



AS WE DREAM

XANDER WU
ARCHITECTURAL PORTFOLIO

Architectural Portfolio, 2024 Edition

Selected Work Since 2020

Xander Wu

New York

As We Dream

is a collection of architectural projects,
each designed with an interesting narrative
that incites emotions, imaginations,
and hope. This portfolio itself serves as
another manifesto of narrative design.

Acknowledgement: I am deeply grateful to all my
studio professors at Columbia University and
Cal Poly Pomona. Their guidance have enriched
every project we worked on together. I am also
grateful for my fellow classmates, intellectual
companions, and friends, who have inspired and
supported me throughout my education journey.

■ PROLOG

As we dream, the narrative begins. Regardless of how much we flatter ourselves about our individual rationality, a good story, no matter how analytically deficient, lingers in the mind, resonates emotionally, and persuades more than the most dispositive facts or data. (*The Delusions of Crowds*)

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Xander Wu

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Education	Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation (GSAPP) New York City, NY M.S. Advanced Architectural Design	2023 - 2024		
	Cal Poly Pomona (CPP) College of Environmental Design Los Angeles, California Bachelor of Architecture (NAAB accredited)	2016 - 2022		
Experience	Water Street Associates New York City, NY Designer of Aprés Met II, Met Gala Afterparty Proposed the schematic design and assisted in producing the installations	Apr. - May 2024		
	Da-Ju Architects & Associates Taipei, Taiwan Drafter of a distribution center project (500,000+ sqft), Taoyuan Worked on the interior design of the <i>Ambassador Hotel Project</i> , Taipei	Jun. - Jul. 2021		
	Ricky Liu & Associates Architects + Planners Taipei, Taiwan Model-Maker of the international competition of <i>Taichung Arena</i> , Taichung BIM Designer of a social housing project (500+ units) for the government	May - Dec. 2020		
	Domaen Los Angeles, California Model-Maker of <i>Resident Alien: Austrian Architects in America</i> , an exhibition at <i>Austrian Cultural Forum New York (ACFNY)</i> Designed the facade of a single-family house, Beverly Hills	May - Sep. 2019		
Publications	Wu, Alexander. Liu, Edwin. "Tsunami Evacuation Tower", <i>Deconstructionism Competitions</i> , NON Architecture Editorials.	Dec. 2020		
Exhibitions	Team of ARC 4990, "The Inverse Pyramid", <i>Bombay Beach Biennale</i> Team of ARC 3420, "Sinuosity", <i>Interim Exhibition</i> , CPP Wu, Alexander, "Toy Museum", <i>Interim Exhibition</i> , CPP	Mar. 2019 Dec. 2019 May 2019		
Awards	Outstanding Student Senior Project, ARC 4611A, CPP Dean's List for GPA 3.5 or higher, CPP Honorable Mention, <i>Bobby Brooks Memorial Studio</i> , ARC 4031, CPP President's Honor List for GPA 3.5 or higher, CPP Special Mention, 2019 <i>Design Village Competitions</i> , Cal Poly SLO	May 2022 Dec. 2022 May 2021 2020 - 2021 Nov. 2019		
Skills	Rhinoceros Revit Adobe Illustrator Adobe Photoshop Adobe Indesign	Enscape + VR Autocad Sketchup Grasshopper Woodworking	+Critical Thinking +Problem Solving +Creativity +English +Mandarin	Present

DREAM

Met Gala Afterparty 2024

Work: *Aprés Met II* by WSA

Site: New York City



The Cloud Bed | A colossal daybed covered in cloudy cotton



Design Concept

In addition to the Met's theme of *Sleeping Beauty*, the Afterparty presents *DREAM*, envisioning what she dreams of



The Cloud Bed I Made for the IG moment

Production of the Bed

The clouds are created by spraying glue on lanterns and adding cotton fibers. Four king-size beds form into one mega-sized bed, with clouds surround it at varying heights. At night, LED strips placed among the clouds glow, creating a golden hue effect.



Cotton Fibers

Laterns

Composition



The Jumping Bed | A rowdy DJ booth

Program of the Floor

This funky installation and stage draw celebrities eager to perform. Single beds replace traditional booths and are laid out around the dance floor for open seating. The bars are covered in silk fabric, creating softness to the dreamlike atmosphere.



Performance

Seats

Bars

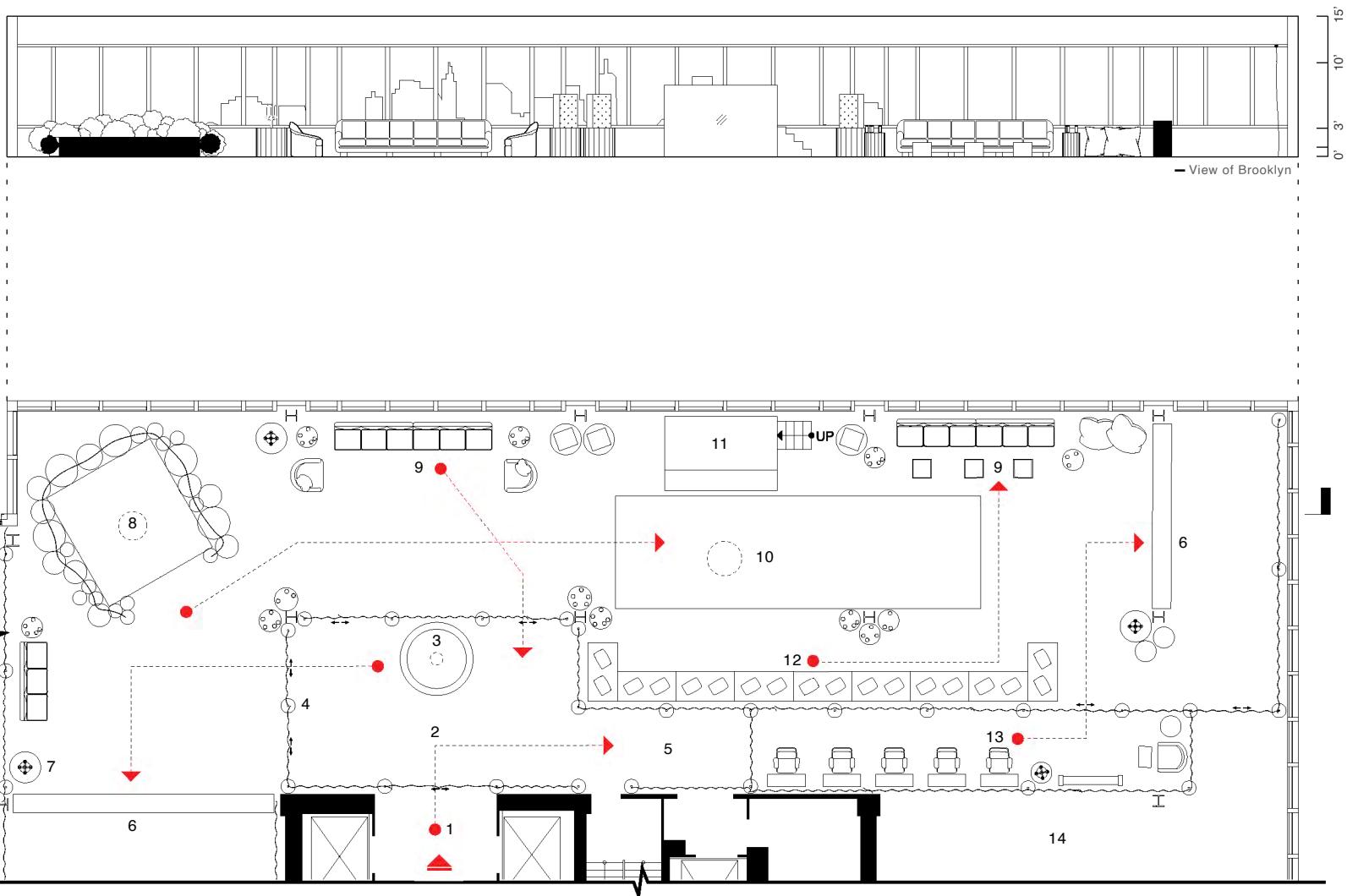
Inside Aprés Met II



Index: (1) The Cloud Bed; (2) Makeup Room; (3) Open Seating; (4) Candle; (5) Dance Floor; (6) Champagne Tower

Credit: Zach Hilty, BFA | Image (5)

Strategy



1 core	8 the cloud bed
2 foyer	9 lounge
3 champagne tower	10 dance floor
4 pipe and drape	11 DJ booth
5 photobooth	12 seats
6 bar	13 makeup rm
7 candle	14 back of house

30FL

1' = 1/16"

0' 3' 10'

Photography



Source: Zach Schwartz, Vogue | Image: Zach Hilty, BFA

Celebrities: Carlos Nazario, Emily Ratajkowski, Paloma Elsesser



1



2



3



4



5



6

Source: Zach Schwartz, Vogue | Image: Zach Hilty, BFA

Celebrities: (1) Alexander Roth, Andrew Georgiades, Phil Kane; (2) Jordan Grant; (3) Dascha Polanco; (4) Jasmin Larian Hekmat; (5) Michelle Ochs; (6) Marc Jacobs, Charli XCX, Charly Defrancesco

WWD

VOGUE BUSINESS

gettyimages®



Source: Aurora Rose, WWD

WWD: "Lana Del Rey, Bad Bunny, Kendall Jenner and more at the AprésMet Party"



Source: Zachery Schwartz, Vogue

Vogue: "Met Gala 2024: What's the ROI on an afterparty look?"



Source: gettyimages | Credit: WWD

GettyImages: "Aprés Met Party 2 Met Gala After Party hosted by Carlos Nazario, Emily ..."



Source: Instagram



Stories: (1) wsanyc; (2) andrewgeorgiades; (3) kmjr.world



35 likes
kmjr.world May 2024 - Second Annual Aprés MET hosted by @mr_carlos_nazario, @emrata,... more
2 hours ago



ECONOX

Sustainable Luxury Brand

Academic: GSAPP Studio

Topic: OPEN, 2024

Instructor: David Benjamin

Site: Instagram

Creating the desire for
sustainable materials —
in doing so to popularize
sustainable architecture

Note...

econoxnewyork

Edit profile

View archive

Ad tools



18 posts

40 followers

33 following

Econox

Artist

Feel The Difference

#SustainableLuxury

"Consumerism is something good when we buy carbon negative things."

5 accounts reached in the last 30 days. [View insights](#)



Countdown



Highlights

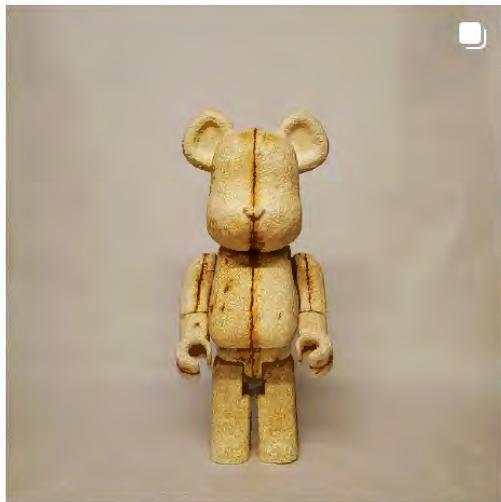


New

POSTS

SAVED

TAGGED



ECONOX



Mount Econox, the world's first 3D-printed Eco-Lux store is established in 2024.

Our Mission

Econox pioneers sustainability and luxury, empowering individuals to embrace a lifestyle that harmonizes elegance with environmental stewardship.

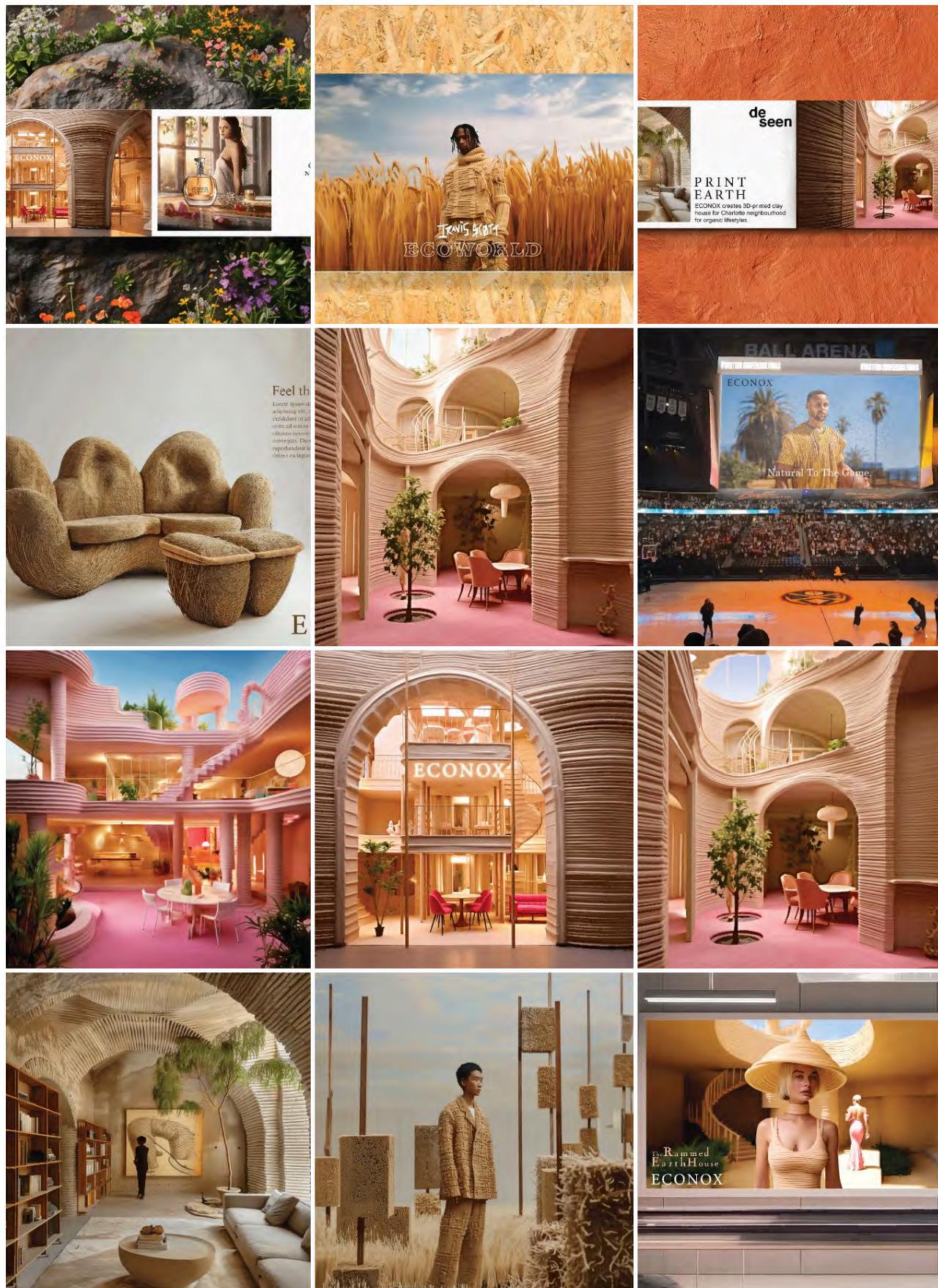
Our Values

Sustainability | Commitment to using 100% eco-friendly materials.

Design | Leveraging pop culture to make sustainability appealing.

