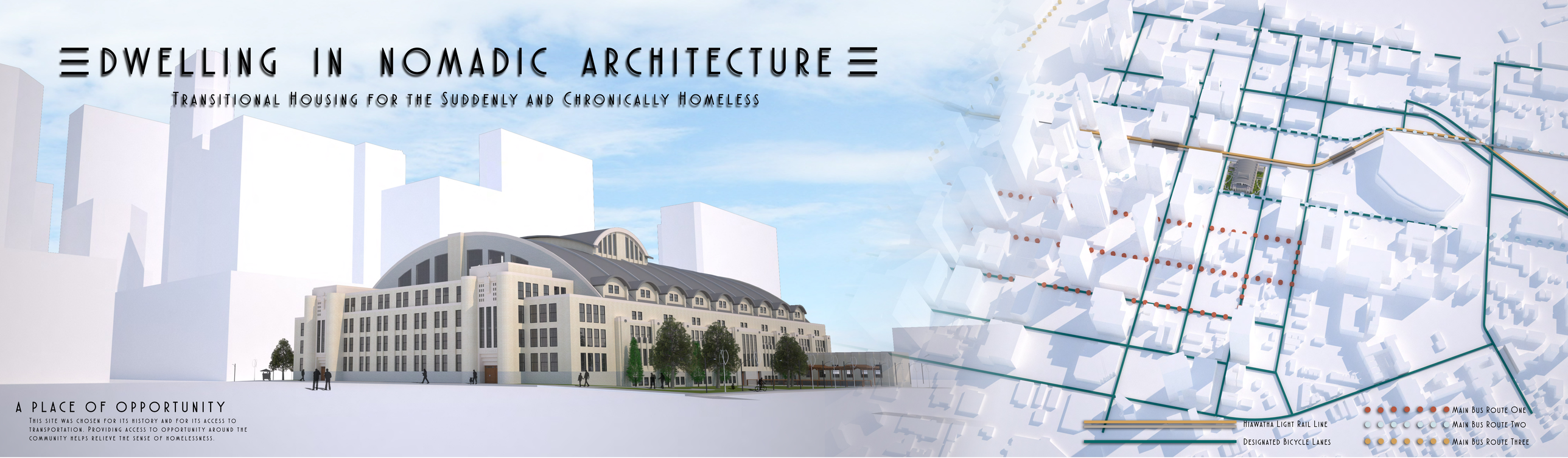
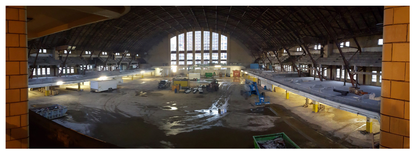
DWELLING IN NOMADIC ARCHITECTURE

Transitional Housing for the Suddenly and Chronically Homeless



A PLACE OF OPPORTUNITY

This site was chosen for its history and for its access to transportation. Providing access to opportunity around the community helps relieve the sense of homelessness.

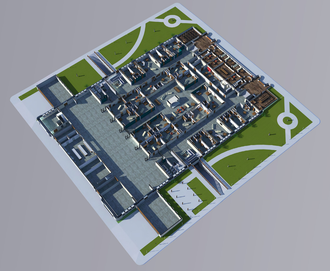


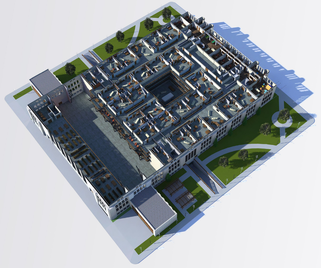
This thesis aims to assist in the creation of opportunity and rehabilitation for the homeless population of Minneapolis, MN. It explores providing a sense of transitional dwelling derived from nomadic adaptation – that is continually adapting one's way of life to their community and context. By creating a bridge between nomadic and sedentary dwelling, the homeless may progress towards a more balanced and healthy lifestyle at their own pace.

