

EDUCATION

Hillier College of Architecture and Design - NJIT | Newark, NJ

Bachelor of Architecture

Expected Graduation: May 2026

- CGPA: 3.4
- NJIT Dean's list: 2022-2023, 2023-Present
- Minor: Environmental Studies & Sustainability

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

Tools and Techniques I & II | Construction I & II | History of Architecture I & II | Structures I | Environmental Control Systems I | Studios I, II, III, IV, V,

KEY SKILLS

Leadership, Communication, Management, Creativity, Complex problem-solving, Time Management, Active Listening, Organized, Teamwork
Technical Skills: Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator, AutoCAD, Revit, Rhino, Microsoft Office Suite, Technical drawings and Model building

LEADERSHIP

Vice President of PWC NJIT Chapter (Professional women in construction)

NJIT | Fall'23 - current

- Organizing **networking events** to gain PWC members and students to connect with **career** and **internship** opportunities, and to promote the growth of the chapter

Event Planner of NOMAS NJIT Chapter (The National Organization of Minority Architects)

NJIT | Fall'23 - current

- Planning events that provide **opportunities** for NOMAS members and students to participate in learning/social activities, to increase engagement and promote **growth** in the chapter

Event Planner for Multicultural event

William L Dickinson HS | Spring'20

- Served in **coordinating** a program that celebrated **diversity** and included multiple cultures

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Participated at Tutor Program in high school

Jersey City, NJ | Sep 2017- May 2018

- Assisted **young children** in understanding and completing homework assignments, while making the learning process **engaging** and better to **comprehension**

Volunteered at Homecoming concert

NJIT, Newark, NJ | Sep 2021

- Provided valuable **assistance** in event preparation and **management**, including setup, serving, and cleanup. Ensured audience safety and **maintained order** throughout the event

Helped Freshman move-in

NJIT, Newark, NJ | Sep 2023

- **Succored** first-year student with the entire process of moving into their dormitory, including carrying their belongings, and **escorting** them to their assigned room

ACADEMIC PROJECTS

On being the right side | NJIT - Hillier College of Architecture and Design

Fall 2022

- Designed and integrated a **cabin** into an existing structure to facilitate both **live-in** and **work** functionalities for an **artist**, ensuring synergy with the surrounding environment

Bird tower & Aviary | NJIT - Hillier College of Architecture and Design

Spring 2023

- Developed and created a **multi-functional** bird tower and aviary, serving as an **interactive** space for both humans and birds

Co-housing| NJIT - Hillier College of Architecture and Design

Fall 2023

- Constructed a five-level **cohousing apartment** building with **retail spaces** on the ground floor



ARCHITECTURE PORTFOLIO

VINALI PATEL

VINALI PATEL

ARCHITECTURE MAJOR | 4TH YEAR

CONTACT INFO

✉ vinalipatel812@gmail.com

☎ (973) 626-0201

in [linkedin link](#)

📷 [instagram link](#)

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1.

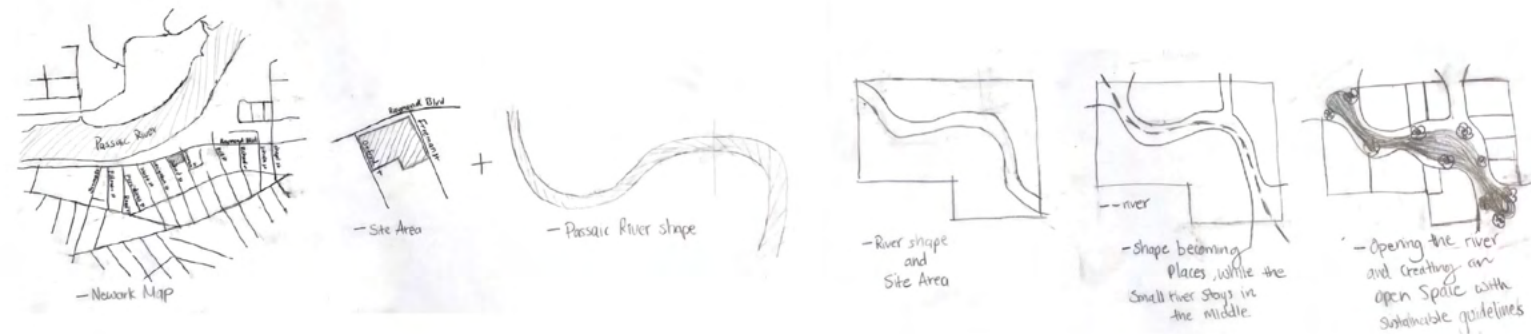
REFLEXA LIVING

Co-Housing Apartments | Fall 2023

Location: Newark, NJ

Instructor: Chit Yee Ng

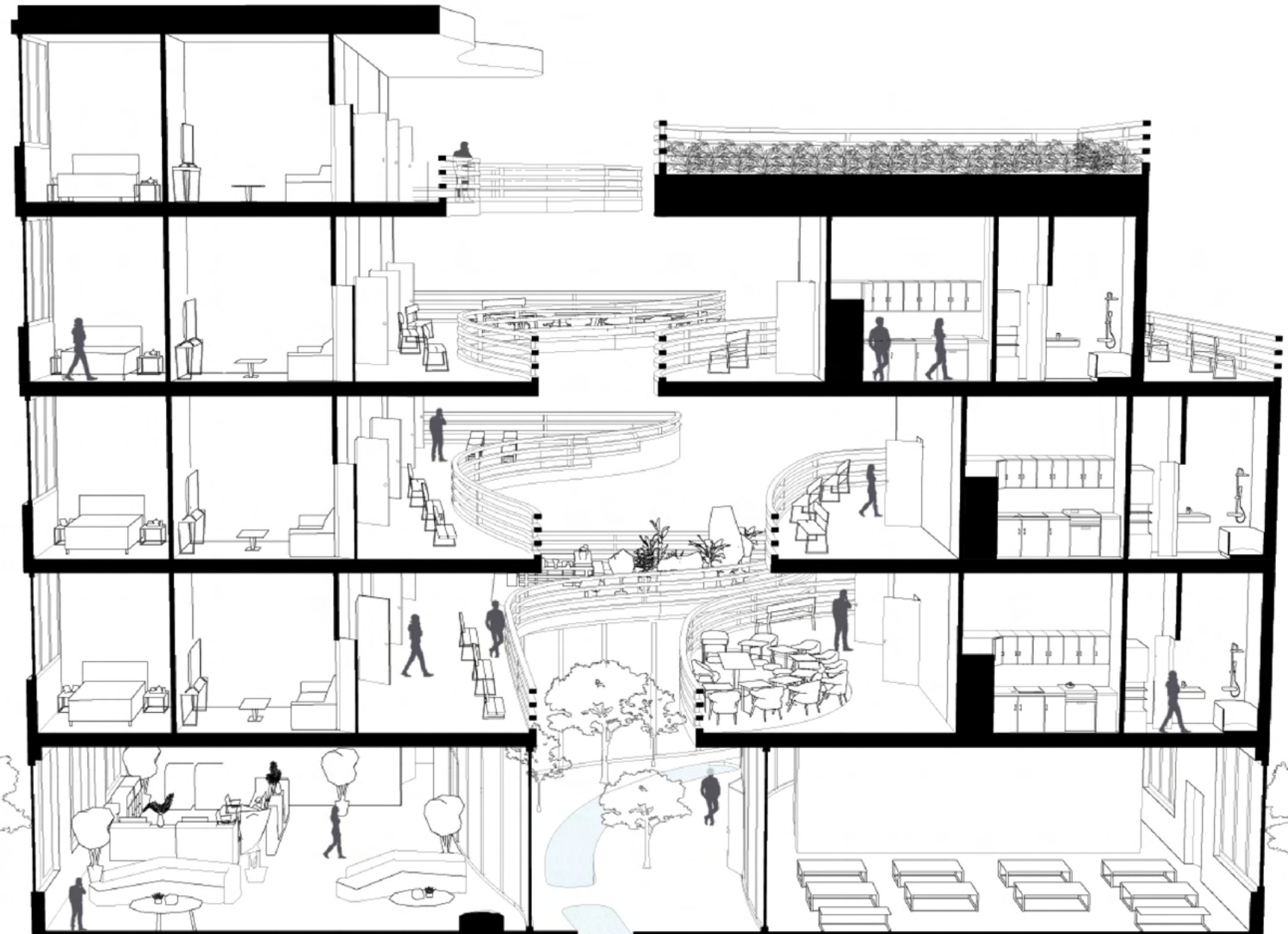
Inspired by the organic curves of the Passaic River, Reflexa Living transforms fluid motion into a vibrant, multi-use living experience. The architecture mirrors the river's flow, seamlessly integrating reflection, movement, and community to foster a deep connection with nature and urban life. Anchoring the design, the first floor is dedicated to commercial spaces, creating a lively streetscape that enhances engagement and accessibility. Above, the residential units embrace the river's rhythm, curving around lush courtyards and communal pathways. By opening the riverfront and blending natural landscapes with sustainable urban design, Reflexa Living redefines cohousing as an interconnected, evolving environment—one where people live, work, and thrive in harmony with nature



CONCEPT DIAGRAMS

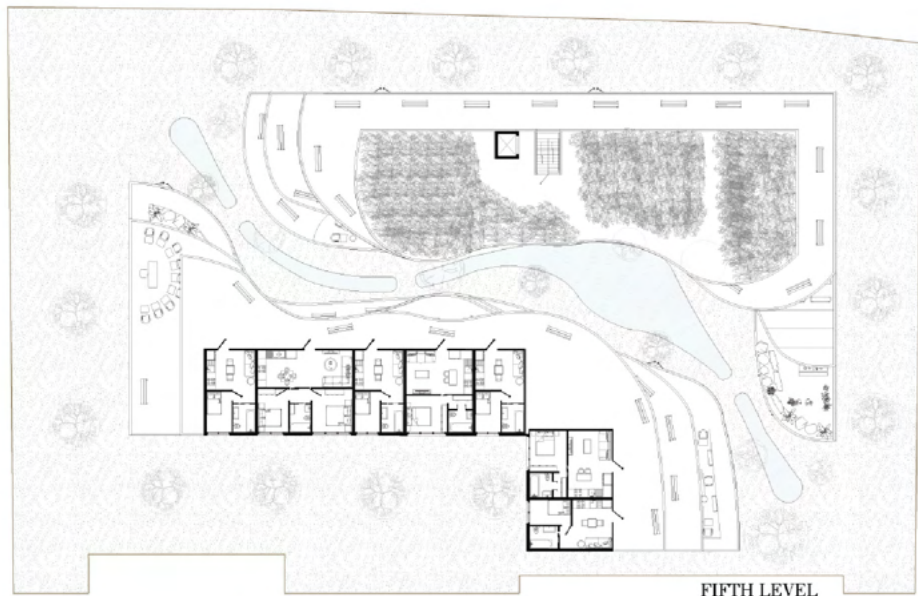


SITE PLAN
SCALE 1/64"=1'



SECTION PERSPECTIVE
SCALE 1/8"=1'





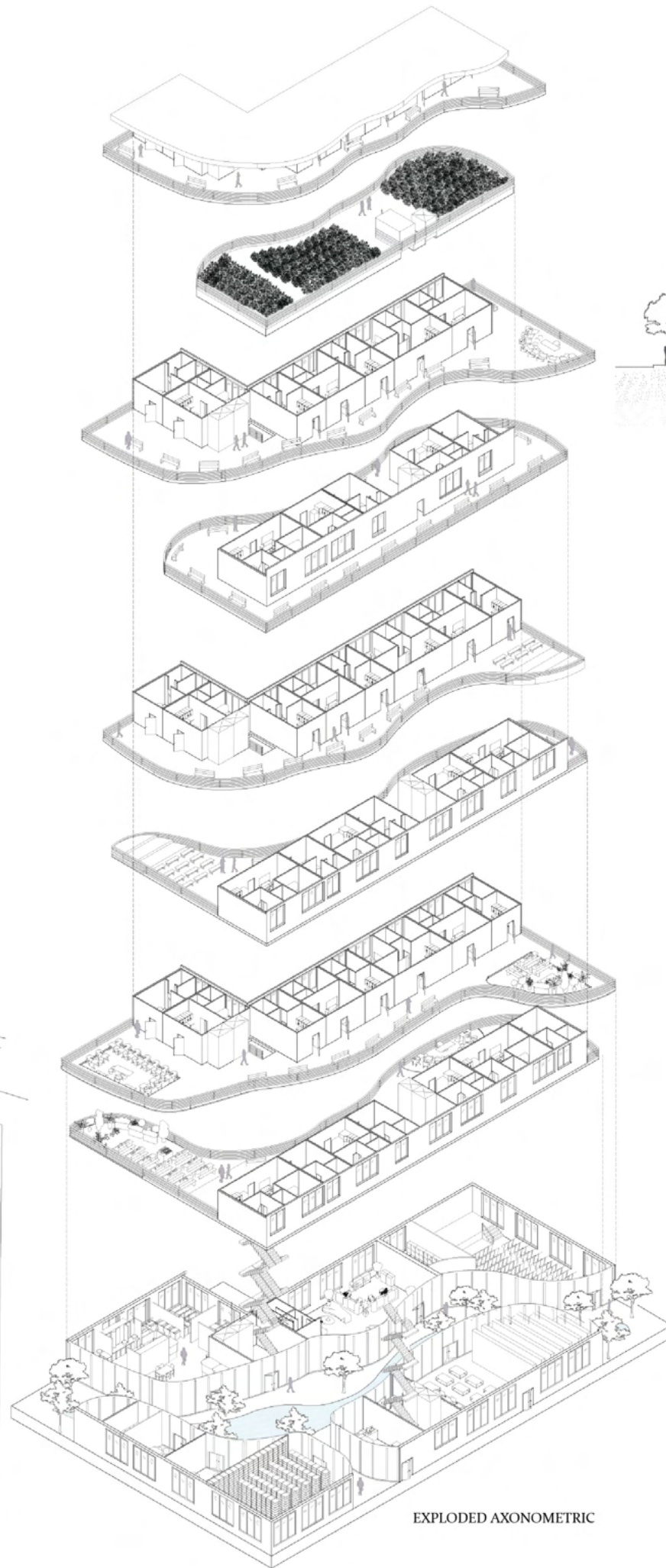
FIFTH LEVEL
SCALE 1/16"-1'



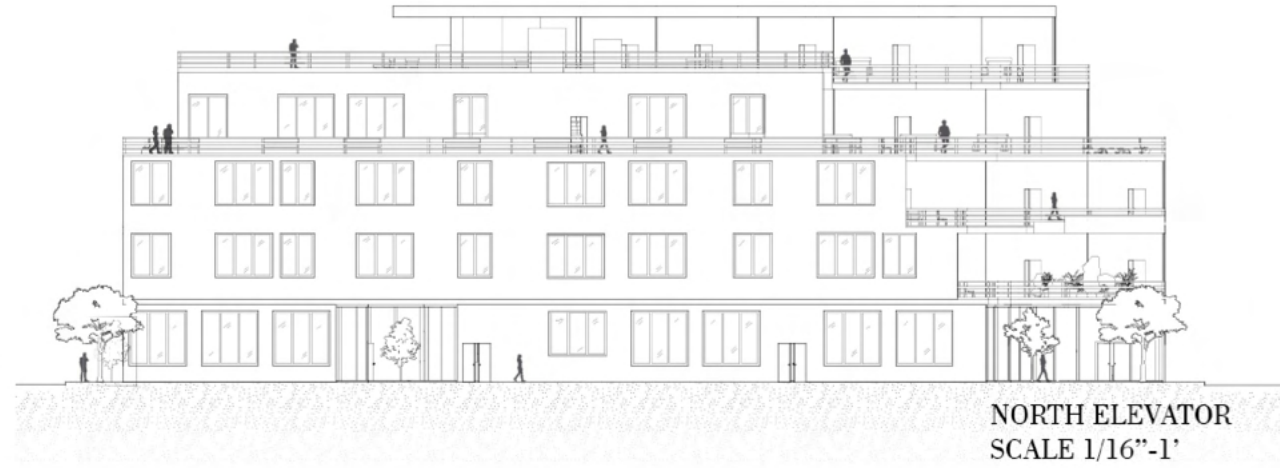
SECOND LEVEL
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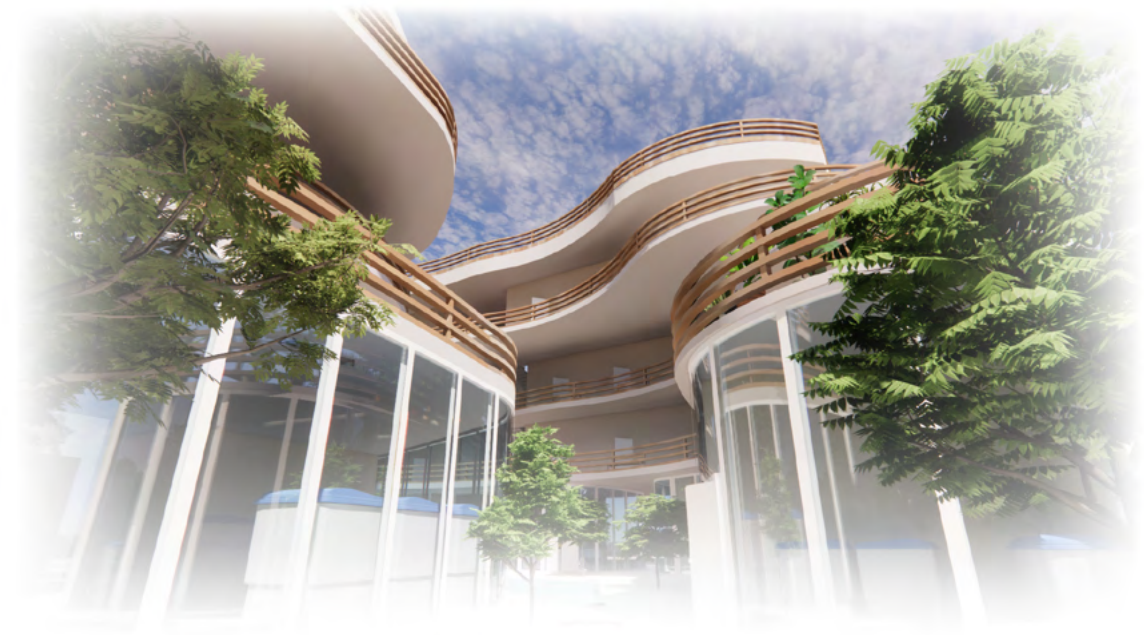
GROUND LEVEL
SCALE 1/16"-1'



EXPLODED AXONOMETRIC



NORTH ELEVATOR
SCALE 1/16"-1'



2.

