

KEENAN BELLISARI

PORTFOLIO



2026

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

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I am interested in the ways architecture can quietly support everyday forms of living, learning, gathering, and maintenance across different scales, from the floor material a child rolls across to the shared systems that hold together a neighborhood or a city block. Many of the projects begin with close observation: of how kids occupy space, how materials weather and breathe, how storefronts change hands, how gardens are maintained, how people gather around sidewalks, parks, and community spaces throughout New York. Rather than approaching architecture as something fixed or singular, I am drawn to work that can adapt over time and remain open to participation, care, and collective use. It feels important to continue working in New York, a city I have studied within, contributed to, and been shaped by, while remaining attentive to the larger environmental and social systems that connect it to other places, materials, and communities elsewhere in the world.

A. Children and Families

- i. Pick-Up Housing
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- viii. Fire Escape

Before and After Clinic

Advance VI Small Footprints

Buckets, Child-height, Commons, Compost, Cork, Cubbies, Curtains, Faucets, Gardens, Greenhouses, Gutters, Housing, Irregular hours, Kitchens, Linoleum, Maintenance, Markets, Milk paint, Nets, Perforation, Pipes, Planters, Play, Porosity, Rubber, Sediment, Sidewalks, Signage, Soil, Strollers, Thresholds, Water

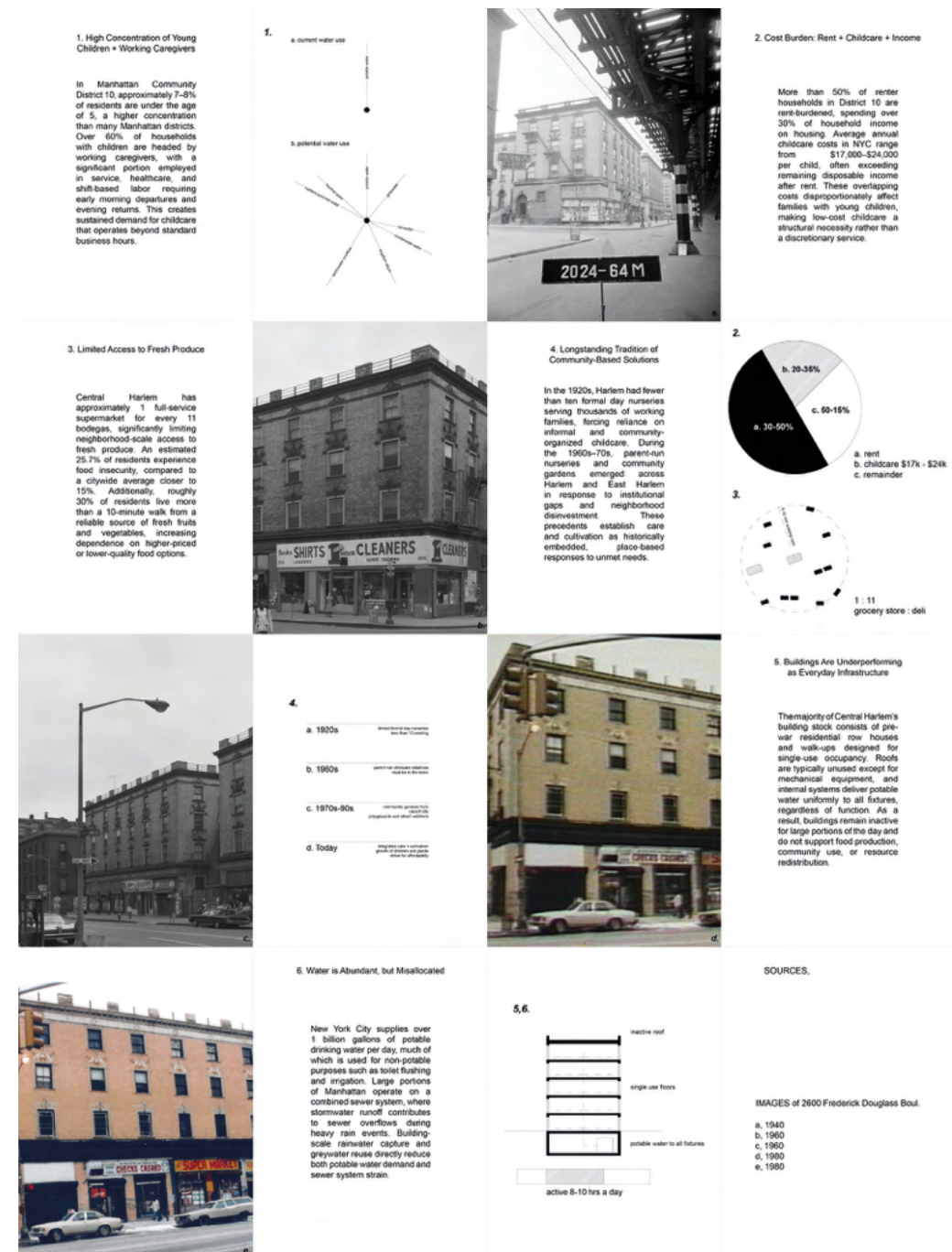
The before and after clinic reimagines a landmarked building on Frederick Douglass Boulevard as a space of collective care embedded within the everyday life of Harlem. Organized around a 24 hour childcare center for families working irregular shifts, the project combines childcare, housing, first aid, storefronts, gardens, and water infrastructure into a single interconnected system. Through adaptable commercial spaces, communal childcare environments, rooftop greenhouses, and experiments in material health and water reuse, the building supports growth across multiple scales: children, plants, neighborhoods, and shared resources. Rather than treating care as a singular program, the project understands it as something distributed throughout the sidewalk, the building, and the city itself.

Site: Harlem, Manhattan

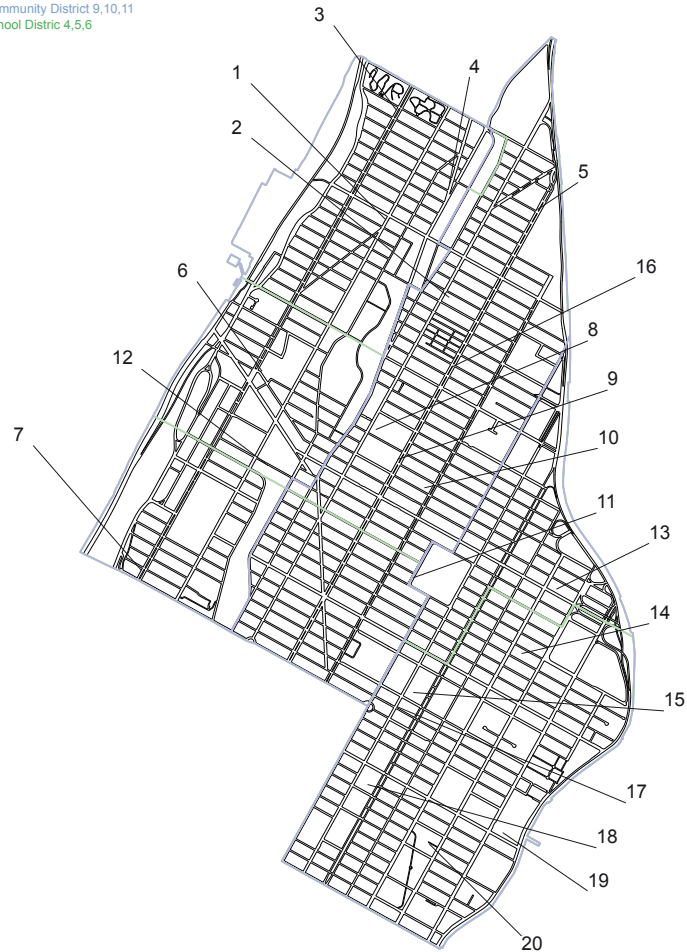
Timeline: 01/2026 - 05/2026

Advisor: Hilary Sample

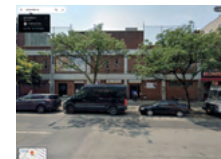
In Collaboration with Bernardo Malatesta



Child Care Services
Community District 9,10,11
School District 4,5,6



Existing childcare centers throughout Community Districts 9, 10, and 11, documenting their locations, age ranges, tuition costs, funding structures, and hours of operation. The research revealed that while Harlem contains a high concentration of childcare programming, many centers either require high tuition or operate within rigid daytime schedules that fail to support families working irregular shifts, highlighting the need for more flexible and publicly accessible models of care.



1
Lutheran Social Services
510 W 145 St
646-449-0814
2yr-4yr
Headstart program
8:00-18:30



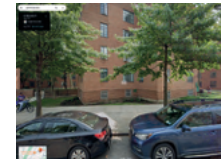
2
Drew Hamilton Early Childhood Center
2672 Frederick Douglas Blvd
212-281-9555
2yr-5yr
Free DOE
8:30-15:30



3
New York Round the Clock Nursery
620 W 153 St
646-374-0017
6wks-5yr
\$625 6wks-2yr \$496 2yr-5yr
7:00-18:00



4
Nasry Michelen Day Care Center
415 W 150th St
917-261-6623
3yr-4yr
Free DOE
8:00-14:20



5
Mary Walton Children's Center
224 W 152th St
212-283-4241
3yr-4yr
Free DOE
8:00-16:30



6
Citizens Care Day Care Center
3240 Broadway
212-690-0742
2-4yr
Free DOE
8:00-18:00



7
The Bank Street College of Education
610 W 12th St
212-694-4412
1yr-5yr
\$650,000 (no voucher)
8:00-17:45



8
New York Round the Clock Nursery
301B W 130 St
212-694-0615
6wks-5yr
\$625 6wks-2yr \$496 2yr-5yr
7:00-18:00



9
Utopia Childrens Center
238 W 129th St
212-663-7375
2.5yr-5yr
\$0-25wk
8:00-18:00



10
West Harlem Community Organization
121 W 128th St
646-665-7586
6wk-5yr
Free DOE
8:00-18:00



11
Community Life Center
15 Mount Morris Park West
212-427-3000
3mo-5yr
Free DOE
9:00-18:30



12
The East Harlem Block Nursery
1299 Amsterdam Ave.
212-666-6000
3mo-5yr
Free DOE
9:00-18:30



13
Addie Mae Collins Community Services
2322 3rd Ave
212-831-3144
2yr-5yr
Free DOE
8:00-5:45



14
Sunshine LC of 3rd Ave
1724 Madison Ave
646-757-3168
6wk-5yr
\$670 6wks-3yr \$540 3yrs-5yr
7:30-6:15



15
The Childrens Aid Society
2340 Adam Clayton Powell Jr Blvd
212-831-0556
2yr-4yr
Free DOE
8:30-15:30



16
Little Learners Daycare
201-249-1670
1yr-5yr
\$400wk
8:00-18:00



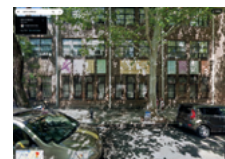
17
East Calvary Day Care Center
1 W 112th St
313-534-5249
3yr-5yr
Free (for extended hours 6 need vouchers)
8:00-15:30



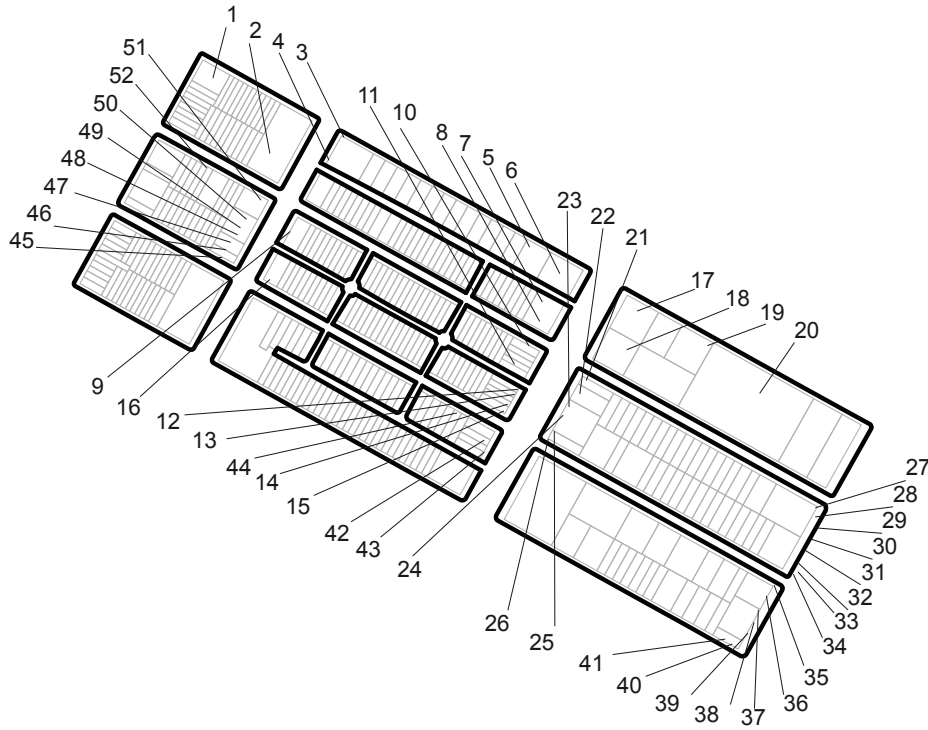
18
Union Settlement Association
2090 1st Ave
212-369-5313
3mo-3yr
Only accept Headstart
8:00-16:30



19
The Dawning Village
237 E 104 St
212-428-6051
2yr-5yr
Free DOE
8:00-5:45



20
Leggett Memorial Early Childhood Center
237 E 104 St
212-428-6051
2yr-5yr
Free DOE
8:00-18:00



Storefronts surrounding the project site in Strivers Row, tracing the dense mixture of salons, delis, laundromats, churches, restaurants, pharmacies, and small businesses that shape the neighborhood's everyday street life. The mapping reveals both the persistence of locally embedded commercial culture and the increasing pressures of consolidation, vacancy, and turnover that have gradually reduced many buildings to single larger commercial tenants.

1
Mt Calvary Methodist Church
Methodist church
116 Edgecombe Ave

5
Braids by Aicha
Hair salon
200 W 140th S

9
TAG
After School Program
2602 Frederick Douglass Blvd

13
Dei and Nails
Beauty and salon
2366 Adam Clayton Powell Jr Blvd

17
Harlem Discount
Discount Store
2389 Adam Clayton Powell Jr Blvd

21
Ponty Bistro
West African restaurant
2375 Adam Clayton Powell Jr Blvd

25
Lust77
Sports Restaurant
2363 Adam Clayton Powell Jr Blvd

29
Subway
Fast food restaurant
563 Lenox Ave

33
Metro by T-Mobile
Cell phone store
555 Lenox Ave

37
Miss Bubble
Laundromat
545 Malcolm X Blvd

41
537 Deli & Grocery
Del
537 Malcolm X Blvd

45
Kendra Beauty Salon
Beauty Salon
301 W 138th St

49
Starrett Podiatry
Medical clinic
2597 Frederick Douglass Blvd

2
Kings Pharmacy & Surgical's
Pharmacy
2611 Frederick Douglass Blvd

6
Dallas Harlem Cafe
Cafe
2394 Adam Clayton Powell Jr Blvd

10
The Row Harlem
Restaurant
2374 Adam Clayton Powell Jr Blvd

14
LeFemmeSuite
Fitness
2364 Adam Clayton Powell Jr Blvd

18
McDonald's
Fast food restaurant
2379 Adam Clayton Powell Jr Blvd

22
Kante Royal Gallery
Gallery
2373 Adam Clayton Powell Jr Blvd

26
Harlem Nights
Chicken restaurant
2361 Adam Clayton Powell Jr Blvd

30
Straight Path Deli Grocery
Deli
561 Malcolm X Blvd

34
Star Wireless
Cell phone store
553 Lenox Ave

38
Palace Pharmacy
Pharmacy
543 Malcolm X Blvd

42
Harlem Cycle
Fitness
2350 Adam Clayton Powell Jr Blvd

46
Domingo Grocery
Grocery store
2591 Frederick Douglass Blvd

50
Harlem Esthetics & Rejuvenation Center
Women's health clinic
2597 Frederick Douglass Blvd

3
NBHD Brulee
Coffee shop
2620 Frederick Douglass Blvd

7
Hempsville Harlem
Health and beauty shop
2384 Adam Clayton Powell Jr Blvd

11
Keita African Hair Braiding
Hair salon
2370 Adam Clayton Powell Jr Blvd

15
Just Smile
Barber Shop
2360 Adam Clayton Powell Jr Blvd

19
Goddard Riverside Resource Center
Community center
140 W 140th St

23
Harlem Chocolate Factory
Chocolate Shop
2363 Adam Clayton Powell Jr Blvd

27
Kennedy Chicken
Chicken restaurant
567 Malcolm X Blvd

31
Presto Fresh Cafe
Mexican restaurant
559 Lenox Ave

35
551 Deli Corporation
Deli
551 Malcolm X Blvd

39
PJ Nails & Spa
Nail salon
541 Malcolm X Blvd

43
Iris House
Social services organization
2348 Adam Clayton Powell Jr Blvd

47
Miss Bubble Laundromat
Laundromat
2593 Frederick Douglass Blvd

51
AHL Foundation
Church
2605 Frederick Douglass Blvd

4
Londe's
Soul food restaurant
2620 Frederick Douglass Blvd

8
Make My Cake
Bakery
2380 Adam Clayton Powell Jr Blvd

12
Muse Spa and Salon
Hair salon
2368 Adam Clayton Powell Jr Blvd

16
Joliden's Beauty Bar
Hair salon
2590 Frederick Douglass Blvd

20
Central Harlem Senior Citizens
Senior citizen center
120 W 140th St

24
Wingstop
Fast food restaurant
2363 Adam Clayton Powell Jr Blvd

28
Care Pharmacy & Surgicals
Pharmacy
565 Lenox Ave

32
DryClean NYC
Dry Cleaners
555 Malcolm X Blvd

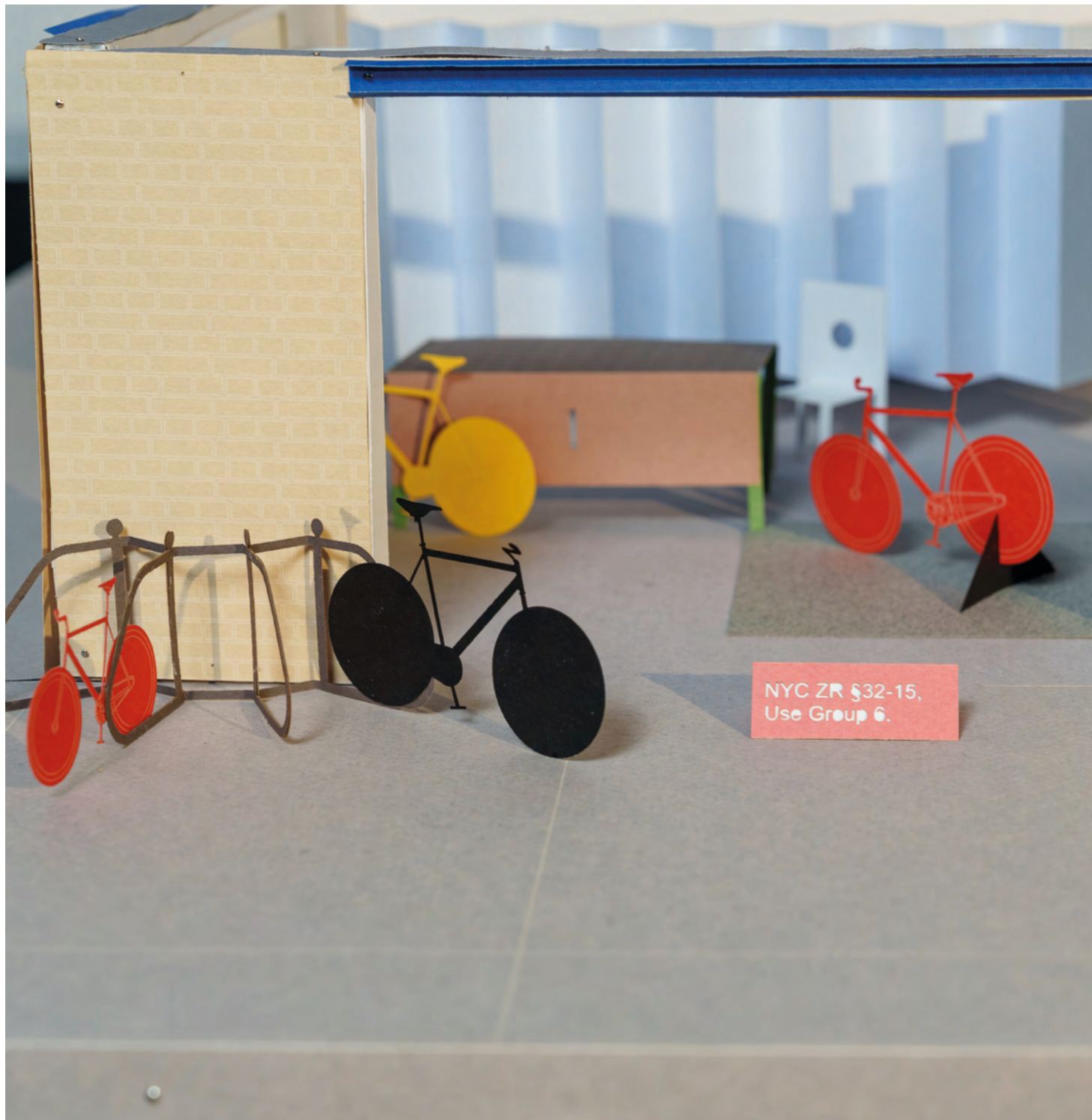
36
Empire Restaurant
Soul food restaurant
547 Malcolm X Blvd

40
Aicha African Hair Braiding
Hair Salon
539 Malcolm X Blvd

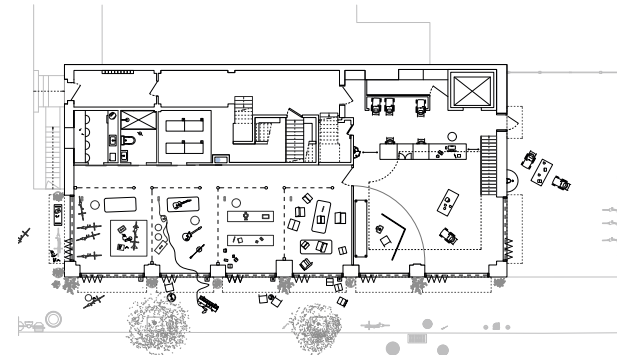
44
Joseph James A
Church
204 W 138th St

48
Strivers Wine and Liquor
Liquor store
2593 Frederick Douglass Blvd

52
Grace Congregational of Harlem
Church
310 W 139th St



Ground Level



The project responds to New York City Zoning Resolution § 32-15, Use Group 6, which permits a range of neighborhood-serving commercial and community-oriented uses at the ground floor, including retail, personal services, and small businesses.

