



Master of Architecture Academic Portfolio
Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
Columbia University in the City of New York

To my family - thank you for your confidence in me. I owe so much of my success to you.

To my dear friends who I have learned from the most. Thank you for sharing your knowledge, perspectives, and memories with me.

To my professors - thank you for the constant inspiration and encouragement.

DOUBLE LANE 04

NINA COOKE JOHN
SPRING 2023



INDIGO BLUES 16

ILZE WOLFF + LAFINA EPTAMINITAKI
SPRING 2024



DRAPED DOWN 30

JELISA BLUMBERG
SPRING 2023



UNDER ONE ROOF 38

ERICA GOETZ
FALL 2022

GRID GARDEN 56

EMILY BAUER
FALL 2023



BIO BUBBLE 62

LINDY ROY
FALL 2021

THE NEST SCHOOL 70

ERICA GOETZ
SPRING 2022

SPACE 78

ZARINA FARMER-GEORGE
SPRING 20424



COLLECTING LANDSCAPES 84

LESLIE GILL + KHOI NGUYEN
FALL 2023

DOUBLE LANE

SPIRITUAL RETREAT CENTER

NINA COOKE JOHN | 4 MONTHS
ADVANCED STUDIO IV, SPRING 2023

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Historically, the church has offered a safe space for people of color to celebrate their culture and express themselves freely. While it still feels safe to some, research shows that members of the younger generations are beginning to turn away from it due to its exclusionary traditions. Instead, young people are leaning into looser practices, such as spirituality.

The New Guinea Settlement, which is where the studio's site lies, was once the grounds of a free black community that operated along Fredonia Lane. The only remains of this community still present today are the stone walls that line Fredonia Lane. Due to their context, these stone walls are representational of a safe space where black culture is celebrated and self expression is welcome.

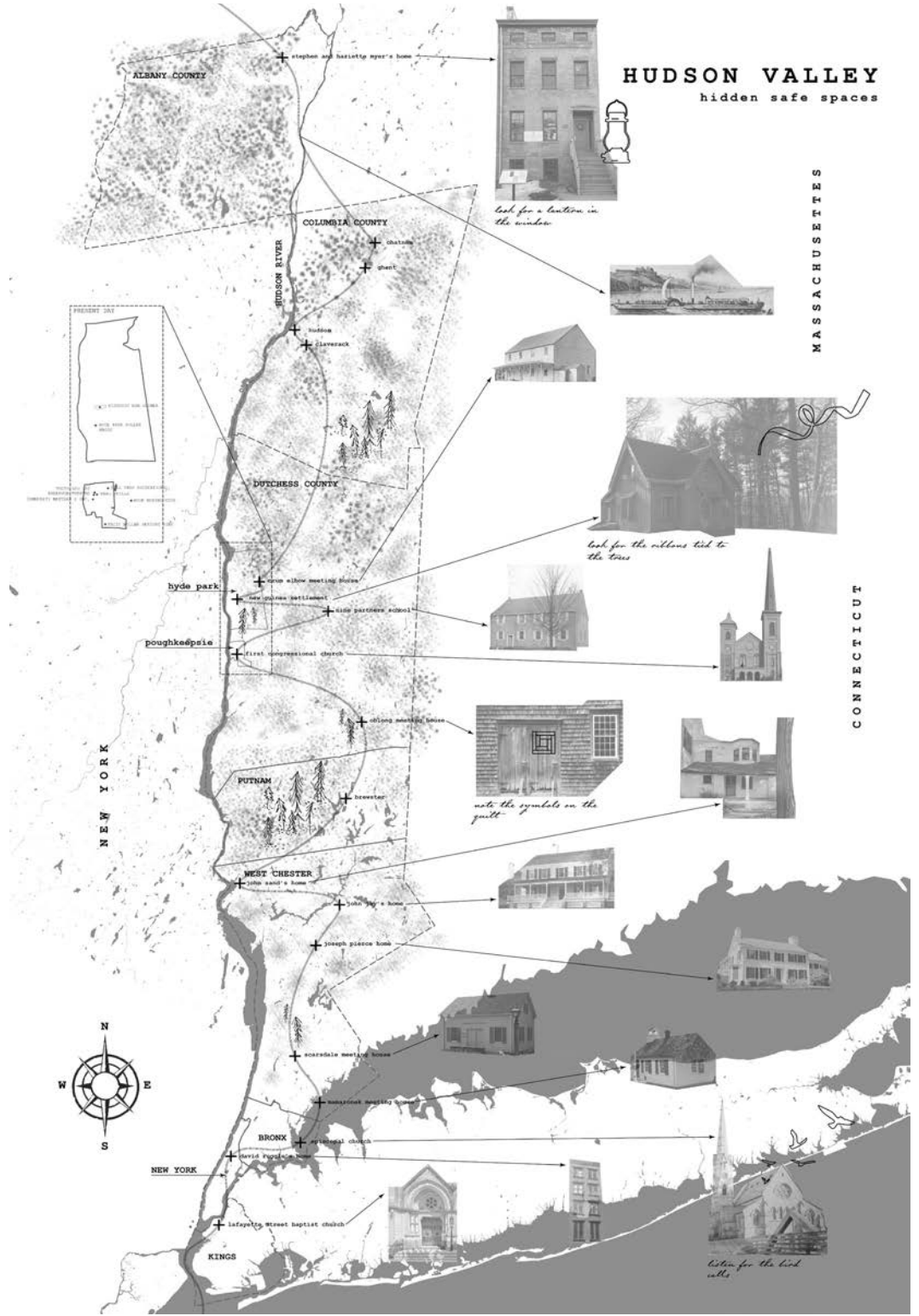
Double Lane aims to draw connections between these two components - the looseness of spirituality and its potential to decentralize the main ideas of traditional religion and the historicity of Fredonia Lane, represented by its stone walls, as a safe space. For these reasons, Double Lane hosts a spiritual retreat center for the youth of Poughkeepsie, New York that will remain a sanctuary as the kids continue to grow, question, and change.



Physical Model



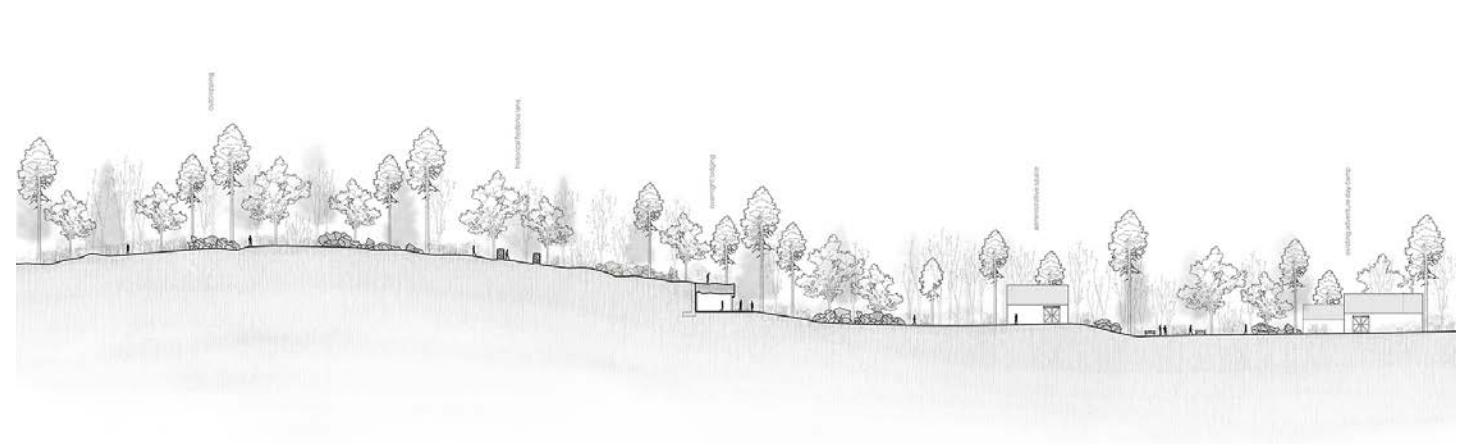
Concept Model



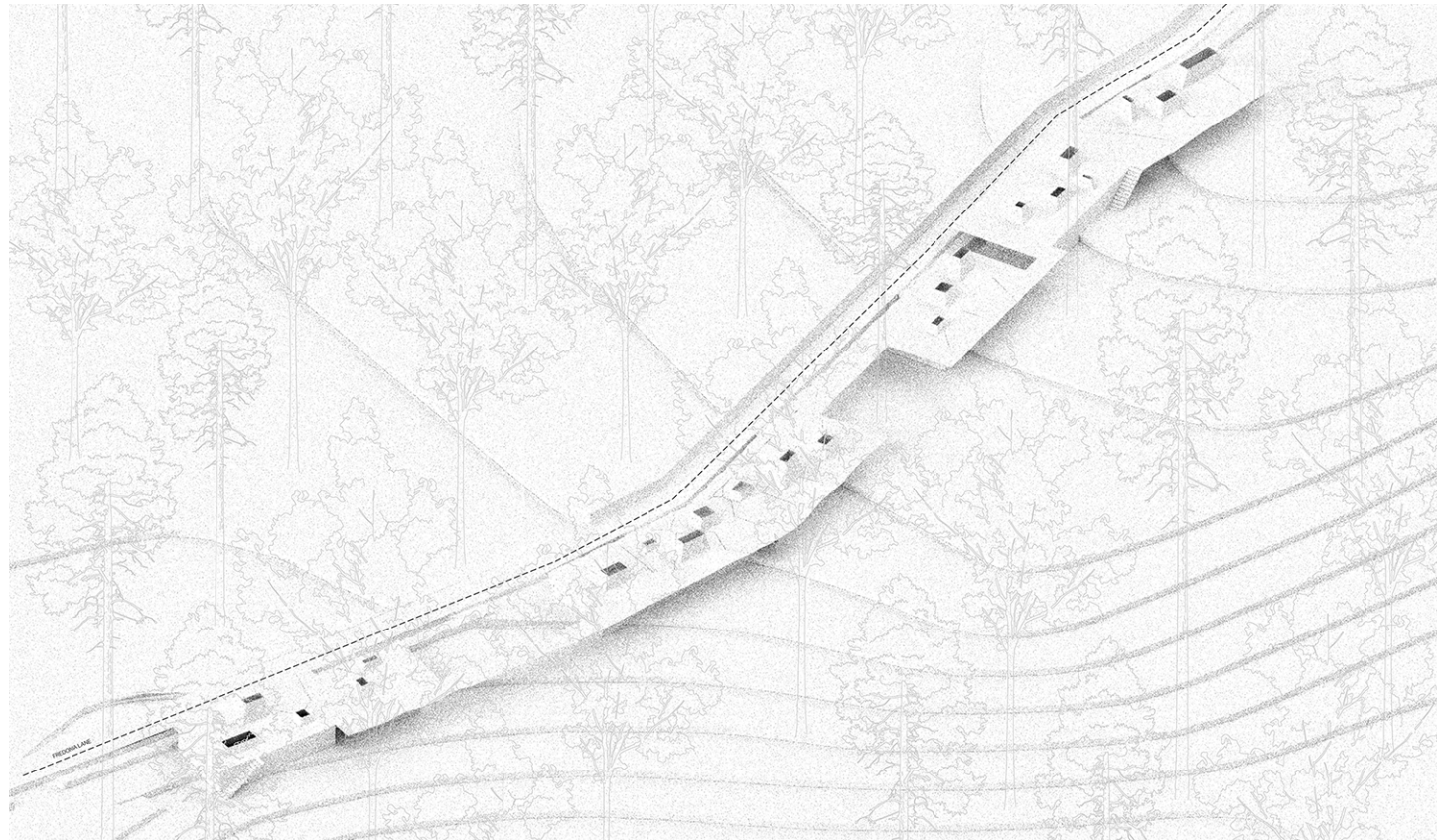
Research Map



Site Plan



Site Section



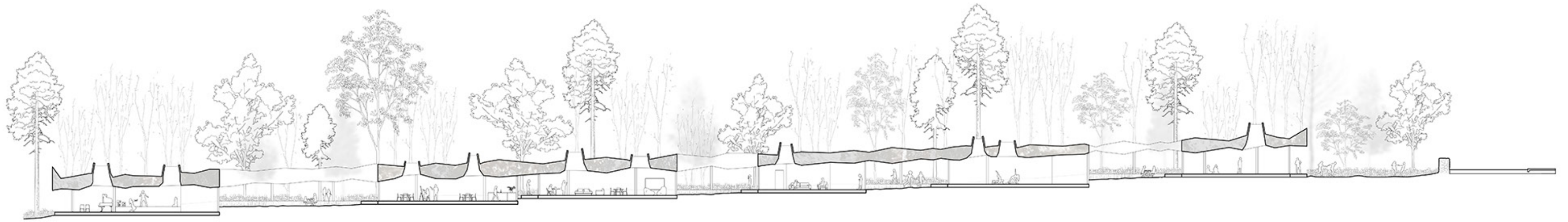
Spirituality Center Axon



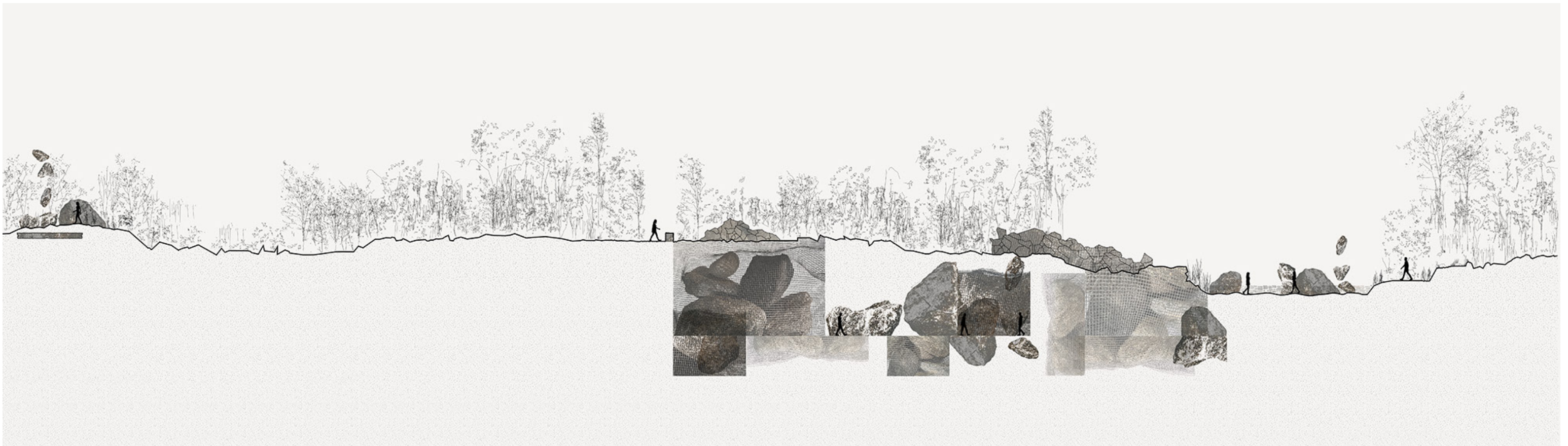
Lodging Plan



Spirituality Center Plan



Spirituality Center Section



Concept Section



Exterior Perspective 01



Exterior Perspective 02



INDIGO BLUES

QUILTED STORIES

ILZE WOLFF + LAFINA EPTAMINITAKI | 4 MONTHS
ADVANCED STUDIO VI, SPRING 2024

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A quilt tracks lineage and quieted histories.

In February of 1966, District Six, Cape Town was declared a white area under the Group Areas Act of 1950. Almost 60,000 people were displaced and their homes were flattened. Among these people was Abdullah Ibrahim. He fled South Africa, traveling through Switzerland and the US. Like many migrants today, he stopped in New York City.

A quilt offers warmth and protection.

For a short time in the 1970s, Ibrahim returned to South Africa. Ibrahim's album, *Blues for a Hip King*, pays homage to King Sobhuza II, the late Swazi monarch and jazz enthusiast who welcomed Ibrahim and others during the 1970s as they sought refuge from apartheid in Swaziland.

A quilt echoes craftsmanship and reclamation.

The quilt's blues reflect Ibrahim's album and the historical significance of the blues genre, as well as narratives of black erasure and displacement that persist today. The quilt's colors come from natural indigo dye, a tradition in South Africa for centuries and a vital commodity during colonial times. Indigo's production often relied on slave labor in the Cape Colony, where enslaved individuals knew how to extract and fix the dye to fabric. This expertise later transferred to America through the slave trade, shaping the American denim industry. Indigo is symbolic of the contributions of enslaved individuals and their enduring legacy in America.



