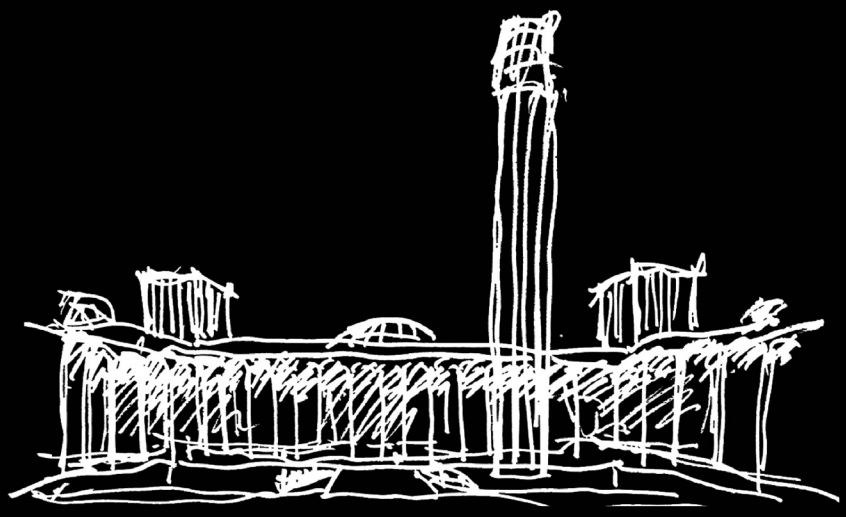
# MONIL SHAH

ARCHITECTURE PORTFOLIO | 2014-24





# Monil Shah

Beyond satisfying the contemporary needs of the rising global population, architecture is also a means of expression. From the very concept, the long term commitment of any space should become intuitively clear, and it is my role as a responsible architect that it adapts to the people's needs as they evolve over the next centuries.

# Monil Shah


Licensed Architect in India: CA/2021/138589

arch.mshah@gmail.com | +1 (716)-547-0397

Behance | LinkedIn | Architectural Portfolio


## Education

**May 2024** — **Master of Architecture (M. Arch)**
State University of New York at Buffalo

**May 2019** — **Bachelor of Architecture (B. Arch)**
L.J. School of Architecture, Ahmedabad

## Professional Experiences

**Jan 2024 - Jun 2024** — **Sr. Research Assistant to Prof. Jin Young Song**
*School of Architecture, University at Buffalo*
Assist in Full-Scale Interactive Art Installations, 3D Printing, Preparation of Prototypes.

**Aug 2023 - Jan 2024** — **Research Assistant to Dr. Kristine Stiphany**
*School of Architecture, University at Buffalo*
3D Modeling, Data Entry, Developing a common Graphic Language, for Urban Design Seminar.

**Jan 2023 - May 2024** — **Digital Fabrication Laboratory Assistant**
*School of Architecture, University at Buffalo*
Laser Cutting, Resin and Filament-based 3D Printing, Maintaining the Crafting Machines.

**May 2020 - Aug 2022** — **Sr. Architectural Visualizer / Architect**
*Design Molecule, Ahmedabad, India; with 9th House Architects, Los Angeles, USA*
2D/3D Visualizations, Prototyping, Schematic Design, Design Developments, Client Meetings.

**Dec 2017 - May 2019** — **Associate Designer**
*to Mrs. Esha Mehta, Ahmedabad*
Site Measurement, Spatial Layouts, Furniture Design, Client Meetings, Site Coordination.

**Jul 2017 - Dec 2017** — **Architectural Intern**
*Apurva Amin Architects, Ahmedabad*
Presentation Drawings, Detailing, Construction Documents, Vendor Coordination, Site Visits.

## Leadership Experiences

**Sep 2023 - Jan 2024** — **3D Modelling Specialist**
*Parco Studio, San Francisco, USA*
Model an Existing House, Topography, Paths, Vegetation, and Implement Building Codes.

**Jun 2023 Onwards** — **Social Media Consultant/Assistant**
*AIA WNY, Buffalo, USA*
Strategize posts to increase online footprint of AIA WNY, and post them as per the deadline.

**Aug 2019 - Aug 2022** — **Freelance Architect / Interior Designer**
*Apartments, Tenaments, Commercials*
Design Proposal, Construction Drawing, Client Meetings, Site Management.

## Technical Proficiencies

**Construction Drawing**
3D Modeling
Digital Rendering
**Code Research**
Documentation
Visualizations
Graphic Presentations
**Conceptual Design**
**Design Development**
Photography

## Software Proficiencies

**Drafting and 3D Modeling**
AutoCAD (8+ Years)
SketchUp (8+ Years)
Rhinoceros (2+ Years)
Revit (2 Years)

**Visualization and Renderings**
V-Ray + SketchUp (6 Years)
V-Ray + Rhino (2 Years)
Lumion (3+ Years)
Twinmotion (2 Years)
D5 Render (1 Year)

**Graphics and Presentation**
Photoshop (5+ Years)
InDesign (3+ Years)
Illustrator (3+ Years)

**Digital Fabrication**
Laser Cutting (2 Years)
3D Printing (1 Year)

## Essential Skills

Communication (5 Years)
**Teamwork** (5 Years)
Adaptibility (4 Years)
Leadership (3 Years)
**Client Relations** (2 Years)
**Deadline-Driven** (5 Years)
Problem-Solving (5 Years)
Design Sensitivity (4 Years)
Design Detailing (4 Years)
**Site Management** (2 Years)

## Book Publications

**July 2024** — **Expansion of Buffalo Science Museum**
Jr. Architectural Designer, Co-Author

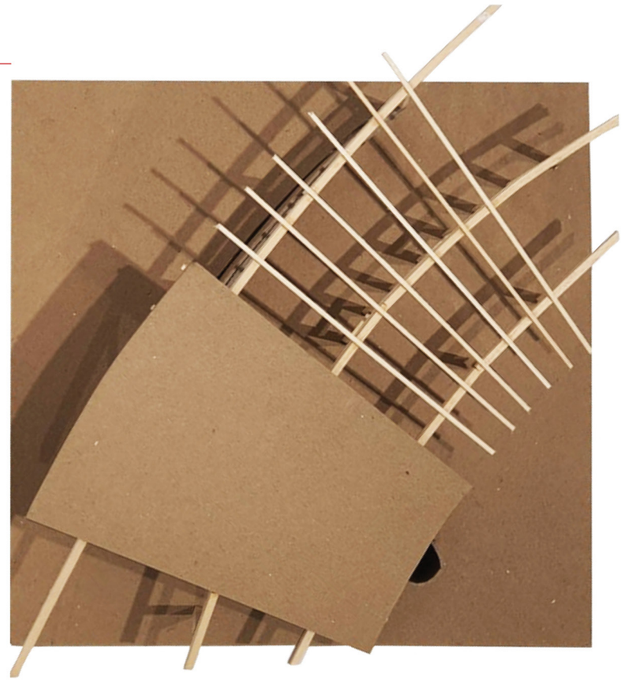
**May 2024** — **Proposed Urban Framework for Buffalo**
Co-Designer, Editor, Graphics Team Lead

## Notable Architecture Competitions

**July 2024** Off Grid Farm, Dominican Republic
**Mar 2024** Iconic Pavilion, Canada **(III Hon. Mention)**
**Dec 2023** Franklin Moon Library, Syracuse, USA
**Mar 2023** BLTa 24-Hr Skyscraper, Chicago, USA
**Feb 2020** HOPE Dental Care Centre, Rwanda

## Key Workshops + Seminars

**Aug 2023** Urban Design with Resilient Environments
**Aug 2020** **Led** a Photography Workshop (15 Students)
**Jan 2019** Sustainable Building Practices and Codes
**July 2017** Tensile Structures Workshop and Installation



**Partial Structure Model (Precedent)**
*Horse Riding Hall, Melbourne, Australia*
*for Equestrian Centre Project, M. Arch 2022*

# Selected Works


**Surestay Inn** 06
Professional Work (Hospitality)
*Dec'21-Jun'22*

**A New Urban Framework** 14
M. Arch., Urban Design Project
*Spring '24*

**Pavilion of Transformation** 24
International Competition
*Sep'23 - Apr'24*

**Museum of Contemporary Art** 30
M. Arch., Architecture Project
*Spring'23*

**Equestrian Centre** 38
M. Arch., Architecture Project
*Fall '22*

**The Illuminated Wall Frame** 46
Professional Work (Residence)
*Aug'20-Feb '21*

**Works at the International Border** 50
Professional Work (Urban Design)
*Jan-Feb '21*

**F. Franklin Moon Library Extension** 52
International Competition
*Aug '23 - Jan'24*

**Just Throw It** 56
Professional Work (Art Installation)
*Jan '24 - Jun'24*




Selected Works
Not Selected Works

# Surestay Inn

**Professional Project**, at Tuscaloosa, USA | Jan ‘22 - Jun ‘22

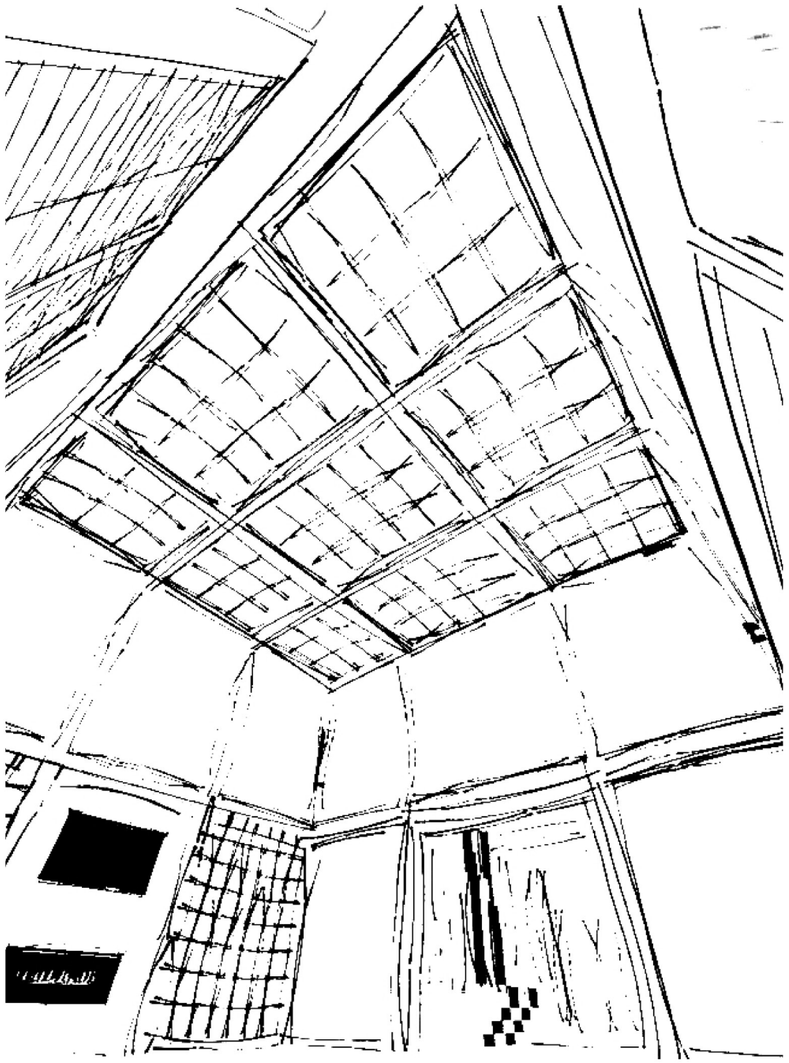
**Sr. Architectural Visualizer** at Design Molecule, Ahmedabad, India
Under the Mentorship of Ar. Saloni Gajjar

*Proposed Render of the Lobby Entrance*
*SketchUp, V-Ray for SketchUp, Photoshop*

**A Renovation Project in the United States.**

While working with the clients’ brief, I worked with the Principal Architect to develop solutions for their requirements, that included an upliftment of the exterior, redesign of the lobby and breakfast lounge, the redevelopment of their external patio, and the addition of a 12’ x 40’ mural that reflected the city of Tuscaloosa and the state of Alabama.

The overall design decisions were affected by the clients’ preferred color palette, the existing conditions of the property, and their appreciation for the football team of Alabama. Finally, this presentation was given to the clients, and most of our designs were approved.



