



Architectural
Designs
2023-2025

Natasha Overn

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Architectural Portfolio
Graduate Work 2023–2025



NATASHA OVERN

(954) 654-4554

nover005@fiu.edu



EDUCATION

Master of Architecture

Florida International University (FIU)
Miami, FL
GPA 3.91/4.0

Minor in Mathematics

University of Central Florida
Orlando, FL
GPA 3.7/4.0

Pre-requisite courses for Master of Architecture

Valencia College
Orlando, FL
GPA 4.0/4.0

Associates in Arts Degree (Dual Enrollment)

College Academy at Broward College
Davie, FL
GPA 5.3/5.0

WORK EXPERIENCE

Architectural Intern

CPH inc. Architecture and Engineering Firm
Miami, FL

- Aided Senior Architects– Ilker Uzun and Brandan Decaro– on various Walmart, Municipal buildings, and Community park projects using Revit and Autocad to create construction documents.

Architectural Intern

CPH inc. Architecture and Engineering Firm
Sanford, FL

- Assisted Brook Sherrard in a design–build project for the Florida School of the Deaf and Blind (FSBD) in St. Augustine
- Supported the firm's vice president and principal architect (Brook Sherrard) on various Chick–fil–A, and Walmart project's creating designs using Revit, adding in necessary equipment, and creating material templates on Photoshop

Tax Recorder (Remote)

AT Plus Miami

- Record clients taxes using QuickBooks
- Compute accurate bank statements for tax purposes

August 2023– Present

May 2022–June2022

December 2023– March 2023

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant under Professor Alice Gray Read
Department of Architecture, FIU

- Research about the history of Coconut Grove, FL (specifically Grand Avenue in the 1950s) to preserve the Bahamian identity in West Grove
- Collaborate and coordinate with faculty, fellow graduate students, and Coconut Grove locals to develop visualizations and record findings to create a digital walkthrough of the infrastructure and portray cultural identity of what the Grove used to look like

MASTER'S OF ARCHITECTURE (MARCH) THESIS EXPERIENCE

School of Architecture Practice (SOAP), Jaime Canaves, in Cordination with Bermello Ajamil & Partners Inc.

Collaborated with Bermello Ajami Partners Inc. under the guidance of Professor Jaime Canaves for Master's thesis project. Worked alongside licensed architects, including Willy A. Bermello (Principal), Jorge Ferrer (Director of Architecture), Alfredo Sanchez (Architect), and Daisy Fernandez (Senior Architectural Designer), who provided expert consultation and insights in the development of the thesis project.

HONORABLE SOCIETIES

- Sigma Xi Chapter of the Tau Sigma Delta National Honor Society for Architecture and the Allied Arts, FIU
Ranked top 20% academically amongst graduating class
- American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) member, Valencia College
- Co–founder and Treasurer of first UNICEF Chapter, Broward College

STUDY ABROAD

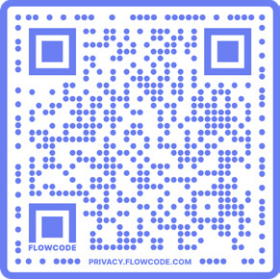
- Berlin & Portugal – Design studio 7
- Tokyo, Japan– Design studio 10

May 2023
May 2024

SKILLS



Jan 2023– May 2023



AWARDS

Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Competition

The Miami Center for Architecture and Design (MCAD)
Honorable Winner: FIU Student Team
Partners: Natalie Overn & Luis Rodriguez
2024

Archiol: Yearning to Breathe

Biophillic Housing
International Design Competition
Shortlist Winner
2023

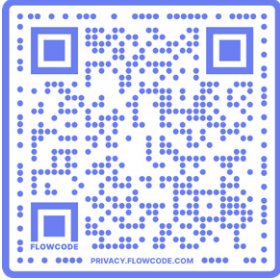


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PROJECT OBRIVIDA a comprehensive retrofit initiative, that emphasizes sustainability through a thoughtful redesign of the existing building's façade and a revitalization of the surrounding park.



THE RENEWED RESIDENCE is an Accessory Dwelling Unit created for a couple over the age of 50 focused on sustainability and caters to functionality, while framing views of the surrounding environment.

THE BRICK & BREW composed of a café, four apartments, and a carriage house. The perforated brick was used as a means of privacy in hopes to still optimize natural lighting for infill housing.



THE LANGSTON HUGHES LITERACY CENTER emphasizes the dynamic relationship between its architecture and the human experiences it nurtures. By considering New York's seasonal variations, the design ensures that the center remains vibrant and inviting throughout the year.

OCTO-IKE is a miminalistic rural housing design for a couple and their daughter. It is designed with the intent to be fully immersed in nature and where functionally meets simplicity.



KA HALE KAMELEONA
Manoa, Hawaii

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PROJECT OBRIVIDA
Miami, Florida

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THE RENEWED RESIDENCE
Miami, Florida

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THE BRICK & BREW
Savannah,Georgia

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THE LANGSTON HUGHES LITERACY CENTER
Harlem, New York

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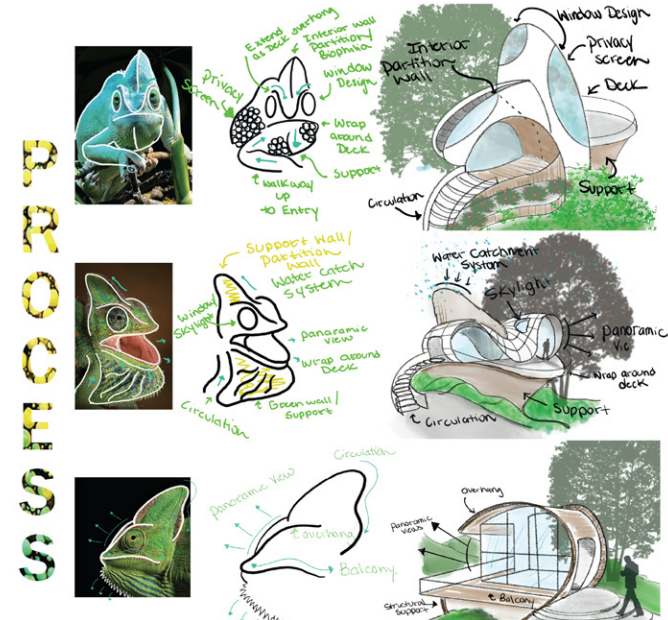
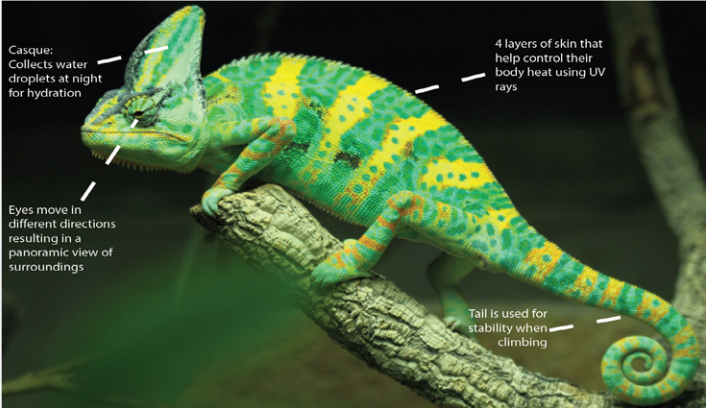
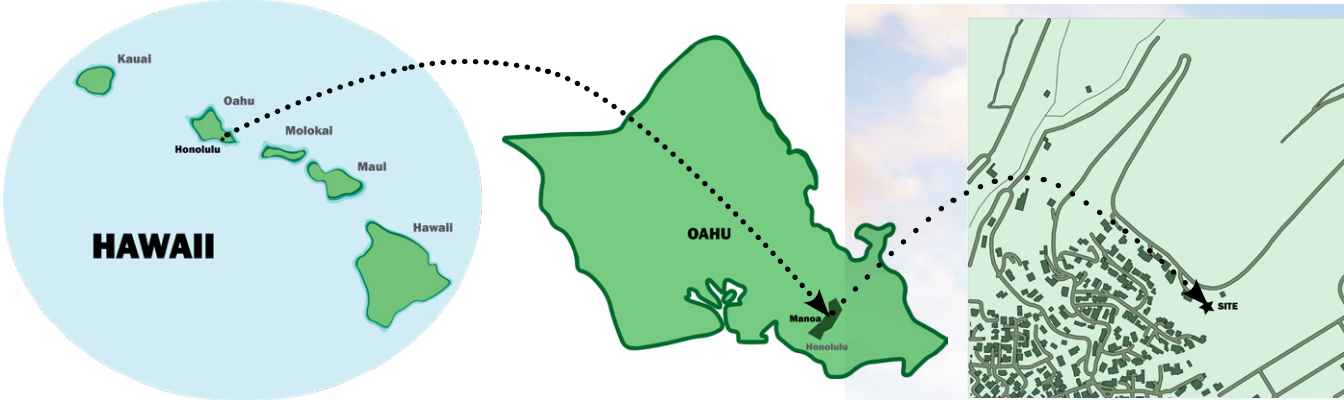
OCTO-IKE
Shibokusa, Japan

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Ka Hale Kameleona (The Chameleon House) is an urban-housing project inspired by the biology of the Veiled Chameleon. The home is in Manoa Hawaii, which is on the outskirts of Honolulu, Oahu, the biggest urban city in Hawaii. The area receives little rainwater and harsh UV rays throughout the day and the design takes advantage of these instances. This site was chosen because the veiled chameleon is native to the area.

Focusing on the Veiled chameleon's skin, eyes, and means of hydration, these features are centered around the design's color-changing façade, 180-degree views from every space, and water catchment and vertical planting system, ensuring a design of both biophilic and sustainable means. The home is effective in how it interacts with outside circumstances i.e., collecting rainwater and reading UV radiation. It becomes user friendly as the electrochromatic glass moves with the individual in the home, but also creates an indication of when the UV ray can be harmful for us. Each subspace is separated by a movement of vertical circulation, or a branching system, like how the chameleon lives, so that the couple that resides here can extensively understand how it lives in nature.