Quilt Side A with "Blues for a Hip King" Vinyl and Publication



Research Image 01: Historical news article referencing the forced removals in District Six during Apartheid

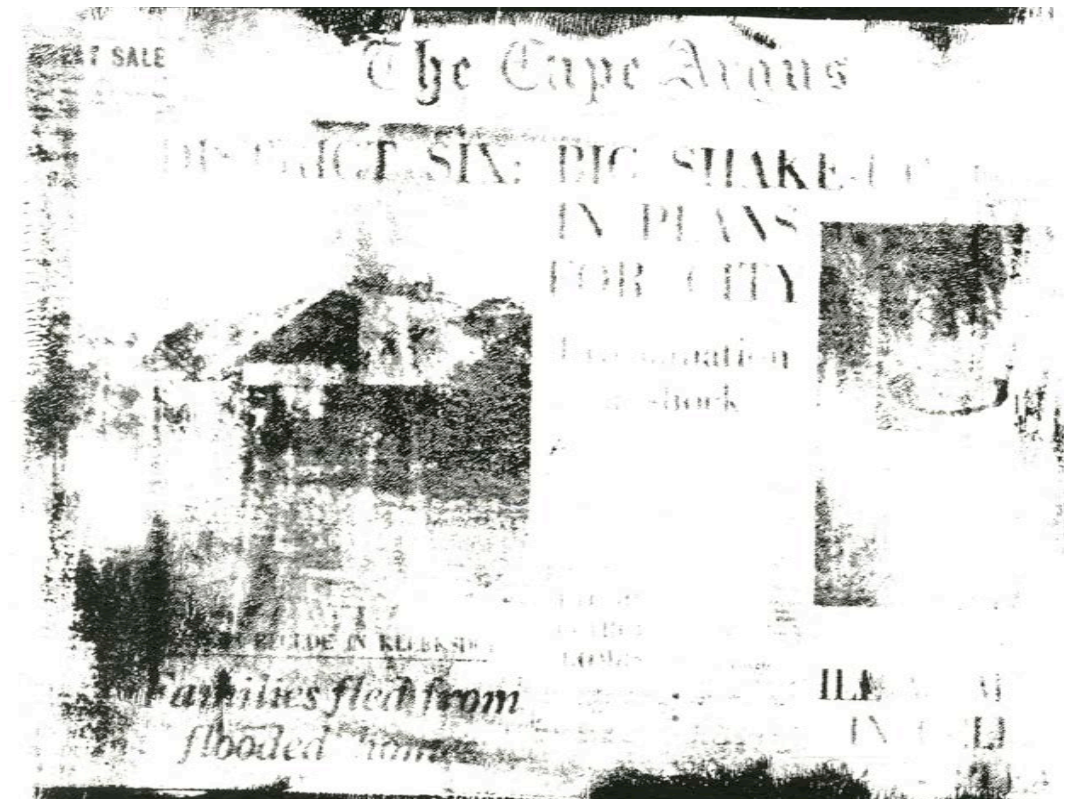


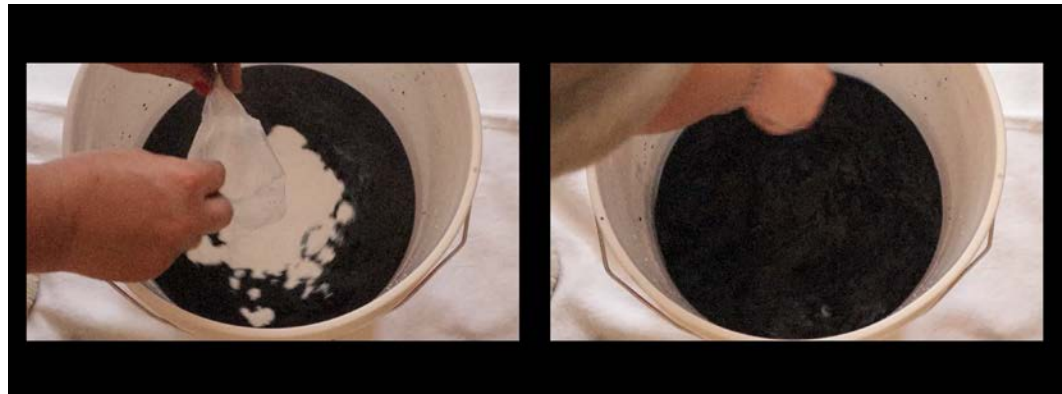
Image Transfer of Research Image 01



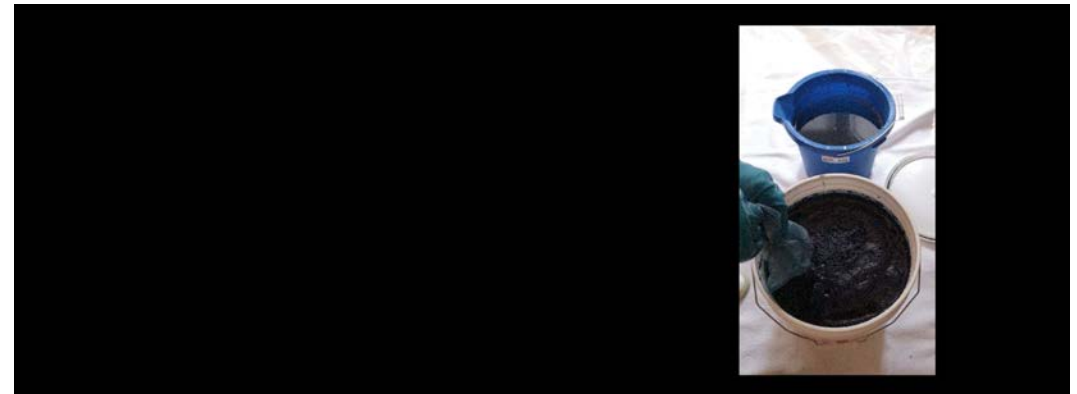
Research Image 02: Children watching their home be demolished in District Six during Apartheid



Image Transfer of Research Image 02



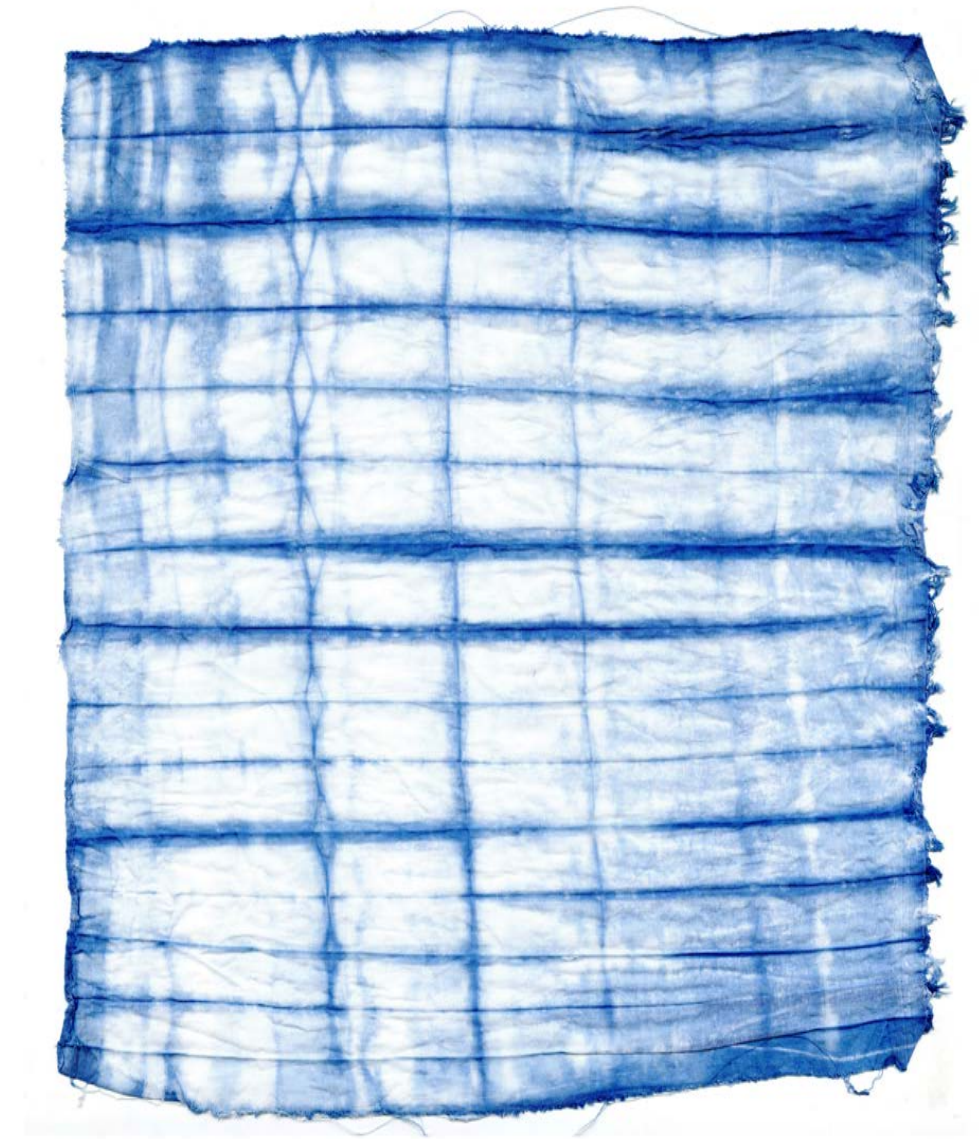
Making the Indigo Vat



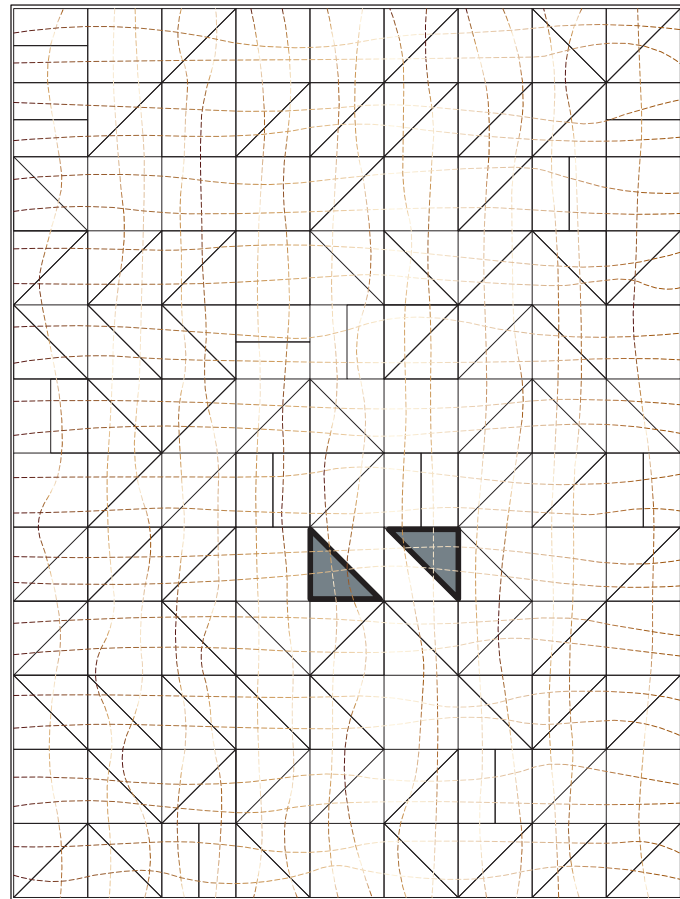
Dyeing Textiles with Indigo



Indigo Dyed Textile 01



Indigo Dyed Textile 02



Drawing explaining how to read the image transfers on the quilt



Indigo Dye Pits of Kofar Mata in Kano, Nigeria



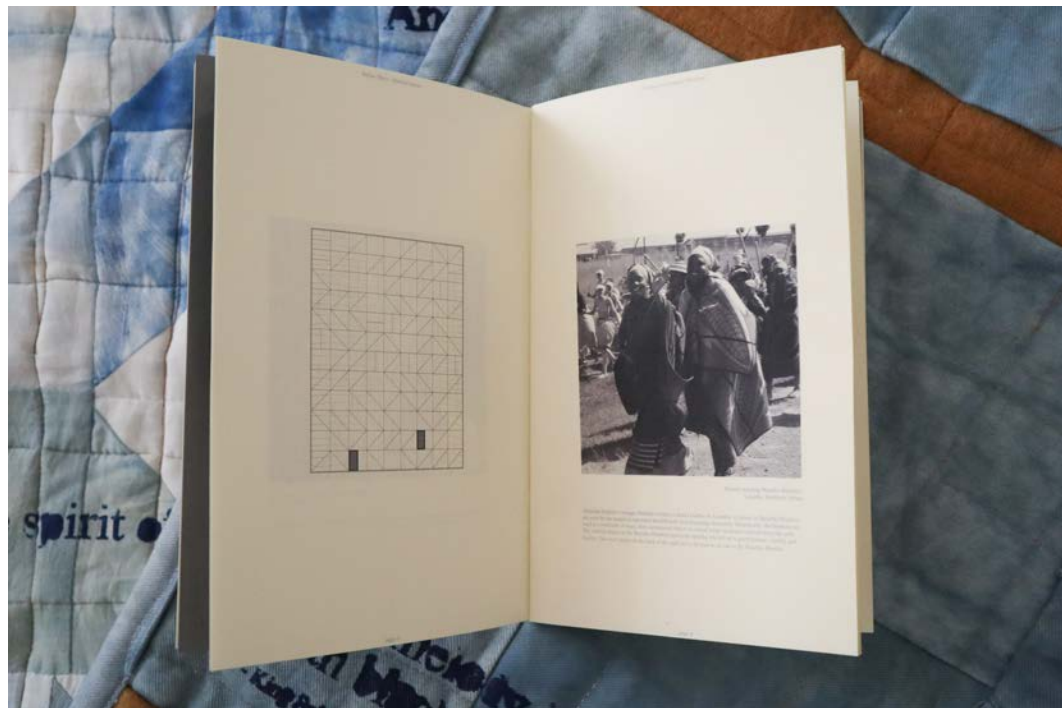


Image of publication explaining how to read the image transfers on the quilt





Detail Photograph of Quilt Side A



DRAPED DOWN

HARLEM RENAISSANCE RESEARCH

JELISA BLUMBERG | 4 MONTHS
ELECTIVE, SPRING 2024

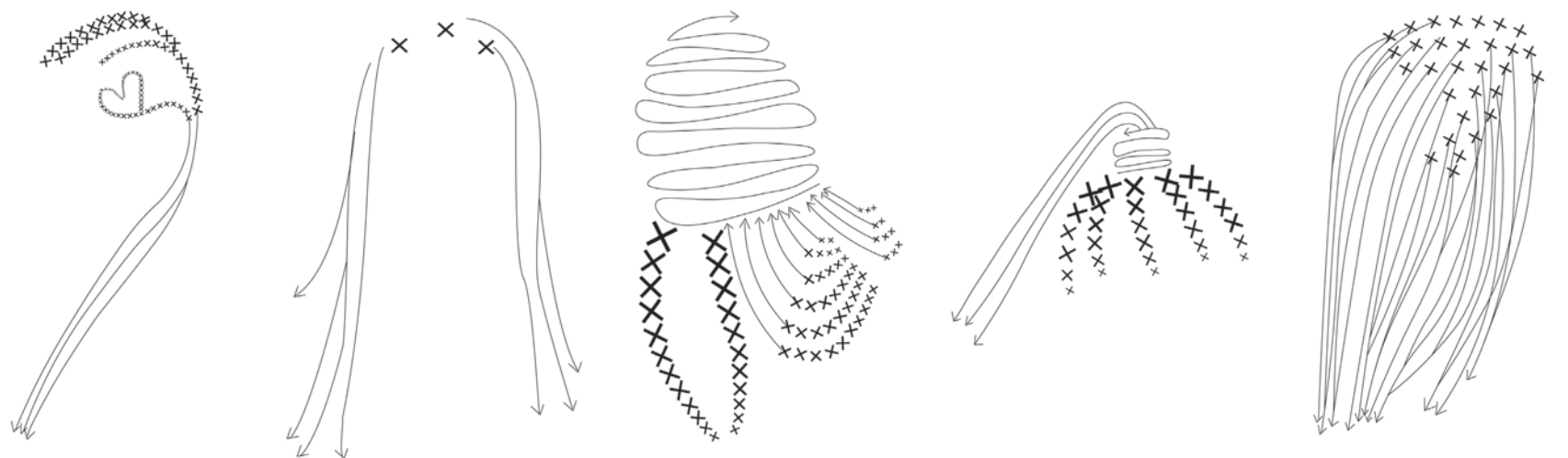
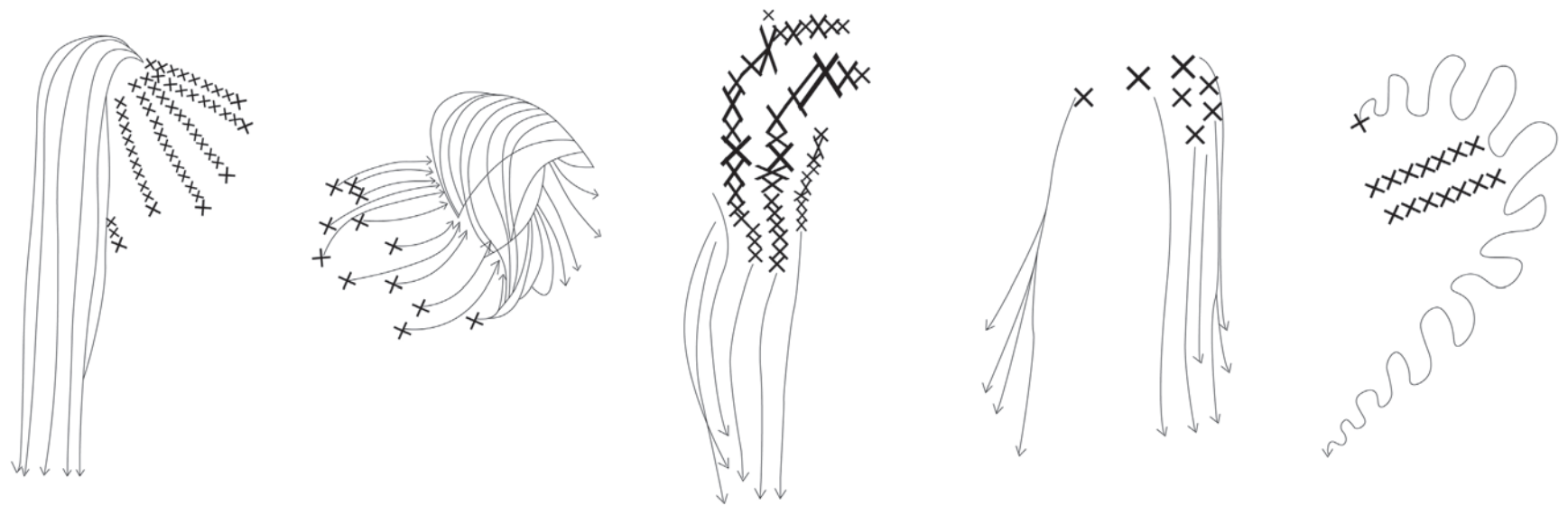
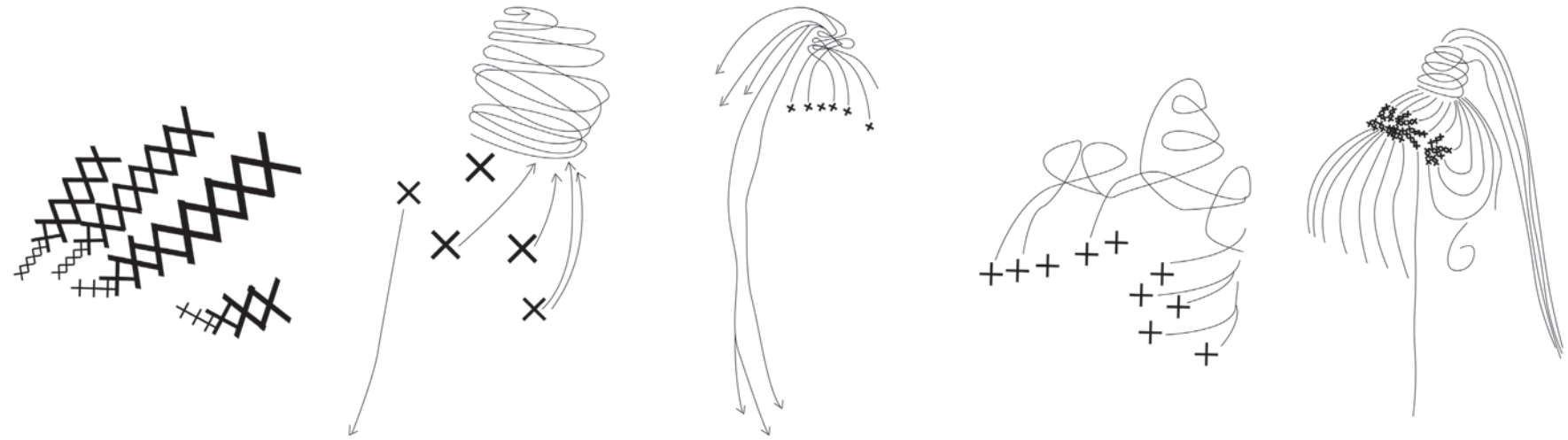
TEAM MEMBERS

Olivia Braun, Autumn Harvey, Isabella Libassi

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

For the first half of the semester, we gathered snippets of photography, oral histories, and art exhibits, to illuminate the diverse and dynamic nature of black beauty within the Harlem community. The project delves into the historical roots of beauty standards, examining how they have evolved over time and exploring the influence of cultural movements, such as the Harlem Renaissance, on shaping perceptions of beauty.

