

PORTFOLIO | JULIA OKOŃ

# JULIA OKOŃ

jo29@njit.edu | LinkedIn: Julia Okon

## Education

New Jersey Institute of Technology:  
B.Arch 2025, 3.8 GPA  
2020-2025

Scandinavia Study Abroad *Summer 2023*  
a research and design project on sustainable urban  
designs in Scandinavia

McNair Academic High school:  
An academic "Blue Ribbon" magnet school in Jersey City, NJ  
2016-2020

Austria Study Abroad *Summer 2024*  
a collaborative studio with the Kunstmeile of Krems designing  
urban furniture proposals

## Work Experience

NJIT Learning Communities 2022-2024  
*Architecture Peer Mentor*  
*Worked with underclassmen to help develop*  
*projects conceptually and technically*

The Scandinavian School of Jersey City 2023-current  
*Support Teacher/Co-teacher*  
*Through a Reggio Emilia philosophy, aiding children in explorations*  
*through daily guidance and provocations (PreK-Kindergarten)*

## Skills

### Software

Rhino  
Adobe Illustrator  
Adobe Photoshop  
Adobe InDesign  
Enscape 3d  
Lumion

### Physical

Model Making  
Laser-cutting  
Sketching & Fine  
arts

### Languages

English | *native*  
Polish | *fluent*  
Mandarin | *conversational*  
*Certification in Chinese Language & Culture Courses by the Jilin*  
*Huaqiao University of foreign languages (2019 Exchange program)*  
Spanish | *conversational*

## Activities

AIAS | NJIT Chapter  
3D Printing Lab Volunteer Manager  
2021-2022  
Learning Culture Coordinator  
2022-2023

Freedom by Design: NJIT Parklet Build +  
Kits for Kids  
2021 - 2022

NJIT Learning Communities  
Architecture Peer Mentor  
2022 - 2024

Alpha Rho Chi | Domitian Chapter

National Honor Art Society

## Awards & Achievements

- NJIT 2021 Travisano Awards Scholarship
- NV5 group scholarship for architecture
- NJIT 2022 R&T Scholarship
- Super Jury 2020
- NJIT Design Showcase 2021
- Super Jury 2021
- NJIT Design Showcase 2022
- Super Jury 2022
- NJIT Design Showcase 2023
- NJIT Design Showcase 2024
- 39th Annual NJ Governor's Award in Art
- Honorable mention by the Art Administrators of NJ for "Emerging Artists"
- Scholastic Art & Writing Awards 6 Gold Keys, 4 Silver Keys, 7 Honorable Mentions
- Produced a painting now a part of the permanent art collection of ESKFF at MANAA Contemporary

## Table of Contents

- 01 Entropy
- 02 Dialogue
- 03 Post-Spatialism
- 04 The Line
- 05 Other-Spaces

# ENTROPY ——— Urban Ecology Research Center and Museum

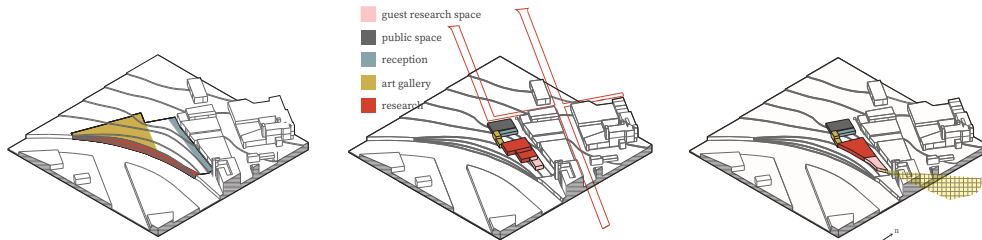
## entropy

*n.* lack of order or predictability, gradual decline into disorder

The Gowanus Canal, a manmade waterway, holds the propensity to consistently flood and contaminate the site's and the surrounding context's landscape. This project is built to be adapted to the unstable conditions the canal poses. Destruction, as with any building, is predictable. Using the canal's water, however, and the continuous rising water and flood levels as a catalyst for degradation one can start to play with form as the natural world slowly does what it is supposed to. As it comes apart, the water washing up and away parts of the land, the remediation proposals reveal themselves and are able to take place.

The building itself is partially constructed of impermeable, standard concrete, while other parts are made up of pseudo-walls, made from various bio-degradable materials. As the water washes away parts of the building that have purposely been placed up higher in elevation (so it has time to "live") the dirt, composed of dirt with seeds, will be planned to help propagate other parts of the canal.



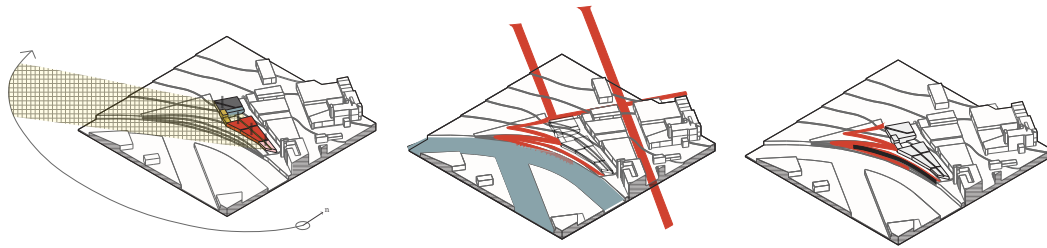


the site is landscaped and subdivided into constraints:

massing abiding set constraints and setting up an interior campus

most used living spaces placed on east side, research spaces oriented to not have glare

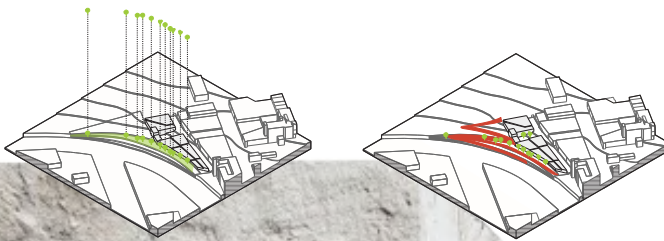
- the adjacent buildings
- the offering of green space for the surrounding residential zone
- a setback from the water, to let the building live



stepping down to mold against the landscape and maximize the southern

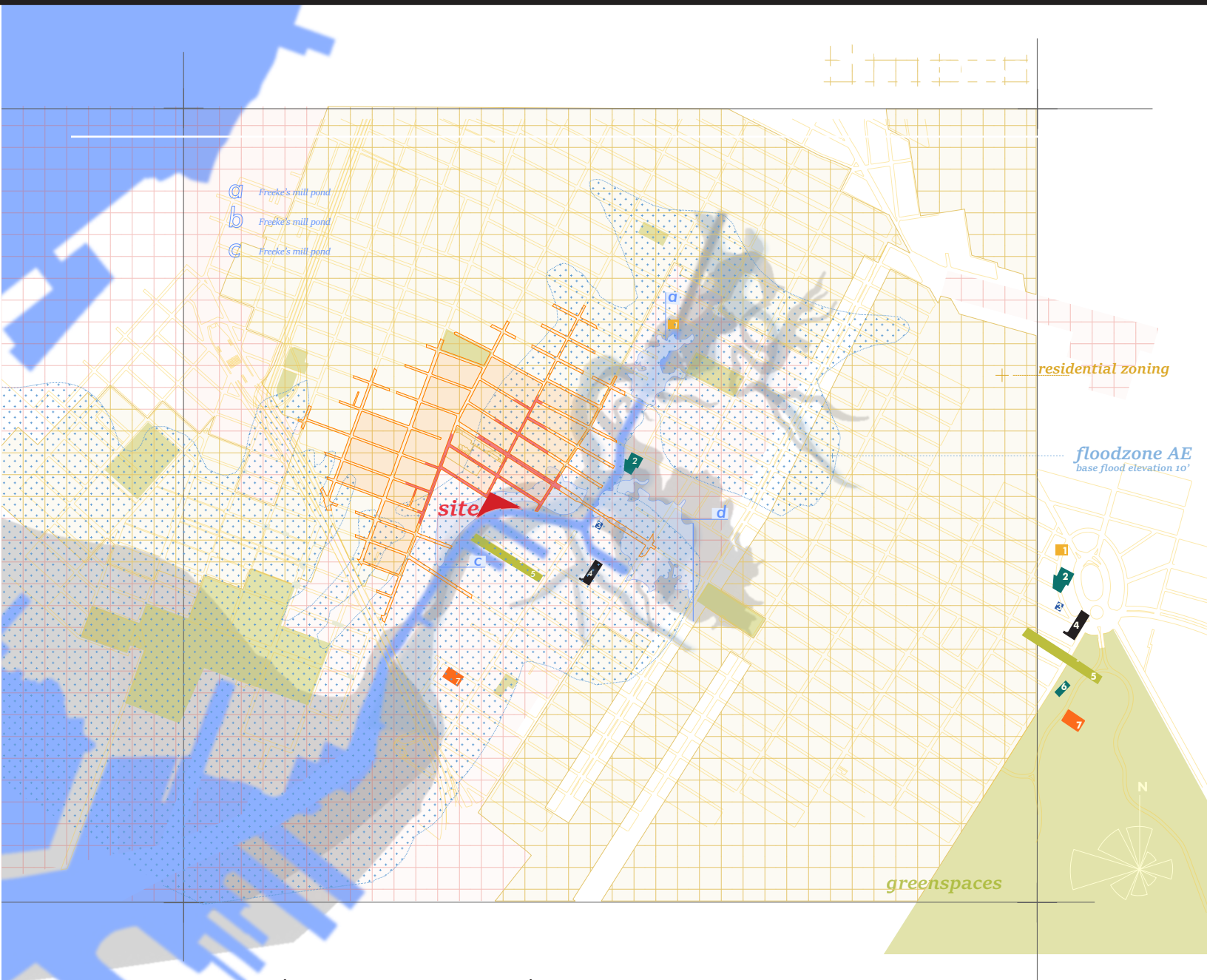
circulation path cuts through landscape and steps down with elevation

tucking away future phytoremediation opportunities into the site



hydraulic control | a form of phytoremediation





## Layering Context & History

Through the overlay of historic boundaries of bodies of waters, local sources of pollutants along with present day propensities of flooding in relation to the local infrastructures and public spaces, the project reached certain conclusions and goals:

- The site's determinism to flood meant a "permanent" sustainable structure was not possible
- Instead, the site proposes a unique opportunity to explore building an impermanent structure that is adapted to the natural cycles of composition

While humans cannot fight the inevitable entropy, we can explore what it means to assume responsibility on how this happens sustainably.

