

2020 - 2024

architecture

# PORTFOLIO.

sharmeen khan

selected creations

# CONTENTS.

## 01 A COMPREHENSIVE DESIGN

2023

*Boston, USA*

The project is an empathetic and sustainable design for Portland, Maine's waterfront, utilizing wood fabrication as a carbon sink. Through integrated systems, it seeks to give back to the community and environment, promoting purposeful building practices.

## 02 SISO PAVILION

2022

*Segovia, Spain*

Located in Plaza San Geroteo in Segovia, Spain, Siso works to activate the site through the segmentation of its components. It creates a social space for dog owners and the community to interact and engage with the plaza in a refreshing light.

## 03 RESIDENTIAL DESIGN BUILD

2021

*Rebel Builders LLC*

Drafted plans and transcribed existing conditions to create detailed architectural drawings. Participated in the design process for each new project as well as communicated with districts and town halls for permit requirements. Completed construction documents as well as played a contributive role in the media and marketing department.

## 04 URBAN HOUSING

2020

*Boston, USA*

This project focuses on the exploration of the fabric of urban housing, corridor narratives and city code regulations. The aim of this project was to create an accommodating design with a multitude of unit variations to house a variety of family sizes and people.

## 05 ADDA built work

*Boston, USA*

2024

Focusing on the international student population, the pavilion aims to create a dedicated flexible space for communities on campus to congregate outdoors in an effort to address challenges such as homesickness, cultural differences and allow for better socialization.

## 06 SCIENCE FACILITY ARCHITECTURE

*Payette Architecture*

2022

I interned at Payette and worked on the the EXP research institute which focuses on cutting-edge interdisciplinary research, exploring innovative solutions to complex global challenges. I worked on a variety of construction documents as well as small design tasks for the building.

## 07 PAVILION FOR REFUGEE WOMEN

*Boston, USA*

2024

Transforming UNHCR tents into specialized centers for refugee women, this project offers essential safe spaces to address their physical, financial, and emotional well-being, equipped with a variety of possible programs. This innovative approach utilizes existing UNHCR tent materials, ensuring feasibility and allowing implementation with little additional cost.

## 08 PHOTOGRAPHY

*International*

2018-2024

My love for capturing the color of moments around the world has always been present and in some ways is transferable to my architectural designs. Here are a few of my favorite moments that I have captured. A larger selection can be found on my website.

01



02



05



03



06



07



04



08





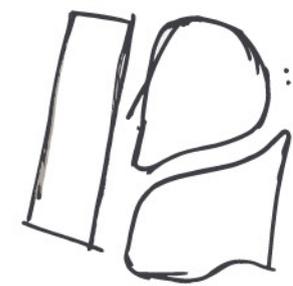
# 01 / A COMPREHENSIVE DESIGN a new building practice

in collaboration with dana murtada

**year**  
2023

**type**  
adaptive reuse, university campus design

The project's goal was to create an architecture that empathizes with the surrounding land, ecologies, and communities. Recognizing architecture's potential to address global warming and improve socio-cultural relations, we focused on a community-centered approach to reclaim the waterfront area in Portland, Maine. Our structure, primarily made of locally sourced wood, serves as a carbon sink, reducing carbon emissions. The main structural system is formed of glulam arches. By integrating MEP, passive cooling, water recycling, and shading systems, we aimed for a cohesive design that benefits both the community and the environment. The exercise included designing for the present day and 100 years from now to show a flexible design strategy and climate action preparedness. The project strives to promote building practices centered on productive and purposeful design hoping to instill a new form of building design for the future.