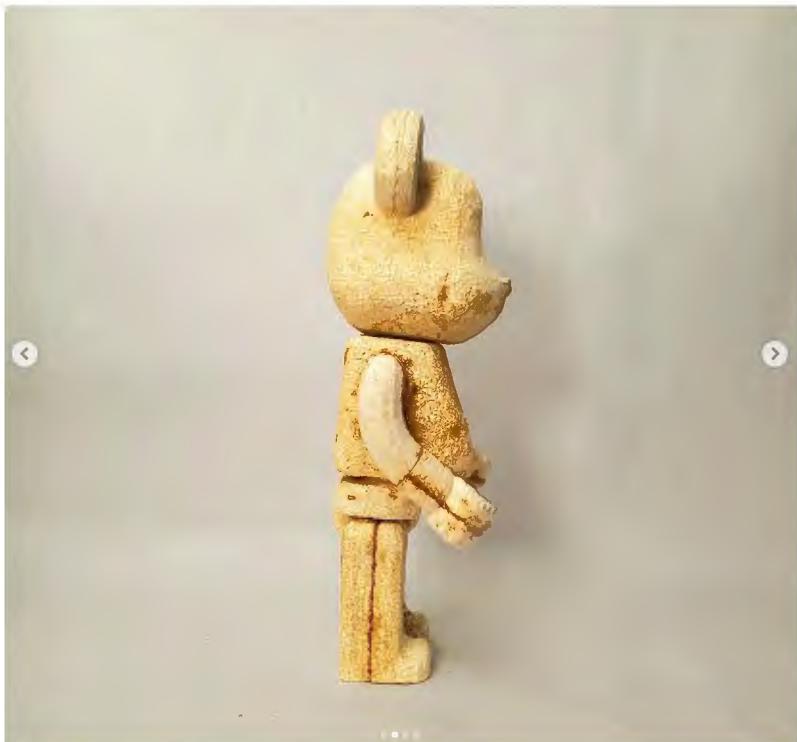
Luxury | Positioning sustainable products as high-end items

Exclusivity | Utilizing scarcity and limited editions to create urgency.



Posts | Sustainable-luxury Lifestyle: Featuring Accessories, Furniture, Interior Design, and Architecture

Collectibles



econoxnewyork The world's first mycelium #bearbrick.
100% Biodegradable
Made of mycelium, wood chips, flour, water
Made in USA
DM for inquiry
#econoxnewyork #carbonnegative #sustainableluxury #popart
#popartstyle #collectivetrend #collective
Edited · 2w

1w 1 like Reply

2w Reply

[View insights](#) [Boost post](#)

Liked by and 31 others
April 18

Add a comment...



econoxnewyork Econox Brick
Out Now
Displayed somewhere at Avery
100% Biodegradable
Made of mycelium
Made in USA
DM for inquiry
#econoxnewyork #sustainableluxury #popart #collective
#collectivetrend
Edited · 2w

2w 1 like Reply

[View insights](#) [Boost post](#)

Liked by and 14 others
April 20

Add a comment...

Posts | Biodegradable Pop-Art, featuring Mycelium BearBrick and Bricks.

Advertisements



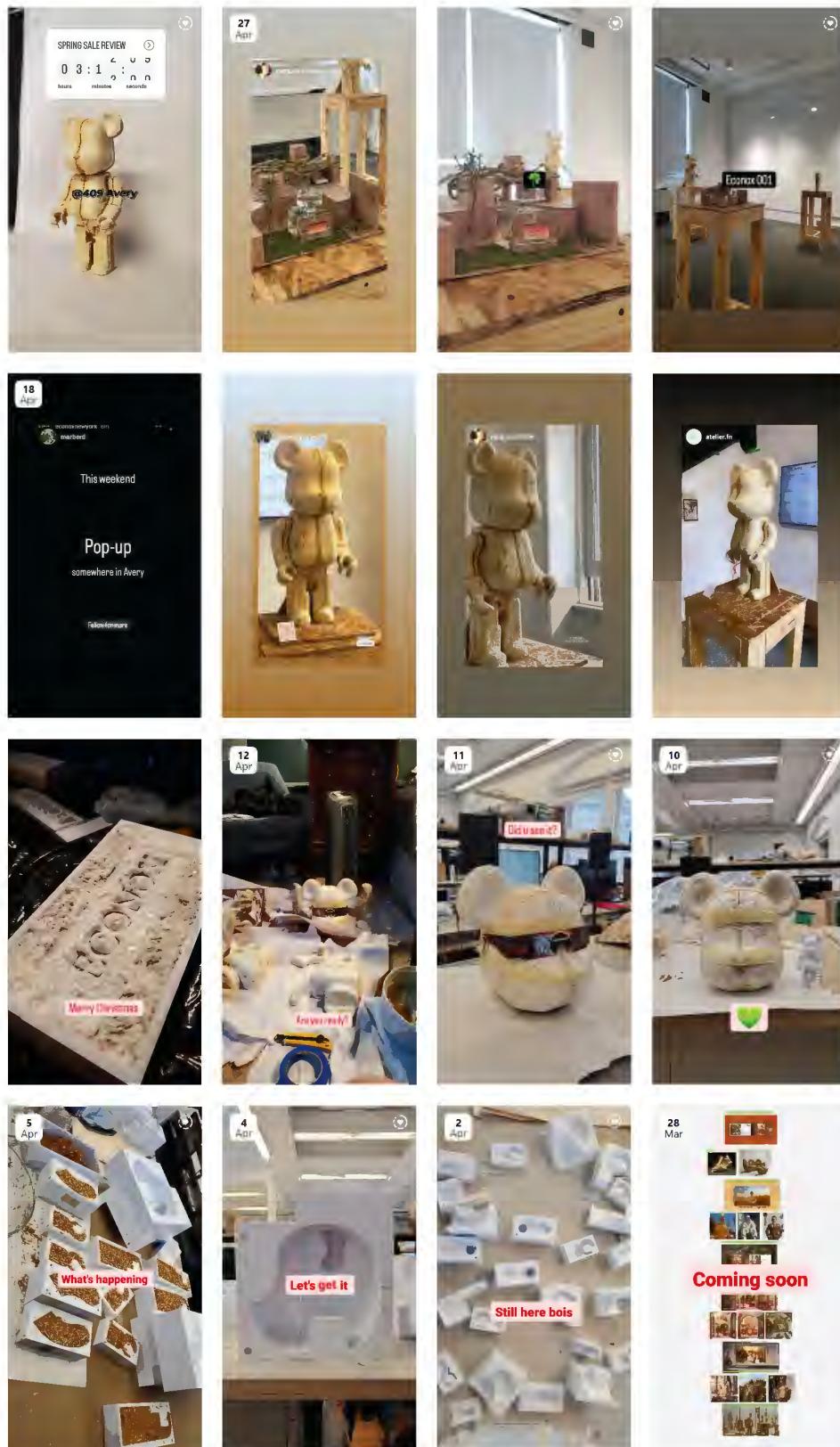
Posts | The Eco-Lux Sofa and Outfits feel naturally elegant, made from jute and rice straw.

Trending



Pop-Up | Enthusiasts are following Econox's Instagram Stories to find these discreet pop-ups.

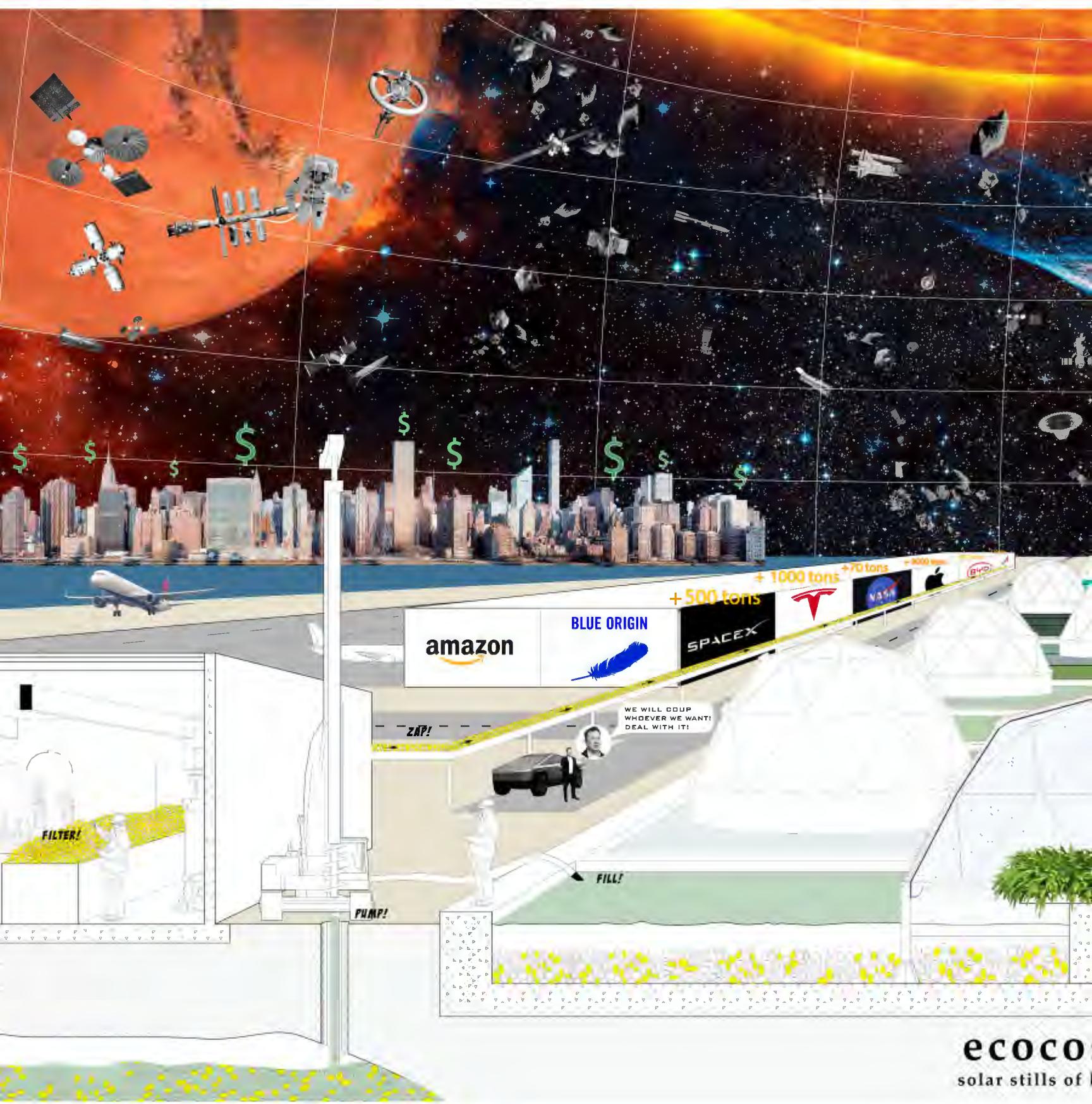
Marketing



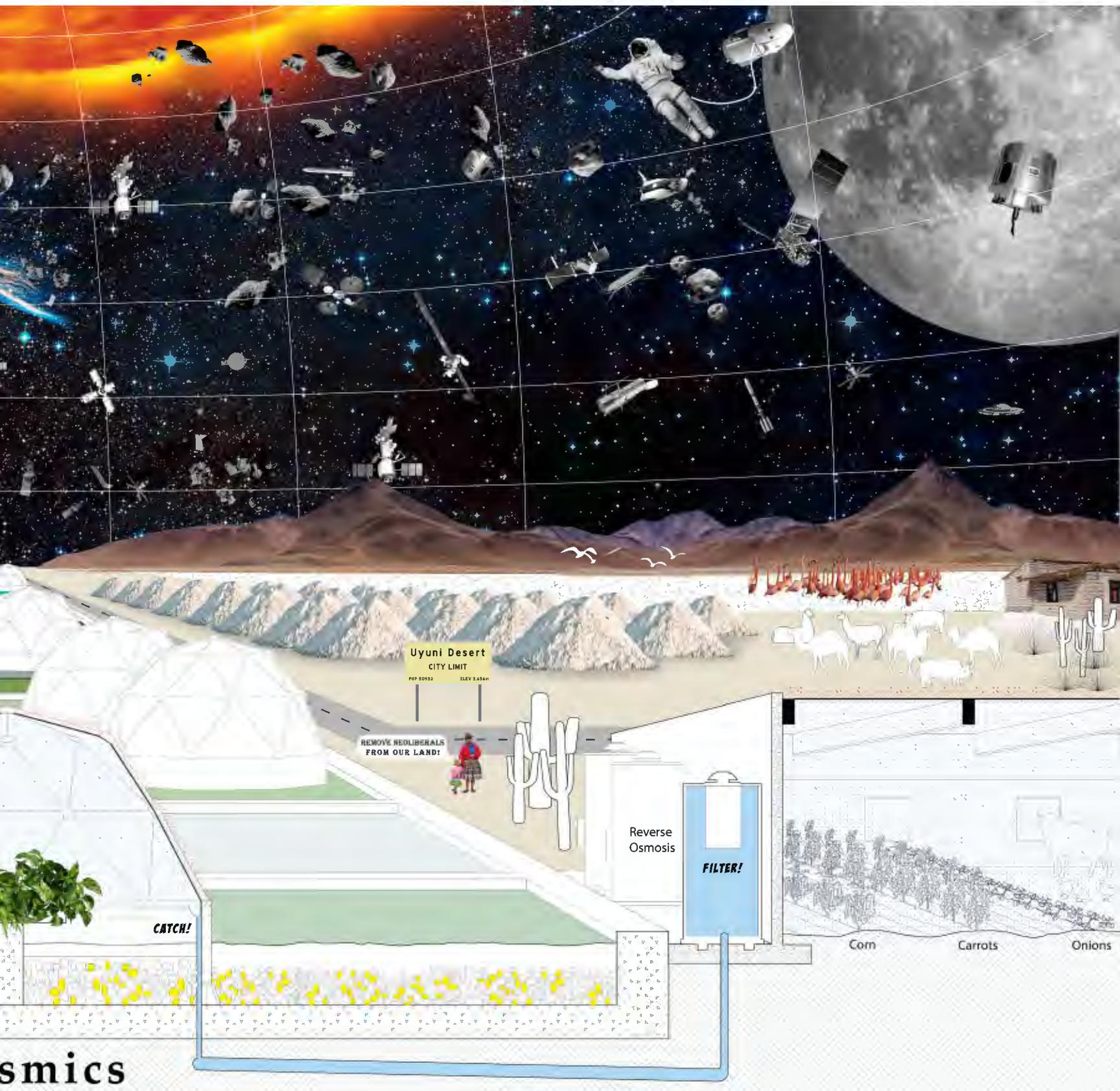
Stories | The hype is fostered through engaging with followers over time.

Ecocosmics

Environmental Justice for Space Exploration



Using solar stills to cover lithium pools can slow extraction of lithium mining, thereby mitigating climate change from excessive resource use for space exploration.



