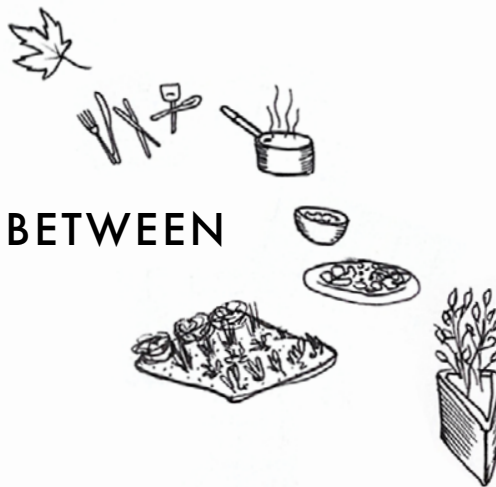




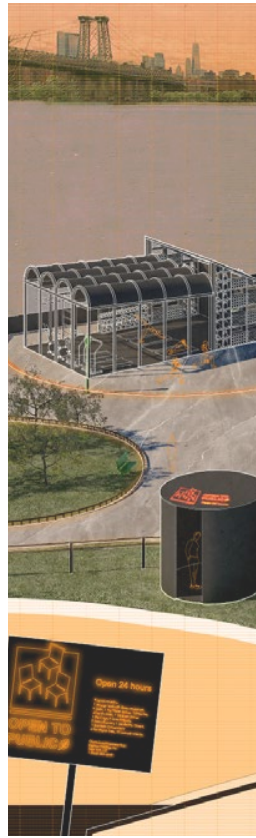
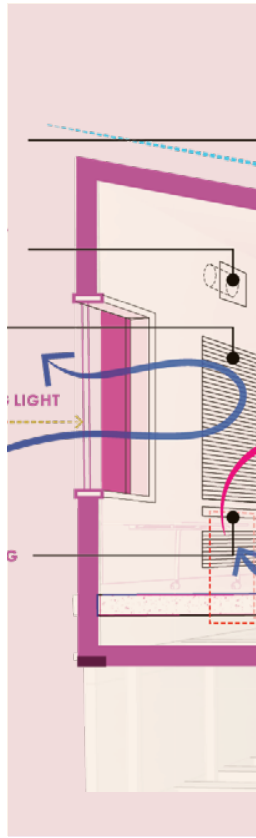
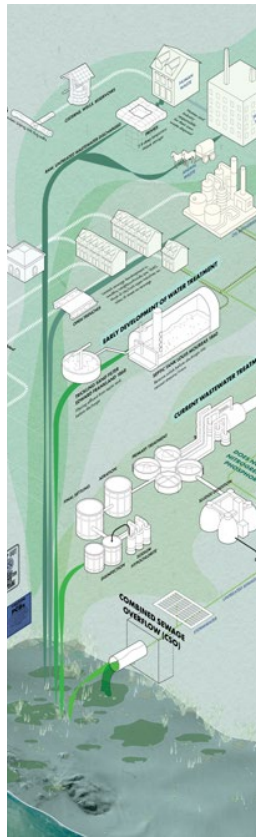
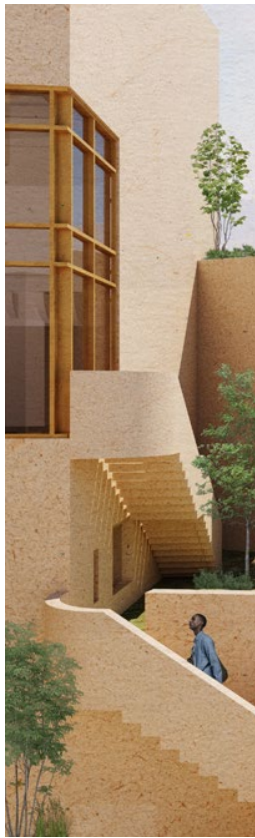
TREES



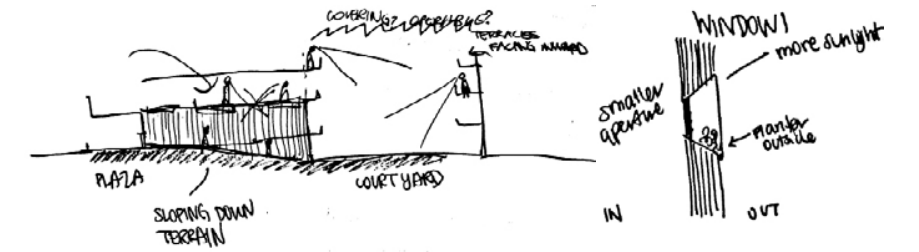
BUILDINGS



& IN BETWEEN



Welcome to my portfolio! Within the last three years at GSAPP, I have challenged myself to design and intervene in existing systems, applying regenerative thinking into spaces and structures. My projects have served as architectural interventions and platforms for social activism, embracing public interaction that provoke dialogue on social inequity and environmental issues. My goal as a designer is to translate these crossings into meaningful contributions within the architectural discipline.



CORE III CLOSING THE LOOP

Type: Academic | Partner: Adriana Gambirazio | October - December 2024
Instructor: Marc Tsurumaki | Software: Rhino, Illustrator, Photoshop, V-Ray

Closing the Loop is a reimagination of urban living in Harlem by integrating a mixed-use of maker spaces and biogenic living. Responding to NYC's urban conditions – looking at the issue of daylight, which is addressed through fragmentation, rotation, and terracing of 6 50'x50' volumes. This formal strategy maximizes natural light penetration, creates diverse living spaces, and establishes meaningful connections to the outdoors through gardens. The project **explores the potential of biogenic materials; straw bale and CLT**, responding to embodied carbon of building material. Public maker spaces connected by an exterior path make production a shared experience rooted in Harlem's cultural identity, closing the loop between living and making, public and private space, and resource use and regeneration.

CHALLENGES: NYC URBAN FABRIC

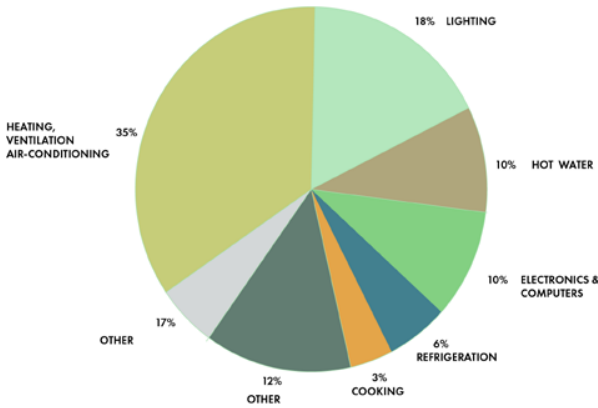
New York City’s challenging urban conditions can be defined by rigid grids, narrow lots, and dense verticality, creating challenges to daylight access, spatial variety, and quality of living. These conditions increase operational energy demands required for electricity-powered lighting, as well as lack of ventilation requiring more cooling in the summer months.

A GAP IN HARLEM’S CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

In West Harlem, where making/art spaces are notably scarce compared to the rest of Manhattan, our housing seeks to integrate residential living with versatile facilities to learn, collaborate, and make, serving both residents and the broader community.



RESIDENTIAL BUILDING
ENERGY USE BREAKDOWN



BUDGET CUTS

“We need to get away from this habit of: every time you have to put the budget on the chopping block, the first thing that goes is arts and culture and sports...It’s doing our youth a disfavor.”

Ricardo Aguirre
Counsel & Director,
Legislative at NYS Assembly



ART IS ECONOMIC TOO

“People forget that the arts are important, that the arts are healing and ... bring more economic advantages to the community... music and art just transforms our minds when we’re troubled... it’s really important that people understand that and support the arts.”

Liz Player
Harlem Chamber Players Founder



ACCESS TO FUNDING

“The main challenge is getting support from local districts, corporations, institutions...We have documented numbers of people coming out to see this but we’re still not getting the support we need.”

Sade Boweya El
Faces of Harlem Founder

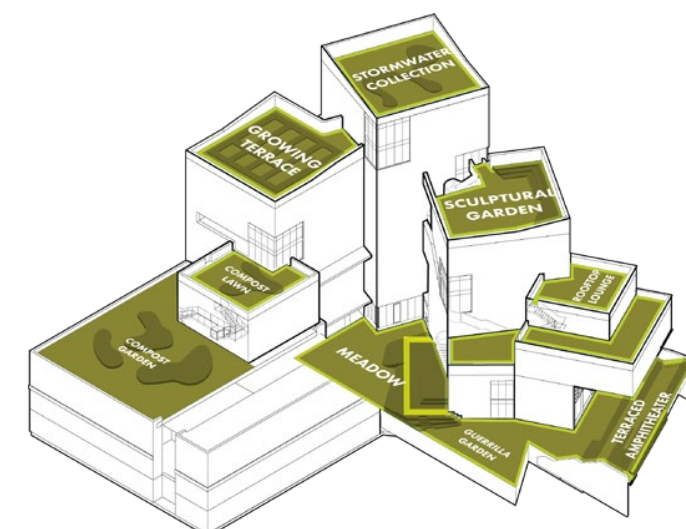
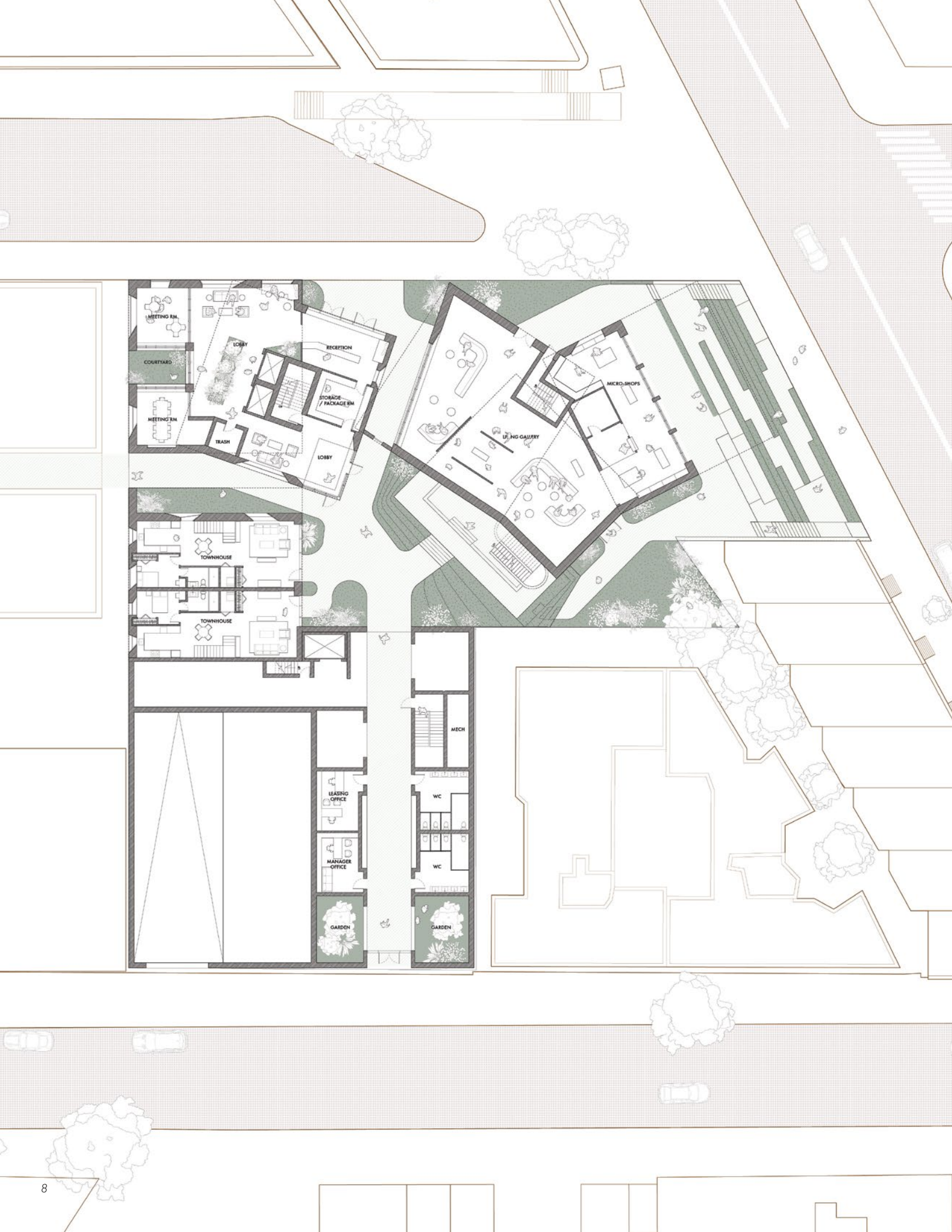


HARLEM IDENTITY

“When I was little, it wasn’t the stores and the buildings but the vendors outside -- people selling things, performing. That was Harlem.”

Vance Rowles
Harlem Native & Student



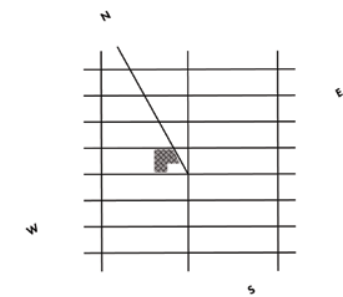
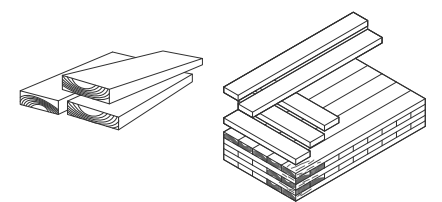


Terraced Green Spaces

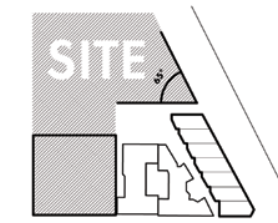
ROTATED RESPONSE

By fragmenting the building mass into six rotated and terraced 50' x 50' volumes, the facade surface area and rooftop greenspace is maximized, providing multi-directional exposure and allowing apartments to receive light from different angles throughout the day and year.

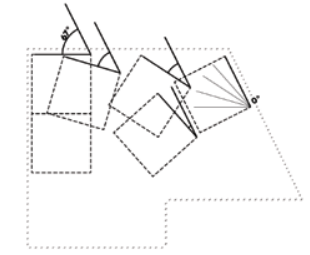
The dimensions **maximize the utilization of the 10' x 50' cross-laminated timber (CLT) blank** with minimal waste, and respond directly to the site context.



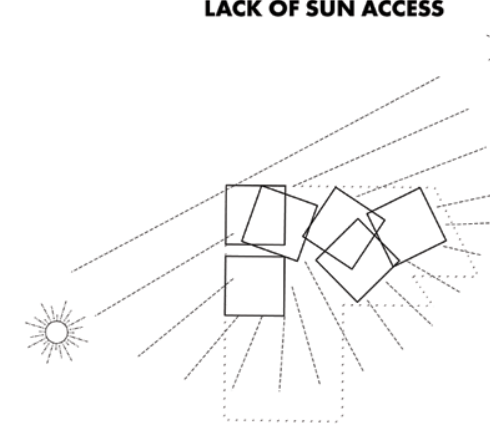
COMMISSIONER'S PLAN
LACK OF SUN ACCESS



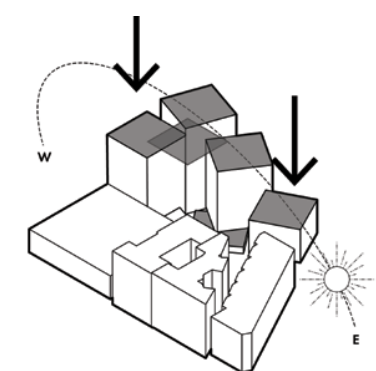
RESPONSE TO CONVENT AVE
& SOLAR ORIENTATION



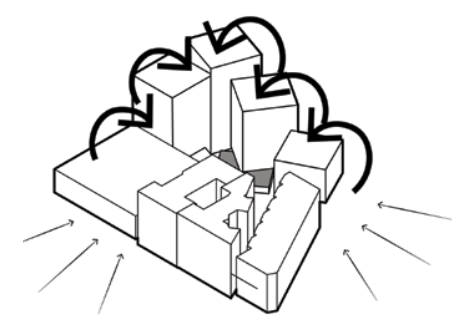
ROTATION OF
50X50 ft MASSINGS



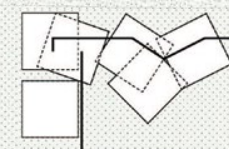
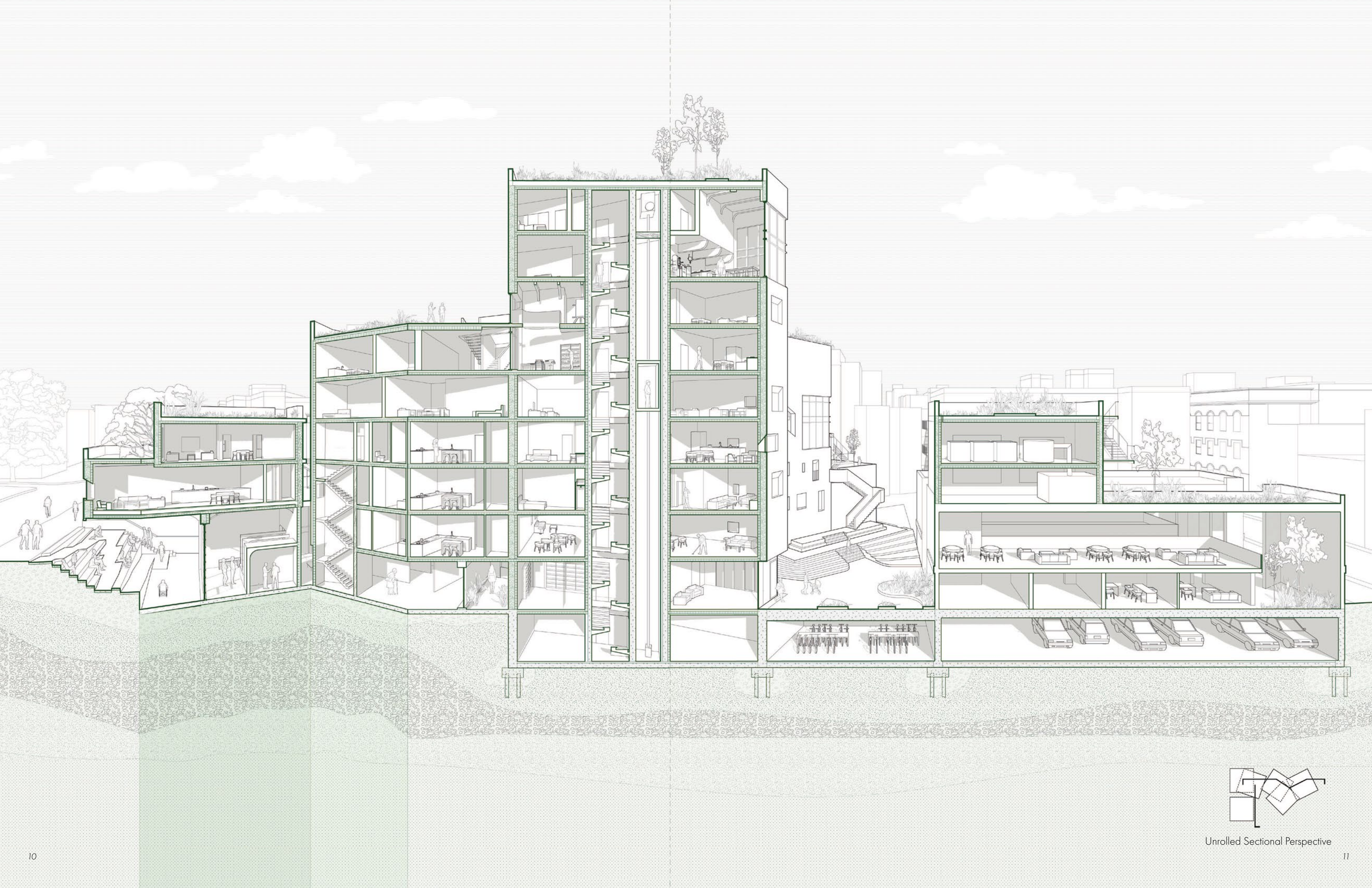
SUN EXPOSURE



VARIATION IN HEIGHT ACCORDING
TO SUN AND SITE CONTEXT



DEVELOPING AN INTERCONNECTED
MAKING COMMUNITY



Unrolled Sectional Perspective



Window Study Models: Wall Thickness Occupation



Reading Nook Seating

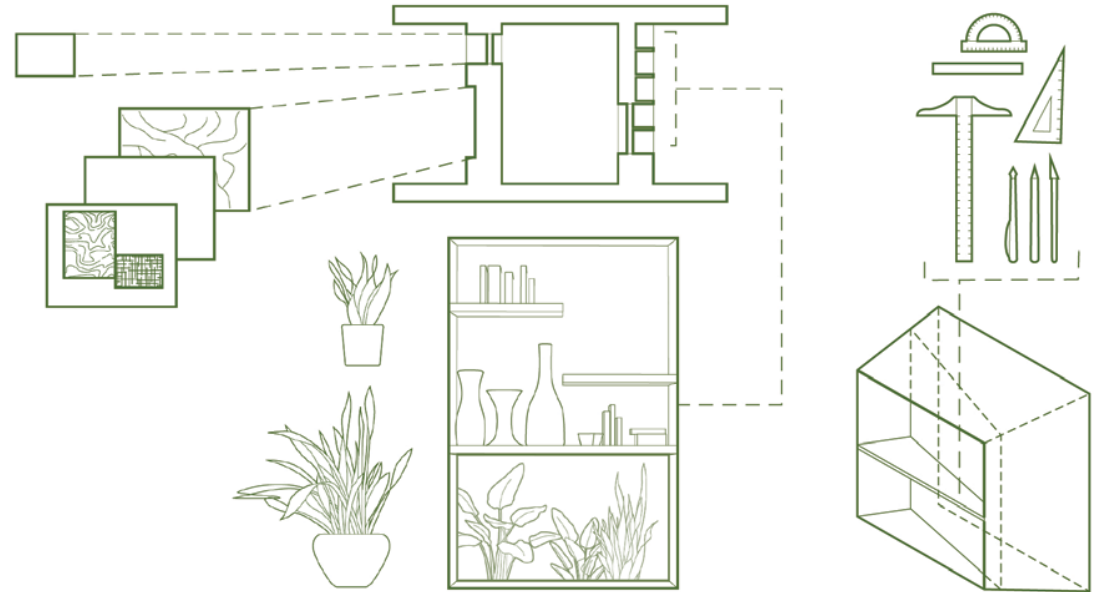


Balconette and Wall Insert



Desk and Shelving

WALL THICKNESS OCCUPATION
 The increased perimeter creates both challenges and opportunities. Thickened straw bale walls provide enhanced insulation and spaces for occupation. It creates more dynamic living spaces, providing more corner units.







