



Wyatt Walski-Rodriguez

3rd Year B.Arch

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Virginia Tech

3.9 GPA

Experience

- President / Kappa Pi International Visual Arts Honor Society and Co-Ed Fraternity

April 2024 - present
- Founder, Editor-in-Chief / Virginia Tech Design Theory Journal

February 2025 - present
- Mechanic Assistant / Warthog, Inc. (FedEx Contractor)

May 2023 - August 2023
- Professional Committee / Kappa Pi

August 2023 - April 2024
- Editorial Team / Studio Collective (Design Journal of Virginia Tech)

September 2022 - August 2023
- Media and Marketing Team / Studio72 Arts Living-Learning Community

August 2022 - present
- Student-body President / High School

August 2021 - May 2022
- Captain, Founder, President / High School Varsity Lacrosse Team

August 2019 - May 2022
- Member / Children of the Republic of Texas Historic Preservation Society

August 2019 - present

Skills

- Rhino

Adobe Suite

Blender

V-Ray

Enscape

Grasshopper

Lumion
- Microsoft Suite

Revit

Hand-drafting

Writing

Photography

Video Editing

Drawing

Lectures/Exhibitions

- We Can Be So Much More

Architecture Student Lecture Series 2

Fall 2024
- Boundless Expression

Studio72 Fall Showcase

Fall 2024
- Form Follows Fantasy

Slanted Commune Interdisciplinary Design Group Lecture Series

Winter 2024
- Under the Sea

Studio72 Spring Showcase

Spring 2024

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The architect no longer stands on his own. His work is held up by others, his decisions justified by esoteric ramblings and ambiguous data, **suspended with smoke and mirrors.** We are told his work is good, yet it does not touch our hearts, if it even touches our eyes with any sort of **beauty.**

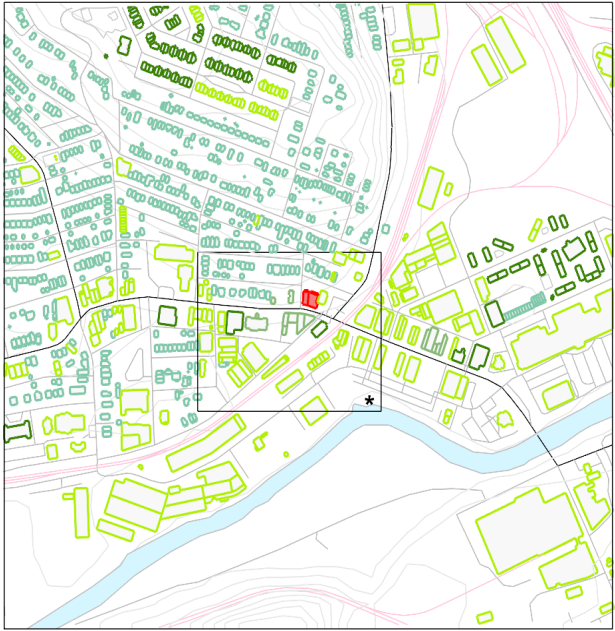
Our work, instead, should contain that same **undeniable truth** as the trees and the mountains. The layman should look at our buildings in awe **without being told** why they are good. Architecture should aim itself right at our hearts.

It must be personal.

Bird, Meet Wall
Affordable Housing for Artists



Fall 2024



Map Key:

- Site Location
- Residential Building
- Commercial Building
- Government Building
- Mixed-use Building
- Water (Chartiers Creek)
- ▬ Major Road
- ▬ Railway
- ▬ Minor Road or Path
- ▬ Topographic Contours

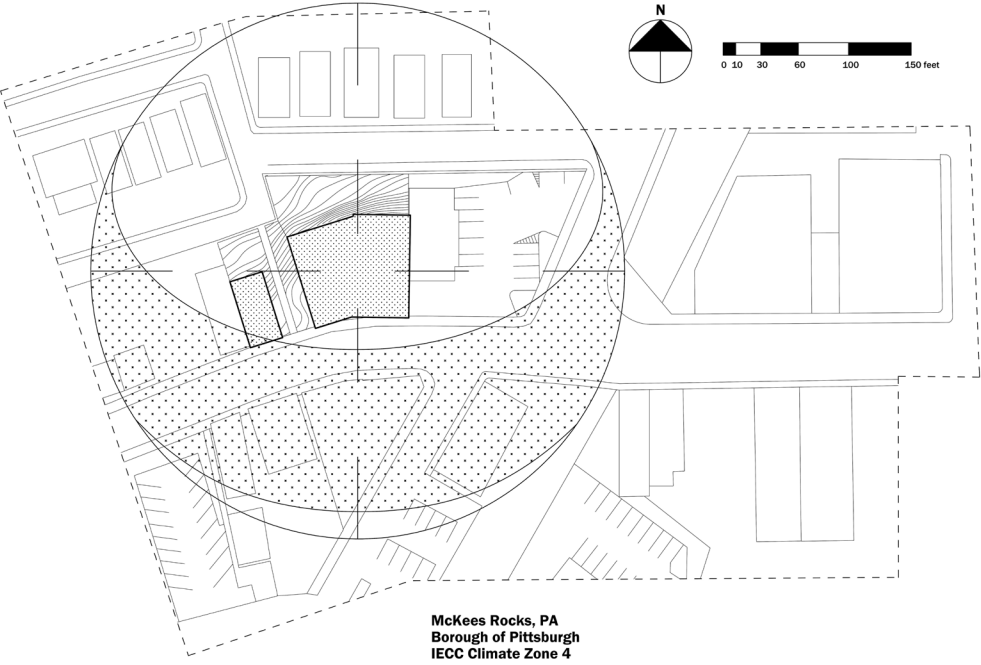
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- Notable Nearby Programs:**
- *1 - Convenience Store
 - *2 - Daycare
 - *3 - Food Bank
 - *4 - Fast Food
 - *5 - Family Health Center
 - *6 - Artist Studio and Gallery
 - *7 - Church

Nutrition Scarcity

The immediate surroundings of the site in McKees Rocks, PA lack access to wholesome food. A food bank on a nearby corner reflects this need.



Southern Light

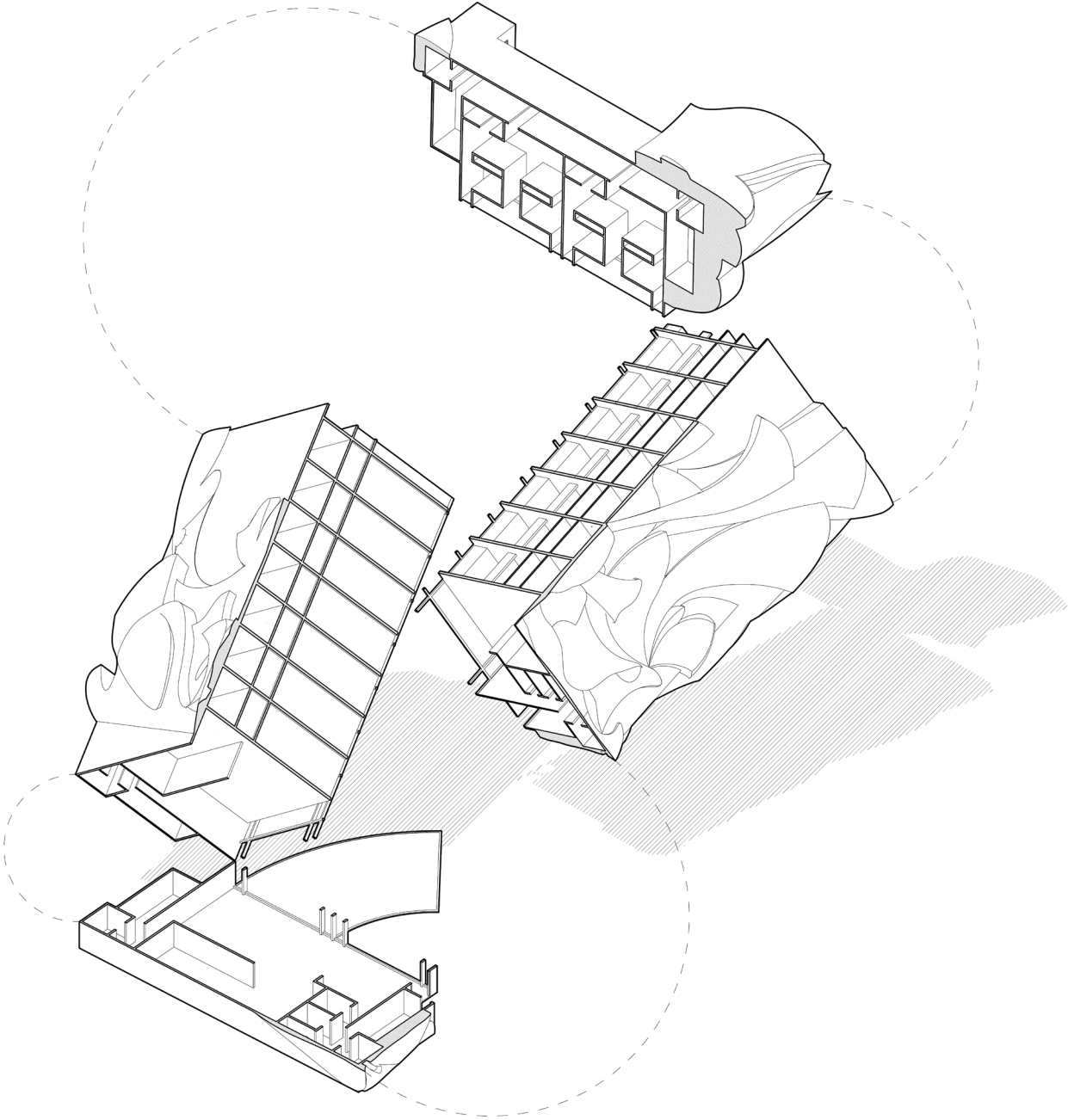
For diffuse light and comfortable temperatures, windows will be placed eastward. This will also frame the view of the on-grade garden park and Downtown Pittsburgh.

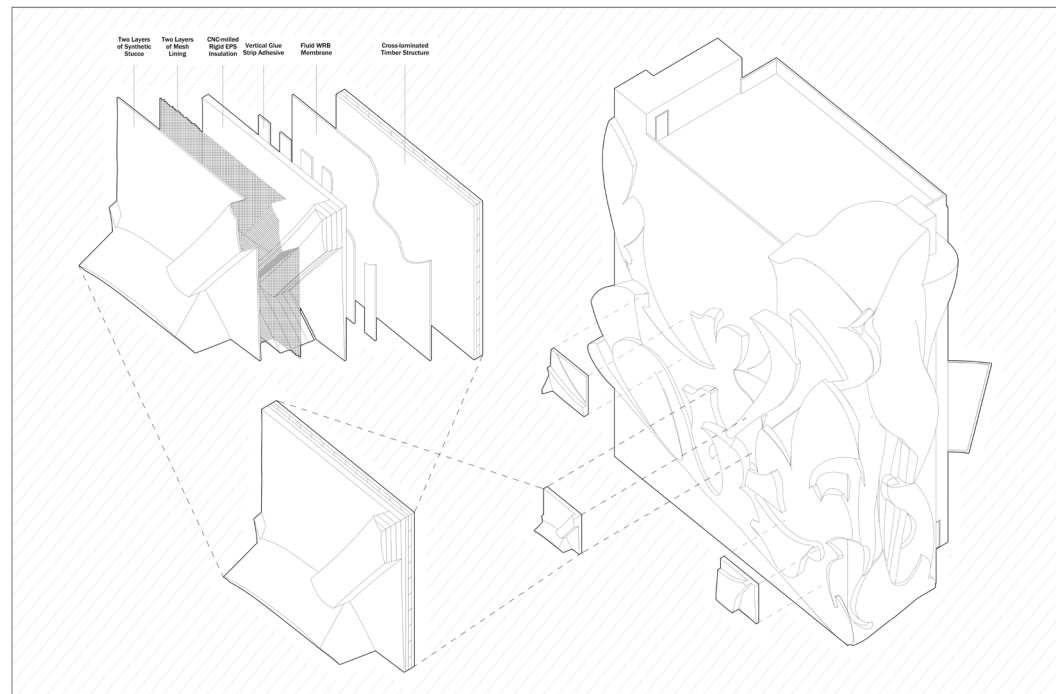
Decorated Shed

Here Venturi and Scott Brown's idea is legible to even the layman. The ornament does not pretend to be anything else. The building is a canvas waiting to be claimed.

Graffiti

Architects abandoned decoration and the street artists filled the void. If ornament is to return, we must learn from those who replaced us with an ode to their restlessness.



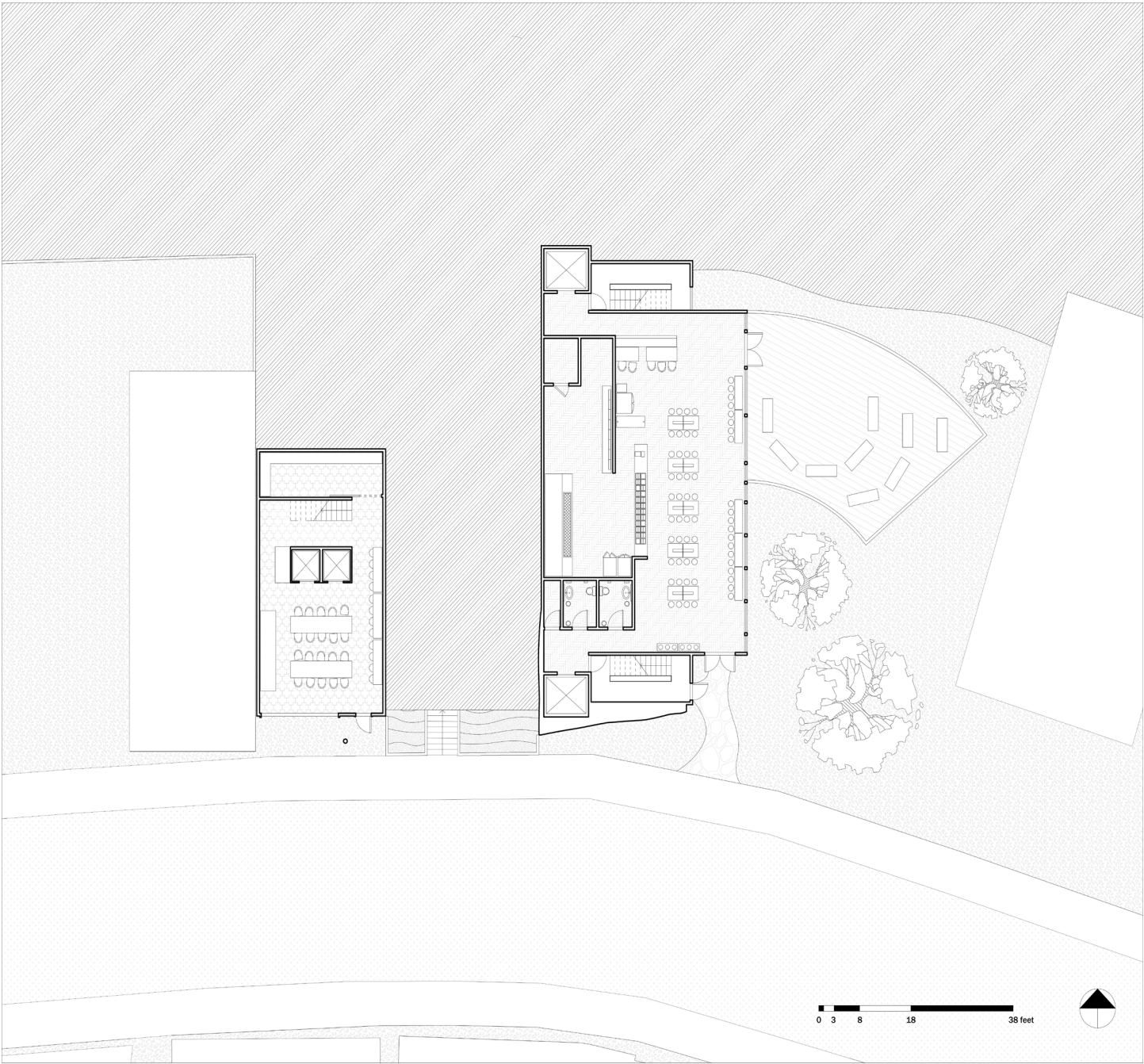


The Character

Through figurative form, the architecture is no longer just an object of contextual forces, but a character which exudes a personality from within.

