

Community, Culture, &
Compassion:
Creating Space for Exchange &
Community Building

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COMMUNITY, CULTURE, & COMPASSION: CREATING SPACE FOR EXCHANGE & COMMUNITY BUILDING

A Design Thesis Submitted to the Department of Architecture North
Dakota State University

By:
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In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of
Master of Architecture

North Dakota State University Libraries Addendum

To protect the privacy of individuals associated with the document, signatures have been removed from the digital version of this document.

May 2021

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The Proposal

Thesis Abstract

Every person has a different background and personal perspective. This background shapes how we perceive and interact with others in our daily lives. Can shared spaces and experiences shift our perspectives and make us more understanding and compassionate to those who share our present, but come with varied pasts? This project proposes that by creating a space focused on interaction, service, and exchange amongst people from a variety of backgrounds; a city and community can become more positively connected.

Many people often feel misunderstood and isolated within the places they live. This may be due to recent relocation, marginalization, cultural differences, or various other personal or community aspects. However, most people have needs within a community that coincide with the needs of others.

Providing a space for people to connect through a variety of need; from enjoying a meal together to crafting something with one's hands or from creative expression to gaining knowledge to better one's personal situation; a community can share in the need for well-being - emotionally, physically, socially, and culturally. This project provides opportunity to meet a variety of these needs as one heads toward self-actualization and becoming our best selves together.

Narrative

Looking at the United States it is evident that cities have people of different cultures, races, genders, sexual orientations, and beliefs, but often exposure to these differences is limited. Living in a world where one only interacts with those who have very similar ideals creates a space for ignorance to fester. There currently appears to be a focus on what makes us different. This is often viewed in negative manner. In reality, having the ability to learn about others and their differences allows us to create more informed opinions and become more educated. How can one believe their idea or value is the best if they have no understanding of why others may believe differently? Both sides of the coin must be understood before a truly educated opinion can be made. Not only is understanding other viewpoints important, learning about how others live creates an opportunity to learn to improve our own lives by integrating the best tactics from all the available resources. “We need to have pictures and books and materials that reflect all people in different ways, doing different things. It is all about balance.” (Renee McLaughlin) Learning new information about topics that may not be considered the norm allow for these topics to become more natural and create a space where people can freely express themselves.

Architects and designers have a duty to serve those they are designing for, and they should be thinking of how they can improve the lives of others through their work. Can architecture allow for the creation of spaces where learning about how others different from oneself can not only be encouraged, but is also seen as a fun way to meet new people and broaden one's horizons? This thesis is focused on creating a space that embraces all the different cultures that a city's residents bring with them. Creating a multicultural education center that focuses on bringing the community together by celebrating what makes everyone different could drastically improve the morale of a city. This project aims to discover how design can aid in the reduction of ignorance and indifference in a city's residents.

Can learning about others and how they live reduce the tension that can be seen in today's cities and political climate? The aim of this thesis is to inform on how using architecture and differential forms of education can aid in bringing people together, and how this information will not only impact the way I design but hopefully the architecture community as well. How can architecture take previously successful design concepts and combine this information with research on how education of new experiences can alter people's opinions and views in life?

Project Typology

The project typology is a mix of a cultural community center and an urban design project. It will feature a combination of buildings and landscape elements to allow for people to learn through a variety of methods and spaces. The project is most similar to a cultural center but also incorporates elements from other typologies such as a library, education center, and public urban space. This mixture of typologies allows for a center that educates people through several different opportunities in the hopes that this will create the largest amount of community involvement and impact.

The various forms the project will take allow for several different interactions that every person can experience as they move through the space. The project will accomplish this with a variety of built structures integrated into an urban landscape for maximum interaction within the site.

Case Studies

Teotitlán del Valle Cultural Center

Flekkefjord Cultural Centre

Oscar Niemeyer Cultural Center

Teotitlán del Valle Cultural Center



Figure 1

Teotitlán del Valle, Mexico

Productora

Cultural Center & Library

2017

1,700 meters squared



Figure 2

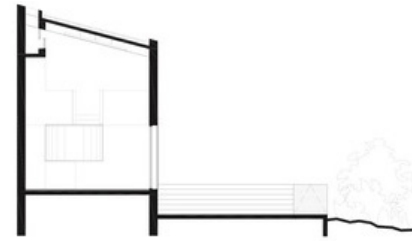
Teotitlán del Valle Cultural Center is a project that features two buildings that were designed to function as a cultural center and library for the town. They feature a simple design and materials that could be locally sourced. The aim of the project was to match the culture of the community and create a space where the unique, historic culture could be presented for residents and visitors. The concept focused on bringing the past into the present with the design.



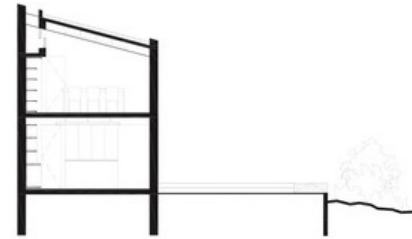
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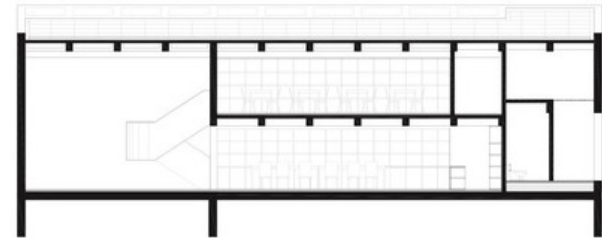
Figure 4



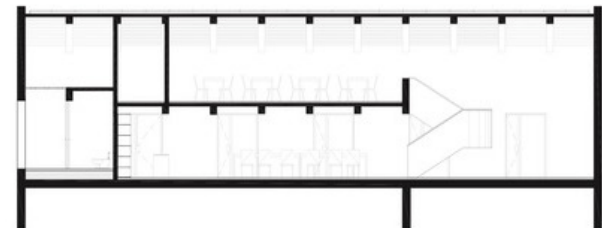
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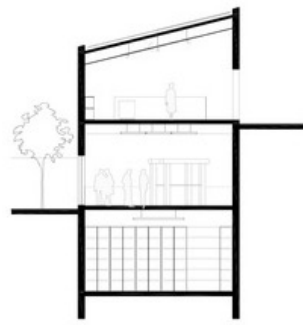


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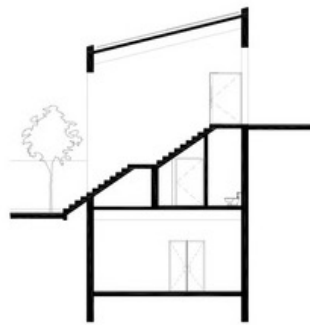


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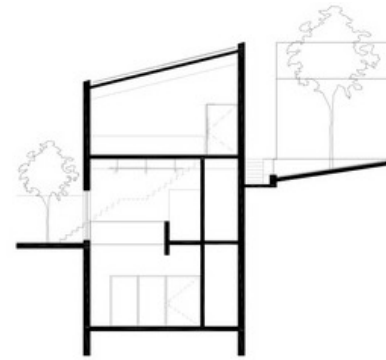
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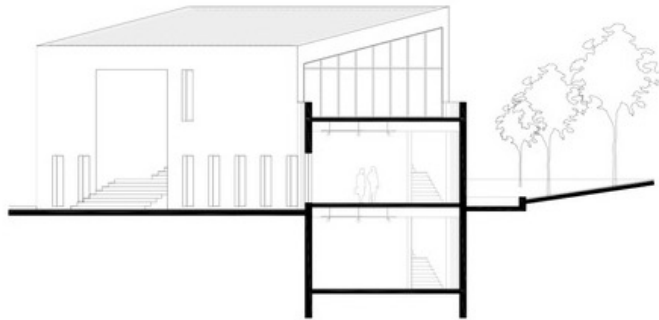
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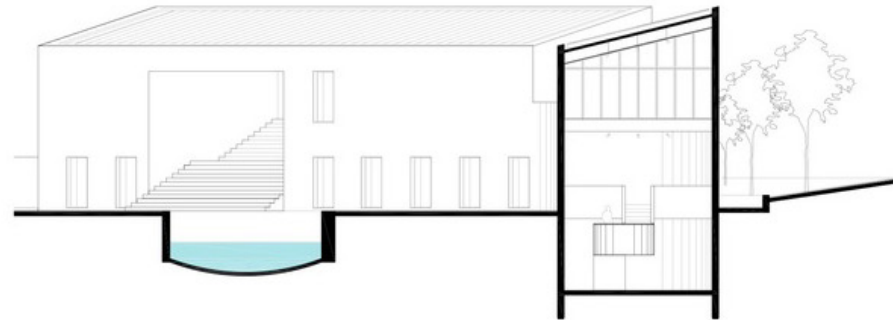
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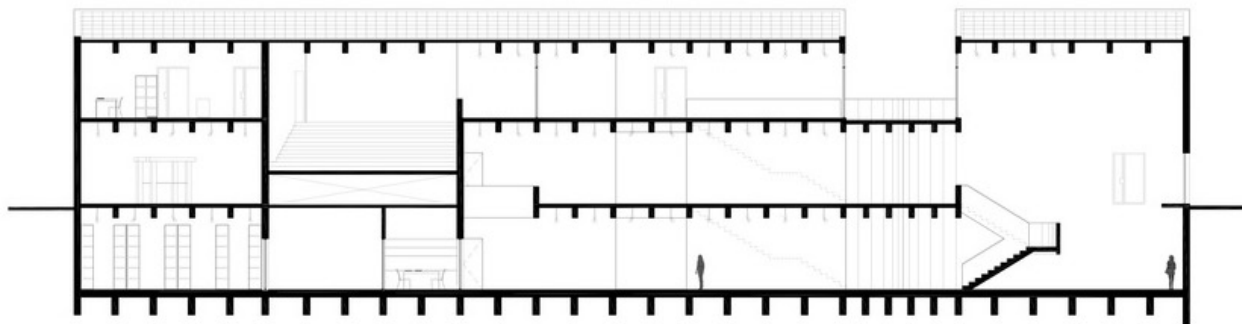
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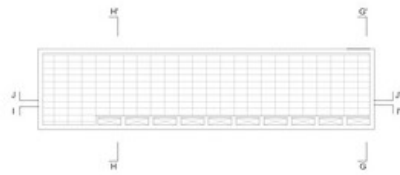


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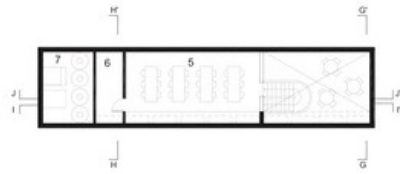


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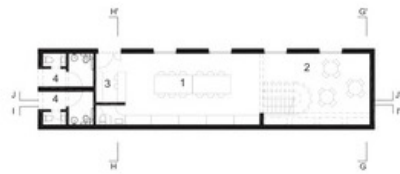
Figure 6



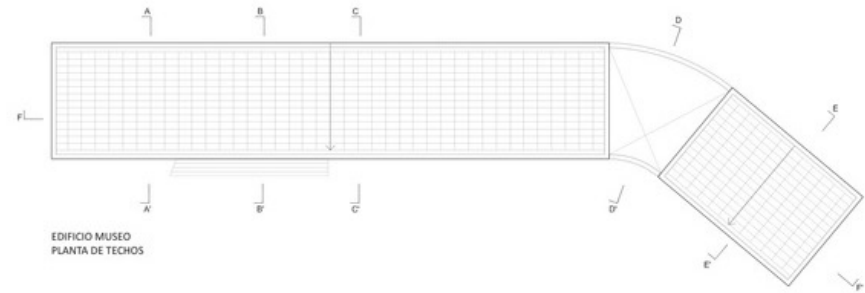
BIBLIOTECA
PLANTA DE TECHOS



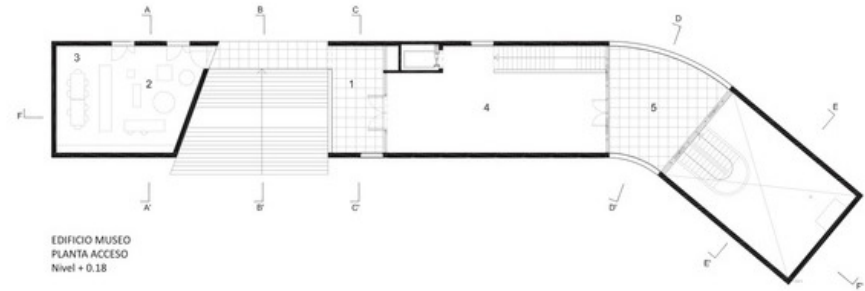
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PLANTA ALTA
Nivel -1.67



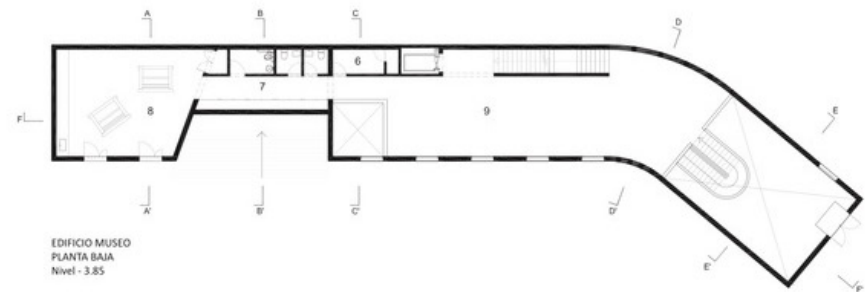
BIBLIOTECA
PLANTA BAJA
Nivel -4.46



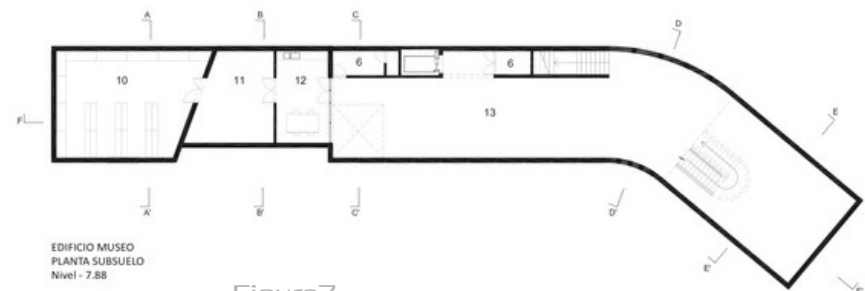
EDIFICIO MUSEO
PLANTA DE TECHOS



EDIFICIO MUSEO
PLANTA ACCESO
Nivel +0.18



EDIFICIO MUSEO
PLANTA BAJA
Nivel -3.85



EDIFICIO MUSEO
PLANTA SUBSUELO
Nivel -7.88

The project features a concrete structure textured to look like vertical wood planks. The buildings were designed to match the environment of the town. The cultural center building features a large void in the building to house a staircase connecting an upper and lower plaza.

Figure7



Figure 8

The cultural center places a large focus on exploring the core themes of the culture: artisanal production, indigenous customs and uses, and celebrations and ceremonies. This project serves as a place to learn and discuss. A place to educate and gather. The center features a trilingual component explaining the values represented through Zapotec, Spanish, and English. This provides another way to experience the center and gain a better understanding of the people this project was designed for.

A large design inspiration in the project was preserving the plaza spaces on the site. The buildings only take up eighteen percent of the site. This was largely due to the idea that much of the cultural representation would need large spaces for events such as ceremonies and large dances that the community often participates in.



Figure 9

This project provides relevant information on designing with the idea of education about culture through multiple directions. There is a large focus on creating a space for discussion and learning, a core concept to my project.

Flekkefjord Cultural Centre



Figure 10

Flekkefjord, Norway
Cultural Center

Helen & Hard
2016
3,500 meters squared

Flekkefjord Cultural Centre was a competition based project that was focused on designing a center for art of all types. The design is aimed to invite people into the space and partake in the various activities offered in this space.



“The design of the Flekkefjord cultural centre was an exercise in inclusion: How can we make room for all artistic expressions under one roof? How do we create a house that is flexible and useable for the local artists – young and old – while at the same time belonging to the people of Flekkefjord? A cultural hub that also inspires artists from other places to come and create?” - Helen & Hard

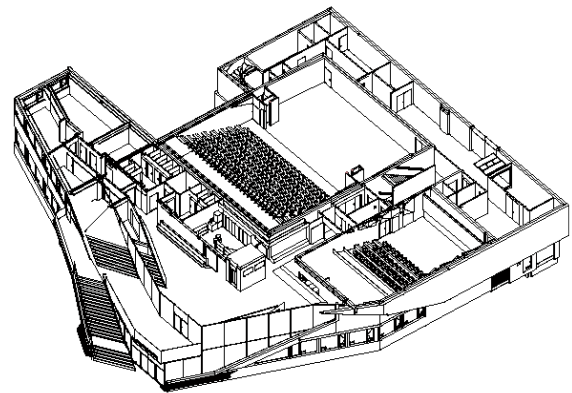
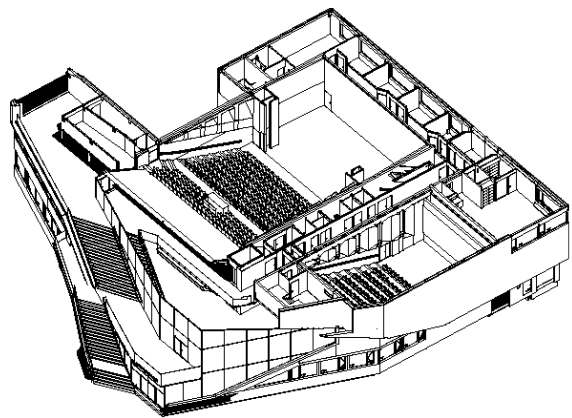


Figure 13

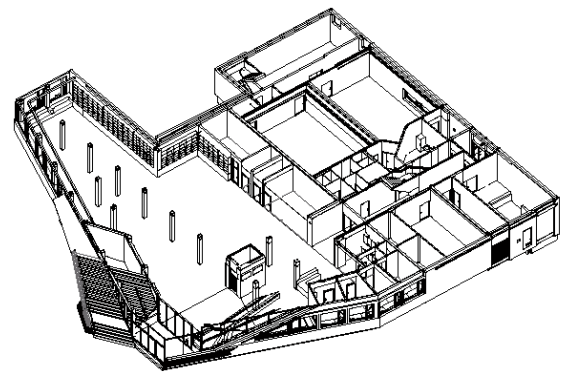


Figure 14

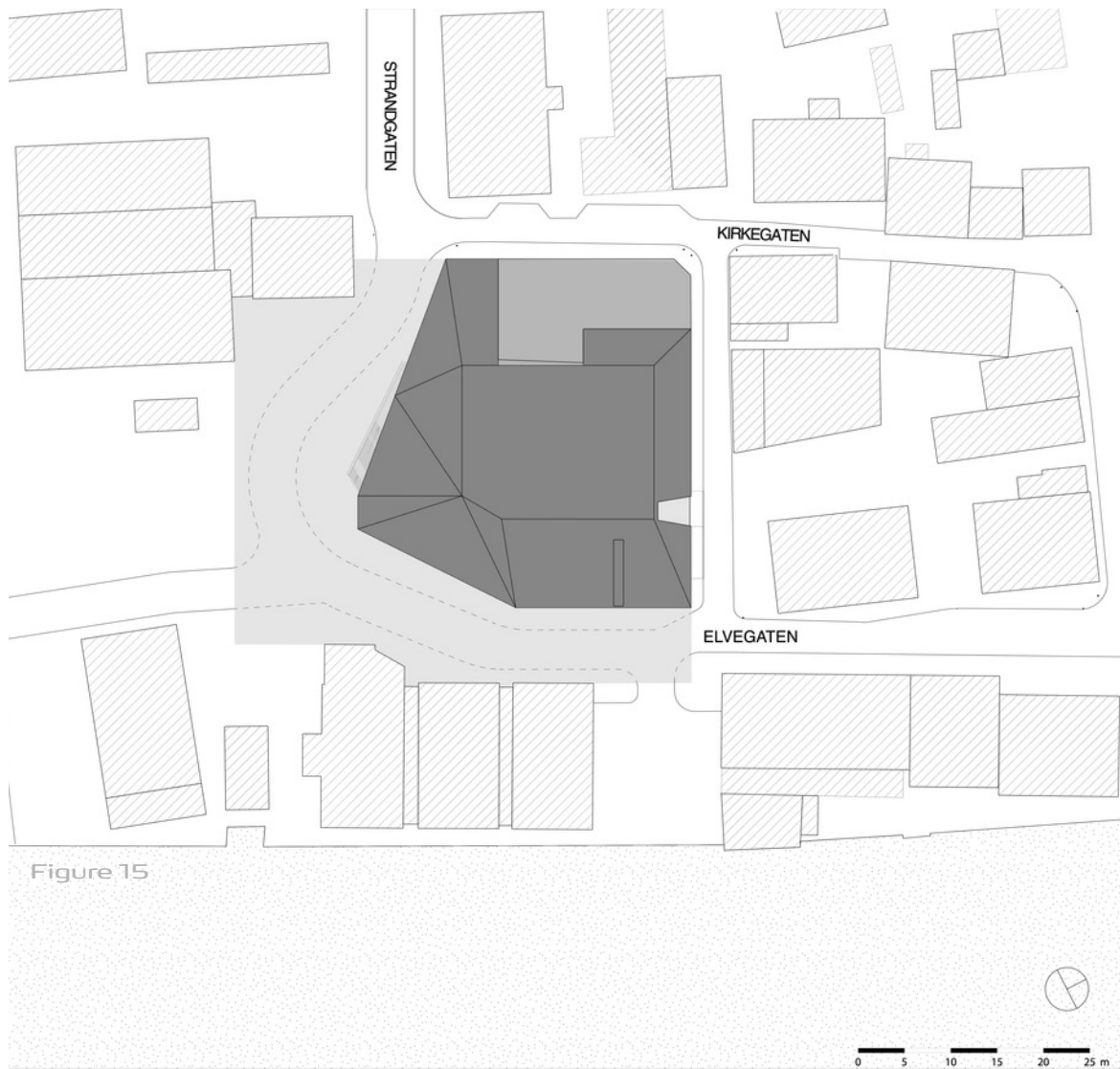


Figure 15

The project features an interesting pair for the structure: concrete reinforcing and wood timber. This structure gives the building a unique feel that invites people in. The building also features red panels strategically placed to create a strong emphasis in the design.

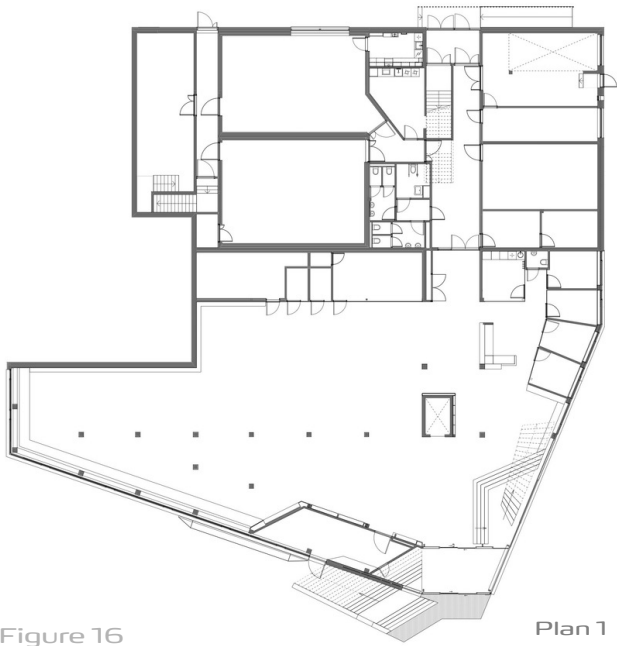


Figure 16

Plan 1

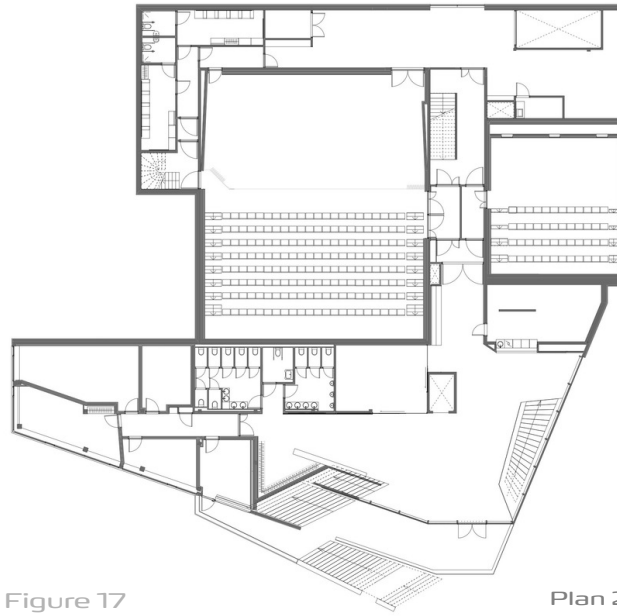


Figure 17

Plan 2

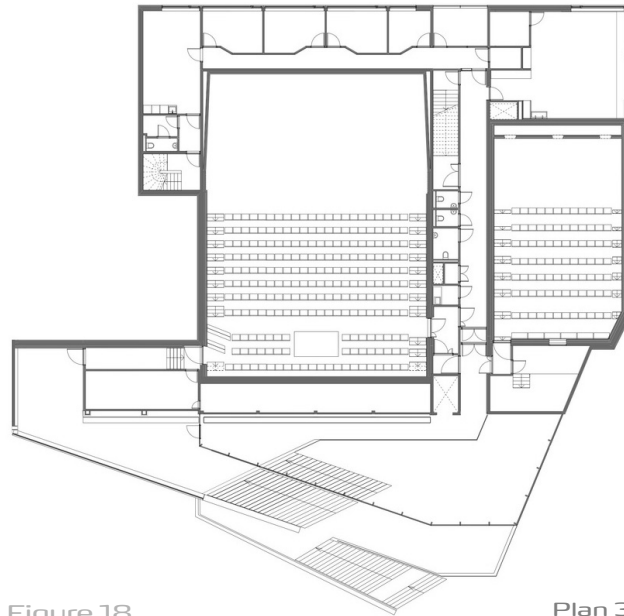


Figure 18

Plan 3

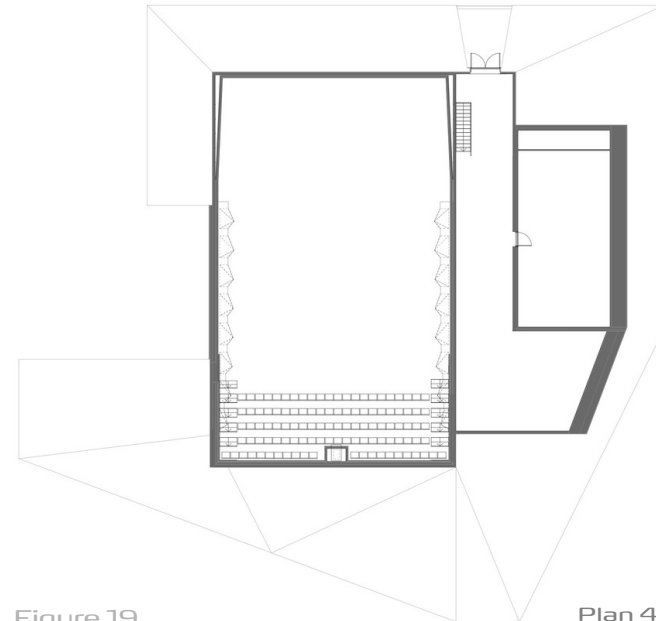


Figure 19

Plan 4

Flekkfjord cultural centre focuses on bringing a space where all forms of art can be together in one space. It achieves this goal by providing spaces for different art forms such as: a theatre hall, cinema, a library, a youth club, and a cultural school. They also focused on creating a space that wouldn't overtake the other buildings in town. They limited the height of their structure and even wrapped around an existing wooden house. They had a major focus on what the community wanted as well as how the users of the building would feel.



