

Taven Z Murrah
Architectural Design

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I

Ecological Conservation Center

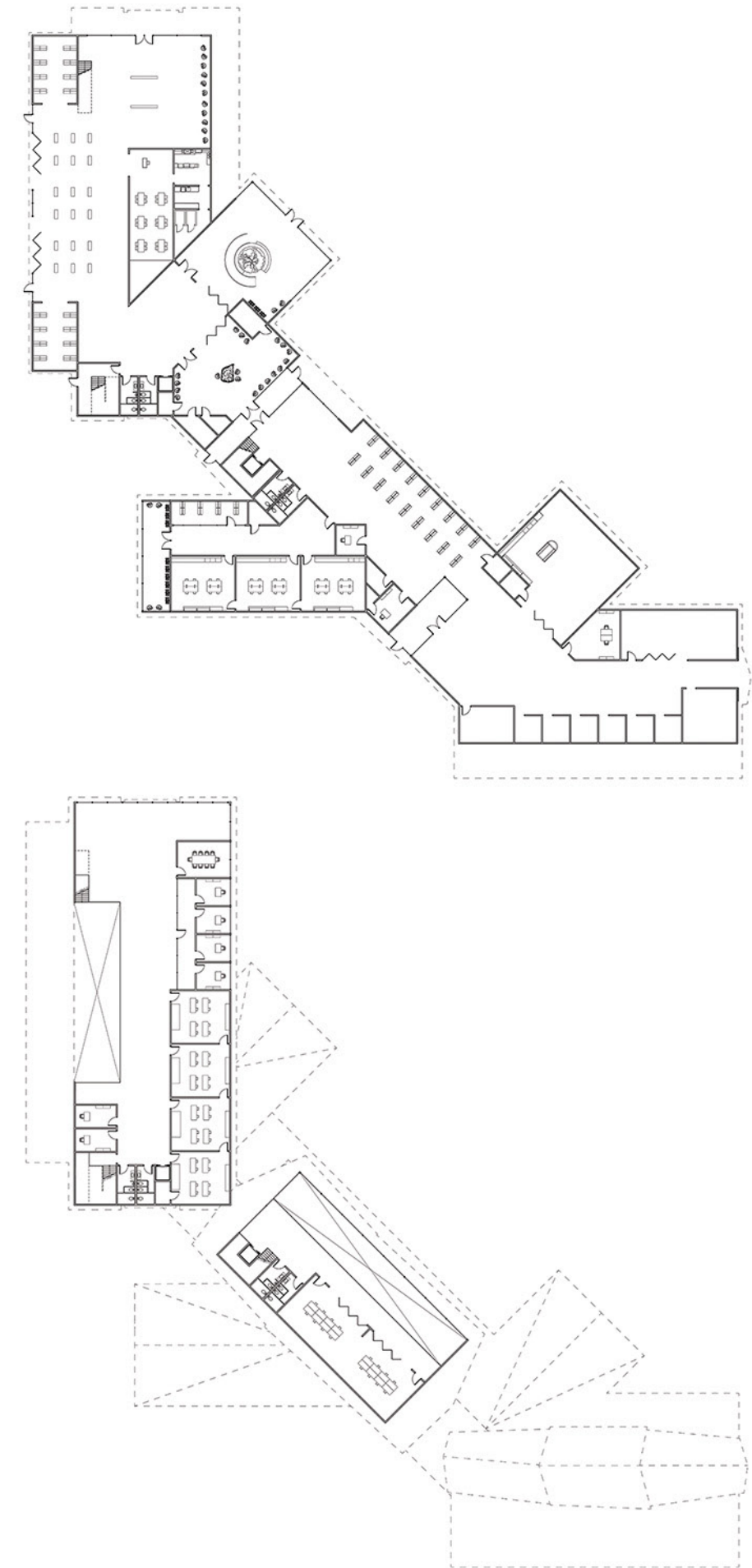
A space that serves to educate the community and preserve the habitat of the Shenandoah Valley

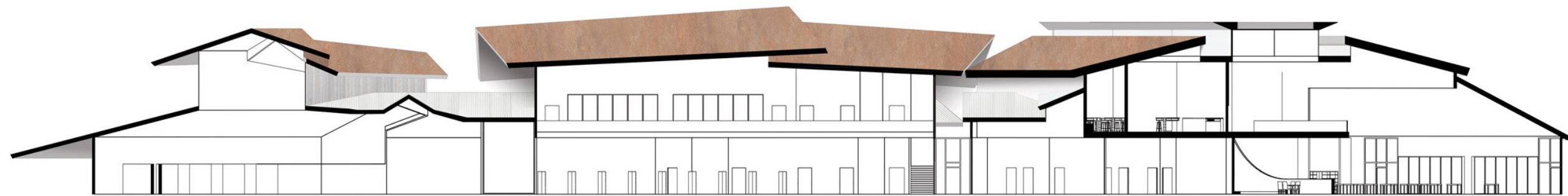
Site: Shenandoah Valley, Virginia
ARCD 400 - Instructor: Dylan Krueger
December 2024
Individual Work

Ecological Conservation Center | Shenandoah Valley, VA

This 50,000 sq ft proposal reimagines conservation, education, and agriculture within the Shenandoah Valley by integrating ecological research, wildlife rehabilitation, and community farming initiatives. Drawing from the region's cultural and architectural heritage—monitor barns, cantilevered crib barns, and the silhouette of the Blue Ridge Mountains—the design embodies continuity between land, history, and regeneration while addressing food security, stewardship, and public engagement.

- Conducted extensive site visits and historical research into Shenandoah Valley culture, economy, and vernacular architecture.
- Developed a comprehensive program and spatial layout adhering to a 50,000 sq ft requirement, balancing research, rehabilitation, and public outreach functions.
- Integrated contextual design strategies inspired by agricultural forms and regional landscape to reinforce cultural memory and ecological identity.
- Produced detailed drawings, models, and narratives that communicated complex ecological and social goals through architectural design.





Ecological conservation center elevation (top) and section (bottom).



Hallway, with skylight, office and classroom entries, over looking community research area.



Exterior, front of ecological center and surrounding site.



II

casa delviento

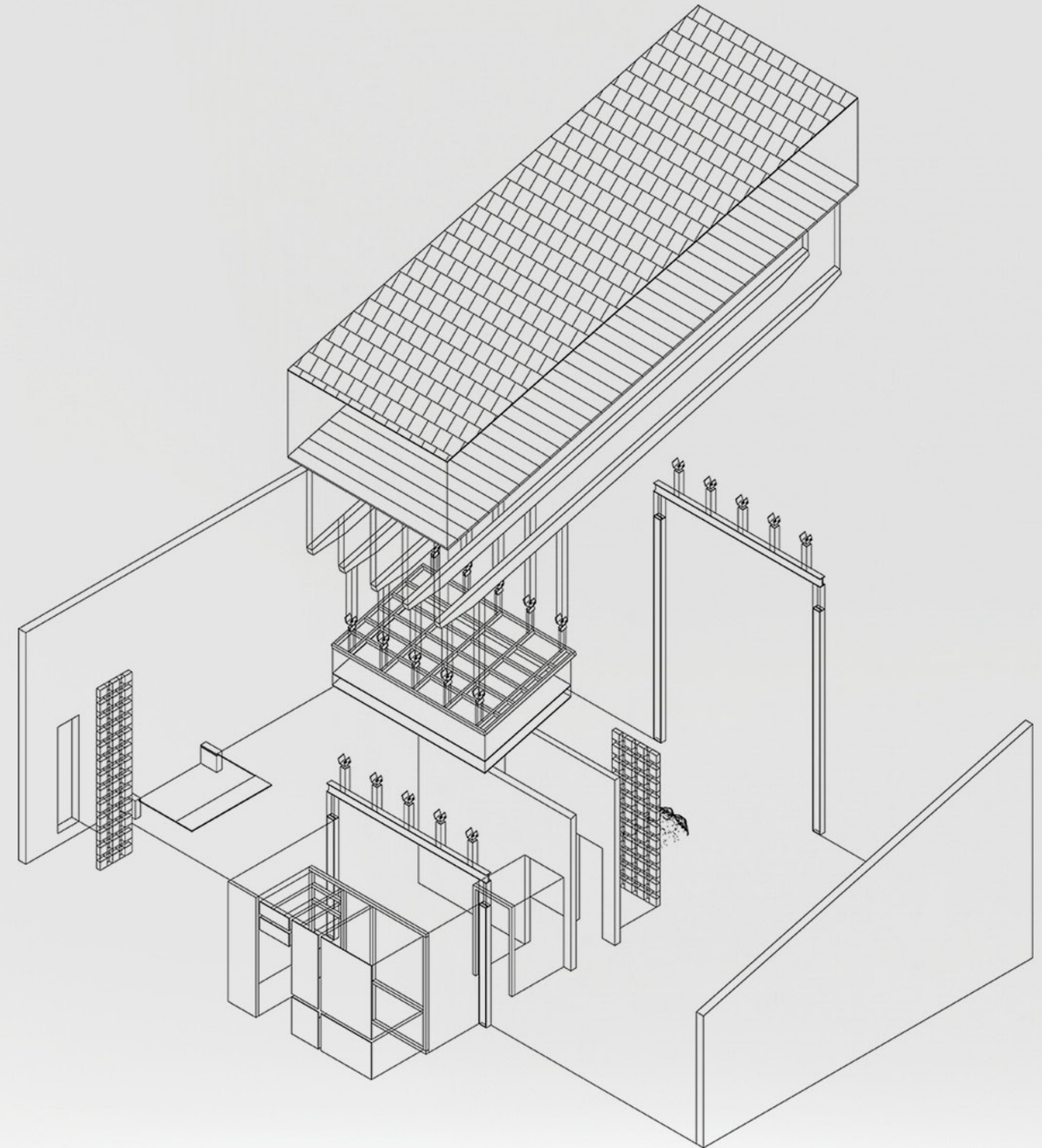
A sacred space for contemplation, resilience and connection

Site: Mepkin Abbey, South Carolina
Academic Internship - Instructor: William Tate
December 2024
Individual Work

This project envisions a sacred space for contemplation, resilience, and emotional connection, located within the grounds of Mepkin Abbey in South Carolina. A design take on the “Wind Phone”—a symbolic structure originating in Japan that allows individuals to communicate with lost loved ones—the design reinterprets the space into a physical journey of reflection, memory, peace and spiritual presence.

