



mariam abdelhamid  
design portfolio



Innovative

Unique

D e s i g n s



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MENA Community Center

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The MENA Community Center, located in Paterson, NJ is a place designed to welcome and assist immigrants from the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region immigrating to the U.S.A. Its most important mission is to create a sense of belonging and wellbeing to immigrants. This project received the ASID 2023 Design Excellence Award; student category for Public spaces.



## 01 MENA Community Center

According to the most current U.S. Census Bureau, Middle East and North Africa immigrants' population in the U.S. has increased dramatically between 1980 - 2019. As thousands of immigrants move to the U.S., they live their lives in a whole new world, oftentimes feeling lost, misguided, and frustrated.

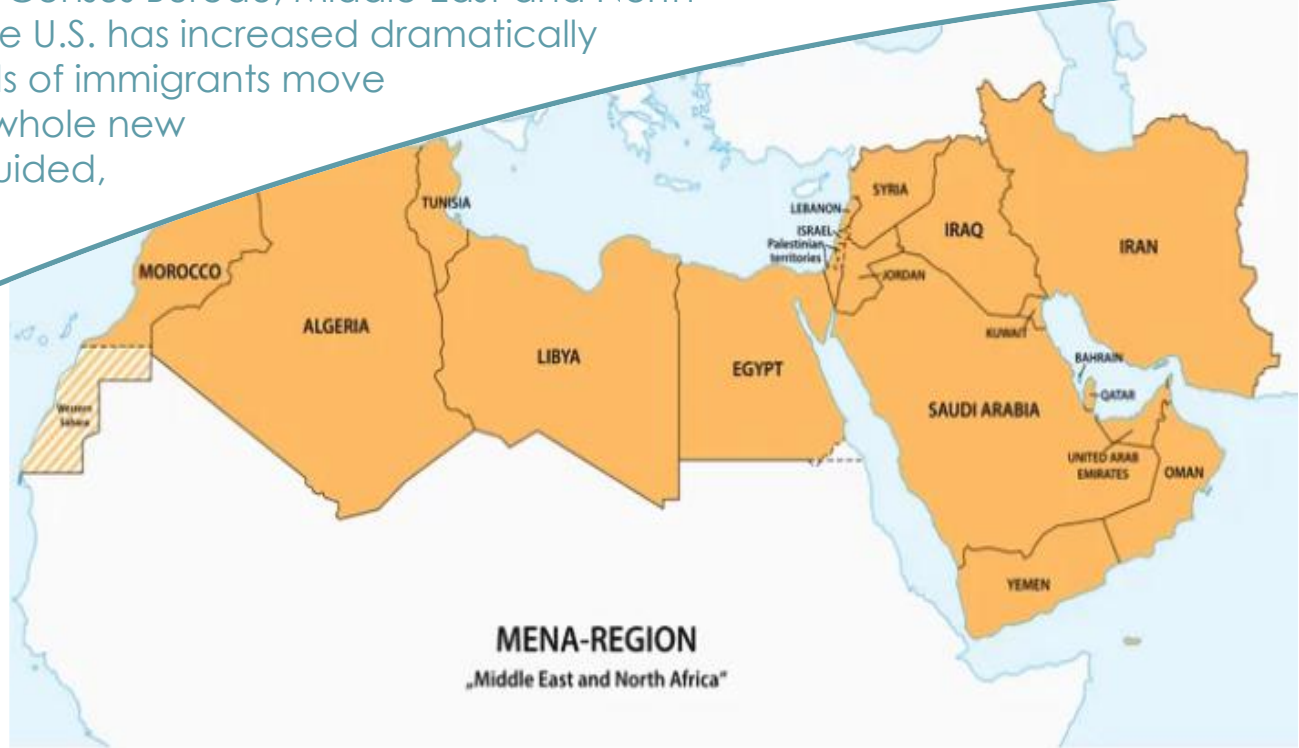
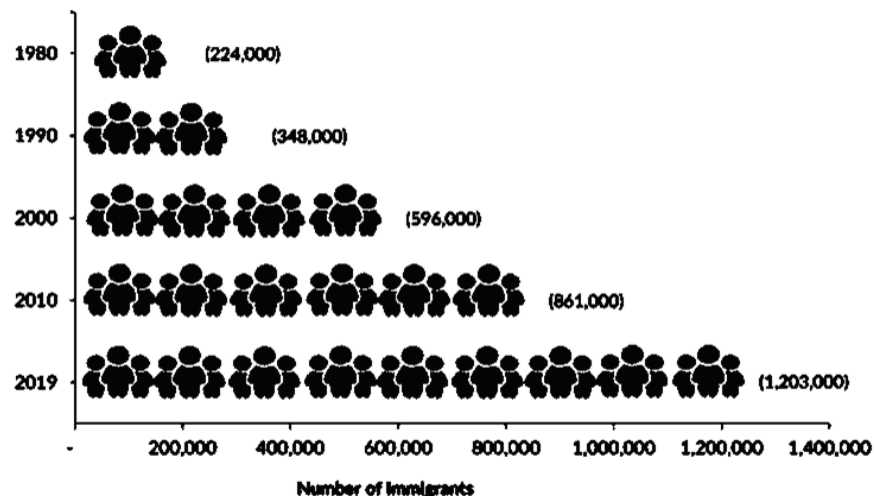


Figure 1. MENA Immigrant Population in the United States, 1980–2019



Sources: Data from U.S. Census Bureau 2010 and 2019 American Community Surveys (ACS), and Campbell J. Gibson and Kay Jung, "Historical Census Statistics on the Foreign-born Population of the United States: 1850-2000" (Working Paper no. 81, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, February 2006), available online.

## Case Studies

Studies show that cultural identity is the key when designing a community center for a specific culture. Elements like colors, materials, lighting, and textures are essential tools to identify a culture and create a connection to a culture when introduced to an unfamiliar space. An important design goal is to provide immigrants a space to immigrants that creates a sense of belonging, feels welcoming, and makes them feel secure.



Seven Hills Community Center for Scandinavian immigrants resettling in Seattle, WA. Open design-glass walls, Scandinavian motifs and natural elements create a vibrant shared space.



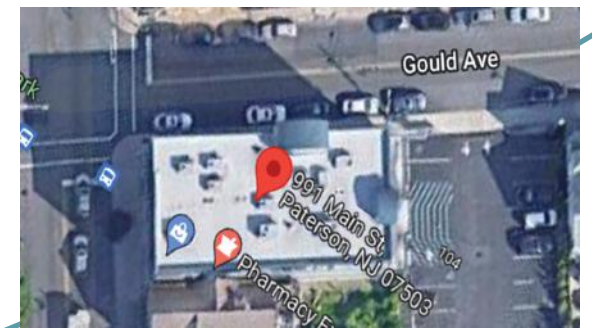
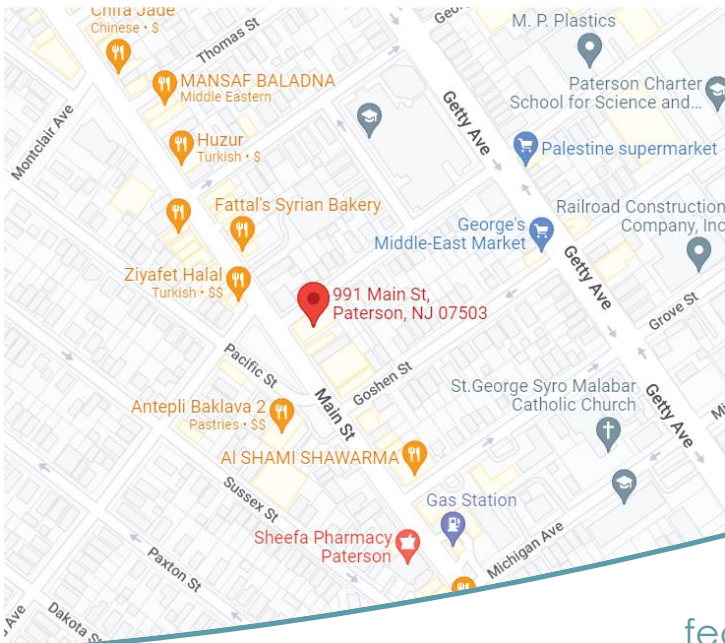
El Corazon Cultural Center, Philadelphia, PA. A Puerto Rican/ Latino-based arts and cultural facility, that offers a community cultural hub and gathering space. The use of natural lighting, and a bold and vibrant color schemes are representative of Latino culture.





“A space to not forget where you came from or who you are, but a place to support the journey of who you want to be.” This quote inspires and drives the design of the community center. Observing MENA historical and contemporary design solutions, the design focuses on the use of gold and blue as accent colors; materials such as glass, wood, and rich to identify the MEAN cultures.

## Concept & Inspirations



Statics indicate that Paterson, NJ, holds the largest MENA community in the state. The MENA community center is housed in a multi-use building, but it will be demolished to fit the new design intent. The arched glass windows are one of the architectural features that reflect the culture of the MENA community. In addition, the building has a shared parking lot, access to transportation and is close to local mosque.

## Site & Setting



**Code Analysis:**

- Building type: B
- Occupant load: 170
- Exits: 2 means of egress
- Corridor width: Min. 44"
- Plumbing fixtures per floor:
  - Water fountain: 1
  - Each Male & Female Restroom:
    - Water closet: 1
    - Lavatory: 1

**Circulation:**

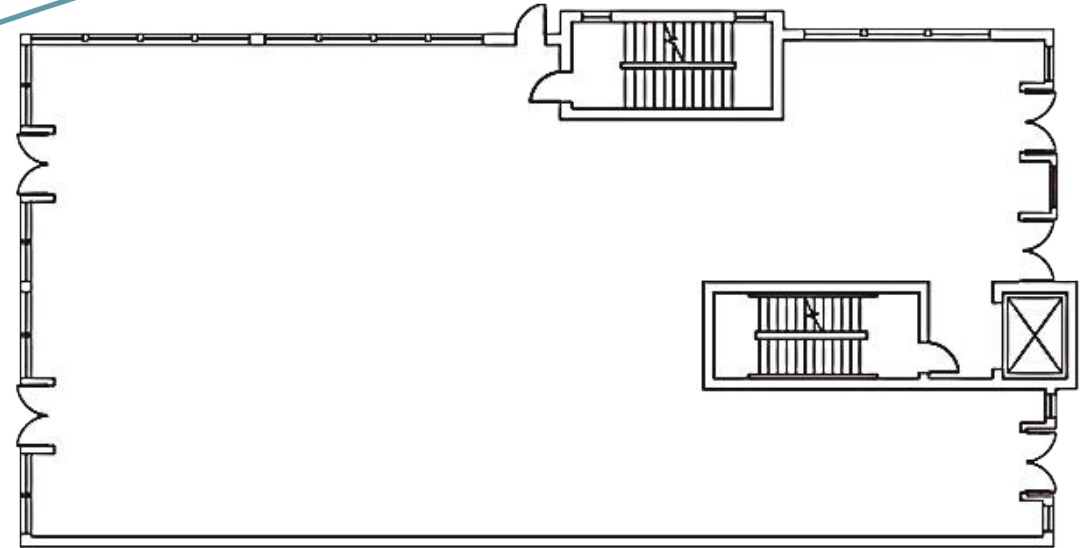
- Total: 10,507 SQ.FT.
- Circulation:  $10,507 \times 0.3 = 2,101.4$  SQ.FT.
- Total w/ circulation:  $10,507 + 2,101.4 = 12,608.4$  SQ.FT.
- Space left:  $13,246 - 12,608.4 = 637.6$  SQ.FT.

**Services:**

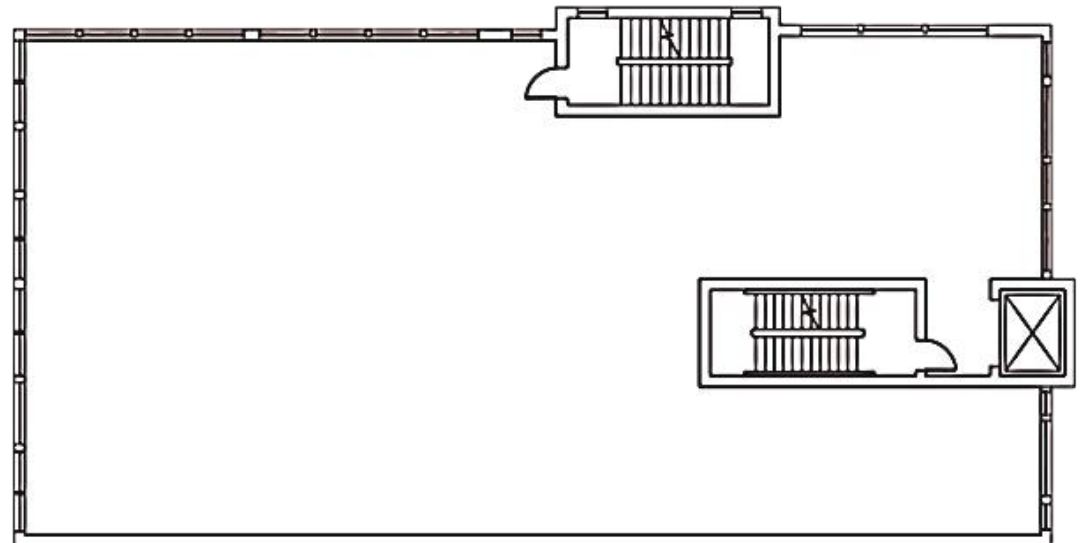
- Living assistance
- Awareness presentations
- Communication supports

**Programing**

- **First Floor:**
  - Lobby & Reception 298 SQ.FT.
  - Café and Bakery area: 1,523 SQ.FT.
  - Retail spaces: 1,994 SQ.FT.
- **Second Floor:**
  - 3 x Help desks: 139 SQ.FT. each = 417 SQ.FT.
  - Staff lounge: 289 SQ.FT.
  - Copy Room: 144 SQ.FT.
  - Storage Room: 149 SQ.FT.
  - Quiet Room: 179 SQ.FT.
  - Utility Room: 74 SQ.FT.
  - Offices:
    - CEO'S Office: 297 SQ.FT.
    - Manager: 186 SQ.FT.
    - Admin Office #1: 171 SQ.FT.
    - Admin Office #2: 150 SQ.FT.
    - Conference area: 344 SQ.FT.
    - Meeting area: 508 SQ.FT.
- **Third Floor:**
  - Gallery & Museum: 1,133 SQ.FT.
  - Library: 1,207 SQ.FT.
  - Classroom #1: 349 SQ.FT.
  - Classroom #2: 344 SQ.FT.
  - Classroom #3: 394 SQ.FT.
  - Storage: 357 SQ.FT.