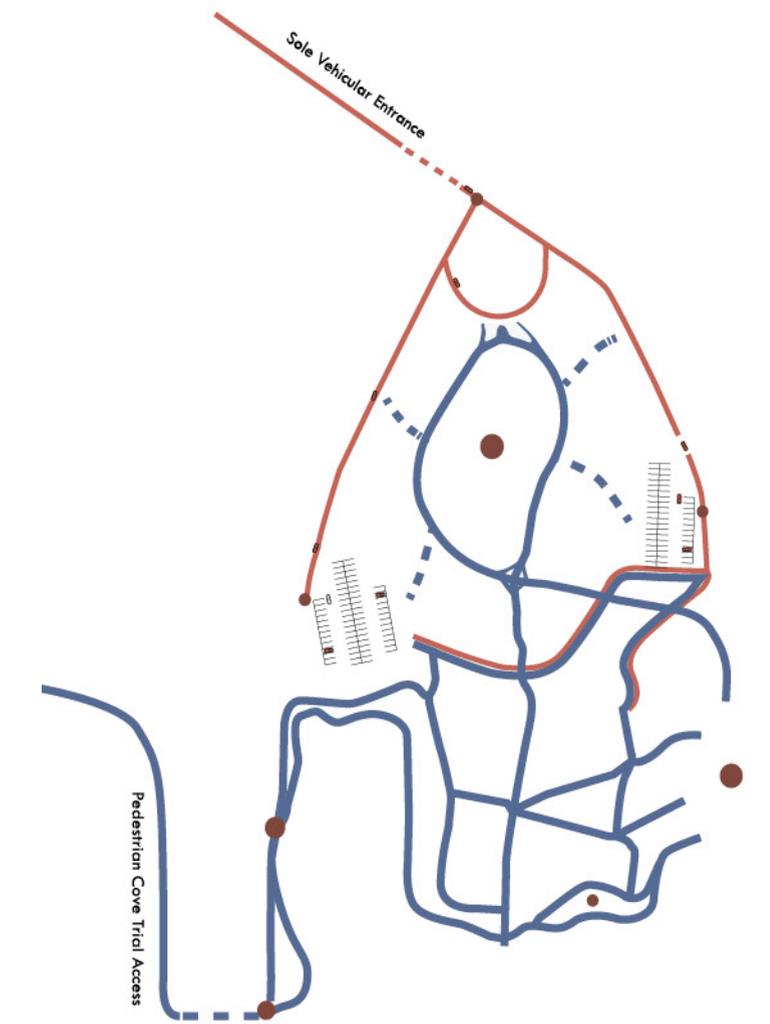
**STEP 01**  
building footprint



**STEP 02**  
horizontal pathways



**STEP 03**  
vertical pathways



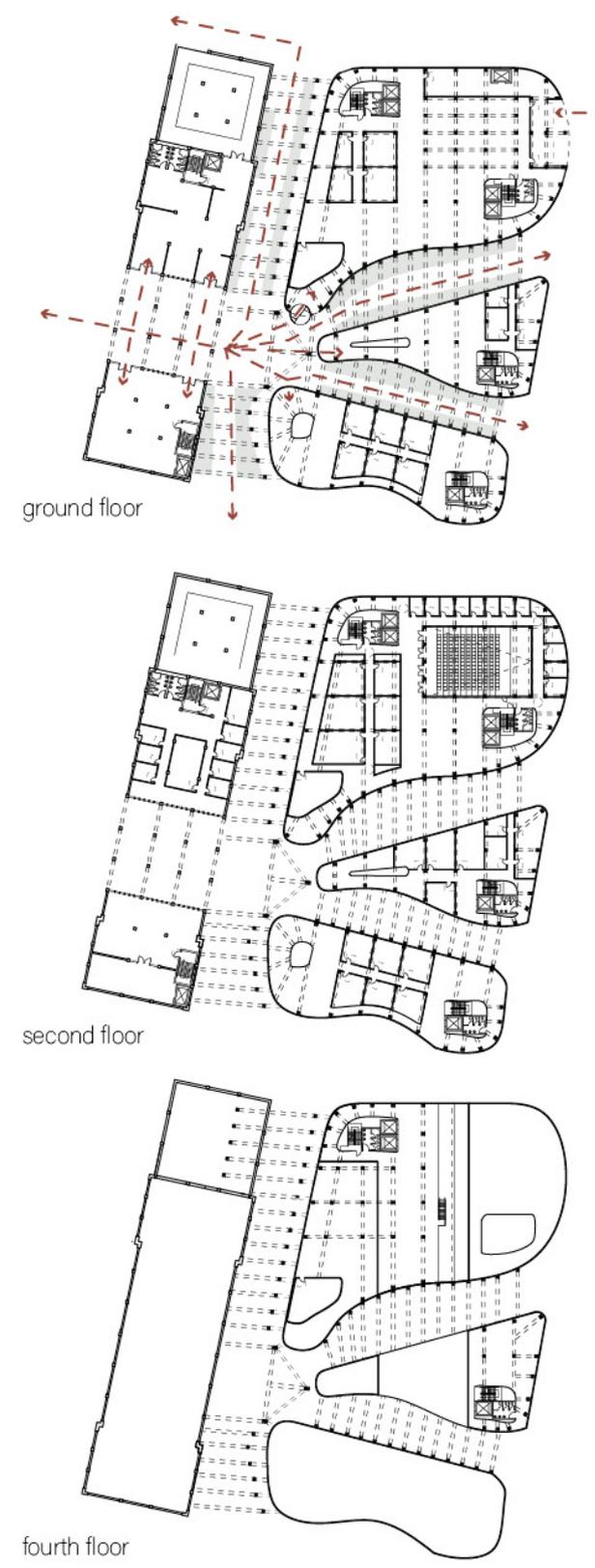
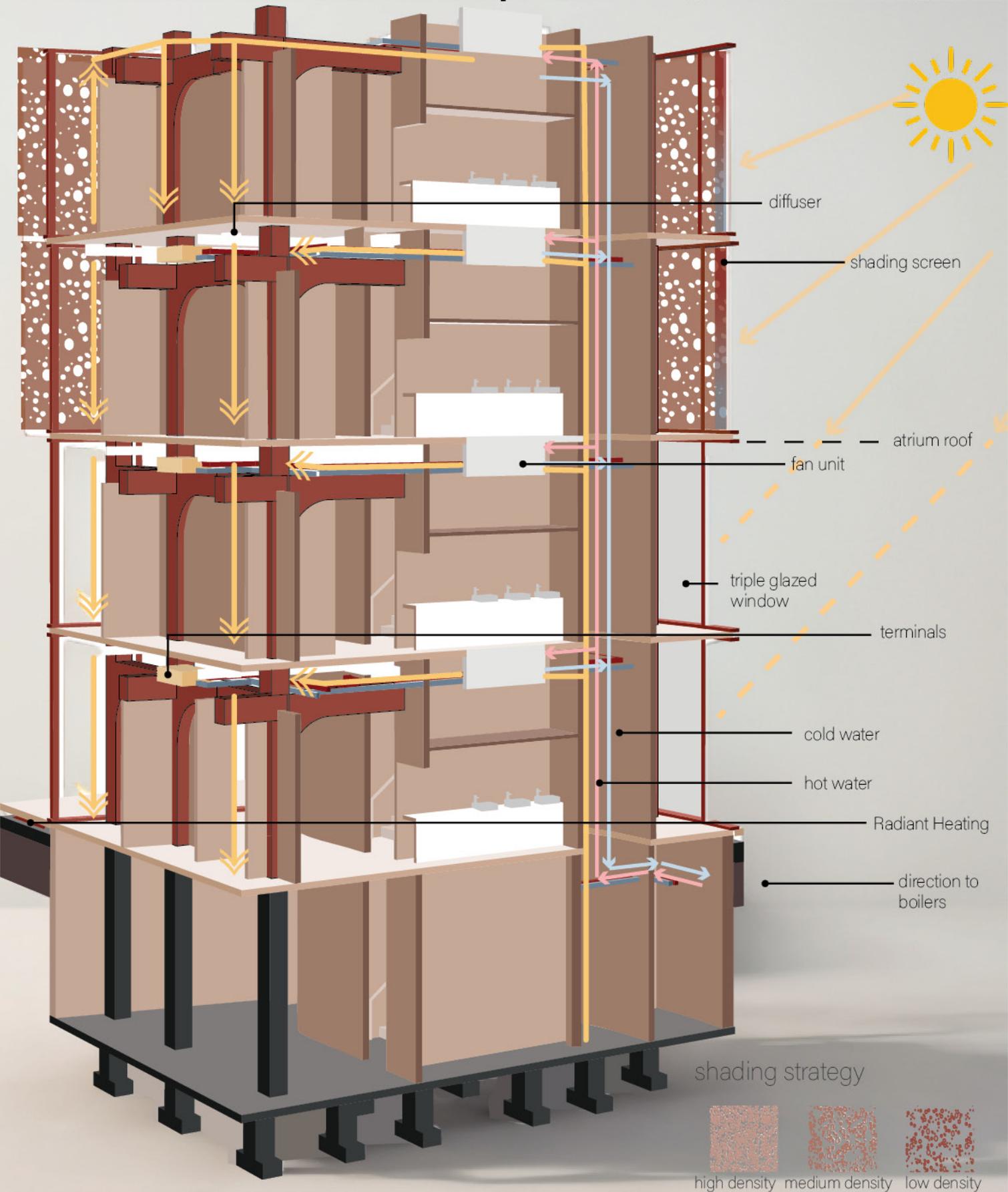
program & use

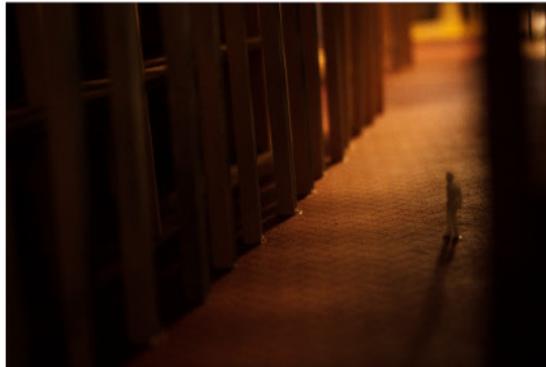
- auditorium
- classroom / multipurpose
- retail / exhibition
- cores / services
- cafe
- loading dock
- office / admin
- green spaces
- accessibility/circulation

abstracted pathways

- vehicular access
- pedestrian access
- boundary edge
- gathering
- points of interest
- entrance

# plans & integrated systems diagram







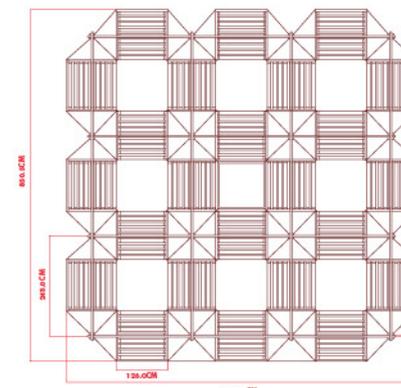
# 02/ **siso** winner of design excellence award 2022-2023

in collaboration with dana murtada, arianna sze chow ai, victoria rossi

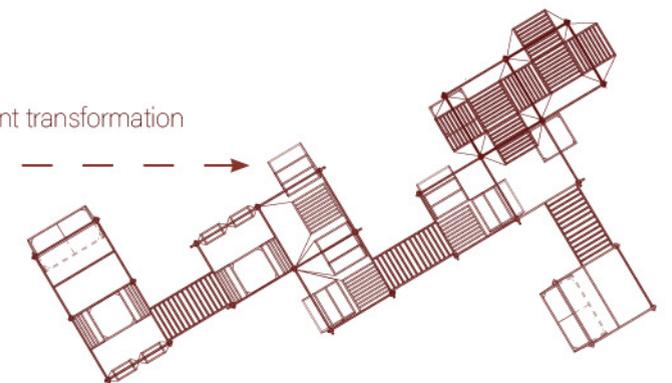
**year**  
2022

**type**  
pavilion

The studio brief intended us to analyze an existing pavilion, in our case Ginga, located in Argentina, created during the Hello Wood Festival in 2020. Upon investigation, we took inventory of all the parts including all the planks of wood, OSB, as well as metal fasteners, after which we built a portion of the pavilion at actual scale. Later on, we were made to create an entirely new pavilion using only the inventory from the investigated pavilion (ginga). Therefore siso was created, located in Plaza San Geroteo, Segovia Spain. It aims to reactivate the an almost abandoned site, tailored specifically to fit within the context of this sunken plaza, it introduces program and life to an area devoid of it. The ultimate goal of this project was to give the citizens of Segovia a place to come and let go of their stringent lives and create experiences that they wish to share with others, hence its name - siso.

