



Jacob Kendrick Merder

Undergraduate Portfolio
Pratt Institute
B.Arch. '26

Jacob Kendrick Merder

New York, New York
www.jakemerder.com
in/jakemerder

+1(770) 731-7325
studio@jakemerder.com



I am a fifth-year Bachelor of Architecture student at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York, anticipating graduation in 2026, with a growing focus on hospitality design as a medium for shaping atmosphere, experience, and human connection. I am particularly drawn to how spaces can be designed not only as functional environments, but as emotionally resonant places that choreograph mood, movement, and interaction. Alongside this, I bring strong interests and experience in residential architecture and adaptive reuse, viewing

these typologies as critical to crafting cities that are both socially responsive and architecturally enduring.

Equally engaged at the urban and building scales, I explore how psychology intersects with architecture and urban planning to influence perception, behavior, and belonging within the built environment. Across all scales and programs, I am committed to creating meaningful, experiential spaces rooted in sustainable, ethical, and contextually grounded design practices.

INTERNSHIPS

07.25 – 12.25

Showroom Intern, Gessi

New York, New York

Contributed to design and proposal development for large-scale residential and hospitality projects, preparing client-facing presentations and tailored specification documents in collaboration with globally recognized architecture and design firms and high-end hospitality brands.

Designed custom bathroom solutions using architectural plans and elevations and produced wishlist packages; utilized Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator, Substance Stager, and Microsoft 365 to support design and communication efforts.

Managed client engagement across retail and trade sectors, coordinating showroom visits, fulfilling sample requests, and maintaining ongoing communication with leads, architects, and designers.

Maintained showroom standards in collaboration with the Showroom Manager, ensuring the space remained clean, organized, and reflective of Gessi's global display and brand expectations.

08.19 – 05.20

Clinical Intern, Northside Hospital

Atlanta, Georgia

Conducted fundamental clinical tasks, including recording vital signs and administering medications.

Supported doctors and surgeons in patient care, including preparation for examinations and procedures.

Strengthened attention to detail, time management, and problem-solving abilities in a fast-paced environment.

Developed strong observational, adaptability, critical thinking, and teamwork skills by actively listening to, following guidance from, and collaborating with experienced professionals.

EDUCATION

08.21 – 05.26
(expected)

B. of Architecture, Pratt Institute

Brooklyn, New York

Construction Management Minor

GPA: 3.44 ; Presidential Merit-Based Scholarship; 5x Dean's List; 4x President's List; Pratt UA Rome

Pratt American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) Board Member: Website Development

SOFTWARES

Rhinoceros	Adobe Suite
Revit	Adobe InDesign
AutoCAD	Adobe Illustrator
Grasshopper	Adobe Photoshop
Enscape	Microsoft Suite
Twinmotion	Architectural Drawing

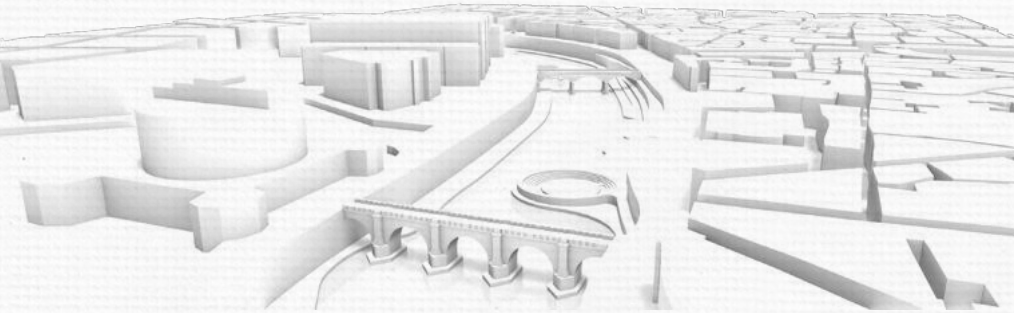
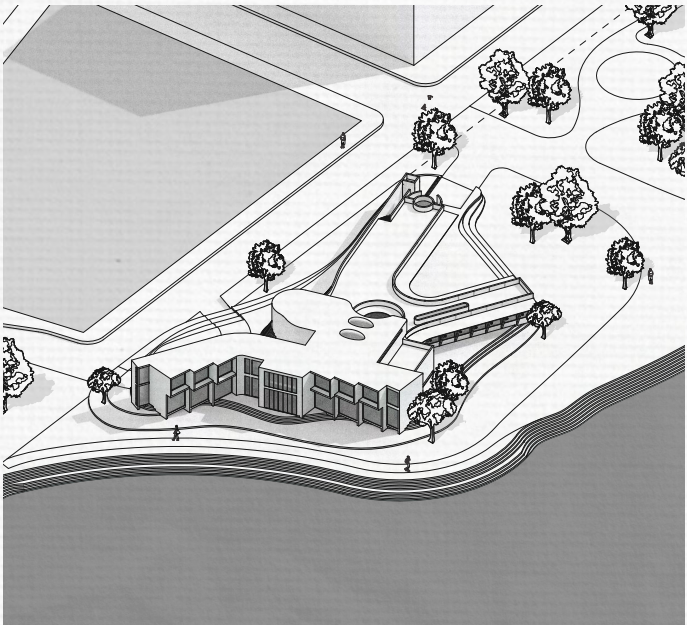
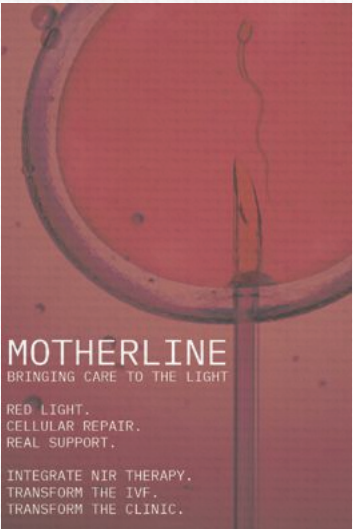
SOFT SKILLS

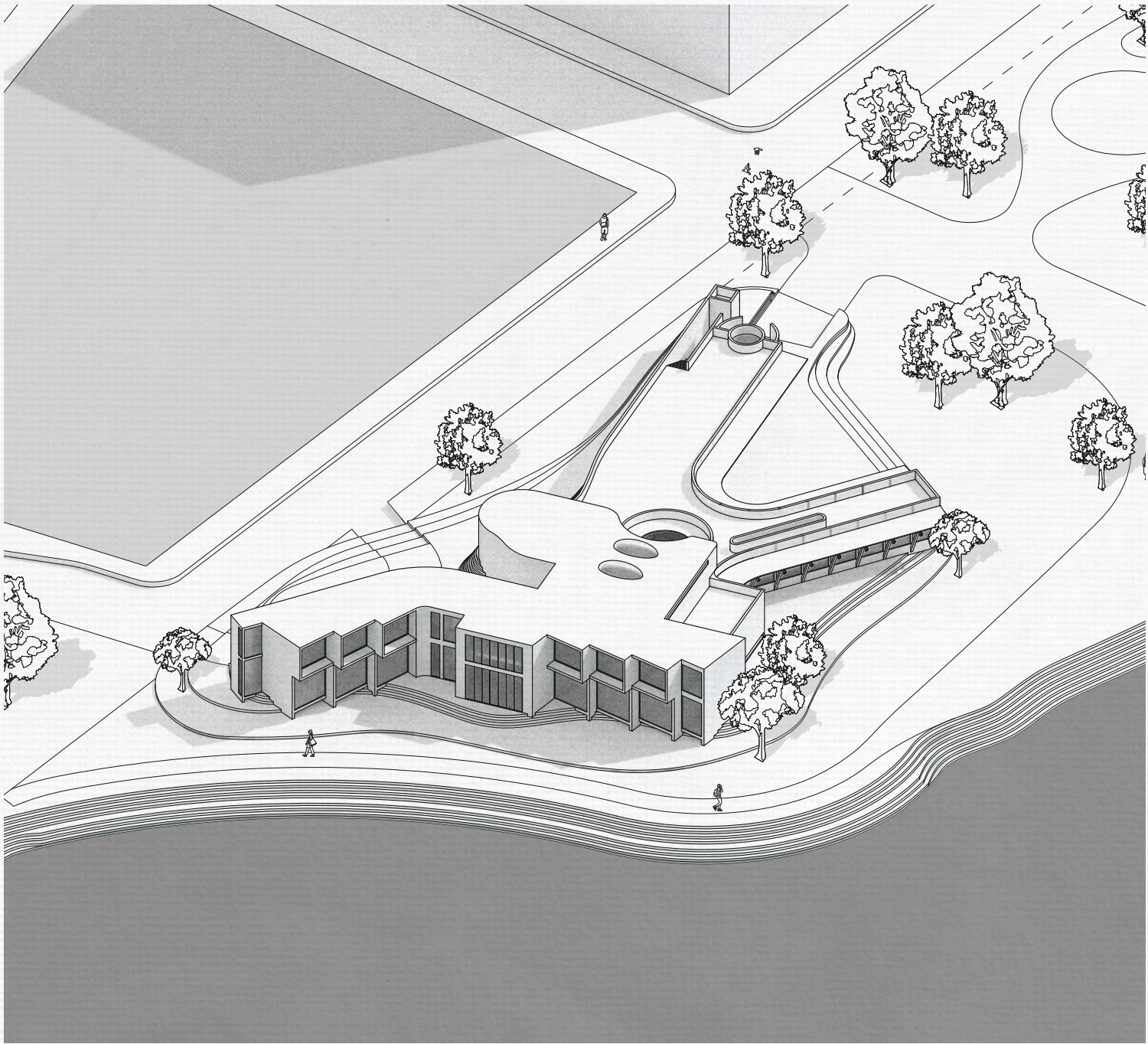
Time Management	Site Research
Communication	Public Speaking
Team Leadership	Critical Thinking
Project Development	Problem Solving
Project Documentation	
Proposal Presentation	

REFERENCES

References available upon request

01	Motherline: Bringing Care to the Light	FA25 Prof. Rychiee Espinosa	05
02	Inverso Urbano: From The City to The River	SP25 Prof. Anthony Buccellato	09
03	Heart of Harlem	FA24 Prof. Frederick Biehle	15
04	Cohabitational Housing	SP24 Prof. Eunjeong Song	21
05	Antithetos/A Brief Inquiry in Designing in Succession	SP23 Prof. Eric Wong	27
06	Occupied, Again: The Politics of Erasure and the Acts of Return	FA26 Prof. Carlyle Fraser Prof. Philip Lee	33





**Motherline:
Bringing Care to the Light**

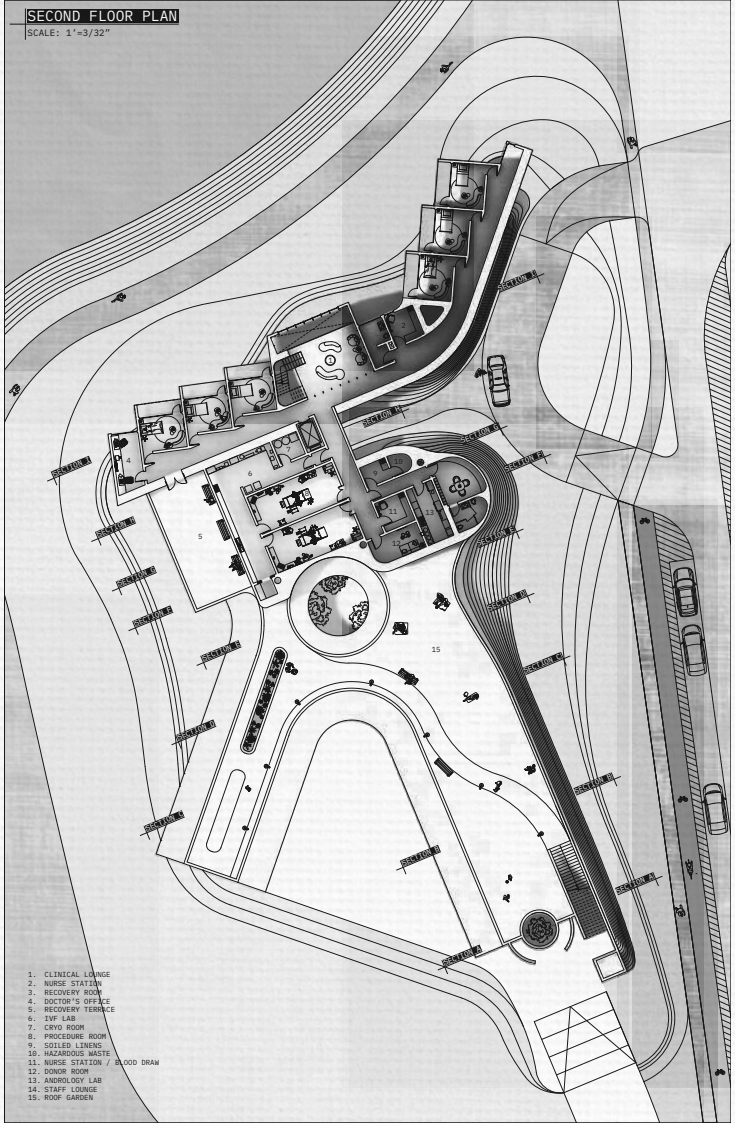
Fall 2025 (Y5/S1)

Motherline reconceives the fertility clinic not as a space defined by procedure and sterility, but as a civic and therapeutic architectural experience rooted in wellness, atmosphere, and care. Situated along the historically industrial Bushwick Inlet in Greenpoint, the project introduces a soft, restorative presence into a hardened urban landscape. Light becomes the primary healing medium through the integration of near-infrared (NIR) light, which supports biological function and improves physiological balance during fertility treatments and pregnancy. Spatially,

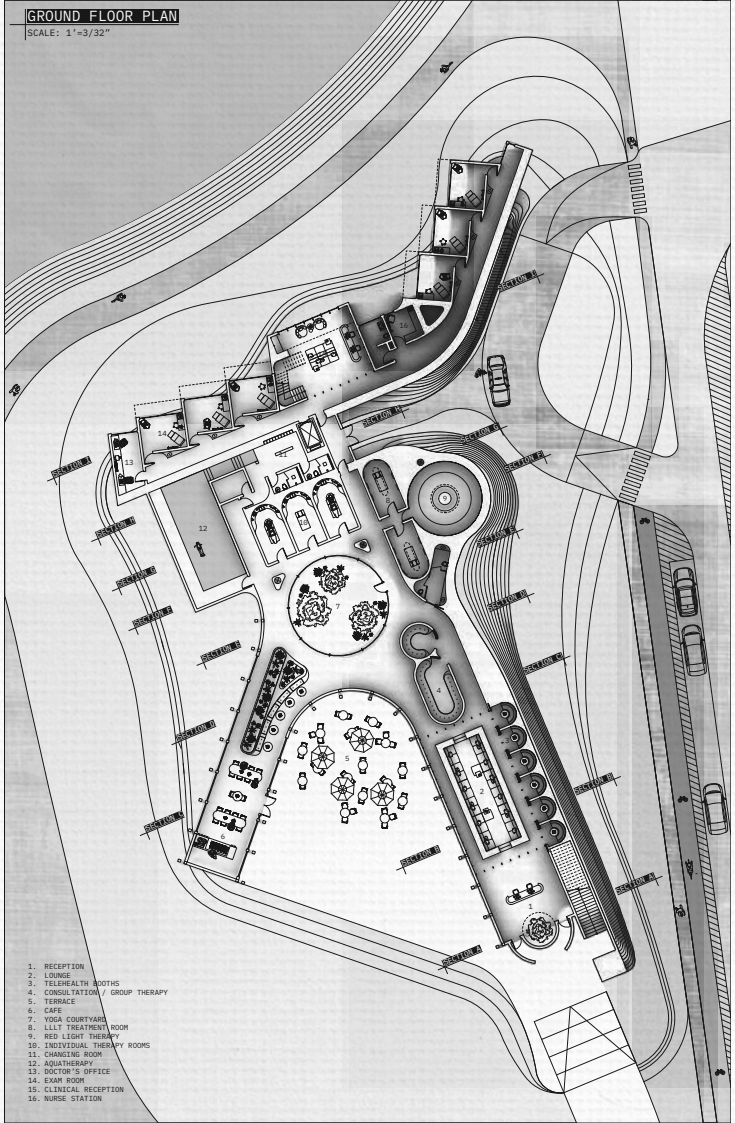
this is choreographed through warm, indirect illumination in treatment areas and natural daylight in clinical zones, embedding care into the material and sensory fabric of the building.

Organized around a rising public promenade and elevated garden, Motherline invites users inward while preserving privacy through layered transitions and material thresholds. The project's ultimate goal is to assert reproductive health as a civic right, proposing architecture where atmosphere itself becomes medicine.

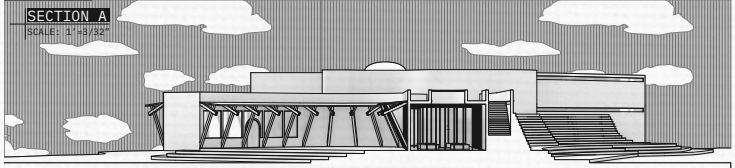
SECOND FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1"=3'/32"



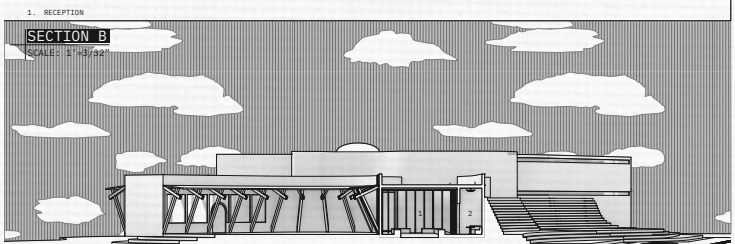
GROUND FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1"=3'/32"



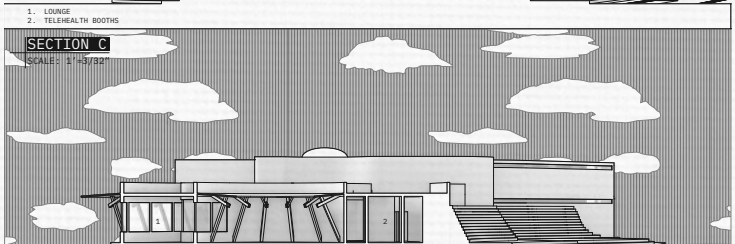
SECTION A
SCALE: 1"=3'/32"



SECTION B
SCALE: 1"=3'/32"



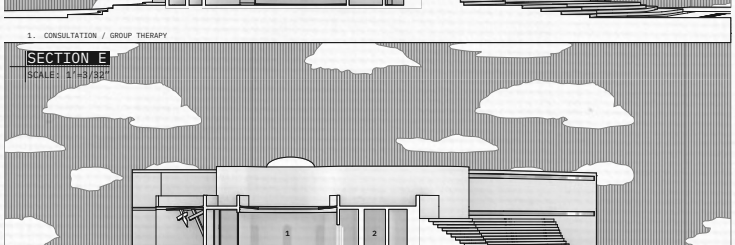
SECTION C
SCALE: 1"=3'/32"



SECTION D
SCALE: 1"=3'/32"



SECTION E
SCALE: 1"=3'/32"



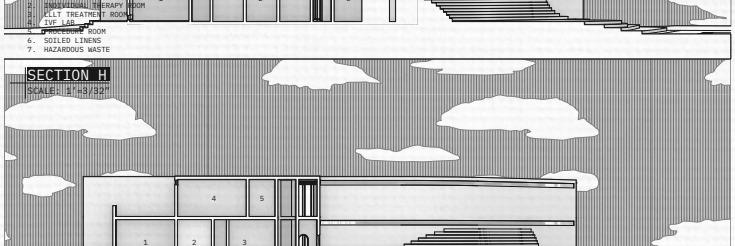
SECTION F
SCALE: 1"=3'/32"



SECTION G
SCALE: 1"=3'/32"



SECTION H
SCALE: 1"=3'/32"

