



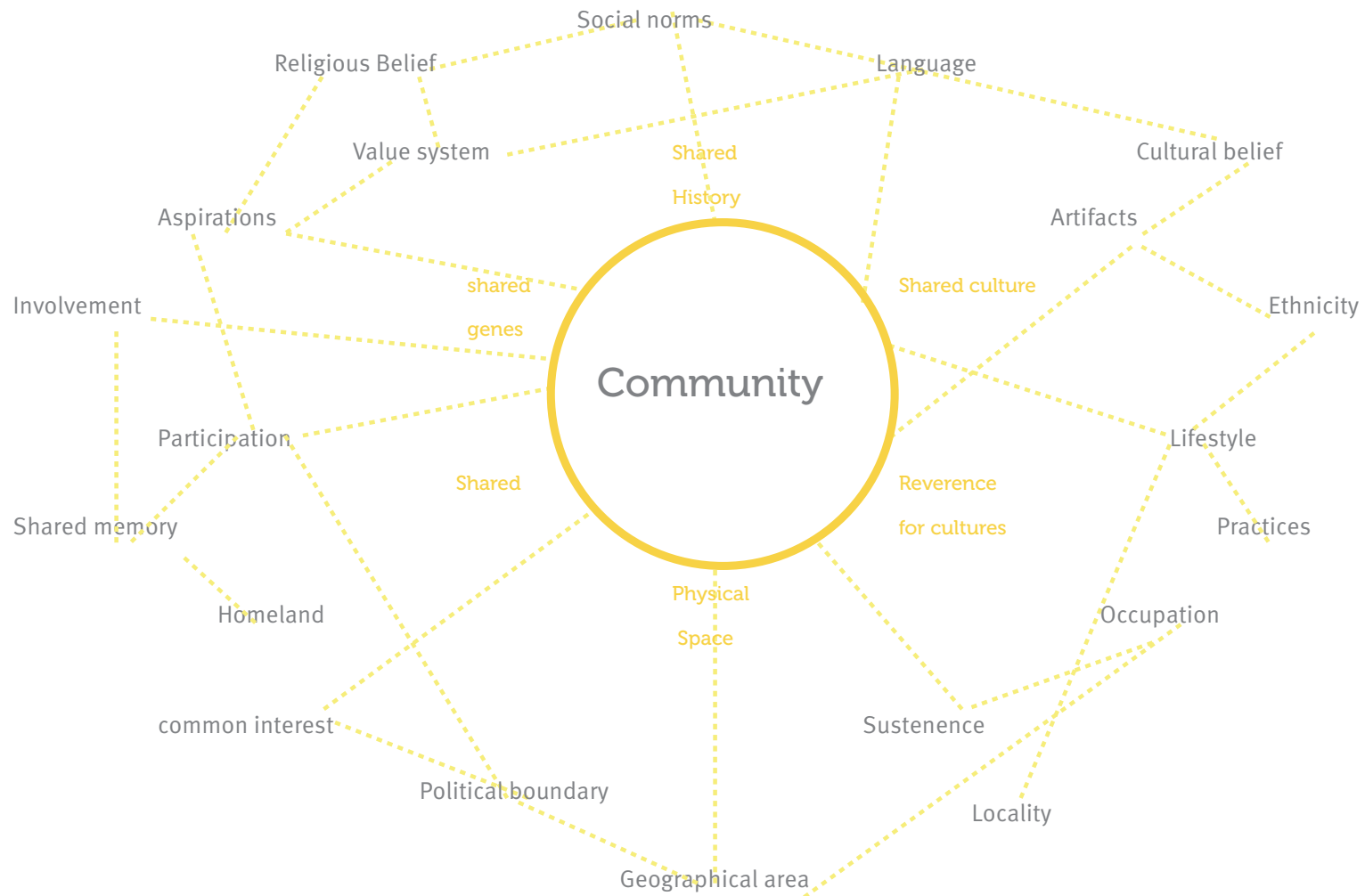
**SOCIAL MEDIA FOR
DISAPPEARING
COMMUNITIES**

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Prof. Ravi Poovaiah
Dr. Ajanta Sen

Co- Guide:
Dr. Natalie Pang
Dr. Schubert Foo

Theory of Community



Theory of Community

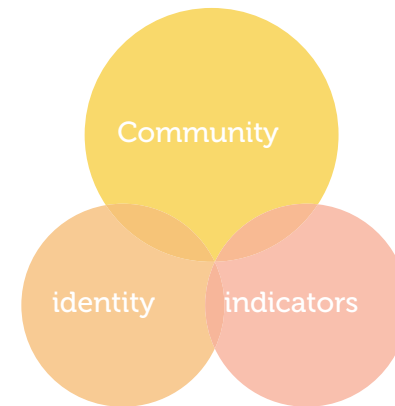


Research Outline

Study Framework

- To get overall idea about communities in India
- Created a structure by dividing community into three parts

1. Introduction of community
2. Identity of community
3. Indicators for community



KOLI (MUMBAI)

The Kolis-fisherfolk-of Mumbai are a distinct community. In Their dress, their language, their food and their lifestyle they are easily distinguishable.



BOUNDARY

REGION Sassoon Dock, Varsova, Worli, Mumbai, Thane
STATE Maharashtra

ORIGIN

SIGNIFICANCE

LIVELIHOOD Fishing,

INVOLVEMENT

MALE

FEMALE

GROUP

PROBLEMS / FORCES

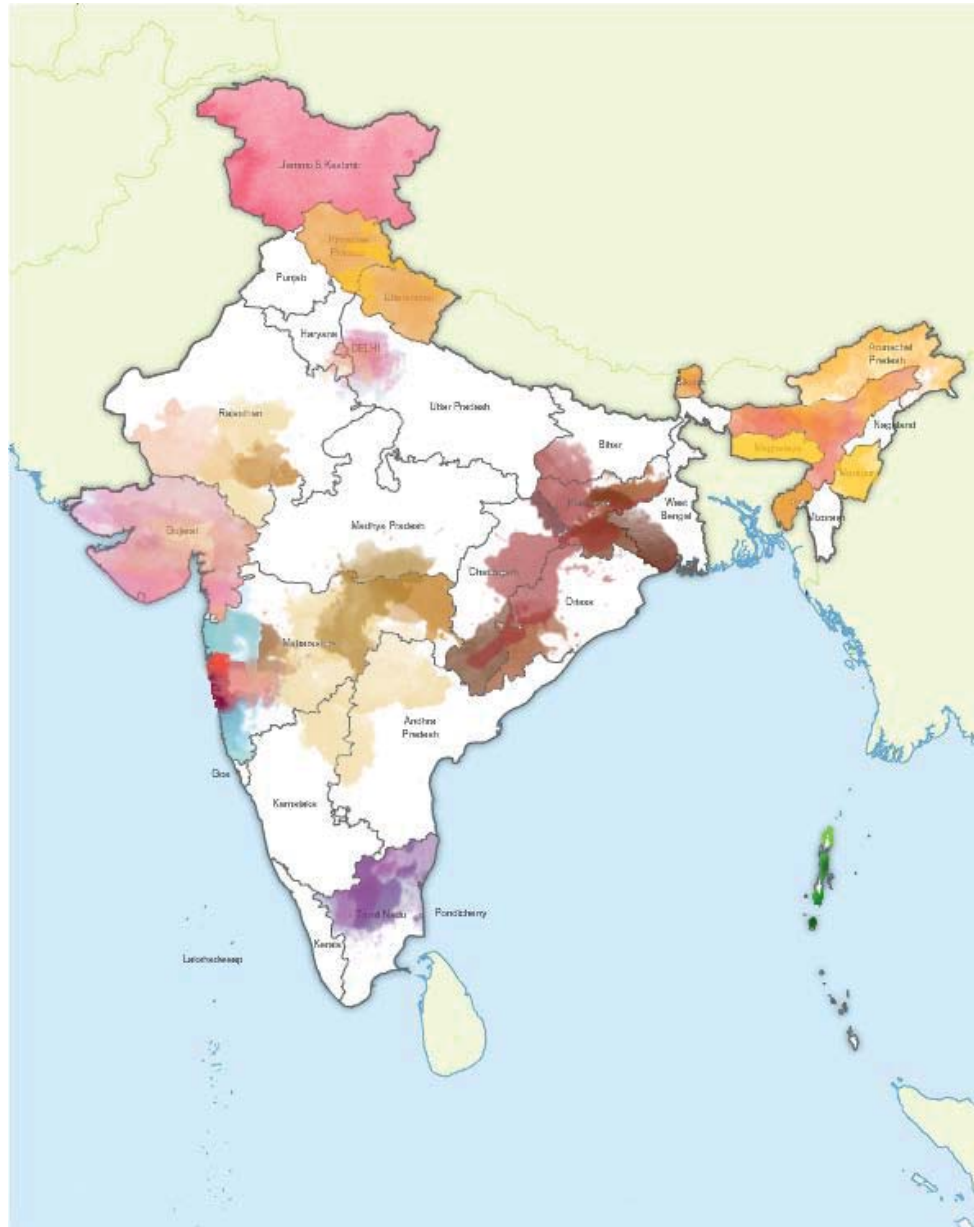
They are struggling to maintain their occupation and lifestyle amidst the urban chaos. The infrastructure in and around Mumbai improved, bringing in further competition from outside. This increased competition for the Kolis of Mumbai in general and the Kolis of Worli in particular – both of whom continued to depend on fishing as a major source of employment and income.

CONSTRAINTS

The Kolis around Mumbai and specifically in Worli are at a crossroads. They have changed their tribal affiliations, their worship and their occupation to adjust to the changing times, increased competition and new technologies.

PRESERVATION METHODS

Ground Research India



Disappearing Communities In India

Western coast line

- Katkari
- Phase Pardhi
- Warali
- Bhil
- Parasi
- East Indian
- Koli
- Bene Israel
- Khotachi wadi

Desert

- Banjara
- Meena

South eastern

- Todas
- Irulas

Central & eastern forest

- Birhor
- Oraon
- Bonda
- Toto
- Abhuj Maris
- Munda

North East (Himalaya)

- Bodo
- Khasi
- Bhotia
- Sahni
- Kashmiri Pandit
- Lepcha

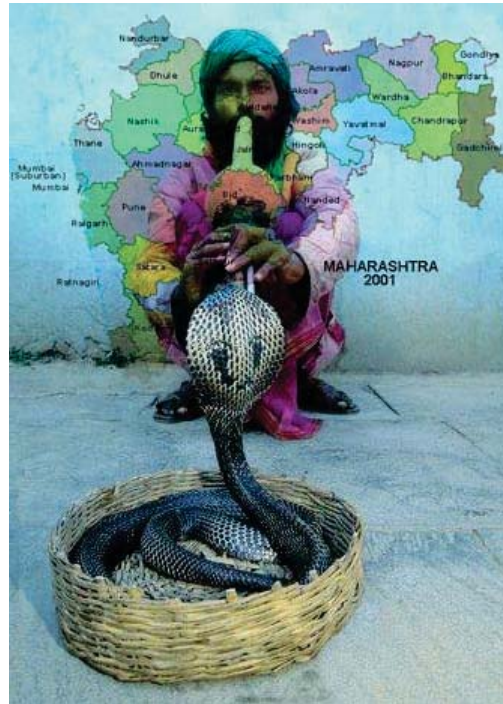
Island

- Jarwa
- Onge
- Sentinelese
- Great Andamanese

Selection of community



Folk communities of Maharashtra



Snake Charmers of India



Bene Israel of India



BENE ISRAEL

"Children of Israel"
(Indian Jewish Community)





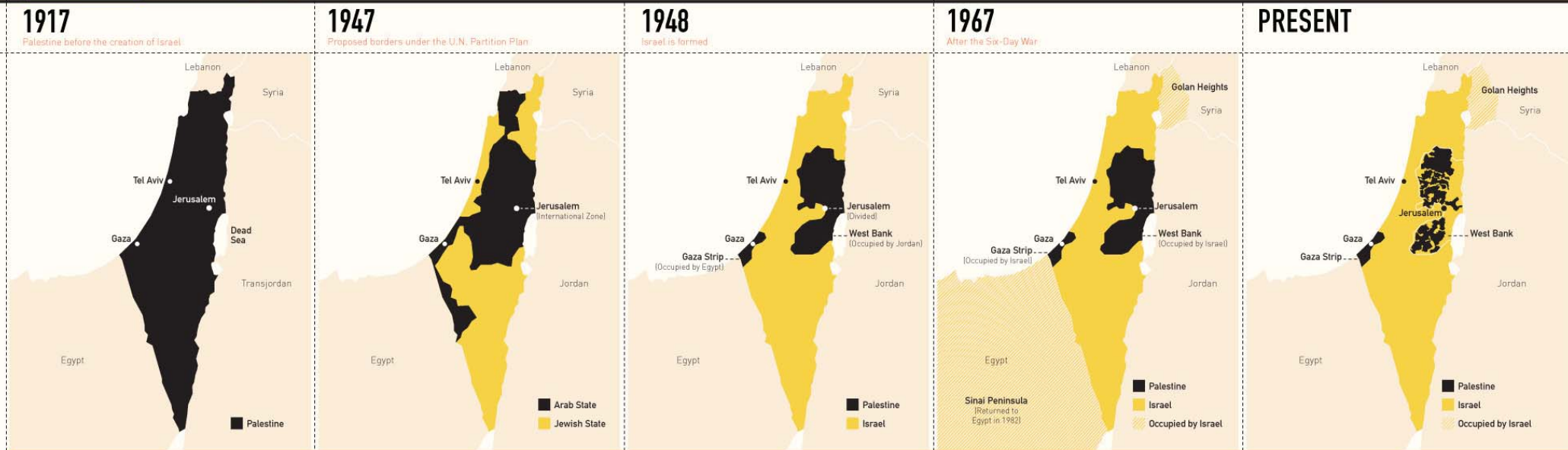


Bene Israel Of India





INTRODUCTION



A BRIEF HISTORY OF HOW THE BORDERS CAME TO BE

1897

The World Zionist Organization is created to advocate for the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

1917

The Balfour Declaration: British Foreign Secretary James Balfour approves the creation of a national homeland for Jews in Palestine.

1947

U.N. Partition Plan: The U.N. successfully passes a plan to separate western Palestine into two states. Jewish leaders accept the proposal while Palestinian Arab leaders reject it, prompting riots.

1948-1949

Arab-Israeli War: The Jewish community declares itself independent in the new state of Israel. War breaks out between Israelis and forces from nearby Arab nations.

February-July 1949

Israel and the Arab states agree to an armistice that results in Israel controlling 78 percent of Palestine. The U.N. estimates that more than 700,000 Palestinian Arabs become refugees during this period.

1967

Six-Day War: Using air, sea, and ground combat, Israel captures the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt and Golan Heights from Syria. Although the Israeli Army does not annex the West Bank of Jordan, it begins to occupy the region.

1982

Israel returns Sinai to Egypt and the two countries sign a peace treaty, making Egypt the first Arab nation to officially recognize Israel as a state.

1987-1993

First Intifada: Palestinians begin a mass uprising in Gaza. Civil disobedience and riots soon spread to the West Bank.

1993-1995

The Oslo Accords: Palestine and Israel sign the Declaration of Principles, in which both nations seek recognition as autonomous governing bodies. The West Bank is split into three zones: One fully controlled by Palestinian Authority; one that's joint-controlled; and one that stays in Israeli hands.

2000

Camp David Summit: The Israeli Army withdraws from Lebanon. The Camp David Summit aims to help the two sides finally agree on a settlement; the talks eventually fail and the violence leads to The Second Intifada (2000-05).

April 2003

Road Map for Peace: The European Union, U.N., U.S., and Russia release a road map, which outlines a clear timetable toward a Palestinian state.

2005

Gaza Expulsion Plan: Israel's defense forces leave the Gaza Strip and four settlements in the northern West Bank as part of a unilateral disengagement plan.

September 2011

Palestine submits a bid to the U.N. for statehood and membership.



