

SARA CASTELLANO

Work Sample Portfolio
2026



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2026

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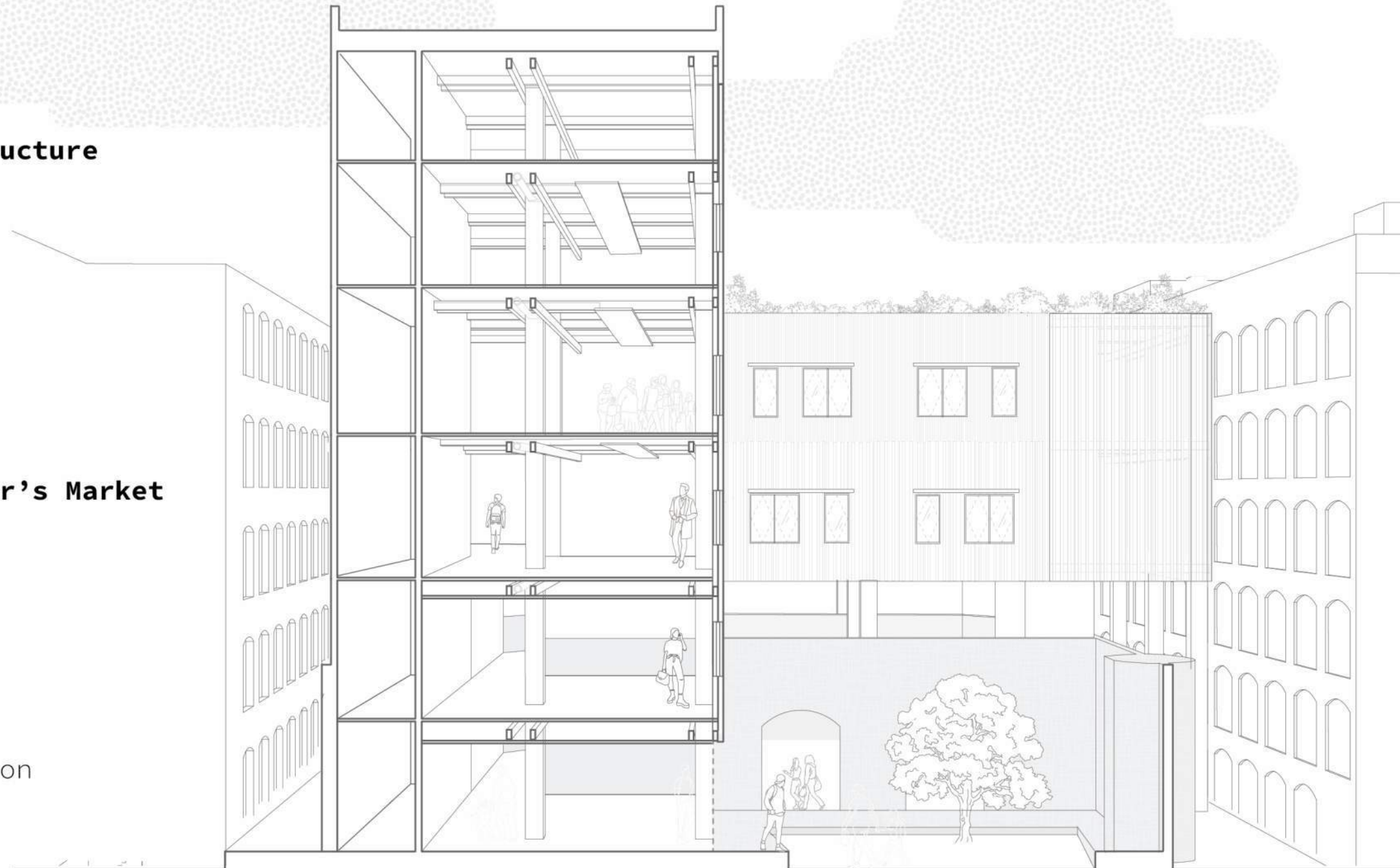
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Resume

Sara Castellano
Designer
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EXPERIENCE

SMITHGROUP
Designer/Architectural Support

July 2022-Aug 2024
May 2025-June 2026

- Produced revit based project documentation and modelling from concept to construction documentation for projects of varying scales
- Collaborated with clients on schematic design strategies that increased dormitory capacity by over 40%
- Prepared diagrams, renderings, and graphics for proposals and clients
- Coordinated with external consultants using BIM 360 workflows
- Researched and prepared internal graphics defining ADA, MAAB, and CBC code standards
- Coordinated AIA social events and internal “design week” activities

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
Teaching Assistant, ARCH 1110

September 2023-December 2025

- Contributed to the preparation and presentation of lectures and class materials
- Provided insight and guidance to students learning architectural visualization techniques, such as Autocad, Illustrator, and Rhino during class time as well as one-on-one tutoring
- Coordinated questions regarding course materials and expectations between students and professors, provided actionable feedback regarding assignments

GREENLINE ARCHITECTURE
Architectural Intern

February 2022-May 2022

- Conducted field surveys and documented existing conditions into CAD models
- Prepared client materials such as plans and renderings

Designer with experience supporting higher education, healthcare, and science & technology projects, with a focus on architectural design and planning

EDUCATION

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
Master of Architecture, May 2026

SAVANNAH COLLEGE OF ART
AND DESIGN (SCAD)
BFA in Architecture, May 2022

SERVICE

LEADERS OF INCLUSIVE THINKING
(LIT, SCAD)
Mentorship Program Co-Lead &
Social Media Management

SCAD NOMAS
Events Chair

SKILLS

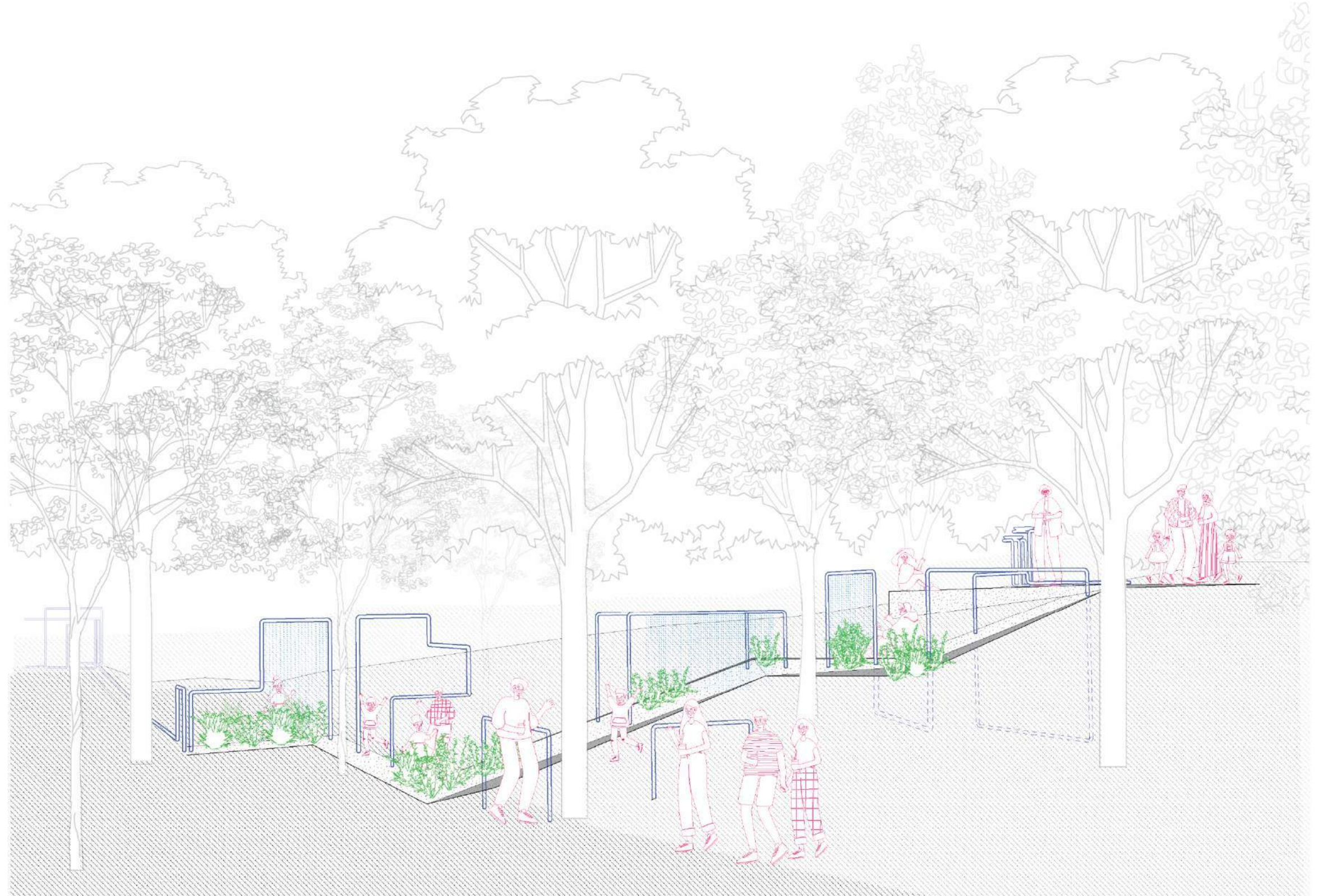
Design & Documentation
Revit • AutoCAD • Rhino

Visualization & Graphics
Enscape • Lumion • V-Ray • Adobe Creative
Suite (Illustrator, InDesign, Photoshop)

Professional Tools
Microsoft Office

River Reimagined

In order to bring back the legacy of the a river which once sustained community and industry to the area of Jamaica Plain, I aim to reimagine the Stony Brook River as a collection of **public water infrastructure interventions** designed to bring respite, ecology, gathering, and the history to the Southwest Corridor

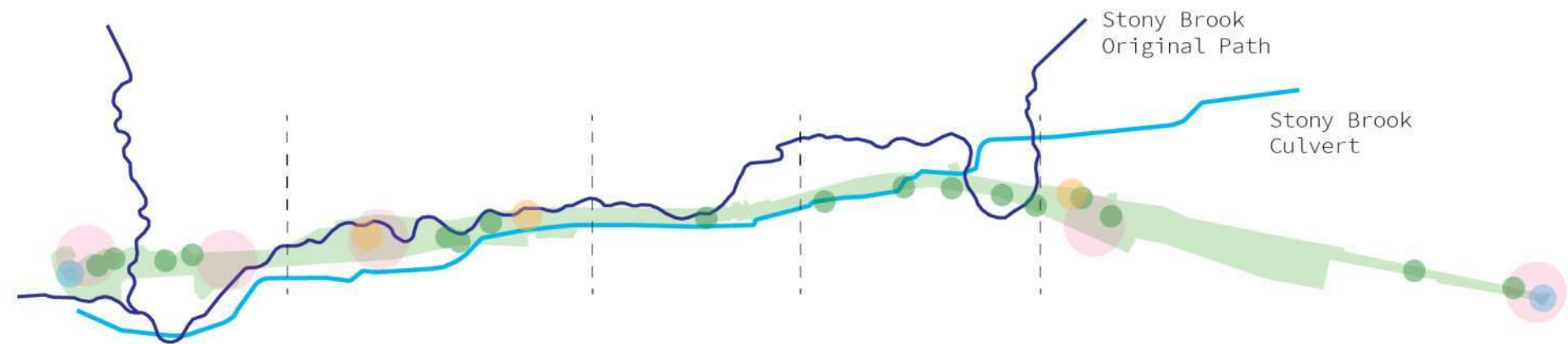


Master's Thesis Project

Research

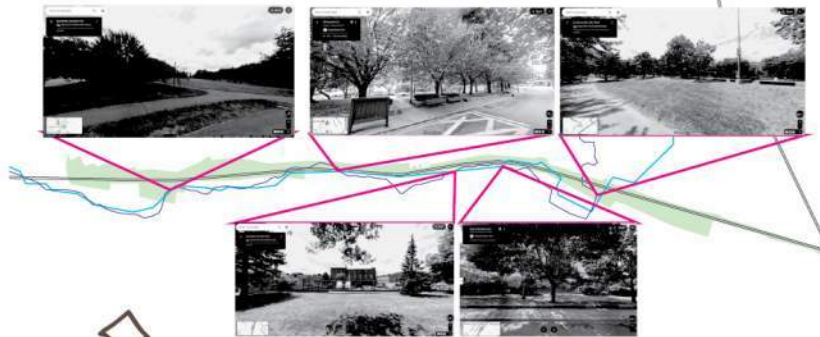
Northeastern University, 2026
Using research to reimagine the Stony Brook River through Public Water Infrastructure.