\*that is to say, if structure can actually be "permanent"

Application

trees for protection from ground erosion & phytoremediation

initial program with stable materiality

gabions

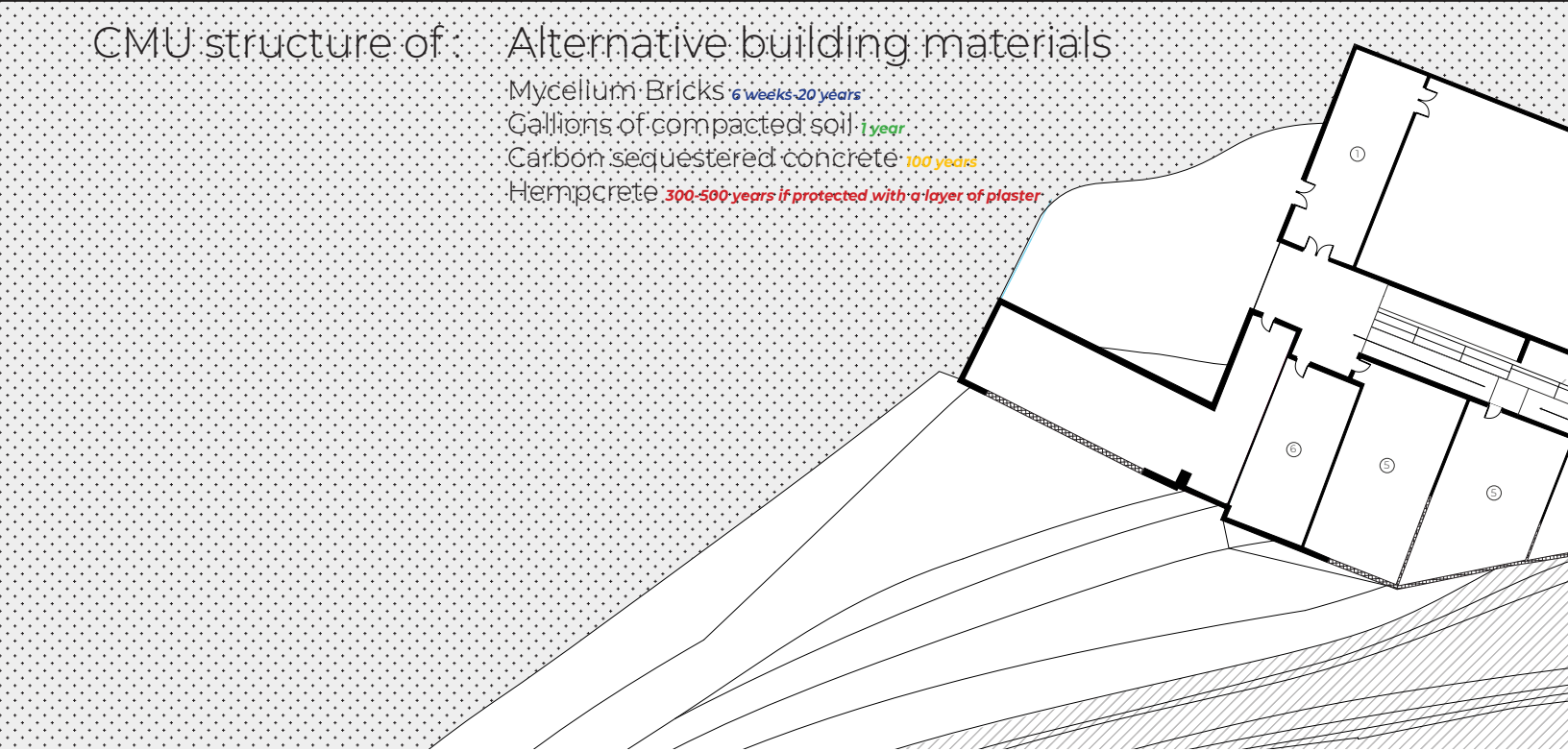
program of building while materiality breaks away and reveals opportunities for flora and fauna to feed off of the dying building

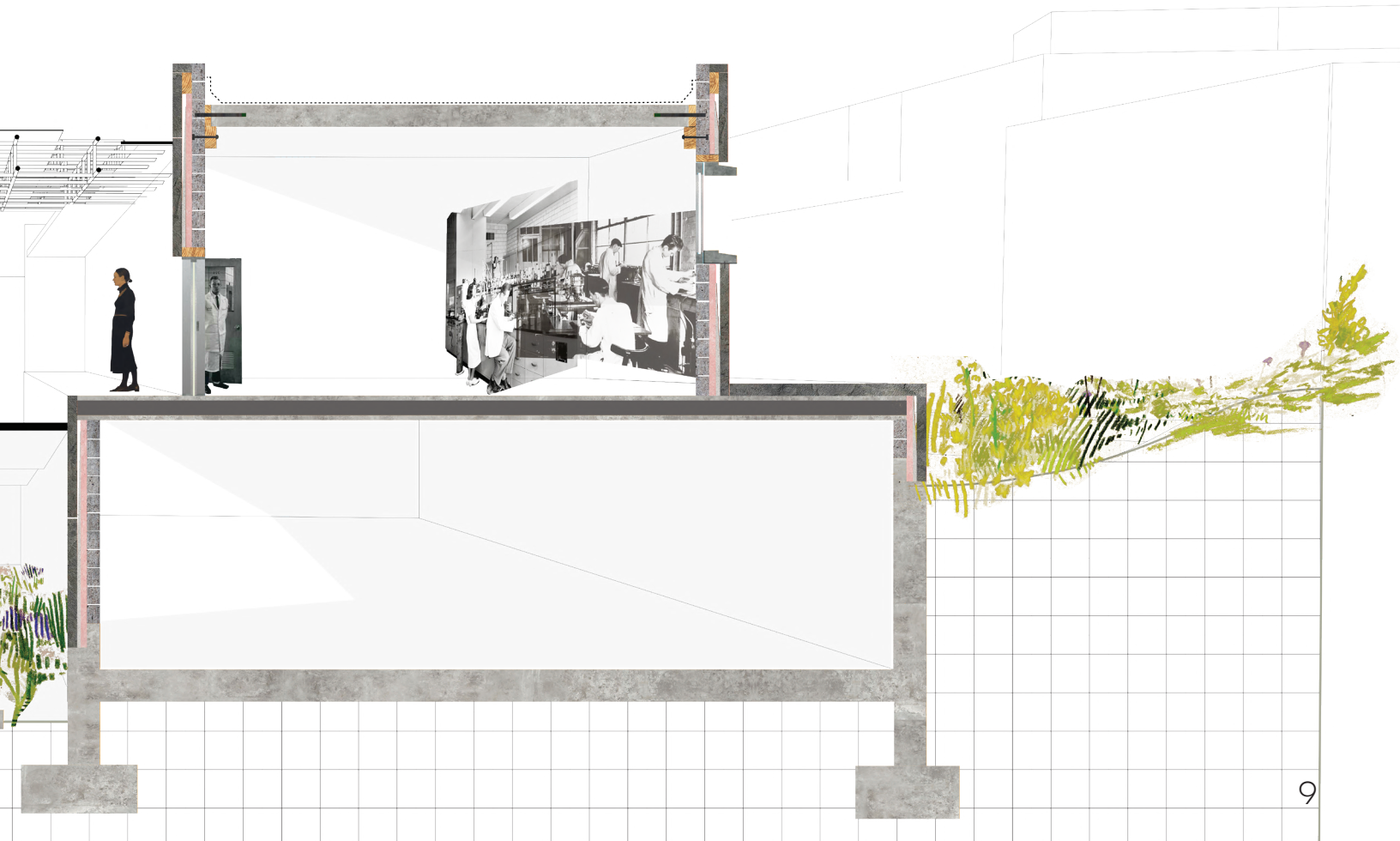
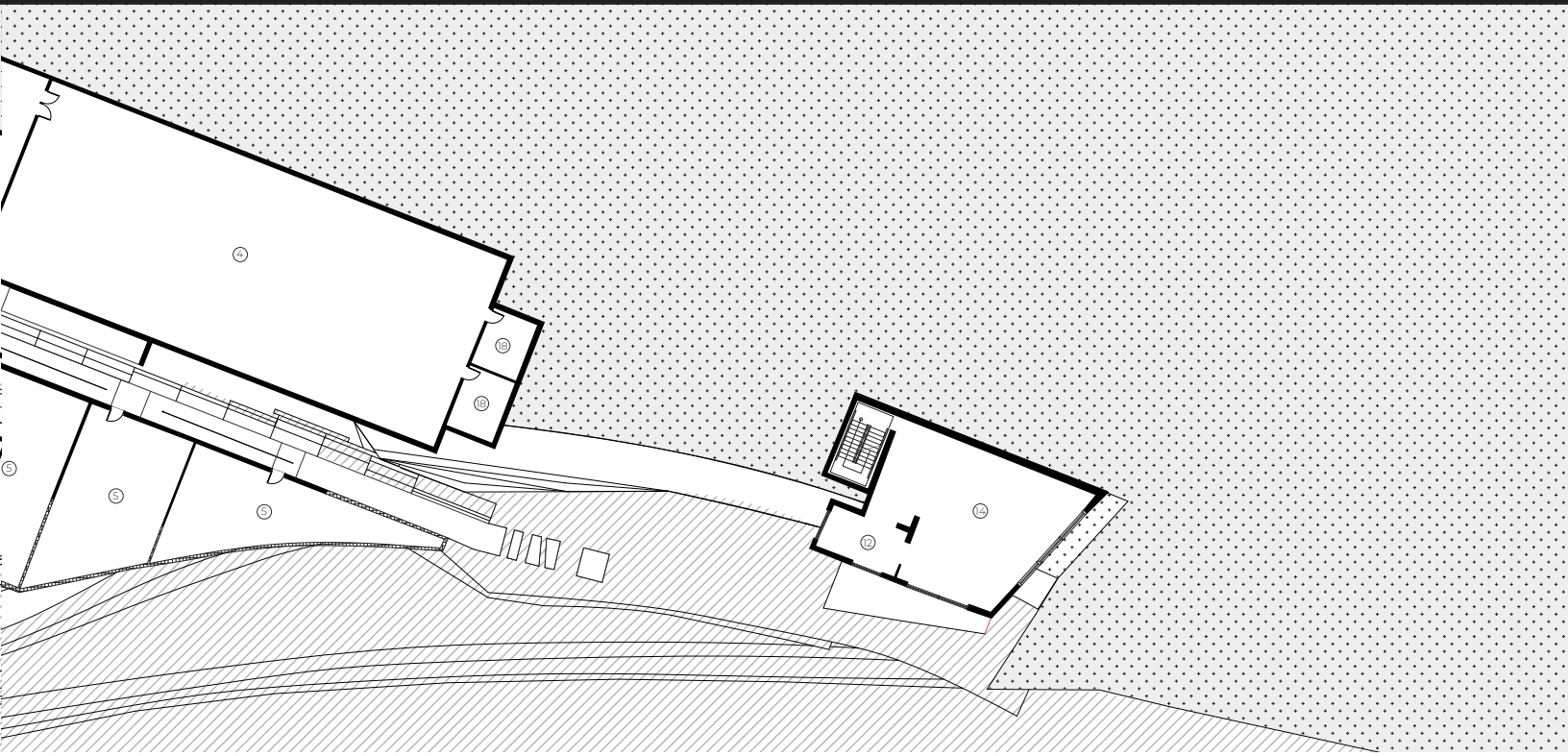
nutrient-dense hempcrete erodes away to reveal gabions that provide infrastructure for plant and river life



# CMU structure of : Alternative building materials

- Mycellum Bricks *6 weeks-20 years*
- Gallions of compacted soil *1 year*
- Carbon sequestered concrete *100 years*
- Hempcrete *300-500 years if protected with a layer of plaster*





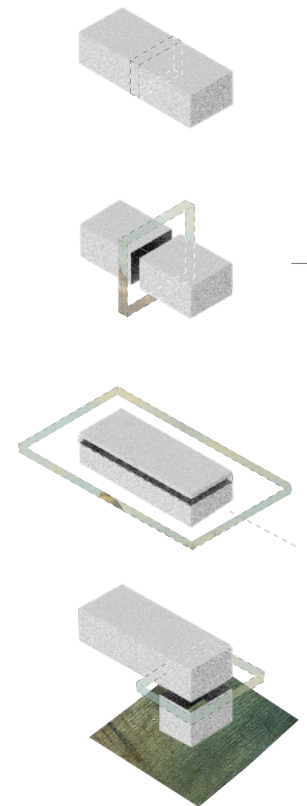
# DIALOGUE — Museum for Canaletto in Venice



*Project's main entrance by boat*

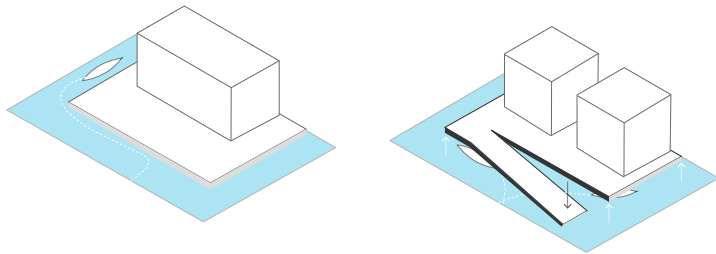


This semester's project located on the Mesicordia site of Venice, Italy featured an open and continuous dialogue on the needs and solutions of the surrounding context. Initially, the project grappled with the most appropriate site intervention, dealing with the sinking conditions of the infrastructure of Venice as well as the rising waters of global warming. Recent successful measures that have provided Venice with proper flood prevention for the first time in history has, however, unraveled a set of new problems. The conditions of the natural lagoon have worsened, due to the lack of current circulation. This project explores how we can create future infrastructure that attempts to minimize its infiltration to a site, and allows the social and human conditions to thrive without taking away from the integrity of the environmental lagoon.

