PORTFOLIO

Melita Cekani

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EDUCATION

December 2023

Bachelor's of Architecture Technology

New York City College of Technology (CUNY)

June 2017

High School Diploma

Andrews Osborne Academy

EXPERIENCE

Mezny Group - Freelance Designer
Feb. 2023 -June 2023 | Remote

- Assisted the architect with schematic design, design development, permit documents for new construction, and renovation of small-scale residencies.
- Developed valuable time management, team collaboration, and presentation skills.

Nishan Kazazian Architecture - Intern
Summer 2022 | 150 W25th St, New York, NY 1001

- Worked closely with the architect on the creation of 3D futuristic Rhino models, based on hand drawings.

The Morgan Library and Museum - 3D Model Builder
Summer 2022 | 225 Madison Ave, New York, NY 10016

- Developed a 3D model of the museum's main symbol- the Lioness Sculpture using Blender.
- Collaborated with The Medici Company as a freelance designer.

Assembyl 3D - 3D Model Builder
Dec. 2021- Sept. 2022 175 C linton St, Staten Island, NY 10304

- Built 3D models in Rhino to be 3D printed and showcased.

NY D.O.B - Intern
Feb.-Apr. 2021 280 Broadway, New York, NY 10007

- Reviewed Zoning Laws and Civil Service Examinations.
- Gained knowledge on the D.O.B's Multifaceted work in the Public Sector.

City University of New York - Researcher
Sep. - Dec 2020 | 300 Jay St, Brooklyn, NY

- Conducted architectural and historical research on the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building of the New York Public Library in New York.
- Analyzed Sustainable Applications to be Integrated on Historical Buildings.
- Suggested improvements for the historic preservation of the building in sustainable methods.

Intermuseum Conservation Association - Intern
Apr - July 2017 | 2937 W 25th St 2nd floor, Cleveland, OH 44113

- Examined, researched, and assisted on the preservation of Langston Hughes' blanket, and other objects of value.
- Introduced to monument preservation, painting, paper and, textile conservation work.

Cultural Heritage without Borders - Intern
Sep. 2015 - June 2016 | Kulturarv utan Gränser, Box 12328, 102 28 Stockholm

- Conducted Precedent Research and Field Condition Analysis.
- Created Structural Documentation.
- Reviewed Building Materials.
- Worked in teams with interns, professors, and architects of international backgrounds.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- **Cekani Art LLC - Founder**
  Oct. 2021- Present Staten Island, NY
- **Mt. Loretto Friendship Club - Teaching Artist**
  June 2022- Present 6581 Hylan Blvd, Staten Island, NY 10309
- **SMB Studio Arts - Teaching Artist**
  Aug 2022- Present 3777 Richmond Ave, Staten Island, NY 10312
- **Sundog Theatre - Teaching Artist**
  Sept. 2021- Present Multiple locations, Staten Island, NY
- **Kinetik Art Gallery- Art Director**
  Feb 2021-Jan. 2022 - 15B Richmond Terrace Space, Staten Island, NY 10301

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- William Berensmann Architecture Study Abroad Fund Scholarship- Summer 2023.
- Staten Island Arts 2023 SU-CASA Grant Recipient.
- Staten Island Arts 2022 Grant Recipient.
- The Architectural Imagination, a course study by Harvard.
- National Recognition in the 2D3D National Art+Design Competition by Cleveland Institute of Art.
- The National Society of Collegiate Scholars certification of membership.
- Honors Scholar at NYCCT (CUNY).
- NYCCT Dean's Honor List Certificate, Fall 2021 and Spring 2022.
- Artist Residency by West Harlem Art Fund at the Governor's Island.
- Public Relation Director- VIPAA (The Voice of International Professional Art Association).

