

Portfolio
Mel Evans



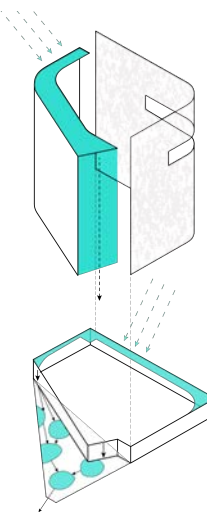
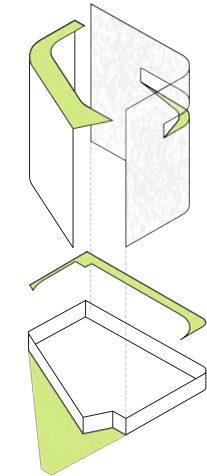
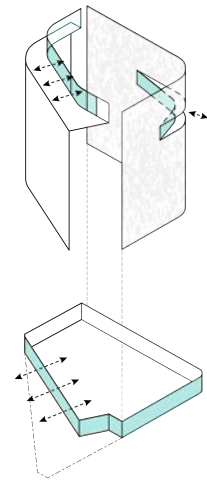
SLU Life Sciences Tower
Seattle, WA
2023

Type of Work: Professional, Team
Firm: Perkins & Will

This 15-story life sciences building in the rapidly evolving South Lake Union neighborhood integrates itself into the area with extensive public space, retail and a restaurant on the first floor, managing to feel like part of the community despite being a private workspace. There are several beautiful amenity spaces throughout, including a two-story cutout on the 11th floor that is surrounded by an opulent event space, and a lounge and spa on the roof. I was able to have significant input on both interior and exterior design, and acted primarily in production, coordination with consultants and the city, and logistical solutions. This project is currently in design development.



exterior rendering - northeast



exterior rendering - east



floor plan - level 11



exterior rendering - rooftop terrace



interior rendering - 11th floor lounge & terrace



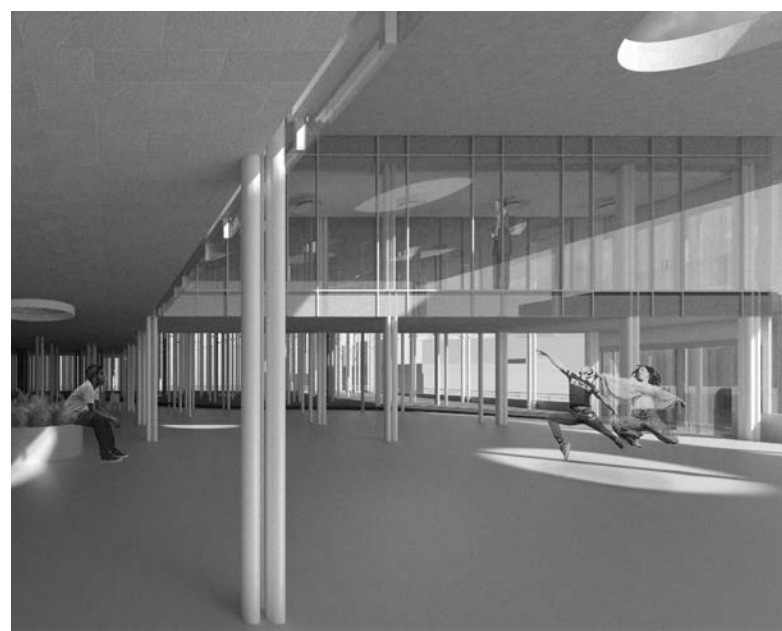
exterior rendering - sidewalk & entry

Four Elements Workspace New Orleans, LA 2021

Type of Work: Academic, Solo

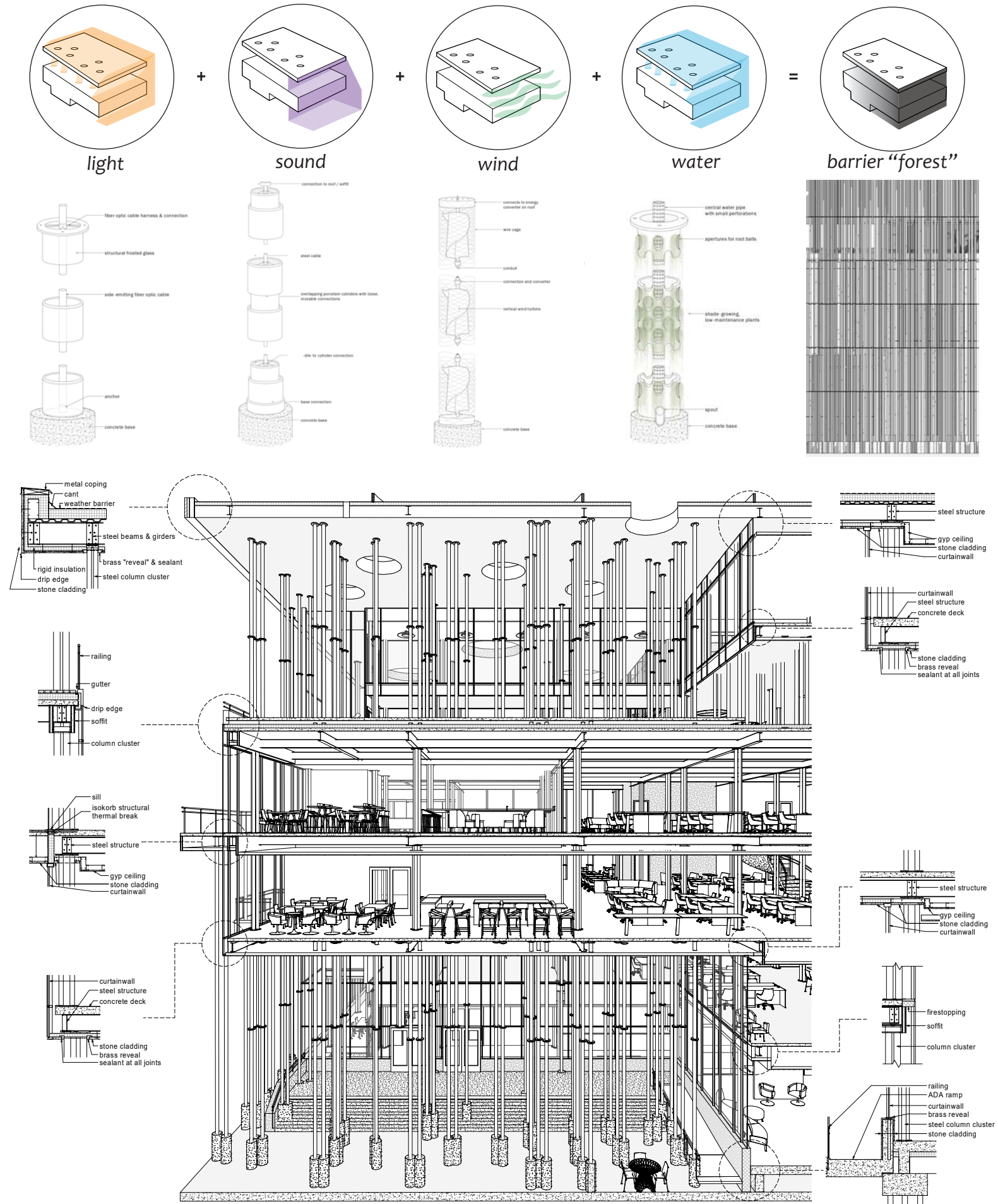
Our challenge was to design a headquarters for Prospect New Orleans, a local arts organization. In visiting the site, I was most struck by the strong presence of four elements: intense sunlight, heavy rainfall, strong winds and constant noise. All of these elements were predominantly focused on the south side.