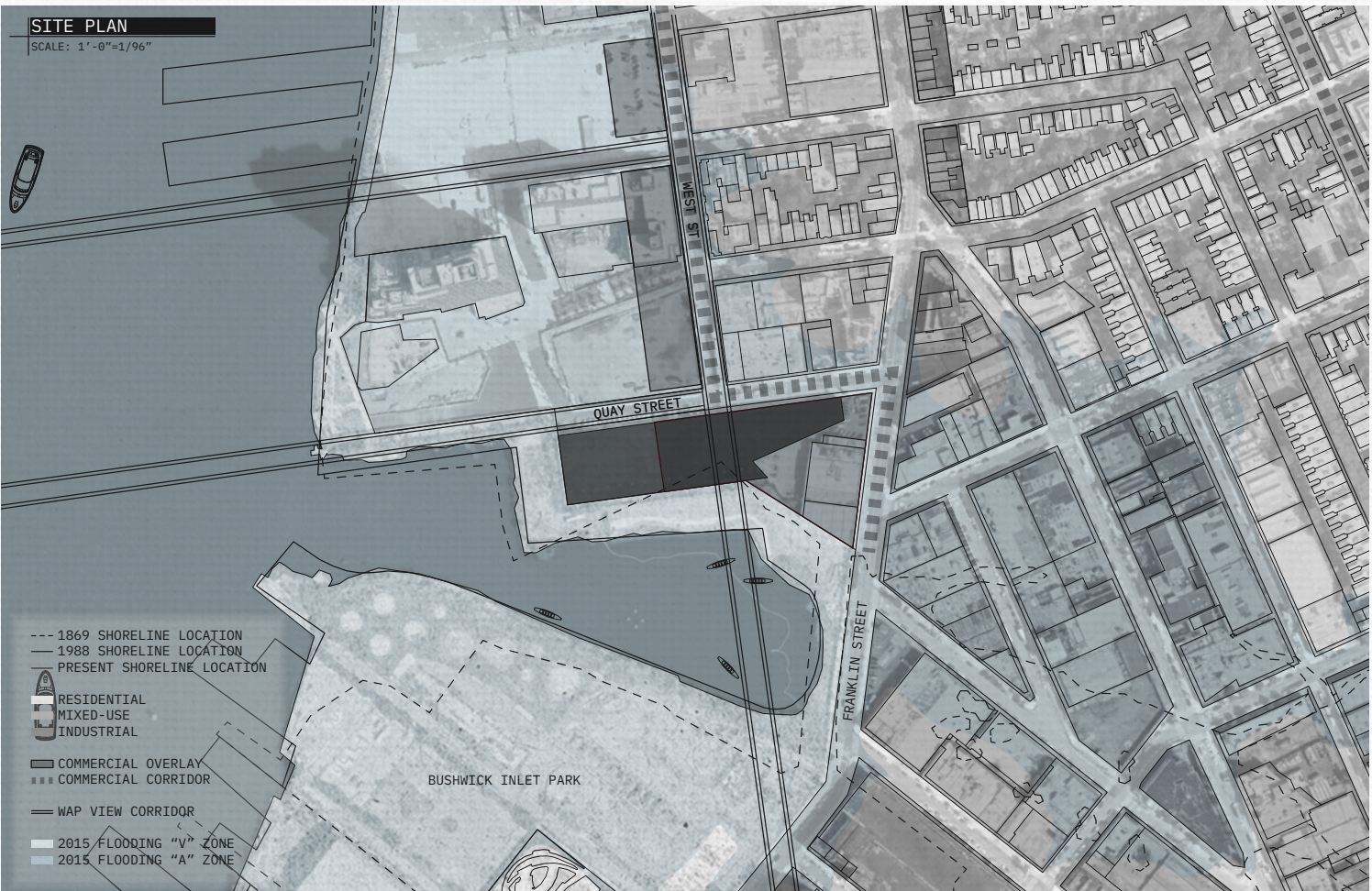


SECTION I
SCALE: 1"=3'/32"



SECTION J
SCALE: 1"=3'/32"

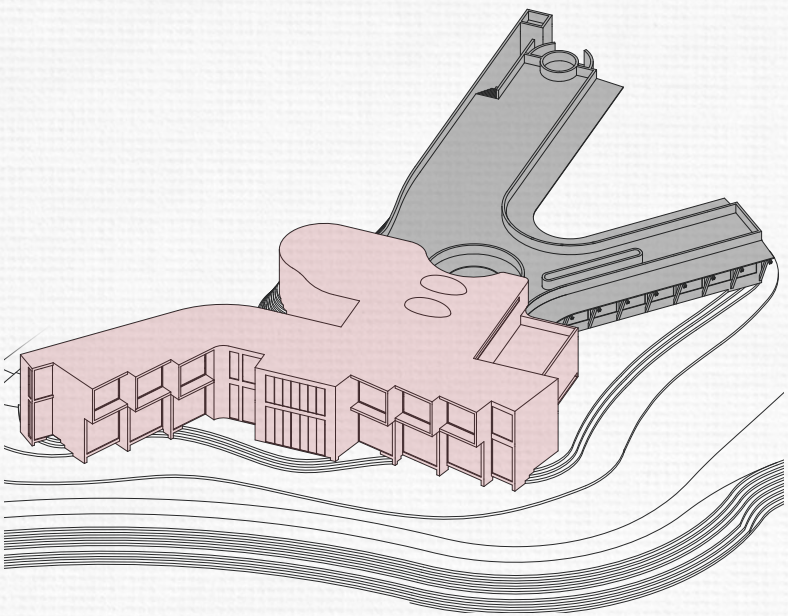




10,000-15,000 Clinic Zone (Private / Semi-Private)

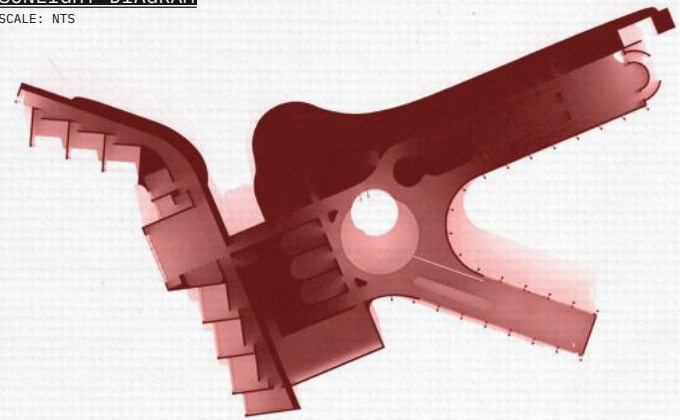
- Clinical Spaces
 - 150-200 Exam Rooms (4-6)
 - 250-400 Procedure Rooms (2-3)
 - 150-300 Recovery Rooms (4-6)
- 800-1,000 Laboratory
- 1000-1500 Staff Support
- 1000-1500 Circulation / Storage / Utilities

- Wellness & Support Spaces
 - 2000-3000 Main Entry + Reception / Check-In
 - 150-250 Consultation Rooms (1 large / 1 small)
 - 600-800 cafe
 - 150-250 Therapy Rooms (3)
 - 150-250 LLLT TREATMENT ROOMS
 - 800-1000 Yoga garden
 - 400-600 RED Light Therapy
 - 600-800 Aquatherapy
 - 300-500 Restrooms (Public + Staff)



SUNLIGHT DIAGRAM

SCALE: NTS

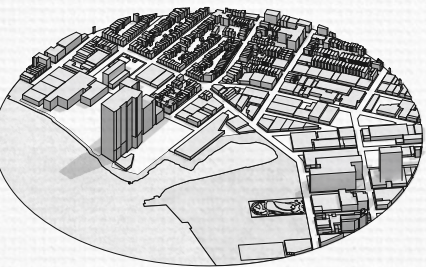
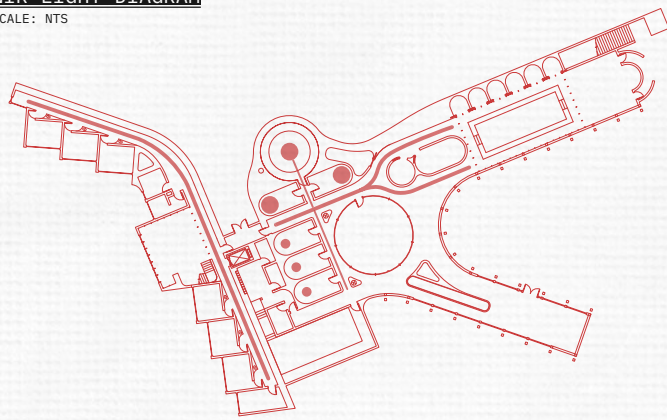


Red Light Therapy Room Model (Scale 1/4" = 1'-0")

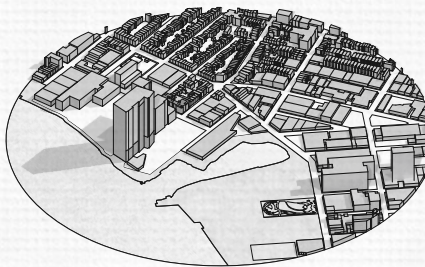


NIR LIGHT DIAGRAM

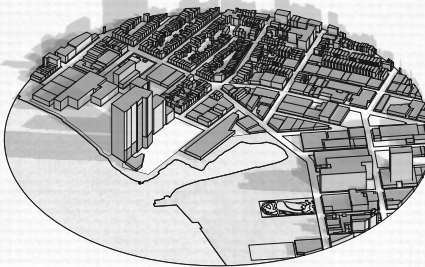
SCALE: NTS



BUSHWICK INLET SOLAR STUDY



BUSHWICK INLET SOLAR STUDY

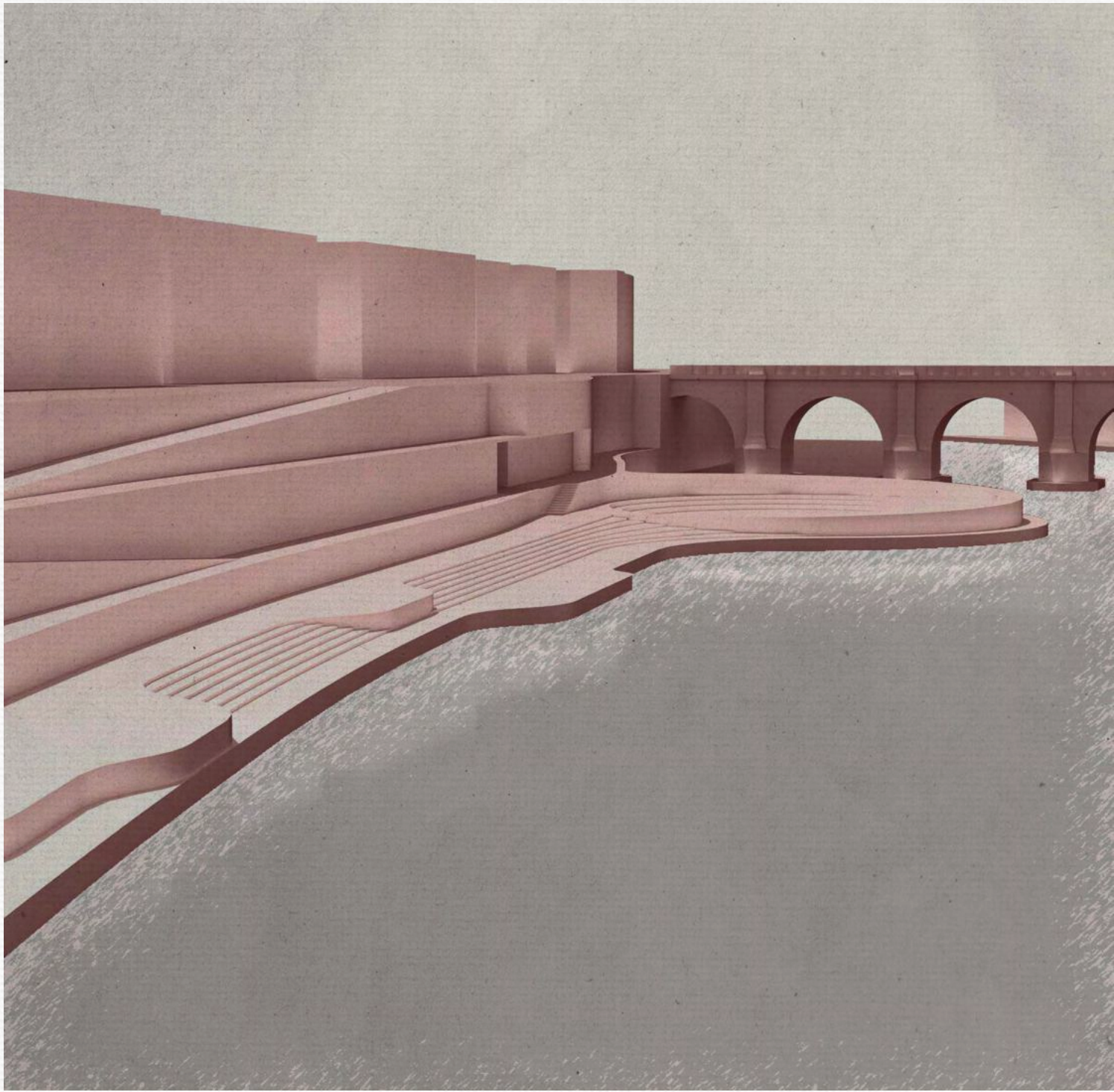


BUSHWICK INLET SOLAR STUDY

JUNE 21 - 09:00, 12:00, 15:00

SEPT. 21 - 09:00, 12:00, 15:00

DEC. 21 - 09:00, 12:00, 15:00

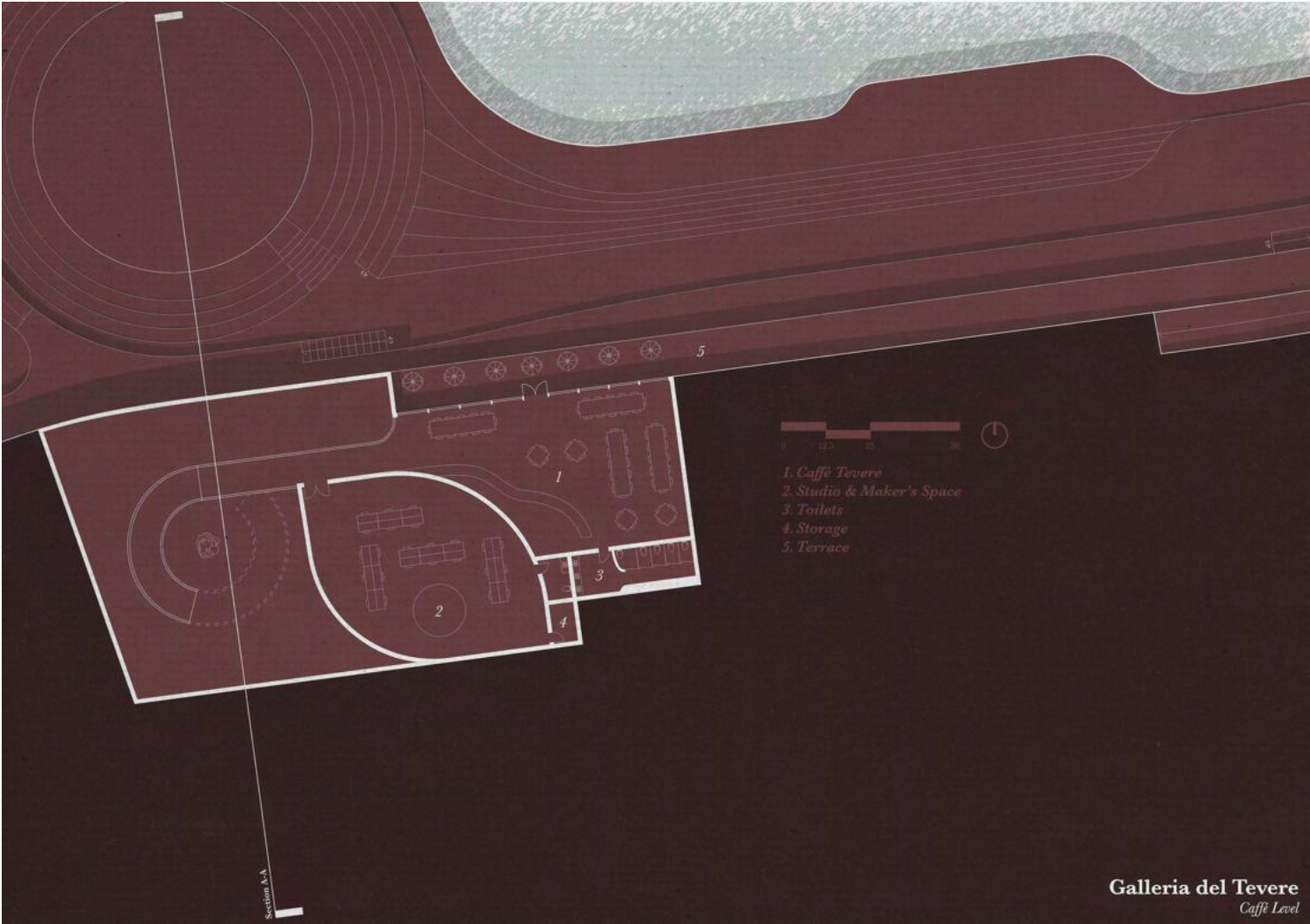
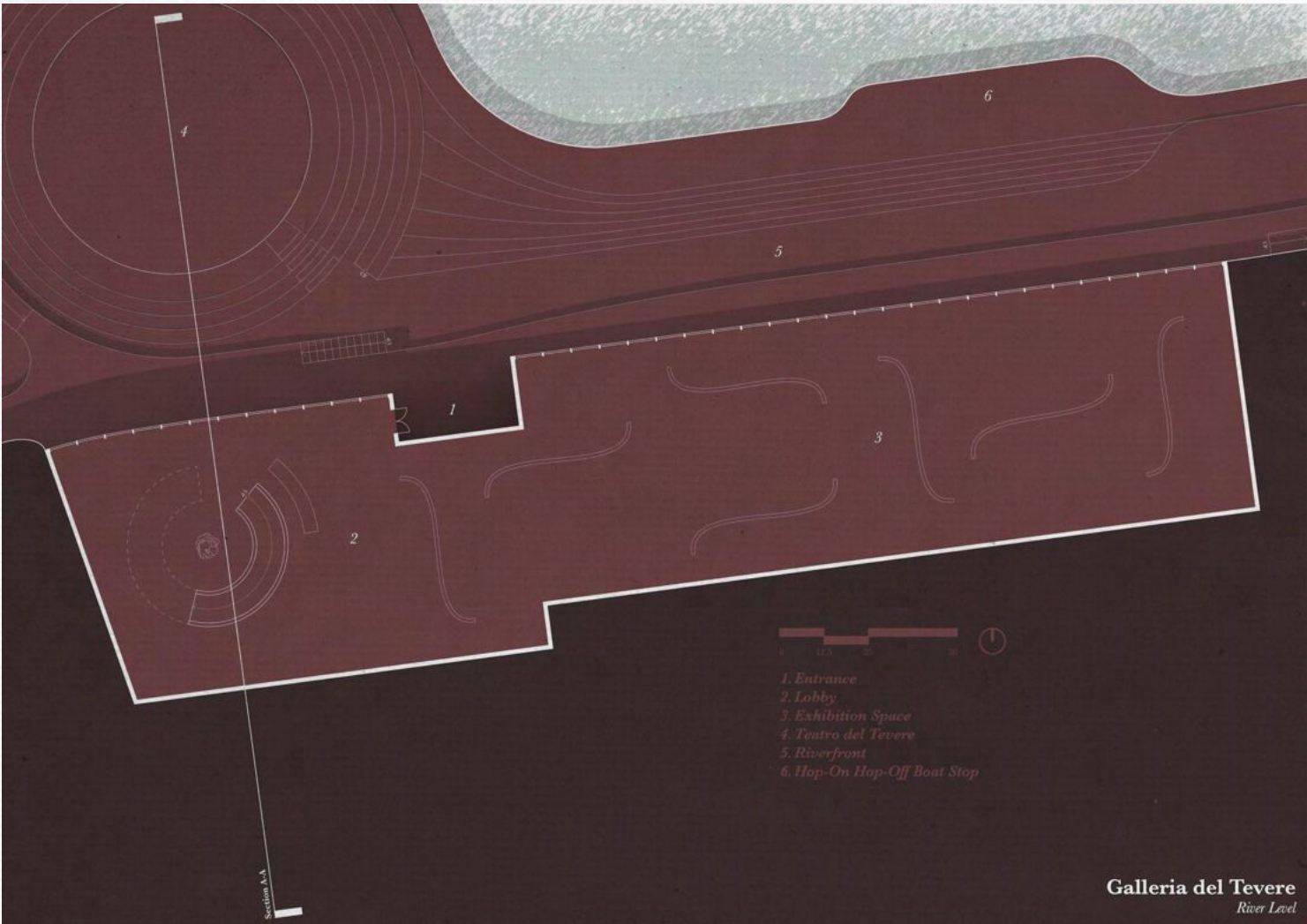


