

## **THE BLOCK**

Since even before the new world mall was constructed, this land was surrounded by a row of shophouses. Having a house that was built next to each other forces locals to interact. This creates a small community that still remains tight throughout the year. Along with this there are also vendors along the street, selling foods in front of shophouses. Although the sidewalk is not big it is the only 'communal area' for both locals who live in the shophouses and vendors. This has always been viewed as a characteristic or charm of Thai society, the sidewalk that is filled with street foods. Sure, it is great for vendors as it provides a good accessibility among vendors and tourists. But is it really the best living condition for those locals living in shophouses? Or is it just for the convenience of economics and tourism?

This may seem as a small problem when looking at it from a small scale perspective, but once we shift our focus and view it in a bigger picture, we will see that there are no other areas that actually promote a healthy living condition. The shophouse is built in a way that it is already packed so that the only source of light is through the front door. There is also no proper communal space, even a small park for locals in Banglumphu. This raises the question, is there any other way to maintain this interaction between locals and tourists, while also improving local's living conditions?

This inquiry leads to the objective of this project. This project challenges the existing condition by aiming to provide locals with a proper communal area, while integrating the current rising trend of tourism in this area. The project consists of two parts: a hostel and a communal ground.