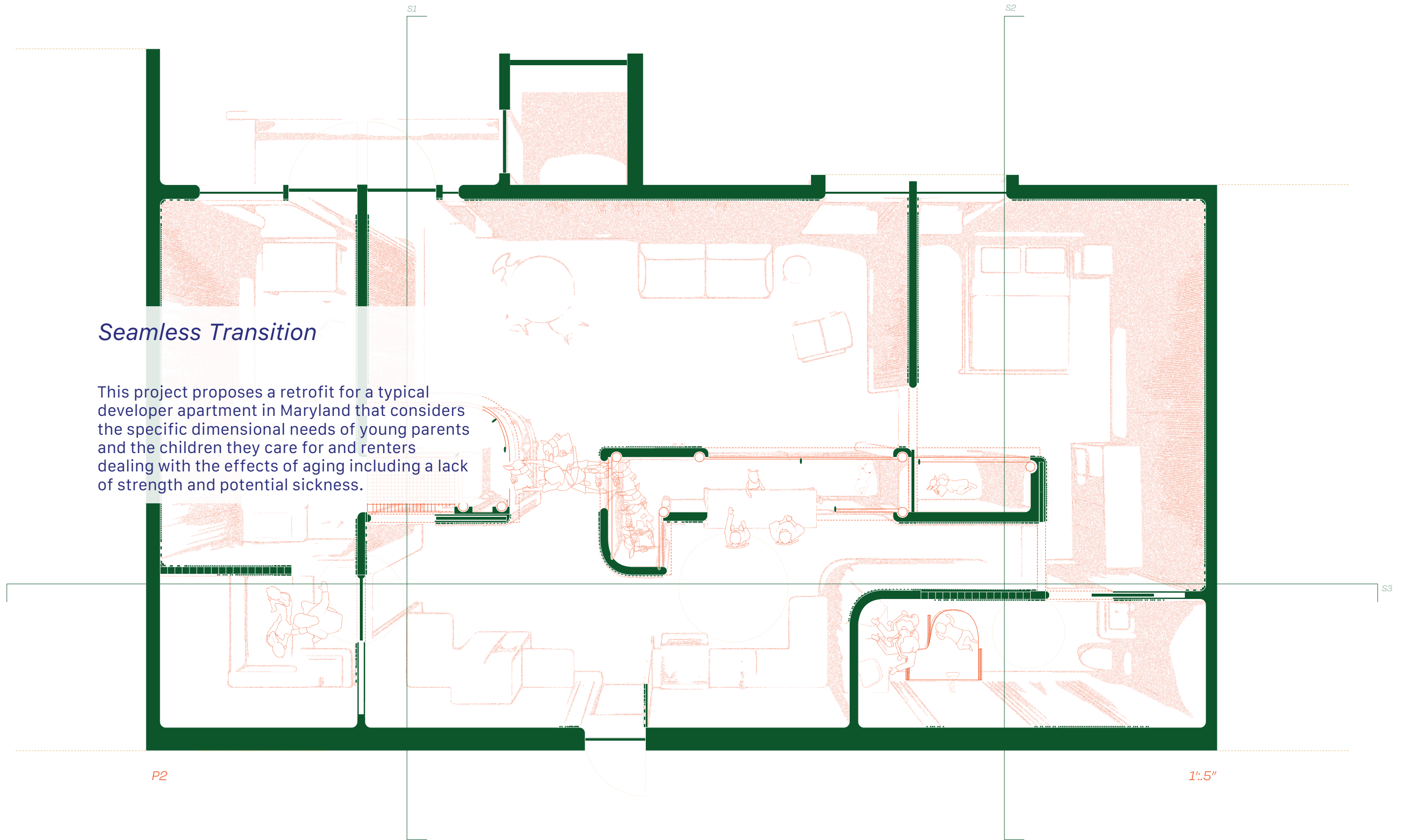


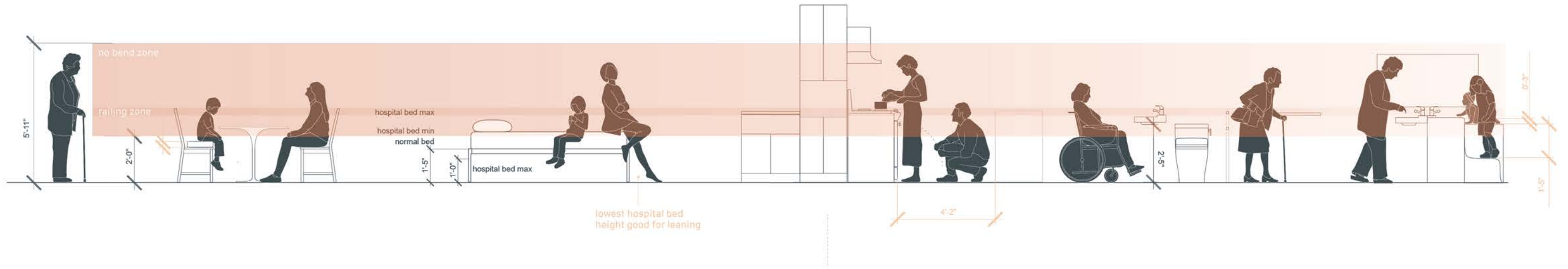
**Amanda Ugorji**  
**Work Sample SP 2023**



### Seamless Transition

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.