Rather than consolidating the storefront into a single large commercial tenant, the project subdivides the frontage into smaller, adaptable parcels that support local ownership, changing occupancy, and incremental growth over time. Operable partitions allow businesses to expand or contract depending on need, while the widened daycare entrance, first aid room, stroller storage, and weekend market spill onto the sidewalk to reinforce the ground floor as an active public interface between the building and the surrounding neighborhood.

- Federal Government
 - CCDBG (Child Care Development Block Grant)
 - Head Start / Early Head Start
- New York State
- NYC City Budget
- Parent Tuition
- Voucher Co-Pay

- Administration for Children's Services (ACS)
 - Issues childcare vouchers
 - Sets income eligibility
 - Reimburses providers
- Department of Education (DOE)
 - Operates 3-K and Pre-K
 - Contracts Community Based Organizations
- Head Start Grantees
 - Federal oversight
 - Wraparound services
- NYS Office of Children & Family Services
 - Licensing + inspections

Childcare in Community Districts 9, 10, and 11 operates through layered **Funding** streams from federal, state, city, and private sources, administered through overlapping systems of **Governance** led by ACS, DOE, and Head Start. Access is filtered through conditional **Eligibility** pathways tied to age, income, and work requirements, and delivered by a diverse network of public, nonprofit, and private **Providers** embedded within Harlem's storefronts, schools, and housing developments. These systems collectively serve neighborhood specific **Populations**, where housing concentration, labor patterns, rent pressures, and waitlists shape who receives care and where it is delivered.

- DOE Public School Sites
- Community Based Organizations (CBOs)
- Head Start Centers
- Private For-Profit Daycares
- Family Child Care (Home Based)
- Faith-Based Centers

- Working class families
- NYCHA residents
- Single-parent households
- Shift workers
- Undocumented families

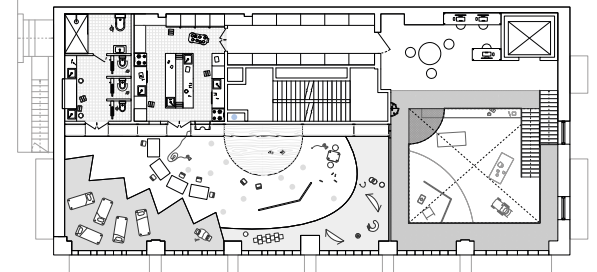
- Universal 3-K / Pre-K
 - Age 3-4
 - Lottery placement
 - No income cap
- ACS Voucher
 - Income threshold
 - Work requirement
 - Provider must accept voucher
- Head Start
 - Federal poverty guidelines
 - Priority populations
- Private Pay
 - No qualification
 - Market tuition



The help desk acts as a dedicated space for families navigating New York City's layered childcare systems, including DOE 3-K and Pre-K enrollment, ACS vouchers, Head Start programs, and eligibility requirements tied to income, work schedules, and provider availability. Located directly alongside the daycare circulation and visible from the atrium, the space provides access to WiFi, computers, translation assistance, printed resources, and staff support for parents filling out applications, uploading documents, or understanding the often overwhelming pathways required to access affordable childcare. Rather than hiding these systems behind websites and offices elsewhere in the city, the project makes this administrative labor spatially visible and collectively supported within the building itself.

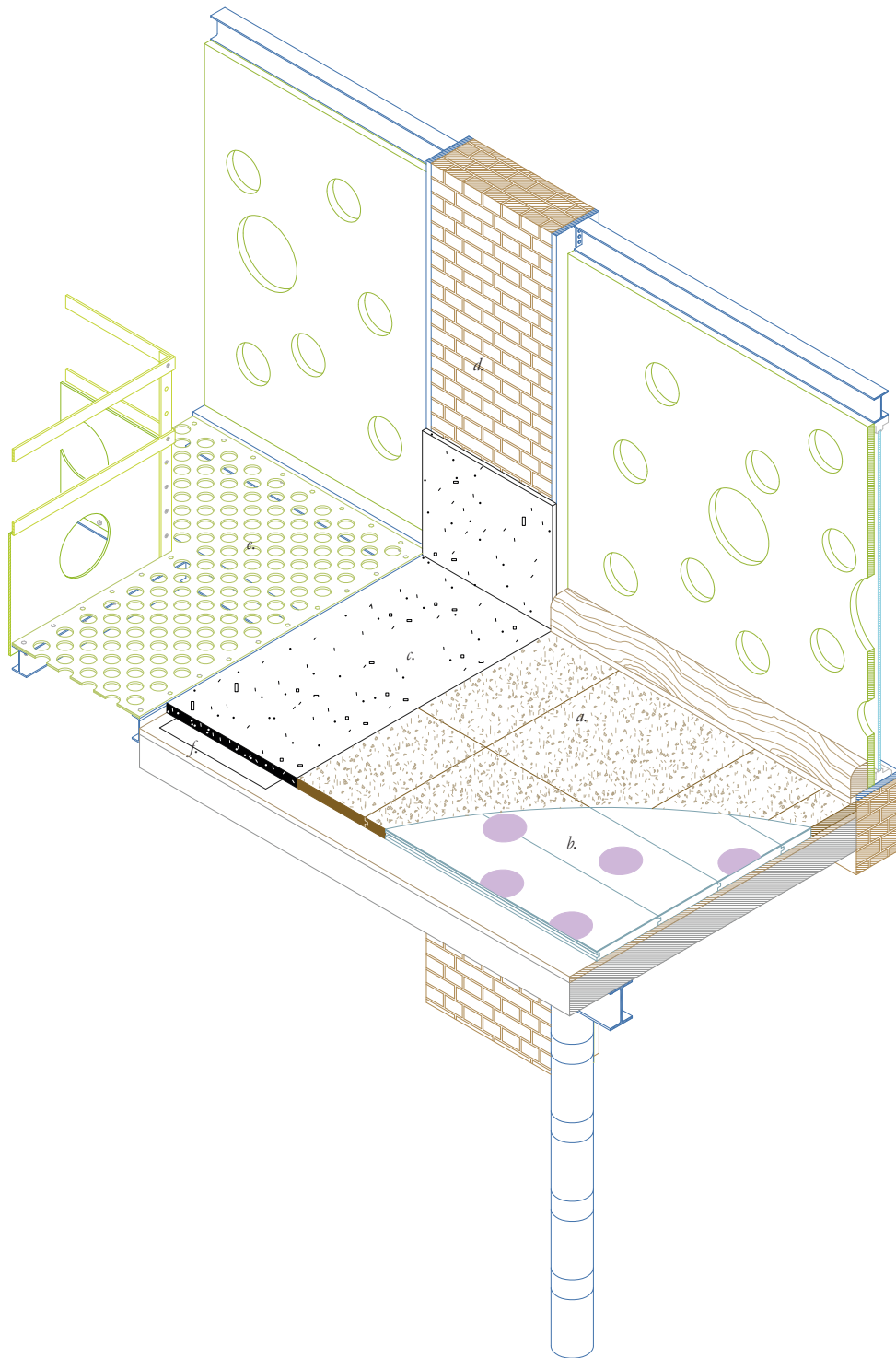


Level 1.5, Daycare



The project responds to New York State childcare regulations, including 18 NYCRR § 417.8, which outlines supervision and staffing requirements for extended-hour and overnight childcare. The code requires continuous supervision, safe sleeping conditions, appropriate caregiver-to-child ratios, and direct access to children in case of emergency, making night care both spatially and operationally demanding.

Our daycare in Harlem is designed to accommodate these conditions through a series of interconnected spaces that support irregular schedules and overnight care. Sleeping areas are located close to staff stations and connected visually through adjustable perforated partitions, allowing caregivers to supervise children without fully exposing or disturbing them. Soft materials such as cork and rubber improve acoustics and comfort during overnight use, while floor and wall surfaces fold together to create a continuous tactile environment that is easy for children to navigate at all hours of the day.



A. Cork

Specs. Use: Nap / quiet zones
 Composition: ~99% cork, bio-based binder
 VOC: Very low
 Thickness: 3/8"–1/2"
 Install: Floating (preferred) / low-VOC adhesive
 Finish: Natural oil or low-VOC polyurethane

B. Marmoleum

Specs. Use: Learning / eating zones
 Composition: Linseed oil, cork dust, wood flour, HDF core
 VOC: Very low
 Thickness: ~3/8"
 Install: Floating click-lock (no adhesive)
 Backing: Integrated cork

C. Rubber

Specs. Use: Play / active zones
 Composition: Virgin or certified rubber (EPDM)
 VOC: FloorScore / GREENGUARD required
 Thickness: 1/4"–3/8"
 Install: Interlocking / pressure-sensitive adhesive

D. Milk Paint

Specs. Use: Interior walls / Brick
 Composition: Casein, lime, natural pigment
 VOC: Zero
 Finish: Matte, breathable
 Install: Brush/roller on porous substrate

E. Perforated Aluminum

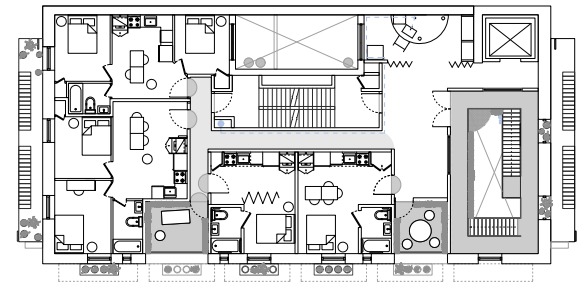
Specs. Use: Mezzanine
 Material: Aluminum (alloy 6061-T6 or 3003)
 Finish: Thermoset powder coat (low-VOC)
 Thickness: 1/4" plate
 Slip Resistance: Textured / perforated surface
 Install: Mechanically fastened (bolted / clipped)

F. Pressure-Sensitive Adhesive Floor Tiles

Specs. Use: Resilient flooring (rubber / LVT / linoleum tile)
 Adhesive Type: Water-based, pressure-sensitive (releasable)
 VOC: Low (FloorScore / GREENGUARD)
 Application: Rolled/troweled, allowed to tack before install
 Bond: Releasable / repositionable
 Maintenance: Allows tile replacement without demolition



Level 2-4, Residential

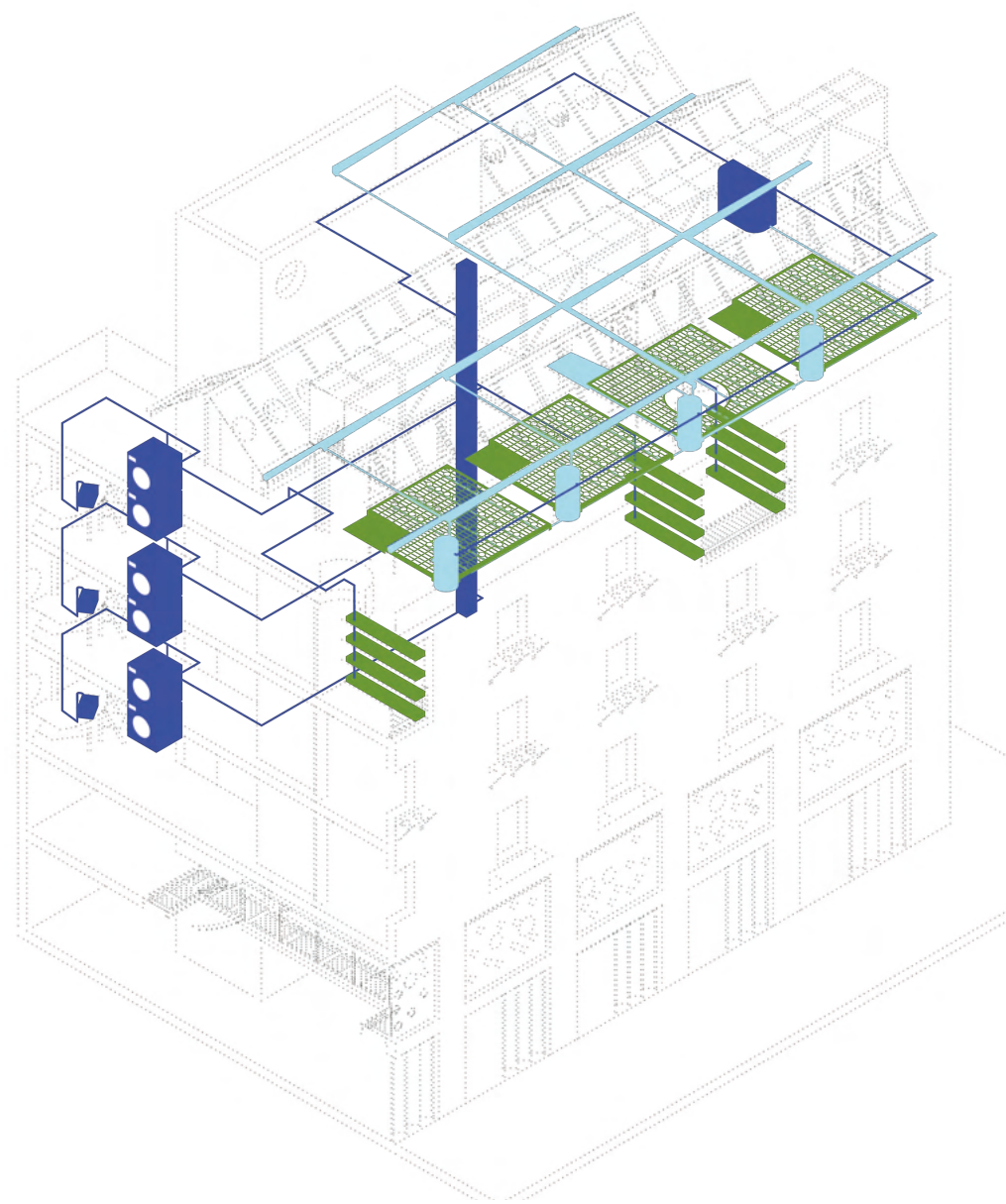


The residential levels respond to NYC Administrative Code § 28-202 and broader stormwater management requirements by incorporating systems for rainwater collection, reuse, and visible water infrastructure throughout the building.

Water collected from the roof is filtered and redistributed for non-potable uses including irrigation, planting, and shared washing spaces, reducing reliance on fully treated city water for everyday maintenance. Rather than concealing these systems, the project makes water visible through communal sinks, washing stations, pipes, gutters, and storage systems, encouraging greater awareness of consumption, reuse, and the environmental labor required to support collective living in the city.

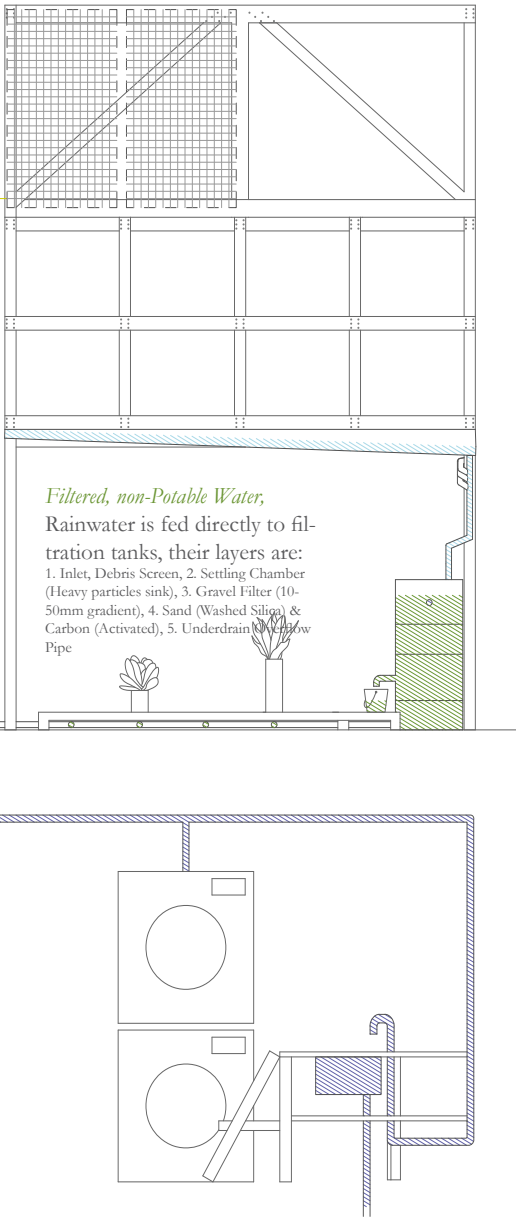
Water, from Rain to Produce, to Washing Machines

System,



Electricity,
24 Vertical PV panels provide electricity to the overflow water tank which heats excess water.

Rainwater,
Gutters on the edges of all the roof surfaces collect rainwater. At an angle to use gravity to move the water along. Gutters are covered with mesh screens.

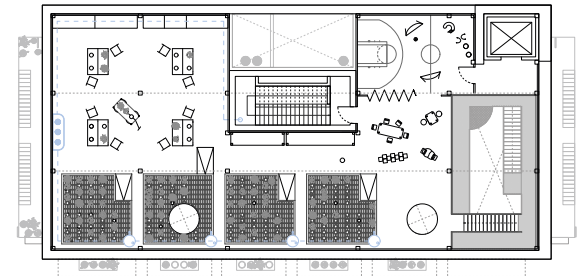


Filtered, non-Potable Water,
Rainwater is fed directly to filtration tanks, their layers are:
1. Inlet, Debris Screen, 2. Settling Chamber (Heavy particles sink), 3. Gravel Filter (10-50mm gradient), 4. Sand (Washed Silica) & Carbon (Activated), 5. Underdrain Overflow Pipe

Heated, Filtered, non-Potable,
Filtration tanks have an overflow spout which leads the water to the overflow tank, equipped with a conductive heater, powered by the PV panels, which then takes the water to the communal laundry spaces on the residential floors. Warm, not clean enough to drink but clean enough to wash your clothes with,



Rooftop, Greenhouse



The rooftop greenhouse responds to NYC Zoning Resolution § 75-01, which encourages usable open space, light, and air within dense urban environments.

The roof is transformed into a semi-protected greenhouse and garden infrastructure that supports food growth, gathering, learning, and rainwater collection throughout the year. Adjustable planters, movable worktables, storage systems, and accessible gardening surfaces are designed specifically for children and elderly users, allowing the rooftop to function as both productive infrastructure and communal space. Vertical photovoltaic panels provide shade, generate energy, and remain accessible for maintenance and repair, reinforcing the project's broader interest in adaptability, participation, and long-term stewardship.

[illegible]

Materials were treated as an active part of the childcare environment rather than a neutral finish. The project evaluated materials through a combination of physical samples, performance testing, and cost analysis, including: (1) marmoleum, (2) linoleum, (3) cork, (4) hemp wool insulation, (5) polycarbonate, (6) rubber, (7) milk paint, (8) linseed oil, and (9) netting for the atrium. Each material was selected and studied for its tactile, acoustic, environmental, and health qualities, while also weighing the economic realities of incorporating healthier materials into everyday construction.



Pick-Up Housing

Core III Housing Studio

Child-height, Commons, Courtyards, Gardens, Gathering, Housing, Kitchens, Markets, Play, Rubber, Shade, Sidewalks, Thresholds

Pick-Up Housing reimagines collective housing as a space where play, learning, and community thrive. Designed with children and families in mind, it prioritizes inclusivity, flexibility, and multi-modal engagement. Playgrounds, gardens, and communal areas encourage exploration, creativity, and social connection. Thoughtful strategies - like sun and shade studies, cost-efficient construction, and adaptable spaces - balance affordability with quality. By creating environments that never force but always allow for learning, Pick-Up Housing envisions housing as a tool for growth, play, and shared community, fostering curiosity and connection in everyday life.

