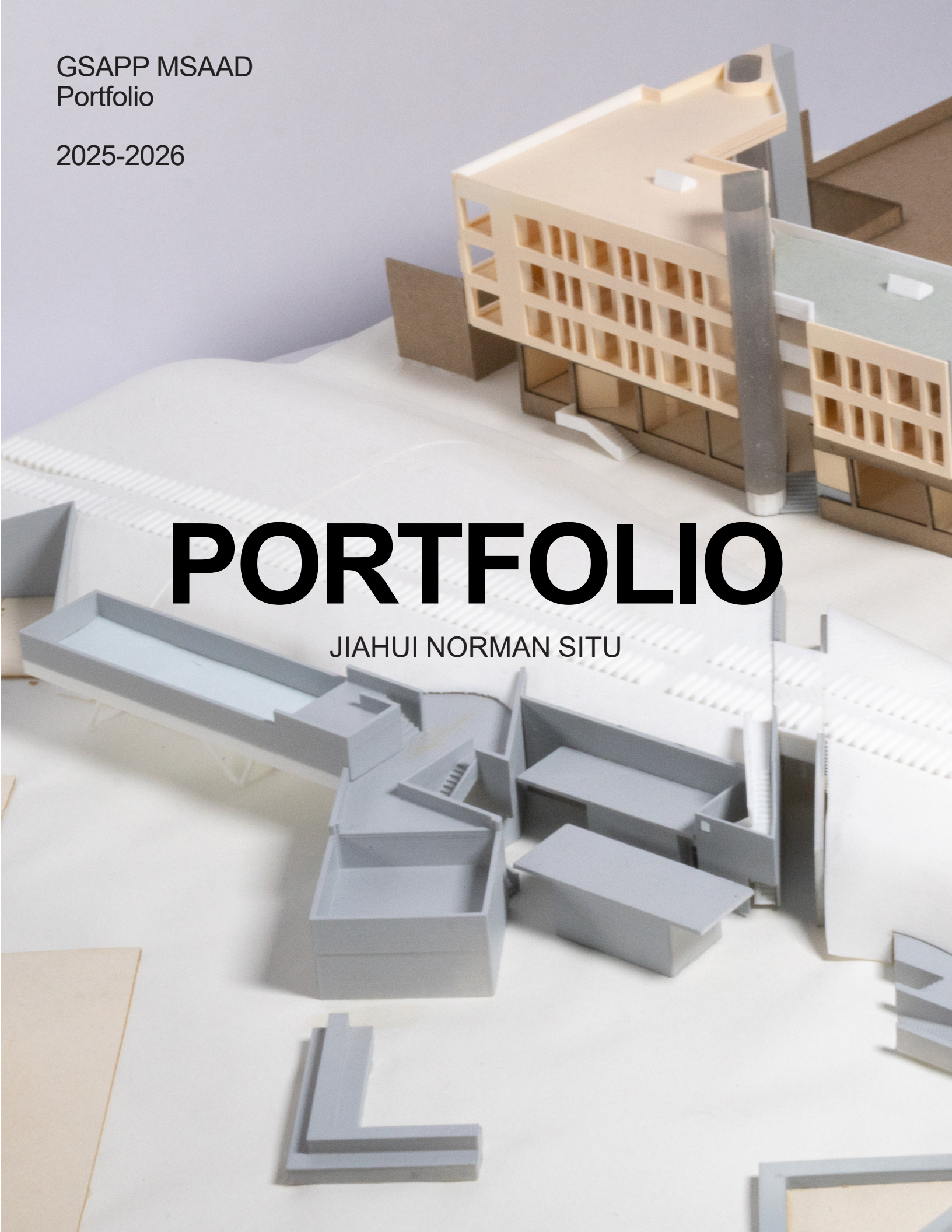


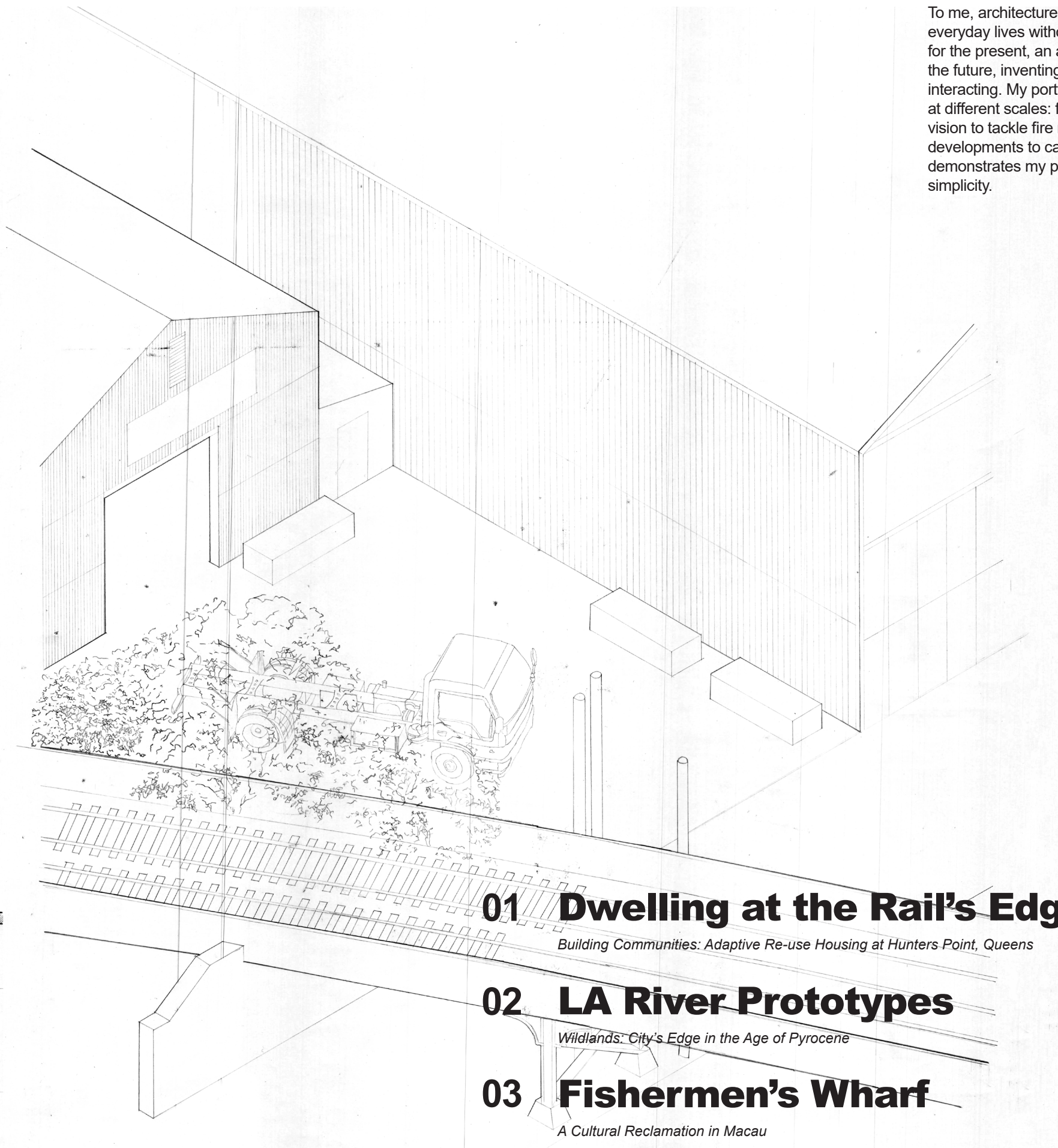
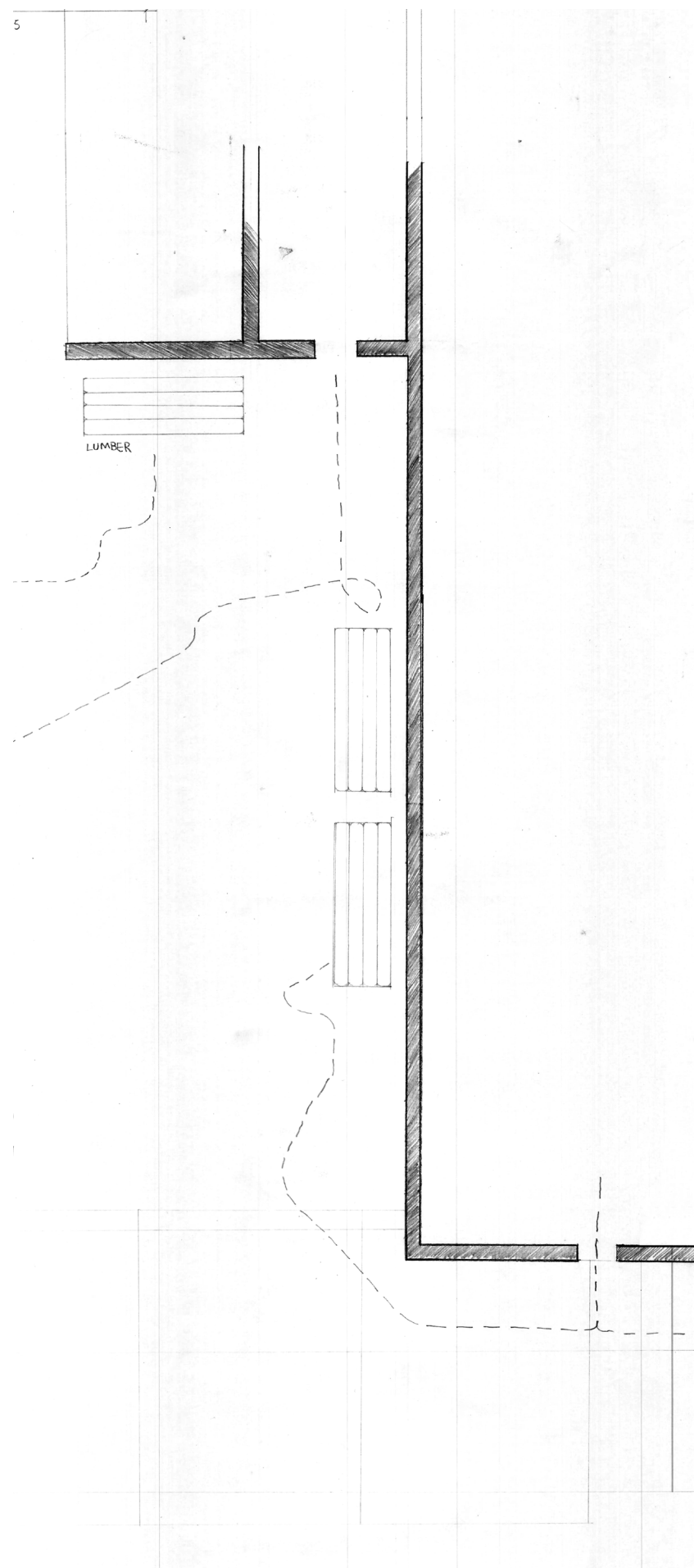
GSAPP MSAAD
Portfolio