Salar De Uyuni | Bolivia



2023 | A glimpse of politics in space

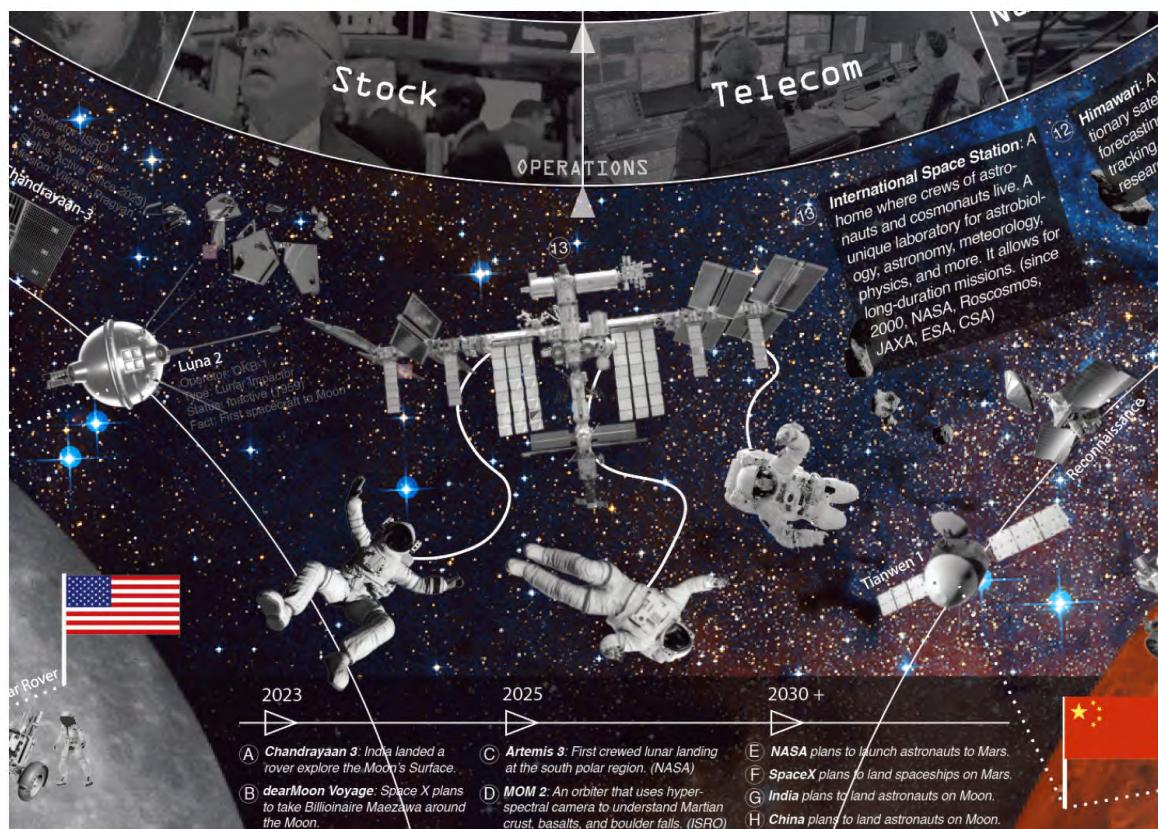


2028 | A brief plan for space missions

Analysis

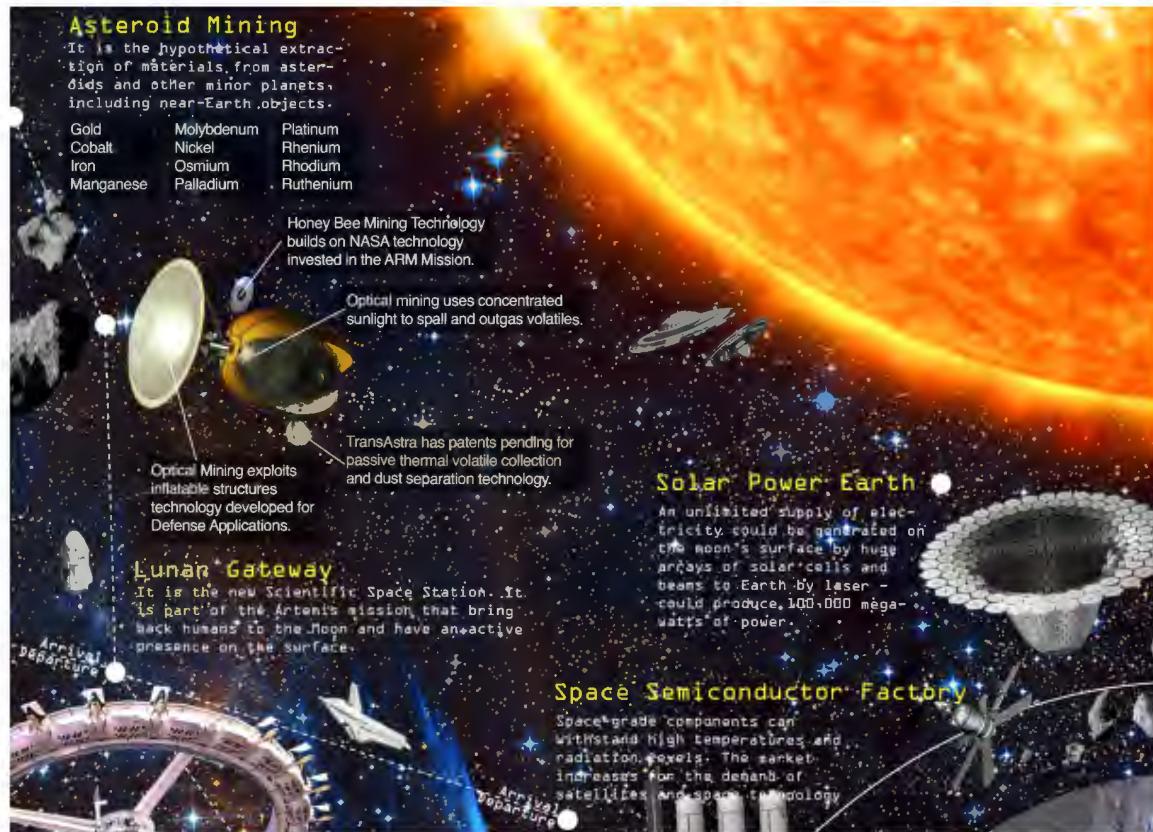


Space Race I Nations and the ultra-rich use celestial bodies to monitor climate change and control societal data.



Space Race | Agencies launch celestial bodies into space to explore, colonize, and compete their dominance.

Analysis



Space Game I Agencies plan to spark an industrial revolution in space for more resources and territories.

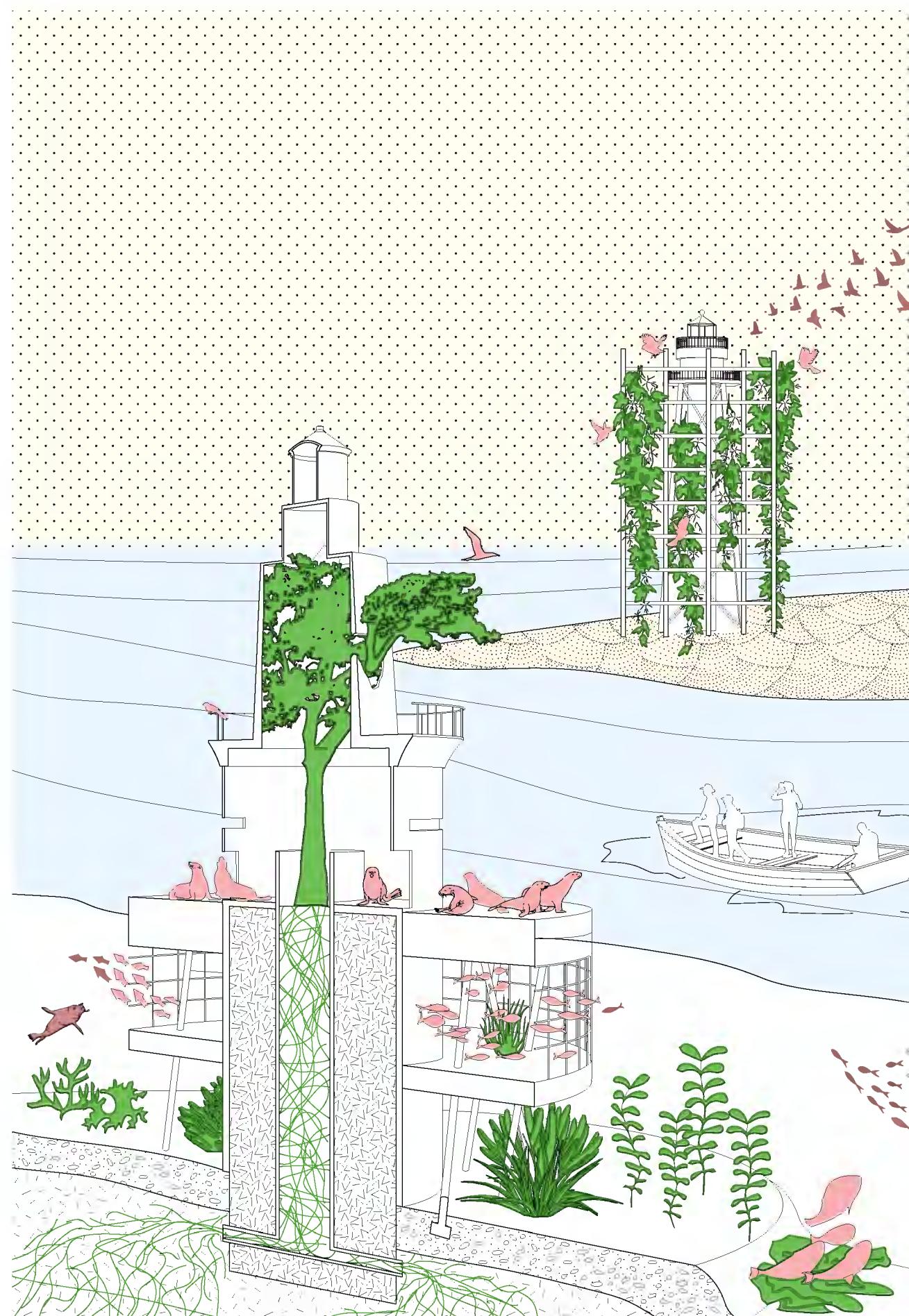


Space Game I Principles are set by agencies regarding mutually beneficial practices in the exploration and use of space.

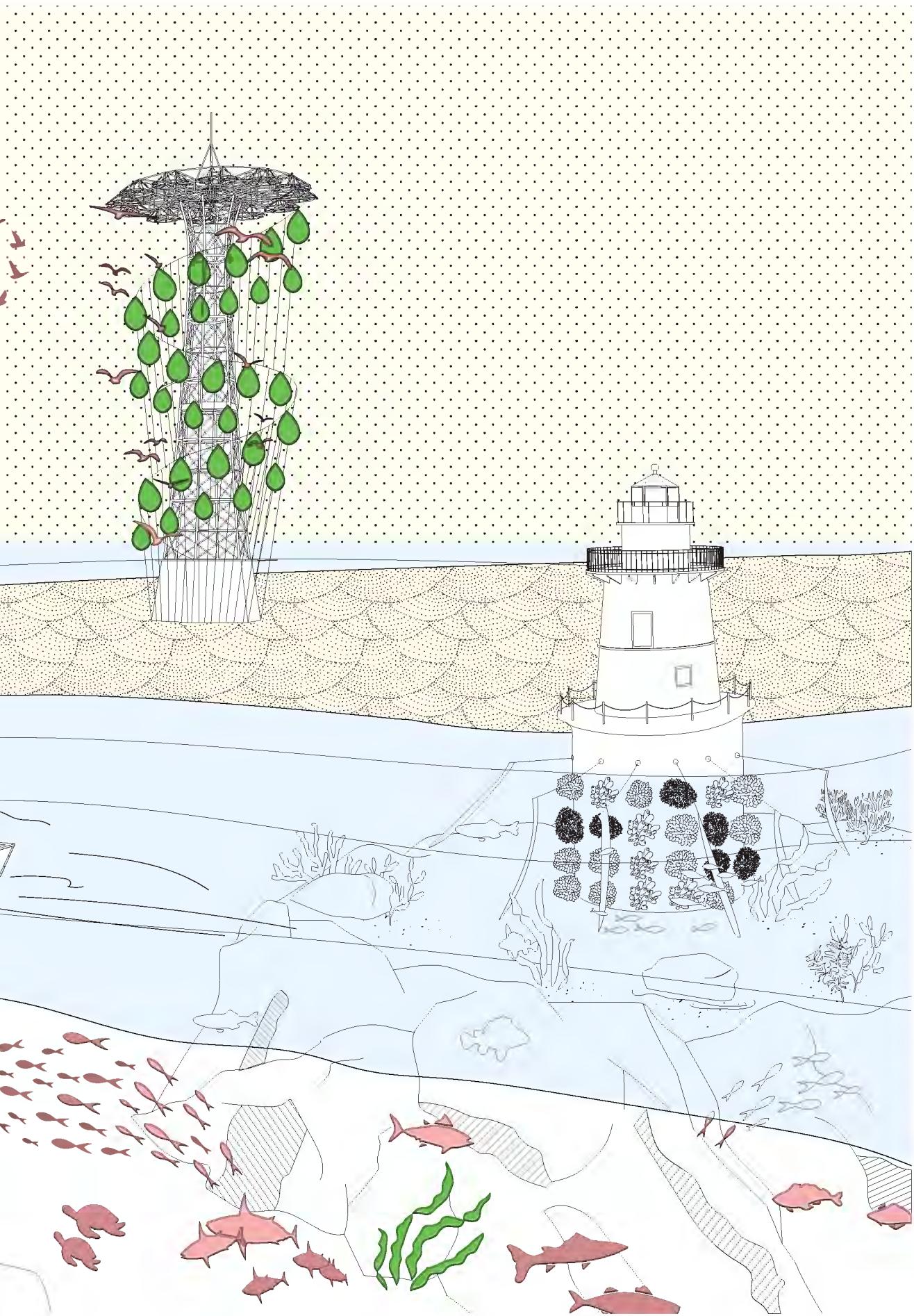
Towers Of Wilderness

Preserving Coastal Life Amid Rising Seas

Academic: GSAPP Studio
Topic: *The City Island, 2024*
Instructor: David Moon
Team: Keira Chen
Site: Lower New York Bay

