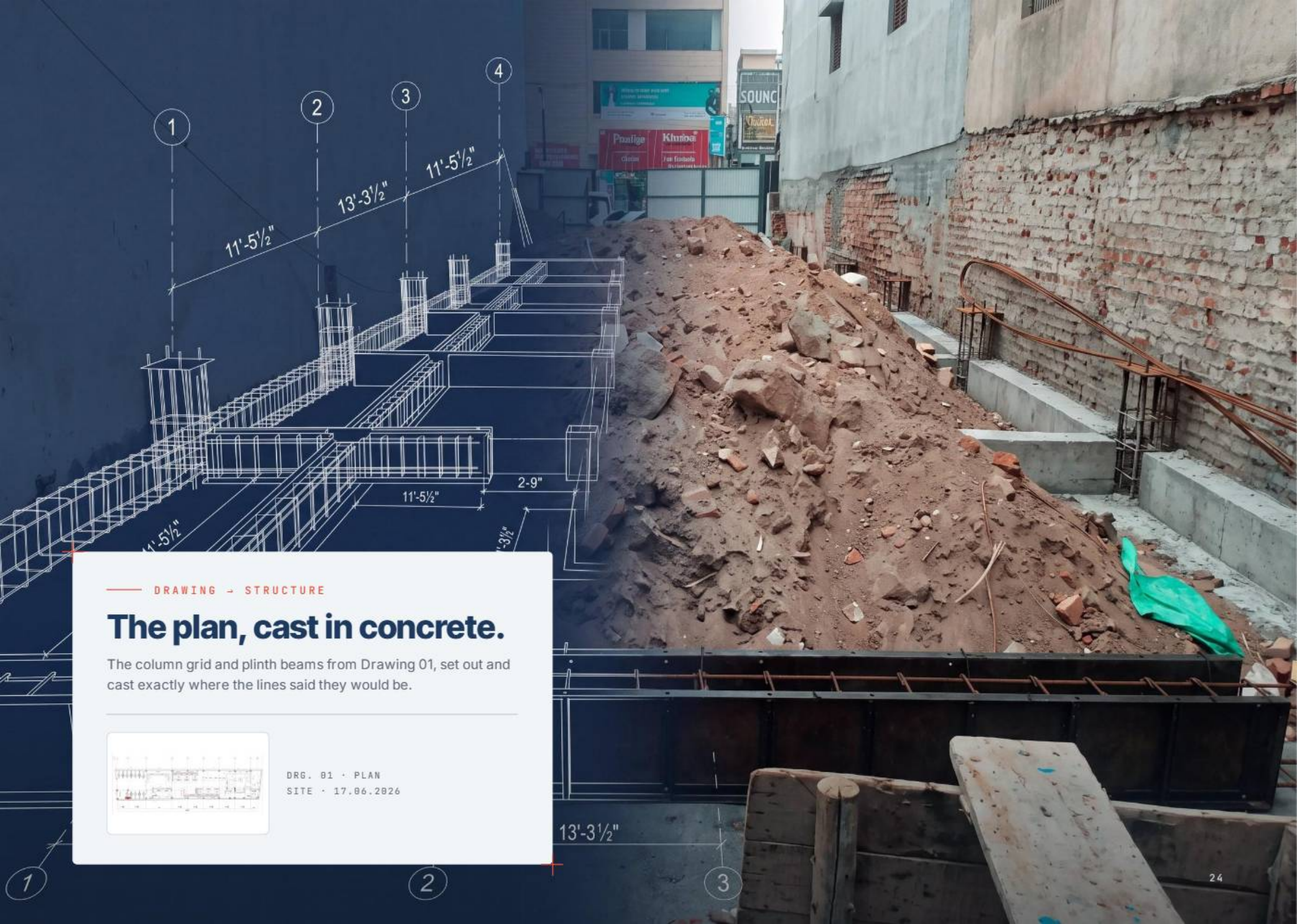
4 days

DURATION

Grid

STRING-LINE ALIGNMENT





DRAWING → STRUCTURE

The plan, cast in concrete.

