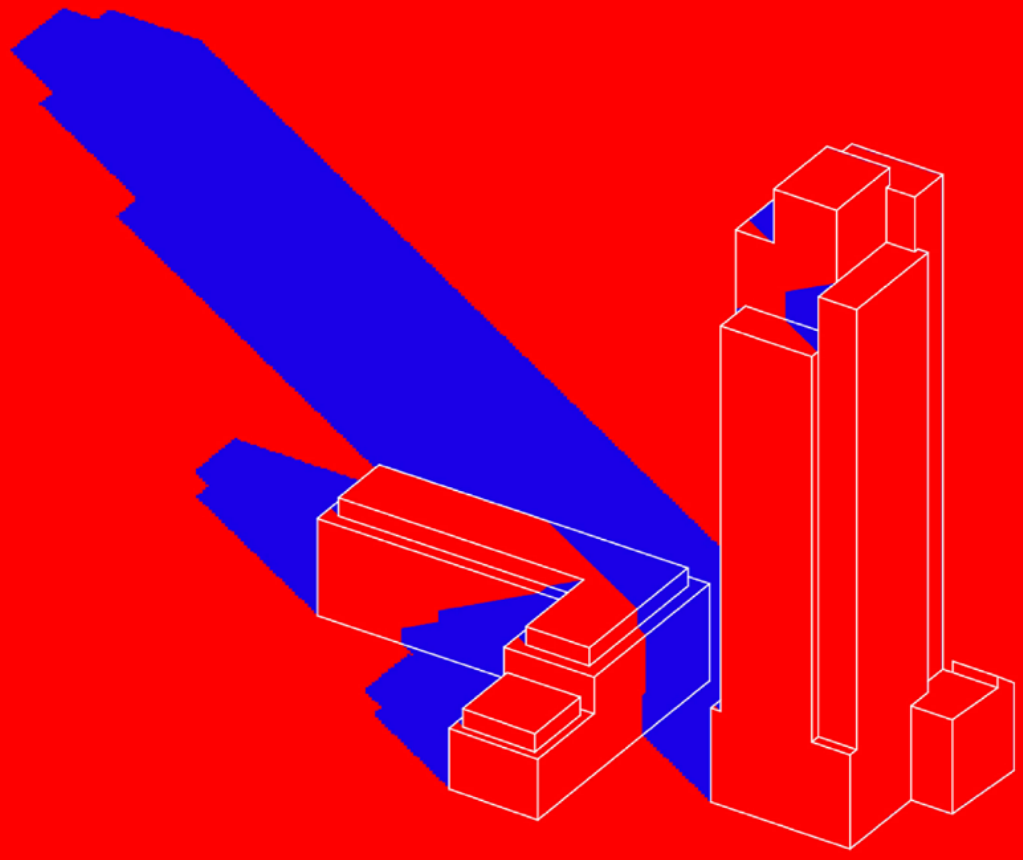
CIAN HRABI

Selected Works
2017-2024
University of Waterloo / MIT



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CURRICULUM VITAE

PERSONAL INFORMATION

NAME: Cian Hrabi
BIRTH: 06.12.1999
ADDRESS: 7 Wayland Avenue, Toronto ON, M4E 3C6
NATIONALITY: Canadian Citizen

EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology — 2023 - 2026
Candidate for Master's of Architecture
Candidate for Master's of Science in Real Estate Development

School of Architecture, University of Waterloo — 2017-2023
Bachelor of Architectural Studies, Honours, Co-op
- *92% Grade Average, 4B term*
- *Orientation Leader, Fall 2018*
- *Editor for 'Galt.' student work journal, 2019*
- *Archineering Representative on undergrad council, 2020*

Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School — 2013-2017
Secondary School Diploma
Toronto, Ontario
- *Honours for Academic Excellence, 95.7% graduating average*

DISTINCTIONS

Edward Allen BTES Award	2024
UWSA International Experience Award	2022
Grand Valley Society of Architects Award	2021
UWSA Rome Prize	2021
Ontario Association of Architects Award	2020
UWSA Technology Prize	2020
School of Architecture 1st Rank, 2B term, 4A term, 4B term	2019-2024
Winning Entry, Switching Prisons Design Competition	2019
Outstanding Design Award, School of Architecture, 5 terms	2018-2022
Canadian Institute of Steel Construction Finalist	2018
Dean's Honours List, all terms	2017-2023
University of Waterloo President's Scholarship	2017
TCDSB Student Services Award and Bursary	2017

cian_m_h@mit.edu

WORK EXPERIENCE

MIT, Research Assistant, Exhibitions and Curation — Sept 2024 - May 2025 (8 months)
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dillon McKewan Construction, Builder — June - Aug 2024 (3 months)
Vancouver, Canada

MIT, Teaching Assistant, 4.022 Design Studio — Jan - June 2024 (5 months)
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Curvegrid, Product Design and Marketing Intern — Jan - May 2023 (4 months)
Tokyo, Japan

gh3 architects, Architectural Intern — Aug - Dec 2022 (5 months)
Toronto, Ontario

Christ & Gantenbein, Praktikant Architektur — May 2021 - May 2022 (12 months)
Basel, Switzerland

Akb Architects, Design Intern — Jan - Apr 2021 (4 months)
Toronto, Ontario

Conrad School of Business, University of Waterloo — May - Aug 2020 (4 months)
Waterloo, Ontario / Remote

Safdie Architects, Architectural Intern — Sep - Dec 2019 (4 months)
Cambridge, Massachusetts

EHDD Architecture, Design Intern — Jan - Apr 2019 (4 months)
San Francisco, California

Boxwood Architects, Architectural Assistant — May - Aug 2018 (4 months)
Toronto, Ontario

SKILLS

Rhino	Indesign	CNC Routing
AutoCAD	Blender	Laser Cutting
Revit	Lumion	Model Making
Photoshop	V-Ray	3D Printing
Illustrator	Enscape	Excel

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ARCHIVE

MIT Core I Design Studio
December 2023
Supervised by Prof. William O'Brien Jr.

"A building that is a part and stands apart. It is a container for collection, a space for projection, and a center for connection."

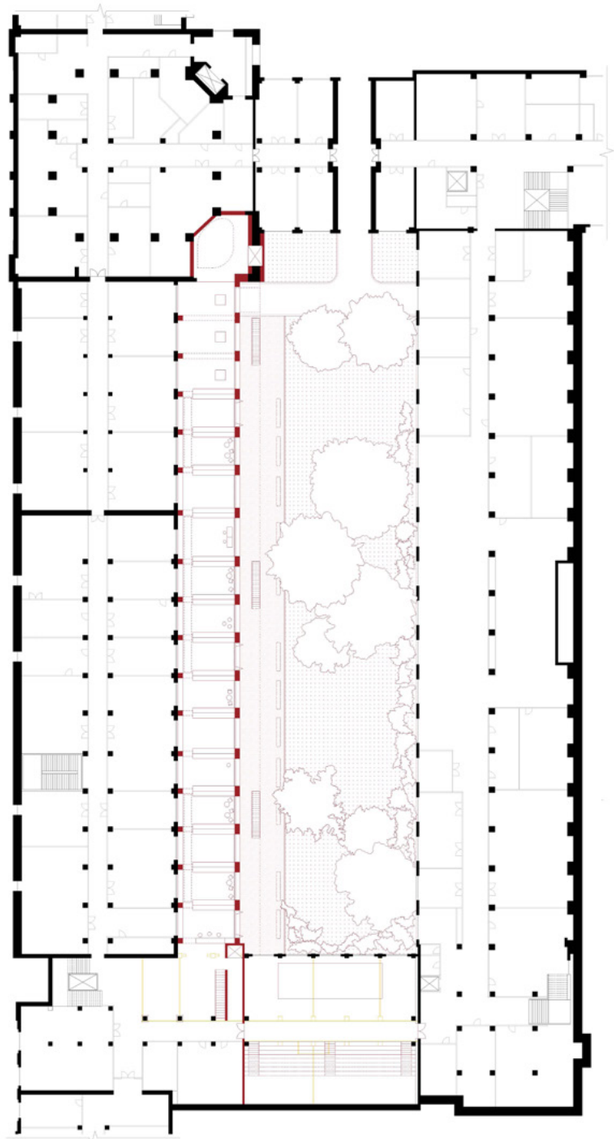
ARCHIVE is a building to house the work and research of MIT School of Architecture faculty and students as the school moves into a new space at the MET Warehouse nearby on campus. It includes an exhibition hall to display and curate work—both new and from the archives—an auditorium to hold events, symposia and lectures, and a visitor center to provide linkage to the public.

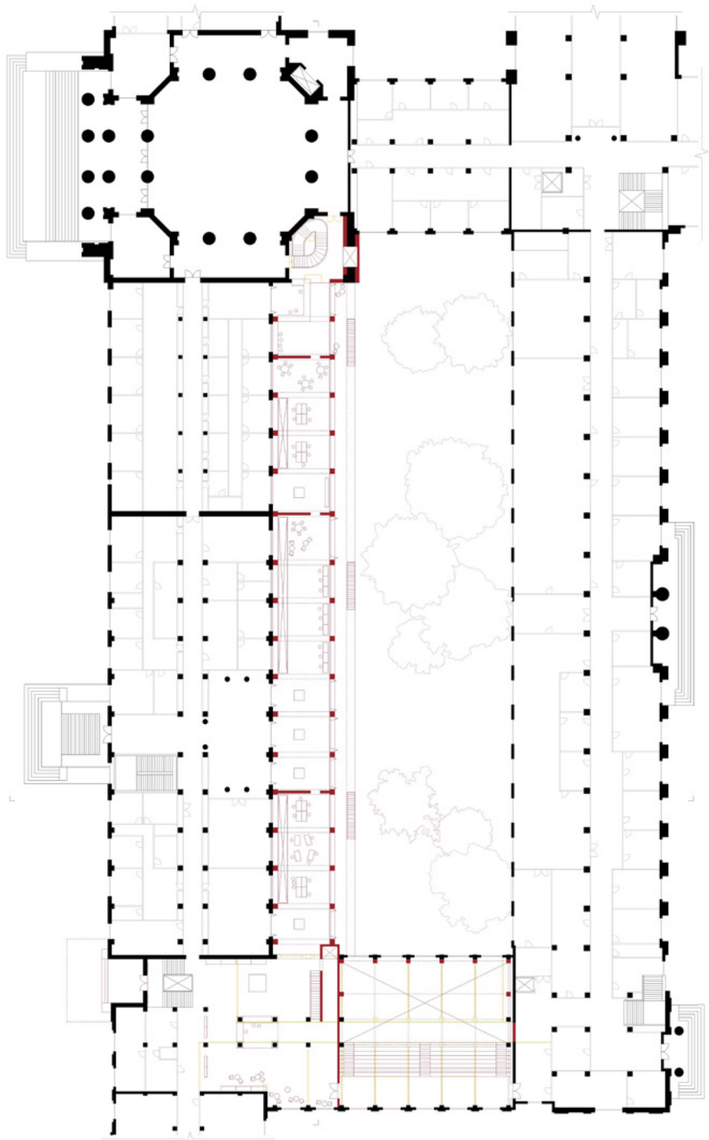
The site is located within the court framed by buildings 1, 3, 5, and 7. MIT has a long history of building in on itself, and this strategy of growth through increased density has many instantiations across campus. The archive grafts onto the face of building 5, taking advantage of a notch in the courtyard made from building 7 and creating a rectangular yard. The auditorium cuts into building 1 and negotiates the sectional level change between Killian court and the site's courtyard. A new tertiary entrance to building 5 is provided at the south end of the archive.

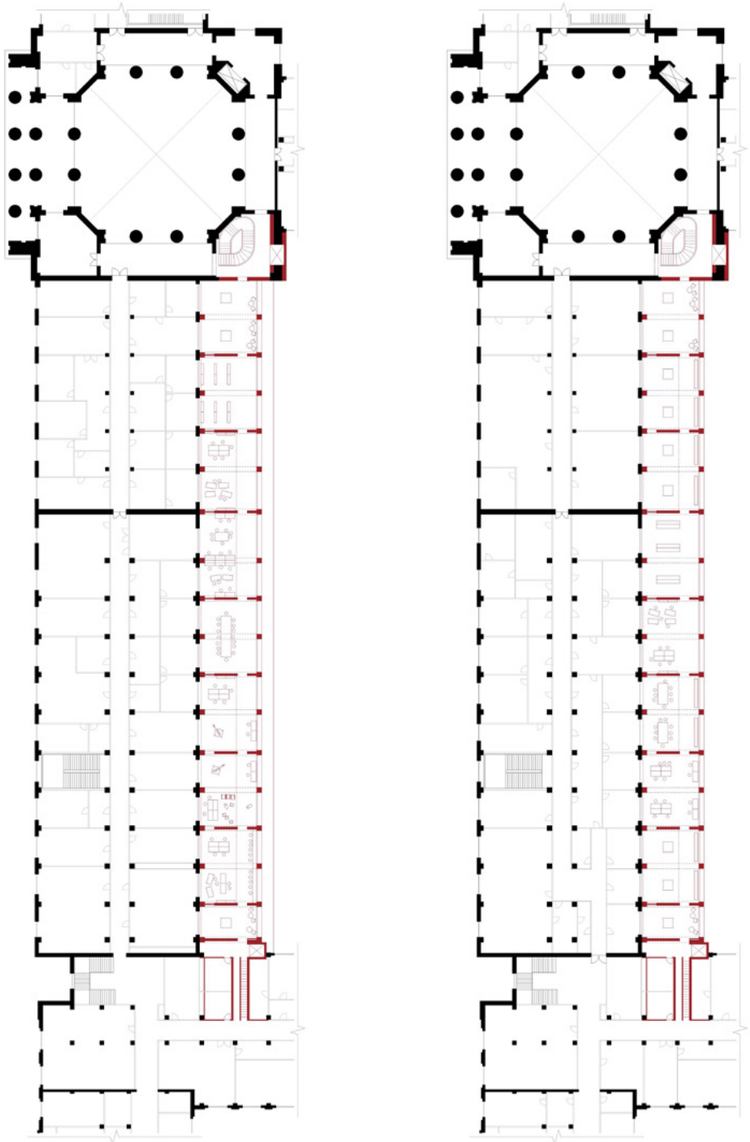
The project circulation consists of six levels of sequential rooms (enfilade), with two stairs fitting into the existing building on each end. In the basement is the warehouse for storing and sorting materials, the ground floor houses a visitor's centre and porch onto the courtyard, floors two to five house the bulk of the archive exhibition spaces, and floor six is the attic, for special exhibitions.