Site: Harlem, Manhattan

Timeline: 08/2024 - 12/2024

Advisor: Hilary Sample

In Collaboration with Bernardo Malatesta



SAMPLE STUDIO CORE III

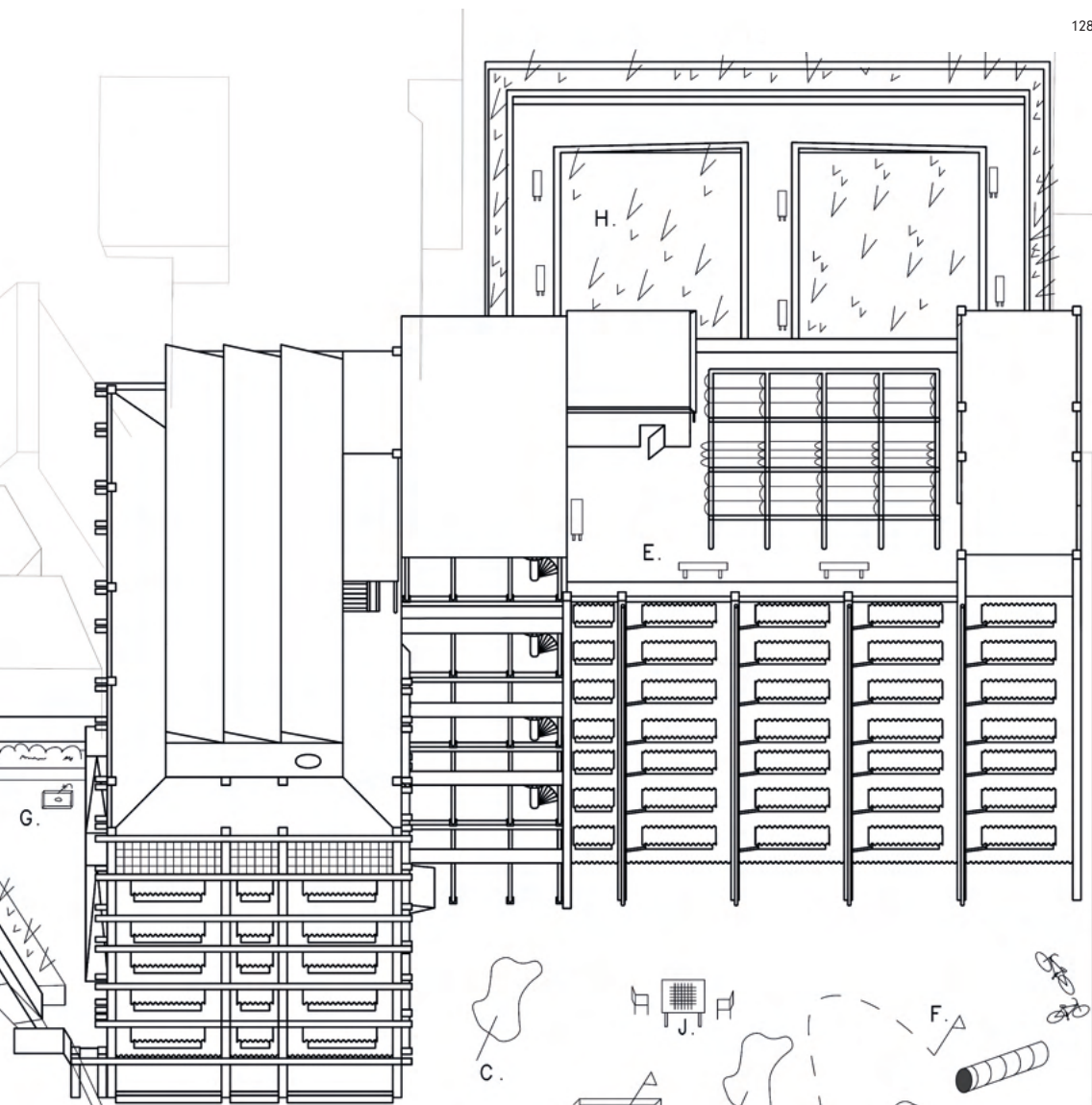
A. THROW
AND DIGB. CRAWL AND
HIDEC. CLIMB AND
HUGD. SIT AND
SLEEPE. SWING AND
JUMPF. RUN AND
CHASEG. WASH AND
DRINKH. ROLL AND
PULLI. GROW AND
EATJ. THINK AND
LEARN

CONVENT AVENUE

128TH STREET

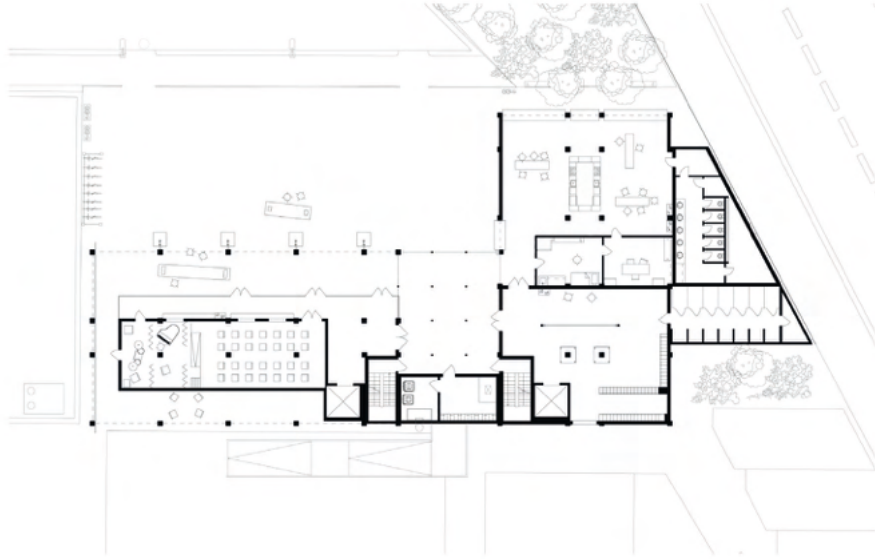
EACH DIAGRAMATIC SKETCH IS AN INDICATION OF AN ACTIVITY ASSOCIATED TO TYPES OF PLAY THAT WE FIND IMPORTANT, LOCATED WITHIN OUR SITE.

*LIBRARY LEGEND

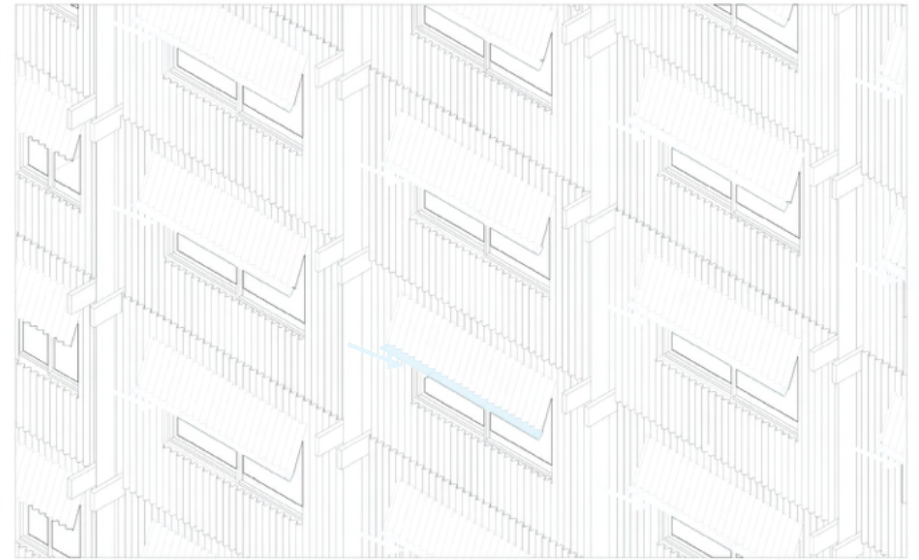


site, we designed two buildings, one seven stories and the other five. With 30 units ranging from studios to four-bedrooms, the project prioritizes families with children under 21.

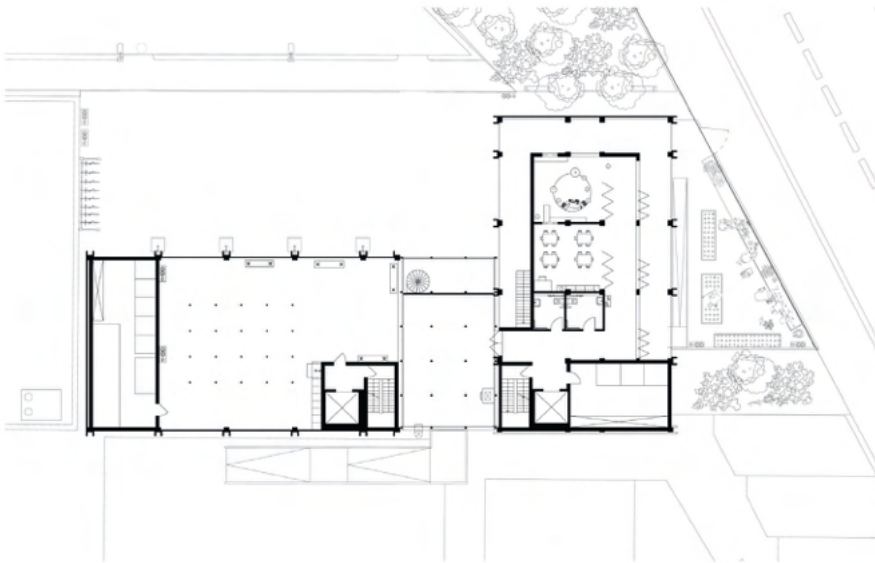
A key focus is balancing housing density with ample public space, creating an environment that fosters community interaction. As we refine the design, we aim to increase the number of units while preserving open space for residents to gather and engage.



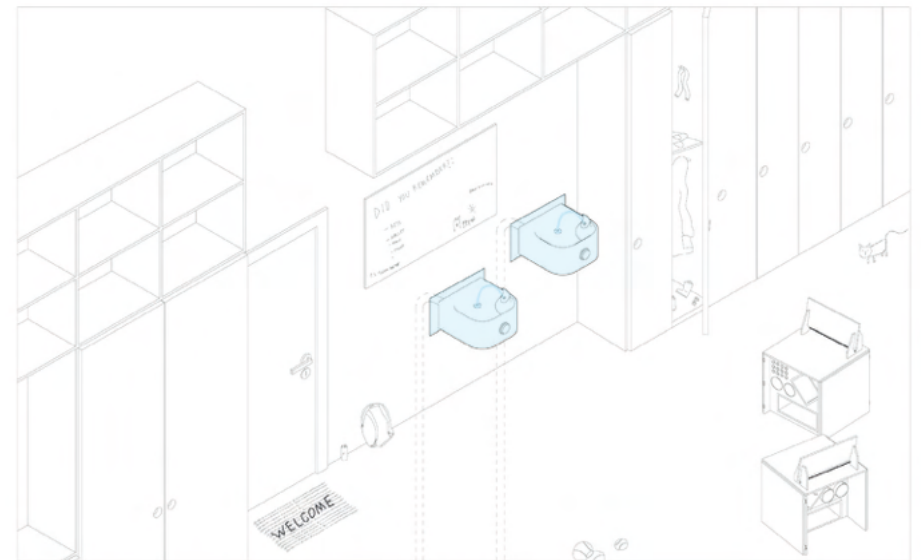
Site Ground Plan



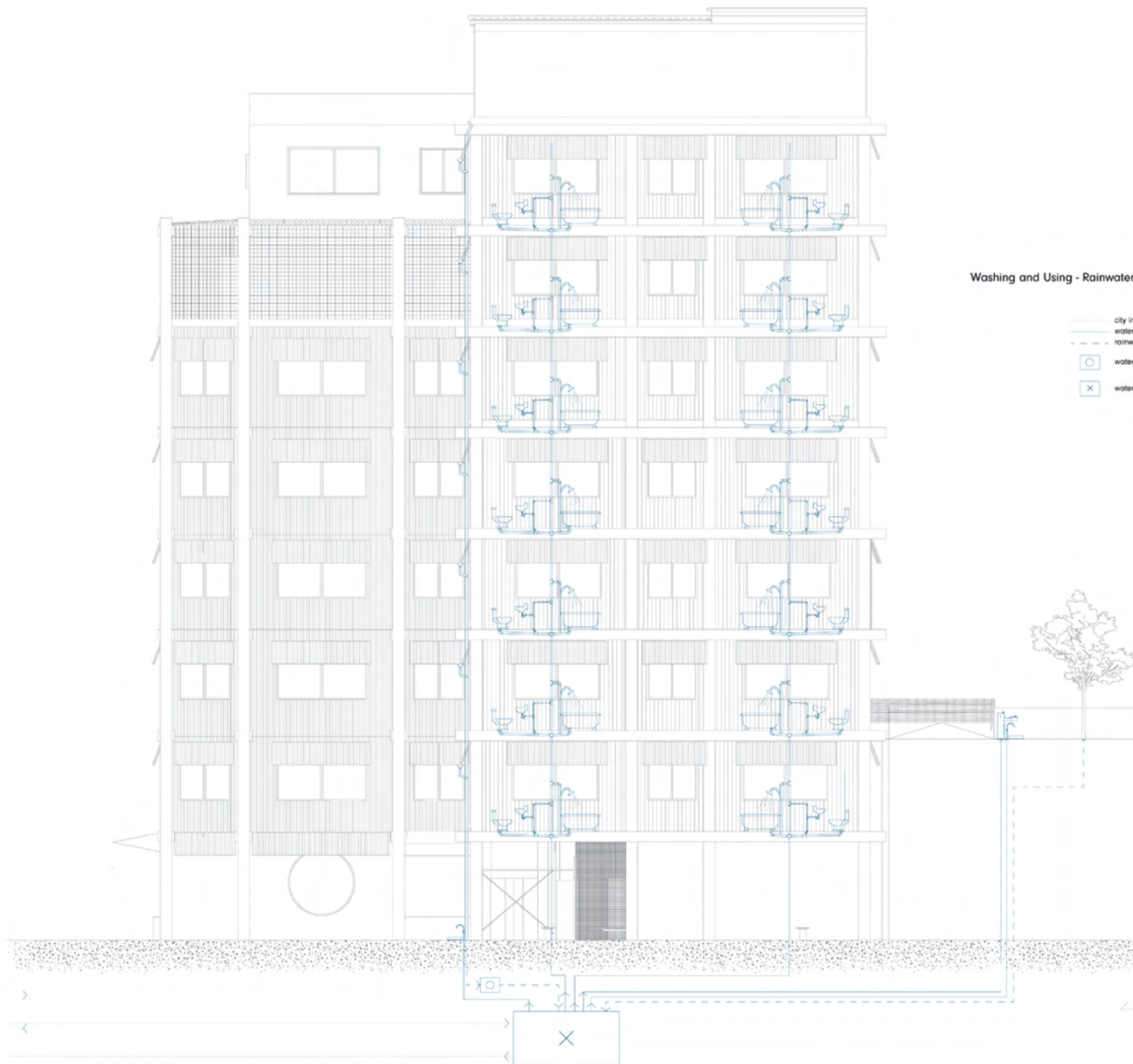
Systems of **Gutters** on the Windows



Rooftop Plans

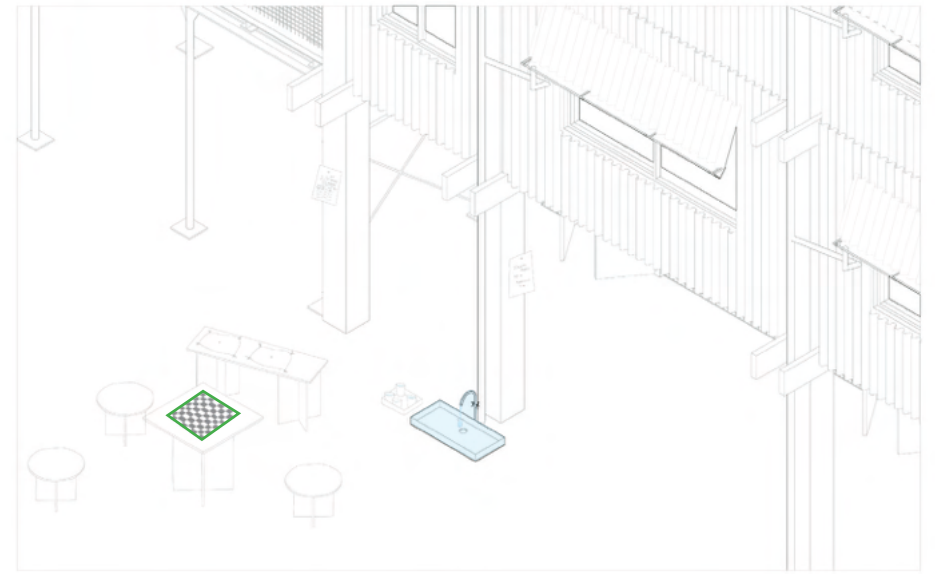
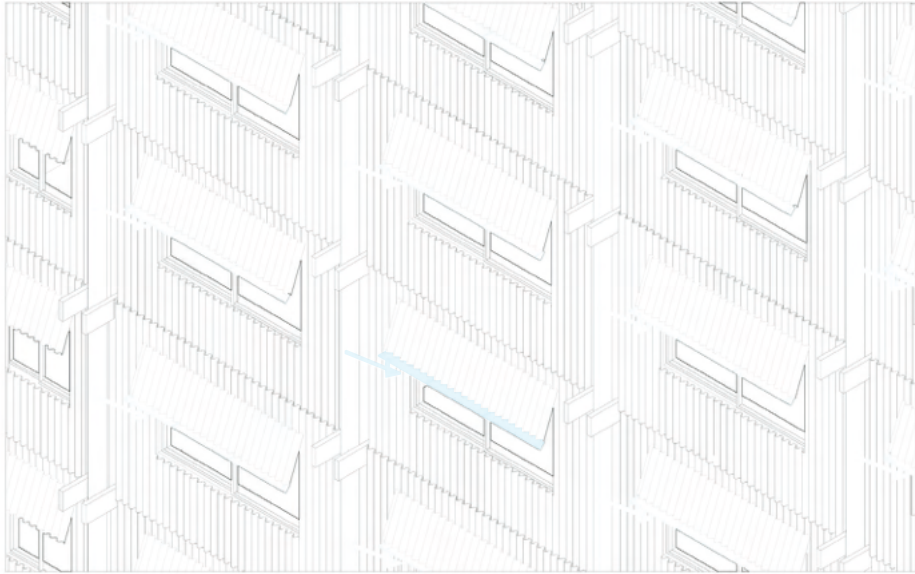


Waterfountains in Your Hallway

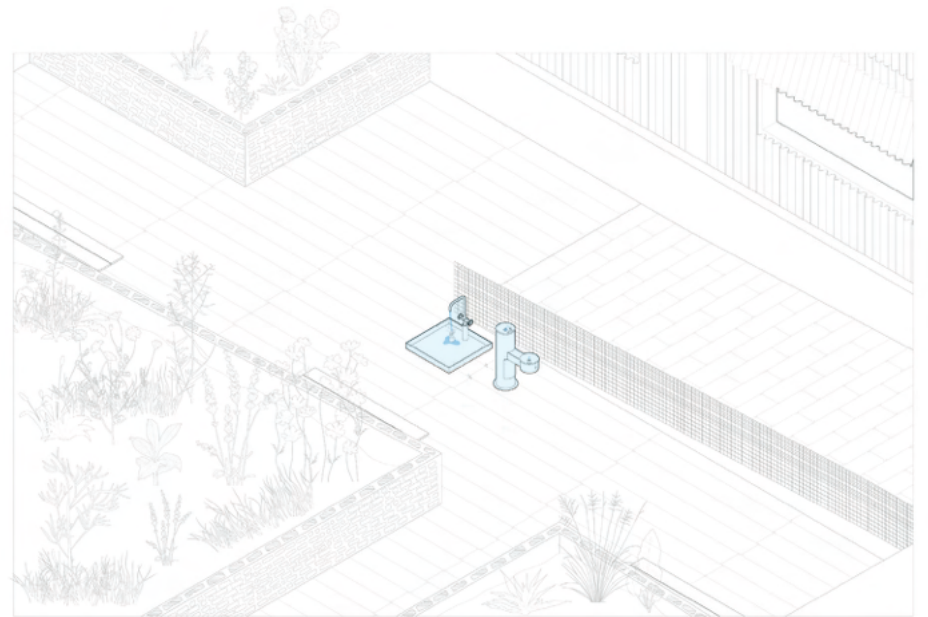
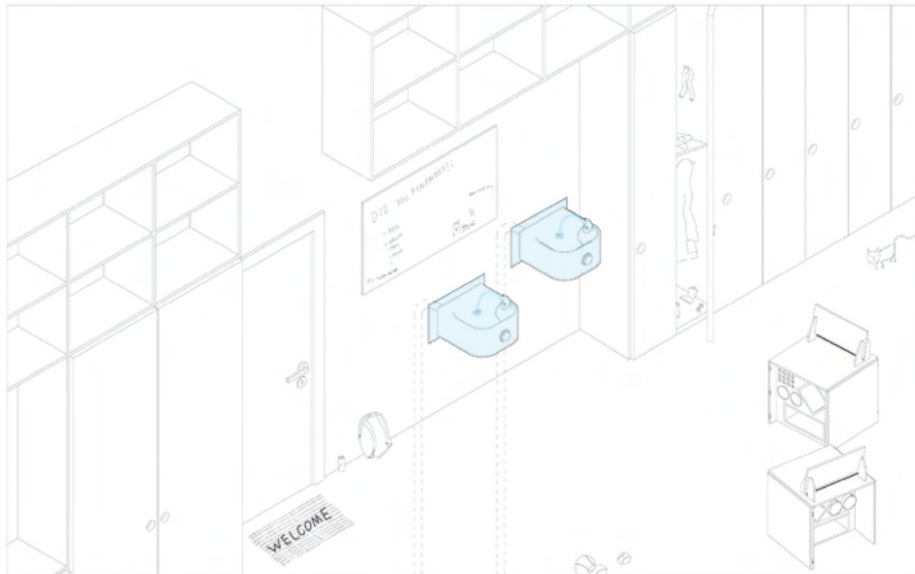


Washing and Using - Rainwater Collection and Redistribution

- city intake
- water distribution
- rainwater intake
- water filter
- water tank



*Play Some **Chess**, Drink Some **Water***



***Faucets** and **Fountains** in the Garden*





Pavement Perspective



Kitchen Perspective



Marketplace Perspective

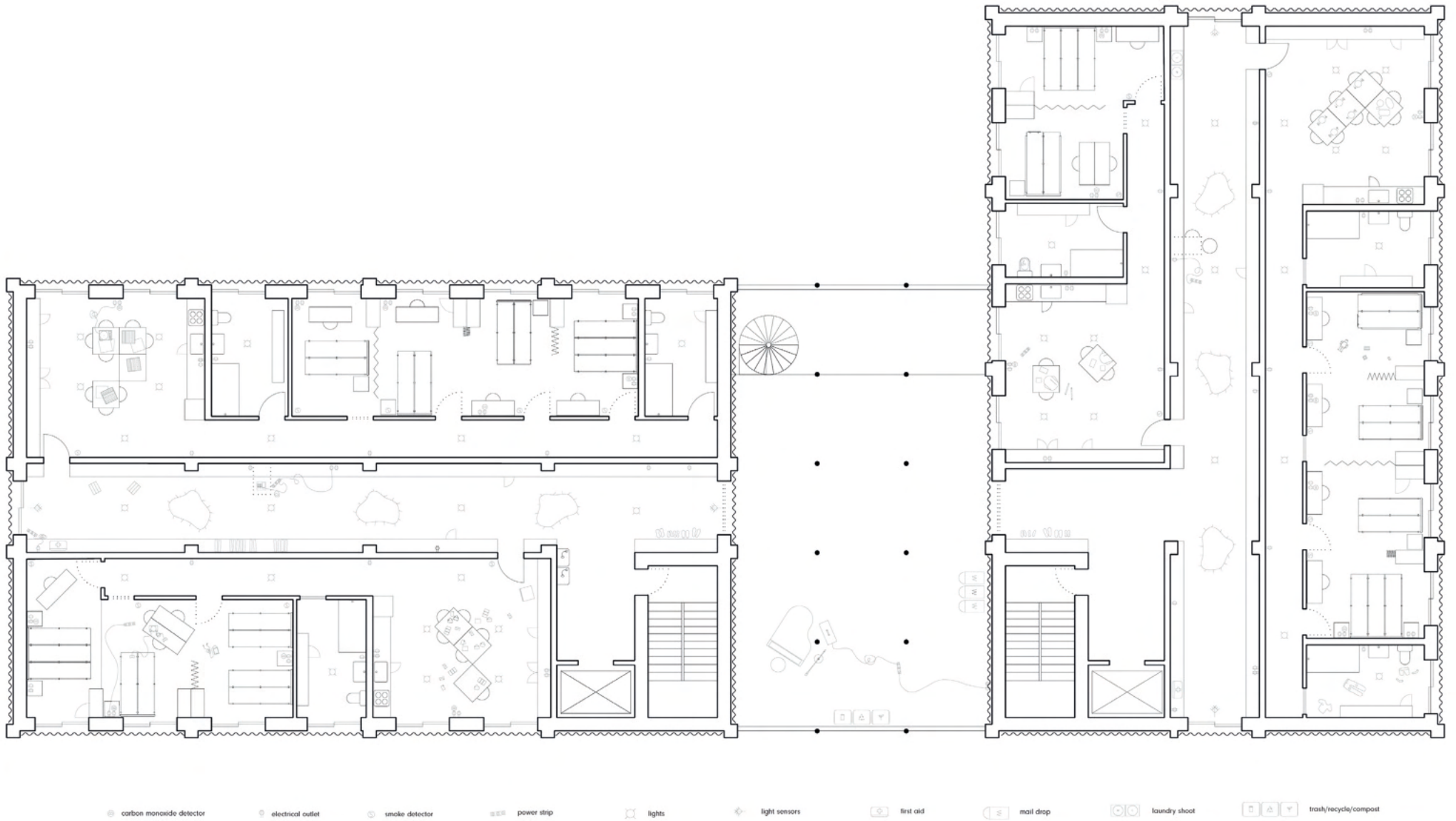


Bedroom Perspective



Learning is an evolving process, a space where curiosity can flourish freely. It is the responsibility of adults to provide an environment that encourages exploration and multi-modal engagement. Just as learning requires tools, the home should be a place where growth happens uninterrupted.

