

“THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR ONE MORE”
(Inspired by Indonesia's spirit of hospitality and the tradition of *liwetan*.)



Place +1

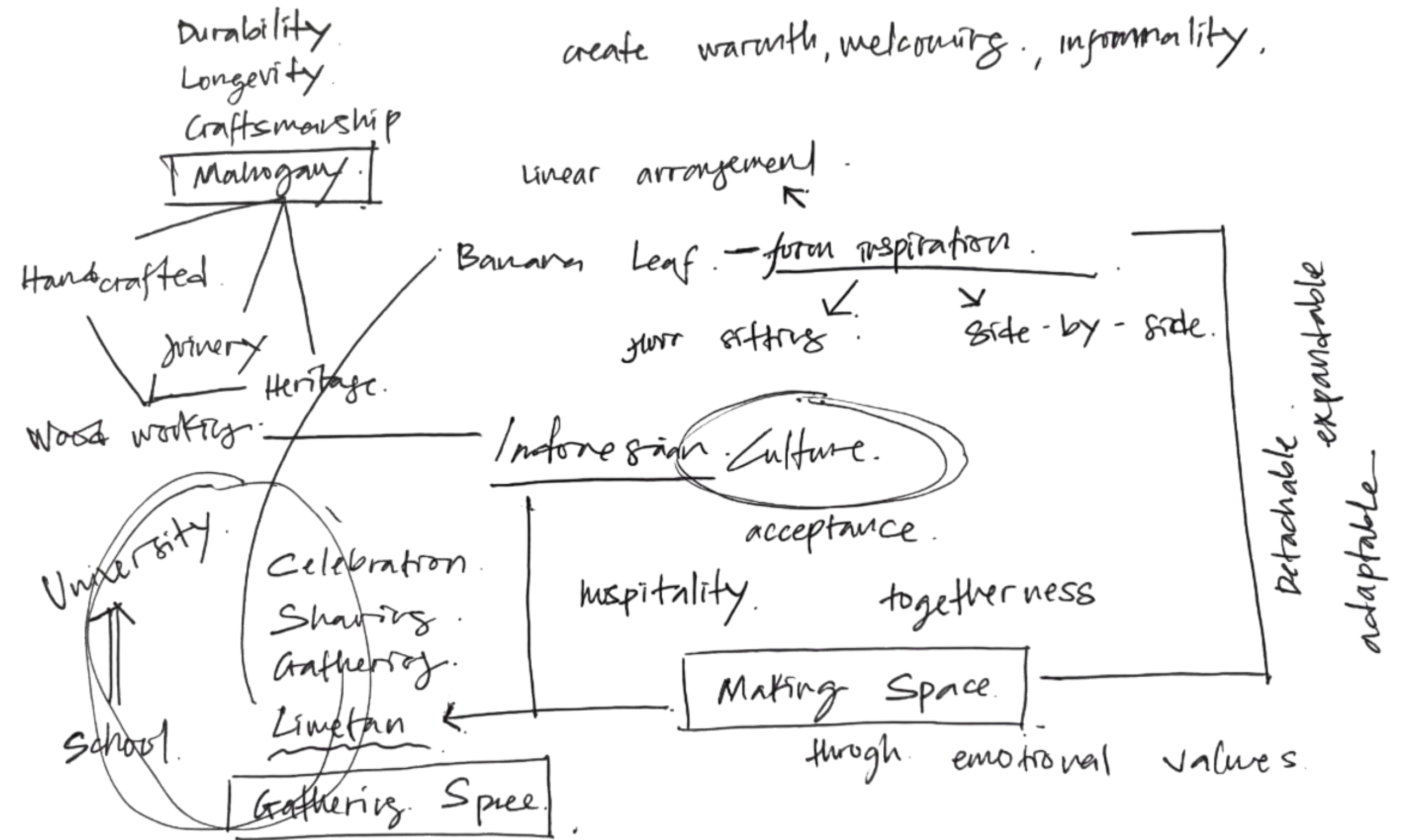
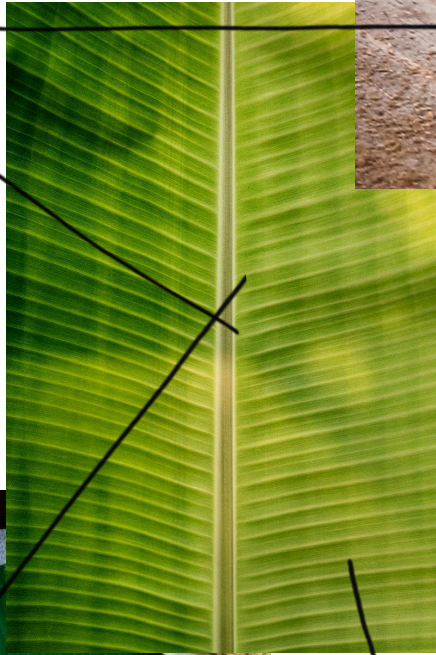
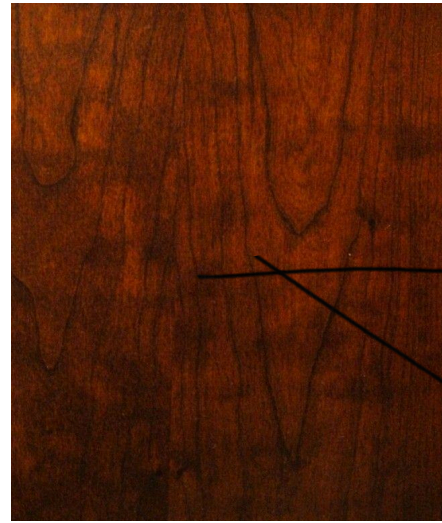
Place +1 is a modular low dining table designed to accommodate communal gatherings. Inspired by the Indonesian tradition of liwetan, the table expands through a series of detachable components, allowing its surface to grow as more people join.