SKILLS

- Architectural Building Information Modeling (BIM), 3D modeling, rendering/ visualization, physical modeling, laser cutting, detailing.
- Website design and development.
- Organizational and live presentation skills.
- Architecture Site Plan Rendering using Adobe Illustrator.
- Site planning, public spaces design, landscape architecture.
- Live drawing and painting in a tight timely limit.
- Team work, communication, deadline driven

SOFTWARES

3D
- Autodesk Revit
- Rhino
- Blender
- Lumion
- VRay
- Enscape

2D
- Autodesk AutoCad
- Adobe Photoshop
- Adobe Illustrator
- Adobe Lightroom
- Adobe Indesign
- Microsoft office

CONTACT

Phone:
+1 (347) 520 7093

Address:
377 Naughton Av, Staten Island, NY 10305

Email:
melitacekani98@gmail.com

Website:
https://www.melitasgallery.com/

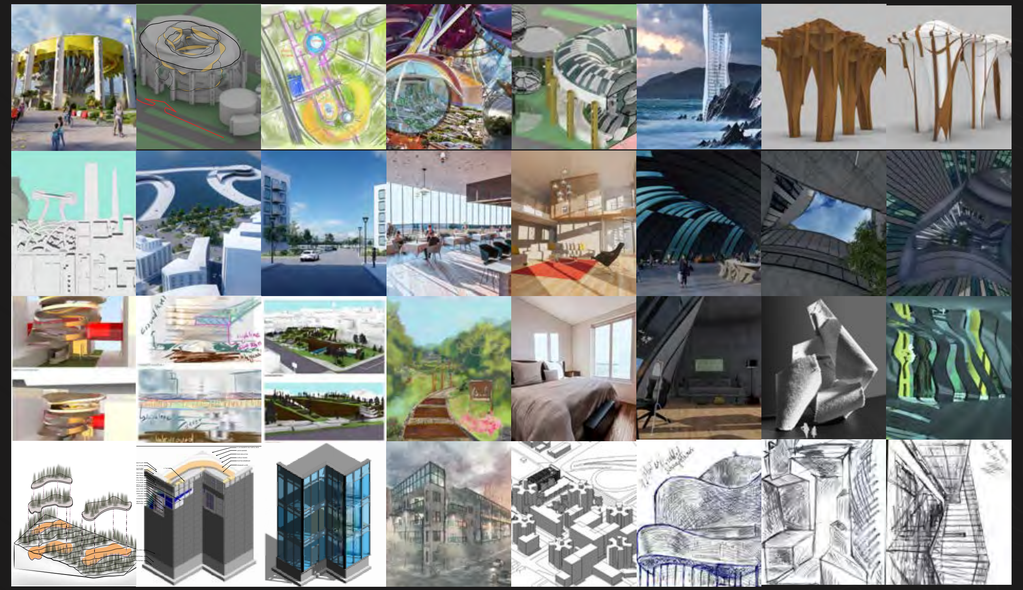
References:

Steven Buniccelli- CEO at SMB Studio Arts
718-984-5700
smbstudioarts@verizon.net

Victoria Beddoe Colella- Sundog Theatre Arts In Education Manager
victoria@sundogtheatre.org

Christopher Mancia- Supervisor at Mezny Group
cmancia@manciadesigncollaborative.com

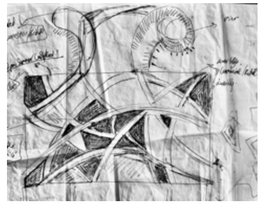
CONTENTS



Melita Cekani_ **Portfolio**

The Other Side of NY

43rd St, Sunset Park, Brooklyn, NY



Sunset Park, a bustling Brooklyn neighborhood, has significant untapped potential. Initially, the project's primary focus was the revitalization of 41st Street, the crucial link between Sunset Park and the waterfront.

Currently, 41st Street presents an industrial, enclosed, and unclean appearance, creating a perception of insecurity for pedestrians. This problem is exacerbated by the additional noise pollution generated by the Gowanus Expressway and the overhead train tracks near the intersection of 41st Street and 3rd Avenue.