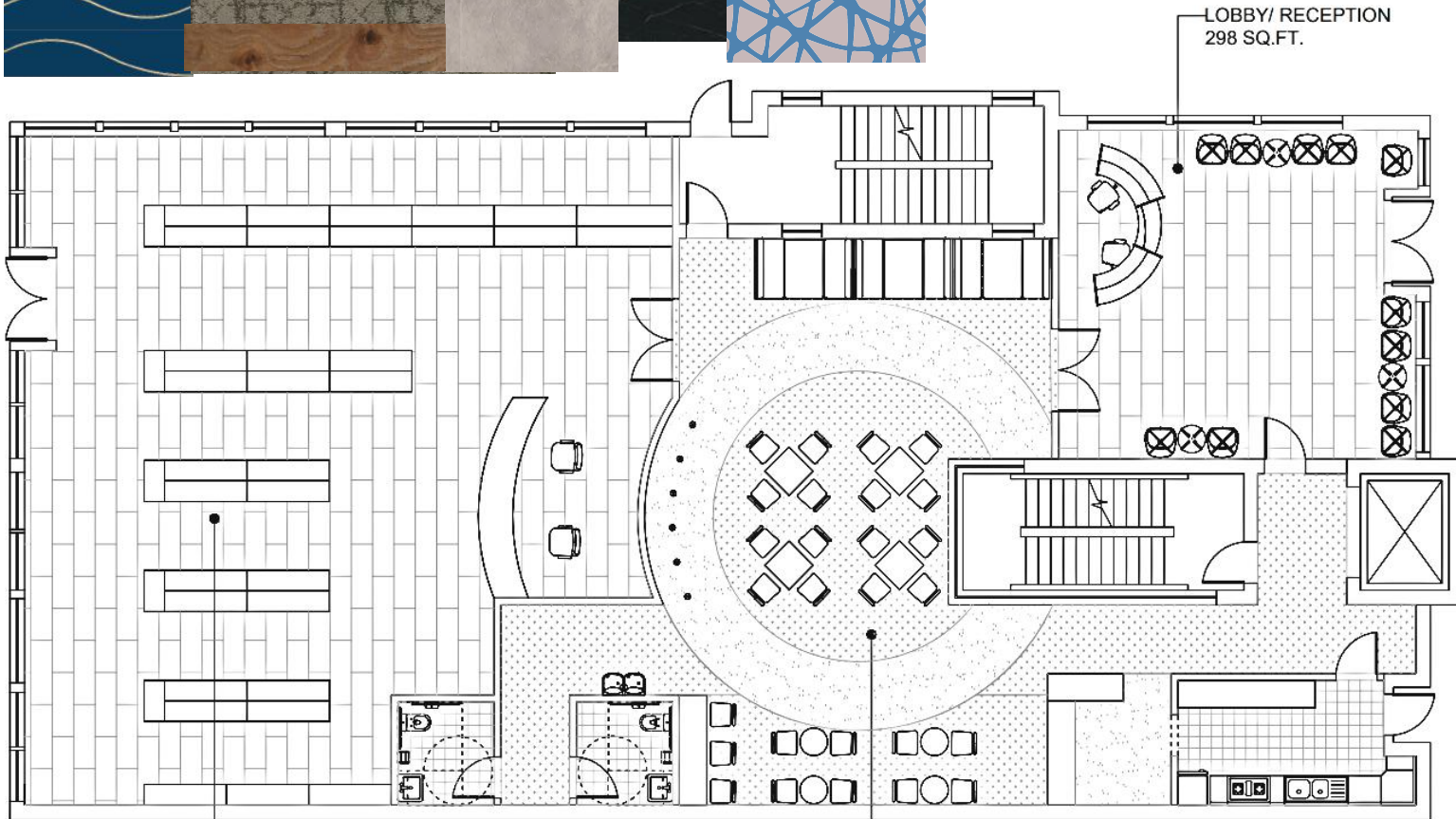
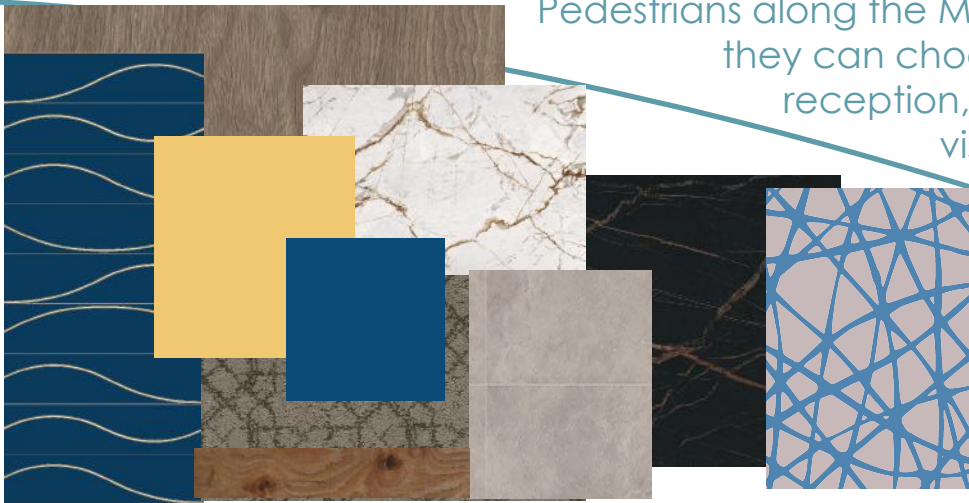
Existing Exterior Plan - First Floor



Existing Exterior Plan - Second & Third Floor

# First Floor

Pedestrians along the Mian Street will have access to enter the retail area, or they can choose to park at the back of the building and enter the reception, both entrances are designed to welcome and assist visitors. The cafe and bakery areas are designed to be open to encourage socialization and gathering. Materials used rely on color and texture to identify the MENA culture and create a subtle appearance.



RETAIL AREA  
1994 SQ.FT.

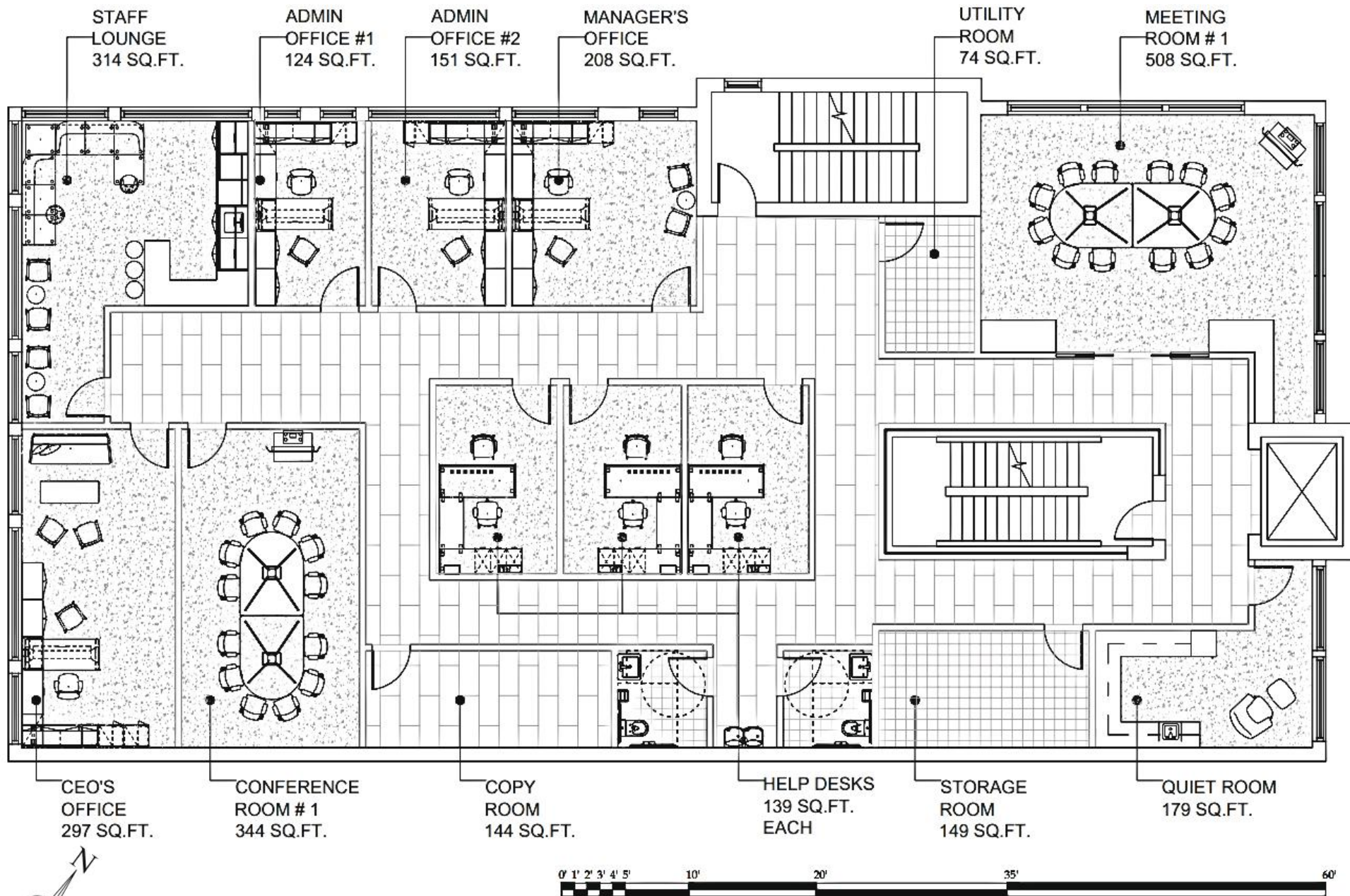
CAFE & BAKERY  
1523 SQ.FT.

LOBBY/ RECEPTION  
298 SQ.FT.





