



# MIA ABULENCIA

## ARCHITECTURAL PORTFOLIO

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# PHOTOGRAPHY PORTFOLIO

[https://issuu.com/abulenciamia/docs/mia\\_abulencia\\_photography\\_portfolio](https://issuu.com/abulenciamia/docs/mia_abulencia_photography_portfolio)

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# THE POTENTIAL OF THE ROW

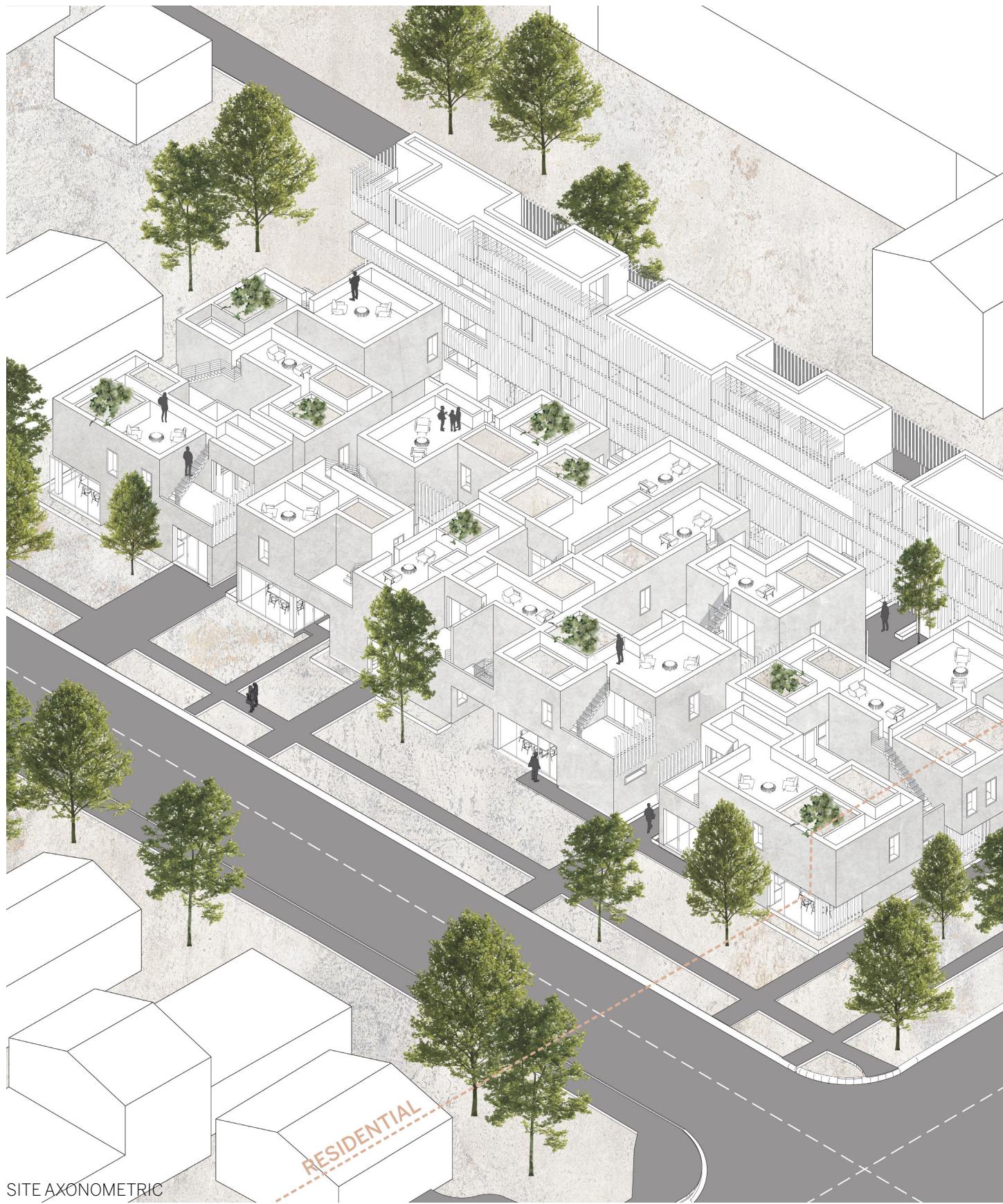
INSTRUCTOR: MARTIN HAETTASCH  
FALL 2024, INTEGRATIVE STUDIO  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH: ELLENISE GUERRA

This project sought to develop a dense housing complex in East Austin while preserving the character and spatial qualities typically associated with single-family homes.

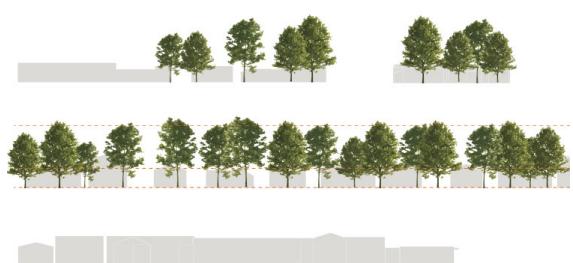
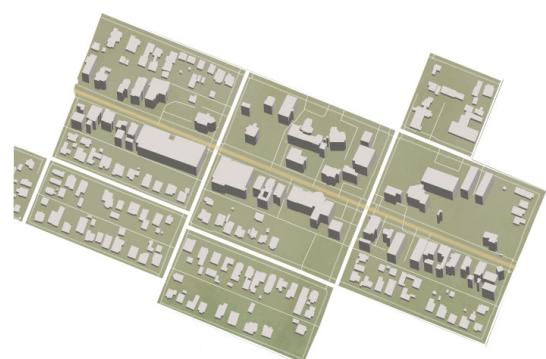
The site, positioned at the intersection of commercial and residential zones, demanded a thoughtful approach to urban integration. In response, the design employed a strategic massing arrangement, placing a slender, vertical housing bar behind a collection of lower, horizontally oriented units. This configuration allowed the project to balance density with a human-scaled residential feel, ensuring that each unit maintained a sense of individuality within the larger complex.

A key design principle was porosity, fostering connectivity at both the site and unit levels. Pedestrian pathways wove through the development, linking residents and softening the density. Each unit featured generous private outdoor spaces, reinforcing the spatial qualities of single-family homes within a compact urban setting. By integrating massing, circulation, and outdoor spaces, the project achieved a balance between density and livability, offering a new model for high-density housing that maintains a sense of individuality and community.





SITE AXONOMETRIC



#### SITE ANALYSIS DIAGRAMS

1. neighborhood pedestrian paths
2. "commercial as a wall"
3. "walls of the site"

4.



WILLOW STREET PERSPECTIVE

The concept of porosity within each unit and throughout the entire site was dictated by the concept of solid and void, which helped allow for an excess of private outdoor space and ample natural light within each unit without compromising privacy.



TRANSVERSE SECTION CUT



SITE PLAN



LOCATION: EAST AUSTIN, TEXAS





1.



2.

## BUILDING DIAGRAMS

1. vertical bar diagram
2. horizontal bar diagram



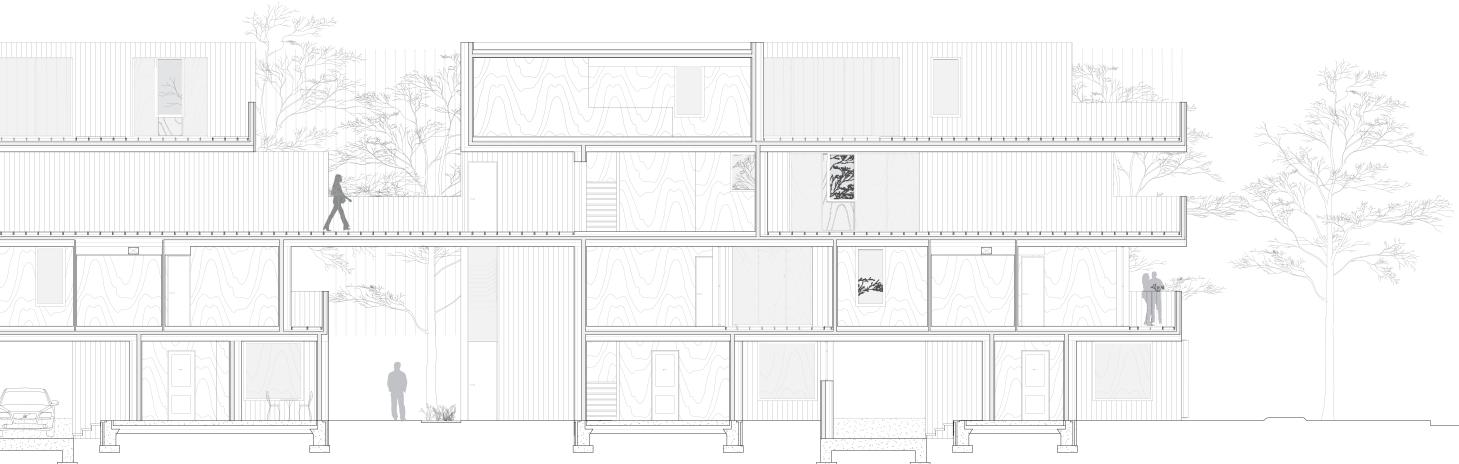
LONGITUDINAL SECTION CUT A

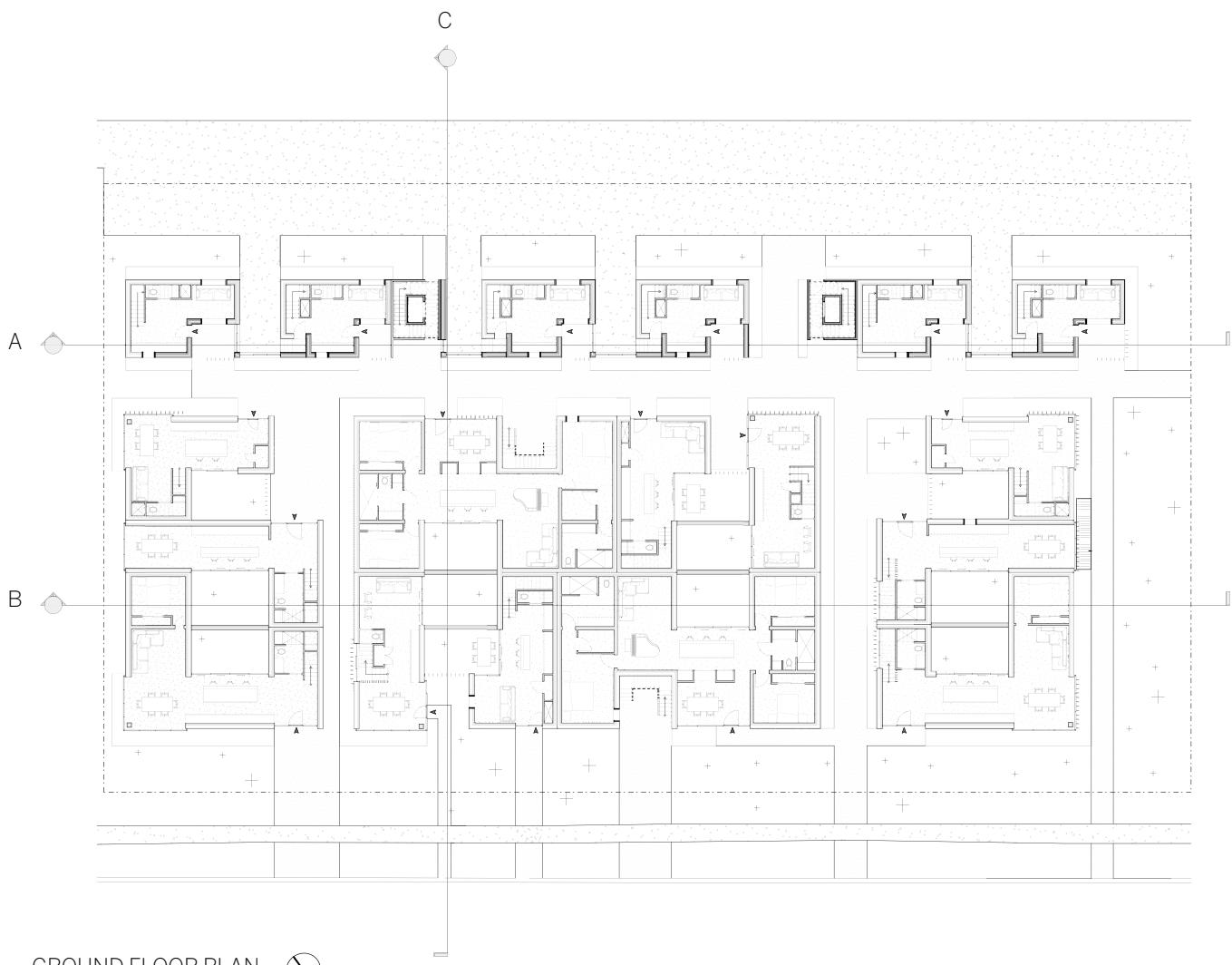


LONGITUDINAL SECTION CUT B



ROOF TERRACE PERSPECTIVE





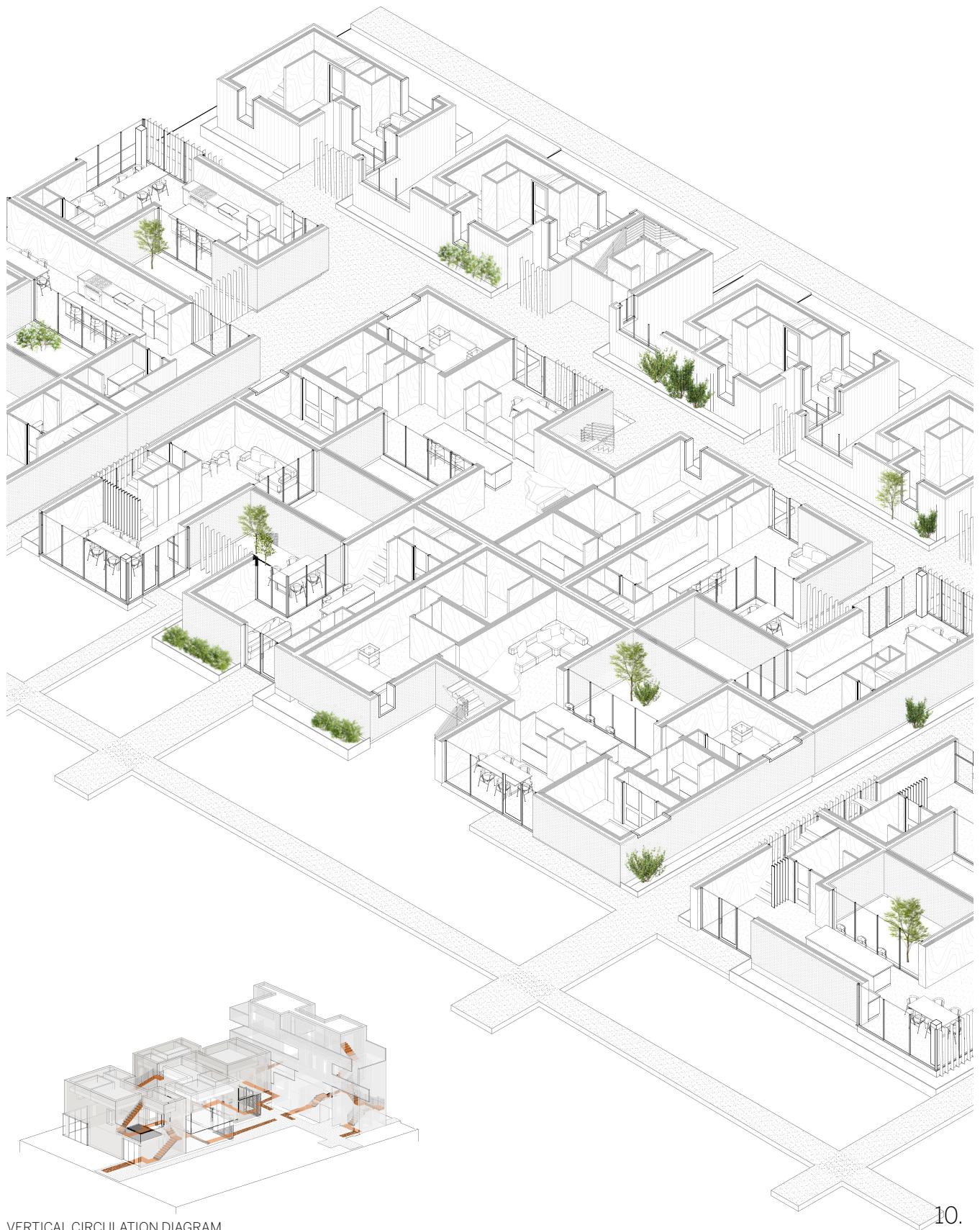
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



