

# JACKSON FRANKS



# PORTFOLIO



**01**



**11**



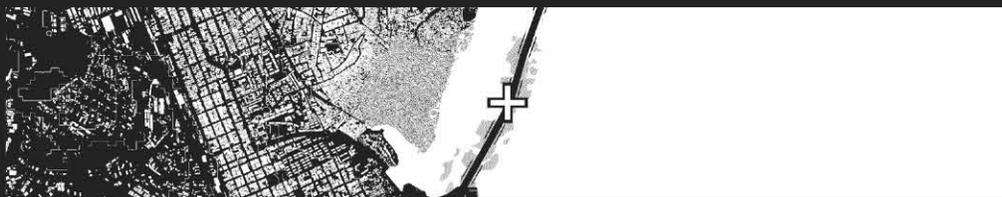
**19**



**25**



**33**



**37**



**43**

**METAMORPHOSIS**

**URBAN-SCALED**

**BOUNDARIES**

**ASPEN HOUSE**

**INTERWOVEN**

**UNDERBRIDGE**

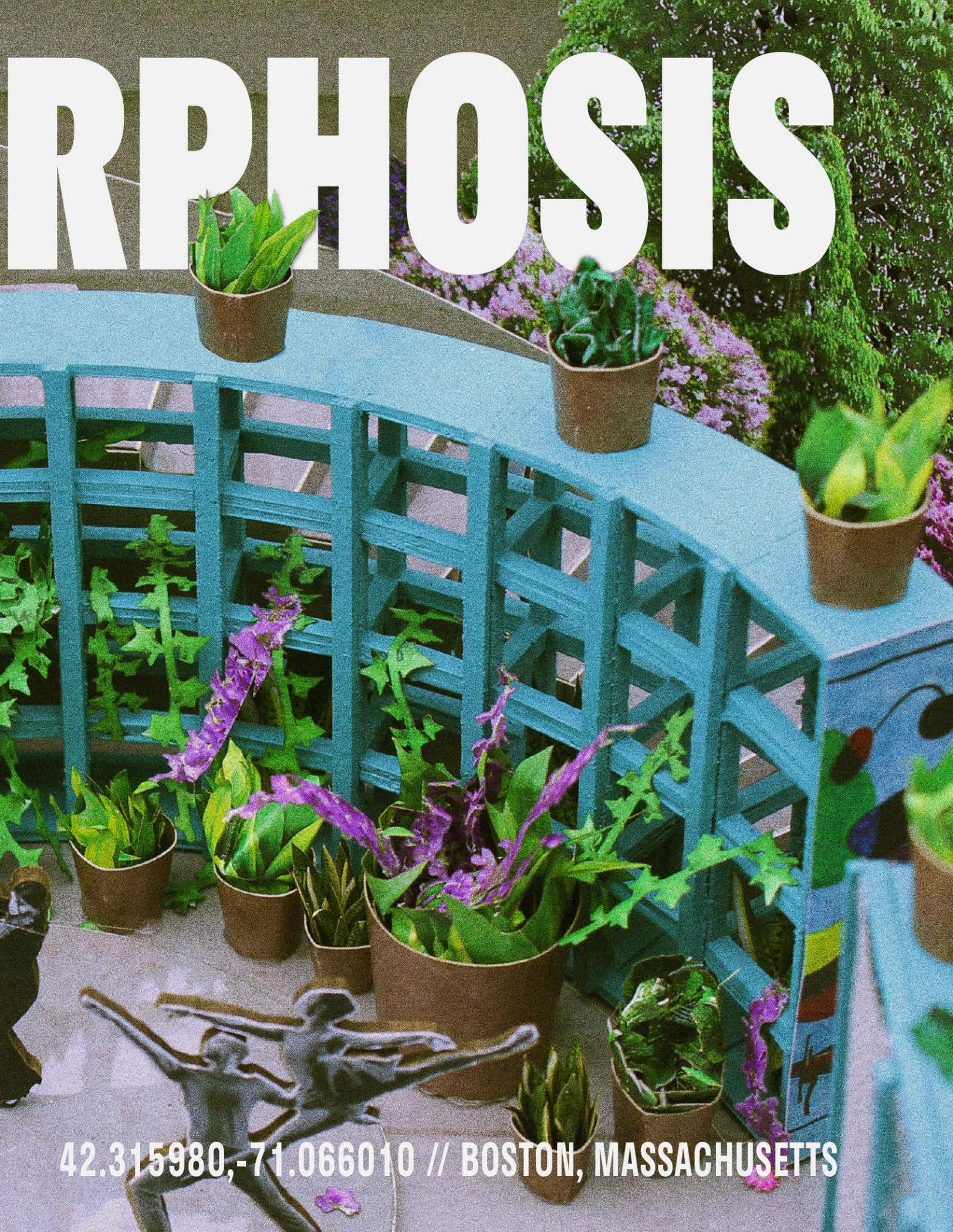
**PUBLICATIONS**

# METAMORPHO



SPRING 2024 // STUDIO PROJECT // NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

# RPHOSIS



42.315980,-71.066010 // BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

# METAMORPHOSIS

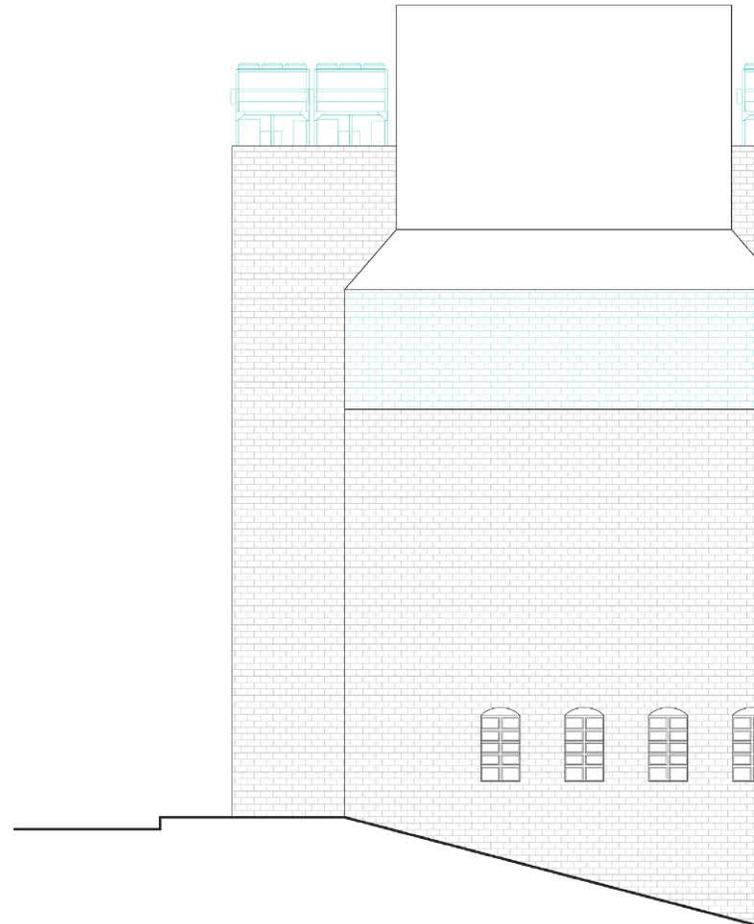
42.315980,-71.066010  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

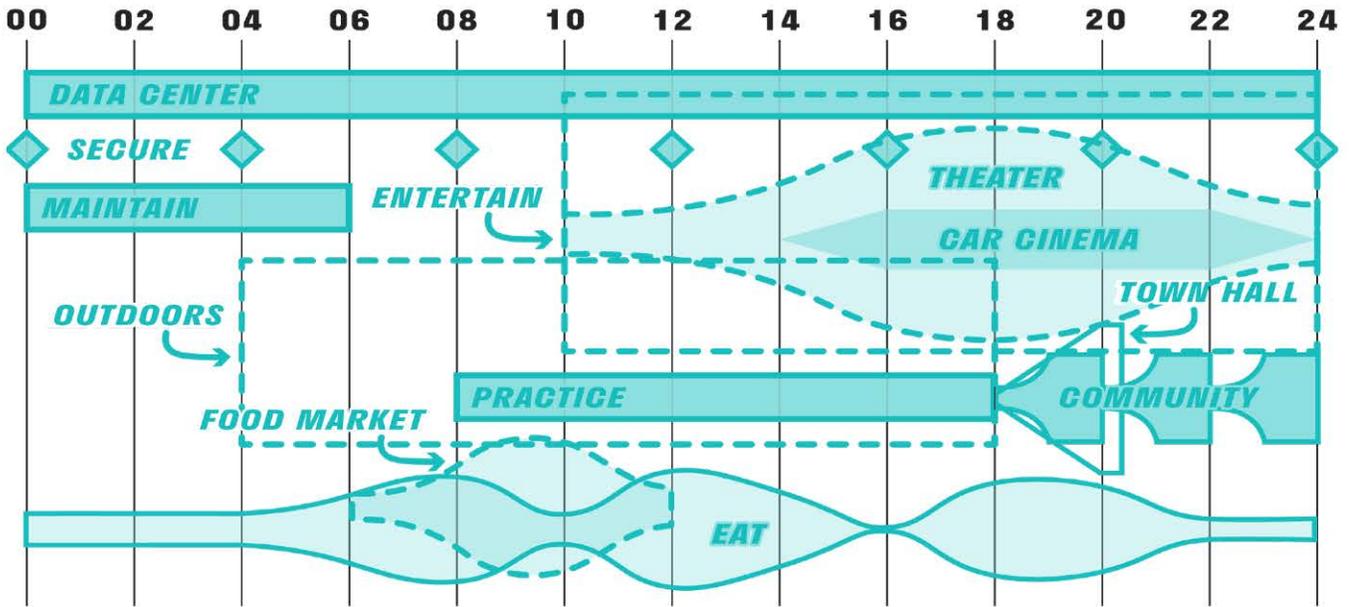
NORTHEASTERN  
UNIVERSITY



In the final project of my undergraduate degree, a partner (Cyrus Gagaza) and I designed an adaptive reuse project for a theater in the Uphams Corner neighborhood of Boston.