The Real Facade

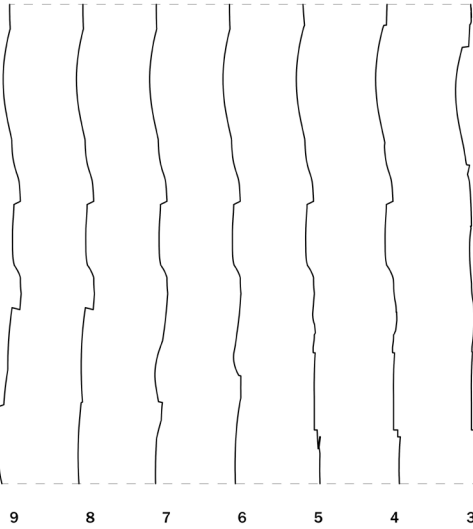
The staircase's movement attracts the architecture's attention. The building-bird ascends and descends the stairs with the audience.



The Garden

The slim tower intentionally leaves room on the street level for a public garden park. The rooms, with their floor-to-ceiling windows, become vessels for viewing.

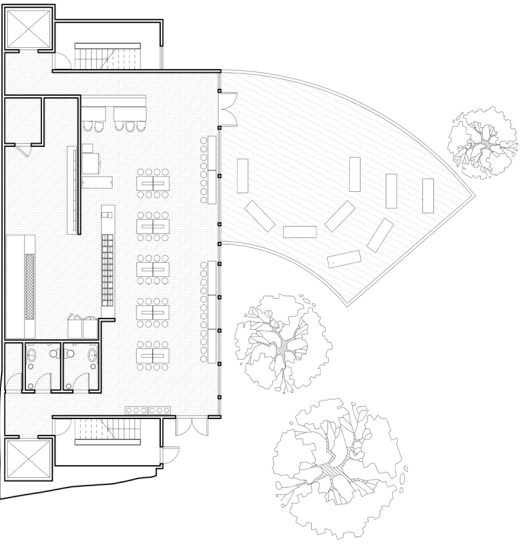
Upper Floor Wall Variations



Second Floor (Residential Units)

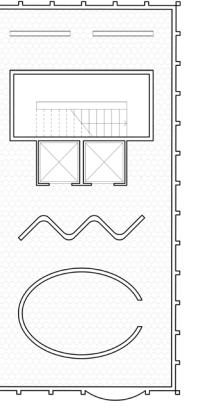
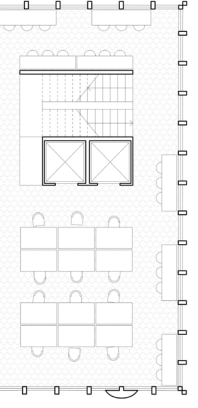
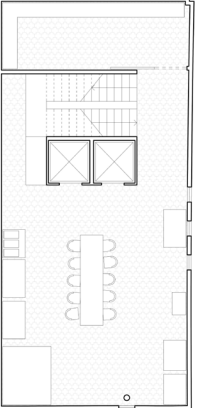
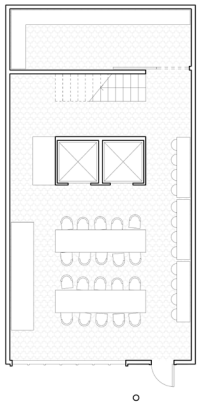


Ground Floor (Commercial Space)



Define the Edge

Treating each architectural concept like a discrete object might result in clear conversations between form and function, and differing programs.



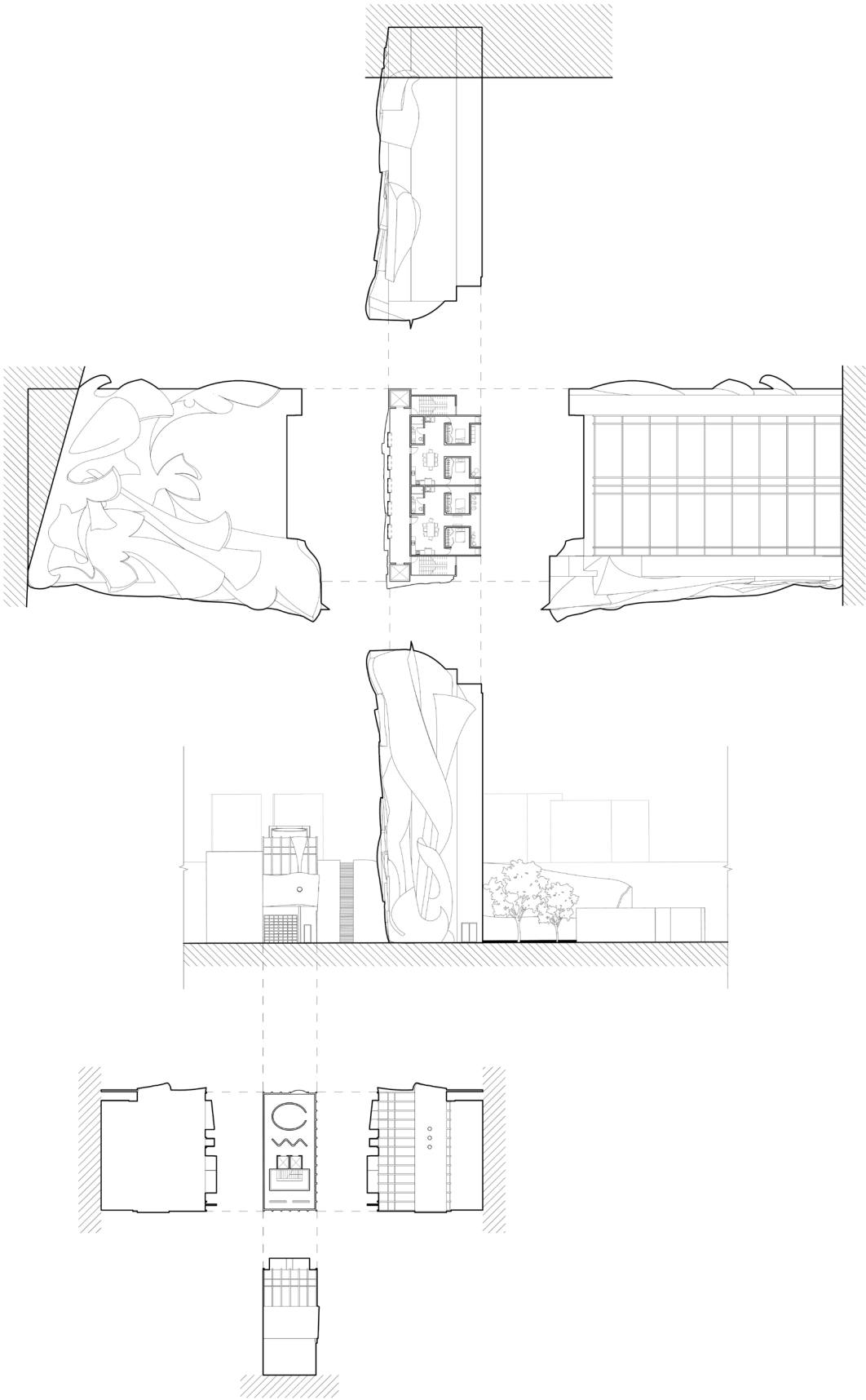


Public Event

A staircase cuts through the site, pre-existing the architecture. It has already won over the community, so it will be celebrated as an aesthetic event.

A Blank Slate

Architectural ornament is almost always centered on interruptions like doors, windows, and edges. What happens when these are consolidated elsewhere?



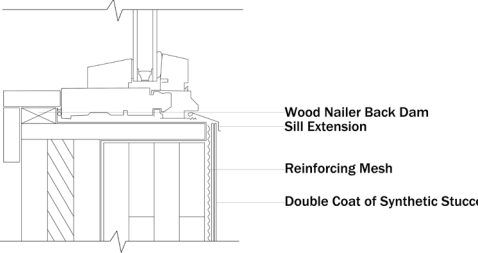
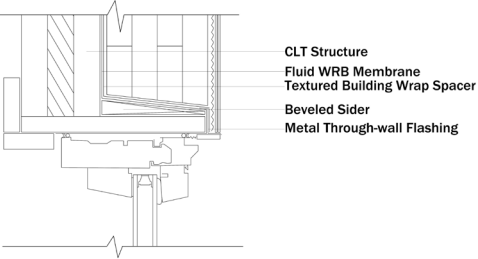
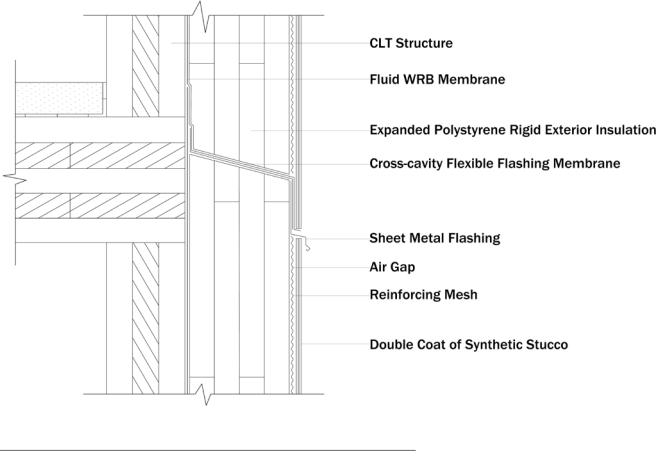
Figurative Forces

The figurative form of a bird, inspired by the ascending paths of the site, is abstracted by forces of movement: those of the eye, the public circulation, and the building.



Wall System

A structural frame of cross-laminated timber is dressed in exterior insulation. This expanded polystyrene is then wrapped with mesh lining and coated in two layers of synthetic stucco.