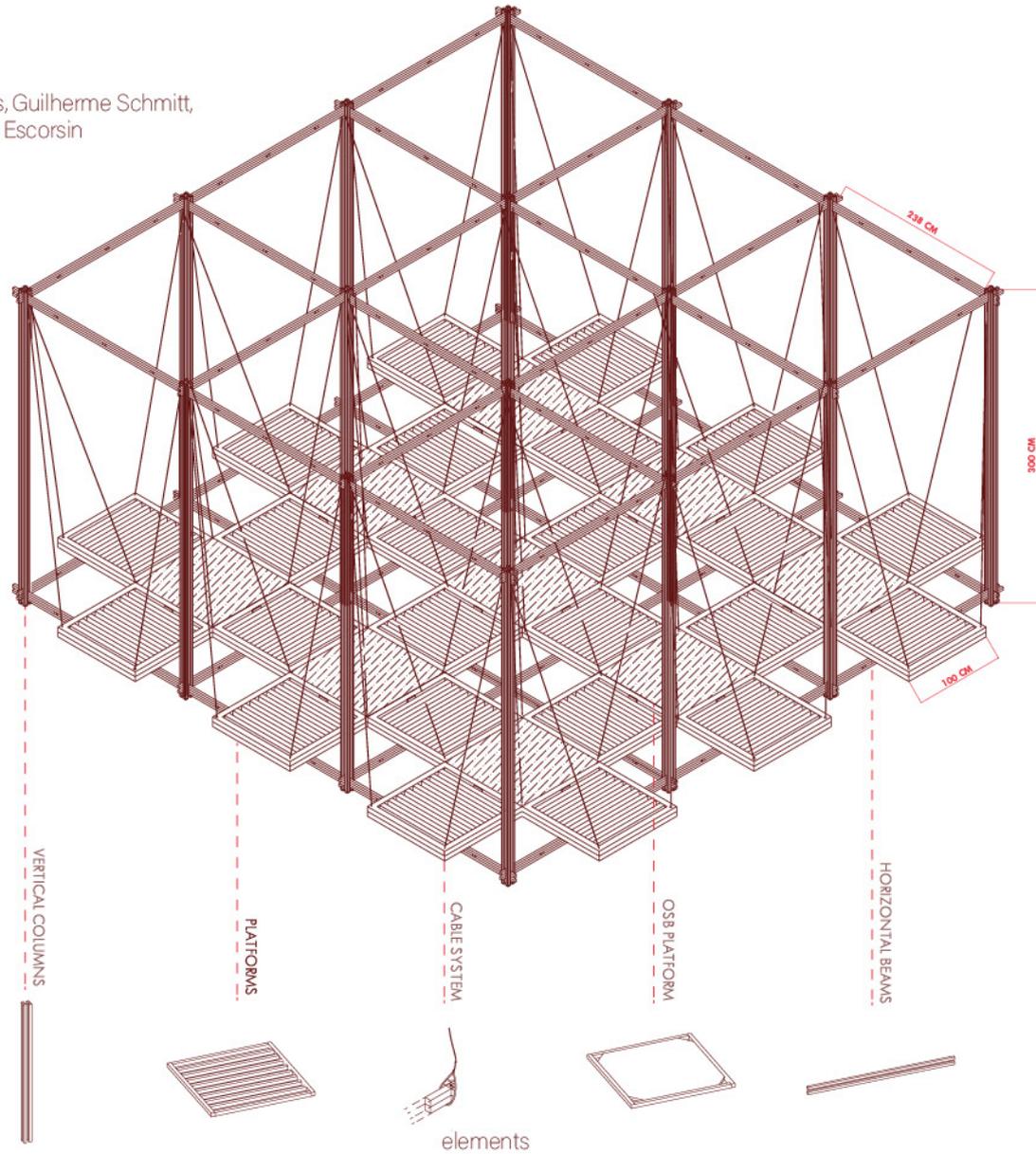


conceptual precedent transformation



architects

Giovanna Taques, Guilherme Schmitt, João Vitor Sarturi Escorsin



- A 4.5 X 4.5 X 144
- B 4.5 X 13.5 X 80
- C 4.5 X 50 X 16
- D 4.5 X 117 X 330
- E 4.5 X 126 X 60
- F 4.5 X 184.5 X 60
- G 4.5 X 243 X 8
- H 4.5 X 261 X 32
- I 4.5 X 279 X 64  
BRUSEHD PINE WOOD A-1 CM

concept

Based on the concept of **capoeira**, Ginga prioritizes basic movement that is closely linked to the idea of moving in a harmonious manner, never alone, always in a circle, where there is a constant exchange between individuals.

ginga  
precedent study

STEP 01

cut and organize wood planks



STEP 02

assemble horizontal & vertical elements



STEP 03

place elements together and fasten



STEP 04

measure, cut, & fasten steel cables



STEP 05

assemble platform & begin placement of remaining elements



STEP 06

weight test



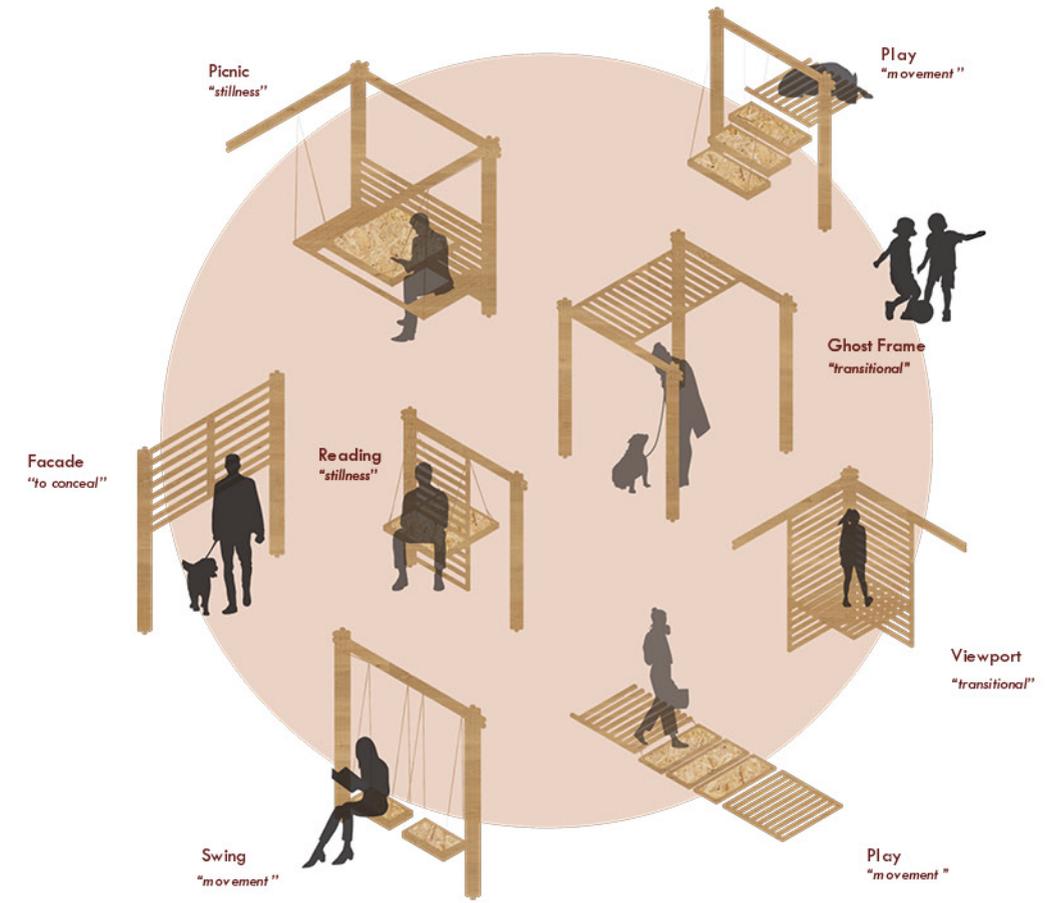
architects

Sharmeen Khan, Dana Murtada, Arianna Chow, Victoria Rossi

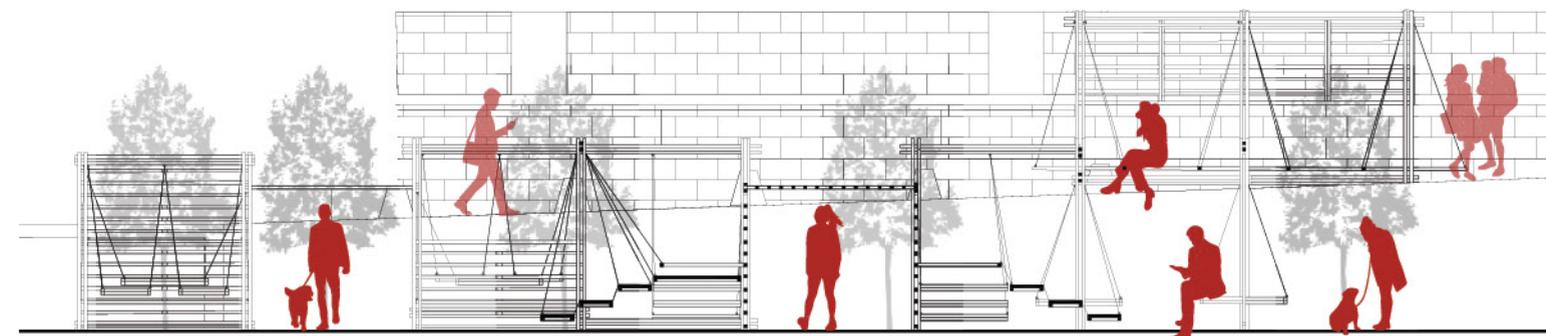


concept

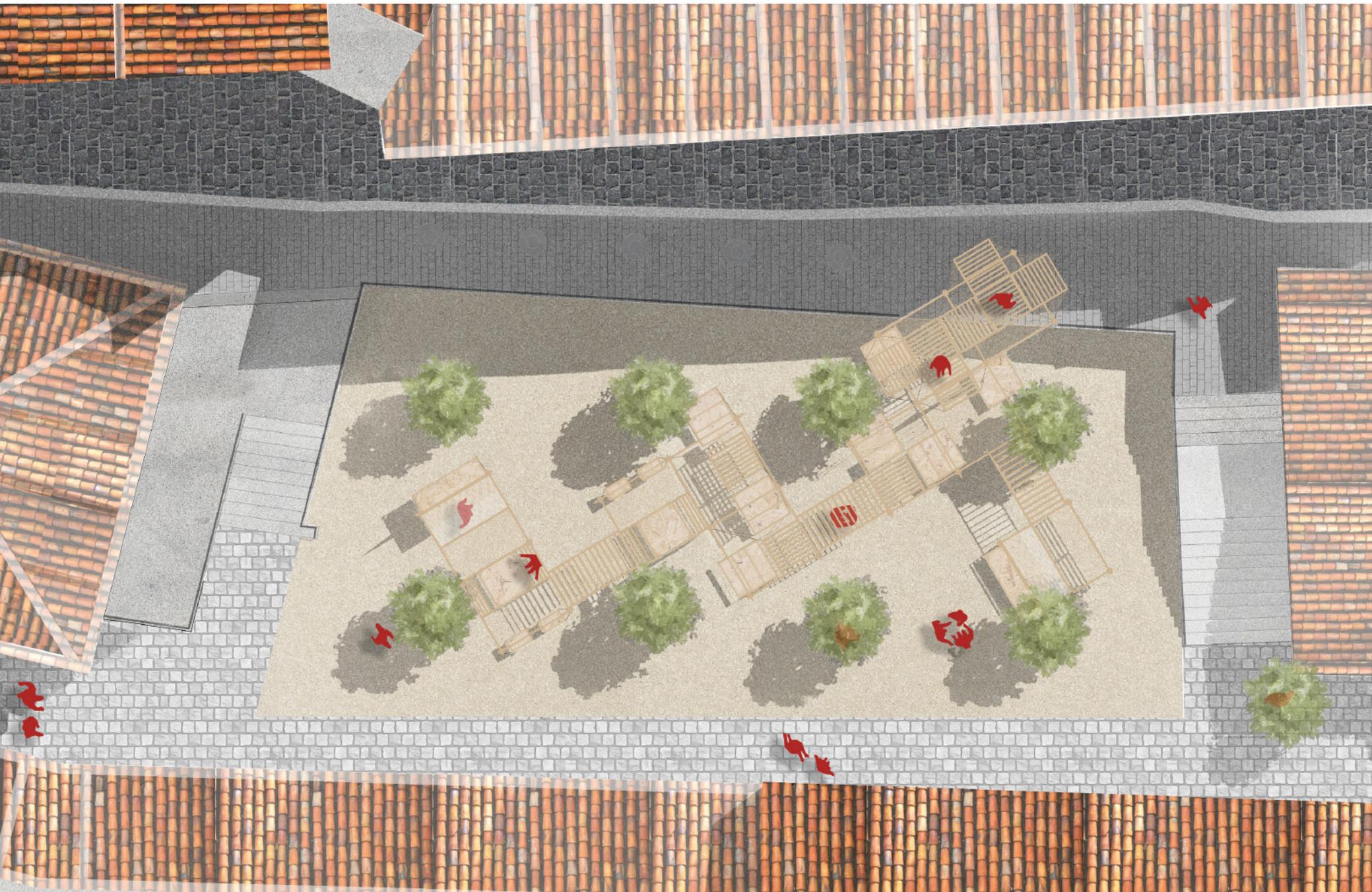
Siso works to activate the site through the segmentation of its components. It creates a social space for dog owners and the community to interact and engage with the plaza in a refreshing light. This pavilion aimed to reactivate an abandoned plaza in the city



