

An abstract watercolor artwork on the left side of the page. It features a mix of warm colors like orange, brown, and tan, and cooler colors like blue and grey. The edges are irregular and textured, suggesting a layered or torn paper effect.

SABRINA ELLISON

**M.ARCH 2
PORTFOLIO
2023-2025**

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
INSTITUTE OF
ARCHITECTURE**



SABRINA ELLISON

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**M.ARCH 2
PORTFOLIO
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ARCHITECTURE**



STATEMENT

My work lives at the intersection of visual storytelling, digital experimentation, and material sensitivity. Over the past two years at SCI-Arc, I've used architecture as a medium to question how we experience space. Not just through form or function, but through layers of perception, contradiction, and emotion.

This portfolio brings together a range of explorations, from community-centered design and ecological systems to scenographic worlds, AI-driven narratives, and tactile studies. Across these projects, I'm drawn to friction, between image and reality, body and interface, memory and material. I'm especially interested in how spatial narratives can hold multiple truths at once, sometimes destabilizing, sometimes grounding.

While some of my recent work centers on sensory misalignment and inclusive design, this collection reflects a broader interest in spaces that sit at the edge of architecture, media, and performance. Whether working through set design, digital collage, or speculative fiction, I aim to create environments that unsettle expectations and invite layered forms of engagement.

Rather than offering one fixed idea of space, this portfolio maps an evolving practice. Curious, critical, and always attuned to the felt experience of design.



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CARVING PATH

2GAX: Computational Design Studio I

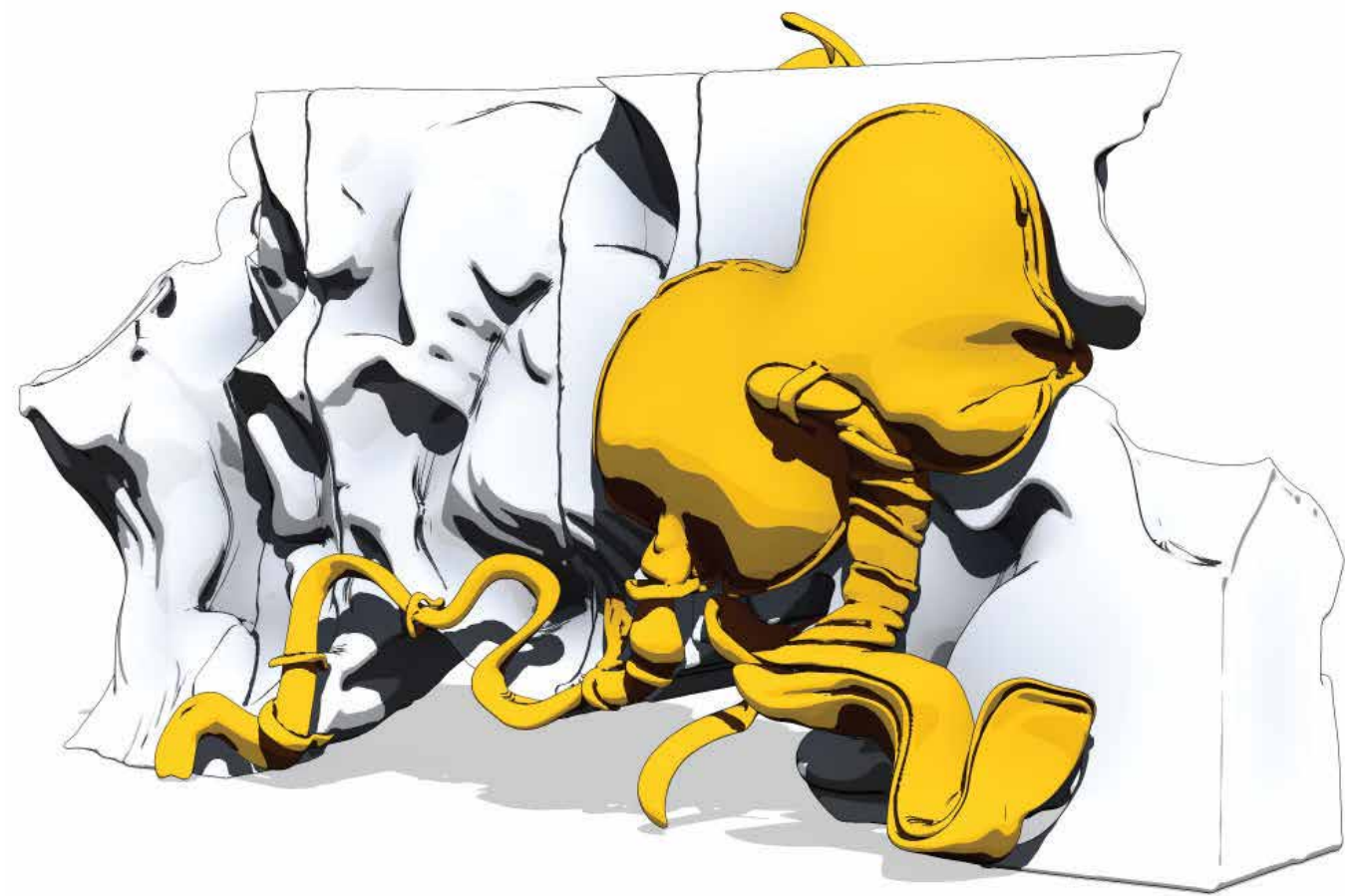
FALL 2023

INSTRUCTOR: William Virgil

PARTNER: Karlson Ty

PERSPECTIVE RENDER





PERSPECTIVE OF FORM STUDY

Our project at Lincoln Heights Jail, inspired by Homeboy Industries, reimagines space as a dynamic interplay of form and function. Through careful study models and sculptural explorations, we crafted a design that respects the site's history while embracing transformative potential. By adapting to existing architectural features and integrating elements like color-shifting patina and

innovative vertical farming, we create a welcoming yet impactful environment. Our project fosters community engagement, sustainability, and healing, embodying the ethos of Homeboy Industries as a space of inclusion, forgiveness, and refuge.



FORM CREATED USING BUG PARTS



EXPLODED ISOMETRIC OF FORM STUDY

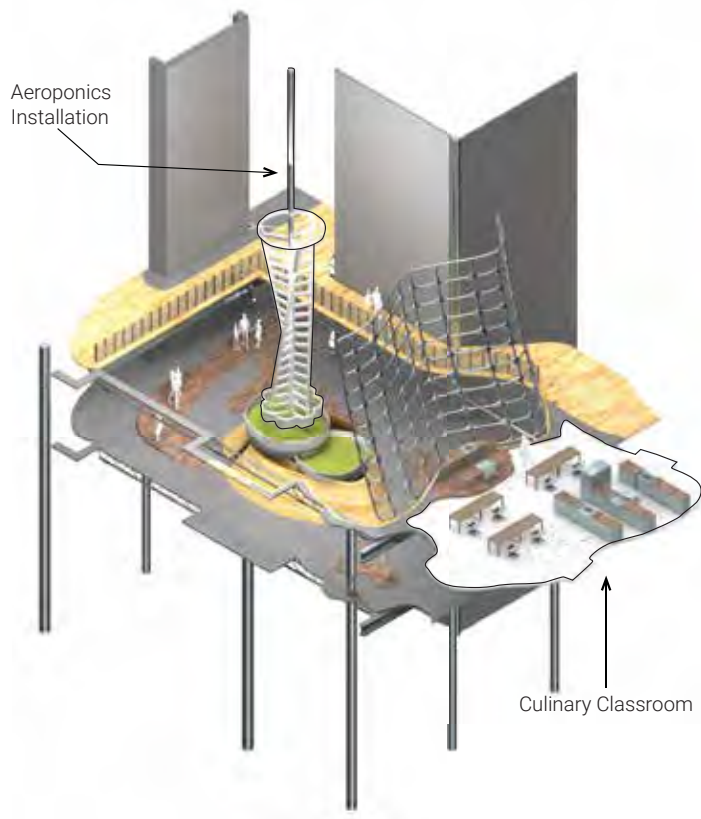


DIAGRAM OF AEROPONICS INSTALLATION

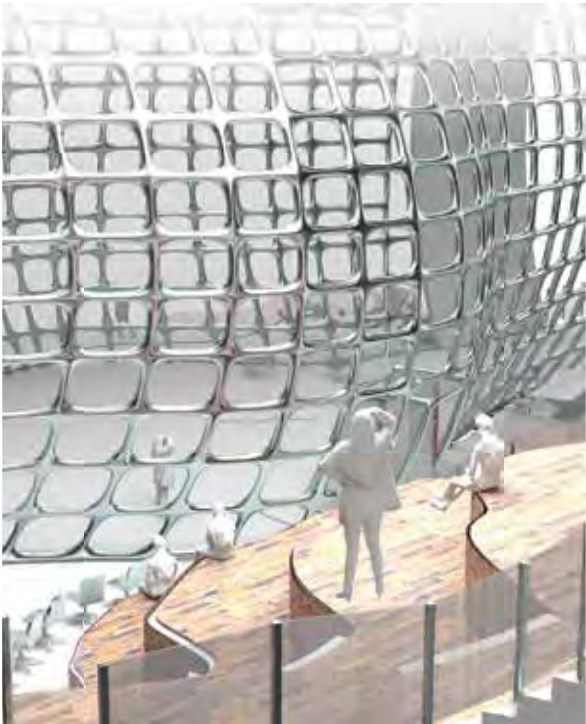
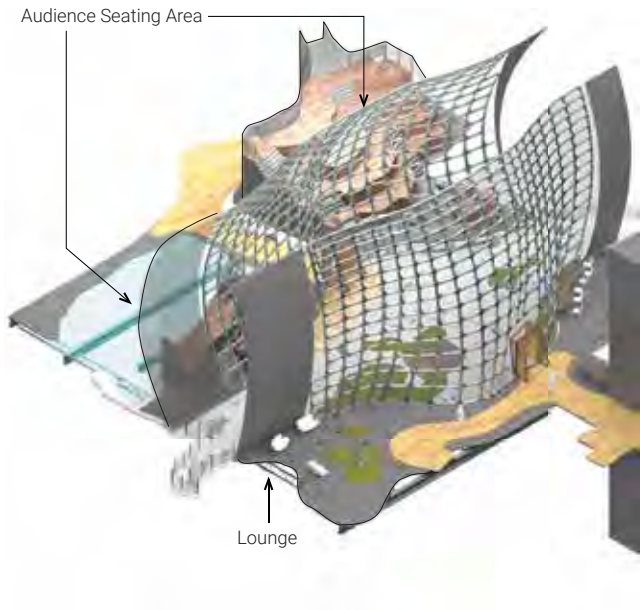


DIAGRAM OF CARVING PATH

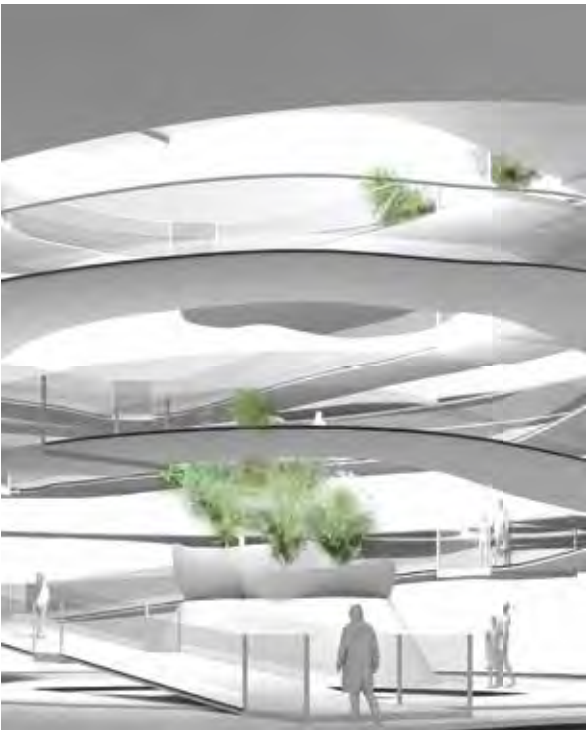
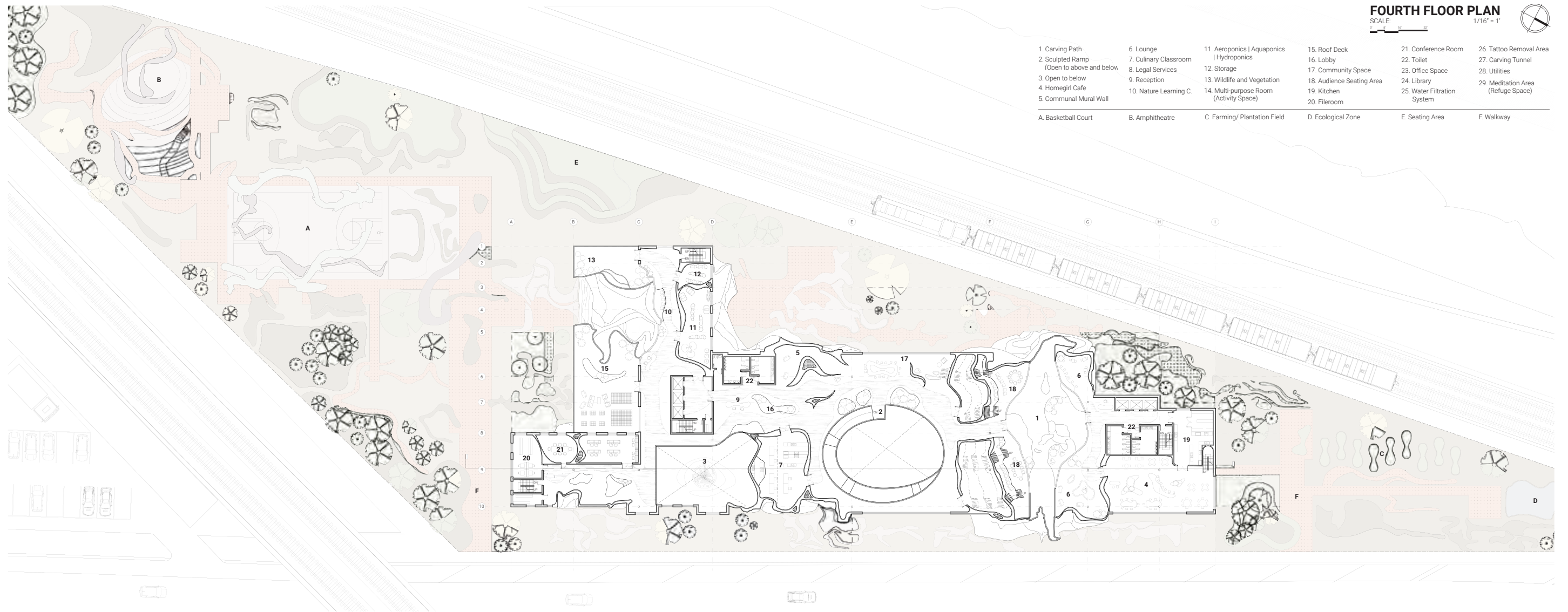
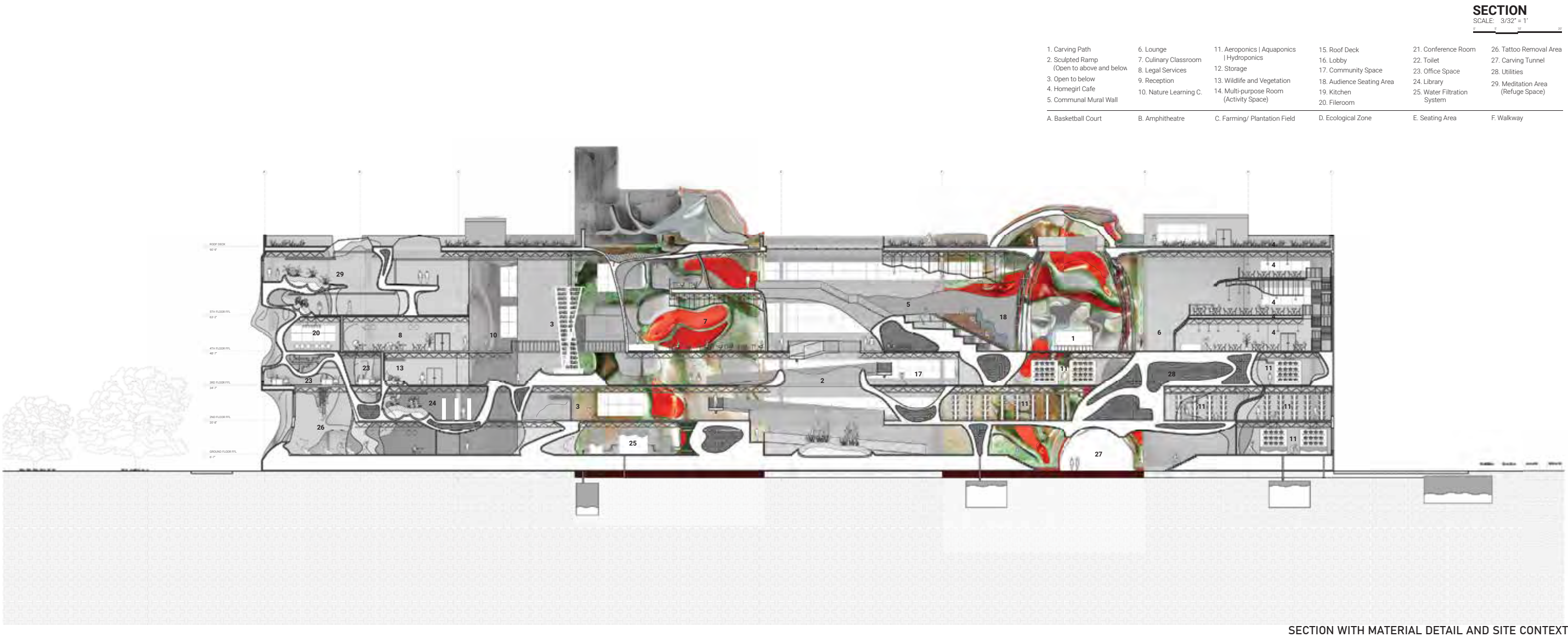


DIAGRAM OF SCULPTED RAMP



FOURTH FLOOR PLAN WITH GROUND CONTEXT





DETAIL PHOTO OF FORM STUDY MODEL



BACK ELEVATION OF FORM STUDY MODEL



FRONT ELEVATION OF FORM STUDY MODEL



PERSPECTIVE PHOTO OF FORM STUDY MODEL



BACK ELEVATION OF FORM STUDY MODEL



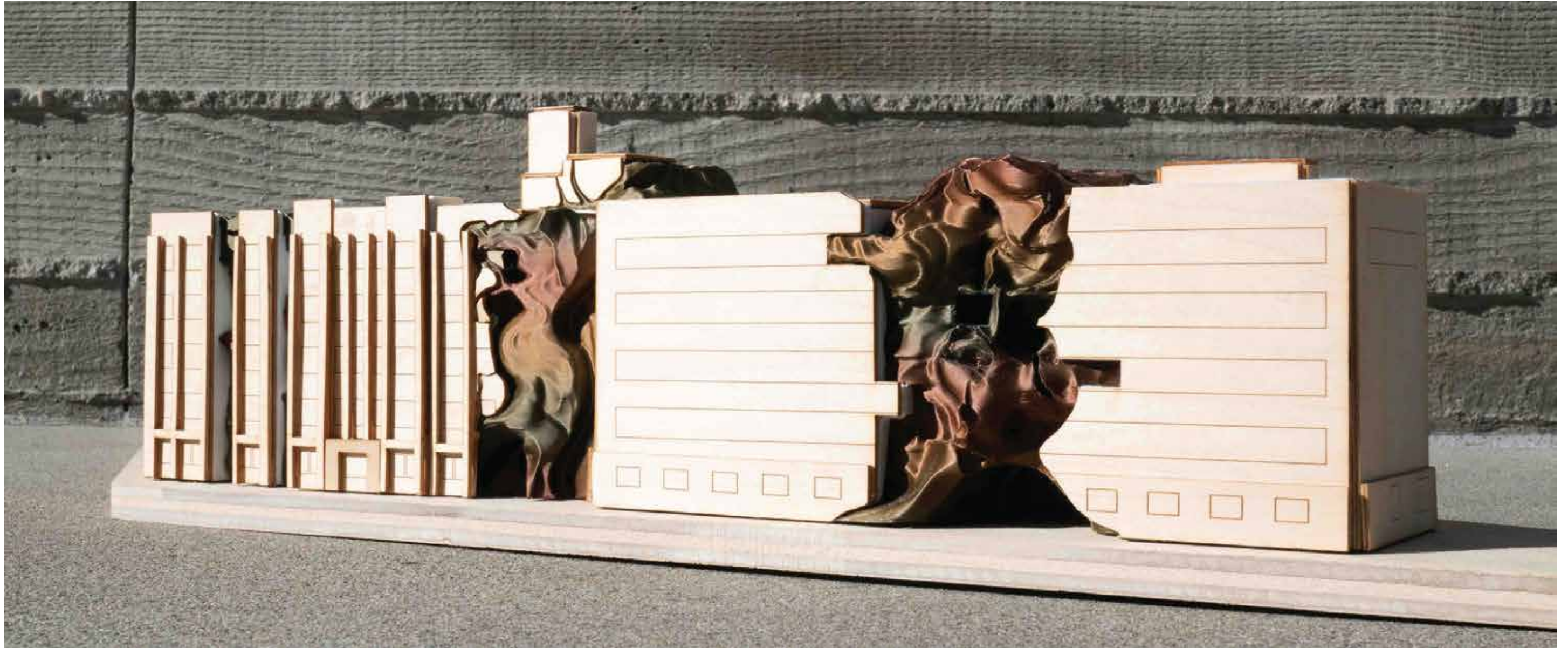
FRONT ELEVATION OF FORM STUDY MODEL



DETAIL PHOTO OF FORM STUDY MODEL



PERSPECTIVE PHOTO OF FORM STUDY MODEL



PERSPECTIVE PHOTO OF FINAL MODEL



PERSPECTIVE PHOTO OF FINAL MODEL



FRONT DETAIL ELEVATION OF FINAL MODEL

Our design embraces sustainability through vertical farming systems and a rainwater collection system, promoting ecological resilience and community stewardship. These initiatives serve as educational opportunities and sources of fresh food for the community. We integrated existing architectural features through the facade, preserving the site's essence while introducing subtle interventions to redefine its purpose. The

interplay of voids, geometry, and materiality symbolizes resilience and transformation, echoing Homeboy Industries' mission of inclusion and acceptance. In summary, our project embodies the transformative potential of architecture as a catalyst for social change. Rooted in principles of inclusivity and forgiveness, it offers a sanctuary for healing and renewal, echoing the ethos of Homeboy Industries as a beacon of hope and resilience.



PERSPECTIVE PHOTO OF FINAL MODEL



TOP RENDER



FRONT RENDER



PERSPECTIVE RENDER

algaeNESIS

2GBX: Computational Design Studio II

SPRING 2024

INSTRUCTOR: Herwig Baumgartner

PARTNER: Sagar Ratnani

PERSPECTIVE RENDER OF GROUND

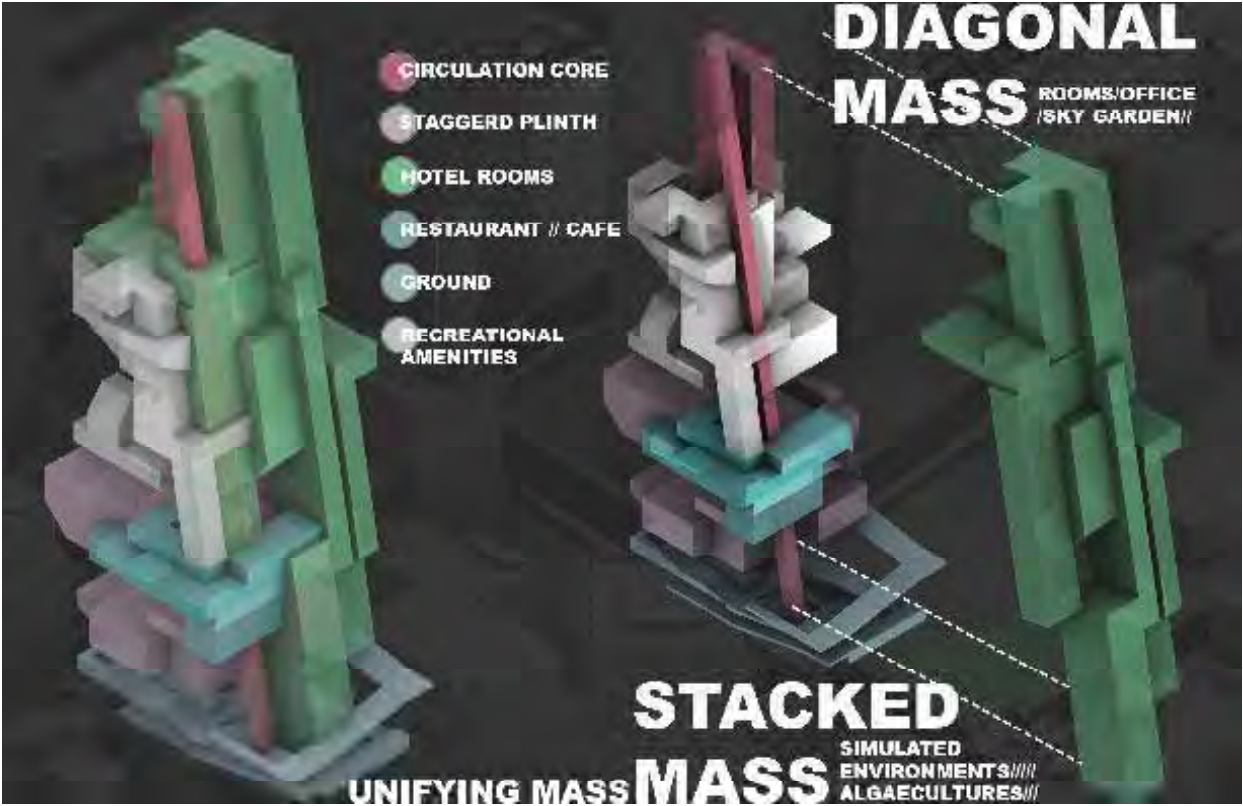




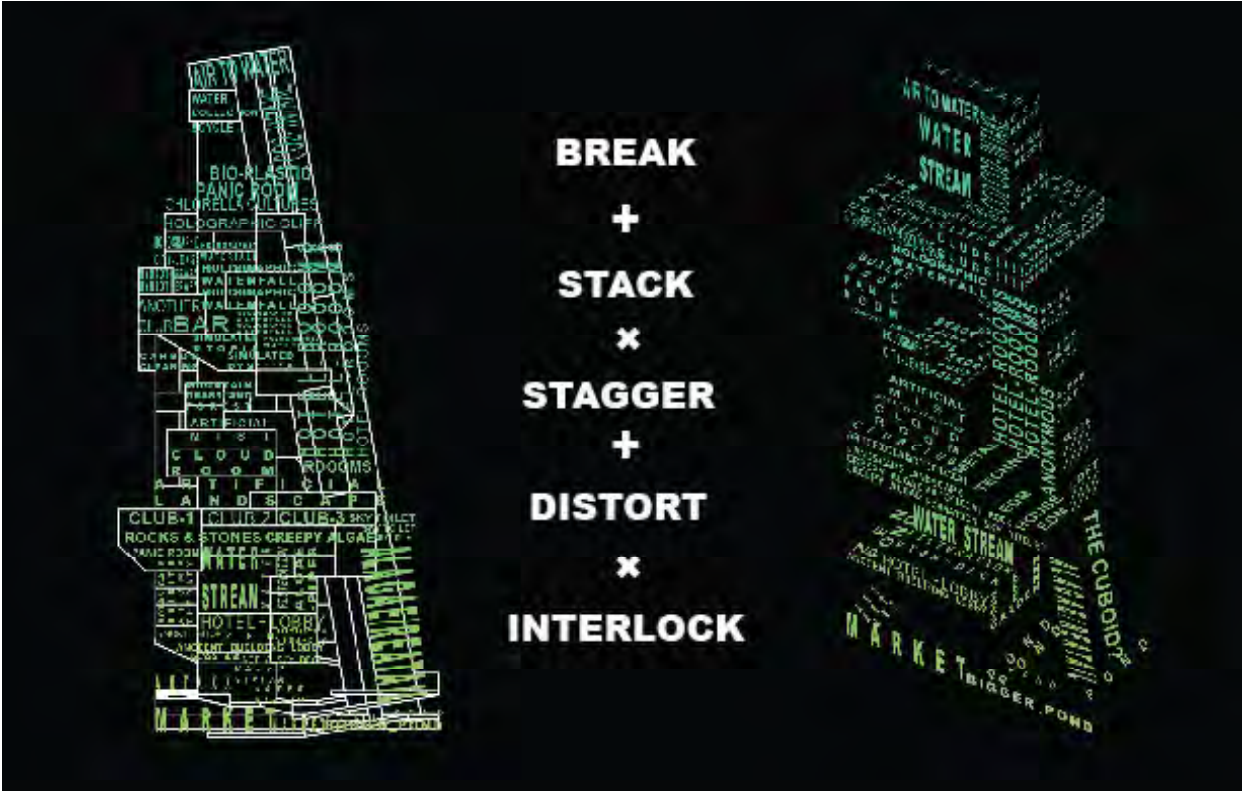
SITE INFORMATION

Situated at the prominent intersection of W 5th Street and S Grand Ave in Los Angeles, the Gas Company Tower redevelopment project led by Sagar and Sabrina aims to reimagine the urban landscape. By conserving and repurposing the tower's core, the project seeks to attract the public from neighboring landmarks such as the Los Angeles Public Library and Pershing Square. The innovative design integrates hospitality and sustainability concepts, blending natural elements with artificial environments to