Physical Sectional Model



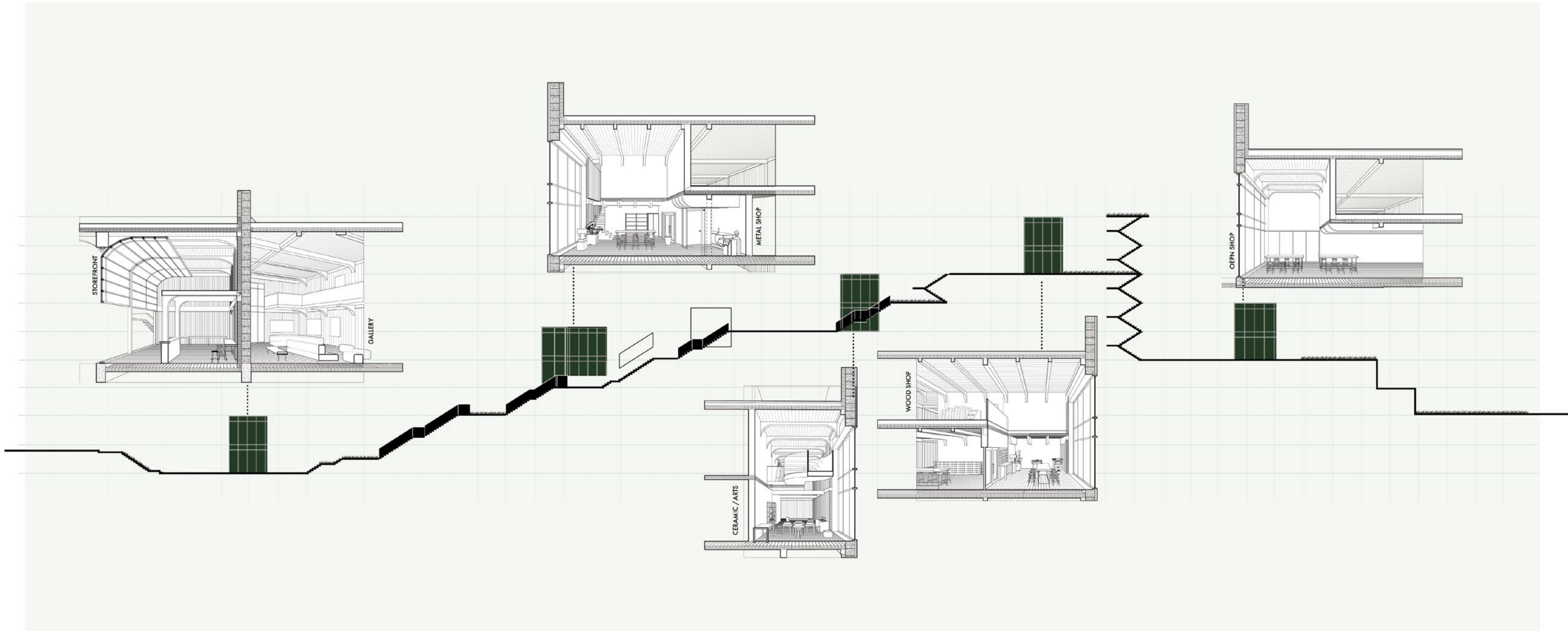
Physical Model Shop Space



Terra Cotta Model Detail



Terra Cotta Clay Model

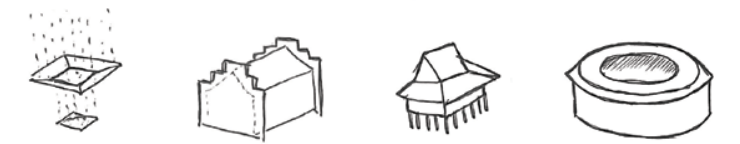


CLOSED LOOP OF SHOPS

The public-private circulation connects the all the maker spaces, including the Storefront/ Gallery, the Metal Shop, the Ceramic/Art Studio, the Wood Shop, and the Open Shop.

Intertwined between the shops are the residential spaces, creating a dynamic environment where living and making coexist, fostering a sense of community and shared creativity.

Unrolled Circulation and Shops



CORE II BEYOND THE GATE

Type: Academic, Individual | January - April 2024 | Instructor: Abraham Murrell

Beyond the Gate **questions and reimagines the stereotypical and exoticized portrayal of Chinatown gates**, aiming to create a new gateway symbolizing community resilience and productivity. The project delves into the historical and contemporary challenges faced by Manhattan's Chinatown, including xenophobia and economic hardships. The political tensions within Chinatown, such as gentrification and structural racism, are also examined and responded by a new gateway to Chinatown. The bridging of two underutilized spaces at the end of the Manhattan Bridge, reclaims the site and existing arch and colonnade built from the "City Beautiful" movement. This community gateway becomes a system for a space of community productivity, with the raised landscape facilitating informal markets and educational landscapes for sustainable farming practices while also creating a public forum. Inspired by traditional Chinese architecture, the design incorporates elements from the Tulou and moon gates to foster community gathering and dialogue.

STREET PRODUCE VENDORS & RESILIENCE

Beginning with a study of xenophobia in Manhattan's Chinatown, I illustrated the impacts of the "Double Pandemic"—the events of 9/11 and the COVID-19 pandemic. Both crises affected businesses, leading to isolation in the neighborhood, especially evident in the produce markets beneath the Manhattan Bridge on Forsyth Street.

I further studied Chinatown's resilient and decentralized produce distribution system, relying on familial ties

9/11 ACCESSIBILITY TO CHINATOWN

8 DAYS

Vehicles and non-residents were blocked from entering the area

6 WEEKS

Subway lines skipped the neighborhood

4 MONTHS

Phone and network lines went out, did not fully come back until four months later

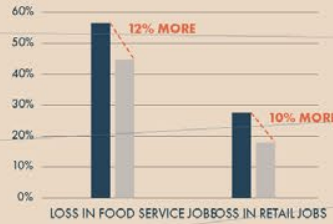
CHINATOWN ANNUAL DATA

- Employment (Food Service)
- Employment (Retail Trade)
- Adult Asthma
- PM2.5 (mean mcg/m3)

COVID-19 LACK OF AID

NYC's \$35M LMI Storefront Loan excluded businesses in ZIP code 10013, which has a high median income due to Tribeca and SoHo households, even though Chinatown incomes are much lower.

% CHINATOWN JOB LOSS - COVID-19



MANHATTAN BRIDGE NOISE + AIR POLLUTION

STREET VENDOR DISPLACEMENT

1. CANAL STREET TRIANGLE

City officials claimed unsafe hygiene and traffic violations to justify forcibly vacating the area — part of the ongoing criminalization of street life, immigrants, and poor and working people.

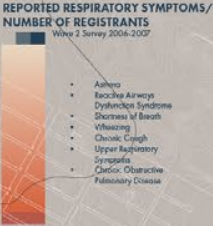
2. DRAGONS GATE MARKET

The city Parks Commissioner had originally envisioned the market as an open-air bazaar, filled with peddlers and portable pushcarts. "Instead, they started building iron buildings."

3. FORSYTH STREET PRODUCE MARKET

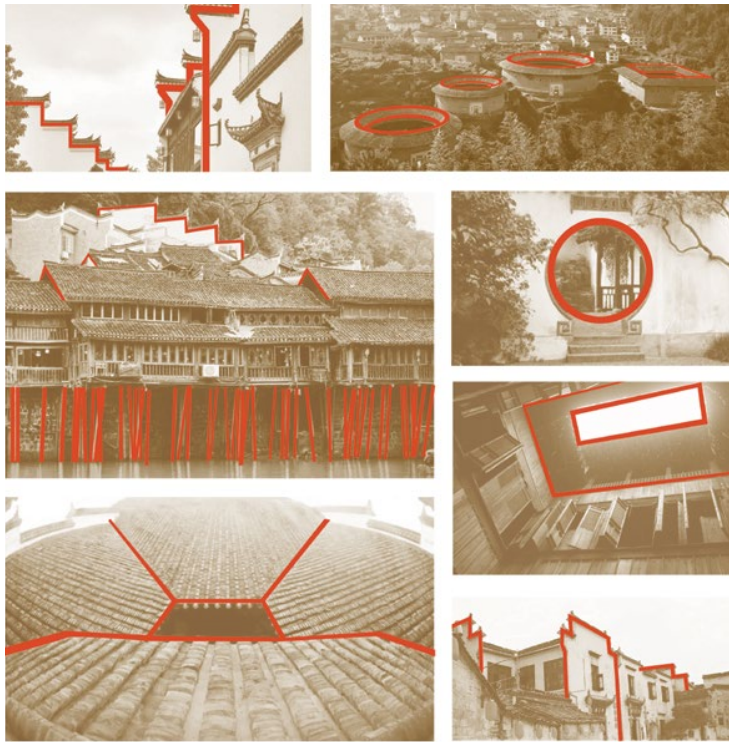
949 summonses were issued to Forsyth Street vendors in 2009 and 2010, far outpacing any other market in the city.

FORSYTH STREET MARKET



9/11 CANAL STREET AID CUTOFF

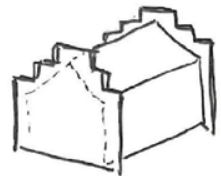
"EXPOSURE ZONE" RESPONSE BY Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)



Traditional Chinese Architecture Studies



TULOU HOUSING FUJIAN ARCHITECTURE
 - communal living - self contained system
 - protection from animals & thieves
 - circles, squares, octagonal



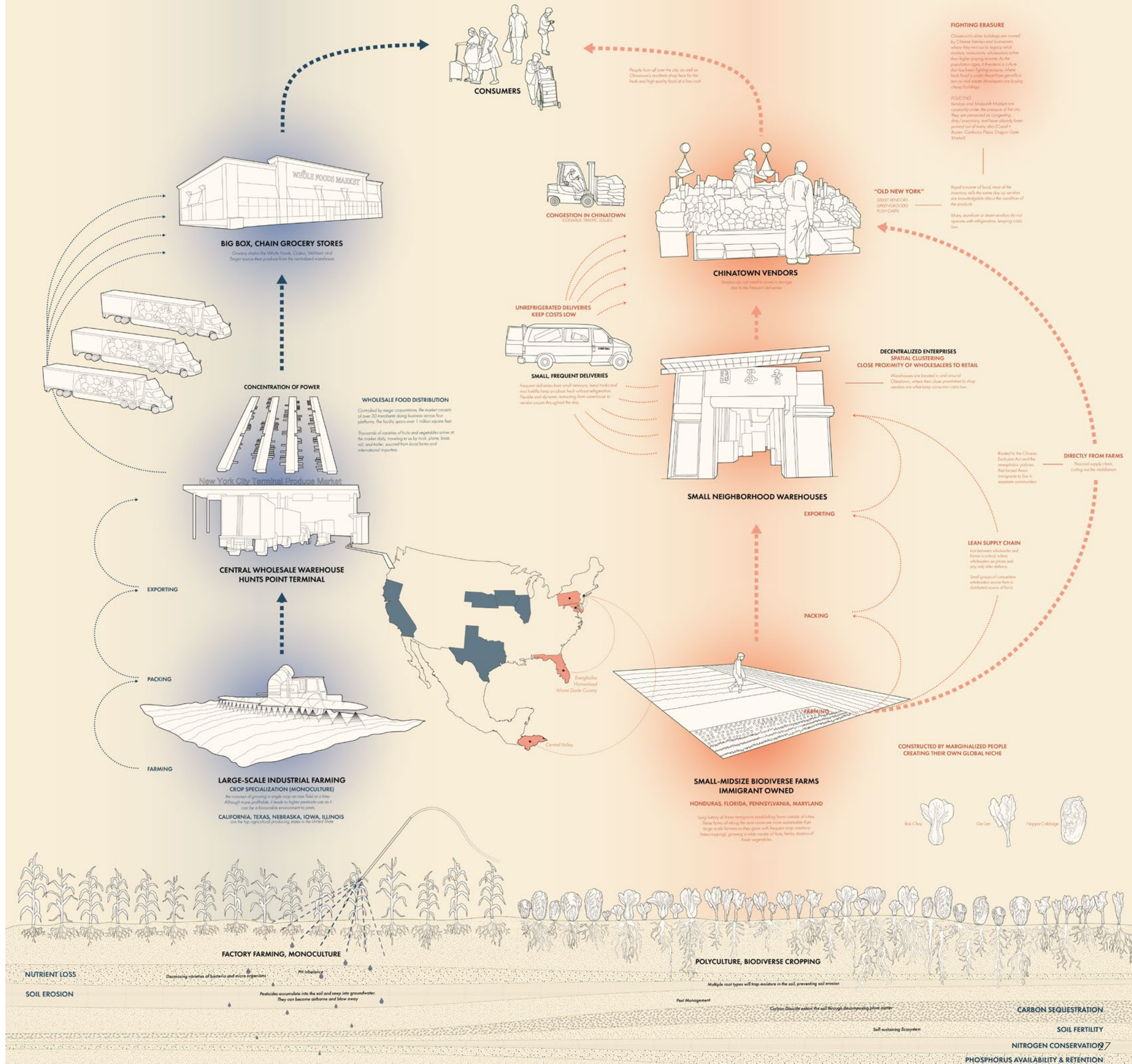
HORSE-HEAD WALLS HUIZHOU ARCHITECTURE
 - rural houses, representative feature
 - "WIND + FIRE WALL"
 - seals & prevents fire
 - wall higher than gable roof
 - prevents house from being damaged by fire
 - fire sealing wall → RESILIENCE
 - 2 FOLD OR 3 FOLD



INWARD COURTYARD HUIZHOU ARCHITECTURE
 - surrounded by high walls
 - rainwater falls from roofs on rainy days into the courtyard
 - water is collected
 - ↳ symbolizes money, wealth
 - sometimes 2 layers of roof



DIQIAOLIU STILTS SICHUAN ARCHITECTURE
 - built to protect from snakes + animals
 - often in mountains & rivers



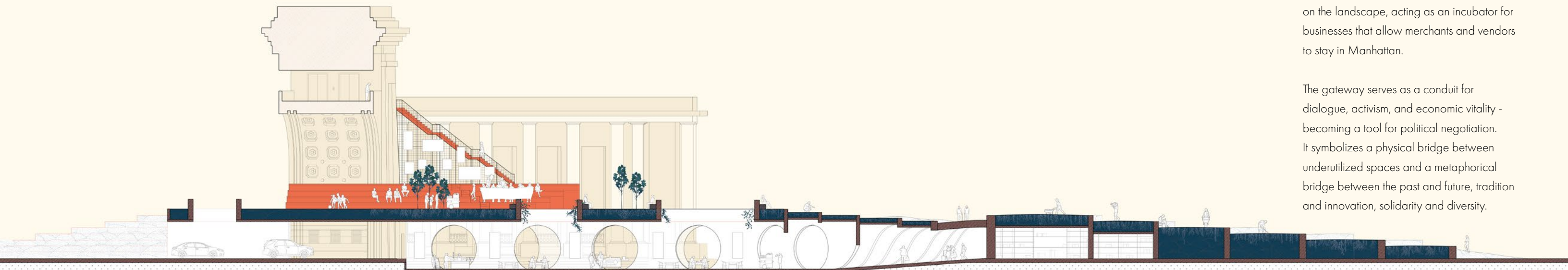
The concept model illustrates how street vendors were displaced from prime locations, underscoring a narrative of displacement and marginalization. Through a timeline of three sites they've occupied, they are represented with characteristics of how the vendors used their spaces.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & POLITICAL SPHERE

By reimagining the Chinatown gate as a dynamic space for community engagement and productivity, the project becomes a tangible manifestation of cultural preservation. Informal markets occur both underneath and on the landscape, acting as an incubator for businesses that allow merchants and vendors to stay in Manhattan.

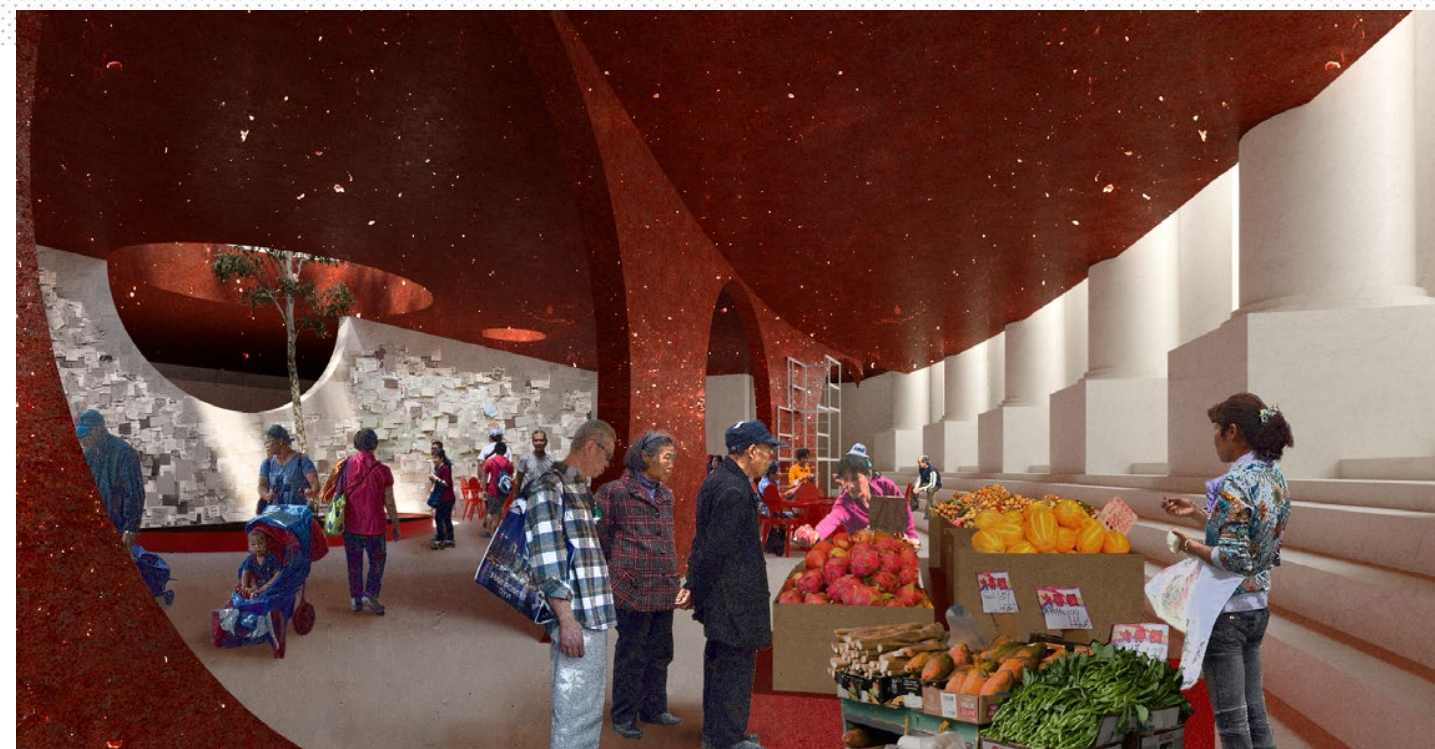
The gateway serves as a conduit for dialogue, activism, and economic vitality - becoming a tool for political negotiation. It symbolizes a physical bridge between underutilized spaces and a metaphorical bridge between the past and future, tradition and innovation, solidarity and diversity.



