



KHAOULA EL JAABAK

**PORTFOLIO
NYIT BACHELORS OF ARCHITECTURE**

HELLO, مرحبا

My name is **KHAOULA EL JAABAK**



MY APPROACH TO ARCHITECTURE

Architecture, for me, has always been a way of creating belonging. Growing up in Morocco, I learned to understand space through people—their daily rituals, their shared narratives, and the craftsmanship that gave meaning to the built environment. These experiences shaped my belief that design holds the power to strengthen community and transform how we live together.

My work bridges scales, from detailed spatial moments to broader urban systems, always grounded in clarity, intention, and strong conceptual reasoning. I am drawn to projects that challenge me to think critically about equity, access, and the cultural narratives embedded in the built environment.

At the core of my practice is a commitment to designing spaces that empower communities, foster inclusivity, and respond meaningfully to their social and environmental context. I strive to create architecture that engages people deeply and contributes to more connected, resilient cities.

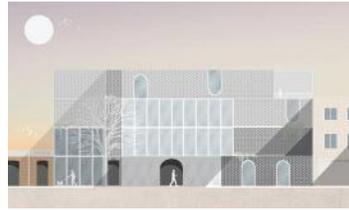
1.
CROSSROADS



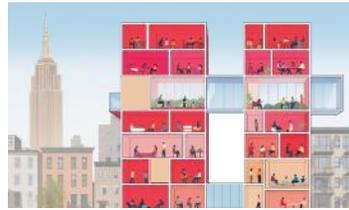
2.
HARBOR OF CARE



3.
AXIAL LIBRARY



4.
GATESVIEW RESIDENCE



5.
FOUNDATIONS



1.

CROSSROADS

Engagement, Connection, Sustainability

STATUS: Academic Project

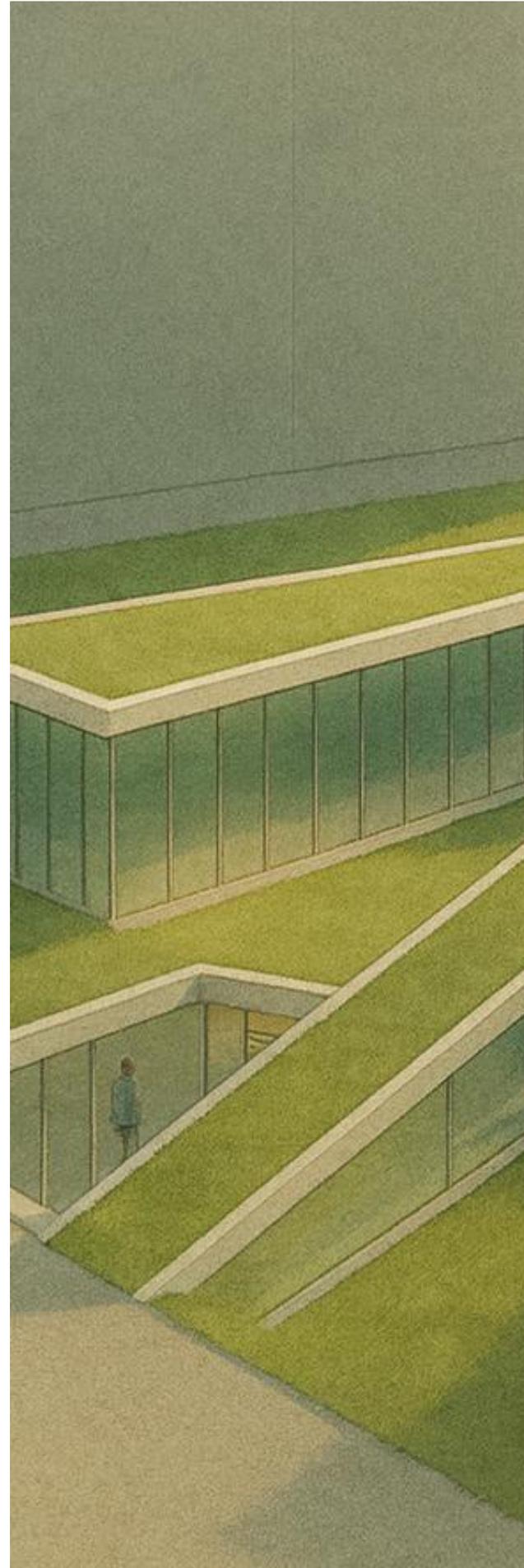
YEAR: 2024

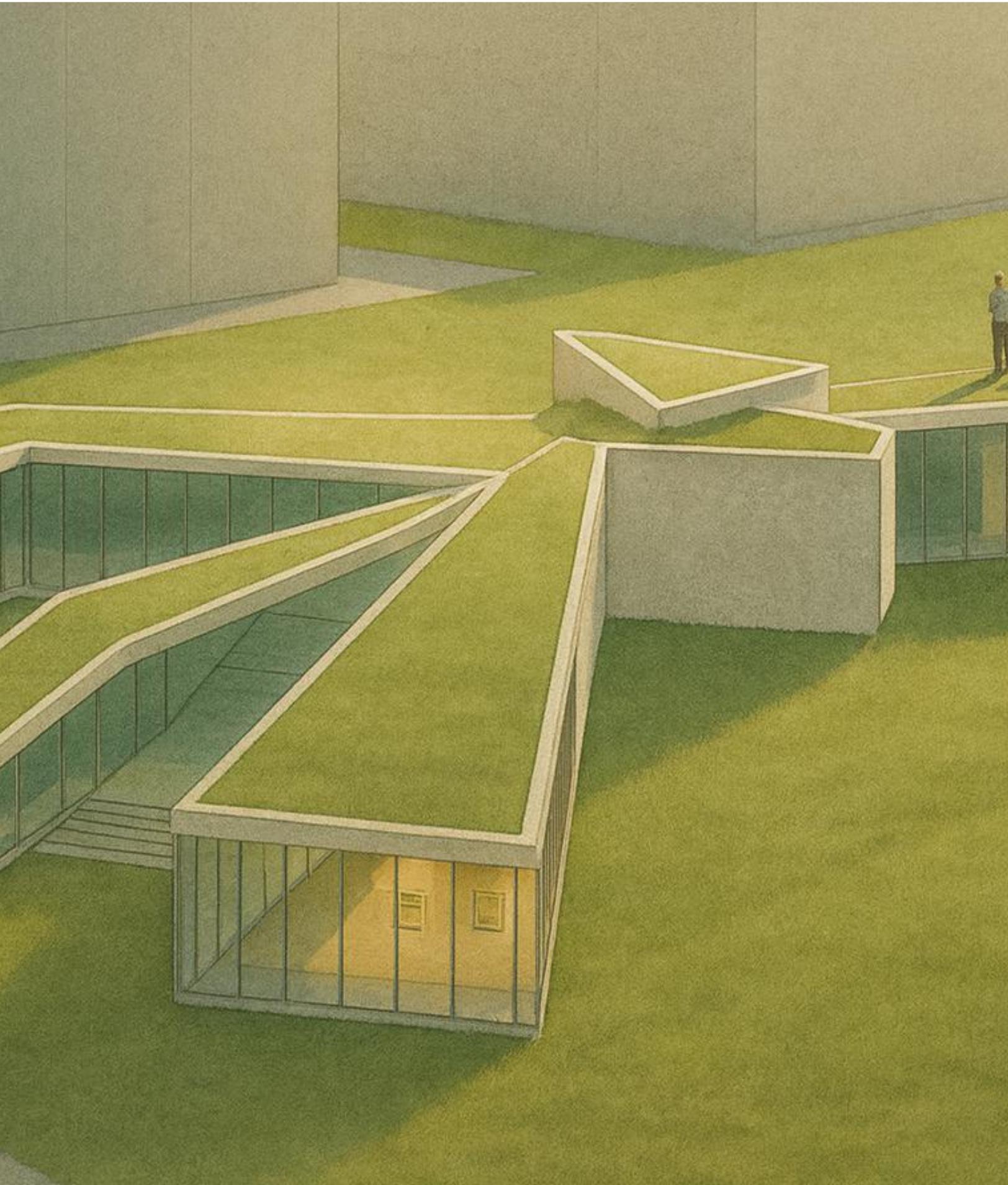
TYOLOGY: Community Center

LOCATION: Sara D. Roosevelt Park,
New York City

VISION

Crossroads Community Center redefines the role of a public space by blending social interaction, cultural exchange, and sustainability. Rooted in a thorough site analysis, the design responds to the community's need for accessible green spaces by integrating landscaped pockets and outdoor gathering areas. At its core, a central circulation spine serves as the heart of the center, fostering movement, interaction, and engagement. A steel structural system ensures flexibility and adaptability, while the green roof supports biodiversity and enhances thermal performance. The material palette—steel, glass, and greenery—creates a dynamic balance between openness, resilience, and environmental consciousness. Crossroads Community Center stands as an inclusive, multi-functional hub designed to promote learning, collaboration, and a sense of belonging.

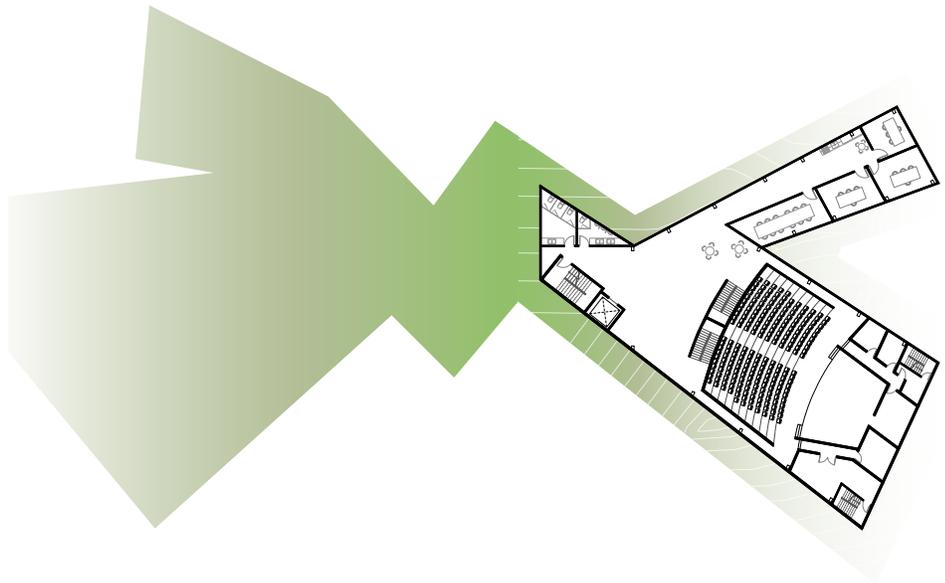
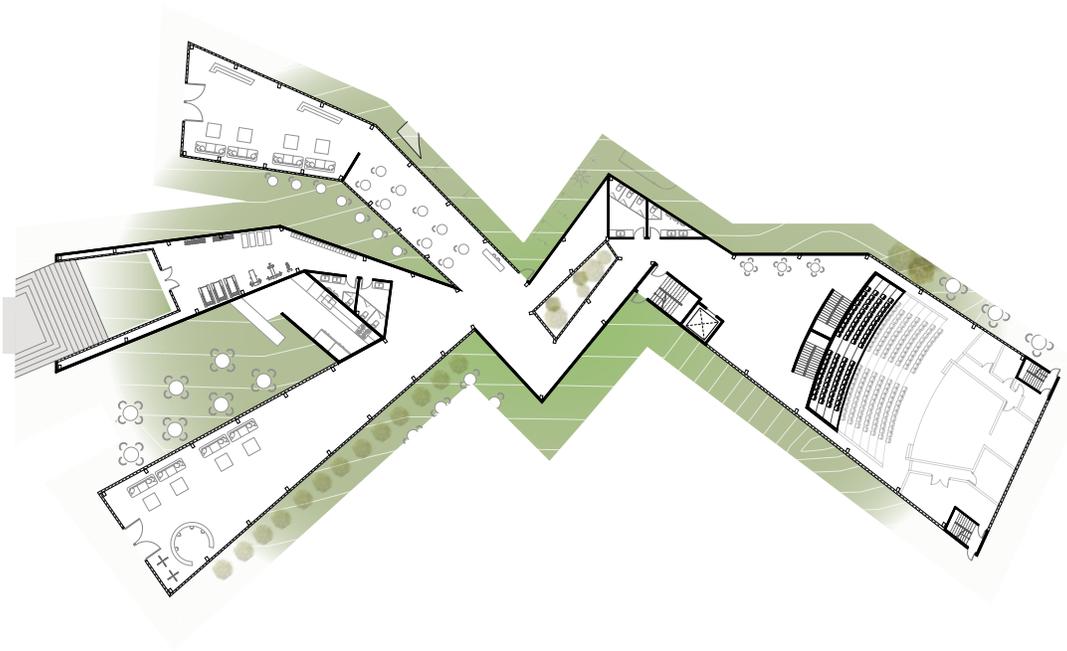
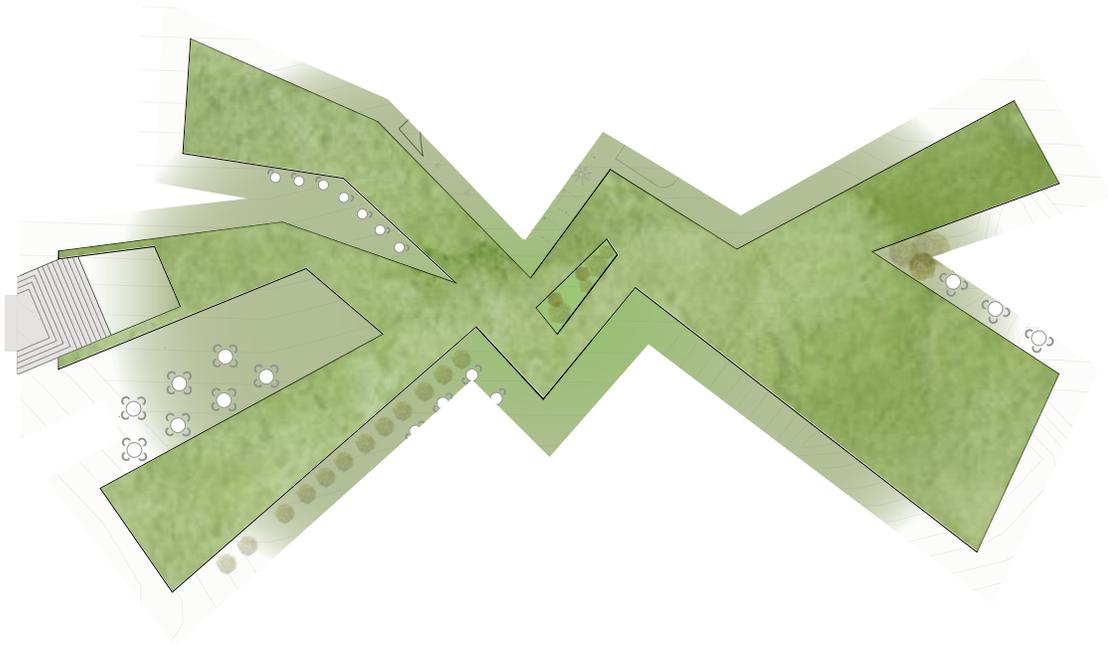