The roof, as one of many flexible spaces, becomes a dynamic area where learning can continue fostering both individual development and collective growth.



Residential Level 3-8 Plan

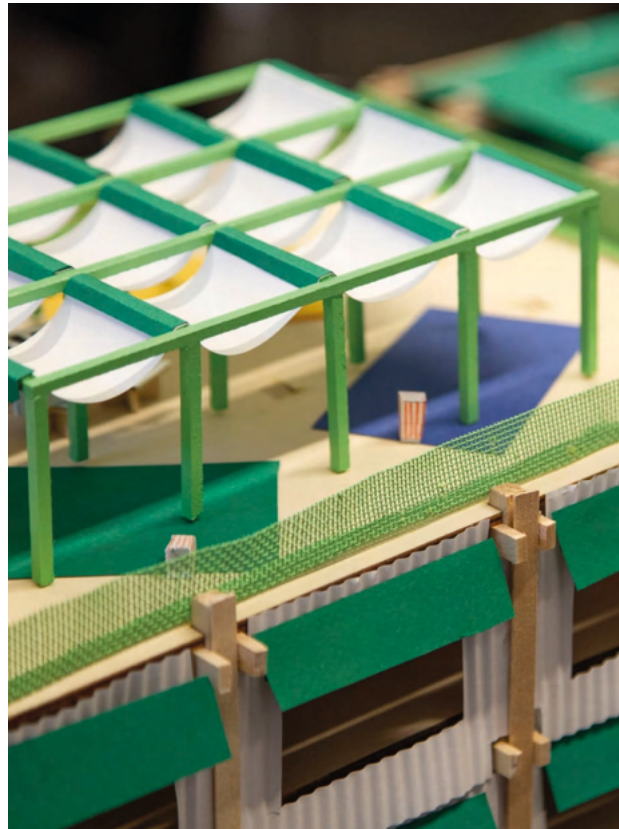
"The Music Studio"



"This is where we make pancakes and mixtapes. The fridge has secret notes, and we pretend the oven is a sound machine. Sometimes we use plates as records and spin songs while we eat."

Dom 7^{1/2}

"The Movie Theater"



"You have to climb all the way up, but it's worth it. We lay on pillows and watch clouds, birds, or movies if it's dark enough. One time, we saw a shooting star and screamed."

Trella 12

"The Storytime Sanctuary"



"This is where all the adventures happen. My lion guards the bed, and only I can open the "keep out" door. Sometimes, the books read to me instead. But only when the lights are low."

Franny 6^{3/4}



Missing the kitchen floor

Missing the bathroom surface

A corner for small items on the kitchen floor

Everybody does it

Creative people often

A hot shower is the whole, not one of windows

The lounge is a place for the discovery of a lot of things

Sitting, like you did a day ago

Roof top

Working with other colors

Bedroom stories

Homework help session

Working hard to be

The roof has been set, now the plants get to planting. Since they will grow, all up to you.

The plants are flourishing, you can see them from the street, but the work is not done. They still need your care.

A quiet place, kind of for a thought or a bit



Surveys we conducted with Lower School students ages 5-10

These booklets are a thank you letter to all the kids of The Columbus Academy. Keep playing with your friends, keep making new friends to play with. What's most special about you, and what you show in your drawings, is that you all have your own unique ways of playing.

To Grow A Tree

Advanced IV Studio

Bark, Compost, Earth, Maintenance, Repair, Reuse, Sediment, Soil, Water, Weathering

This project addresses the ecological and material impact of the southern pine beetle infestation in Long Island's Pine Barrens. Focusing on Napeague Harbor, it begins with a shed built entirely from dead-standing pitch pine, supporting forest regeneration through the planting of native species such as white oak and shagbark hickory. A second phase introduces a research center that evolves alongside the forest, constructed and maintained using locally sourced materials. Through material experiments including resin-sealed bark cladding, ash-based mortars, and tree resin insulation, the project proposes a long-term vision for resilient forest stewardship and self-sufficient, ecologically responsive construction.

Site: Montauk, New York

Timeline: 01/2025 - 05/2025

Advisor: Feifei Zhou

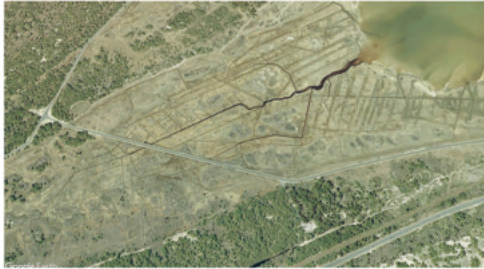
In Collaboration with Bernardo Malatesta





Tracing the layered ecological, cultural, and industrial histories of Montauk, with a focus on the Napeague region. It visualizes the transformation of the land, beginning with pre-colonial indigenous stewardship and early colonial extraction of pitch pine, through the rise and decline of commercial fisheries, and culminating in the recent devastation caused by the southern pine beetle. The drawing provides critical context for the architectural proposal by situating it within a long history of environmental disruption and recovery. It highlights how new forms of construction can emerge through ecological repair and material sensitivity.

Satellite Timeline of The Napeague Salt Marsh & Pine Barrens



April, 2001.



May, 2015.



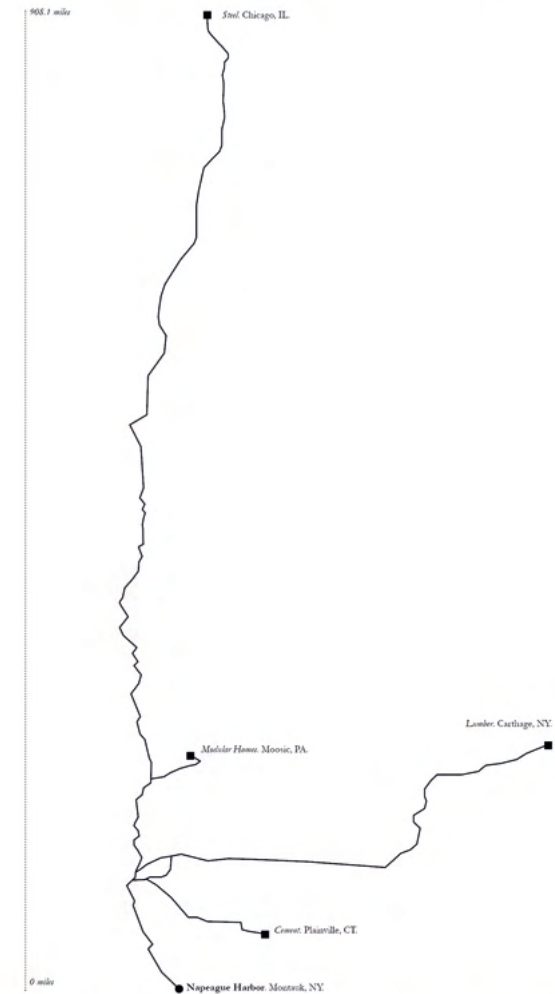
October, 2023.



March, 2024.

*Taken from Google Earth Satellite Imagery

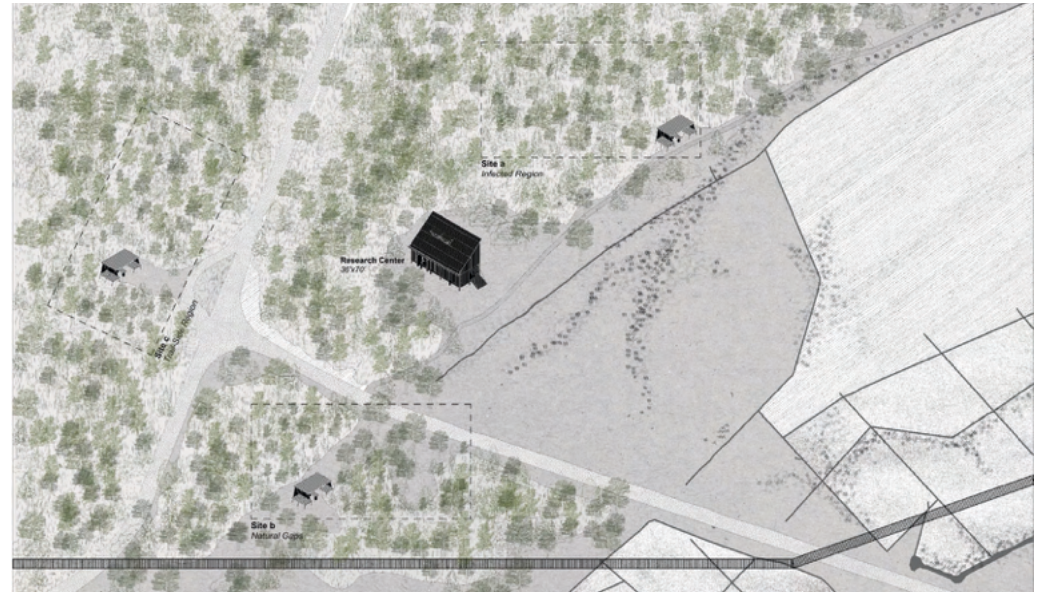
Industrial, National, Material Import into Long Island Post Hurricane Sandy



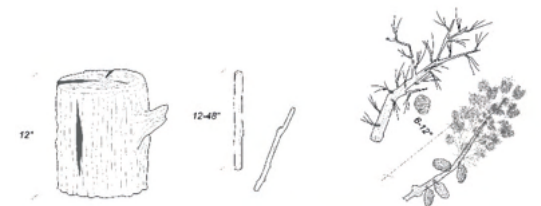
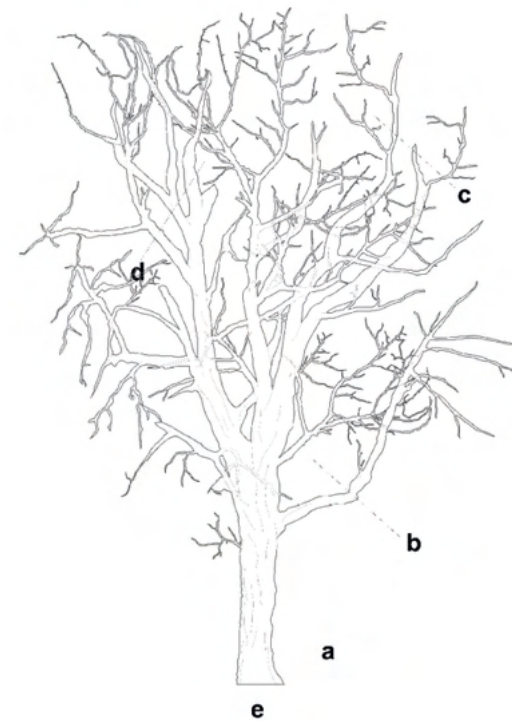
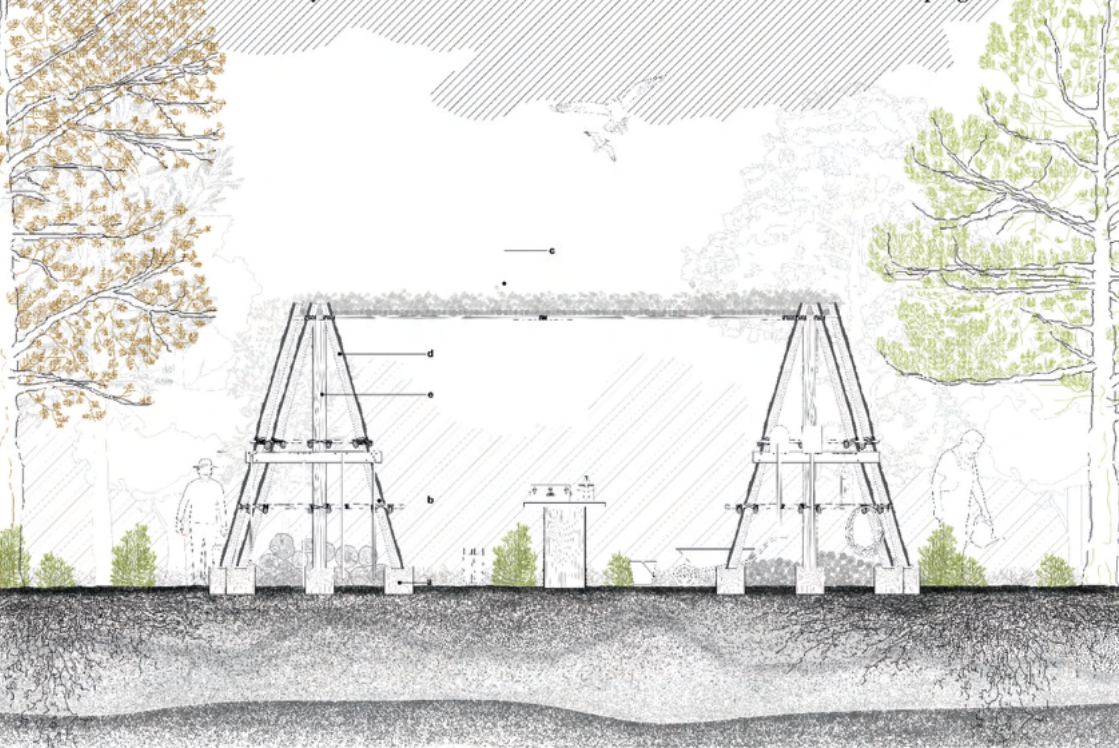
After Hurricane Sandy in 2012, Montauk and Long Island at large were faced with reconstruction after large-scale damage. The pitch pine is the dominant tree species within Long Island's Pine Barrens, and is currently only industrially harvested for plywood. As such, Long Island depended on external industrial imports for a large variety of materials. This import introduced the southern pine beetle, which has been ravaging pine forests across southeast North America, and which consequently ravaged the Long Island pine barrens by 2014, an infestation which local residents are still battling today.



Development of Napeague Harbor's Pine Barren - Adaptive Diversification



Establishment of Dead Standing Sheds & Development of Napeague Harbors' Tree Species Diversification



a. Trunk Base

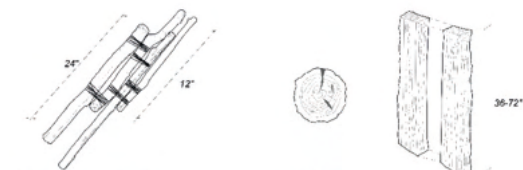
The base of the trunk is used as foundation for the standing dead shed. By creating notches in its heart, and inserting vertical members, it acts a sturdy base for the project.

b. Mid-Sized Branch

With spans that depend largely on the thickness of the members, these mid-sized branches are used mostly as horizontal members for bracing and creating surfaces to shelter the user.

c. High-Canopy Brush

The high canopy brush is collected and used as the roofing membrane. Being dense but permeable it can act as a great protector on sunny days without completely blocking out light from below it.



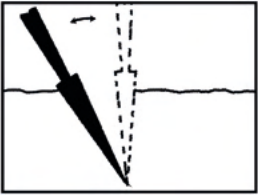
d. Small-Sized Branches

Small sized branches, often removed from mid-sized branches, act as connections for load transfers as well as the more minute pieces within the rope-tied joints. These seem the least resilient but are crucial to the mending of the shed.

e. Split Log

The split log acts as the primary structural component of the standing dead shed. By using a conventional splitting method, the builder is able to obtain relatively dense and long pieces of heart wood which can act as columns.

How to Plant a Tree



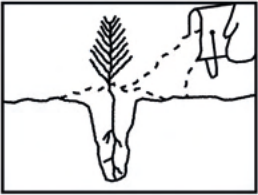
1.
Open

Using a simple shovel or pointed tool, insert into ground, and push in one side opening a slanted hole into the ground. The Diameter of this hole should not be much larger or much smaller than the diameter of the roots of the tree sapling. Place the Sapling gently.



3.
Place, Tamp

Once the soil has been amended and the tree sapling has been placed correctly, insert the same digging tool about 4 inches from the base of the trunk, and push the soil towards the sapling. This is so that one does not squish the roots with soil, giving them air to breathe. After which you may tamp the ground with your heel if needed.



2.
Amend

After the sapling has been placed, adjusting the whole as needed given the ease of insertion, amend the inside of the whole as well as the surrounding soil with liner produced on site.



4.
Frame

After about a month or so of growth, depending on the species, you may frame the sapling, using a simple system of branches and ropes, this allows the tree to grow straight up, without impeding on it. This process is helpful but not necessary, and requires a larger tracking and maintenance of the sapling.

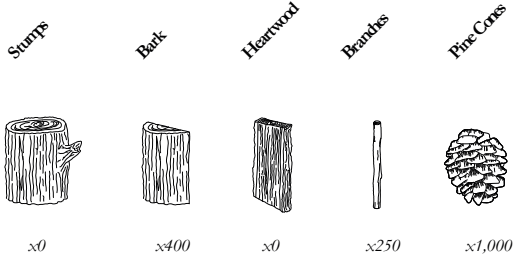


Tree Components

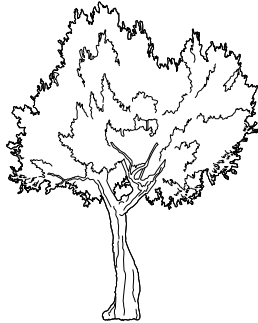
Tree Type



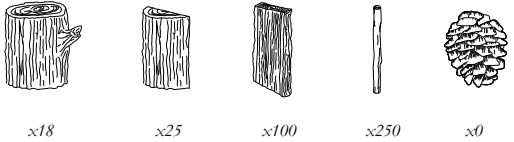
Pitch Pine



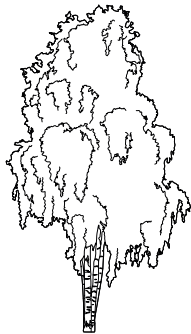
Pitch pine is characterized by its high resin content, dense heartwood, and rugged bark, contributing to its durability and resistance to decay. Its sturdy stump and structural cones provide strength and versatility for all-wood construction using locally sourced timber.



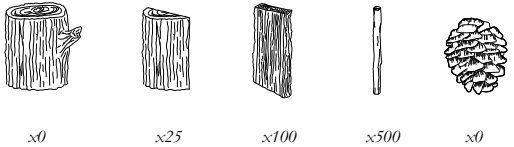
White Oak



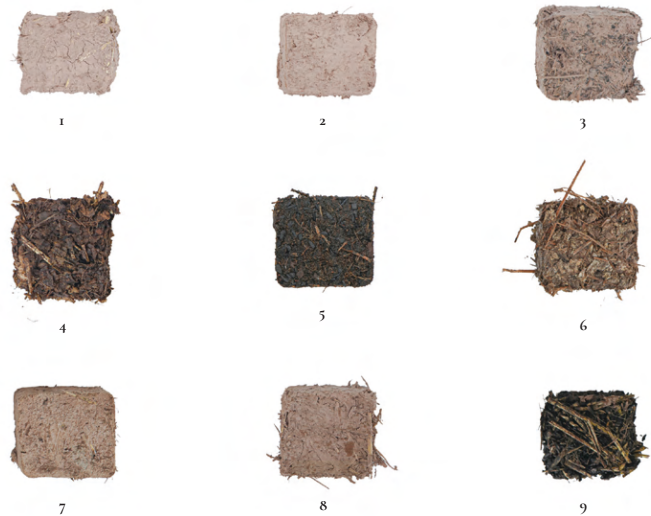
White oak possesses tight-grained, moisture-resistant heartwood and durable bark that enhance its longevity and strength. Its broad stump offers reliable foundational support, making it a preferred material for sustainable, load-bearing architectural applications.



Shagbark Hickory



Shagbark hickory features tough, shock-resistant heartwood and fibrous bark with strong adhesion. Its deep-rooted stump structure and dense wood make it suitable for high-stress joinery and structural elements in timber-based architecture.



Insulation Material Test Recipes:

1) Straw + Clay + Water

Straw provides loft and air pockets, clay lightly coats and holds. This classic infill combo balances insulation with breathability.

2) Sawdust + Clay + Water

Sawdust is naturally insulating, and when lightly bound with clay it stays breathable and mold-resistant. Great for wall cavities.

3) Pine Needles + Biochar + Clay + Pine Sap

Fibrous needles and porous biochar trap air; clay gives just enough cohesion. Lightweight, dark, and thermally effective.