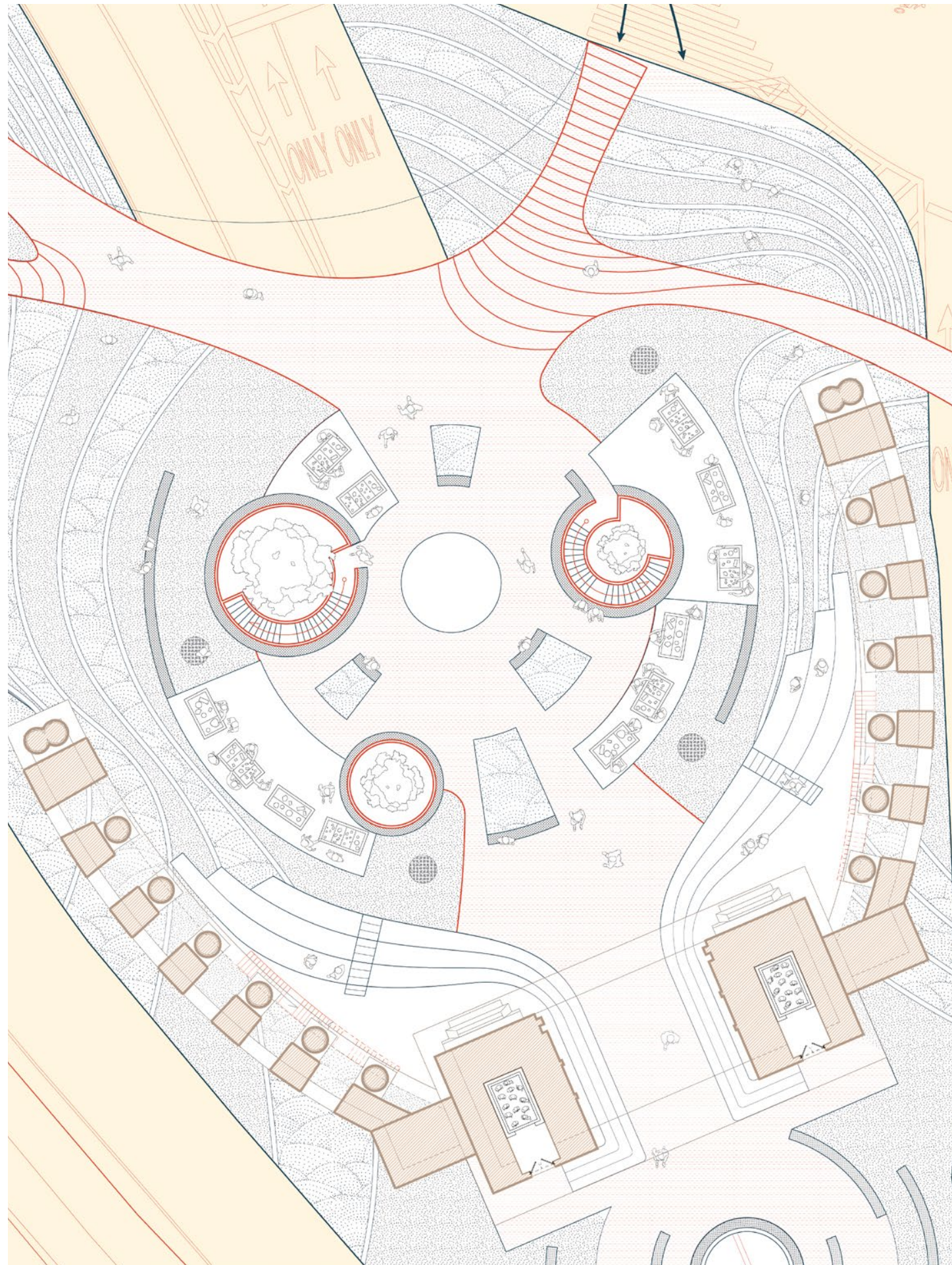
Section Through Site



(Game) Tables for Chinese Community



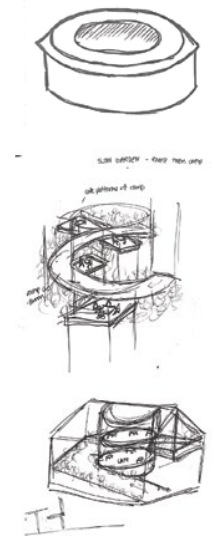
Beneath the Gate: Markets



Upper Level Plan



Market Collage



Structural Model

TRADITIONAL EXPLORATIONS

The Tulou is a traditional Chinese communal living space in a self-contained system, often in the formation of a circle. I developed my plan around this centrality, focusing on communal gathering and discussions. This form was further developed revolving around the moon gate, where its circular opening is a traditional architectural element in Chinese gardens.

STRUCTURE

Through the use of a series of retaining walls to form this raised landscape, a more structuralized market is created through the use of moon gates while incorporating the existing base of the arch as pockets of space.



**SongYang Rice Wine Factory
Collectible Stackable Model**

¥34,500

ADD TO CART

松陽米酒工場



**ADR I
RICE WINE LEGACY**

Type: Academic, Individual | November - December 2023 | Instructor: Zachary White

The SongYang Rice Wine Factory is located in an extremely rural town in China. To promote rural tourism, this project focuses on the advertisement and the building as commodity, creating gift shop artefacts, brochures, and a storytelling animation. I handbuilt a ceramic model to be sold in the factory's gift shop, where its clay materiality reflects the traditional pots used for rice wine storage. Its three-piece collectible design symbolizes the factory's three main floors, highlighting essential areas like rice wine storage, factory operations, and public spaces. Integrated features such as a viewing platform and light well emphasize the connection between public and private areas, where this dichotomy of public vs private is also emphasized in the brochures. In addition, the video stills show the story of the rice wine's production from farming to drinking.

SONGYANG RICE WINE FACTORY

松阳米酒工坊

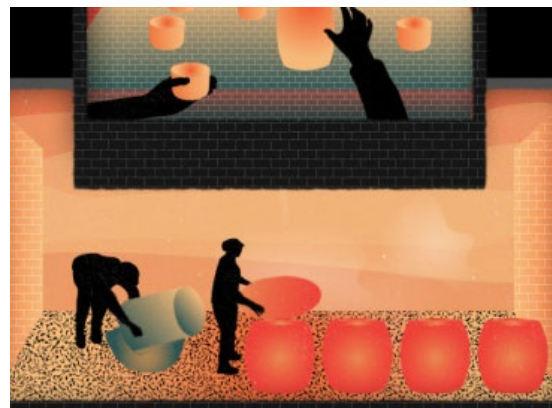
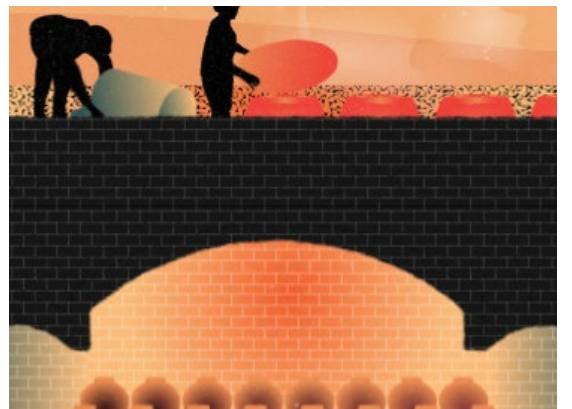
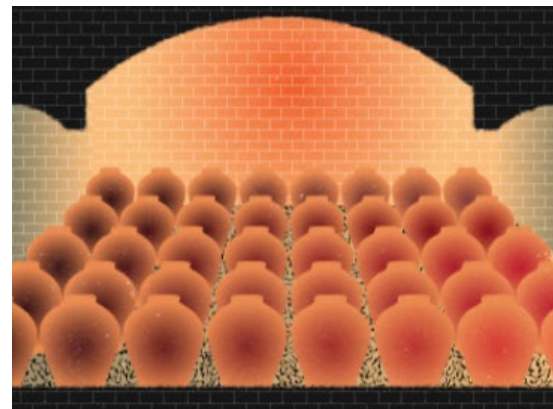
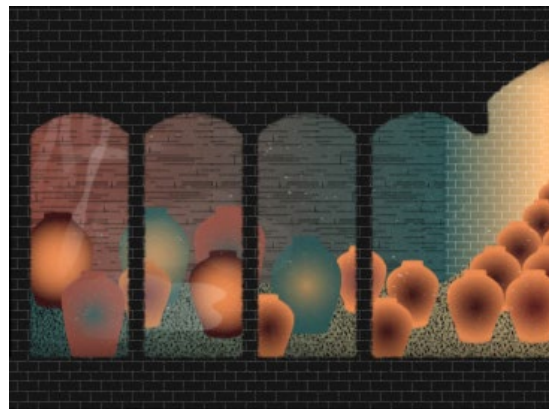
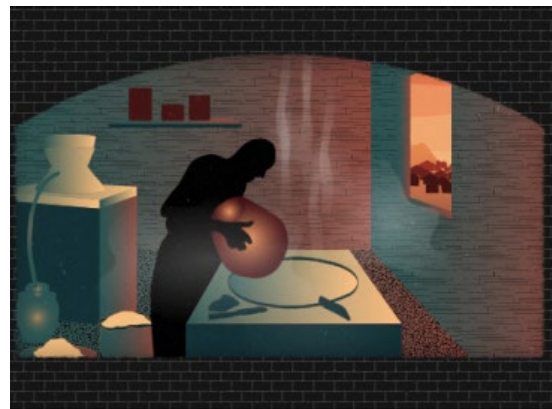
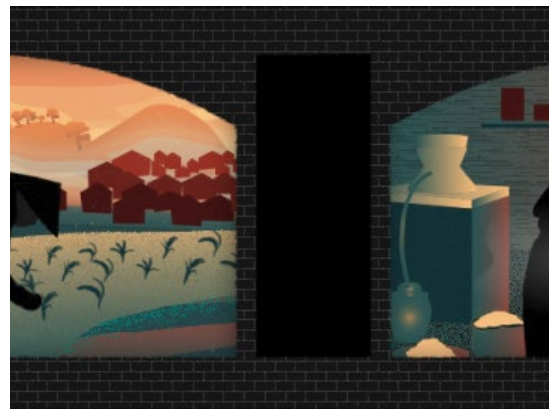
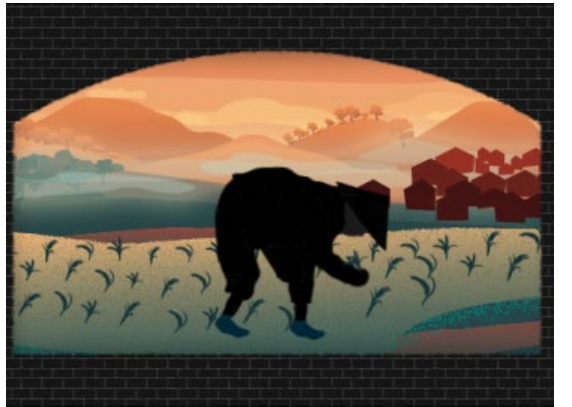
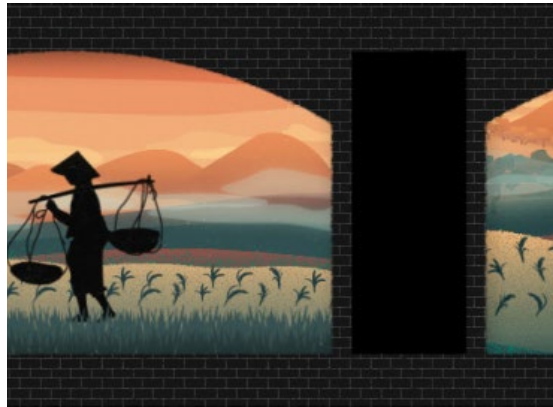
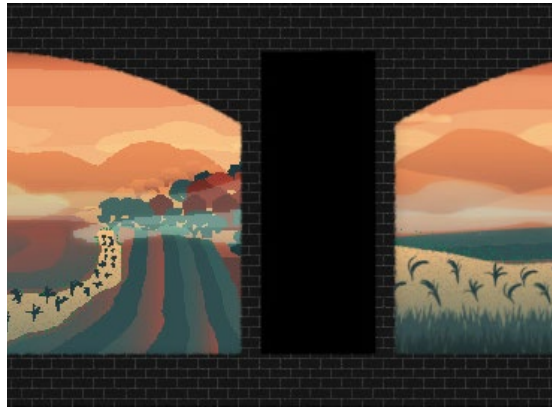
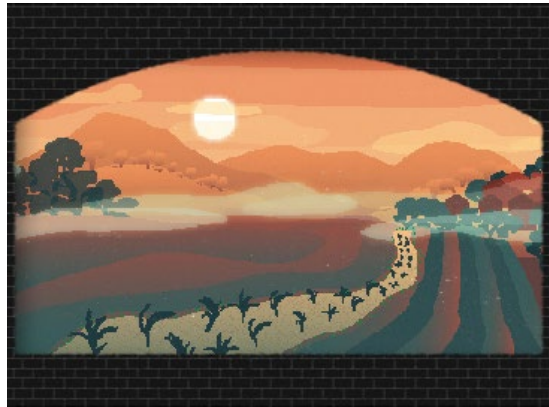
瓶都是传统酿酒技术的见证
 始山脉的清澈水铸酿而成。每一
 我们的米酒采用当地优质糯米和来自松阳原



Brochure Style Axonometric



Brochure Style Sections



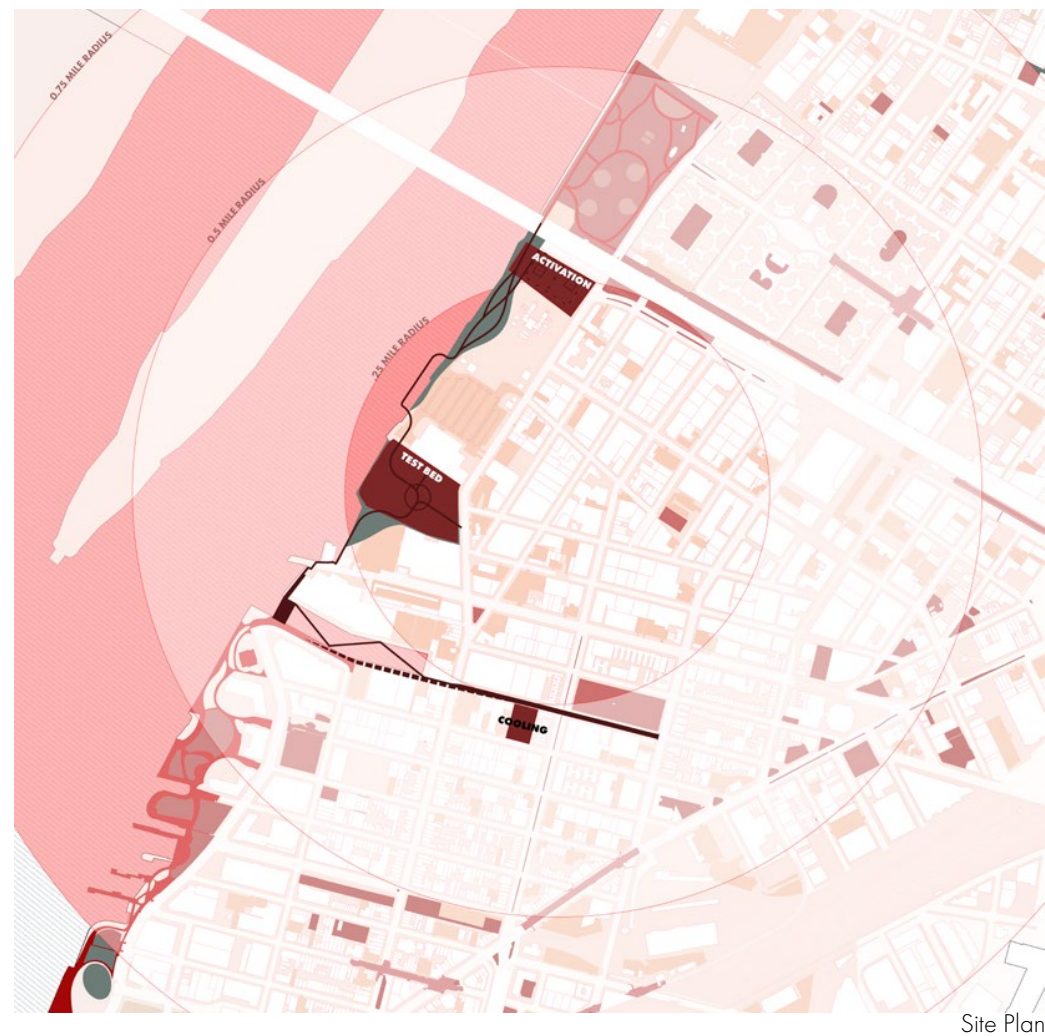
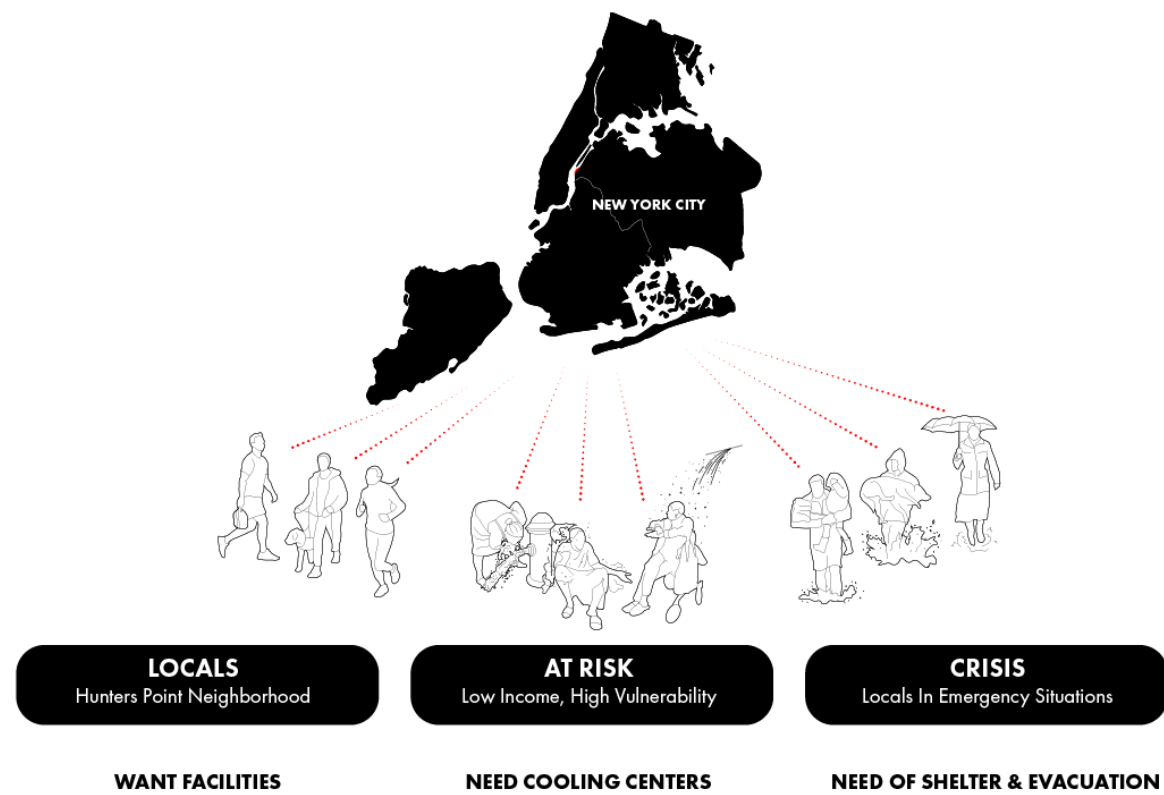
Animation Stills
[Video Link.](#)



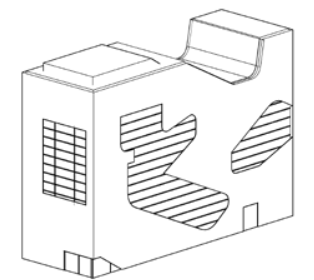
ADV IV LIVING NETWORK

Type: Academic | Partner: Adriana Gambirazio | January - April 2025
Instructor: Havard Brevik-Khan | Software: Rhino, Illustrator, Photoshop, V-Ray

The Living Network rethinks public infrastructure as a **dual-purpose system for both daily community use and emergency response**. The project focuses on extreme heat events, using environmental and demographic mapping to identify high-risk areas and propose spatial interventions that enhance resilience. The framework connects three distinct sites through a cooling path that links Queensbridge Park to the north with the East River waterfront promenade to the south. These nodes serve as community anchors, providing recreational amenities in regular conditions and transforming into cooling and refuge centers during climate emergencies. Each site responds to access, transit connectivity, ecological conditions, and the presence of heat-vulnerable populations.



Site Plan



Queens Public Library
Occupancy : 496

0.125 mile Radius population 706
0.25 mile Radius population 2889

SITE SELECTION

Founded on data-driven site selection, the project identifies Hunter's Point, Queens as an optimal location due to its significant **heat vulnerability, vacant lot availability, transit accessibility, and strong temperature deviation from the city median.** The area, primarily built on wetlands faces flood risks which are addressed in the design.

LACK OF COOLING CENTERS

Queen's Public Library is Hunters Point's only official cooling center. With the lack of public cooling spaces, the Living Network would provide a safe refuge to locals in the neighbourhood, people from at risk neighbourhoods, as well as in a crisis such as a major flood, hurricane, etc.