*Conceptual Idea for the Lobby Redesign*
*Hand Sketch, SketchUp, Photoshop*

**Color Palette**

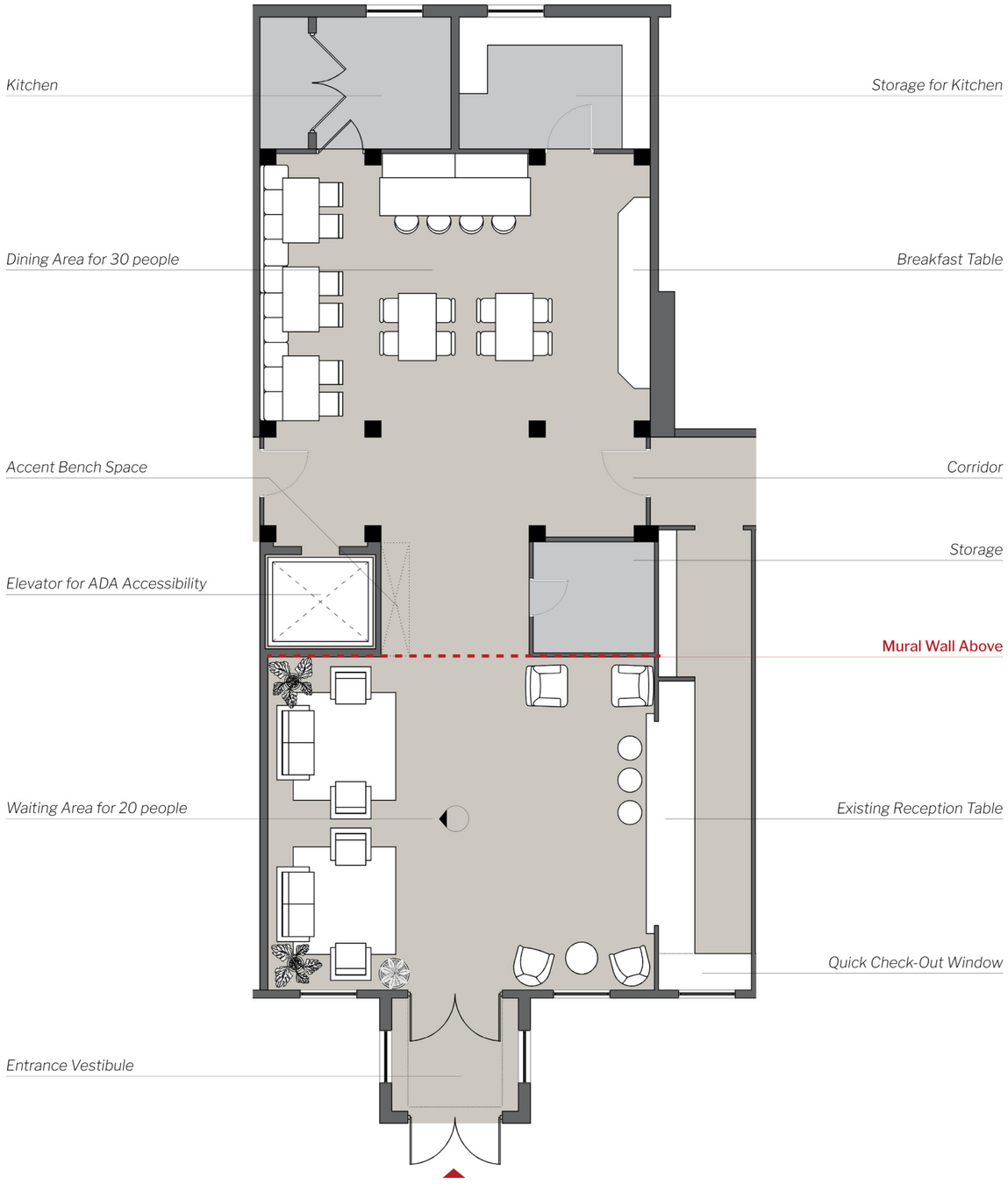
Extracted from the landscapes of Alabama



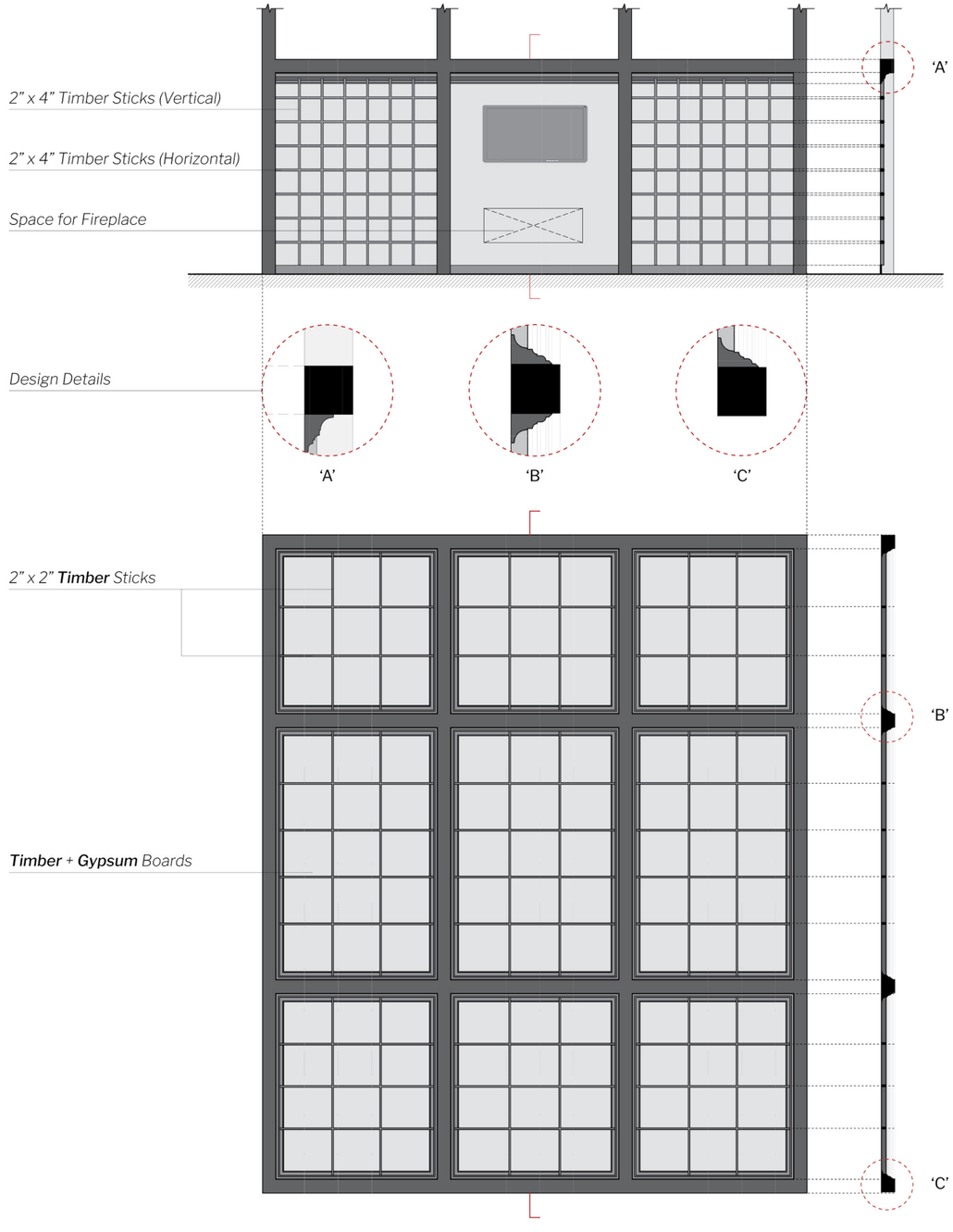



*Mural Design for the Lobby's Front Wall*

*SketchUp, VRay for SketchUp, Photoshop*




**Proposed Layout for the Lobby, Reception and the Breakfast Areas**
*Graphics developed (and represented) as per the Office Standards*
*AutoCAD, Illustrator, Photoshop*




**Top:** *West Wall Elevation (with Section),*
**Bottom:** *Reflected Ceiling Plan (with Section)*
*AutoCAD, Photoshop, Illustrator*

0' 1' 2' 5'



*Photograph of the Renovated Lobby (Looking South)*
*Photographs as Received*



*Ideas Implemented:*
*Mural (40' x 12')*
*Colour Palette*
*Furniture and Lighting*
*Wall Detailing*
*Accent Bench*

*Photograph of the Renovated Lobby (Looking North)*
*Photographs as Received*

# Proposal of an Urban Framework

**Academic Project**, with 17 others at Buffalo, USA | Spring ‘24

Big Projects Studio, in **partnership with CannonDesign and Gensler**
Instructed by Prof. Gregory Delaney

*Schematic Development around the Scajaquada Creek, Buffalo*
*Lumion, D5 Render, Photoshop*

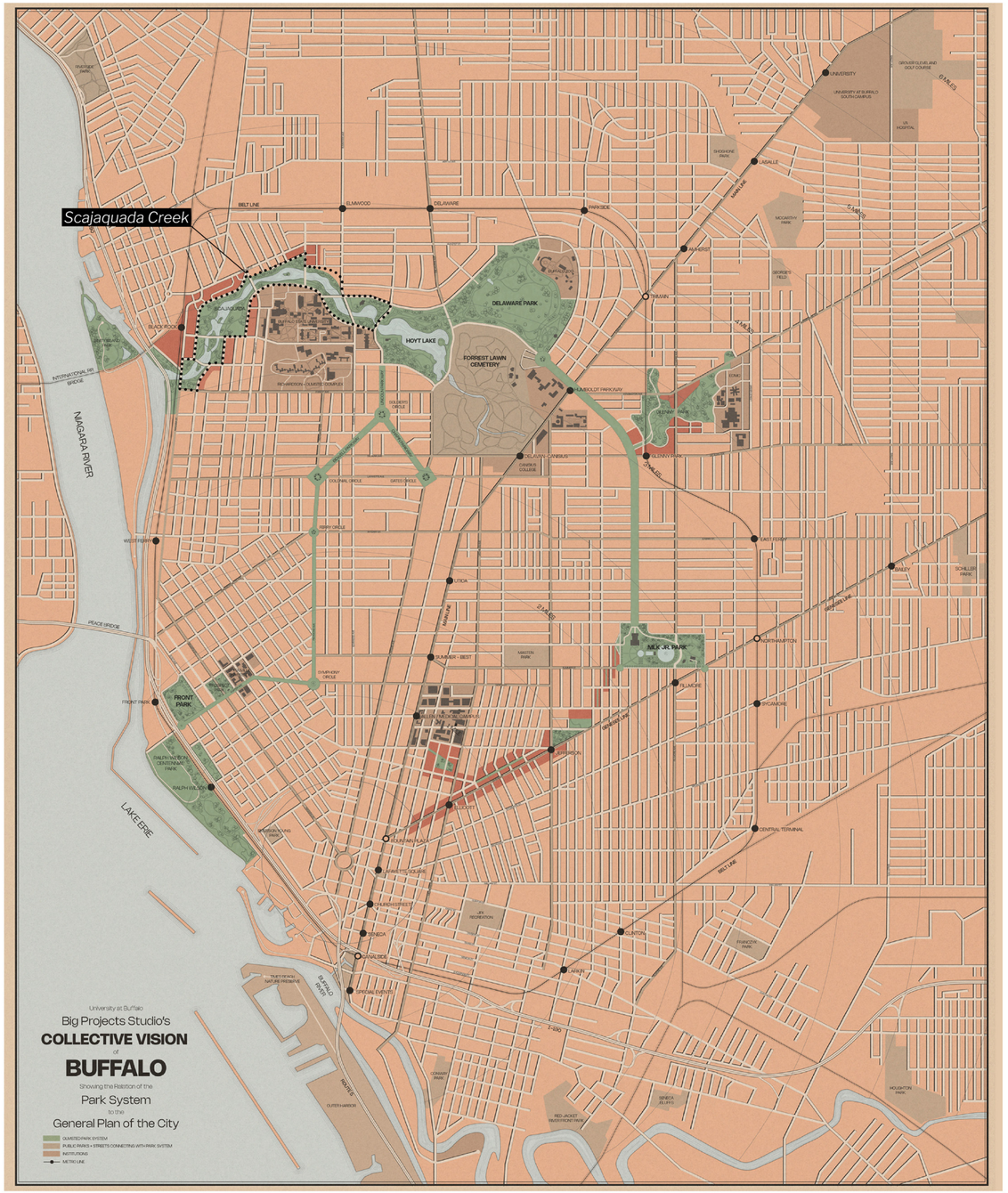
**“The Best Designed City in the United States, if not the World...”,**
that is how Frederick Law Olmsted described the city upon proposing his Parks System in 1868, but his landmark project fell prey to the spree of infrastructural development in the mid-20th century. This proposal focuses on a full removal of the Scajaquada (I-198) and the Kensington (I-33) Expressways, and adding a multitude of developments on the new land.

The studio worked collaboratively on the project forming and dissolving teams as needed. **My key contributions** were redesigning the Scajaquada Creek, co-developing graphic styles for the entire studio, and preparing a compilation of the studio’s works into a book.




