



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 Après 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>	Mar. 2019		
	Team of ARC 3420, "Sinuosity", <i>Interim Exhibition</i> , CPP	Dec. 2019		
	Wu, Alexander, "Toy Museum", <i>Interim Exhibition</i> , CPP	May 2019		
Awards	Outstanding Student Senior Project, ARC 4611A, CPP	May 2022		
	Dean's List for GPA 3.5 or higher, CPP	Dec. 2022		
	Honorable Mention, <i>Bobby Brooks Memorial Studio</i> , ARC 4031, CPP	May 2021		
	President's Honor List for GPA 3.5 or higher, CPP	2020 - 2021		
	Special Mention, 2019 <i>Design Village Competitions</i> , Cal Poly SLO	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: Après 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

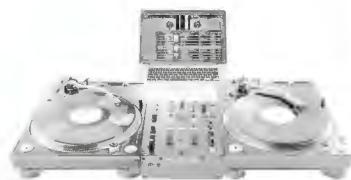


Composition



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

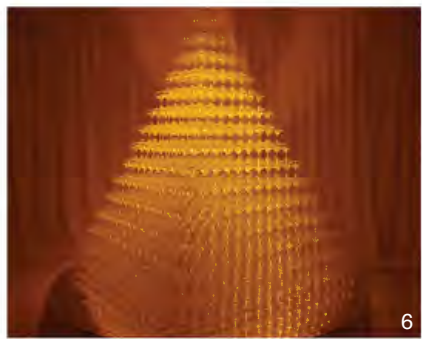


Seats



Bars

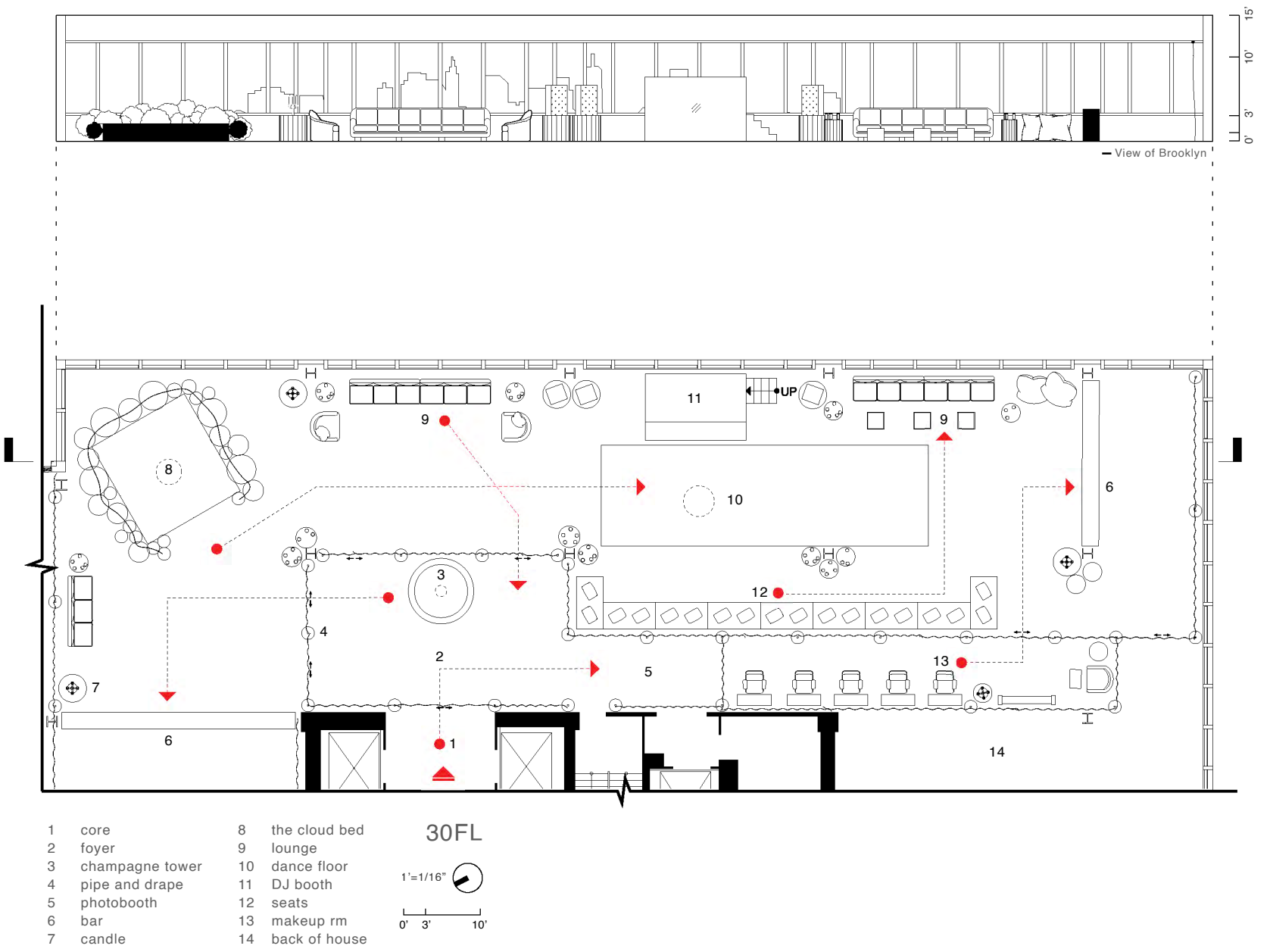
Inside Après Met II



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)

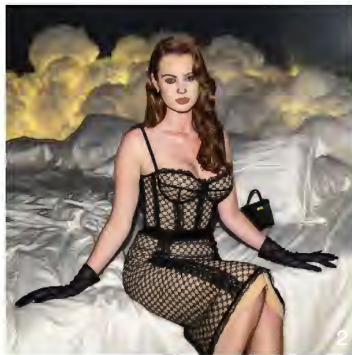
Strategy





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

Celebrities: Carlos Nazario, Emily Ratajkowski, Paloma Elsesser



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, Charli Defrancesco

WWD

VOGUEBUSINESS

gettyimages®



Source: Aurora Rose, WWD

WWD: “Lana Del Rey, Bad Bunny, Kendall Jenner and more at the AprèsMet Party”



Source: Zachery Schwartz, Vogue

Vogue: “Met Gala 2024: What’s the ROI on an afterparty look?”



Source: gettyimages | Credit: WWD

GettyImages: “Après Met Party 2 Met Gala After Party hosted by Carlos Nazario, Emily ...”



Source: Instagram



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





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

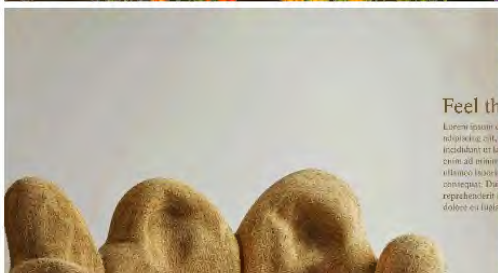
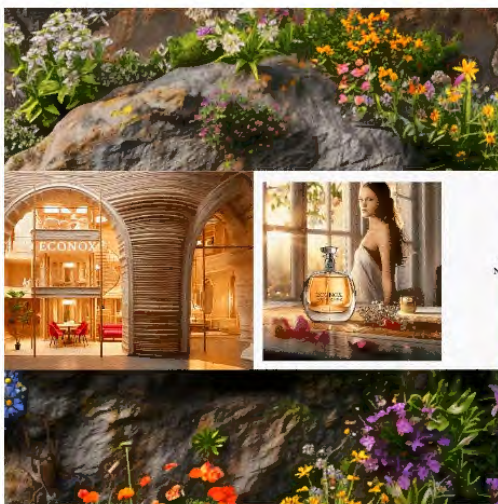
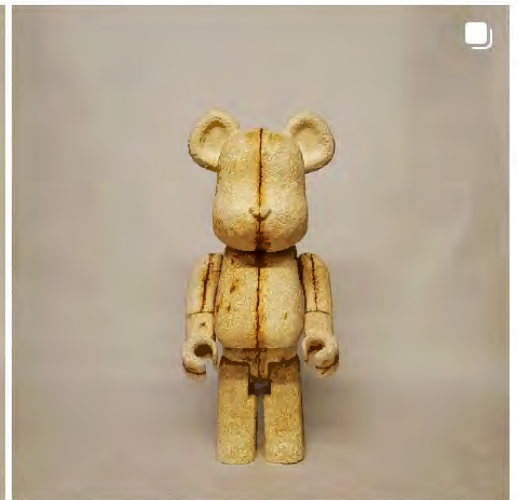


New

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.

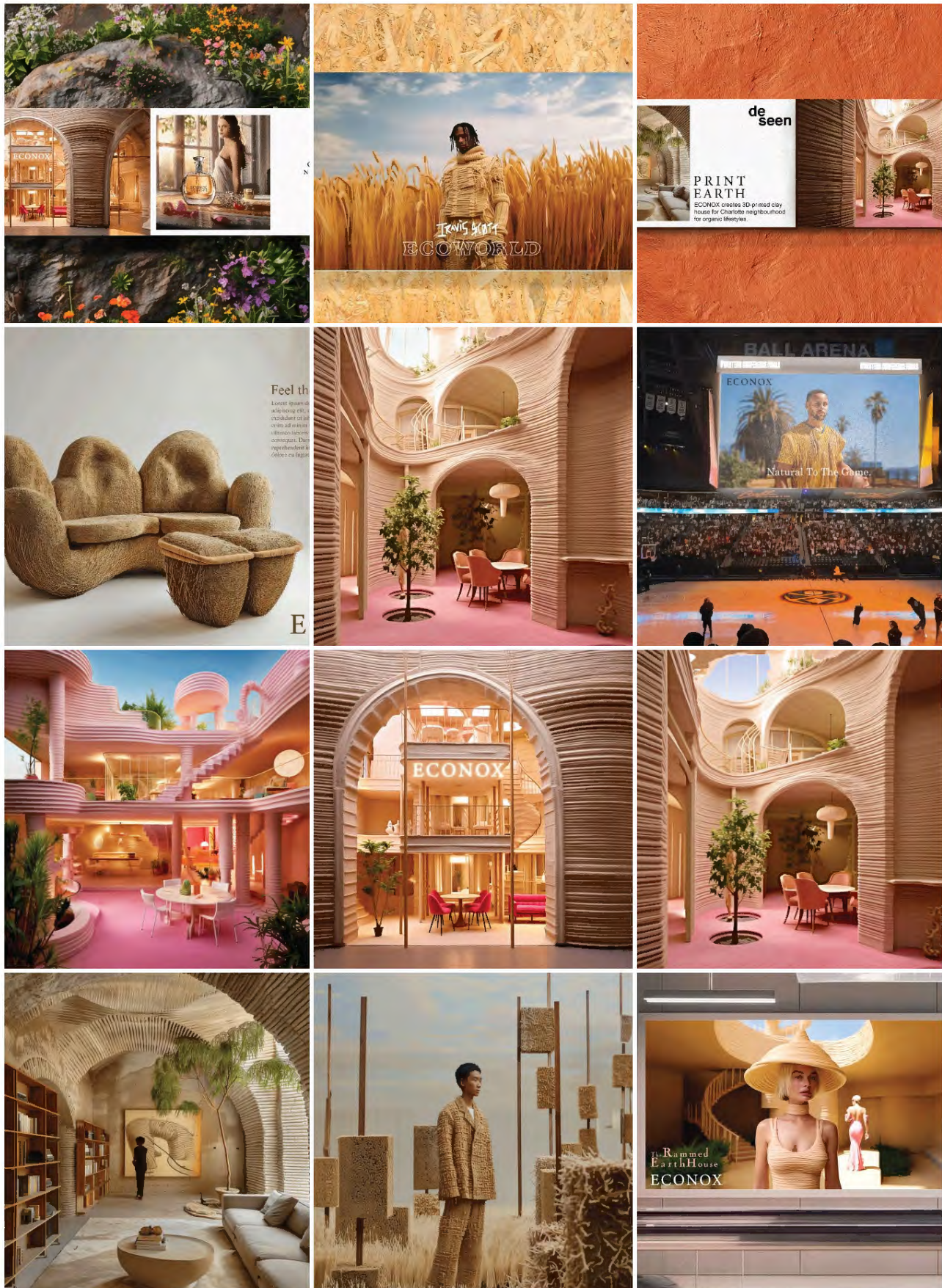
Our Values

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

Design | Leveraging pop culture to make sustainability appealing.