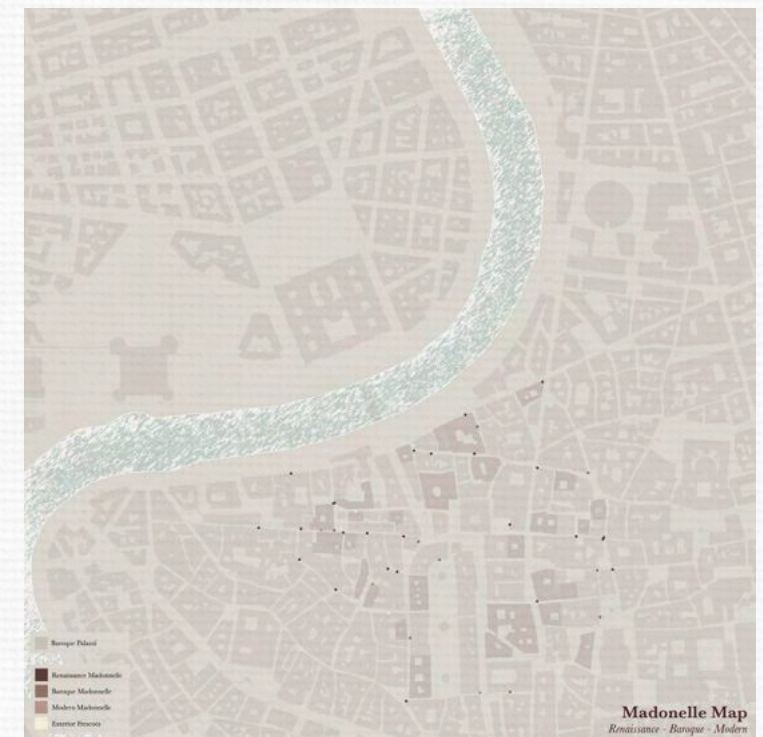
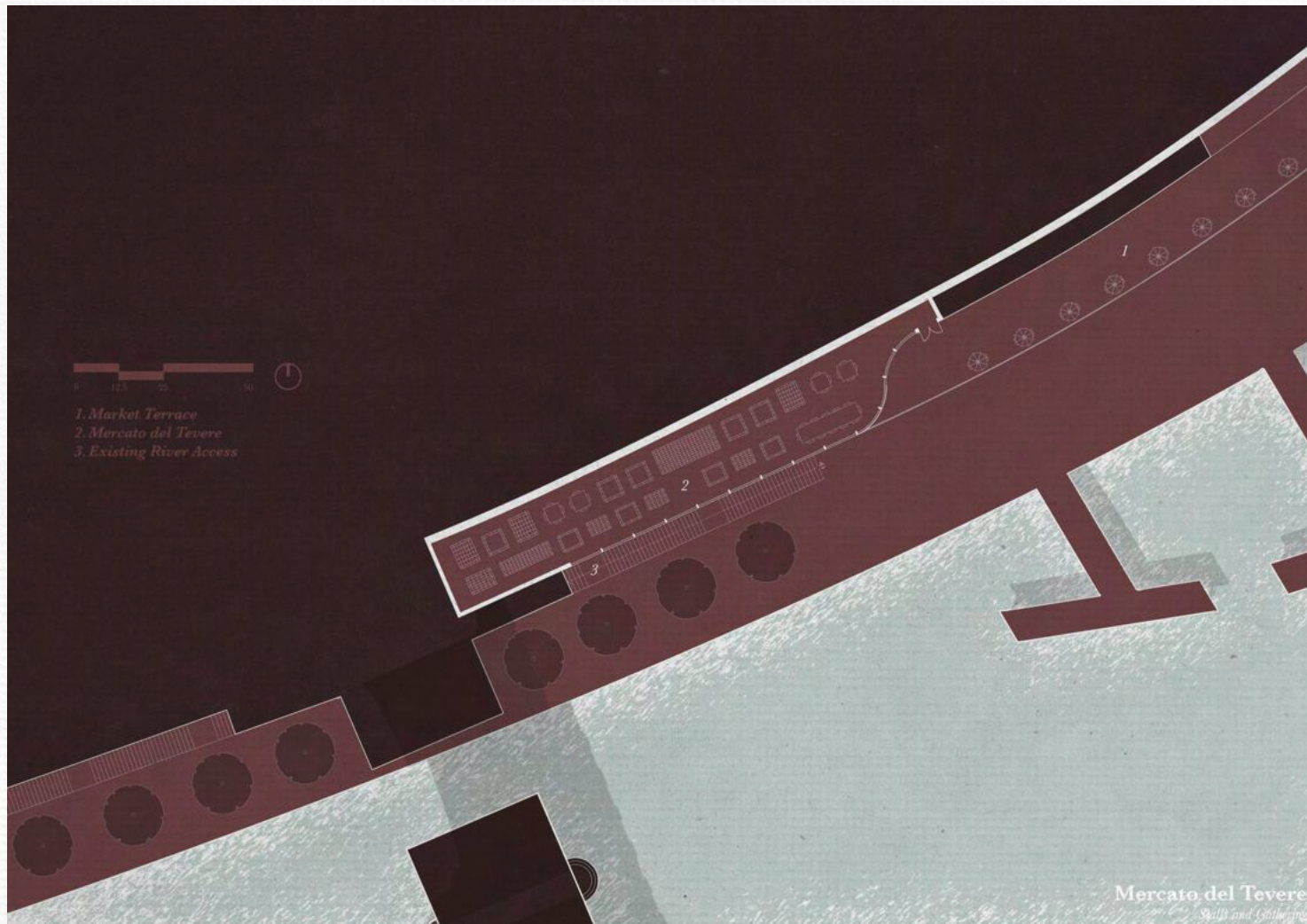
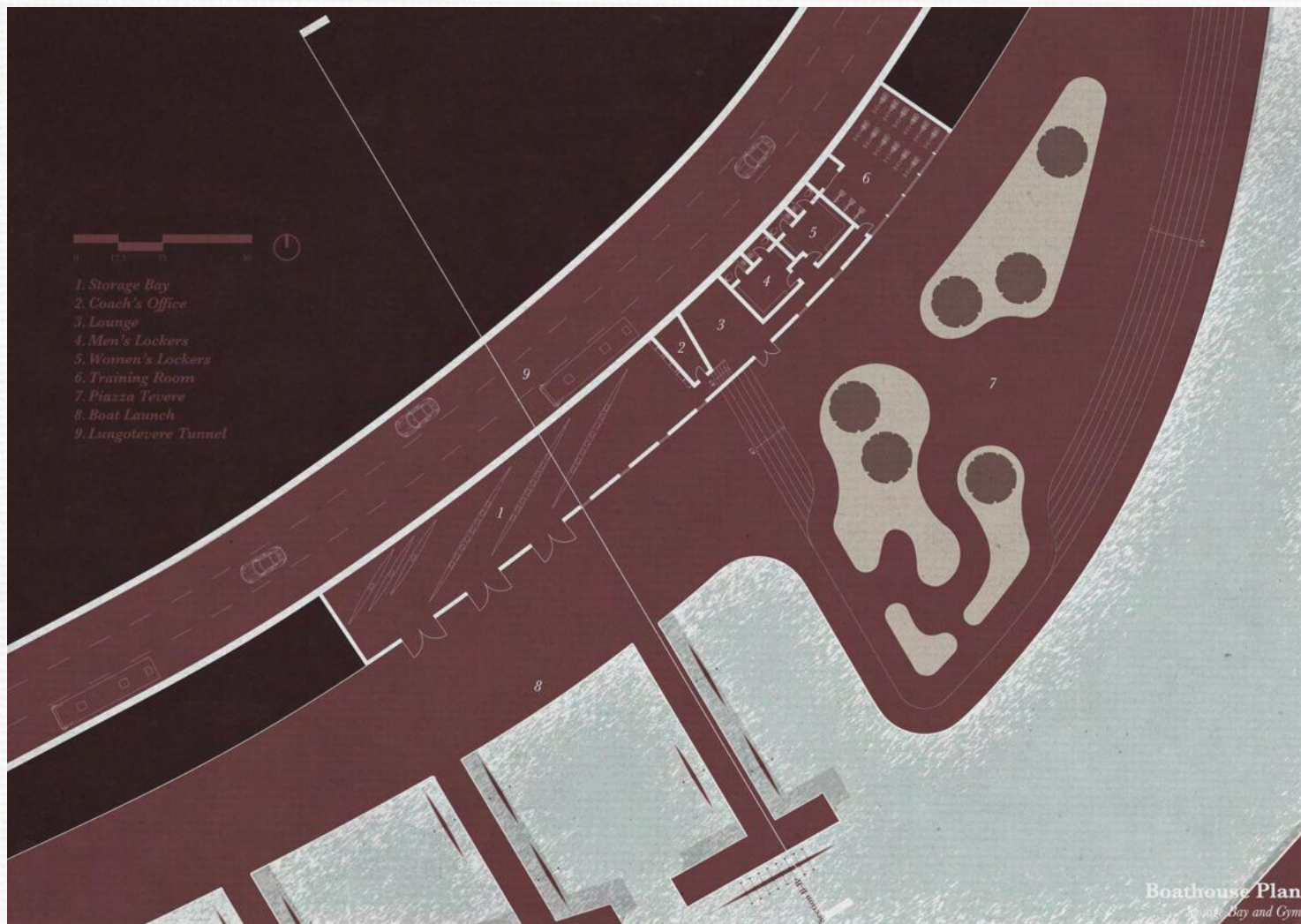
Inverso Urbano:
From The City to The River
 Pratt Rome UA Program

Spring 2025 (Y4/S2)

Inverso Urbano, or “Urban Inverse,” reimagines the stretch of the Tiber River between Ponte Sant’Angelo and Ponte Cavour, one of the most symbolically charged yet neglected sections of Rome’s urban fabric, by transforming the embankment walls and adjacent Lungotevere into a civic and cultural landscape. Drawing from the area’s rich Renaissance and Baroque heritage, including the nodal network of Madonelle shrines, the design proposes a new linear piazza that reconnects

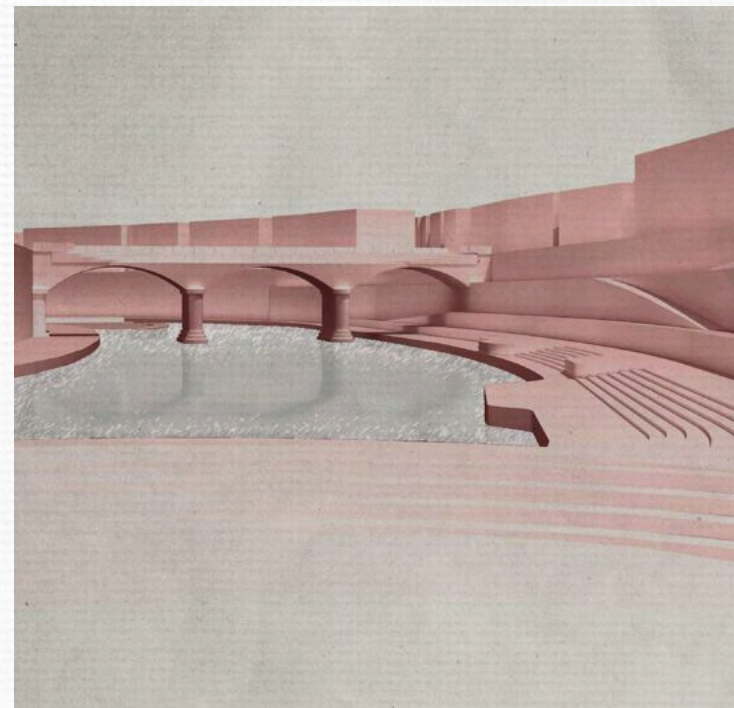
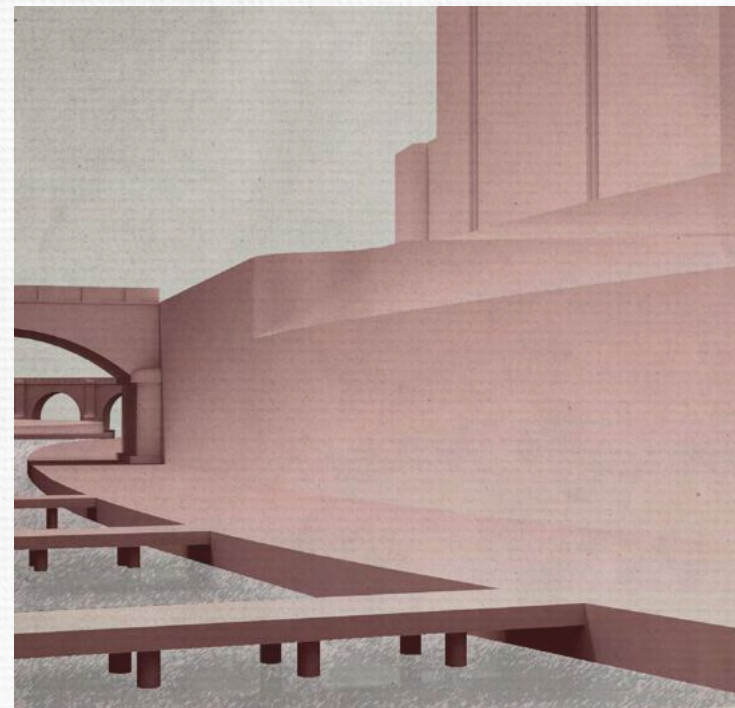
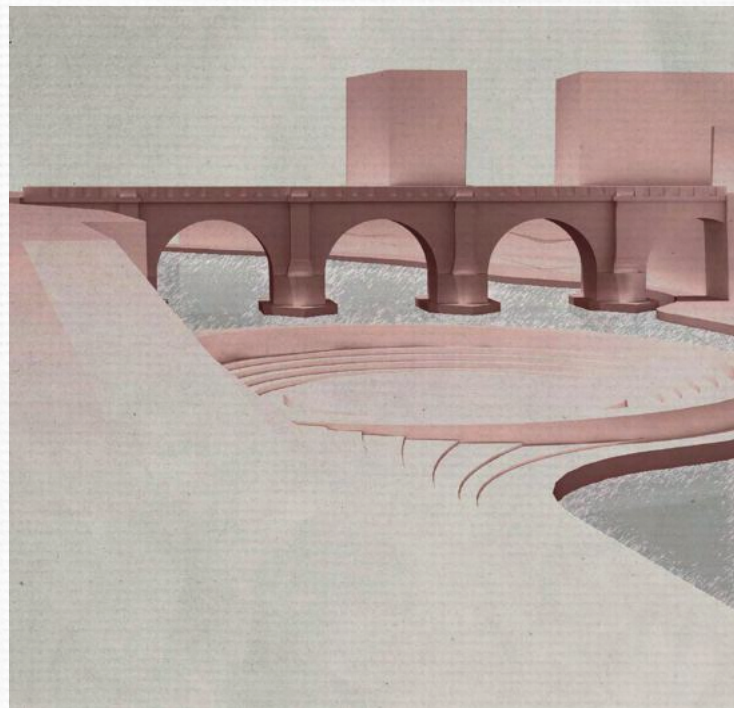
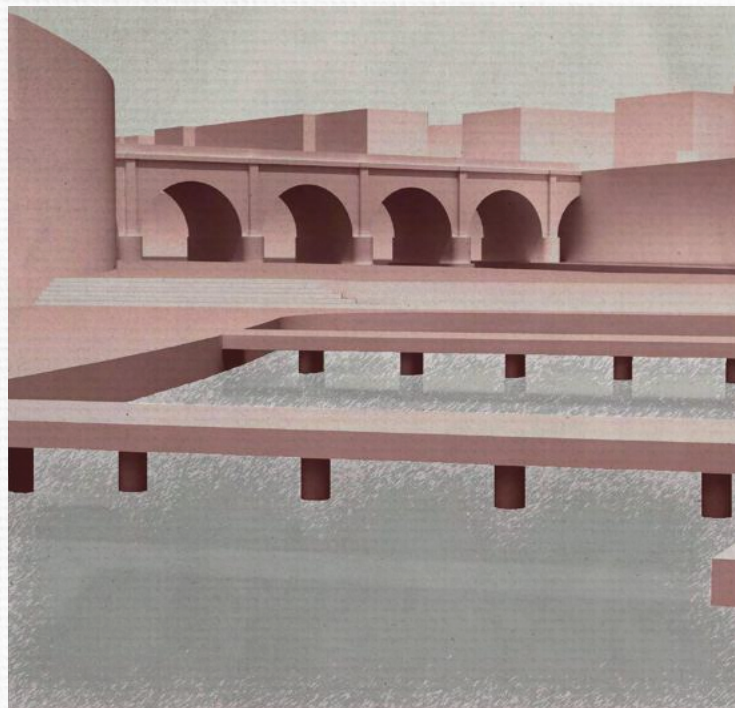
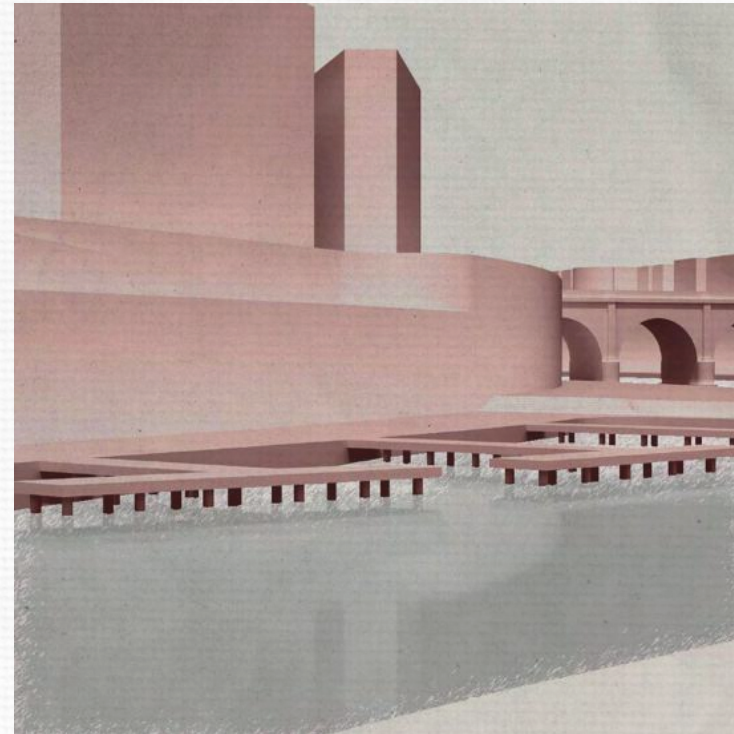
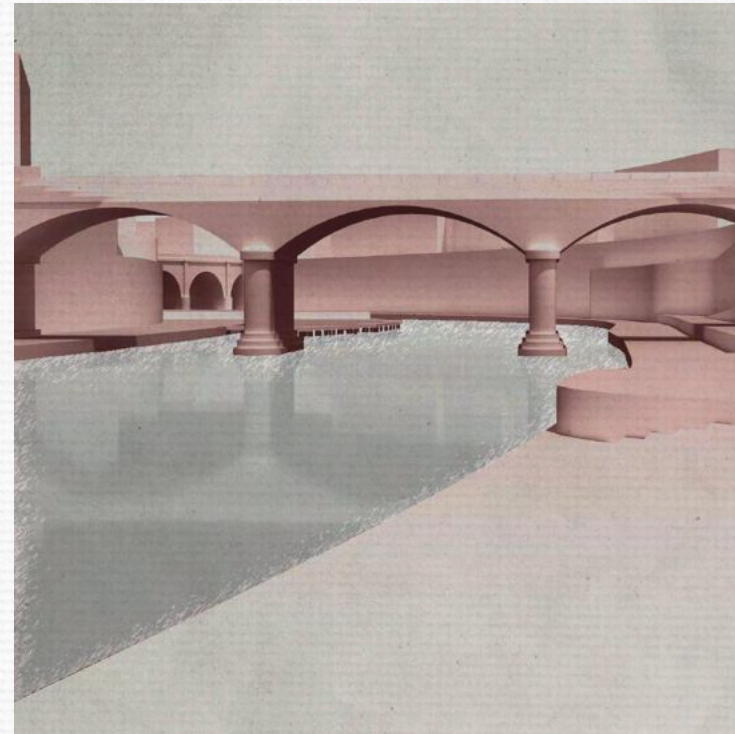
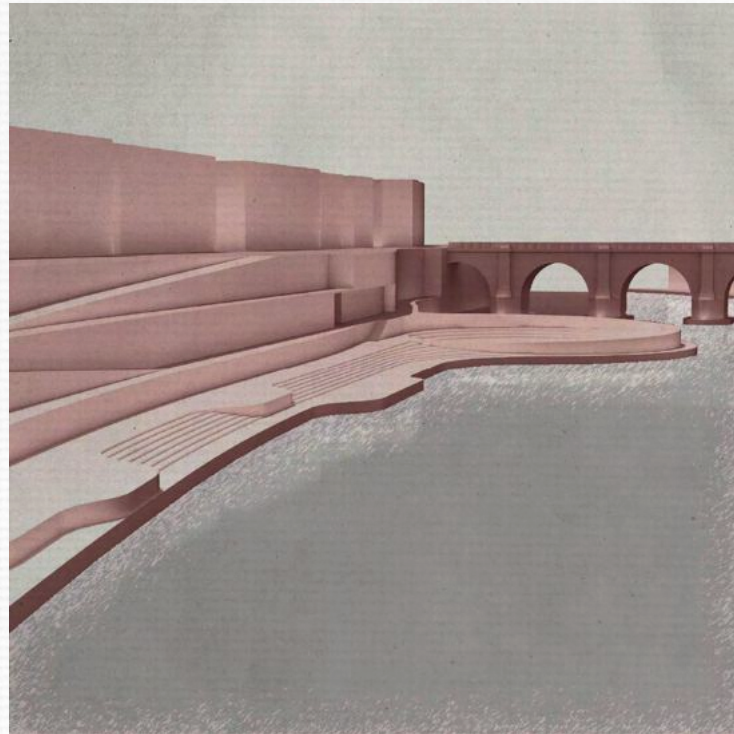
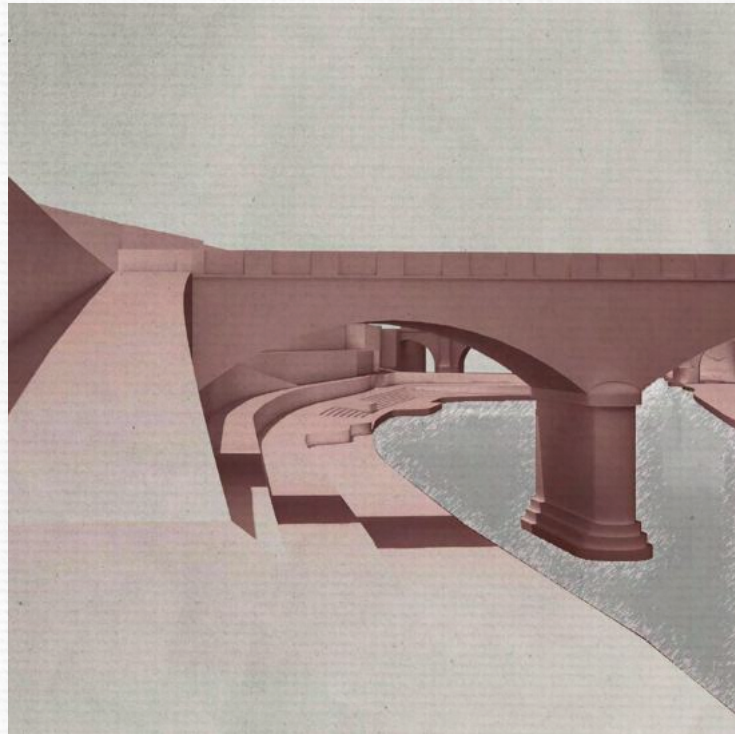
the city and the river through carved terraces, ramps, and integrated public programs. The intervention introduces green spaces, rest areas, and embedded institutions, such as a museum, studio, amphitheater, boathouse, and markets, within the existing infrastructure, fostering both ritual and recreation. Rather than reconstructing the past, the project builds upon Rome’s layered history to re-establish the riverfront as a place of spiritual pause, cultural expression, and urban vitality.