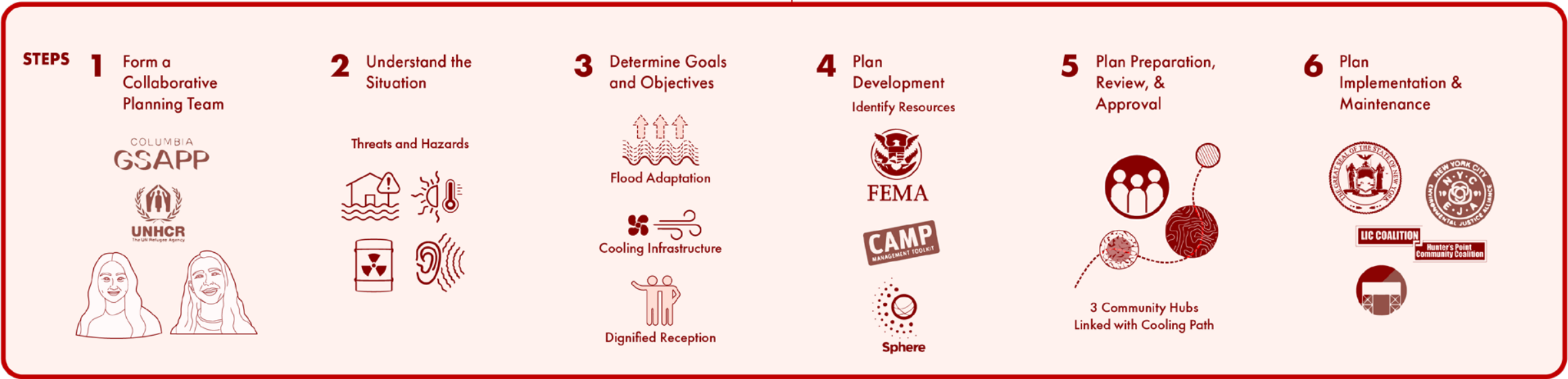
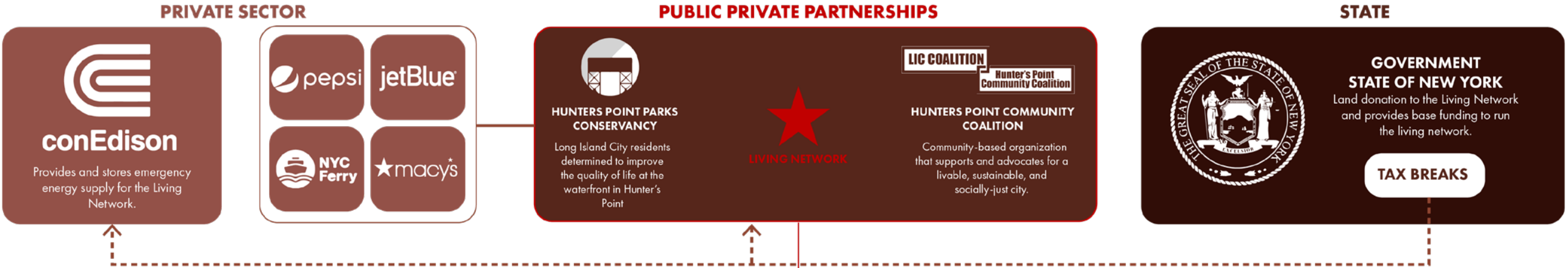
Zoning Map



Flood Map

LIVING NETWORK

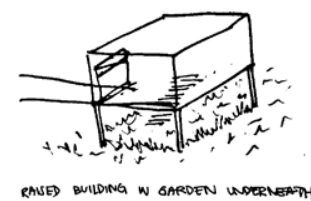
HUNTERS POINT



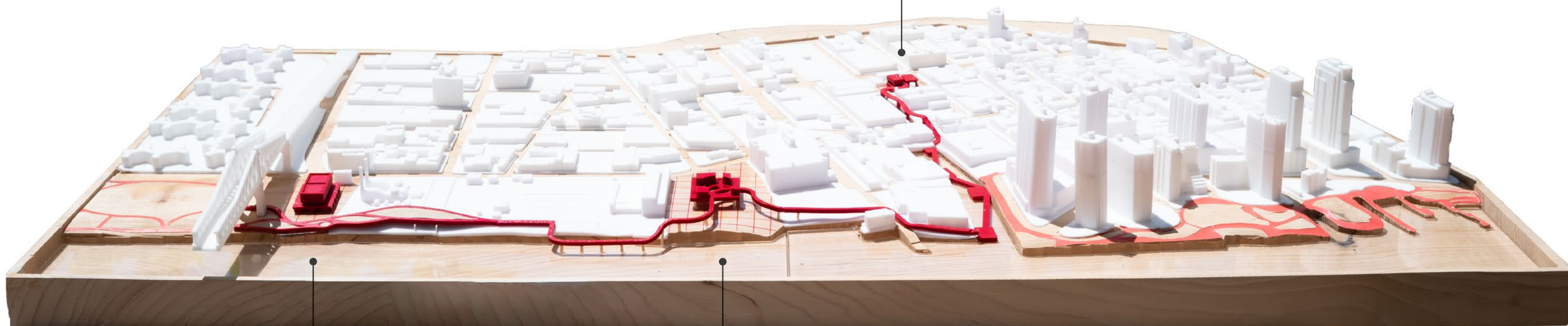
3 SITES LINKED

The Activation Center, The Test Bed, and The Cooling Center– linked by a green cooling pathway that connects to the existing waterfront promenade to the south and Queensbridge Park to the north. This maintains access to emergency spaces during a crisis and integrate strategies of ecosystem restoration, flood management and prevention, and adaptability based on specific site conditions and flooding studies.

Preliminary sketches and sketch models shown.

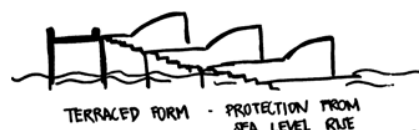
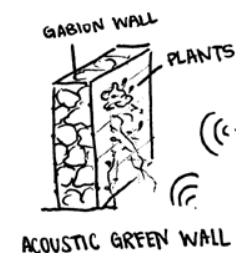


COOLING CENTER

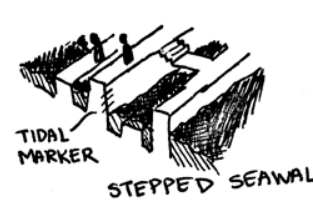


Site Model

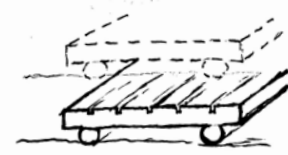
ACTIVATION CENTER



TEST BED



STEPPED SEAWALL





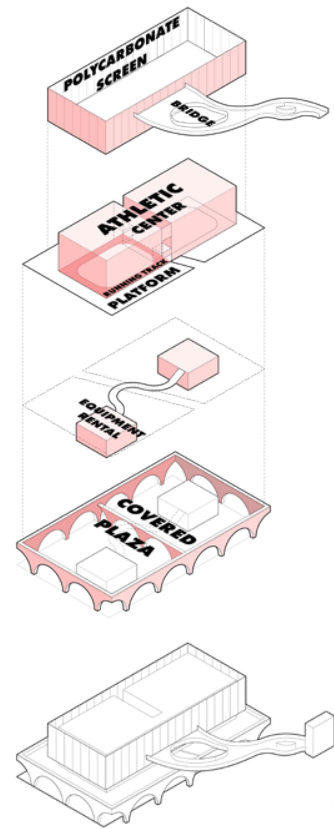
Activation Center Covered Plaza



Test Bed Educational Pathway



Cooling Center Entrance, Raised Cooling Path



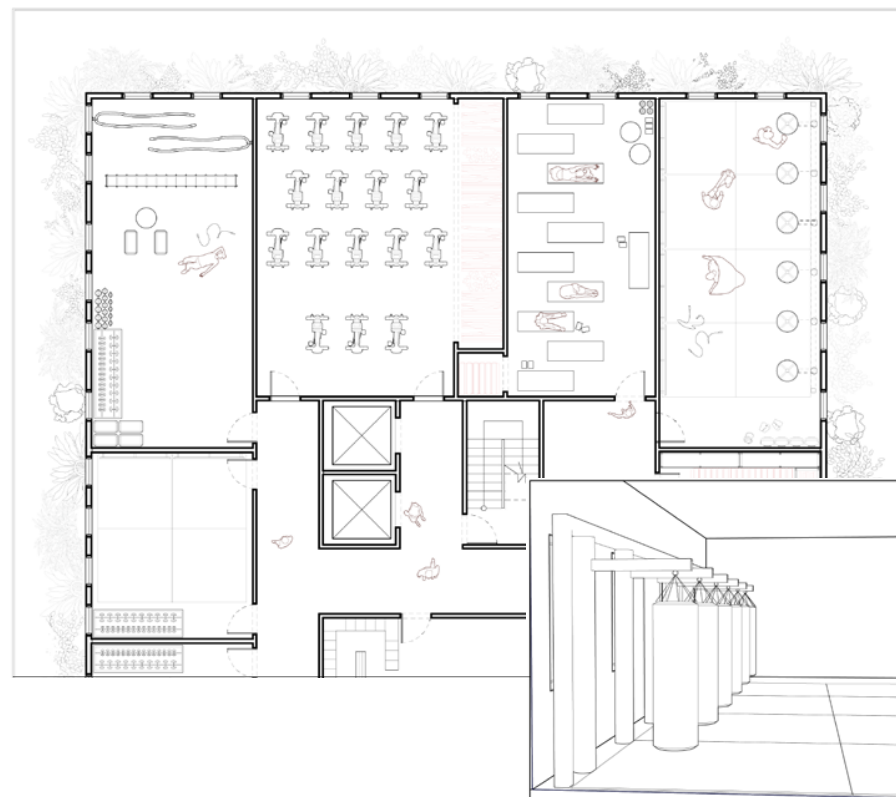
ACTIVATION CENTER

Located beside the Queensboro Bridge and Con Edison, this site transforms an existing building into a dual-use facility—a community fitness hub that converts into both emergency housing.

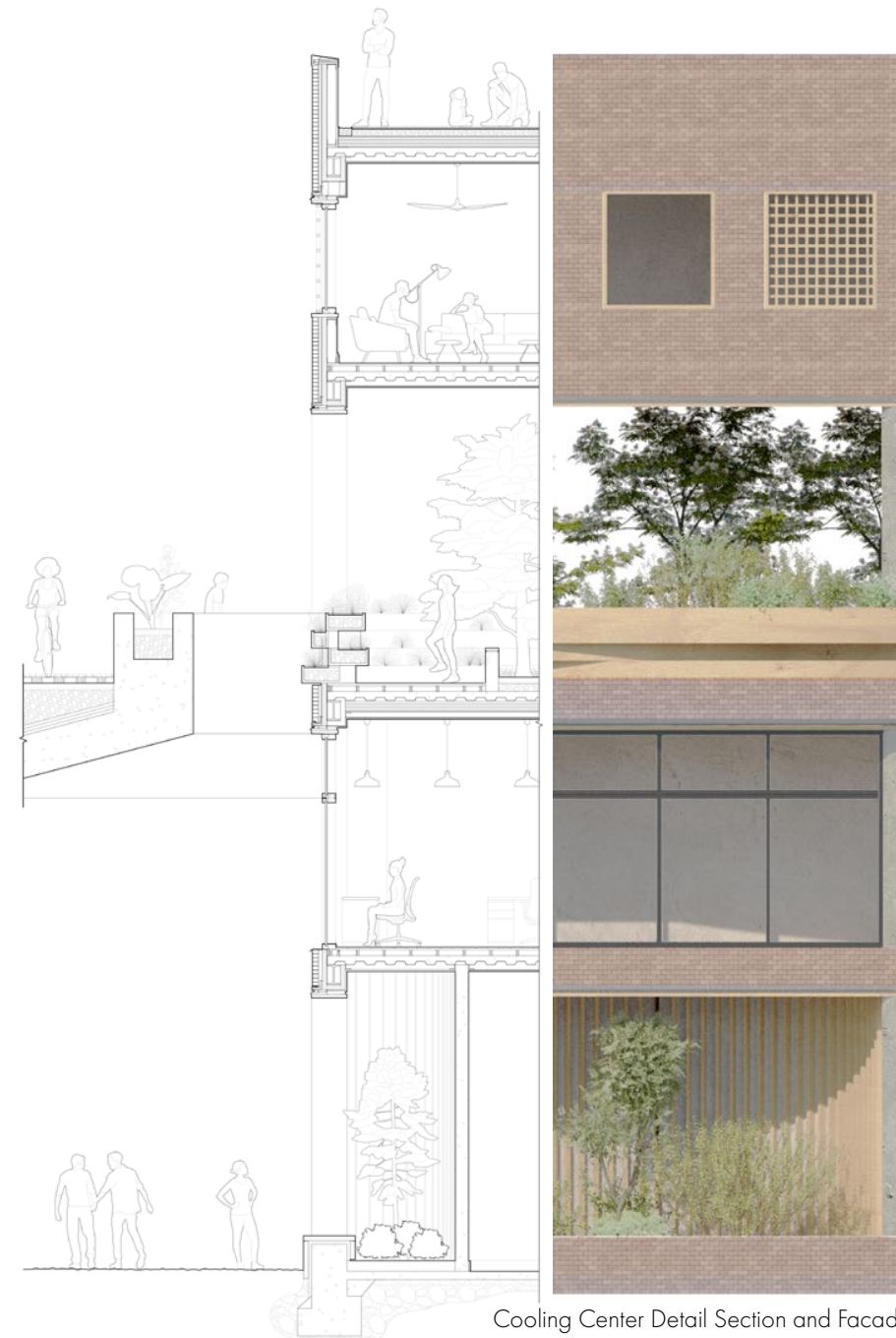
A green acoustic wall mitigates noise, while terraced waterfront access enhances ecology. During emergencies, gym areas adapt into housing for both short-term displacement and long-term migrant response.



Emergency Activation



Community Fitness Use

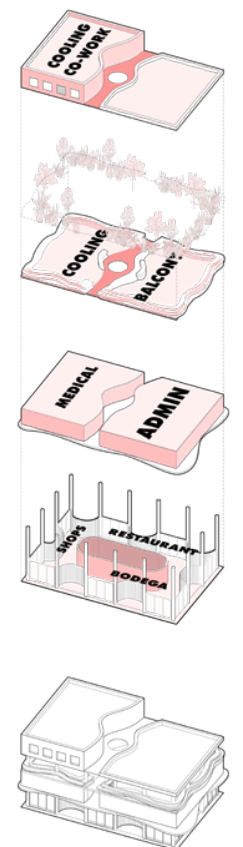


Cooling Center Detail Section and Facade

COOLING CENTER

The Cooling center is an inland site reimagined as a community hub combining coworking, micro-businesses, and emergency cooling infrastructure.

Integrated vegetation manages stormwater and enhances the streetscape, while a cooling balcony and elevated path provide refuge during heat events. Multi-level design ensures adaptability, with passive ventilation and public access layered across daily and crisis uses.



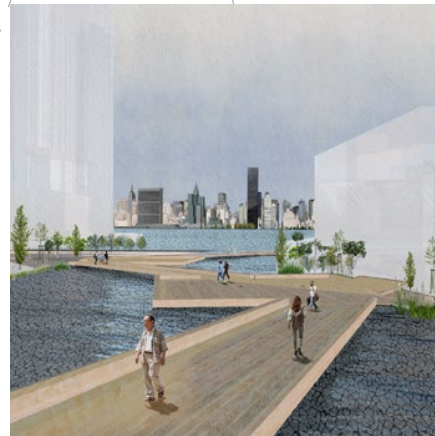
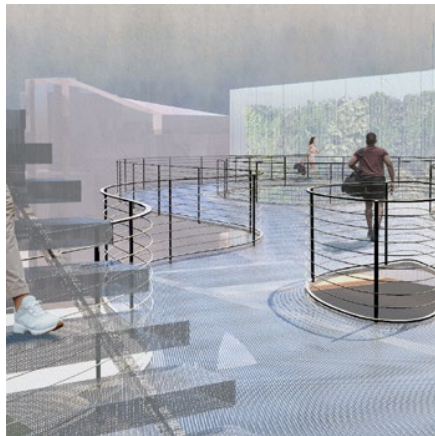
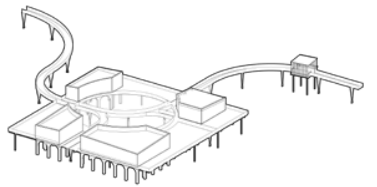
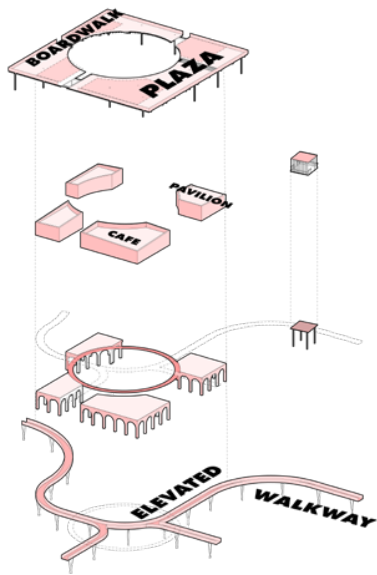


Test Bed Speculative Section

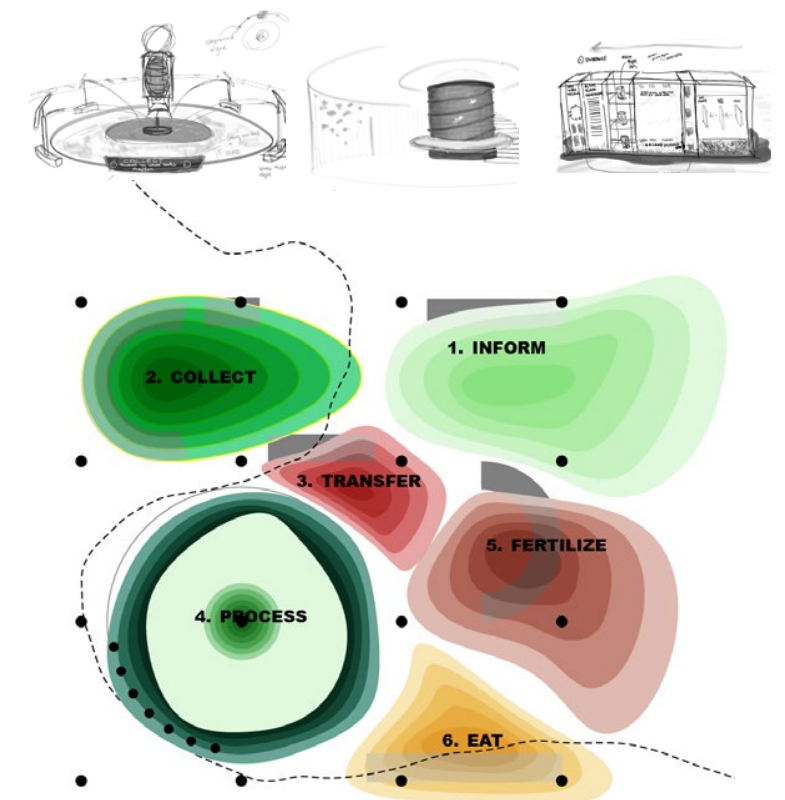
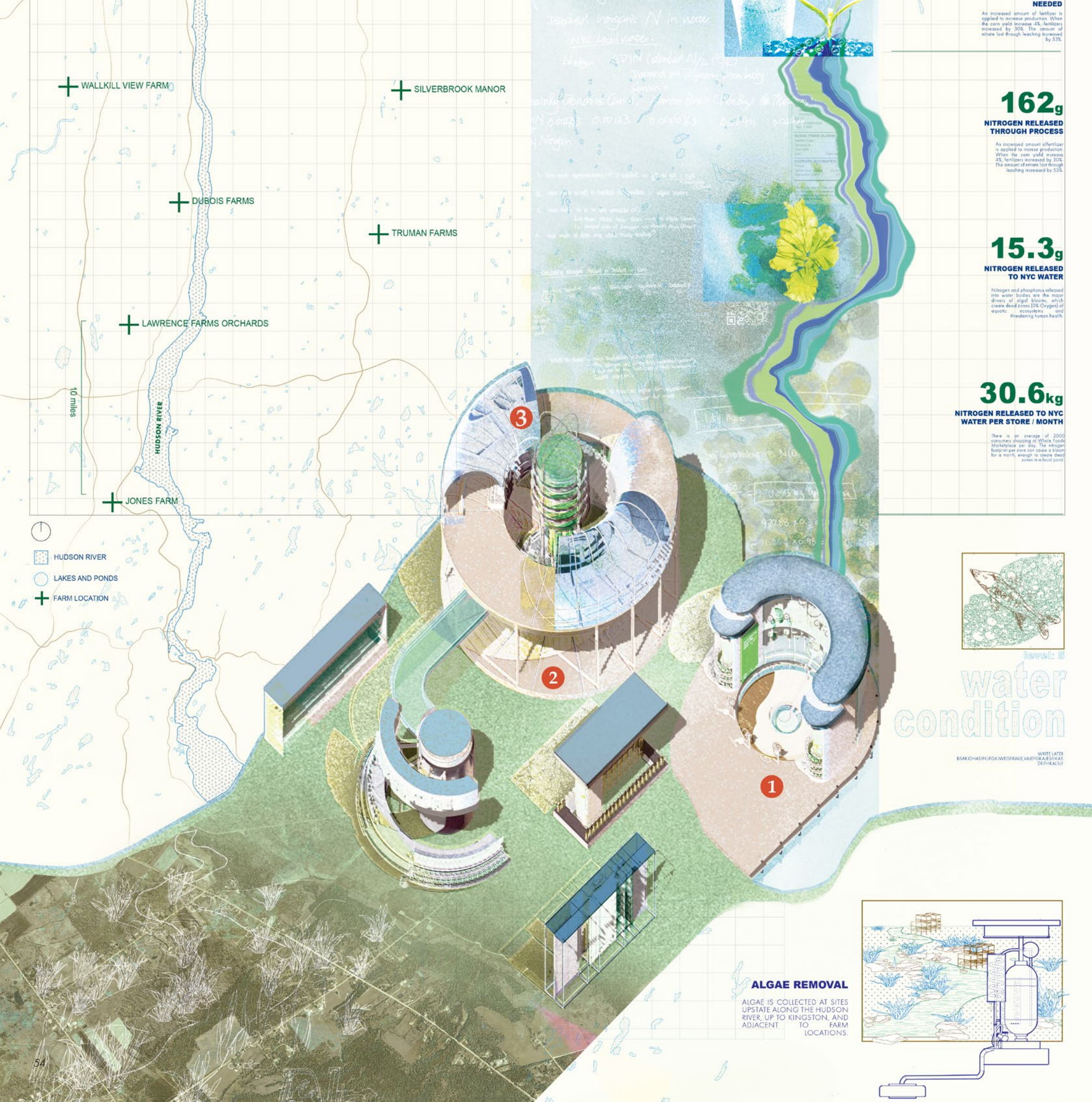
SHORELINE TEST BED

Located along the waterfront, the wetland site combines ecological restoration with public use through a community café and learning pavilion. Elevated paths ensure emergency access, while ground-level routes embrace wetland conditions with bioswales and flood-responsive design.