Figure 20



Figure 21

I think this project features a variety of concepts that relate to my vision. The large emphasis on a variety of spaces to maximize the multiple uses that can be applied is a strong feature that resonates with my concept. Whereas the Teotitlán del Valle Cultural Center focuses more specifically on the town culture, this project focuses on artistic creativity. My project uses a mixture of elements from both of these projects to accomplish my goal.

Oscar Niemeyer Cultural Center



Figure 22

Avilés, Spain

Cultural Center & Library

Oscar Niemeyer

2011

4,000 meters squared



Figure 23



Figure 24



The Oscar Niemeyer Cultural Center is a project dedicated and designed by Oscar Niemeyer on the twenty-fifth anniversary of receiving the Prince of Asturias of the Arts Award. He describes this project as one of his most important projects, and it is his only project in Spain. The project features four buildings all designed with Niemeyer's signature curves. The project features a unique purpose for each building. The project is dedicated to performing arts functions.

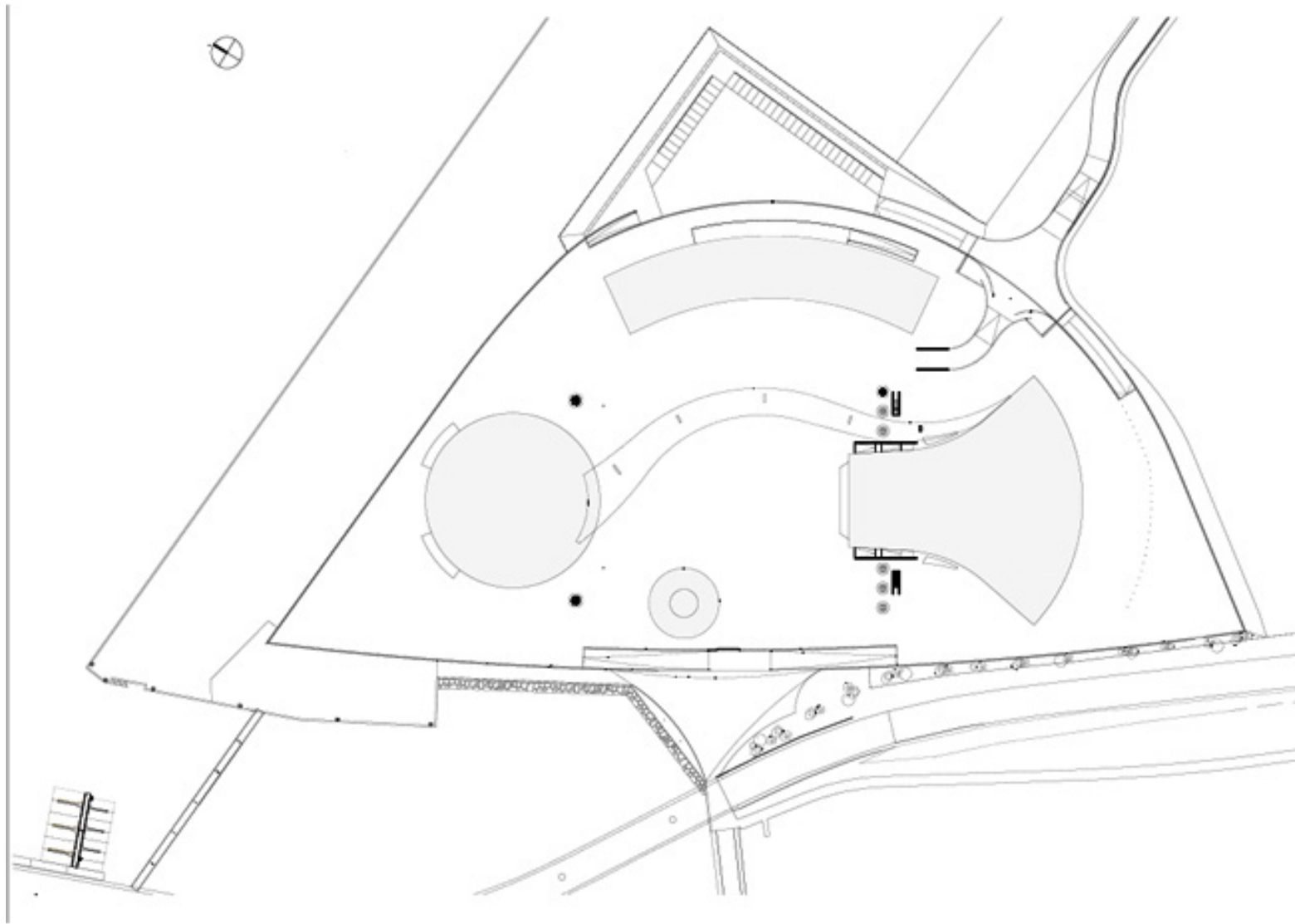
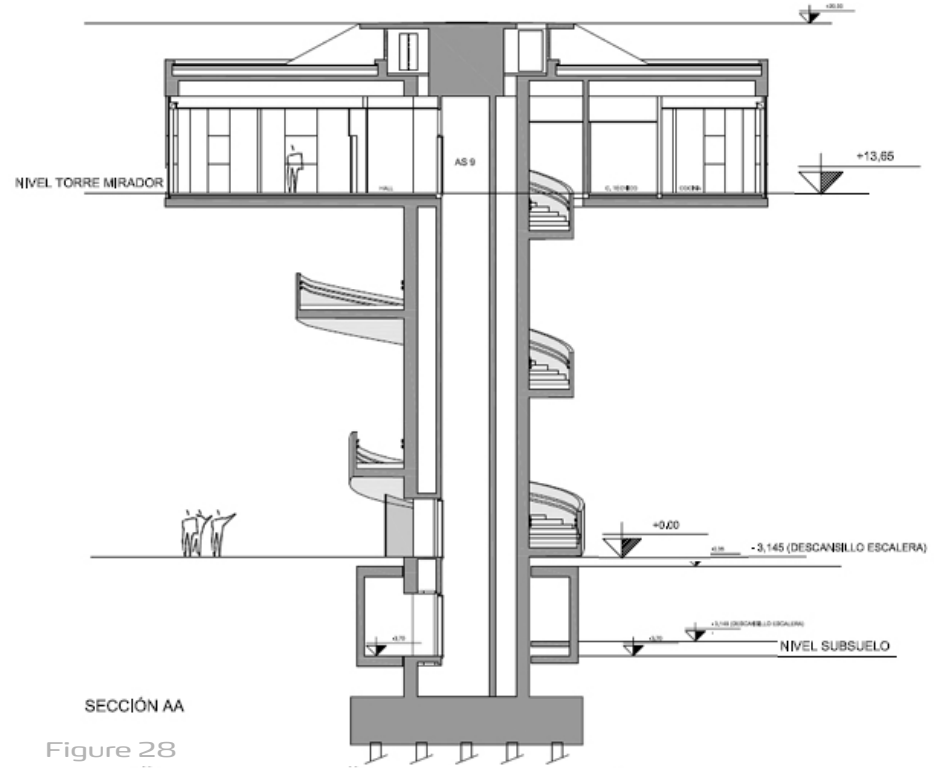


Figure 26

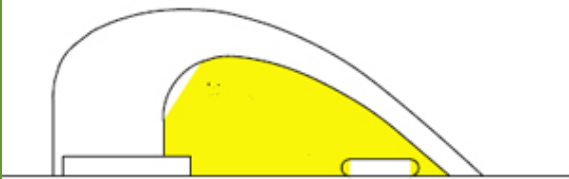
The four structures are arranged in a way that creates a large plaza in the center for performances and public use. The administrative and rehearsal building on the northeast end of the site is slightly separated from the other buildings, and this is due to its function differing from the other buildings.

The project features mainly concrete construction, as it was the most efficient material for the complex curves and shapes used. The most prominent of the buildings are the viewing tower and the curvy auditorium that features a stage that can open up to the plaza for larger performances.

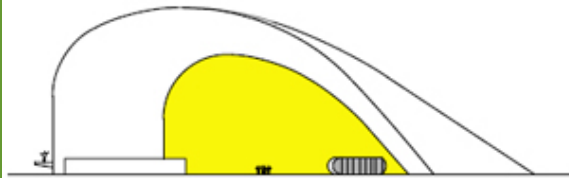


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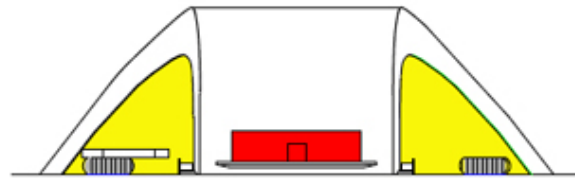
Figure 28



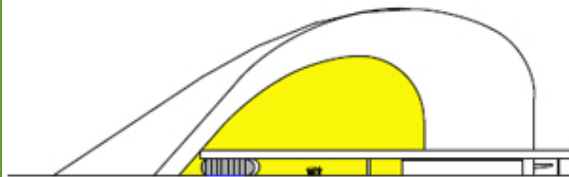
ALZADO 1 DESARROLLADO



ALZADO 1



ALZADO 2 (MODIFICADO)



ALZADO 3 (MODIFICADO)

Figure 27



ALZADO 4

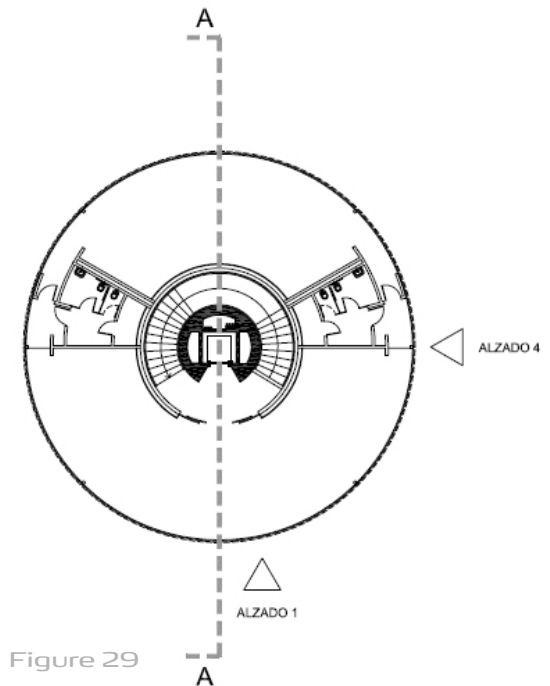


Figure 29



This project differs from the others in that it wasn't designed to blend in with the environment, instead this project is made to stand out as more of an icon. It stands to bring emphasis to the world of art and performance. In a world where arts are constantly being underfunded, this stands out in defiance to show the importance of art in a culture. Only months after opening there were concerns of the center shutting down due to budget costs, but through the support of the community it survived, showing how much the community cares about expression and culture.



Major Project Elements

Exhibition Spaces

-Spaces where artworks and artifacts can be displayed to show major aspects of different cultures in a style that is easy to digest.

Library

-A public building that allows users to engage in advanced research of new information on people all over the world among a multitude of other important subjects

Education Areas

-Education Areas such as classrooms will allow for classes to be held that can focus on teaching specific aspects of life to those who are eager to learn skills from other cultures and ways of life. These spaces will allow for a variety of different aspects of life to be taught such as art, cooking, language, etc.

Event Spaces

-Multipurpose areas that allow for flexible use offer a wide range of activities will help bring people together and showcase larger events focused on differential education. The spaces' flexibility will allow for a wide variety of events not hosted in typical classroom spaces.

Major Project Elements

Greenery Spaces

-Outdoor greenery spaces will allow for relaxational posts through the educational journey. These spaces will make the overall design livelier while also creating spaces to reflect and enjoy being with others.

Café

-A café is the perfect opportunity for the multicultural center to create a designated space for people to slow down and take their surroundings in. This also can aid in creating bonds between people.

Farmers Market

-A public market offers the perfect location for goods to be traded and sold and showcase all the diversity that the city has to offer. Goods can be bought from people of all cultures and backgrounds creating a space where one can be introduced to goods never seen before.

Client & User

Client

The clients of this project would mostly fall under the categories of a non-profit organization or the city government. A non-profit would help integrate the project into the community and help keep the project running smoothly. The city government would help fund the project and its many services, and they would benefit from this due to the strengthening of the local community.

User

This project does not have a specific target demographic. There is never a wrong time to expand on what is known to someone. The goal is to have people of all backgrounds utilize the space. The focus is mainly directed to residents of the city, but also encourages prospective residents and visitors to learn as well. This is a space for those who would like to learn and grow as people. The project is meant to attract people with several different factors. The exhibition spaces are meant to attract lovers of art, while the educational spaces allow for those who would enjoy learning new skills in areas such as cooking, speaking languages, and crafting would feel welcome to spend time in this space. Attracting different users with a variety of topic may feel passionate about allows for a larger demographic for who the space will be used by.

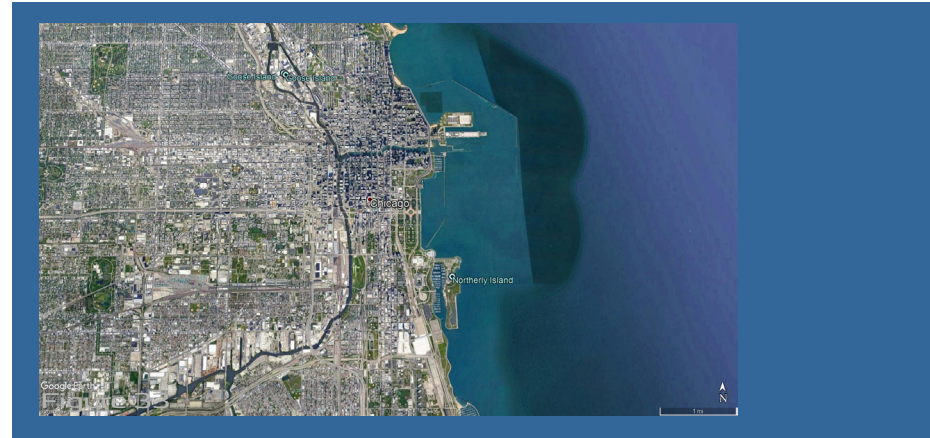


I chose Chicago as the location of my site as it is an ideal location for my project. The metropolitan area of Chicago is the third largest in the country and is an incredibly diverse area. Chicago has almost three million residents with backgrounds from all over the world. The city features one hundred different neighborhoods and seventy-seven community areas. It is also home to eight major league sports teams as well.

The Site

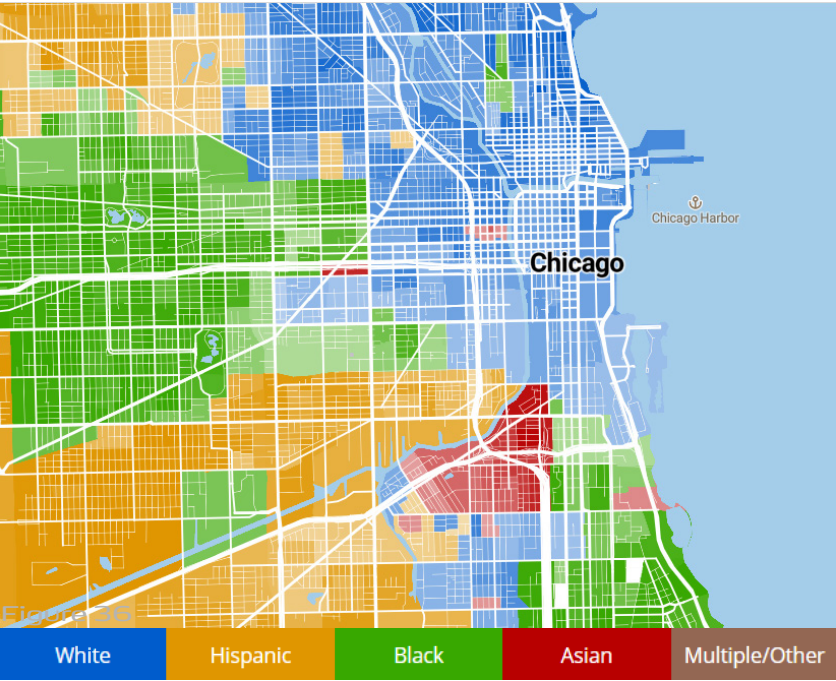
My site is located on the south end of downtown Chicago. This site is an ideal location for a multicultural center. This specific site is near a high traffic area, which will allow for many visitors.

It also has several different transportation types nearby which is also ideal for a site intended for heavy foot traffic.

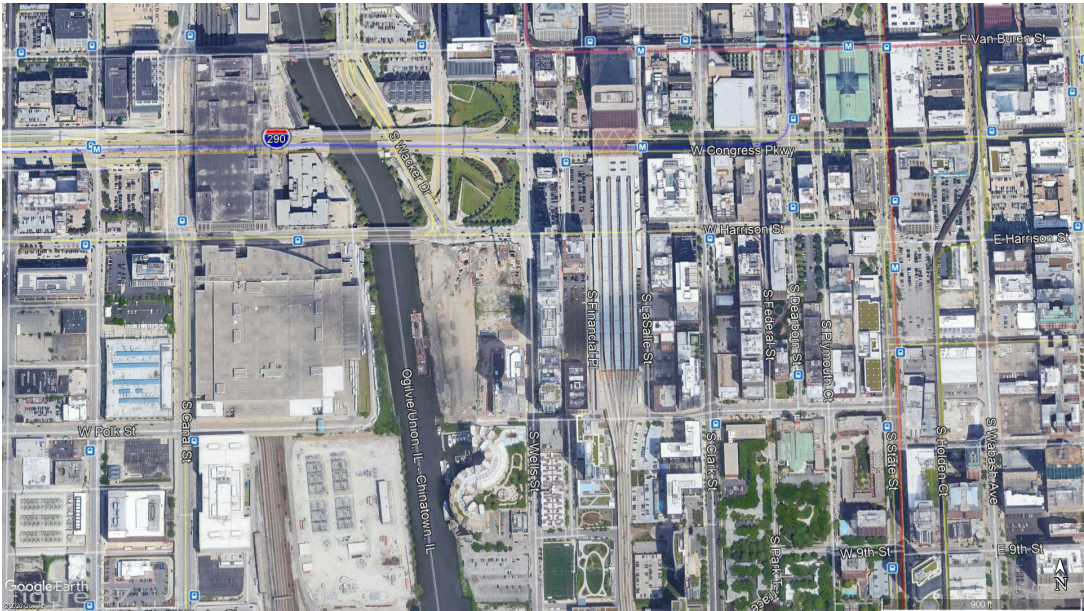


Site Demographics and Accessibility

Chicago has a diverse culture with several different communities. These different communities and ways of life deserve to have a place that unites them and educates on those from other communities in Chicago.



Chicago also features an extensive public transit system. This is one of the most important features to my site. There are several bus stops and subway stations within walking distance from my site. This will allow for easy access to the site from all parts of the city.



Project Emphasis

Bringing People Together

In a world as divided as it seems today, this project aims to help unify those living in a city together. This will be focused through the opportunities to learn about those one lives amongst.

Education

Learning something new is an amazing, never ending experience and this project aims to create a fun and exciting space to learn about others who inhabit the city and their cultures and beliefs.

Celebrating Differences

Living in a world surrounded only by those with a similar background quickly becomes boring. Why shouldn't we celebrate what makes us different? Creating a space where what make each person unique is looked at as a wonderful thing helps boost moral of residents.

Representation

Representation in a world where one may often feel insignificant matters. Everyone deserves to feel important at times and representing groups of people that may feel they are being ignored lets them know we stand united. The more people are exposed to those different from oneself, the more accepting of those differences they become over time.

Unify People

Help others feel seen

Celebrate our differences

Enhance the urban fabric of the city

Educate people about others in their community

Create a space for open discussion

Project
Goals

Project Goals

Academic

This project aims to understand how architecture can impact unity and education of others. It is interesting to think of how these problems can specifically be solved in the realm of architecture. How can the built environment create a space for increased educational experience? How can we bring people together socially through created spaces? Can a design project bring the people of Chicago together? The goal of this project is to answer these questions through extensive research.

Professional

The goal of this project in the professional realm is to better hone my skills to prepare for the professional world. This project gives the opportunity to strengthen skills such as research and analysis and technological skills. The skills I use here are skills that will be important to have in the professional world.

Personal

This thesis project is where I can show all of the skills and ideas I have learned through the experience I have had while studying architecture. This project aims to show what I am capable of as a designer and what I am passionate about and hope to work on in the profession as well. Designing Unity will show how architecture brings people together and educates. This process will be good experience and aid in my transition from educational to practical.

Plan for Proceeding

Research Methodology

In order to answer the many questions that come from trying to understand how architecture can help educate people of others and bring about unity, we must conduct research in a variety of ways to best answer these questions. I will be using a combination of qualitative research, correlational research, logical argumentation, and typological responses to further understand the complex aspects of education and cultural differences.

Design Methodology

This project will take the information learned from the previously mentioned sources to create a design solution that will effectively combine the most successful approaches found with the research on how to further improve the concepts of education in terms of creating a more accepting atmosphere of those different from oneself.

Design Documentation

The design documentation of this project will consist of an electronic means allowing for more effective access. This documentation will take place in the form of visual and literary formats compiled into a series of documents made accessible to the public.

Plan for Proceeding - Schedule

Fall 2020

Spring 2021

October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May
Proposal							
Research			Research				
			Design				
						Present	

Proposal due October 13th
 Research due December 17th

Final Research due March 12th
 Design Due April 23rd - 26th
 Presentations due May 10th - 14th



The Research

Results of Theoretical Premise Research

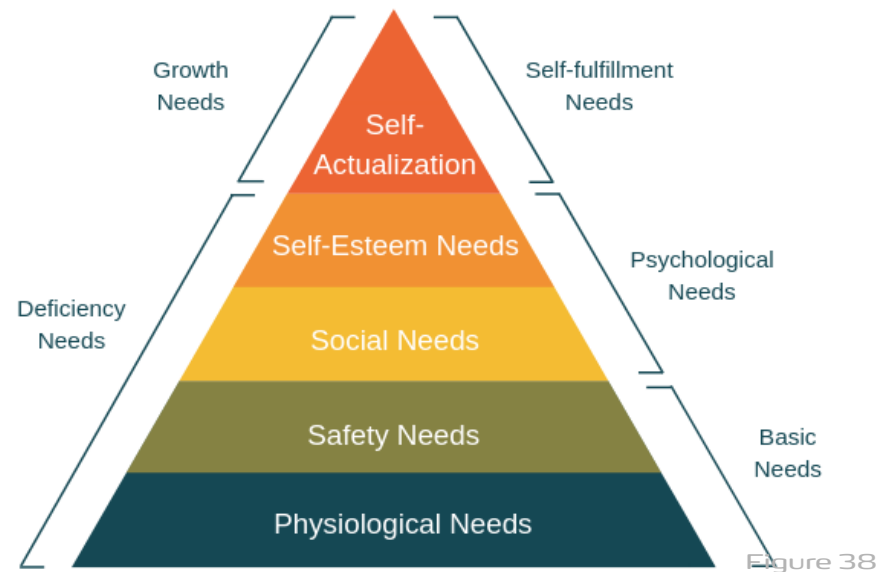
How can we create spaces that promote learning and understanding of others in our community?

This research is intended for designers who would like to design spaces that will involve the concepts of inclusivity, empathy, compassion, and learning. This research proposes different methods of spatial design that encourage communication and learning in terms of culture and community members. This article seeks to explain how these different concepts can be implemented in various forms and mediums. The result will be a design that will execute these various concepts in one cohesive unit to enhance a community and create a space that will feel welcome to all.

This article aims to connect the worlds of social infrastructure, inclusivity, civic life, and mental health through an educational format. These topics have a unique relation to each other and will be discussed through several articles to gain a better understanding of their deep connections to one another.

If we don't have
physical places where
people with different
backgrounds and beliefs
can get to know one
another, IRL, we'll never
find a common ground.
– Eric Klinenberg

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



Looking at research based on Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs we learn that people have different types of needs that must be met in order to survive. Needs such as food, water, shelter, security, income, and more are considered basic needs which a person cannot live without. Needs such as friends, family, intimacy, respect, status, and so on are psychological needs that are necessary for mental well-being and a more productive society are also incredibly important. Finally we have self-actualization and a focus on personal growth and fulfillment, and these needs help society achieve new levels of prosperity and growth through creativity and ingenuity. All of these differing needs are important and how important they are varies from person to person, but there are very few places where someone can go to meet these needs in one location.

Research performed by sociologist Eric Klinenberg shows that places such as community centers are vital pieces of a community and serve very important roles in society. Places that serve the public provide opportunities for increased connection and feelings of safety. Communities with more social infrastructure weather the storm of tragic events and crises much more effectively than those without. Civic spaces create more tight-knit neighbors and help people come together.