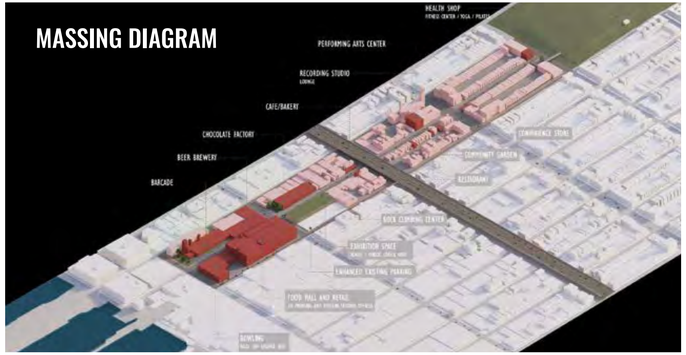
Melita Cekani_ **Portfolio**

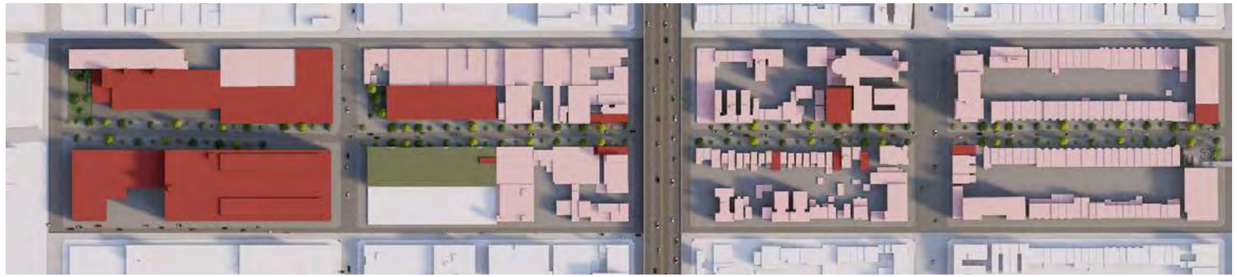
ZONING MAP

- RESIDENTIAL
- MIXED USE
- COMMERCIAL
- INSTITUTIONAL
- MANUFACTURING
- OPEN SPACES
- PARKING
- VACANT LOTS

EXISTING

PROPOSED





Melita Cekani_ **Portfolio**

9 The Other Side of New York- **FRONT ELEVATION**

The Other Side of NY

43rd St, Sunset Park, Brooklyn, NY

The overall design of the plan was primarily influenced by the goal of establishing a direct and substantial connection between the site and the existing streets and neighborhood circulation. This approach was initiated with a strong emphasis on the street grid, making it the top priority.

In the initial sketch, you can see how the existing grid seamlessly integrates with new open pathways, providing a natural and uninterrupted flow leading to the site. Following this, the building's massing was designed to complement and enhance this connection.

Furthermore, the internal grid within the site takes into careful consideration the existing topography of the natural environment, ensuring a harmonious continuation of the same design language. This approach not only preserves the site's natural feel but also pays homage to its historical significance.

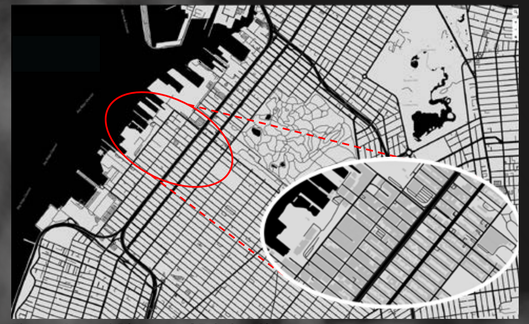
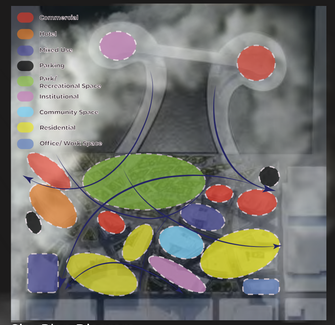
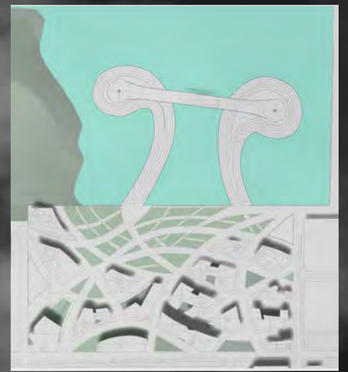