1. Where does water currently exist along the corridor?

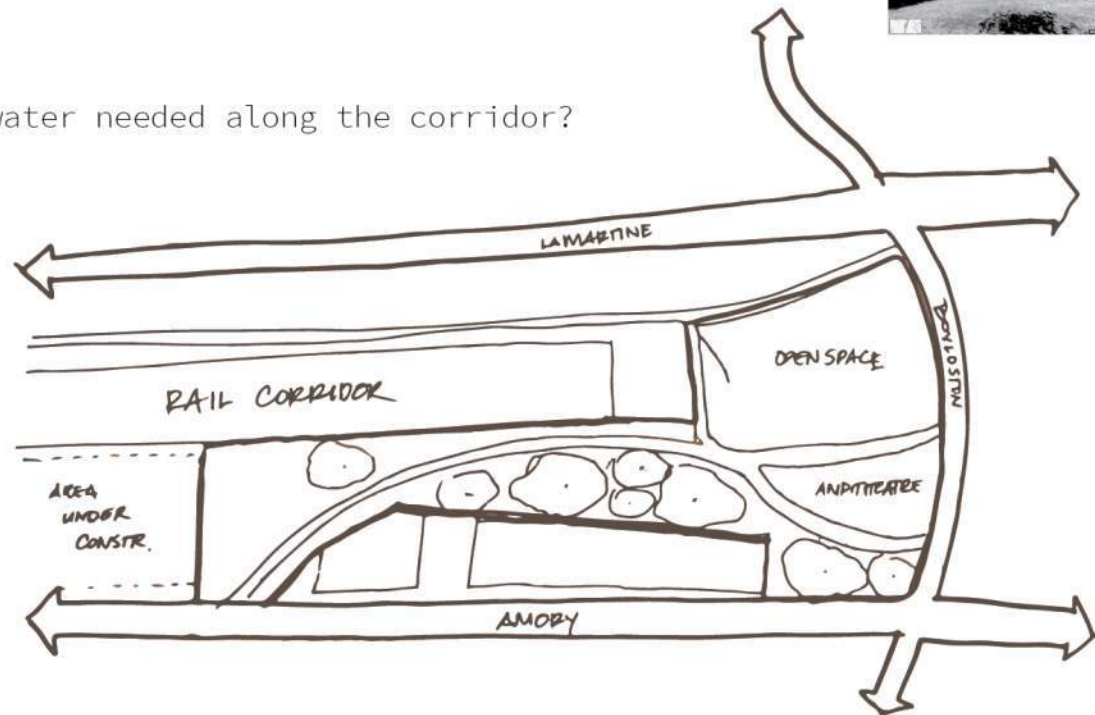


- 1. Drinking Fountains
- 2. Public Restrooms
- 3. Splash Pads
- 4. Rain Gardens & Drainage
(Proposed in 2024 Action Plan)

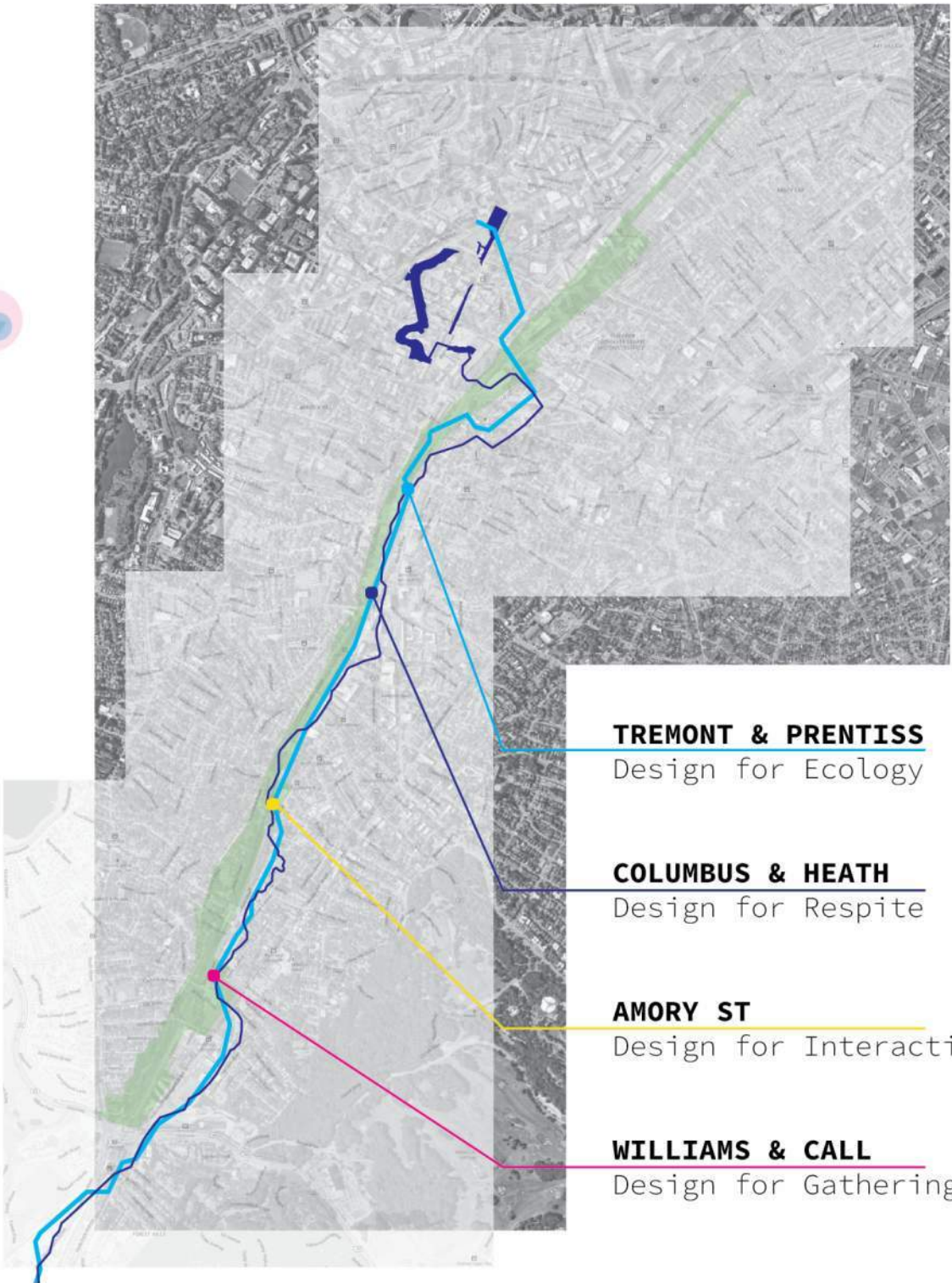
2. Where did the Stony Brook cross the corridor?



3. Where is water needed along the corridor?

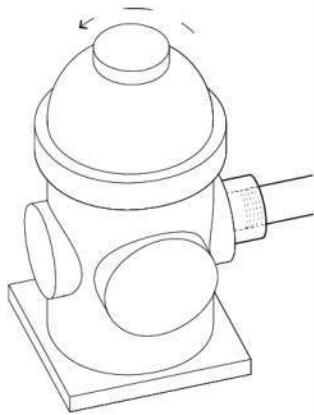


4. Intervention Sites



THE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE DESIGN GUIDE

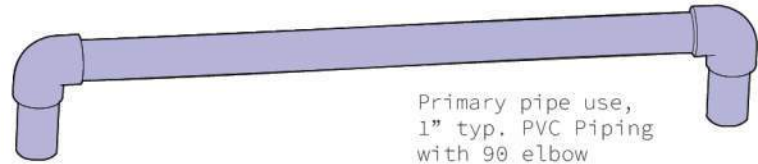
1a. Connection to Hydrant
From Municipal Water System (Potable)
Dry Barrel with ~500 gpm



1. Connect to Water Source

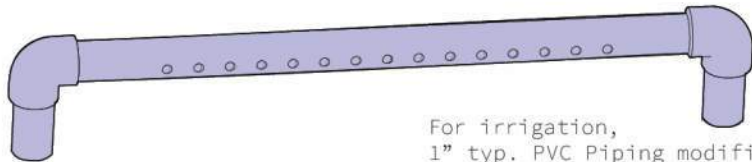
2a. Pipe Variations

Standard Piping



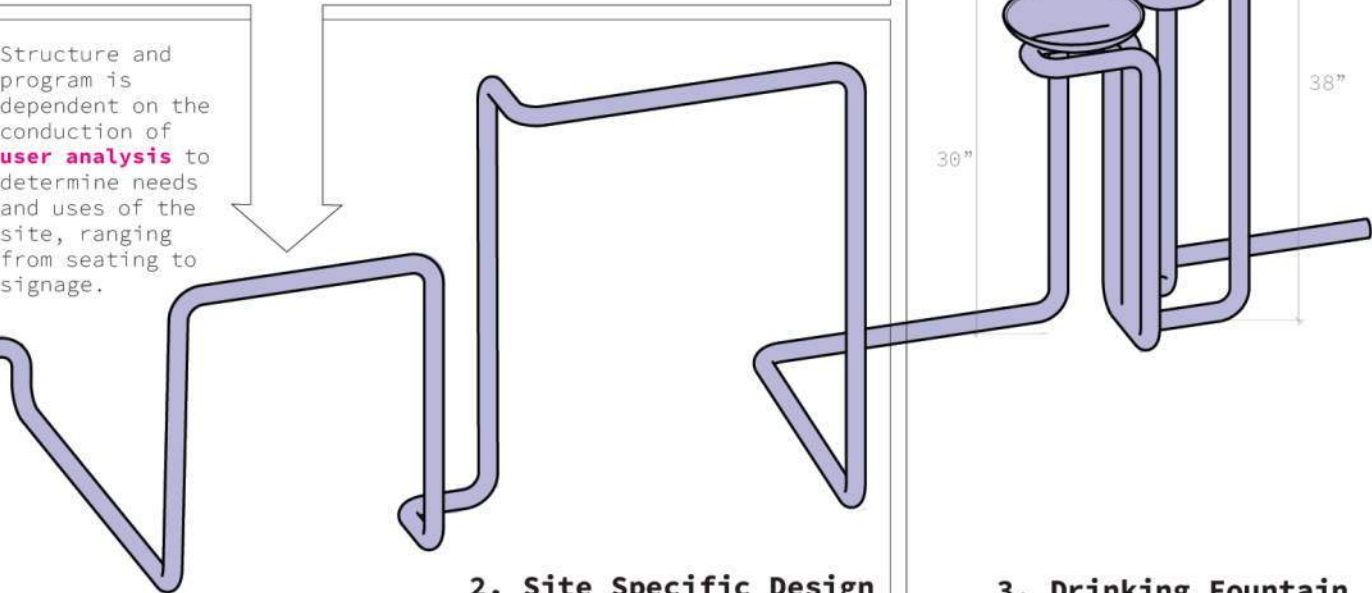
Primary pipe use,
1" typ. PVC Piping
with 90° elbow

Drip Piping



For irrigation,
1" typ. PVC Piping modified
with 1/2" diameter holes

Structure and program is dependent on the conduction of **user analysis** to determine needs and uses of the site, ranging from seating to signage.