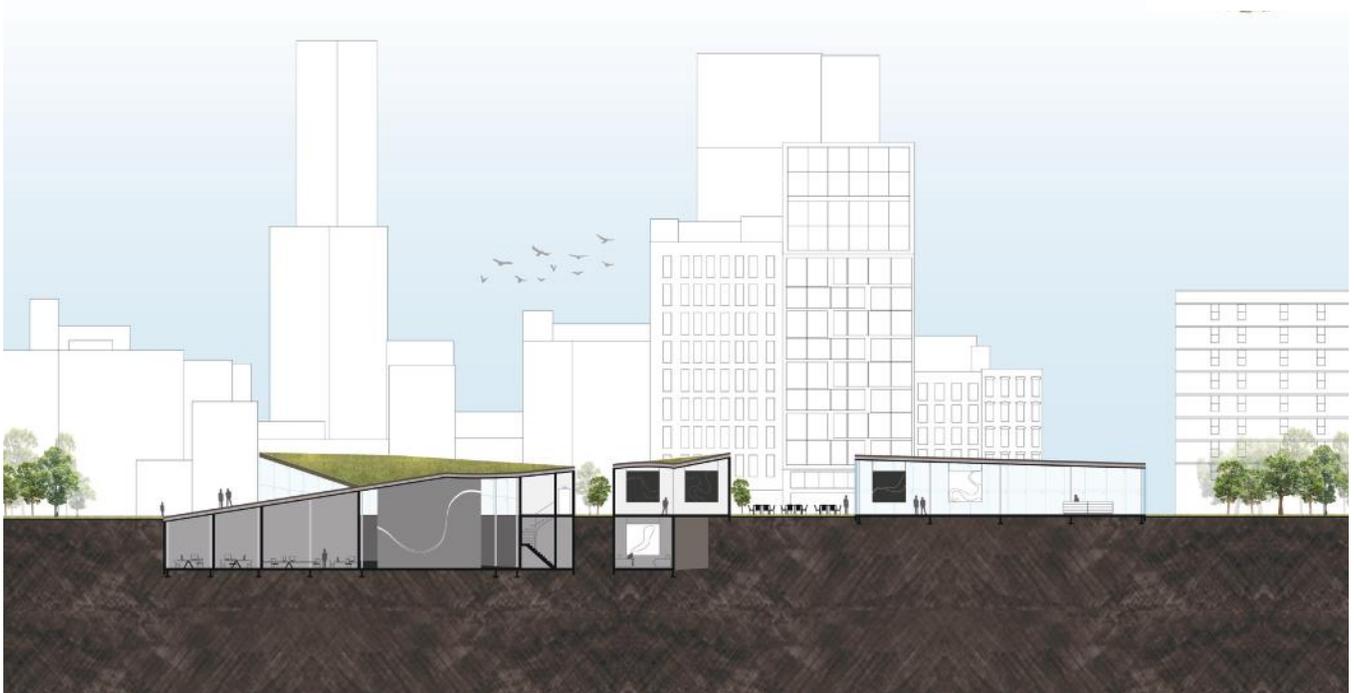
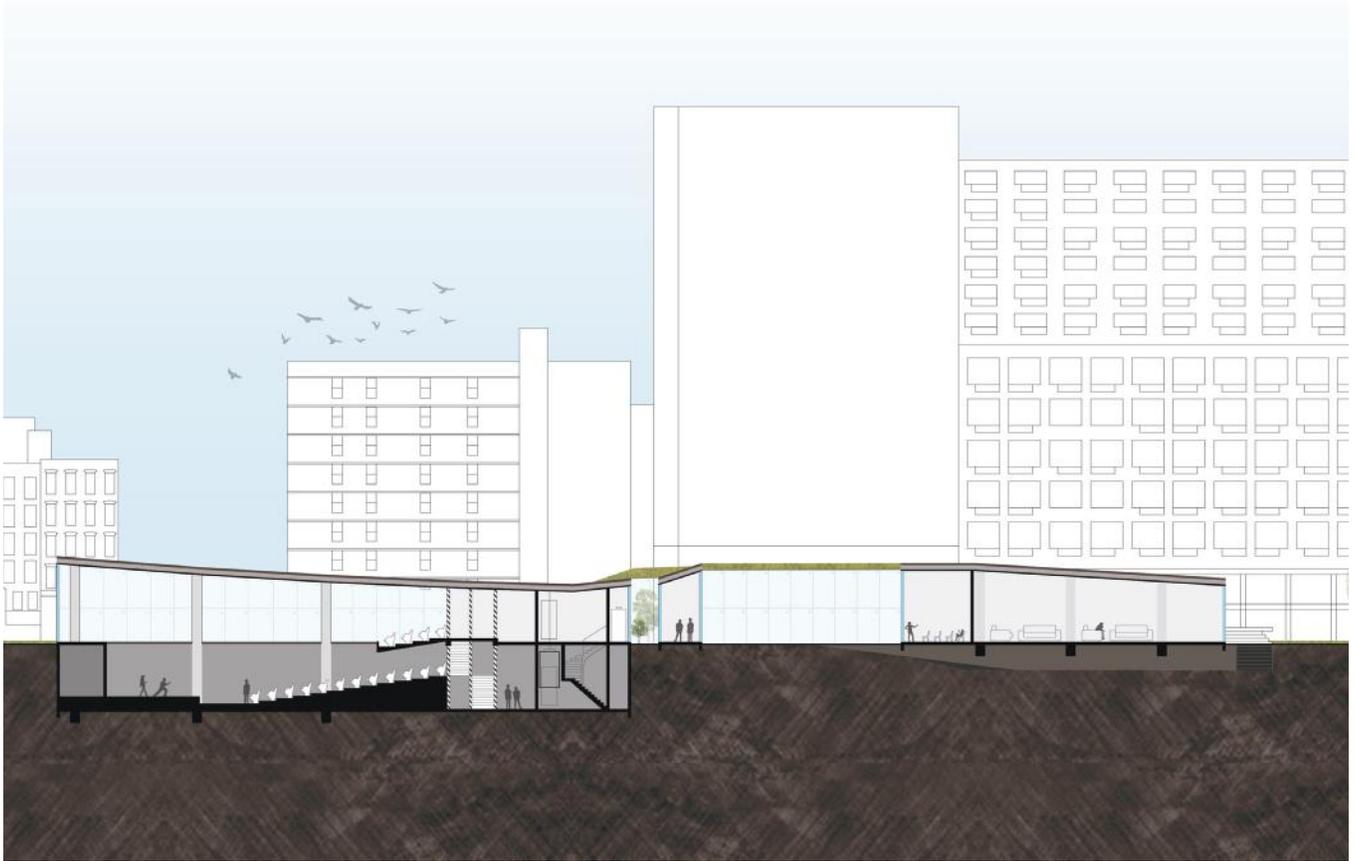
Site Physical Model



Floor Plans



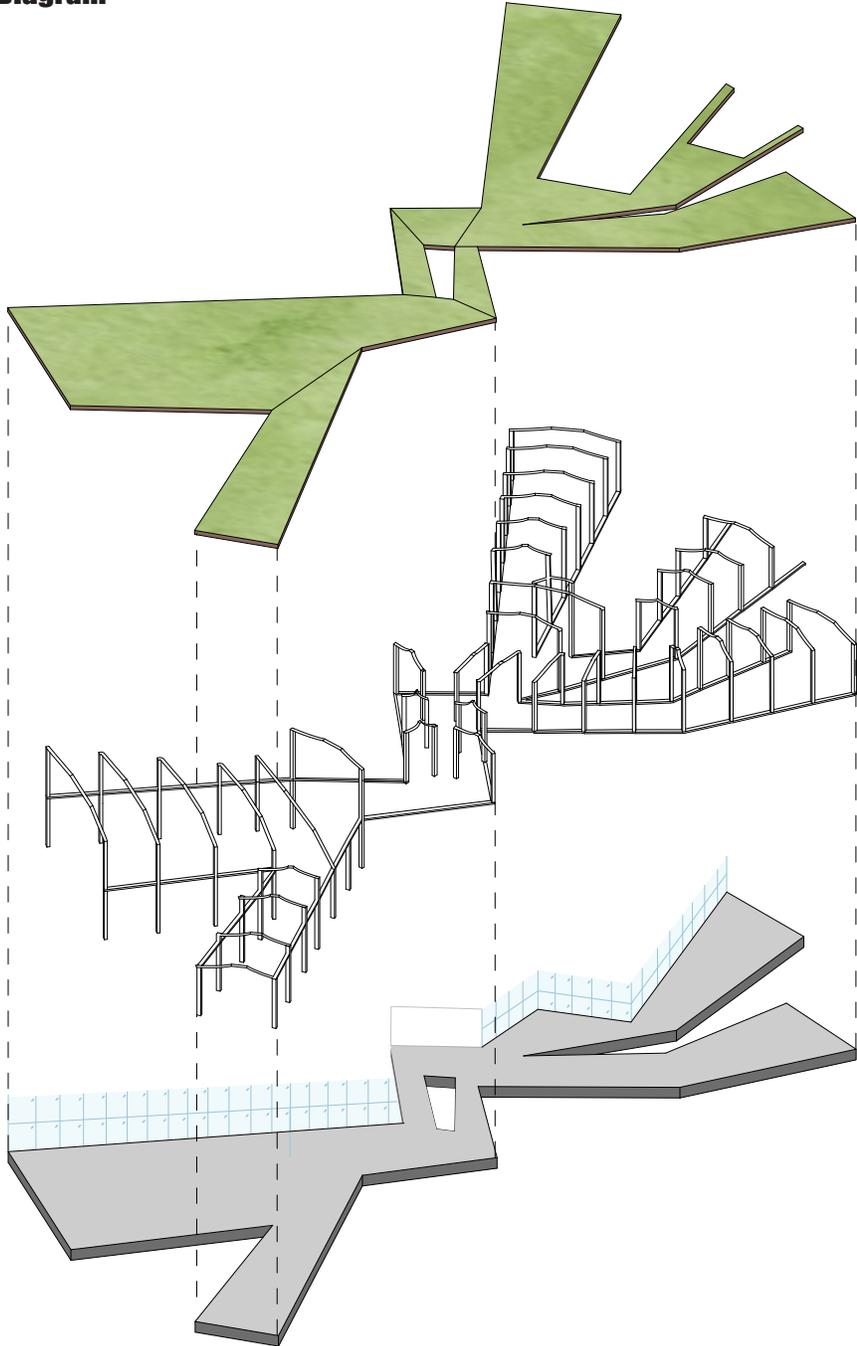
Building Sections



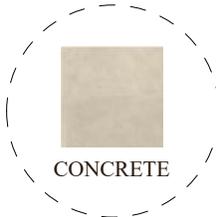
Interior Render



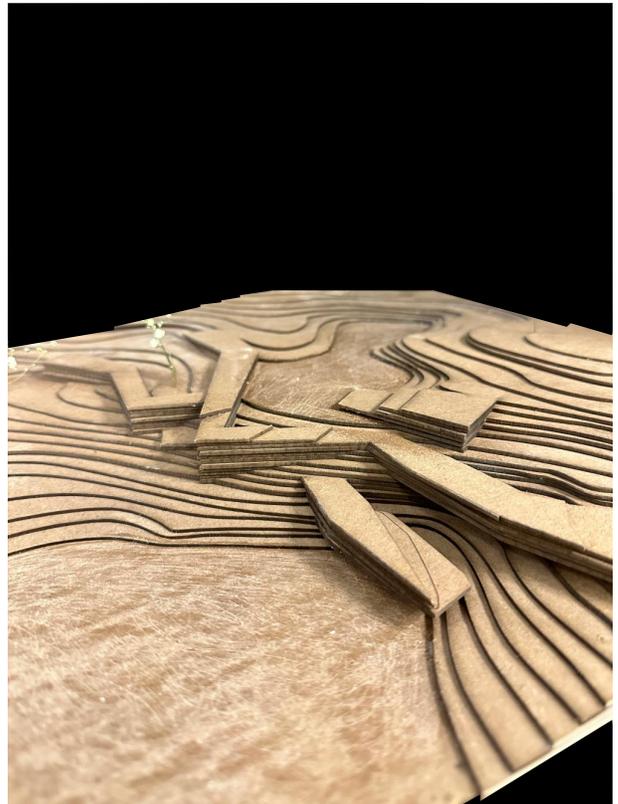
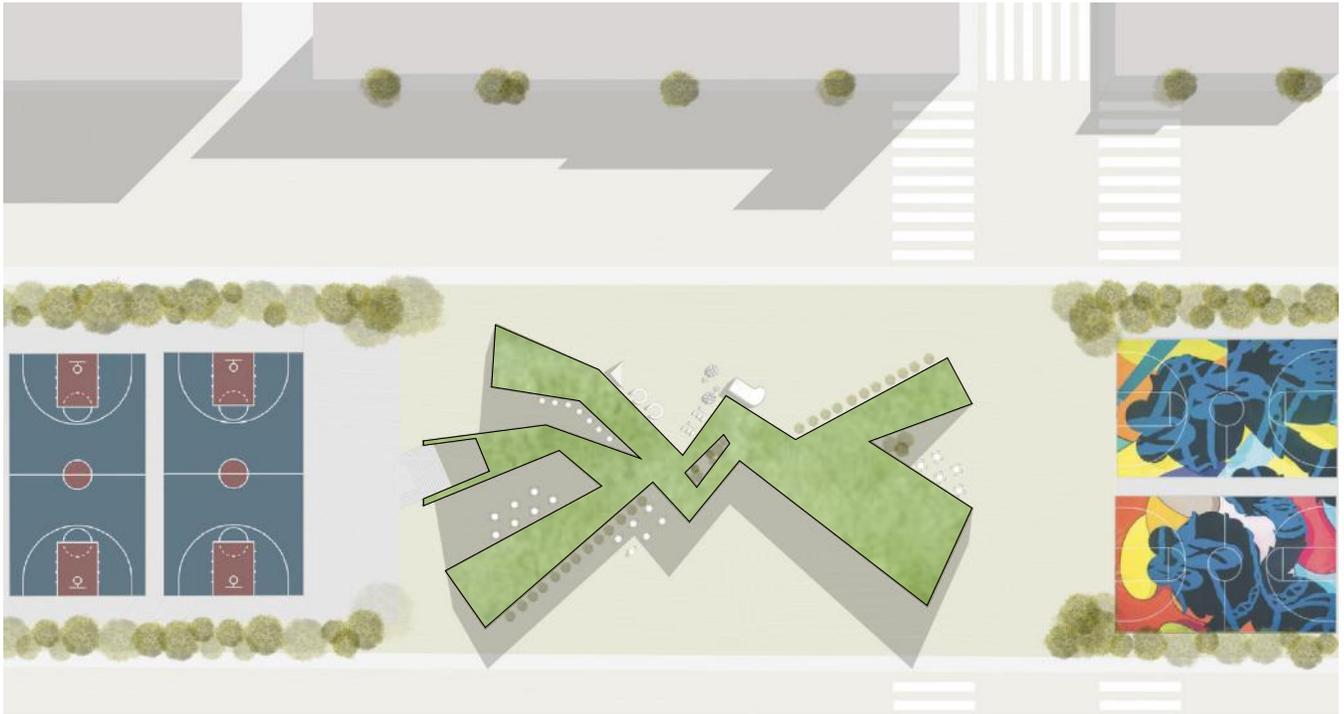
Structural Strategy Diagram



Material Palette



Site Comprehension



2.