*Conceptual Redevelopment of the Scajaquada Creek*
*Hand Sketch + Illustrator + Photoshop*

## **Collective** Vision




*Proposed Vision for the City after the Removal of the Highways*
*Creek Design by Monil Shah, Final Graphic by Kayla Clarke*

## **Storyboards**

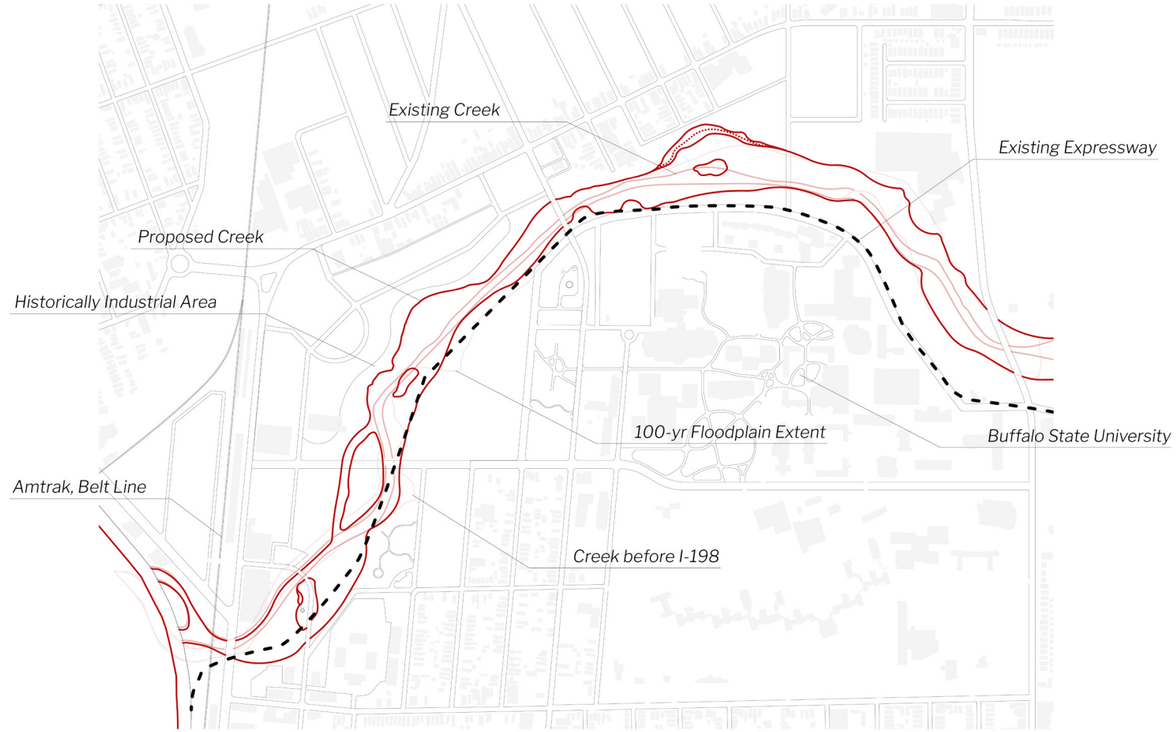


*Open Spaces echoing Olmsted's Principles*
*Hand Sketch + Photoshop*



*Enhancing Walkability across the Creek*
*Hand Sketch + Photoshop*

## **Schematic** Plan




*Schematic Redesign of the Scajaquada Creek for better Ecological Performance*
*AutoCAD, Illustrator, Photoshop*



*Landscape Plan of the Scajaquada Corridor*
*Base Map by Catarina Gnecco +* ***Landscape Design by Monil Shah***
*AutoCAD, Illustrator, Photoshop*

# **Axonometric** Diagram

Developed with Alec Lewis, for 17 Students
*Transect Language, Libraries developed by Monil Shah*






*Axonomteric Transect*
*AutoCAD, SketchUp, Illustrator, Photoshop*

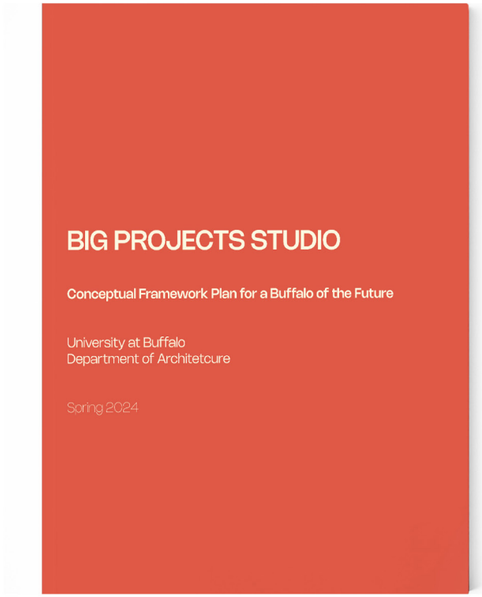
## Illustration / View

Developed with Alec Lewis, for 17 Students
*Perspective Style; with Car, Trees and People Libraries developed by Monil Shah*

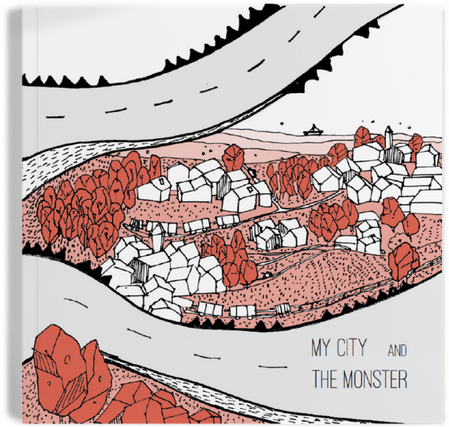


*Schematic Perspective of the Redeveloped Creekside*
*SketchUp, Illustrator, Photoshop*

## Publications




*Compilation of the Studio's Work*
*by Monil Shah*
*Photoshop, InDesign*




*A Children's Story Book to Communicate the Idea*
*by Behnoush Nikparvar, Jyotika Joshi*
*Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign*

# Pavilion of Transformation

**International Architecture Competition** at Surrey, Canada | Sep ‘23 - Apr ‘24

In Partnership with Manali Goti

3rd Honorable Mention out of 30

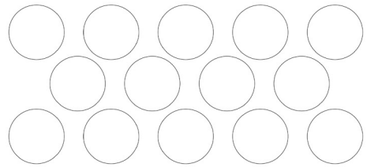


*Pavilion from Parking*
*D5 Render, Photoshop*

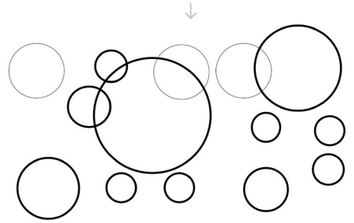
**The Pavilion of Transformation International Architecture Competition 2024**

Organized by Wesgroup, a reputed private real estate company, the competition required the design of a pavilion as an urban insert next to the Civic Plaza in Surrey City, B.C. Many cultural buildings are proposed for the city, and the pavilion is to act much more than a mere urban insert that does not rely on electricity, on a 35’ x 15’ site in the corner of a parking lot.

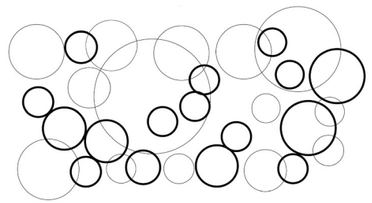
**Our proposal** represents the city of Surrey. The city’s growth that is expected to continue over the next decades is one part of the concept that forms the layout design, and the city’s sense of cultural tolerance and acceptance, forms the module.



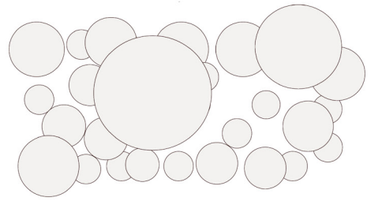
*14 Original Electoral Wards of Surrey*



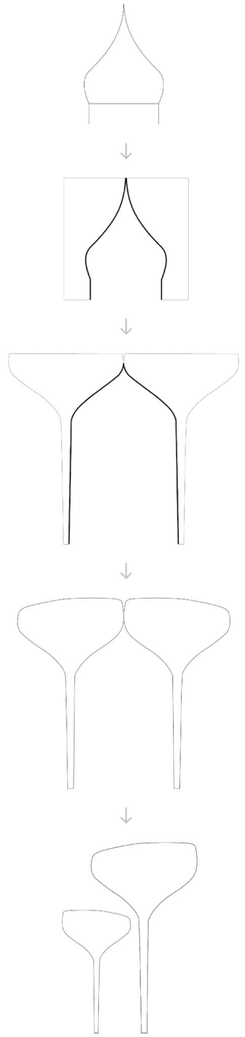
*Simultaneous Growth of the Wards*



*Addition of More Wards as the City Expands*

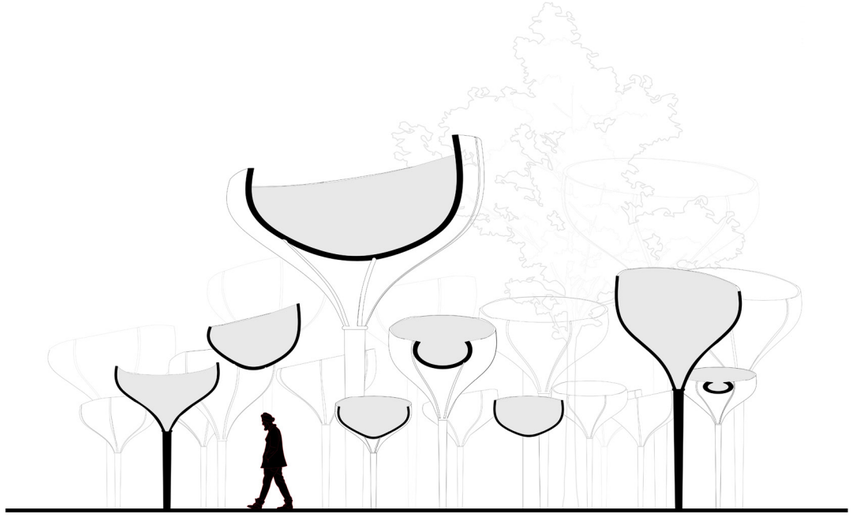


*Final Design of the Layout*
*for the Pavilion of Transformation*

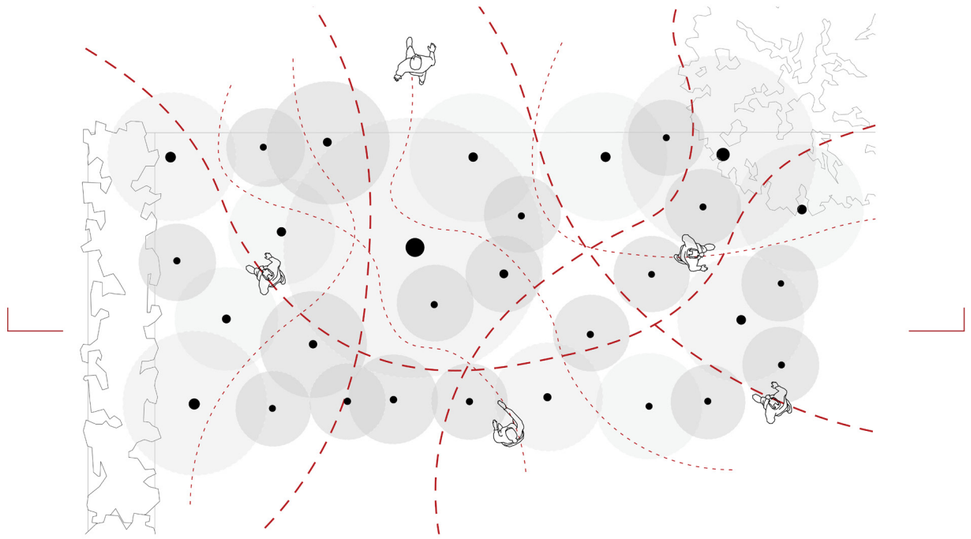


*Module derived from the*
*Architecture of a Sikh Temple*

## Plan + Section



*Section*
*Rhino, AutoCAD, Illustrator*



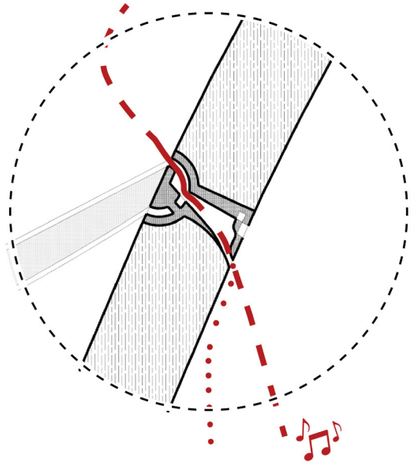
*Plan*
*Rhino, AutoCAD, Illustrator*

0' 2' 4' 10'

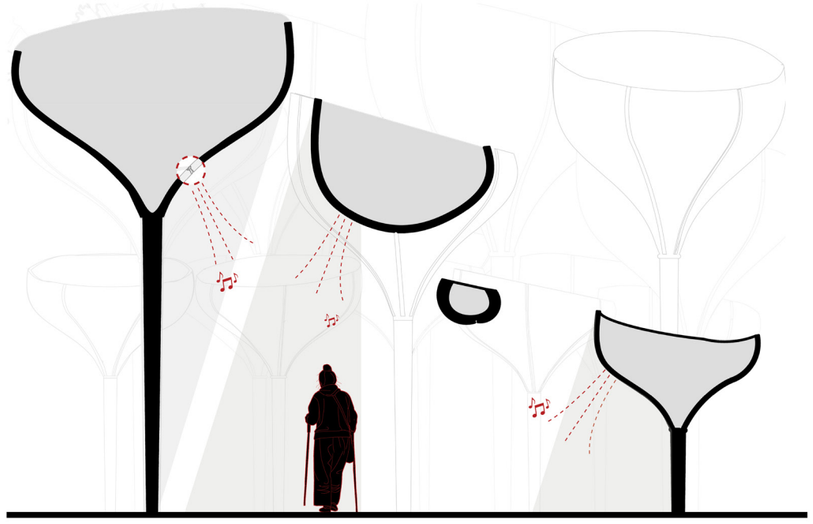
## Key **Details**



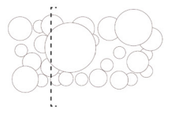
*Grooved, Radial Piping for Air Circulation and Water Drainage opening towards the interior*
*Rhino, AutoCAD, Illustrator*



*Choice of the Douglas Fir Wood as the material, based on Sustainabilty, Availability, Procurement, and the minute construction details needed for 'air symphonies'*
*Rhino, AutoCAD, Illustrator*