ISRAEL: GEOGRAPHY



[b]

[b] http://imedia.io/illustrations/Middle_East-1.png

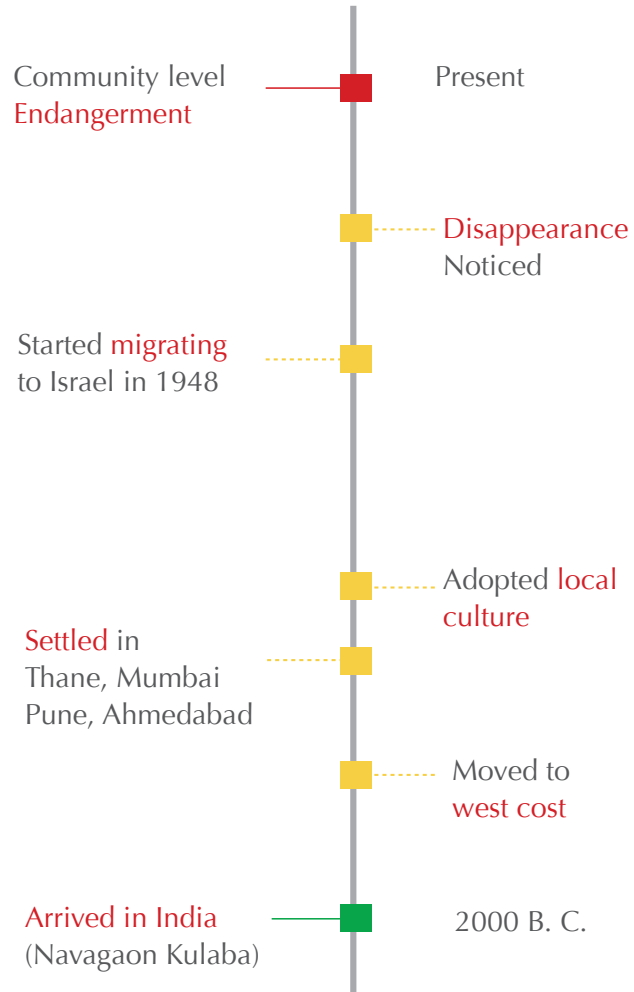


INDIA: GEOGRAPHY





TIMELINE



*"India is the only country in the world,
in which through centuries Jews have
dwelt in complete security and have been
accorded an honorable place in the social
structure of the land."* ^[1]

By Benjamin J. Israel

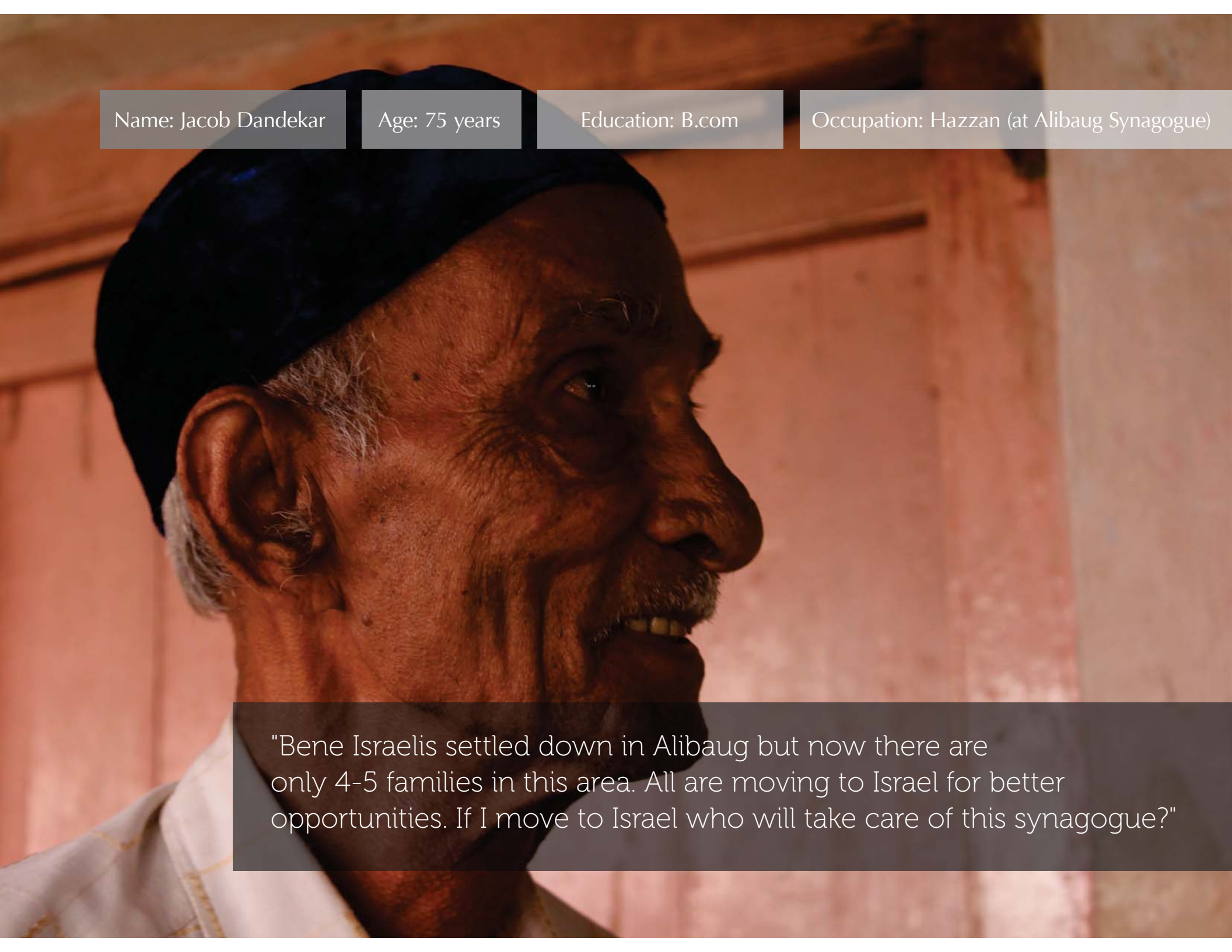


[1] Benjamin I, "Bene Israel of India" (1983) Sangam Books, ISBN: 0 86131 455 7



USER STUDY





Name: Jacob Dandekar

Age: 75 years

Education: B.com

Occupation: Hazzan (at Alibaug Synagogue)

"Bene Israelis settled down in Alibaug but now there are only 4-5 families in this area. All are moving to Israel for better opportunities. If I move to Israel who will take care of this synagogue?"



Name: Moses Penkar

Age: 65 years

Education: B.com

Occupation: Working in Synagogue

"For Bene Israelis synagogue is the place of social gathering. All prayers, marriages, malida and religious functions happen in synagogues. Thus synagogues play a critical role for bonding in our community."



Name: Mary Deshpande

Age: 79 years

Education: B.com

Occupation: Housewife

"In those days I married a Deshpande and now I am following both cultures. My all siblings are in Israel but India is my motherland and Israel is fatherland, thus I want to stay here only."

A man with a dark beard and glasses, wearing a black kippah with a gold pattern, is shown in profile, looking out through a chain-link fence. The background is slightly blurred, showing some greenery and a building. The man is wearing a light-colored shirt.

Name: Sharon Galsurkar

Age: 34 years

Education: MA

Occupation: Jewish Educator

"New generation is not interested in preserving our identity. They are unaware of Judaism and other core values of the Jewish community. Proper knowledge of Jewish customs is lacking in this generation."

A man with dark hair, a mustache, and glasses is seated, wearing a bright pink polo shirt. He is looking down at an open book on his lap. His right hand is resting on the book's pages. The background shows a domestic interior with a table covered in a red cloth and various household items. A semi-transparent grey bar at the top of the image contains personal information.

Name: Mayer Moses

Age: 42 years

Education: MSc

Occupation: Working

"After establishment of Israel my all cousins migrated to Israel. Now a days because of technology like facebook & email we are connected with each other. But I am worried about the rapid disappearance of our community from India. We should do all we can to preserve our identity."





CULTURAL IDENTITY

- Bene Israel adopted Maharashtrian culture
- Influence of Marathi, Konkani neighbors
- Mumbai, Thane, Pune, Ahmedabad
- Marathi speaking Jewish ethnic group
- Dress in Marathi fashion (sari)
- Their language changes region wise
- Typical Maharashtrian cuisine
- Do not work on Saturday
- Their surnames are Interesting
eg, Penkar, Kihimkar



HISTORY





DAILY LIFE & FOOD



[e] <http://images.lightstalkers.org/images/12456>



SURNAME

लाजाबाई मोजस बामनोलकरा
यांजकडून त्यांची कन्या मेरीबाई यांच्या नसे
शोन शालोम बोरघरकर यांजकडून त्यांचे नाव
बृद्ध इसहाक शालोम नौगांवकर, फैरण यांच्या स्म
याबाई मोजस उमडेकरा यांजकडून स्व
यांजकडून त्यांच्या स्म



COSTUMES





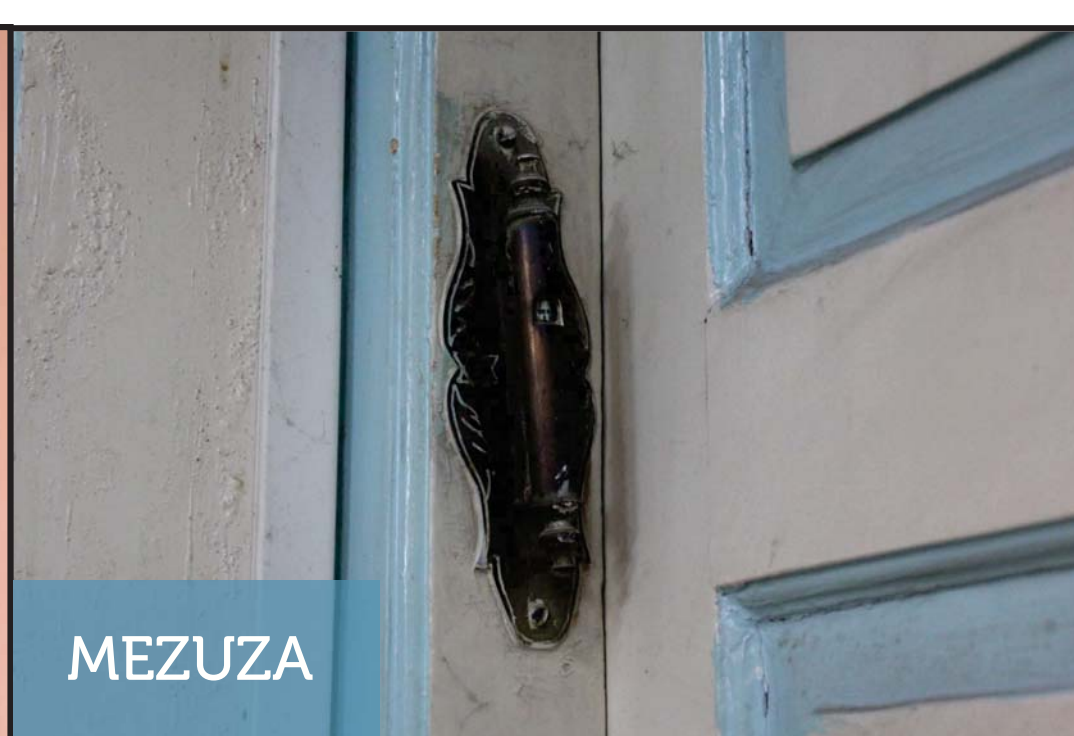
ARTIFACTS





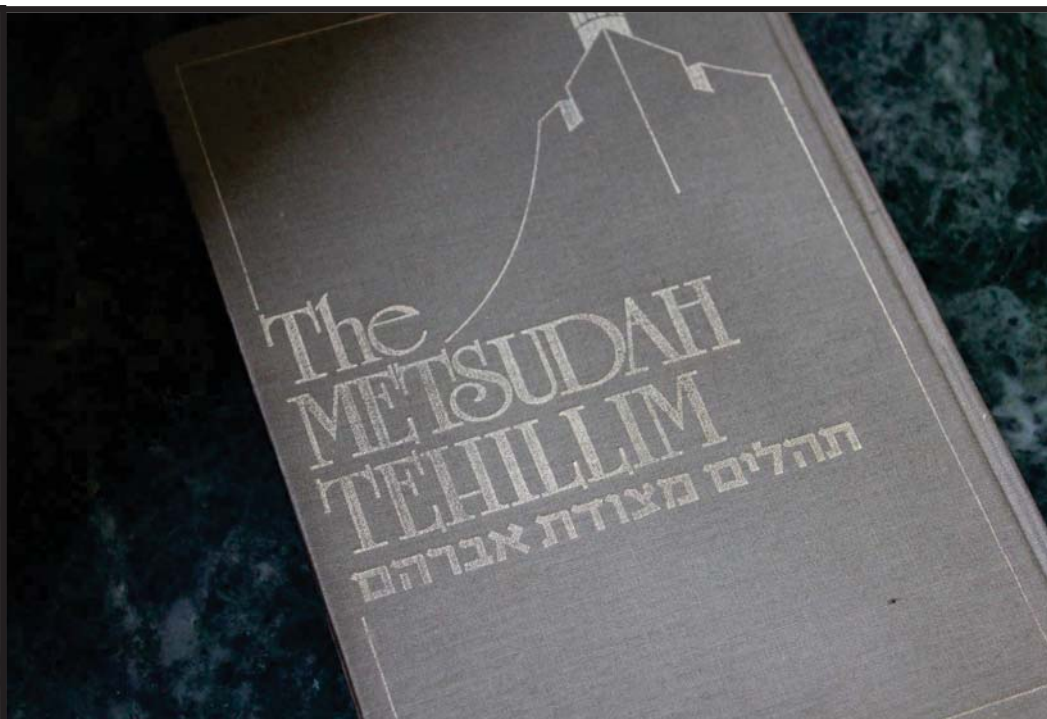
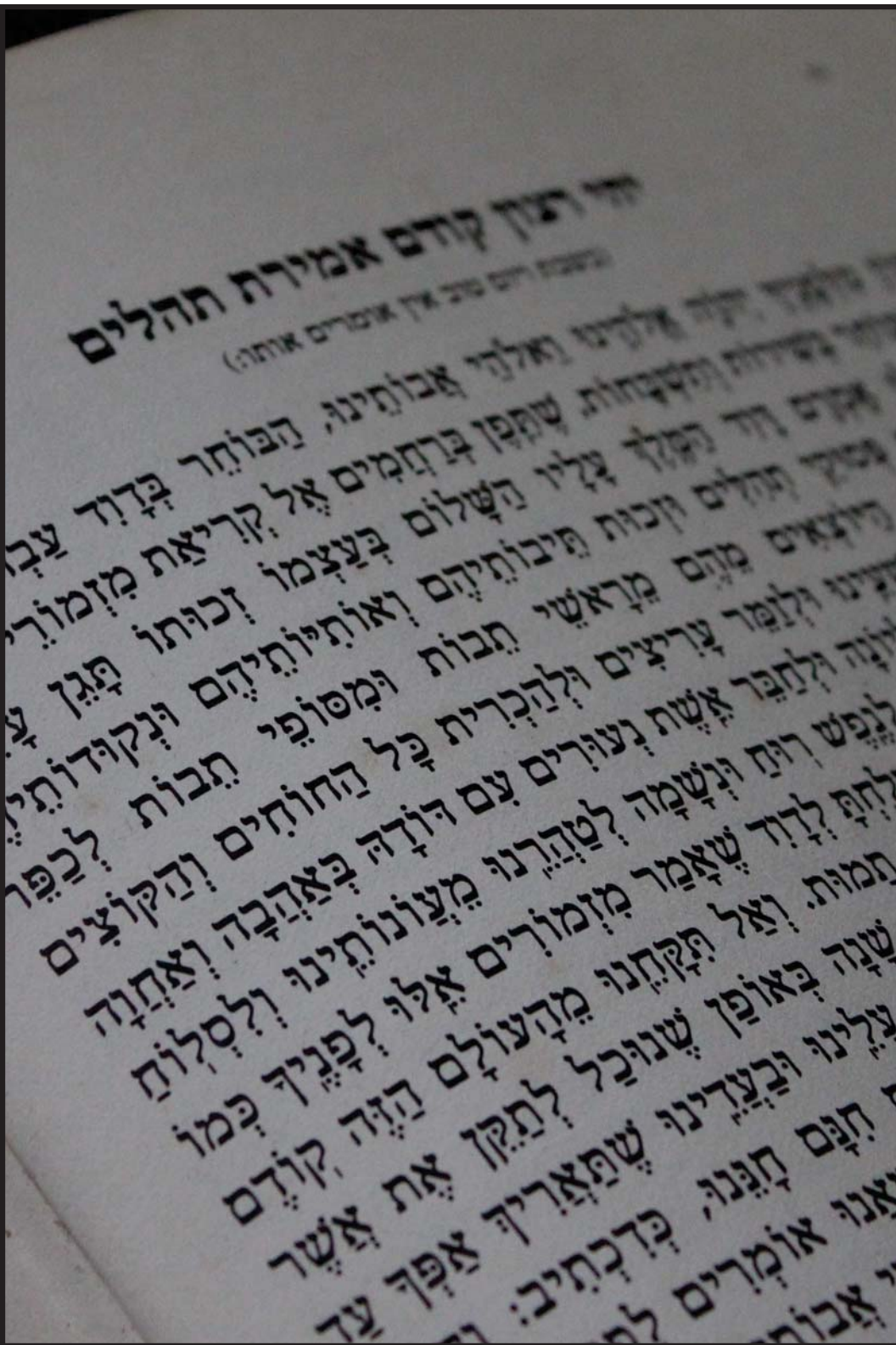
TORAH SCROLL