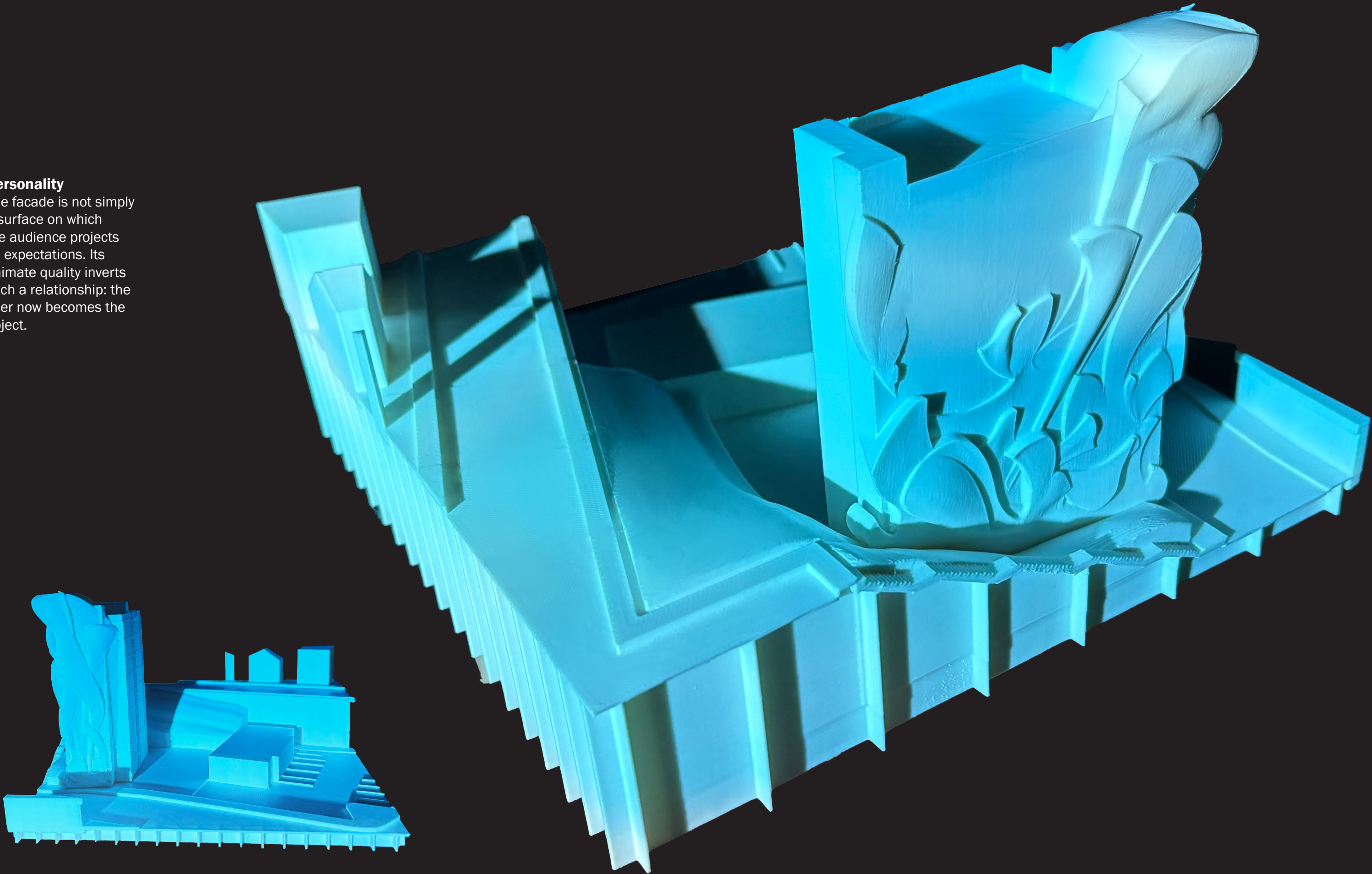


Sustainable Relief

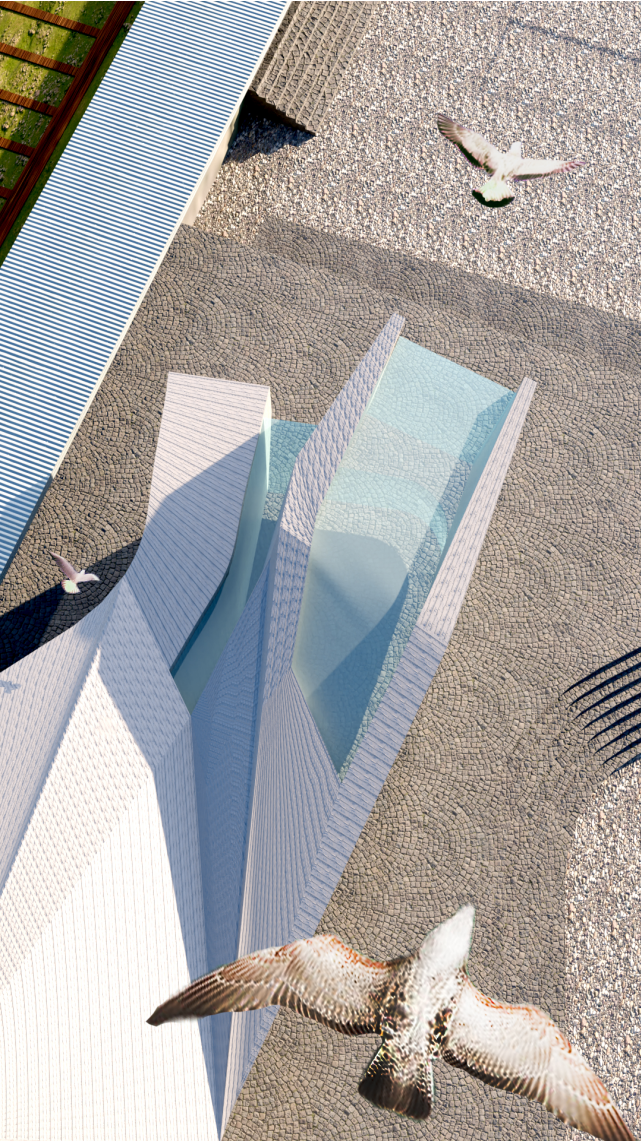
The exterior insulation system can be carved with a CNC machine, opening the door to unbridled expression on the facade.

Personality

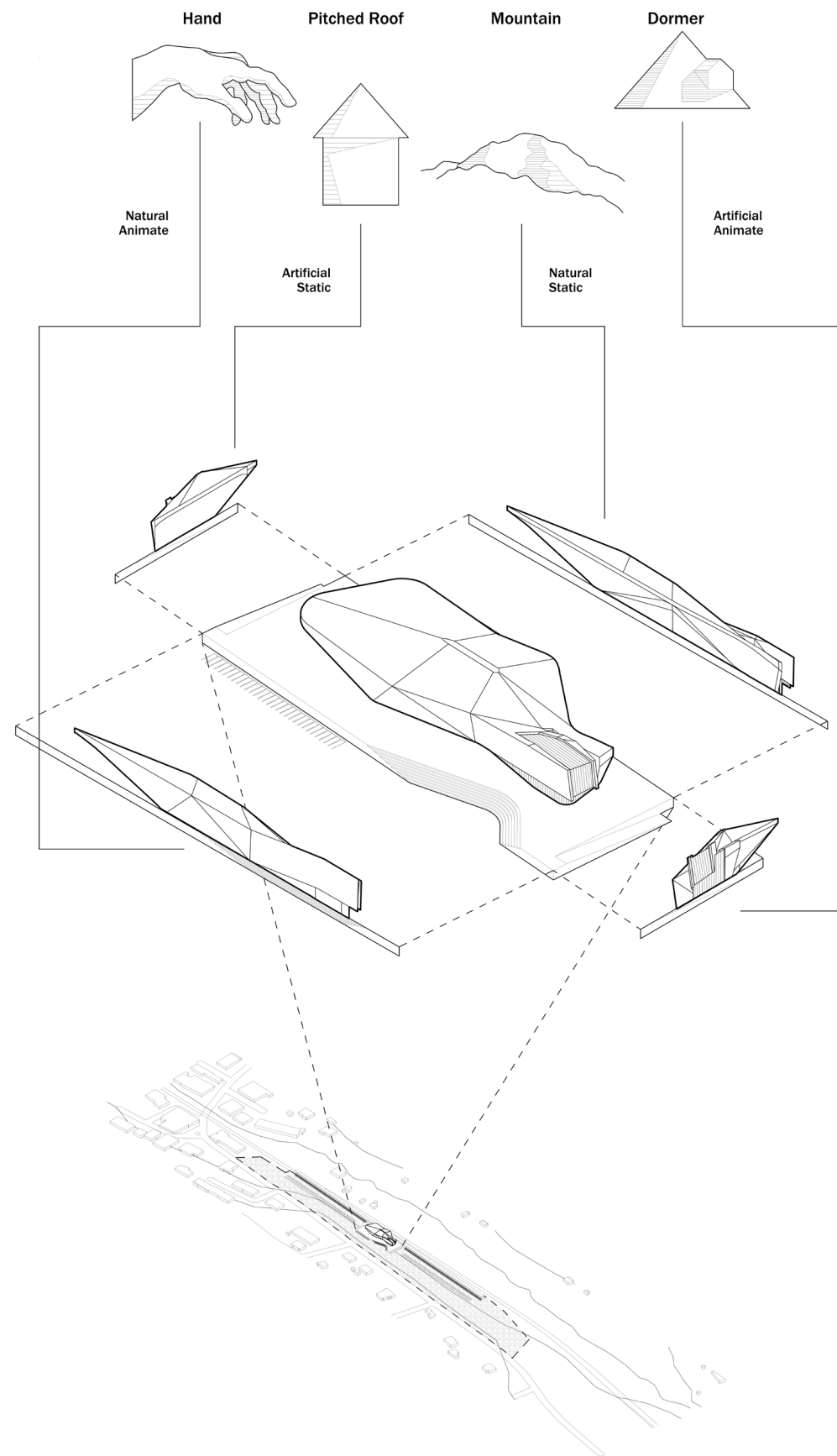
The facade is not simply a surface on which the audience projects its expectations. Its animate quality inverts such a relationship: the user now becomes the object.



Mountain-Roof-Dormer-Finger
Rail Station



Winter 2025

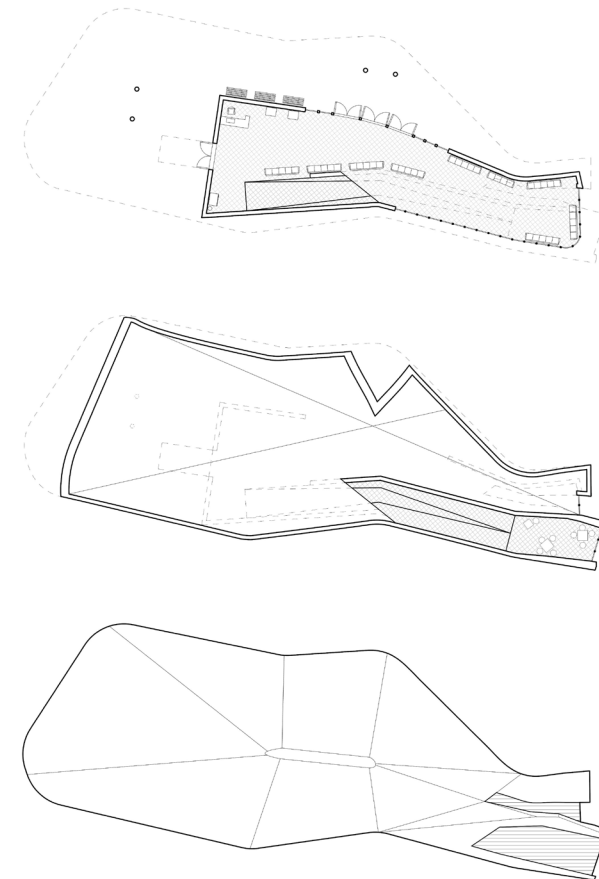
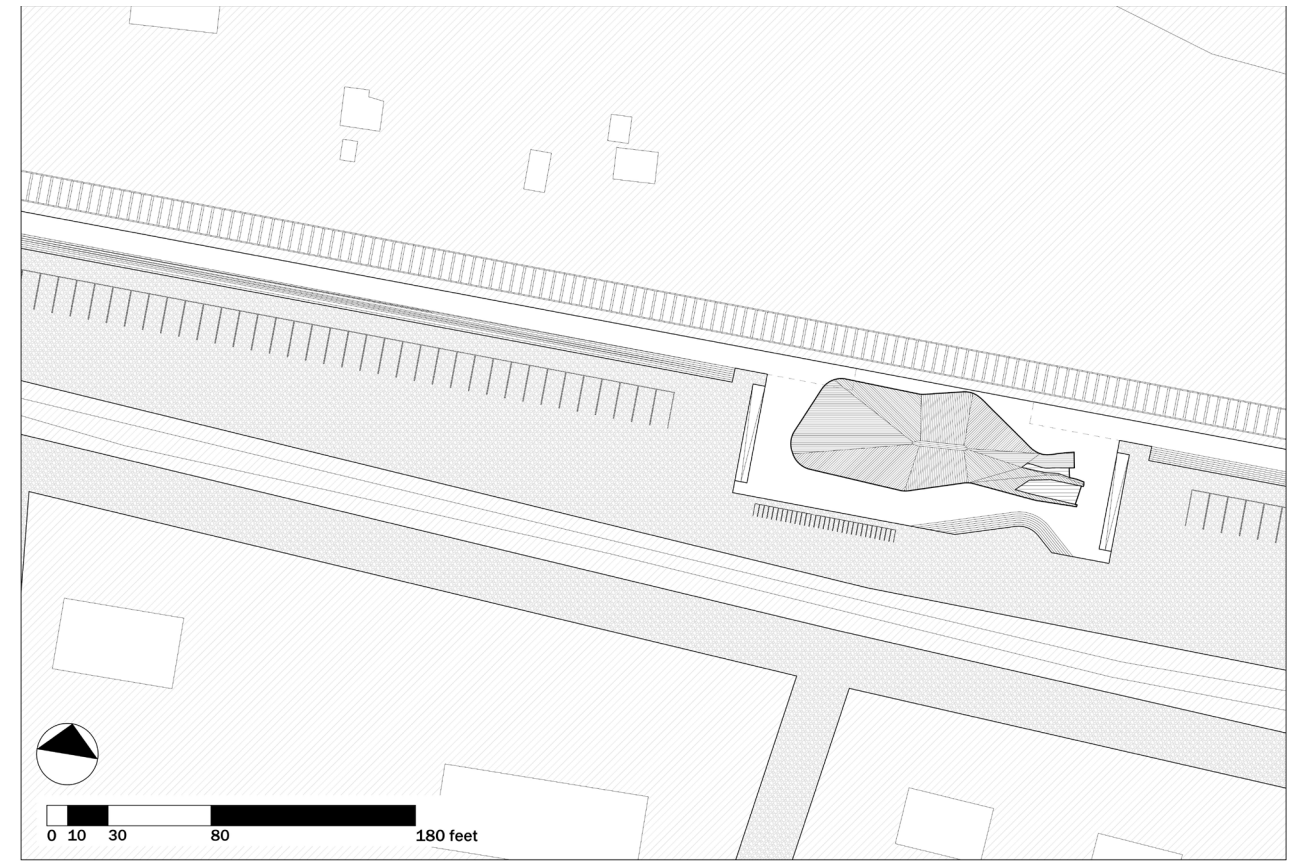


Grounding

Standard vernacular forms are animated with reference to natural characters. The roof becomes a mountain. The dormer, an outstretched limb.

Sheet Monster

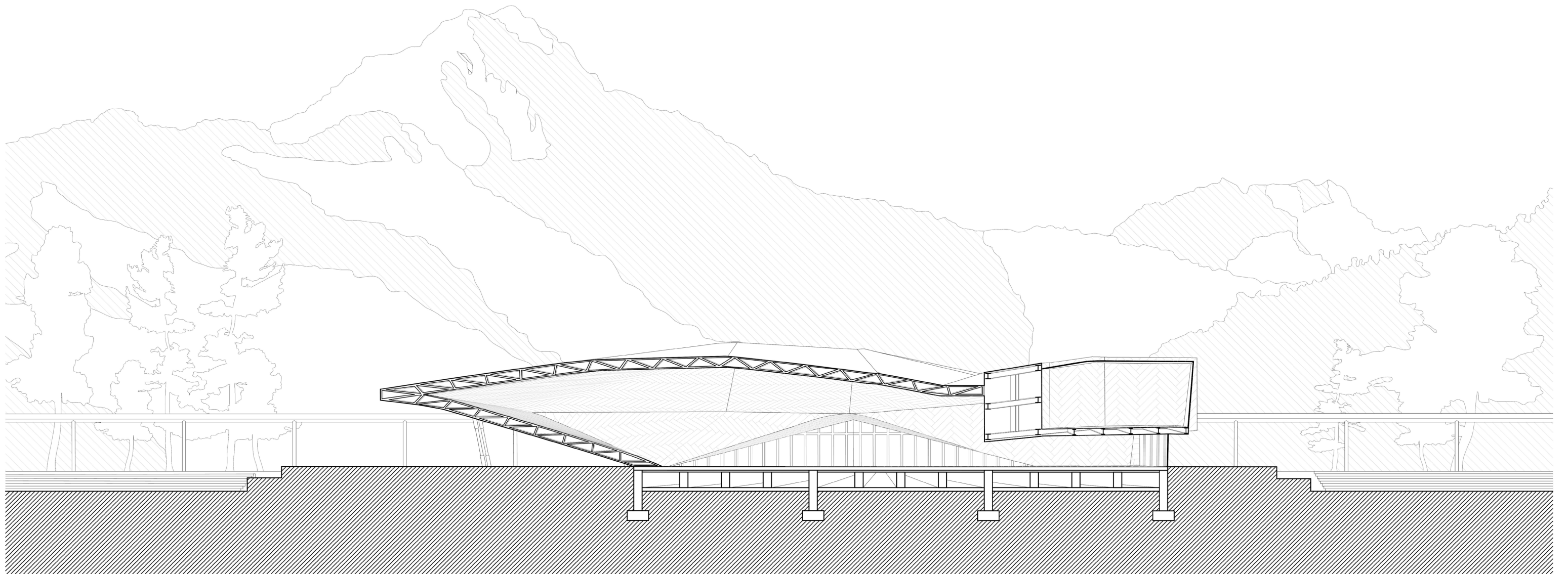
An almost seamless (and, in this way, “digital”) surface is challenged by an internal force. Like a beast underneath a blanket, something primitive emerges.