Cafe Area



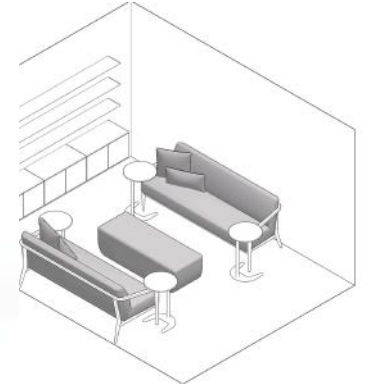
## Second Floor



Meeting Room #1



CEO's Office



Admins & Manager's Office



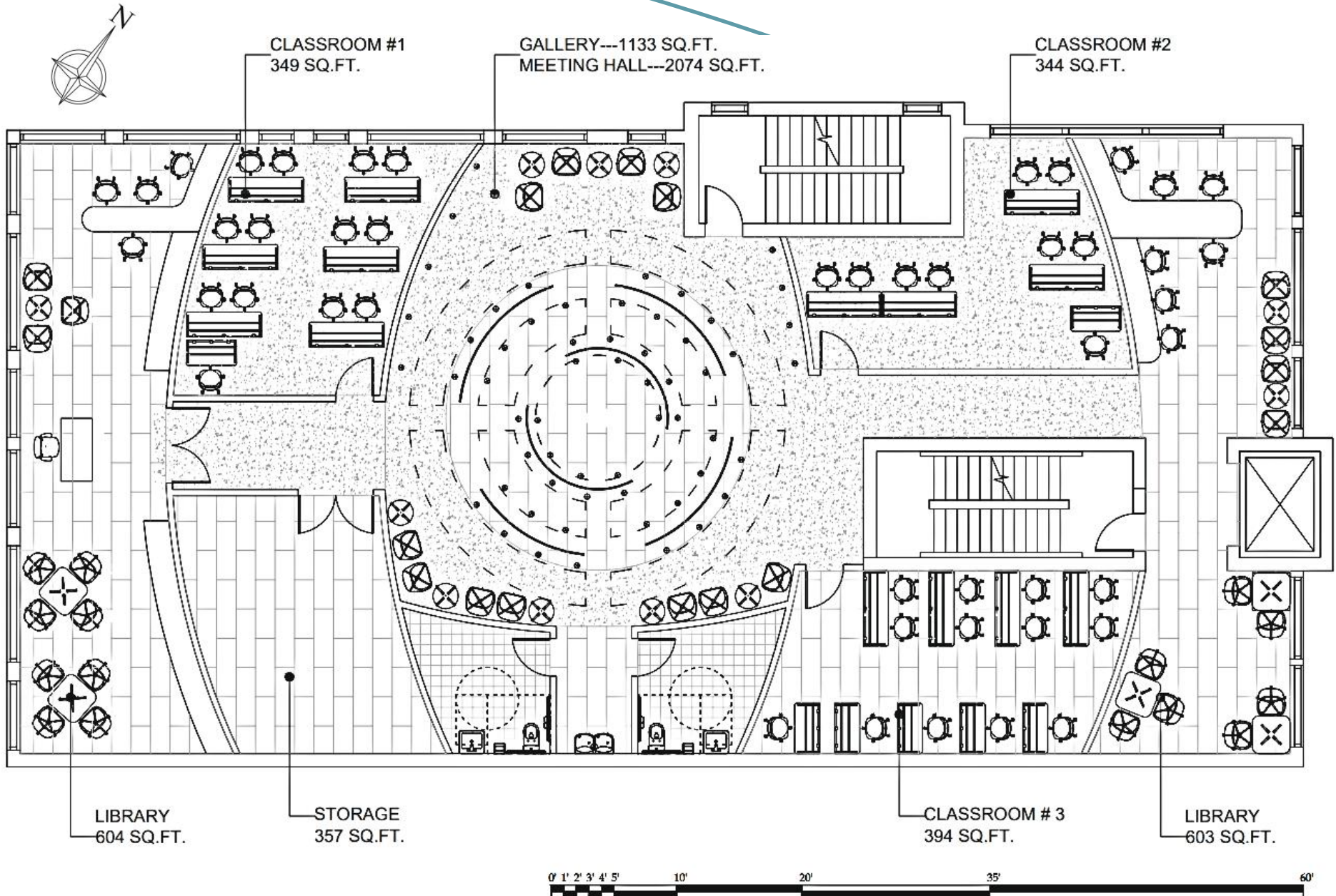
Quite Room



Help Desks

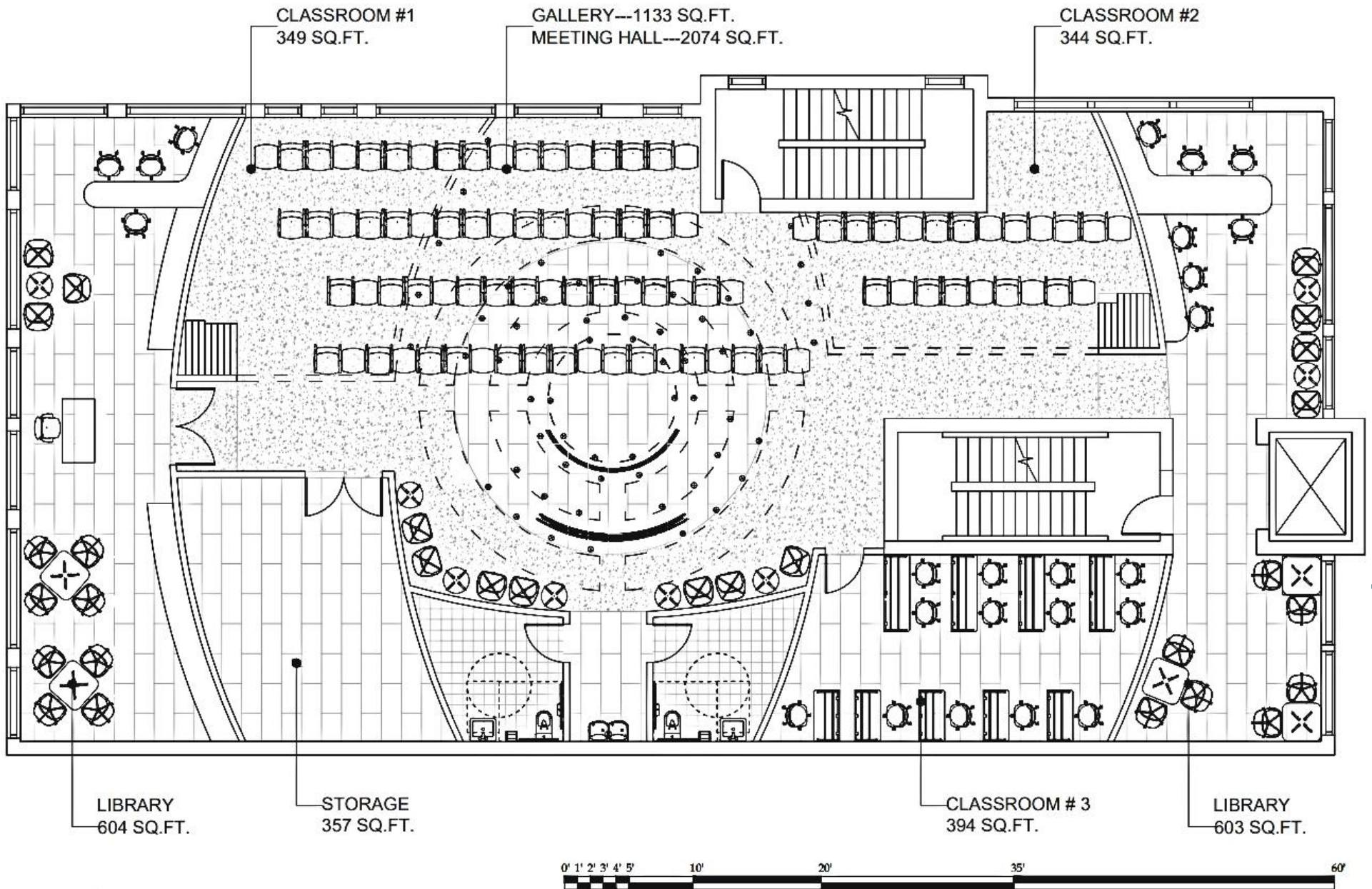
# Third Floor- Layout #1

The innovative design of the third floor has the ability to change shape, orientation, and purpose. One layout option assists the community center with classrooms and a gallery space, where a second layout transitions the space to a large meeting hall.





Gallery Space



Third Floor- Layout #2



# Meeting Hall



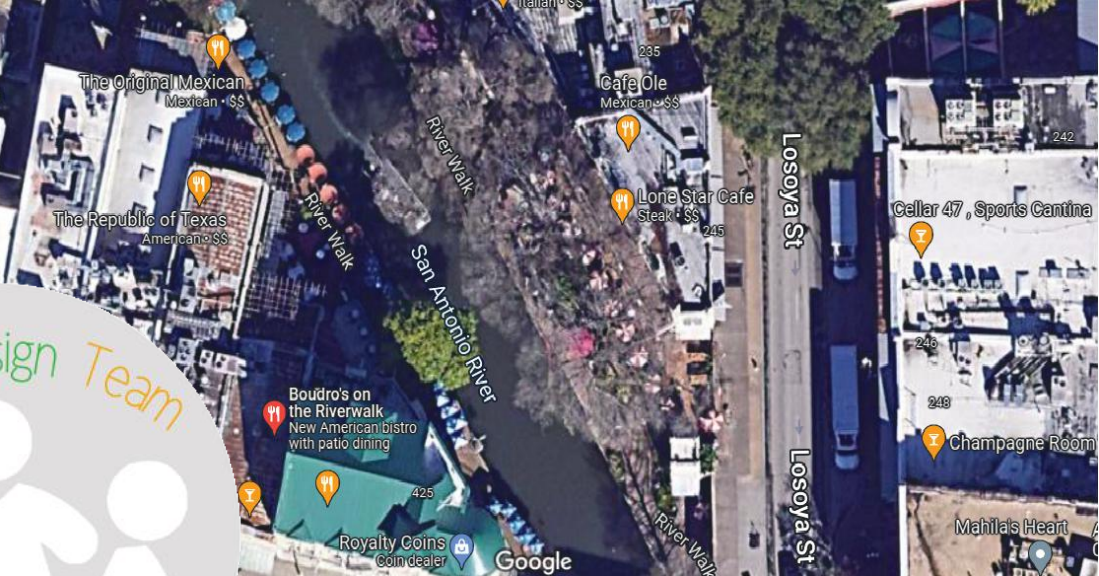
The River Design Team office located in San Antonio, Texas, is a collaborative workspace of a leading interior design and graphic branding agency specializing in hospitality, retail, healthcare, and workplace design. The design of the office is welcoming and exciting to encourage employees to interact and collaborate within the physical office environment versus working virtually.



## 02 Collaborative Office: River Design Team






# Site & Office Culture

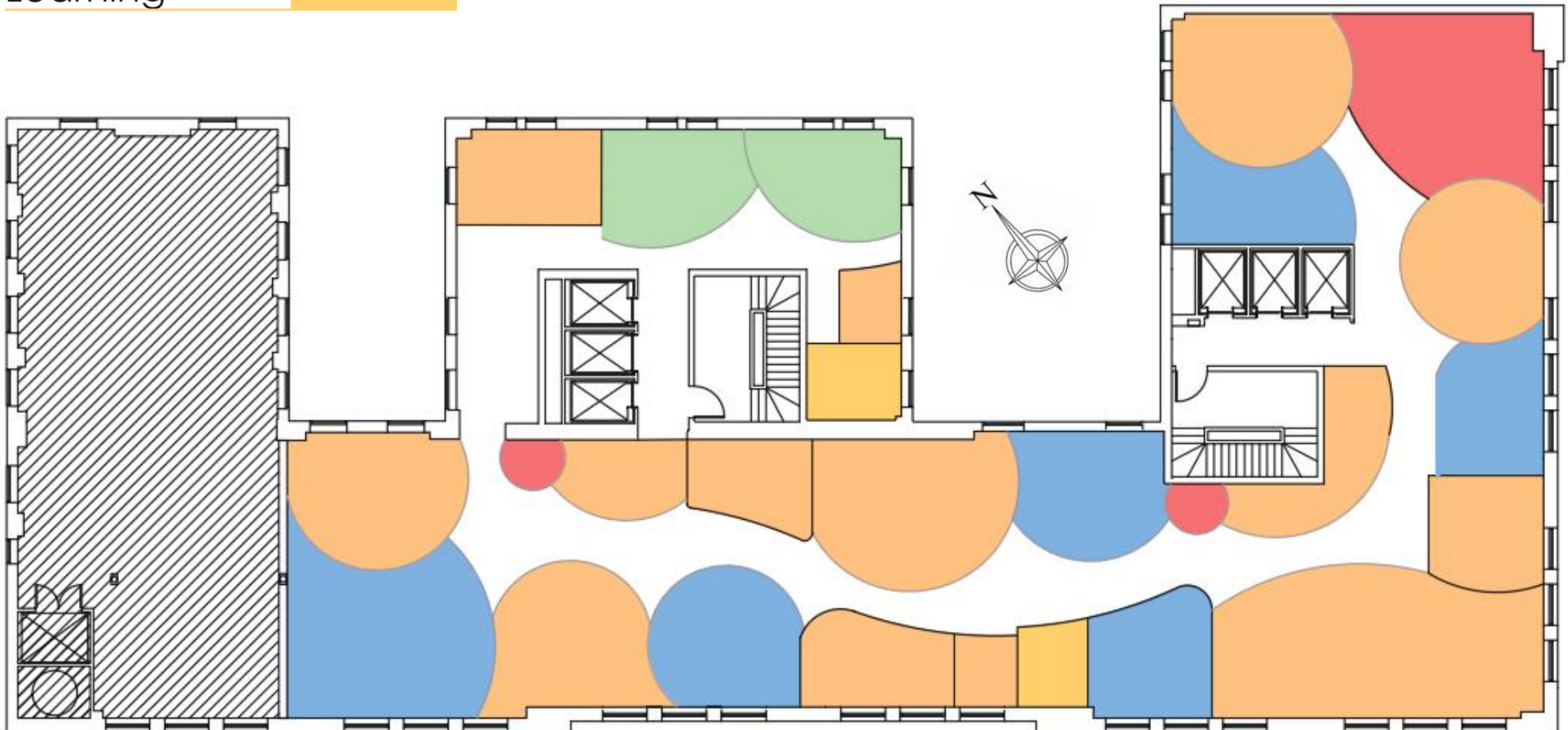
The office is located near the River Walk to provide employees with a delightful and exciting work experience. The branding and design of the office is inspired by the offices clan culture, a culture that encourages open and informal communication, views employees as peers and family, and encourages members to work together toward a common goal.

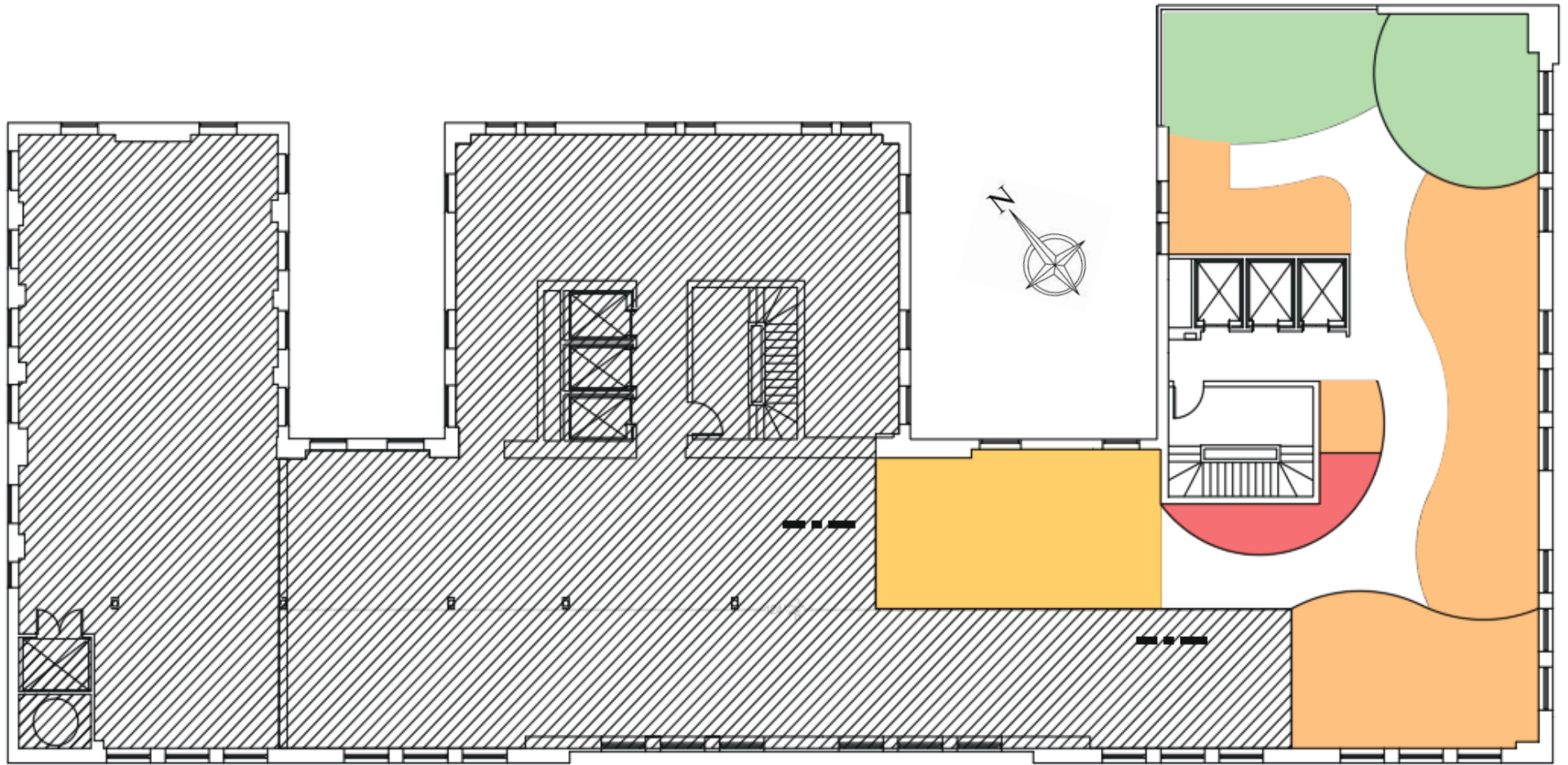


## Zoning Eco-system- 3rd Floor

The office area are located on the third and fourth floors. The third floor includes a mix of five different zones; personal zones to provide privacy when needed; collaborate zones for collaboration, resources zones to support designers; socialization zones for clients and employees gathering, and learning zones for designers to meet and educate clients.