Figure-Ground Diagram of Existing Site

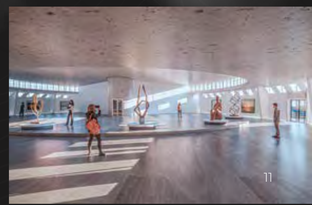


Site Plan Diagram

Stacking Diagram



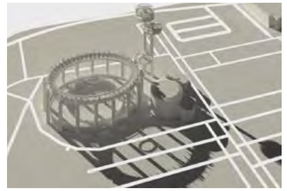
Site Plan



Melita Cekani_ **Portfolio**

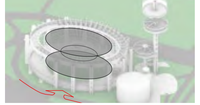
NYS Pavilion-Adaptive Reuse

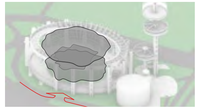
Flushing, Queens, NY

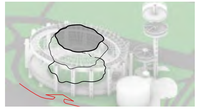


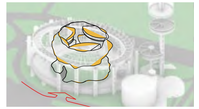
The building in Flushing Meadows, Queens, was crafted by the renowned architect Philip Johnson. This Pavilion is an impressive architectural feat, composed of concrete and steel, and it encompasses a theater, three observation towers, and a soaring 100-foot open-air elliptical ring. Despite its current state of disrepair, the Pavilion continues to stand as a prominent feature within Queens' vast 1,255-acre urban landscape, the largest green space in the borough. While the city owns the Pavilion, the Parks Department oversees it. The structure remains structurally sound, but it urgently requires essential repairs and restoration efforts.

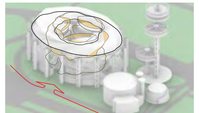
As a designer, my task involved breathing new life into the abandoned structure and conceiving a boutique hotel that would not only rejuvenate the area but also cater to the local community.

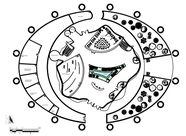




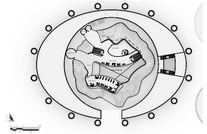




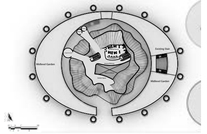




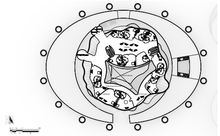
Ground Floor Plan



Second Floor Plan



Third Floor Plan



Fourth Floor Plan

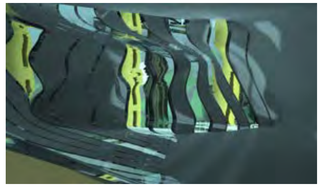
Fifth Floor Plan

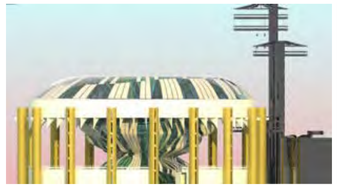
Sixth Floor Plan

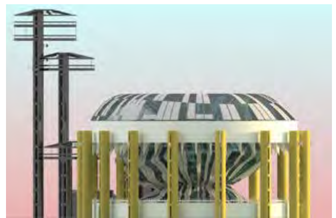
Facade Material

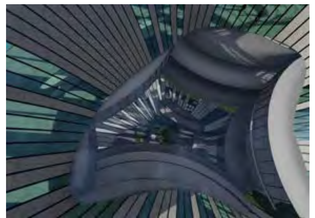
Facade + Interior Massing

Top View of Model on Site







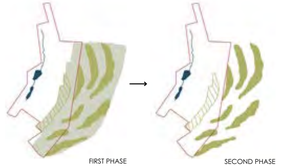


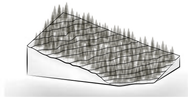
Shifting Nature

Troisvierges Park, Luxembourg

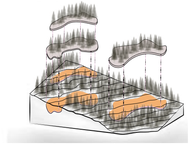
To address the challenge posed by the current climate, we've noticed a decline in spruce trees. Given that spruces, oaks, and beeches dominate Luxembourg's tree population, it's crucial to enhance diversity. One viable solution is to introduce resistant tree species, including those native to Mediterranean regions.

The expansive space is dedicated to promoting biodiversity. It provides a thriving habitat for bees, insects, and other wildlife, while adventurous individuals can discover hidden paths for exploration. This transformation brings the Sleeping Giant to life with a vibrant display of flowers and natural activity.

