

# A spiral with thin walls

**Production.** PAF is place for production, but also has to be produced and maintained constantly by all the people coming here. Although it seems so, it's not a residency. On whatever project you're working on, PAF can only make it possible for you to do so, if it is also a project of yours. All people coming here have the same responsibilities. As there's no staff, complaining will always end in an cul-de-sac street. Don't leave traces, they will affect others immediately. If you're in anger about a messy part in PAF, go ahead: take care of it, or forge alliances to do it together. PAF as a space for making things possible can only emerge if people forget about the distinction between individual and common, anonymous traces.

**Synchronicity.** PAF is a community. And it is not. Some people come for a weekend, others for a month, some as individuals, others in a group. Some know each other since many years, some have never met before. For some it's just another spot on their huge map of production places, for others it's the only place which offers a way of living they usually have no access to. Some people are searching quite solitude, some the social vibration of a company. Most of the walls in PAF are very thin. Consider this both as an appropriate description of the buildings substance as well as a remembrance that you're not alone here. The autonomous structure of PAF affords a certain degree of synchronization; the freedom of forgetting about the outside comes with the responsibility to be sensitive to the inside.

**Inside and Outside.** PAF wants to be a place without hierarchies. Flatness and liquidity in decision making, in social as well as in the buildings structure are an ideal which should accompany you all the time. Besides the flatness, the structure of time, knowledge and power in a community can be imagined as a spiral. Coming to PAF for the first time, you enter on the outside. Your ways to do things may take a lot of time, because you have to gain knowledge about spaces, tools, and possibilities first. You may not even be aware about certain possibilities. Other people are more deeper in PAF, they know immediately where to find things, whom to ask or when better not to ask anybody, it allows them to be more swift. This often tends to be a hierarchy. Try to flatten those, try to pull people from outside to the inside of the spiral, try to create shortcuts for them. Be also aware that some people know – based on gender, racial or economic dimensions – much better what it means to be outside. It's your responsibility to prevent insiders and outsiders at PAF.

*Nisaar Ulama, October 2017*