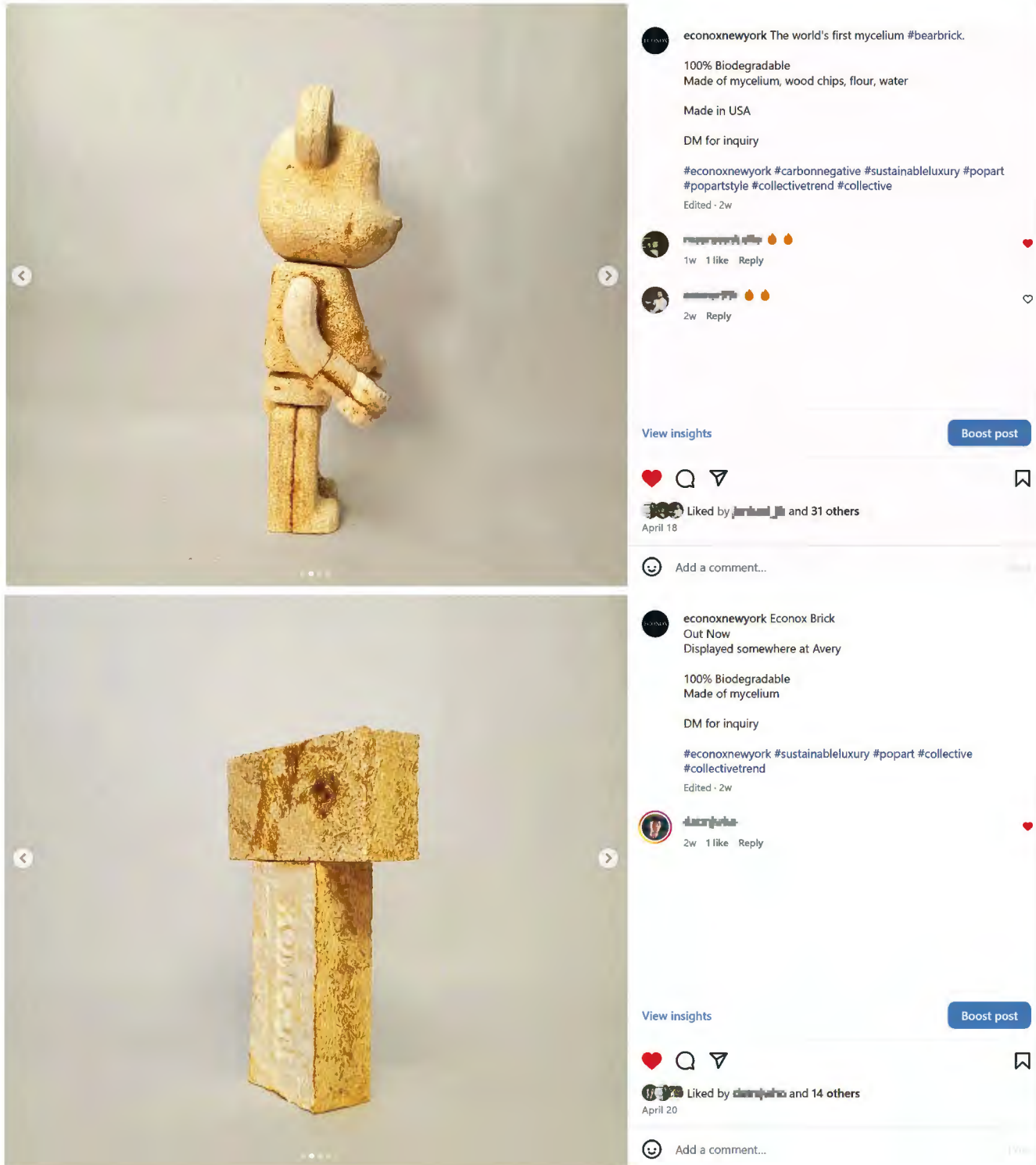
Luxury | Positioning sustainable products as high-end items

Exclusivity | Utilizing scarcity and limited editions to create urgency.



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

Collectibles



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

Advertisements



Feel the

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint

Difference

ECONOX



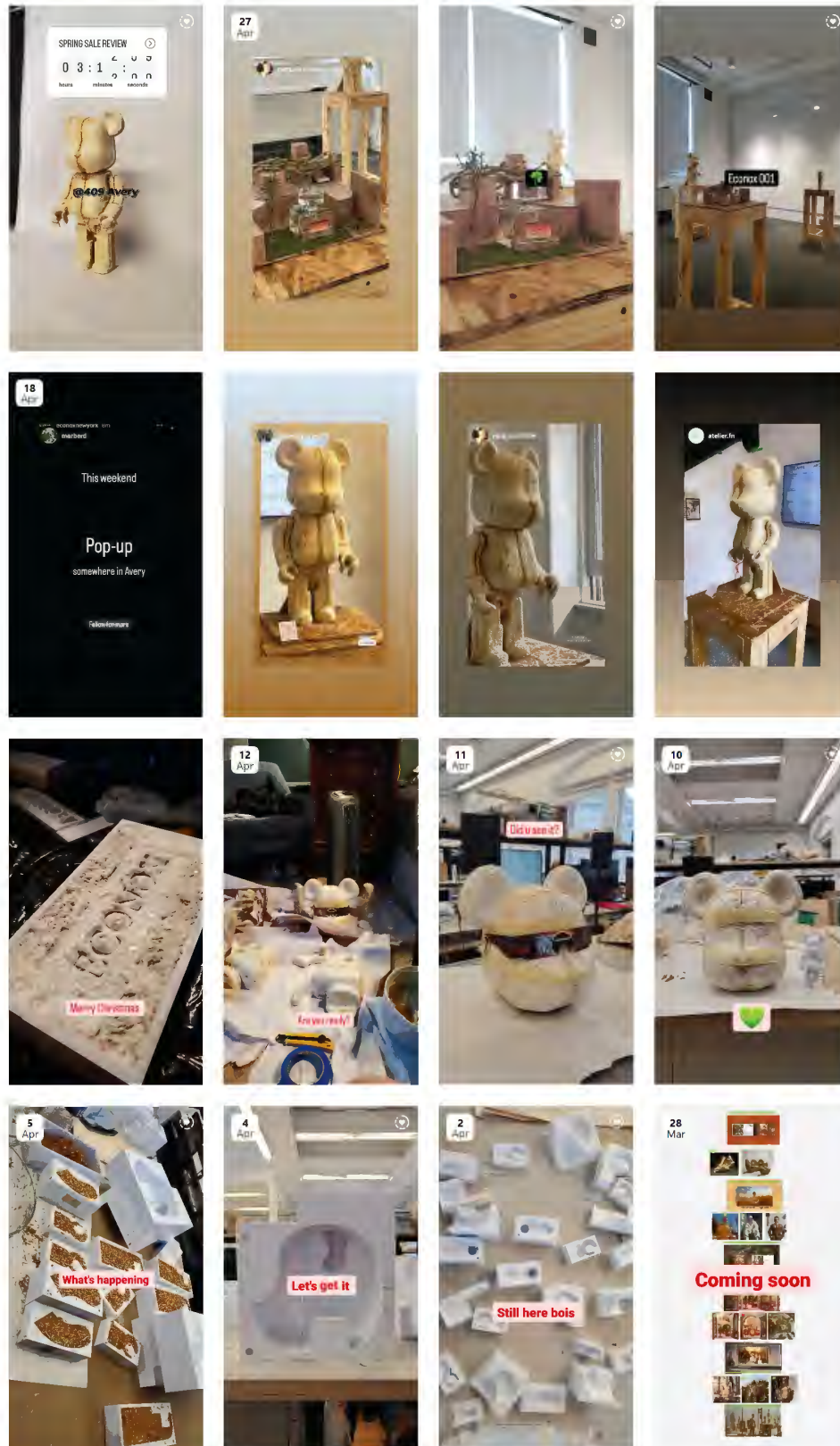
Posts | The Eco-Lux Sofa and Outfits feel naturally elegant, made from jute and rice straw.

Trending



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

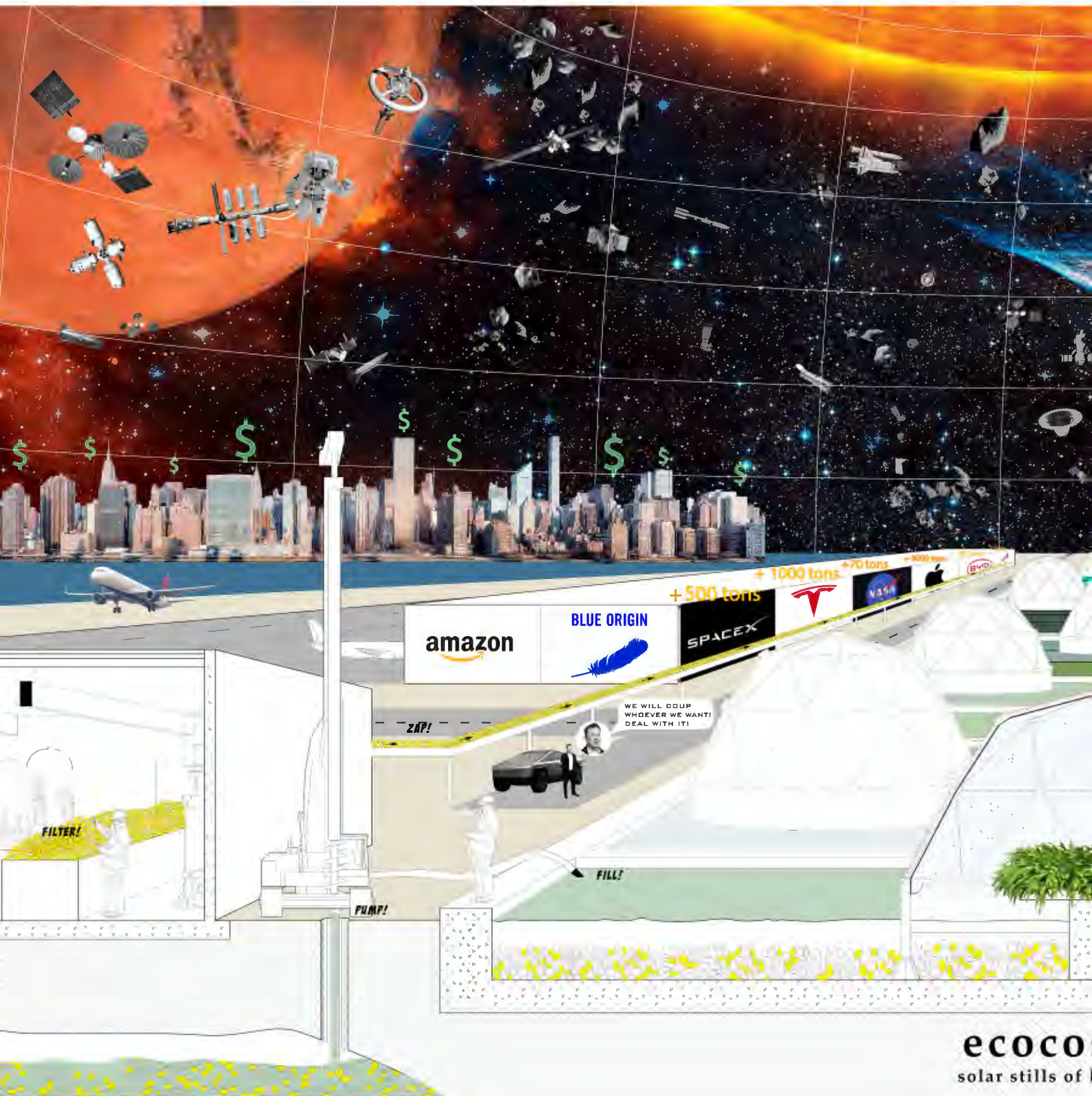
Marketing



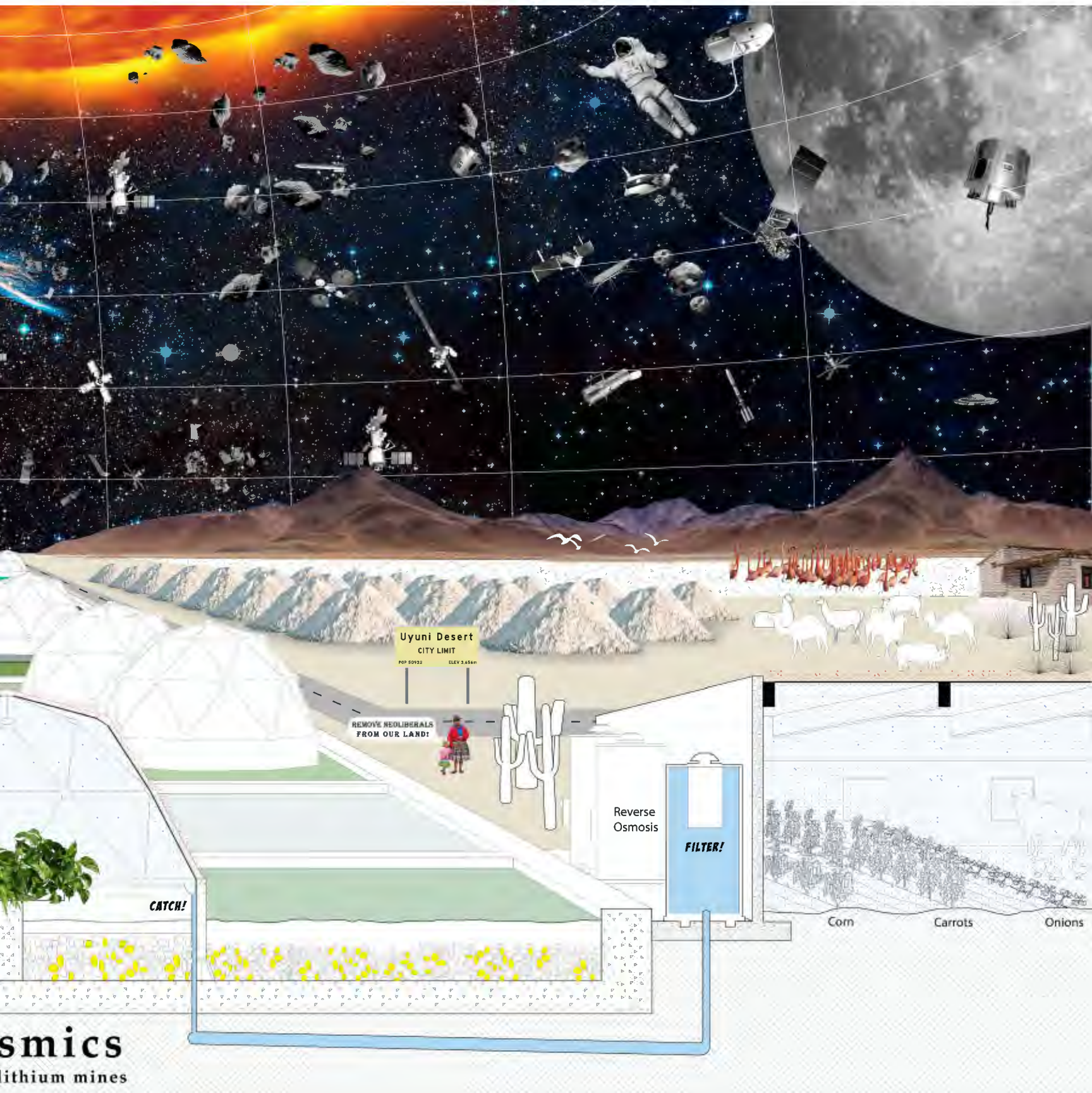
Stories | The hype is fostered through engaging with followers over time.