Personal	
Collaborate	
Resources	
Socialize	
Learning	



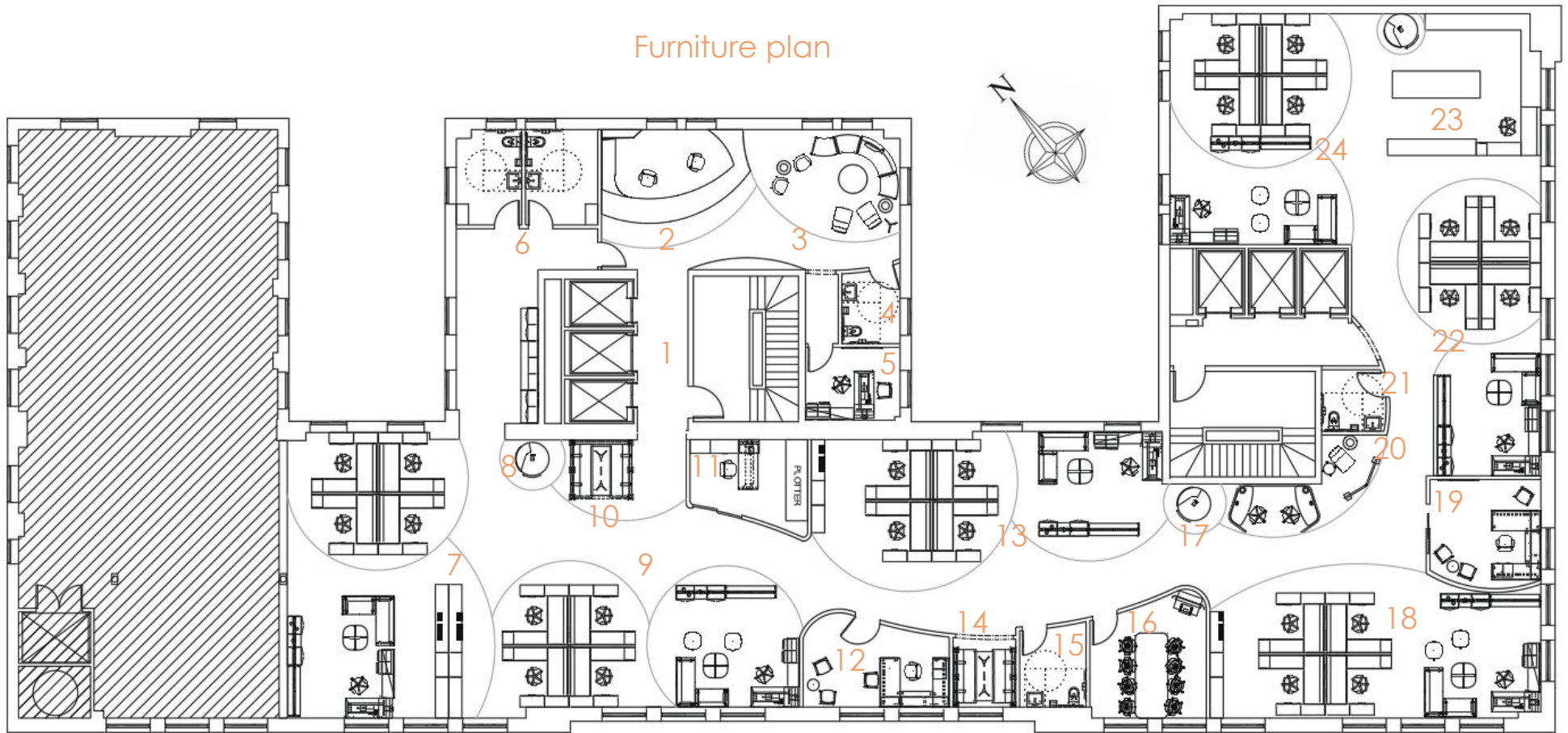


The idea of collaboration is reflected and inspired by drops of water from the River Walk. The circular pattern formed when a water drop symbolizes one as whole, how they all influence and interact with each other.



Zoning Eco-system- 4rd Floor

## Furniture plan



- |                            |                                      |                                       |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Entry                   | 12. Graphic Design Director's Office | 19. Interior Design Director's Office |
| 2. Reception               | 13. Graphic Design Team # 3          | 20. Quiet Zone                        |
| 3. Waiting area            | 14. Quiet Zone                       | 21. Unisex Restroom                   |
| 4. Guest Restroom          | 15. Unisex Restroom                  | 22. Interior Design Team # 2          |
| 5. Consultation Office     | 16. Conference Room                  | 23. FF&E Library                      |
| 6. Restroom                | 17. Graphic Tech #2                  | 24. Interior Design Team # 3          |
| 7. Graphic Design Team # 1 | 18. Interior Design Team # 1         |                                       |
| 8. Graphic tech #1         |                                      |                                       |
| 9. Graphic Design Team # 2 |                                      |                                       |
| 10. Quiet Zone             |                                      |                                       |
| 11. Packaging              |                                      |                                       |



Reception

## Space Planning- Third Floor

# Waiting Area



# Graphic Design Team #2

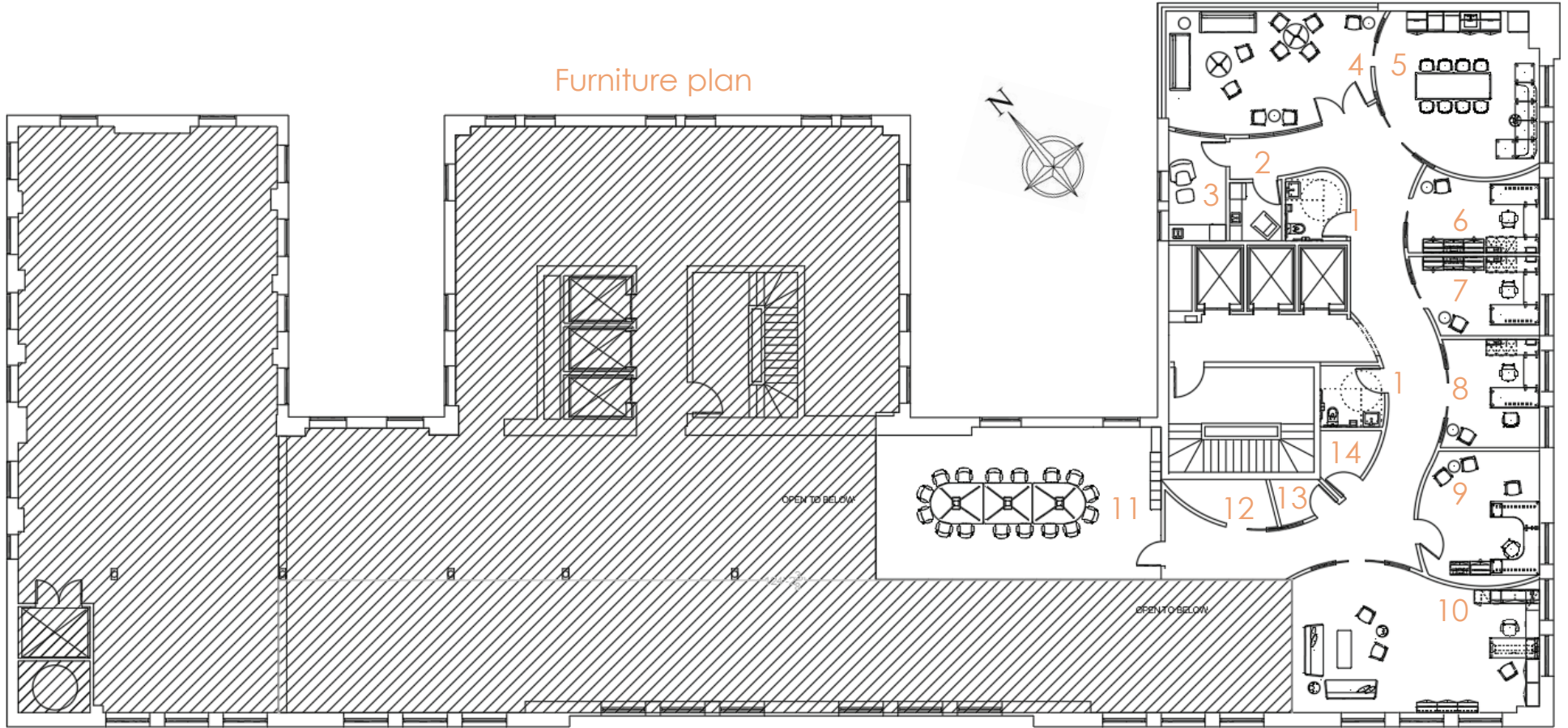






Graphic Design Collaboration Area

# Furniture plan



- 1. Restroom
- 2. Wellness Room #1
- 3. Wellness Room #2
- 4. Staff Pantry
- 5. Admin Office #1
- 6. Admin Office #2
- 7. Human Resources
- 8. Manager's Office
- 9. Principle's Office
- 10. Conference Room
- 11. Server Room
- 12. Electrical Closet
- 13. Janitor Closet

SW 6801  
**Regale Blue**  
Interior / Exterior  
Location Number: 177

SW 6764  
**Swimming**  
Interior / Exterior  
Location Number: 164-C1

SW 6638  
**Flattering Peach**  
Interior  
Location Number: 121-C1

## Space Planning- Fourth Floor



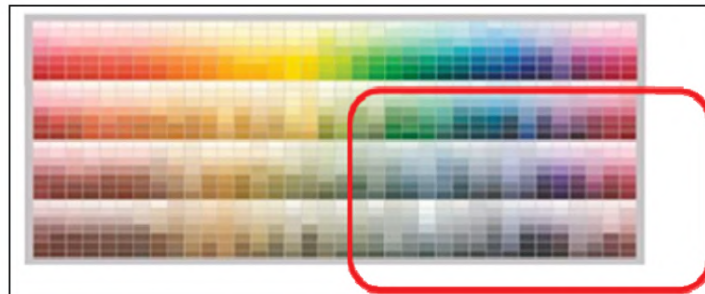
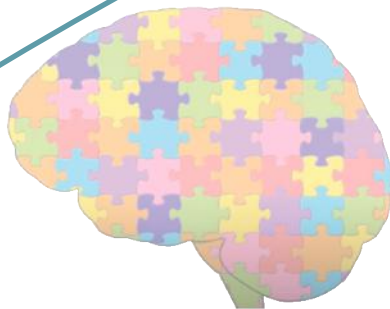
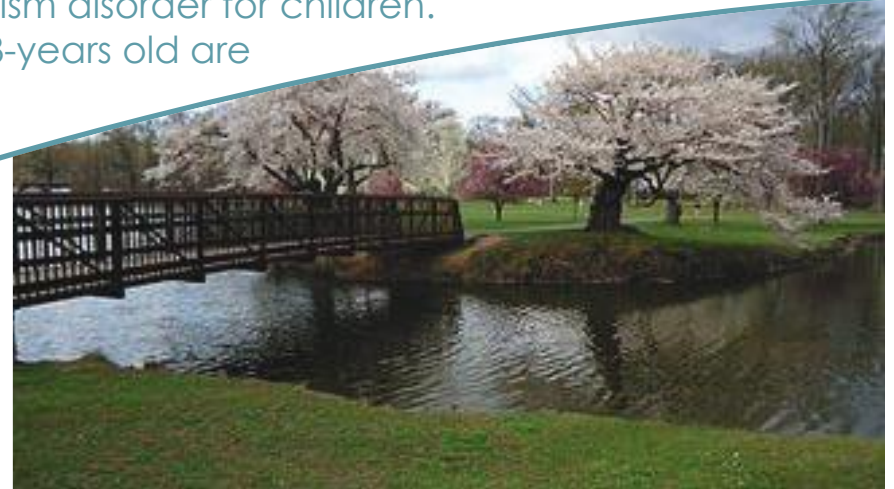
The Union Pediatric Autism Center is a pediatric neurology medical office that specializes in treating and diagnosing autism disorder. It is an outpatient medical facility that is prepared for patients check ups, lab work, x-rays, and meetings with a specialist.



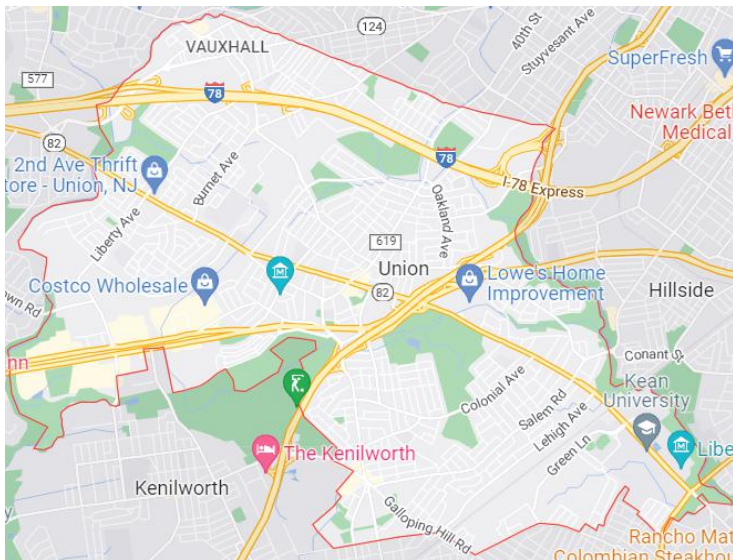
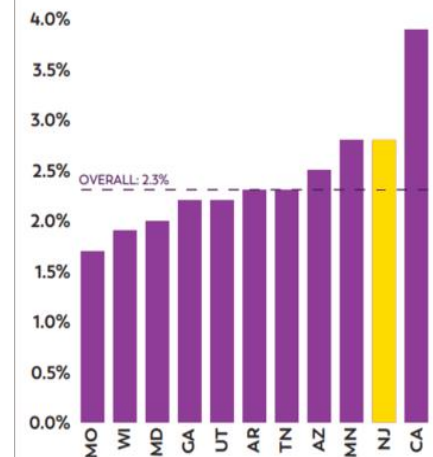
## 03 Union Pediatric Autism Center

# Evidence Based Design

New Jersey is ranked as the second highest state with autism disorder for children. Based on CDC statistics, about 1 of 35 children amongst 8-years old are identified with ASD (autism spectrum disorder) and 1 of 51 children among 4-years old are identified with ASD in NJ. Union, NJ is a city with a large number of children diagnosed with ASD, the location of the pediatric neurology office is invaluable in helping decrease autism disorder in NJ.



Percentage of 8-year-old children identified with ASD by ADDM Network Site



Children (newborn to 18 years old) who are diagnosed with ASD face serious development disorders that damage their ability to communicate and interact with others. Each autistic child has a set of strengths and challenges. Many are sensitive to the sight, sound, and touch of their environment. Evidence-based Design Research shows that spaces in which autistic children interact should include modular furniture, intimate zones, natural lighting, muted colors scheme, and less saturated colors.

# Space Planning

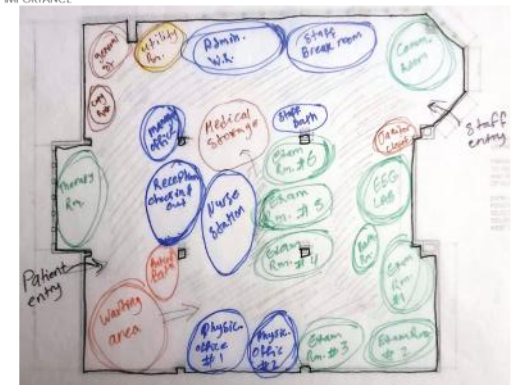
The pediatric neurology clinic's overall feeling is playful and serene. Children entering the space will be amazed by its colorfulness and curious to explore. As kids love playgrounds, the clinic will have a safe and fun entertaining area for kids to relax and help their healing process through the use of natural materials like wood and stone flooring, and colorful color scheme.