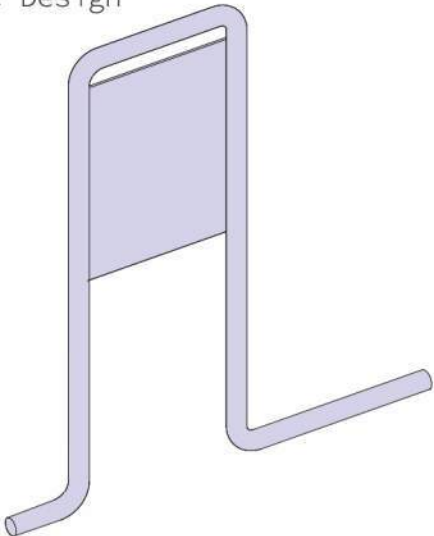
2. Site Specific Design

3. Drinking Fountain

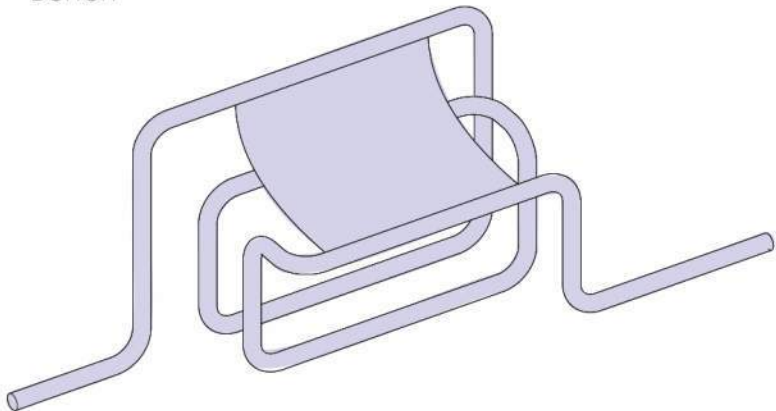
Why drinking fountains?
Urban spaces often lack access to drinking fountains, including these essential structures in our public urban spaces ensures accessibility and equity within our communities.

2b. Site Specific Design Signage

Signage to inform about the History of the Stony Brook and the Southwest Corridor

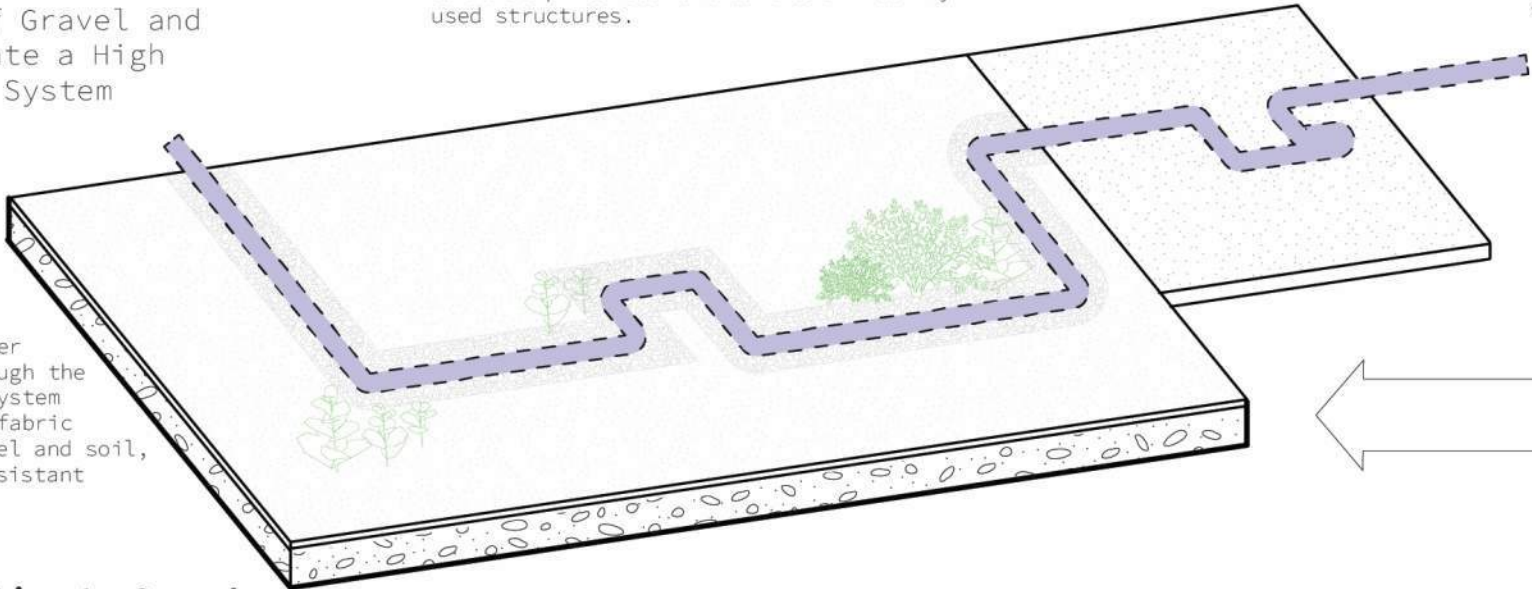


2c. Site Specific Design Bench



Layers of Gravel and Soil create a High Drainage System

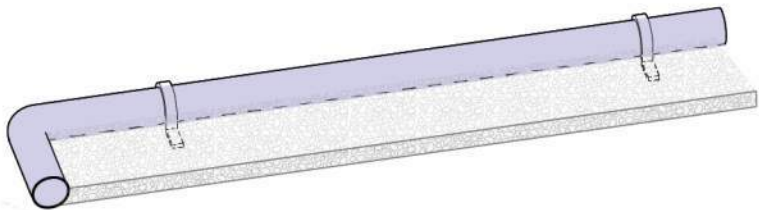
Essential in drip areas, creating a high drainage system to mitigate water flowing through the area. This system consists of fabric filter, gravel and soil, and water resistant plants



4. Connection to Ground

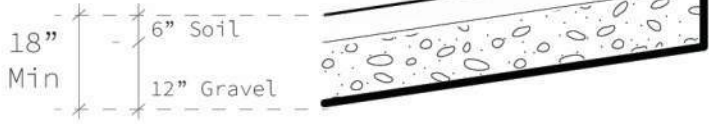
ADA Accessibility through Concrete Decking
Enforcing accessibility by maintaining solid slip-resistant materials on heavily used structures.

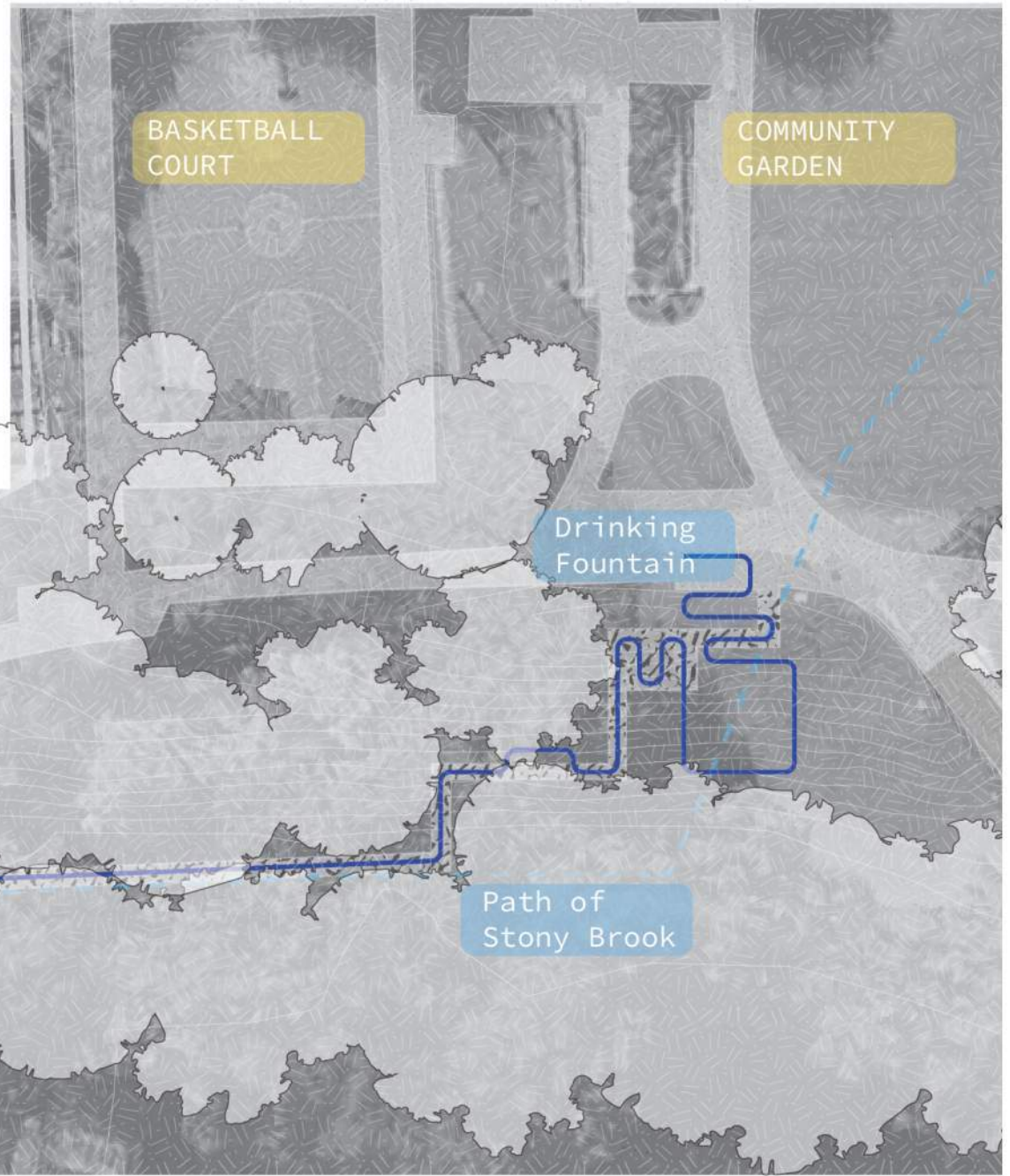
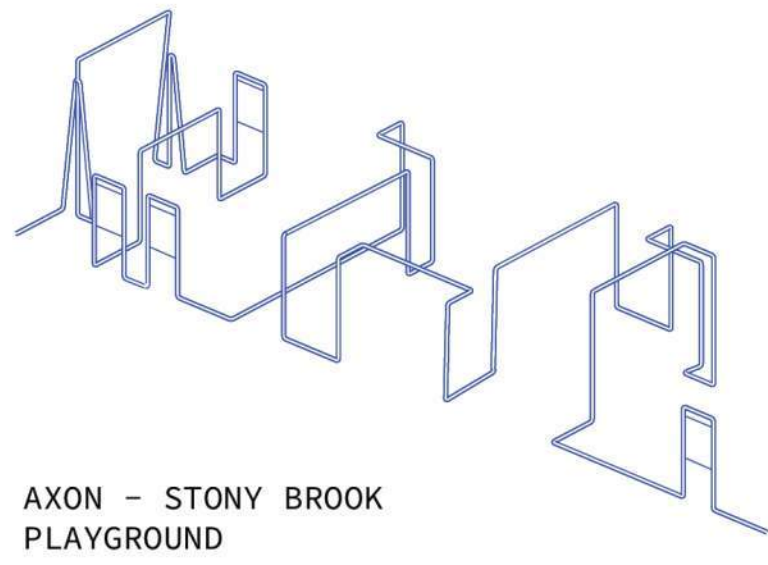
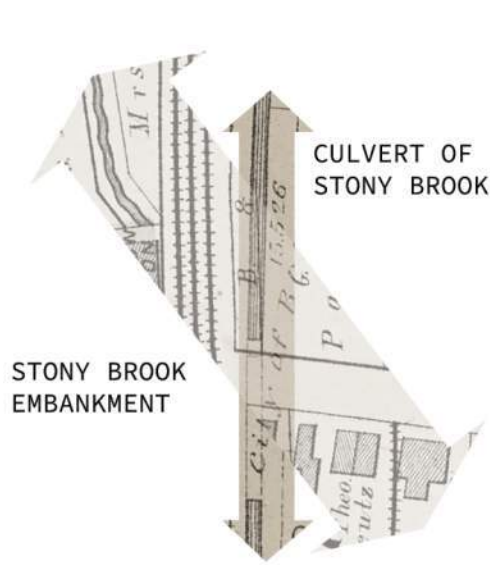
4b. Pipe Securement to Ground



4a. Rain Garden Section

Using rain garden water mitigation methods, the ground below the pipe structure will provide satisfactory drainage and weight to ground the above structure.