HARBOR OF CARE

Care, Coast, Resilience

STATUS: Academic Thesis

YEAR: 2025 - 2026

TYOLOGY: Healthcare + Coastal Resilience

LOCATION: Rockaway Peninsula, New York

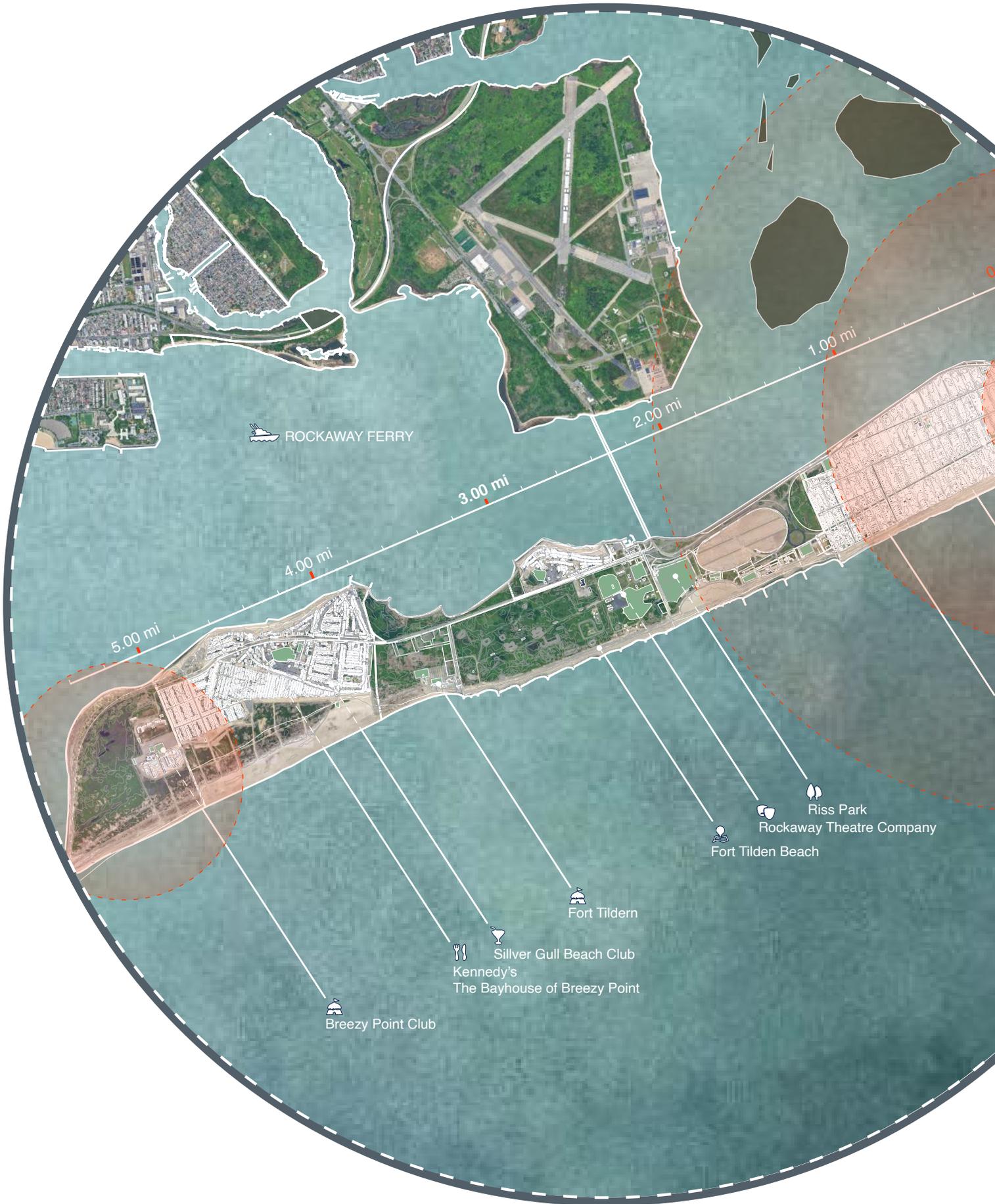
VISION

Harbor of Care transforms the Rockaway shoreline into a therapeutic coastal retreat that merges mental-health care, resilience, and ecological restoration. Rooted in the logic of dunes and branching topographies, the project introduces spaces for counseling, sensory healing, and short-term stays within a resilient landscape system. By elevating pathways, restoring dunes, and integrating wellness programs, the design reframes the coastline as a safe, regenerative environment rather than a site of vulnerability. The project becomes a prototype for future coastal wellness infrastructures; spaces where communities can reconnect with nature, recover, and build resilience together.



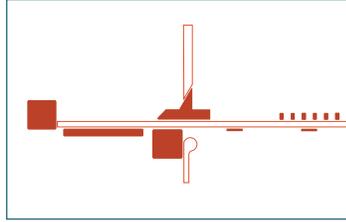


Site Analysis



Precedent Studies

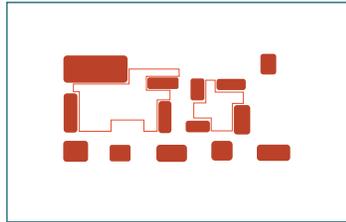
Casa Wabi, Mexico
Linear Calm



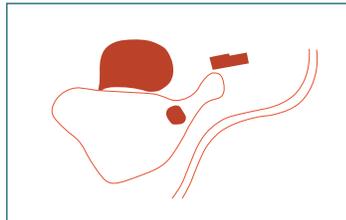
Maggie's Center, UK
Healing Light



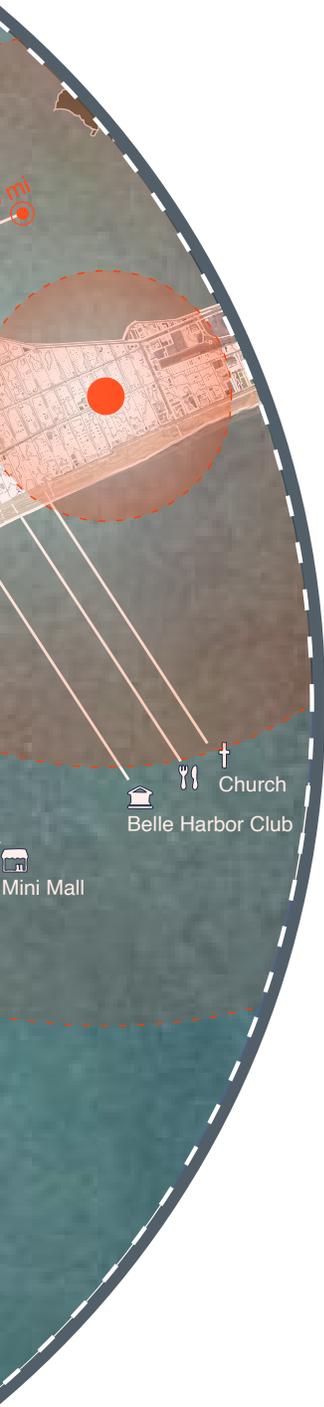
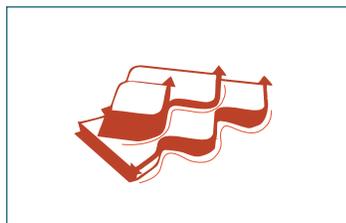
Therme Vals, Switzerland
Material Ritual



Teshima Museum, Japan
Fluid Silence



Blue Lagoon, Iceland
Immersive Nature



Timeline



1700s

Dutch & English
Colonial
Settlement

1840s

First
Hotel
Establishment

1932

Rockaway
Boardwalk
Opens

2012

Hurricane
Sandy
Devastation

2013

Boardwalk
Rebuilding
Begins

2017

Coastal
Resiliency
Projects

2020s

Rockaways
Today Surfing,
Arts, Festivals

Agents of Care

URBAN VISITOR
release

- ESCAPE
- OBSERVE
- RECHARGE

WEEKEND GUEST
rest

- HEAL
- LEAN
- RESTORE

RESIDENT
repair

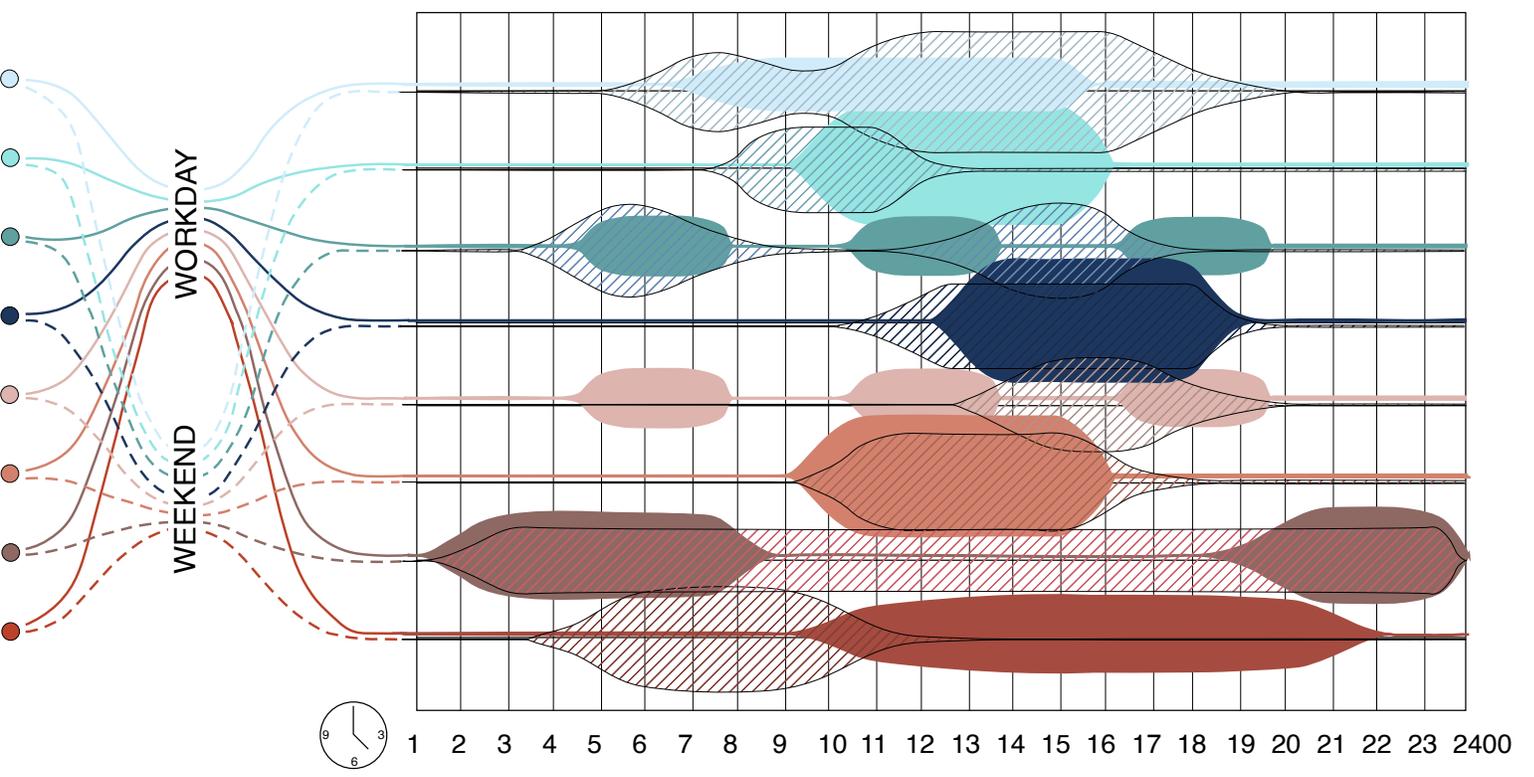
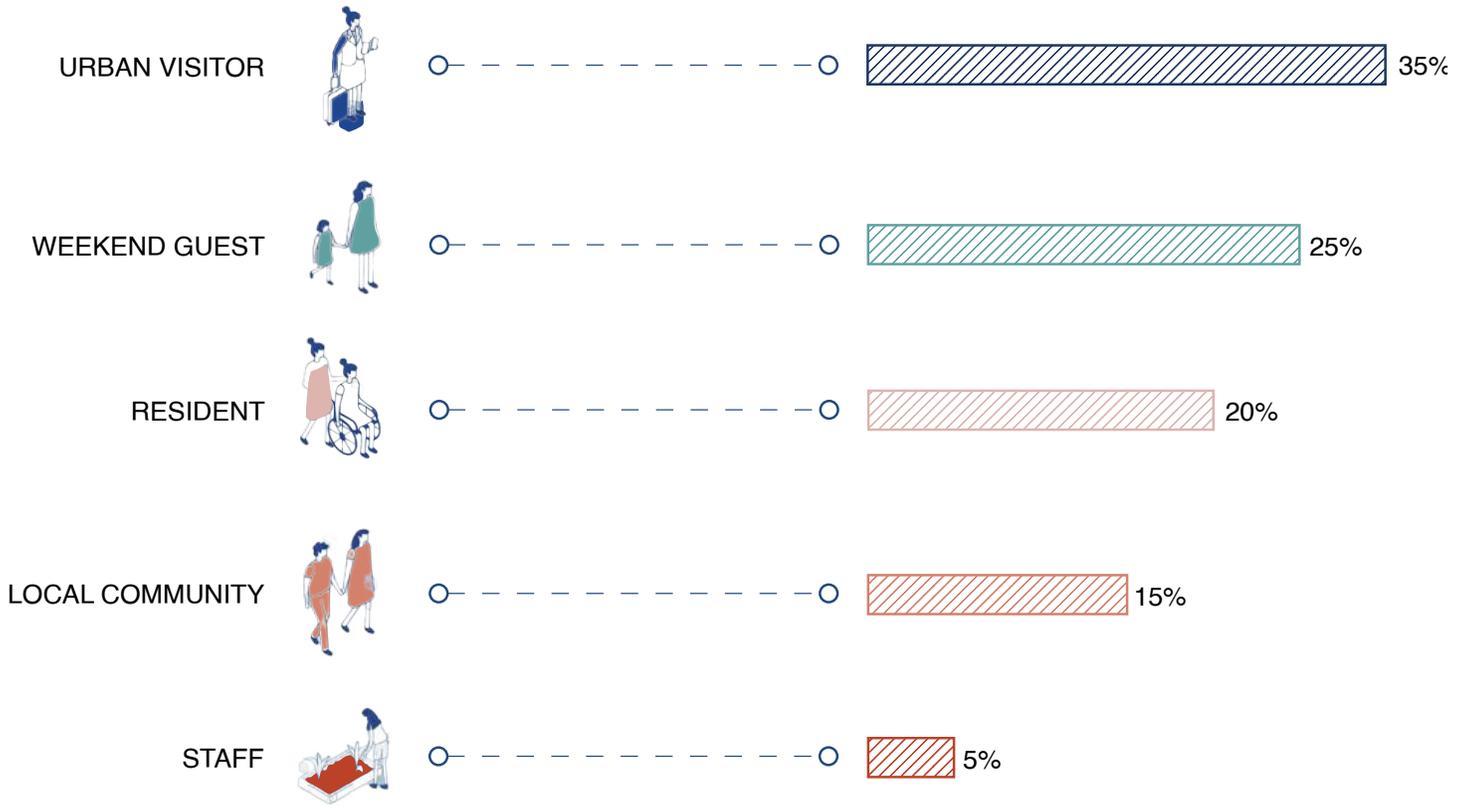
- REST
- REFLECT
- RECONNECT

