

portfolio:

Dissolving Realities

A thesis project that explores how the exponential growth in communication technology is changing the way we interact with the tangible and intangible spaces.

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The Coalesce

The Jones Family Life Center is located in the south side of Syracuse where it strives to bring the fragmented community together.

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Penitentiart of Knowledge

A ritual driven project where it aims to conserve the customs of its previous program, a prison which will be reused into a library for the University of Florence.

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The Concourse

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Others

A compilation of professional work, courseworks from professional elective classes and personal photography.

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Education	Fall 2017 - Spring 2021 Syracuse, NY	Syracuse University / Bachelor of Architecture // Graduated with Magna cum laude, GPA 3.508 // Dean's List, Fall 2017 - Spring 2021 // Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Fall 2017 - Spring 2021
	Fall 2019 Florence, Italy	Syracuse University Florence // Study Abroad Program with David Shanks & Luca Ponsi
	Spring 2019 London, UK	Syracuse University London // Study Abroad Program with Davide Sacconi & Jad Semaan
	Spring 2016 - Spring 2017 Philadelphia, PA	Community College of Philadelphia / Associate Arts Degree in Architecture // Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Fall 2016 - Spring 2017 // Academic Honors List, Fall 2016 - Spring 2017

Academic Experience	Spring 2021 - present Syracuse, NY	Research Assistant Syracuse University // With Prof. Liang Wang. Assisted in the Harry der Boghosian Fellowship exhibition that is scheduled for Fall 2021.
	Summer 2020 - present Syracuse, NY	Research Assistant Syracuse University // With Prof. Lori Brown. Assisted in a research on border security between the United States, Mexico, and Israel.
	Summer 2020 Syracuse, NY	Teaching Assistant Syracuse University // With Prof. Kyle Miller. Led, taught, and critiqued two groups of high school students in model making (I), manual drawing (II), and digital drawing (III) in an online studio setting.
	Spring 2020 Syracuse, NY	Thesis Assistant Syracuse University // With Yilu Zhang, a M.Arch student. Assisted in making diagrams and renders for his thesis, Single Industry Villages: Duality in Utopia. The thesis was awarded Honourable Mention.

Professional Experience	Fall 2019 Florence, Italy	Architecture Intern OKS ARCHITETTI // Worked on various large- and small-scale competition based projects such as a studium, winery, school etc.
	Summer 2019 Houston, TX	Architecture Intern Gensler // Worked on various large- and small-scale projects using revit, sketchup & rhino. // Worked on a pro-bono project where 19 interns came together to design a campus for the HAY center where they provide services to foster youth transitioning to adulthood.
	Summer 2016 Singapore, Singapore	Architecture Intern Park + Associates // Worked on a bungalow in Singapore and a resort in the Maldives.

Awards & Recognition

Spring 2021	James A. Britton Memorial Thesis Award Faculty Prize // Dissolving Realities : An Endless Domestic Landscape.
Spring 2021	Archisource Drawing of the Year Award 2020 Finalist // Commended, Architectural Award
Spring 2021	Provost's Award for Undergraduate Contributions to Human Values Nominated // Nominated by Prof. Lori Brown
Spring 2021	Interviewed Project Publication with KooZA/rch // (dis)order: http://www.koozarch.com/interviews/dis-order/
Fall 2020	King+King Integrated Design Studio Competition Finalist // Nominated by Prof. Sekou Cooke
Fall 2017	Philadelphia Design Building Architectural Model Award // Voted favourite model with \$200 cash prize

Involvement

Fall 2020 Syracuse, NY	Syracuse SoA Yearbook Committee Syracuse University // Providing consultation and ideas with the committee & Common Name
Fall 2018 - Spring 2021 Syracuse, NY	Syracuse SoA Peer Advisor Syracuse University // Head of design team; In charge of designing posters and photography during orientation week.
Fall 2018 - Spring 2021 Syracuse, NY	Syracuse SoA Ambassador Syracuse University // Giving tours to prospective students around the college campus.
Fall 2018 Syracuse, NY	Exhibition Syracuse University // Smart Cities: Perspectives & Possibilities.
Spring 2018 Syracuse, NY	Member of FABRIK Syracuse University // An interdisciplinary student organization // Curated an exhibition: Threading Humankind
Fall 2017 Syracuse, NY	Member of POSIT Syracuse University // A student run digital multimedia platform for architecture students

Skills

Softwares	// Rhinoceros / Adobe Creative Suites / Sketchup / Revit / AutoCAD/ Keyshot / V-ray / Diva / Lumion / ArcGIS
Languages	// English / Mandarin / Malay
Creative Design	// watercolor painting / color pencil drawing / copic sketch / hand sketching / drafting



The relationship between “the control” and “the controlled”.

Dissolving Realities

An Endless Domestic Landscape

This thesis explores how the exponential growth in communication technology is changing the way we interact with the tangible and intangible spaces. The invasion of the public into the private, the collective into the domestic, the work into the leisure, and the ability to be constantly connected wirelessly have caused a dissolution of the physical domestic space. The domestic space has lost its value of privacy and intimacy and the boundary between the binaries will be no more. The house is a place of production that is less defined by the tangible, but rather with the objects and technology within itself.

The rise in communication technology has enabled us to do things that we never thought possible and the definition of the hearth in the domestic have evolved drastically. The hearth which used to be the fireplace in the house has evolved into a technologically advanced device that enables us to communicate and participate virtually as a collective. This thesis critiques the growth in communication technology and how it threatens the value of privacy within the domestic space. It envisions a dystopian future where users are prisoners to their technologies. The project addresses issues such as privacy and domesticity in a satirical way by constructing Hearth, a tech company and how it uses strategies to capitalize on its users.

Year:

Spring 2021

Instructor:

Terrance Goode | Susan Henderson | David Shanks

Group Member:

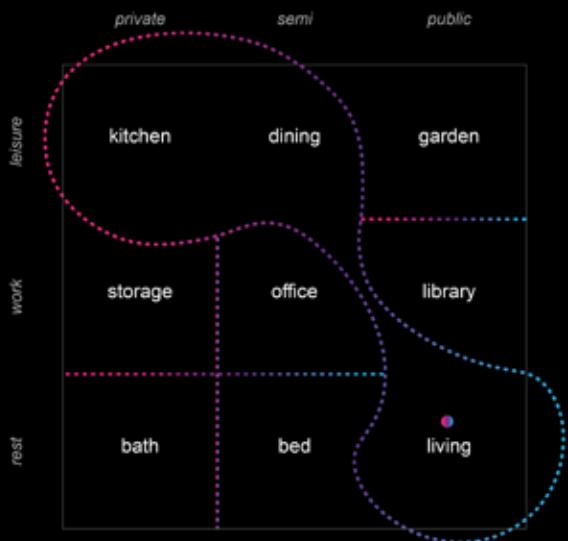
Hanzhang Lai

Award:

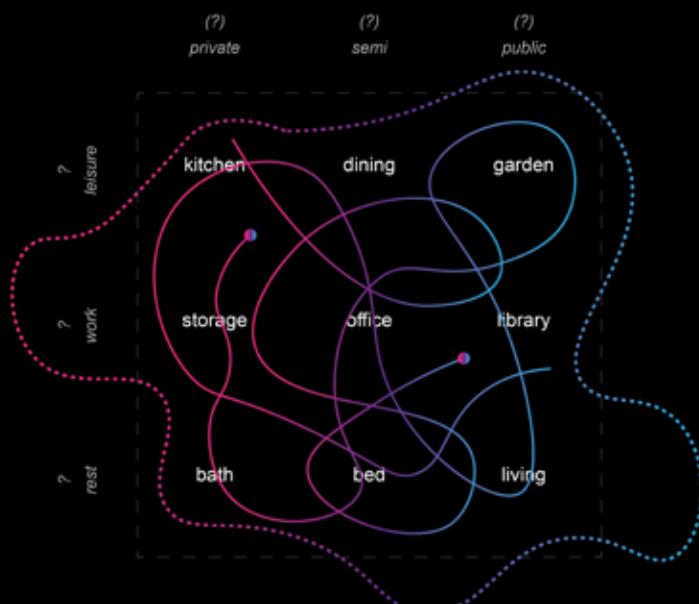
James Britton Memorial Awards: Faculty Prize



Programs within the domestic used to be divided strictly and each room has its own designated function.



However, with the introduction of communication technologies such as a radio and television, programs such as the kitchen, dining, and living started to blend. This causes a blur between private, public, work and leisure.



As communication technology is so available within our household, there's no definition of space and programs any more. We could use our communication technology whenever and wherever we go within the domestic realm.



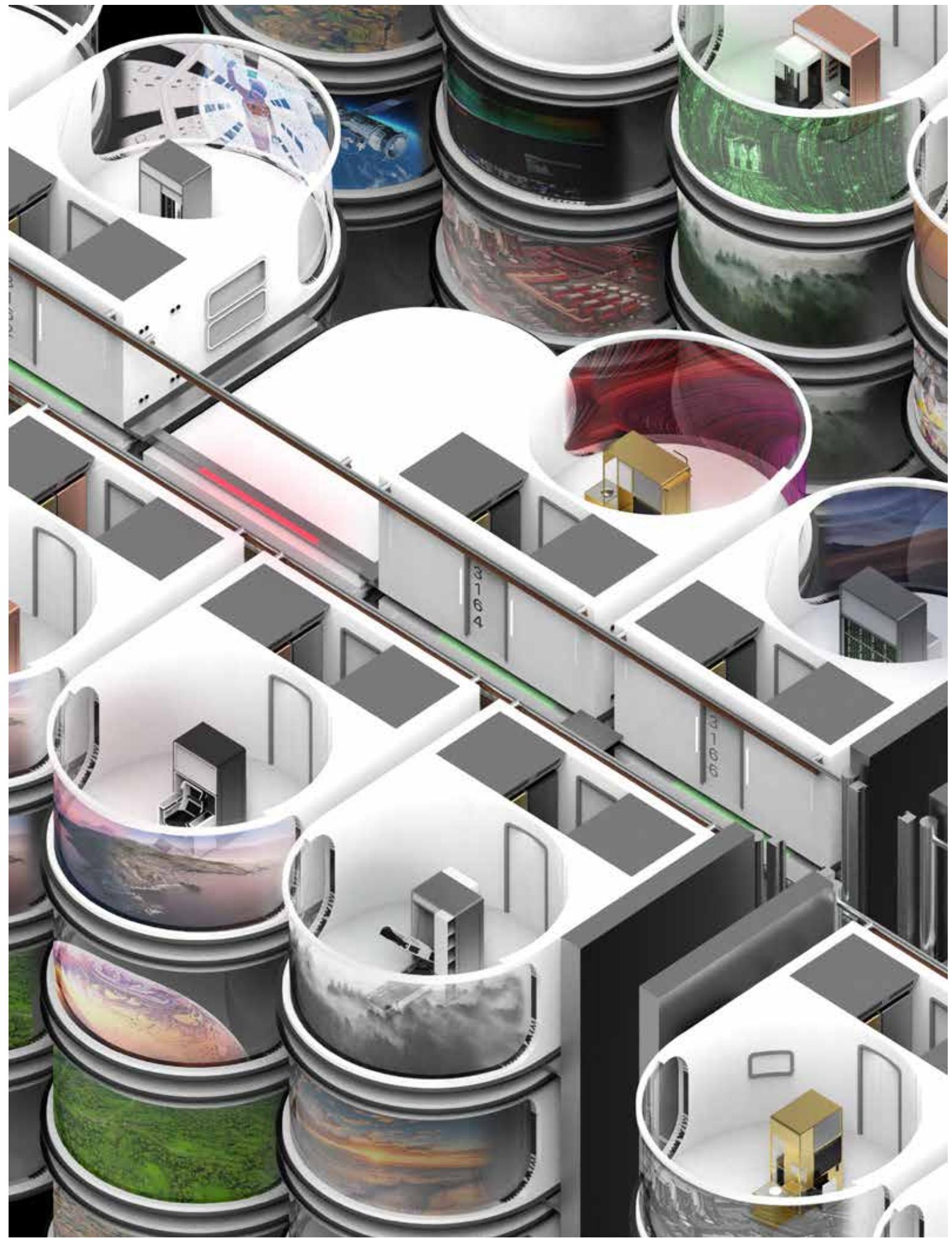
Shell

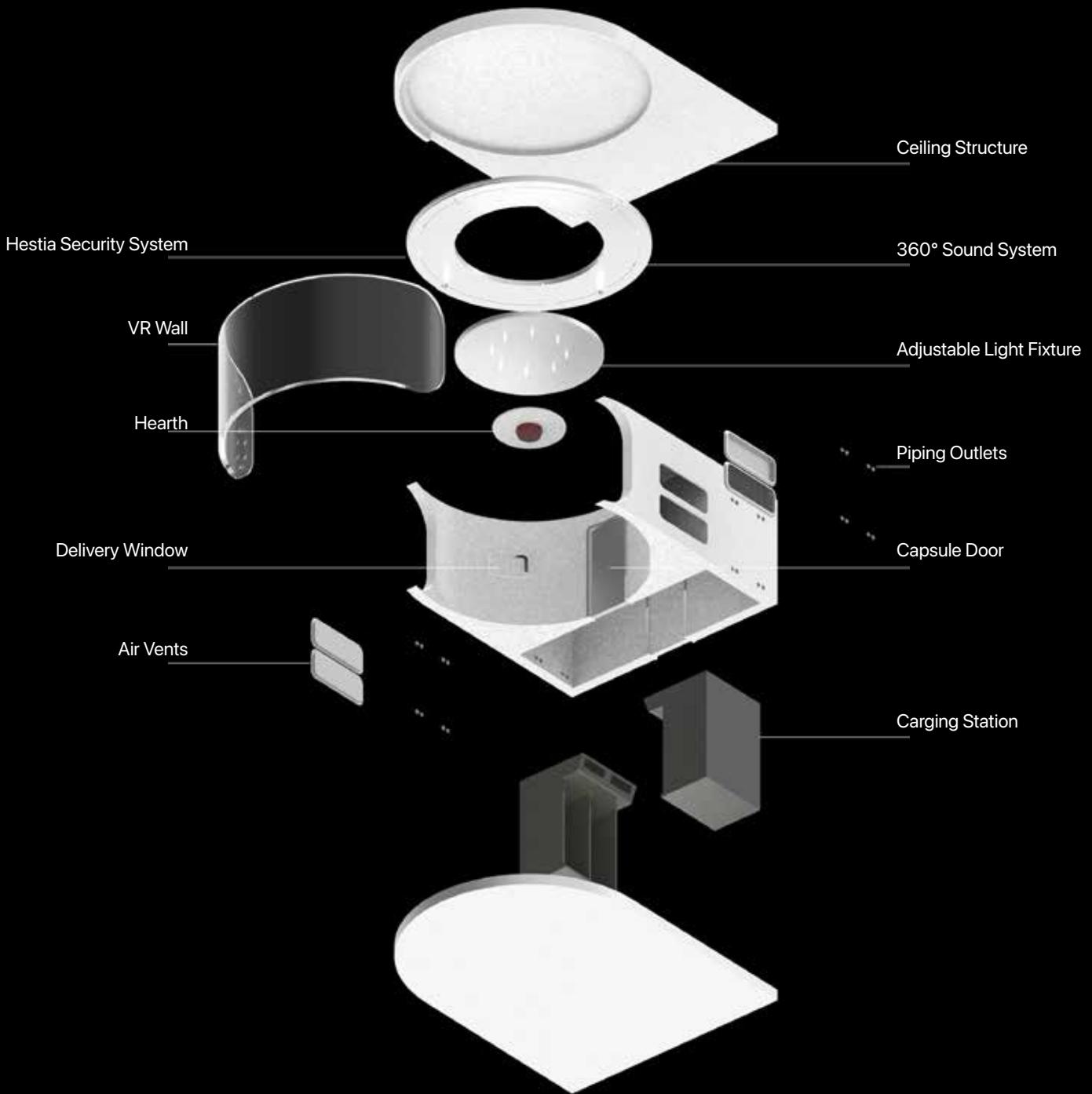


Capsules

Working simultaneously together

Hearth is powered by Hestia OS, named after the goddess of hearth in Greek mythology. It connects the Shell, Capsules and Services seamlessly to create an immersive virtual experience.

