Recorded by Christopher Armstrong

11

Anna Puigjaner, Gary Bates, Fatou Dieye, Ruth & Bobby, Ilza Wolf and all my other professors.

Micheal Clapp, Lidia Klein, David Thaddus and the many people i met at UNCC

### Thank you

To ones that hold my heart

To My Wife for your unconditional Love and Support, l love you !!

To My Mother for everything you have done for me, I could never repay you for all your hard work and sacrifice l love you !!

To My Grandmother for everything you taught me by just being you I love and will always miss you !!

#### Special thanks

To following for your inspiration, help, guidance, and support

My Brother Cory My Best Friends Shadrick, Jeff, & Christina

Key, Zach, Kayla, Omer, and all the rest of my peers. TOO MANY TO NAME !!!

Josh, Yonah & the Shop Crew (the helpful ones)

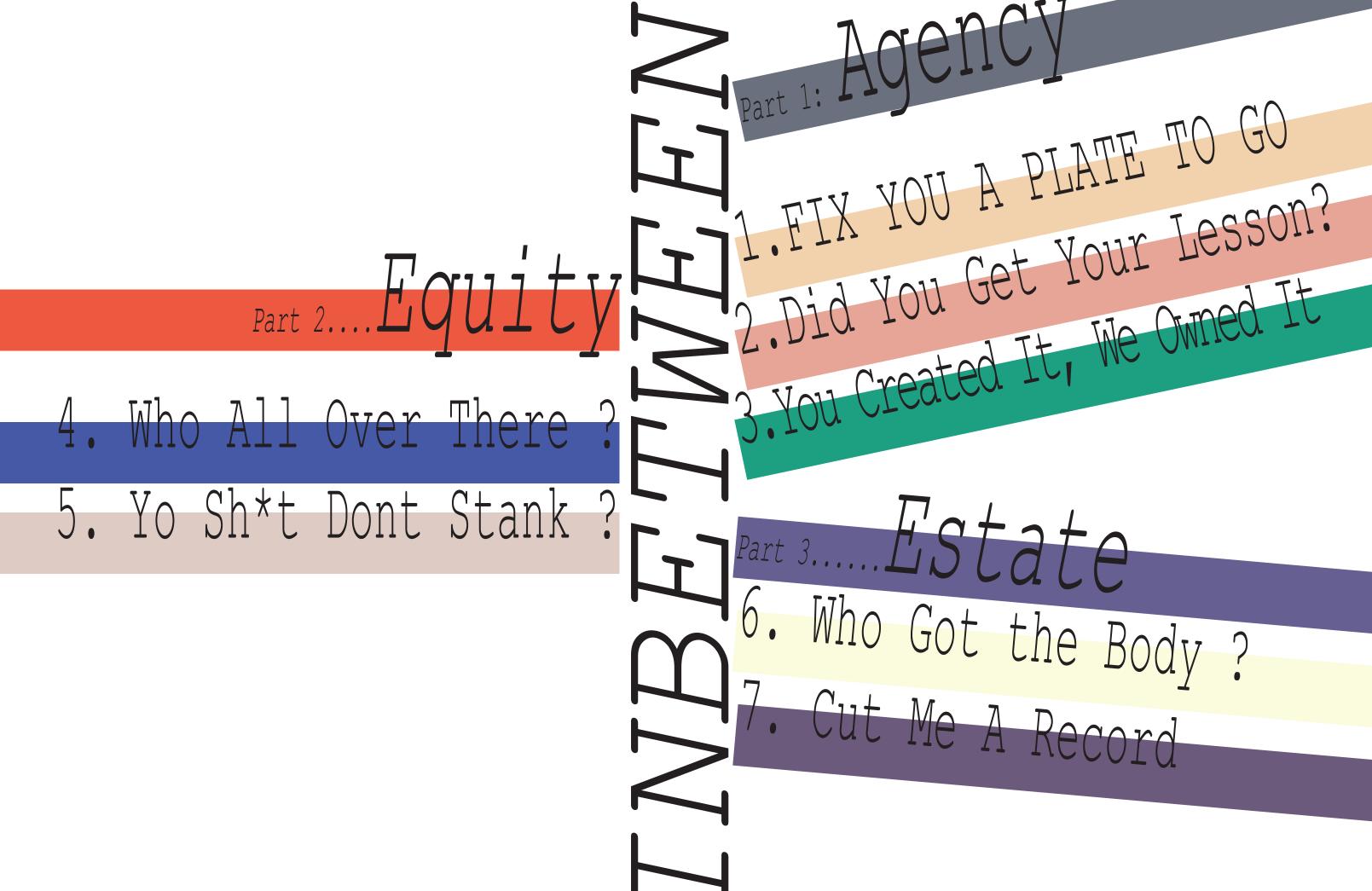
John & Tai At Kimoy Studios My Hommie Anton, Ms Valentine & Reggie My Hommie Elijah

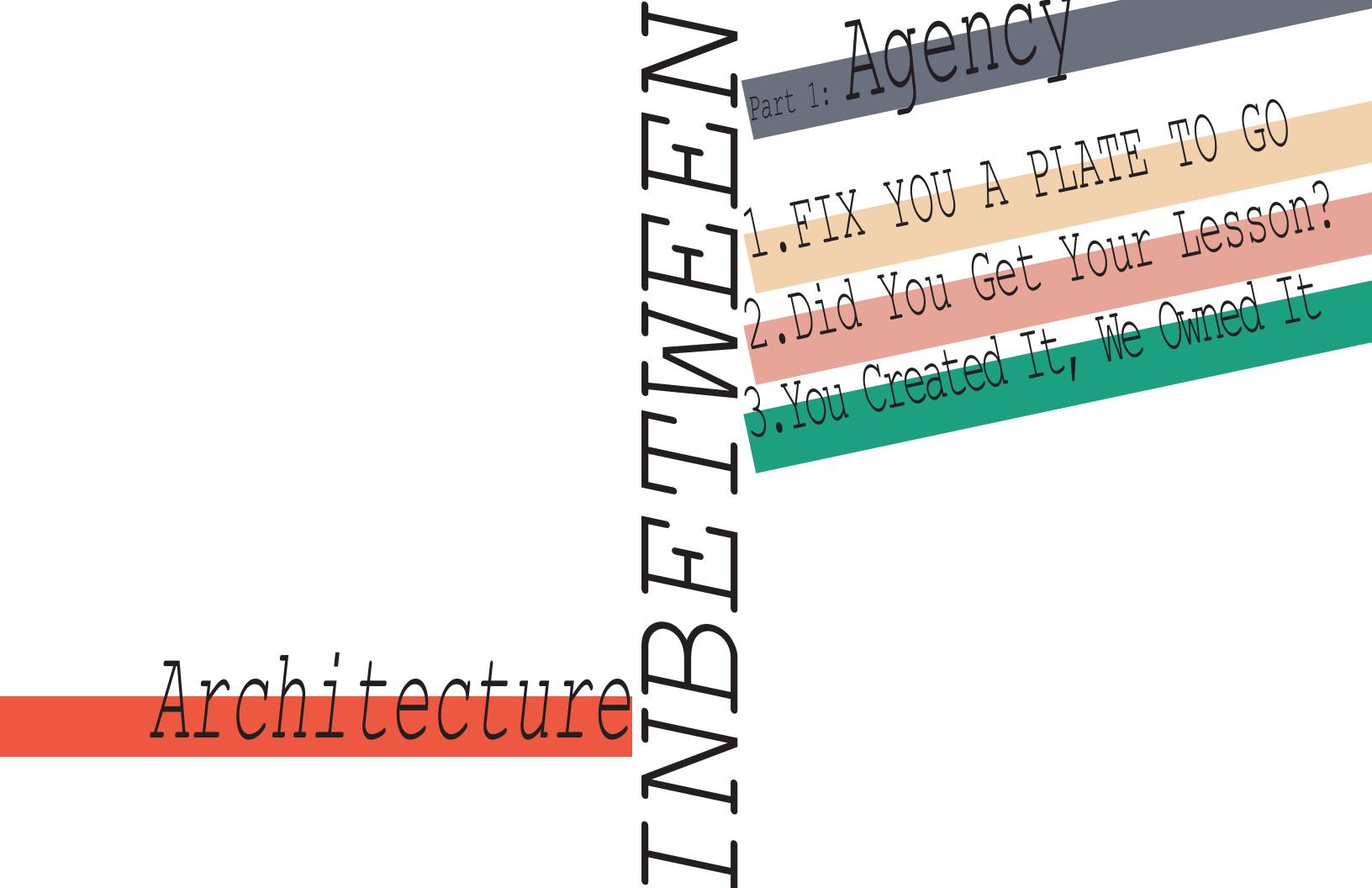
> Ed Hickman & Kevin Marlow Jason Newsome Craig Duet

My Peeps From BMW Manufacturing (Too Many to Name) My boys in the KOCC League

My peeps from hampton

AND SO MANY OTHER, THANK YOU !!!





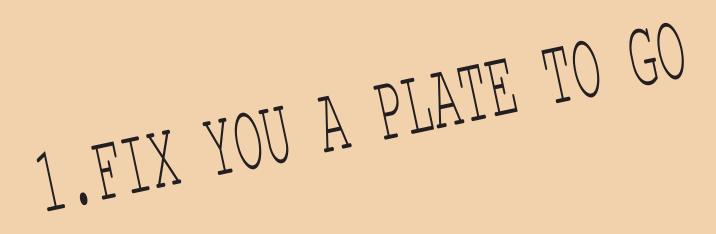
#### The Godega is...

is an urban intervention that borders between the world of architecture and supply chain management to respond to socioeconomic issues surrounding food insecurity and food sovereignty. This semi autonomous vehicle creates a link between whole food suppliers and neighborhoods directly cutting out the typical distribution system that can

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT

PROFESSOR - ANNA PUIGJANER STUDIO - CORE 1 SEMESTER - FALL YEAR - 2021

In other words, this project looks to put healthy meals on people's plates without creating a financial burden or time-consuming trips to find cheaper or quality foods.

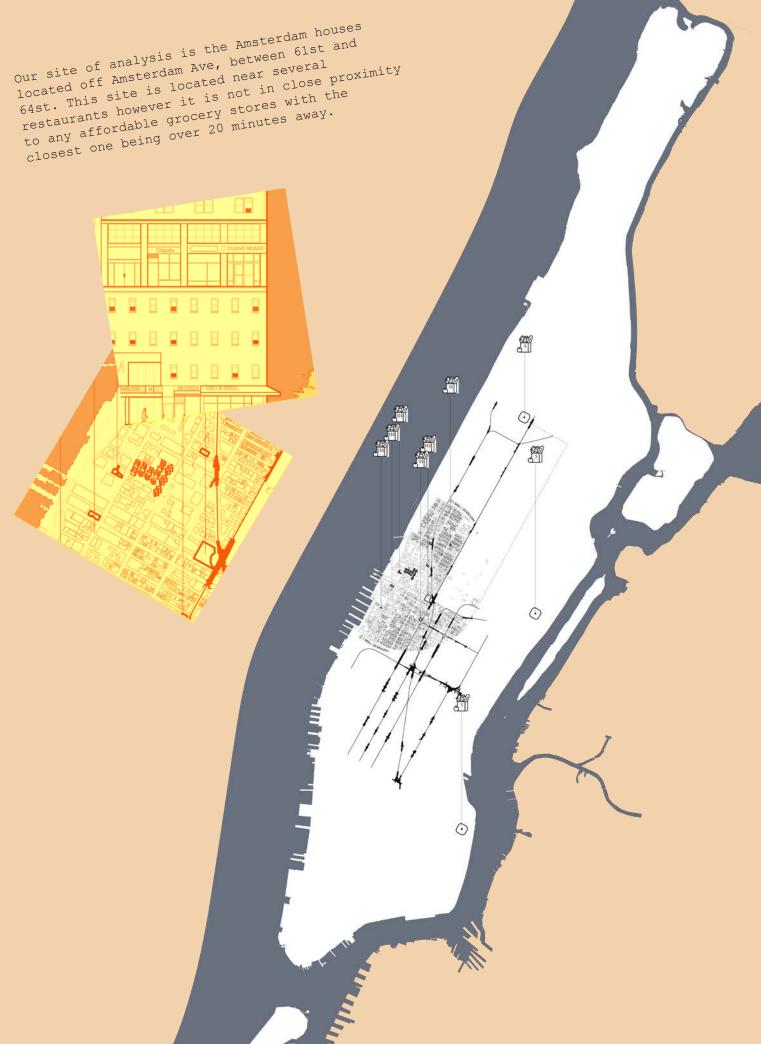


#### The ANALYSIS

Manhattan, a city with incredible access has a problem with access. How can a food desert exist in a city with more than 23000 restaurants 5,700 grocery stores and more bodega's than you can count? The problem is clearly not the amount but the location of these stores in relationship to the quality of food they offer and the time and experience it takes to access the food.

