CRADLE FOR CHANGE: FINDING THE SPACE BETWEEN HOME AND HOMELESSNESS
Dwelling for the Homeless, San Francisco, CA

The homeless dwell in a space between Nomadism and Modern Living. They dwell a space of experience, linked to a certain place of active engagement and forced solitude. What I wish to accomplish with my design is to engage the homeless in the search for what Heidegger calls “the nature of dwelling.” I do this through the exploration of the term dwelling as it applies to Heidegger’s and Flusser’s texts. Heidegger suggests in his essay, Building, Dwelling, Thinking, that we may have shelter, but we do not have dwelling. Flusser corroborates this through his experiences of forced nomadism during and after WWII. He finds that although he no longer has this place he once called his home, he carries the experience of this place with him as he goes, thus remaining at home even within multiple physical “homes,” with each adapting his concept of home based on his experiences there. This link to the search for the nature of dwelling is inherently lacking in Modern Living. Most people think they already know what it means to dwell, and through this lack of search for meaning within their dwelling, they truly become “homeless.” What I wish to provide with this design is a place where the users can adapt their sense of home to new experiences to encourage the search for the nature of dwelling, and by extension, providing them a home not dwelling in the physical world, but within themselves.
Through the analysis and creation of interaction with intersiticial spaces, I wish to create an environment where the occupants dwell more within meditative thought, more within the moment. Therefore, I designed the building in such a manner as to never create a straight-forward path which one "must" take. This allows for occupants to interact more fully within their environment rather than within a preconceived plan. This also invites the occupants to linger, to interact within their environment more fully rather than feeling pushed into a space. This, I feel, gives them opportunity to define the way they dwell these intersiticial spaces.

Meanwhile, at the corner of Heron Street and 8th Avenue, San Francisco...

As the homeless emerge back into society, they create ripples within the perception of society towards them. Their worth is proven to the people and can hopefully alter society’s treatment, and opinions on helping the homeless as well as bringing a greater sense of dwelling with them.