At first glance your eyes go to the statement piece which is the replication of the chameleon Casque. The Casque helps chameleons collect water droplets at night. Understanding what the project was inspired by you understand what that statement piece is. Growing up, I've always been intrigued by the chameleon, but diving deeper into the species makes me value it more. I appreciated my progression with this design and will refer to it when doing future projects. We can take a lot of inspiration from nature and natural phenomena, as architects we have a responsibility to recognize this when designing architecture in a biophilic matter.

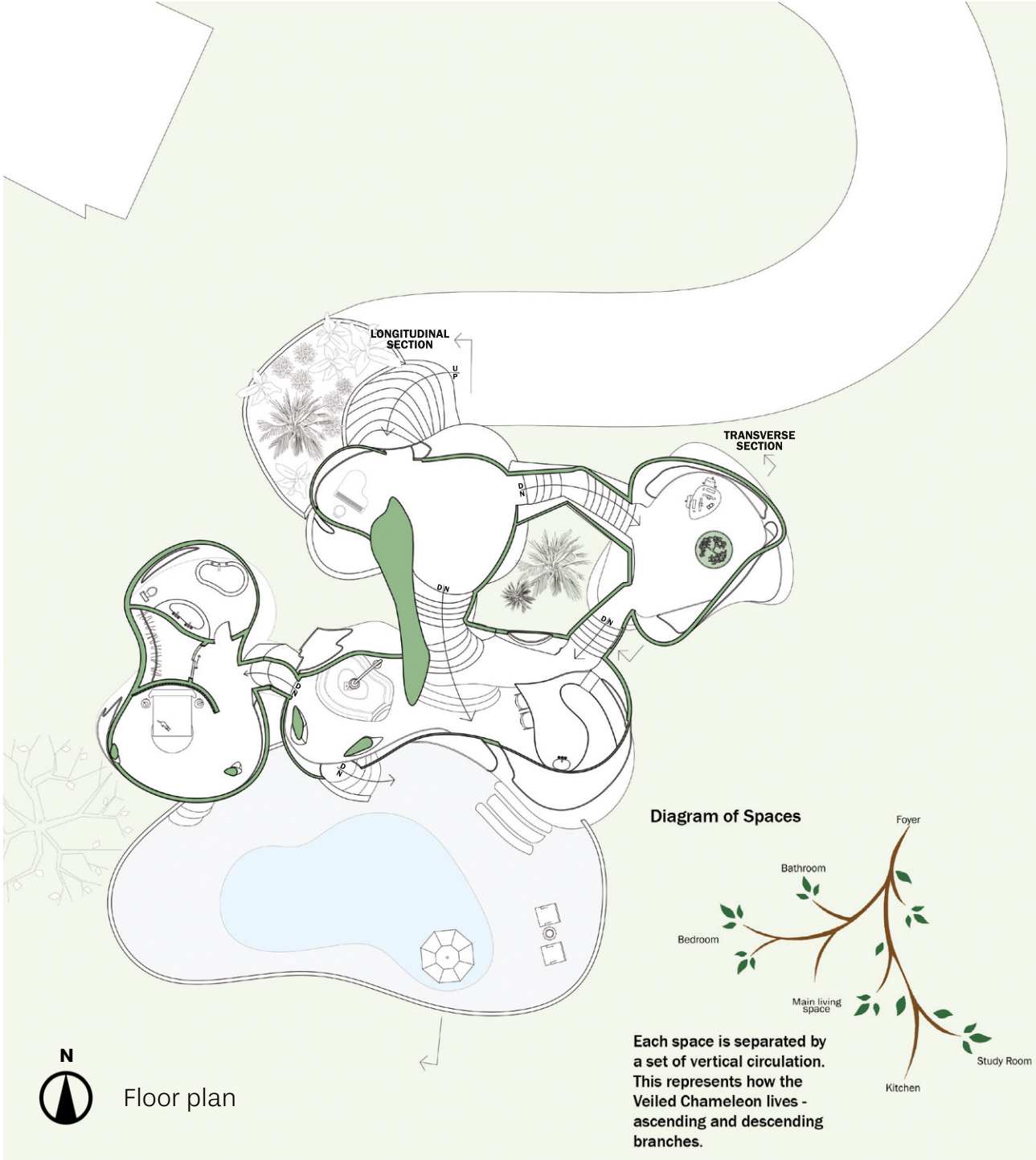


Ka Hale Kameleona

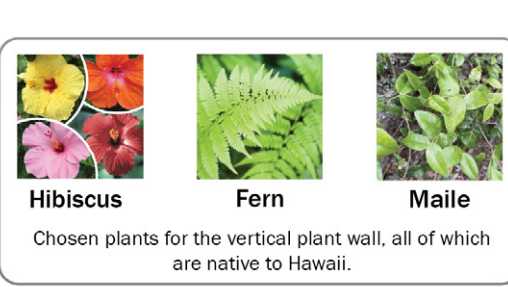
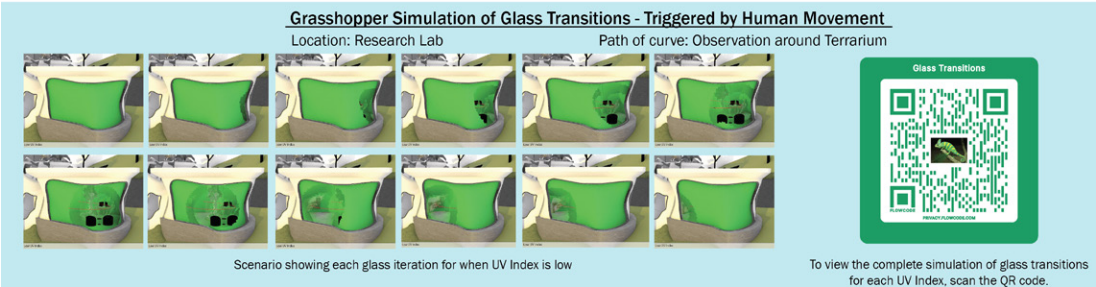
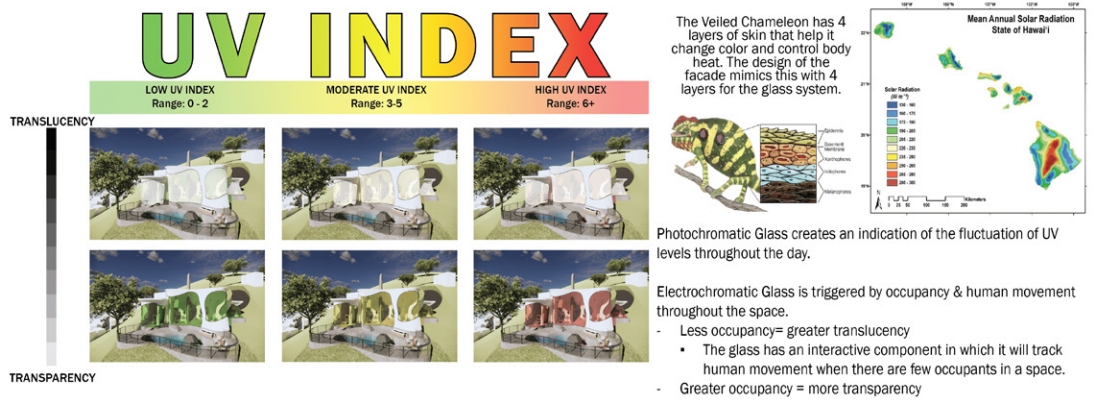
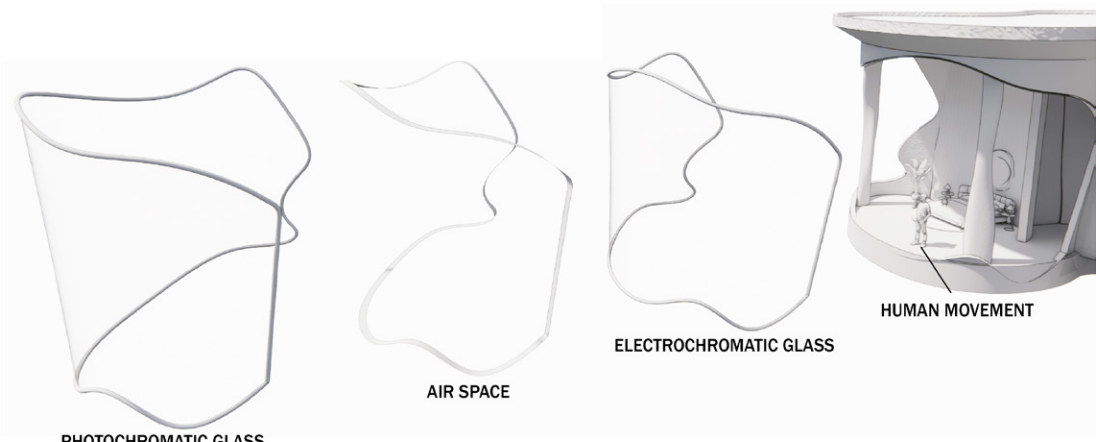
A home for a couple who study the population of Veiled Chameleons that reside in Manoa, Honolulu, Hawaii. The design was inspired by several of the Veiled Chameleon's biological features.



Archiol
Yearning to Breathe Competition 2023
Biophilic Housing
Shortlist Winner



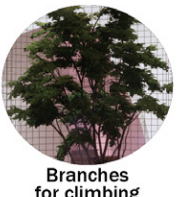
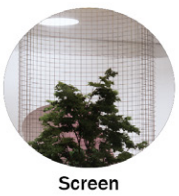
Glass Facade System



Research Lab with Indoor Terrarium



Study Model of the Exterior Form



Study Model of the Interiors



Project Obrivida is a comprehensive retrofit initiative located along the Miami River at 444 SW 2nd Ave, 4th Floor, Miami, FL 33130. This project emphasizes sustainability through a thoughtful redesign of the existing building's façade and a revitalization of the surrounding park. Extensive environmental studies were conducted to inform strategies for transforming the property into an environmentally conscious space that fosters both ecological responsibility and community engagement. The design preserves the core elements of the City of Miami's building department's existing programs, refining and enhancing them to align with contemporary needs. The park, in particular, has been reimagined as a vibrant social hub, fostering greater interaction and serving as a venue for community events, thus enriching the local cultural fabric.