4) Tree Bark + Straw + Water + Pine Sap

Bark and straw form a fibrous mass, sap adds cohesion and water resistance. Could work as an interior insulating mat or shingle underlayer.

5) Sawdust + Biochar + Pine Sap

Lightweight, crumbly, and resin-bound—this combo is vapor-open and thermally effective, especially in dry climates or wall interiors.

6) Wood Chip + Pine Needles + Soil + Water

Bulk and fiber with just a touch of soil to keep it moldable. This mix should be fluffy, breathable, and structurally passive.

7) Pine Cones + Straw + Clay Slip + Water

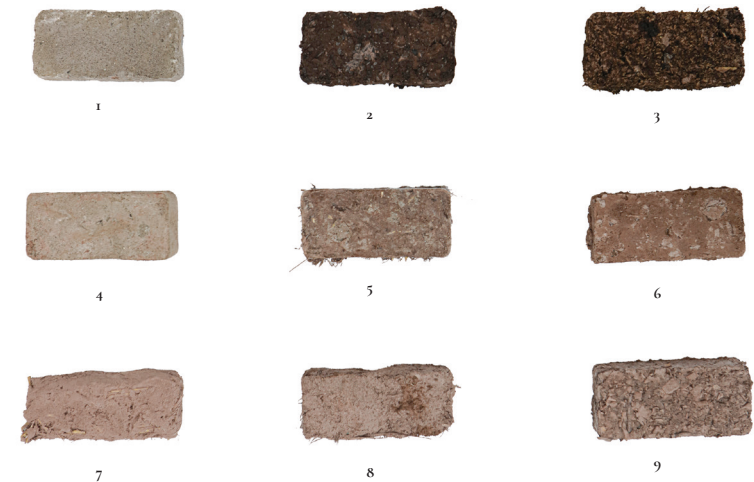
Crushed pine cones and straw create a spongy thermal layer; a thin clay slip holds it all together lightly. Great acoustic properties too.

8) Biochar + Straw + Water + Pine Sap

This low-binder mix can be compressed into panels or bricks. Extremely lightweight and insulating, though not structural.

9) Pine Needles + Wood Ash + Clay + Water

Ash keeps bugs and mold away, pine needles trap air, and clay gives enough binding to form boards or batts. Earthy but effective.



Mortar Material Test Recipes:

1) Clay + Sand + Straw + Water

A foundational earthen mortar clay binds, sand adds structure, and straw prevents cracking. It's and performs reliably for load or infill.

2) Lime + Sand + Wood Ash + Water

Lime reacts chemically with the ash, creating a breathable but durable mortar that resists moisture and remains flexible over time.

3) Clay + Biochar + Sawdust + Water

Why it works: Lightweight and thermally insulating, this blend uses biochar and sawdust as fillers with clay holding it all together. Good for a more ecological mortar.

4) Clay + Pine Needles + Pine Sap + Water

Pine sap adds a sticky, waterproofing element; needles add fibers for tensile strength. It'll likely have a smooth, slightly resinous finish.

5) Tree Bark + Clay + Sand + Water

Bark's fibrous texture pairs well with clay for grip and texture, while sand controls shrinkage. Expect a coarse, matte, tactile finish.

6) Soil + Straw + Wood Ash + Water

Soil gives body and color, straw adds structural fiber, and ash adjusts pH and minimizes shrinkage. A true "from-the-dirt" mortar.

7) Clay + Lime + Pine Needles + Water

Lime stabilizes and slows clay cracking; pine needles provide fiber. This hybrid earthen-lime mix could be strong, smooth, and site-resilient.

8) Wood Chip + Soil + Lime + Water

A composite mortar with bulk and grain from wood chips, color and grounding from soil, and structure from lime. Texturally expressive.

9) Sawdust + Pine Sap + Clay + Water

This mix has lightness from sawdust and binding from pine sap, with clay to hold.

Material Preperation



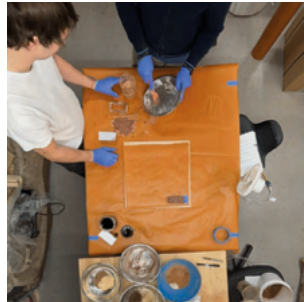
i



ii



iii



iv



v



vi

Workshop Facade Detail Model



i



ii

Species Diversification

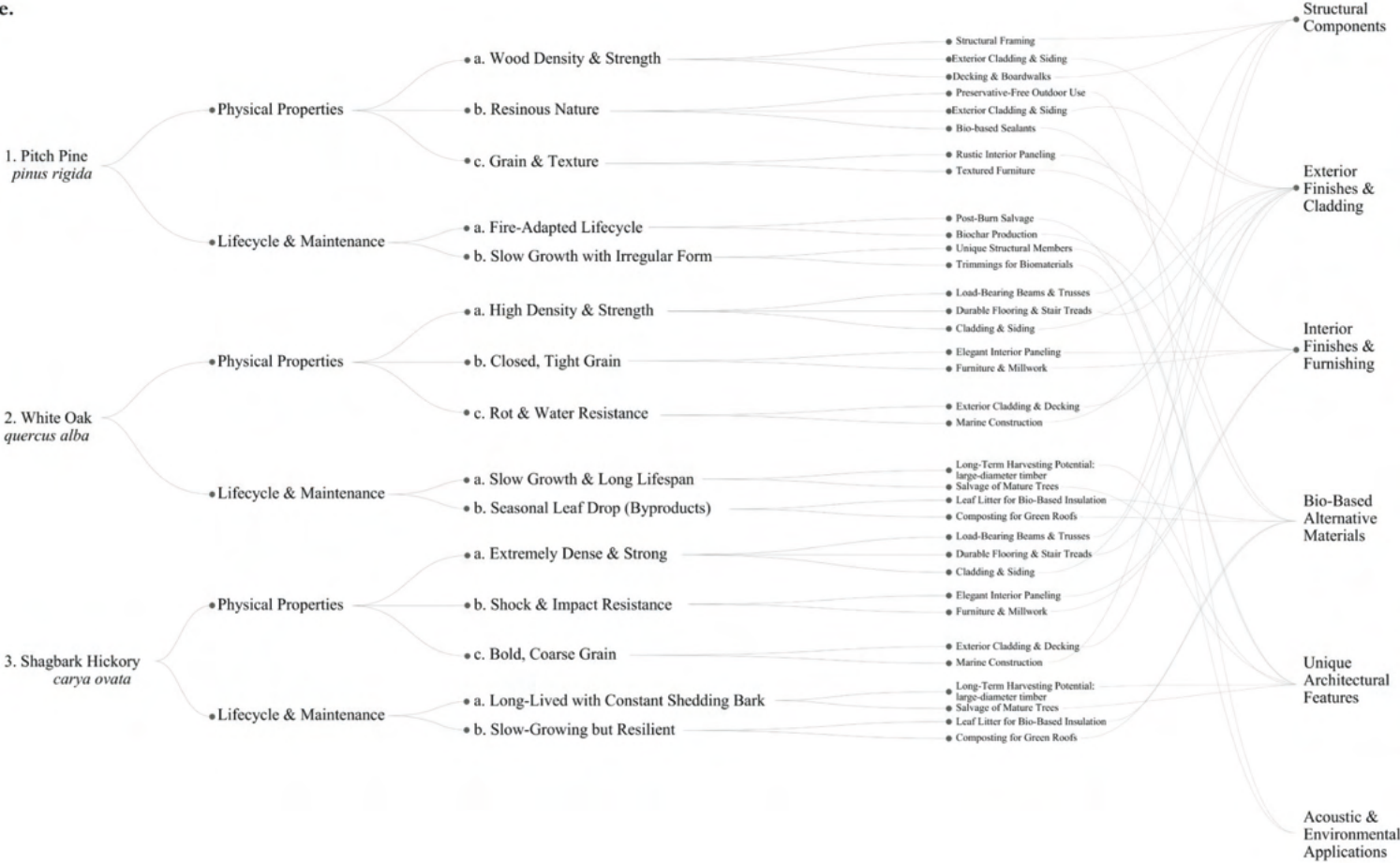
Species

Characteristics

Architectural Implementation

Species

Native.

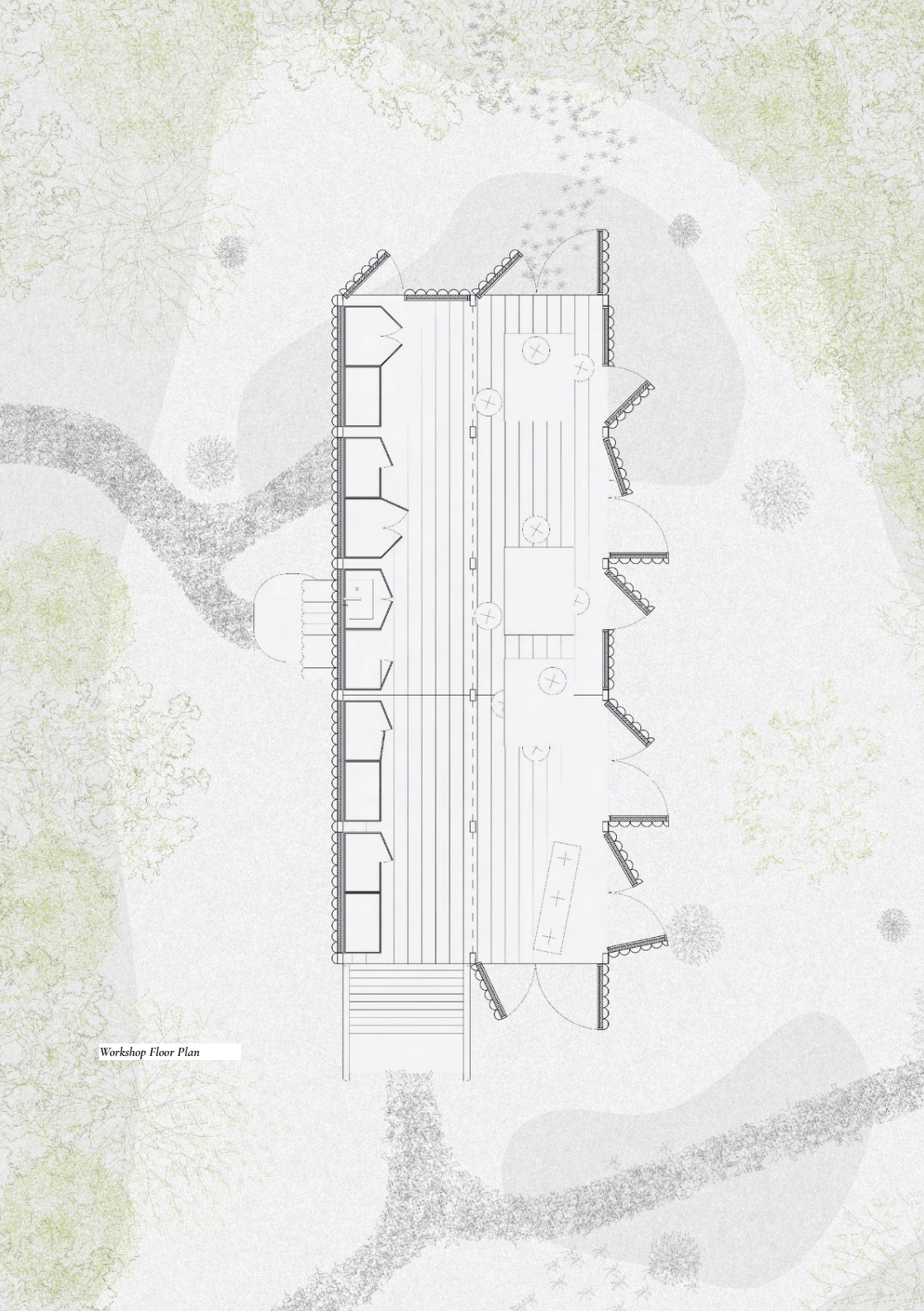


Species

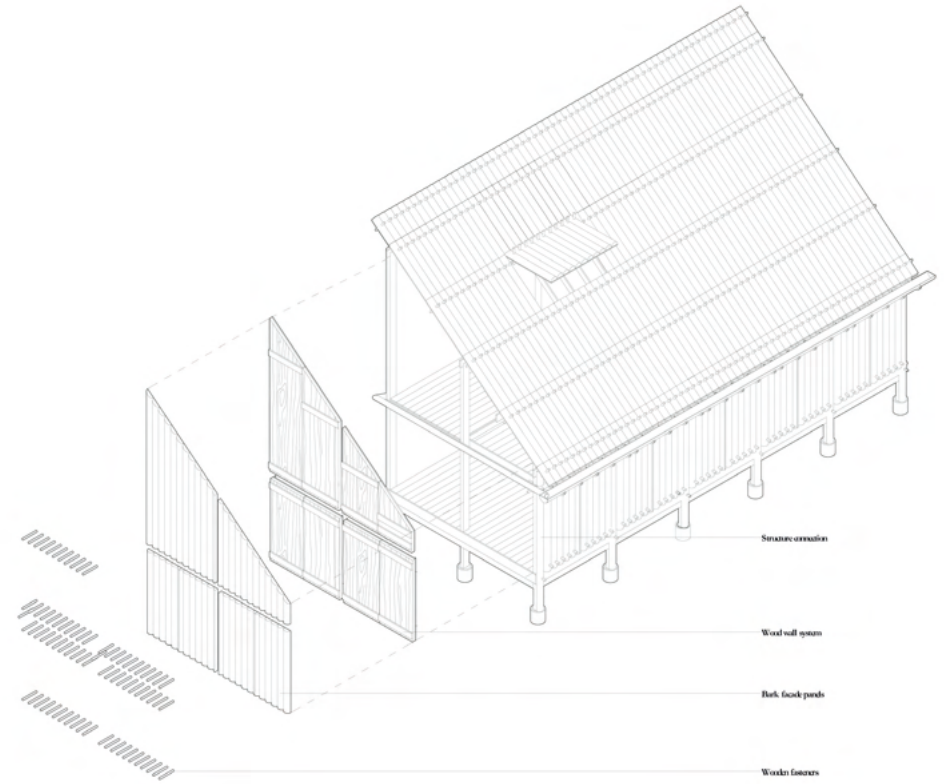
Characteristics

Architectural Implementation

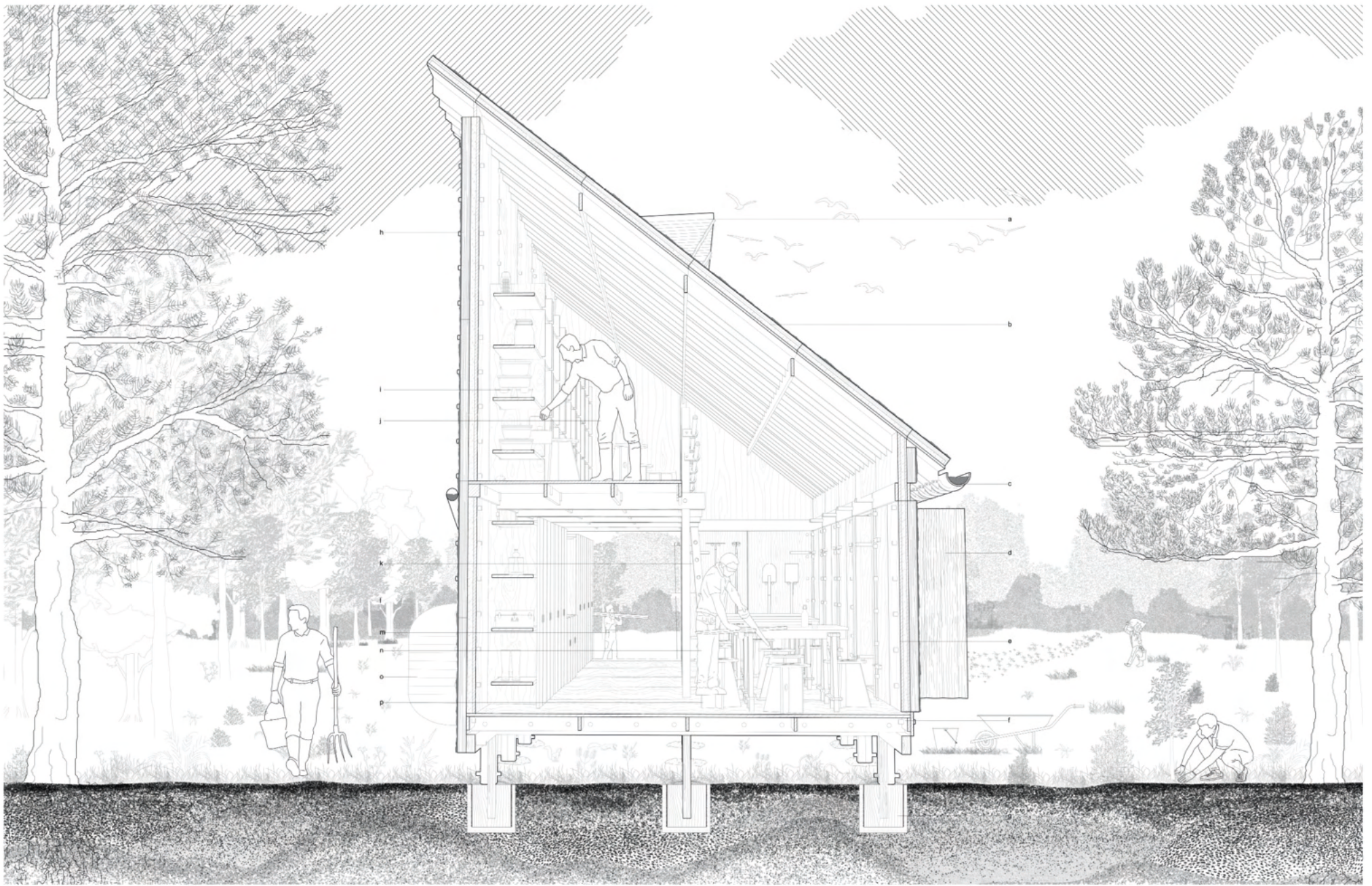
Species



Workshop Floor Plan



Workshop Exploded Axonometric



The building is comprised of the *h_wall composition*, which is panelized and made up of bark cladding, mixed species sheathing, wood-based insulation, and dimensional members. The *h_rroof composition* is the same as the wall but its slant leads it to the *steel gutter*, the only non-wood component or tie enure bians. The root is also pancized and these *panels* can be lited and Closed los ar and lait. The *h_wall panels* can also be opened and Closed lor tie same reasons. The *floor* is composed of varving thicknesses or dimensional umber, obtaned usis traditional cuting practices, bur thick depending on the species wich is being cut. The *foundations* are made up of stumps which have been carved to accept the pillars, and encased in wood ash cement for moisture and rot purposes. The *upper level shelving* is meant manly for the storage of leisure items a well as the showcasing of the work done win the research tellowships. The *upper floor* opens towards the ground level and is meant for relaxing and meeung. The only access for now is via a *ladder* which can be moved across the shed. The *botom floor shelving* is meant primarily for ti storage of research tools and materials, and any immediate items needed during experimentation. There is only one way in and out, through a panel that tolds down into a *ramp*. The *first floor* is meant pamarly for the expenmentation and research that happens throughout the rellowships It is in many wavs, a makeshit workshop. The water that is collected by the root is stored withim a *tank* behind the shed, wichts connected cirecty to a sink inside. There is no bathroom other than the lorest. The *furniture* and work stations are all bilt usngewood, as an homage to ti oniginal and sole use of the Pitch Pine, as well as an homage to the pick up housing project of 2024



Interior Perspective



Entrance Detail



Daytime Exterior Perspective



Nighttime Exterior Perspective

Earthen Rituals

Natural Materials Lab

Earth, Mapping, Porosity, Sediment, Soil, Ventilation, Weathering

Earthen Rituals examines the fusion of AI, 3D scanning, and digital fabrication using earthen and agrowaste materials. The project features a large-scale 3D-printed earth structure inspired by digitized monument typologies and AI-generated textures. The mix-designs incorporate ancient earth construction techniques from diverse global traditions, blending vernacular knowledge with advanced material science. Visitors experience a dark, immersive space with video projections of mixing processes and environmental data, while surrounding animations highlight recyclability and AI-driven analyses. This work critiques extractive practices, colonial legacies, and climate challenges, proposing sustainable building typologies that honor the past and envision adaptable, resourceful urban futures..