2025-2026

PORTFOLIO

JIAHUI NORMAN SITU





To me, architecture is a discipline that shapes people's everyday lives without them even noticing. Beyond designing for the present, an architect is responsible for imagining the future, inventing new ways of living, experiencing, and interacting. My portfolio demonstrates that imagination at different scales: from adaptive reuse housing to a vision to tackle fire resiliency in Los Angeles, from urban developments to campus redesign. I hope my portfolio demonstrates my passion for design and the beauty of simplicity.

01 Dwelling at the Rail's Edge

Building Communities: Adaptive Re-use Housing at Hunters Point, Queens

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01

Tucked beside the Montauk Cutoff in Hunters Point, this project transforms an obsolete warehouse into a quiet residential enclave within a still active industrial landscape. A quiet courtyard surrounded by a culmination of industrial and domestic life creates a space where neighbors interact, work, and build a community unique to the neighborhood. Homes and a community pool bring life back into the overgrown railroad. By embracing the layered ecologies of industry, rewilding rail lines, and adaptive reuse, the project cultivates a new form of urban domesticity—one that thrives in the margins, inhabiting the interstice between past logistics and future neighborhood life.

DWELLING AT THE RAIL'S EDGE

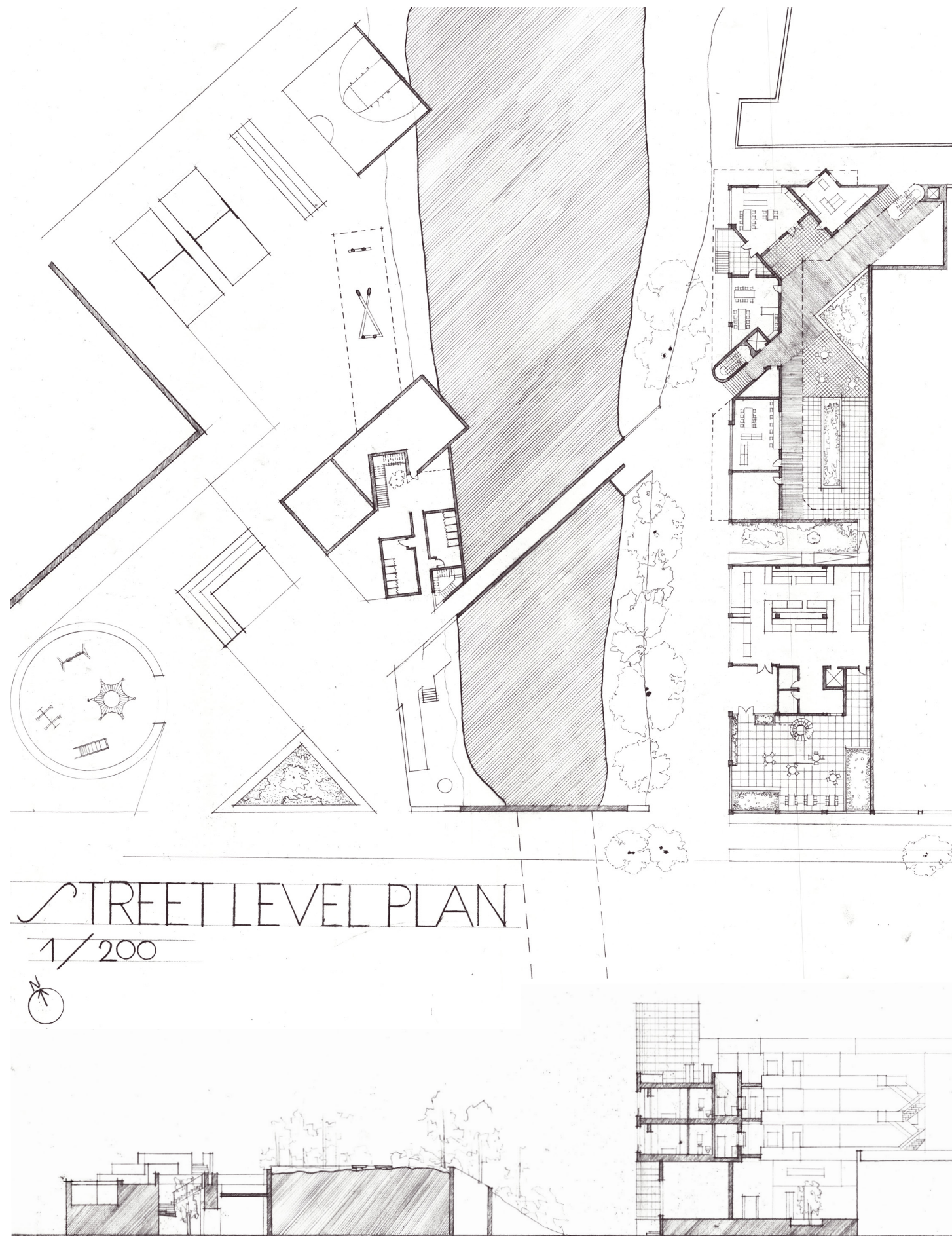
Building Communities: Adaptive Re-use Housing at Hunters Point, Queens

Studio Work Fall '25

Instructors: Ricardo Flores & Eva Prats (FloresyPrats)