Furniture plan



CRITERIA MATRIX	ADJACENCY	ADJACENCY	ADJACENCY	ADJACENCY	ADJACENCY	ADJACENCY	ADJACENCY	ADJACENCY	ADJACENCY
RECEPTION / CHECK-IN / CHECK-OUT	180	H	Y	M	N				
WAITING AREA	300	H	Y	M	N				
EXAM ROOMS	900	N	M	H	Y				
ASTHMA THERAPY ROOM	170	N	Y	H	Y				
NURSE STATION	200	M	I	M	Y				
EEG LAB	150	N	N	Y	Y				
2 X PHYSICIAN OFFICE	240	N	Y	H	N				
COMMUNITY ROOM	300	M	Y	N	N				
ADMIN WORKROOM	240	N	Y	M	N				
MANAGER OFFICE	100	L	Y	H	N				
STAFF BREAK ROOM	200	N	Y	H	Y				
QUIET SPACE	80	N	N	H	Y				
GENERAL STORAGE	80	N	N	Y	N				
MEDICAL STORAGE	240	N	N	Y	N				
JANITOR CLOSET	60	N	N	Y	Y				
3 X RESTROOMS	218	Y	N	Y	Y				
COPY ROOM	60	N	N	Y	N				

- LEGEND:**  
 H = HIGH  
 M = MEDIUM  
 L = LOW  
 Y = YES  
 N = NO/NONE  
 I = IMPORTANT BUT NOT REQUIRED  
 ● = PRIMARY ADJACENCY  
 ○ = SECONDARY ADJACENCY  
 + = UNDESIRE ADJACENCY  
 - = REMOTE  
 ⊕ = INDICATES ADJACENCY IMPORTANCE  
 ⊙ = INDICATES MAJOR ADJACENCY IMPORTANCE





Custom Kids Zone



The **waiting area** is designed and located to allow **daylight and outside view access**. Based on evidence based design windows helps **restoring balance** by providing nature as a reference, and has a positive impact on the healing process of an ASD. Kids will also have access to play areas so they can be distracted until they are seen. The **custom kids zone** is a custom **intimate zone** that mimics a traditional house. It is important that kids with ASD **feel a sort of belonging** in a strange place. The Design of the custom kids zone will also attract kids to **wonder and explore**, which will help them from getting scared and afraid.



Waiting Area

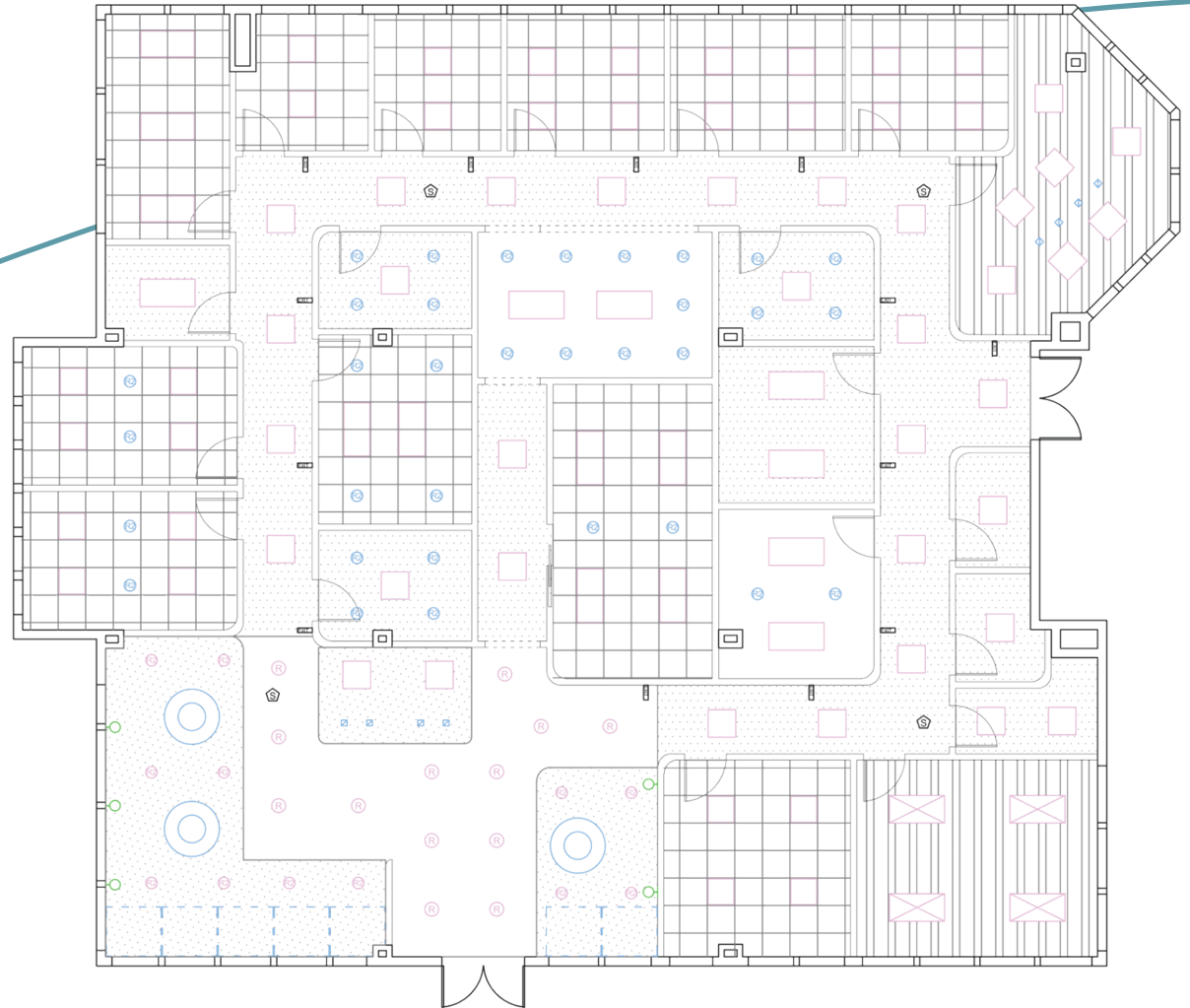


Nurse Station



# Reflected Ceiling Plan

LIGHTING LEGEND		
SYMBOLS	FIXTURE	DESCRIPTION
(R)		LED RECESSES LIGHTING, 12" DIAMETER.
(R2)		LED RECESSES LIGHTING, 10" DIAMETER.
TO		LED WALL SCONCES
		LED PENDENT LIGHTING
		LED CHANDELIER
		2' X 2' ANTI-MICROBIAL ADJUSTABLE LED CEILING PANEL LIGHT
		2' X 4' LED TROFFER
		2' X 4' SUSPENDED light fixture
		BUILT-IN LED STRIP LIGHTING
S		SMOCK DETECTOR
EXIT		EXIT SIGN



CEILING MATERIAL AND HEIGHT LEGEND		
HATCH PATTERN	MATERIAL	CEILING HEIGHT
	ACOUSTICAL CEILING PANEL	9'
	PLAIN FINISHED CEILING	9'
	EXPOSED WOOD BEAM CEILING	10'
	GYPSUM BOARD CEILING FINISH	10'

COLOR	DESCRIPTION
	GENERAL LIGHTING
	TASK LIGHTING
	DECORATIVE LIGHTING
	CODES

The residential space hosts the Yamato's, a Japanese couple who purchased a new residence in Okinawa, Japan to assist the husband's special needs with his diagnosed Parkinson's disease. The space accommodates a caregiver, daylight, and biophilic materials. This project received the ASID 2020 Design Excellence Award; student category for residential spaces.



## 04 Yamato's Residence

Based on the Natural Institute on Aging: “**Parkinson is a brain disorder** that leads to shaking, stiffness, and **difficulty with walking, balance, and coordination.**” Parkinson's is like a **storm** and to calm the storm it is necessary that they live in **spaces synchronized with the natural beauty** of the outside world.

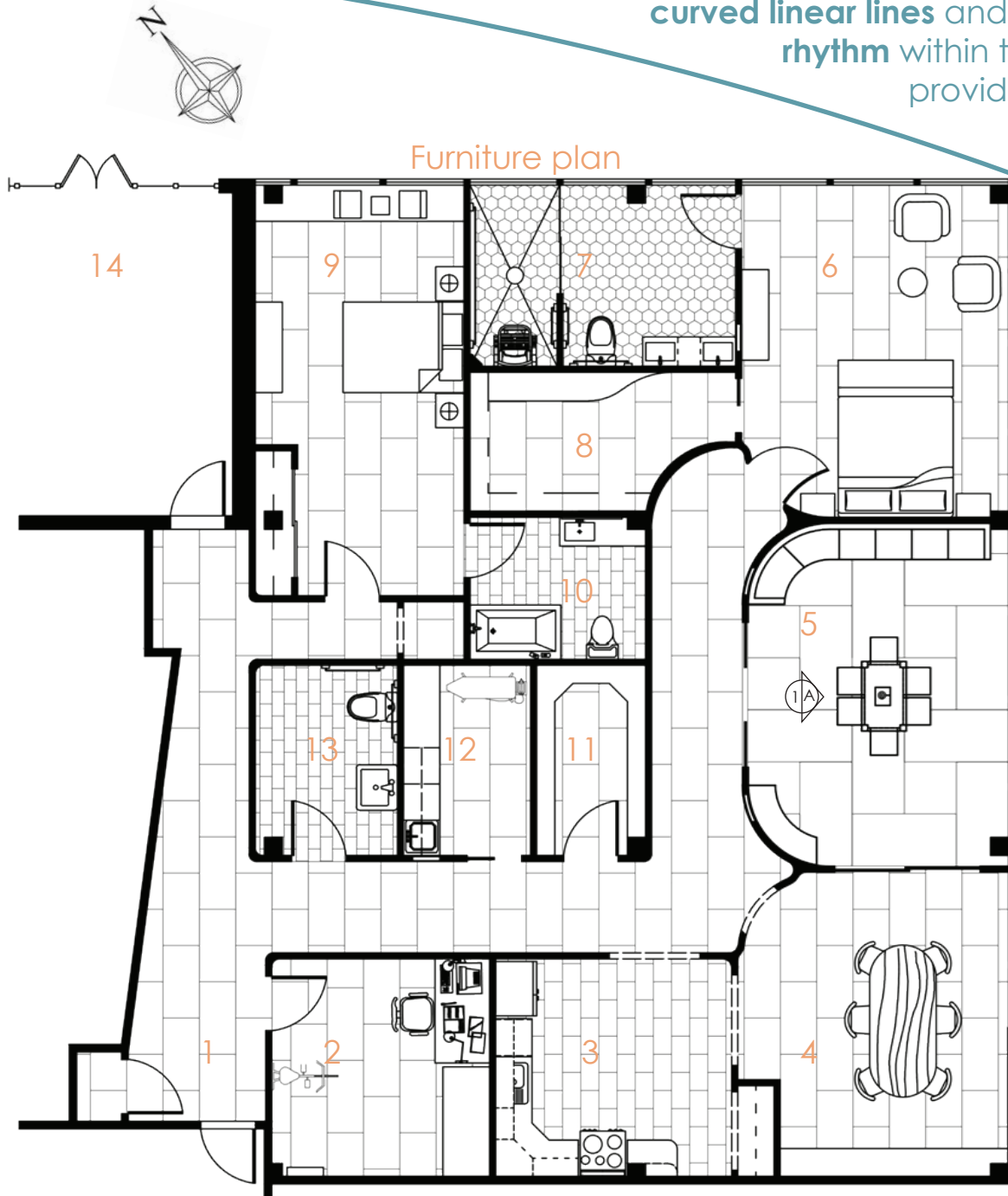


**Okinawa** is one of the **blue zones** in the world, which are areas where people **live the longest**, and are **healthiest**. Okinawa is an exotic, laid-back group of islands with warm weather, palm trees, and sugar-sand beaches. For almost a thousand years, this Pacific archipelago has maintained a **reputation for nurturing extreme longevity**. Okinawans over the age of 65 enjoy the world's highest life expectancy: Men are expected to live to about 84, while women are expected to live to almost age 90. **Okinawa's secret** is called **Moai**, a philosophy that means **strong dedication to friends and family**, and maintaining a **powerful social network**.

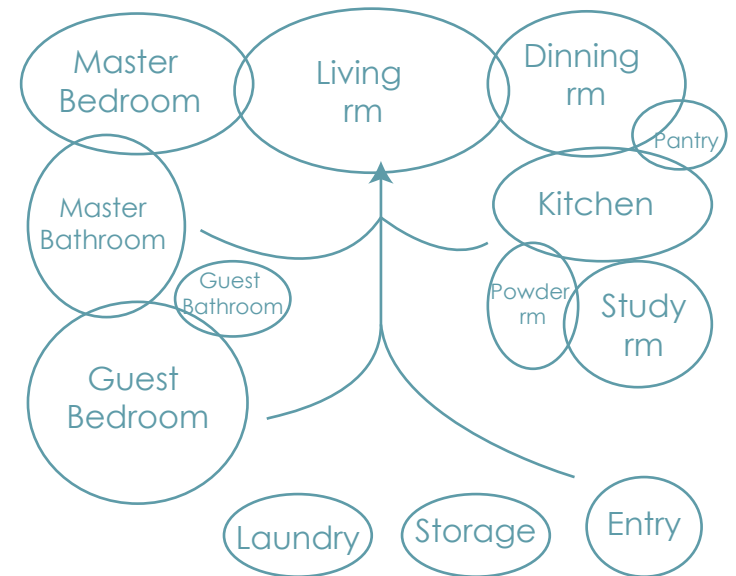


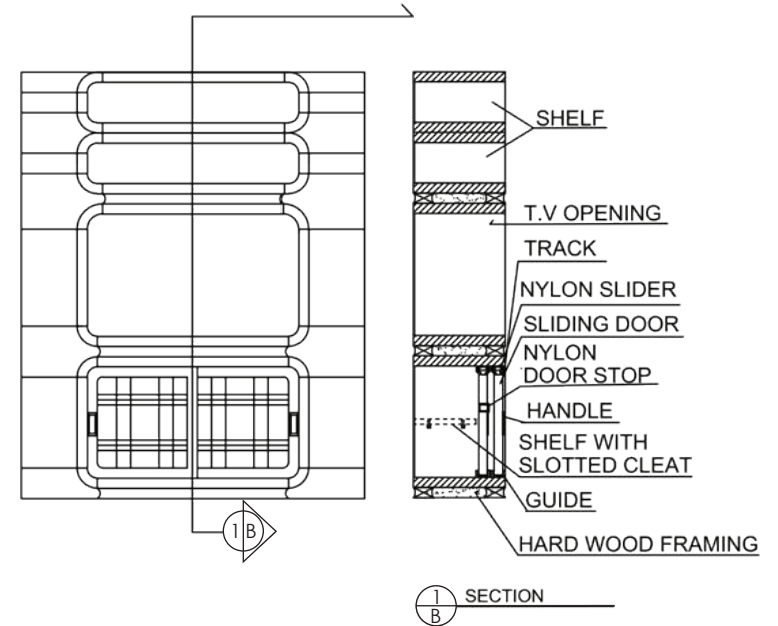
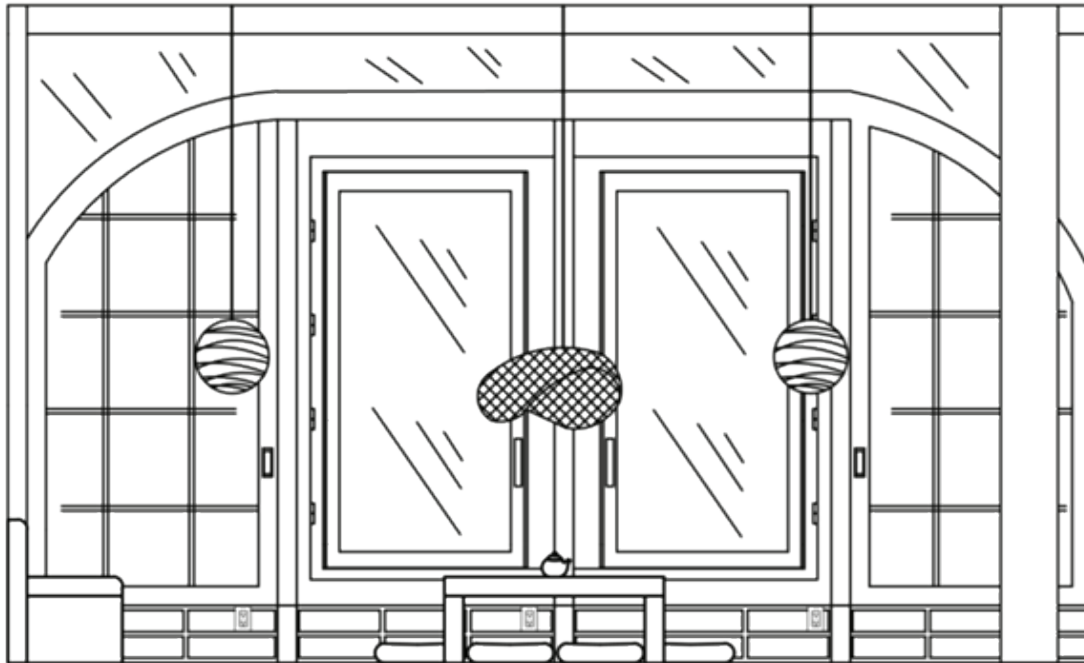
# Space Planning