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.



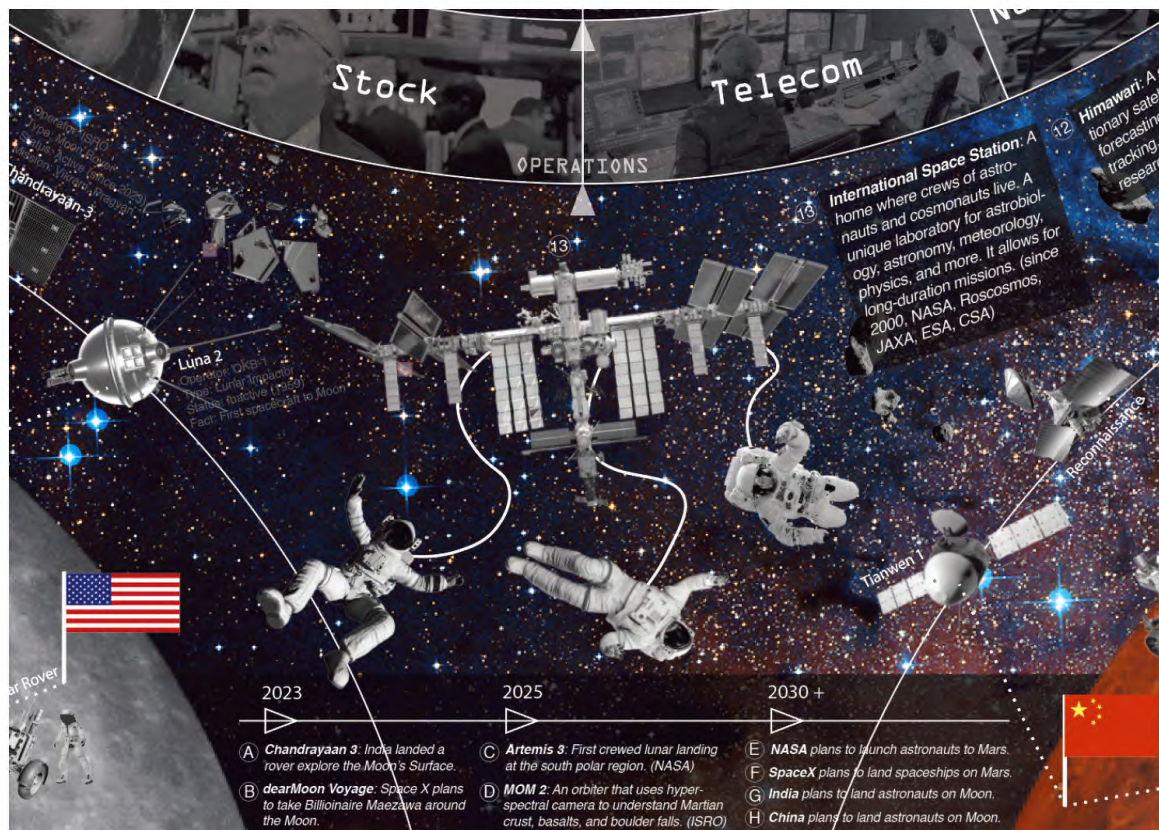


2028 | A brief plan for space missions

Analysis



Space Race | 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

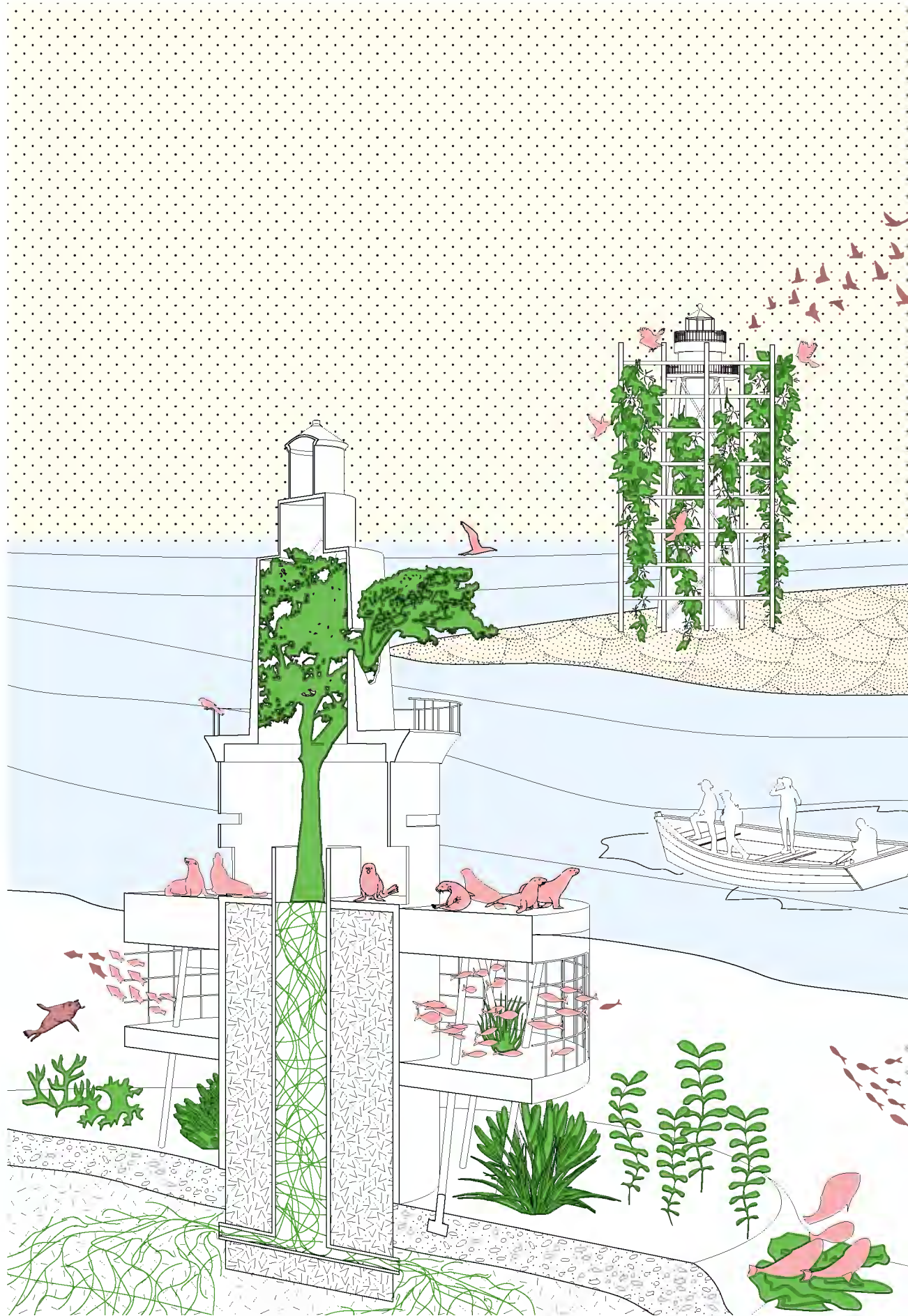
Academic: GSAPP Studio

Topic: *The City Island, 2024*

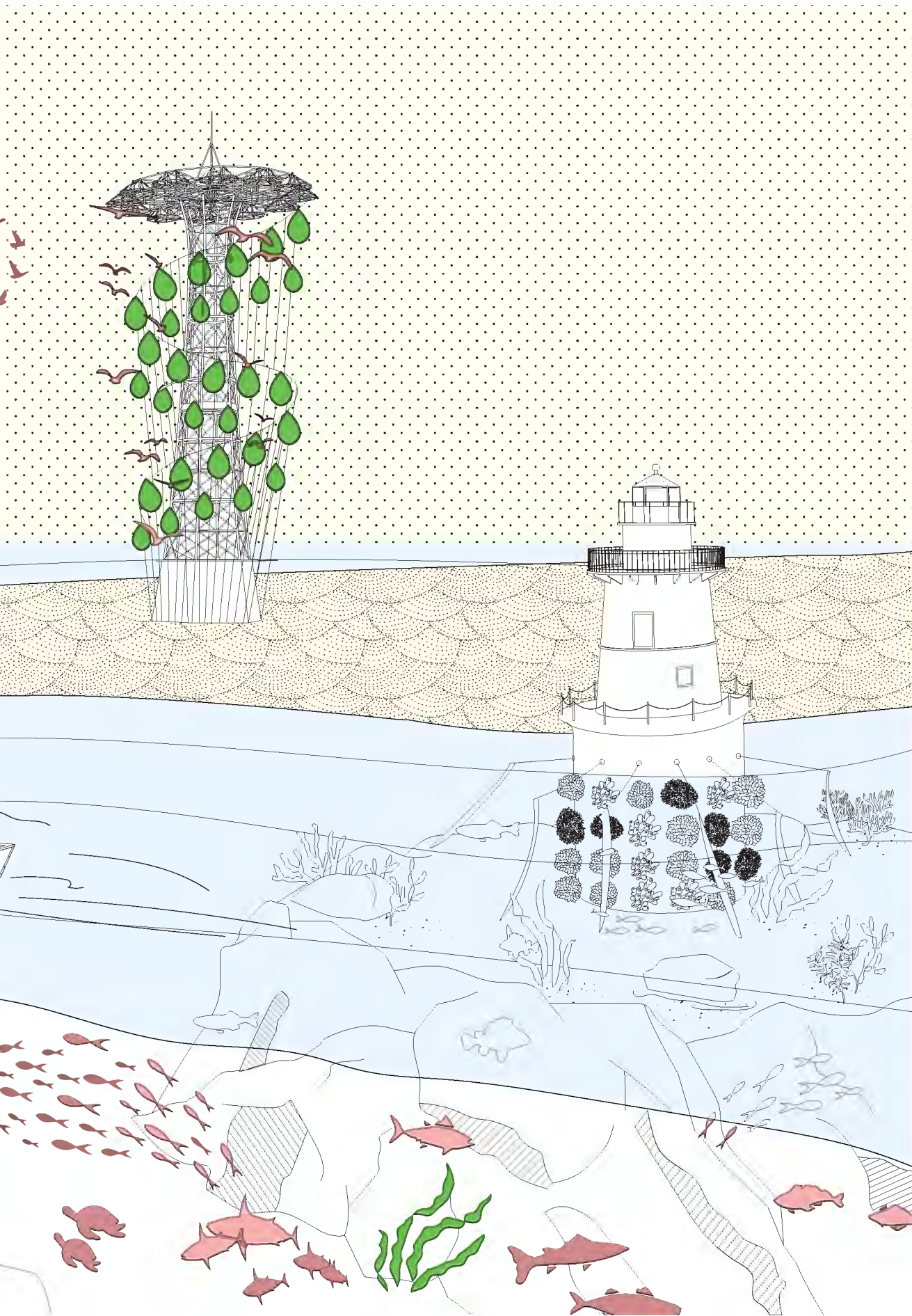
Instructor: David Moon

Team: Keira Chen

Site: Lower New York Bay

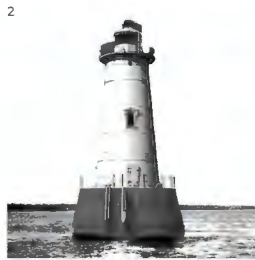


Converting abandoned towers into an interconnected ecosystem to safeguard life from sea level rising





West Bank Lighthouse
Constructed: 1910, NY
Type: Aquatic
Height: 55' (SL: 0')
Shape: Conical
Foundation: Calisson



Great Beds Lighthouse
Constructed: 1880, NJ
Type: Aquatic
Height: 62' (SL: 0')
Shape: Conical
Foundation: Calisson



Romer Shoal Lighthouse
Constructed: 1838, NY
Type: Aquatic
Height: 54' (SL: 0')
Shape: Conical
Foundation: Calisson



Old Orchard Shoal
Constructed: 1893, NY
Type: Aquatic
Height: 35' (SL: 0')
Shape: Conical
Foundation: Calisson



Robins Reef Lighthouse
Constructed: 1839, NY
Type: Aquatic
Height: 45' (SL: 0')
Shape: Conical
Foundation: Calisson



Lefrak Point Lighthouse
Constructed: 1872, NJ
Type: Terrestrial
Height: 50' (SL: 0')
Shape: Cylindrical
Foundation: Concrete



Sandy Hook Lighthouse
Constructed: 1764, NJ
Type: Terrestrial
Height: 85' (SL: 0')
Shape: Octagonal
Foundation: Masonry



Coney Island Lighthouse
Constructed: 1894, NJ
Type: Terrestrial
Height: 75' (SL: 0')
Shape: Square
Foundation: Steel Pile



Conover Beacon Lighthouse
Constructed: 1856, NJ
Type: Terrestrial
Height: 45' (SL: 0')
Shape: Hexagonal
Foundation: Steel Pile



Breezy Point Lighthouse
Constructed: 1914, NY
Type: Terrestrial
Height: 40' (SL: 0')
Shape: Square
Foundation: Concrete



Fort Wadsworth Light
Constructed: 1903, NY
Type: Terrestrial
Height: 15' (SL: 75')
Shape: Cylindrical
Foundation: Fort's Parapet



Prince's Bay Lighthouse
Constructed: 1828, NY
Type: Terrestrial
Height: 40' (SL: 107')
Shape: Conical
Foundation: Rubblestone

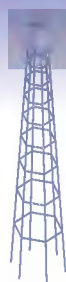


Navesink Twin Lights
Constructed: 1862, NY
Type: Terrestrial
Height: 12' (SL: 200')
Shape: Octagonal
Foundation: Fort's Parapet



Statue of Liberty
Constructed: 1876, NY
Type: Terrestrial
Height: 151' (SL: 0')
Shape: Sculptural
Foundation: Granite

Lighthouses | Lower New York Bay



1 The Airship Tower

There was no documentation on how tall the Airship Tower was. It was built some time between 1897 and 1905. The Airship Tower rotated and featured a blimp ride. It was destroyed by the Steeplechase fire in 1907.