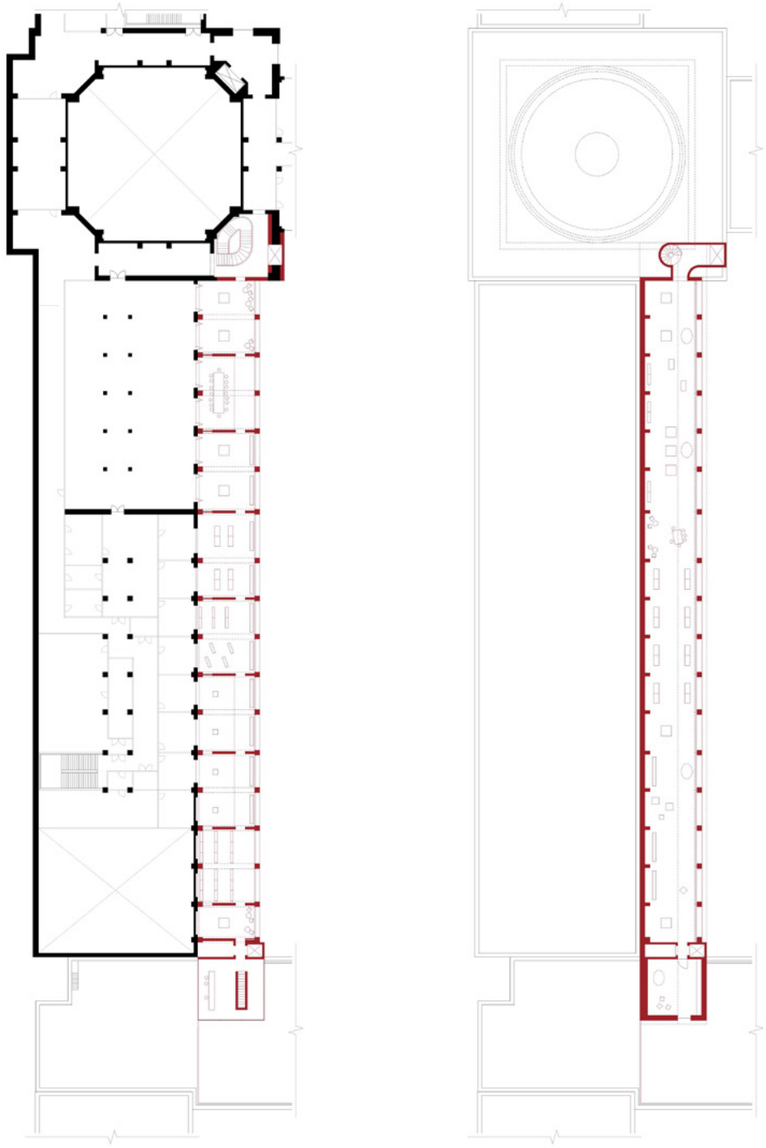
The attic has only one stair up into it, changing the nature of the spaces we have become accustomed to below. It is one room, frosted glass along the north side, with one door at the end. The roof is pitched and the wood has been charred. At the very end of the room, we enter one final room with a single porthole window that faces out towards the Charles river. There is no programming for this space, just a quiet room for reflection.

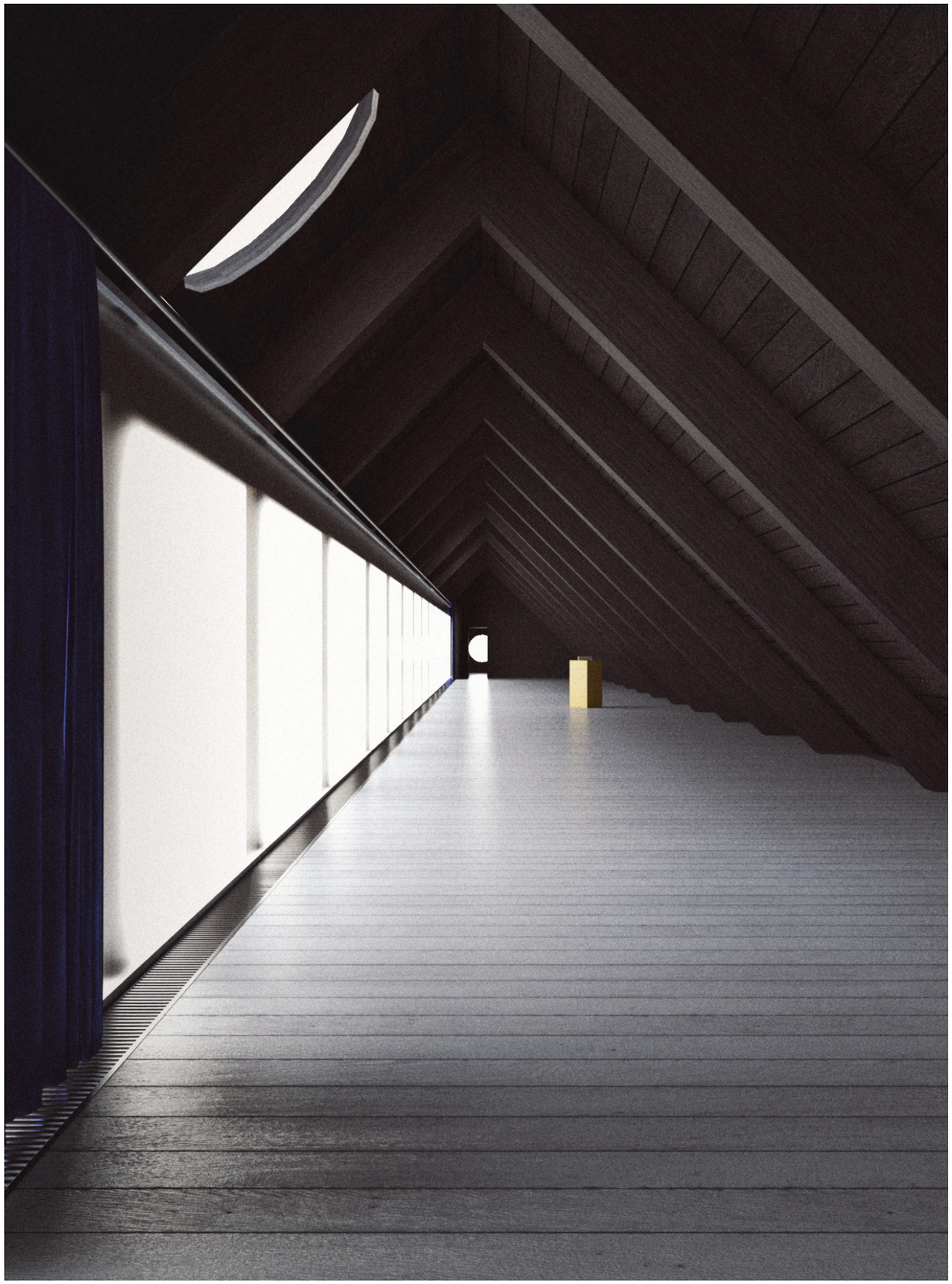
ARCHIVE INT

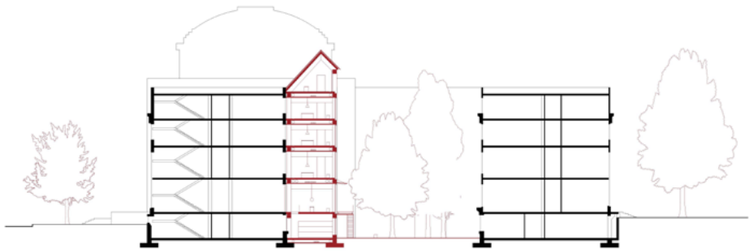












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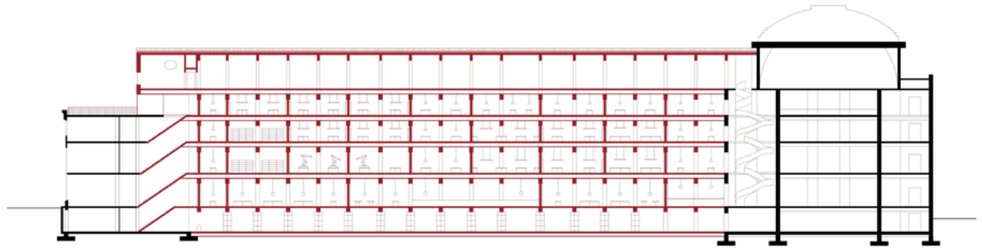

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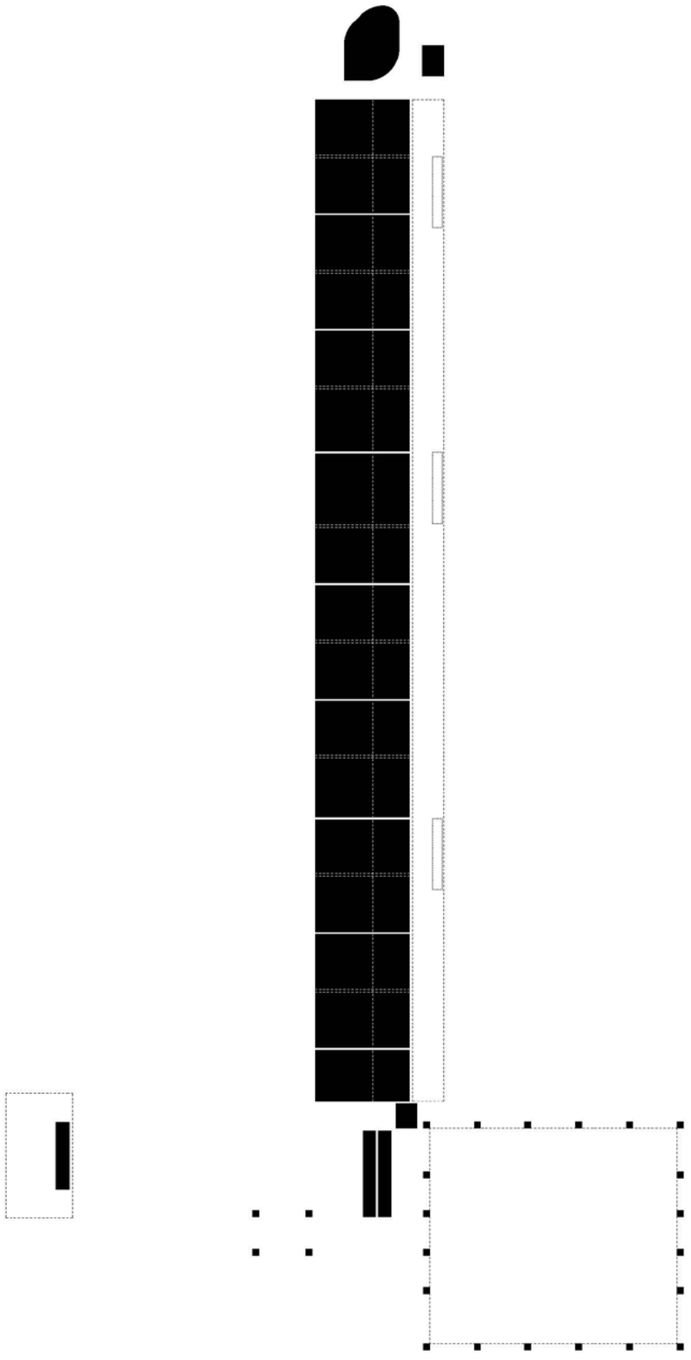
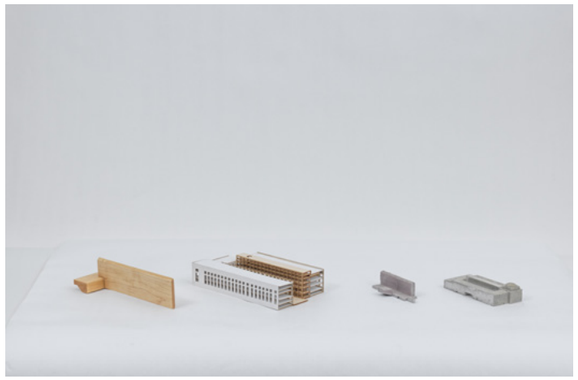




PIER

MIT Core III Design Studio
December 2024
Supervised by Prof. Adam Modesitt
In collaboration with Thomas King

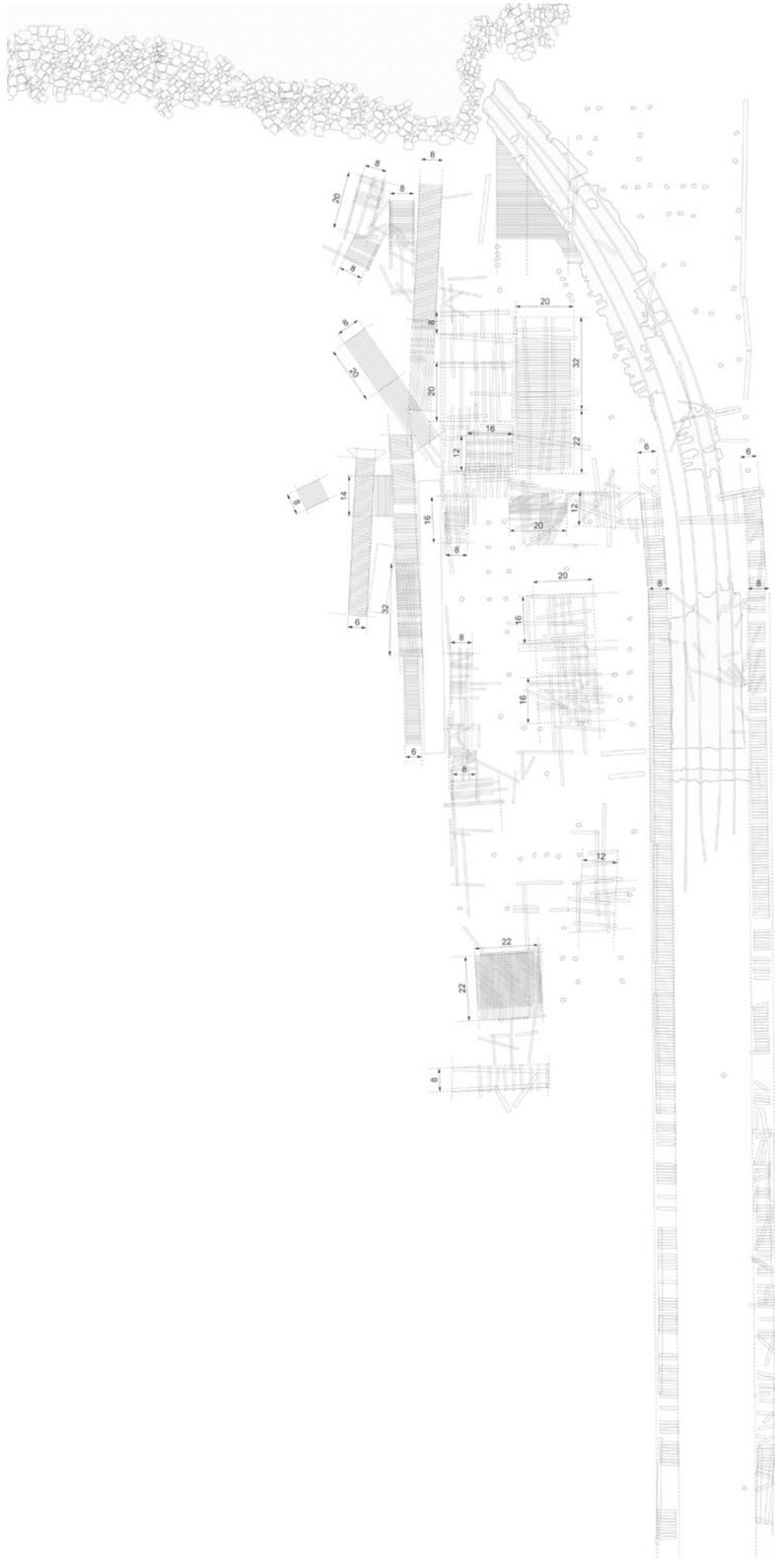
This project begins with a careful analysis of an existing abandoned pier on its Boston site, and imagines what we could do with an abundance of material in various states of preservation and decay.

Located next to Piers Park on the harbor in East Boston, this new community center extends into the water, mirroring the shape of former industrial warehouses on its site that were demolished in the mid 20th century.

Many abandoned piers were identified in the site's immediate vicinity, which were left unused and unprotected, to decay in the water. In this project, that wood is salvaged and dried on site, and used as building structure and enclosure. With huge amounts of material of unkown quality, we developed a stacking logic to enclose and insulate interior spaces. The large timbers are stacked in "wythes of wood" with a lime-clay daubing between each layer to even out the inconsistencies in this salvaged wood. The whole wall is then post-tensioned with steel cables to manage lateral wind loads. The entire building's structural system and enclosure consists of alternating layers of stacked wood built on stone foundations. The outer edge of the wood is charred for water and mold resistance, and large overhangs protect it from driving rain.

