

Accessibility Through Design



Erik Schwarzkopf : arch 772 : Vorderbruggen : Spring 2013



How can the design of a long-term care facility help promote physical and social accessibility of the elderly within an urban fabric so as to benefit both the residents and the community?



Why a long-term care facility?

Why Duluth?

Duluth offers a unique combination of natural beauty in an urban setting.

The elderly population continues to increase in the U.S. and with so many wanting to live in a downtown environment, this site provides that opportunity.

Introducing a sustainable population into the downtown area of Duluth would be beneficial to both the elderly residents and the community they would live in.

After living the first 18 years of my life in this city I felt that this thesis gave me the opportunity to design in it.





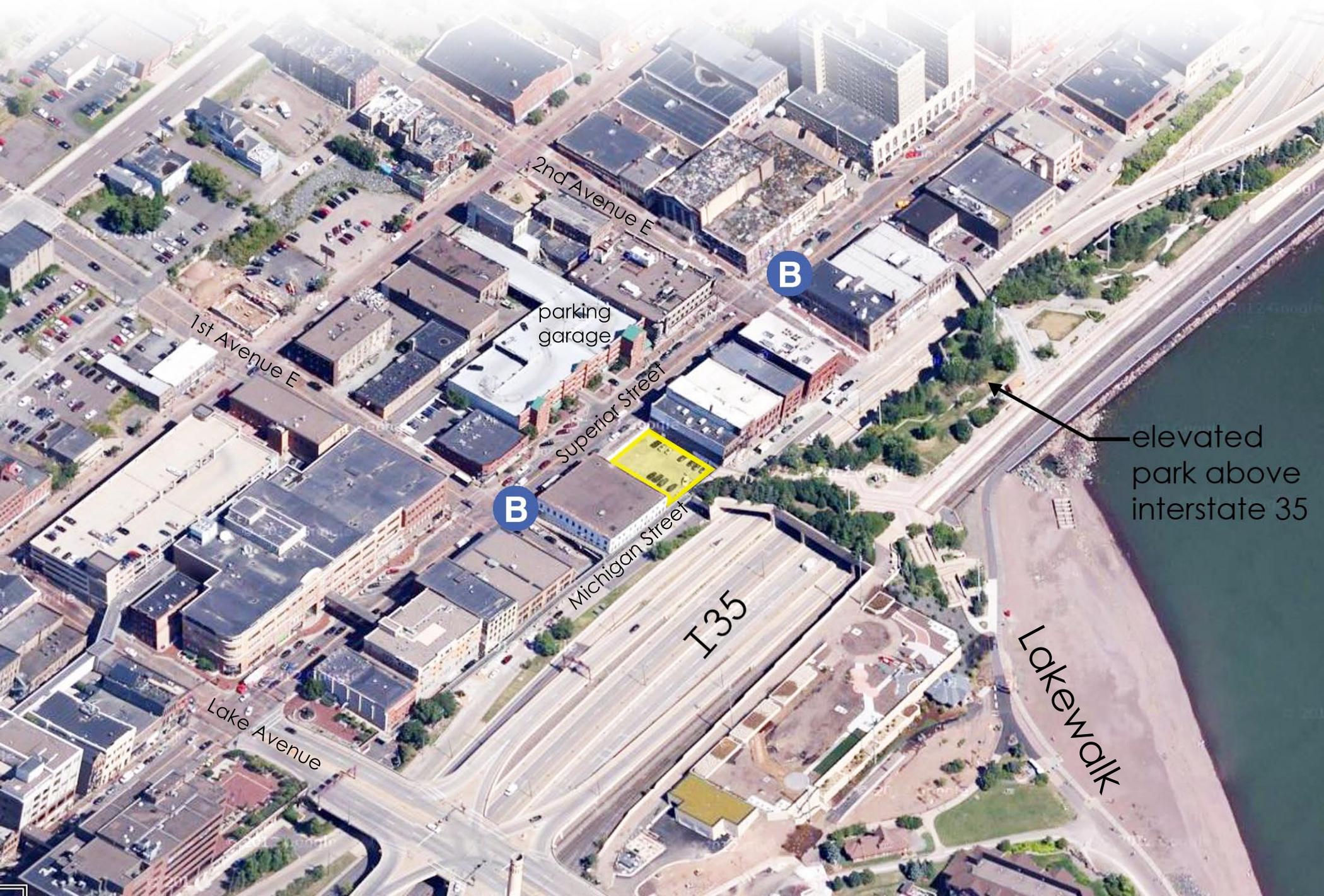
site

L a k e
S u p e r i o r

duluth, mn

Site From Above

The site is located along Superior Street in the heart of downtown Duluth. It is currently a parking lot and is about 11' below the street level along Superior Street.