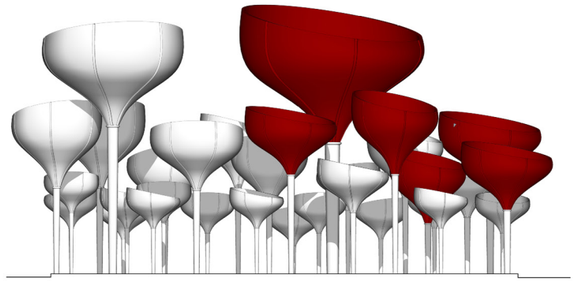


*Transverse Section*
*Rhino, AutoCAD, Illustrator*

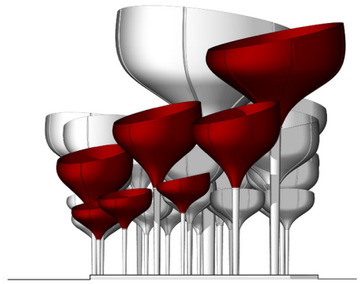


0' 1' 2' 5'

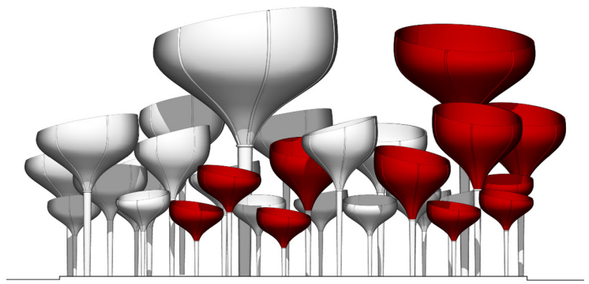
## Elevations



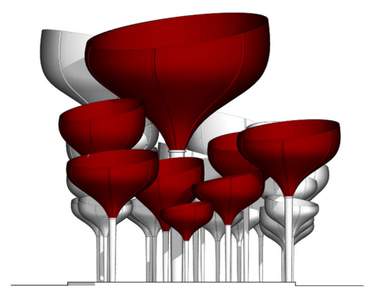
*West Elevation*



*North Elevation*



*East Elevation*



*South Elevation*

*Red Markings show the modules chamfered as per the directions to catch the wind and sunlight in different seasons, and the shadow pockets that they create.*

## Achievement



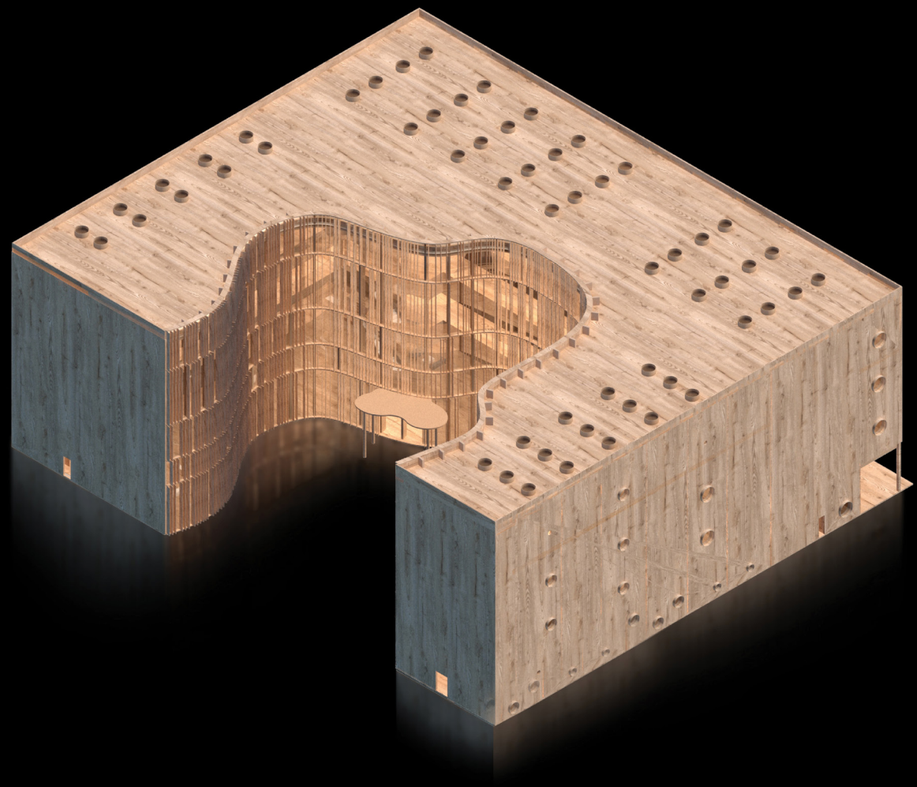
*Illustration of the Pavilion*
*SketchUp, D5 Render, Photoshop*

**3rd out of 30 Honorable Mentions**

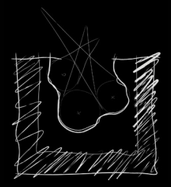
# Museum of Contemporary Art

**Academic Project**, at Buffalo, USA | Spring ‘23

In Partnership with Kaleeka Mittal
Instructed by Prof. Miguel Guitart

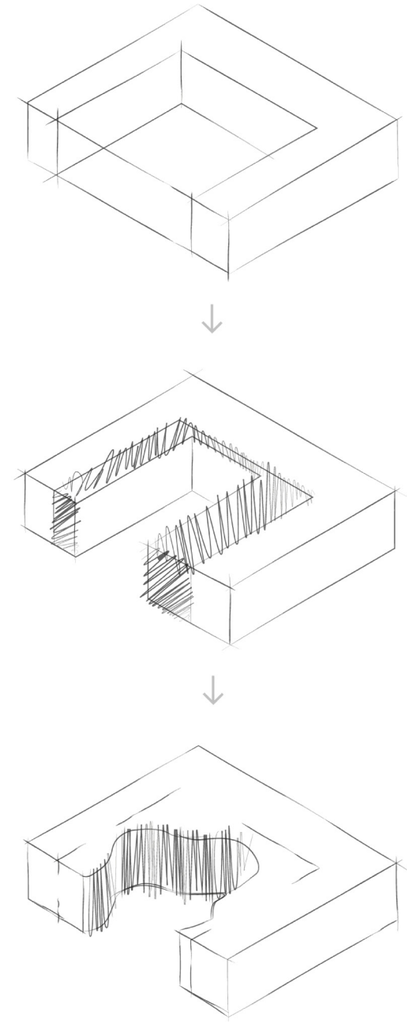


*Concept Render of the Museum*
*Rhinoceros, Twinmotion, Photoshop*



**It needs to be more than just a museum that houses art works.**
This was our initial thought when we began working on this museum. We explored ideas on shape modulations, hierarchy of open spaces, and a visitor’s journey through the museum. We eventually condensed these ideas into one concept, called a Slice of Art, that focussed on dedicating the first floor of the museum for public activities, and all the other for artworks.

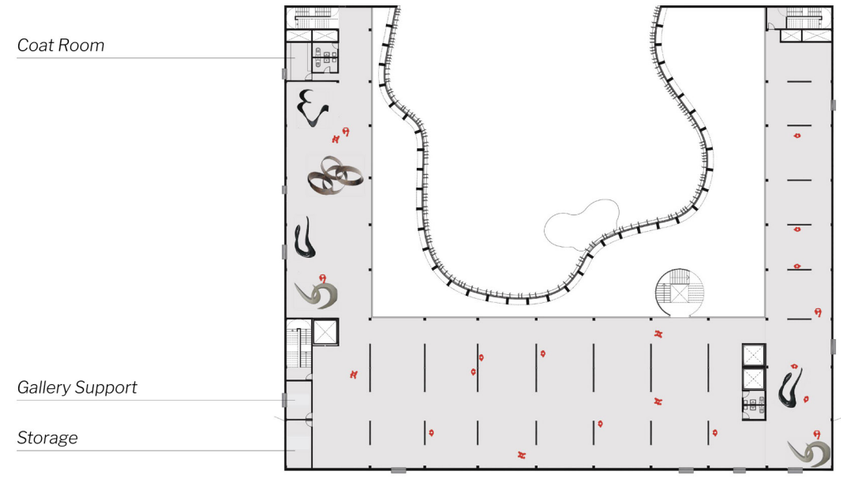
Our concept’s main identity came from a curvilinear enclosure in the middle, that created a plaza accessible to the public at all times. The essence of its concept was further carried, as a four-storey high atrium was developed inside the museum right upon the visitors’ entry.



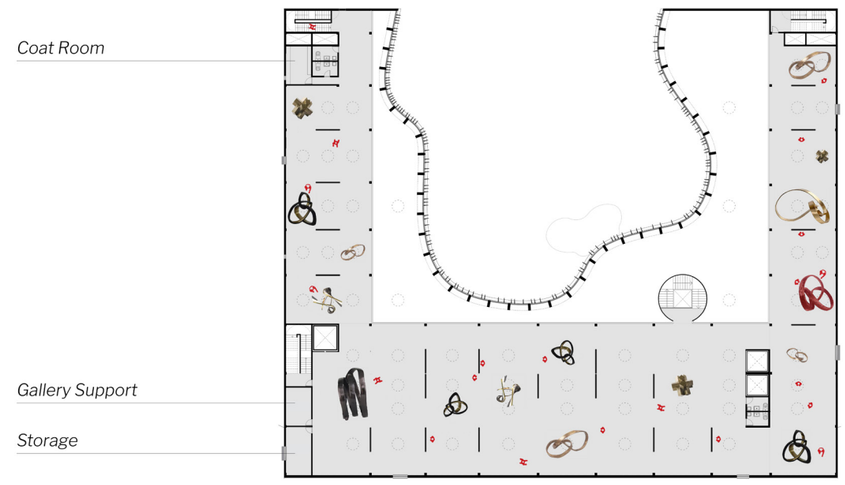
*Form Derivation*
*Hand Sketch, Illustrator*




*First Floor Plan*
*AutoCAD, Illustrator, Photoshop*

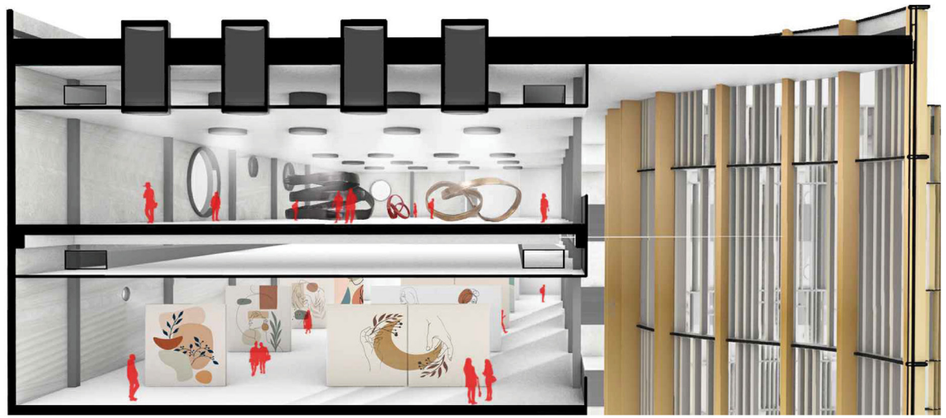



*Second and Third Floor Gallery Plans*
*AutoCAD, Illustrator, Photoshop*

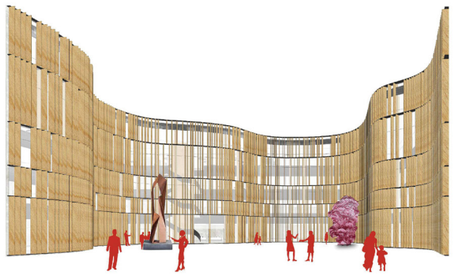



*Fourth Floor Gallery Plan*
*AutoCAD, Illustrator, Photoshop*

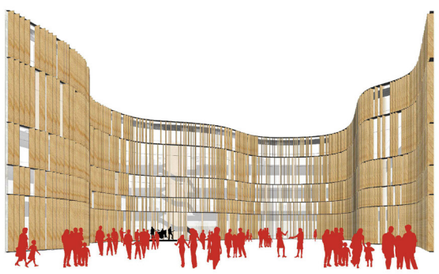
## **Partial** Sectional Perspective



*Sectional Perspective from the Third and Fourth Floors*
*SketchUp, Rhino, Photoshop*