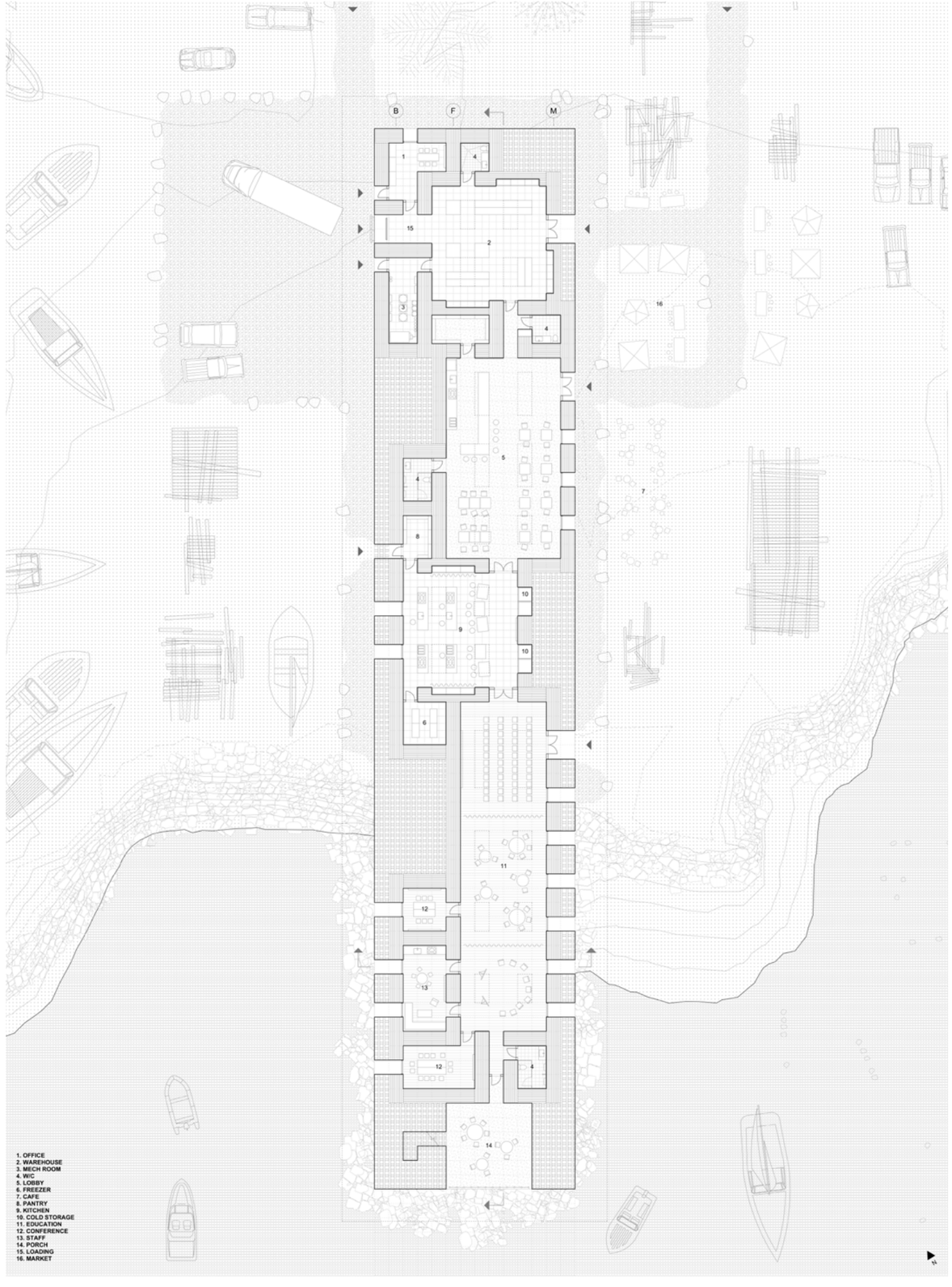
Any wood that could not be used in the building structure is "stickered" by alternating their orientation to stack them in an open pattern, a common technqiue used to dry wood. This stickered stack wraps the building enclosure, further thickening the architecture and acting as a uniform shroud for the undulating interior spaces within.

The project questions typical construction logics, labor practices, material standardization, and the modern desire for thinness in architecture. Through thickness, stacking, and material reuse, the project shows the aesthetic and constructive possibilities of an architecture of abundance - an uncommon possibility in today's scarce material landscape.

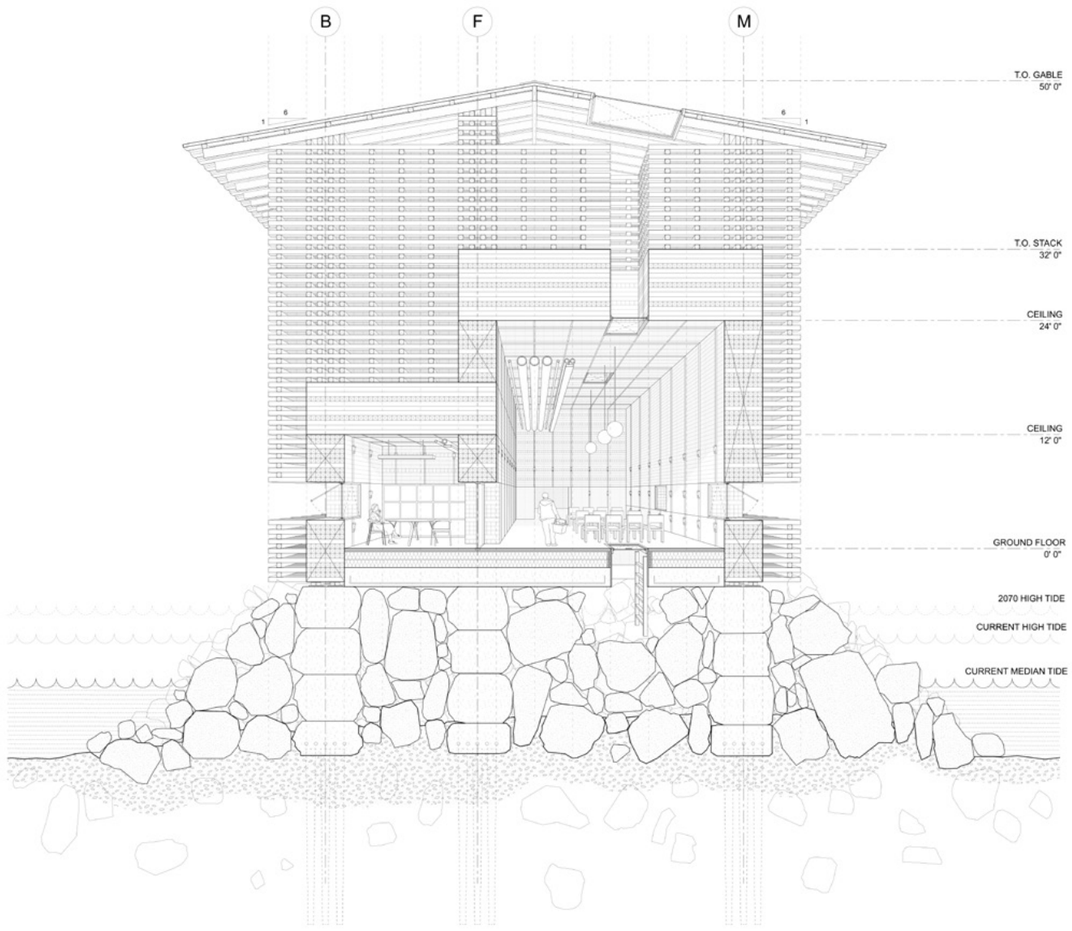


ABANDONED PIER SURVEY


BUILDING
ABANDONED PIER

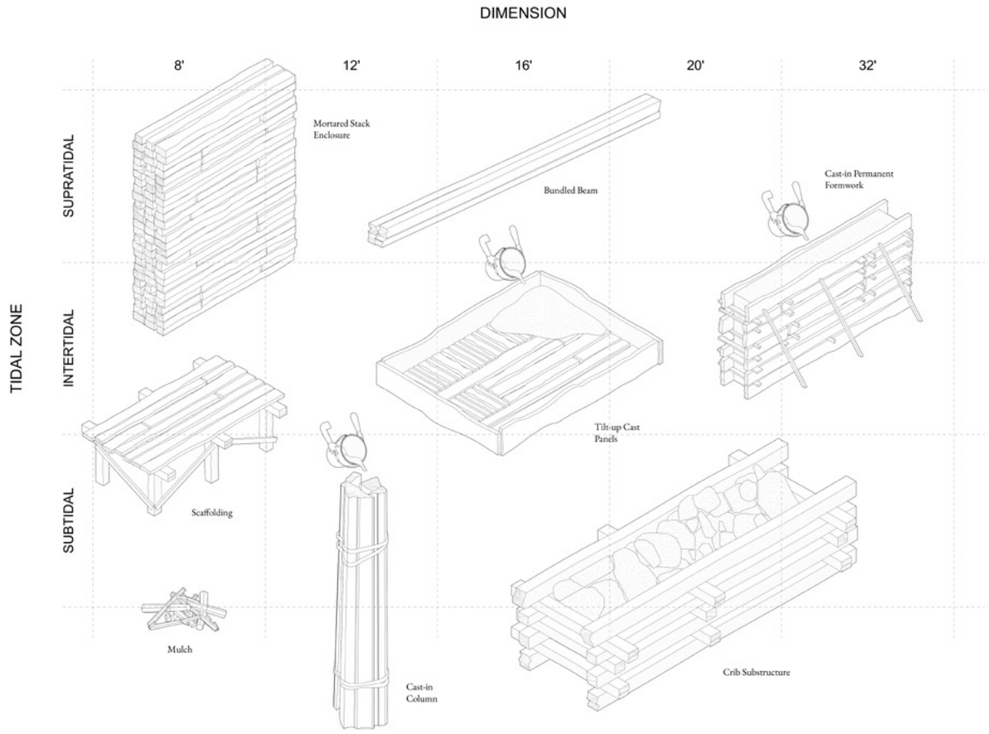

B
F
M
1. OFFICE
2. WAREHOUSE
3. MECH ROOM
4. WC
5. LOBBY
6. FREEZER
7. CAFE
8. PANTRY
9. KITCHEN
10. COLD STORAGE
11. EDUCATION
12. CONFERENCE
13. STAFF
14. PORCH
15. LOADING
16. MARKET

GROUND PLAN

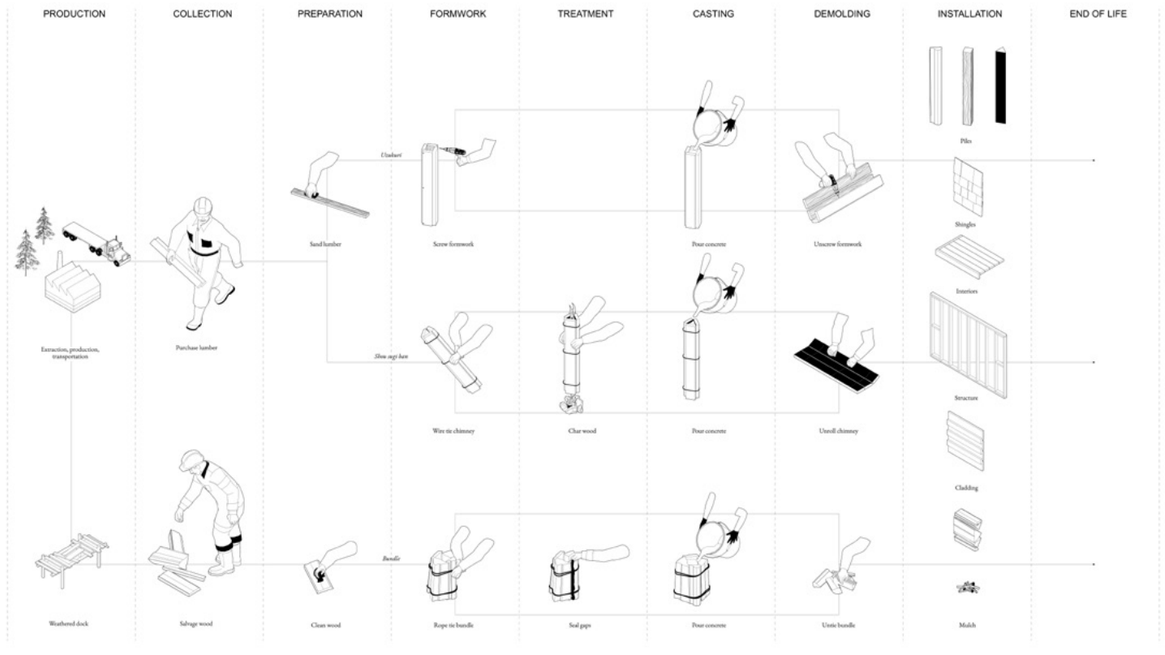


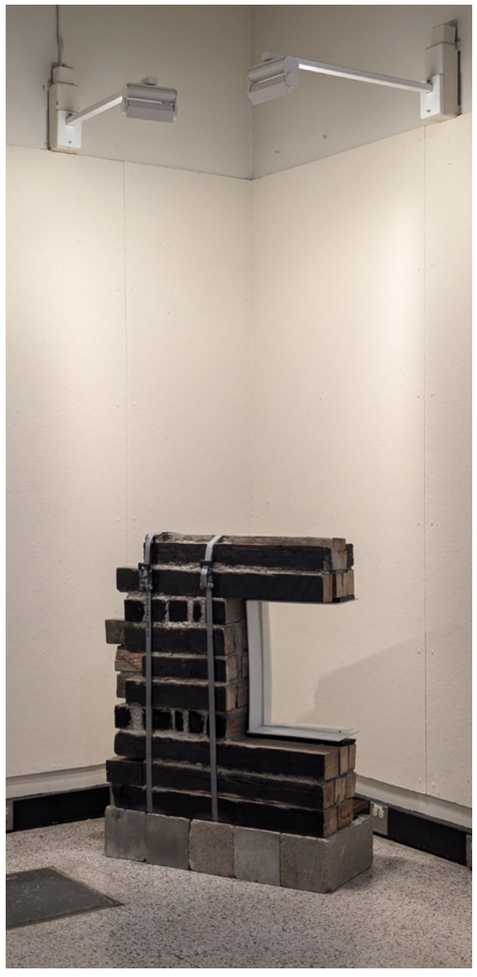
SECTION PERSPECTIVE

ENTRANCE HALL INT



CONSTRUCTION STUDY

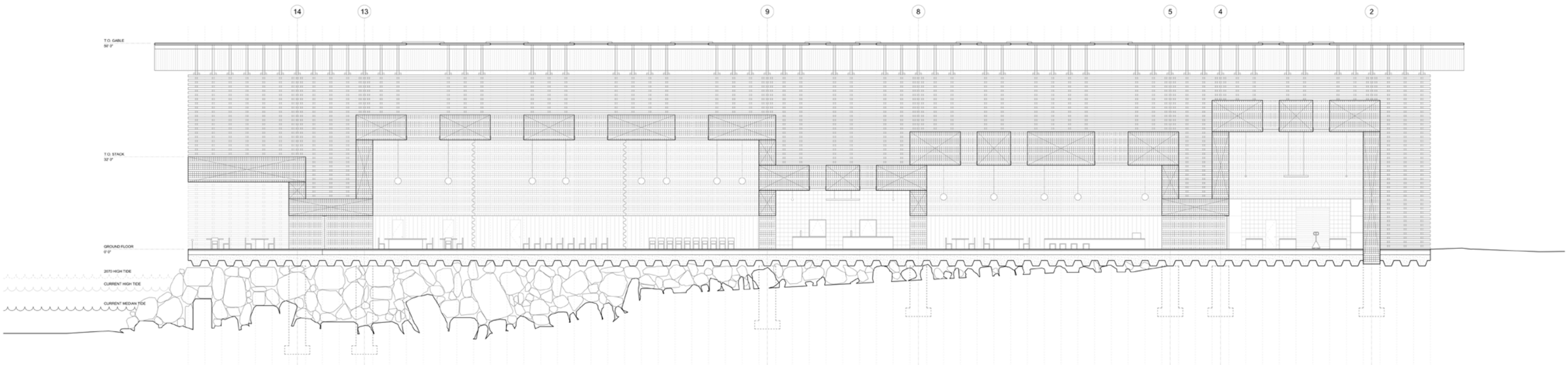




PILE-MAKING STUDY

CONCEPT MODEL & 1/2 SCALE WALL MOCKUP

PIER EXT



LONG SECTION

FOOD BANK

4B Design Studio, Cambridge Ontario
July 2023
Supervised by Prof. Jaliya Fonseka
UWSA Outstanding Design Award
Featured in Cambridge Food Bank Members Event
Featured on Dezeen and afasia

This food bank and community centre is located on an industrial site just beyond the town centre of Cambridge, Ontario. The project was designed in consultation with the Cambridge Food Bank organization. It recognizes its industrial surroundings as valuable contextual and physical material to be used in the new construction. Many of the buildings on site require demolition, though one building is retained and retrofitted to become a conditioned community centre and farm storage space.