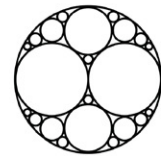
Conceptual Mind Map



Social Stress



Growing up in a city doubles the chances of someone developing schizophrenia and an increase in other mental disorders like depression and anxiety. The main trigger being "social stress"- the lack of social bonding and cohesion of neighborhoods.



Fractals



Reduce psychological and physiological stress



Emotional connection to the natural world through space and nature



Creating spaces for human interaction



Bike Paths



Pedestrian Paths



Playground



Outdoor Sports



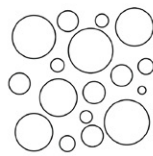
Outdoor Auditorium



Vendor Spaces



Atrium Space



Curves



Adaptive roots: Sharp things signal physical damage; whereas, curves signal a lack of threat, safety. This paired with culture, context, and familiarity can influence our perception more

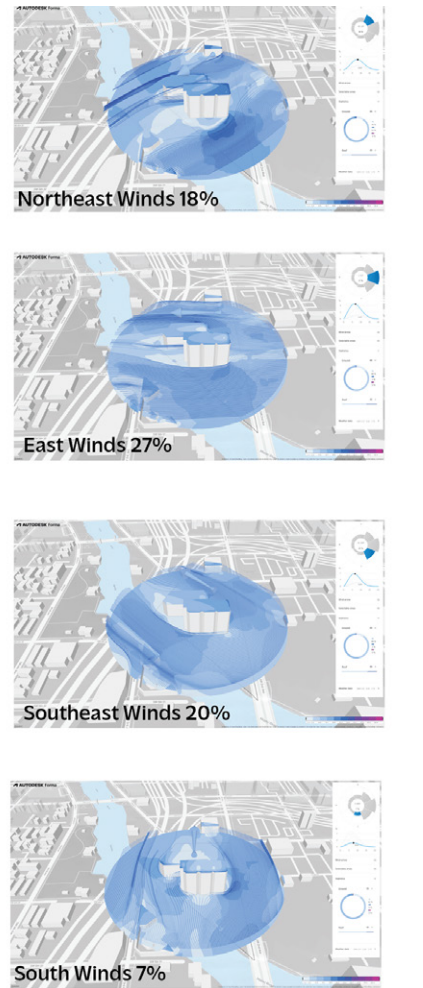
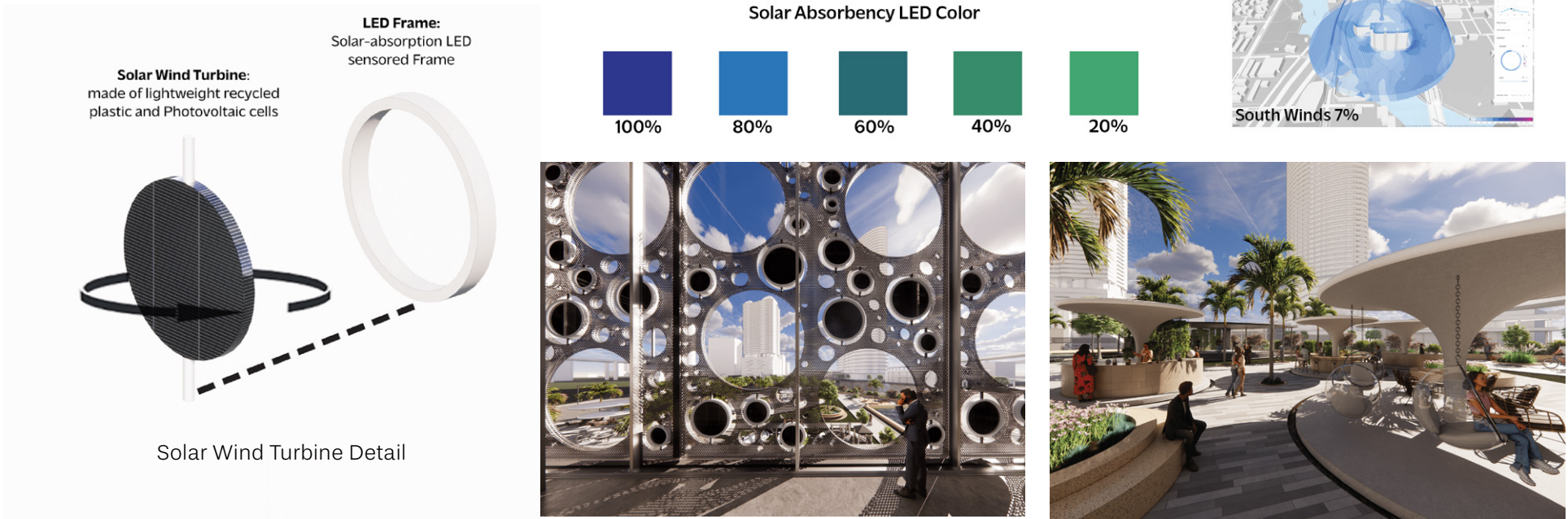
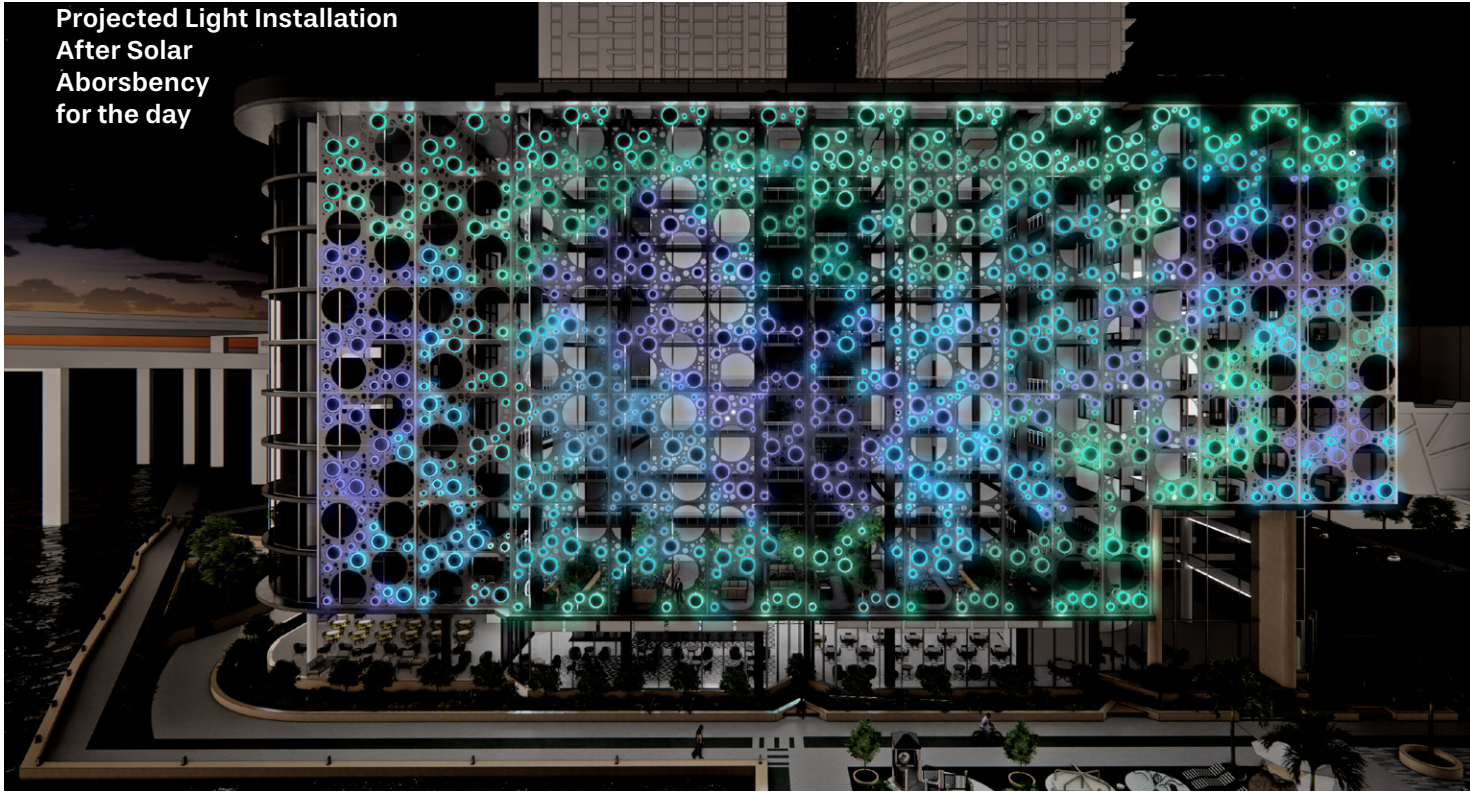
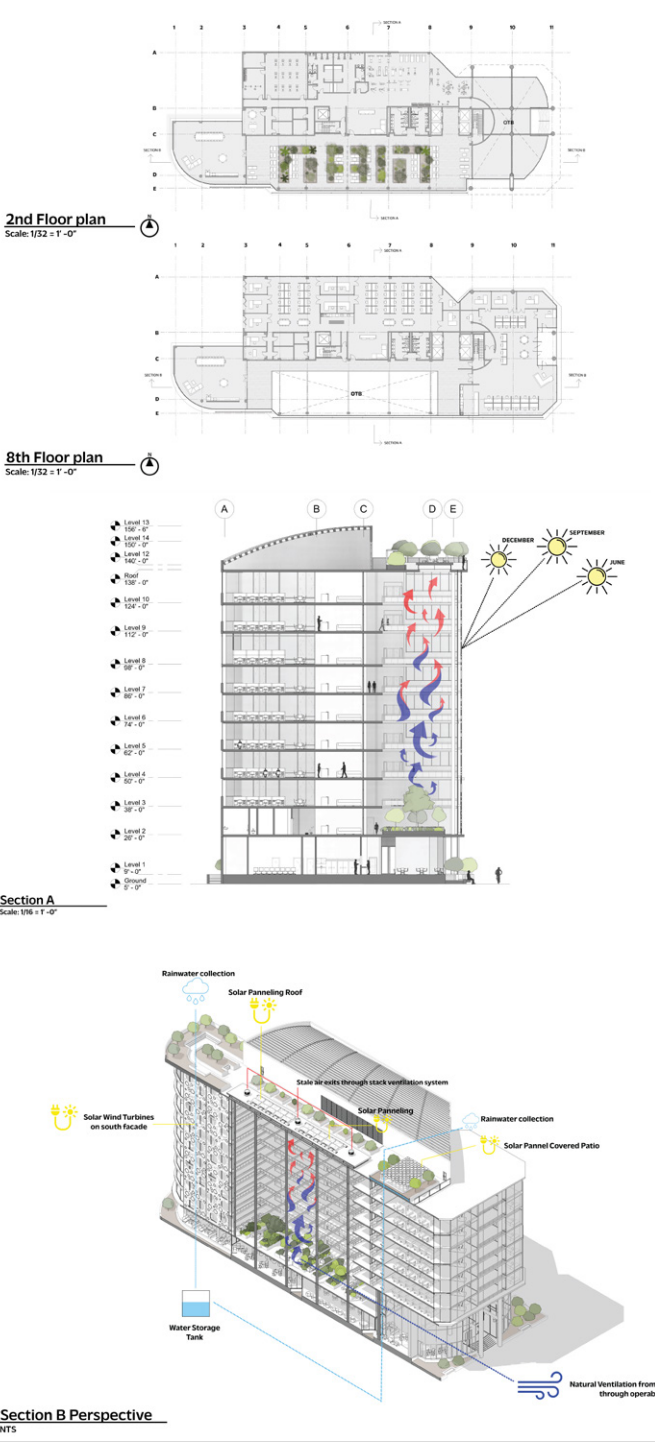
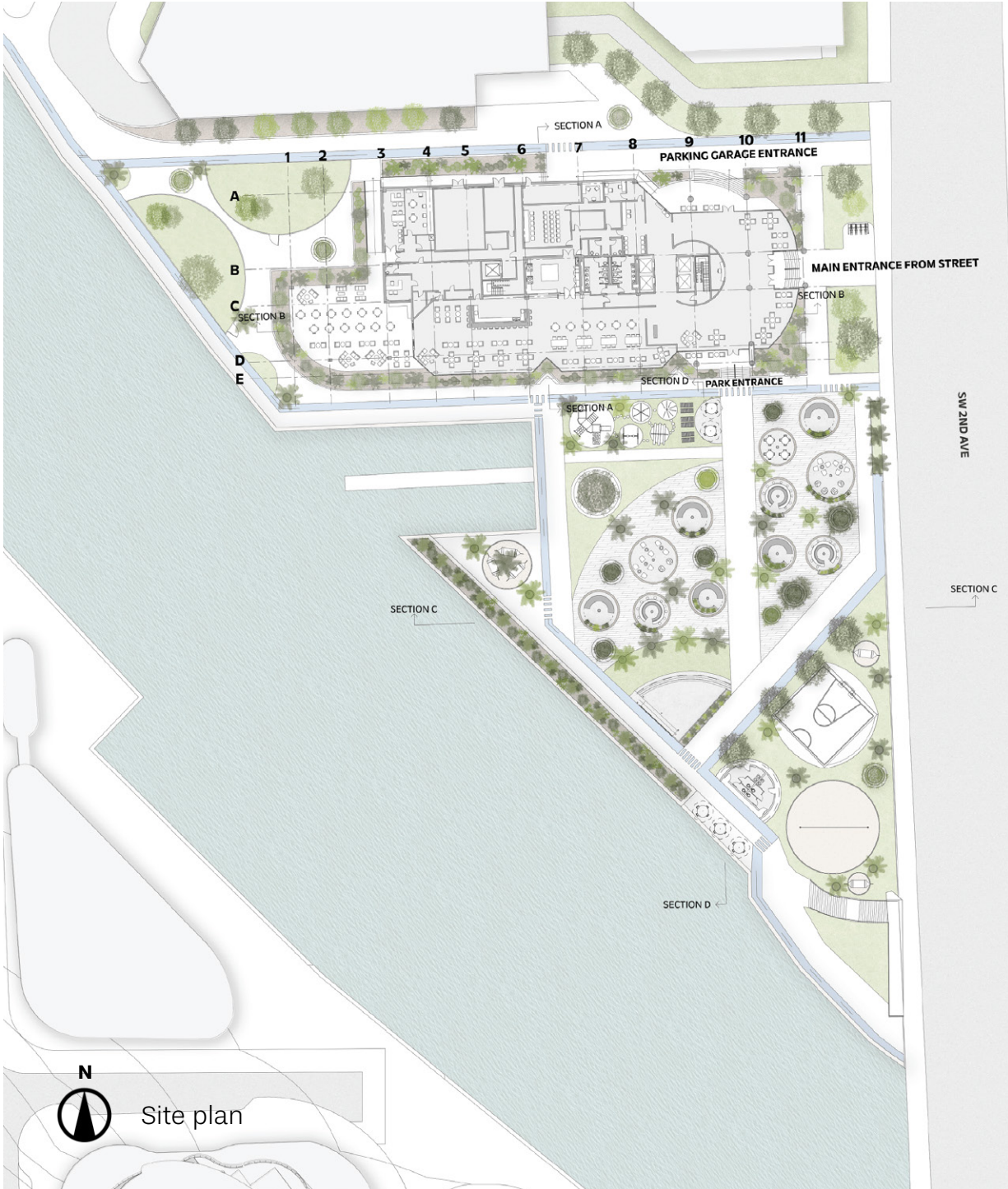


