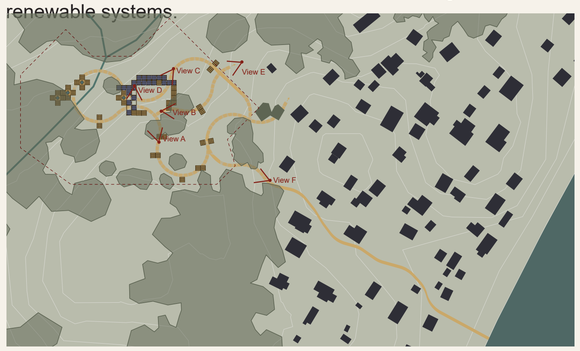
The Living Thread

The Board walk is a modular pathway that connects people from the village to the energy-generating modules of our proposal. To do so in the least invasive way, the boardwalk is elevated to adapt to the terrain; it weaves around trees and natural features without disturbing them. The structure is built with local palm tree timber and bamboo, and it features half-pipe bamboo channels that collect and guide rainwater to reduce flooding and erosion. For children, it offers a playful space with gentle curves and changes in height, encouraging movement, connection to nature, and understanding of renewable systems.

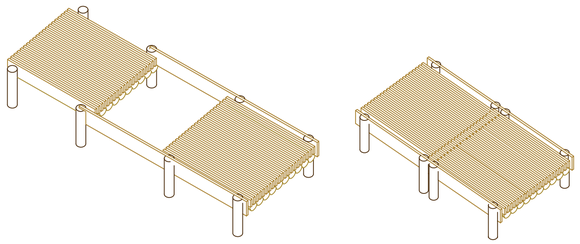
View A: weaving around the trees

View B: Connecting places

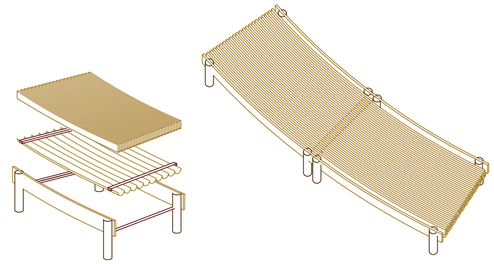


Site Plan

How will you build it?

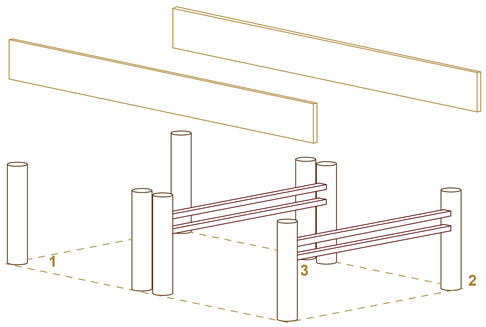


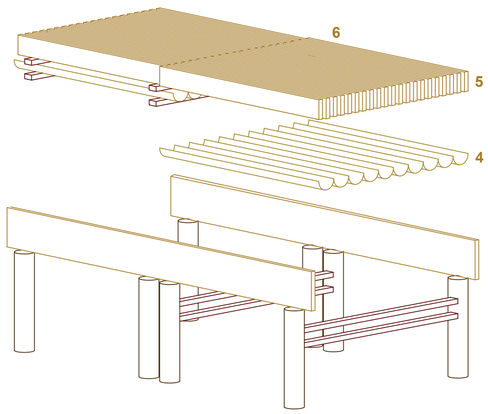
Straight Boardwalk Modules



Curved Boardwalk Modules

This simple structure, comprising only two types of modules supports mobility, protects the land, and integrates into the village's social and ecological rhythm by connecting people to the module structures





1. Prepare the Area
- Clear vegetation where the module will be installed.
- Mark the leg placements accurately according to terrain.

2. Install Legs
- Cut 4 legs from smaller palm trunks (height: 40–50 cm or as needed).
- Space them 2 meters apart from each other in both length and width.
- Carve notches at the top of each leg to fit the outer wider planks (later in Step 5).
- Drill holes to then secure the cross beams in step 3.

3. Build the Base Frame
- Cut two 10cm x 10cm timber beams, each beam should be 2 meters in length.
- Place the beams parallel to each other, allowing halved bamboo tubes to sit between them.
- Secure each beam into notches carved into the legs and reinforce using M10 bolts.
- Attach wider edge planks (40 cm height + 4 meters length) on either side to lock decking into leg slits. These will offer structural, additionally will connect two modules together.

4. Attach Bamboo Tubes
- Cut bamboo tubes in half lengthwise (~2m).
- Place them lengthwise between the beams inside the frame.
- They don't require bolts, ensure they are tightly nested.

5. Lay Walking Surface
- Cut wooden decking planks (2m long, 10 cm wide, up to 20 cm high).
- Soften planks for curvature - Soak in warm water or leave overnight in water barrels or shallow river (for curved modules).
- Lay planks side-by-side across the frame width.
- Alternate their pattern with adjacent modules for interlocking fit.
- Secure with galvanized screws (2 per end, into the beam below).

Tip:
Which module should you use?

To decide whether to use straight or curved modules, refer to the site plan for guidance on layout and terrain.

However, the modularity and simplicity of this project offer flexibility, allowing you and the community to place the boardwalk in the most convenient and suitable way for both the landscape and daily use.

While the site plan can serve as a helpful reference, remember to embrace creativity and have fun with the design — flexibility is key!

6. Protect the Wood
- Apply wood preservative or natural coconut oil on all wood components.
- Ensure bamboo and decking are fully treated for humidity resistance.

Remember - every element of each module should interlock to the element of the next module.

What will you need?

Bamboo for water collection pipes

Coconut Palm tree wood for decking

Coconut Palm tree trunks for beams

Coconut oil

Drill + Hammer + Screwdriver

Handsaw + Measuring tape + Spanner

Galvanized bolts with washers & nuts (M10 x 150mm)

Small L-shaped steel brackets

Galvanized screws - 10cm

Instructions

Each boardwalk module is made from local palm timber and bamboo. First, clear the area and mark where the legs will go. Then, prepare four short timber legs with notches at the top and fix the two main beams into them to make the base. Add two wider side planks to help hold the structure together.

Next, cut bamboo poles in half and place them between the beams to guide rainwater away. After that, lay the wooden planks across the top to form the walking surface. For curved sections, soak planks in water to soften them, then gently bend and secure them into shape. Finally, treat all parts of the structure with coconut oil or wood preservative to protect it from rain and humidity.