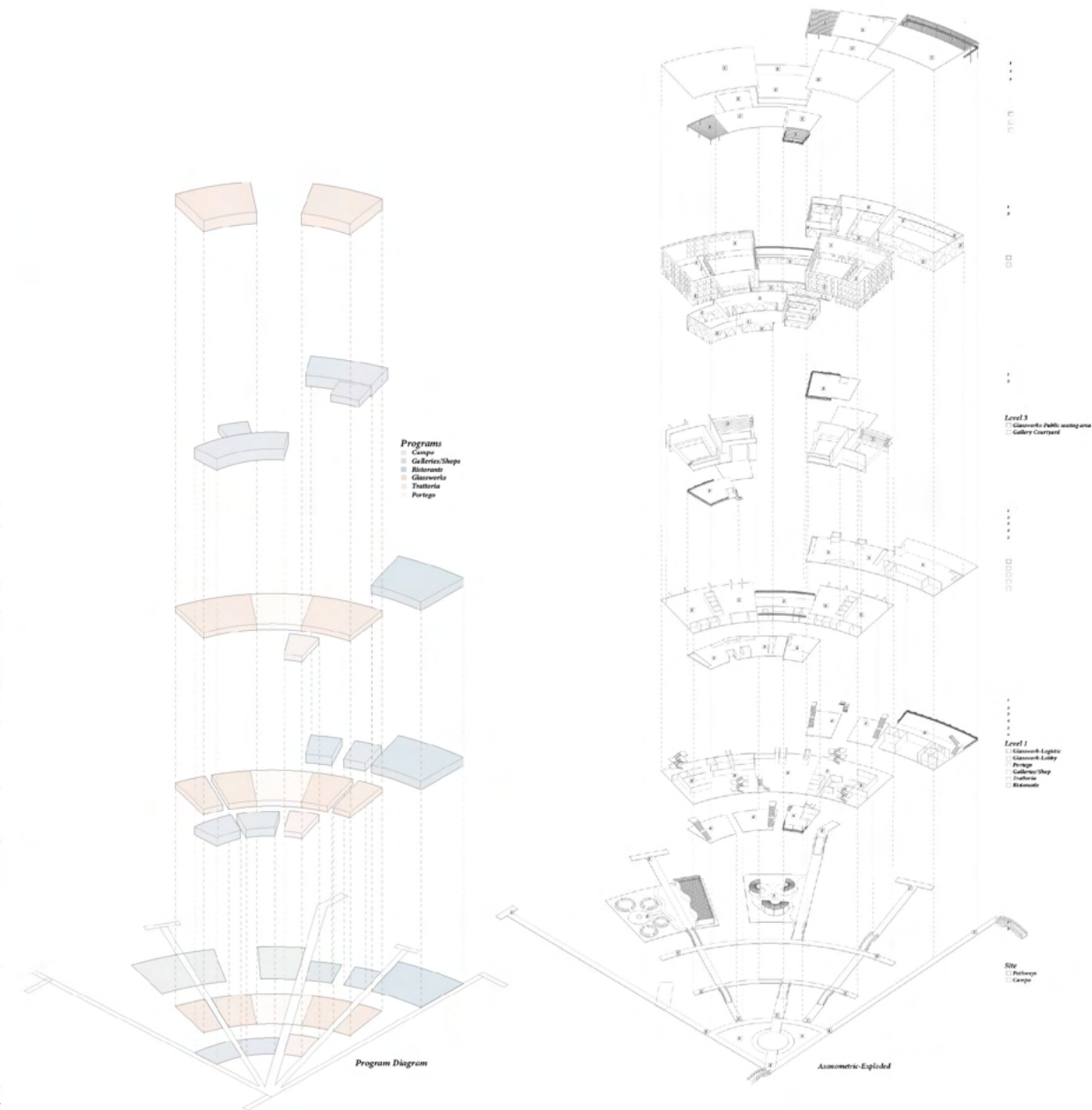
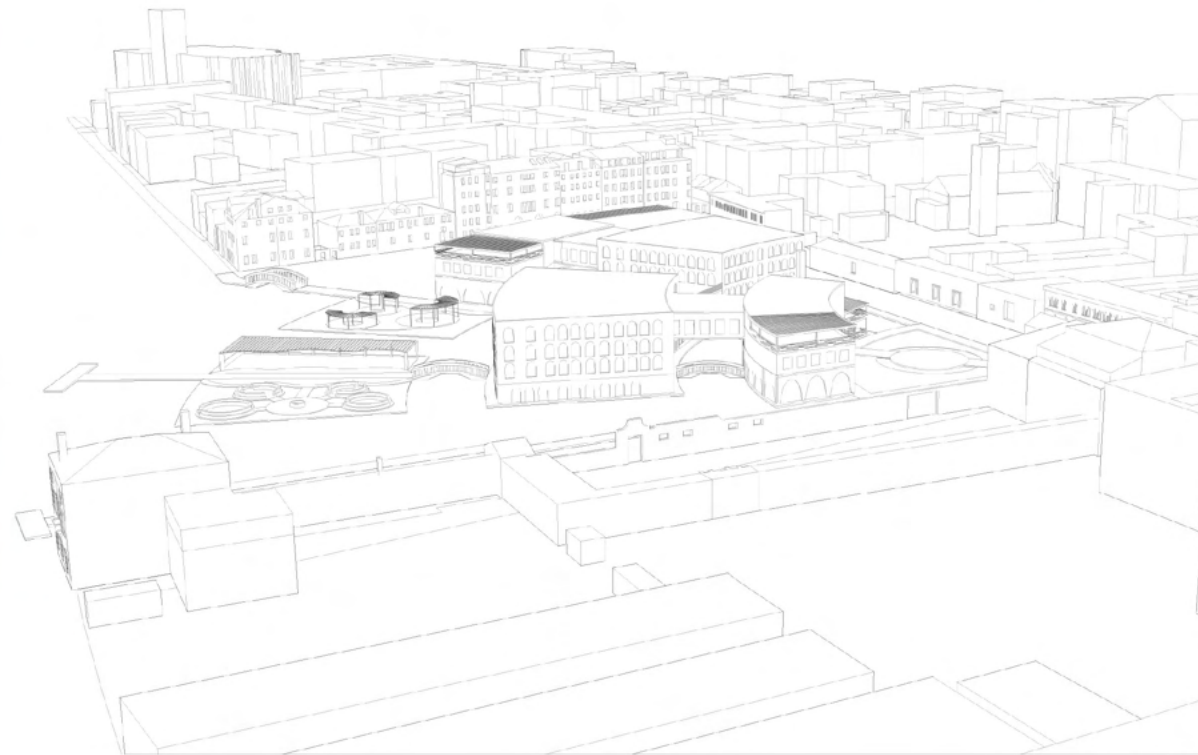
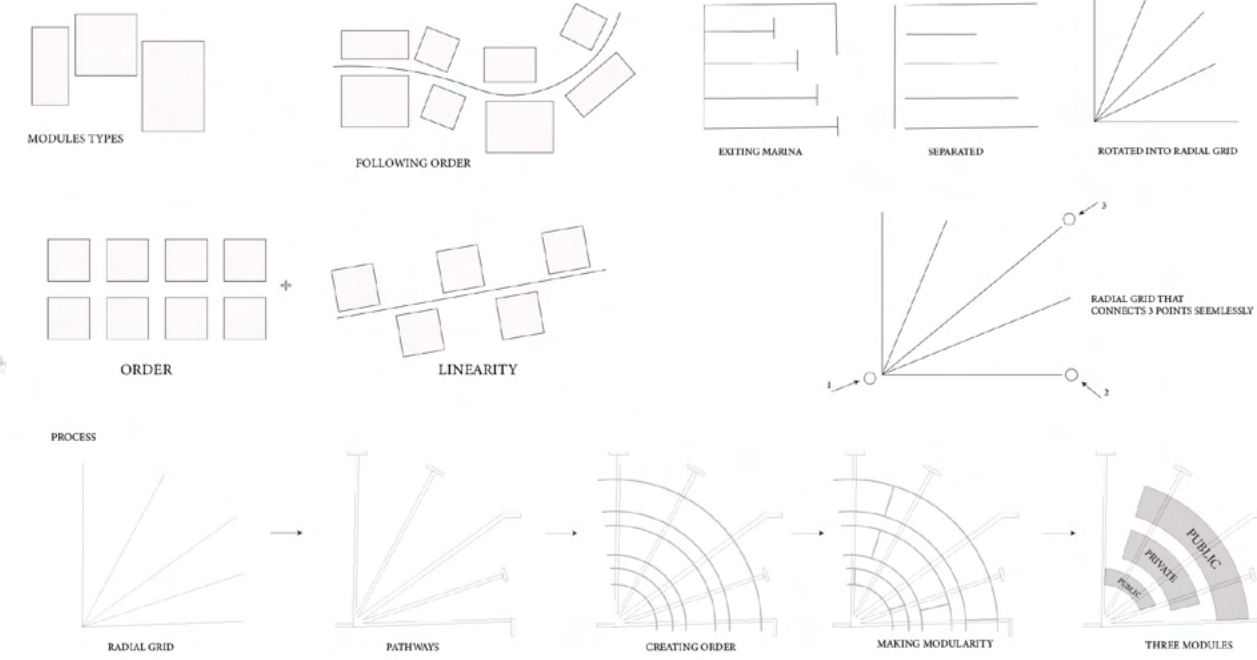
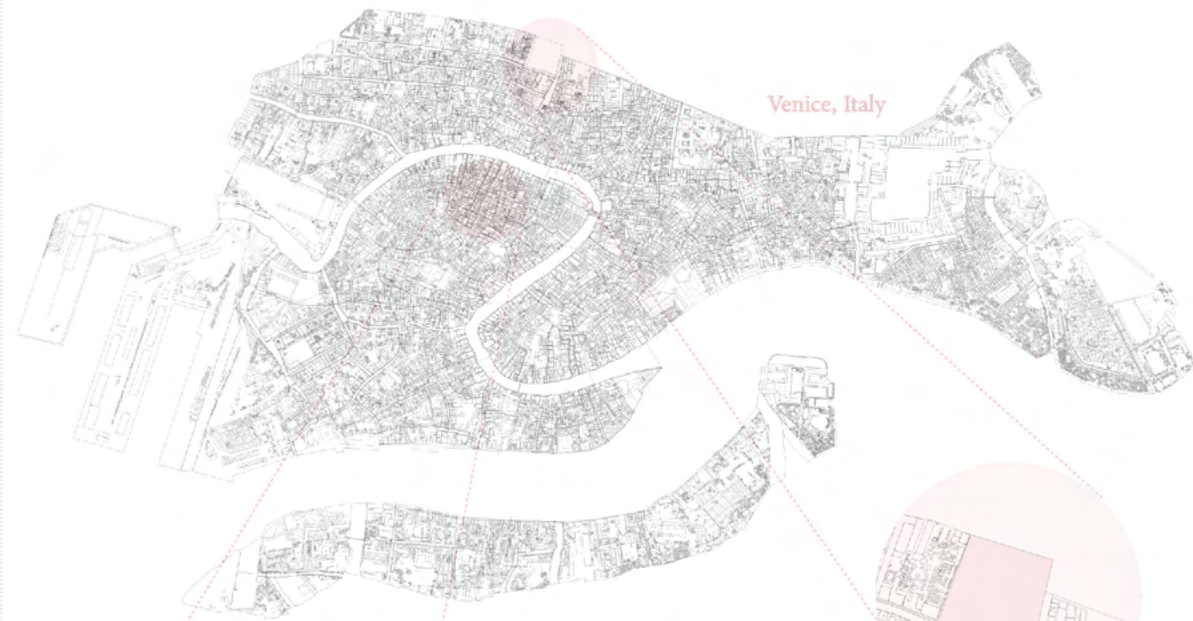
GLASSWORK, AT MISERICORDIA