EAST ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION

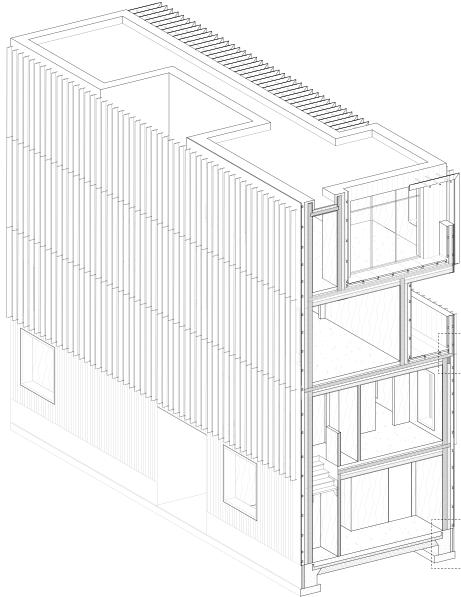


VERTICAL CIRCULATION DIAGRAM

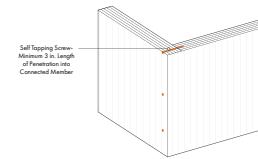




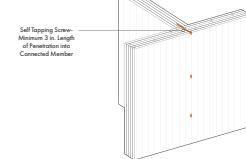




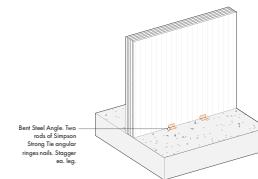
Structural Axon Section @ Vertical Bar  
Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"



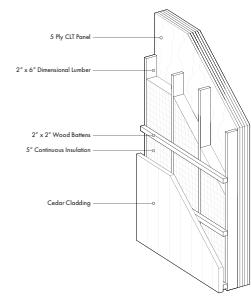
Corner Wall Joint



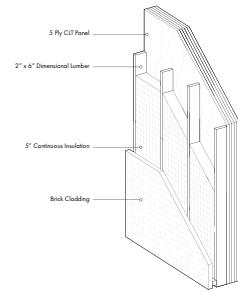
T-Wall Joint



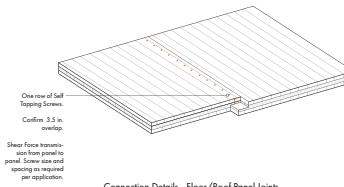
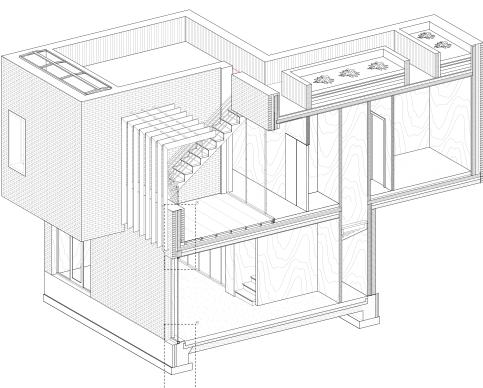
Connection Details - Floor/Roof Panel Joints



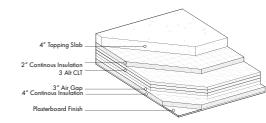
5 Ply CLT Panel with Cedar Cladding @ Vertical Bar  
Architectural Appearance (AA)  
Panels up to 12' x 60'  
Spruce-Pine-Fir (SPF) - V2 Visual Grade



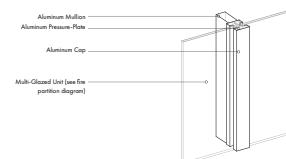
5 Ply CLT Panel with Brick Cladding @ Vertical Bar  
Architectural Appearance (AA)  
Panels up to 12' x 60'  
Spruce-Pine-Fir (SPF) - V2 Visual Grade



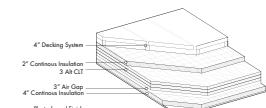
Connection Details - Floor/Roof Panel Joints



Timber Concrete Composite (T.C.C.) Flooring System @ Interior  
Up to 20'-25' Spans



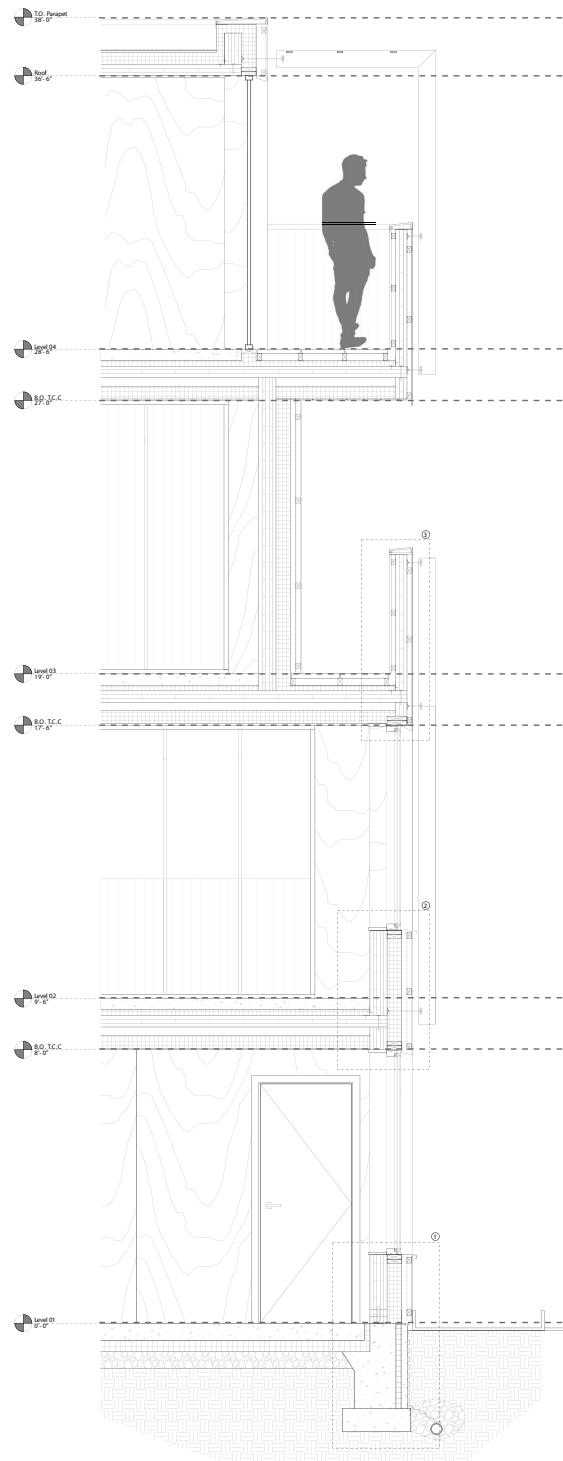
Curtain Wall System



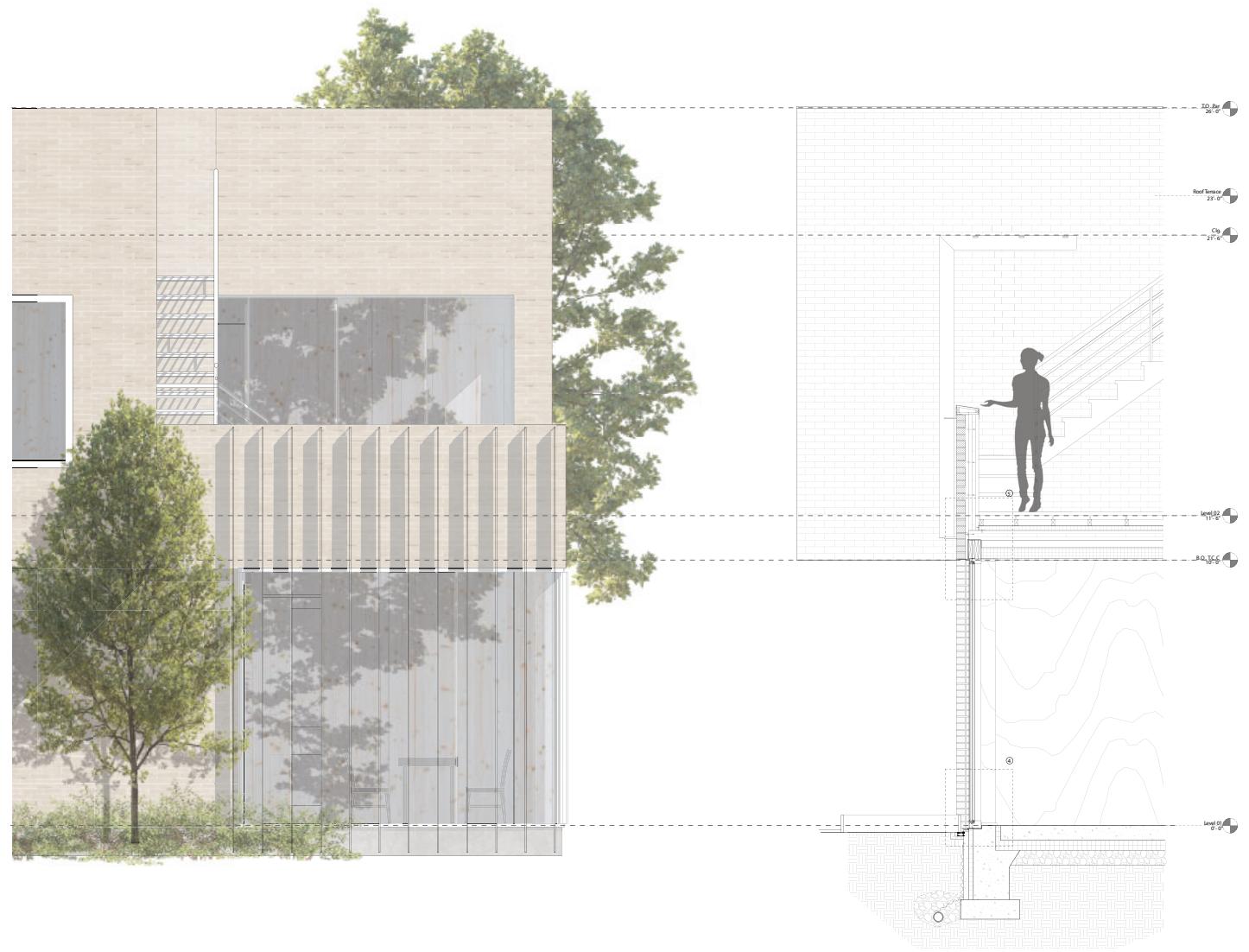
Timber Composite Decking (T.C.C.) Flooring System @ Exterior

## STRUCTURAL AXON | IMAGE BY ELLENISE GUERRA

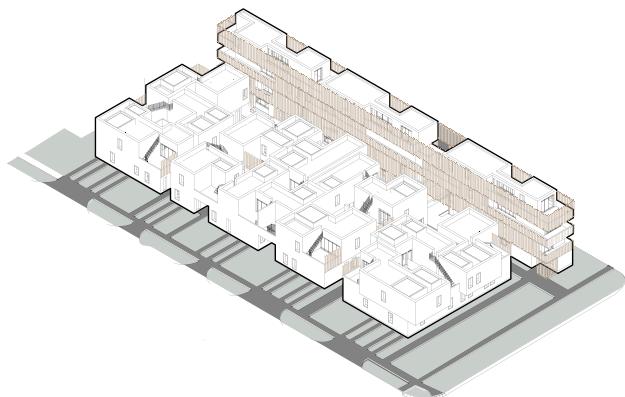
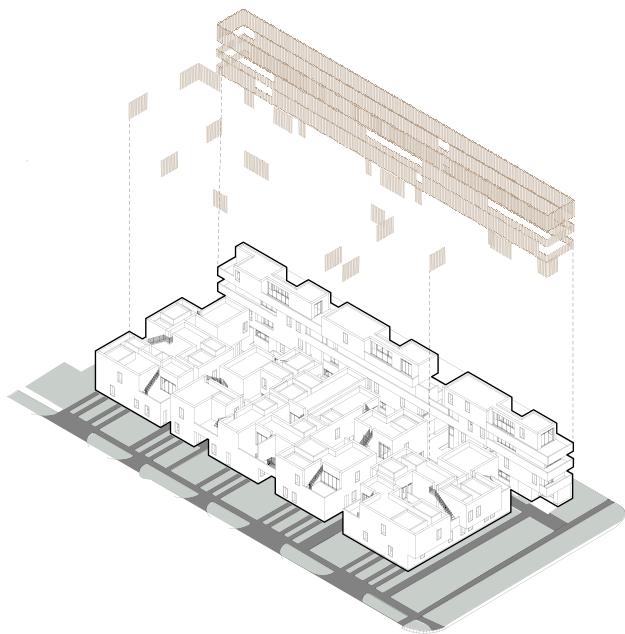
The use of Cross-Laminated Timber as a construction method introduced numerous opportunities to shape interior spaces while fostering a natural and organic sense of occupancy. On the ground floor of the horizontal bar, CLT functions as structural beams, creating an open and modern atmosphere. As one moves upward within the unit, the use of CLT evolves to craft more sculpted spaces, gradually enhancing privacy for the occupants.



VERTICAL BAR WALL SECTION AND ELEVATION



HORIZONTAL BAR WALL SECTION AND ELEVATION



1" x 6"  
Cedar Plank  
Louver



LOUVER DIAGRAM

4TH FLOOR BRIDGE PERSPECTIVE



# SAN FRANCISCO SKYSCRAPER

INSTRUCTOR: CRAIG SCOTT (IWAMOTO SCOTT)  
SPRING 2024, ADVANCED STUDIO  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH: ANDY NGUYEN

While certain hotspots throughout San Francisco are bustling with activity from locals and tourists, many downtown Privately Owned Public Open Spaces (POPOS) remain underutilized, due to the lack of relationship between the skyscraper and the pedestrian.

The objective was to create a space that integrates well into San Francisco's urban fabric, addressing the divide between the built and the living while working to foster a more effective relationship between pedestrians and skyscrapers. By emulating urban conditions within curated public spaces, the goal was to normalize and enhance the spatial experience while making the city's vertical landscape more approachable and cohesive.

