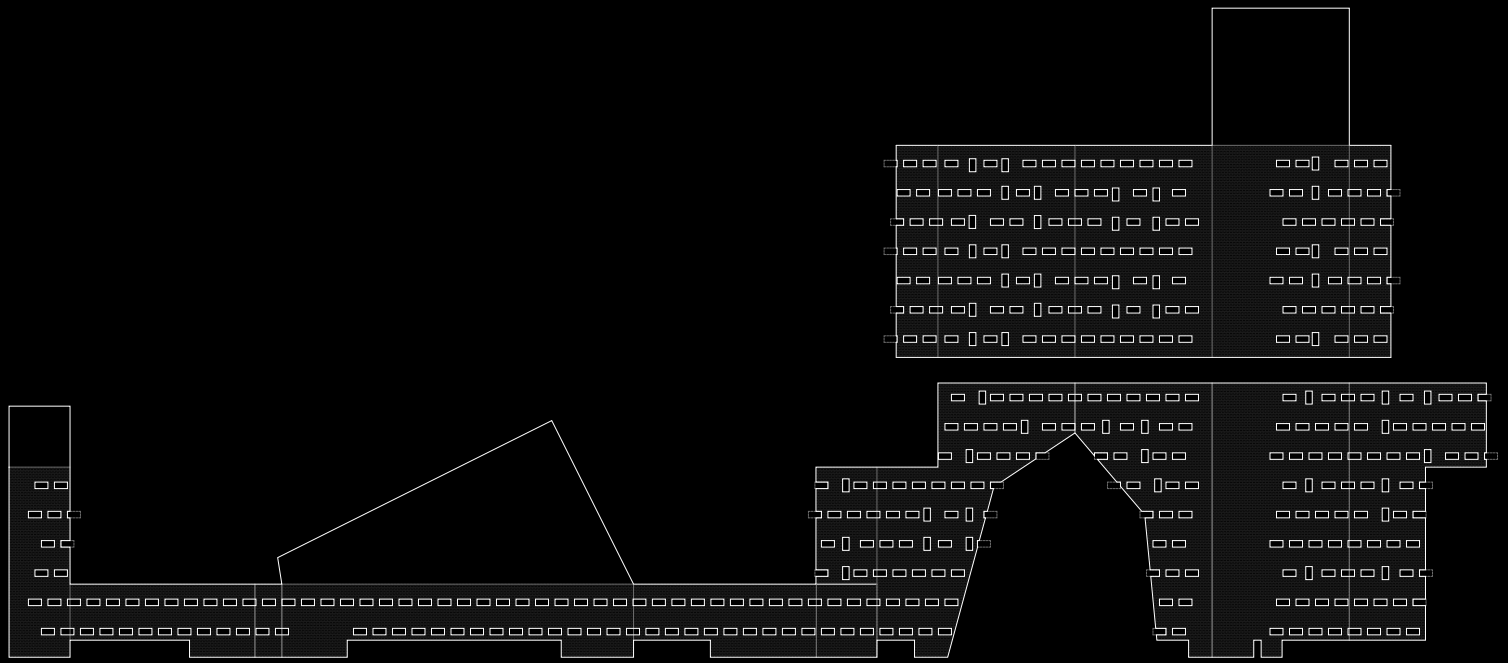
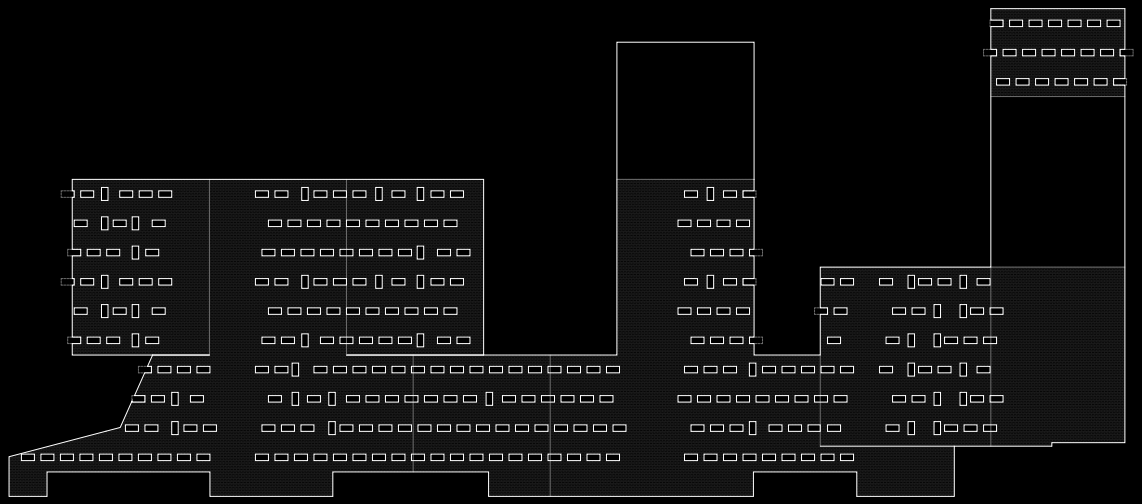


Christopher Ball

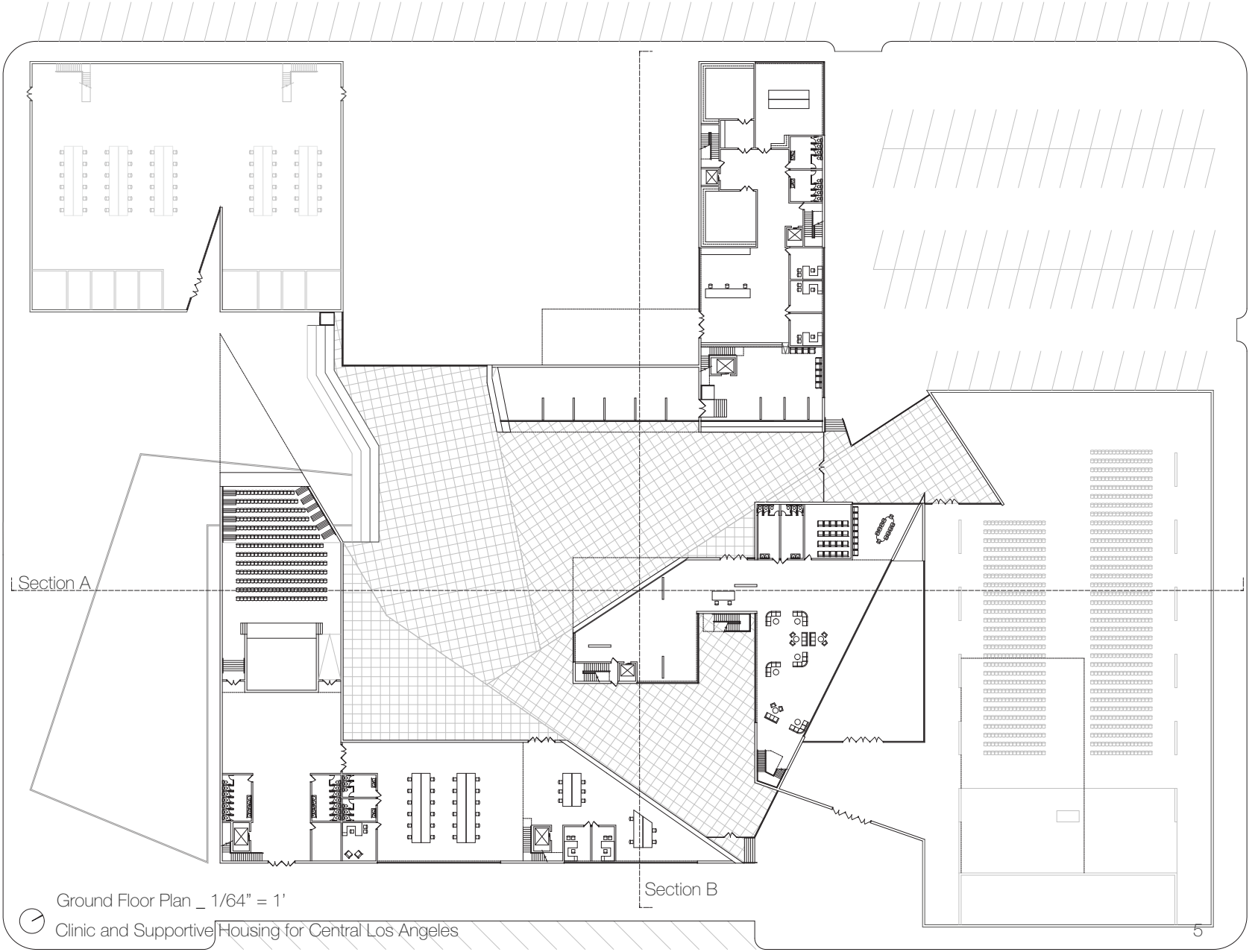
Clinic and Supportive Housing for Central Los Angeles
Cultural Center for Governor's Island, New York
Formal Addition to Eileen Gray's E-1027
Library for The Castleberry Hill Neighborhood