Cultural-Commercial Hub | Fall 2024

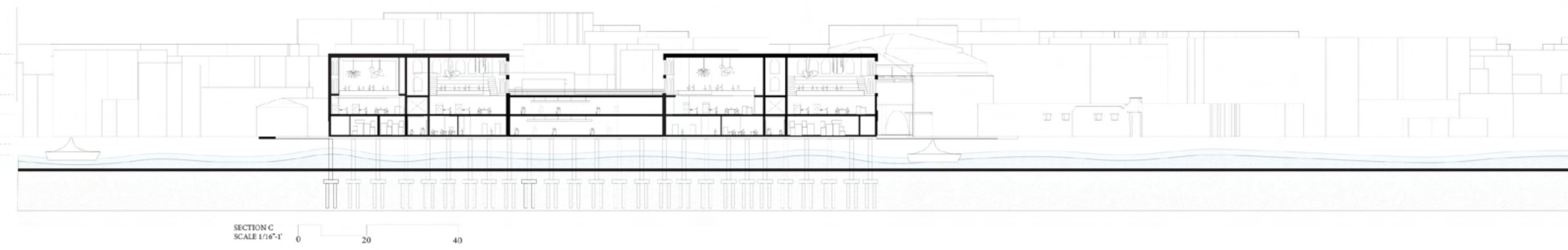
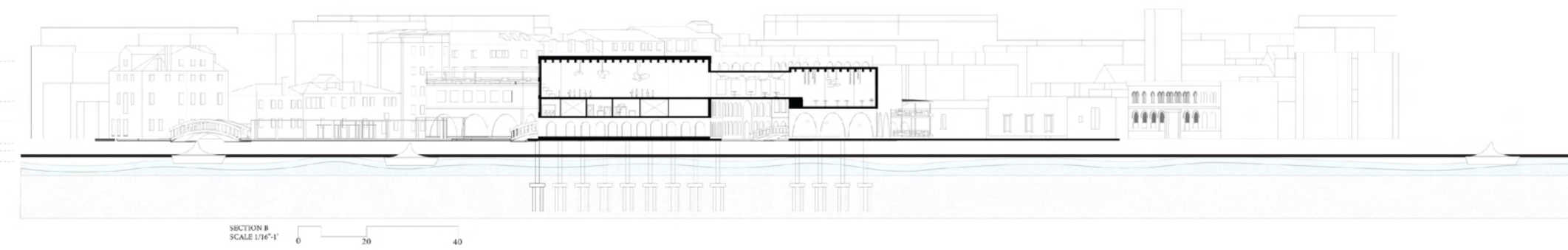
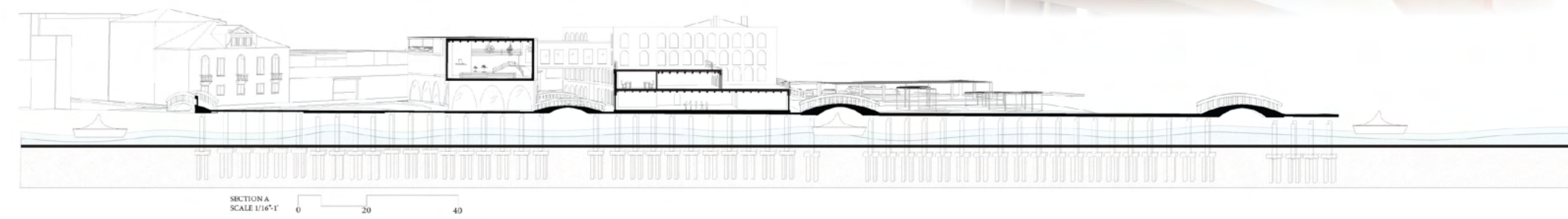
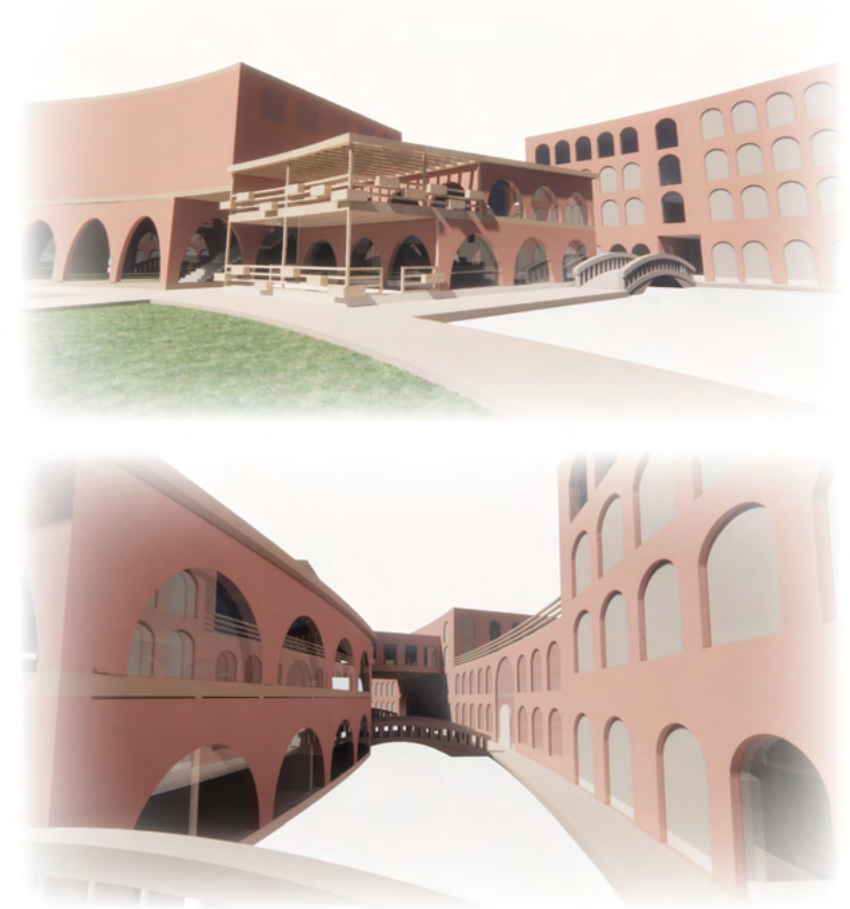
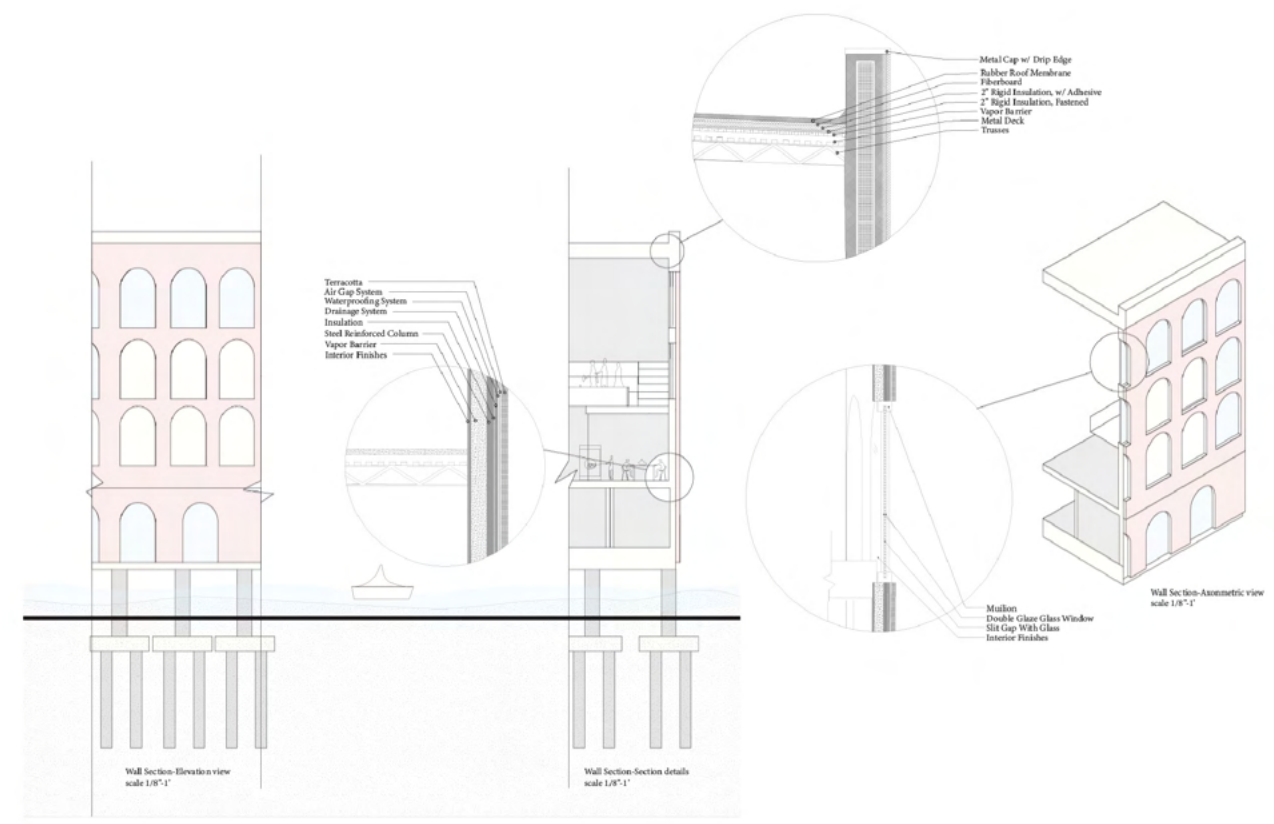
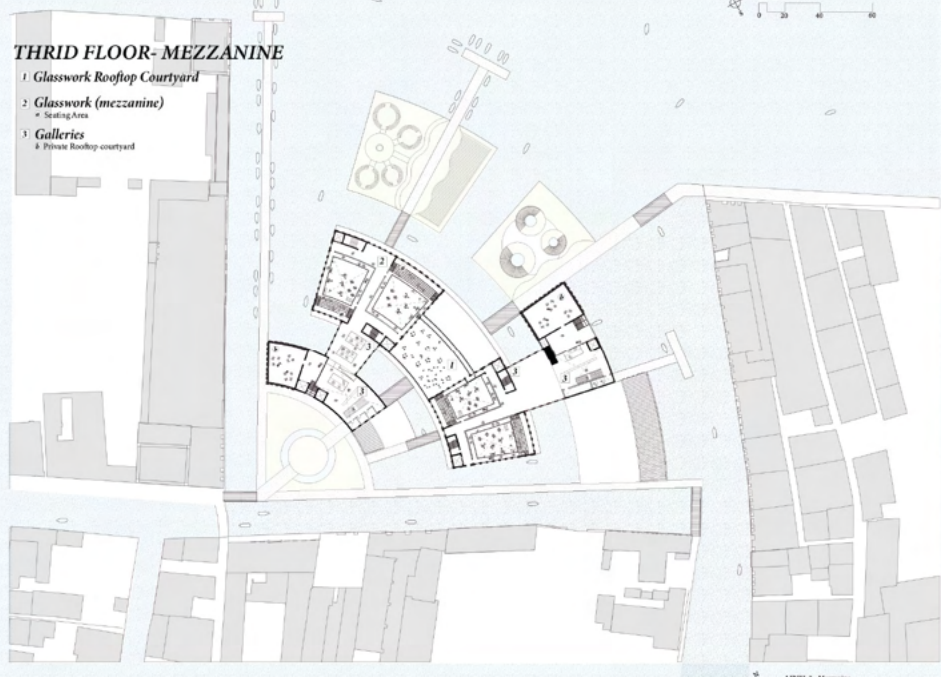
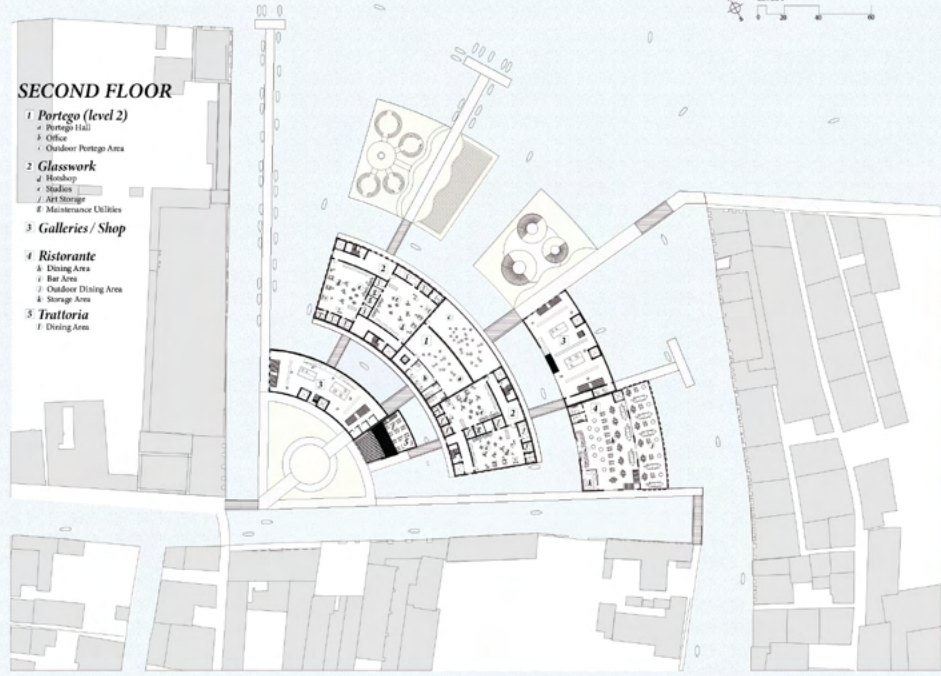
Location: Venice, Italy

Instructor: Masha Drozdov

Inspired by Venice's seemingly chaotic layout that reveals a sense of order upon closer exploration, my design takes a contrasting approach by introducing a radial grid structure. The curving nature of Venice influenced the grid's design, while the existing marina serves as its foundation. This design remains deeply connected to Venice through key elements such as bridges, height variations, and an interconnected network of pathways, reflecting the city's unique character and fluid movement.



GROUND FLOOR



3.

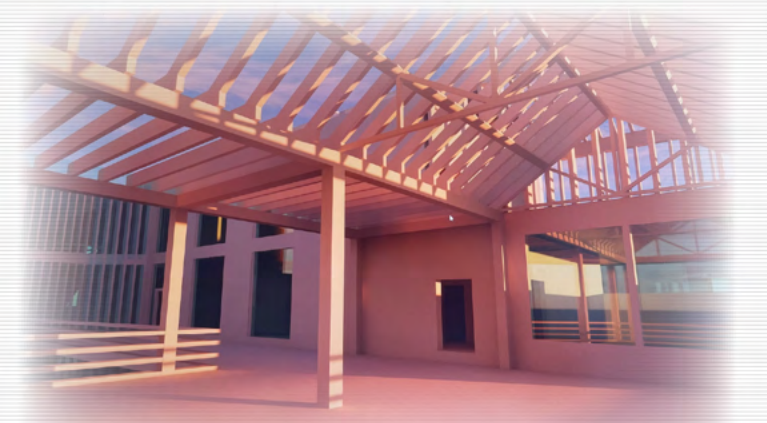
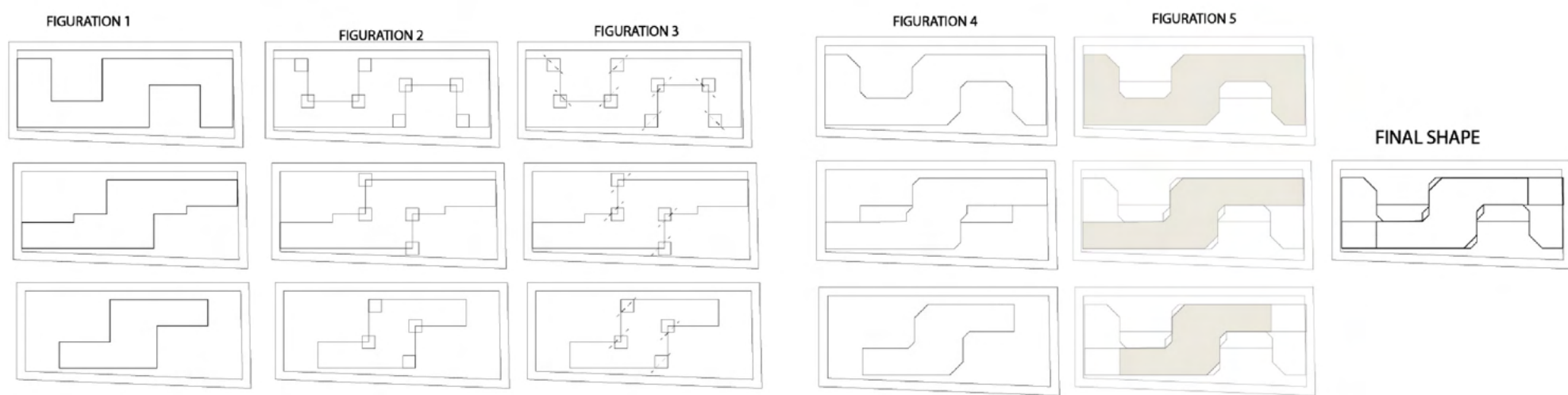
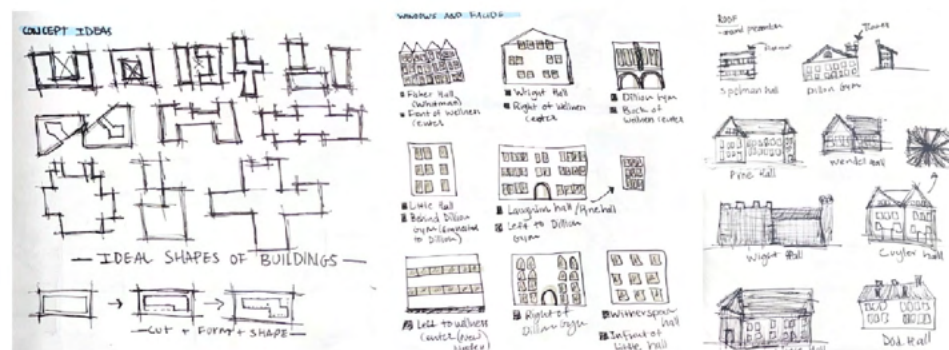
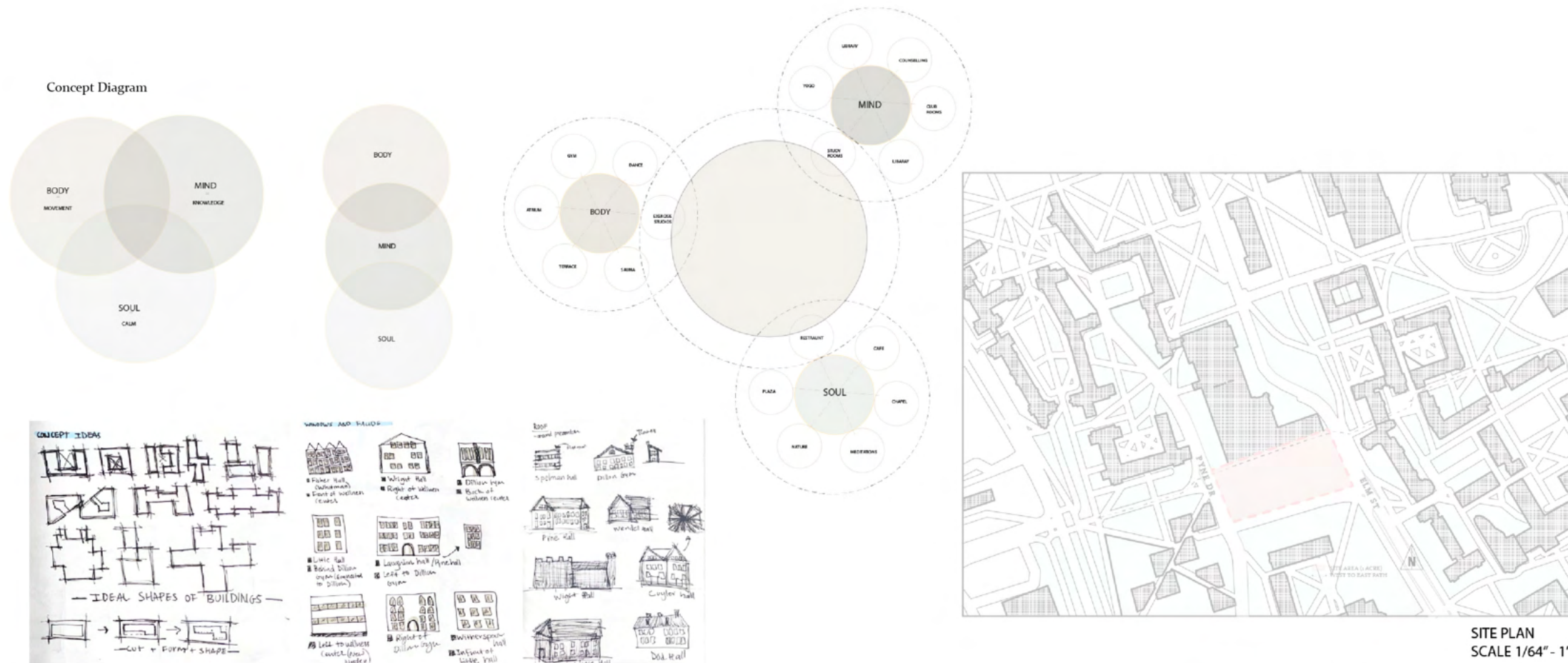
THE WELLNESS PAVILION