Current State: Demolished
Movement Direction:
Min Height for Users: N/A



2 Parachute Jump Ride

The Parachute Jump is 250 ft tall and was a highlight of the 1939 World Fair in Queens. It was then purchased by Sunken-Haw Park and moved there in 1941, becoming the iconic Coney Island ride of the 1940s. Today it is used as lighting and lit up at night.

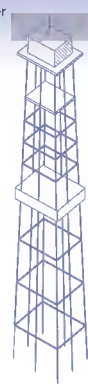
Current State: Extinct, not in use
Movement Direction:
Min Height for Users: N/A



6 The Beacon Tower

Beacon Tower was 375 ft tall. When Dreamland Amusement Park opened in 1904, its centerpiece the Beacon Tower was both taller than the Iron Tower and the Electric Tower. It was destroyed in the 1911 Dreamland fire and only existed for 7 years.

Current State: Demolished
Movement Direction:
Min Height for Users: N/A



7 The Iron Tower

The Iron Tower was moved to its current location after the Philadelphia Centennial in 1877. It was 200 feet tall and the patrons could get to the top on steam powered elevators and see for 30 miles around. However, it was destroyed in the 1911 Dreamland fire.

Current State: Demolished
Movement Direction:
Min Height for Users: N/A



3 Astro Tower

The old Astro Tower was built in the center of Amusement Park in 1904 and was 270 ft tall. It remained until 2013 and was dismantled due to safety issues.

Current State: Demolished, new one is built
Movement Direction:
Min Height for Users: N/A



4 The Electric Tower

The Electric Tower was 200 feet tall and was the centerpiece of Luna Park when it opened for business in 1903. The most impressive point for this structure was its 100,000 electric lights which illuminated at night. It was a brand new way of using electric lighting back in the time. It was destroyed by fire in 1914.

Current State: Demolished
Movement Direction:
Min Height for Users: N/A

5 Thunderbolt

Thunderbolt is the first steel roller coaster in NYC and was built in 1914. The new Thunderbolt pays homage to the historical one that was built in 1905 and demolished in 2000. The roller coaster is known for its 90 degree drop, inversions, turns and enough G-force.

Movement Direction:
Min Height for Users: 50"



8 SlingShot

Riders are able to fly over 150 feet into the sky as speeds up to 90 mph.

Current State: In use
Movement Direction:
Min Height for Users: 48"



9 Zenobio

This ride has two arms and the riders can catch a glimpse of ocean, sand, and sky as they sweep 130ft in the air at speeds over 60 mph traveling in consecutive rotations.

Current State: In use
Movement Direction:
Min Height for Users: 52"



10 Brooklyn Flyer

The users can rise to the height of approximately 100 feet and get a view over the Coney Island.

Current State: In use
Movement Direction:
Min Height for Users: 42"



11 Coney Tower

The ride provides you a journey with a sequence of bounces and fresh all drops.

Current State: In use
Movement Direction:
Min Height for Users: 42"



12 Atlantic Aviator

Atlantic Aviator takes riders on an amazing journey which replicates the experiences and sensations of an acrobatic airplane flight.

Current State: In use
Movement Direction:
Min Height for Users: 48"



13 Luna 360

Luna 360 provides a breathtaking viewpoint as it swings through the air.

Current State: In use
Movement Direction:
Min Height for Users: 48"



14 Coney Island Lighthouse

The lighthouse has a square skeleton with a steel column with 87 steps in the center. It was built in 1990 and used to guide boats. The tower was slightly over 60 feet with an eight-sided lantern at the top.

Current State: In use
Movement Direction:
Min Height for Users: N/A

CONEY ISLAND Vertical Structures





L.V. Aquatic Lighthouse

Coral Reef Conservation

Program: Ocean Laboratory & Aquarium

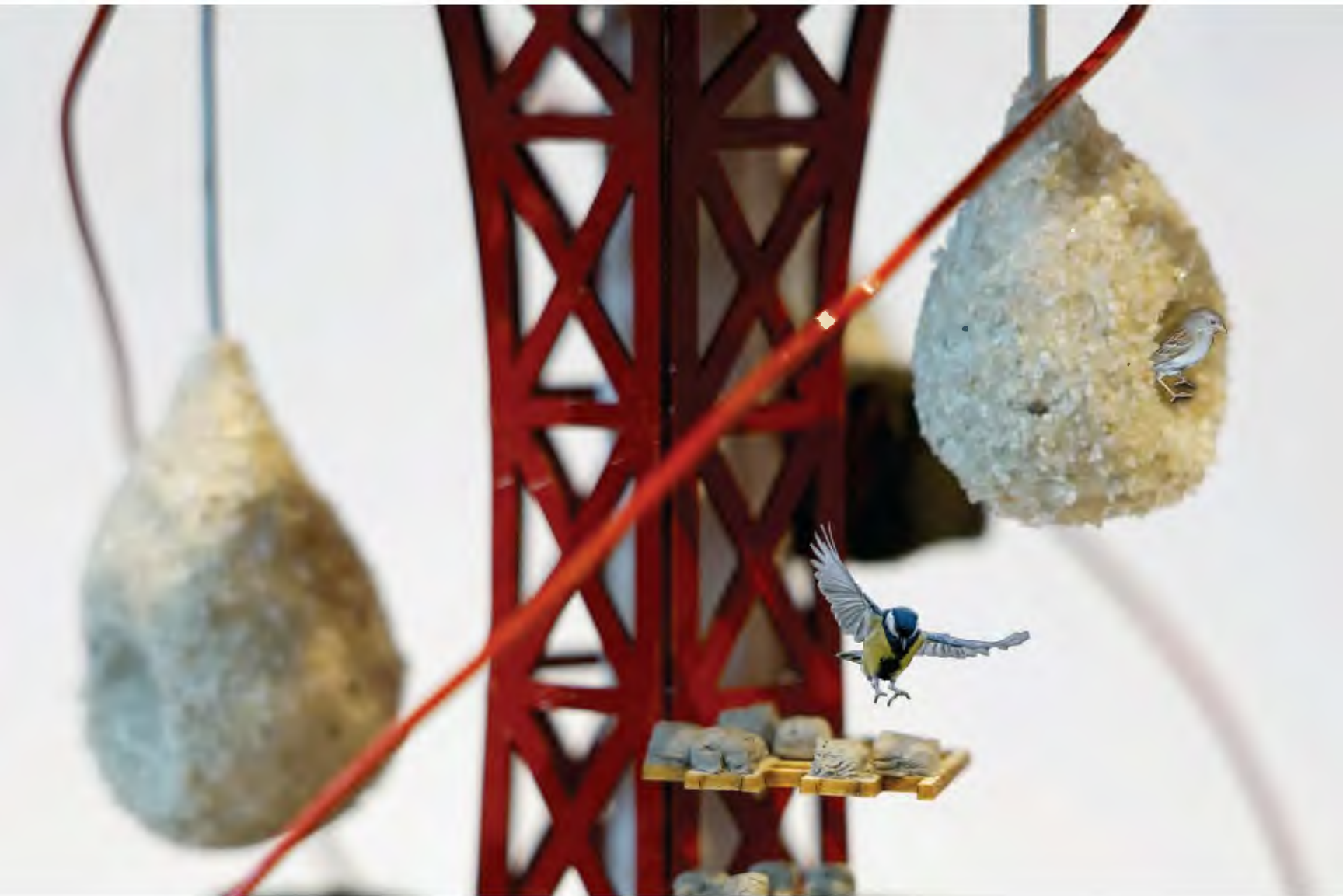
Prior: West Bank Lighthouse, 1910

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

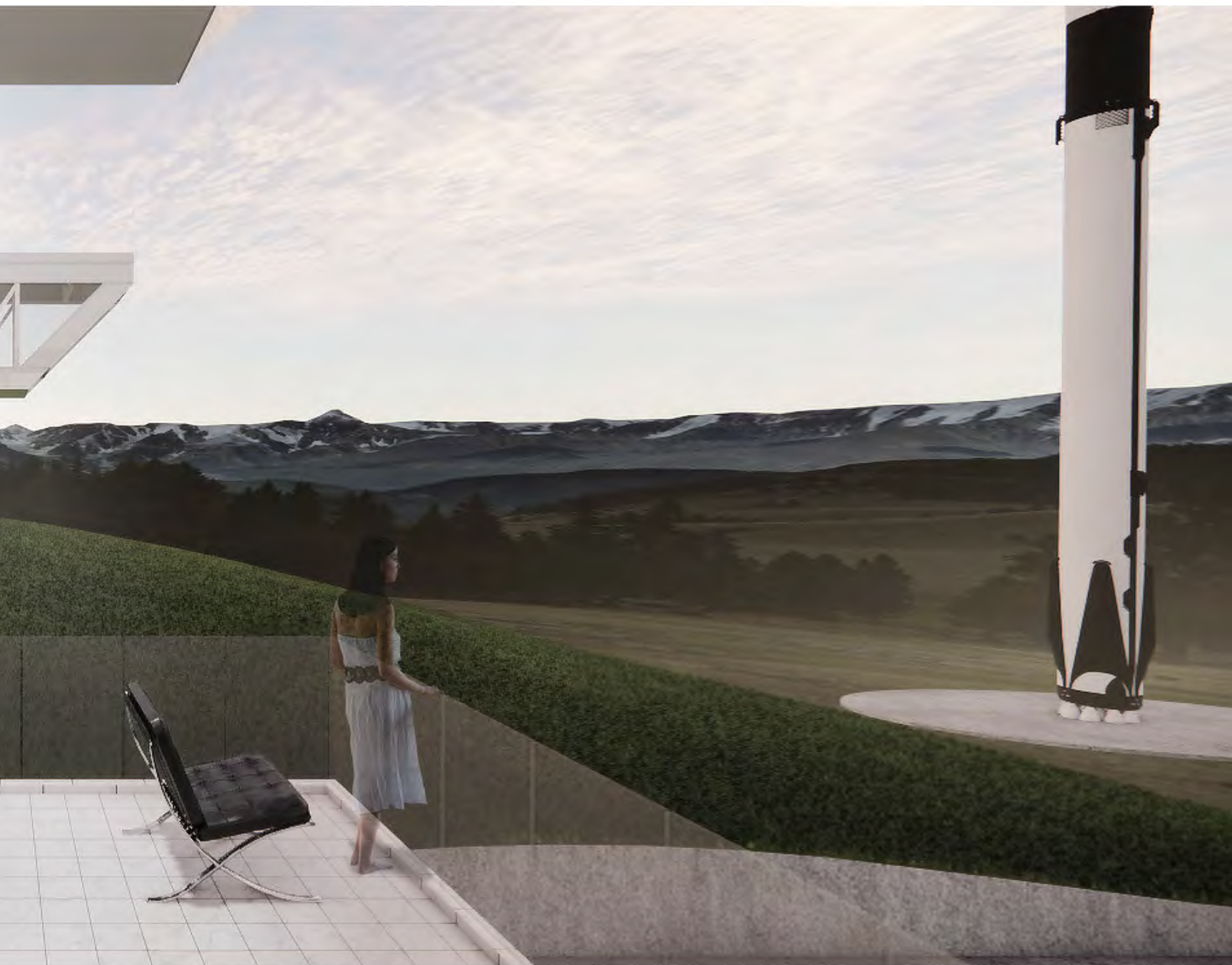
Addition: Steel Cables, Bird Nests, Core