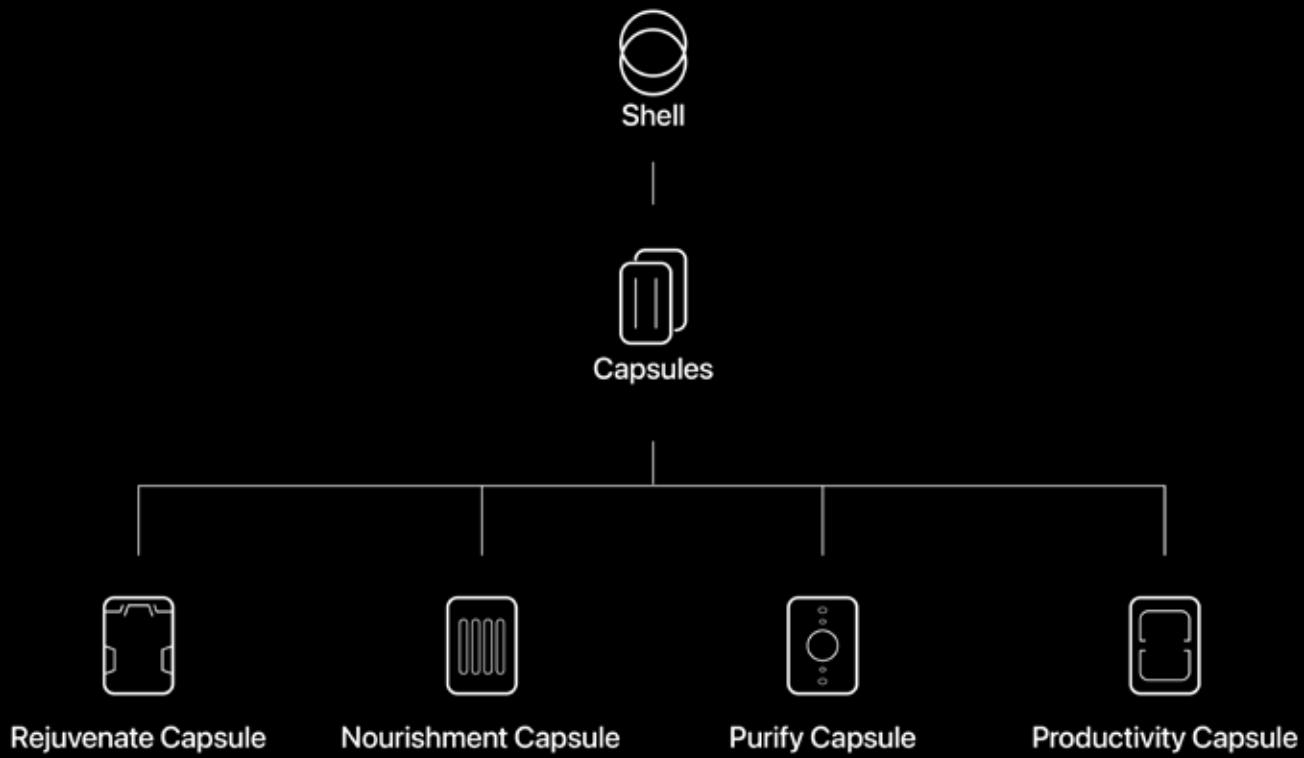




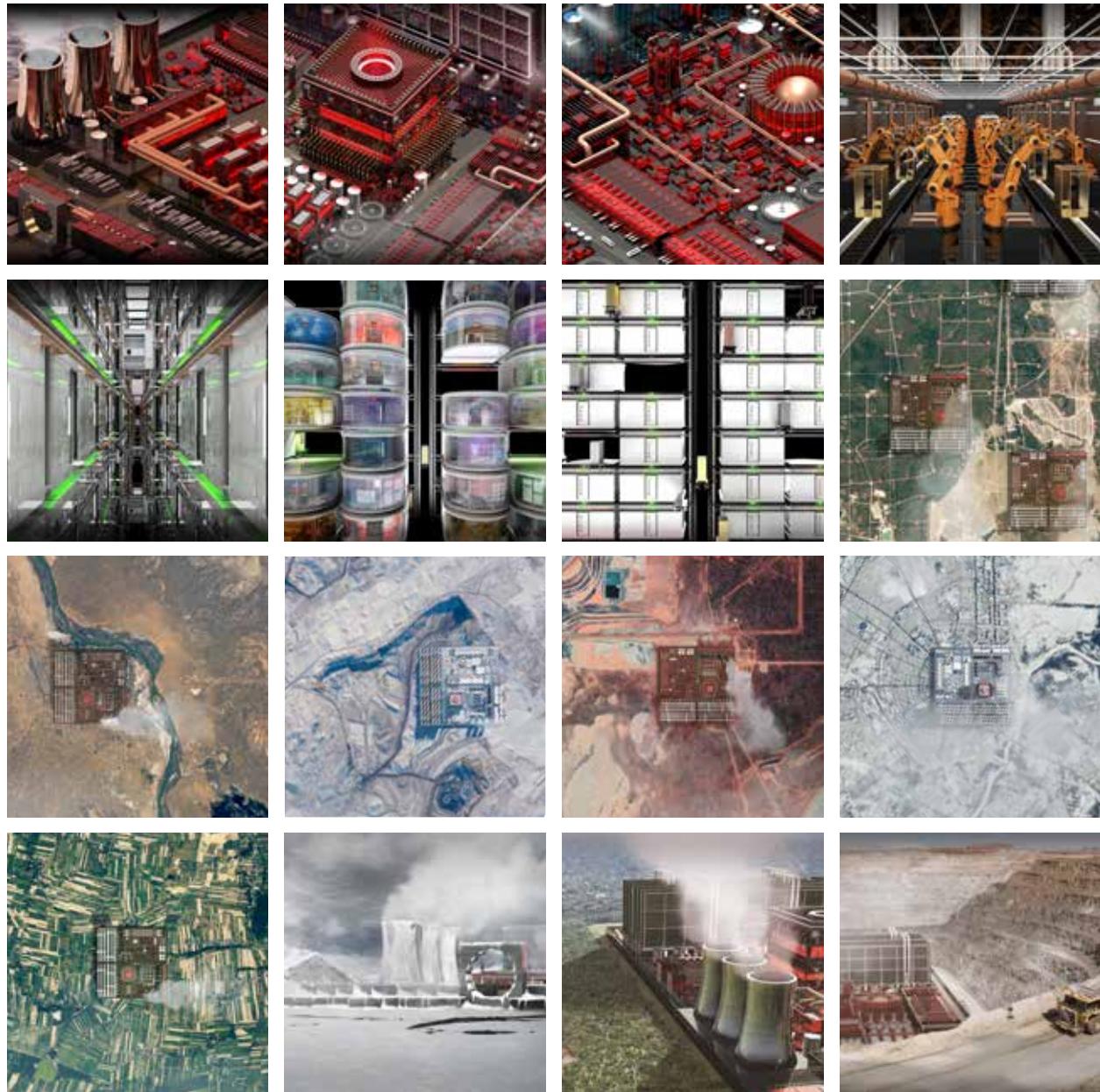
Axonometric render of the shell.

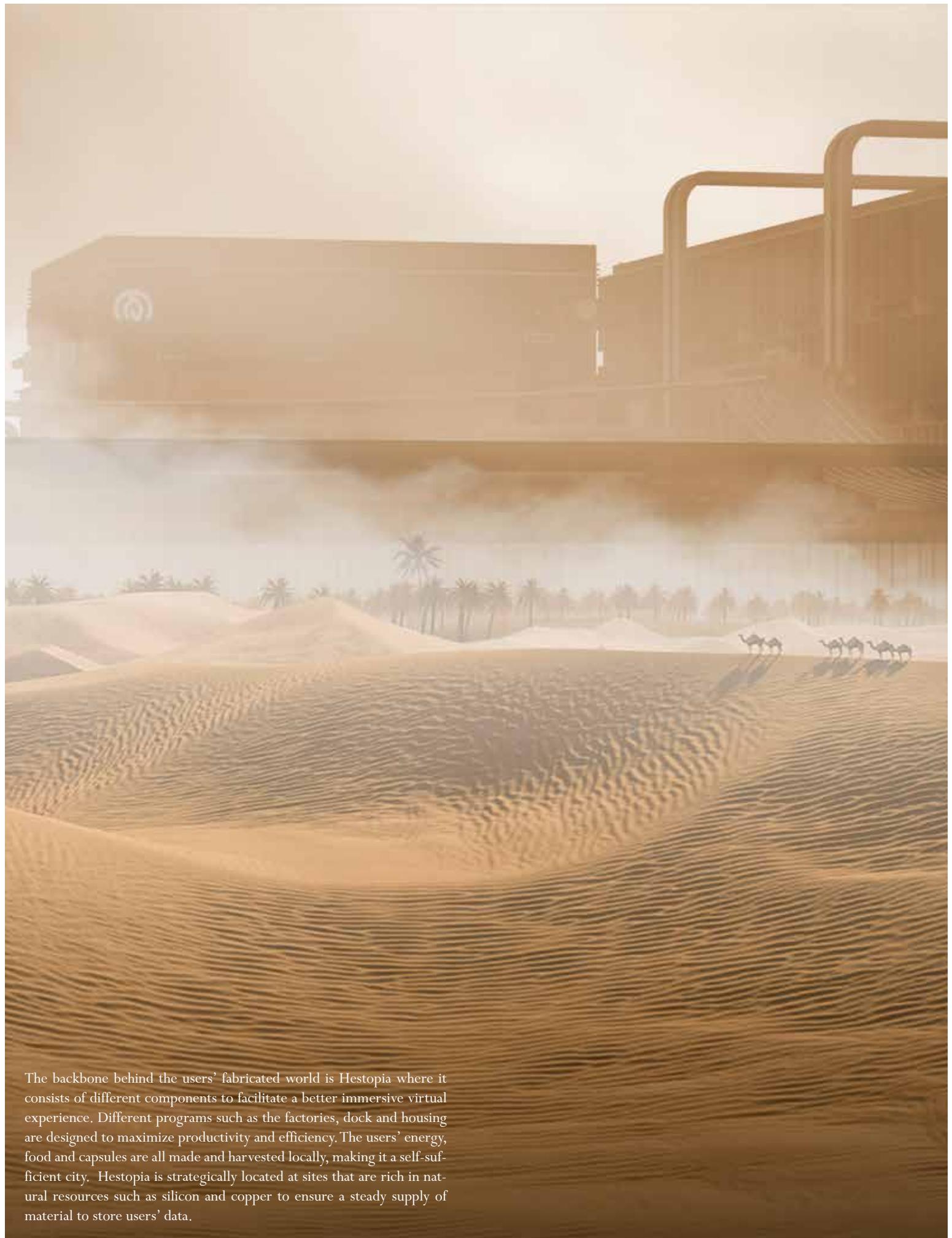


Capsules come in four different colors.

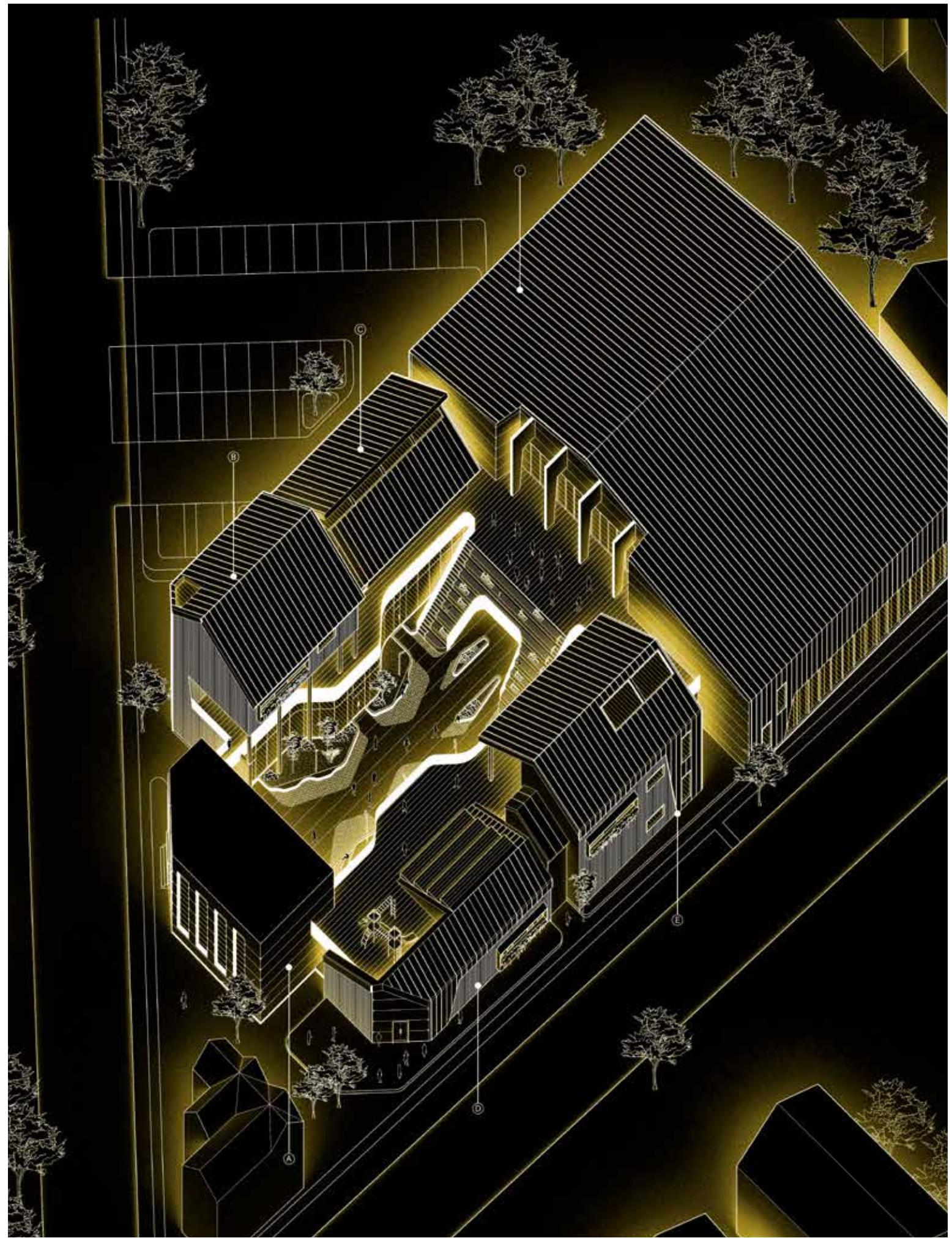


Different capsules with different functions.