Columbia University GSAPP



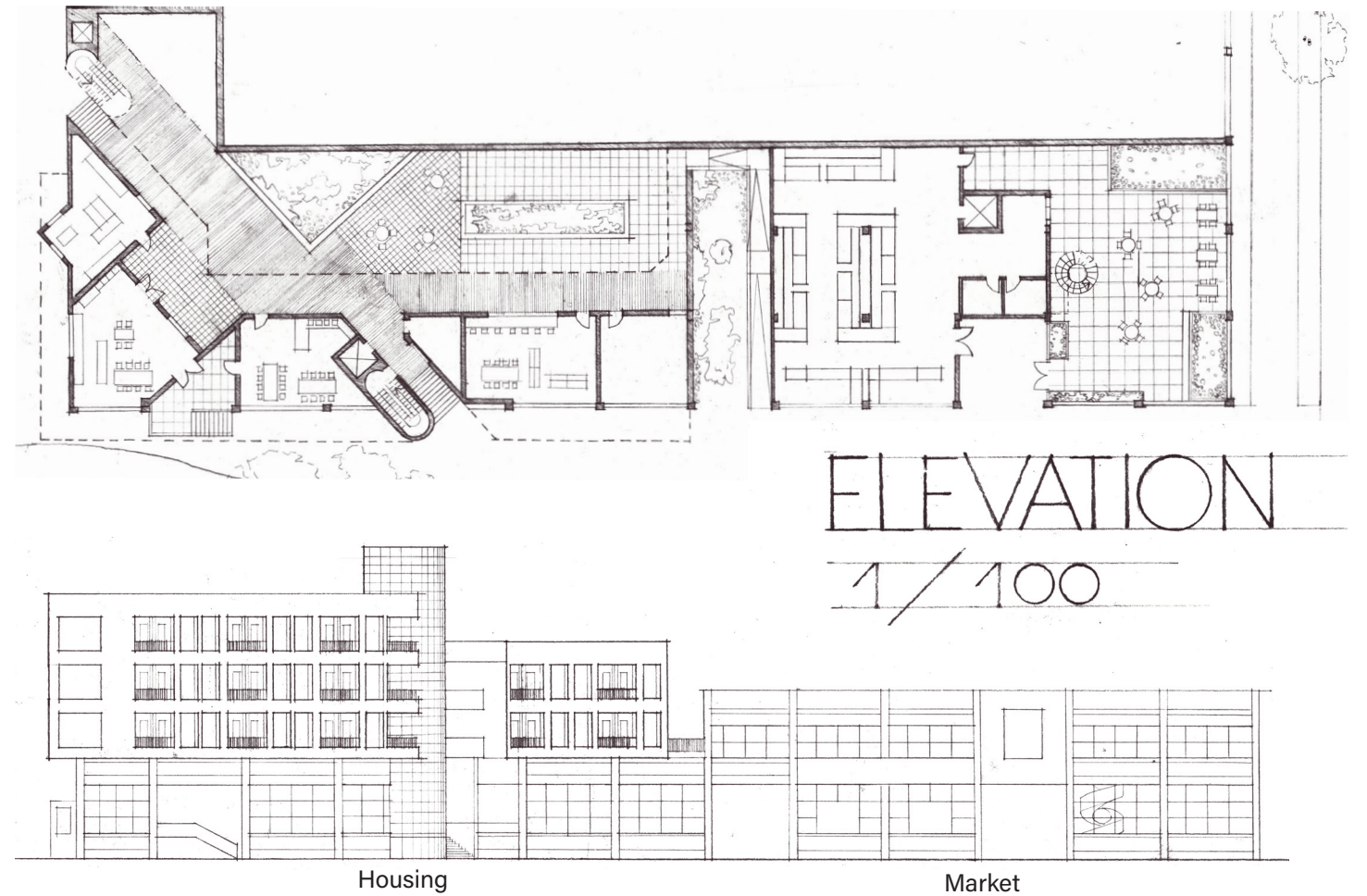


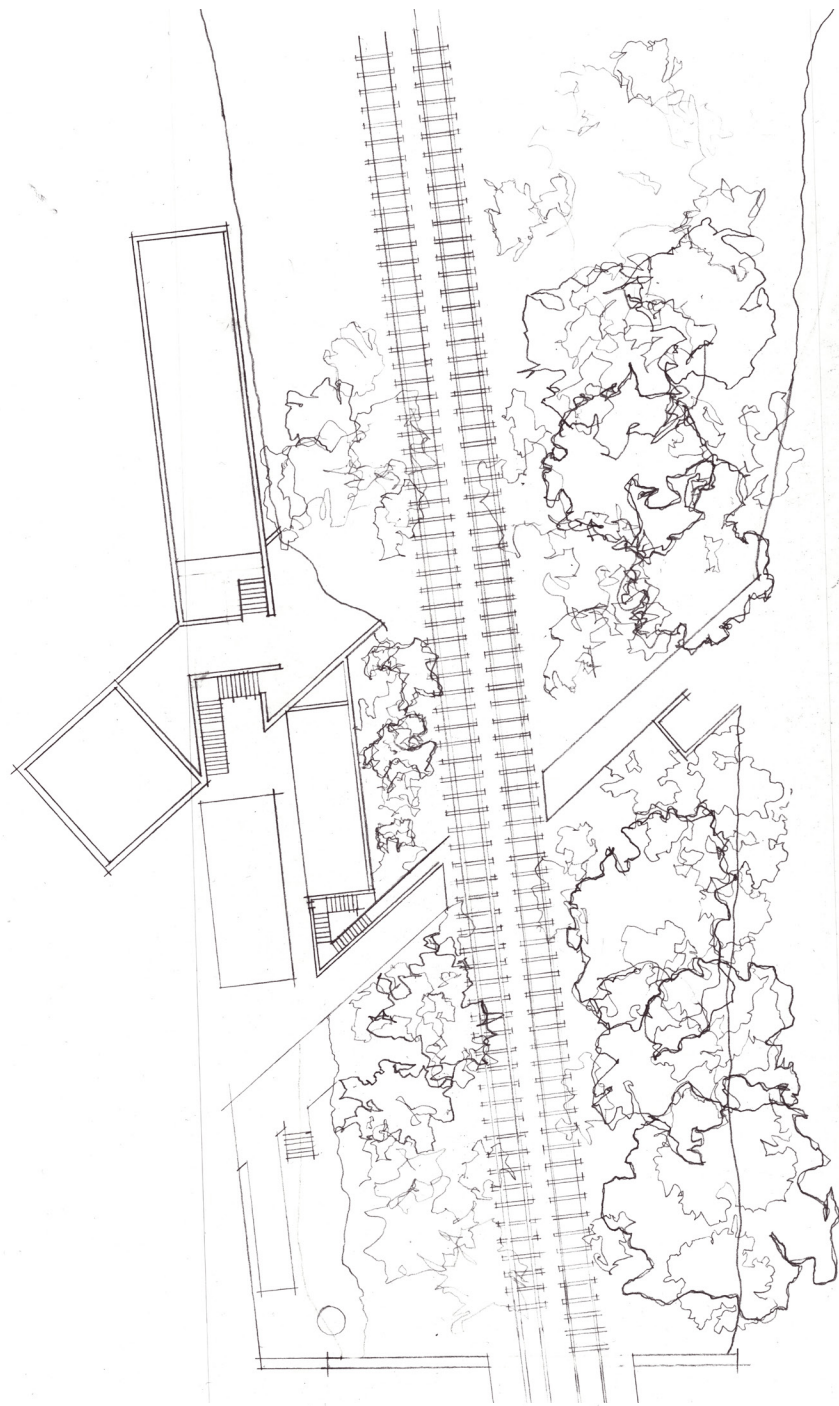
Tunnel frames the entrance to housing courtyard



The APARTMENT side of the project adaptively reuses an abandoned warehouse. The housing courtyard is tucked at the back and surrounded by walkways to the units on each floor. This courtyard becomes a hidden yet lively space for neighbors.

The street side part of the warehouse is transformed into a neighborhood market, with a streetside open space that retains the original facade, remembering the legacy of the site. This space serves not just the neighbors, but also other workers in the area. The market and the housing courtyard are separated with a small, experiential courtyard that is also the accessible entrance to the housing courtyard.

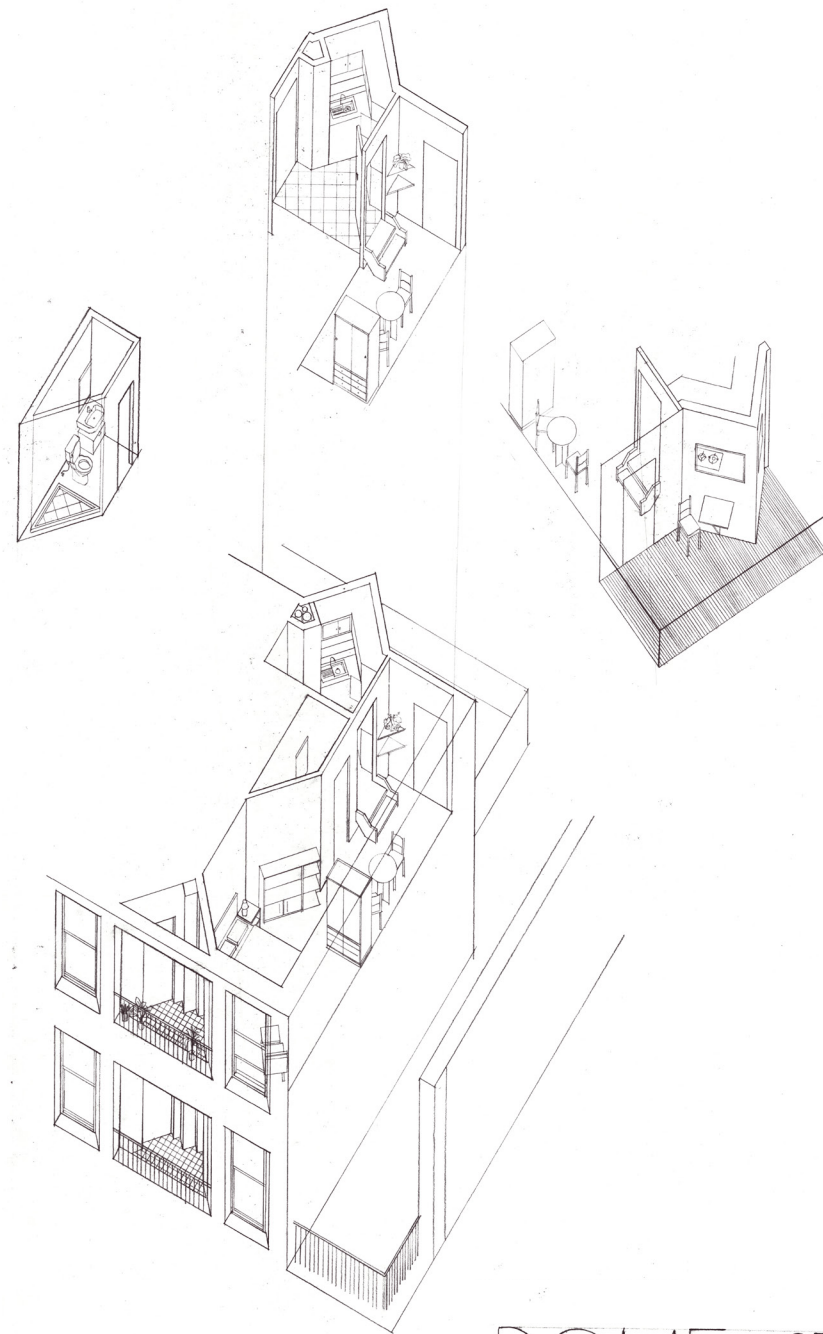
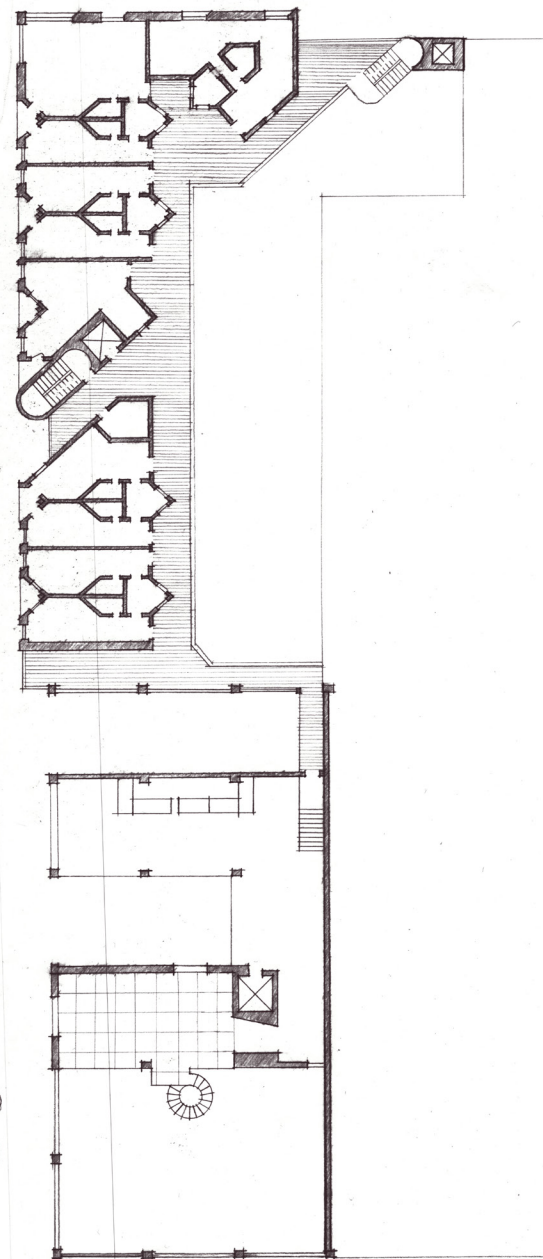