Taking inspiration from a forest, I utilized the classically architectural forms of the horizontal plane and the vertical column to create a sculptural form that responds directly to these four elements while also utilizing them to a more thoughtful end. The columns as a whole work to mitigate these site elements, while each individual column utilizes one of the elements, with some providing light, a gentle chiming sound, collecting energy with a vertical turbine, and draining roof water while feeding plants.



exterior rendering from southwest

exterior renderings



section perspective with details

Albert & Tina Small Center Fellowship
New Orleans, LA
2021

Type of Work: Professional
Collaborators: Kelsie Donovan, Olivia Foster, Seth Laskin, Sam Lindley, Jericho Road, Operation Restoration

Jericho Road Homebase:
A community-based non-profit construction company wanted to utilize an existing but abandoned urban citrus orchard as their homebase. The project needed to be considerate of neighbors, while providing both an outdoor community event space and a construction homebase for their staff. They wanted to use their existing shipping containers and add a workshop space that could be easily constructed by themselves.

Operation Restoration:
A local organization, Operation Restoration, reached out to the Small Center about this unique visioning project. Their work involved teaching previously or currently incarcerated women the job skills to become lab assistants. We created several potential layouts dependent on their future vehicle, and designed for training multiple students while keeping the space comforting and welcoming. The mobility of the van allowed the organization to bring it to multiple locations that didn't have the equipment or layout required.

Jericho Road Homebase



section through workshop



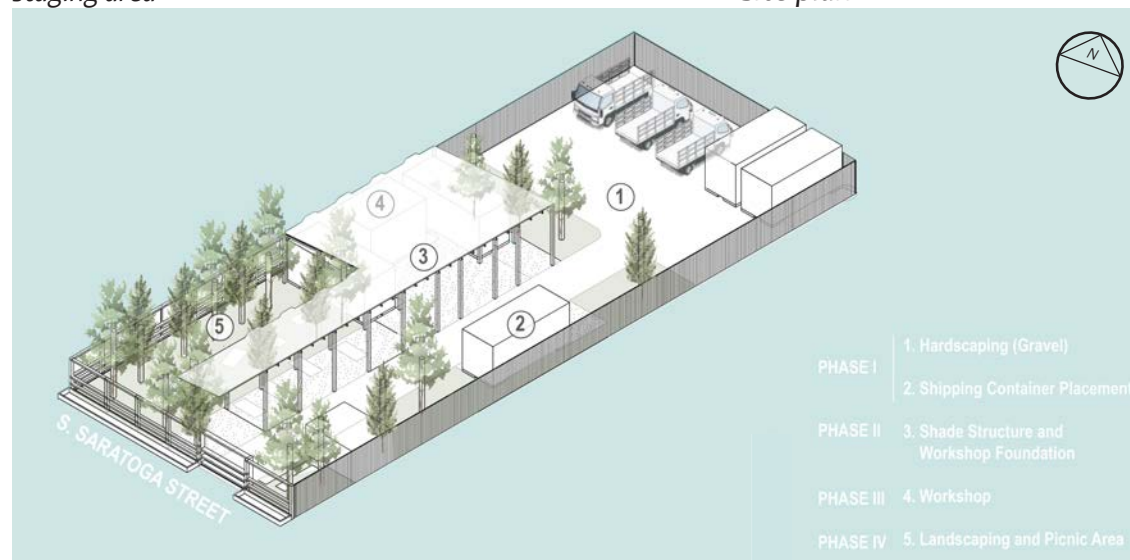
picnic area



staging area



site plan



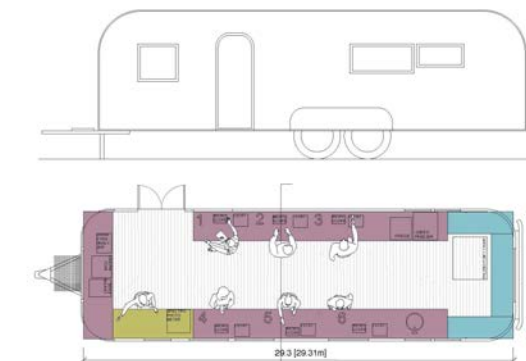
phasing axon

- PHASE I 1. Hardscaping (Gravel)
- PHASE II 2. Shipping Container Placement
- PHASE III 3. Shade Structure and Workshop Foundation
- PHASE IV 4. Workshop
- PHASE V 5. Landscaping and Picnic Area

Operation Restoration Mobile Teaching Lab



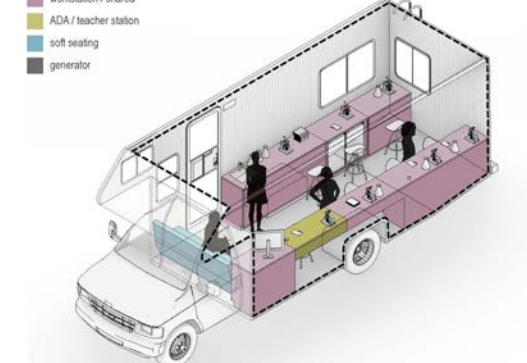
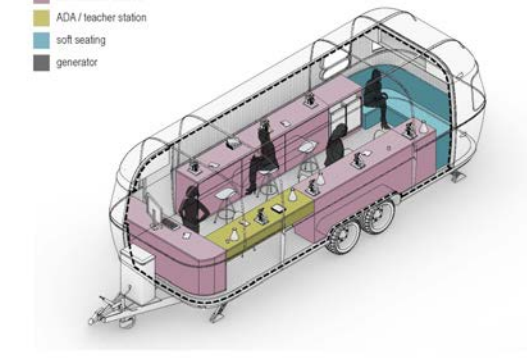
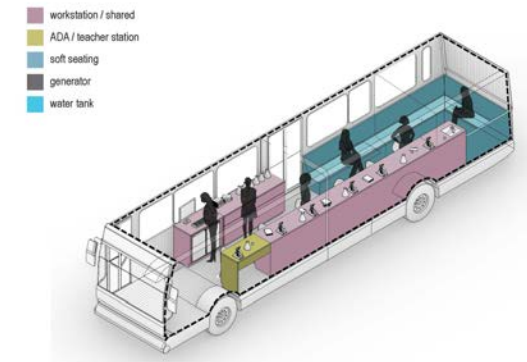
transit bus
potential price: \$10,000-\$40,000
estimated square feet: ~293 sq ft
gas mileage: 3 mpg (gas) or 6 mpg (diesel)
benefits:
- comfortable ceiling height, spacious
- comes w/ a wheelchair lift or ramp
- large, expansive windows
potential issues:
- large vehicle
- may require a CDL if over 26k lbs.



