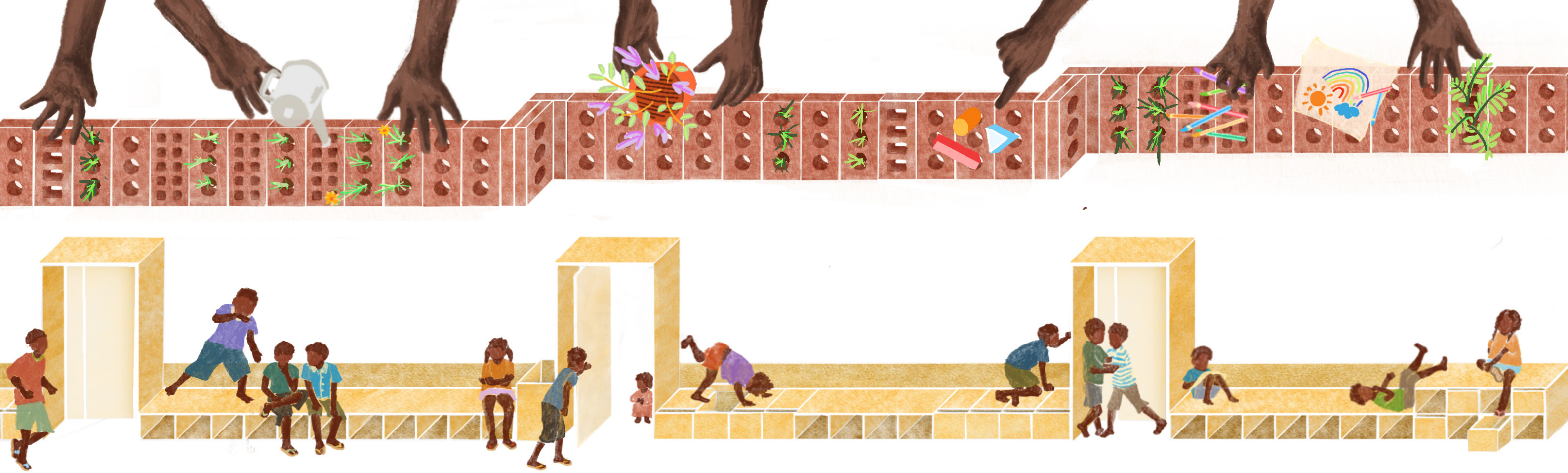




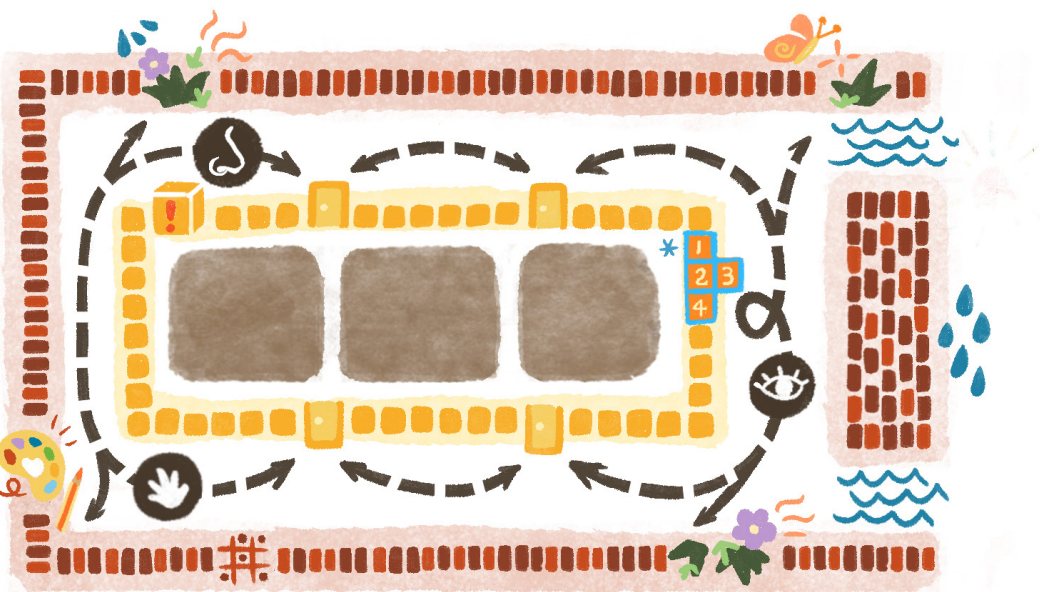
Tap-Tap Trail

Touch is children's first language. In the early years, children learn not just through words but through their bodies—by tapping, tracing, smelling, and exploring. Tap-Tap Trail is a proposal designed to support this **sensory-driven growth**, while directly addressing key challenges of ECD construction in South Africa: **cost, constructibility, and adaptability.**

The design centers on **modular classrooms and amenities** wrapped by a **continuous veranda**, where architecture becomes **a trail of discovery**. A tiered brick play table integrated into the handrail offers a continuous surface for planting, painting, and tactile exploration across age groups. Wooden cabinets provide storage while connecting indoor and outdoor spaces, inviting everyday interaction. At the veranda's end, a shaded play area with a perforated brick screen casts shifting light patterns, inviting children to sense time through shadow. Above, a butterfly roof collects rainwater and channels it to both ends of the building, becoming another layer of sensory engagement. Local materials and modular elements create a flexible, low-cost canvas for open-ended play.

Tap-Tap Trail is designed for adaptability and growth, responding to the **varied site conditions** of South Africa's ECD landscape. An isolated pad foundation and raised timber deck accommodate uneven terrain and diverse contexts. Around the building, overflow gardens, community spaces, and play areas form a soft, welcoming edge that connects the center to its surroundings. The steel-wood hybrid structure allows for larger spans, flexible room layouts, and expands easily over time. The building method prioritizes dry assembly for speed and simplicity, relying on prefabricated components and minimal wet work. **Sensory-rich materials** are placed strategically in areas where children sit, lean, crawl, or reach, **maximizing experiential impact without increasing cost.**

Tap-Tap Trail weaves play and discovery into the architecture itself—where learning begins not just with instruction, but with a child's **spontaneous tap.**



Veranda View



Interactive Veranda with Continuous Cabinets and Brick Play Surface



Covered Play Area with Interactive Brick Screen Casting Light and Shadow

Exterior View



Technical Drawings



Interior View



Modular Classroom for Children Year 0-3 with Pin Up Boards

Modular Classroom for Children Year 3-5 with Blackboards

Material Strategy