The essential elements and principles of design used in planning the space are **curved linear lines** and **organic shapes** that create **harmony** and **rhythm** within the floor plan. This harmonious atmosphere provides a **peaceful** and **relaxing** experience for Yamato and supports his health, safety, and wellbeing.



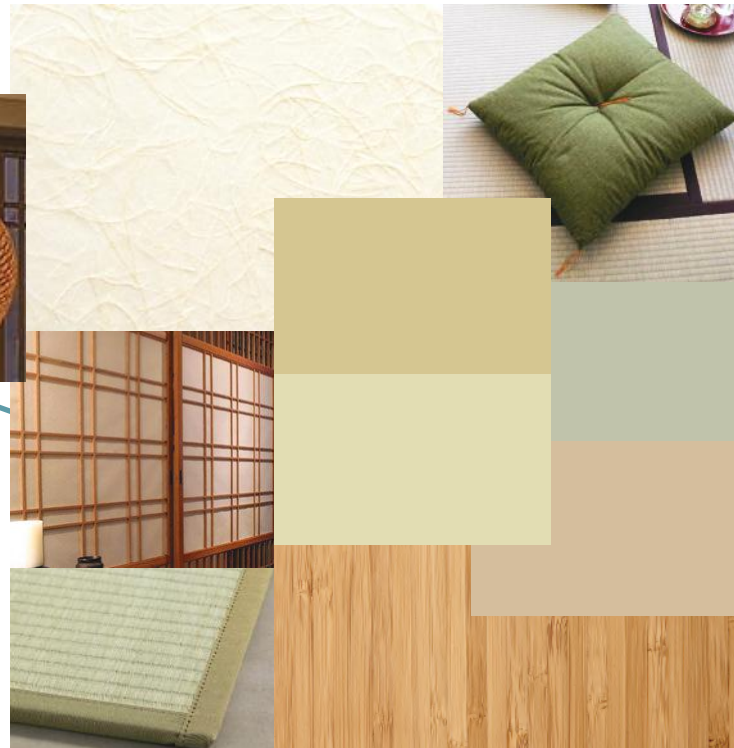
- 1. Entry
- 2. Exercise Room
- 3. Kitchen
- 4. Dining Room
- 5. Living Room
- 6. Master Bedroom
- 7. Master Bathroom
- 8. Walk-in Closet
- 9. Guest Bedroom
- 10. Guest Bathroom
- 11. Pantry
- 12. Laundry Room
- 13. Powder Room
- 14. Shared Backyard



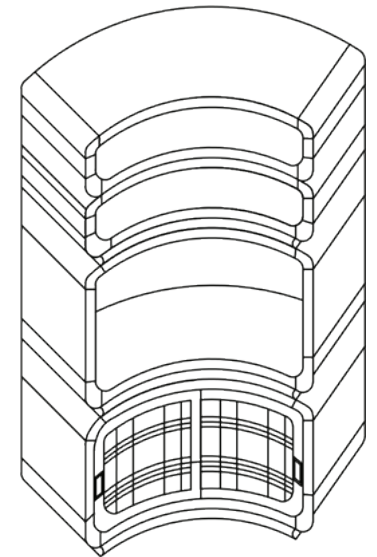


Living room Custom TV Wall Unit

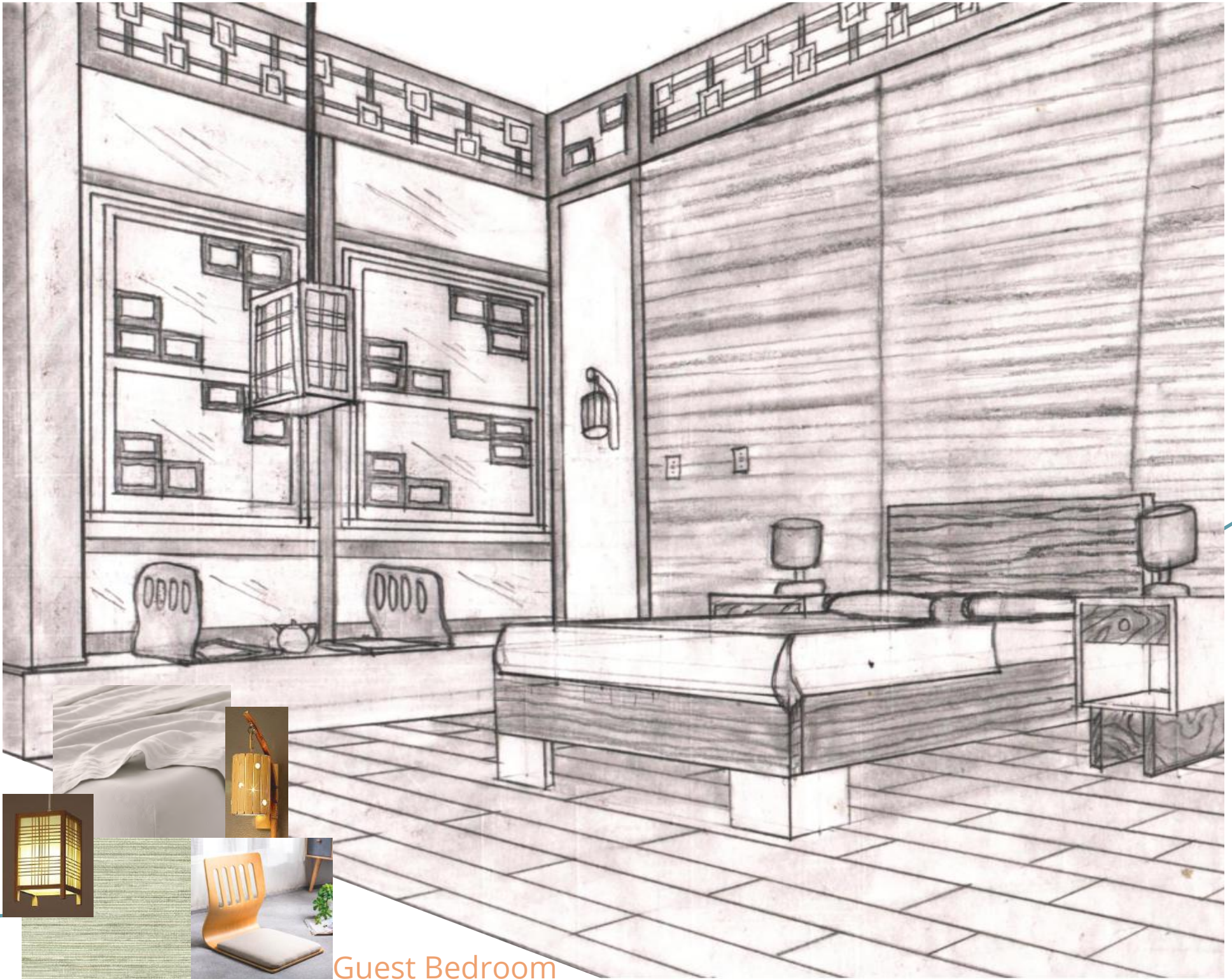
1/A Living room Elevation



An **analogous color scheme** of neutral earthy tones of yellow, orange, and green is used throughout to help the Yamato's **feel calm, relaxed and less anxious**. The living room is intentionally located at the center of the house with the **shape of a hug** to **symbolize** the importance of **love, support and caring**.