Curvilinear contours activate a region in the brain responsive to reward properties and emotional salience of objects with curves



Tests have shown that humans will gravitate towards something that is curvy versus something that is linear

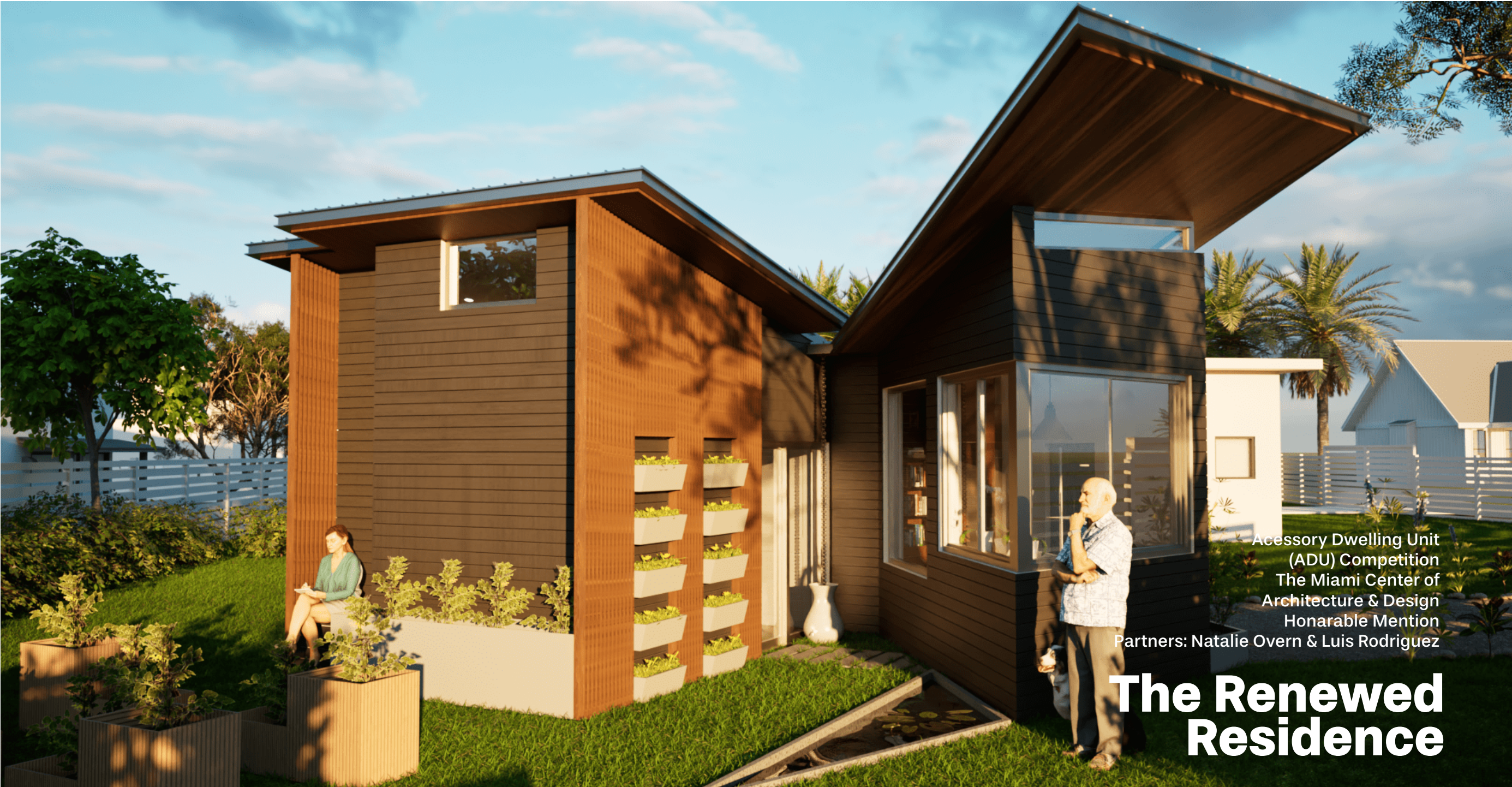
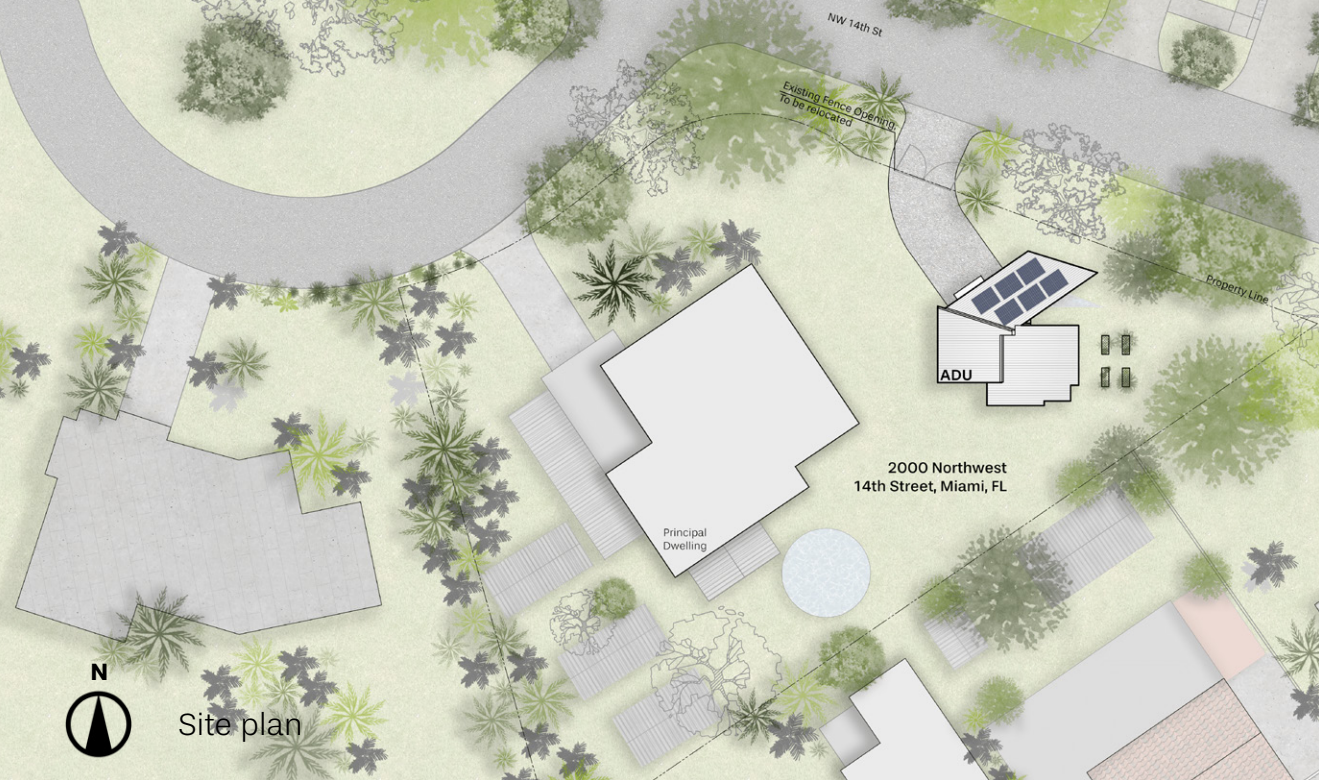