CUTOFF LEVEL PLAN

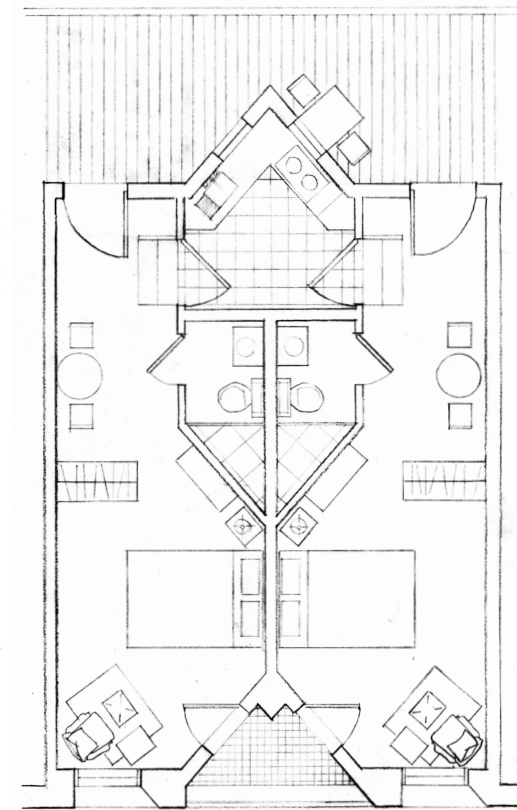
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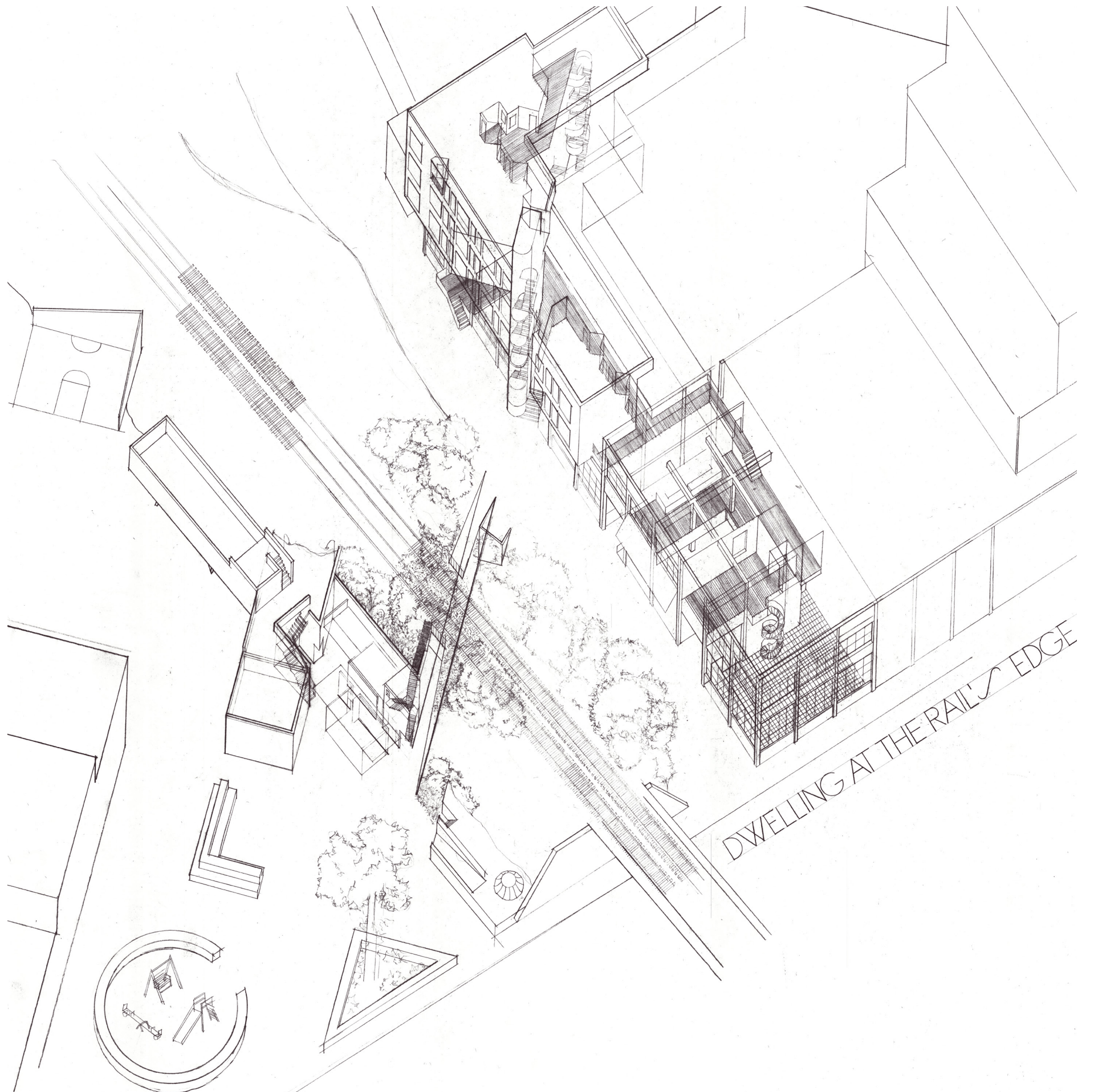
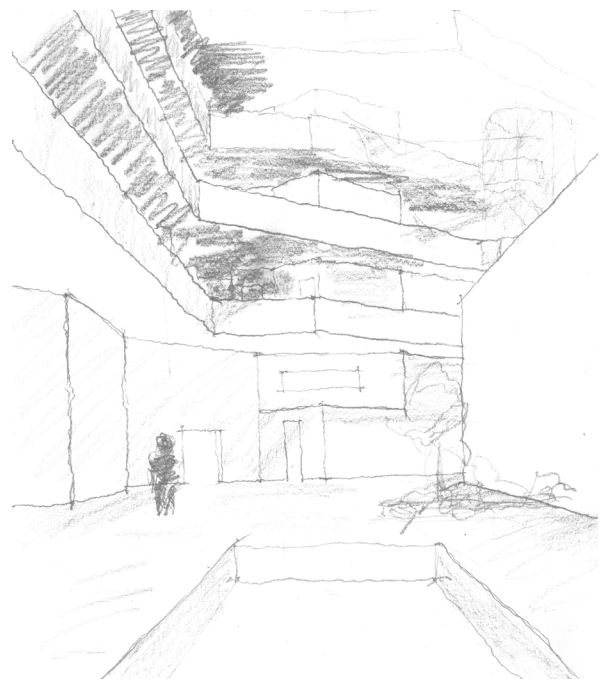
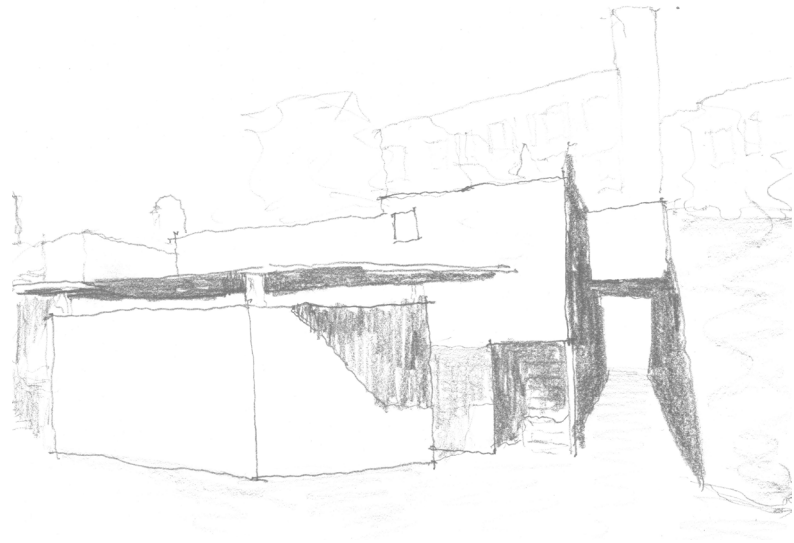
An experiential staircase next to the pool brings people to the Montauk Cutoff.