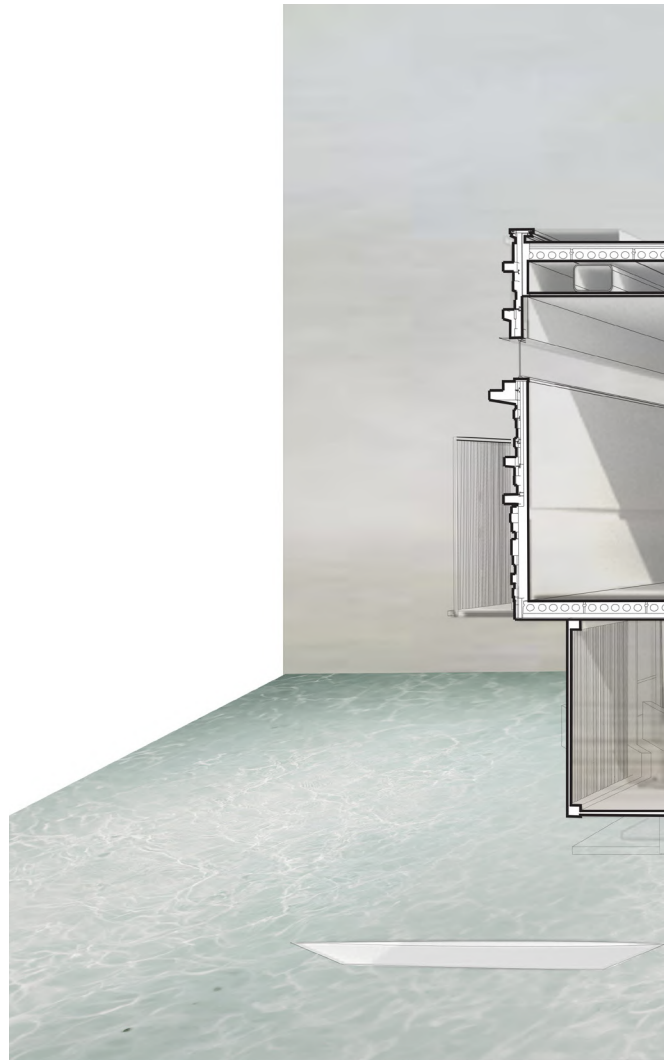


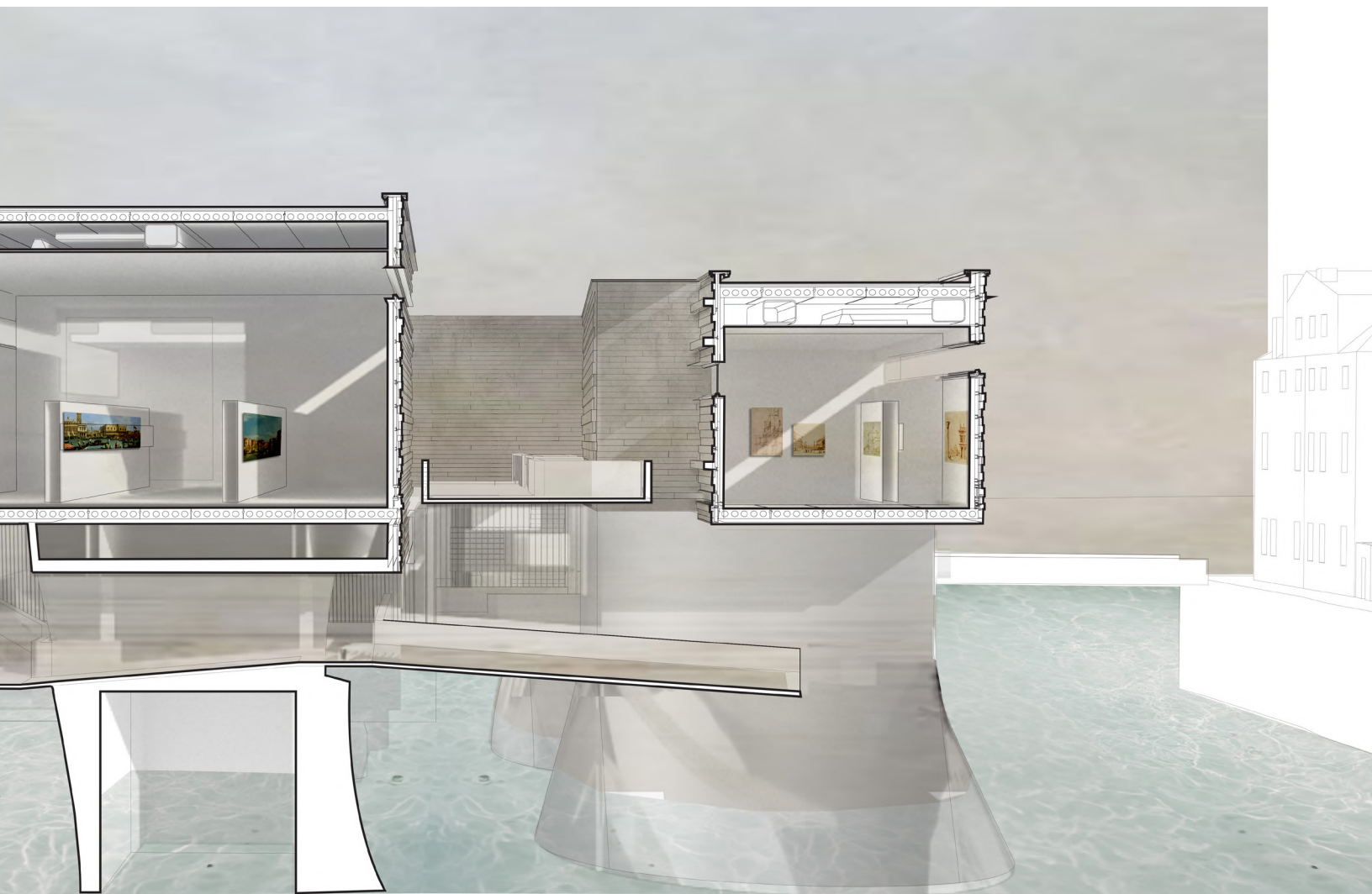


*View of Venice from inside a gallery, “from being framed to framing”*



“  
 How can we make a new development engage with the already established water culture and building typologies and address and adapt to climate change’s sea levels rising at the same time?  
 ”





## POST-SPATIALISM — Hilier College of Design Extension



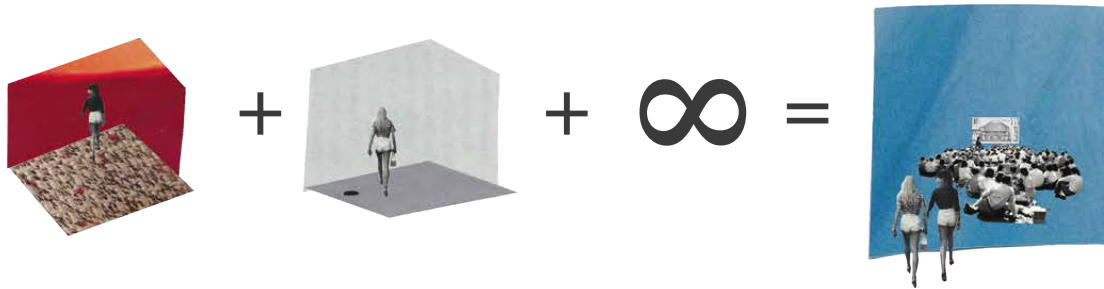
Post-spatialism is a post Covid-19 concept and project that engages with the interactions that technology provides us. Technology, with its ability to collapse space and bring people together through virtual calls, simultaneously

provides an infinite void of information and digital worlds. With new concepts of what “space” is, how can architecture reflect these emerging definitions?

Covid-19 forced us to learn how to adapt to isolation, but also

that the current Hilier school of architecture lacked the sufficient diversity of working spaces to provide distance from others.

Drawing upon the theories of Madeline Gins and Arakawa, that living too comfortably was catastrophic to the human condition and buildings should



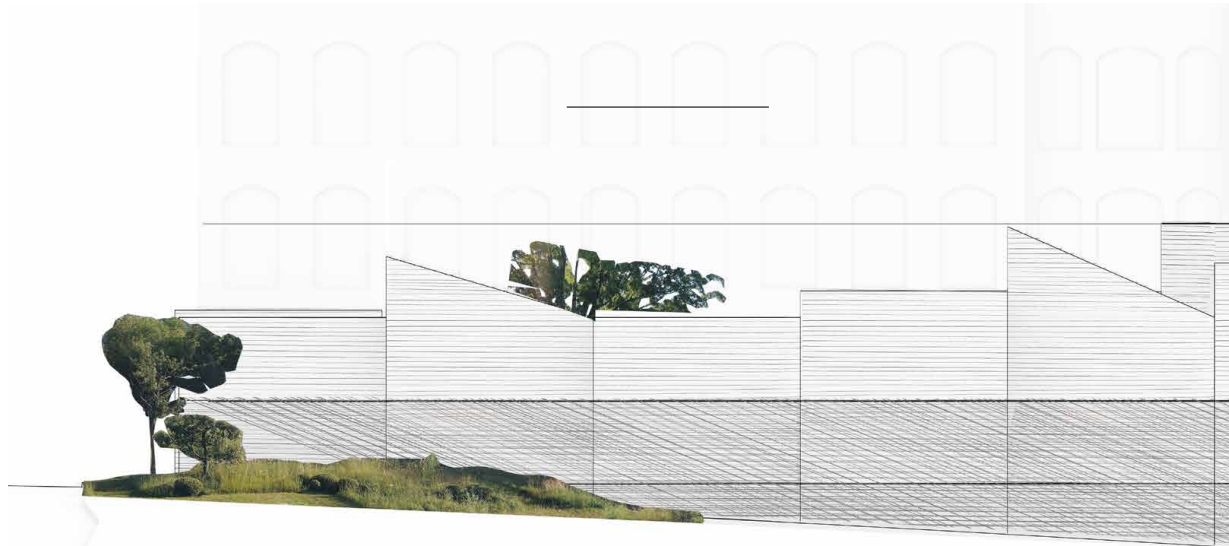
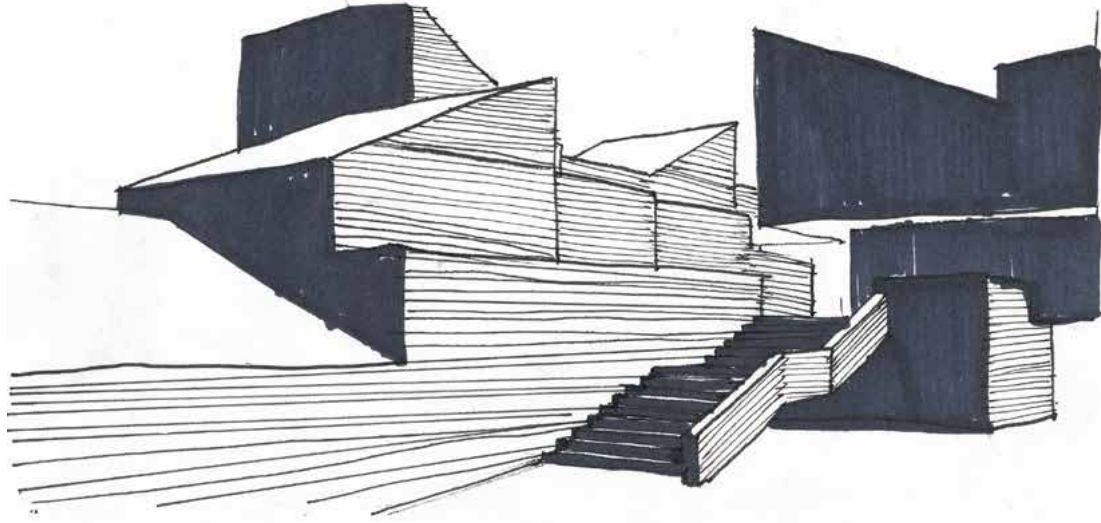
be designed to stimulate our minds, the project deals with the responsibility of what architecture should be as we move to experiencing an “alternate reality”

Every room is fitted with different material and textural compositions, as well as apertures which introduce

the warmth of the sun and the feel of a breeze, adding an additional sensorial experience that can bring users back to the material world.