LOCAL / STAFF
continuous

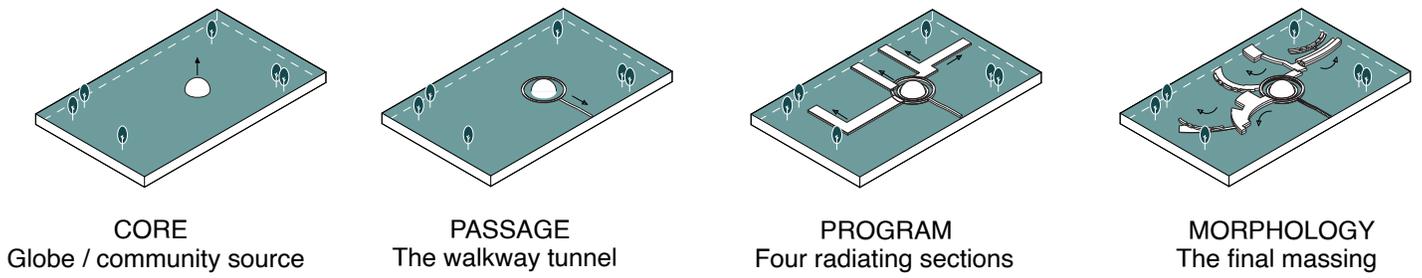
- SUPPORT
- BELONG
- SUSTAIN

Branches of Care

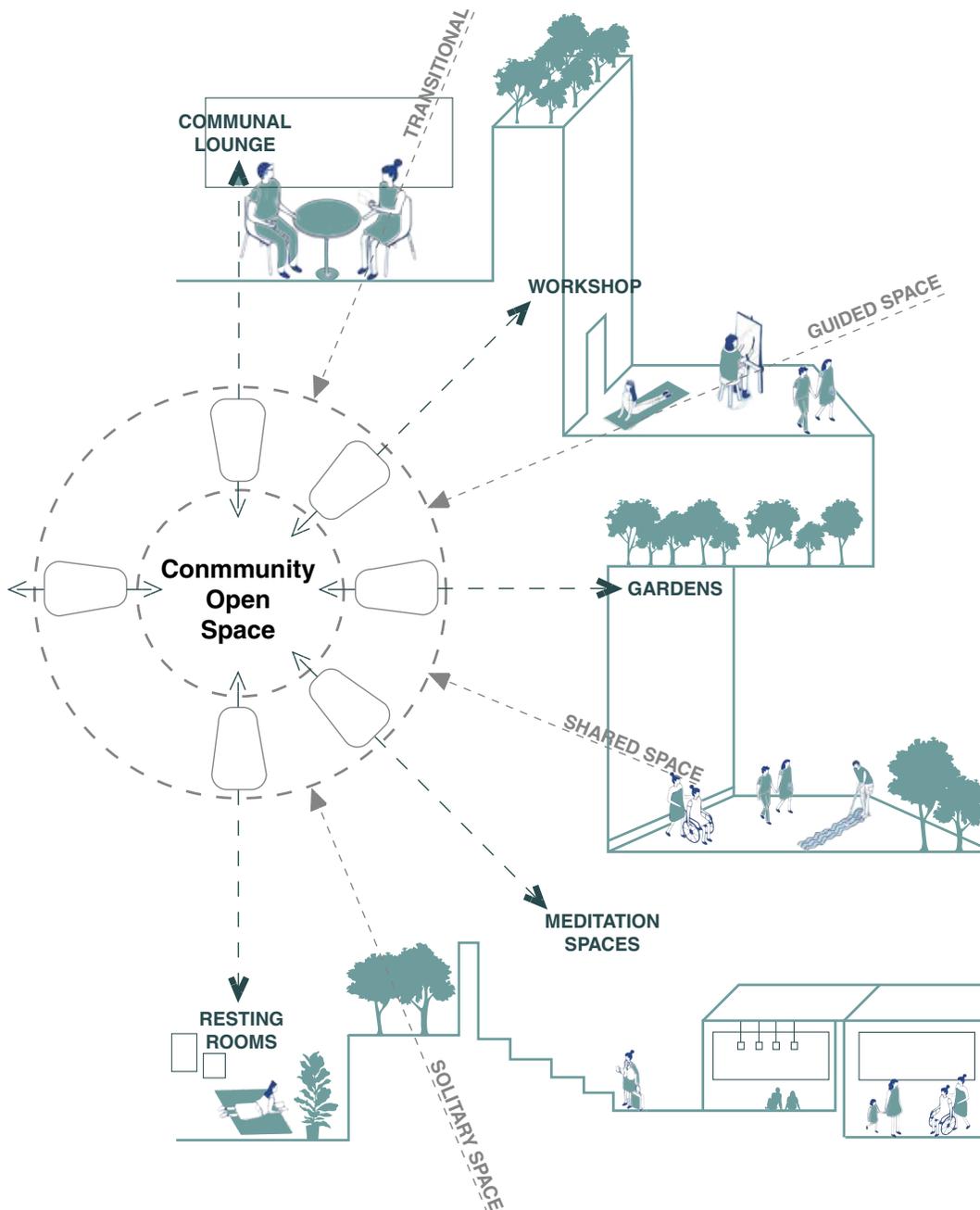
- LOBBY 
- CAFE & TERRACE 
- BATH & HYDROTHERAPY 
- WORKSHOP 
- MEDITATION & QUIET ROOMS 
- GARDENS & PATHWAYS 
- REST & STAY ROOMS 
- STAFF / SUPPORT 



Concept Evolution Diagram



Program Strategy Diagram



TRANSITIONAL SPACE

Definition: Spaces that shift the user from the outside world into a calmer state.

Purpose: They prepare the mind and body for engagement with the retreat.

GUIDED SPACE

Definition: Structured, instructor-led environments for supported activities.

Purpose: They introduce grounding practices through guidance and ritual.

SHARED SPACE

Definition: Communal environments for light social interaction and collective wellness.

Purpose: They encourage connection, group activity, and shared healing.

SOLITARY SPACE

Definition: Private, individualized environments for introspection and quiet reflection.

Purpose: They allow users to disconnect, retreat inward, and recover alone.



3.

AXIAL LIBRARY

Connectivity, Community, Green Integration

STATUS: Academic Project

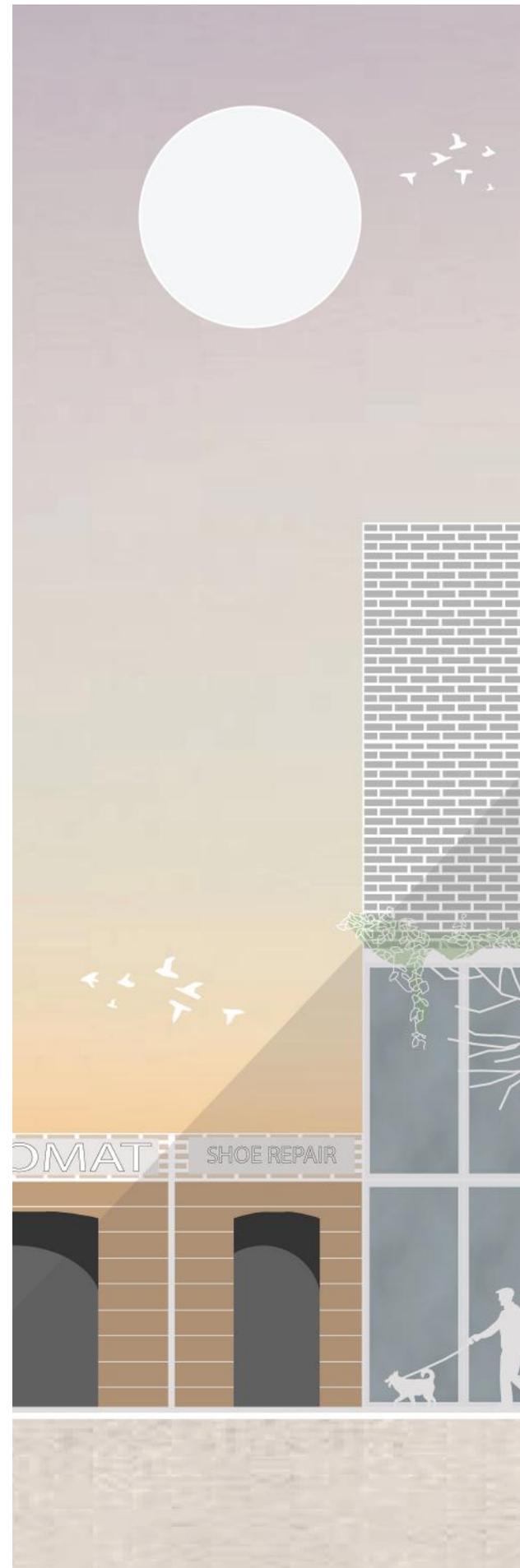
YEAR: 2024

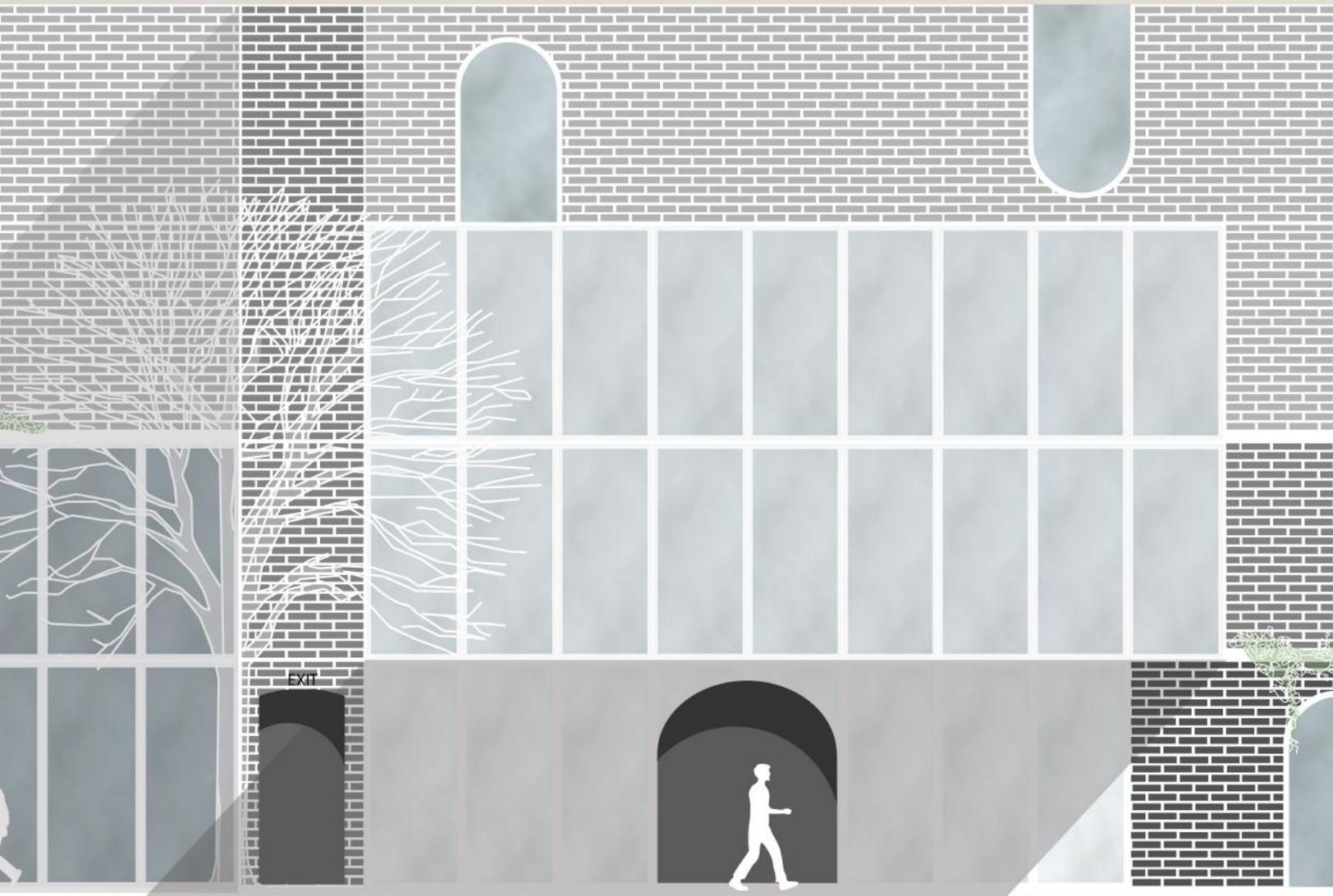
TPOLOGY: Library

LOCATION: Clinton Hill, New York City

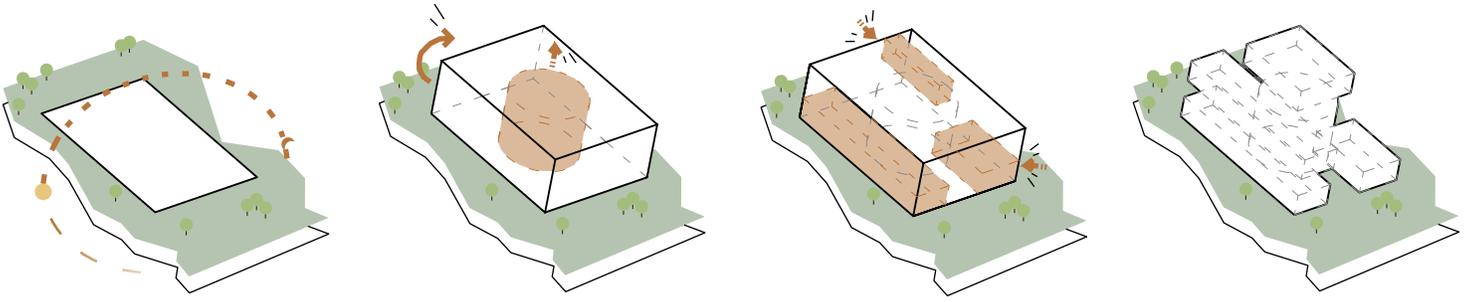
VISION

Axial Library imagines the role of a public library by blending learning, community engagement, and sustainability. Rooted in a thorough site analysis, the design responds to the neighborhood's need for accessible green spaces by integrating pockets of greenery and outdoor gathering areas. At its core, a central atrium serves as the heart of the library, fostering movement, connectivity, and interaction. Structural glulam timber beams seamlessly transition into bookshelves and seating, reinforcing a balance between functionality and aesthetics. The material palette—black brick, dark grey mortar, and butt-glazing curtain walls—enhances the interplay of light, solidity, and transparency. Axial Library stands as an inclusive, multi-functional space designed to inspire knowledge, creativity, and community connection.

