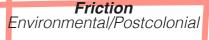




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Many middle-class people left the country, as they weren't pleased with the issues emerging from the intense nationalization process. Having closed her office in 1973, she moved to London. Later in 1975 Minnette de Silva was appointed Lecturer in the History of Architecture in Hong Kong. Returning in 1979 she had no studio in Sri Lanka, had start from scratch again..."The office remained small throughout her career, rarely supporting many employees."



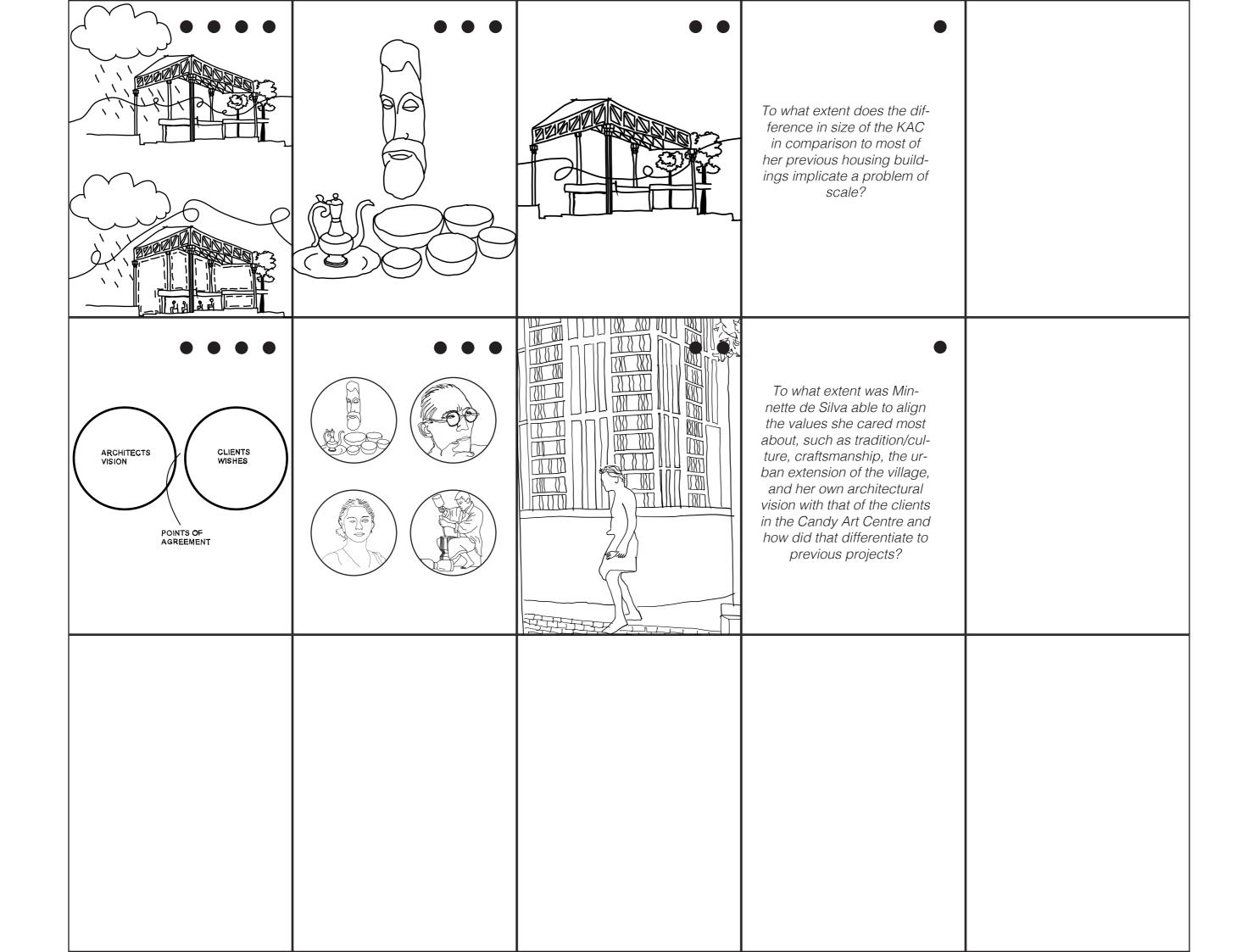


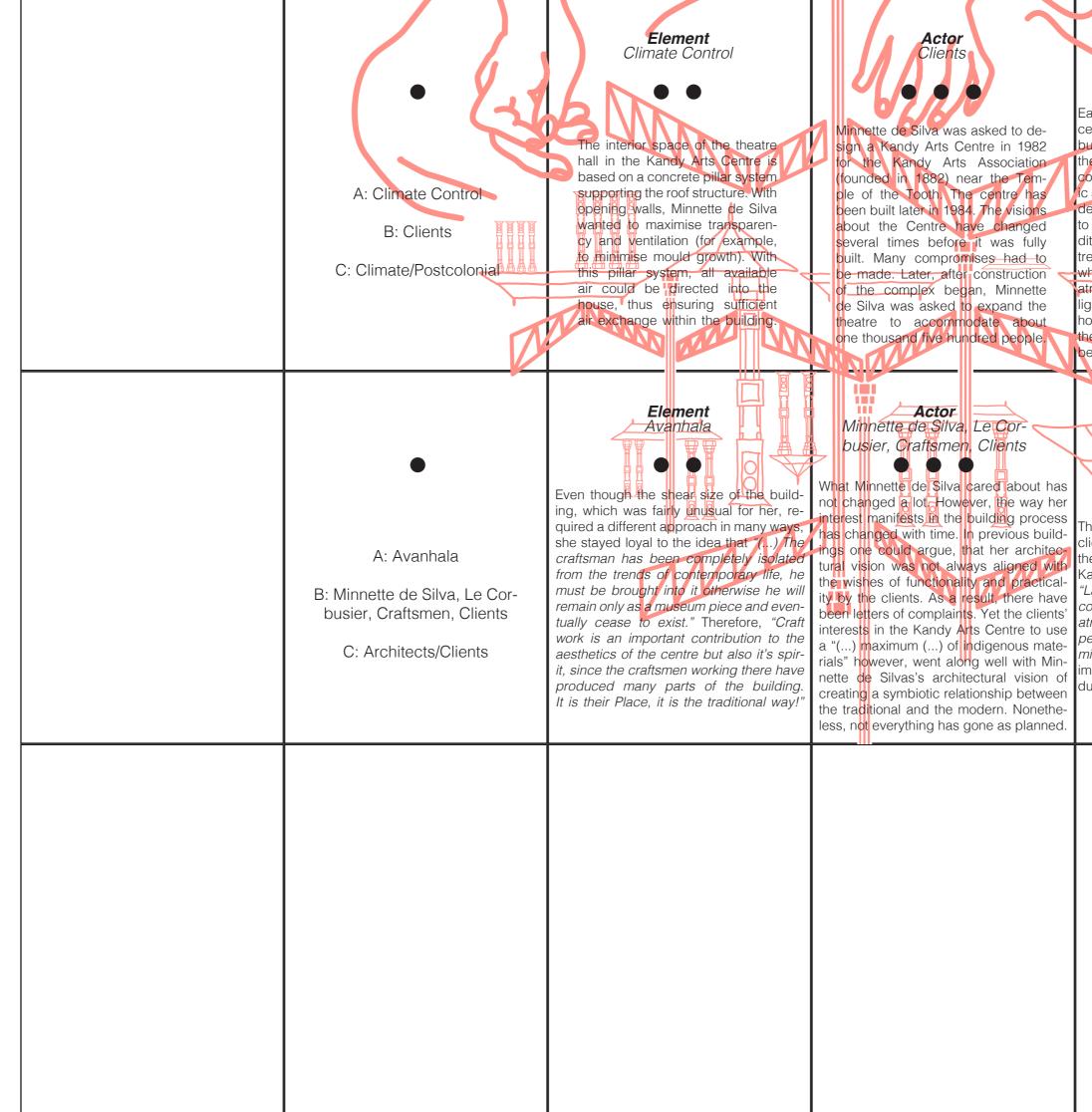
When Minnette de Silva started her career, she always tried to use local materials and make the most of their natural properties to avoid importing expensive materials. Later, she also had to take into account the ban on importing materials into the country (since 1956). In the case of Kandy Arts Centre, materials are also used very sparingly. The construction requires only a minimum of walls, so reinforced concrete is used for the columns and the extensive roof structure is made of wood.





As the Kandy Arts Centre is a cultural building, it was very important to show the link to Kandyan culture. Its roof is based on the roof on the nearby Temple of the Tooth. In the complex we can thus find a roof which is based on the traditional Kandyan flat tile roof but at the same time an experiment in a modern roof truss structure.





Friction Climate/Postcolonial

Early in her career she criticized the concept of the 'colonial bungalow'. The "colonial bungalow" was a symbol of trying to control the external environment, or tame tropical conditions that were deemed as problematic according to colonial standards. Minnette de Silva had spent her entire career trying to adapt her buildings to the tropical conditions of Sri Lanka. At the Kandy arts centre, we can see this principle in the theatre. which was conceived as a natural amphitheatre protected by overhanging roofs to let in light and promote ventilation. Unfortunately, however, the openings were so large that they allowed rain to enter and later had to be closed, making the hall dark and stuffy.

Friction

Architects/Clients

The conflicts between the architect and the client will always be prevalent. Even though, these frictions has been minimised with the Kandy Arts Centre, Minnette de Silva writes: *"Later, after construction of the complex had commenced I was asked to enlarge the the-atre to shelter about thousand five hundred people. Many 'ad hoc' structural compromises were necessary and are noticeable."*, implying that architectural quality was lost, due to the clients wish of adding more space.