The backbone behind the users' fabricated world is Hestopia where it consists of different components to facilitate a better immersive virtual experience. Different programs such as the factories, dock and housing are designed to maximize productivity and efficiency. The users' energy, food and capsules are all made and harvested locally, making it a self-sufficient city. Hestopia is strategically located at sites that are rich in natural resources such as silicon and copper to ensure a steady supply of material to store users' data.



The Coalesce

Jones Family Life Center

Southside Syracuse has been in a state of decay for decades since the decline in manufacturing jobs and the construction of I-81, which separated the city in two. On one side of the highway lays Syracuse University while the other consists of a community plagued with poverty and crime. The tension has been escalating and trust is needed within the community. Therefore, the Jones Family Life Center will act to bridge the gap the segregated spaces and represent the stability and safety of a community.

We began by studying the surrounding context and vernacular which we found to be mostly American foursquare and victorian housing. We chose to study the current vernacular not only because of its abundance in the immediate surrounding and also much of America but also because we wanted to design a community center that is familiar and comforting to the residents of this community. Therefore, we studied the formal aspects of these housing types and examined what is essential and what can be built upon to improve this style.

Location:
Syracuse, NY

Year:
Spring 2020

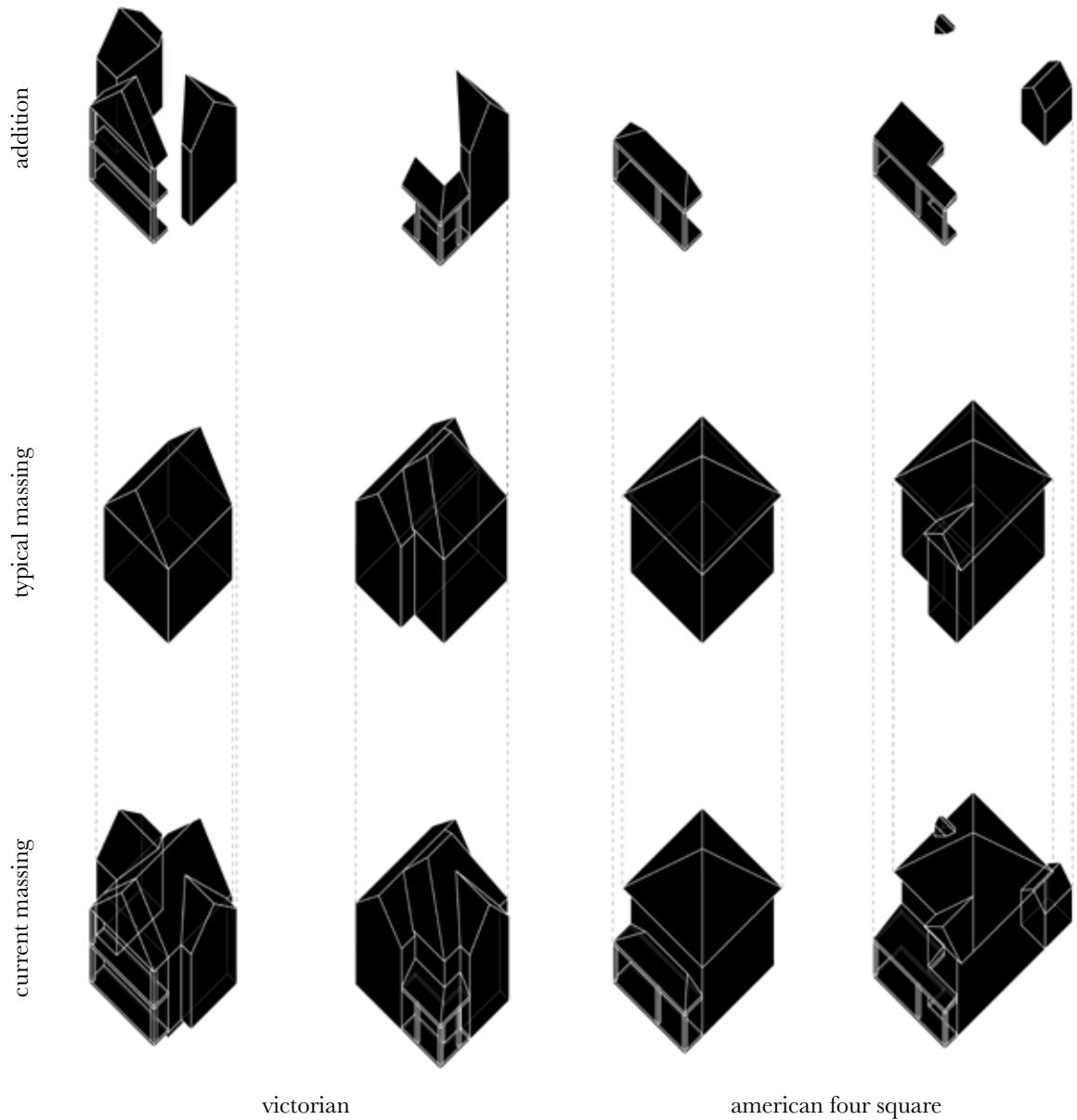
Instructor:
Prof. Sekou Cooke

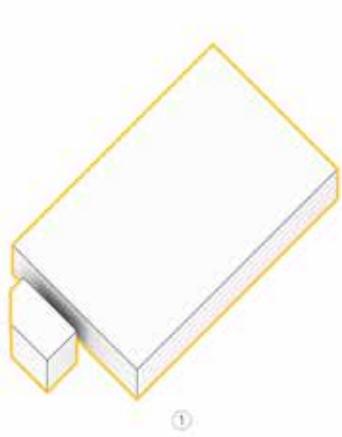
Group Member:
Luke Miller

Recognition:
King+King Integrated Design Studio Competition: Finalist

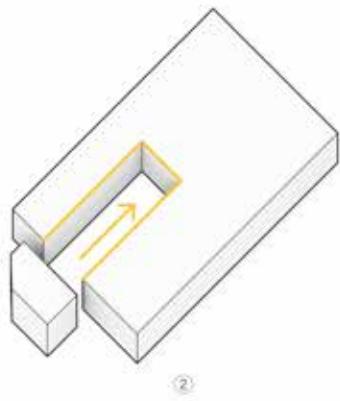
MANIFESTO

The vernacular will act to bridge the gap between the segregated spaces and represent the stability and safety of southside Syracuse. These ceremonial spaces must be welcoming and allow for a sense of familiarity; members will reunite to pursue their religious or political beliefs and create a new sense of community.