Ground Level

Second Level

Roof



Structure

A light-gauge steel frame is anchored near the southern face and upholds the dramatic ramp. Elsewhere, a space frame maintains the building's unconventional span.

Somatic

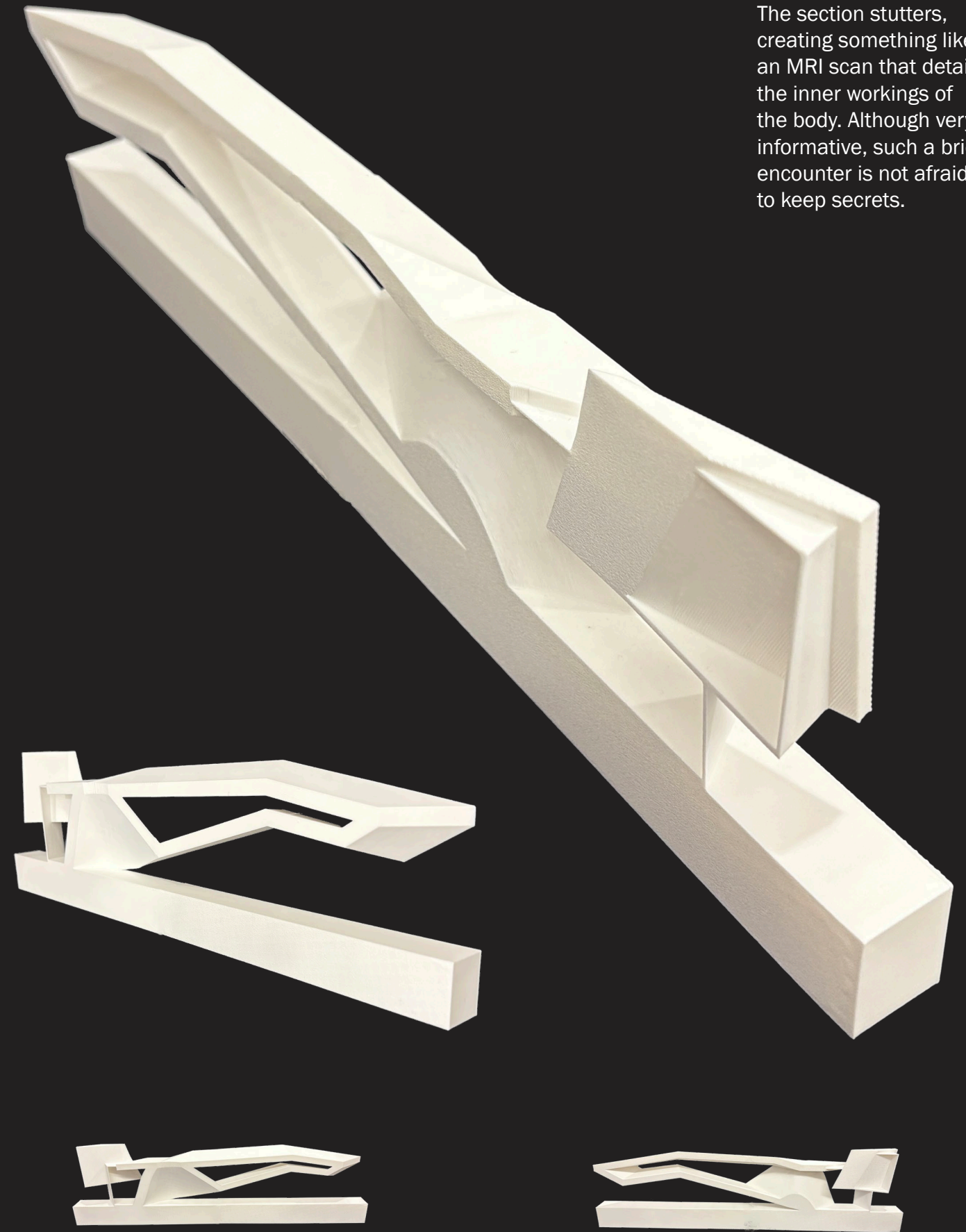
The formal mannerisms are produced through the hand, whether as the author or point of reference. At the building scale, these movements become familiar and legible.



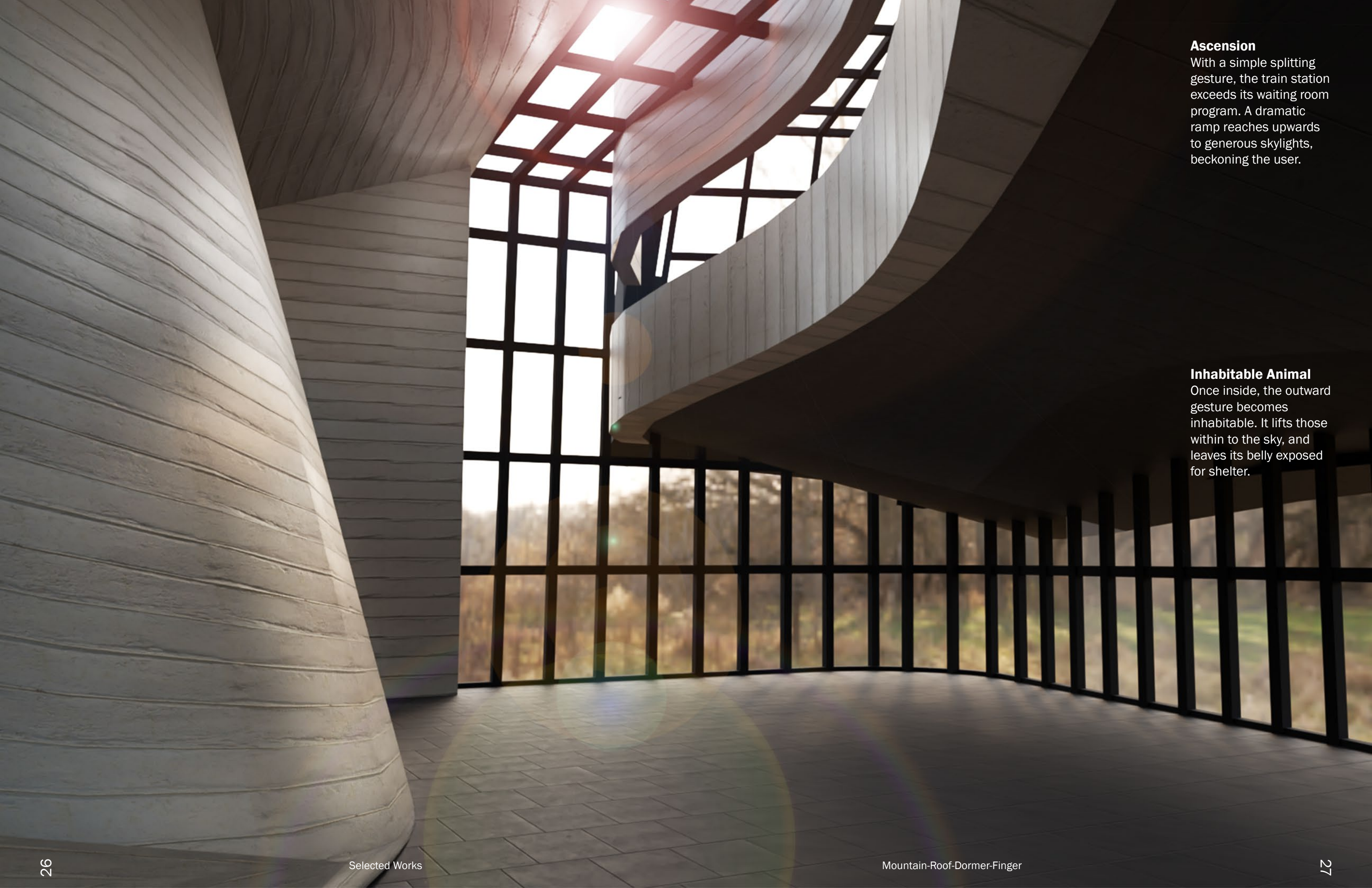
Selected Works

Sliver

The section stutters, creating something like an MRI scan that details the inner workings of the body. Although very informative, such a brief encounter is not afraid to keep secrets.



Mountain-Roof-Dormer-Finger



Ascension

With a simple splitting gesture, the train station exceeds its waiting room program. A dramatic ramp reaches upwards to generous skylights, beckoning the user.

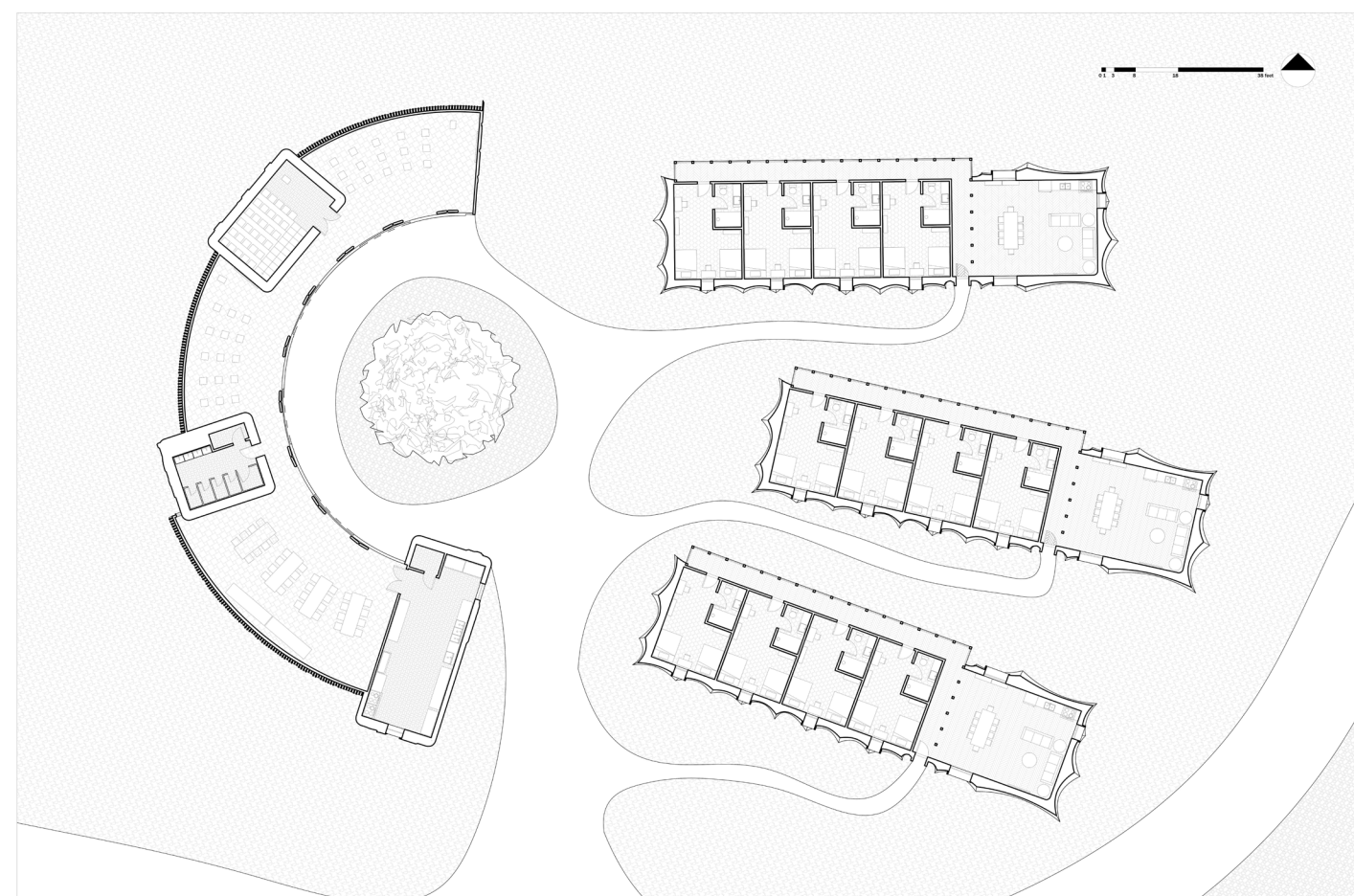
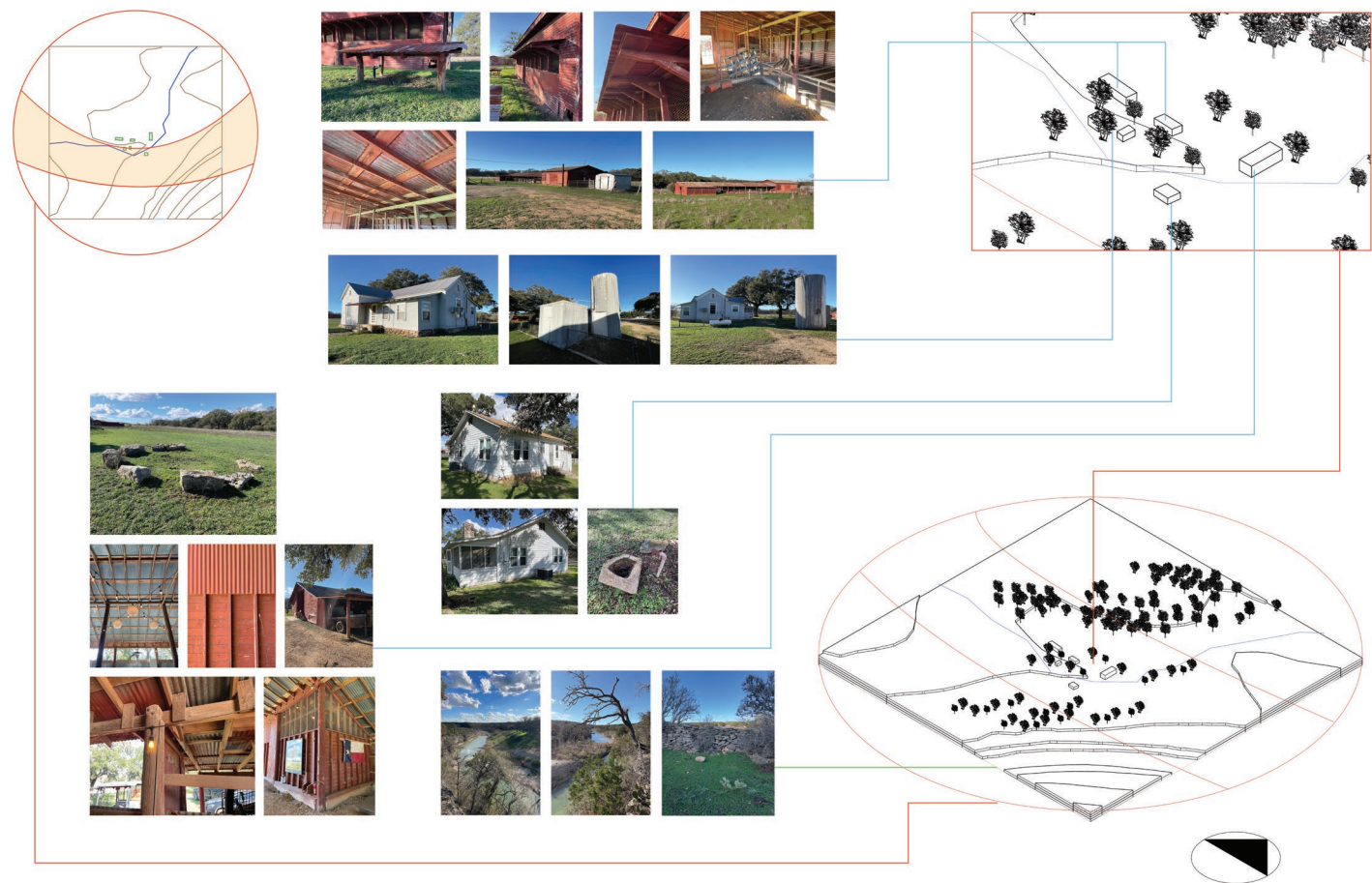
Inhabitable Animal

Once inside, the outward gesture becomes inhabitable. It lifts those within to the sky, and leaves its belly exposed for shelter.