When we talk about time we have to look at it holistically, not just commute times. We have to consider prep time, cook time service time, and time to clean up. There is a difference in cooking a hi sodium low nutrients instant meal in the microwave versus a balanced meal prepared on the stove or grabbing something at McDonald's vs eating a meal at Eleven Madison Park.

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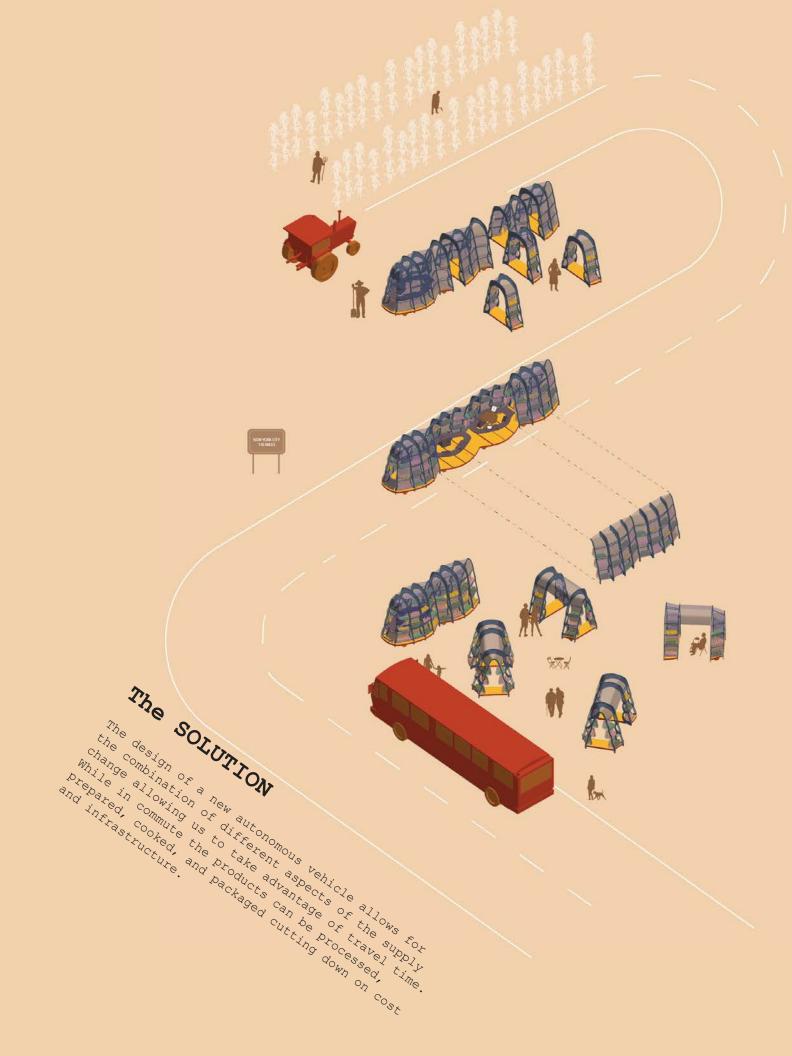
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#### The PROBLEM

The SOLUTION

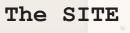
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#### The prototype site West End Ave. Coordinating the vehicle with the to grab products as they get on and off the bus making shopping for food a part of their daily commute instead of an extra step not afforded for some.

The vehicle is designed to deploy at the site and stay there in coordination with the peak transit time as well as run on its own regulated schedule that can be coordinated with the MTA.



is situated along the M57 bus route in Manhattan along bus allows riders that may be out of the way or adding extra time that is

#### The Vehicle

The vehicle is translucent allowing for someone to easily see whats inside whether it be for inventory purposes or browsing the products before you by. The baglike storage is designed to be used for harvesting, storage, and displaying products.

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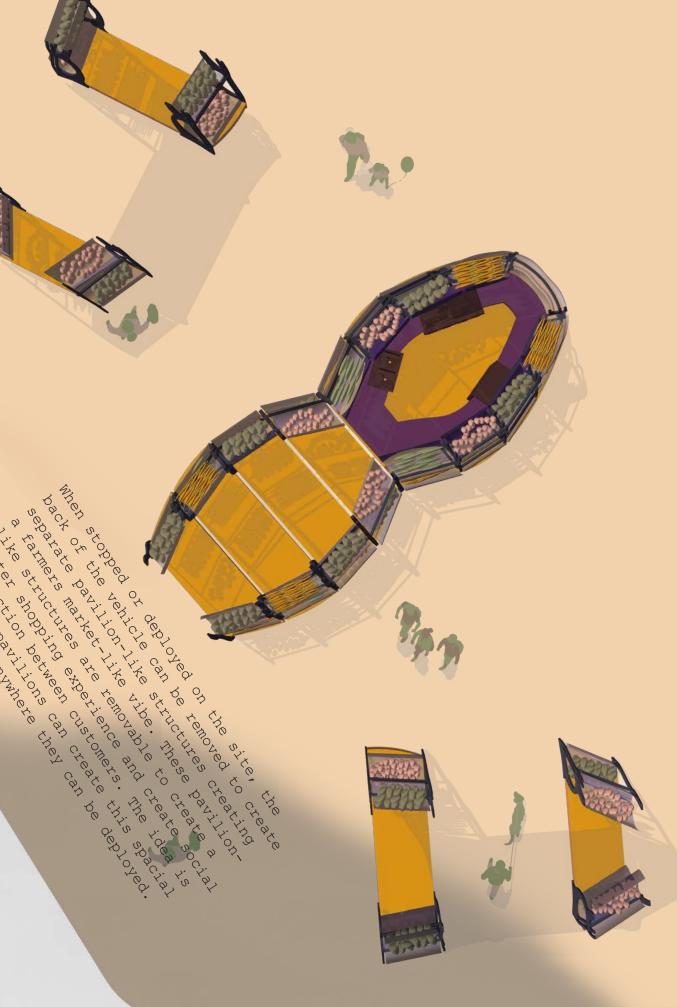
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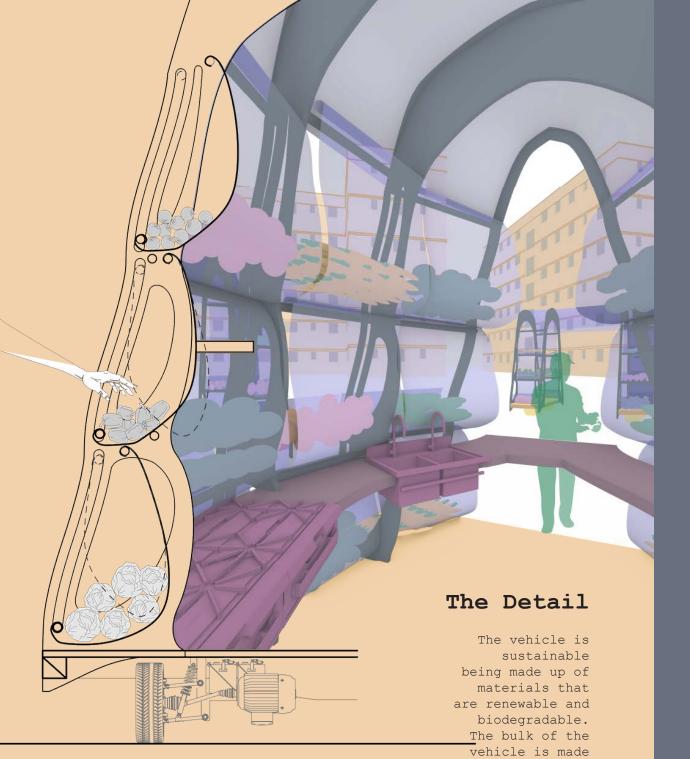
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deployed.







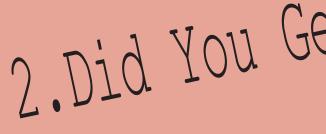
up of laminated wood sheets

that have been CNC'ed creating an exoskeleton that sits on a timber frame and the products are carried in a biodegradable bag made from a plantbased bio-plastic.

#### The 3rd Space is

• • •

An investigation into allowing children to create their own learning environment. The project aims to look at what a school can become when children have a say in the way that they learn. Through architectural design, the space creates a building where children can learn not only in the classroom but also from their experience with the building.



INDIVIDUAL PROJECT

SITE AND PRECEDENT ANALYSIS IN COLLABORATION WITH SOPHIA STRABO

PROFESSOR - Esteban de Backer STUDIO - CORE 2 SEMESTER - SPRING YEAR - 2022

2. Did You Get Your Lesson?

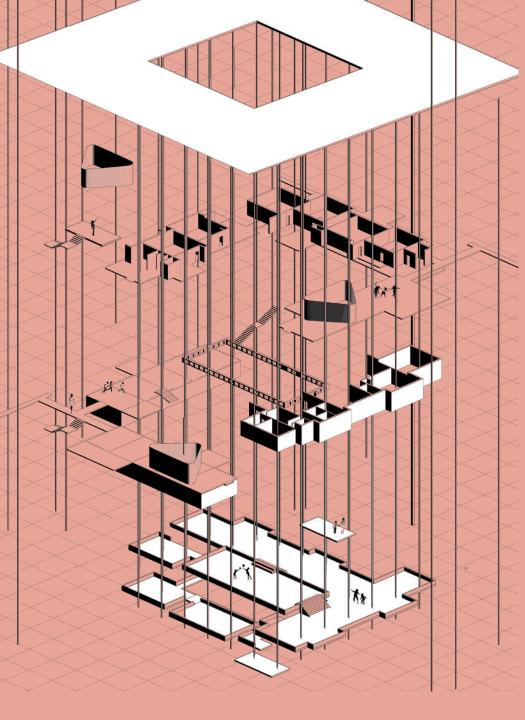
### The Neighborhood -The neighborhood is full of experiences and diversity and so a school serving this area

should embody those same experiences, spatially, and socially. Just like a city, the school should have public space, private space and the streets or circulation, which acts as a social space in between

hid ------

#### Defining School

Analyzing nontraditional schools across the globe, we determined that experience is the best teacher in early childhood education. This meant that all parts of the architecture should be experienced to create new learning environments meaning the roof can be a new floor and the floor can be a new roof.



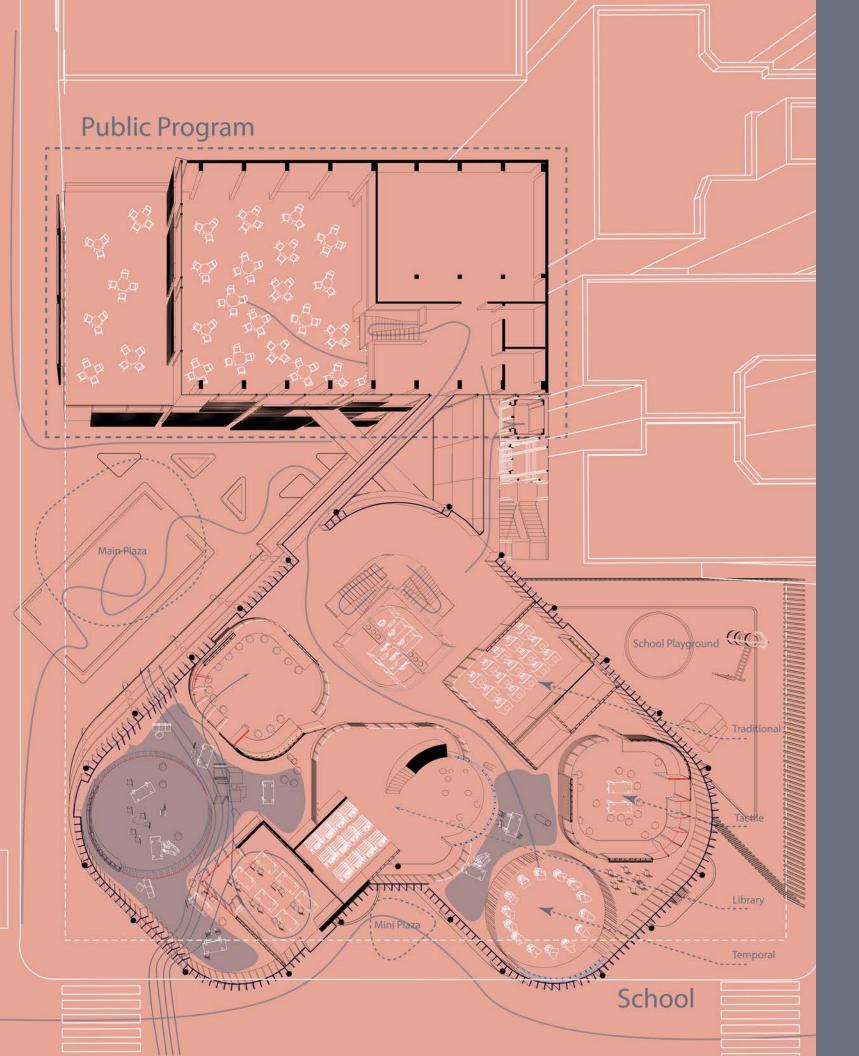




it starts with the overall building. The one side of the building is shared programs open to the public with a more transparent facade well the other side is a more private building is shared programs open to the public with a mol transparent facade well the other side is a more private program with a more screened facade however there are clear transparent facade well the other side is a more private program with a more screened facade however there are clear moments where the facade opens up and the incide activity program with a more screened facade however there are clear moments where the facade opens up and the inside activity are visible. This give children agency to express how they want their school to look.