The approach to the project was less of a destructive one, rather one that focuses predominately on integration and addition. It started by identifying key potential for open spaces (green), as well as areas where connection to the lungotevere is direct, either via stairways or level roadways, for the most efficient planning of the final project. This then allocated two zones to primarily work in. This new linear park and its ramp system aren't just

circulation elements. They're moments that frame views, define gathering spaces, and embed programs into the previously inaccessible embankment walls. Within these extrusions and carvings are institutions: a museum and studio space, permanent market spaces, a boathouse, and a river amphitheater, all rooted in the social and spiritual traditions of the Roman urbanism I have come to understand, yet designed for contemporary use.





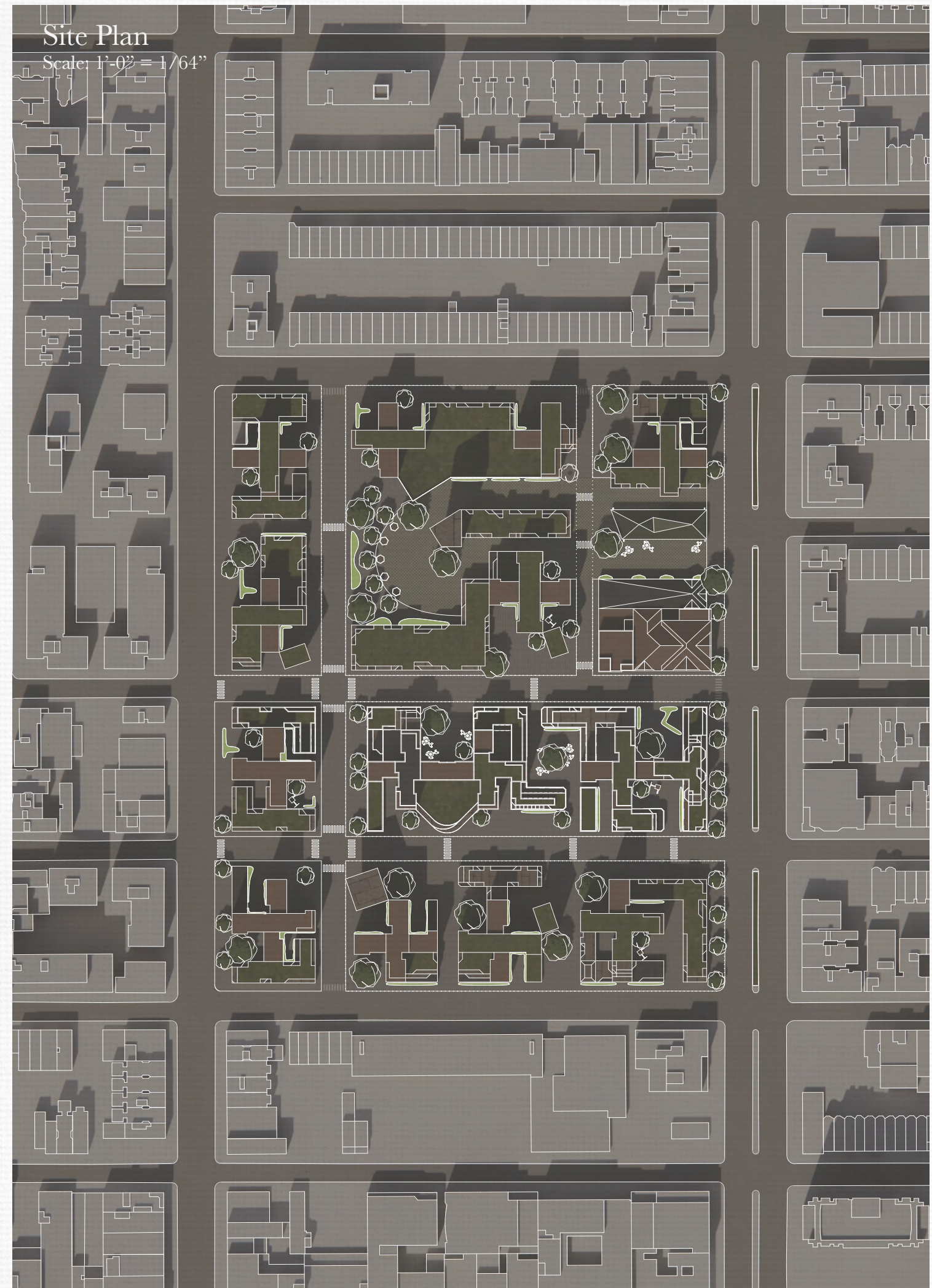
Heart of Harlem

Fall 2024 (Y4/S1)

The Heart of Harlem reimagines NYCHA public housing in Harlem by prioritizing integration, accessibility, and civic engagement over the typical isolated structures employed today. It focuses on how both residents and non-residents interact with the space by introducing small plazas, playgrounds, and a central square anchored by new commercial and residential programming. Eroded, stepped massing enhances the site's porosity, natural light, and views, while balconies and terraces promote street-level interaction. The design incorporates new apartment towers with a mix of affordable and market-rate housing, alongside civic amenities like a theater, library, school, grocery store, and a market to support local businesses. The goal is to transform the typical NYCHA typology into a

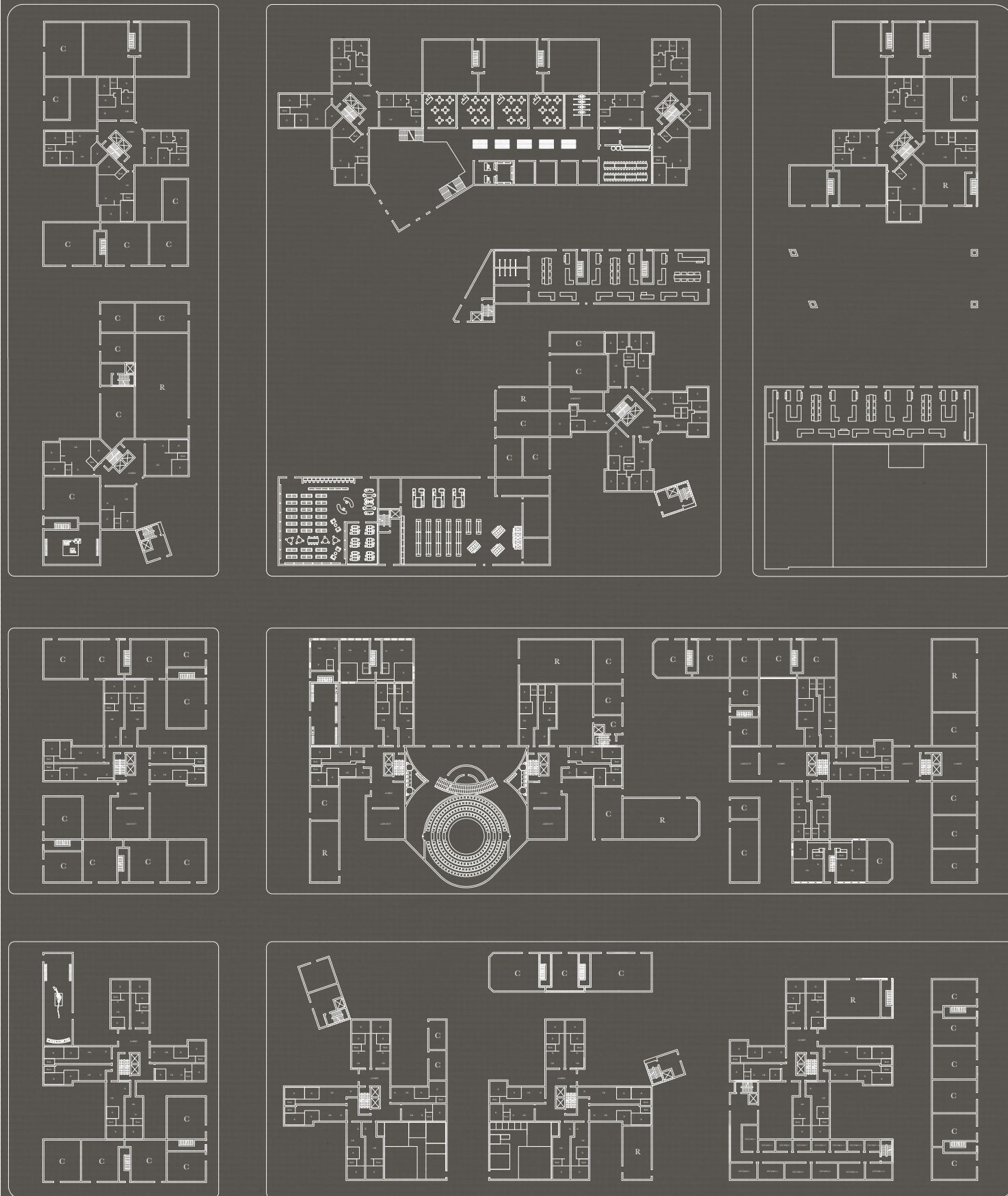
vibrant, connected heart of Harlem.

The central square is anchored by the tallest tower on the site, acting as a beacon of activity, signaling the presence of this gathering space for both neighbors and visitors, as well as the thoroughfare to the market plaza, linking these two vital spaces to allow for the occupancy of one to overflow to another when needed, all centered around the new beacon of Harlem.



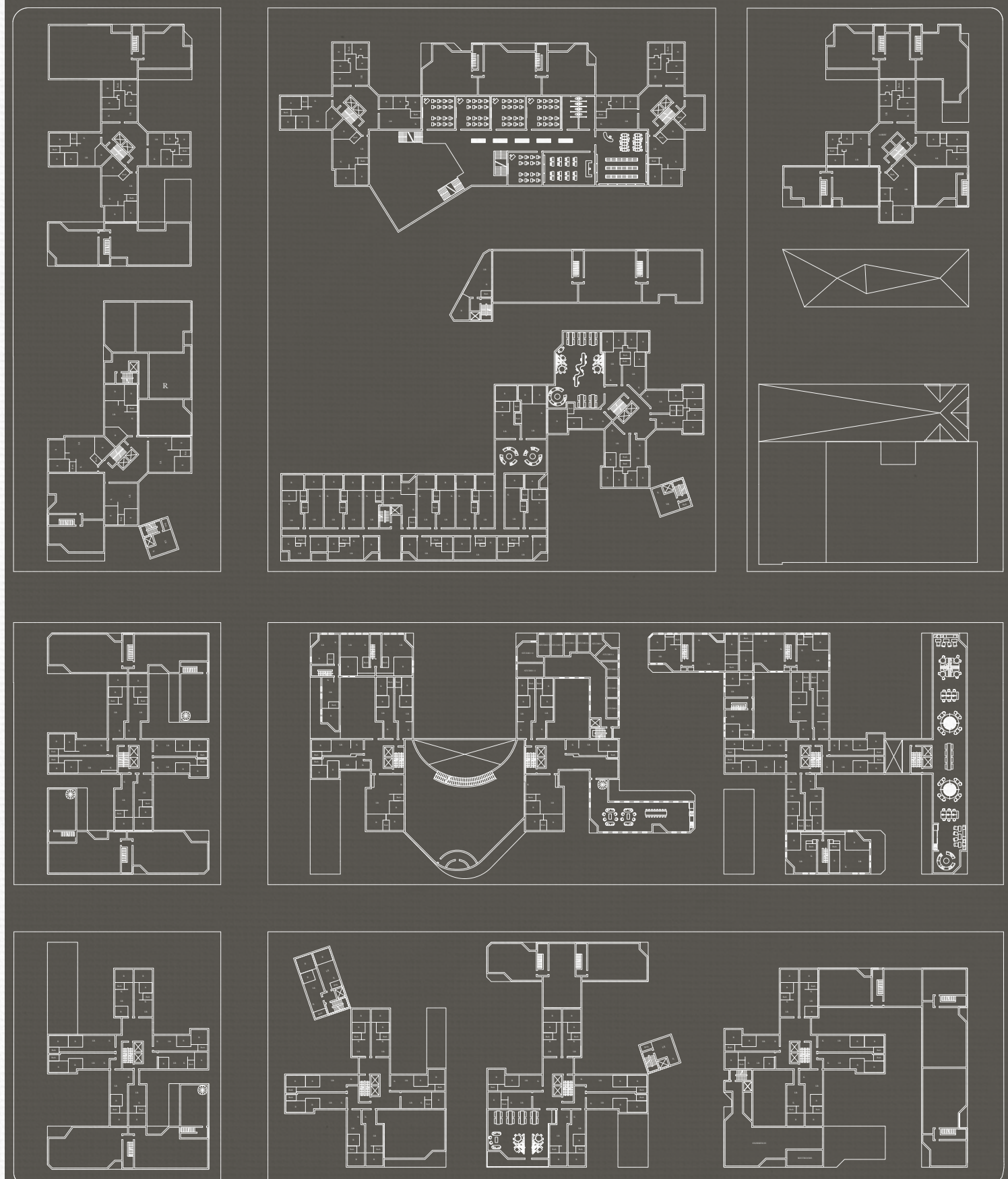
Ground Floor Plan

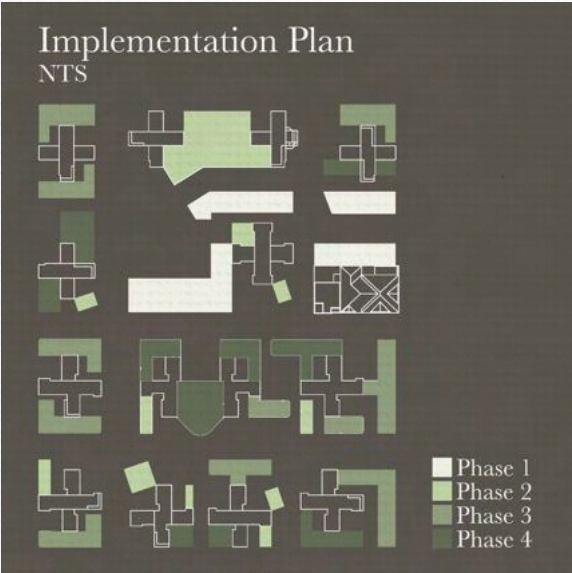
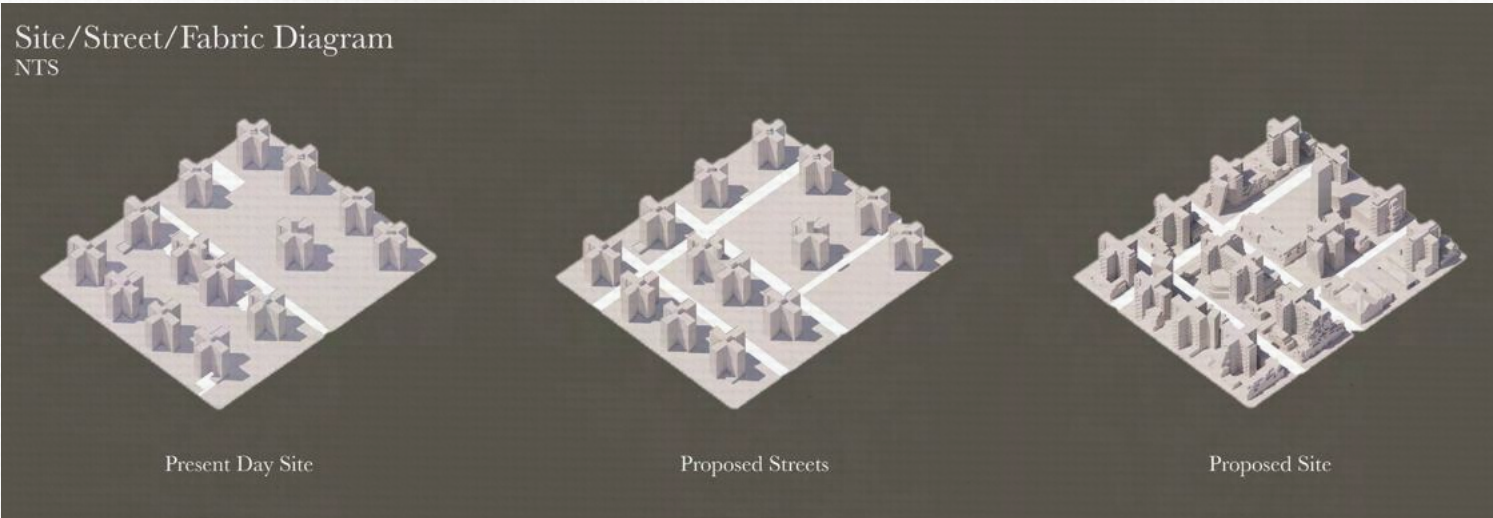
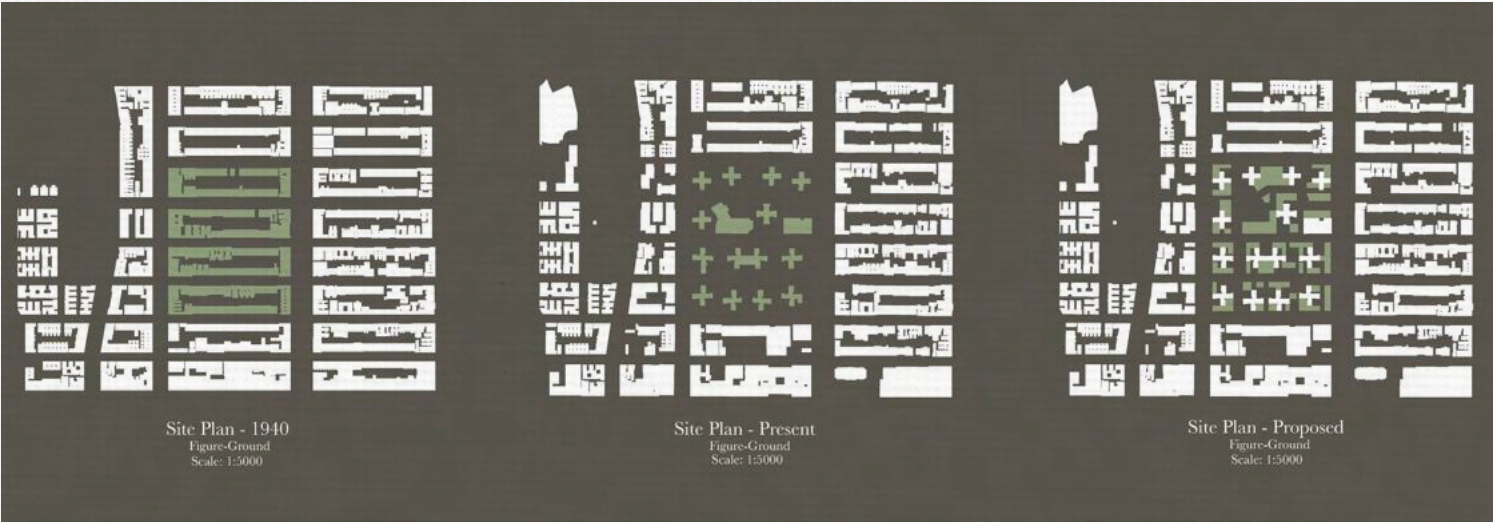
Scale: 1'-0" = 1/32"



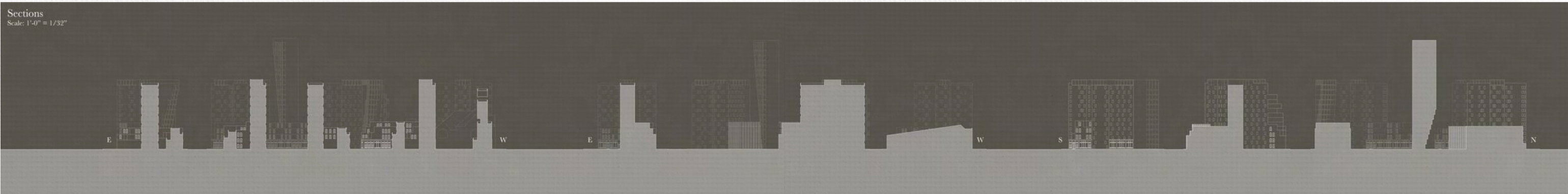
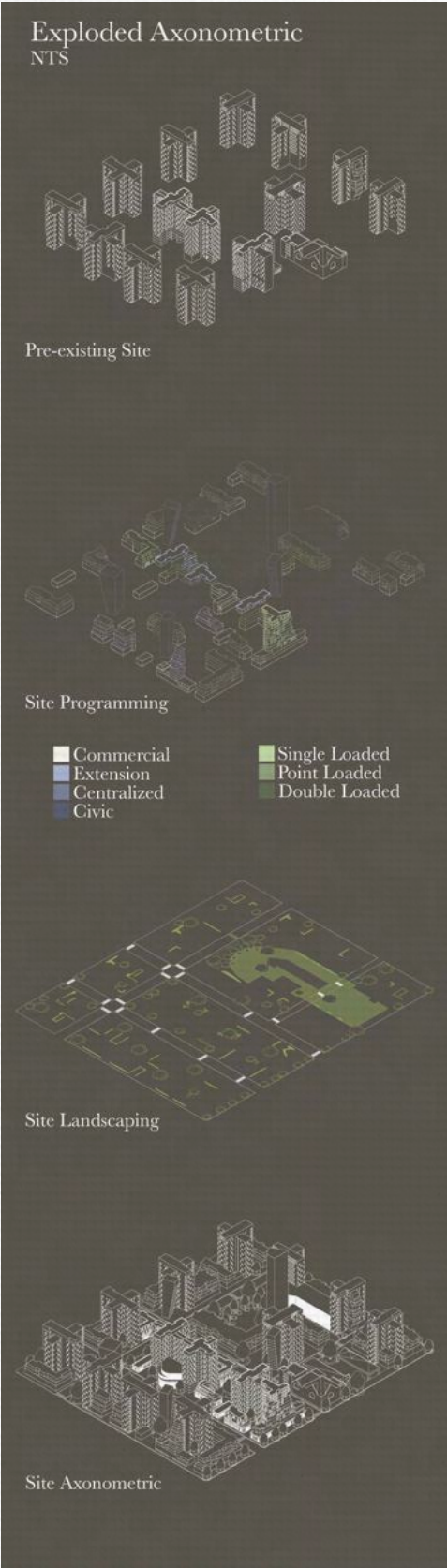
Third Floor Plan

Scale: 1'-0" = 1/32"





Site Model (Top + Perspective Views)





Cohabitation Housing Team Project

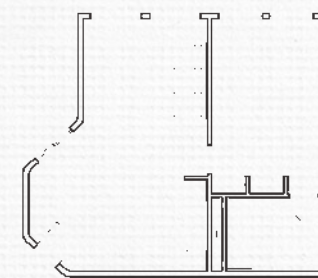
Spring 2024 (Y3/S2)
This project was archived for NAAB accreditation.