Site: Venice, Italy

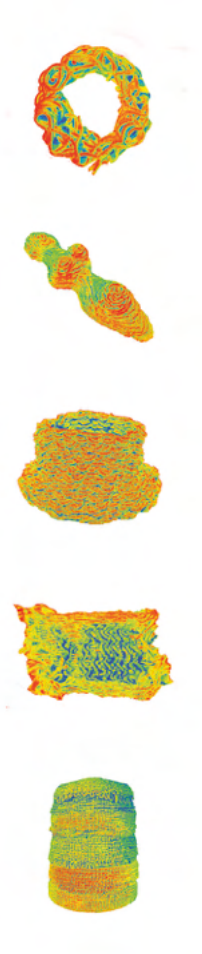
Timeline: 08/2024 - 05/2025

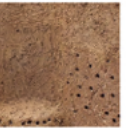
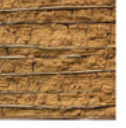
Advisor: Lola Ben Alon

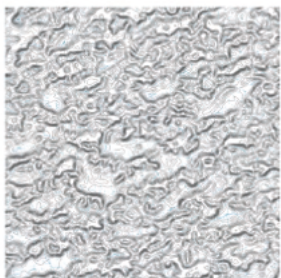
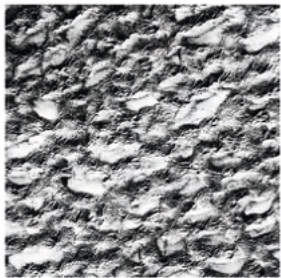
In Collaboration with Olga Beatrice Carcassi, Penmai Chongtoua, Christopher Tillinghast Sherman, Trella Isabel Lopez, Kelechi Iheanacho, Neil Potnis, Sherry Aine Chuang Te, and Amani Makee Hill

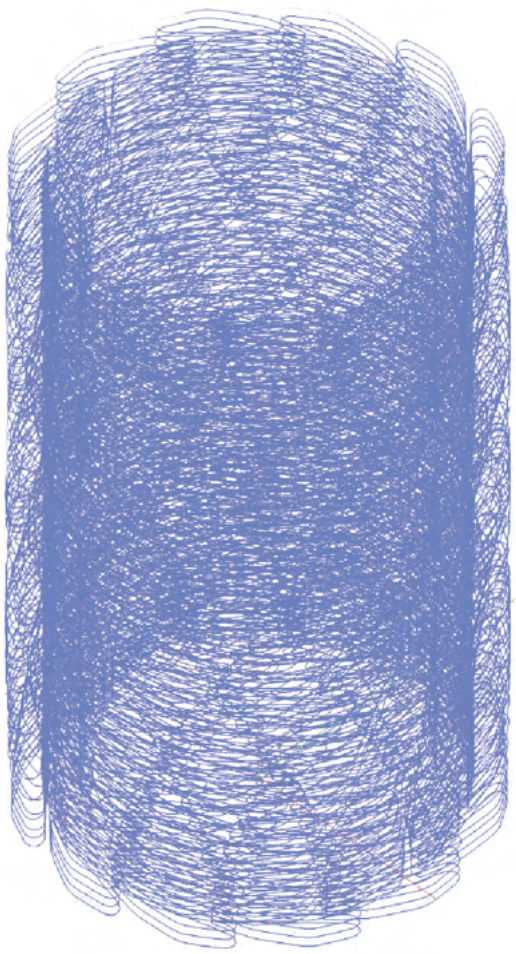


Final Exhibition - Venice Biennale Arsenale



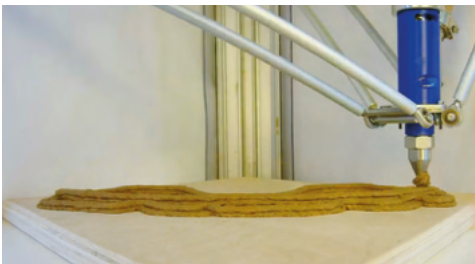
 3D Gaia, Italy Insulative Mass	 Adobe Bricks, Mexico Brickwork	 Devon Cob, UK Hygroscopic Mass
 3D TECLA, Italy Structural Dome	 Clay Plaster, Mali Mass Capacity	 Bajaroque, Nicaragua Humidity Control
 Tubali, Nigeria Self Cooling	 Clay Plaster, Burkina Faso Ornamental Plaster	 Wattle and Daub, Germany Lightweight Partitions
 Staircase, Spain Structural Assembly	 Rammed Earth, France Erosion Control	 Super Adobe, California Seismic Resistance
 Earth Dome, Iran Evaporative Cooling	 Oregon Cob, USA Ductile Mass	 Rammed Earth Reed, China Bioclimatic



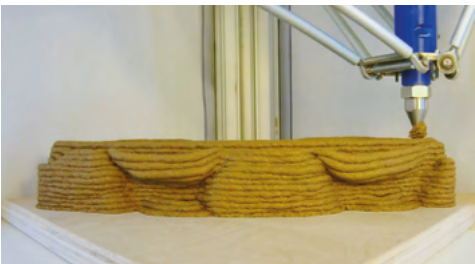


Phase i: Research

Phase ii: Production



5%



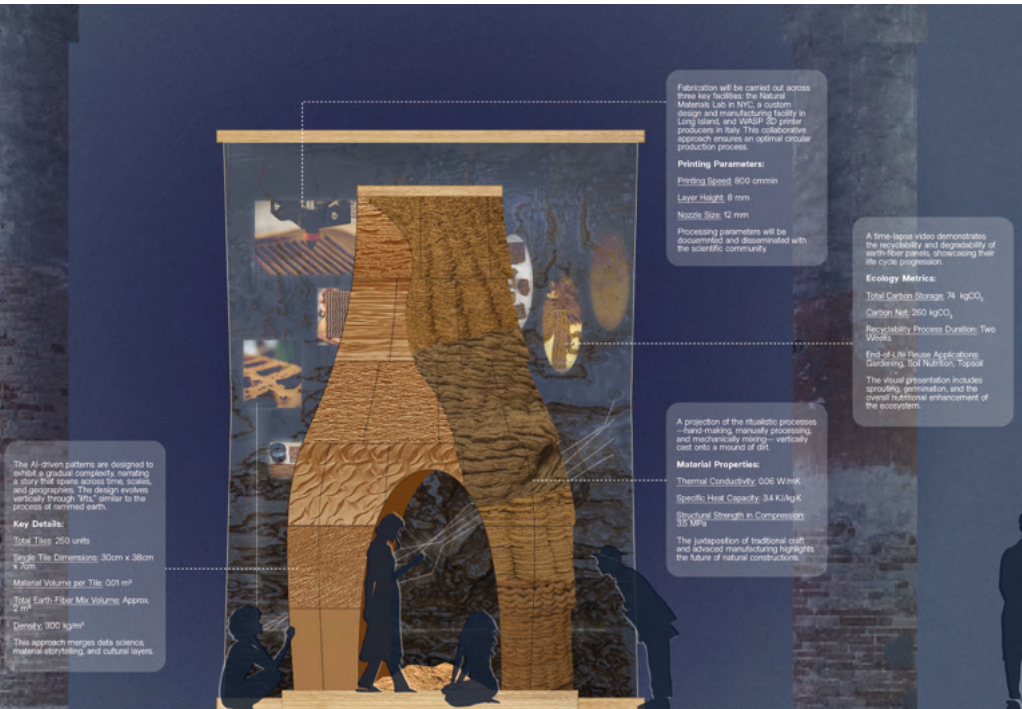
25%



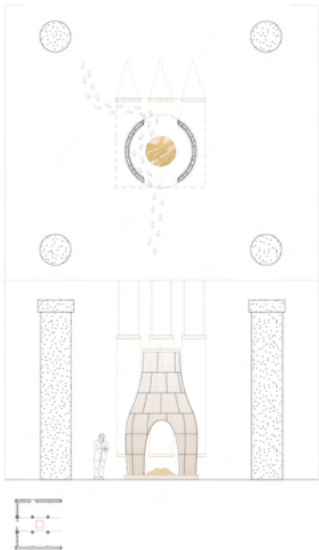
75%



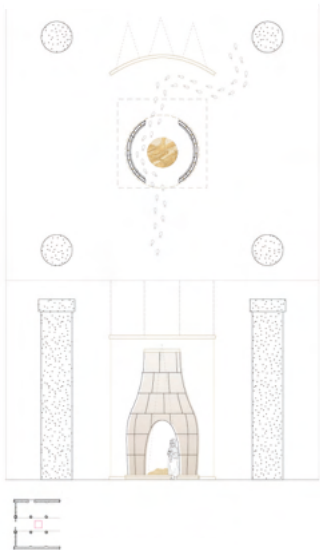
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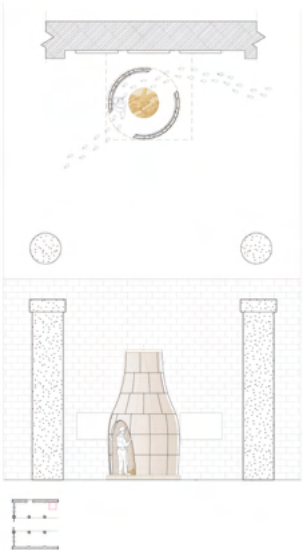
Central Placement Contained Within 3x3m



Central Placement with Projection Outside 3x3m



Adjacent to Wall Within 3x3m with Screens



Final Exhibition - Venice Biennale Arsenal

Fiber Ventilation Wall

Natural Materials Lab

Earth, Porosity, Ventilation, Weathering

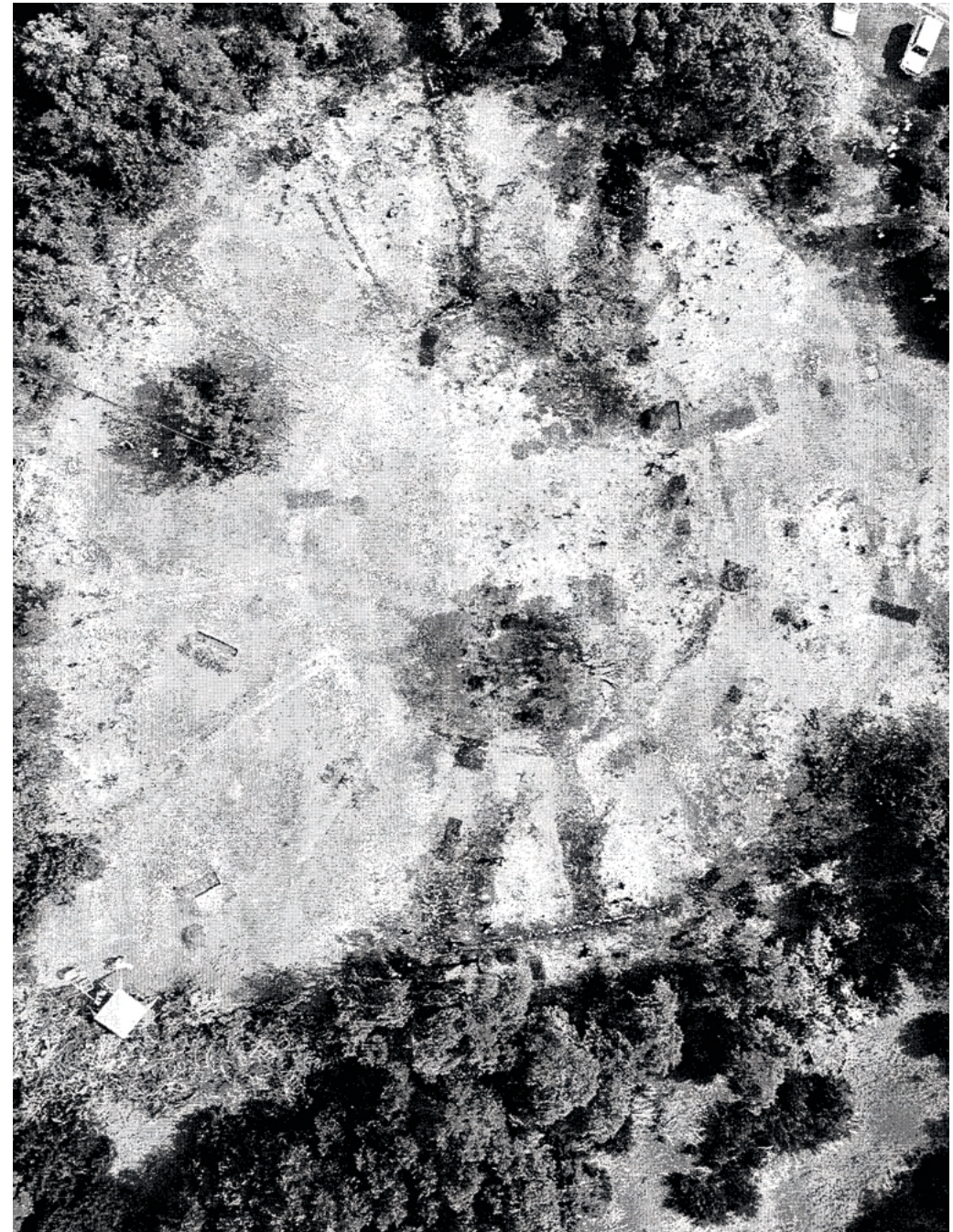
The Fiber Ventilation Wall is a modular masonry system developed from raw earth, Texas prairie grass hay, and wheat straw, fabricated through a combination of handcraft and digital production. Commissioned for Architecture Center Houston's Big, Hot, and Sticky exhibition, the project responds to Houston's hot-humid climate by rethinking enclosure as a breathable, hygroscopic system rather than a sealed barrier. Drawing on vernacular material traditions, the bricks act as a relative humidity "flywheel," absorbing and releasing moisture to moderate interior conditions. Experimental material recipes were developed for low-carbon 3D printing, minimizing waste while testing performance. The brick geometry, derived from overlapping circular forms and informed by fluid dynamic simulations, promotes air exchange while referencing sacred geometry as a spatial and therapeutic framework.

Site: Houston, Texas

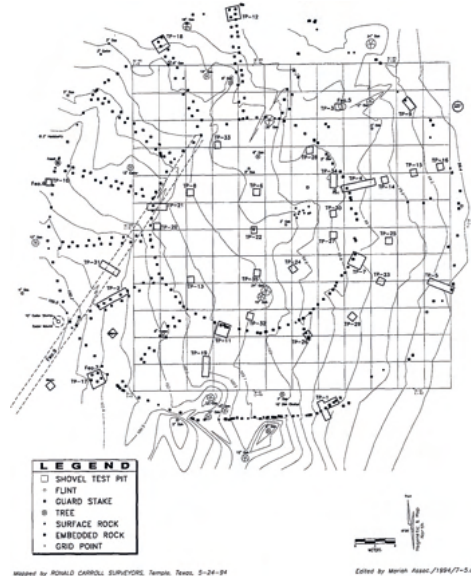
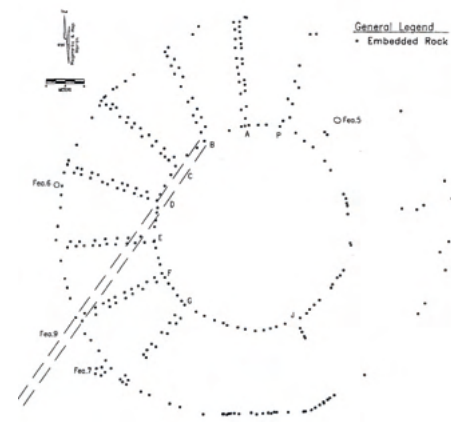
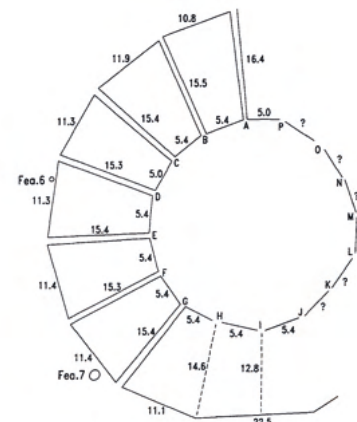
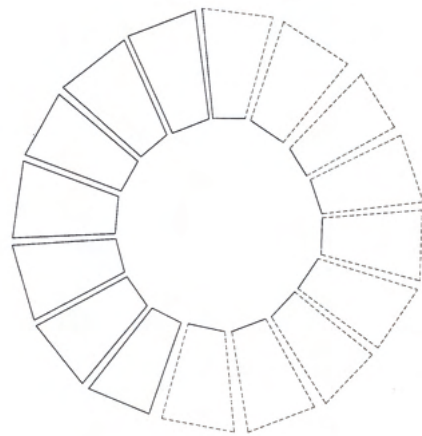
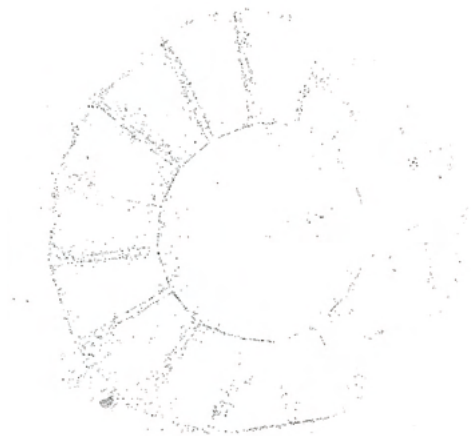
Timeline: 01/2024 - 05/2024

Advisor: Lola Ben Alon

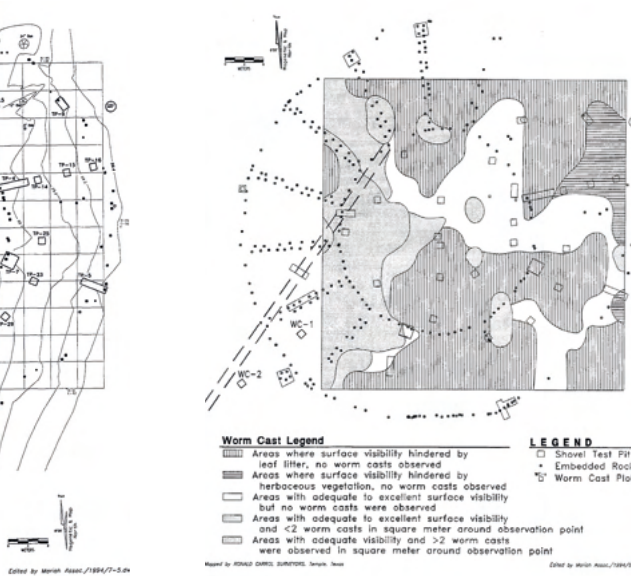
In Collaboration with Kelechi Iheanacho, EunJin Shin, and Kelsey Wang



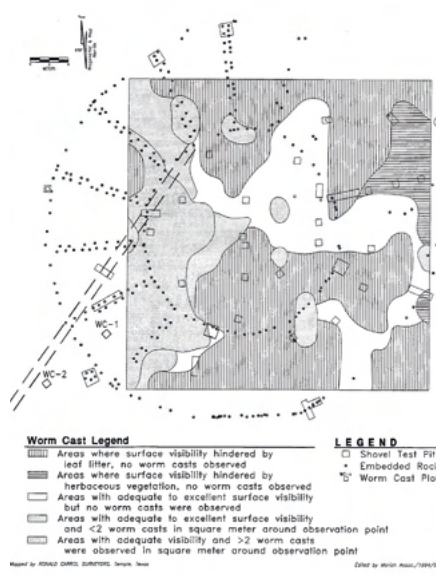
The Leon River Medicine Wheel at Fort Hood Aerial Image



Map by RONALD CARROLL SURVEYORS, Tempe, Texas, 5-24-84



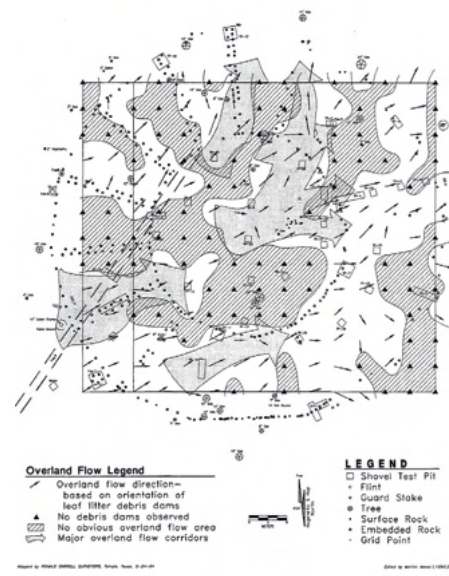
Edited by Warren Asselt/1994/7-5-84



Map by RONALD CARROLL SURVEYORS, Tempe, Texas

Worm Cast Legend
 Areas where surface visibility hindered by leaf litter, no worm casts observed
 Areas where surface visibility hindered by herbaceous vegetation, no worm casts observed
 Areas with adequate to excellent surface visibility but no worm casts were observed
 Areas with adequate to excellent surface visibility and <2 worm casts in square meter around observation point
 Areas with adequate visibility and >2 worm casts were observed in square meter around observation point

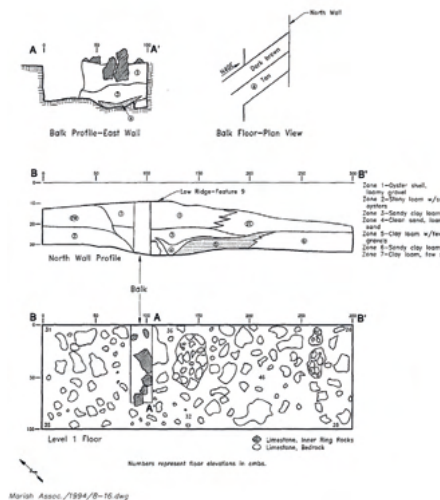
LEGEND
 Shovel Test Pit
 Embedded Rock
 Worm Cast Plot



Map by RONALD CARROLL SURVEYORS, Tempe, Texas, 8-20-84

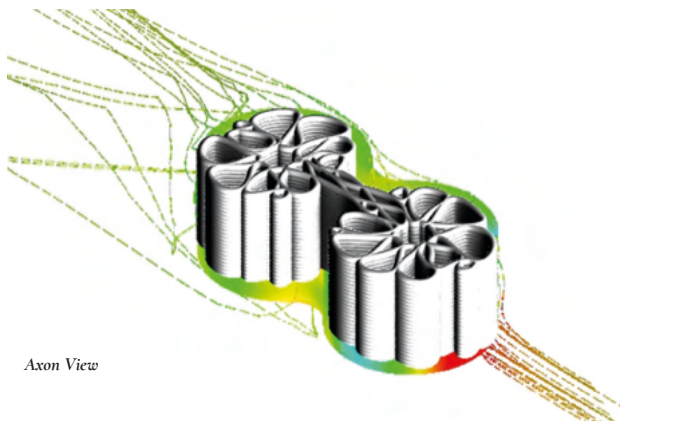
Overland Flow Legend
 Overland flow direction—based on orientation of leaf litter debris dums
 No debris dams observed
 No obvious overland flow area
 Major overland flow corridors

LEGEND
 Shovel Test Pit
 Flint
 Guard Stake
 Tree
 Surface Rock
 Embedded Rock
 Grid Point



Map by Warren Asselt/1994/8-15-84

A set of analytical drawings documenting historical medicine wheels, with particular attention to their geometry, radial organization, orientation, and proportional relationships. These drawings trace how stones, paths, and alignments are organized around a central point, revealing recurring spatial logics across different sites and cultural contexts. By mapping axes, radii, and directional orientations, the drawings examine how geometry mediates relationships between land, ritual practice, and cosmological reference points. Rather than treating the medicine wheels as isolated artifacts, these mappings study shared patterns of scale, symmetry, and alignment as a way to better understand the formal and spatial principles that structure the original constructions and their enduring significance within the landscape.



Airflow diagrams illustrating how wind and air move through the brick system, visualized through pressure differentials and flow paths. Values are represented in PSI to indicate relative pressure zones and directional movement through the assembly.

Preparation



Natural fibers laid out and bagged prior to mixing, documenting the raw material components before processing.

Mixing



Fiber-earth mixture being combined in a mixer, prepared to a workable consistency before being loaded into the 3D printer.

Printing



3D printing of the fiber-earth mixture, documenting nozzle extrusion, layer buildup, and early stage tile formation.