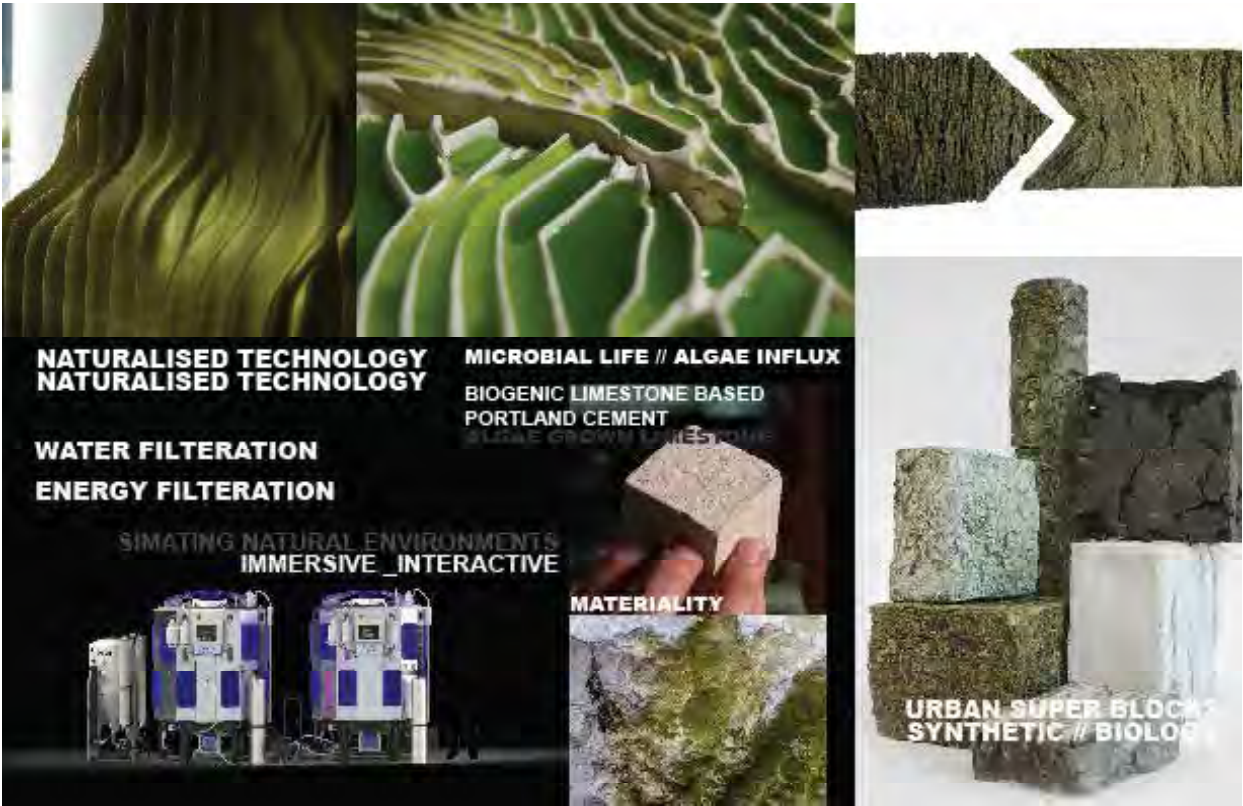
create a unique immersive experience. Through a carefully crafted program that includes event spaces and relaxation areas, the project caters to diverse needs, whether for work or leisure. Sustainability lies at the heart of the project, utilizing algae and water to generate energy and improve air quality, while also implementing eco-friendly building materials. Algae sourced from live cultures will be grown and harvested for energy production, complemented by water collection and reuse systems.



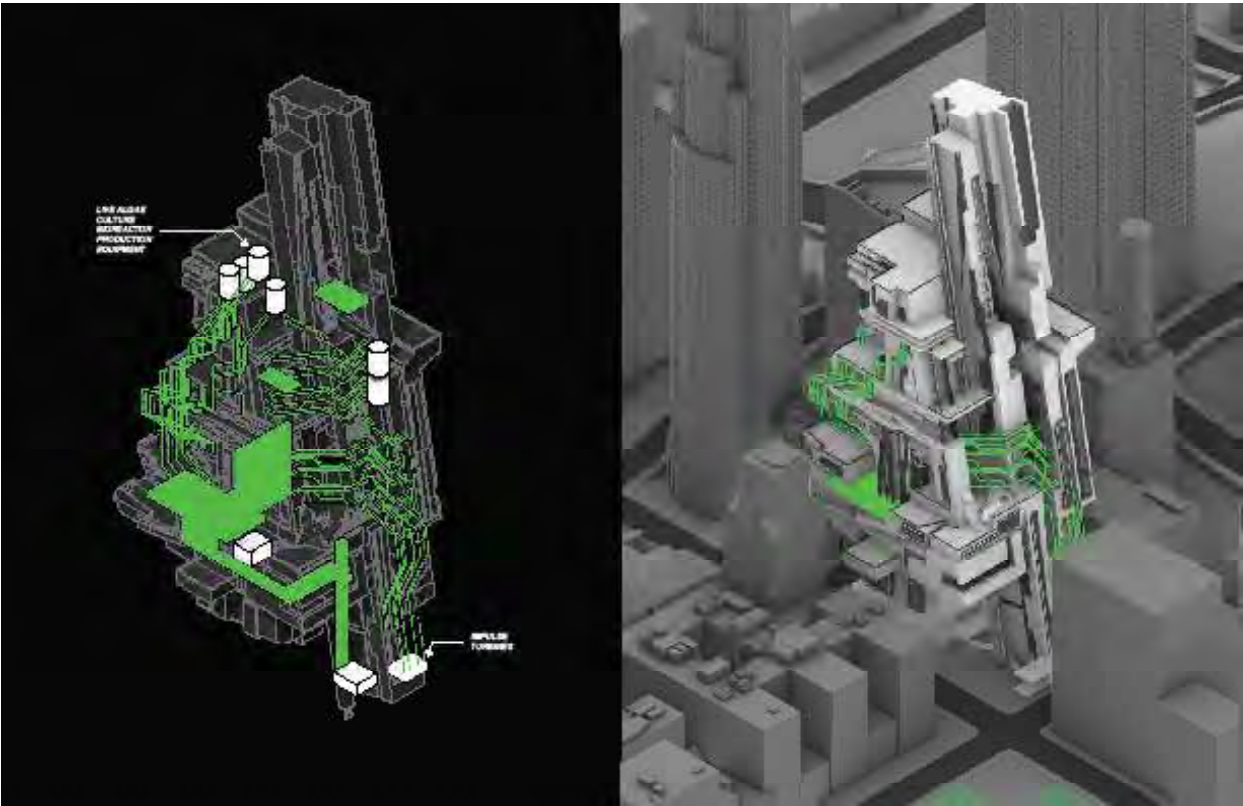
PROGRAM DIAGRAM



PROGRAM DIAGRAM



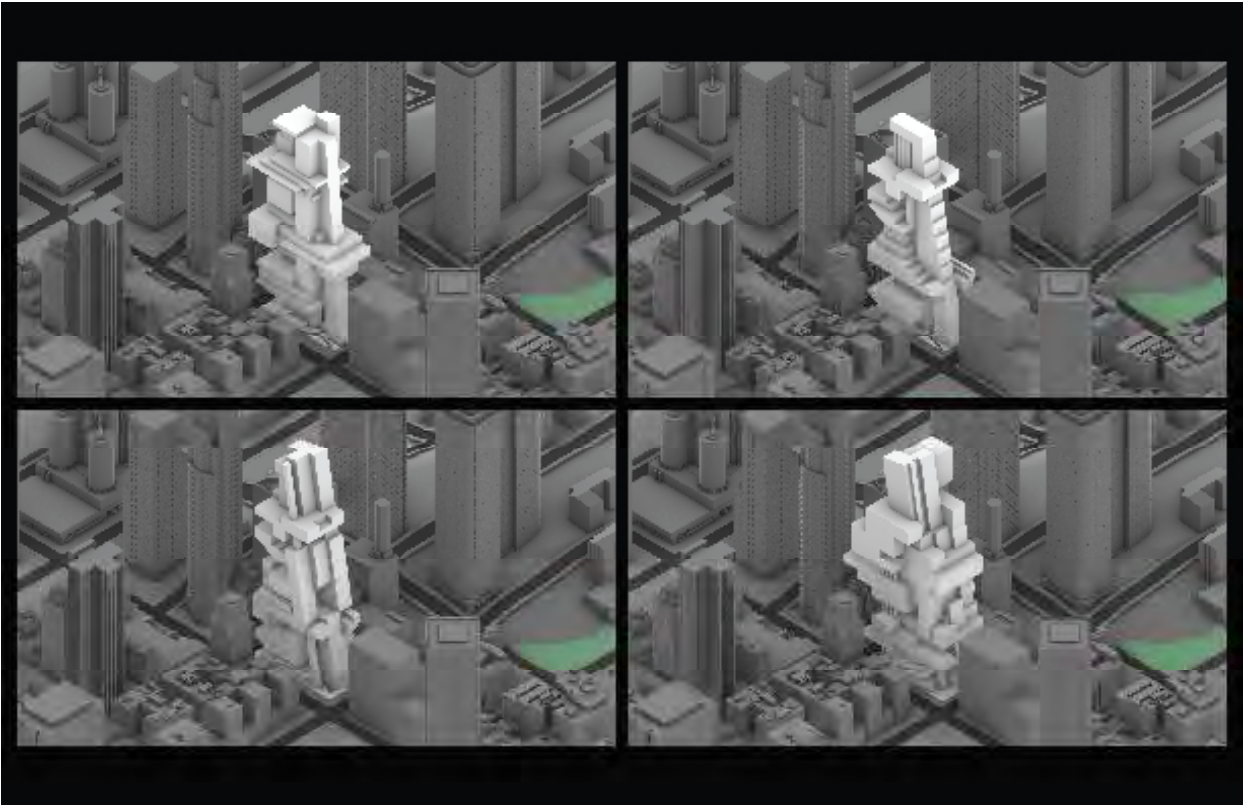
SUSTAINABILITY GRAPHIC



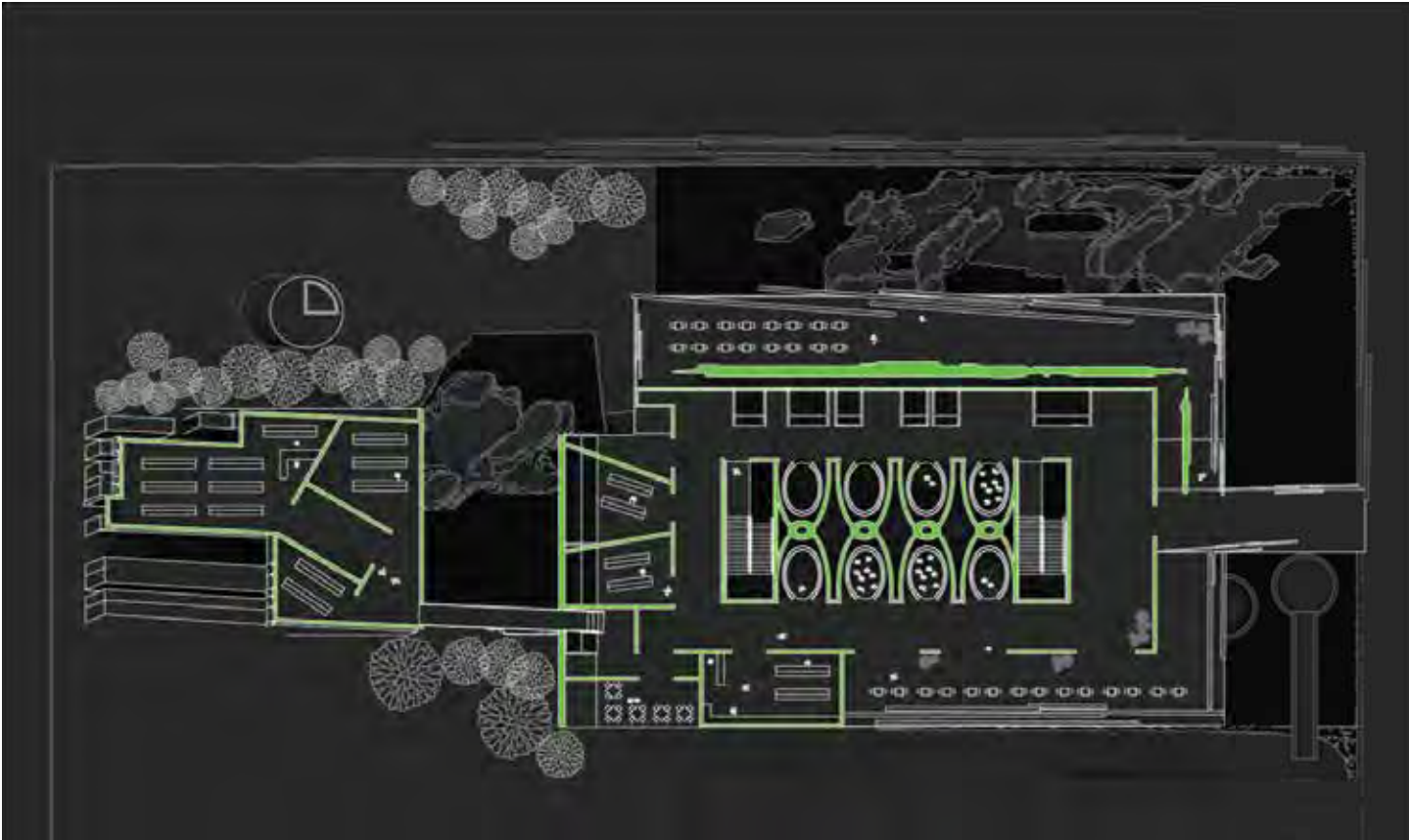
ALGAE/WATER SYSTEM DIAGRAM



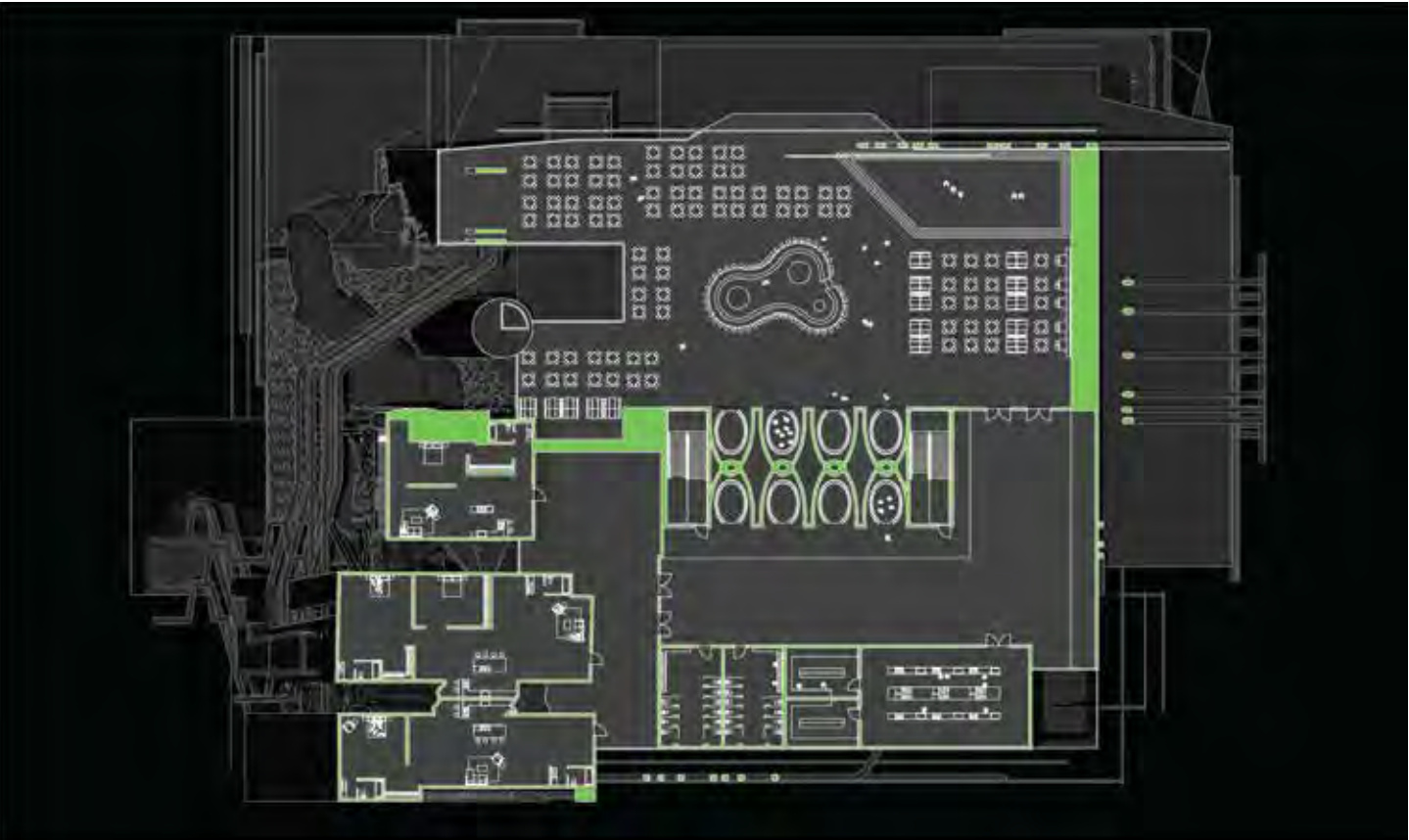
HOSPITALITY GRAPHIC



MASSING ITERATIONS



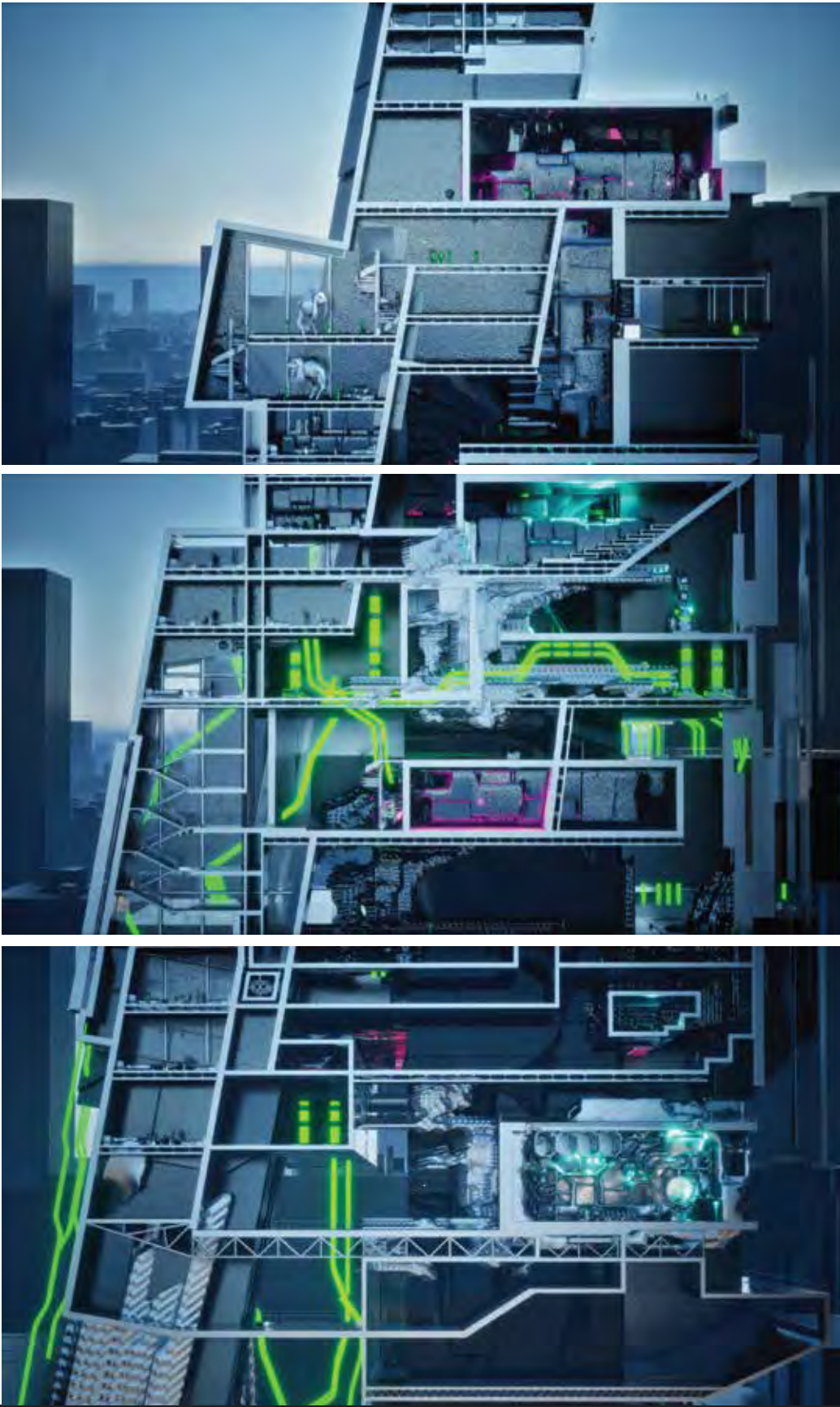
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



PLINTH FLOOR PLAN



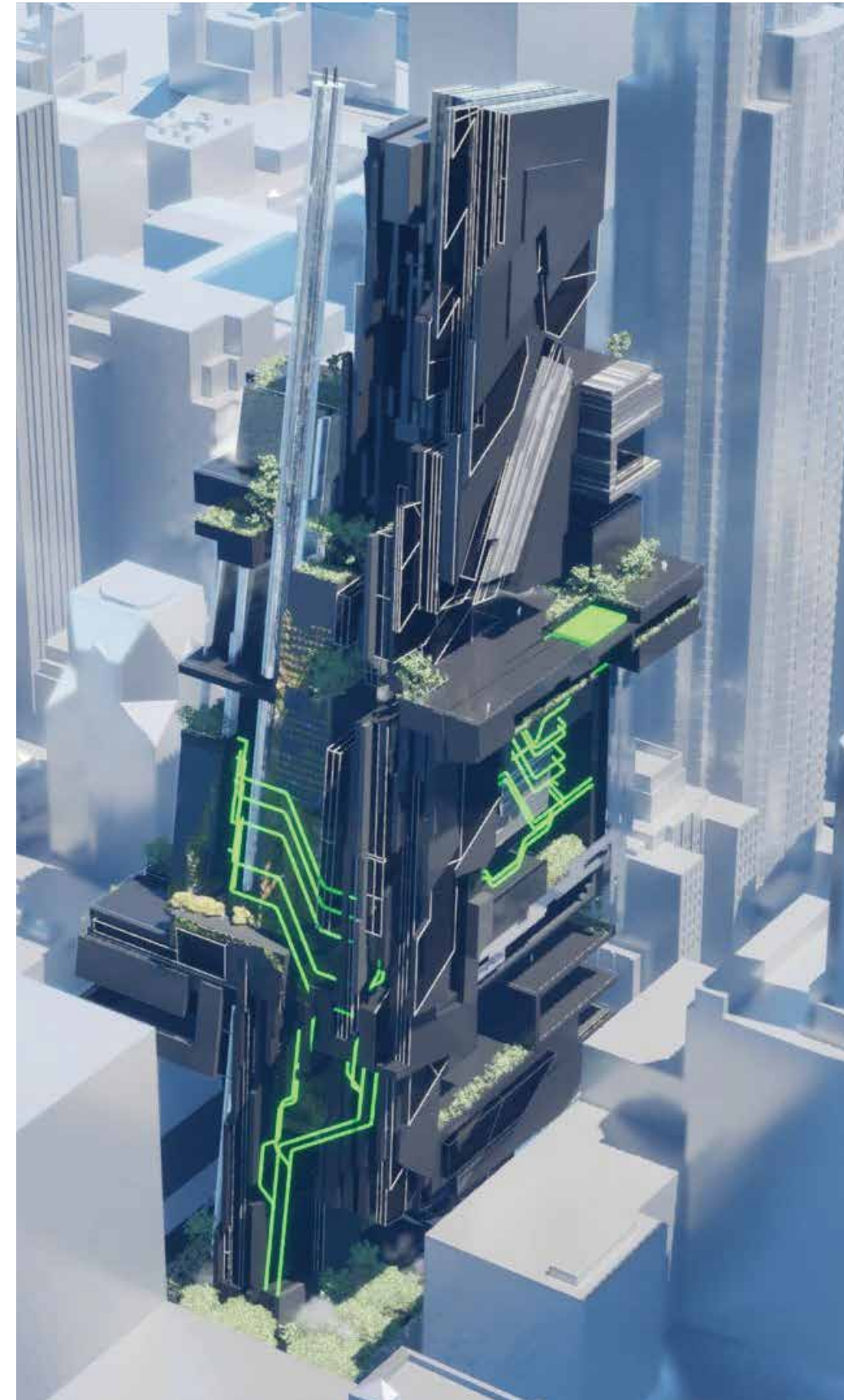
SECTION



RENDERED SECTION



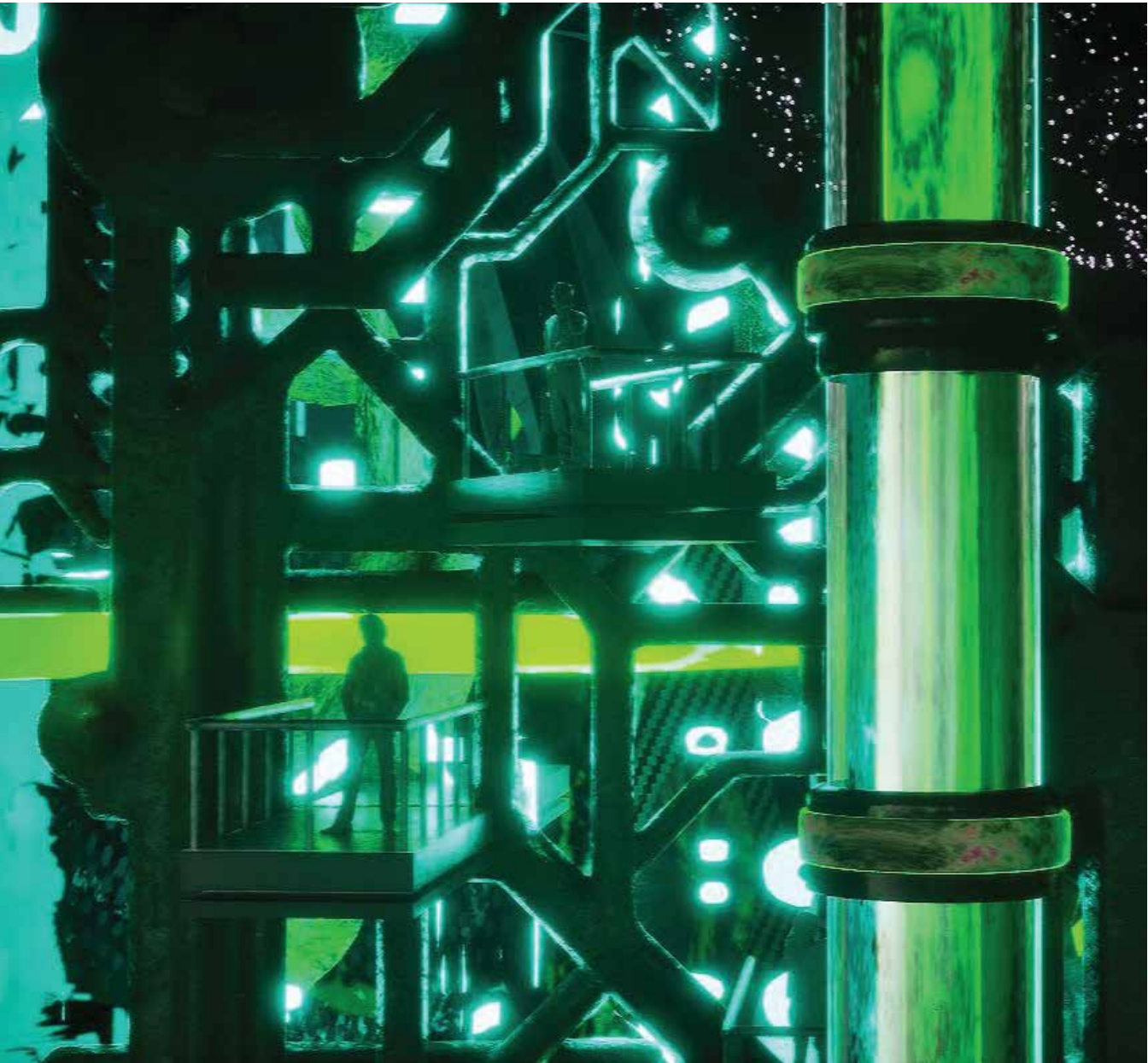
ELEVATION RENDER



PERSPECTIVE RENDER



PERSPECTIVE RENDER OF GROUND



PERSPECTIVE RENDER OF PLINTH

By leveraging its strategic location and sustainable design principles, the project aims to extend the public space and guide visitors to explore captivating artificial landscapes on the raised plinth. The project's

main points focus on integrating with the surrounding park, merging the ground plane to create an extended public space, and guiding guests to delve into the immersive environments crafted within the tower.