For the second half of the semester, we were tasked to create diagrams and a physical model that represented the relationship between domesticity and black hair salons in Harlem. This relationship intertwines in a unique and profound manner, reflecting the intersection of personal identity and communal spaces. Black hair salons in Harlem often serve as more than just places for hair care; they are hubs of community and culture, where discussions on domestic life, societal issues, and personal experiences intertwine with hair styling sessions. These spaces become sanctuaries where Black women, in particular, can express themselves freely, reclaiming agency over their hair and embracing their cultural heritage.



Concept Diagrams of Hair Styles



Walnut tinted
Or cocoa brown,
Pomegranate-lipped
Pride of the town.
Rich cream-colored
To plum-tinted black,
*Feminine sweetness
In Harlem's no lack.*

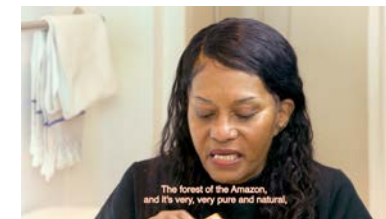


Pretty women wonder where my secret lies.
I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's size
But when I start to tell them,
They think I'm telling lies.
I say,
It's in the reach of my arms,
The span of my hips,
The stride of my step,
The curl of my lips.
*I'm a woman
Phenomenally.*



LOOKING INTO THE MIRROR, THE BLACK WOMAN ASKED,
"MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL, WHO'S THE FINEST OF THEM ALL?"
THE MIRROR SAYS, "SNOW WHITE, YOU BLACK BITCH,
AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT!!!"

Looking in the mirror, the black woman asked, "Mirror, Mirror on the wall, who is the finest of them all?" The Mirror says, "Snow White you black bitch, and don't you forget it!!!"



The forest of the Amazon,
and it's very, very pure and natural.



“It was home were a Black woman, oppressed and devalued in a world centered around Whiteness and maleness, could more easily assert control over her body.”



“Remembering the houses of my childhood, I see how deeply my concern with aesthetics was shaped by black women who were fashioning an aesthetic of being, struggling to create an oppositional world view for their children, *working with space to make it livable.*”



Physical Model (Domestic Space)



WOMEN
"This is what you have been waiting for!"
Everything to make you beautiful
All under one roof!



Physical Model (Beauty Salon Space)

UNDER ONE ROOF

DOMESTIC ABUSE SHELTER

ERICA GOETZ | 4 MONTHS
CORE STUDIO III, FALL 2023

TEAM MEMBERS

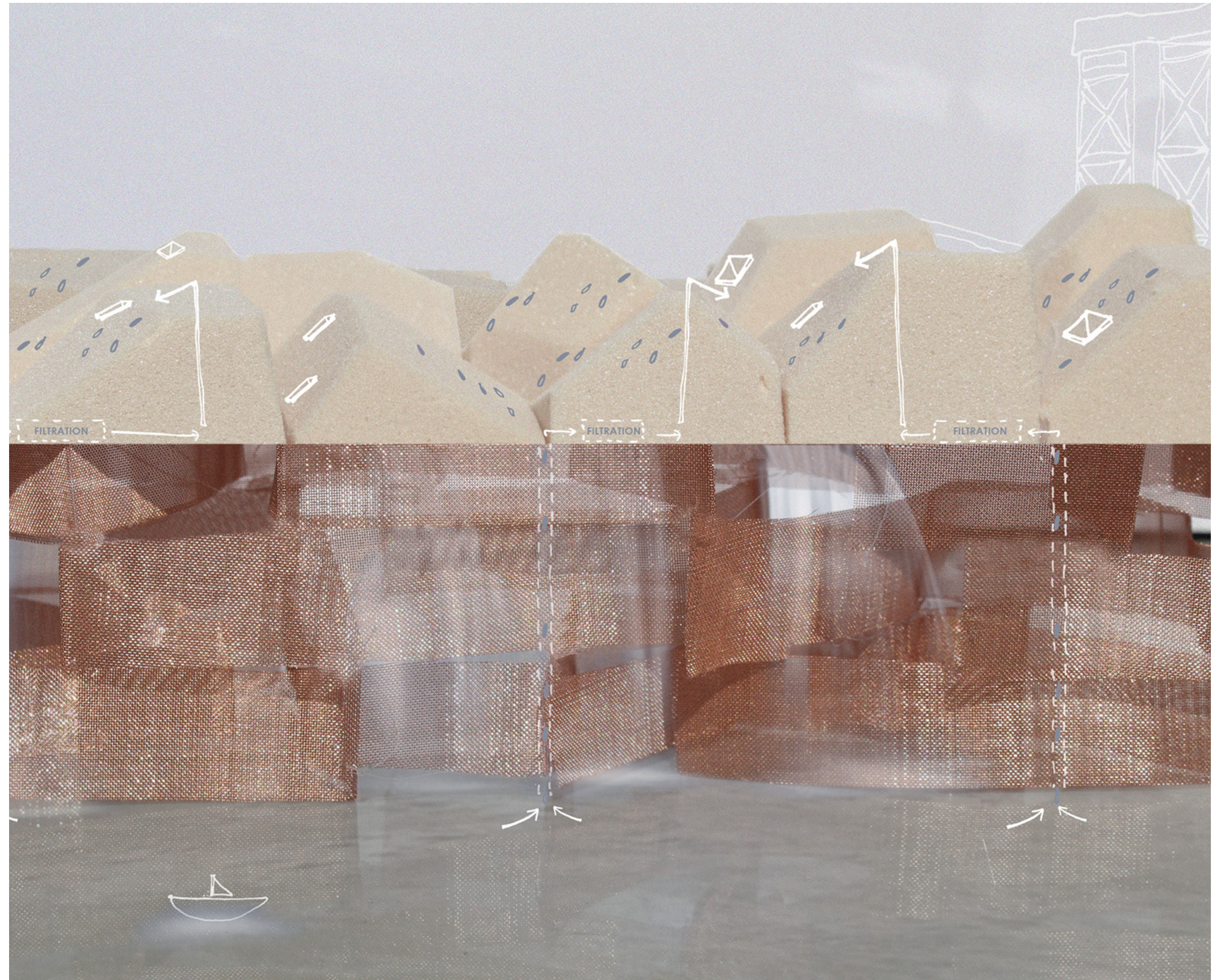
Olivia Braun, Genevieve Jones

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

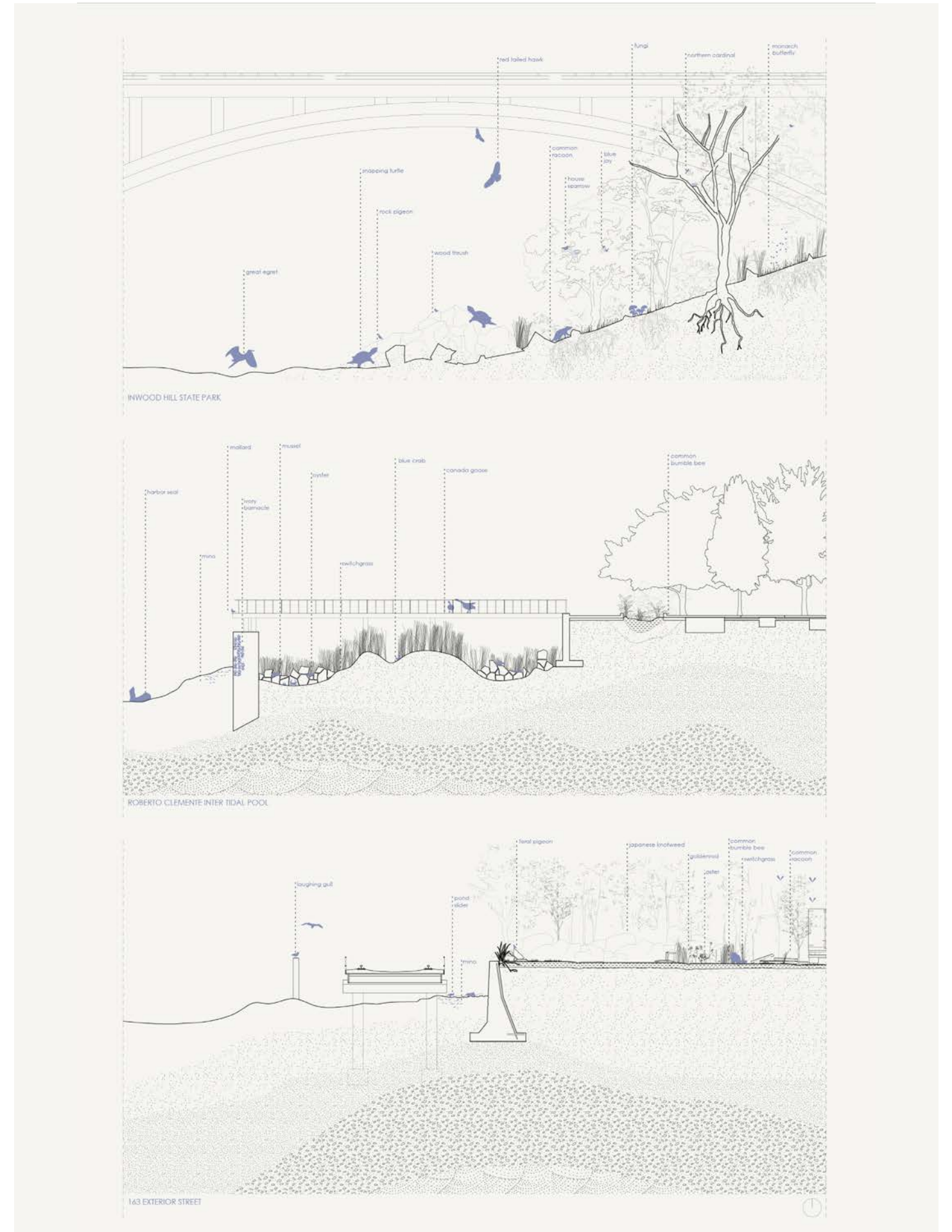
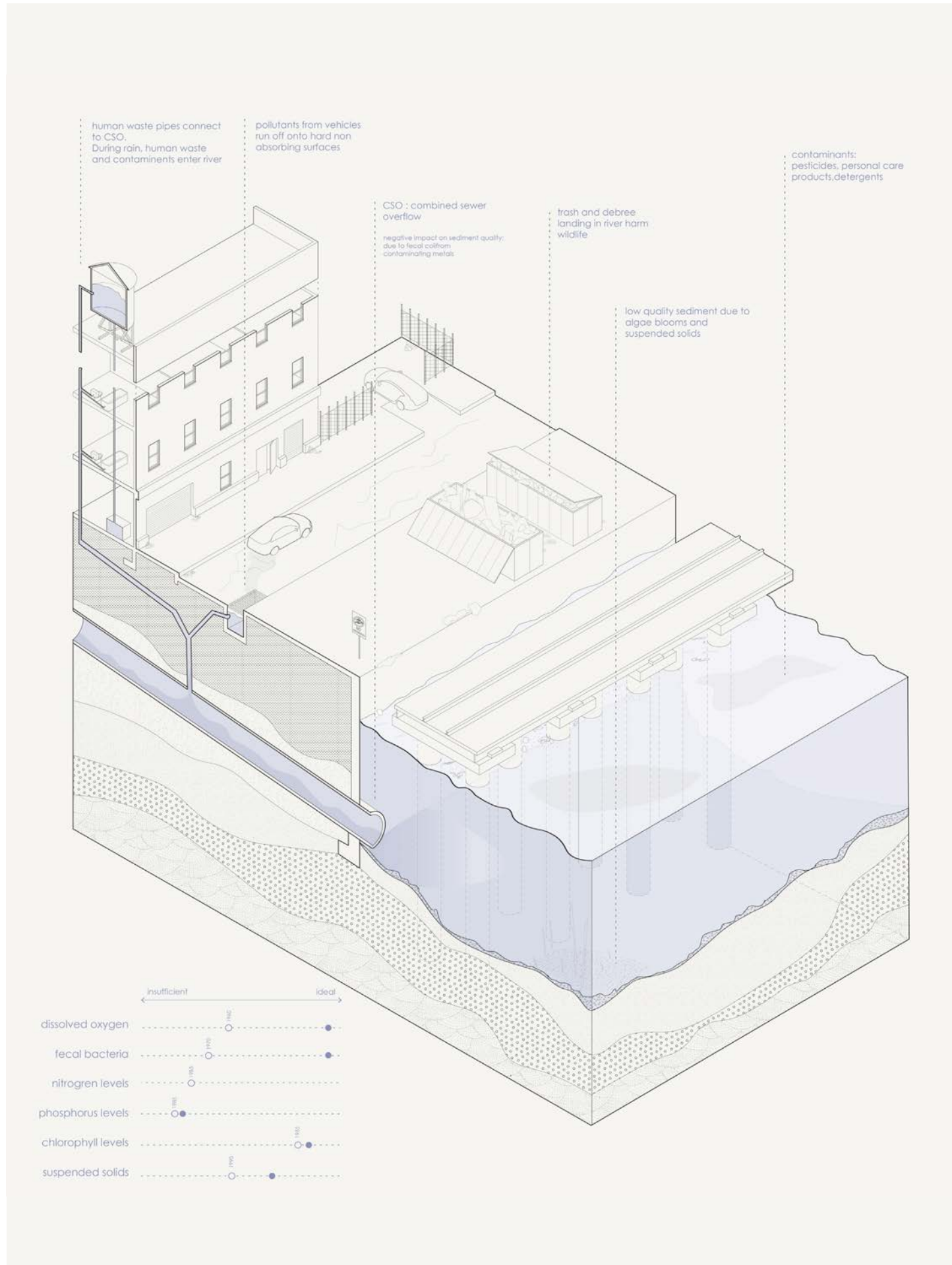
The Bronx has the largest amount of domestic violence cases in New York City - and with domestic violence being a leading cause of homelessness in women and children, this housing project was created as a domestic violence shelter.

While the angled roof shape was originally derived from the water run-off angle, the slope was increased to make it an inhabitable loft-like space. It hosts the private, inward looking sleeping chambers which offer a small, intimate space for residents to rest and retreat.

In contrast to the solidity of the sleeping level, the descending living and community levels operate in layers of both privacy and operability. The layers of the envelope compress and expand planimetrically to create a variety of conditions both interior and exterior. Through weaving and wrapping the building with these skins, they act as a connective tissue that links the building to its environment, selectively allowing in breeze, sunlight, or even misty rain.