catalogue of components



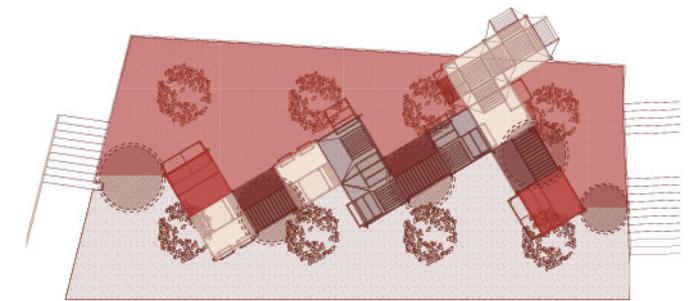
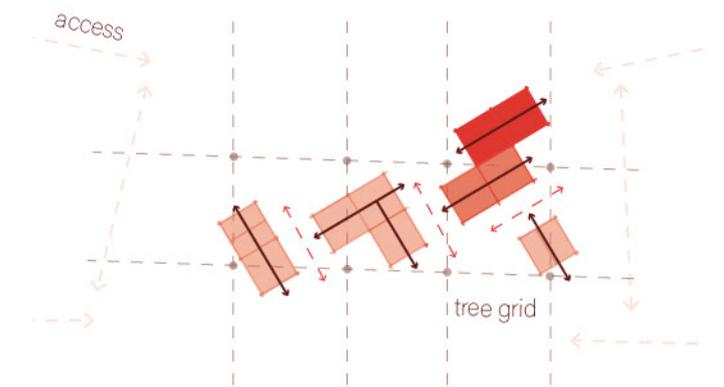
# site plan & diagrams



plaza san geroteo

## site segmentation

height change



## abstracted program

still area    
  play area    
  abstracted enclosure  
 still & passage    
  transition area    
 guided enclosure area



# 03/residential design build rebel builders LLC.

drawings and photographs made in collaboration with rebel builders LLC

**year**  
2021

**type**  
work experience

At the residential woman & minority owned design-build firm, Rebel Builders LLC, I was actively involved in all phases of the design process, collaborating with architects, contractors, and clients to bring projects to life. I regularly attended client meetings, presenting design ideas and creating mood boards to guide decisions. I partook in design initiatives, sketching and presenting new ideas. I drafted architectural plans, documented existing conditions, and handled all phases of documentation, including demolition and construction documents. Moreover I assisted in the 3D modeling and visualization of aspects of projects. I was in charge of many acquisitions of pieces needed to complete designs for various projects as well as documenting pricing for the clients. Lastly, I coordinated permits with local authorities and contributed to the firm's media and marketing efforts, ensuring effective communication of our projects.

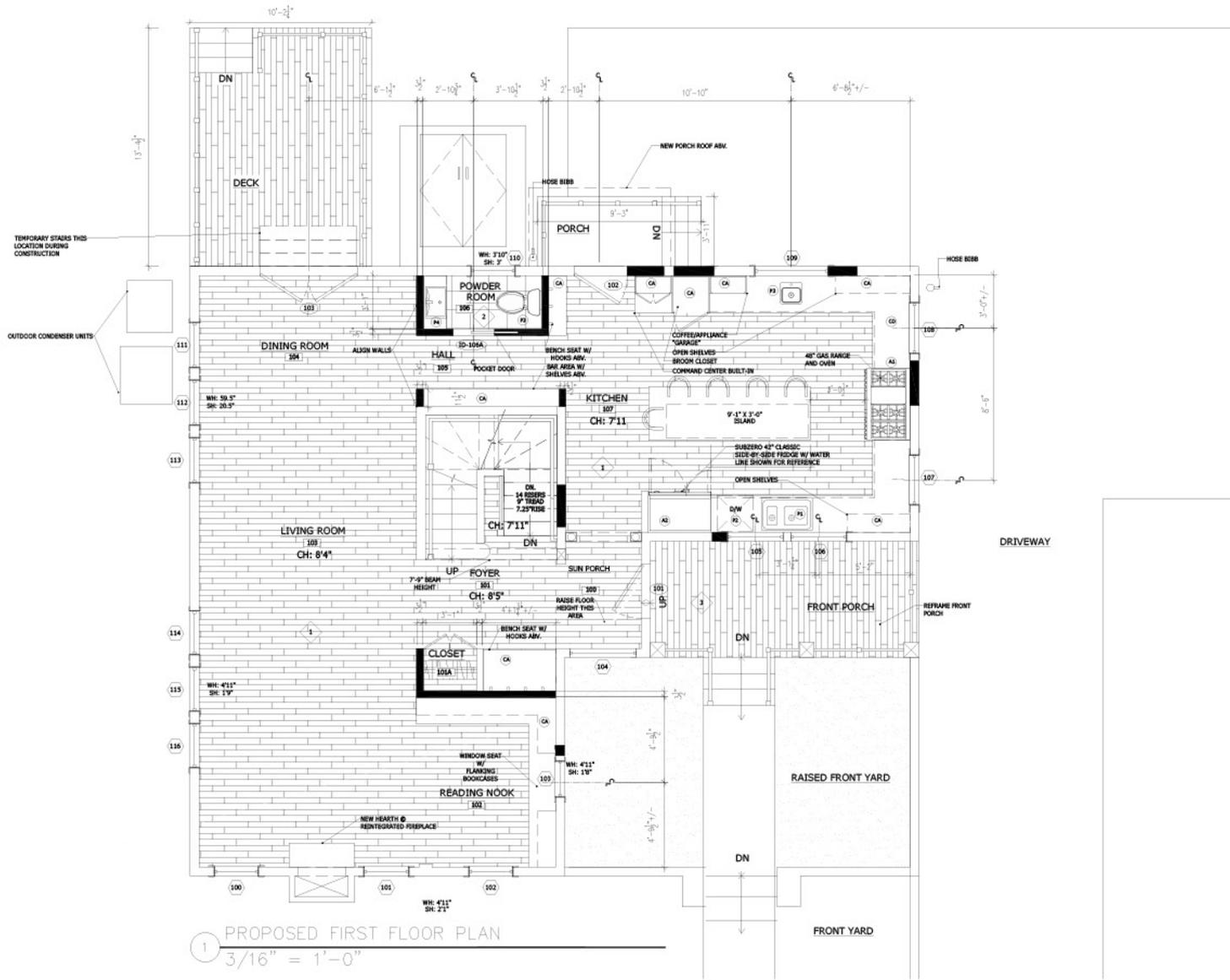


inspo & finished photos



I created various moodboards which were presented to clients for review after design discussions had been held, certain aspects of these moodboards later went on to formally get added to the designs and ultimately the final product of these residential projects as well as team input.