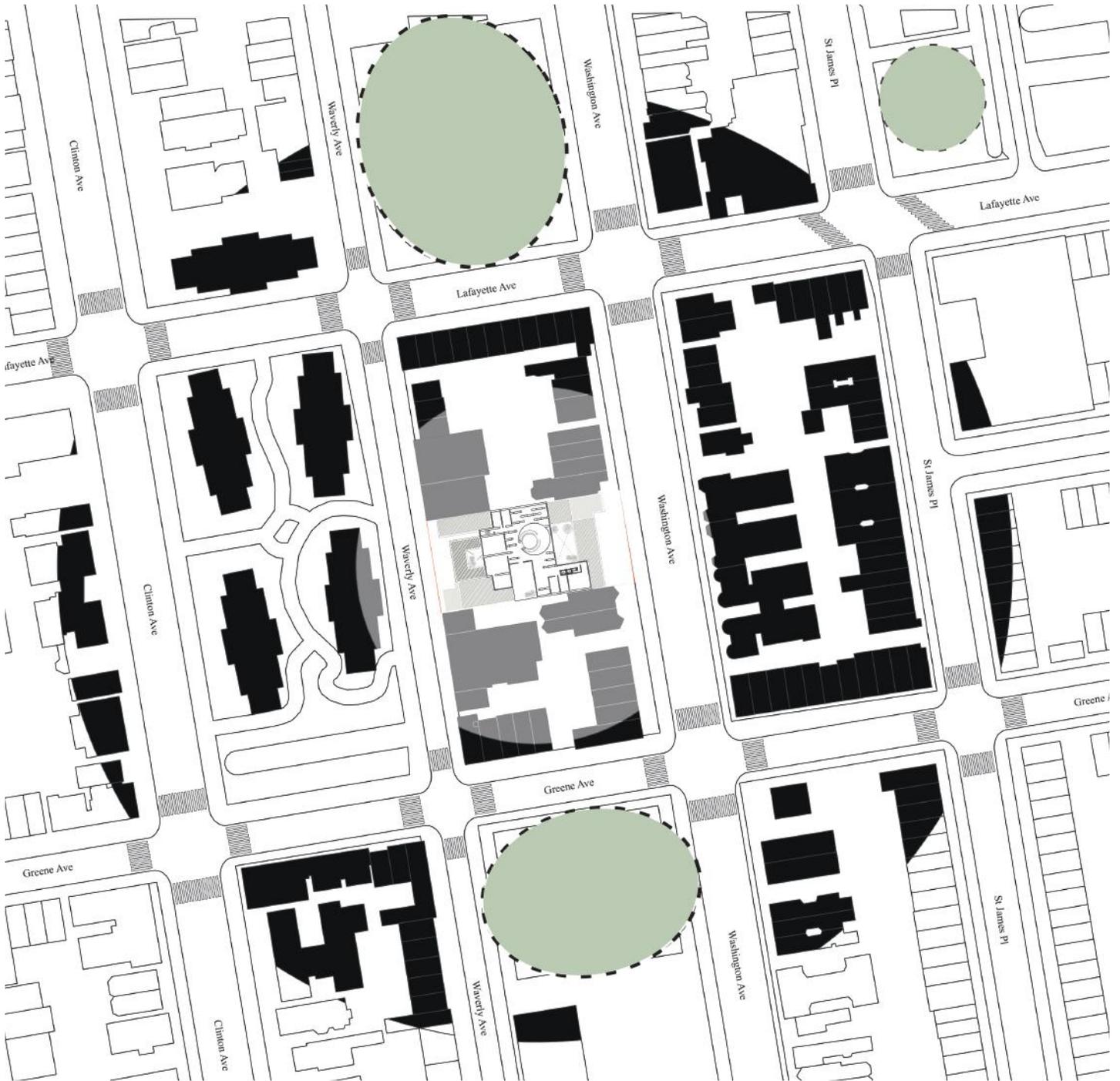




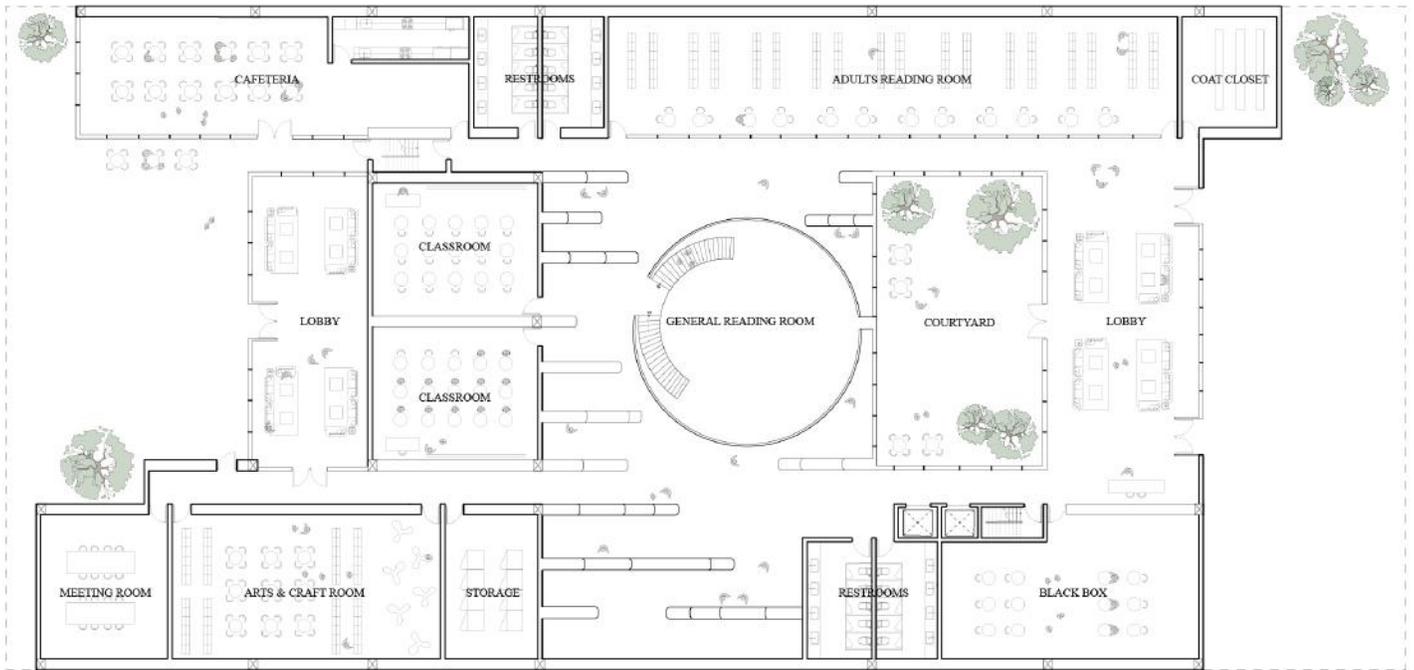
Concept Diagram



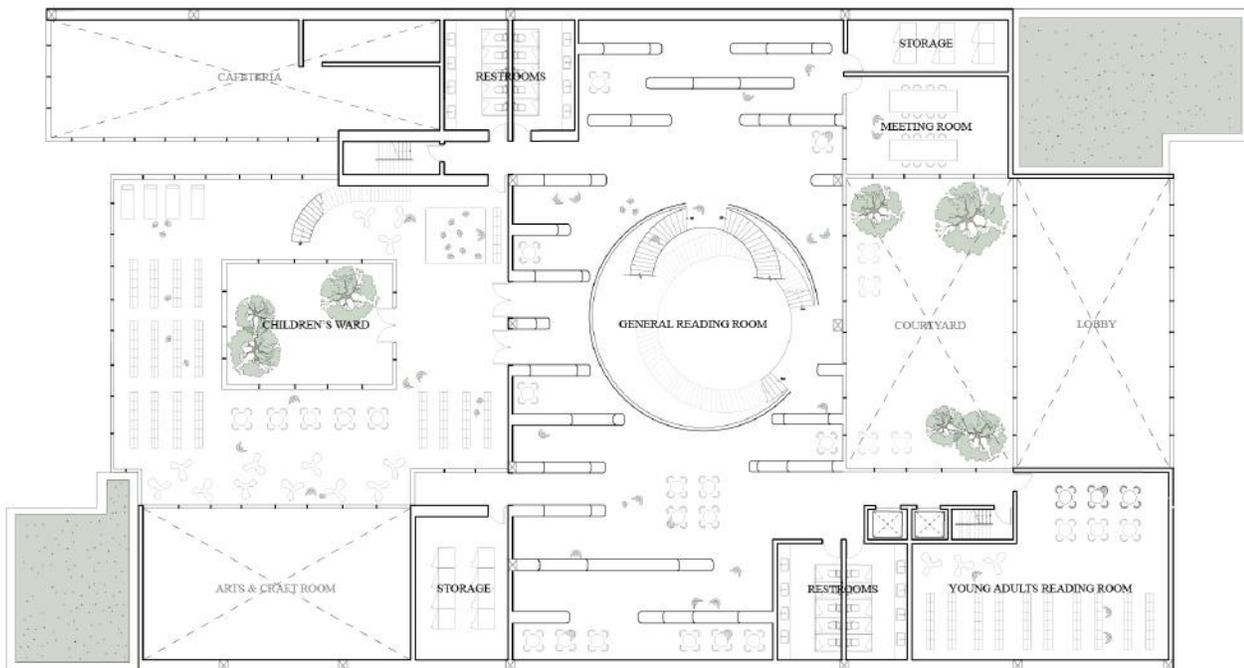
Site Plan



Ground Floor Plan



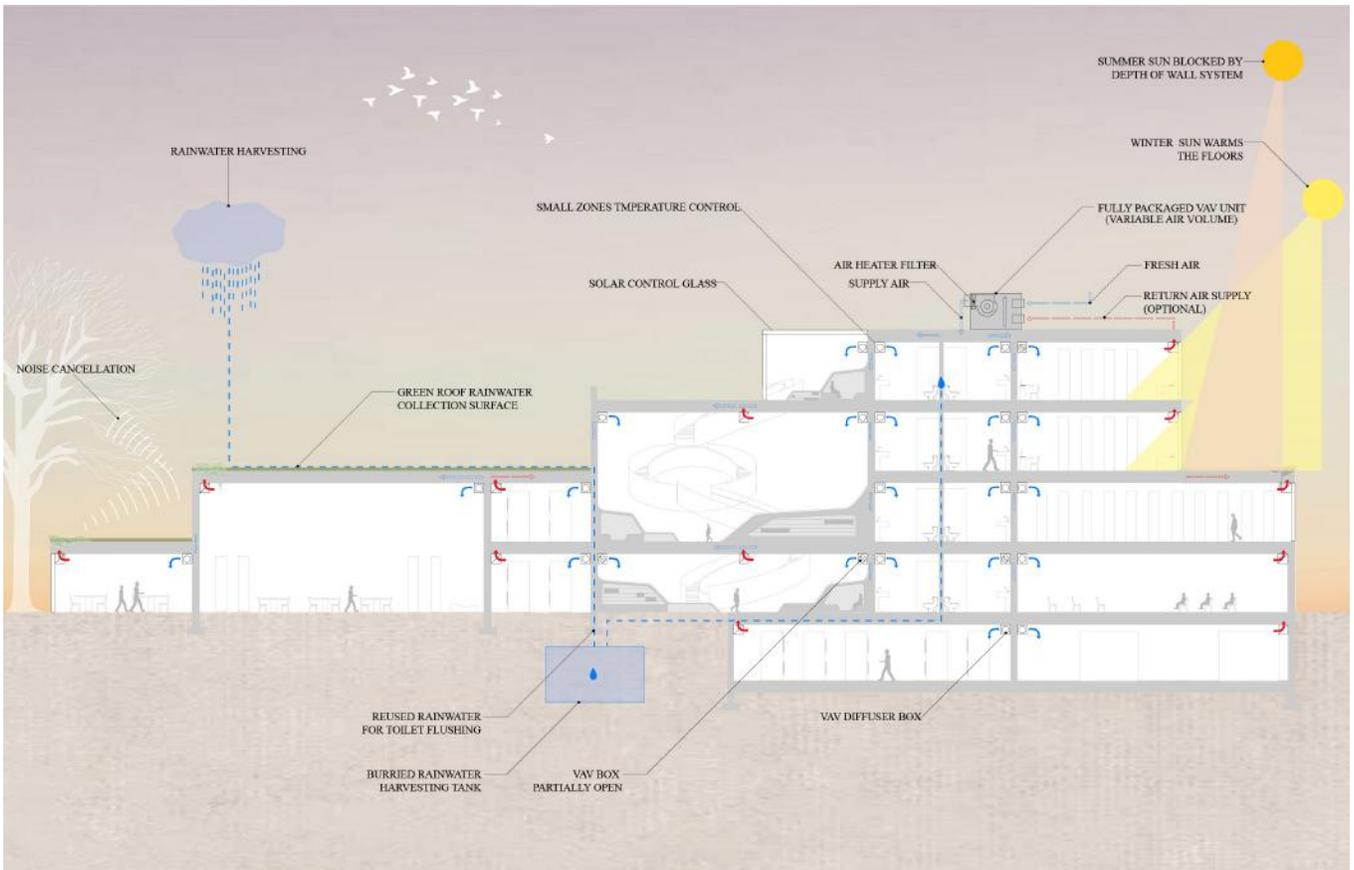
Second Floor Plan



Building Section



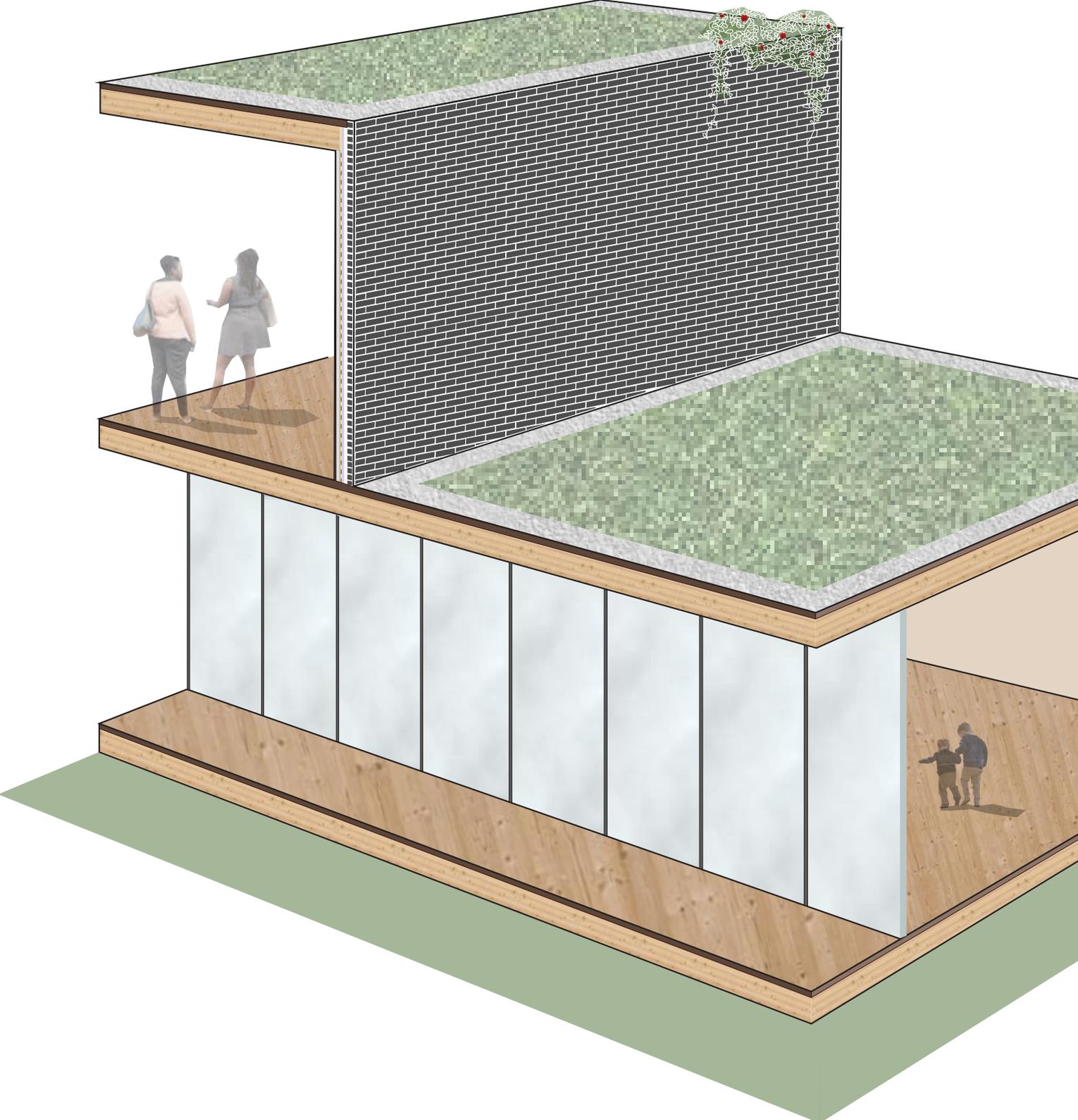
Comprehensive Section



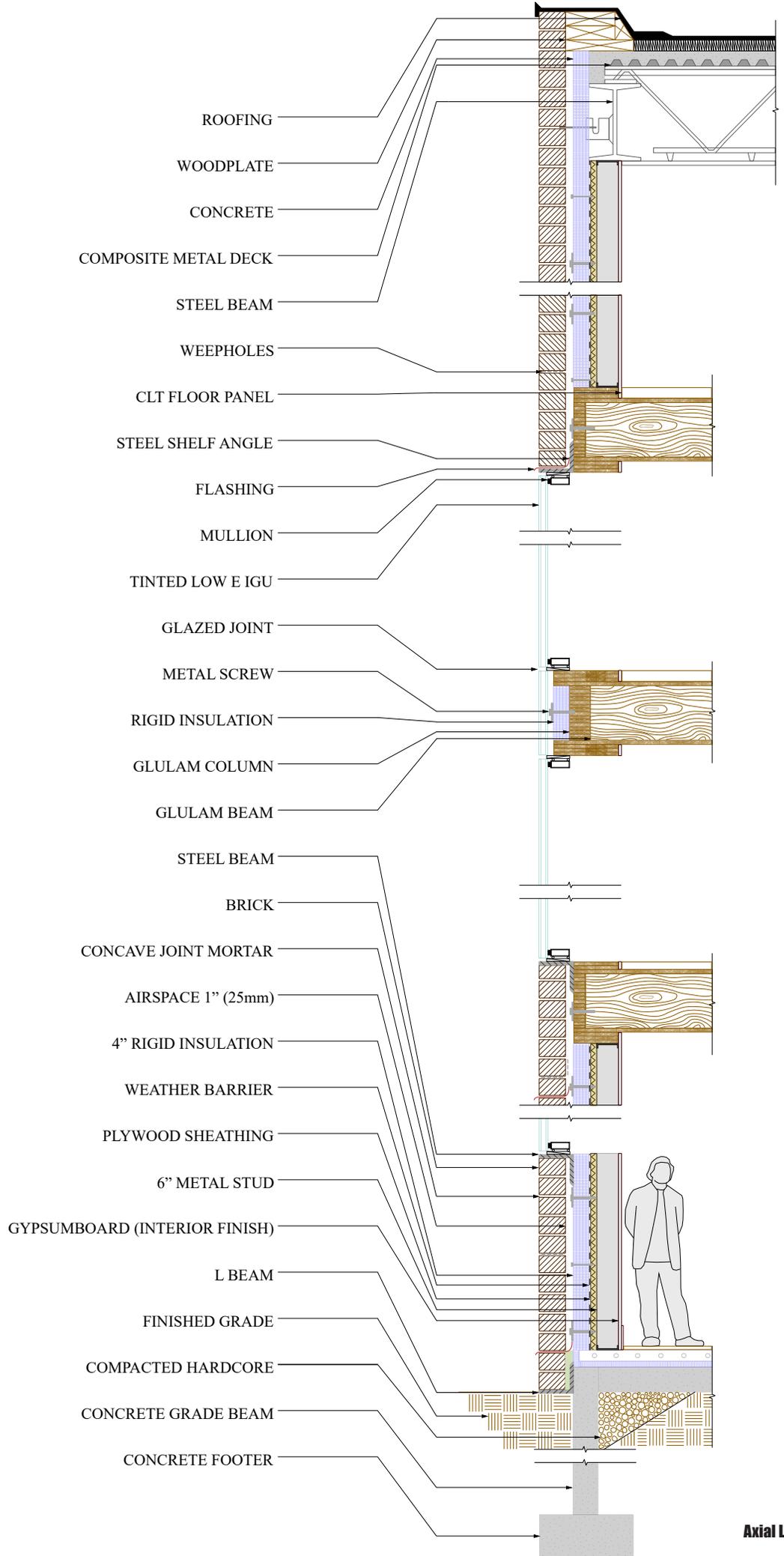
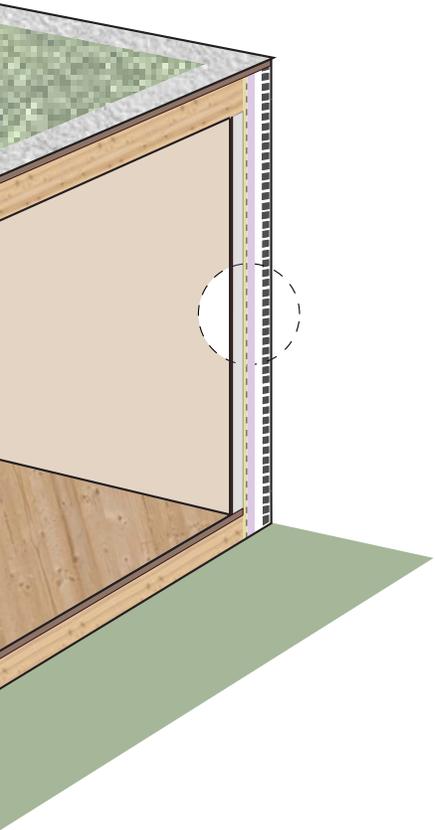
Interior Render



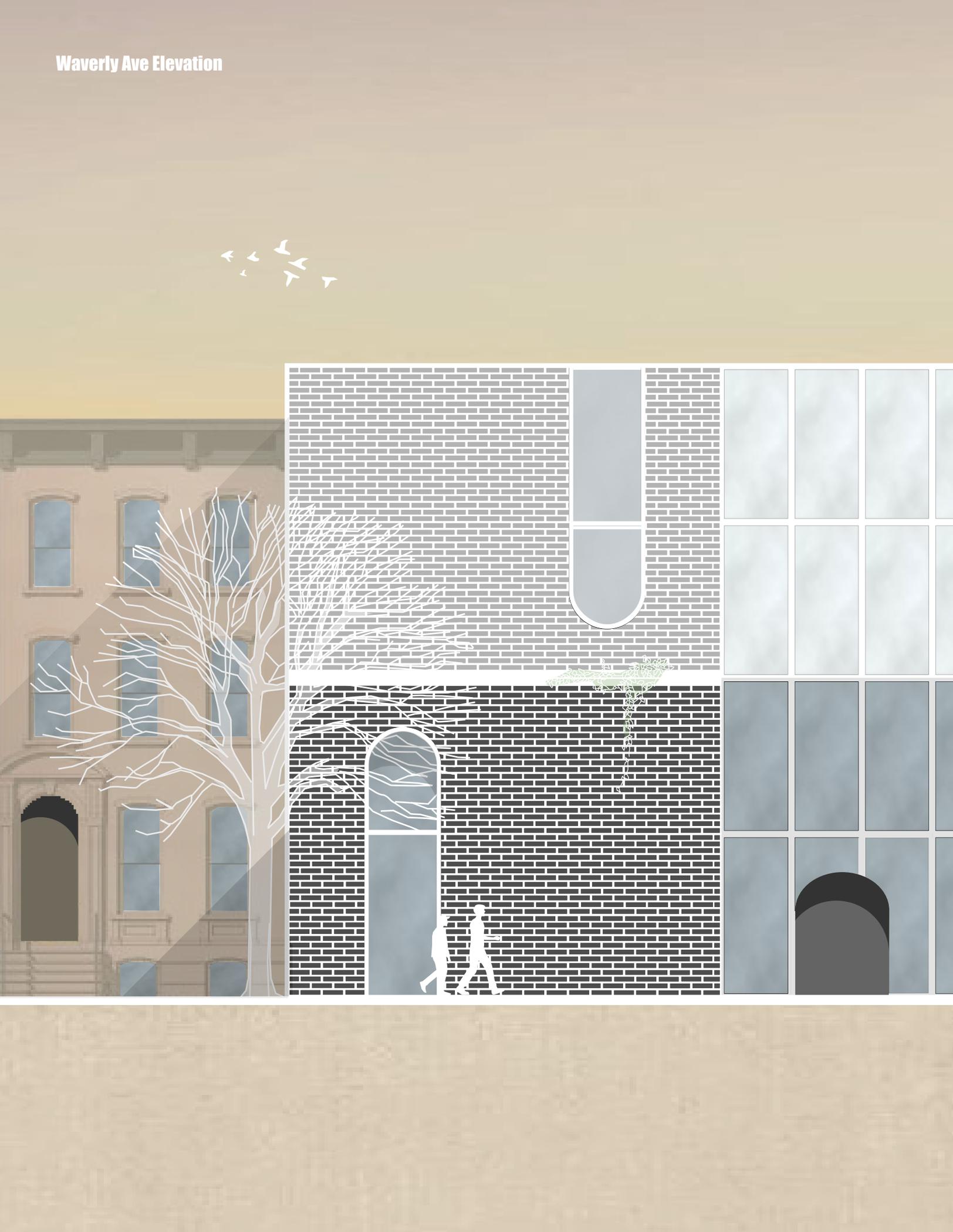
Comprehensive Building Axonometric

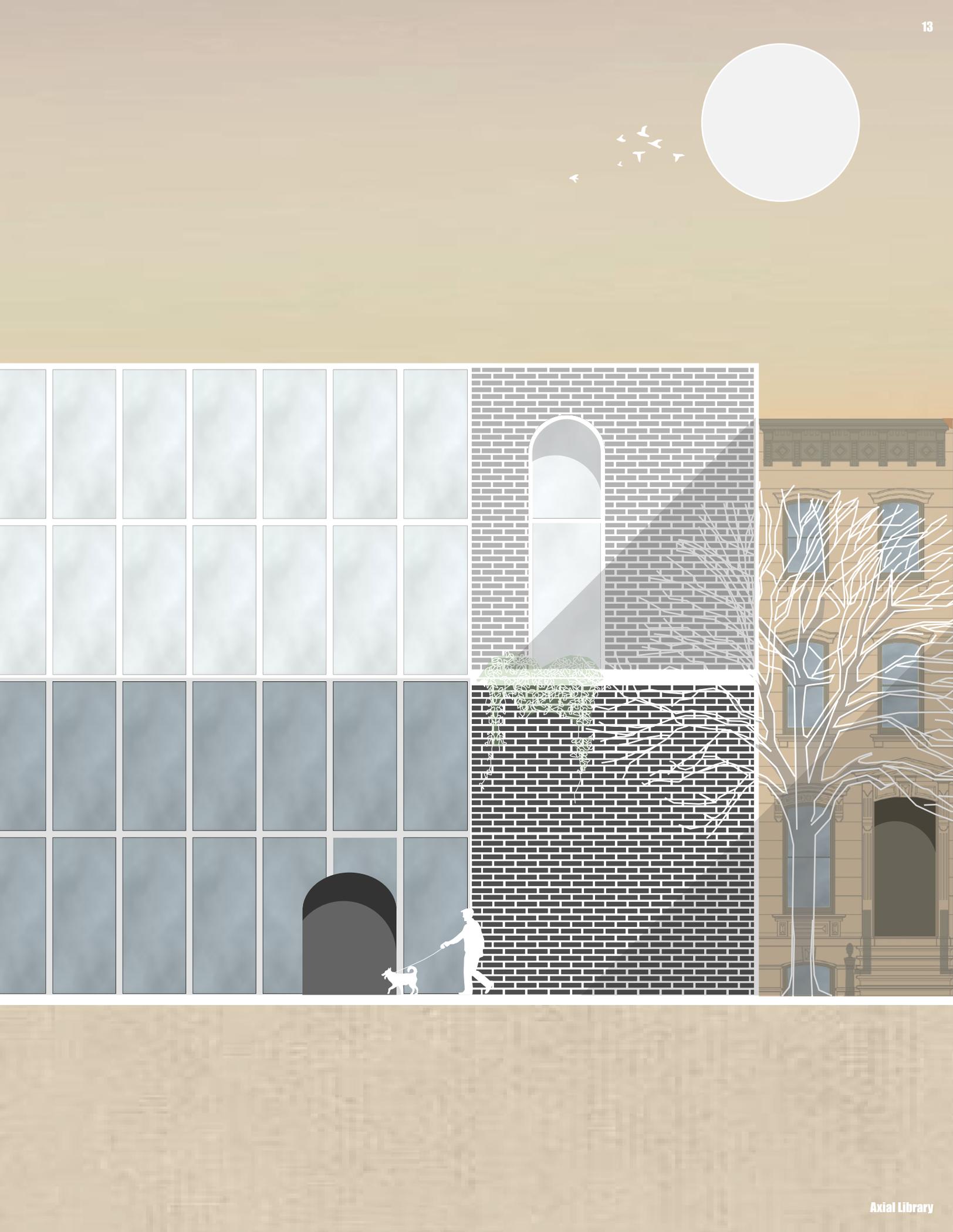


Detailed Wall Section



Waverly Ave Elevation





4.

GATESVIEW RESIDENCE

Density, Diversity, Urban Living

STATUS: Academic Project

YEAR: 2023

TPOLOGY: Residence

LOCATION: Bedford, New York City

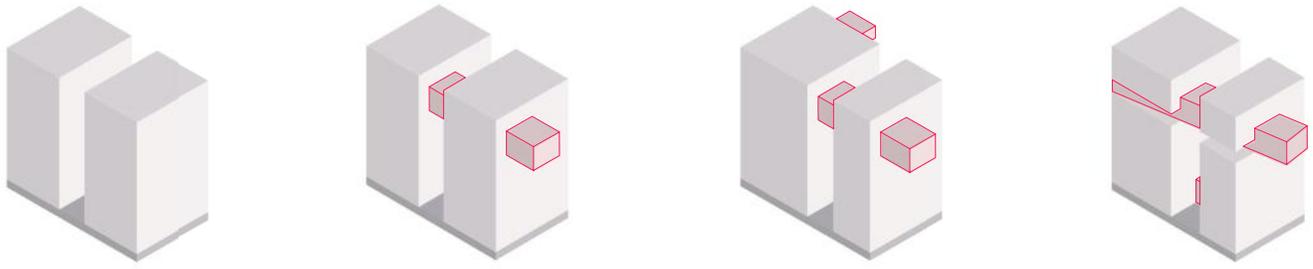
VISION

GatesView Residence redefines modern urban housing by blending adaptability, social connectivity, and sustainability. Rooted in a thorough site analysis, the design responds to Bedford-Stuyvesant's evolving needs by integrating communal spaces and optimizing density. At its core, a dual-section massing strategy fosters both privacy and engagement, balancing tranquility with vibrant social interaction. Modular unit configurations ensure long-term flexibility, accommodating diverse occupants while maintaining construction efficiency. The material palette—brick, steel, and glass—creates a dialogue between resilience, transparency, and contextual harmony. GatesView Residence stands as an inclusive, multi-functional living environment designed to foster community, comfort, and urban integration.