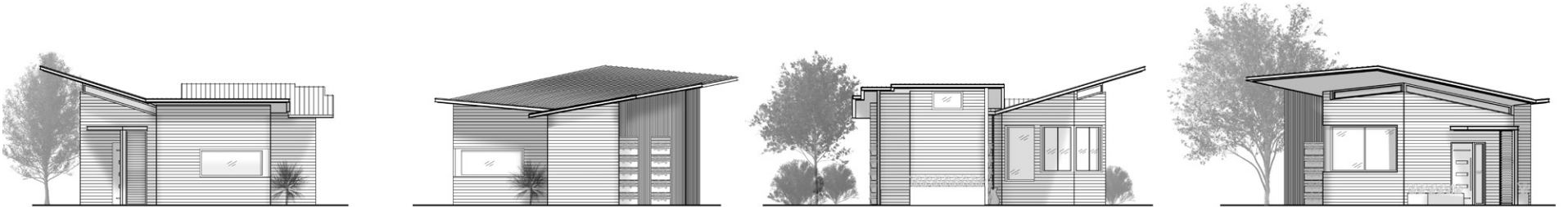
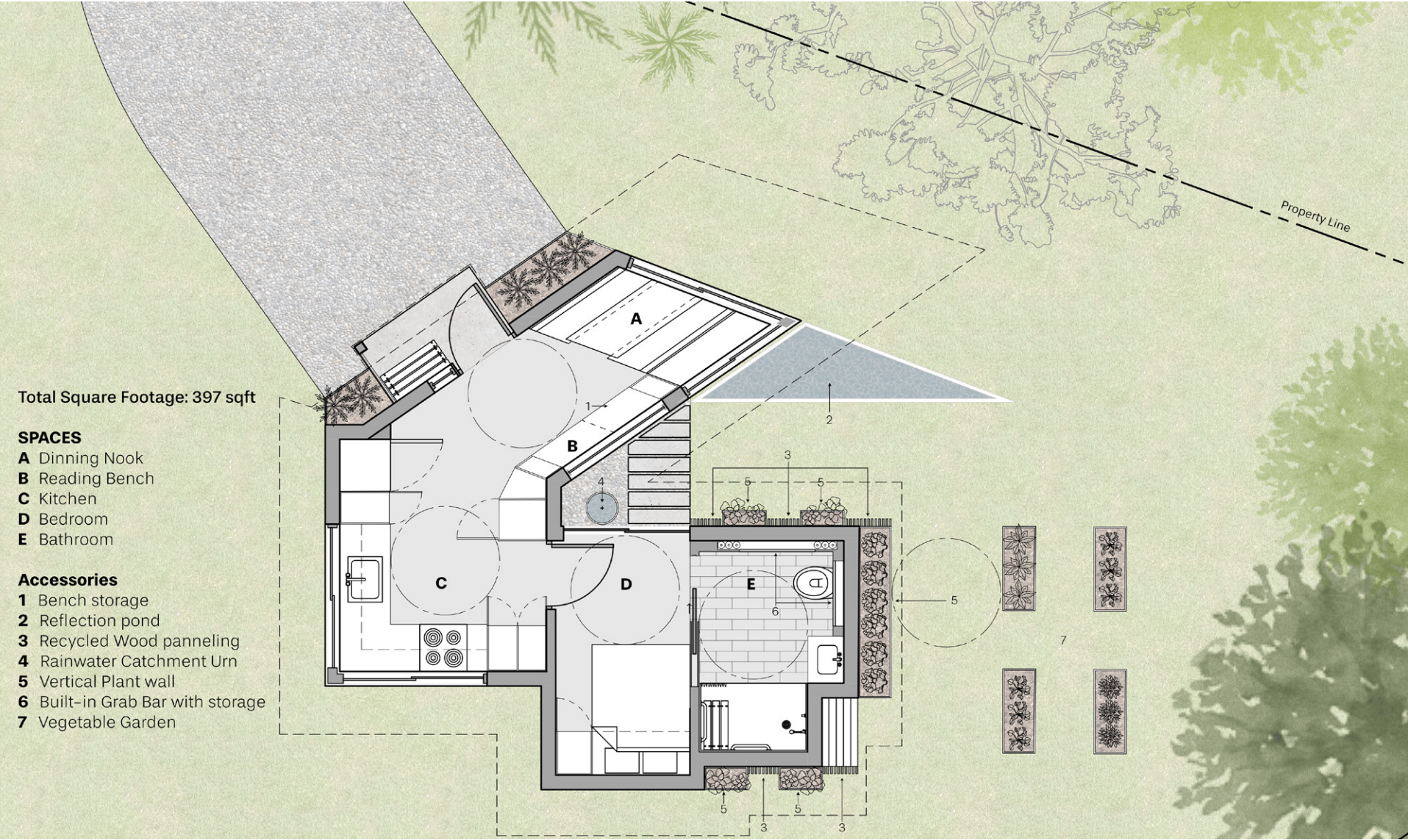
Located at 2000 NW 14th Street, this neighborhood offers a serene and homely atmosphere, perfectly suited for our target demographic. Our design is rooted in sustainability, driven by the question: how can we create an environment that works for us and remains sustainable? By embracing the sharp angles of our site, we devised a layout that addresses these challenges head-on.

The Renewed Residence is an Accessory Dwelling Unit created for a couple over the age of 50. Our design includes a dining nook, reading bench, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, a courtyard, and gardening space. A key theme of this design is integrated furniture. At the main entrance, a small sofa with a louver shading system welcomes the couple as they step inside, greeted by abundant natural light filtering through a built-in reading bench and dining nook. The built-in dining nook can open to the outdoors, inviting cool breezes and showcasing the existing greenery on the site. The kitchen boasts a sleek design with hidden fixtures, a window behind the counter top for natural light, and a small window near the front door to see when someone is approaching. Overall, the ADU encompasses 397 square feet: 377 square feet within the exterior walls, plus an additional 20 square feet for an exterior slab at the front entrance.

Adjacent to our courtyard, a reflection pond absorbs heat from the surrounding air, creating a cooling effect similar to the way sweating cools the body. The pond also generates a microclimate, where the cooler, more humid air helps reduce temperatures in nearby areas, especially in urban settings where heat tends to get trapped by buildings and pavements. The exterior materials selected also play a significant role in sustainability, such as horizontal and vertical paneling, garden beds, and front louver paneling. These materials also reduce carbon footprint by minimizing waste and conserving energy.



The Renewed Residence



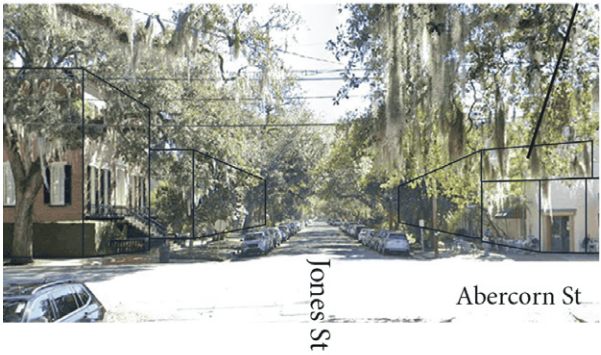
The Savannah Infill housing design is composed of a café, 4 apartments, and a carriage house. The cafe is situated on the first and part of the second floor. A one-bedroom unit is located on the second floor, the two-bedroom unit on the third level, and the fourth level is shared between the 2nd one bedroom and the studio units.

