



Play Structure for NSMVPS Elementary School, Chettinad

638 children between the ages of 5-12 have access to this play space. The structure comfortably accommodates 25 children at a time.

The Location



NSMVPS Elementary school was founded in the year of 1921 by five families of the Nagarathar Community of Devakottai.

The school comes under the category of Government aided schools.



Design Thinking



Designer
Sushruti Krishnan

Undergraduate degree in design from Srishti School of Art and Technology, with a focus on public space design. Currently working as a freelance architect in Chennai.

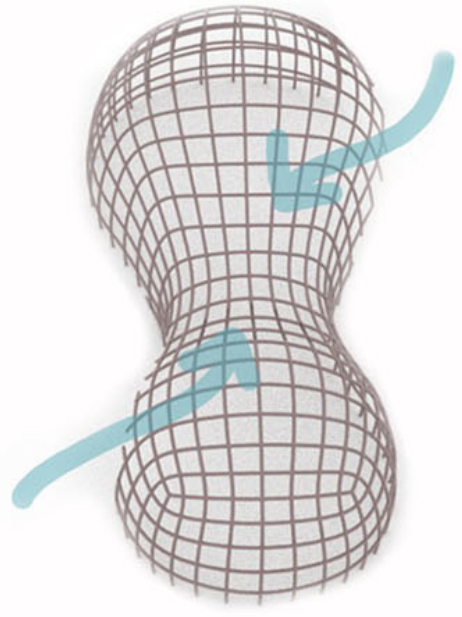
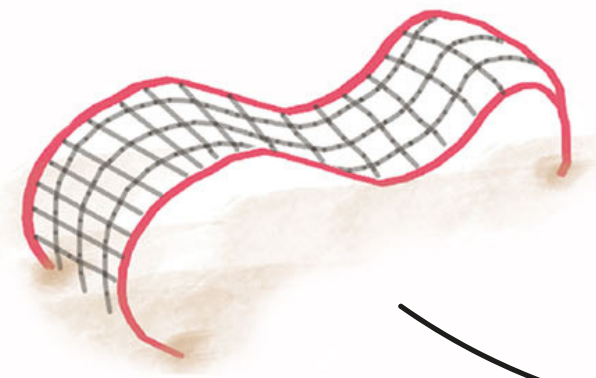
Artist Inspiration
Risa Sato