The project supports daily community life while designing for climate adaptation, allowing natural systems—like oysters, permeable bricks, and gabion walls—to visibly manage water and educate through landscape.



Moments along Cooling Path

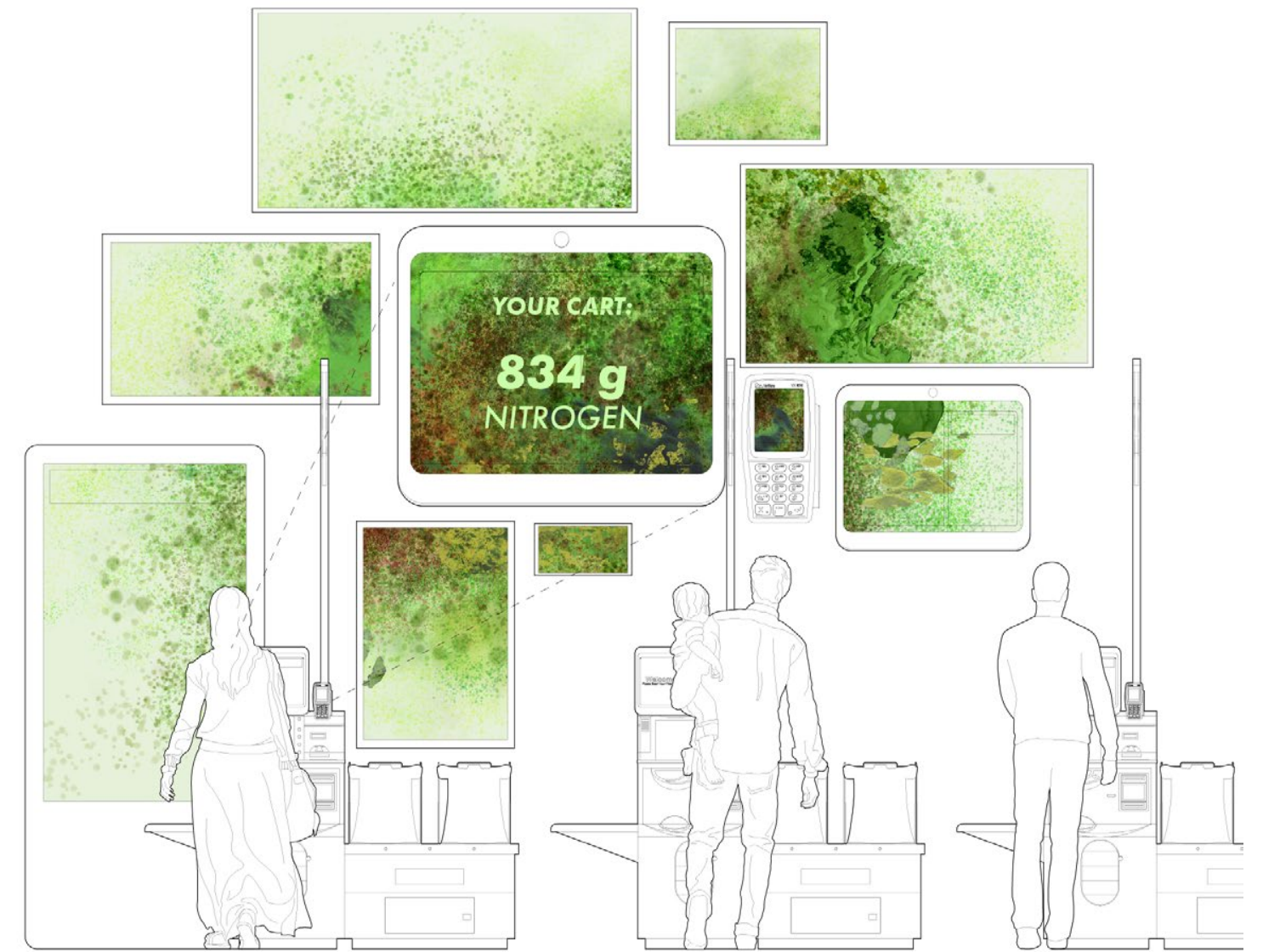


ADV V
ALGAE-CULTURE

Type: Academic | Partner: Vic Chen | September - December 2025
Instructor: Michael Wang

Algae-Culture rethinks the urban metabolic cycle by transforming harmful algal blooms from a toxic ecological threat into a regenerative resource. The project addresses the conflict between modern agriculture and aquatic health, using historical and environmental mapping to trace the flow of excess nitrogen from industrial fertilizers to local waterbodies like Jamaica Bay. Moving beyond the limited agency of the individual shopper, the framework instrumentalizes the branding narratives of Whole Foods and Amazon, redirecting their corporate resources toward necessary environmental repair. The framework connects digital consumer habits with physical infrastructure, linking a nitrogen-footprint tracking app to an immersive pavilion in Central Park. This intervention acting as a public interface for harvesting invasive algae and as a processing node that converts waste biomass into fertilizer for upstate farms. By making the invisible nitrogen cycle legible and participatory, the project reframes the grocery store as a site of ecological recovery, blurring the boundaries between consumption, waste infrastructure, and environmental repair.





Whole Foods Interface

SYSTEM REDESIGN

Leveraging the logistics networks of Whole Foods and Amazon, this project transforms the grocery store into a node of ecological recovery through both digital and spatial interventions.

A mobile app integrates a nitrogen footprint tracker at checkout, allowing consumers to offset their impact by funding algae harvesting and fertilizer distribution to farms.

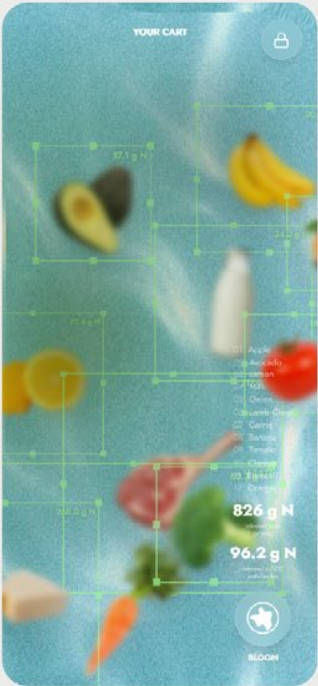
A pavilion in Central Park functions as "digestive architecture," creating an immersive, transparent experience where users can witness and interact with the transformation of algae blooms into fertilizer.



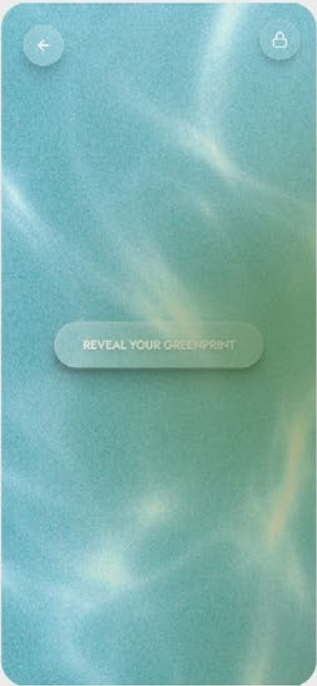
AMAZON APP
WHOLE FOODS CHECKOUT



YOUR NITROGEN
FOOTPRINT



YOUR CART TO
ALGAE PRODUCTION



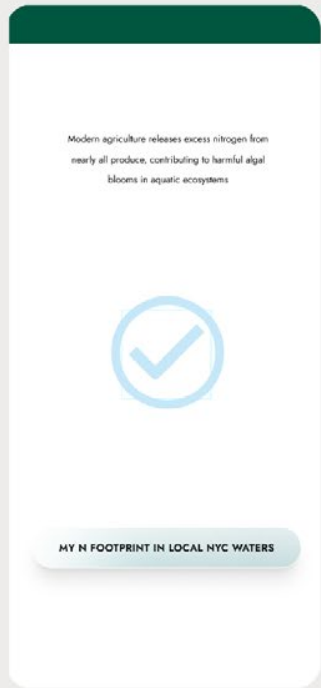
BLOOM PAGE



OFFSET + FARM PAGE



PAVILION PAGE



PER ITEM IN YOUR CART



PER BODY OF WATER



App Interface
App Runthrough Link.



Pavilion Brochure

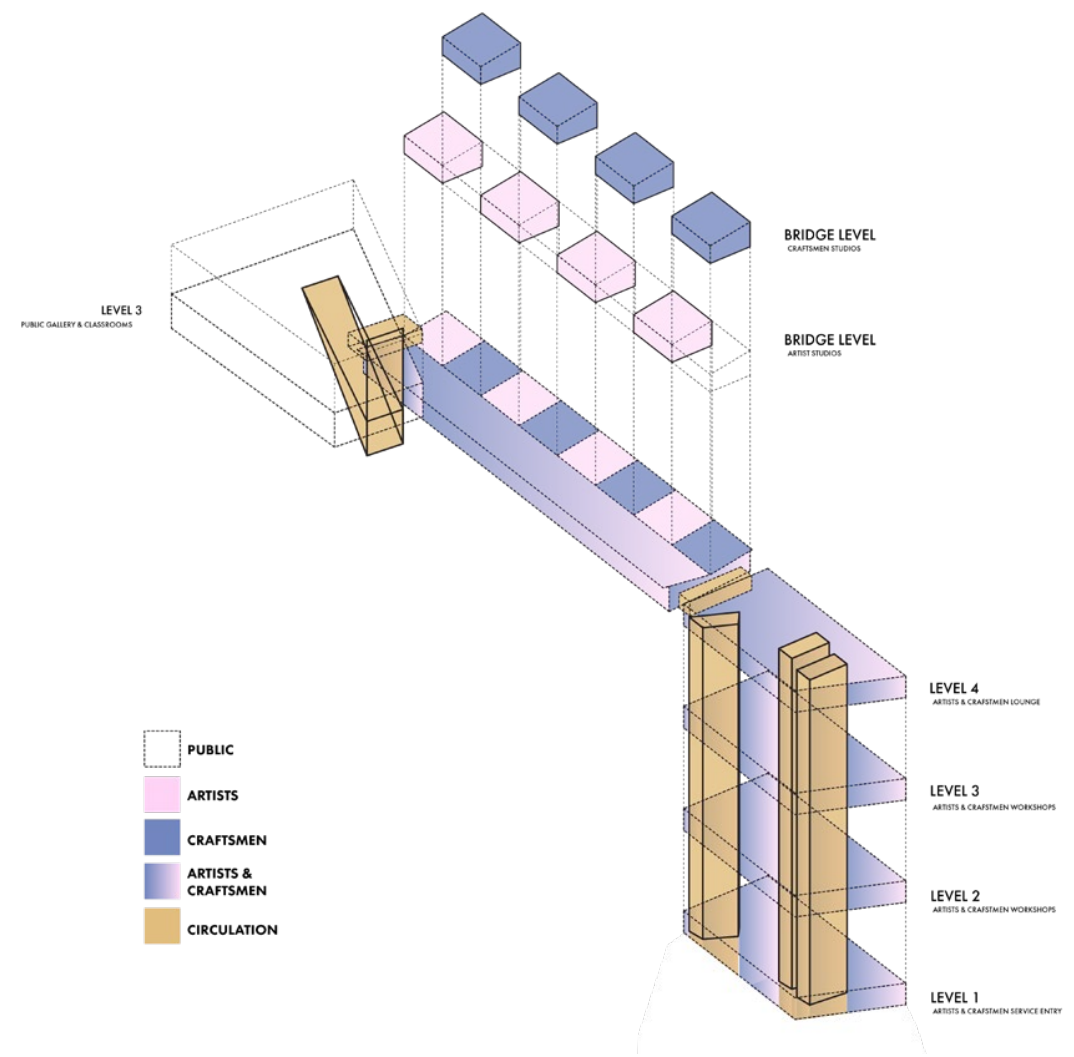


Pavilion Takeaway Fertilizer Box



Collected Algae Samples





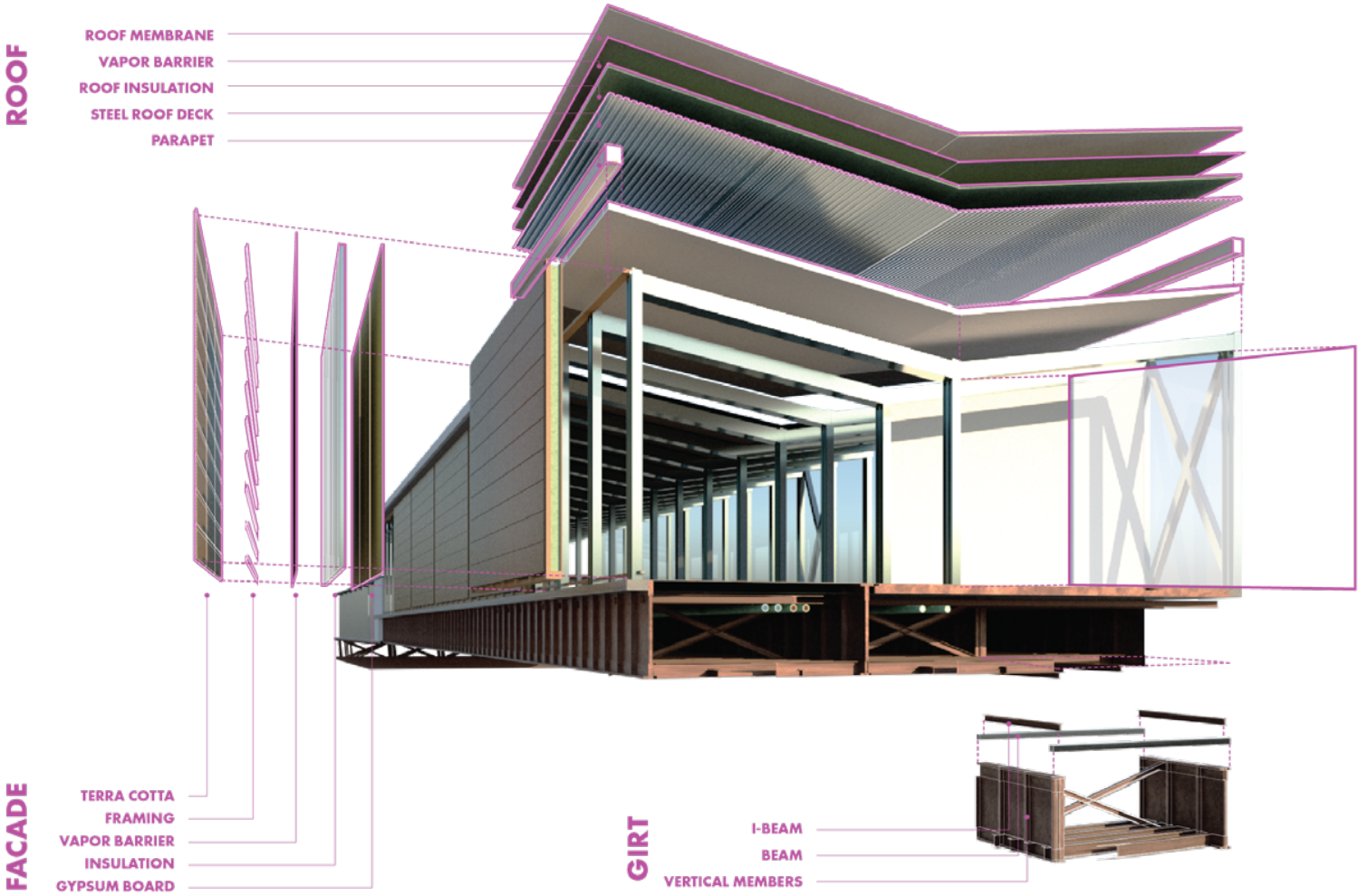
TECH IV SYNERGY STRUCTURES STUDIO RECLAIM

Type: Academic, Group: Liberty Chapman, Ciara Wade, Chang Cao
Sept-Dec 2023 | Instructor: Berardo Matalucci

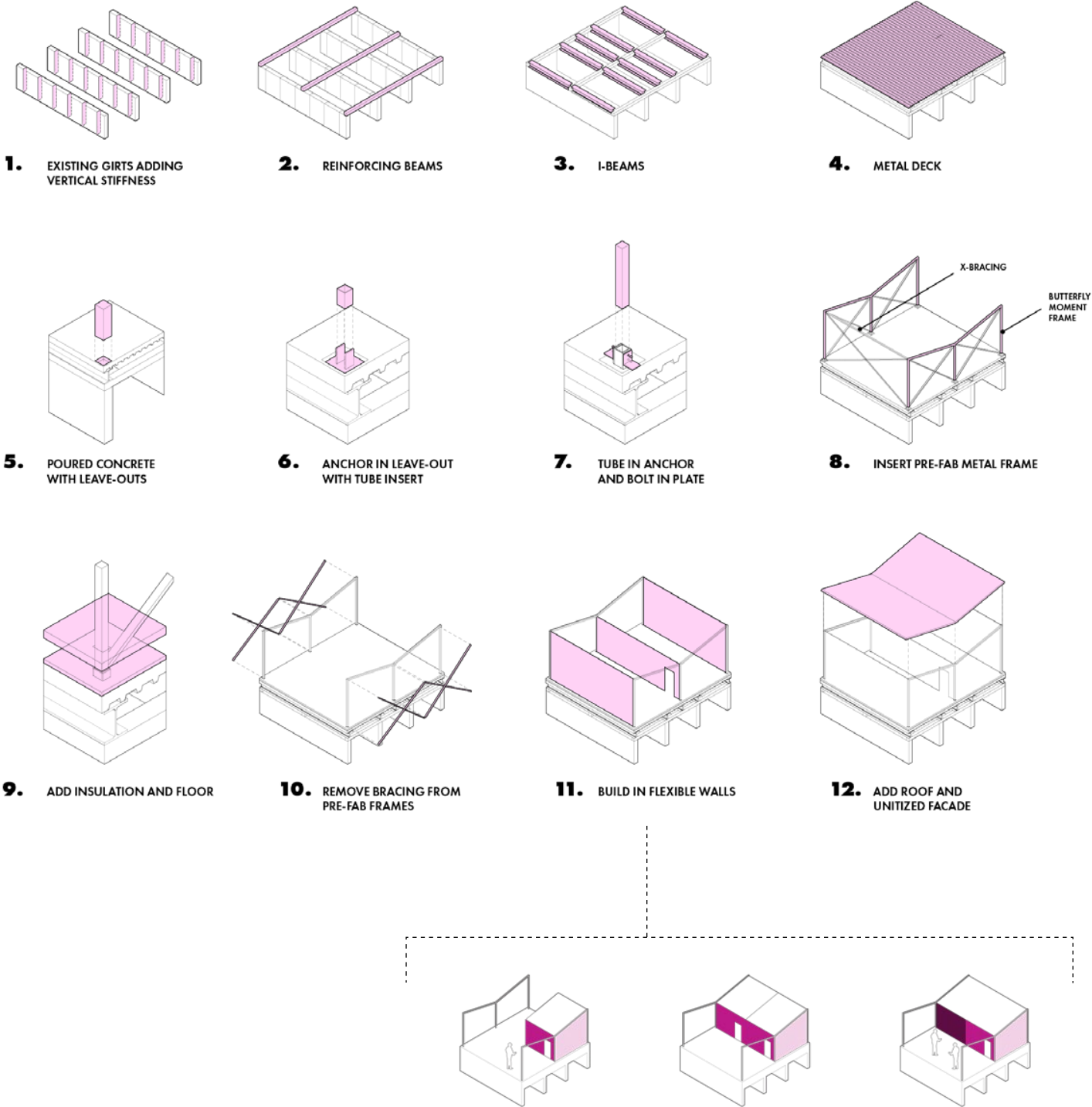
Reclamation studio is an adaptive reuse strategy of an abandoned bridge and train tracks to create artist studios and an exhibition center in Newark. Sitting at the crossroad between Downtown and Ironbound, the site represents a potential conceptual interstitial space between two socio-economically separated neighborhoods. The project is organized around three main volumes: ranging from a public gallery space, to a semi-public bridge, and a private workshop building. To minimize disruption over the decommissioned railway, we propose a semi-prefabricated panelized system and steel butterfly moment structures, offering a catalogue of wall types that allows for the design to adapt with changing needs and expansion. In terms of sustainability, the building utilizes a greenhouse as a buffer zone and a prefabricated butterfly pitch roof to passively heat the space while promoting a circular economy.