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



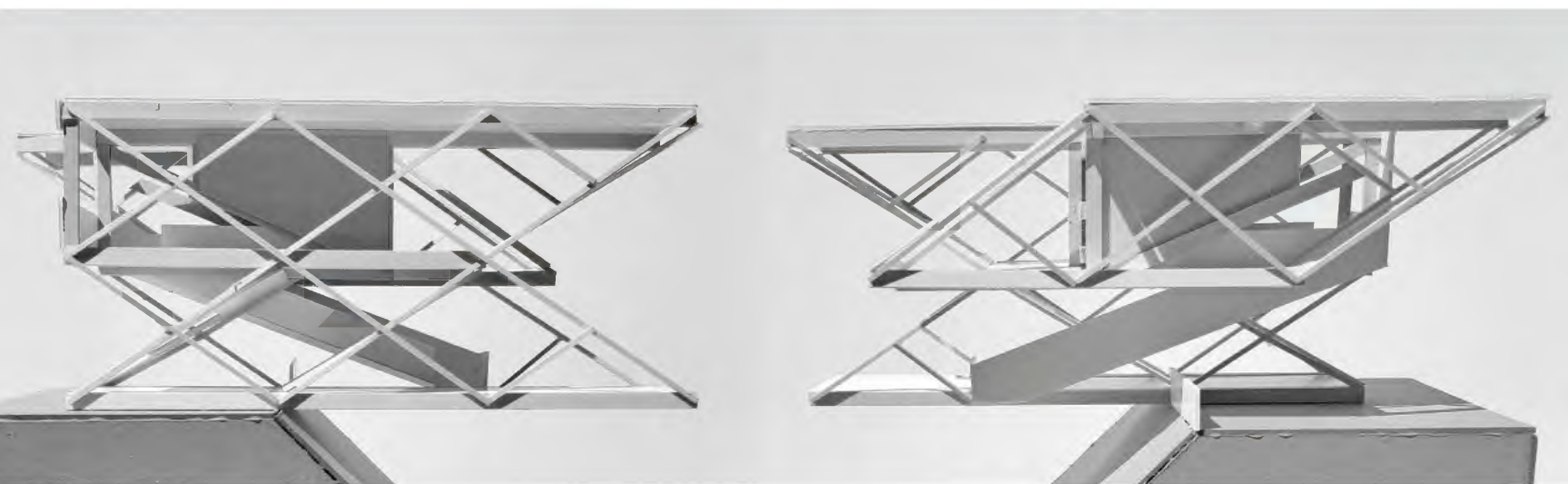


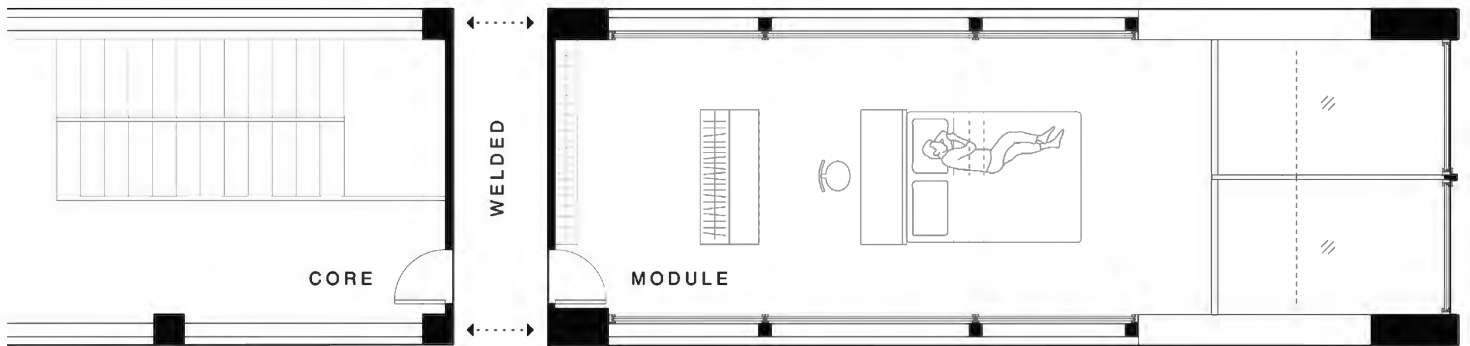
Academic: CalPoly Pomona Studio, 2020

Instructor: Yasushi Ishida

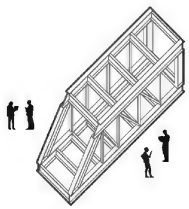
Site: Vetter Mountain, California, USA

Prefab Steel-Framed Modular Tower

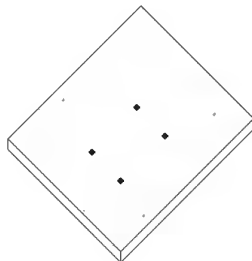




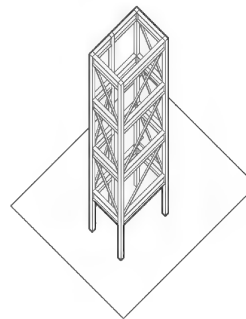
Modular System for Minimizing On-Site Construction Pollution amongst Nature



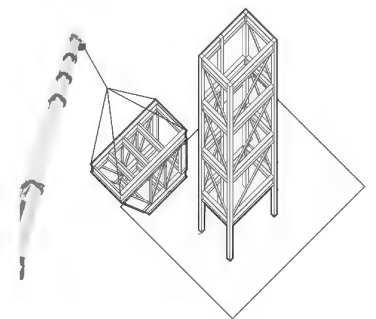
Factory Prefab



Site Foundation



Core-Tower



Welding

User



John Grunsfeld
NASA Astronaut



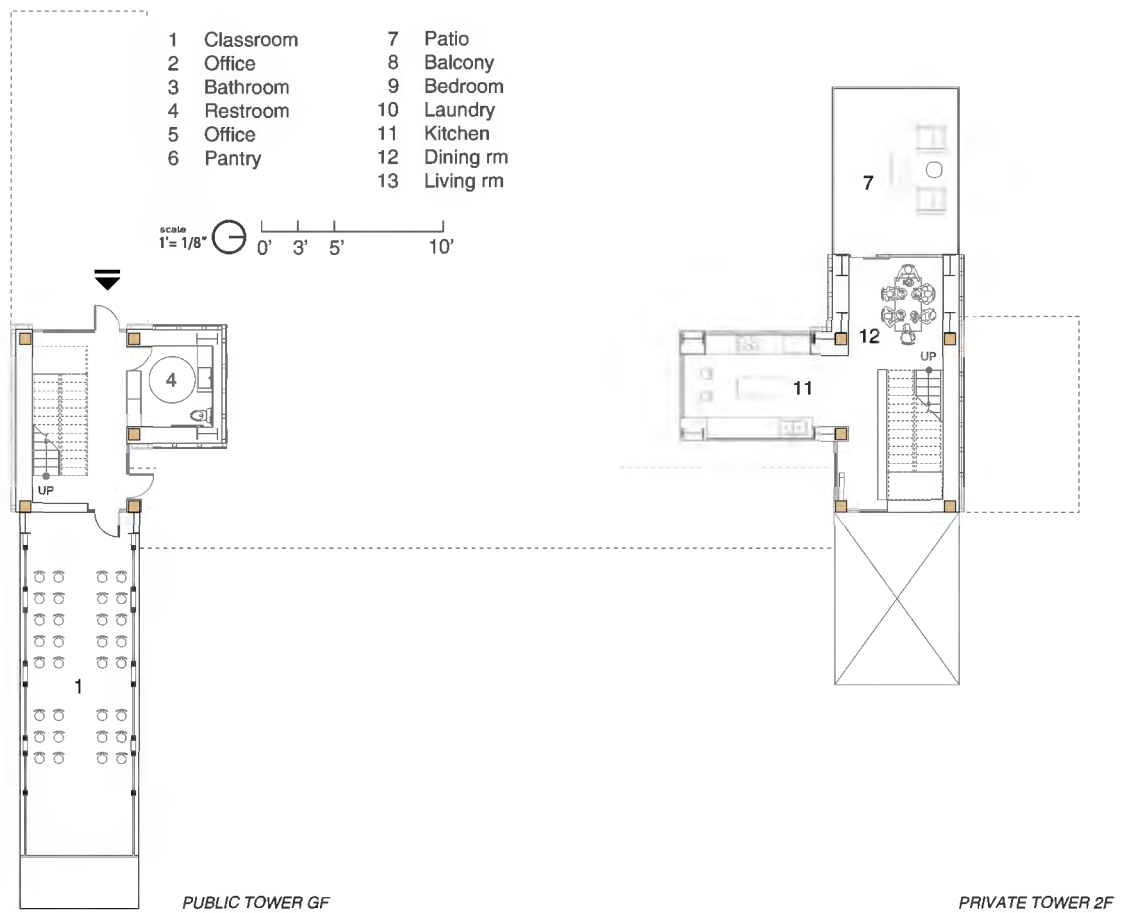
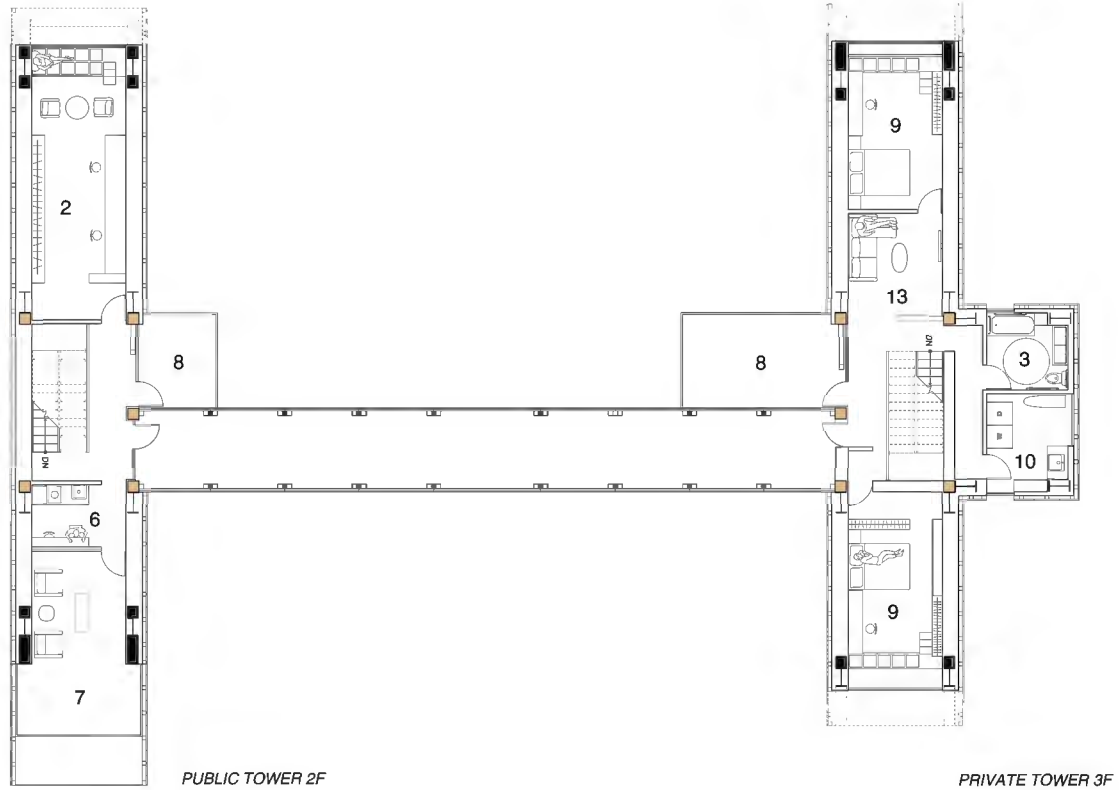
Neil deGrasse Tyson
Astrophysicist