Residential Tower Skin Unwrap

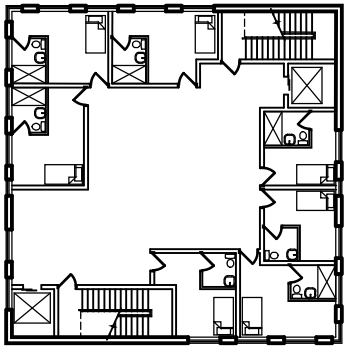


Clinic Skin Unwrap

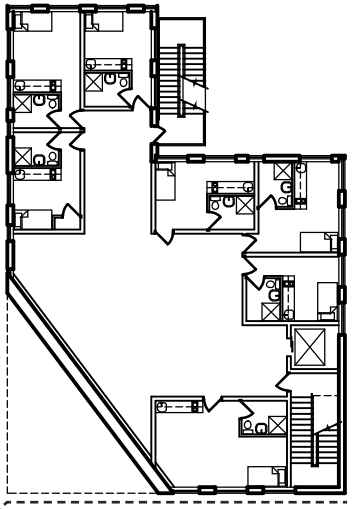


Ground Floor Plan _ 1/64" = 1'

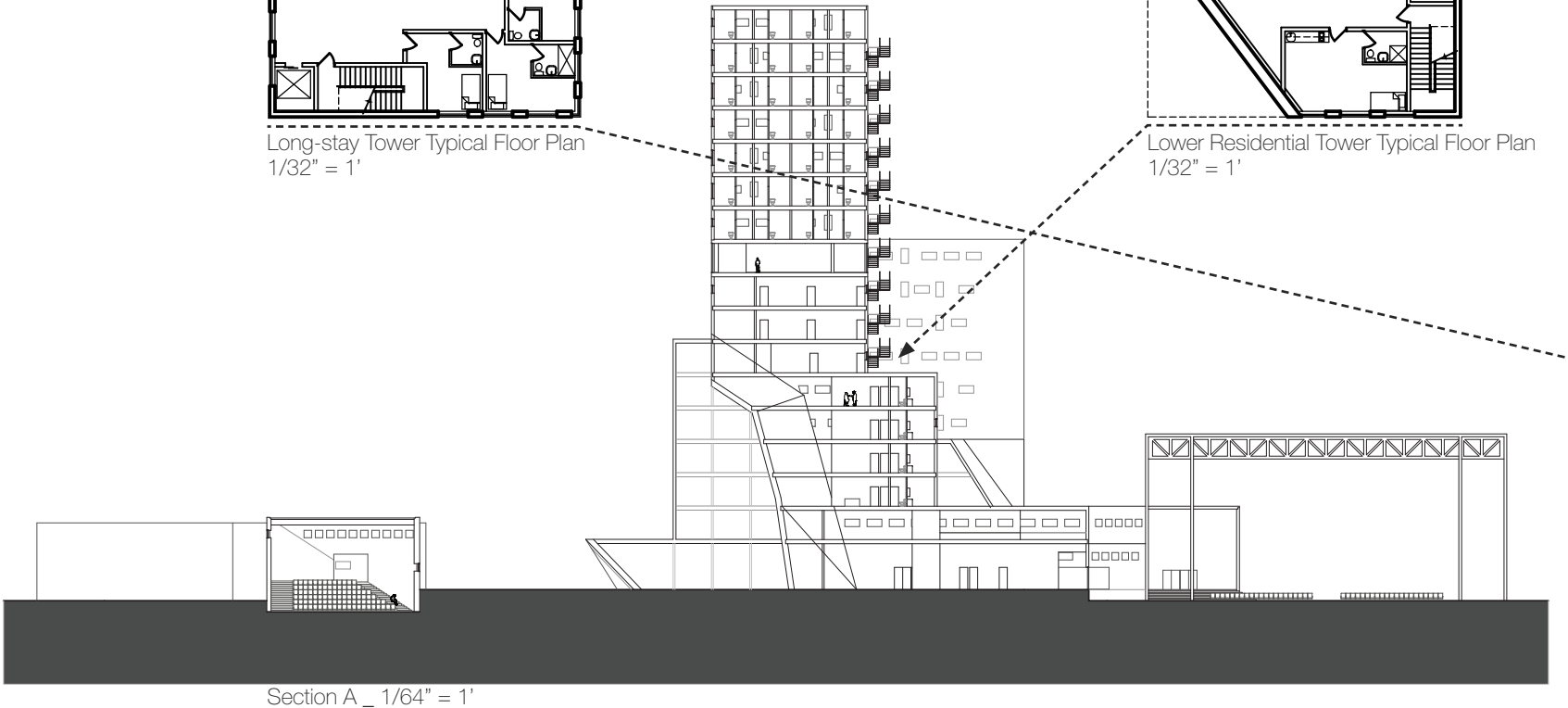
Clinic and Supportive Housing for Central Los Angeles



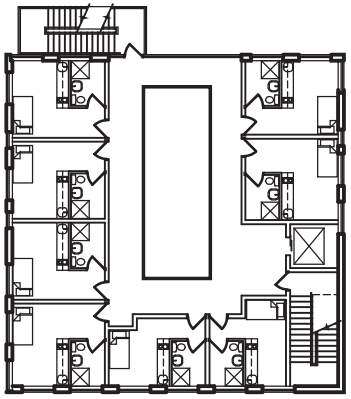
Long-stay Tower Typical Floor Plan
1/32” = 1’



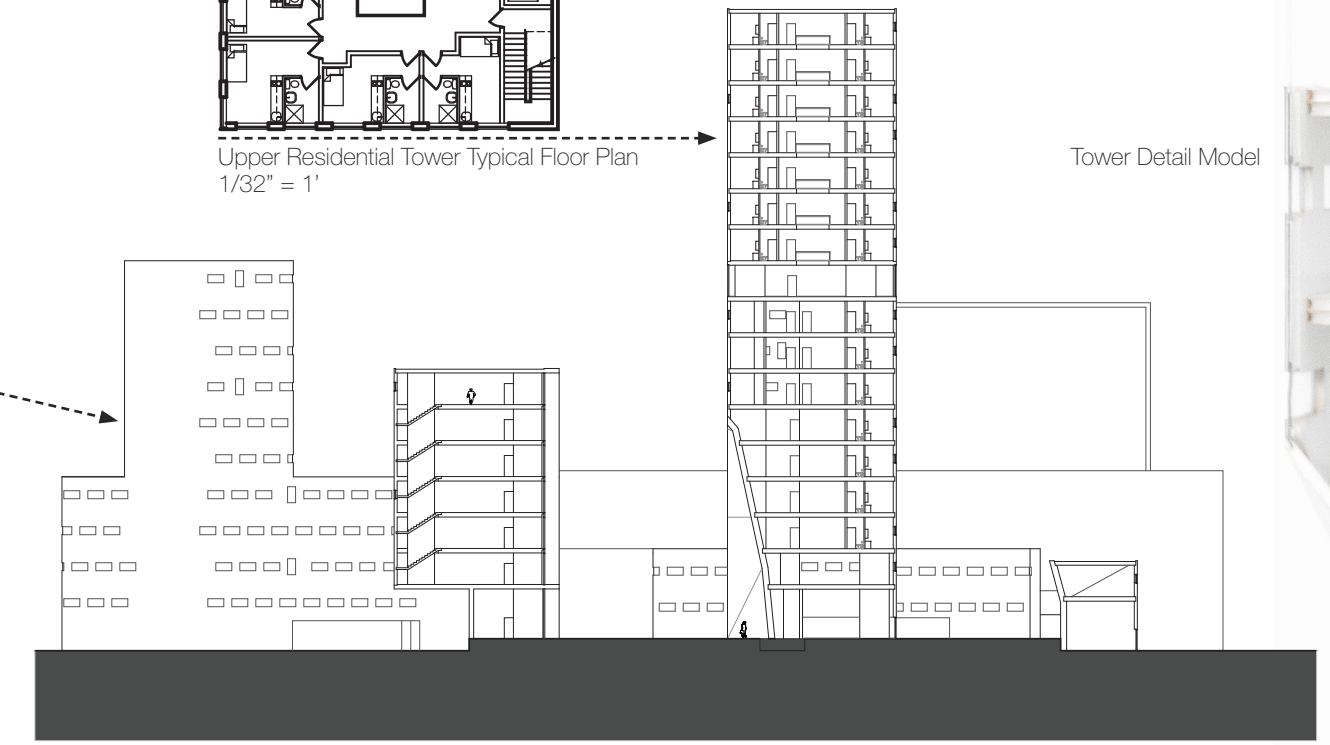
Lower Residential Tower Typical Floor Plan
1/32” = 1’



Section A _ 1/64” = 1’



Upper Residential Tower Typical Floor Plan
1/32” = 1’



Section B _ 1/64” = 1’