University Wellness Center | Spring 2024

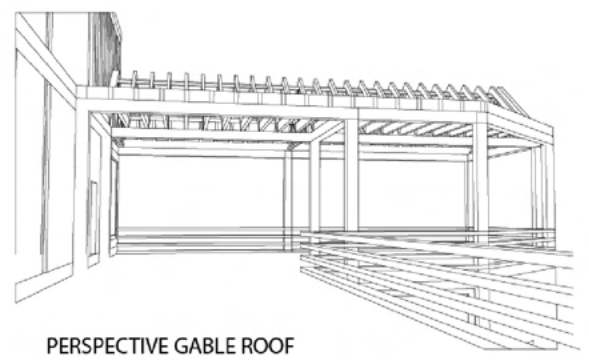
Location: Princeton, NJ

Instructor: Cleveland Harp

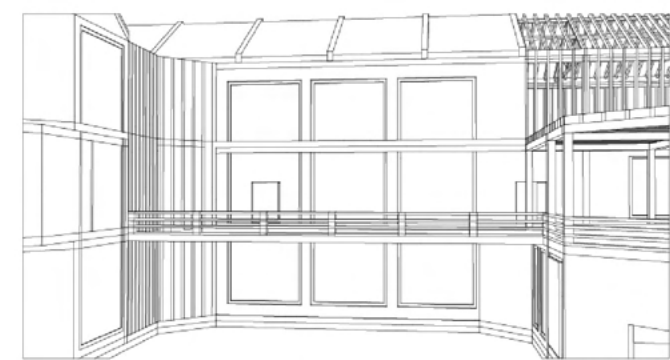
The Princeton Wellness Center is a sanctuary designed to nurture the body, mind, and soul through movement, knowledge, and tranquility. Organized into three interconnected zones, it encourages physical activity, mental clarity, and emotional well-being. Natural elements, open courtyards, and fluid spaces create a calming atmosphere, promoting relaxation and connection. The design allows easy transitions between active, meditative, and social spaces, making wellness an intuitive experience. Inspired by balance and adaptability, the architecture evolves with its users, offering a space for both solitude and community. More than a facility, it's a retreat for growth, healing, and everyday wellness.



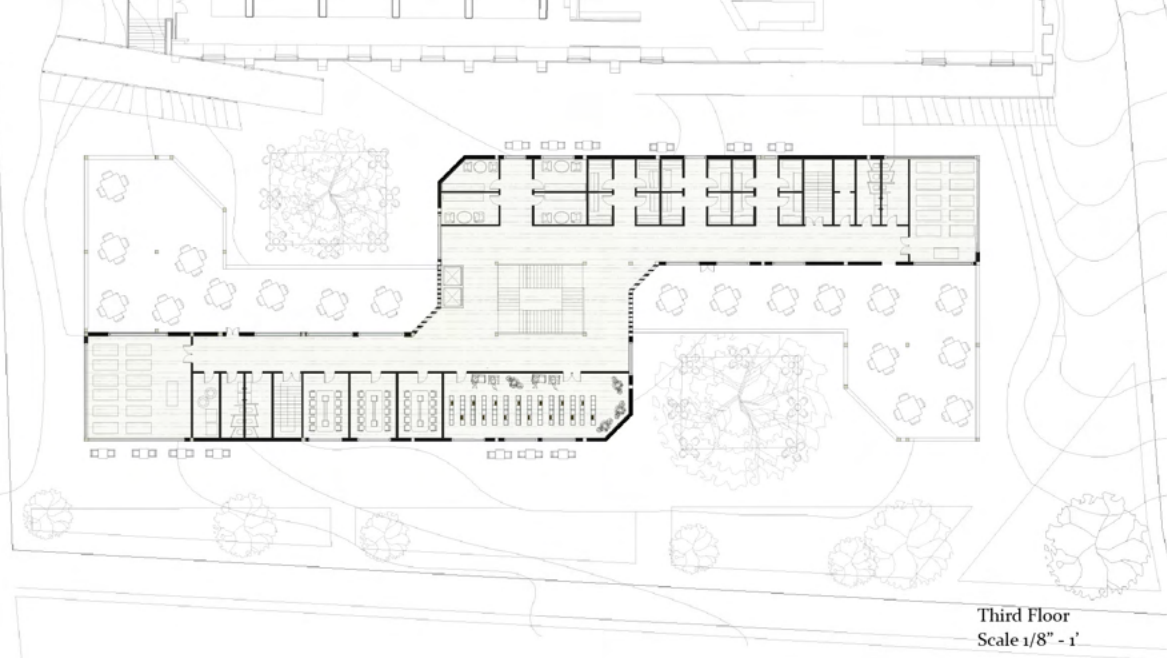
PERSPECTIVE INTERIOR SKY-LIGHT AND STAIRS



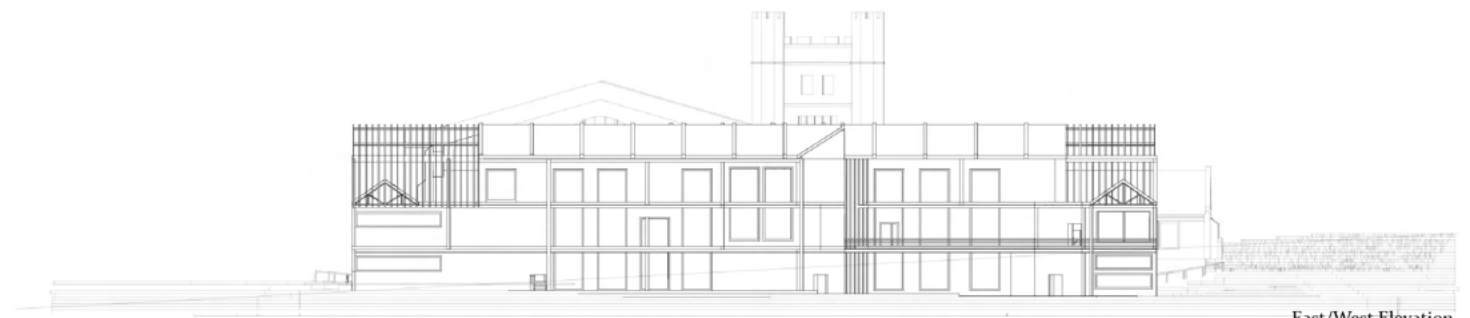
PERSPECTIVE GABLE ROOF



PERSPECTIVE SHOWING FACADE



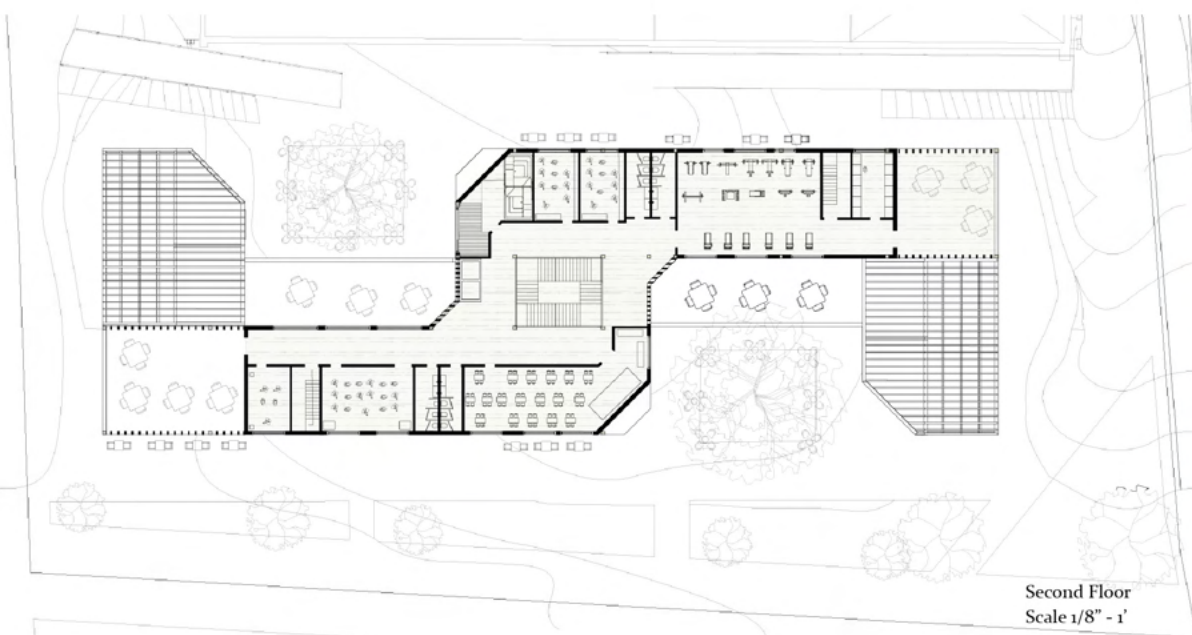
Third Floor
Scale 1/8" - 1'



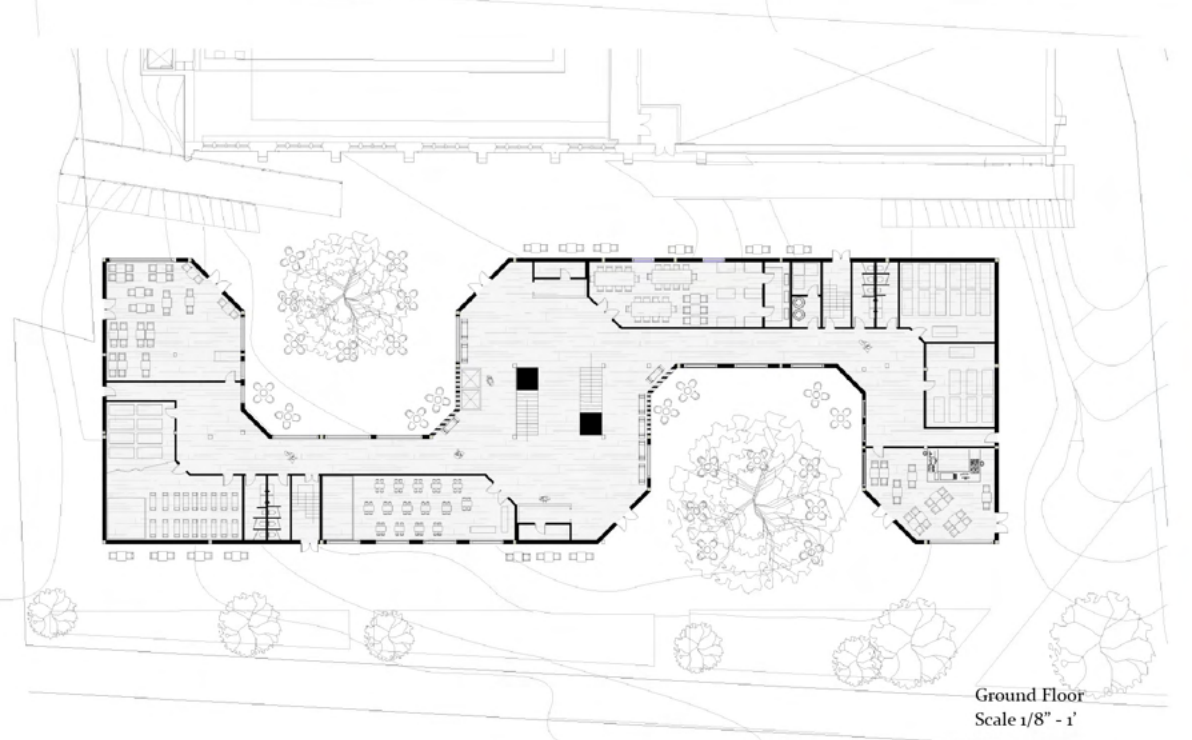
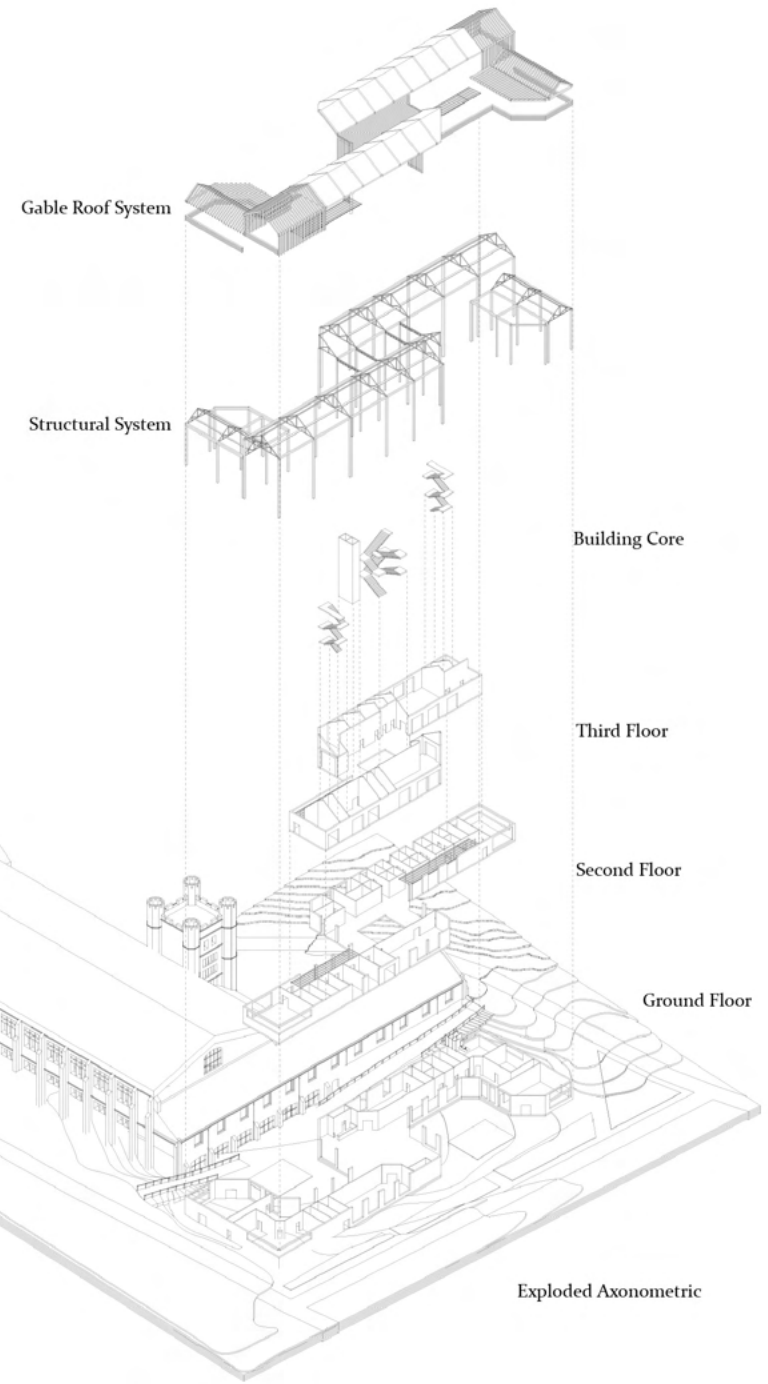
East/West Elevation
Scale 1/32" - 1'



South/North Elevation
Scale 1/32" - 1'



Second Floor
Scale 1/8" - 1'



Ground Floor
Scale 1/8" - 1'



Exploded Axonometric

4.