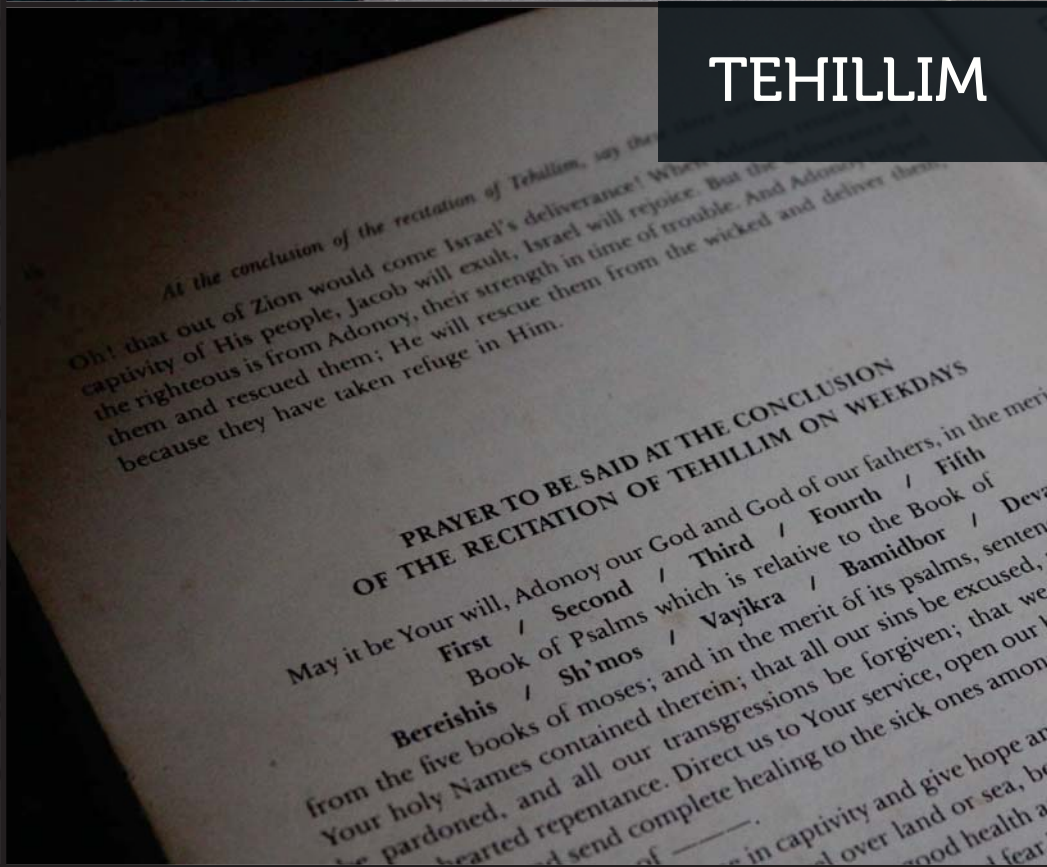


MEZUZA





TEHILLIM





SYNAGOGUE

- Synagogues in India
- Structure of Synagogue
- Special Features
- Rituals
- Community Centre

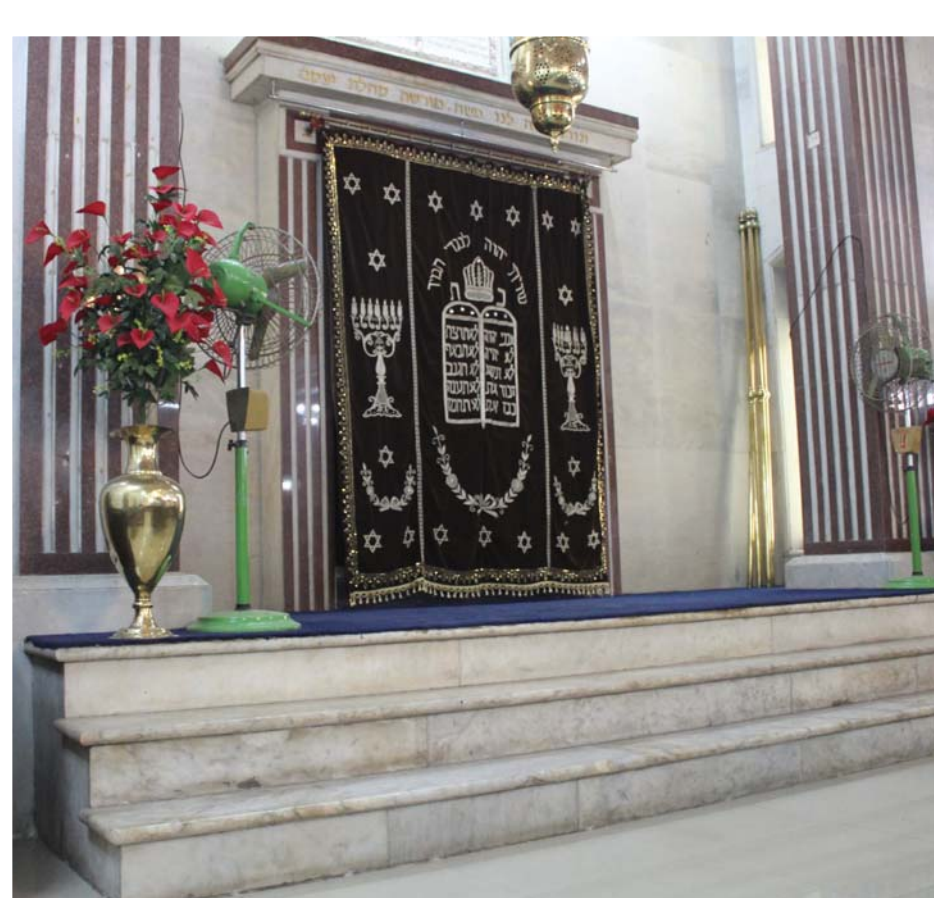




SYNAGOGUE

- Synagogues in India
- Structure of Synagogue
- Special Features
- Rituals
- Community Centre







MIGRATION

- India is Motherland, Israel is Fatherland
- Started to migrate in 1948
- Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru plays important role
- Settled in Israel
- Preserved Indian culture



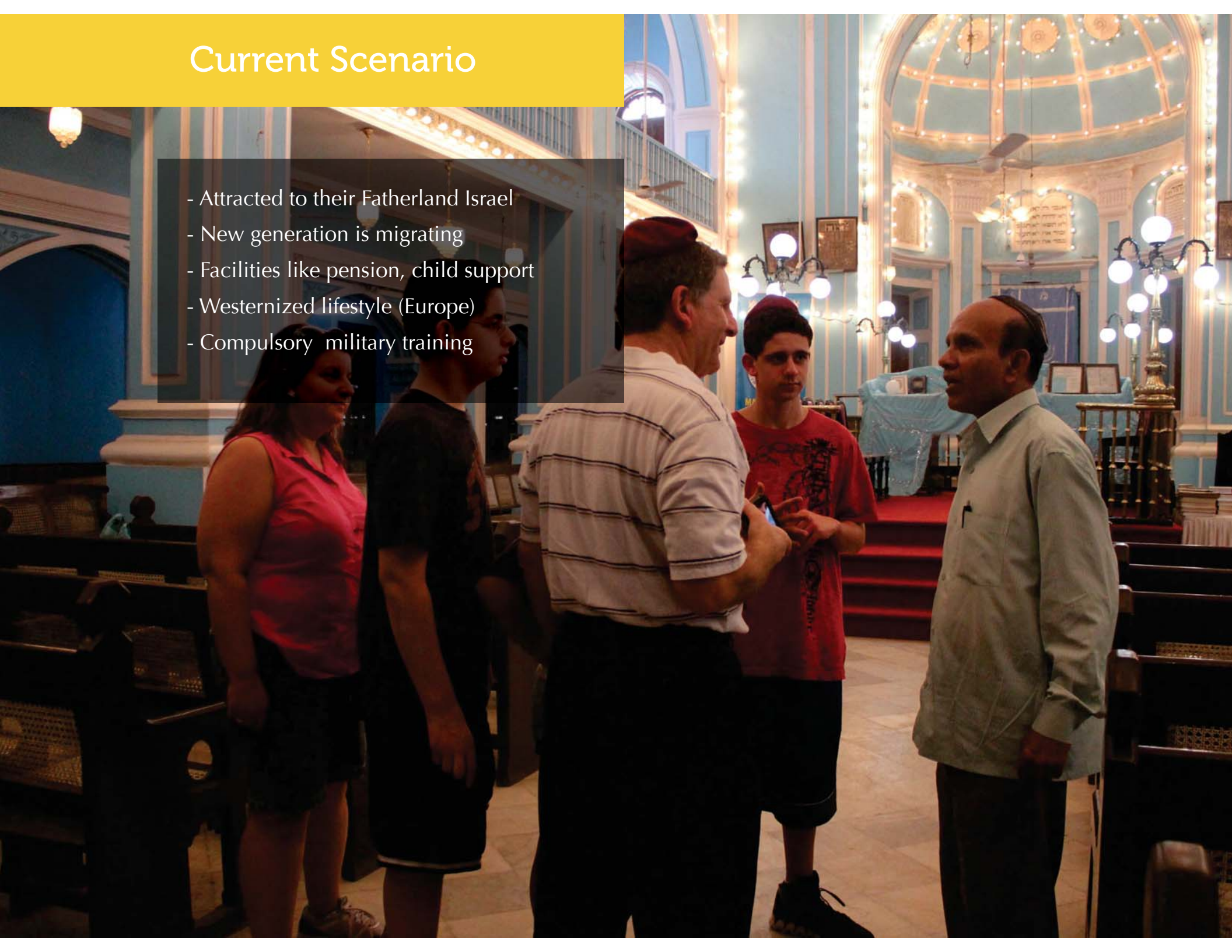
LIFE IN ISRAEL

- Maintained their distinct ethnic identity
- Follow Indian as well as Israeli rituals
- Often speak Marathi
- Listen to Indian Music, watch Indian Films
- Bene Israeli settlements in Israel
- Maayboli- Crowd sourced magazine
- Preserved Indian/ Maharashtrian culture



Current Scenario

- Attracted to their Fatherland Israel
- New generation is migrating
- Facilities like pension, child support
- Westernized lifestyle (Europe)
- Compulsory military training





EXISTING SOCIAL MEDIA

- Old forms of social media have changed
- Newer generations are not as active as the older generations
- They have shifted to newer types of social media like email, blogs, magazines, facebook, films, music etc.
- They are ready to adopt new ways for their community development
- Two organizations currently running actively





For JEWISH Youth
18 - 26 yrs old
CONTACT: ORT (INDIA)
24962350/
24962423
ortjewedu
@yahoo.co

TAGLIT · תגלית
birthright israel
www.birthrightisrael.com



אל אליהו
Eliyahoo Hanabee

המסורת המוסיקלית של קהילת בני ישראל, כומביי
The Musical Tradition of the Bene Israel of Bombay

NEXT YEAR IN BOMBAY
A FILM BY JONAS PARIENTÉ & MATHIAS MANGIN

FOR 2000 YEARS
THEY HAVE BEEN BOTH INDIAN AND JEWISH.
WHAT IF THEY HAD TO CHOOSE?

[j] http://ecx.images-amazon.com/images/I/6199HGS3ZCL._SS500_.jpg
[i] http://www.nextyearinbombay.com:80/english#!__english/gallery/photostackergallery0=0



ASIAN JEWISH LIFE

A JOURNAL OF SPIRIT, SOCIETY AND CULTURE

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Monthly magazine

COVER STORY: A Photo Essay
Growing Up Jewish in India
by Meirah Bhastekar & Richard Lord

All photos in this article and the photo on the cover are © Richard Lord/courtesy of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Com

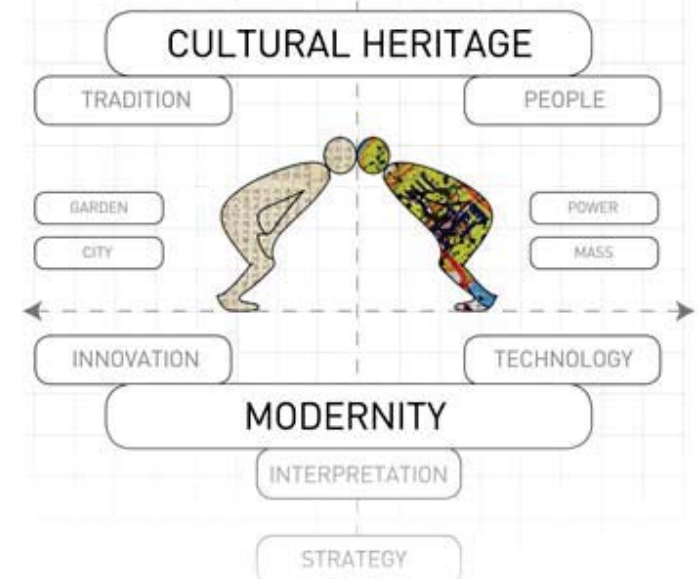


[k] http://asianjewishlife.org/pages/articles/autumn2010/AJL_CoverStory_Growing-Up-Jewish_India.html

ASIAN JEWISH LIFE

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ISSUE 7 (SEPT 2011)



When Past and Present Collide
Reshaping the future of the historic Shanghai Ghetto
From Kaifeng to the Kotel
A Chinese rabbi in the making

Cover image: From the Shanghai Ghetto Project, design by Erez Gross & Dori Sadan



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It is a startling reaction that I often face whenever I meet someone outside India who is confused or