PERSPECTIVE RENDER OF GROUND



PERSPECTIVE RENDER OF PLINTH



PERSPECTIVE RENDER OF PLINTH

ULTRAVIOLET

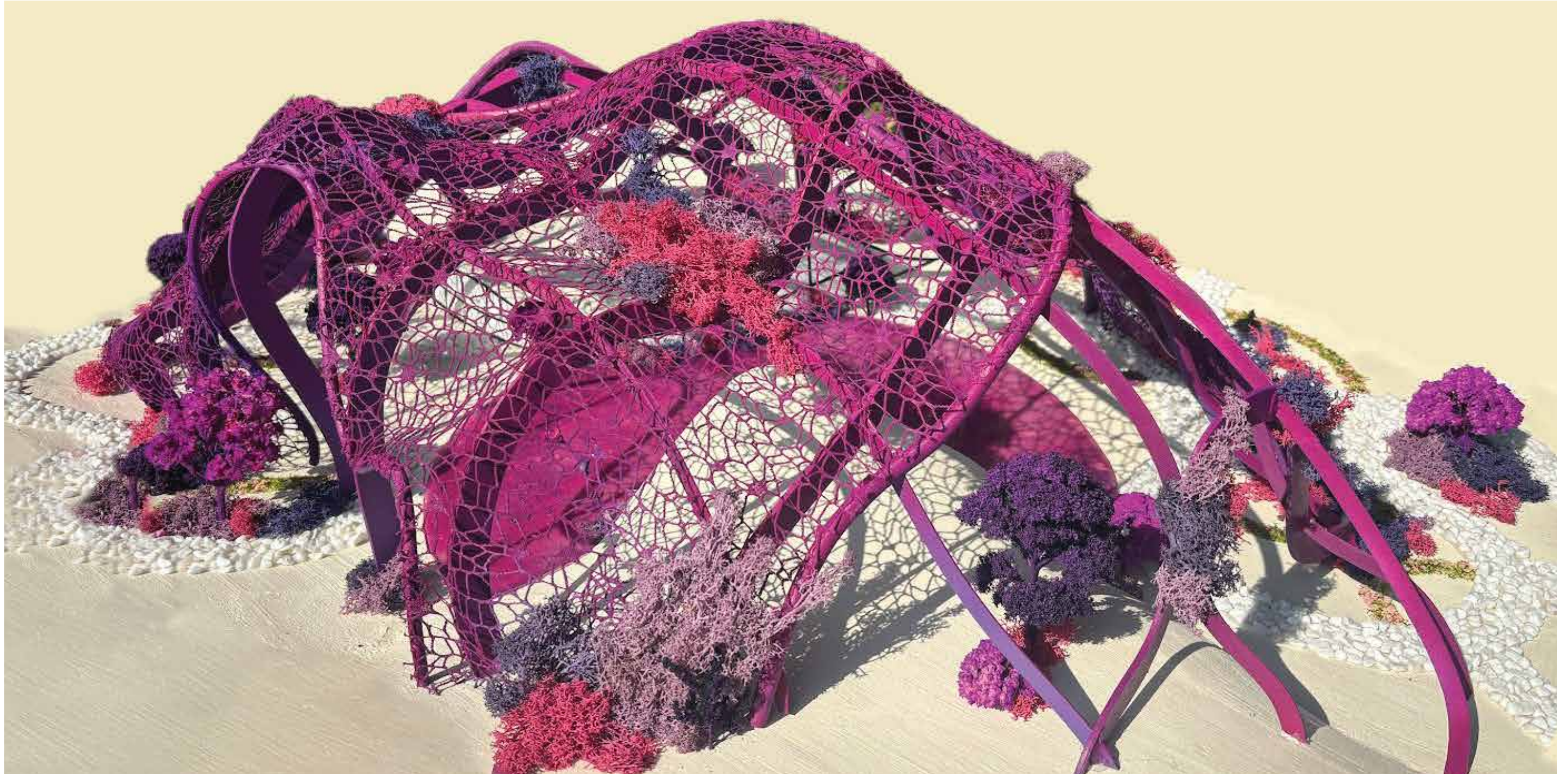
3GAX: DS Vertical Studio

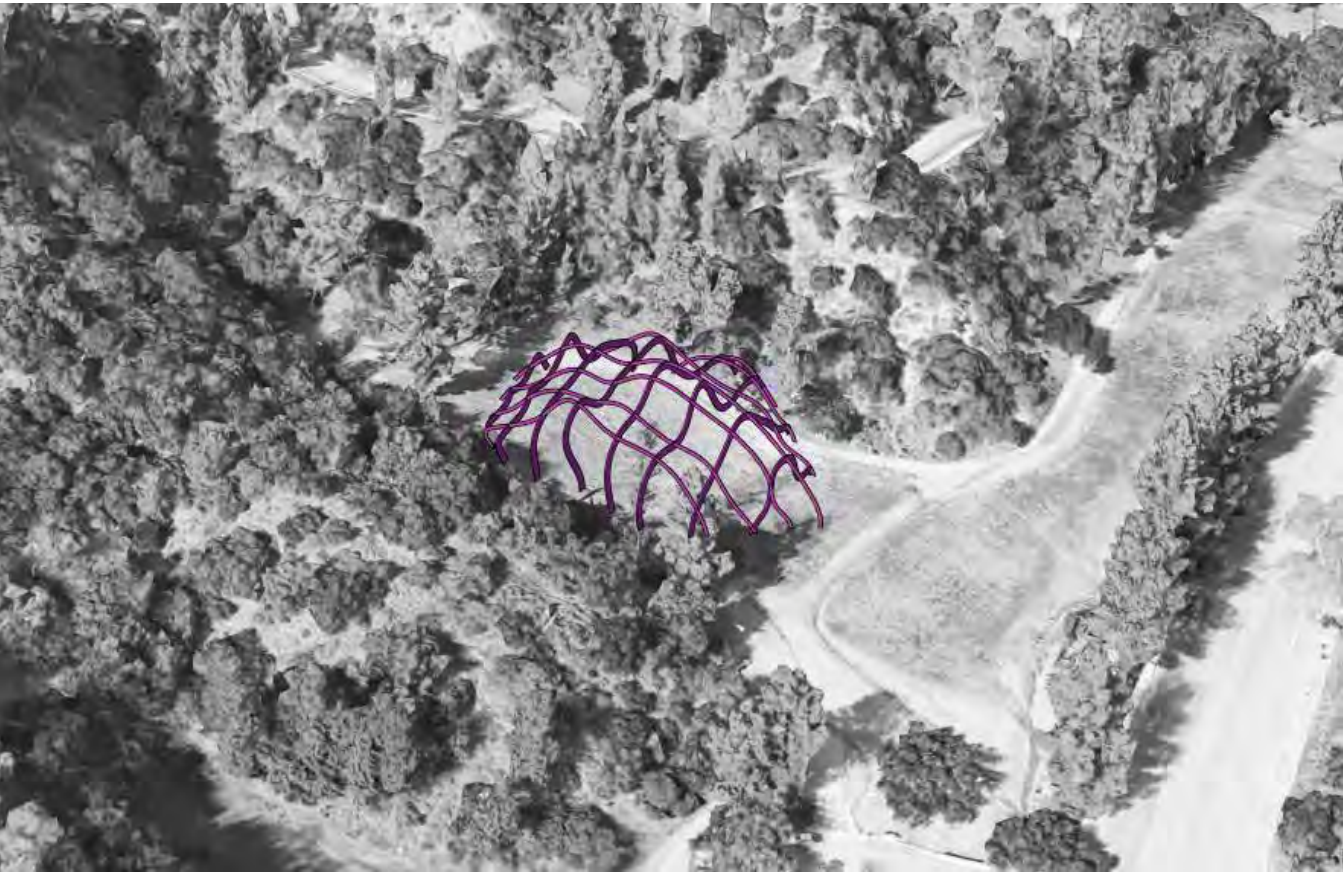
FALL 2024

INSTRUCTOR: Jackilin Bloom

PARTNER: Carissa Auth

EXTERIOR PERSPECTIVE PHOTO OF MODEL





SITE ISOMETRIC

Situated in the dynamic landscape of Griffith Park, this aviary project examines the intersection of architecture, ecology, and ultraviolet light—a spectrum integral to hummingbird vision. Designed to harmonize with the park’s mountainous terrain and diverse wildlife, the aviary fosters a symbiotic relationship between humans and nature.

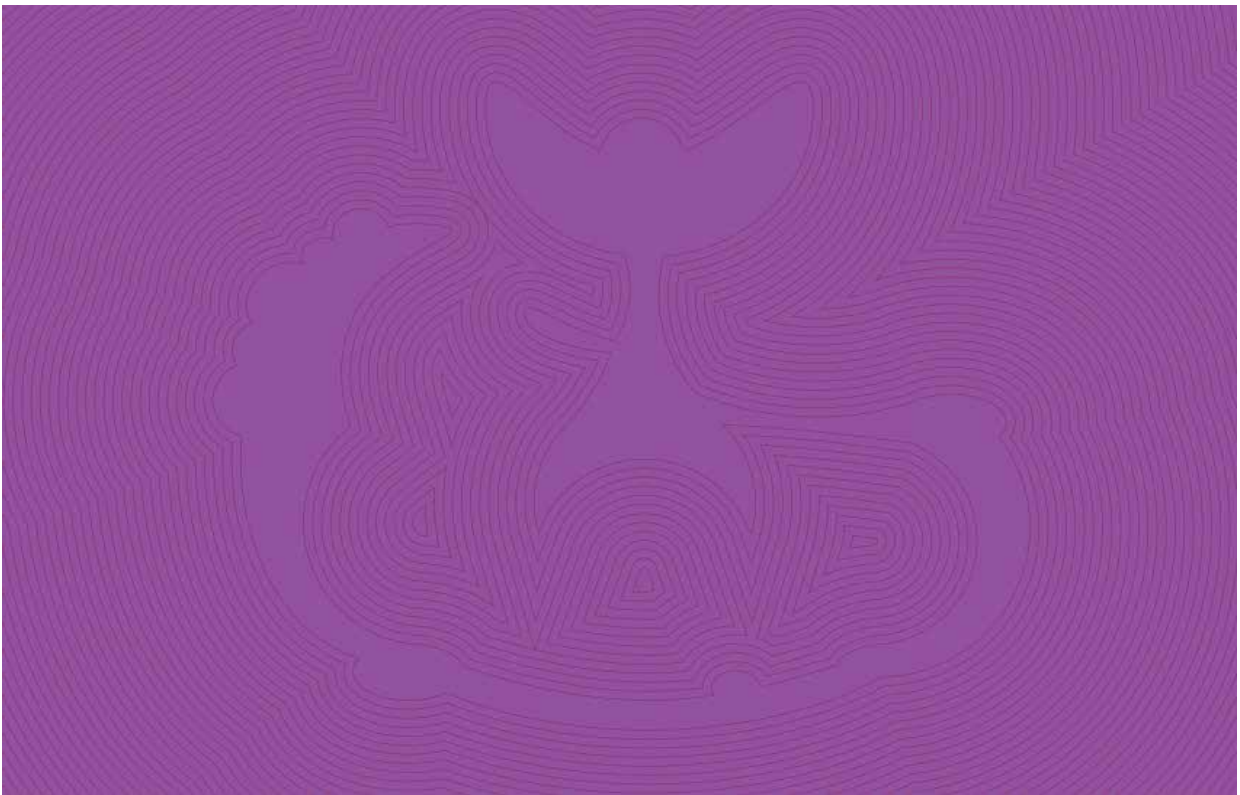
The landscape incorporates meandering lines, forming intersections that symbolize convergence points of coexistence. UV-

inspired colors accentuate elements to attract pollinators, while the mesh framework supports a layered habitat where birds occupy the upper spaces and visitors interact below, under the landscape.

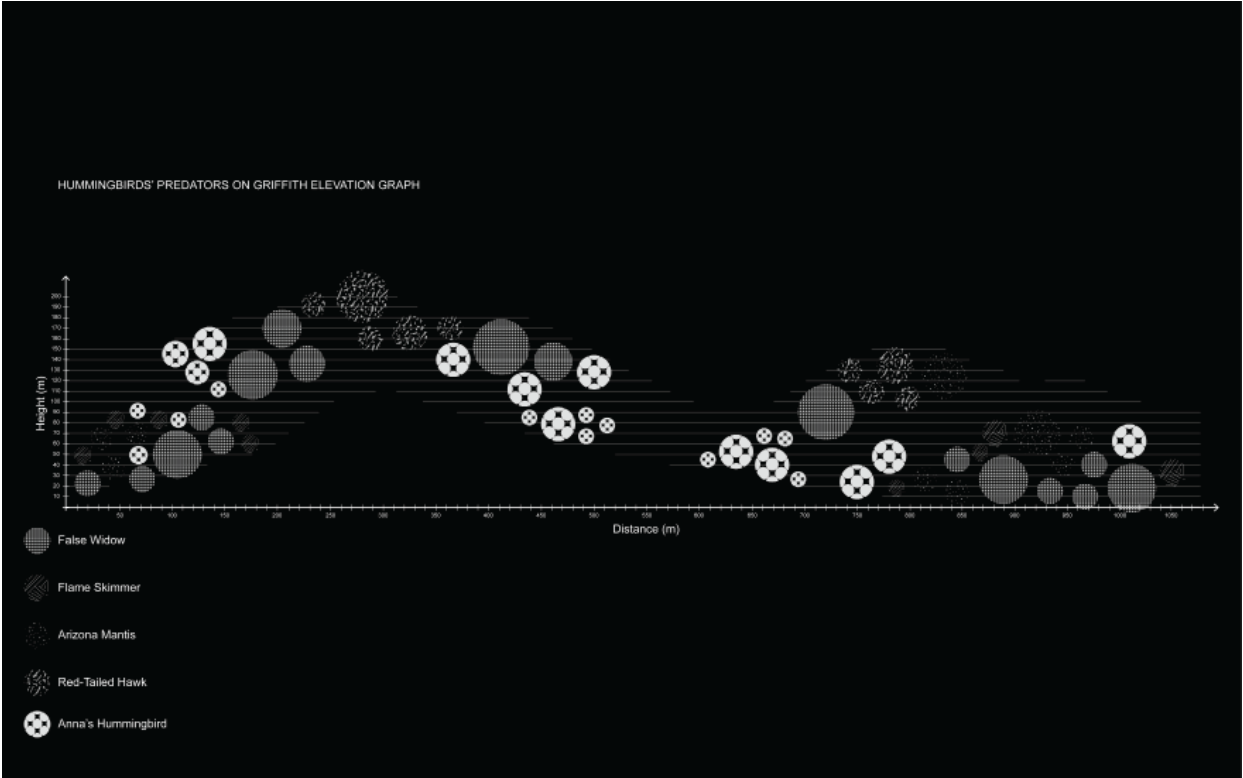
Key elements include native plant species such as golden currant and hollyleaf cherry, essential for the hummingbirds’ ecosystem. The aviary’s design celebrates their traits and life cycles, emphasizing sustainable coexistence and ecological balance.



MEANDERING LINE DIAGRAM



HUMMINGBIRD PREDATORS DIAGRAM



HUMMINGBIRD PREDATORS DIAGRAM



SPECIES ID CARDS



Golden Currant

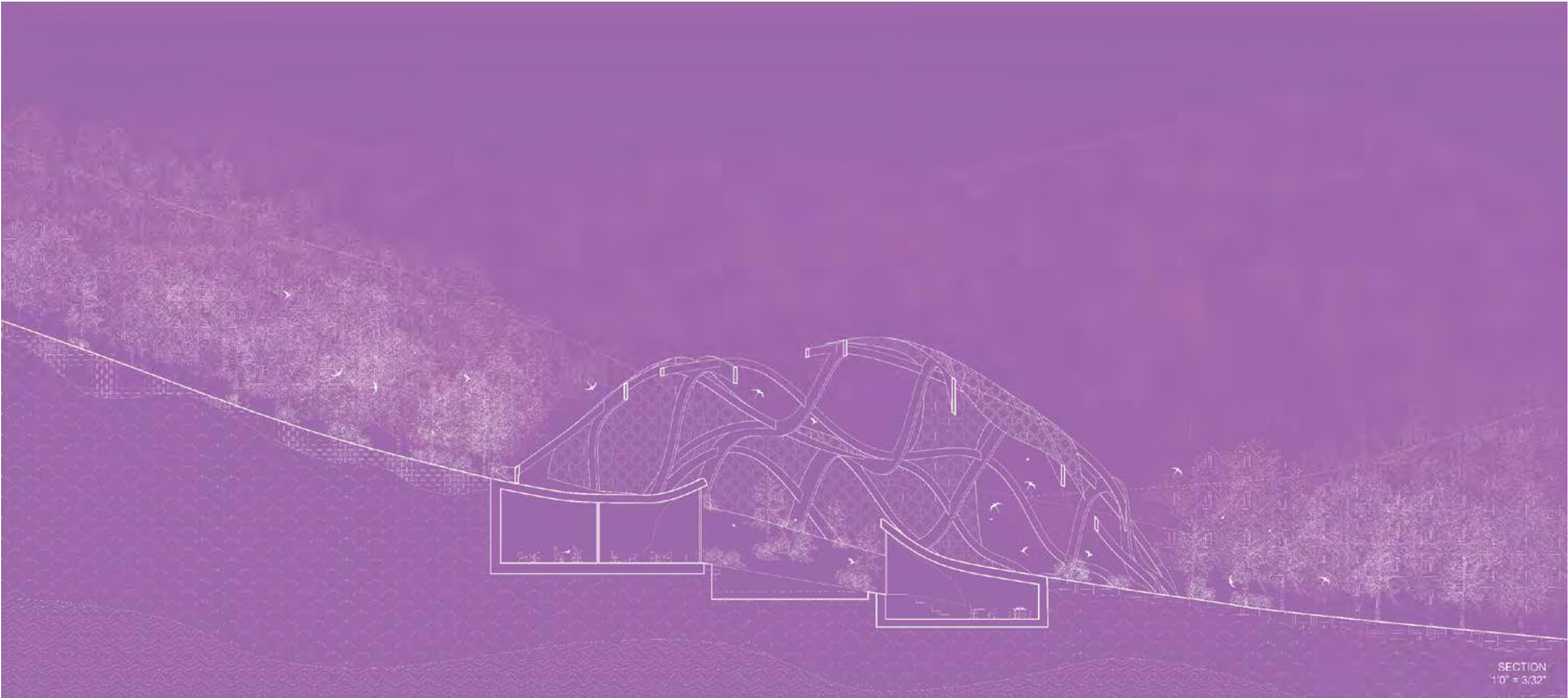
SPECIES ID CARDS

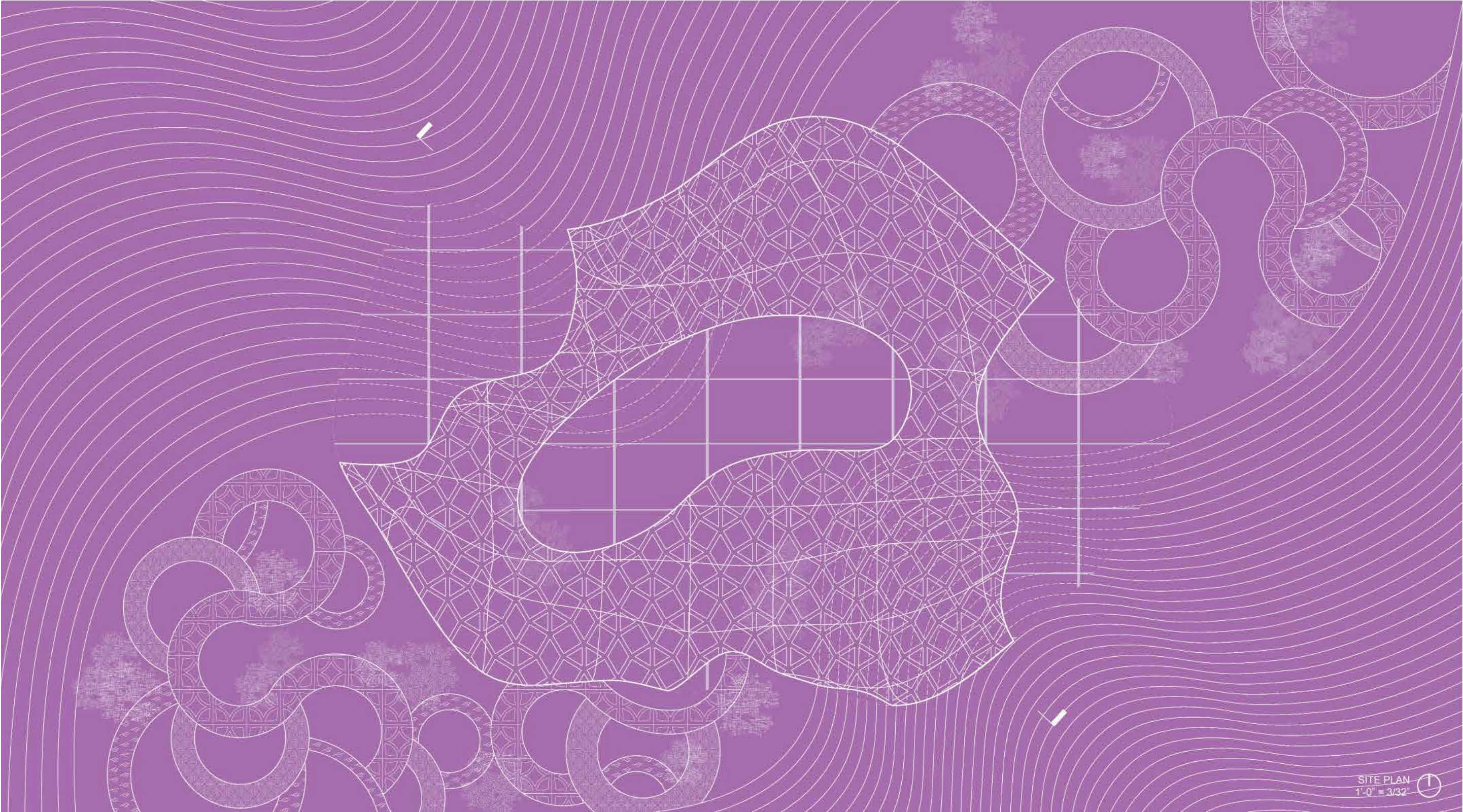


NATIVE PLANT SPECIES

Detailed plans highlight the park’s topography and accessible entrances, while sections reveal the interplay of paths, materials, and habitats. The result is a vibrant, living space that blurs the boundary between human

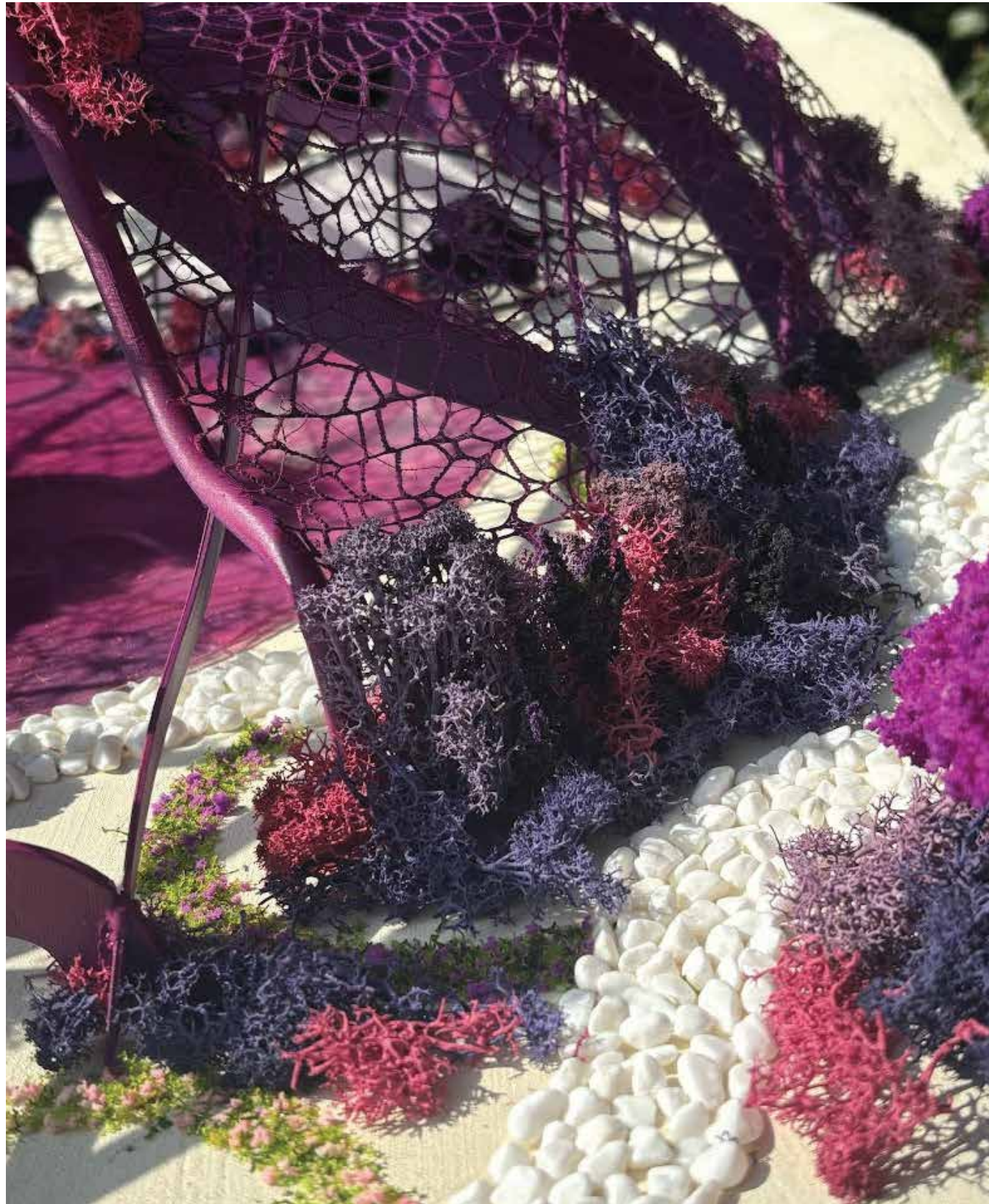
interaction and the natural world, honoring Griffith Park’s unique ecology and the enchanting nature of its smallest inhabitants.