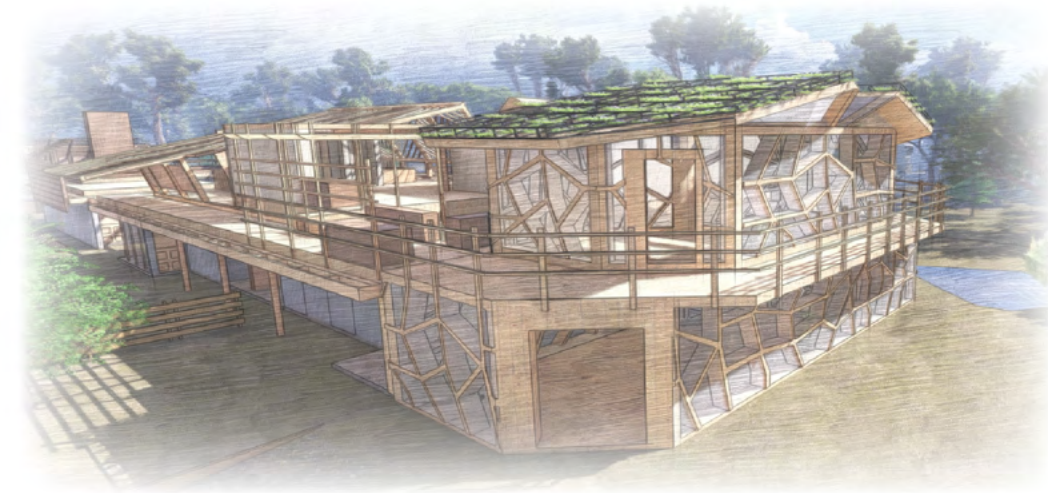
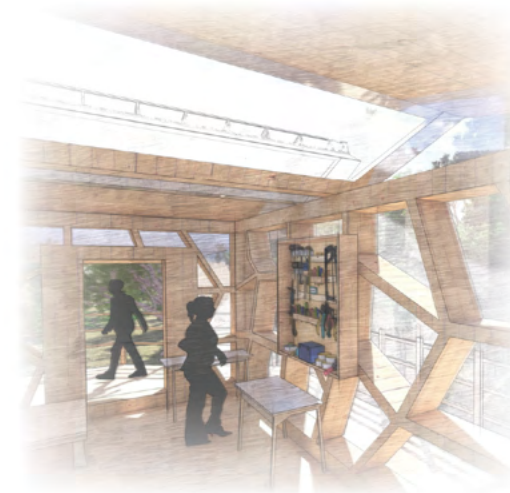
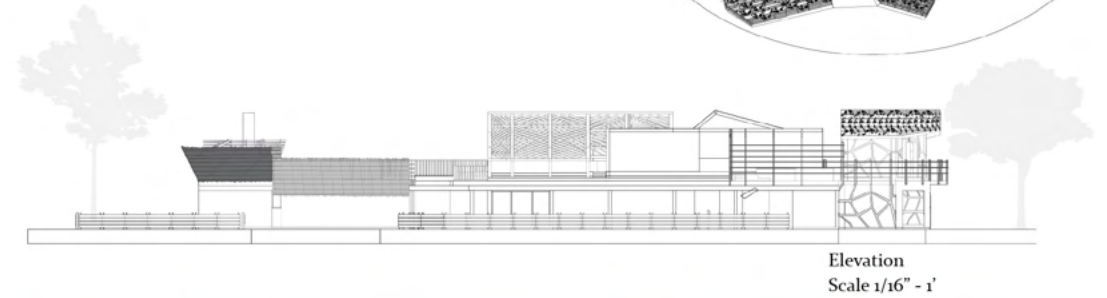
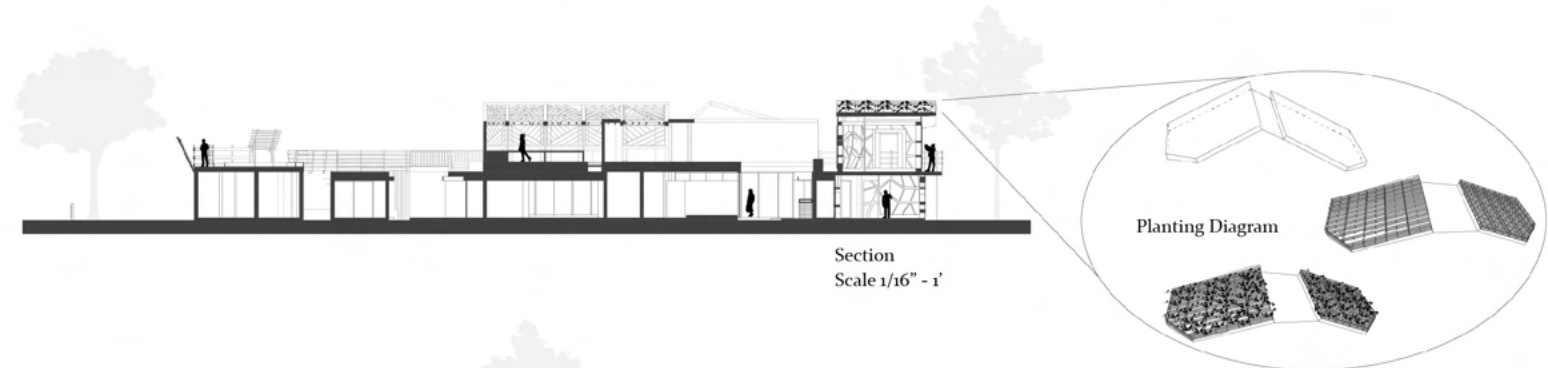
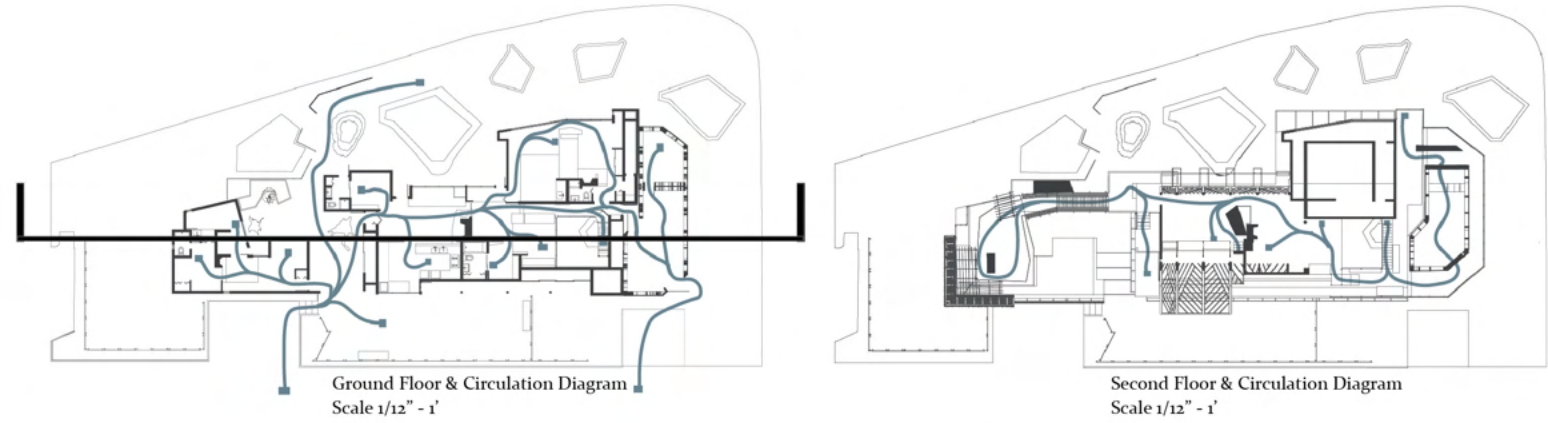
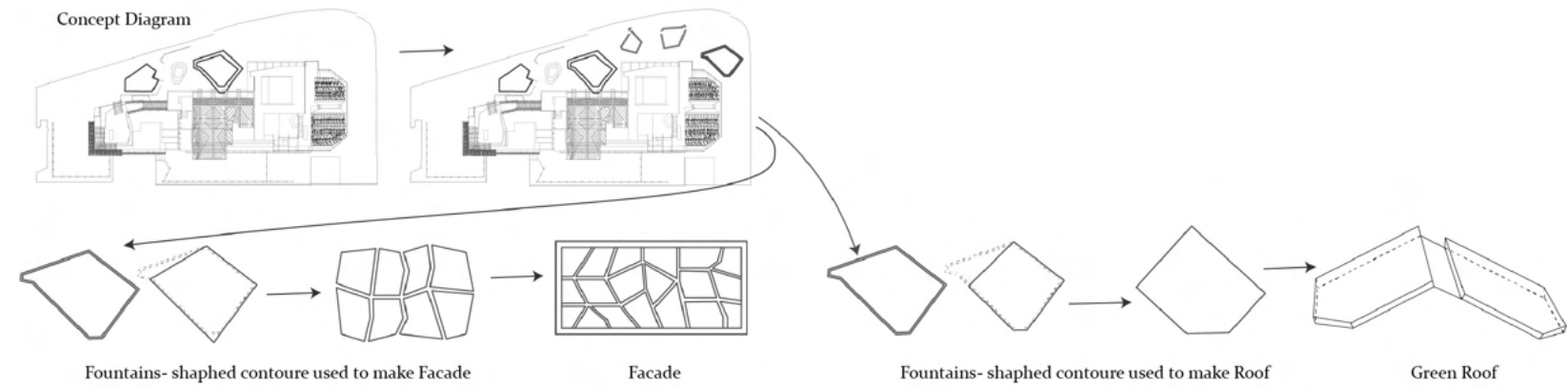
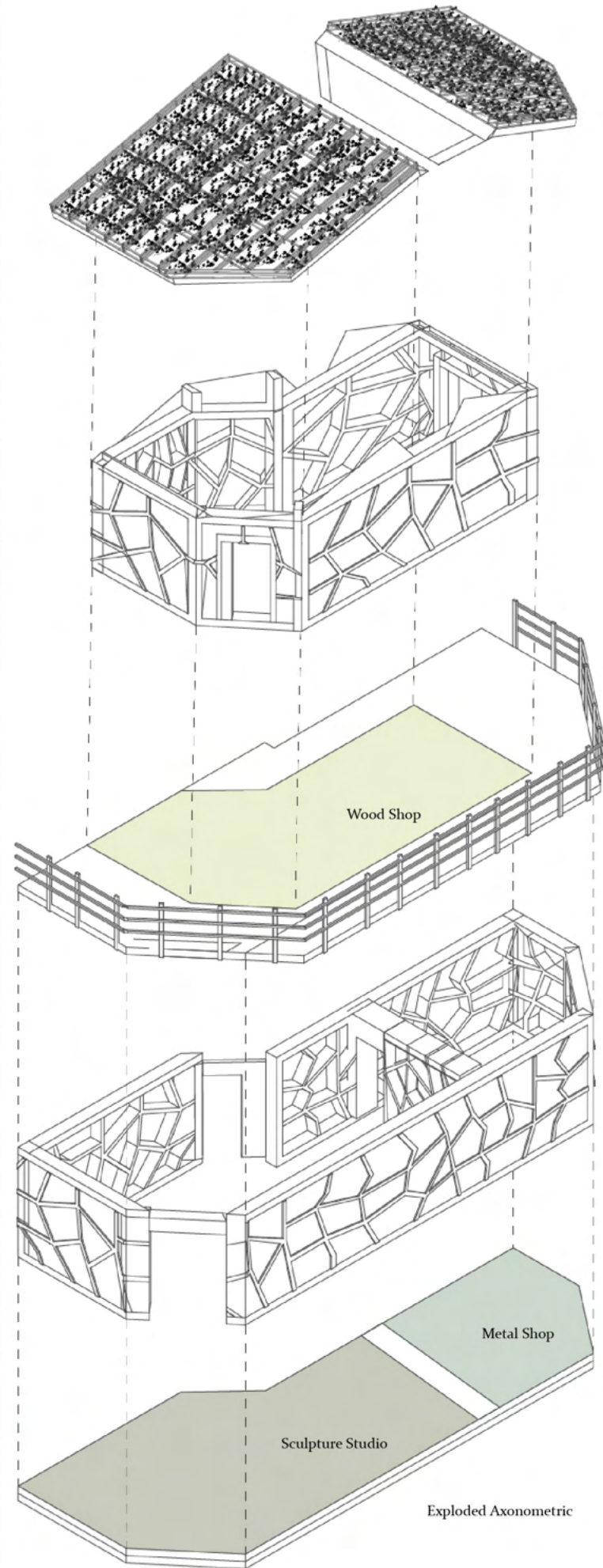
ON BEING THE RIGHT SIDE

Artist Workshops | Fall 2022

Location: Ridgewood, NJ

Instructor: Caitlin Charlet

James Rose, who created furniture for the landscape by drawing inspiration from Japanese architecture and traditions, is the creative force behind the James Rose Center. He built the James Rose Center after learning about Japanese culture, and he used Japanese-style fountains to build the backyard. He had built a structure combining elements like clay, wood, and metal from the exterior to the interior. In order to accommodate the new program, I will thus expand the area by putting a sculpting studio, a wood shop, and a metal shop there. To construct this building I drew the walls and the roof of this structure using a fountain-shaped contour. This structure will provide visitors the chance to express their creativity and forge bonds with the current center in the same way that James Rose did. Additionally, visitors will also be able to connect with and admire the James Rose Center through the program