The BUILDING

The project follows a simple organization thought out and The project follows a simple organization thought out and it starts with the overall building. The one side of the building is shared programs open to the public with a mor







### The 3RD SPACE -

The 3rd space or the circulation space becomes a class room in itself allowing children to learn in all parts of the building.



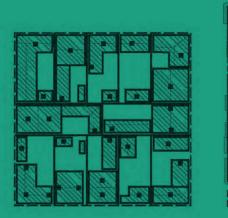
#### The Theory

A question of proprietorship pertaining to architecture vernacular.

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT

PROFESSOR - ALEXANDRA QUANTRILL QUESTIONS IN ARCH HISTORY SEMESTER - SPRING YEAR - 2022





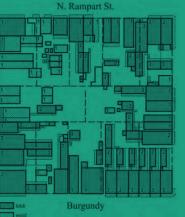


Figure one<sup>14</sup>





Before my awareness of the idea of architecture vernacular, The Shotgun House was something that I often attributed to African American architecture. With a quick google image search using the keywords "African American architecture," one would have quickly realized that these houses are simply not considered in that category. Perhaps they are overshadowed by architectural work larger in scale like The Theme Building by Paul Williams or the works of Phil Freelon, two African American architects who seem to single handily populate the search page. The work of both Williams and Freelon in fact are impactful in many ways, which is why their penmanship flood this visual list of African American architecture. However, while missing from the list, I would argue that the "shotgun house" was and still is an important and impactful piece in African American "architecture", placing quotes on the word Architecture as most would consider this housing type to be an architecture vernacular. But what does it really mean to be an architectural vernacular? Is it as simple as segregating buildings based on the involvement of an architect?

Robert Brown and Daniel Maudlin claim that "Vernacular architecture was characterized as a functional shelter for people, animals and stores, 'built to meet needs', constructed according to the availability and performance of materials and formed in response to environmental and climatic conditions" however doesn't all architecture fall under these circumstances in some way. This leads me to my argument that categorizing architecture and architecture vernacular is more about proprietorship or responsibility than its physical or other traits. I noticed this specifically when it comes to African American architecture. Building seem to fall into the category of African American architecture if its only ties to the African diaspora are through its chief designer. However this is not the same for vernacular architecture. In my opinion, The shotgun house is quite a contributor to this argument. The origin of its conception seems to be drastically different depending on who and where you are, therefore a few different architectural vernaculars have taken a stake in the ownership of these structures. Some of these ties to vernaculars I speculate come from the history of the homes itself, the occupants who traditionally resided in them, or even its architectural feature, however on the other end of the spectrum, the association become much more politically charged fueled by things such as capitalism and even by racism. I could argue that the idea of architecture vernacular itself is somewhat motivated by both racism and classism as well, but first I must build the foundation on the current argument about ownership. This argument is complex especially when it pertains to the shotgun house and its roots as there background is not straightforward.

The term "Shotgun house" was legitimized when it first appeared in the writing of Fred B. Kniffen. Kniffen was tasked by the Association of American Geographers to document and classify housing types in Louisiana. Kniffen's classification consisted of analyzing and comparing hundreds of homes and categorizing them based on "elements of the individual house: plan, roof, chimney, porches, appendages, paint, windows, height, etc". Urban sites were ignored in Kniffen classifications as he states it would "introduce complexities". And although this information would likely add to the argument that Kniffen was in fact documenting only vernacular architecture, it also provides us an opportunity to understand that his documentation is simply not telling the whole story when it comes to the shotgun house. His lackluster description of the shotgun house also doesn't particularly lend itself usefully in providing an idea of ownership. When Kniffen began to describe the shotgun house, he fail to mention any architectural elements. He focuses his descriptive efforts on the size and layout of the home rather than the categories of aesthetic features he lays out in his introduction. What is valuable to our argument is his mentioning of the existence of addition "sub-types" of the shotgun house.

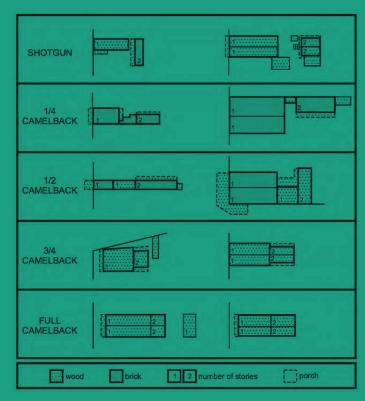
Kniffen and the Association seemed to be particularly interested in Louisiana housing with Kniffen's opening statement in the annal being "nowhere else in the United States does the landscape so clearly reflect the imprint of varied cultural strains as it does in Louisiana". By this statement, Kniffen seems to understand that the housing typology, including the shotgun house, was not a Louisiana exclusive and had ties to other cultures and areas. However, the title of his document in which he made this very statement suggests otherwise. Kniffen entitled the essay "Louisiana housing types", which implies the opposite of his statement giving ownership to the state in which they reside and not the cultures they belong to. Why in fact does he do this? I speculate that his use of the word culture is not as holistic as it may be for us now. So where exactly did he believe these "varied cultural strains" came from? He began to answer this question a few sentences after that opening statement saying "The theretofore sparsely populated prairies of southwestern Louisiana received an influx of settlers from northern states during the last quarter of the 19th century; the cultural imprint is highly reminiscent of the Mid-West.". This statement is true however it is only a partial picture of the landscape in Louisiana in the 19th century. Perhaps if Kniffen would not have neglected the more urban areas he would have had a more concise census of the context in Louisiana during the 19th century. Areas like New Orleans were populated with shotgun homes well before the ones documented in Kniffens exert from the annal.

More in-dept accounts of the shotgun origin existed by other authors such as John Micheal Vlach and Jay Edwards. Vlach an author and professor, spends a large portion of his essay, "The Shotgun House: An African Architectural legacy part 1" disagreeing with Kniffen's classifications. In this essay, Vlach criticized the writing of not only Kniffen but also William B Knipeyer, a former student of Kniffen's, who also attempts to provide some clarification on the origins of the shotgun home. Knipeyer adds that he believes the origin of the home stems from "Indian dwelling" and the "bungalow house". Vlach criticizes both their speculations saying "These studies, when taken together, portray this house form as a regional peculiarity, created solely from the idiosyncratic factors of southern and ecological resources, and commonplace only in the twentieth century."

For one to truly understand the origin of the original shotgun house in Louisiana we must first look beneath the structure at the plots of land that they occupy and their history. Typically a shotgun house in the urban setting of New Orleans was found on a long narrow lot. These lots came to exist while Louisiana was still owned by France. The divide happened sometime before the Louisiana purchase by the French engineer Adrian de Pauger and started out at 60 French feet wide with a length of 120 which converted to about 63 feet 11 inches by 127 feet 10.7 inches. An inheritance law put in place by the French furthered this division of lots making their widths even



Figure 3<sup>16</sup>



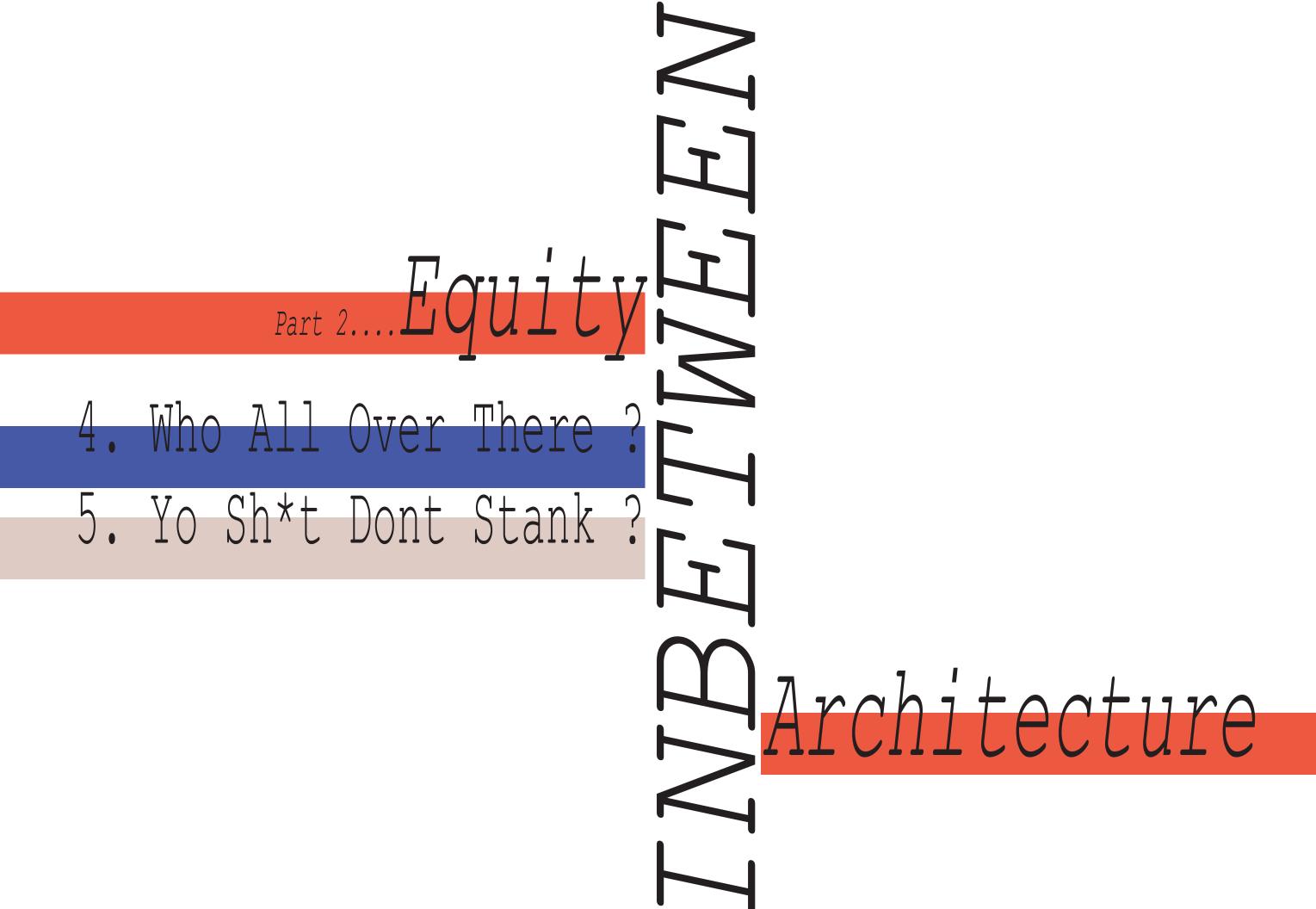


If you begin to analyze this information, you might possibly start a claim that the shotgun house in some ways has a bit of French influence in a vernacular sense, as traditionally we typically define vernacular architecture by a regional or a site specific influence. In this case, the lot size in New Orleans, a result of French systems, could be considered a regional trait, but what about the shotgun homes that Kniffen was documenting along the Rivers outside of the urban context. Were these houses bound by the same narrow plots of land? Although Kniffen fails to include further information about the sites these homes occupied or the context around the homes, we can see in the sketch, (figure 2) that the homes were still abiding by a fairly narrow footprint. They appear to be rural homes with no neighboring buildings within their vicinity although this could just be the nature of Kniffen's documentary as it seems he was only interested in the architectural features. It's no doubt that Kniffen was not focused on the site specifics so the question remains if the rural lots were the same as the urban lots. To begin to gain some more clarity on this question, we turn to Vlach once again as he includes several images of these rural homes with a bit more of the context shown. In the image (figure 3) included in Vlach's essay, we see the rural shotgun house sitting in the middle of what looks to be open grasslands. There are no other structures around the house in the image just trees in the distance. So why does the rural shotgun house occupy the same footprint just as the urban shotgun house when land appears to be abundant? According to both Vlach and Edwards, the form of the house was cheap to build because material and lumber were affordability at the time. This hints at its popularity throughout the state not just in the urban areas. However, it still seems as though the homes in the rural areas were just spin offs of the urban ones.