The program is distributed across three buildings: two residential towers and one hotel. This arrangement effectively separates public and private spaces at higher elevations while integrating them at the plinth level.

The slender forms and chamfered edges of the buildings maximize light and air flow inside and around the structures, creating a more inviting and less imposing presence on the city skyline. This design allows pedestrians to perceive the towers as a collection of smaller, more approachable structures rather than a single, monolithic entity.



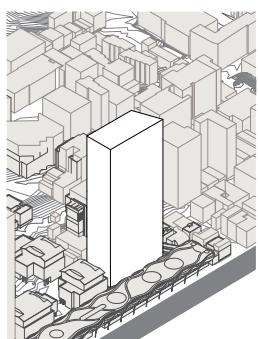
SKYLINE PERSPECTIVE



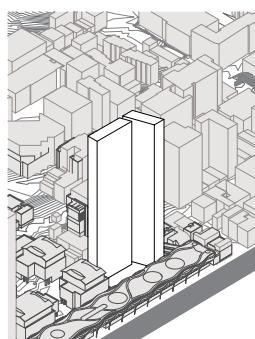
SITE PLAN



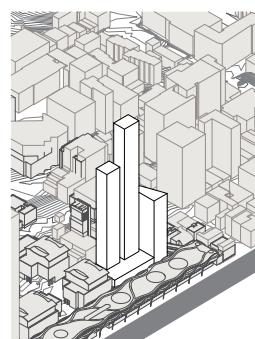
LOCATION: SALESFORCE PLAZA, SAN FRANCISCO



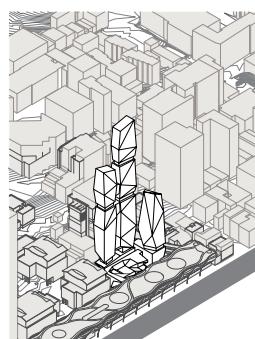
starting point: straight  
extrusion with maximum floor  
plate size, feels congested and  
blocks views



extruded walls to maximize  
height, ignores transit center  
and street level

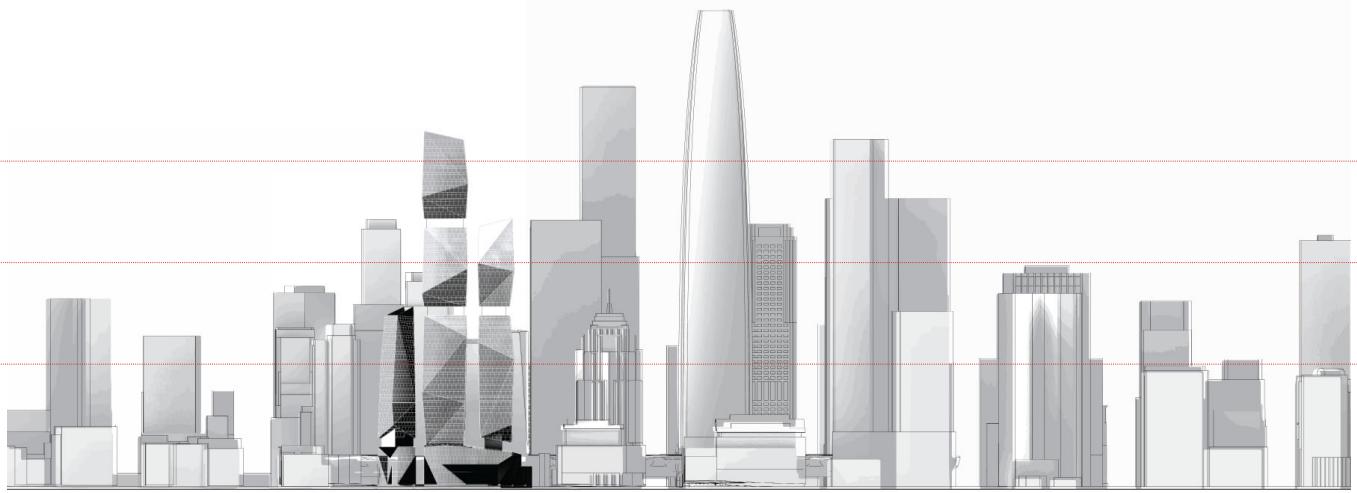


divides and adjusts to increase light  
and air at street level and maximize  
connection to transit center



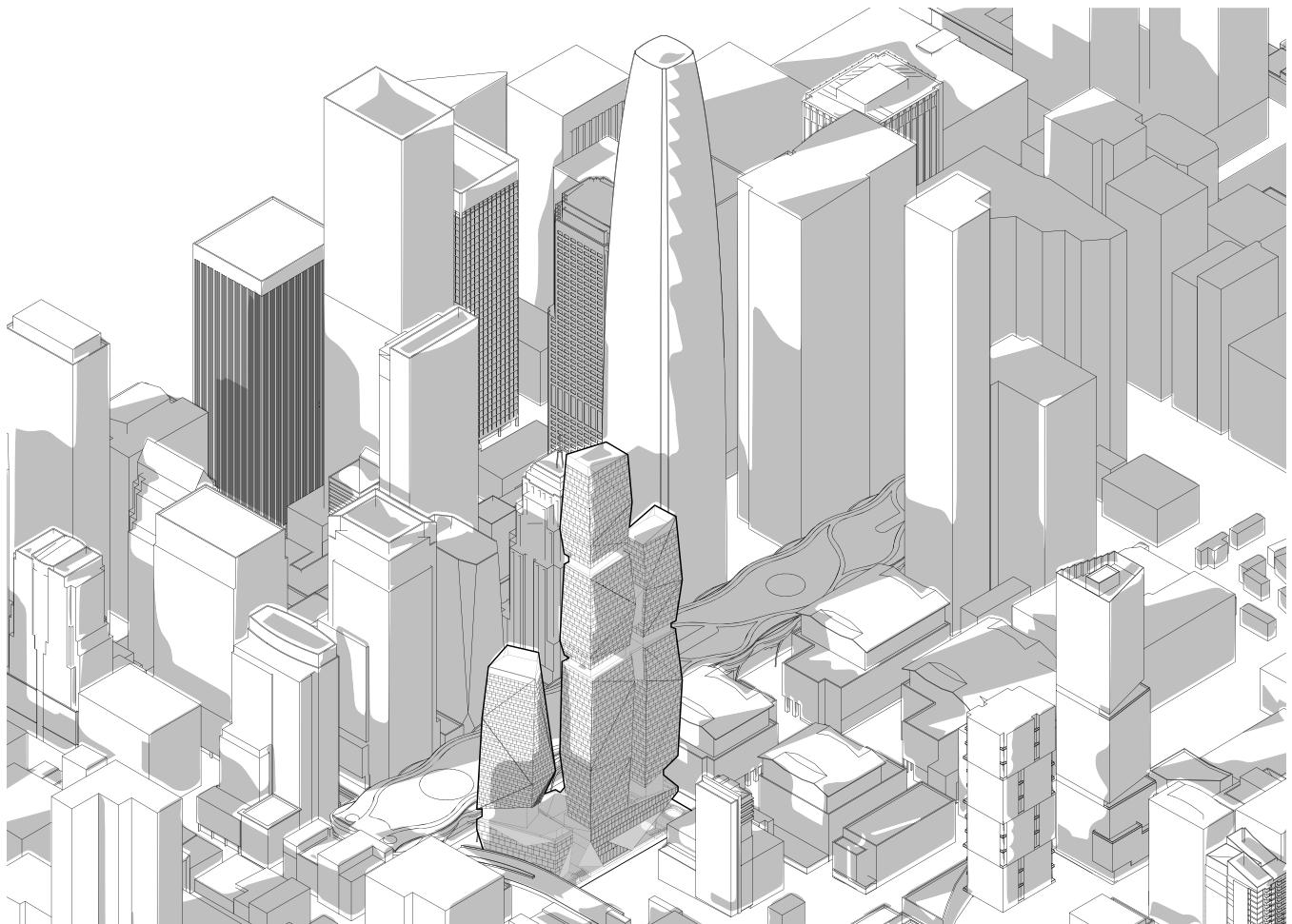
final form and scale of plinth  
relate to transit center and  
form is emphasized within  
overall skyline

FORM CREATION DIAGRAM

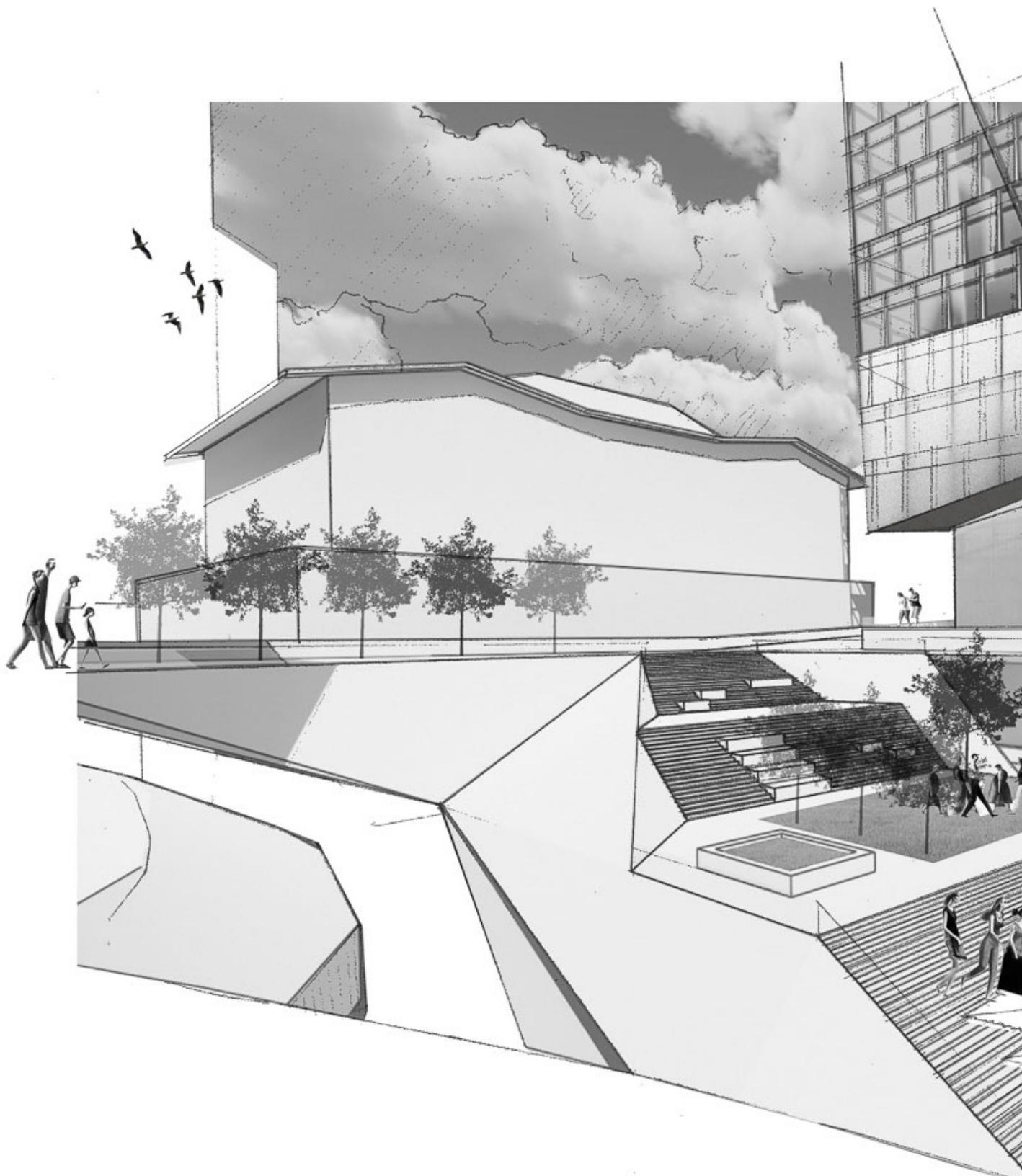


SITE ELEVATION

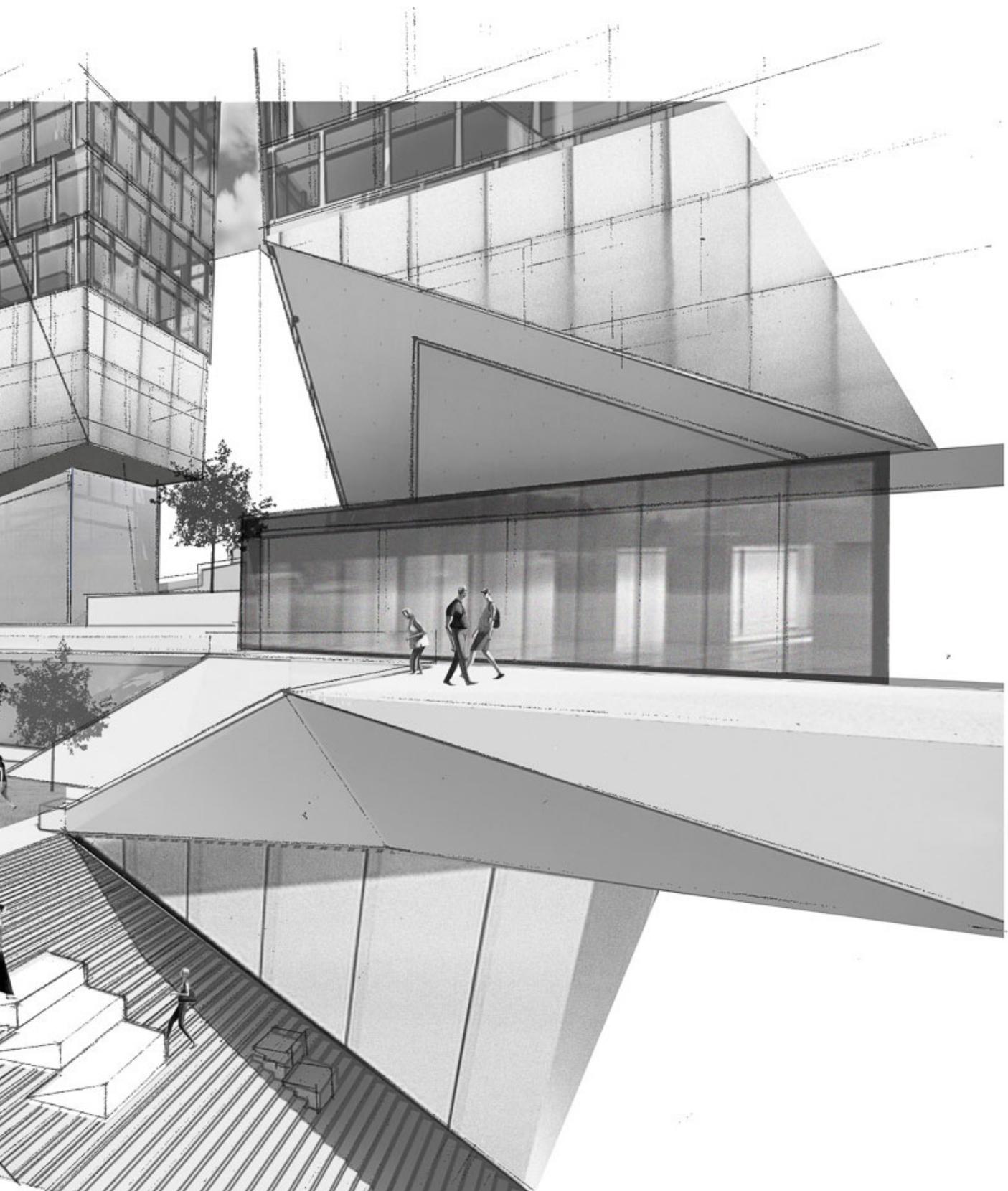
The heights within the project are reflective of the hierarchy that occurs in the San Francisco skyline. Each of the heights registers with an existing datum and therefore blends more cohesively with the presence of the surrounding structures.