Wagenhallen Stuttgart
Cultural Center

Wagenhallen Stuttgart Cultural Center is a repurposed train station. The project now houses space for artists and events spaces. The object of the project was to preserve the historical value of the site while providing new spaces for gathering and activity. Adding both art studios and event spaces allows the space to be multifunctional while maintaining the original essence of the space and preserve a piece of the culture of the community. New material additions were added to directly compliment and contrast the old.



Space Guy Môquet
Cultural Center

Space Guy Môquet Cultural Center is a multifunctional space that includes leisure spaces, a dance hall, and collective accommodation. This project was directed toward youth involvement and features a very open concept to maximize accessibility. The modern concrete structure focuses on creating a unique, open design that encourages use and movement through the spaces. There is also an importance placed on the use of outdoor spaces as well.

Chamanga Cultural Center features a design focused on usability by the residents of the city. Due to the level of importance placed on use, the residents had a hand in the overall design concept. This project provides a space for the youth of the city to gather and partake in programs that aim to educate on music, dance, and poetry of the local heritage and cultural identity. The original center for these activities was destroyed in an earthquake, and this new project was built to re-establish these programs for the youth.



Chamanga Cultural
Center

Theodor Herzl Center is a project that stands out in its context. It stands surrounded by large mansions with closed off properties, while it features an inviting site for public use. The center houses several programs including a dance school, a gallery, arts and ceramics studios, a music conservatory, a cafeteria, and a senior recreation center. All of this is built around a central courtyard.



Theodor Herzl
Center

Literature Review

Translating Culture: Framing Indigenous Knowledge Through Architecture

Martyn Hook

Translating Culture focuses on how architecture can help promote indigenous culture and create harmonious spaces for both indigenous and non-indigenous people of Australia. This article places importance on creating equality and balance for the people of Australia in an inclusive manner. How can we design spaces to provide function and importance to everyone the space is intended to serve? These are the questions this article seeks to understand.

To better understand the importance of this design one must truly understand the cultures they are designing for first. Australia features multiple significant culture, but some of the most prevalent cultures are those of the aboriginal peoples. Hook and his design firm spent an upwards of twenty years researching this culture to better understand how to design for them. Their way of life has many differences from our own culture, and this can provide challenges to how we design. A comprehensive study allows for a more effective solution that can help both the indigenous and non-indigenous people in unison. Bringing people together creates a better, more inclusive space that can benefit all parties involved.

The study on aboriginal culture featured several aspects to create the best, clearest picture possible to how they live and use designed spaces. Working with the aboriginal community for as long as he has, allowed for Hook to create a sense of trust and mutual understanding for continued development and teamwork. Hook learned more through building projects and observing their use and effectiveness. He slowly added more typologies to continue to expand on his knowledge of how indigenous peoples live and work in different spaces.

Indigenous Australians have been around for thousands of years. There is an increased number of projects that make sure to engage and include indigenous culture alongside non-indigenous culture. In Australia this can be hard to do with extreme climates and remote communities, but the benefits of linking histories and ways of life together outweigh these difficulties. The overarching idea is to create spaces that can carry traditions of both indigenous and non-indigenous cultures through several generations of people. Promoting a culture and making it observable for the advancement and continuation of several years is a great reward in terms of the vast wealth of knowledge that can be maintained.

All this research culminates into a large-scale project in Perth, Australia. This project is a convergence of peoples, cultures, and narratives in one cohesive space that serves everyone effectively. An inclusive project that promotes diversity while maintaining functionality can aid in reducing tensions between the people of Australia.

This project promotes diversity and understanding through intense research put into action to create a unified peoples and cultures. Taking the different pieces that a community is made from and putting them all together in a multifunctional manner allows for all people to feel seen and heard. This also promotes better use of a space. Normalizing the presence of multiple cultures in everyday lives allows for people to become more accustomed to different viewpoints and perspectives. The more accustomed people are the more empathetic they can be, as they have a better understanding of the situations other people can be in. Promoting unity and inclusion leads to a better, healthier community.

Literature Review

Beyond the peace lines: conceptualising representations of parks as inclusionary spaces in Belfast, Northern Ireland

Ian Mell

Beyond the peace lines is an article by Ian Mell that focuses on whether public spaces can be focused as spaces of inclusivity and communal interaction. He focusses on parks specifically and applies several researched concepts to the city of Belfast, Northern Ireland. Here we will follow his journey and examine how parks can be used more effectively by looking at why they are often underused and how reviewing design principles as framework can impact the design of the spaces.

Mell begins by explaining how creating a better understanding of parks' role in communities and fostering a better sense of inclusivity. He begins by delving into how a park is viewed in terms of value to the community. Does their social value outweigh the economic costs of creating such a space, as well as the value of the land itself in a growing urban environment? Are these public spaces worth the investment for cities? Many cities with maintained and high-quality park spaces are considered more marketable to businesses and communities. Mell goes on to explain how parks provide places for the individual as well as the greater good of the whole. Parks serve as a network hub of sorts for interaction between peoples in a community. How these spaces interact with the community is further changed by policies of the city government and how they are managed. I find this interesting, as parks are often viewed as public places dedicated to the people, but a mismanaged, worn down park will not entice members of a community to use the space. It is also an interesting concept to look at how the value of a park is viewed through different lenses, and in rapidly growing urban spaces how that value can be viewed differently.

Mell begins to examine the park system specific to Belfast and how it is impacted by the city's layout and segregation. He goes on to explain how the city has faced several problems with tensions between groups over differing beliefs, and how this conflict went as far as the government creating public infrastructure that separated people to keep the peace. Although the intention was to keep the peace, the overall result was more segregation and a heightened sense of tension between the differing communities. Over the last few years, the demographics of the city have changed, and this has prompted the discussion of how to improve the city through new public spaces and increased economic growth. This leads to the discussion of how the city can solve the problems of the differing communities and create a more integrated city. I think the idea of focusing only on economic growth and not looking at how the socio-cultural aspects of the community can grow together will not provide an adequate solution to the segregation of the city.

Mell then proceeds to begin analysis of Newman's defensible spaces and how it would impact Belfast. He goes on to state that grouping sections of spaces such as Newman promotes, would possible only serve as reminders to the segregation of an area designed into the land. Mell proceeds to explain the dual nature sociocultural markers can have with defensible spaces. They provide the ability to create separation in a space that is intended to promote inclusivity. The idea of multifunctionality created into a space is to lower this segregation, although there are invisible lines then created to divide. I think the idea of using defensible spaces will only add to the division of peoples instead of the inclusivity that is often the goal that is strived for.

Mell then moves onto Lynch's social signifiers of urban meaning and how these principles would interact with Belfast's park system. Here there is a focus on how social signifiers represent different cultures and can frame perceptions of spaces. How these signifiers affect someone are individual responses, although larger communal responses begin to exist as well. This creates a more unique representation of public spaces as their value can differ greatly even among smaller groups leading to a strong sense of self-identified boundaries that can cause issues should someone try to change what is important to a group. This provides me the understanding that people will use markers identifiable with one's cultural norms to create a mental map of importance of spaces in a city. It provides an interesting look into just how complicated these issues can be due to cultural significance over time.

Mell then moves to Lefebvre's representational space and spatial practice in Belfast and the gap between how a space is planned locally versus how it ends up being used. There is a disconnect between what the community would like and what the government plans, as well as what is good for one group of the community may not be seen as beneficial or necessary to another one. They continue to explain that how spaces are interpreted changes over time and this evolution could be a great way to keep spaces from becoming too segregated, but many argue that these identities change too frequently for this idea and wouldn't be stable enough. This means that parks could be designed with the thought of different social, cultural, and environmental meaning to create multifunctional spaces that would offer greater meaning to users even as the meaning of the community area might change. I think this system seems to be more in tune than the previous few in terms of attempting to solve a problem creatively and reduce potential for unhappy parties.

Mell proceeds to look at Foucault and disciplinary architecture and how architecture can affect and control those that use it. Defensive architecture creates barriers and pushes an agenda of segregation to limit freedom of movement. This regulation can create a sense of psychological control as well, leading to self-regulated segregation. Parks are naturally a more fluid space due to the variety of activities a park can provide, unless the spaces are designed to accommodate a specific group instead. This then further divides people instead of bringing them together. Disciplinary architecture only seems to further divide people instead of bringing them together, and it allows for developers to have more control in the city.

This article provided interesting perspectives on how there are so many different ways a space can be designed to separate us, and how careful public spaces must be designed to help create a more harmonious community. There are many factors to consider in public space design that I have learned such as signifiers and disciplinary architecture. Multifunctional spaces help create a better sense of unity and fluidity to a space allowing for easier integration and inclusivity for a community.

Chapters in Compassion

Maria McNally

Chapters in Compassion is an article by Maria McNally that focuses on how the concepts of passion and compassion impact how we as people complete jobs and how these feelings impact those around us. McNally breaks down this concept and looks at it through several lenses. They investigate how different professions handle these two ideas and how they are incorporated into their work. McNally also takes the time to focus on how the ideas of passion and compassion can be learned and better understood in these different professions.

They start the investigation by interviewing their husband, a landscape architect. He explains that passion is a driving factor in design, and passionless designs create bland uninspired results. He goes on to explain that passion while an important driving force, can only take a design so far. One needs compassion to truly understand the needs of those the design is for in order to create something that will truly solve a problem. I would have to strongly agree with this description of how the design world must function. Passionate creators can make something beautiful, but without a deeper knowledge of the problem and those affected by said problem, a passionate design will never truly work in terms of solving a long-term problem. Only compassion of those the problem affects can a designer create a masterpiece that can provide relevant results.

McNally then goes on to interview a doctor about her views on the concept of passion/compassion. She states that passion is the fuel of the medical world and understanding the what ifs of the job requires ingenuity and creativity. She goes further to explain that compassion is also a vital step in the medical field as well. Medical workers are working with very sensitive matters and they deal with things that can be traumatic for some. In order to foster this compassion and create a better environment for all, the doctor plays out scenarios that would be difficult for many to better prepare medical students for what lies ahead in their journeys. McNally then looks at how the design world handles this process. As she compares the two, she learns that some designers strive to “walk in the shoes of others” to better understand how to address problems. This led to the understanding that as designers it is important to see how those the design is for view the problem. Interviews are held by some to get a better sense of how a community might feel about a particular project and the problems the project is aiming to fix. I find this concept interesting as well as important to consider when designing. The idea of using role-play in order to provide a better understanding of someone else’s circumstances is a great idea. I also find it important to listen to others to gain a better view of the entire problem and how it could be solved.

As McNally continues to research and develop her argument, she looks at community designer Samuel Mockbee and his work in developing housing and community facilities for lower-income residents. Mockbee worked with students from Auburn University and the Department of Human Resources to design and build these projects for communities. He provided a concept of designing affordable housing for residents while maintaining a high-end look instead of simply providing the bare necessities. He also encouraged students to get to know the members of the community and talk to people they never noticed before. He strived to use exposure to induce empathy. McNally explains that the idea of exposing and blending passion and compassion is easier through the introduction of these concepts in firsthand life experience. They point out that a leader must not only motivate and teach but also emulate. While a passionate mindset is a great start into further development as people, McNally points out the reservations others may have as trust has yet to be established. Trust is an incredibly important factor in creating an environment where high levels of passion and compassion can be used to their full potential. Trust takes time, but once that trust has been acquired mutual understanding increases greatly. I would have to agree with many of McNally's observations that were made in this portion of her article. She points out the importance of passion and what it can accomplish, as well as highlighting the importance of putting oneself at the same level as those one is attempting to have compassion and understanding for. She emphasized the importance of trust and just how greatly it matters in order to create a space where understanding and learning of how others are can take place.

McNally continues and begins to discuss the FDR Memorial and how it was made with compassion in mind. Designed by Lawrence Halprin, the FDR Memorial was made to represent an emotional form. She goes on to explain that Halprin designed the space not only through a lens of compassionate design, but also in a way that allows visitors to feel the compassion of the past president for those of the country he was leading. The design is created to mark an experience that would remain prominent long into the future. I believe that designing with the intent to create a space that shows the compassion of others enables us to gain a better understanding of how people felt in times such as those of the FDR era. Creating a memorable experience that teaches visitors how it felt at to live in those times and how a man attempted to fix those problems is an amazing goal to accomplish. It creates a lasting impact on how a person views others.

As McNally wraps up her article, she goes on to explain that oftentimes someone entering a community may not immediately enjoy working with those already there, simply because they do not understand or trust each other yet. She believes that once someone creates a space for both themselves and those they seek to help, they can start to create that trust and become more empathetic toward one another. She continues and states that many shy away from passion as it can often be associated with ego, but she mentions that both forces, passion and compassion, are needed in order to truly be successful. They are dependent forces that go hand in hand. Successful people use a mixture of passion and compassion to become the best leaders.

Looking at this article, I have very few complaints. I find most of the information to be compelling and incredibly informative. McNally discussed a range of interesting aspects of how compassion is involved with our lives and how passion and compassion are necessary forces if one is to effectively understand and learn about others. She discusses the idea of role-playing situations out and looking at viewpoints from others' perspectives. This provides me with new ideas as to how I will attempt to implement compassion and acceptance into the learning environment I am creating. Looking through the different interviews she conducted, there is the notion of multiple paths to the right answer, and this will help as I create a place that caters to different styles of learning to create the most effective space to gain a better understanding of the community one lives in.

Summary of Research

There is a lot of information to take away from all of the research on this topic. Talks on diversity, inclusivity, and understanding are constantly changing and evolving as our perceptions and general consensus of topics grow and develop. Looking back on history and how our perceptions change, it is clear just how much our perceptions change. We can only hope that this development is positive and is for the betterment of all people and the world.

Looking at how these different projects addressed different issues and housed multiple various uses provides great insight into the overall design of my project. It contributes new ideas for a more effective space that can better address the needs of Chicago and its people. These precedent studies provide great techniques in site management and spatial layout for the most effective and efficient multicultural space. Learning information about successful site design and overall layout will help provide a more satisfactory experience for the users of my project.

The informational articles gave me new knowledge of effective methods to providing situations that will encourage learning in both a formal and informal setting. This is essential to my thesis concept. Having people interact through role-play and imaginations allows for new creative interactions between peoples. We have to acknowledge the importance of signifiers used in design and how to create a space that uses these signifiers in a way that will promote use from all backgrounds and ways of life. Looking into the various cultures that exist in the Chicago area and how they live life will provide the most comprehensive results for a project that can serve multiple peoples. Spaces that promote interaction and gathering are essential in the unification of various people.

Project Justification

Understanding and inclusivity are important factors in how a person responds to the world around them. Creating spaces where people feel safe and accepted should not be a secondary concern. Instead, it should be valued highly as an aspect of design. As the world continues to become a more diverse place where every person has different experiences to bring to the table, we should be looking at how we can understand others to promote unity in communities. It is too often we see fighting amongst people over a misunderstanding that could be resolved if they took the time to see from other perspectives.

This project aims to change both the social and cultural values of the community. The whole idea of this project is to help foster change in how people perceive others in their environment. The goal is to provide a better understanding of others in a social and cultural context. The United States was founded as a melting-pot of cultures, and this project seeks to help teach these cultures to other members of a particular community to create a better sense of understanding and acceptance.

I have seen far too many people destroy relationships with those they once held close over issues that could have been solved if they simply learned more about each other's background and tried to understand important aspects about them. I strongly believe everyone deserves to feel accepted and understood and learning about another person's background is the best starting point to creating a more educated environment.

A project of this focus does not focus on the monetary value of its success. The best return on investment this project could bring would be the creation of a more cohesive community that prospers with a newfound appreciation of all community members. The more people get along and care for each other, the safer a city becomes. Creating a space where people can gather and feel safe and learn can greatly benefit how a community functions. The safer and happier residents feel, the more desirable a place becomes. The more desirable a place becomes, the higher the value and the more prosperous a city can become. The idea is creating what starts as a small change can ripple into a major change for the better of everyone.

The design profession has always been problem solvers not only for design but life in general. This project continues that trend as I hope to impact how we design. The world needs a place that unifies, and the design world can help create spaces that emphasize these important aspects of life. The world of architecture should always be looking for answers as to how we as designers can create places that better the world as a whole, not only the client. We should always be looking forward and improving wherever we can. Projects that focus on solving problems such as this add to the wealth of knowledge the design profession already has and expanding on this knowledge allows for continuous growth and improvement of the profession. As most architects know already, there is often more than one answer that fits. So why should we stop with what we already know?

Looking from an academic perspective, thesis projects like this allow for academics to combine all their current knowledge and expand on what is known. There is an opportunity for massive growth and learning about how they can fit into the world of design. Thesis is about pushing past current limits of knowledge and trying to improve the design profession. The focus of thesis is learning and growth, a perfect mirror to what I am aiming to accomplish through my thesis project.

Historical Context

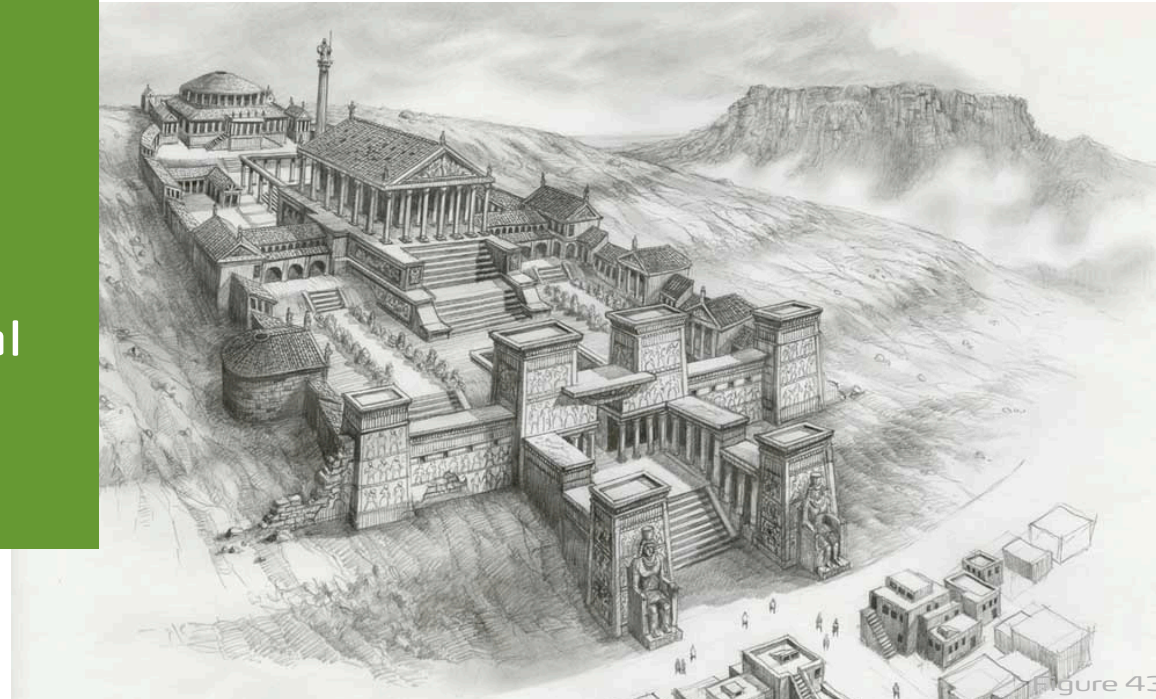


Figure 43

This project has a significant historical context due to its complex nature. As this project is a merging of several typologies to create a multifunctional space it has a long history of importance. The focus of this thesis is all about creating a space for gathering and learning about others. One of the most common forms of places like this are libraries. Libraries hold a wealth of knowledge and serve as a public gathering place as well. The Library of Alexandria was one of the earliest and most well known examples of a library in the world. It was a gathering place for scholars from all over, and housed information on an abundance of topics including knowledge of various cultures. Libraries and marketplaces were some of the earliest gathering places for people to communicate and become more acquainted with others in the community. These places have served as a staple in the design of many cities, and they continue to serve a significant purpose to their communities. As the world continues to develop and change there should be a focus on how we can improve these spaces to better serve their communities today.



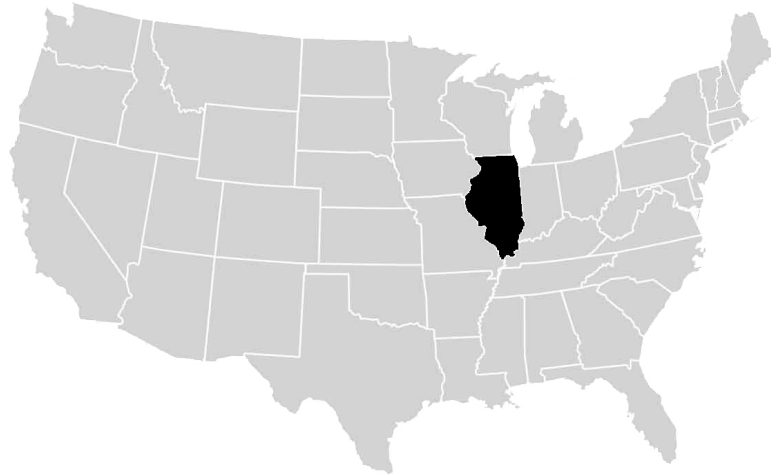
Historical Context

Looking at how cultural centers function today we can see just how a community aims to promote inclusivity and empathy. Here we can see Wagenhallen Stuttgart Cultural Center and its design intends to keep the history of the site intact while creating new uses inside to promote the culture of the city. Using a mixture of typologies to create a more inclusive multifunctional space is currently being used in various cultural centers around the world to create a more effective system of learning and understanding.

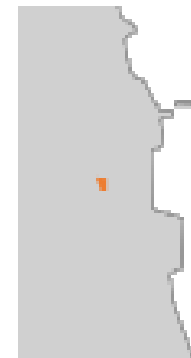
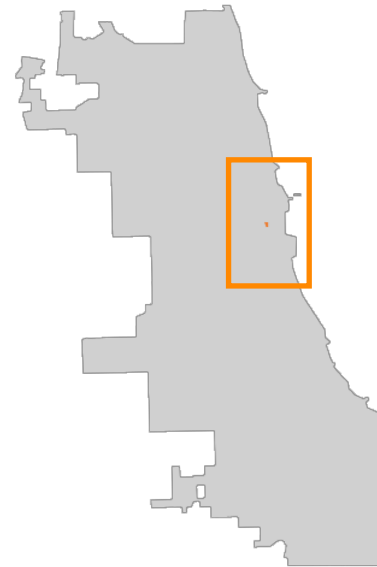
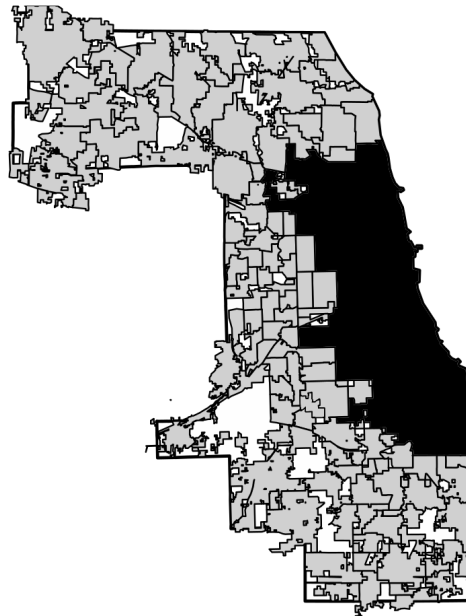
Social & Cultural Context

This project has several social and cultural implications. In society we constantly see ourselves described as united, but looking at how people treat others it often seems like that is not the case. Promoting open communication and the ability to learn in a friendly environment is something needed in the current state of the world. Oftentimes we are taught and forced to learn through one specific method and environment, and this project promotes learning through whatever method works best for each individual. Promoting both formal and informal methods of learning and communication about new cultures and ways of life can help more effectively tie people of a community together. Creating spaces where people feel safe and secure in themselves helps promote both mental health as well as the overall health of a community. A more inclusive city is a healthier city. Chicago is a diverse place, and residents having a better understanding of each other and more empathy towards one another enables the city to grow together and continue to prosper for all.

Site Analysis



A site in the heart of Chicago was chosen for this project. The site met appropriate criteria needed for the project to serve its intended purpose. Chicago is one of the largest cities in the country.



Figures 45-49



Size: 350,000 SF

Zoning: Downtown

This site is just south of the downtown area and features several great features. I chose this site specifically due to how it related to my project and the advantages it could have. The site is in an area that features heavy foot traffic and is also near several bus stops and metro locations. It also features a major roadway just north of the site. I wanted a site that was easy to access, and this site has that. It also is centrally located in the city of Chicago, an incredibly diverse city.

Views



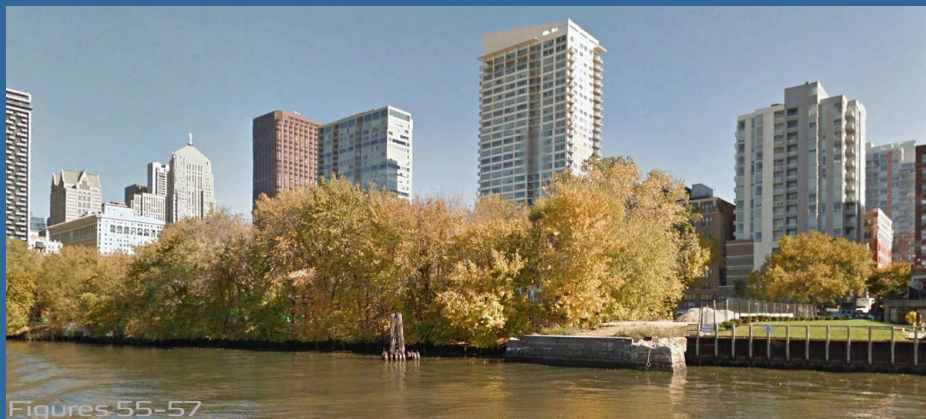
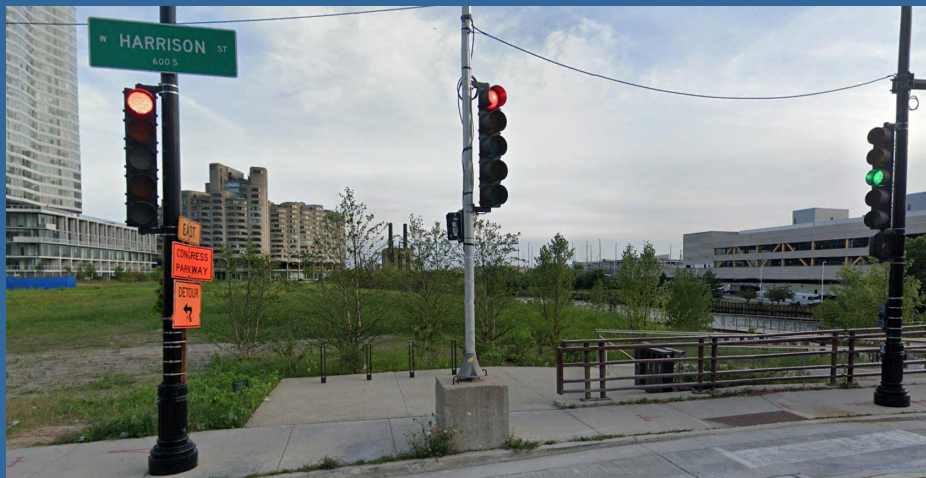
The site features views to the north and west of the site. Due to tall buildings nearby on the east, there are no views in that direction. The river to the west is a very pleasant view to look at and the skyline of the downtown buildings to the north is quite extravagant.