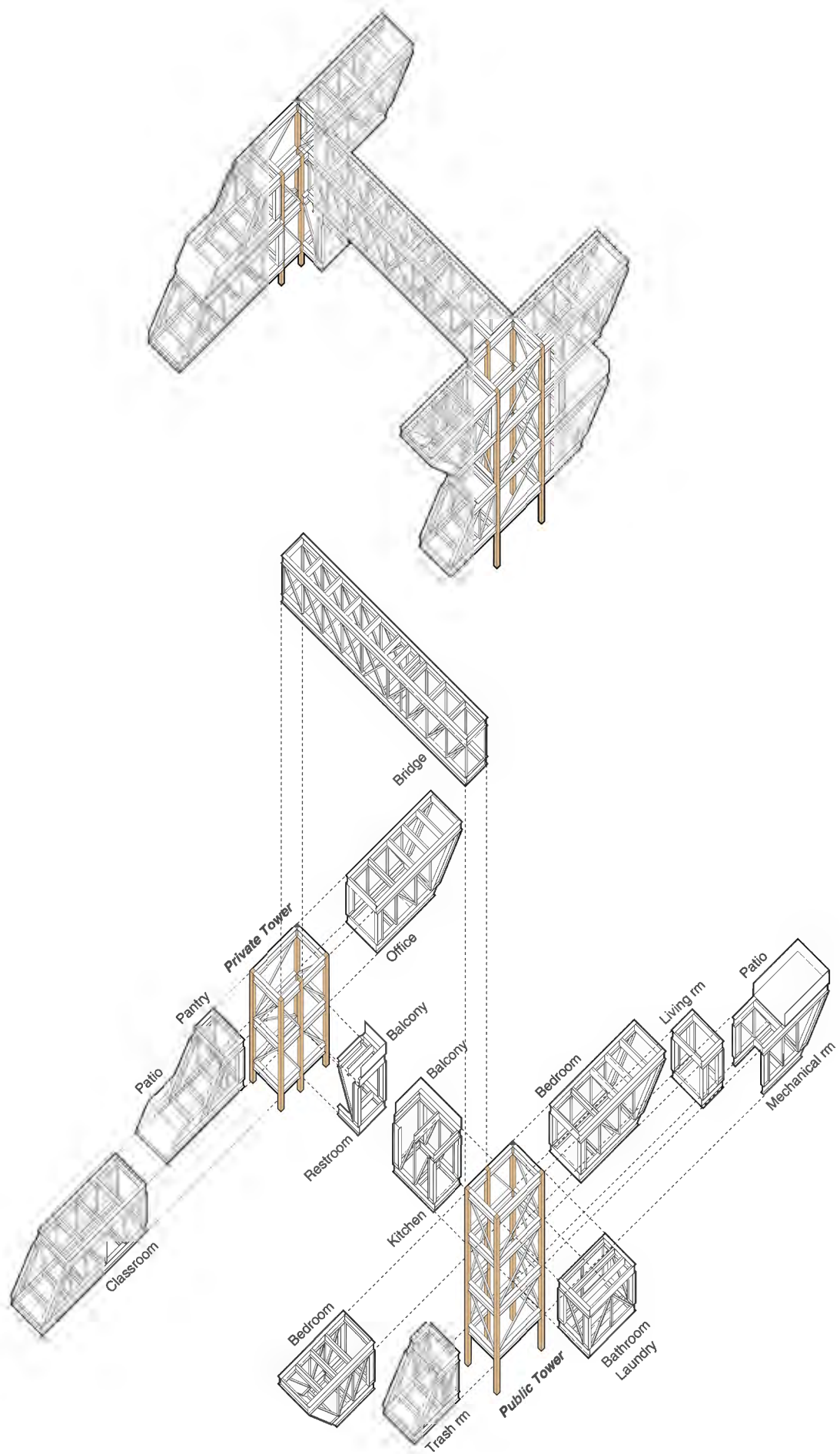


Dale Sanders
Hiker



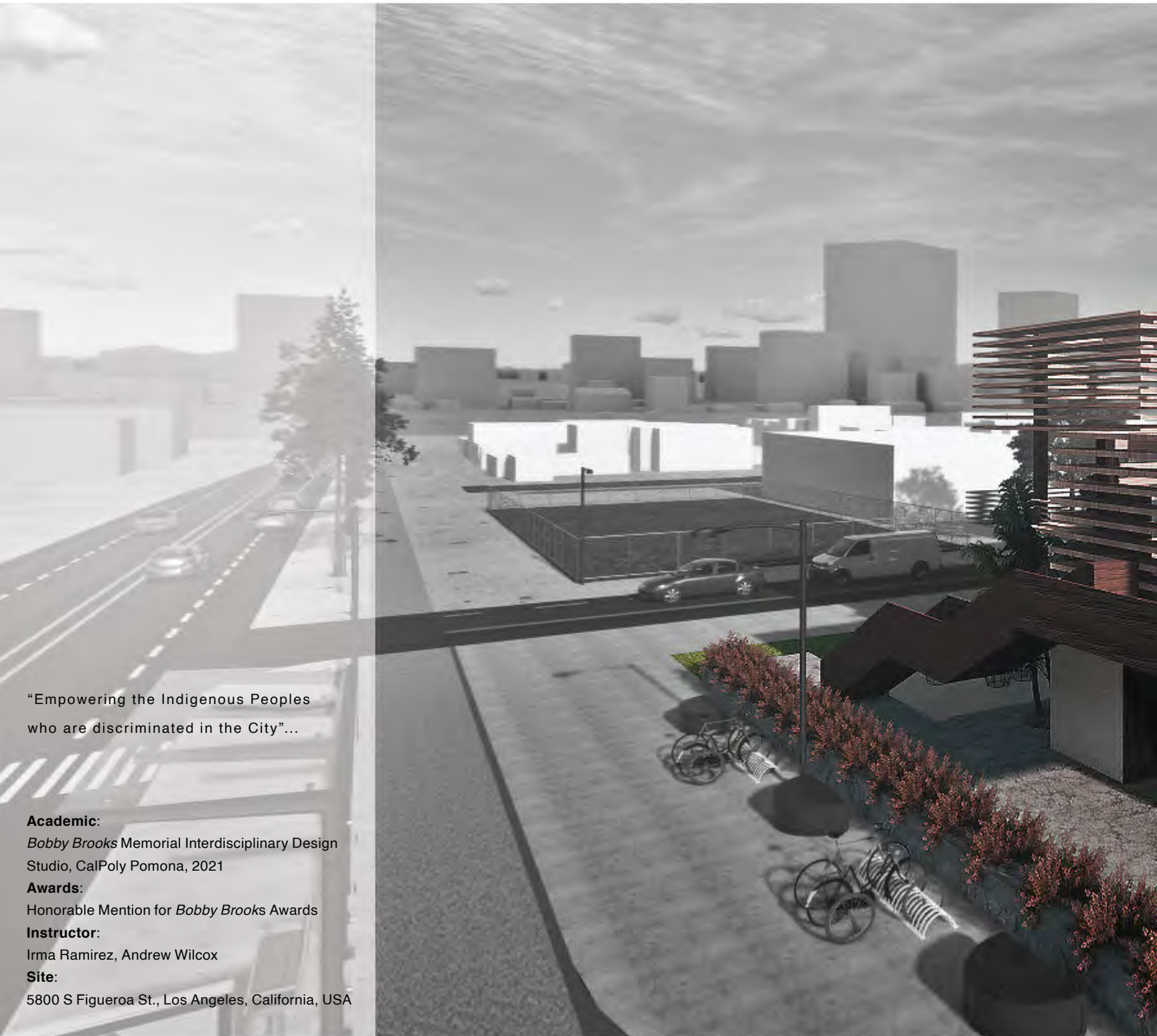
Jan Spiller
Astrologer





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



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

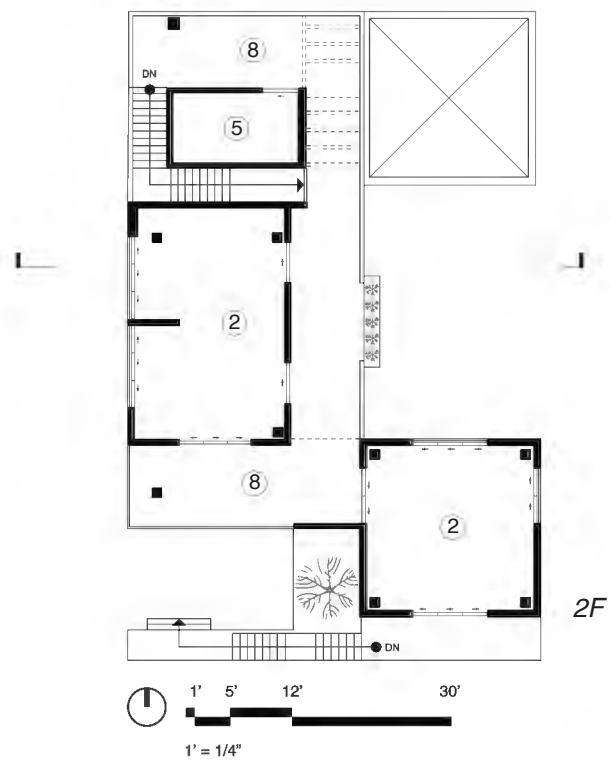
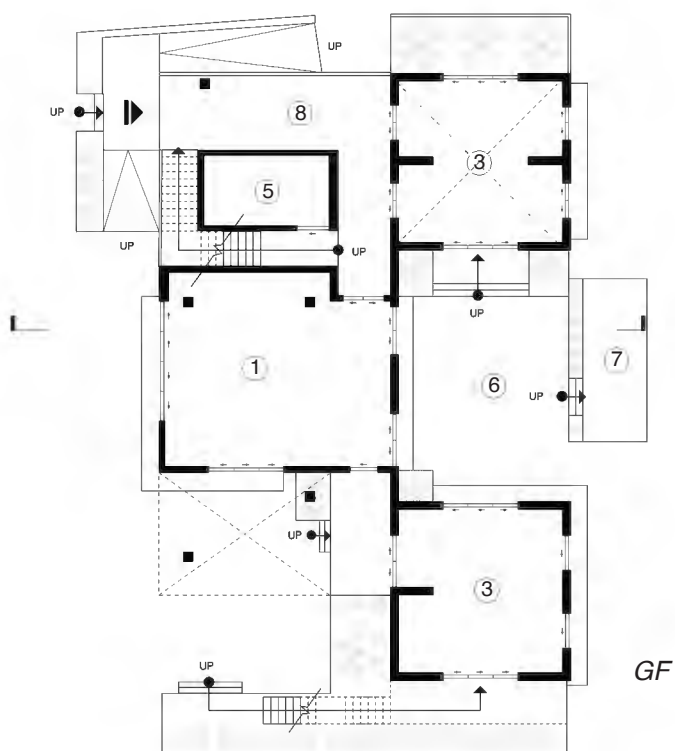


Program

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 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.





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



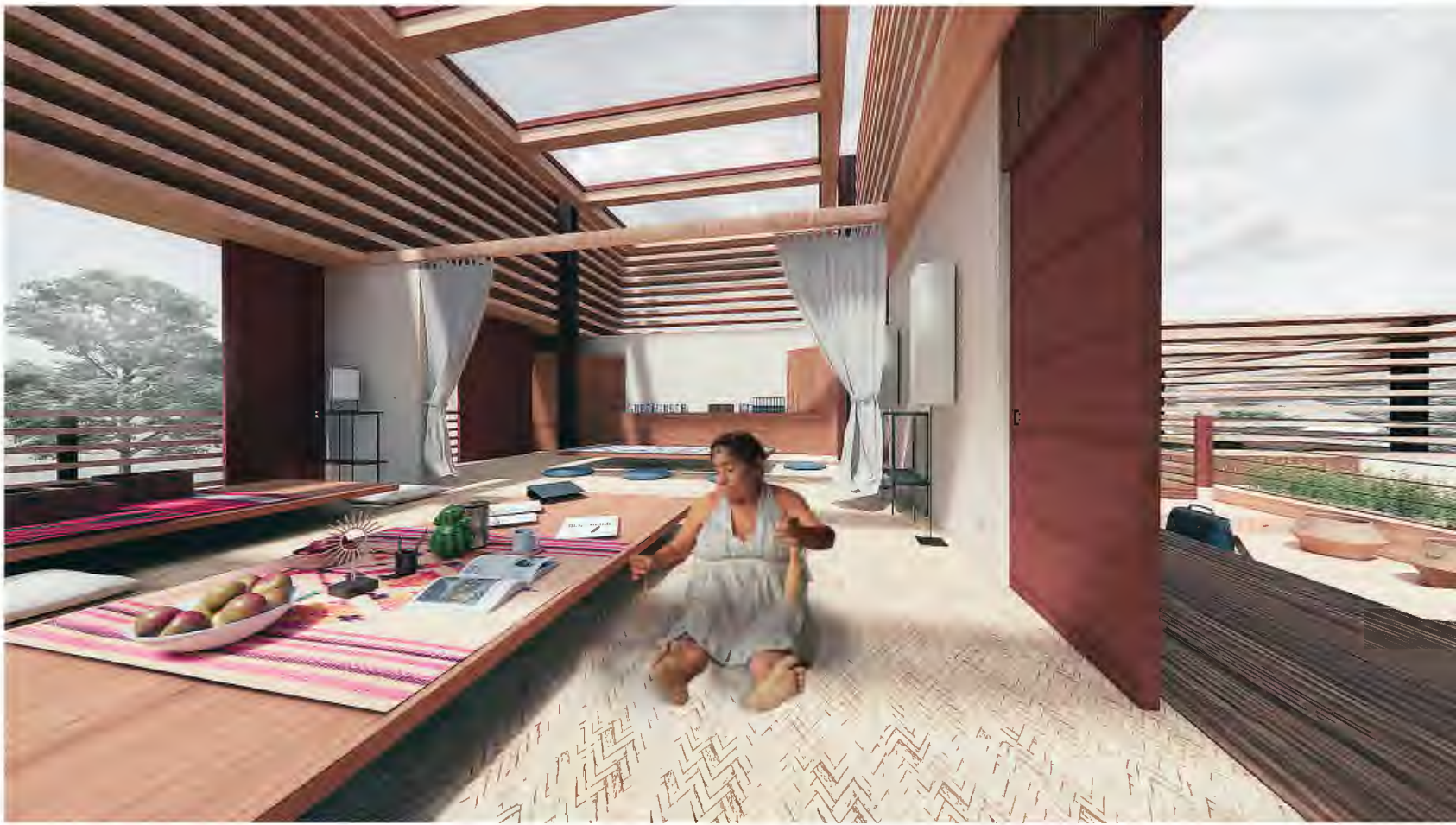
Temple



Daily Life



Astronomy



Material Resemblance

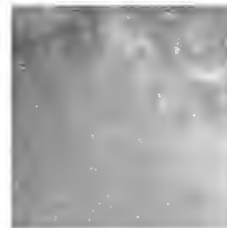
Since the prehispanic times, the Mesoamericans sleep, eat, and give birth on petates, and live under the stars for bright hope, big possibilities, insight and intuition.