During site analysis, it was observed that Jones St. is a primary street, and Abercorn St. is a secondary street. Jones st. also has parallel parking down it, so I knew I needed to place a residential entrance on both streets. Both receive vehicle and foot traffic. The entrances are signified with a pop in. The other pop ins became balconies to stay within the zoning regulations. The pop outs were used to create these larger moments. Specifically, one for the café, and another for the residential lobby. You will notice that the café pop out and balcony starts to wrap around the corner of the structure.

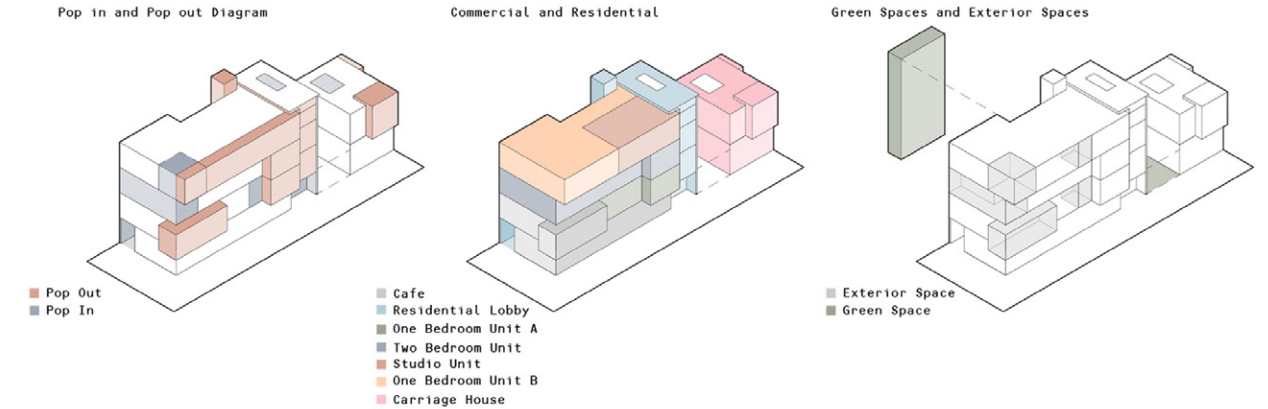
The perforated brick was used as a means of privacy. Wanting to take advantage of natural lighting, I knew I was going to include a lot of floor to ceiling windows. To prevent the apartments from being seen into easily, the perforated brick acts as a screen of privacy without limiting the intake of natural lighting.



Site Plot

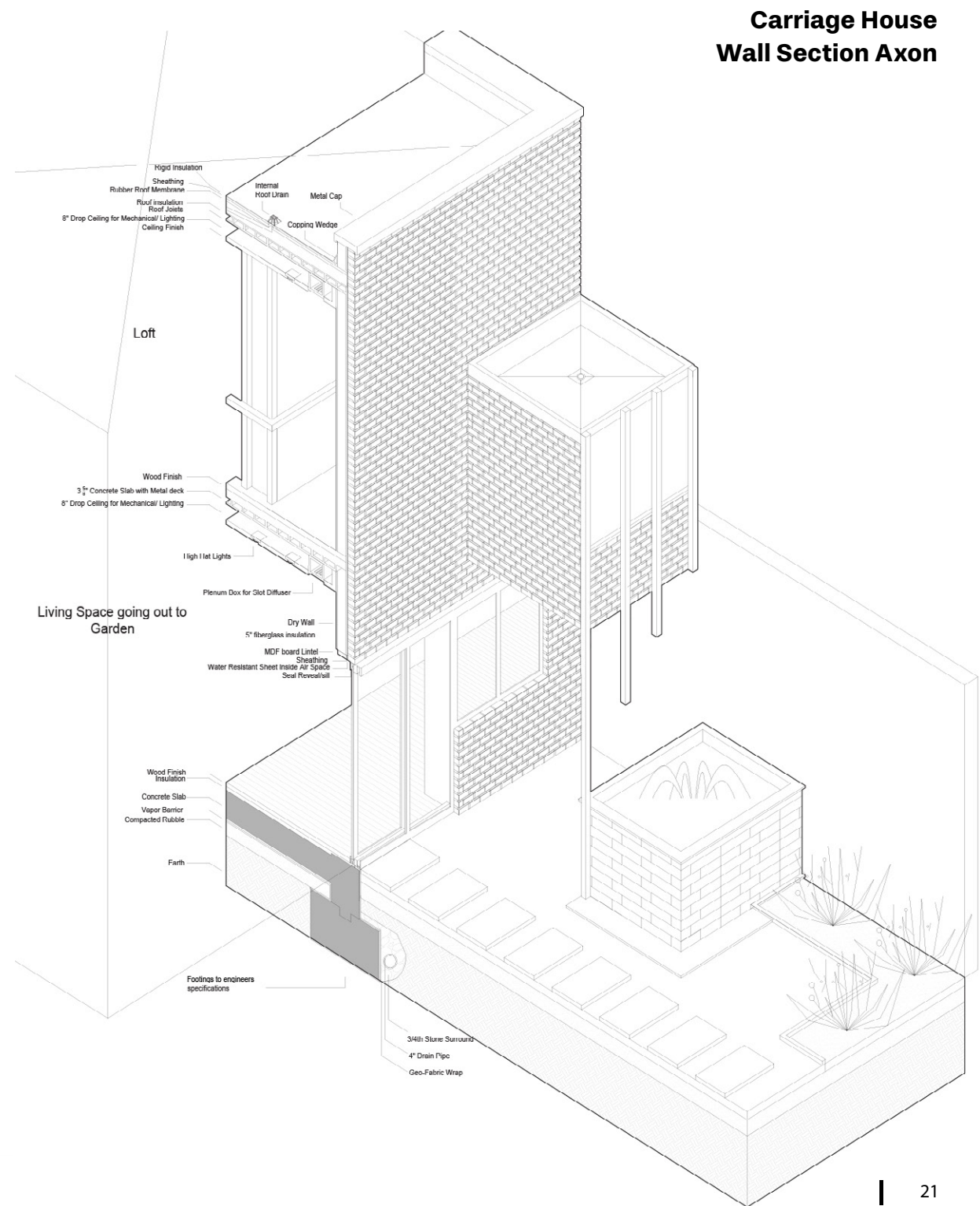
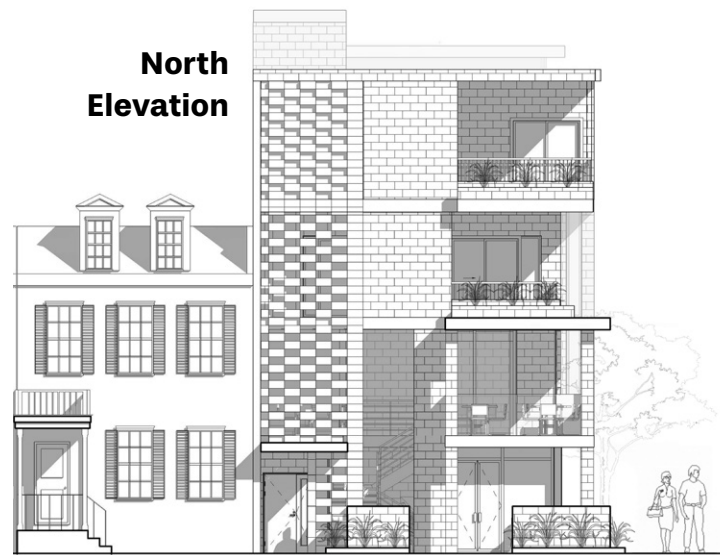
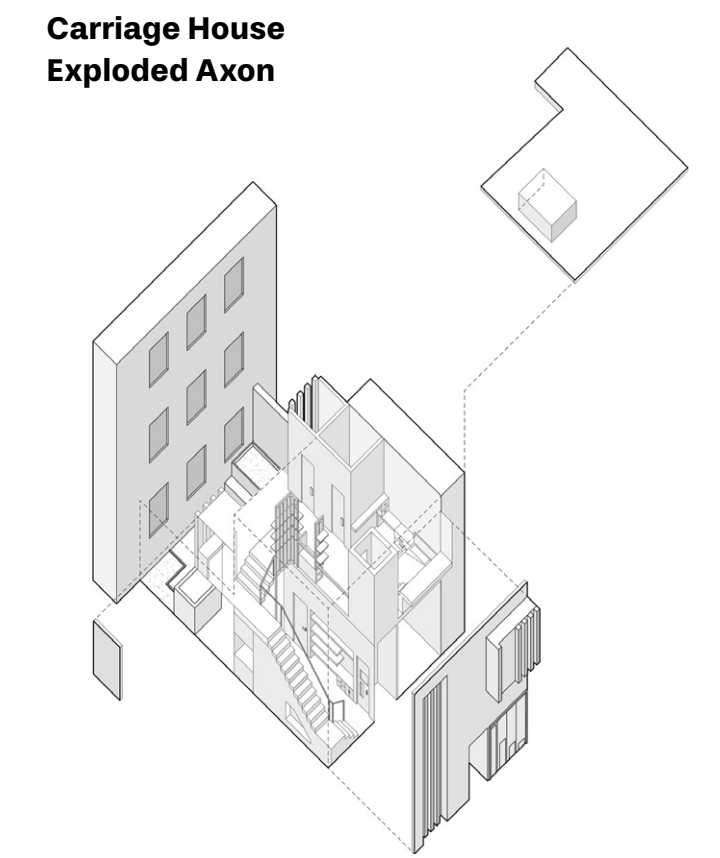
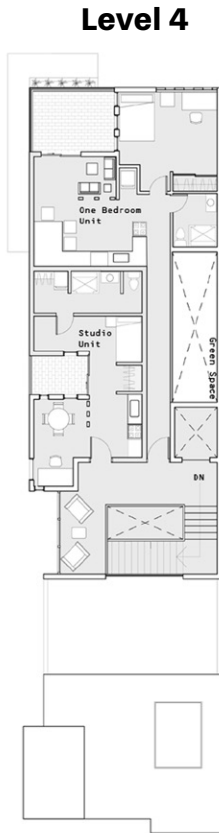
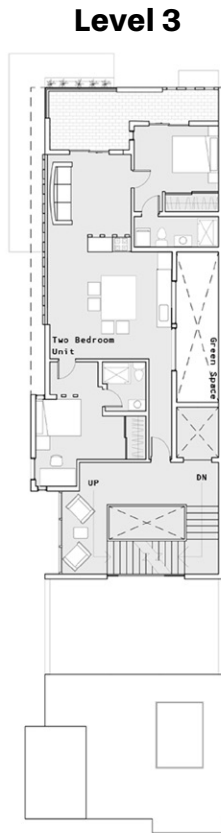
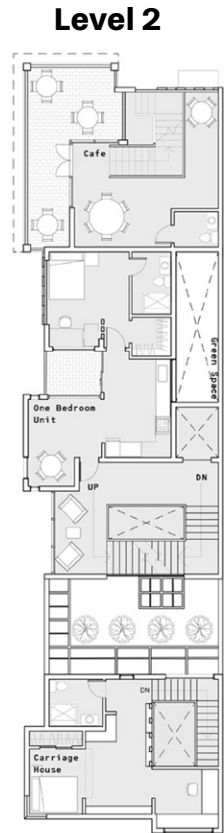
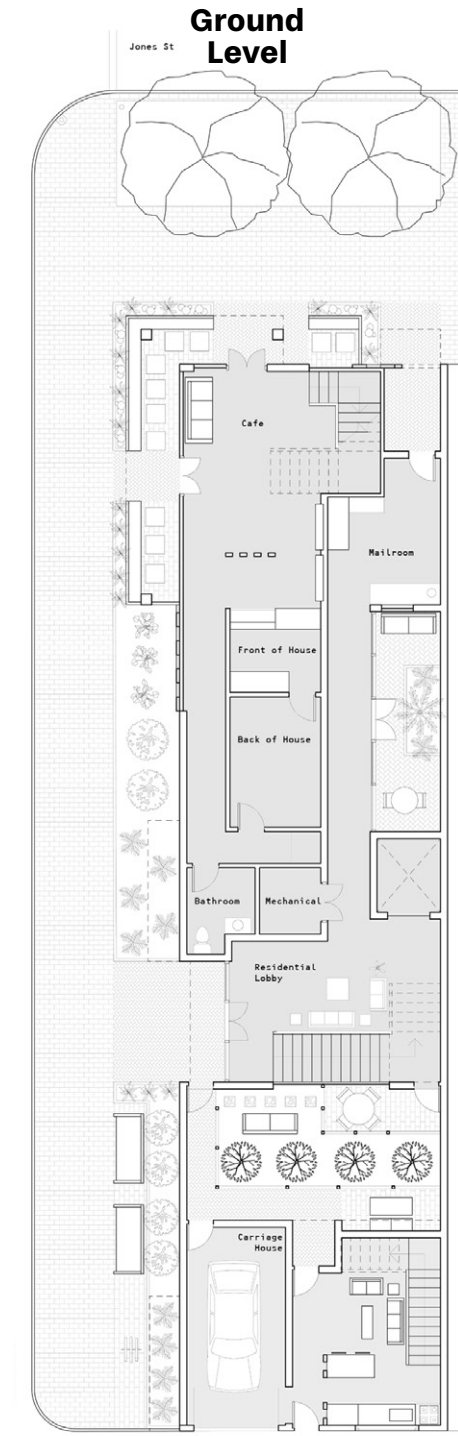


