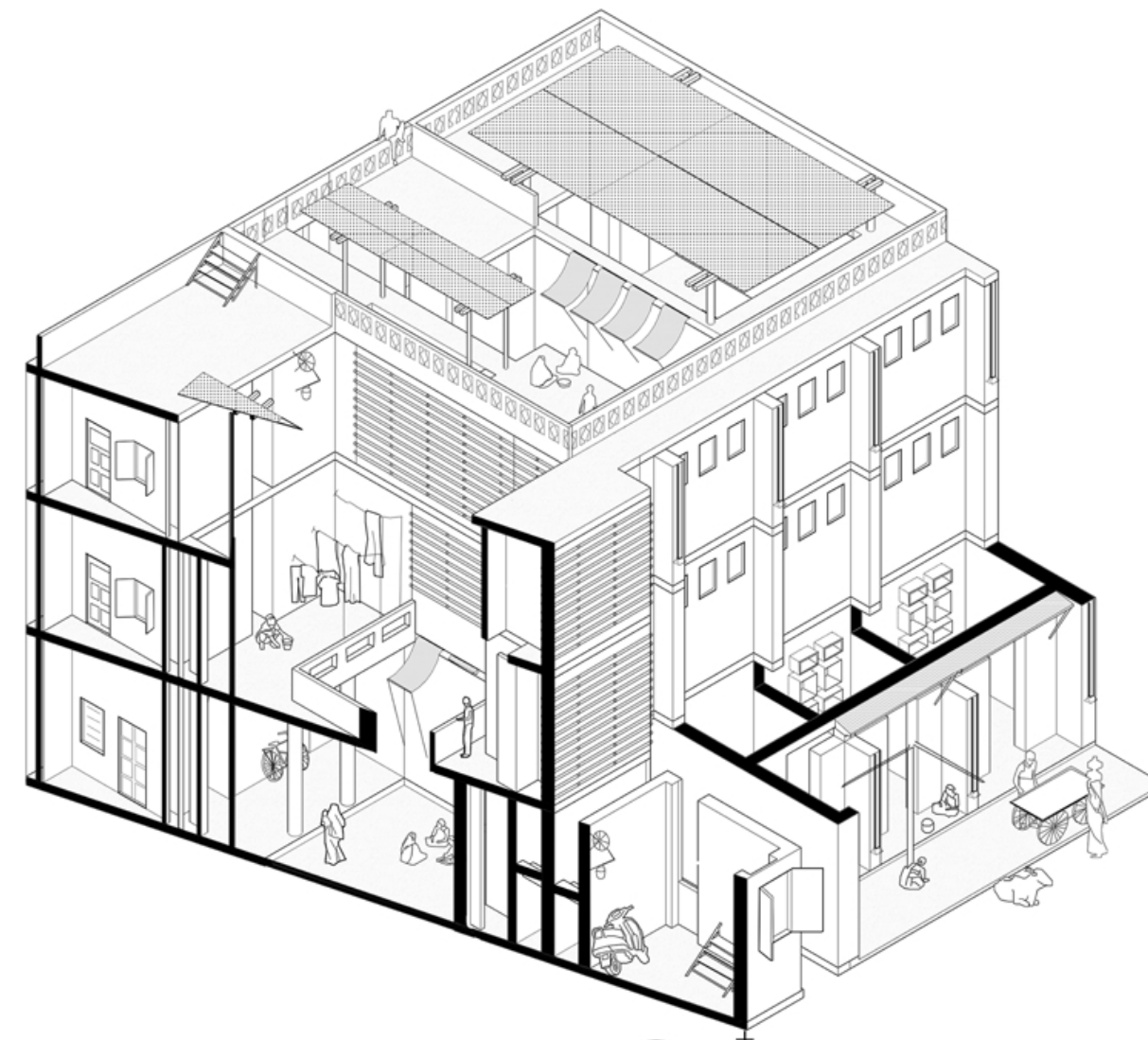


DISCURSIVE NON-DISCURSIVE

Abstracting dwelling logics from the historic settlement of Chirag Delhi, India

The urban village phenomenon is an extremely unique arrangement in India. From colonial annexation to urban annexation, the dwellings in these zones have undergone years and layers of structuration. The architectural discipline has always maintained a safe distance from them by positioning itself as outsiders, objectively observing and critically analyzing. However, almost all the attempts to tangibly engage with these zones have fallen apart. By binding them as special zones or Lal Dora zones, the discipline has conveniently dodged confrontations.