SITE AXONOMETRIC



POPOS PERSPECTIVE | IMAGE BY ANDY NGUYEN





1ST ITERATION

MATERIAL: PAPER



2ND ITERATION

MATERIAL: 3D PRINT FILAMENT





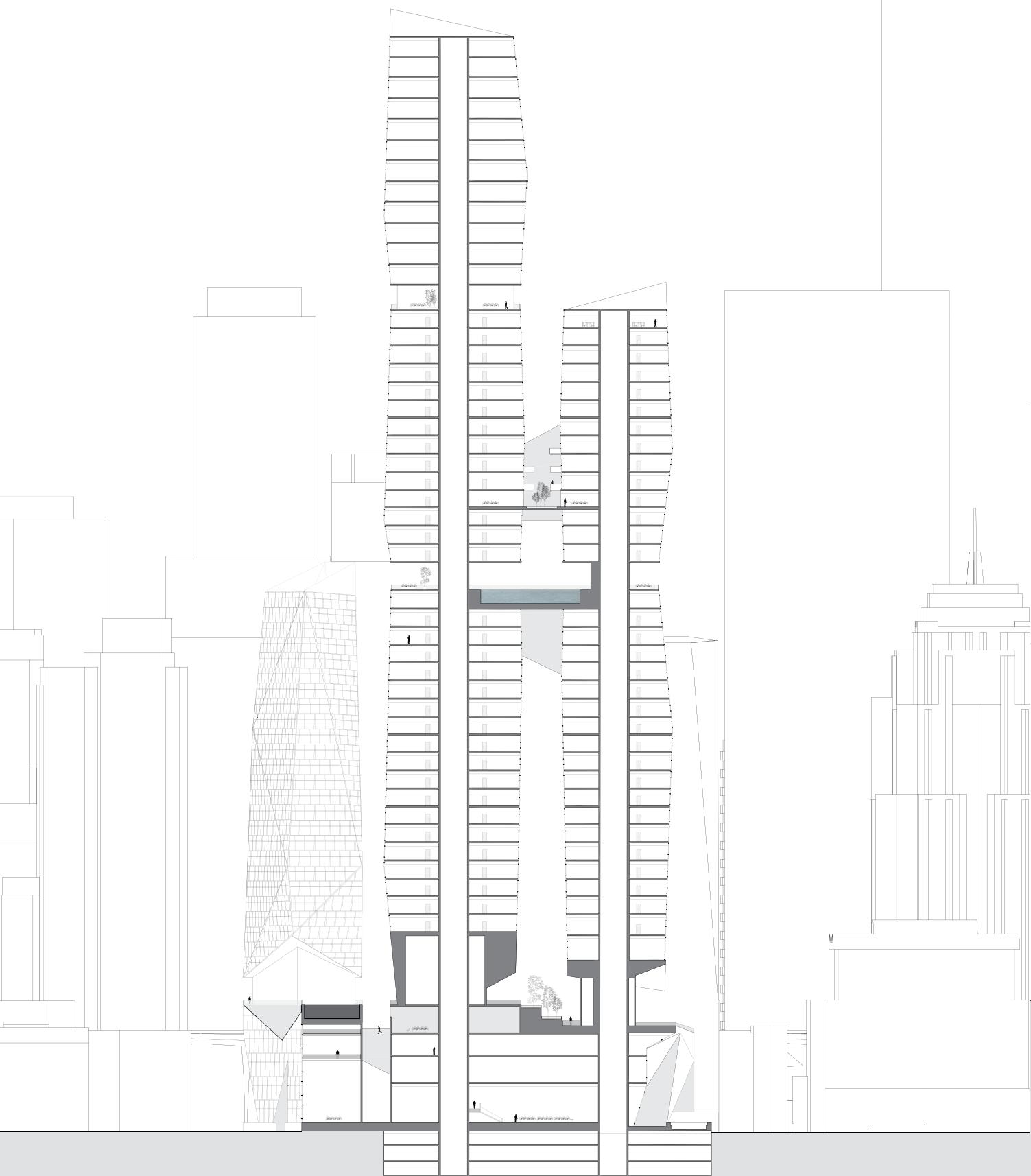
TRANSIT CENTER ELEVATION



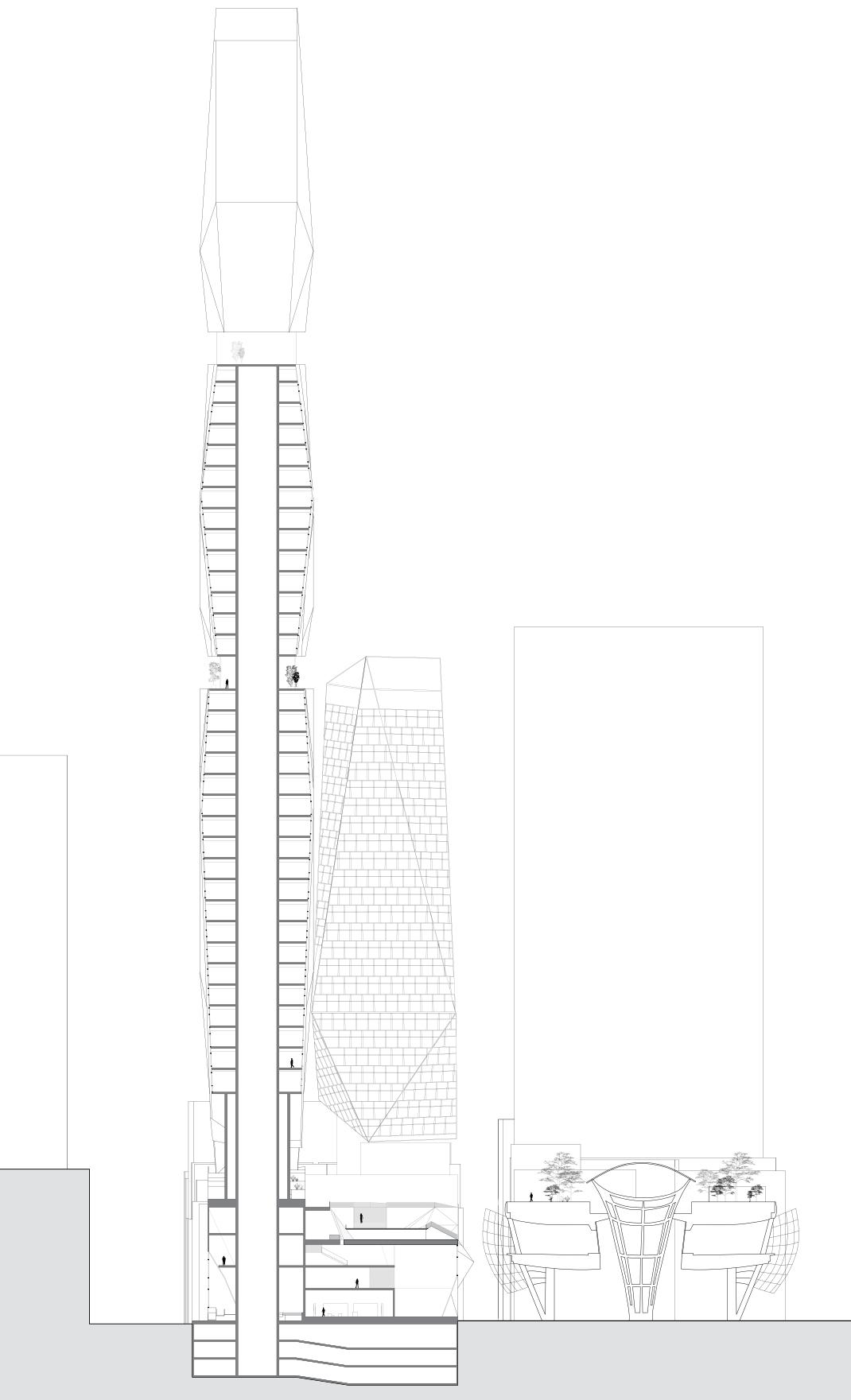
HOWARD STREET ELEVATION

PHYSICAL MODEL BUILT AT 1/32" = 1'0

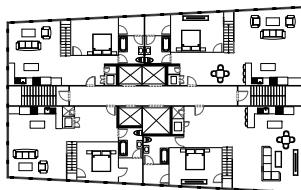
MATERIALS: BASSWOOD, PAPER, WOOD DOWELS, BABY'S BREATH



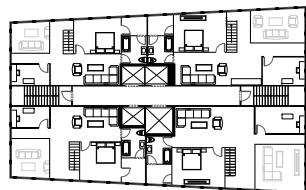
LONGITUDINAL SECTION CUT



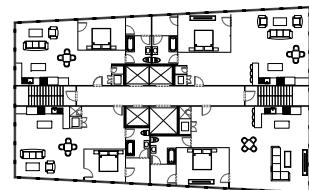
TRANSVERSE SECTION CUT



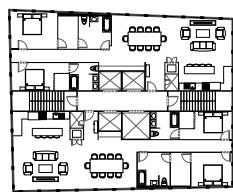
LARGE TOWER  
DOUBLE HEIGHT UNIT  
FLOOR 1



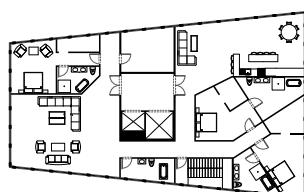
LARGE TOWER  
DOUBLE HEIGHT UNIT  
FLOOR 2



LARGE TOWER  
SINGLE HEIGHT UNIT



SMALL TOWER  
SINGLE HEIGHT UNIT

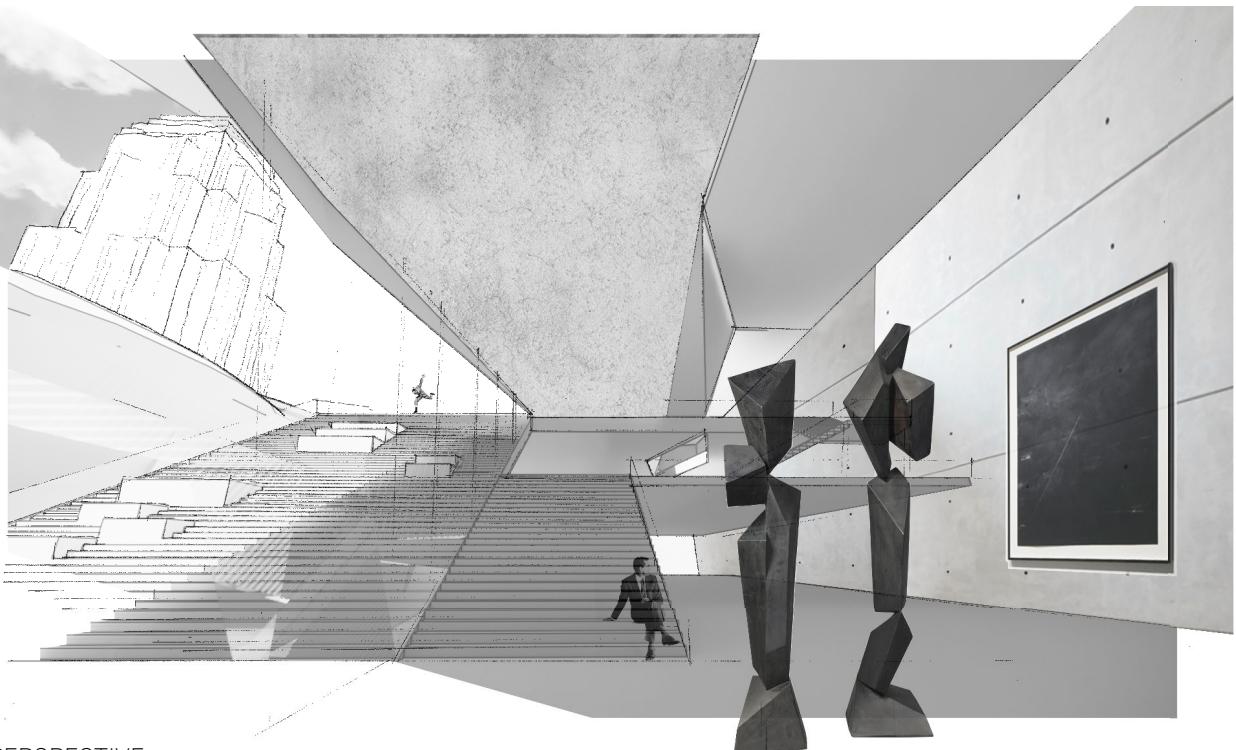


PENTHOUSE UNIT

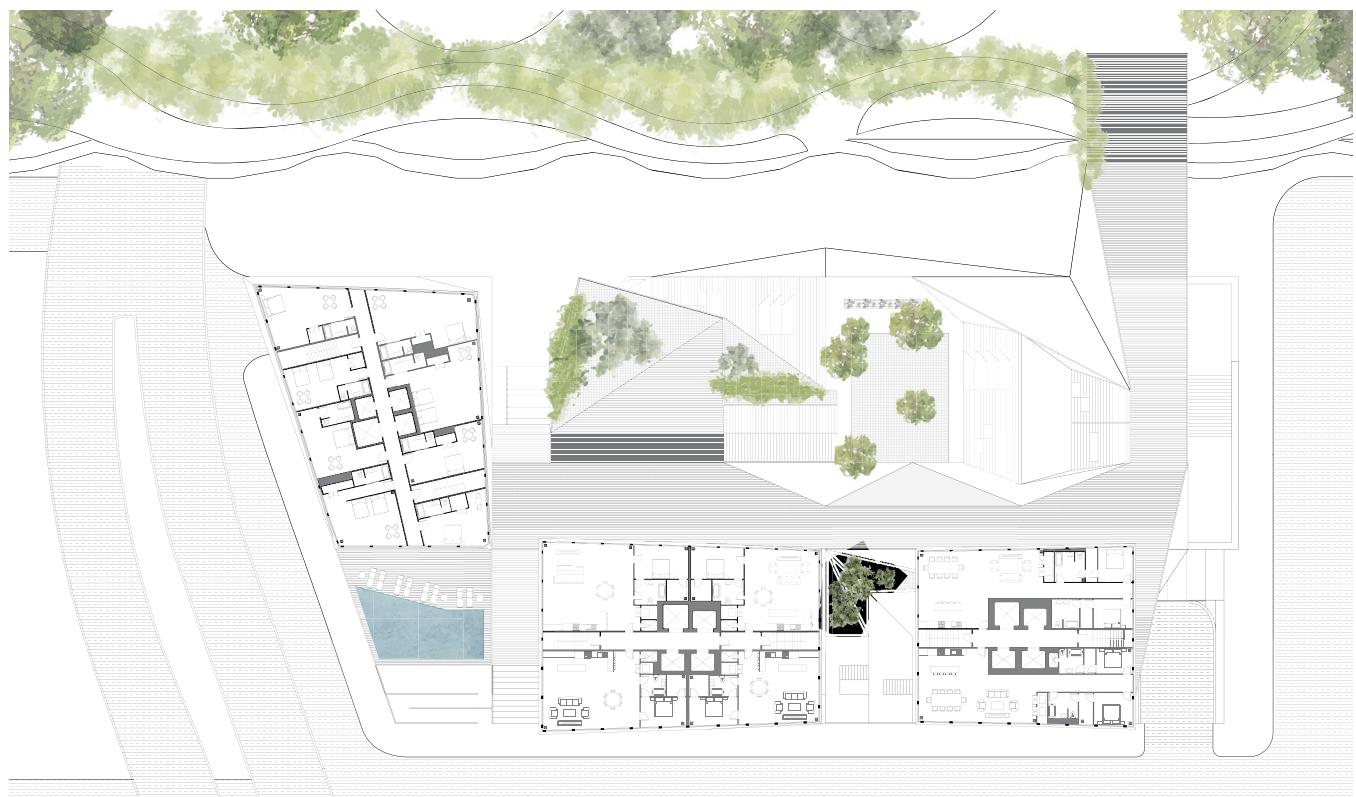
#### UNIT PLANS PER TOWER



GROUND FLOOR PLAN  
15'