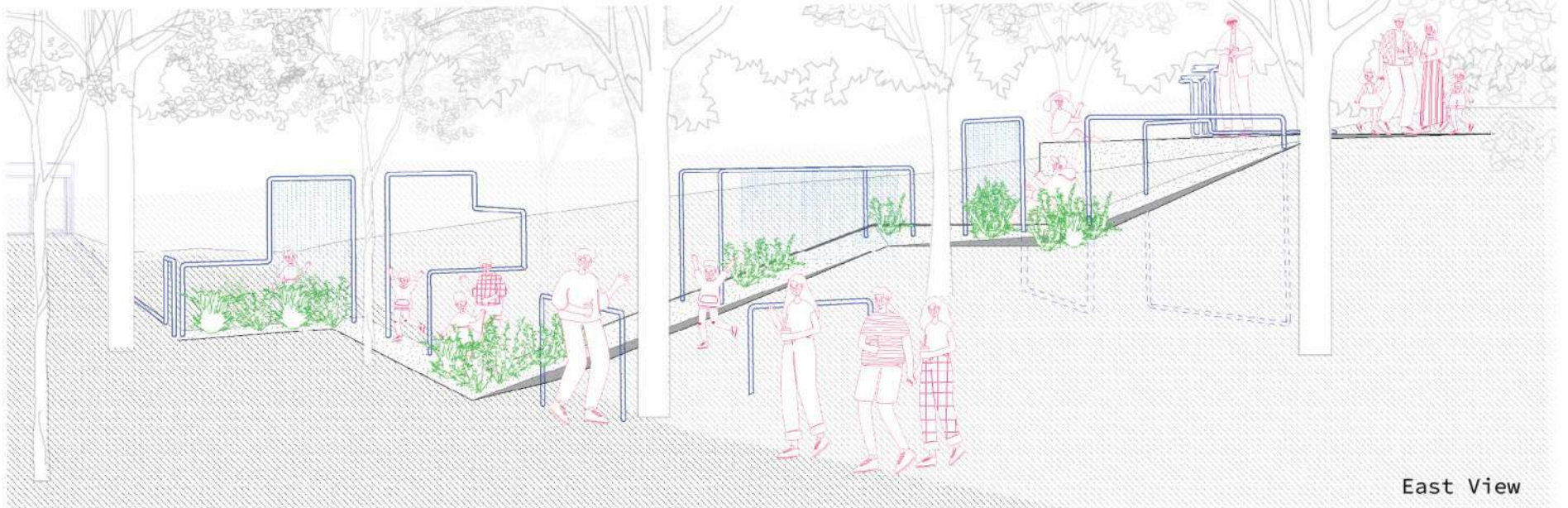
DESIGNING FOR HISTORY

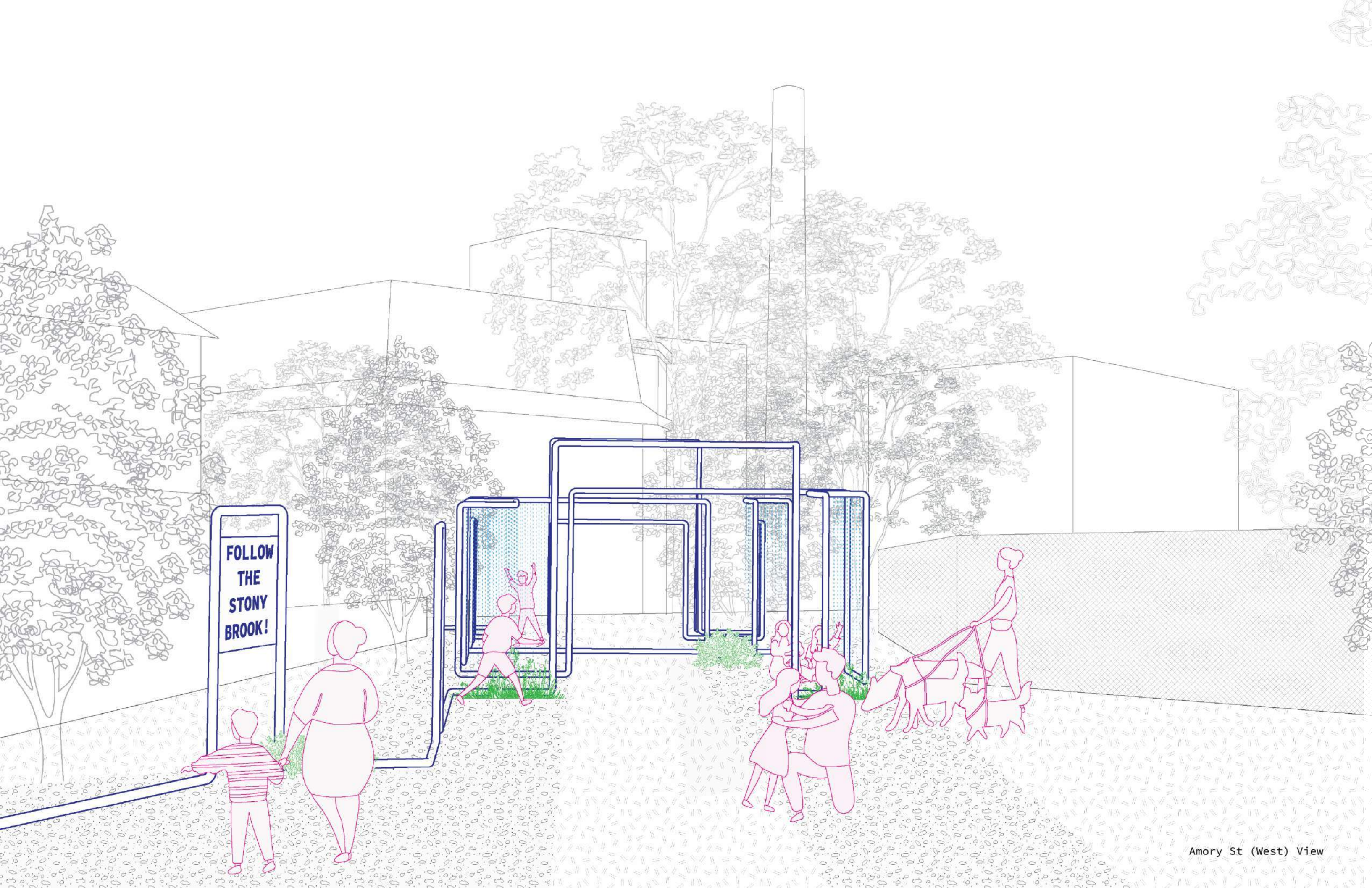
Site Movement:
Transit Heavy, adjacent to High Vehicular Movement and Low Foot traffic.

Closest Public Transit Station:
Stony Brook Station

Site Observations:
Well programmed and used, tree heavy area, reminiscent of old stony brook

Site Goals:
Create a space which reminds the users the history of the river, and provides a look into the past





Amory St (West) View

Roxbury Resilience

Roxbury has a long history of being overlooked within Boston. In the 90s parts of Roxbury were used as a dumpsite, but as the community came together, they were able to fight back and demand to be noticed. This studio project built off of the community work done by the DSNI group, using “unbuildable” lots to **imagine spaces for the community through a resilience hub using the lens of community and food.**



recipe for a resilience hub

Serves: All

A resilience hub should be a community trusted location in a neighborhood which can be altered to serve the community year-round and in the event of disruption.

What does Roxbury need?



FOR THE EVERYDAY

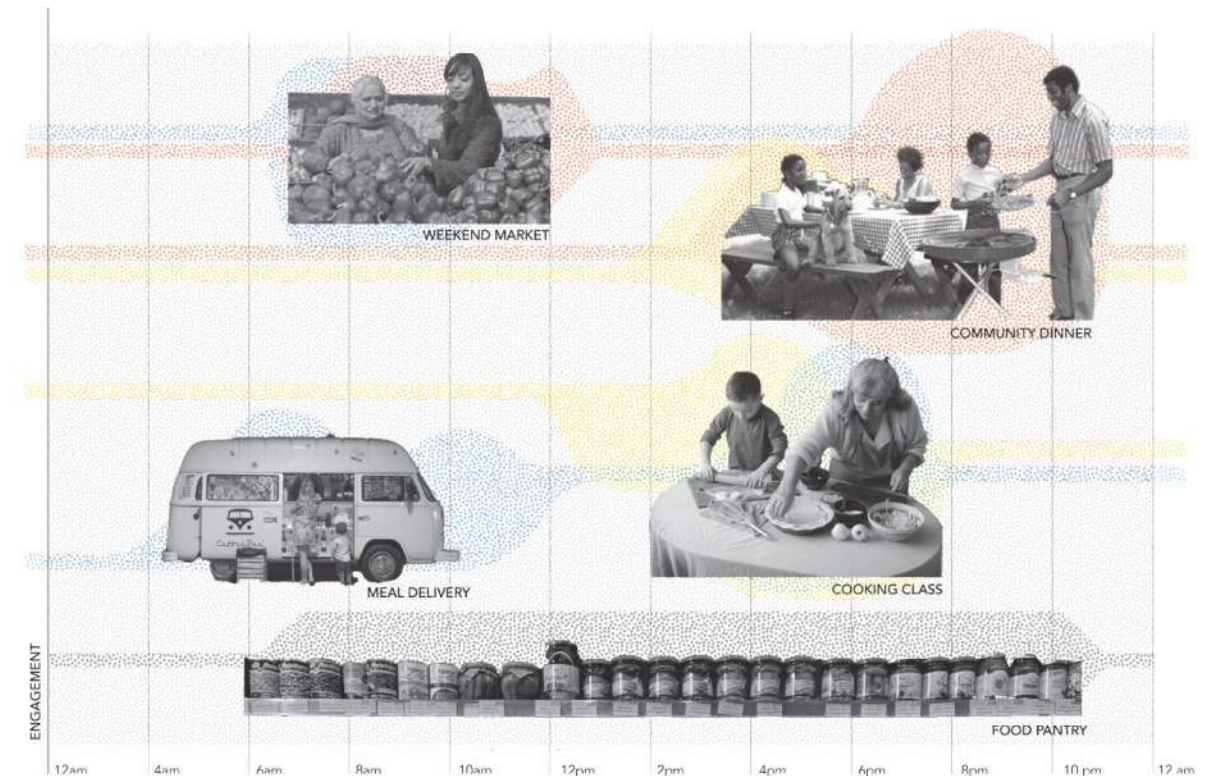
Everyday activities should be engaging, skill building, and community centered.

FOR THE OCCASIONAL

Occasional activities provide a platform for community concerns and provide support to members.

IN EMERGENCIES

In emergencies, the resilience hub should be resourced, accessible, and connected.