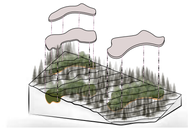




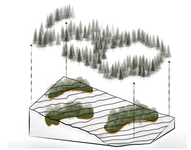
Existing Spruce Forest



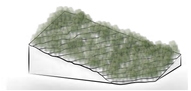
Tree Patch Extraction



New Tree Plantation



Existing Spruce Extraction



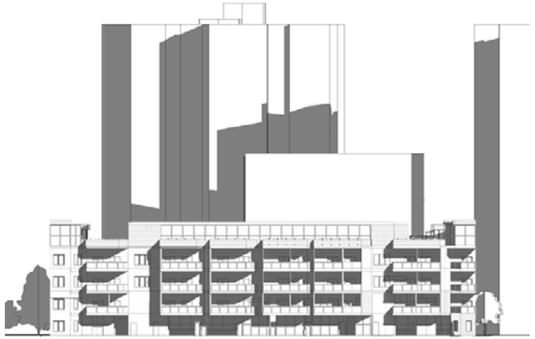
Renewal Transformation

Affordable Housing

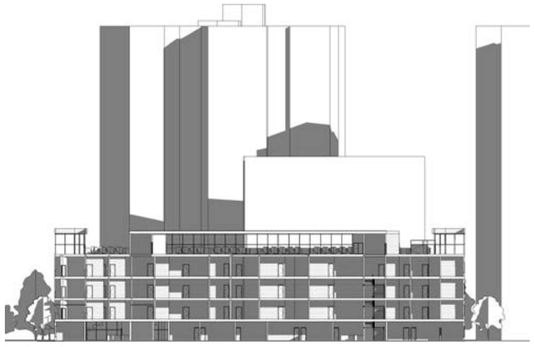
NYCHA Towers, Brooklyn, NY

The project's primary objective was the revitalization of the NYCHA Towers in downtown Brooklyn. The overarching goal was to introduce a contemporary design that would enhance the quality of life for low-income NYCHA residents. To achieve this, the project entailed not only renovating the existing towers but also adding new buildings adjacent to them.

This approach offered residents the option of relocating to newer structures while the reconstruction and refurbishment of the older towers took place.
A significant aspect of the site was the vast, unused green space that had thus far gone to waste. This empty expanse not only remained unused but also acted as a barrier, disconnecting the NYCHA blocks from the surrounding neighborhood. It increased walking distances and diminished the pedestrian-friendliness of the area.



South Elevation



South Section

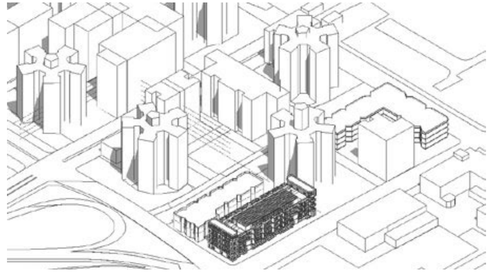
Legend

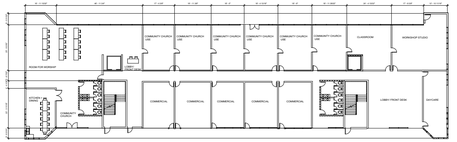
- 1 & 2 Family Residential
- Multi-family Residential
- Mixed use
- Open Space & Outdoor
- Commercial
- Institutions
- Industrial
- Parking
- Transportation / Utility
- Vacant Lots

Legend

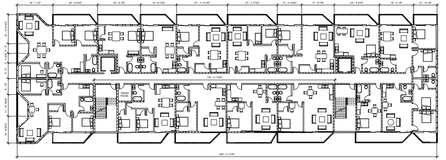
- Site
- Parks & Open Spaces
- Schools
- Churches
- Pharmacies & Grocery

Consequently, the proposal included the addition of two builings to the larger block and one building to the smaller block. This initiative aimed to maximize the underutilized space, fostering community connectivity and improving the overall living conditions for NYCHA residents.

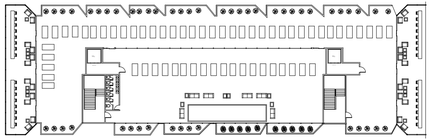




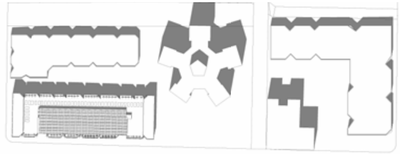
Ground Floor Plan



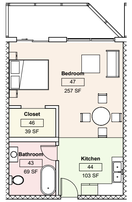
Typical Floor Plan



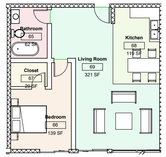
Roof Floor Plan



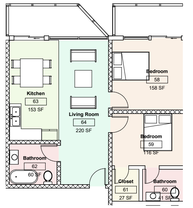
Block 90 Top View



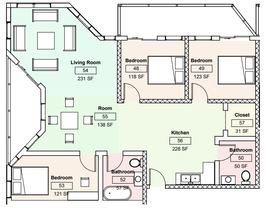
Studio



One-Bedroom Apt.