The column grid and plinth beams from Drawing 01, set out and cast exactly where the lines said they would be.



DRG. 01 · PLAN
SITE · 17.06.2026

13'-3 1/2"

STAGE 05 · 28 - 29 MAY 2026

05

Pedestals and the sump.

Column pedestals rose out of the footings, ready to receive the steel frame, while the underground sump was lined and plastered.

ON SITE, WE MADE SURE

- Pedestals cast true to level and grid
- Sump walls plastered for water-tightness
- Excavated sides trimmed and backfill prepared

2 days

DURATION

+1'-6"

FLOOR LEVEL TARGET



STAGE 06 · 17 JUNE - 2 JULY 2026

06

Tying it all together.

Plinth beams locked the columns into one frame. Masonry rose to plinth level and the enclosed ground was filled, ready for the floor.

ON SITE, WE MADE SURE

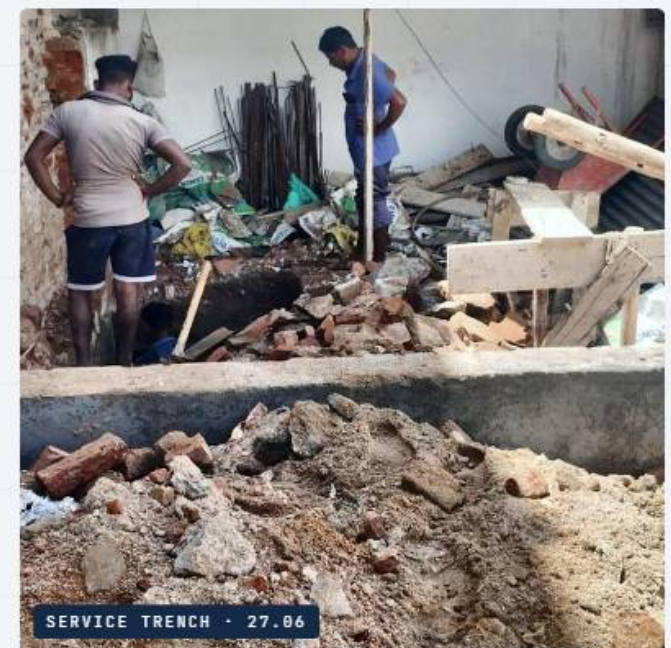
- Plinth beams cast continuous across the grid
- Masonry built plumb to +1'-6" level
- Filling done in layers inside the plinth

16 days

DURATION

102'

CONTINUOUS PLINTH



STAGE 07 · 6 - 12 JULY 2026

07

Preparing the floor.

The invisible work that keeps a floor flat for decades: the fill was compacted, treated against termites and sealed with a concrete bed.

ON SITE, WE MADE SURE

- Fill compacted in layers
- Anti-termite soil treatment across the plot
- PCC floor bed laid to level

7 days

DURATION

100%

PLOT TREATED



CHAPTER 03

03

The frame

While the ground cured, the structure was being made. Steel was cut, welded and painted off-site, then raised in one clean sequence.

08 STEEL IN THE YARD • 09 RAISING THE FRAME



STAGE 08 · 10 - 15 JULY 2026

08

Steel in the yard.

Columns and beams were fabricated off-site to the drawings — cut, welded, primed and finished in the café's signature green — so on-site time stayed short and clean.

ON SITE, WE MADE SURE

- Members cut and welded to drawing sizes
- Primer coat before the finish coat
- Finished pieces shaded and stacked to avoid damage