A food-centered resilience hub promoting kitchen skills and community meal preparation would address the needs of the surrounding community

STEP 1: ENGAGE COMMUNITY

Understand the community, their needs, the people, and the current systems in place

STEP 2: CREATE TRUST

Identify the hub as a safe and accessible space for all members of the community to enjoy

STEP 3: LOW STAKE ACTIVITIES

Begin conducting low stakes activities which allow community members to familiarize themselves with the hub

STEP 4: INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE

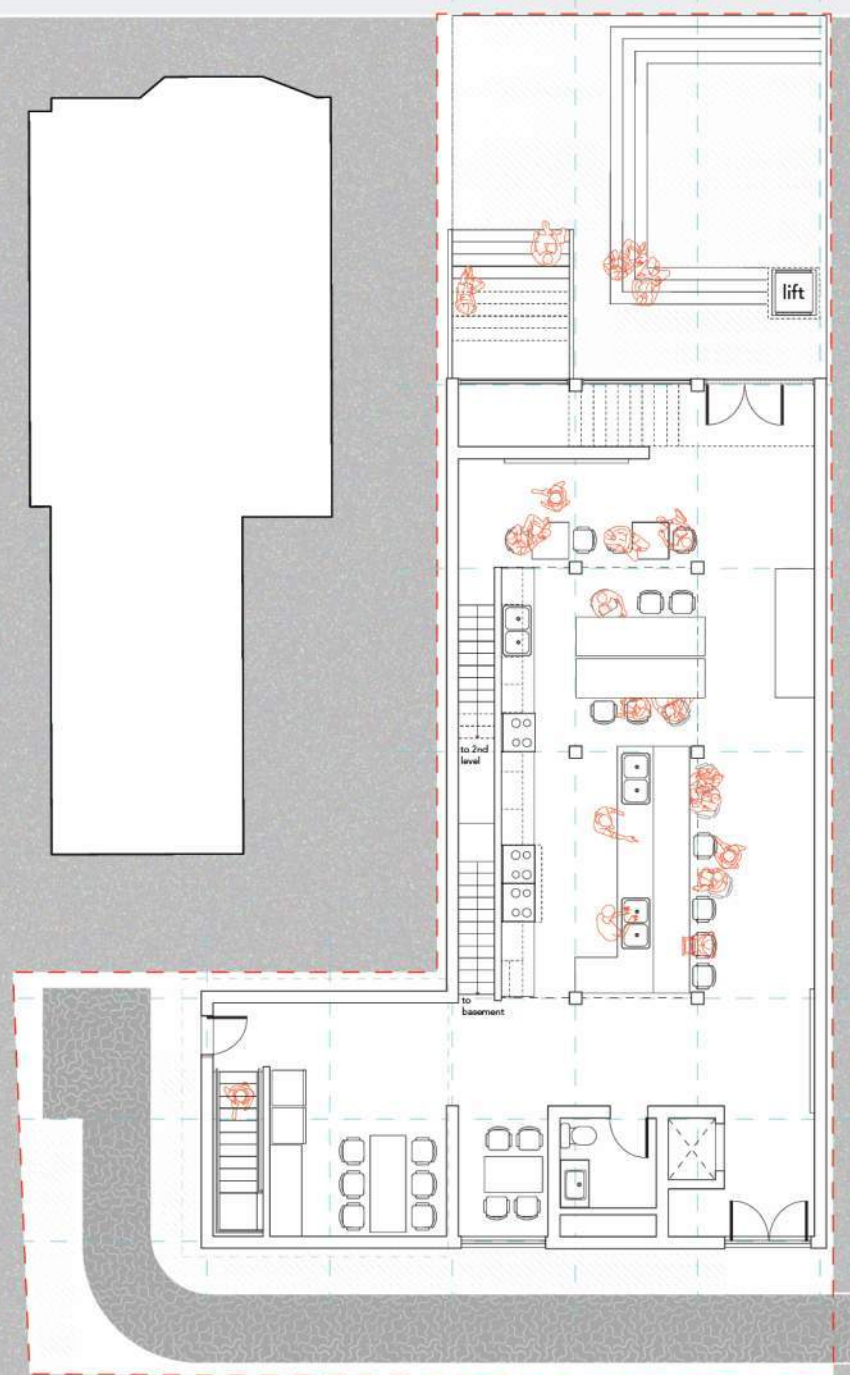
With the community involved, begin to invest in the infrastructure with the goal of community engagement and emergency planning

STEP 5: ACTION PLANS

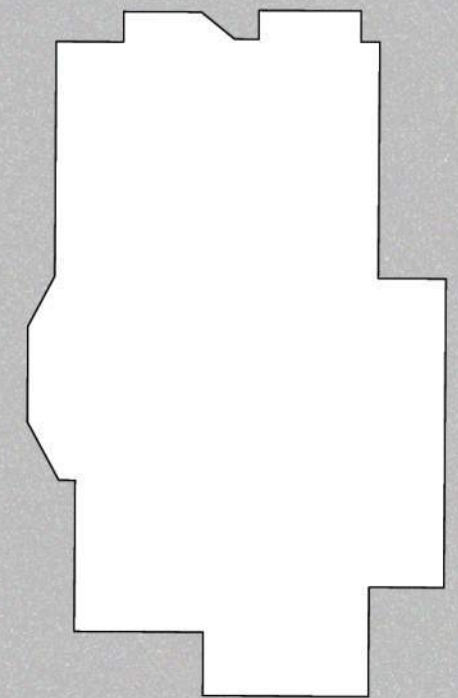
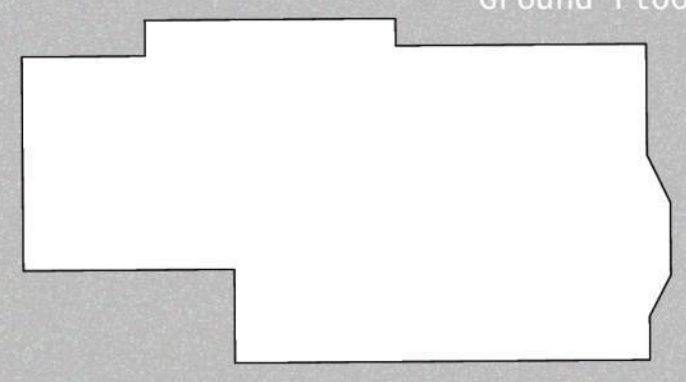
With infrastructure in place, begin to develop action plans in the event of emergencies, as well as everyday community engagement

STEP 6: ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY

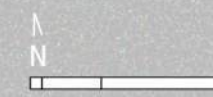
The hub should always be adapting to community needs! Maintain systems and repeat steps 1-5 as community needs change.



Ground Floor

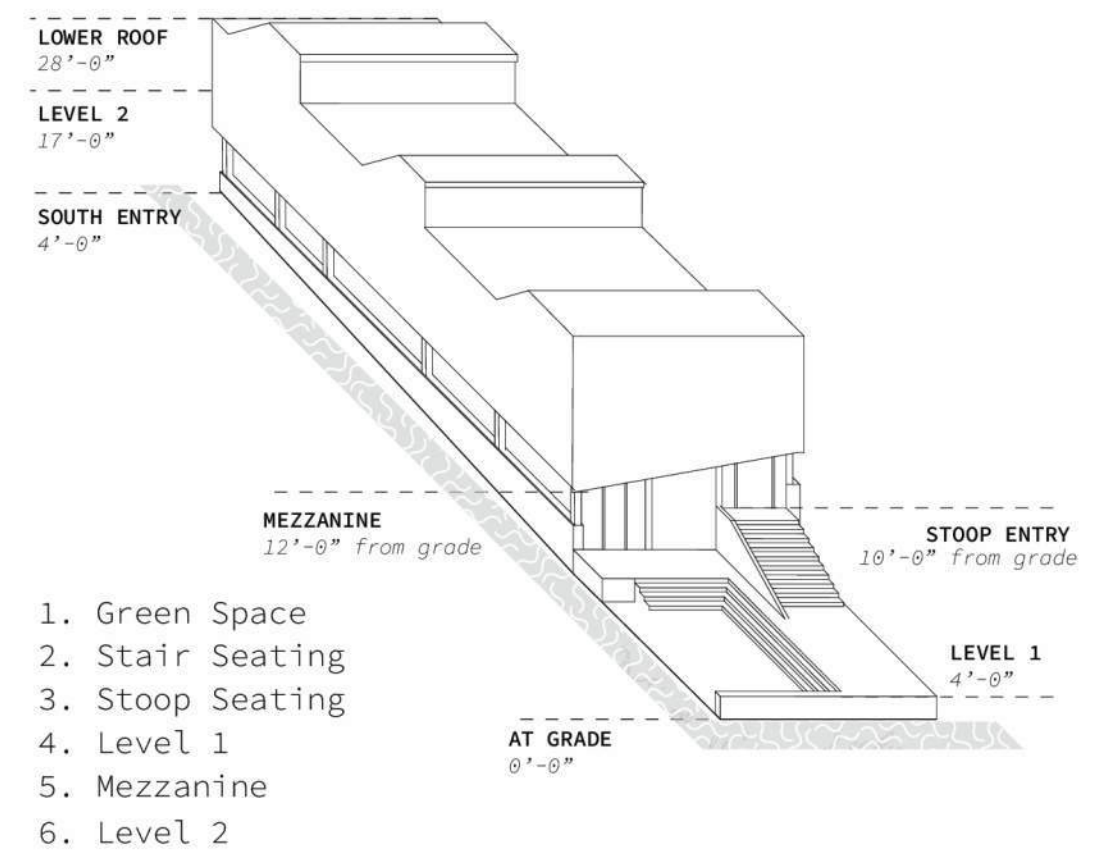
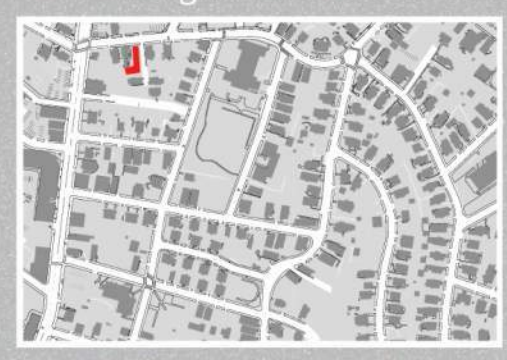


Centering the Hearth

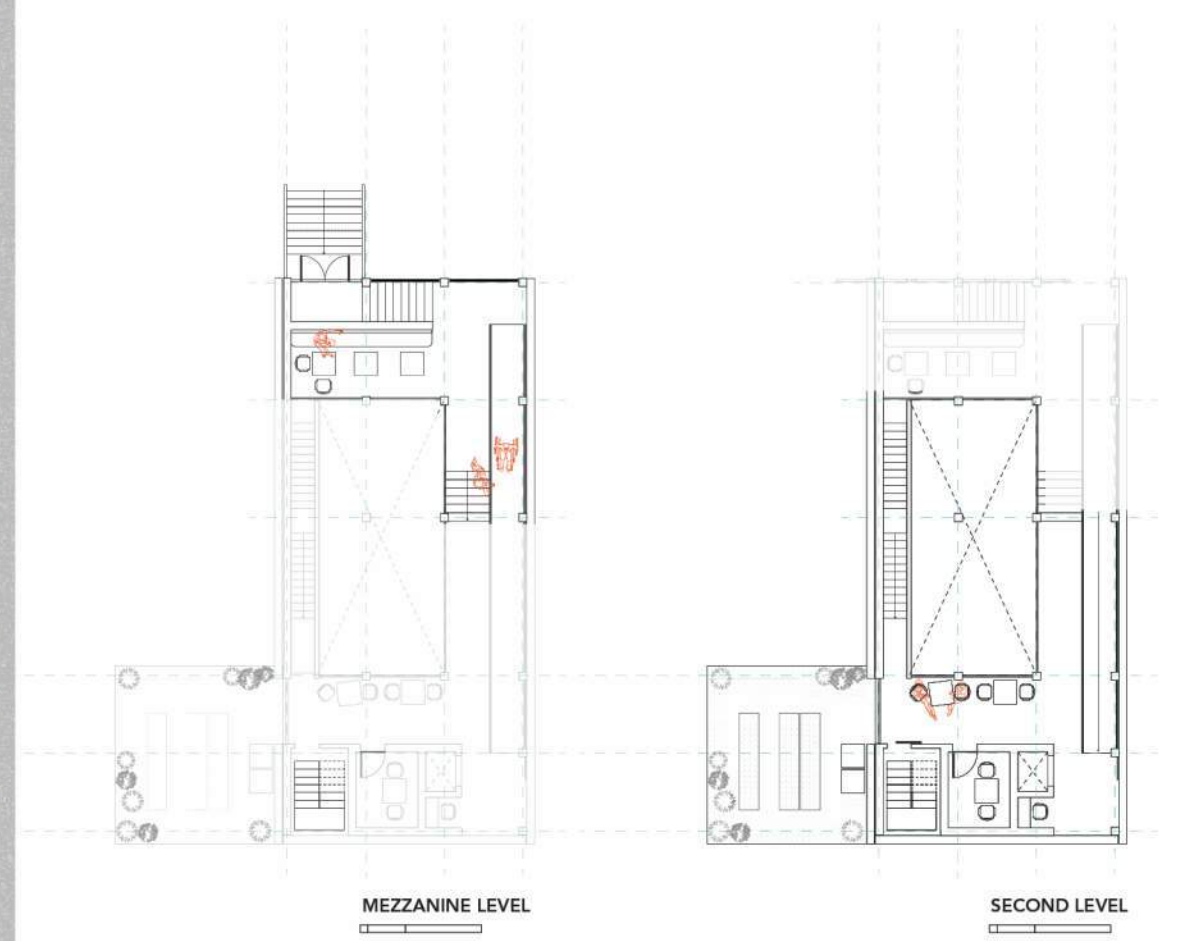


- "table"
Kitchen can provide a platform to engage members of the community to join for a meal or share their
- "store"
Kitchen can stock up on food/goods for the community.
- "hearth"
Kitchen to provide a place for youth to learn essential skills for cooking.