In coordination with the team, upon documenting and creating drawings based on existing conditions which were meticulously measured by hand, the team would collectively create designs which were then translated into proposed documentation plans. I transcribed and drew documentation of all phases as well as plans, rcp's, elevations, sections, and details.

existing condition - original stair & entrance



proposed - elevation



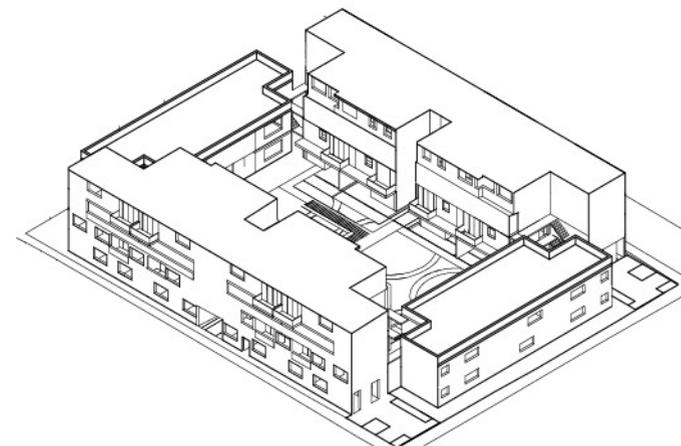
# 04/urban housing northeastern university

urban housing studio

year  
2020

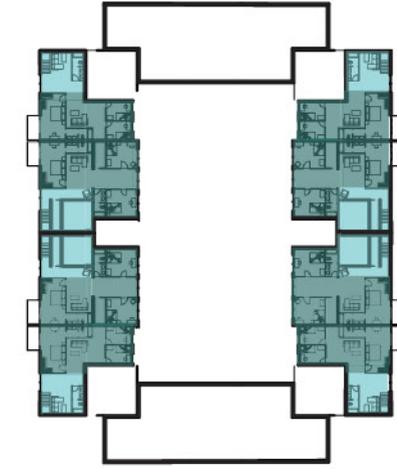
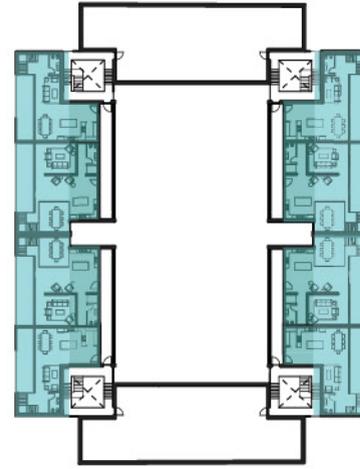
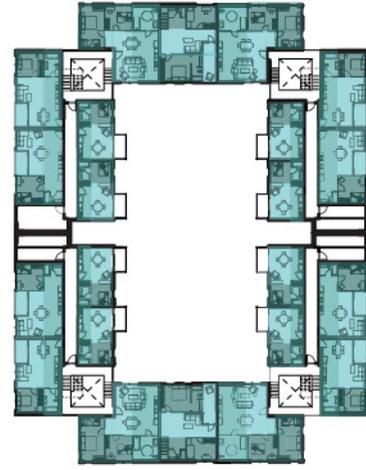
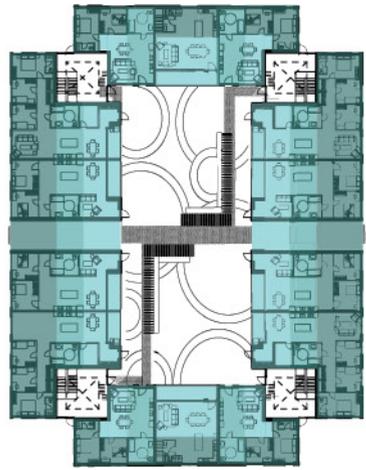
type  
urban walk-up housing

The Urban Housing Studio provided insights into comprehensive urban housing design, incorporating adherence to relevant codes. The initial iteration lacked a specific site, while the subsequent version was tailored to a designated location in Boston. The design features a central courtyard, offering versatile functionality, flanked by mirrored units. The four-story structure accommodates studio, one-bedroom, two-bedroom, and three-bedroom apartments. Circulation is facilitated through unit connections, featuring stairs leading to a double-loaded corridor on the second floor and a single-loaded corridor on the third floor. Internal stairs within each third-floor unit grant access to the fourth floor. Additionally, a ground-floor passage enhances site circulation and provides bike access to racks situated at the courtyard's center as well as roof gardens on the north and south units.



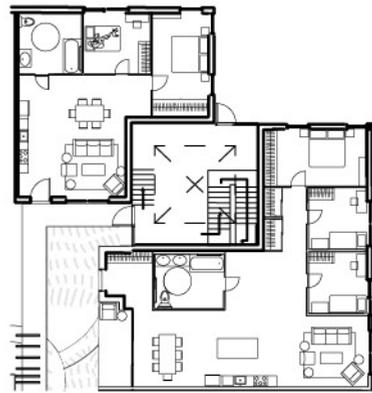
Units **6**  
 Apartments **42**  
 Studio **8**  
 1 Bedroom **8**  
 2 Bedroom **7**  
 3 Bedroom **12**  
 Stories **3 & 4**  
 Accessible **12**

# plans & diagrams



patterns of occupation

- private space
- semi-public/wet space
- public space



circulation & typical unit layout

- double-loaded corridor
- single-loaded corridor
- internal stair

ground floor

second floor

third floor

fourth floor





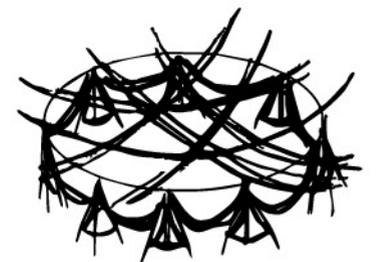
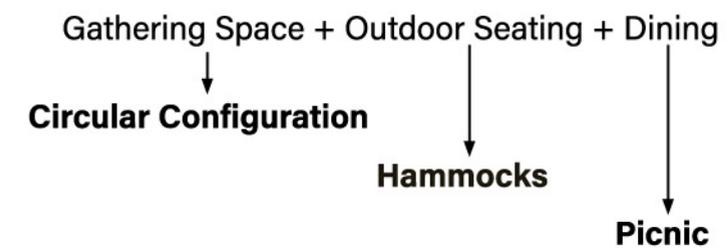
# 05/ adda northeastern

in collaboration with veronica fadel & elizabeth guerrero

year  
2024

type  
pavilion

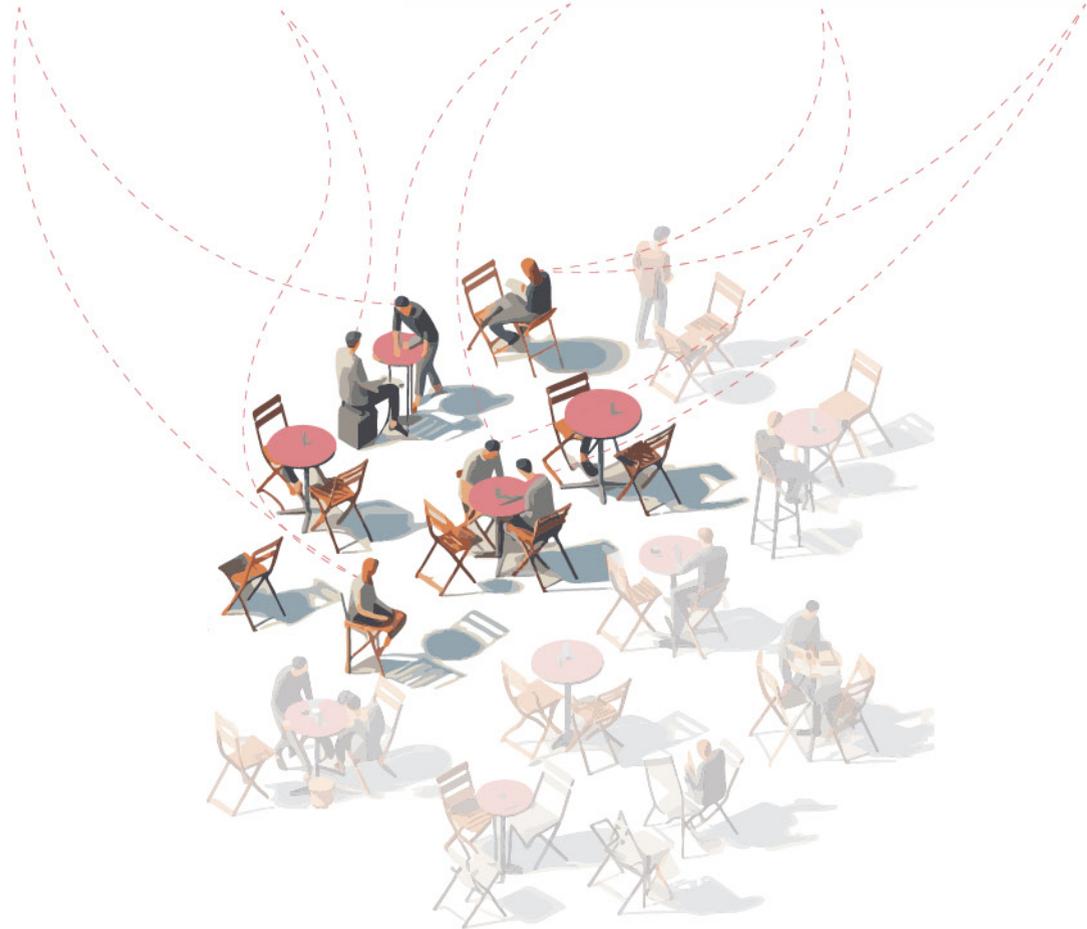
The yearlong thesis studio challenged us to extrapolate “magical” architectural strategies deployed in response to the coronavirus pandemic and adapt them to the context of New England, culminating the first semester in a 1:1 built infrastructure addressing specific issues in Boston’s public spaces. Subsequently, these principles were applied to a broader academic urban speculation worldwide. Analyzing experiments from 2020 to 2022, three qualities reminiscent of “Magical Realism” in literature—namely, the embellishment of the ordinary, metamorphosis and ephemerality, and a political critique of societal inequities—are identified as frameworks for the future design development of this thesis, prompting speculation on their applicability to global challenges. The second part of this thesis is featured as the last project of this portfolio which culminated in May 2024, however efforts are being made to transform it into a real project.