Installation view of the Fiber Ventilation Wall as presented in Architecture Center Houston's Big, Hot & Sticky exhibition, shown as part of the final curated display. On display Summer 2024

Vertical Commons

Advance V The Midtown Block

Atriums, Commons, Gathering, Housing, Markets, Occupation, Porosity, Reuse, Shade, Thresholds, Ventilation

Collective Occupation reimagines a Midtown East office block as a vertical neighborhood where housing, work, and community life overlap across a full day rather than a nine to five cycle. Working within the constraints of existing towers, the project transforms underused office space into housing while introducing shared gardens, markets, childcare, study spaces, and communal programs that support long term everyday life. Through adaptive reuse, connected green spaces, and a network of public and private thresholds, the proposal shifts the block from a fragile single use district into a more balanced urban ecology. Rather than erasing the city that already exists, Collective Occupation explores how existing structures can be reorganized to support living, staying, and collective life in Midtown East.

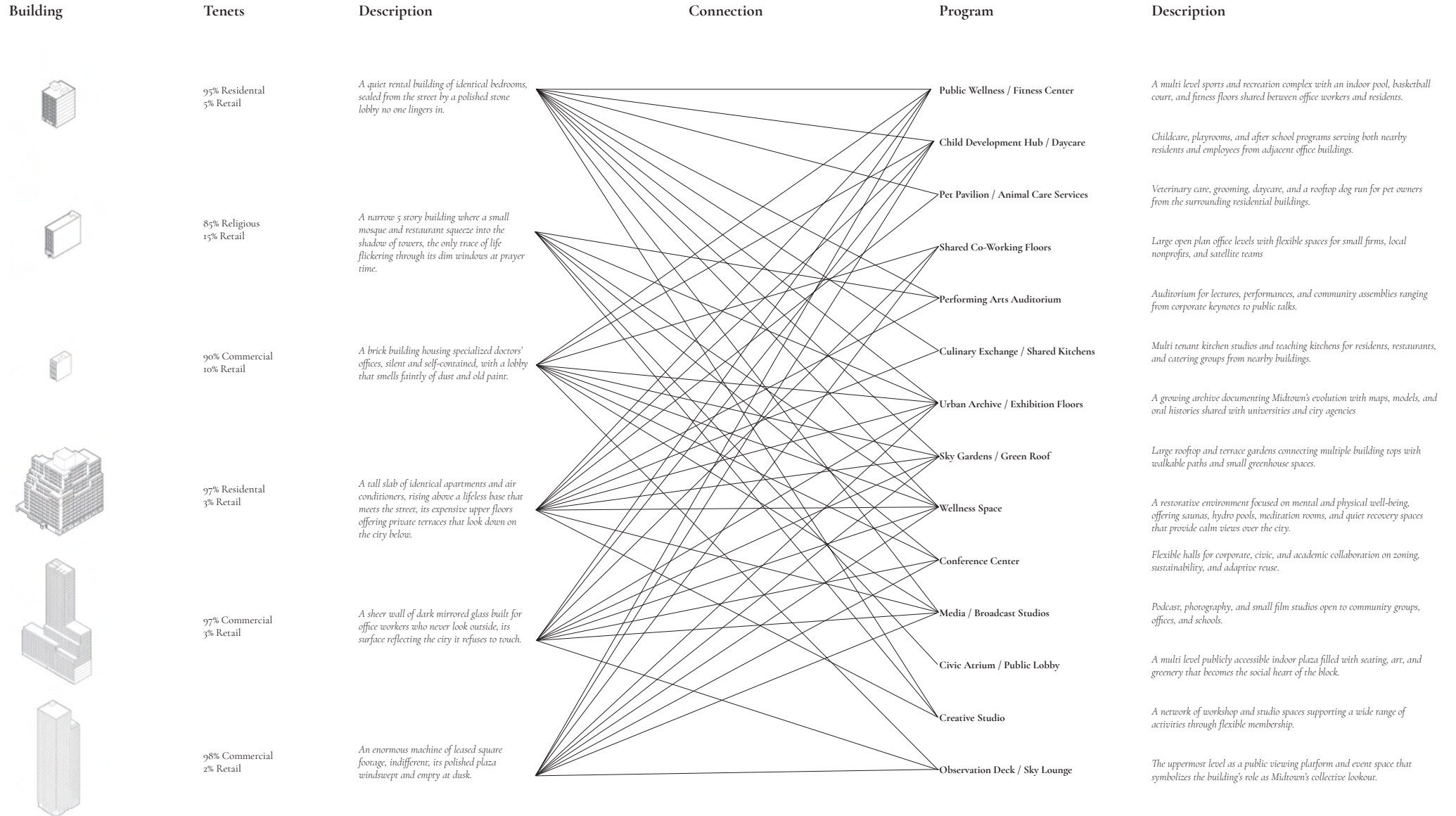
Site: Midtown, Manhattan

Timeline: 08/2025 - 12/2025

Advisor: Sebastián Adamo

In Collaboration with Danielle Min







Markets



Museums



Schools



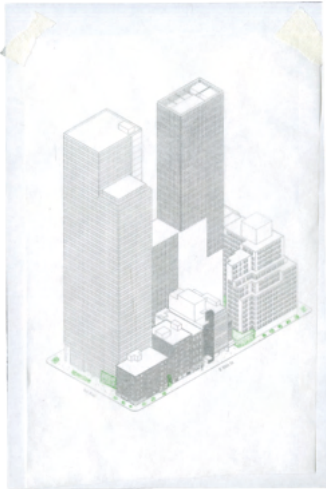
Libraries



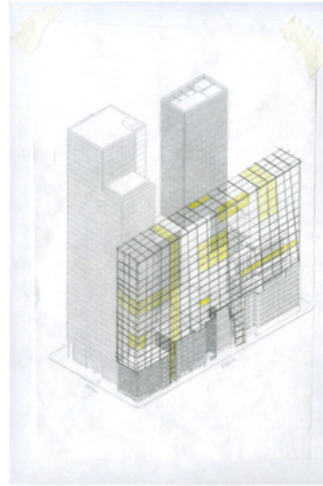
Worship



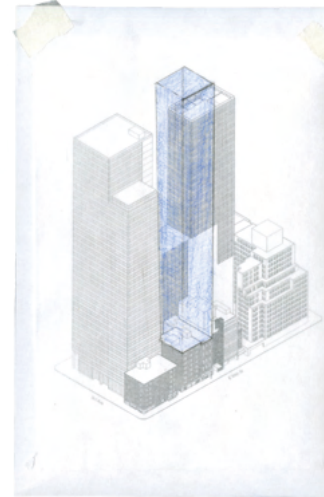
Clinics



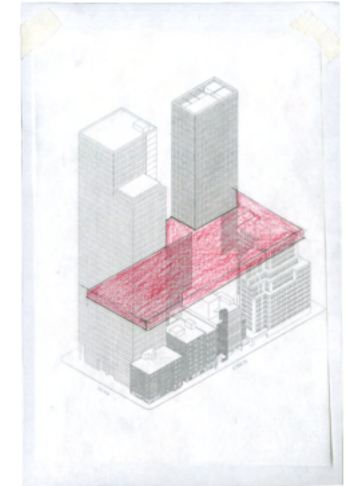
Reclaiming the Street Level. Rethink the ground plane as a truly shared space for all uses of the block. The idea is to regain back volume and related amenities with open, accessible thresholds that blend living, working, and public life. Street edges, shared corners, and soft edges become places where residents, workers, and visitors can slow down and interact. This shared ground retains Midtown's street level from congestion and privatization, making it porous, safe, and active throughout the day.



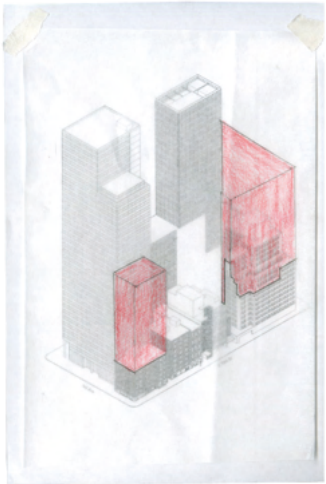
Rooftopia Rooftops. The rooftops of existing buildings can be rethought as new layers of urban life. Green roofs, solar canopies, and shared terraces can host gardens, courtyards, and small public amenities that serve multiple groups of users. Children might play, residents could garden, and office workers could take breaks in the same elevated environment. These productive roofs create new forms of shared infrastructure while improving building efficiency and demonstrating environmental responsibility that appeals to city agencies, banks, and developers alike. A clean color steel and cladding to organize program variety plays.



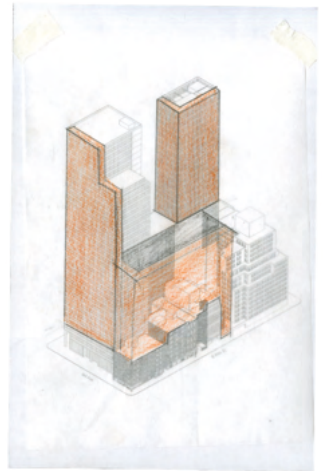
Vertical Corridor. The existing buildings on the block could serve as foundations for a new vertical extension that reclaims underused airspace above Midtown. By consolidating and building upward on a few key structures, a tall tower could emerge as both an architectural landmark and a connective framework for the surrounding block. This tower would not act as an isolated object but as a neighborhood structure, linking back to adjacent rooftops and programs through a series of lightweight bridges, walkways, and terraces. These connections would form a multi-level public realm in the sky, allowing residents, office workers, and visitors to move across buildings while connecting shared gardens, courtyards, and gathering areas. The elevated system would redistribute density vertically, creating new views, circulation routes, and opportunities for collaboration between different users. For developers and city agencies, this approach demonstrates how density and openness can coexist, transforming verticality into a shared resource rather than a private symbol of height.



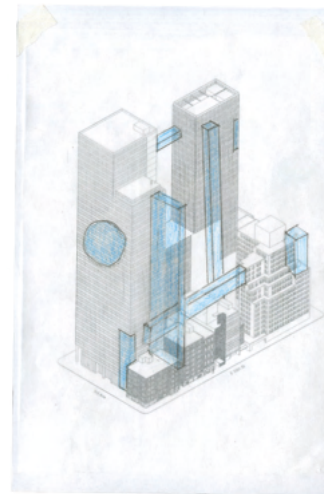
The Lifted Ground Plane. The project proposes raising a portion of the block to create a second ground plane that hovers above the existing street level. This elevated surface would act as an outdoor public platform filled with gardens, markets, and seating areas that connect the volumes of multiple buildings. Below, the open space could accommodate service areas, deliveries, and shared pedestrian circulation, allowing the ground to function on two levels at once. The lifted plane becomes both landscape and structure, offering relief from street congestion while creating a safe, accessible place for residents, workers, and visitors. By elevating everyday activity into the light and air, the design introduces a new civic horizon that reshapes how people live within Midtown's dense fabric.



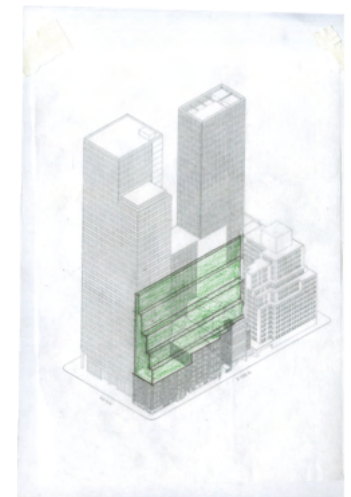
Housing Expansion. The remaining airspace above the block's two existing residential buildings could be transformed into new layers of affordable housing, extending the life and capacity of what is already there. Rather than clearing the site, lightweight additions could be constructed atop existing walls using modular or timber systems to maintain structural load. These elevated houses could bring more residents into Midtown without displacement, providing access to light, air, and city views while maintaining proximity to work and transit. Shared terraces and rooftop courtyards could connect old and new communities, creating a sense of vertical neighborhood. For city agencies and developers, this approach activates unused zoning potential responsibly, for residents, it offers affordable housing in the very core of the city.



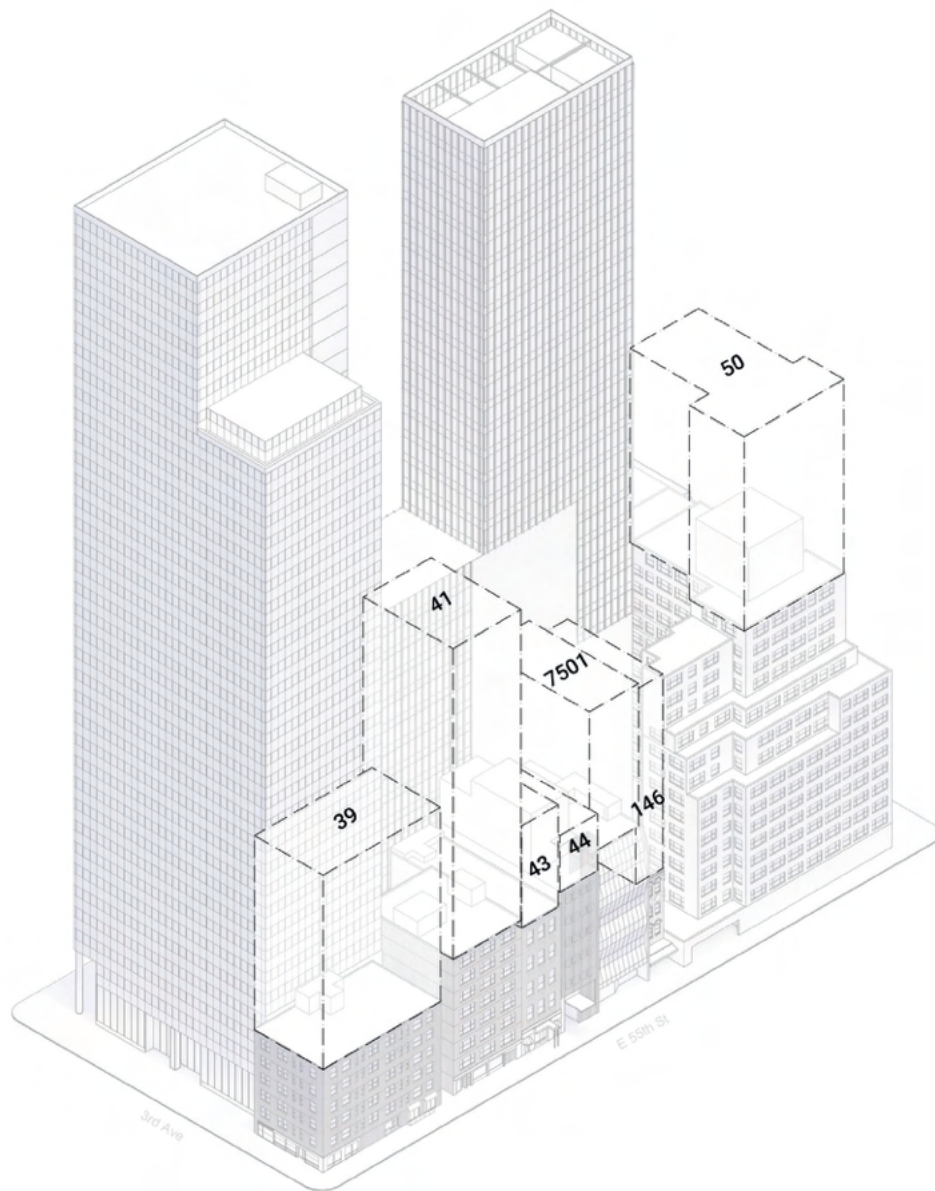
Layered Facades and Building Extensions. The existing facades of the block's older buildings can be transformed into new layers of space that bring light, air, and adaptability to the street. By partially removing heavy exterior walls and adding lightweight extensions, balconies, or glazed winter gardens, these buildings can gain depth and openness without demolition. Residents could use these new enclosures as small gardens, dining spaces, or quiet work areas where afternoon light still reaches into private interiors. These layered facades would enhance energy performance, provide visual rhythm to the block, and offer protection from outdoor spaces that feel personal yet sheltered. For designers and city agencies, this approach offers an economical, low-impact way to increase outdoor circulation while ensuring the daily experience of the people who inhabit them. Also having the same visual dialogue across the block where the extension of the structure is carried all the way across the block.



Cut and Reveal. Sections of the existing buildings could be strategically cut away to expose their inner structures and create new geometric forms that redefine how light, space, and circulation move through the block. This approach treats subtraction as an act of creation. By cutting walls, slicing through floors, and removing walls, new volumes emerge, creating angular openings, alcoves, bridges, and visual corridors that connect previously isolated spaces. The geometry of these cuts becomes both architectural and sculptural, revealing the hidden anatomy of Midtown's dense fabric, how glass or steel inserts could occupy voided cores, housing gardens, balconies, or gathering areas within the openings. For residents and workers, the result is a series of light-filled, porous environments. For the city, it transforms the block from a solid mass into a living constellation of void and wall, history and renewal.



Staggered Addition. A new building could rise above the existing block, composed of a series of staggered volumes that create generous terraces on each level. The resulting platform would act as a climber, allowing sunlight to reach the street and surrounding walls while offering outdoor spaces for residents, workers, and visitors. Each terrace could host gardens, seating areas, and communal spaces that extend nature into the urban. Having a vertical technique in the heart of Midtown. The structure would integrate with existing cores and foundations, using lightweight materials to minimize impact on the buildings below. This layered addition transforms the skyline into a sequence of staggered platforms, balancing density with openness and offering a new model of urban living built around access to air, greenery, and shared space.



Lot 39

Remaining Air Rights:
46,249 SF out of
a total buildable 71,250 SF

Approx. 10 floors
(Ceiling Height 12ft)

Lot 41

Remaining Air Rights:
49,300 SF out of
a total buildable 75,300 SF

Approx. 16 floors
(Ceiling Height 12ft)

Lot 43

Remaining Air Rights:
12,695 SF out of
a total buildable 24,940 SF

Approx. 5 floors
(Ceiling Height 12ft)

Lot 44

Remaining Air Rights:
6,818 SF out of
a total buildable 25,100 SF

Approx. 3 floors
(Ceiling Height 12ft)

Lot 7501

Remaining Air Rights:
20,136 SF out of
a total buildable 37,660 SF

Approx. 7 floors
(Ceiling Height 12ft)

Lot 146

Remaining Air Rights:
12,695 SF out of
a total buildable 24,940 SF

Approx. 10 floors
(Ceiling Height 12ft)

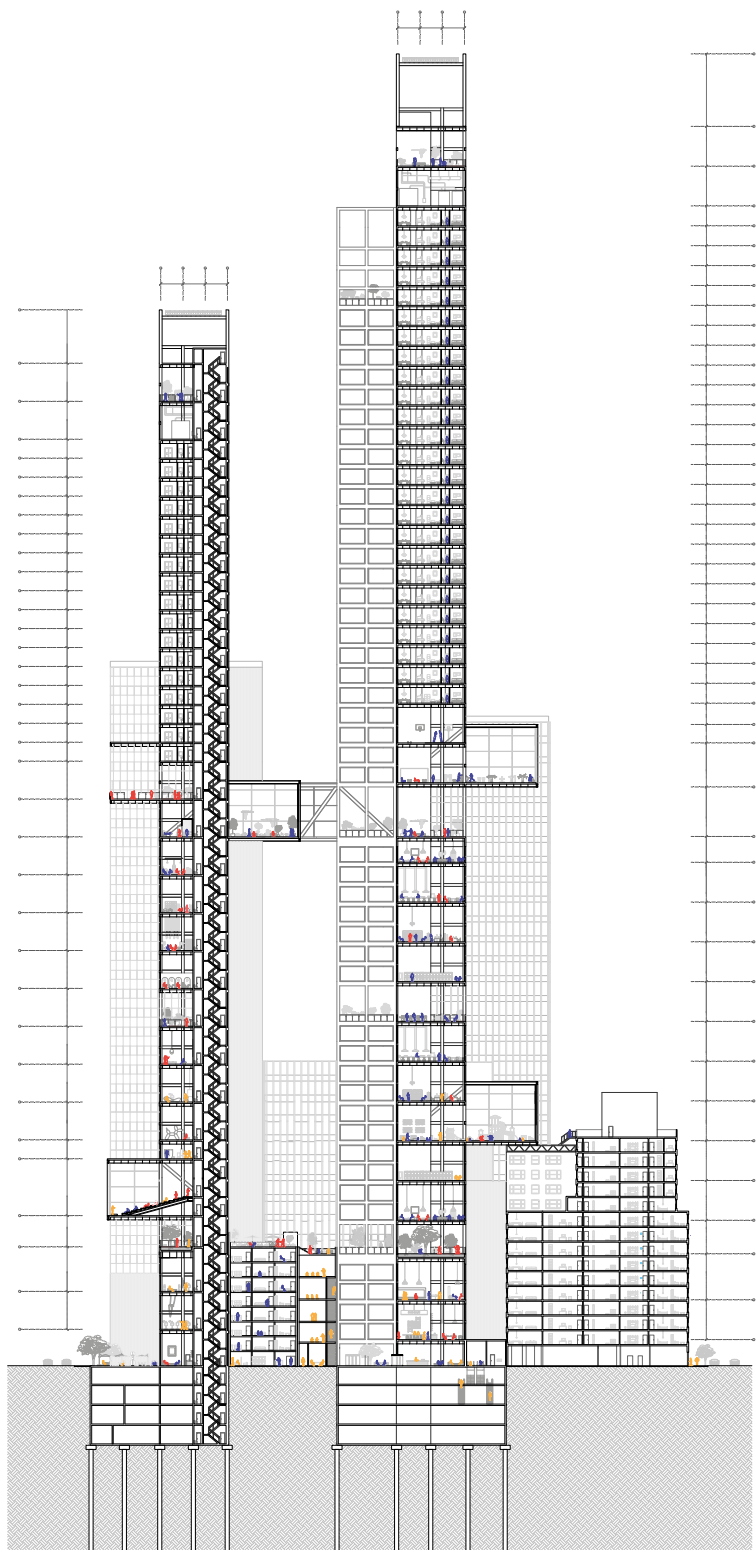
Lot 50

Remaining Air Rights:
59,131 SF out of
a total buildable 263,400 SF

Approx. 10 floors
(Ceiling Height 12ft)



The different figures in plan represent the overlapping groups occupying the block throughout the day and night: residents moving between housing and shared amenities, office workers crossing into communal programs and gardens, community members entering from the street to access markets, childcare, and cultural spaces, and visitors circulating through the public passages connecting the block. Together, these movements help visualize the project as a continuously occupied vertical neighborhood rather than a collection of isolated buildings and programs.