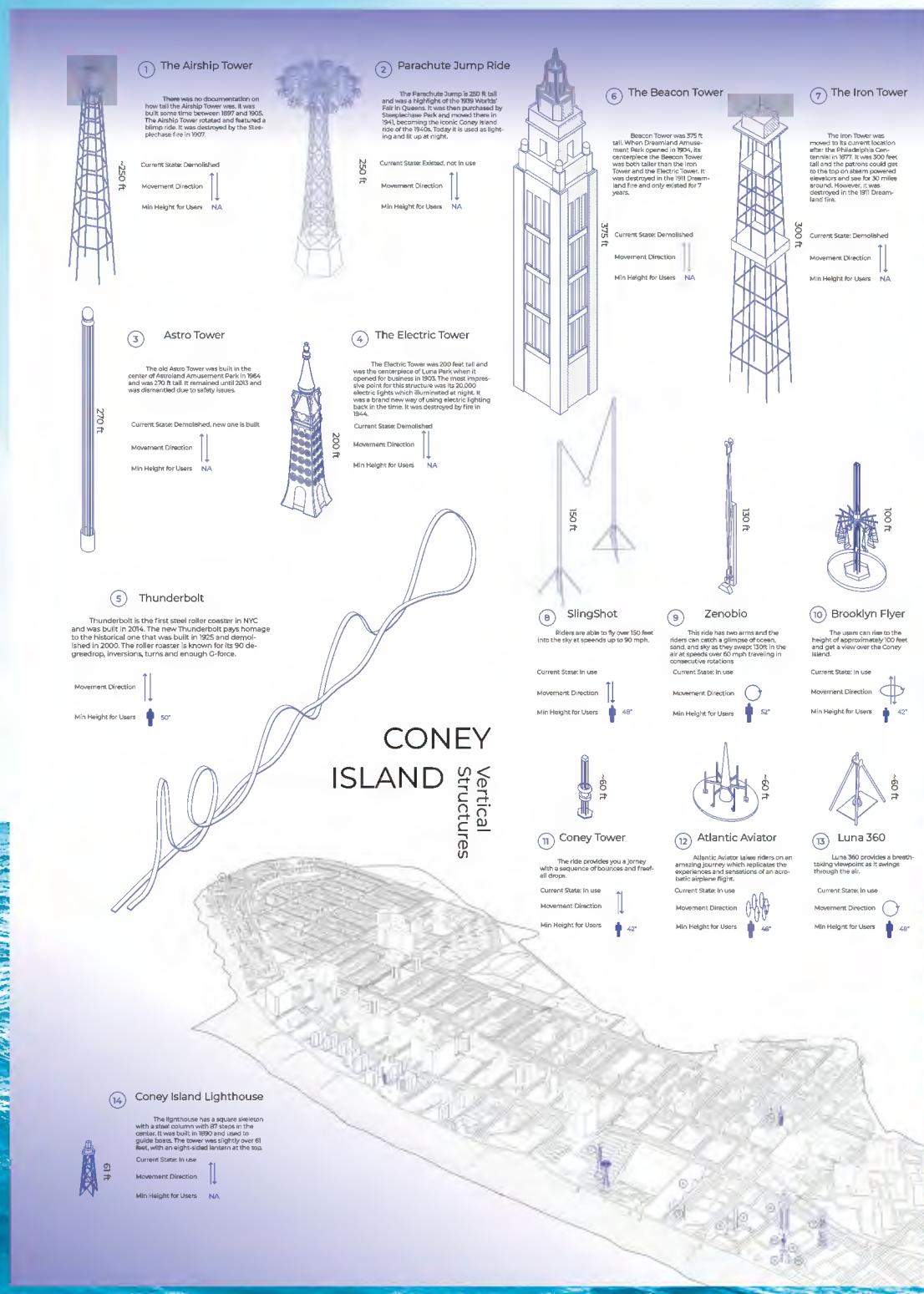


Converting abandoned towers into an interconnected ecosystem to safeguard life from sea level rising





Lighthouses I Lower New York Bay





L.V. Aquatic Lighthouse

Coral Reef Conservation

Program: Ocean Laboratory & Aquarium

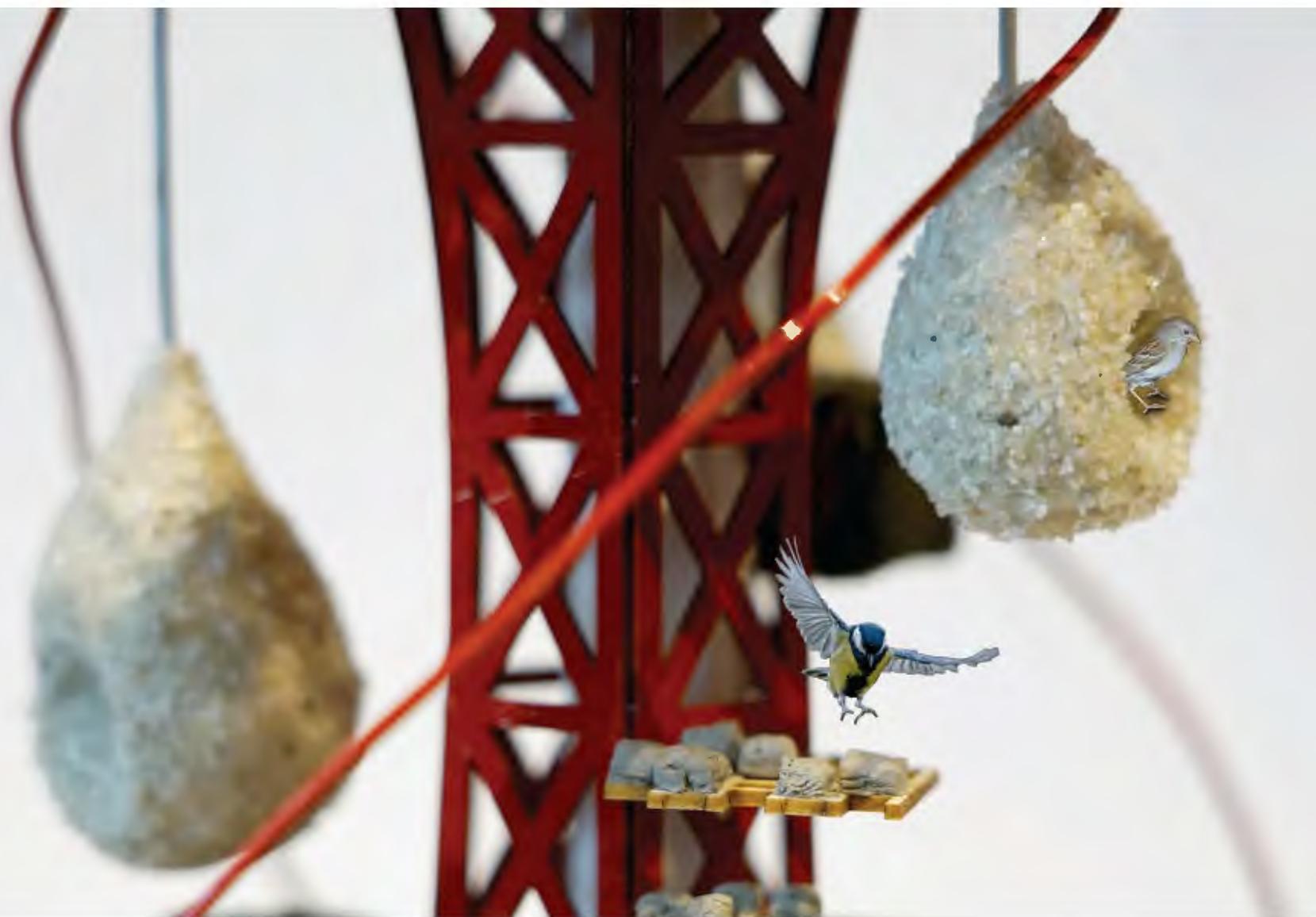
Prior: West Bank Lighthouse, 1910

Details: 90' (55' ASL), Caisson Foundation

Site: Lower New York Bay

Addition: Modular Plates & Stone Cores

Directed by Louis Vuitton,
the project combines art,
fashion, and conservation,
creating a VIP retreat while
protecting marine ecosystems.



Birds Parachute Tower Coastal Birds Conservation

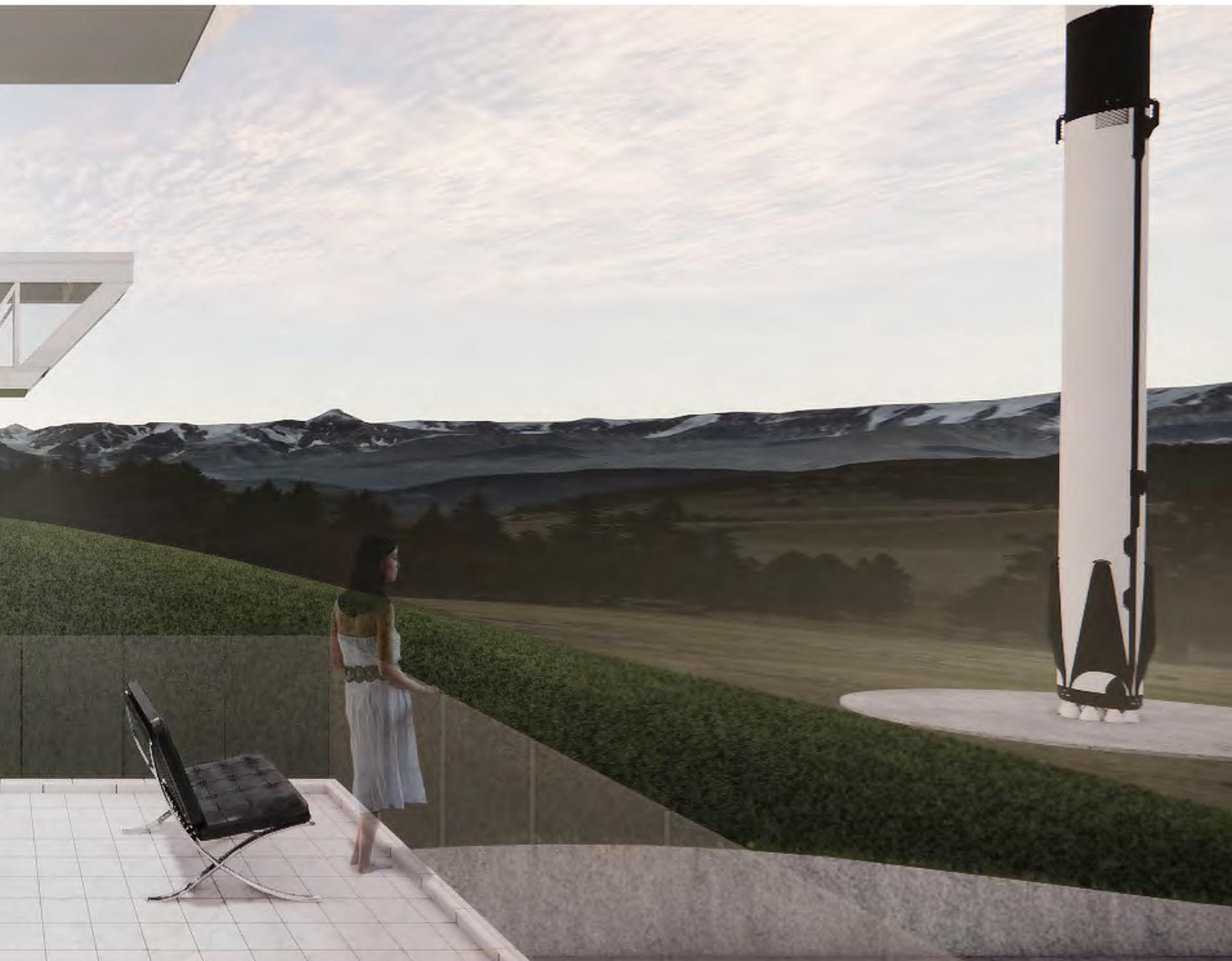
Program: Bird Nests & Watchtower
Prior: Parachute Jump, 1939
Details: 262', Six-sided Steel Tower
Site: Luna Park, Coney Island
Addition: Steel Cables, Bird Nests, Core

Within the amusement park, the project protects coastal birds from rising sea levels while offering birdwatching for visitors, merging conservation and entertainment.

Starlab

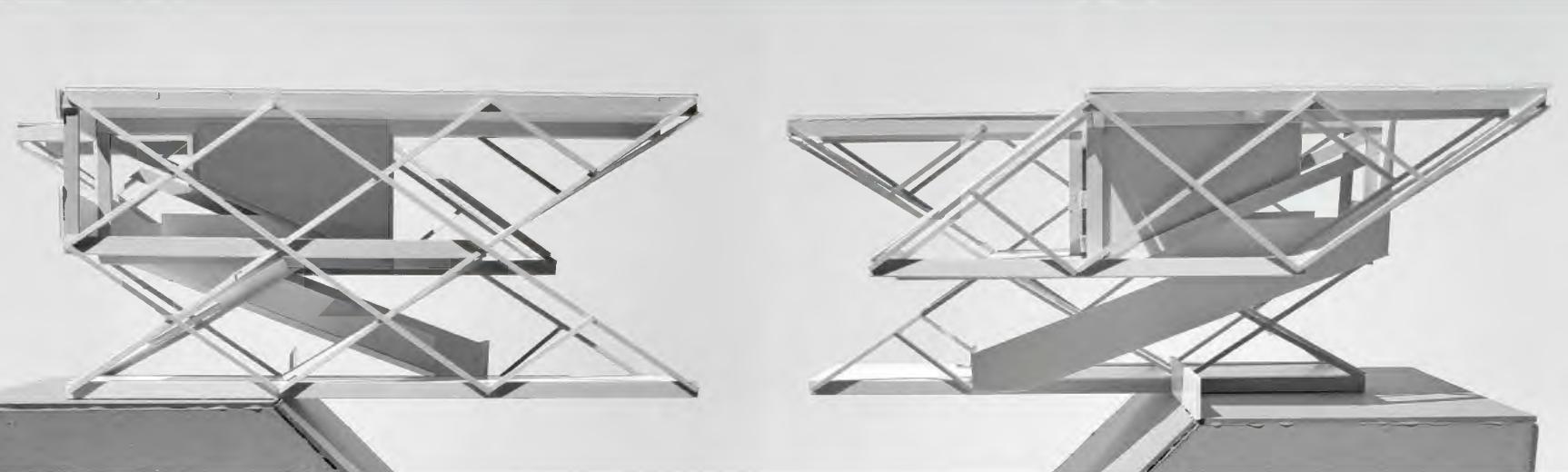
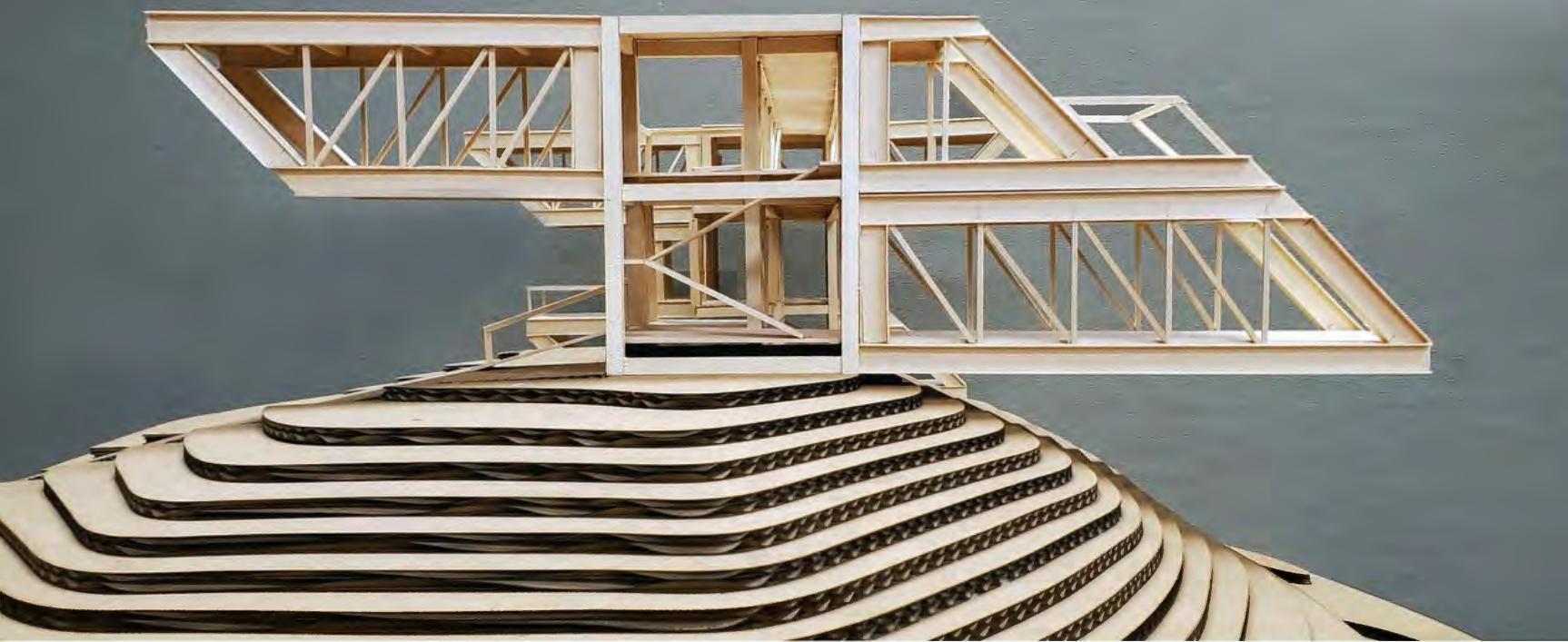
Astronomer Retreat Tower