airstream
potential price: \$25,000-\$150,000
estimated square feet: ~252 sq ft
gas mileage: reliant on tow vehicle
benefits:
- comfortable ceiling height
- comes w/ some plumbing, electrical
- easier to replace tow vehicle in future
potential issues:
- requires tow vehicle
- weight restrictions due to lightweight frame



R.V.
potential price: \$20,000-\$175,000
estimated square feet: ~189 sq ft
gas mileage: 6-10 mpg (gas) or 8-14 mpg (diesel)
benefits:
- comfortable ceiling height, windows
- comes w/ plumbing, electrical
- no CDL required
potential issues:
- large vehicle
- size & cost vary widely



- workstation / shared
- ADA / teacher station
- soft seating
- generator
- water tank

- workstation / shared
- ADA / teacher station
- soft seating
- generator

- workstation / shared
- ADA / teacher station
- soft seating
- generator

Triangle Pub Building Seattle, WA 2023-2024



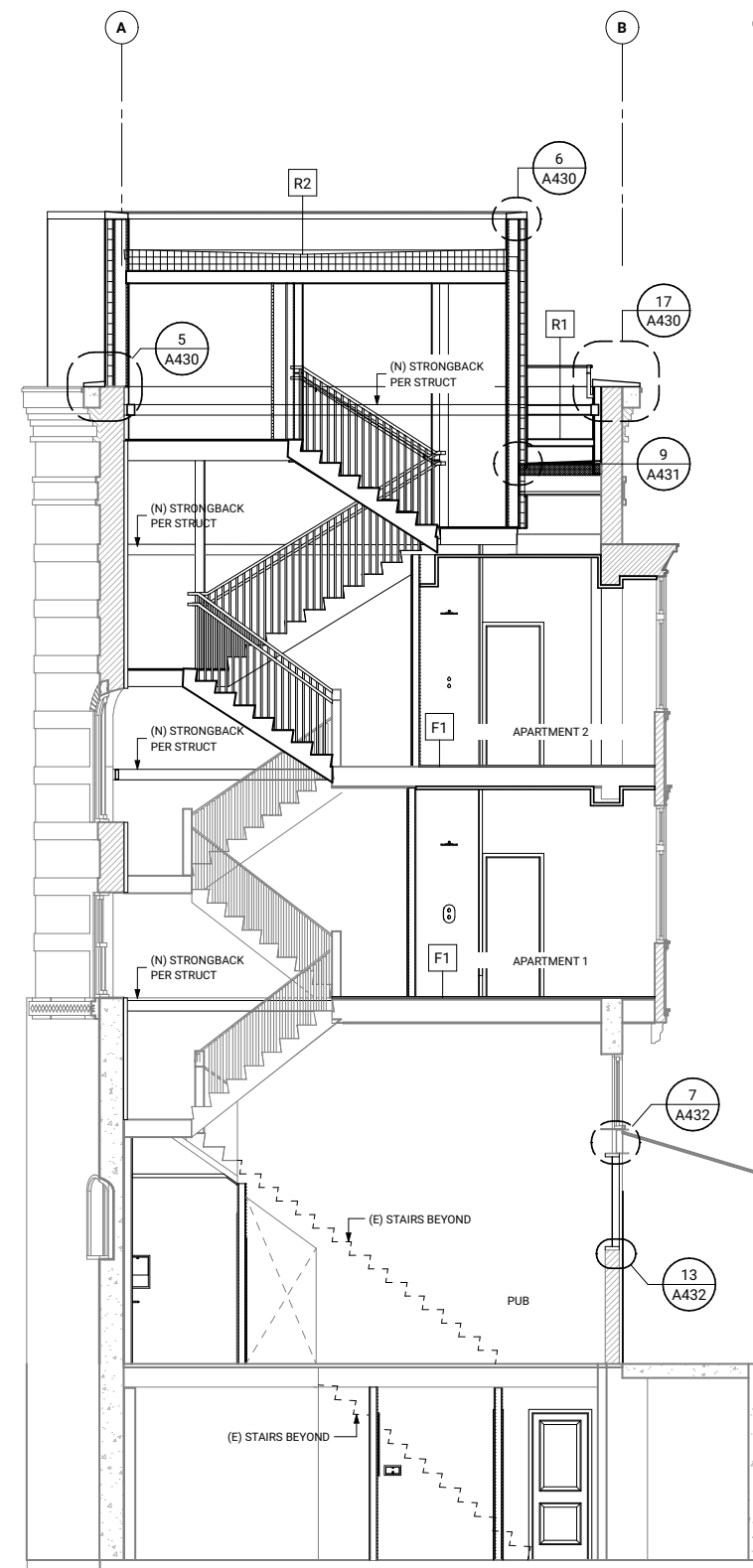
Type of Work: Professional
Firm: BuildingWork

This historic building has long been a beloved pub & hotel, but had fallen into disrepair for around five years. In addition to upgrading and preserving the whole building, we worked with a structural engineer to seismically reinforce the masonry construction and add a rooftop stair enclosure for a new roof deck. The ground floor triptych windows surrounding the pub were replaced with sliding wood windows to allow the space to open up to the patio and the newly completed pedestrian street on the other side.

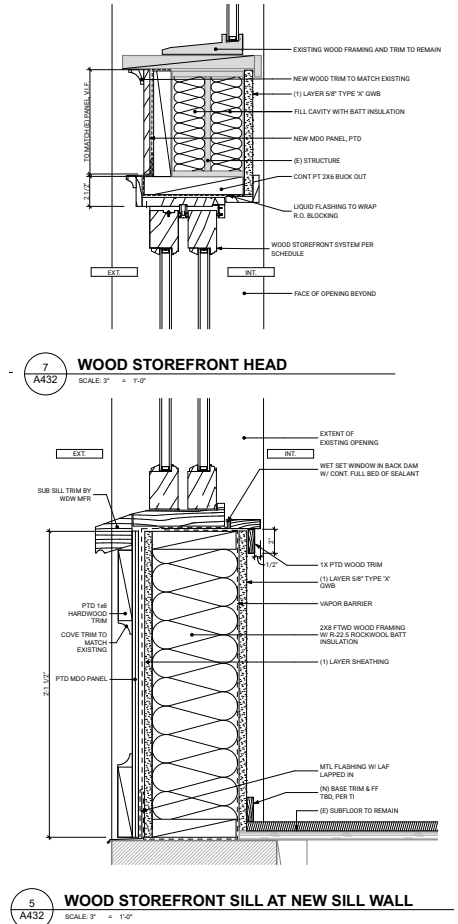
I created a set of details that allowed us to delicately improve and restore this funky little building, and was the primary drafter of the set from early DD through CDs; we also started interior design and coordinated all upgrades with the Pioneer Square Preservation Board.