A Mockery of the Landscape
Hill Country Retreat Center



Summer 2024



Context

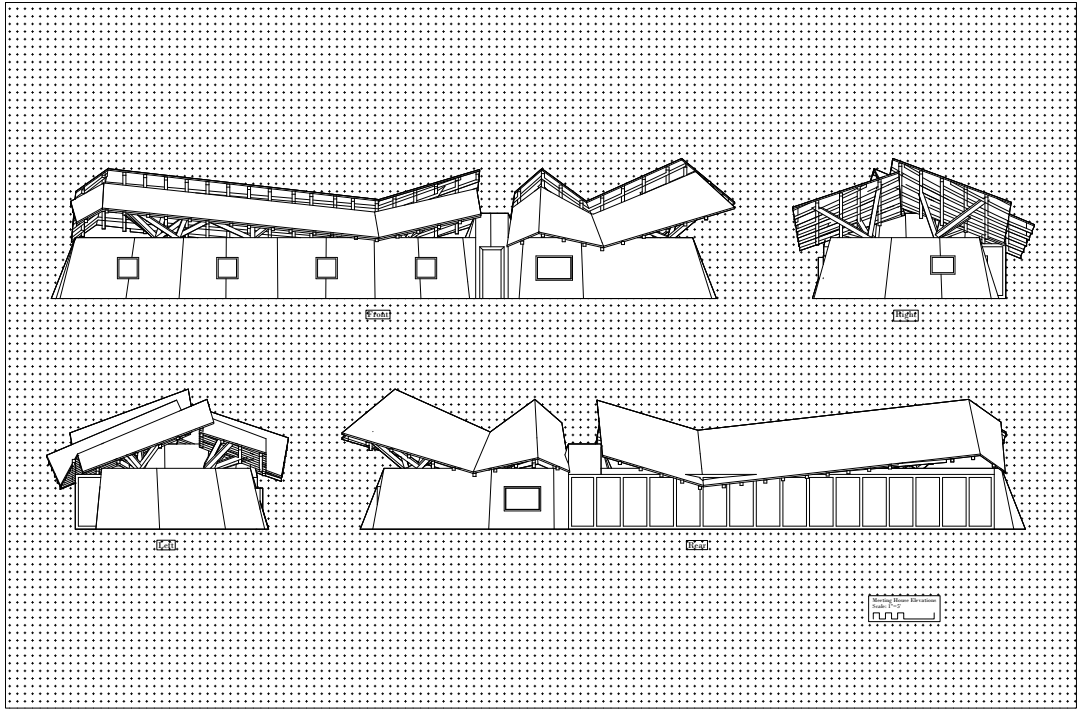
The existing buildings include a barn, garage, historic residences, and other equipment for tending to the land and wildlife.

Datum

The different buildings are centrally anchored on an existing oak tree near the front of the complex.

Snapshot Studies

The formal characteristics of the site, found anywhere from nearby stones to the tectonics of existing structures, laid the groundwork for inspiration.



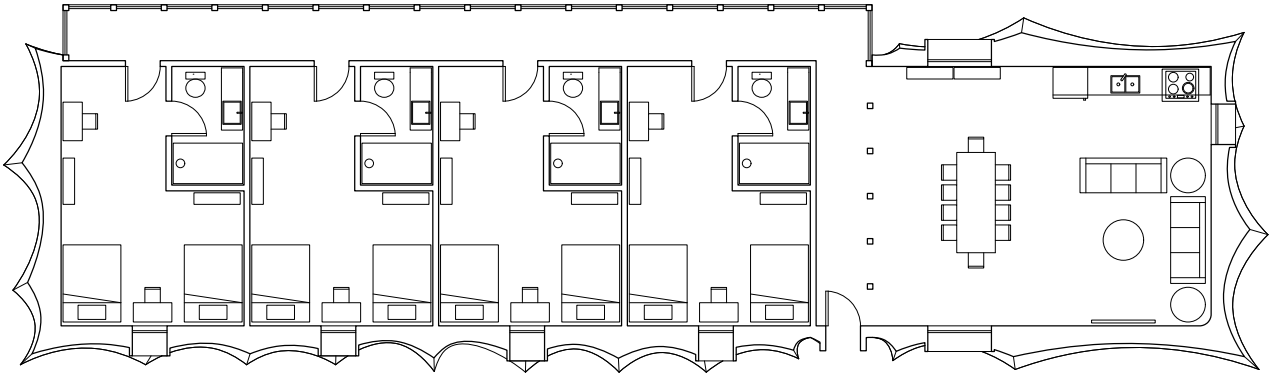
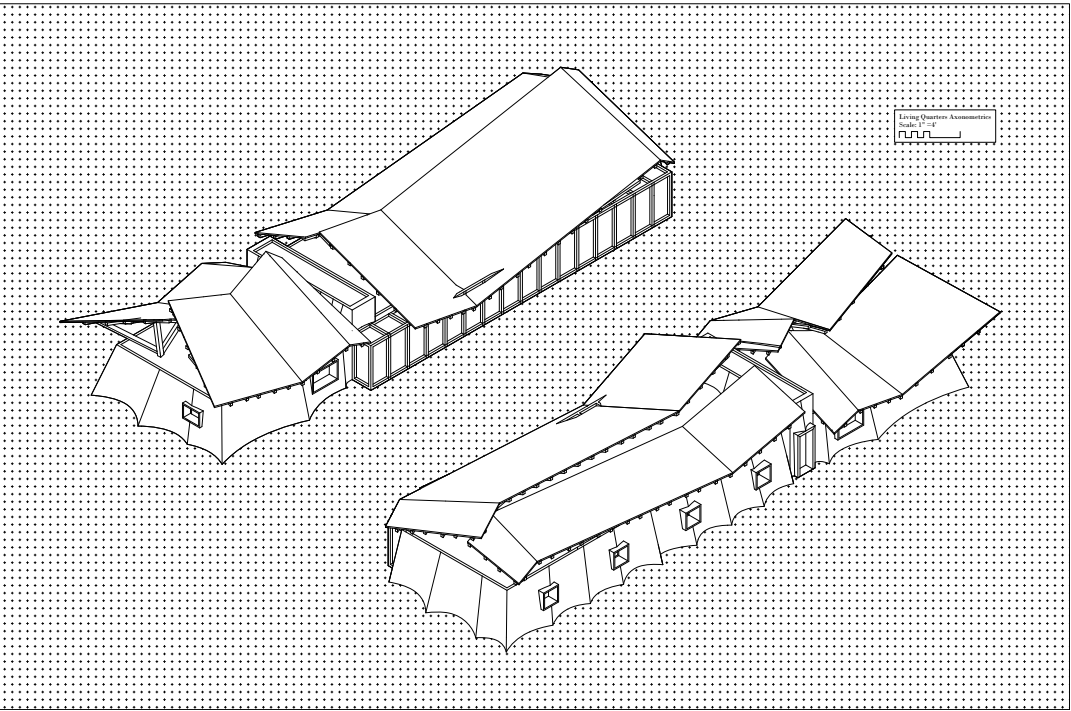
Imitation Game

Architecture is an extension of our interpretation of the environment. A building in the harsh plains of Texas should take cues from the splayed bushes who survive there.



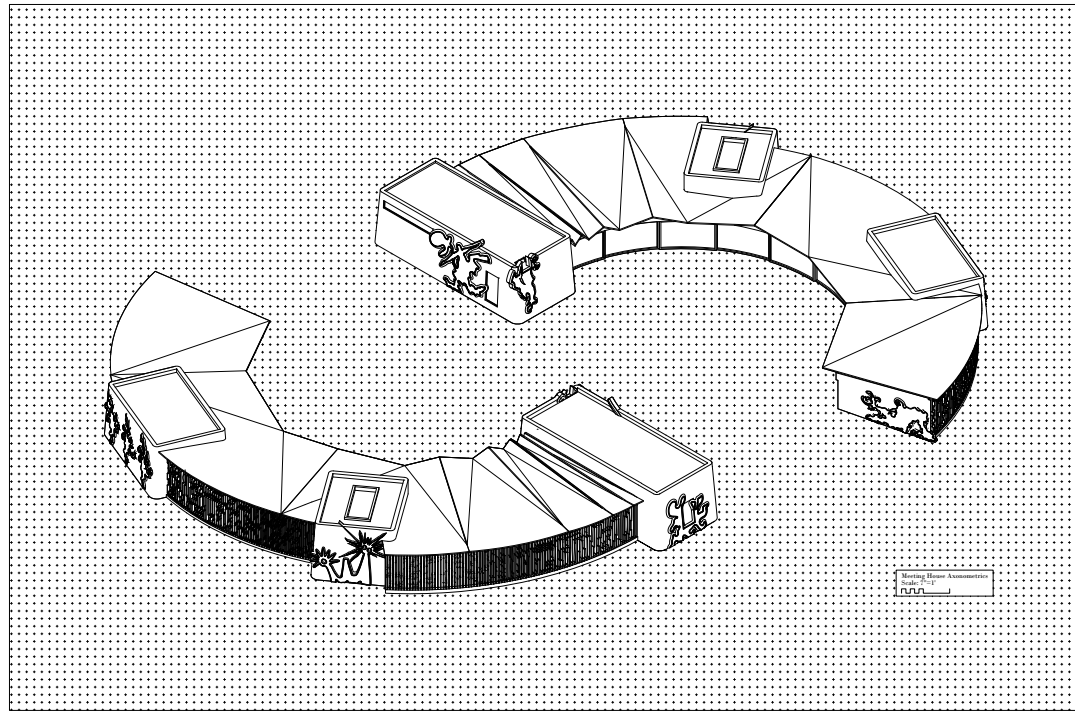
Earth and Sky

Just like every element of nature, we must consider how we meet the ground and the air, respectively. In this case, the building's roots are strong to support its upward dance.



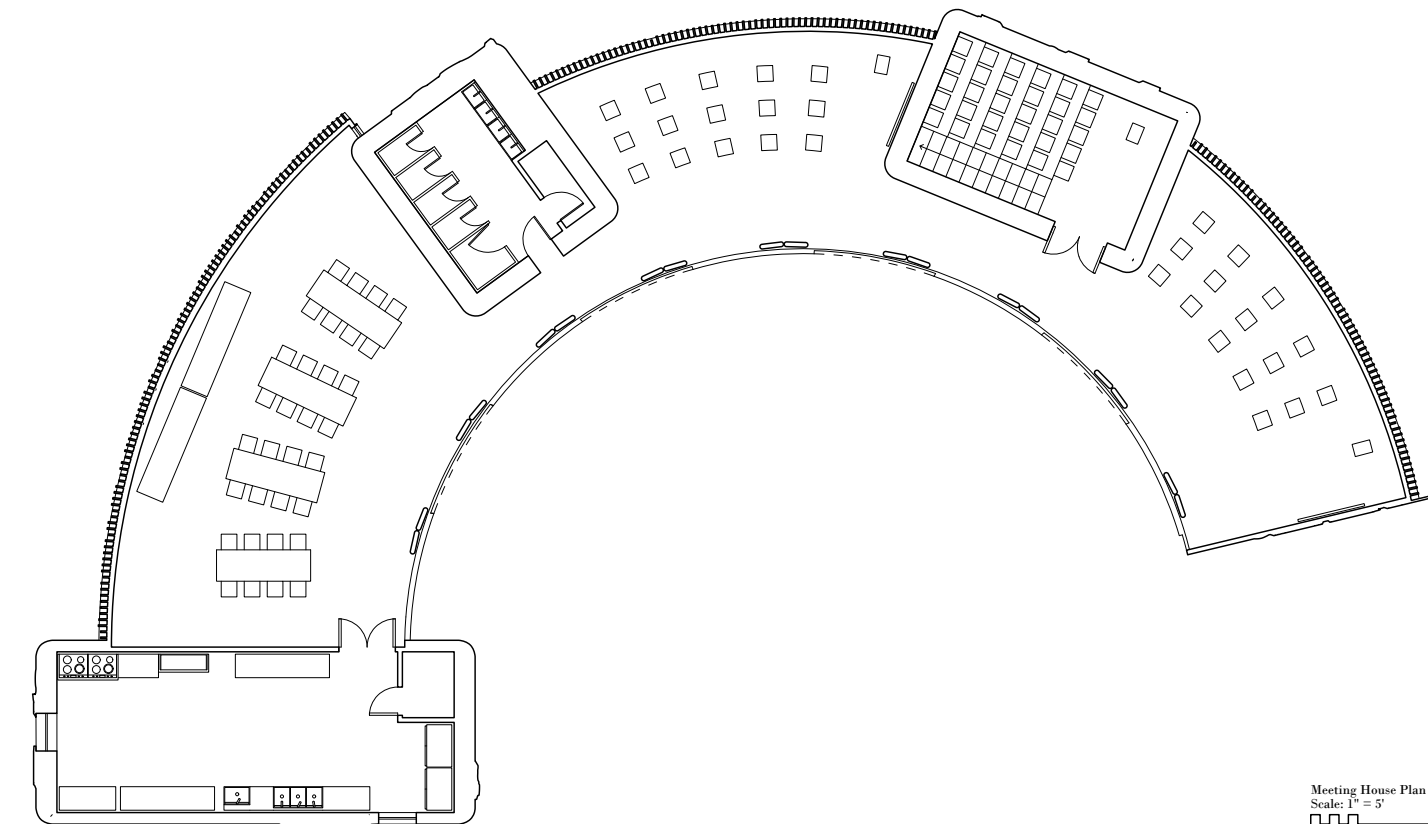
Living Quarters Plan
Scale: 1" = 4"