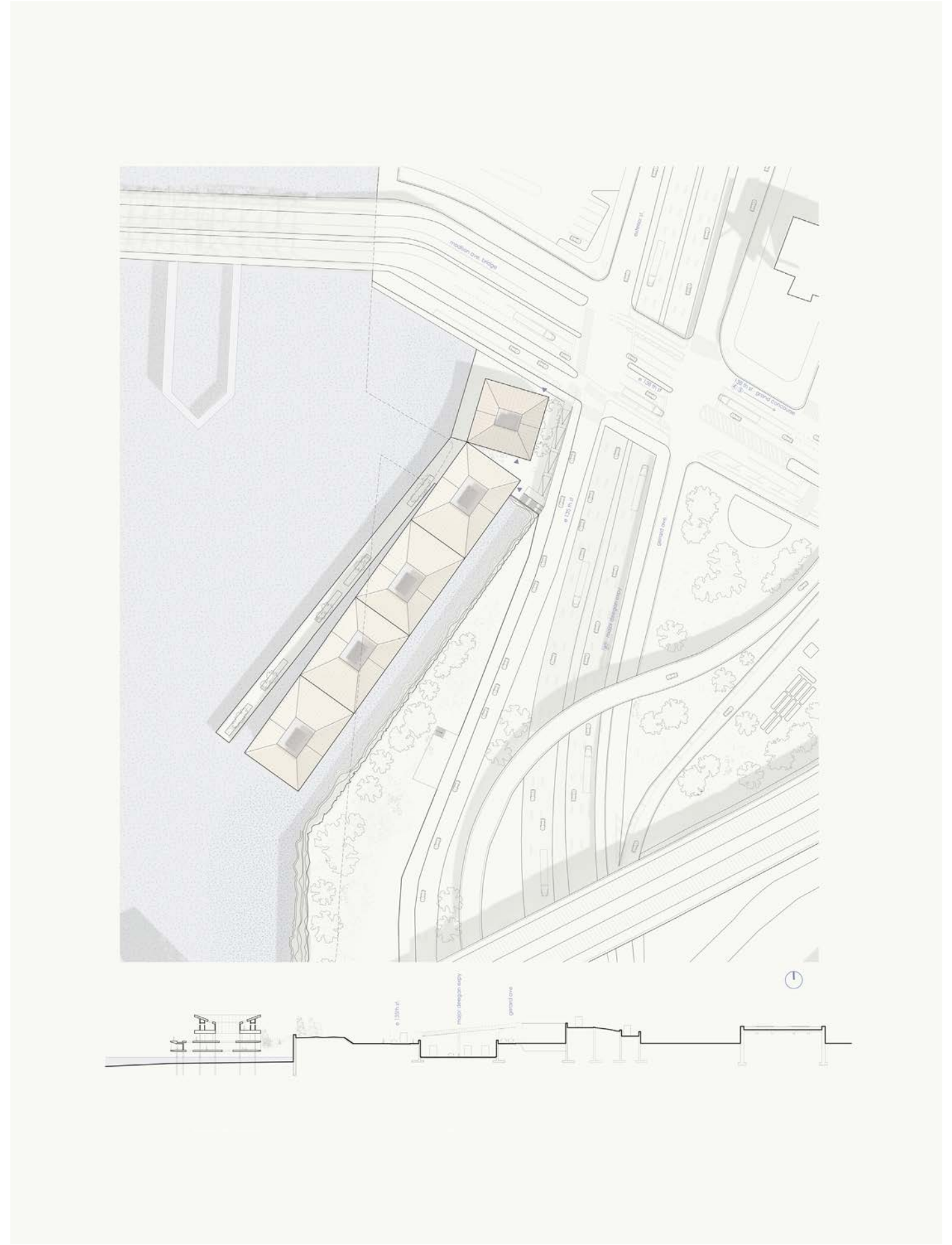


Concept Collage





Massing Model



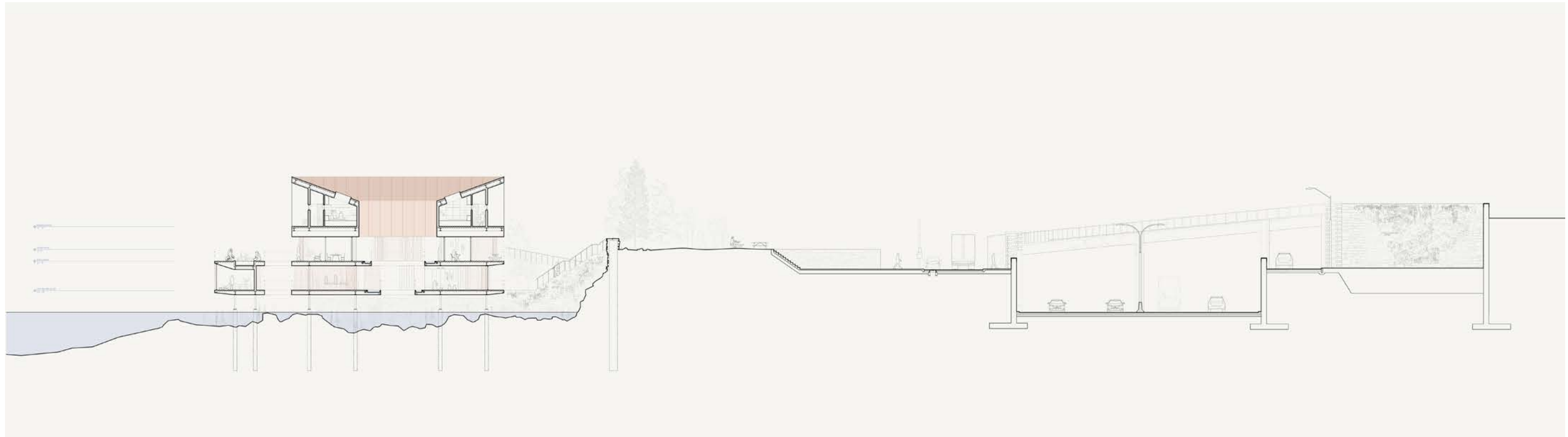
Site Plan and Site Section



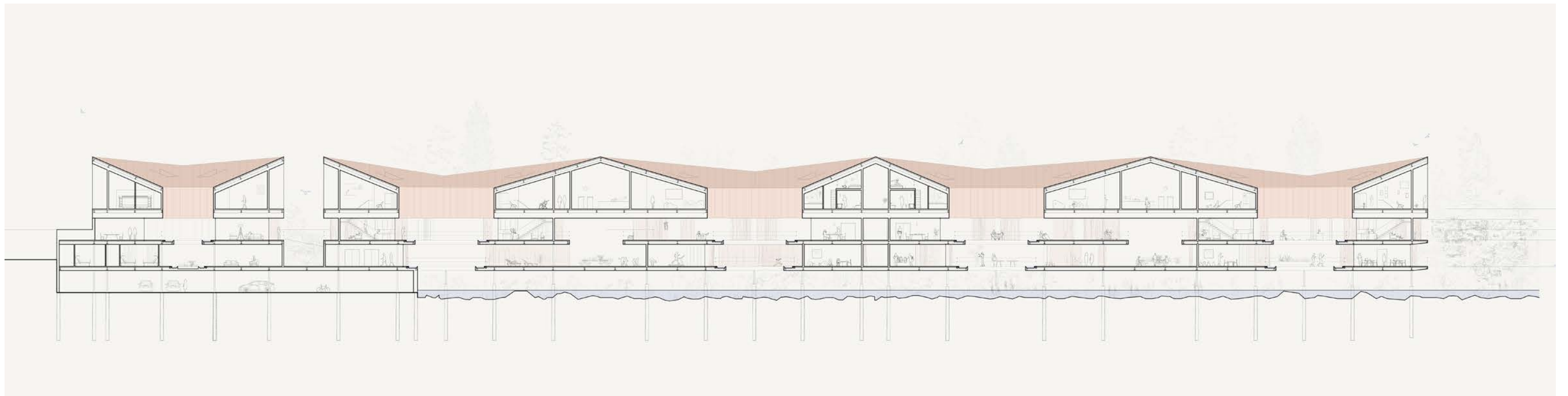
Plan of Living Level



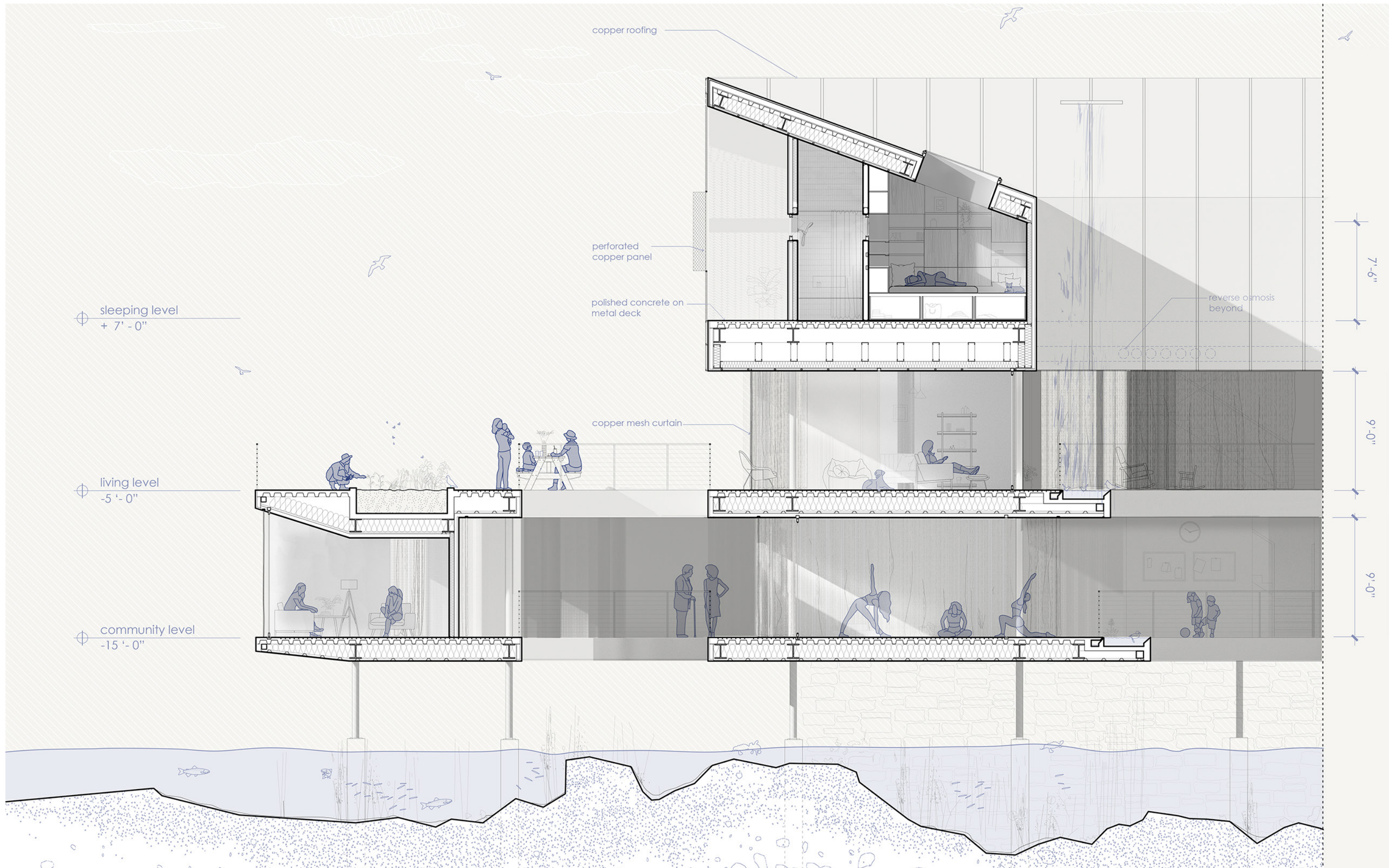
Plan of Sleeping Level

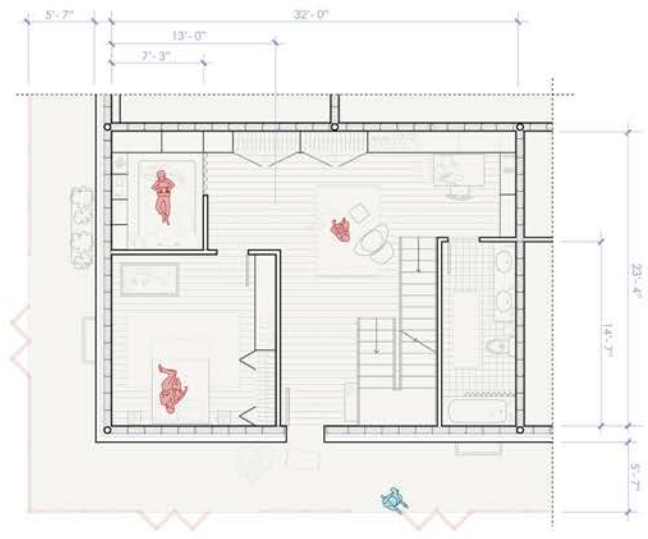


Cross Section



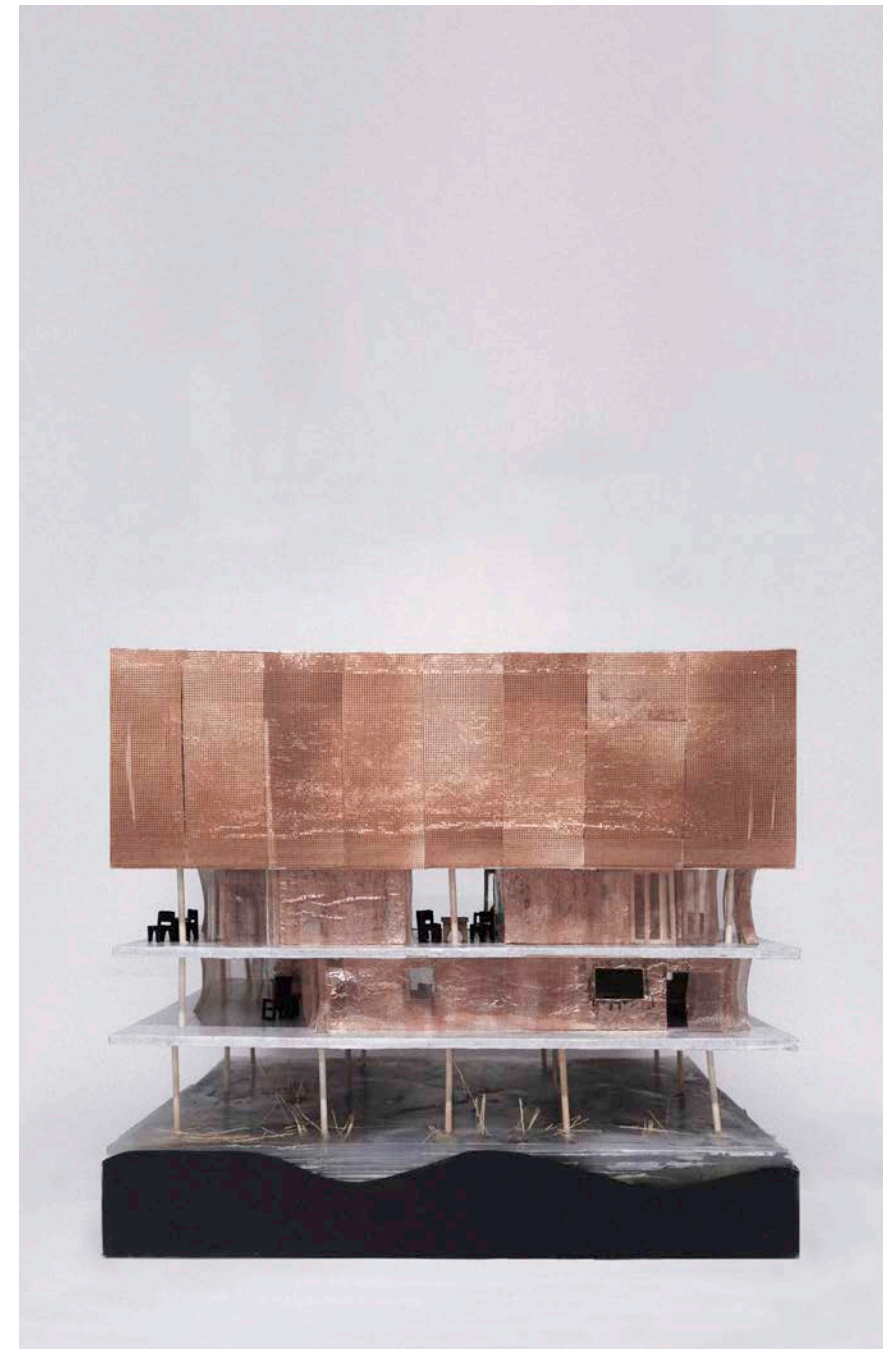
Longitudinal Section





- 1 family of 3: mother, 6 yr old daughter, 16 yr old daughter
- 2 family of 3: grandmother, Mother, 12 yr old daughter
- 3 family of 3: mother, 8 yr old son, 15 yr old daughter
- 4 family of 2: mother, 10 yr old daughter
- 5 family of 4: mother, 2 daughters, baby boy
- 6 family of 3: grandmother, daughter
- 7 residents from other clusters

Plan Detail



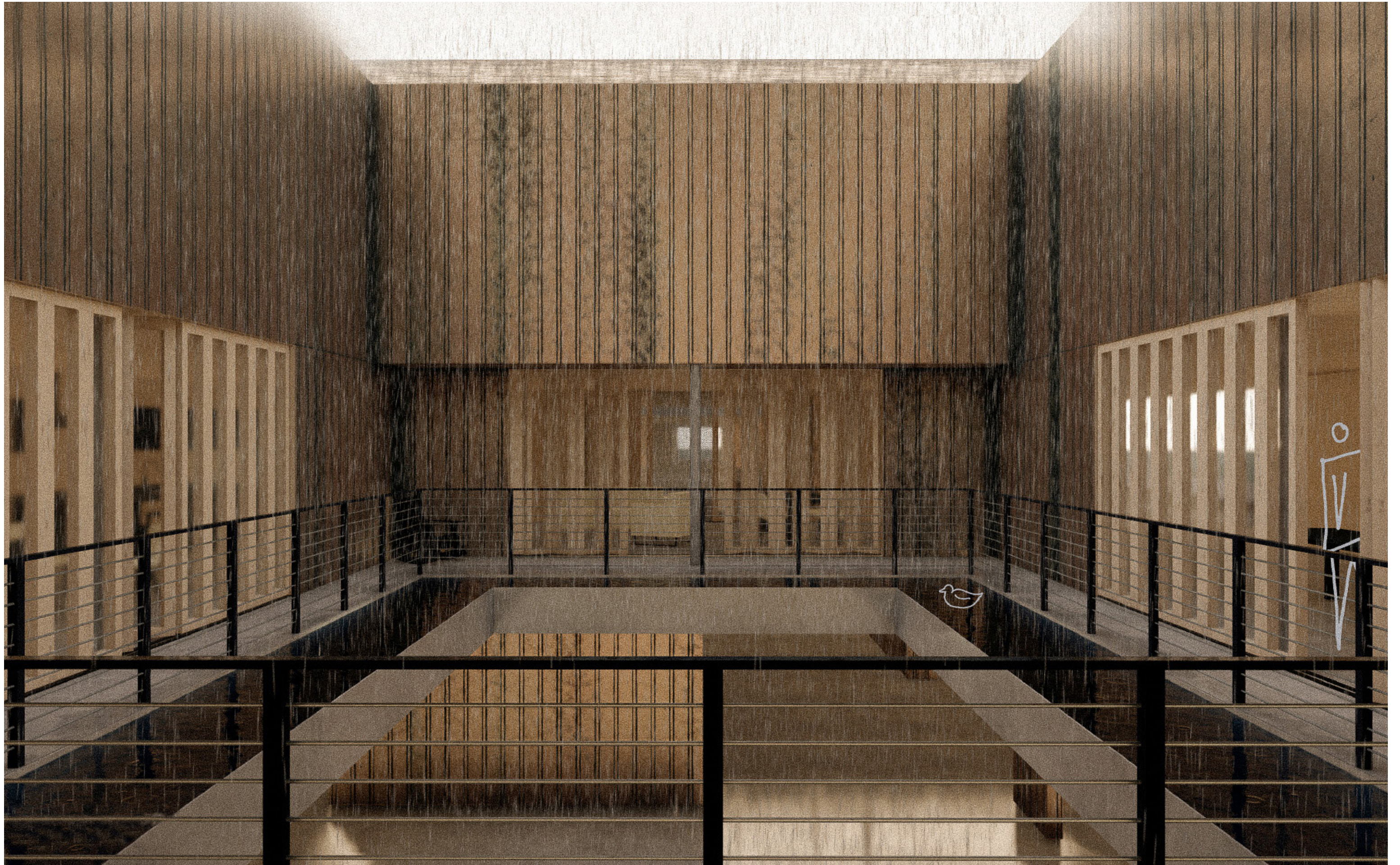
Physical Model



Community Level Perspective



Living Level Perspective



GRID GARDEN

FLOATING LANDSCAPE

EMILY BAUER | 2 MONTHS
ELECTIVE, FALL 2023

TEAM MEMBERS

Olivia Braun, Genevieve Jones

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Grid Garden is a floating landscape envisioned as a dynamic space for the reti center, serving not only as a garden but also as a platform for community engagement and experimentation. At its core, the wood lattice structure provides a versatile framework for hosting removable pods that cater to diverse ecological needs. Some of these pods are strategically designed with open bottoms, facilitating the flourishing of marine life and saltwater plants beneath the water's surface. This submerged ecosystem not only adds to the visual appeal but also contributes to the overall environmental balance of the area.

Above the waterline, other pods serve a different purpose, functioning as containers for potted plants that play a vital role in attracting and supporting local pollinators. This intentional design encourages a symbiotic relationship between flora and fauna, fostering biodiversity and ecological resilience within the grid. By engaging volunteers in the maintenance and monitoring of these pods, the Grid Garden creates a hands-on learning experience that connects people with nature while promoting sustainable practices in urban environments.