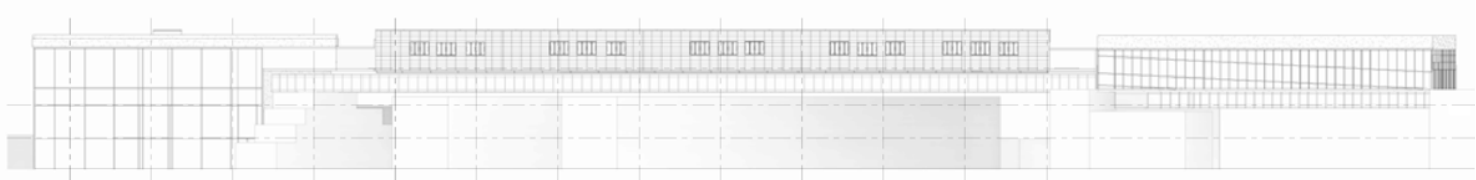
Gallery Entrance



Exploded Structure



Pre-fab Construction Diagram



Elevation



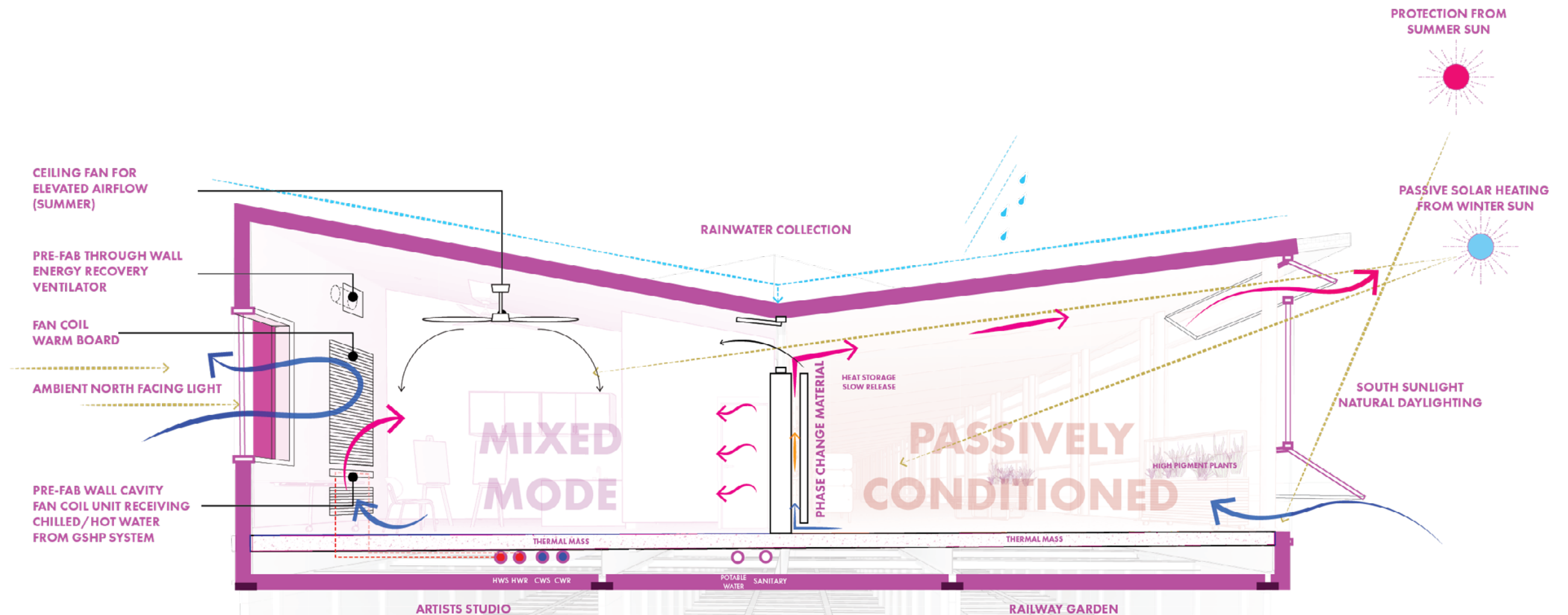
Artist's Studio



Gallery Space



Railway Garden



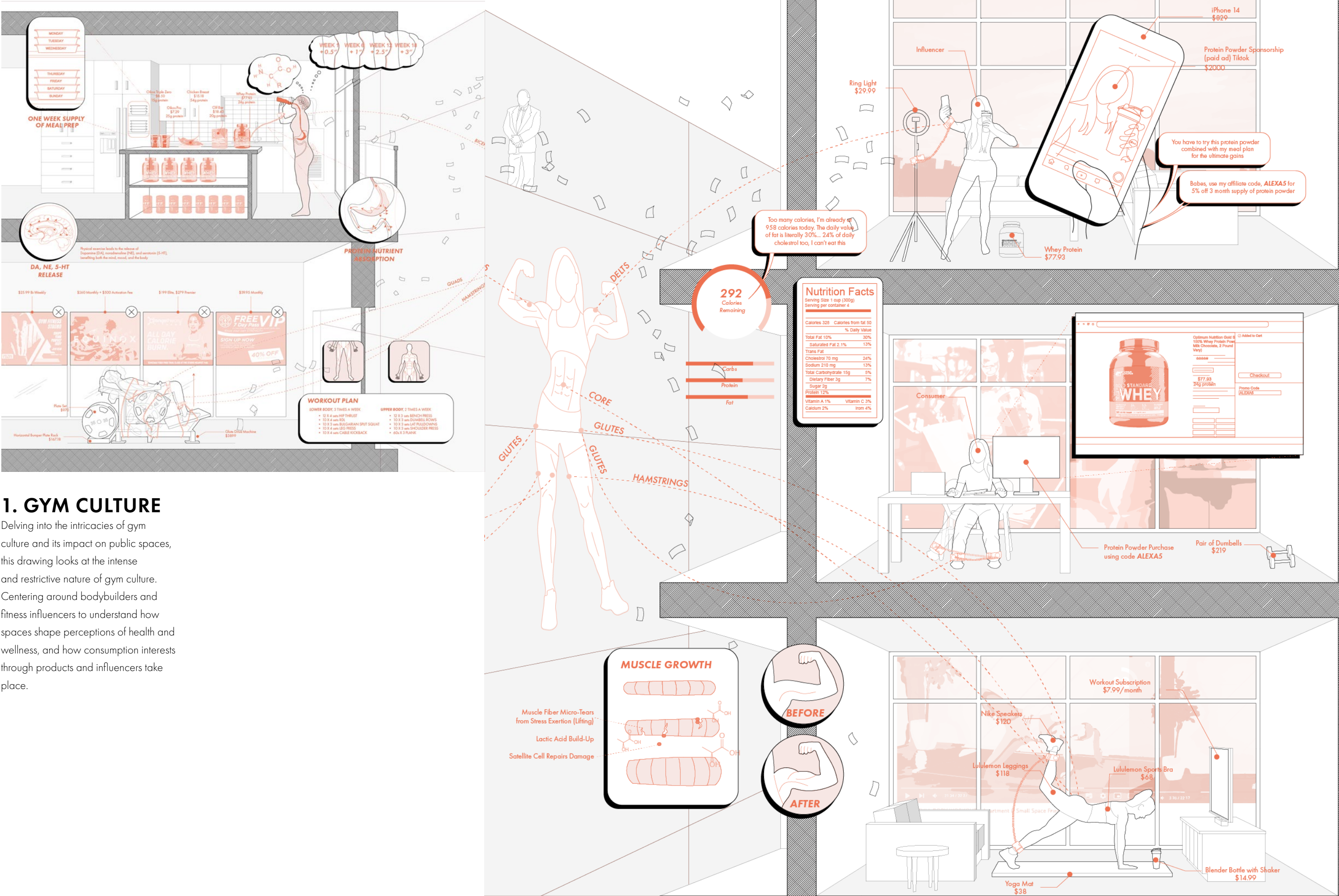
Sustainability Diagram



CORE I EQUINOX + IN THE PARK: CORPORATE WELLNESS AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Type: Research, Individual | Sept 2023 - Dec 2023 | Instructor: Virginia Black

Equinox + In The Park explores the future of privatization, looking into public-private partnerships in public parks. Taking in the form of a four part exploration, the project delves in to the politics of public space and health. The envisioned scenario involves Equinox transforming Grand Ferry Park into a "health and wellness" space, challenging established boundaries of public realms. Iterative projects delve into gym culture, a community gym's clash with regulations, and the impact of NYC Parks Department rules. The final part imagines Equinox's public-private partnership, presenting a privatization catalog that adapts interventions that break park rules, where these interventions align with the company's ethos and aesthetic. This exploration delves into potential conflicts between commercial interests and communal well-being in privatized public spaces.

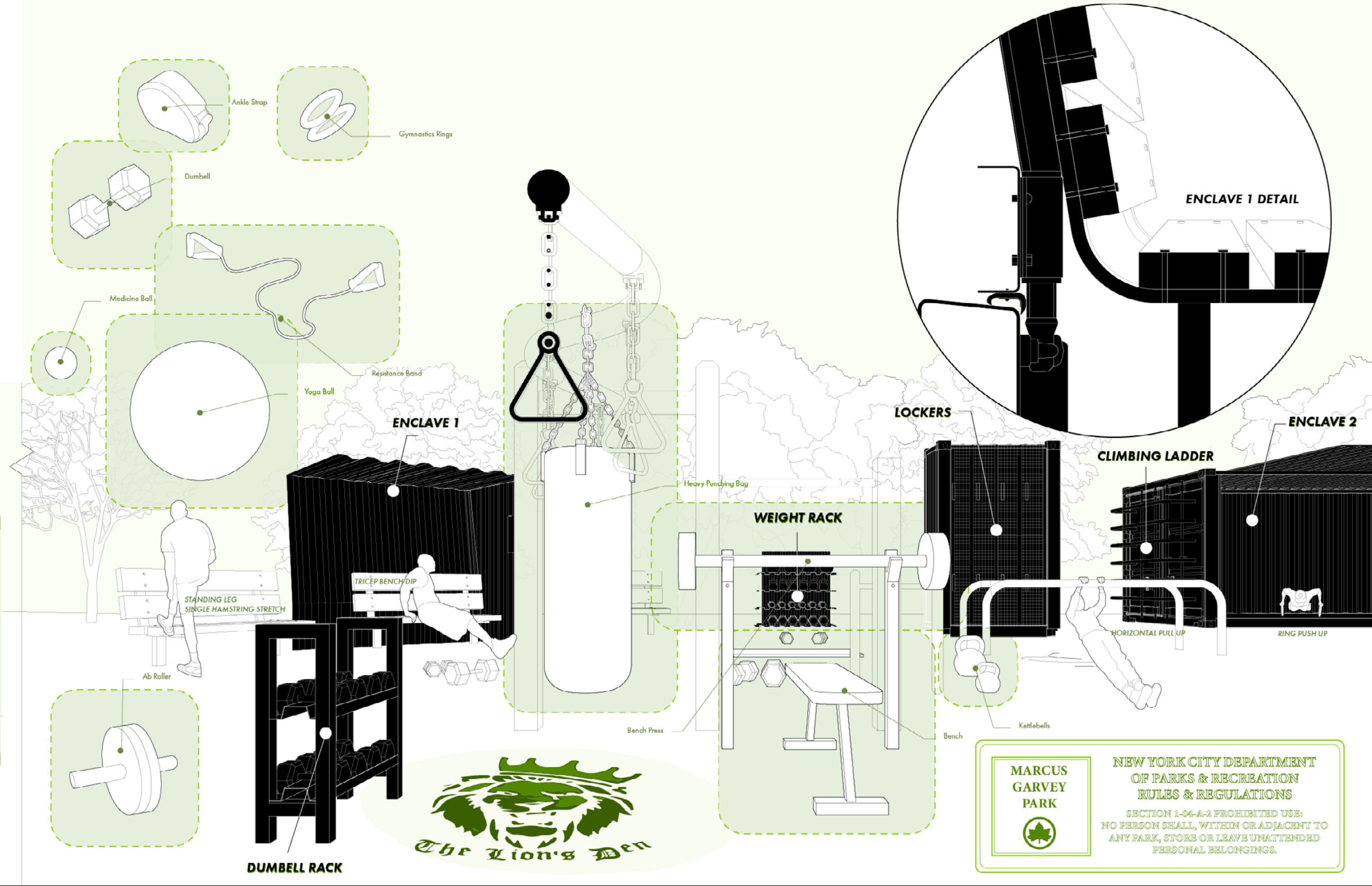


1. GYM CULTURE

Delving into the intricacies of gym culture and its impact on public spaces, this drawing looks at the intense and restrictive nature of gym culture. Centering around bodybuilders and fitness influencers to understand how spaces shape perceptions of health and wellness, and how consumption interests through products and influencers take place.

2. PUBLIC GYM

Situated in Marcus Garvey Park in Harlem, this drawing explores a makeshift community gym's dynamics, facing adversity due to clashes with park regulations. Political negotiation determined what was permissible for gym equipment storage, inside a green shipping container. The container is broken apart, where pieces wrap around the site, hiding/locking the site in. The study prompts questions about public space aesthetics, park citizenship, and the role of architecture in visibility.

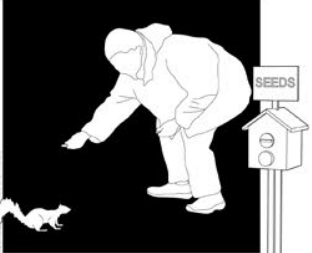


3. POLITICS IN THE PARK

I further examined the Rules and Regulations of the NYC Parks Department to reveal constraints on individuals, where I introduce interventions in a catalog, directly challenging park rules aiming to navigate and challenge stringent park regulations.

Through an analysis of NYC park governance, Public Private Partnerships, and Privately Owned Public Spaces (POPS), it uncovers the increasing involvement of private entities in public spaces. Through financial incentives such as bonus floor area, zoning waivers, and tax abatements, this became a significant aspect of my understanding of the evolving landscape of public space.

TEND

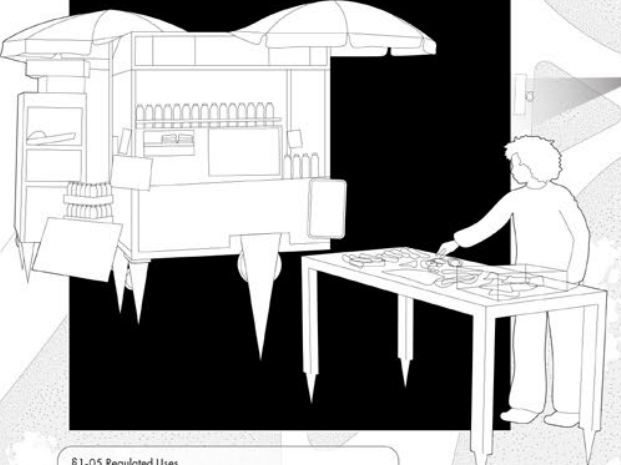


§1-04 Prohibited Uses

g. Abuse of Park Animals

2. No person shall feed animals in any park (including any zoo area) except unconfined squirrels and birds, and where specifically authorized by the Commissioner. The Commissioner may also designate certain areas where all feeding of animals is prohibited. It shall be a violation of these rules to feed animals in any area where such feeding is prohibited.

ESTABLISH

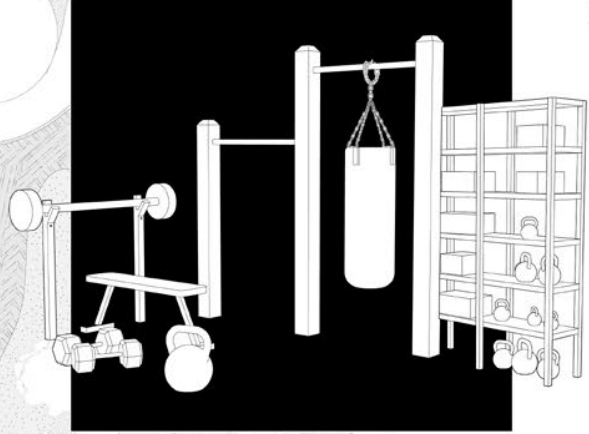


§1-05 Regulated Uses

b. Unlawful Vending

1. No person in or on any property under the jurisdiction of the Department shall sell, offer for sale, hire, lease, or let anything whatsoever, including, but not limited to goods, services, or entertainment, or provide or offer to provide services, items, or entertainment in exchange for a donation (hereinafter "vend"), except under and within the terms of a permit, or except as otherwise provided by law. For the purposes of this entire section, persons who vend as defined herein may be referred to as "vendor" or "vendors."

ENDURE



§1-04 Prohibited Uses

c. Littering, Polluting, Dumping, and Unattended Property

4. No person shall, within or adjacent to any park, store or leave unattended personal belongings.

§1-05 Regulated Uses

s. Exclusive Areas

1. Exclusive Childrens Playgrounds: Adults allowed in playground areas only when accompanied by a child under the age of twelve (12). Violation of this paragraph constitutes a misdemeanor.

SPREAD



§1-04 Prohibited Uses

q. Unlawful spitting

It shall be unlawful for any person to spit or expectorate in or upon any park building, monument or structure.

PROBE

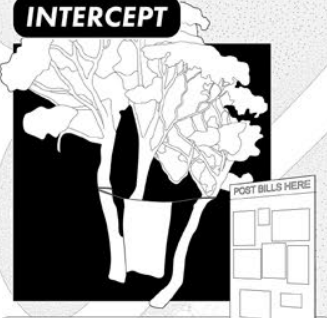


§1-04 Prohibited Uses

b. Destruction or Abuse of Trees, Plants, Flowers, Shrubs and Grass

1. iii. No person shall deface, write upon, sever, mutilate, kill or remove from the ground any plants, flowers, shrubs or other vegetation under the jurisdiction of the Department without permission of the Commissioner.

INTERCEPT



§1-05 Regulated Uses

c. Unlawful posting of notices or signs

1. No person shall post, display, affix, construct or carry any placard, flag, banner, sign or model or display any such item by means of aircraft, kite, balloon or other aerial device, in, on, or above the surface of any park for any purpose whatsoever without a permit issued by the Commissioner. Each separate item placed in violation of this section shall constitute a separate violation.

SHIELD



§1-03 General Provisions

a. Hours of Operation

1. Persons may enter and use the parks from 6:00 a.m. until 1:00 a.m., unless other open hours are posted at any park.

DISRUPT



§1-05 Regulated Uses

d. Noise; Sound Reproduction Devices; Musical Instruments;

2. No person shall play or operate any sound reproduction device, as defined in § 1-02 of these rules, in any park without a permit from the Department and any other City agency or agencies with pertinent jurisdiction. In areas designated by the Commissioner as "quiet zones," such regular and customary use of sound reproduction devices shall be prohibited. Signs shall be posted in all quiet zones advising the public of such prohibition. Violation of this paragraph constitutes a misdemeanor.

OBSCURE



§1-05 Regulated Uses

a. Assemblies, meetings, exhibitions

2.No person shall hold or sponsor any special event or demonstration without a permit issued by the Department. From the smallest birthday party to the largest concert, special events take place every day in New York City parks. If you want to have any activity in a City park with more than 20 people, or where you would like to reserve a specific area within a park, you need to apply for a special event permit.

COMMUNITY

TEND



SEED DISPENSER

§1-04.g.2.
The seed dispenser, dispersed throughout the park enables you to feed wildlife at any location in the park.

DISRUPT



SOUND AMPLIFIER

§1-04.d.3.
The Sonic Box at Equinox+ in the Park is a communal speaker, allowing you to add to the playlist during your workout session.

INTERCEPT



BILLBOARD

§1-05.c.1.
The poster board is a free-for-all billboard to promote vendors, performers.

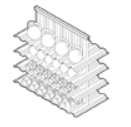
SHIELD



CAMOFLAUGE BLANKET

§1-03.a.1.
The camouflage blanket enables park users to stay on park grounds after 1:00 am, shielding you from NYC Parks Enforcement Officers.