Tower Detail Model



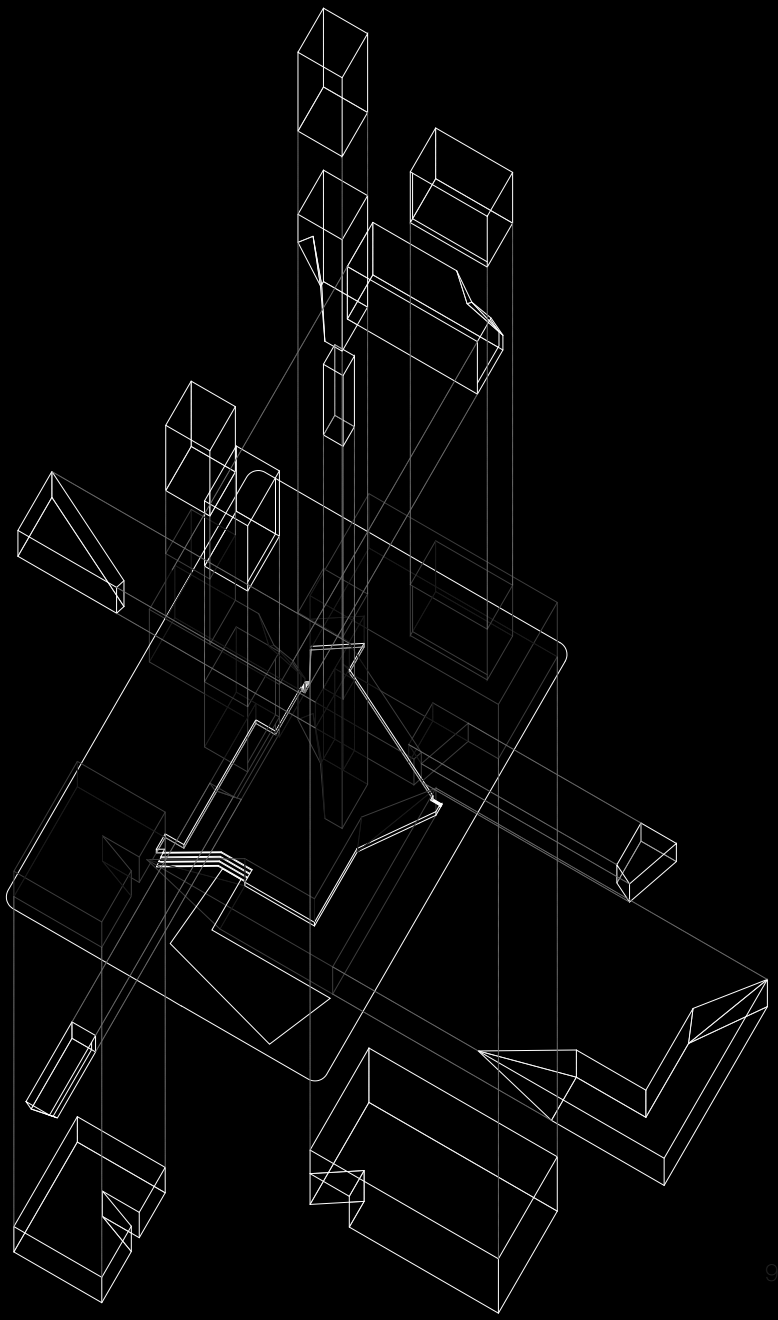


Eighth Scale Model

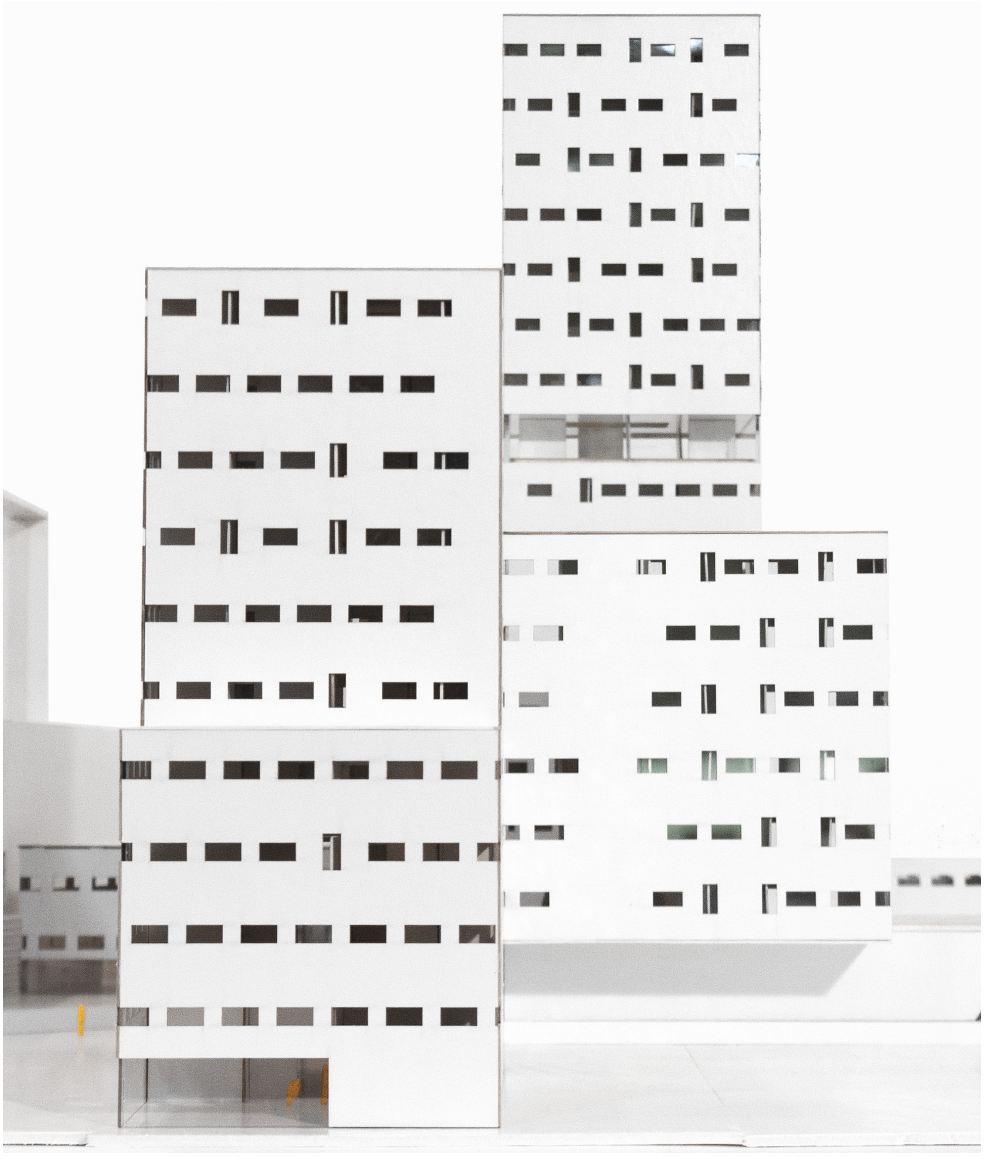
Los Angeles is a dynamic city, and the central site, at the intersection of Grand and Washington, exemplifies these conditions. Cars flying at 60 miles an hour down the 10 form the border to the northeast side of the site. Opposite the highway, a heavily trafficked surface light rail station creates the south western border of the site. Immediately adjacent to the site is Skid Row, a trade school, a hospital corridor, and an ever growing presence by the University of Southern California. There exists a Korean church, which adapts to its growing population by buying up existing adjacent buildings.

So the challenge of designing a clinic and 100 units of transitional 'Health to Housing' is reconciling all of these influences with the needs of the formerly homeless occupants because they have very different needs with regards to public and private space. I sought to create within the project varying gradients of privacy. Some boundaries are physical, some are simply implied. Visual, audible, and haptic connections are offered throughout the strategy.

The organizational strategy for the site is one of assemblage. Similarly scaled pieces are stacked and aggregated. This does two things... First, it references the various scales of building in the vicinity, keeping the large program from simply producing an object in a landscape. Second, it suggests ways that users and occupants can portion off areas for varying size needs. The slices act in a number of ways. Some lift mass to produces larger gathering spaces, while others act as optical devices for connection back to the larger city. Still others imply boundaries and allow light into areas that would otherwise not receive any.