Concept Collage

MATERIAL LIST:

- WOOD
- CONCRETE
- PUMIS STONE
- INSULATION FOAM
- CHEESE CLOTH
- COCONUT FIBER LINER
- NATURAL SEA SPONGE
- FISH EYE HOOKS
- CORNER BRACKETS

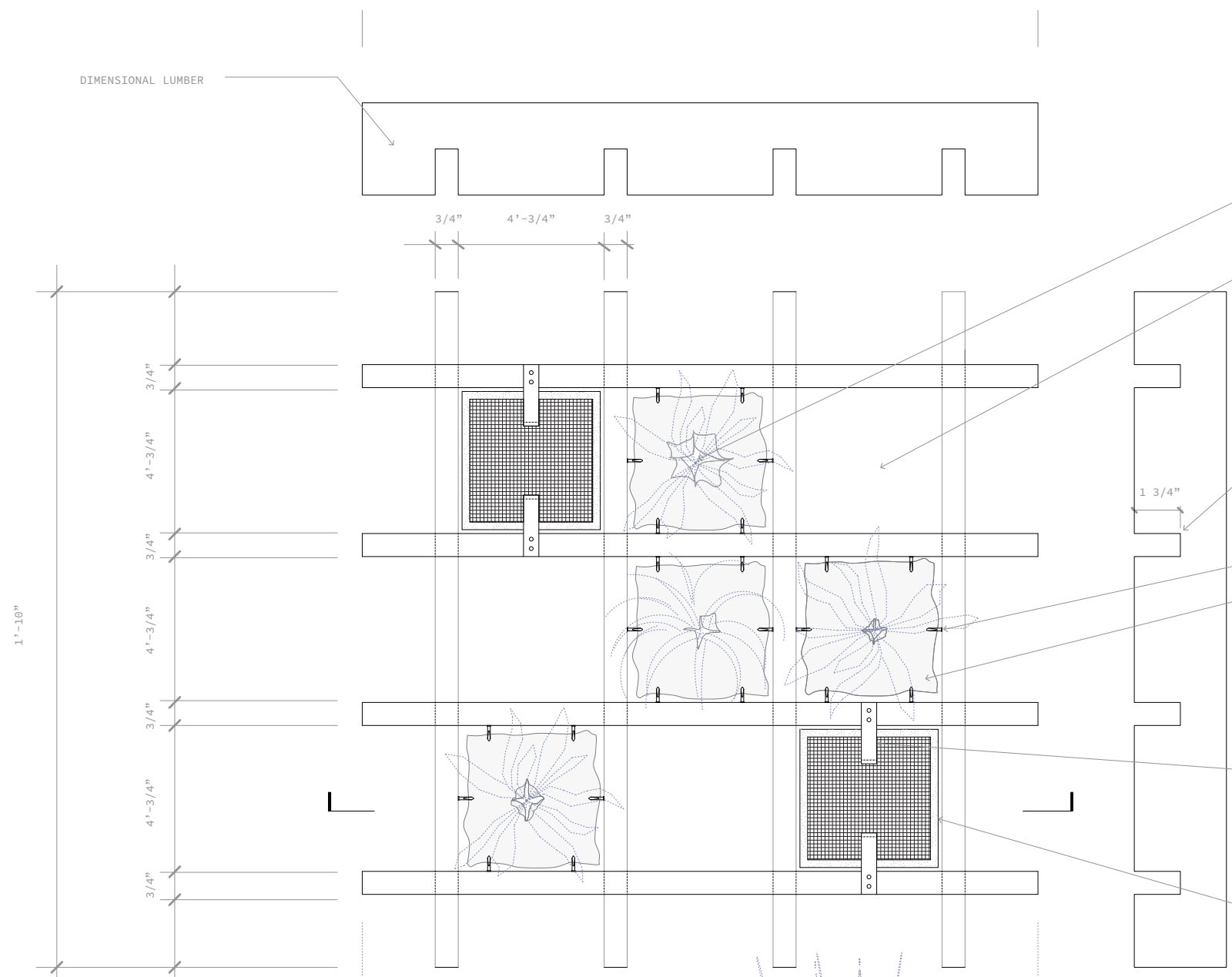
GOALS:

THE GOAL OF THIS CONSTRUCTION IS FOR THE FRAME TO SUPPORT EXPERIMENTATION AND INDIVIDUAL GARDEN PODS FOR COMMUNITY USE.

THEREFORE, EACH MAIN COMPONENT IS EASILY DETACHED FROM ONE ANOTHER. THE WOOD FRAME SUPPORTS ITSELF, WITH AN EDGE CROSS LAP JOINT.

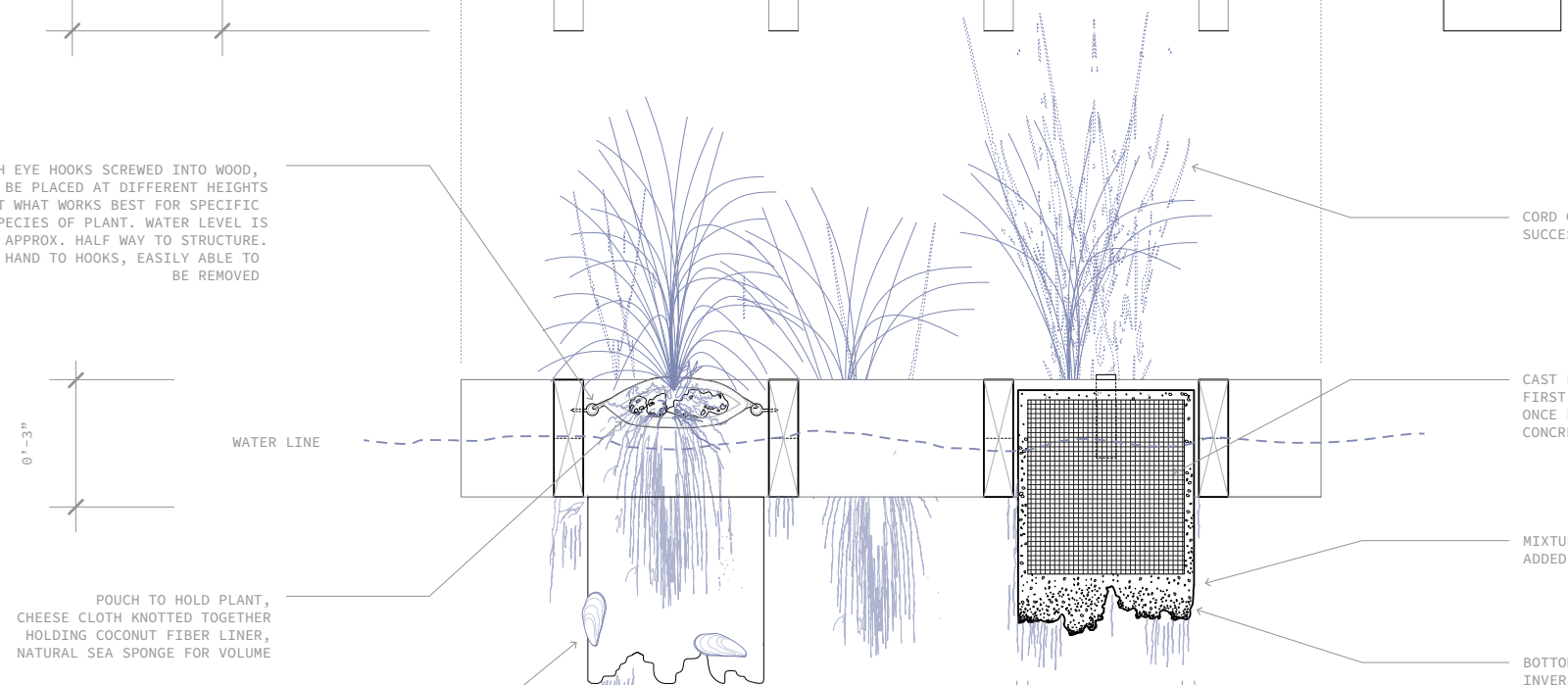
THE CONCRETE FLOATS CAN EASILY BE SCREWED IN AND OUT FOR TESTS AND MAINTENANCE.

THE PLANT BEDS ALSO CAN BE EASILY SCREWED IN AND OUT, TO CARE FOR INDIVIDUAL PLANTS AS WELL AS MAINTENANCE FOR EITHER THE SCREWS OR WOOD.

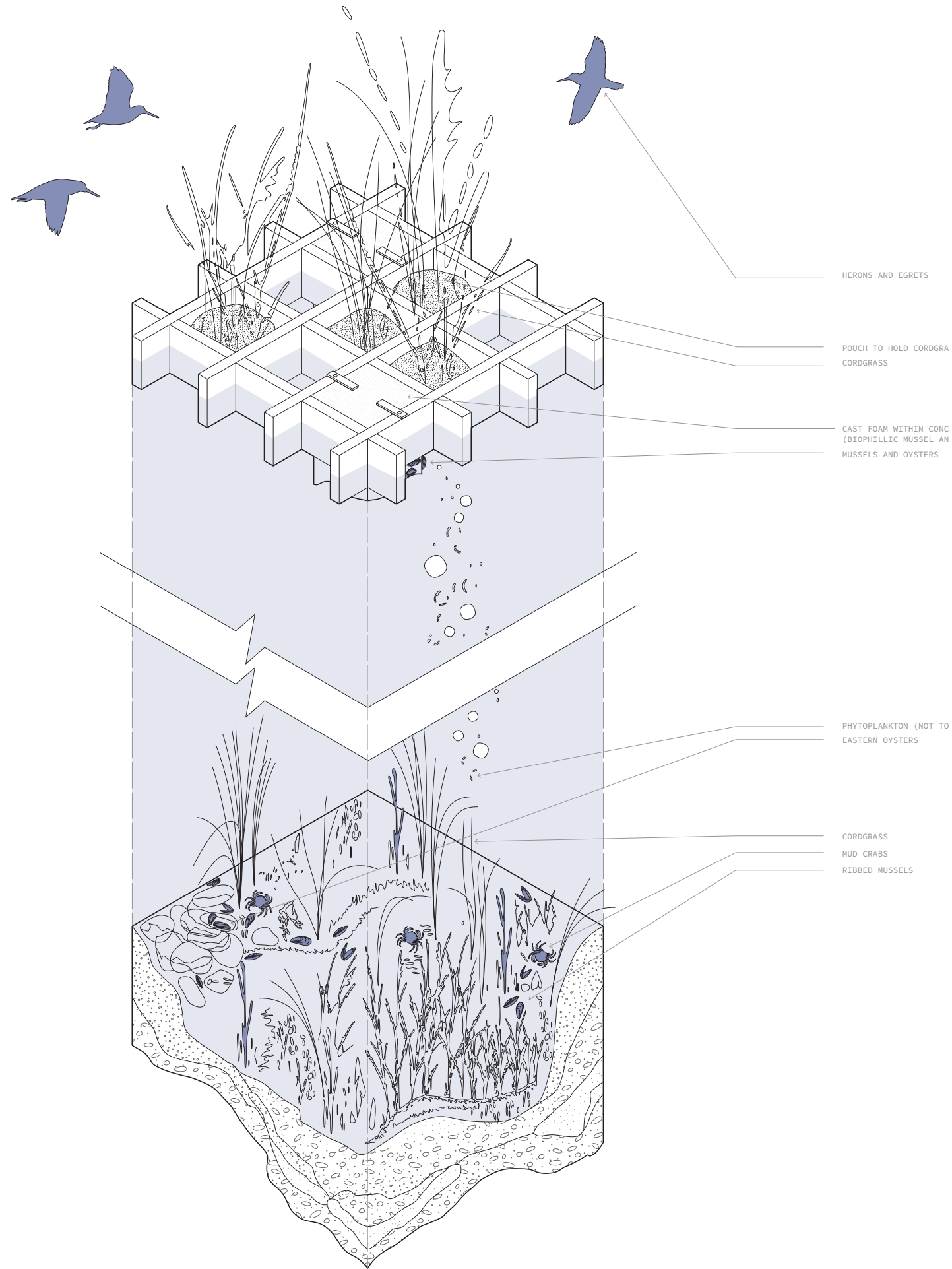


- CHEESE CLOTH IS CUT FOR PLANT TO BE PLACED INSIDE
- 1-2 VOIDS TO BE LEFT EMPTY IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR DRAINAGE
- EDGE CROSS LAP JOINT CONNECTION. WOOD REQUIRES NO HARDWARE
- 1/16 STAINLESS STEEL FISH EYE HOOKS
- POUCH TO HOLD PLANT, CHEESE CLOTH KNOTTED TOGETHER HOLDING COCONUT FIBER LINER, NATURAL SEA SPONGE FOR VOLUME
- 2\"/>

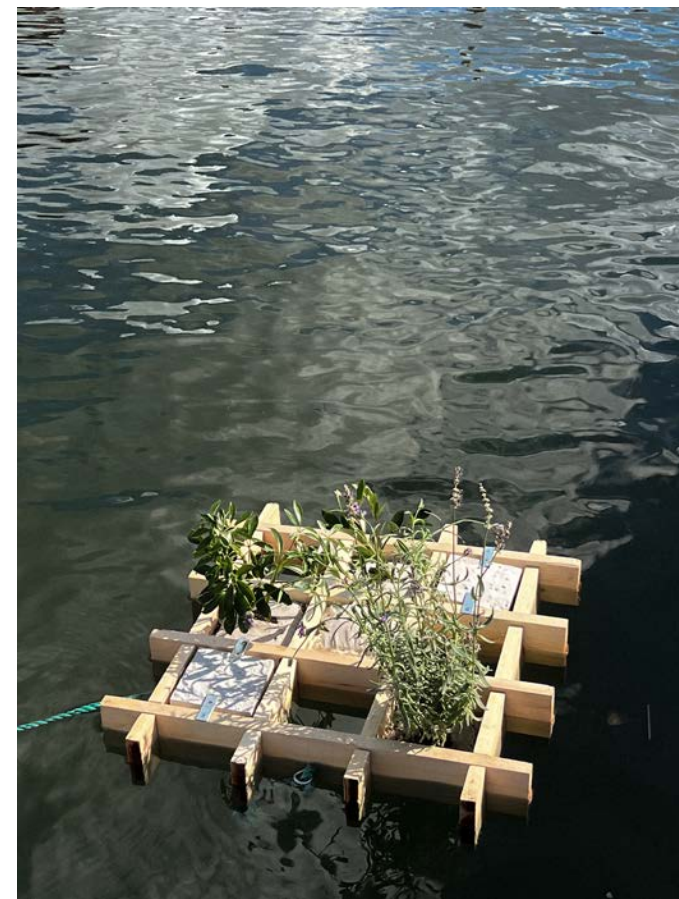
FISH EYE HOOKS SCREWED INTO WOOD, CAN BE PLACED AT DIFFERENT HEIGHTS TO TEST WHAT WORKS BEST FOR SPECIFIC SPECIES OF PLANT. WATER LEVEL IS APPROX. HALF WAY TO STRUCTURE. POUCH IS TIED BY HAND TO HOOKS, EASILY ABLE TO BE REMOVED



- CORD GRASS. DIFFERENT SPECIES CAN BE PLACED TO EXPERIMENT WITH ITS SUCCESS IN THE BRACKISH WATER ON SITE
- CAST FOAM WITHIN CONCRETE, 1/4\"/>
- MIXTURE REQUIRES 60-40 RATIO CONC. TO WATER. PUMIS STONE AGGREGATE ADDED AT EVERY 1\"/>
- BOTTOM IS CAST FIRST WITH A CLAY OR SAND BASE AS THE INVERSE CAST, MOLDING IT BY HAND. PUMIS STONES



Prototype Image 01



Prototype Image 02

BIO BUBBLE

FOOD TRUCK SEATING

LINDY ROY | 4 MONTHS
CORE STUDIO I, FALL 2021

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The site for this studio existed along the east side of Morningside Park (bordering Harlem) between 115th street and 118th street in New York City. Through researching the amenities along the site, I discovered that several of the restaurants were either closed or altered to accommodate outdoor seating due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the composting budget in New York City was completely cut in 2020.