Rather than functioning as a fixed object, it acts as a framework for gathering, reflecting the social nature of shared meals and the cultural belief that there is always room for one more person.

Constructed entirely from solid mahogany, the table draws upon Indonesia’s long-standing woodworking traditions, where furniture is valued not only for its function, but for its ability to endure across generations. Mahogany was selected for its durability, workability, and capacity to age gracefully over time, allowing the piece to accumulate stories alongside its users.

Every connection within the table is achieved through timber joinery, eliminating the need for mechanical fasteners and allowing the object to remain materially honest. This approach celebrates craftsmanship as an integral part of the design, while reinforcing the project’s commitment to longevity, reparability, and responsible production.





The project emerged from a shared reflection on a ritual that has accompanied both of us throughout different stages of life. From elementary school celebrations and community gatherings to university events and personal milestones, some of our most memorable moments took place around a liwetan. The people, places, and occasions varied, yet the experience remained remarkably familiar. A banana leaf would be laid out, food placed at its center, and people would gradually gather around it to eat, talk, laugh, and celebrate together. What stayed with us was not the meal itself, but how little was required to create a meaningful sense of belonging.

In Indonesia, communal space often emerges from simplicity. A single banana leaf, cut from a nearby tree and cleaned by hand, can become a place for conversation, laughter, and connection. Unlike conventional dining settings, the ritual does not depend on elaborate furniture, formal arrangements, or expensive materials. Through the simplest of means, a temporary space is formed where everyone sits equally, sharing both food and presence.

Liwetan is rarely an everyday occurrence. It often appears during moments of significance: celebrations, achievements, farewells, acts of gratitude, and milestones worth remembering. Looking back, we realized that many of the moments in which we felt most welcomed, accepted, and connected to others happened around these gatherings. Across different ages and different communities, liwetan became a recurring marker of togetherness, a reminder that belonging is often created through shared experiences rather than physical space.