The new building is a light steel frame single-story structure located at the front of the site to maintain and develop a street presence in the rapidly developing post-industrial area. A community garden and working farm are included in the site design to cultivate local food sovereignty.

The plan is divided into three sections: a large open warehouse in the center, intensely conditioned programs to the north, and a semi-conditioned greenhouse along the south facade. To mitigate direct solar gain, a photovoltaic shading screen is erected in front of the south facade, allowing a fully glazed facade while maintaining an efficient thermal envelope. The structure has low carbon emissions due to recycled steel, with emissions 15% that of non-recycled steel. With significant on-site renewable energy generation, the project achieves net-zero emissions by 2303.

From the demolition, brick walls are re-used as floor finishes, concrete block used as interior partitions, and steel recycled. Recycled structural steel is re imagined and celebrated as an environmental and social asset instead of a liability, with the social dynamic directly tied to the material expression and life cycle of all building components. The steel is designed with entirely bolted connections and standard wide flanges to be disassembled at the end of the building's life.

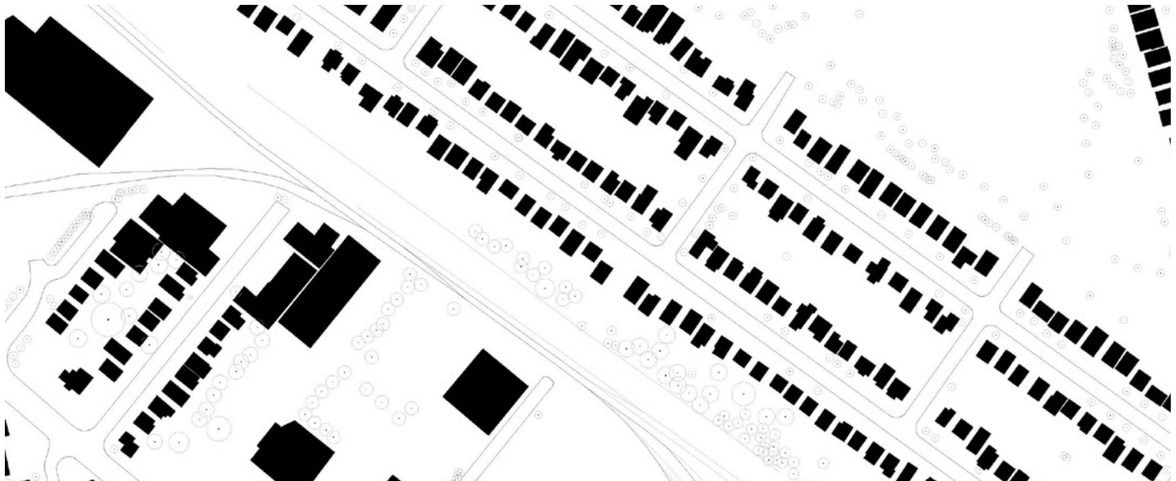
Central to this project is the idea that great architecture can facilitate great communities. I sincerely believe that people recognize when they are in a space made for their well-being, even if it is not conscious – and live better because of it.

SOUTH ELEVATION





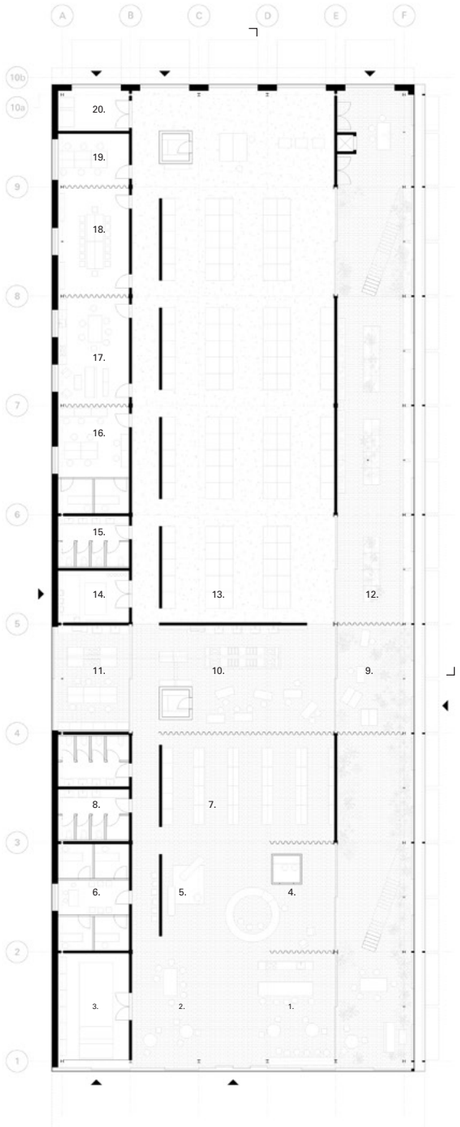
CONTEXT PHOTOS

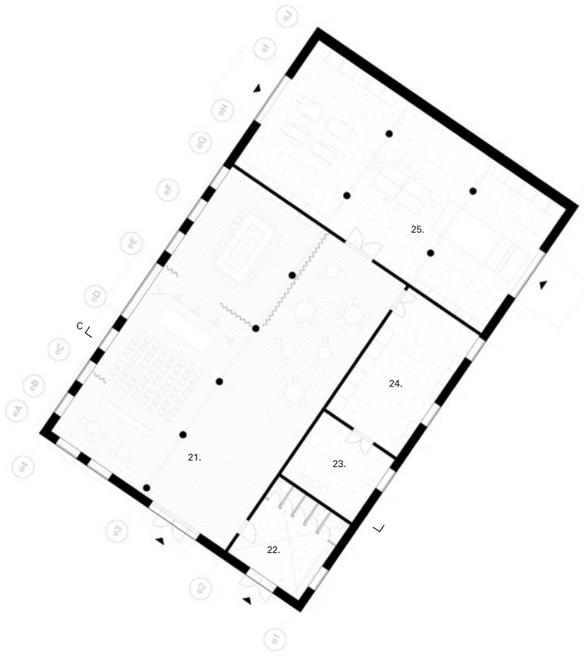


CONTEXT PLAN

DUNDAS STREET

WAREHOUSE



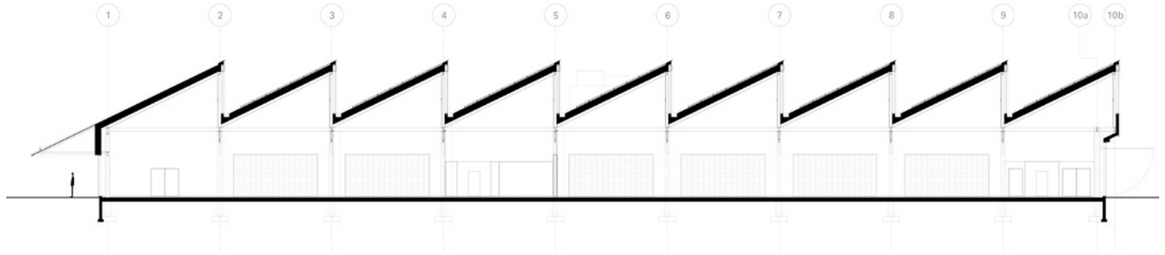


BARN

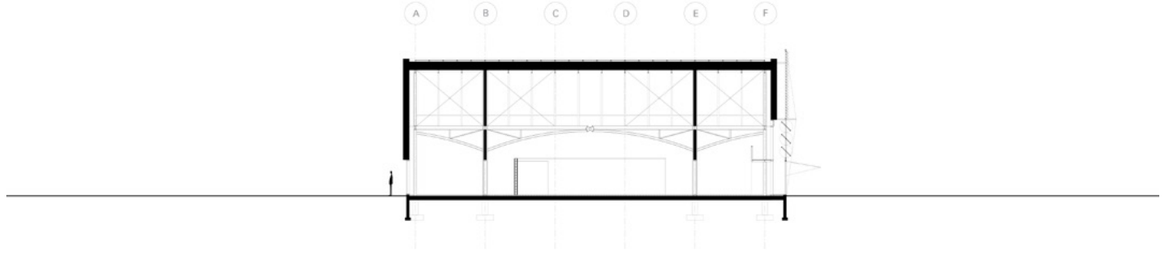
WAREHOUSE
1. PUBLIC GREENHOUSE
2. COMMUNITY CAFE
3. MOBILE MARKET
4. ENTRANCE LOBBY
5. PLAYSPACE
6. PARTNER SPACE
7. COMMUNITY PANTRY
8. PUBLIC WASHROOMS
9. EDUCATIONAL GREENHOUSE
10. EDUCATIONAL KITCHEN
11. PRODUCTION KITCHEN
12. PRODUCTION GREENHOUSE
13. DISTRIBUTION CENTRE
14. MECH ROOM
15. STAFF WASHROOMS
16. STAFF OFFICE
17. STAFF ROOM
18. BOARD ROOM
19. STAFF OFFICE
20. RECYCLING