East elevation



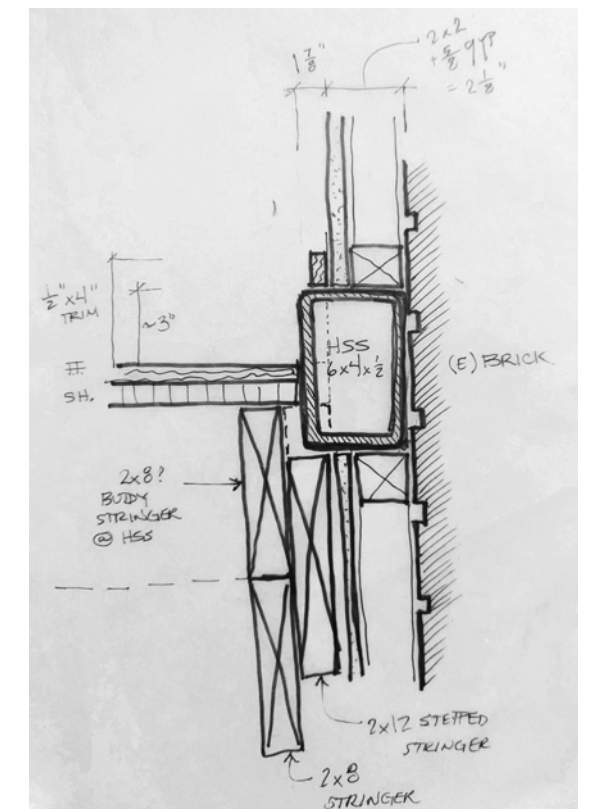
Building section through stair



Ground floor window details



Photo of the building, circa 1910



Detail sketch for new steel at stair

Belltown Residential Tower
Seattle, WA
2022-2023

Type of Work: Professional, Team
Firm: Perkins & Will

This residential tower in historic Belltown consists of a 6-story podium that connects to a 16-story tower. Layers of greenspaces, including a public courtyard that is overlooked by a private second level courtyard, create a dynamic series of amenities that connect the residents to beautiful Seattle outdoors in the midst of a vibrant urban neighborhood. Views of the Space Needle to the north are balanced by views of the water to the southwest. Retail spaces activate the sidewalk adjacent to the public courtyard, and the massing reflects the varied context. The exterior design harkens to the historic Labor Temple building across the street.

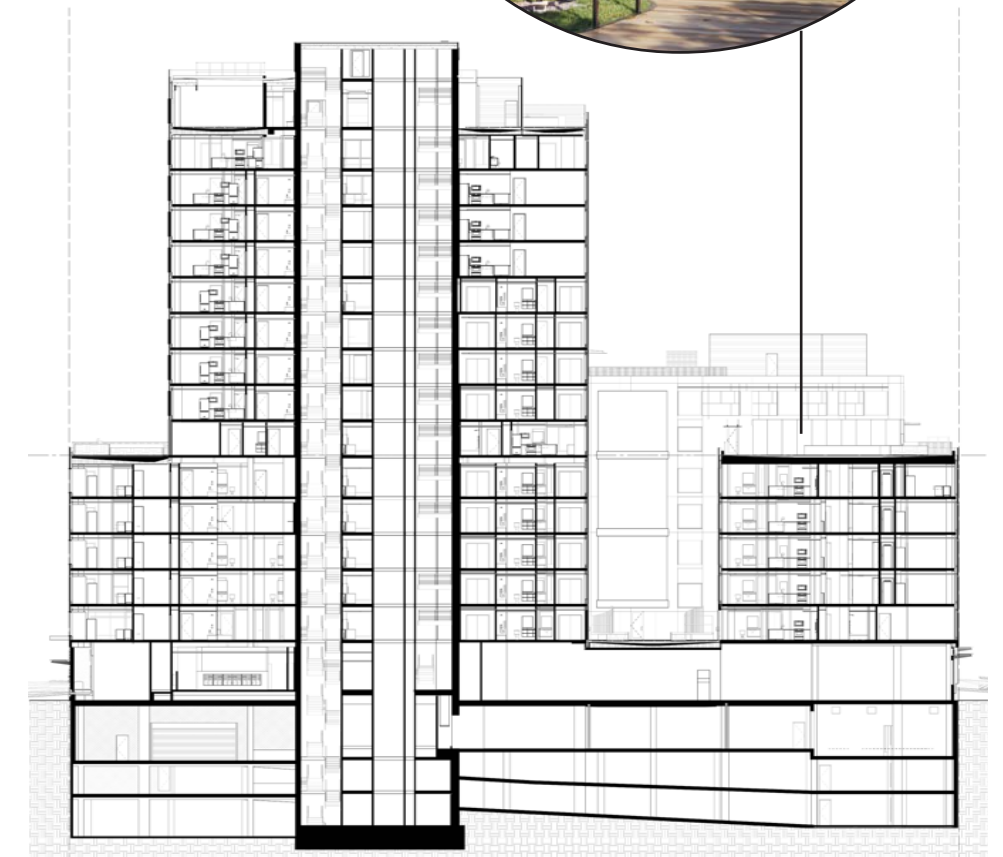
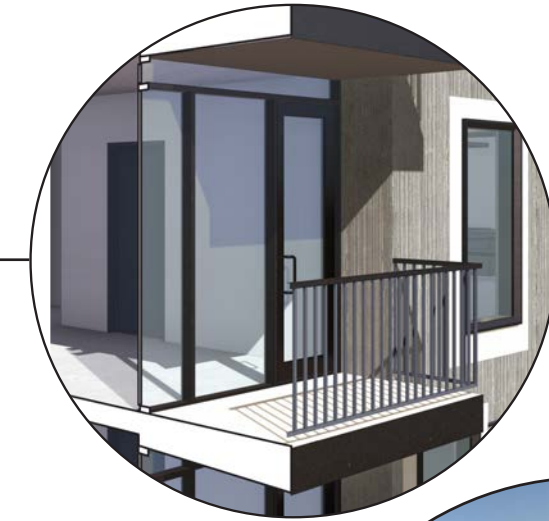
My role was primarily in schematic design and coordination, with strong input on design.