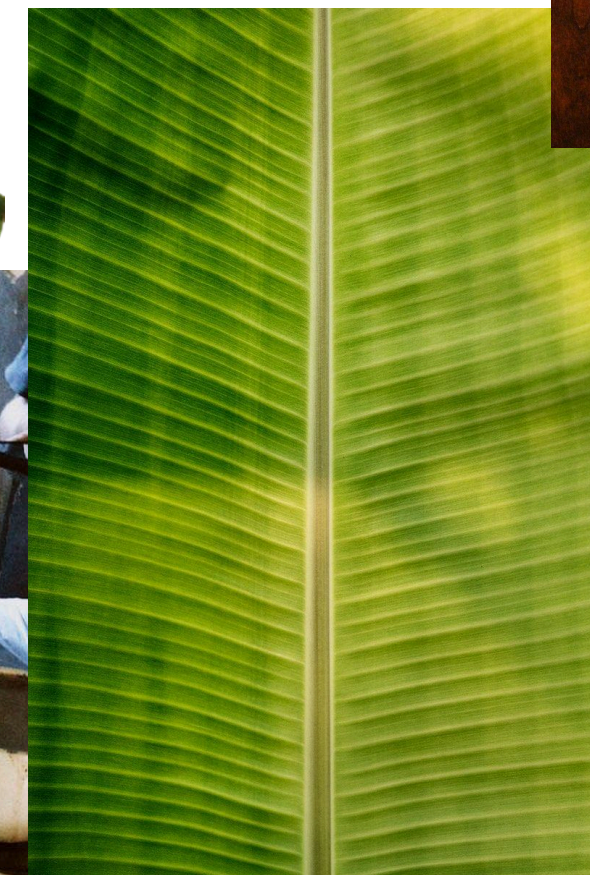
Drawing from the anatomy of a banana leaf, the table consists of a central timber spine that supports a series of detachable leaf-like surfaces. Each additional component extends the table, mirroring the way a liwetan naturally expands as more people arrive. The growing structure transforms hospitality into a physical gesture, allowing participation itself to shape the object.

Every connection within the table is formed through wood-to-wood joinery. Much like the social bonds that inspired the project, the piece relies not on hidden mechanical fixings, but on relationships between individual parts. Each component remains independent, yet gains strength through connection.

Rather than reproducing cultural motifs, Place +1 seeks to translate a living social ritual into form, structure, and interaction. More than a dining table, it reflects on how belonging is created within Indonesian culture, not through abundance or complexity, but through the simple act of making space for others.

Like the gatherings that inspired it, the table remains intentionally unfinished in spirit; always capable of welcoming one more person, one more conversation, and one more memory.