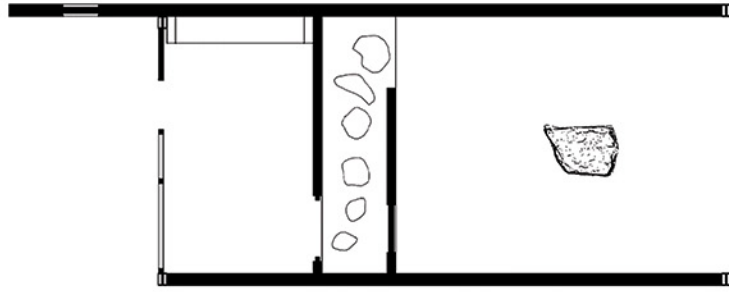
The space is influenced by the work of W.G. Clark at Mepkin Abbey, the poetic materiality of Tadao Ando and Daniel Libeskind, and Junya Ishigami’s vision of nature inhabiting architecture, the space blends light, shadow, and textures to evoke an emotional and meditative atmosphere.

A large grounding stone, placed at the heart of the meditation area, offers visitors a moment of physical and spiritual alignment. Drawing from the concept of “earthing,” it allows users to connect with the Earth’s natural energy, encouraging calm, restoration, and a deep sense of presence. This is a place to reflect, to feel, and to peacefully reconnect with oneself, with nature, and with those held in memory.

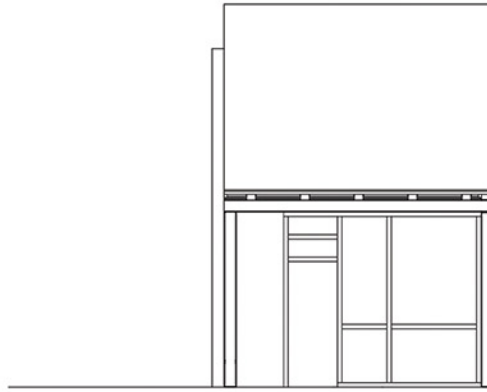


Mepkin Abbey study models.

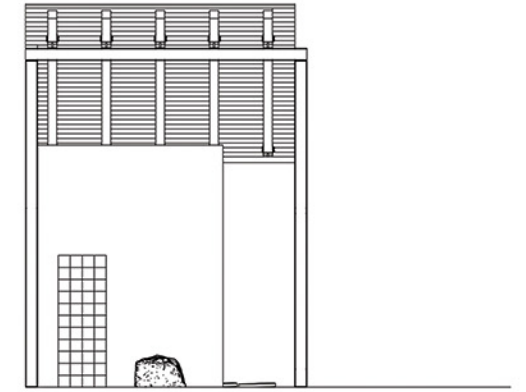
Axonometric showing assembly.



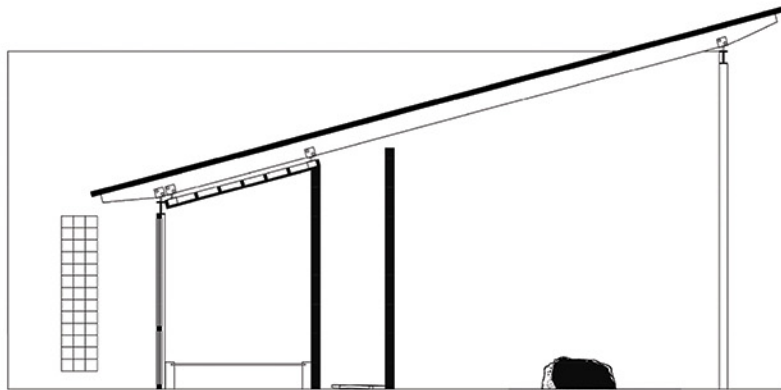
Plan.



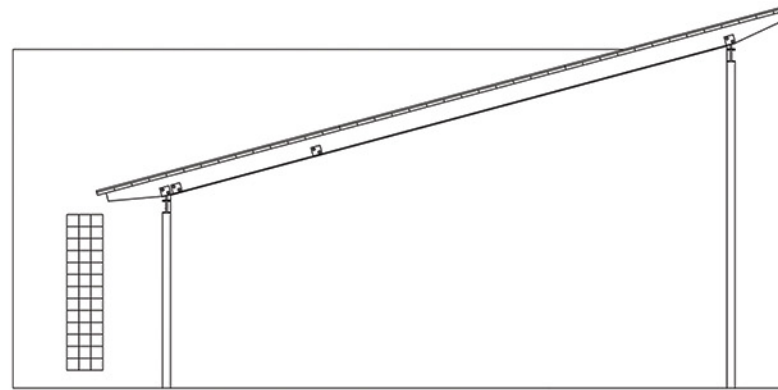
North side elevation.



South side elevation.



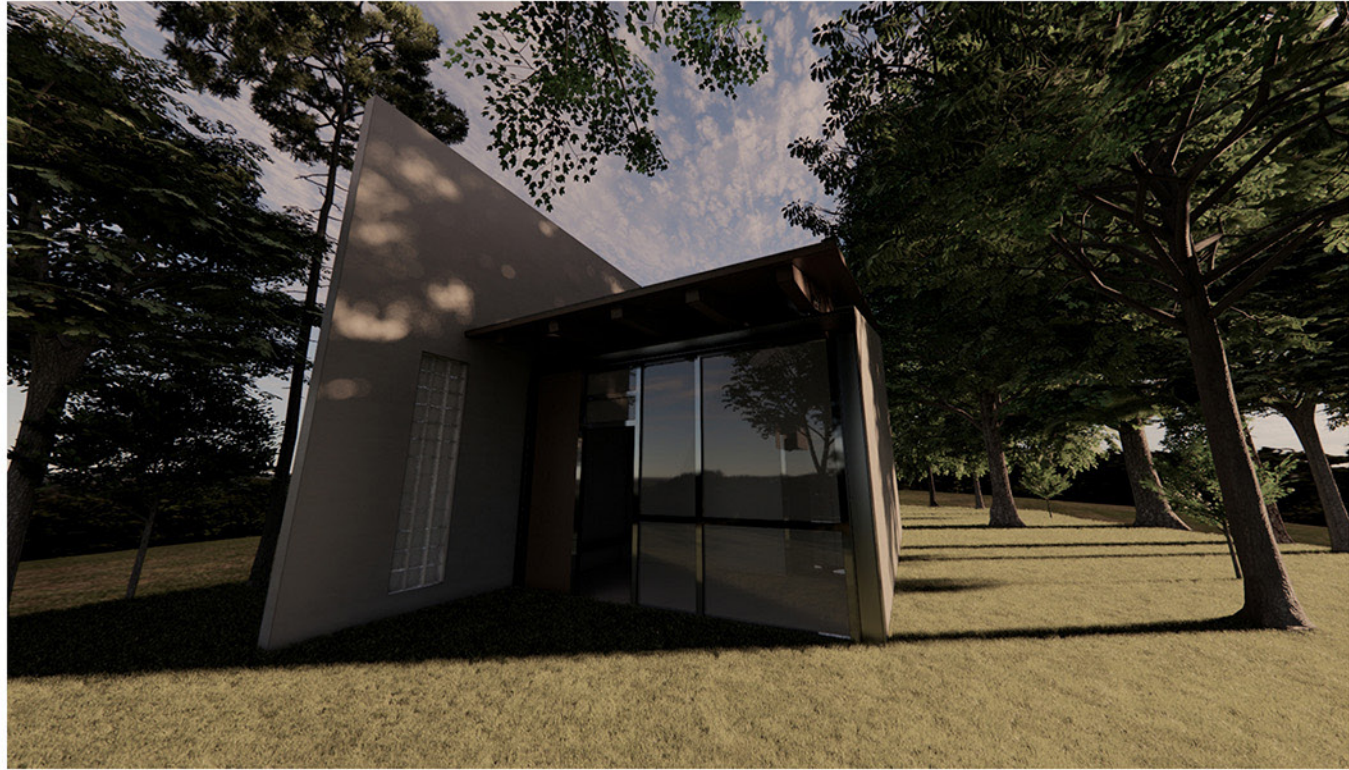
Section.



West side elevation.



East side elevation.



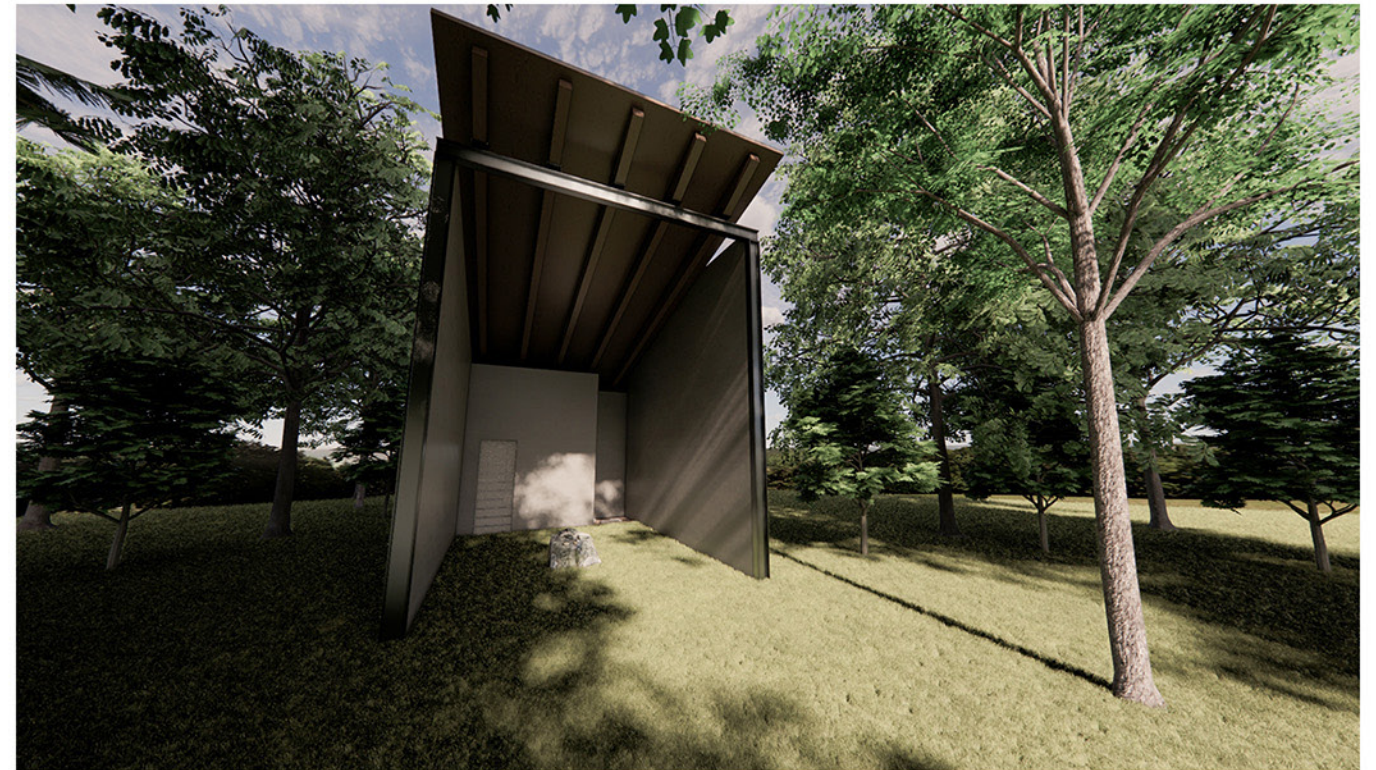
Exterior view of entry.