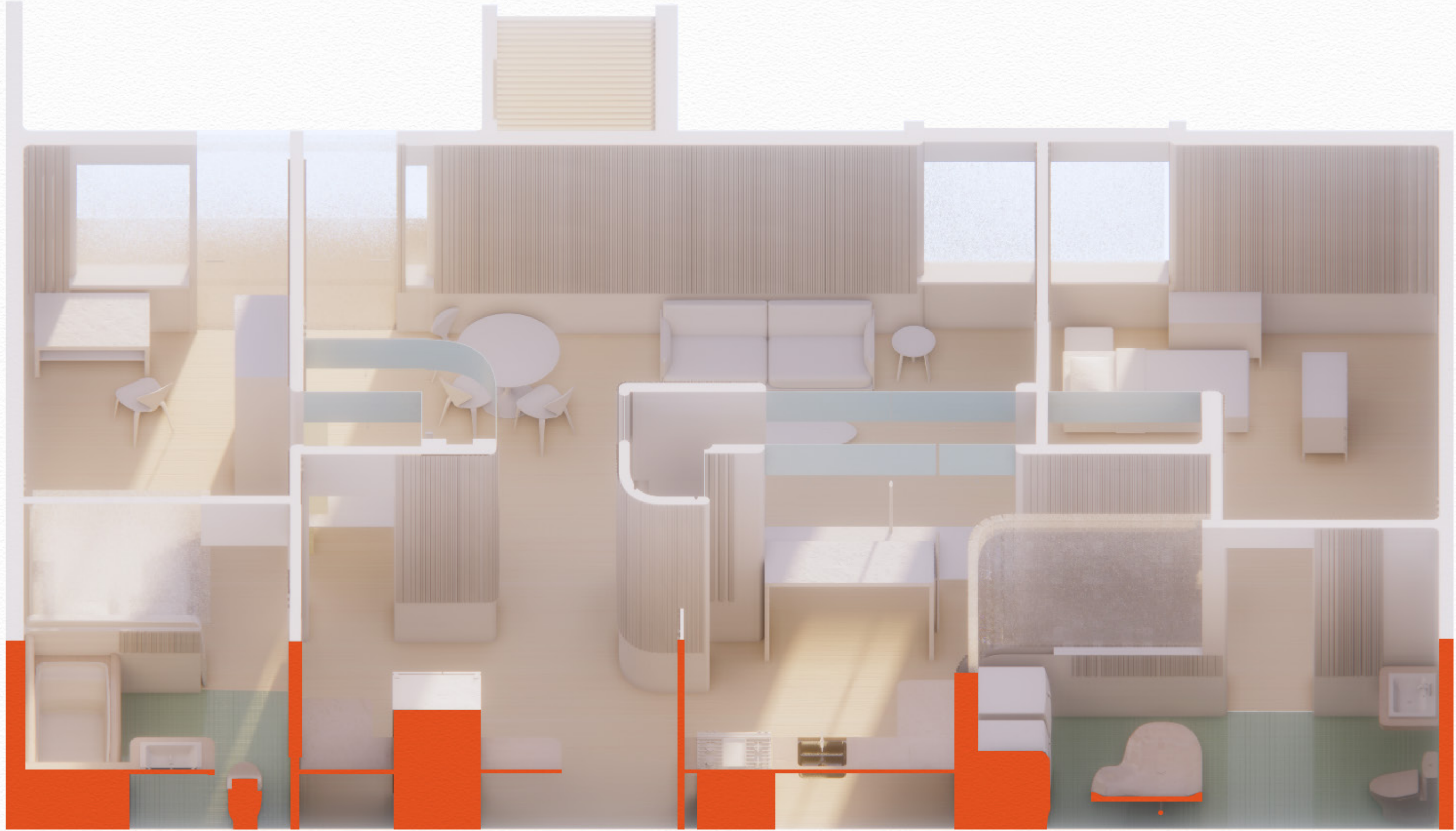




Diagramming critical dimensions







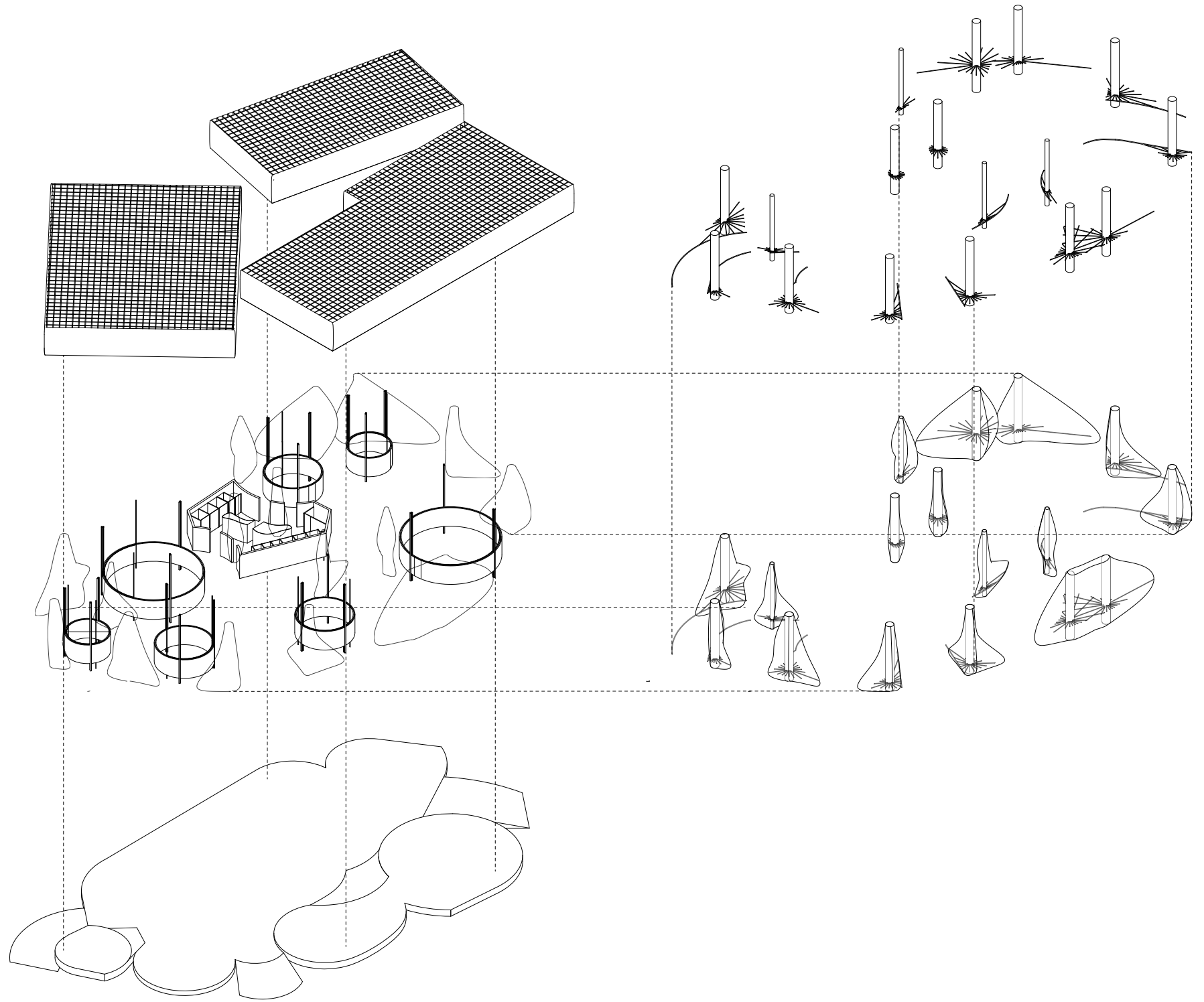
Isometric plan perspective



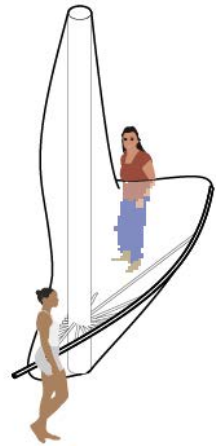
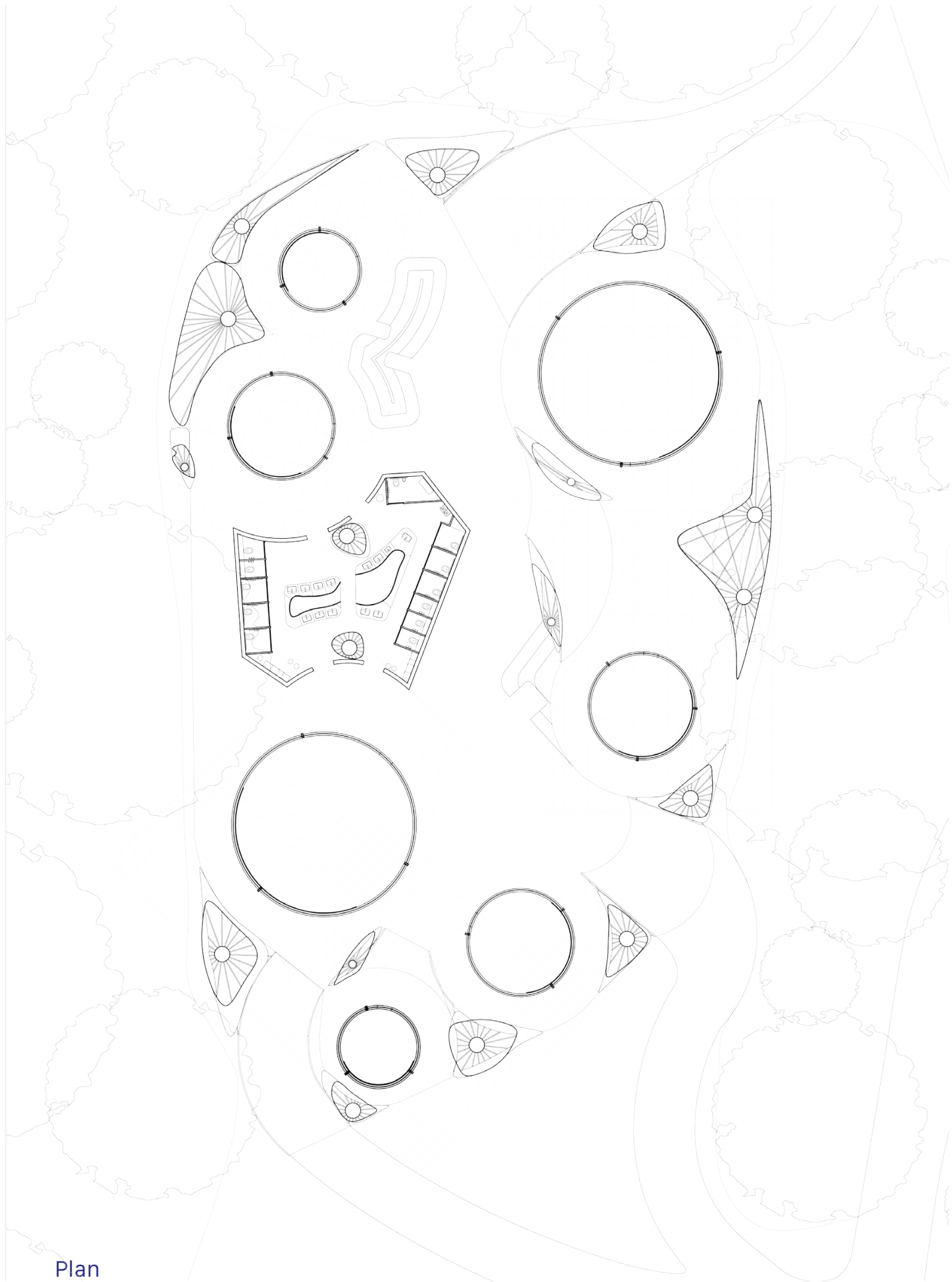
*Dancing with Grandma:  
a Proposal for a Public Dance  
Complex*

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.

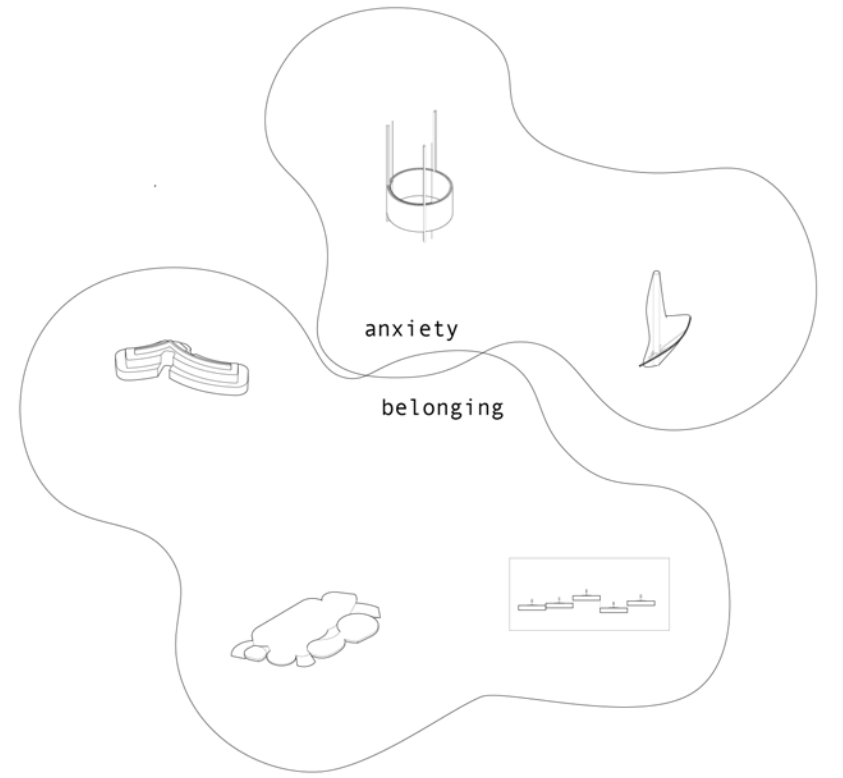
This project proposes an event in a public park called "Dancing with Grandma". The main features of the complex include the accessible ground plane and bathroom and the additional safety features including improved sight lines through the elimination of corners, transparent structural columns, and movable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