Figures 51-54

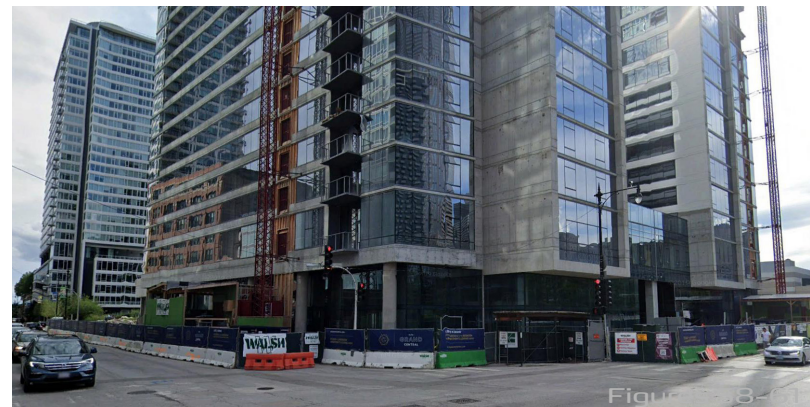
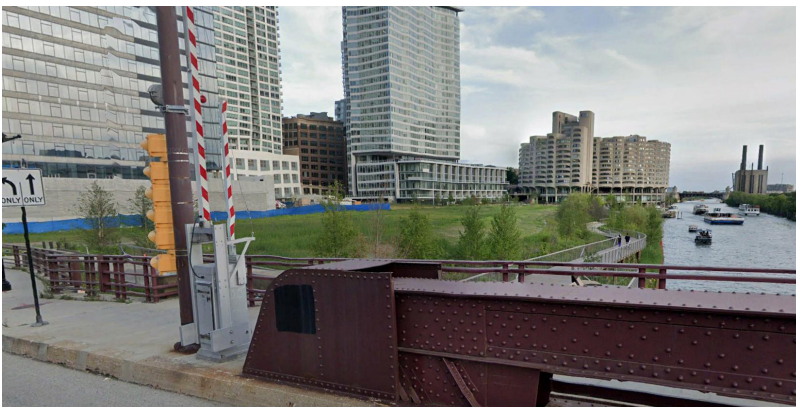
Site Character

Looking into the site you can learn a bit about the character this site holds. Looking back at historical photos the site hasn't changed for twenty years, but recently the site has been under construction. This has caused great distress on the site. Much of the grass was removed and the trees along the river were taken out. The site went from a green field to a dirt patch as it was worked on. The site itself is fairly peaceful in terms of noise and views outside of the site. There is little traffic around the site directly and the area isn't too loud. Overall the site gives impressions of great opportunity and character growth. It is a prime location for a project and has yet to meet its full potential. The site could be so much more than it currently is.

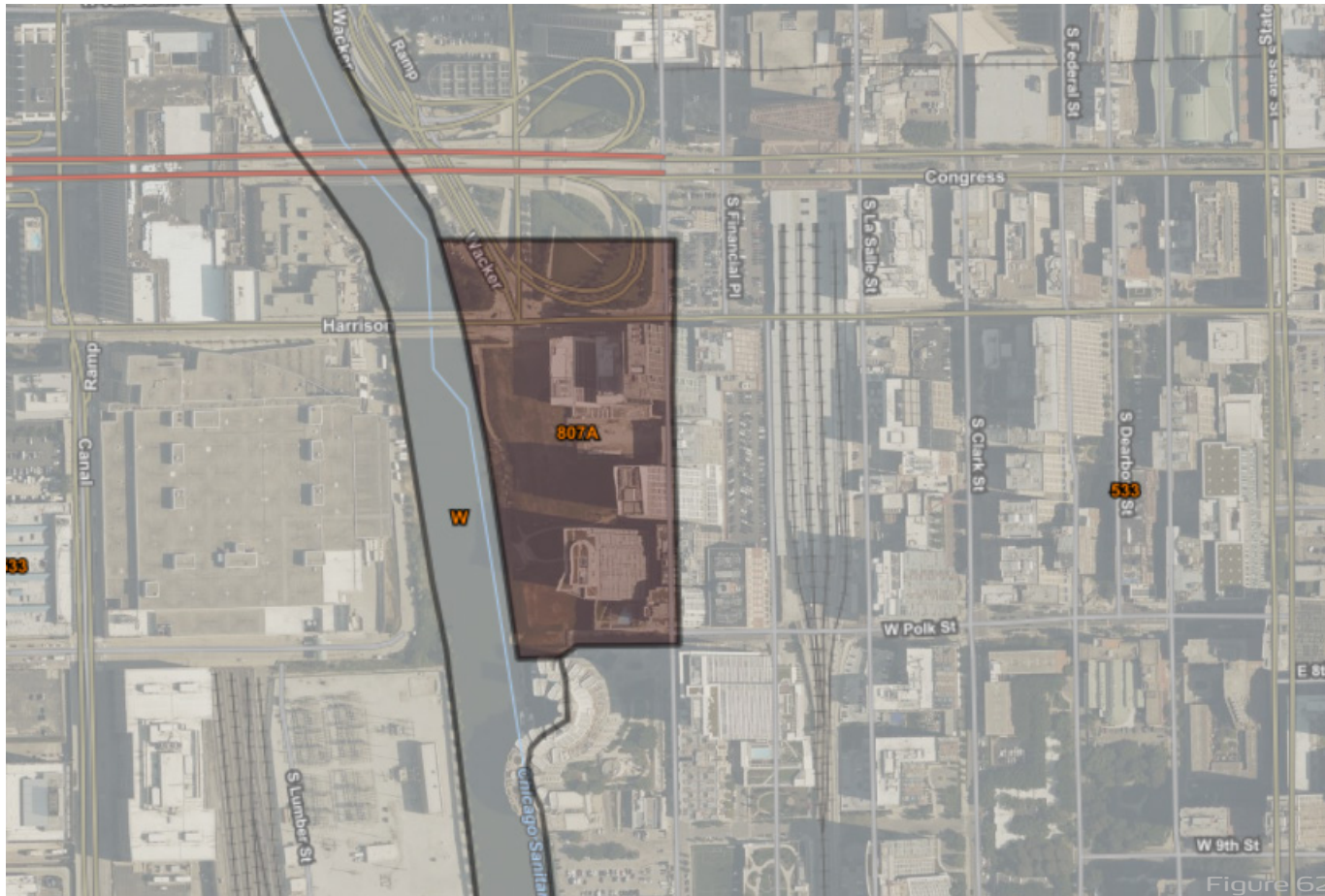


Figures 55-57

With all of the construction going on it was eventually going to result in something. A few years ago a large building was constructed on the southern side of the site. I plan on leaving this building as the site is large enough to accommodate both buildings. A more recent addition to the site is a newer project being constructed on the north-eastern corner of the site. This building is still under construction. This building has been in the process of being built as I create this thesis project. Along the west end of the site trees were replanted along the bank of the river and a walkway has been added as well.



Soil Classification



807A | Orthents, Loamy-Skeletal | 0-2% Slope

The entirety of my site fits within the 807A category of soil. As it is an orthents soil, the original soil has been removed and replaced by man to create a better foundation for the site. This work on the soil allows for the site to be highly resistant to water-related issues as it sits on the Chicago River's edge. The previous soil work has already allowed for a sturdy building site for this project.

Water & Water Table

My site is adjacent to the Chicago River. This brings concerns with it, as well as bonuses. The river provides great views and the river is clean as well. Someone on the site would be able to watch the boats as they go up and down the river as they sit peacefully on the bank of the river. The site doesn't experience flooding shockingly enough. The river seemingly doesn't cause any major problems with the site.

The water table for this site is also of concern on the site with its proximity to the river. Fortunately the soil on the site has already been replaced previously and the water table is low enough to allow for basements and a strong foundation for construction of a fair sized building.

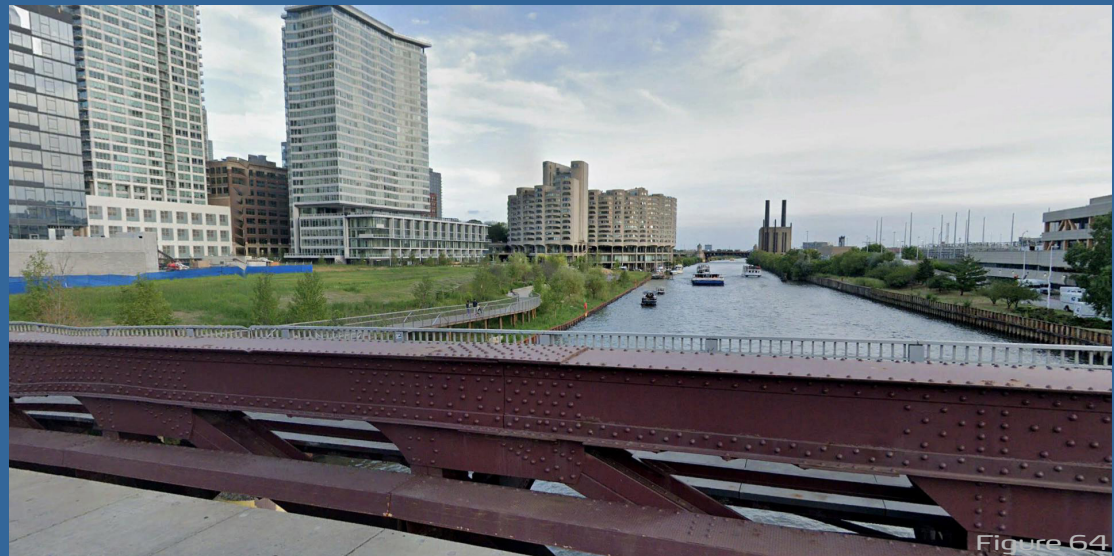


Figure 64

Wind Analysis

Chicago is known as the the windy city, and most of that wind comes from the North. The wind originates from the North during the spring and summer months and during the fall begins to arise from the South. during the winter months the strongest winds come from the West. The average speed of the wind for the year is 12.5 miles per hour.

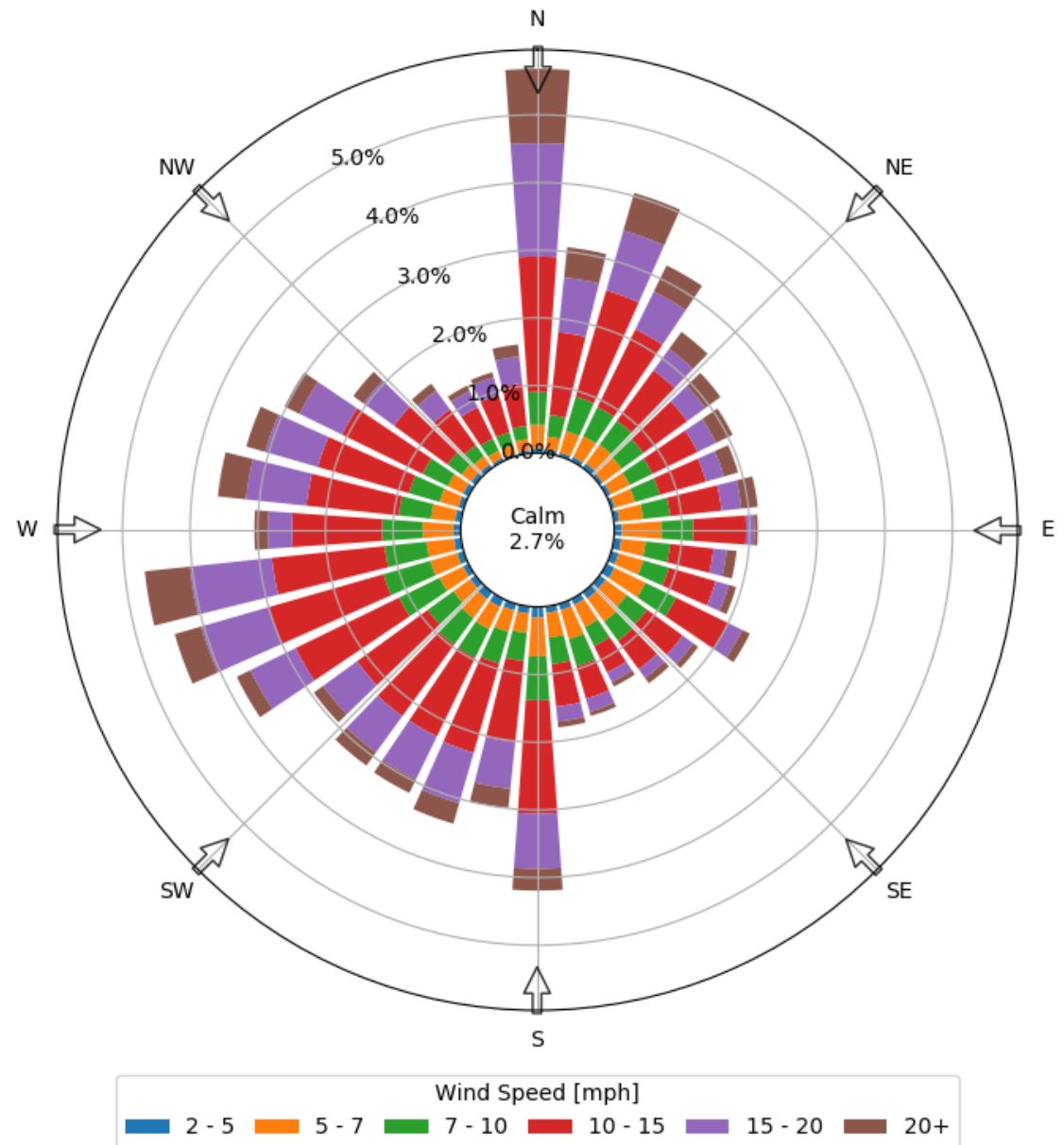
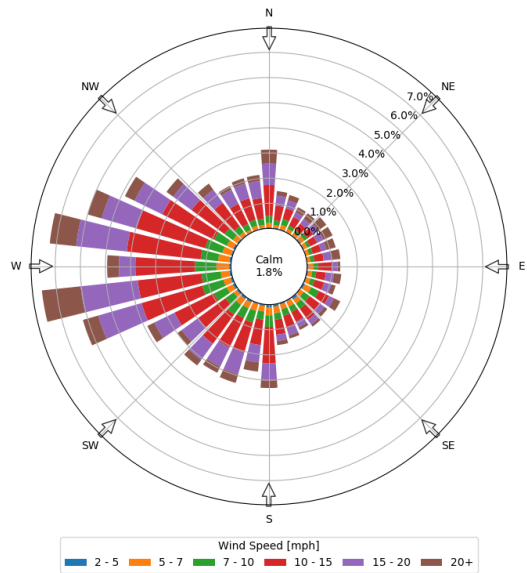
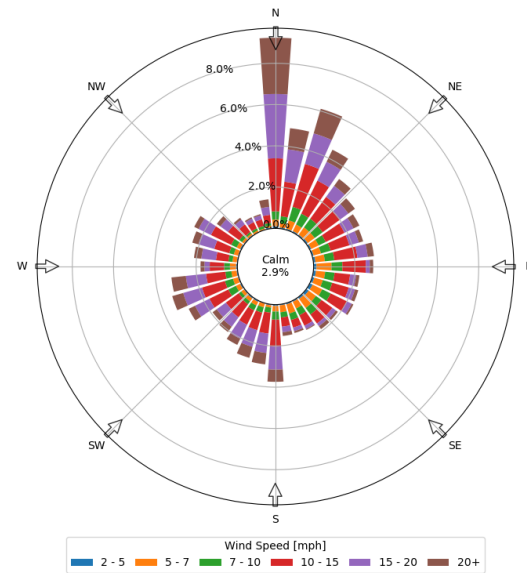


Figure 65

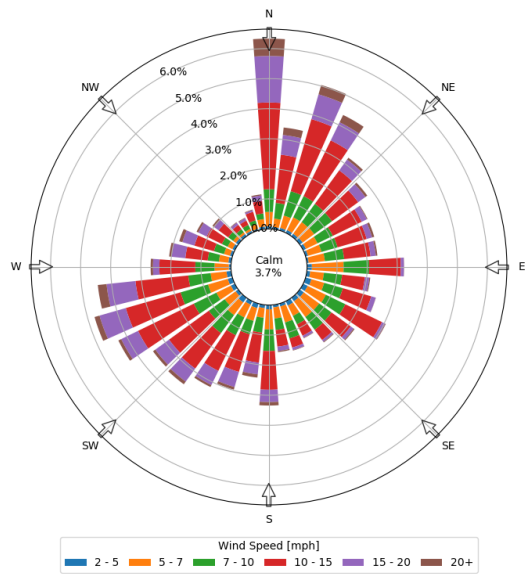
January



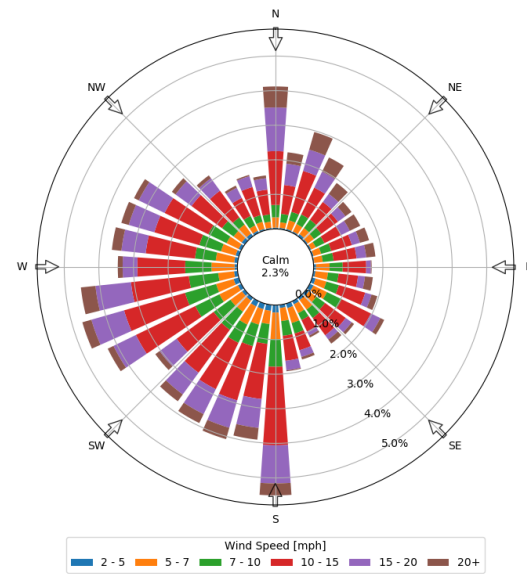
April



July



October



Figures 66-69

Sun Path Diagram



Figure 70

Climate

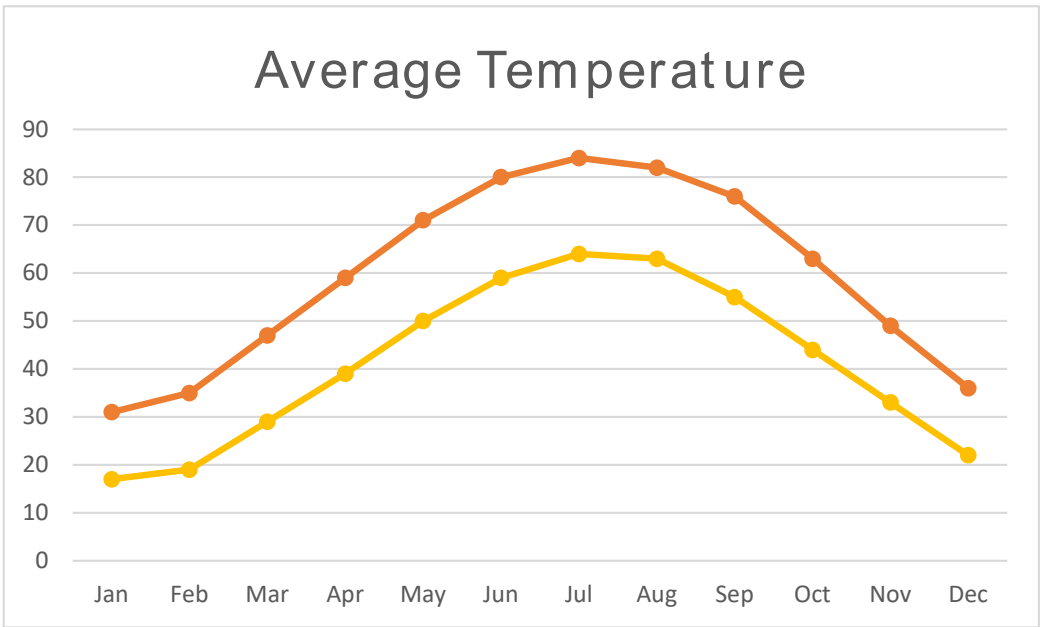


Figure 71

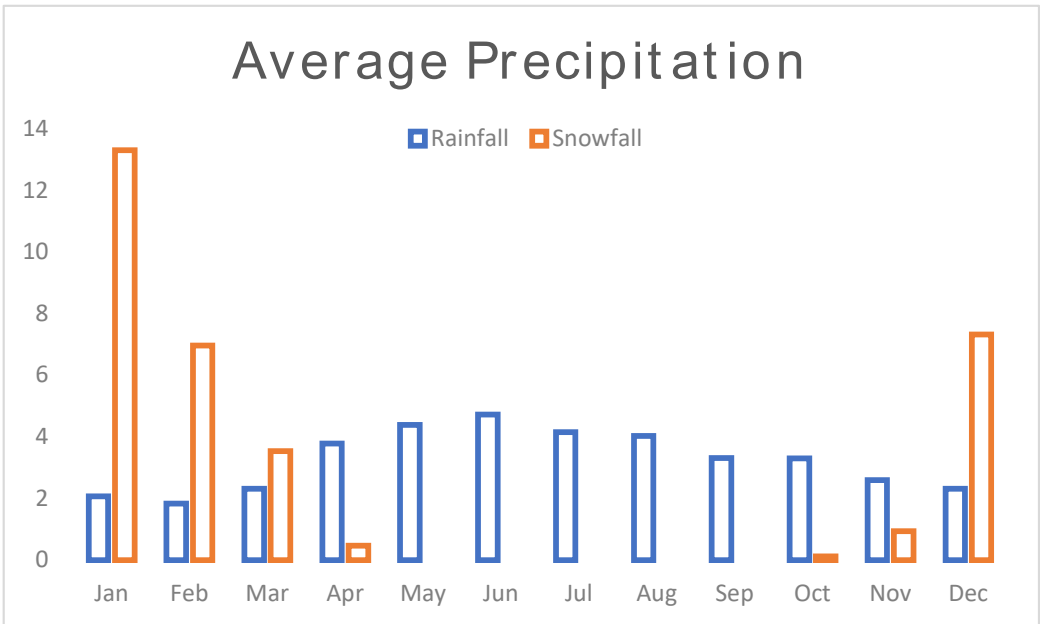
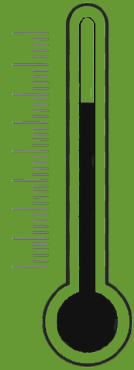


Figure 72

Chicago is located in the midwest, a region known for its harsh winters and heavy snowfall. This rings true as the city receives a fair amount of snow of the winter months. Chicago is not quite as far north as other places in the midwest and this gives it the advantage of slightly warmer winter months, although the trade-off is warmer summer months.



Annual High: 57°F

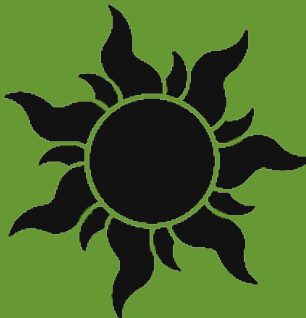
Annual Low: 42°F



Average Annual
Precipitation: 33.2 in.



Average Annual
Snowfall: 31.4 in.



Annual Sunshine
Hours: 2,611

The average annual temperatures for Chicago are a little bit cold, although in the midwest many would take the cooler temperatures over a sweltering heat or a freezing cold. Chicago receives a good amount of precipitation, with a fair amount of it in the form of snowfall in the winter months. The climate of Chicago provides a unique space where the outdoors can be utilized for a large portion of the year. The large temperature swings between season create ample considerations in how the project must be designed to tackle these hurdles. There is a need for retaining heat during the winter while keeping the heat out in the summer months. The best strategies for these would include careful placement of glazing on the southern end of the project to absorb sunlight efficiently in the winter, but not absorb an abundance of solar heat in the summer. Another strong consideration on the climate is the wind and how it affects the site as well.

Topography

This site has a very low slope angle on the entire site except for the bank of the river. The topography only changes around five feet in height along most of the site. This is most-likely due to the nature of the soil having been replaced by man previously. The edge of the river has the elevation changing fifteen to twenty feet in a short space creating a fairly steep hill.