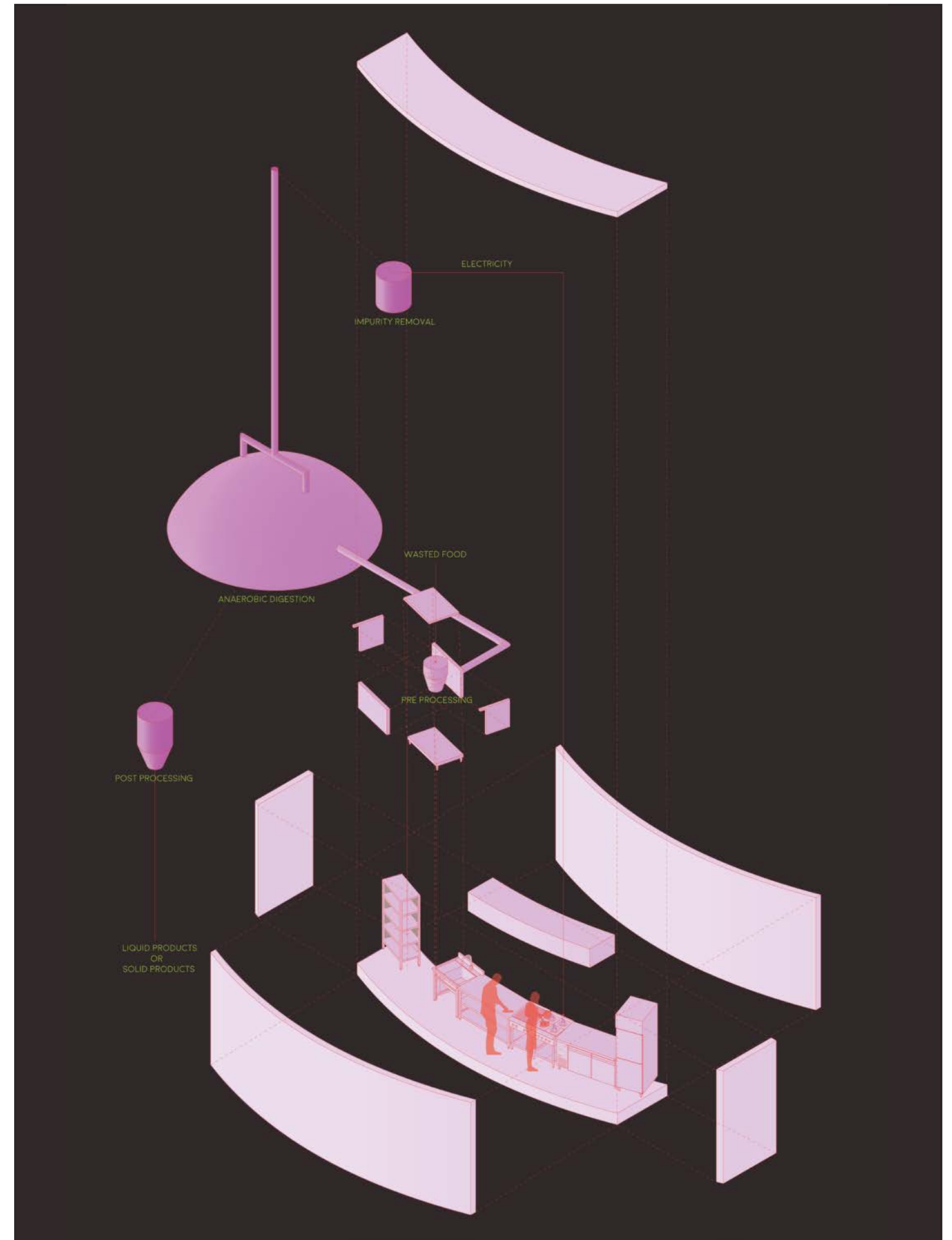
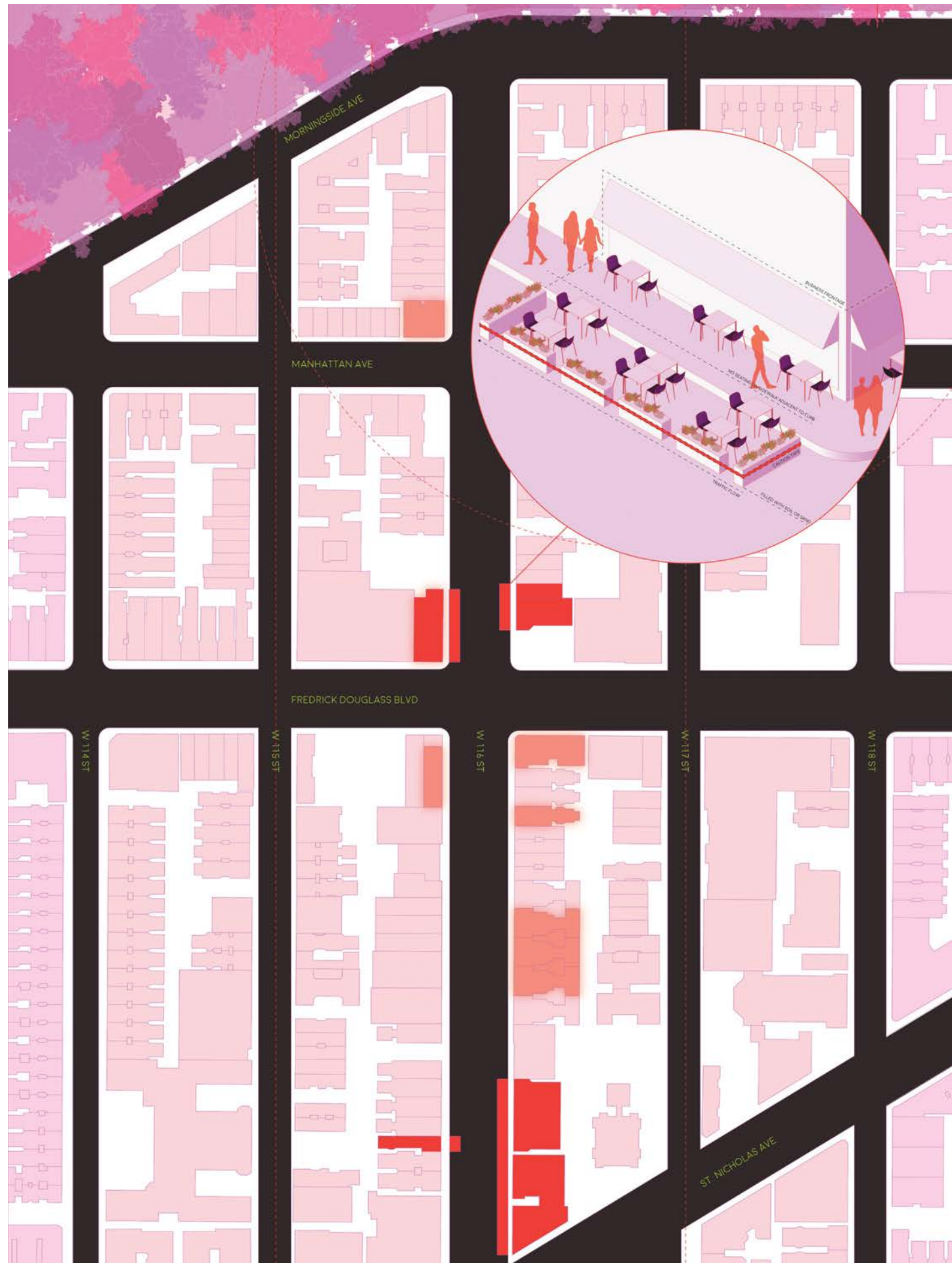
This inspired a proposal that activated the perimeter of Morningside Park through the preparation and condition of food, as well a biodigesting system that reintroduced composting to the area.

The form of Bio Bubble was explored through a series of scale models constructed with perforated materials. Quickly, I noticed that the perforated materials were mimicking the transformations of the biodigestors on a microscopic level.

This led to the inflatable prototype - a form made of semi-transparent material that mimicks the form of a biodigester on a macroscopic scale - and furthermore acts as an attachable seating space for any food truck that visits the area.



Concept Collage

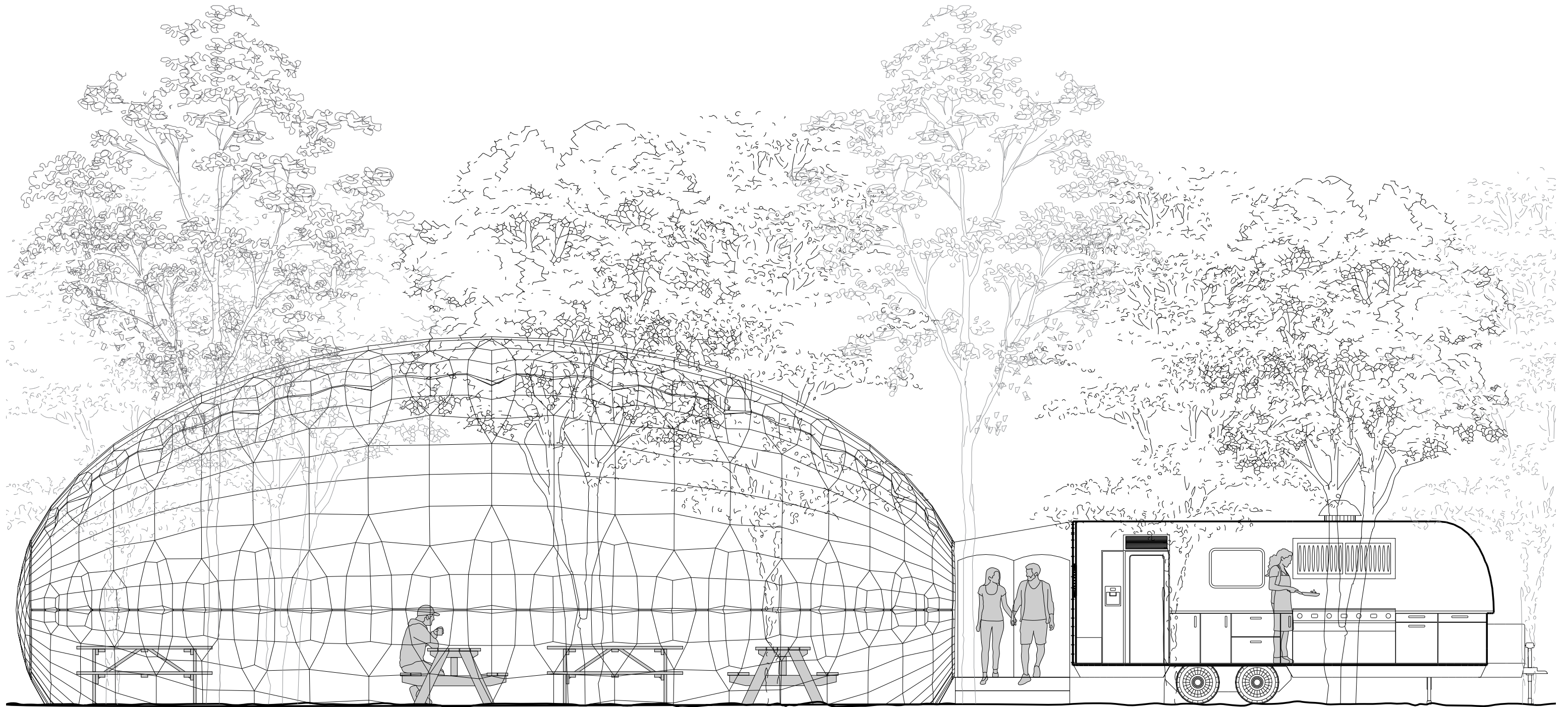




Physical Model Collage 01



Physical Model Collage 02



Longitudinal Section

THE NEST SCHOOL

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ERICA GOETZ | 4 MONTHS
CORE STUDIO II, SPRING 2022

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Nest School is a place that nurtures student well-being as an essential aspect of education. The school's philosophy includes intentional learning about both the subject matter and one's inner self. The Nest School promotes the development of the whole child, encouraging students to engage in self-reflection and self-actualization so that they are better prepared to learn about the things that interest them—at school and in the world.

The building is organized in vertical bands of classrooms and laboratories that offset in section across four main atria. The sectional offset allows each block of classrooms to form smaller communities within the larger school.

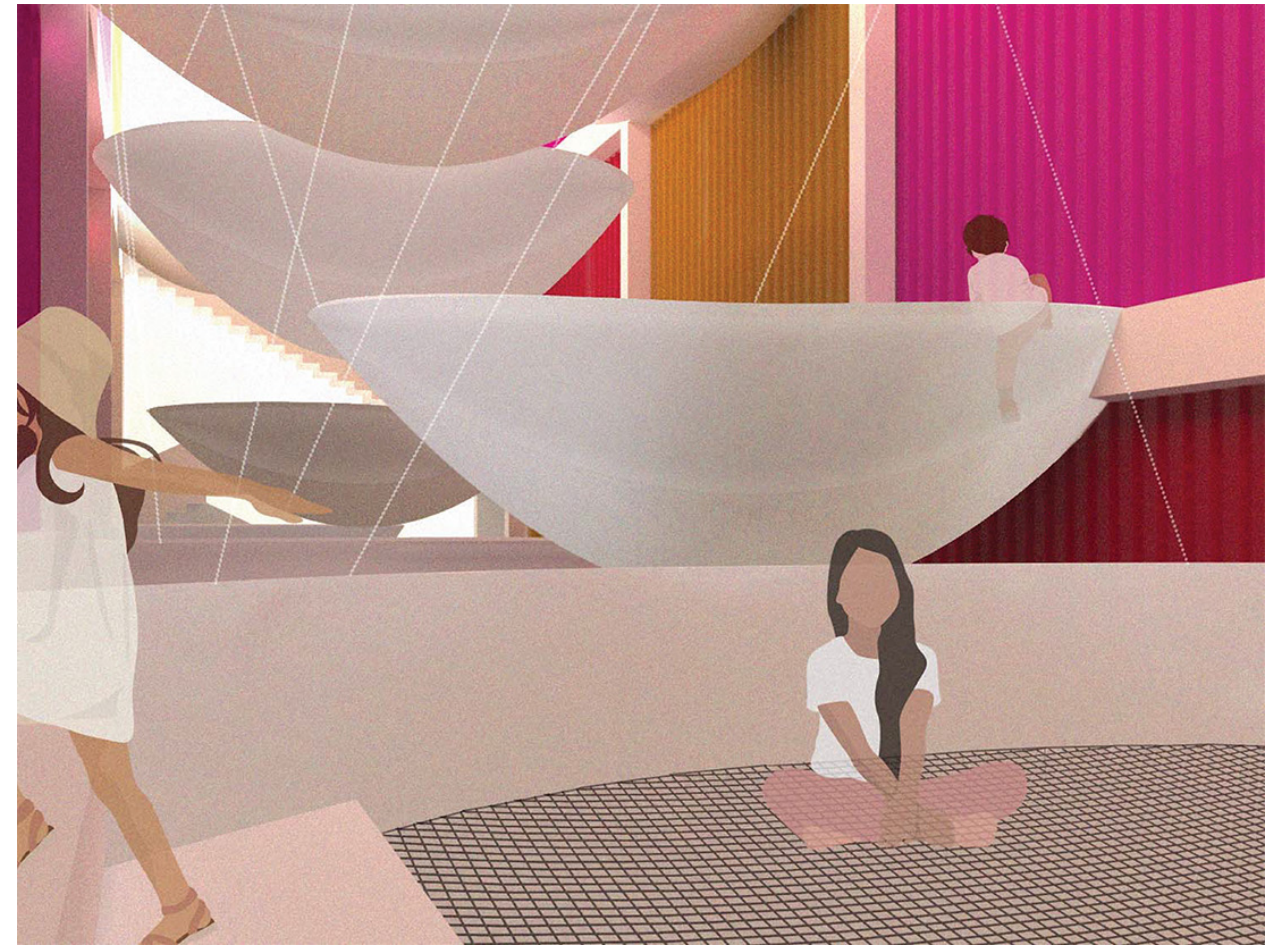
The atria are active, occupiable spaces where nest-like swings hang from the structure above. Students can step into these nests and be enveloped in a hammock-like space hanging in mid-air. For some, the act of stepping into the nest might take courage or a leap of faith, and for others, the nests may provide a place of refuge. For all, the act of stepping from solid ground onto a moving surface creates a moment or pause or reorientation in one's day. It shifts one's perspective, literally and metaphorically.



Concept Collage



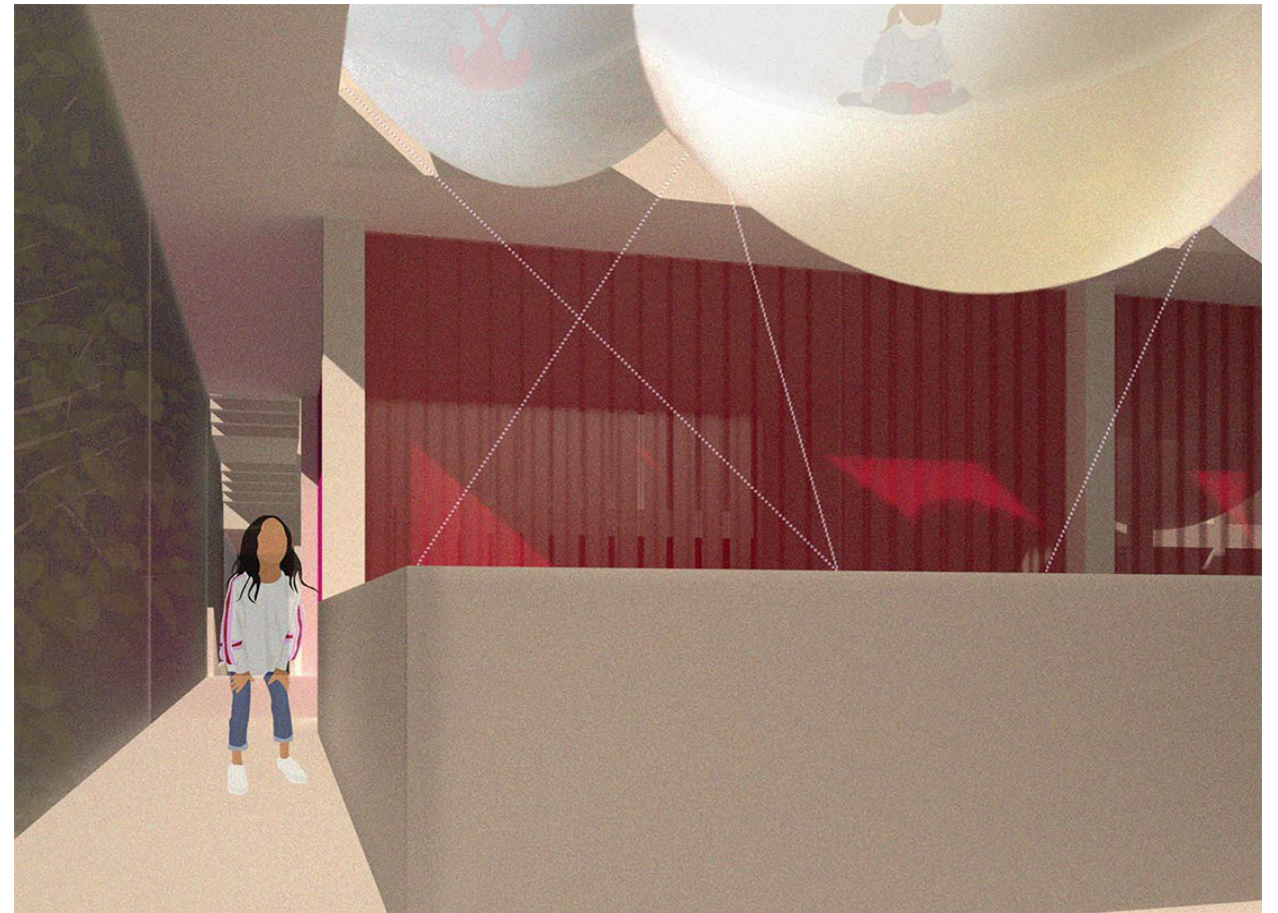
Section A



Perspective Collage 01



Section B



Perspective Collage 02



SPACE

ALTERNATIVE ADA TOOLKIT

ZARINA FARMER-GEORGE | 4 MONTHS
ELECTIVE, SPRING 2024

TEAM MEMBERS

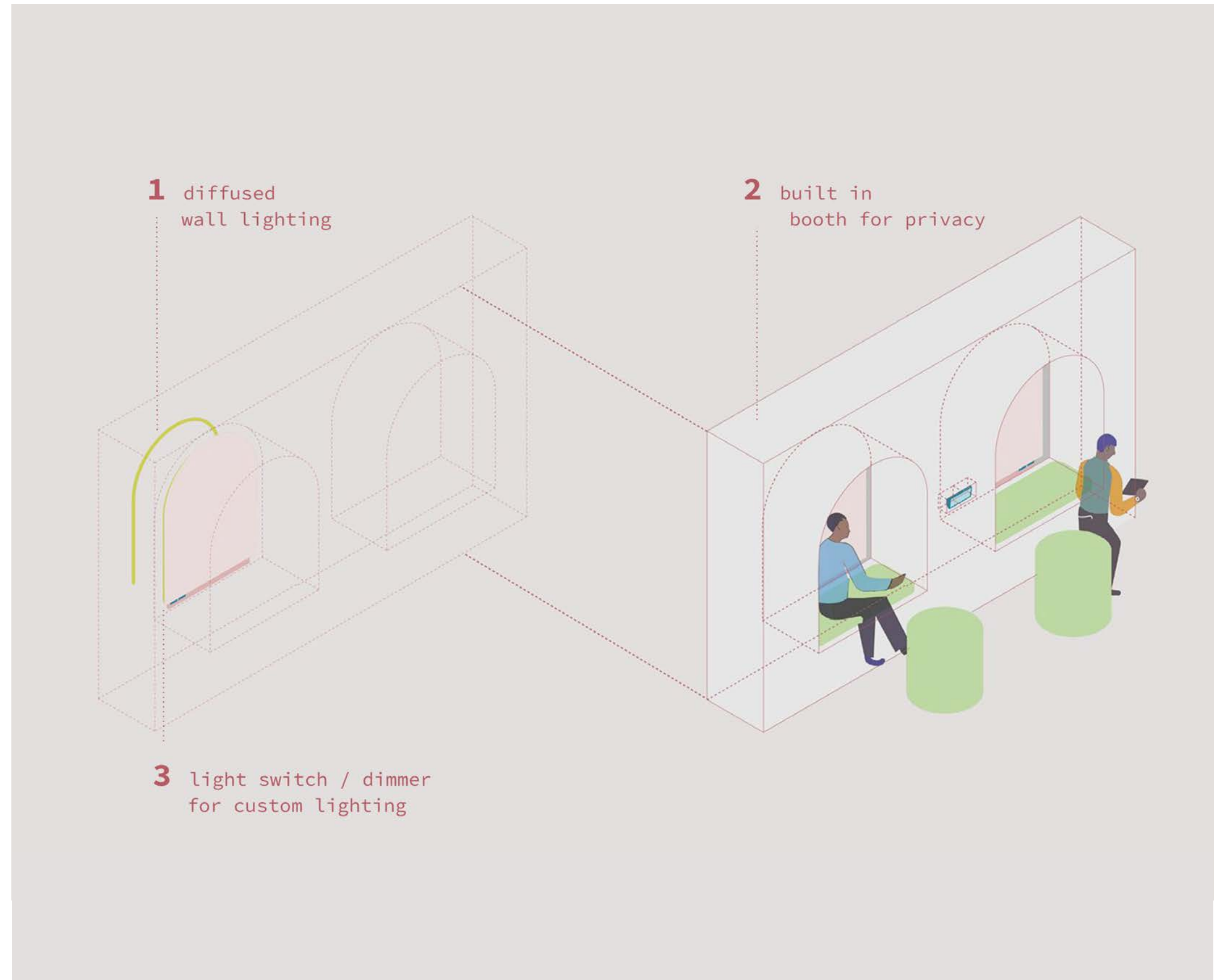
Olivia Braun, Omer Gorashi,
Genevieve Jones, Jared Orellana

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Designing spaces with considerations for Autism and ADHD is crucial for creating environments that are inclusive and supportive of neurodiverse individuals. The toolkit, created as an alternative ADA guideline, discusses how to consider acoustics, lighting, color, and spatial configuration in an effort to promote wellness for all users.