With the urban shotguns being influenced by the lot size plus the cost and the rural shotguns being influenced mainly by the cost it seem that we have a common denominator for the narrow footprint but this is not enough to define the shotgun house as a vernacular, especially an African American vernacular, as site and cost affect most buildings in some way. We must look at other factors to find this connection and identity who the owner of this particularly vernacular. For that we need to look at the architectural element and there potential origins. For this we will look again to the writing of Jay Edwards. Edwards agrees that the lots size is not enough saying that "The "narrow lot theory" of Wilson and those who follow him is insufficient to account for the origins of the shotgun house in New Orleans." Edwards spend a significant amount of time critiquing Sam Wilson Jr the historian he mentioned in the quote from the previous sentence. Understanding the origin of the shotgun house is something we must do holistically according to Edwards with him saying "If we are to provide a satisfactory and balanced account of the rise of the shotgun in New Orleans, we must add other perspectives: social, economic, technological, and architectural".

How do those perspectives that Edwards speaks come into play as we continue to look at the shotgun house beyond just the footprint. The sub-types that Kniffen mentioned could be a good place to start as Edwards also speak about these sub-types more in depth that Kniffen. Edward lays out the different iterations of the camelback subtype (figure 5) which seem to all be different arrangements of additions to the homes. The shotgun house was a idea starting point for owners to customize which also played into its popularity. According to Edwards, the shotgun house was a much more adaptable home than the just as popular as the also affordable crelo cottage that coexisting in louisana at the time. He states that "because their roofs sloped toward the front and back, it was difficult and expensive to expand Creole houses linearly towards the rear.". This somewhat rules out the sub-types as a classifier of this vernacular architecture as it has to do with cost mostly which we already established should not be a classifier. So lets us shift our attention to the influence of the Caribbean, Now that we have brought the creole cottage into the conversation. For that will go back to the Vlach writing as he states "Of special interest to my thesis are references to the building practices of Haiti, the previous home of many free Blacks." Vlach compares the shotgun houses to slave cabins during the time saying that "There was no clear connection between these dwelling and the shotguns that may have been in new orelans at the time." Free African Americans were a large part of the building trade community according to Vlach. This plus the ability to buy cheap small divided plots gave African Americans the opportunity to build there own houses. Vlach writing confirms this with him stating "They controlled enough financial resources and physical skills to develop their own architectural environment." Valch give us ample evidence that this is true which included names of African Americans that accomplished just that. This information alone is not enough to justify the connection with Haiti but paired with the immigration statistics we could began to speculate a bit more about this connection. New Orleans population was largely African American with Vlach claiming that "The influx of Haitian immigrants made New Orleans a truly black city." This mean that the shotgun houses are mostly being built by Haitian immigrants even if the owners where from different backgrounds. All this to say, that this may be the most influence factor but it is not the only factor as we have mentioned throughout this essay. We can almost attribute the house solely to the Haitian immigrants but there is still in fact not enough information to do such.

The architecture vernacular, the shotgun house is definitely a combination of influencing factors such as cost, location, building material, and tradesman and most building we consider architecture is no different. It appears that the shotgun house and other architecture vernacular's only difference is the lack in a single owner or entity involved in the design process. It seem to me that this is what architecture vernacular should be defined as, architecture practice that does not have or lacks a single owner.



In Collaboration with Kiaron Aiken

PROFESSOR - GRAY BATES STUDIO - CORE 3 SEMESTER - FALL YEAR - 2022

# 4. Who All Over There ?

#### COCOA BUTTER IS

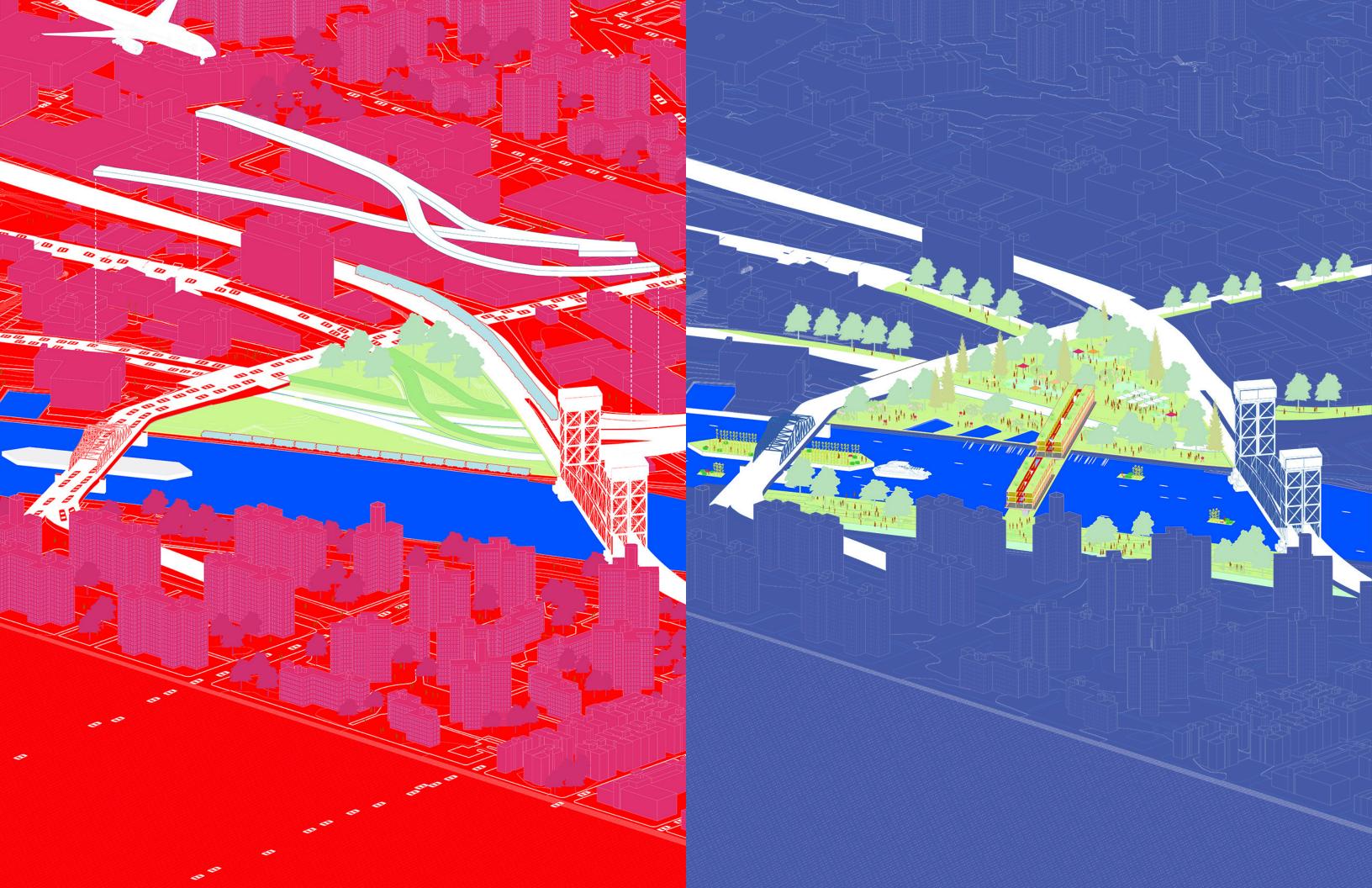
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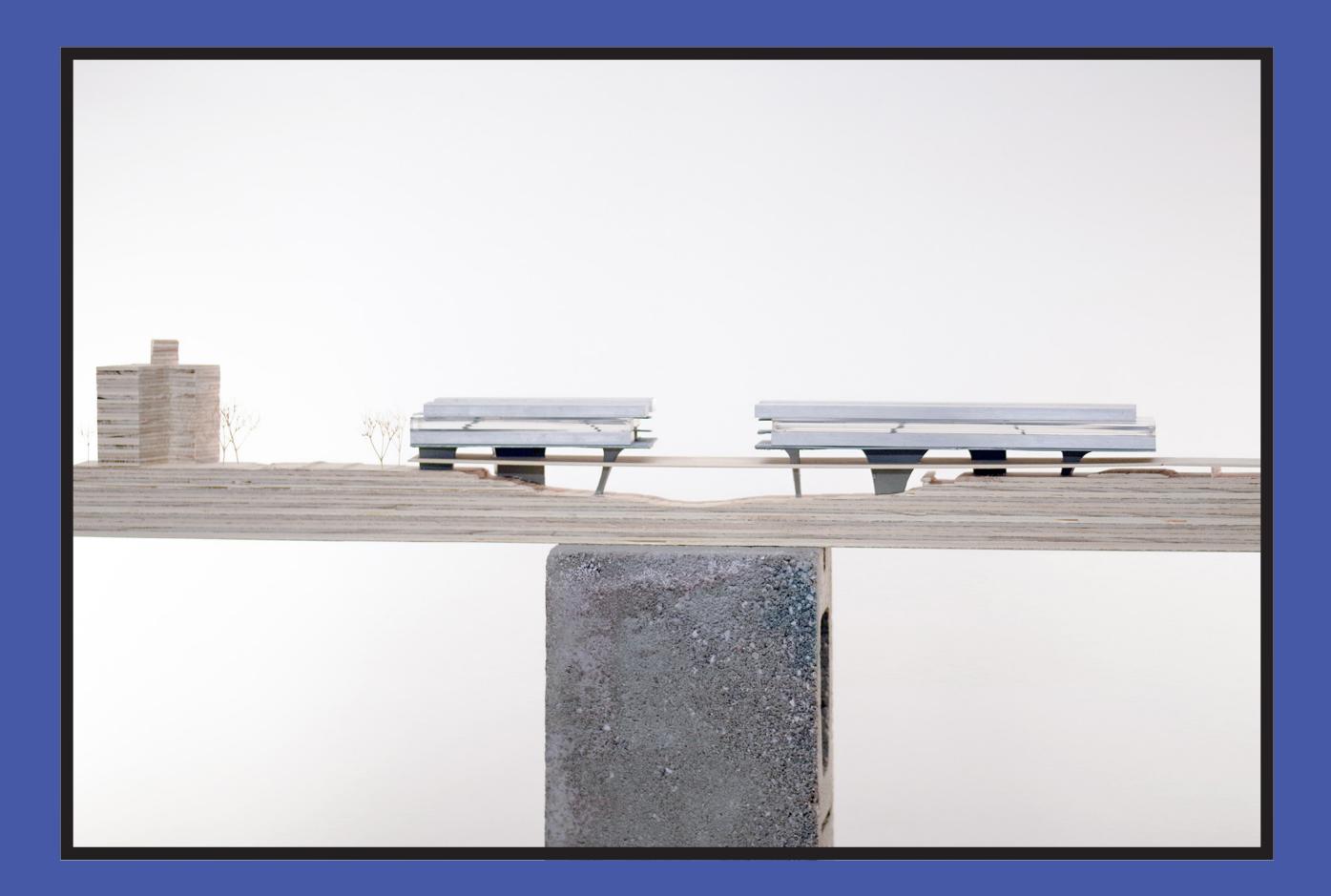
Existing between principles of living and infrastructure, Cocoa Butter, a name given for more than just cultural homage, looks to provide the same qualities as its namesake. Cocoa Butter aims to heal a community historically plagued with scars left behind by the urban design of Robert Moses, and the overwhelming car culture of the Bronx