(right) Arakawa, Shusaku, and Madeline Gins. *Biosleave House*. 2000, New York, NY.

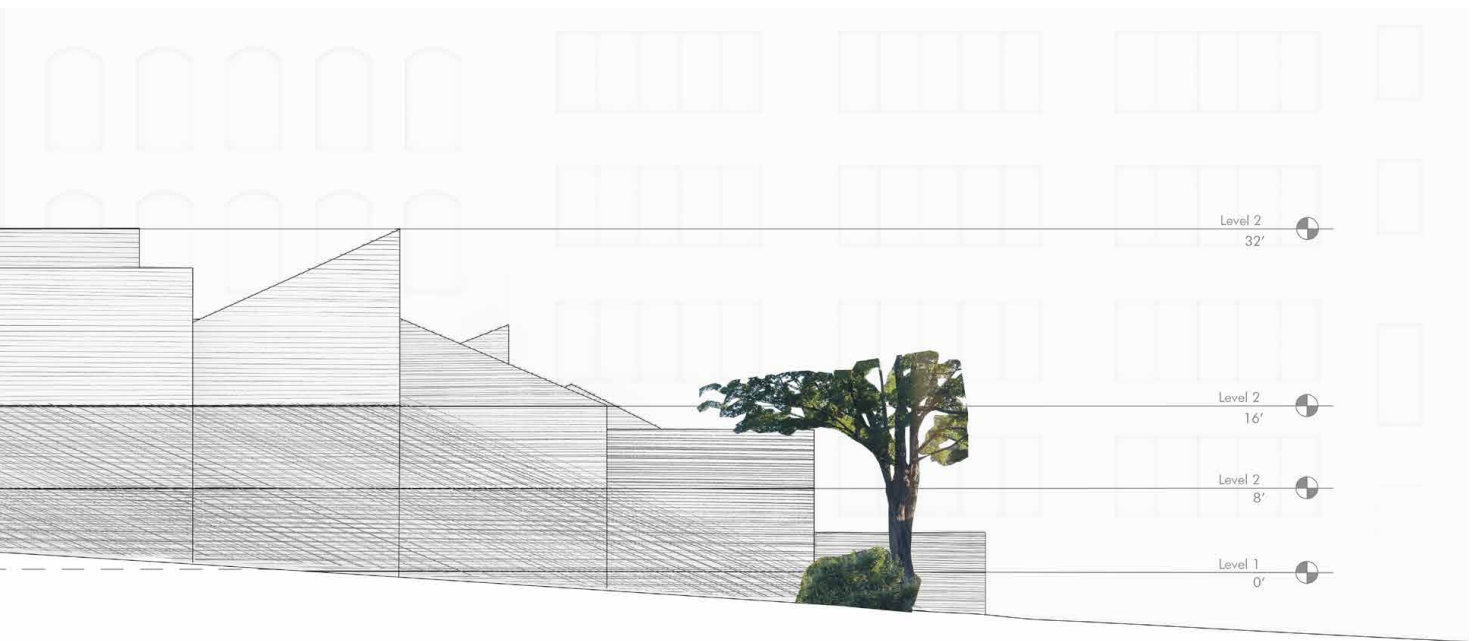


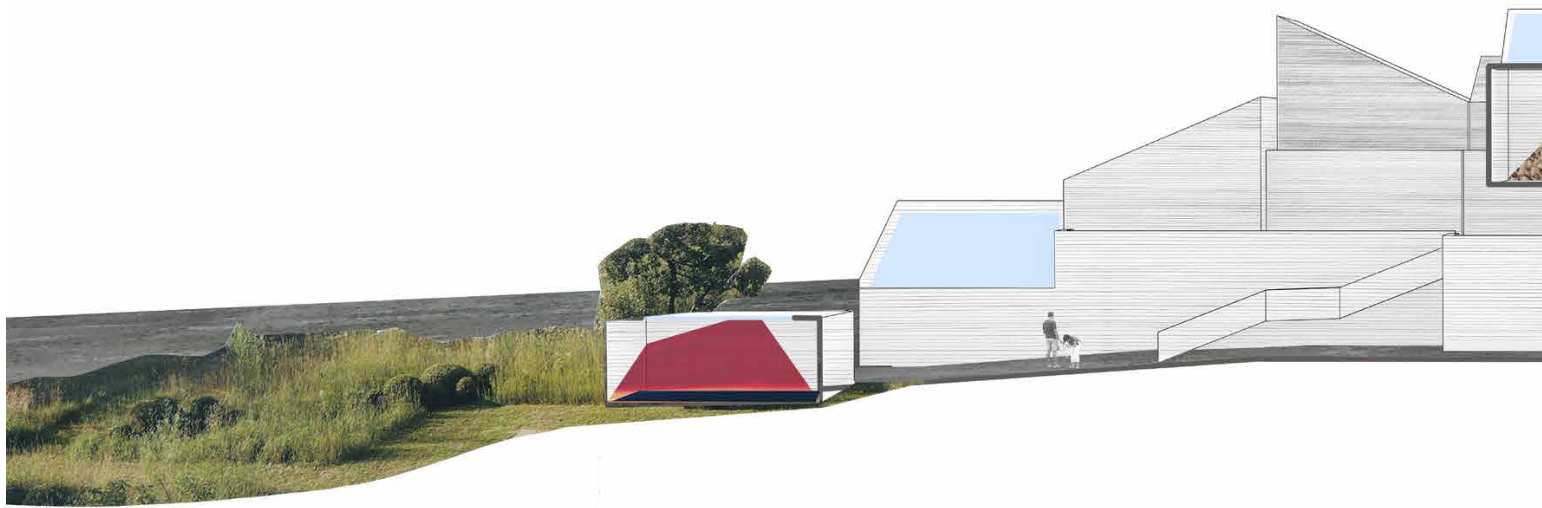
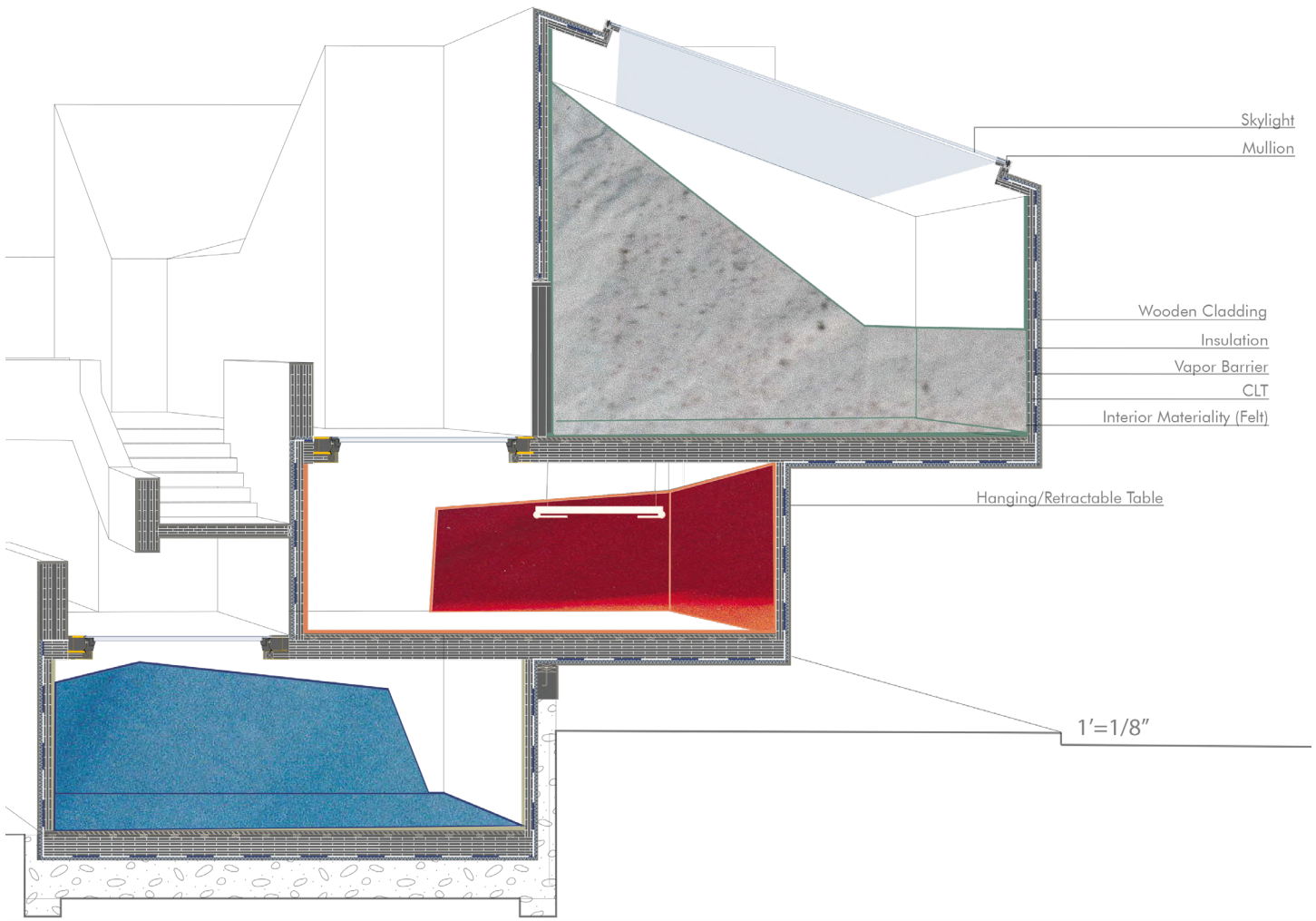