Movements of interest:
Climbing, Hanging, Swinging, Sliding



Design Thinking



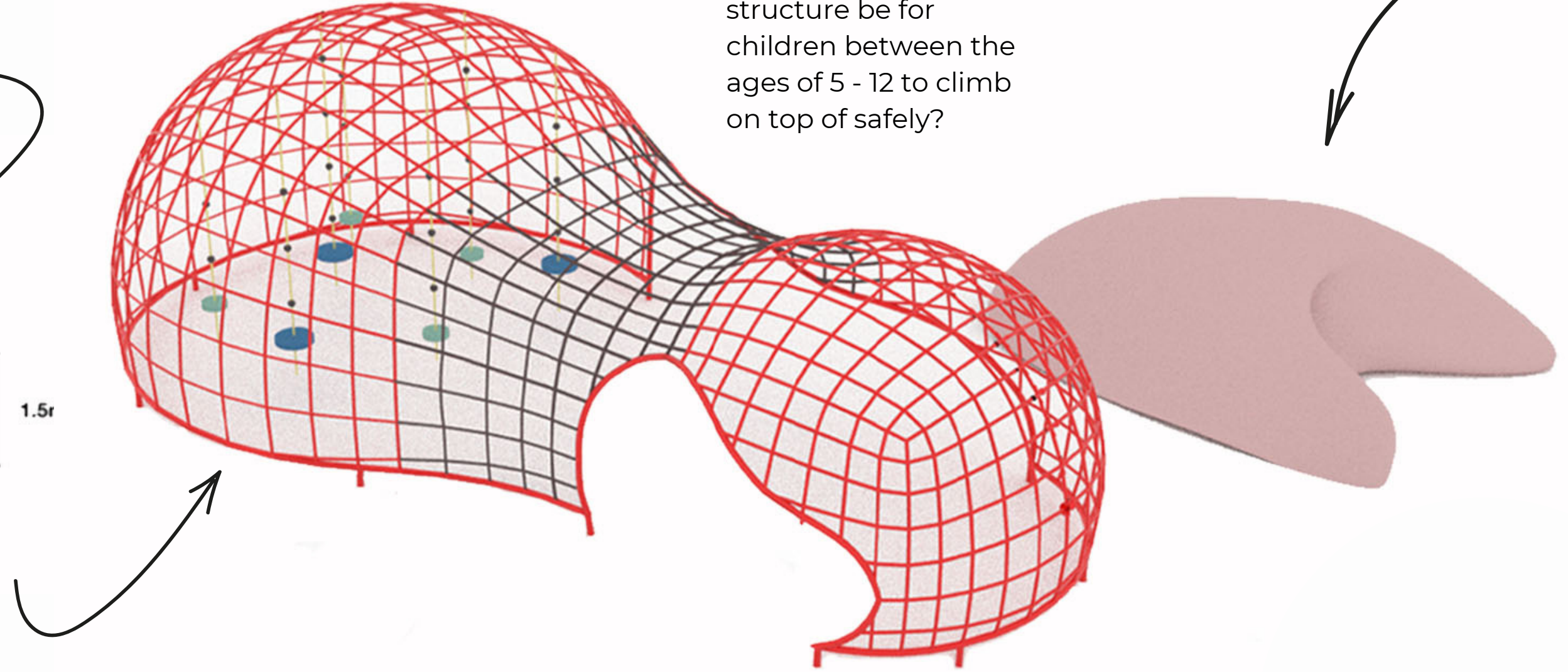
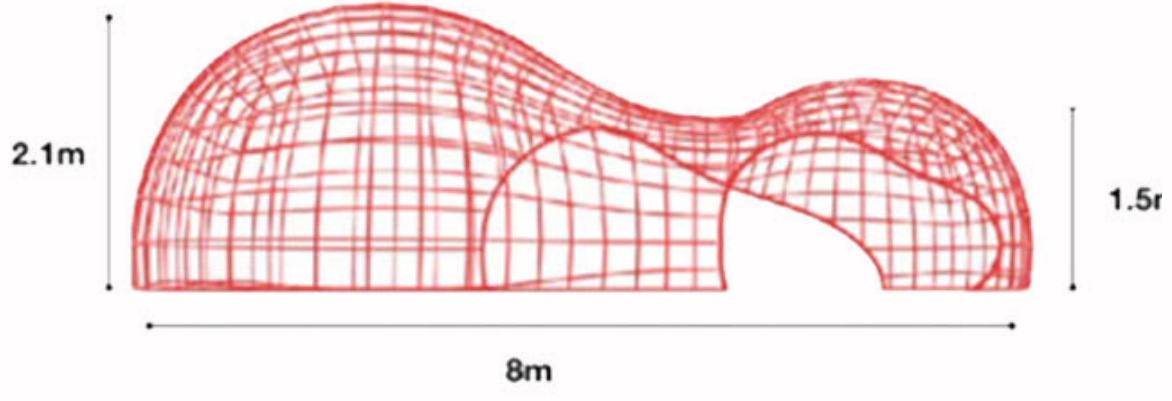
Testing out the strength and durability of the hanging rope elements before assembling them in the play structure.

Think about how children will enter and exit the play space safely.

How tall can this structure be for children between the ages of 5 - 12 to climb on top of safely?

Add another element to make the play space more dynamic, encourage versatile play and incorporate seating.

MAXIMUM PLOT SIZE - 1,500 SQ FT
- 139.3 SQ M (approx.)



Mentor Inputs



Kavitha Selvaraj

Founder
Cityworks



Sushruti initially designed this place space to have a single 8m x 6m curved, climbing structure. Kavita suggested that we extended the existing structure to make the space challenging and adventurous for kids. Sushruti then made the decision to add a smaller concrete structure in a similar curved shape for children to slide on which also doubles as a seating area.