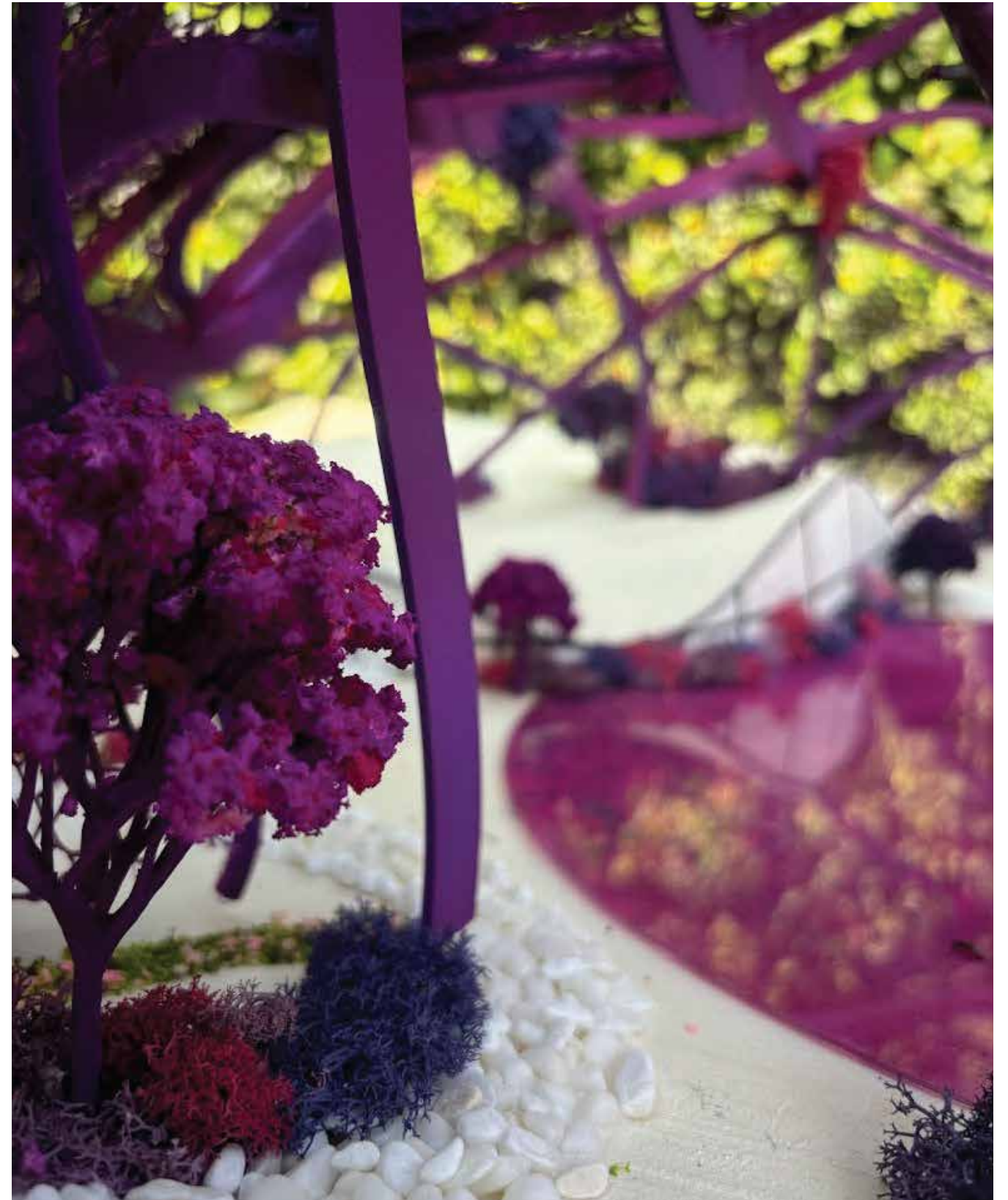




INTERIOR PERSPECTIVE PHOTO OF MODEL



EXTERIOR PERSPECTIVE PHOTO OF MODEL



INTERIOR PERSPECTIVE PHOTO OF MODEL

FLO DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

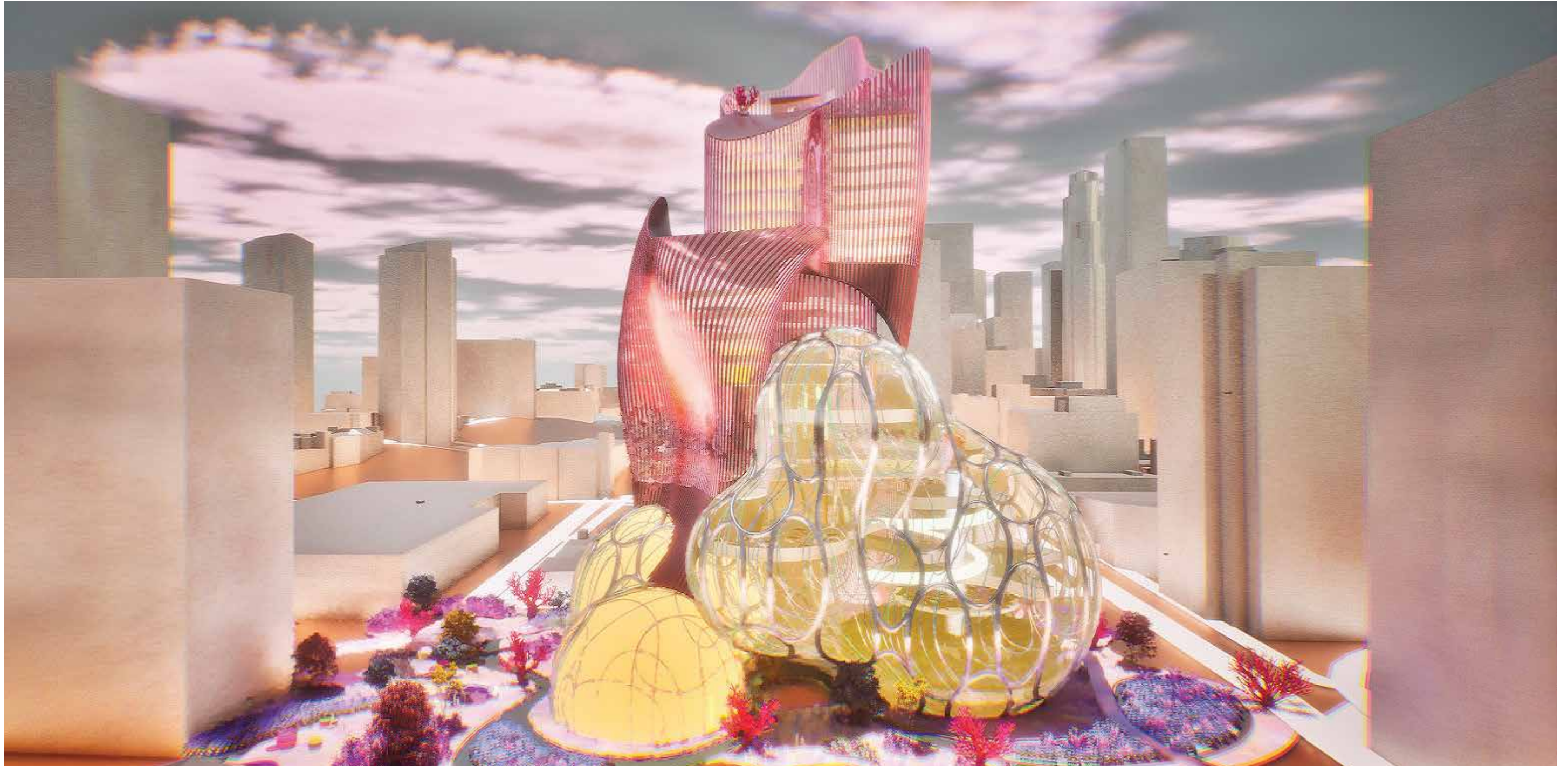
3GAX: AS Design Doc GR

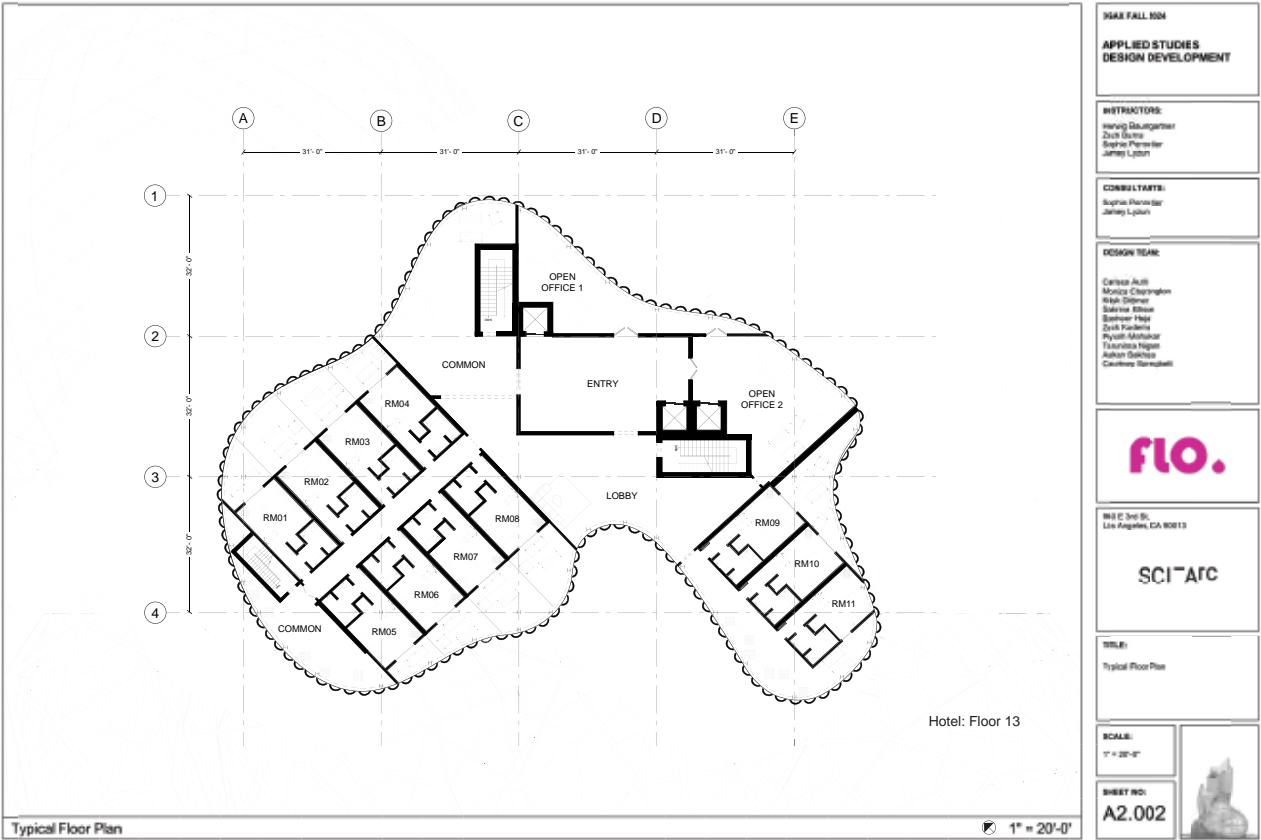
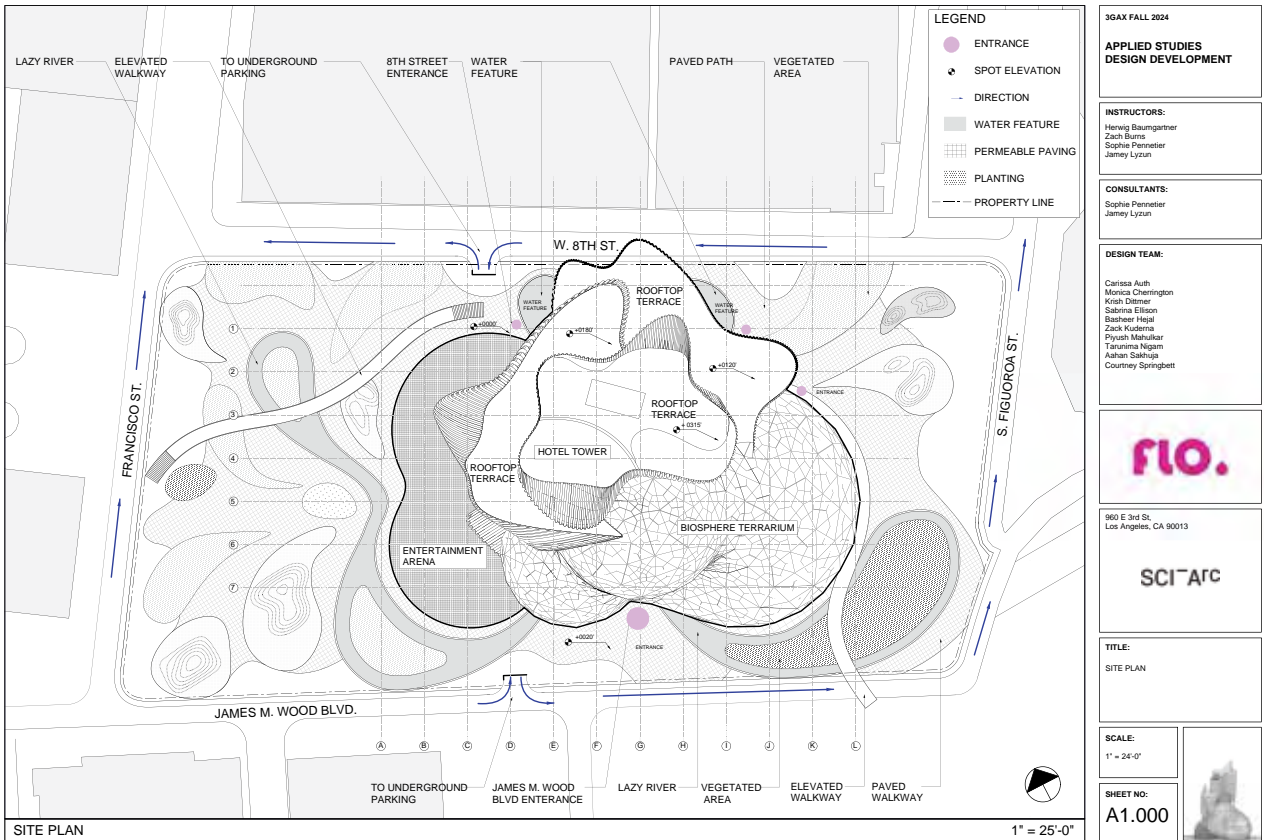
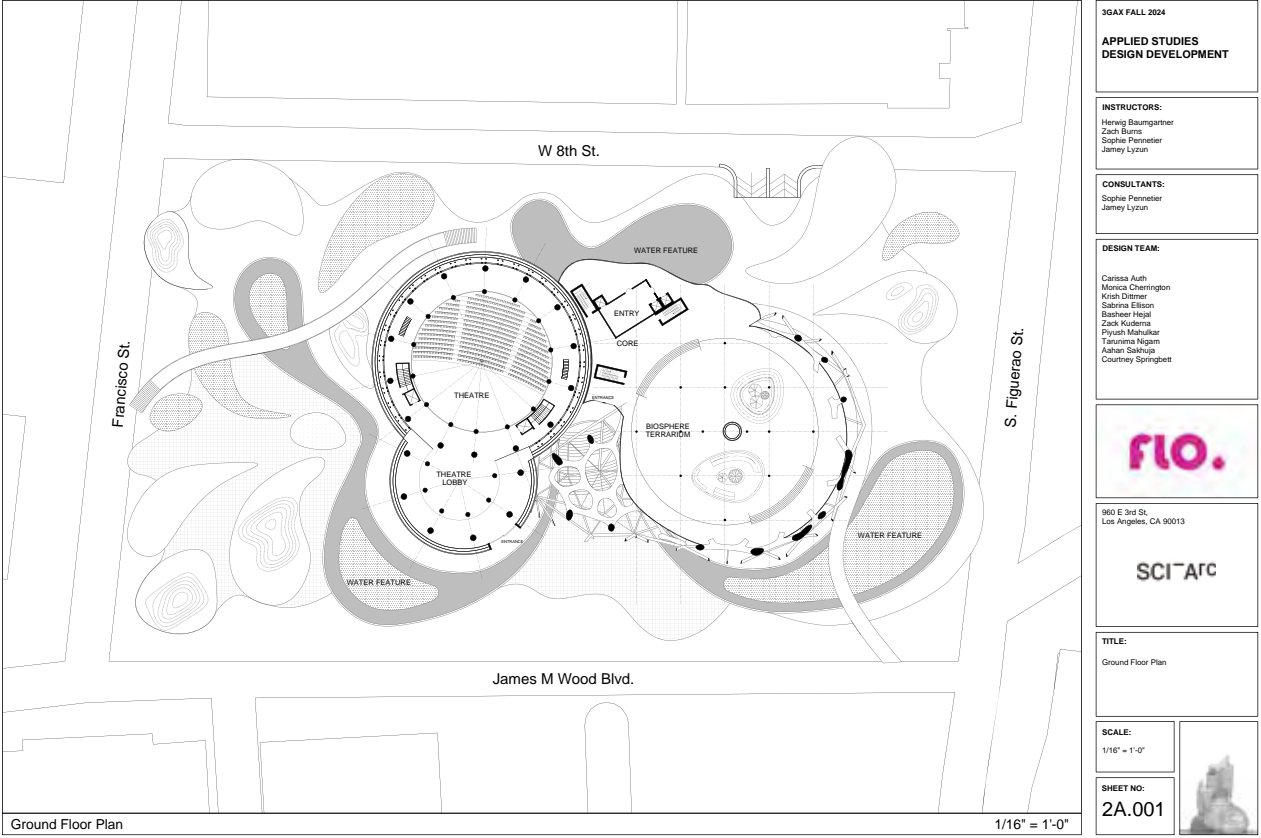
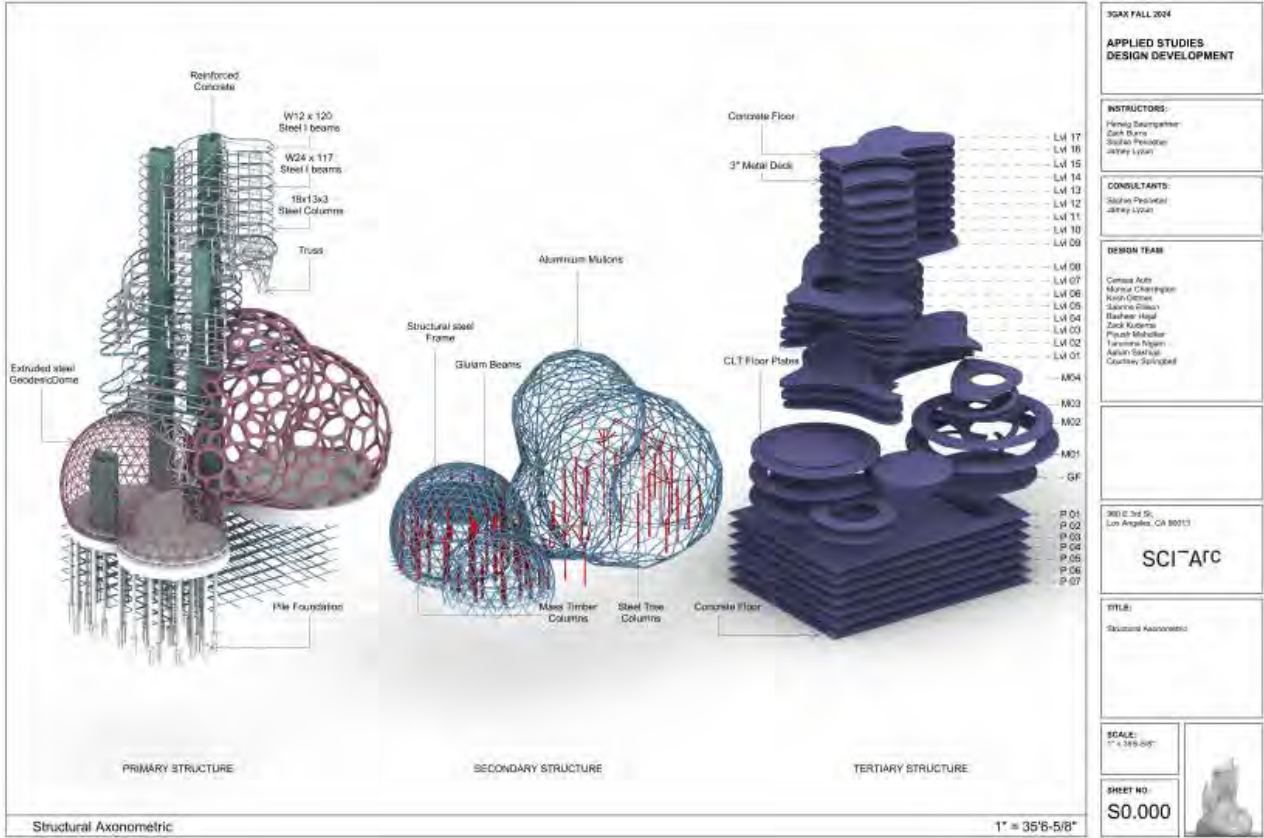
FALL 2024

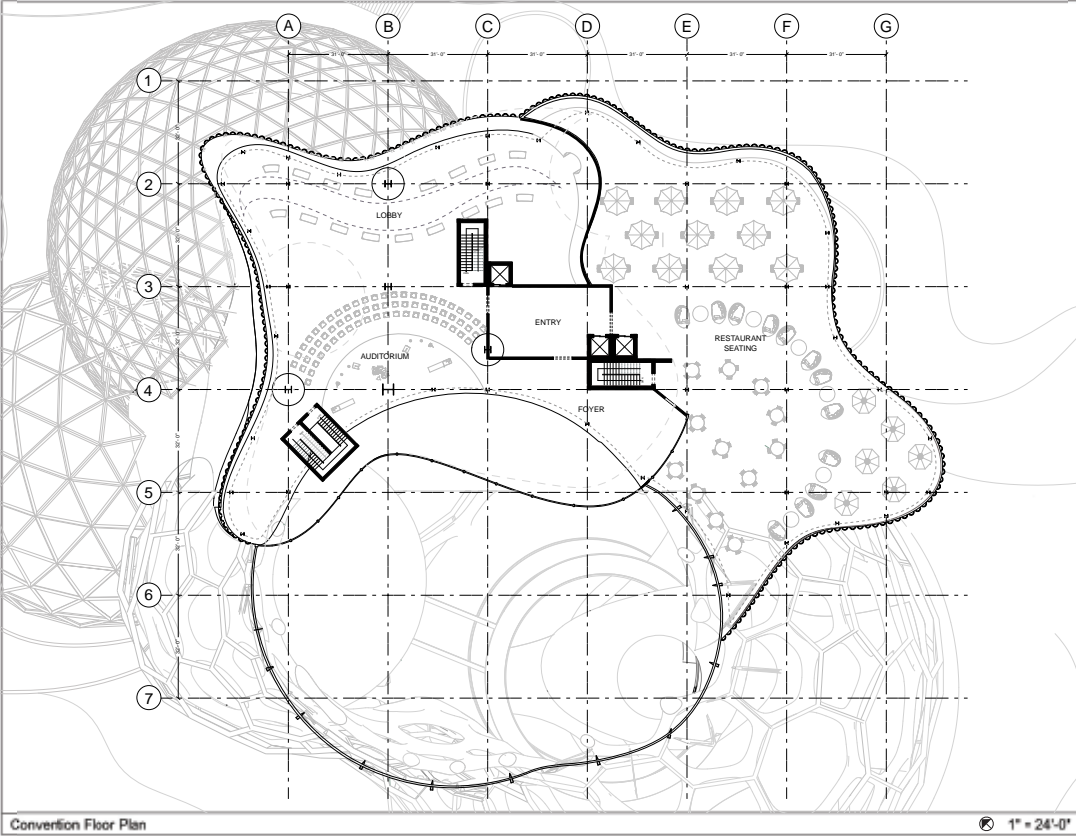
INSTRUCTOR: Zach Burns, Herwig Baumgartner

PARTNERS: Carissa Auth, Monica Cherrington, Krish Dittmer, Basheer Hejal, Zack Kuderna,
Piyush Mahulkar, Tarunima Nigam, Aahan Sakhuja, Courtney Springbett

PERSPECTIVE RENDER OF FLO HOTEL







304X FALL 2024

APPLIED STUDIES
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

INSTRUCTORS:

Henry Baumgartner
Zach Burns
Sophie Penner
Janney Lydon

CONSULTANTS:

Arup
Jenny Lydon

DESIGN TEAM:

Carissa Auli
Monica Cherrington
Khan Diller
Sabrina Ellison
Bashir Hagi
Zach Kuehn
Piyush Manikar
Tanner Nigam
Asha Sahas
Courtney Springbett

FLO.

900 E 3rd St
Los Angeles, CA 90013

SCI-ARC

TITLE:

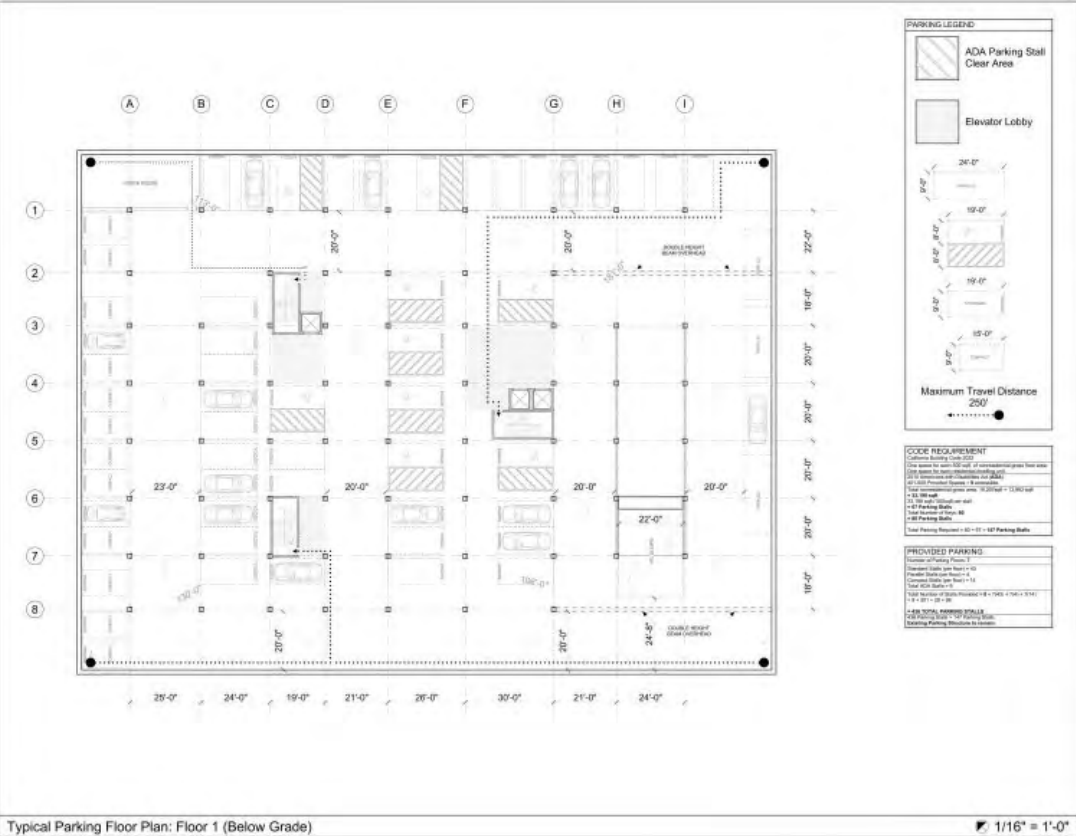
Conversion Floor Plan

SCALE:

1" = 24'-0"

SHEET NO:

A2.003



304X FALL 2024

APPLIED STUDIES
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

INSTRUCTORS:

Henry Baumgartner
Zach Burns
Sophie Penner
Janney Lydon

CONSULTANTS:

Arup
Jenny Lydon

DESIGN TEAM:

Carissa Auli
Monica Cherrington
Khan Diller
Sabrina Ellison
Bashir Hagi
Zach Kuehn
Piyush Manikar
Tanner Nigam
Asha Sahas
Courtney Springbett

FLO.