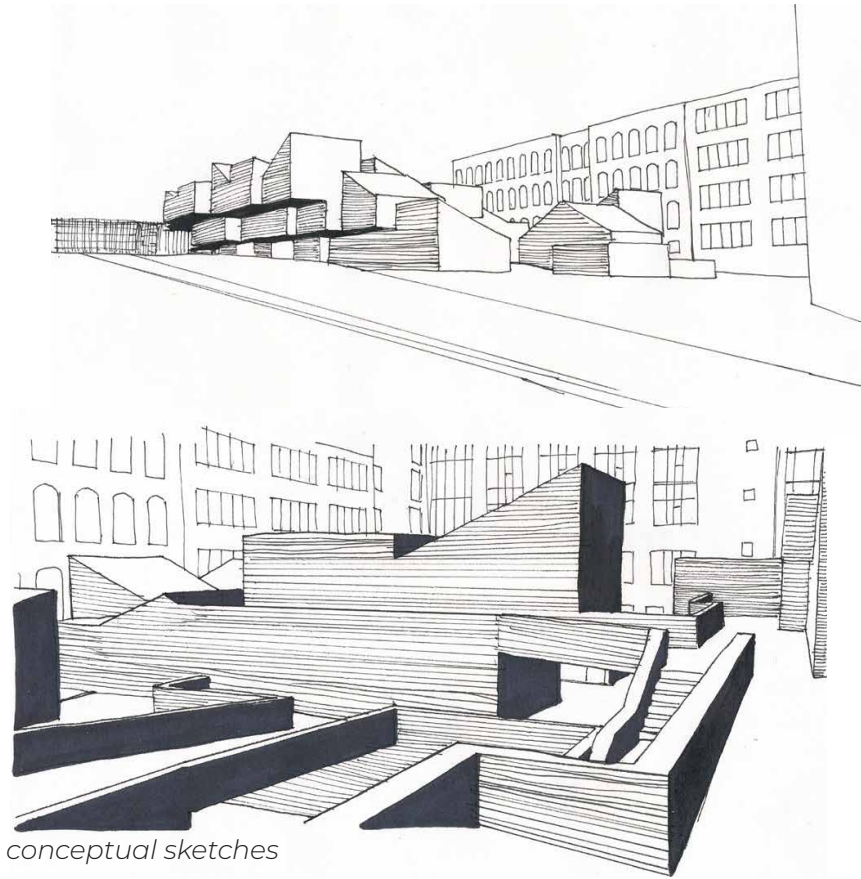
Warren St. Elevation



2nd floor plan

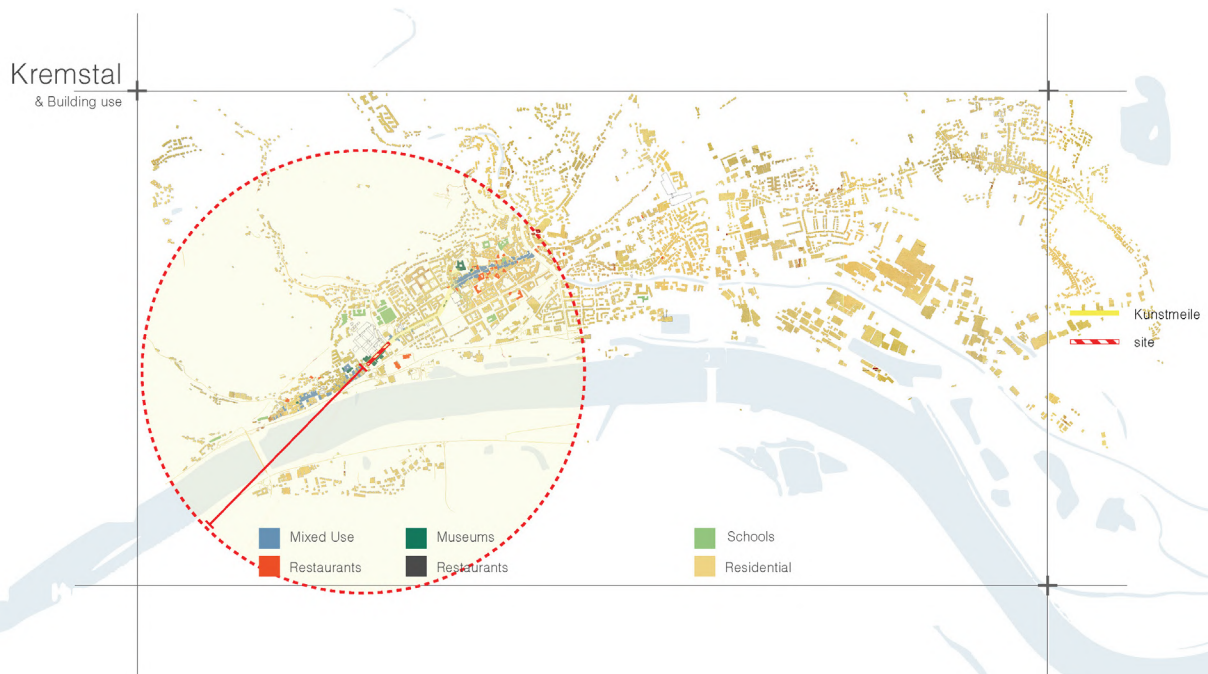






## THE LINE — Urban Design proposals for the city of Krems

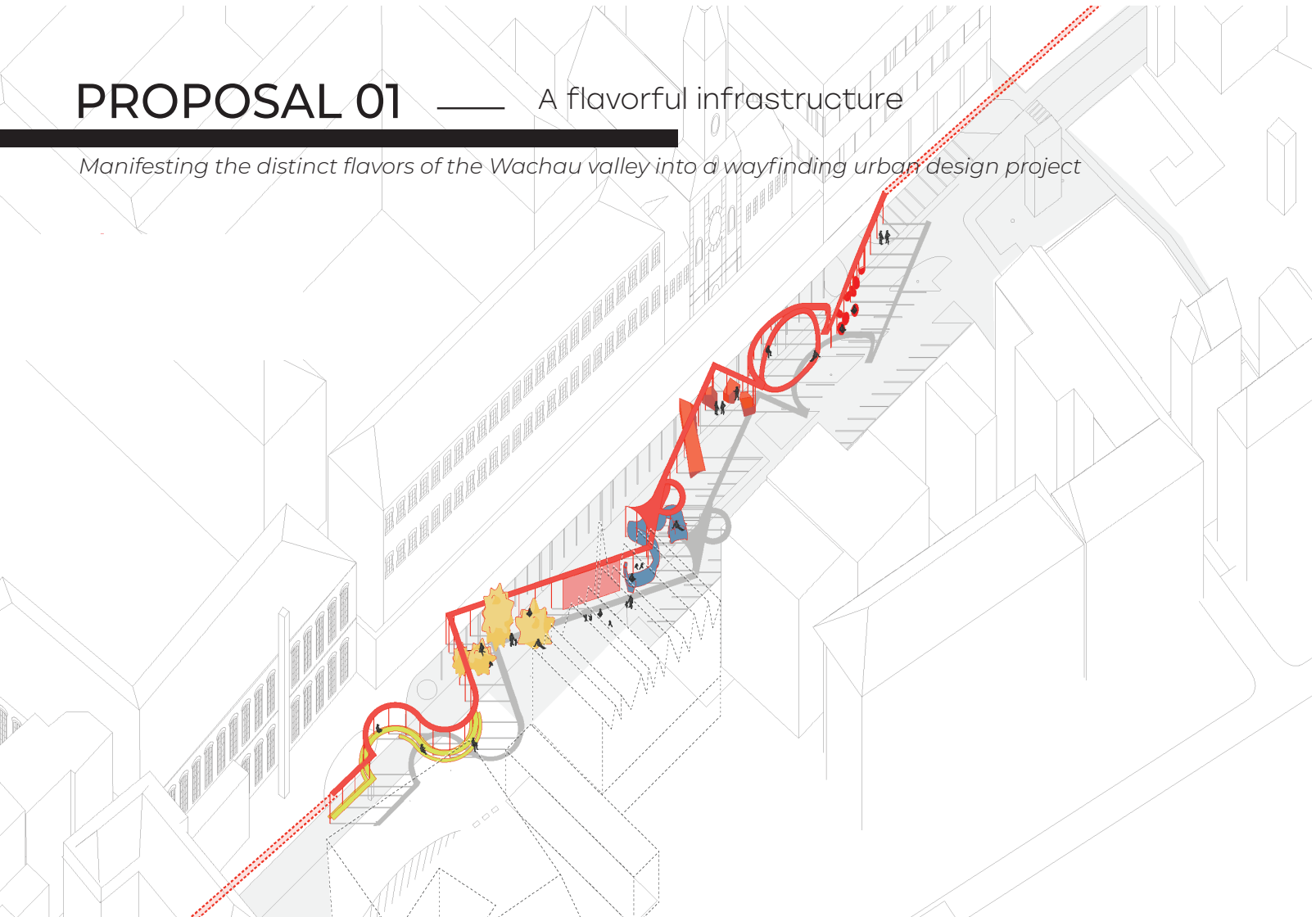
Situated in the valley of Wachau, famous for its production and innovation for wine, the city of Krems is struggling for a call for identity. The Kunstmeile “Culture Mile“, is a mile of street that connects some of the most notable museums. Yet, the kunstmeile is difficult to navigate, and struggles to connect various nodes of the city together into one cohesive brand. These proposals, for the major and art directors of the “kunstmeile“, was aimed to solve this urban design dilemma with cost, the locals, and the region’s identity in mind.











# PROPOSAL 01 — A flavorful infrastructure


Manifesting the distinct flavors of the Wachau valley into a wayfinding urban design project













**ADJECTIVES.**

					
spicy	sweet	mineraly	smoky	herbal	floral


**ACIDITY**



				
peach	apricot	pear	apple	arugula
				
peach	grapefruit	white pepper	gooseberry	green beans

*Other .*

other animated words such as **"balanced"**, **"busy"**, or **"noisy"** take into consideration the function of the program



ie. "noisy" outdoor musical instruments that function like chimas symbolizing a "noisy" cup allow children to produce their own interpretation of the space

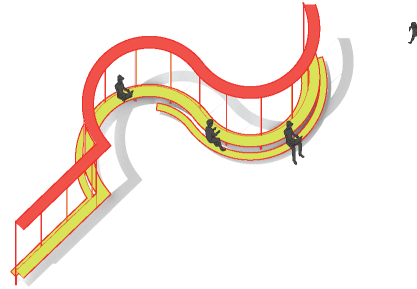
adjacent qualities are paired together to create a holistic representation of flavor:



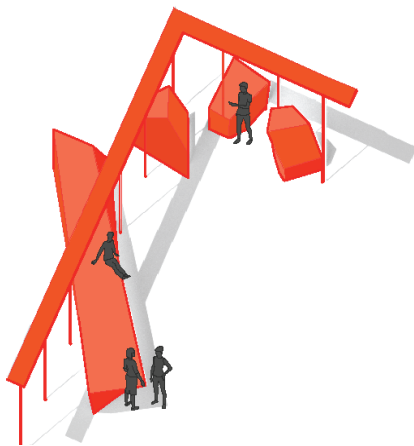
a buildable infrastructure



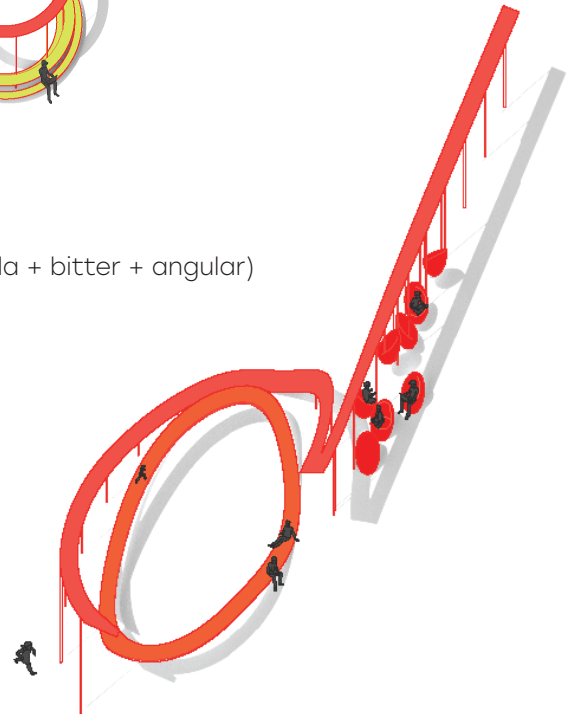
adjacent qualities are paired together to create a holistic representation of flavor:



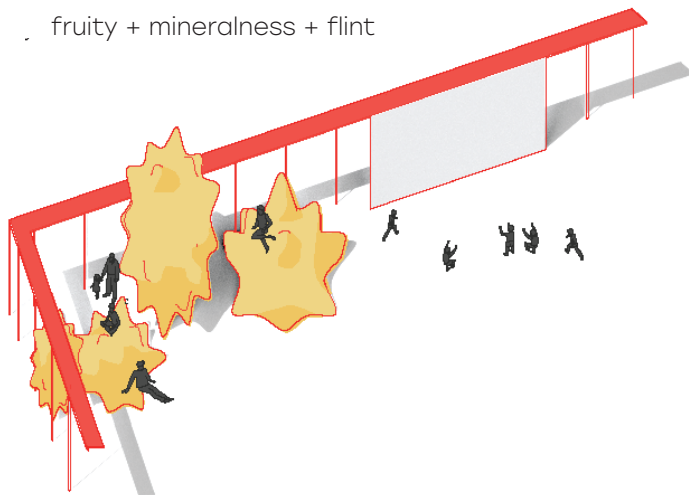
( bright + green apple + sweet ) + ( arugula + bitter + angular )