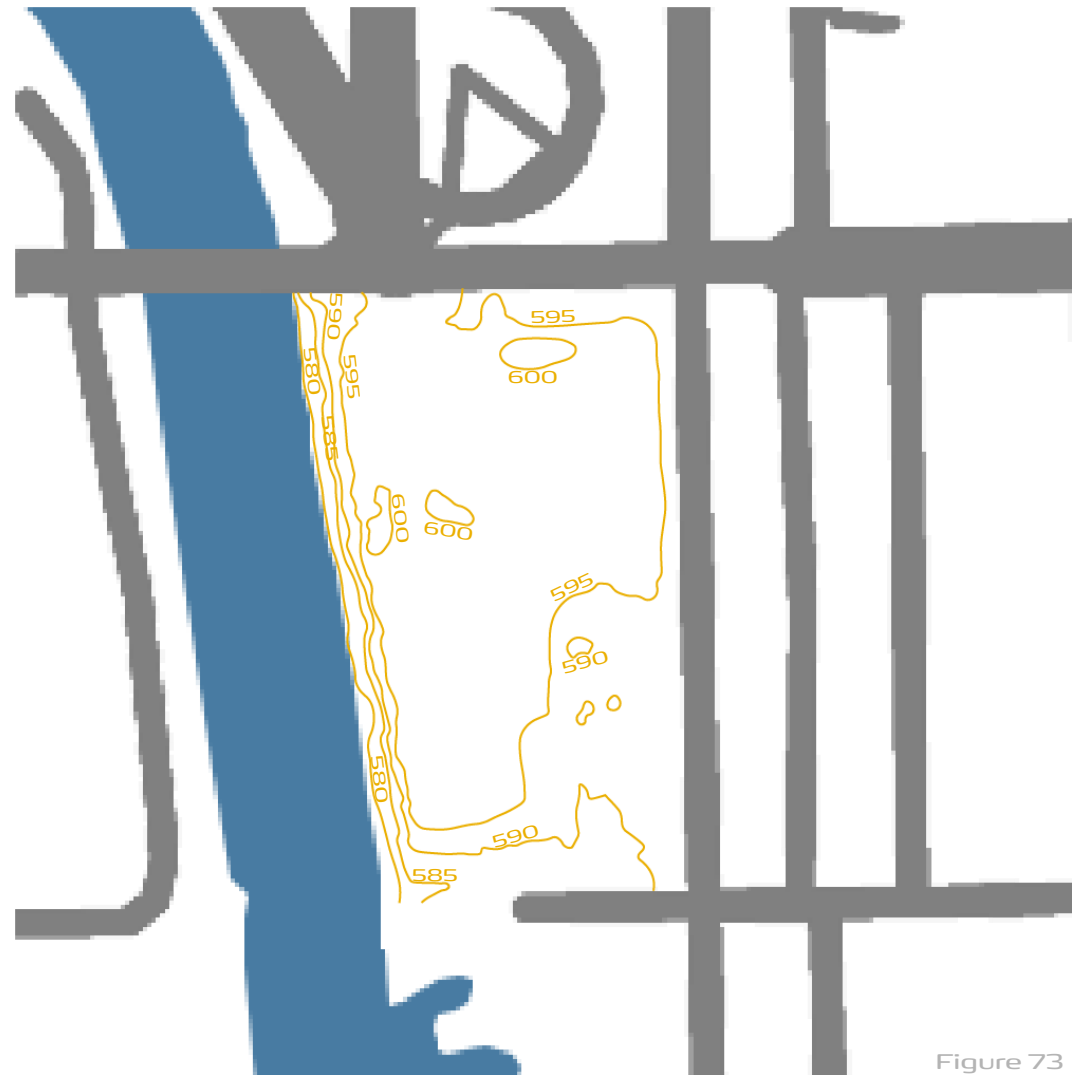


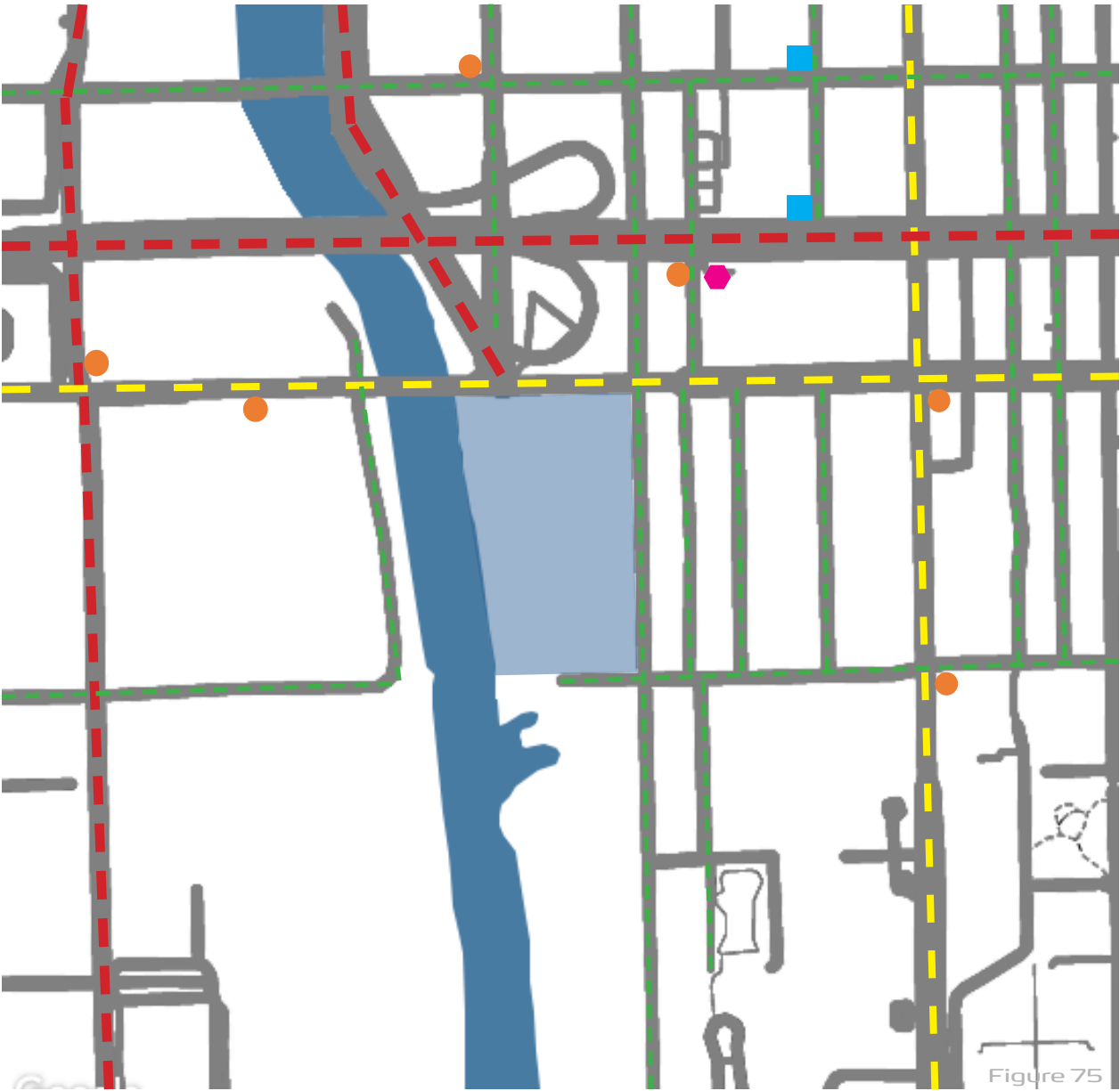
Figure 73

Trees & Vegetation



There is very little vegetation both on the site and on other sites around the project. There is a major lack of vegetation in the area. The trees on the site are along the river bank and block views. The trees are also very new as the site has been under construction and they just replaced the trees that had been there before. Adding vegetation to the site could improve drainage as well as create a more vibrant space for people to spend time in. The vegetation to the north was recently added after construction on the interchange was finished. The site has virtually no vegetation other than the new trees along the bank. This gives me an opportunity to change this and add more greenery to the city.

Vehicular Circulation



- Heavy Traffic
- Fair Traffic
- Light Traffic
- Bus Stop
- Metro Stop
- Train Station

Figure 75



Pedestrian Circulation

- • • • Bike Lanes
- Foot Traffic

This site has roads on three sides, although the streets to the east and south are not very busy roads. The road to the north is used more, and the road a block north is a very busy road with heavy traffic. This site also has the convenience of several public transportation stops nearby. Only a couple blocks away there is access to metro stations, bus stops, and a train station. Another benefit is the bike lane on the northern end of the site. This is great for bringing people into the site. You can also see the circulation for pedestrians and how the site features a walking path along the river currently, something I think would be a great idea to keep in the overall design of my project. North of the site there are some green spaces designed over the interchange that provide some nice green space. There are shopping options south of the site as well only a block or two south.

Performance Criteria

Environmental Performance

Several aspects of this project will need to meet criteria in order to perform as intended. The exhibition/museum spaces and the library space will need to meet certain air and light quality standards in order to prevent damage to objects placed in the spaces. These important standards will be determined by careful research of standards used in similar project types in order to provide the best quality possible. These standards will be measured by meeting the design standards shown in other projects as well as computer simulation software in order to achieve the best results.

Behavioral Performance

Due to the nature of the project and its complexity of uses, key factors in determining the effectiveness of the project will be usage and hours of operation. The project aims to have high usage throughout the different aspects of the project, and the hours of operation will vary for each respective area as well. Usage patterns and common hours of operation will be determined by looking at similar projects as well as optimal hours of operation for a project of this typology in the Chicago area. In order to measure usage, the spaces must be designed to support the various activities offered in each space. This will be measured by creating drawings as well as 3D views that show how the spaces will potentially be used. These views will show how the usage would potentially change throughout the day as well to illustrate how the hours of operation would most effectively work.

Psychological Impact

The psychological impact of the design will be an important aspect to this project. The goal is to create a place where people feel open and connected to one another, and they feel connected to the cultures around them. This will be a difficult task to measure and the criteria I will base this off will be based heavily on my research about empathy, learning, and acceptance. My case study research will allow for a direct comparison of other projects to my design to serve as a guideline for successful design.

Performance Criteria

Code Compliance

Designing with codes in mind will also be important for the project. It is always important to meet building codes as well as ADA regulations. I will also be striving to achieve LEED certification. I will meet these rules and guidelines through research on relevant codes in order to meet these criteria. There will also be computer generated models to test criteria as well.

Cost

The cost of the project will be assessed by looking at several factors such as: size of the project, materials used, and cost of construction in the Chicago area. I will combine these factors to achieve a relative price point that the project will cost to build.

Summary

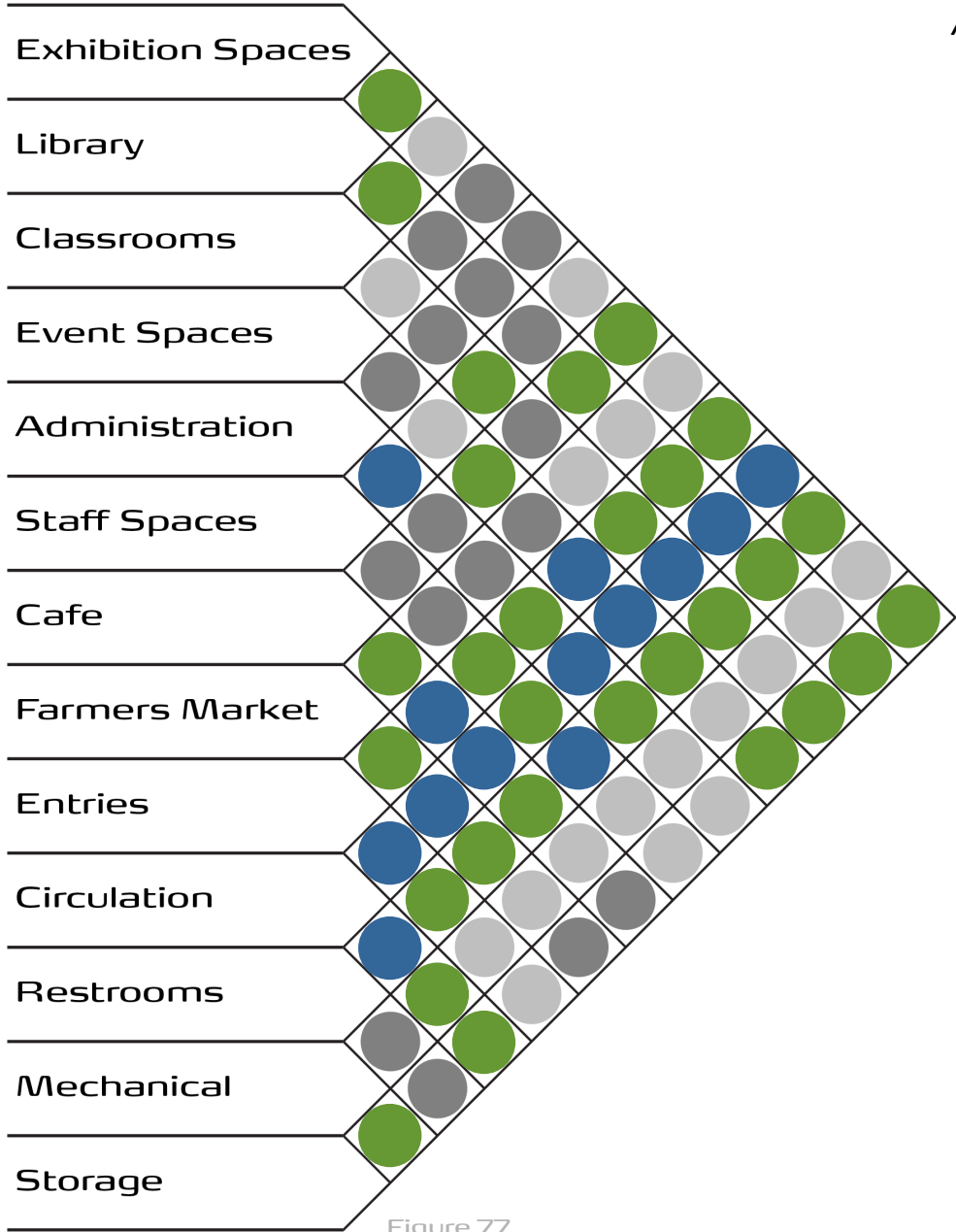
The performance criteria of this project have been set by a combination of the Department of Architecture at North Dakota State University, national codes and regulations, and the designer. These criteria will help set healthy boundaries and guidelines for the project as it moves forward. These goals push the project toward an efficient design while maintaining true to its intention. The overarching focus of the criteria is creating an efficient space that positively impacts the social and cultural aspects of the community while remaining efficient and aware of the environment. This project will require several computer analyses and feedback from others in order to effectively meet the performance criteria.

Space Allocation

Space	Square Feet (SF)	Percentage (%)
Exhibition Spaces	24,000	11.5%
Library	12,500	6.0%
Classrooms	18,000	8.7%
Event Spaces	36,000	17.3%
Administration	12,000	5.8%
Staff Spaces	5,500	2.6%
Café	10,000	4.8%
Farmers Market	18,000	8.7%
Entries	7,500	3.6%
Circulation	32,000	15.4%
Restrooms	2,500	1.2%
Mechanical	22,000	10.6%
Storage	8,000	3.8%
Total	208,000	100.0%

This project will incorporate several different specialized spaces in order to provide the most diverse arrangement of learning and interactive opportunities. The size of the spaces vary greatly depending on function and importance to the overall concept of the project. These projected numbers show the approximate square footage the entire design may need to complete its mission. Many of the larger spaces feature flexibility in their use thus increasing the options for this project as it continues to grow. The project will likely take on multiple stories in order to better accommodate the site and the opportunities for increased urban development and vegetation upon the site.

Space Interaction



Adjacency Matrix

- Adjacent
- Nearby
- Not Adjacent
- Not Related

The spaces within this project will mainly be located around a central lobby space that will serve as a hub for the many different interaction that can take place. There will also be secondary entrances to enter specific areas of the project for increased efficiency and mobility throughout the space.

Figure 77

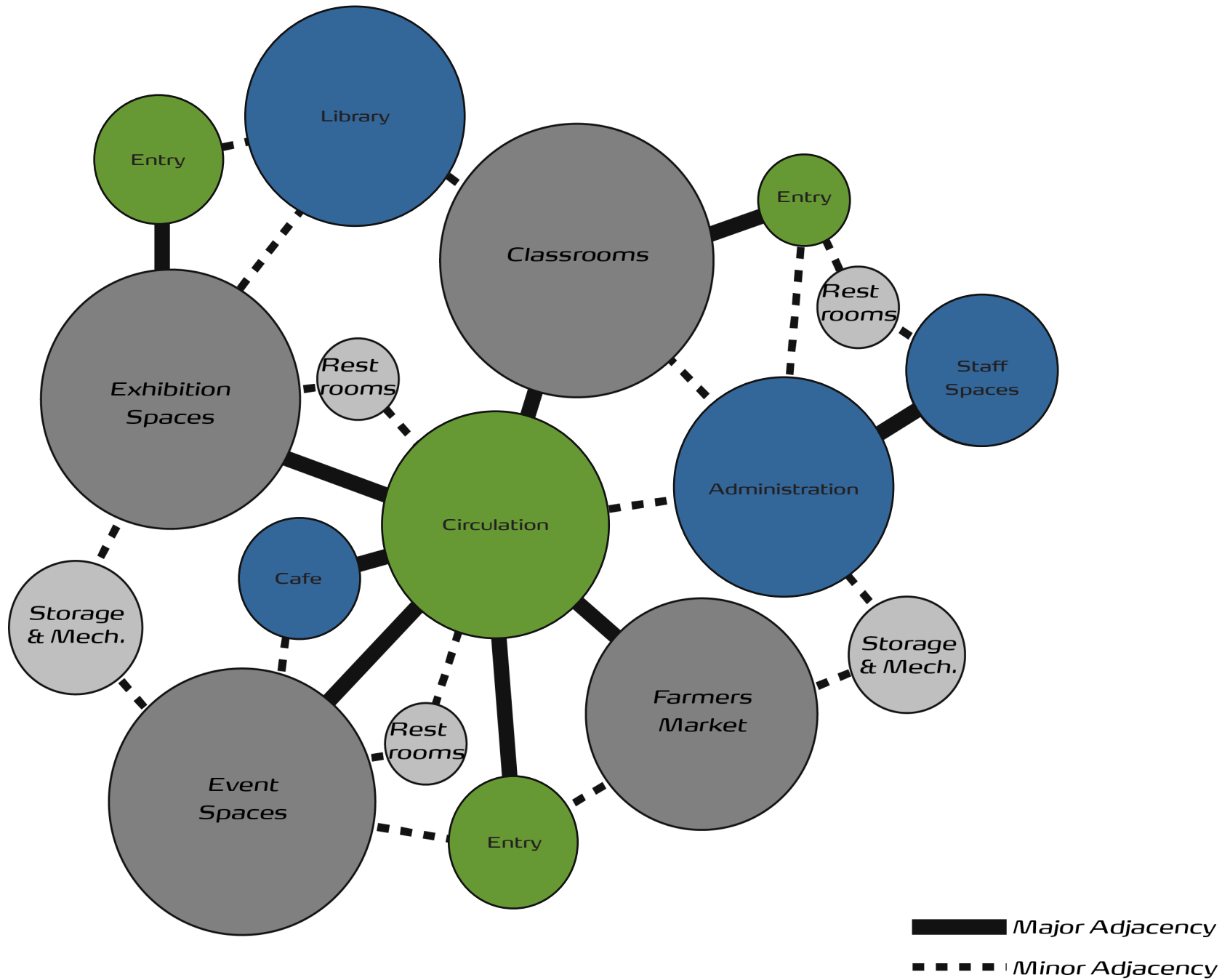


Figure 78



Process Documetation

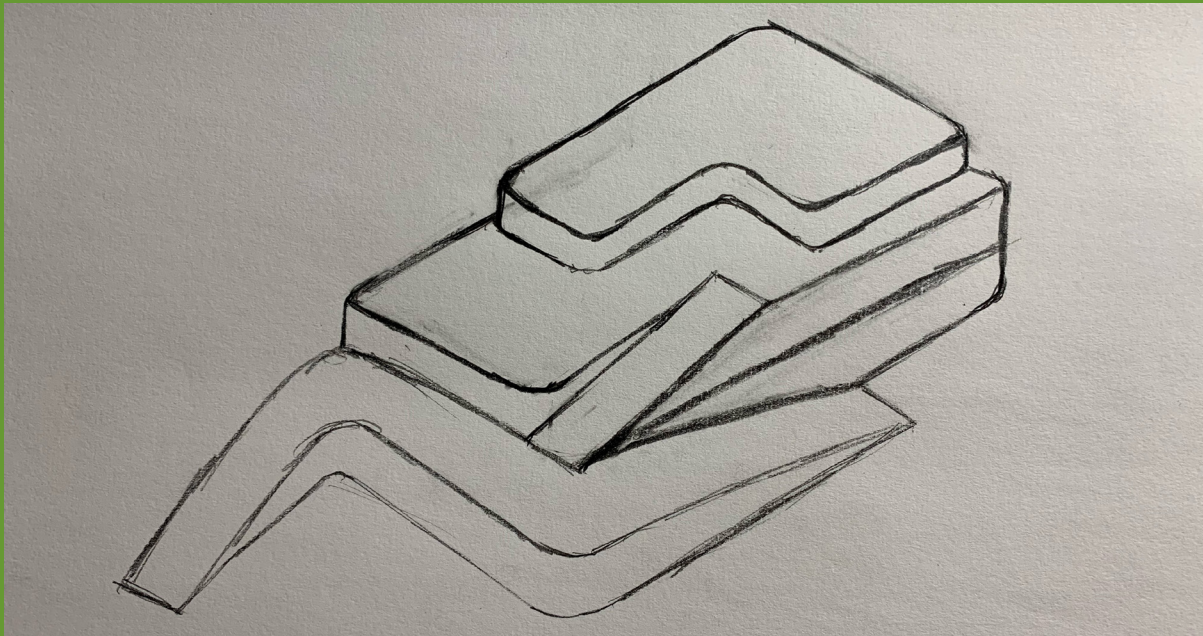


Figure 79

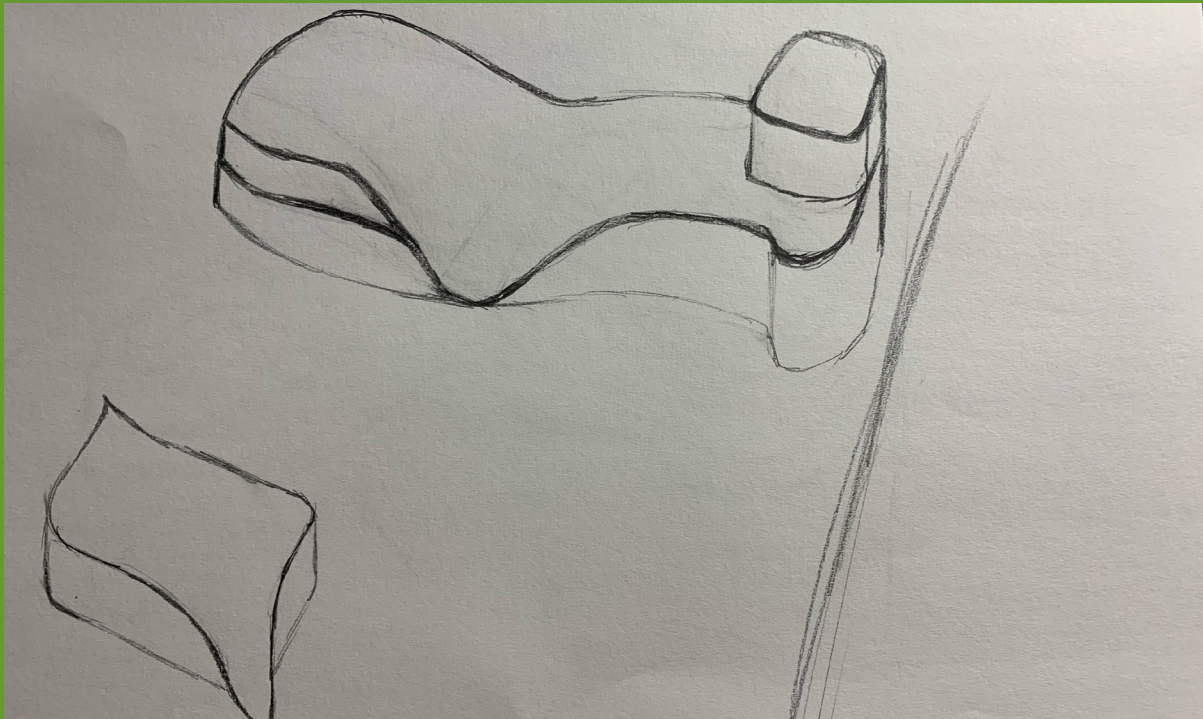


Figure 80

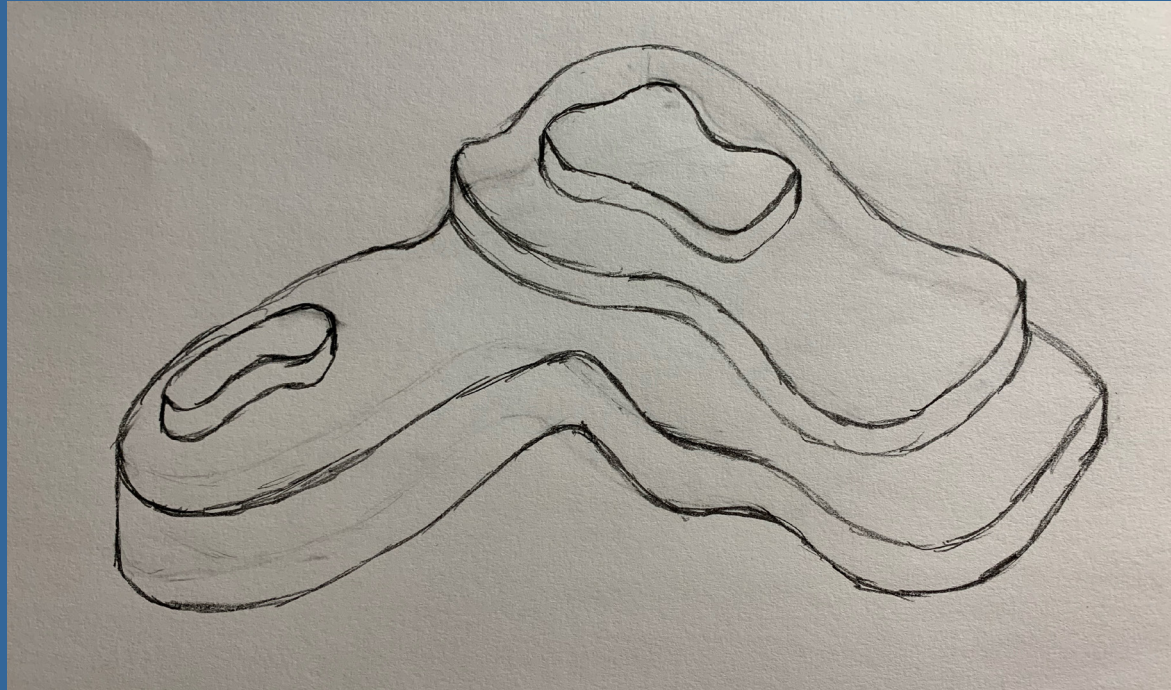


Figure 81

The process of design begins with several schemes and the beginnings of spatial layouts. I created three extreme schemes involving both formwork, site interaction, and bubble diagrams of spatial movement. The first scheme involved a series of ramps to add extra movement between the site as well as provide increased interaction with the spaces in the building as well. The second scheme featured two buildings. A market space and a larger building to house the remaining spaces. This scheme featured a walking space pulled away from the street to provide better human safety and featured a sloping roof that dropped to the ground level. The third scheme was a wavy form that layered as it rose producing green roof spaces and also featured the walkways pulling users into the site and away from the street.