900 E 3rd St
Los Angeles, CA 90013

SCI-ARC

TITLE:

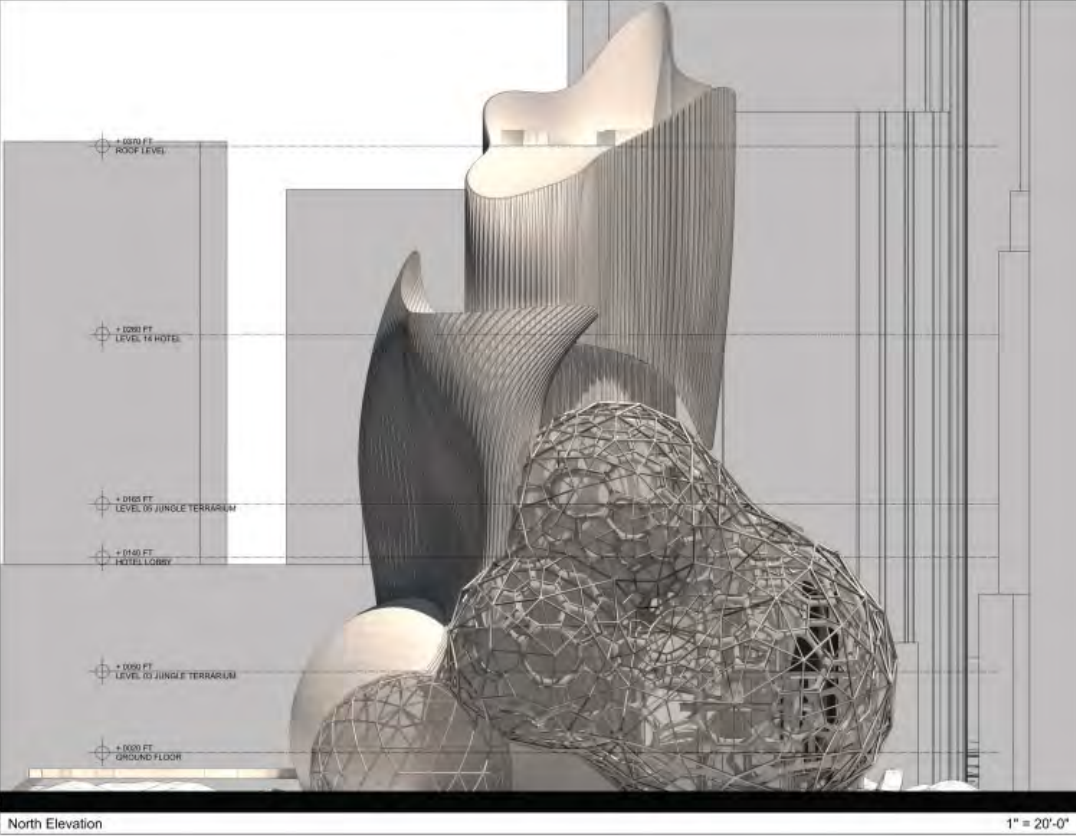
Typical Parking Garage: Floor 1

SCALE:

1/16" = 1'-0"

SHEET NO:

A2.004



304X FALL 2024

APPLIED STUDIES
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

INSTRUCTORS:

Henry Baumgartner
Zach Burns
Sophie Penner
Janney Lydon

CONSULTANTS:

Arup
Jenny Lydon

DESIGN TEAM:

Carissa Auli
Monica Cherrington
Khan Diller
Sabrina Ellison
Bashir Hagi
Zach Kuehn
Piyush Manikar
Tanner Nigam
Asha Sahas
Courtney Springbett

FLO.

900 E 3rd St
Los Angeles, CA 90013

SCI-ARC

TITLE:

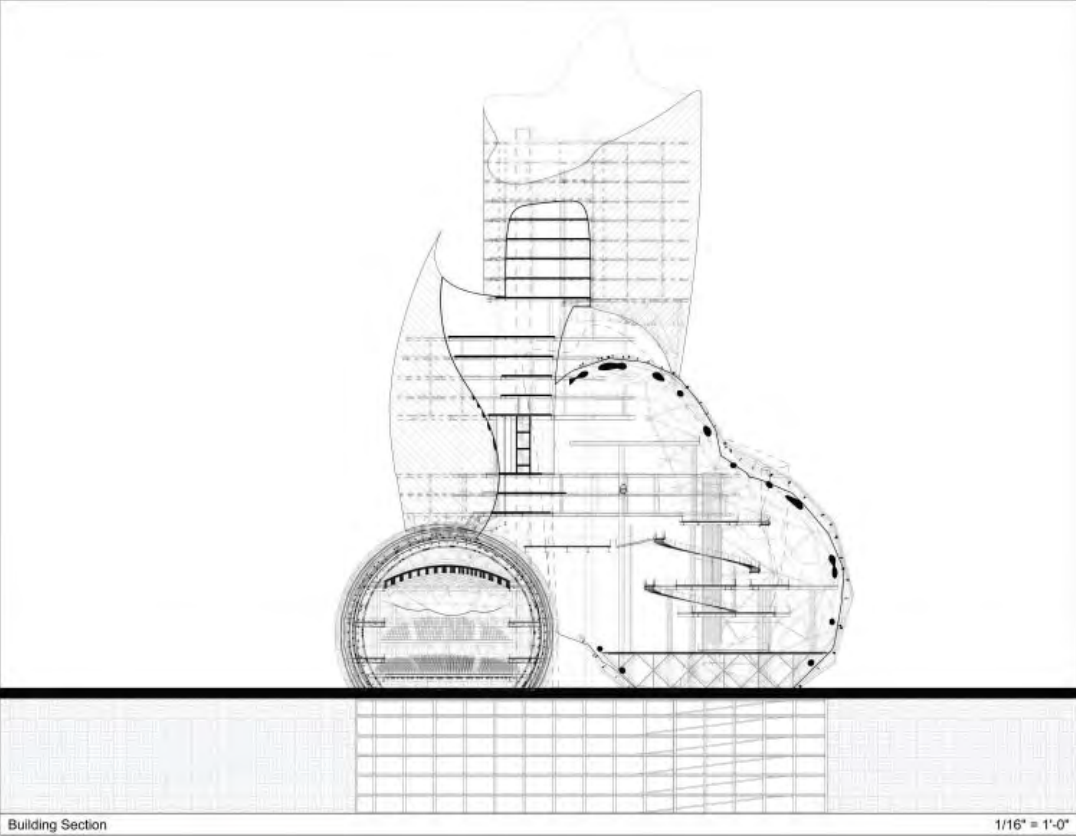
Building Elevation

SCALE:

1" = 20'-0"

SHEET NO:

A3.001



304X FALL 2024

APPLIED STUDIES
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

INSTRUCTORS:

Henry Baumgartner
Zach Burns
Sophie Penner
Janney Lydon

CONSULTANTS:

Arup
Jenny Lydon

DESIGN TEAM:

Carissa Auli
Monica Cherrington
Khan Diller
Sabrina Ellison
Bashir Hagi
Zach Kuehn
Piyush Manikar
Tanner Nigam
Asha Sahas
Courtney Springbett

FLO.

900 E 3rd St
Los Angeles, CA 90013

SCI-ARC

TITLE:


Building Section

SCALE:

1/16" = 1'-0"

SHEET NO:

A4.001




M01
Structural Steel

They have a carbon content between 0.05 and 0.25% to retain formability and weldability. Other alloying elements include up to 2.1% manganese and small quantities of copper, nickel, molybdenum, vanadium, chromium, niobium, titanium, calcium, rare earth elements, or zirconium. Their yield strengths can be anywhere between 36,000-65,000 psi.

Pros:

- High Strength-to-Weight Ratio
- Improved Corrosion Resistance
- Enhanced Toughness
- Weldability
- Cost Efficiency
- Versatility




M02
Bamboo

Bamboo flooring comes in many sustainable, and practically, making it a versatile choice for eco-conscious homeowners seeking a stylish and durable flooring option.

Cons:

- Susceptible to scratches
- Inconsistent quality
- Prone to fading
- Limited color options
- Difficult to refinish
- Hardness variability




M03
High Strength Reinforced Concrete

High Strength Reinforced Concrete (HSRC) concrete is a type of concrete that incorporates reinforcing elements like steel bars, mesh, or fibers and has a higher compressive strength compared to normal strength concrete. It is widely used in modern construction for its superior load-bearing capacity, durability, and ability to resist seismic forces.

Pros:

- High load bearing capacity
- Durability
- Efficient use of space
- Improved safety
- Economic in long term use
- Fire resistance




M04
Solar Glass

Solar glass, also known as photovoltaic glass or solar control glass, is a type of advanced glass that integrates solar energy harvesting capabilities. It serves both functional and aesthetic purposes, making it an essential component in modern, sustainable architecture and renewable energy solutions.

Pros:

- Energy generation
- Energy saving
- Sustainable
- Space saving
- Aesthetic appeal
- Innovative technology

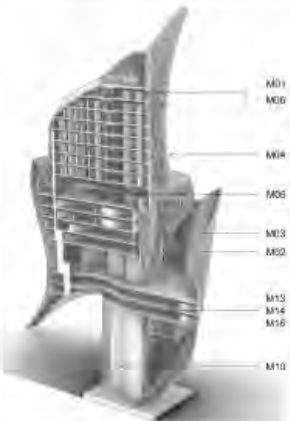


M05
Tempered Glass

Tempered glass, also known as toughened glass, is a type of safety glass processed through thermal or chemical treatments to increase its strength compared to standard glass. It is widely used in applications where durability and safety are crucial.

Cons:

- Weight
- Brittle nature
- Higher cost
- Risk of spontaneous breakage risk
- Not easy to cut after installation, leading to



M01

M06

M04

M05


M03

M02

M13

M16

M10




M06
Spray on Fireproofing

Spray-on fireproofing, also known as Spray Coats, Applied Fire-Resisting Material (AFRM), is a passive fire protection method used to protect structural elements of buildings, such as steel beams, columns, and concrete slabs, from high temperatures during a fire. This material is sprayed onto surfaces to provide fire resistance by delaying structural failure.

Pros:

- Fire protection
- Cost effective
- Versatile application
- Lightweight
- Customizable fire rating
- Effective installation



SCi ARC

SCi ARC is a small, autonomous robot used for inspecting and mapping building interiors. It is designed to be compact and maneuverable, allowing it to access tight spaces and provide detailed data on building conditions.

Cons:

- Fragile
- Quiet & Discreet
- Aesthetic limitations
- Application challenges
- Environmental sensitivity
- Dependent on surface preparation

Chunk 01 Materials

SCS: 01

SCS: 01 is a small, autonomous robot used for inspecting and mapping building interiors. It is designed to be compact and maneuverable, allowing it to access tight spaces and provide detailed data on building conditions.

SCS: 02

SCS: 02 is a small, autonomous robot used for inspecting and mapping building interiors. It is designed to be compact and maneuverable, allowing it to access tight spaces and provide detailed data on building conditions.

SCS: 03

SCS: 03 is a small, autonomous robot used for inspecting and mapping building interiors. It is designed to be compact and maneuverable, allowing it to access tight spaces and provide detailed data on building conditions.

SCS: 04

SCS: 04 is a small, autonomous robot used for inspecting and mapping building interiors. It is designed to be compact and maneuverable, allowing it to access tight spaces and provide detailed data on building conditions.

SCS: 05

SCS: 05 is a small, autonomous robot used for inspecting and mapping building interiors. It is designed to be compact and maneuverable, allowing it to access tight spaces and provide detailed data on building conditions.

SCS: 06

SCS: 06 is a small, autonomous robot used for inspecting and mapping building interiors. It is designed to be compact and maneuverable, allowing it to access tight spaces and provide detailed data on building conditions.

SCS: 07

SCS: 07 is a small, autonomous robot used for inspecting and mapping building interiors. It is designed to be compact and maneuverable, allowing it to access tight spaces and provide detailed data on building conditions.

SCS: 08

SCS: 08 is a small, autonomous robot used for inspecting and mapping building interiors. It is designed to be compact and maneuverable, allowing it to access tight spaces and provide detailed data on building conditions.

SCS: 09

SCS: 09 is a small, autonomous robot used for inspecting and mapping building interiors. It is designed to be compact and maneuverable, allowing it to access tight spaces and provide detailed data on building conditions.

SCS: 10

SCS: 10 is a small, autonomous robot used for inspecting and mapping building interiors. It is designed to be compact and maneuverable, allowing it to access tight spaces and provide detailed data on building conditions.

SARAF FALL 2004

**APPLIED STUDIES
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT**

INSTRUCTORS:

Hewitt Baumgartner
Zach Bunn
Shirley Prinslow
Gibby Lopez

CONSULTANTS:

Status Portland
Gibby Lopez

DESIGN TEAM

Dennis Ando
Miyuki Chomizumi
Kevin O'Brien
Sabine Glavin
Bashar Haddad
Jack Kuderka
Prakash Mahalingam
Lawrence Rogers
Adam Scharf
Gustavo Springer

300 E 2nd St.
Los Angeles, CA 90013

SCI^{arc}

TITLE:

Material Selection Course 02

SCHOOL:
LAU

SHEET NO.
A5.003

Aluminum

Aluminum is the most abundant metallic element in Earth's crust; it's a light weight, silvery white metal with remarkable properties that make it incredibly useful. Commonly used for aircraft components, food packaging, vehicle parts, electronics etc., its 100% recyclable without loss of quality.

Pros:

- Durable / rust
- Lightweight
- Recyclable
- Low maintenance
- Excellent strength to weight ratio
- Can be finished in different colours

Cons:

- Good oxidation
- Thermal expansion
- Can dent and scratch easily
- Initial cost higher than alternatives
- Not as strong as steel
- High carbon footprint for primary production of quality.

CFLT

Cross Laminated Timber (CLT) is a technology of engineered wood panel product made from gluing together at least three layers of solid-sawn lumber (e.g. timber cut from a single log). Each layer of boards is usually oriented perpendicular to adjacent layers and glued on the main faces of each board, usually in a symmetric way so that the outer layers have the same orientation. An odd number of layers is most common.

Pros:

- Durable
- Low Carbon
- Lightweight
- Reduced installation cost
- Safe for site safety
- Visually aesthetic

Cons:

- Must be protected from moisture
- Fire resistance is poor
- Expensive
- Need a lot of space to produce
- Moderate seismic cost
- Code restrictions on timber building heights

Extruded Steel

Most extrusion is a forming process in which we force a metal (either hot or cold) through a die. This imparts the die shape to the extruded metal as it passes through the die. The material emerges from the die is known as "extrudate". The metal undergoes compression and shear stress to achieve the die shape. The initial of these forces, and the resulting temperature enable us to form materials with otherwise little properties using this process.

Pros:

- Strong
- Temperature cross-section
- Low scrap
- Hot & Cold Form
- Weight reduction

Cons:

- Surface oxidation
- Cracking
- Part complexity
- Difficult
- Initial cost

Glulam

Glulam (glue-laminated timber) is an engineered wood product that offers some interesting structural capabilities. Multiple layers of dimensioned lumber joined together with durable moisture resistant adhesives.

Green Concrete

It is an environmentally friendly version of traditional concrete, made by incorporating recycled material. Unlike standard concrete, which heavily relies on natural resources like limestone and clay green concrete utilizes industrial waste such as fly ash, slag, and recycled aggregates. This approach not only reduces the consumption of natural resources but also tackles the issue of waste management. Architectural consultants often advise clients on specifying the right materials to maximize the environmental and financial benefits of green concrete.

Pros:

- Excellent strength to weight ratio
- Sustainable
- Durable
- Can span long distances
- Customizable
- Load the membrane

Cons:

- Higher initial cost
- Requires surface treatment
- High maintenance
- Storage challenges
- Must be protected from moisture
- Higher transportation cost

Pros:

- Sustainability
- Durable
- Fire resistant
- Better insulation properties
- Reduced maintenance

Cons:

- More expensive
- Production time is longer
- Reduced quality
- Accessibility

Chumk 02 Materials

M12

Aluminium Mullions

Aluminium mullions are vertical or horizontal structural elements used in the framework of windows, doors, curtain walls & facades. They play a crucial role in dividing and supporting glass panels or other materials while maintaining structural integrity and aesthetics.

Pros:

- Durable
- Lightweight (Aluminum)
- Aesthetic flexibility
- Recyclable
- Low maintenance
- Customizable

Cons:

- Higher cost
- Limited natural appearance
- Prone to dents & scratches
- Complex installation
- Energy intensive production

M13

Corrugated Metal Sheet

Corrugated metal sheets are wavy or ridged panels typically made from galvanized steel, aluminum, or stainless steel. The corrugated design increases their strength and durability, making them suitable for various applications in construction and beyond.

Pros:

- Thermal conductivity
- Prone to denting
- Rusting & corrosion
- Inspection challenges
- Seepage & condensation

M14

Damp Proof Membrane

A Damp Proof Membrane (DPM) is a flexible, impermeable layer made of materials like polyethylene or bitumen, designed to prevent moisture from rising or penetrating through floors, walls, or foundations. It is commonly used in construction to protect buildings from moisture-related damage.

Pros:

- Prevents moisture damage
- Improves indoor air quality
- Increases building longevity
- Versatile application
- Cost-effective
- Easy to install

Cons:

- Risk of damage
- Limited repair options
- Environmental concerns
- Dependence on substrate quality
- Temperature sensitivity

M15

Low E Double Pane Glass

Low-E (Low-Emissivity) double-pane glass is a type of energy-efficient window that features two layers of glass separated by a space and filled with insulating gas (like argon or krypton). A special Low-E coating is applied to one or more glass surfaces to enhance thermal performance and reduce energy loss.

Pros:

- Energy efficiency
- UV protection
- Aesthetic options
- Noise reduction
- Long-term saving
- Environmentally friendly

Cons:

- Higher initial cost
- Reduce natural lighting
- Potential seal failure
- Complex installation & maintenance
- Sensitive to cleaning products

M16

Recycled Rubber Insulation

Recycled rubber insulation is an eco-friendly insulation material made from repurposed rubber products, such as old tires. It is designed to provide thermal and acoustic insulation while promoting sustainability by reducing waste in landfills.

Pros:

- Environmentally friendly
- Excellent acoustic insulation
- Durable
- Thermal performance
- Easy to install
- Fire resistant

Cons:

- Odor
- Limited availability
- Heavy
- Lower R-Value
- Chemical concerns

M17

Powder Coated Cast Steel

Powder coating cast steel is a finishing process that involves applying a dry powder to the metal surface which is then cured under heat to form a durable coating.

Pros:

- Durable
- Appearance
- UV resistant
- Good adhesion
- Quick drying

Cons:

- Initial set up cost
- Production constraints
- Requires trained operators
- Expensive equipment needed

3DAX FALL 2024

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SCI-ARC

TITLE:

Material Selection: Chunk 03

SCALE:

1/8"

SHEET NO:

A5.004

S01

Space Frame Truss

A space frame truss is a three-dimensional structural framework composed of interconnected struts or beams that form a rigid, load-bearing structure. The trusses are typically made of lightweight, durable materials like steel, aluminum, or composite materials and are used to span large distances with minimal material usage. Space frames are efficient in terms of strength-to-weight ratio and are often used in architectural and engineering applications such as roofs, bridges, and large-scale industrial buildings.

Pros:

- High strength-to-weight ratio
- Efficient load distribution
- Design flexibility
- Reduced material usage
- Long span capability
- Rapid construction
- Aesthetic appeal

Cons:

- High initial cost
- Complex labor required
- Transport & handling challenges
- Maintenance complexity
- Member issues
- Structural overdesign risk

S02

Composite Slab

A composite slab is a type of structural floor system commonly used in building construction. It consists of two primary components: concrete and steel, which work together to form a strong, efficient, and durable load-bearing unit. The steel component usually takes the form of a steel deck, while the concrete provides the compressive strength.

Pros:

- Speed of construction
- Cost effectiveness
- High strength and durability
- Efficient use of materials
- Reduced floor load
- Fire resistance

Cons:

- Complexity in design & detailing
- High cost
- Limited span capability
- Maintenance of steel decking
- Limited adaptability for retrofitting
- Dependence on concrete curing

S03

Aluminum Louvers

Aluminum louvers are architectural elements consisting of horizontal or vertical slats made of aluminum that are used in building facades, windows, or other openings to control the flow of air, light, and visibility while providing privacy and protection from weather elements. They are commonly used in both residential and commercial applications for both functional and aesthetic purposes.

Pros:

- Durability & corrosion resistance
- Lightweight
- Low maintenance
- Energy efficiency
- Aesthetic appeal
- Sun protection

Cons:

- High initial cost
- Thermal conductivity
- Damageable in certain weather
- Limited acoustic insulation
- Cleaning and maintenance
- Limited insulation properties

S04

Concrete Core

Concrete cores refer to the central shafts or columns of reinforced concrete used in building structures, typically for supporting vertical loads and providing stability. Concrete cores can serve as essential structural elements in high-rise buildings, providing a combination of support, the resistance, and structural integrity. The term "core" can also refer to a vertical shaft within a building that houses essential services such as elevators, stairwells, elevator shafts, and plumbing. In the context of structural engineering, concrete cores are often associated with core walls or core columns that help resist lateral forces (e.g., wind, seismic forces) and provide the primary support for the building.

Pros:

- High structural strength
- Resistance to lateral forces
- Space efficiency
- Fire resistance
- Vertical circulation
- Reduced vibrations

Cons:

- Temperature sensitive
- Space constraints
- Cost
- Weight
- Limited flexibility
- Potential for core overheat

3DAX FALL 2024

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SCI-ARC

TITLE:

System Selection: Chunk 03

SCALE:

1/8"

SHEET NO:

A5.005

S05

Landscape Mounds

Landscape mounds are artificially created raised areas of soil used in landscaping to enhance the visual appeal, improve drainage, or create specific microclimates. They are commonly used in gardens, parks, and other outdoor spaces to add elevation, break up flat terrain, or create a more dynamic, natural look. Landscape mounds can be large or small, depending on the project's goals, and they often feature a variety of plants, trees, or decorative elements.

Pros:

- Aesthetic appeal
- Enhanced drainage
- Privacy & screening
- Erosion control
- Noise reduction

Cons:

- High initial cost
- Soil
- Space requirements
- Risk of water accumulation
- Plant selection challenges
- Maintenance

S06

LED Exosphere

The term "LED exosphere" refers to advanced lighting or display systems designed for immersive environments. These systems use a vast array of LEDs to create a controlled lighting or display environment. They are commonly used in gardens, parks, and other outdoor spaces to add elevation, break up flat terrain, or create a more dynamic, natural look. Landscape mounds can be large or small, depending on the project's goals, and they often feature a variety of plants, trees, or decorative elements.

Pros:

- Immersive visual experience
- High customizability
- Energy efficiency
- Durable
- Eye-catching design
- Environmentally friendly

Cons:

- High initial cost
- Complex installation
- Content development challenges
- Power requirements
- Data & light pollution
- Space & structural requirements

S07

Underground Concrete Structure

A pile foundation is a type of deep foundation used to transfer the load of a structure to deeper, stronger soil layers or bedrock. It consists of long, slender concrete piles, which are driven or drilled into the ground.

Pros:

- High load-bearing capacity
- Suitable for weak surface soil
- Minimal settlement
- Adaptability
- Resistance to lateral forces
- Deep foundation depth

Cons:

- High cost
- Noise & vibration issue
- Difficult inspection & maintenance
- Time intensive
- Soil displacement issues

S08

Geodesic Dome

A geodesic dome is a hemispherical structure made up of a network of interconnected triangles. These triangles distribute stress evenly throughout the structure, making geodesic domes extremely strong and efficient. They are often associated with lightweight, sustainable architecture and were popularized by architect and inventor R. Buckminster Fuller in the mid-20th century.

Pros:

- Strength & stability
- Energy efficiency
- Lightweight construction
- Cost-effective
- Open interior
- Versatile design

Cons:

- Complex construction
- Material waste
- Limited usable space
- Ventilation challenges
- Maintenance
- Permitting & Code constraints

3DAX FALL 2024

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SCI-ARC

TITLE:

System Selection: Chunk 02

SCALE:

1/8"

SHEET NO:

A5.006

S09

Steel Tree Column

Steel tree columns are structural systems used in buildings and other structures to provide lateral loads, such as those caused by wind or earthquakes. These systems rely on diagonal members, known as bracing, to provide stability by preventing buckling of the frame under lateral forces.

Pros:

- Increased lateral stability
- Cost effectiveness
- Ease of construction
- Flexibility in design
- Reduced deflection
- Improved load distribution

Cons:

- Aesthetic concerns
- Susceptibility to buckling
- Limited ductility
- Complex seismic design
- Potential for uneven frame distribution
- Maintenance challenges

S10

Lazy River

A lazy river pool is a recreational water feature designed to mimic a slow-moving river. It consists of a shallow, winding waterway with a gentle current, allowing users to relax and float along its course. These pools are popular in water parks, resorts, and even private homes for fun and leisurely appeal.

Pros:

- Relaxation
- Fun for all ages
- Aesthetic appeal
- Customizable
- Spooling

Cons:

- High cost
- Space requirements
- Energy efficiency
- Maintenance
- Safety concerns
- High water usage

S11

Terrarium

A terrarium is a glass or transparent container used to grow plants in a controlled environment. It mimics a miniature ecosystem where plants, animals, and other organisms can thrive. They are commonly used in gardens, parks, and other outdoor spaces to add elevation, break up flat terrain, or create a more dynamic, natural look. Landscape mounds can be large or small, depending on the project's goals, and they often feature a variety of plants, trees, or decorative elements.

Pros:

- Low maintenance
- Space saving
- Aesthetic appeal
- Air purification
- Educational
- Customizable

Cons:

- Temperature sensitive
- Limited plant variety
- Condensation problem
- Limited growth
- Need proper drainage

S12

Braced Frame

Landscape mounds are artificially created, raised areas of soil used in landscaping to enhance the visual appeal, improve drainage, or create specific microclimates. They are commonly used in gardens, parks, and other outdoor spaces to add elevation, break up flat terrain, or create a more dynamic, natural look. Landscape mounds can be large or small, depending on the project's goals, and they often feature a variety of plants, trees, or decorative elements.

Pros:

- Aesthetic appeal
- Enhanced drainage
- Privacy & screening
- Erosion control
- Noise reduction

Cons:

- High initial cost
- Soil
- Space requirements
- Risk of water accumulation
- Plant selection challenges

3DAX FALL 2024

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SCI-ARC

TITLE:

System Selection: Chunk 03

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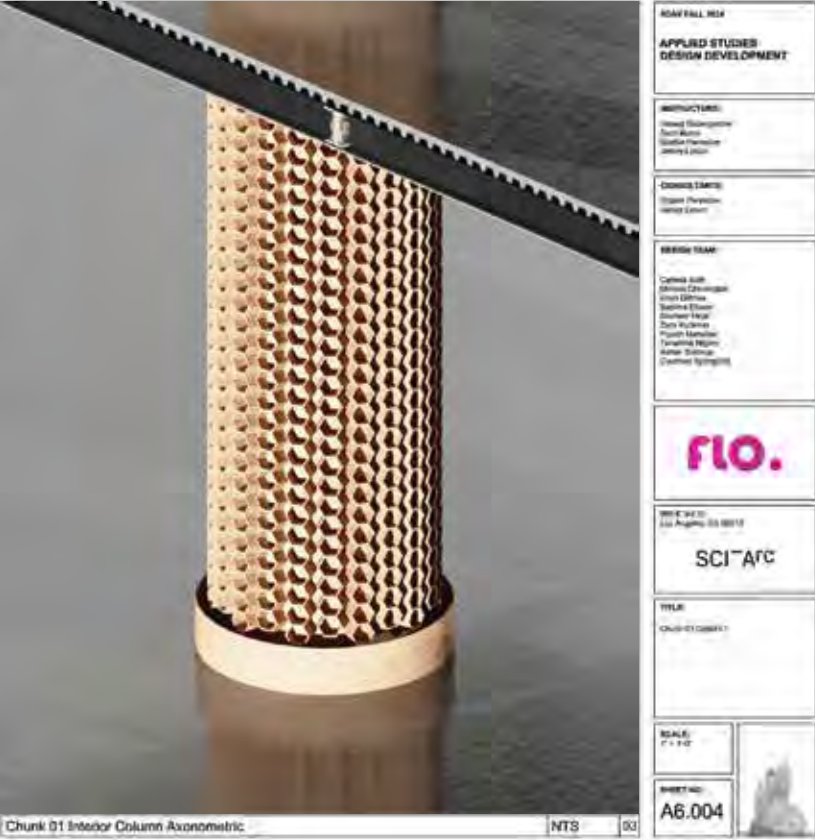
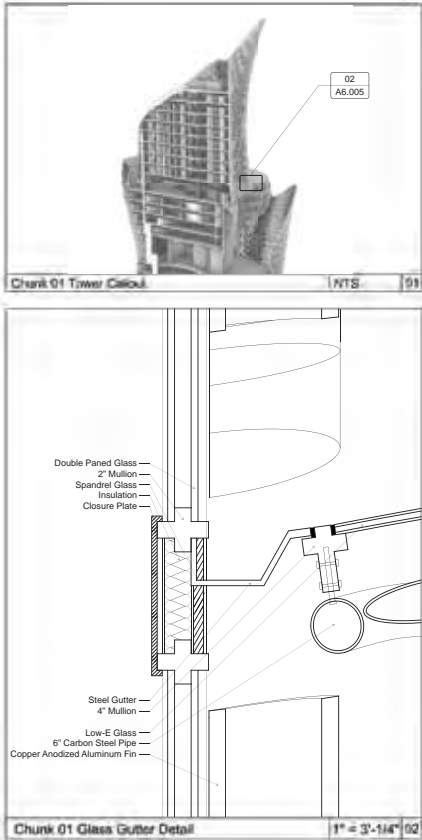
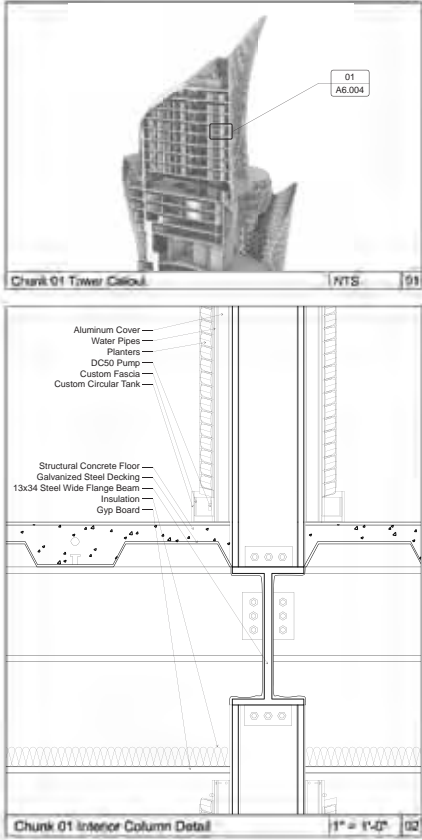
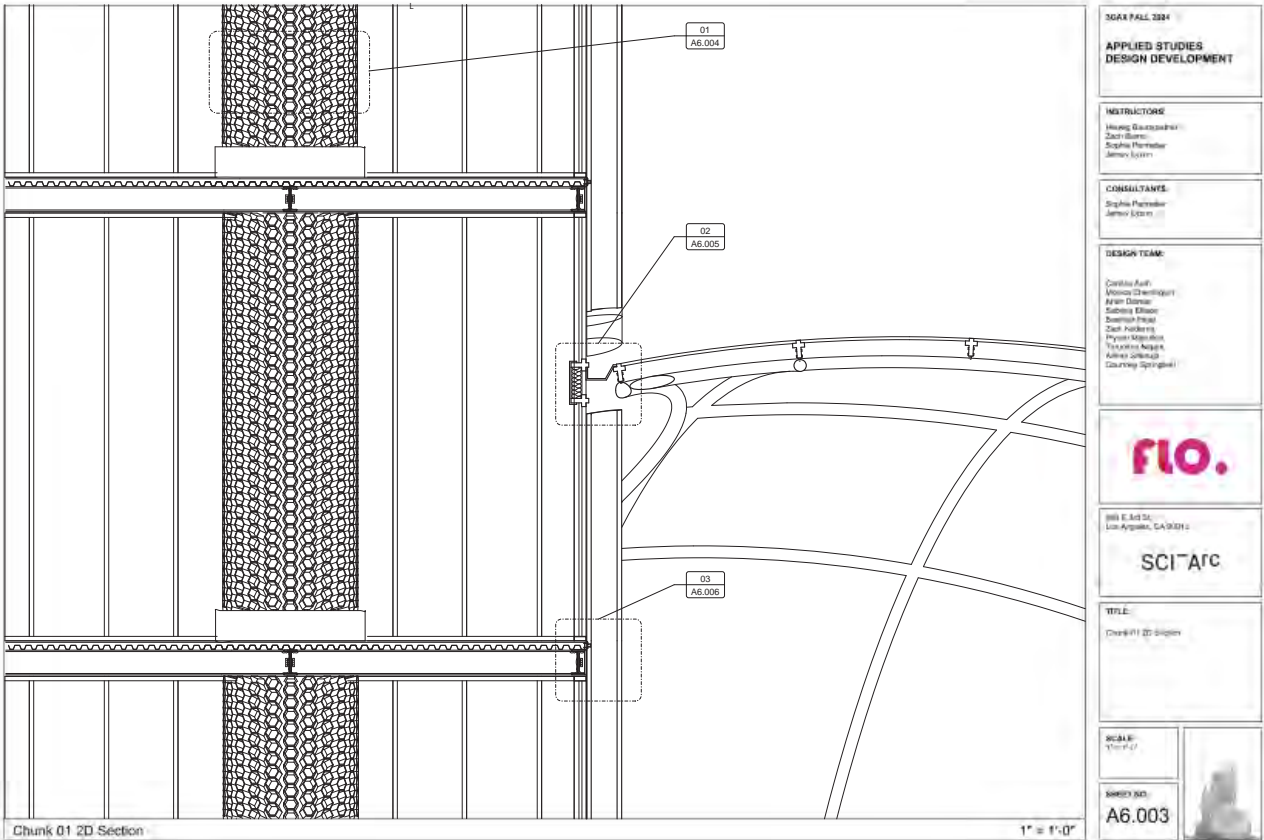
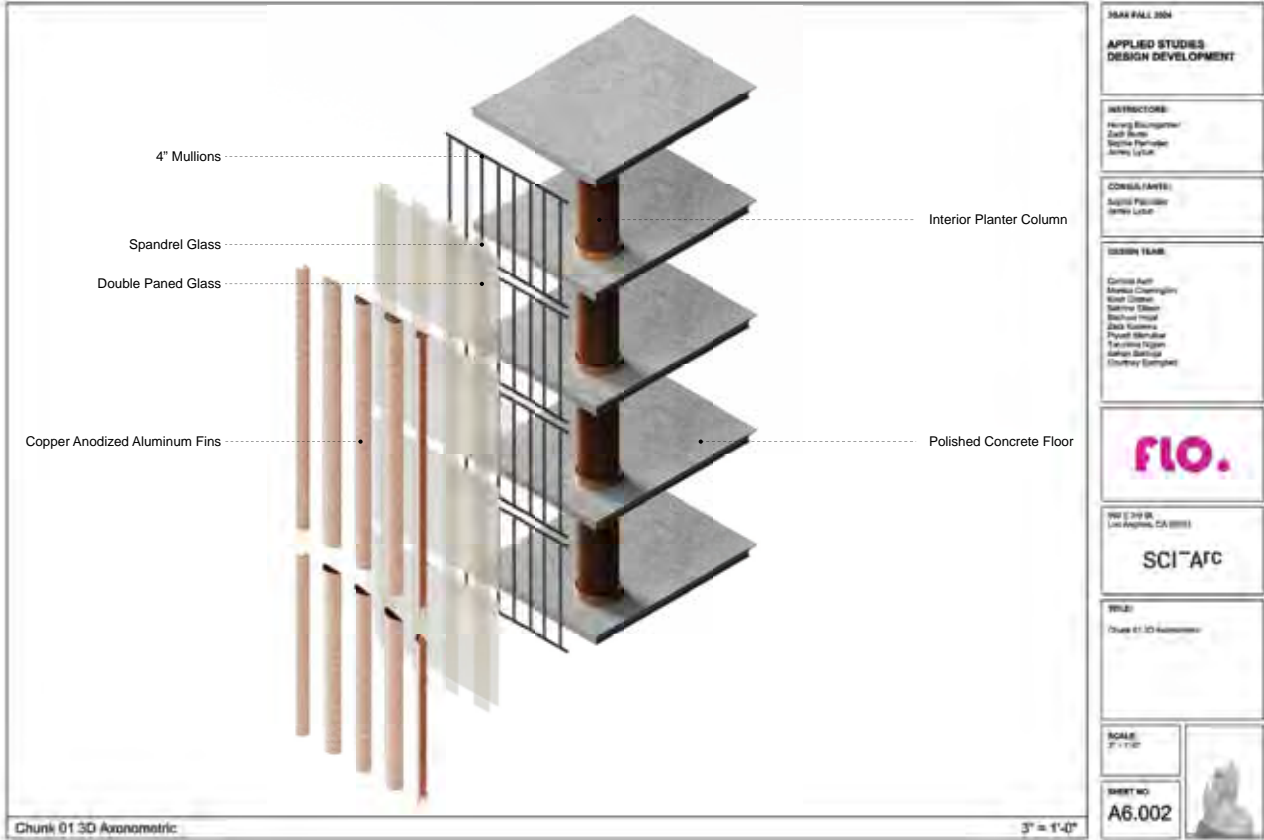
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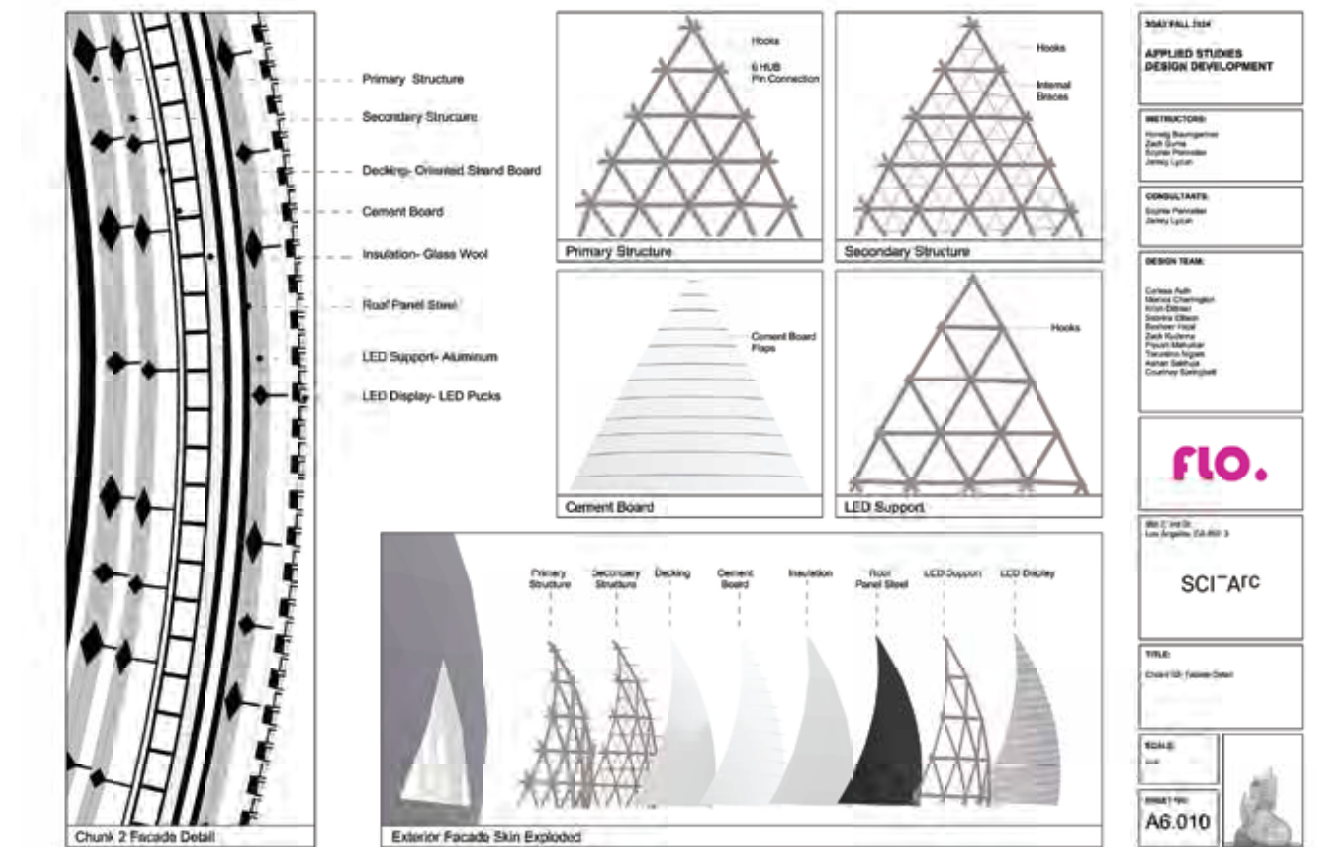
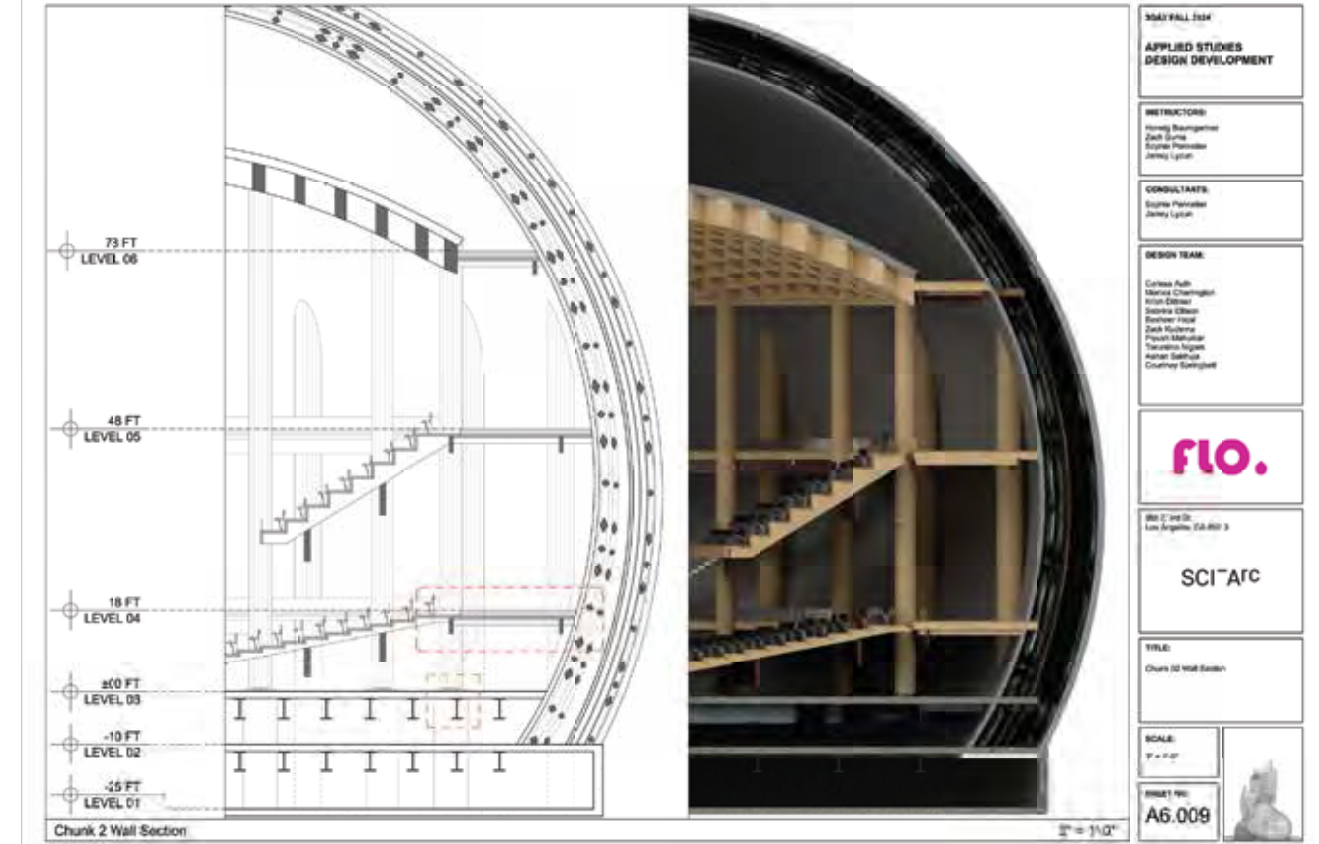
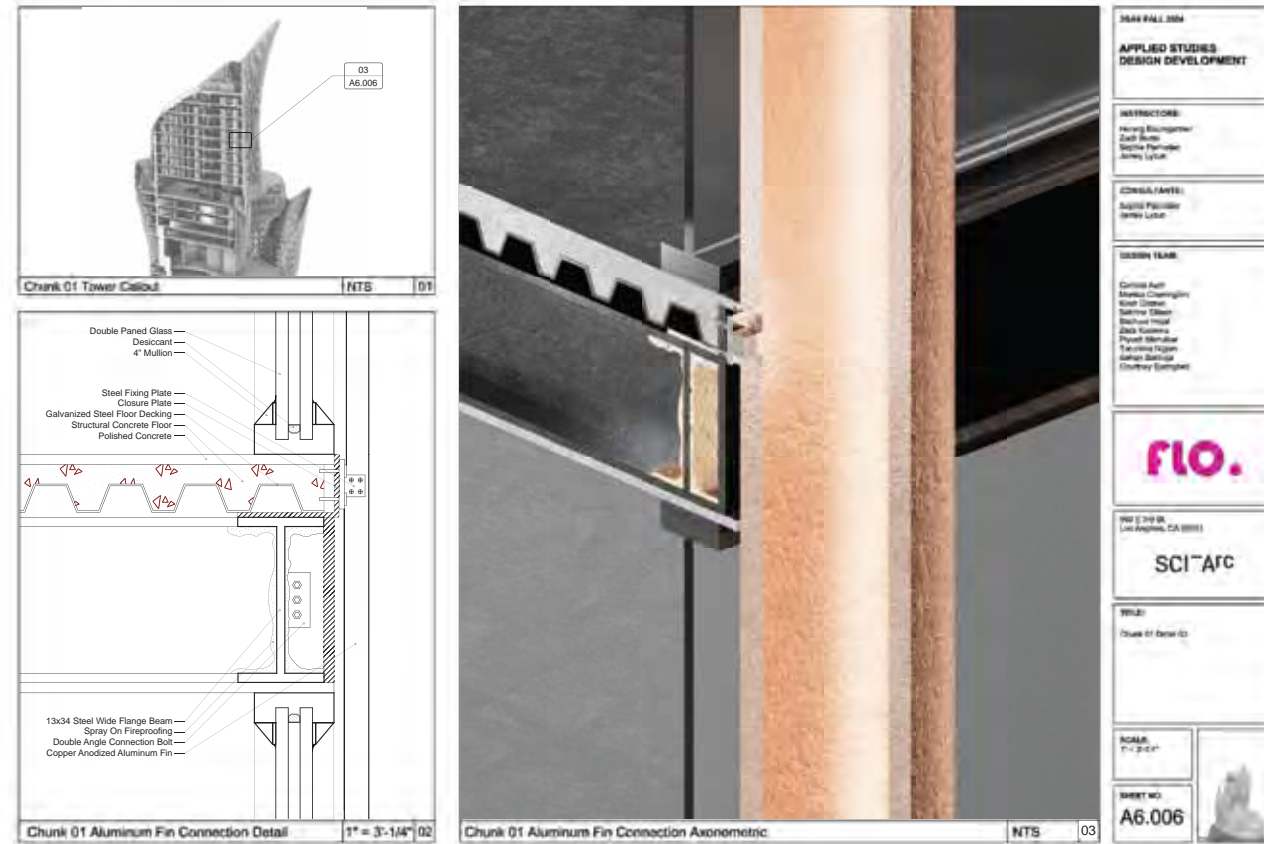
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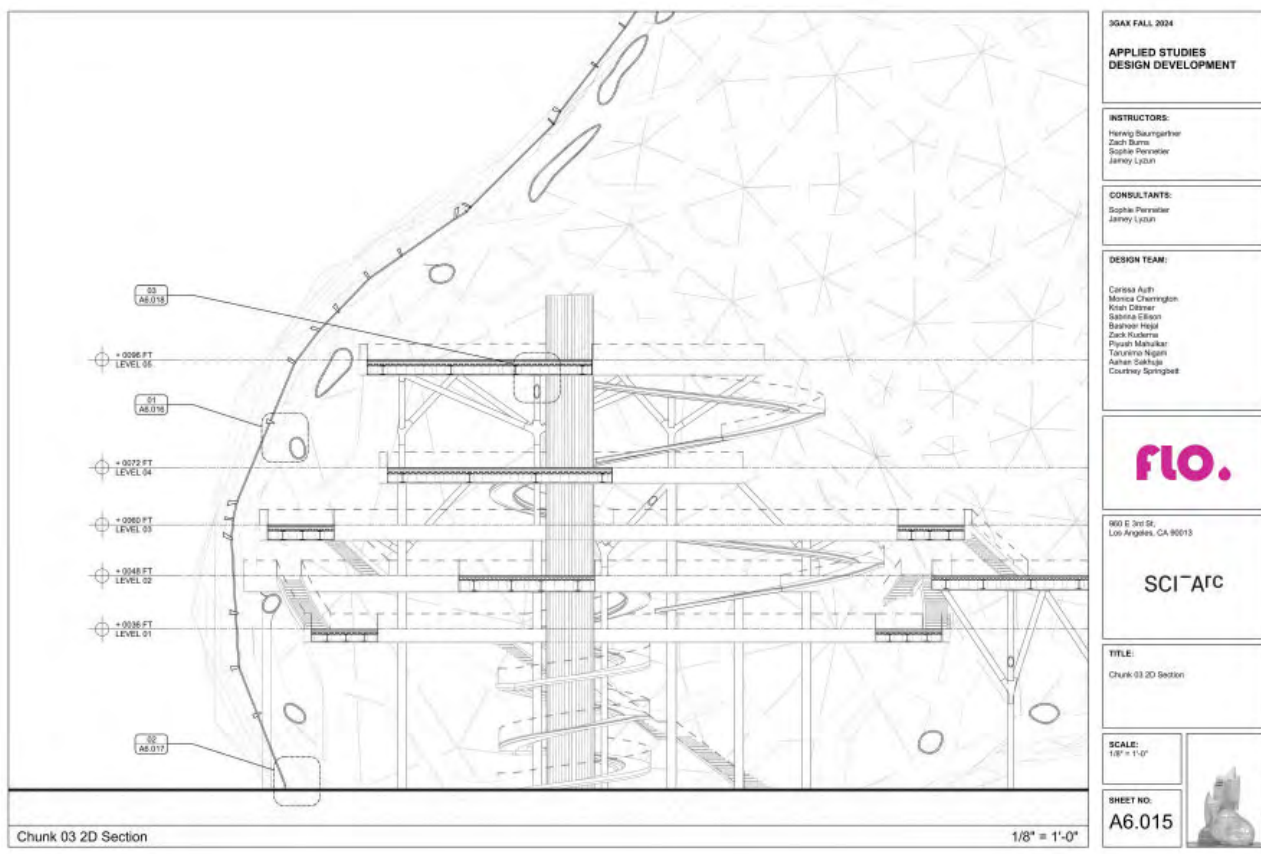
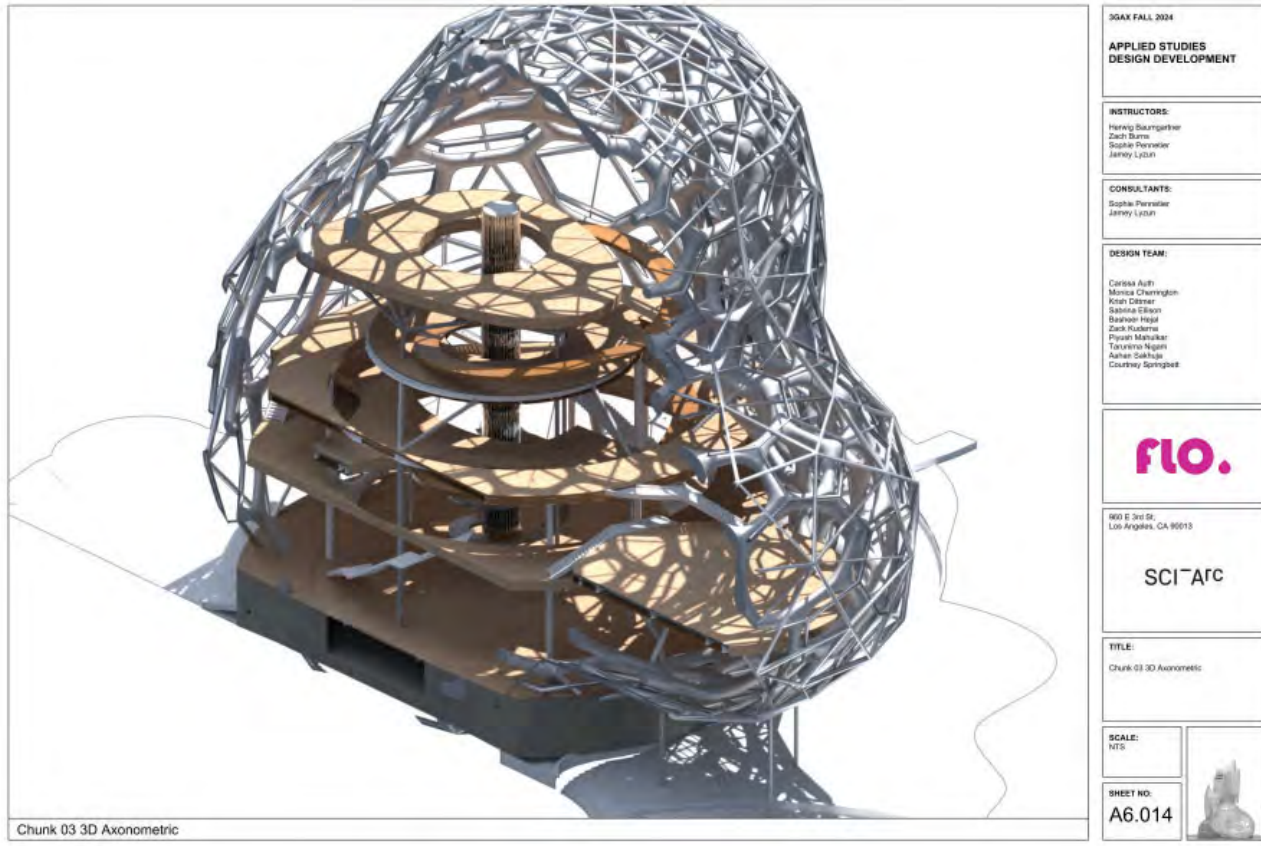
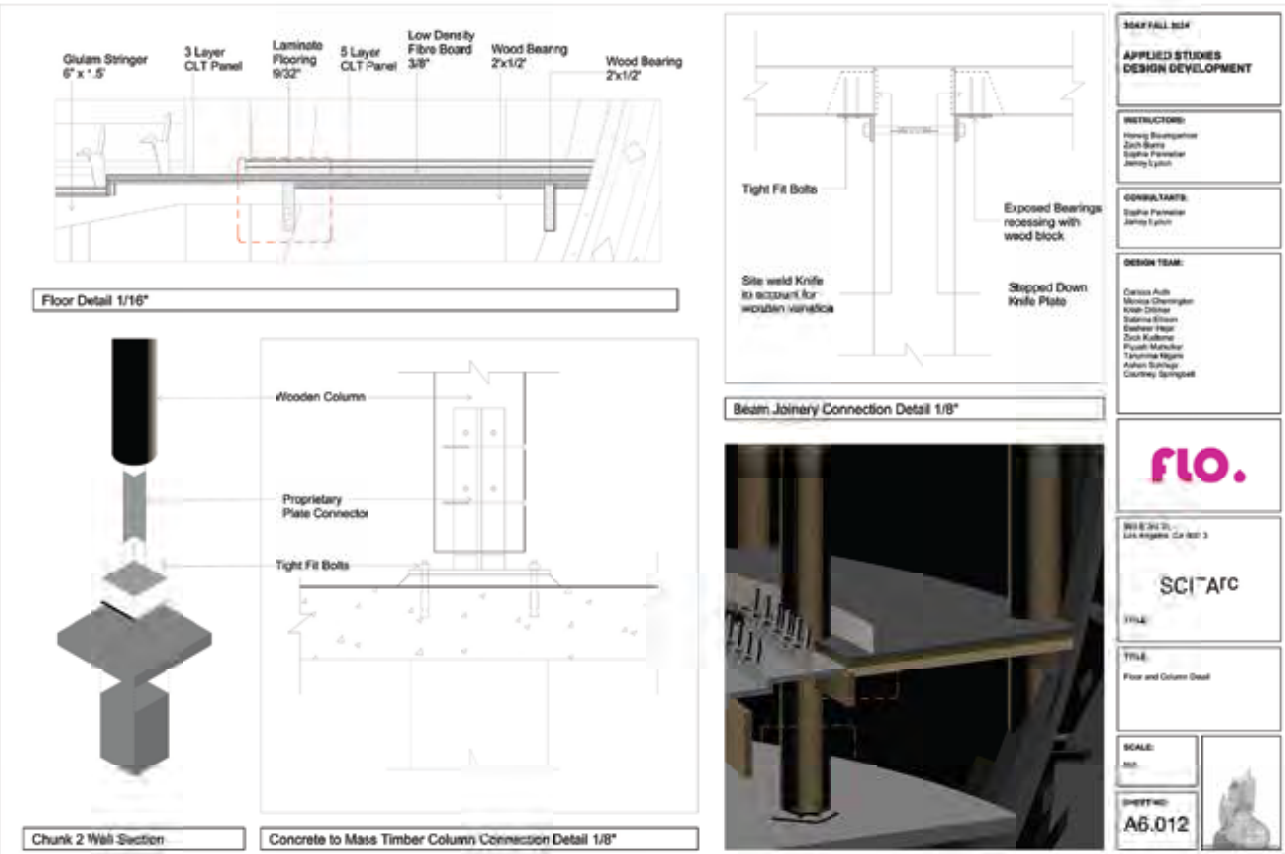
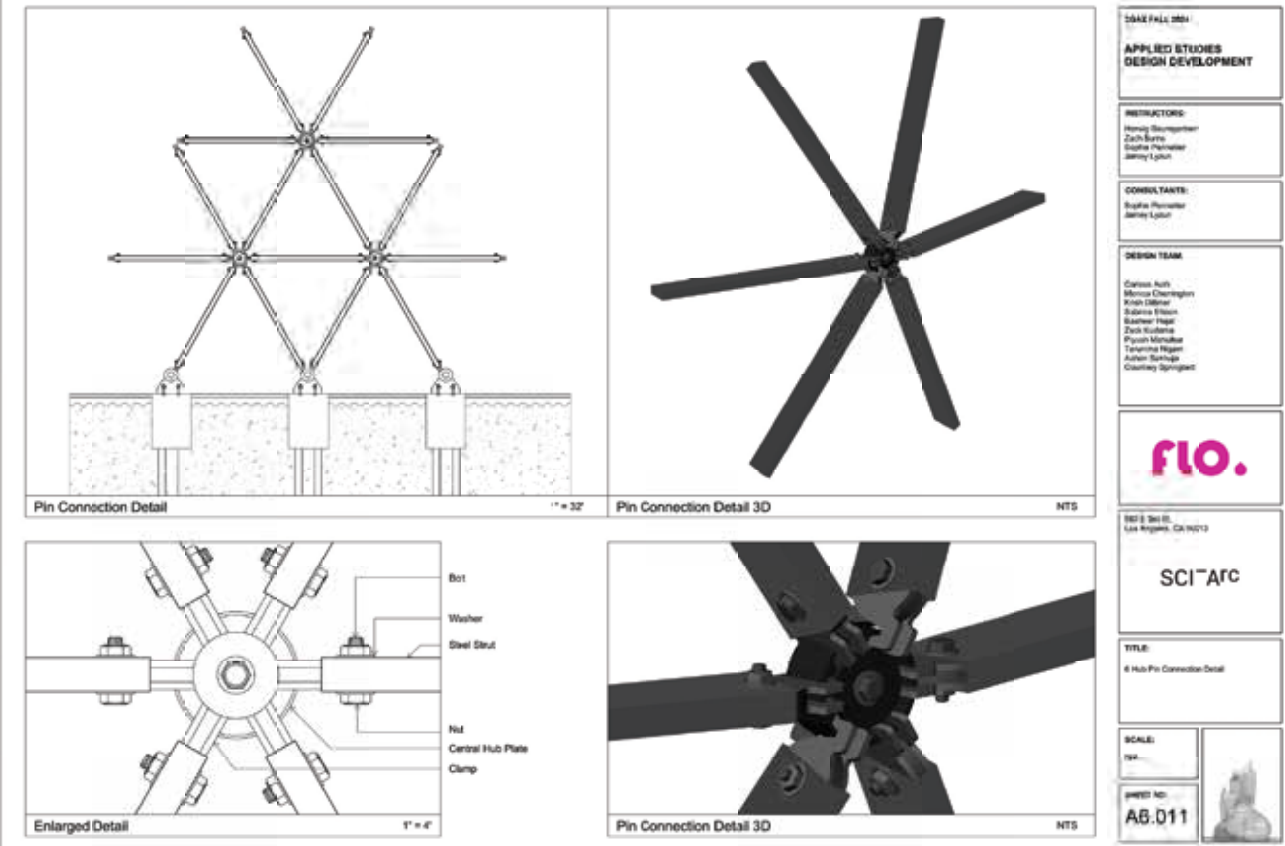
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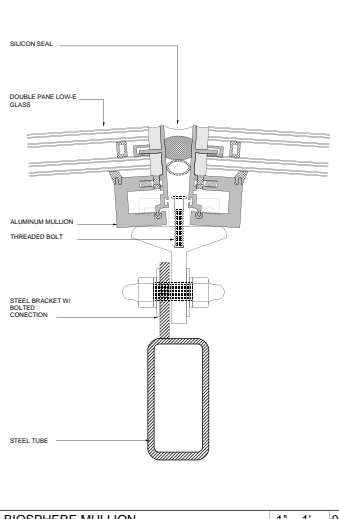