Conceptual Diagrams



The Brick & Brew

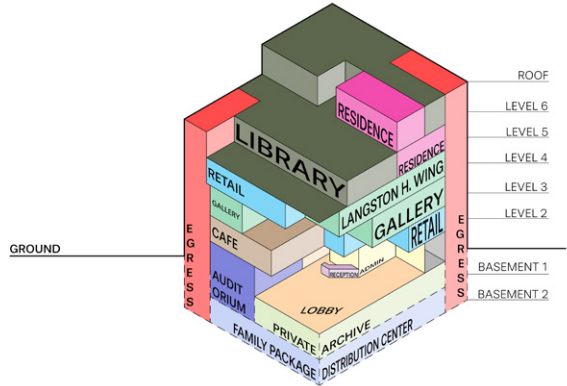




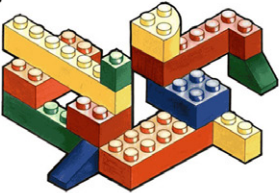
The Langston Hughes Literacy Center emphasizes the dynamic relationship between its architecture and the human experiences it nurtures. By considering New York's seasonal variations, the design ensures that the center remains vibrant and inviting throughout the year. The facade was solely meant to be this threshold that envelopes the programs and activities protecting them from New York's environment.

Once inside, the open layout promotes interaction and engagement, with sightlines that allow users to connect with other spaces within the center. This visual connectivity enhances the sense of community and encourages exploration. The thoughtful circulation routes guide visitors through diverse areas, fostering discovery and interaction.

Positioned above the atrium, the library offers a tranquil retreat, providing an elevated perspective of Harlem while still maintaining a sense of connection to the bustling activities below. This layered design not only enhances privacy but also enriches the overall experience of the center, ensuring it remains a lively hub regardless of the season or time of day.



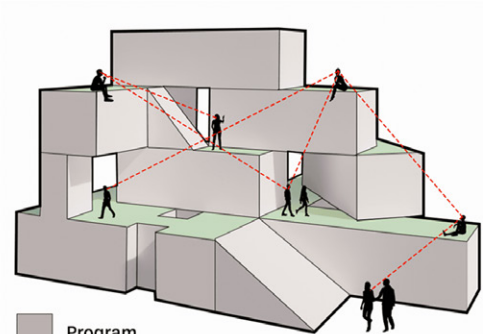
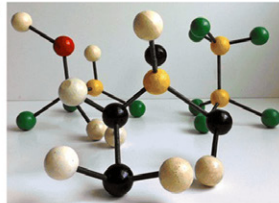
Legos



Jenga Blocks



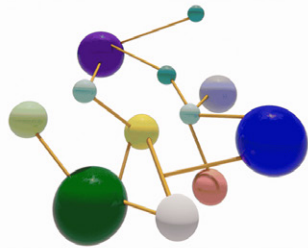
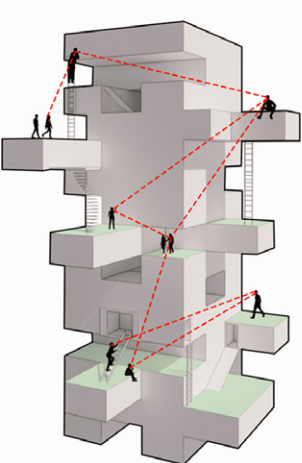
Molecule Model