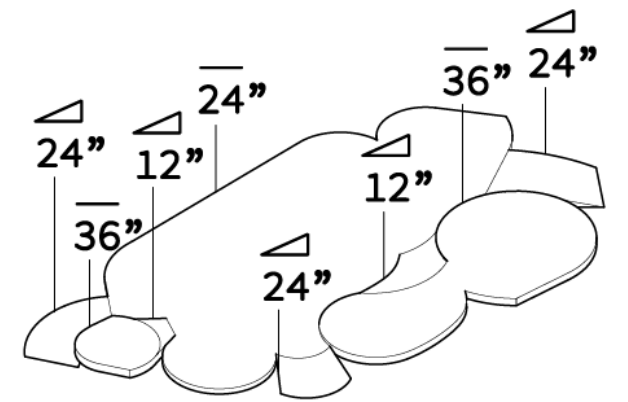
Axonometric



Tactic: Maintain sight lines through columns for nighttime safety



Architectural tactics responding to anxiety and inclusion

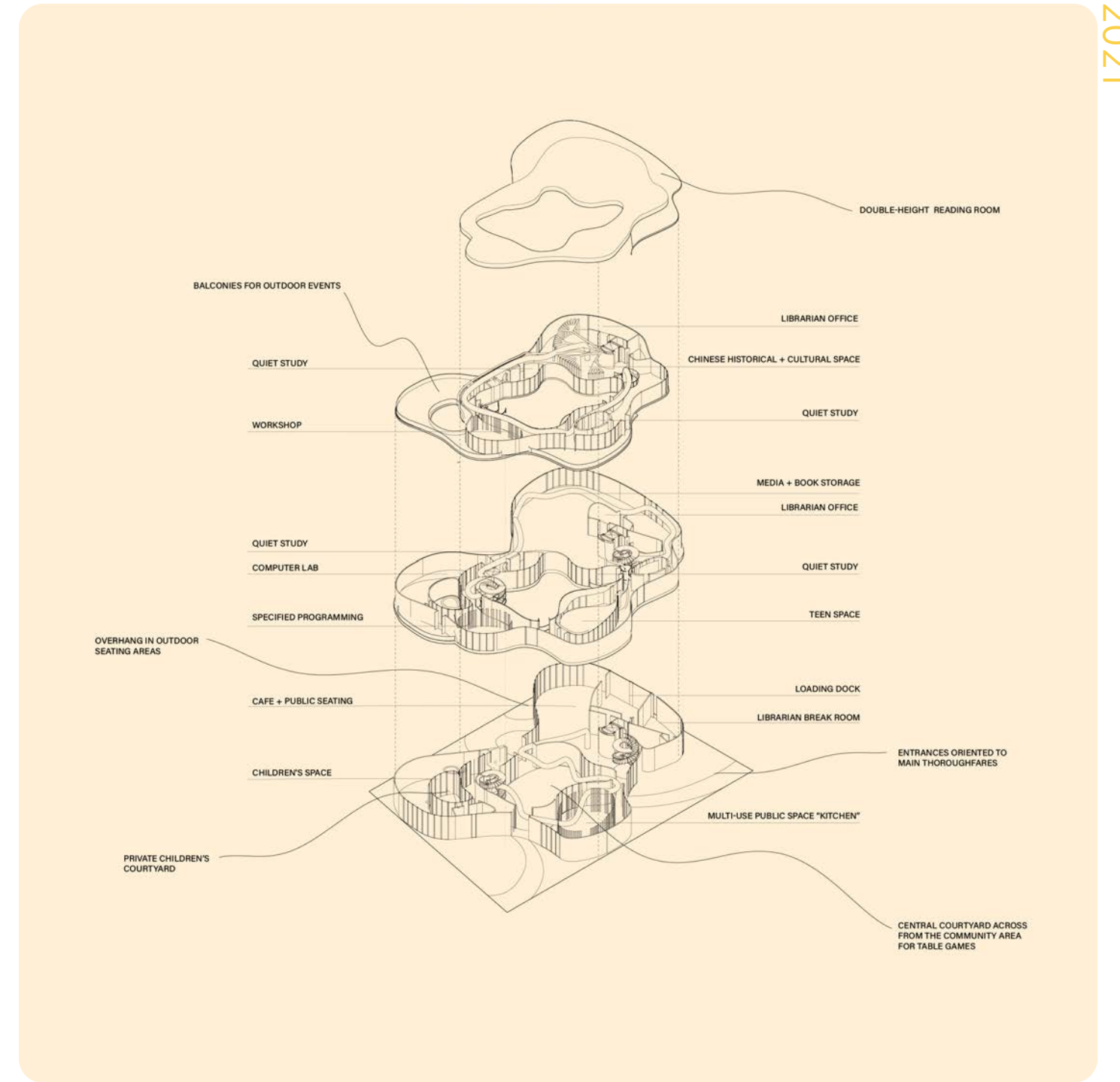


Tactic: Minimize incline for level changes to accommodate varying abilities



### 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.



Programmatic axonometric



Circulation section





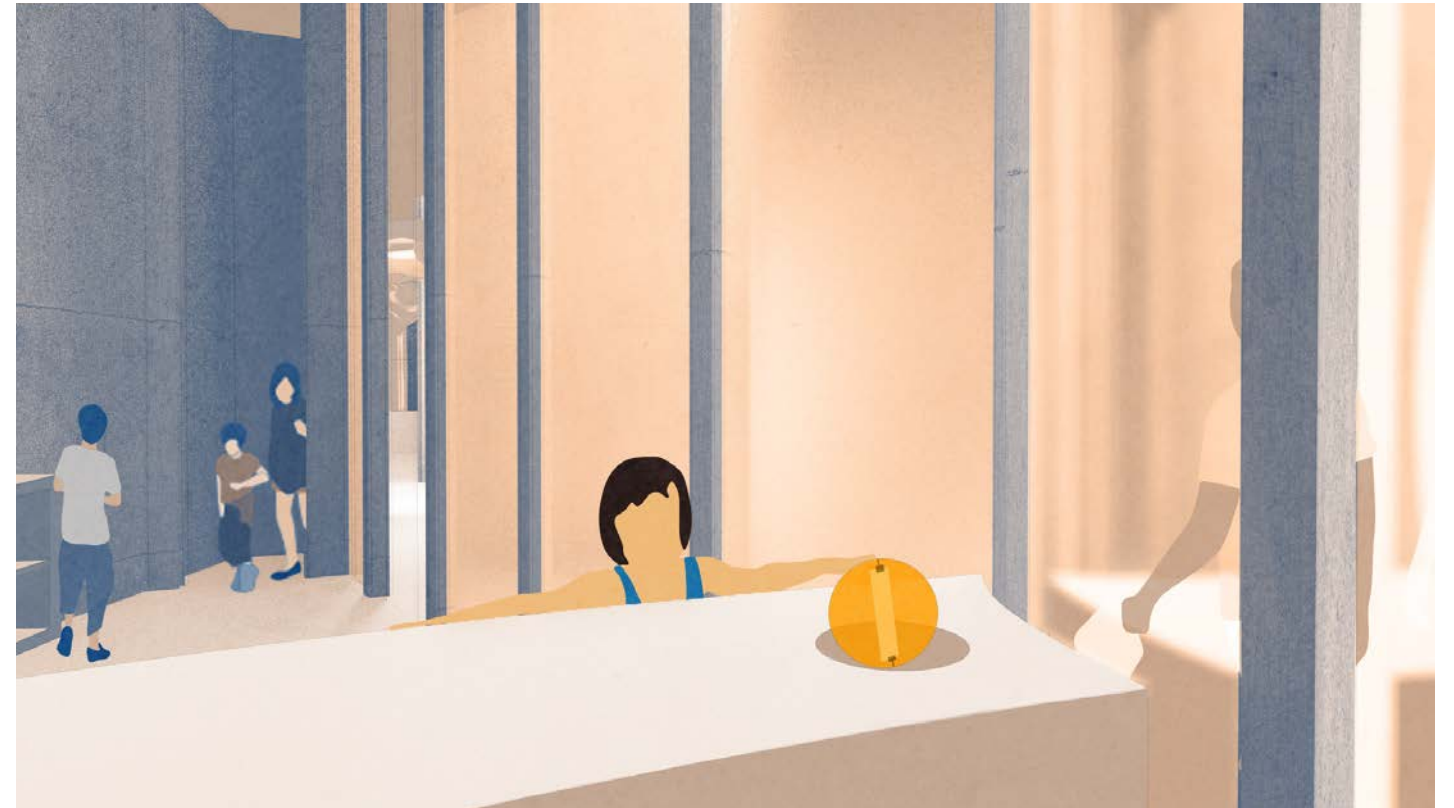
Librarian collects a memory or artifact donated to the library by a patron