ENDURE



GYM EQUIPMENT STORAGE

§1-04.c.4.
The gym equipment storage is partnered with Lion's Den, who provides equipment and open storage space which enables you to leave your personal gym equipment.

SPREAD



SPITTING STATION

§1-04.q.
The spitting station, dispersed throughout the park, enables you to spit at designated stations, while providing irrigation and speeding up the germination of plants.

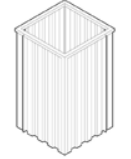
PROBE



GARDENING TOOLS

§1-04.b.1.iii.
The gardening tools can be borrowed, enabling you to have agency in the horticulture in the park.

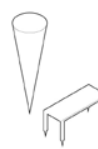
OBSCURE



HIDING BOXES

§1-05.a.2.
The hiding boxes, dispersed throughout the park, creates zones for large groups over twenty to quickly dissipate and hide from NYC Parks Enforcement Officers.

ESTABLISH



VENDOR STAND STAKES

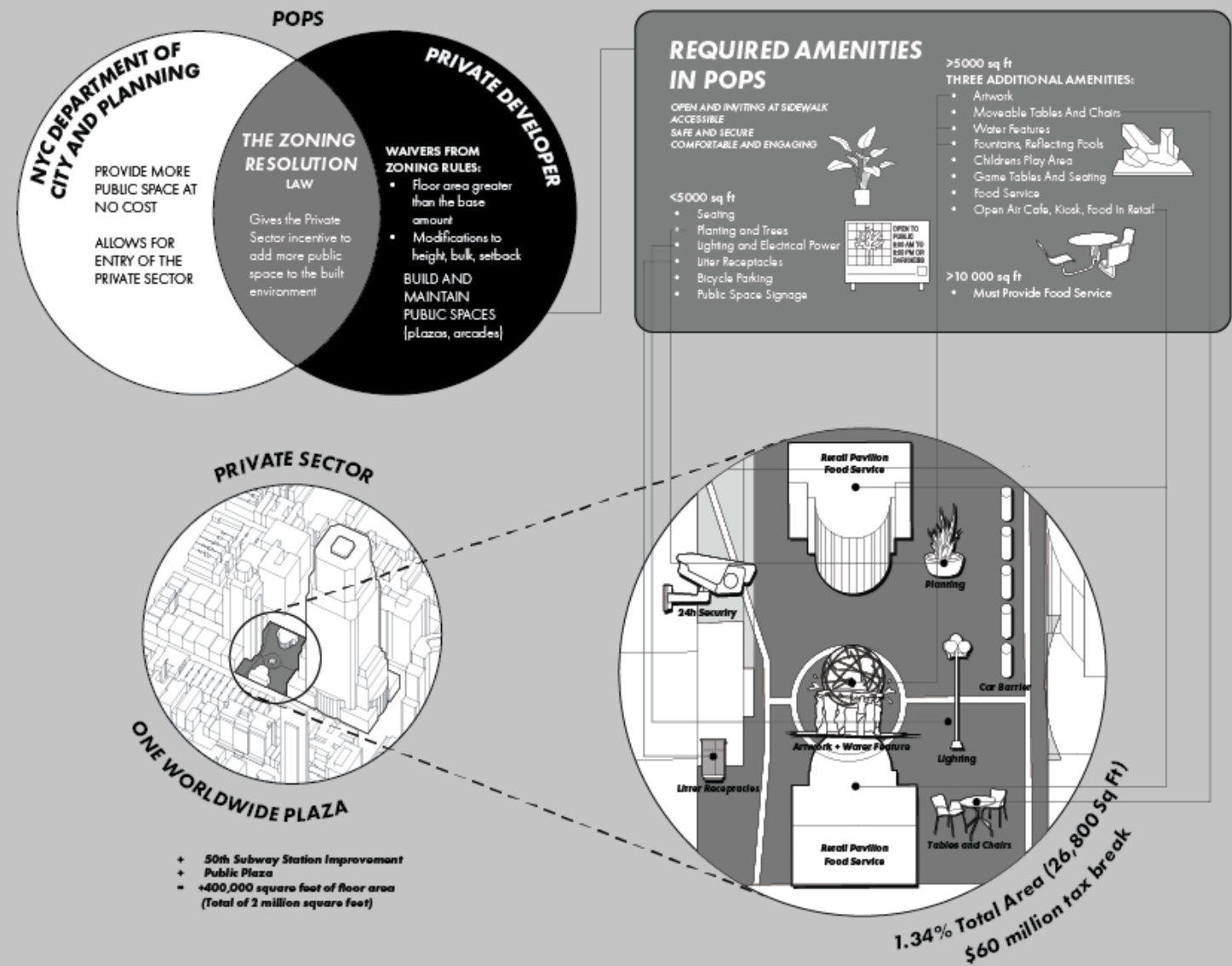
§1-05.b.1.
The vendor stand stakes make current vendor stands permanently fixed to the ground, preventing stall removal.

76

77

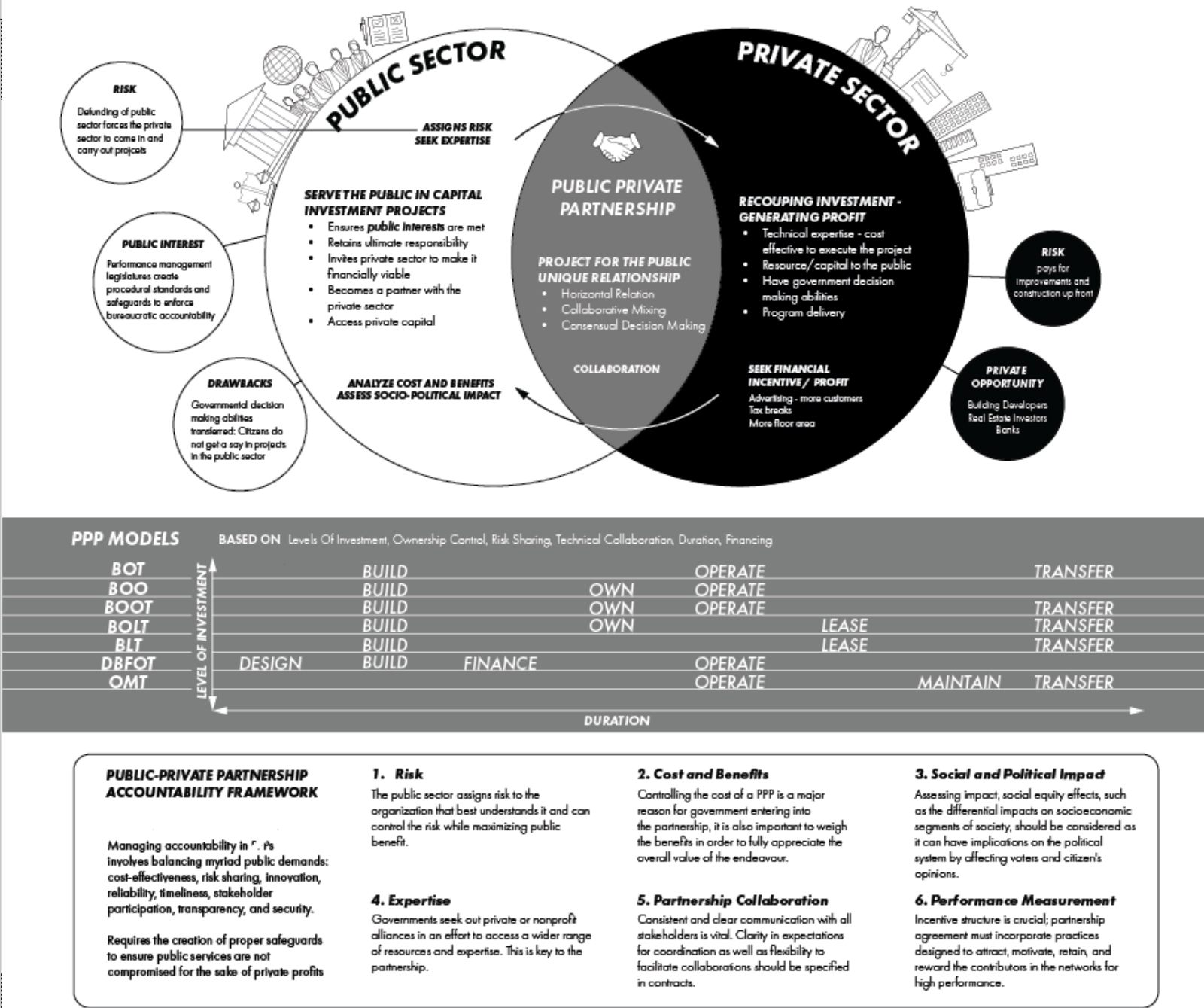
PRIVATELY OWNED PUBLIC SPACE (POPS)

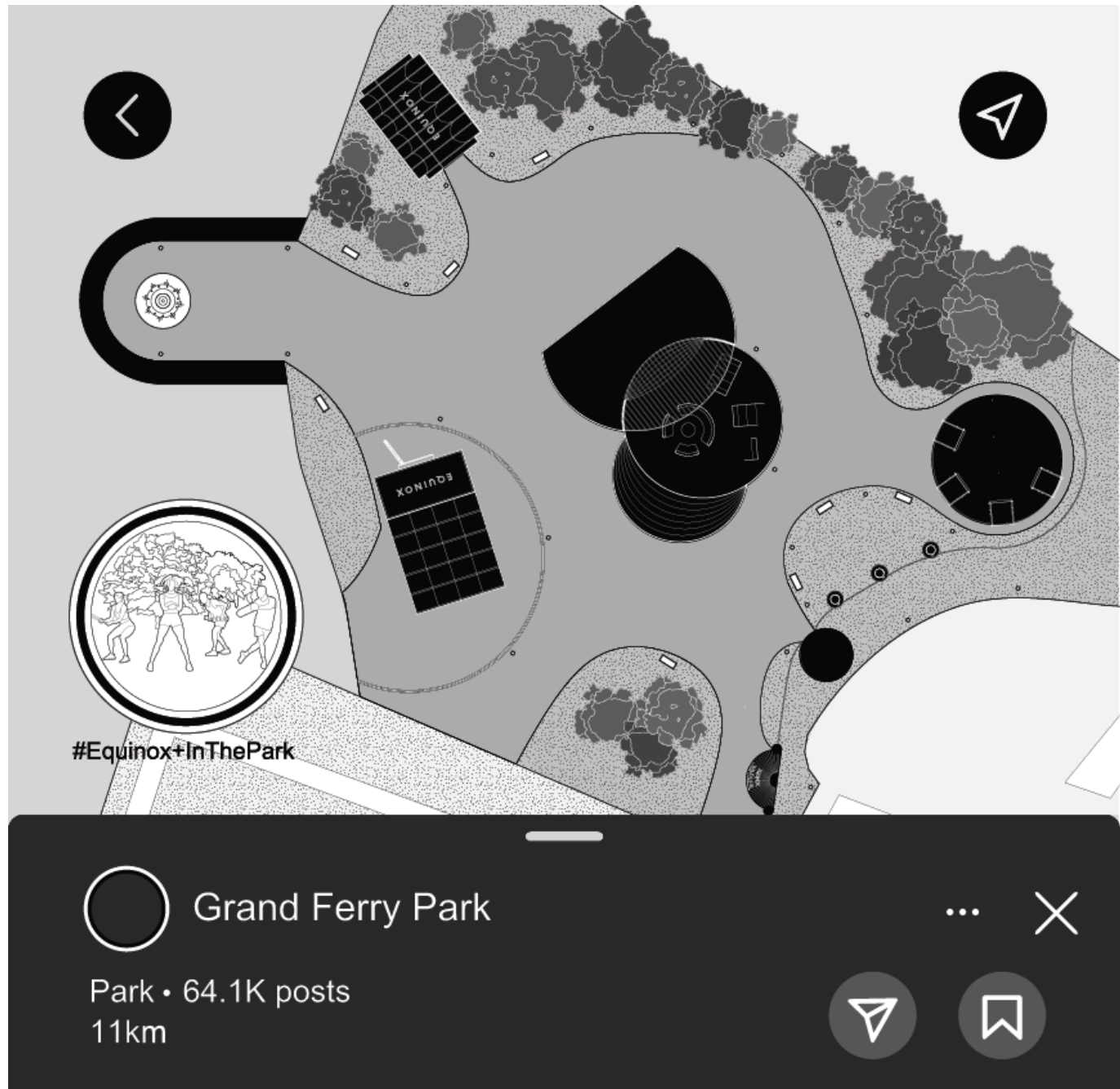
Outdoor and indoor spaces provided for public enjoyment by private owners in exchange for bonus floor area or waivers, an incentive first introduced into New York City's zoning regulations in 1961.



PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (PPP)

Public-Private Partnerships are increasingly becoming the default solution to government problems and needs. The government retains a private entity to finance, design, build a project that benefits the public that is typically handled by the public sector. This is done by incentivizing the private sector partners to deliver needed local projects.



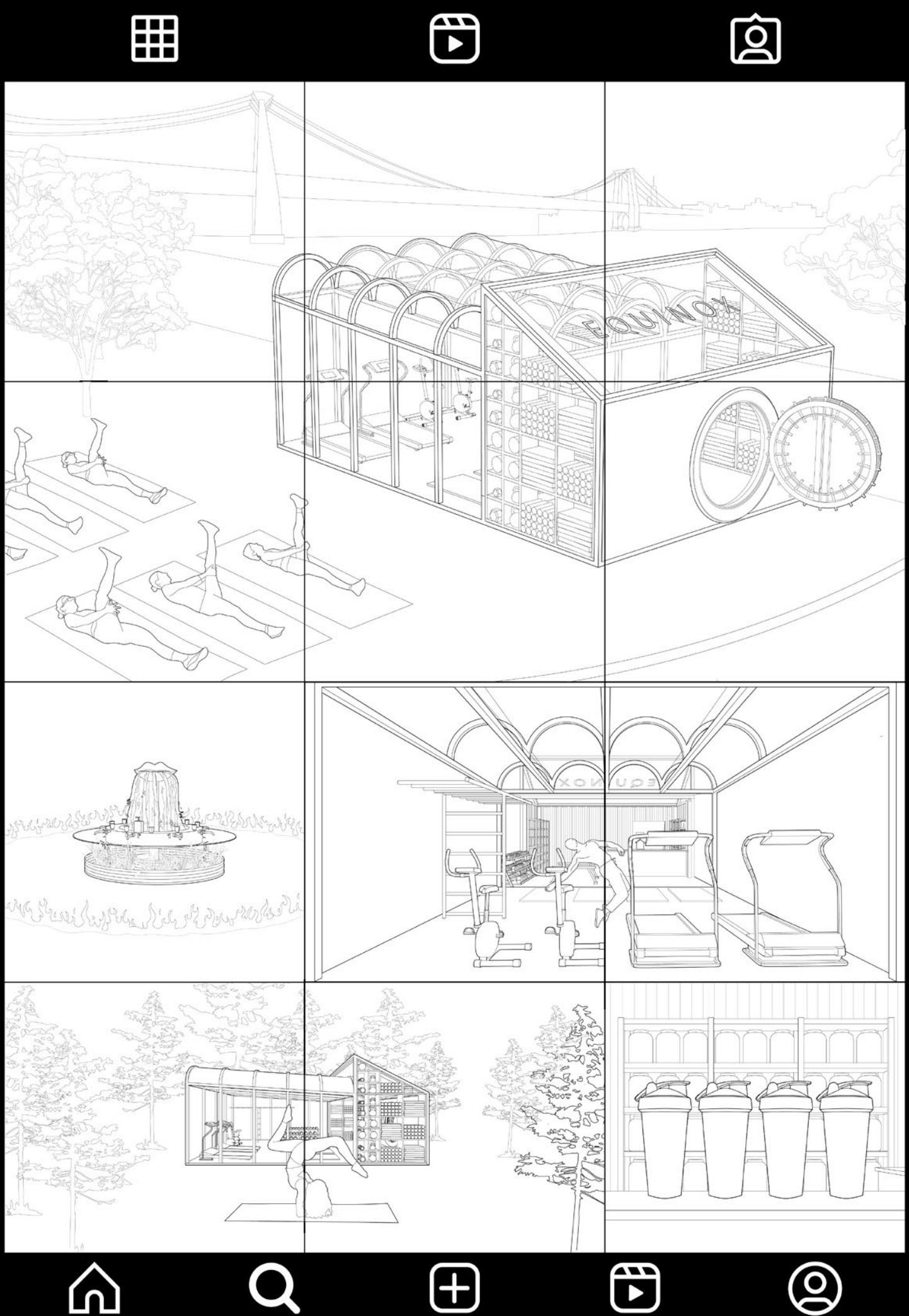


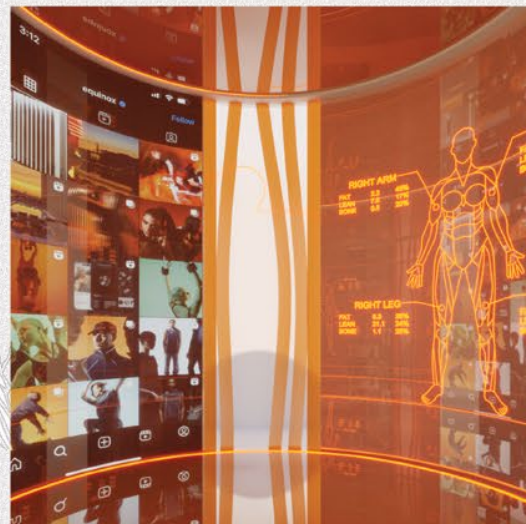
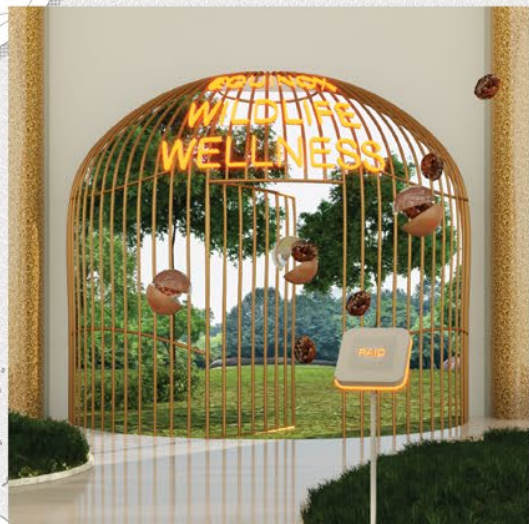
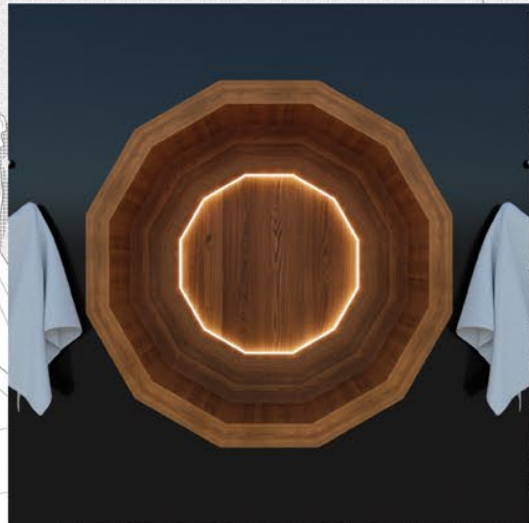
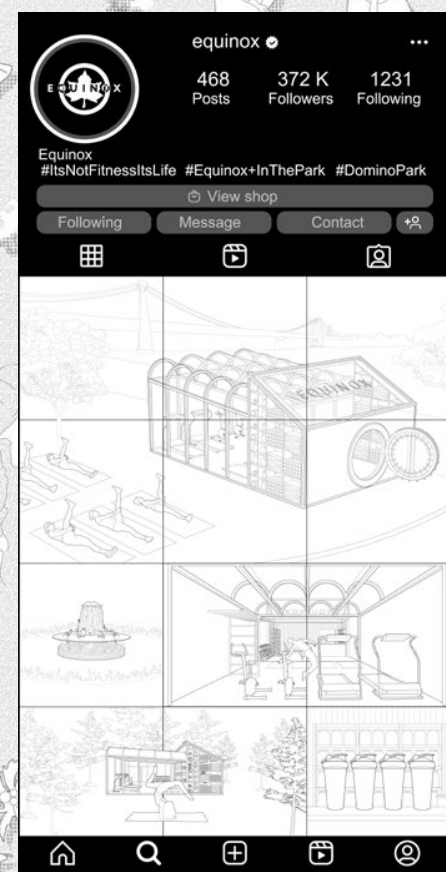
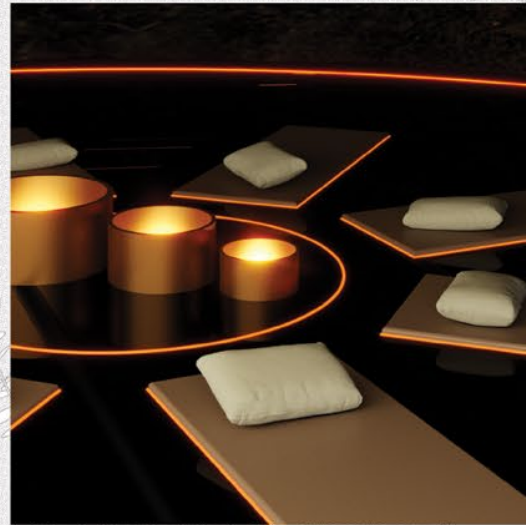
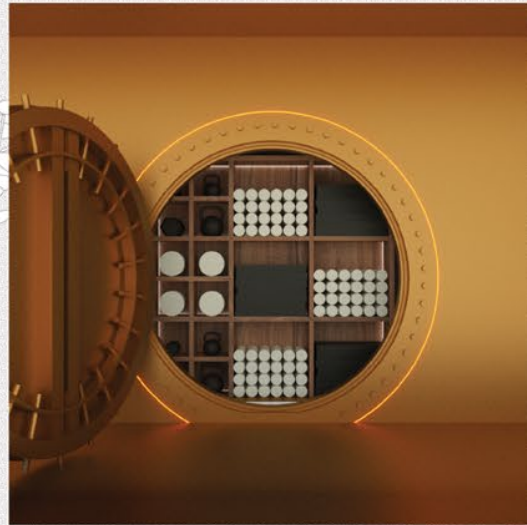
4. EQUINOX IN THE PARK

The culmination of this research led me to question how privatization might impact these existing regulations within parks. What if Equinox, a high-end fitness company, engages in a public-private partnership with a park? How might their branding, involvement, and privatization impact these existing regulations?