GALLERY PERSPECTIVE



TYPICAL FLOOR PLAN 400'

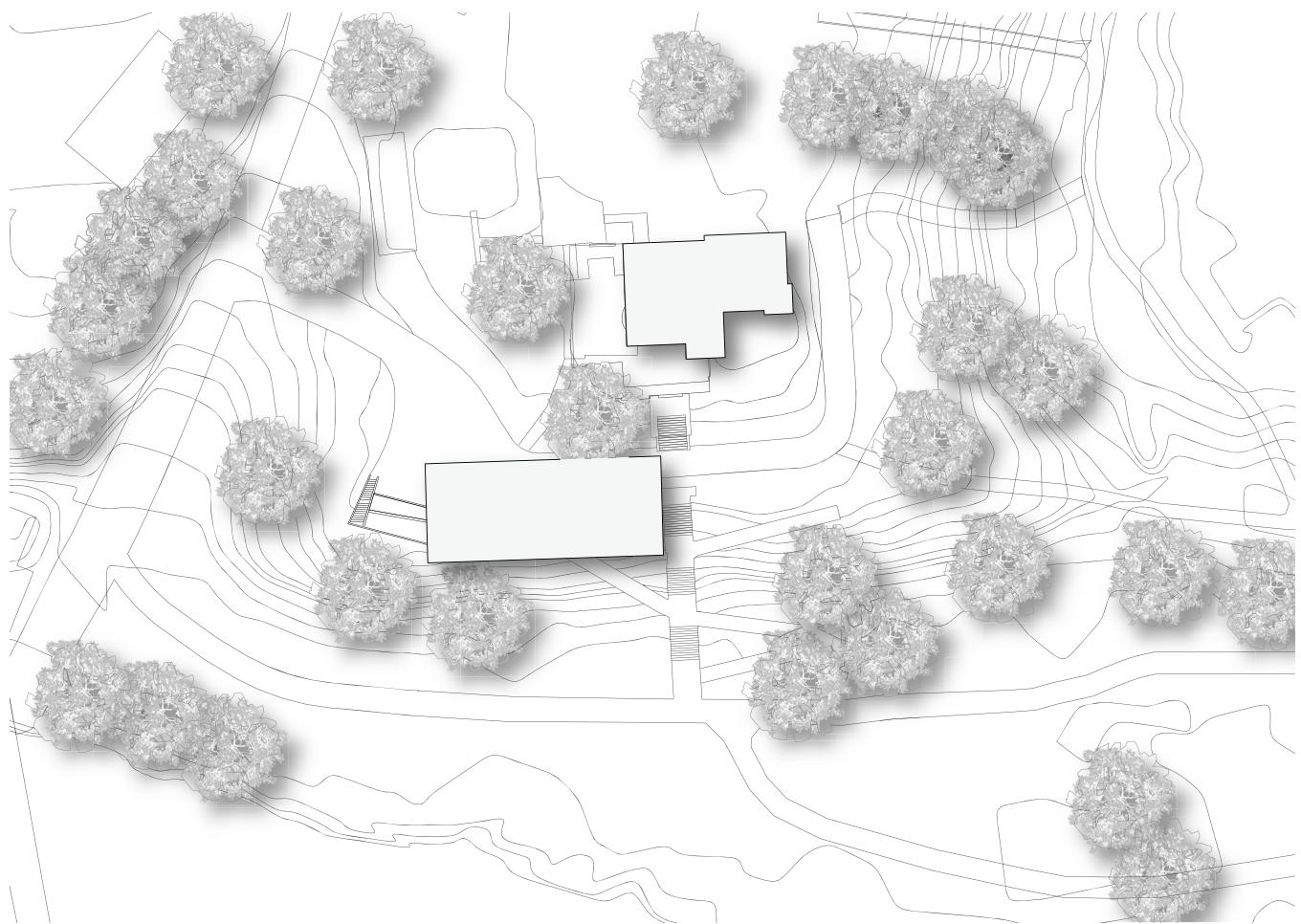
# ART GALLERY AT LAGUNA GLORIA

INSTRUCTOR: KEVIN ALTER (ALTER STUDIO)  
FALL 2022, VERTICAL STUDIO

The goal was to design an art gallery to fit cohesively into the sculpture garden at Laguna Gloria. Laguna Gloria is primarily defined by its natural landscape and abundant wildlife, making it a fitting location for an art gallery. Placing the gallery alongside the existing buildings on-site ensured a seamless integration with the environment while enhancing the site's cultural and artistic presence.

The art gallery is set within the landscape, as it aims to celebrate the existing site by not evoking an abrupt presence.

This gallery achieves a seamless integration into the landscape through three gallery spaces and offices dictated by a cantilevering, roof dominant structure. The gallery's multiple levels are vertically connected through strategically placed openings that allow natural light to filter down, reinforcing a sense of continuity and seamless integration throughout the project and site.



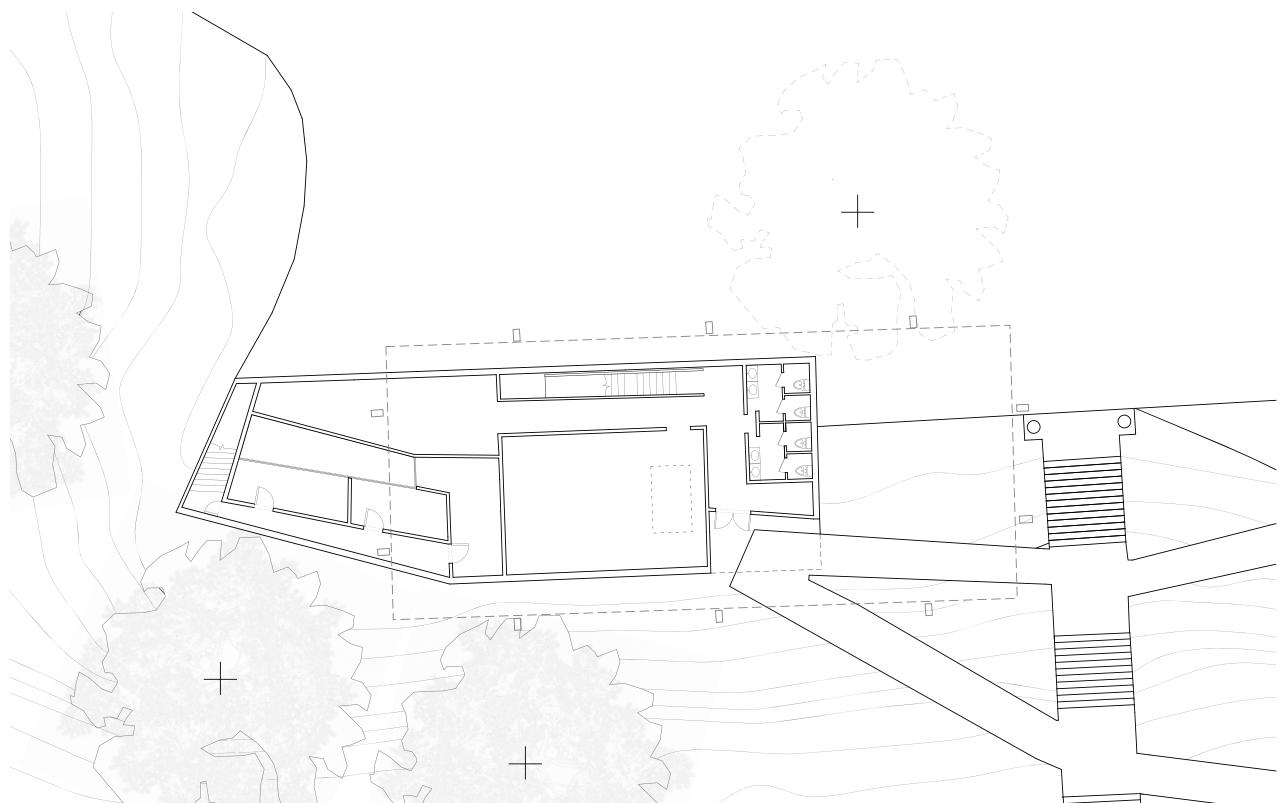
SITE PLAN



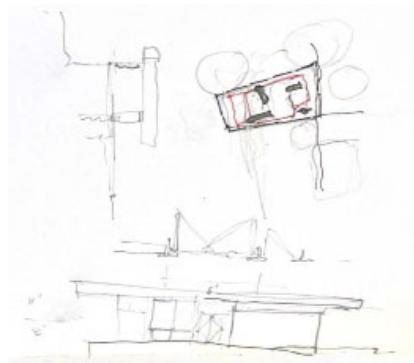
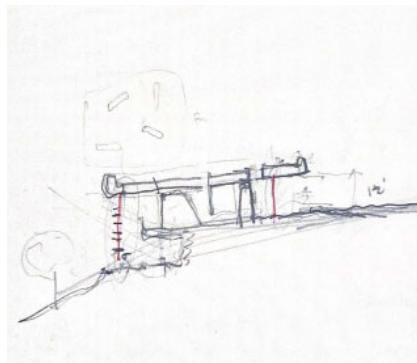
LOCATION: WEST AUSTIN, TEXAS