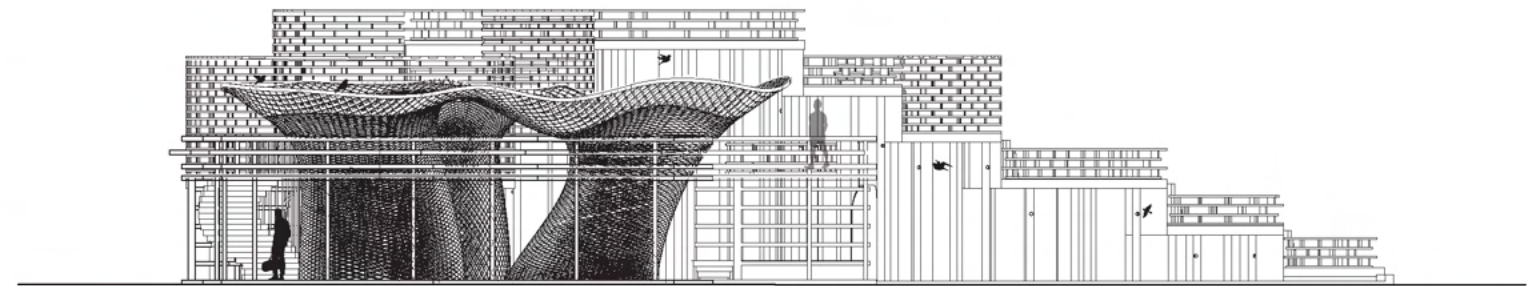
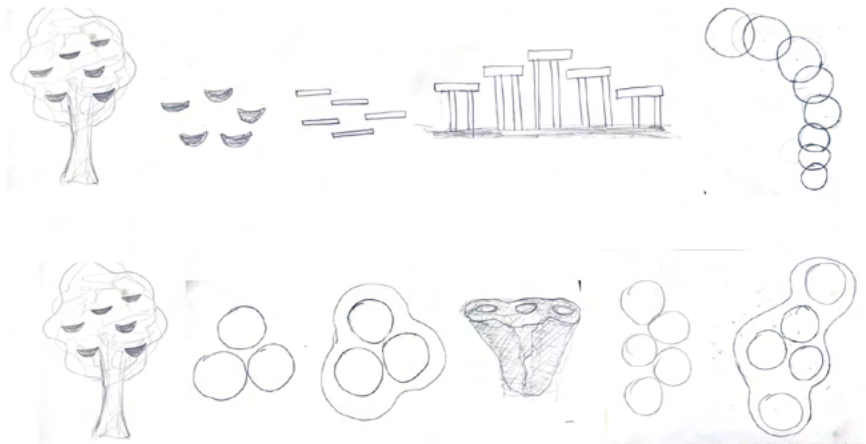


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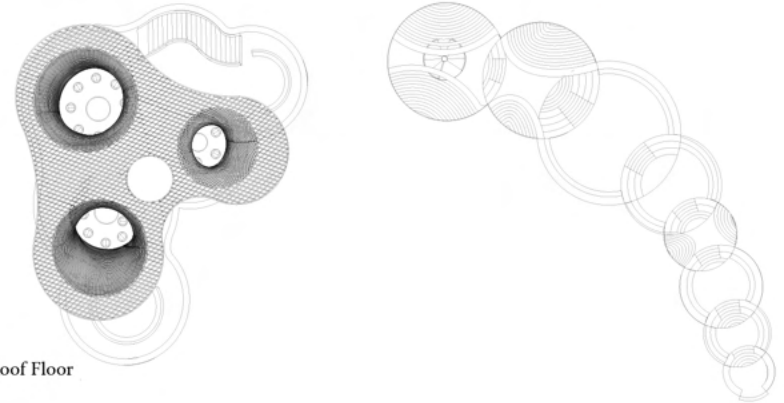
AVIAN NEST

Aviary & Bird Tower | Spring 2023
 Location: Meadowlands, NJ
 Instructor: Zipori, Esthi

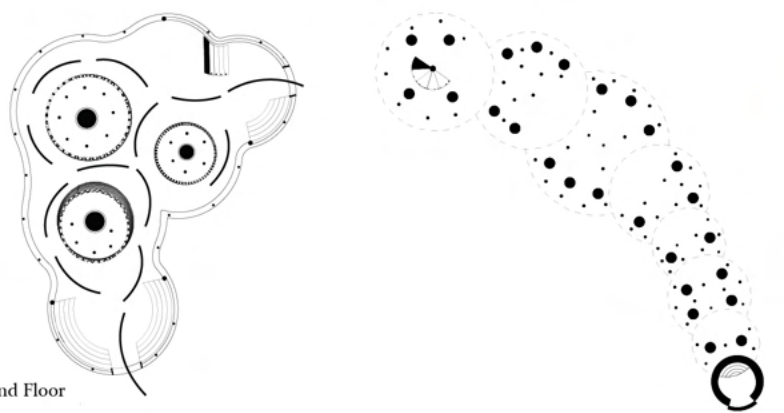
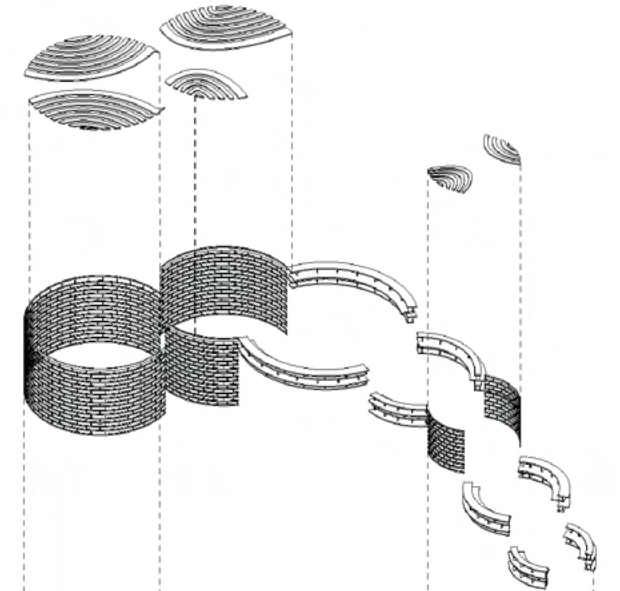
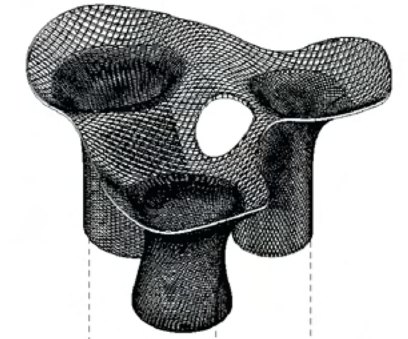
The goal of this project was to create a space where humans and birds can interact in a dynamic environment. The design features a bird tower with multi-level platforms offering diverse experiences, including seating areas integrated into the fences and shading spots for comfort. Visitors walk from platform to platform, eventually descending a staircase to the ground floor, where they can observe bird nests. The aviary, designed like a tree, has two floors, with the first providing space for visitors to walk around, while the second offers a 360-degree view of the birds. Both structures provide immersive, interactive experiences.



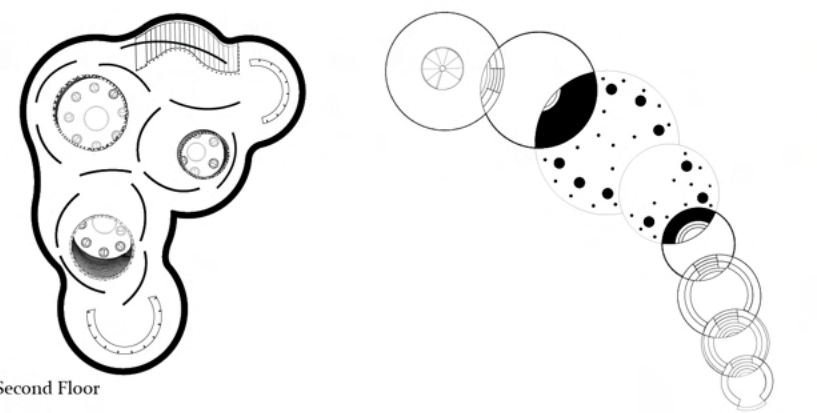
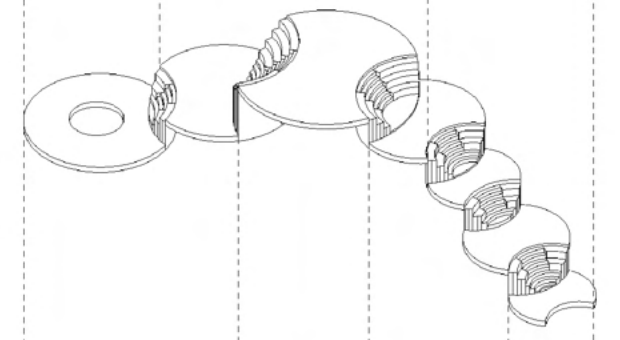
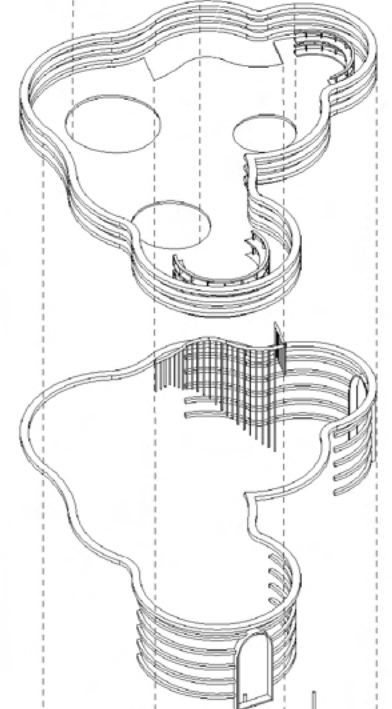
West Elevation



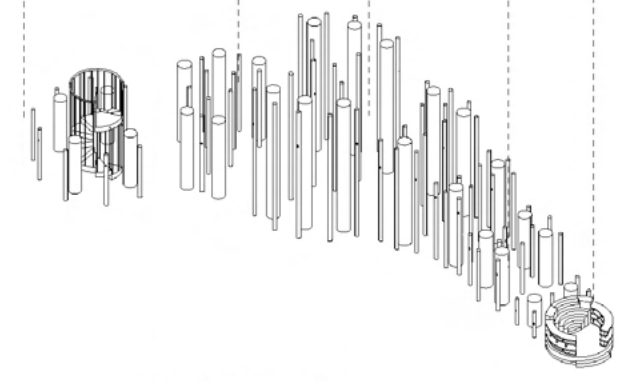
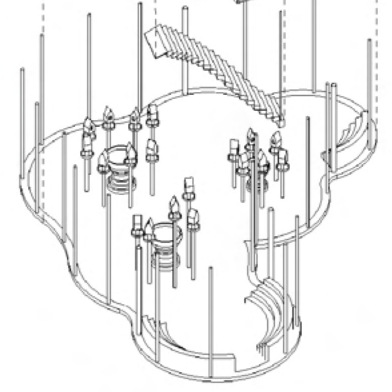
Roof Floor



Ground Floor



Second Floor



Exploded Axonometric

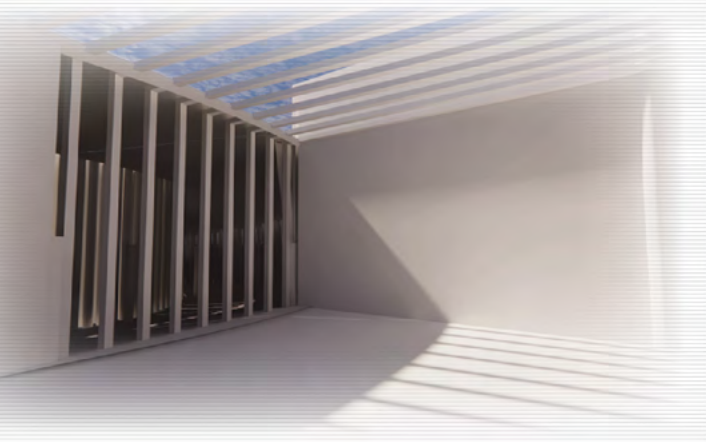
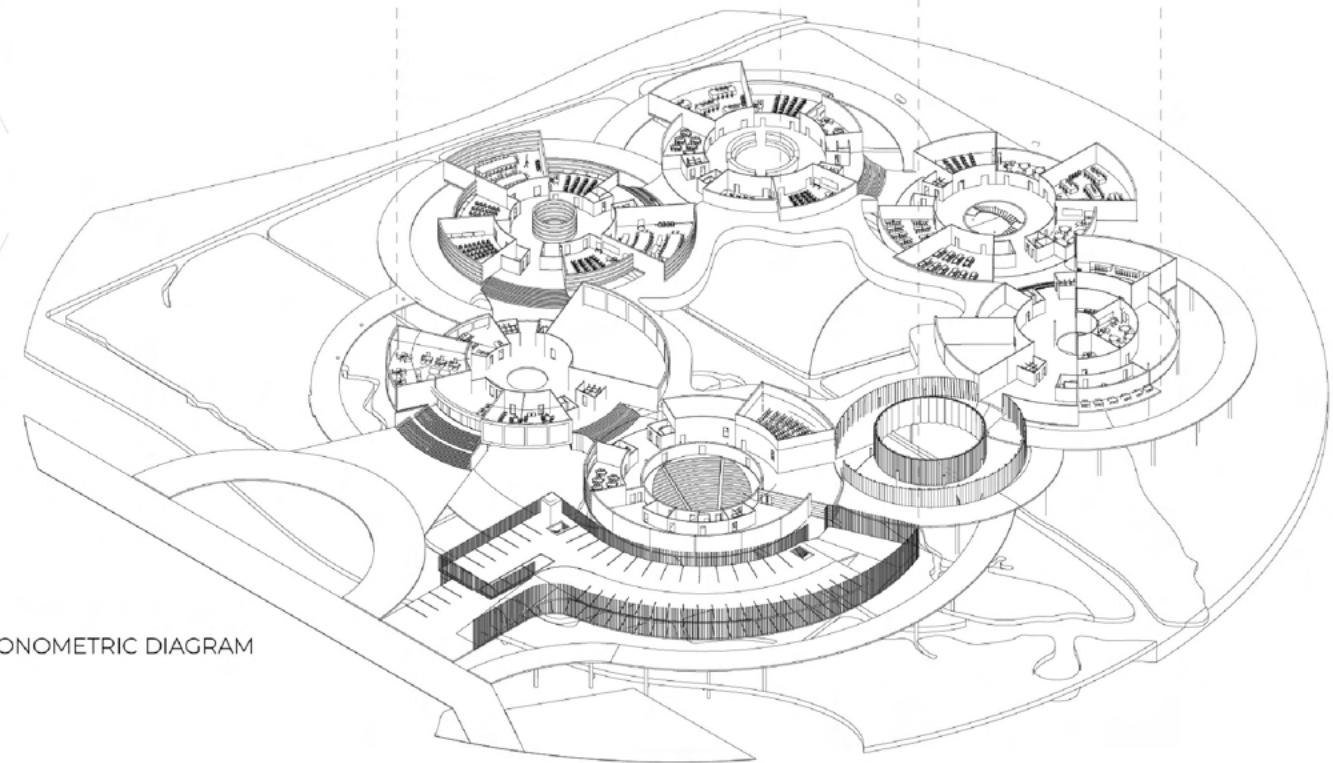
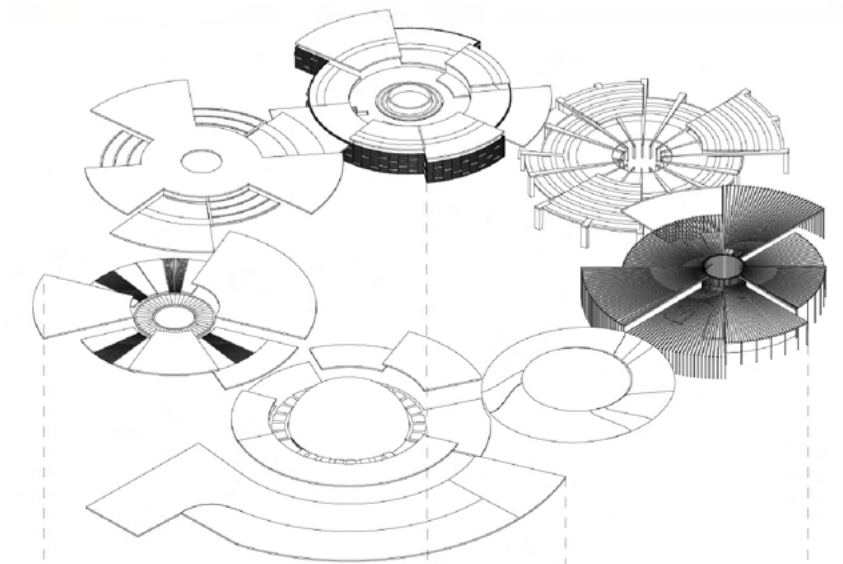
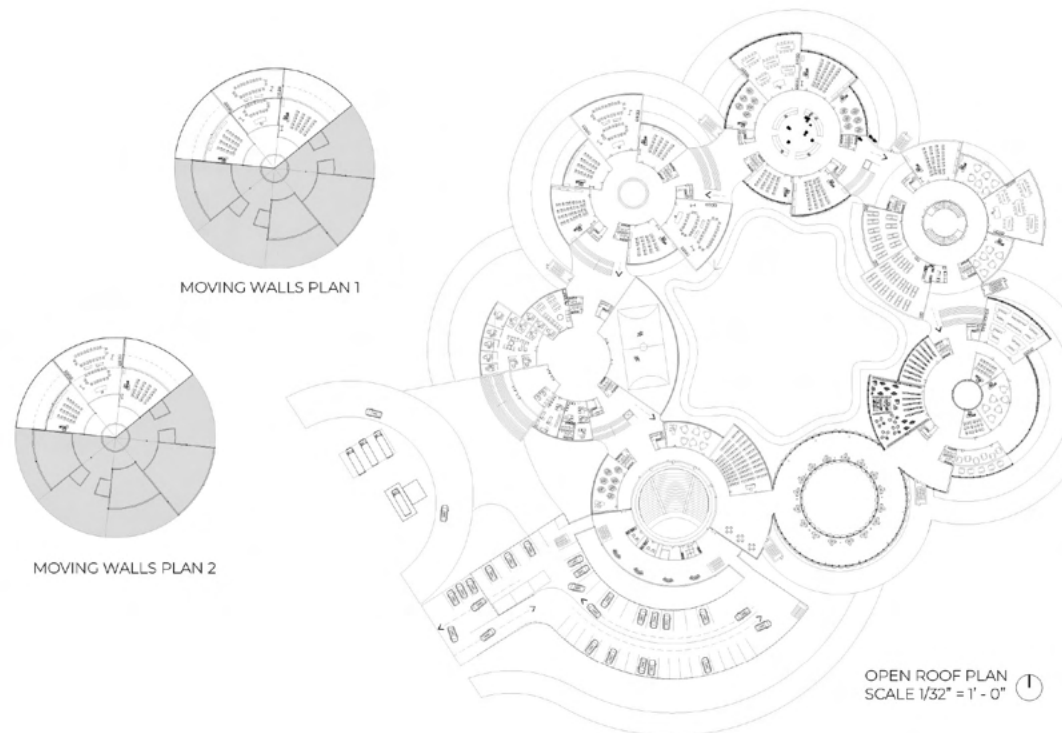
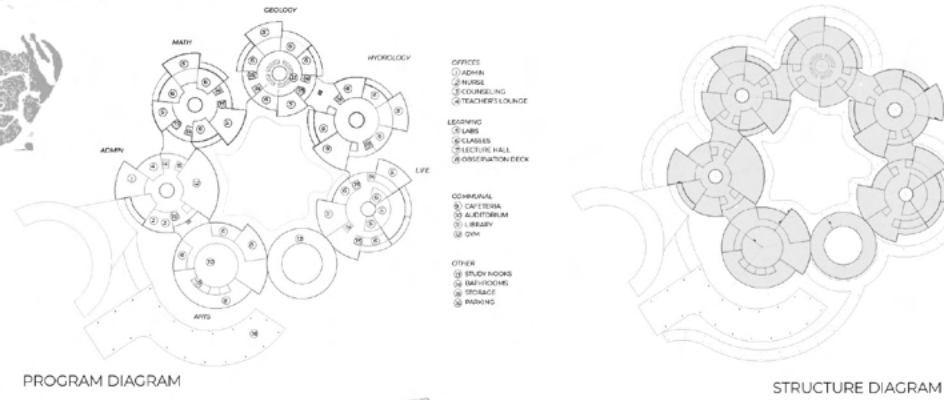
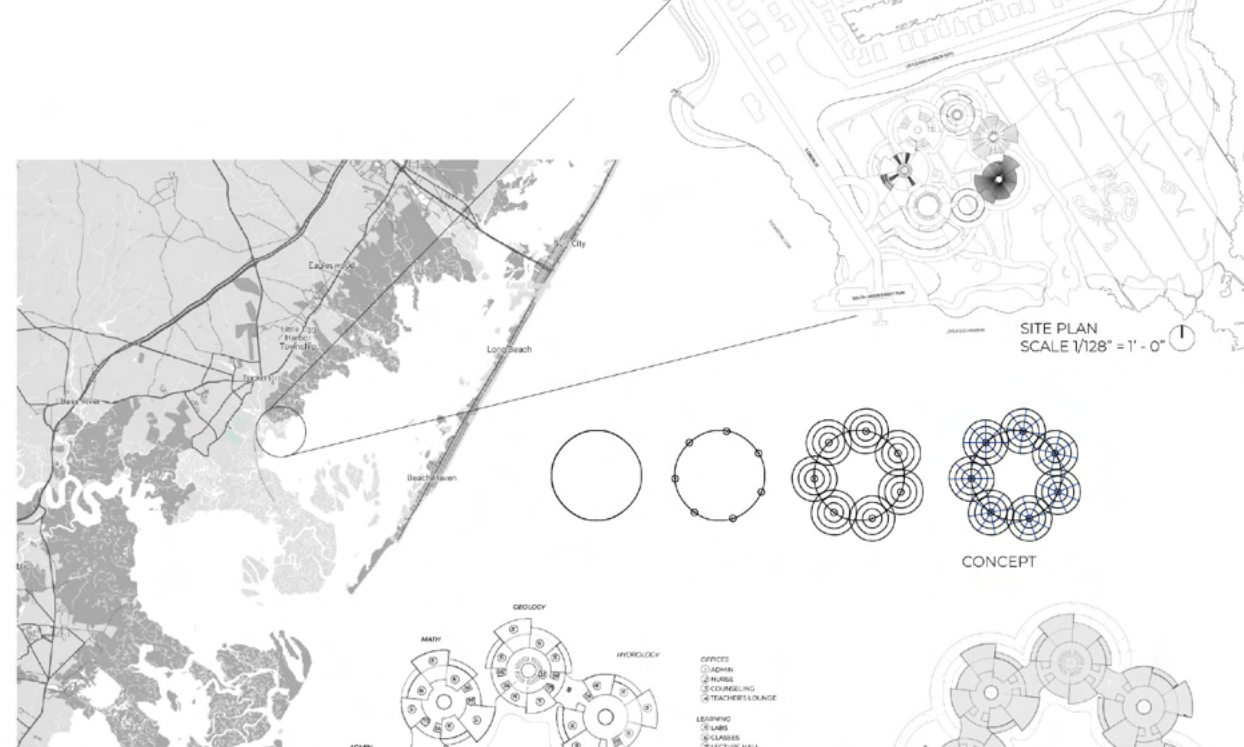