Living Room

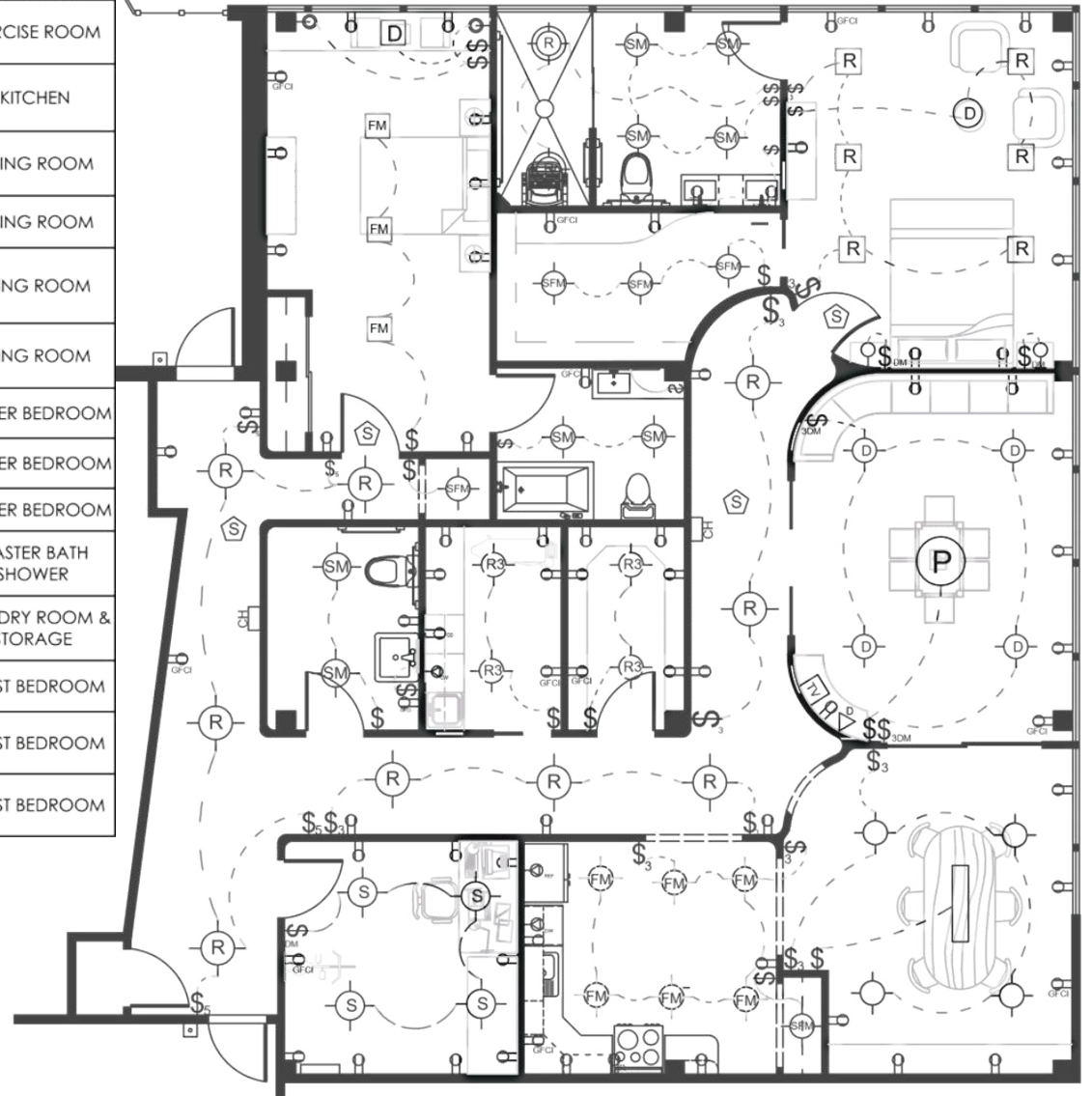


Guest Bedroom

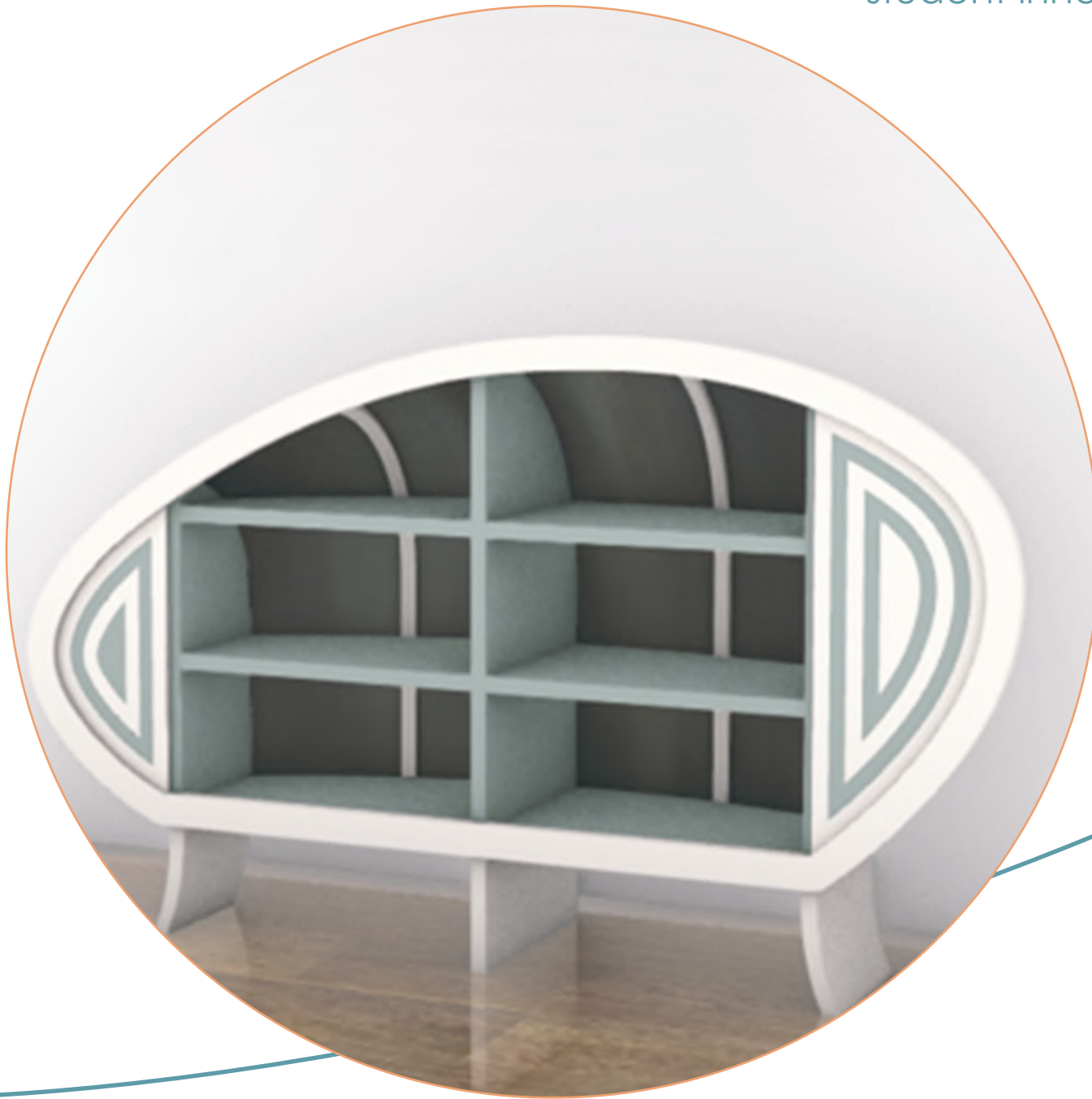
# Lighting Plan

## LIGHTING LEGEND

SYMBOL	MFR	FIXTURE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	LAMP	QTY	NOTES
	LUMENS	LTH6934860B	RECESSED DOWN LIGHT, DIA 3.4"	590 LUMENS	9	ENTRANCE AND HALL WAY
	PERIGOLD	HD9039	SEMI FLUSH MOUNT	60W	5	MASTER WALK IN CLOSET, LINEN CLOSET & PANTRY
	ZIPCOD DESIGN	W000726797	SURFACE MOUNT, 3 BULB OUTLETS	60W PER BULB	8	POWDER ROOM, GUEST BATH & MASTER BATH
	AFFORDABLE LAMPS	MRE-6004	BUILT-IN TO THE MIRROR	LED LIGHTING	4	POWDER ROOM, MASTER BATH AND GUEST BATH MIRROR
	PERIGOLD	NDNH1261	SURFACE MOUNT	LED	4	EXERCISE ROOM
	PERIGOLD	HB8283	FLUSH MOUNT	75W, STANDARD BULB SIZE	6	KITCHEN
	ALI EXPRESS	WINZSC	DROP CORD PENDENT FIXTURE	90V~260V	1	DINING ROOM
	1 STOP LIGHTING	10710-00	Recessed LIGHT SHADE, DIA. 13"	60W, 120V	4	DINING ROOM
	UBUY	B082MCQ2T8	PENDENT CHANDLER DROP CORD LIGHT	LED, 60W, 110V	1	LIVING ROOM
	RAKUTEN GLOBAL MARKET	HK-016H	PENDENT DROP CORD LIGHTING	60W incandescent bulb x 1	4	LIVING ROOM
	AMAZON	B07L76MTC5	RECESSED LIGHTING	LED, 240 volts	6	MASTER BEDROOM
	UBAY	B07X1Q88YC	DROP CORD PENDENT	LED, 60W, 110VOLT	1	MASTER BEDROOM
	WAYFAIR	W001067333	SCONCE	21W, A19 BULB	2	MASTER BEDROOM
	WAC LIGHTING	HR2LEDT209PN	SURFACE MOUNT, RIA.	4 1/4" 14.5W LED	2	MASTER BATH SHOWER
	WAC LIGHTING	R4ERDR	RECESSED, LED.	DIA. 4 3/4" 9W, 550 LUMENS	4	LAUNDRY ROOM & STORAGE
	ALI EXPRESS	OAKTAFAIR	FLUSH MOUNT	LED BULB, 110V	3	GUEST BEDROOM
	BEAUTIFUL HALO	HL565493	SCONCE	LED	2	GUEST BEDROOM
	IMALL	4000081628978	DROP CORD	LED	1	GUEST BEDROOM



Custom Furniture design for Formica 2021  
student innovation competition using  
Formica laminate.



05-A Extras: D&D Bookcase

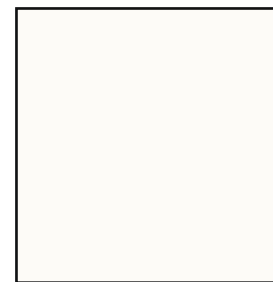


## Inspiration & materials



The D&D bookcase is an inspirational piece designed to motivate creative designers to dig deep inside the bookcase and reach their utmost ingenuity, and welcome the future of unique ideas. The bookcase is inspired by Zaha Hadid's and Ben van Berkel's Burnham Pavilion sculpture located in Chicago.

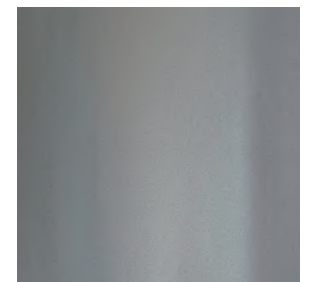
Light Rolled Steel, Fossil, and New White are the three finishes used throughout the bookcase. Light Rolled Steel is used for the back finish for its durability, wear resistance and the fact that it is lightweight. Fossil's super matte soft-to-touch finish, fingerprint resistance, and bacterial growth resistance is used on the bookcase shelves and siding. New White is used to add an elegant and fresh look to the bookcase.



Formica  
Infiniti®  
ColorCore®2  
Laminate :  
New White

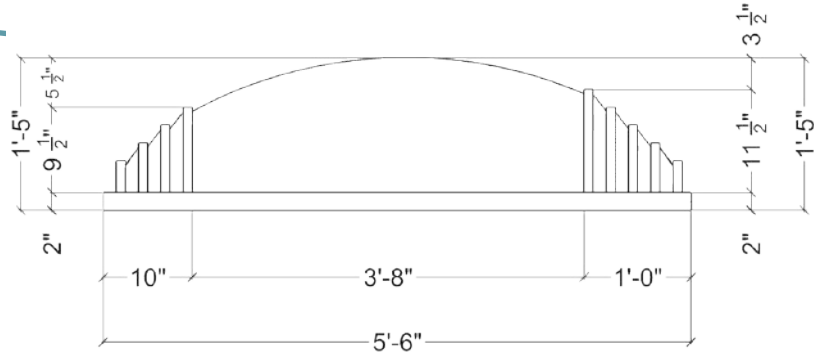


Formica  
Infiniti®  
Laminate:  
Fossil

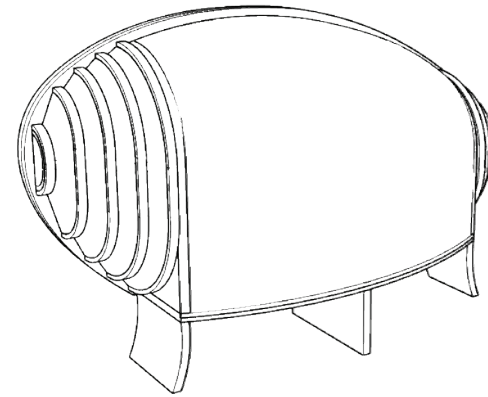
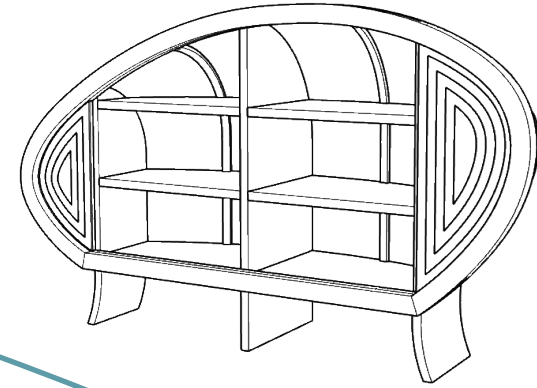