TOP FLOOR PLAN



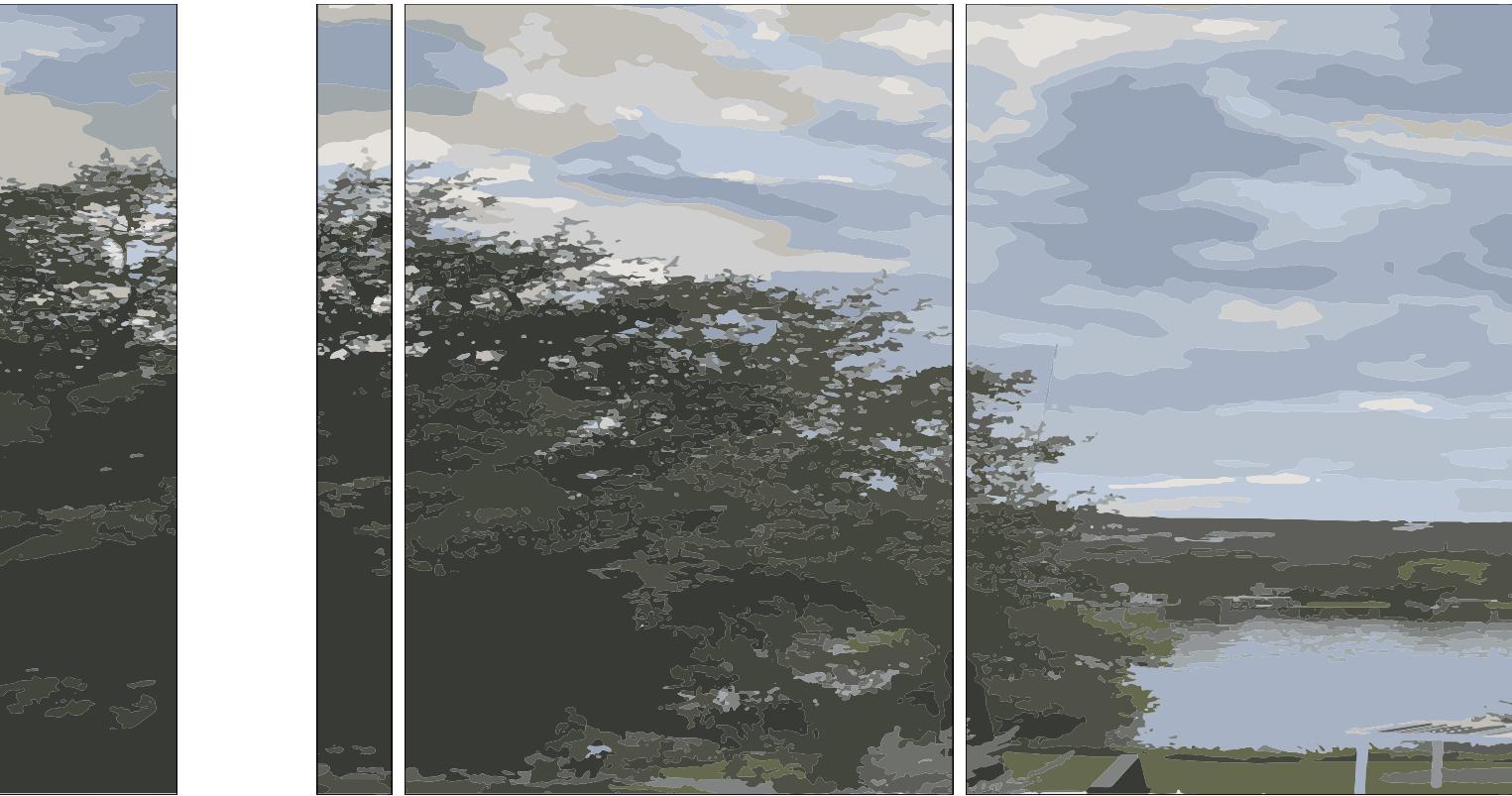
BOTTOM FLOOR PLAN



WEST ELEVATION

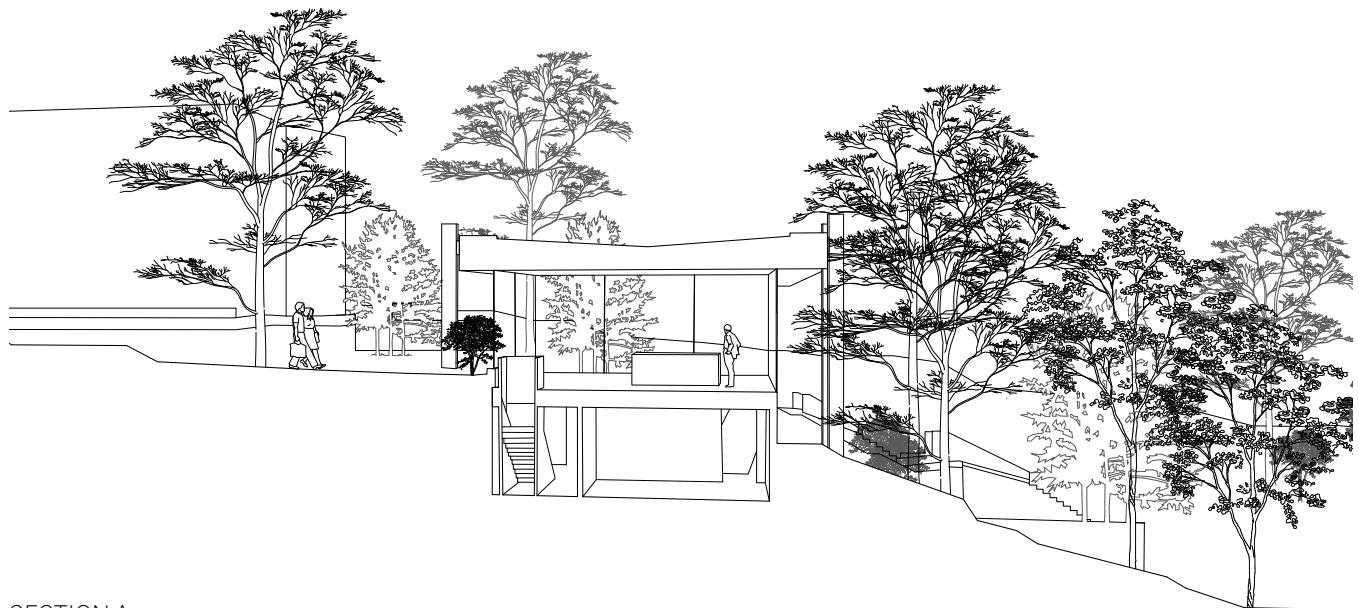


EAST ELEVATION

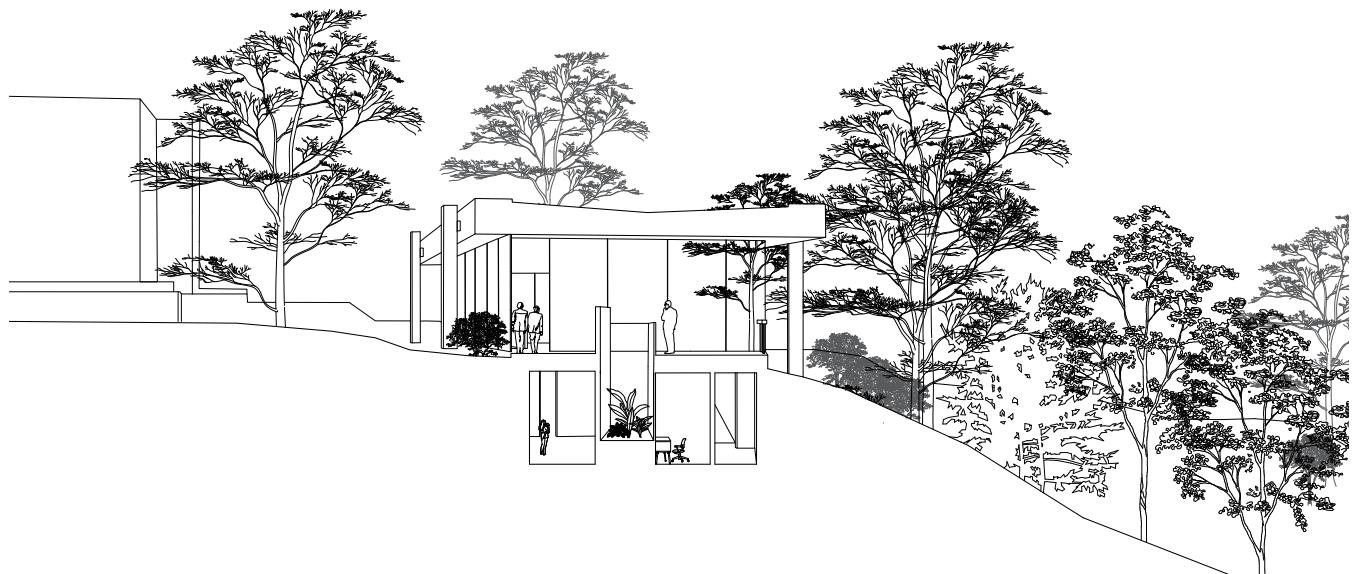
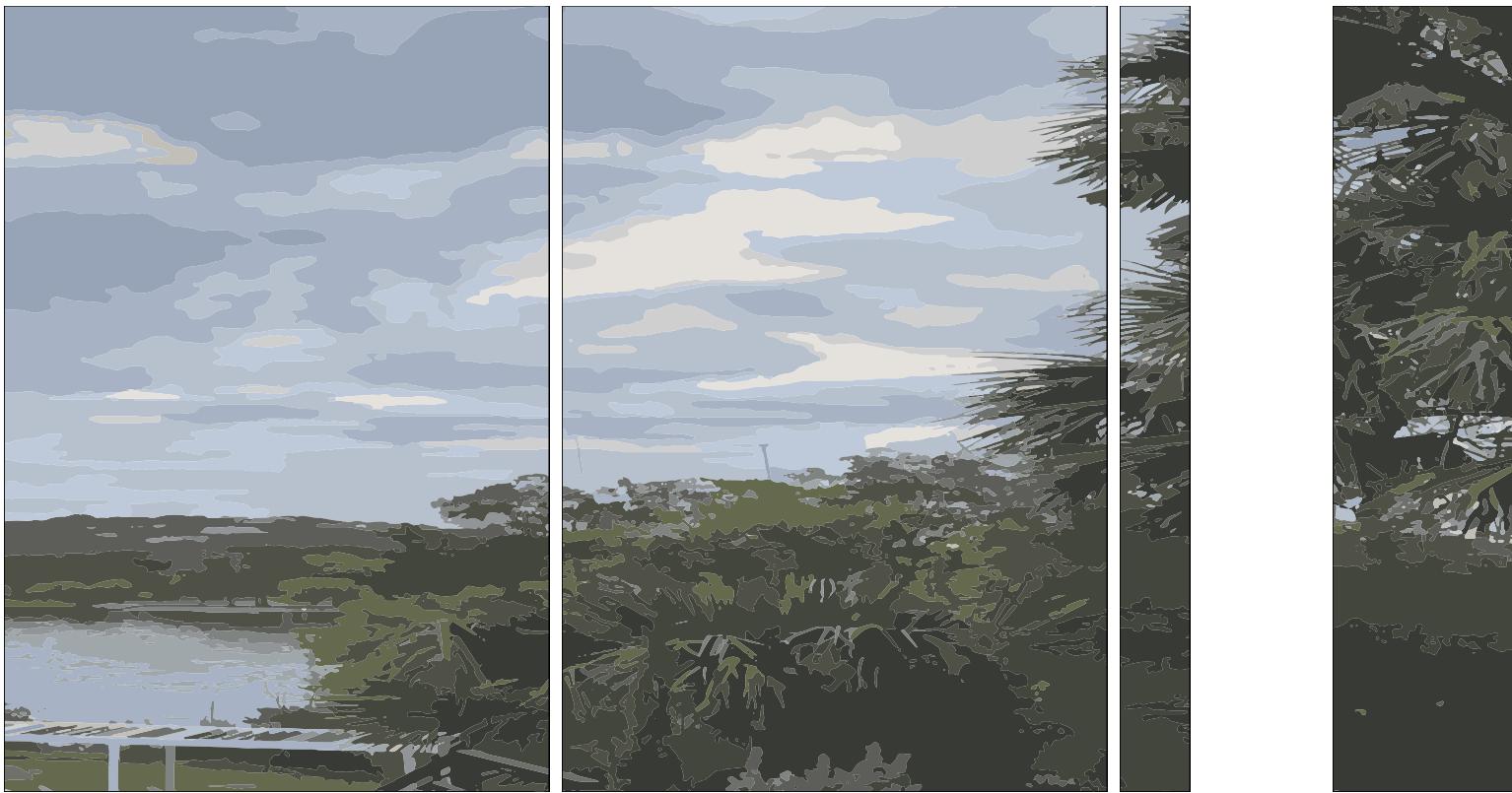


#### GALLERY PERSPECTIVE

The uninterrupted view out to Lake Austin through the main gallery space.



SECTION A



SECTION B

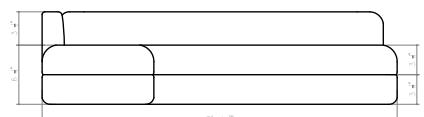
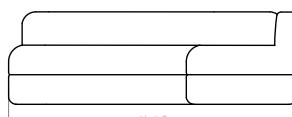
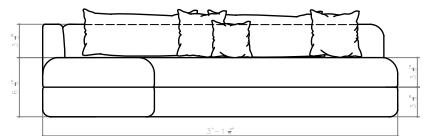
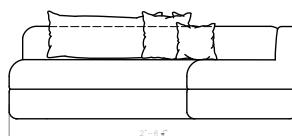
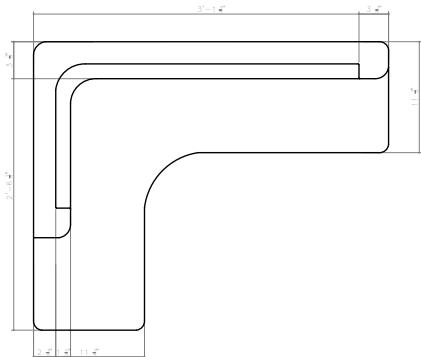
# CUSTOM FURNITURE DESIGN

CHRISTINA COLE STUDIO  
SUMMER 2023  
POSITION: INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE INTERN

This couch was designed for our South Ocean project where the clients desired custom pieces to suit their curated vision of their dream vacation home.

Their vision included a relatively simple palette with a variety of textures and sophisticated, yet simple silhouettes.

The couch was designed using AutoCAD, with multiple 2D iterations explored before finalizing and creating the current design.





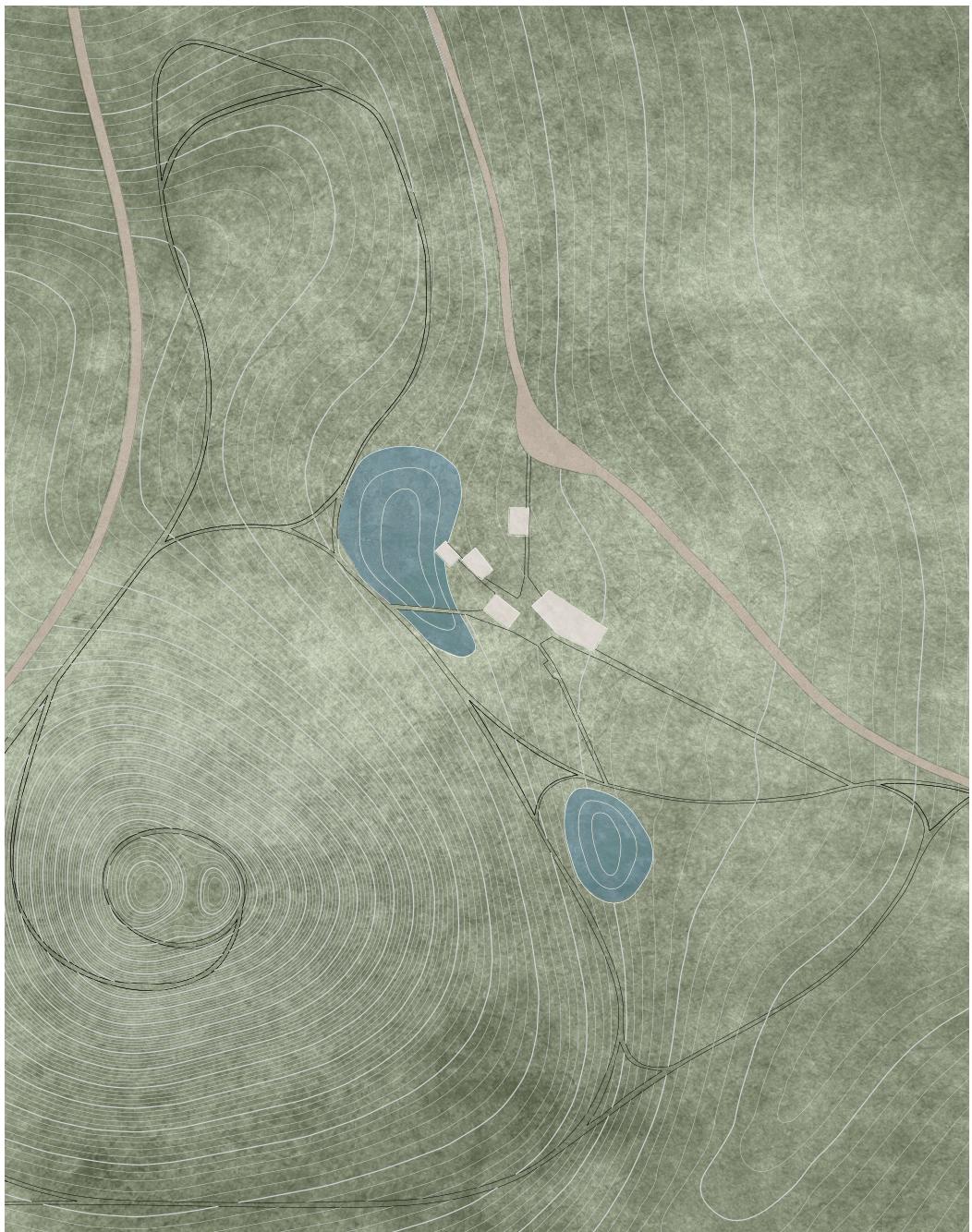
PRIMARY BEDROOM BANQUETTE INSTALL PHOTOGRAPH  
*this photo is owned by Christina Cole Studio*