## module details & informational diagram

Upon investigating the international student population at Northeastern university, we were able to identify the key challenges they faced, through a series of surveys and interviews and develop a strategy to try and address some of them. Our aim thus became investigating issues of misinformation, alienation, and homesickness. Addressing these challenges faced by the growing international student population the intervention emphasizes the importance of creating a dedicated flexible space for these students to socialize and share meals, aiming to improve their overall well-being on campus, giving them a chance to create for themselves a place to socialize and build communities.

Language Barriers    Pressure to Achieve    Social & Cultural Differences    Lacking Resources    Emotional & Mental Health

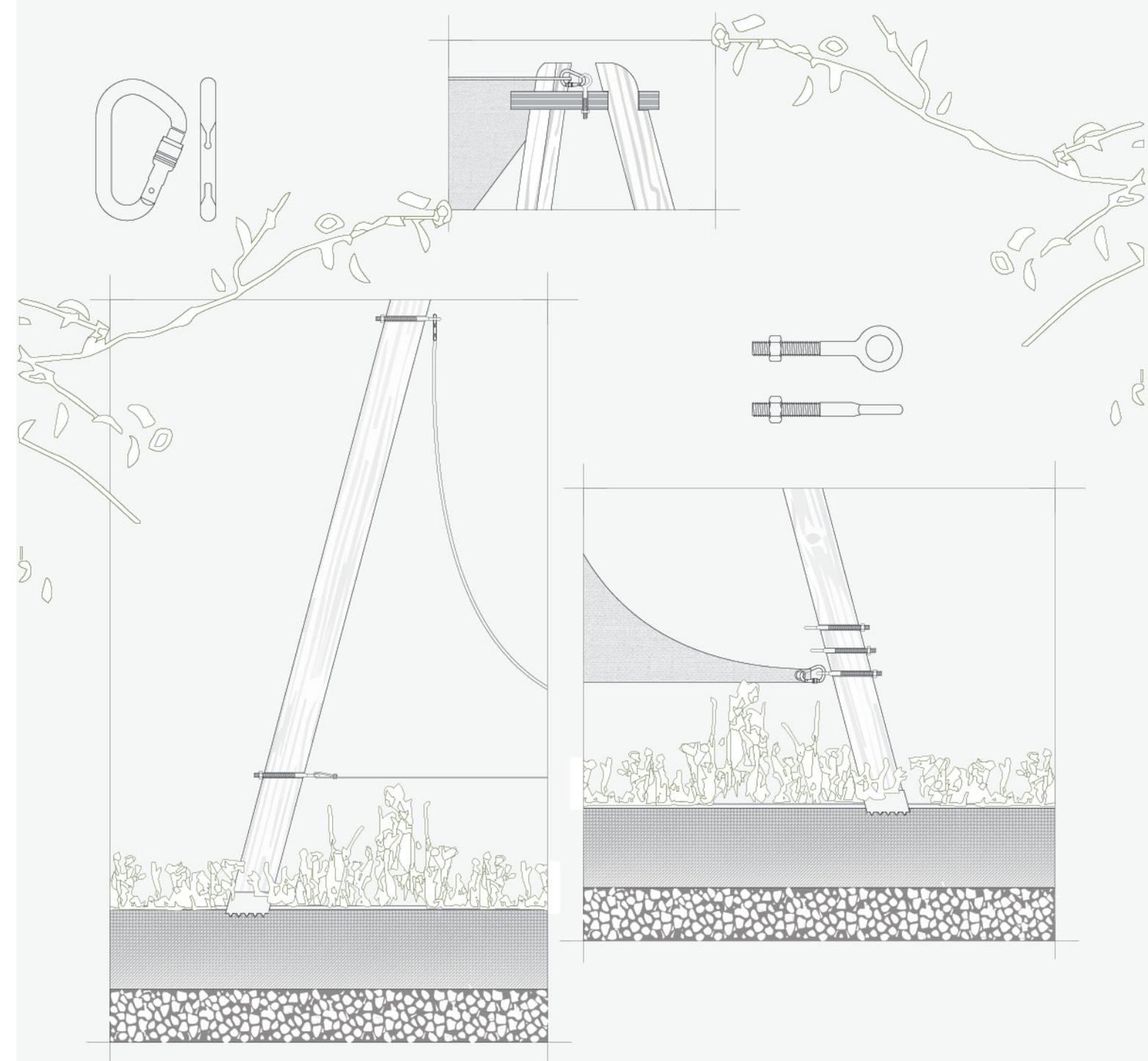


Food and social bonds have a high correlation with overall **well-being.**

Those with strong social bonds have a **50% higher chance of survival** than those who don't.

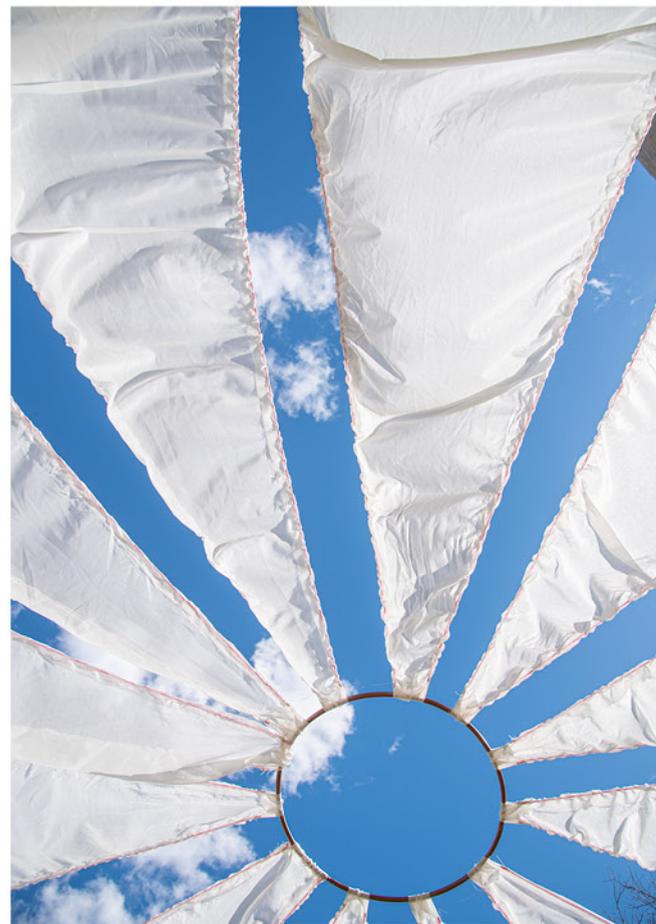
# 33%

International Students at Northeastern University



The structure itself is meant to be accessible for all, therefore is made out of basic materials almost un-altered, such as 2x4s eye hooks and plywood. With a self-locking joint carefully designed by us, the tripod assembly is simple and requires no hardware to stand it up. The canvas chair is attached by carabiners and eye hooks to the structure. An IKEA style manual was created, which outlines the building and assembly process so it can be made available to communities to recreate at will. The design was meant to be completely collapsible for ease of transportation and use, our goal really was to create something any community could recreate







## 06/ EXP research institute payette

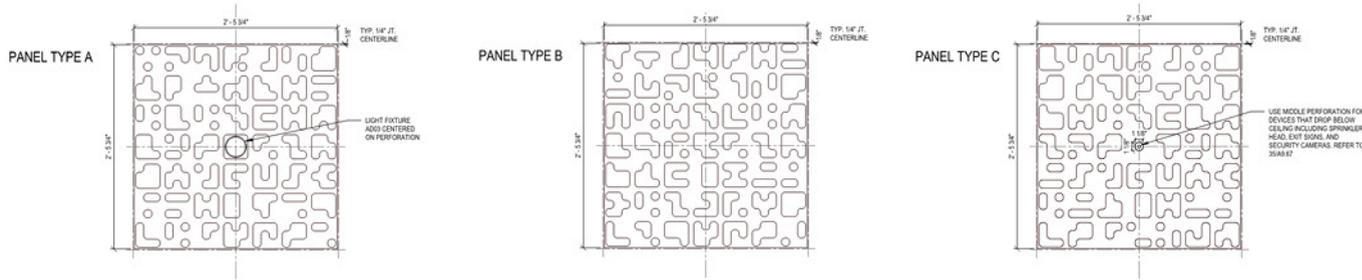
drawings made in collaboration with payette architecture working as a design assistant

**year**  
2022

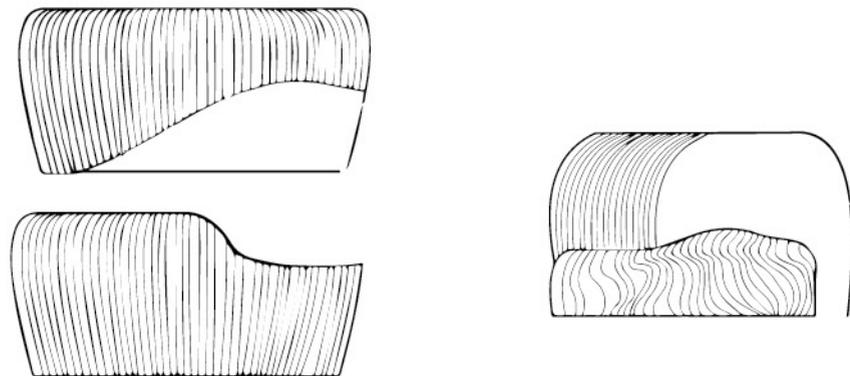
**type**  
work experience

During my time at *Payette Architecture* I worked on the construction phase of the interdisciplinary science & engineering facility, aiding in the design and reworking of floor plans, finishes, and interior design details which included several 3D models and visual renderings. Additionally, I partook in a mass-coordination effort for 350,000 net square feet (8 floors) coordinating AV drawings with a new consultant. I assisted in the completion of several construction documents including, plans, sections, and elevations.