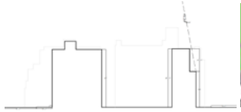


Two-Bedroom Apt.



Three-Bedroom Apt.

Zoning Text: 237 NASSAU STREET, 11201
Borough: Brooklyn
Block: 90 Lot: 1
Dimensions: 396*209
Area: 82,930 sq ft
Zoning District: R6
FAR: 2.43
OSR: 31.0
Street Wall Min Height: 30'
Max Height: 97'
Setback for Narrow Street: 20'
Wide Street: 30'
Maximim Height: 97'

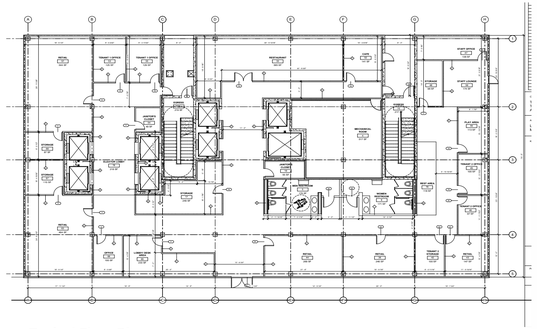


1 John St

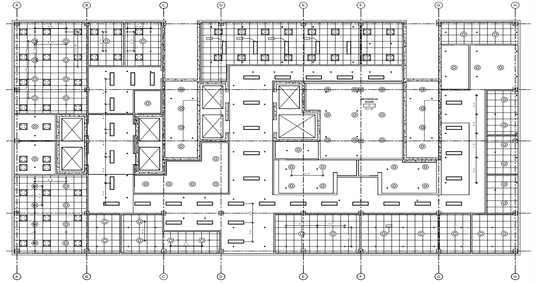
Brooklyn, NY.

The ultimate objective of this project was to develop a custom glass fin system. To achieve this, I employed case study research methods to examine various factors impacting building construction and utilization. These factors encompassed building assemblies and systems, governmental codes and regulations, human ergonomics, and sustainability considerations. The solutions derived from these analyses were seamlessly integrated into the final building design solutions.

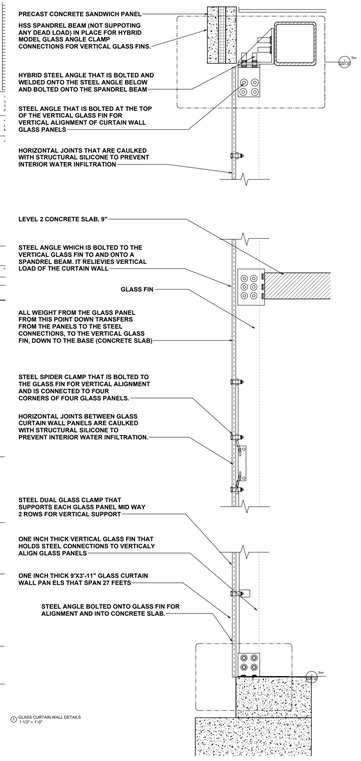
Throughout the project, I generated a series of reports and a comprehensive set of construction drawings. These drawings were produced using a combination of traditional analog methods such as hand sketching and drawing, along with modern digital tools including CAD software and BIM (Building Information Modeling) techniques.