BARN
21. MULTI-PURPOSE ROOMS
22. WASHROOM AND WET ROOM
23. MECH ROOM
24. MULTI-PURPOSE STORAGE
25. FARM STORAGE

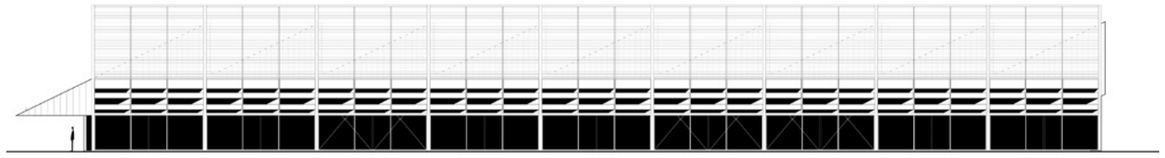
ENTRANCE, PANTRY, KITCHEN



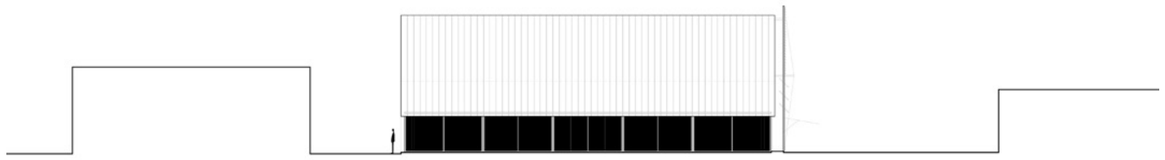
SECTION A



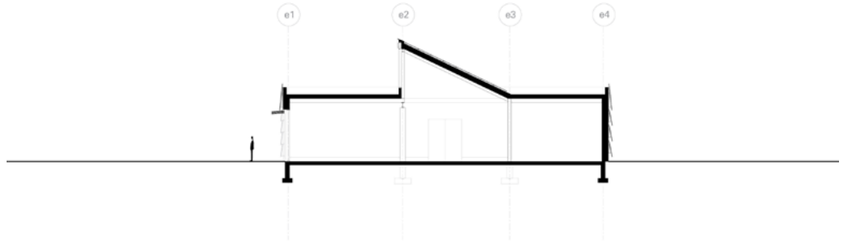
SECTION B



SE ELEVATION

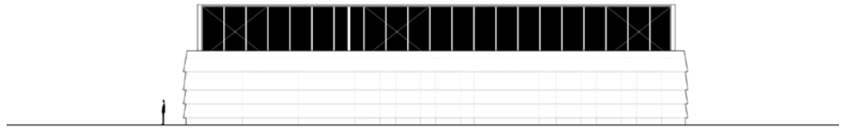


SW ELEVATION

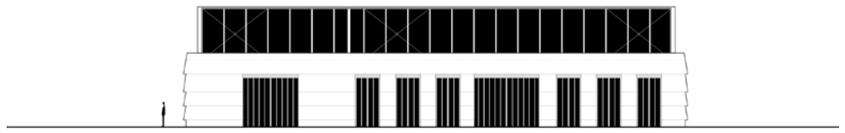


BARN SECTION C

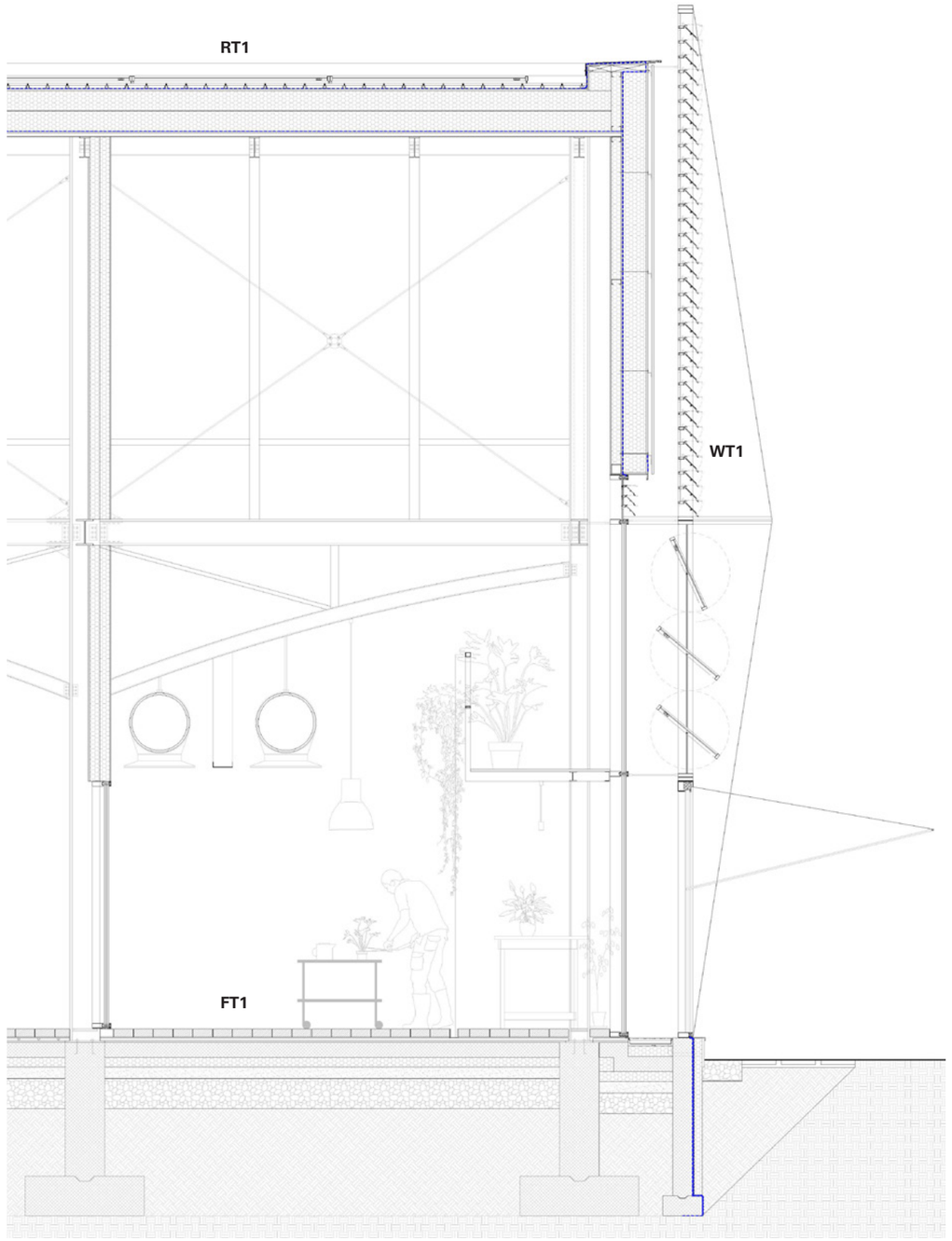
BARN ELEVATION W

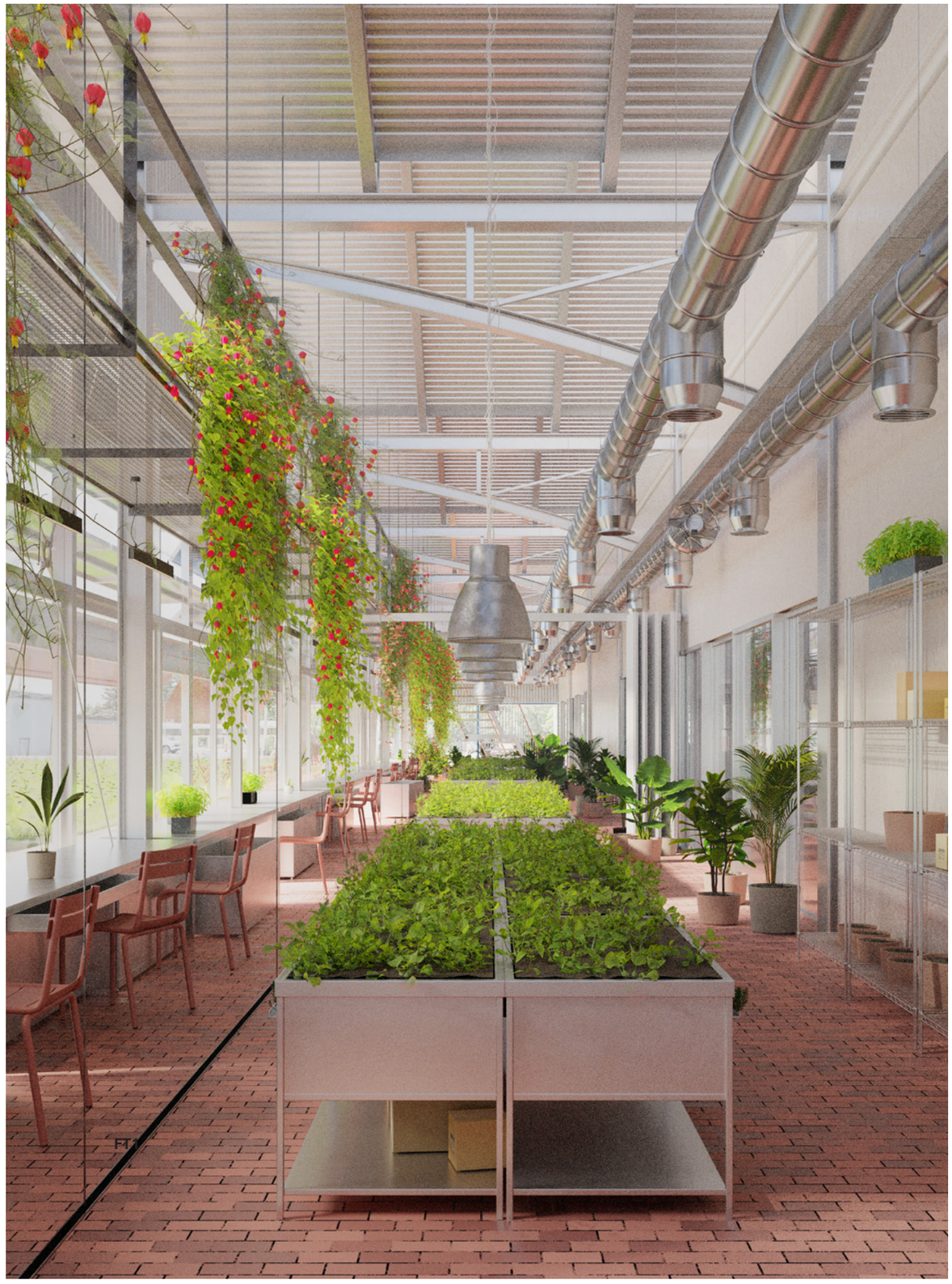


BARN ELEVATION N (CLOSED)



BARN ELEVATION N (OPEN)


RT1
WT1
FT1



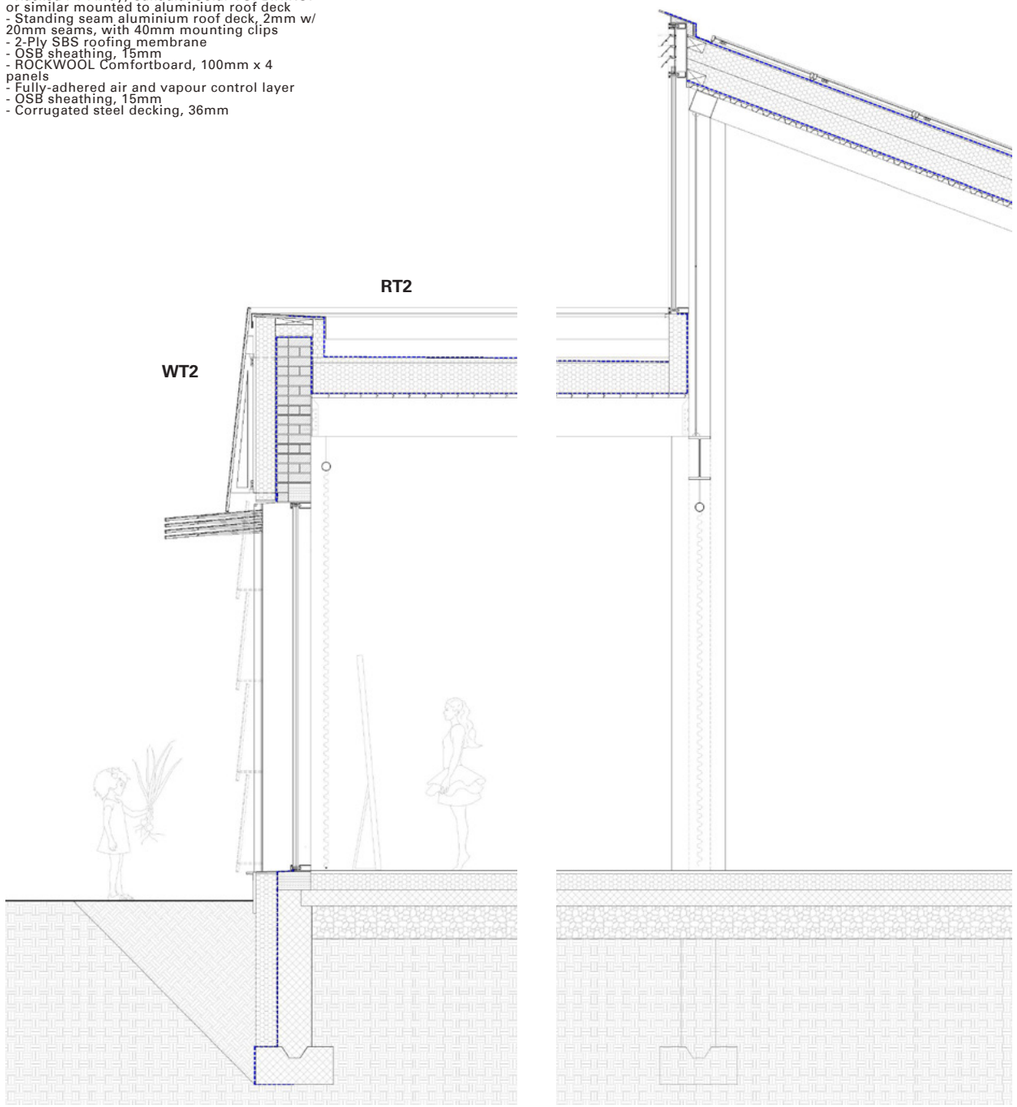
FT1 - FLOOR TYPE 1 (top to bottom):
- Reclaimed brick from existing buildings on site, 80mm
- Radiant floor heating panel and plywood subfloor combined, Raupanel or similar
- Reinforced concrete slab, 150mm
- Thermal control: ROCKWOOL Comfortboard 80 or similar, 100mm
- Fine aggregate layer, local silt, 100mm
- Gravel layer, locally sourced, 300mm

WT1 - WALL TYPE 1 (ext to int):
- Corrugated recycled aluminium cladding, 20mm
- Drained and ventilated cavity 40mm with horizontal Z-girt fasteners to sheathing.
- OSB sheathing, 15mm
- ROCKWOOL Comfortboard 110 or similar, 250mm
- Self-adhered WRB, Blueskin or similar.
- OSB sheathing, 15mm
- Steel studs, 100 x 50mm @ 400mm o/c. Cavity filled with ROCKWOOL Comfortbatt or similar for acoustic control
- SPF plywood cladding, exposed and painted, 15mm

RT1 - ROOF TYPE 1 (ext to int):
- Racked PV Array, CanadianSolar TOPBiHiKU7 or similar mounted to aluminium roof deck
- Standing seam aluminium roof deck, 2mm w/ 20mm seams, with 40mm mounting clips
- 2-Ply SBS roofing membrane
- OSB sheathing, 15mm
- ROCKWOOL Comfortboard, 100mm x 4 panels
- Fully-adhered air and vapour control layer
- OSB sheathing, 15mm
- Corrugated steel decking, 36mm

WT2 - Wall Type 2 (ext to int):
- Recycled standing seam aluminium cladding panel, 2mm with 20mm SPF pressure-treated plywood backing
- Pressure-treated prefabricated SPF framing, 38mm @ 800mm o/c.
- Furring strips top and bottom of SPF frame, 19 x 38mm
- OSB sheathing, 15mm
- ROCKWOOL Comfortboard 110 or similar, 180mm
- OSB sheathing, 15mm
- Self-adhered Blueskin WRB, lap joints
- Existing masonry wall, triple-wythe standard brick with mortar joints, 320mm

RT2 - Roof Type 2 (ext to int):
- Roof membrane on substrate fastened through insulation to roof framing
- Tapered insulation to ext. roof drains
- ROCKWOOL Comfortboard 110 or similar, 270mm
- Fully adhered vapour and air control layer
- Existing roof deck, 19 x 140mm tongue-in-groove wood
- Existing joists behind




HI MARK

MUSEUM

4A Design Studio, Rome Italy
July 2022
Supervised by Prof. Beatrice Bruscoli
Collaboration with Gareth Bracewell
UWSA Outstanding Design Award
Featured on Dezeen

The wall and the enclosure is the first act of architecture. When a wall is built with intention and care it creates two spaces, bounding and defining. For thousands of years it has been the definition of the city. We propose to translate that language into a contemporary setting.

Romans build structures to last. However, since the birth of modernity, Rome has developed an ethos of preservation and stagnation, turning the entire city into an ossified museum. This project is a radical departure from the status quo, by wrapping the site and building in a wall to house the museum, we free the rest of the city from that responsibility.

The project is essentially a massive wall hosting everything on, around, and within it. Over 2m thick in some places, it is built to endure. Distinctly urban, the project does not pretend to be in an isolated utopia. Instead it creates space within the existing context - and creates its own context.

The site at the historic Porta Portuese in Rome houses a museum dedicated to the Tiber, a walled garden, and a riverside piazza. The building is located at the existing Janiculum wall, and sited at a unique spot between this 1600s wall and the much older Aurelian wall from 280 AD.

This project is a look to see what we could do if we decided to build again. We don't worship what exists, but rather care for it and improve on the past.

Access to the accompanying 166-page project catalogue is available upon request.