For the second half of the semester, the team focused on implementing design changes, focused on the aforementioned categories, into a college lounge. The team focused on this program due to the multiplicity of events that occur in the one transition space. Some common issues in college lounges include: loud congregations of students, uncustomizable and harsh lighting, and lack of differentiation between social meeting spaces and quiet study areas.

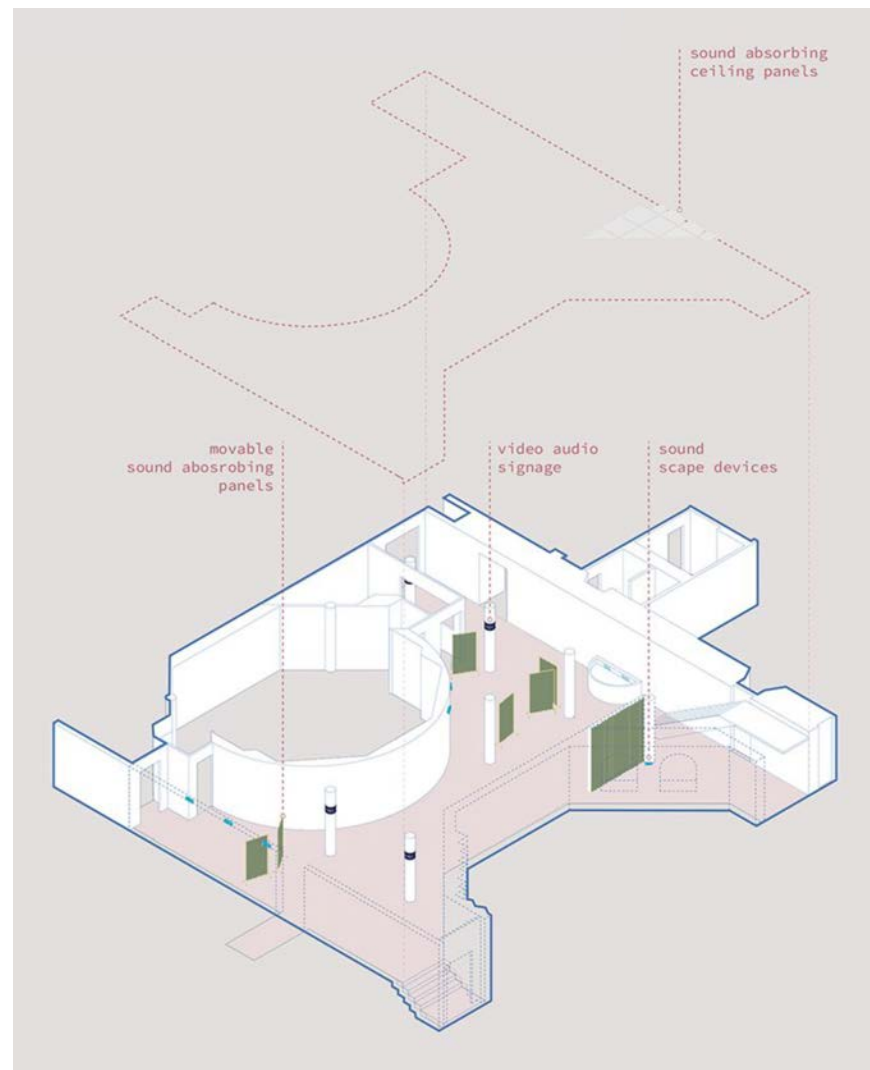
The design alterations are found within the series of diagrams on the next pages. Through the utilization of the alternative ADA toolkit, the team hoped to foster inclusivity and create spaces that accommodate diverse needs, promoting well-being and productivity for all occupants.



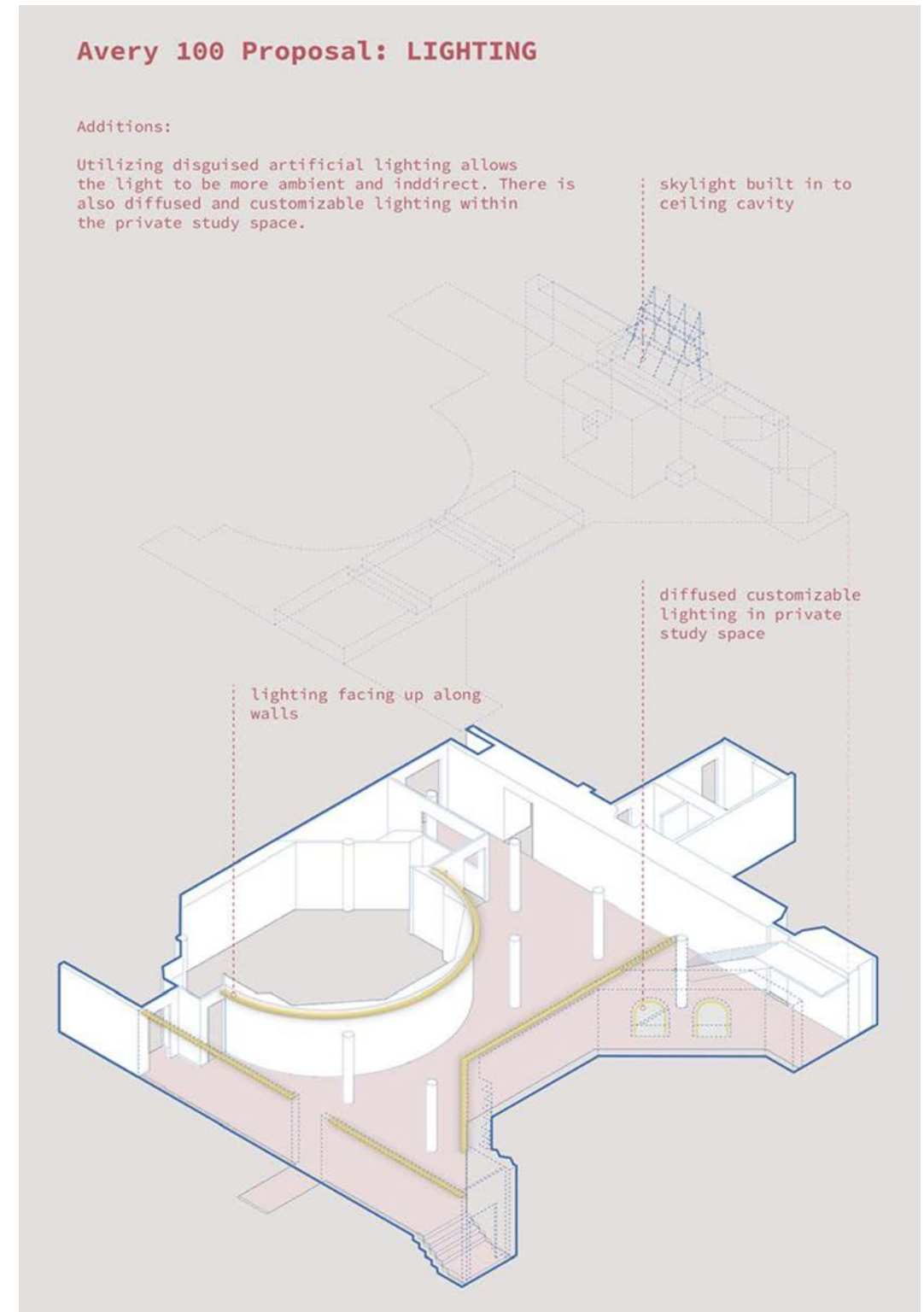
Concept Collage



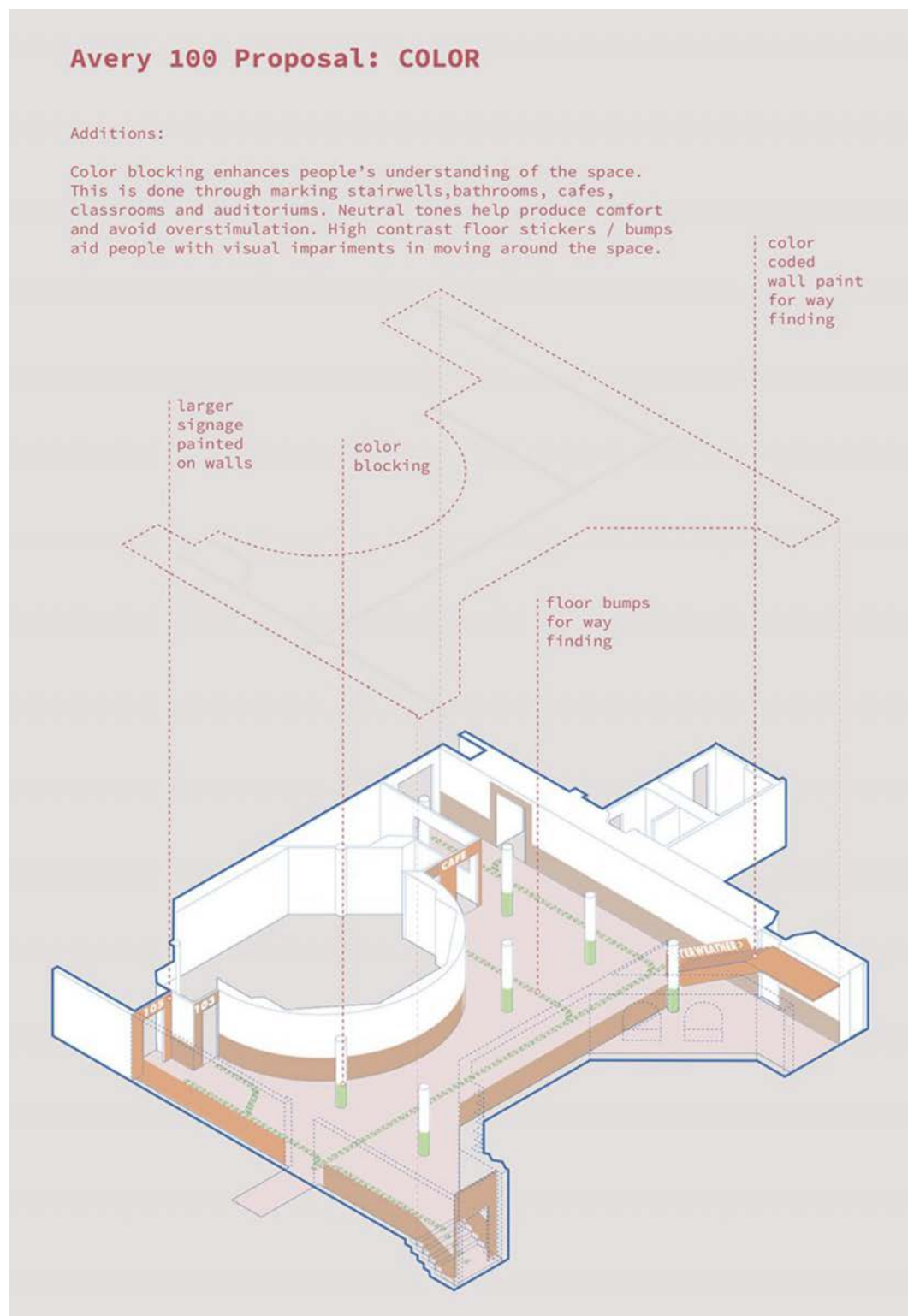
Acoustics Chapter in Publication



Acoustics Design Considerations



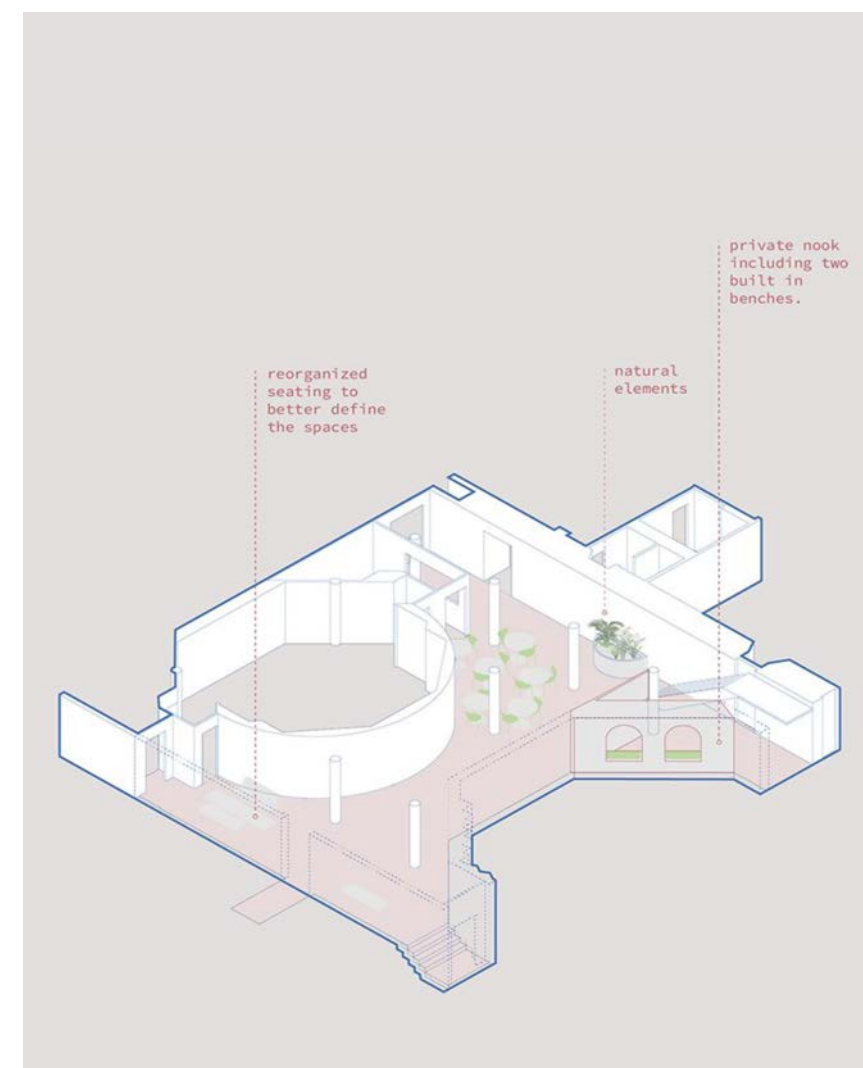
Lighting Design Considerations



Color Design Considerations



Spatial Configuration Chapter in Publication



Spatial Configuration Design Considerations

COLLECTING LANDSCAPES

AIRPORT + RESEARCH OUTPOST

LESLIE GILL + KHOI NGUYEN | 4 MONTHS
ADV STUDIO V, FALL 2023

TEAM MEMBERS

Olivia Braun, Julia Vais

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The initial research for this project investigated the depiction of landscape and material culture in Inuit art. To the non-northern eye, arctic geography appears as a gradation of whites and grays. However, the paintings of Inuit artists Janet Kigusiuq and Nicotye Samayualie reveal a mode of viewing an arctic landscape saturated in color and suffused with collective memory and generational knowledge.

Ellesmere Island, located in the high Canadian arctic, has historically been a key site for the study of climate and atmospheric behavior. However, in 2018, the Canadian government refused funding for research on Ellesmere Island, jeopardizing the continuity of scientific data collection. Our research uncovered a unique opportunity to build partnerships between indigenous and research communities, linking the knowledge branches of cryospheric science with indigenous art and knowledge, also called IQ or (Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit). This project proposes a gateway airport building in Grise Fiord, the main settlement on Ellesmere Island, and a research outpost that operates as a co-op, bringing researchers and indigenous artists together under one roof.