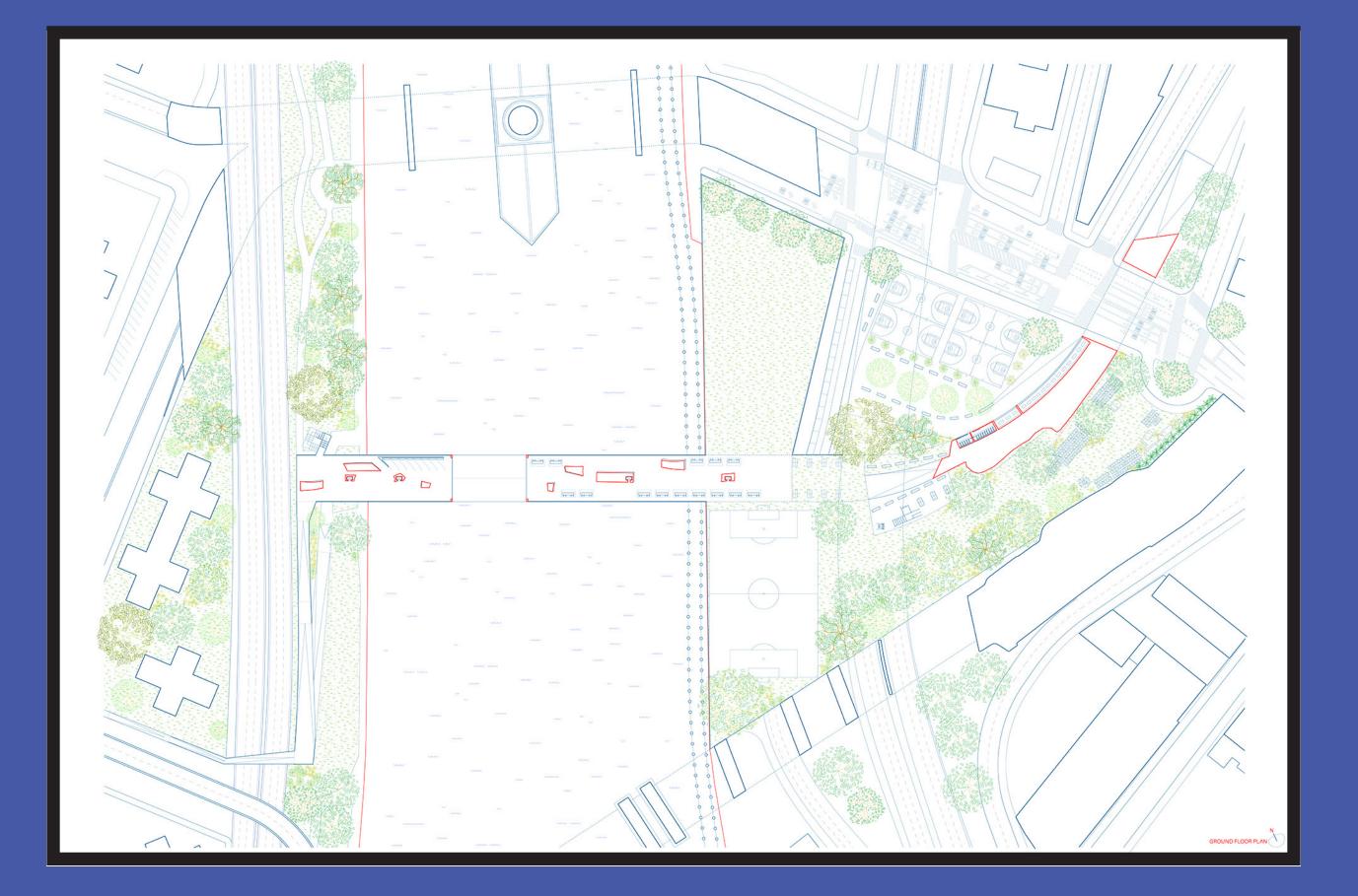
By connecting East Harlem to Mott Haven, this living bridge is not only an urban stitch that empowers pedestrians and NYC bike By connecting East Harlem to Mott Haven, this living bridge is not only an urban stitch that empowers pedestrians and bridge is and Hispanic communities. The project provides a pedestrian bridge that links bike and foot traffic across the Harlem siver and provides an urban garage space for formal and informal



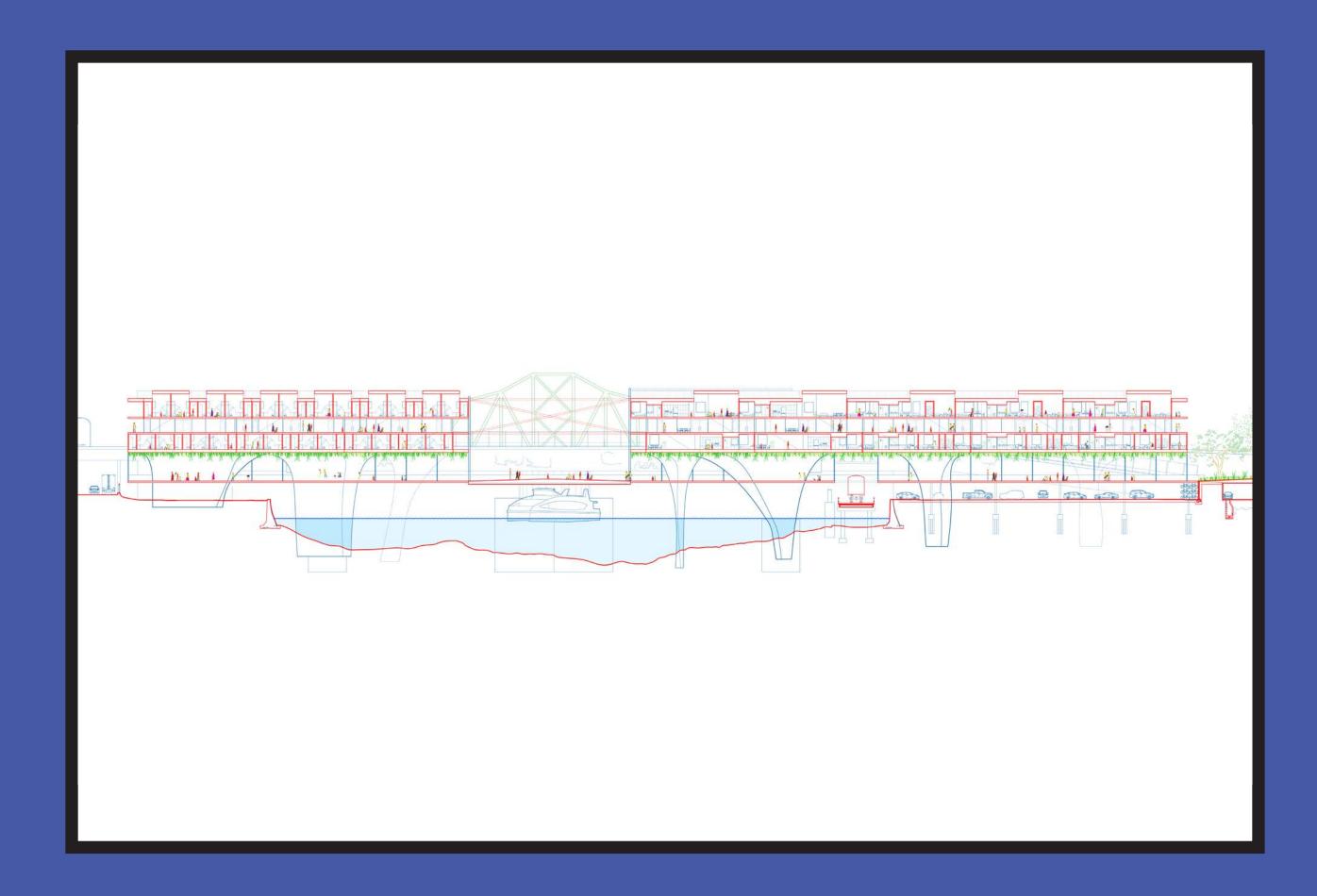
gatherings, markets, and bike repair. Above this bridge is a modest timber construction for housing that responds to the intergenerational aspect of the community the project serves







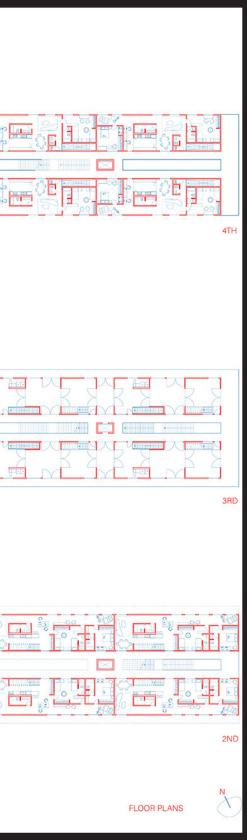


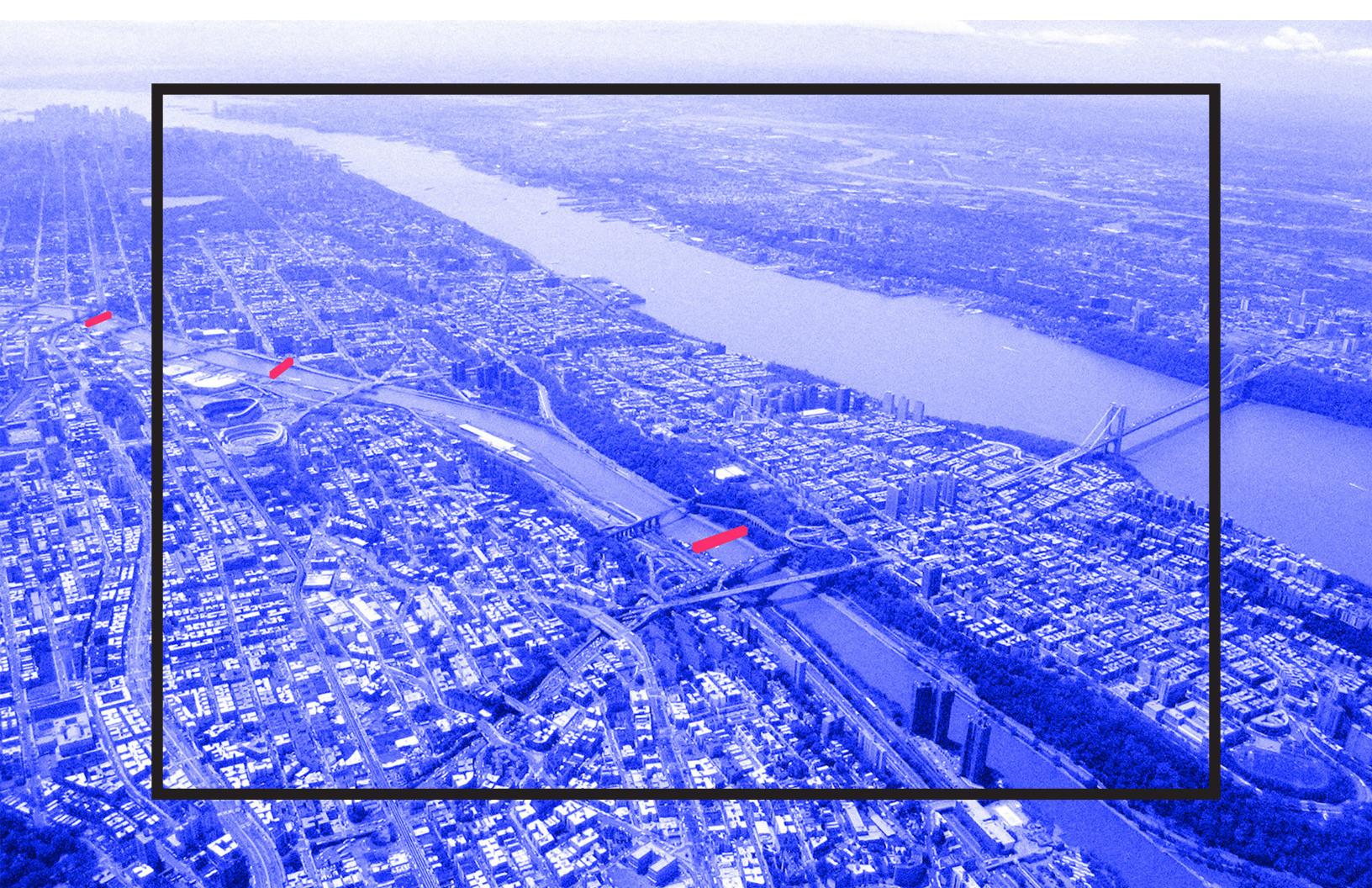












#### I HOPE YOU HAVE ENJOYED THE BRIEF INTERMISSION



#### NOW BACK TO THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED ARCHITECTURE

SITE AND PRECEDENT ANALYSIS IN COLLABORATION WITH CARMEN CHAN

PROFESSOR - FEIFEI ZHOU STUDIO - ADV 4 SEMESTER - SPRING YEAR - 2023

## 5. Yo Sh\*t Dont Stank ?

#### The SITE

The "insert title" sits between architecture and urban infrastructure looking to provide a decentralized solution for wastewater treatment Port Jervis, New York, a city, whose is wastewater treatment plant is currently operated and owned by York city. This project aims to consider non-human stakeholders within an architectural intervention, providing a structure that has beneficial to both humans and beavers.



Simultaneously, The slowing of the river resulted in a decline in beaver population, affecting all the surrounding plant and wildlife as beavers are keystone species. The decline of beavers resulted in loss of some native tree and plant species, fish in the river and other wildlife that benefit from beaver activity.

...

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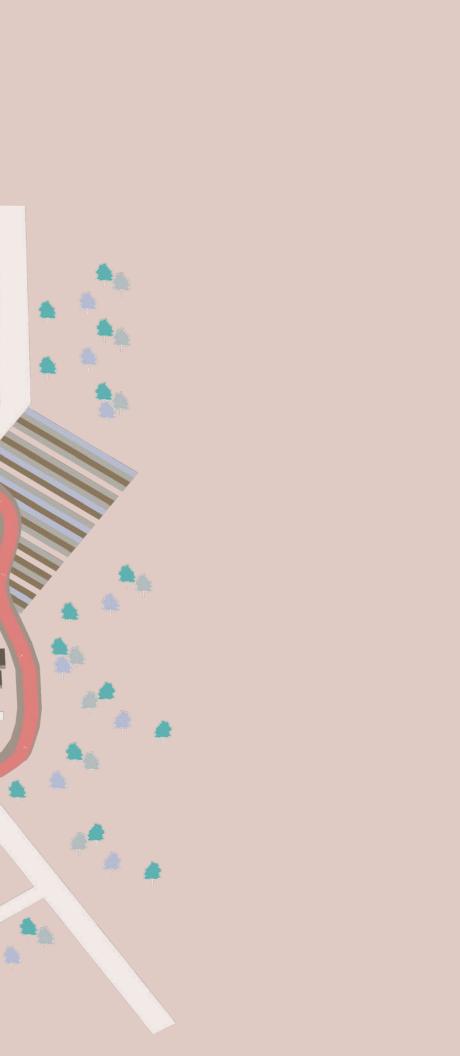
in a settlement that  $^{>}$  requires New York City to treat the wastewater of Port Jervis as long as they operate the reservoir on the never sunk river. There is a unique history surrounding the treatment of waste water in Port Jarvis. Up until 1956 the city

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These systems have been strategically located in various parts along the river, tapping into the existing piping infrastructure, taking into account, the natural flow of water and dividing the city up equally to preve overload to the system.

