The project for Semester II of the Master's Program in Environmental Architecture was a study in land suitability for building construction. Students were required to plan and design a residential cluster with respect to land suitability and long-term sustainability of the people and their environment.

Gorad, a small village of six padas (village clusters) was chosen because of its proximity to Mumbai (about 100 km) and the challenges that it faced as its rich alluvial soil is being thoughtlessly denuded for brick making, large-scale poverty and migration to cities and the disappearing Tansa which now supplies water to its prospering neighbour – the city of Mumbai.

With dense forest cover on the one hand and a loop of Tansa River flowing from south to west, the village has a rich biodiversity apart from geologically interesting sites such as hot springs and geysers which also attracts large number of pilgrims who visit the nearby Vajreshwari temple and dip themselves in its healing waters. The threat to Gorad comes from industries which are slowly mushrooming around this green belt, illegal cutting of timber Illegal for firewood, loss of top soil to brick kiln industry & disturbing river basin by mining sand which ultimately damages the land & environment of village.

The studio was conducted by Ar. Priti Bhandari and Prof. Rajeev Tayshete.