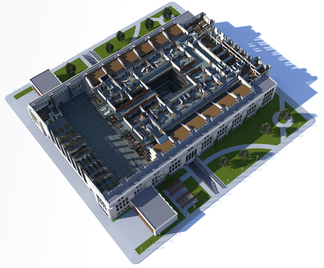
The Minneapolis Armory has been adapted to provide this recommendation as it was built to create community and opportunity through the Public Works Act in 1923. It has since survived on its ability to adapt, much like the population is aims to assist. This design recommendation is meant to be a resource to anyone experiencing homelessness in any state. A healing environment is created within the architecture of the Minneapolis Armory by balancing public and private dwelling and social interaction.

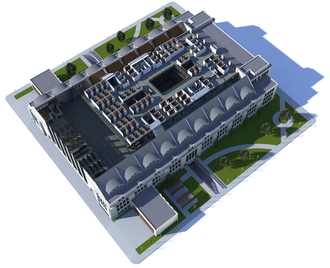
Through neighborhoods we create community

The Residential units are designed to create neighborhoods between similar groups of people. From these neighborhoods larger communities are formed.





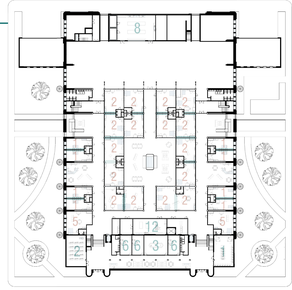




First Floor

Single Units: 8
Double Units: 16

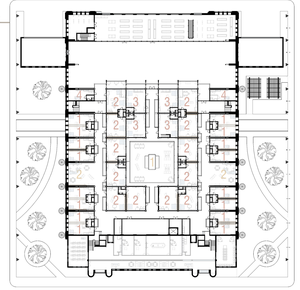
Minimum number of residents: 42



Second Floor

Single Units: 17
Double Units: 16

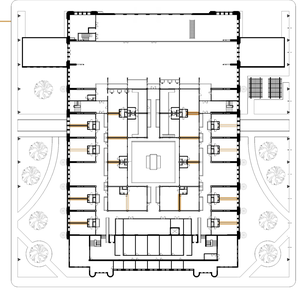
Minimum number of residents: 49



Third Floor

Single Units: 17
Double Units: 12

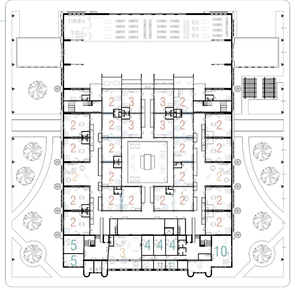
Minimum number of residents: 41



Fourth Floor

Single Units: 2
Double Units: 24

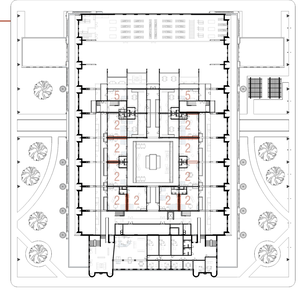
Minimum number of residents: 50



Fifth Floor

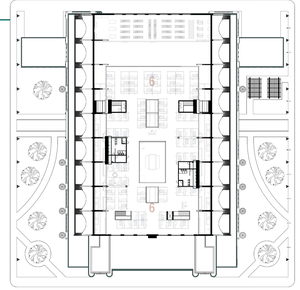
Single Units: 2
Double Units: 10

Minimum number of residents: 22



Sixth Floor

Minimum of 82 Emergency Sleeping Units



Floor plan key

Support Spaces

1. Computer Research Lab
2. Large Classroom
3. Conference Room
4. Case Worker Office
5. Psyciatric Practitioner office
6. Counciler Office
7. Wellness Room
8. Kitchen
9. Art room
10. Library
11. Musical Practice Rooms
12. Wood Shop

Community Spaces

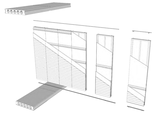
1. Central Fireplace Room
2. Neighborhood Kitchen
3. Lounge
4. Community Garden