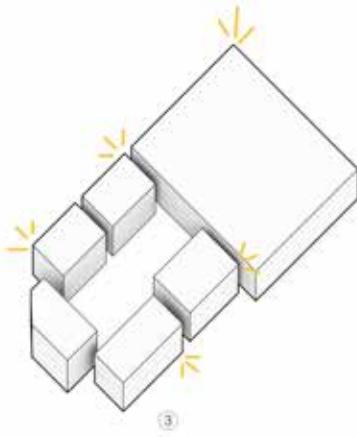




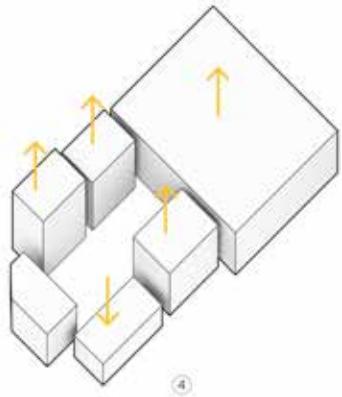
simple mass on east side of church



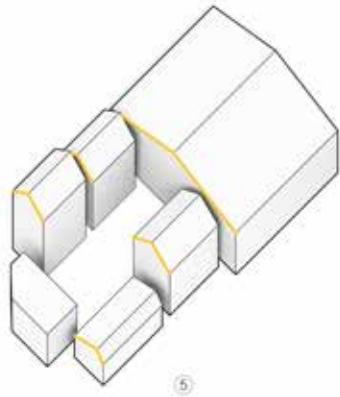
courtyard connecting church and mass



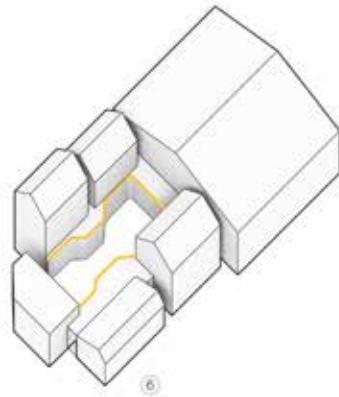
breaking up into smaller masses



altering height of mass

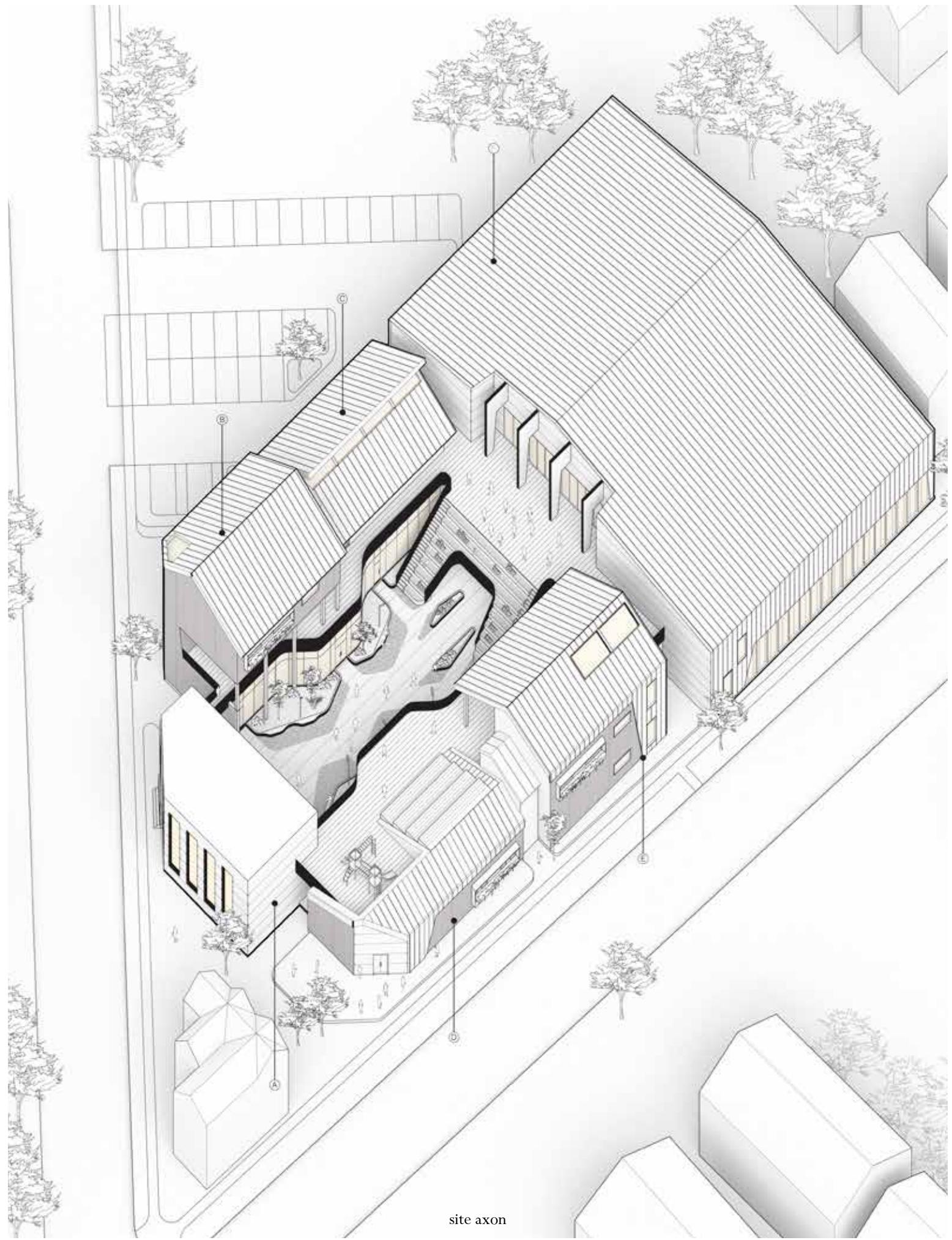


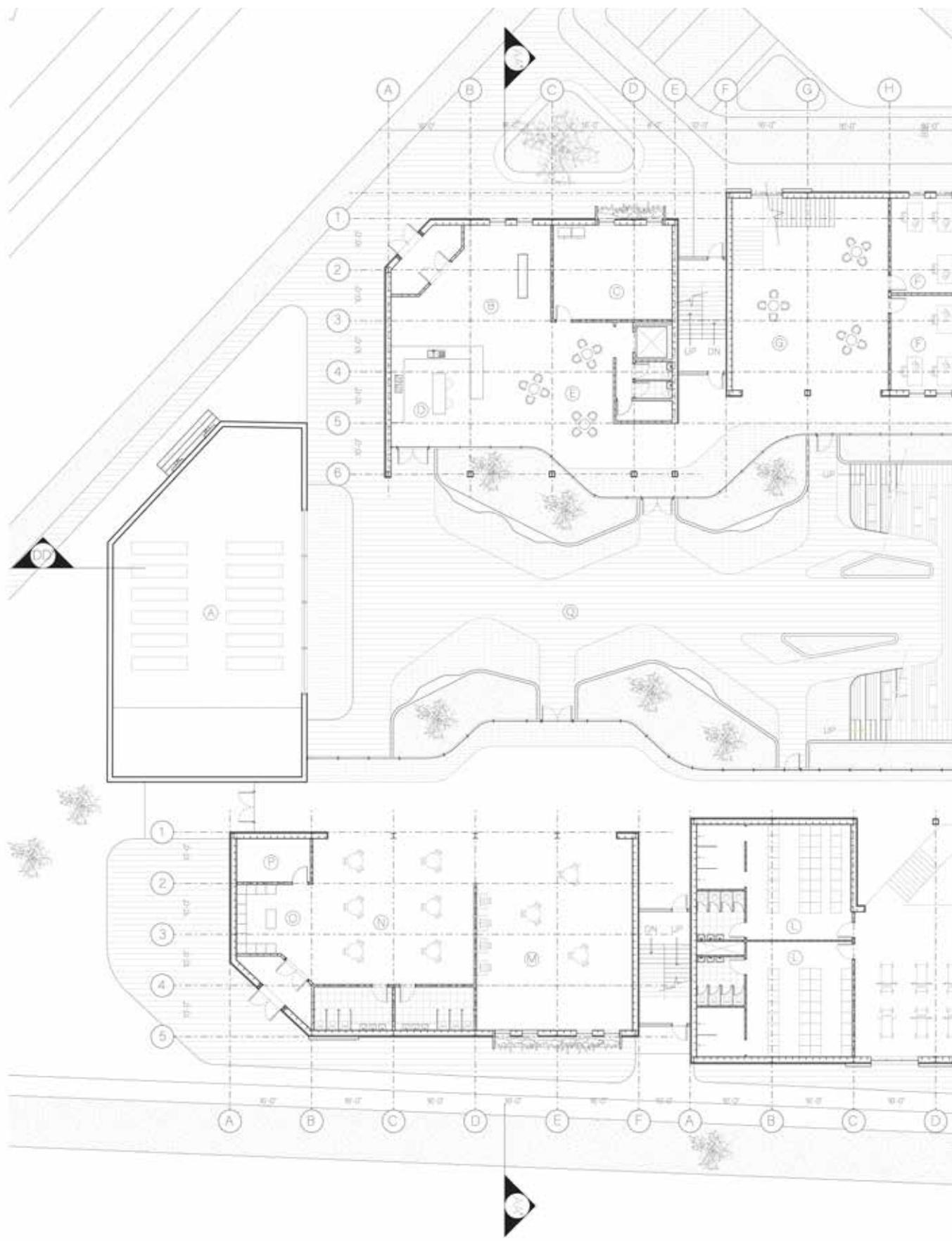
adding pitched roof



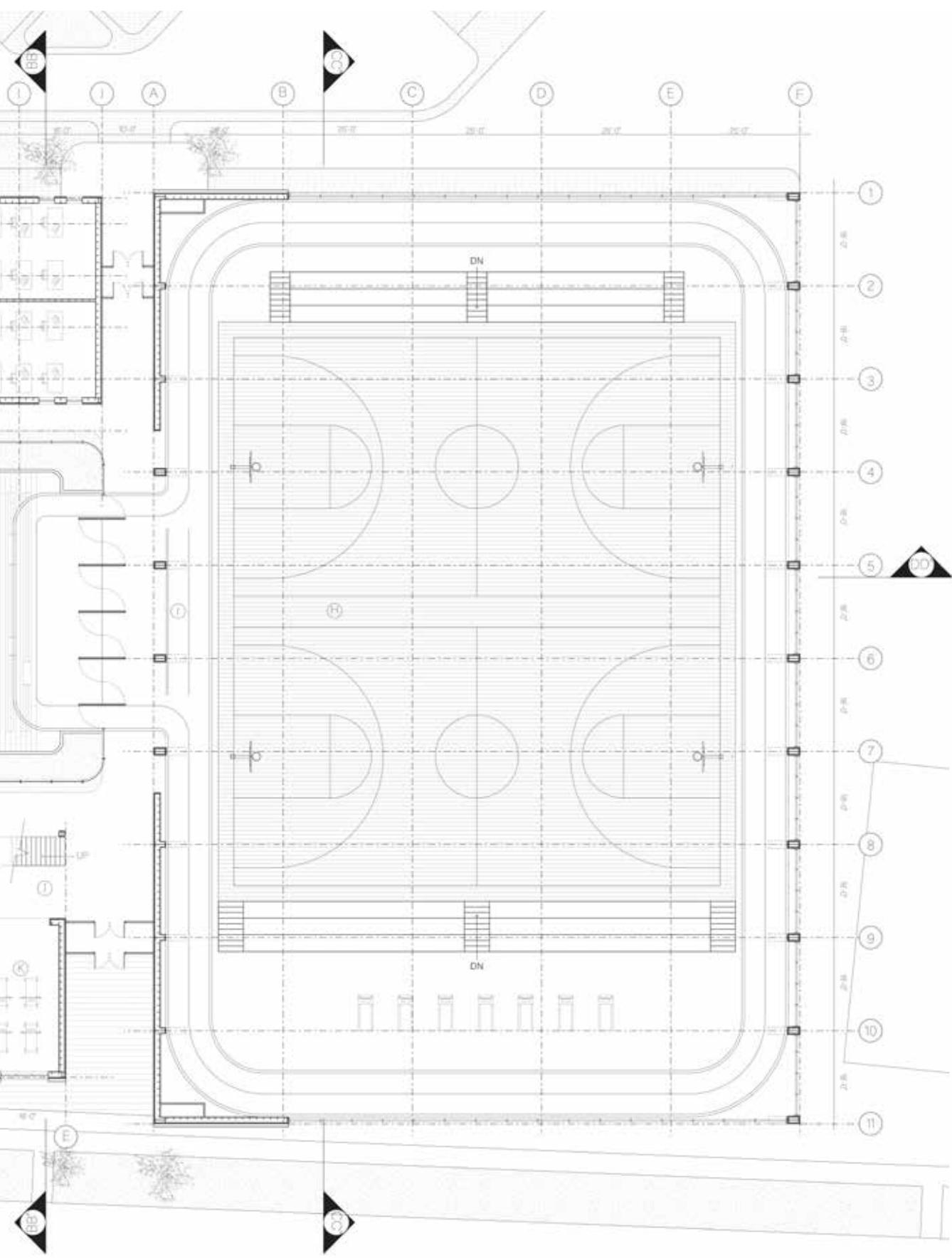
connecting masses to one another

masing diagram

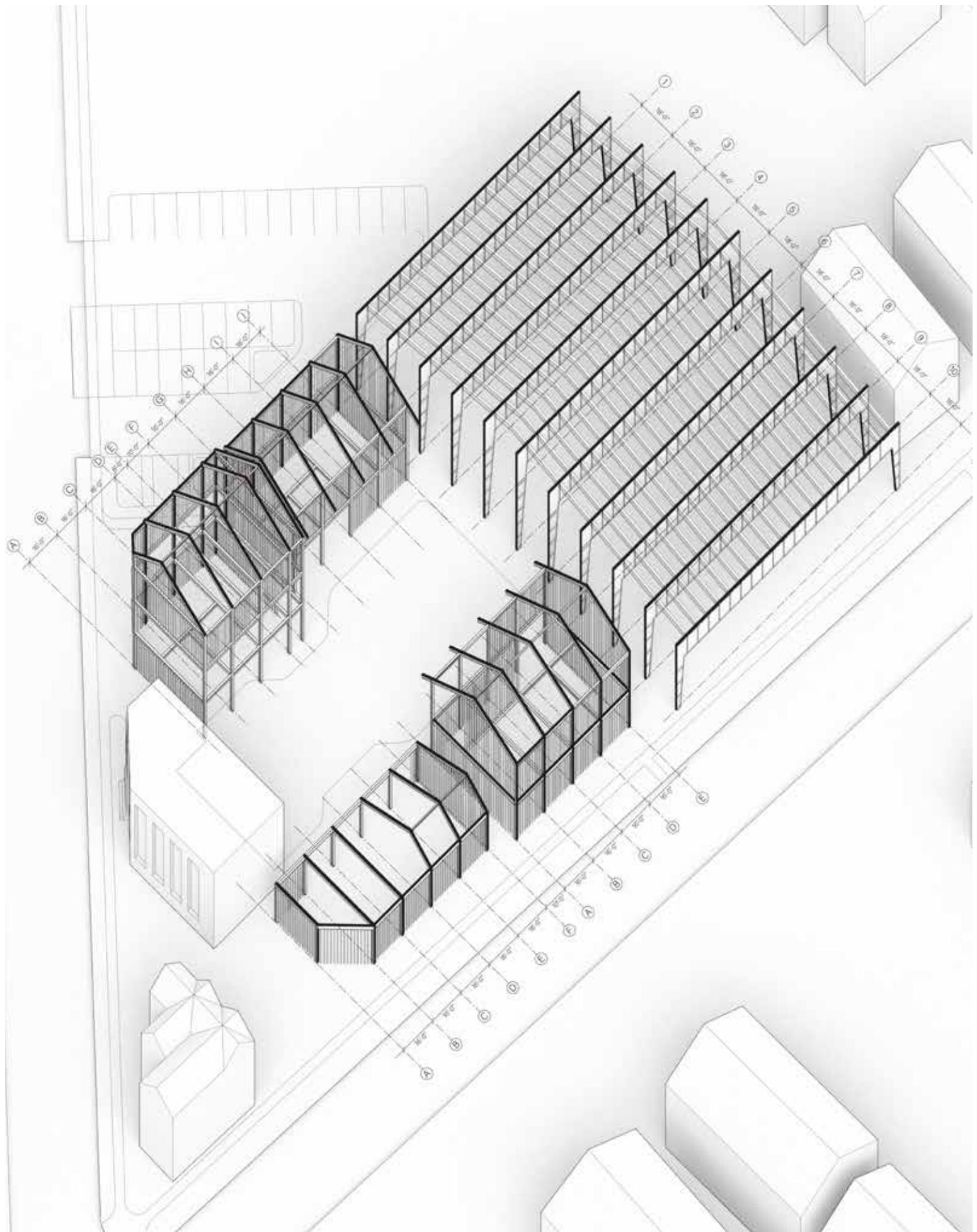




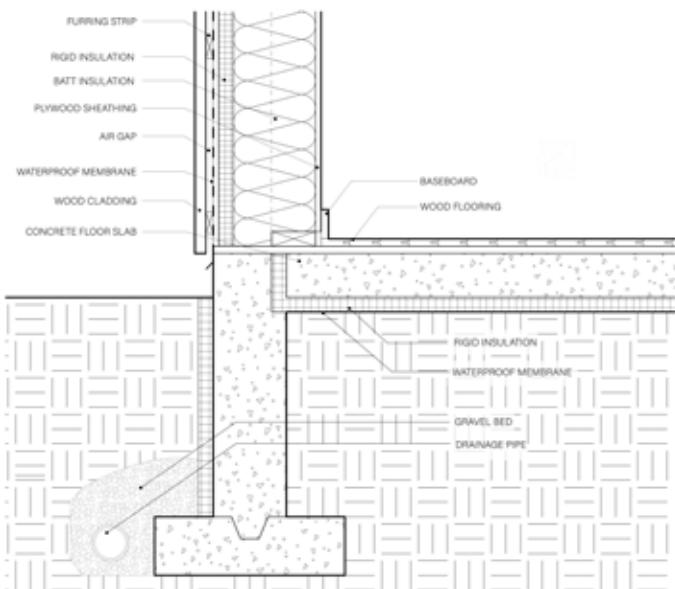
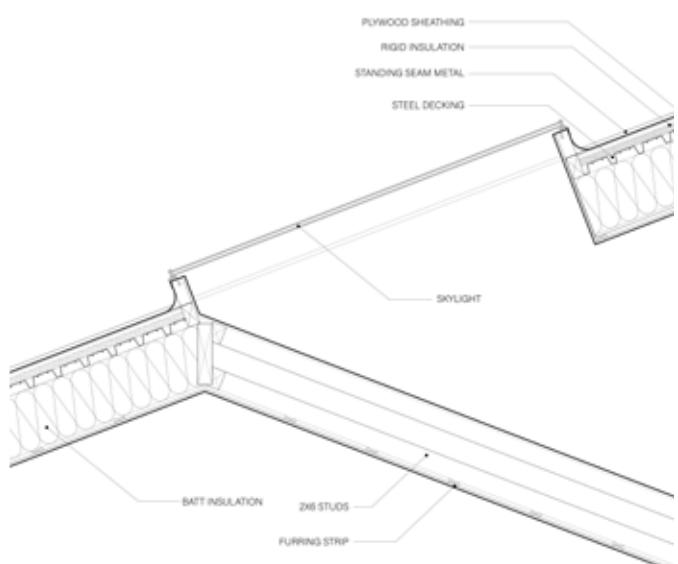
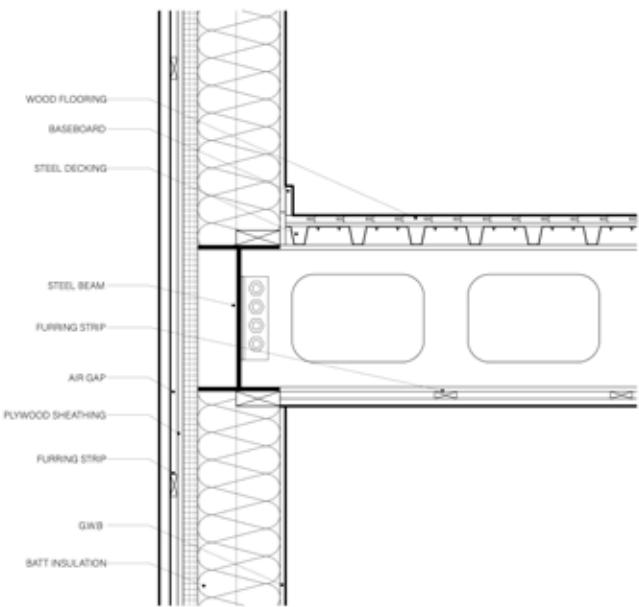
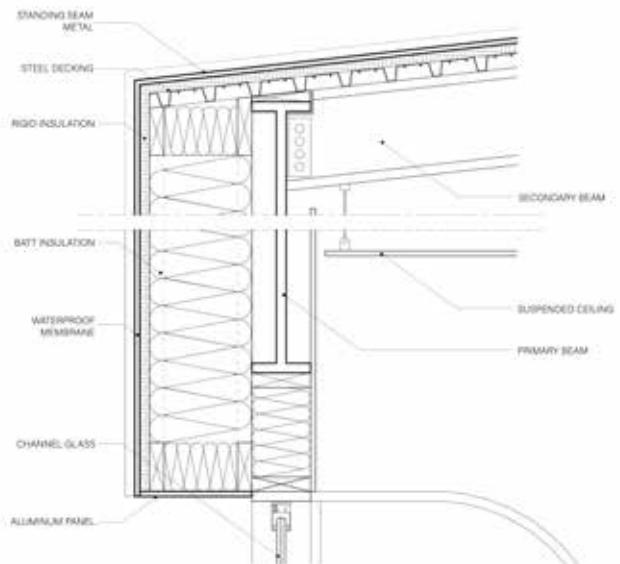
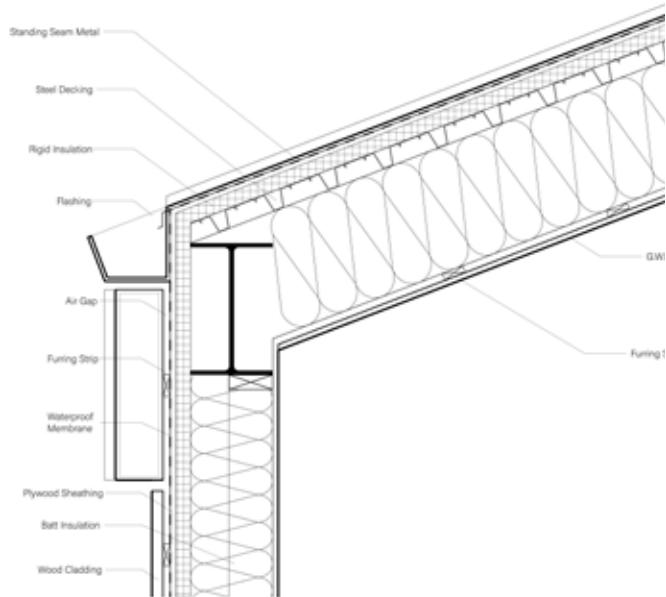
ground floorplan