Dr. Nigel Meage

Artist and Educator
Cambridge, UK



Nigel suggested that we improve the connection between the seating and climbing areas to make the play space more cohesive. Based on his feedback, Sara recommended that Sushruti consider colour as a way of visually connecting the structures.



Sara Vetteth

Founder
RainbowFish Studio Pvt Ltd

Mentor Inputs



Uma N Rao

Director

Forever Technologies Pvt Ltd



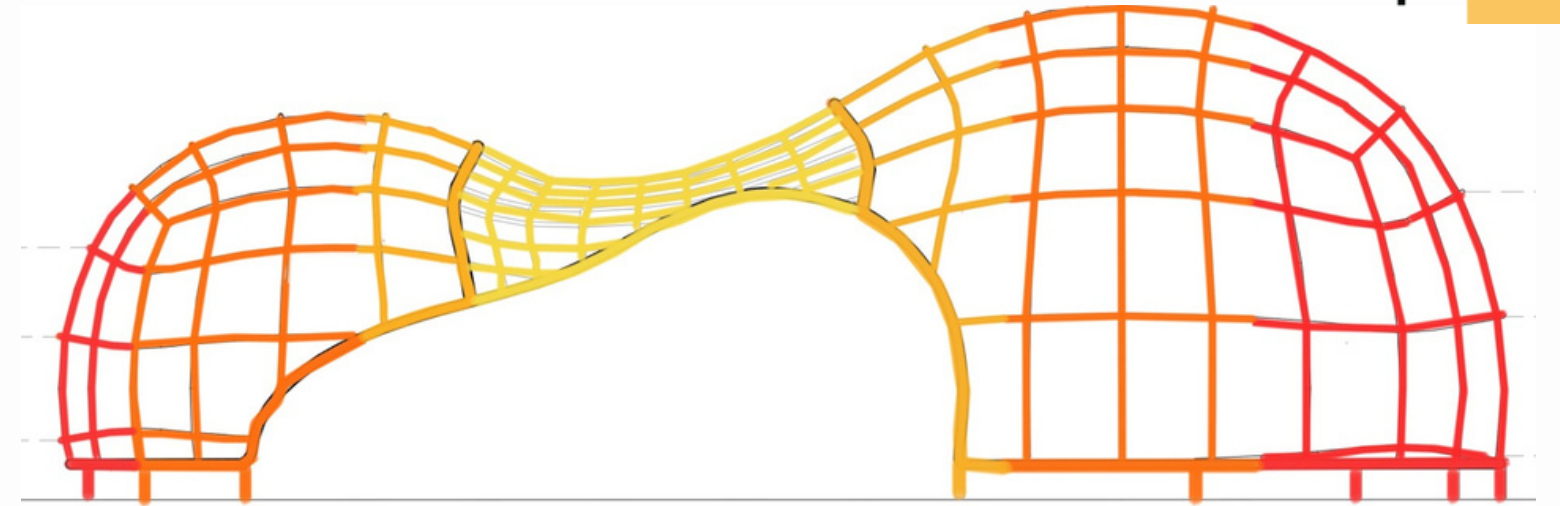
Based on Ms.Uma's calculations we reduce the height and the length of the structure from 8m x 6m to 6m x 4m to make the structure more stable without any additional support. This input also helped tackle the space constraint issue.

To keep the metal from rusting and eroding, Ms.Uma recommended that we lift the play structure off the ground by 6 in

The initial design was made using 1 in diameter pipes. Ms.Uma recommended that we use 2 in diameter pipes to increase stability in the frame. The thickness of the pipe changed from 2mm to 3mm for a stronger structure.

Fabrication

When the metal frame was created, we realised that some of the metal pieces were not evenly cut (since they were manually cut) which led to the structure not looking continuous. We then measured and marked the pieces with chalk by hand and they were recut to make a continuous curve.



When we started marking the foundation, we realised that the play structure might be too close to the wall. To solve this safety issue, we adjusted the initial calculations and moved the foundation by a few feet.



Inspired by Risa Sato's choice of solid, bold colours, Sushruti initially chose red for the play structure. When she sourced the rope, she realised that it was only available in yellow. This problem led to a more interesting colour solution. We worked with the painter to achieve a gradient which was also followed on the cement foundation.