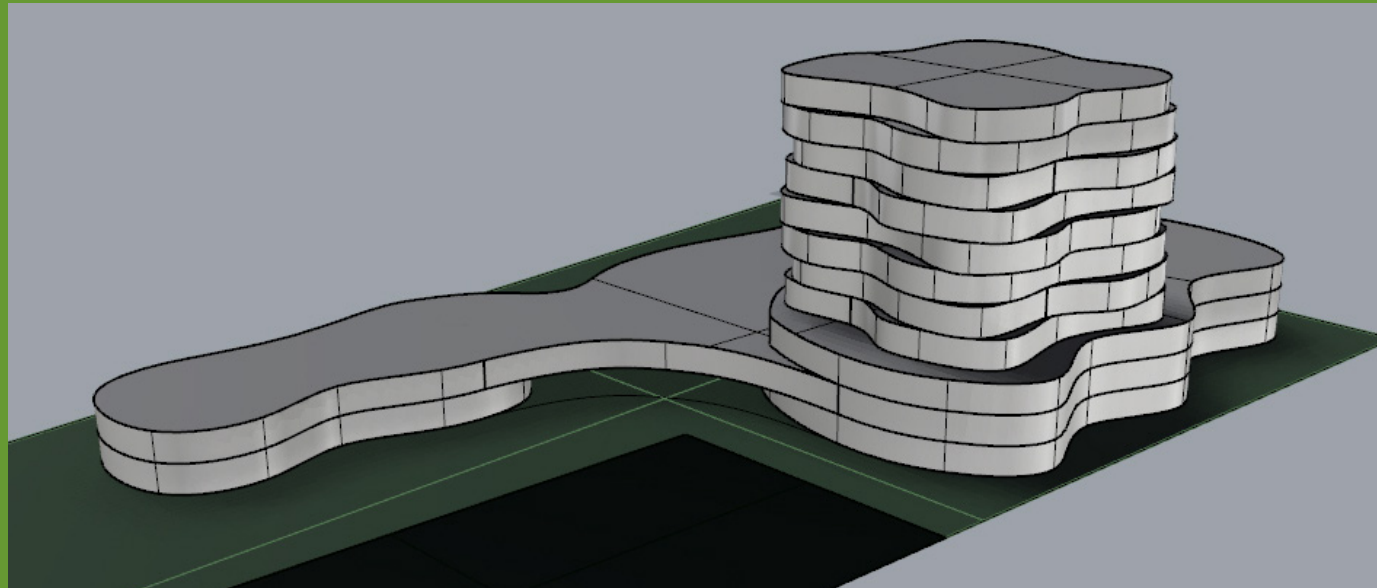


Figure 82

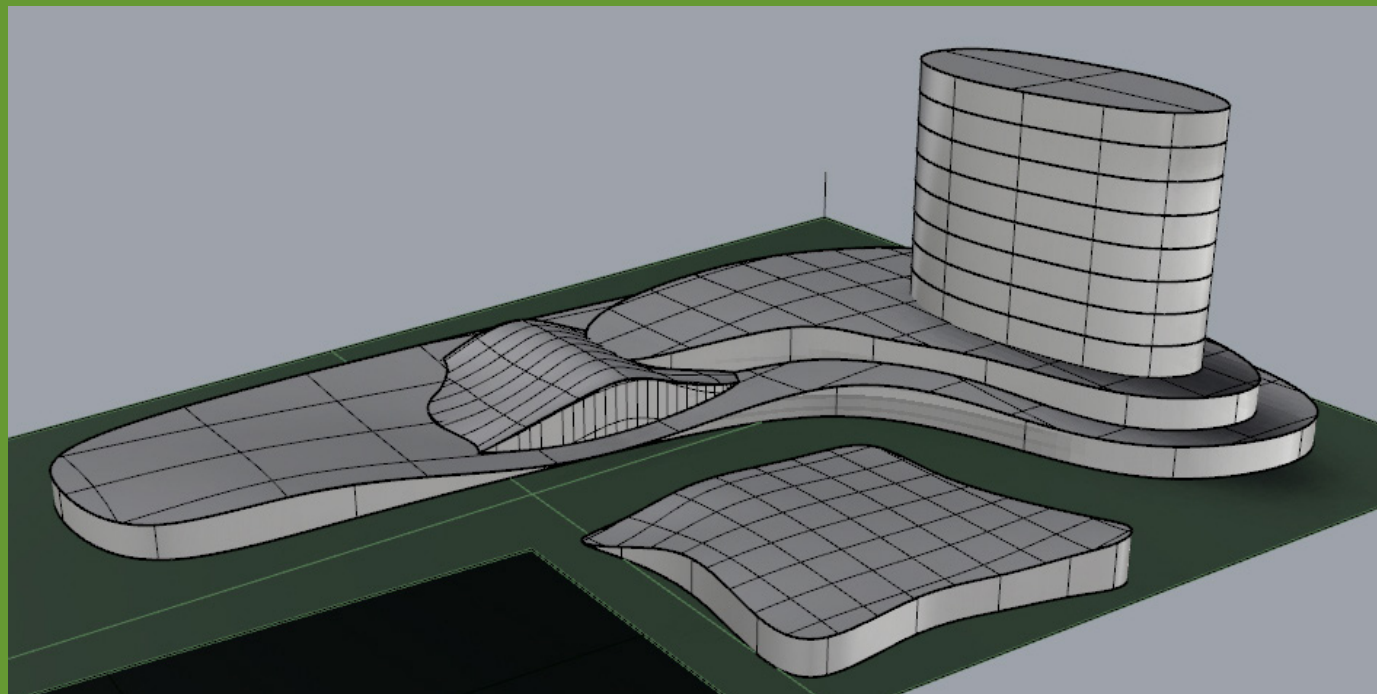


Figure 83

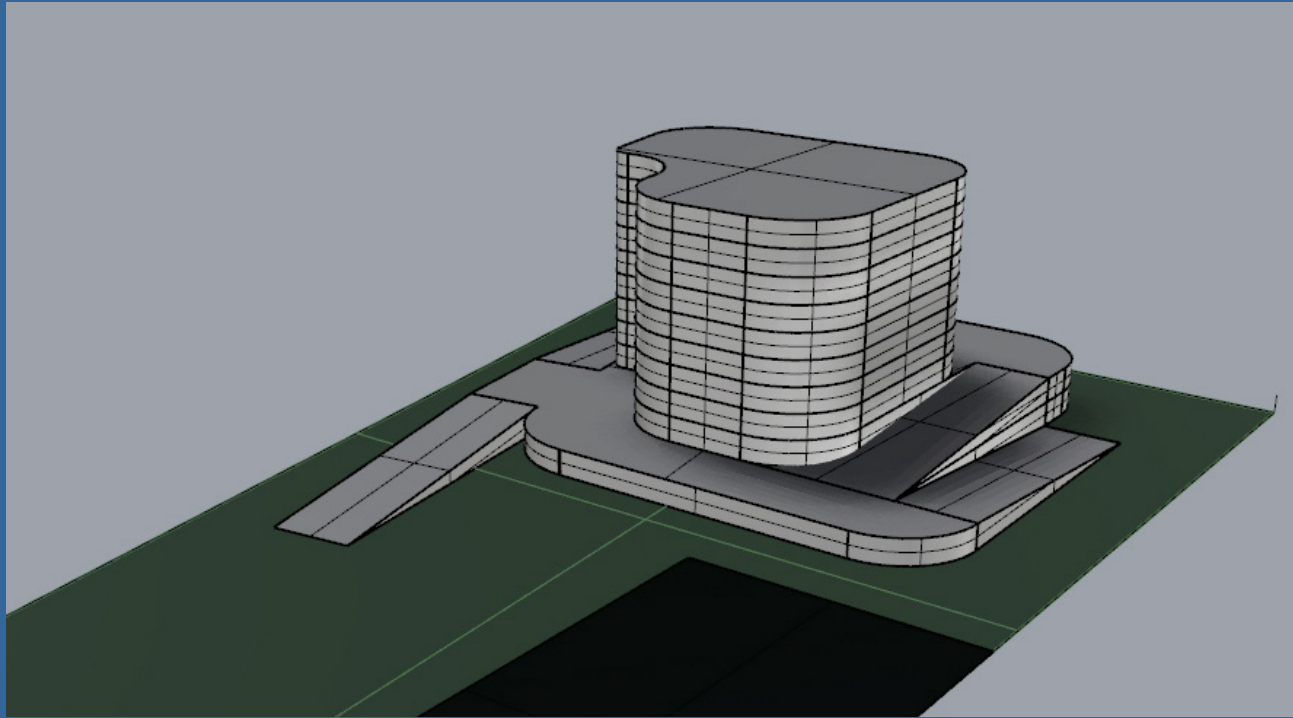


Figure 84

Moving into modeling software, I began to look further into how the different schemes interacted with the site as well as creating more spatially aware forms. A tower structure on each form provided extra height to bridge the height gap between surrounding buildings and the river on the east of the site. The first scheme follows a wavy flowing form that takes inspiration from the river and features a walkway cutting through the building to provide increased interaction with the river. The second form retains the multiple structure concept and further builds out the walking lane as well as creating a statement entry point to guide users into the building. The third scheme continues with the ramping concept and features a larger tower for more building spaces. Looking at which aspects of each scheme work best will provide insight into next steps.

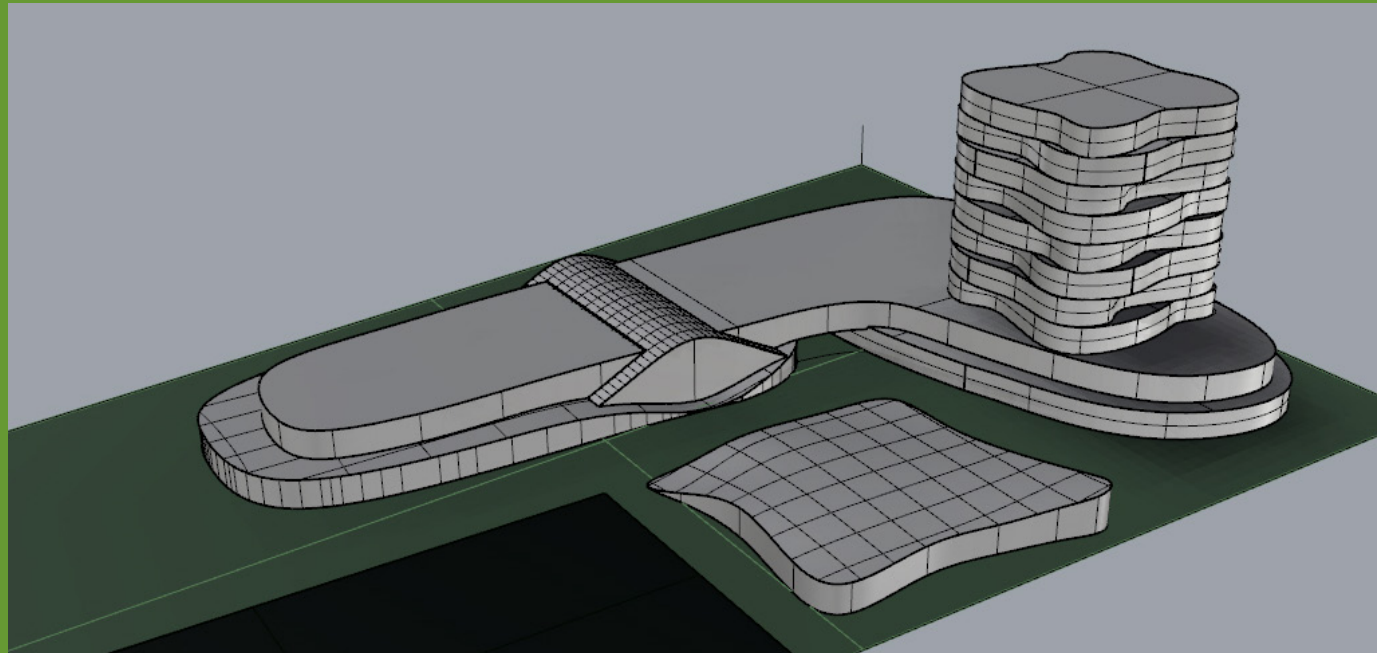


Figure 85

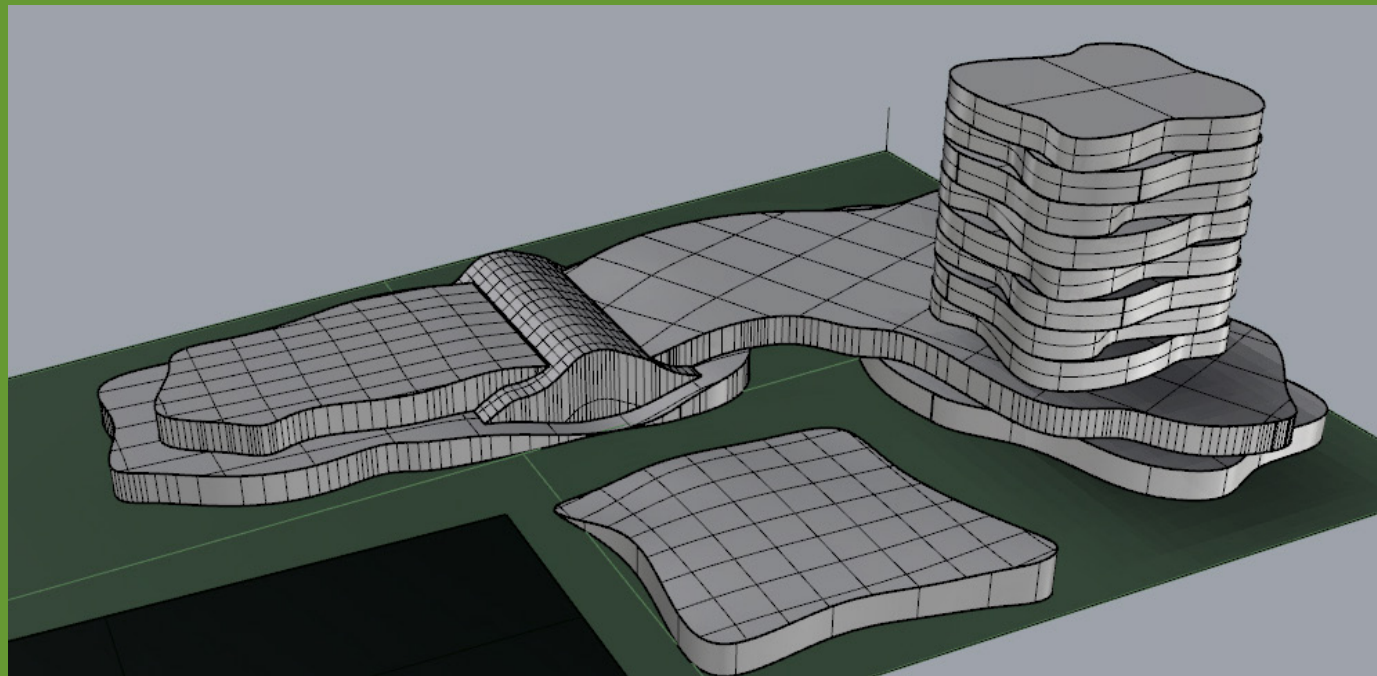


Figure 86

Taking the best from each scheme to produce a central idea leads to a unique form that features a walking path, multiple structures, and connection to the river as well. The form evolves into a wavy form as it strives to create movement on the site and push people along a path. This is when spaces began to be fully realized inside as well and spatial layouts became much more concrete. The forms continues to be tweaked as the program evolves as well as thoughts on how interaction with the site and city itself change. The site is beginning to be further developed as well and a concrete plan of how the spaces function inside becomes of highest importance for future work.

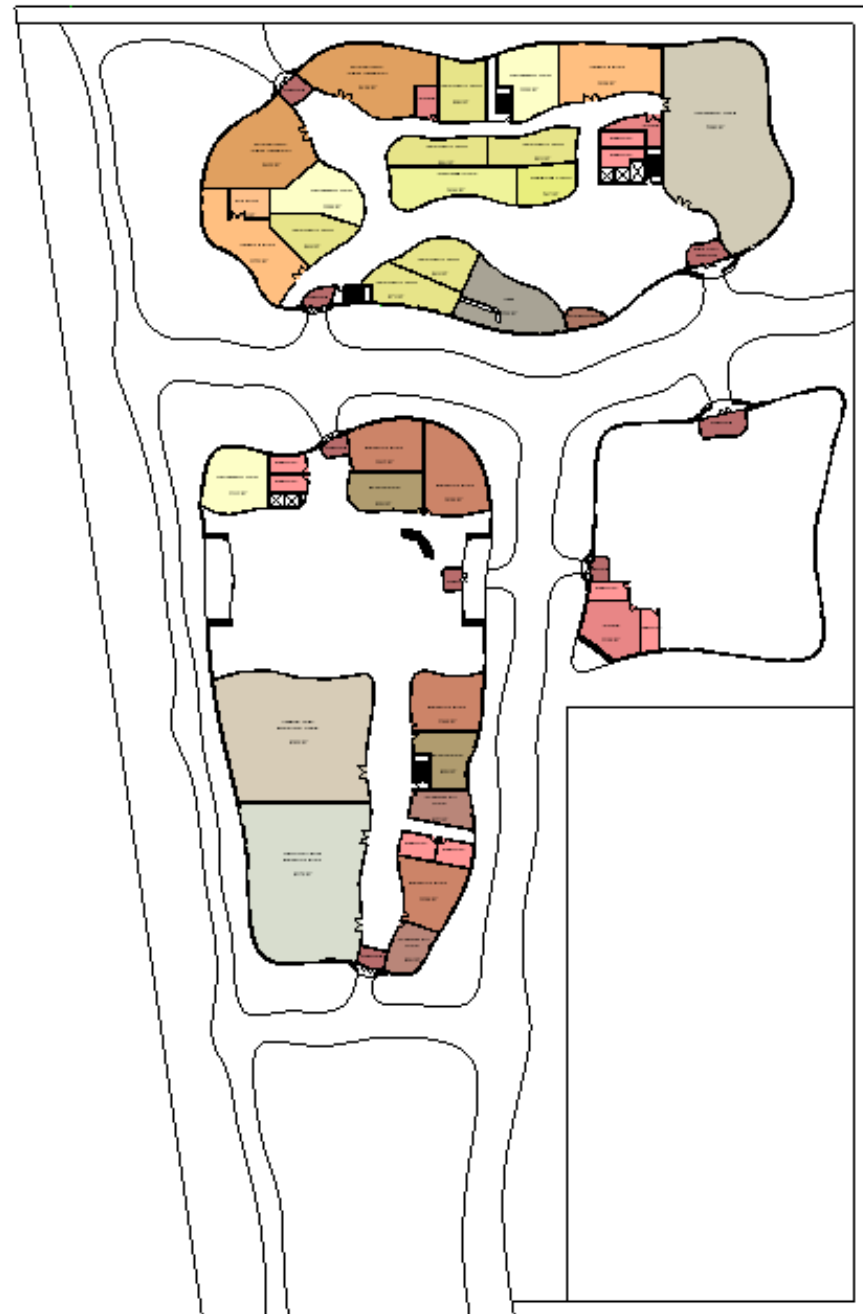


Figure 87

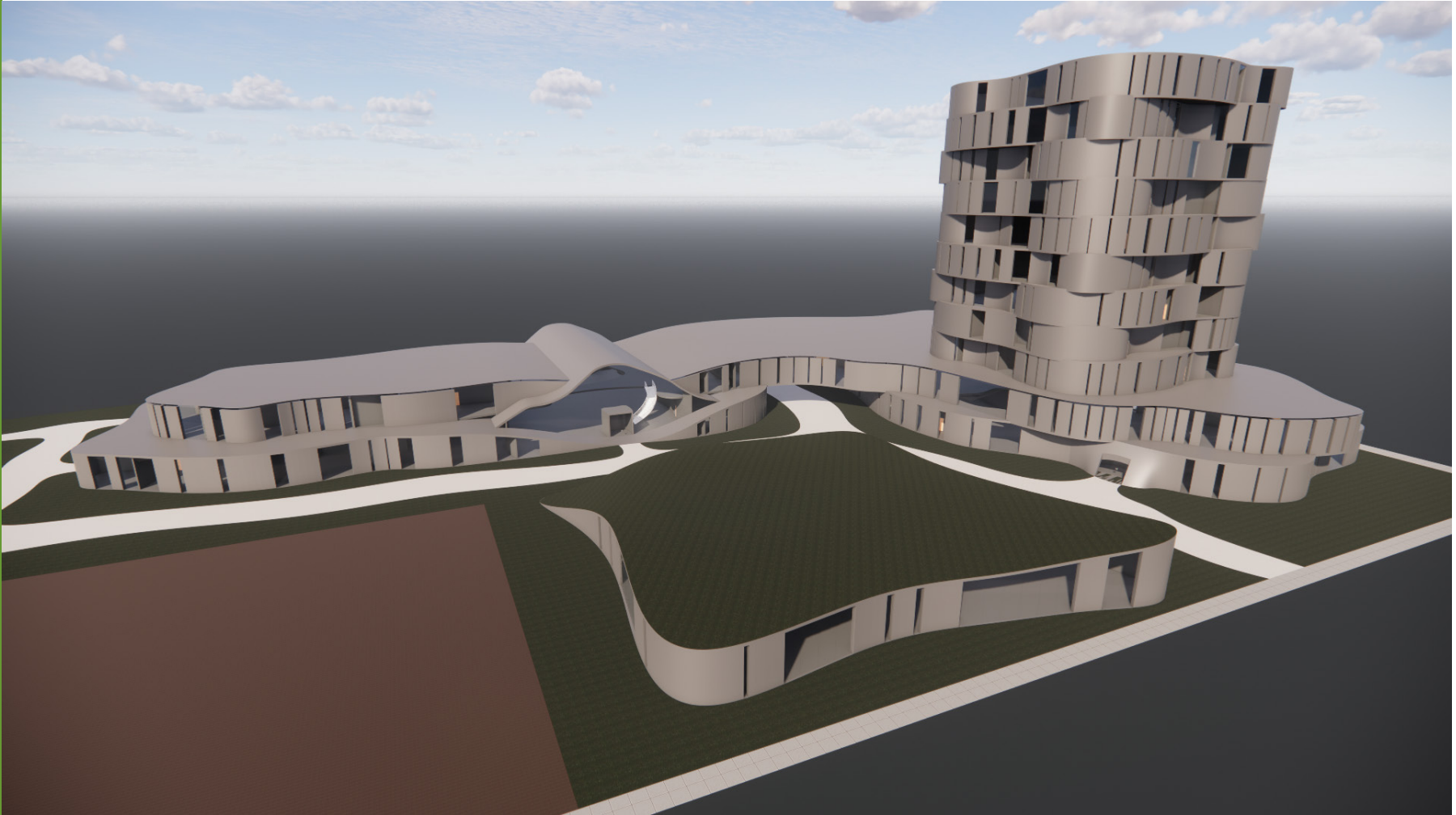


Figure 88

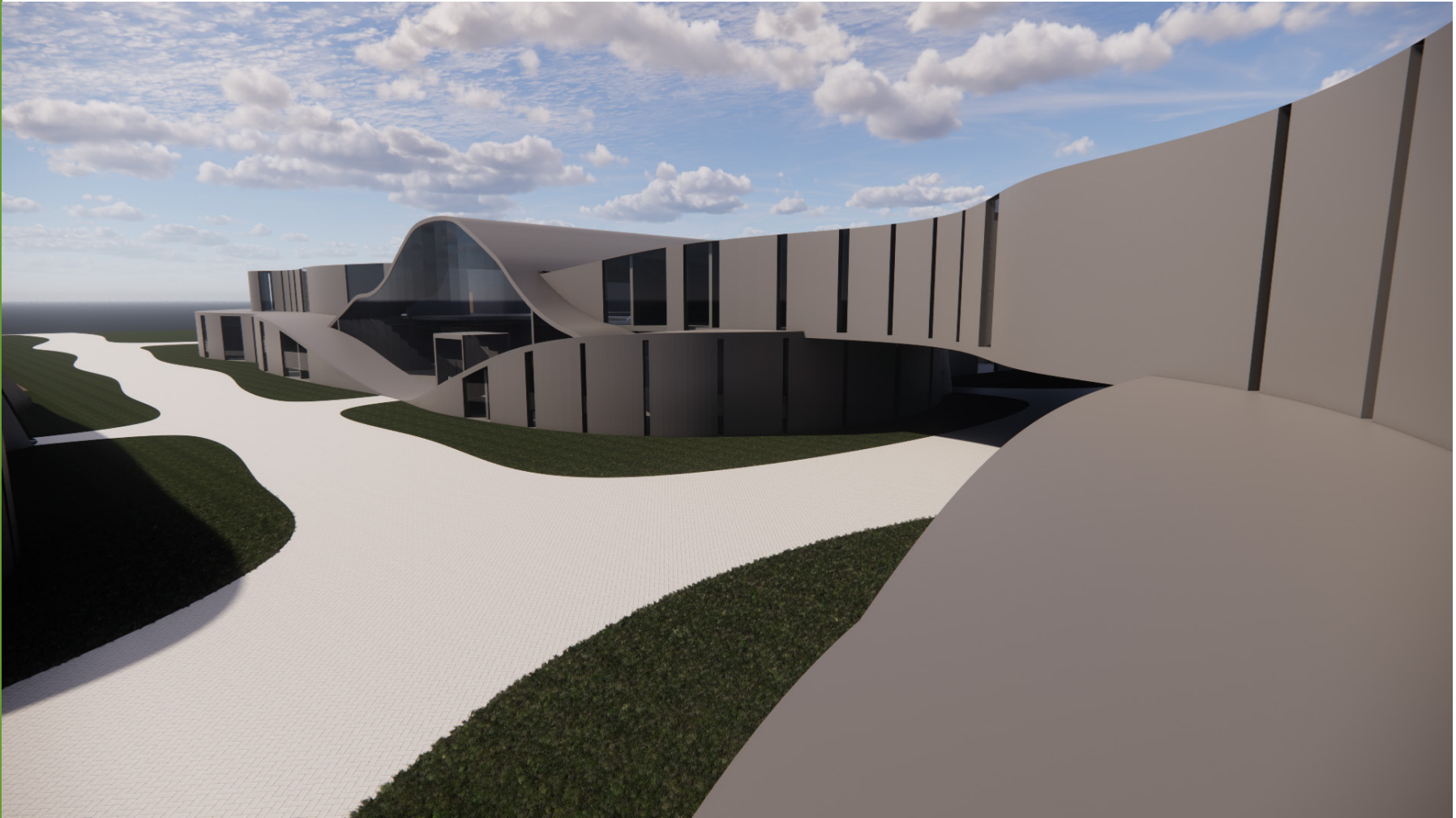


Figure 90

Design Solution



A landing and gathering center for the city of Chicago that focuses on bringing people together through a variety of needs and activities