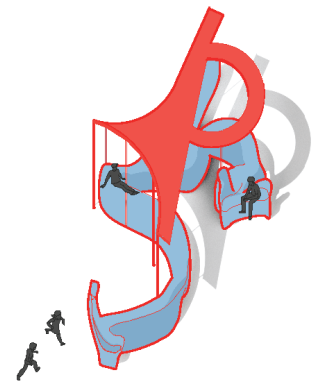
fruity + mineralness + flint



balanced + floral notes



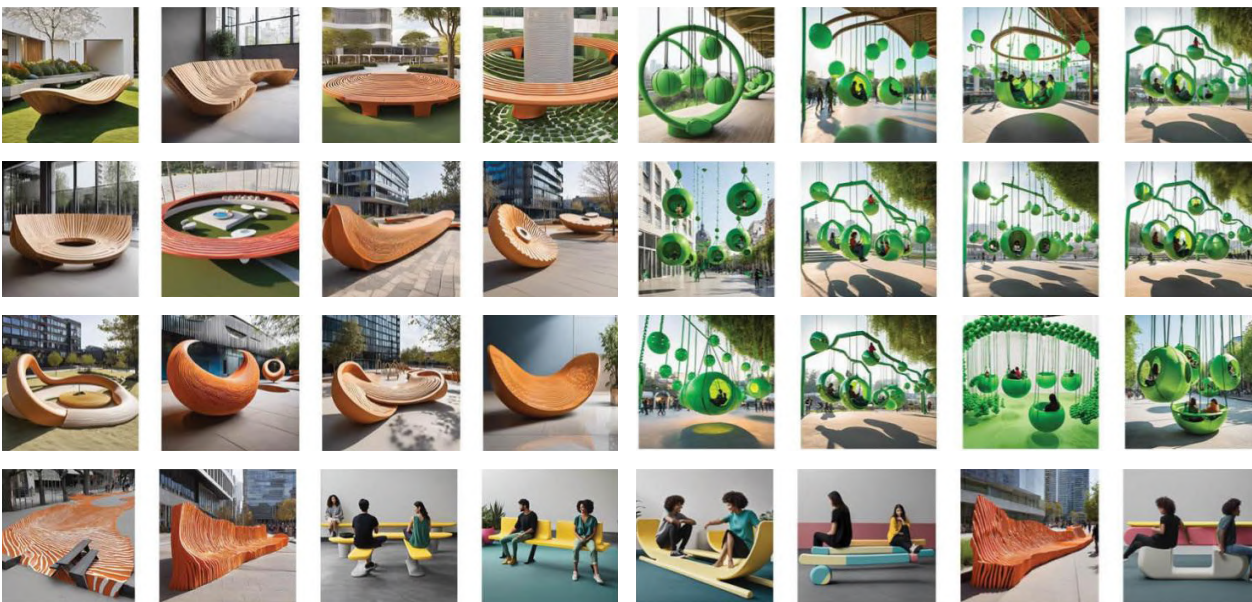
peppery + spicy + acidic



sweet + soury + edgy + rounded

Image ai generators early in the design process helped imagine how sensorial experiences, like the tastes of wine, might manifest through forms through common associations. How would it feel to sit in a “sweet” form? How would “spicy” look like?

*examples of prompts and generations:*

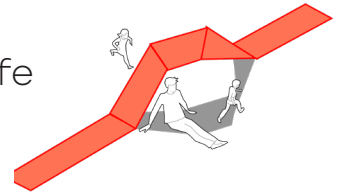


*“artistic green swings in the shape of green balls with people occupying them on the inside, sour grapes, tangy, wine”*

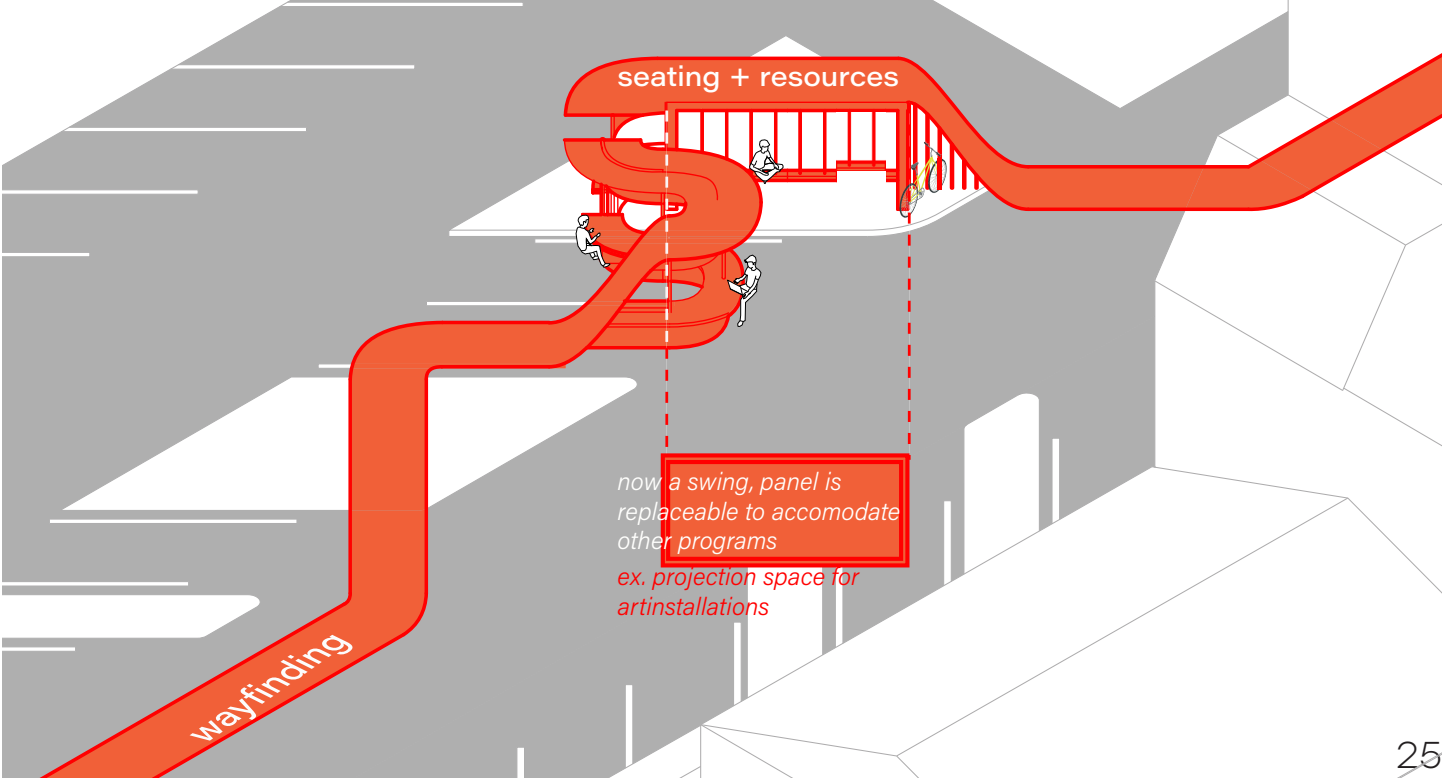
*“fun orange artistic installation on a pedestrian walkway that allows for people to sit in its dents and crevices, while it undulates and is broken up into striated pieces that are able to produce notes when hit with a stick because the width and height is like an undulating organic rhythmic piece allowing for different notes to be produced that the texture mimics that of the inside of a citrus fruits that partially can be used as a slide, sweet, sour”*

# PROPOSAL 02 — a wayfinding line comes to life

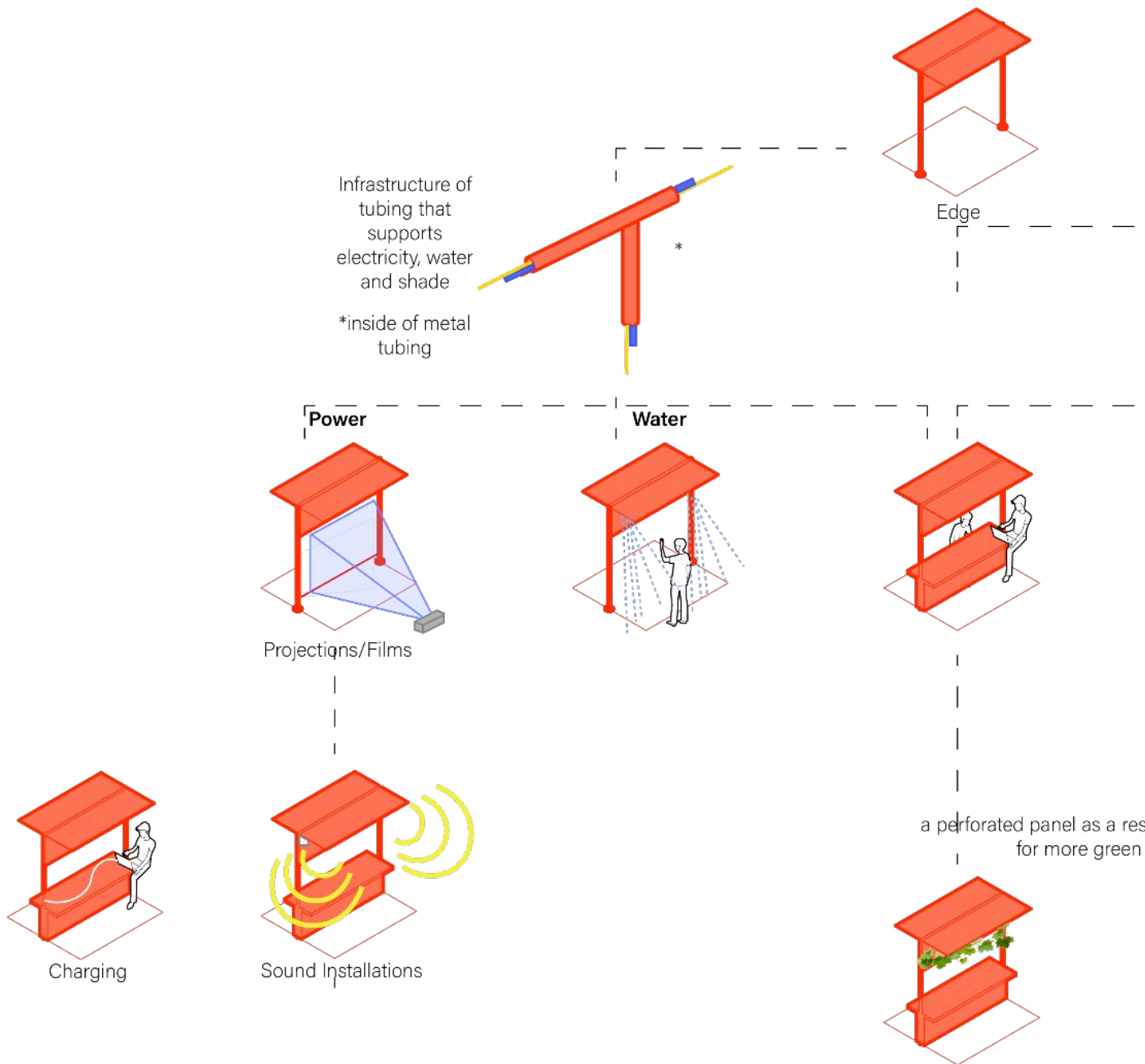
a smaller intervention prioritizing cost and initial intervention of project



to bring it to life



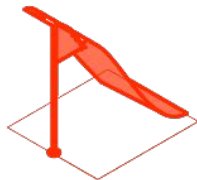
A potential matrix of the system when further developed