elevated park above interstate 35

Lakewalk

I35

Michigan Street

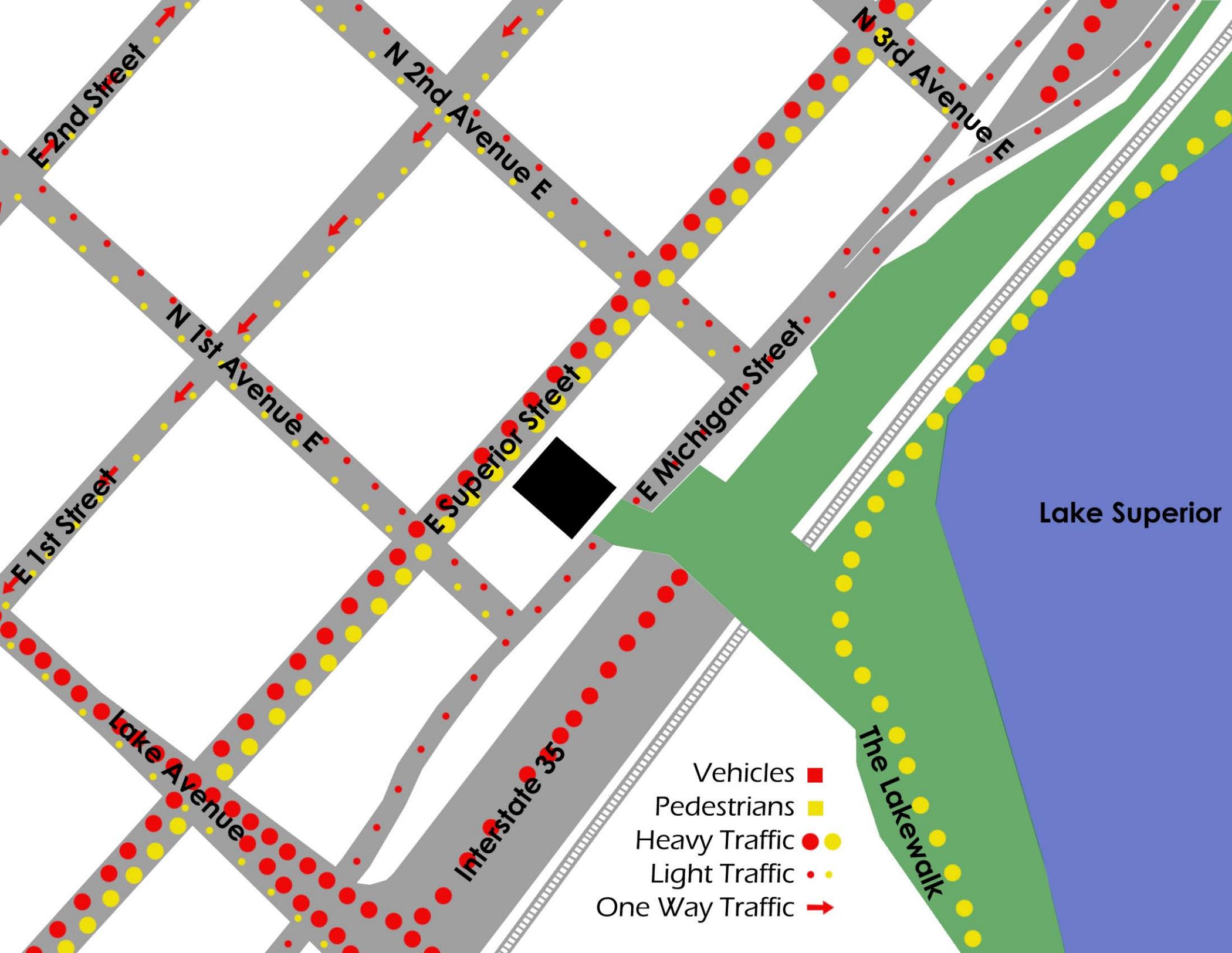
Superior Street

parking garage

2nd Avenue E

1st Avenue E

Lake Avenue





Looking East towards the site on Superior Street.



Looking West-Northwest towards the site on Michigan Street.



Looking Northwest towards the site on the elevated park over Interstate 35.

Accessibility

Through Design

A long term care facility in Duluth, MN.