Neighborhood Context



The difference in grade provides an opportunity to create multiple planes for different types of community interaction



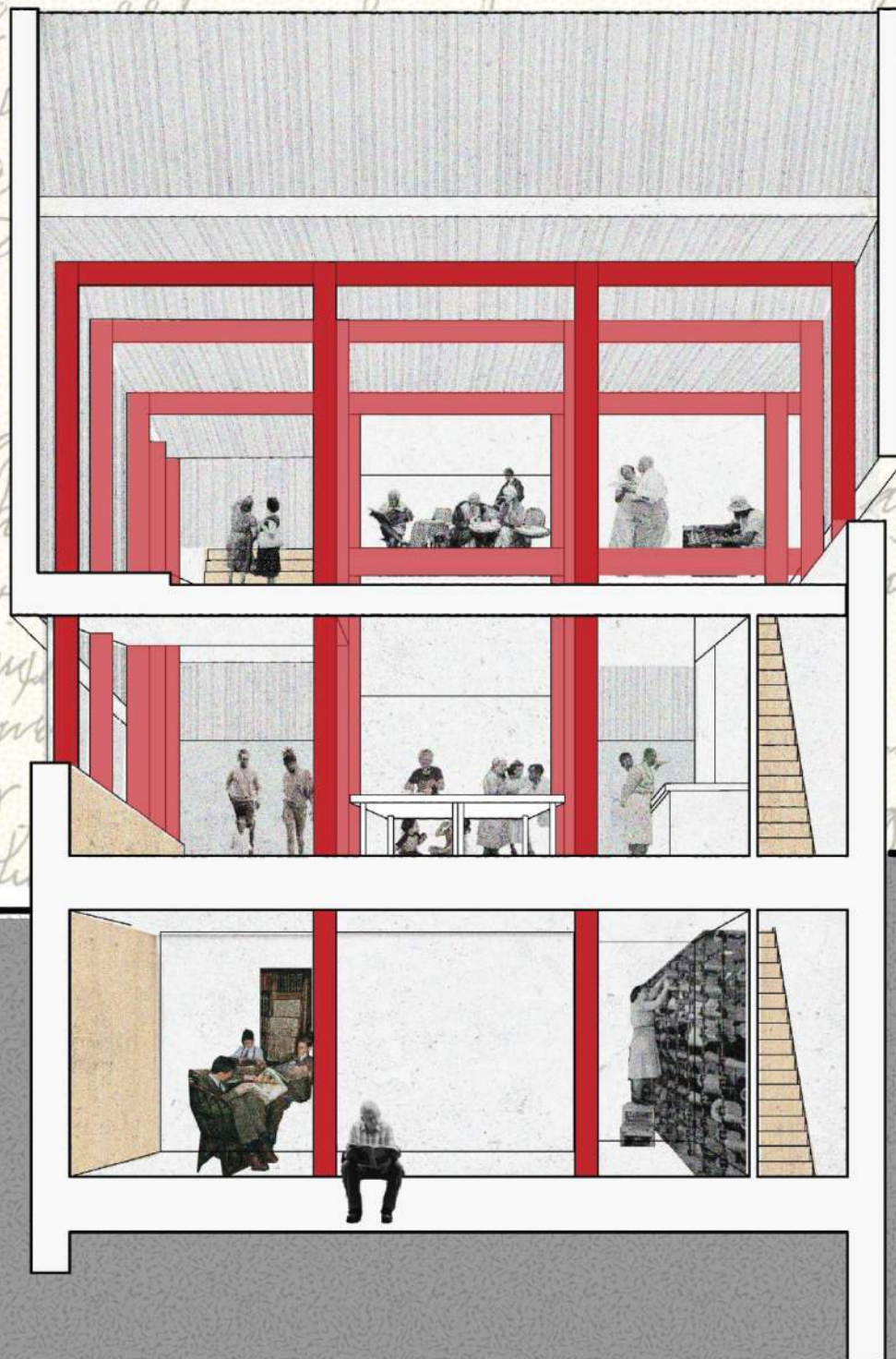
up
 4 dry ingredients -

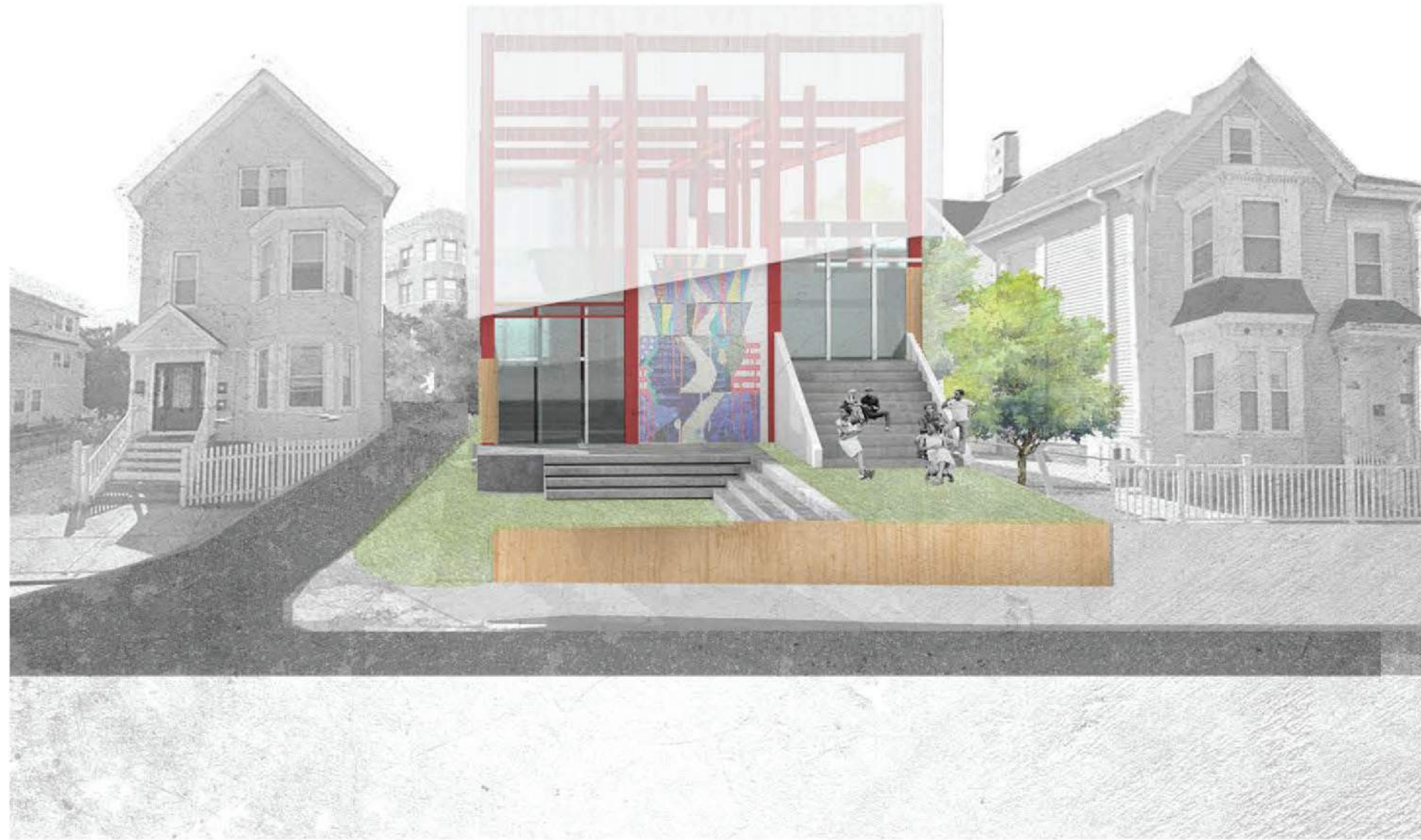
new
 1 inst. p. one at a time heat oven
 in a 350° oven till done.

Kingail
 seven - up

Filling
 1 lg. can crushed p-apple (mell in
 + press on
 of also + 2 egg y
 + also in same

1 lg. can
 2 C - sugar
 But p. h
 to boil +
 part of mix
 you have
 Ask for
 spread to





Research Framework

Service Design uses evidence and experiences to create a user-centered holistic design. It encourages the inclusion of qualitative approach to research, to understand the how and the why.

My experience in Service Design is best represented through the Forsyth Farmer's Market Analysis, using Service Design methods to understand the current state of a local farmer's market.



Forsyth Farmer's Market Analysis

SCAD Service Design Research Project, 2022
Understanding the accessibility of a local Farmer's Market through the lens of location, cost, and time