Examining a site in Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn, this project approaches the conversion of empty space to non-blood-related, cohabitational families and individuals. It approached the challenges of typical apartment building arrangements (the double loaded cooridor), the ways in which the plan of a space can encourage social engagement on a unit and building scale, and how a large apartment complex can draw inspiration from the surrounding environment to blend in, rather than stand out.

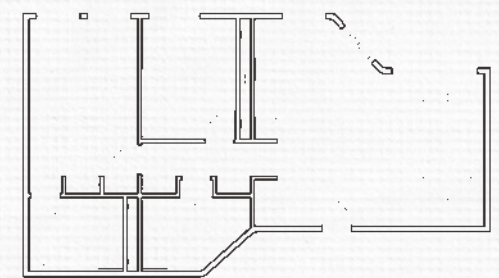
Through various iterations of this process, a final building plan was achieved with the intention of resolving a common issue with the double-loaded cooridor: it's dark, confined spacial characteristic. Thus, pockets placed within the cooridor's structure allow for moments of porosity for light and air, as well as the programming of dedicated communal systems, such as gardens, lounges, and reading spaces. The final shifting of unit clusters defines the twenty-foot sections that, when viewed vertically up and down the facade, appear dimensionally the same as a brownstone.



Unit Plan Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

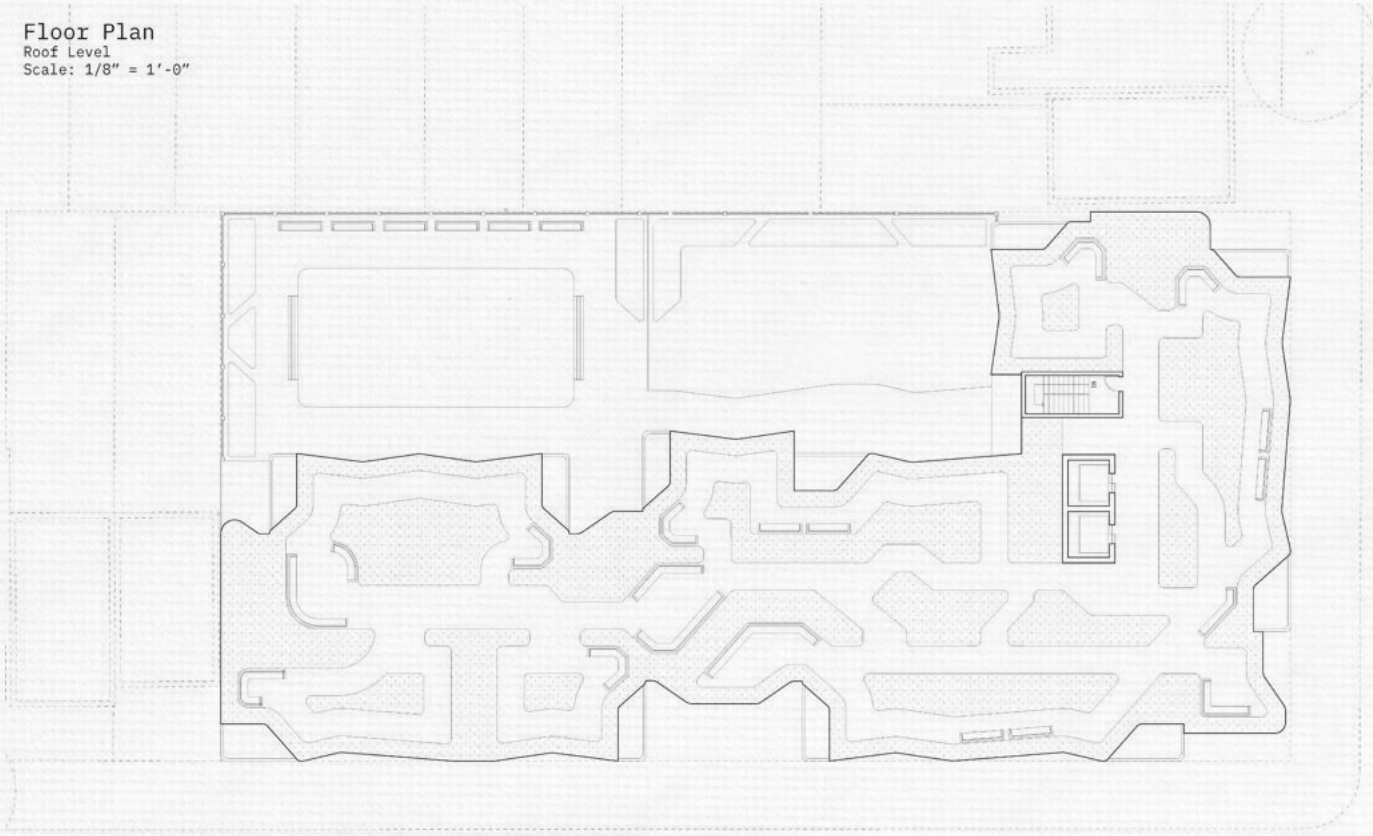


1 Bedroom



2 Bedroom

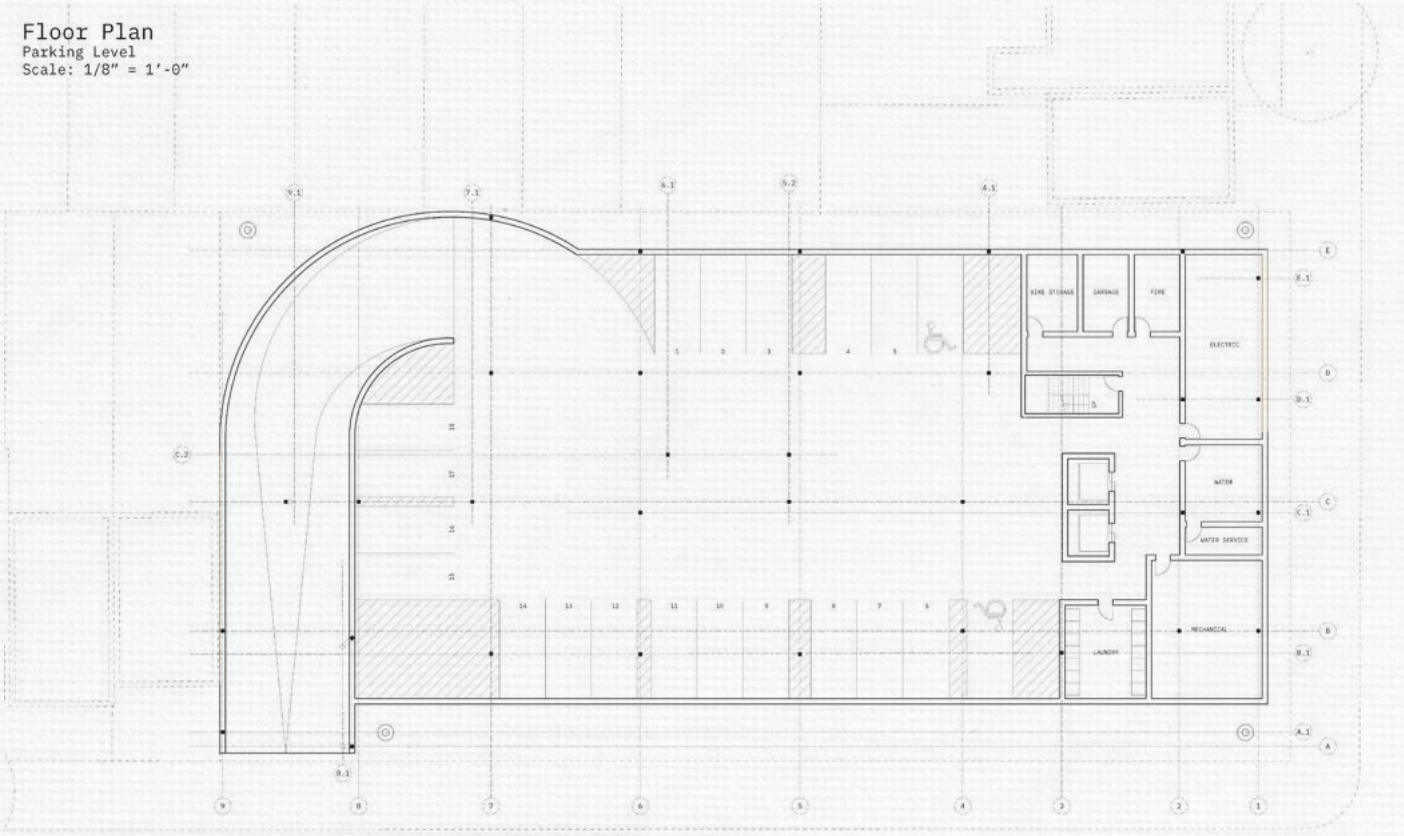
Floor Plan
Roof Level
Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"



Franklin Ave

Lafayette Ave

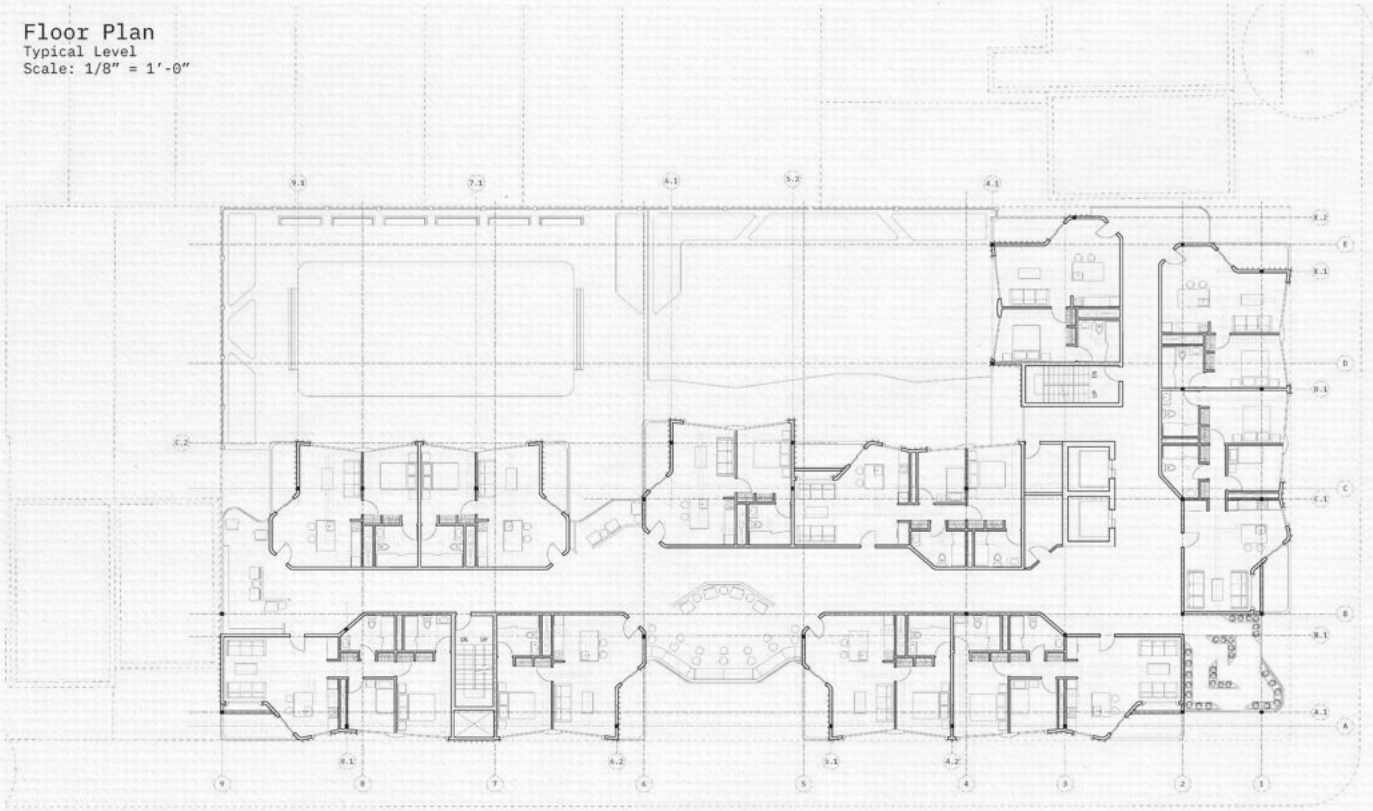
Floor Plan
Parking Level
Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"



Franklin Ave

Lafayette Ave

Floor Plan
Typical Level
Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"



Franklin Ave

Lafayette Ave

Floor Plan
Typical Level
Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

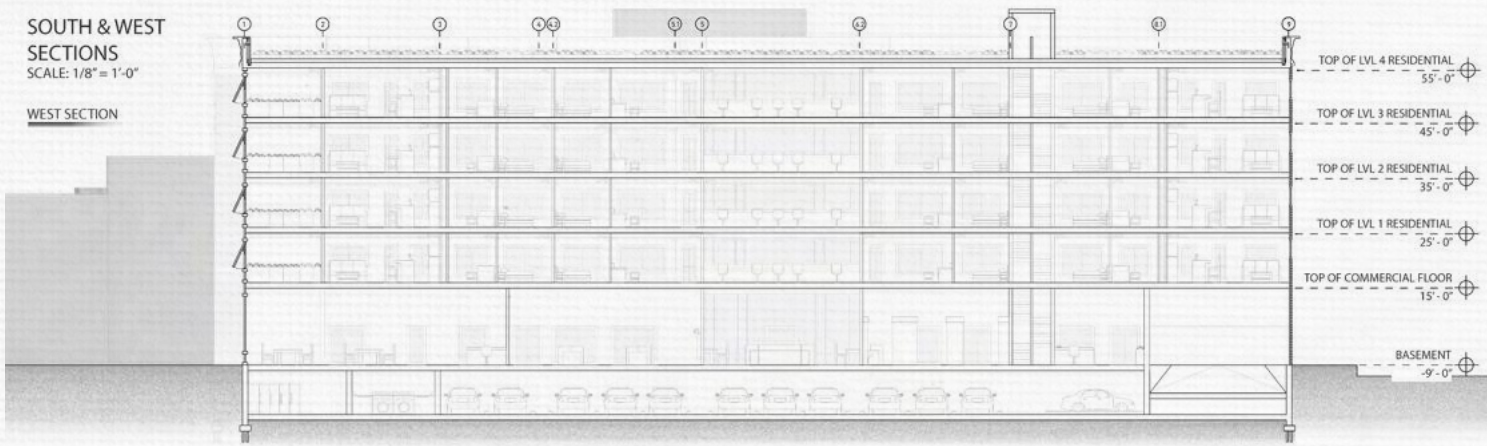


Franklin Ave

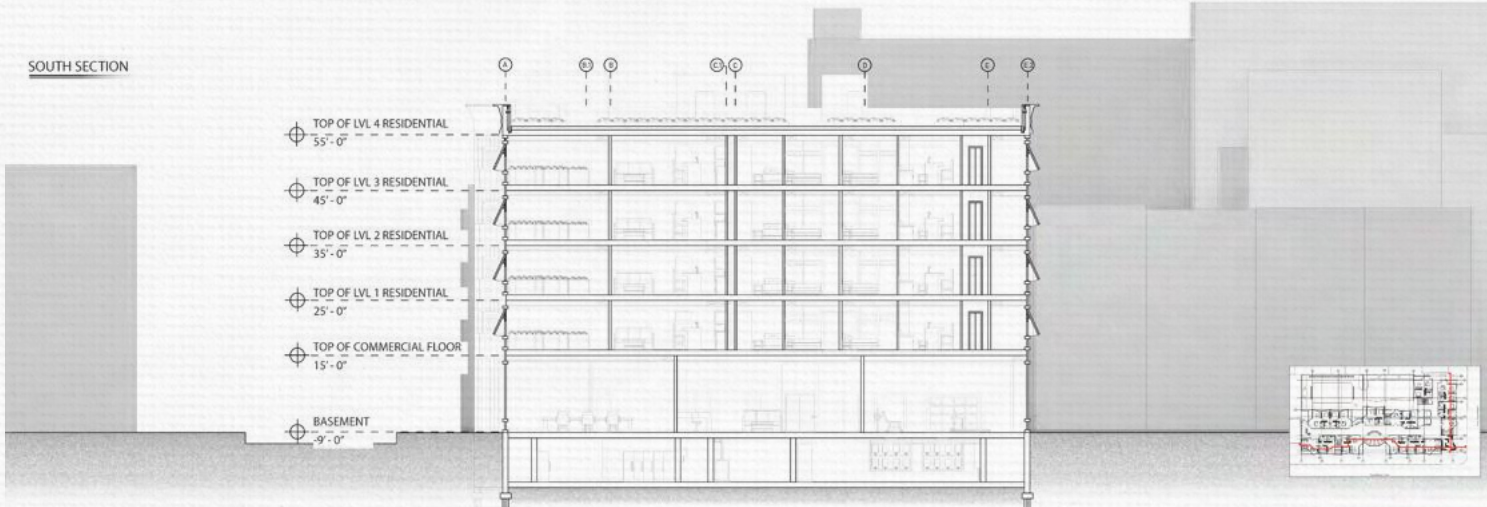
Lafayette Ave

SOUTH & WEST SECTIONS
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

WEST SECTION



SOUTH SECTION



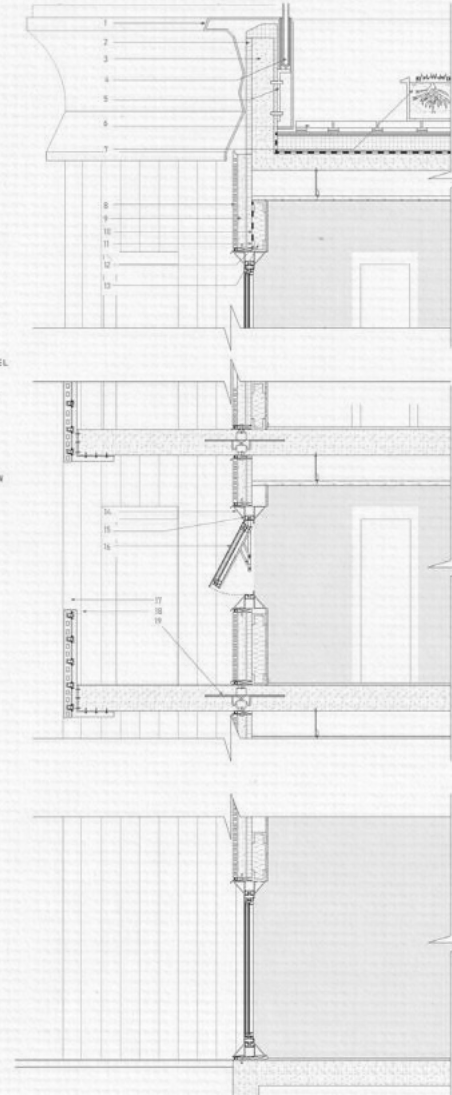
EAST ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