Interior view of waiting area.



View from inside meditation area.



Exterior view of meditation area.

III

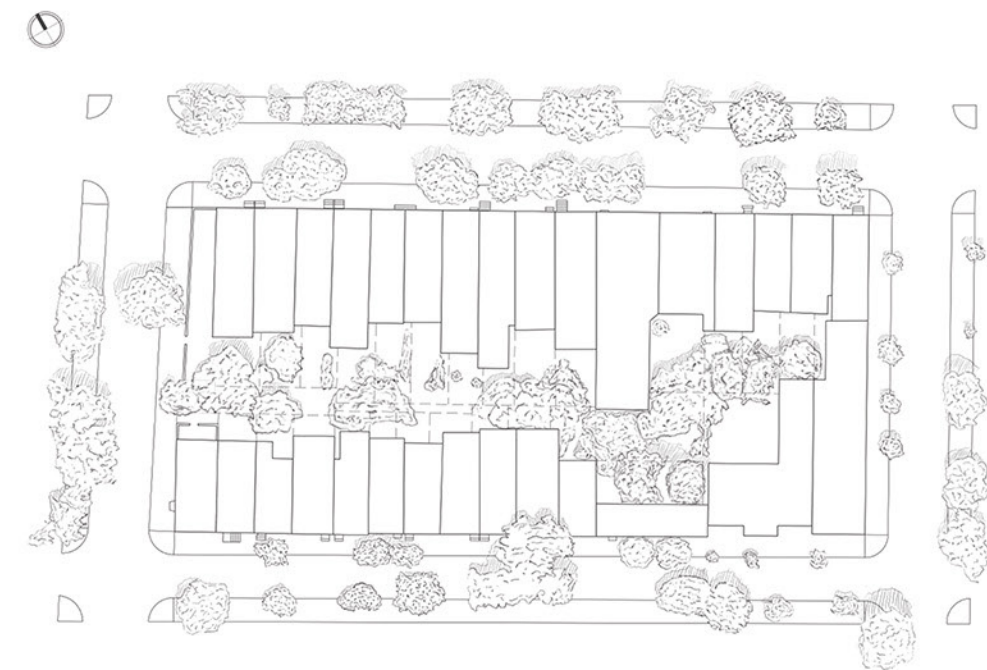
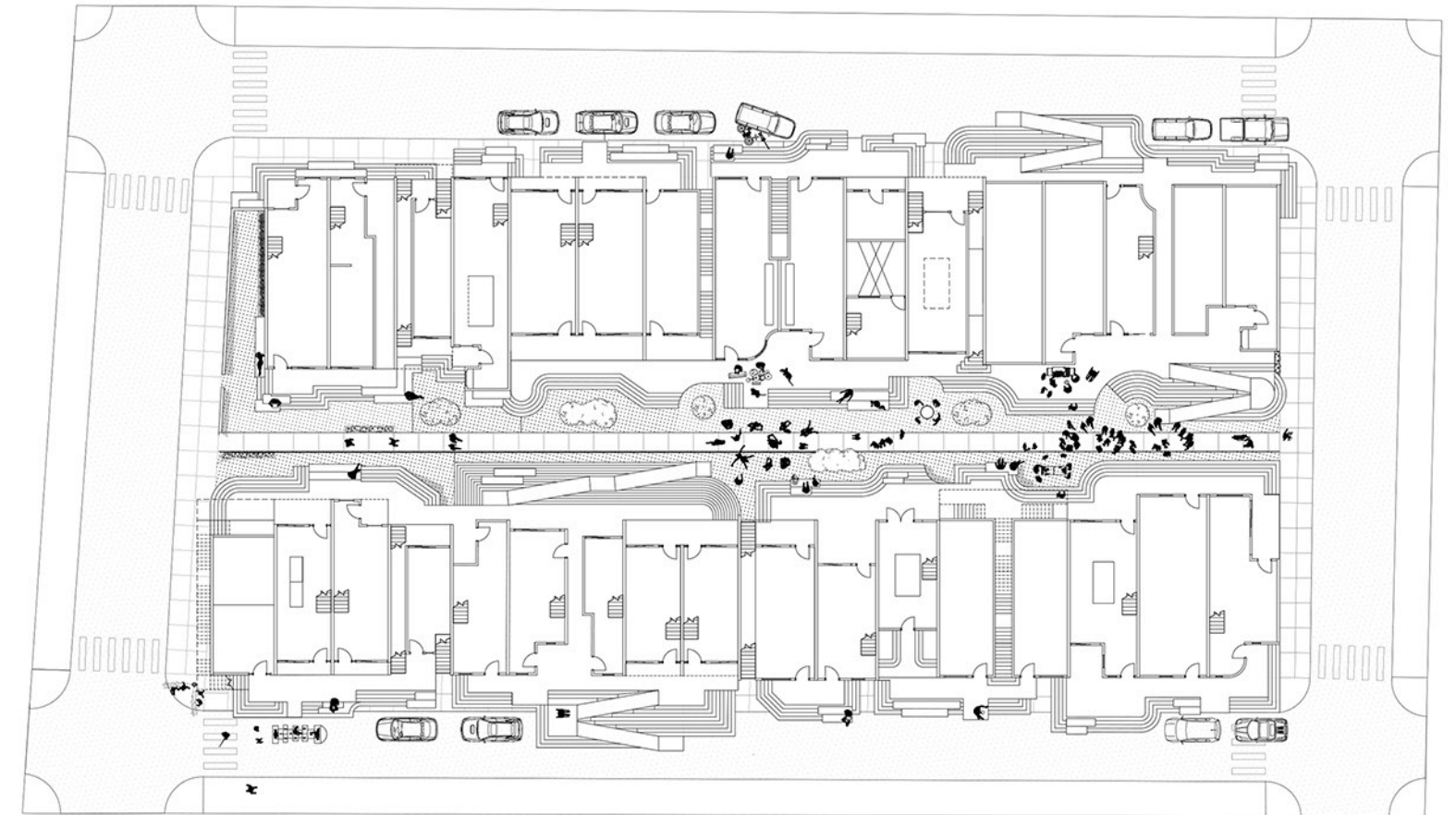
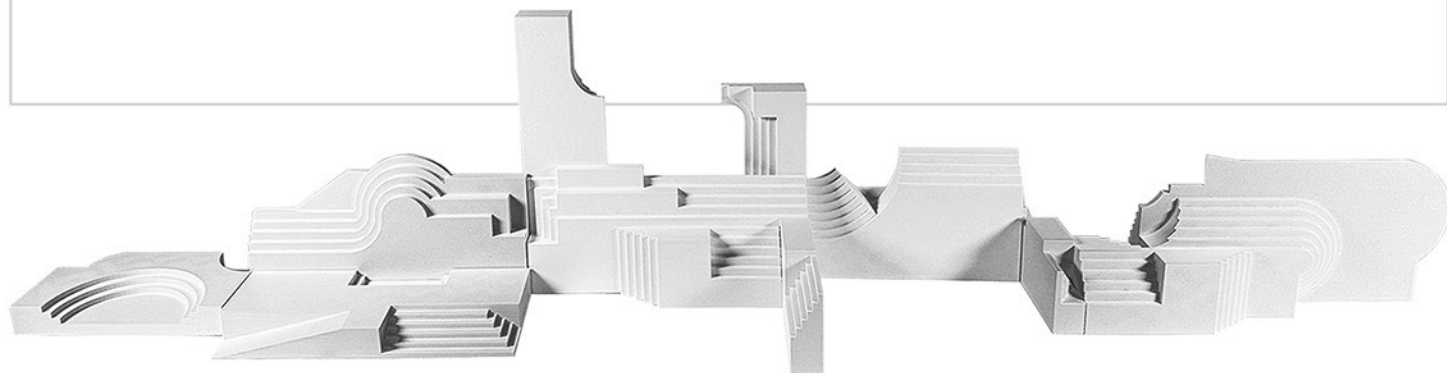
Stoopscape

How the Stoop Influences Architecture, Culture and Design

Site: Society Hill, Philadelphia
ARCD 402 - Instructor: Dylan Krueger
May 2025
Individual Work