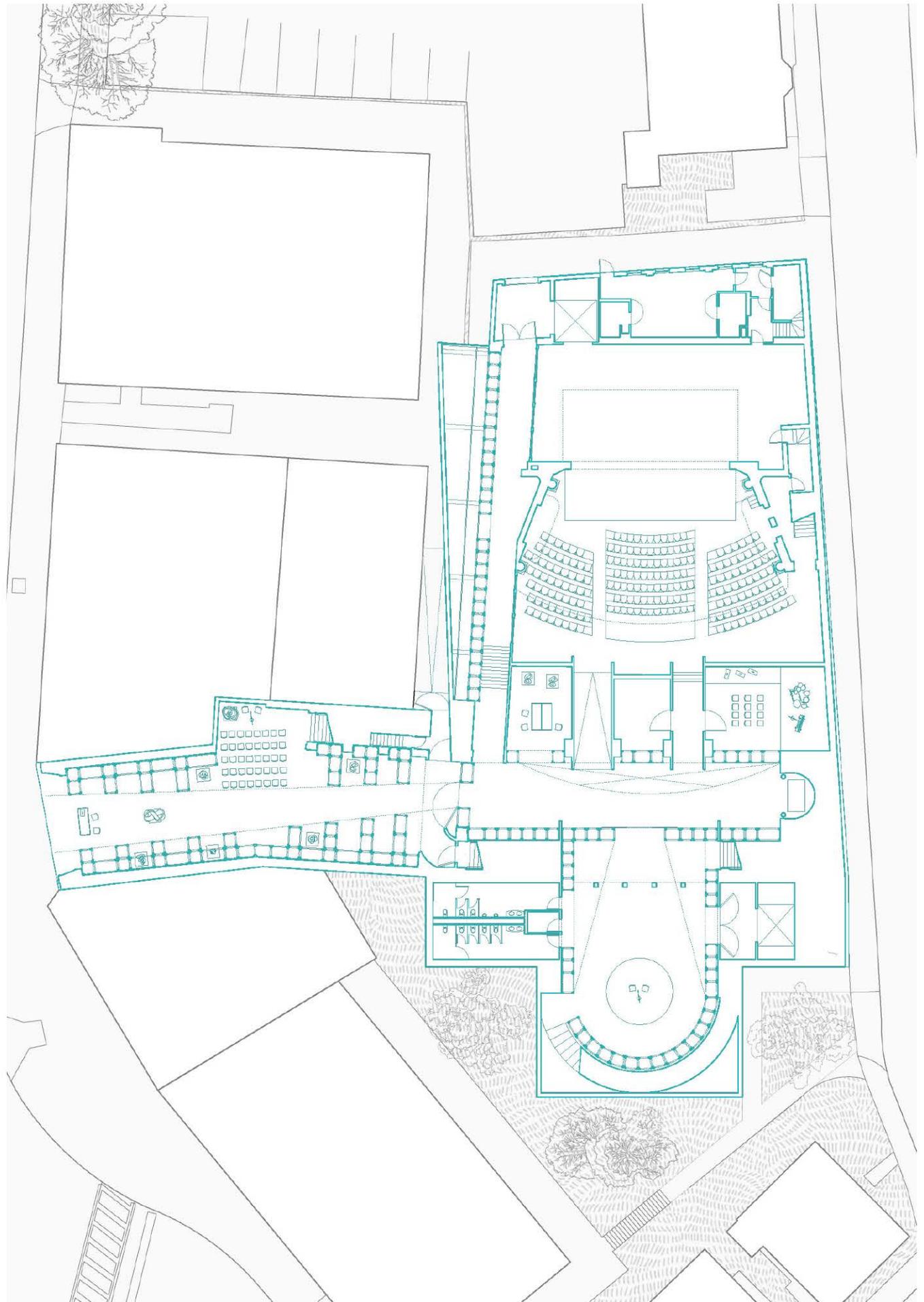
The Strand Theatre, an active but underused theater and community engagement hotspot is in a severe state of disrepair and at risk of shuttering. **Metamorphosis** is a design that intends to morph the Strand Theatre into an active participant of Upham's Corner's economic, cultural, and social fabric. With our approach, we hope to celebrate life and to create the means for the theater to prosper and change. The Strand will be adapted to be occupied at all times, with new programs filling the societal gap.





All design work and drawings completed in collaboration with Cyrus Gagaza.



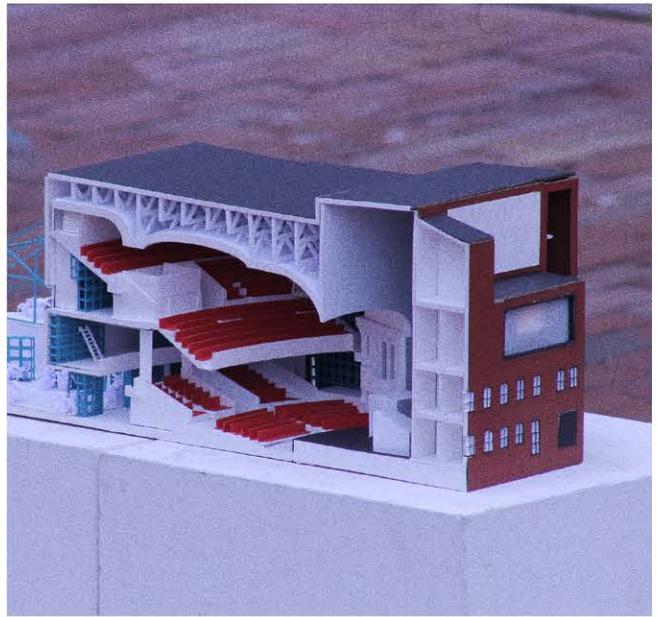




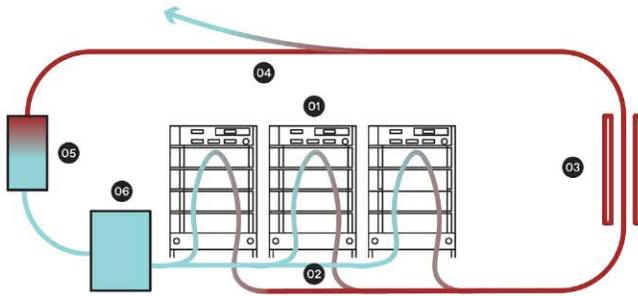
**Metamorphosis** transforms the Strand Theatre with two broad design moves. The first installs new, flexible, and multi-purpose public spaces that seek to connect the theater with its neighbors in Uphams Corner. At the southern end of the theater, a public enclosed courtyard is created, introducing plant life and sun into the sunken basement level of the Strand. The garden serves as a practice and exhibition space, with the repeated module being transformed into seating. The long entry hallway into the Strand is converted into an exterior public space, acting as a farmers market on some days and an exhibition space on others. The modular partitions divide the space and can be transformed to suit a number of purposes.





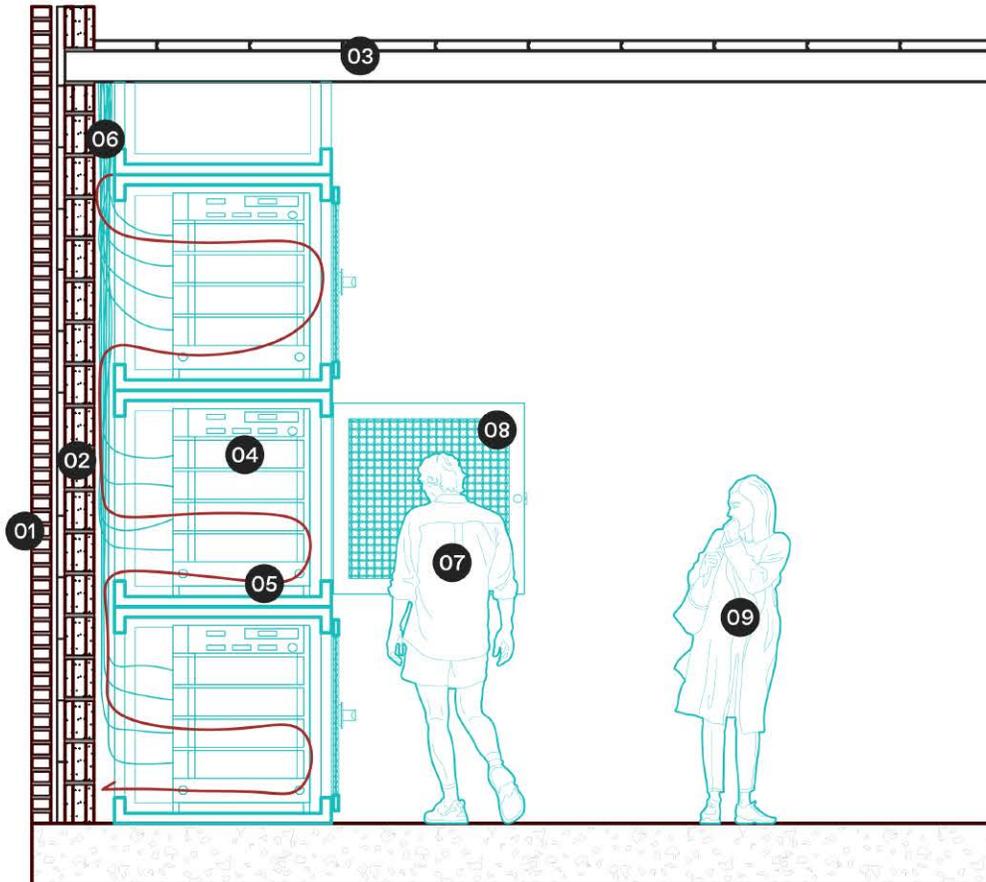


CHILLED WATER LOOP



- 01 LIQUID-COOLED SERVERS:  
PRIMARY ECONOMIC BENEFACTOR  
OF THE STRAND THEATRE
- 02 CHILLED WATER PIPES:  
COOLS THE COMPUTERS
- 03 HYDRONIC CONVECTOR PLATE:  
CONVERTS WASTE HEAT TO BUILDING  
HEAT
- 04 ADDITIONAL WASTEWATER DIVERTED:  
RECYCLED IN PLUMBING AS GREY WATER
- 05 COOLING TOWERS:  
COOLS REMAINING WARM WATER
- 06 WATER PUMP & WATER STORAGE:  
STORED & UTILIZED IN THE LOOP

The primary method of Strand's **Metamorphosis** is by inserting a data center into the theater. The data center is distributed throughout, utilizing the new “second skin” modular configuration of the public hallways. The servers are secured into lockers throughout the building, making a normally invisible infrastructure publicly seen. An addition onto the side of the Strand, a “hyperscale” data center, presents itself as an act of theater. This room presents itself as a chasm, with servers lined up on one wall, the server room is privately accessible but publicly seen, as it becomes the new wall of the theater. The room peels away from the exterior, presenting itself to the street, and casting twinkling lights into the theater space. The liquid cooling system is sustainable, giving hot water generated by the servers to the community as a way to share the wealth the data center generates. The revenue generated by the data center funds a new abundance of cultural activities in the Strand.



- 01 EXTERIOR BRICK WALL
- 02 STRUCTURAL CMU BRICK WALL
- 03 EXISTING WOOD FLOORING
- 04 SERVERS
- 05 LIQUID CHILLER PIPES
- 06 ELECTRICAL CONDUIT &  
FIBRE OPTIC CABLING
- 07 TELECOM TECHNICIAN
- 08 OPERABLE “LOCKER” DOOR
- 09 PUBLIC VISITOR TO THE THEATRE



# URBAN



FALL 2022 // STUDIO PROJECT // NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