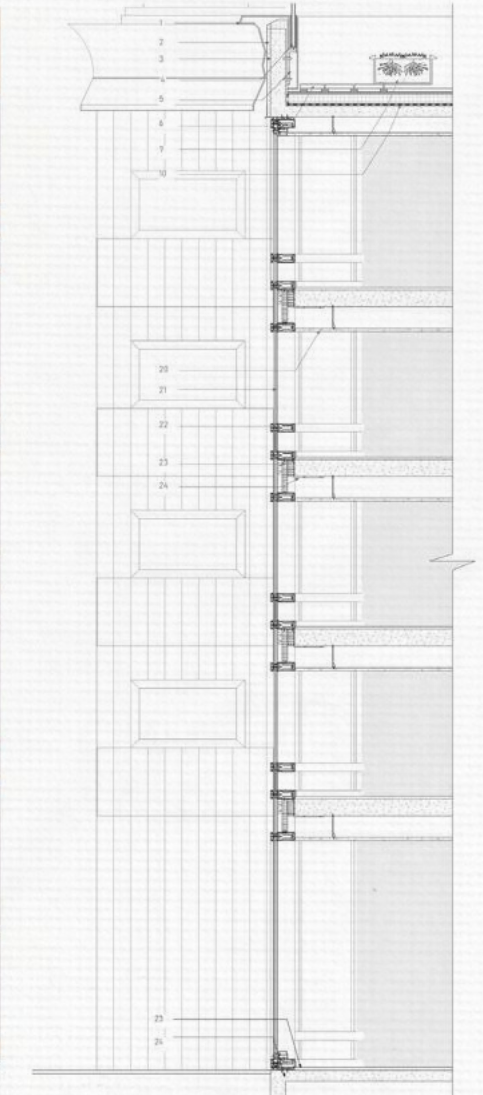
WALL SECTION & BRONZE PARAPET DETAIL
SCALE: 3/4" = 1'-0"

LEGEND:

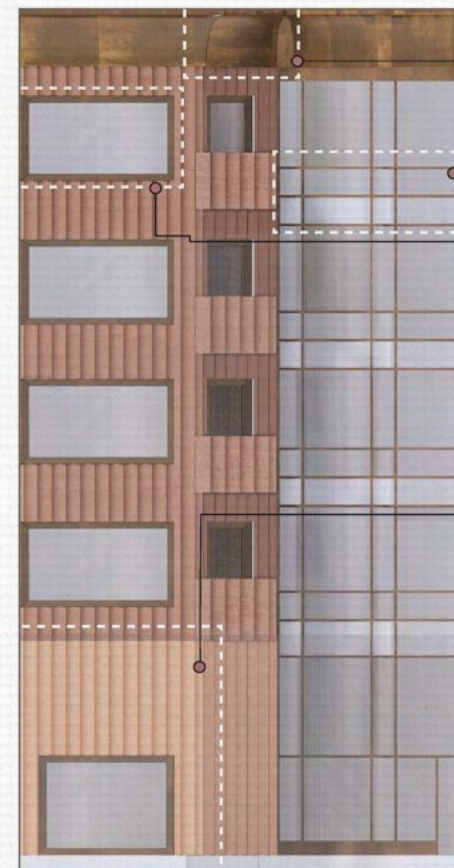
- 1.) BRONZE PARAPET
- 2.) RIGID INSULATION
- 3.) 4" CONCRETE STUD
- 4.) METAL RAILING
- 5.) STEEL ANGLE & TIES
- 6.) CONCRETE PAVERS
- 7.) 18" PLANTER
- 8.) TERRACOTTA PANEL
- 9.) VERTICAL SUPPORT RAIL
- 10.) VAPOR BARRIER
- 11.) RIGID INSULATION
- 12.) METAL STUD
- 13.) BATT INSULATION
- 14.) BRONZE WINDOW FRAME
- 15.) PUSH OUT HEAD JAMB
- 16.) PUSH OUT WINDOW
- 17.) TERRACOTTA TERRACE PANEL
- 18.) CONCRETE DECK
- 19.) ISOKORB, THERMAL BREAK
- 20.) GYP. BOARD FINISH
- 21.) INSULATED GLASS UNIT
- 22.) METAL STILL JAMB
- 23.) MINERAL WOOL INSULATION
- 24.) BENT STEEL PLATE
- 25.) FLOOR FINISH
- 26.) CONCRETE FOUNDATION



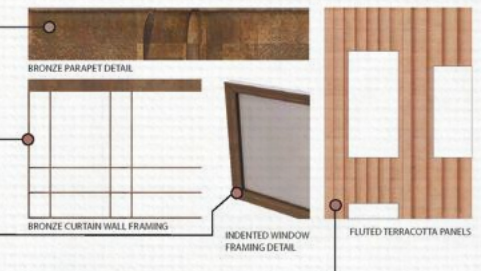
CURTAIN WALL SECTION
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"



FACADE ELEMENTS: CHUNK RENDER



MATERIAL ELEMENTS:



BROWNSTONE TRANSLATION:





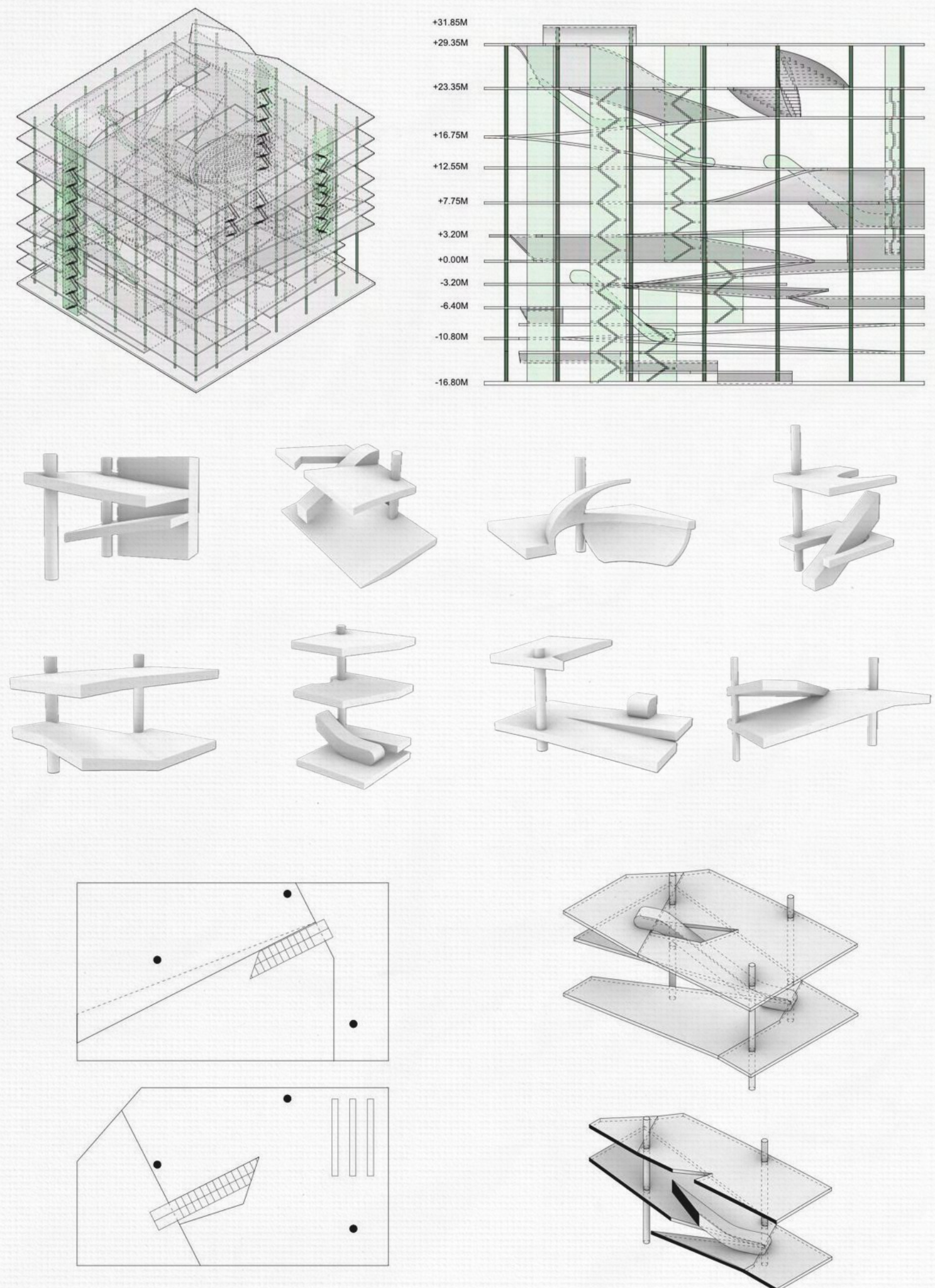
Antithetos/A Brief Inquiry in Designing in Succession

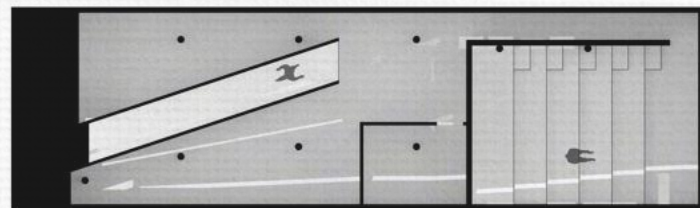
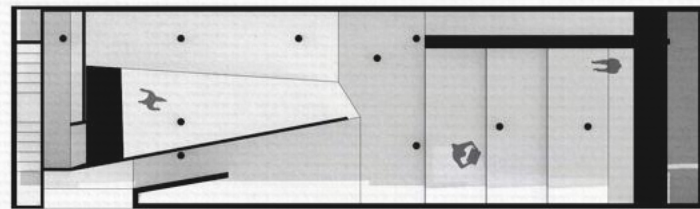
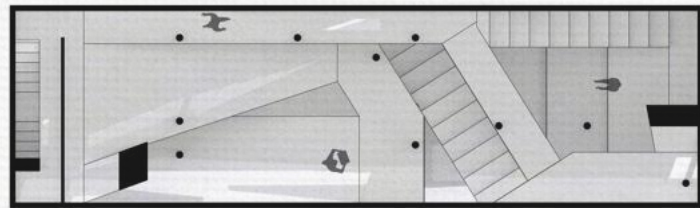
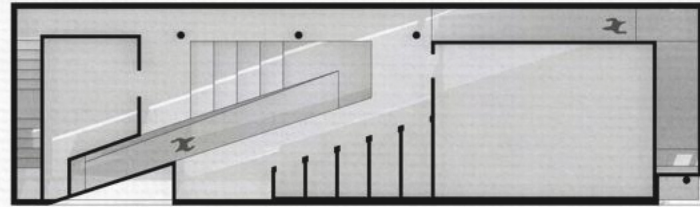
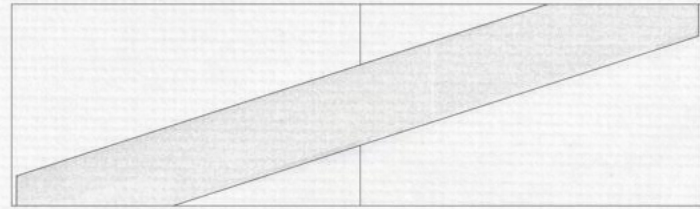
Spring 2023 (Y2/S2)

Beginning with a look at the Jussieu Library designed by OMA, it is immediately notable for its continuity and obscurity of circulation and occupation. I began my exploration by modeling the library and extracting its core principles: circulation, structural support, and program. This was accomplished through preliminary x-ray drawings and sections from isometric and elevation perspectives and a decompositional animation.

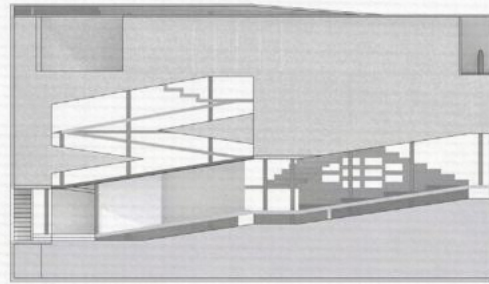
The Greek origin of the word antithesis, Antithetos means an opposition between two things, and that is exactly what this

project embodies: open versus closed, static versus dynamic, public versus private, light versus dark, left versus right, and up versus down. The program consists of three theatre spaces, an A/V studio and recording room, classrooms, meeting rooms, personal work spaces, a terrace space, and a newly-renovated Marcy Library in Brooklyn, NY. In keeping with the original design of the building, the infamous serrated windows on the south elevation have been retained, and its dialogue continued throughout the project.

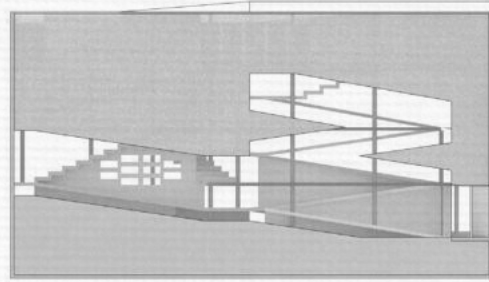




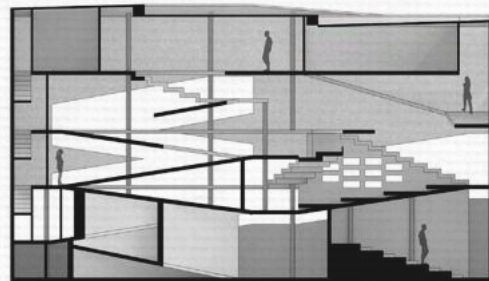
South Elevation
C3.1
1" = 1/4"



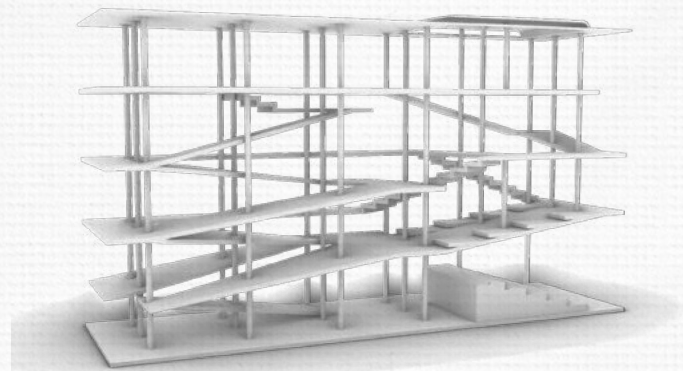
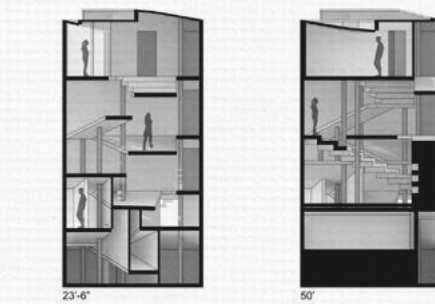
North Elevation
C3.2
1" = 1/4"



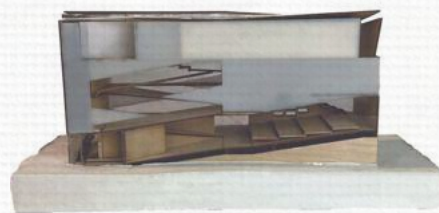
Long Section
C3.5
1" = 1/4"



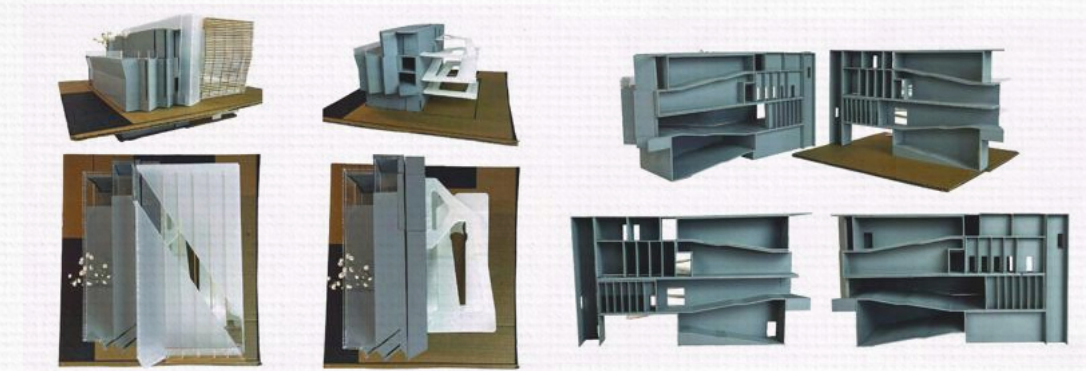
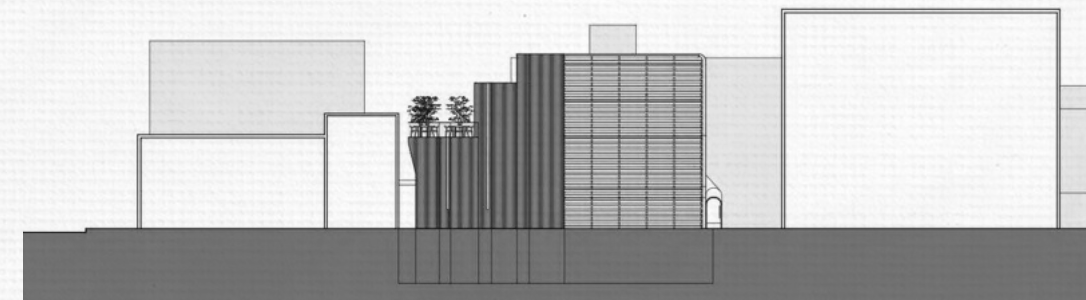
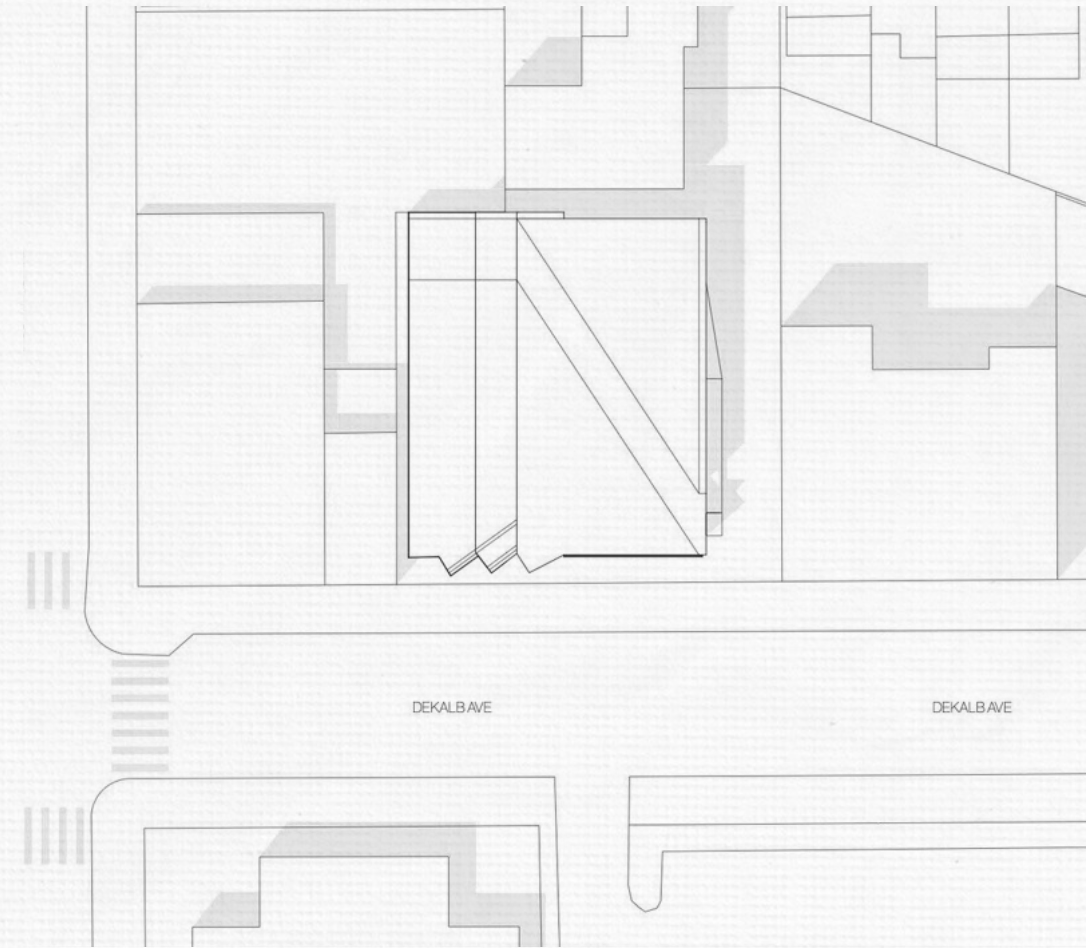
Short Sections
C3.4
1" = 1/4"