SITE MODEL 1:200

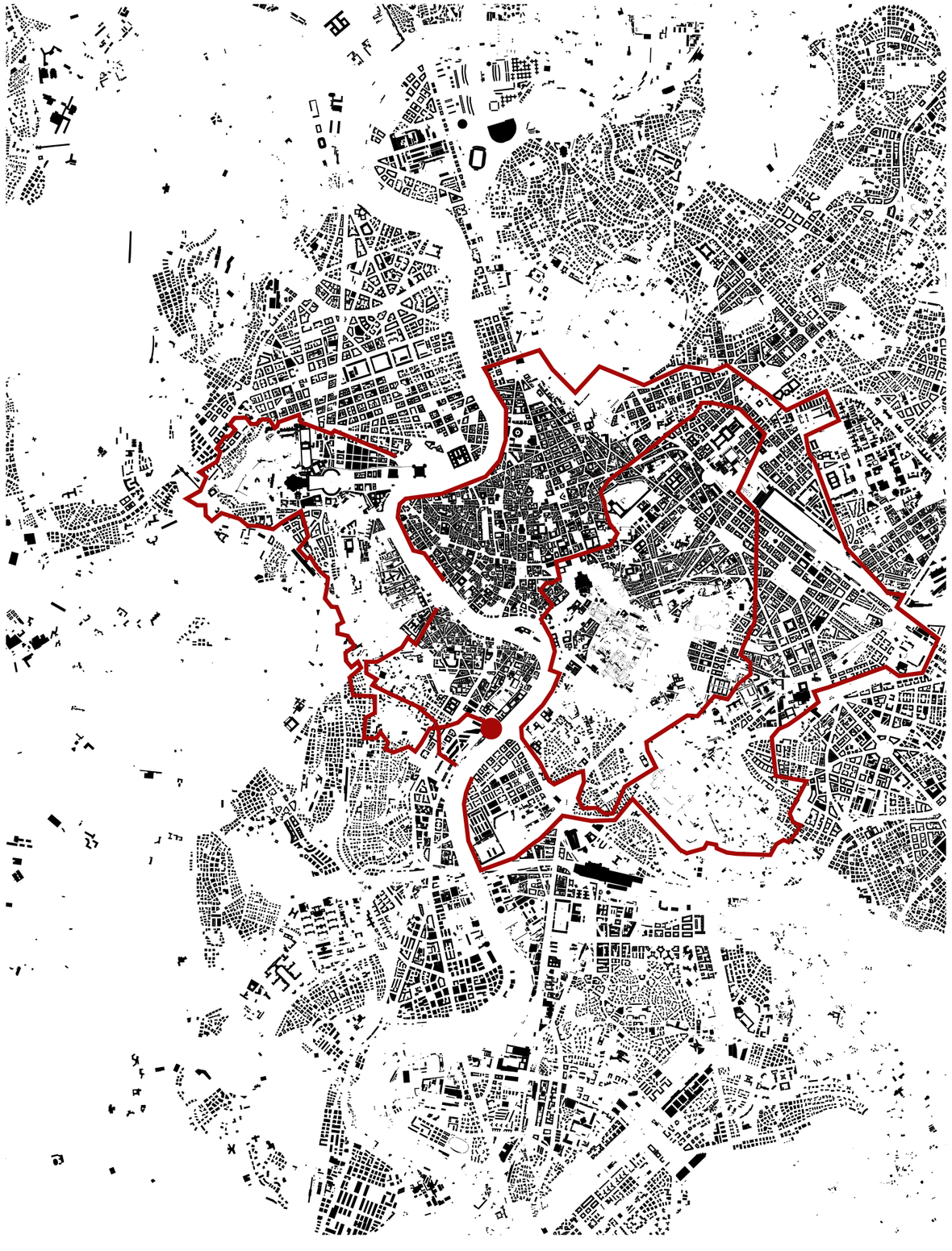
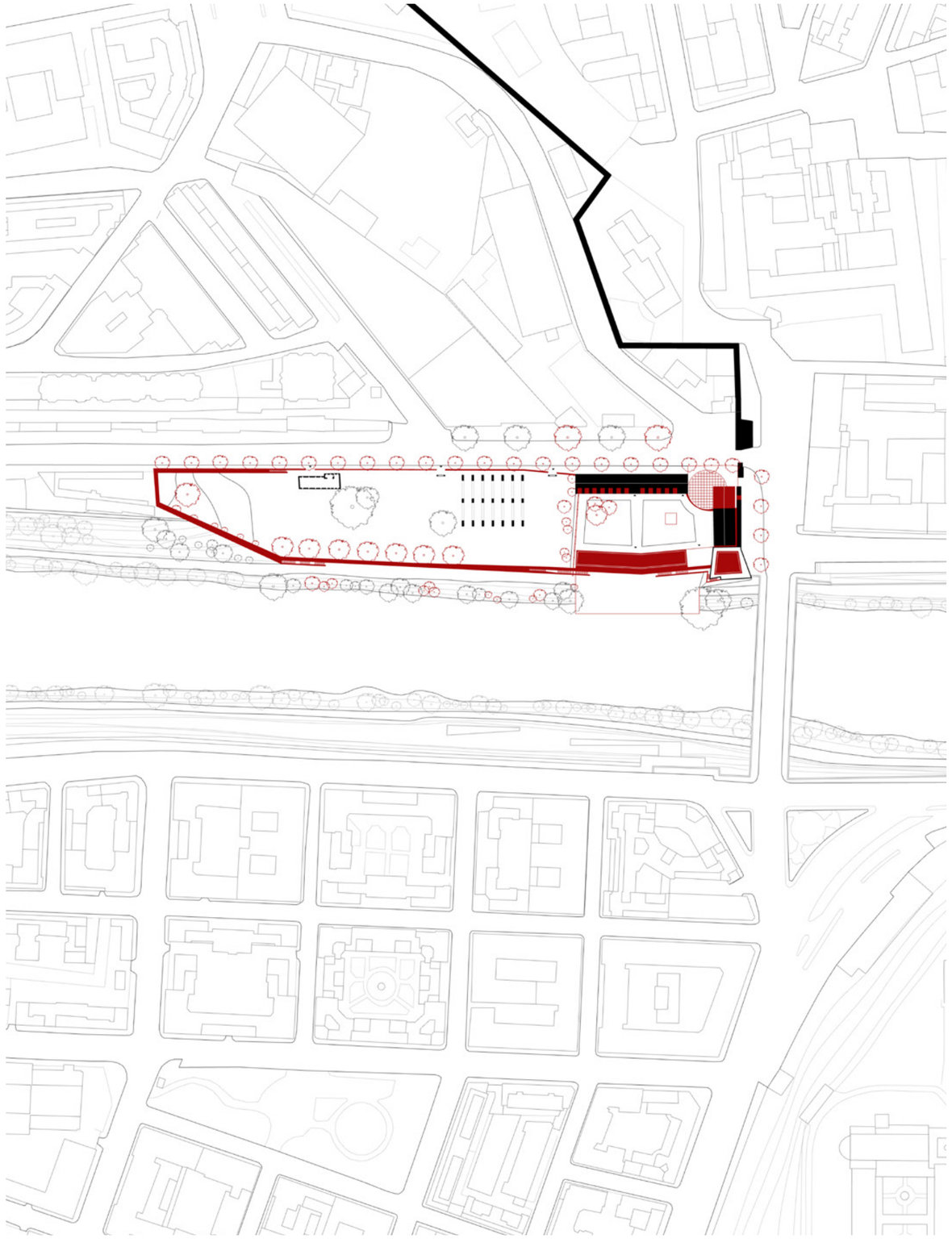


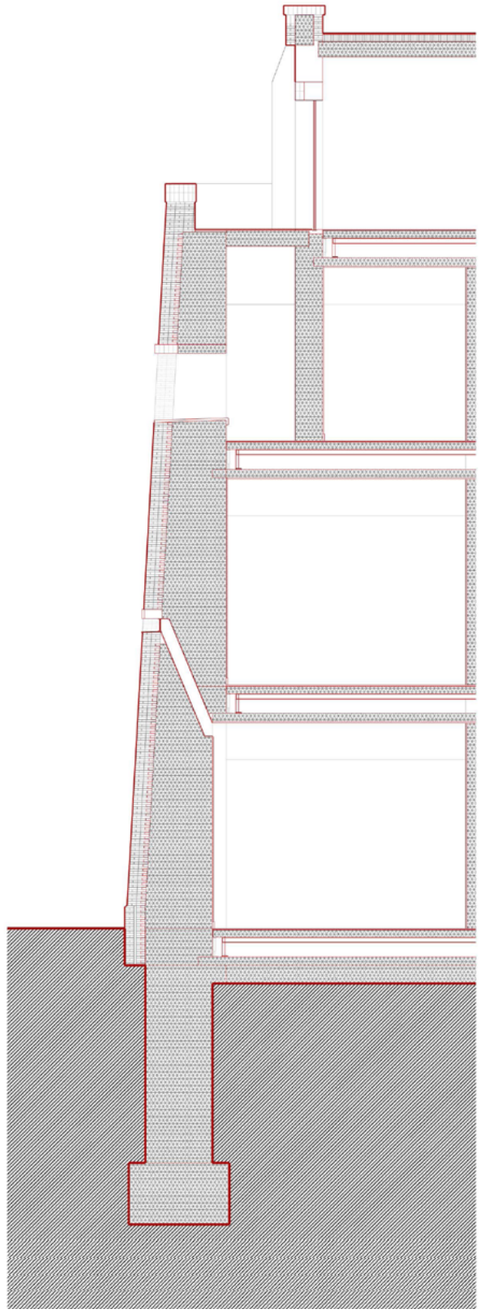
FIGURE GROUND

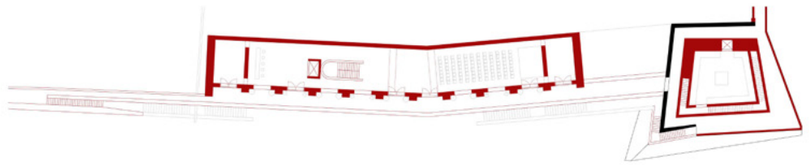


SITE PLAN

RIVER PERSPECTIVE

COURTYARD PERSPECTIVE

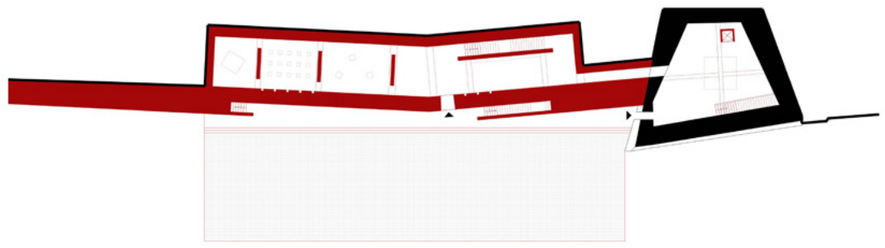




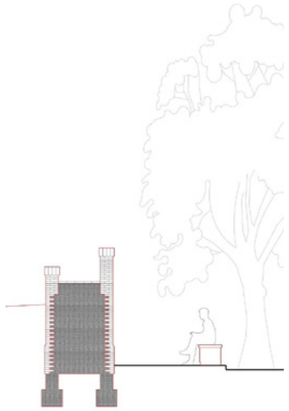
+1

GROUND

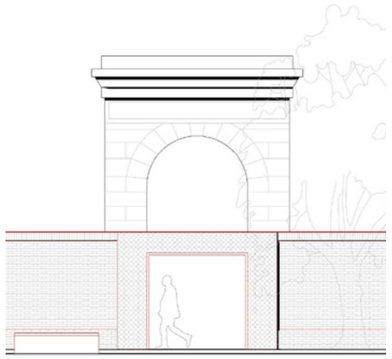
-1



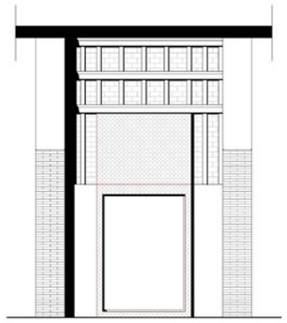
RIVER



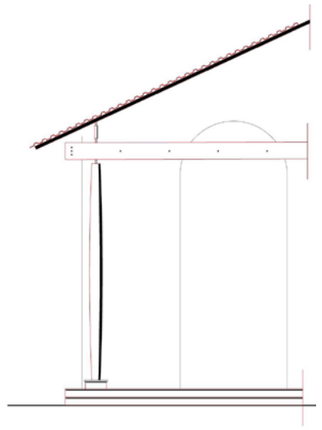
1. WALL SECTION



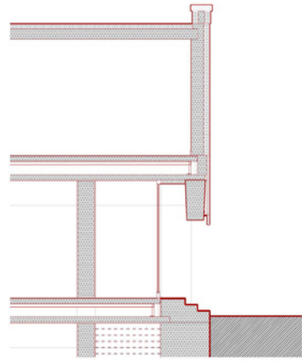
2. GATE ELEVATION



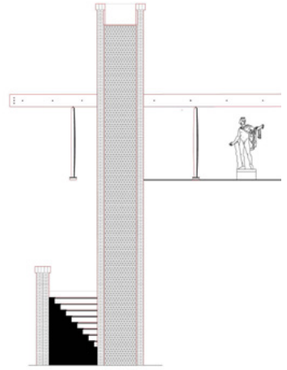
3. CORDIERE WINDOW DETAIL



4. MAGAZZINI PORCH DETAIL



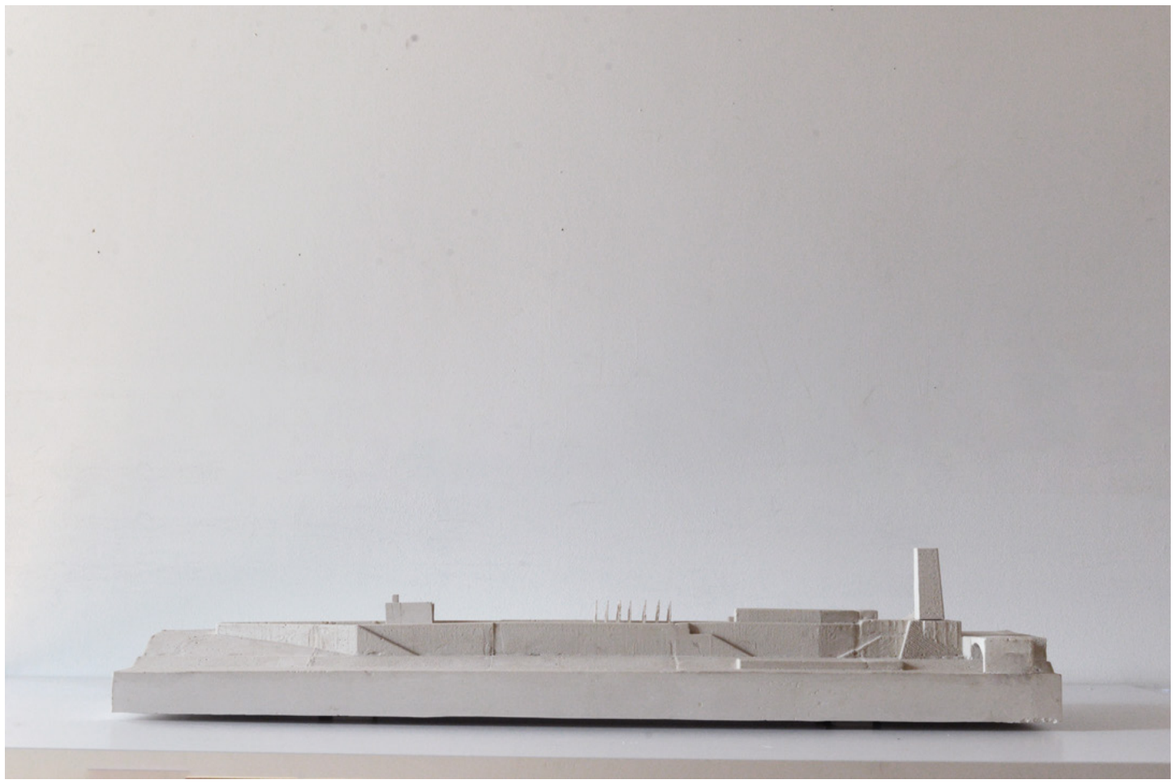
5. ENTRANCE SECTION



6. COLONNADE DETAIL

PLANOMETRIC


BIGLIETTI



SITE MODEL 1:500

SECTIONAL MODEL 1:200

HOUSING

3A Design Studio
April 2020
Supervised by Prof. Adrian Blackwell
OAA Award
UWSA Outstanding Design Award
Featured in BRIDGE online architecture publication

This project is a network of deeply affordable housing and services in Toronto's Downtown East. The project addresses North America's housing and climate crises simultaneously - fostering community development and environmental improvement.

Current sustainable architecture is predicated on a misunderstanding of energy, which presupposes all buildings to be closed and isolated systems. The current approach to design buildings is to insulate them from the energy around them and rely solely on internal systems. This project instead uses the building as an active component of its surroundings to harness and convert the overwhelming surplus of available energy.

Massive construction, in this case, brick, maximizes the potential of a single building material to do as much useful work as possible. Designed properly, brick can be an effective building structure, enclosure, "mechanical system", and finish. By using one material in a wall we reduce its complication, and can then dive into the complexity of the entire building.

Radiantly heated walls are a direct connection to the energy of the space outside their boundary. When you feel the warmth of the wall you inherently feel and understand it in a way that you can't achieve from forced air. For thousands of years, humans were heated either by the sun or by fire – I propose we bring a piece of that history back into our daily lives; because it is so much more than just brick.

BALCONY VIGNETTE

Influenced by 1970's infill urbanism, these developments across five sites and two parks increase density of the area while staying true to the low-rise nature of their surroundings. Each site employs different tactics to achieve strong community across scales, beginning with person-to-person interactions. Floor plates are small to encourage neighborly familiarity, and each site is split into multiple buildings to keep community groups small. Each site acts as a small neighborhood, built of varying unit sizes and building typologies.