# RE-SCALED



42.332800, -71.095119 // BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

# URBAN-SCALED

42.332800,-71.095119  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

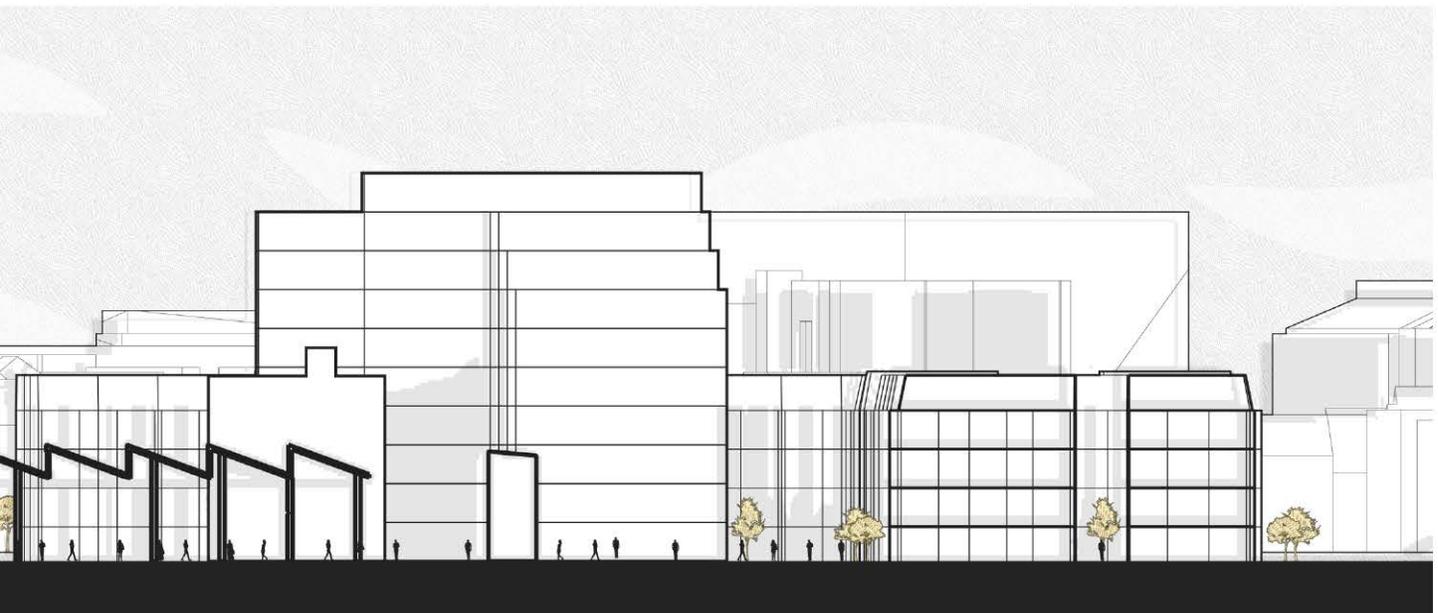
NORTHEASTERN  
UNIVERSITY

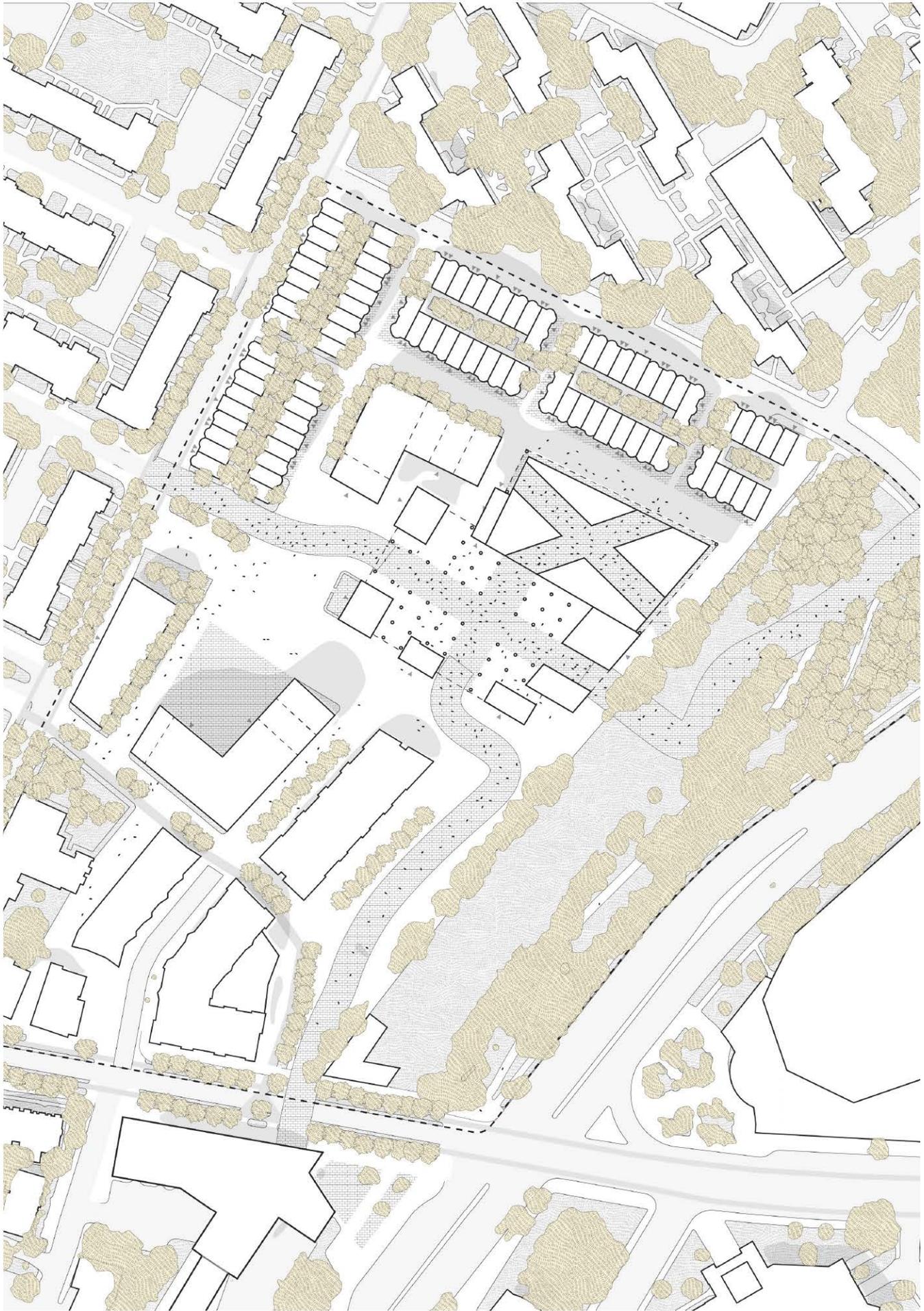


In a fourth-year studio project, I was tasked with designing an urban design framework for a 14-acre site in the neighborhood of Mission Hill. **Urban-Scaled** introduces new homes into the community, of varying density levels, in order to alleviate the housing crisis facing Boston. The neighborhood has extreme tensions between long-term residents and its newer population, primarily students and young professionals. Through my research, I found that there were no common spaces shared between these populations. I intended to help address these tensions through an abundance of public community space. A large central market, dubbed the “**Station Street Market**”, introduces a shared program for the surrounding neighborhoods.

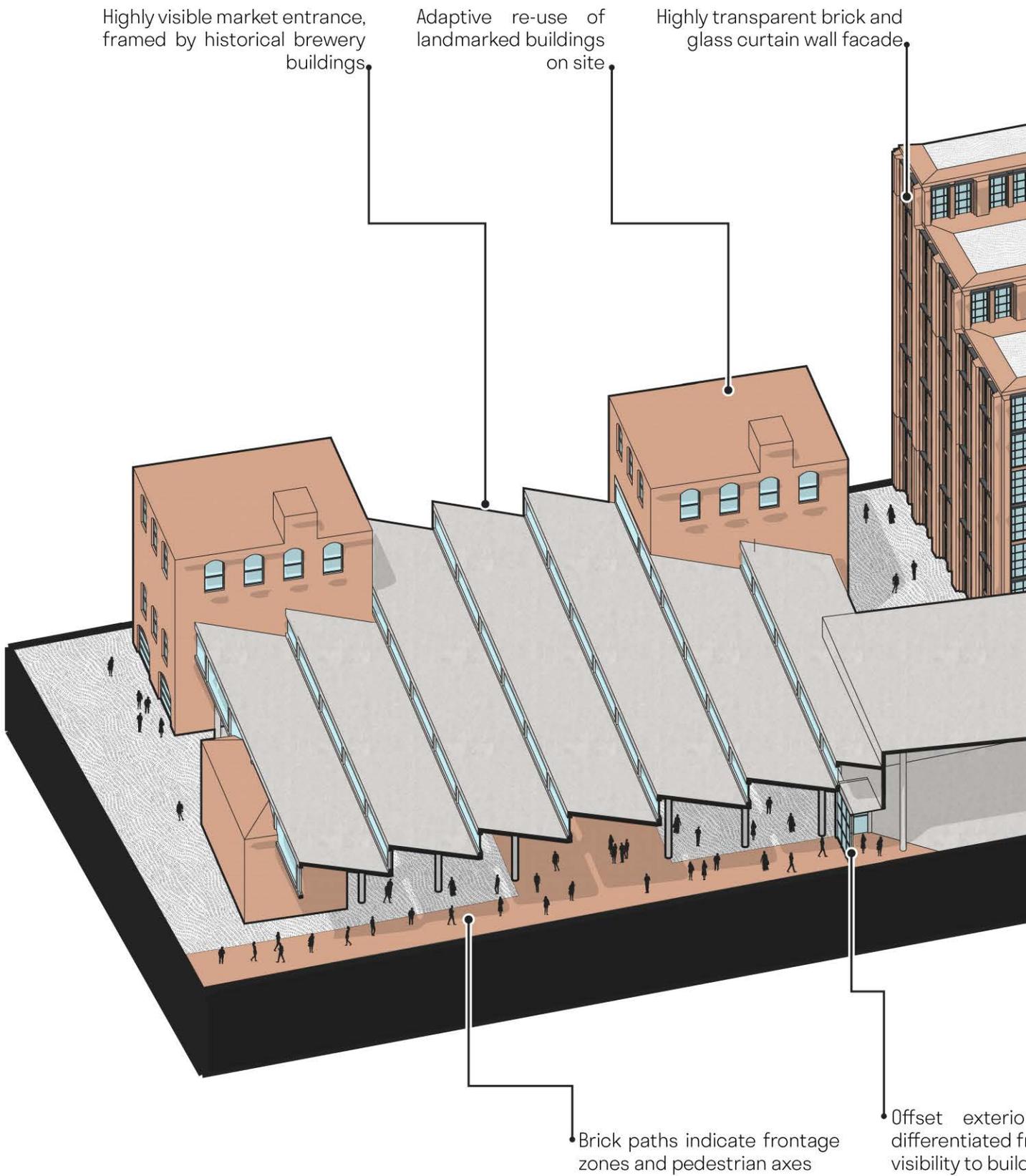
Careful consideration was paid to the density, form, and layout of the new urban complex. The periphery of the site is lined with brownstones, equal in height to the surrounding neighborhood, but the interior contains the public programs and taller housing complexes. Historical landmarked buildings are kept in place and adapted into the market space. Exterior public spaces were a primary focus, with all paths and surrounding streets being pedestrianized in order to increase foot traffic to the area. Circulation and transportation are thoroughly planned, with brick paths indicating the main pedestrian axes of travel and an additional entrance the nearby Roxbury Crossing metro stop is designed. The axes align with major forms of travel in Mission Hill, such as the surrounding streets. New green space is introduced, and programs such as markets, play structures, and commercial businesses are established to keep the space populated.











Highly visible market entrance, framed by historical brewery buildings.

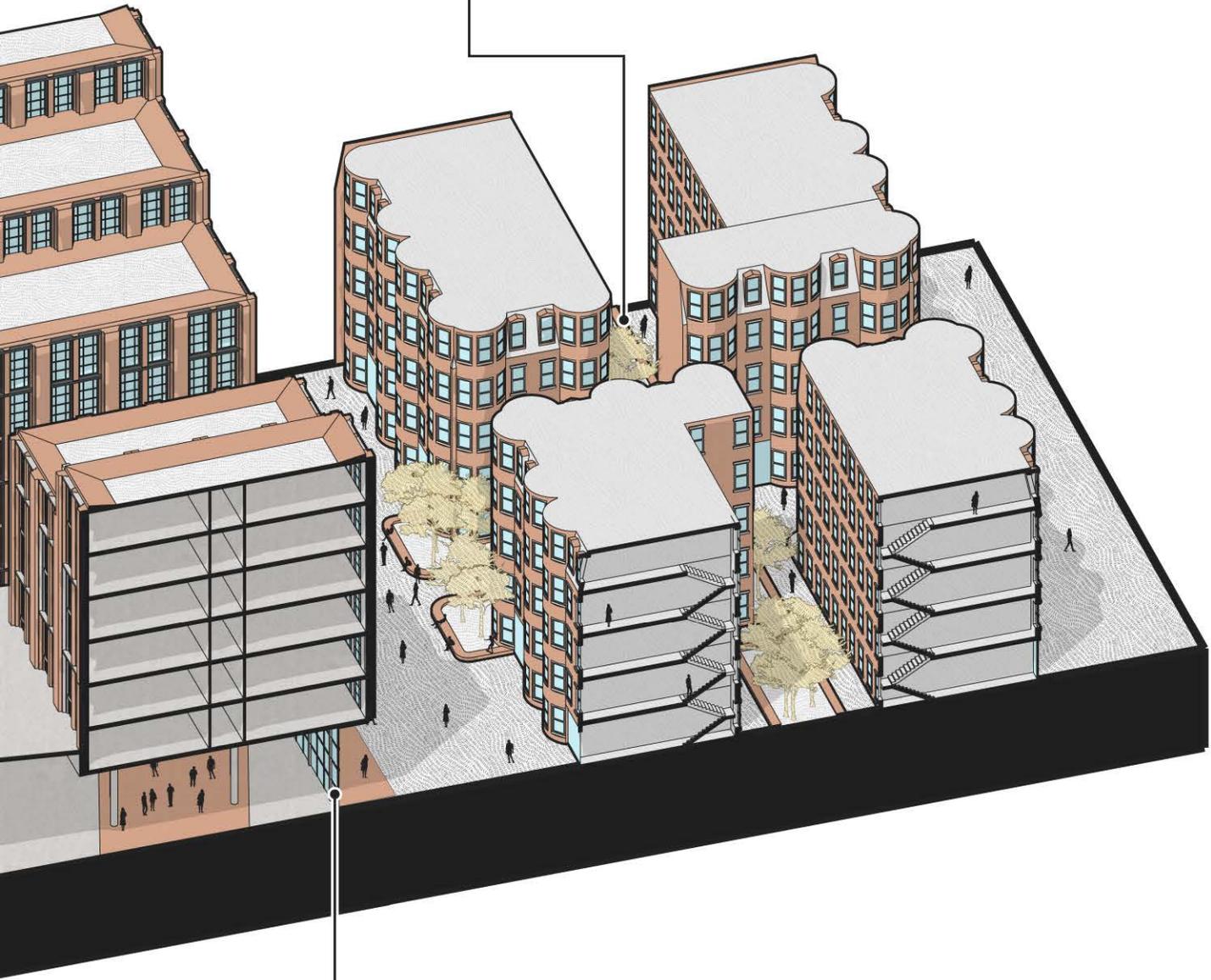
Adaptive re-use of landmarked buildings on site.

