This project proposes a retrofit for a typical developer apartment in Maryland that considers the specific dimensional needs of young parents and the children they care for and renters dealing with the effects of aging including a lack of strength and potential sickness.
Diagramming critical dimensions
Isometric plan perspective
Currently, society is crammed with architectures that confirm the biases that it holds. Architectures that silently repeat to certain bodies that, “you don’t belong here”. This short project explores techniques can we use to design an architecture that encourages belonging and soothes one’s anxieties.

This project proposes an event in a public park called “Dancing with Grandma”. The main features of the complex include the accessible ground plane and bathroom and the additional safety features including improved sight lines through the elimination of corners, transparent structural columns, and movable studio walls.
Architectural tactics responding to anxiety and inclusion

Tactic: Maintain sight lines through columns for nighttime safety

Tactic: Minimize incline for level changes to accommodate varying abilities
The Active Archive

Librarians and the library itself are conduits for cultural information dispersal from large intuitions to localities, from individuals to collective. This project proposes a library that makes space for cultural preservation and resilience, not stagnantly but actively. The archive creates a constant and immersive event that centers around a set of stories local to Chinatown.
Librarian collects a memory or artifact donated to the library by a patron

Artifact circulates the library

The artifact takes a stop in the library daycare for learning and sharing

Child sends artifact to its final destination in the library archive
This project is a proposed renovation of a women's health clinic located in an abortion-hostile state, where a ban on abortions beyond six weeks is set to go into effect in the event that Roe v. Wade is overturned by the Supreme Court. Our conversations with the providers and administrators of the clinic, as well as our visit to the site, informed us of areas where the experiences of providers and patients could improve and where obstructions to the efficient flow and circulation of the clinic occur. Additionally, anti-abortion protesters ("antis") harass both patients and providers at the clinic, posting gruesome signs just outside of property line of the clinic, using megaphones to hurl insults at the clinicians and patients alike, trespassing, vandalizing, and destroying clinic property.

Identifying storage methods, waiting room design, and defensive landscaping as strategic points of architectural intervention, this project offers a series of retrofit, renovation, and redesign proposals for addressing both the internal and external challenges facing the clinic, which can occur within the bounds of the existing building and landscape.

The project was a class collaboration. I am the sole author of the drawings included in this portfolio.

Storage Strategy 2: Flexible Dividers

Flexible dividers can be used to create multi-use spaces. In this case, operating rooms that are usually surrounded with heavy and intimidating equipment can be converted exam rooms to serve medical abortions.
**Bush Perimeter**

Using architectural strategies to make an environment hostile is used all the time in cityscapes, though often for inequitable purposes. Some examples include anti-homeless benches and anti-skiyboarding seating and walls. In this case, we are suggesting the use of hostile architecture as an act of self-defense.

In this diagram, the protester is blocked from occupying his usual spot due to the targeted sprinkler system, poison sumac, and signage that encourages patients to not stop in the driveway. The same strategies can be applied at the bush perimeter can be applied to Scenario 2 and 3.
Power of Play is a seaweed nursery and co-op that centers around play. It uses play space to encourage feelings of ownership for building occupants - of both the building and their local food systems. In the project, we focused on creating adjacencies of play and work that destabilize the societal standards of how one should relate to their surroundings. We created viewsheds into private spaces, hung seaweed in circulation areas, and made direct connections between spaces of play and spaces of production. Something we learned in the process is the potential for reciprocity between age groups. Children can learn from adults how their food is made, and if given the chance, adults can follow the example children can set when they are invited to play with their food systems.

This is a partner project with Mackinley Wang-Xu. I am the sole author of the drawings included in this portfolio.
Amanda Ugorji

Power of Play

Site Plan

Section - daytime activity
Soft City

Soft City is a large-scale textile series that maps the urban fabric of Black neighborhoods in the Boston area. The tapestries map historic (red-lined) and contemporary Black neighborhoods, including Roxbury, Dorchester, and East Cambridge. The information mapped tells the story of the past, present and future of Black residents, and the ecological resilience of the neighborhoods they live in. Hard (impervious) and soft (pervious) land uses are codified using colors with overlays of Black residents and flood zones on the tapestries. The softness and materiality of tufting interrogates the traditional top-down approach to space planning and management in the city and offers new tactile ways to explore our understanding of urban space, at all ages.

We sourced our data from First Street Foundation Flood Model, FEMA, Climate Ready Boston, and the US Census.

This is a collaborative project with Sophie Weston-Chen. Check out more about our work here https://justpractice.work/.
55” Textile Maps / Roxbury - Dorchester - Cambridge
Amanda Ugorji
is a designer and artist interested in the potential for interdisciplinary design to act as a conduit for justice, equity, and joy.