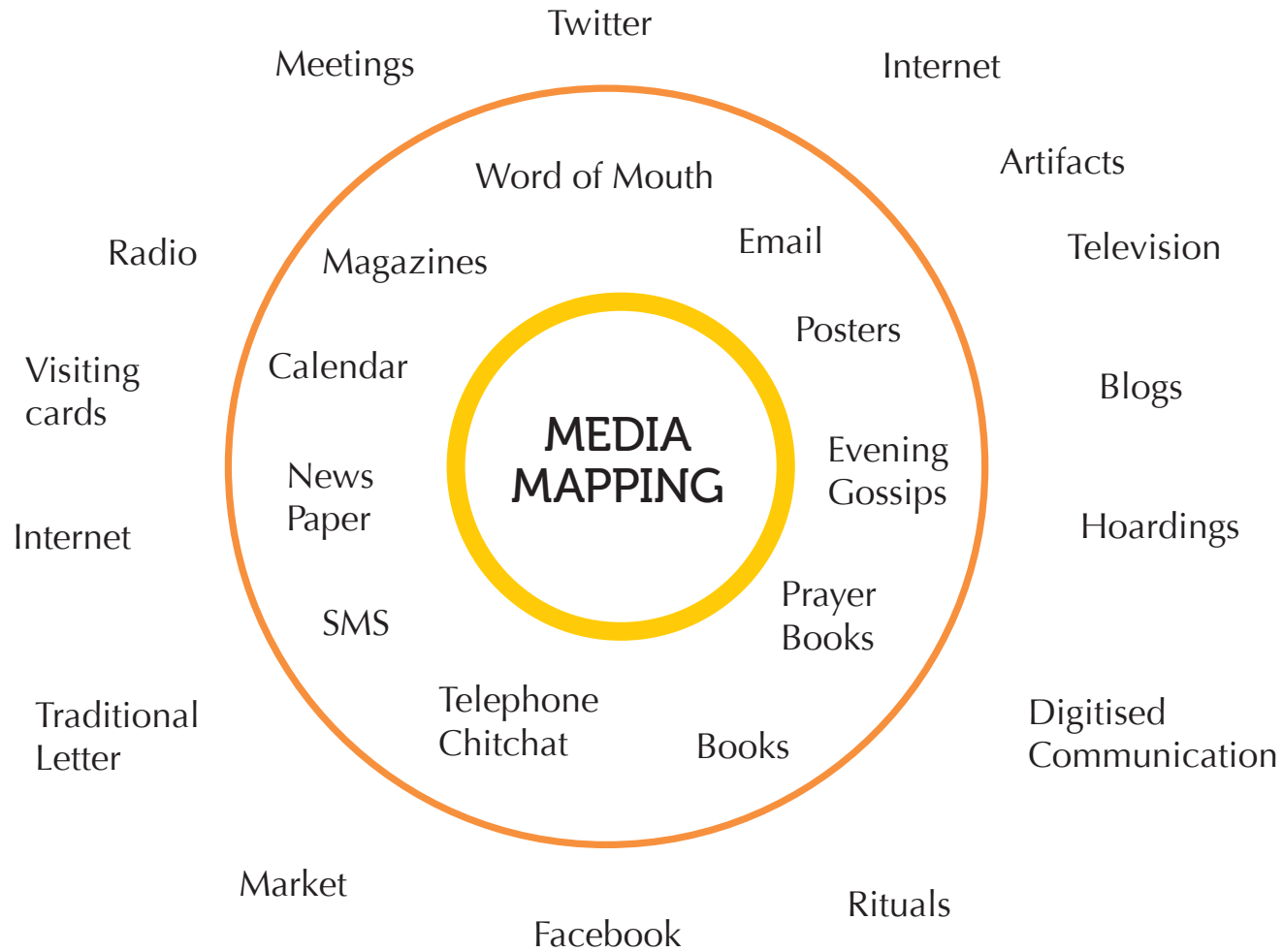


SOCIAL SPACE





MEDIA MAPPING





OBSERVATIONS

- Marathi is their mother tongue and Marathi culture is an essential part of their lifestyle
- Immense respect for India, faithful to Jewish religion
- Contemporary thoughts & promote inter-caste marriage
- They do not work on Saturday, eat strictly Kosher food
- Every home of Bene Israel 'mesuza' have a special place
- Bene Israelis meet each other at synagogue every Friday
- All they are educated and use latest technology
- Bene Israel In Israel are still attached to India, thus they come here in holidays
- In Israel also they have still maintained their distinct identity and still worship in Bene Israel synagogues
- Old generation is worried about their disappearance
- Young people are not keen on preserving their distinct cultural identity.
- Recent terrorist activities have included Jews as a target



PROBLEMS

- The main problem is voluntary migration to Israel
- This decrease number of their population is dwindling their age old community
- No strong connection between members within India
- Old generations in India are worried because their children are in Israel leading to constant unhappiness
- Because of less population synagogues are also facing crisis situations
- Some synagogues are now in very bad condition
- India don't have any Jewish law for their matters
(Like Hindu / Muslim law for wedding, etc)
- Little or no Jewish education in the Bene Israeli youth today
- New generation is not aware / does not care about their distinct identity
- No form of active social media exists in spite of technological development



NEED FOR PRESERVATION

- New generation is migrating to Israel
- No one forcing them
- Current Population is 5,000
- Losing Identity
- Almost certain of disappearing in the next 10 years
- Affecting cultural identity of India
- Need for social media

“Bene Israel is the community which was and is living in India, but in coming years it will completely vanish from here.”





WISH WE HAD

- I wish our newer generation would preserve our cultural identity.
- I wish the young people followed our age-old rituals and customs.
- I wish all Bene Isrealis would maintain a strong relationship and bonding.
- I wish there would be a Jewish Centre which will help preserve and create awareness about our age old community.
- I wish all Bene Israelis took an interest in the Bene Israeli activities.
- I wish the newer generation took initiatives to open some centres or groups to link all Bene Israelis together.
- I wish there was a social group which can took responsibility of all our social get-togethers/ meetings, etc.



DIRECTIONS

How to achieve the aim?

- Indirectly help Bene Israelis by creating awareness about them
- To engage in active preservation methods to protect their dying identity
- Essential need of proper communication
- To discuss the current news, issues etc. related to their own community
- Need of social platform to share, to connect , to interact

Design directions emerging from the study so far:

- (1) Awareness, and
- (2) Communication



INITIAL IDEAS

- Weekly publication in Israel & India
- Educational program for young people
- Crowd sourced Magazine
- Jewish Cultural Tour
- Visual Documentation (book)
- Traveling Exhibition
- Community Social Media Network
- Online Resource Bank
- Interactive Mobile Based Application
- Experience Bene Israel
- Interactive Reinterpretation of Cultural Artifacts
- Interactive Kiosk for synagogue



CONCEPT 1

TRAVELING EXHIBITION

Context & Scope

- Exhibitions have long been at the forefront of dispersing historical and current information amongst communities
- Open the knowledge to a much larger audience across locations
- Basic form of community social media
- Immense potential as the common man is hardly even aware of the existence of such a Jewish community in India
- Help foster greater acceptance and respect for the community
- Engage people to participate in active community preservation methods
- Help gather monetary support to conserve the landmarks of Jewish culture in India

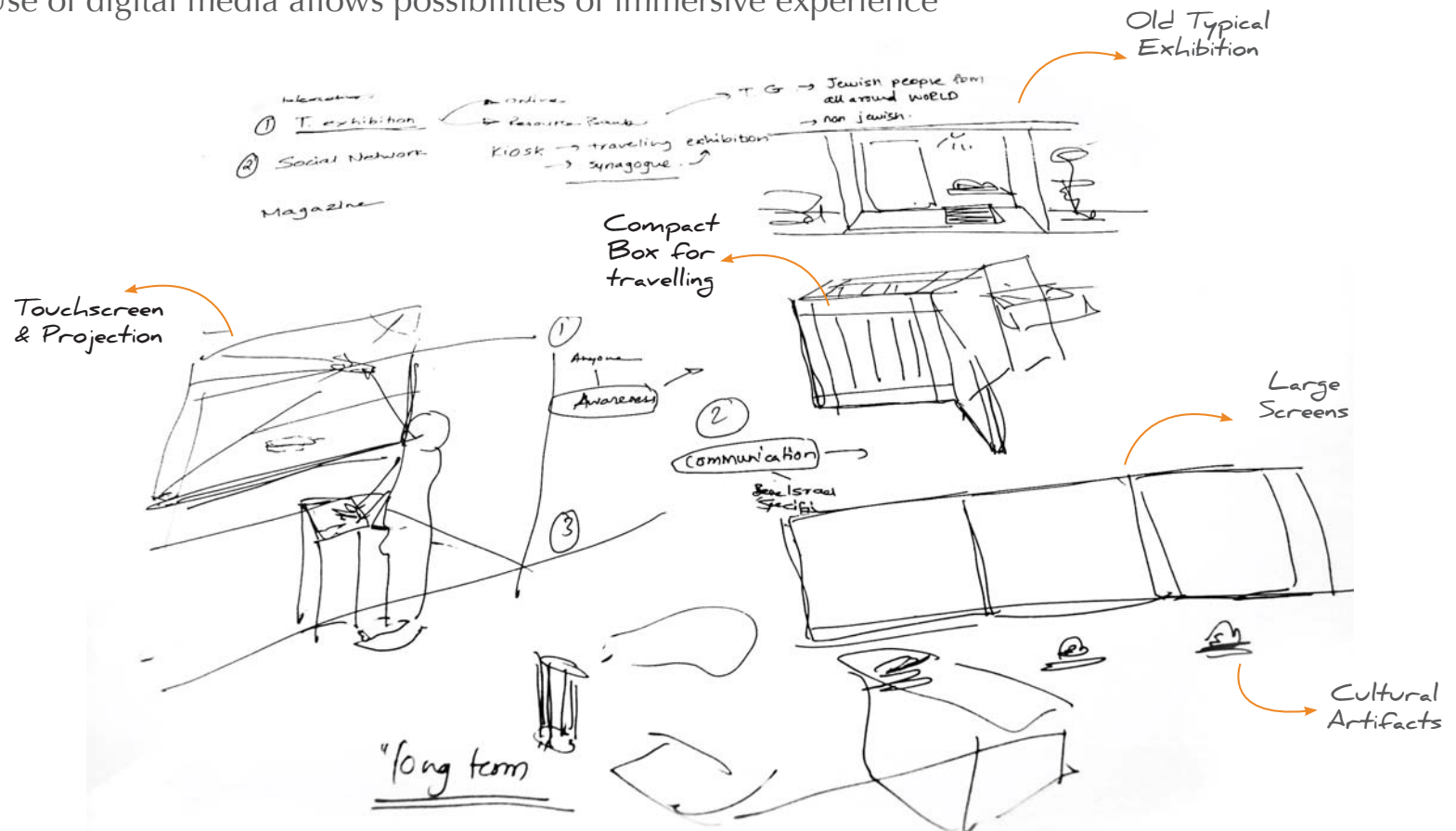


CONCEPT 1

TRAVELING EXHIBITION

Possible Execution:

- Use of print media and screen media (posters + projection / touchscreens), it is possible to design an interactive experience
- Use of digital media allows possibilities of immersive experience





CONCEPT 2

COMMUNITY SOCIAL NETWORK THROUGH SYNAGOGUES

Context & Scope

- At first Bene Israel community was entirely based in India
- Most of them have migrated to Israel
- Open to new technology & they are using it
- Express the need to keep in touch with their loved ones who might have migrated to Israel and vice-versa
- Consider India as a "Motherland" and Israel as "Fatherland"
- Connecting their motherland and fatherland.
- They want to connect with other Indian non-Jewish people

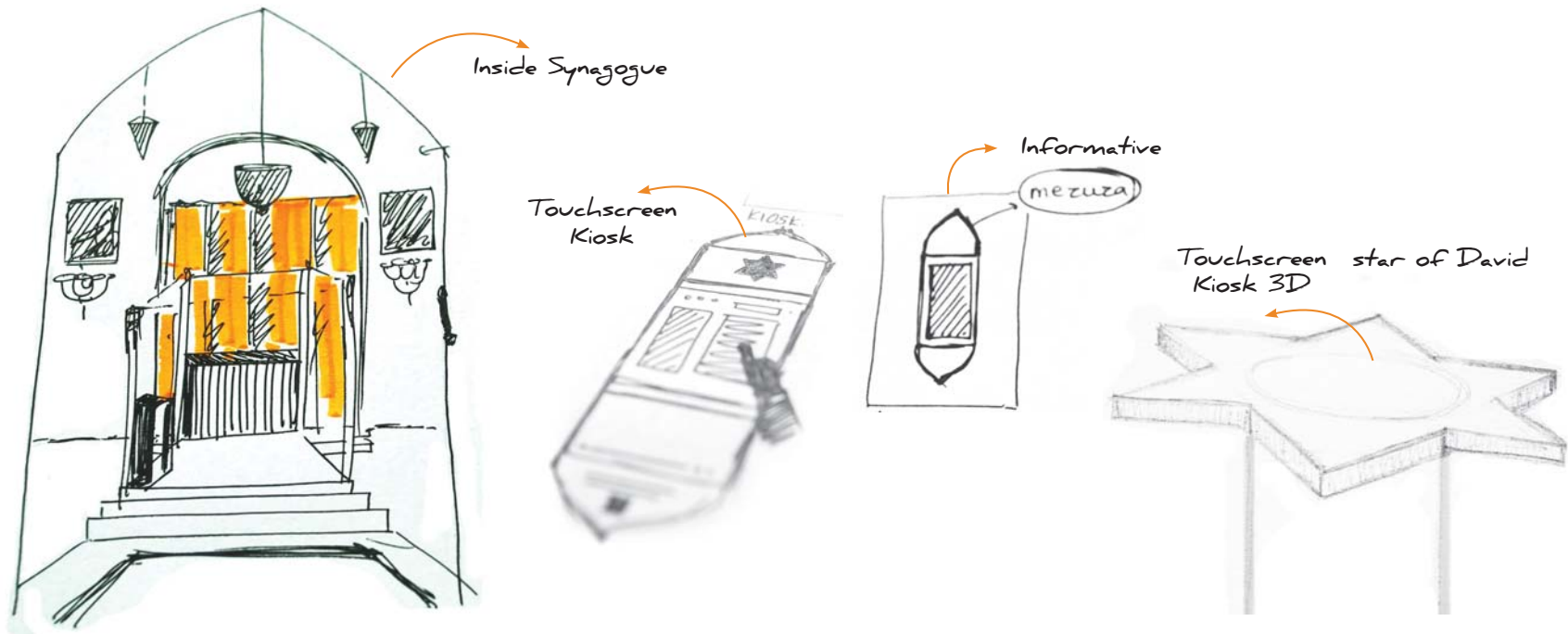


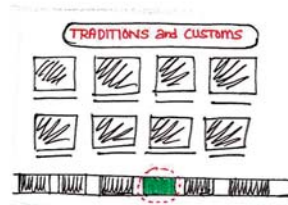
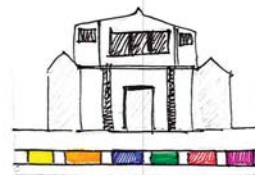
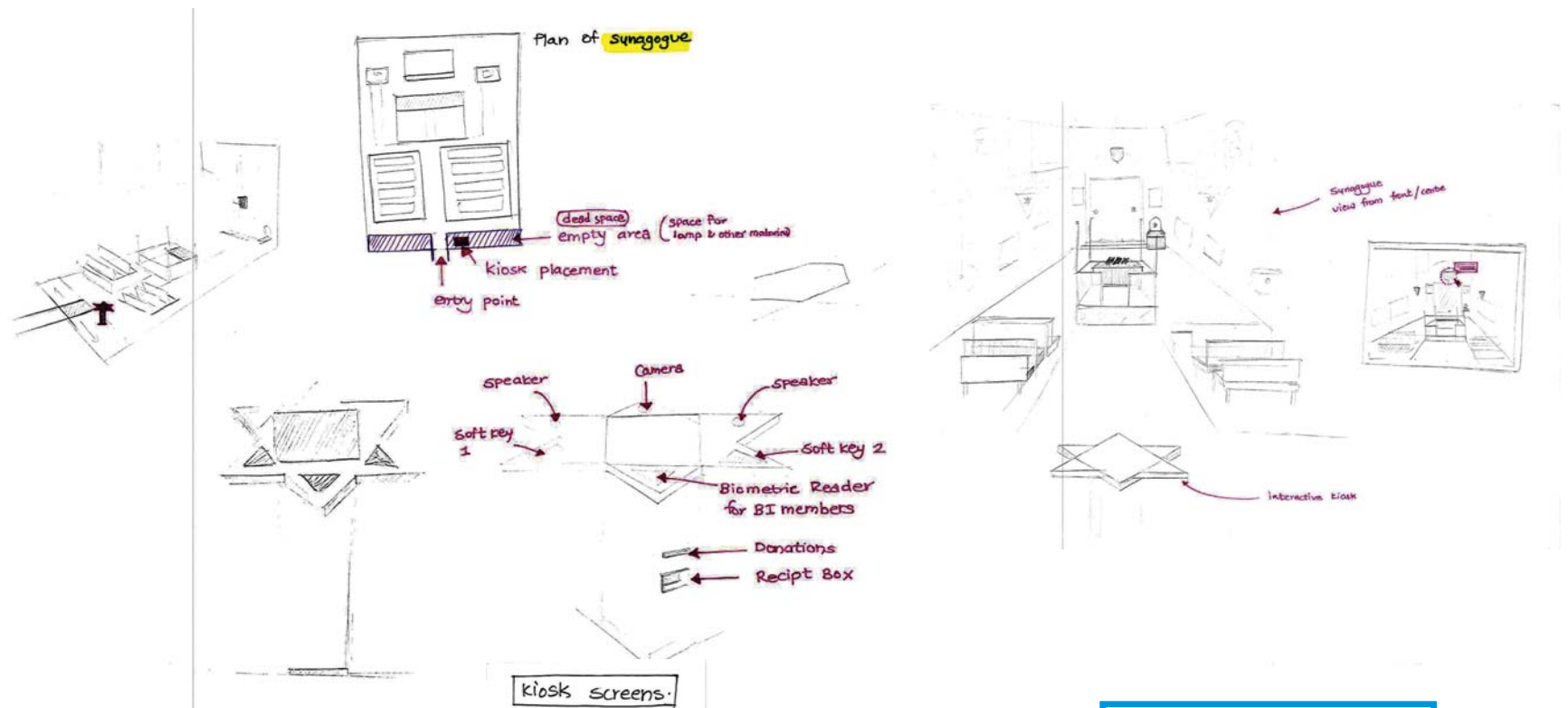
CONCEPT 2