# details & rendered versions



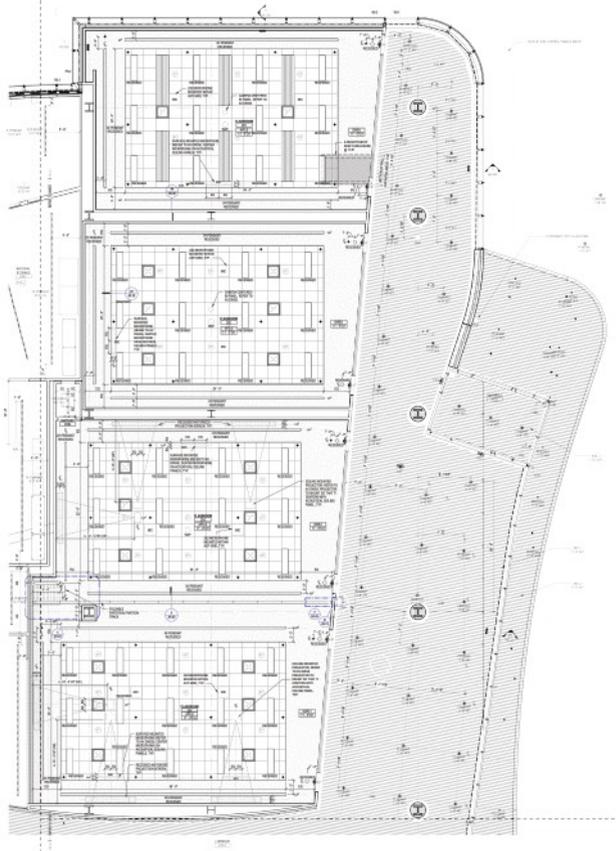
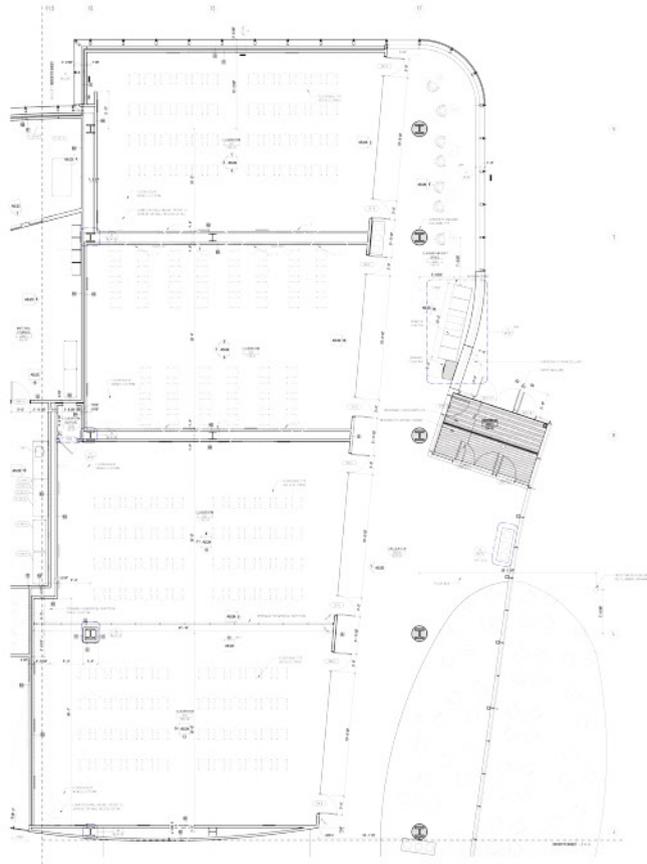
Moreover, I worked on many different coordination tasks which involved contact with on-site construction workers as well as close connection over materials arriving to be added to the building. I drew details as well as aided in many brainstorming sessions working out final designs for certain elements that were to be created in house, such as pieces of furniture and accent wall coverings.





level 1 plan

plan level 2 - enlarged



rcp level 2 - enlarged

In coordinating the mass AV drawing set with the new consultant, I was in charge of making all the necessary adjustments to the construction drawings as well as any other necessary changes to the drawing set. I worked in Revit as well as Rhino to bring these changed into effect, and was a key member in the redesign of the loading dock and all its subsequent elements.

**GENERAL NOTES - CEILING PLAN**

1. ALL CEILING LIGHTS TO BE INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LIGHTING SCHEDULE.
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19. ALL CEILING LIGHTS TO BE INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LIGHTING SCHEDULE.
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**LEGEND - CEILING PLAN**

- 1. ALL CEILING LIGHTS TO BE INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LIGHTING SCHEDULE.
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- 20. ALL CEILING LIGHTS TO BE INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LIGHTING SCHEDULE.



Women and girls make up half of all refugees and displaced people but only 4.5% of aid protects their rights.

# 07 /pavilion for refugee women northeastern

in collaboration with veronica fadel & elizabeth guerrero

year  
2024

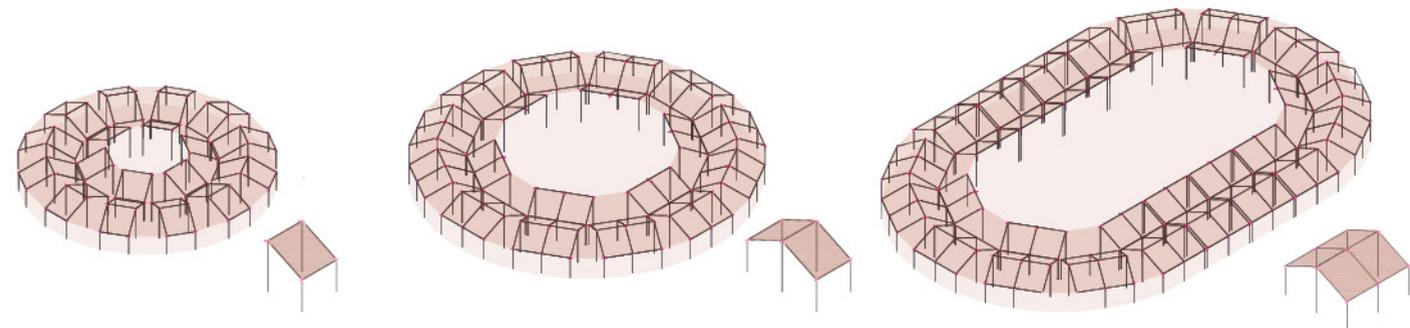
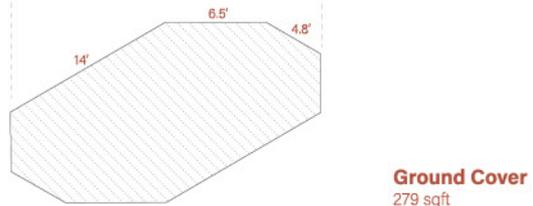
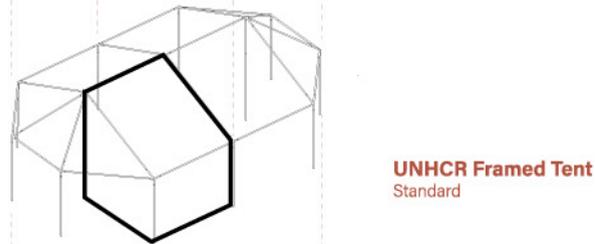
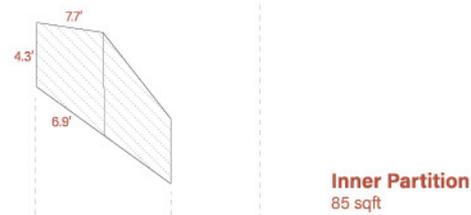
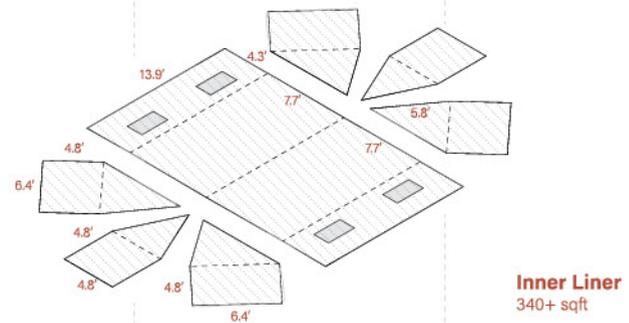
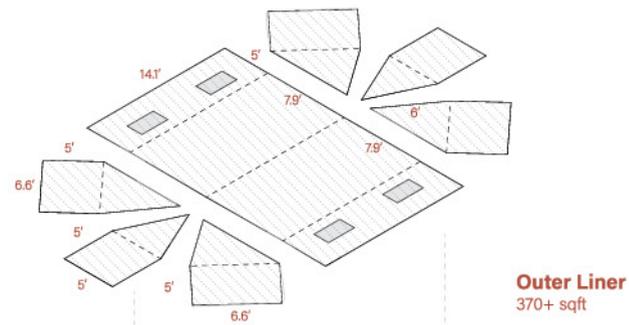
type  
pavilion

This is the second half of the M.Arch 1 under the umbrella of magical realism. This project transforms standard UNHCR tents into specialized centers that aim to support refugee and displaced women and children. Rather than attempting to solve their challenges, the pavilion creates safe spaces where women can take charge of improving their own circumstances by utilizing structures already found or regularly delivered to refugee camps. The pavilion provides flexible and adaptable spaces for a variety of essential programs such as storage of hygiene products, learning centers, nursing rooms, and areas for vocational training, helping women develop the skills necessary to thrive in their new environments. The goal is not to offer a complete solution but to create an environment where women can reshape their realities. By using existing UNHCR tent materials, the project remains sustainable and cost-effective, with spaces that evolve to meet the community's needs, fostering empowerment and resilience.