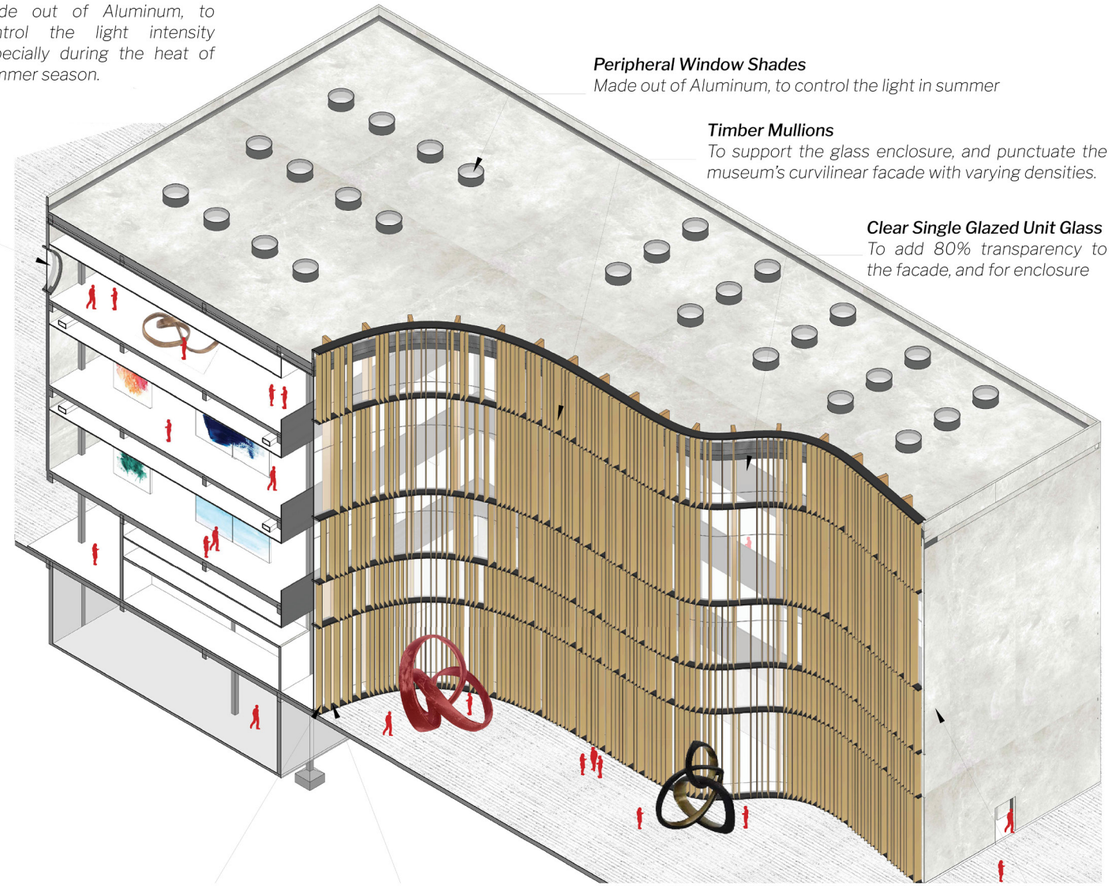
*Vignette of Exhibition*
*SketchUp, Illustrator, Photoshop*



*Vignette of Band Performances*
*SketchUp, Illustrator, Photoshop*

## **Building Envelope** Details

***Peripheral Window Shades***
*Made out of Aluminum, to control the light intensity especially during the heat of summer season.*



***Peripheral Window Shades***
*Made out of Aluminum, to control the light in summer*

***Timber Mullions***
*To support the glass enclosure, and punctuate the museum's curvilinear facade with varying densities.*

***Clear Single Glazed Unit Glass***
*To add 80% transparency to the facade, and for enclosure*

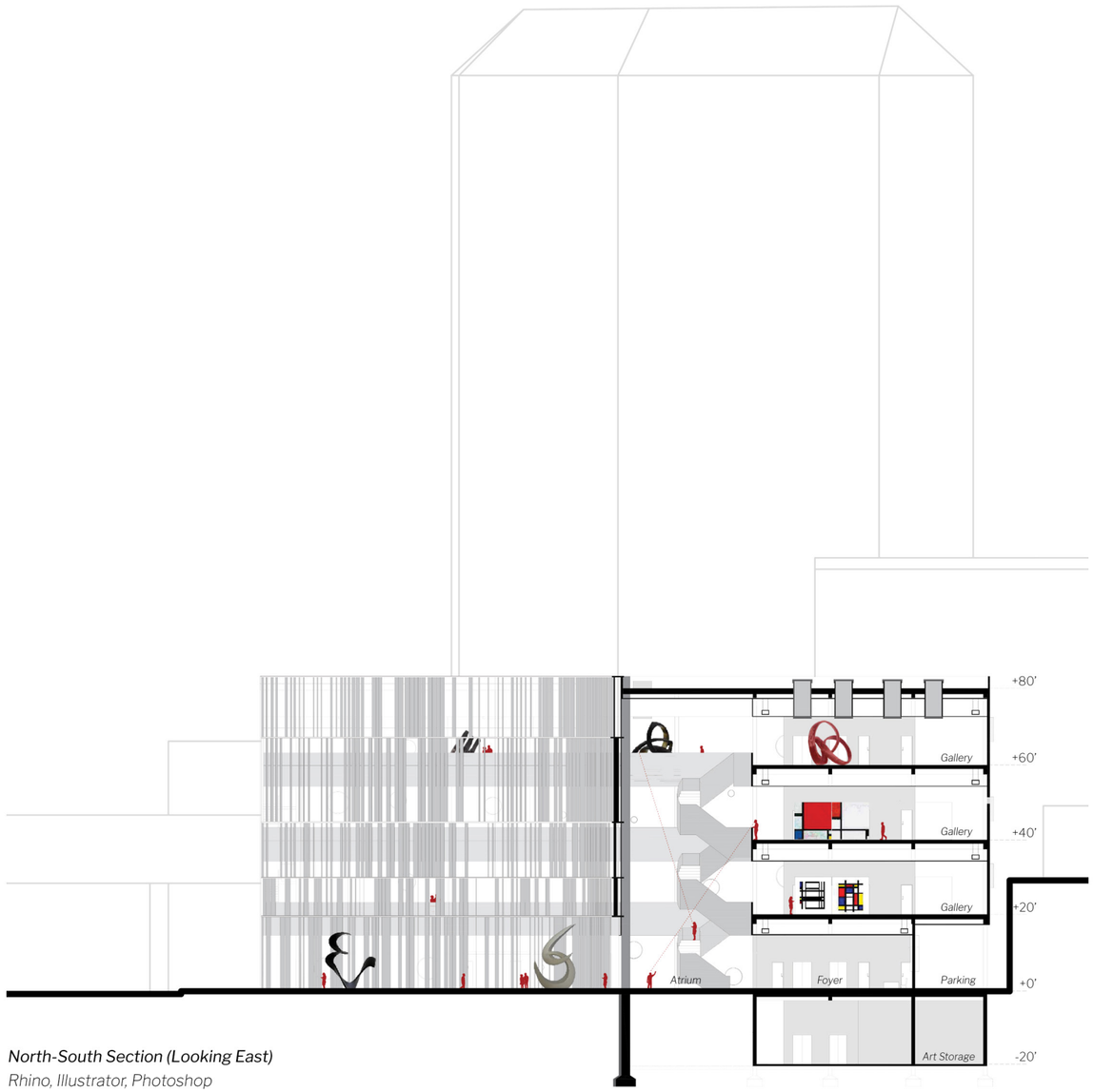
***Mahogany for Vertical Shading***
*To act as the vertical shading device, and facade punctuation*

***Stainless Steel Base Plates***
*For horizontal shading and to support the louvers of the curvilinear facade*

***Reinforced Cement Concrete Walls***
*To maximize the structure's strength and longevity*

*Axonometric Section*
*SketchUp, Photoshop*

## Section




*North-South Section (Looking East)*
*Rhino, Illustrator, Photoshop*





*View of the Atrium*
*Rhino, Lumion, Photoshop*

# Equestrian Centre

**Academic Project**, at Buffalo, USA | Fall ‘22

Individual Project
Instructed by Prof. Brian Carter

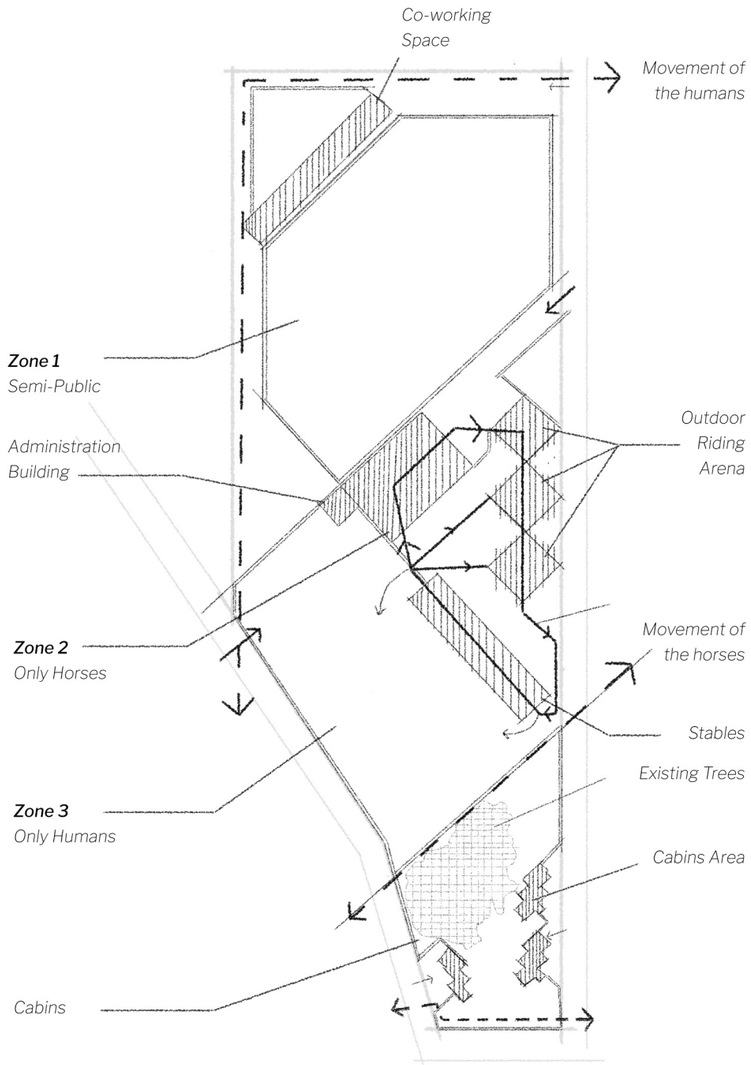


*Render of the Riding Hall, and Stables*
*Rhino, Twinmotion, Photoshop*

**Re-Sensitize.**

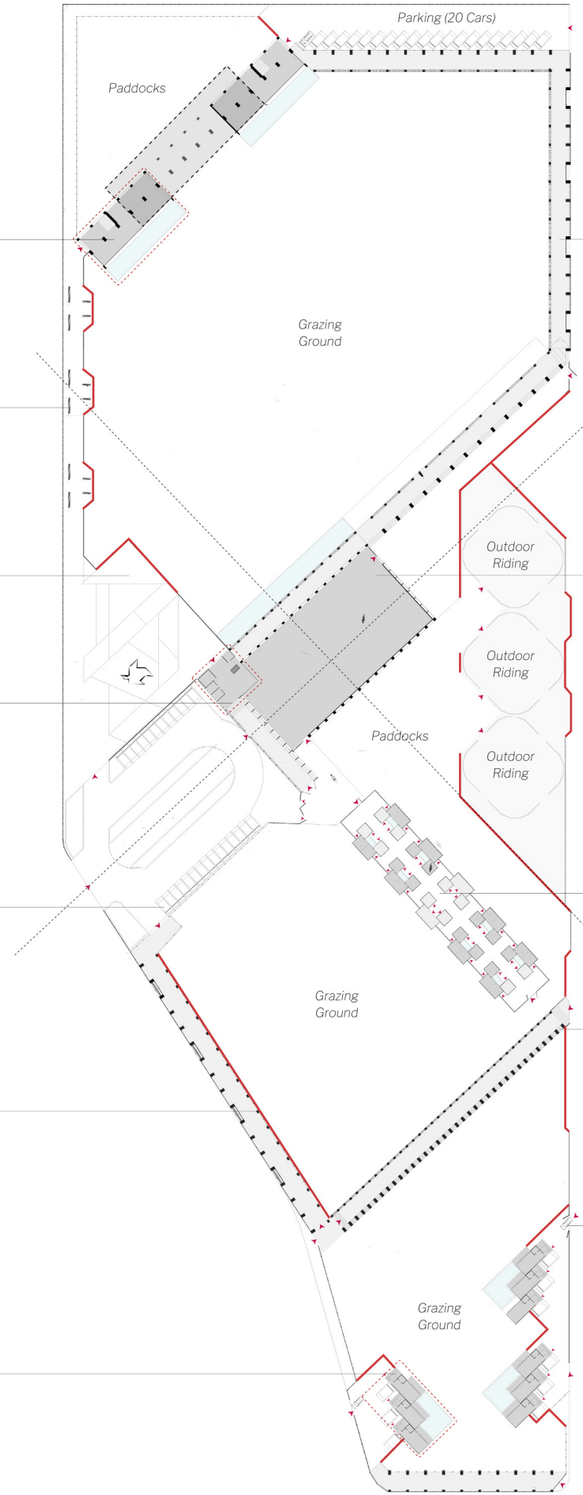
The concept is a response to the lack of connect with the nature, that we face today. It addresses the issue of humans getting desensitized due to this disconnect, and aims to utilize the presence of horses as a means to reconnect  us humans to the nature. With a divserse array of spaces, the design aims to provide a slice of nature in the midst of the city.

The project took advantage of the existing site features, strategically placing the grazing grounds, paddocks and woods for the horses, consequently allowing a distinct set of movements for the humans and the horses throughout the available site.