Shelter



Figure 92

Resources & Services



Figure 9.3

Skills & Hobbies



Figure 94



Figure 95

Coming Together

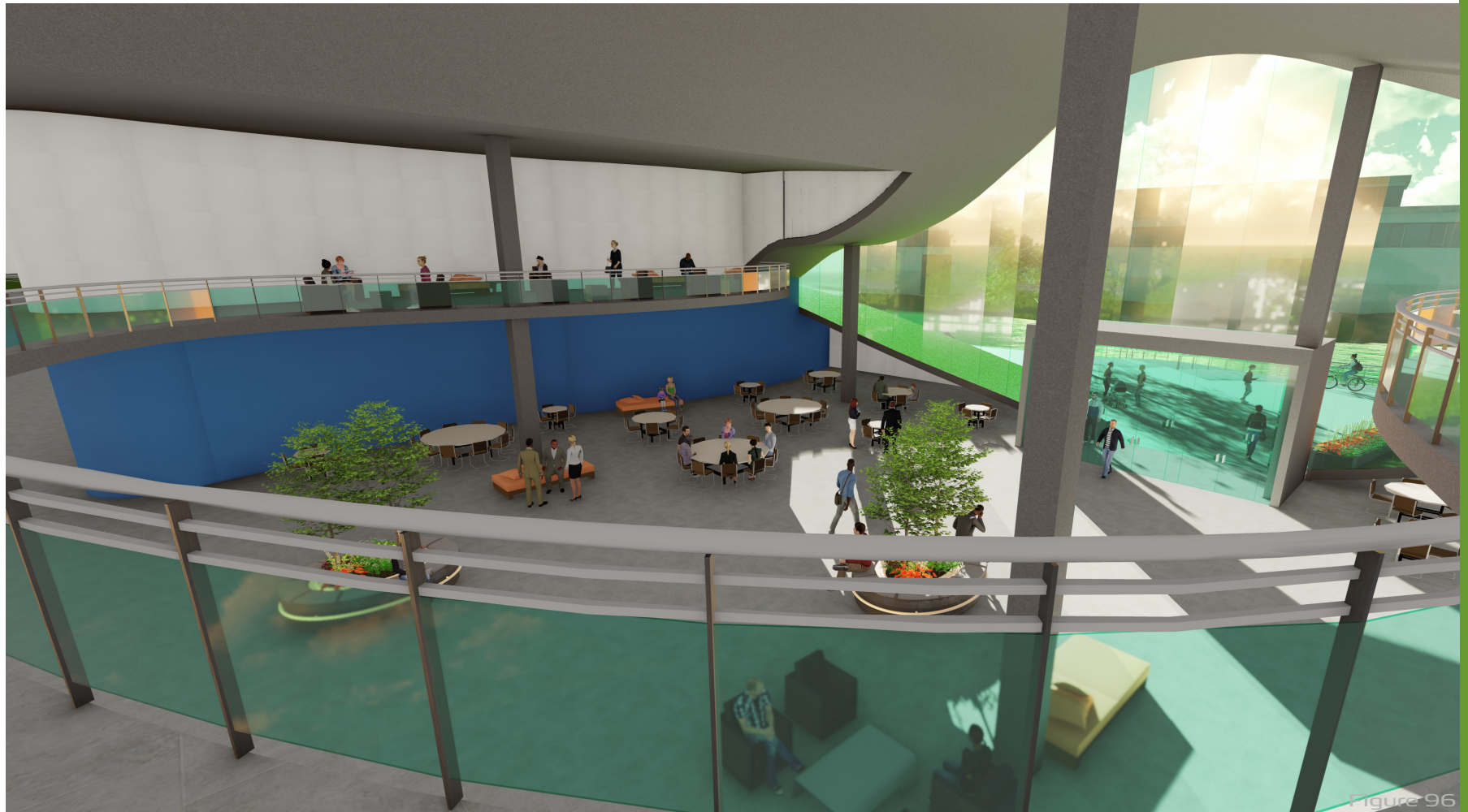


Figure 96

Local Goods



Figure 97

Business



Figure 98

Art & Culture



Figure 99

Connectivity

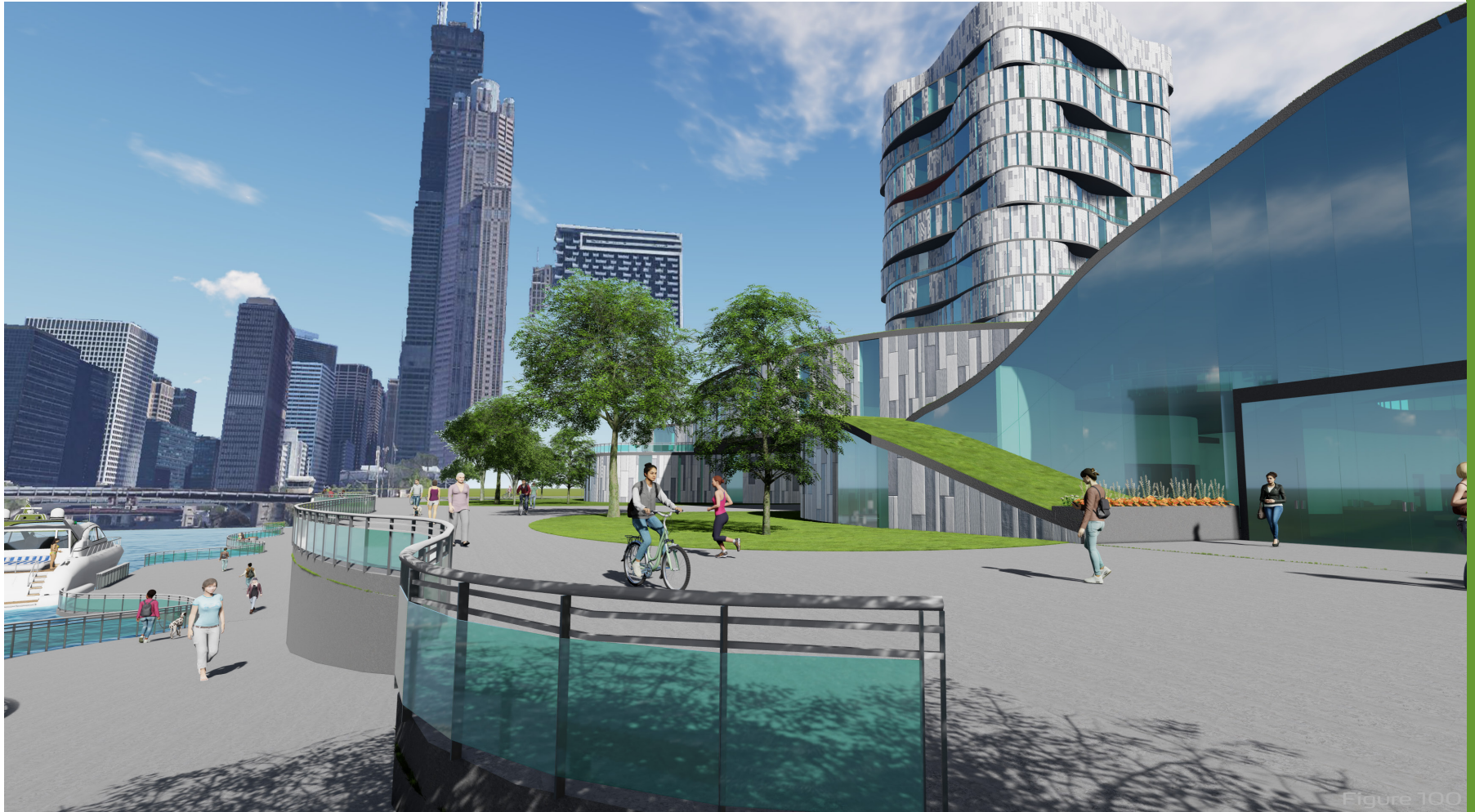


Figure 100

Walkability

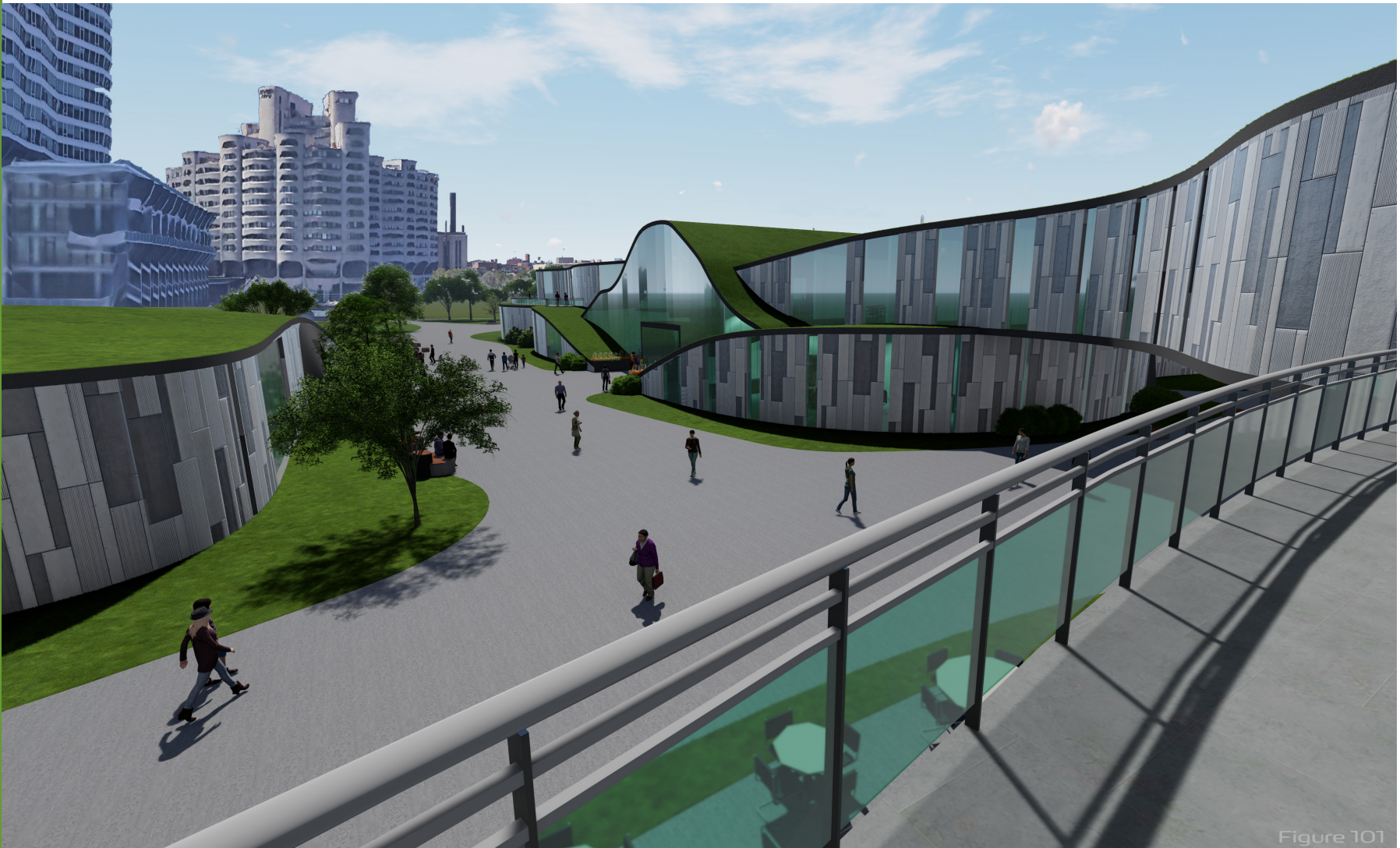


Figure 101

Site Plan

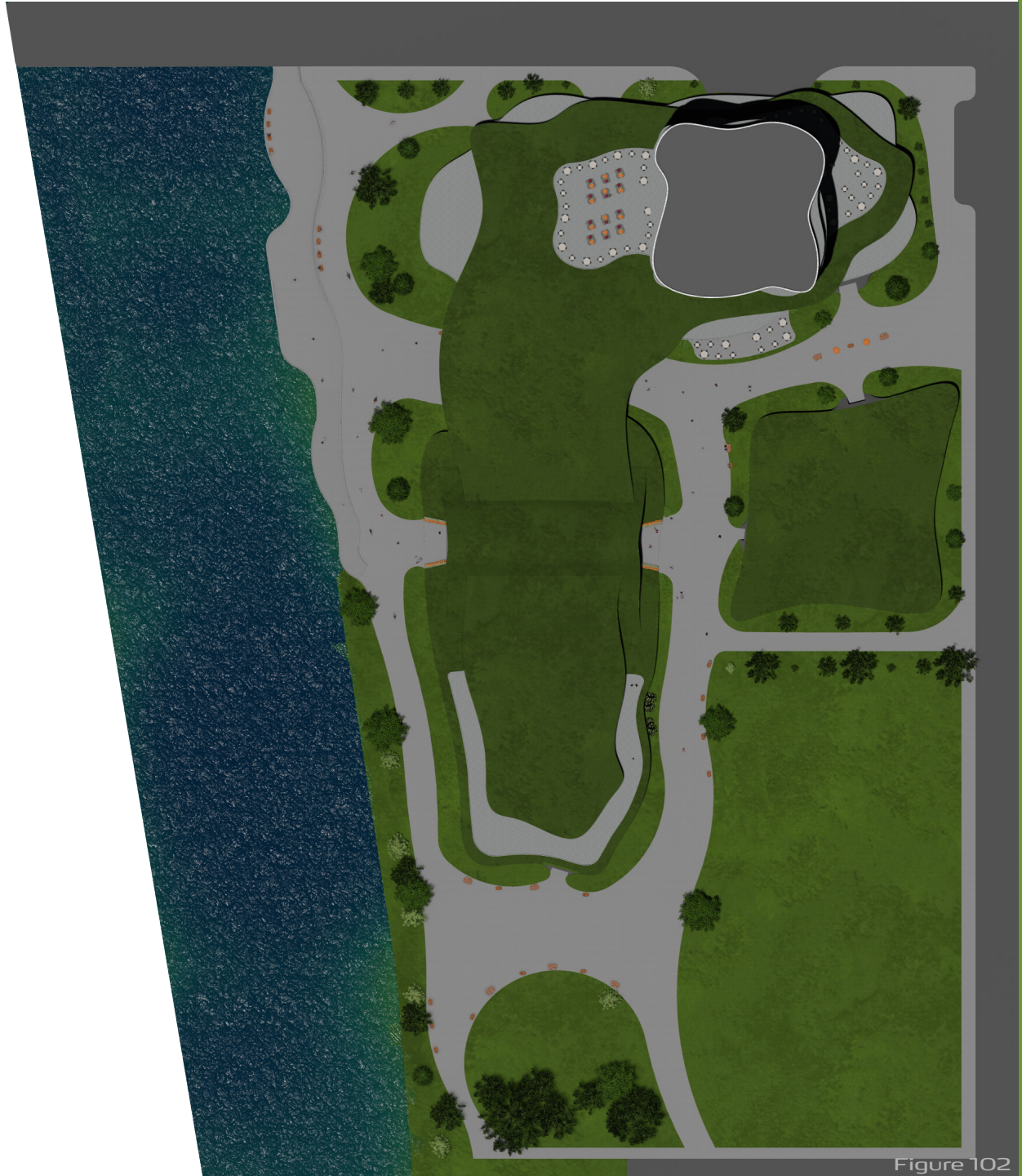
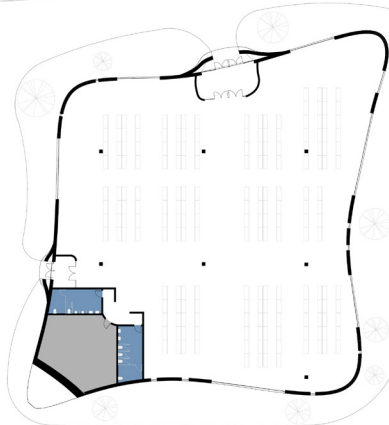
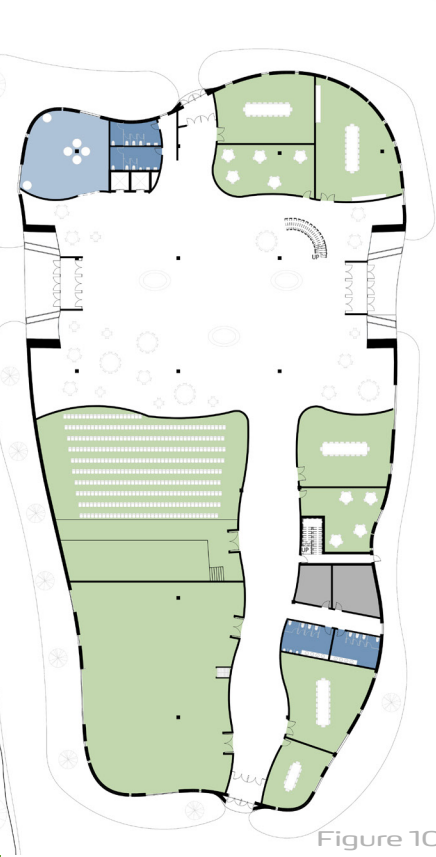
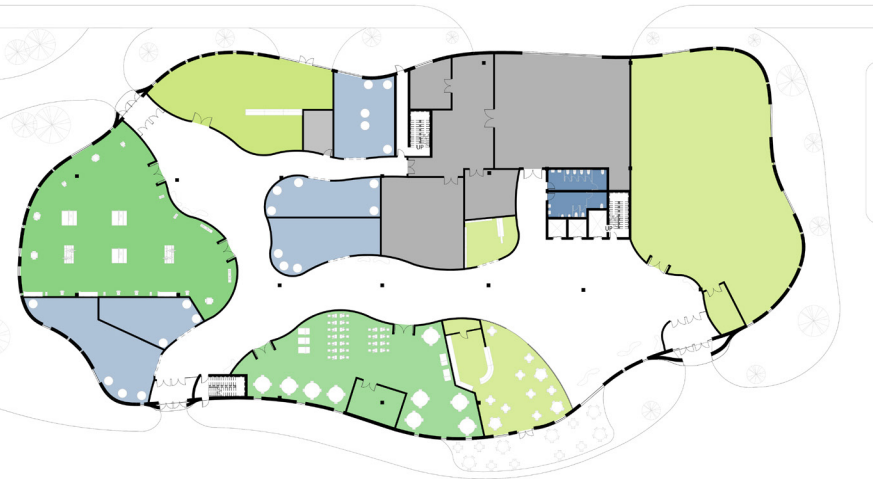


Figure 102



- Classrooms
- Exhibits
- Business Spaces
- Restrooms
- Storage

Figure 103

First Floor Plan



Figure 104

Second Floor Plan

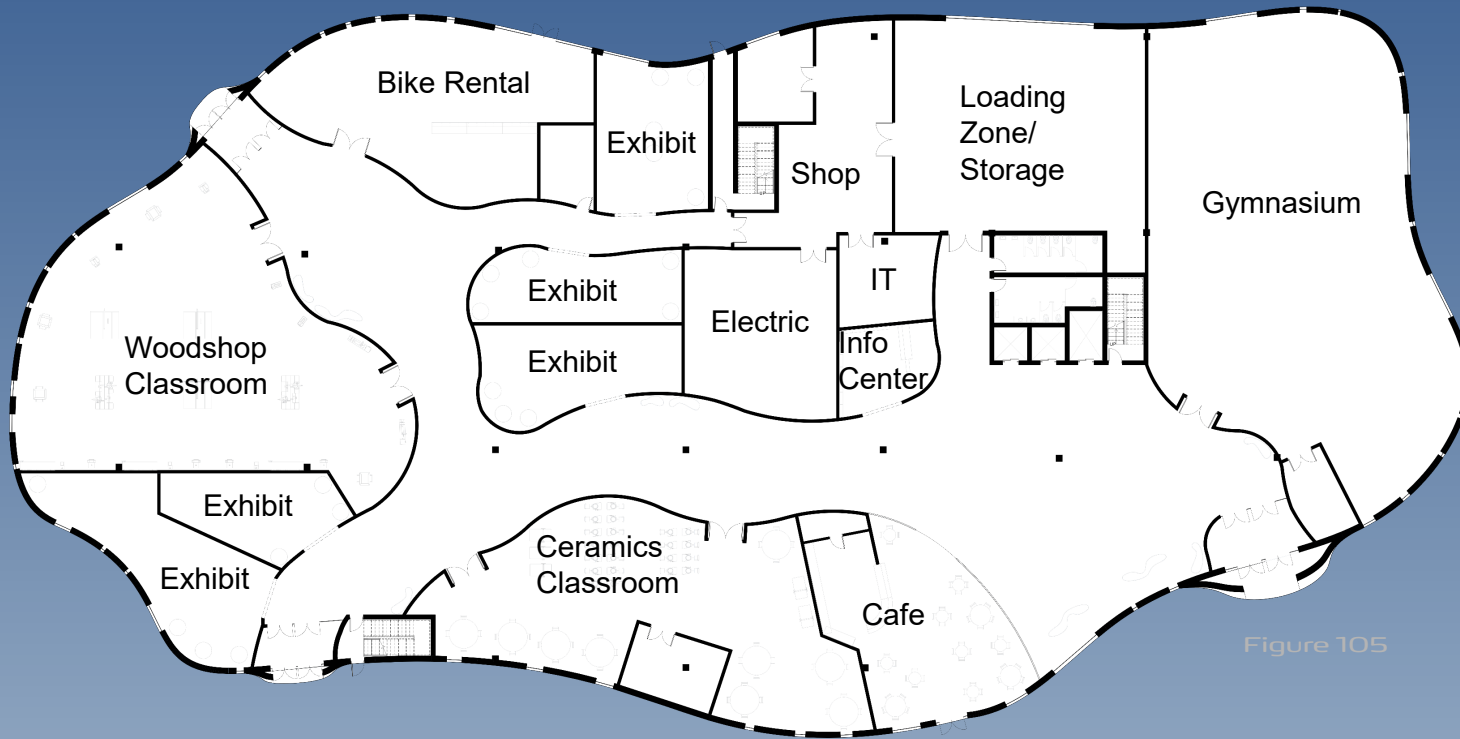
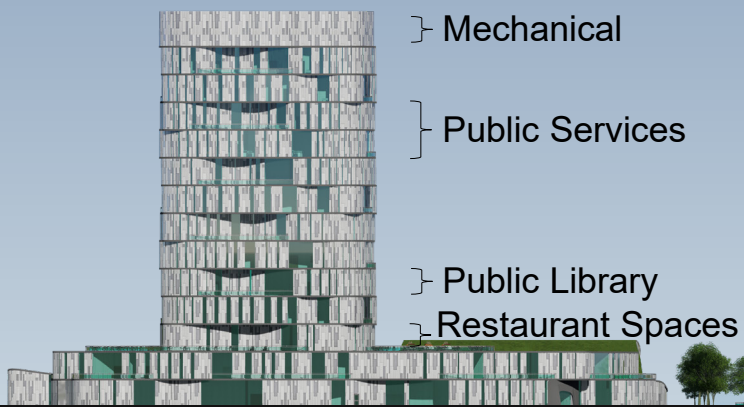