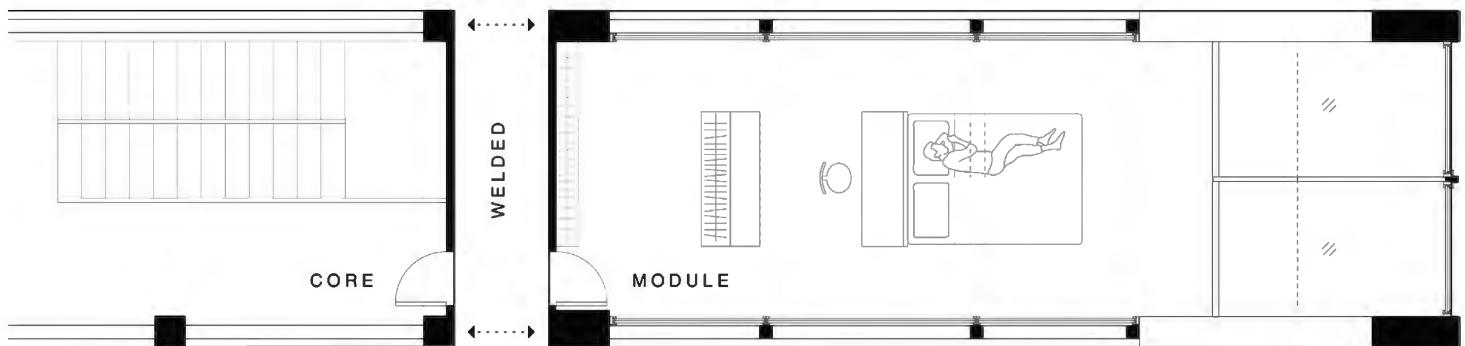




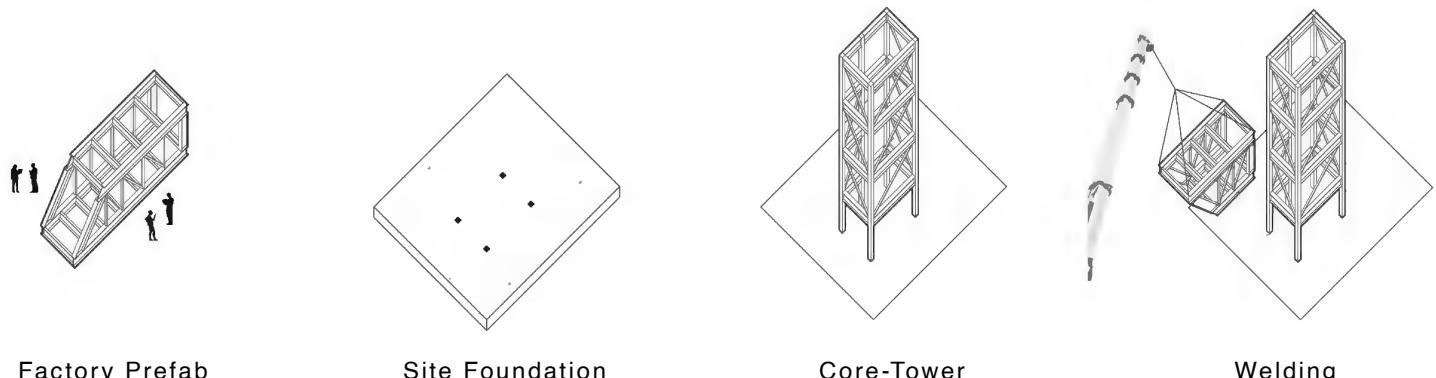
Academic: CalPoly Pomona Studio, 2020
Instructor: Yasushi Ishida
Site: Vetter Mountain, California, USA

Prefab Steel-Framed Modular Tower





Modular System for Minimizing On-Site Construction Pollution amongst Nature



Factory Prefab

Site Foundation

Core-Tower

Welding

User



John Grunsfeld
NASA Astronaut



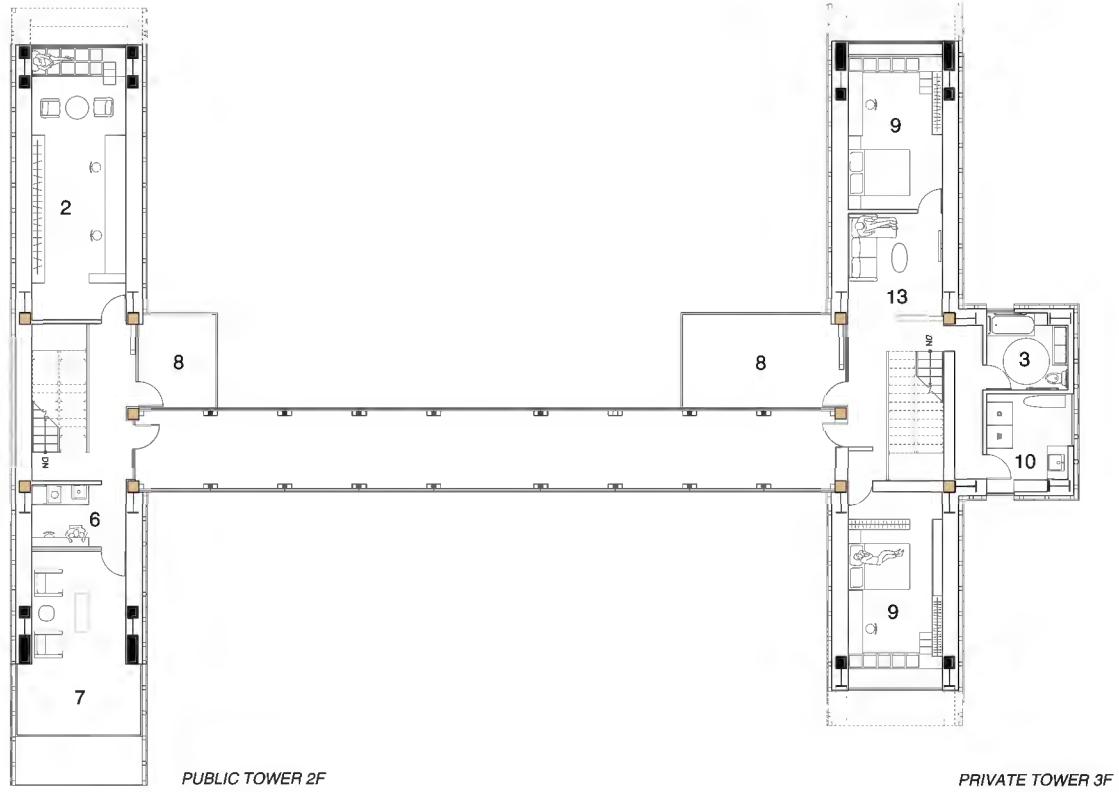
Neil deGrasse Tyson
Astrophysicist



Dale Sanders
Hiker

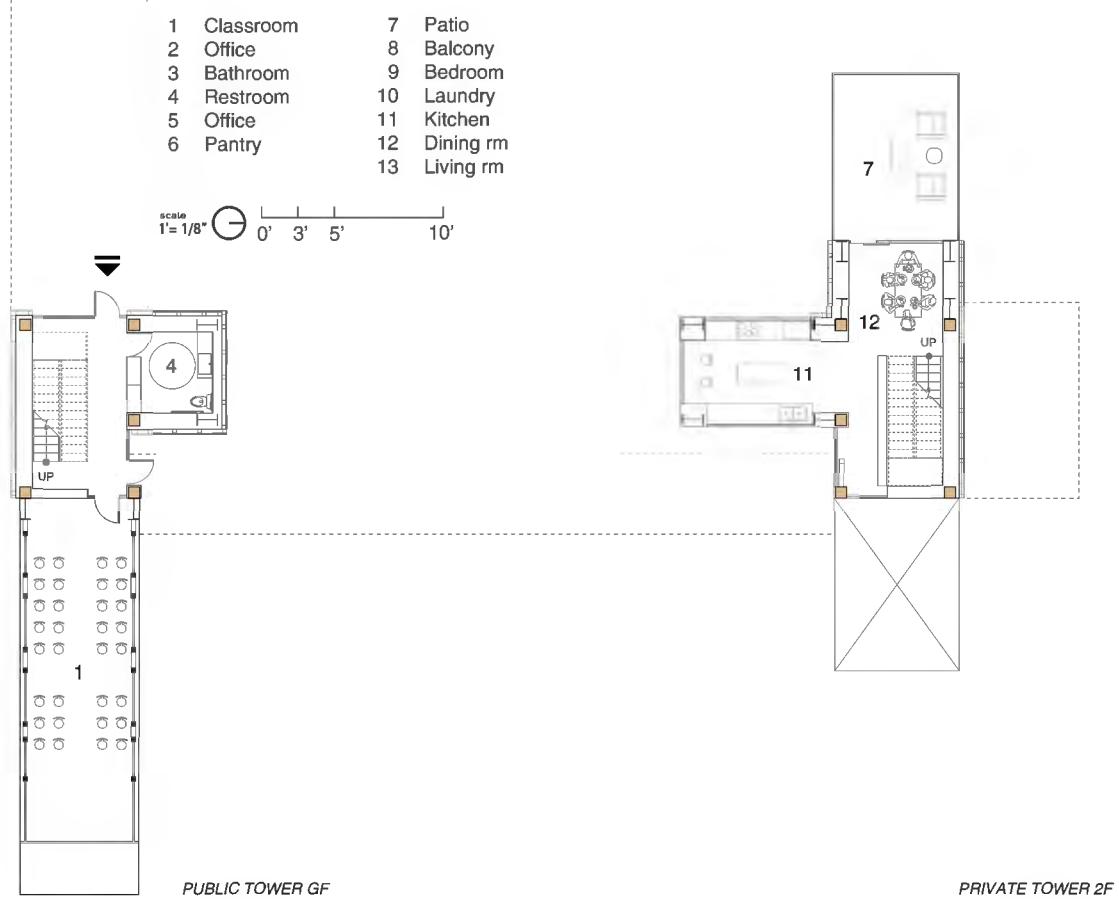


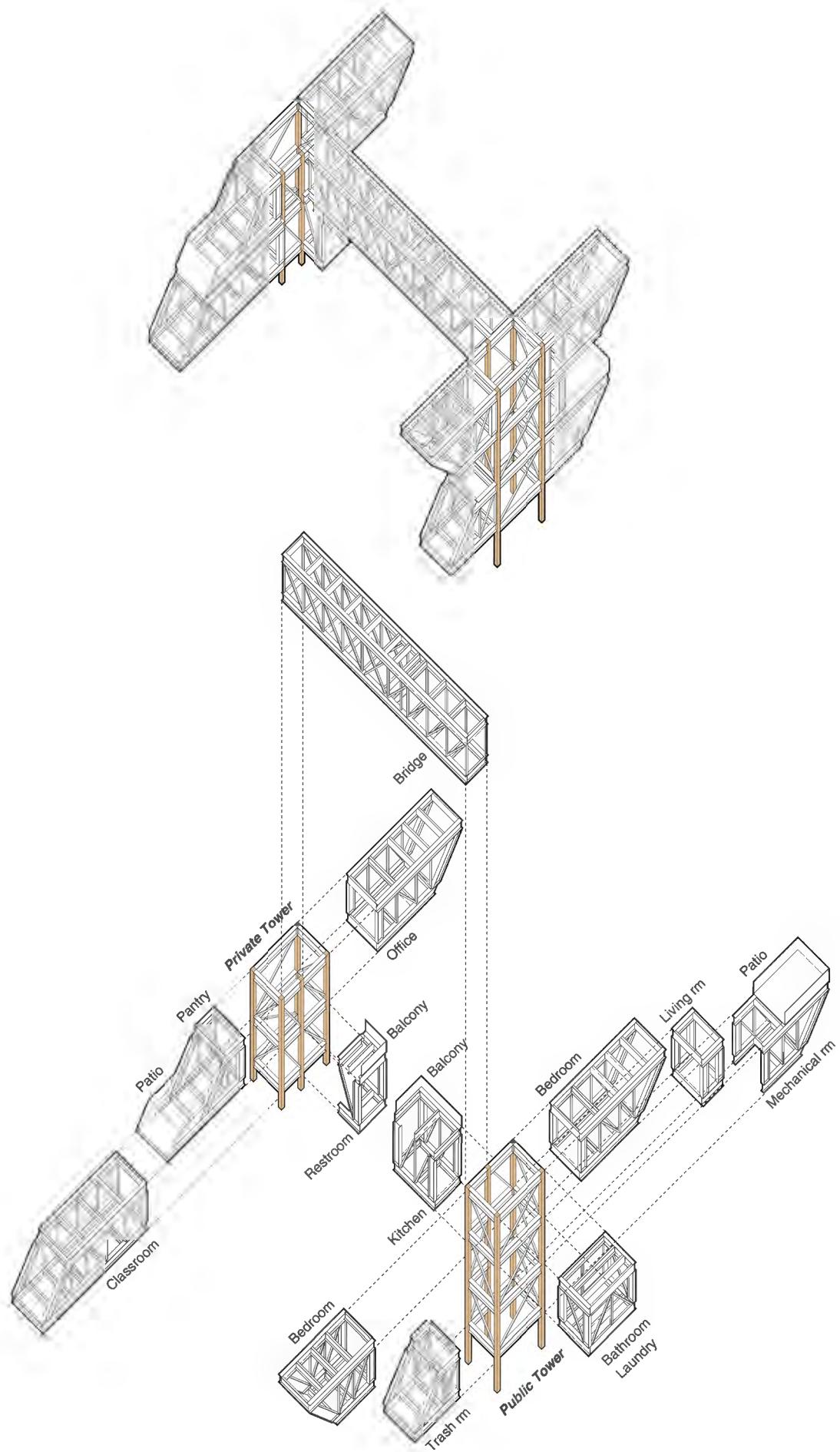
Jan Spiller
Astrologer



1	Classroom	7	Patio
2	Office	8	Balcony
3	Bathroom	9	Bedroom
4	Restroom	10	Laundry
5	Office	11	Kitchen
6	Pantry	12	Dining rm
7		13	Living rm

