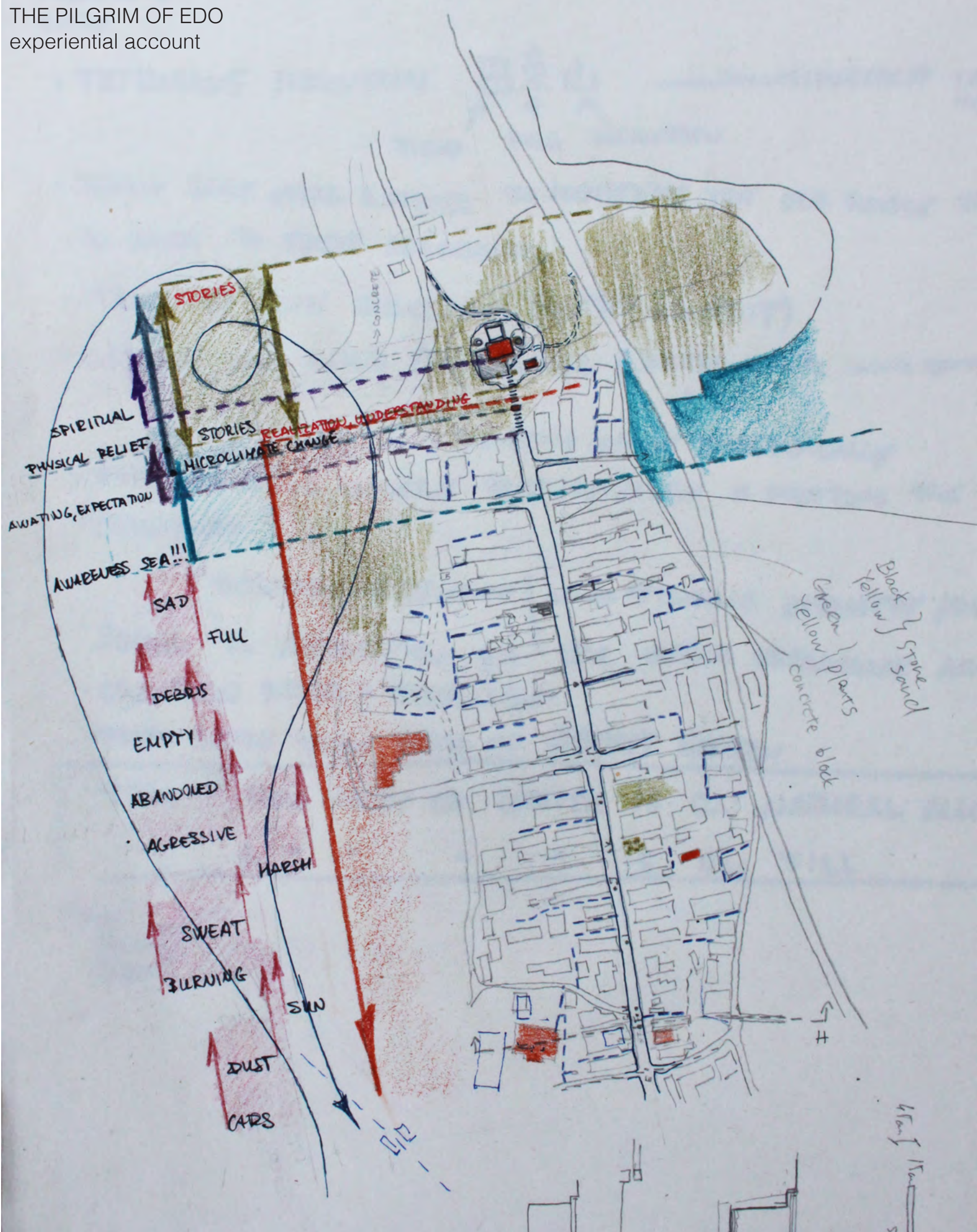


Documenting a complete erasure of a cultural existence, the analysis attempts to reveal social patterns that gave significance to the town in the past.

Cross sectional analysis approach as an archaeological dig that recreates the multiple layers of the urban life (economic, transportational, spiritual, residential) of Utatsu.

EDO ROAD Transect Analysis
cross sectional account

THE PILGRIM OF EDO experiential account



Having been looking at a form that is inherently tied to the community, I felt the need for an experiential and temporal analysis which would act as a mediator between the static documentation of the cross sectional account of the layout of Utatsu and the understanding of the cultural dimension of the city and its significance as a whole.

Experiential account of a pilgrimage.

1st phase: red house to awareness of Sea

-In the absence of a meaningful reference point we randomly chose the structure of a remaining house as our starting point. It could have been any other.

[Question: where does Edo road start?]

-We kept walking the road and drawing sections of the lowlands but there was something deeper about that place that we could not grasp in sections.

2nd phase: lowlands to hill

-section S: awareness of Sea for 1st time. Preface to something that is going to happen.

-base of the stairs: excitement, awaiting and expectation.

-Torii: microclimate change, physical relief.

-transition from traffic, dust, sweat and destruction to shade, cool breeze, beauty and the safe.

3rd phase: the lingering

-sacredness of a place where people come, leave their stories, meet those of others, and go.

4th phase: realization

-a few steps above Torii, where vegetation opens up, suddenly and unexpectedly, one understands the road: its trace, its direction, its straightness and the urban fabric it gives birth to. The meaning of a slow and flat progression, the importance of transition, and ultimately the hill.

The understanding does not come during the ascent, for a pilgrim does not look back. Neither it happens at the top. The moment takes place on the return, as one descends the stairs, when the density of the forest open up to light.

As one walks Edo back, the same exterior perceptions interfere with one's body, however, there is a presence of a continuous thread of understanding that makes what one sees more meaningful. Something that the sections cannot describe.

The 2nd phase is very interesting because the encounters overlap each other creating areas of interference, intensity and potential.

[Question: absence of a starting point: if we would have walked back the whole way (run out of time), would have we discovered the starting point? Should we look for historical data? Is the start point important? Maybe not.]

Notion of process as a progression towards something, lingering in that something and the need of the return to understand.