6 days

FABRICATION

Off-site

LESS DUST AT THE SITE



FINISH COAT · 15.07



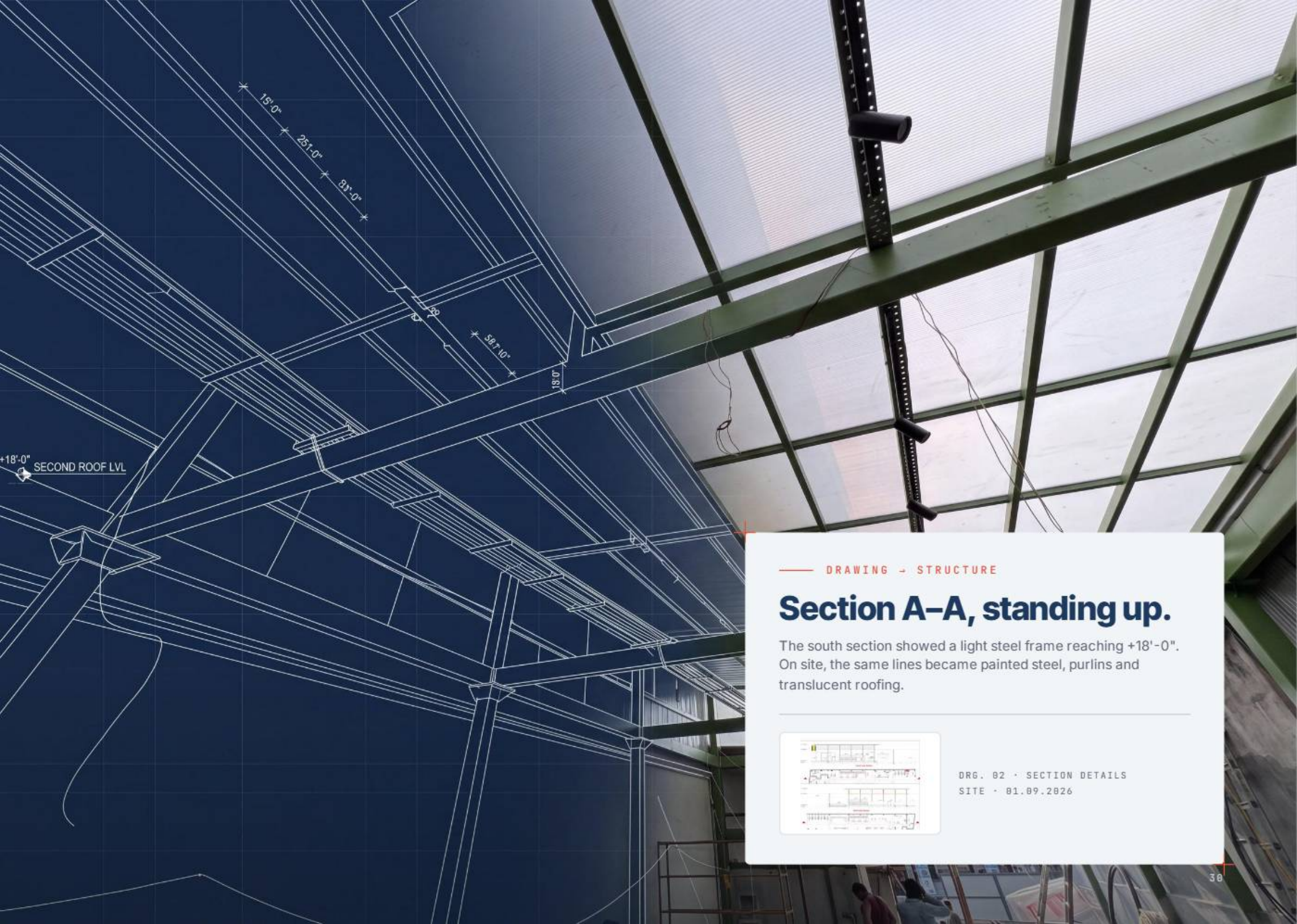
FABRICATION · 11.07



PRIMER · 14.07



CURING UNDER SHADE · 15.07



+18'-0" SECOND ROOF LVL

— DRAWING → STRUCTURE

Section A-A, standing up.

The south section showed a light steel frame reaching +18'-0". On site, the same lines became painted steel, purlins and translucent roofing.



DRG. 02 • SECTION DETAILS
SITE • 01.09.2026

STAGE 09 · AUGUST 2026

09

Raising the frame.