DOMESTIC QUALITIES

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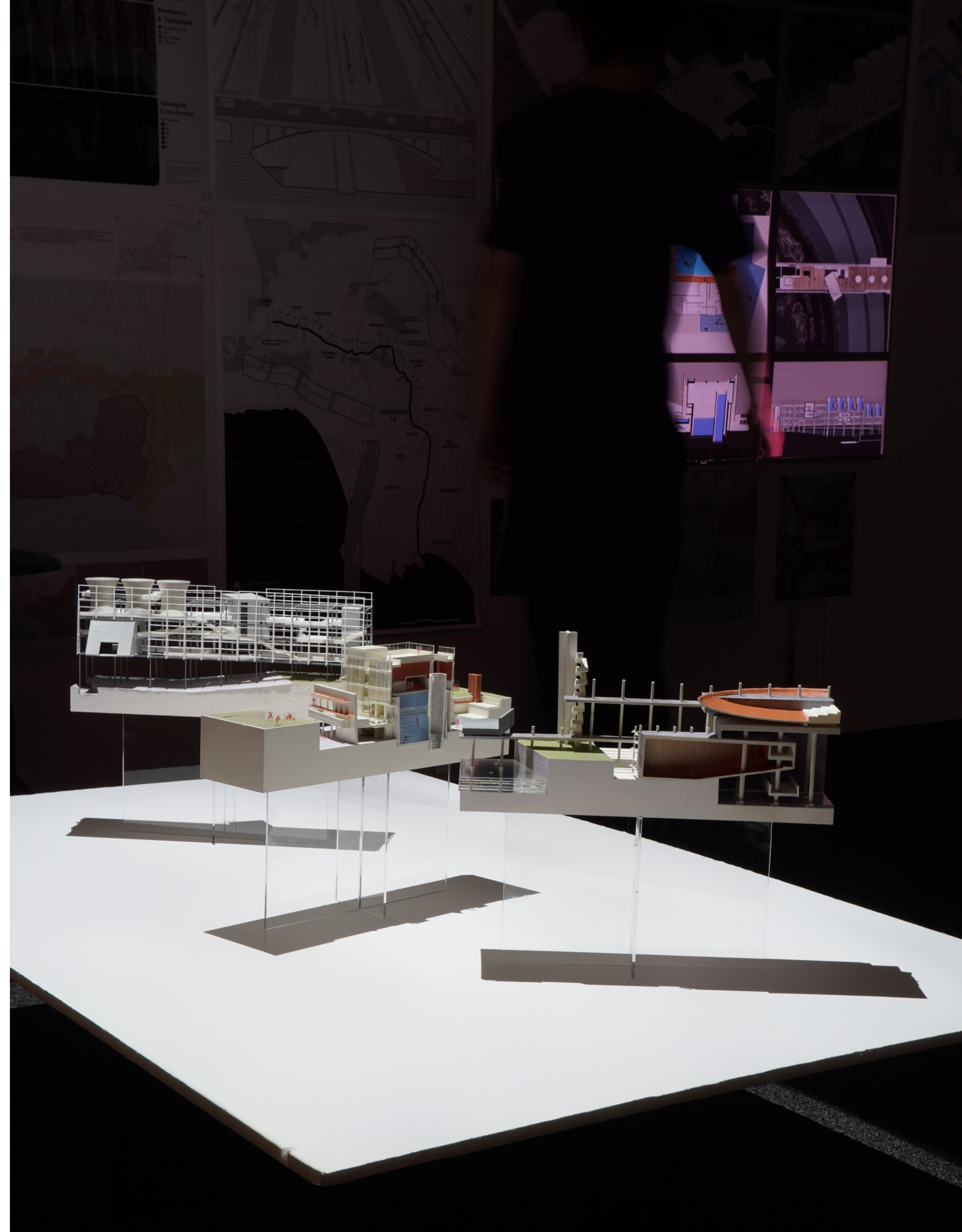
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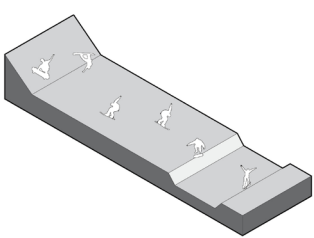
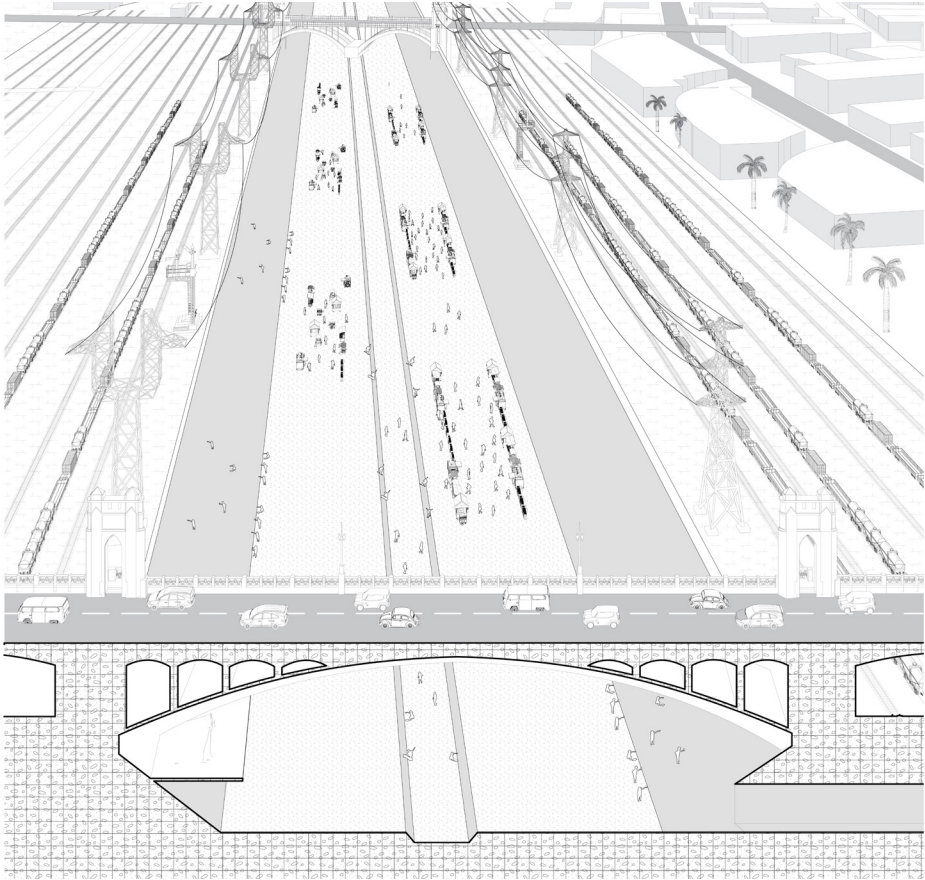
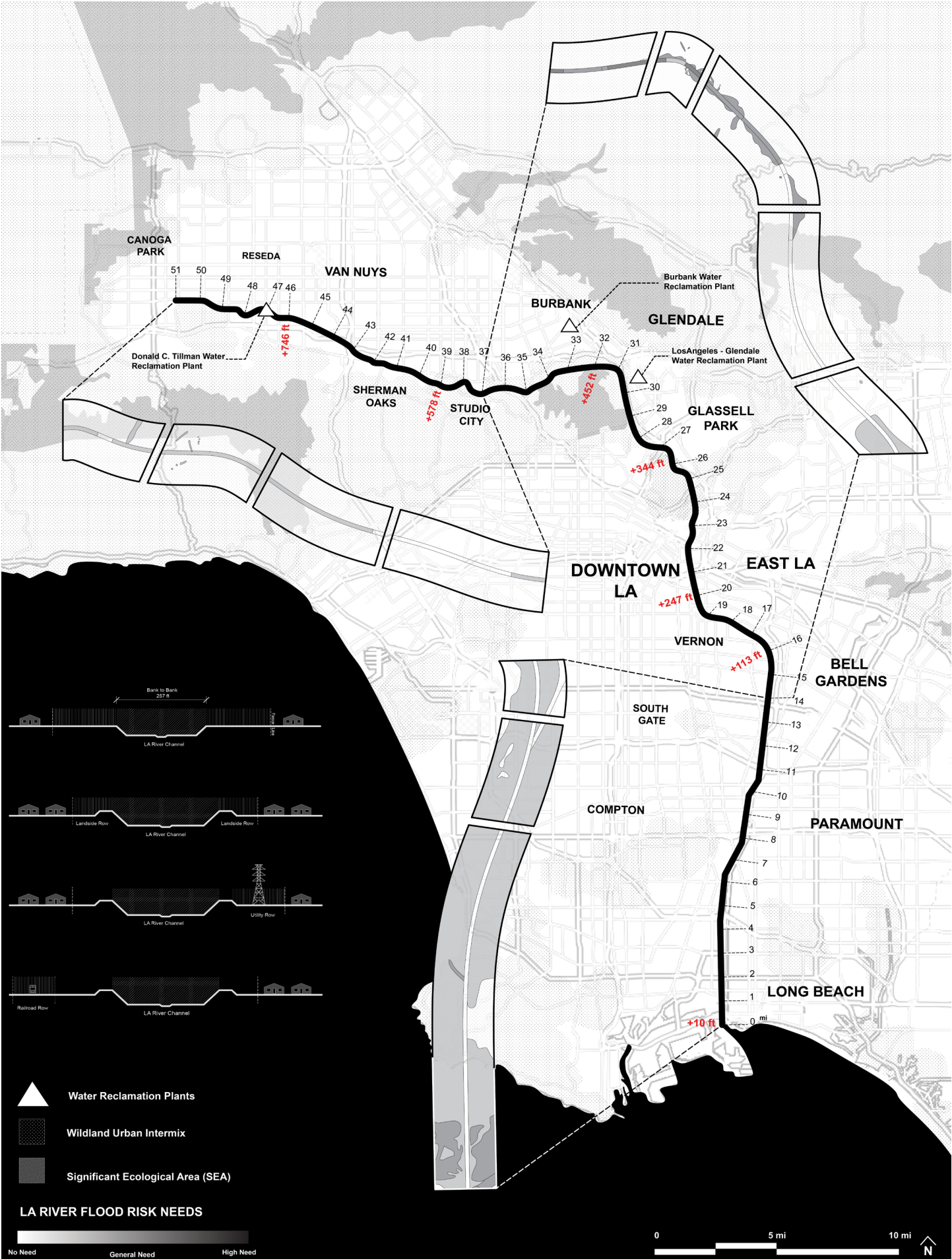
The Los Angeles river has historically been the bloodline of the city that connected one community to the next. Its concretization, though necessary for flood management, has turned the natural river into arguably the largest piece of infrastructure in LA that is here to stay. Following the Palisades wildfire, this project explores reactivation of the concrete river to install water infrastructure and community convergence hybrid prototypes at specific Wildland Urban Interfaces. An amphitheater, a community diving pool, and a bridge park - these prototypes stitch back together the communities disrupted by the concrete river as well as capture and store water to combat wildfires and floods.