Highly transparent brick and glass curtain wall facade.

Brick paths indicate frontage zones and pedestrian axes.

Offset exterior differentiated for visibility to building.

Brick-lined planters, usable as fully-accessible public seating



front entrance, from wall to increase

Inset back entrance, typology of exterior facade indicates commercial or residential entrances

FORMER PETROLEUM STORAGE TANKS  
LEAVE BEHIND POLLUTION

# BOUNDED



HIGH SOIL AND DRAINAGE  
LEADS TO RIVER ROUGE

ACCUMULATE IN WILDLIFE,  
SPREADING FAR BEYOND  
MARSH

Pb

BIO-ACCUMULATES AND  
PHYTOREMEDIATES IN MARSHLAND

BUCKLE

HEAVY METALS PRESENT IN  
PLANTS

ONGOING // THESIS PROJECT // NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

GE TANKS  
LEGACY

# DARIES



KEY PETROLEUM

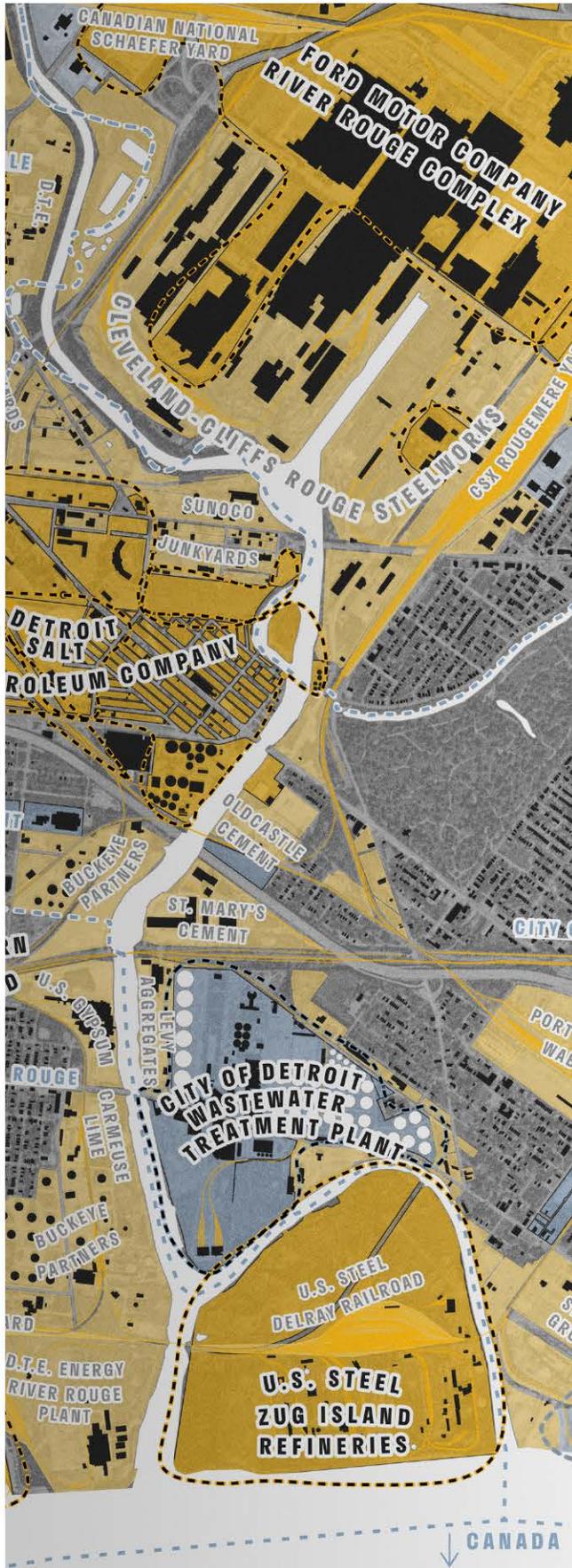
PETROCHEMICAL POLLUTION SEEPS OUT  
OF UNMAINTAINED INFRASTRUCTURE

42.293730, -83.147595 // RIVER ROUGE / DETROIT, MI

# BOUNDARIES

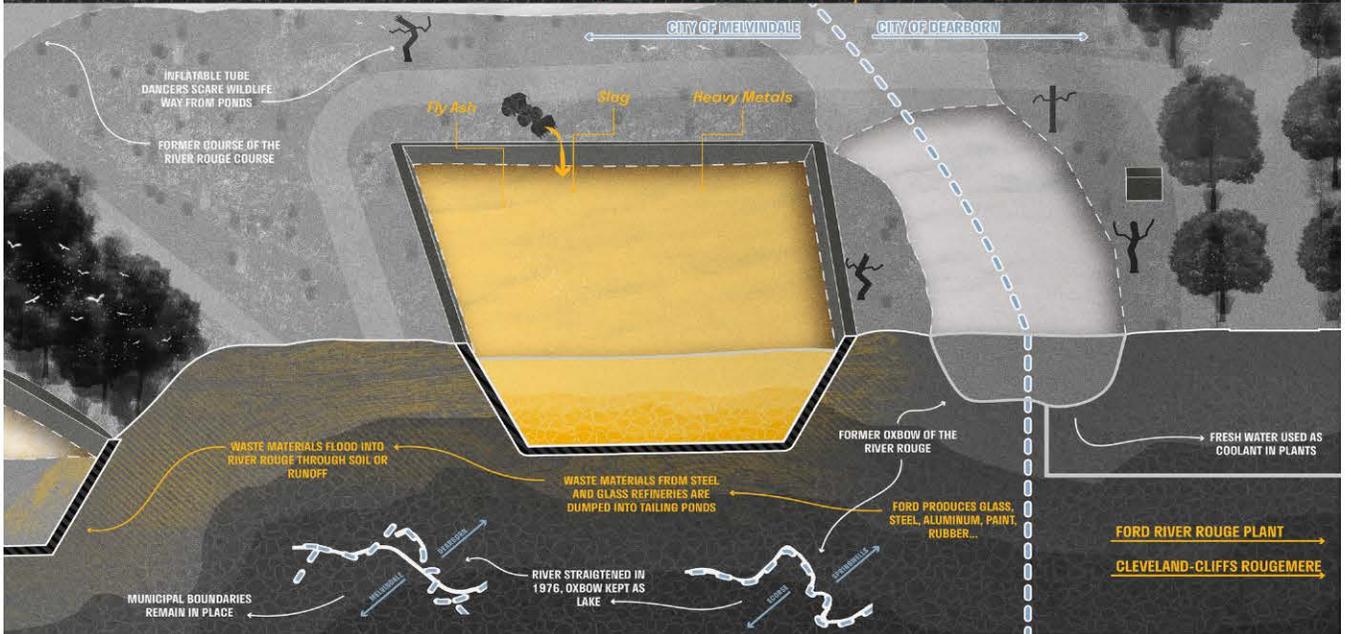
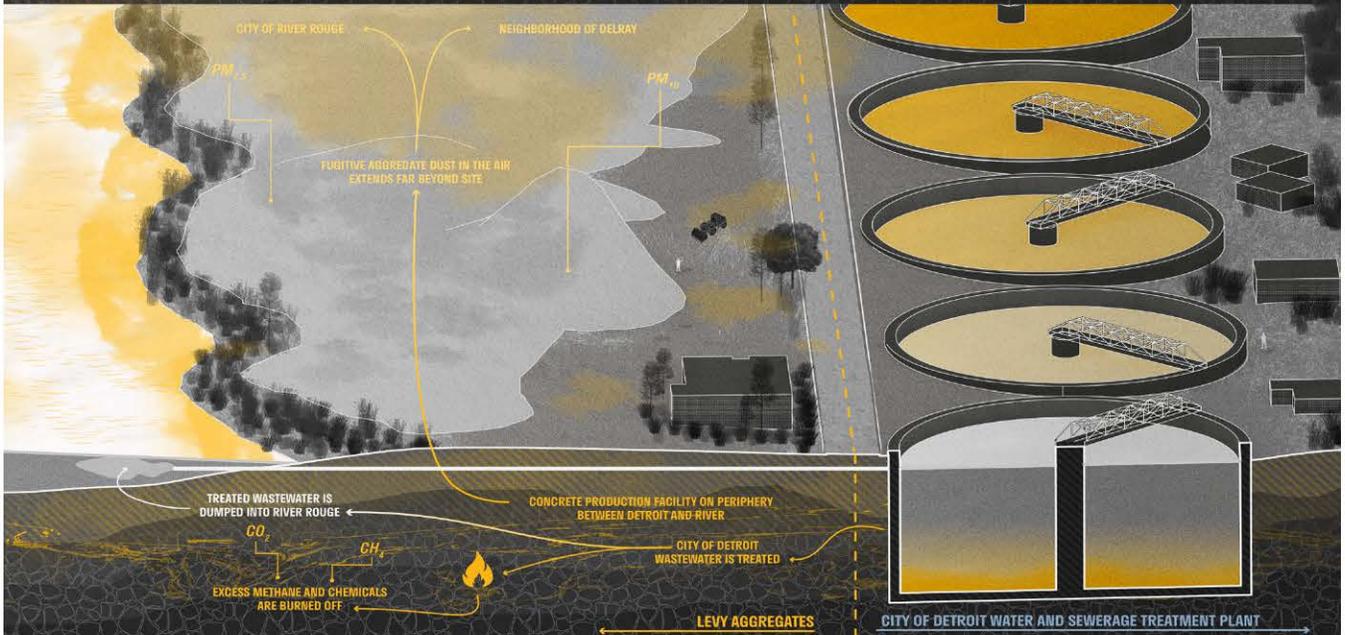
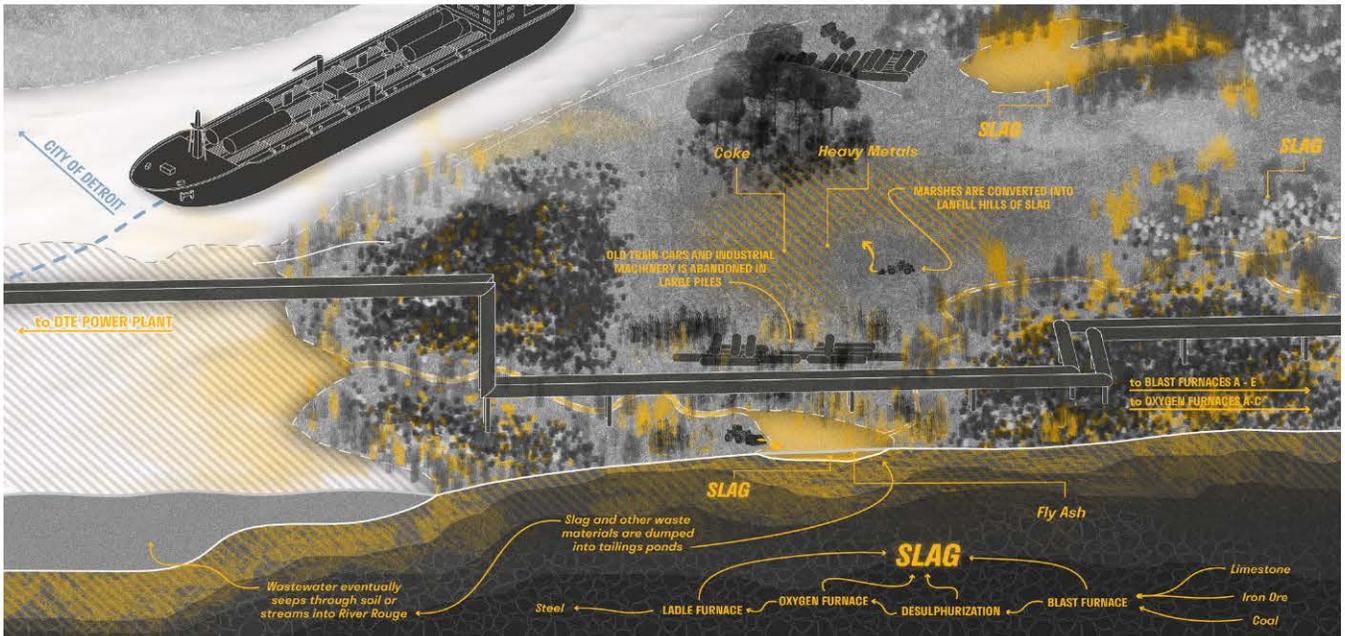
42.293730, -83.147595  
RIVER ROUGE / DETROIT, MICHIGAN