1. Competitor Analysis
How does the farmer's market compare?

Occupancy x Time



Cost Heat Map

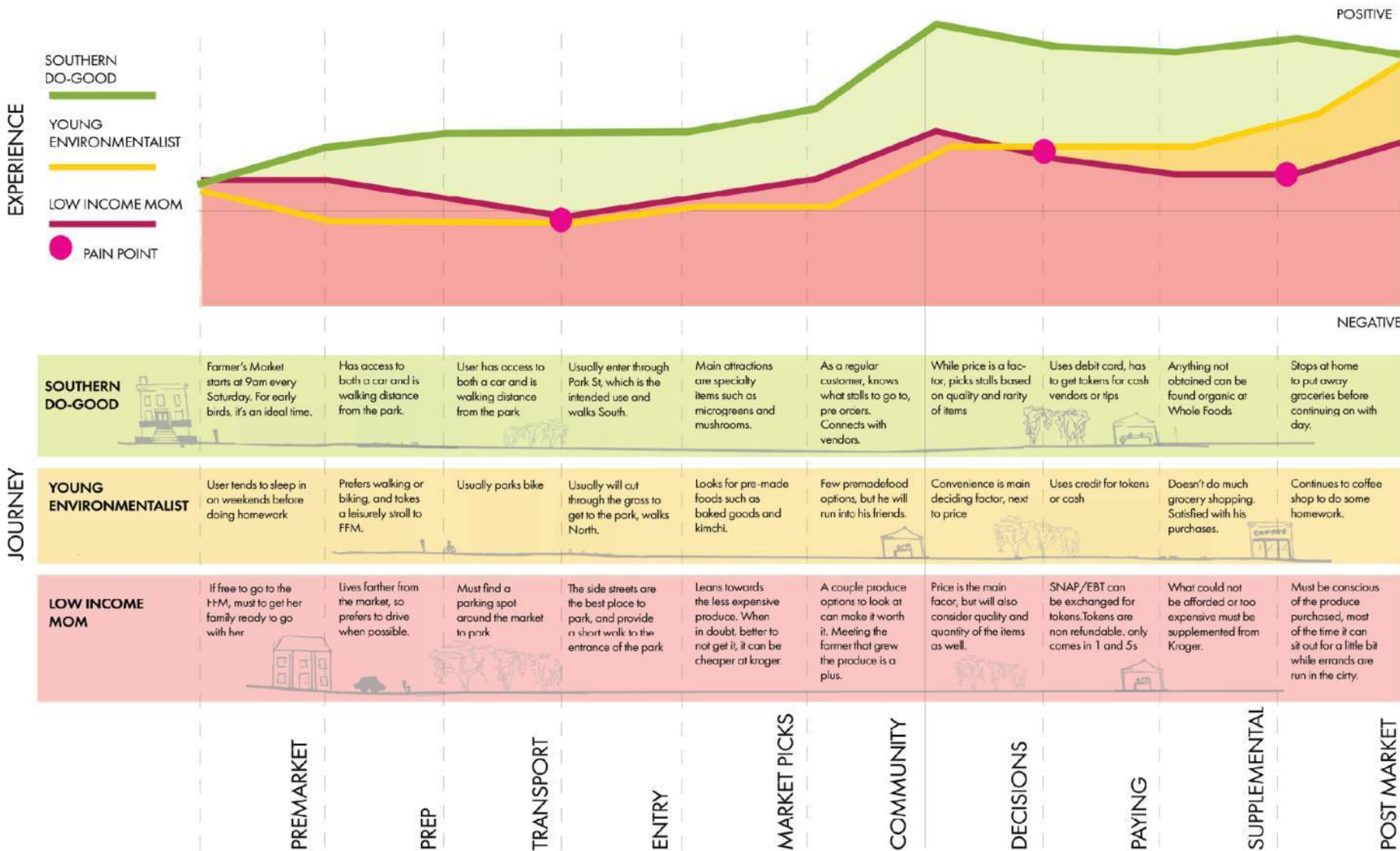


2. Interviews
What do people think?

"I work the morning shift, so I am never able to go to the farmer's market, but I wish I could"

"I can justify splurging on honey, but my budget won't allow for the locally raised chicken"

3. Creating Personas
Who uses the market?

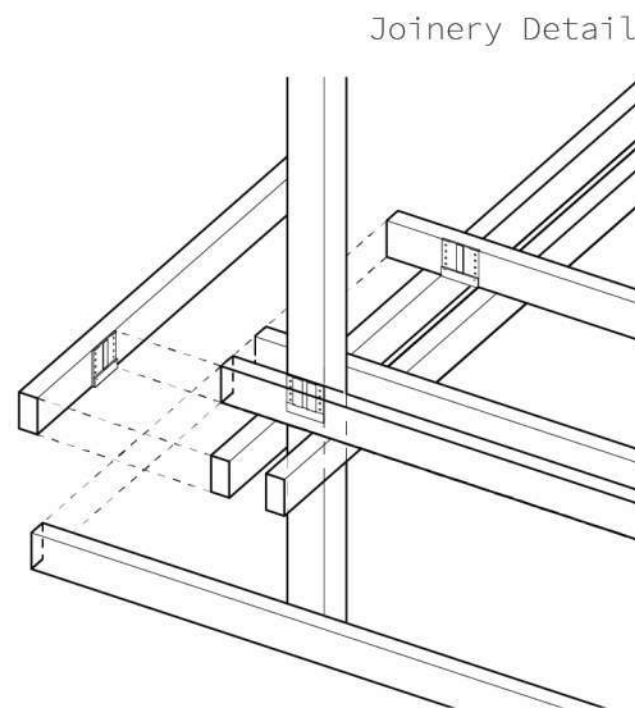


4. Conclusion

Determined that the Forsyth Farmer's Market is only partially accessible to the community of Savannah, often overlooking members which need vehicular transport to get to the market, as well as members outside of the 9-5 work schedule.

Professional Samples

My professional experience includes commercial and residential work, with the majority being in healthcare and science and technology. **Due to confidentiality and non-disclosure agreements, my professional work cannot be publicly shared.** The samples included in this section demonstrate the design approach, technical capabilities, and knowledge of codes which have informed my professional practice. I welcome the opportunity to discuss my professional experience and involvement further.



Communicating ADA

Diagrams, 2024

Understanding the clearances, overall dimensions, and nuances of patient toilets

Components of Patient Toilet ADA Compliance:

TOILETS

Require a Clear Floor Area of 60"x56"

GRAB BARS

36" Grab Bar Behind Toilet

42" Grab Bar to wall adjacent to Toilet

SINK

Requires a Clear Floor Area of 30"x48"

Soap Dispenser

CLEARANCES

60" Turning Diameter

DOORS

Push Side: 48" Clear Floor Area & 12" min from Door

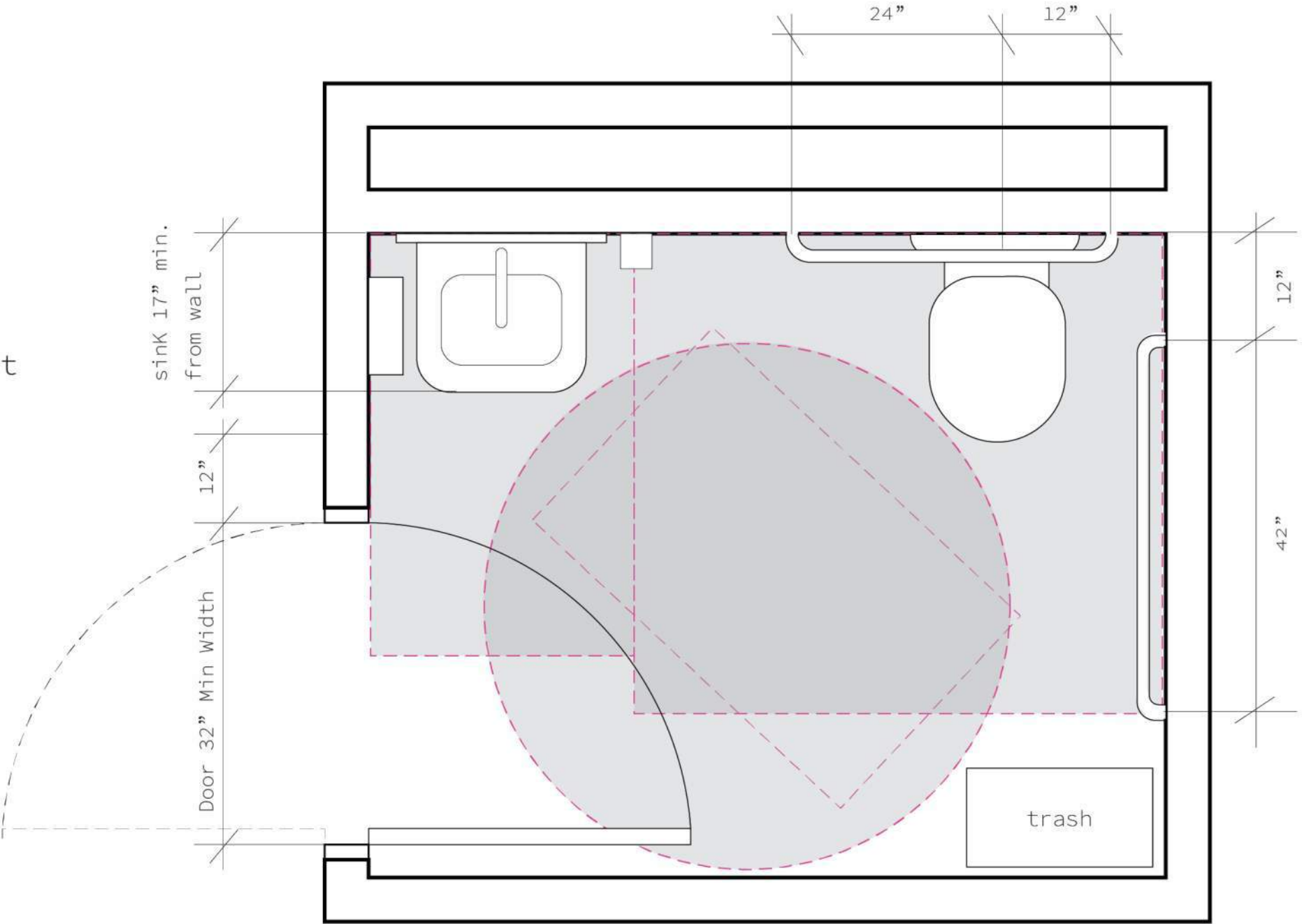
Pull Side: 60" Clear Floor Area & 18" min from door

OTHER

Paper Dispenser

Coat Hook

Trash



Base Diagram - ADA Patient Toilet

Sketch

Case Studies & Analysis

Northeastern University, 2024

Creating and documenting structures and models, translating the process into a legible graphic form

ROOF PARK LEVEL

Roof Wetland along the park filters water and helps to irrigate

Trees provide shading and air filtration

BUS LEVEL

Steel framing allows for large weights to be carried on levels above ground.