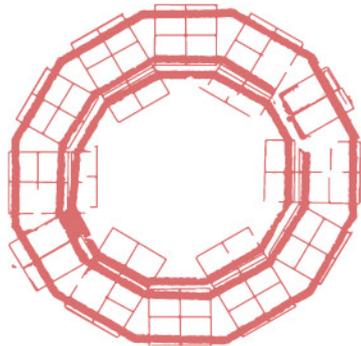
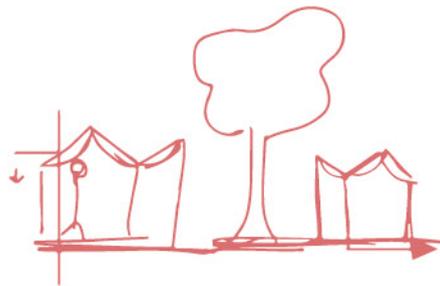
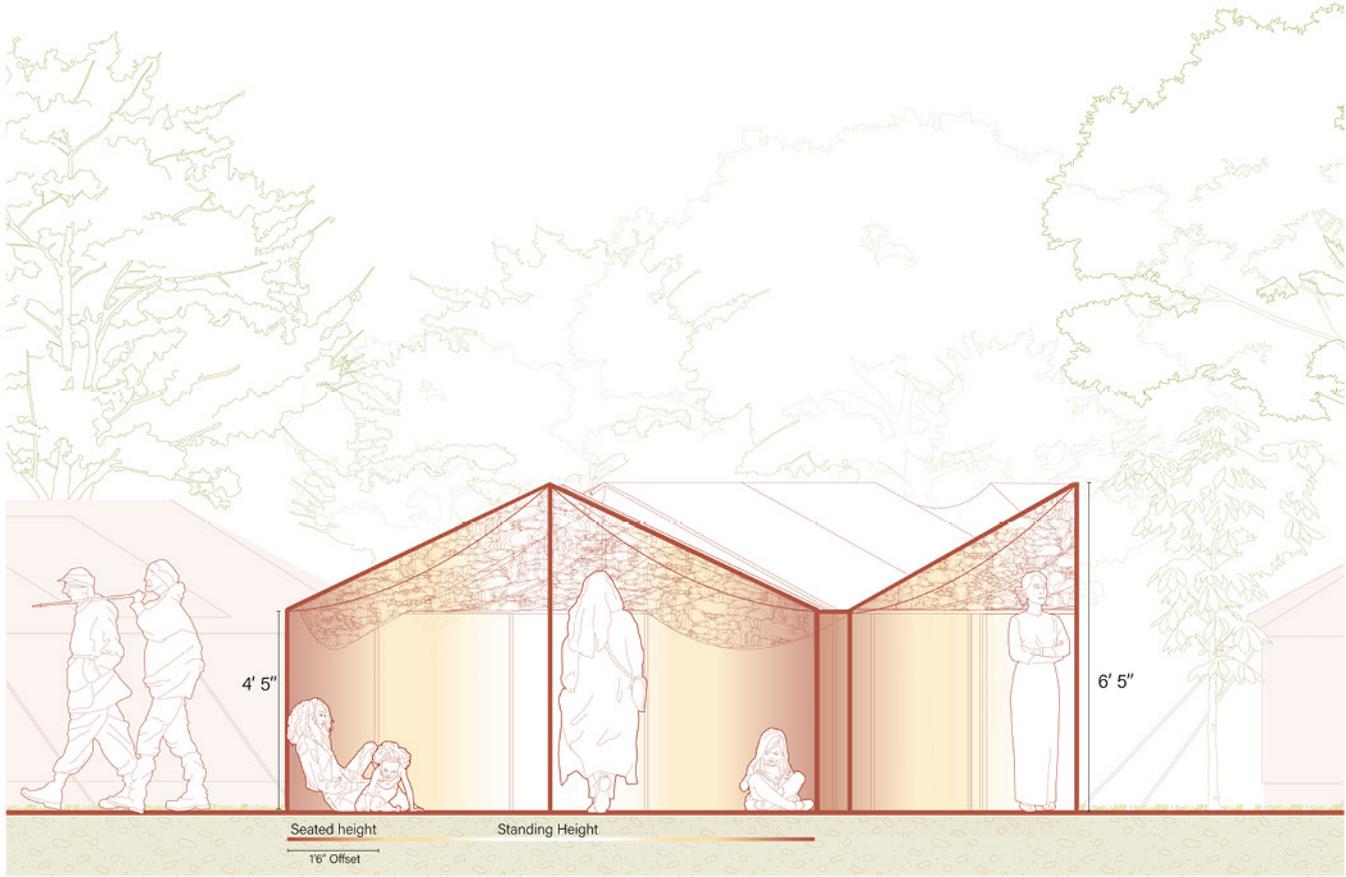
global refugee concentrations

# original tent & deconstructed units



The selected module from the standard UNHCR tent design has been carefully highlighted and replicated to create a versatile infrastructure that can be expanded or reduced in size depending on the needs of different refugee camp populations. This modular approach allows for a range of configurations, ensuring that the infrastructure is adaptable for a variety of purposes, from communal spaces to private areas. Each structure can be customized to serve specific functions within the camp, whether for education, recreation, or essential services, making it a flexible solution for rapidly changing environments.

In this proposal, we provide a detailed breakdown of the structural components, offering insights into how the modular system can be configured. Moreover, an example is presented of how the interior space can be re-partitioned to better serve local needs. These partitions, designed with input from the women residing in the camps, demonstrate how the layout can be adapted to create safe, functional spaces for activities like childcare, healthcare, or small-scale vocational training. This approach ensures that the pavilions can evolve to meet the unique and evolving needs of women and children, providing both practical and empowering spaces in challenging conditions.





Za'atari in Jordan  
80,000 population  
**25% women**



Kutupalong in Bangladesh  
860,000-population  
**52% women**

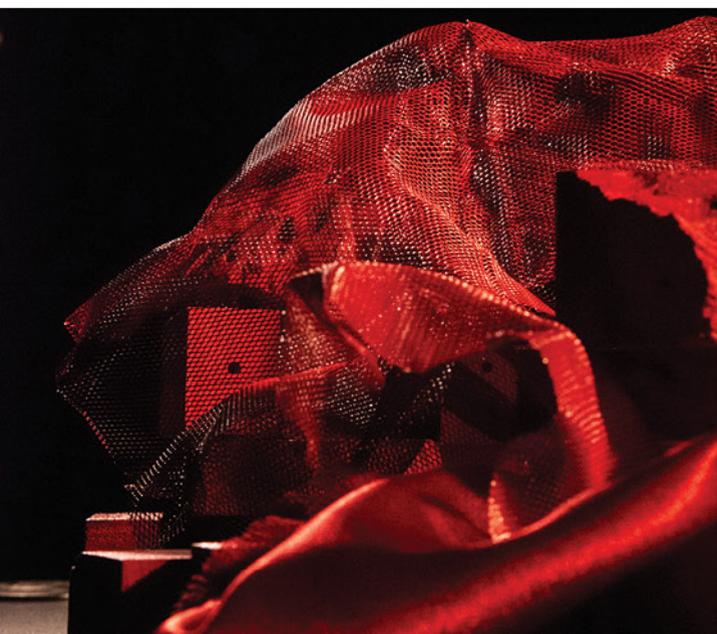
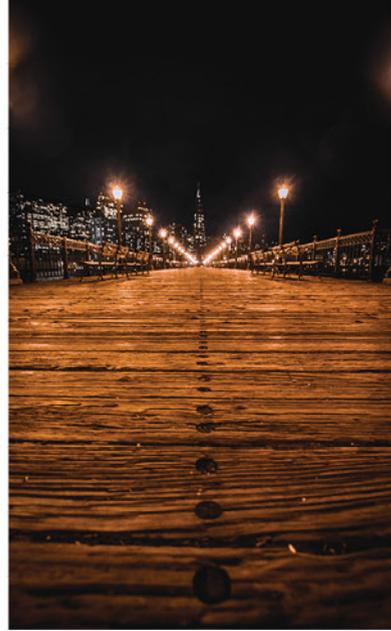


Dadaab Complex in Kenya  
230,000 population  
**49% women**

*All renderings created using reallife human beings photographed in refugee camps showcasing various diaspora of refugees in basis of population %*



Um Rakuba in Sudan  
16,000 population  
**25% women**



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