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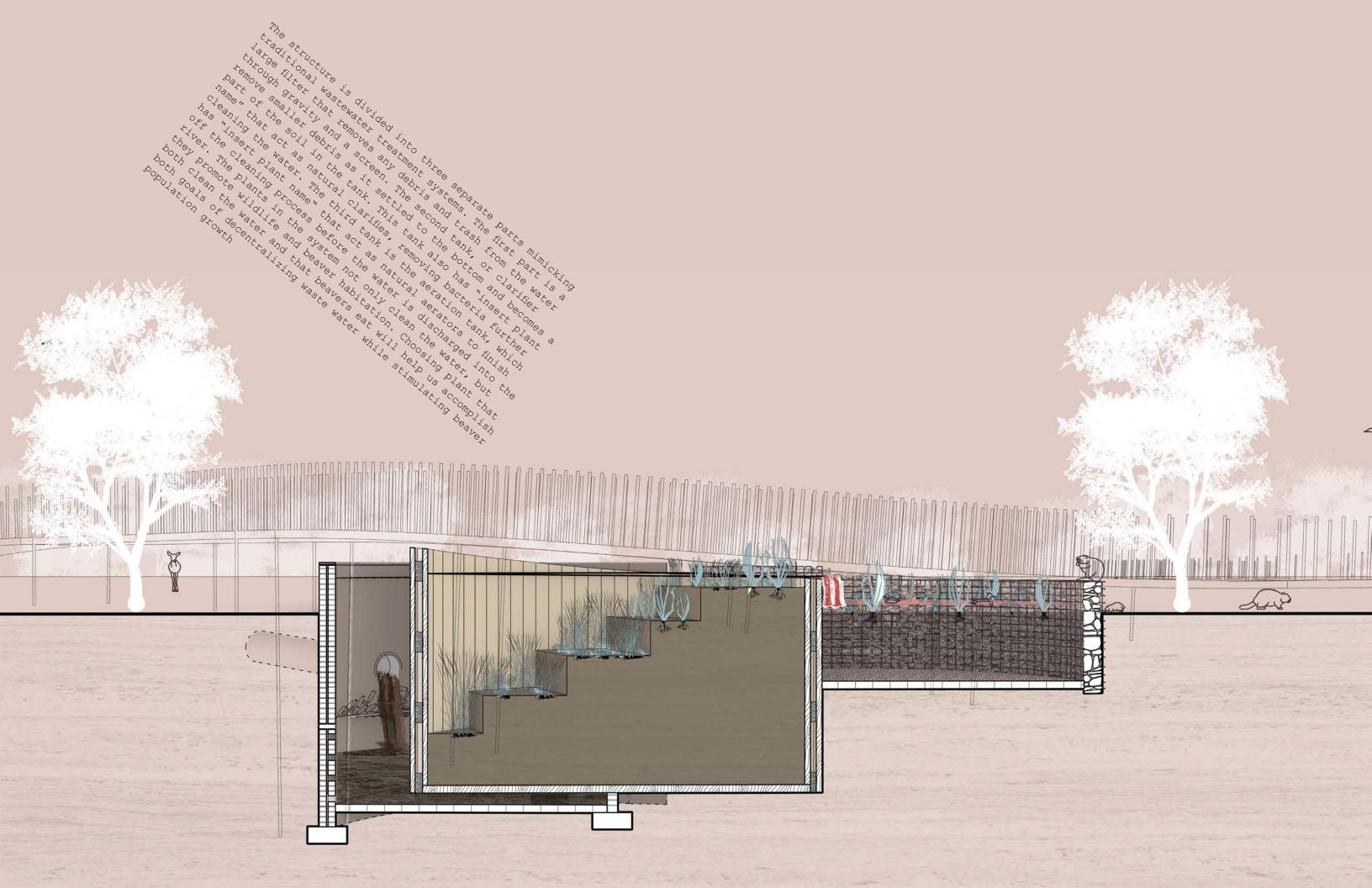
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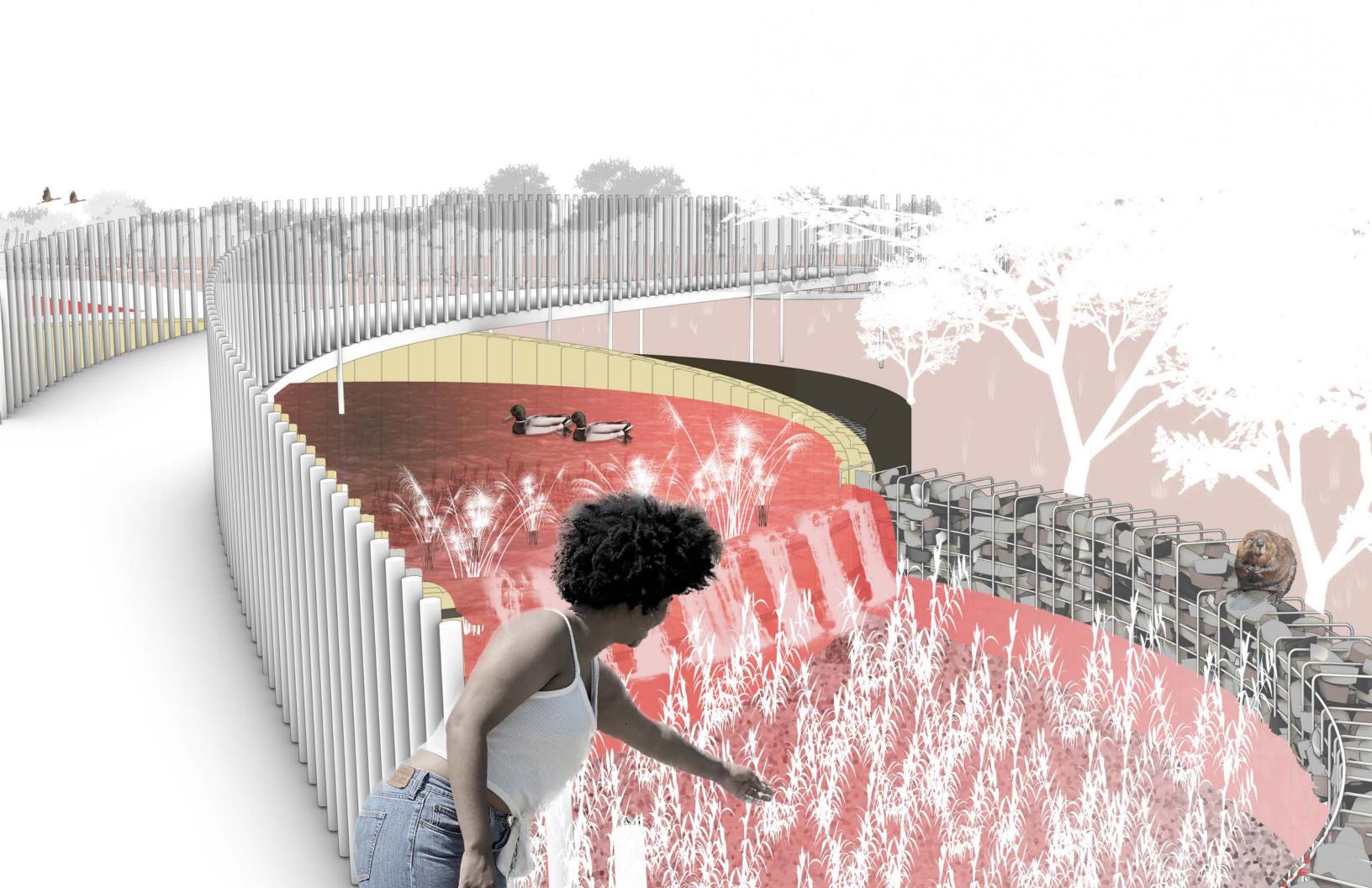
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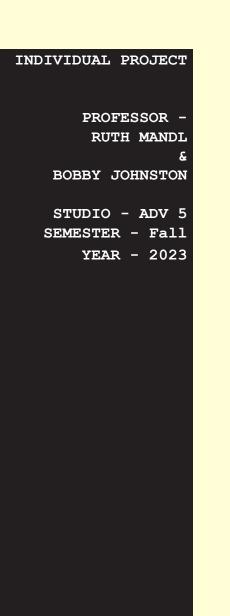
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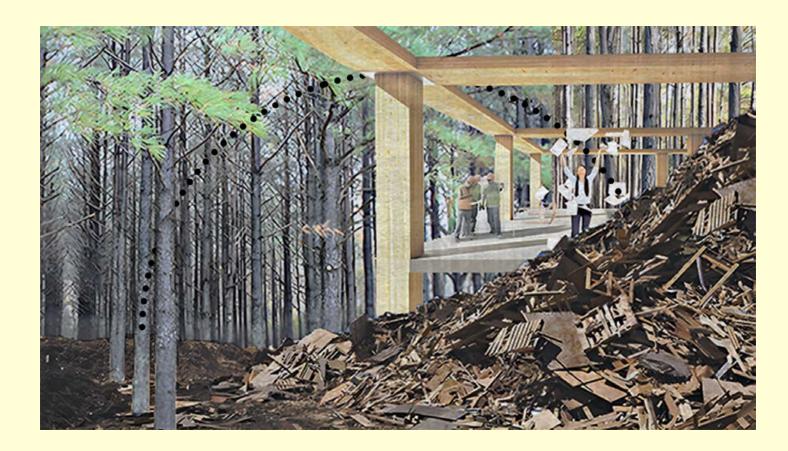