*Conceptual Site Plan*
*Hand Sketch, Photoshop*

## Layout




***Co-Working Space***
*for 500 People*

***Shaded Walkways***
*A Nod to Olmsted*

***Shaded Walkways***
*A Nod to Olmsted*

***Open Congregation Plaza***
*for seminars and fundraisers*

***Indoor Riding Hall***
*for 15 horses at once*

***Administration***
*for 10 People*

***Stables for 20 Horses**, with*
*Feed Rooms,*
*Tack Rooms,*
*Hay Storage,*
*Bedding Storage,*
*Tools Area*

***Parking***
*for 25 Cars*

***Shaded Walkways***
*A Nod to Olmsted*

***Shaded Walkways***
*A Nod to Olmsted*

***Vehicular Entrance***
*to the Overnight Cabins*

***Overnight Cabins***
*Clusters of 3*

*Pockets of Interaction with horses*

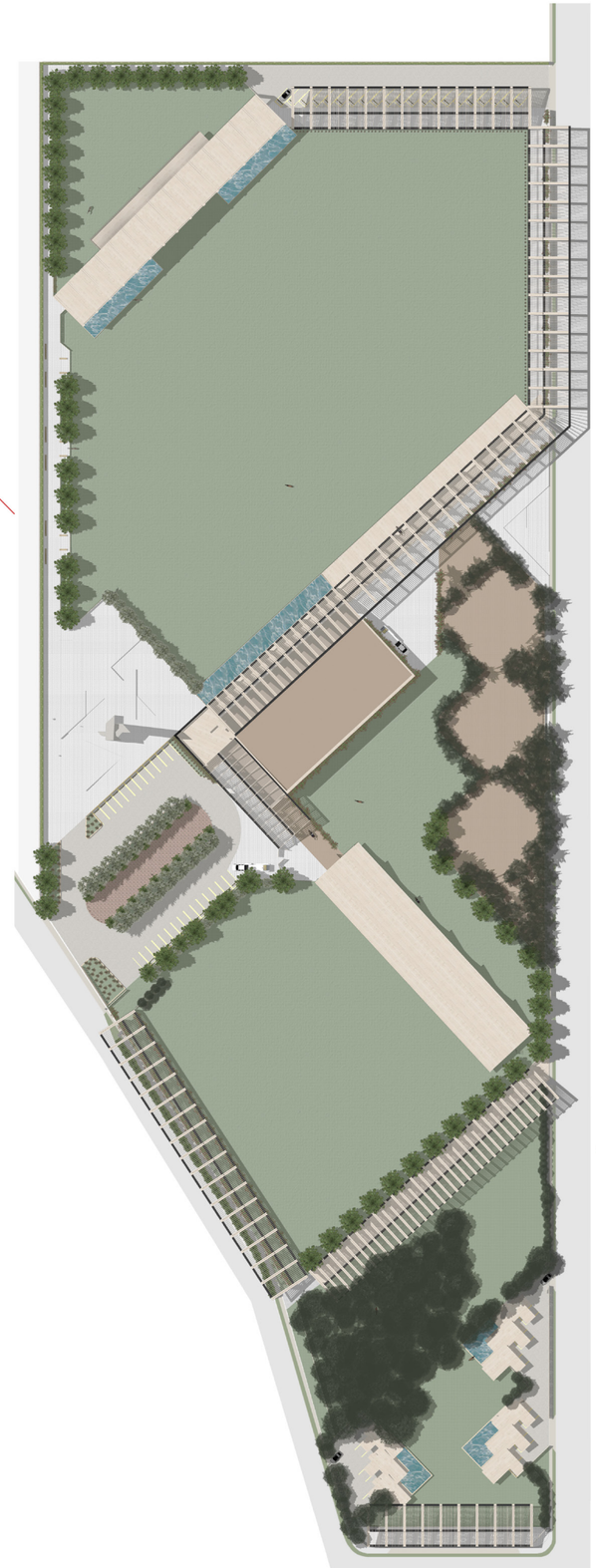
*Axes of Design*

*Water Troughs*

0' 25' 50' 100'

***First Floor Site Plan***
*AutoCAD, Illustrator*

## **Site** Plan



*New + Existing Trees*

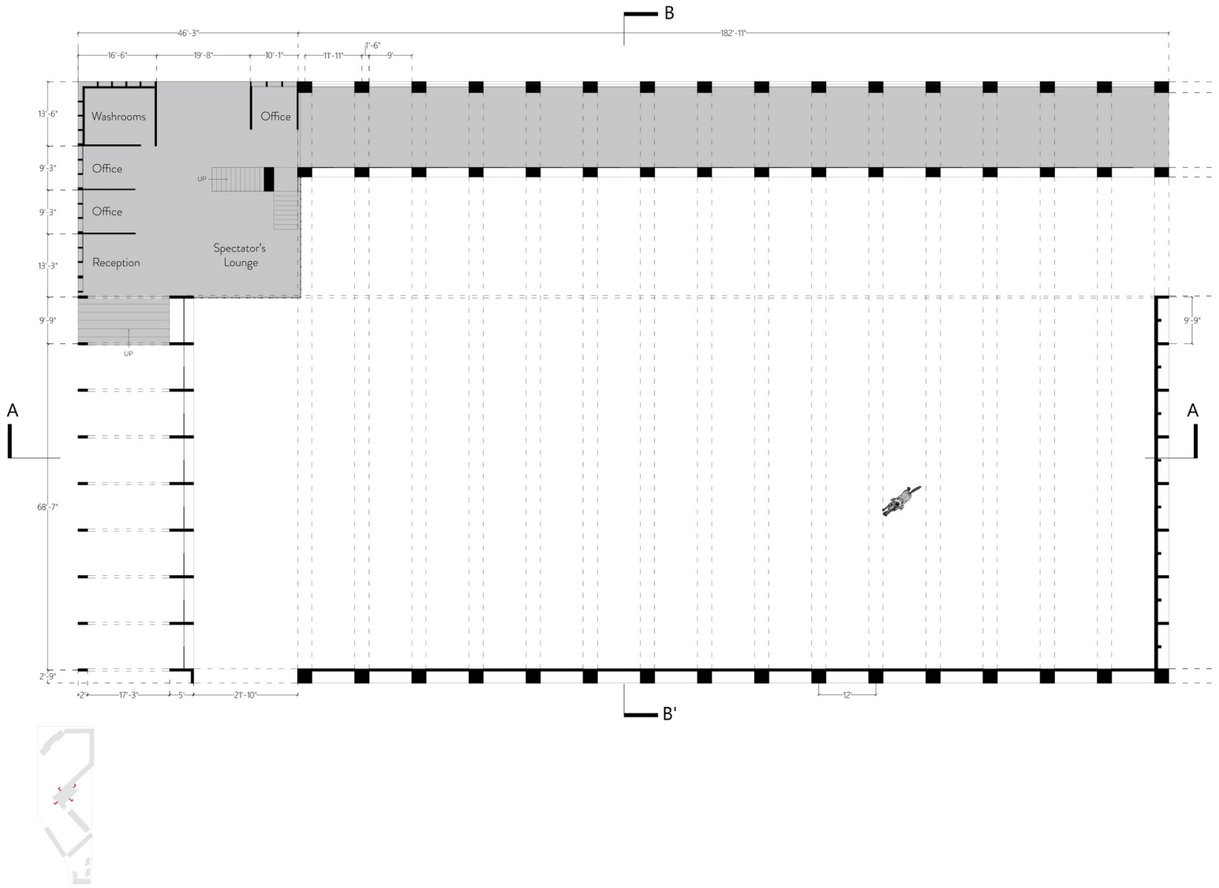
*Grazing Grounds*

*Timber Buildings*

*Pavements*

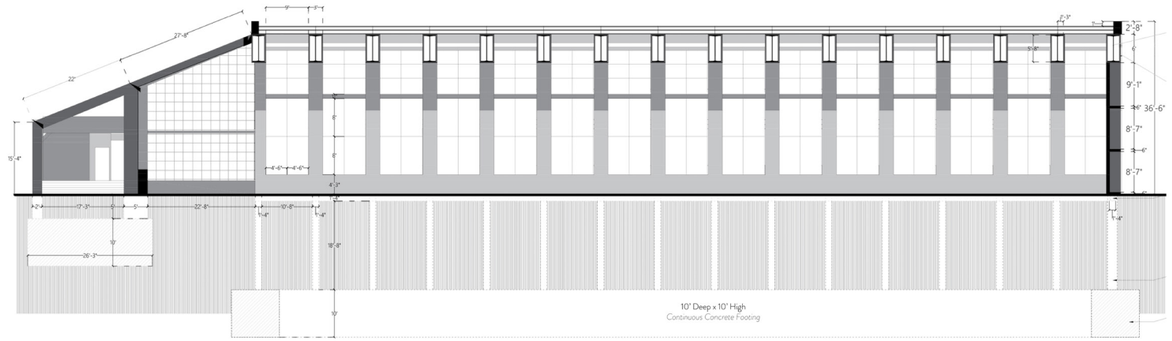
***Site Plan***
*AutoCAD, SketchUp, Illustrator*

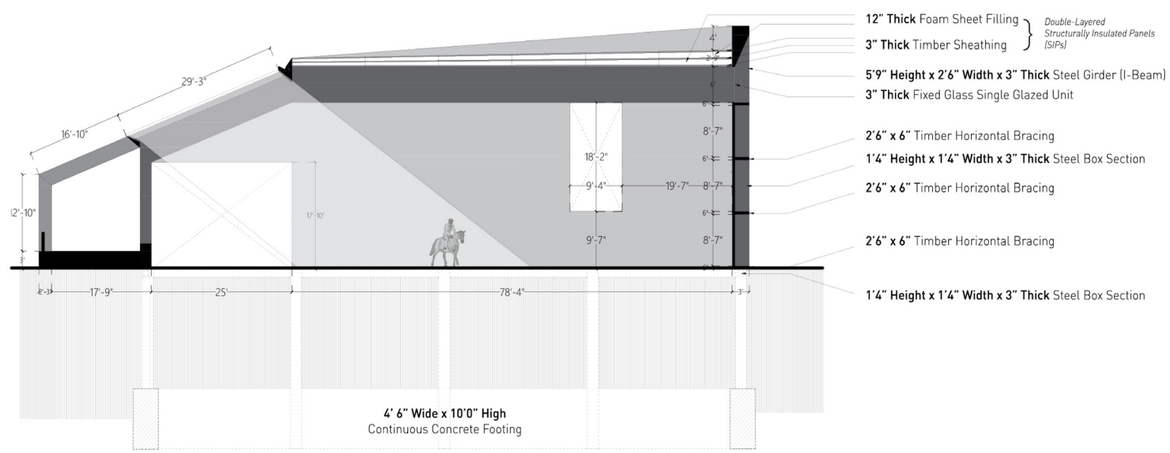
0' 25' 50' 100'




*Riding Hall Plan*
*AutoCAD, Illustrator*

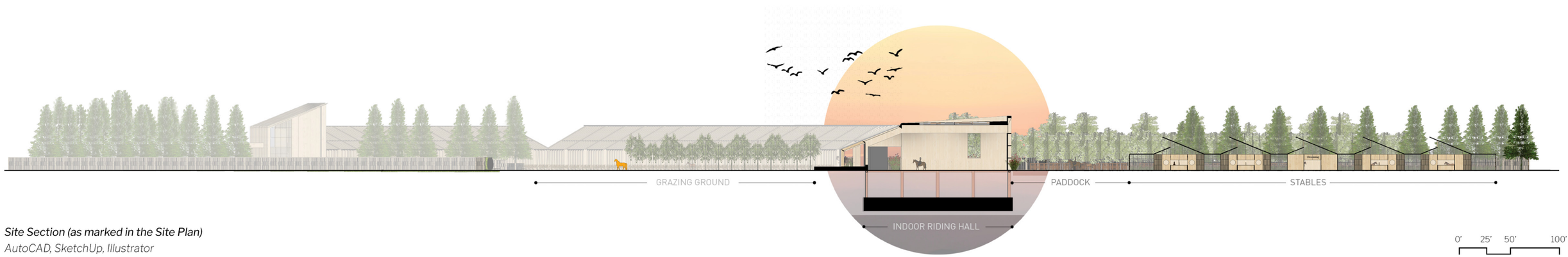
0' 10' 20' 40'




*Sections A-A' (Upper), and B-B' (Lower)*
*AutoCAD, Illustrator*

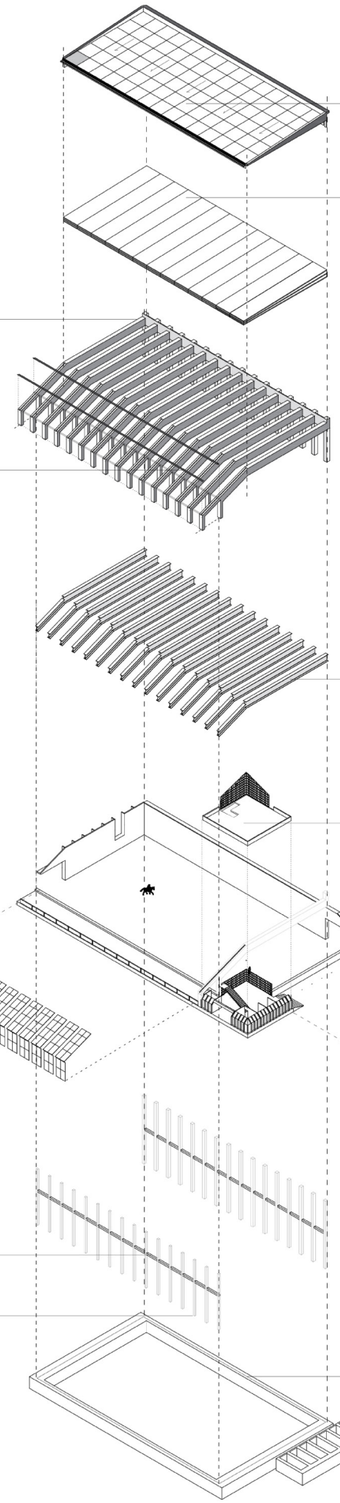
0' 10' 20' 40'