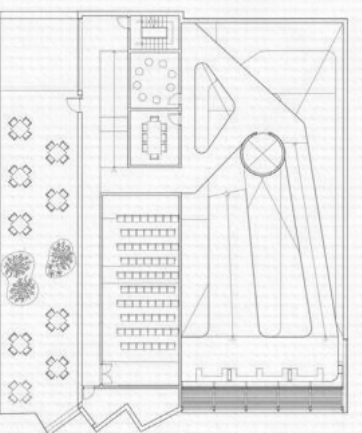
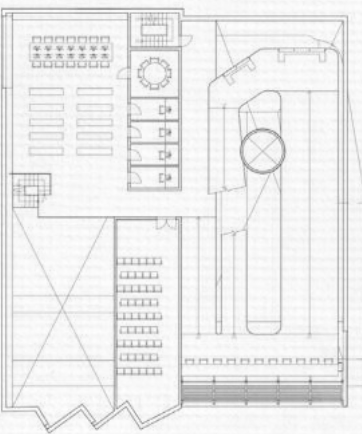
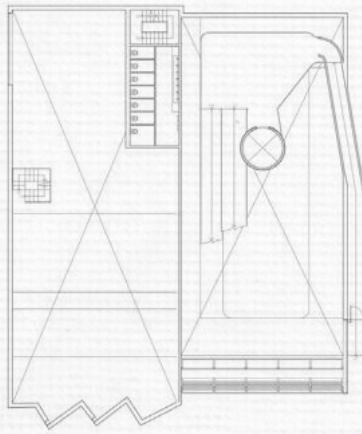
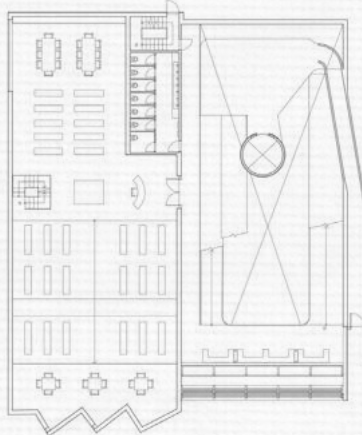
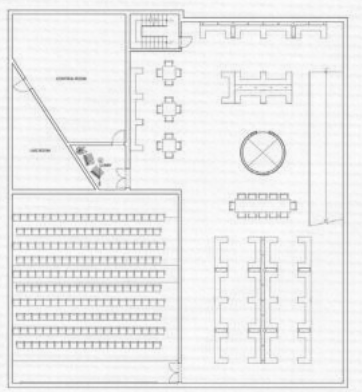
Domino Building Model (Facade + Circulation Detail)

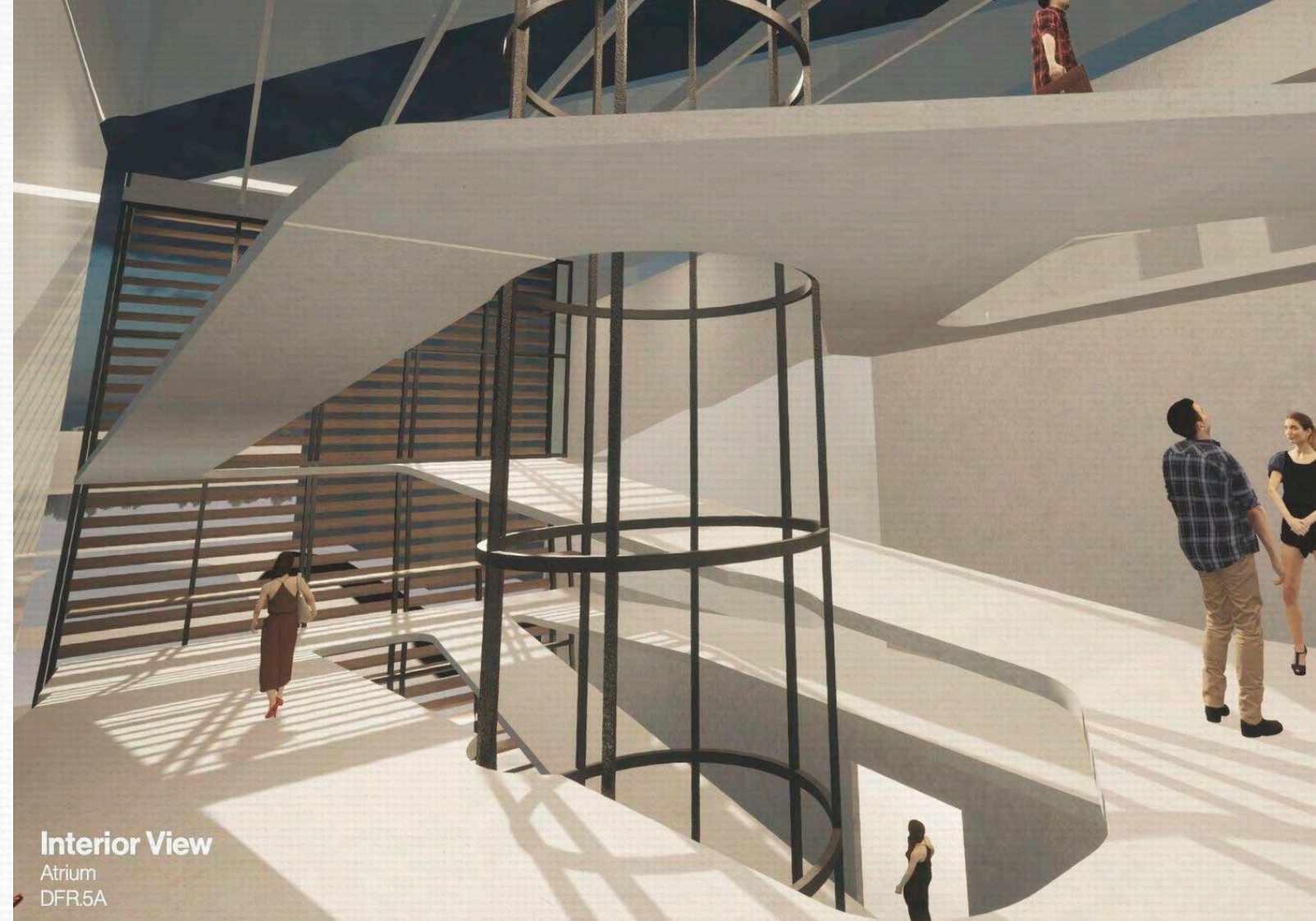
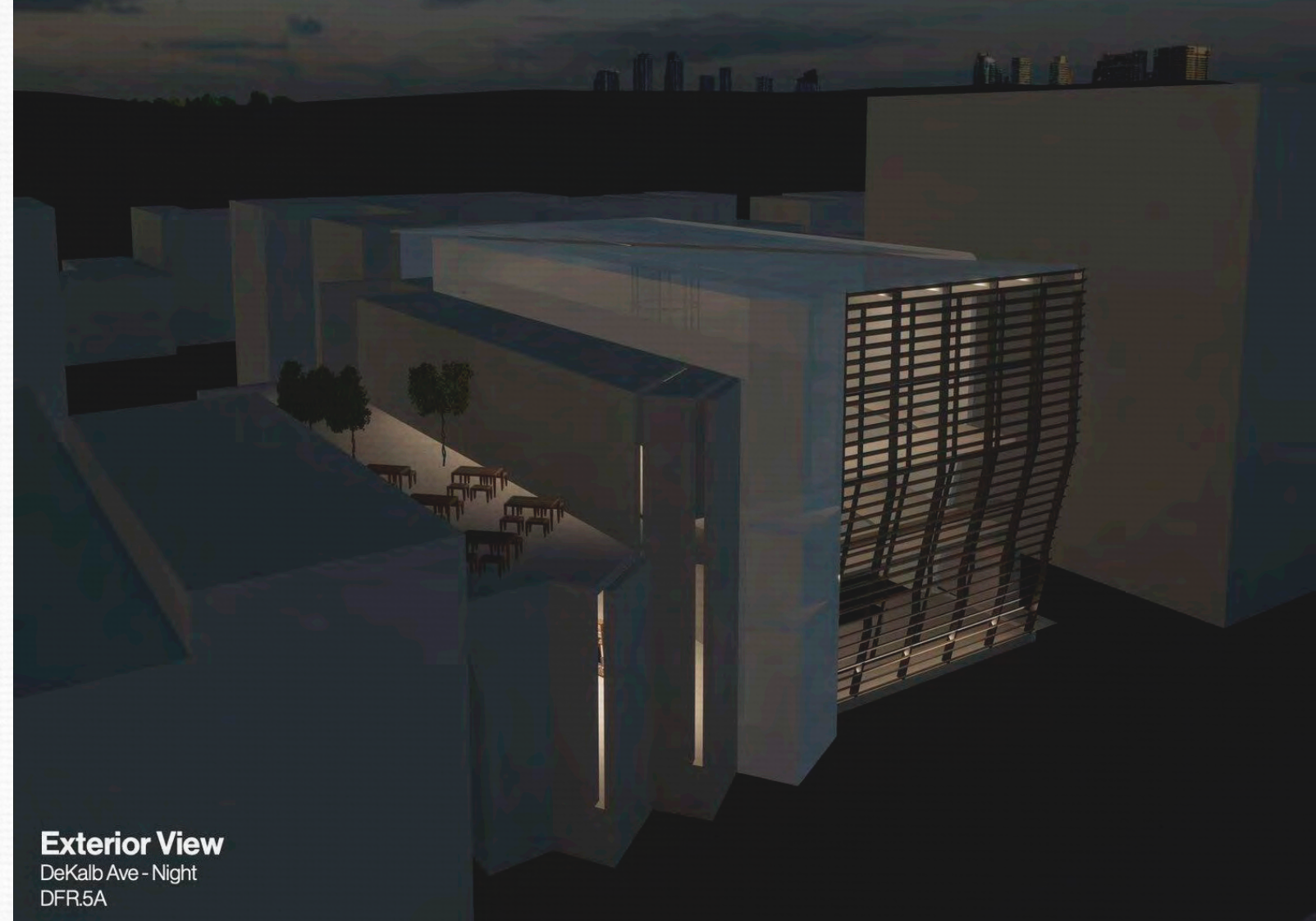
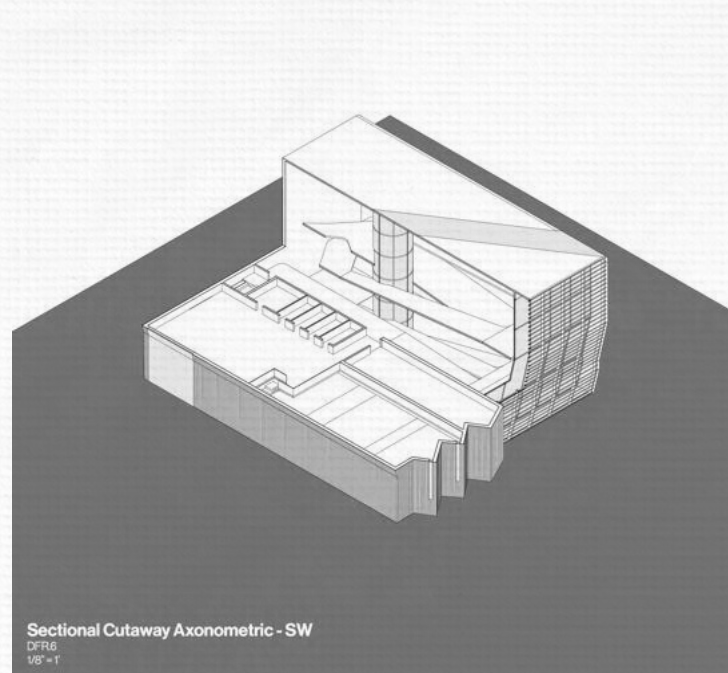
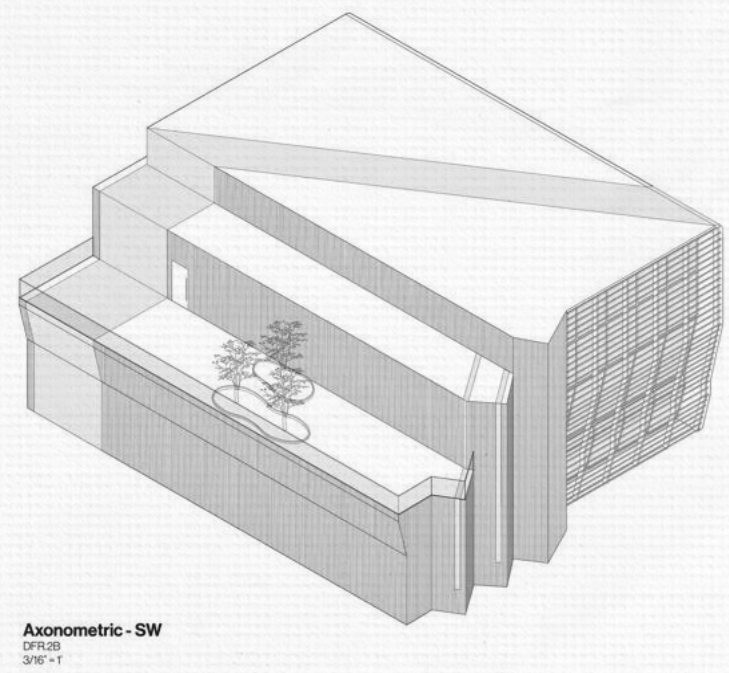
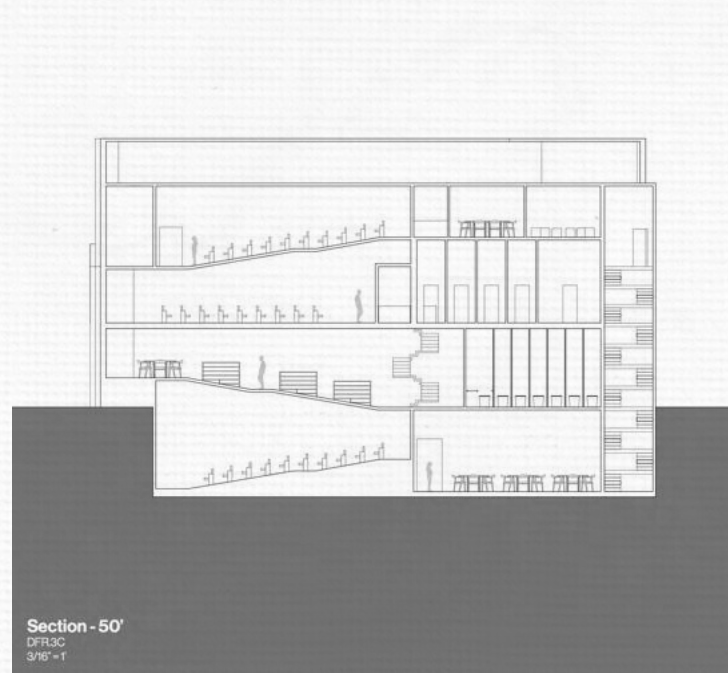
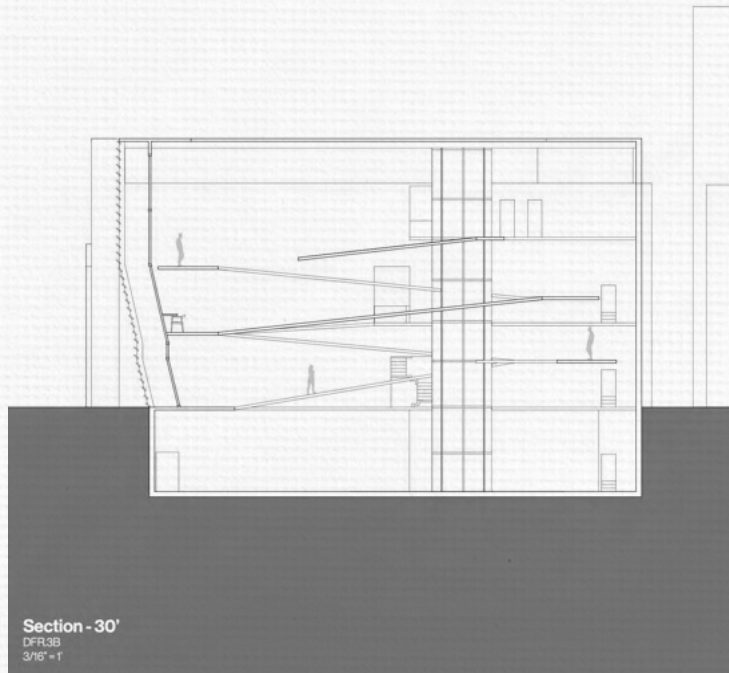
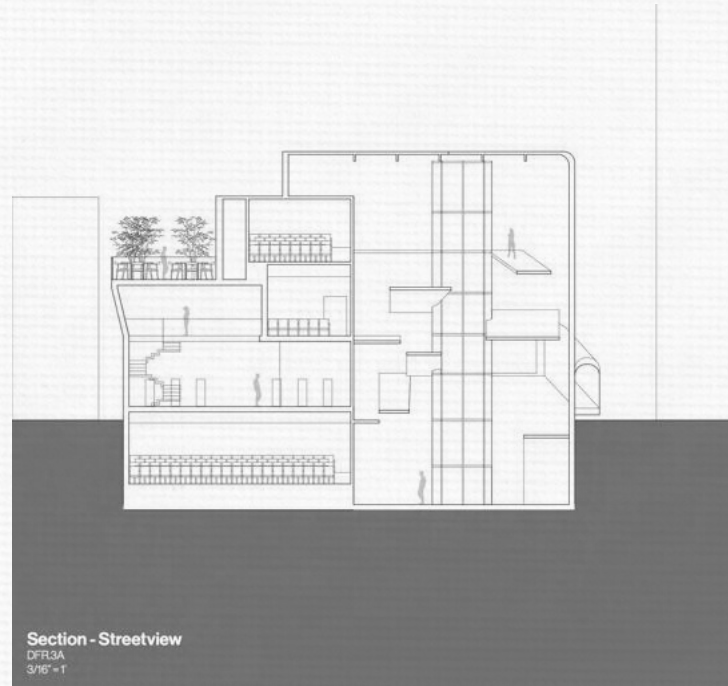


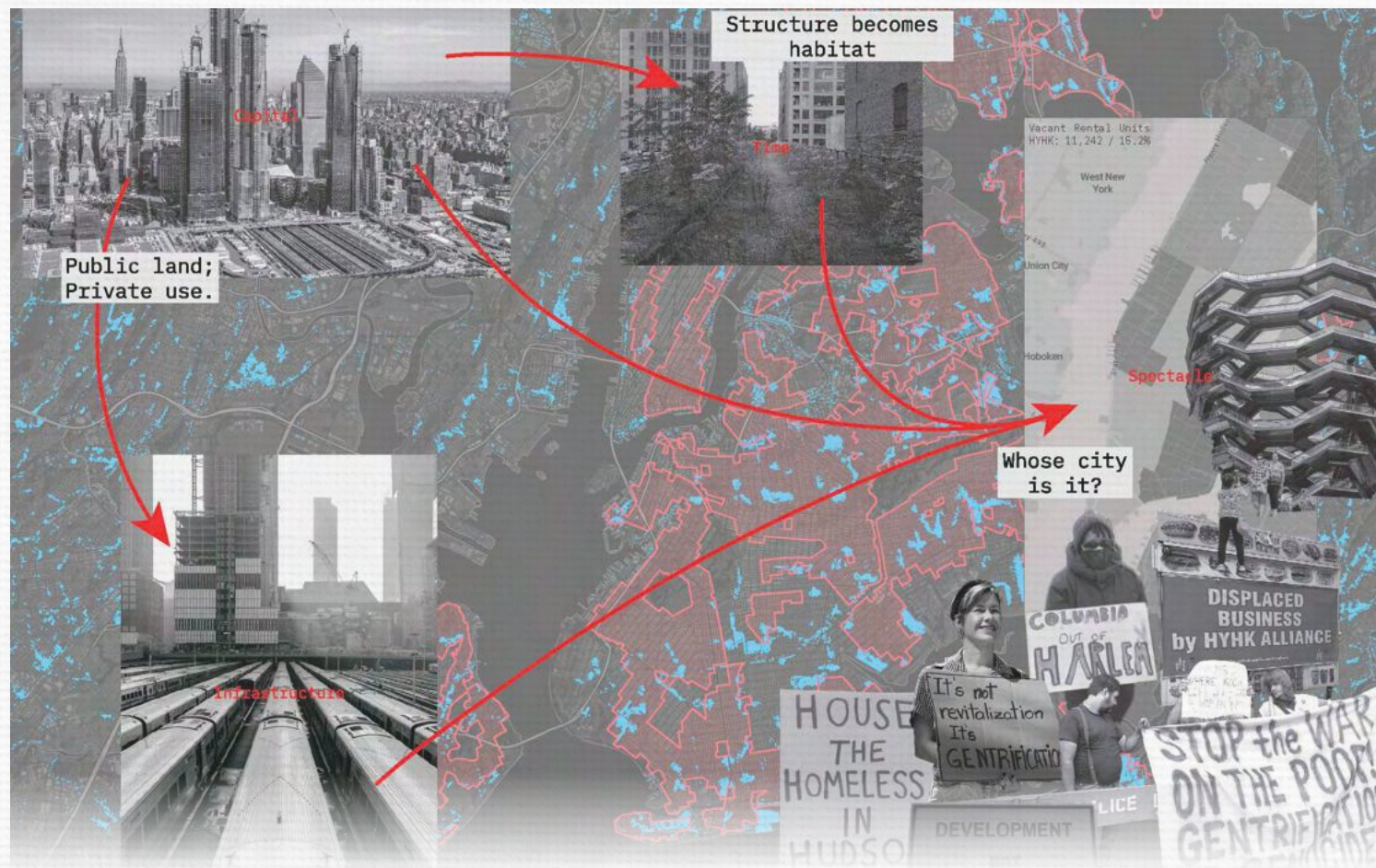
A further inquiry into the Jussieu Library and *A Brief Inquiry*'s domino iteration, Antithetos is a proposal for the redesign of the Marcy Public Library in Brooklyn, New York. It retains both Jussieu and my previous exploration's idea of continuous, yet obscured circulation and occupation.