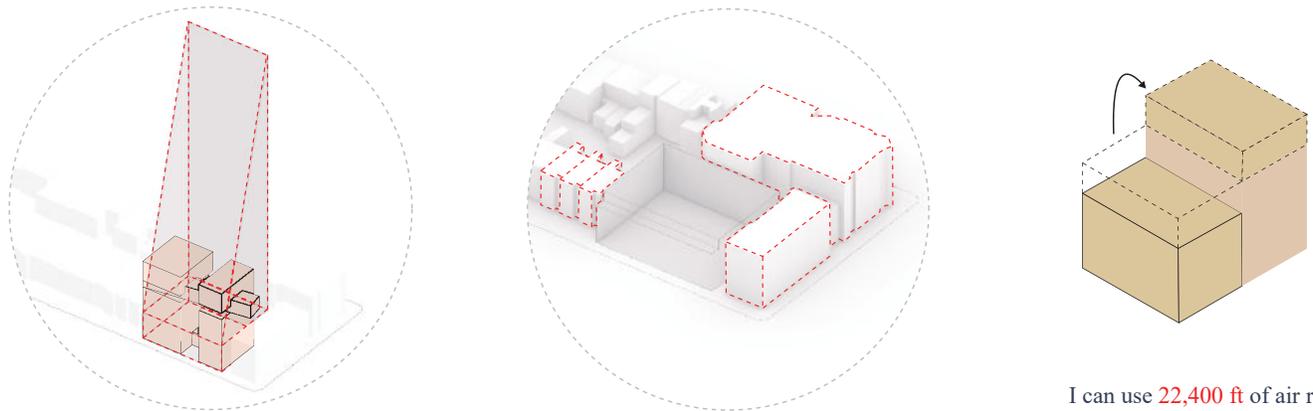




Concept Diagram

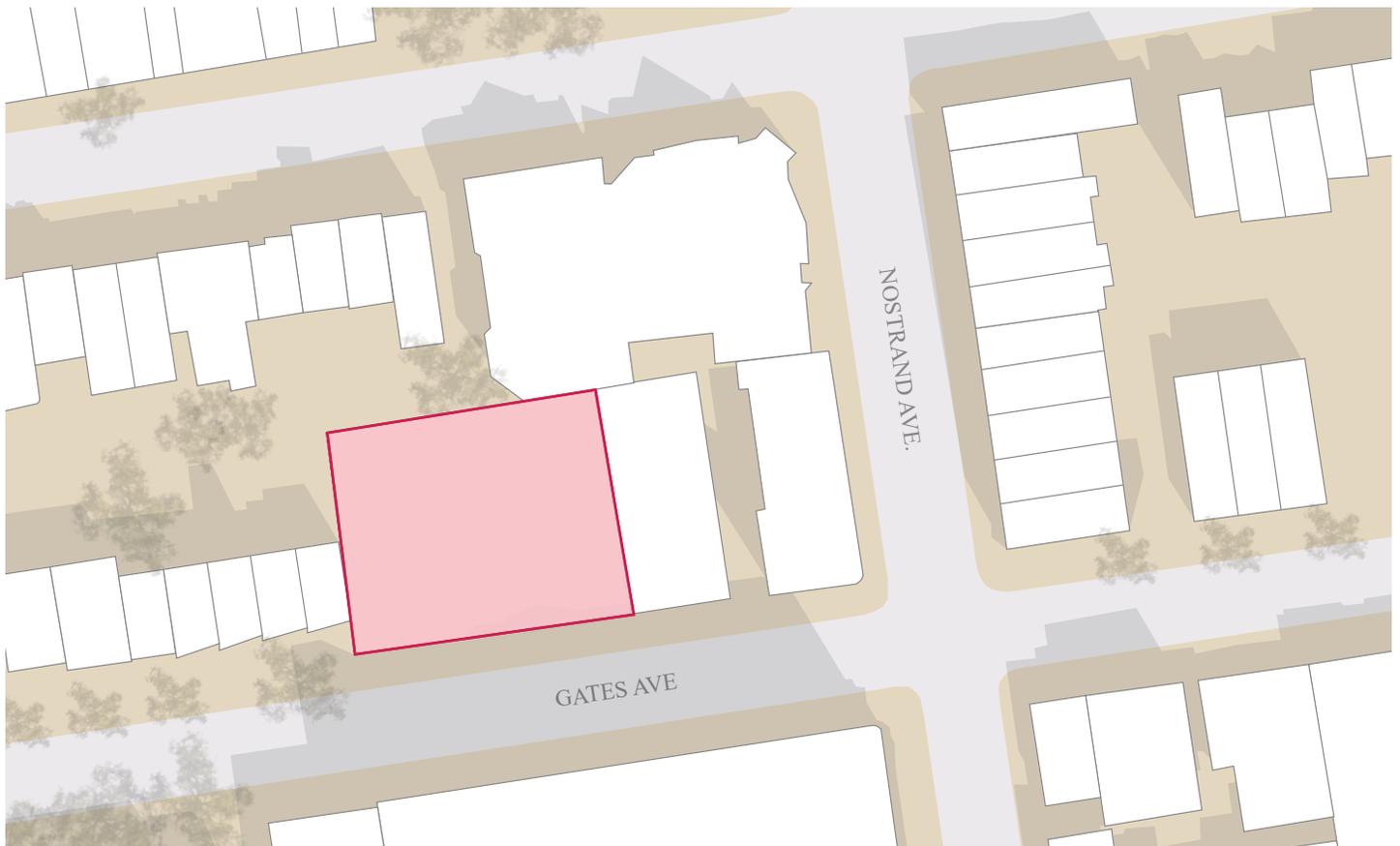


Zoning Diagram

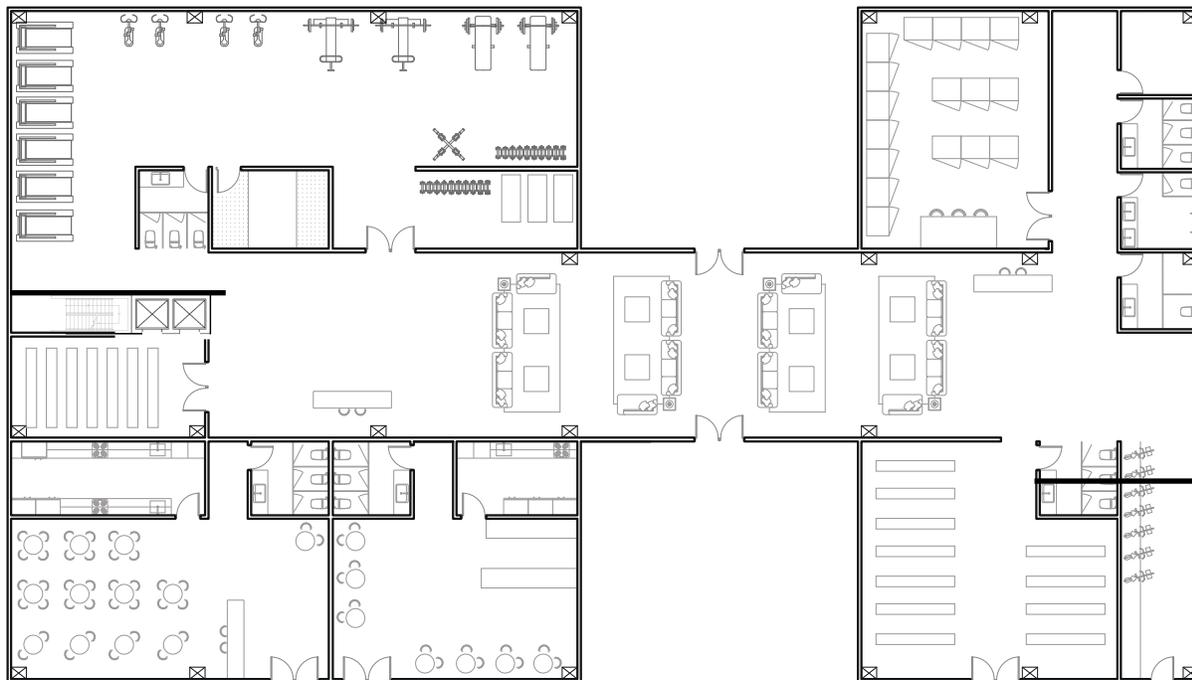


I can use **22,400 ft** of air right

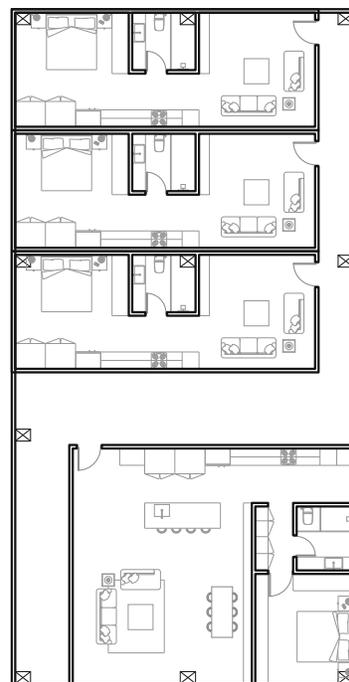
Site Analysis



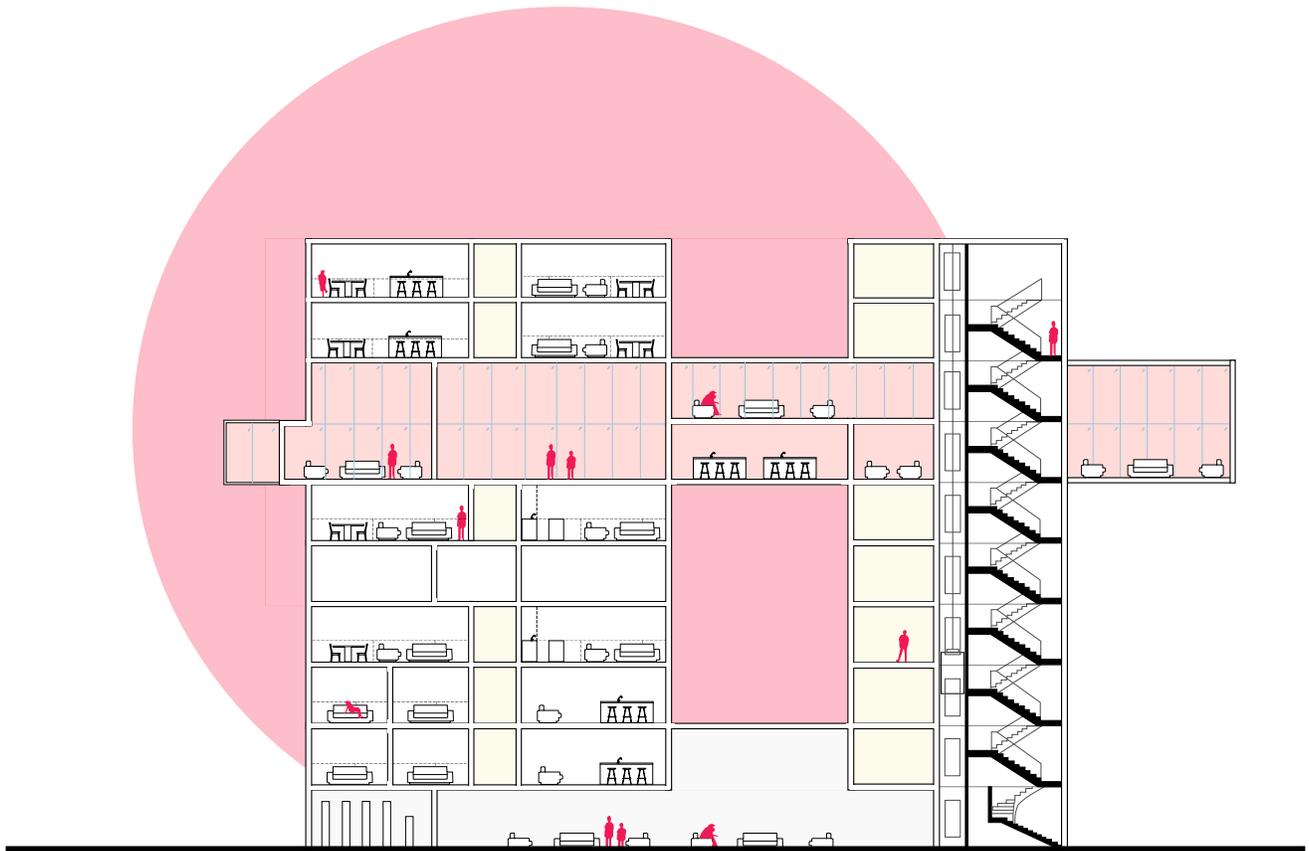
Ground Floor Plan



Floor Plans 3-7

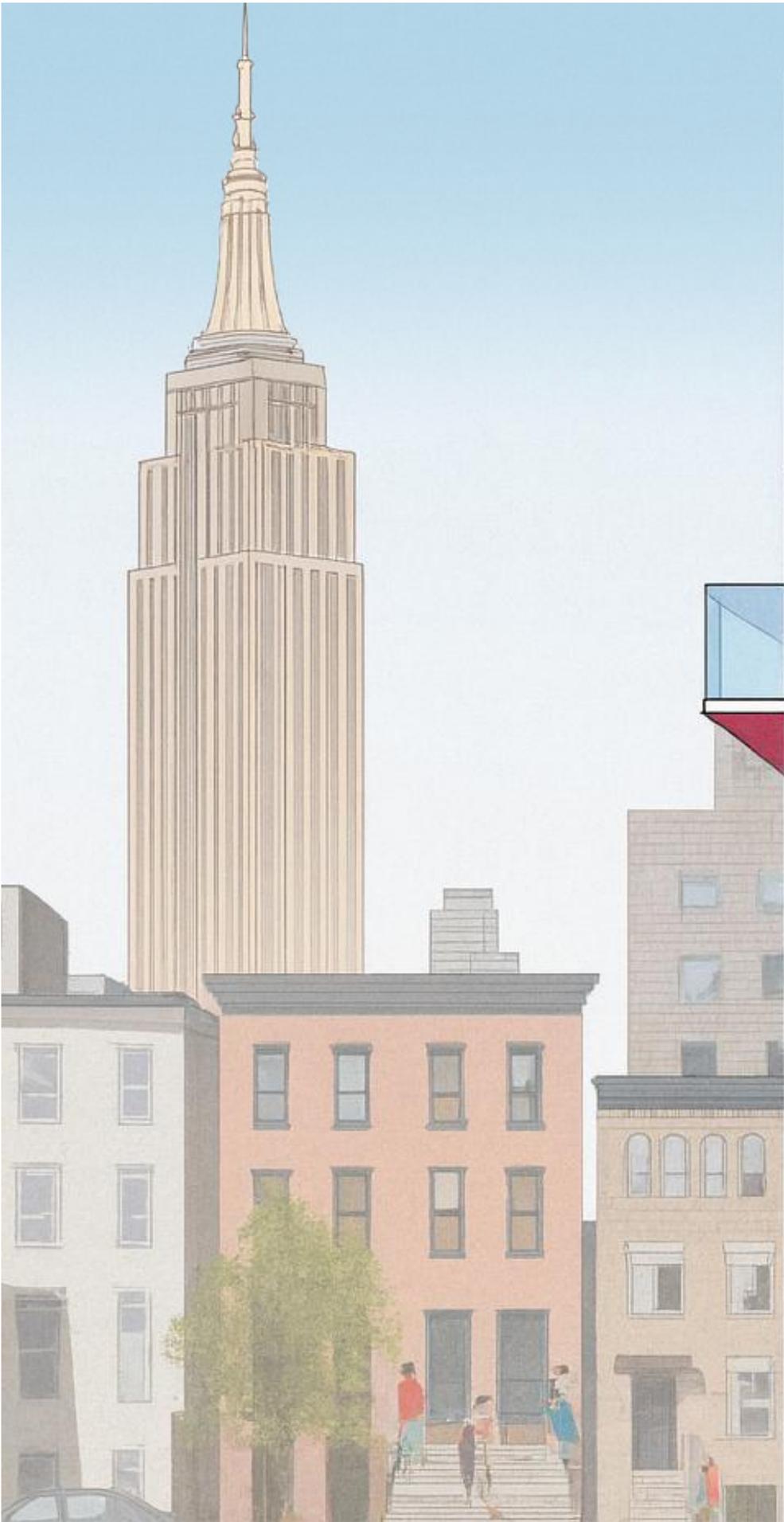


Building Sections



Interior Renders







5.