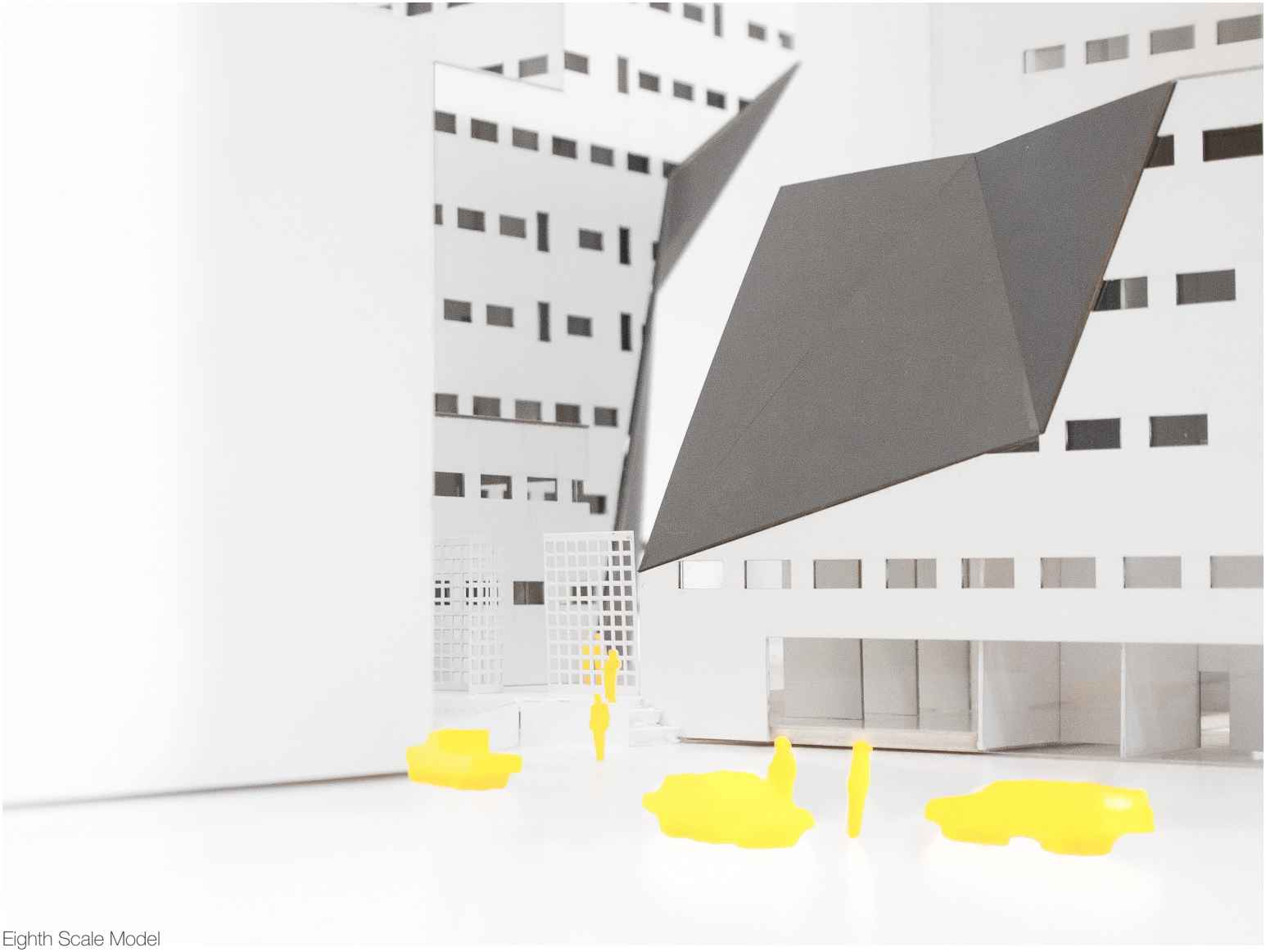
Exploded Isometric



Consideration to the materiality of the project was given. The two dominant features are the window patterning and the use of glazed concrete block. The concrete block is used for its cost effectiveness and more importantly its ability to scale. What is meant by this is that the reading glazed concrete block wall from the highway is that of a monolithic structure, and not until closer interaction is the individual block perceivable. The window patterning is base on the module of the concrete block. The ratio is one unit high by two wide and the spacing is also one unit. For each successive floor, the pattern shifts one unit, and when the window lands on an interior dividing wall, the window rotates 90 degrees. There are two exceptions to this rule. When the window runs into a core and the first row, the window does not rotate.

Eighth Scale Model

Ball



Eighth Scale Model

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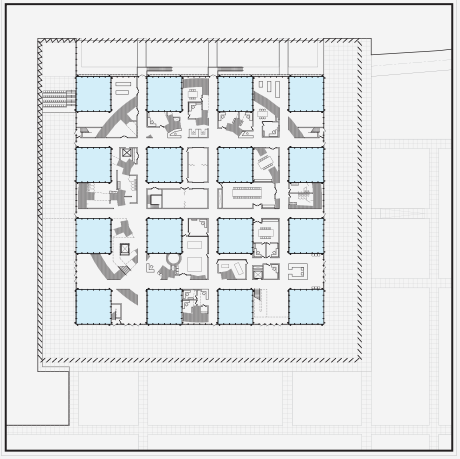
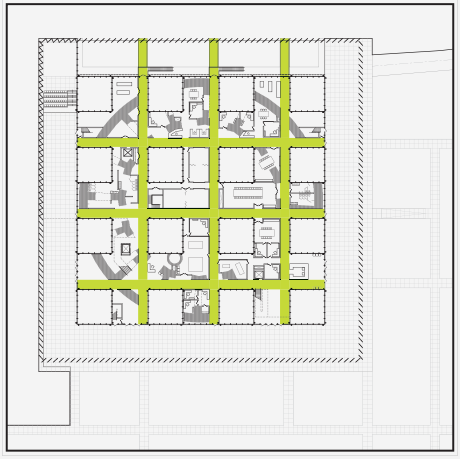
Typical Section