NORTHEASTERN  
UNIVERSITY



My master's thesis project, scheduled to be completed in Spring of 2025, is titled "This River is Not A Boundary." The project has investigated the complex relationships between industrialism, corporate actors, shifting landscapes and shifting municipal boundaries along the River Rouge. A heavily industrialized area in the south of Detroit, the River Rouge corridor is a peripheralized urban landscape. The abundance of municipal boundaries combining along the course of the river has resulted in heavy fragmentation of governance. The ambiguity of urban boundaries, created by decades of societal monotony and the changing landscape, has created an essentially unadministered region where corporations can act unchecked and dump hazardous materials at will. In my thesis, I have so far researched the history, methods, and representations of this landscape. As I continue the thesis into the Spring 2025 semester, I hope to use my project to connect disparate communities that are fragmented by industry, pollution, and political boundaries.









**Ford's River Rouge Plant Celebrates a Century of Nonstop Production**

The nation's longest continuously operating auto factory turns 100

PFAS contamination found at Ford and AK Steel's Rouge manufacturing site

**Ford overhauls historic factory to be green**

Ford's \$2 billion revamp of an historic factory has transformed a gritty piece of American history into a modern model of environmental responsibility and manufacturing flexibility.

**Marathon**

Four Oakwood Heights: The Detroit 'ghost town' that Marathon Oil created

The Neighborhood Marathon Oil Is Killing With Its Buyout

Marathon Offers to Buy Hundreds of Detroit Homes

**BUCKEYE PARTNERS**

**U.S. Steel on Zug Island shutting down primary operations 'indefinitely'**

While it is economically bad news for the Detroit area, it's good news environmentally for residents on both sides of the river.

**The dirtiest square mile in Michigan**

Exploring the past, present, and future of Zug Island, the heavily industrialized site on Detroit's border.

**Uss**

**CLIFFS**  
CLEVELAND CLIFFS INC.

**DTE Energy**

accuses power industry of failing to clean up coal ash dumps

**Detroit Water and Sewerage CEO assures residents water is safe after letters stir concerns**

**Water & Sewerage Department**

**DTE Retires River Rouge Coal-Fired Plant**

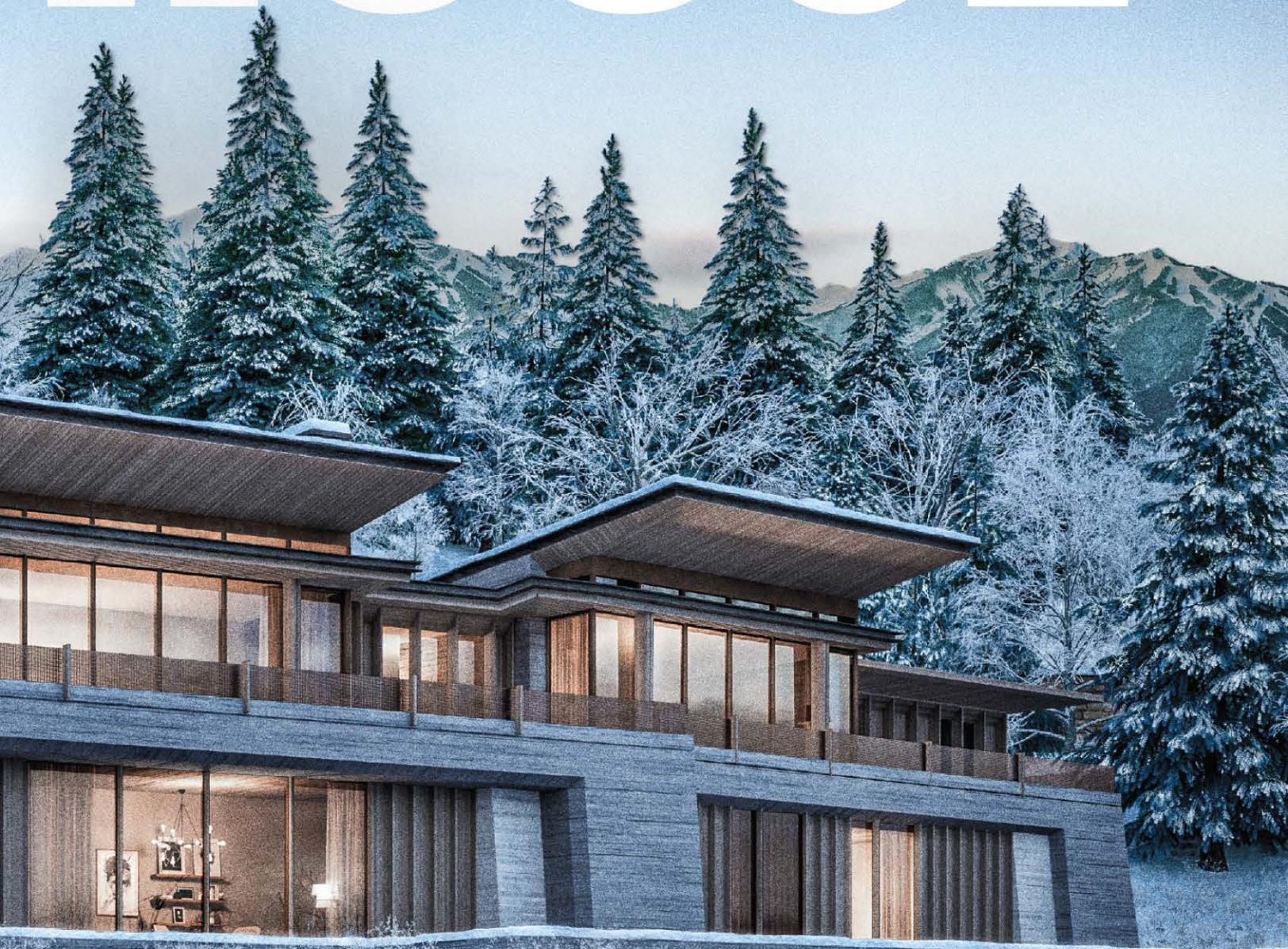
Michigan's Residents Win Relief in One of State's Most Polluted Regions

# ASPEN



FALL 2021 // UNDER CONSTRUCTION // GRADE NEW YORK

# HOUSE



39.199748, -106.854346 // ASPEN, COLORADO

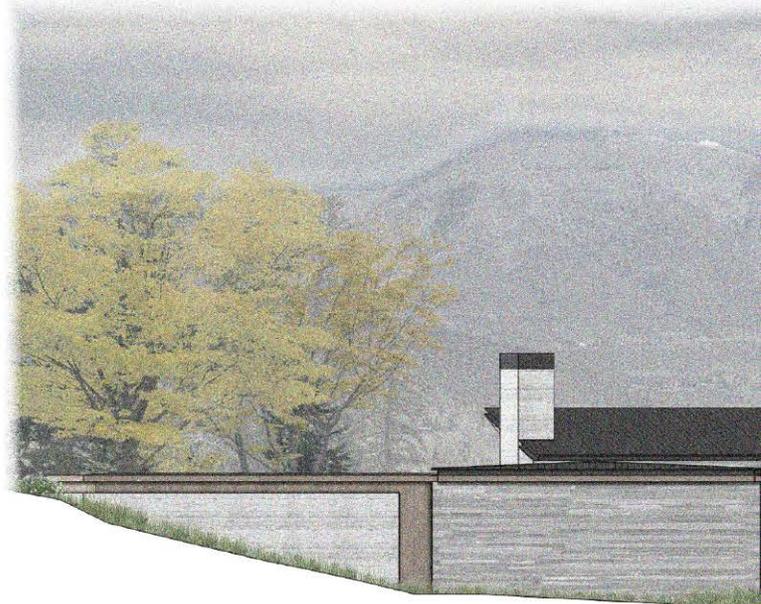
# ASPEN HOUSE

39.199748, -106.854346  
ASPEN, COLORADO

GRADE  
NEW YORK



Situated in the luscious mountain landscape outside of the city, the **Aspen House** establishes itself as a partner with the landscape. With a wide footprint and low-lying elevation, the house balances cooperation with the landscape. Large glass windows face out into the valley, amplifying views in any season. The house uses the terrain to its advantage, having the uppermost level connected with the road, but the footprints increase in size and become more diverse with program as the house descends down the mountain. Designed to accommodate two families, the house integrates and diverges very intentionally. I contributed to this 15,000 SF house through design, supplier coordination, material selection, and render/drawing representation.



Particular attention was paid to the materiality of the **Aspen House**, eliciting a reference to the mountain while maintaining an aura of modernity. I selected natural, alpine-inspired materials in order to present a cohesive appearance that ties the house to its mountain environment. Inspired by the Therme Vals, the primary exterior material is vals quartzite. The stone evokes an alpine presence, designed to appear as a rock formation emerging from the mountain.



Vals Quartzite



Board-Form Concrete

Accents of board-formed concrete and corten steel are inserted to add additional texture and variety on the exterior. The large glass windows are designed for visibility. The use of warm and cool tones is designed to create an inviting atmosphere in the house, with the interior designed to contrast with a winter landscape. Wood accents help bring warming tones to the house, reflecting the warmth of the interior back out onto the mountain landscape.