LA RIVER PROTOTYPES

Wildlands: City's Edge in the Age of the Pyrocene

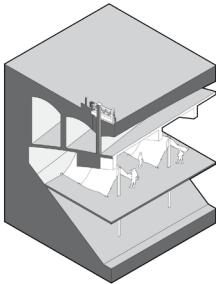
*With Chao Tang Lin & Chih Chia Huang
Studio Work Summer 2025
Instructor: David Eugin Moon
Columbia University GSAPP*





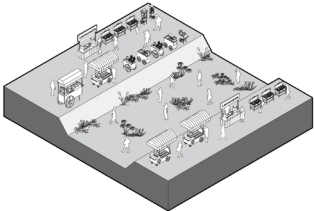
Skateboard Park

The LA River's vast concrete channels have become an iconic haven for skateboarders, blending urban grit with rebellious creativity. Skaters repurpose the river's sloped embankments and underpasses into improvised skateparks, forging a subculture rooted in freedom, risk, and defiance—an expression of art, identity, and resistance within the city's infrastructure.



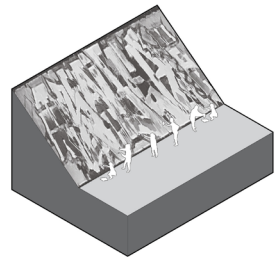
Suite Under the Bridge

Beneath LA River bridges, many unhoused individuals establish transient communities. They shelter in concrete alcoves, among debris and makeshift structures. Lacking sanitation and reliable services, they face isolation, health risks, and vulnerability to flooding or law enforcement sweeps. Their presence highlights urban inequality and a dire need for compassionate intervention.



River Foodways

The LA River's foodways blend community, culture, and sustainability. Weekly farmers markets at State Historic Park offer fresh, local produce, artisanal goods, and cooking demos. Pop-ups and events like River Fest further nourish neighborhood food traditions.



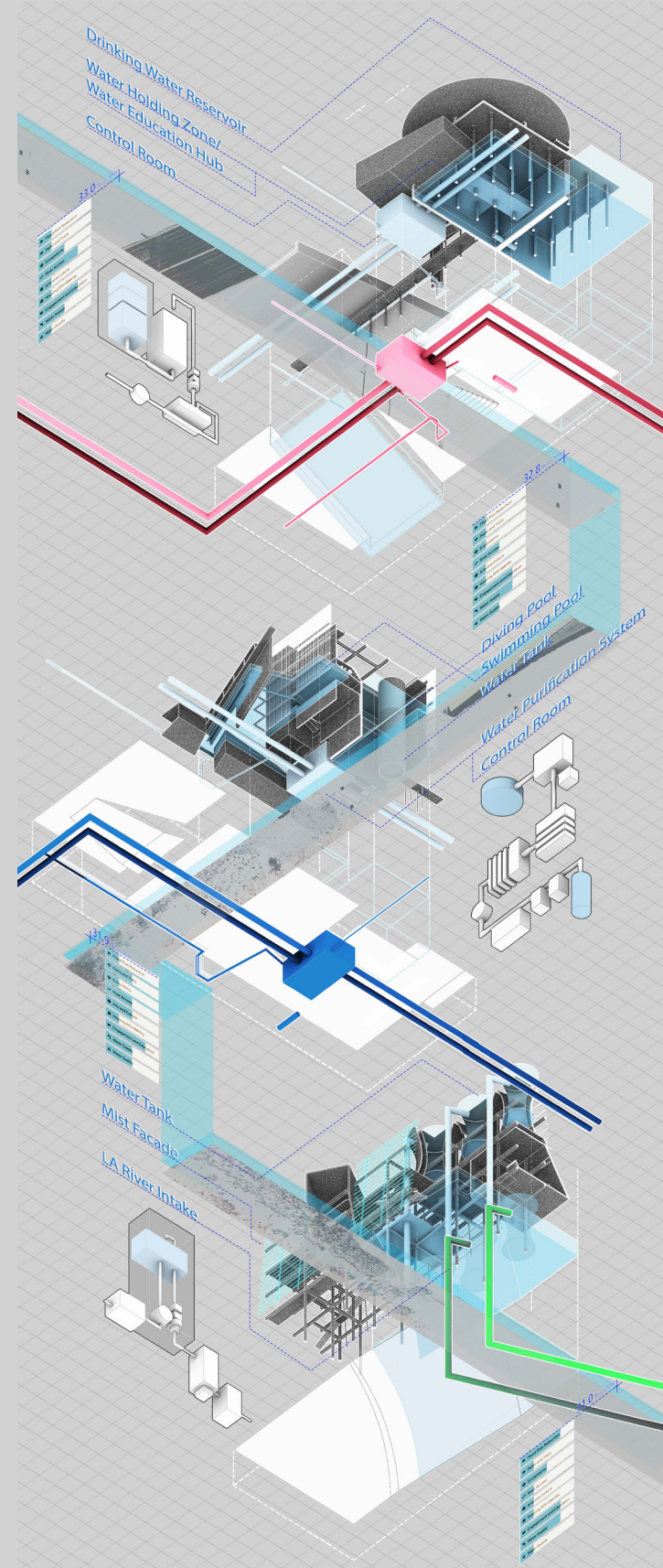
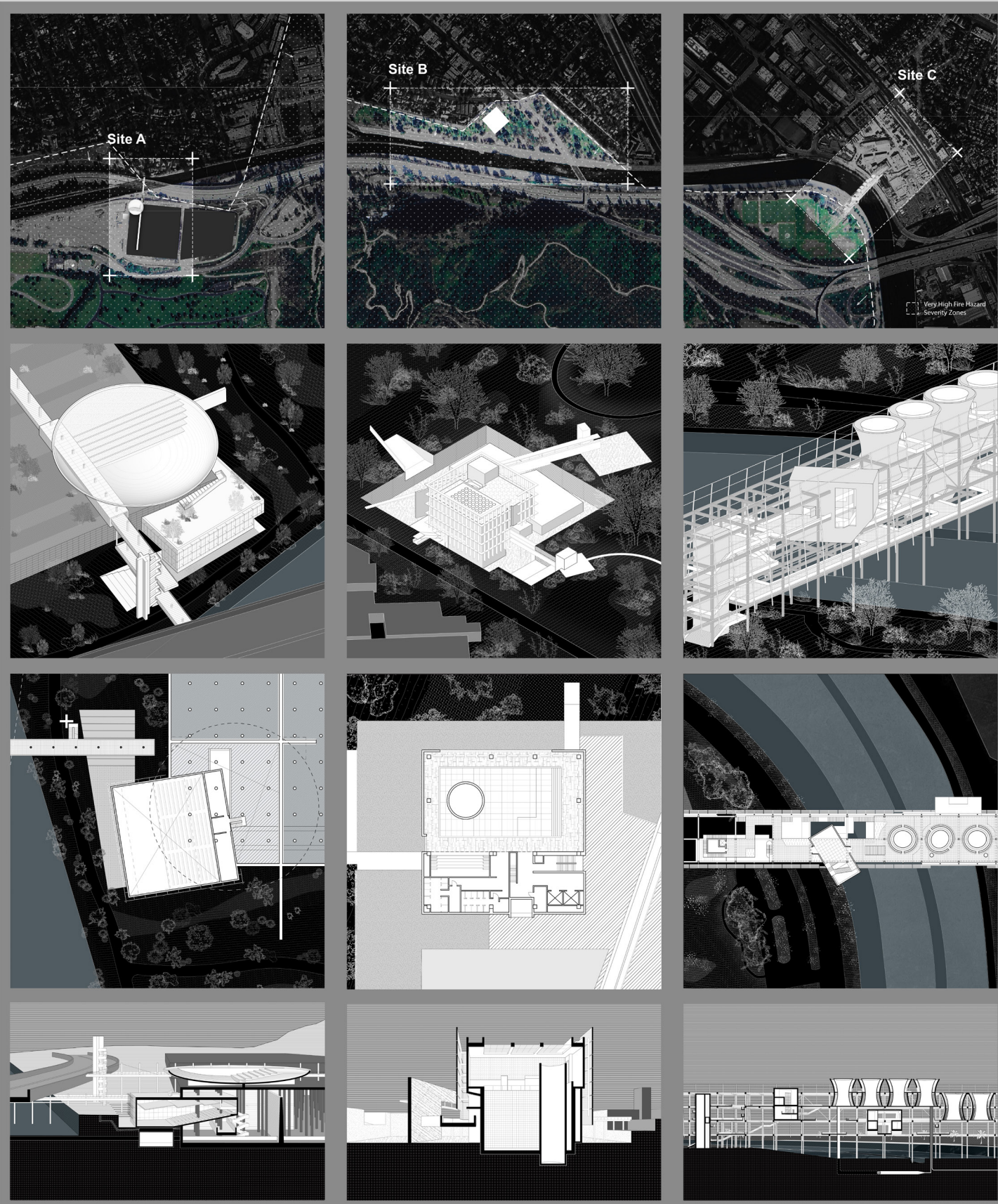
LA River as a Canvas