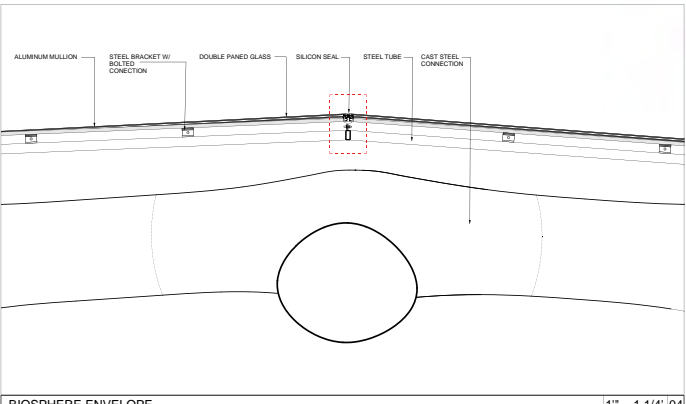
BIOSPHERE ENVELOPE CALLOUT NTS 01



BIOSPHERE ENVELOPE NTS 02



BIOSPHERE MULLION 1" = 1' 03



BIOSPHERE ENVELOPE 1" = 1 1/4' 04

30AX FALL 2024

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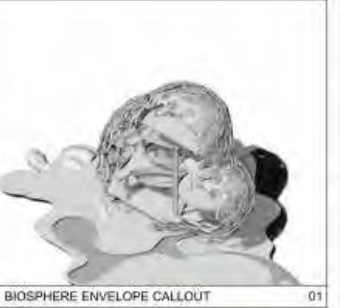
960 E 3rd St
Los Angeles, CA 90013

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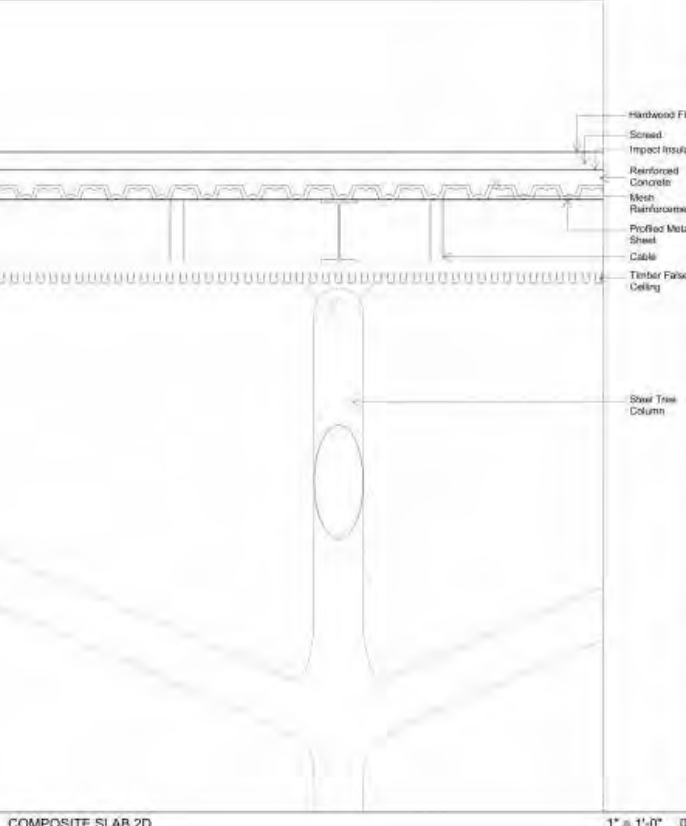
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BIOSPHERE ENVELOPE CALLOUT 01



COMPOSITE SLAB 3D 02



COMPOSITE SLAB 2D 1" = 1'-0" 03

30AX FALL 2024

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960 E 3rd St
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SCI-ARC

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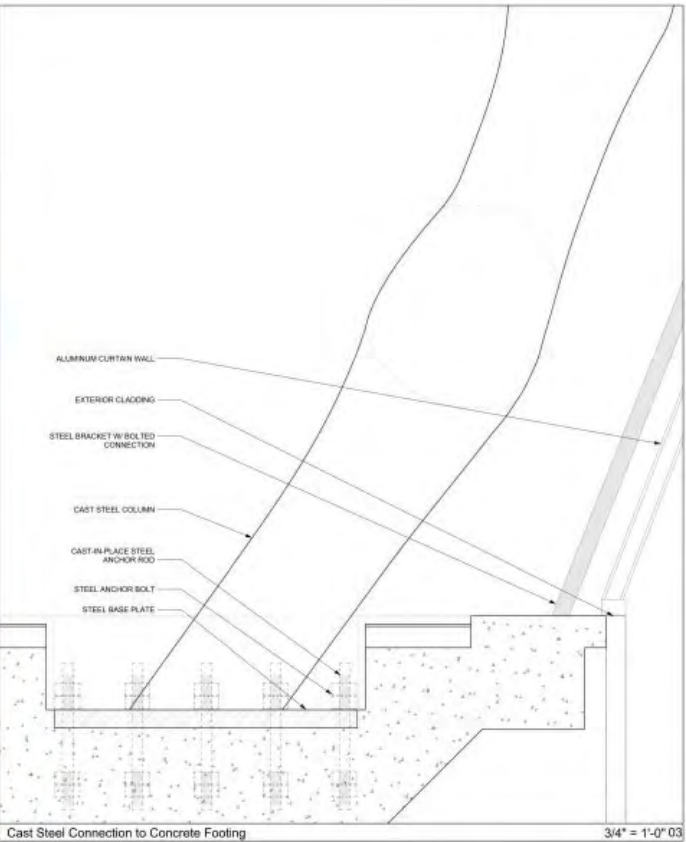
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BIOSPHERE ENVELOPE CALLOUT NTS 01



Aluminum Curtain Wall to Concrete Curb NTS 02



Cast Steel Connection to Concrete Footing 3/4" = 1'-0" 03

30AX FALL 2024

APPLIED STUDIES
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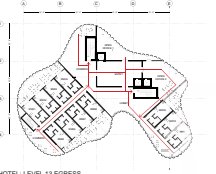
960 E 3rd St
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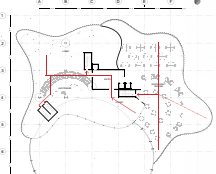
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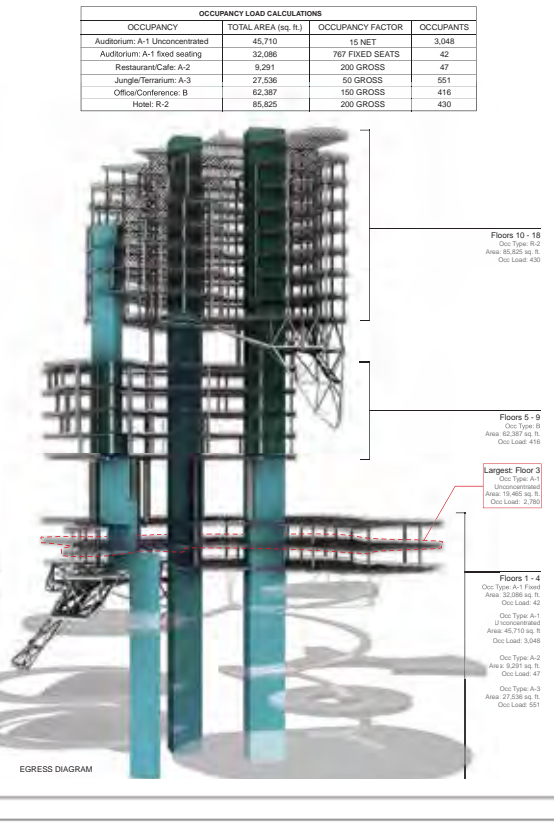
HOTEL LEVEL 13 EGRESS



CONVENTION HALL LEVEL 4 EGRESS



GROUND LEVEL EGRESS



EGRESS DIAGRAM

30AX FALL 2024

APPLIED STUDIES
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

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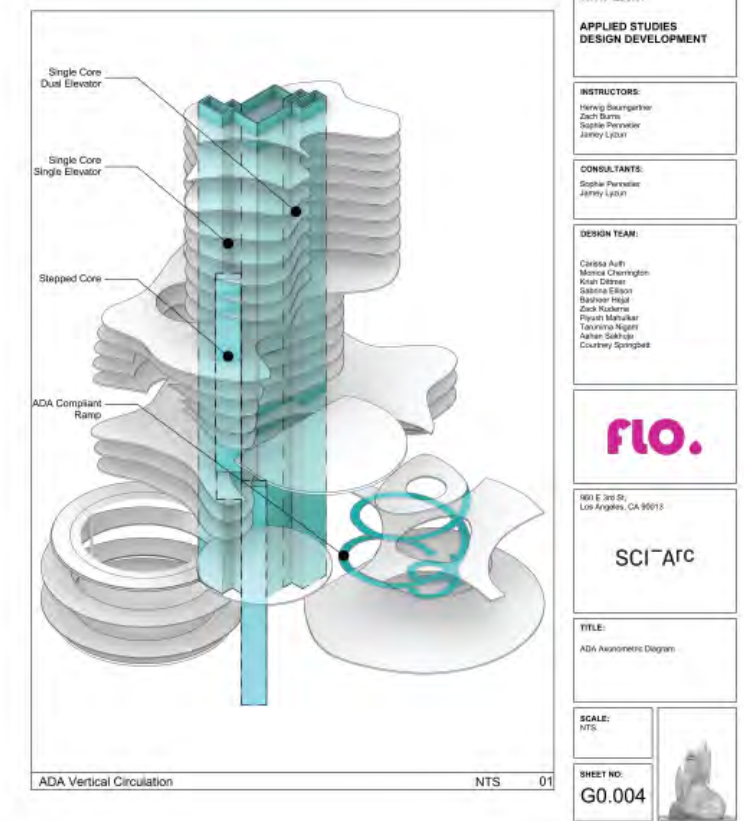
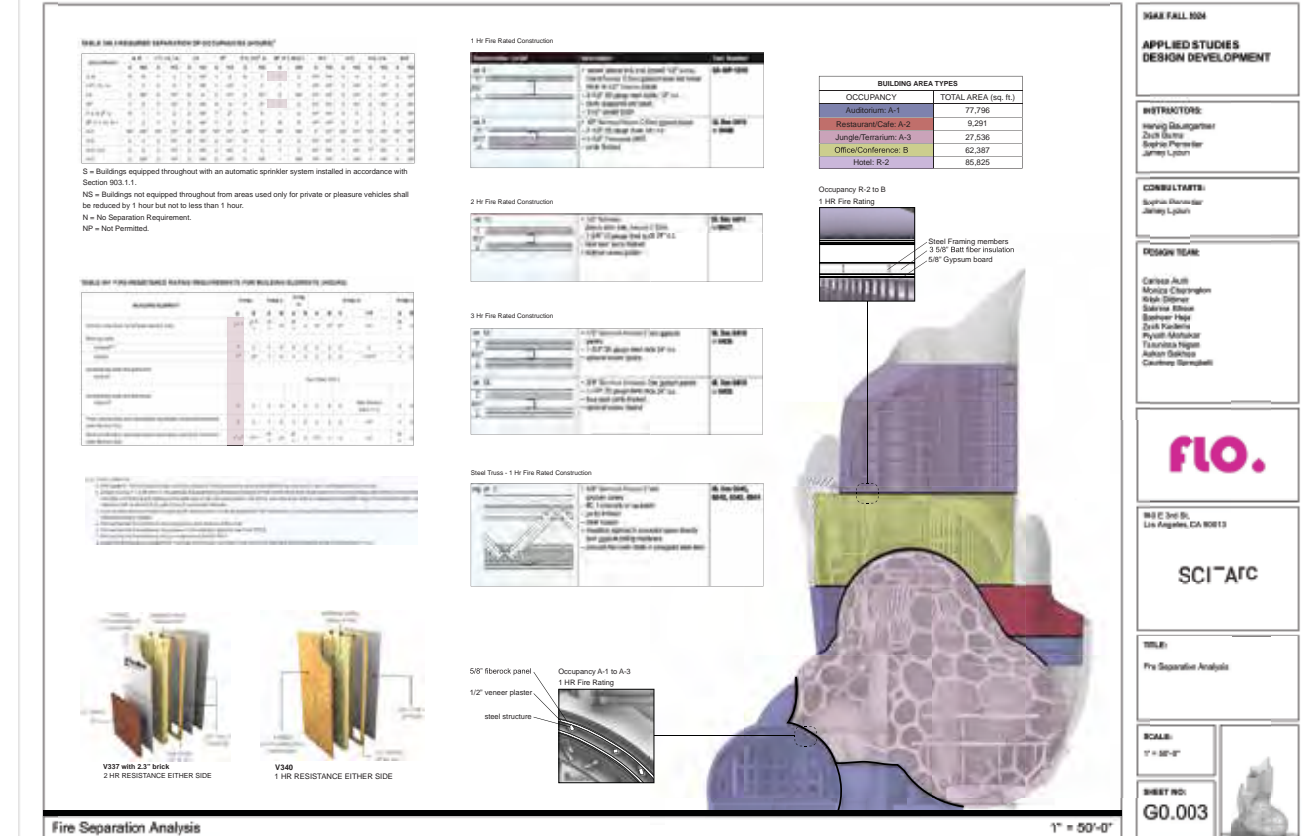
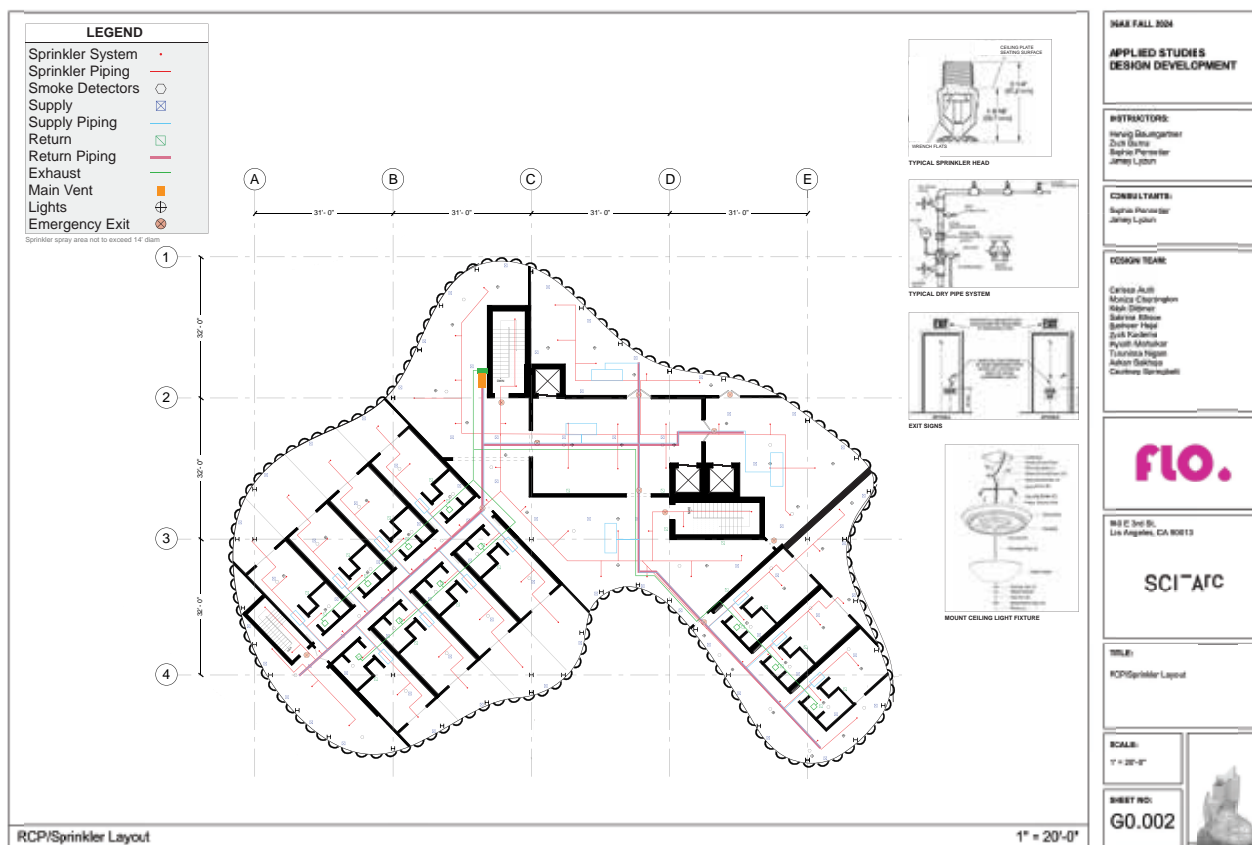
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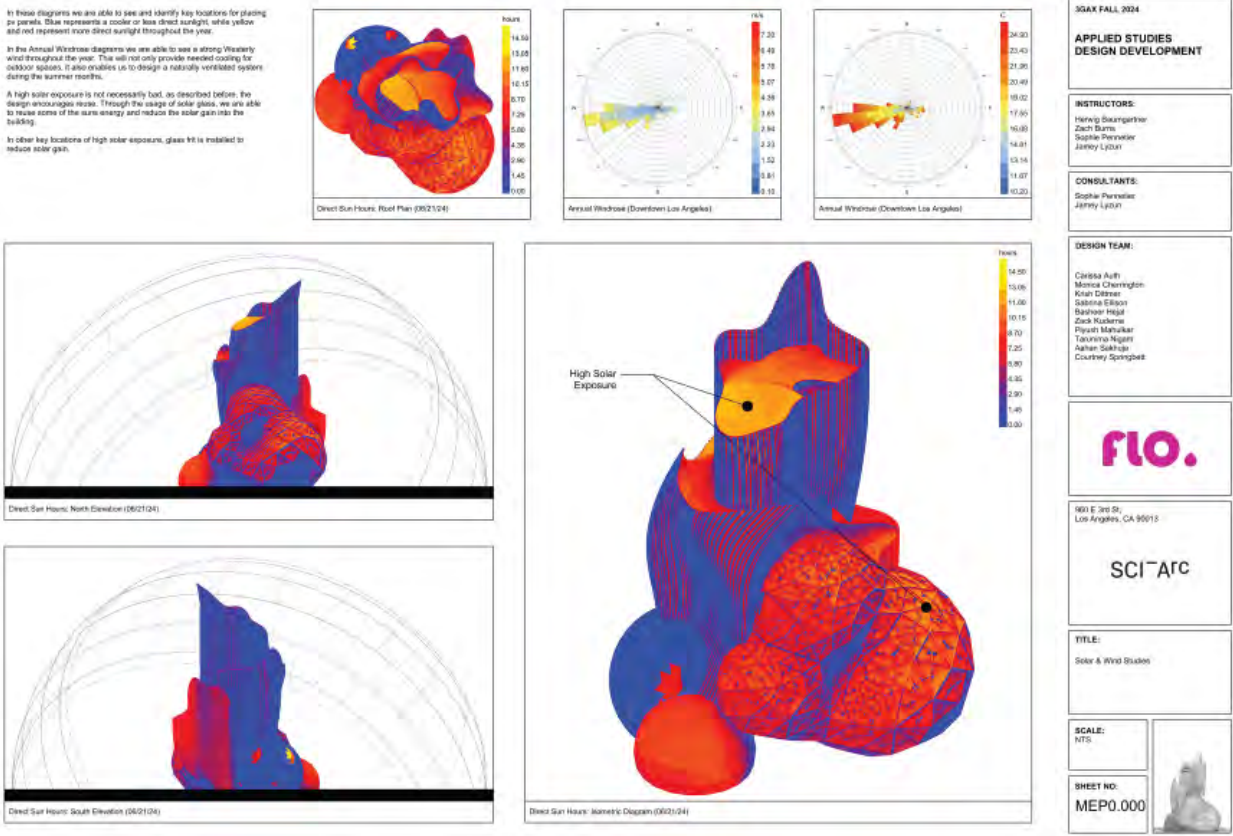
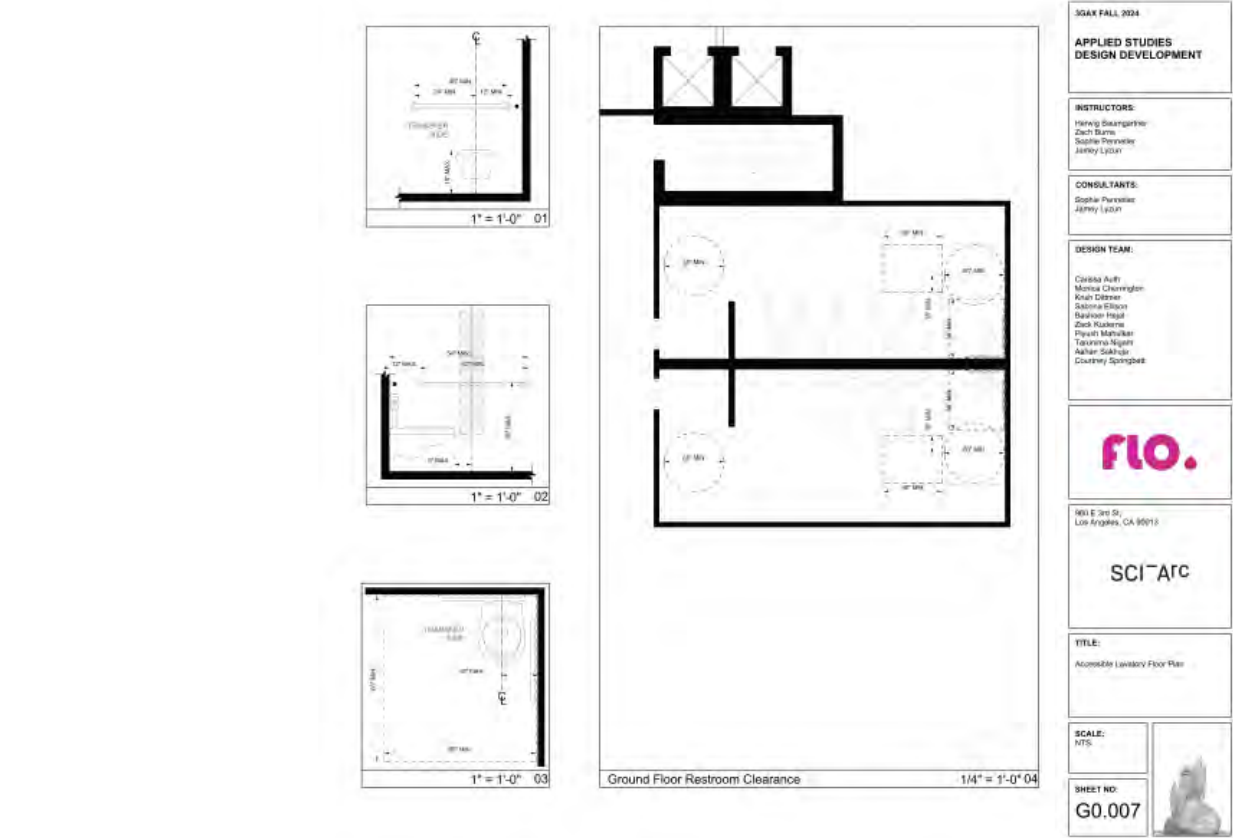
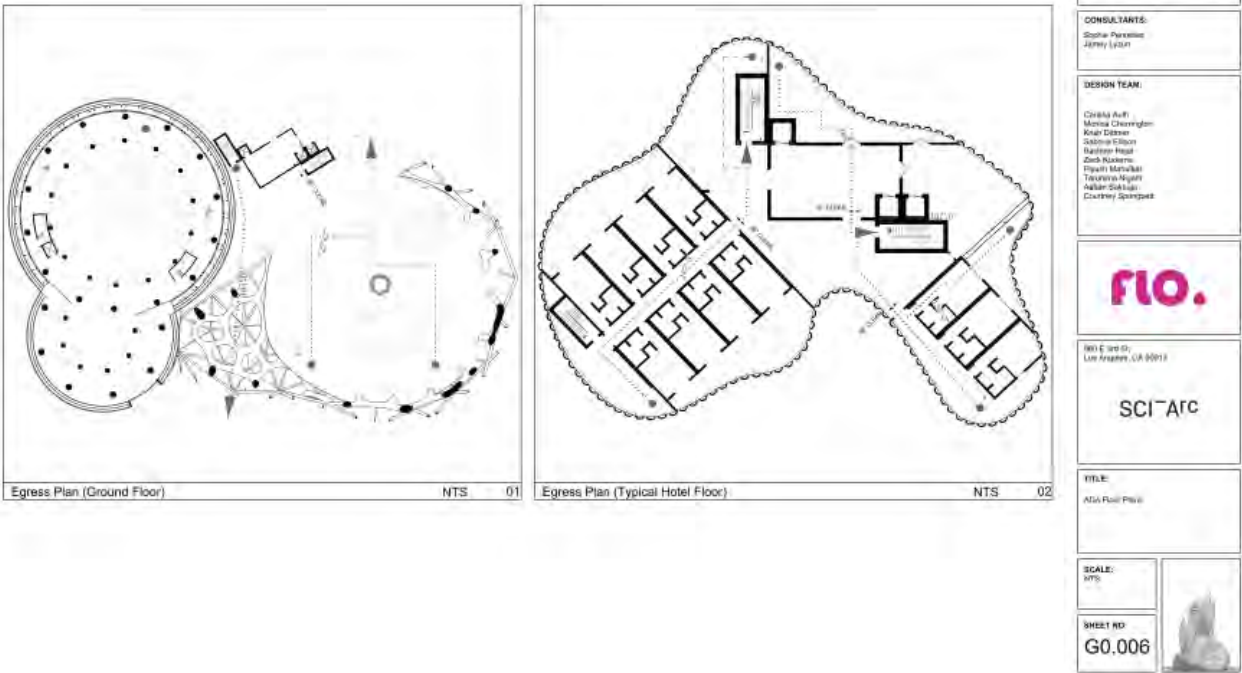
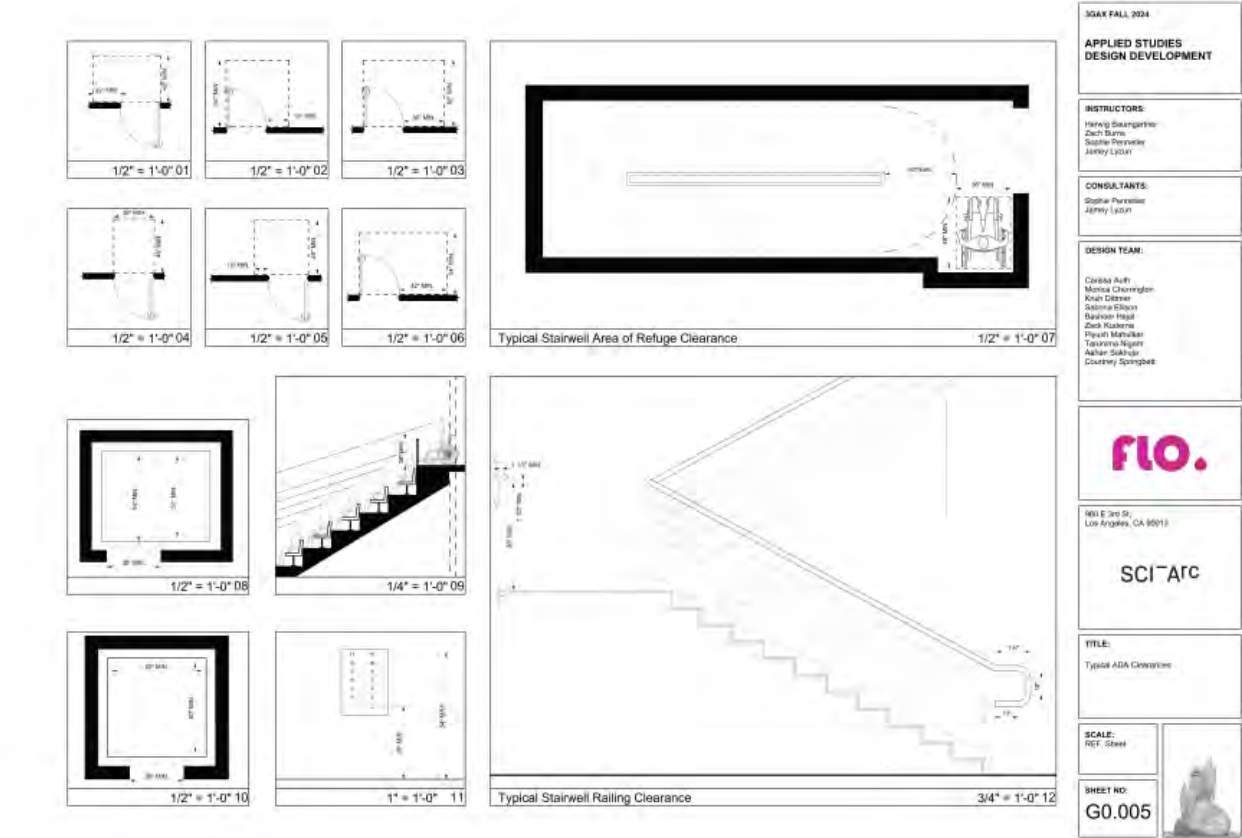
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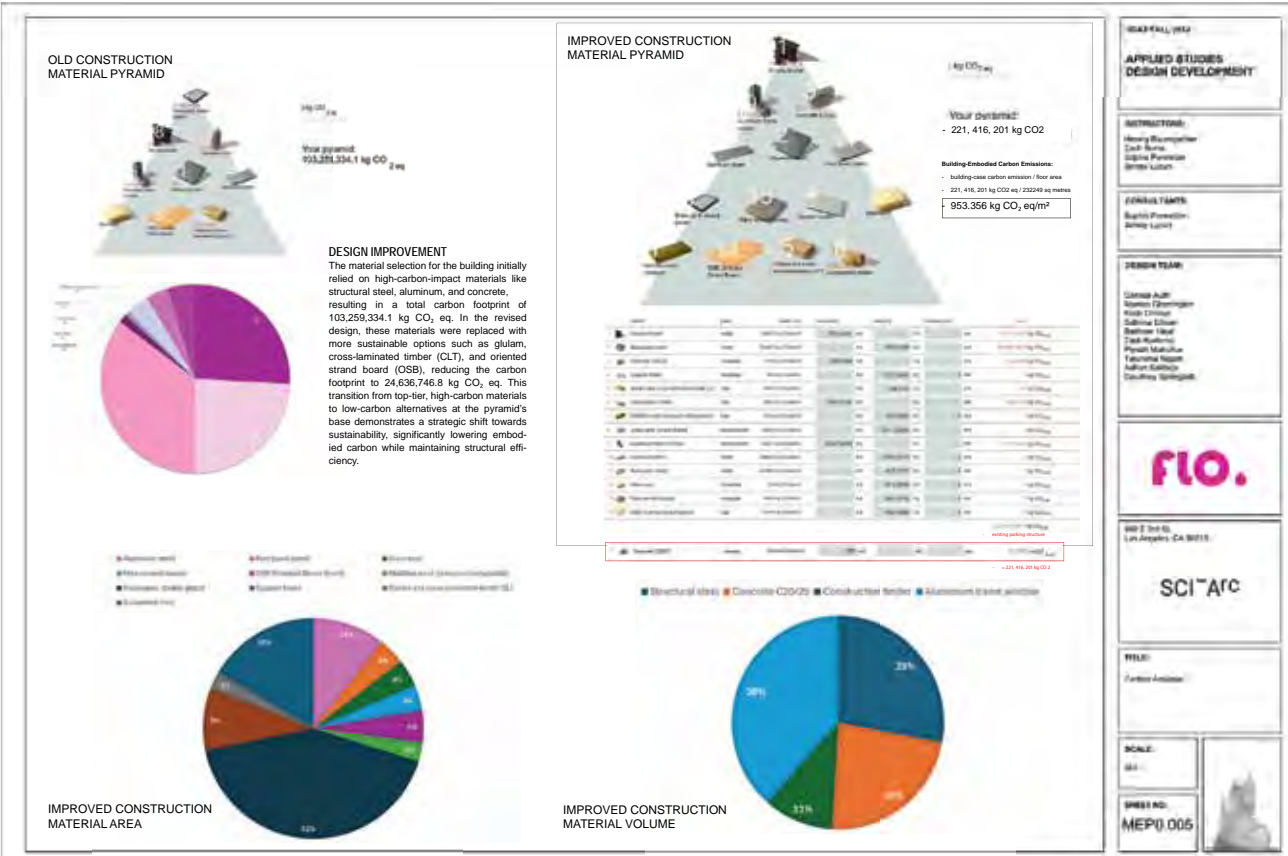
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NTS