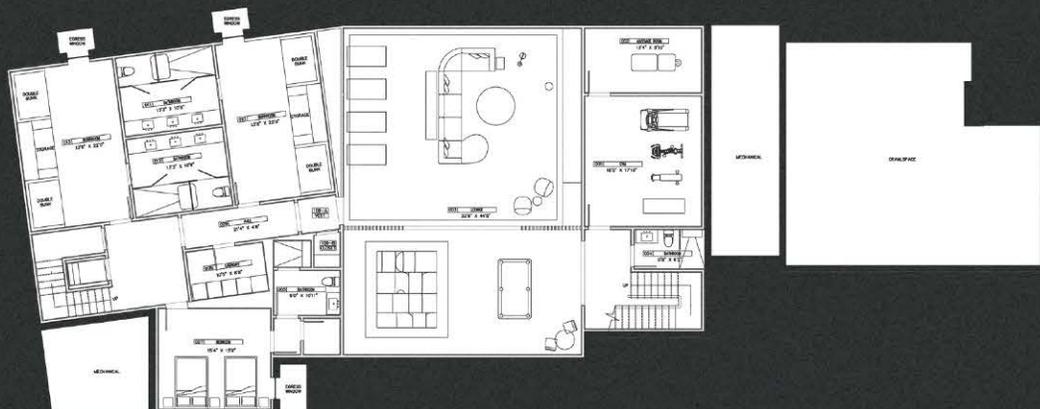
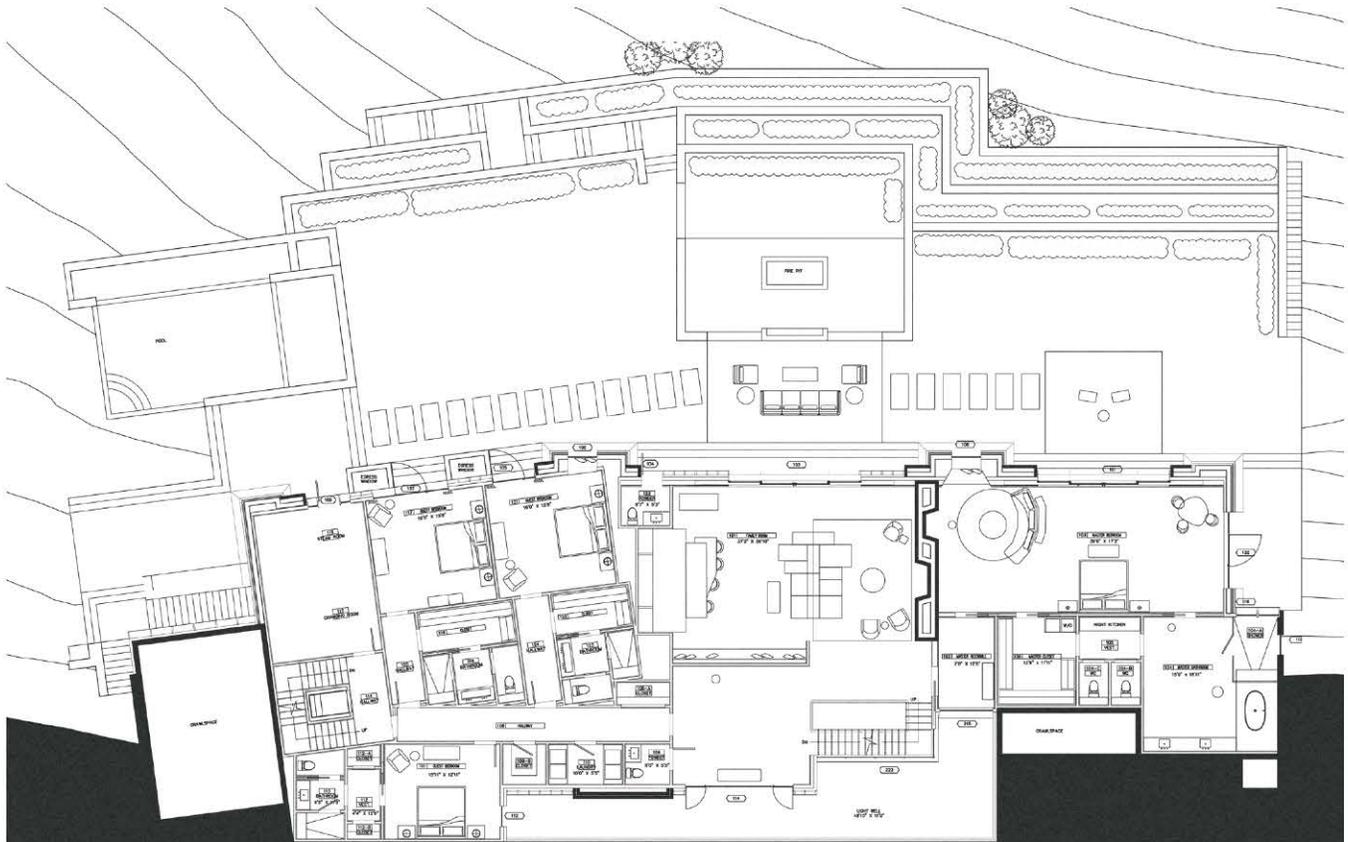
Oak Wood



Corten Steel







All work is the property of GRADE New York. Design and plans completed in collaboration with Dan Trumble and Tom Hickey. Renders and elevations produced individually with V-Ray and Photoshop.





# INTERVIEW



FALL 2024 // PROJECT PROPOSAL // ALSAR-ATELIER

# WOVEN



42.283963, -83.746130 // ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

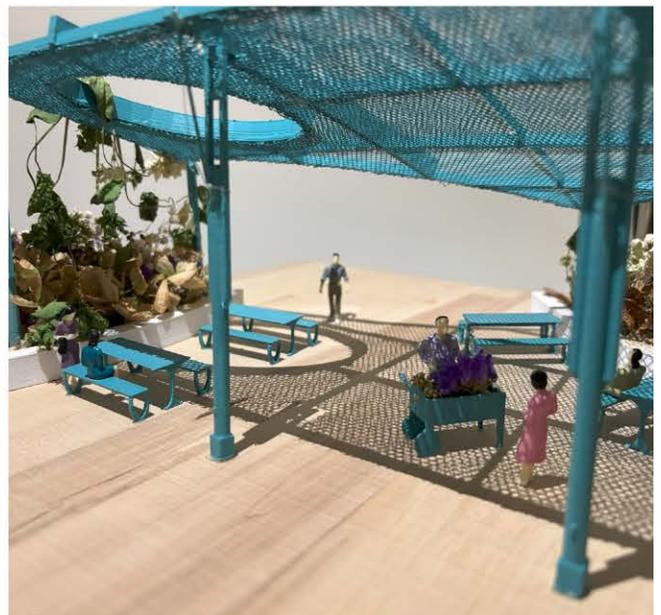
# INTERWOVEN

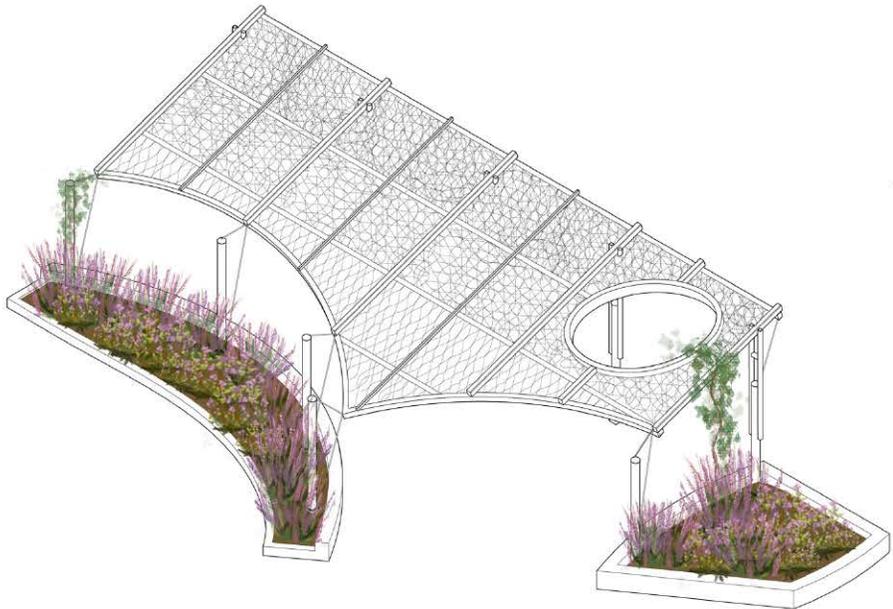
42.283963, -83.746130  
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

ALSAR-  
ATELIER



In a design competition, **Interwoven** is a proposal for a sunshade next to the Ann Arbor Farmers Market in the neighborhood of Kerrytown. The proposed design emphasizes the site's existing features, transforming ordinary elements into a cohesive, visually striking space. The design addresses the need for shade, creating a dynamic threshold between the public realm and market. Marked by two arches, the sunshade becomes an iconic gateway that invites pedestrian flow and vegetation into the shaded space. A lightweight metal structure holds layers of expanded metal that provides vibrant shade, remaining resistant to wind and snow. Low maintenance, perennial plants thrive within the structure, offering dynamic interplay of colors throughout the year, from lilac to amber.





**Archer's Gold Thyme**  
*(Thymus Citriodorus)*

- Bloom Time | Summer
- Low maintenance



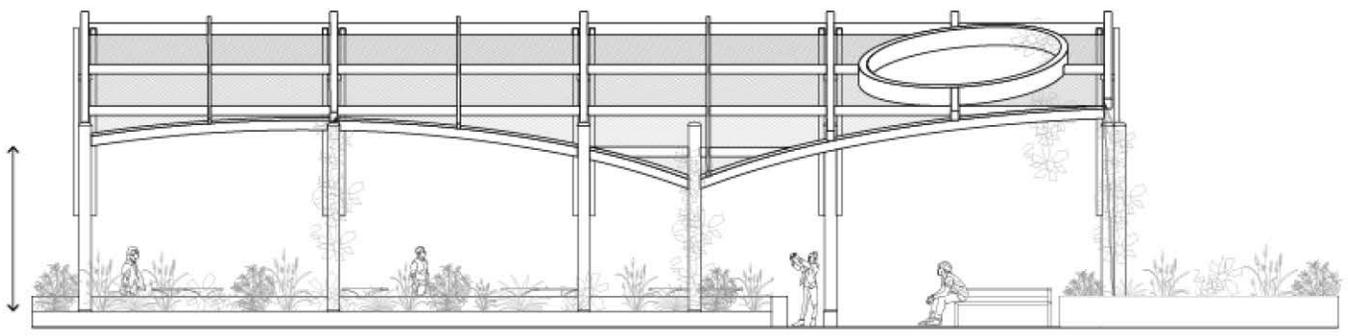
**Heather**  
*(Calluna vulgaris)*

- Bloom Time | Summer, Fall
- Plant in full sun, regular watering, fertilize each Spring