Graffiti culture along the L.A. River reflects a complex urban art movement where public infrastructure becomes a vast, contested canvas. Artists like "Buket" tag bold, large-scale works despite legal risks. The river's hidden access points and industrial landscape foster a rebellious, transient creativity that defies authority and embraces visibility.

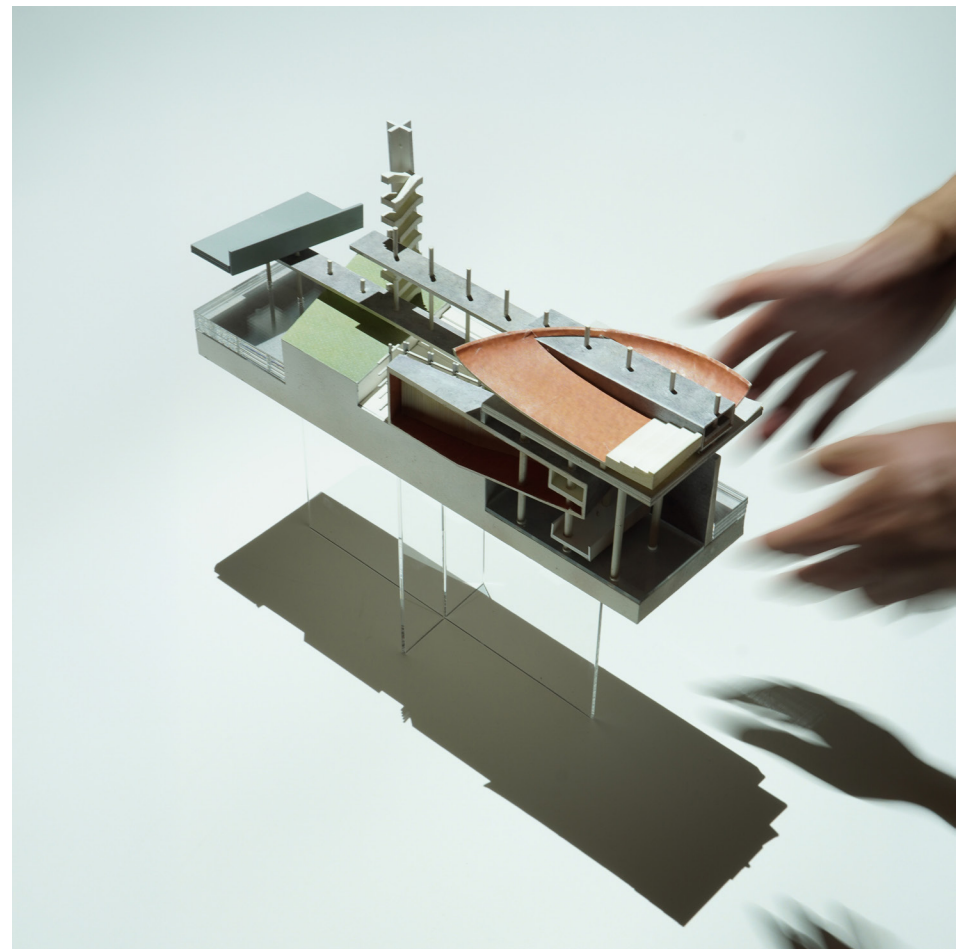
ANALYSIS

A renewed effort is underway to breathe life back into the Los Angeles River, transforming it from a sterile flood channel into a vibrant ecological corridor. This revitalization movement aims to restore habitat, reconnect communities with nature, and strengthen the city's relationship to its long-neglected waterway. However, the progress faces a growing threat: the intensifying cycle of wildfires, which risk undoing years of environmental and infrastructural work.

WATER, INFRASTRUCTURE, & PUBLIC SPACE



Three interventions are made along the LA River. The sites are strategically selected to be on the edge of the Wildland Urban Interface, where fire resilience is at its most vulnerable. Each intervention imagines a water holding facility that can also be used as a community gathering space. Site A is a theater built into an existing water reservoir, Site B holds filtered water to be used as a diving pool, and Site C an elevated bridge park across the LA River that has water tanks directly pumping out of it. These schemes stores water where it is most needed to reduce emergency response times. During wet seasons when fires are improbable, they store water and encourage community bonding; during emergencies, the water is distributed along the Wildland Urban Interface, and the open spaces provide emergency shelter for those who may have their homes consumed by the fire. These prototypes are a vision for a future of stronger fire resilience and can be implemented across all segments of the LA River.