The frame was bolted onto the pedestals and roofed with GI sheets and translucent bands — pulling daylight all the way down the long plot.

ON SITE, WE MADE SURE

- Columns plumbed and bolted to base plates
- Roof purlins aligned for sheet fixing
- Translucent bands placed over the seating zones

+18'-0"

ROOF HEIGHT

Daylight

ALONG THE FULL PLOT



FRAME & ROOF · 31.08



COUNTERS INSIDE · 31.08



WALK-THROUGH · 31.08

CHAPTER 04

04

Craft & detail

The part guests will touch. Light, cladding, counters, seats and jali — each built to the detail drawings and checked before it was fixed.

10 LIGHT • 11 SKIN & JOINERY • 12 THE LAST DETAILS

STAGE 10 • 31 AUGUST 2026

10

Light, tested before it went up.

Every fixture was unboxed and checked on site against the lighting plan: magnetic track spots, linear lights, garden spikes, surface panels and neon flex.

ON SITE, WE MADE SURE

- Samples approved before bulk installation
- Warm colour temperature for a relaxed evening
- Track lighting aligned to the steel purlins

5 types

OF FIXTURES

Warm

EVENING MOOD



STAGE 11 · 1 - 6 SEPTEMBER 2026

11

Skin and joinery.

Cement board and ACP clad the frame. The bill counter got its brick jali and black steel shelving; the seating got its smooth, curved ends.

ON SITE, WE MADE SURE

- Cement board fixed on MS framing, joints sealed
- Brick jali laid to the counter drawing
- Curved seat ends rendered smooth