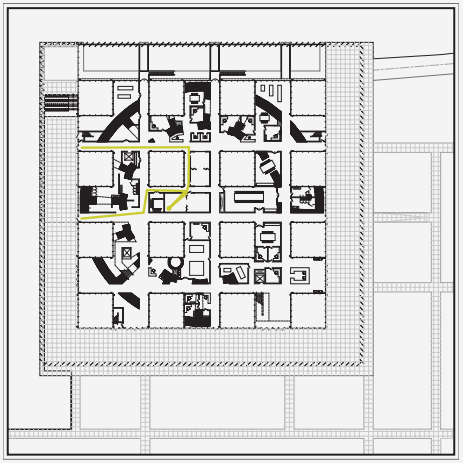




Primary Organization Diagram



Secondary Organization Diagram

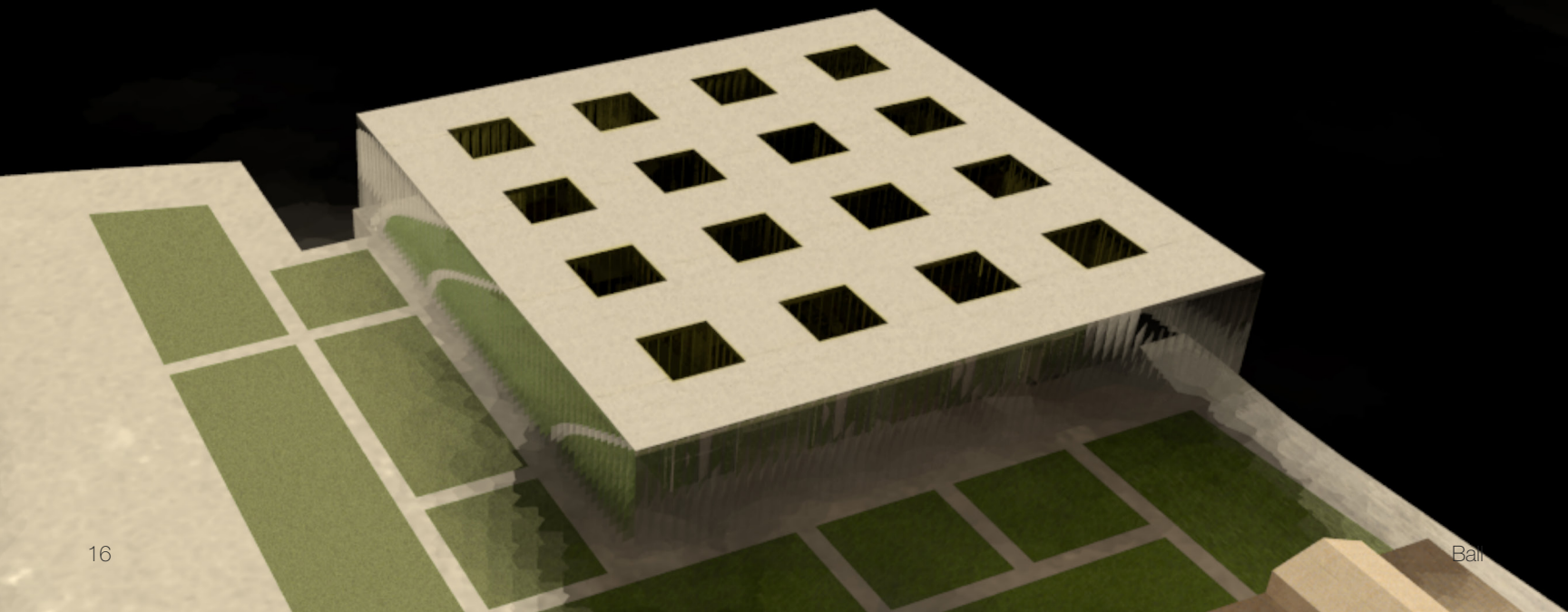


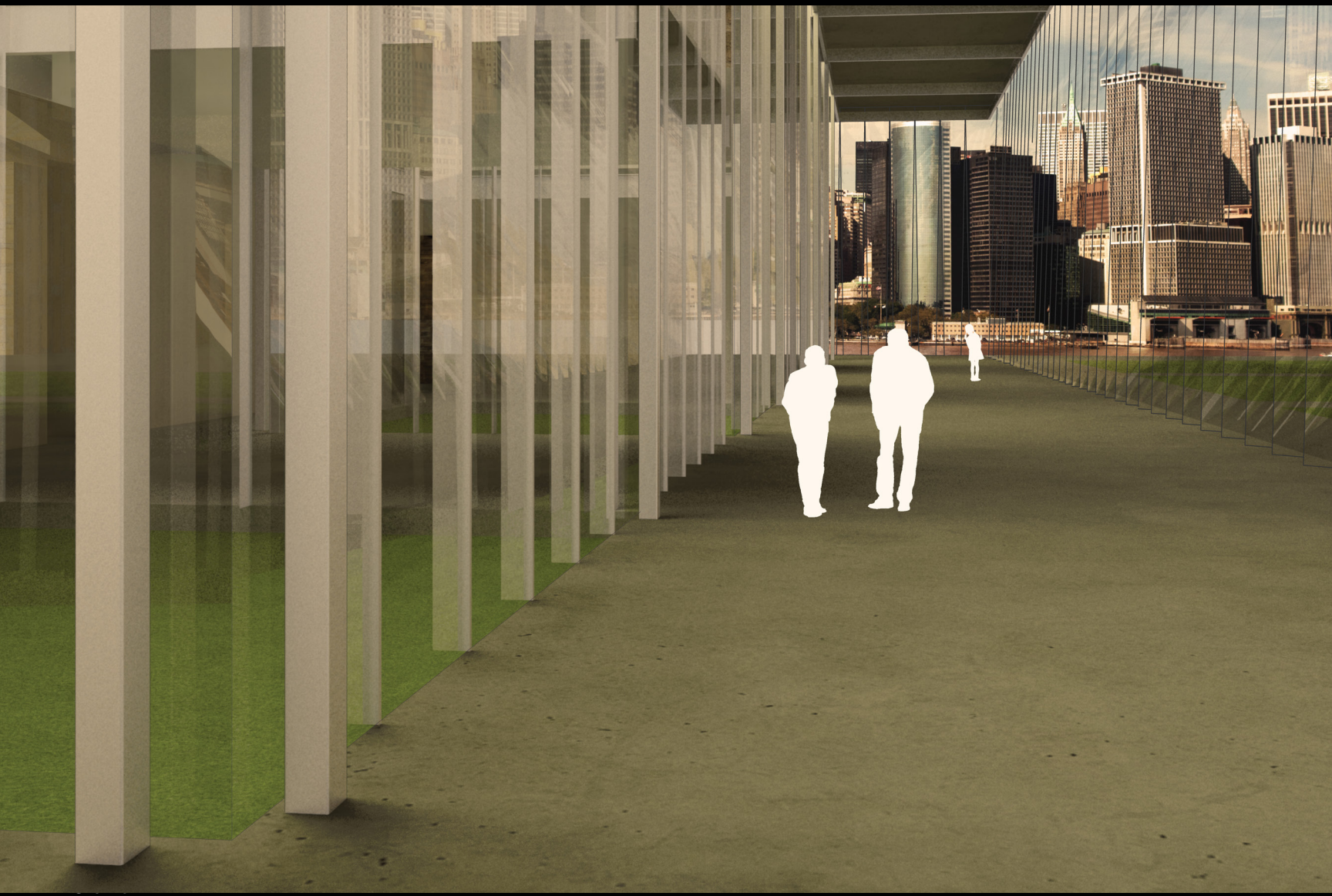
Life Safety Diagram

The original object, Castle Williams, is placed into a new arrangement of complementary objects. The singularity of the original is rendered illegible, at times. A new constellation of objects appear in proximity to the original, modifying its previous status. Relationships are formed between objects which become the prevailing formal and spatial strategy.

The strategy operates by coalescing a foreign and emergent pattern in plan. In doing this, the ability to perceive Castle Williams as a singularity is diminished. This is the first objective, to overlay a geometric and formal strategy from above, then develop it from a perceptual vantage point. A balance will be struck between these two polar strategies. In the end the goal is to overlay a geometric language that augments the reading of the castle from a singular object to a series of volumes and surfaces. The form of Castle Williams upon its inception was in service to its function. While, a circular multi-tiered fort was an efficient form of defences during its time, the structure in its current form is severely limiting in term of programmatic reuse potential. This strategy anticipates approach from all existing pathways, and seeks to quarden off portions of the Historic Zone to create smaller, more manageable spaces.

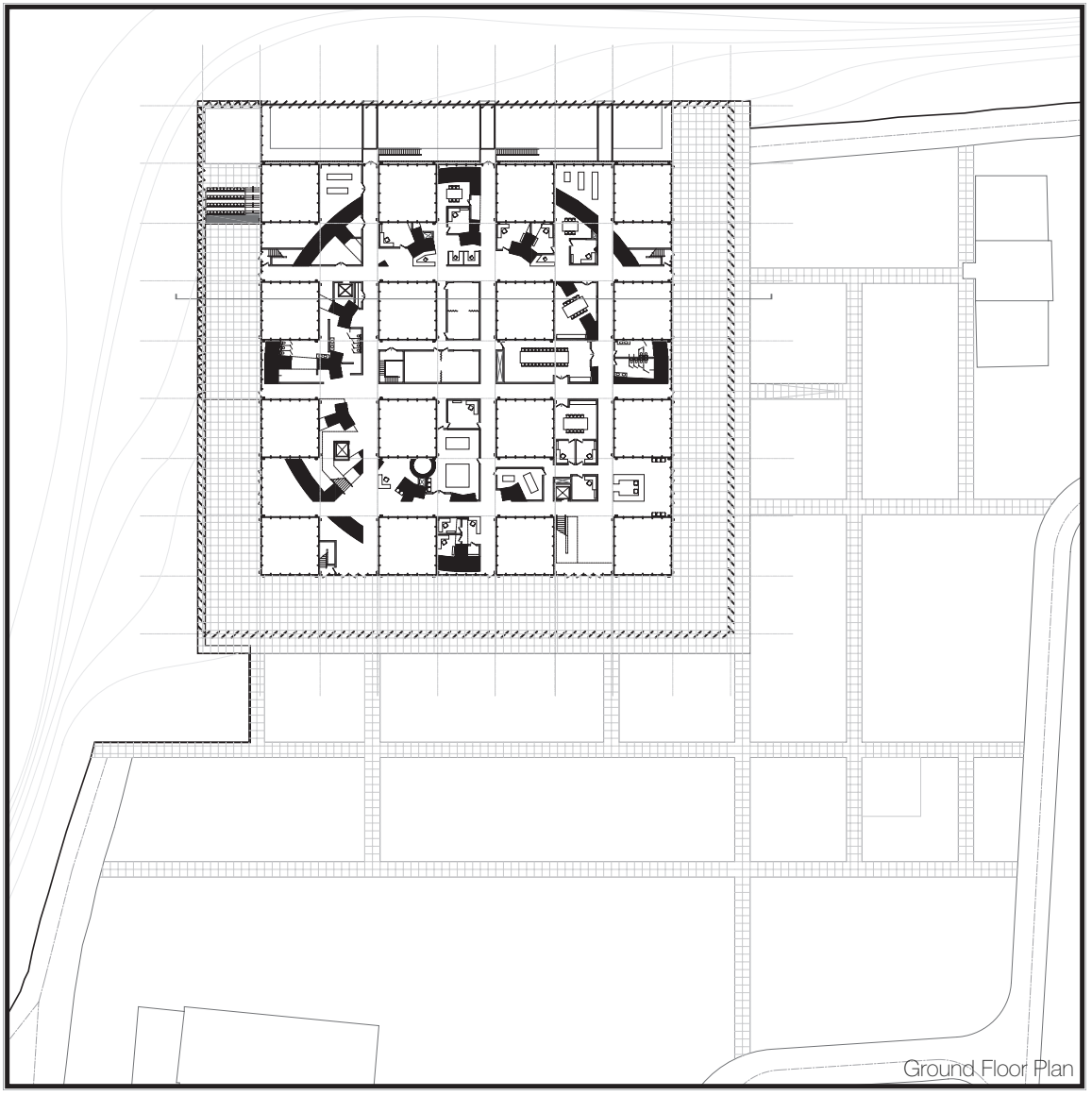
Due to the particlization of the pieces, the strategy is able to flex to the foreseeable changes in the programmatic constraints. Because a new system of organization is established, program is free to colonize space permitting it to associate spaces that would ordinarily not relate. The new overlay geometry cuts the original object into new solid and void regions where parts of the castle become apposed to one another. Distances between parts are organized by the newly



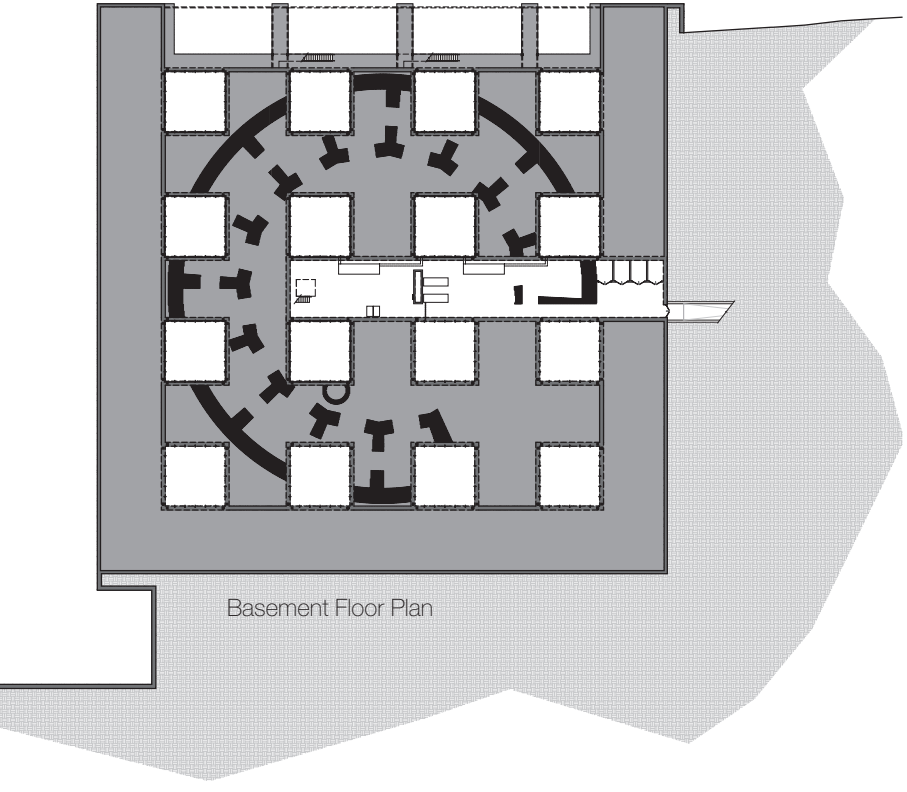


formed negative spaces. The solid to void of the original is recast to many solid and void relationships. Program is organized in line with these relationships. Fragments of the original castle are captured by new surfaces - implied volumes - reorganized. Tectonic issues coalesce around the new planes and their ability to control.