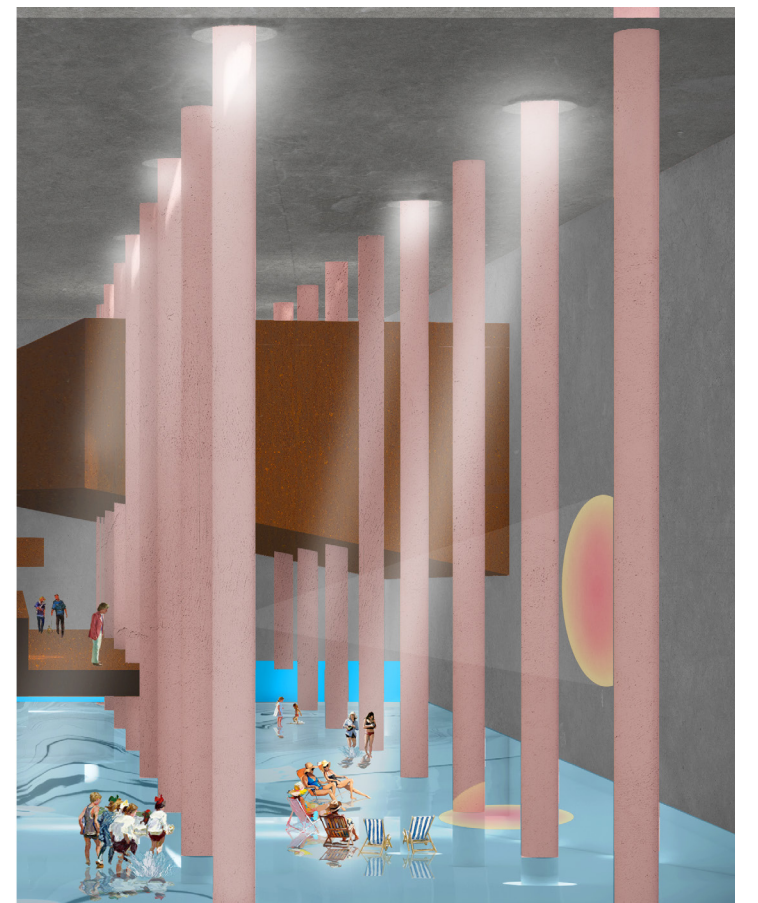


LA RIVER PROTOTYPES



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LA RIVER PROTOTYPES

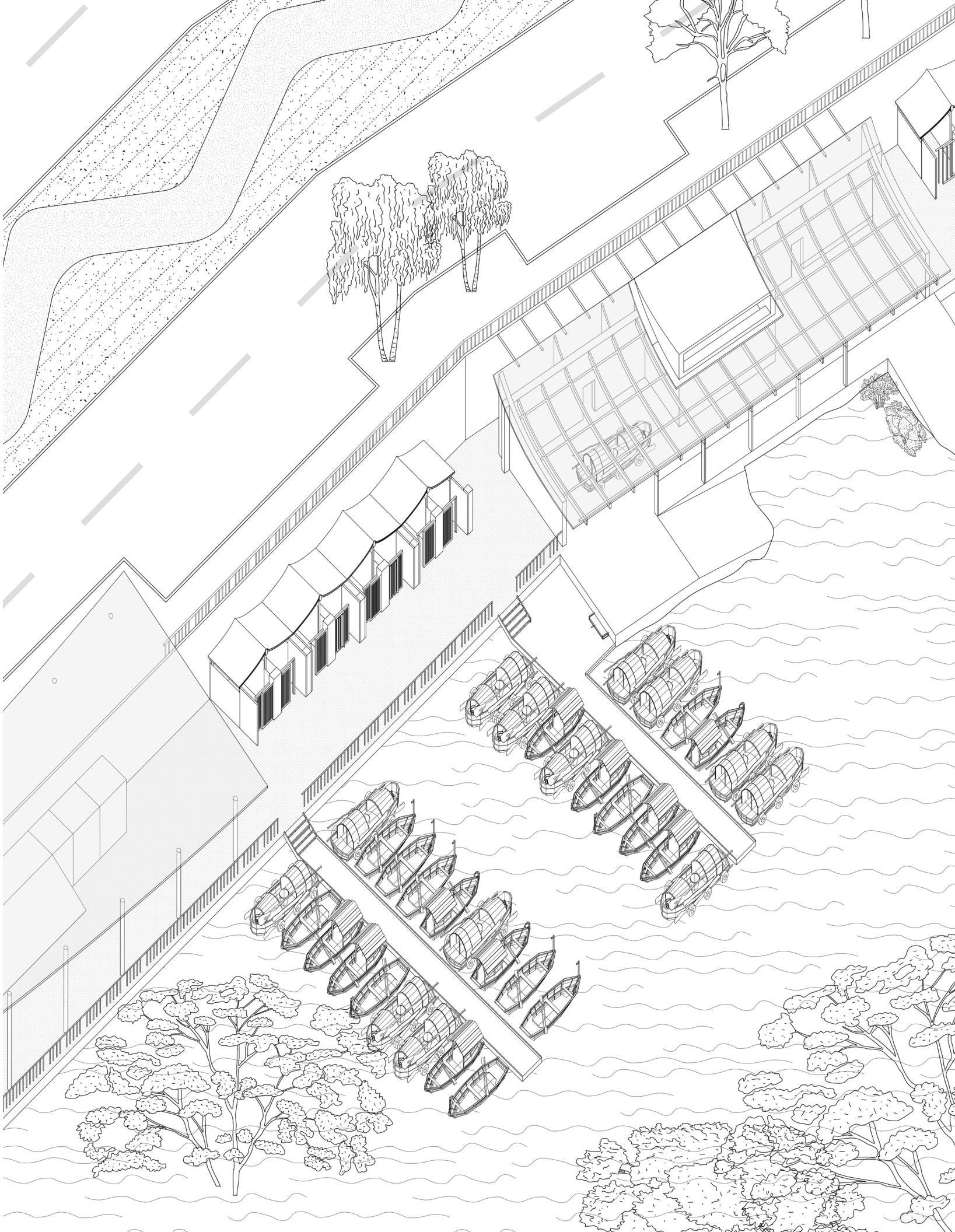
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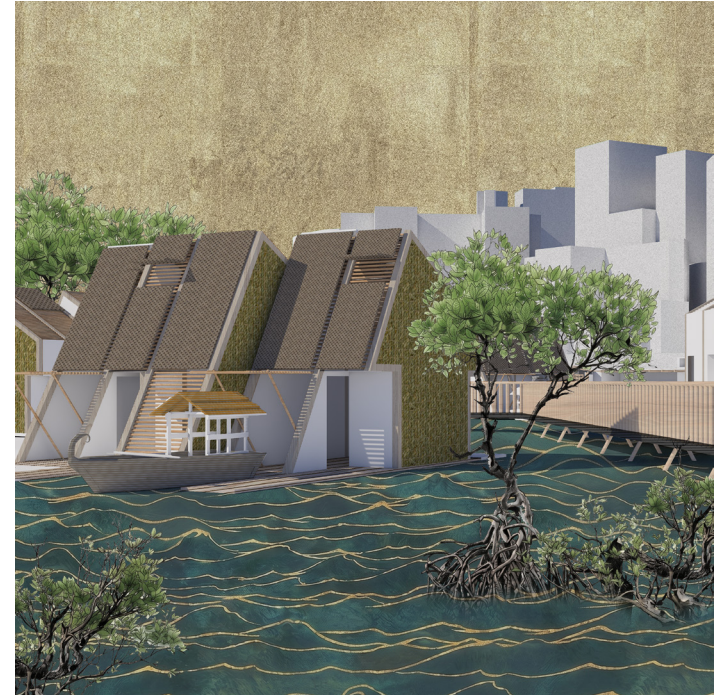
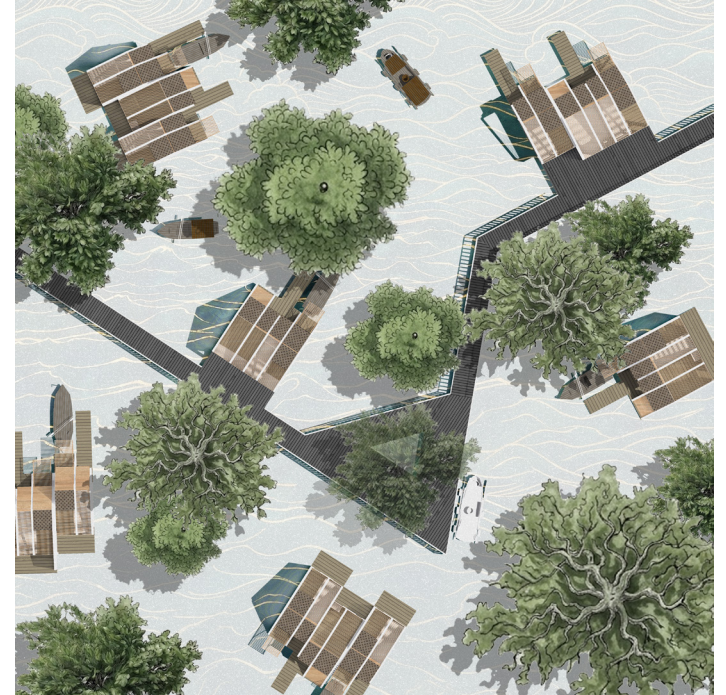
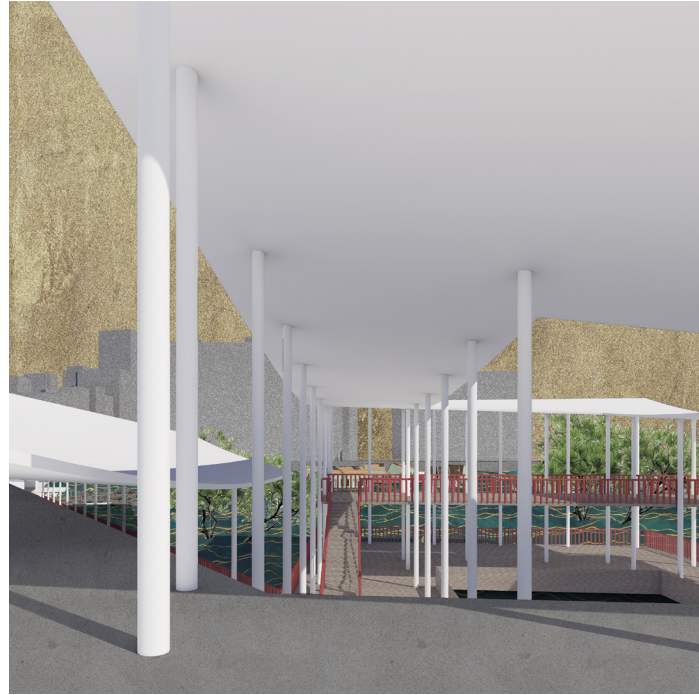
Macau has a long history of land reclamation as the island expands into the fourth most visited tourist destination in the world. The city has been in captivity of the gaming industry. The local life and cultural identity forgotten. This project speculates a new alternative to reclaim land whilst bringing back the fishing culture and a life on the water. A series of dockside amenities and public spaces allow fishermen to prepare, store tools, and sell their catchings in a public pavilion.

FISHERMEN'S WHARF

A Cultural Reclamation in Macau

*Studio Work Spring 2026
Instructor: Mireia Luzarraga
Columbia University GSAPP*





Mangrove trees are an integral element of the fishermen's water settlements. Through the principles of Sponge City, the mangroves purify the water over time while providing a buffer to the harsh concrete land reclamation retaining walls. The section illustrates a gradient of the original island topography, to the reclamation retaining wall, and finally to the floating water settlements.

Along the dodckside, boats congregate and float next to the public pavllion as fishing culture is reintroduced to offset the economic dependence on the gaming industry.