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



*Blueprints of Justice Vol 2.*

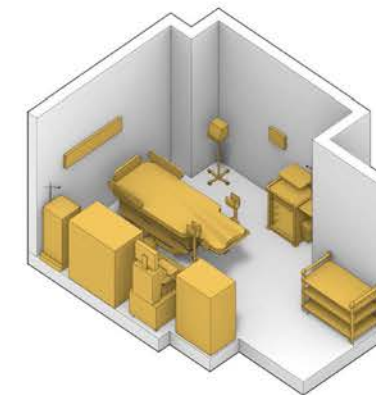
This project is a proposed renovation of a womens health clinic located in an abortion-hostile state, where a ban on abortions beyond six weeks is set to go into effect in the event that Roe v. Wade is overturned by the Supreme Court. Our conversations with the providers and administrators of the clinic, 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.

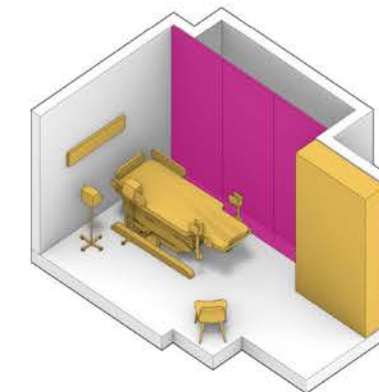
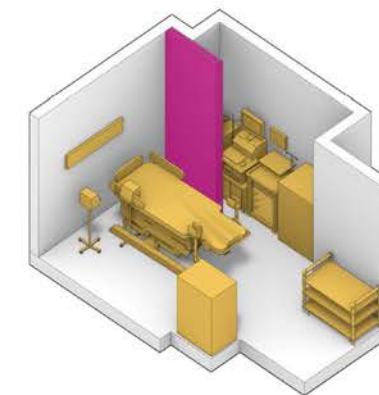
The project was a class collaboration. I am the sole author of the drawings included in this portfolio.

# 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.



Current OR #1



Consolidate machinery



Install retractable wall

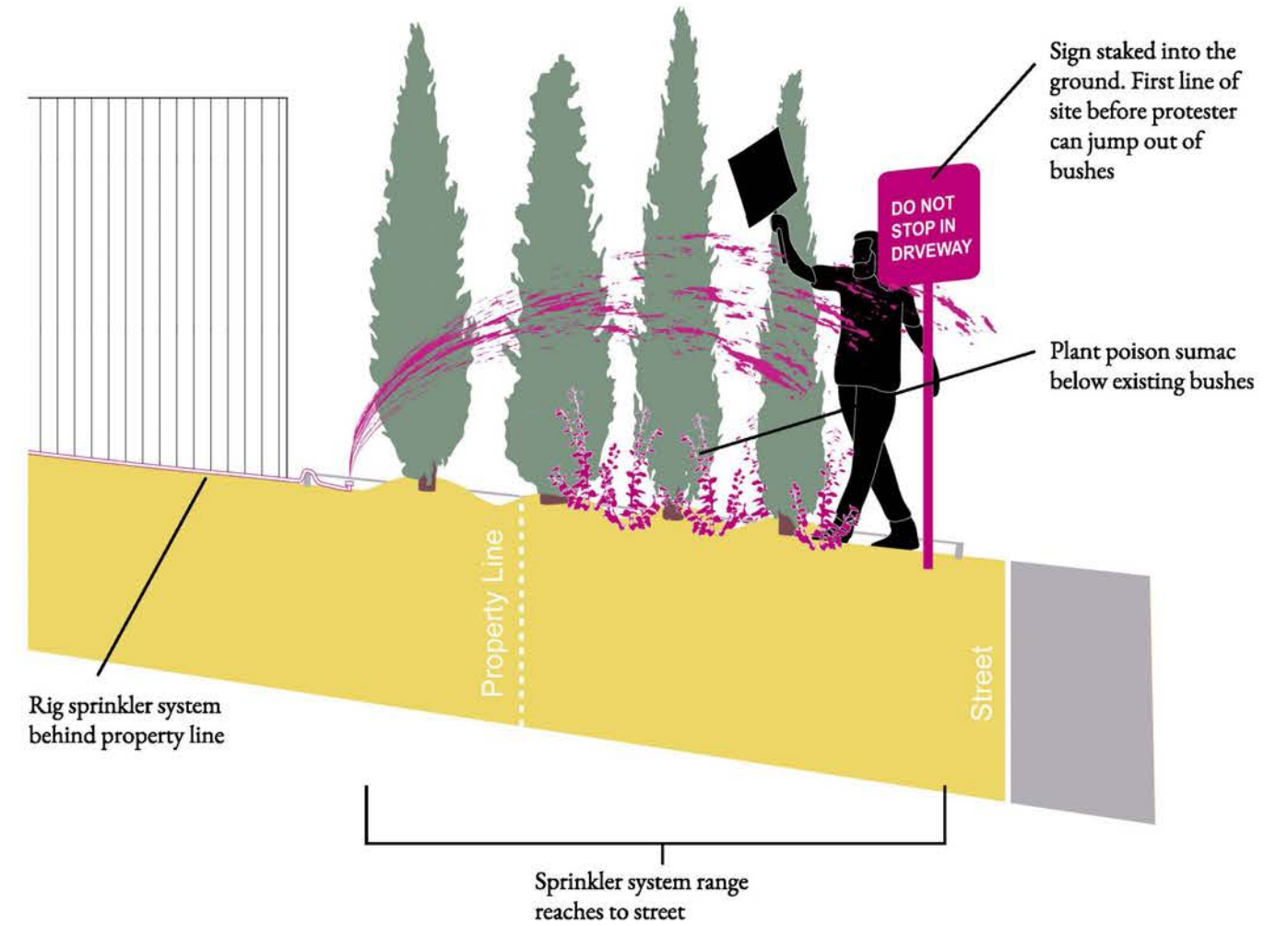


Remove mobile storage in favor of a built in cabinet

# 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-skateboarding 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.