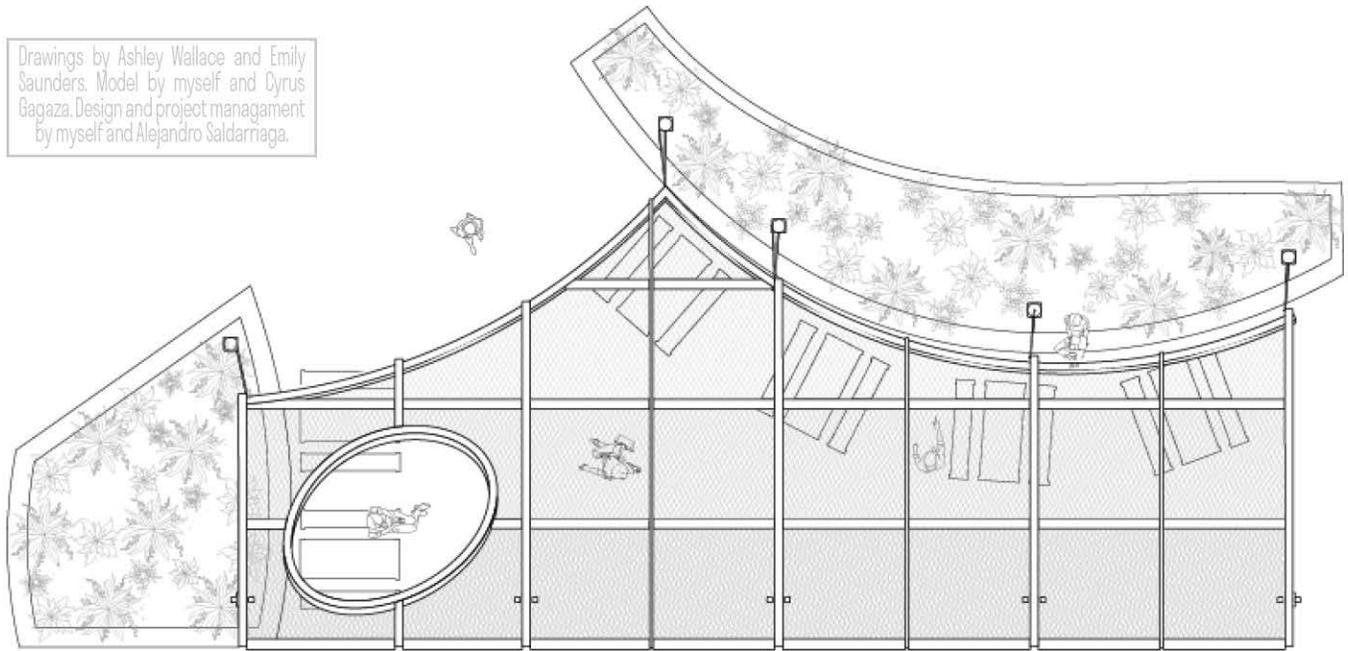


**Grapevine**  
*(Vitis vinifera)*

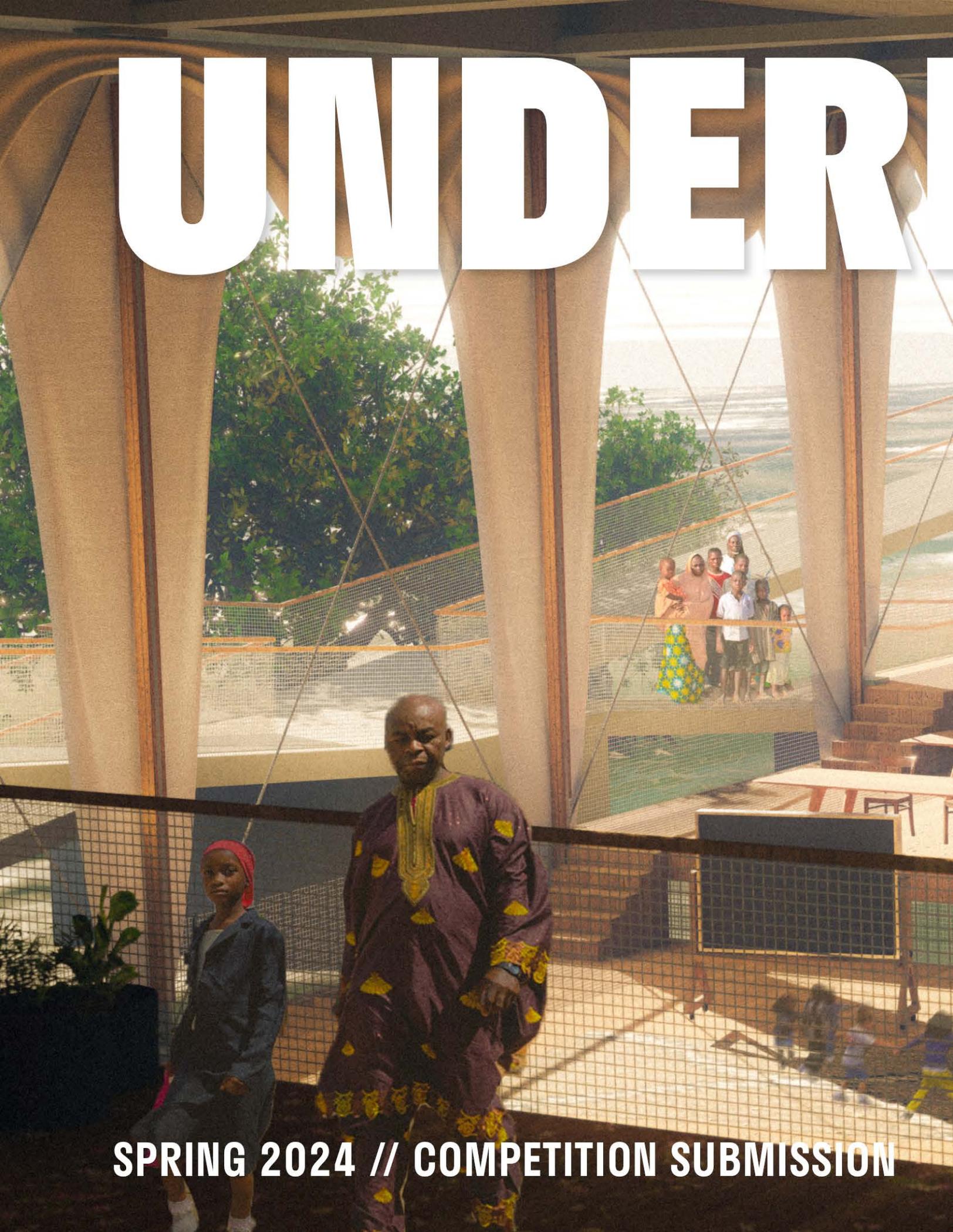
- Bloom Time | Summer, Fall
- Thrives with rainfall, fertilize each Spring



Drawings by Ashley Wallace and Emily Saunders. Model by myself and Cyrus Gagaza. Design and project management by myself and Alejandro Saldarriaga.



# UNDER

An architectural rendering of a modern building with large, arched windows. The building features multiple levels with balconies and walkways. In the foreground, a man in a purple and yellow patterned traditional outfit and a young girl in a blue jacket and red headscarf stand on a balcony. In the background, a group of people, including a woman in a colorful patterned dress, are gathered on an upper level. The building is surrounded by lush green trees and a view of a beach and ocean.

SPRING 2024 // COMPETITION SUBMISSION

# BRIDGE



6.495519, 3.3930651 // LAGOS, NIGERIA

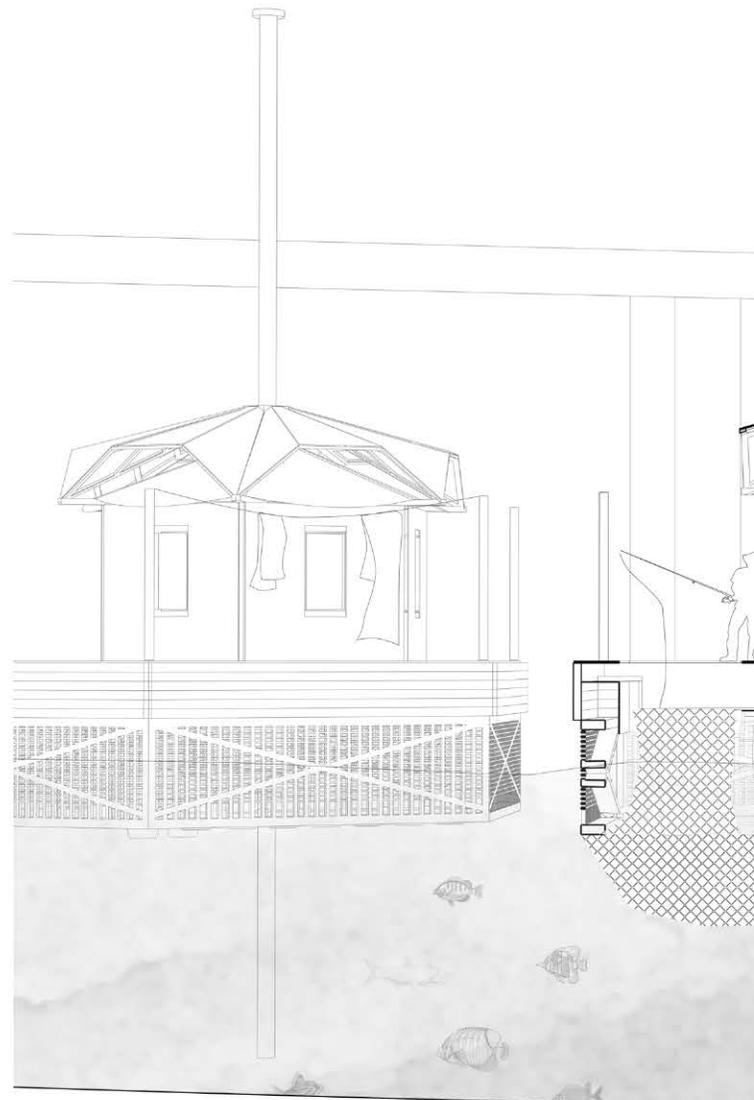
# UNDERBRIDGE

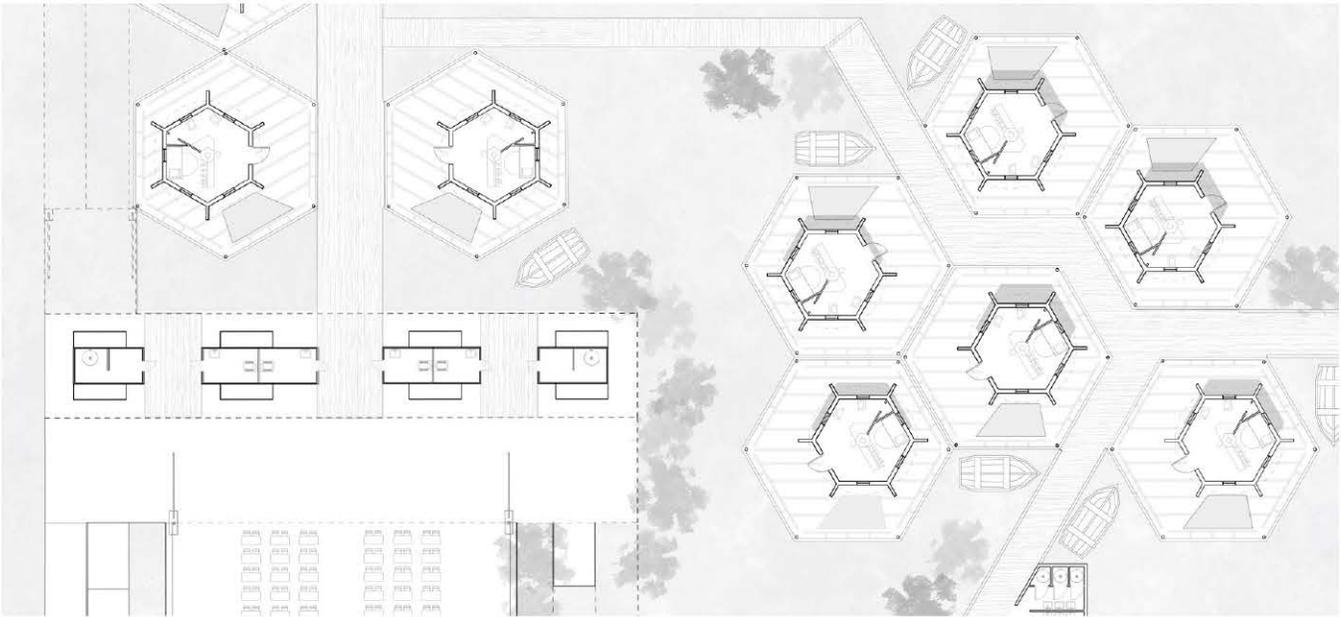
6.495519, 3.3930651  
LAGOS, NIGERIA

COMPETITION  
SUBMISSION

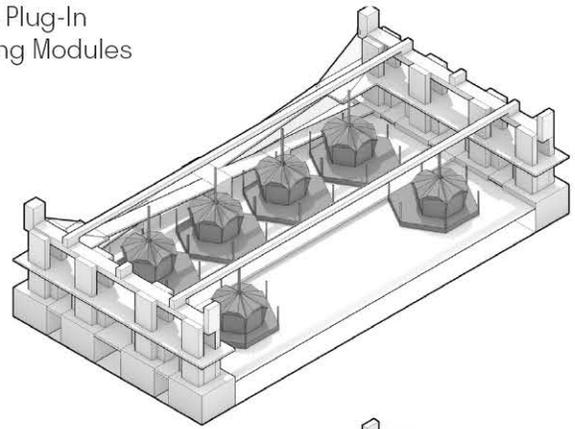


Lagos is a city laden with economic, social, and cultural inequality. Makoko, an underserved waterlogged fishing community situated on stilts above Lagos Lagoon, is situated directly between bustling downtown and new infrastructural developments, presenting starkly unequal development. Makoko is in desperate need of standard of living increases associated with more stable housing that can be resilient to upcoming sea level rise. **Underbridge** supplements the existing structure of Makoko by introducing various programs through infrastructural additions underneath the Third Mainland Bridge. The modular design focuses on creating spaces that improve the living standards by enhancing the existing social life.