6 days

DURATION

3

FINISH MATERIALS



CURVED SEAT · 06.09



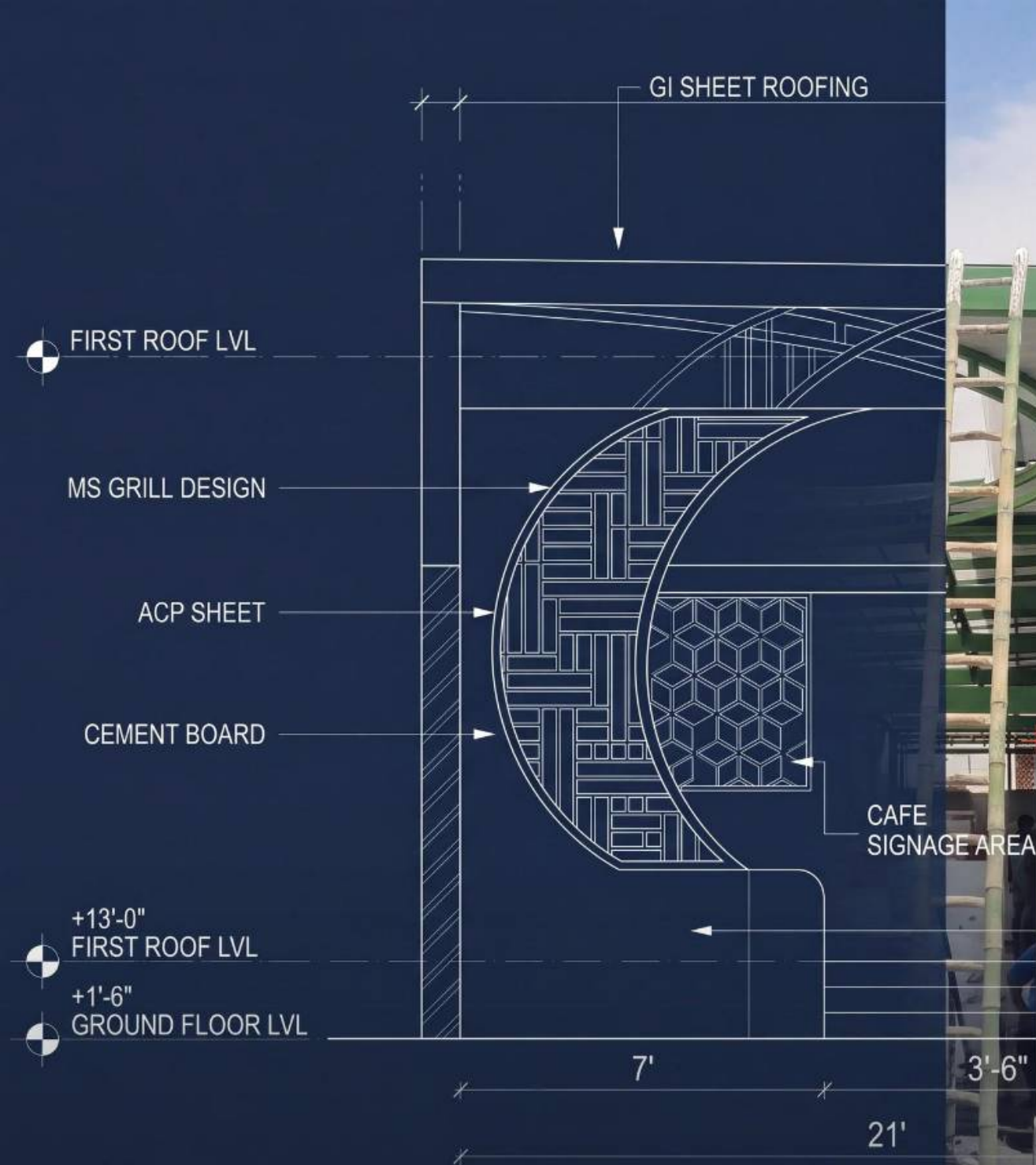
CLADDING · 01.09



BILL COUNTER · 06.09



SEAT MASONRY · 06.09



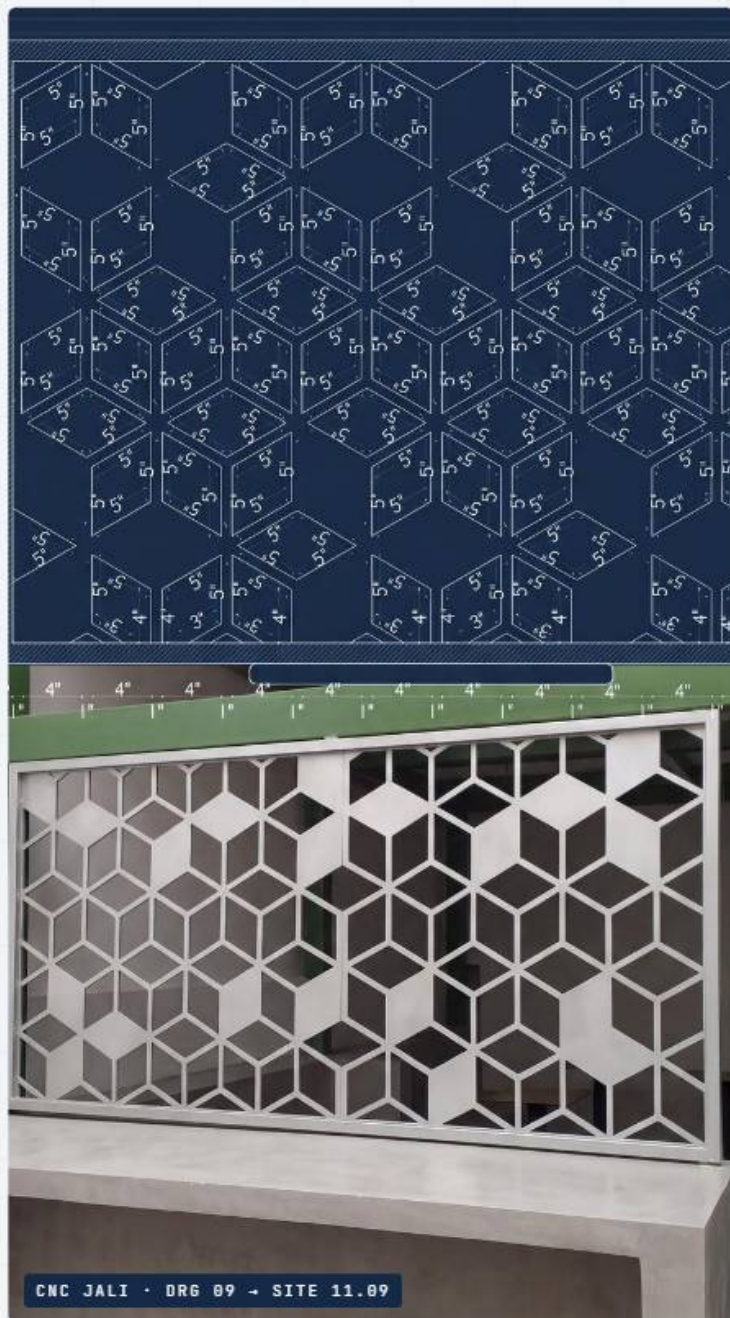
DRAWING → STRUCTURE

The curves, cut from steel.

Drawing 08 set every bar of the curved grille. In steel, it becomes the entrance that makes the t kadai recognisable from across the road.



DRG. 03 & 08 • ELEVATION & GRILLE
SITE • 06.09.2026



DRAWING → STRUCTURE

Every hexagon, every brick, drawn first.

The CNC jali was drawn to the inch — 5" cells in a 7'-6" panel — and cut straight from the file. The bill counter's brick jali, granite top and 2" MS frame followed its own sheet line for line.

STAGE 12 • 11 SEPTEMBER 2026

12

The last details.

Three days before opening: jali screens fixed, bamboo shading hung, pedestal tables bolted down and the front gate set on its hinges.

ON SITE, WE MADE SURE

- CNC jali panels fixed and painted
- Pedestal tables anchored to the floor
- Snag list closed before handover

3 days

TO OPENING

14.09

DOORS OPEN



JALI INSTALL • 11.09



STANDING TABLES • 11.09



BAMBOO SHADING • 11.09



FRONT GATE • 11.09

CHAPTER 05

Doors open.

14 September 2026. The lines are now a place — and the street has a new room to pause in.

the **t** kadai
a unit of THE CAKE SHOP



the **t** kadai



EXTERIOR

Opening evening on the street.



INTERIOR

A long room full of daylight.