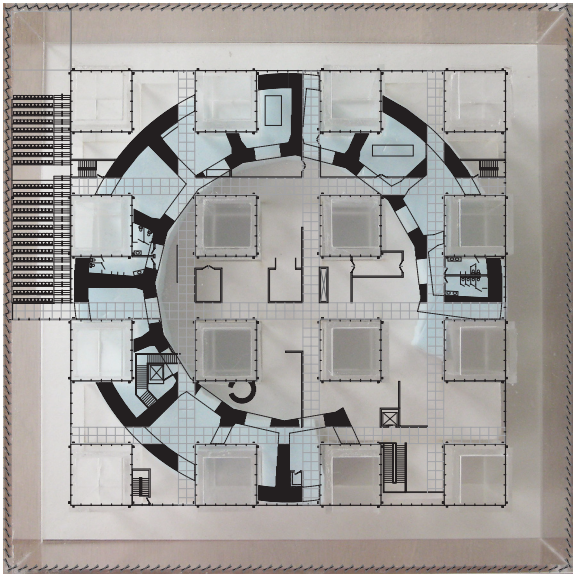
Because of the superimposition of figures in the strategy, the tectonic strategy would heavily depend on the textural effects of the systems used. Being exact about the location of different systems in contrast to the original construction of the castle will help make legible the figures at play and potentially produce new ones.



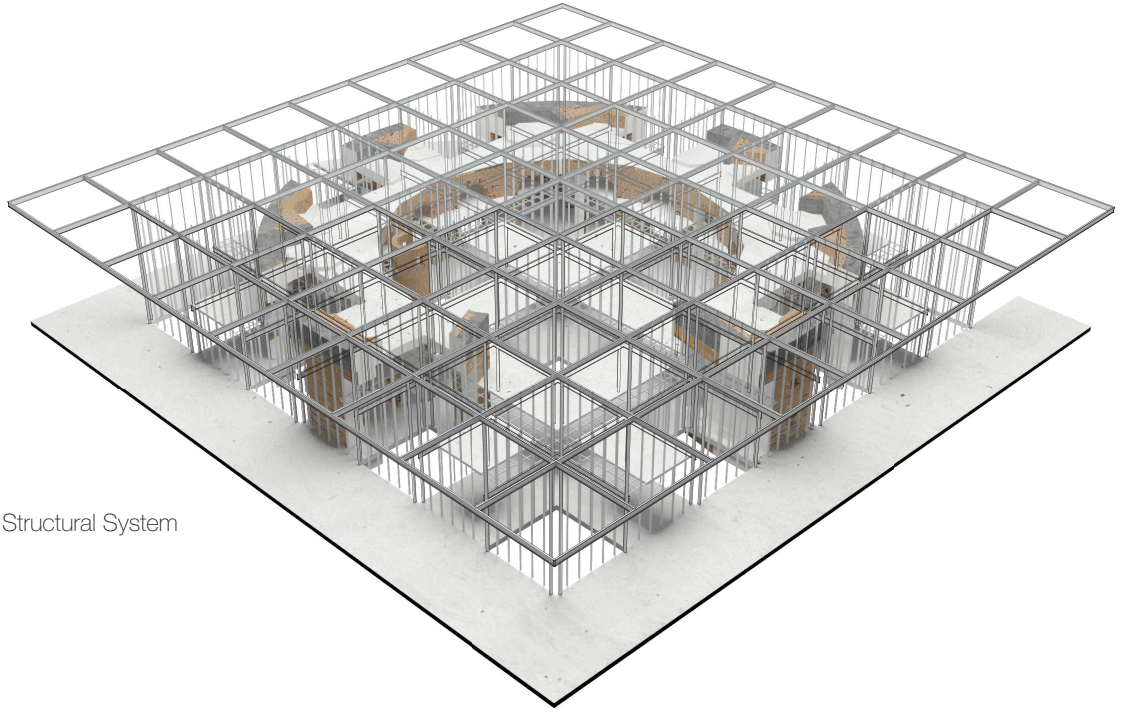
Ground Floor Plan



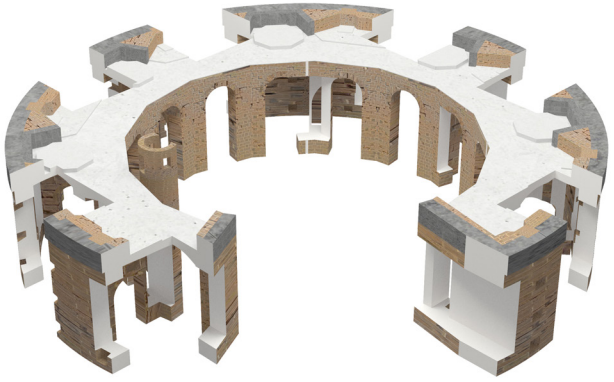
Basement Floor Plan



Second Floor Plan



Structural System



Remaining Portion
of Castle Williams



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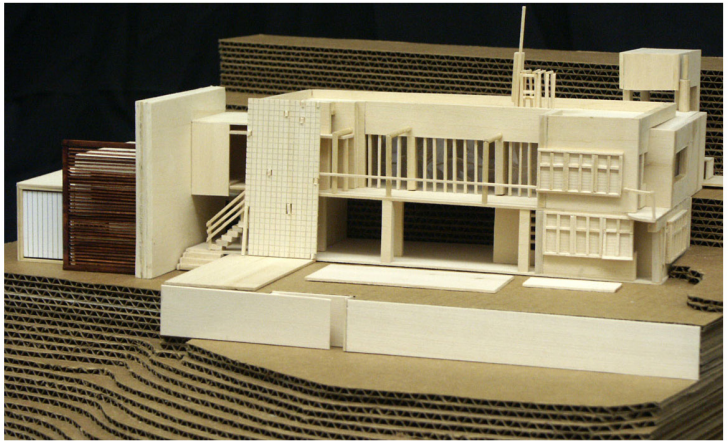
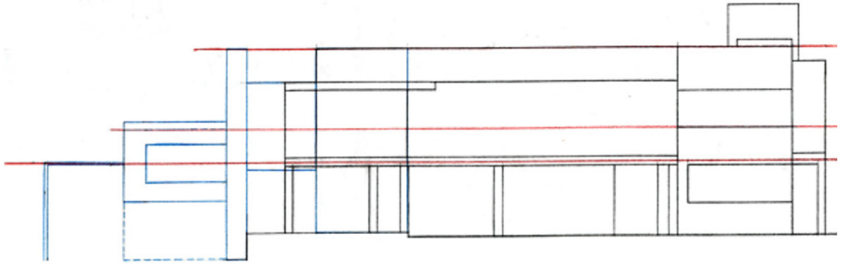
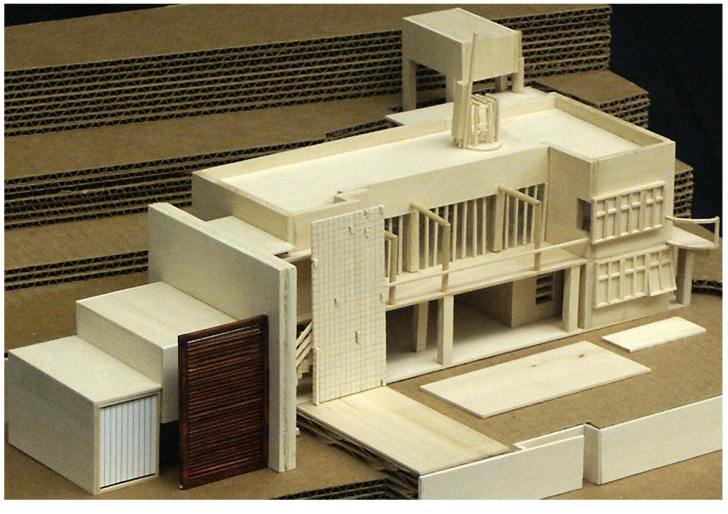
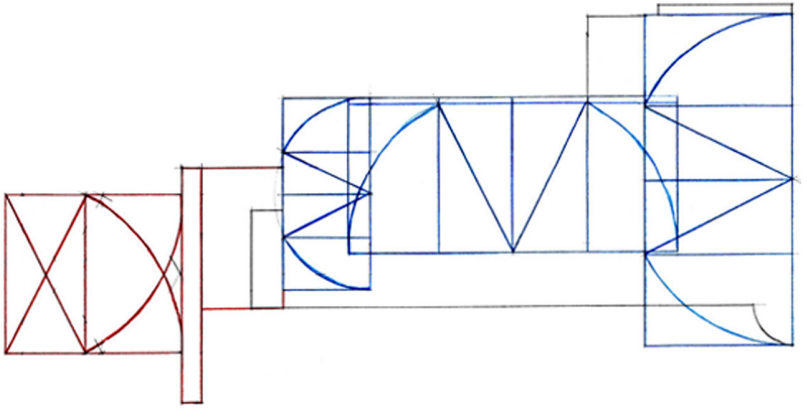
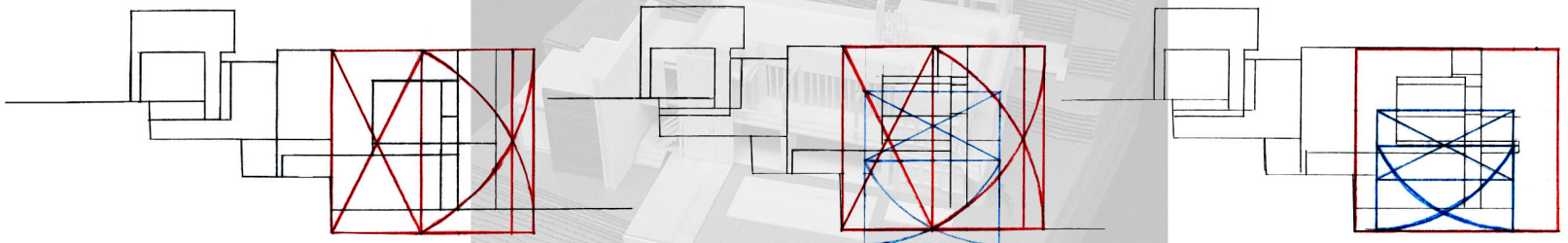
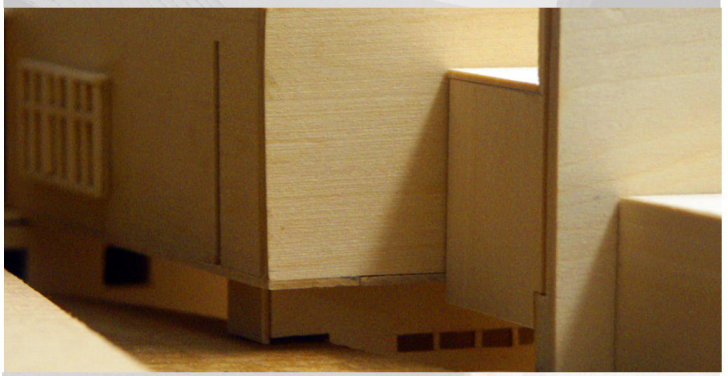