*Site Section (as marked in the Site Plan)*
*AutoCAD, SketchUp, Illustrator*

0' 25' 50' 100'

## **Riding** Hall



**Roofing Layer**
*Structurally Insulated Panels (SIPs)*

**Timber Covering**
*3” Thick on each side of the girder*

**Drainage**
*12” Deep, 2” Thick Aluminum Gutters*

**Steel Girders**
*5’8” H x 2’6” W x 3”B*

**Terrace Viewing**
*for VIPs and audiences*

**Single Glazings**
*8’0” x 4’0”*
*8’6” x 4’6”*

**Lateral Bracings**

**Single Glazings**
*8’0” x 4’0”*
*8’6” x 4’6”*

**18”x 18”**
*Box Section*

**15”x 15”**
*Box Section*

**Plinth Beam**

**Concrete Footings**

*Exploded Axonometric Diagram, Riding Hall*
*AutoCAD, SketchUp, Illustrator*



*Interior View of the Riding Hall*
*SketchUp, Twinmotion, Photoshop*

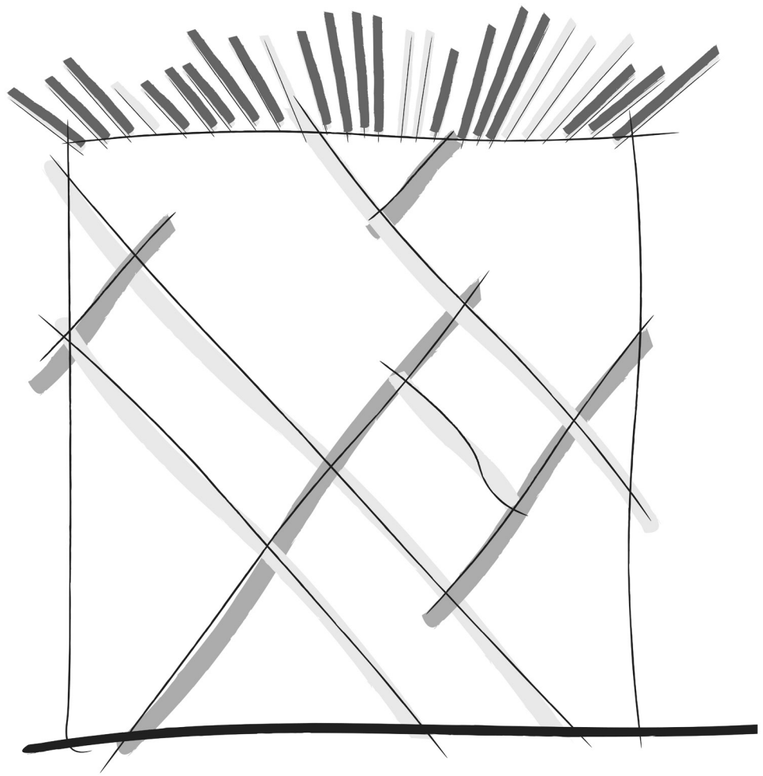
# The Illuminated Wall Frame

**Professional Project**, at Ahmedabad, India | Aug'20 - Jan '21

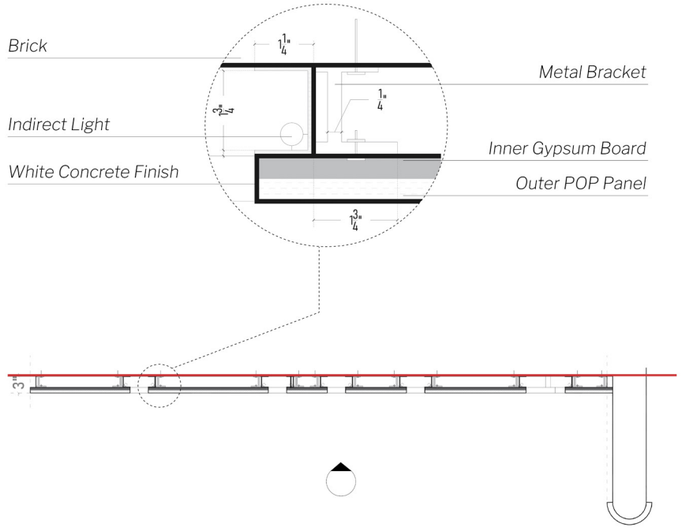
**Residential** Project, during **Freelance** Architect / Interior Designer
Wall Frame Installation, Part of the Larger Renovation

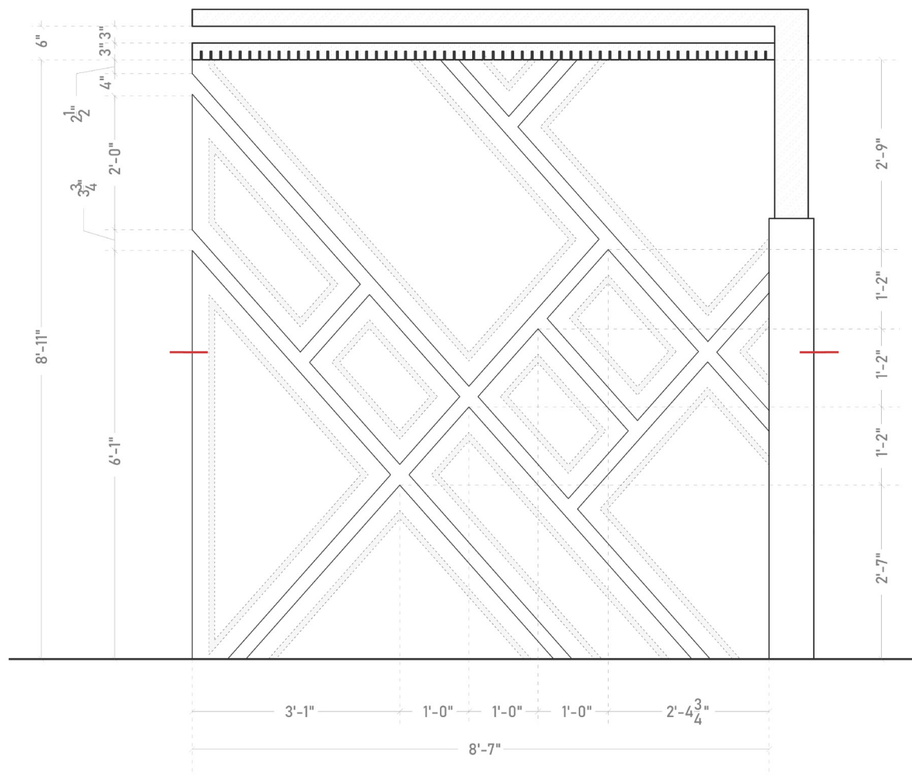
**The Illuminated Backdrop.**

As part of conceptualizing a beautiful, cozy dining space for a private tenament owner in Ahmedabad, India, this wall installation was developed as a backdrop for the space. With exposed timber in the ceiling, its frame was made out of steel brackets, and was further made **cost effective** by substituting the costly wood with gypsum boards. This eventually impacted the ase of electric supply in the strip lights, and gave the space an accented look.



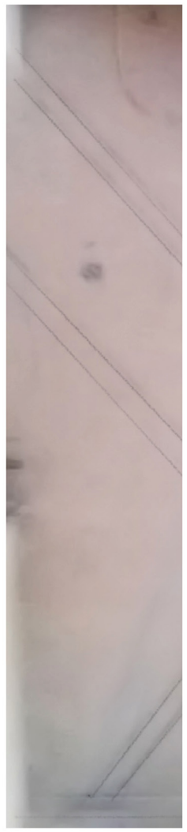
*Conceptual Idea for the Installation*
*Concepts App, Photoshop*



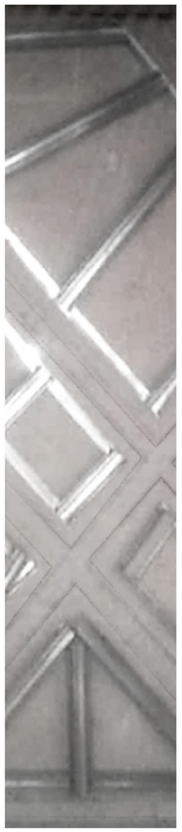




*Top: Design Detail,*
*Middle: Plan (from +4'6");*
*Bottom: Elevation*
*AutoCAD, SketchUp, Illustrator*

*Marking*



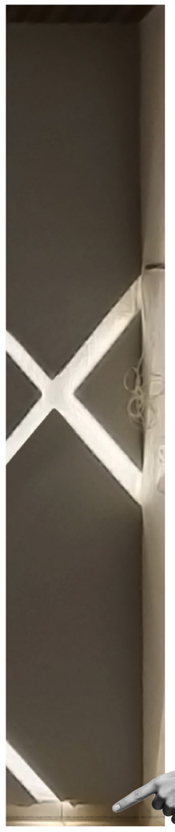
*Framing*



*Paneling*



*Lighting*



0' 4.5" 9" 18"

*Different Stages of Construction*
*Photoshop*



*Visualization of the Illumination Frame*
*SketchUp, D5 Render, Photoshop*

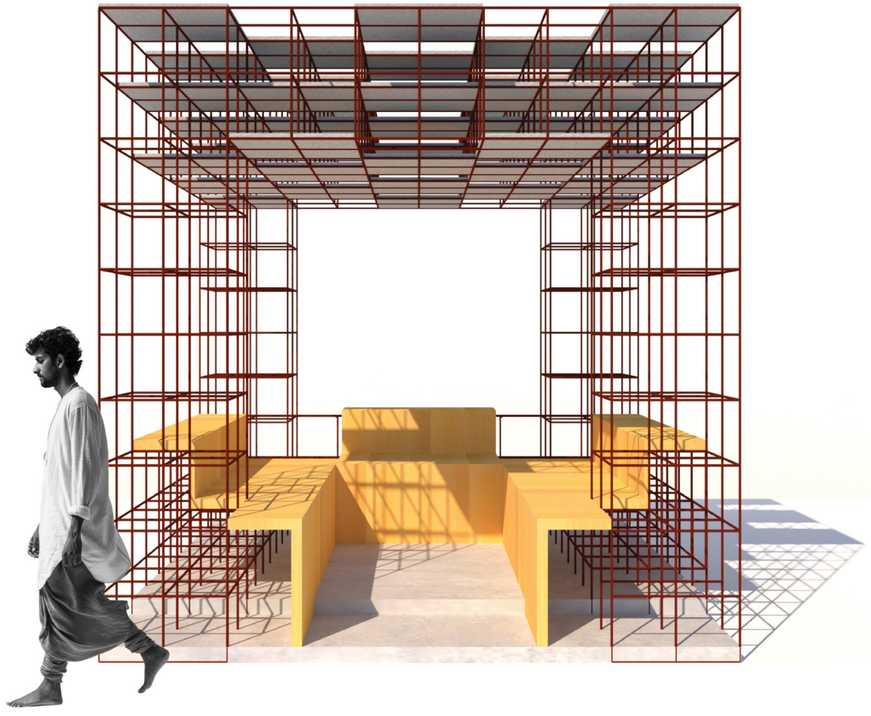
# Works at the International Border

**Professional Project**, at Nadabet Indo-Pak Border, India | Jan ‘21

Sr. Architectural Visualizer at Design Molecule, Ahmedabad, India
Under the Mentorship of Ar. Saloni Gajjar

**“Duty Until Death”**

The english translation of the war cry of the prestigious Border Security Force (BSF) of the Indian Army, formed the core concept of a 250’ long and 20’ high mural at the newly-inaugurated Nadabet International Border attraction, India. This steel installation was one among a multitude of projects that was commissioned to the firm, and it was an honor to be a part of something that recognized the sacrifices of the army personnel of the country.