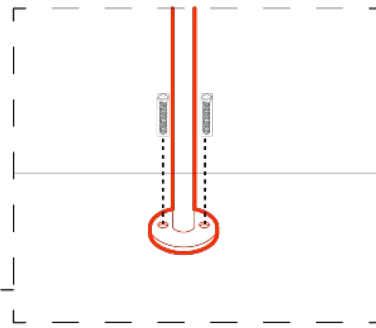
Conditions



Corner

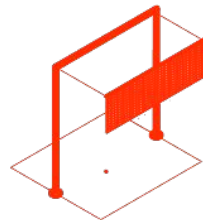
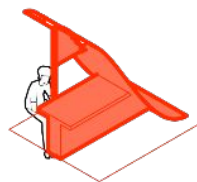


End



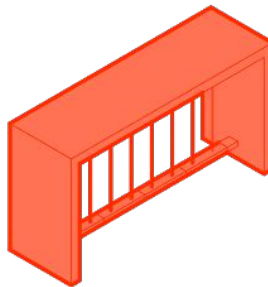
a structural solution for a flexible and temporary assembly

Seating



perforated metal panels and insets of program help stabilize the tubular modules

response to a local want  
infrastructure



human input

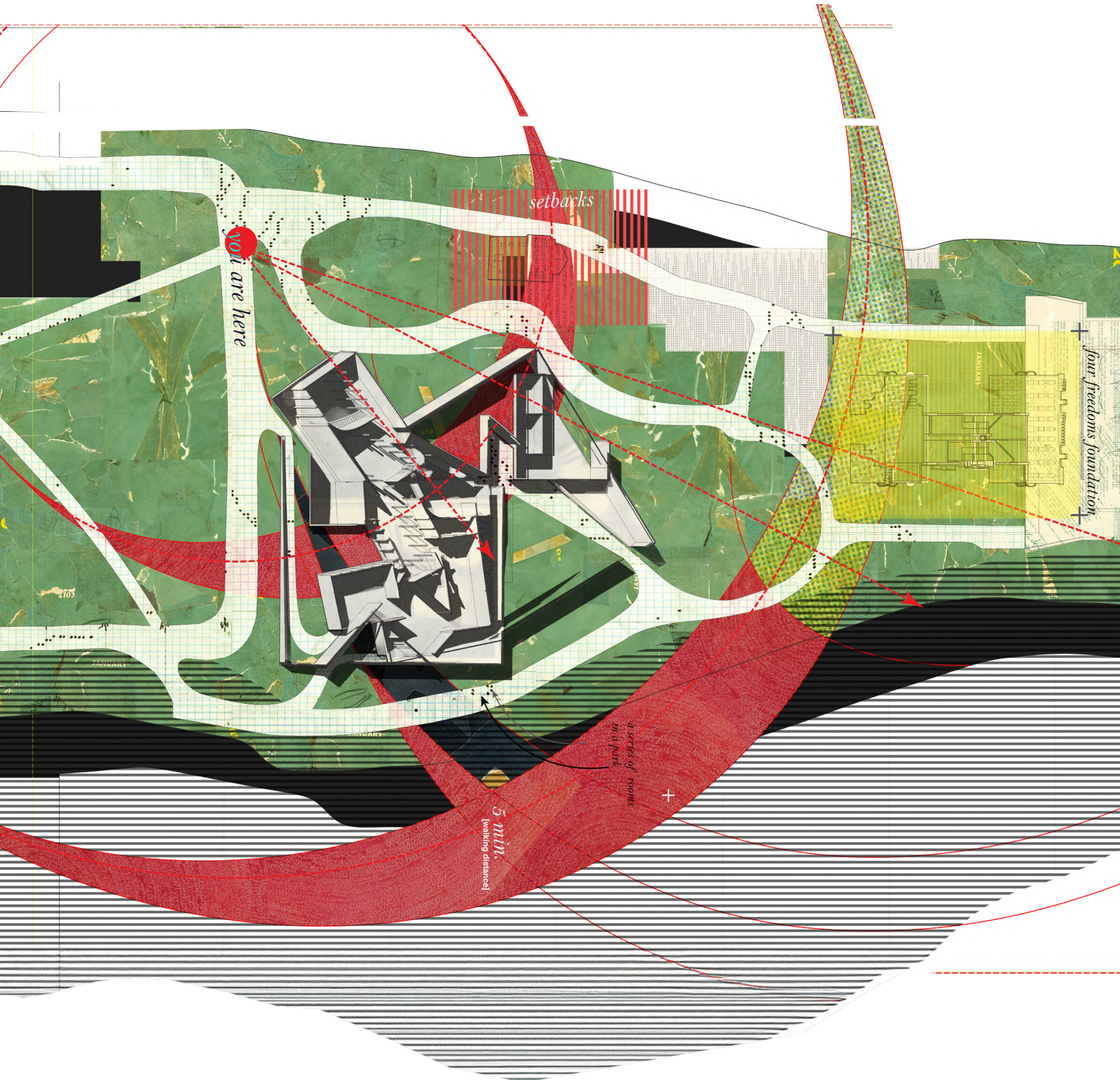


food for art

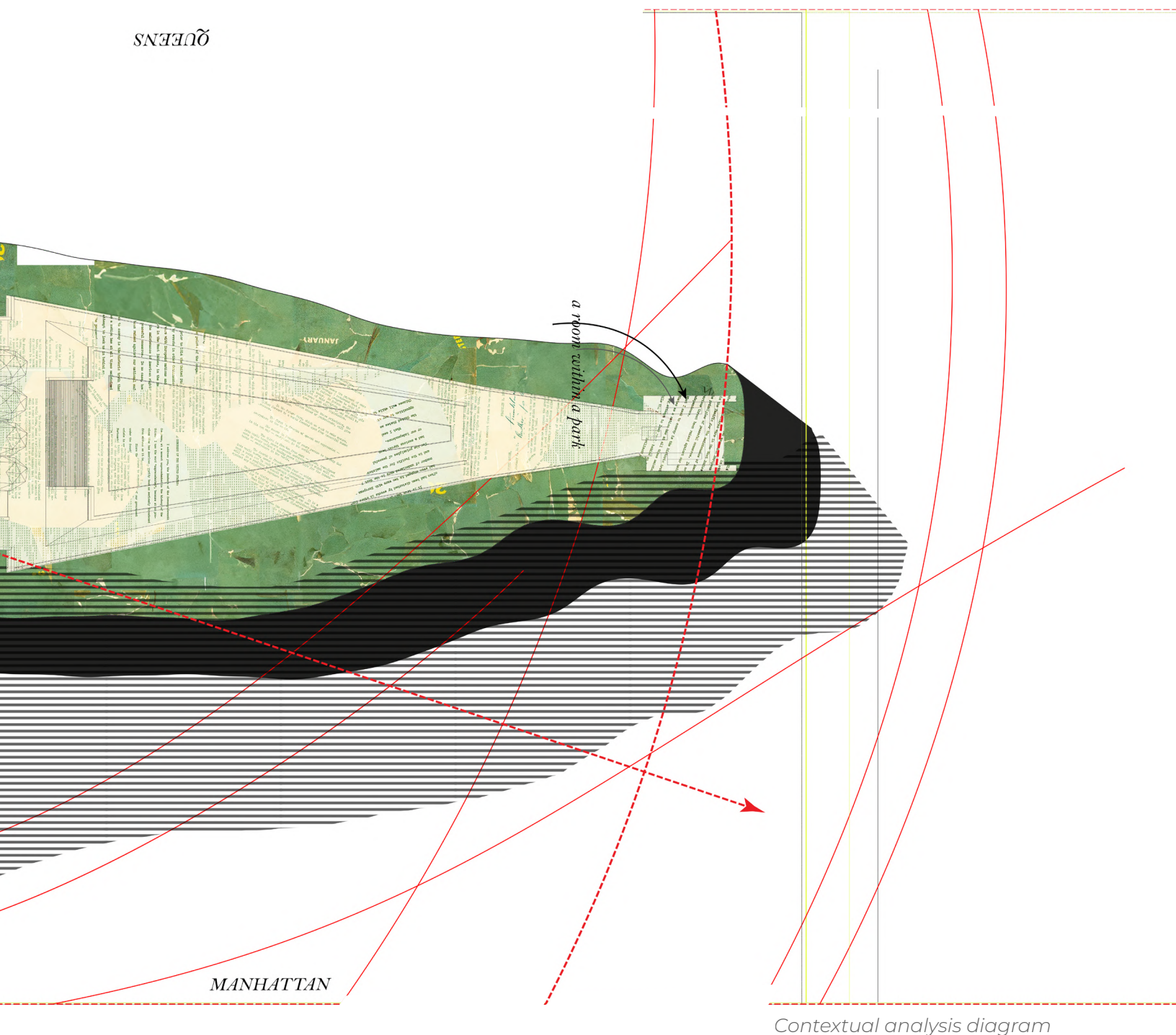
locals ————— bridging the gap ————— kunstmeile

ie. one example is a set of swings that take power the infrastructure of power through kinetic energy and provide the opportunity for play through its function. Different artists can use this swing as a tool for inspiration and have it play different notes, lights, smells etc.

Each new installation will provide more opportunities for human input



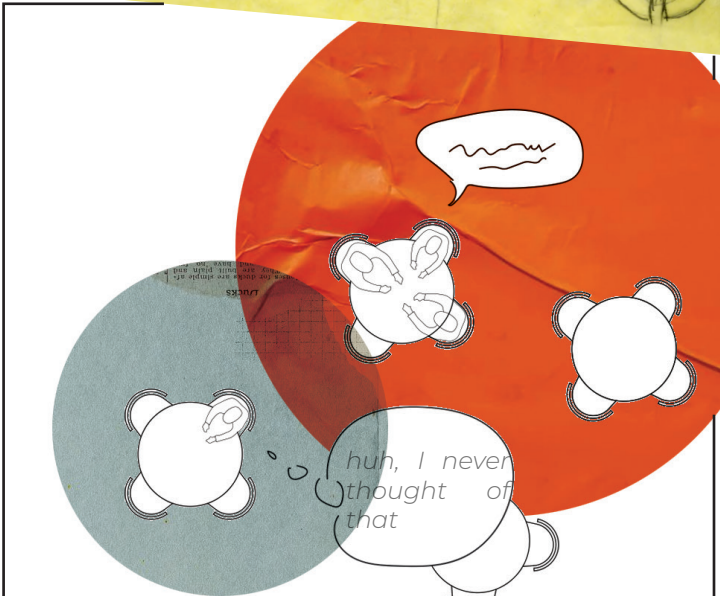
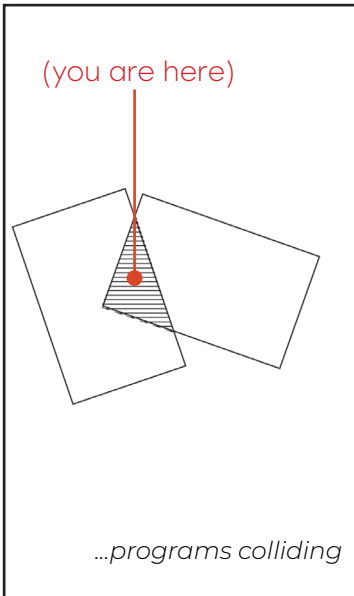
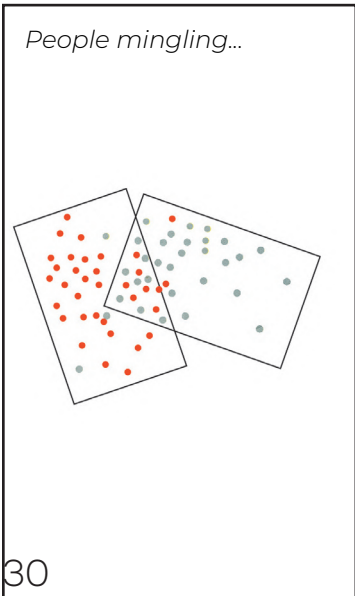
**OTHER-SPACES** — Four Freedoms Library on Roosevelt Island