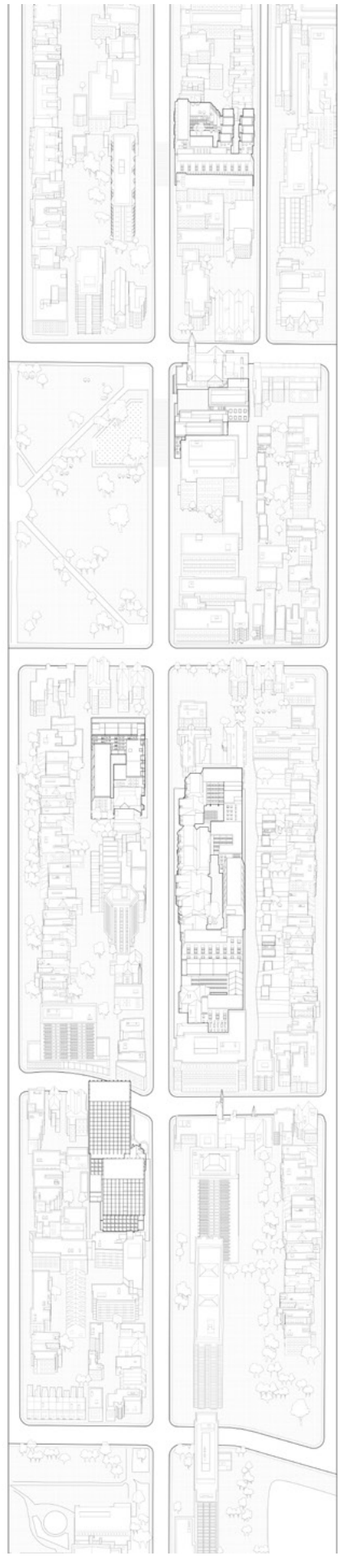
Public programs are tailored to low-income resident's needs, like child-care, ESL centers, food banks and community kitchens, and employment services.

Each site builds on Toronto's existing 'secondary grid' of laneways, taking advantage of new bylaw provisions to increase stock of 'the missing middle' housing. Community spaces on laneways requires a certain density of people and cars for people to feel safe enough to actually use their spaces. Formal street fronts/backs are maintained, and outdoor spaces are designed to delineate between public, site public, and private.

Sherbourne Street itself is manipulated to serve the people who live in the community – not the cars who pass through it at 8am and 6pm each day. Widened sidewalks, bike lane separation, community spill-out spaces, and rough paving helps pedestrians and slows cars to a manageable level.

NO.1 improves upon proven methods of successful urban development to help the people in our city who need it most – providing shelter and facilitating the development of a resilient community.

Images on this spread were completed in collaboration with Gareth Bracewell, Byron Cai, Vicky Cao, and Franklin Min



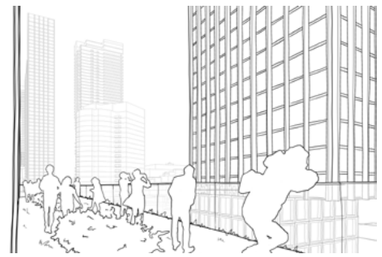
Site 1 Courtyard

Site 2 Allan Gardens

Site 3 Sherbourne St.

Site 4 Open Lane

Site 4 Rooftop Garden



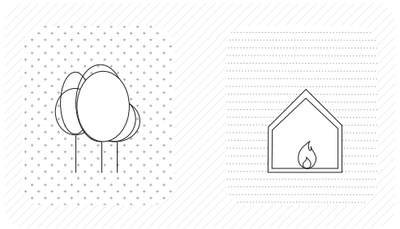
Site 5 Public Terrace

SYSTEM EFFICIENCY

Boundaries of open systems are important because they can tell very different stories about the ‘efficiency’ of a system. Efficiency is the % transformation of one form of energy into the desired form.

Tree to Wood: 100%

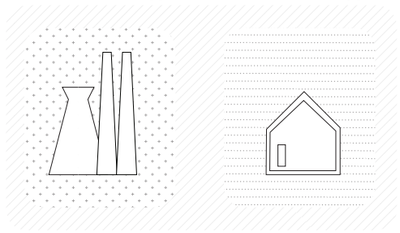
Wood to Heat: 70%



Total: 70%

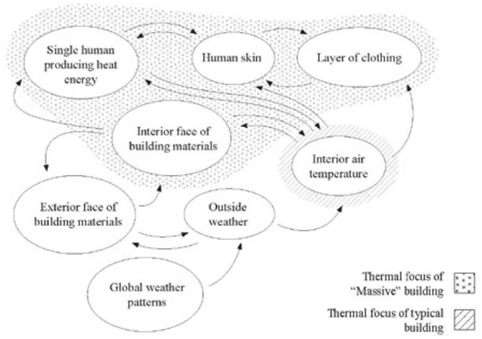
Nuclear to Electric: 55%

Electric to Heat: 95%

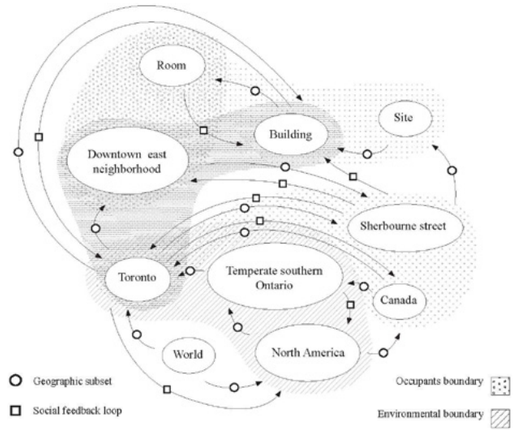


Total: 52%

THERMODYNAMIC SYSTEM BOUNDARIES

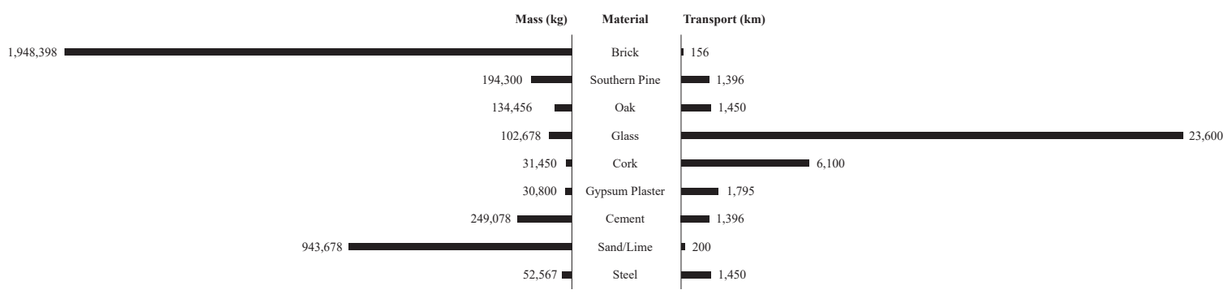


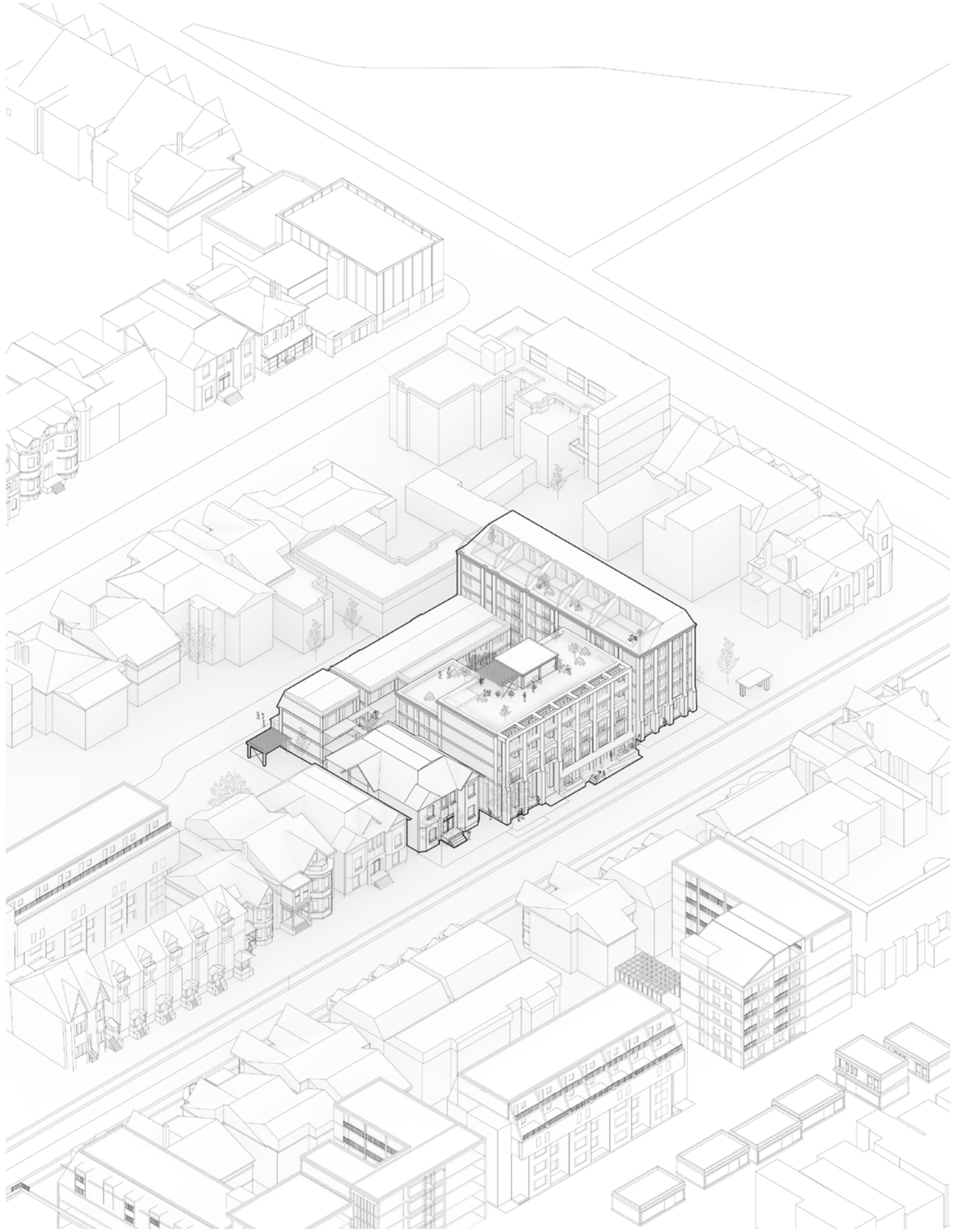
PHYSICAL SYSTEM BOUNDARIES



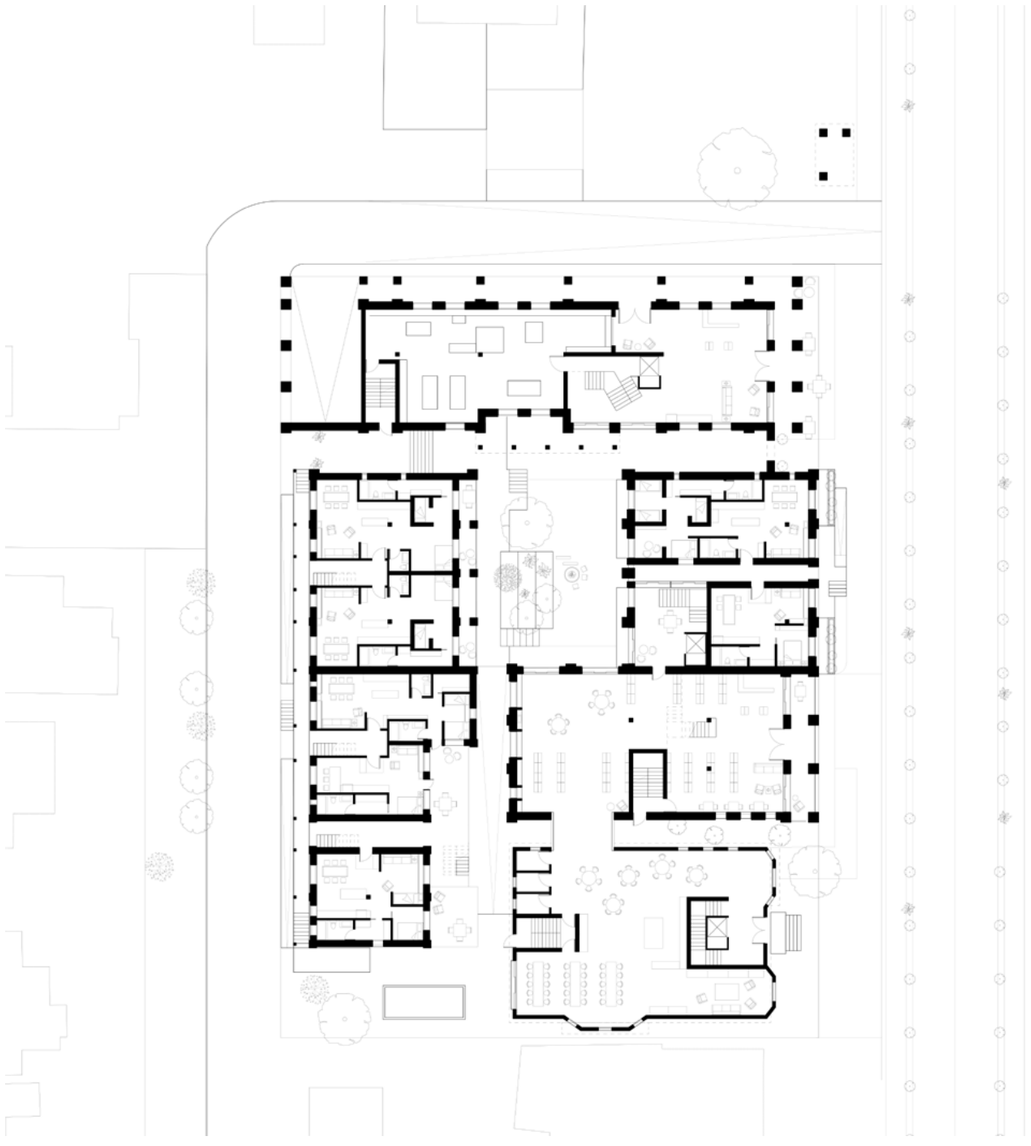
MATERIAL TRANSPORT VS. MATERIAL MASS

By far the most massive, and therefore carbon-intensive material to transport is the brick, which travels the shortest distance of any material in the construction.