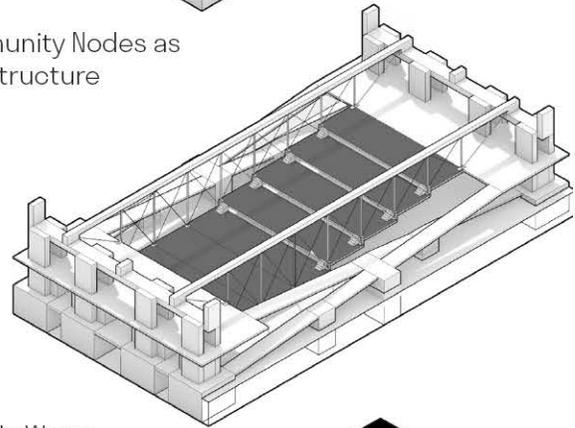




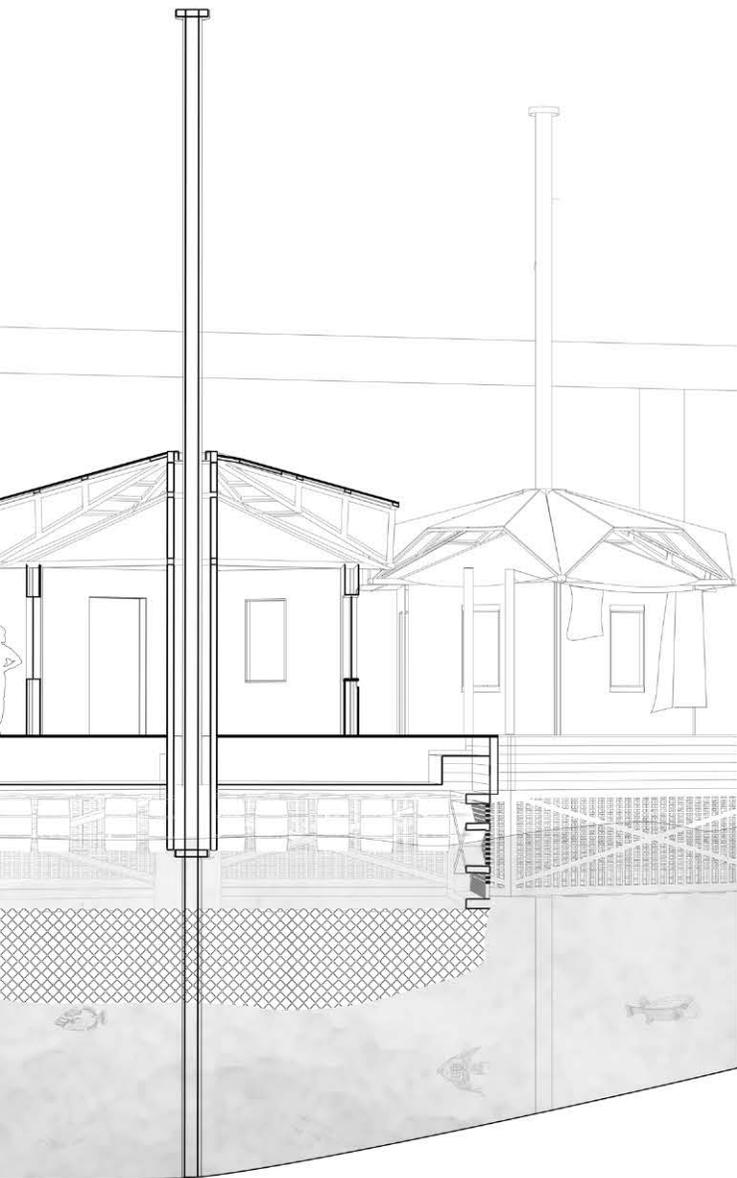
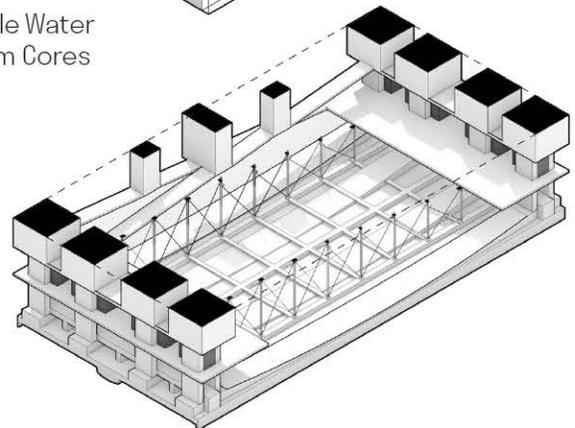
Loose Plug-In  
Housing Modules

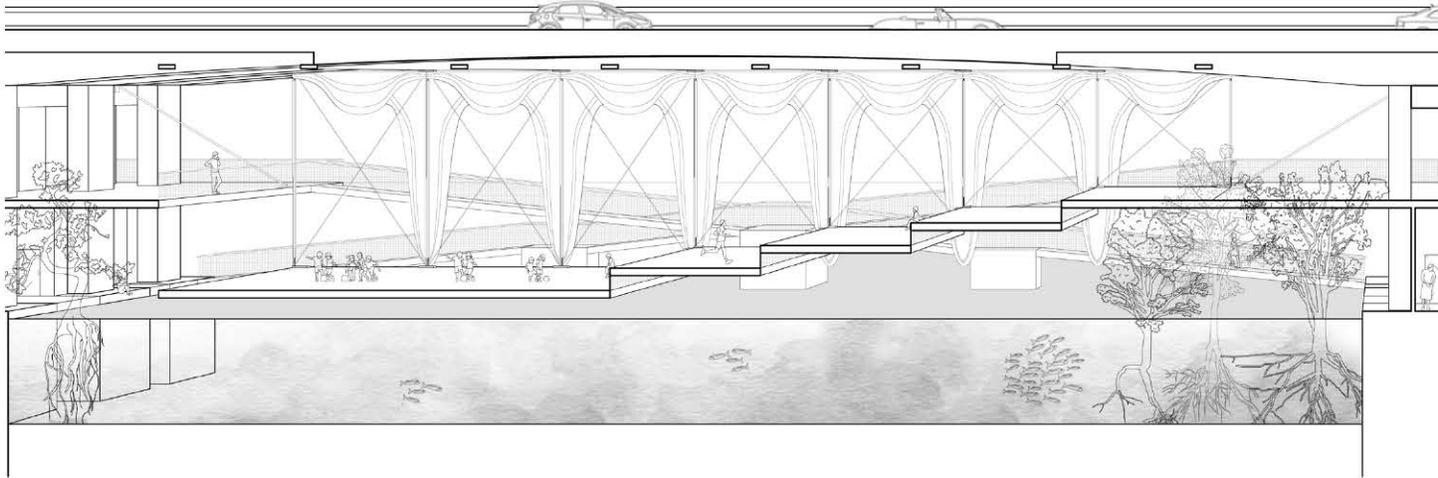


Community Nodes as  
Infrastructure

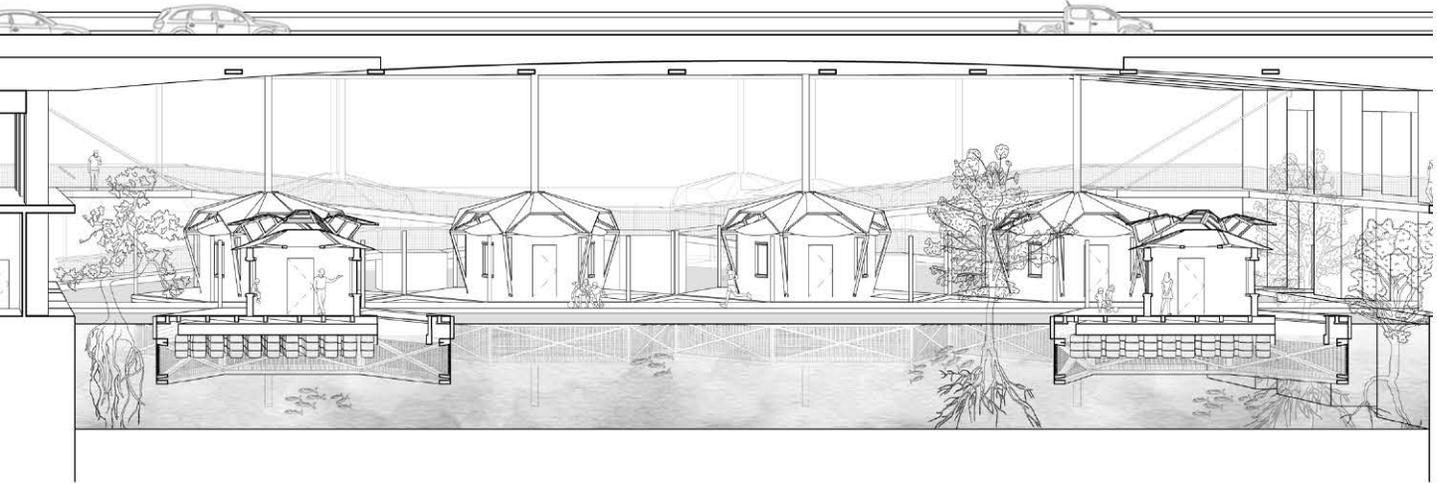


Potable Water  
System Cores

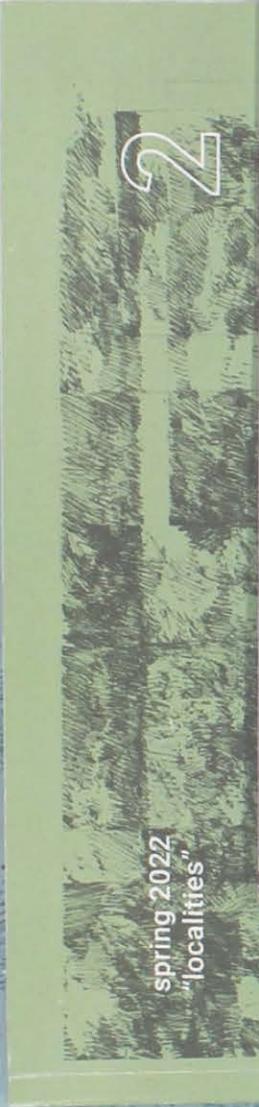




All design work and drawings completed in collaboration with Cyrus Gagaza and Zeynep Gul.



# PUBLIC



SINCE SPRING 2020 // PERSONAL PROJECTS

# E CATIONS



FROM MICHIGAN TO MASSACHUSETTS

# PUBLICATIONS

In the Spring of 2020, when pandemic social distancing was in full effect, I decided to learn a new hobby: **Election Mapping**. While this was intended as a fun new skill to learn, it has since developed into something I could not imagine. The process involves digging through thousands of data points, and representing it in a map using GIS tools and Adobe products. In my spare time, I have made hundreds of maps, posted them online, and since they have received significant coverage and distribution. Politicians and journalists have shared them favorably, and my infographic maps have since been published in the University of Virginia's *Crystal Ball*, Brown University's *Urban Journal*, Wayne State University's *Detroitography*, and NPR's *Detroit Today*, among many others.

VARIOUS LOCATIONS FROM MICHIGAN TO MASSACHUSETTS

PERSONAL PROJECTS

Starting in the Fall of 2024, I began serving as Co-Editor-in-Chief of *INFRA-STRUCTURES*, the only journal publication at Northeastern's School of Architecture. The journal is entirely student-run, and I took it upon myself to organize the magazine's team, design the articles, edit the content we receive, and overall administer the club. *INFRA-STRUCTURES* publishes one issue per semester, so every semester, it takes the work of over twenty people to create such a product. In leading this, I have been the recipient of a grant through Northeastern to fund the journal's publishing. The club and journal continue to grow, as we received nearly thirty pitches from students in the spring who wish to write for the journal. Another issue will be published in April 2025.







// [jackson.w.franks@gmail.com](mailto:jackson.w.franks@gmail.com)  
// +1 (248) 760-2180  
// [jacksonfranks.com](http://jacksonfranks.com)  
// Boston, MA