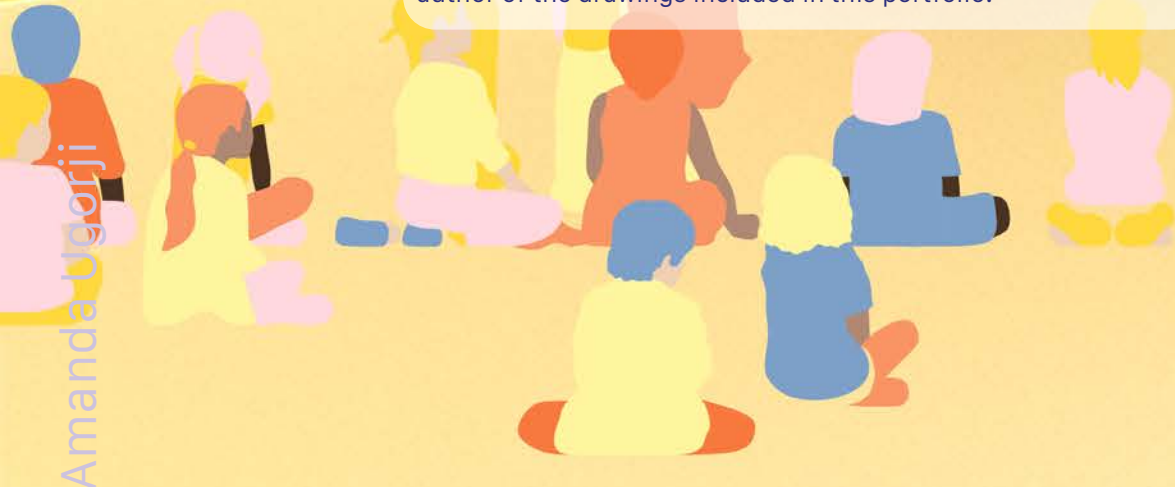




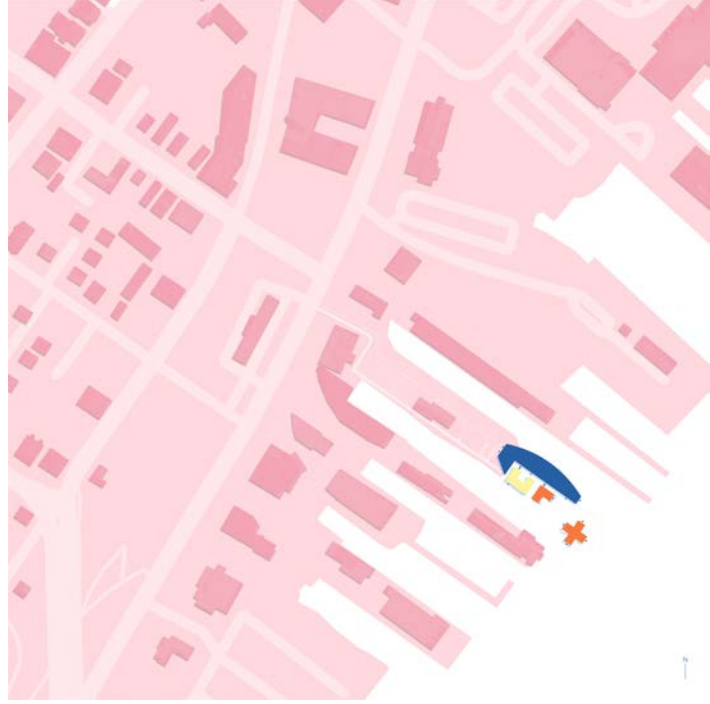
*Power of Play: A Seaweed Nursery in Portland*

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 of 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

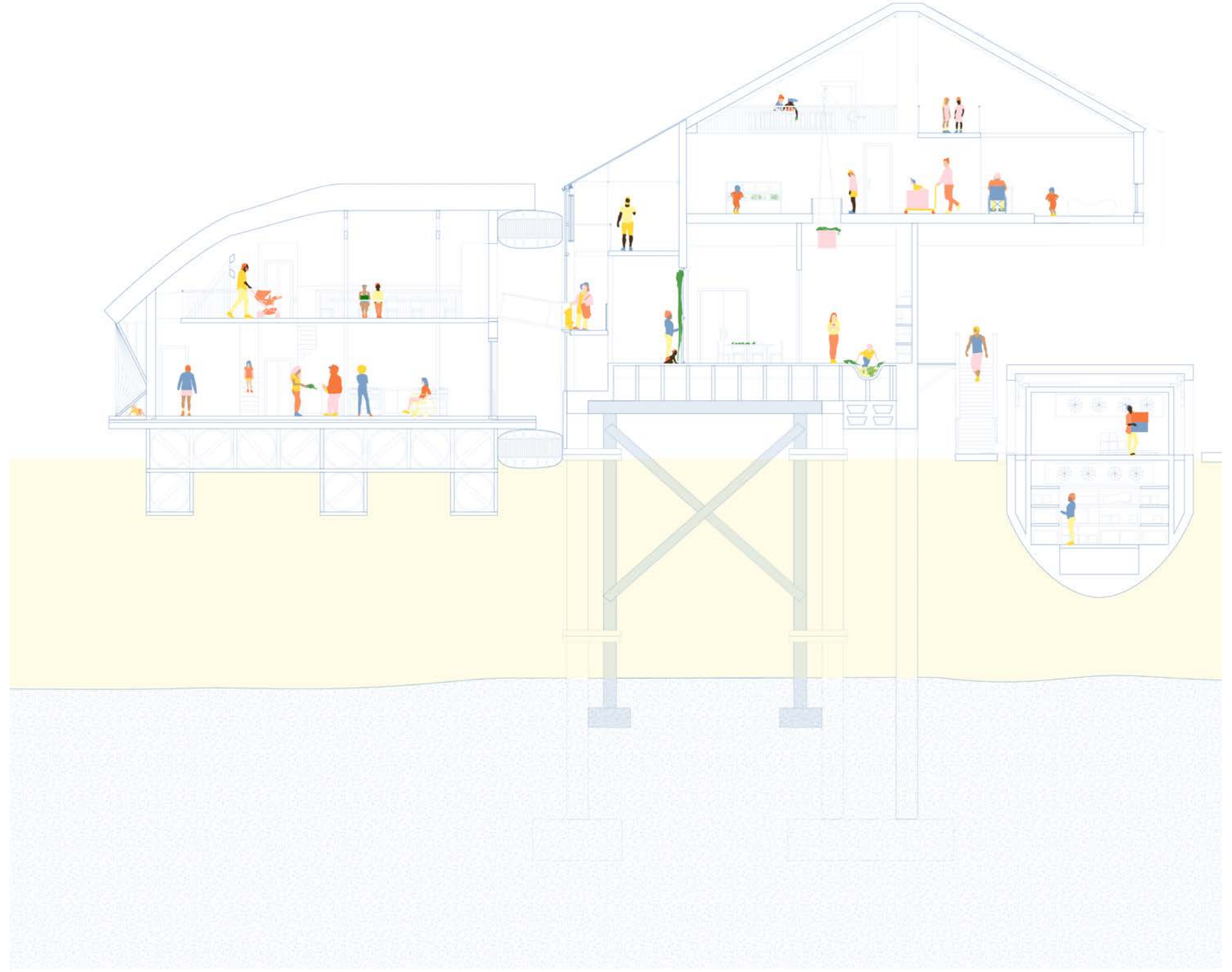
This is a partner project with Mackinley Wang-Xu. I am the sole author of the drawings included in this portfolio.







