

# REKINDLING CEREMONY

Home is not simply a shelter; our sense of security and belonging is formed by the connections grown between people and place over generations. On the island of Iejima, in Okinawa, this generational knowledge of cultivating, building and designing with nature is being replaced by modern means of shelter construction.

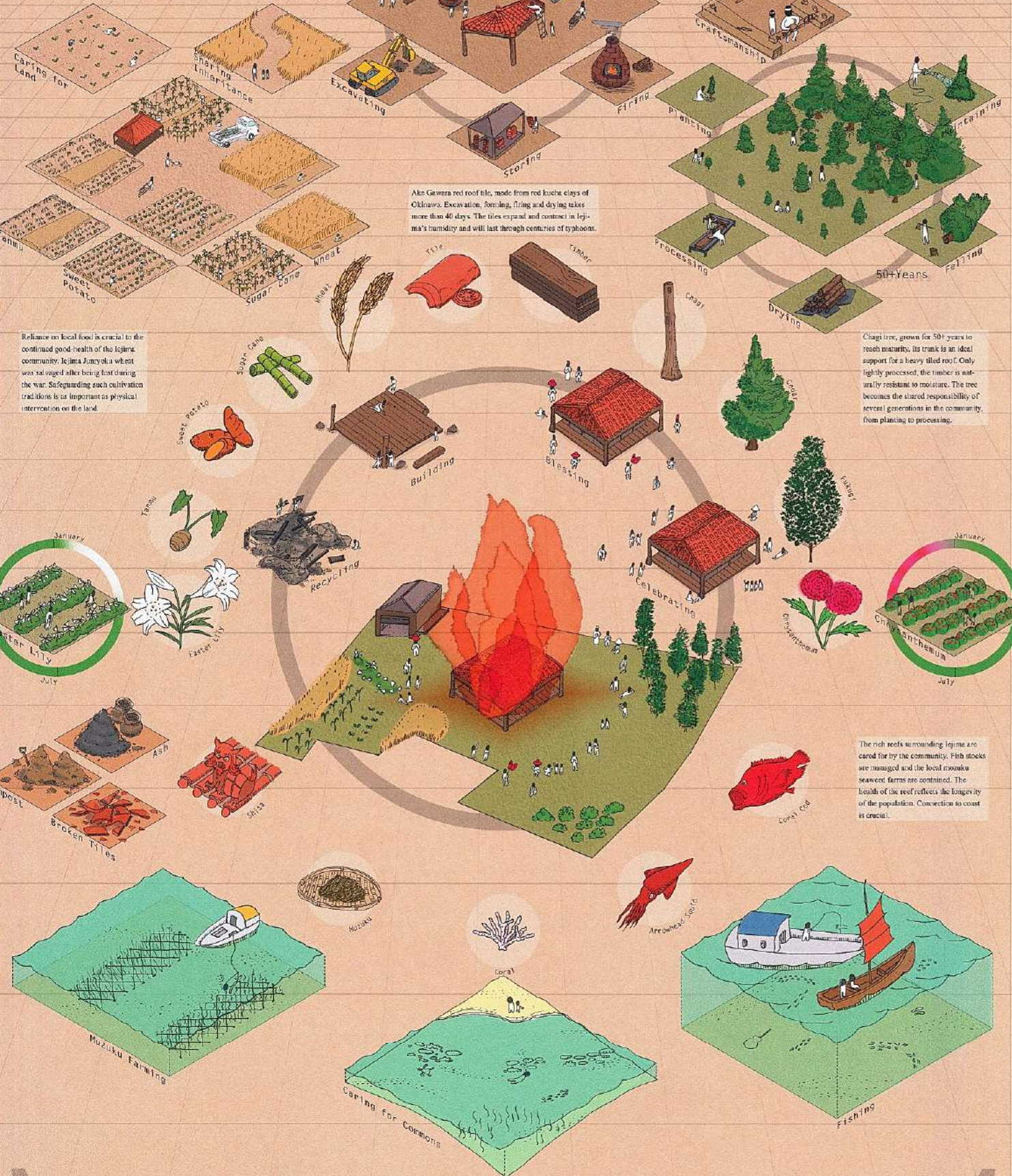
This approach to disaster sees a reconfiguring of the role of the architect, from one of relief to one of mitigation. By being embedded with communities and understanding what makes them strong, architects can help establish means of self-reliance in cases where they need to be rebuilt.

In order to reconnect to traditional practices and foster Iejima's resilience in the event of a major disruption, a festival will be held once every four years in the heart of the town. The ceremony provides a chance for local residents to have direct experience with traditional Okinawan craftsmanship and construction as well as land and resource management. In the process strengthening the social bonds vital for a community's well-being and longevity.

By celebrating and understanding the materials and methods that go into making a traditional Okinawan house, locals will deepen their connection to the local natural systems that sustain them. Clarifying the responsibility that the current population has in managing land wisely for future generations. By actively practicing in these methods, the connection to past generations is kept alive.

## SATOYAMA

Dealing with grief is necessary for any community being rebuilt. In an effort to instill resilience, the house is bumped to the ground at the end of the festival. Its remains are scattered as fertilizer for the shagi forests and its smashed tiles re-built as shisa to protect the houses. The bitter business of the structure giving way to a more resilient approach towards being at home in Iejima for generations to come.



Ako Gawa red roof tile, made from red kucha clays of Okinawa. Excavation, forming, firing and drying takes more than 40 days. The tiles expand and contract in Iejima's humidity and will last through centuries of typhoons.

Chagi tree, grown for 50 years to reach maturity. Its trunk is an ideal support for a heavy tiled roof. Only lightly processed, the timber is naturally resistant to moisture. The tree becomes the shared responsibility of several generations in the community. From planting to processing.

The rich reefs surrounding Iejima are cared for by the community. Fish stocks are managed and the local muzuku seaweed farms are maintained. The health of the reef reflects the longevity of the population. Connection to coast is crucial.

## SATOUMI