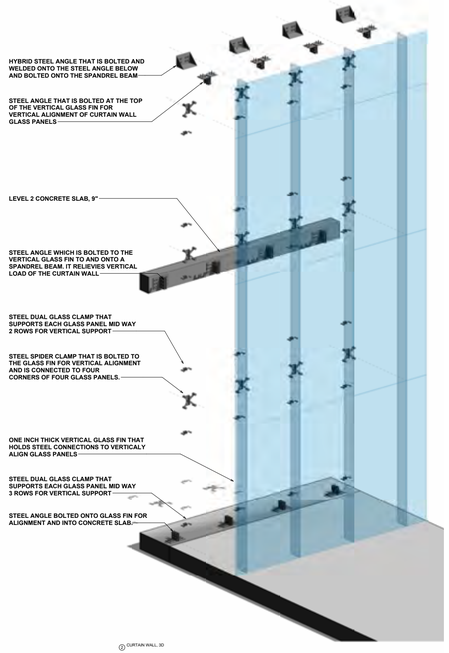
Typical Floor Plan



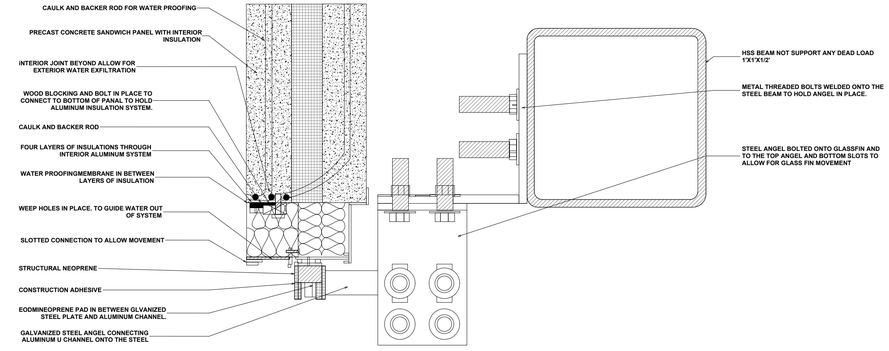
Reflected Ceiling Plan



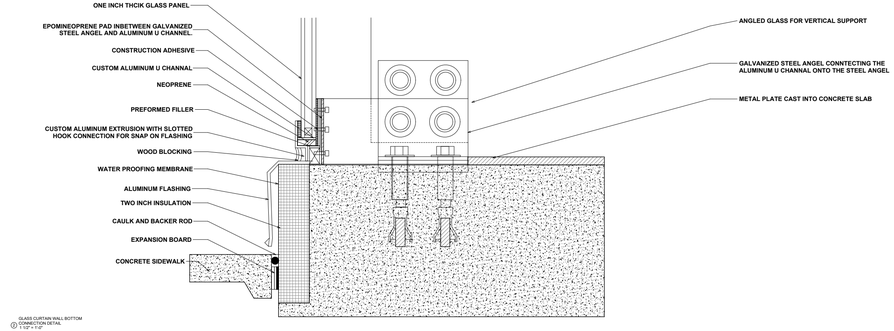
1 GLASS CURTAIN WALL DETAILS
1 1/2" = 1'-0"



2 CURTAIN WALL 3D



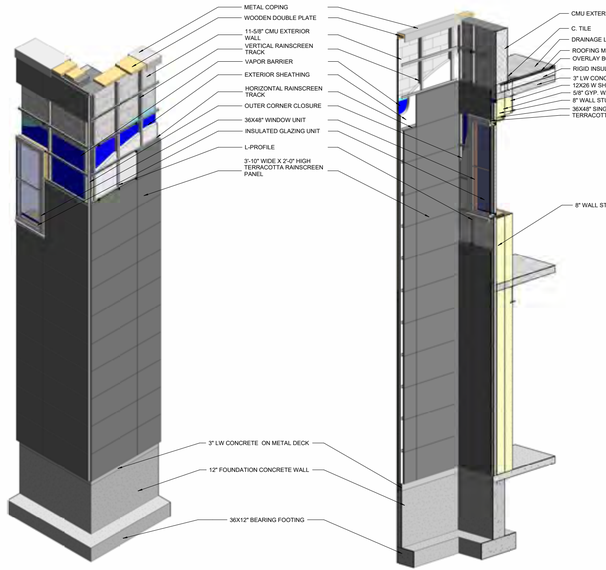
3 GLASS CURTAIN WALL TOP CONNECTION DETAIL
1 1/2" = 1'-0"