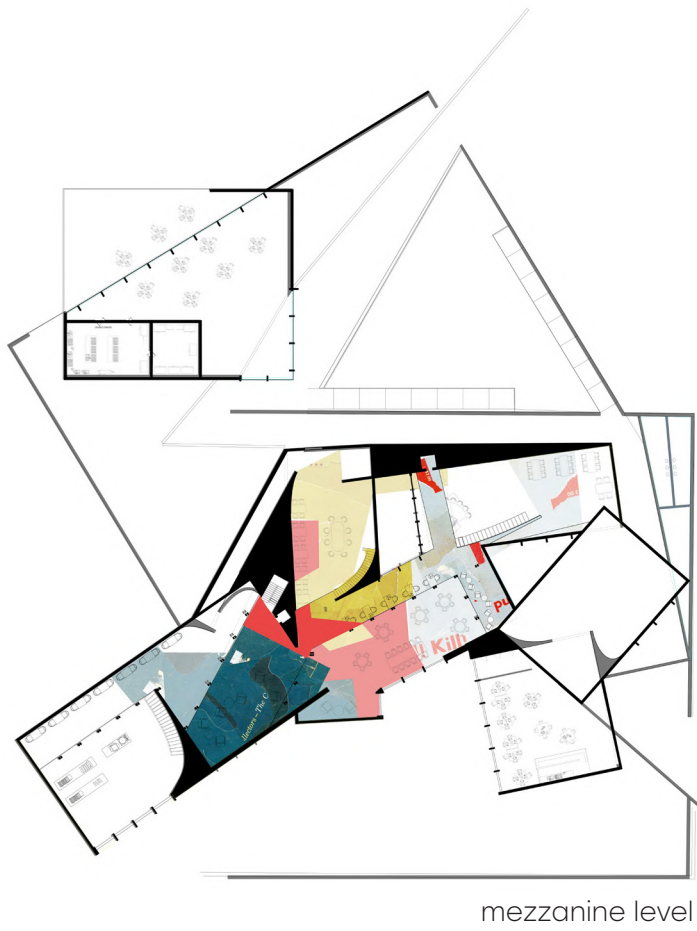
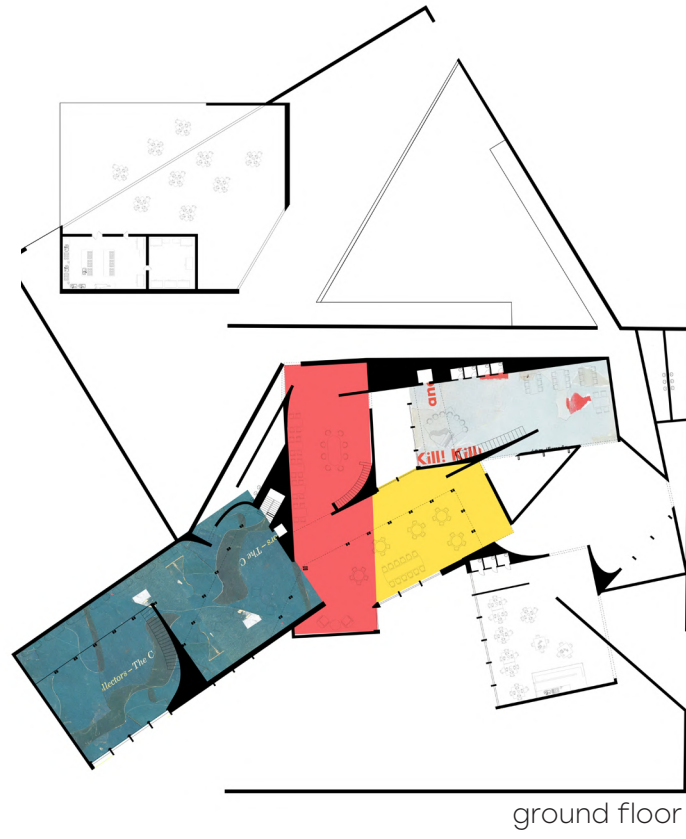
Other-spaces is a project that explores the way new ideas are generated at the convergences and intersections of knowledge across disciplines. Four-freedoms library, named after Roosevelt's speech, was intended to consist of four separate libraries, one for each of the freedoms. The resulting form, however, consists of multiple converging, interpenetrating forms showcasing the intrinsic multiple definitions, and uncategorial nature any piece of information has. Freeing the program, and the plan allowed for a free flow of knowledge, life and interaction throughout the library.

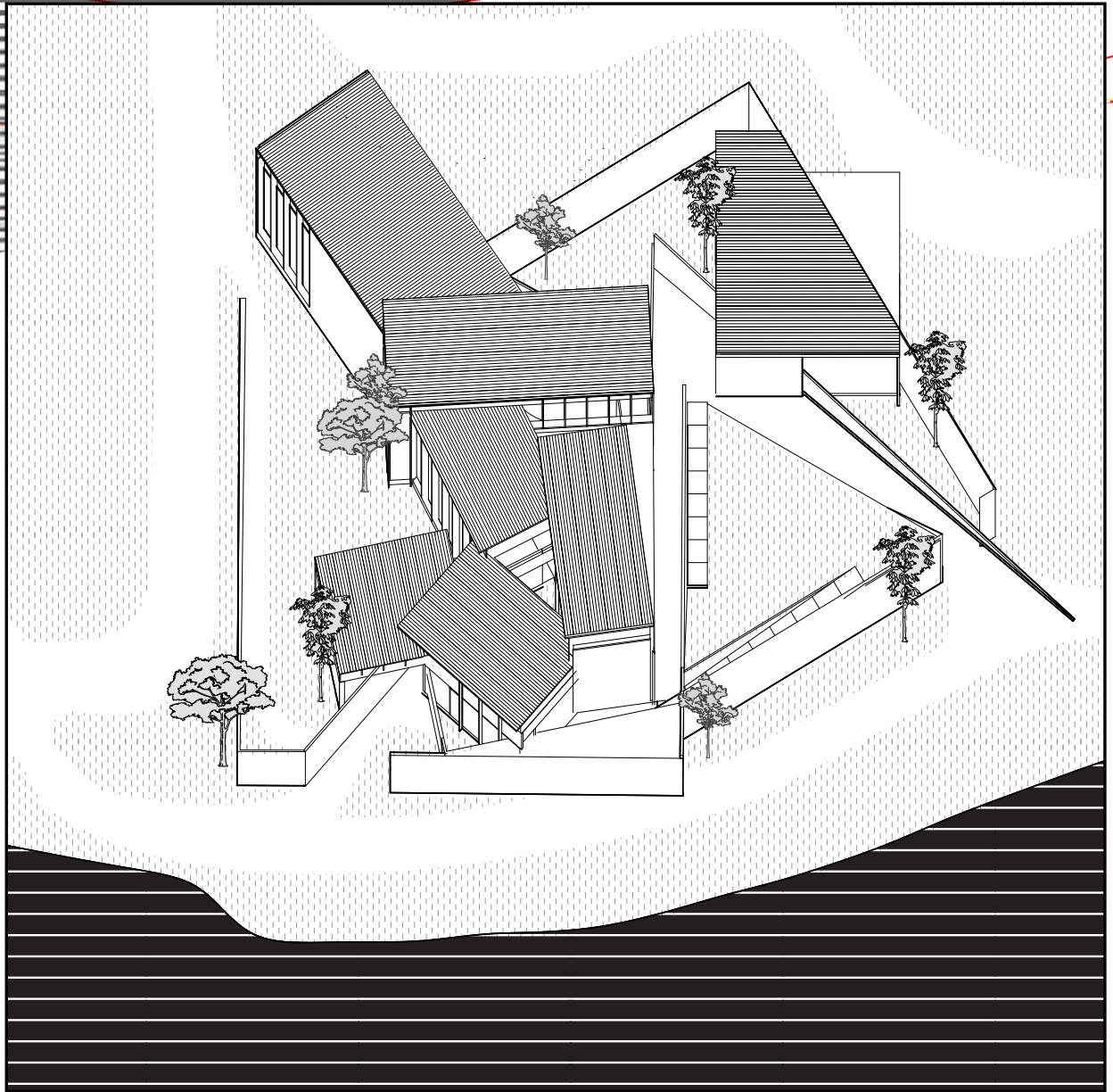
programs converging and melting horizontally and vertically

Iterations

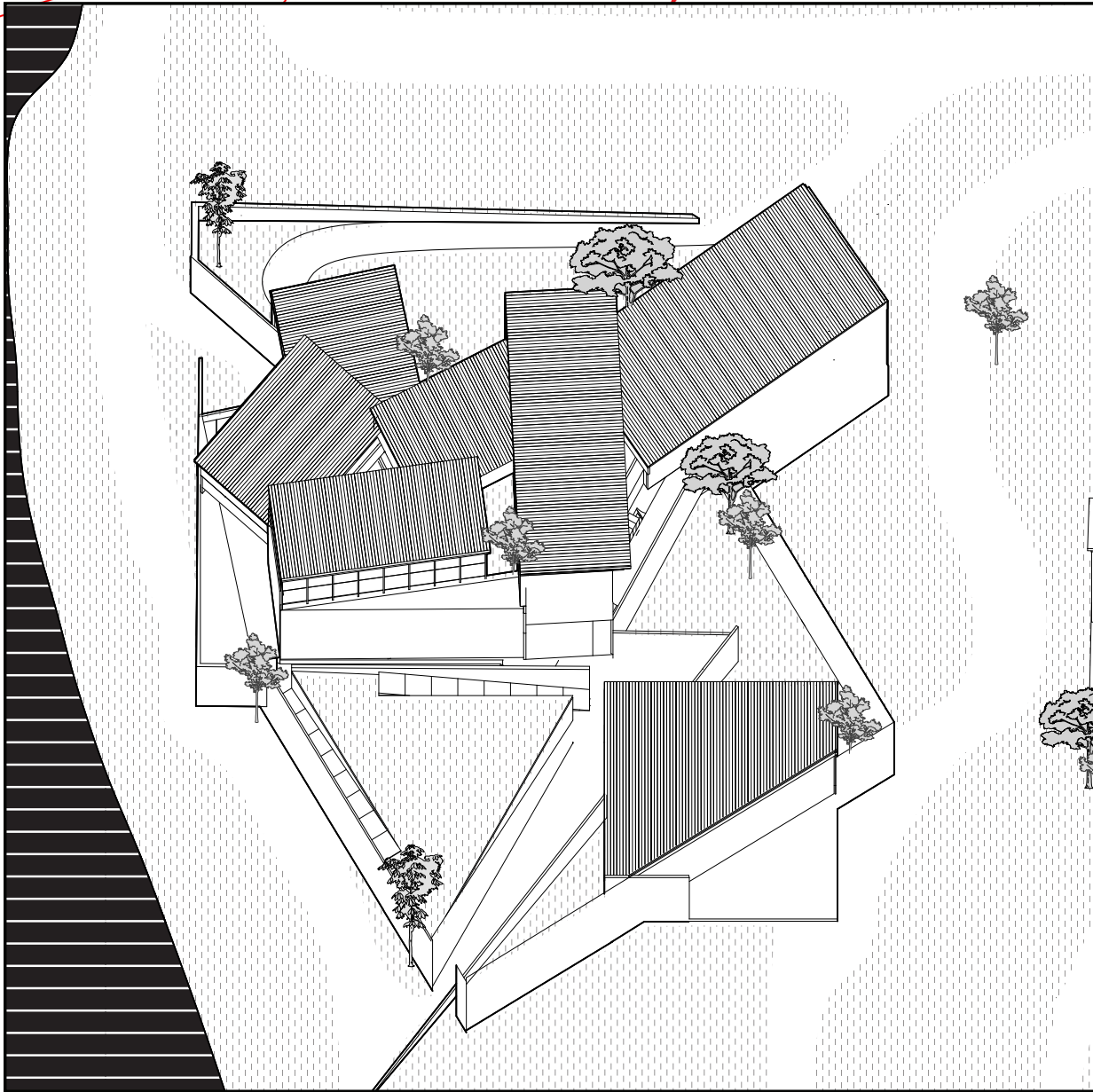


Final Plans





Southeastern oblique elevation



Southwestern oblique elevation