COMMUNITY SOCIAL NETWORK THROUGH SYNAGOGUES

Possible Execution:

- Use of Using an interactive touchscreen kiosk in Synagogues
- Compile updates about the overall happenings and news in the Bene Israel community
- Bring back the attention of the new-generation of Bene Israel to visit synagogues
- Finding prospective brides and grooms within the community





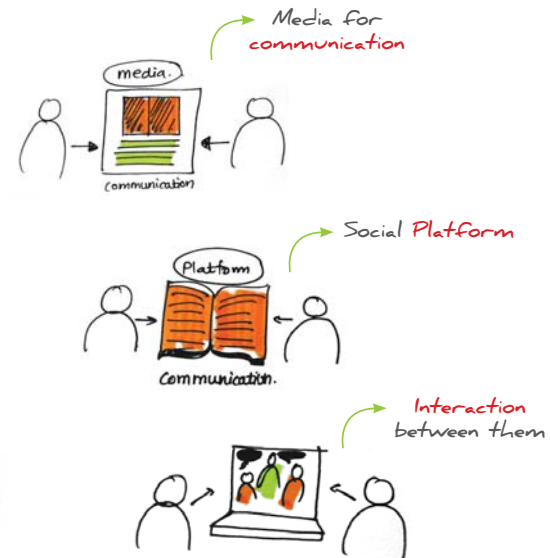
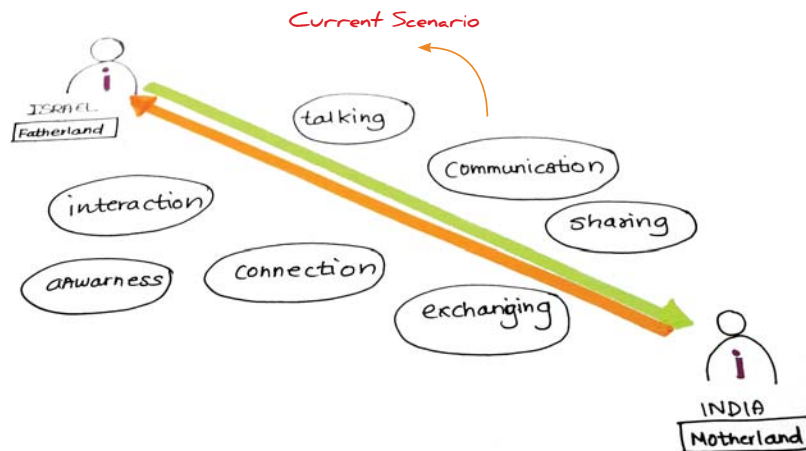


CONCEPT 3

MULTI-PLATFORM E-MAGAZINE

Context & Scope

- Dissociation of individual members across geography
- Most of them have migrated to Israel
- Families in India are also dispersing as the younger members go to newer places
- No longer able to connect with their community in traditional means
- Sense of belongingness gradually vanishes
- In past there have been magazines for community
- Slowly losing popularity in this digital world
- Need of online magazine which consolidates information from the social media streams and also photos, updates, articles from community members
- Include general articles related to Judaism and Bene Israel



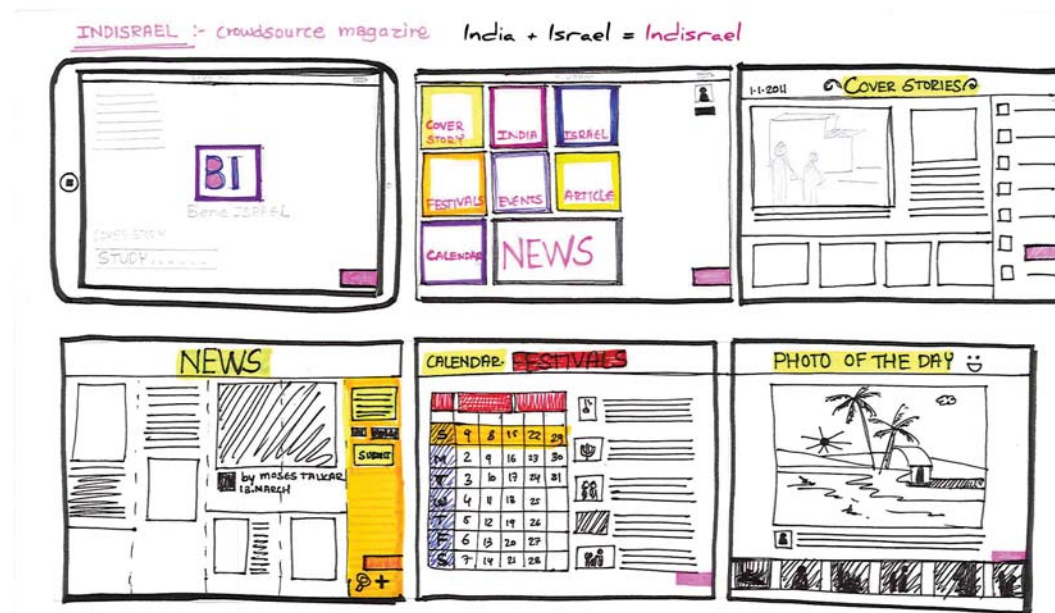


CONCEPT 3

MULTI-PLATFORM E-MAGAZINE

Possible Execution:

- To create a personal customizable magazine which would work for all users on their personal devices
- It should be designed for multiple platforms eg.computers, tablets, mobile devices.
- An online app aimed at consolidating community information.





AIM IS TO

AIM of the project?

Design a Social Media for
"Disappearing Community:
Bene Israel"

How to achieve it?

Problems
Solution

Main Problem

Migration:

90% are in Israel &
10% are in India



- losing their cultural identity
- No strong connection between themselves



Directions



- Creating Awareness
- Communication
- Education



AIM IS TO

Preserve remaining Bene Israelis in India

Create awareness in Bene Israelis from Israel (Experience Bene Israel)

Make a **strong connection/ maintain** a strong connection between India and Israel

Other people should know about their **unique cultural Identity**

Bene Israelis should maintain their identity as Indian Jews/ **Bene Israeli from India.**



AIM IS TO

Concept Finalization

Traveling Exhibition
for **Creating Awareness**

Community Social Network
through synagogues for
**Communication and Strong
Bonding**

**Online crowdsource e-magazine for
Communication and Interaction**



Indirect

+



Direct

+



Direct

Creating Awareness + **Preservation Methods** + **Interaction** + **Communication**

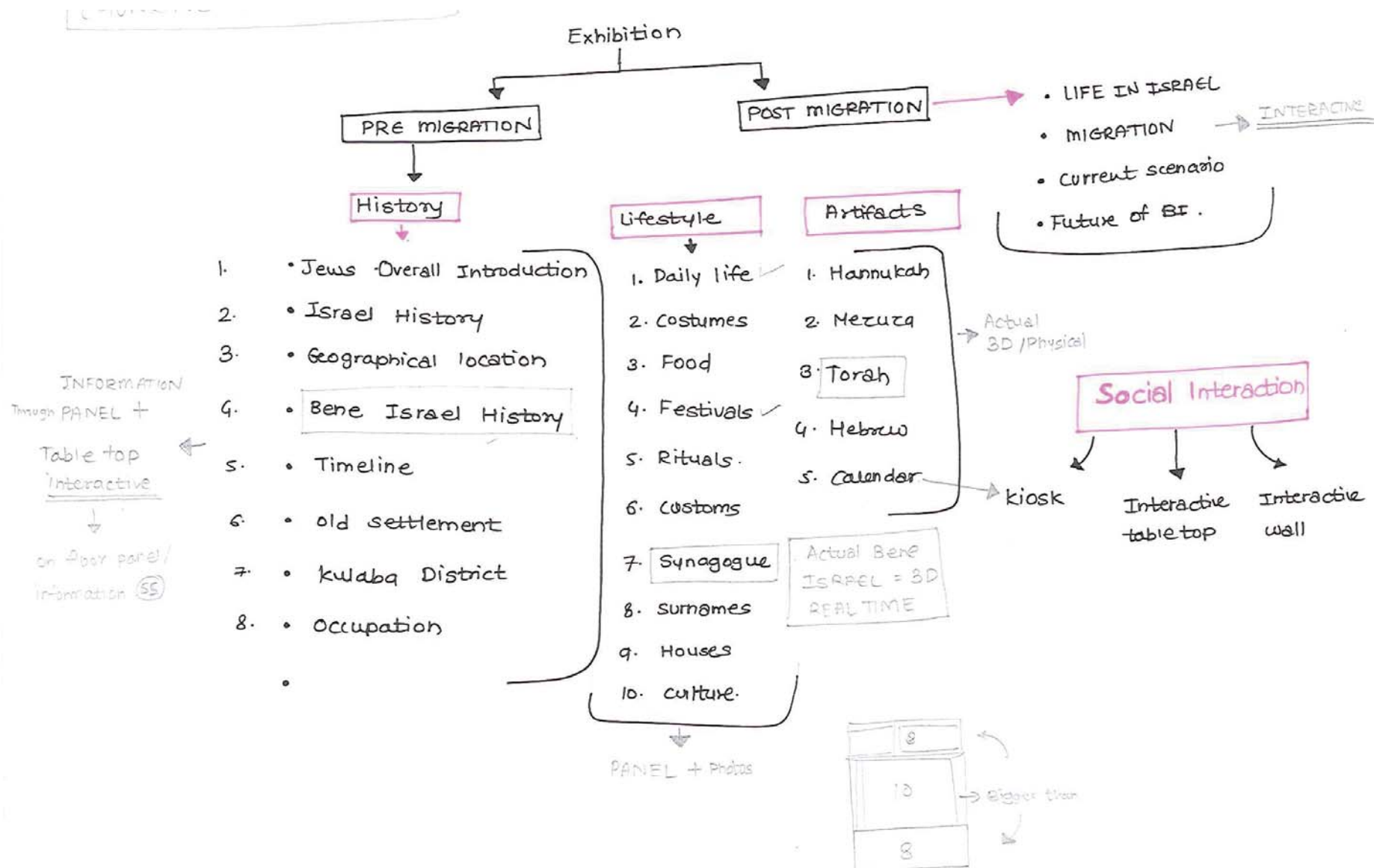
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Solution for Disappearing Bene Israel