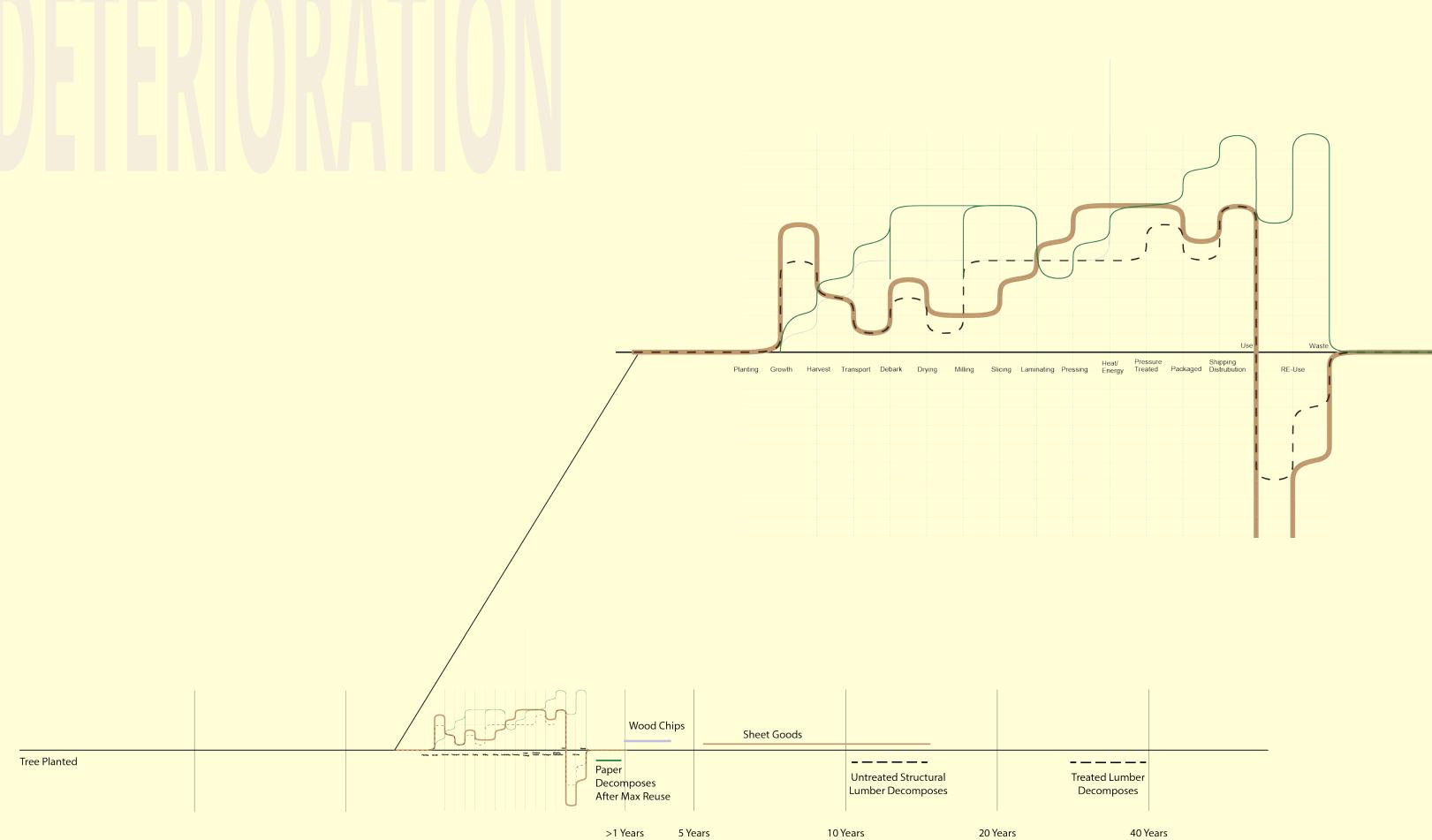


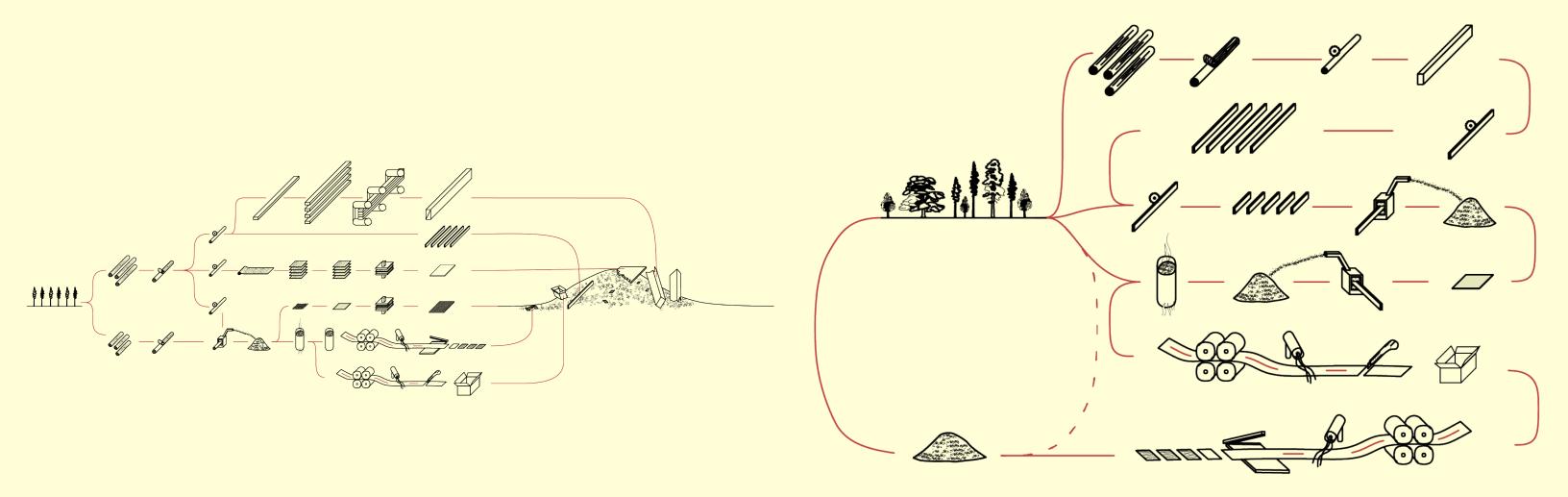
## 6. Who Got the Body ?



Wood waste often exists longer as waste compared to its product state or even original form. This material, once a vital part of nature, is discarded, deemed unusable, and left in landfills. More Life, More Death looks to re-image the way we harvest and use wood to create a more circular system. By first, utilizing outputs as inputs, the project looks to reuse products by scaling them down after initial use, to gain a greater return on harvested trees. The project then looks to localize extraction by taking advantage of a shift in burial traditions by memorializing the dead with trees. This will create a deeper attachment between us and our trees and forest leading to a better relationship and a new system of value for our wood overall.

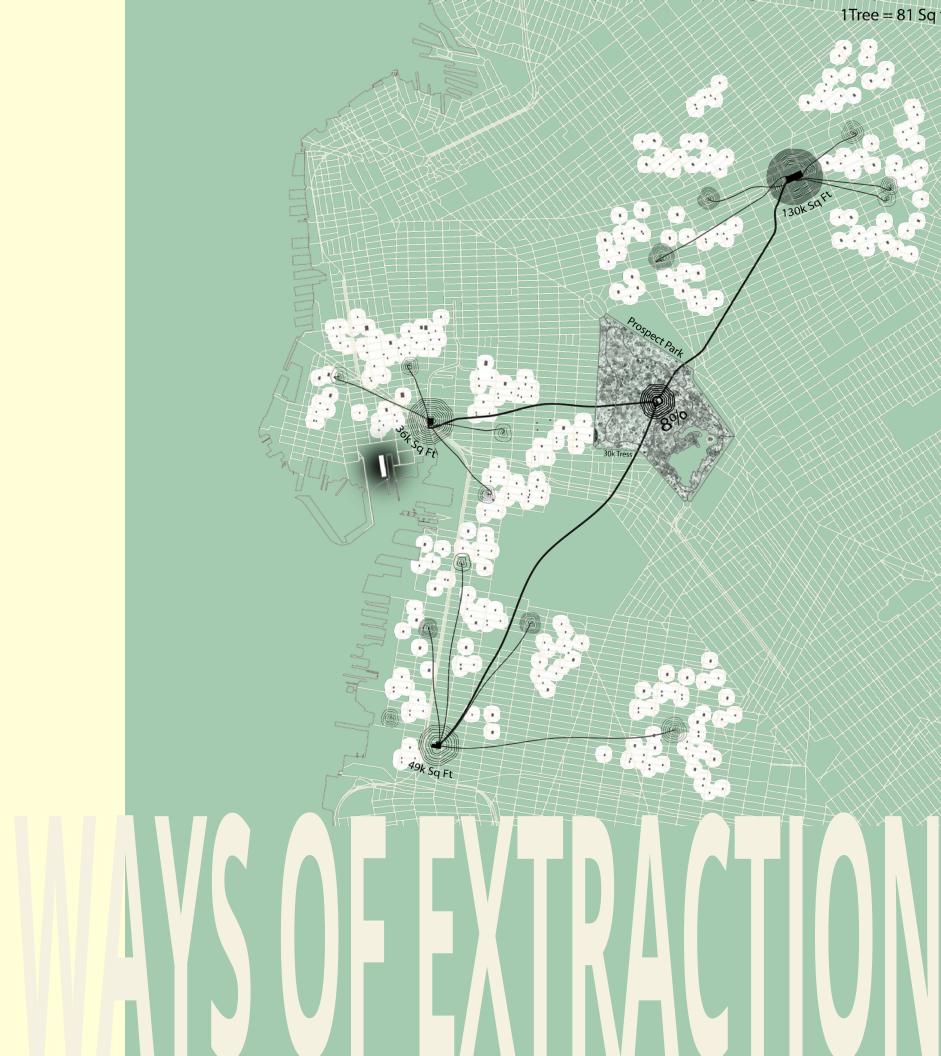
The project becomes architecture at the Red Hook Grain Terminal by providing a place for harvested trees and reclaimed lumber to be milled, dried, and stored while providing a public space for commemorating the trees that once stood as memorials in cemeteries. In addition, the structure acts as an elevated public space for a community whose existing park is plagued by toxic waste and is projected to flood by 2063.