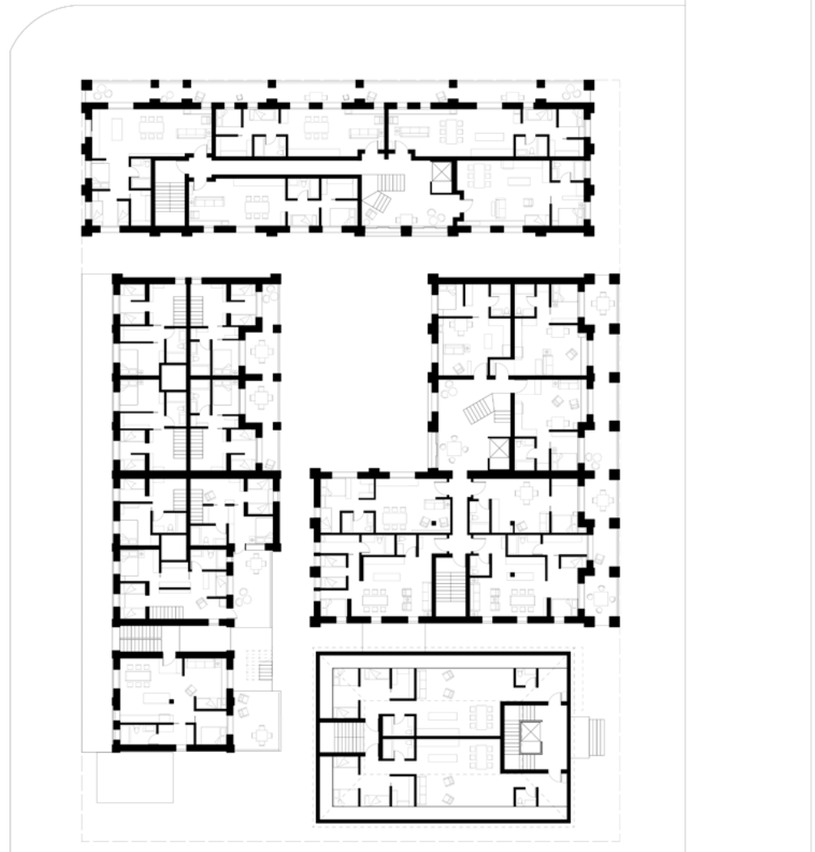




AXONOMETRIC



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



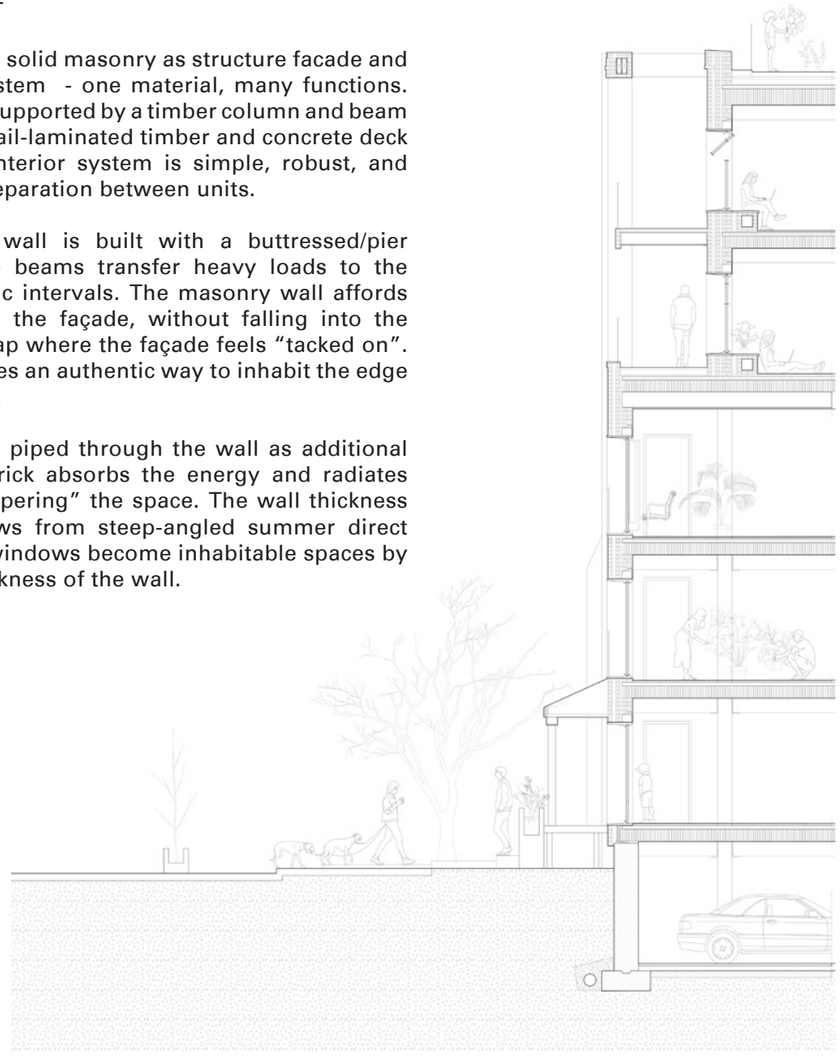
LEVEL 4 PLAN

THE MATERIAL

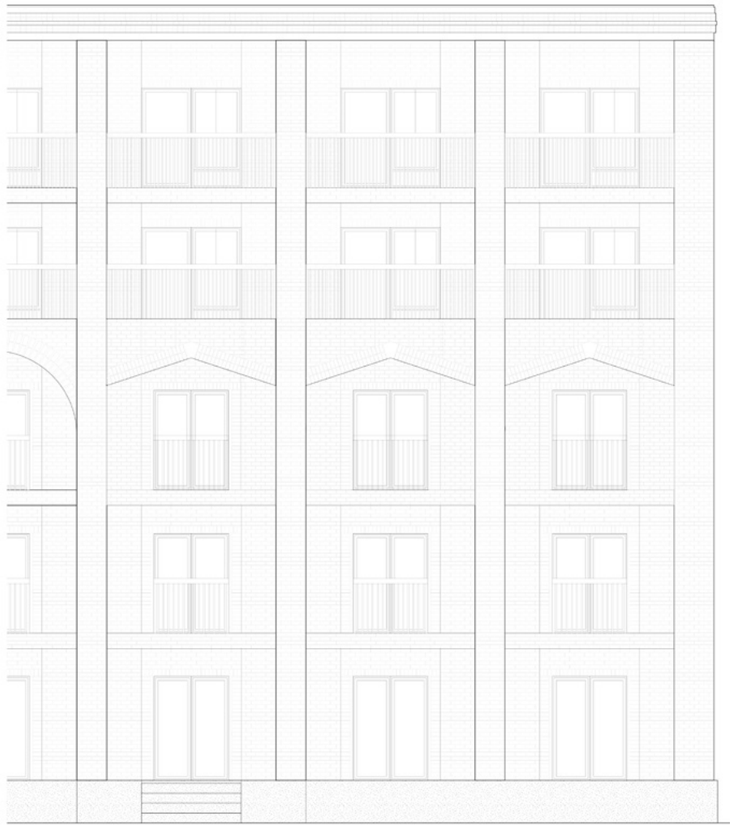
HOUSING uses solid masonry as structure facade and mechanical system - one material, many functions. The interior is supported by a timber column and beam system, with nail-laminated timber and concrete deck on top. This interior system is simple, robust, and provides fire separation between units.

The masonry wall is built with a buttressed/pier system, where beams transfer heavy loads to the walls at specific intervals. The masonry wall affords great depth in the façade, without falling into the postmodern trap where the façade feels “tacked on”. The brick creates an authentic way to inhabit the edge of the building.

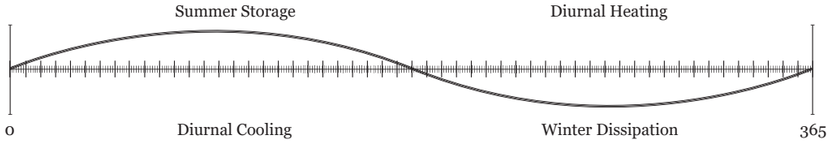
Warm water is piped through the wall as additional heating, the brick absorbs the energy and radiates it slowly, “tempering” the space. The wall thickness shades windows from steep-angled summer direct sunlight, and windows become inhabitable spaces by way of the thickness of the wall.



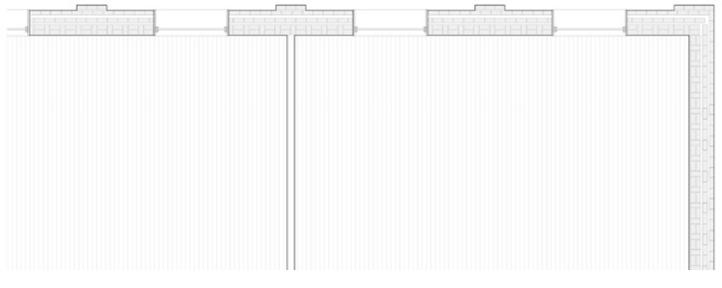
DETAIL SECTION - FACING S



DETAIL ELEVATION - E



BRICK HEAT FLUX



DETAIL PLAN

GH3*

Internship
Aug - Dec 2022
Toronto, Ontario

The team at GH3* is small and very collaborative, so I had the opportunity to work on many projects. Working through design development on a regional train expansion in Toronto, I delivered drawing packages for tender and site planning applications. Top right is an image included for site planning, which shows exact locations of municipal amenities like lighting, signage, cross-walks, curbs, and entrances.

I also worked on competitions across Canada, dense housing in Toronto's downtown, and a very early stage cultural center in Scarborough.

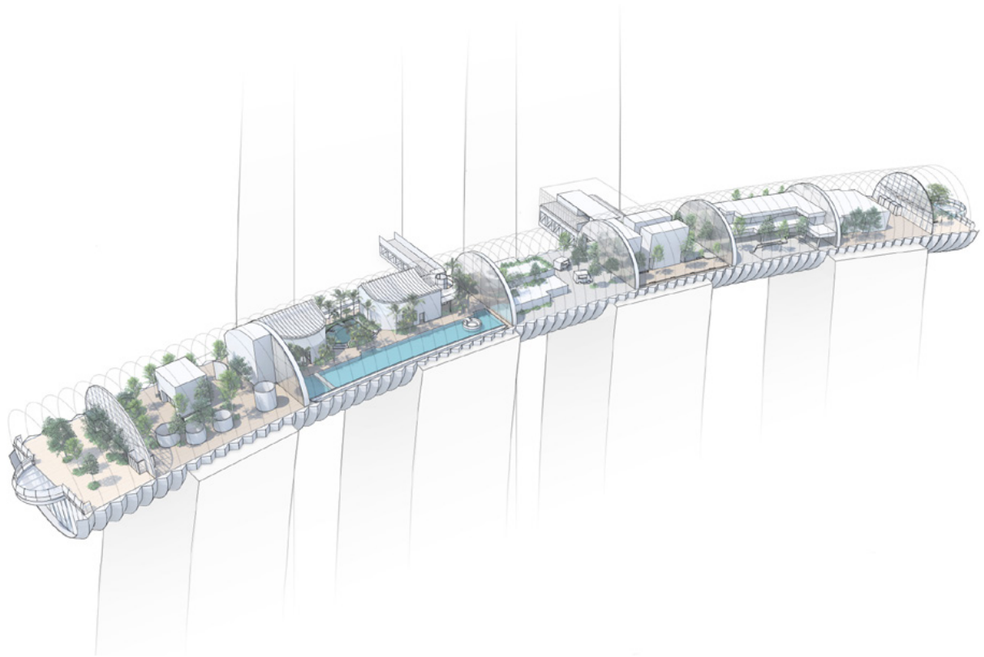
Shown middle and bottom right is a rendering set for a piece of artwork for the GH3* office. A 2m x 2m acoustic panel depicting the bathymetry of the Great Lakes in Canada. Designed and modelled the artwork and office in Rhino and V-Ray, with data extracted from QGIS.

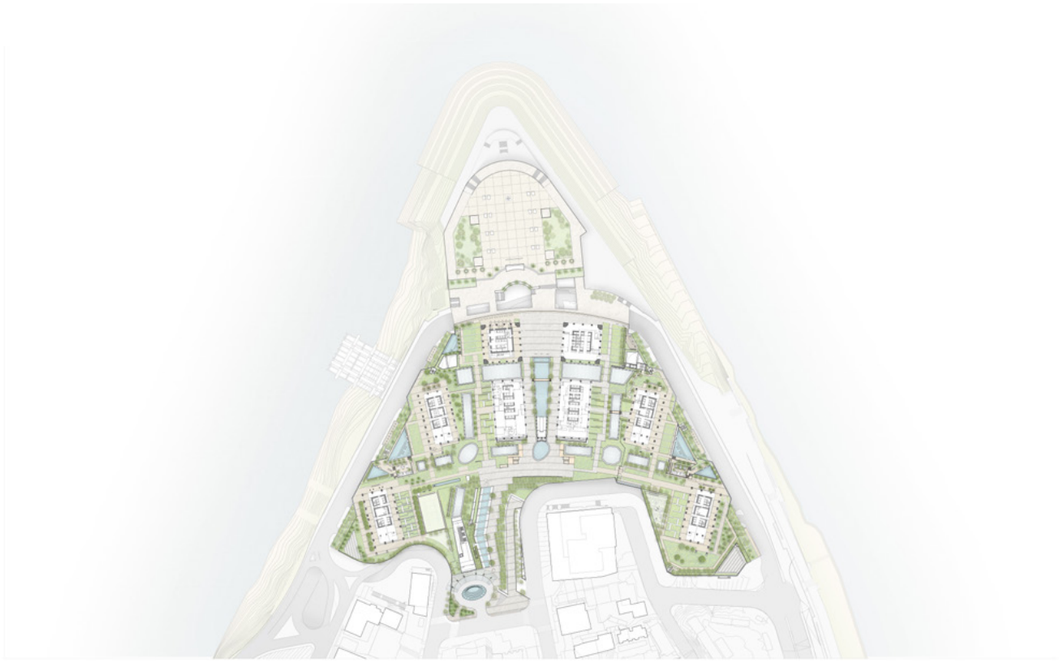
SAFDIE ARCHITECTS

Internship
Sept - Dec 2019
Cambridge, Massachusetts

At Safdie Architects I worked primarily on an expansion to the Marina Bay Sands integrated resort in Singapore. I developed the Revit model for this project as the team made the transition from CAD to BIM. The project team constantly managed the 12-hour time difference from Cambridge to Singapore, handing off coordination and drawings multiple times per week.

I also worked on the Raffles City Chongqing mixed-use development, as it neared completion of construction. I produced graphics (see right for sample works I created for this project) to be used in press kits, web communications, opening ceremonies occuring in March 2020, and lectures by Moshe Safdie.





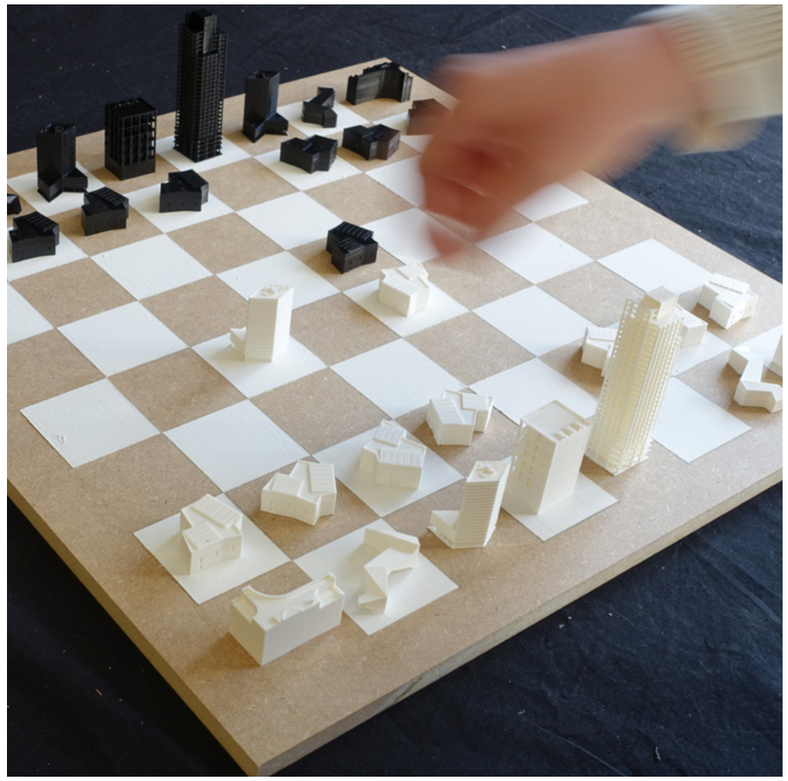
CHRIST & GANTENBEIN

Internship
May 2021 - May 2022
Basel, Switzerland

During my year-long tenure at CG I was able to work on many projects and all construction phases. I primarily worked on design development for a medical lab in St. Gallen, where I developed drawing sets, designed the core and façades, modelled solar studies, and produced presentation renderings, one of which is shown top right. During a period of transition at the office, I was the most experienced member of the project team, when we successfully submitted a Design Development 'Index D' package. The average age of our 4-person team was 25.

I was solely responsible for the delivery of the final revision planset for the Roche multifunctional office building in Grenzach, Germany. I also worked on a new project at the office from it's inception - a complex renovation and adaptation of a 1970's office building. This involved project organization, site analysis, drafting, physical model-building, and concept design sketches.

Shown bottom right is a chess set made of CG buildings, custom modelled and 3D printed as a going-away present for a co-worker and friend.



THANK YOU

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+1 617 359 5134