exterior rendering - from southwest



floor plan - level two

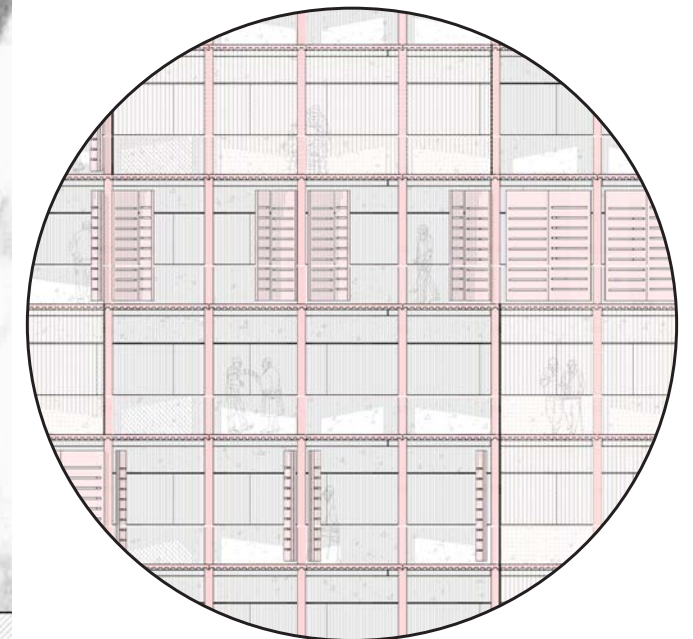
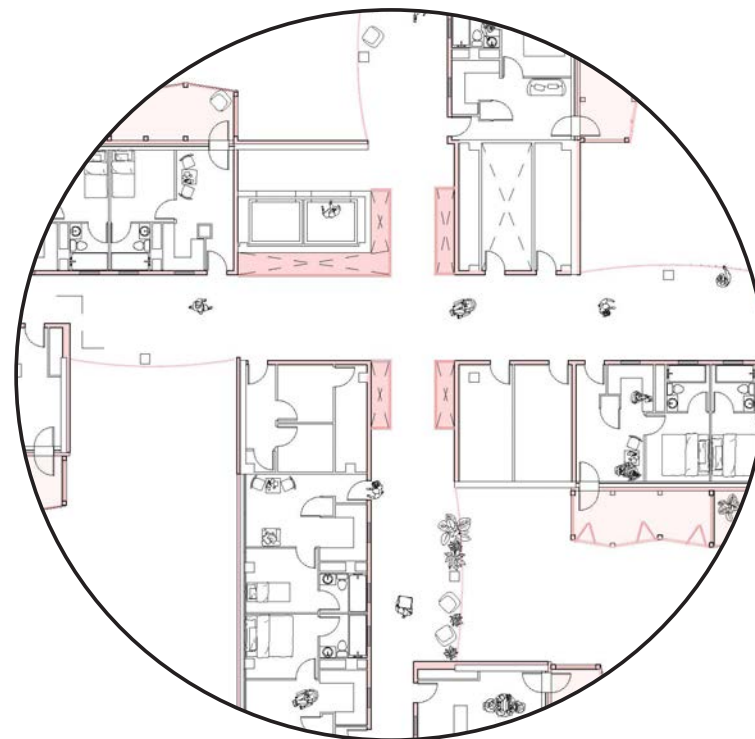
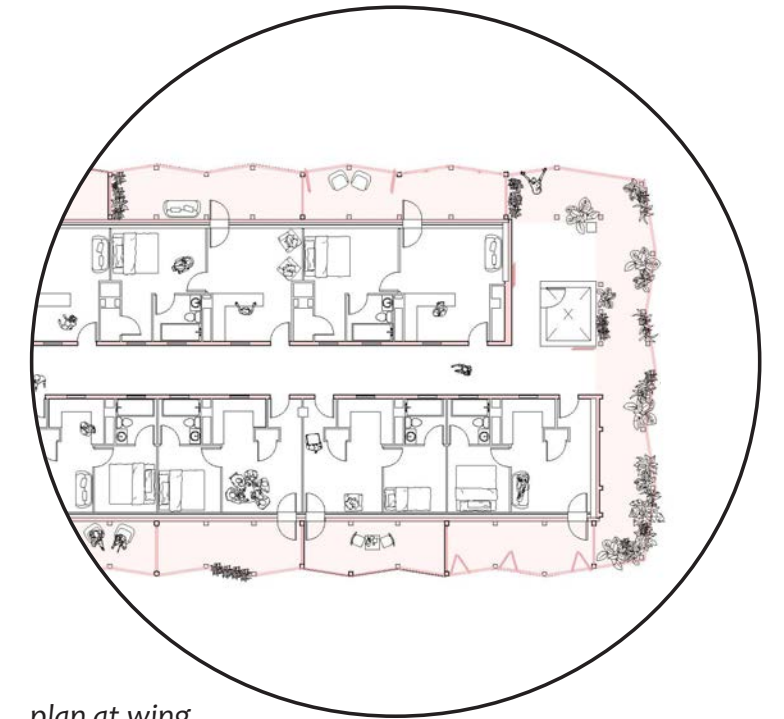
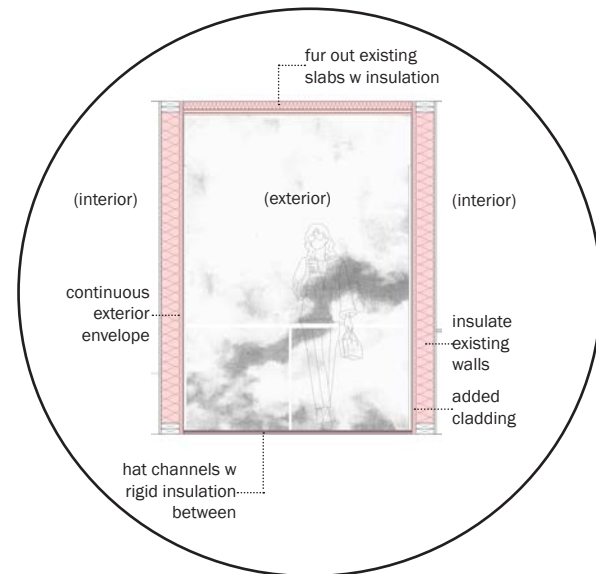
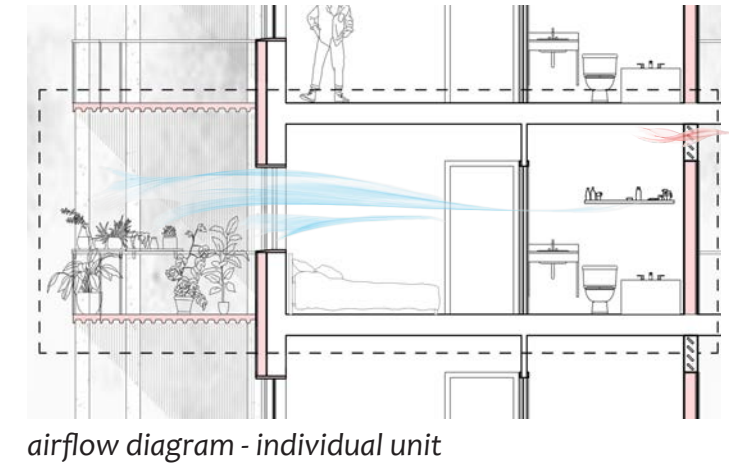
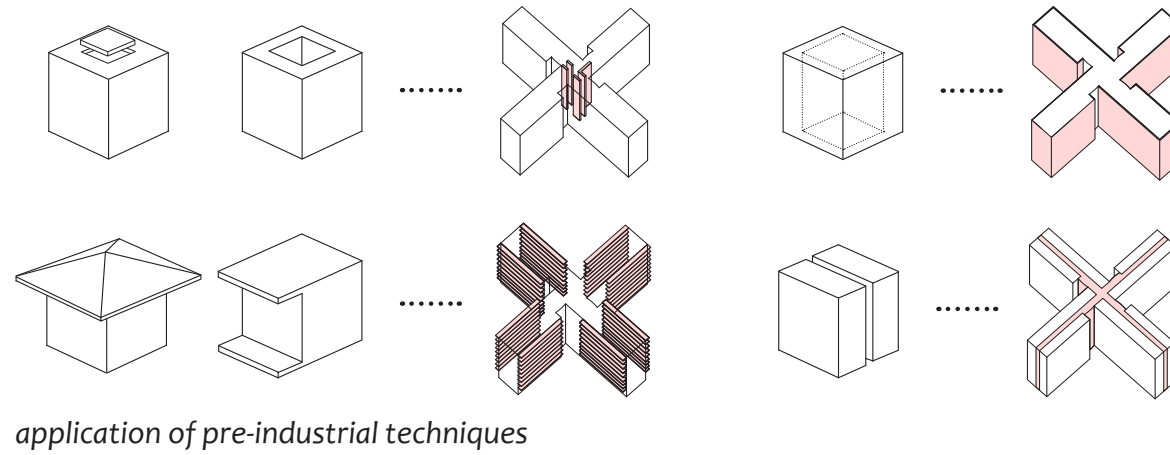


longitudinal section

Retrofitting Modern High-Density Housing with Passive Methods: Adapting in Place With Pre-Industrial Techniques New Orleans, LA 2021-2022