Ongoing Work with MoRUS

Power Tools, DNA

Archives, Benches, Commons, Fences, Gardens, Gathering, Maintenance, Mapping, Newsprint, Occupation, Repair, Sidewalks, Thresholds

Developed through ongoing collaboration with the Museum of Reclaimed Urban Space, this body of work explores community gardens, protest history, collective maintenance, and public space in the East Village and around Tompkins Square Park. Through exhibitions, installations, archival research, public events, and fabrication work, the project examines how memory is continuously produced through everyday acts of care: gardening, repairing, organizing, building, and gathering. Rather than treating the archive as static, the work understands history as something active and unfinished, shaped through ongoing use and participation. The research has continued to expand across community gardens, temporary exhibitions, publications, and collaborative public programming, becoming an evolving study of how neighborhoods preserve space, culture, and collective memory over time.

Site: Lower East Side, Manhattan

Timeline: 01/2025 - Present

Advisor: Christoph Kumpusch, Jelisa Blumberg

In Collaboration with Bernardo Malatesta



Send to: Museum of Urban Reclaimed Spaces
155 Avenue C - Storefront
New York, NY, 10009



Drawing Call to Submissions

Launch party in Tompkins Square Park.....05.01
Submission Deadline.....05.31
Exhibition + Roundtable (Museum of Reclaimed Urban Space).....06.tbd

* Submissions will be chosen to be exhibited at the Museum of Reclaimed Urban Space

Location: Tompkins Square Park, Manhattan, New York

Tompkins Square Park is a park in the East Village, located between Avenue A, and Avenue B, between 7 Street and 10 Street. Its surface is 457,788 Square feet with a frontage of 687.33 feet by 666 feet. It is managed by the Park Department of the City of New York. The site of the Urban Idea Competition is the park itself, but an extended boundary could be considered, potentially including the surrounding sidewalk on either side of the adjacent street.

Tompkins Square Park has a long and rich history of inclusiveness and socially mixed users, who share the open public space of the neighborhood. Artists, Musicians, immigrants, punks, children, teenagers, dogs, squirrels, athletes, poets, squatters, retirees, homeless and worshippers have all shared the open public space with respect and intermittent appropriation. It was a space where politics flourished where the poor and working class congregated both spontaneously and calculatedly to protest against gentrification, censorship, policing and the destruction of the environment.

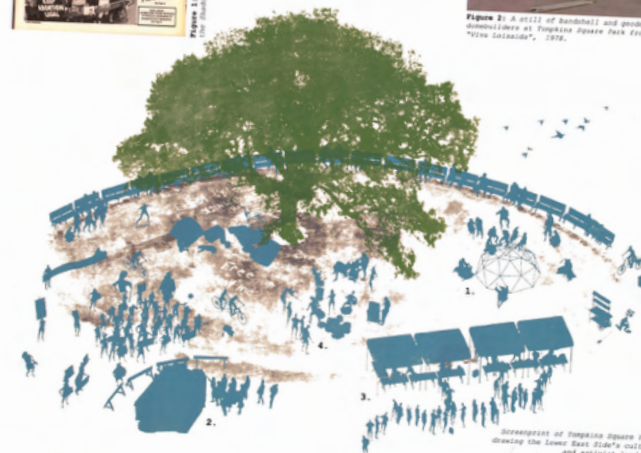
- **PUBLIC PARK?**
Public green spaces have and always will be under threat. Recently, a beloved community garden in the Lower East Side-Elizabeth Street Garden-received an eviction notice in the name of affordable housing, while the unoccupied pencil towers and penthouses of Billionaires' Row remain untouched. What is a Public Park at the beginning of the XXI Century, in downtown Manhattan, New York?
- **SURVEILLANCE?**
The entrances of Tompkins Square Park are constantly monitored by surveillance cameras and large assembly spaces patrolled NYPD. How do the ongoing conditions of the city, the advent of new surveillance technologies, and changing policing practices call for a new Public Park?
- **ECOLOGY?**
How do we enhance and create spaces to generate physical interaction with the surrounding community, the local natural elements and the multi-species inhabiting the city?
- **BOUNDARIES?**
How do we design space boundaries? As mentioned above, Tompkins Square Park is populated by a large diversity of users and ecologies. Should they all blend together or be separated by some "boundary definers". Currently the presence of relatively tall fences is segregating the different areas into small fragmented islands. Should there be fences, walls, benches or minimal lines on the floor to suggest different zones for different activities. The design proposal is to reconsider the presence of the fences and to offer a new way to distribute the different activities and ecologies within Tompkins Square Park.



Figure 1: Protest sign at Tompkins Square Park, 1980.



Figure 2: A still of Bandshell and geodesic domebuilders at Tompkins Square Park from film "You Louder", 2009.



Screenprint of Tompkins Square Park, drawing the Lower East Side's cultural and activist landscape. Author: Ise, 2024

Events shown in the drawing as:

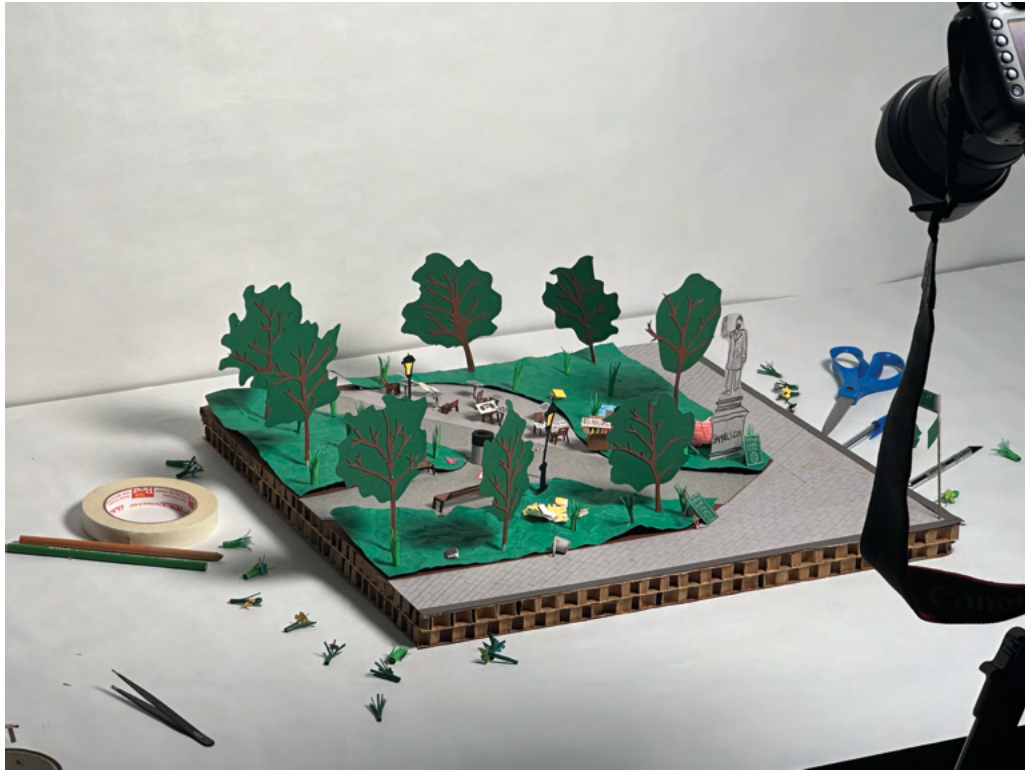
1. The geodesic domebuilders and Puerto Rican community from CHARRAS
2. Lower East Side's homesteaders, squatters, punks, homeless, and gardeners protest against gentrification
3. Food not Bombs' soup kitchens distributing food
4. Live music from punk shows



Figure 3: Protest sign at Tompkins Square Park, 1980.



Figure 4: Photo of geodesic tent for housing the homeless, October 1980.



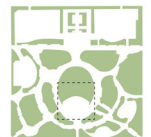
These models were developed for a stop motion film exploring the possible removal and transformation of fenced areas within Tompkins Square Park. Through incremental spatial changes, the film imagines how the space could shift from a controlled edge condition into a more open and collectively occupied public space.



DRAW HERE: Use this representation of the large triangular tree to draw your desires for Tompkins Square Park, be it events, activities, etc. The canvas is blank for your interpretation.



Tabling event in Tompkins Square Park asking residents, visitors, gardeners, and skaters to imagine how fenced areas of the park could be reopened, occupied, and collectively used differently through gathering, seating, performances, gardening, rest, and everyday public life.



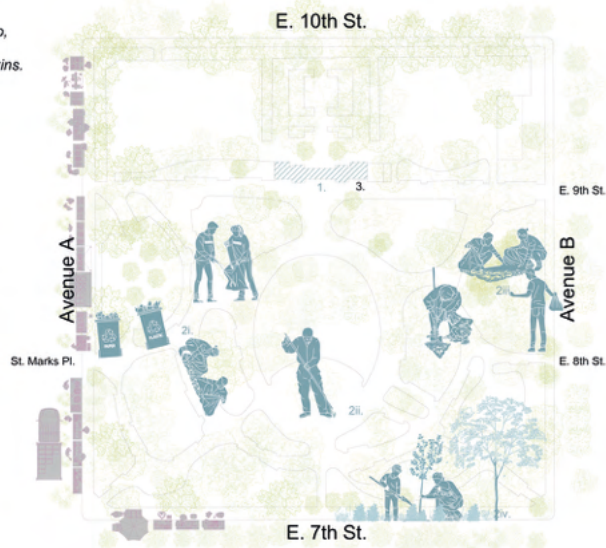


Designed in response to the fences surrounding portions of Tompkins Square Park, the deployable stool hooks directly onto the existing barricades and transforms them into places for sitting, gathering, and observation. Rather than treating the fence solely as a barrier, the project explores how small acts of occupation and adaptation can temporarily reshape the social use of public infrastructure.

Tompkins Square Park,
Everything you can see when you go,
but can't find when you look.
A digital database for a living Tompkins.

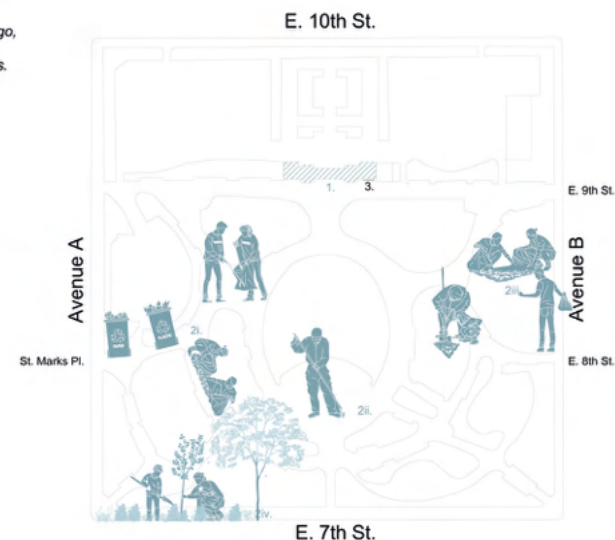
- a. Living, Non-human
- b. Occupiable Space
- c. Community Groups
- d. Food Markets
- e. Cultural Events
- f. Mutual Aid Groups
- g. Existing Activities
- h. Adjacent Businesses
- i. Timeline
- j. Show All

*Select any of the topics above,
for a description and resources*



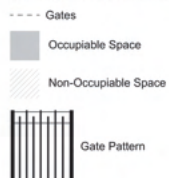
Tompkins Square Park,
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A digital guide for a living Tompkins.

- a. Living, Non-human
- b. Occupiable Space
- c. Community Groups
 - (a.) Friends of Tompkins.
 - 1. Meeting Point, The Field House
 - 2. Activities.
 - i. Trash Collection
 - ii. Sweeping Walkways
 - iii. Mulching Paths
 - iv. Pruning Shrubs
 - 3. Calendar
 - (May 9) Mid Spring Clean Up and Planting
 - (May 23) End of May Clean Up and Planting
 - (MM DD) More to come
 - Other Community Groups
 - (b.) MoRUS
 - (c.) LES Ecology Center
 - (d.) Lolsaida Realty
- d. Food Markets
- e. Cultural Events
- f. Mutual Aid Groups
- g. Existing Activities
- h. Adjacent Businesses
- i. Timeline
- j. Show All

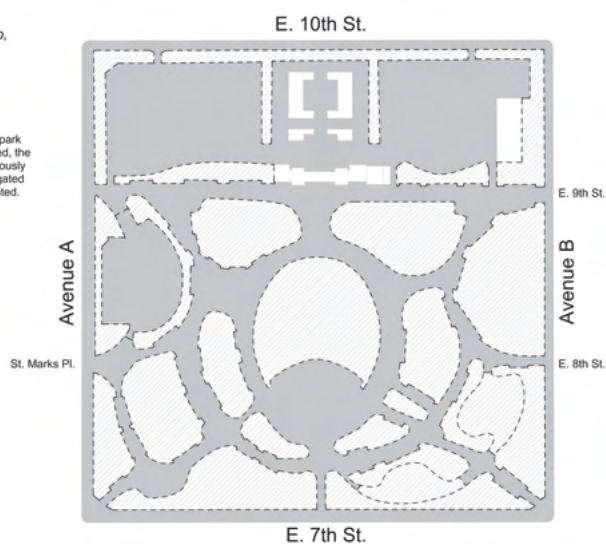


Tompkins Square Park,
Everything you can see when you go,
but can't find when you look.
A digital guide for a living Tompkins.

- a. Living, Non-human
- b. Occupiable Space
 - After the 1988 Riots, the city closed the park for renovations, when the park reopened, the public found more than 80% of the previously public, usable, green spaces had been gated in, making them inaccessible and regulated.

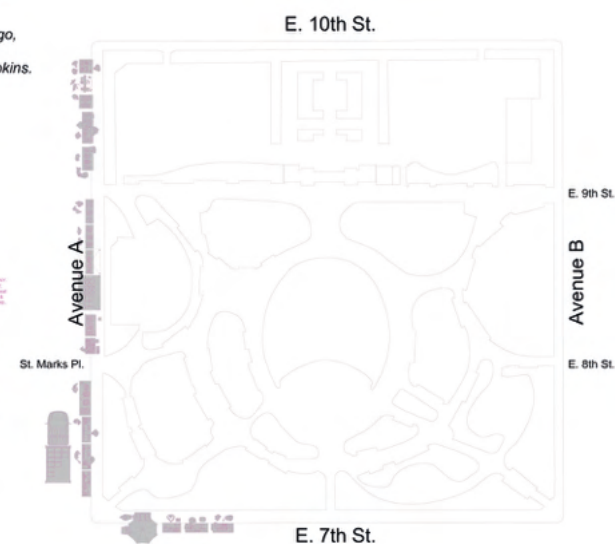


- c. Community Groups
- d. Food Markets
- e. Cultural Events
- f. Mutual Aid Groups
- g. Existing Activities
- h. Adjacent Businesses
- i. Timeline
- j. Show All



Tompkins Square Park,
Everything you can see when you go,
but can't find when you look.
A digital database for a living Tompkins.

- a. Living, Non-human
- b. Occupiable Space
- c. Community Groups
- d. Food Markets
 - Schedule, Every Sunday (Year Round) 9 am - 4 pm
 - Vendors this Sunday,
 - Food Vendors: [List of vendors]
 - Non-Food Vendors: [List of vendors]
- e. Cultural Events
- f. Mutual Aid Groups
- g. Existing Activities
- h. Adjacent Businesses
- i. Timeline
- j. Show All



A series of interactive website maps documenting the occupation, accessibility, and spatial conditions of Tompkins Square Park, tracing how different groups move through, gather within, and are restricted from certain areas of the park.

Fire Escape

Student Publication

Archives, Gathering, Newsprint, Occupation

Fire Escape is a student-led publication that captures the raw, unpolished essence of studio culture and the architecture/art cohort through their submitted work. Presented in newsprint form, its format evolves with each issue. It's unapologetically unfiltered, crumpled, tossed, and experimentally embracing the chaos and creativity of its contributors. Fire Escape has no fixed narrative, no profit motive, and no pretense. It might seem cool or foolish, depending on your perspective. In its playful irreverence, we invite seriousness, critique, and openness. This school isn't just GSAPP, and this city isn't just New York - it's the shared experience of students and their stories.

Site: New York, New York

Timeline: 01/2024 - present

Advisor: Virginia Black

In Collaboration with Bernardo Malatesta



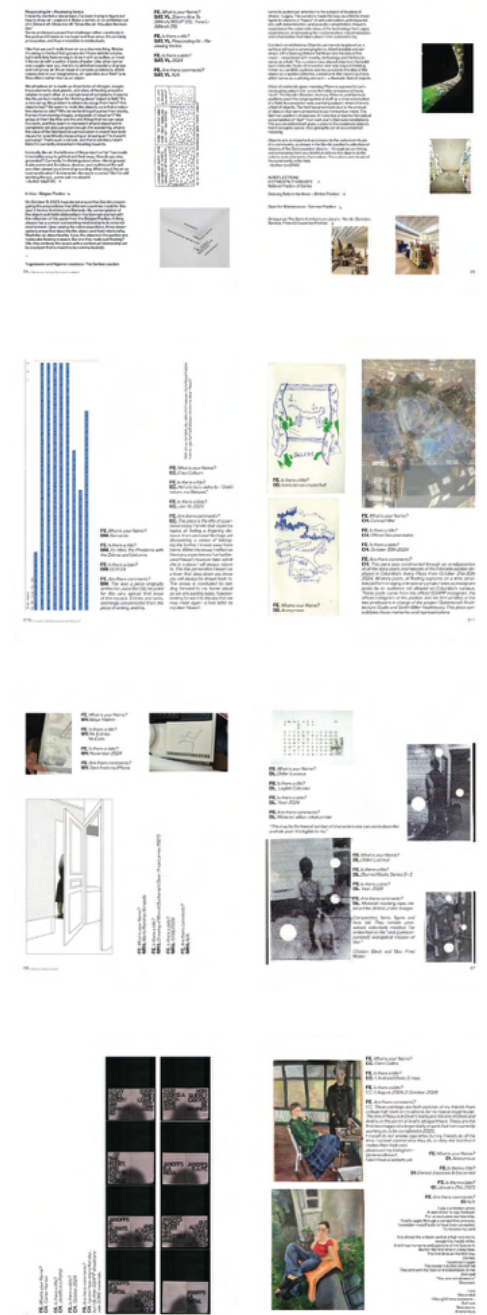
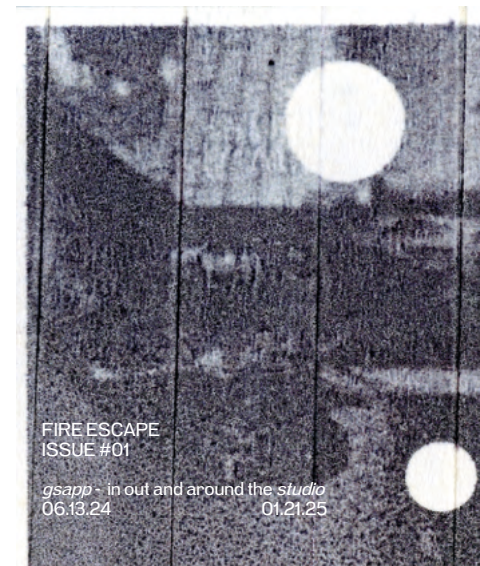
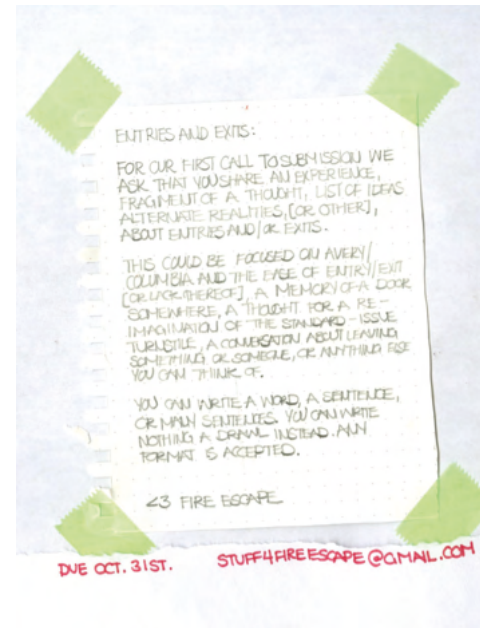
Fall 2024: Issue 01



Spring 2025: Issue 02



Issue 01 Launch Party



Fall 2024: Issue 01



Spring 2025: Issue 02



Spring 2026: Issue 03



Spring 2026: Issue 03



Spring 2025: Issue 02



Spring 2026: Issue 03

Monsoon Commons

Summer Workshop

Commons, Drainage, Flooding, Gutters, Mapping, Pipes, Sediment, Soil, Water, Weathering

Monsoon Commons explores the rapid urbanization of Bengaluru's northern peri-urban region through the perspectives of developers, farmers, and the *rajakaluves*: the infrastructural channels connecting the city's historic chain of lakes. Through a series of maps, the project traces the drastic growth of real estate development surrounding the waterways and wells, alongside the shrinking and disappearance of those water systems over time. Alongside this research, I produced a video documenting monsoon conditions and everyday life across the city, looking closely at how individuals and communities are affected by flooding, development, and changing water infrastructures. Through mapping, fieldwork, and film, the project attempts to uncover these conditions at the ground level while advocating for greater awareness and care toward the city's disappearing commons.

Site: Bengaluru, India

Timeline: 07/2025 - 08/2025

Advisor: Sonal Sahni Beri, Sandro Marpillero



2012



2018



2025



यहाँ पे लोग पानी को खेती के लिए ही इस्तेमाल करे



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ये लोग ये जगह पे बिस्वास करते है यहाँ पे



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यहाँ पे बिस्वास करते और यहाँ पे बिस्वास के लिए सड़क बनाई



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यहाँ पे, उन्हें जहाँ पानी को बिस्वास के लिए इस्तेमाल करते है



यहाँ पे, उन्हें जहाँ पानी को बिस्वास के लिए इस्तेमाल करते है



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यहाँ पे लोग और लोग यहाँ पे बिस्वास करते है एक यहाँ



यहाँ पे लोग और लोग यहाँ पे बिस्वास करते है एक यहाँ