ground floorplan



structural diagram



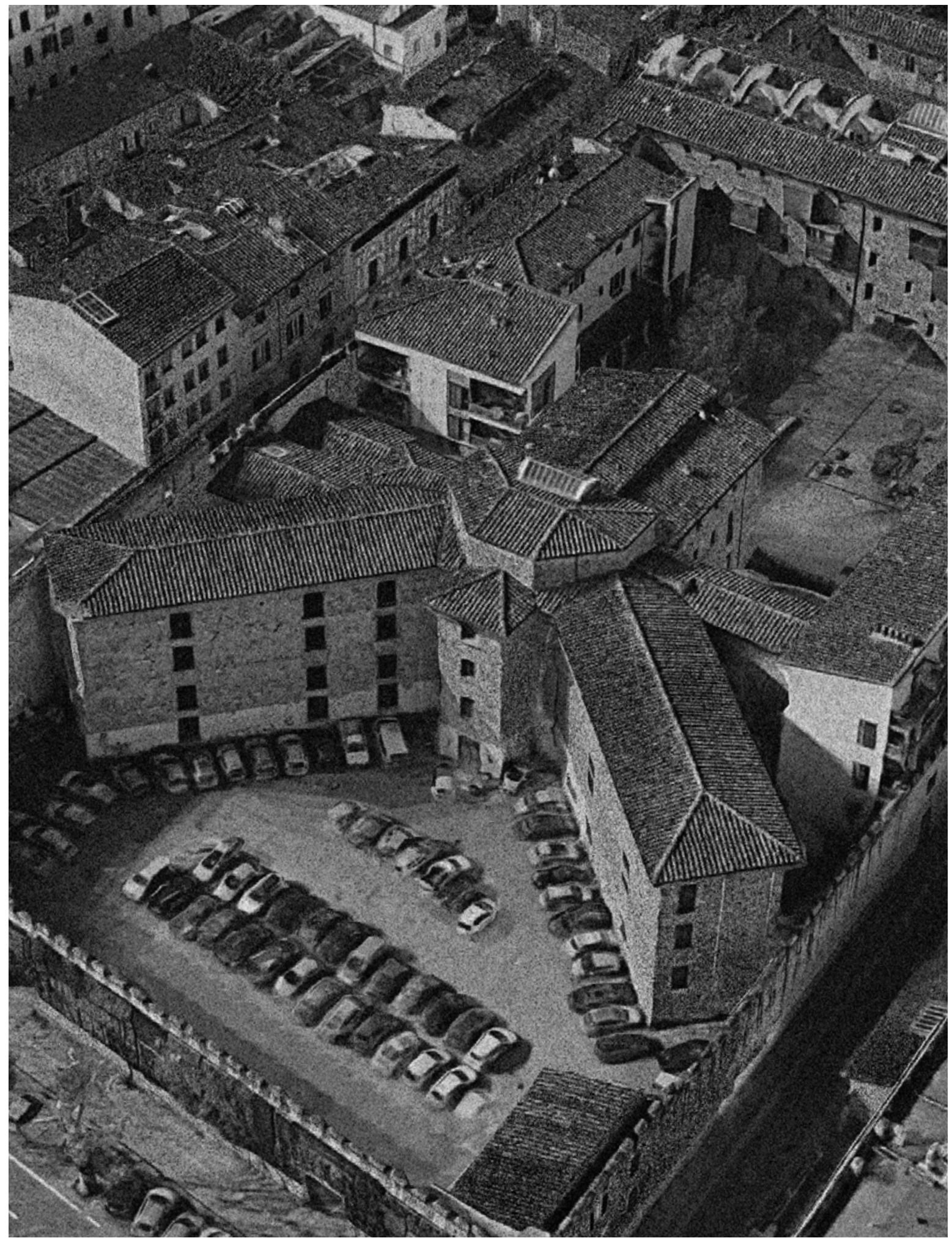
detail drawings



perspective view of entrance



perspective view of courtyard



Penitentiary of Knowledge

University of Florence Architecture Library

Our vision is to provide the architecture students of Florence with a regulated educational facility in order to overcome their academic struggles. We aim to equip students with the tools they feel they lack in the classroom and guide them towards academic success. By engaging with our correctional system, students are challenged to reevaluate their learning methodologies and acquire knowledge through an unconventional yet instructive process.

The project aims to conserve and respect the essence of the Le Murrate's history. By turning the former prison into a regulated library, we aim to preserve the site's intended identity while still providing a resource for the students of Florence. So while we have modified the existing architectural conditions, we still preserved the essential ritual of the site: prison, and we have created a prison of knowledge.

"The total demolition of any historic building seems unthinkable, even barbaric".

- Jorge Otero-Pailo

Location:

Florence, Italy

Year:

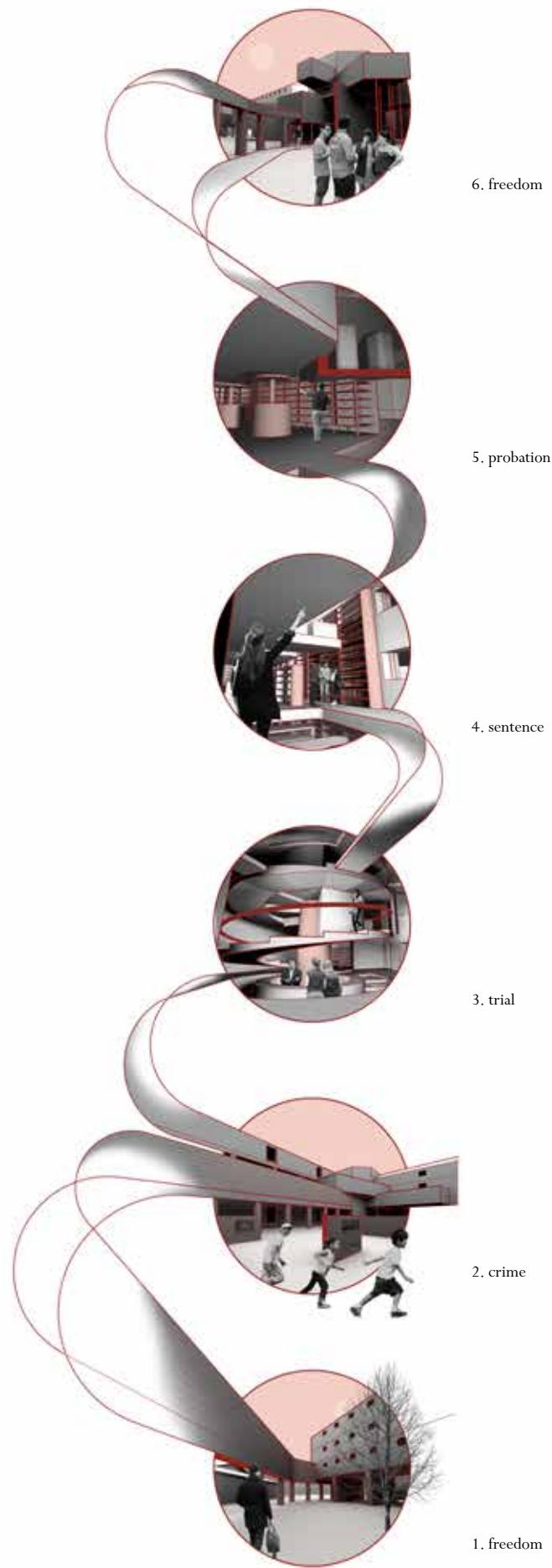
Fall 2019

Instructor:

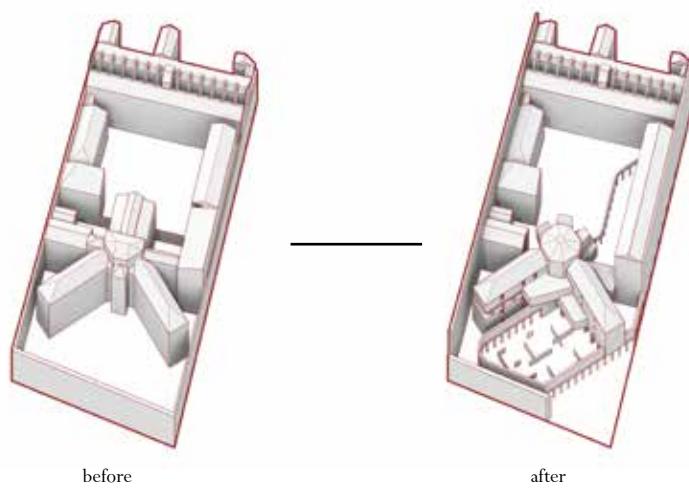
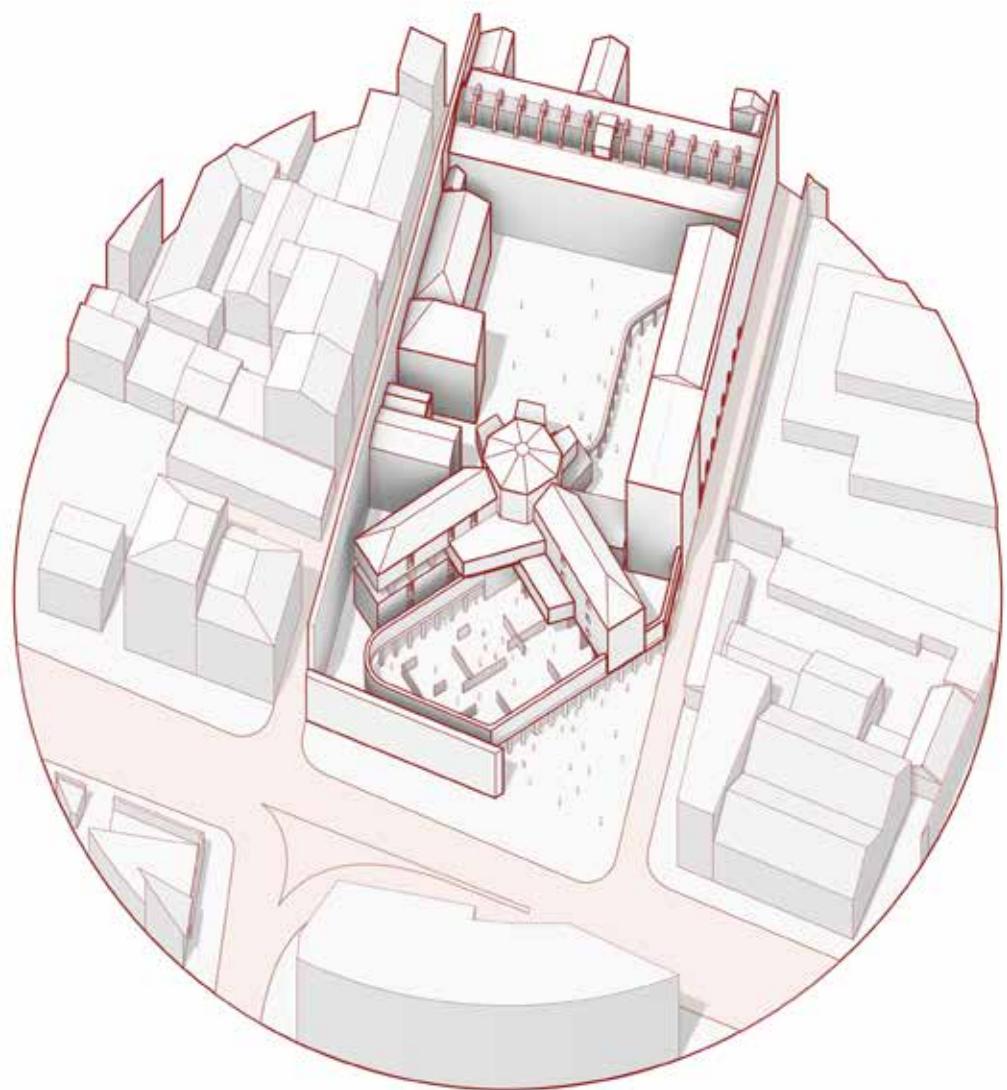
Prof. Luca Ponsi

Group Member:

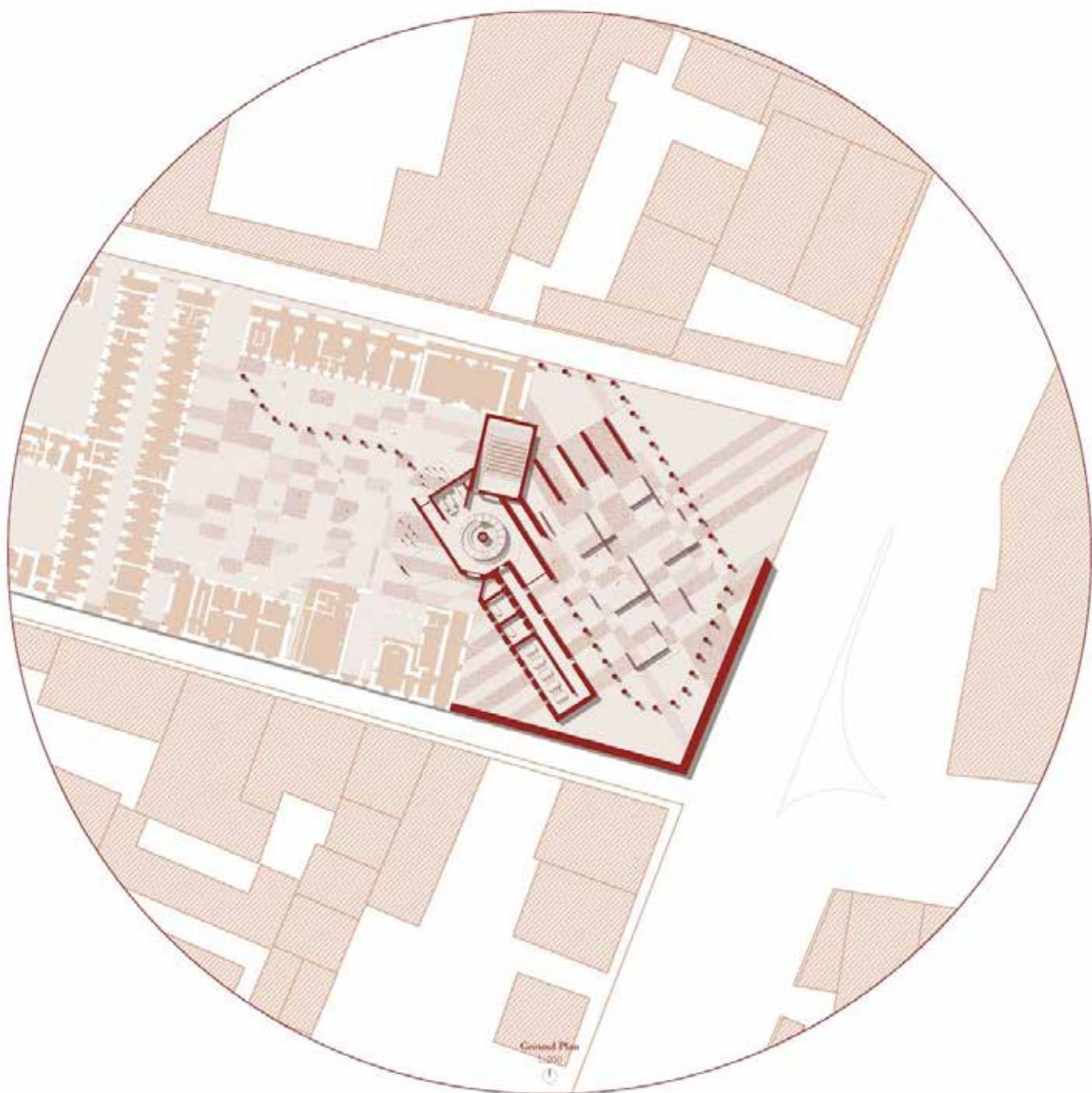
Maria Gutierrez & Vanessa Poe



Ritual vignette showing the user's experience while using the library

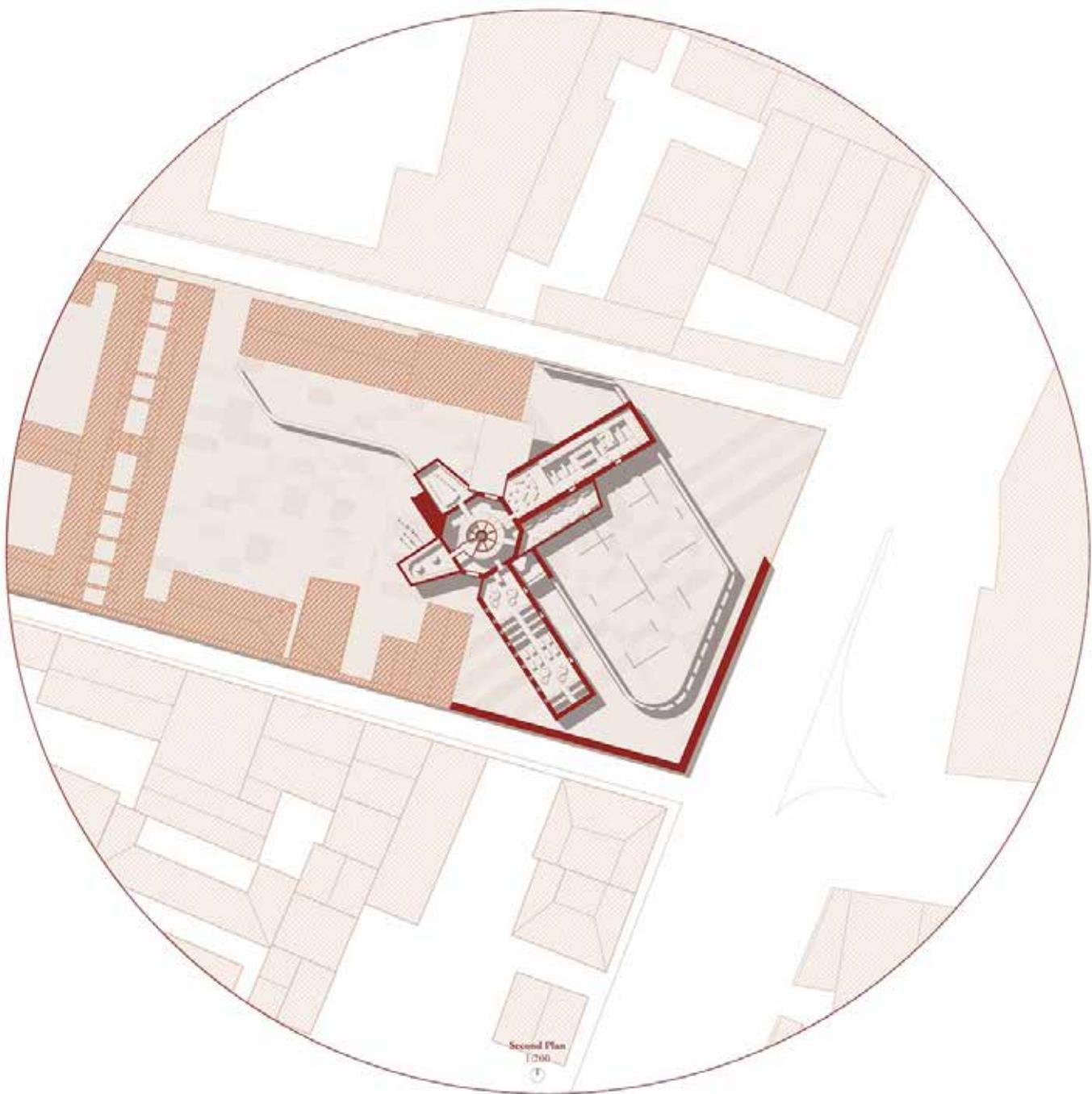


Intervention of Le Murate



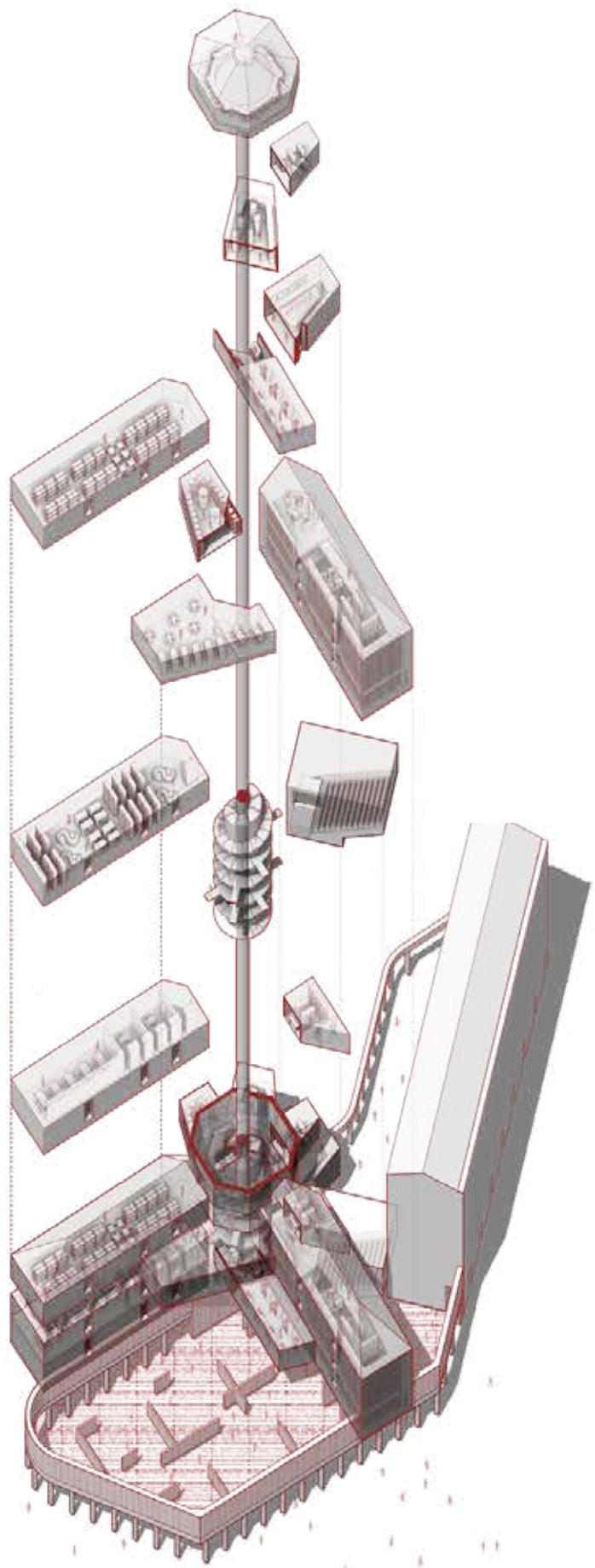
ground floor plan

The row of logias and the courtyard outside the library was designed to enable one to contemplate about one's mistakes. One must look at the exceptional works of other students which will be displayed on walls in courtyard before entering the trial area (the central core).



upper floor plan

The central core of the library in which one will be sentenced into different programs in the library. It is both circulatory and programmatic, which is essential for the library to function. The nodes of the library exist simultaneously on different levels.



whole: the site



material shop



institution archive



historical archive



group study



photography archive



digital archive



rare book collection



central core



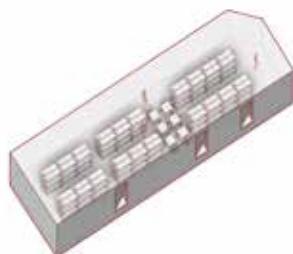
painting & drawing collection



lecture hall



books & periodical stacks



model archive

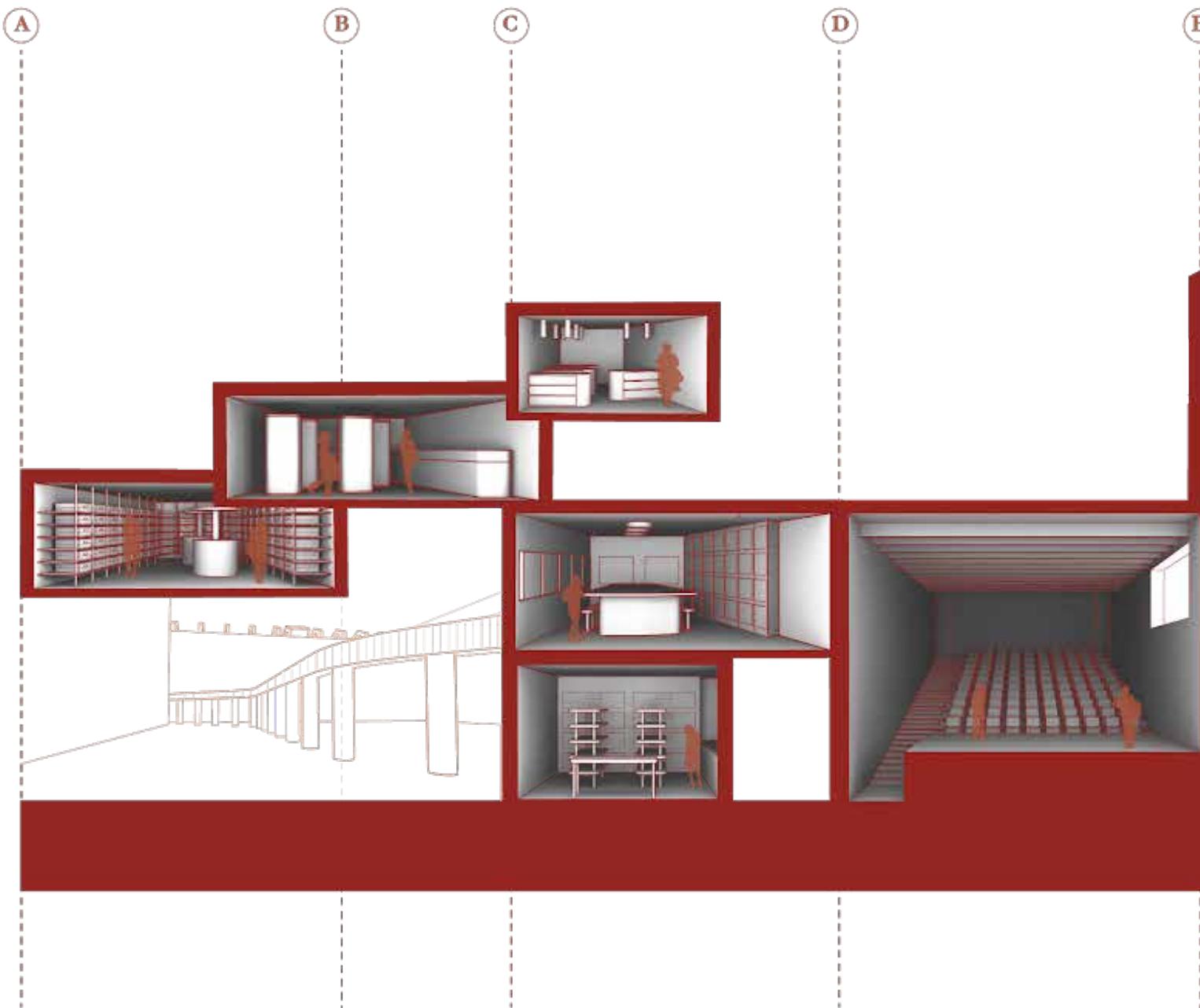


offices & conservation lab



archives & manuscripts

whole: the site



○_A ○_B ○_C ○_D

unrolled node section perspective



○_E ○_F ○_G ○_H

unrolled node section perspective



The Concourse

A Housing Project in Williamsburg, NY

This project aims to tackle the housing crisis in Williamsburg, NY. Williamsburg is a neighborhood in Brooklyn where it has been going through massive gentrification throughout the past few years. Our goal was to provide a new way of social living that promotes both affordable housing and quality living. The site is located at the current Domino park that was designed by SHoP architects where the buildings designed were out of scale compared to its surrounding context. They were able to achieve such great height through the manipulation of square footage, and at the same time respecting the FAR restrictions. A master plan was created in response to boost connectivity and accessibility to its surrounding context. Various buildings were proposed at the site such as residential, commercial and mixed use. Maximizing open and green spaces were the key consideration in the proposed masterplan. After designing the masterplan, site E was chosen to be developed further due to its complex nature. While taking the disconnect communities in apartment buildings into consideration, the projects aimed to not only reconnect the city fabric but also to build up further connections inside the housing project.