Concept Image



Janet Kigusiuq
Arctic Landscape
Paper Collage



Nicotye Samayualie
Untitled (New Years Fireworks)
Color pencil on black paper



Map of Nunavut, CA

August 2023 - December 2023

OLIVIA BRAUN



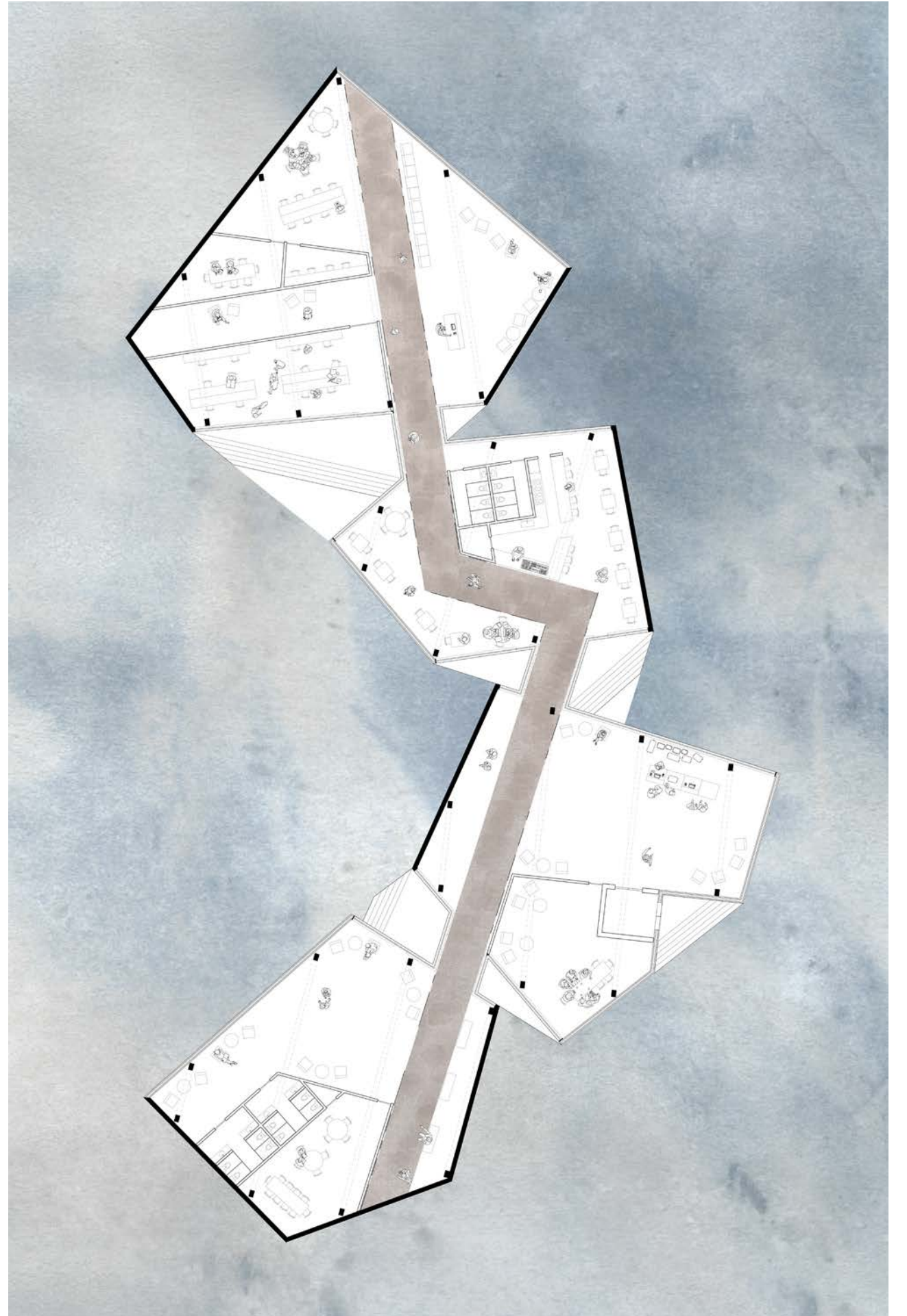
Cyanotype 01



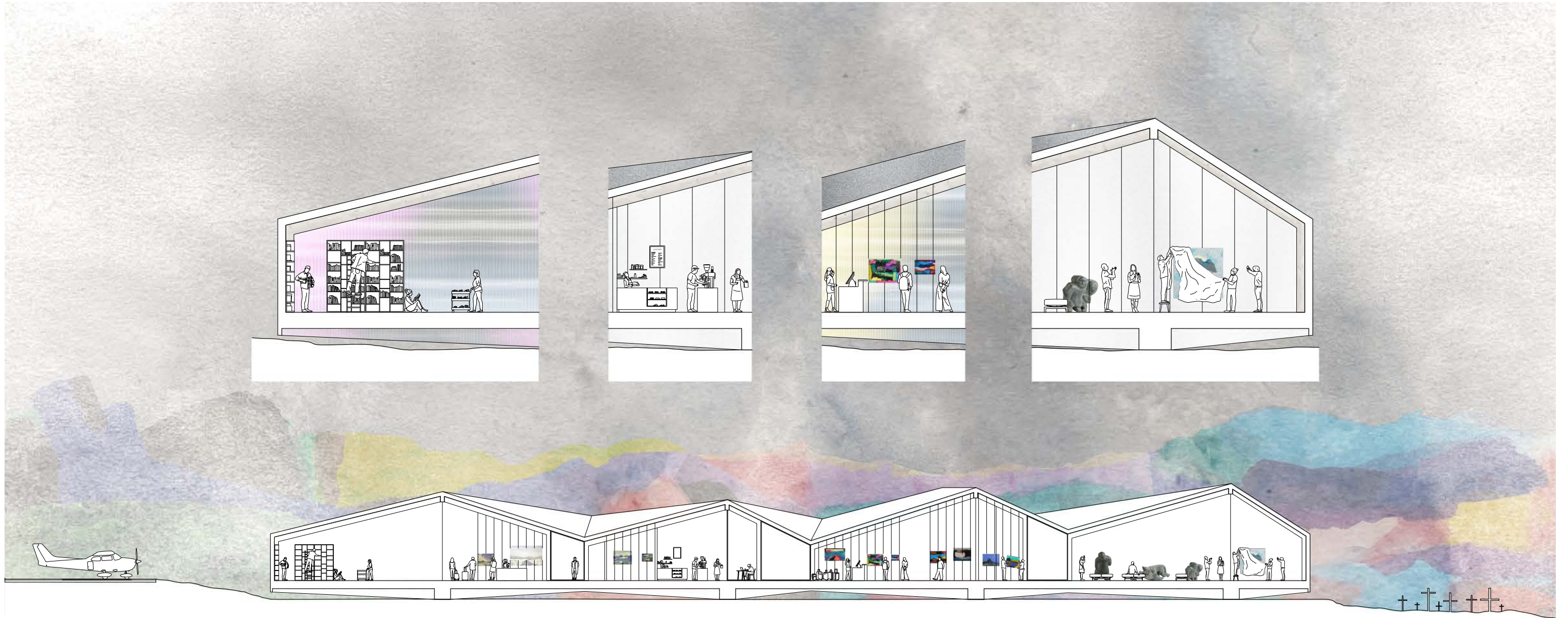
Cyanotype 02



Site Map



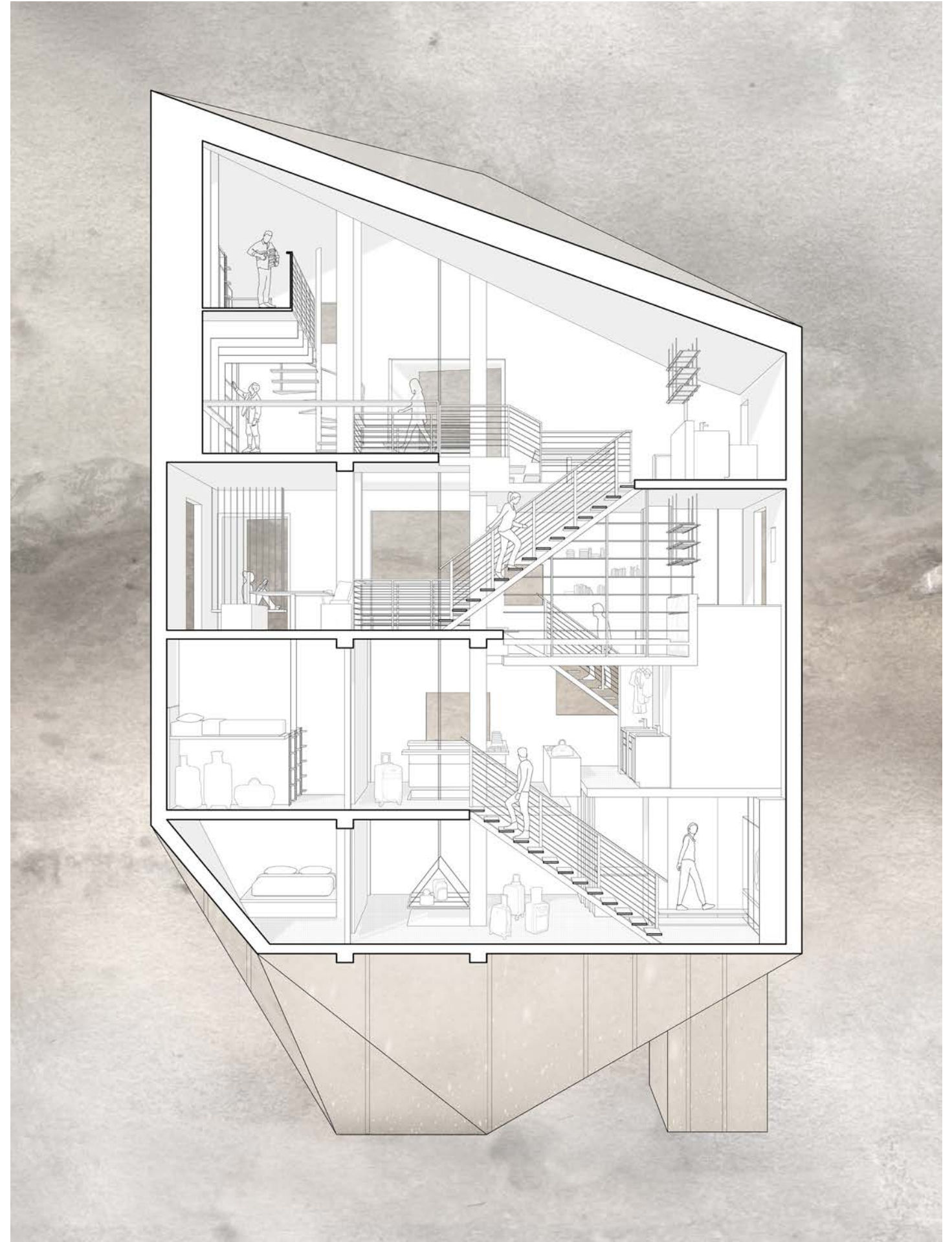
Airport Building Plan



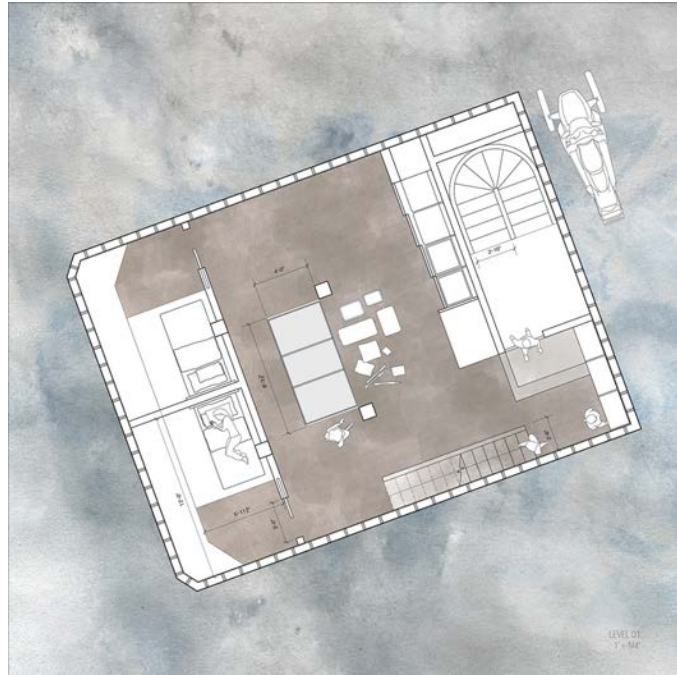
Airport Building Section



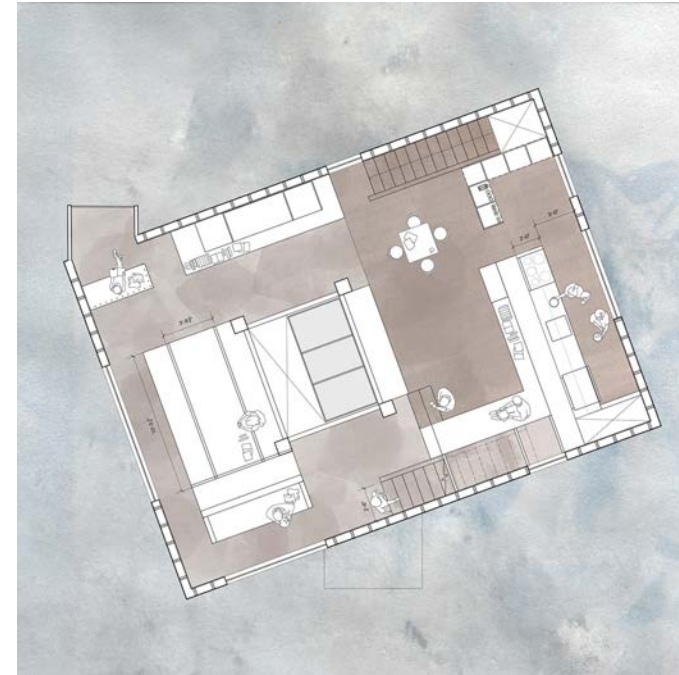
Site Map



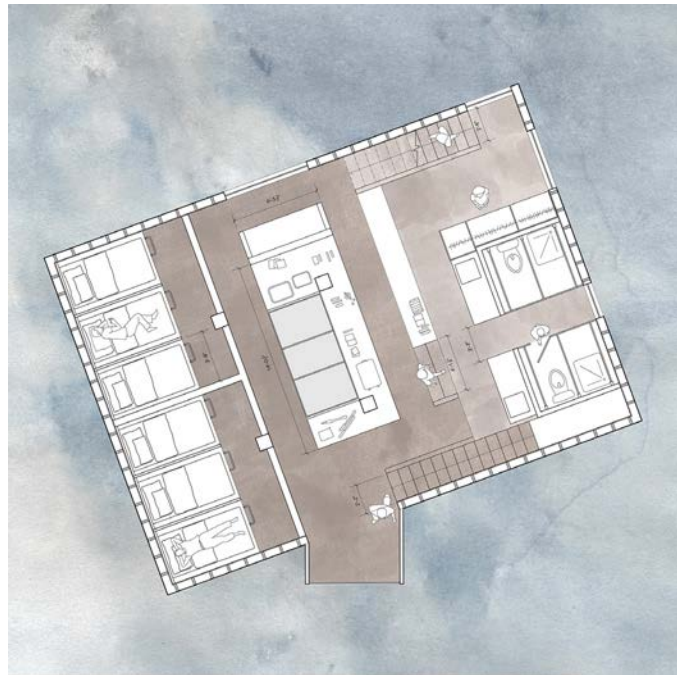
Research Outpost Section



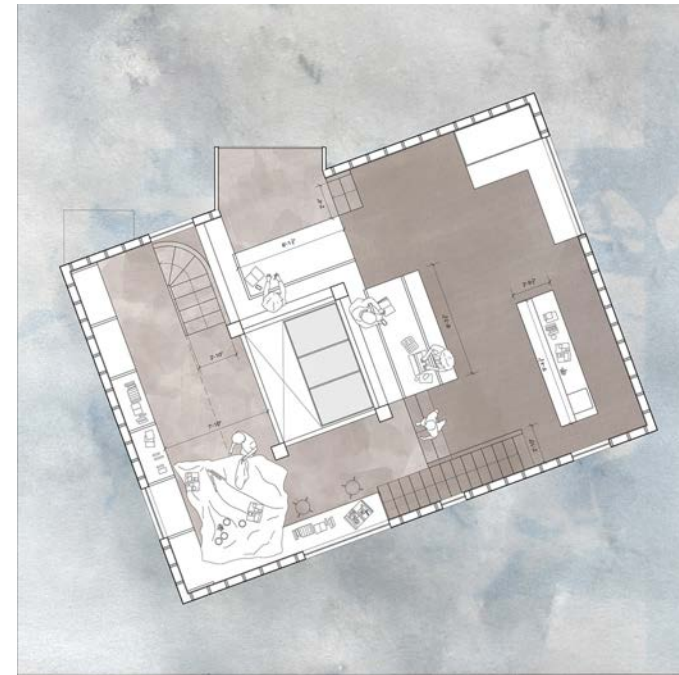
Research Outpost Plan Level 01



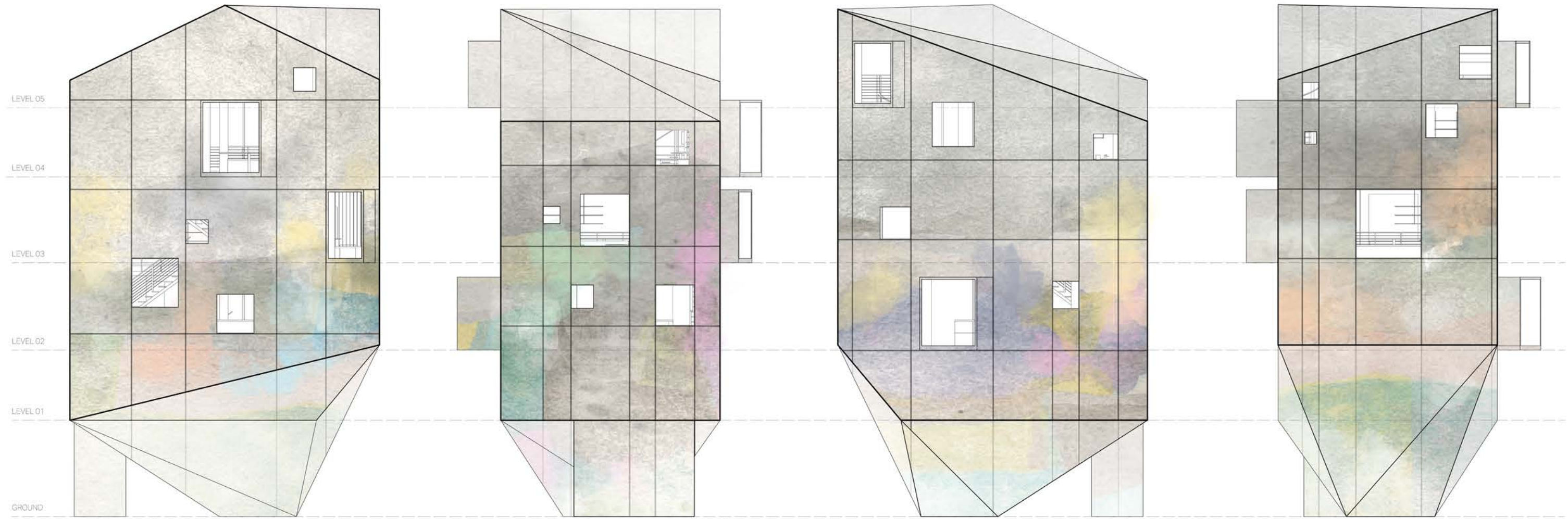
Research Outpost Plan Level 03



Research Outpost Plan Level 02



Research Outpost Plan Level 04



Research Outpost Elevations