SHEET NO:
G0.000







THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO

3GBX: DS Vertical Studio

SPRING 2025

INSTRUCTOR: Elena Manferdini

PERSPECTIVE PHOTO OF SET 1 MODEL





PORTRAIT OF WOLFGANG MOZART

This project was developed as part of the Spring 2025 studio The Dream Factory at SCI-Arc, where each student selected one opera, opera house, and set design to research and reinterpret through the lens of contemporary architecture and visual storytelling. The class challenged us to reimagine operatic narratives and spatial environments in response to today's sociopolitical and cultural realities, using architectural techniques and emerging AI tools to visualize new forms of performance and meaning.

Premiering in 1786, Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* is a comic opera based on a controversial play by Pierre Beaumarchais.

Set in 18th-century Spain, the story follows Figaro, a servant, and Susanna, his bride-to-be, as they try to outwit their employer, Count Almaviva, who attempts to seduce Susanna before her wedding night. With the help of the Countess, Almaviva's neglected and heartbroken wife, the couple stages a series of clever schemes to expose the Count's behavior. Through mistaken identities, disguises, and social reversals, the opera critiques class inequality, patriarchal power, and aristocratic privilege. Despite its comedic tone, the work carried radical undertones for its time, championing the intelligence and agency of servants over their noble masters and ending with forgiveness and reconciliation.



OPERA ARTWORK



CHRISTIAN GERHAHER PLAYS THE CLEVER FIGARO AND SIMON KEENLYSIDE HIS ARISTOCRATIC MASTER IN THIS REVIVAL OF DAVID MCVICAR'S MUCH-LOVED PRODUCTION AT THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.

This project reimagines Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro through a contemporary architectural and narrative lens. Drawing on the opera's original critique of class, power, and gender, the story is relocated to a lavish modern wedding venue where institutional hierarchies, corporate entitlement, and gendered power dynamics come into sharp focus. Figaro becomes a quick-witted wedding planner, Susanna the determined bride, and the Count is

reinterpreted as Mr. Alvaro, a manipulative venue owner whose actions threaten the celebration. Rosina, the venue owner's wife, experiences her own awakening as she shifts from complicit bystander to active ally. These updated character arcs explore themes of loyalty, consent, and resistance within a glossy, high-pressure environment that mirrors real-world social structures.



CONTEMPORARY VERSION OF THE COUNT



CONTEMPORARY VERSION OF ROSINA



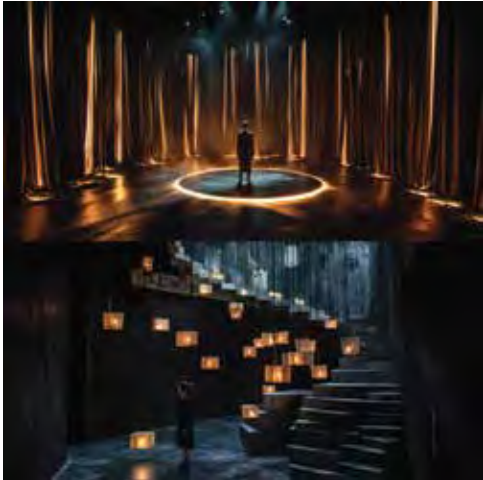
CONTEMPORARY VERSION OF FIGARO AND SUSANNA



SCREENSHOTS OF AI GENERATED VIDEO OF SUSANNA TURNING 360 DEGREES



AI GENERATED IMAGE OF ACT 1 STAGE SET



AI GENERATED IMAGE OF ACT 2 STAGE SET



AI GENERATED IMAGES OF OTHER CHARACTERS



DIGITAL MODEL OF ACT 1 STAGE SET



DIGITAL MODEL OF ACT 2 STAGE SET



AI GENERATED VIDEO OF ACT 1

Architecturally, the project blends minimalist design with surreal scenography, inspired by the immersive light work of James Turrell. The set features mirrored panels, void-like staircases, and atmospheric lighting to heighten the emotional and psychological tension of the scenes. AI tools like MidJourney and Kling were used to generate imagery and cinematic sequences, allowing for a hybrid storytelling approach that merges performance, architecture, and digital experimentation.

This reinterpretation asks how the operatic stage, both physical and symbolic, can be used to challenge outdated narratives and spotlight ongoing cultural conflicts through spatial design and visual media.



AI GENERATED VIDEO OF ACT 2



AI GENERATED VIDEO OF ACT 2



AI GENERATED VIDEO OF ACT 2



AI GENERATED VIDEO OF ACT 1

ACT 1

At a luxury wedding venue, wedding planner Figaro and bride-to-be Susanna go over final details, but Figaro becomes suspicious when he learns their suite is next to the venue owner, Mr. Alvaro, who has been making unwanted advances toward Susanna. Figaro vows to stop him while venue staff member Marceline demands repayment of an old debt, threatening legal action to force him into marriage, with Dr. Bartholo supporting her claim. Meanwhile, Susanna's flirtatious cousin Cherie reveals that Mr. Alvaro meddles in his employees' lives, and Rosina, Mr. Alvaro's wife, arrives, hiding her frustrations under a polished socialite facade.

ACT 2

In the bridal suite, Figaro and Susanna devise a plan to expose Mr. Alvaro, with Cherie flirting with him as a trap, though his power unnerves them. Rosina misinterprets the scene as an affair, but after confronting her husband, she discovers his true nature and decides to help Susanna. Meanwhile, Figaro overhears Marceline's lawsuit and learns she is his long-lost mother, resolving the debt but leaving his power struggle with Mr. Alvaro unresolved.

ACT 3

Rosina and Susanna unite against Mr. Alvaro, while Cherie, in disguise, lures him into a compromising situation that is caught on camera. However, his furious reaction serves as a stark reminder of the dangers they face in challenging his power.

ACT 4

Mr. Alvaro makes a public apology, but Rosina quietly asserts her independence, refusing to be controlled any longer. Figaro and Susanna finally marry, celebrating their love and victory, despite the lingering tensions from their struggles.



PERSPECTIVE PHOTO OF SET 2 MODEL



PERSPECTIVE PHOTO OF SET 2 MODEL



PERSPECTIVE PHOTO OF SET 1 MODEL



PERSPECTIVE PHOTO OF SET 2 MODEL



PERSPECTIVE PHOTO OF SET 1 MODEL



PERSPECTIVE PHOTO OF SET 1 MODEL



PERSPECTIVE PHOTO OF SET 1 MODEL



PERSPECTIVE PHOTO OF SET 1 MODEL



PHOTO OF SUSANNA AS A DOLL



PHOTOS OF SUSANNA AS A DOLL

FROM FLESH TO CODE

3GBX: LA Outsider Geographies
SPRING 2025
INSTRUCTOR: Daniel Tovar

AI GENERATED UTOPIA

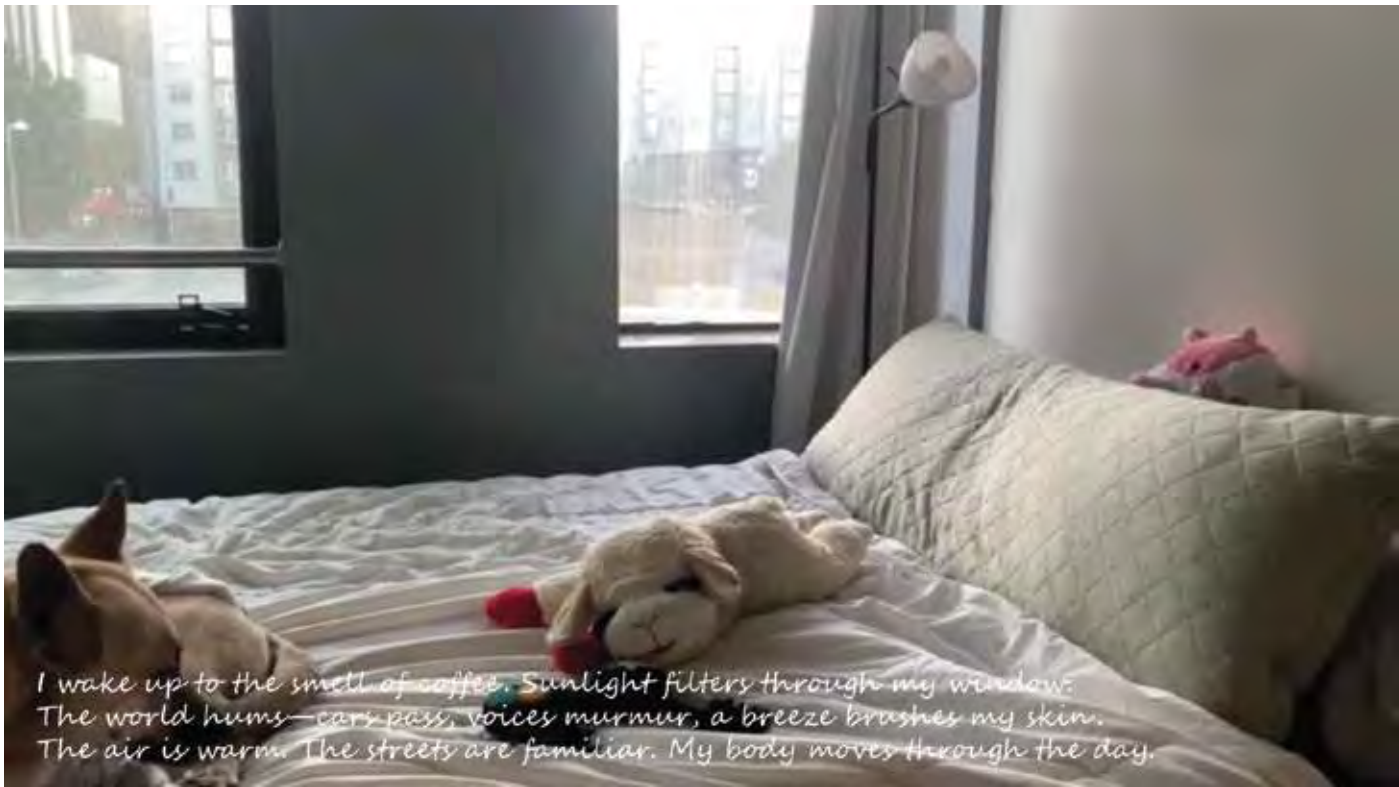


This video project, created for Outsider Geographies, explores the unstable boundary between lived experience and synthetic environments. Inspired by Thomas More's Utopia and Michel Foucault's writings on utopias and the body, From Flesh to Code interrogates how digital tools reframe our perceptions of landscape, embodiment, and presence.

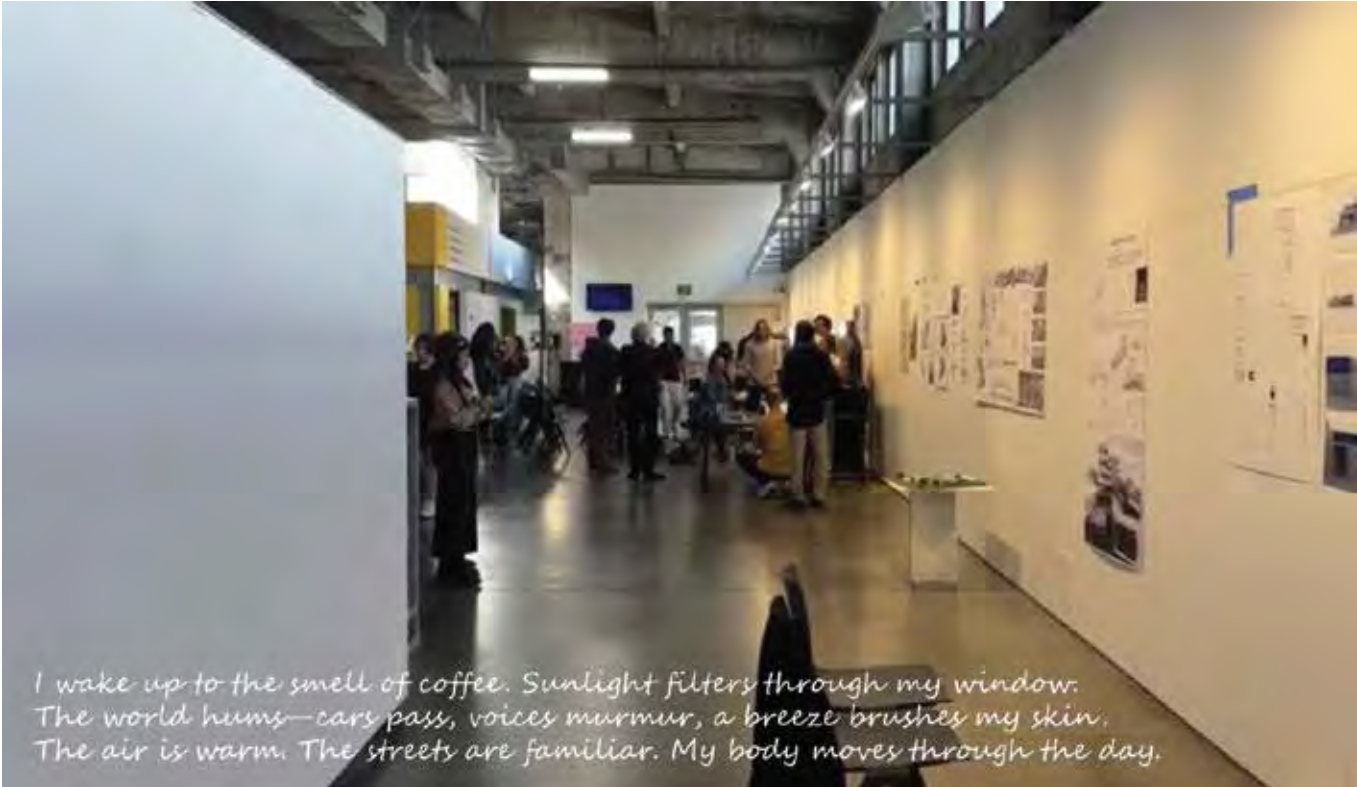
The video opens with a grounded sensory narrative: sunlight filtering through a window, ambient city noise, and text that mimics personal reflection. These moments form a recognizable "eutopia," a flawed but tangible world that engages the senses and feels materially inhabited.



SCREENSHOT OF VIDEO



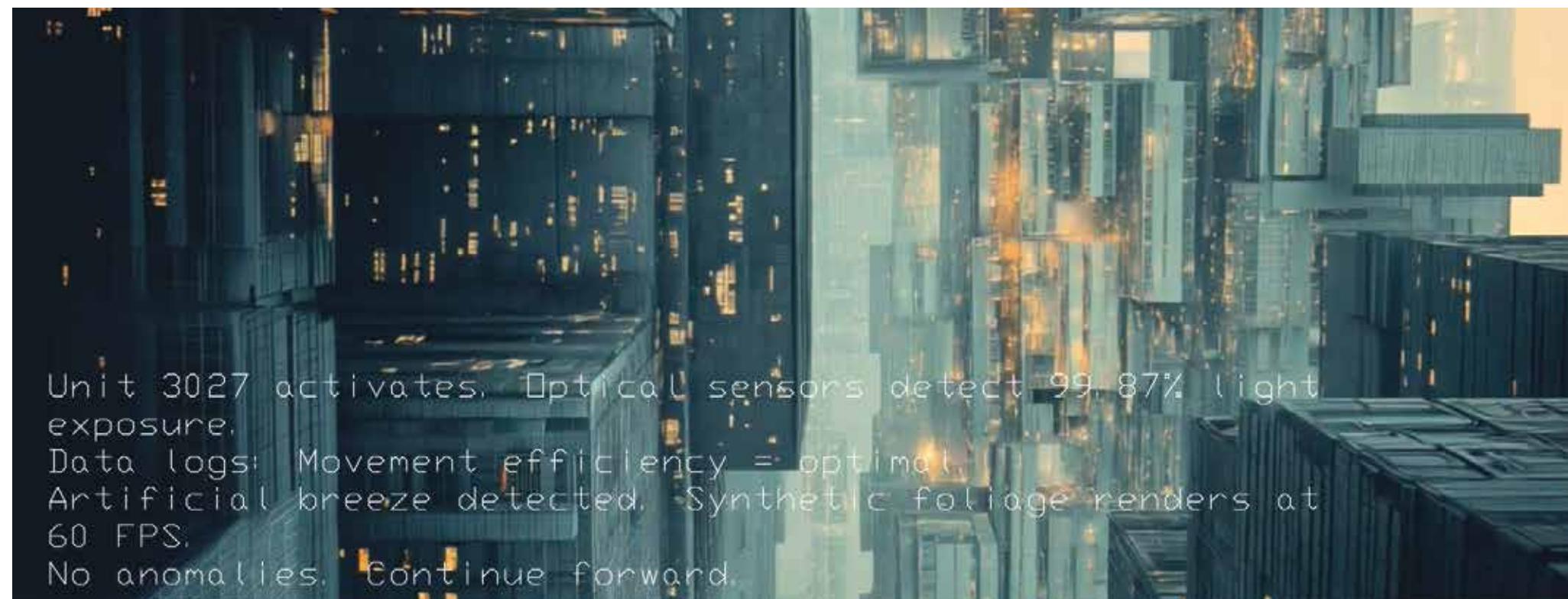
SCREENSHOT OF VIDEO



SCREENSHOT OF VIDEO



SCREENSHOT OF VIDEO



SCREENSHOT OF VIDEO

As the piece progresses, reality dissolves. The organic morphs into the rendered. Familiar textures glitch. AI-generated cityscapes, clean, ordered, and eerily perfect, overtake the screen. These synthetic utopias, while visually seductive, become "non-places": uninhabitable, frictionless, and devoid of bodies. On-screen text evolves in parallel, shifting from journaled thought to robotic syntax, marking the erasure of subjectivity and sensation.

Yet, this technological perfection cracks. Glitches emerge. A human hand reappears. Text fragments reclaim the first-person voice. The project closes in a liminal zone where the artificial cannot fully contain the real—where the human leaks back into the machine.

By mapping the visual and linguistic collapse from presence to simulation and back, *From Flesh to Code* critically examines the aesthetics of idealized environments. It suggests that even in our most designed and disembodied digital utopias, the complexity of human experience endures.



SCREENSHOT OF VIDEO



SCREENSHOT OF VIDEO



SCREENSHOT OF VIDEO

Sabrina Ellison

Outsider Geographies

SCI-Arc Spring 2025

From Flesh to Code

What happens when the world around us is no longer experienced, but rendered? Inspired by Thomas More's Utopia, particularly his idea that a "good place" (eutopia) and a "non-place" (utopia) are the same, I wanted to explore how synthetic, AI-generated environments echo our collective longing for ideal spaces while simultaneously dislocating us from material reality. My video transitions from footage of everyday life to a digitally constructed cityscape. The final product is not just about AI or futurism; it's about the slippery nature of space, memory, and embodiment in an era of synthetic reality that influences how we perceive our environment.

The video opens in what feels like a "good place." A quiet morning with ambient city noise that increasingly gets louder as I progress through my schedule. These are lived, textured experiences that root the viewer in a recognizable world. This is eutopia as many of us understand it, as I understand it. This section of the video prioritizes organic movement and natural light to ground the viewer in what feels immediate and real. Text on screen mimics journal-like thoughts: "I wake up to the smell of coffee. Sunlight filters through my window." These human markers emphasize the lived-ness of the world. It's not a perfect place, but it's a place, nonetheless.

As the video progresses, this tactile reality begins to dissolve. The light shifts. Familiar objects glitch and blur. Eventually, the real world is overtaken by futuristic

cityscapes and landscapes. In many ways, this cityscape represents a contemporary version of eutopia: technologically advanced, visually perfect, and devoid of error. It's the kind of world imagined in marketing campaigns and rendered by image generators like Kling.ai. And yet, it is also a "non-place," a visual simulation, not a space that can be inhabited in any meaningful way. There is no dirt, no noise, no unpredictability. Just order and design.

This shift in the video, from human experience to synthetic rendering, is not meant to suggest that technology is inherently dystopian. Rather, I'm interested in the ways that human manipulation and digital tools create a new kind of utopia. The AI cityscape is beautiful, even mesmerizing. But its perfection comes at a cost. There are no people in this landscape. No friction, no clutter, no noise. It's utopia as a rendered dream, an algorithm's best guess at what we want, based on what we've already consumed. In this sense, the city becomes a visual metaphor for the constructed experience of AI itself, seamless, structured, and detached.¹

Throughout the second half of the video, the on-screen text evolves too. What began as human reflection becomes robotic data: "Unit 3027 activates. Optical sensors detect 99.87% light exposure." Language becomes syntax. The text shift mirrors the environment shift, from a personal perspective to disembodied information. What is lost in this transition is not only the "real," but the body itself. This parallels Michel Foucault's observation that utopia is often imagined as a space without bodies, free of the mess and mortality of physical life.²³

Still, the video does not end with a clean break into the synthetic. In the final moments, the digital begins to glitch again. Small cracks form in the perfection of the AI world. The previous bustling cityscape transitions in. A human hand reappears. The text becomes fragmented: “Unit 3027—No, I—wake up. I see the world. I feel the world.” These disruptions suggest that the real and artificial boundaries are never fully stable. Even in our most carefully designed utopias, the mess of human experience inevitably leaks back in.

Ultimately, my video tries to hold space for this in-between state, the place where reality and simulation blend, where utopia is both a dream and a glitch. By visually tracing the movement from a lived-in world to a synthetic, AI-generated environment, I wanted to examine how our desire for a better place often leads us toward abstraction, not presence. And yet, even in the most polished digital environments, traces of the body, of memory, of real life persist.⁴

¹ Thomas More, *Utopia*, ed. George M. Logan and Robert M. Adams (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002).

² Michel Foucault, “Of Other Spaces: Utopias and Heterotopias,” *Architecture /Mouvement/ Continuité*, October 1984.

³ Michel Foucault, “The Utopian Body,” in *Sensorium: Embodied Experience, Technology, and Contemporary Art*, ed. Caroline A. Jones (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2006), 229–34.

⁴ James C. Scott, *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998).



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