Adobe Suite
Rhino
Grasshopper
Sketch-up
Climate Analysis
GIS
CAD
VRay
Enscape
English
Spanish
Mandarin (Simplified)
Korean
Highly Proficient
Highly Proficient
Intermediate Proficiency
Highly Proficient
Highly Proficient
Highly Proficient
Proficient
Proficient
Proficient
Native Language
Limited Working Proficiency
Limited Working Proficiency
Elementary Proficiency

Education

2024 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
M. Arch Candidate

2018 Brown University
B.A. Architecture

2018 Rhode Island School of Design
Advanced Standing Degree

Experience

2021 Urban Risk Lab Research Assistant
- Designed, mapped, prepared presentations, and edited proposal on resiliency planning projects in collaboration with FEMA, the City of Boston / Designed and fabricated exhibit for Mass Audubon

2021 just practice Co-founder
- Project managed, event managed, fundraised, researched, designed, and fabricated / Co-founded with Sophie Weston Chien

2020 Hester Street Project Associate
Prepared and facilitated for community workshops / Developed innovative community engagement tools

2019 RAICES Graphic Design Intern
Designed and produced internal and external media / Researched and filed open and closed cases respectively / Gained insight into the immigration legal process

2019 Paramount Pictures Art Department
PA/Researcher
Constructed research presentations / Scouted locations / Documented local design precedents on Clifford

2018 The Food That Built America Art Department PA/Set Dresser
Assisted in set fabrication and construction / Dressed set locations

2018 Michael Kim Associates Internship
Researched and produced development feasibility studies / Surveyed site topography / Drew building elevations and site plans

2017 Epstein Joslin Architects Internship
Rendered digital models for client presentations / Managed model shipment and safety / Contacted and liaised with clients and suppliers

Projects

2020 Soft Cities, Large Scale Textile Series
Ecological Maps of Black Neighborhoods in the Boston Area

2022 Arch Belonging, Ownership in NYC
Interview Series with New York Residents
**Leadership + Service**

2021  **Graduate Student Experience Grant Recipient**
Ceramics Workshop Organizer

2021  **Grounds, WAWD? Radio**
Online Radio Host and Programmer at MIT Architecture Radio Station

2018  **Downcity Design**
Volunteer Teaching Assistant

**MIT SAP Leadership**

2021  *Where the Money @?, Organizer*
2021  SAP NOMAS Inaugural Lecture,
-2022  Co-organizer
2023  NOMAS Executive Board, Treasurer
2022  NOMAS Executive Board, Events
2021  NOMAS, Member
2021  Student Council, March 24 Representative
2021  March Admissions, Student-Reviewer and Equity Reform Advocate
2021  AMP Mentor, Mentor to Minority Applicants
-2022  Office Of Graduate Experience, Recruitment Diversity Ambassador

**Brown Leadership**

2018  Advocated for a equity centered reform of the Architecture Department at Brown University, Organizer
2018  Women in Architecture Website and Database, Team Member + Contributor

**Conferences**

2022  **NOMAS UNPLUGGED**
National Organization of Minority Annual Conference, Attendee

**Speaking**

2023  Panelist: BosNOMA Graduate Student Panel
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

2023  Guest Lecturer: Rhetoric
Boston University Undergraduate Seminar

2023  Guest Speaker: Participatory Mapping
Northeastern University Graduate Seminar

2023  Panelist: 3rd Space Closing: Head, Heart, Hand
3rd Space Gallery

2023  Panelist: 3rd Space Opening: Architectural Imaginaries
3rd Space Gallery

2022  Guest Lecture/Workshop: APOCALYPSE NOW
Harvard Graduate School of Design

**Publications**

2023  DISC Journal 02: Intimacy
Soft City with Sophie Weston Chien

**Exhibitions**

2023  3rd Space (group show)
12 Summer St, Downtown Crossing, Boston, MA

2022  Soft City (solo show)
Leventhal Map Center, Boston Public Library, Boston, MA
2022  NOW WHAT?! Advocacy, Activism, and Alliances In American Architecture Since 1968
Boston Society of Architects Gallery, Boston, MA

2022  NO WHITE WALLS (group show)
Yale E.I.K. Gallery, New Haven, CT

2022  Soft City
MIT Rotch Library Gallery, Cambridge, MA

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Honors + Awards

2023  Marjorie Pierce [1922] / Dean William Emerson Fellowship Award
Full Tuition Award

-2022  John A Lyons fellowship
Full Tuition Award

2022  Council For The Arts At Mit Seed Grant
Architectures of Belonging : Public Narrative + Public Body $500

2022  Ennis Research Grant
MIT Department of Architecture  $1,000

2022  Harold Horowitz (1951) Student Research Fund
MIT Department of Architecture  $1,375

2021  Council For The Arts At Mit Award
Soft City: Texture Mapping Black Boston, with Sophie Weston Chien  $6,800