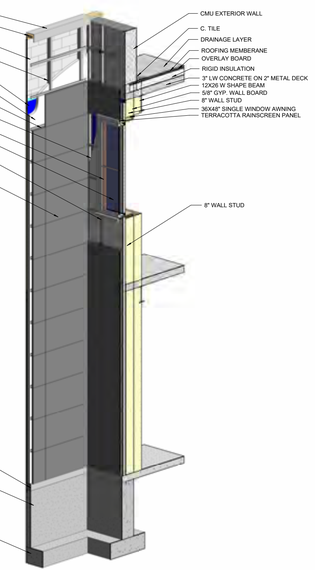
4 GLASS CURTAIN WALL BOTTOM CONNECTION DETAIL
1 1/2" = 1'-0"

Melita Cekani_ **Portfolio**

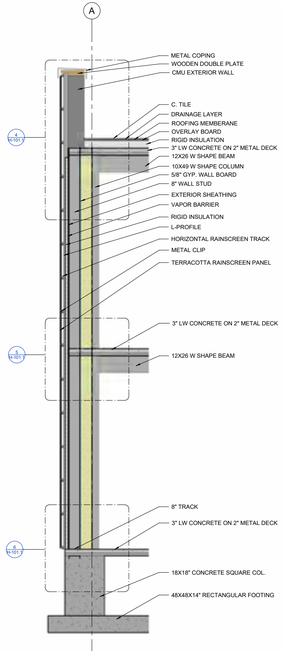
Facade Detailing (BIM) - Revit



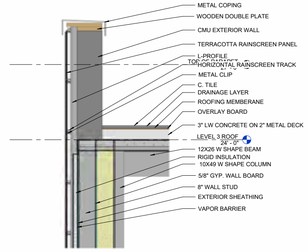
1 OPAQUE WALL AXONOMETRIC DETAIL



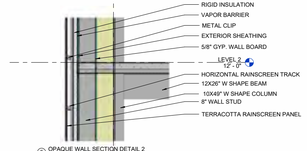
2 OPAQUE WALL AXONOMETRIC SECTION



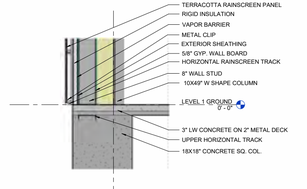
3 OPAQUE WALL FULL SECTION
1/2" = 1'-0"



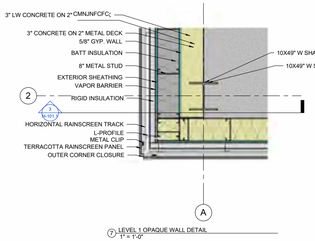
4 OPAQUE WALL SECTION DETAIL 1
3/4" = 1'-0"



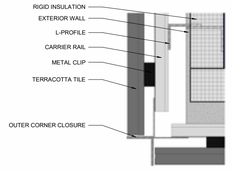
5 OPAQUE WALL SECTION DETAIL 2
3/4" = 1'-0"



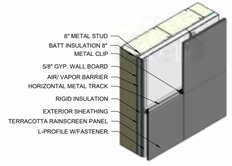
6 OPAQUE WALL SECTION DETAIL 3
3/4" = 1'-0"



7 LEVEL 1 OPAQUE WALL DETAIL
1" = 1'-0"

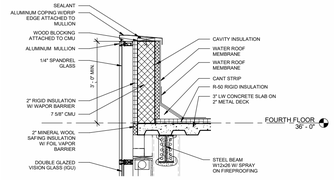


8 LEVEL 1 OPAQUE CORNER DETAIL
6" = 1'-0"

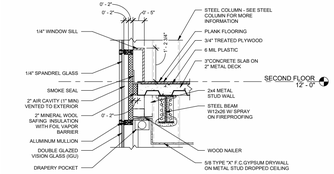


TERRACOTTA PANEL AXON SECTION DETAIL

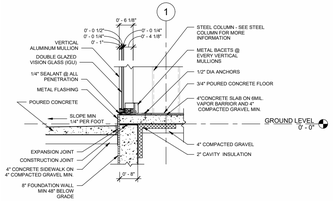
9



4 PARAPET DETAIL
3/4" = 1'-0"



5 TYPICAL FLOOR SLAB EDGE DETAIL
3/4" = 1'-0"



6 BASE DETAIL CONNECTION TO SLAB
3/4" = 1'-0"