BILL COUNTER • BRICK JALI & BLACK STEEL



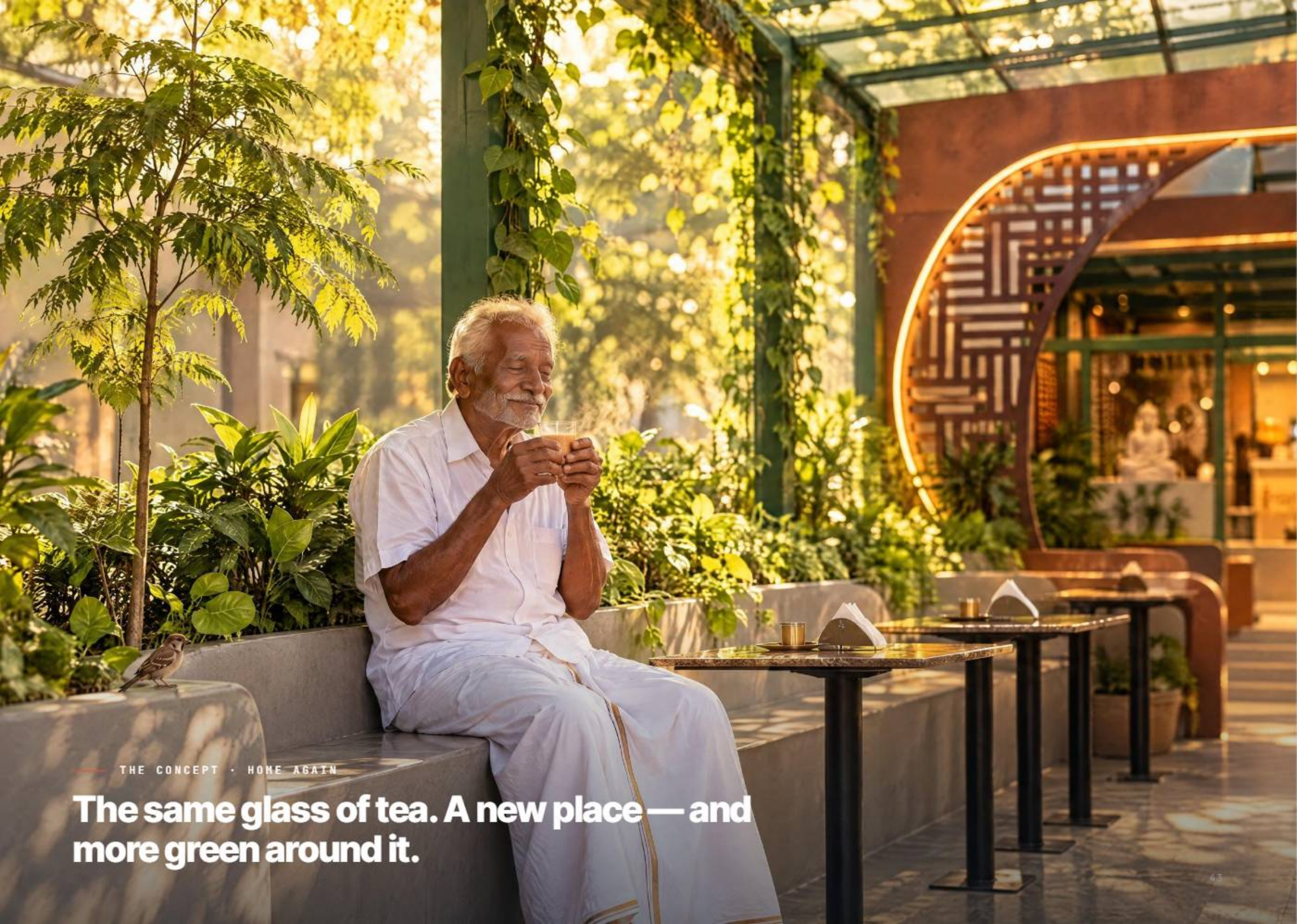
STANDING TABLES & PLANTER SEATING



— DETAIL

"Good architecture is felt in the small moments — light through a jali, the edge of a warm glass of chai."

— JSR ARCHITECTS



THE CONCEPT • HOME AGAIN

**The same glass of tea. A new place — and
more green around it.**



127
DAYS

BEFORE · 10 MAY 2026

An old frontage.



AFTER · 14 SEPTEMBER 2026

A landmark on the street.

— THE PEOPLE BEHIND IT

Built by many hands.

A project like this is a relay. Thank you to everyone who carried it — the client who believed in it, the crews who built it, and every craftsman on site.

— CLIENT

Mr. Ashok

the t kadai — a unit of The Cake Shop, Erode.
The vision, the trust and the patience to do it properly.

— ARCHITECTS

JSR Architects

Concept, planning, working drawings, detail design and site coordination from first sketch to opening day.

— BUILDERS

October 3 Builders

Construction and execution on site — ground work, structure, masonry and finishes.

— WORKING WITH JSR

Your project, the same way.

Cafés, homes, shops and offices — every JSR project follows the line you have just seen.

01

Listen

Site visit, your brief, your budget. We start with how you want the place to feel.

02

Imagine

Concept, plans and 3D views until the idea is clear to everyone.

03

Detail

Full working drawings — for the t kadai, 16 sheets covering every counter, seat and grille.

04

Build together

We coordinate your builder on site, check each stage and keep a photo log you can follow.

05

Open

A space handed over ready for its first customer.

Planning a space? Let's draw your line.

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WEBSITE



INSTAGRAM

— GUEST NOTES

Your chai, your words.

Enjoyed the space? Leave a line for the t
kadai and the team who built it.





Building a better tomorrow.

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