This research can be viewed as a confrontation with the non-designed of Chirag Delhi. It challenges the notion of Lal Dora, to unsurface the genius loci of user-generated dwellings. In the process, inventive and unique organisational principles, space sharing and resource sharing concepts were discovered. The illustrations give a brief insight into the latent spatialities of Chirag Delhi.



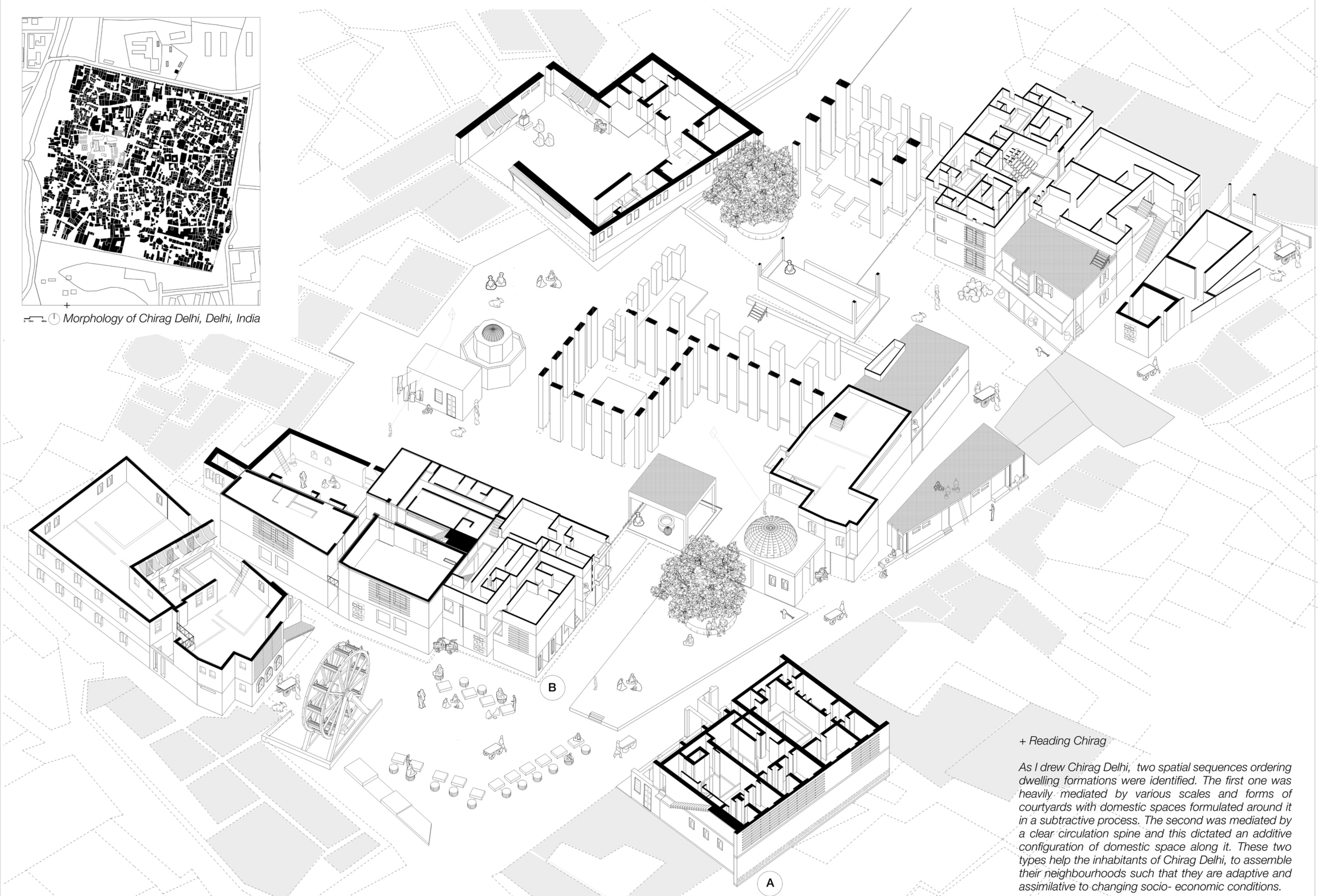
A Multi-family generation dwellings (Havelis)



B + Multi-family single units (Hujuras)



Morphology of Chirag Delhi, Delhi, India



+ Reading Chirag

As I drew Chirag Delhi, two spatial sequences ordering dwelling formations were identified. The first one was heavily mediated by various scales and forms of courtyards with domestic spaces formulated around it in a subtractive process. The second was mediated by a clear circulation spine and this dictated an additive configuration of domestic space along it. These two types help the inhabitants of Chirag Delhi, to assemble their neighbourhoods such that they are adaptive and assimilative to changing socio-economic conditions.