Program

Indoor Terrace Spaces

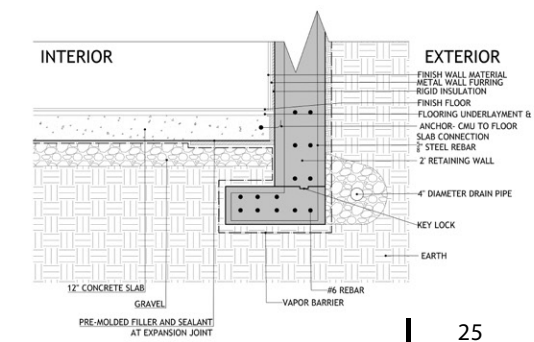
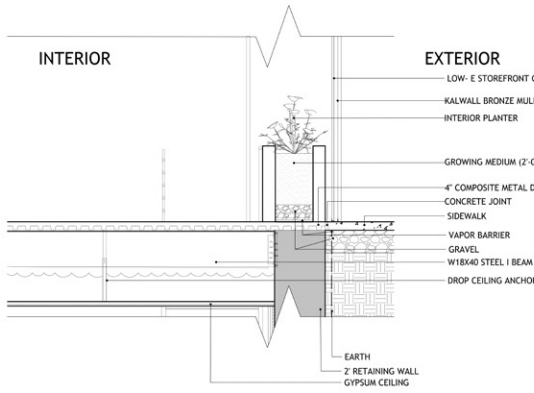
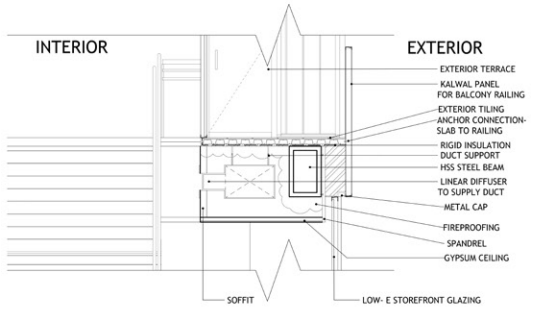
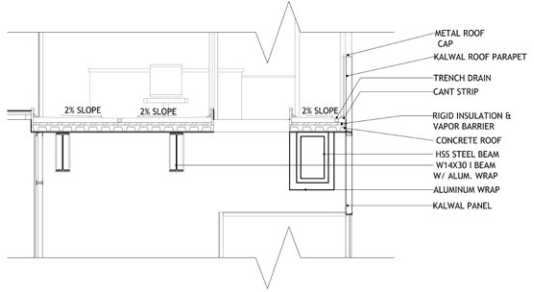
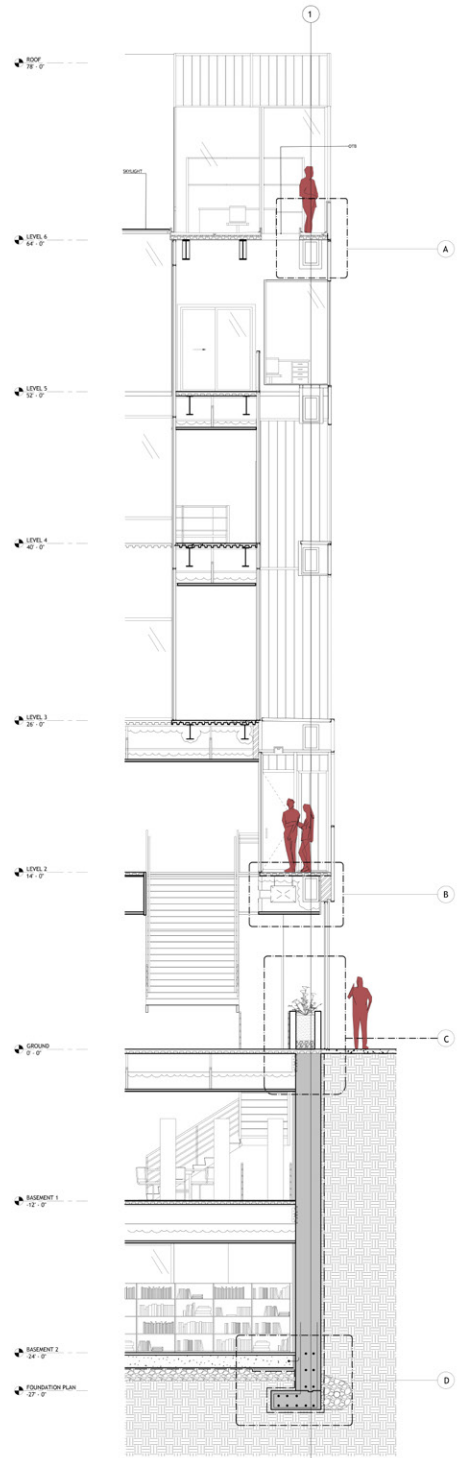
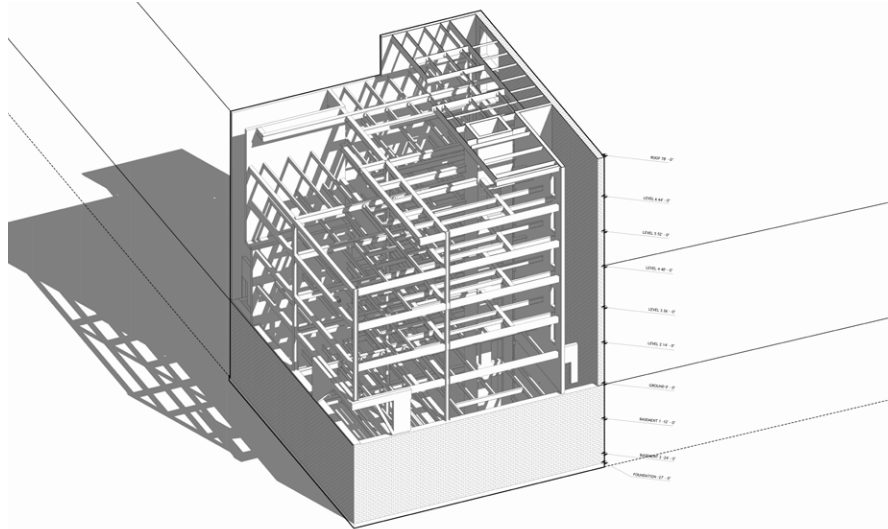
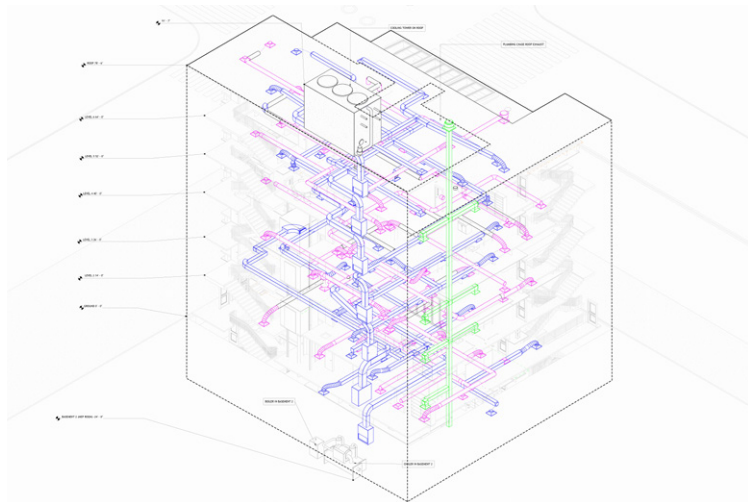
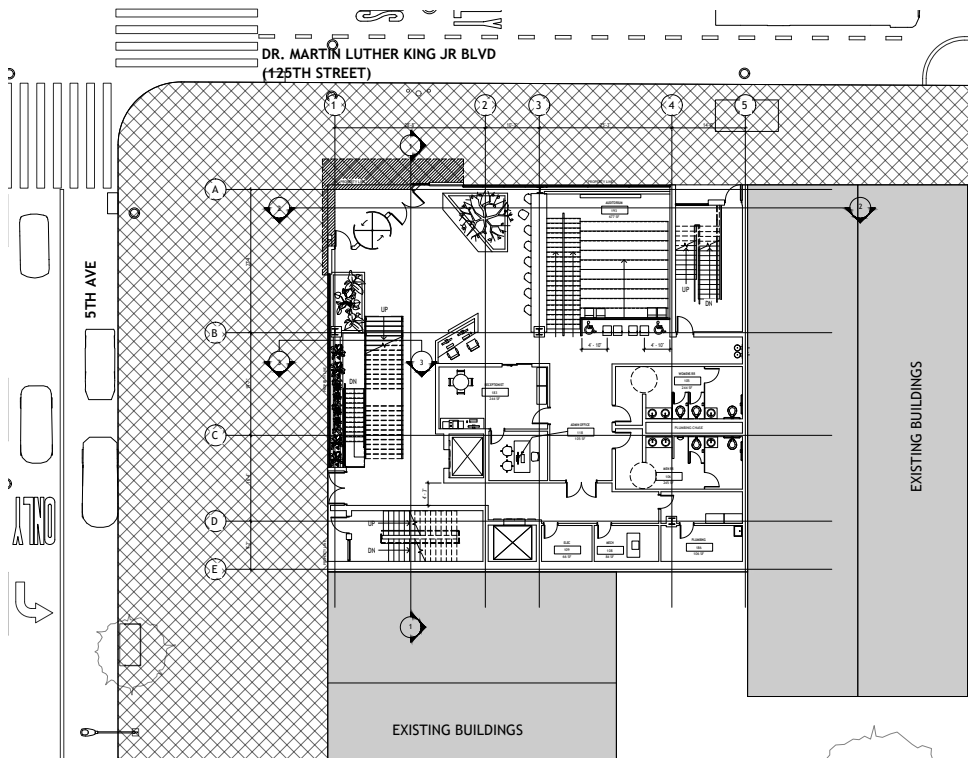
Points of View



Gallery
Private Archive
Retail
Library
Residences
Circulation

Administration
Cafe
Auditorium
Reception
Back of House

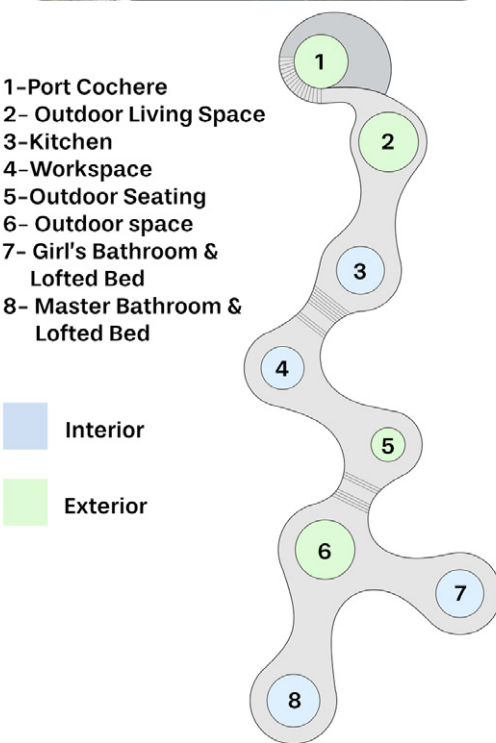
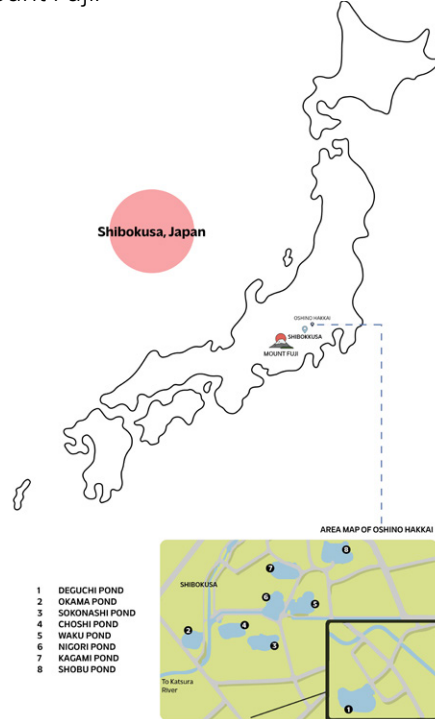




Octo-Ike is a minimalist home nestled in Shibokusa, Japan, near the sacred Oshino Hakkai area with views overlooking Mount Fuji. Inspired by a study abroad experience at Oshino Hakkai, we discovered the significance of its eight ike, meaning ponds in Japanese, designated a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site in 2013. These ponds are fed by snow melt from Mount Fuji, purified through porous volcanic rock, resulting in mineral-rich, pristine waters.

Octo-Ike is strategically positioned along the Katsura River, which flows directly to these eight ponds. Drawing inspiration from their beauty, we designed eight distinct spaces along a scenic exterior path with panoramic views of Mount Fuji. These spaces are divided into four exterior and four interior pods, creating an immersive experience with nature. The interior pods collectively make up just over 36 square meters.

This design aims to convey the elegance and cultural significance of the area, weaving in its inspiration from the natural beauty and appreciation of Oshino Hakkai and Mount Fuji.



Octo-Ike

Partner: Natalie Overn