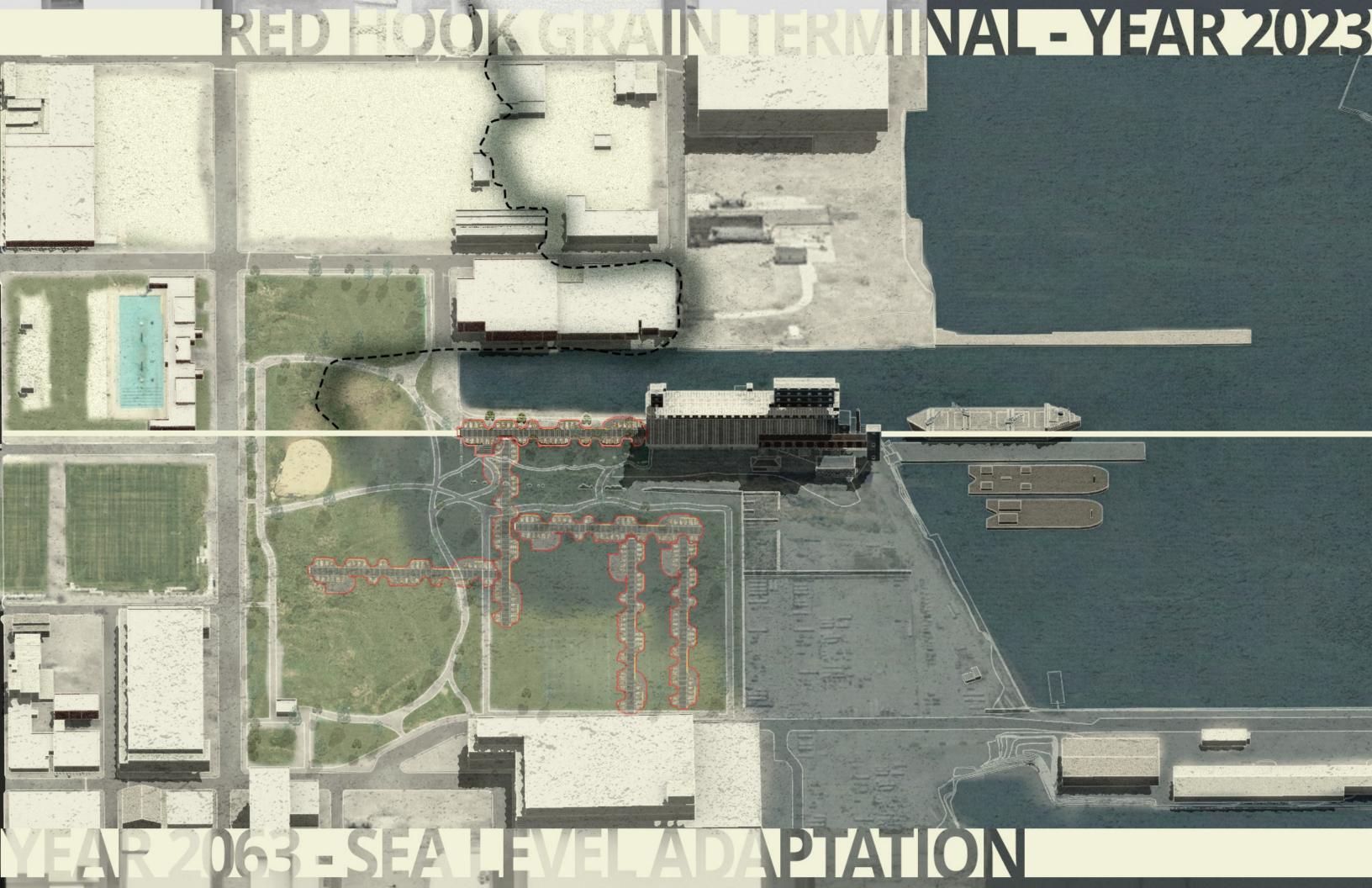


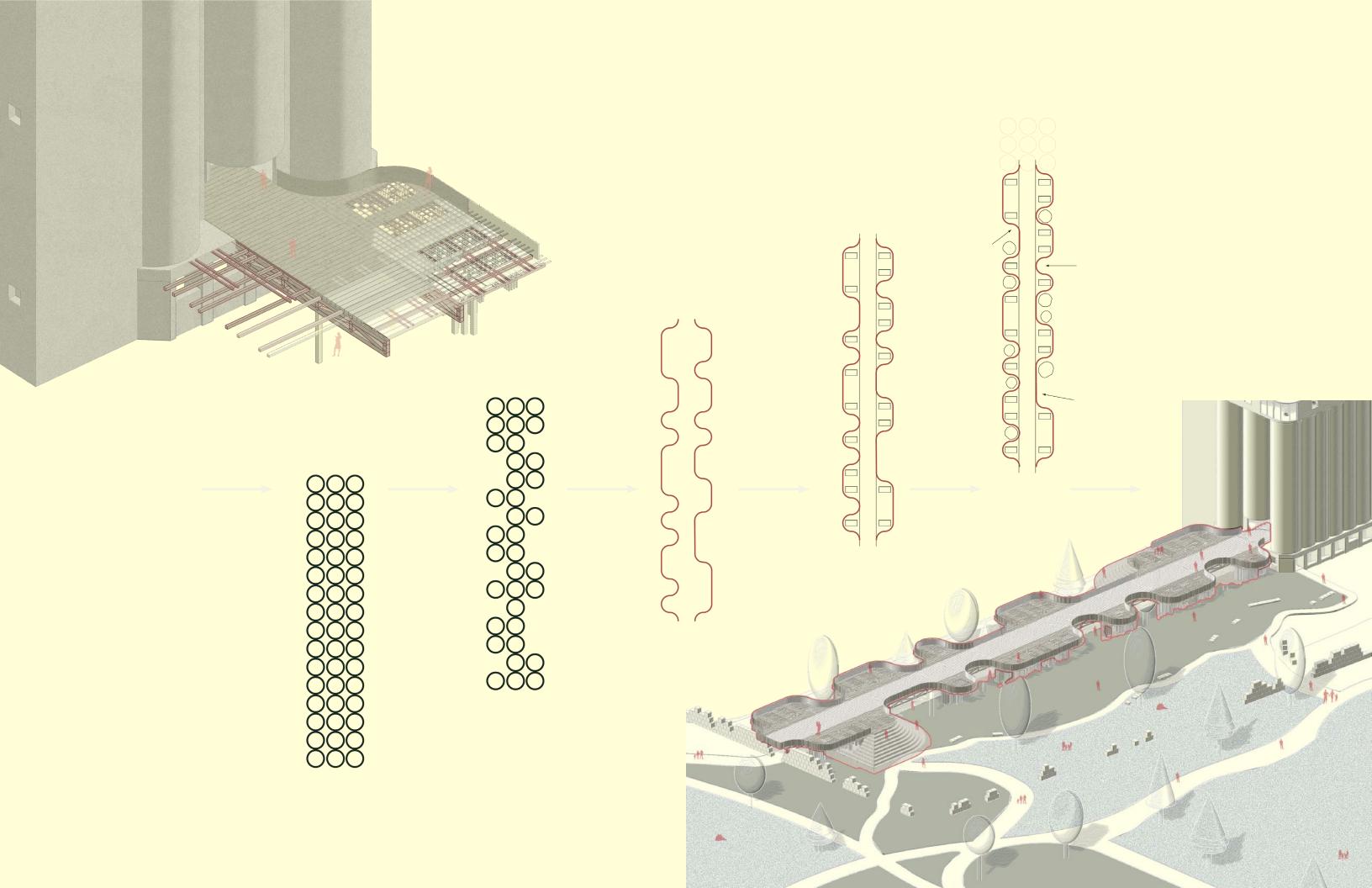


# BUSINESS AS USUAL CIPCL

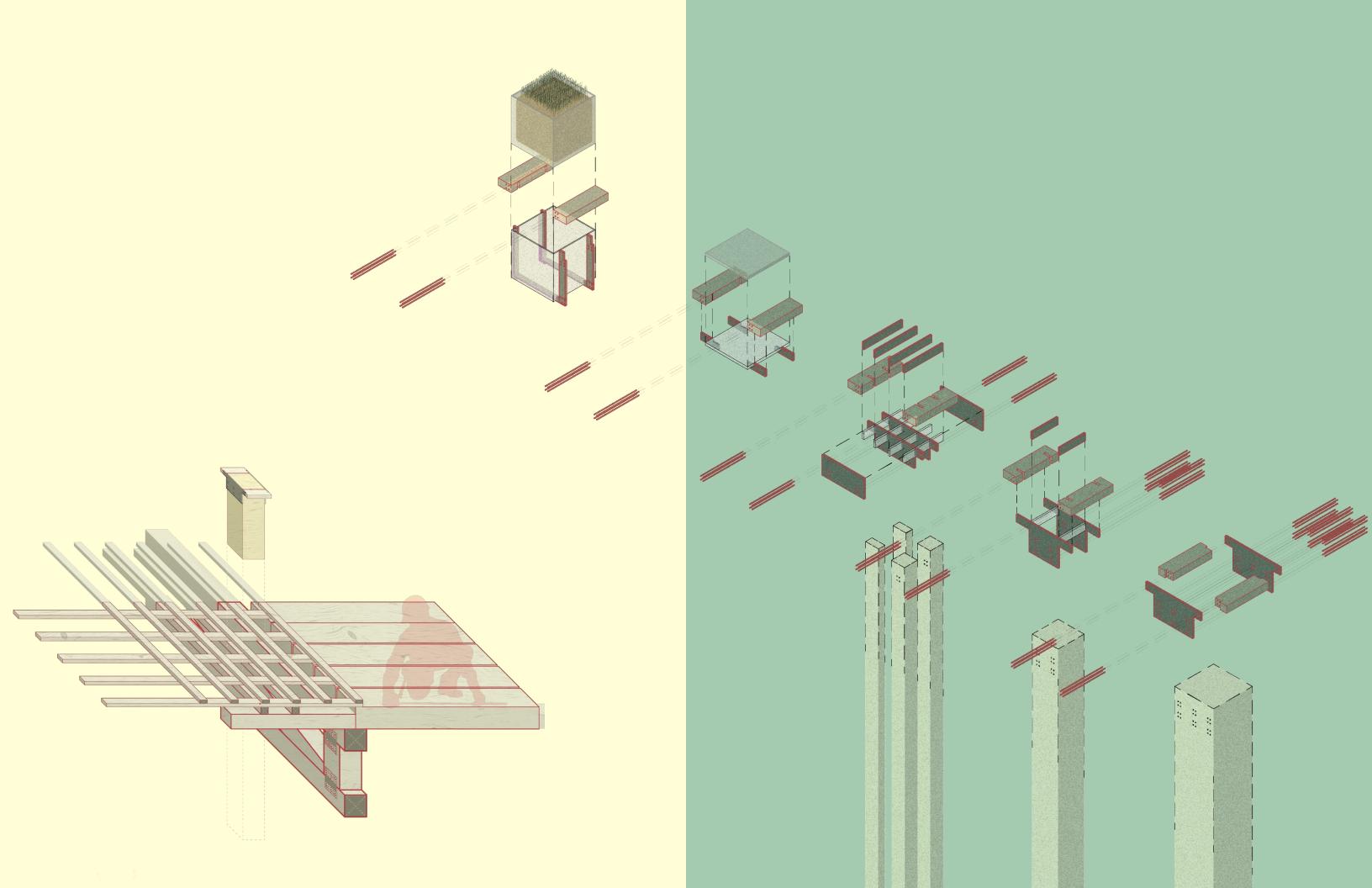
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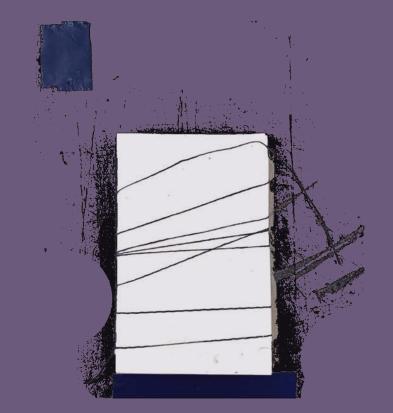
## INDIVIDUAL PROJECT PROFESSOR -ILZA WOLF & LAFINA EPTAMINITAKI STUDIO - ADV 5 SEMESTER - Fall YEAR - 2023

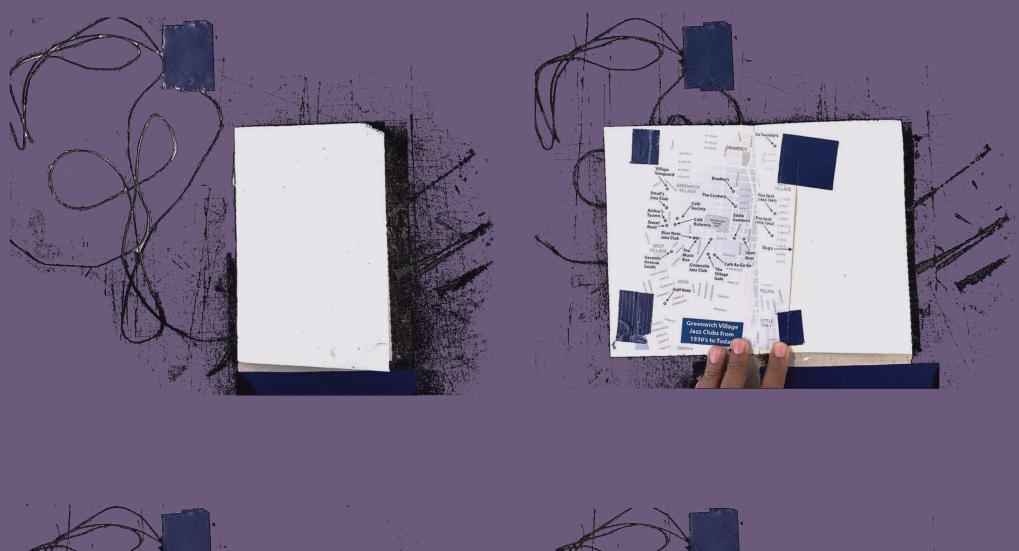
## 7. Cut Me A Record



DOLLAR BRAND AFRICAN SPACE PROGRAM CAN NOT BE DESCRIBED WITH WORDS BUT I WILL TRY TO CAPTURE THE the essence of it all in the next few pages. The studio was an exploration of all liberation and spatial practices inspired by the work of Abdullah Ibrahim the legendary South African, jazz musician Ibrahim songs became the soundtrack to anti-apartheid movement and his life has inspired me including myself. Through this studio I gained a new understanding of myself in my relationship to architecture specifically in my own original practice. We all experience space differently, and that is what I've come to find out in the studio liberation looks different to all of us and that is what I've come to find out in the studio.

Over the next few pages, you will see publications, spatial interventions, and a mix tape and booklet and images from a performance where I presented music that I created inspired by places of liberation that no longer existence, specifically sweet basil, jazz club and Greenwich Village and district 6 in Cape Town South Africa. The work presented in the section is raw unfiltered and is truly a representation of me

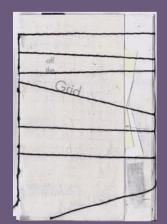


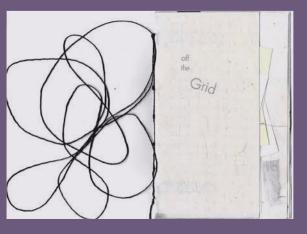


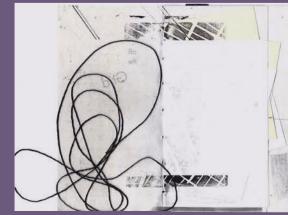














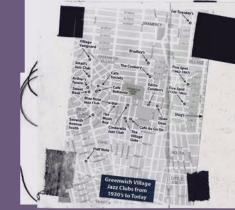




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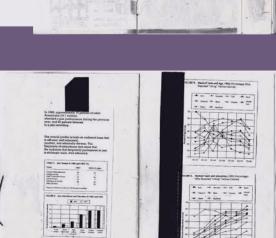




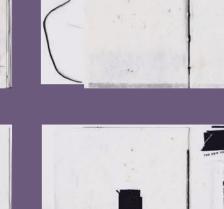
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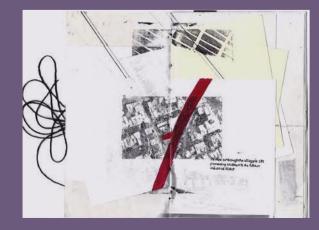






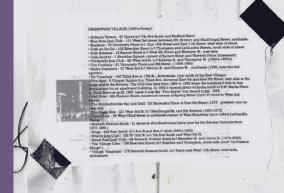


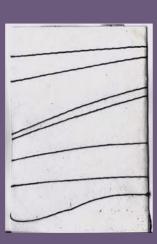














Flipping Fragments argues that Architecture existed as just a vessel and that space is created by the fragments of our memories. By focusing on the documented memories of sounds, the project manifest a new space by sampling fragments of music and sounds to create a piece of architecture that existed outside the constraints of real estate and the built environment.

That sound piece, DG6V mixtape, is collection of tracks made from combining various performances by South African jazz musician Abdullah Ibrahim in the legendary Sweet Basil jazz club, and recordings by Ian Bruce Huntley of various African American soldiers performing in the Zambezi restaurant when visiting Cape Town on deployment.

Unfortunately neither one of these places exist anymore with Sweet Basil falling victim to Manhattan real estate and Zambezi's located in District 6, a vibrant area was violently destroyed by the Group Areas Act during apartheid in Cape Town South Africa.

Flipping Fragments is a tribute to the spaces that have fostered liberation through music that no longer exists. A space that can never be relocated, shut down or destroyed. A space that aims to provoke liberation to all who experience it.



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