Ceiba Wood



Petates



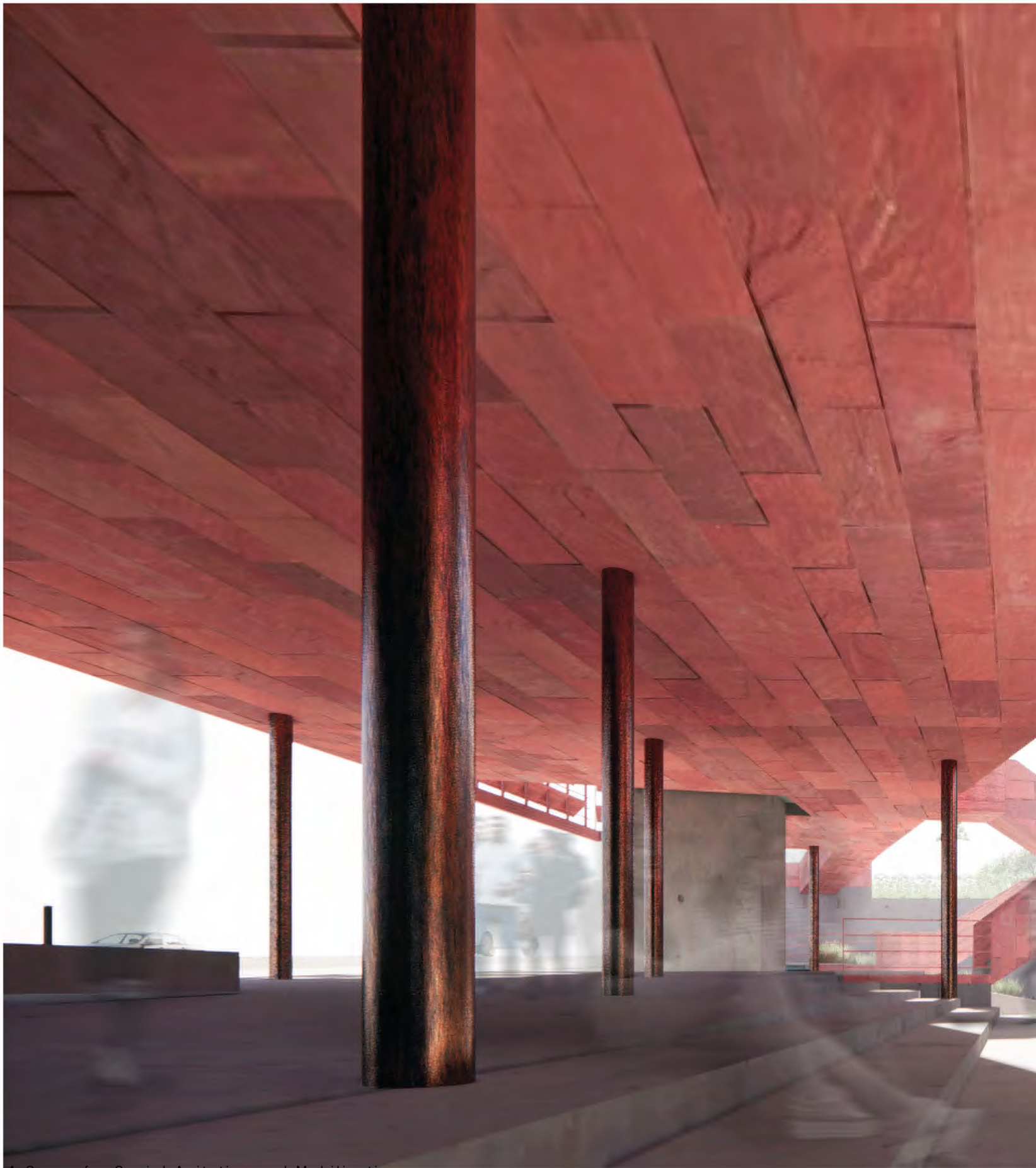
Stars



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

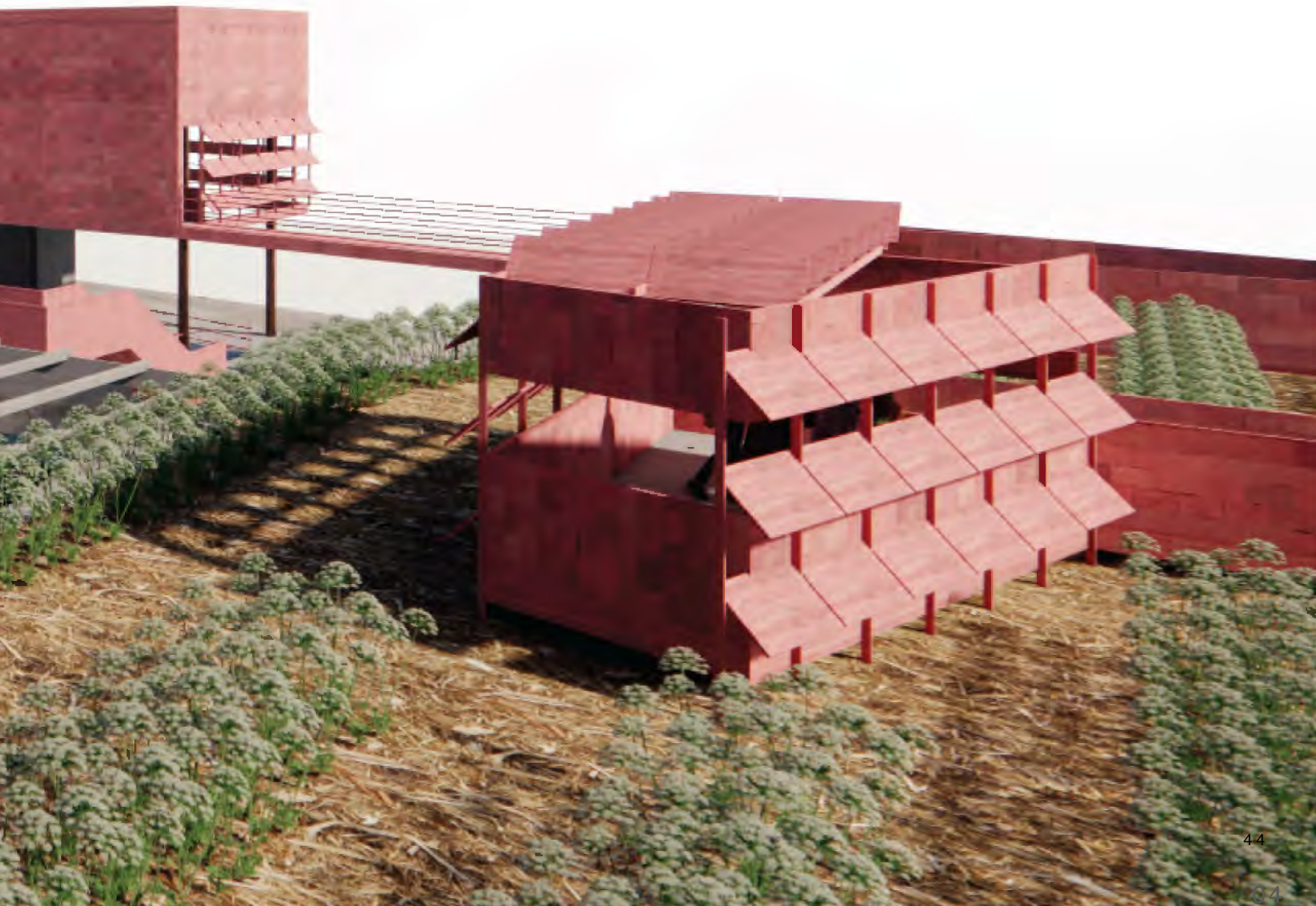
Cotton, this particular species of plant, represents the products of a system that required slave labor to function...



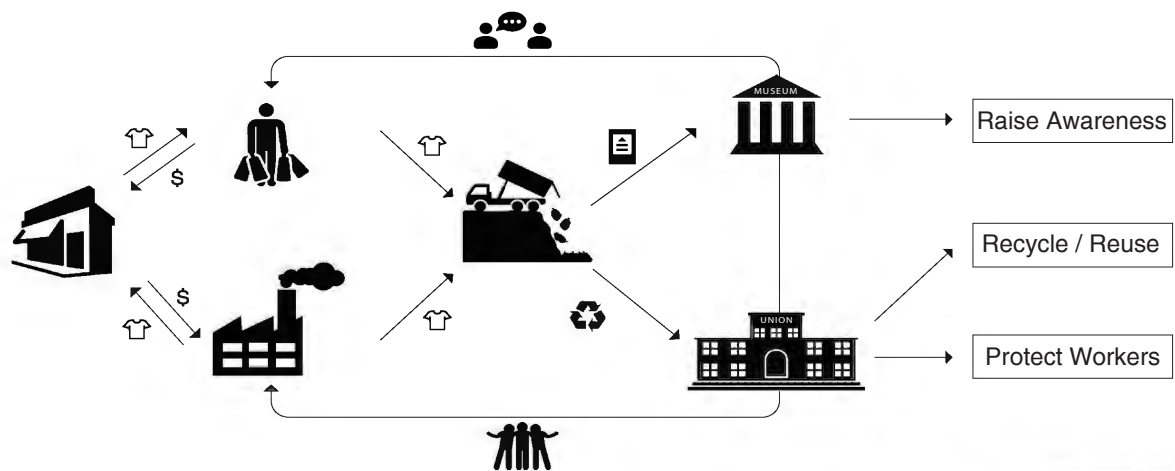
Victims of Fast Fashion

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

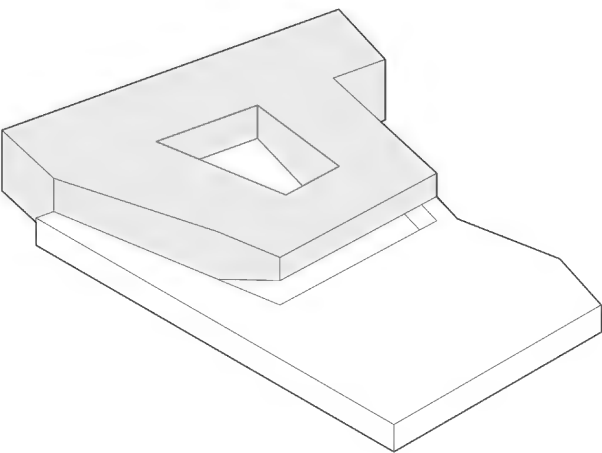
1. Rana Plaza Factory Collapse, murder, death:
1,134 garment workers, Bangladesh, 2013
2. Child Labor, kidnapped, sweatshop, Vietnam, 2013
3. Child Labors in a sweatshop of Gujarat, India,
documented by Rahul Jain, "Machine", Germany, 2017
4. Uyghurs Sweatshop Camps, genocide, China, 2022
5. Forever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