Library Building Model (Facade + Circulation Detail / Sectional Model)







Occupied, Again: The Politics of Erasure and the Acts of Return

Fall 2025 (Y5/S1) / Thesis Project (in-progress)

New York's rail yards and infrastructural gaps create some of the city's largest continuous voids. They are sites that disconnect surrounding immigrant and working-class neighborhoods from public space, cultural resources, and economic opportunity. This project proposes to transform one such site into a network of cultural, educational, and hospitality spaces transforming deferred infrastructure into public restitution.

Conceived as a "non-university" campus, the project merges live-work housing, studios, rehearsal and performance spaces, childcare, wellness, culinary markets, and gardens into a layered urban collective to form an ecosystem that supports daily needs and cultural production. Where Hudson Yards converted air rights into speculative capital, Jamaica Yard converts vacancy into civic equity: an infrastructural reparation that gives space back

to those historically overlooked by metropolitan planning.

Partnerships with nearby institutions, such as colleges and universities, museums, research centers, and athletic facilities, bring visiting educators, professionals, scientists, and athletes into the site, expanding mentorship, training, and ESL offerings for residents.

The project operates through two strata of beneficiaries. Direct users, being the artists, immigrants, and small businesses that live and work on site, and indirect neighbors who gain green spaces, safer streets, transit improvements, and cultural amenities as a result.

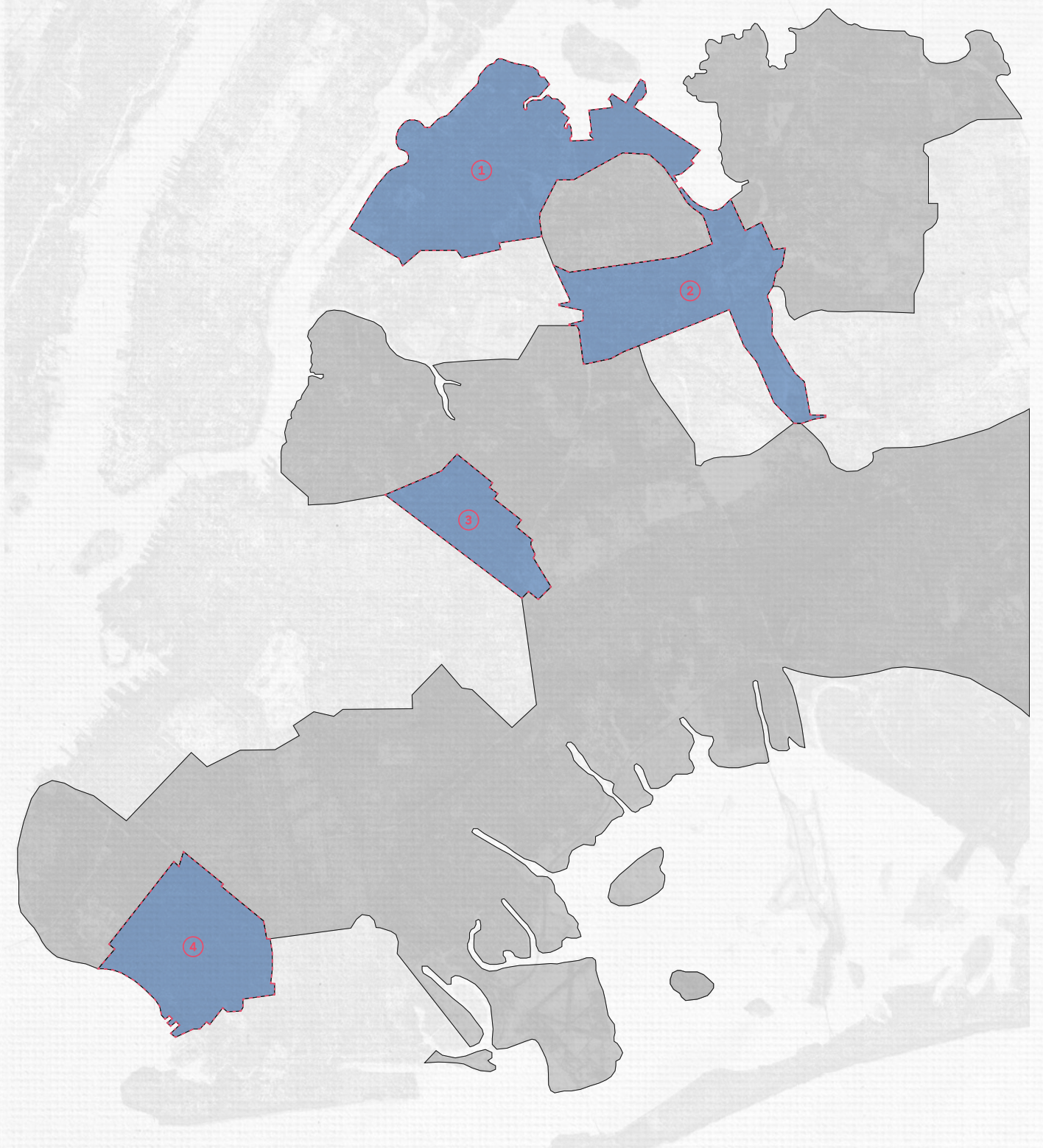
By reframing infrastructural land as active civic terrain, the project transforms vacancy into opportunity and builds a foundation for shared belonging and collective prosperity.

Mapping Site Potential Using Selective Demographic Data

- ① Astoria, Queens
- ② Elmhurst + Corona Park, Queens
- ③ Bushwick, Brooklyn
- ④ Bensonhurst, Brooklyn

Using the criteria:

- Ⓐ Foreign-born Population $\geq 25\%$
- Ⓑ Median Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income $\geq 25\%$
- Ⓒ Total Population Moved from Abroad within 1 year $\geq 1\%$
- Ⓓ Total Non-citizen Population $\geq 15\%$
- Ⓔ Total Population Employed in the Arts, Entertainment, and Hospitality Industries $\geq 10\%$

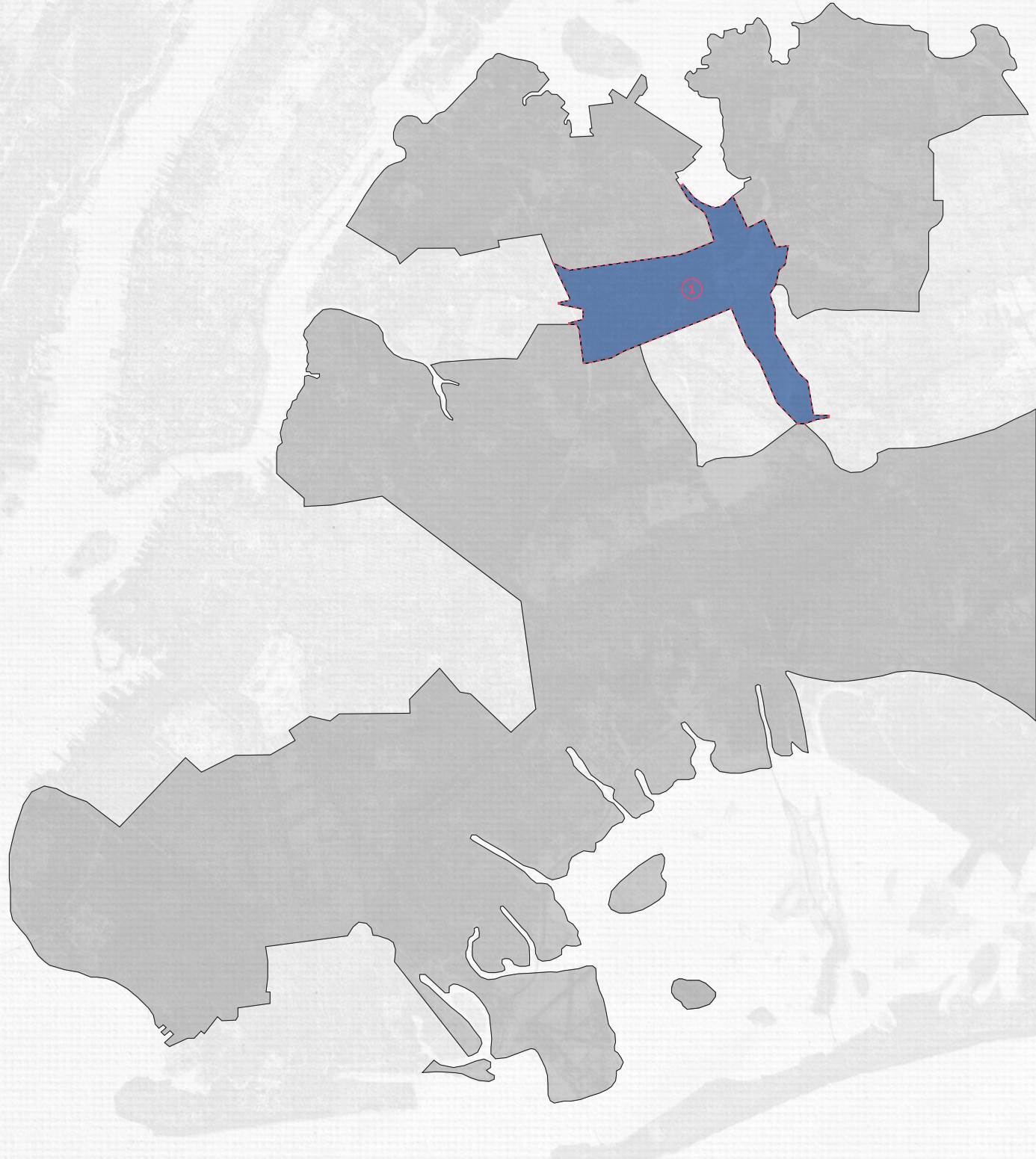


An Increase in These Criteria
Values To:

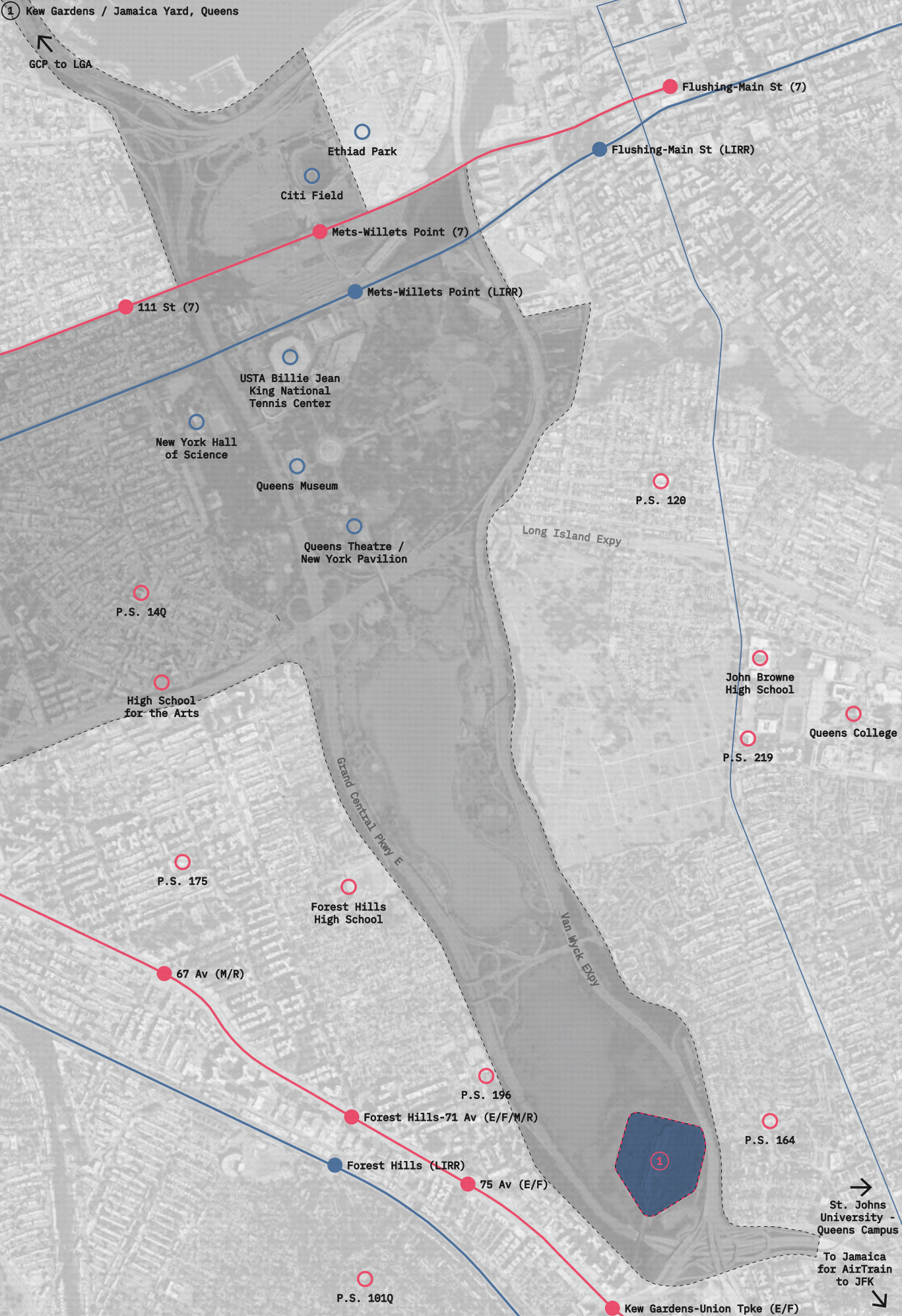
- (A) Foreign-born Population $\geq 50\%$
- (B) Median Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income $\geq 30\%$
- (C) Total Population Moved from Abroad within 1 year $\geq 2\%$
- (D) Total Non-citizen Population $\geq 25\%$
- (E) Total Population Employed in the Arts, Entertainment, and Hospitality Industries $\geq 15\%$

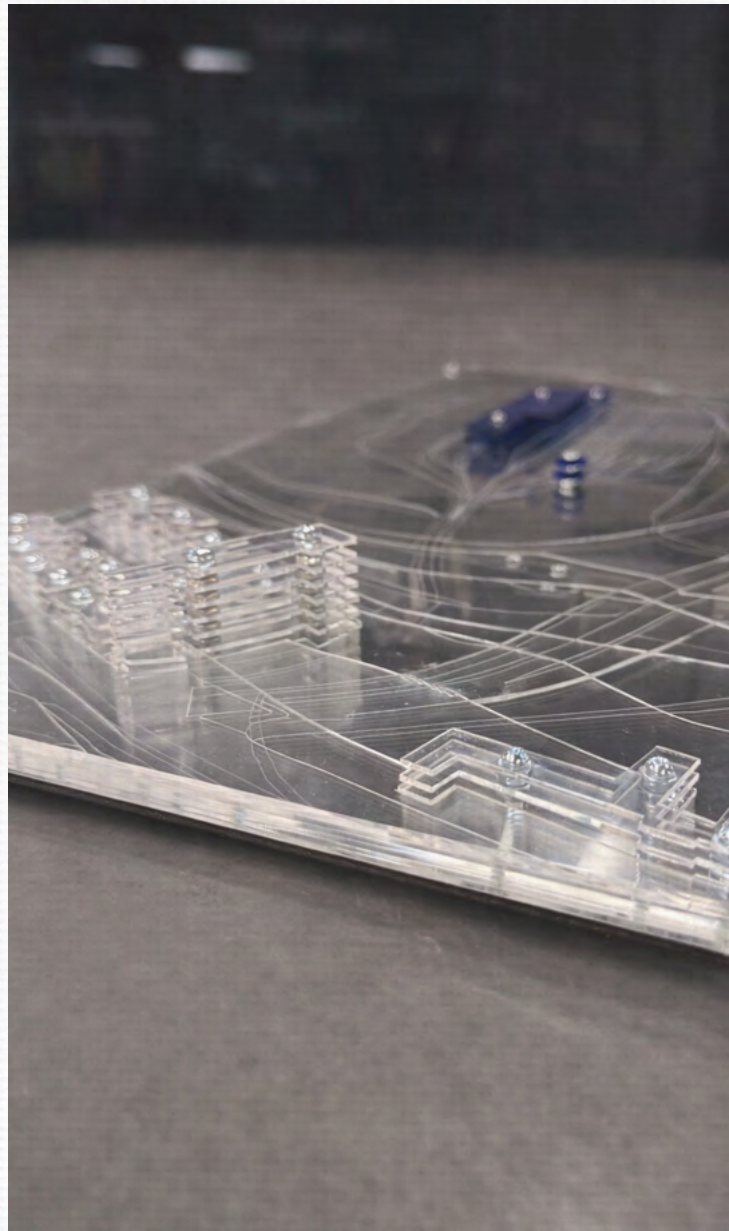
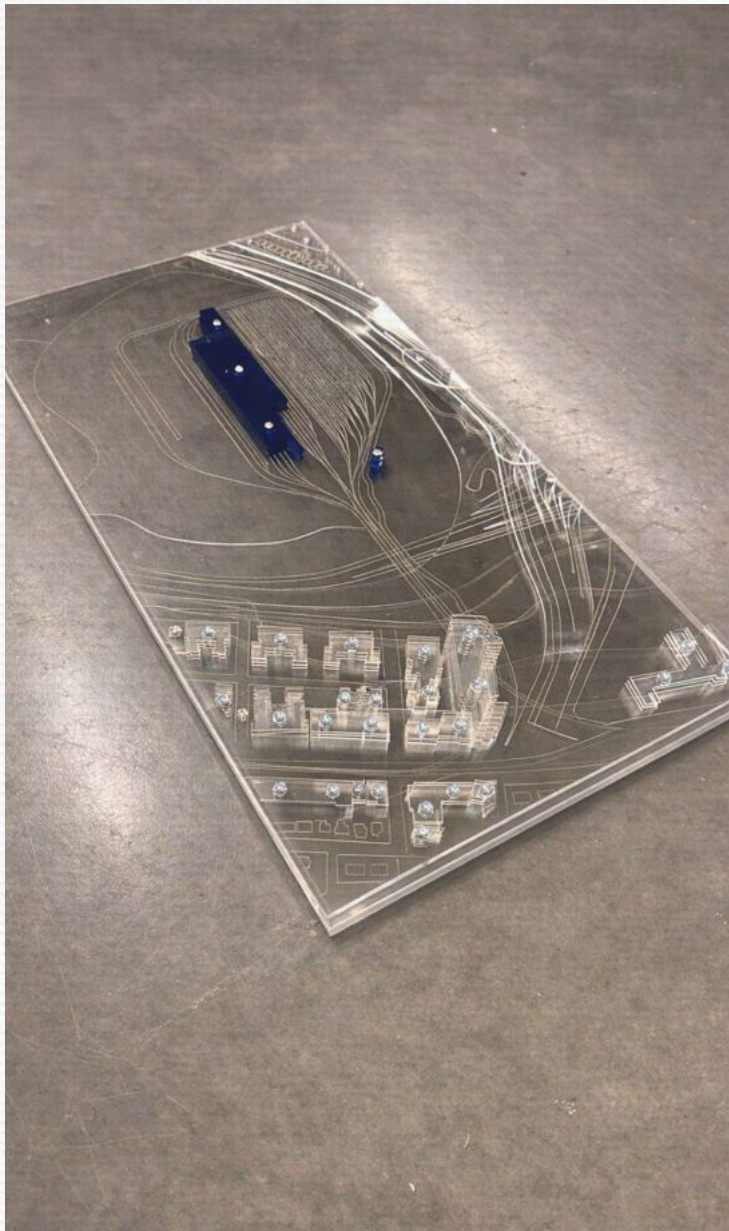
Provides:

- (1) Elmhurst + Corona Park, Queens



Site Plan
Corona Park, Queens





Proposed Site Model, Jamaica Yards, Queens, New York (Constructed using operative term “layering” and material “acrylic”)

New York contains vast swaths of infrastructural land-rail yards, industrial edges, and interstitial territories that remain largely inaccessible, underutilized, or socially disconnected from the neighborhoods around them. Although these sites serve essential metropolitan functions, they often reinforce physical and social divides, particularly between immigrant communities, working-class residents, and the broader cultural and economic life of the city.

Simultaneously, New York’s artist and immigrant communities, both foundational to the city’s identity, face difficulty getting established and escalating displacement pressures, diminishing access to

space, and limited visibility in city-making processes. Traditional models of development often neglect these groups, producing large-scale, exclusionary urban districts with limited civic return.

So, the design problem emerges at this intersection: How can a necessary infrastructural expansion become the catalyst for a new civic landscape, one that supports artists and immigrant communities while offering tangible shared benefits to the broader public?

This proposal identifies an opportunity to transform Jamaica Yard into a mixed-use cultural and civic campus, rethinking how transportation infrastructure, public space, and community-oriented programming can be interwoven.

Thank You

+1(770) 731-7325
studio@jakemerder.com
www.jakemerder.com
[in/jakemerder](https://www.linkedin.com/company/jakemerder)