Type of Work: Academic, Solo

This graduate thesis defines strategies to retrofit high-density housing so that residents and their homes can adapt in place to an increasingly uncertain & extreme weather pattern caused by climate change. Retrofitting strategies take on passive techniques at multiple scales including facades, whole building and individual units, with a focus on autonomy for the residents and reducing their reliance on energy-consuming systems. To find appropriate retrofitting techniques, I extrapolated pre-industrial methodologies for heat reduction and applied them to an existing senior housing facility, testing their effectiveness and distilling a select few to use in tandem. The results were a dramatic reduction in key factors like EUI & utility costs, while improving the climate autonomy of the residents and their spaces.



Total Energy	Peak Load
926,326 kW/yr	114.4 BTU/h/ft
297,449 kW/yr	78 BTU/h/ft ²
EUI	Annual Cost
65	\$52,492
15	\$16,753

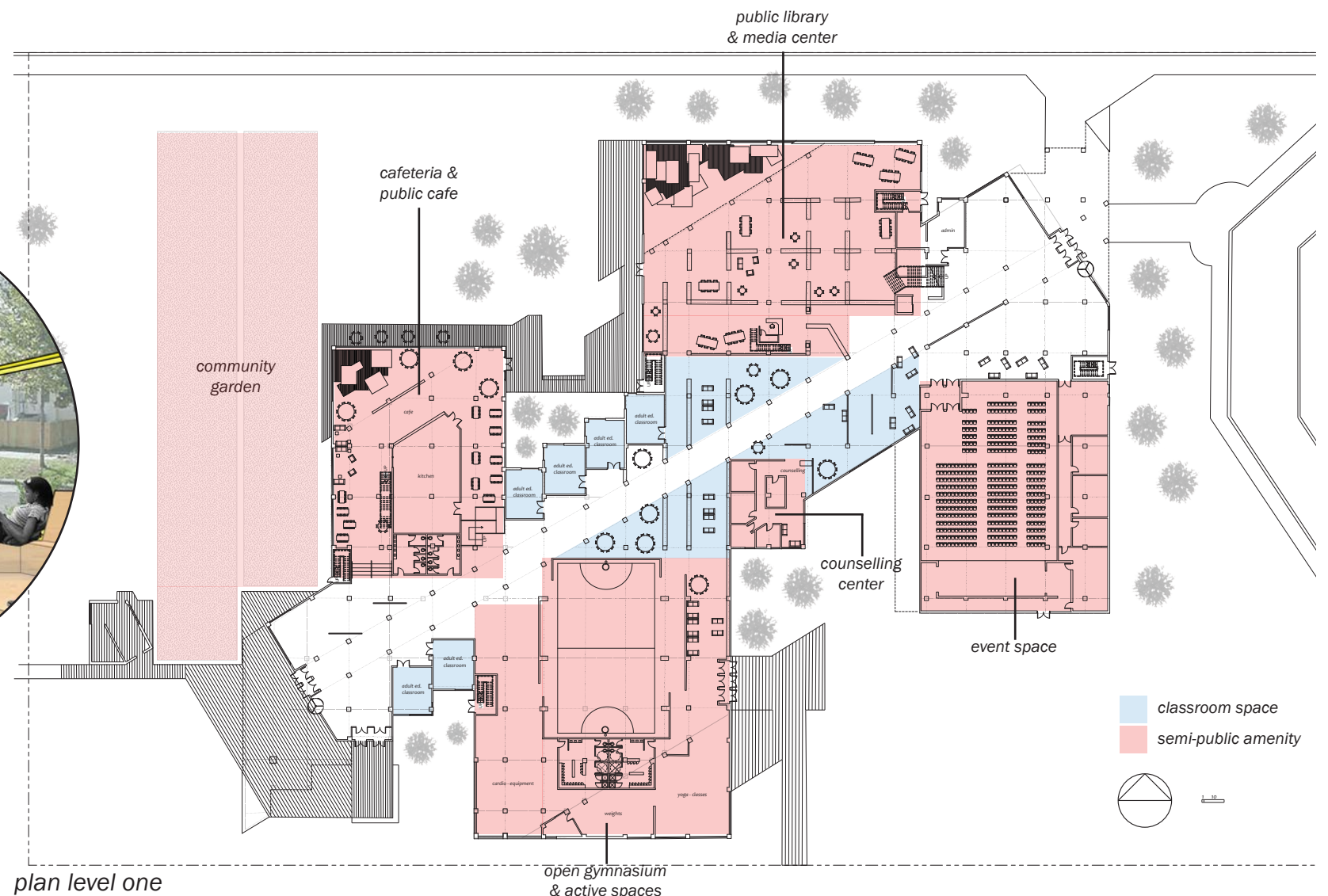
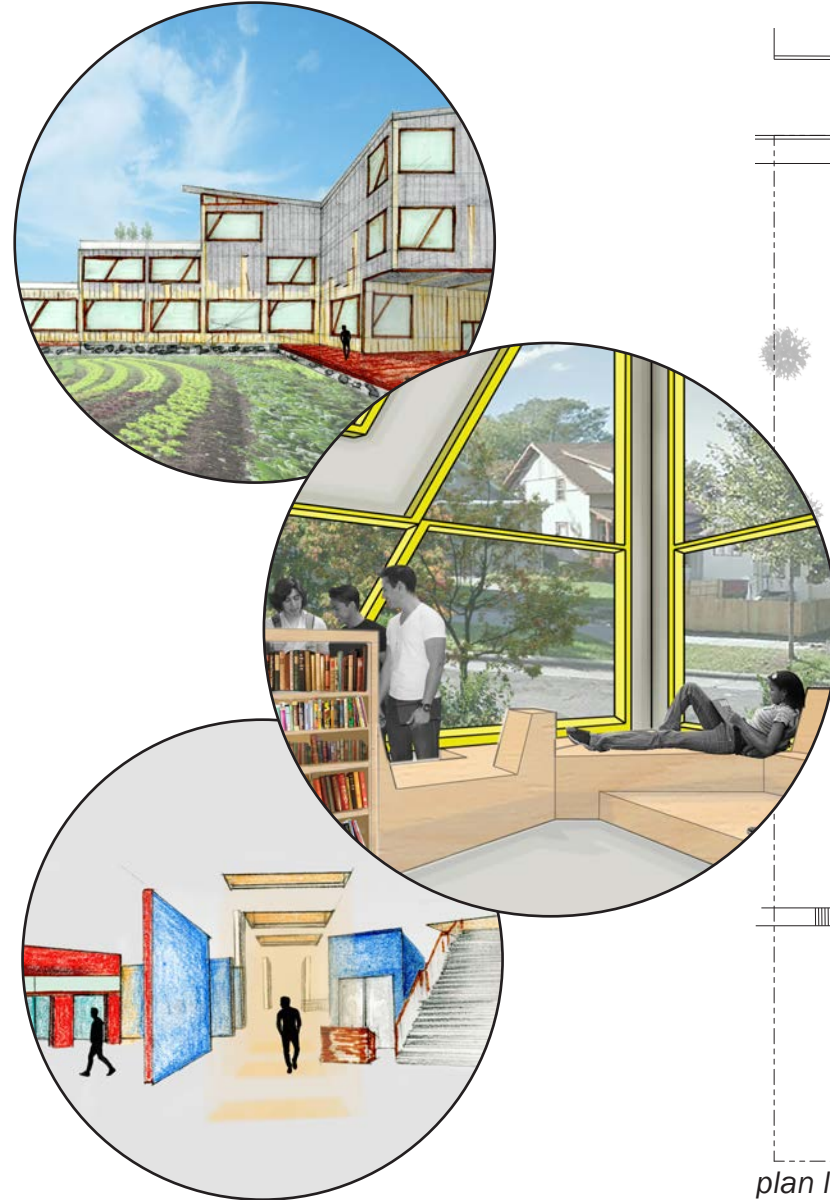
Two Threads
Community Center & Highschool
Minneapolis, MN
2015-2016