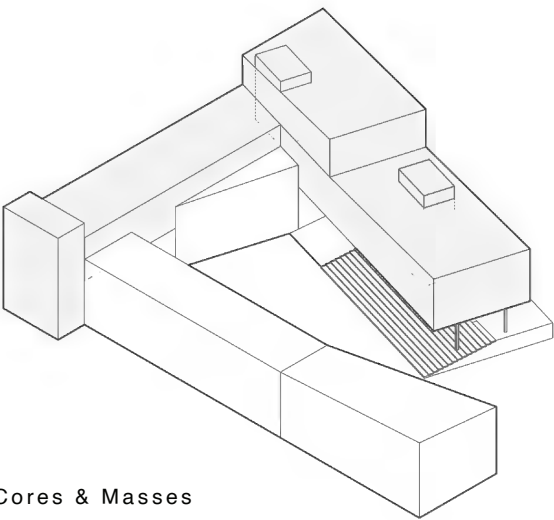
The Cycle of Fast Fashion



Museum GF / Union Hall 2F



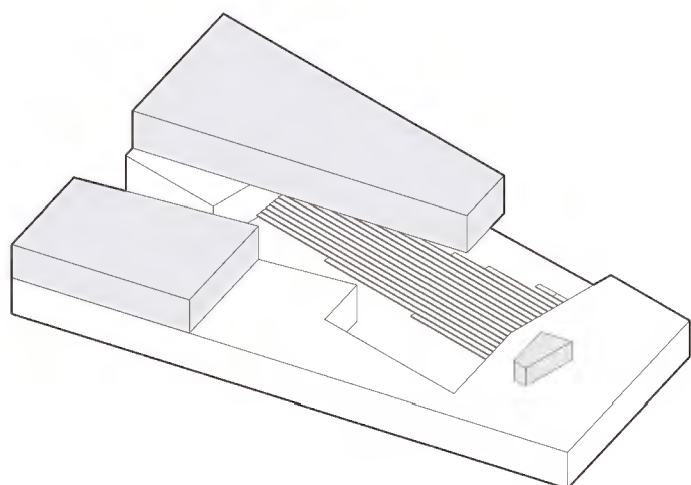
Courtyard Scheme



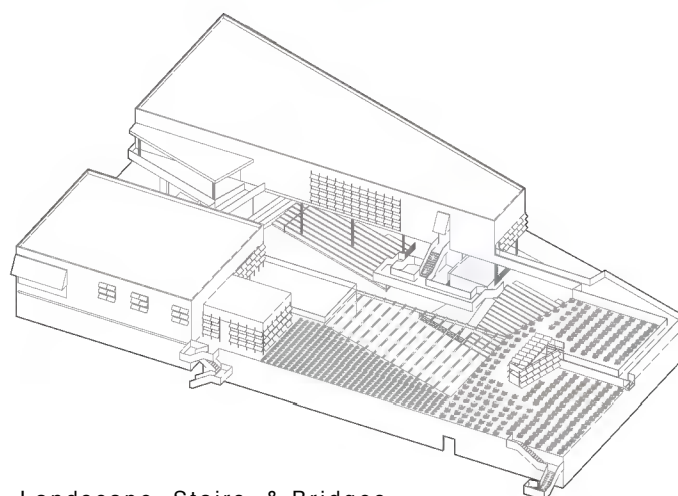
Insert Cores & Masses



A Museum Displaying a Landfill of Fast Fashion products



Distilled Form & Function



Landscape, Stairs, & Bridges

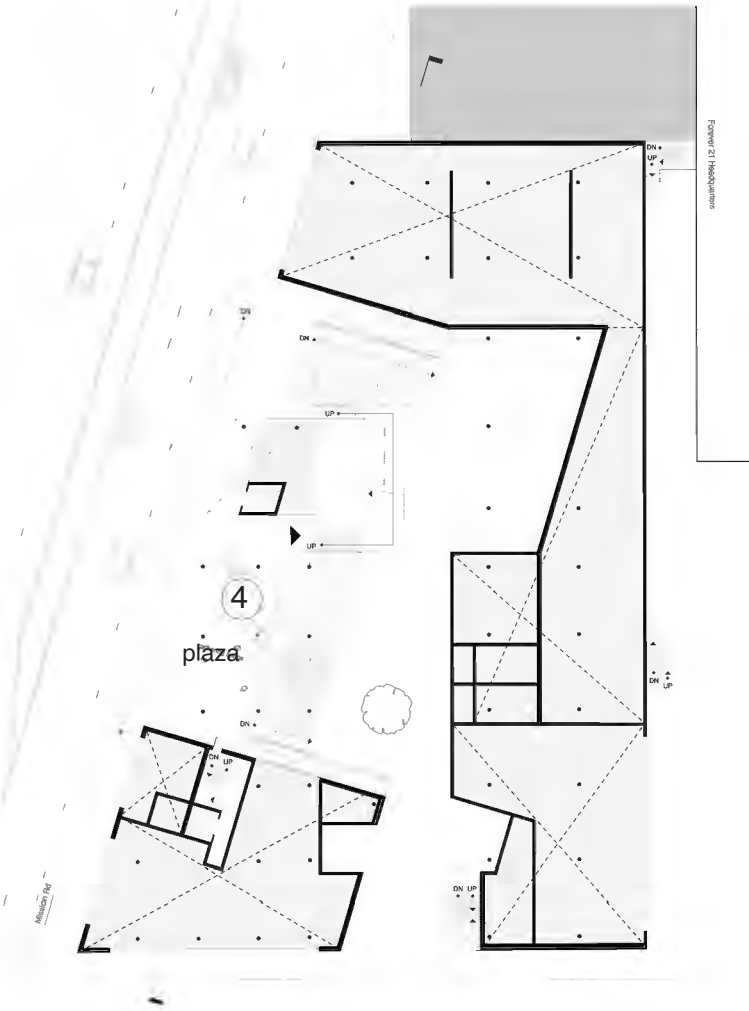
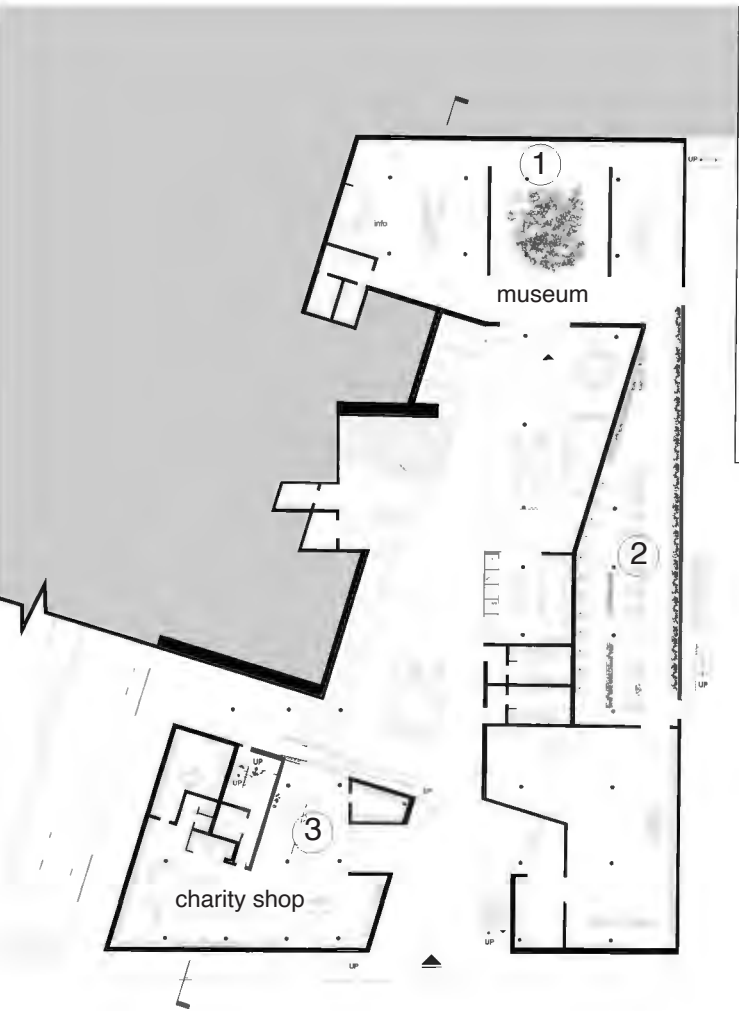
Plan Strategy

Beautiful Memorial in the Cotton Field



Activity

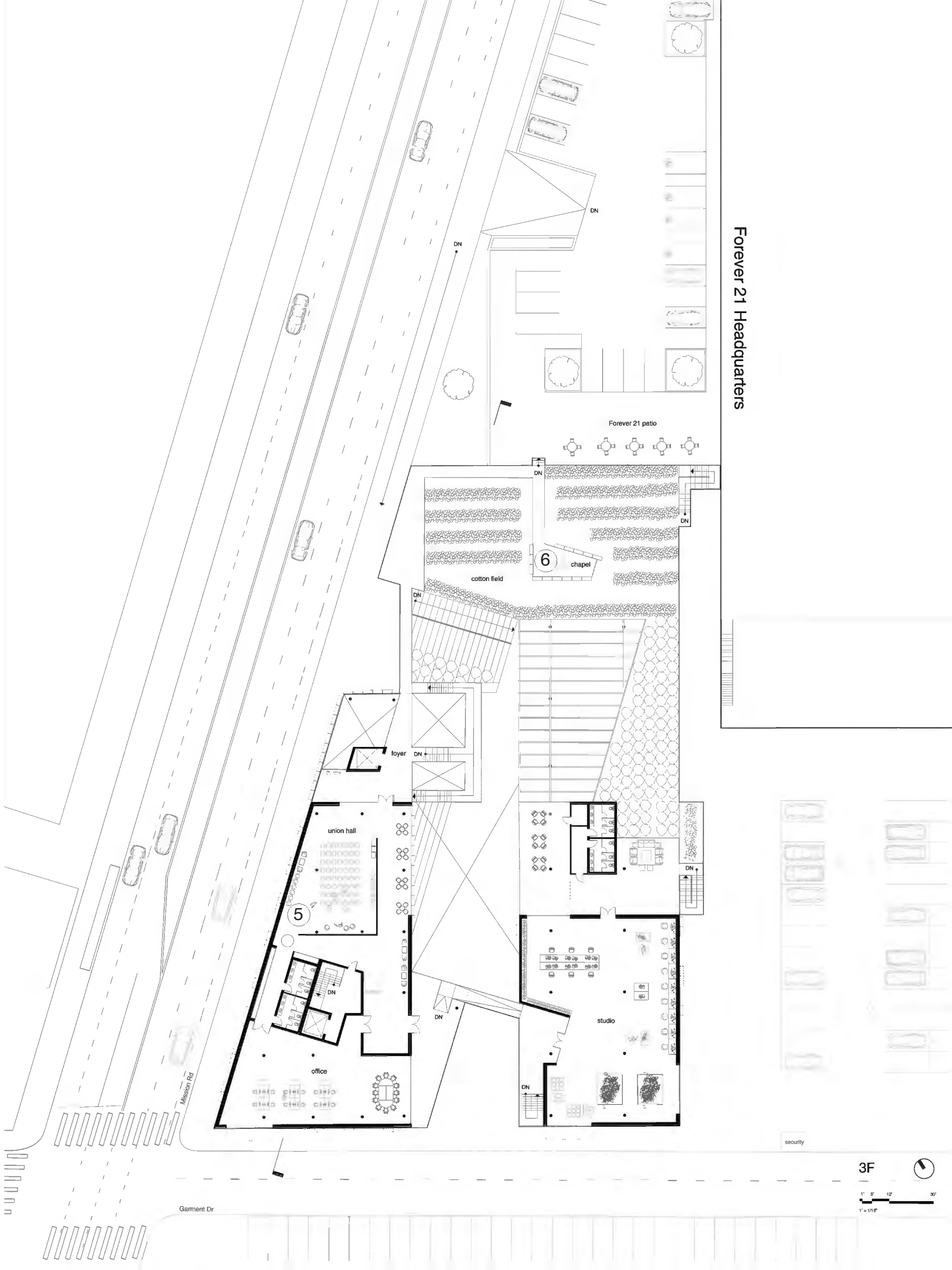
- 1 Confront
- 2 Educate
- 3 Recycle
- 4 Gathering
- 5 Unite
- 6 Memorialize



Garment Dr

Figure 21: Headquarters

Forever 21 Headquarters



3F

1" = 12'

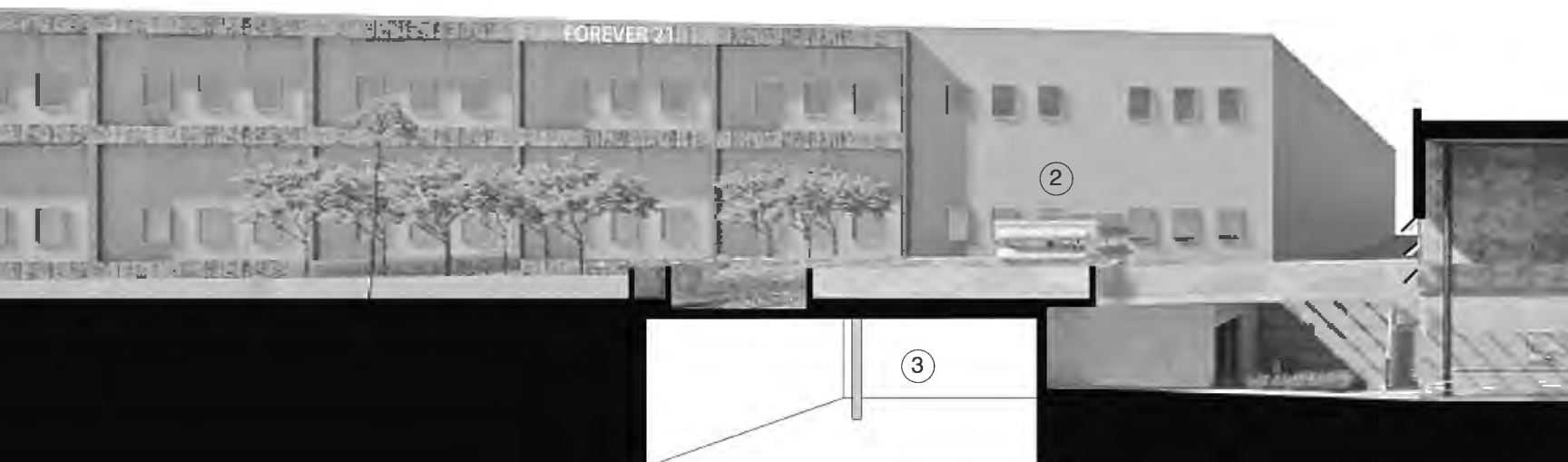
Form and Function

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

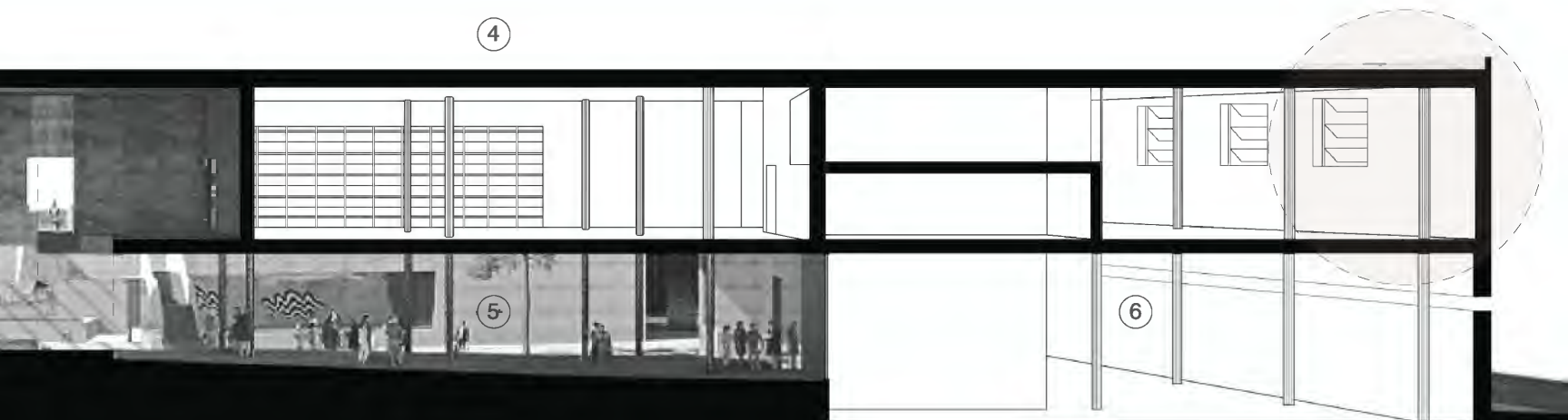
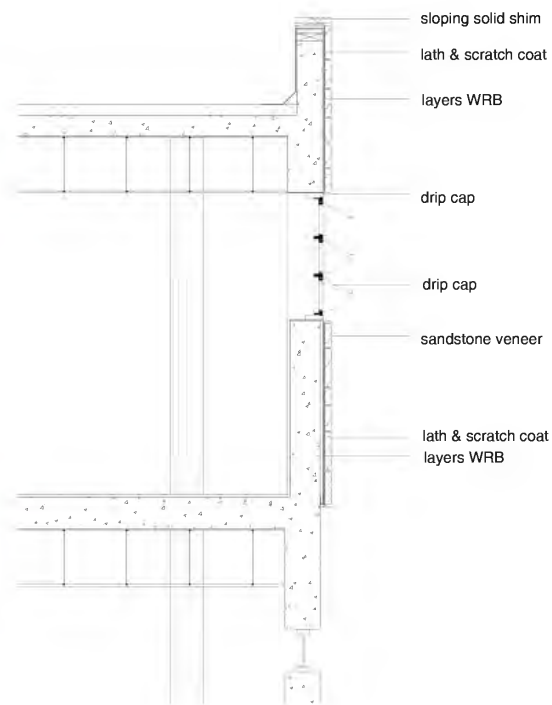
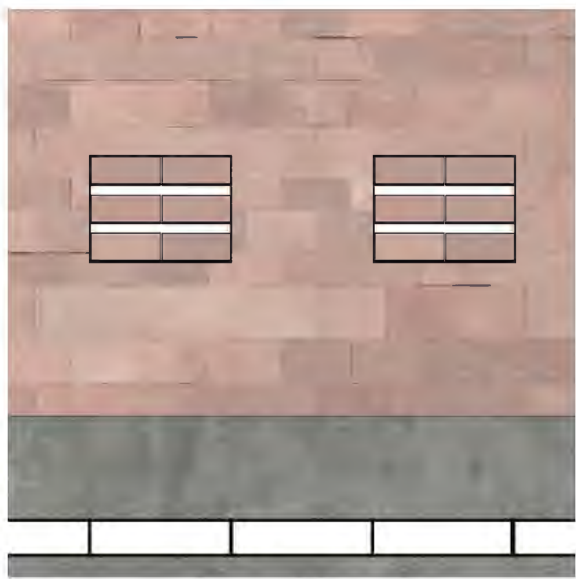


①



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.

