

PROJECT DETAILS FOR FINAL SUBMISSION

Project Title: MAE MOEI learning camp

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Course: Architectural Design 5

Studio Brief Title: TRANSIENT

Short Project Description (100 words max.):

This project reimagines migrant worker shelters near the Thai-Myanmar border as spaces for both living and learning. Located in Mae Sot, the design provides housing, farming areas, and construction training zones using bamboo as the main material. The layout follows the natural landform and applies Thailand's Sufficiency Economy principles. With shared spaces, classrooms, and rest pavilions, the shelter supports skill-building and self-reliance. It offers more than temporary housing—it creates opportunities for migrants to grow, work, and rebuild their lives with dignity.

Full Project Narrative/Text Description (300 words max.):

This project focuses on the housing of migrant construction workers from Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia. Many of their shelters are poorly built—hot during the day, lacking good airflow, and not properly maintained. Most workers come to Thailand to find better jobs, but many from Myanmar arrive without legal documents due to war, low wages, and limited opportunities in their home country.

Mae Sot, a border town between Thailand and Myanmar, is chosen as the project site. It is an active crossing point with many refugee camps and daily movement between both sides. The Thai side offers more work, while the Myanmar side serves more as a living area. This makes Mae Sot a suitable location for a shelter that also acts as a training center—teaching useful skills, especially in construction, to help people find better work in the future.

The site is close to the border and easy to access. The masterplan follows the idea of Thailand's Sufficiency Economy, dividing land into zones for living, farming, and water collection. The layout uses the natural shape of the land, with a shared space in the center. Paths connect the kitchen, classrooms, and resting pavilions. Around the edges are farming areas and a construction learning zone. Bamboo is used as the main material because it is affordable, easy to grow, and long-lasting. The design began with small physical models, exploring curved shapes and open structures. This shelter is not only a place to stay but also a place to learn, grow, and rebuild a better life.