***Seating Pavilion, made from Re-Bars, Gypsum Boards, Timber Boards***
*SketchUp, V-Ray for SketchUp, Photoshop*



*Marshes of the Ganges Delta, East*



*Patroling the Thar Desert, West*



*Traditional Attire of the BSF*



***Drone View of the Mural***
*Photograph as Received*

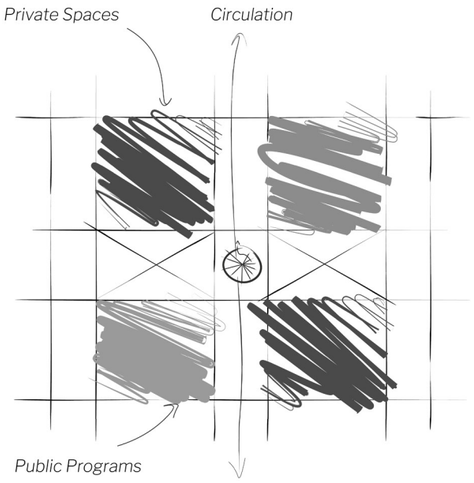
# F. Franklin Moon Library Extension

**Architecture Competition**, at Syracuse, USA | Aug - Dec ‘23

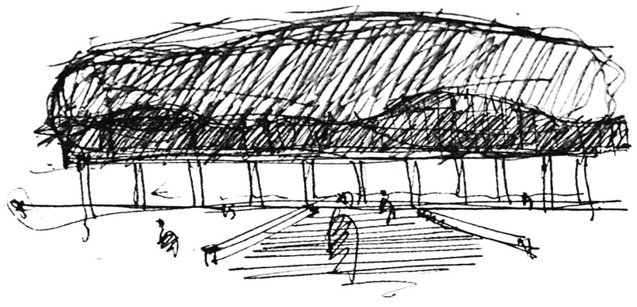
SUNY ESF Mass Timber Competition
In Partnership with Hashem Badr

**Tracing the Future.**

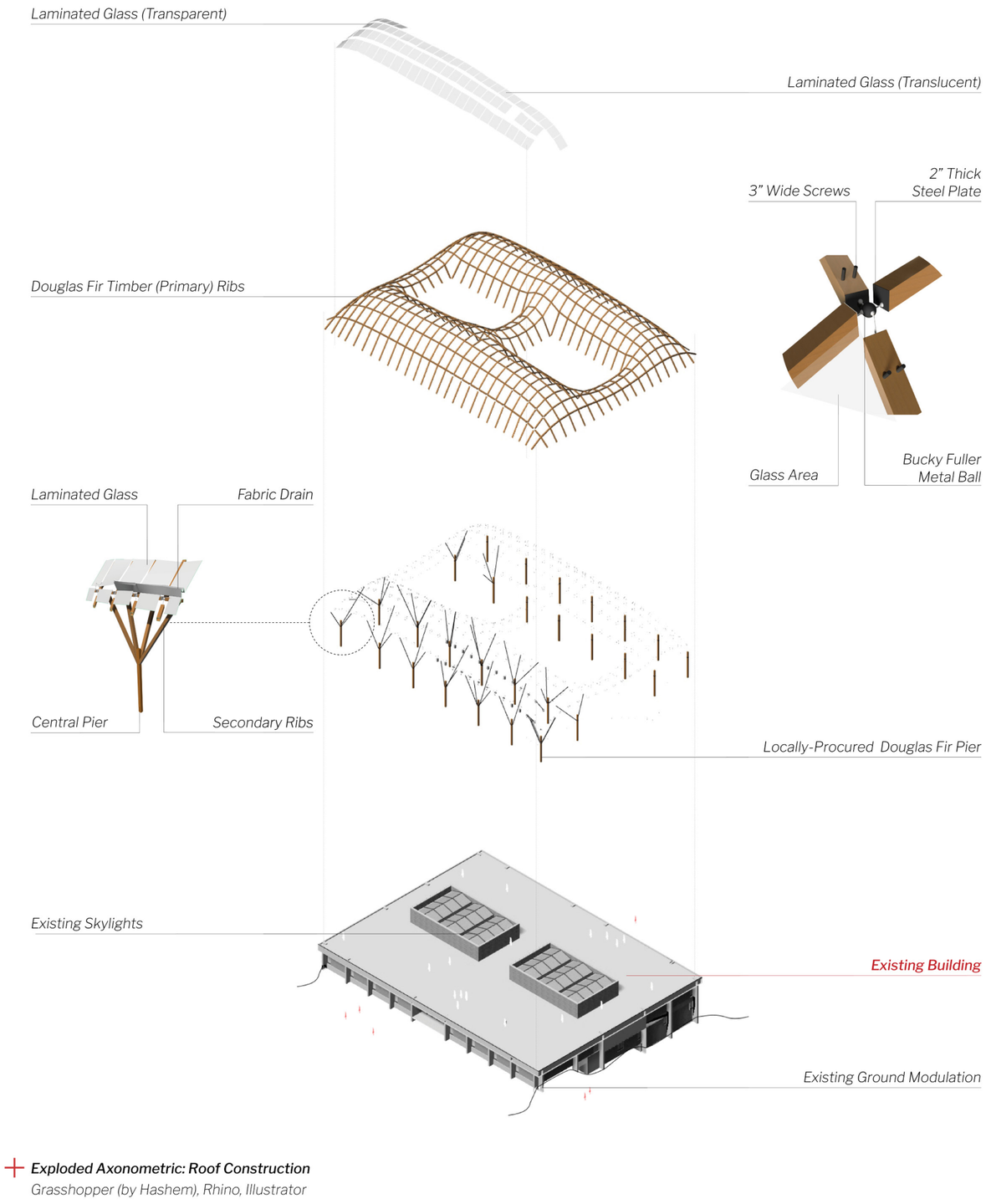
Libraries have been the temples of knowledge before the internet, and thet continue to evolve to keep up with the depth of data available online. As a team, we hence thought of conceptualizing the vertical extension of the F. Franklin Moon Library on the lines of re-inventing the way a library is used today and in the decades to come. As the competition required, we focused on the emerging technologies of mass timber construction.




***Conceptual Layout***
*Hand Sketch, Illustrator*

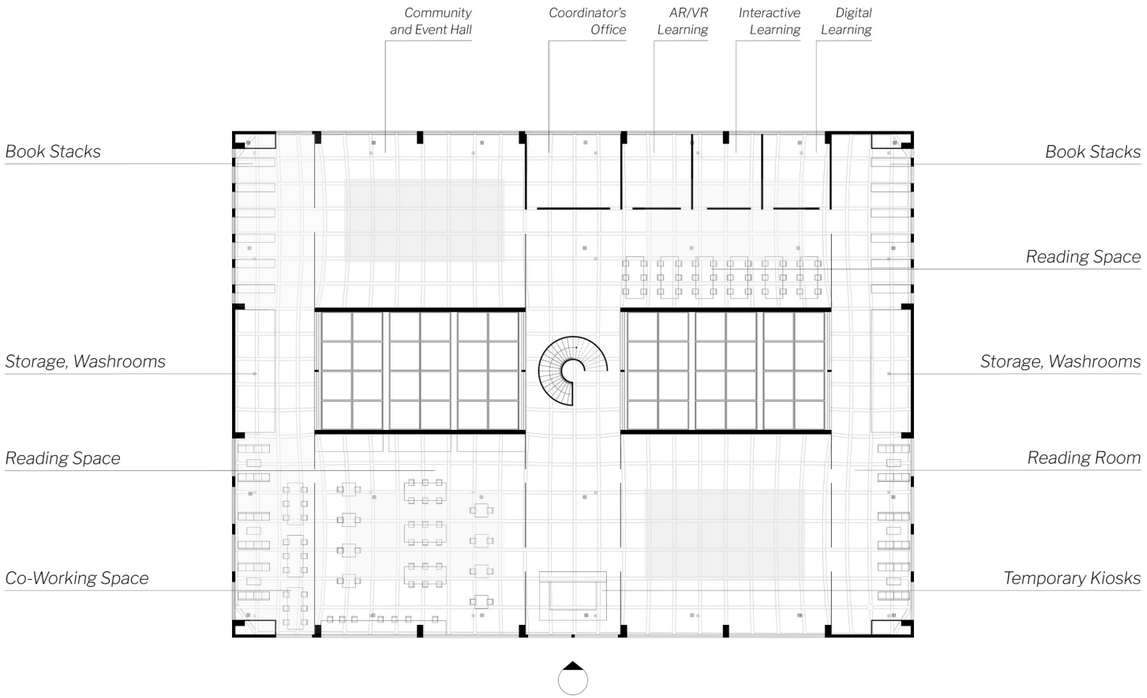


***Conceptual Elevation***
*Hand Sketch, Photoshop*

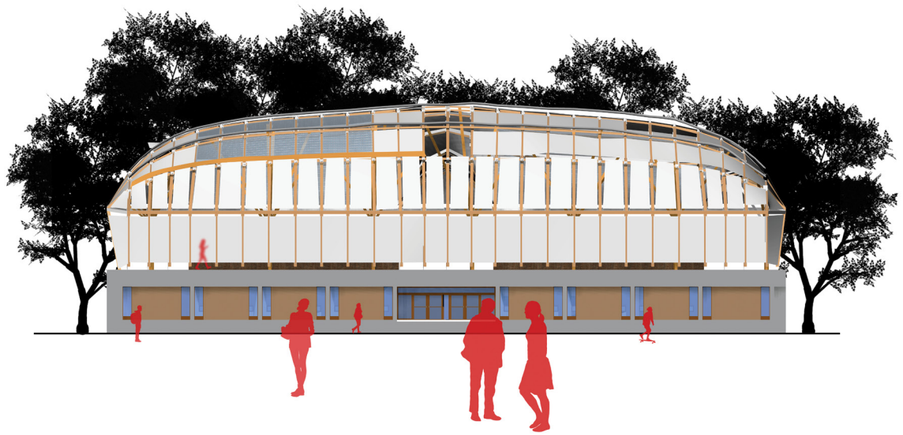



***Exploded Axonometric: Roof Construction***
*Grasshopper (by Hashem), Rhino, Illustrator*

## Plan, Elevation




***Extension Layout***
*Rhino, AutoCAD, Illustrator*



***Southern Elevation***
*Rhino, Illustrator, Photoshop*

0' 10' 20' 50'



***Interior View of the Library Extension***
*Rhino, Lumion, Photoshop*

# Just Throw It

**Art Installation**, at Buffalo, USA | Jan - Jun ‘24

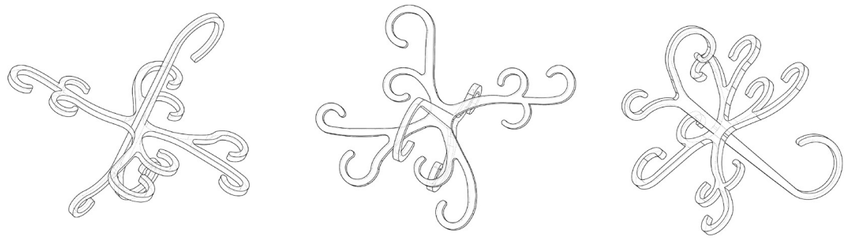
Sr. Research Assistant to Prof. Jin Young Song
Tensile Structure + 3D Printed Blocks

**An Exercise for the Children.**

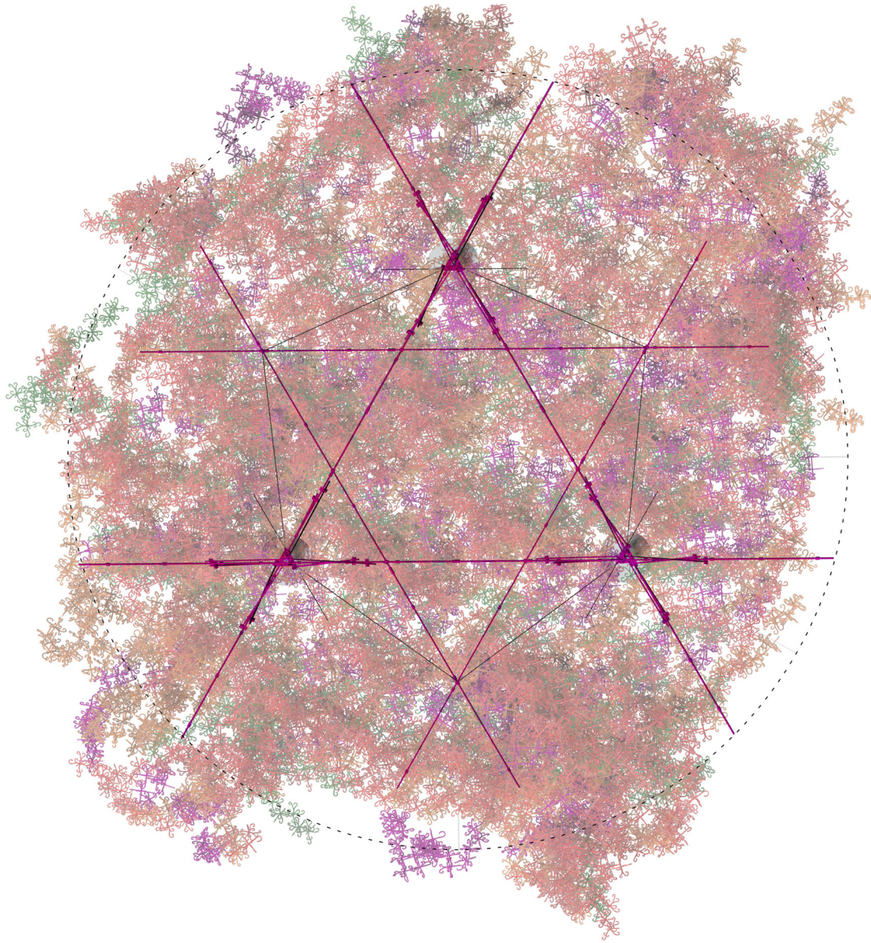
Conceptualized by Prof. Jin Young Song, this tensile installation is an interactive exercise for the children, to assemble the blocks, and throw them at the structure in an attempt to make them stick to the other blocks. **My contributions** were mainly in 3D printing, assembly/ disassembly of the installation, and undertaking intermediate tasks like modifying the model file, developing storage strategies, and preparing drawings as required.



*Pre-Visualization of the Installation*
*Rhino, V-Ray for Rhino, Photoshop*



***Typical Block***
*Base Model: Prof. Jin Young Song*
*Rhino, Illustrator*



*Top View of the Installation*
*Rhino, Illustrator, Photoshop*

0' 1' 2' 5'

**Monil** Shah
arch.mshah@gmail.com