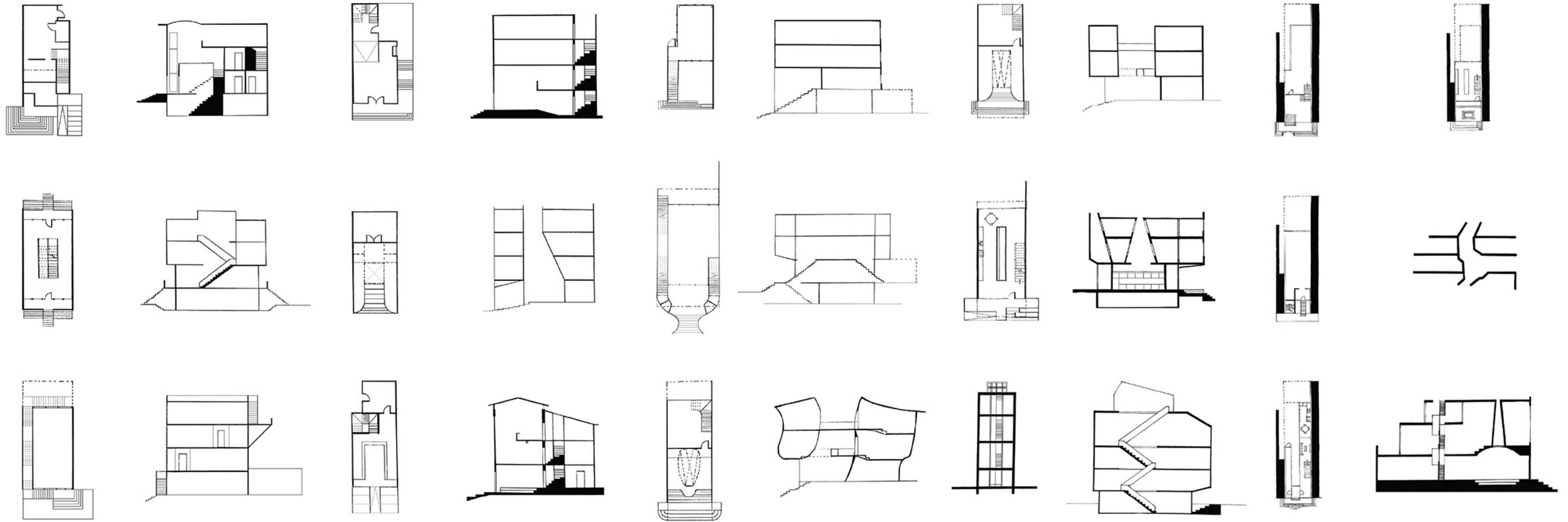
This senior thesis reexamines the American row house through the lens of stoop culture, exploring how this everyday architectural element has historically shaped community, identity, and public life. By studying the evolution of the row house typology across major U.S. cities and honing in on the stoop as a catalyst for social connection, the project proposes a reimagined city block in Society Hill, Philadelphia. Here, radicalized stoop forms weave through plan and section to link street, sidewalk, and dwelling, transforming the block into a vibrant community hub that fosters interaction, movement, and collective pride.

- Researched the historical, cultural, and architectural evolution of row houses across U.S. cities with emphasis on Philadelphia's Society Hill district.
- Analyzed "stoop culture" as a driver of community identity, social exchange, and urban belonging.
- Designed a full-block row house development integrating radical stoop elements into plan and section to connect public and private realms.
- Applied urban design strategies to foster circulation, cultural movement, and neighborhood cohesion.
- Created architectural drawings and block-scale site design using AutoCAD, supported by detailed physical models.
- Built a physical row house model to test stoop design strategies and communicate architectural resolution.



Site map showing final design (top) and site map showing existing conditions (bottom).

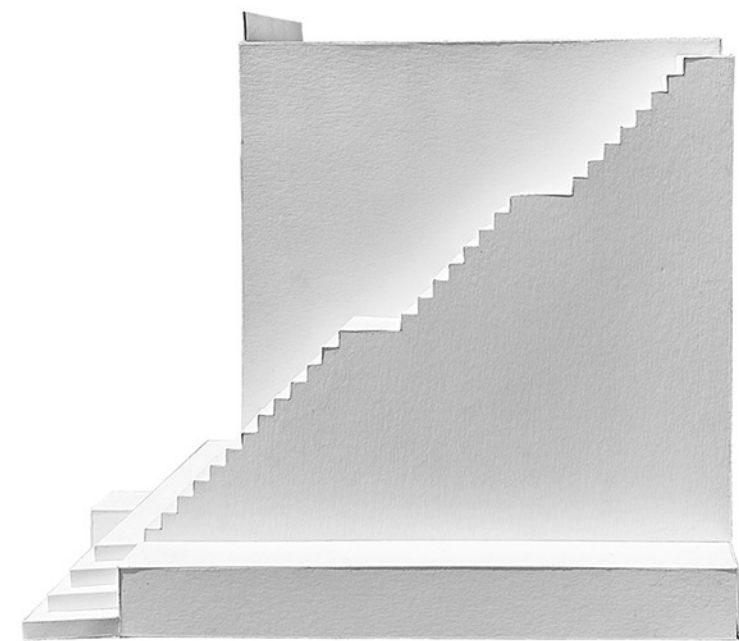
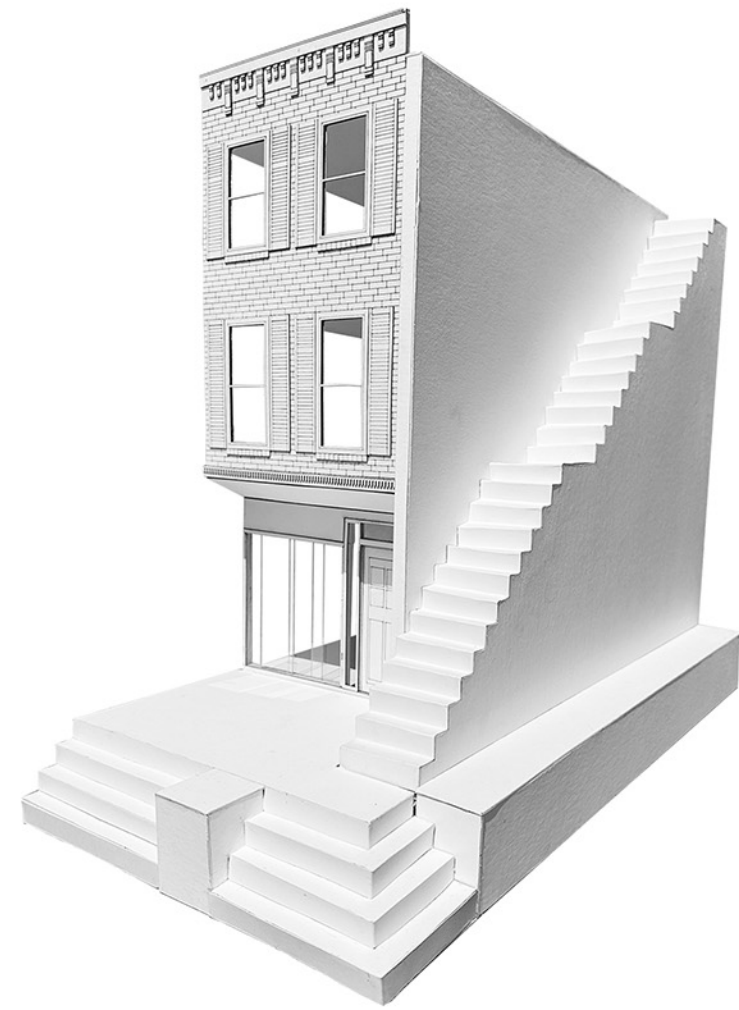




Iterative drawings showing the stairs influence through plan and section.







IV

Communal Urban Green Space

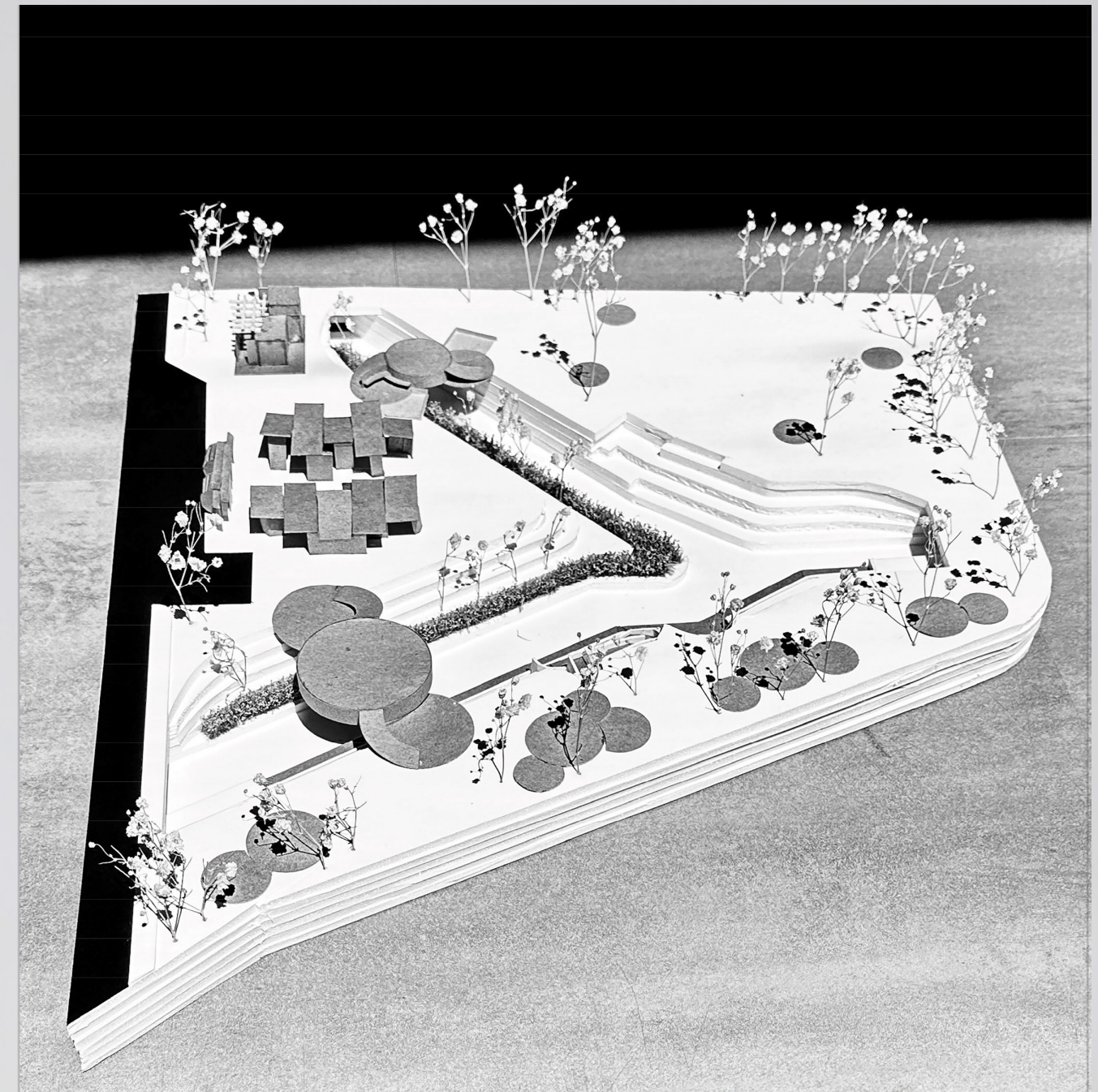
Daylighting a Flooded Lot as a Shared Space for All of the Community