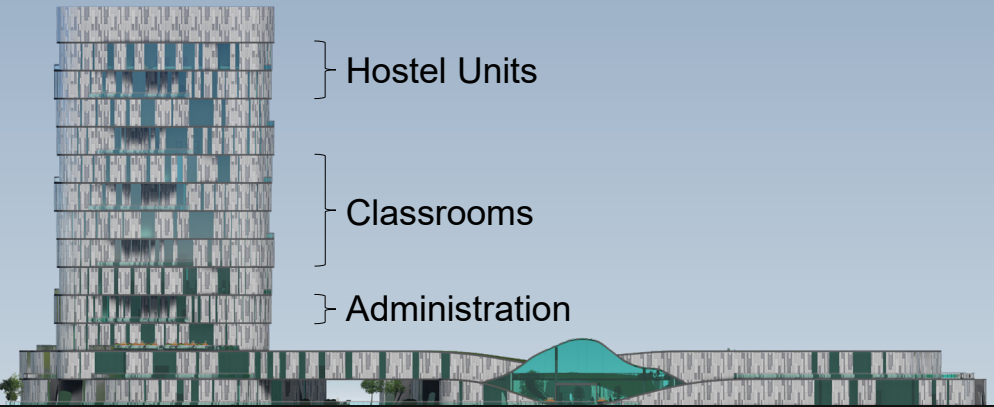
Figure 105

First Floor Zoom-in



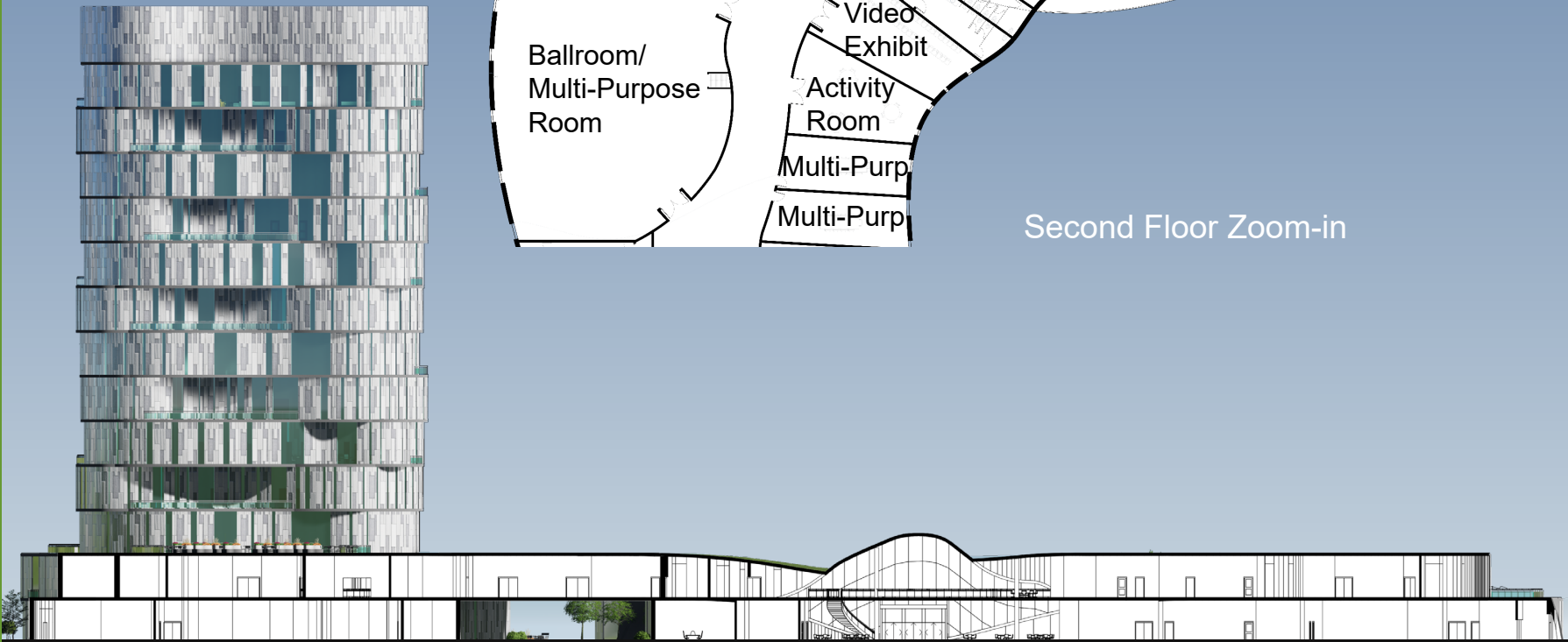
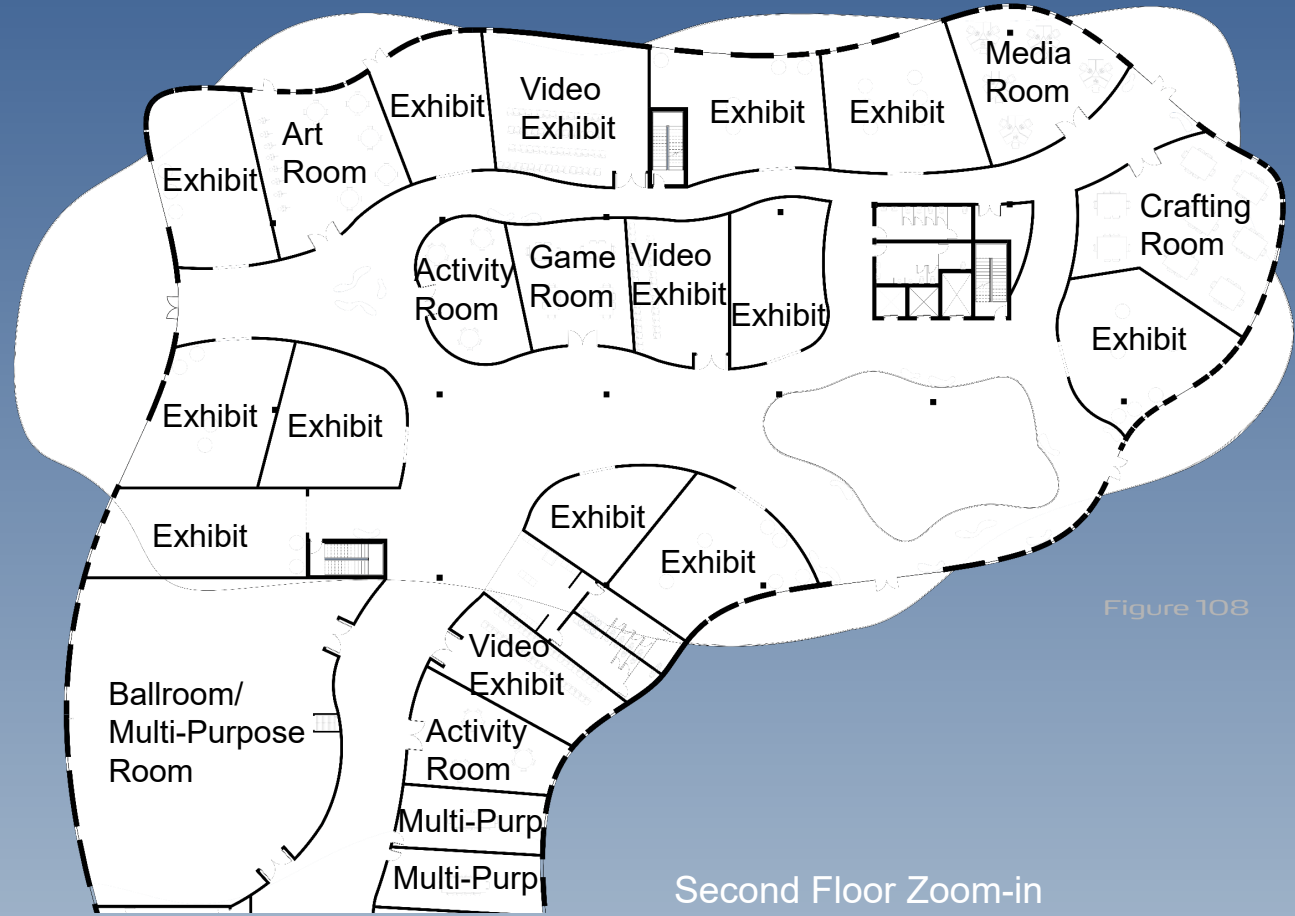
North Elevation

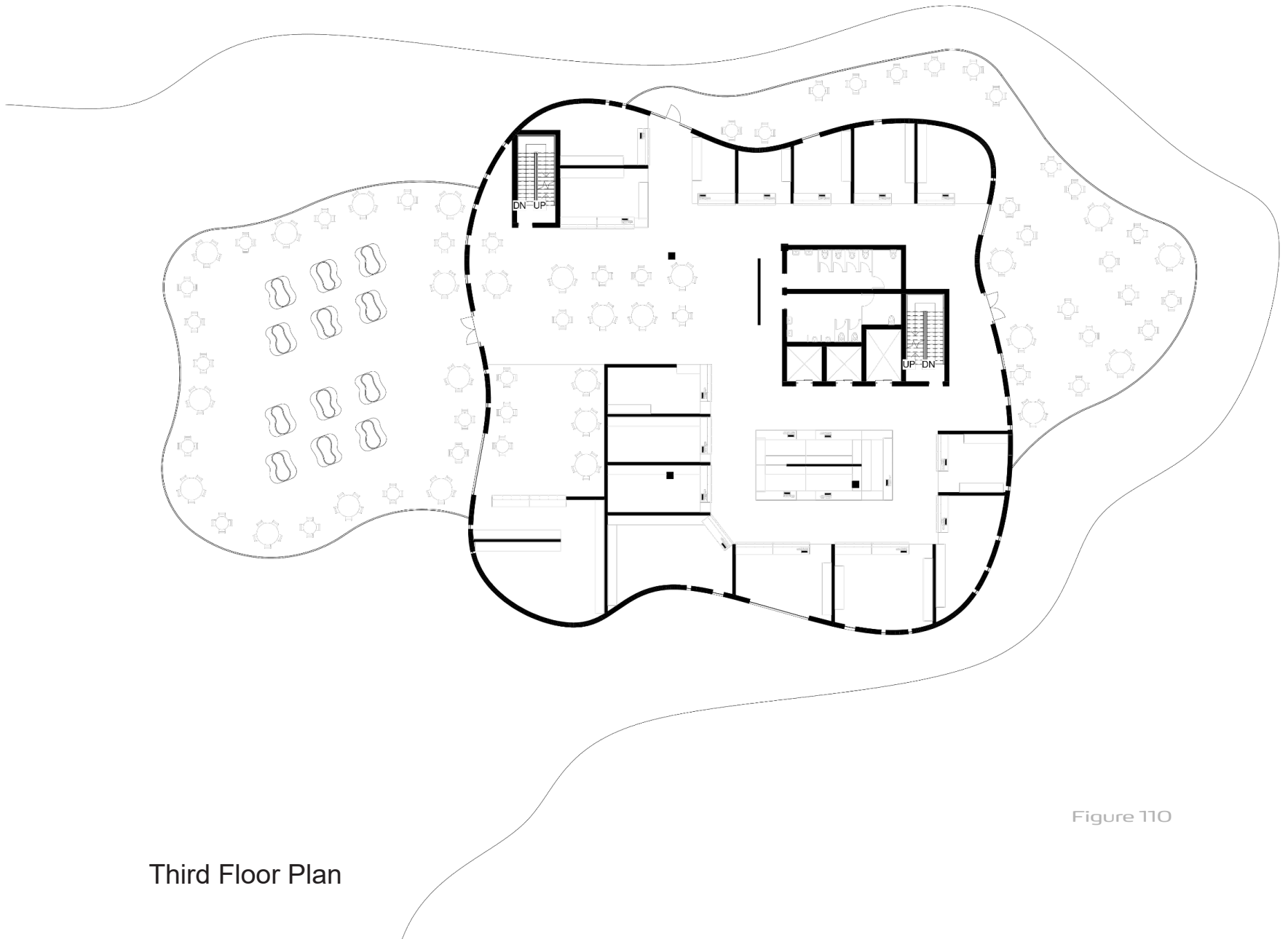
Figure 106



West Elevation

Figure 107





Third Floor Plan

Figure 110

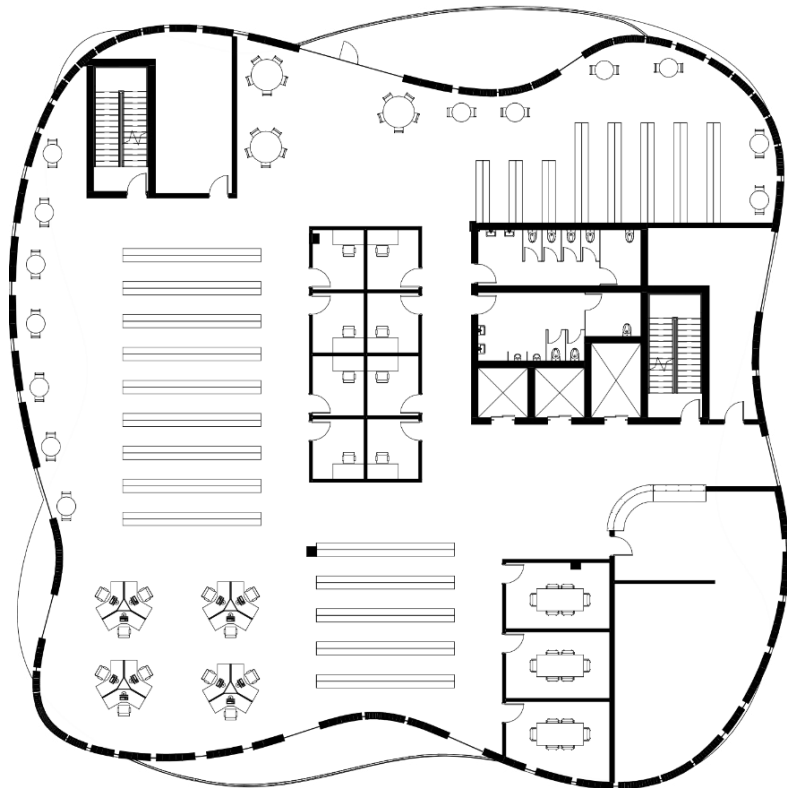


Figure 111

Fifth Floor Plan

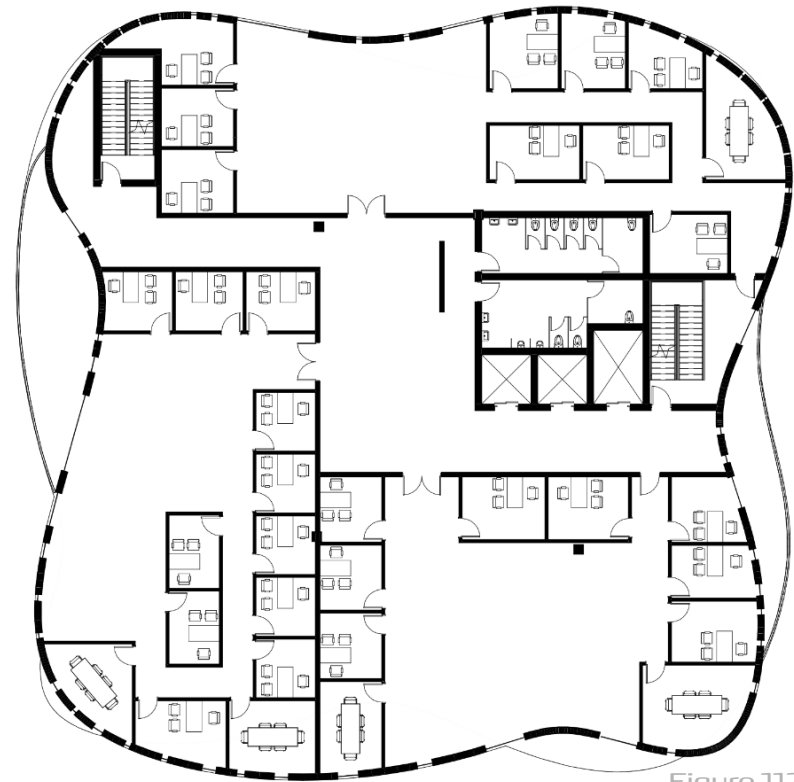
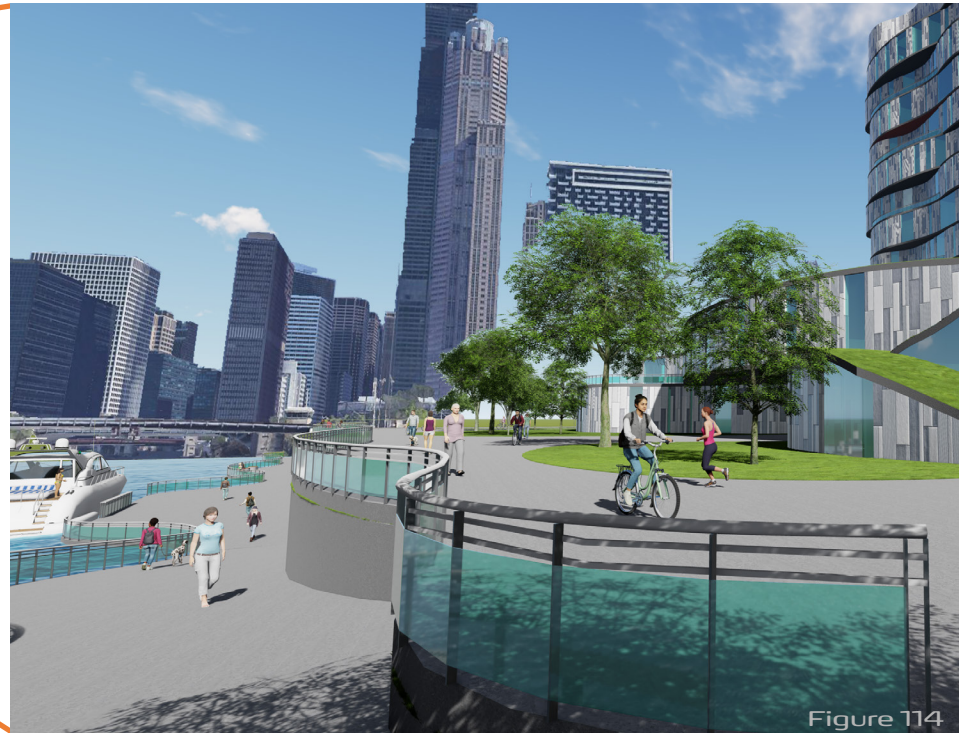
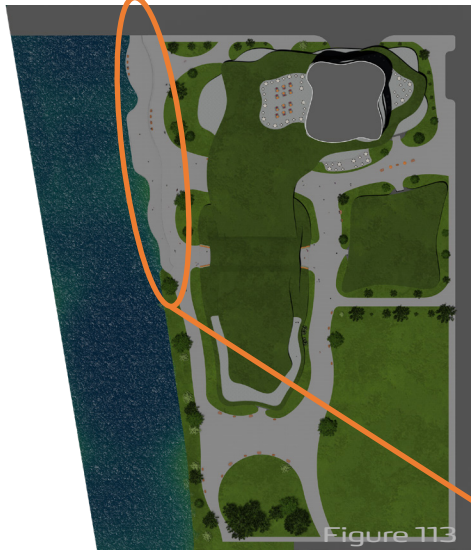


Figure 112

Tenth Floor Plan

Performance Analysis

Resonse to the Site



In resonse to the site and its unique conditions, I provided several design aspects to my solution. Perhaps the most evident is the lowered walkway along the Chicago River. The river is a unique feature for the site and providing a walking space as well as a location for tour boats to stop at adds another layer of connection to the site. I also added new green space as the surrounding sites lack greenery and this is very beneficial so close to the downtown area. I also pulled the major walkways of the site away from the street ot provide a safer area for users.

Response to Goals

Unify People

This project addressed this goal by creating spaces that would bring people together and foster discussion to help people interact.

Help others feel seen

I addressed this goal by providing spaces such as resources for helping people get on their feet. I also provided spaces for creative expression as well as locations that promote art, culture, and local business and goods.

Celebrate our differences

Creating spaces that highlight various cultures and personal art as well as the sale of local goods help celebrate what makes everyone different. Proving areas for exchange and community building help bring people together over our unique pasts.

Enhance the urban fabric of the city

I addressed this goal by creating a project that stands out as an icon while paying tribute to some of the more notable architecture Chicago is known for. This project also serves as a welcome center to the city and helps promote Chicago.

Educate people about others in their community

This project tackled this goal by providing classrooms and exhibit spaces that help educate about the community. I also created spaces where discussion would be welcomed and encouraged between community members.

Create a space for open discussion

I addressed this goal through the creation of many different spaces such as lounges, plazas, meeting rooms, and much more. These locations allows for maximum interaction and exchange between people of various backgrounds and ways of life.

Resonse to Typological Research



Teotitlán del Valle Cultural Center



Flekkefjord Cultural Centre



Oscar Niemeyer Cultural Center

Updated Space Program

Exhibition Spaces

Library

Trading Market

Classrooms

Hostel Roomas

Resources Offices

Restaurant Stalls

Business/Event Spaces

Cafe

Administration & Staff Spaces

Restrooms

Entries

Circulation

Mechanical

Storage



Wagenhallen Stuttgart Cultural Center



Chamanga Cultural Center

When looking at the many typological research studies I did, I learned what spaces were most successful, and different ways of incorporating spaces to maximize communication and culture. The research provided insights into the success of spaces such as classrooms, exhibits, and event spaces, as well as art and culture focused spaces. I also updated my space program with the addition of spaces such as hostel units and public resources offices. These new spaces would help people connect, grow, and learn. These new spaces provided different opportunities for people to interact on more levels, helping foster even more exchange between people.



Space Guy Môquet Cultural Center



Theodor Herzl Center

Critique of Applied Research Methods

I conducted research through several methods mainly focusing on typological research and qualitative research as well as some logical argumentation. Perhaps the most useful of these was the typological research which provided direct examples of similar projects around the world and how they functioned, and what aspects made them successful. This provided great insight into my design program and how different spaces could maximize user interaction in new ways I had previously not considered as well as showing what specific spaces were most successful for these projects and why. I also learned heavily through qualitative research and studies done by researchers on different aspects of my design concept such as compassion, spatial layouts, and how community spaces play a role in the overall well-being of a society. These primary research methods greatly influenced my overall design solution and helped create a more well-rounded project with greater insight and understanding of the various elements and factors that influence the overall concept of this project.



Shelter

People gather and interact in shelter spaces. These spaces provide a place to rest, recharge and connect with others. These spaces are designed to be flexible and adaptable to the needs of the community. They are designed to be a place where people can find support and resources.



Resources & Services

Resources and services are provided to support the needs of the community. These spaces are designed to be flexible and adaptable to the needs of the community. They are designed to be a place where people can find support and resources.



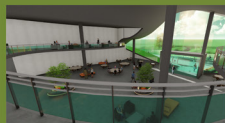
Skills & Training

Skills and training are provided to support the needs of the community. These spaces are designed to be flexible and adaptable to the needs of the community. They are designed to be a place where people can find support and resources.



Food

Food is provided to support the needs of the community. These spaces are designed to be flexible and adaptable to the needs of the community. They are designed to be a place where people can find support and resources.



Coming Together

Coming together is provided to support the needs of the community. These spaces are designed to be flexible and adaptable to the needs of the community. They are designed to be a place where people can find support and resources.



Local Goods

Local goods are provided to support the needs of the community. These spaces are designed to be flexible and adaptable to the needs of the community. They are designed to be a place where people can find support and resources.



Business

Business is provided to support the needs of the community. These spaces are designed to be flexible and adaptable to the needs of the community. They are designed to be a place where people can find support and resources.



Art

Art is provided to support the needs of the community. These spaces are designed to be flexible and adaptable to the needs of the community. They are designed to be a place where people can find support and resources.



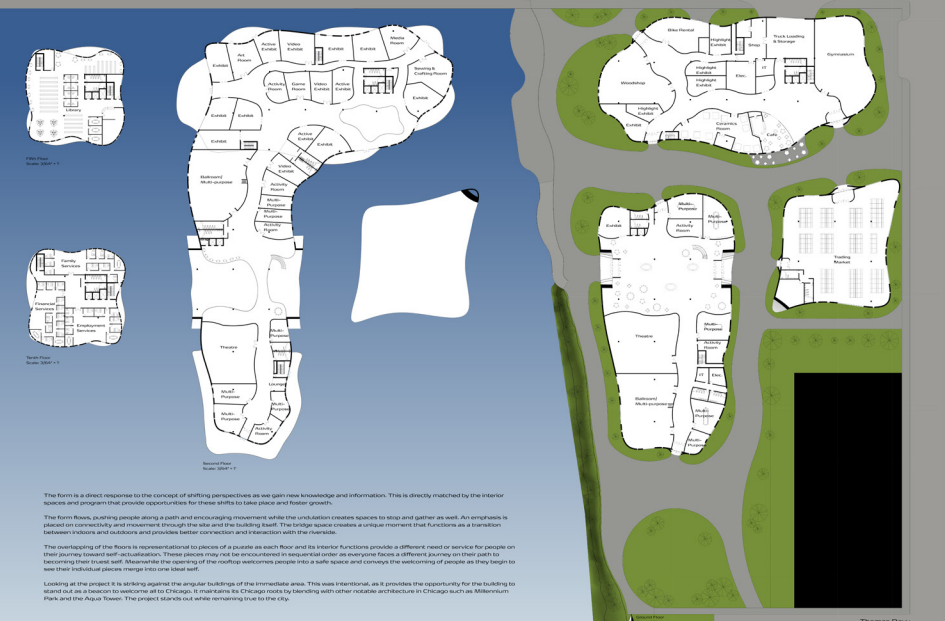
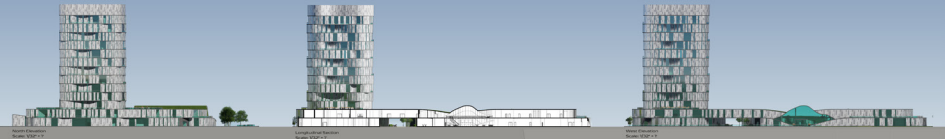
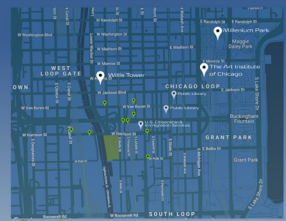
Community, Culture, & Compassion: Creating Space For Exchange & Community Building

Creating a landing spot and gathering place for the city. Providing space for engagement, new opportunities for personal growth, and expanding community knowledge.

Every person has a different background and personal perspective. This background shapes how we perceive and interact with others in our daily lives. Our shared spaces and experiences shift our perspectives and make us more understanding and compassionate to those with whom we interact. Our community is richer because of the diversity of backgrounds and experiences that we bring to the table.

Many people often feel misunderstood and isolated within the places they live. This may be due to social segregation, misperceptions, cultural differences, or various other personal or community aspects. However, most people have needs within a community that can be met with the right space.

Providing a space for people to connect through a variety of needs, from enjoying a meal together to crafting and learning with others, helps us better understand and appreciate the diversity of our community. A community can serve the need for authenticity, connection, privacy, security, and culture. This project provides opportunity to meet a variety of these needs as one heads toward self-actualization and becoming our best selves together.



The form is a direct response to the concept of shifting perspectives as we gain new knowledge and information. This is directly matched by the interior spaces and program that provide opportunities for these shifts to take place and foster growth.

The form flows, curving gently along a path and encouraging movement within the circulation creates spaces to stop and gather as well. An emphasis is placed on connectivity and movement through the site and the building itself. The bridge space creates a unique moment that functions as a transition between visitors and visitors and provides better connection and interaction with the building.

The overlapping of the floors is representative of pieces of a puzzle as each floor and the interior functions provide a different need or service for people on their journey toward self-actualization. These pieces may not be encountered in sequential order as everyone faces a different journey on their path to becoming their true self. Meanwhile the spacing of the shifting volumes provide for a safe space and convey the intention of people as they begin to see their individual pieces merge into one ideal self.

Looking at the project is like seeing a puzzle that angular buildings in the immediate area. This was intentional as it provides the opportunity for the building to stand out as a beacon to welcome all to Chicago, it maintains its Chicago roots by blending with other notable architecture in Chicago such as Millennium Park and the Aqua Tower. The project stands out while remaining true to the city.

Figure 122

The Appendix

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Previous Studio Experience

Second Year

Fall 2017

Darryl Booker

Tea House Project

Boathouse Project

Spring 2018

Milt Yergens

Dwelling Project

Mixed-Use Project

Third Year

Fall 2018

Mark Barnhouse

Wood Project

Masonry Project

Spring 2019

Regin Schwaen

Steel Project

Concrete Project

Fourth Year

Fall 2019

Amar Hussein

Highrise Project

Spring 2020

Amar Hussein

Marvin Windows Project

Urban Design Project

Fifth Year

Fall 2020

Ganapathy Mahalingam

App Design Project