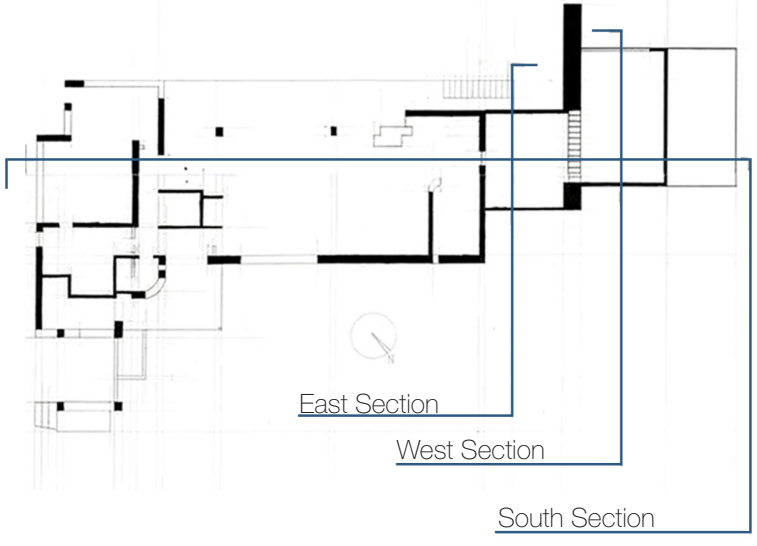




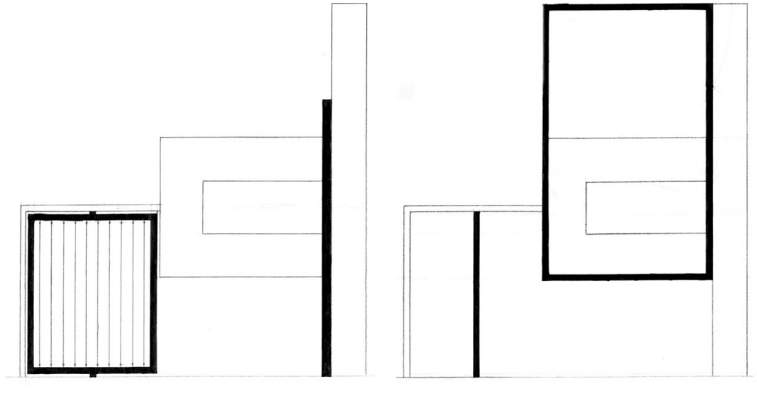
Eileen Gray's E-1027 is a classic example of Le Corbusier's vision of modern architecture. In many ways. Gray held closer to Le Corbusier's five points than he did himself. Like Corbusier, Gray also used the golden ratio as a tool of design.

The objective for this studio was to design an addition to Eileen Gray's E-1027. The sole constraint for the addition was to approximate ten percent of the space of the original house. The pedagogical intent was to learn and discover formal properties as a part of the design process.

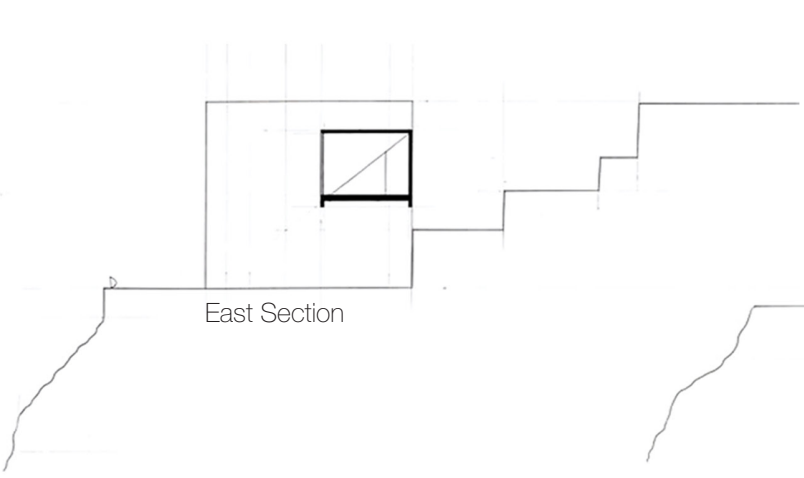
The design questions the notion that pilotis are the single way in which a "free plan" and "free façade" can be achieved. By using a single oversized wall, spaces can be cantilevered, free of columns, instead of piercing through the wall, the stairs were carved out of the wall, creating a space beyond just a transition.