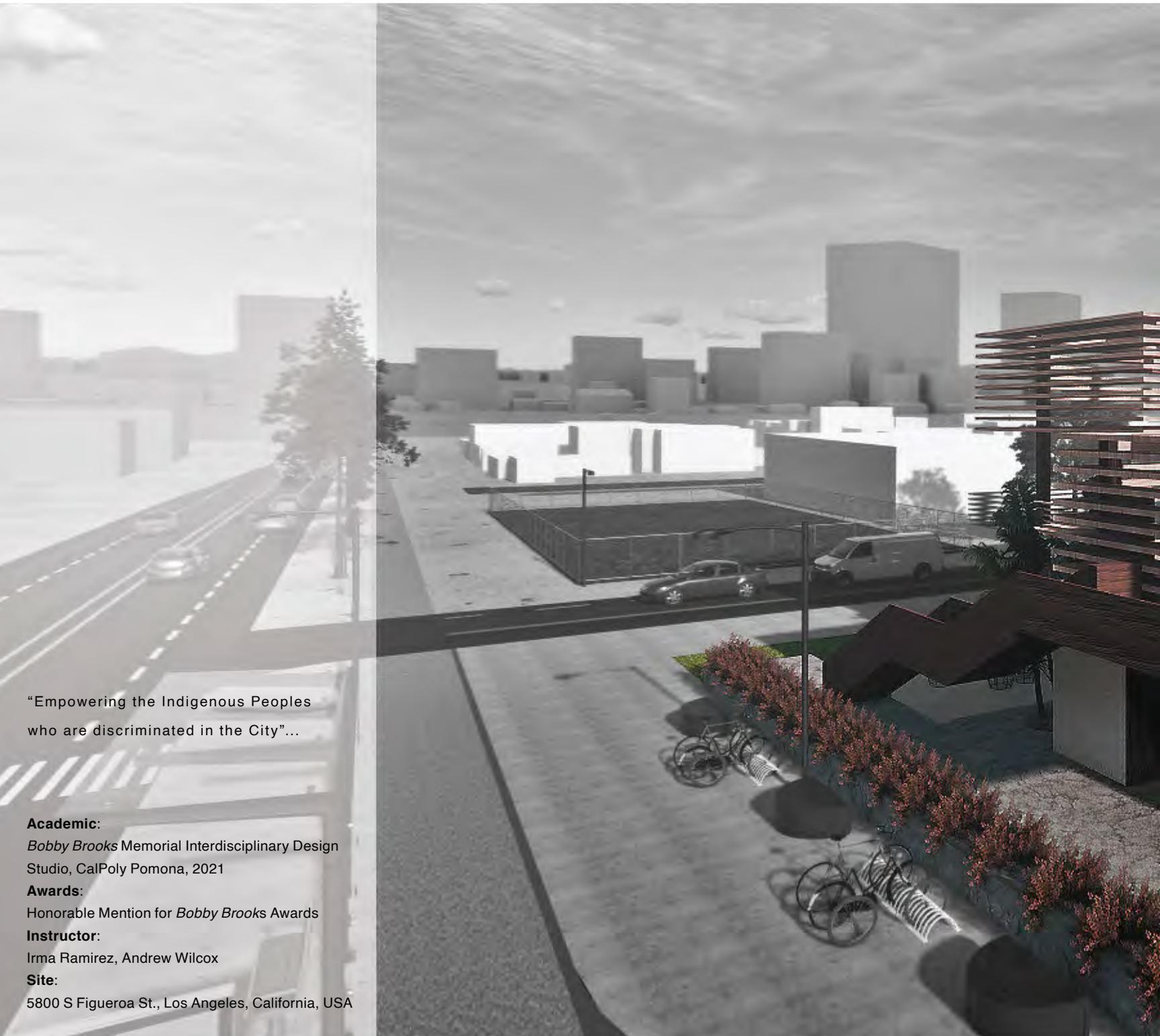
scale 1' = 1/8"





Offspring From The Sky

Indigenous Headquarters & Community Center



"Empowering the Indigenous Peoples
who are discriminated in the City"...

Academic:

Bobby Brooks Memorial Interdisciplinary Design Studio, CalPoly Pomona, 2021

Awards:

Honorable Mention for *Bobby Brooks Awards*

Instructor:

Irma Ramirez, Andrew Wilcox

Site:

5800 S Figueroa St., Los Angeles, California, USA

SOCIAL JUSTICE



Spatial Qualities

User

CIELO, a non-profit organization, seeks for a new headquarters in downtown Los Angeles to extend its outreach service of protecting the rights of the 50,000 Mesoamerican indigenous diaspora.



Materials & Feelings

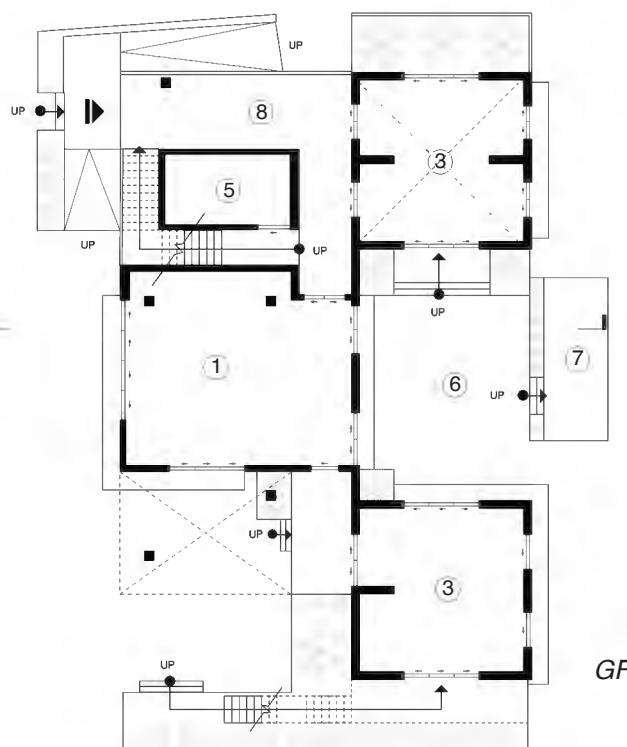


Program

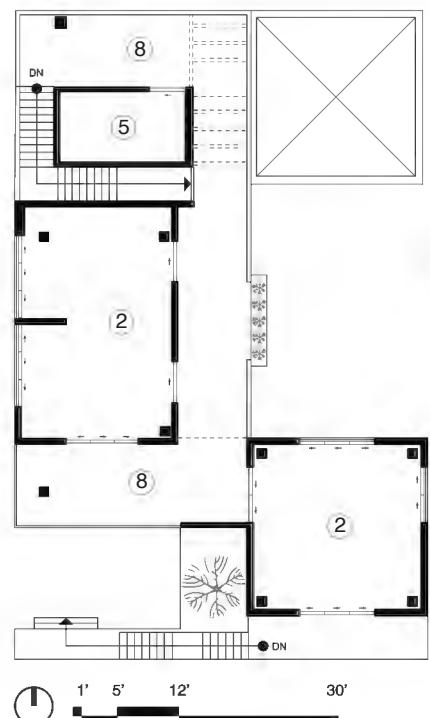
1 Parlor	5 Lavatory
2 Workspace	6 Courtyard
3 Library	7 Stage
4 Foyer	8 Balcony

Softscape is for looseness, privacy, & emotion.
Hardscape is for energy, positivity, & nature.





GF



2F

1' 5' 12' 30'
1' = 1/4"



Cultural Expression

"How can features of the Mesoamerican Temples be used in a modern way?"



Mesoamerican Culture

To put human life, nature, and the built environment on the same level, and build a sustainable ecosystem where all components support one another and thrive, resulting in an organic architecture.



Step Pyramid



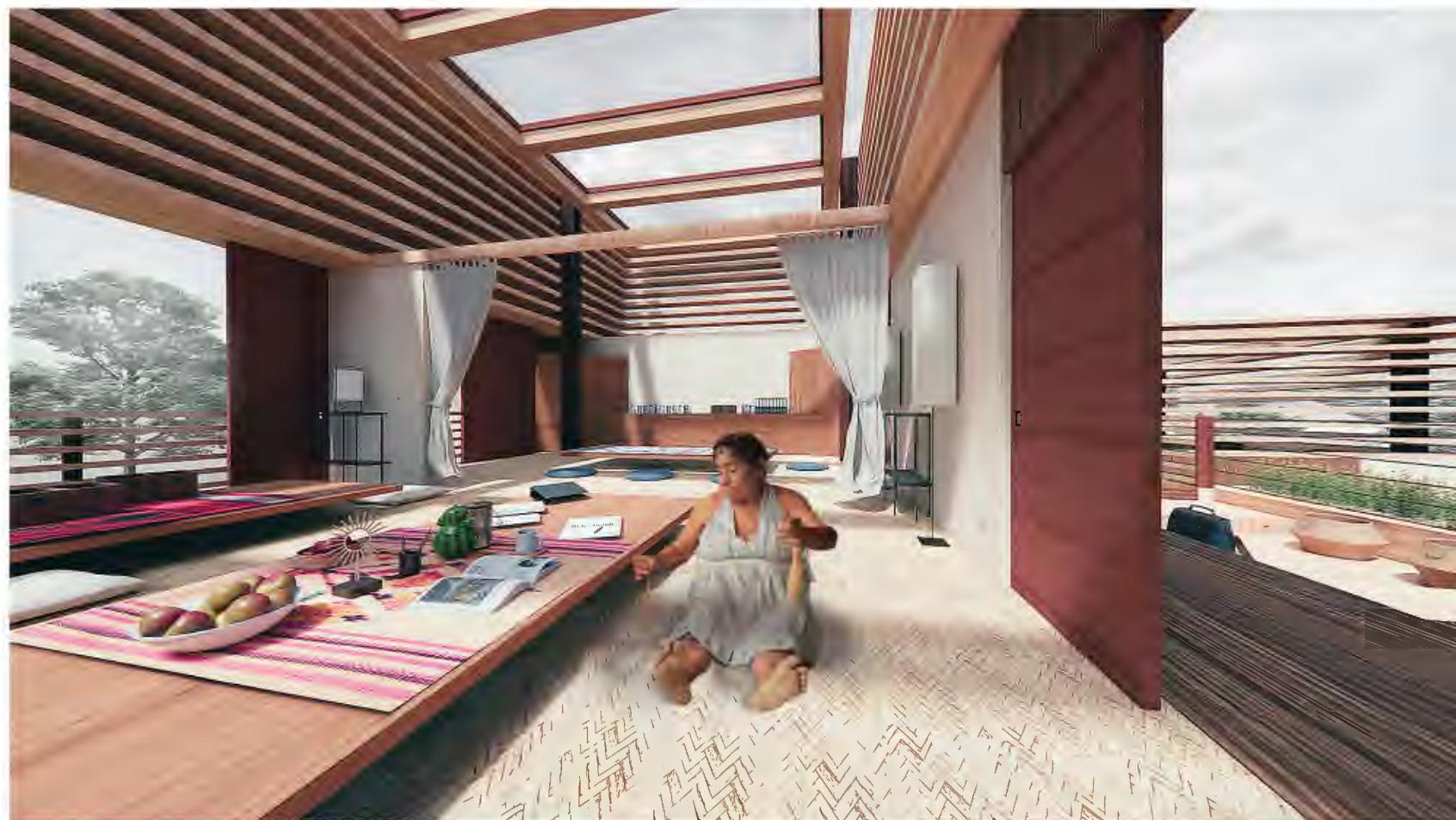
Temple



Daily Life



Astronomy



Material Resemblance

Since the prehispanic times, the Mesoamericans sleep, eat, and give birth on petates, and live under the stars for bright hope, big possibilities, insight and intuition.



Ceiba Wood



Petates



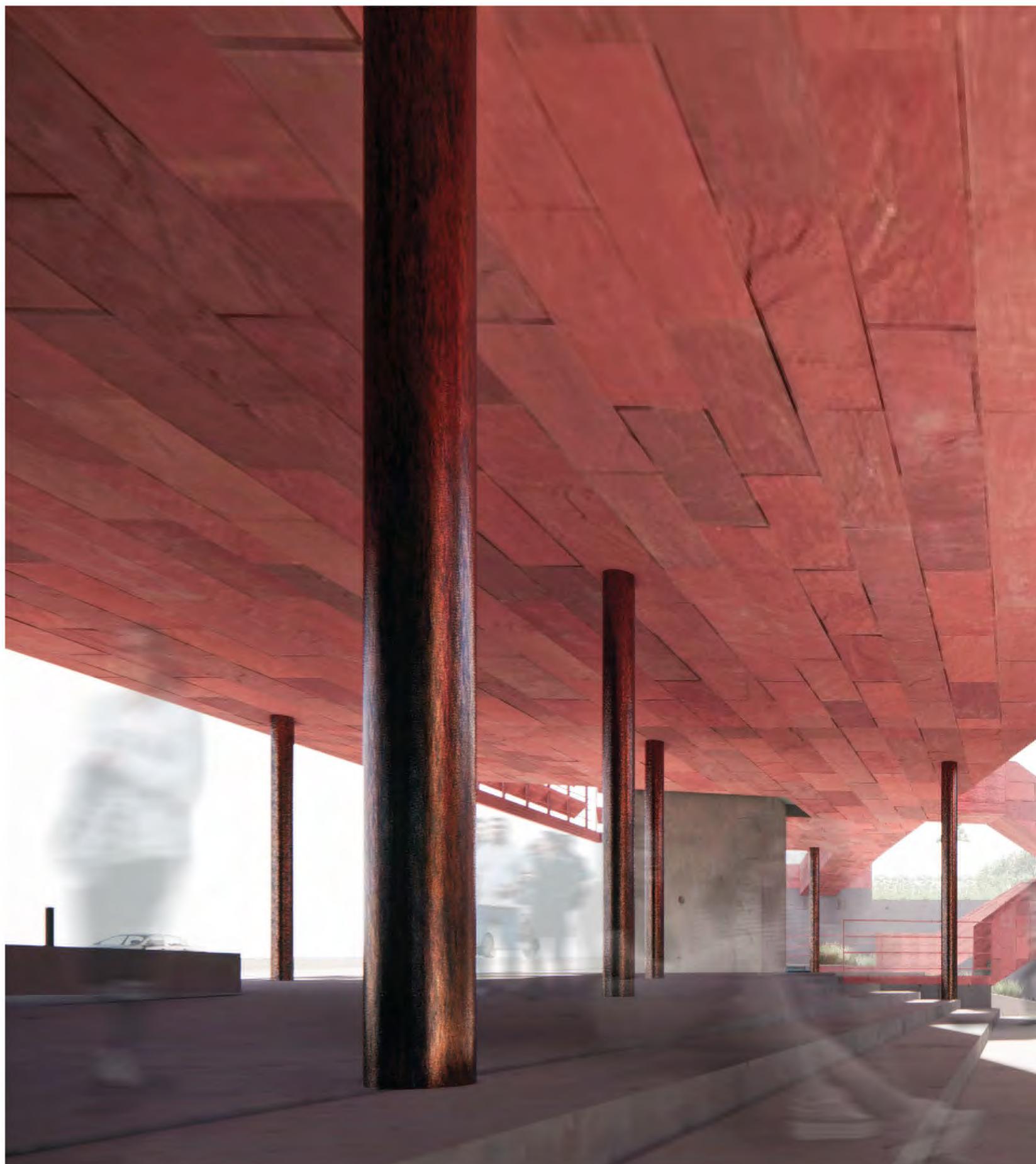
Stars



Rug

The Truth About Fast Fashion

Garment Worker Center and Museum



A Space for Social Agitation and Mobilization



Academic: BArch Thesis, CalPoly Pomona, 2022

Awards: Outstanding Student Senior Project

Instructor: Mitchell DeJarnett

Site: N Mission Rd, Los Angeles, California, USA

Premise

What is Fast Fashion?