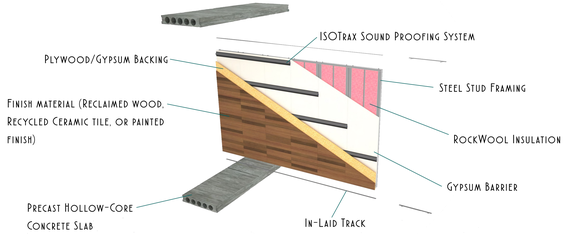
Residential Spaces

1. Single
2. Double
3. Loft
4. Resident Manager
5. Emergency Sleepying Space

The spaces in the Minneapolis Armory has been divided into three main purposes: adaptable living units, staffed support spaces, and public emergency service. The adaptable living spaces are reserved on a emergency basis evaluated by the staff. People living in the adaptable have up to six months till they move to permanent housing. Since this is their address for a substantial amount of time they are encouraged to treat their living space as their own and prepare for living on their own.

There are a maximum of 124 adaptable living units housing a minimum of 203 residents. There are also 82 temporary overflow sleeping units on the sixth floor. The garage wings are able to be opened up at night to shelter people that do not desire to sleep completely indoors yet. There are also storage areas with fold out beds for the flexible dinning and activity hall should the need arise during winter and times of severe weather threats.

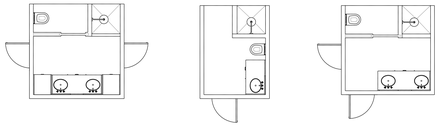




Adaptable Wall Detail

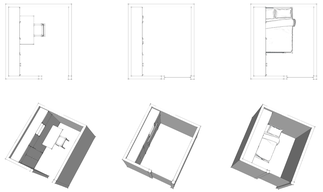
To help facilitate a sense of community, the apartment walls are removable to allow the creation of larger rooms. This allows for larger groups of people to remain living together in shelter.

The walls panels are also designed to be customizable. New components can be made in the wood shop with a variety of recycled materials.



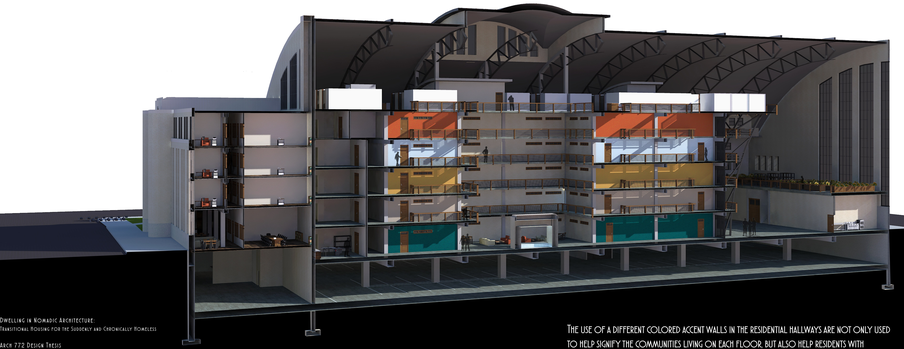
Prefabricated Water Closets

To save space and money, prefabricated water closets were installed in the Armory. Many of the units are shared between adaptable living units. This sharing encourages responsiblity for future living situations.



Emergency Sleeping Units

Many homeless shelters have only rows of bunk-beds or cots for emergency sleeping space. In the Minneapolis Armory each person is allotted a Murphy bed with a lockable closet to keep their valuables safe. Each unit also has a translucent collapsible screen to allow for some privacy and safety.



Dwelling in Nomadic Architecture:
Transitional Housing for the Sudden and Chronically Homeless

Arch 722 Design Thesis
Nathan Miller
Primary Advisor: Steve Martas
Secondary Advisor: Stephen Wilcoxen

The use of a different colored accent walls in the residential hallways are not only used to help signify the communities living on each floor, but also help residents with dimensia or other mental challenges locate themselves.