New  
DecoMetal®  
Metal Lami-  
nate: Light  
Rolled Steel

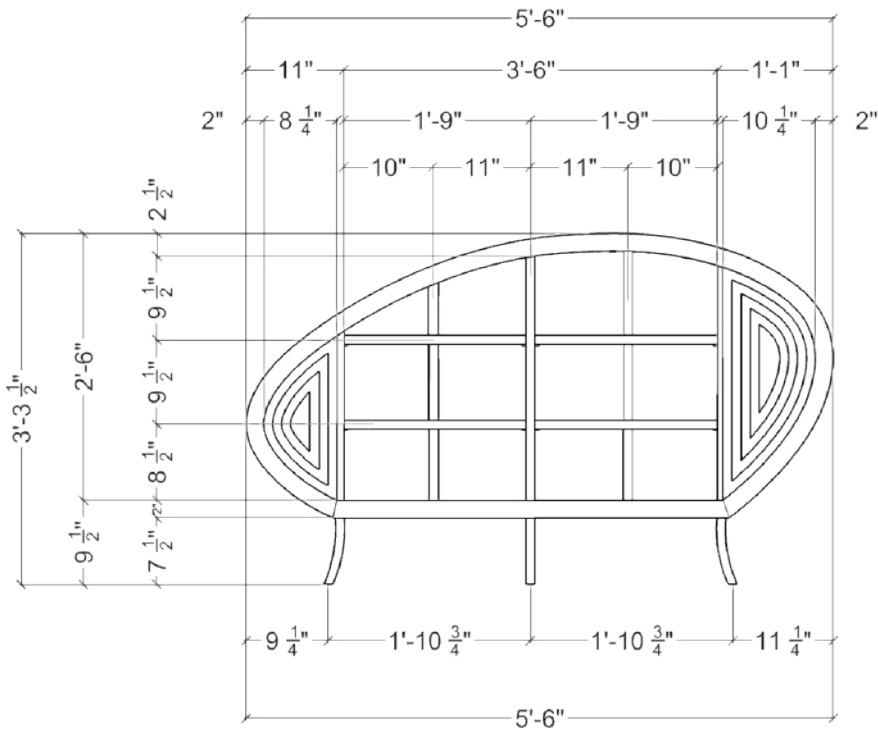
# Details



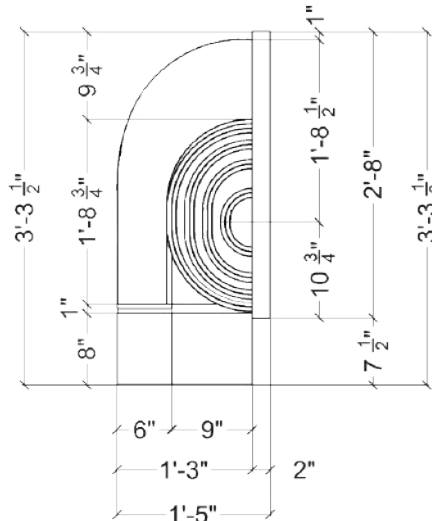
Plan View



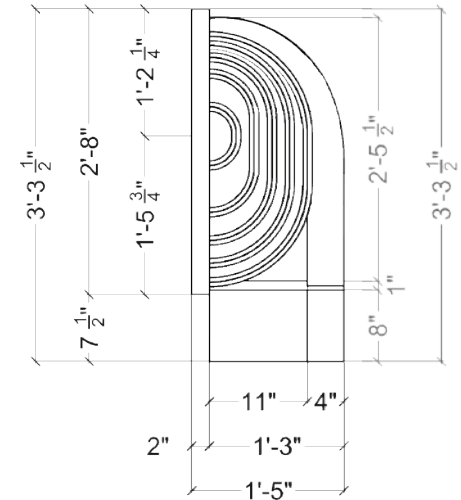
Front & Back Axonometric



Front View



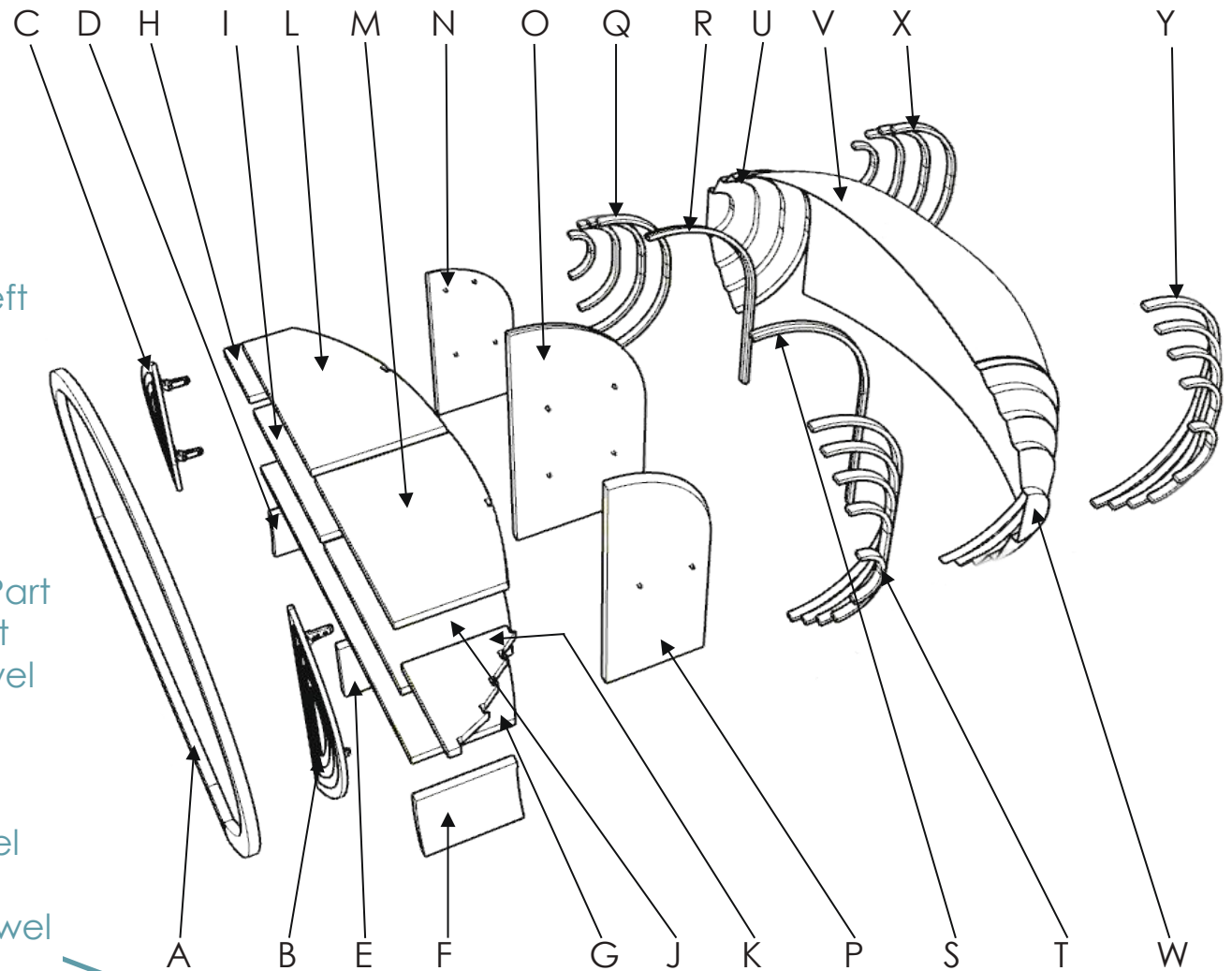
Left Side View



Right Side View

## Key:

- A- Oval Shape Frame
- B- Right Door
- C- Left Door
- D- Left Leg
- E- Middle Leg
- F- Right Leg
- G- Lower Shelf
- H- Middle Shelf, Left Part
- I- Middle Shelf, Second Self from left
- J- Middle Shelf, Second Shelf from right
- K- Middle Shelf, Right Part
- L- Top Left Shelf
- M- Top Right Shelf
- N- Shelf Vertical Support, Left Part
- O- Shelf Vertical Support, Middle Part
- P- Shelf Vertical Support, Right Part
- Q- First Rods left Side, Curved Dowel Rods, Set of 4 Rods
- R- left Middle Side, Curved Dowel Rods, Set of 1 Rod
- S- Right Middle Side, Curved Dowel Rods, Set of 1 Rod
- T- First Rods Right Side, Curved Dowel Rods, Set of 5 Rods
- U- Left Side Backing
- V- Middle Backing
- W- Right Side Backing
- X- Second left Side, Curved Dowel Rods, Set of 4 Rods
- Y- Second Right Side, Curved Dowel Rods, Set of 5 Rods

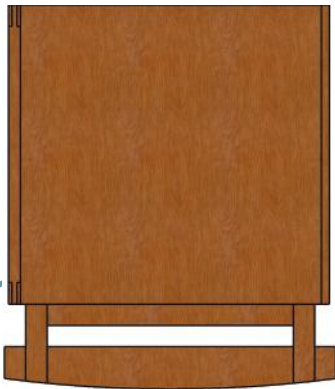


Designing and building a 12" x 18" x 24" coffee table that look sleek, minimal and modern. Maple and Sapele hardwood are used to build the table



05-B Extras: Furniture Design- Coffee Table

## 05-C Extras: Furniture Design- Crib



A 54" x 30" x 36" unique and fun crib that can host kids up to 4 years old. Materials used are Sapele and Poplar harwood, in addition, a circular pattern that makes the crib have its unique look, rather than the traditional strip design. When light hit the pattern the crib gets a more interesting look

## 05-D Extras: 3D Printing

Designed and built a scaled 8'x8'x8' room through using a 3D printer.



Worked with metal to design a jewelry piece that can be worn as a pin, necklace, or earrings. An additional feature to that the piece is that the cap at the the center is removable and a scent can be added to cover the person wearing it.



## 05-E Extras: Metal and Jewelry Making

Handcrafted to gain experience learning about residential architecture structures, such as; interior and exterior walls, stairs construction, house foundations, windows, and exterior finishes.

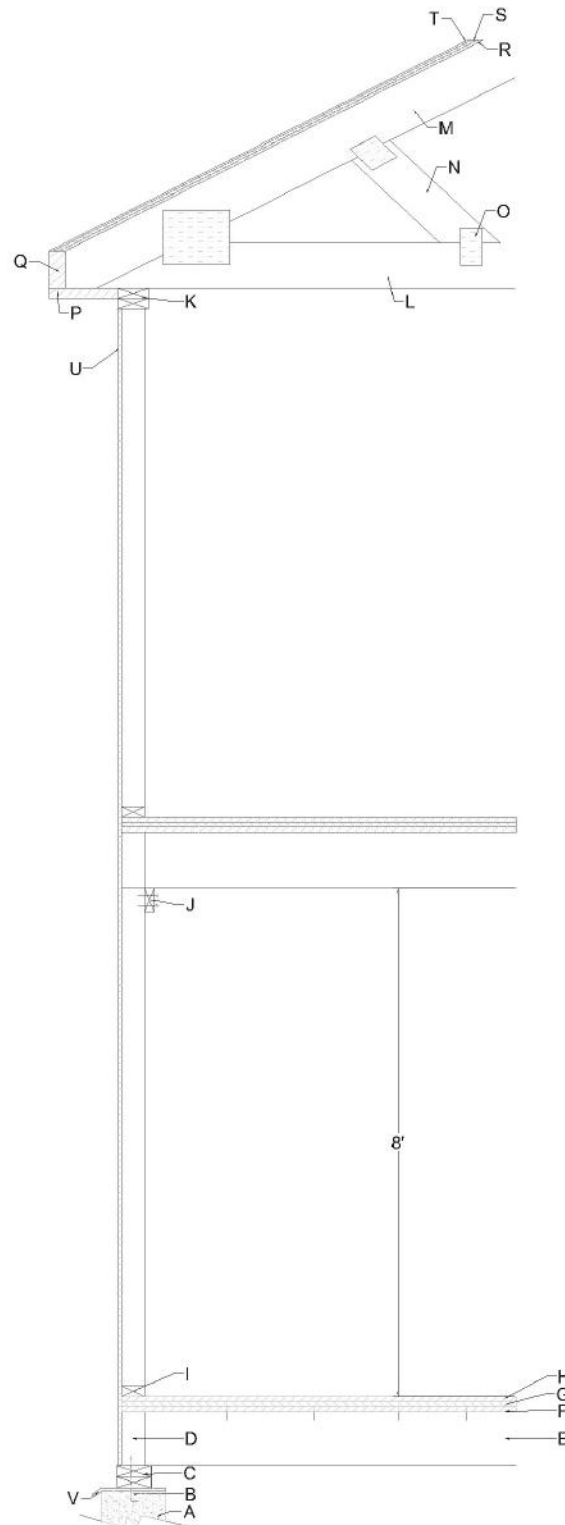


## 05 A Extras: Residential Architecture Modeling

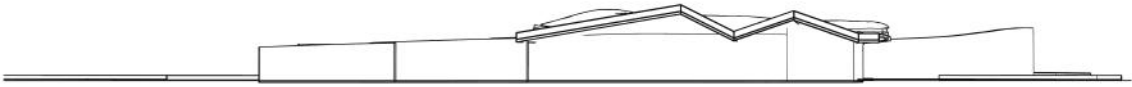


Key

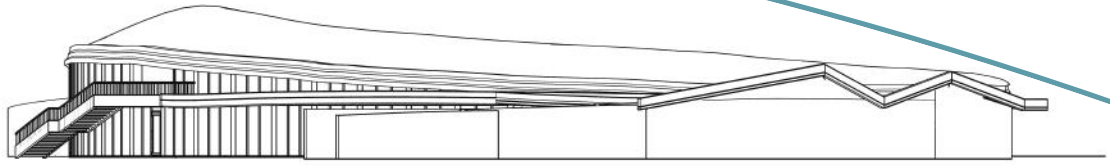
- A. Foundation Wall
- B. 1/2" Diameter x 15" long anchor bolt
- C. 2"x 6" Double bottom treated wood stud
- D. 2"x 4" Continuous wall wood stud
- E. 2"x 10" Floor joist
- F. 3/4" Tongue & groove plywood sub-floor; glued & nailed
- G. Red rosin paper
- H. 3/4" Tongue & groove hardwood flooring
- I. Fire block
- J. ledger; nailed to wall stud
- K. 2" x 6" double top plate
- L. Ceiling joist
- M. 2"x 8" rafter
- N. Pre-engineered roof truss
- O. Pressure plate
- P. Soffit
- Q. Fascia
- R. Plywood sheathing
- S. Felt
- T. Asphalt coated fiber-glass roof shingles
- U. Diagonal wall sheathing
- V. Termite shield



# Details



East Elevation



South East Elevation



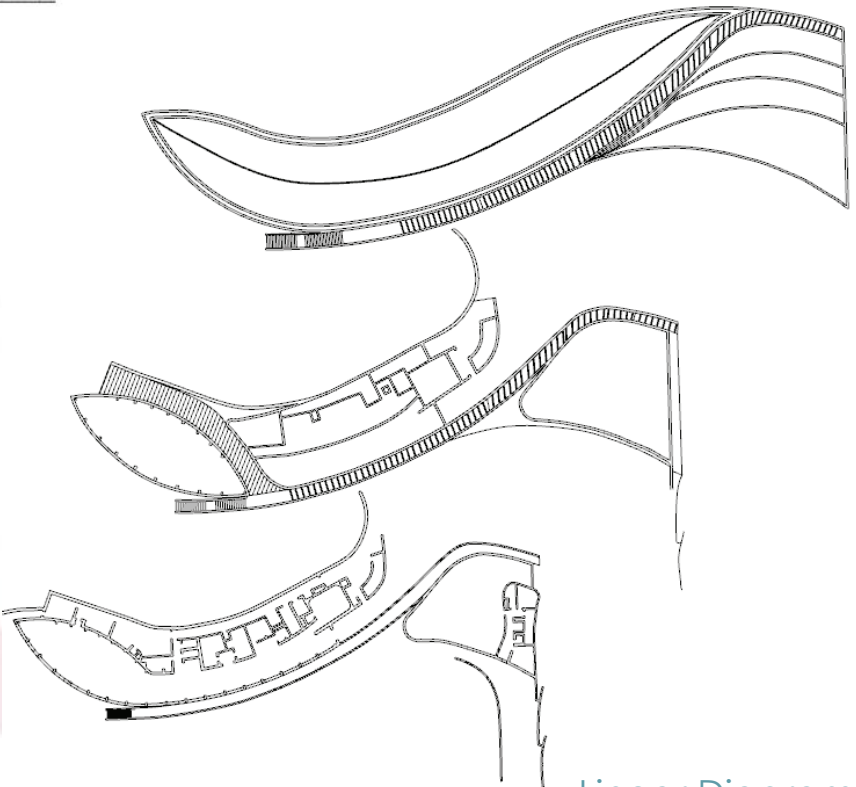
North Elevation



South Elevation

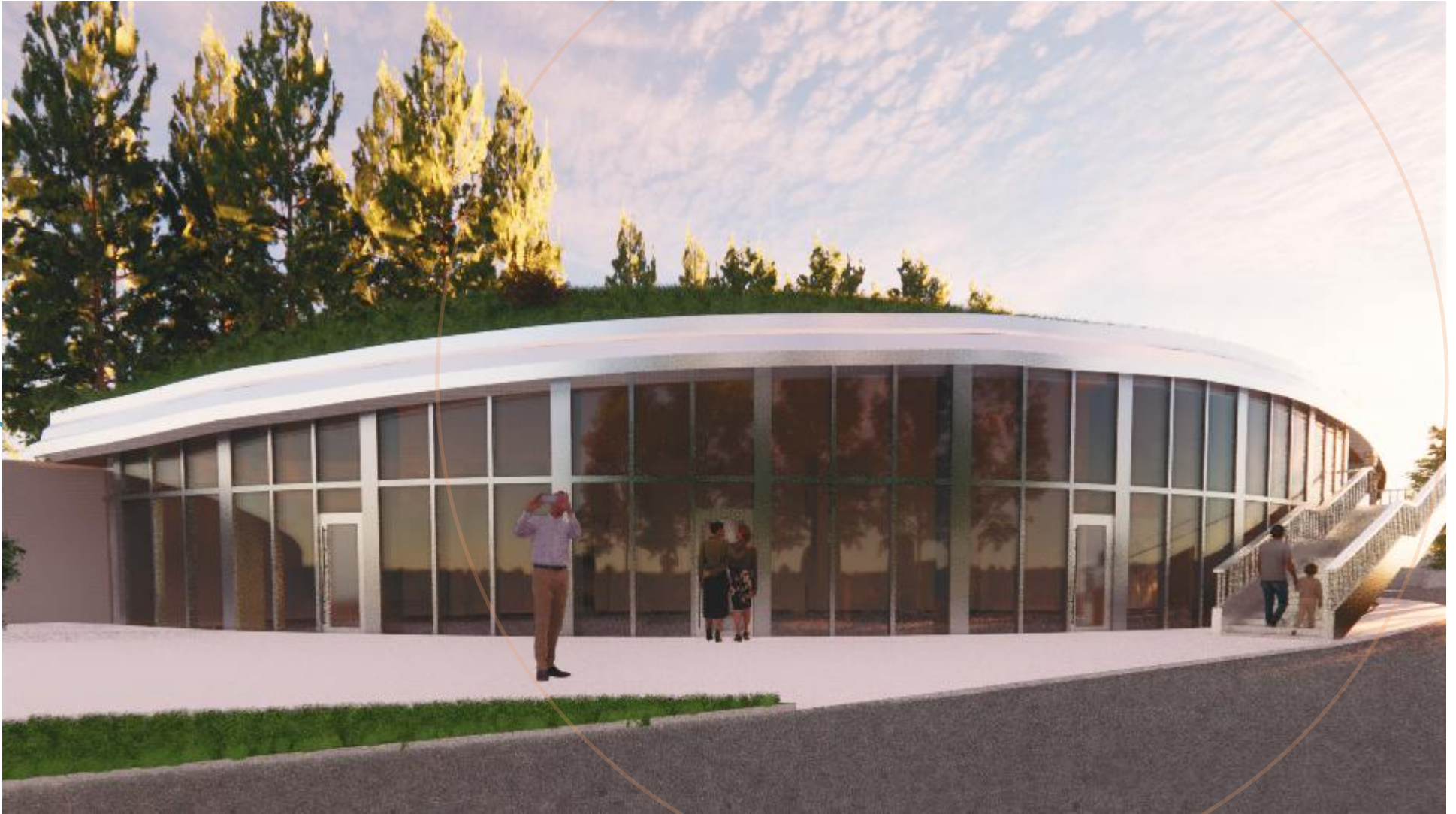


Site Plan



Linear Diagram

Expanding design skills through using Rhino 3D cad to model the existing Brooklyn Botanic Garden building and experience interacting with architects.



05-G Extras: Architectural 3D Modeling



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