**Photo taken from Internet*



A place is not defined by walls, but by the people who gather within it

A shared meal, an open space, a place to belong

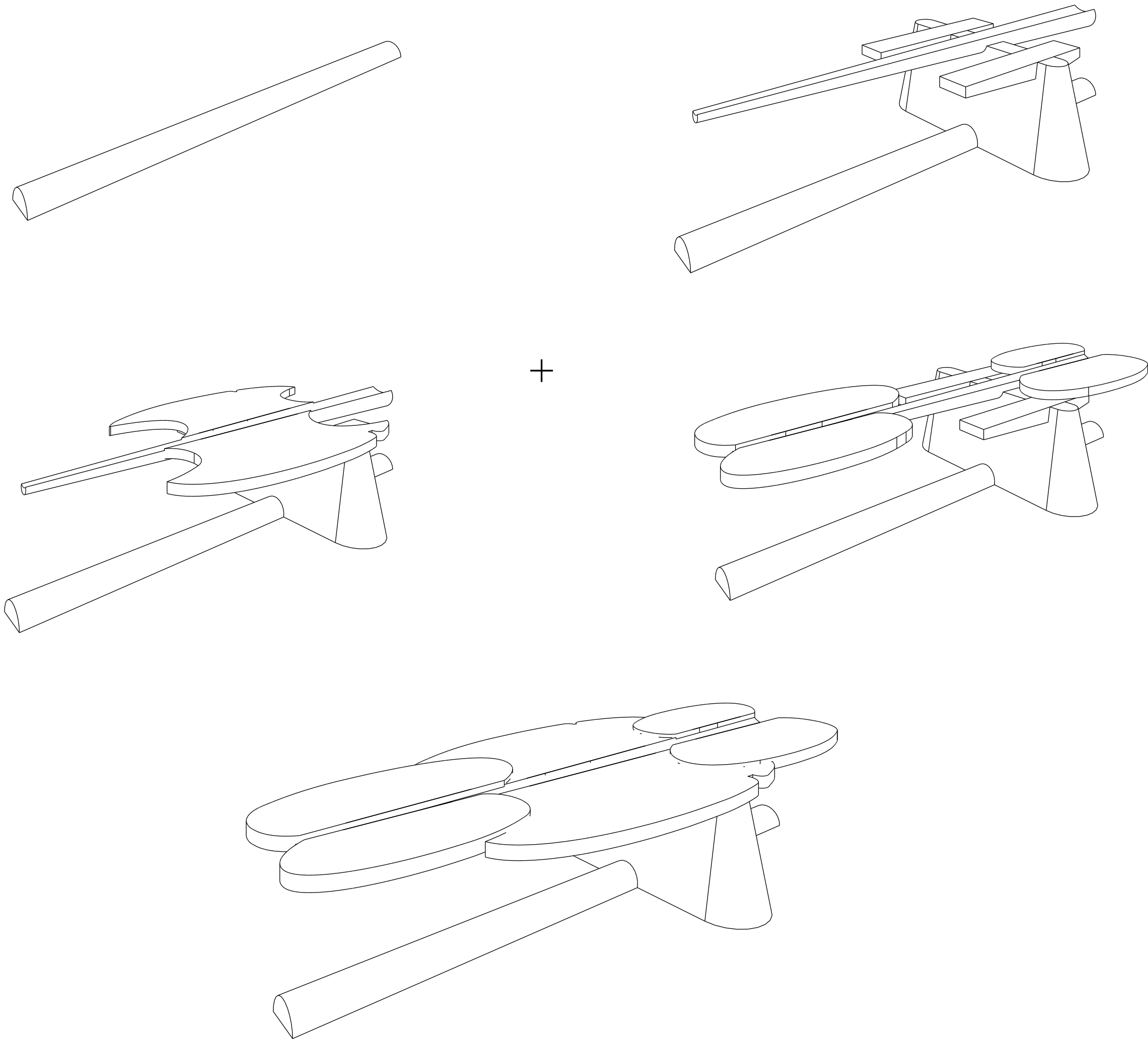
An invitation to gather, connect, and make room for one more



The form was generated by mapping the natural movements and resting points of hands during a liwetan. These points were translated into circular geometries, merged into a unified organic shape, and mirrored across a central axis to create the table's primary form.



Every component of the table was handcrafted from solid mahogany. Rather than approaching fabrication as a series of isolated tasks, we treated the making process as an extension of the project's central idea. Each piece was carefully prepared, shaped, and assembled step by step, with every component relying on another to complete the whole. The process echoed the spirit of the table itself that meaningful outcomes are built through collaboration, patience, and shared effort.



The table is composed of eleven interlocking components. Seven elements form the tabletop, consisting of a central spine inspired by the banana leaf's midrib and six detachable leaf-like surfaces. The remaining four components create the cantilever structure through two horizontal supports, one vertical support, and one base beam, providing stability while allowing the table to express the values of connection and communal gathering.

Dimensions: 1600mm L (Length) x 750mm W (Width) x 330mm H (Height)

"In many Indonesian traditions, space is not built—it is gathered.
Sometimes, all it takes is a *single leaf*."

Harhalul Kapili & Ravi Putra .A