Ripples

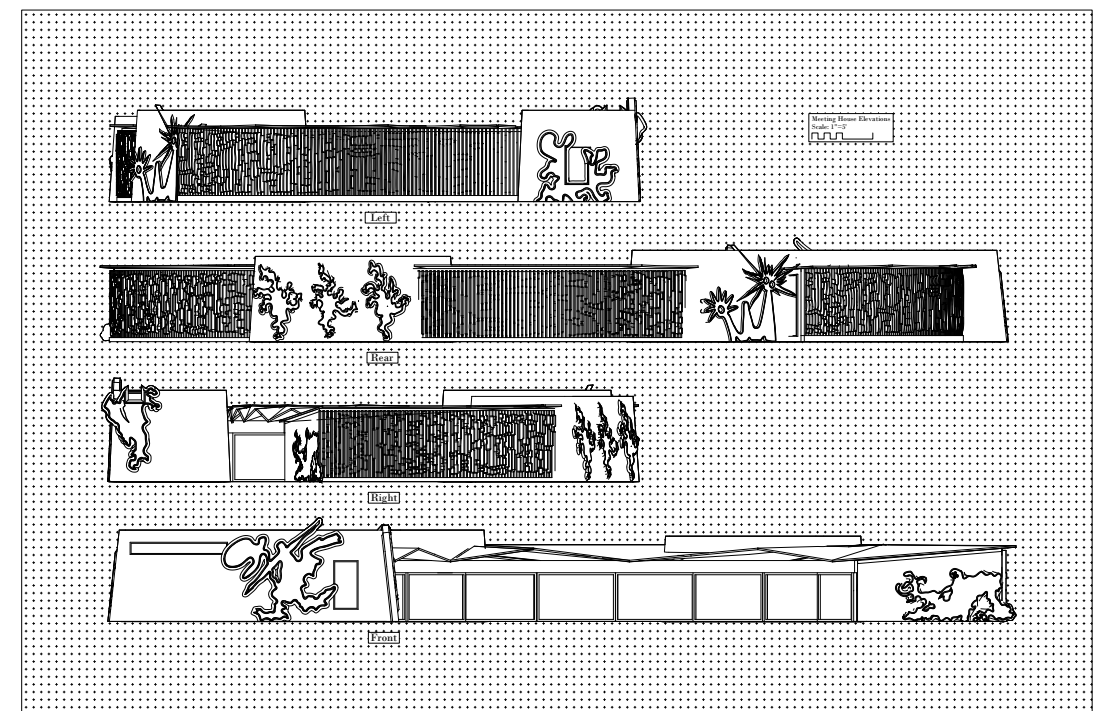
Volumes are enclosed sparingly and, upon this act of formal independence, provoke a reaction from the roof, which doubles down on its corrugation and begins to crumple.



Meeting House Plan
Scale: 1" = 5'

The Cast

Surreal graffiti dabbles in figurative form inspired by the characters of the landscape. Horses dance, the sun peeks over a hill, and a cowboy brandishes his weapon.





Illusory Doodles

Wooden panels are stained after a CNC cutting operation which renders an almost-three-dimensional image that can only be deciphered with a few laps around the perimeter.

Break Out of Kentucky

Kentucky Loft Renovation

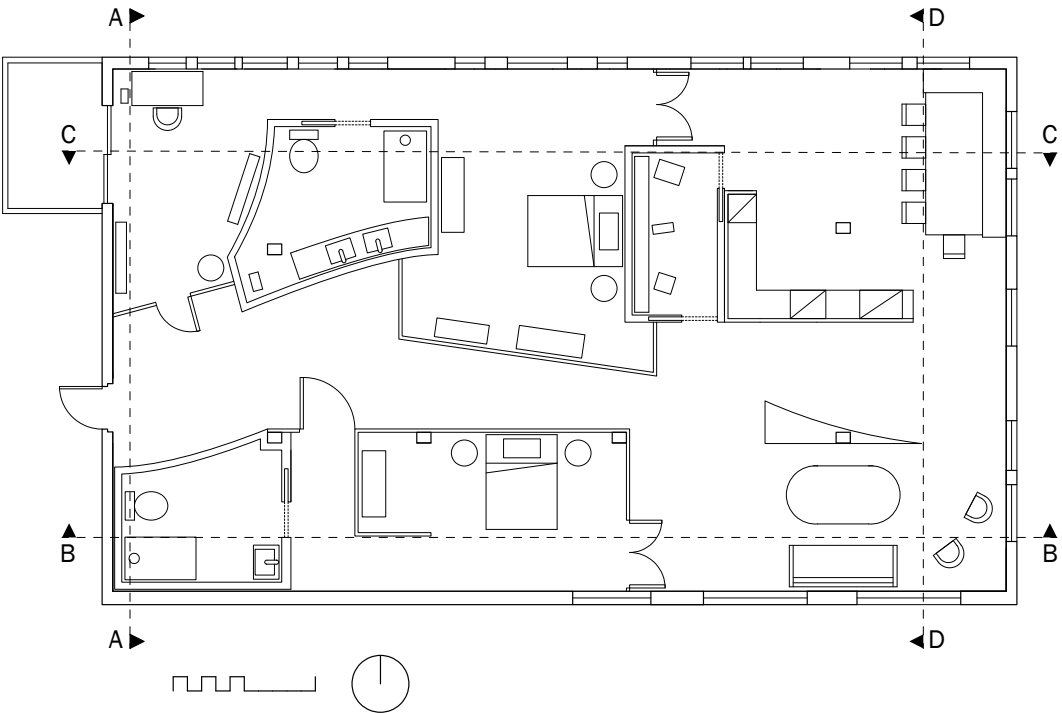


Spring 2024



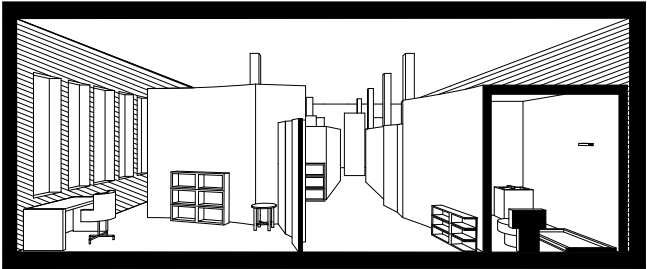
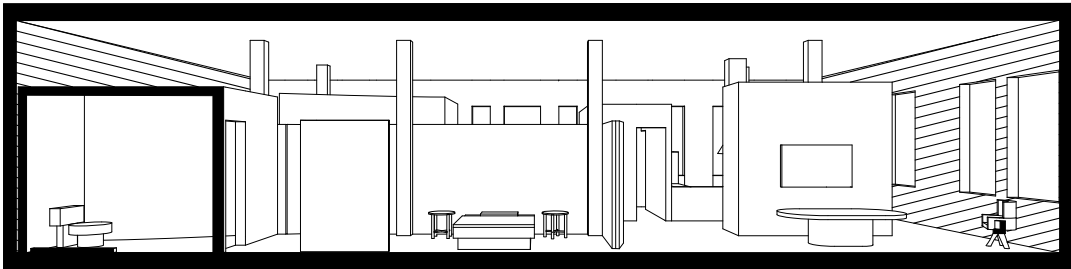
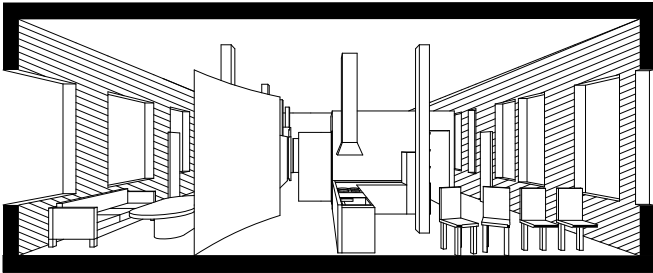
Corner Church

Inspired by the neighborhood church across the street, an axial cross plan is employed to compose the spaces.



Volumes and Planes

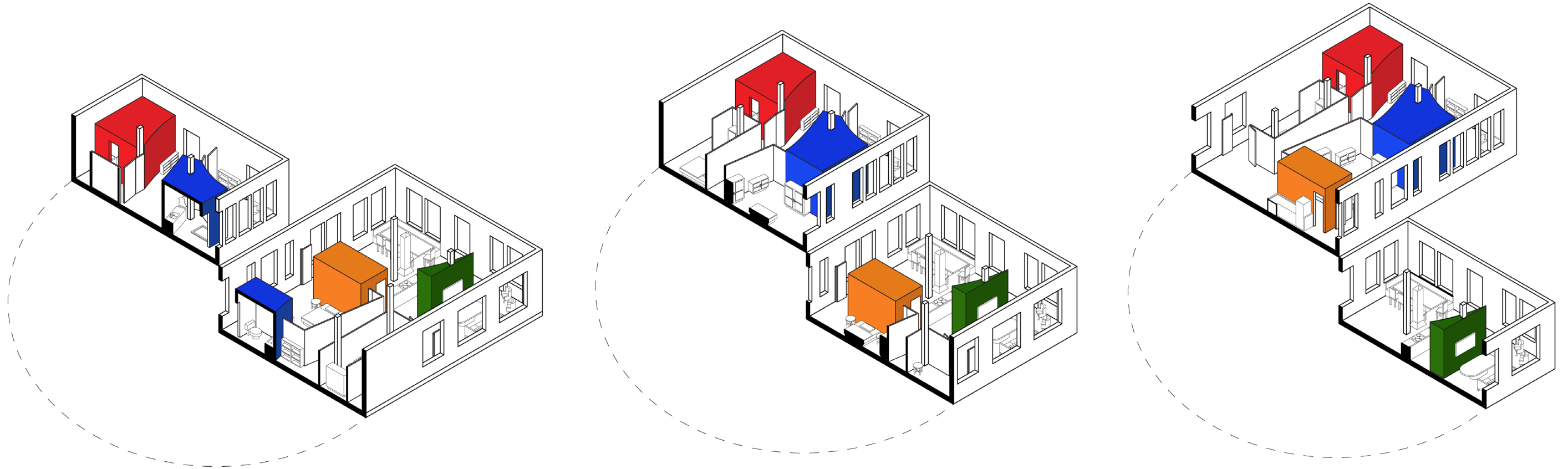
Any room that can be open is so. Volumes are only employed where necessary, and hesitate to reach the ceiling or walls. They are revealing in their finitude.



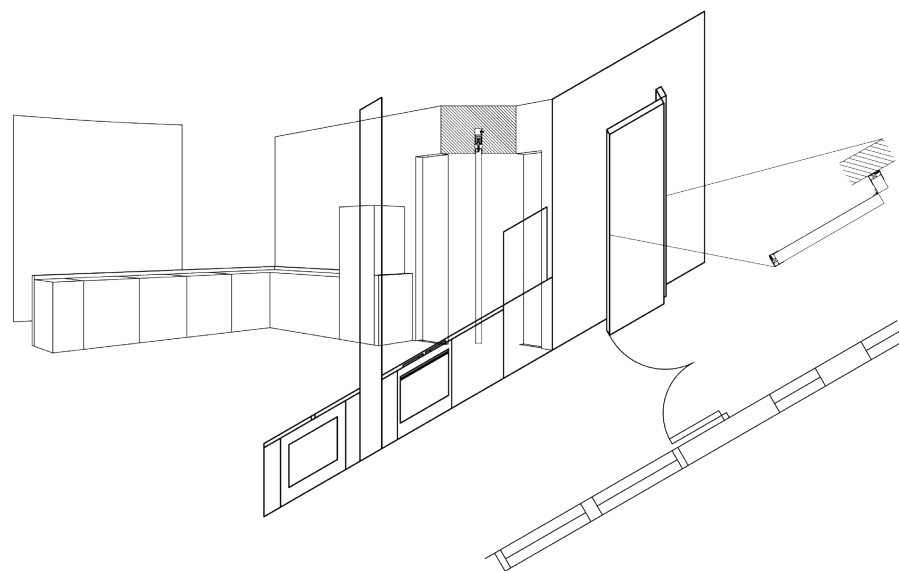
Perspective

As in Borromini's Palazzo Spada, a one-point perspective is distorted. Here, it is not only emphasized but twisted and interrupted.

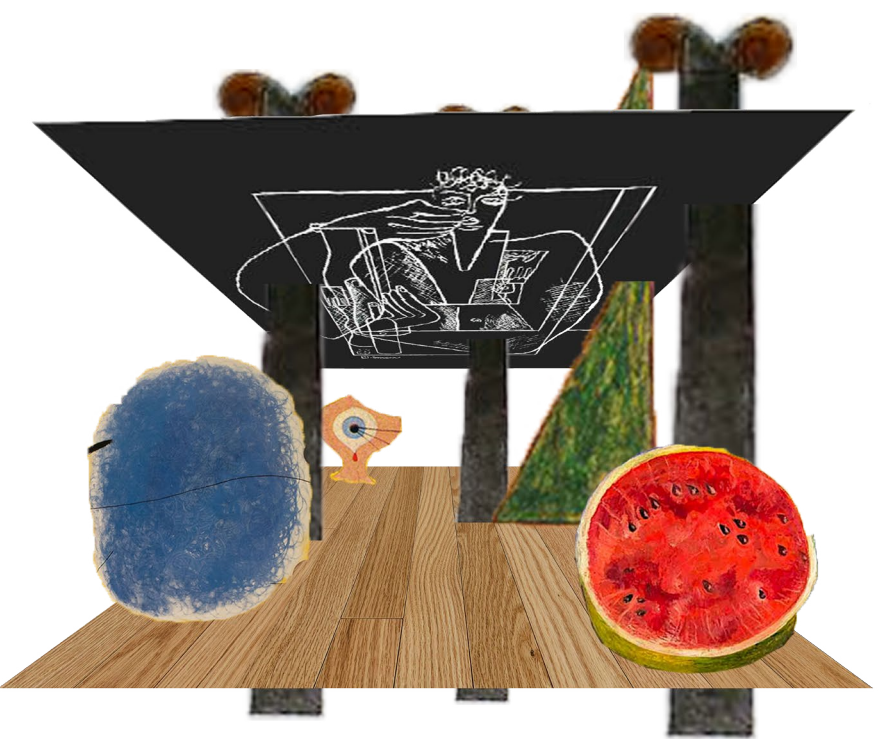




Edges
 The boundaries between spaces vary in ambiguity. Some corners are emphasized, and others slip into the next.