Location:

Williamsburg, New York

Year:

Fall 2018

Instructor:

Prof. Lori Brown

Group Member:

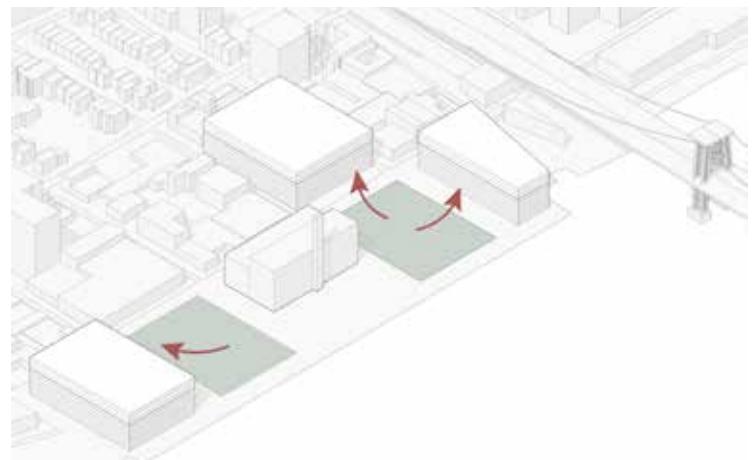
Hanzhang Lai

Exhibited:

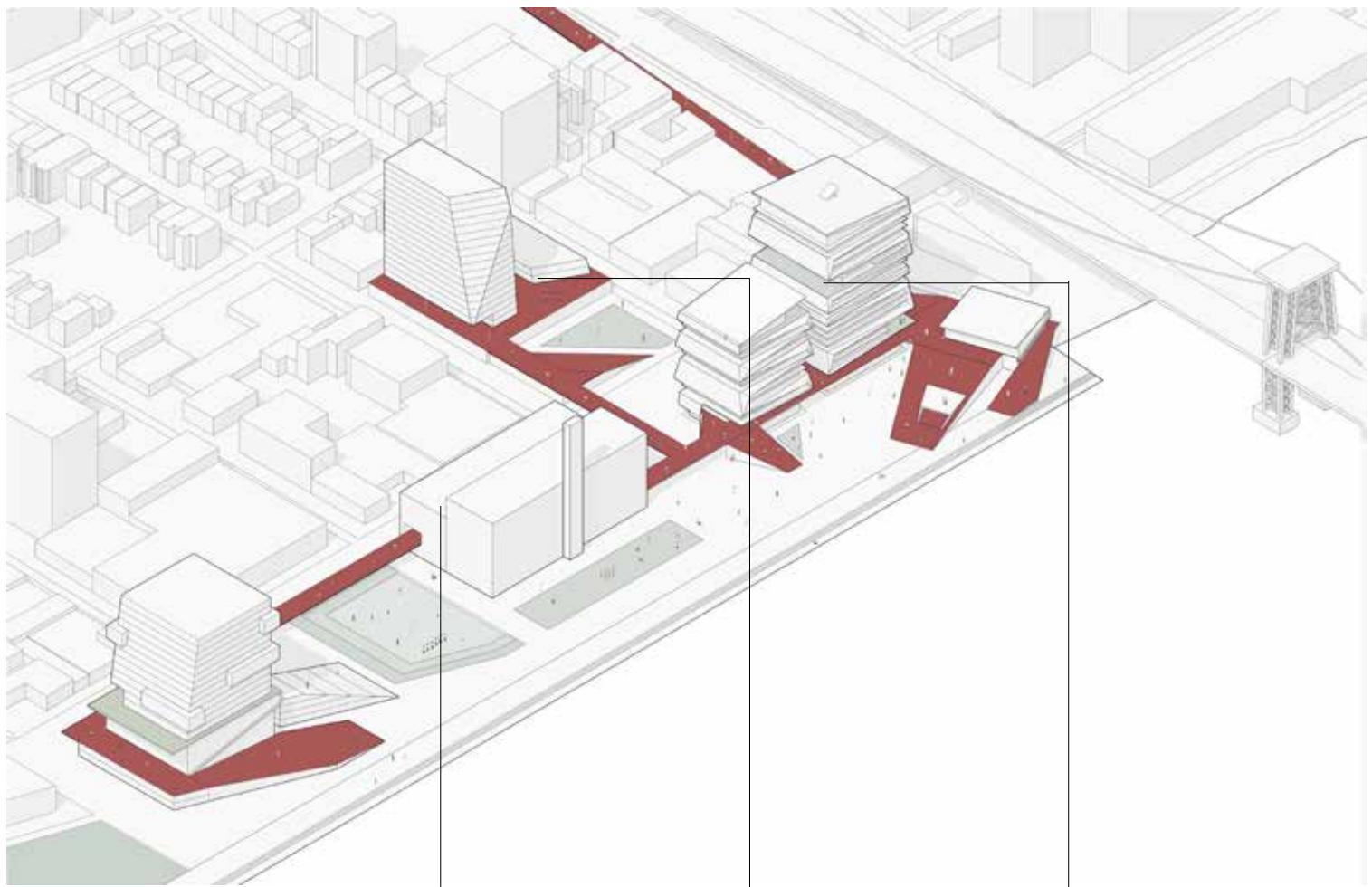
Smart Cities: Perspectives & Possibilities



Maximizing FAR



Open Spaces



site A

office
commercial
school
green space

site C

office
commercial
cultural center

site D

287,000 sqft residential
22,000 sqft commerical
51,700 sqft green space
multi-level carpark

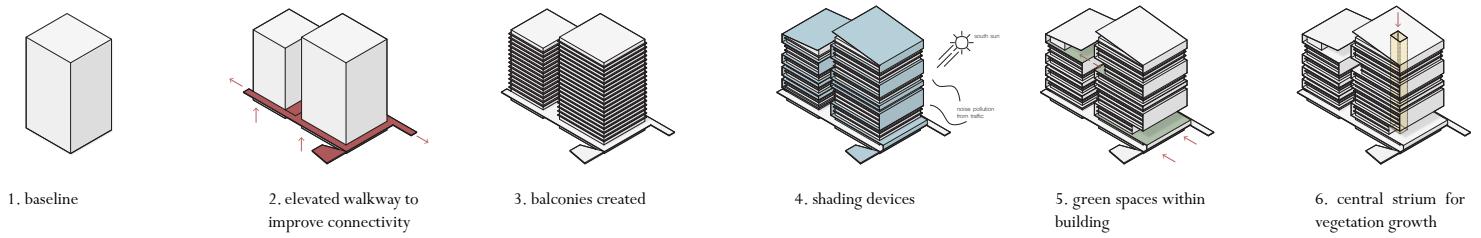
site E

415,472 sqft residential
55,000 sqft commerical
18,000 sqft green space
multi-level carpark

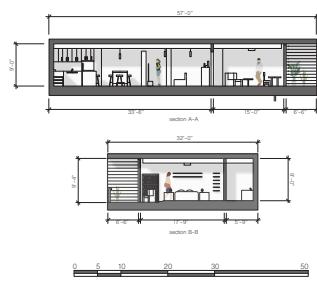
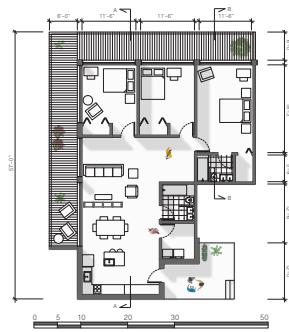
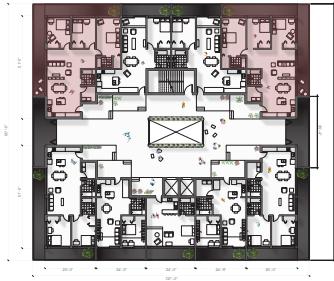
massing diagram of masterplan



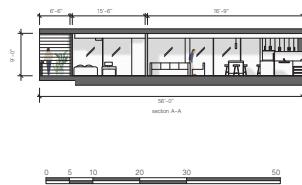
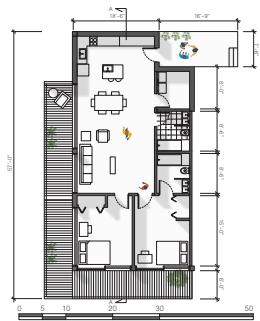
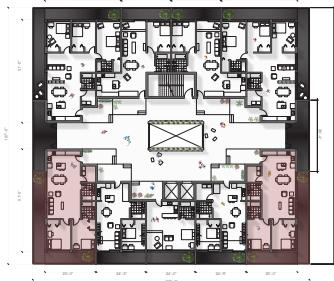
axonometric drawing showing the common space



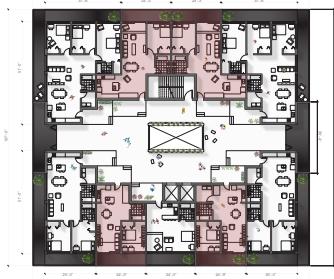
massing diagram of site E



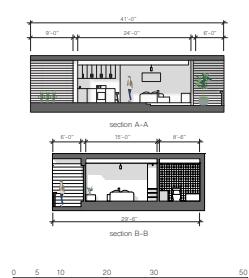
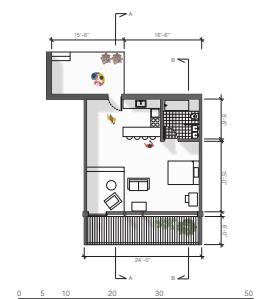
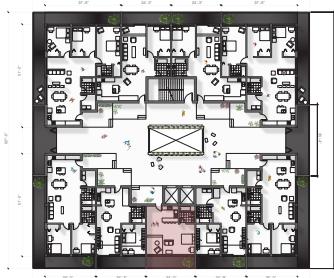
3 bedroom