6.

RADICAL HS

High School | Spring 2024
Location: Turkerton, NJ
Instructor: Cleveland Harp
Partner: Carolyn Abdalla

The highly sensitive wetlands sit nestled between the land, our fully built environment, and the water, a fluid all encompassing form. The wetlands play a critical role in the ecosystem health and biodiversity, our focus is the preservation, education, and celebration of wetland ecosystems. Education is the key to fostering a sustainable future, by immersing students in the unique environment of wetlands, we can cultivate a generation of environmentally-conscious leaders. It's a living laboratory for environmental education with the concentration on study of various aspects of the wetlands in geology, water, and life sciences.

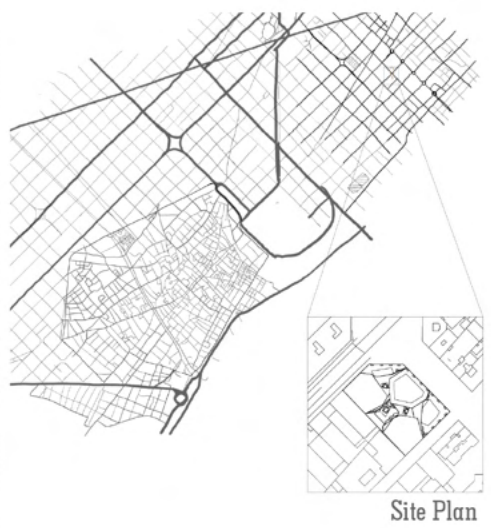


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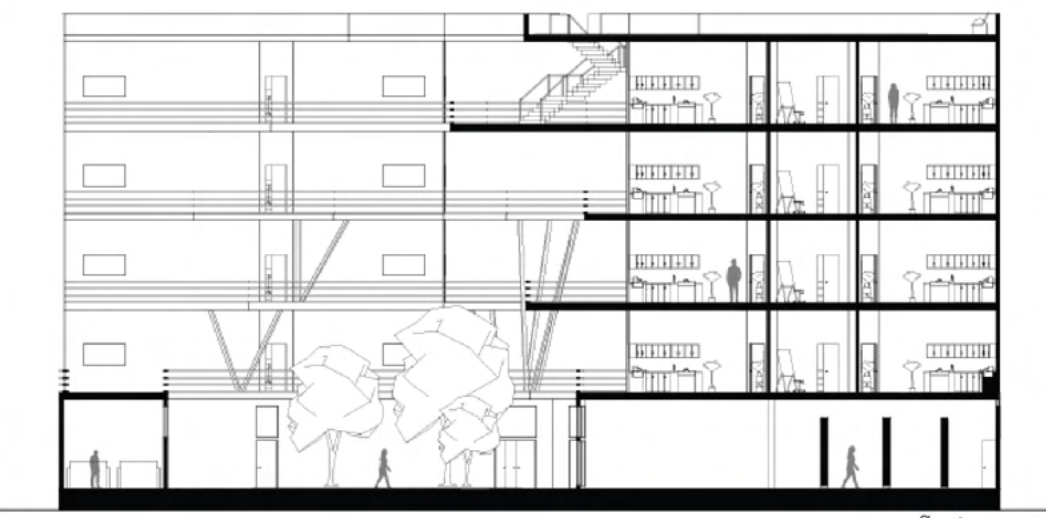
CHAOTIC ORDER

Artist Residencies | Fall 2023
 Location: Barcelona, Spain
 Instructor: Chit Yee Ng & Keith Burns
 Partner: Mateusz Lyczko

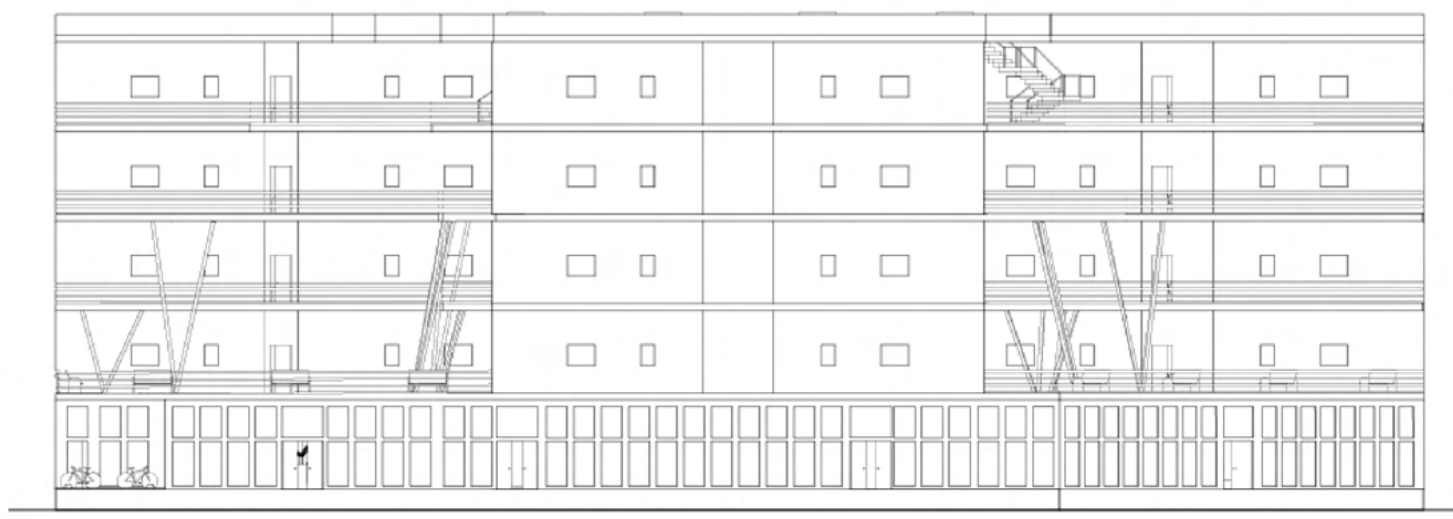
The exterior design of this project draws inspiration from the chaotic architectural forms of historic Barcelona, Spain, blending intricate, organic shapes with a sense of fluidity. Inside, the layout reflects the modern concept of Barcelona's "superilla" or "superblocks," emphasizing pedestrian-friendly spaces and community interaction. This apartment co-housing complex centers around a collaborative space for artists, with communal areas designed as intersection points that foster creativity and connection. These shared spaces create opportunities for residents to engage, collaborate, and inspire one another, reinforcing the project's focus on community, art, and innovative urban living.