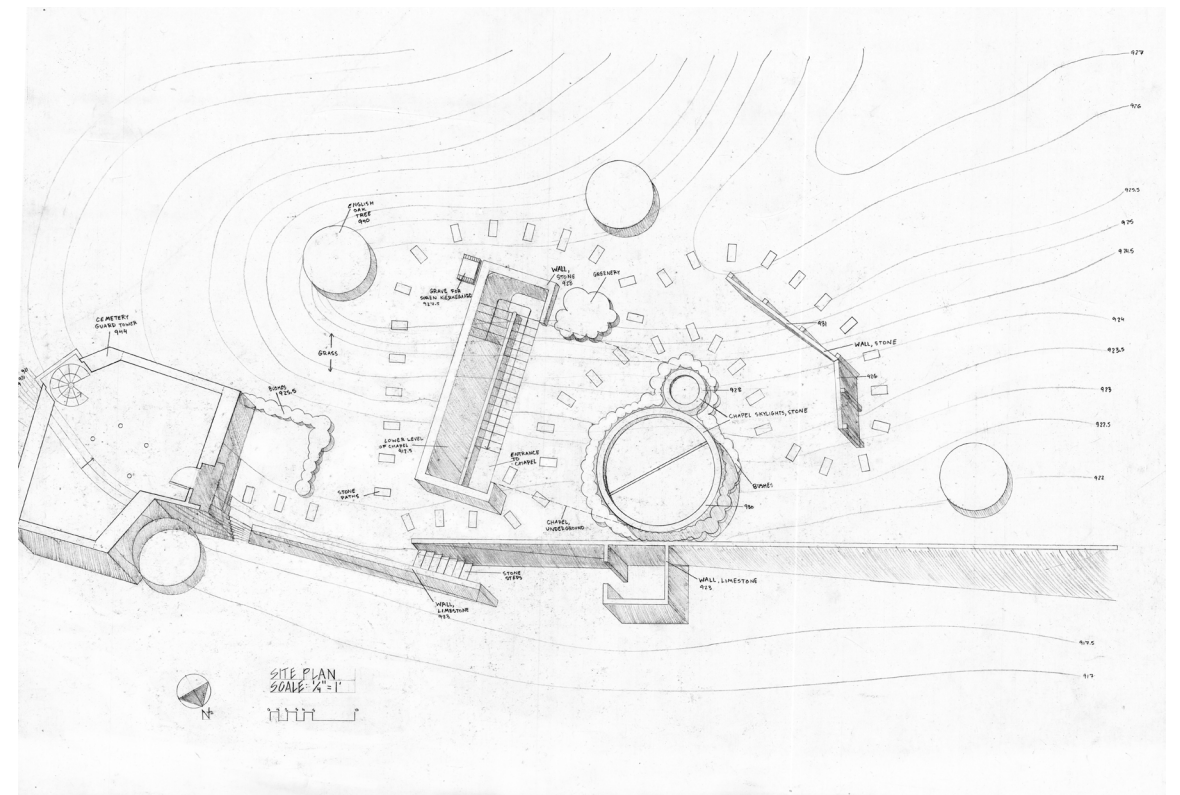


Legibility
 Each element's independence is emphasized through its position, arrangement, and color.

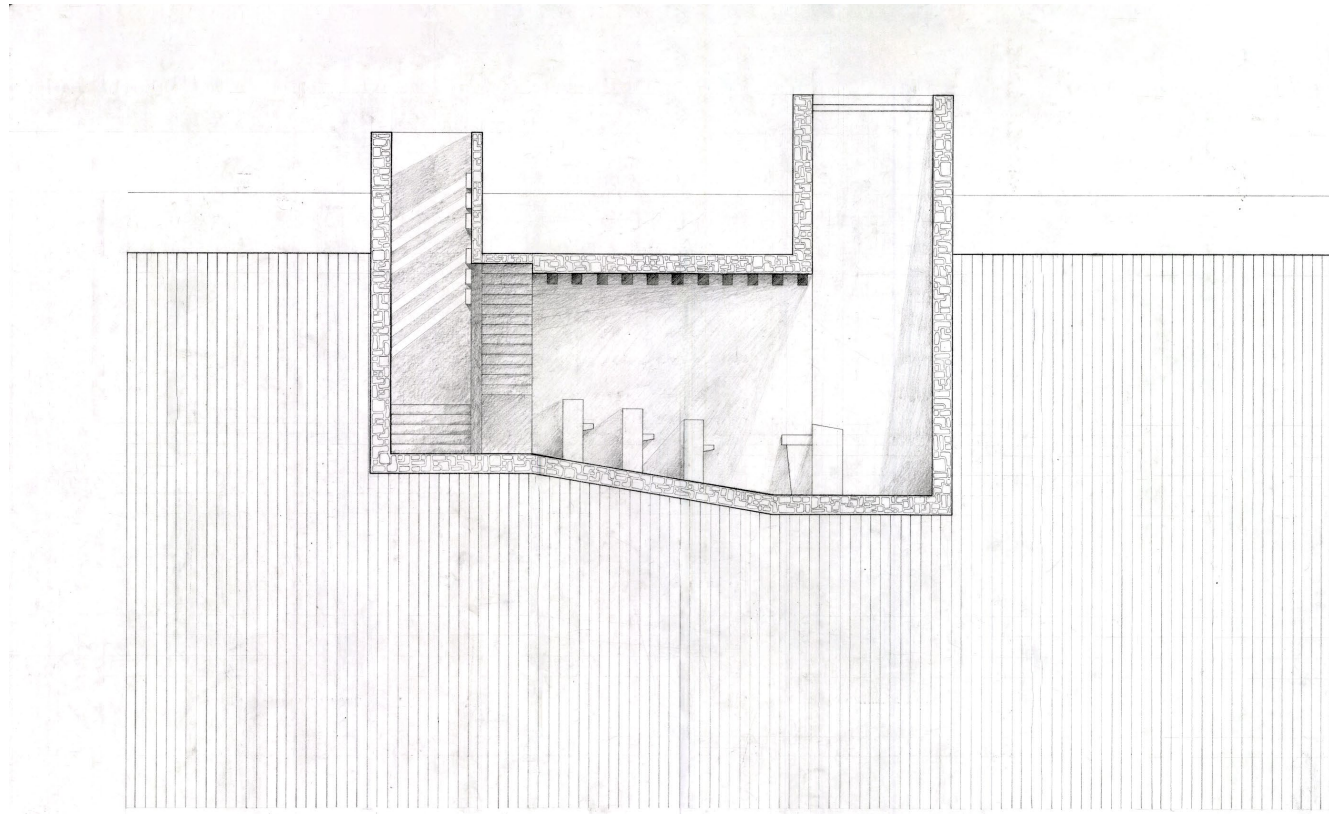


Sit Still

Graveyard Guard Tower and Chapel

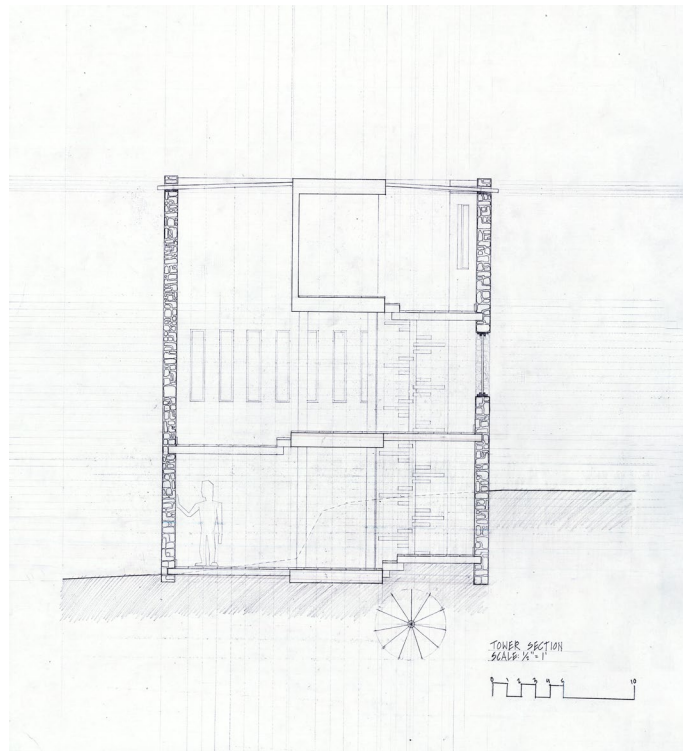


Fall 2023



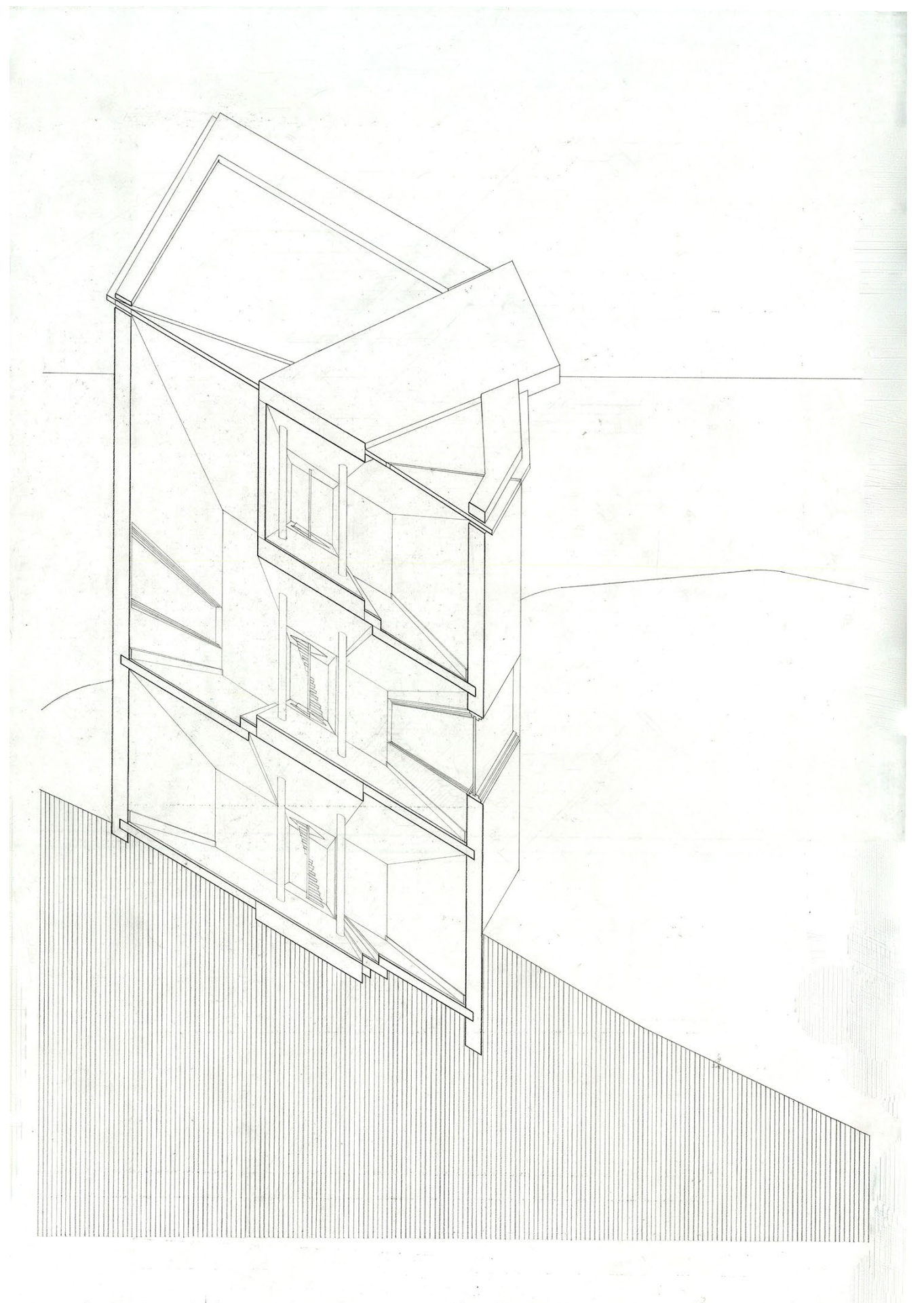
Light in the Ground

The chapel above began with a Latin Cross plan before its horizontal axis was distorted to create an above-ground entrance. This procession was then pierced with windows.

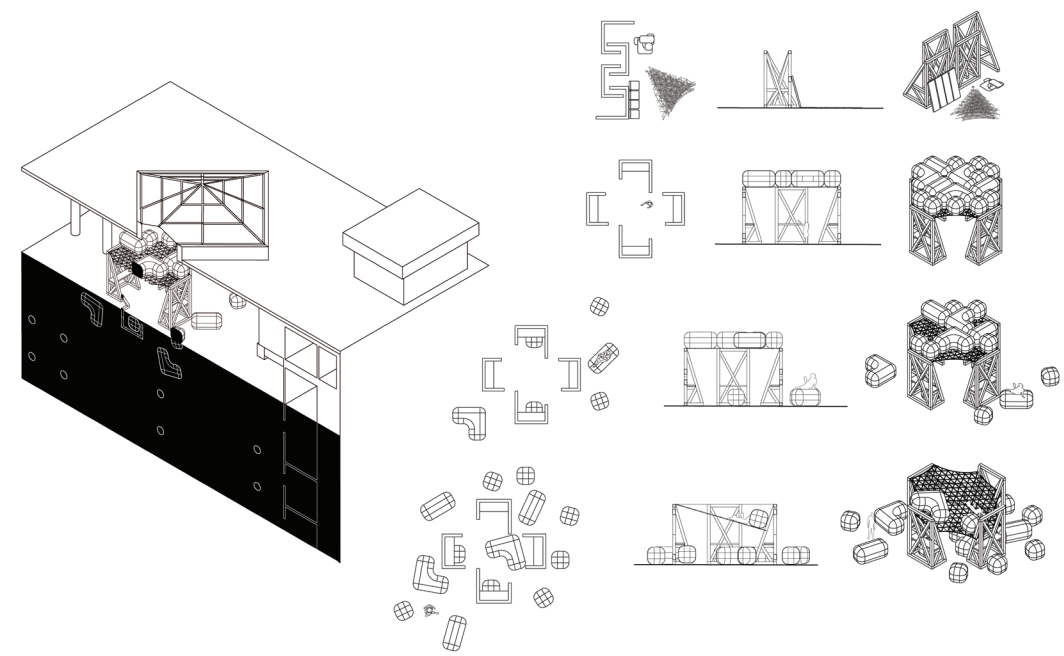


Rigid Form

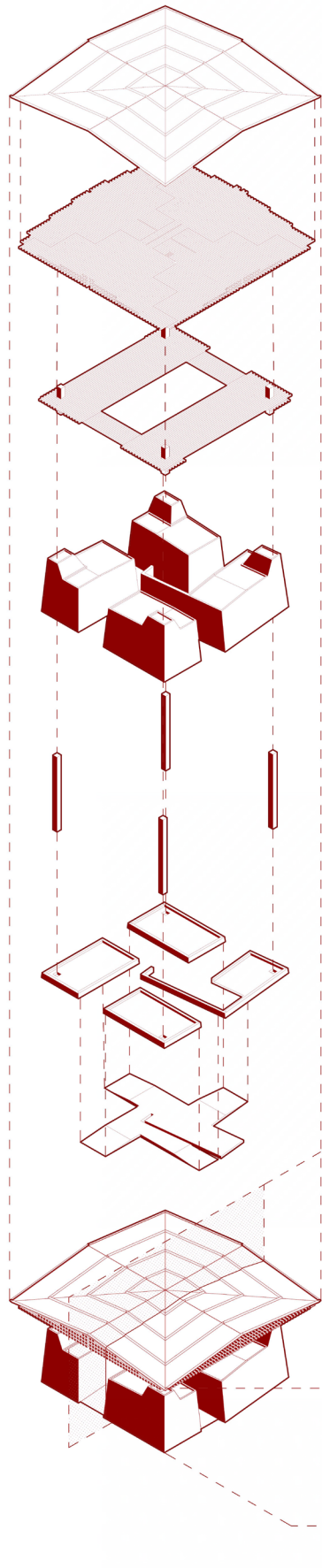
The perimeter of this groundskeeper's towering home, required to have three levels, is the result of extruding and studying the contour lines of other important site elements.