# RED MOUNTAIN CULTURAL CENTER

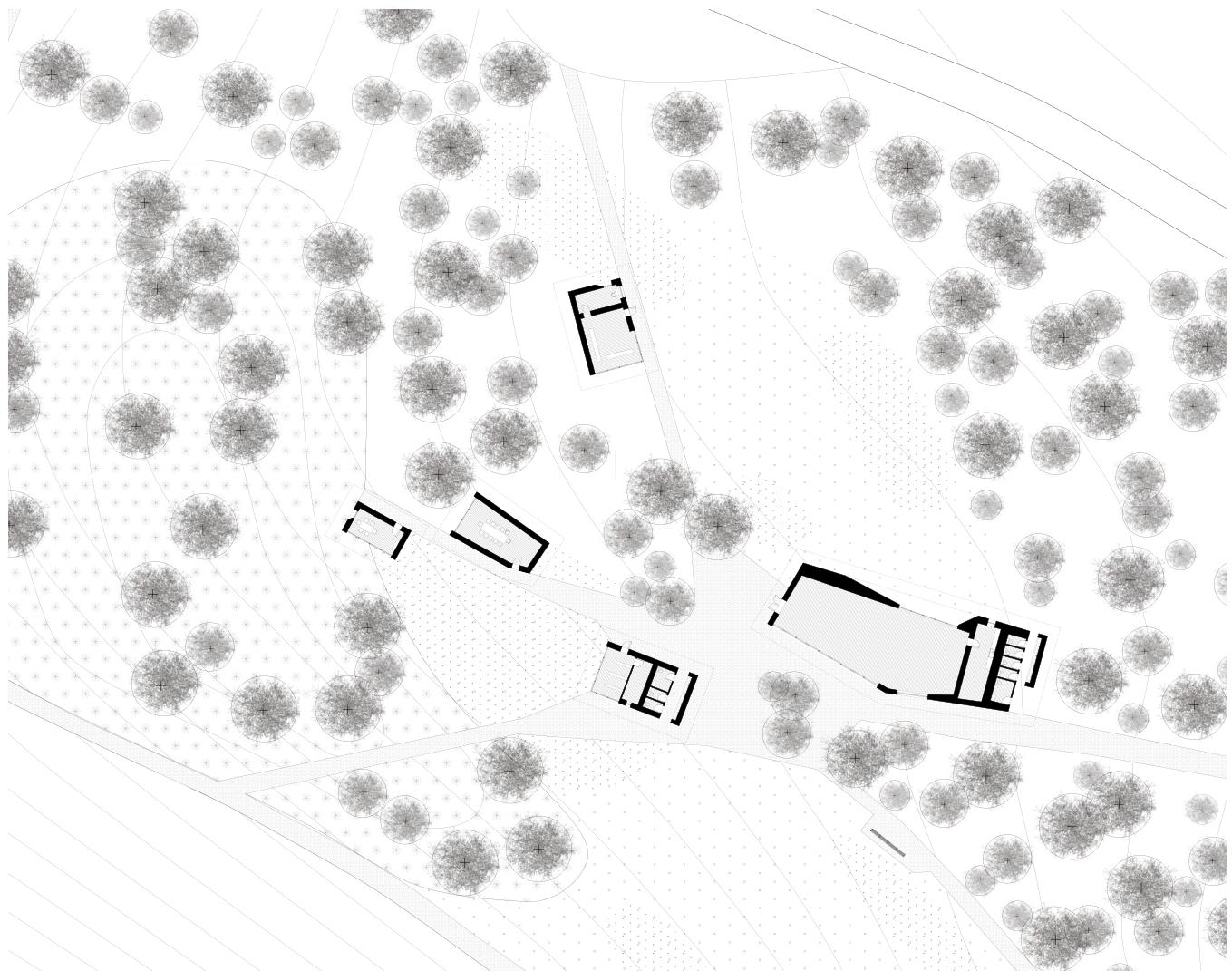
INSTRUCTOR: NICHOLE WIEDEMANN  
FALL 2023, VERTICAL STUDIO

The goal of this project was to create a visitor center at red mountain, a sacred site to the Tonkowa tribe that was respectful to the landscape and helped educate local communities about the Tonkowa's history. The project utilized prescribed burns, landscape strategies and rammed earth to cultivate a community of structures that facilitated site interaction and engagement.

Rammed earth was chosen not only for its rich material qualities that enhance the site's character but also for its durability and resistance to prescribed burns. Its horizontal striations were intentionally designed to complement rather than compete with the vertical presence of Red Mountain, which serves as a dramatic backdrop to the visitor center.



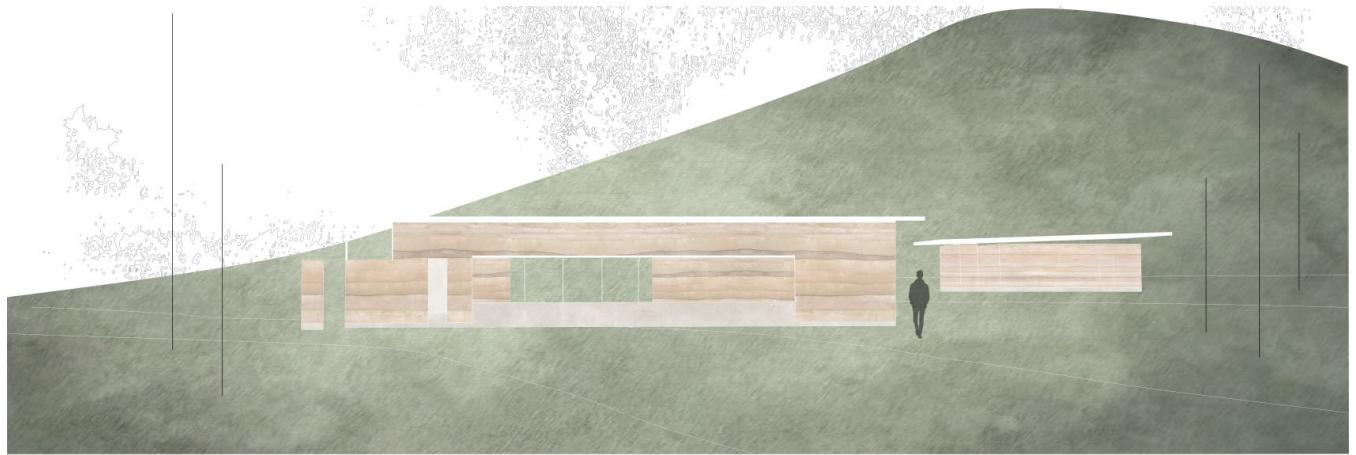
SITE PLAN   
LOCATION: MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS



GROUND FLOOR PLAN ①



ELEVATION + SECTION A

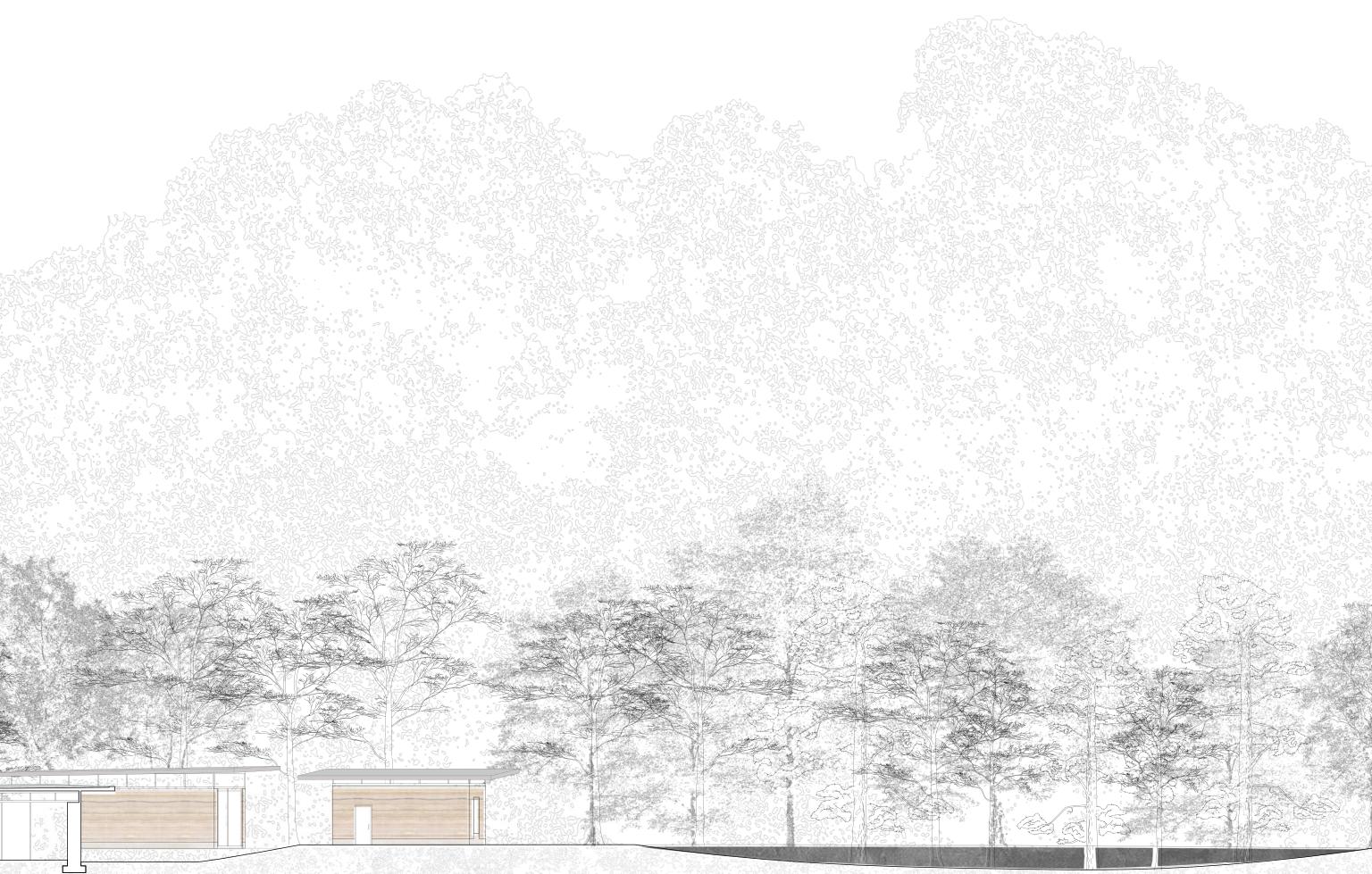


This plan highlights the constructed wetlands surrounding the site to emphasize water catchment and deterrence away from the rammed earth structures. It also shows the clearings completed on the site to return the landscape to its previous state when the Tonkowa tribe had originally owned it.





WEST ELEVATION + SECTION B

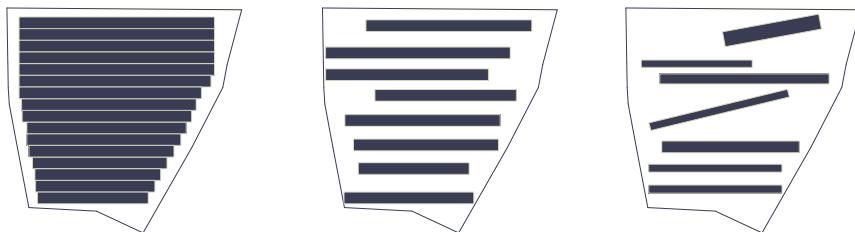


# AGGREGATIVE HOUSING

INSTRUCTOR: MARTN HAETTASCH  
SPRING 2023, HORIZONTAL STUDIO

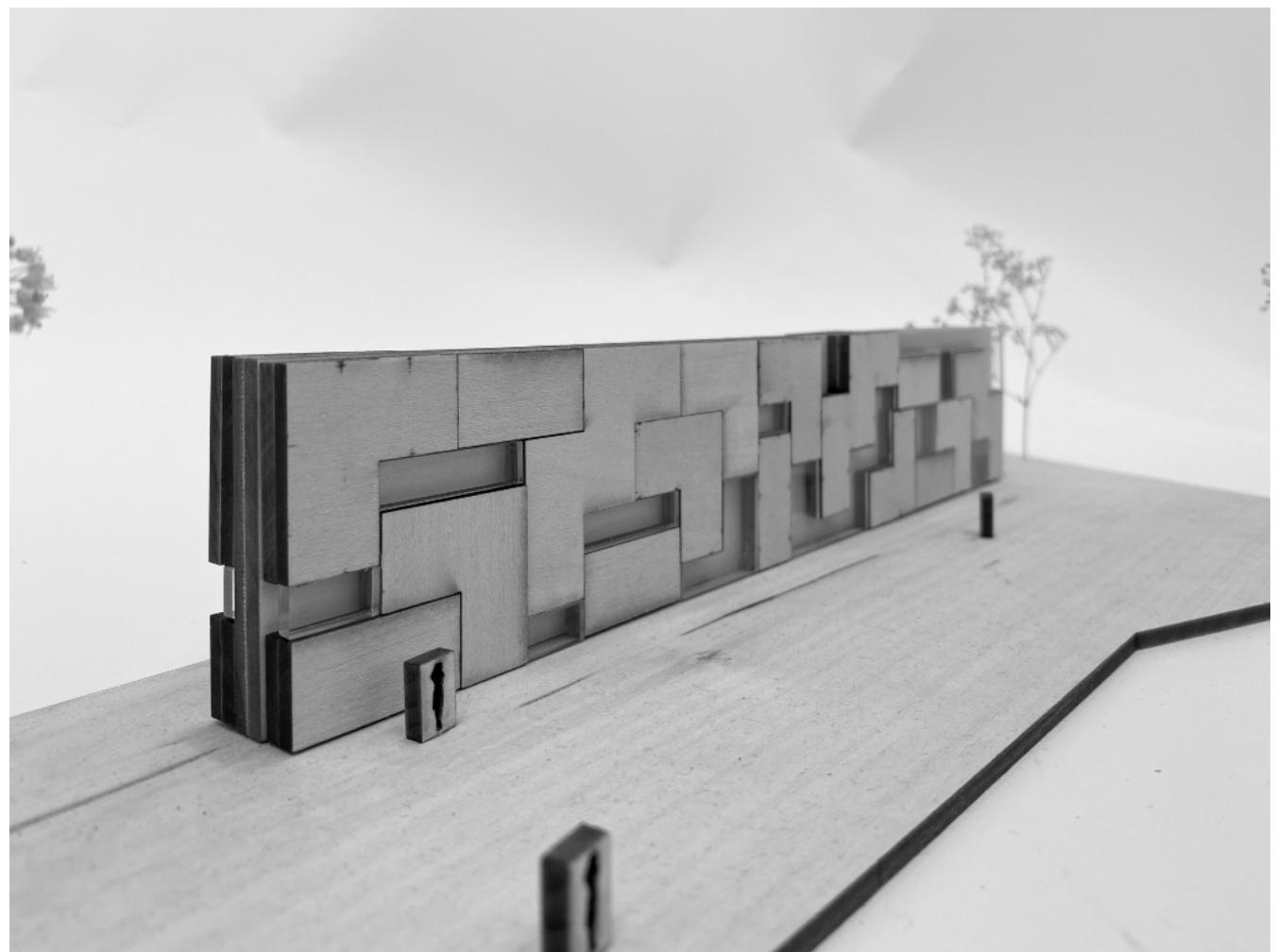
The aim of this project was to create housing units and other public program at a site in south Austin bordered by high-density apartments and Lake Austin. The goal of the aggregation strategy used was to create dense, thin, affordable housing where tenants would be able to receive natural light from both sides of the space and have easy access to green space.

The slender housing bar disrupts the uniform, repetitive structures surrounding the site, introducing a dynamic architectural element. Additionally, the design enhances pedestrian engagement in an area that, despite its proximity to the Lady Bird Lake trail and nearby roads, currently lacks activation and connectivity.