Site: Staunton, Virginia
ARCD 302 - Instructor: Traci Wile
May 2024

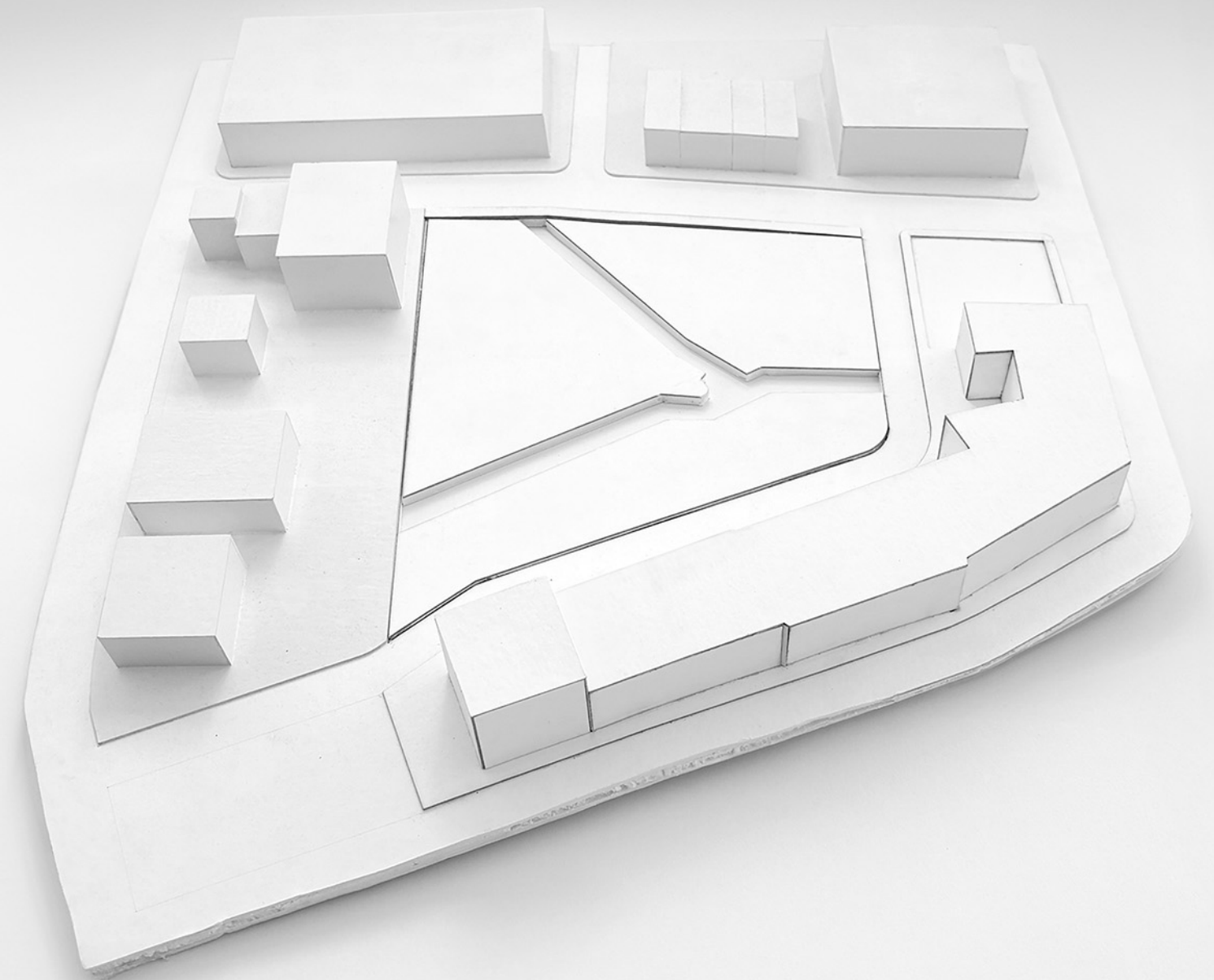
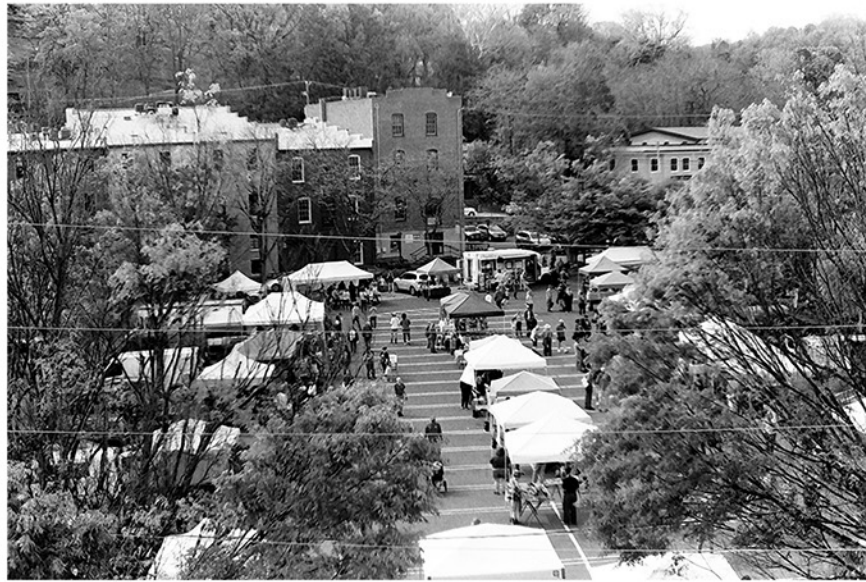
Collaborative Project with Jessica Cortes and Ryleigh Fuehrer - Individual Work Shown

This collaborative studio project reimagines a flood-prone downtown parking lot as a resilient public greenspace supporting the local farmers market and fostering civic life. Now partially closed to the public due to flooding risks, the site inspired flood-responsive strategies including flood benches, gabion and flood walls, and a terraced amphitheater to manage stormwater while creating usable gathering spaces. Market pavilions, a riverboard walk, accessible pathways, and seating areas further activate the site, transforming a vulnerable lot into an inclusive landscape of resilience and community. Developed with a three-person team in consultation with the Staunton City Board, watershed officials, and local residents, the project balances ecological performance, accessibility, and social value, and is under serious consideration for future city implementation.

- Led flood mitigation design, creating benches, gabion walls, and amphitheater strategies to manage stormwater and improve site usability.
- Conducted detailed site analysis through multiple visits and developed AutoCAD maps, flood diagrams, and physical and 3D digital models.
- Served as the primary liaison with faculty, city officials, and community stakeholders, presenting design concepts and incorporating feedback.
- Integrated accessible circulation through bridges, pathways, and river walk access to ensure equitable public use.

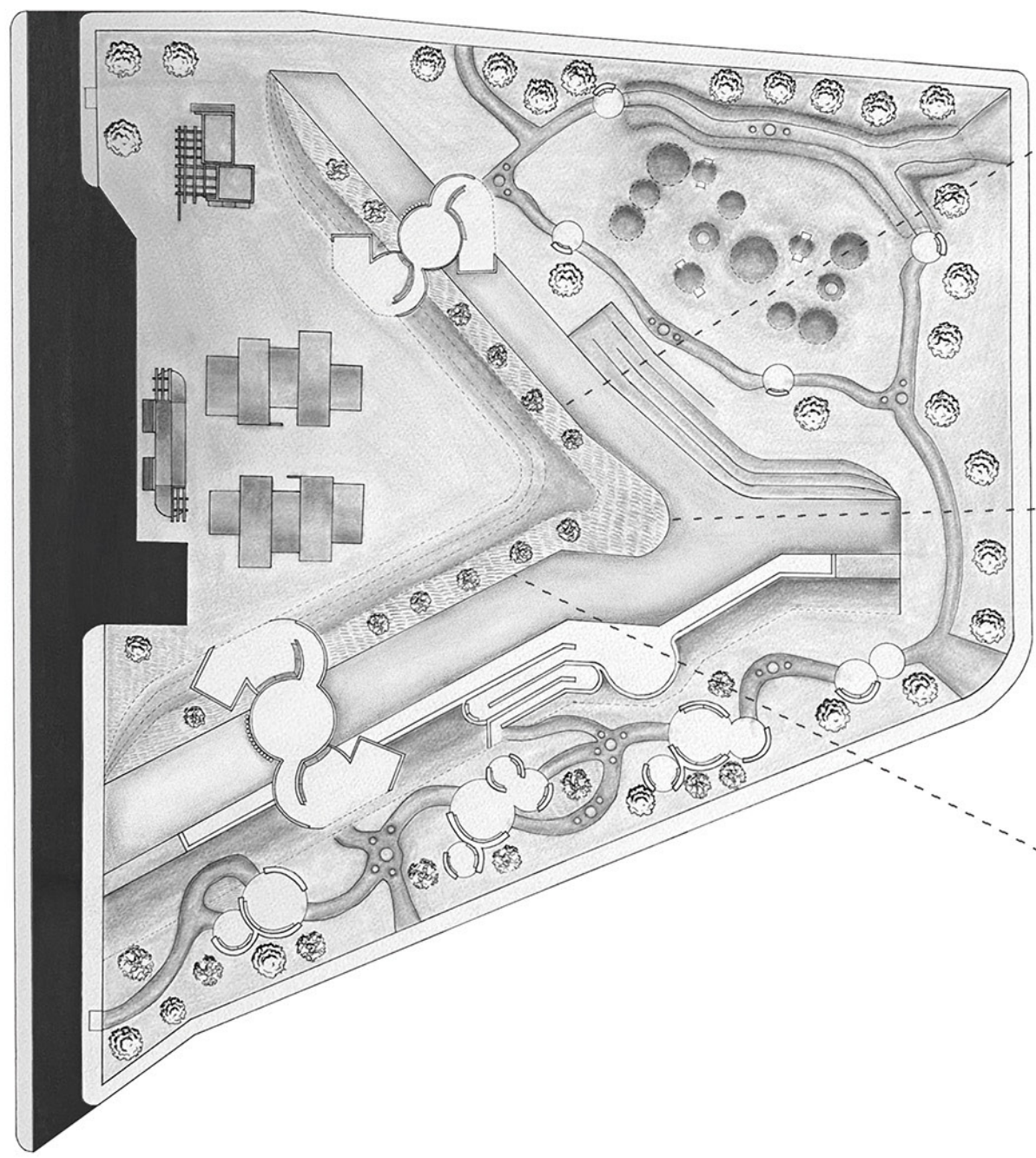
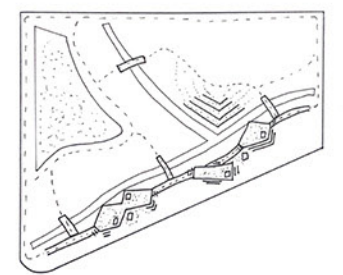
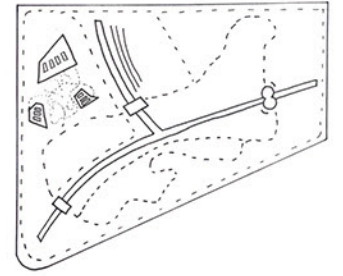
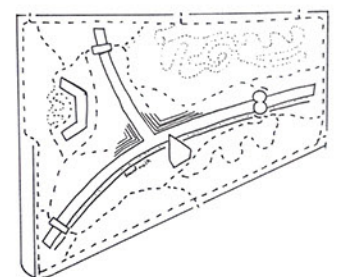
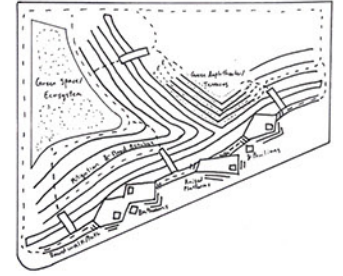
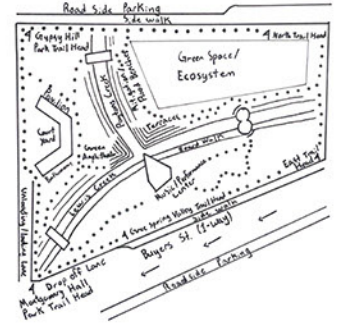
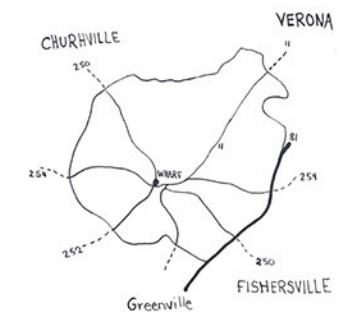