East Section
West Section
South Section


West Section
West Elevation



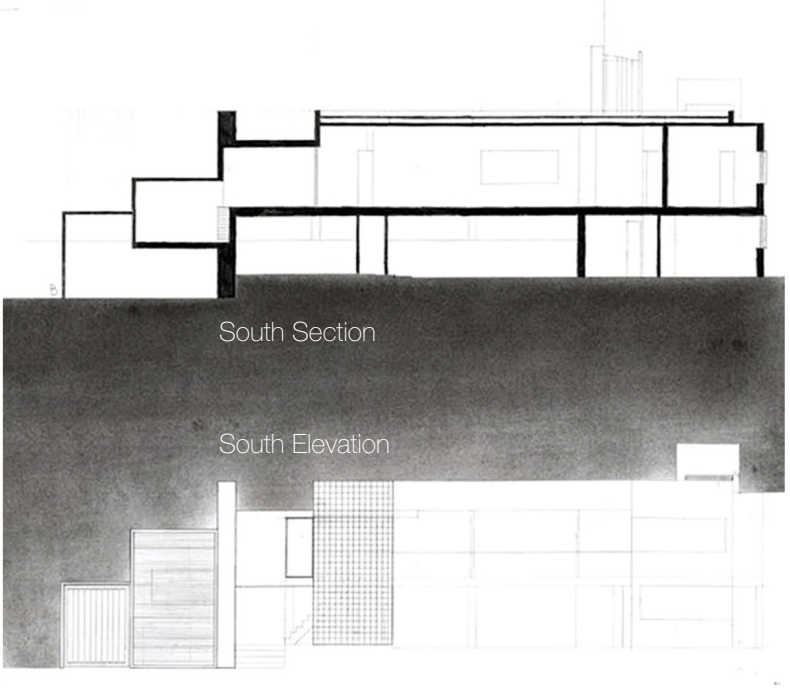




East Section

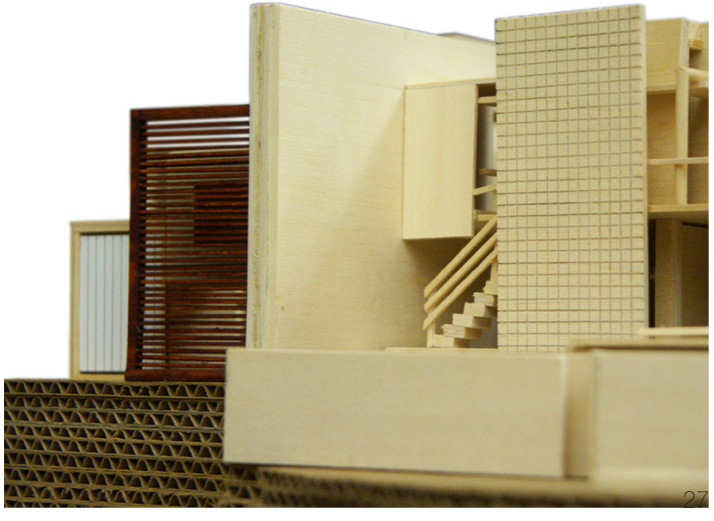


East Elevation



South Section

South Elevation



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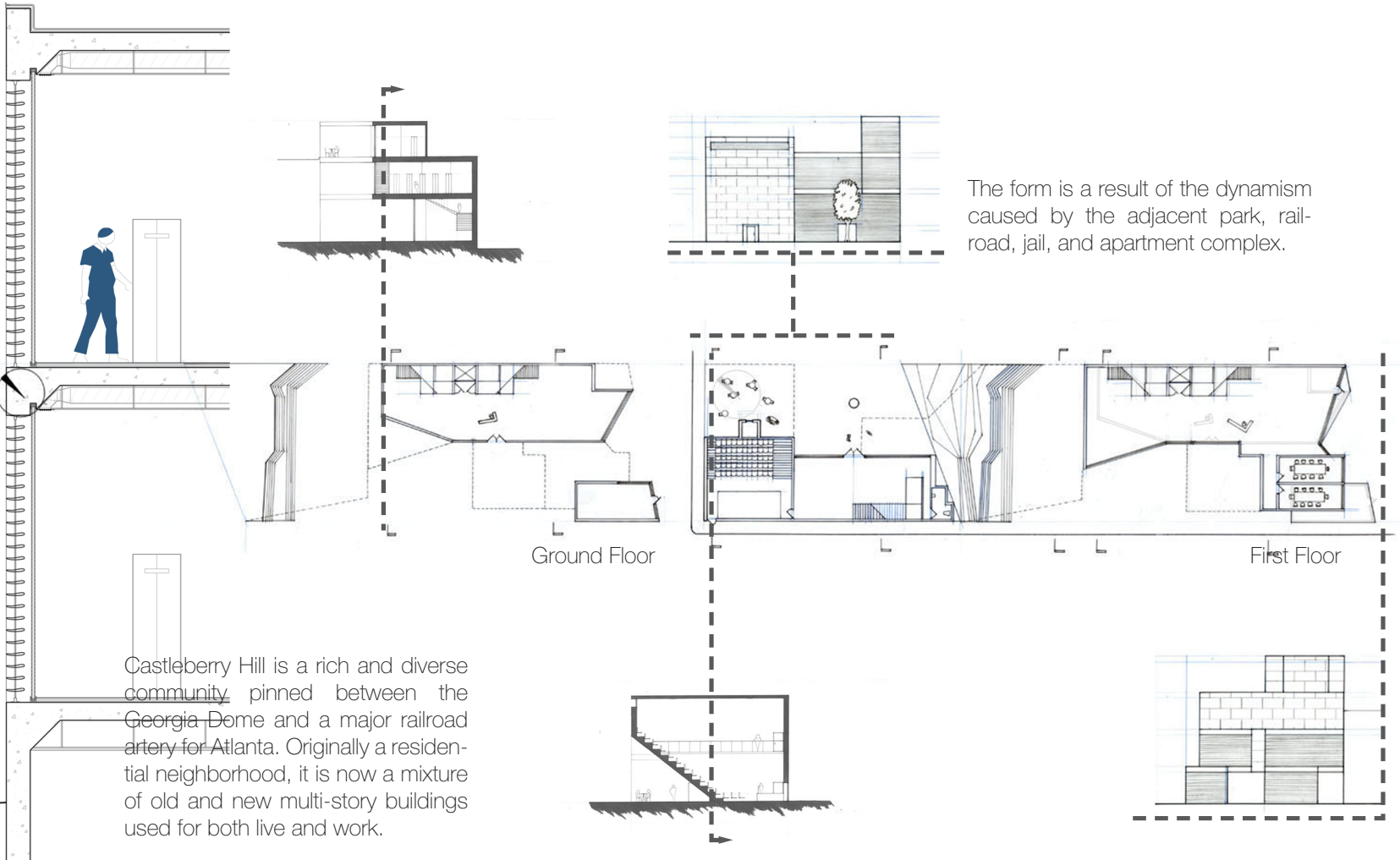
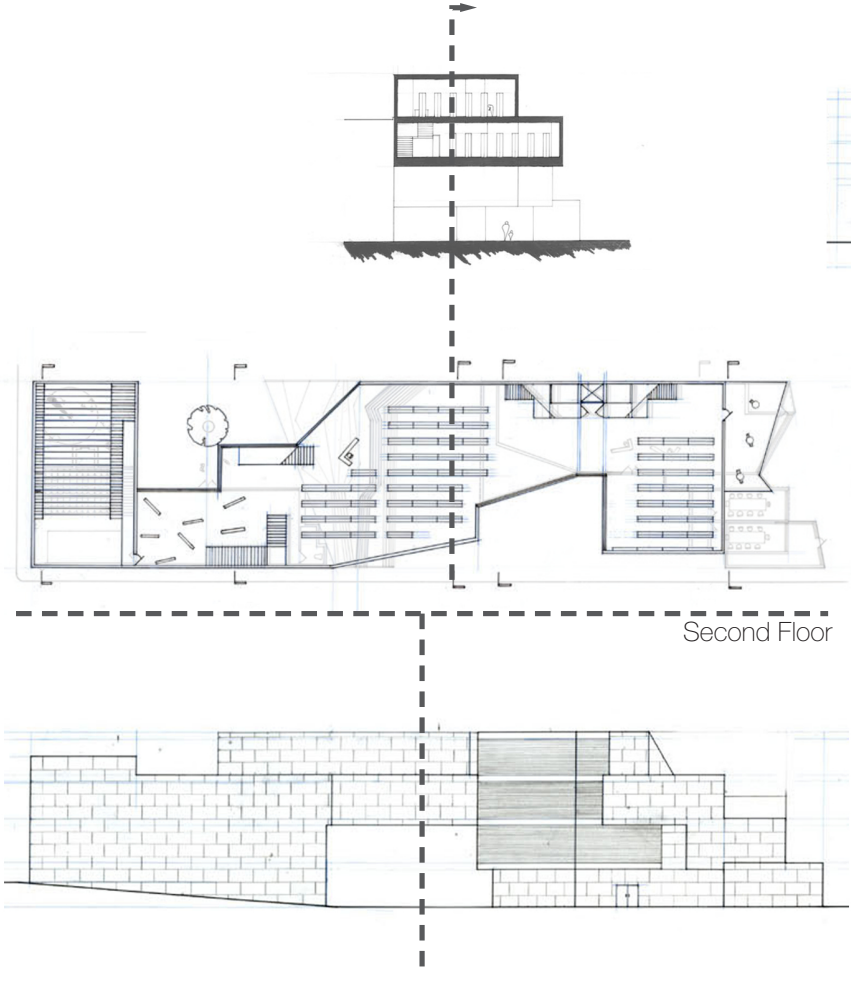


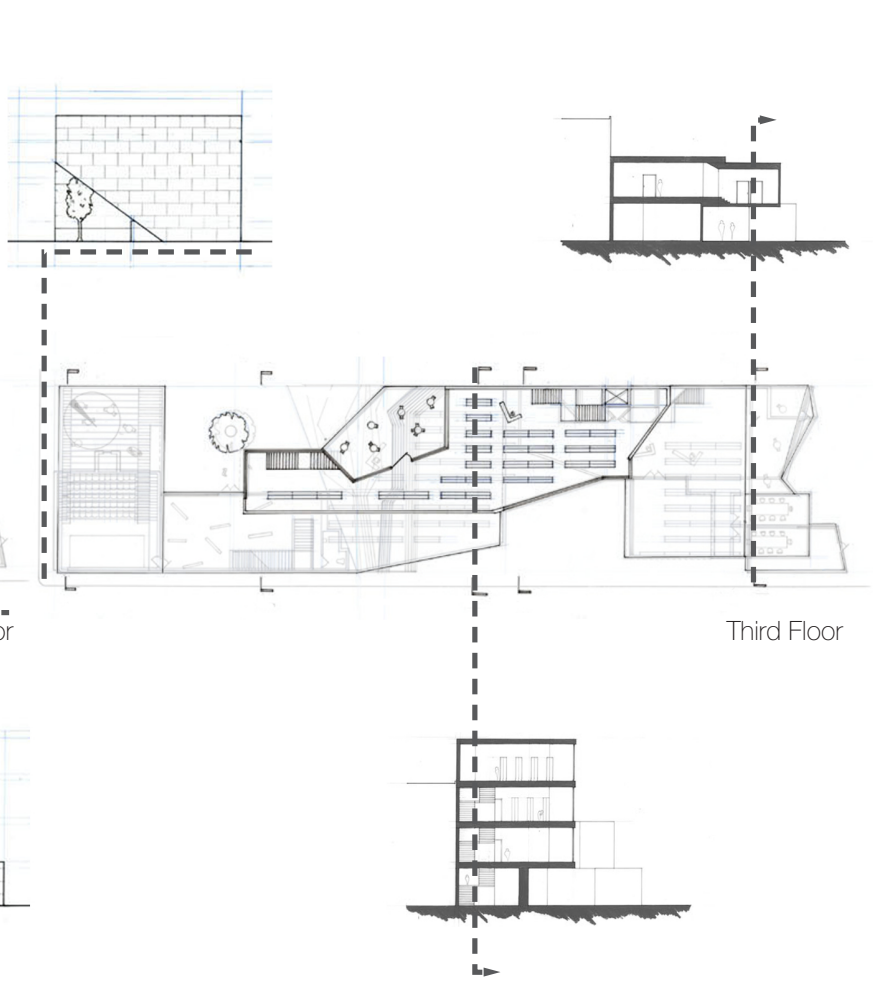
The form is a result of the dynamism caused by the adjacent park, railroad, jail, and apartment complex.

Castleberry Hill is a rich and diverse community pinned between the Georgia Dome and a major railroad artery for Atlanta. Originally a residential neighborhood, it is now a mixture of old and new multi-story buildings used for both live and work.

The task was to design a library for this secluded community, which included a public auditorium and shared a party wall with a future apartment complex.



Second Floor



Third Floor