Type of Work: Academic, Solo

For my undergraduate thesis, I focused on creating a joint community center and high school that would value the intersection of formal education and informal education (the many things we learn from our communities and through experience). By creating shared spaces with the surrounding community, such as the gym, library, cafeteria / cafe, auditorium, community garden and continuing education spaces, I could create a school in which the parents, relations and neighbors of the students would feel equally welcome. The influence of family is enormously important to our education in many ways, and this space hopes to acknowledge this and encourage a dialogue between the two. Additionally, the public amenities would create programmatic elements that would allow for broader, cross-subject learning while also supporting the students' families. An example would be the community garden, from which the students could learn about healthy, culturally sensitive diets, as well as biology and ecology; meanwhile, the produce could be provided freely to the students' families for nutrition at home.



elevation details



Lake Stevens Library
Lake Stevens, WA
2023 - 2024



Type of Work: Professional
Firm: BuildingWork

This new public library is sited next to a wetland & forest, with several huge boulders deposited by retracting glaciers thousands of years ago around it. The drama and beauty of the landscape meant that the building was lightly placed on the edge of the site with a strong deference to it's surroundings. The welcoming entrance reacts to one the glacial erratics, while the first floor nearly disappears into the trees. The facade, while bold and modern, harkens to the surrounding trees. The structure is CLT, with a raised floor system that allows mechanical systems to visually disappear, highlighting the beautiful structure. The airy interior opens directly to a large landscaped patio overlooking the natural wetlands and woods, allowing the interior and exterior to meld together seamlessly. My role on this project was primarily in documentation and detailing, particularly during the permitting stage.



Nighttime rendering



Schematic floor plan



Interior rendering



Section through site, by Swift Landscaping

The Berkeley Forge: Life Sciences Campus Berkeley, CA

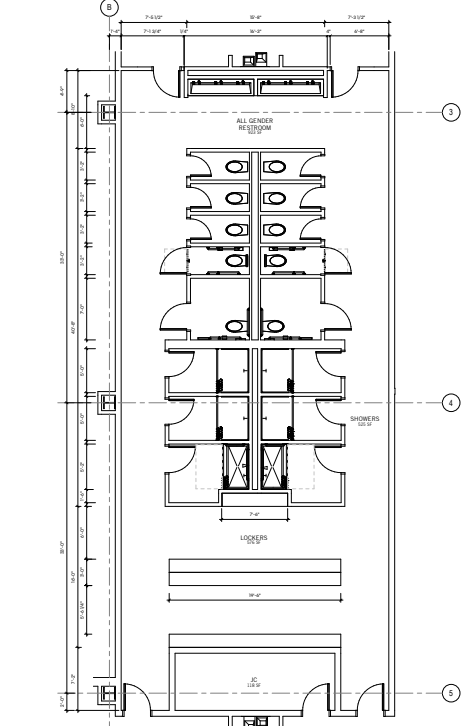
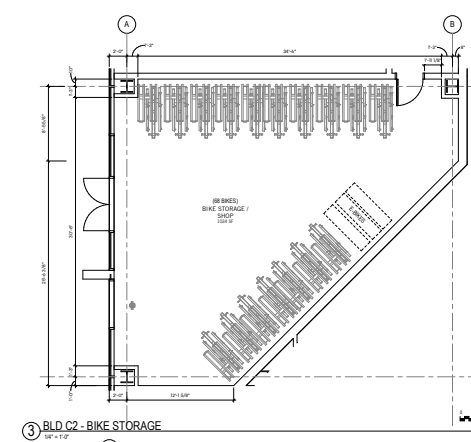
2023