Bridge concept models.



35 mm B&W film representing the culture and community of downtown Staunton, VA.

Physical site model with removeable wharf lot.



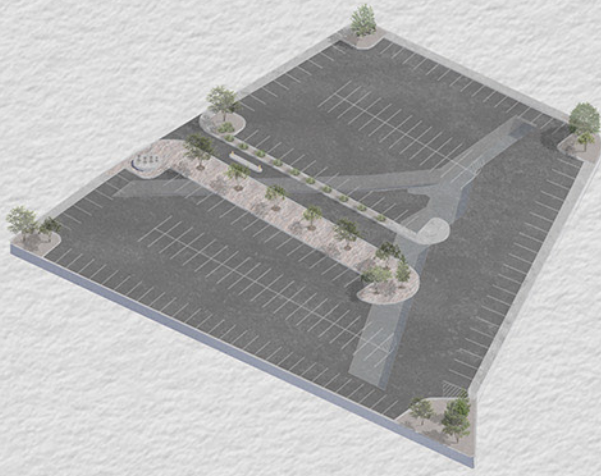
Location study diagrams (left) and design concept diagrams (right).

Hand drawn graphite and charcoal site map showing final design (middle) and film photos showing riparian buffers (right).

EXISTING CONDITIONS

DAYLIGHT - EXOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT

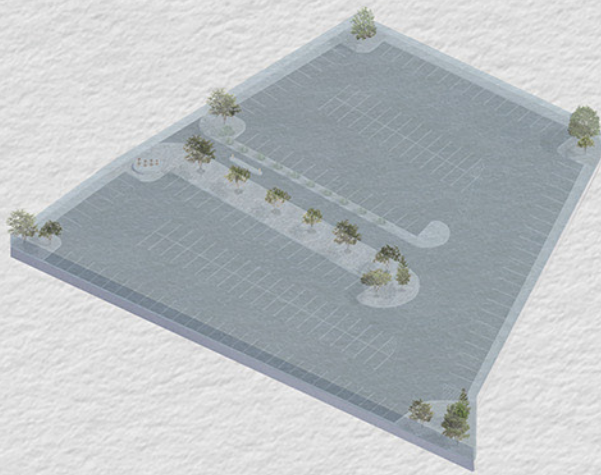
LOW WATER LEVELS
LITTLE TO NO RAIN - 0-1M



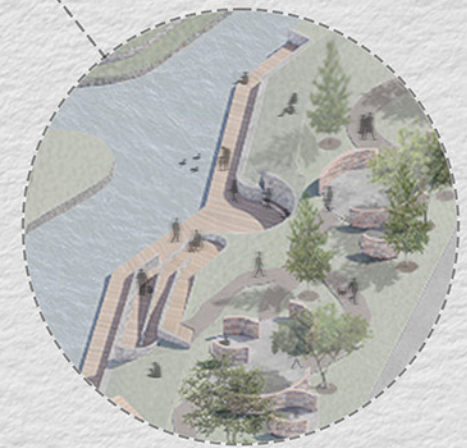
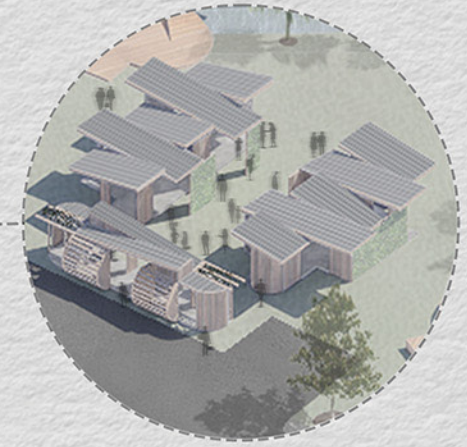
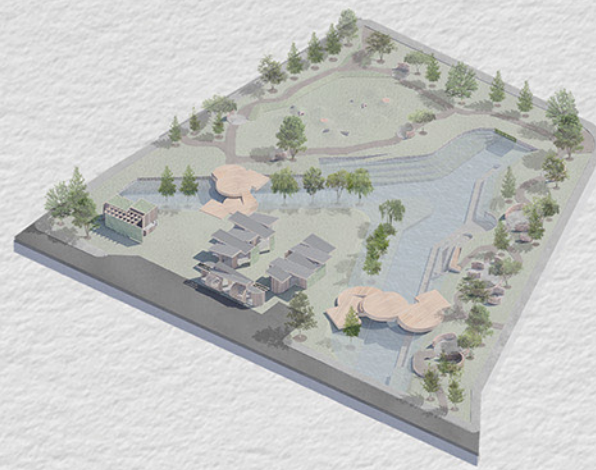
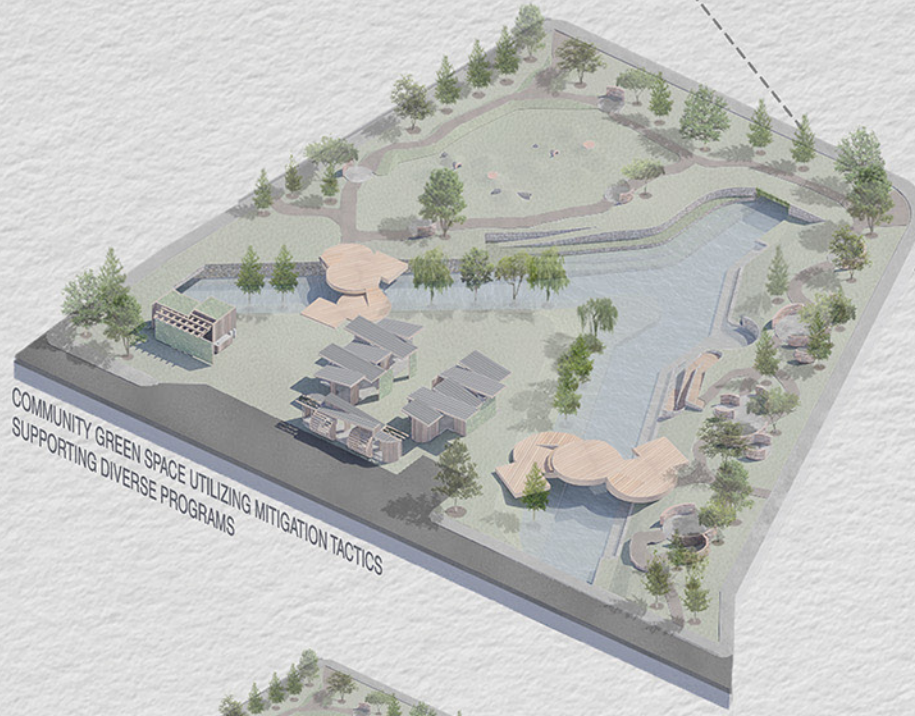
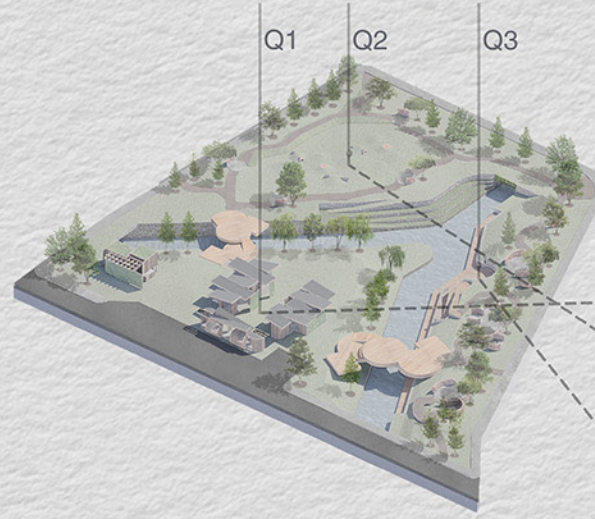
MEDIUM WATER LEVELS
HEAVY RAIN - 3M



HIGH WATER LEVELS
HISTORIC FLOODING - 5M



Q1 Q2 Q3





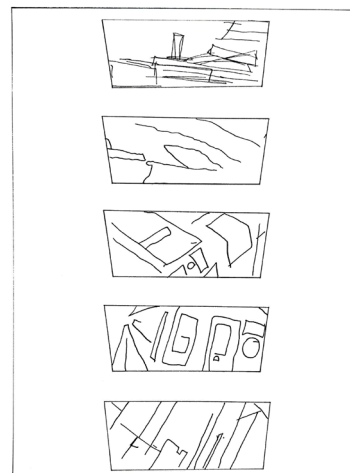
Urban Refuge

A Public Library for Mental Health and Community support in Lower Manhattan

Site: Ann St, New York City
ARCD 300 - Instructor: Traci Wile and Jori Erdman
December 2023
Individual Work