Let Them Play with the Ornament
Charette Projects

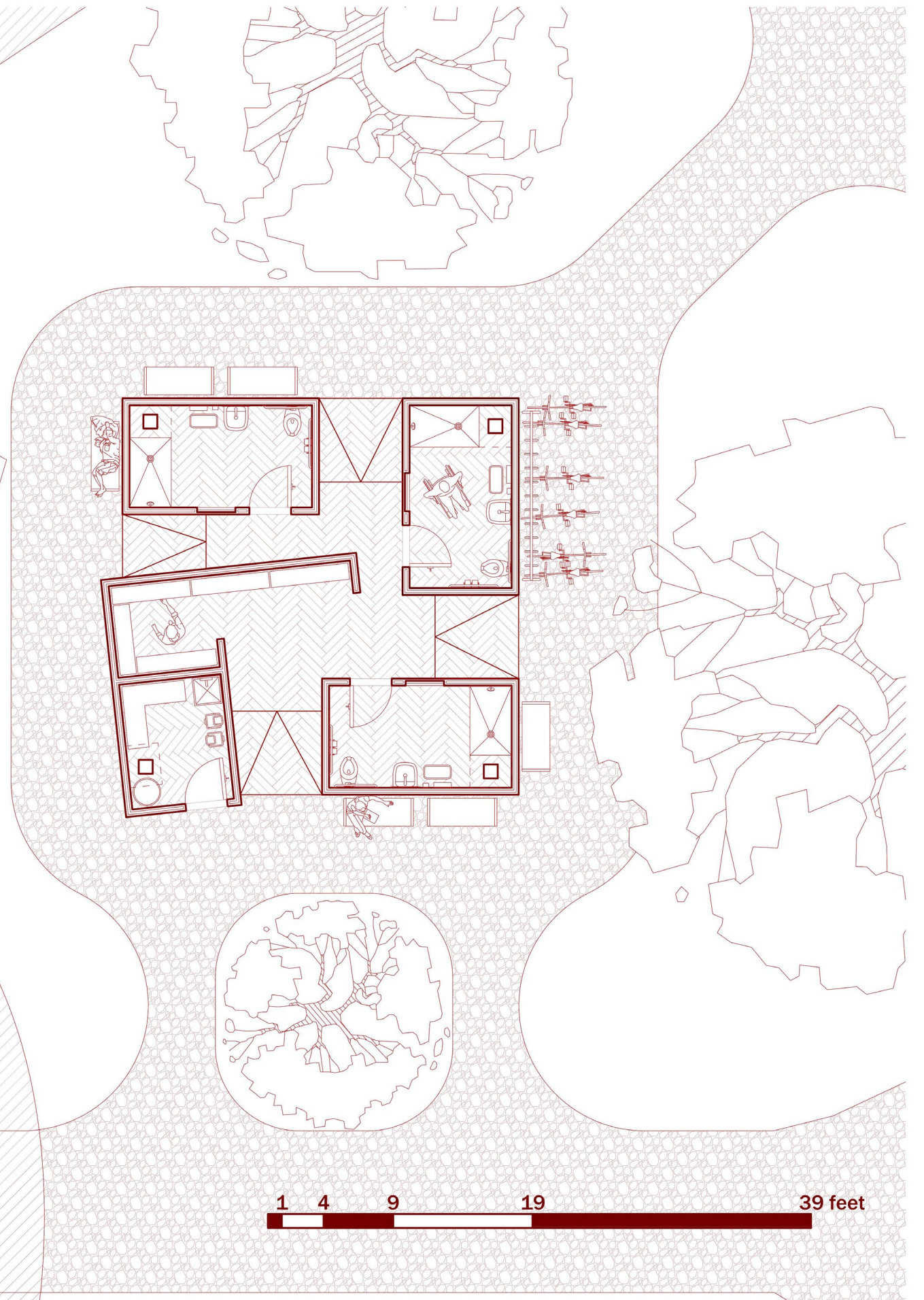
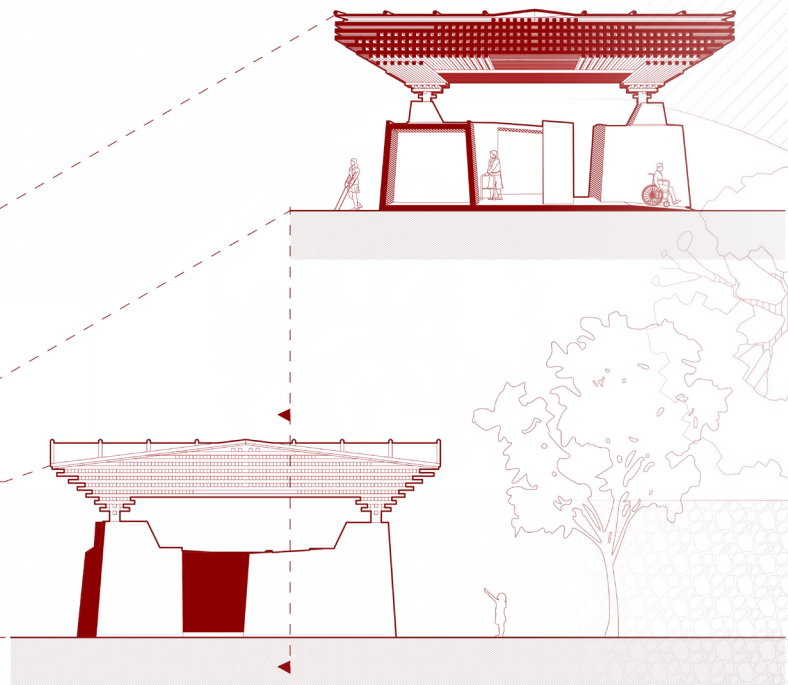


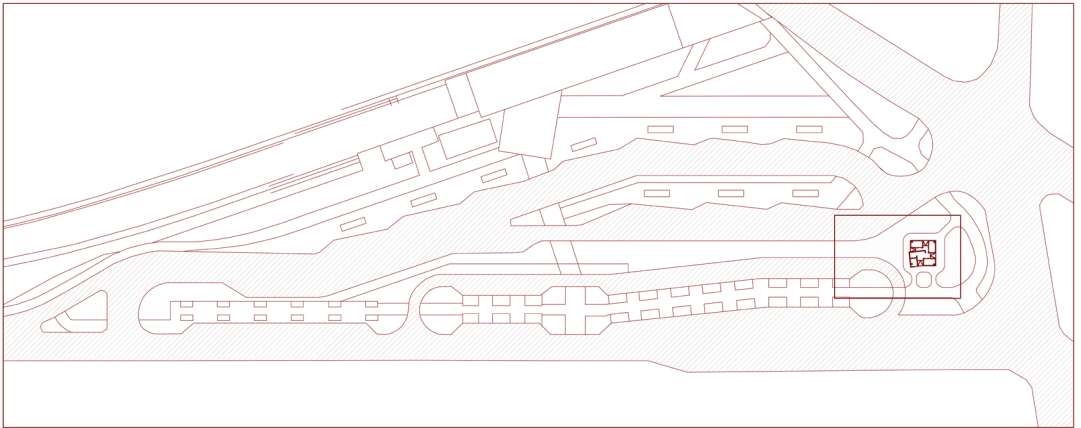
Fall 2023 / Fall 2024



Program
A public bathroom becomes a haven for the neglected and struggling through programmatic solidarity: a pantry for mutual aid, showers in accessible bathrooms, large benches, and more.

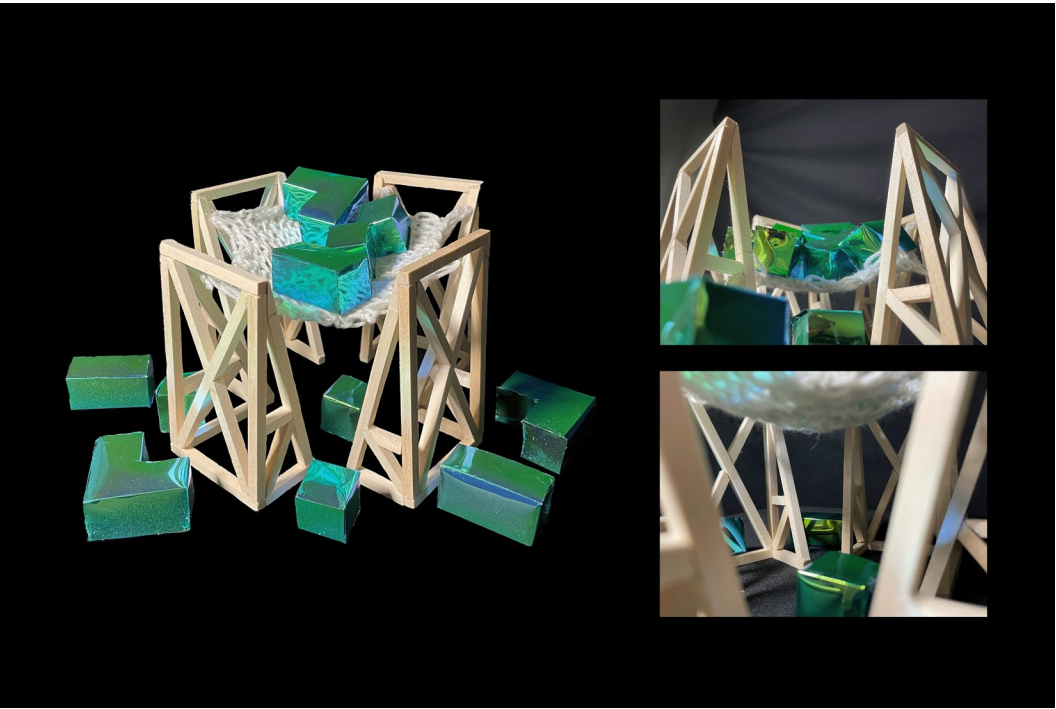
Image
A haven exceeds its program. A tree-like canopy is upheld by COR-TEN geometries extracted from a dolmen, and these resolve in the image of a temple.



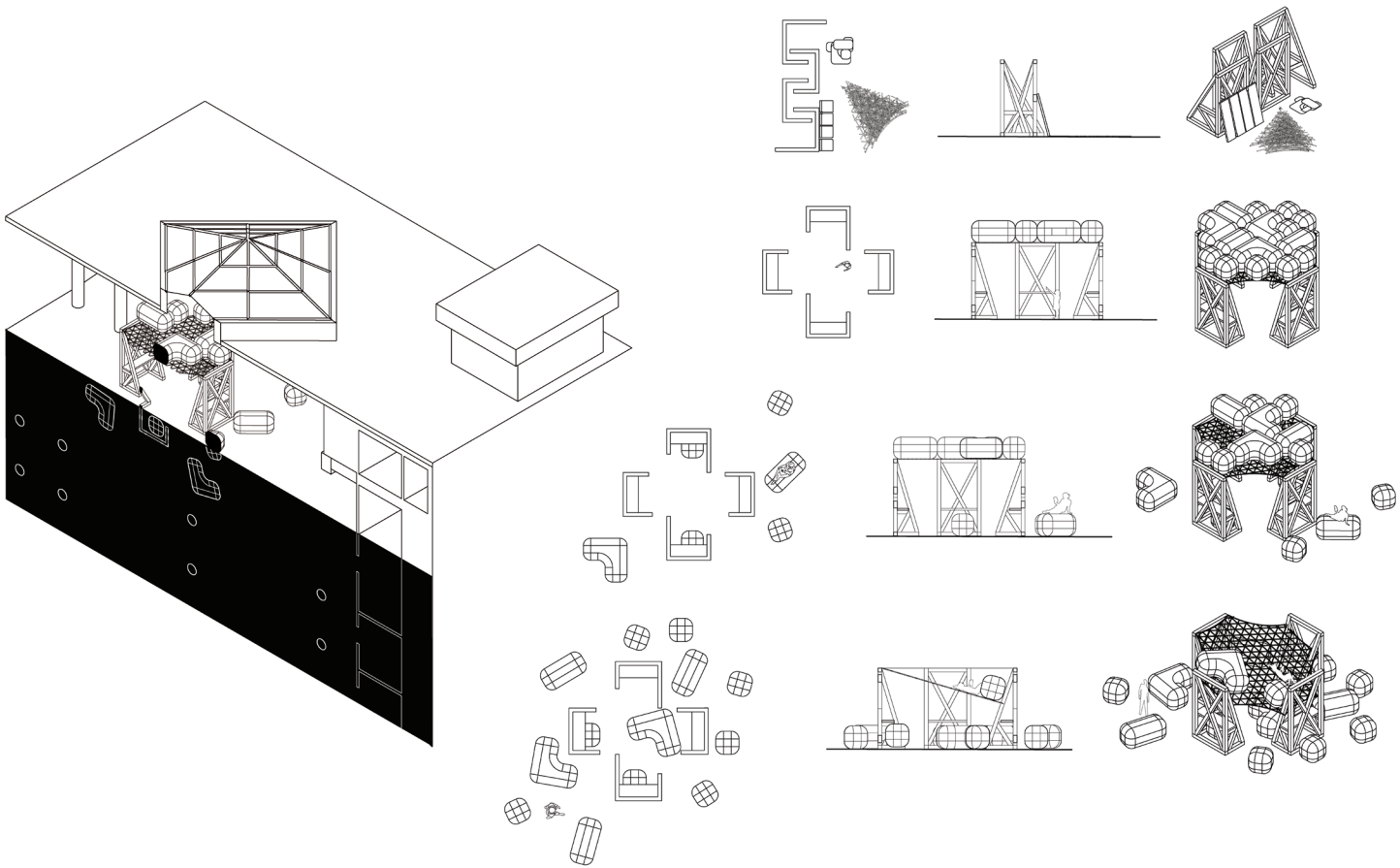


Site: Alexandria, VA
Placed on the corner of the site for greater accessibility from street, proximity to Old Town, and existing natural features

Temple
Alternating stacks of wooden lines aggregate to create the temple pediment, protecting their occupants while occasionally letting in a glimmer of sunlight.



Charette 1
In one week, we were tasked with creating an informal space housed by a movable structure. This frame supports a net to carry inflatable, modular furniture.





Charette 2

This design for a staircase in Pittsburgh emphasizes the magnitude and omnipresence of nature, even and especially in an industrial society.

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