2 bedroom



1 bedroom



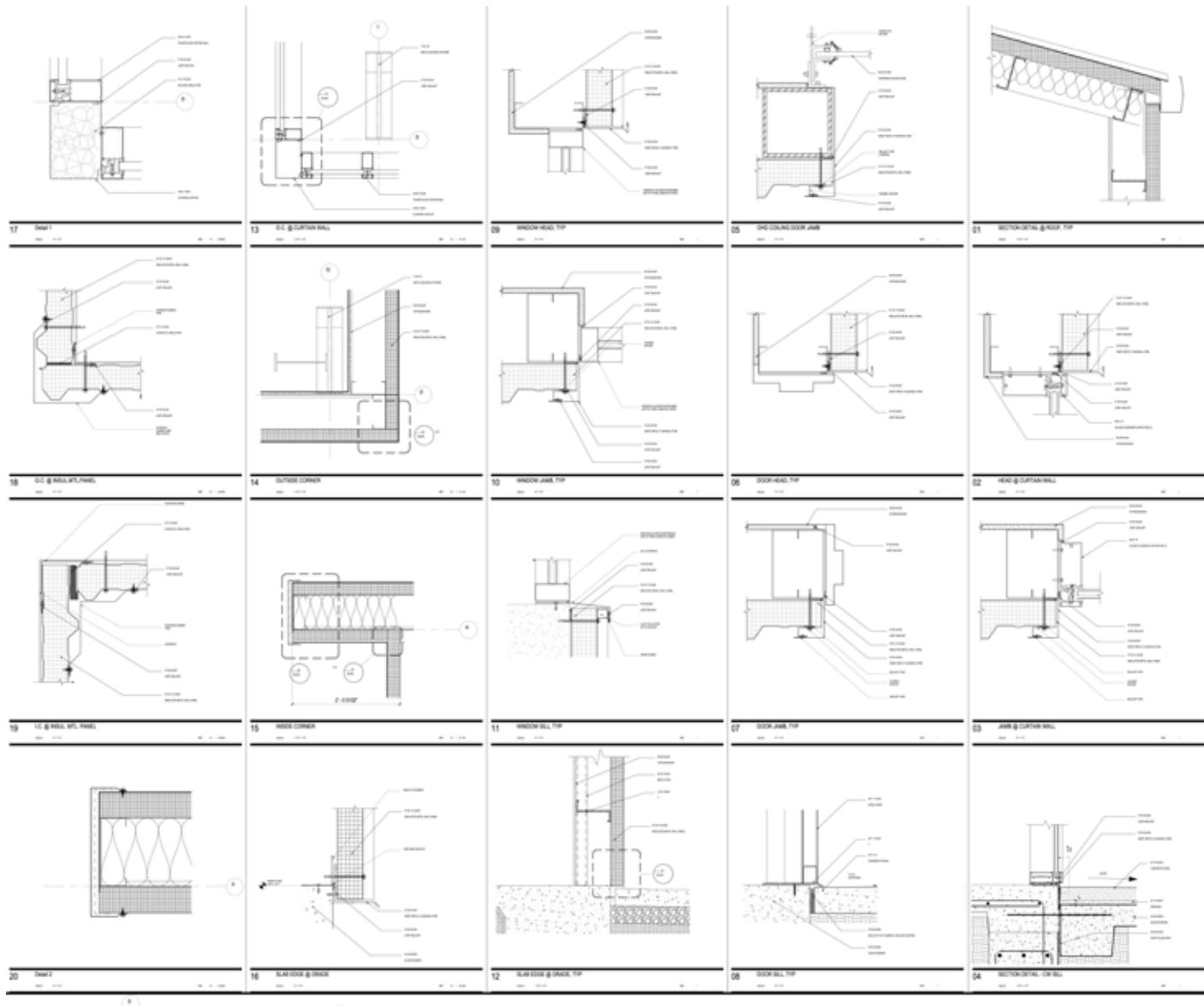
studio

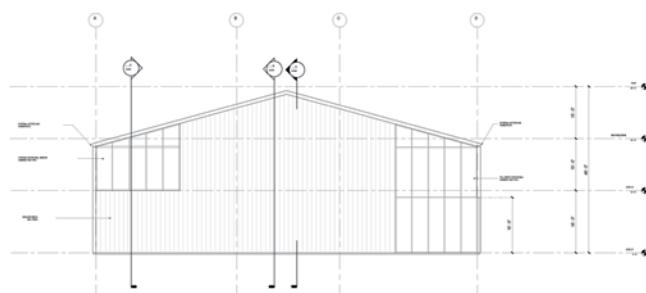
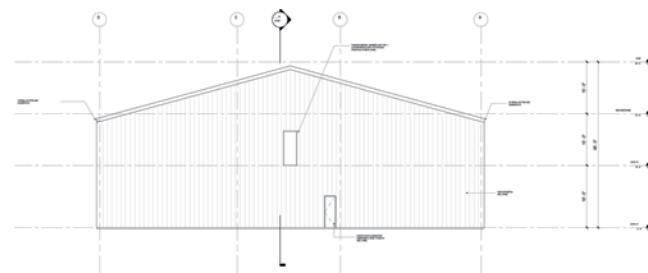
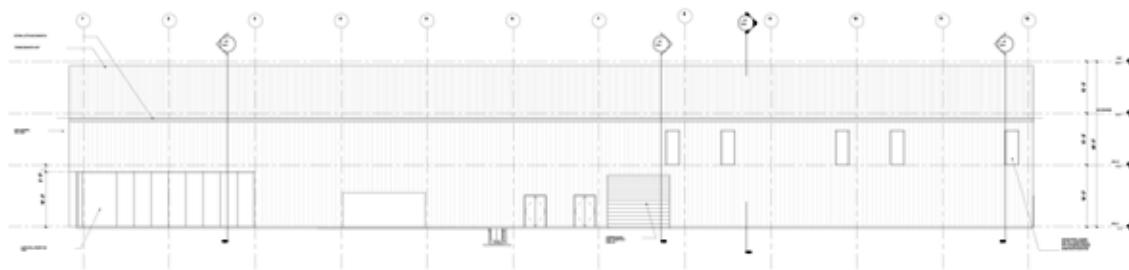
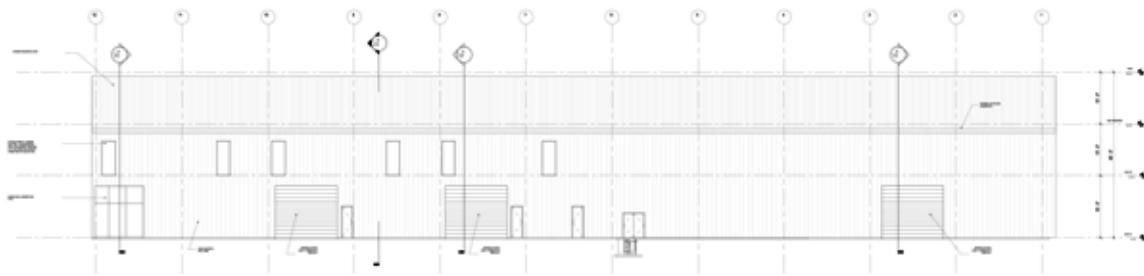
unit layout

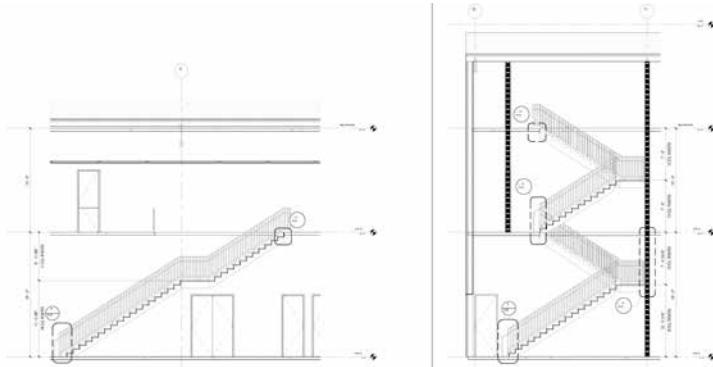
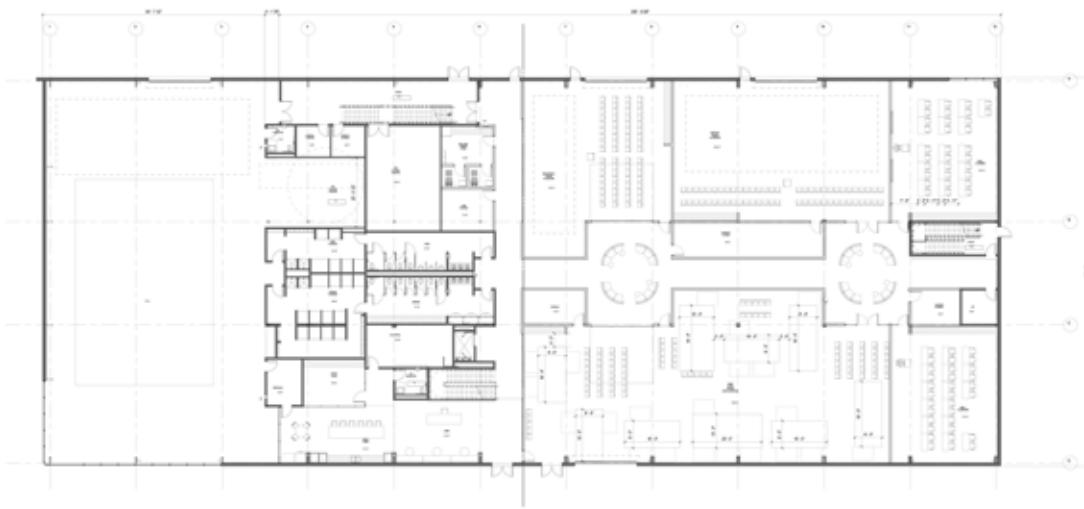


Professional + Other Works

Works shown here are a compilation of professional work from Gensler in Houston, OKS ARCHITETTI in Florence, courseworks from professional elective classes and personal photography.







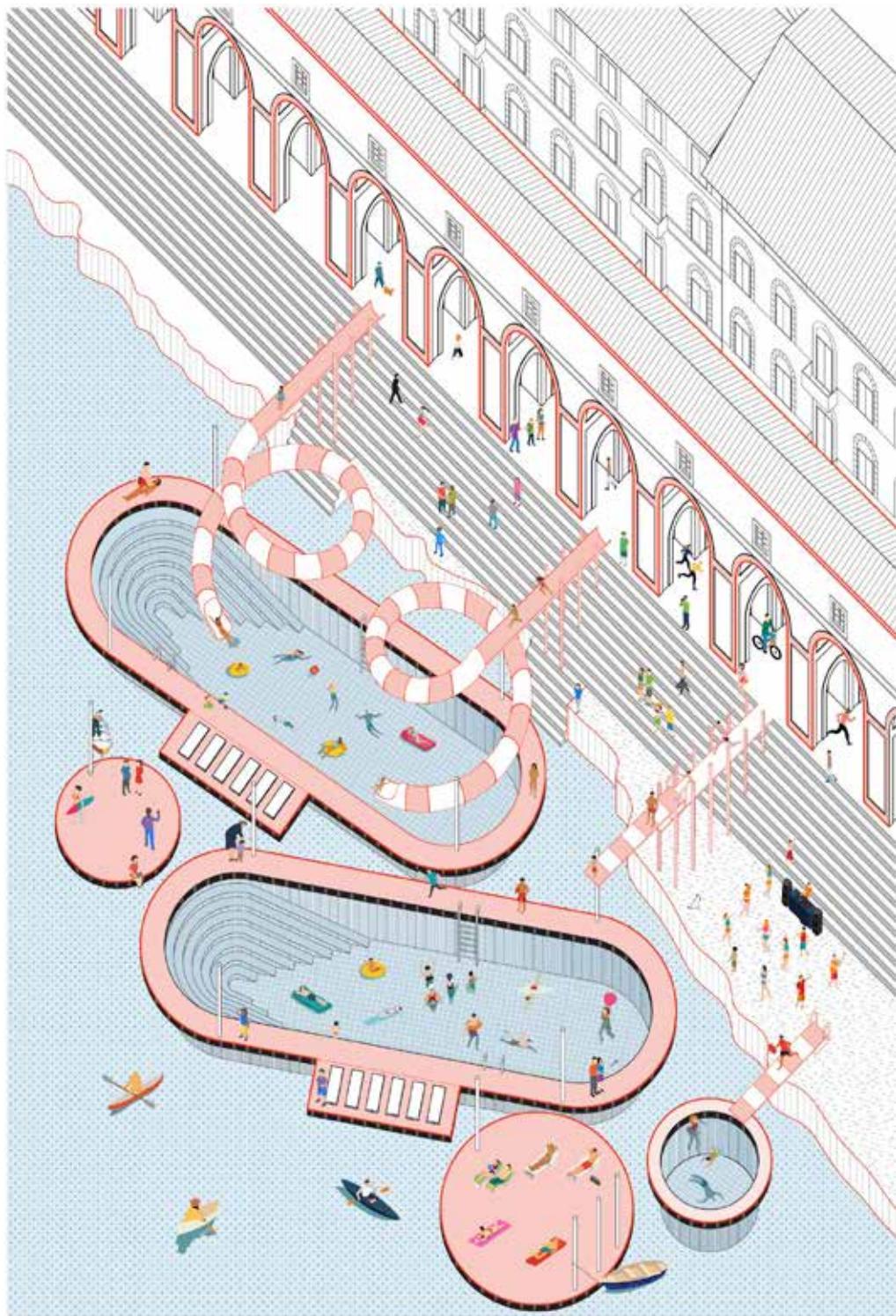
United Airlines Inflight Training Facility | Houston, TX | Gensler



Intern Project for the HAY Center | Houston, TX | Gensler

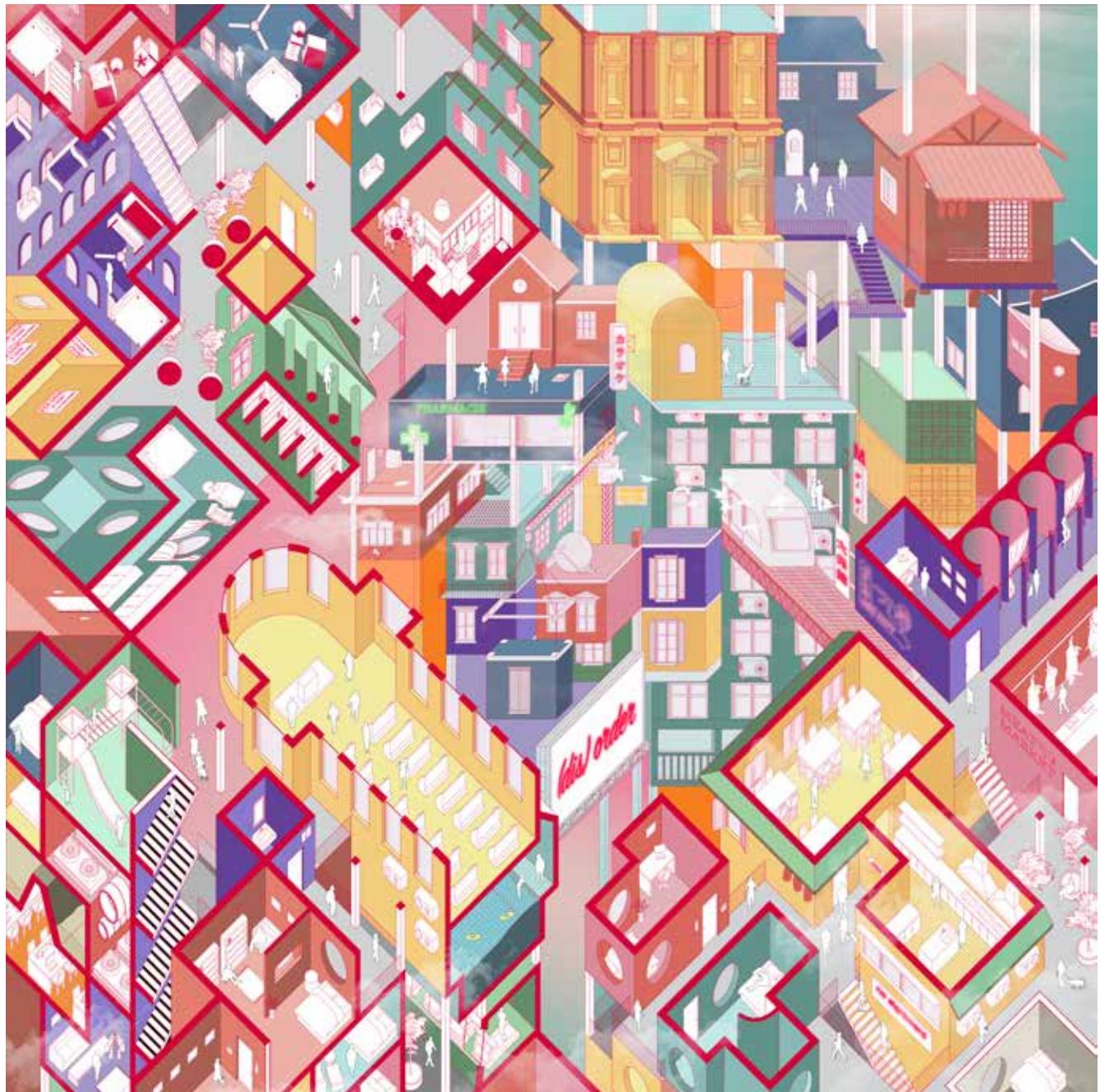


Intern Project for the HAY Center | Houston, TX | Gensler



It's Gonna Be a Little Wet, Fall 2019

Coursework for "Drawing Water" with Prof. Aurelie Frolet



The Ideal Superblock, Fall 2020

Coursework for “Cultivated Imaginaries” with Hanzhang Lai and Prof. Liang Wang

Interviewed publication with Koozarch

Archisource Drawing of the Year 2020, Finalist



Dover, UK | Spring 2019

Personal photography | Canon 600D, 18-200mm, digital



New York, NY | Fall 2020

Personal photography | Olympus OM-10, 50mm, film

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