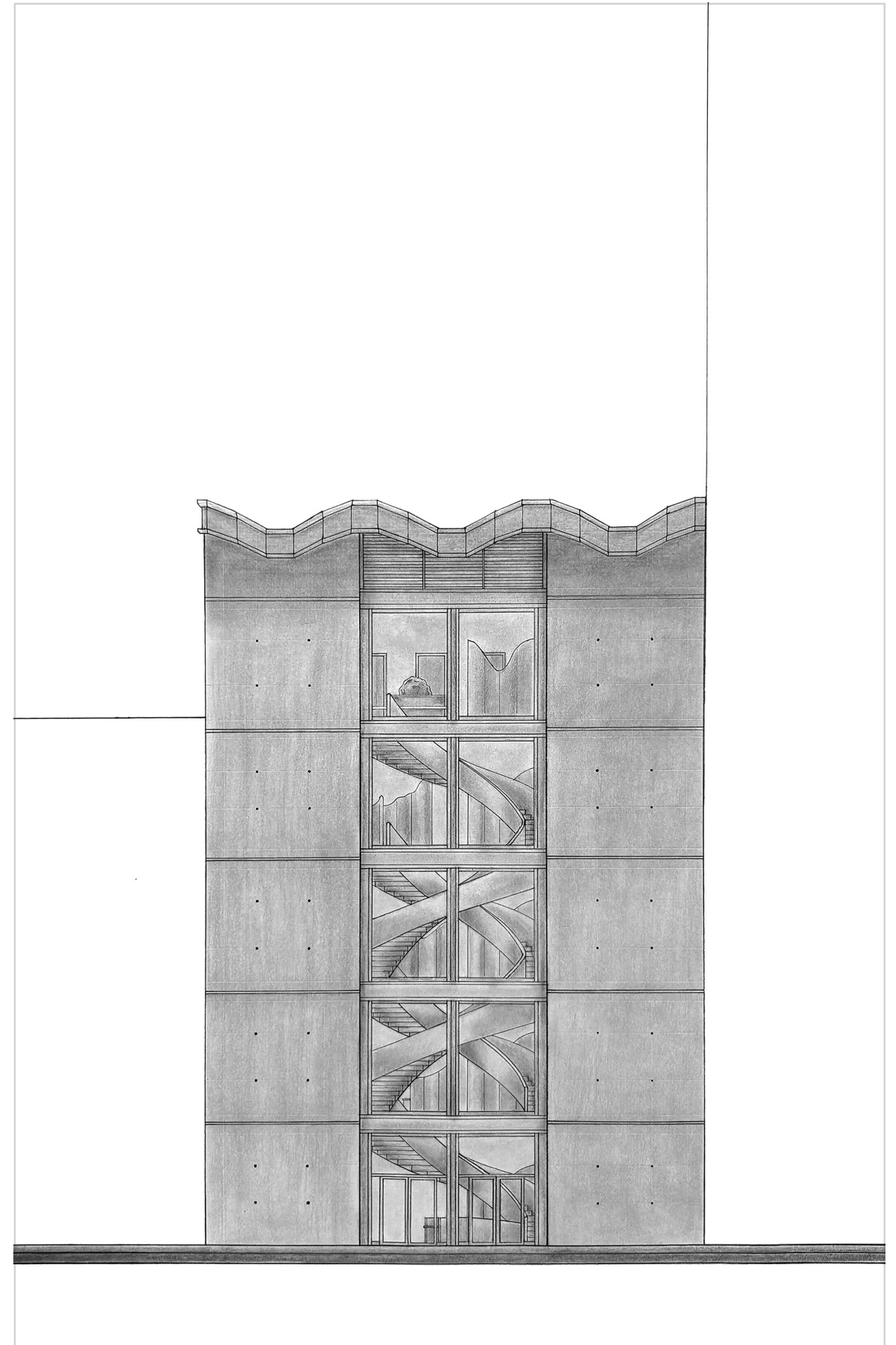
This proposal reimagines the public library as a civic framework for mental health, outreach, and community well-being in the Financial District of Manhattan. Situated on Ann Street, the project expands the traditional role of the library by integrating counseling services, crisis response, and reflective spaces alongside core learning functions. Inspired by human brainwave patterns under varying stressors, the design translates neurological rhythms into curved partitions and layered circulation, shaping a spatial experience that supports both connection and quiet retreat within a dense urban environment. Developed through site visits and study of NYC Building Code and ADA requirements, the project balances conceptual intent with real-world constraints, grounding mental health advocacy within a technically resolved architectural proposal.

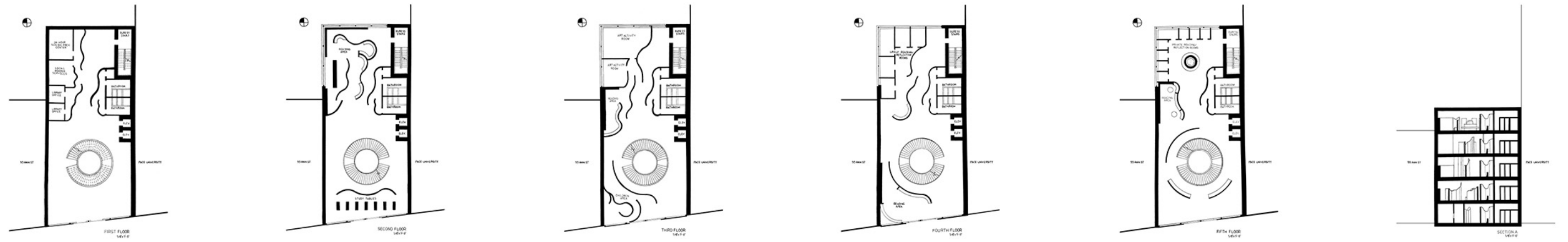
- Conducted extensive site visits, including a Manhattan transect study and contextual analysis of the Financial District.
- Developed a comprehensive program integrating a 24-hour crisis center, individual and group counseling, art therapy studios, children's support areas, and communal gathering spaces.
- Applied NYC Building Code, ADA standards, and structural analysis to inform circulation, life-safety, and spatial organization.
- Produced detailed architectural drawings communicating programmatic, structural, and civic design strategies.



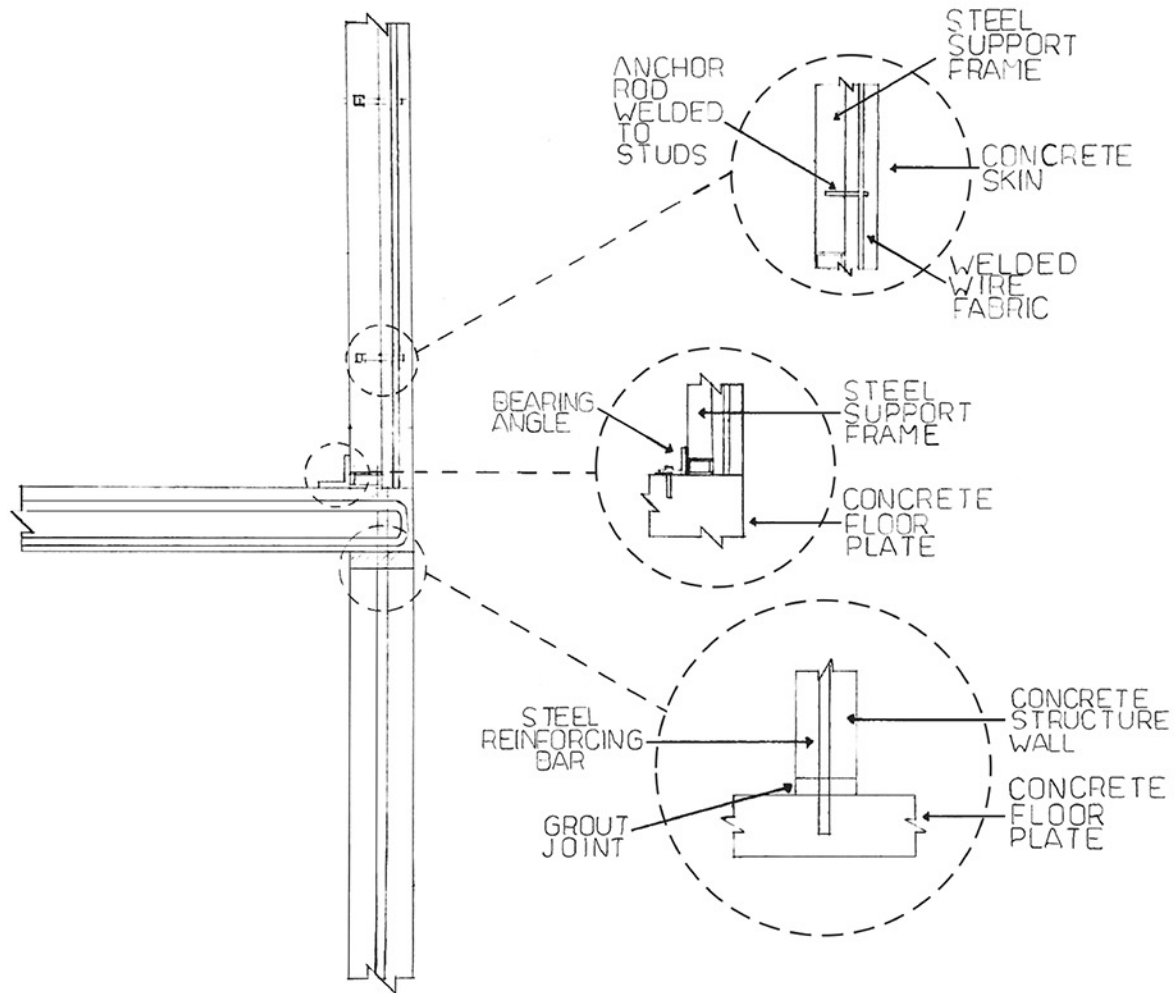
Diagrams Representing New York City

1. NYC skyline, section study
2. 911 Memorial, plan study
3. Corner biestro, spatial study
4. NYC subway car, spatial study
5. NYC skyline, plan study