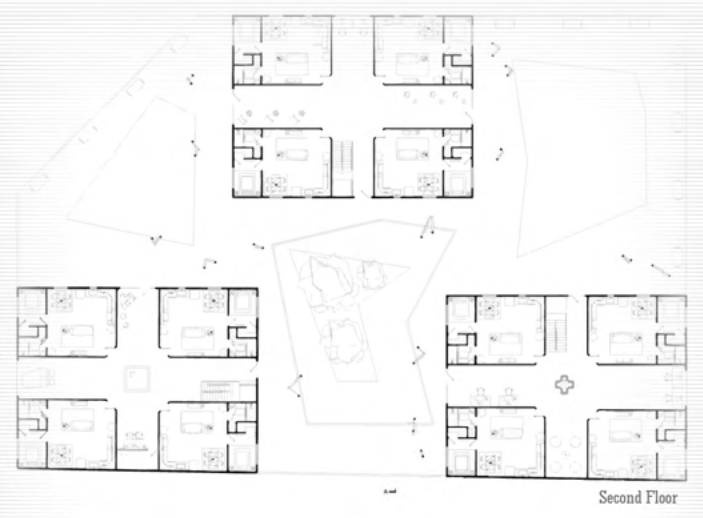
Site Plan



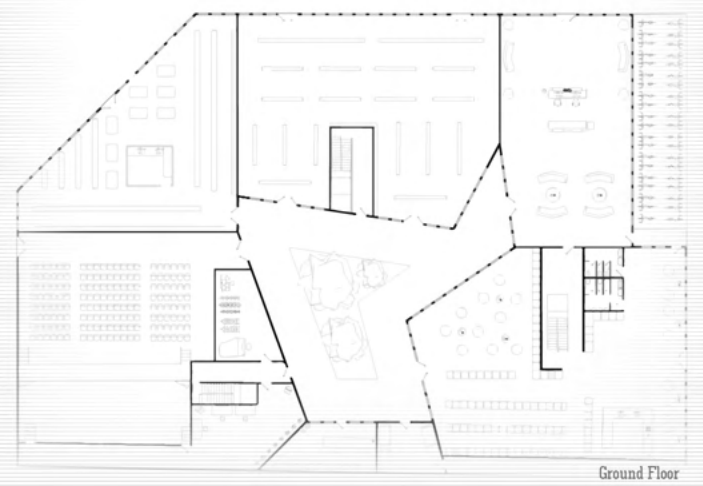
Section



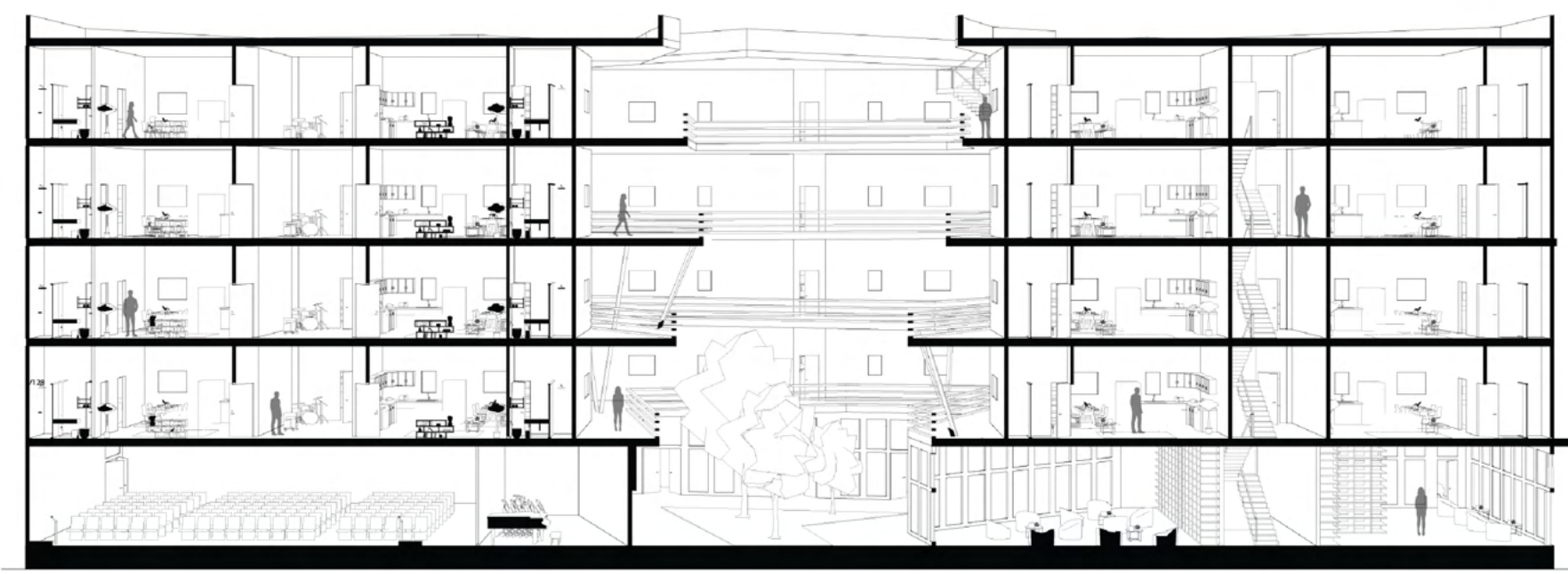
Elevation



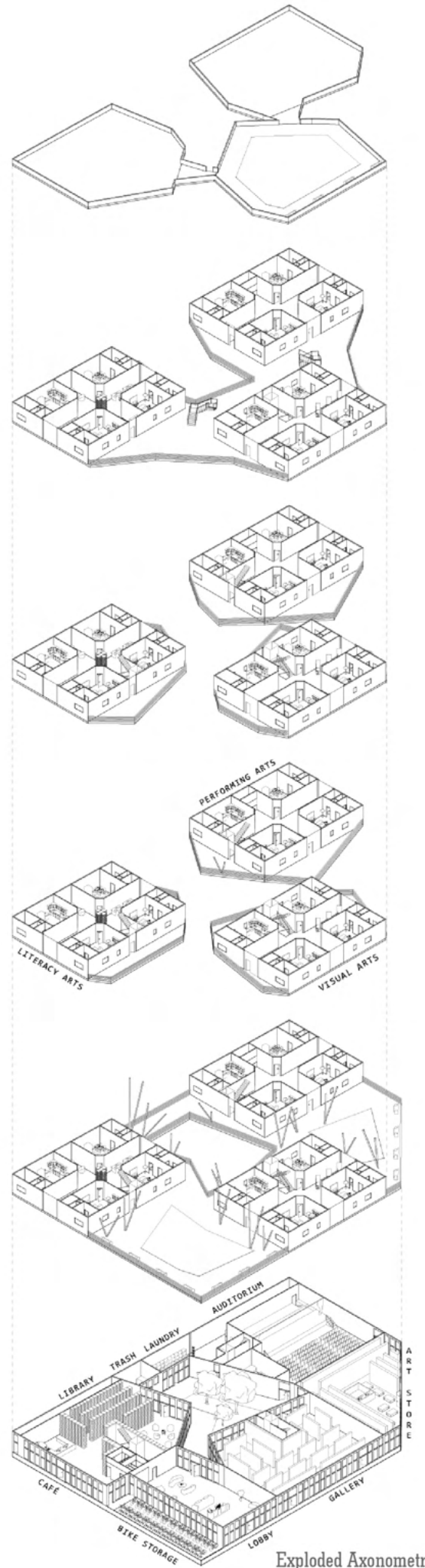
Second Floor



Ground Floor



Perspective Section



Exploded Axonometric

8.

BİRLEŞTİRME

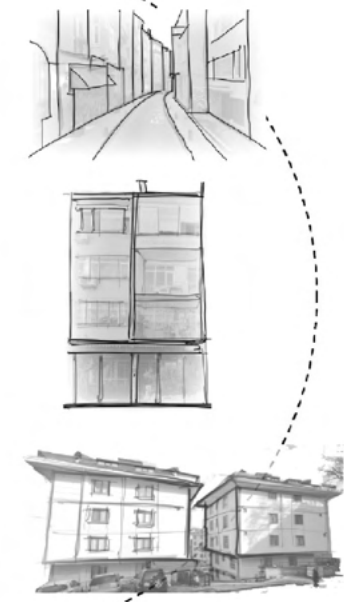
Co-Housing Complex | Fall 2023

Location: Istanbul, Turkey

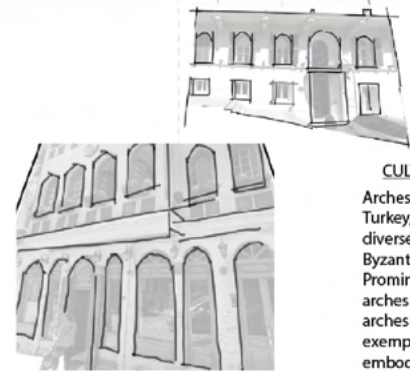
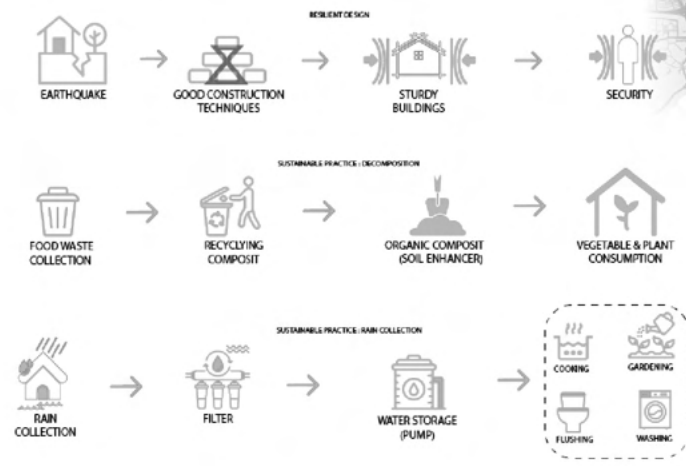
Instructor: Chit Yee Ng

Partner: Kwame Anti

Architecture is an ever-evolving discipline that balances functionality, aesthetics, and context. It addresses societal needs by creating spaces that enrich human experiences, solve environmental challenges, and bridge cultural divides. The concept for this proposed site is to respond to the existing conditions and context, crafting a resilient building that integrates sustainable practices. This includes thoughtful material selection, a focus on the building's decomposition process, and the incorporation of rainwater harvesting to enhance environmental sustainability. The design aims to not only respect its surroundings but also contribute positively to the community and the natural environment.



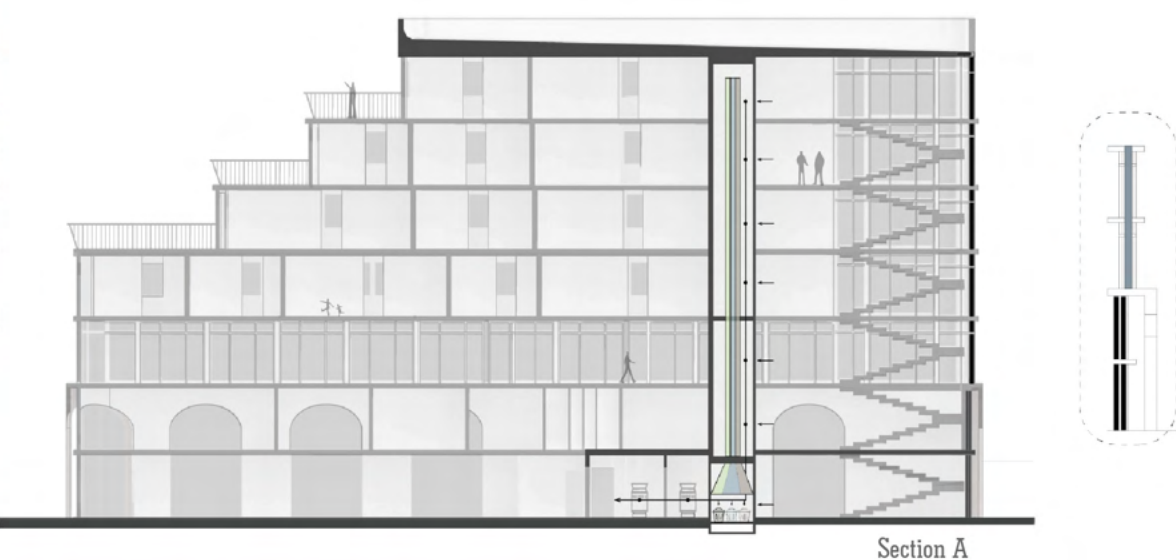
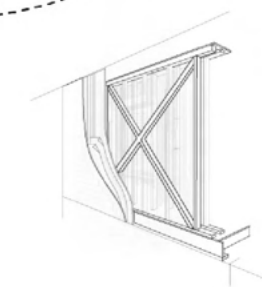
BUILDING STUDIES
This diagram analyzes the nearby structures in Beyoğlu, including the existing building on the site. Each building and its surroundings played a role in shaping the design process. We considered and observed how clustered buildings were in this area. Our design solution was to create an offset from surrounding buildings creating an independent but public relation.



CULTURAL CONTEXT TO CONCEPT
Arches hold substantial cultural importance in Turkey, serving as a reflection of the nation's diverse architectural legacy influenced by Byzantine, Roman, and Islamic cultures. Prominent instances include the expansive arches of the Hagia Sophia and the pointed arches characteristic of Ottoman architecture, as exemplified in the Blue Mosque. These arches embody Turkey's historical consistency and its capacity to meld different architectural traditions into a distinctive cultural identity.

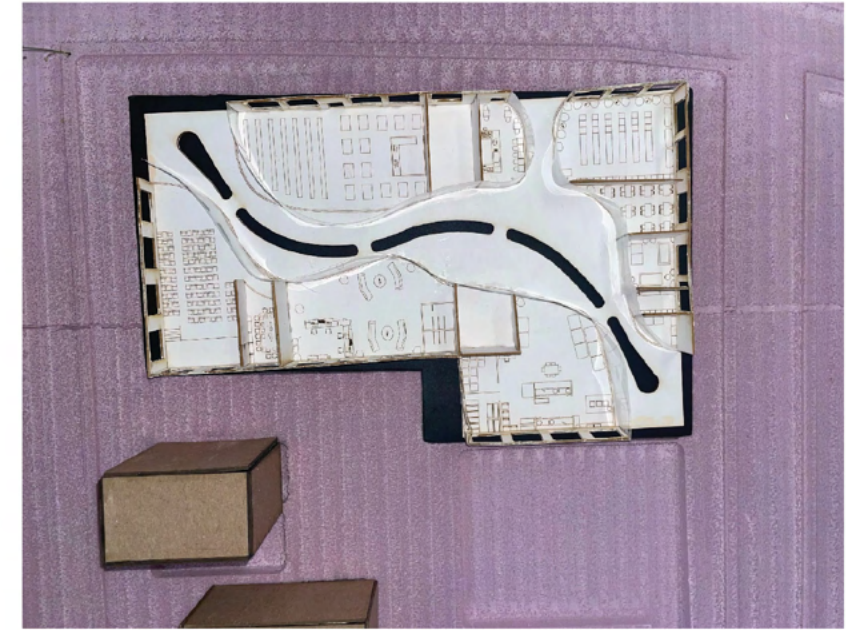
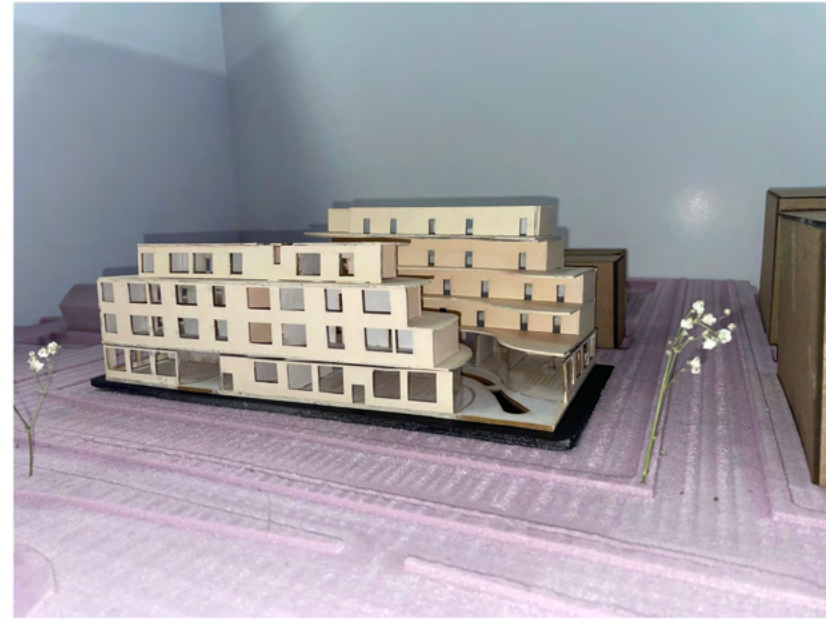
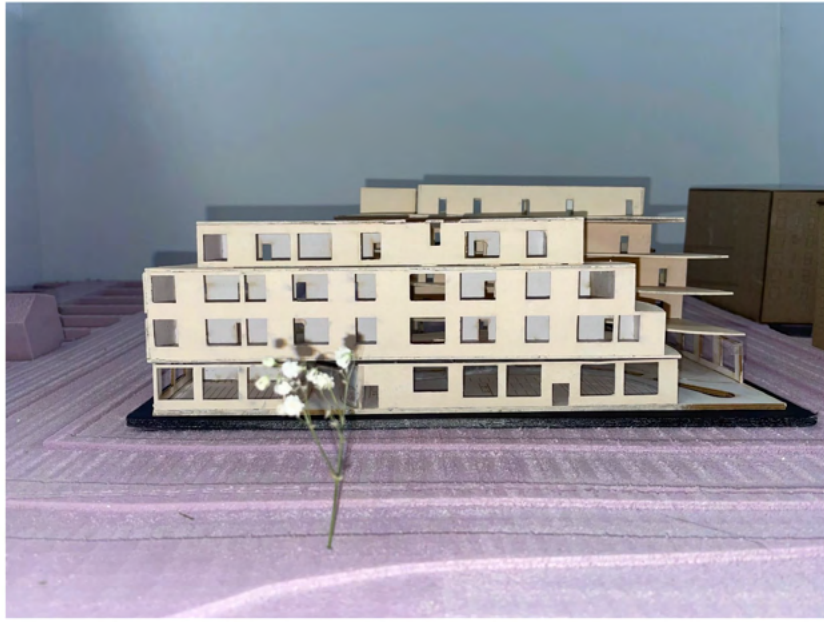
SOLUTION TO CONDITION: RESILIENT DESIGN

Resilience: The proposal of practicing resilience is to enable the system as a building to withstand shocks, adapt to changing conditions and maintain its essential functions & characteristics over time. Implementing X BRACINGS as a hidden support system in the building would make it more stable and more seismic resistant.

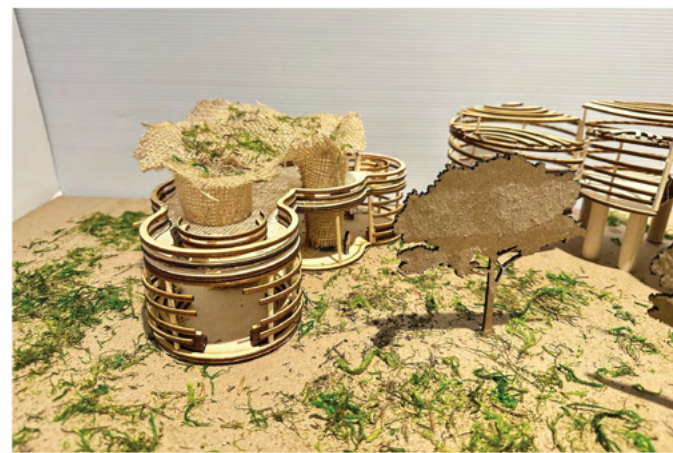


Section A

REFLEXA LIVING



AVIAN NEST




PHYSICAL MODEL IMAGES

Thank you!

**VINALI
PATEL**

CONTACT INFO

 vinalipatel812@gmail.com

 (973) 626-0201

 [linkedin link](#)

 [instagram link](#)