Equinox's collaboration with Grand Ferry Park, offers a glimpse into a potential future where public spaces undergo privatization in the name of health and wellness. The privatization catalog reflects a balance between corporate branding and communal well-being, with interventions serving as commentaries on the evolving nature of public spaces. From the wellness screen's transformation into a symbolic barrier to the nuanced challenges posed by commercial

interests, my project invites contemplation on the fine line between accessibility, exclusivity, and the potential consequences of commodifying well-being within privatized public spheres. It prompts a broader discourse on the evolving landscape of public spaces, raising critical questions about the intersection of corporate influence and communal health in our shared environments.





EQUINOX

TEND

DISRUPT

INTERCEPT

SHIELD

ENDURE

SPREAD

PROBE

OBSCUR

ESTABLISH



WILDLIFE SPREAD

§1-04.g.2.
The Wildlife Spread, like a charcuterie spread, is for the wildlife at the park. Located beside the Essentials Garden at Equinox+ in the Park, add food to the spread and contribute to the health of our wildlife.



SONIC BOLLARD

§1-04.d.3.
The Sonic Bollard at Equinox+ in the Park is a speaker and workout platform, allowing you to add to the playlist during your workout session.



WELLNESS SCREEN

§1-05.c.1.
The Wellness Screen located at the entrance of Equinox+ in the Park, is a digital billboard to promote your fitness Instagram accounts while also scanning your body composition.



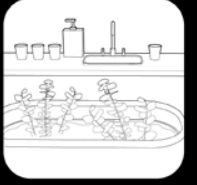
MEDITATION CAVERN

§1-03.a.1.
The Meditation Cavern provides communal meditation space and yoga, which transforms into a slumber sanctuary after closing, which enables you to stay on park grounds after 1:00 am, shielding you from NYC Parks Enforcement Officers.



FITNESS VAULT

§1-04.c.4.
The Fitness Vault storage space at Equinox+ in the Park provides all the gym equipment you need, and open storage space which enables you to leave your personal gym equipment.



MOUTH REVIVAL

§1-04.g.
The Mouth Revival station, at Equinox+ in the Park, enables you to cleanse your mouth, while providing irrigation and speeding up the germination of plants in our essentials garden.



ESSENTIALS GARDEN

§1-04.b.1.iii.
Connect with nature at the Essentials Conservatory Garden at Equinox+ in the Park, where all herbs and plants made to produce essential oils are grown here. Pick, scratch, smell to relax in the garden.



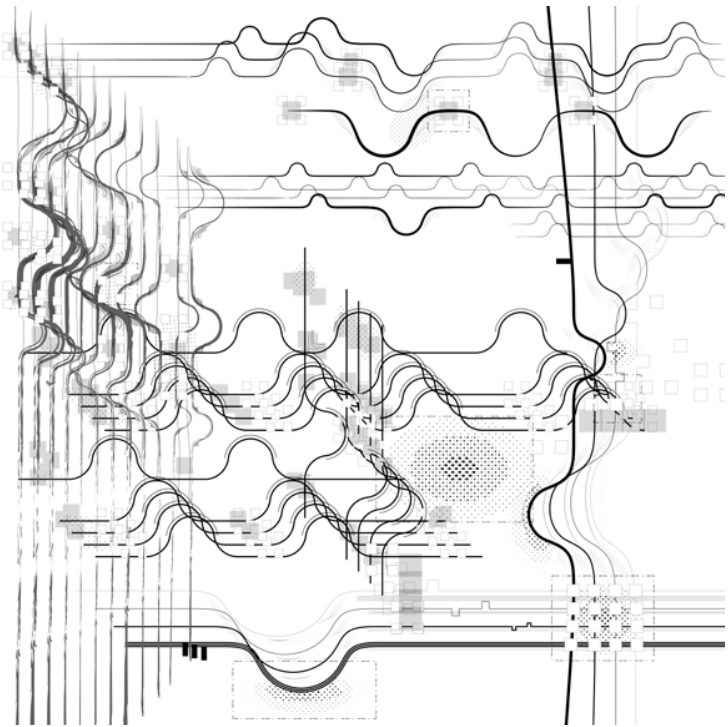
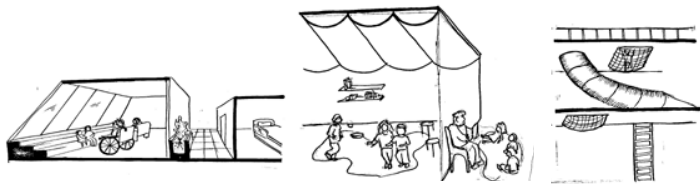
SAUNA BURROWS

§1-05.a.2.
The Sauna Burrows, located at Equinox+ in the Park, are subterranean saunas, allowing you to hide from from NYC Parks Enforcement Officers if your group is over twenty people.



VENDOR OASIS

§1-05.b.1.
Foldable, portable vendor stands are provided at Equinox+ in the Park, where there is a permanent vending oasis for entrepreneurs to sell health and wellness products.



ADV VI RECIPROCAL TERRAIN

Type: Academic | Partner: Adriana Gamirazio | January - April 2026
Instructor: Karla Rothstein

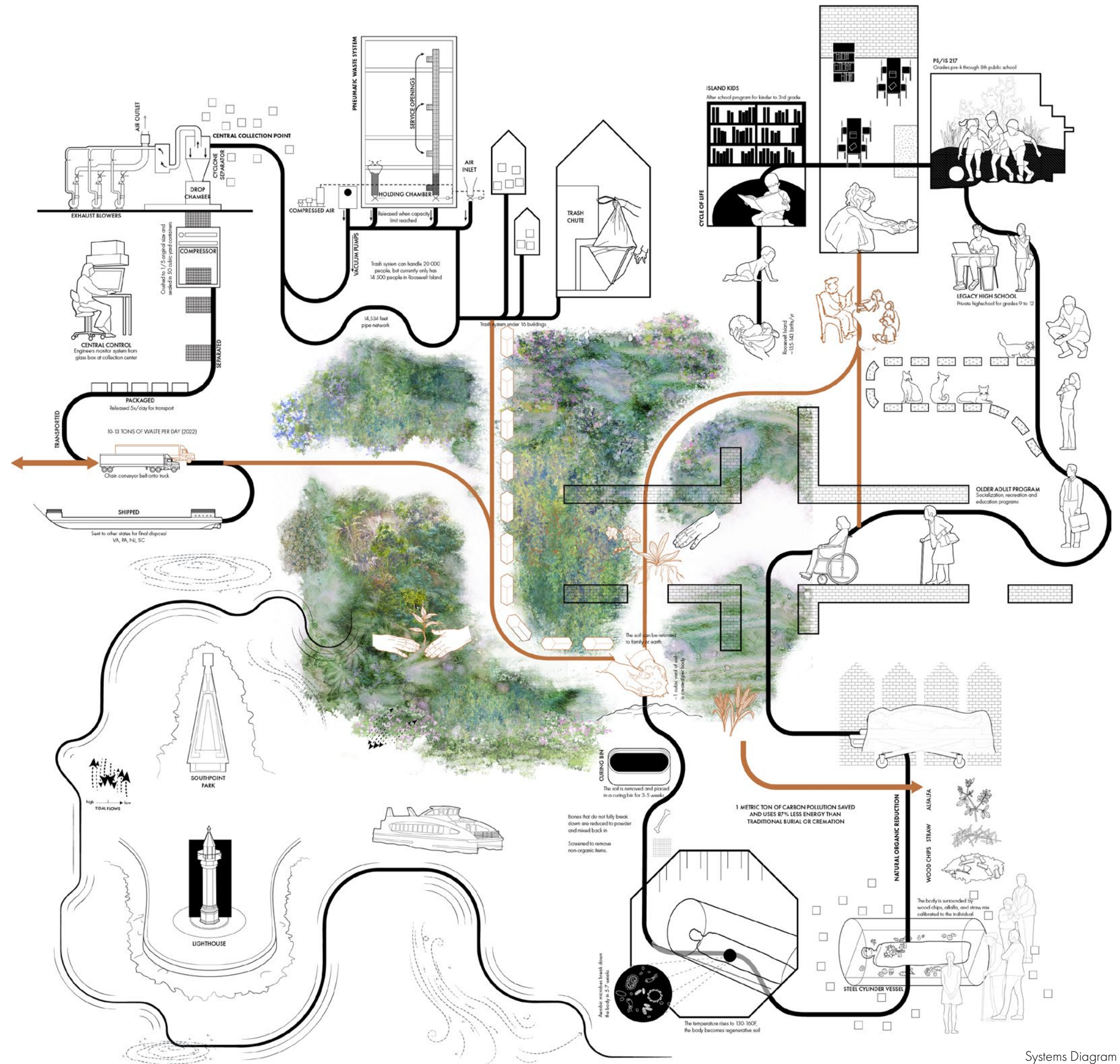
Reciprocal Terrain reimagines interment in NYC by restoring death as an ecological process. Through natural organic reduction, we reimagine death as a reciprocal process within the terrain. The ground receives, transforms, and returns within the island's cycles of matter and care. Utilizing the Renwick Smallpox Hospital ruin on Roosevelt Island as scaffold, the project utilizes Natural Organic Reduction (NOR) to convert human remains into soil over a 2–3 month cycle. The space holds a gradient of ceremony spanning from north to south: the NOR facility at the north end, a central memorialization courtyard where composite tiles accumulate trace, and a southern community center intertwining daily life through childcare and senior care. As generations of community care, share, tend, and eventually enter this same terrain, architecture participates directly in its temporality. The beginning of life is paired with its end, making the full arc of mortality visible, shared, and valued.



Roosevelt Island

SYSTEMATIC AND INNOVATIVE LOGIC OF ROOSEVELT ISLAND

Roosevelt Island's history of radical infrastructure, the pneumatic waste system, established a precedent for closed-loop and innovative urban metabolisms. The proposal of a Natural Organic Reduction facility taking form in the existing Smallpox Hospital ruin extends this legacy into the realm of ecological interment.

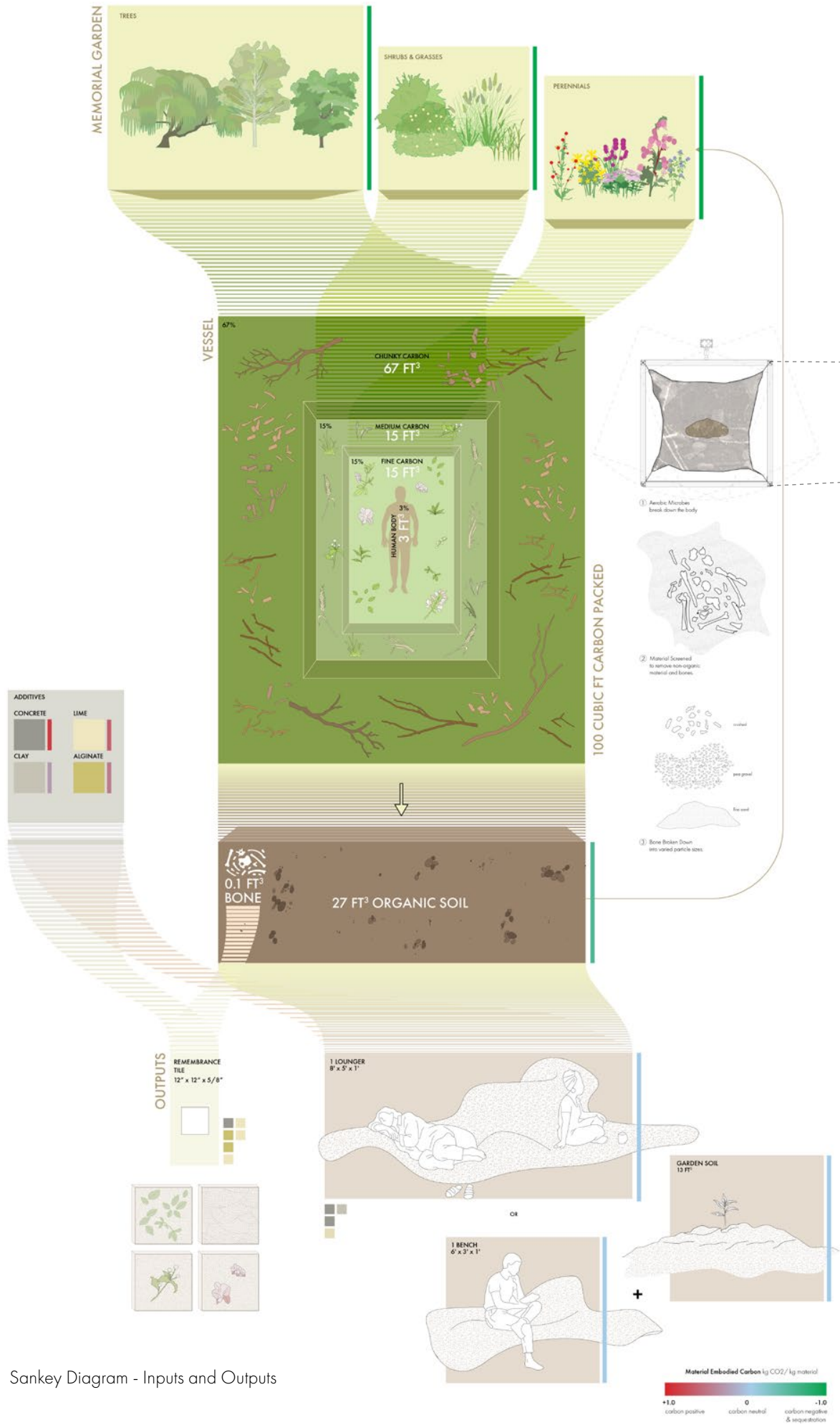
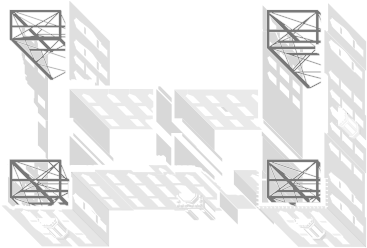


Systems Diagram

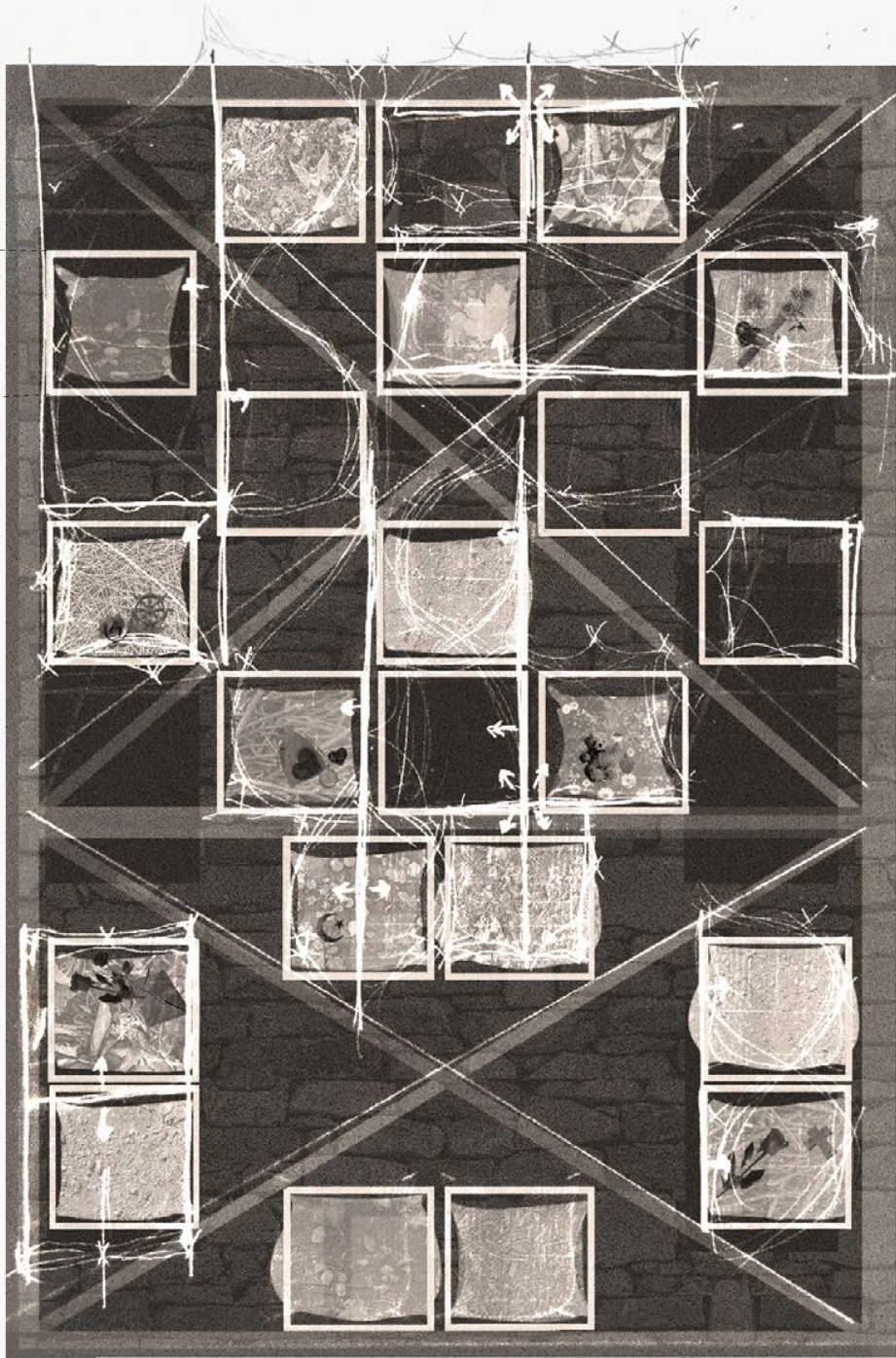
NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION

NOR is an ecological interment process that transforms human remains into nutrient-rich soil over a 2–3 month cycle. The project utilizes the existing steel scaffolding of the hospital ruin as an architectural armature, directly hosting the aerated terramation vessels.

The resulting nutrient-rich soil is returned directly to the site, employed as both garden planting medium and cast landscape benches to sustain the site’s continuous regeneration.



Sankey Diagram - Inputs and Outputs



NOR Pod Arrangement



TREES



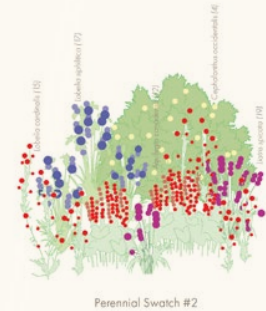
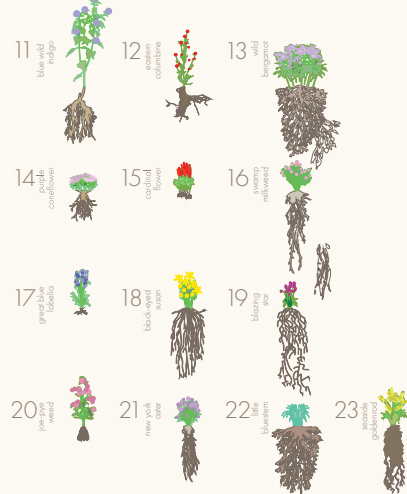
SHRUBS



GRASSES



PERENNIALS





SOIL + CONCRETE
40% 60%



SOIL + CLAY + CONCRETE
30% 30% 60%



SOIL + LIME
60% 40%



BONE + CONCRETE
70% 30%



BONE + ALGINATE
75% 25%



BONE + LIME
60% 40%

Initial Material Studies



Tile Samples



Personalizing Tiles

MATERIAL STUDIES

Investigating the material outputs of organic reduction, the project repurposes residual bone and soil into site-specific architectural elements. Bone fragments are cast into composite memorial tiles that line the central courtyard. Families actively participate in this material production, embedding personal keepsakes and site-harvested botanicals to ensure the architecture physically records individual traces of memory over time.



NATURAL ORGANIC
REDUCTION FACILITY

MEMORIAL COURTYARD

COMMUNITY
CENTER

THANK YOU!