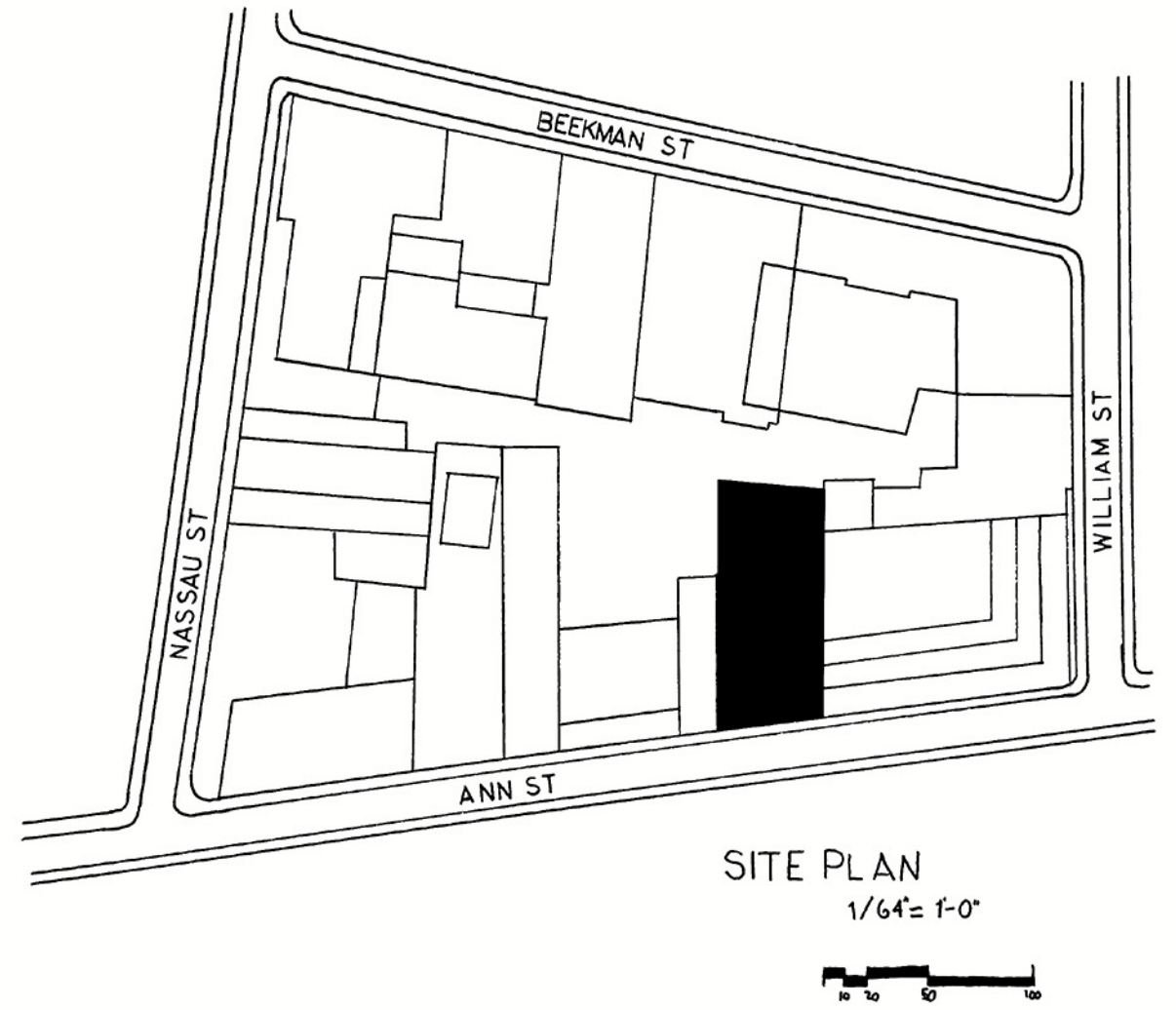


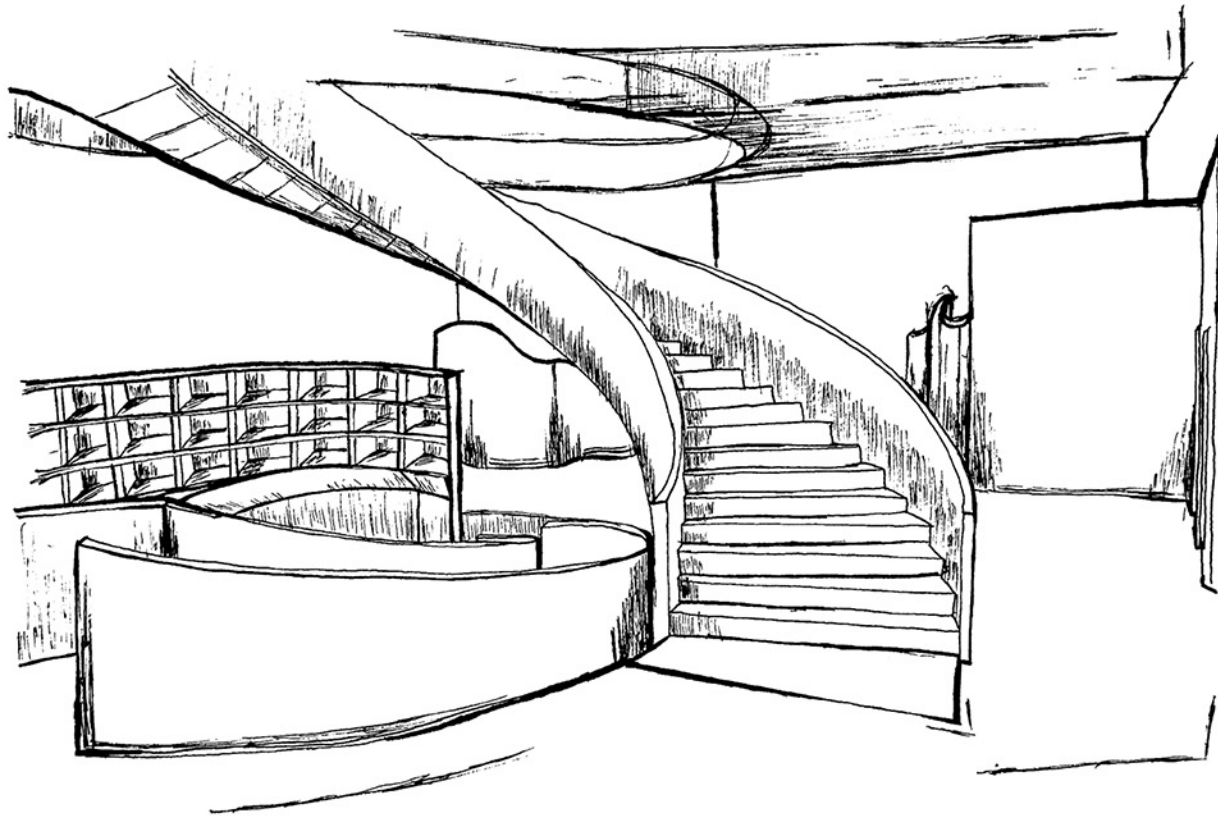


Plan and section drawings.

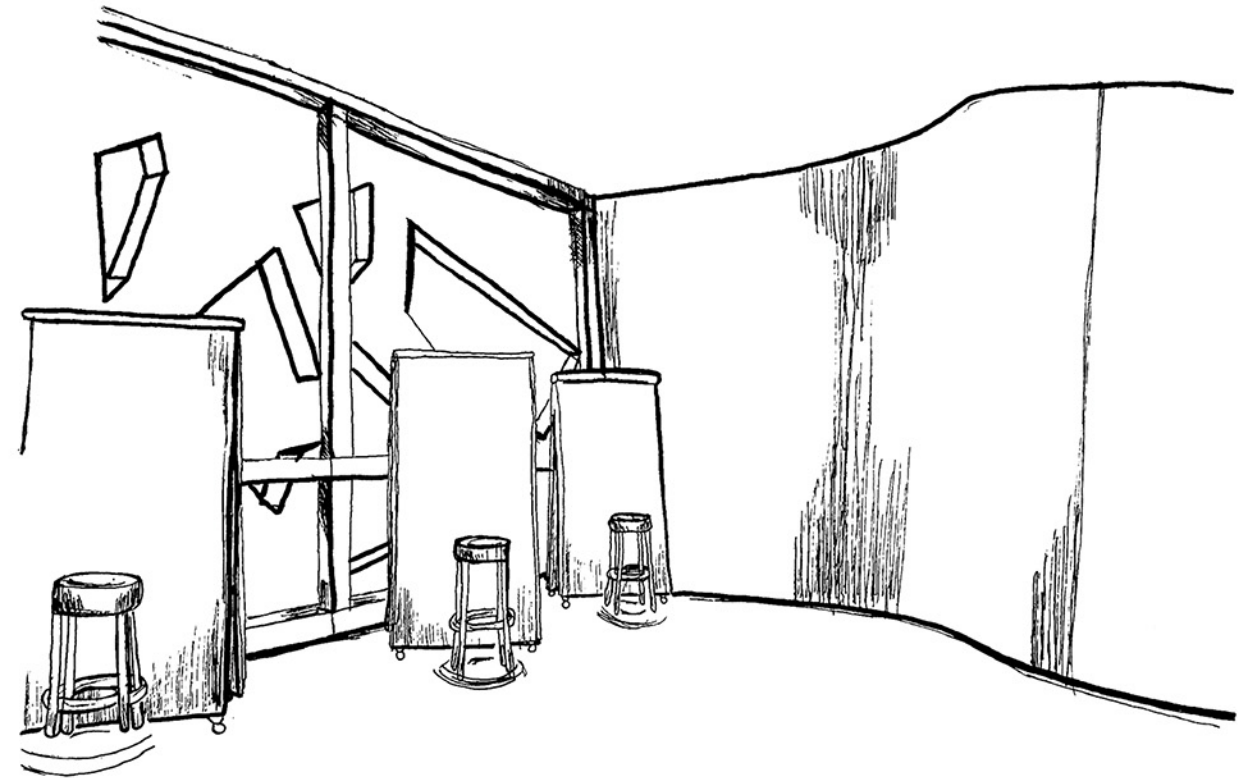


Facade detail drawing.





Sketch render of main lobby, winding staircase and conversation pit.



Sketch render of art activity room.



Sketch render of reading area nooks.



Sketch render of reading area and private reflection rooms.



“Architecture is not about form, it is about creating a place where the human spirit can reside.” - Tadao Ando

Tavor Z. Y. ...