FOUNDATIONS

Abstract, Selected Works, Drawings

STATUS: Introductory Academic Projects

YEAR: 2021-2022

TYOLOGY: Conceptual

LOCATION: No Assigned Site

VISION

The Foundation projects trace the early formation of my architectural thinking through abstraction, material experimentation, and conceptual representation. The *Un-House* reimagines Palladio's grid, using a crafted wood model to investigate proportion, structure, and new interpretations of dwelling. A complementary series of *Analytical Drawings* produced for architectural history explores how architecture responds to global events, cultural shifts, and collective memory.

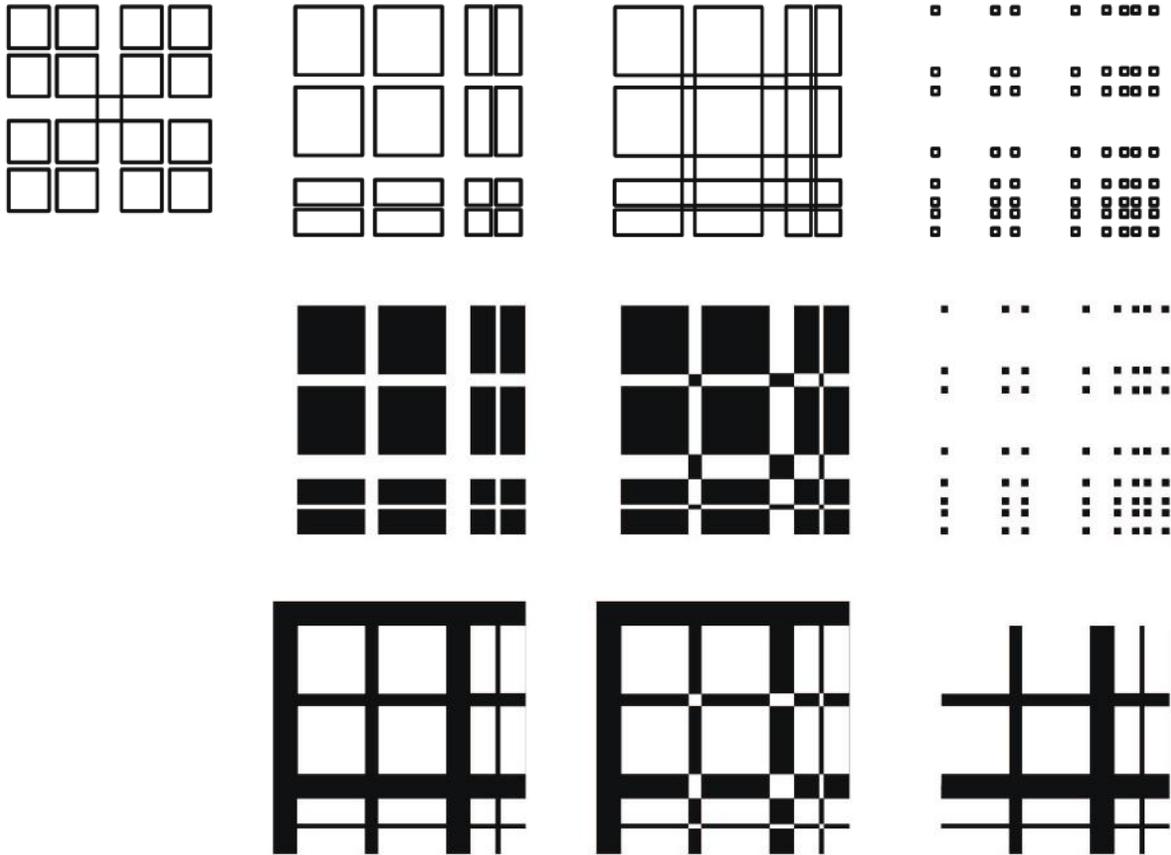
Together, these works establish the groundwork for my design approach; curious, crafted, and shaped by the relationship between people, culture, and space.



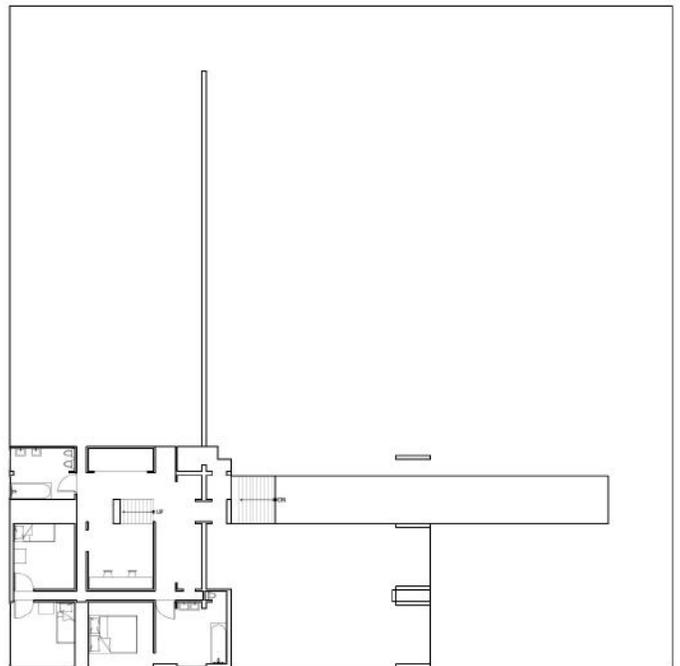
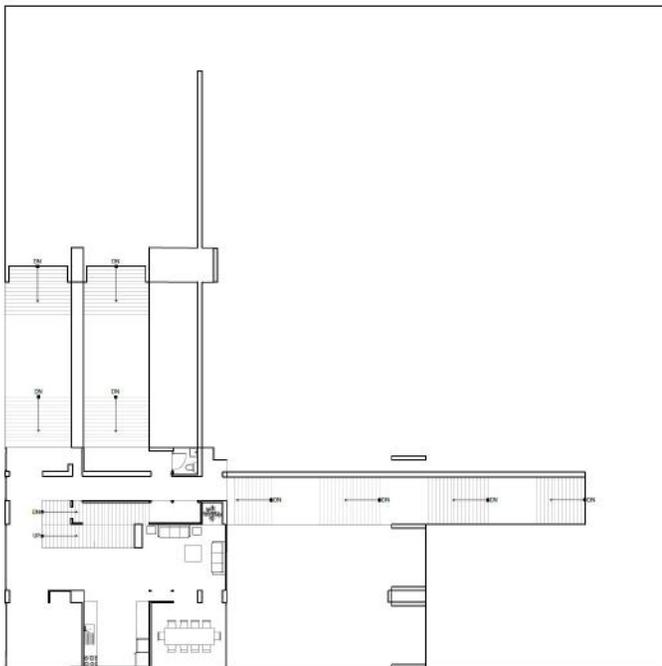


The Un-House

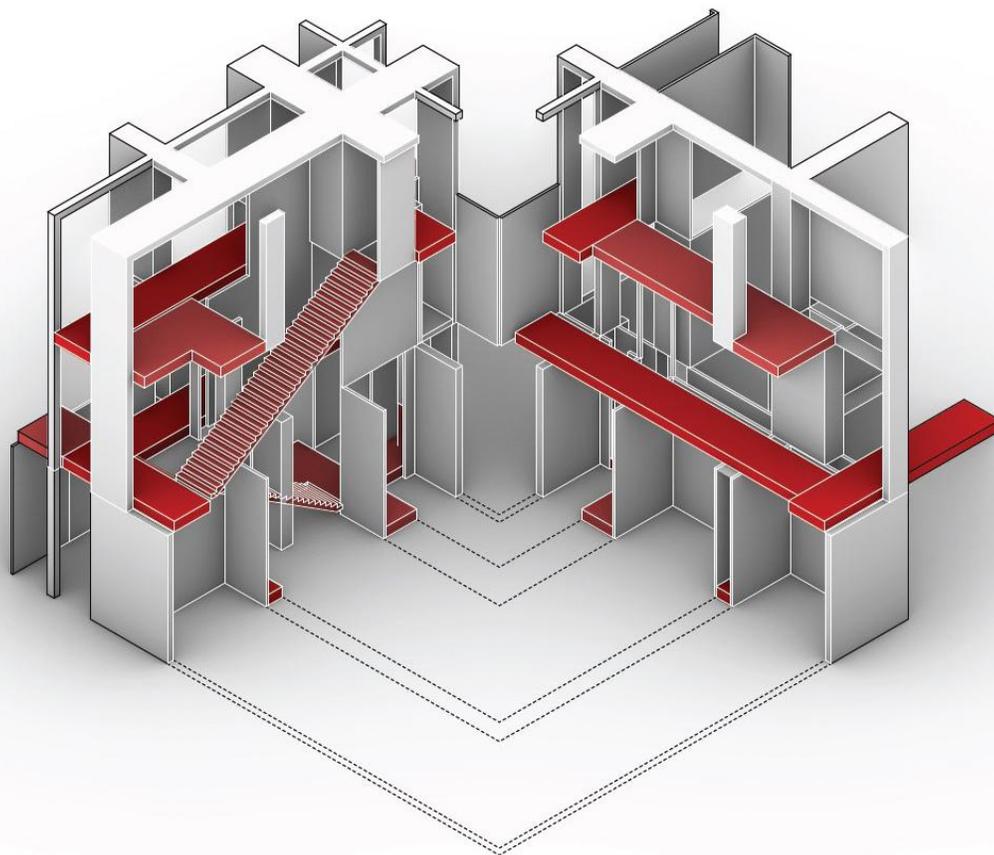
This project reinterprets Palladio's classical grid to redefine what a "house" can be. By manipulating proportion, symmetry, and solids/voids, the design challenges domestic conventions. The hand-crafted wood model became the core of the exploration, allowing structural rhythm and spatial fluidity to emerge through material and assembly.



Floor Plans



Comprehensive Building Axonometric



Physical Model



Architectural History Drawings

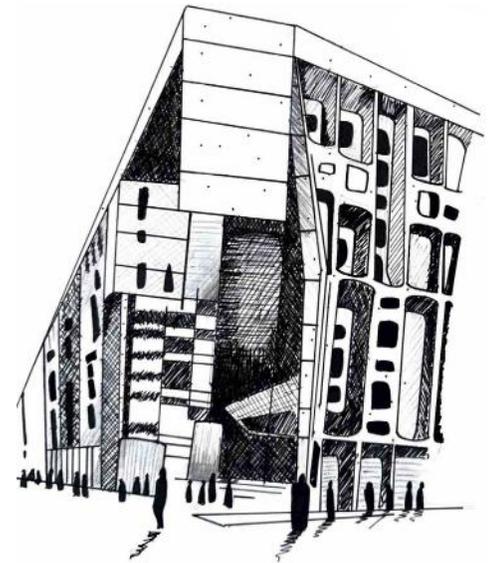
A series of analytical drawings produced for an architectural history seminar. These studies examine global events, cultural transformations, and architectural responses across time. They strengthened my ability to observe, interpret, and communicate how context shapes the built environment.

THE WHITNEY MUSEUM 1966



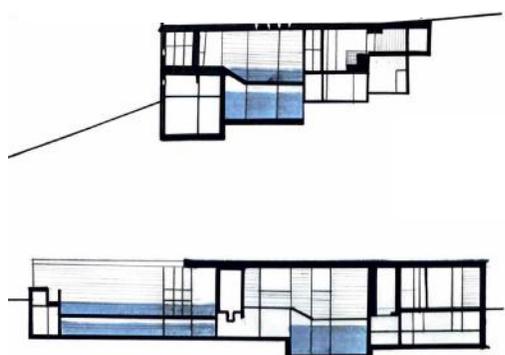
Studying the **Whitney Museum** allowed me to explore how bold massing and sculptural form establish a strong architectural identity. Its layered geometry helped me understand how **shifting volumes** shape movement, context, and public presence.

LONDON BANK



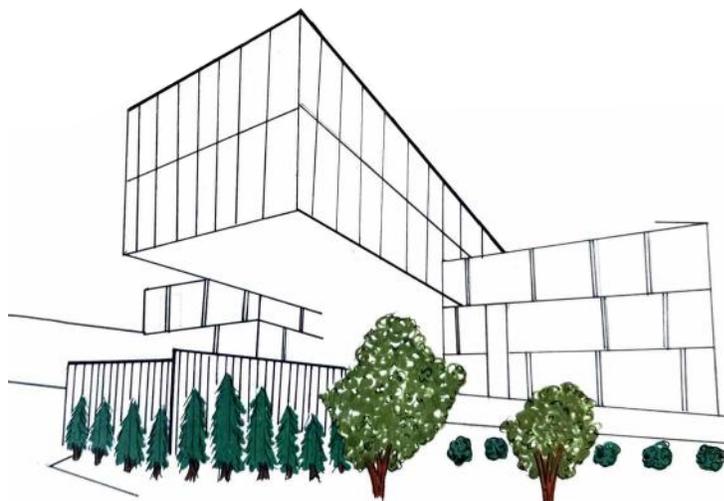
The **London Bank** drawing introduced me to the power of façade rhythm and structured repetition. It taught me how openings, frames, and structural patterns create **dynamic surfaces** that guide circulation and visual experience.

THE RMAAS VALS



Therme Vals helped me understand how sectional depth, materiality, and atmosphere work together to craft an immersive spatial experience. Its careful choreography of light and surface continues to influence how I think about **sensory architecture**.

THE BARNES FOUNDATION



The **Barnes Foundation** revealed how proportion, alignment, and natural light can elevate simple volumes into intentional, meaningful spaces. Its balance between openness and enclosure shaped my understanding of **circulation** as an architectural tool.

THANK YOU

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