CONCEPT DETAILING

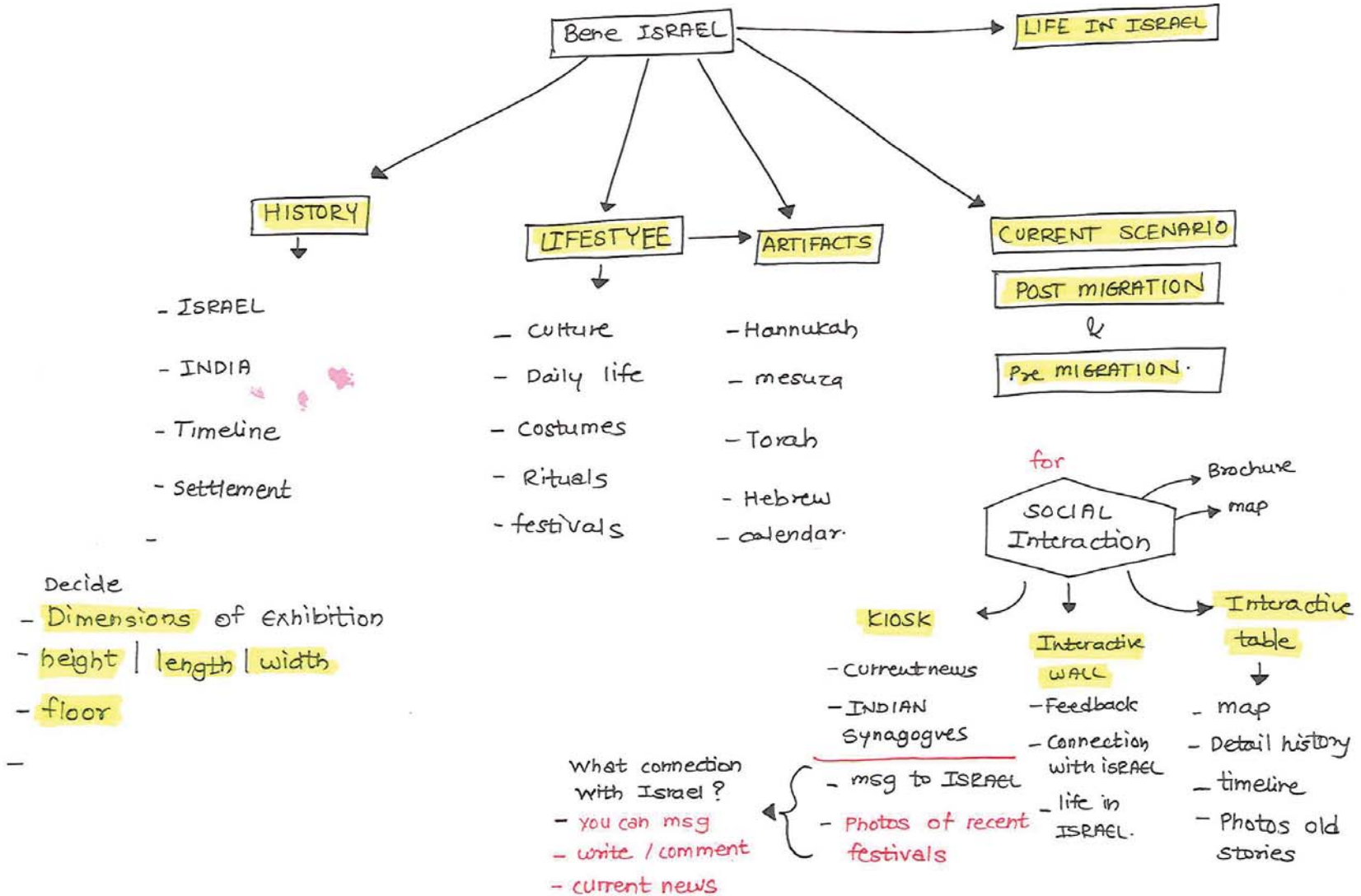
Chunking of Information





CONCEPT DETAILING

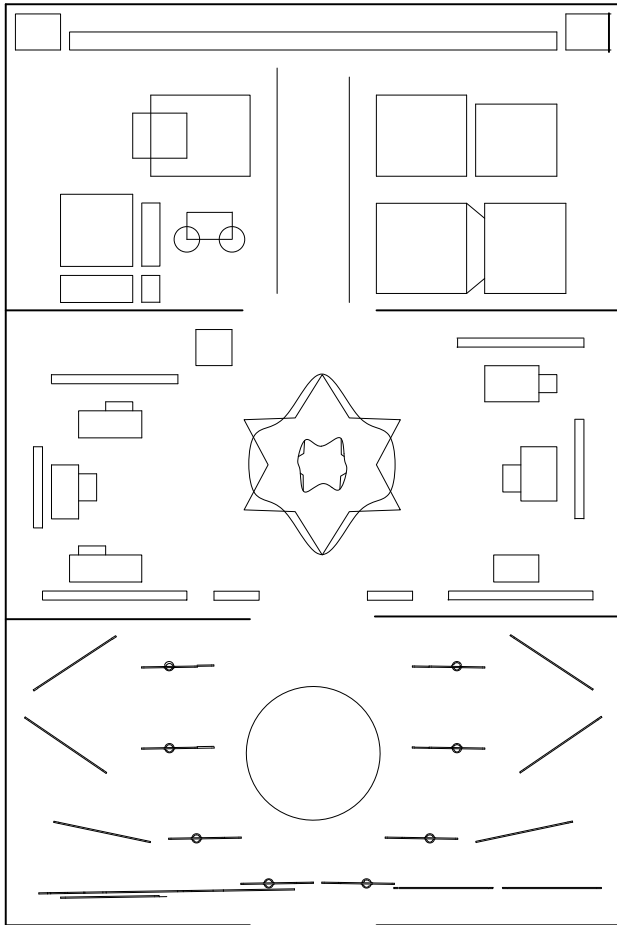
Content of exhibition





CONCEPT DETAILING

Concept Integration



Section 3

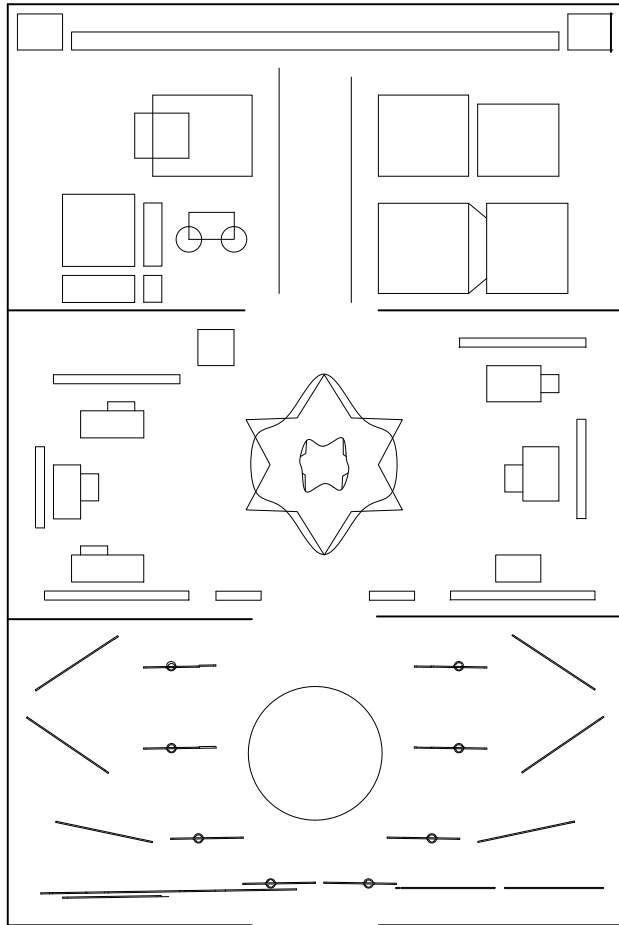
Section 2

Section 1



CONCEPT DETAILING

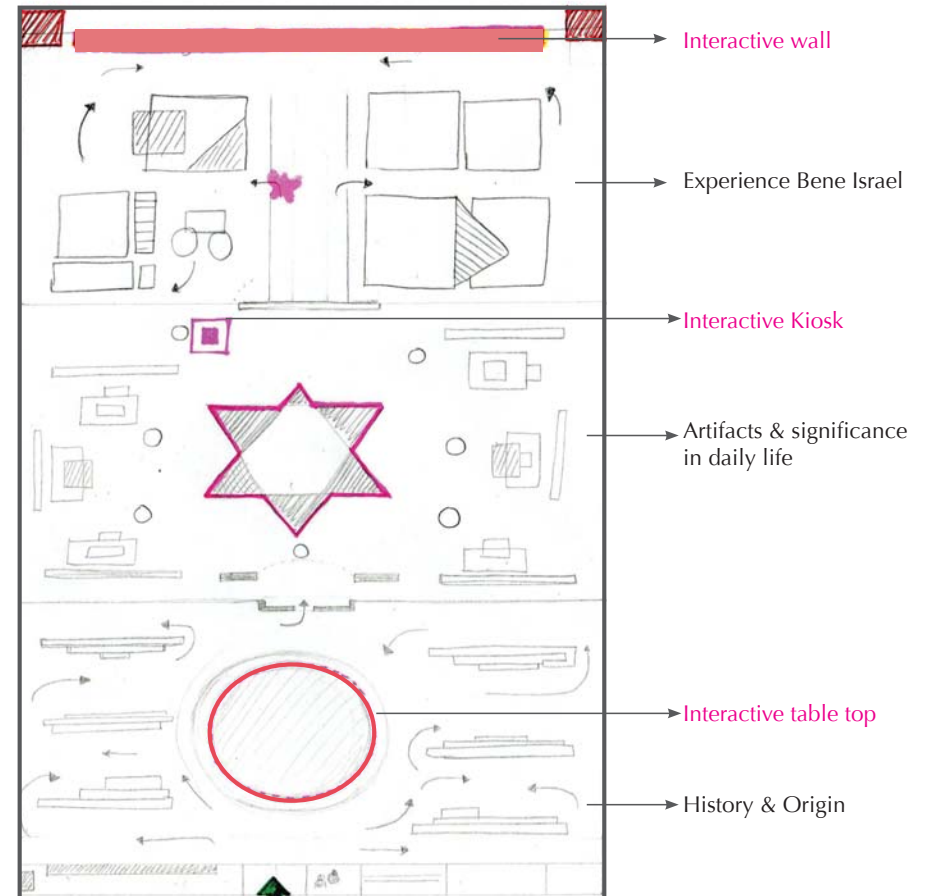
Concept Integration



Section 3

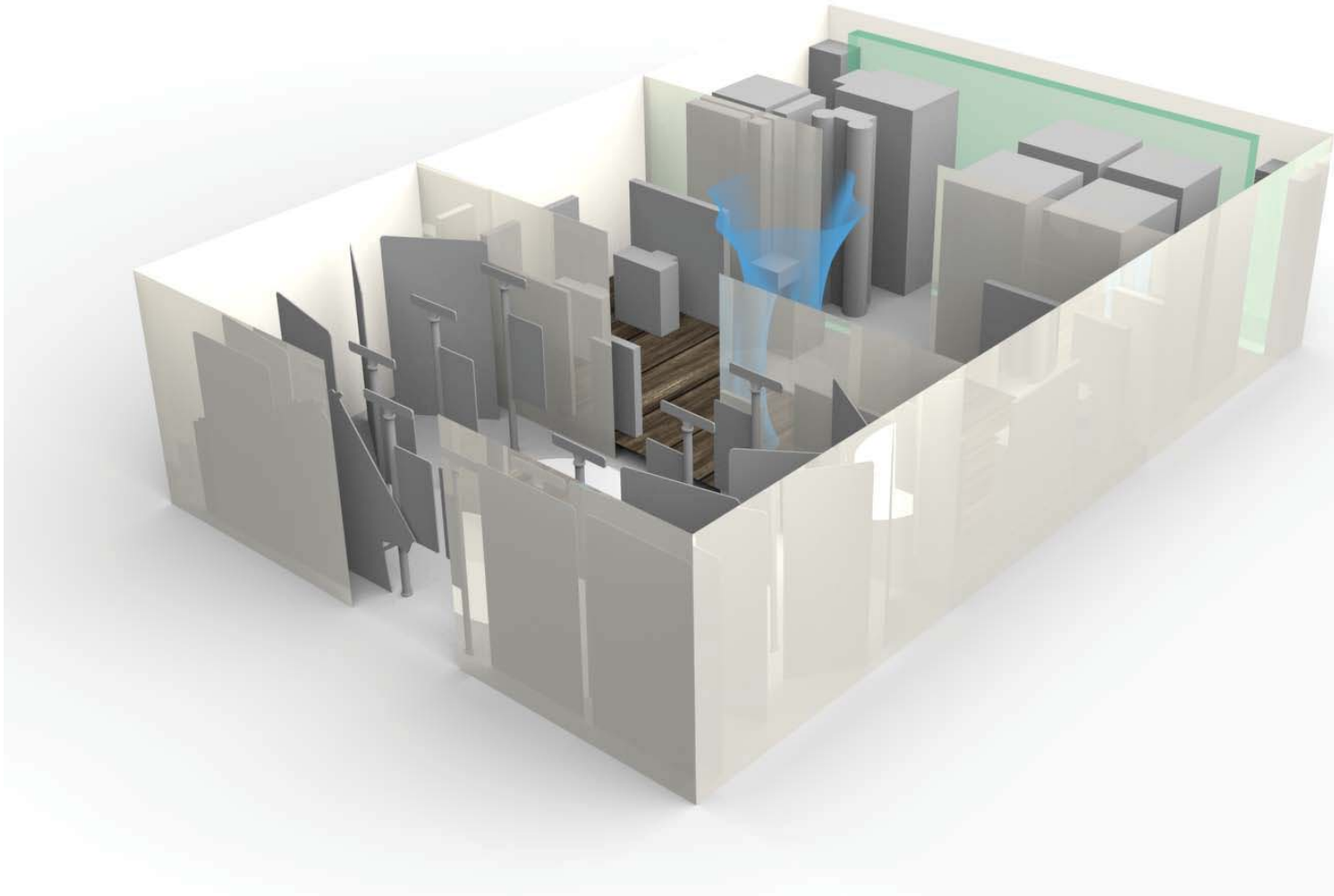
Section 2

Section 1





CONCEPT DETAILING





TRAVELING EXHIBITION

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Features of social media
- Role of social media innovation
- How social media will help Bene Israel
- Exhibition as a social platform
- Traveling Exhibition as social media
- Why Traveling Exhibition



TRAVELING EXHIBITION

Purpose of an exhibition

Aim of traveling exhibition

Design Considerations:

- Modularity
- Portability
- Material
- Universal Design

DESIGN

DEVELOPEMENT

Important elements:

- Location • Circulation • Form
- Height • Width
- Depth of space • Light
- Material • Details
- Structure • Climate control
- Air circulation • Cleanliness
- Security • Storage space

IMPLEMENTATION



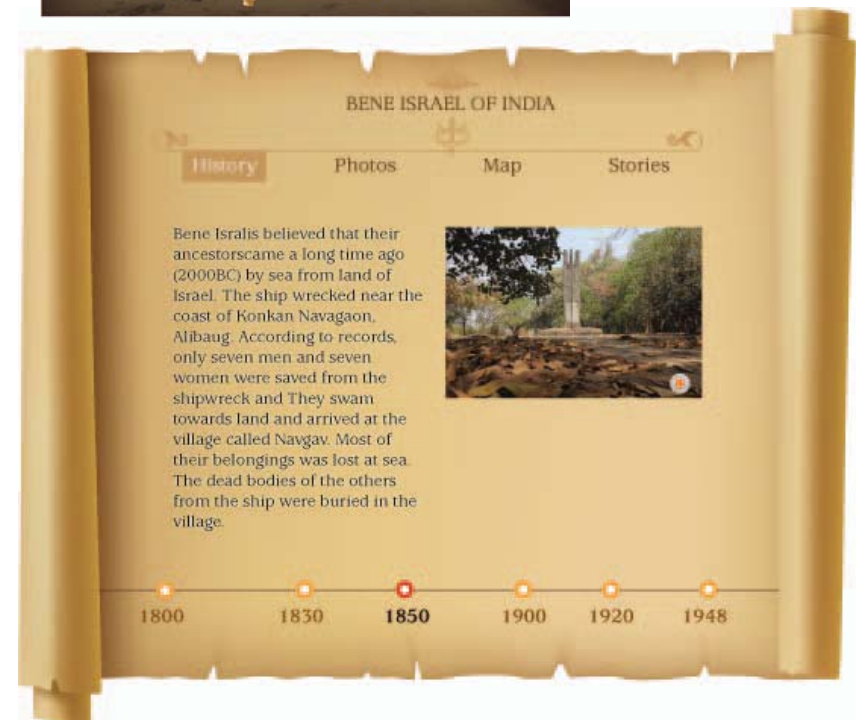
INTERACTIVE MEDIA

1. Interactive multitouch table

To give detail interactive information about the past of Bene Israel

Features:

- Timeline act as source of Information, photos, videos etc.
- Map feature provides freedom to explore and tag, add location to its visitor's. By using map one can "tag" - your home in that time.





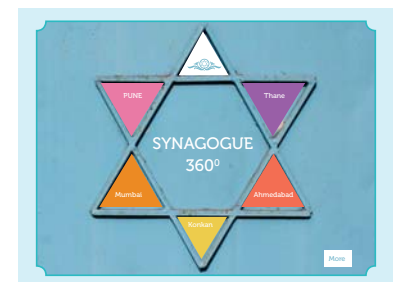
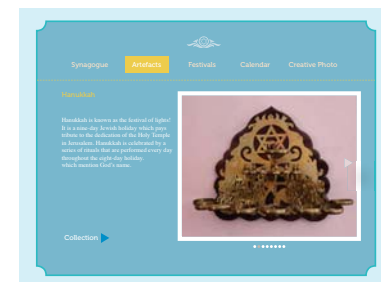
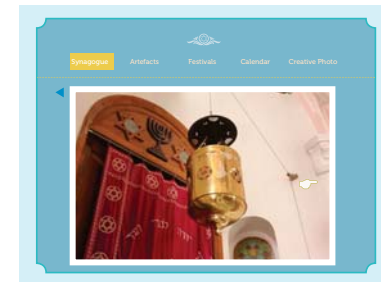
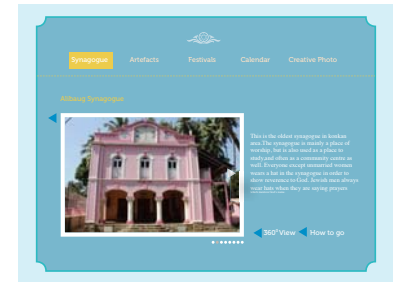
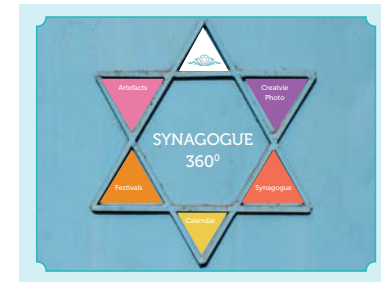
TRAVELING EXHIBITION

Kiosk:

Main aim of the kiosk is to give information about their culture and lifestyle.

Features:

- Information about synagogue and its interactive map
- Artefacts feature allows you to explore rich heritage and artefacts from Bene Israel.
- Festival section allows you to explore photos of recent festivals
- 360 view of synagogue allows you to experience synagogue from inside and outside.
- Also it provides an option for Jewish walk in Mumbai, Pune, Konkan etc. Thus people can book walk/ register for walk.





TRAVELING EXHIBITION

Touchwall:

Aim is to connect Motherland and Fatherland

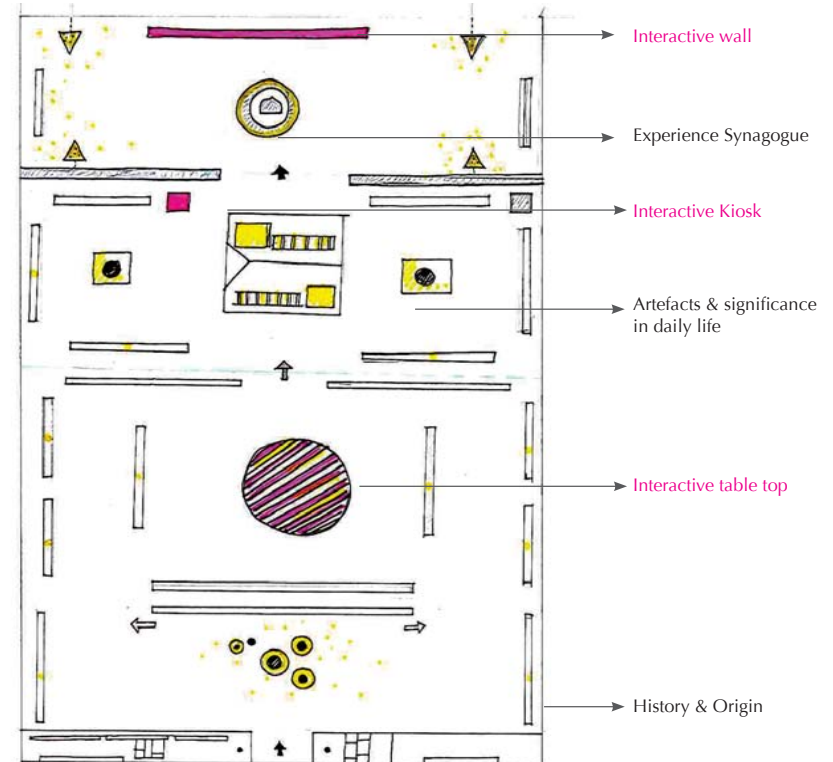
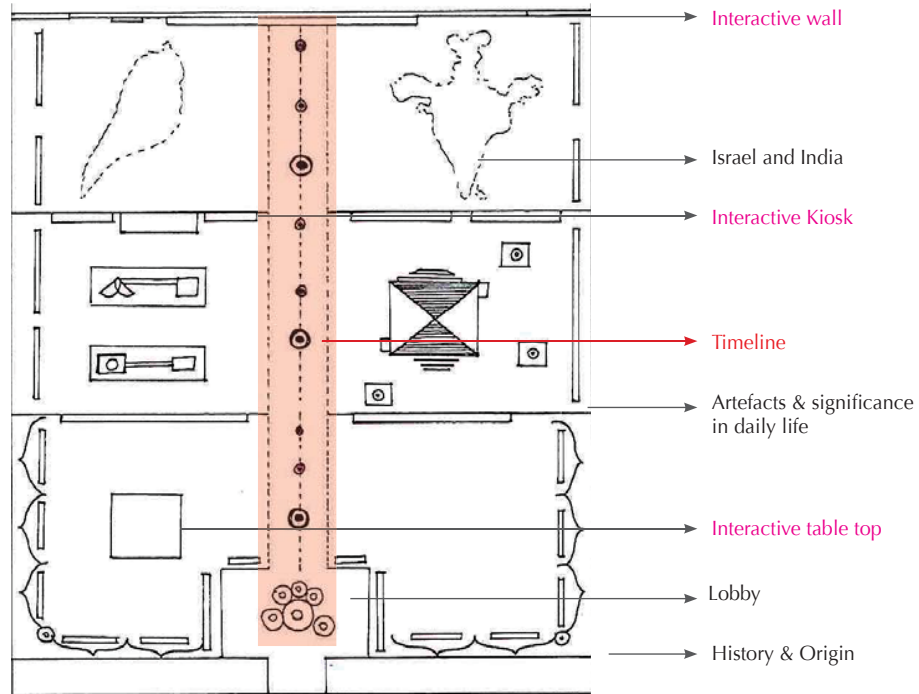
Features:

- A unique design
- showcases life in Israel
- Stories of Bene Israel in Israel
Here you can add/ contribute your own story.
- Current News in community.
You can comment, share
- Events feature allows you to see- activities, celebration, get-together
- Feedback wall is for to write, send messages etc
- You can register through this wall to get updates about community



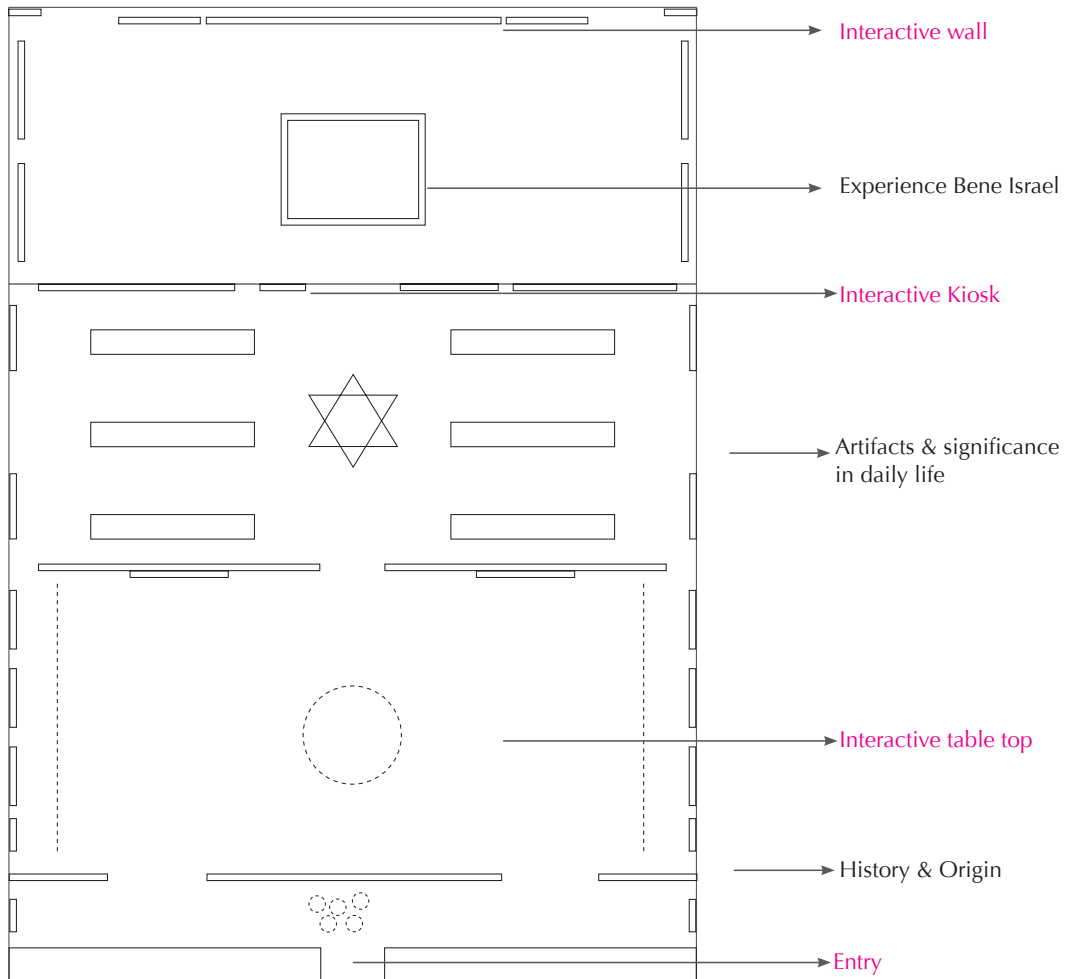


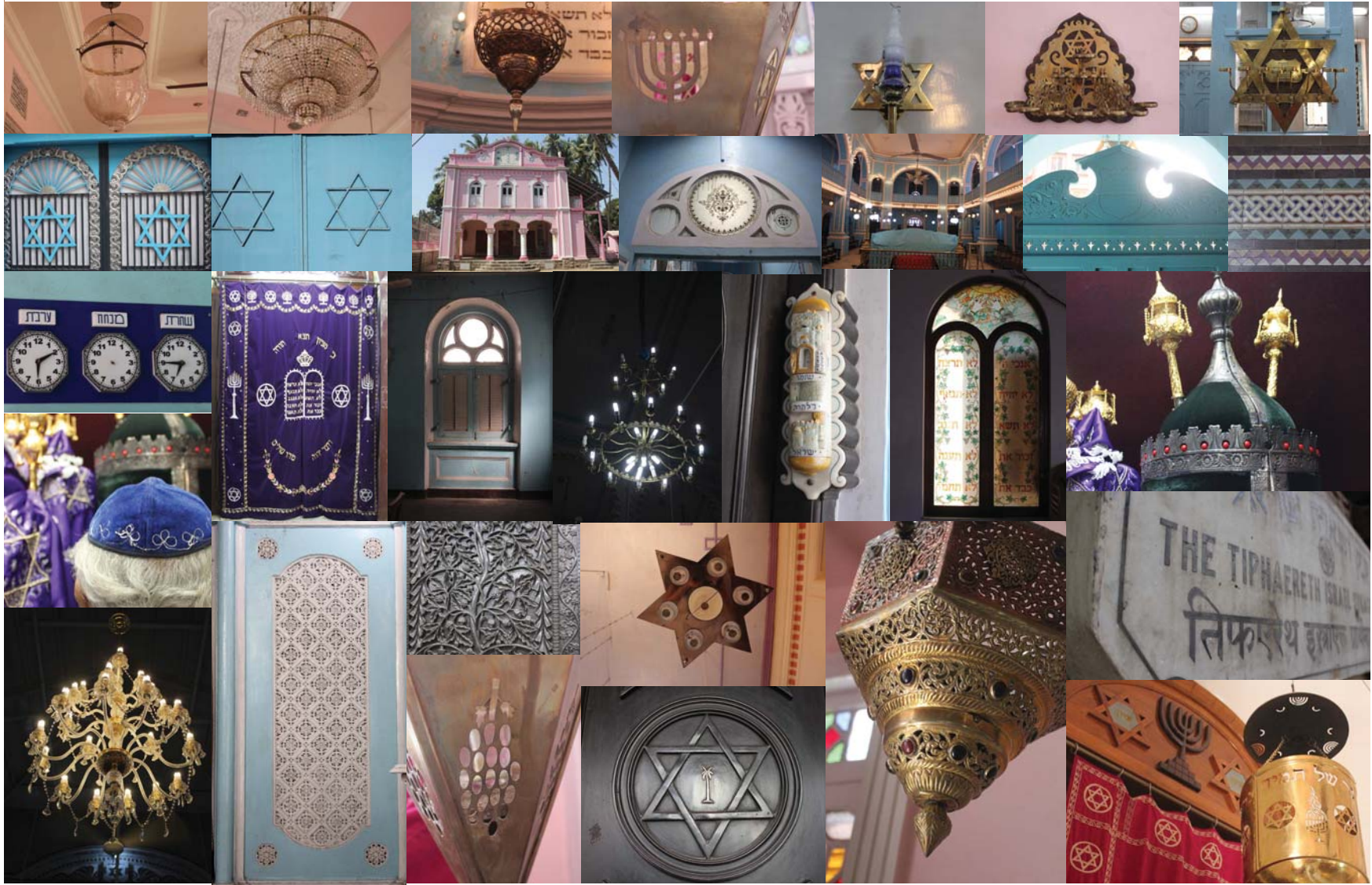
TRAVELING EXHIBITION





TRAVELING EXHIBITION







VISUAL STUDY

Shape:

Half circle
Star
Circle
Hexagon
Square (45°)
Floral
Jaali

Graphic elements:

Star Of David
Hanukkah
Grapes
Mezuza

Use of Material:

Black & Brown Wood
Marble
Velvet

Common Objects:

Hanging lamps
Wall Lamp
Standing Lamp
Hanukkah
Prayer clock
Candles

Colour palette

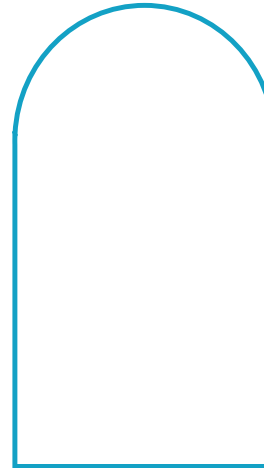
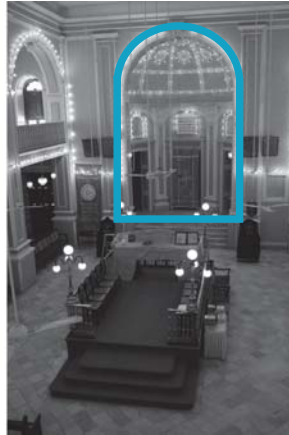


Conclusion:

1. Symmetry
2. Geometrical Shapes
3. Floral ornamental shape
4. Use of border
5. Use of Jaali
6. Intricate design
7. Contemporary design
8. Use of Hebrew

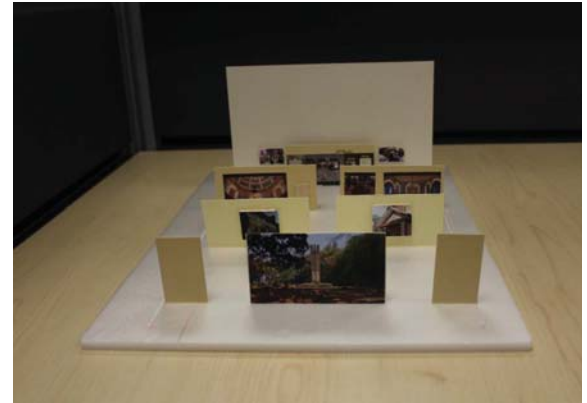


PANEL DESIGN



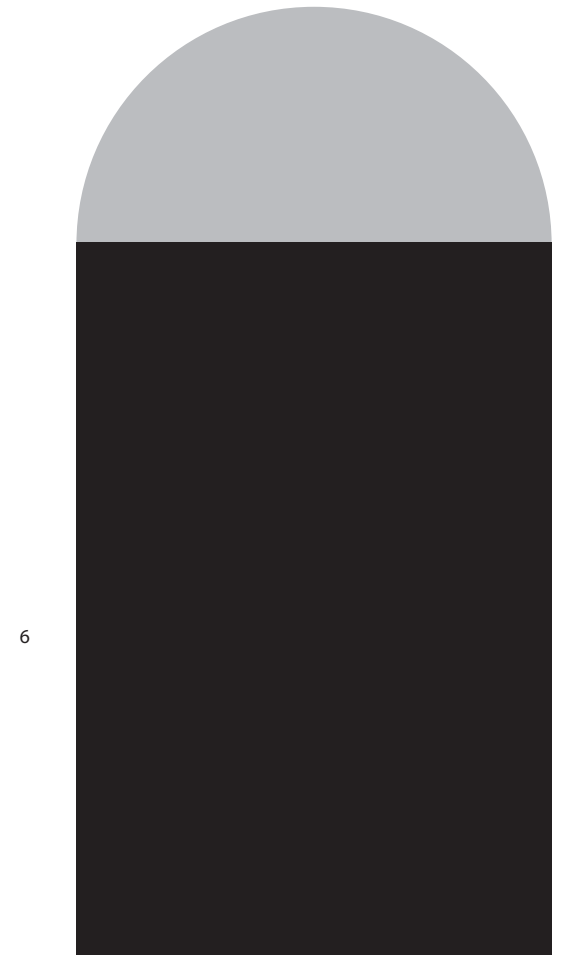
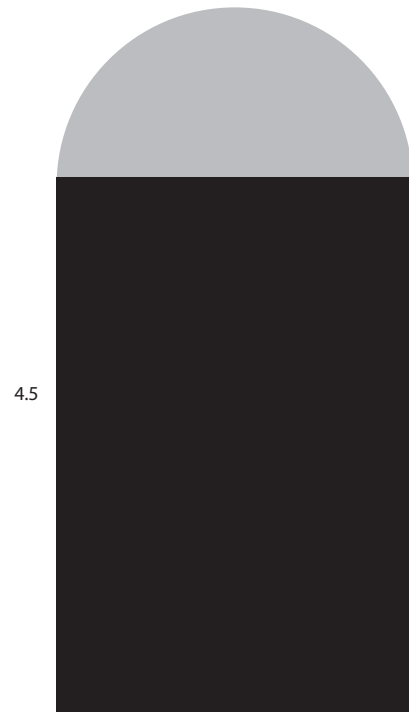
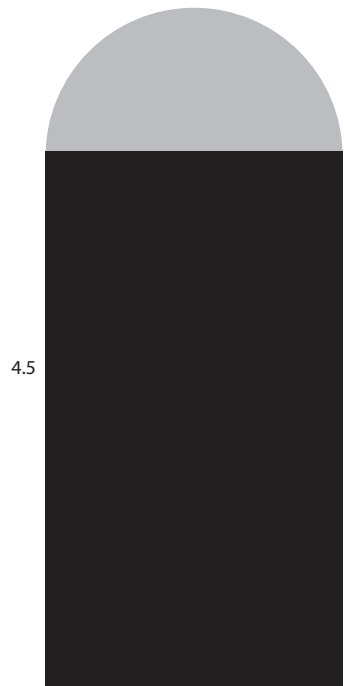


PAPER PROTOTYPE





PANEL DESIGN





PANEL DESIGN

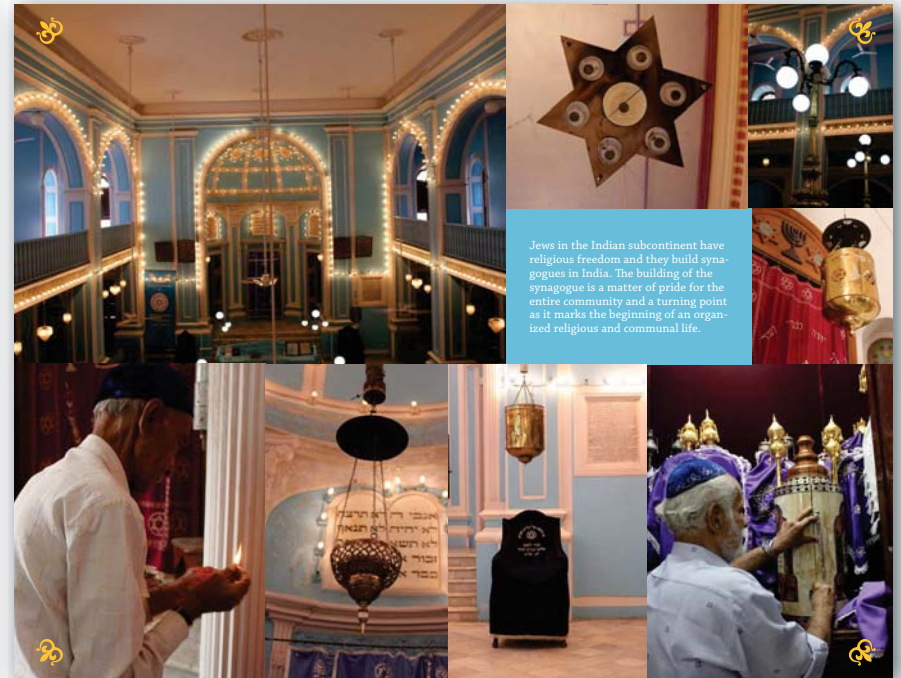


BENE ISRAEL OF INDIA



Throughout their presence in India, the Bene Israelis smoothly adopted local culture and lifestyle of Maharashtra. They have been largely influenced by their Marathi and Muslim neighbours. Wherever they went, they adopted the local culture, dressing style and language of the region, Marathi, for all secular and social purposes. In olden times, the Bene Israeli women wore nine yard sarees, just like the Marathi women, so that in time it became difficult to distinguish between them and the Hindus. Since many years now, the locals and the Bene Israelis have been living together peacefully and happily.