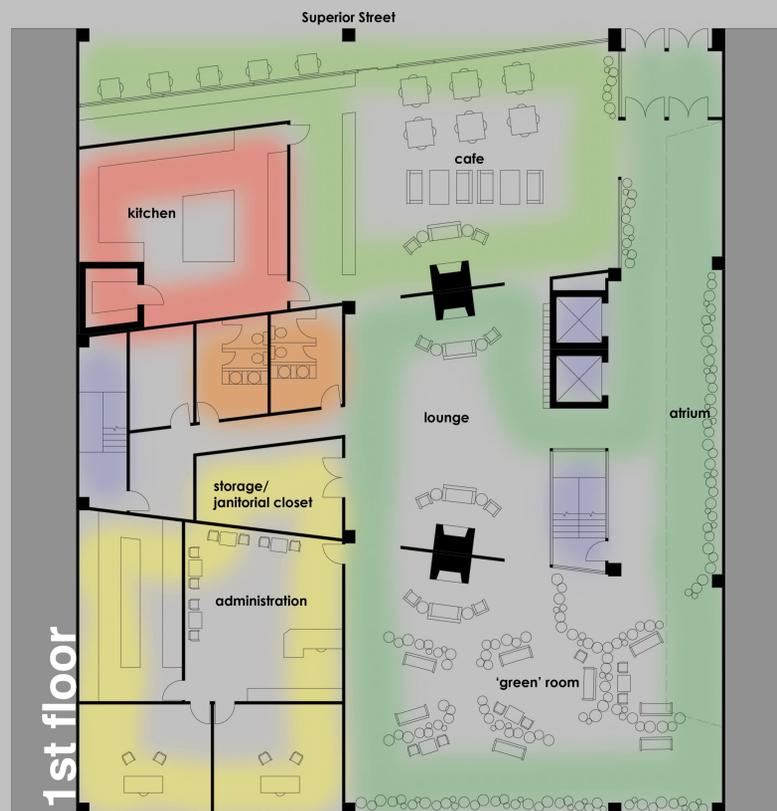
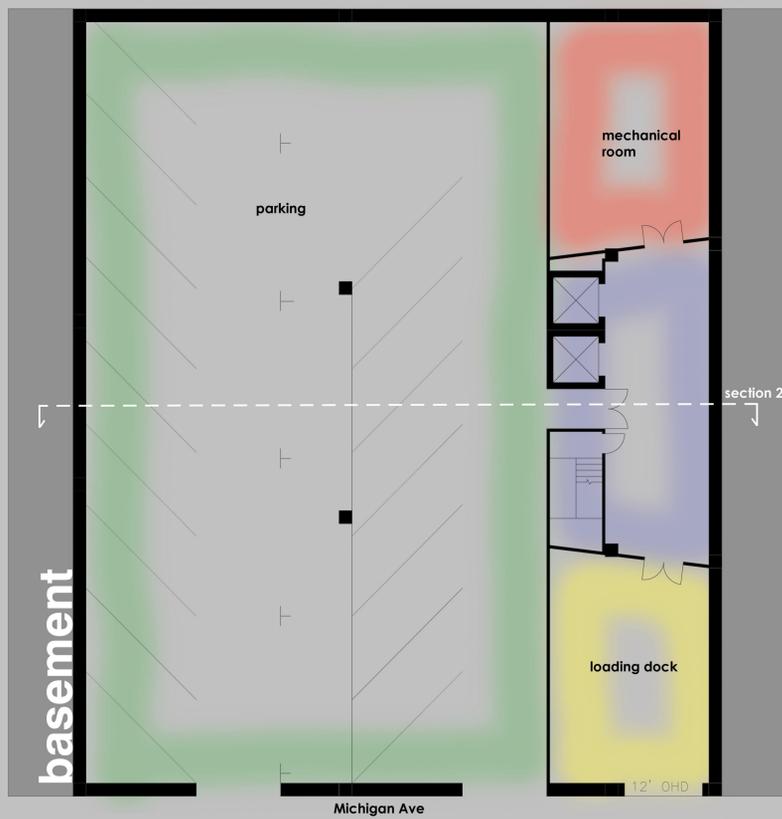
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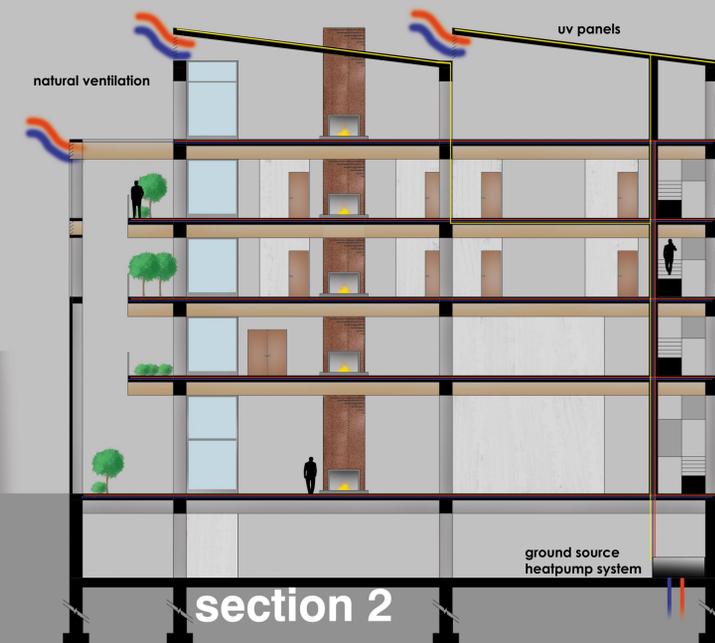
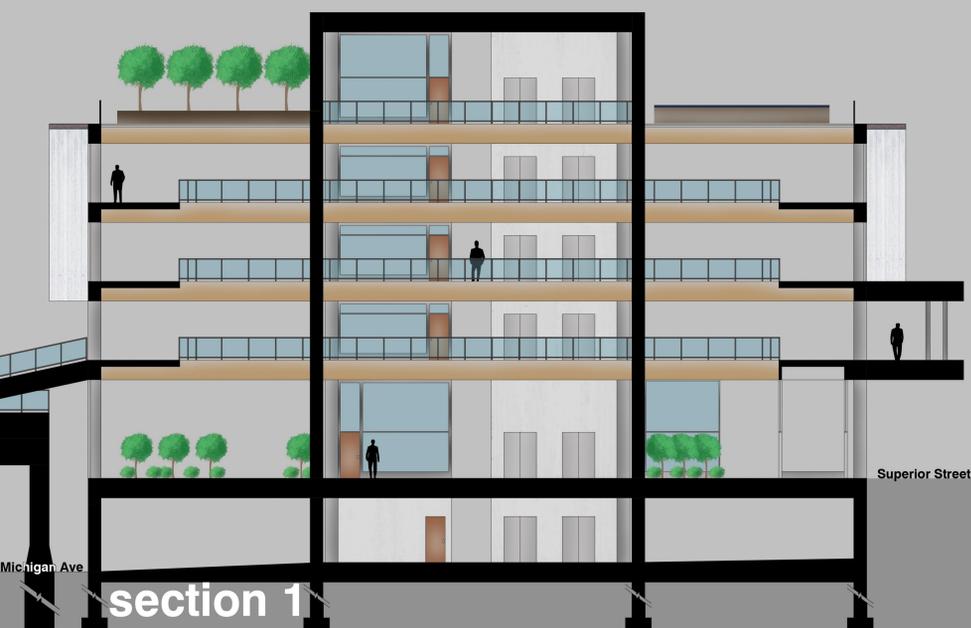
How can the design of a long-term care facility help promote physical and social accessibility of the elderly within an urban fabric so as to benefit both the residents and the community?