Forever 21 / H&M Group / UNIQLO

Zara / Topshop / SHIEN

Fast Fashion refers to trendy clothing mass produced at low costs, made possible through the exploitation of the environment and garment workers. Downtown Los Angeles is home to some of the largest **garment sweatshops** in the USA. From here, this project confronts the unethical products and practices of the industry ...

Historical Reference

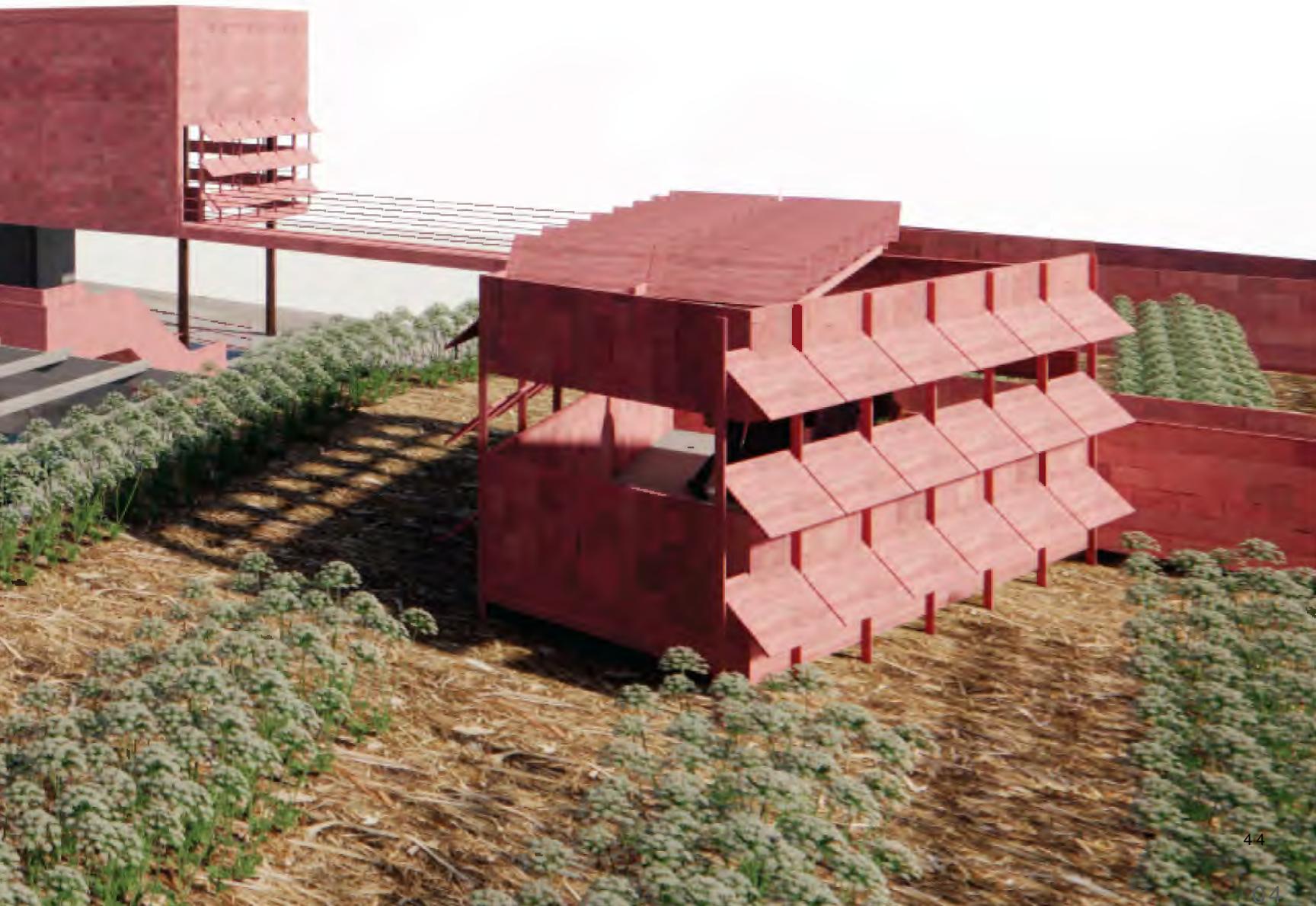
Cotton, this particular species of plant, represents the products of a system that required slave labor to function...



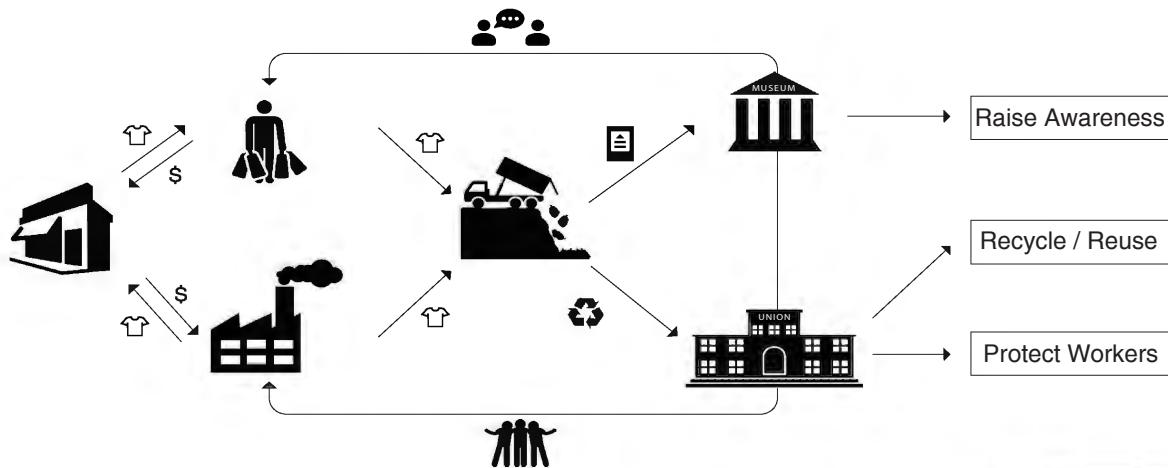
Victims of Fast Fashion

"I don't want to die for Fashion."

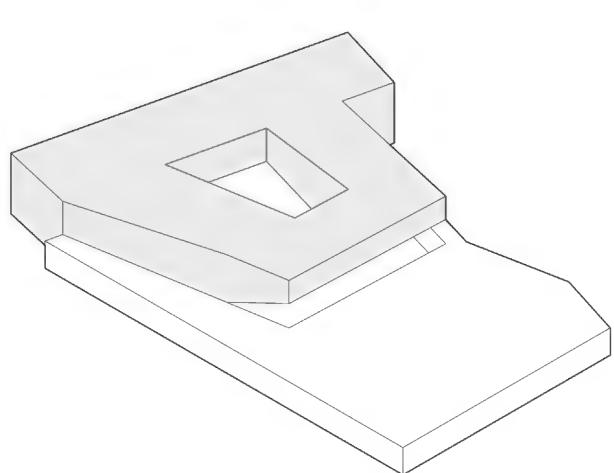
1. Rana Plaza Factory Collapse, murder, death:
1,134 garment workers, Bangladesh, 2013
2. Child Labor, kidnapped, sweatshop, Vietnam, 2013
3. Child Labors in a sweatshop of Gujarat, India,
documented by Rahul Jain, "Machine", Germany, 2017
4. Uyghurs Sweatshop Camps, genocide, China, 2022
5. Forever 21 Sweatshop, wage theft, Los Angeles, 2022
6. Child Labor, sweatshop, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 2019