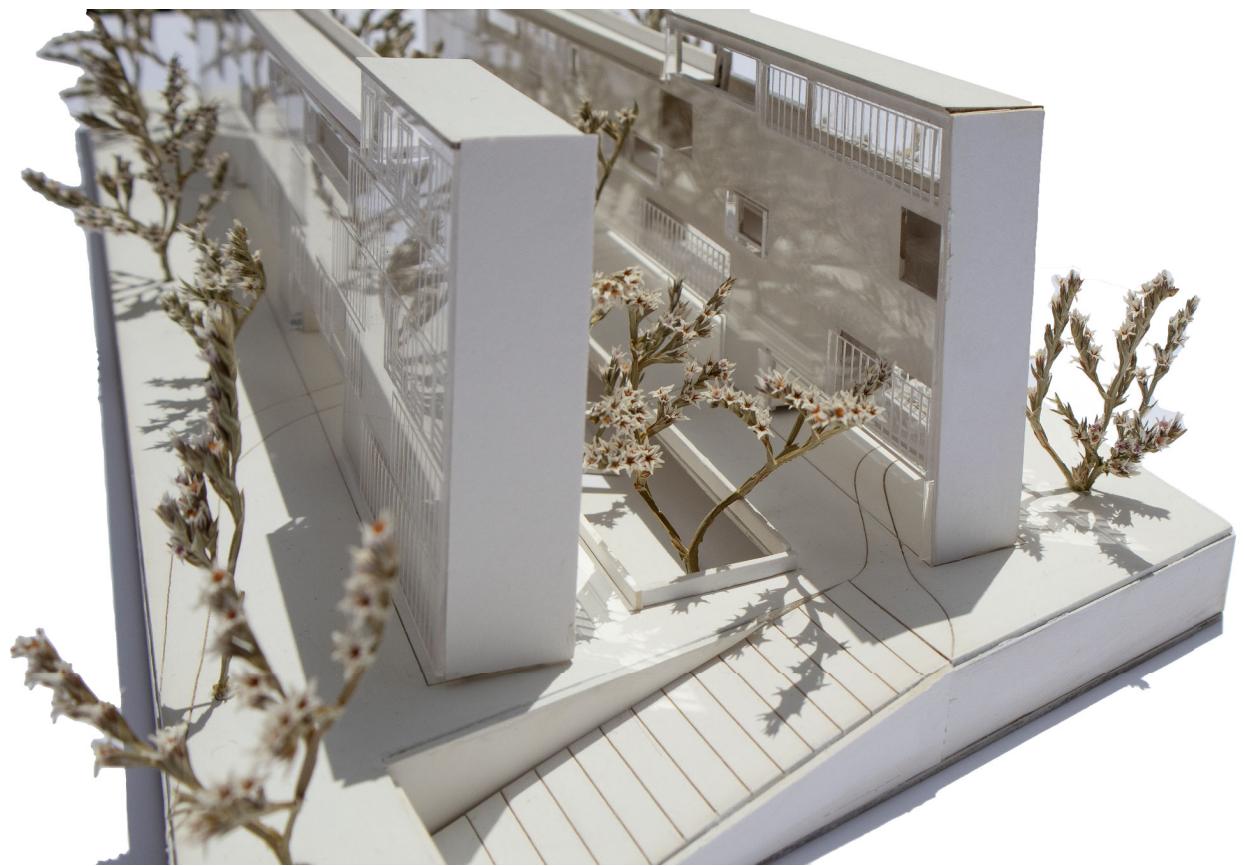




AGGREGATION AXONOMETRIC DRAWING



PROCESS MODEL



FINAL PHYSICAL MODEL



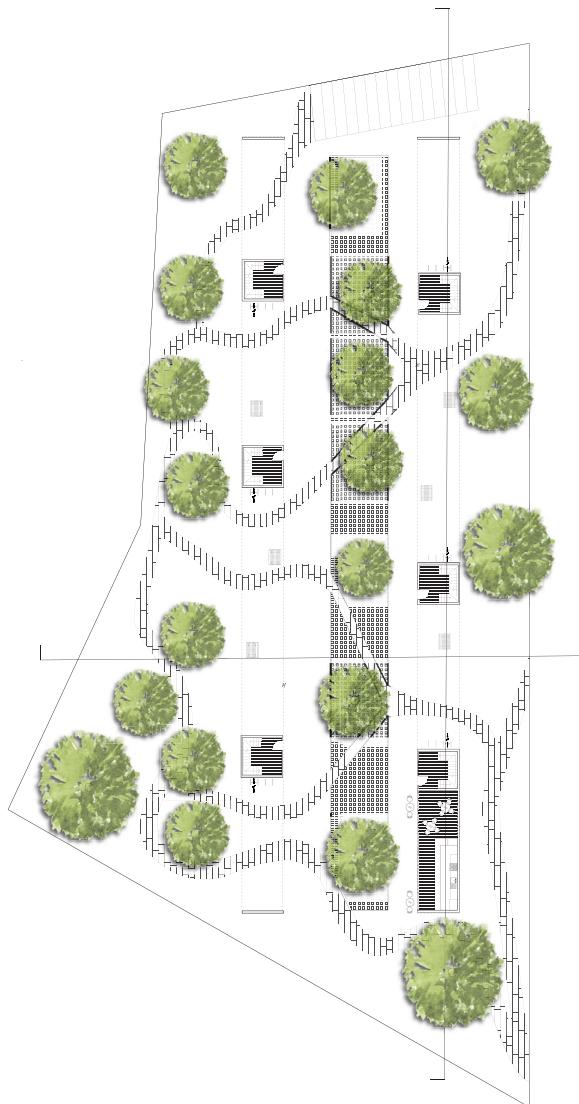
HALLWAY PERSPECTIVE



SITE PLAN



LOCATION: EAST AUSTIN, TEXAS

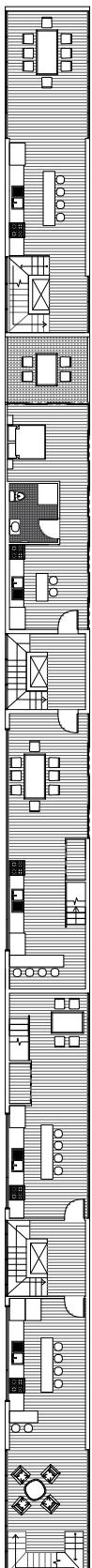


GROUND FLOOR PLAN

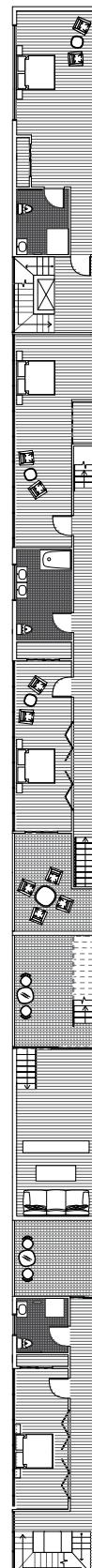


The unit plans show the differences between each individual unit, ranging from a studio apartment to a three bedroom. These plans highlight the experiential circulation that takes place within the vertical escalation of each unit as one must traverse within the housing bar to move between spaces.

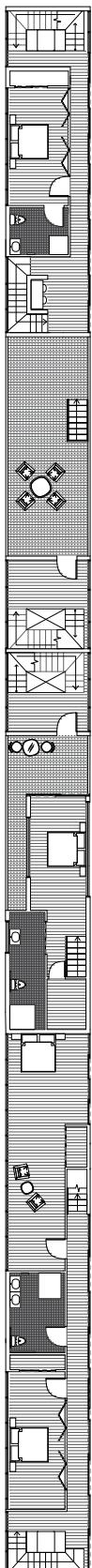
+1



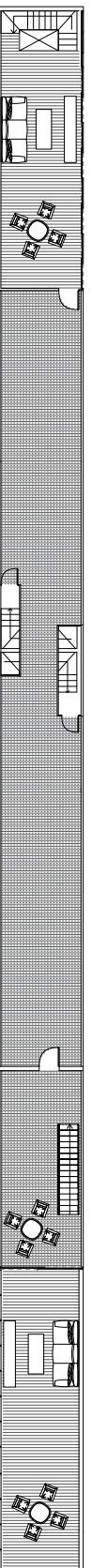
+2



+3



+4



+5

50.

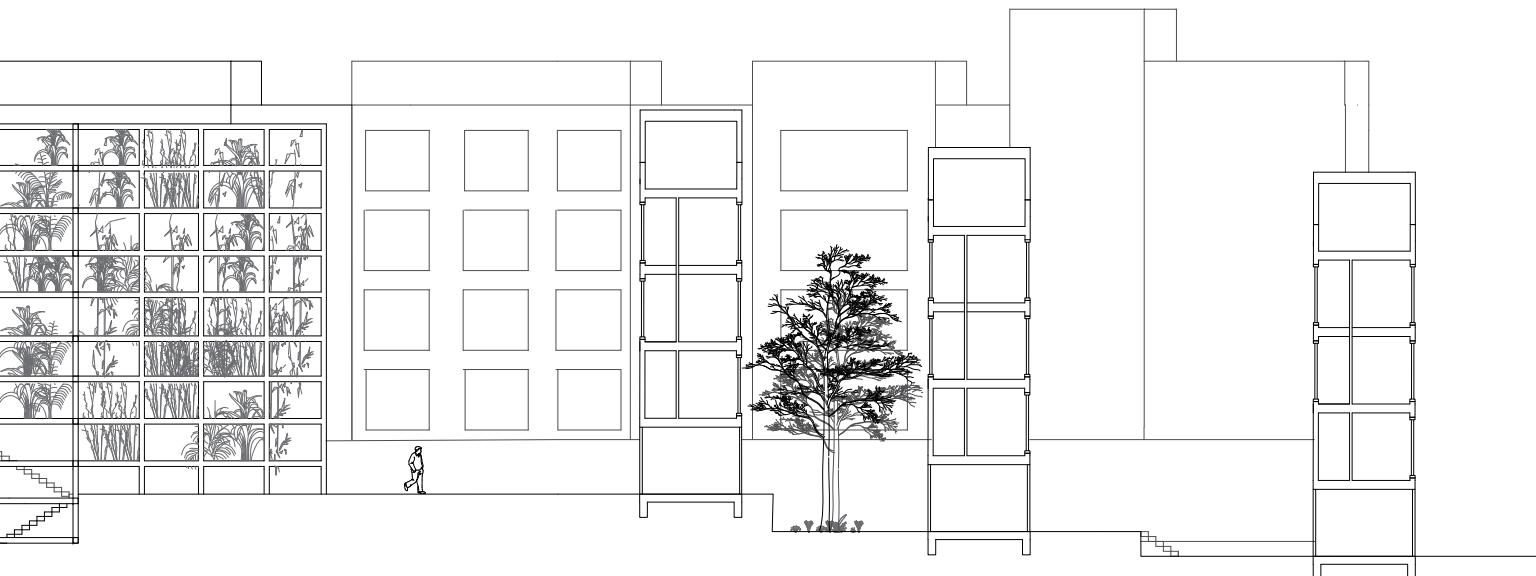
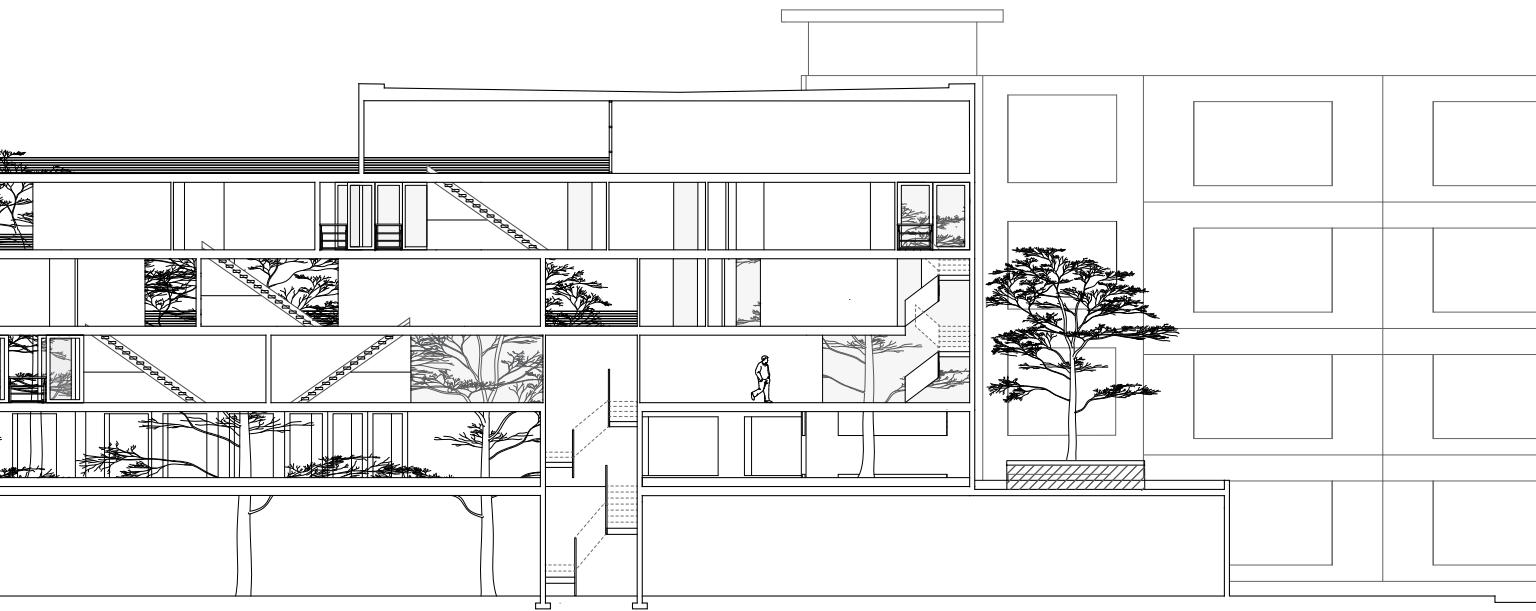


LONGITUDINAL SECTION CUT



TRANSVERSE SECTION CUT

This section highlights the aggregation of solid and transparent walls through one of the housing bars on the site. The aggregation defines housing apartments.



enriches the facade of the bar and combats the surrounding monotonous facades of the high-density

# MIA ABULENCIA

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631.697.4465  
AUSTIN, TEXAS

## EDUCATION

### UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

FALL 2022 - SPRING 2025

Master's of Architecture, Spring 2025

### UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

FALL 2018 - SPRING 2022

Bachelor's of Arts in Environmental Science  
Minor in Urban and Environmental Planning

## INVOLVEMENT

### DIVISION I TRACK AND FIELD

CAPTAIN | AUGUST 2018 - MAY 2022

Captain and member of the University of Virginia  
Women's Track and Field team

### STUDENT-ATHLETE LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

MEMBER | AUGUST 2019 - MAY 2022

## AWARDS + HONORS

UT International Education Scholarship | 2025

SOA Emerging Technologies Scholarship | 2025

Design Excellence Nominee | 2024

All ACC Academic Honor Roll | 2018-2022

## SKILLS

Rhino	Revit	AutoCAD
Photoshop	Hand Modeling	ArcGIS
InDesign	Laser Cutting	Microsoft Office
Illustrator	3D Printing	Enscape

## EXPERIENCE

### CAREER SERVICES AT UTSOA

GRADUATE ASSISTANT | JANUARY 2024 - PRESENT

Provides job and application advice to students, coordinates workshops, posts jobs, and tracks alumni placement.

Hosts meet and greets with local firms and AIA representatives.

### CHRISTINA COLE STUDIO

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE INTERN | MAY - AUGUST 2024

Worked closely with the project manager to produce 2D plans, elevation drawings, and diagrams, contributing to the completion of final drawing sets for multiple projects.

Communicated with vendors and clients to coordinate the final purchasing phase for each project.

### TECHNOLOGY LAB AT UTSOA

MANAGING TECHNICIAN | AUGUST - DECEMBER 2023

Consulted and managed fabrication equipment such as laser cutters, plotters and 3D printers while troubleshooting school wide technological issues.

Instructed faculty and students on proper practices and effective strategies for operating fabrication equipment.

### CHRISTINA COLE STUDIO

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE INTERN | MAY - AUGUST 2023

Collaborated on custom furniture design projects and worked in concept board development.

Assisted on 2D plan and elevation drawings, gathered pricing, managed sample procurement, corresponded with vendors and attended off site visits and meetings with clients.

### WELL ROOM MEDICAL SPA

EMPLOYEE | JANUARY - MAY 2022

### PRIME: AN AMERICAN KITCHEN

HOSTESS | SUMMERS, 2019 - 2021