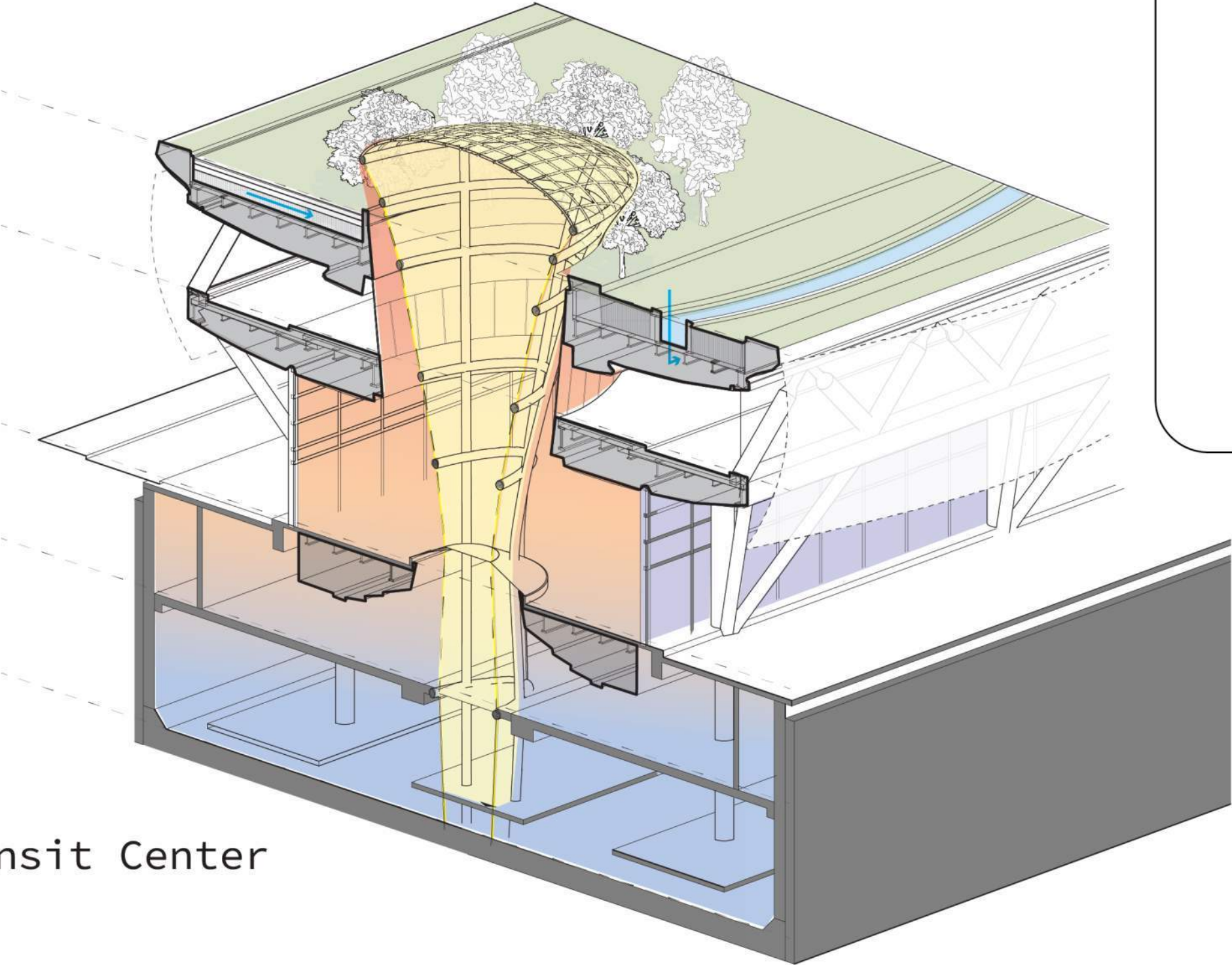
STREET LEVEL

Structure allows for existing streets to flow underneath with minimal disruption

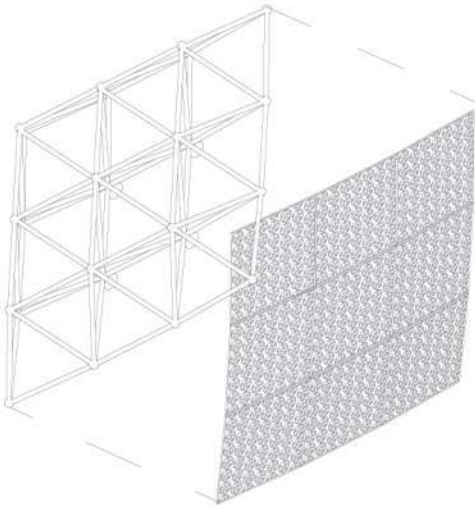
CONCOURSE LEVEL

The light columns provide daylight to all levels of the building, including ones underground.

TRAIN LEVEL



Exterior Space Frame & Paneling



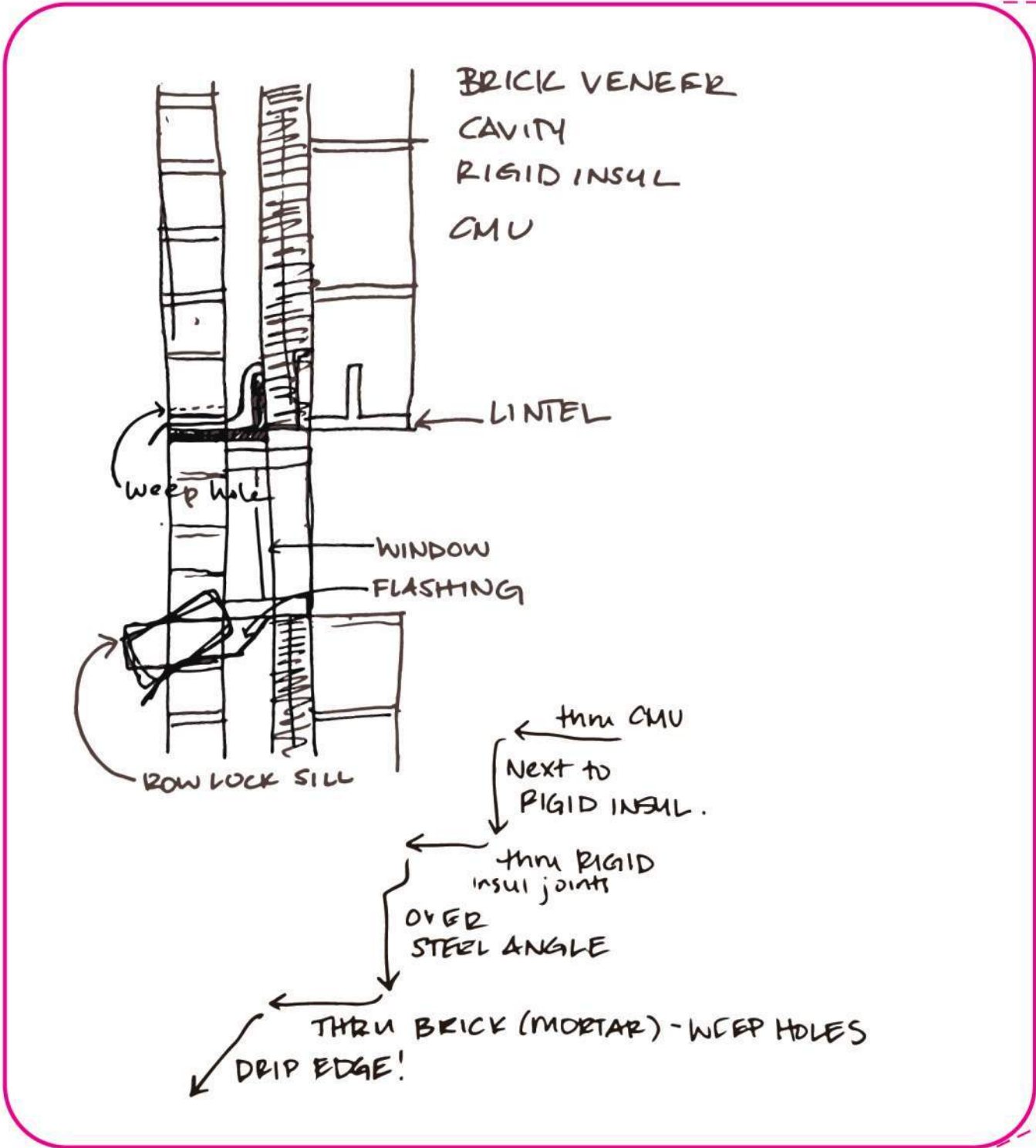
Salesforce Transit Center
San Francisco, CA

Sketch

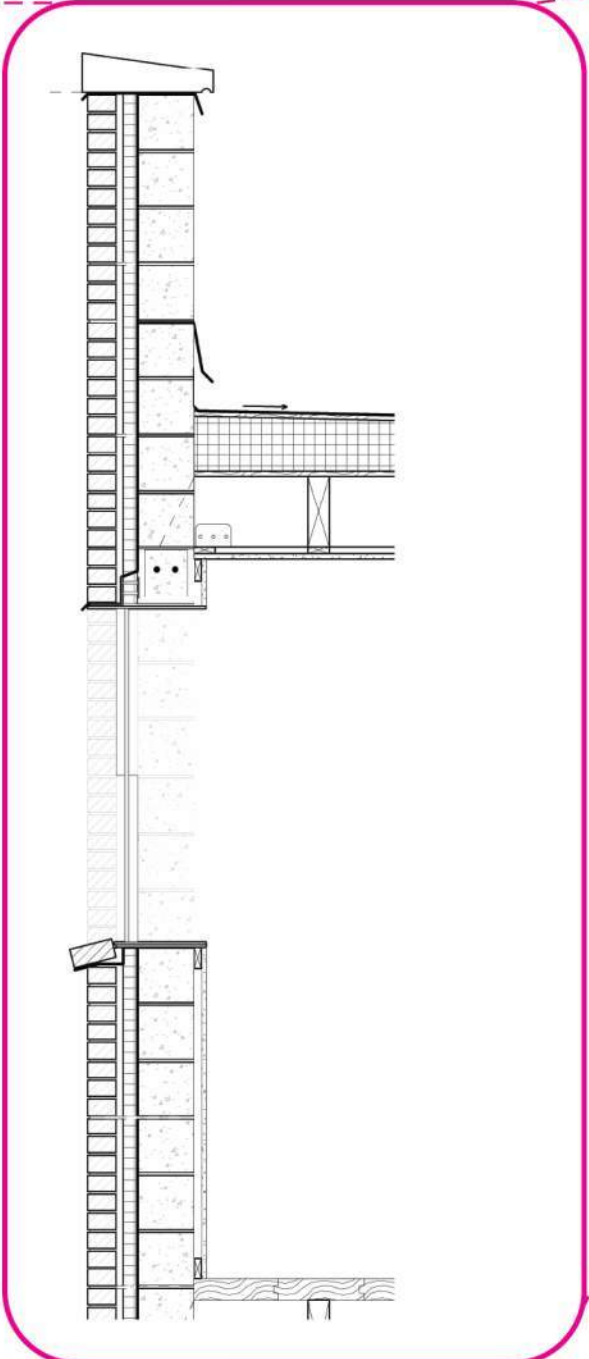
Existing Conditions & Documentation

Northeastern University, 2024

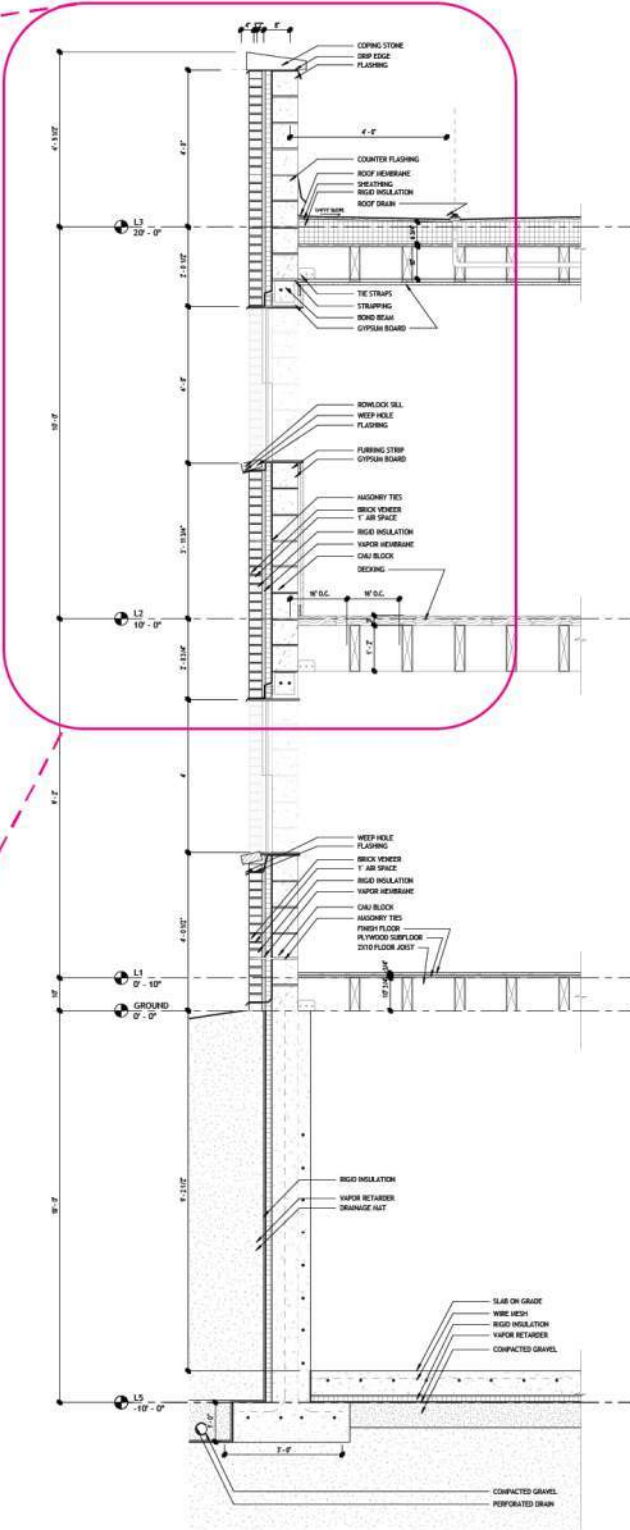
Understanding building logics, translating the process into architectural standards



Brick Cavity Wall Sketch



Wall Section: Revit Detail



Thank You!

For more information:

<https://www.saracastellano.com/portfolio-1>

Email: Castellano.sa@northeastern.edu