Bene Israelis adopted the occupation of oil pressing in Konkan and became known as “Shanwar Telis”, or “Shabbat-observing oilmen”, because they did not work on the Sabbath. Many became skilled carpenters. Within village society, the Bene Israel were clearly differentiated from others because of their adherence to Judaism.

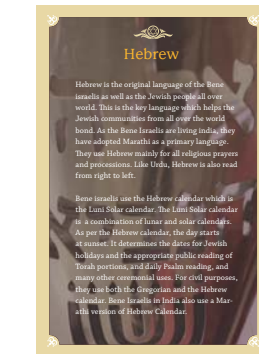
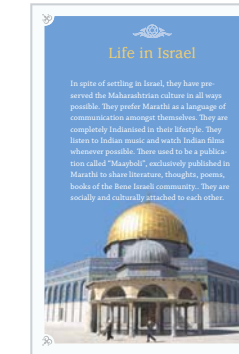
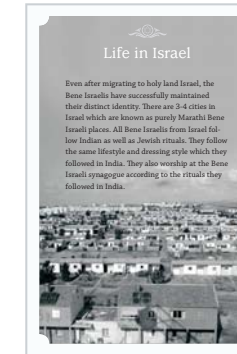
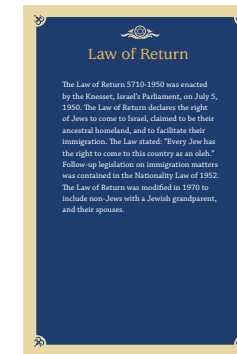
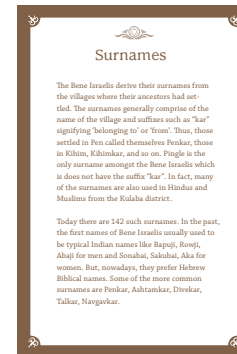
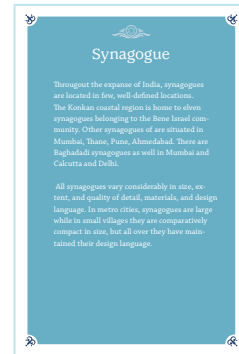
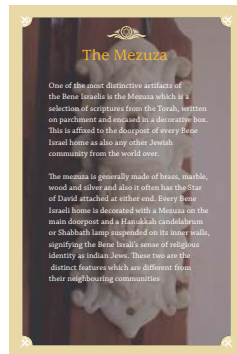
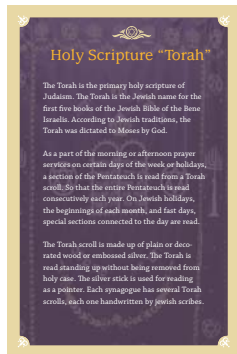
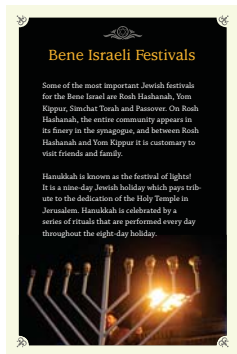
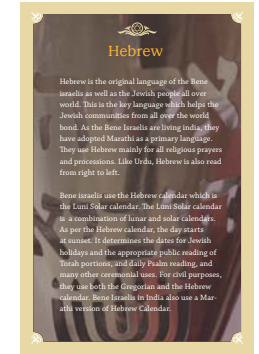
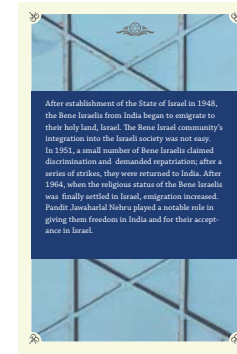
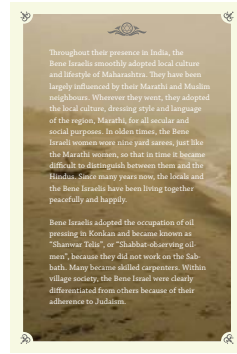
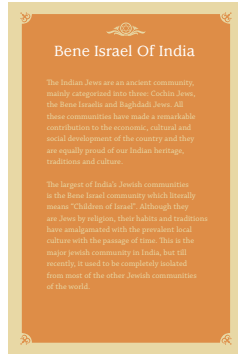
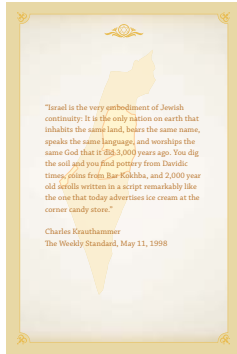


Jews in the Indian subcontinent have religious freedom and they build synagogues in India. The building of the synagogue is a matter of pride for the entire community and a turning point as it marks the beginning of an organized religious and communal life.





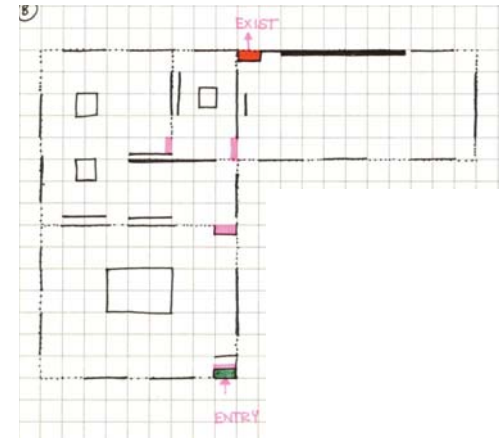
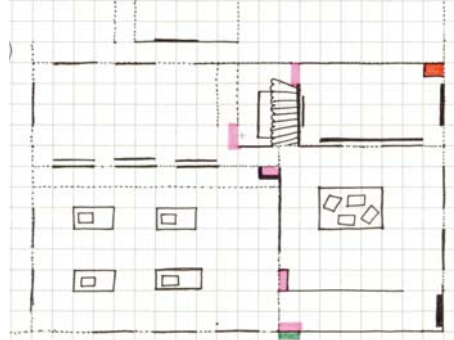
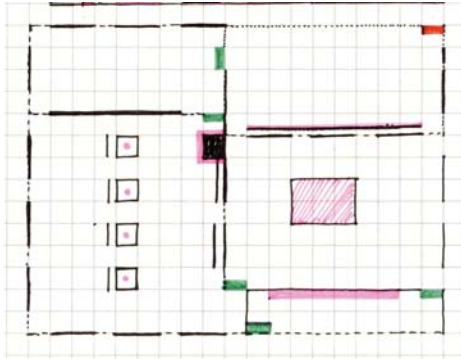
VISUAL STUDY



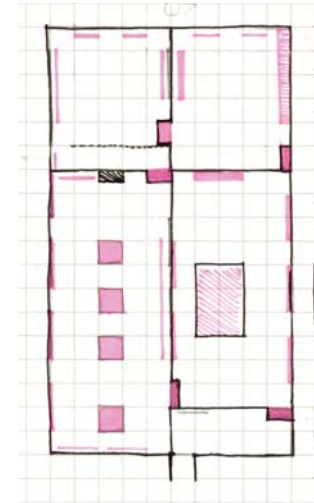
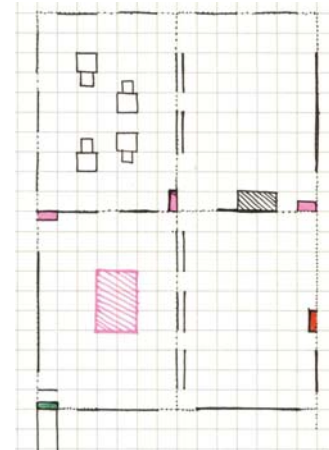
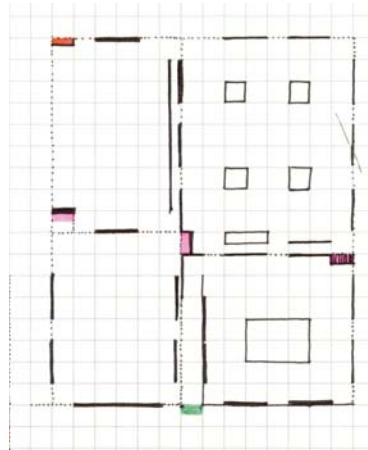
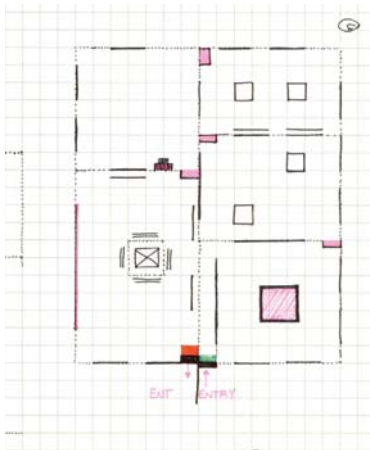


VARIATIONS

Horizontal Space



Vertical Space

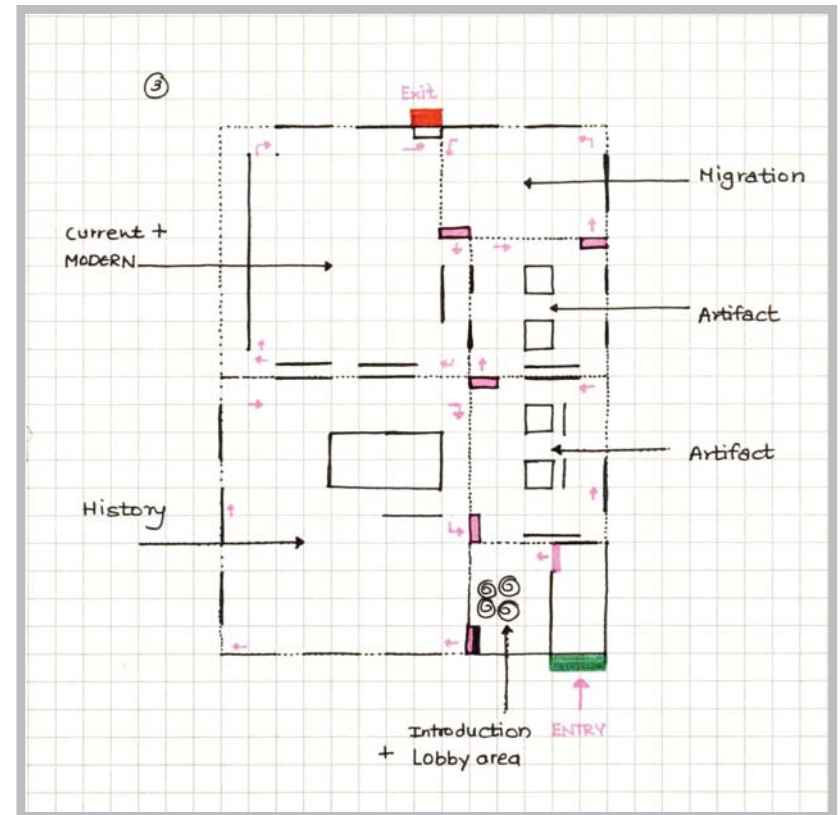




FINAL PLAN

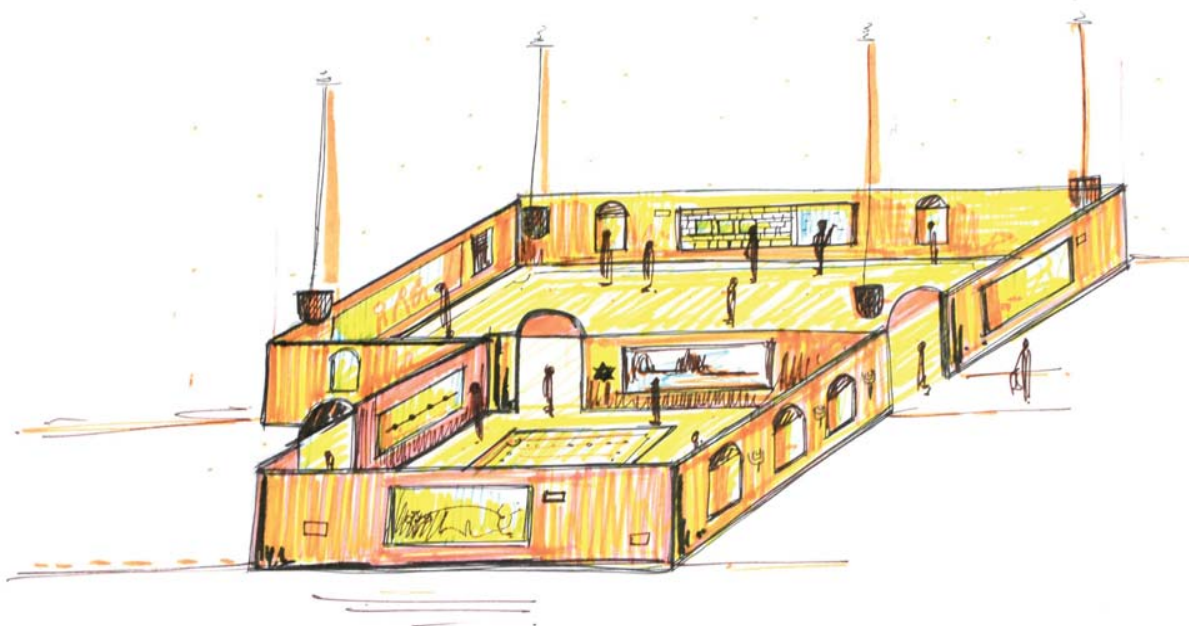
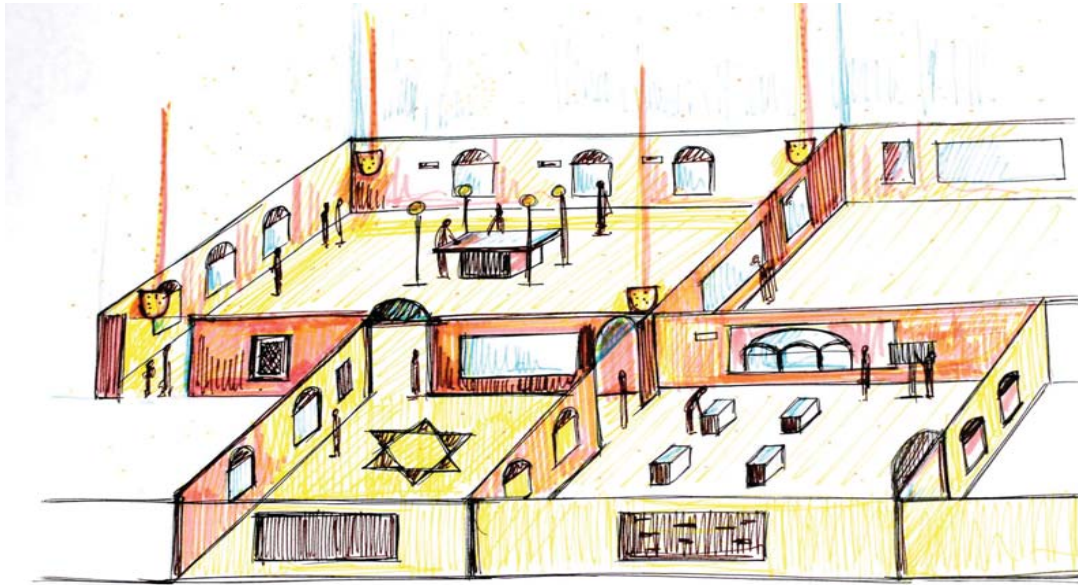
Features:

- Single circulation path
- Modular & can be fit in different spaces
- Systematic flow in circulation.
- Story-telling is more convincing.
- Providing an enriching experience of the Bene Israel community.
- Comparatively spacious
- Visually appealing





FINAL PLAN





VARIATIONS

Features:

Total area: 15X20 Sq.m = 3230 Sq.feet

Model scale: 1:40









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Mr. Moses Phansapurkar

Mr. Bhastikar

Mr. Abraham Pezarkar

My parents and family

Dhaumya

Sayalee

Prerana

Deepak

Sachin

Konark

Jui Awate

Abhishek

Aditi