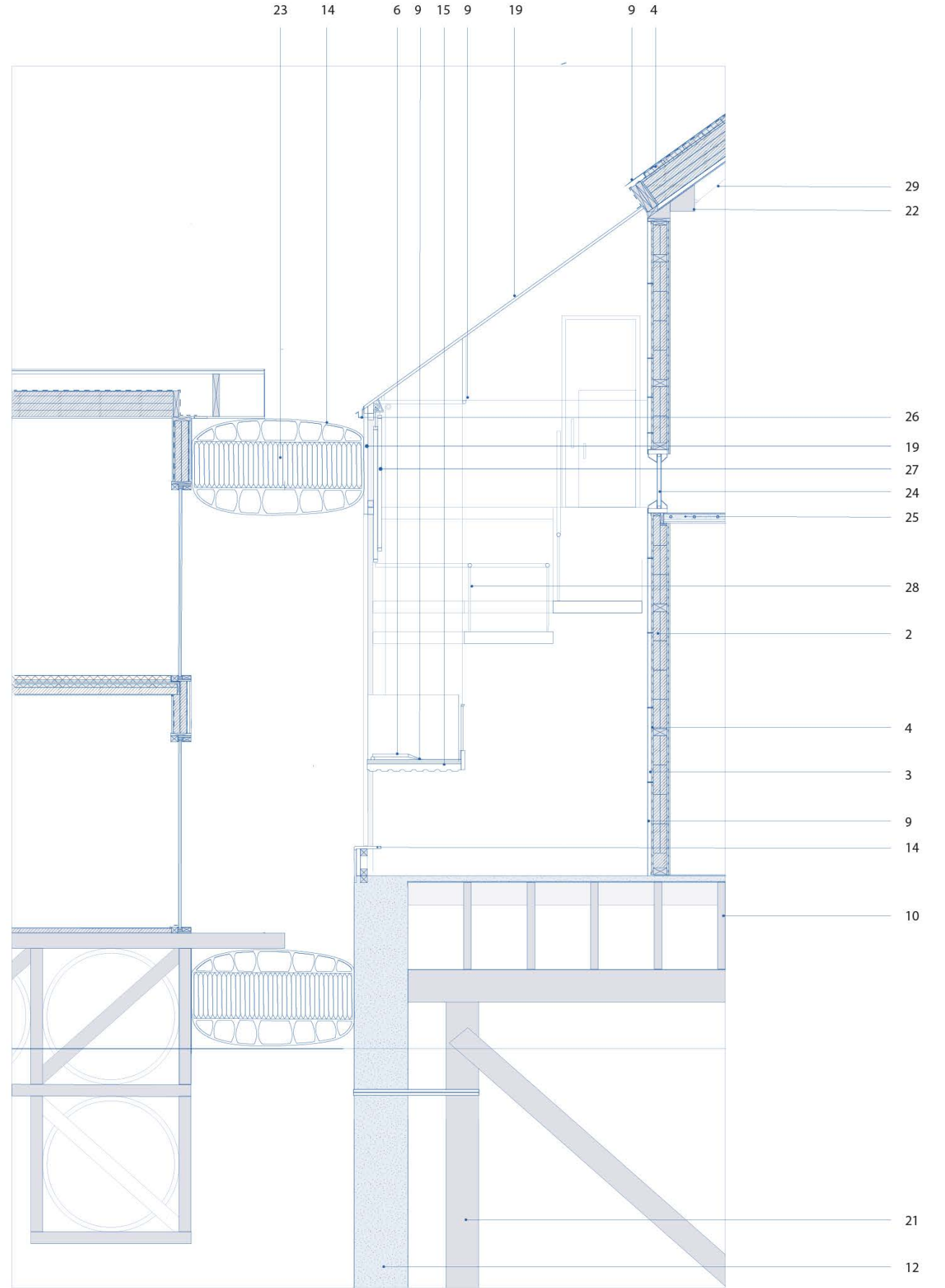
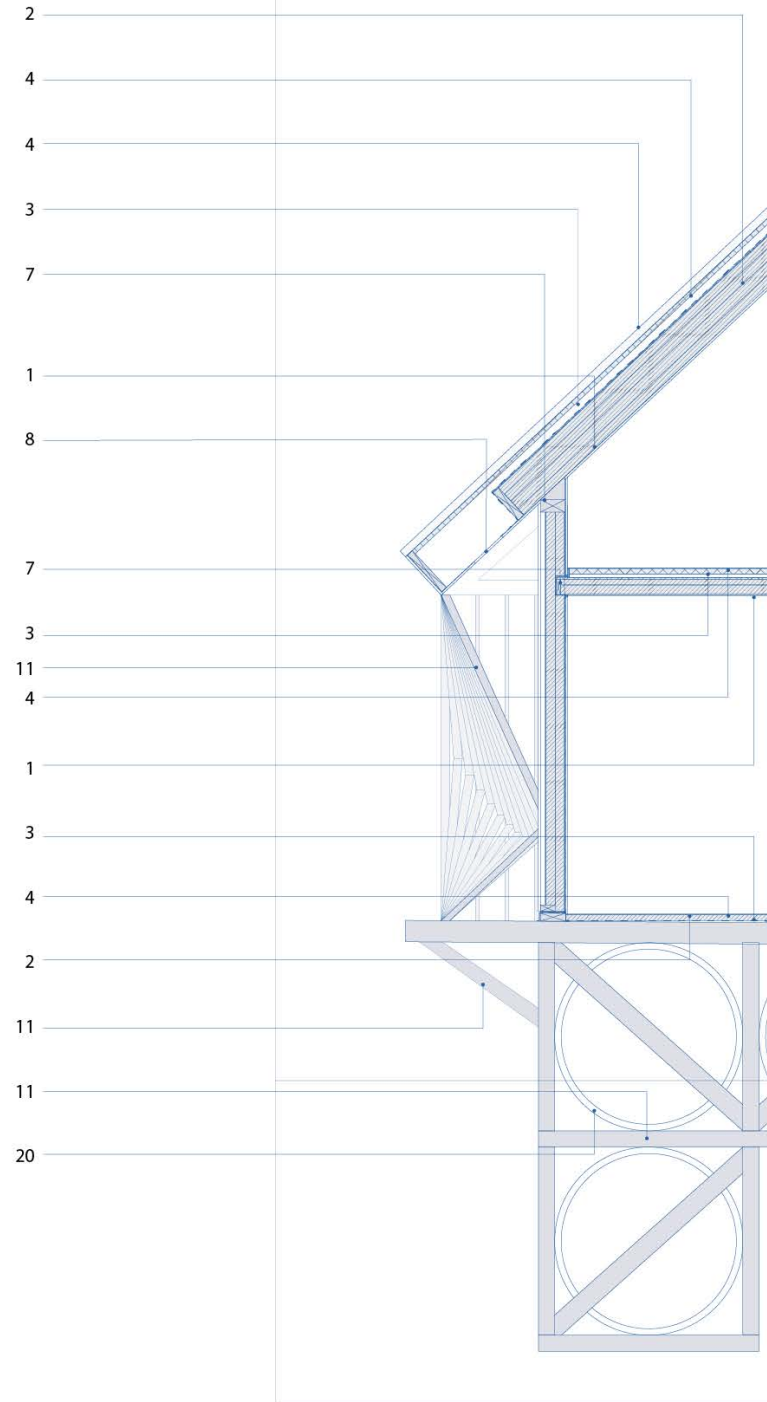
Site Plan