Type of Work: Professional, Team
Firm: Perkins & Will

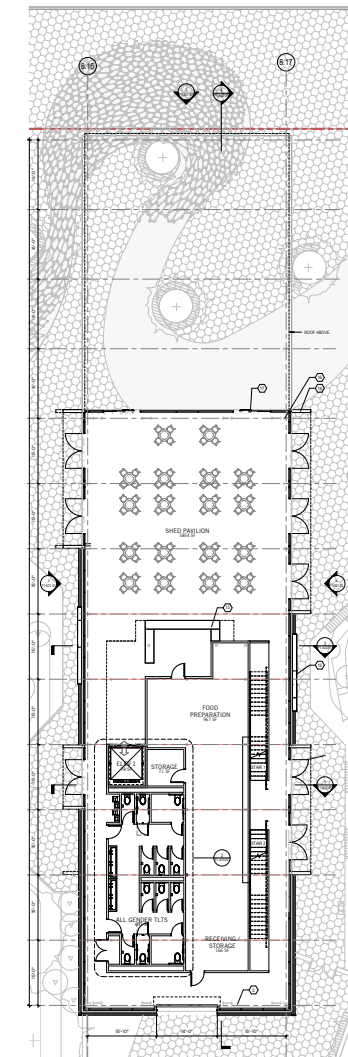
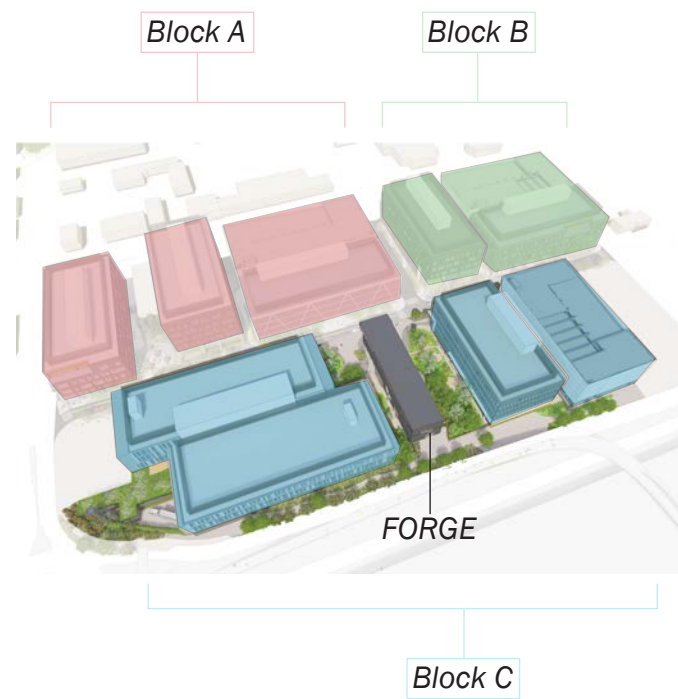
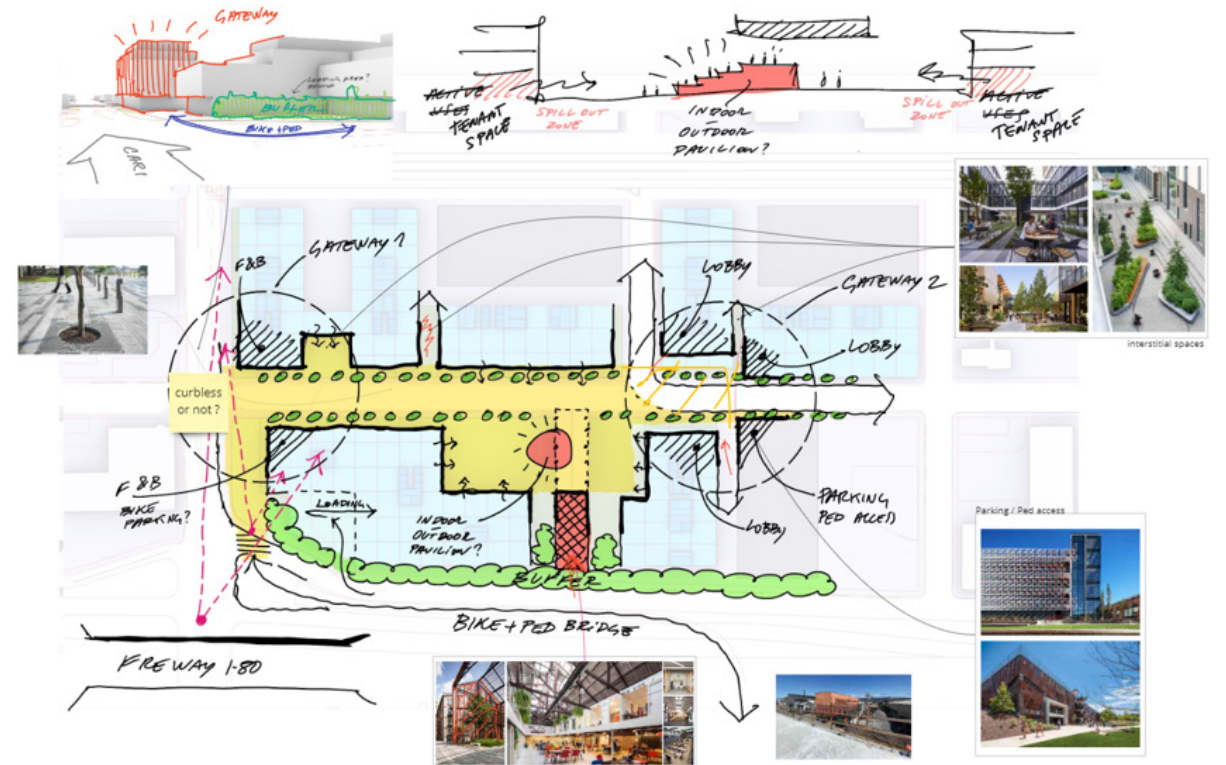
The Berkeley Forge is a life-sciences campus of eight laboratory buildings, three parking garages and a renovated steel structure that was salvaged from the existing metals factory that has sat unused on this property for years. Located in northern Berkeley, this project hopes to infuse an underutilized part of town with new life, creating a bustling business center with retail, an exciting event space and active greenspaces. My primary role was producing all of the plans and enlarged plans, as well as coordinating with consultants and design. This project was paused after schematic design so the client could assess their next steps.



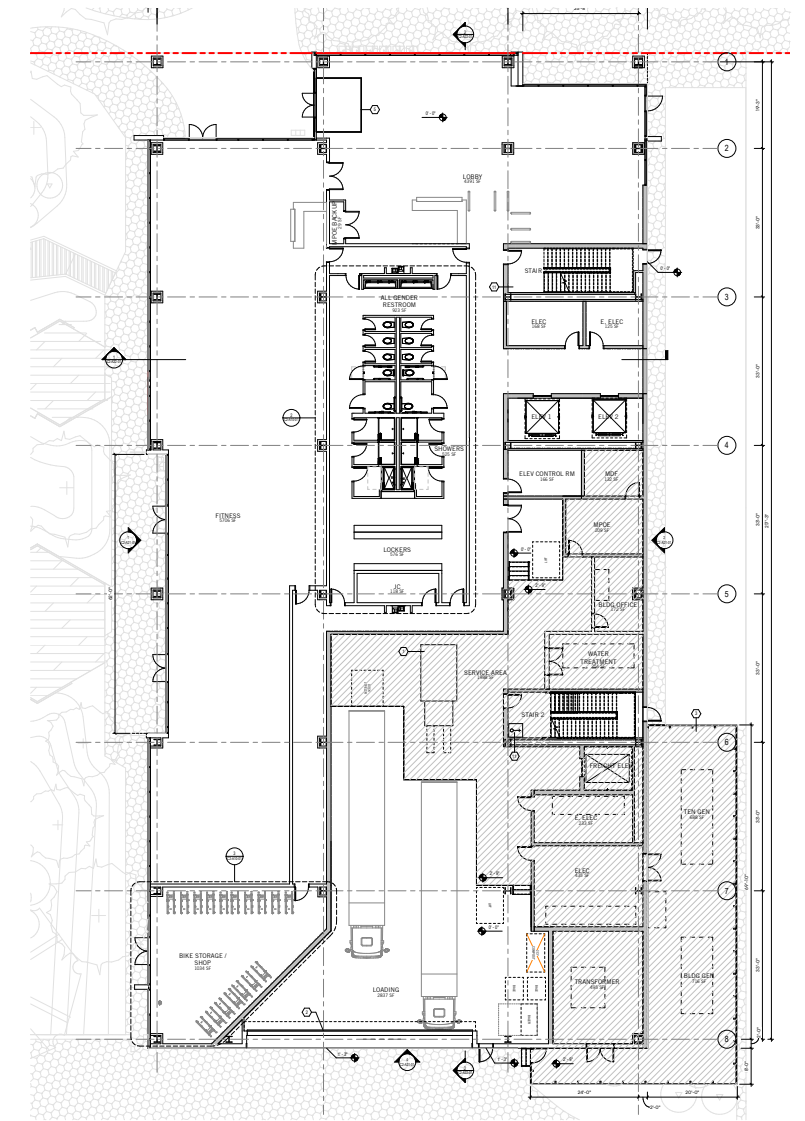
rendering of the Forge



enlarged plans



level one plan - Forge



level one plan - building C3