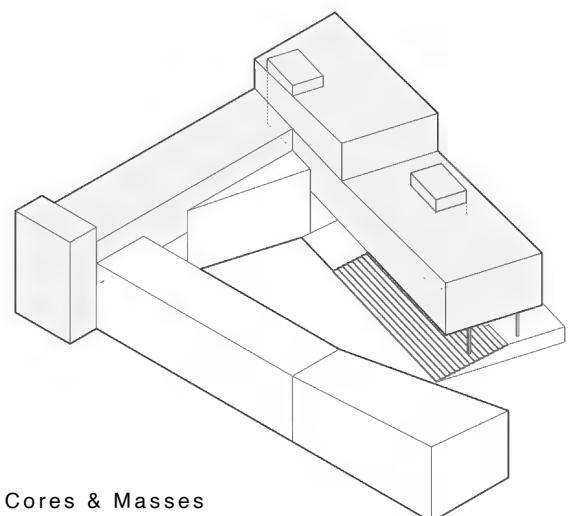
The Cycle of Fast Fashion



Museum GF / Union Hall 2F



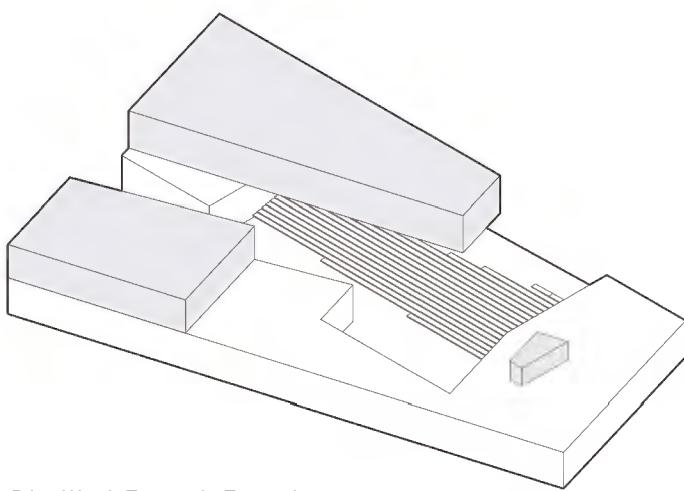
Courtyard Scheme



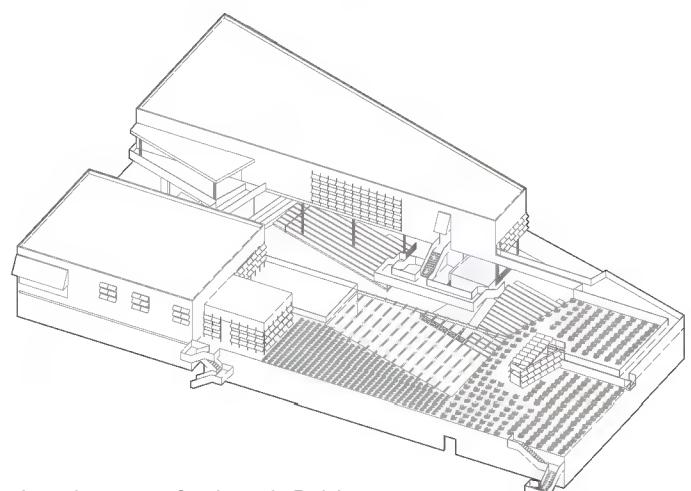
Insert Cores & Masses



A Museum Displaying a Landfill of Fast Fashion products



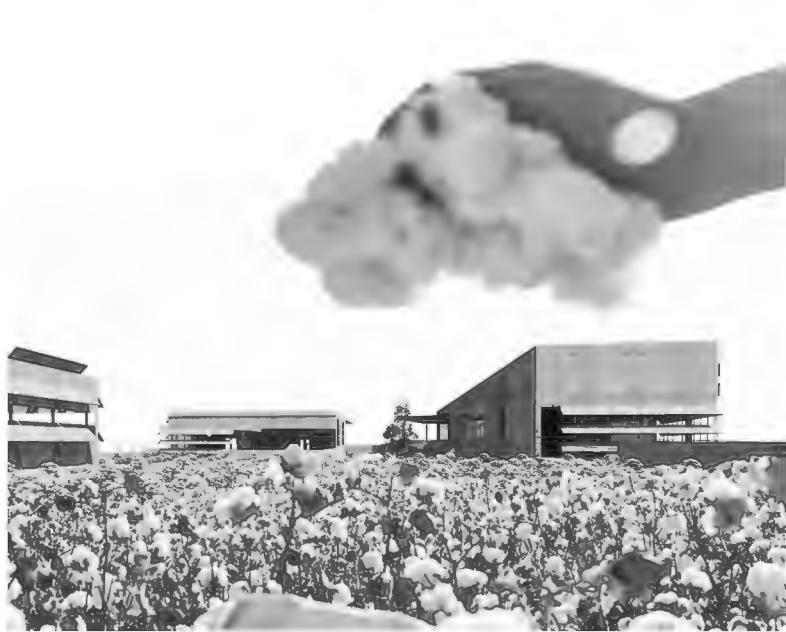
Distilled Form & Function



Landscape, Stairs, & Bridges

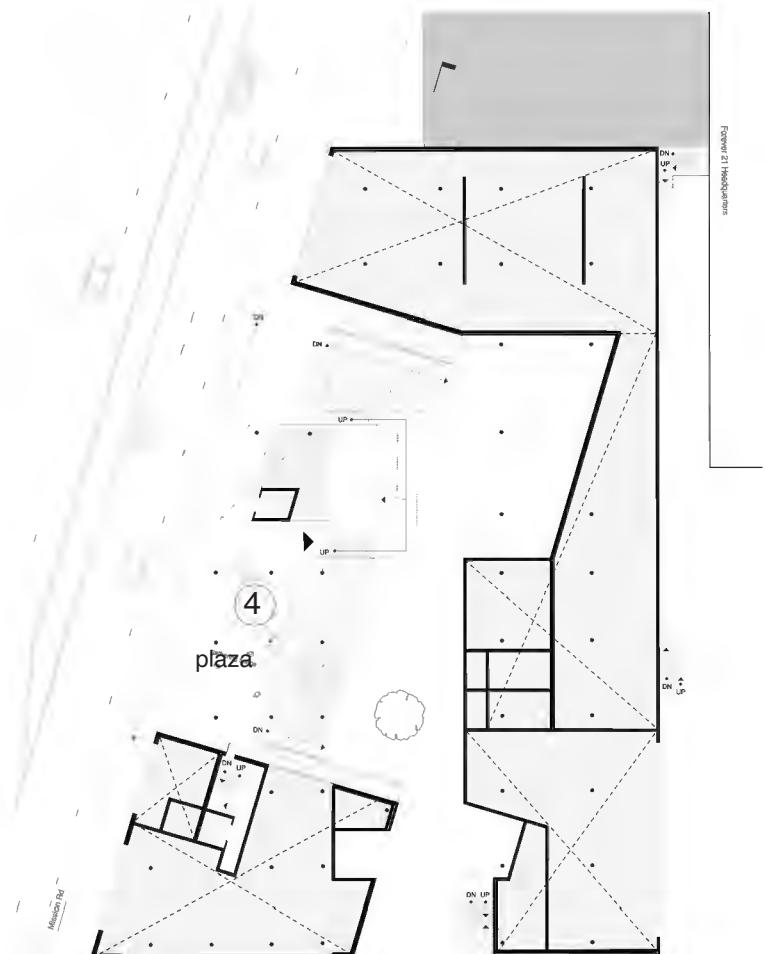
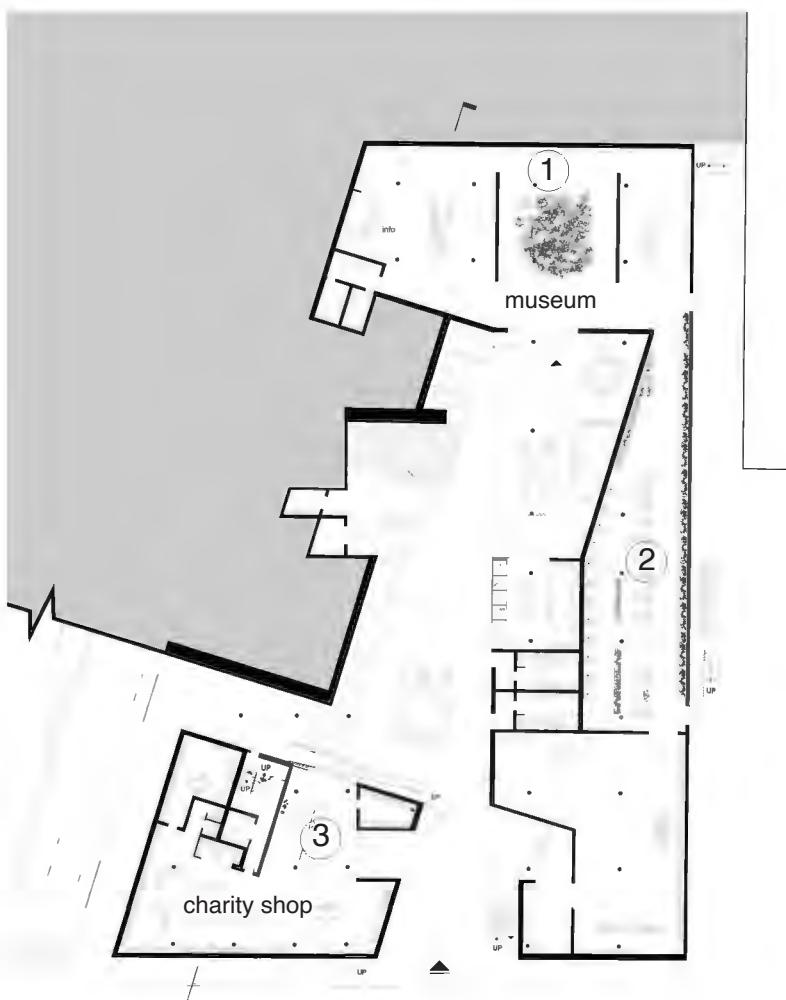
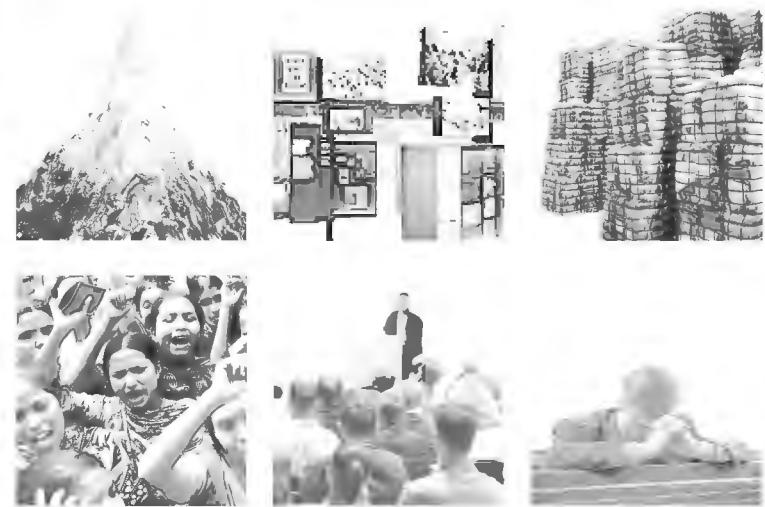
Plan Strategy

Beautiful Memorial in the Cotton Field

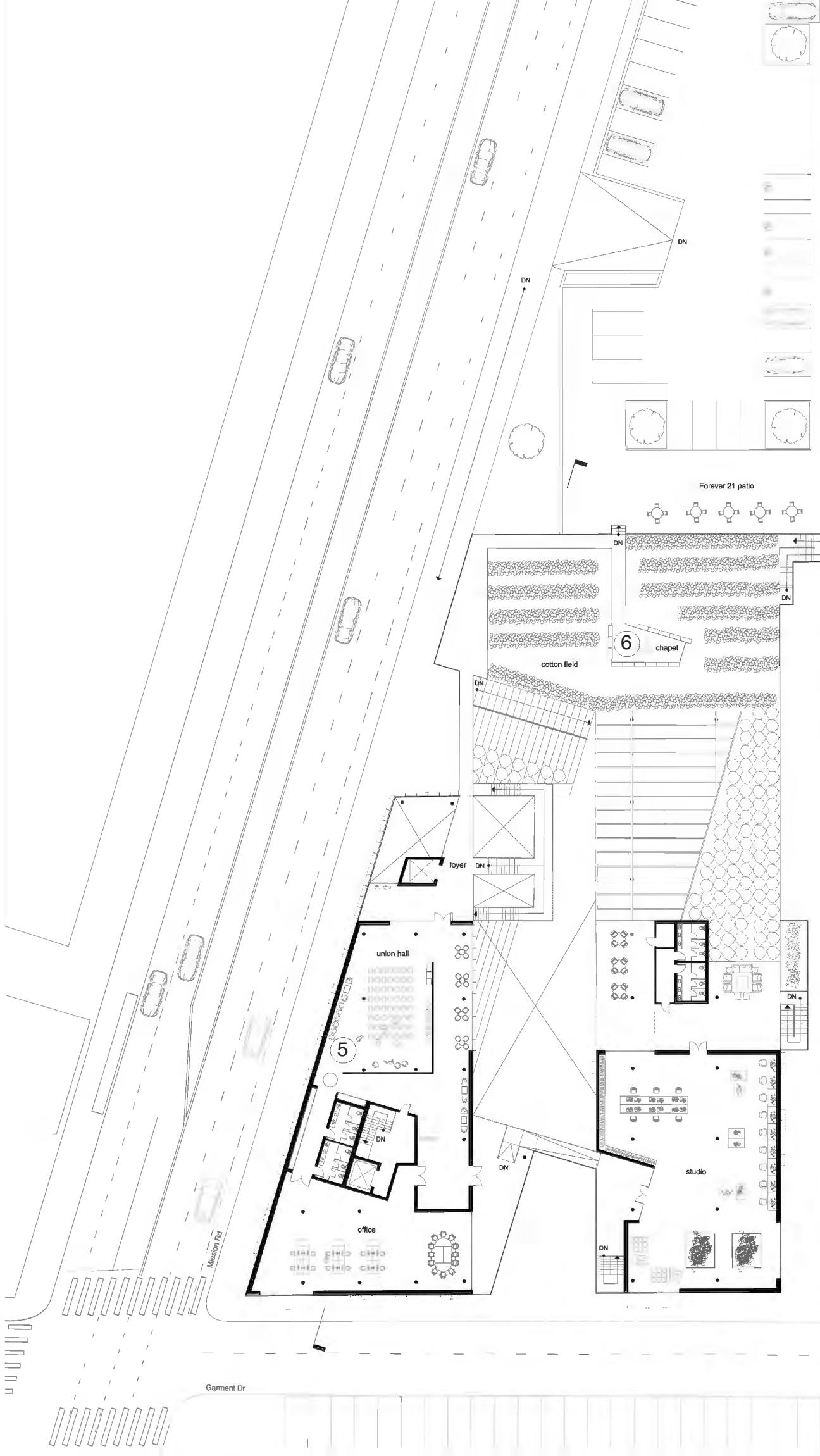


Activity

1 Confront	2 Educate	3 Recycle
4 Gathering	5 Unite	6 Memorialize



Forever 21 Headquarters



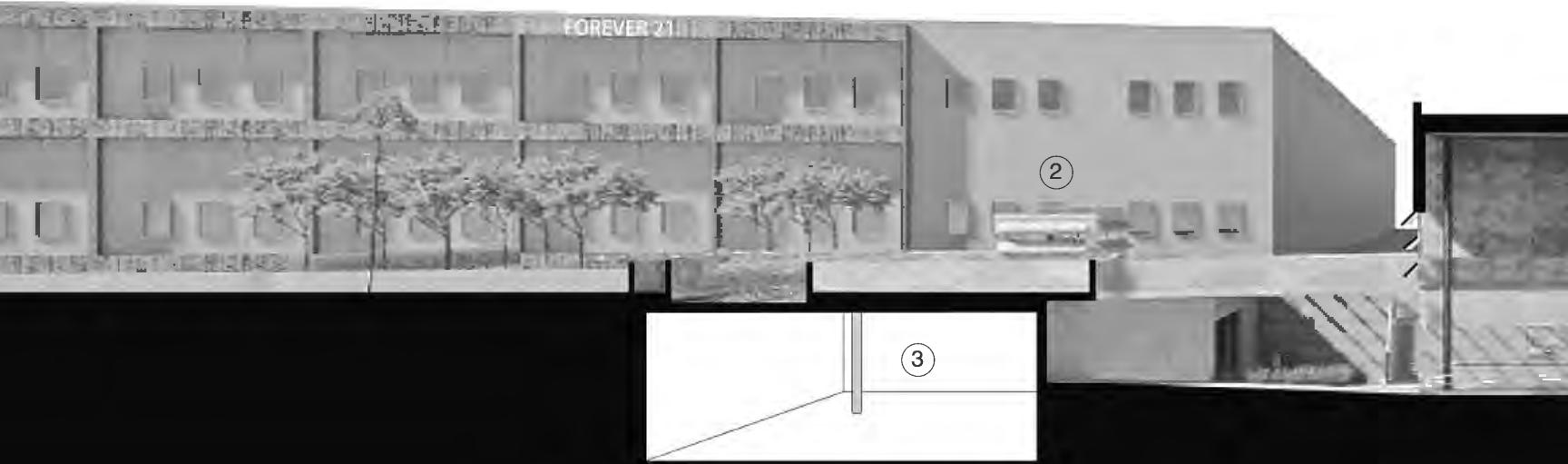
Form and Function

Program as Protest

- 1 Sweatshop Owners
- 2 Chapel in Cotton Field
- 3 Museum of Fast Fashion
- 4 Garment Worker Center
- 5 Civic Square of Protests
- 6 Charity Shop

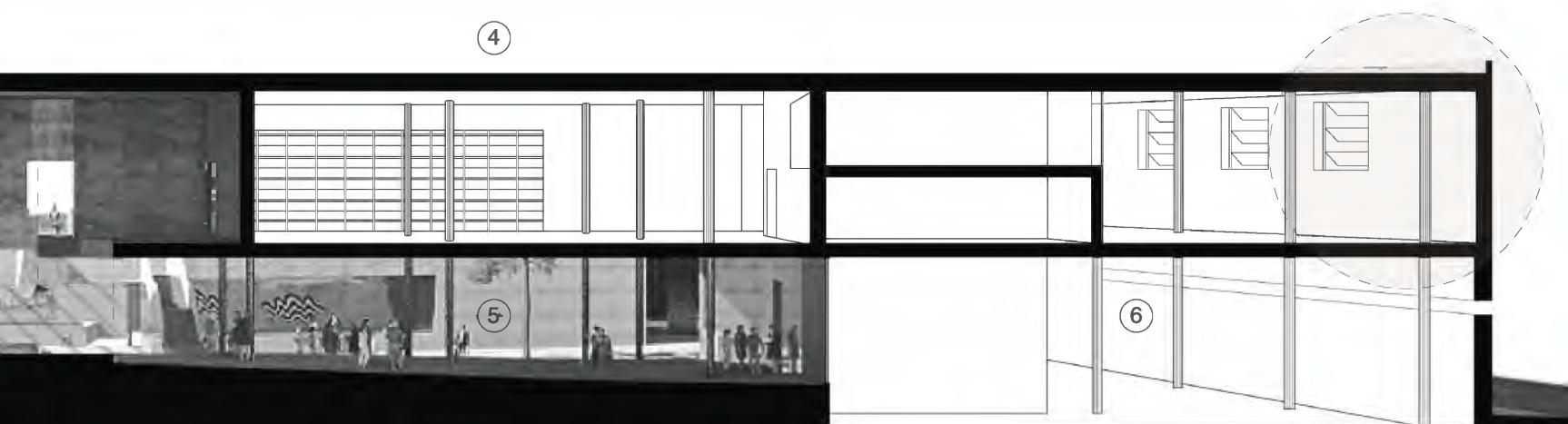
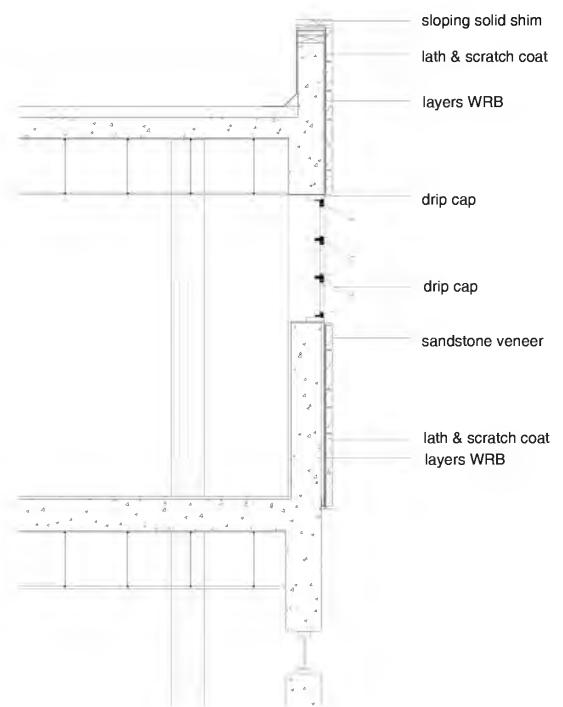
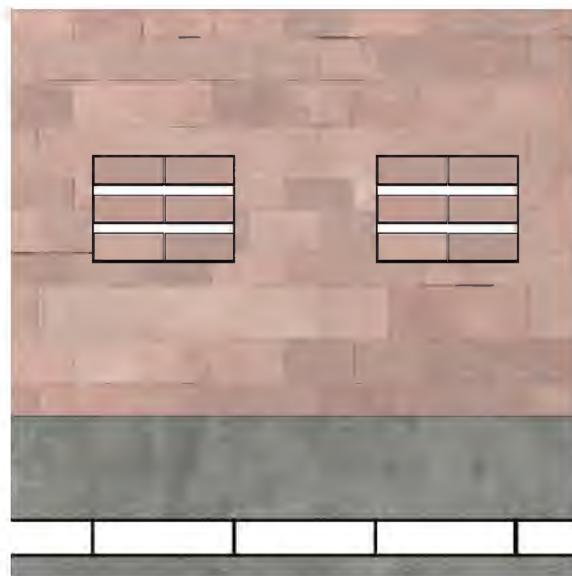


①



Facade as Program

Red sandstone veneer is chosen as facade for two reasons. Sandstone gives a sense strength, cohesiveness, and solidarity. Red reflects the politics and history of socialism, communism, labor movements, and trade unions, which is provocative and meaningful for the garment workers.





■ Epilog

People do not deploy the powerful human intellect to dispassionately analyze the world. Instead, they understand the world through narratives (*The Delusions of Crowds*). My role is to discover these narratives within projects to enrich the human experience.