Section - daytime activity



- 1 Wooden Sheet Material
- 2 Denim Insulation
- 3 Air Gap
- 4 Rigid Insulation
- 5 Wood Roof Board
- 6 Removable Dock
- 7 Wooden block
- 8 Soffit
- 9 Metal Sheet
- 10 Timber
- 11 2x4 Wooden Member
- 12 Concrete
- 13 Bolt
- 14 Rubber Bumper
- 15 Corrugated Metal
- 16 Metal Sliding Door
- 17 Aluminum Detail
- 18 Interior Finish
- 19 PVC Panel
- 20 Plastic Barrel
- 21 Existing Dock
- 22 Structural Beam
- 23 Internal Spring
- 24 Glazing
- 25 Radiant Heating System
- 26 Gutter
- 27 Motorized Sliding Door
- 28 Guard Rail
- 29 Tension Member



Facade section detail



## 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.

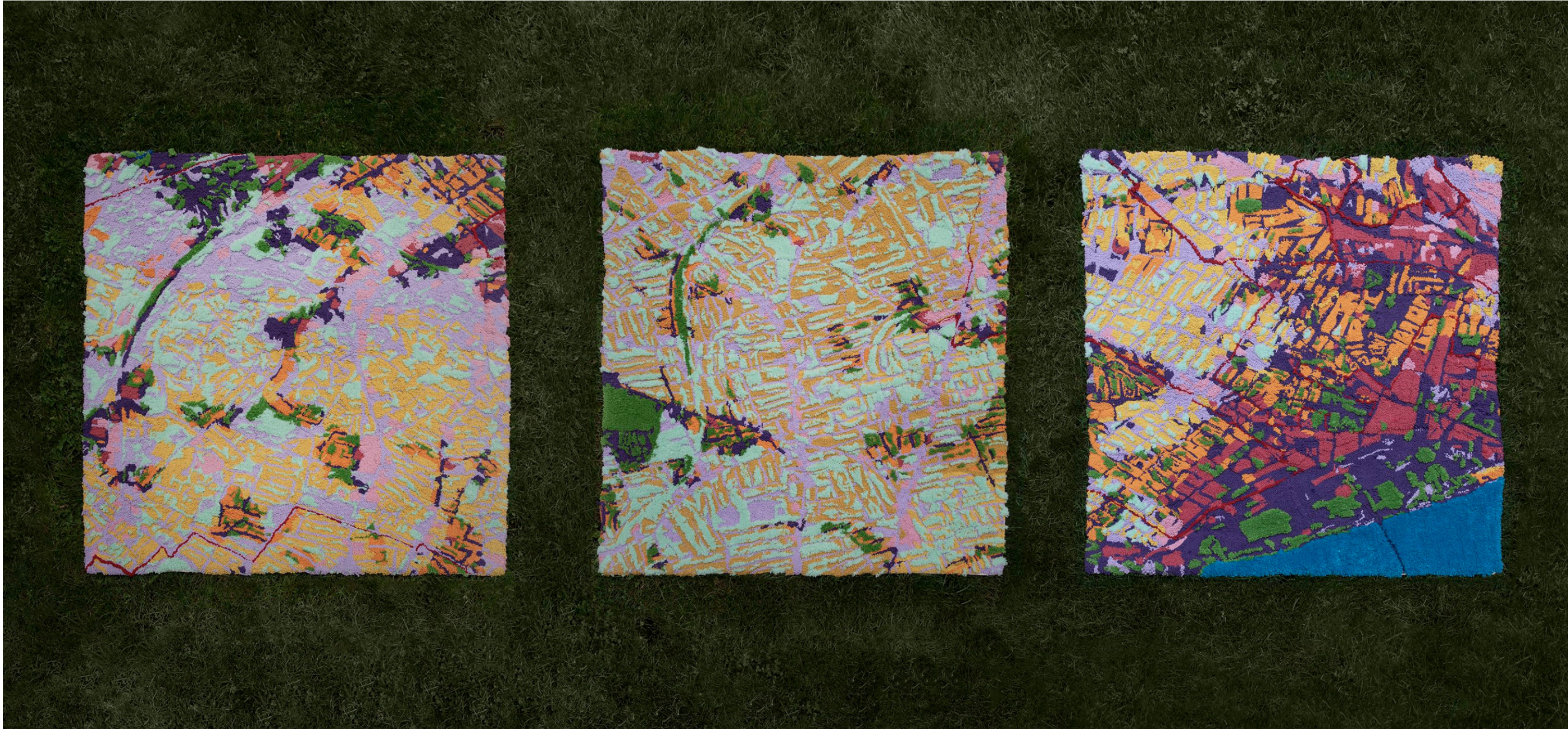
This is a collaborative project with Sophie Weston-Chen. Check out more about our work here <https://justpractice.work/>.



Textile map details







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.

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

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## Education

- 2024 **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**  
M. Arch Candidate
  - 2018 **Brown University**  
B.A. Architecture
  - 2018 **Rhode Island School of Design**  
Advanced Standing Degree
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## Experience

- 2021 **Urban Risk Lab** Research Assistant
  - Designed, mapped, prepared presentations, and edited proposal on resiliency planning projects in collaboration with FEMA, the City Chelsea and 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 **Grounds, WAWD? Radio**  
Online Radio Host and Programmer at  
MIT Architecture Radio Station

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

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

-2022 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  
-2022 Emerson Fellowship Award**  
Full Tuition Award

**2022 John A Lyons fellowship**  
-2021 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