connections

Designing to form connections with the surrounding community and incorporating a level of accessibility that surpasses current standards fosters a beneficial architecture for the elderly that need assisted-living care.



↑ 3/16" = 1'-0"



social interaction

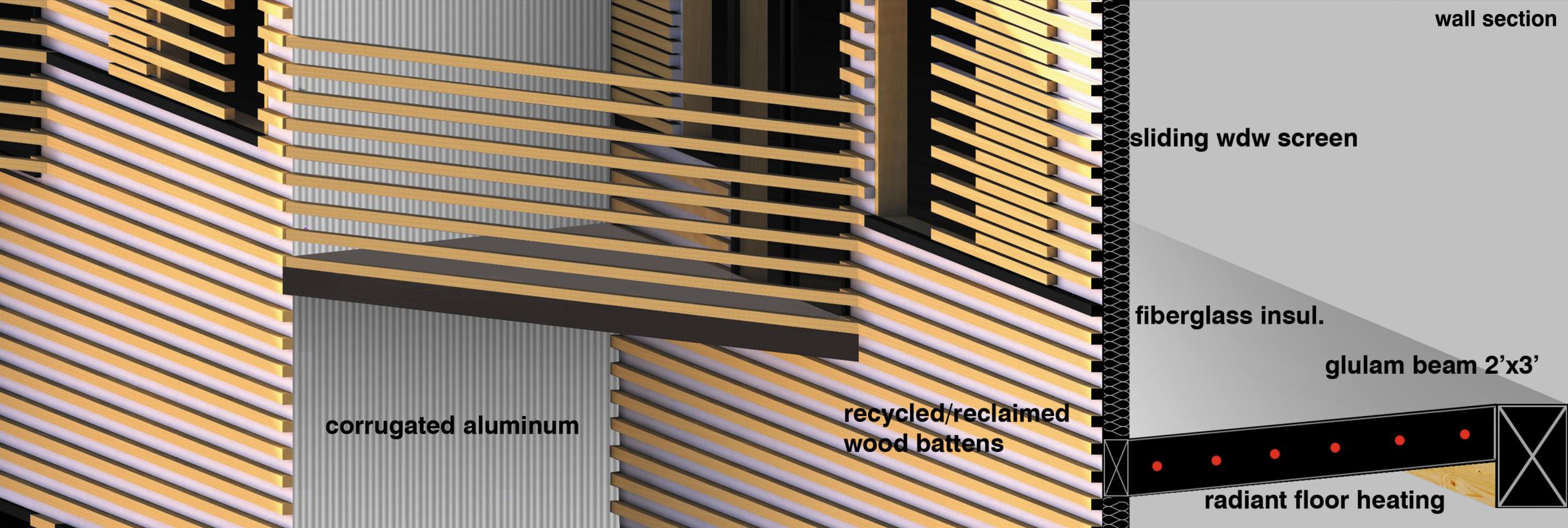
A long-term care facility is more advantageous to both the community it is a part of and to its residents once it enables the two to easily and positively interact.



exterior view from Superior Street



5th floor roof garden view



wall section

sliding wdw screen

fiberglass insul.

glulam beam 2'x3'

corrugated aluminum

recycled/reclaimed wood battens

radiant floor heating

physical well-being

Duluth offers a unique opportunity to use both urban and natural elements to inspire its residents.

The health of the building is directly relatable to the health of its users.





The Moral of the Story:

Designing to form connections with the surrounding community and incorporating a quality of life that surpasses current standards will foster a beneficial architecture for the elderly that need assisted-living or greater care, and their families.

**Thank
You!**

**Questions?
Comments?
Critiques?**

