

FOSTERING COMMUNITY

A Design Thesis by Reanna Lardy

FOSTERING COMMUNITY

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

By
Reanna Lardy

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 2022

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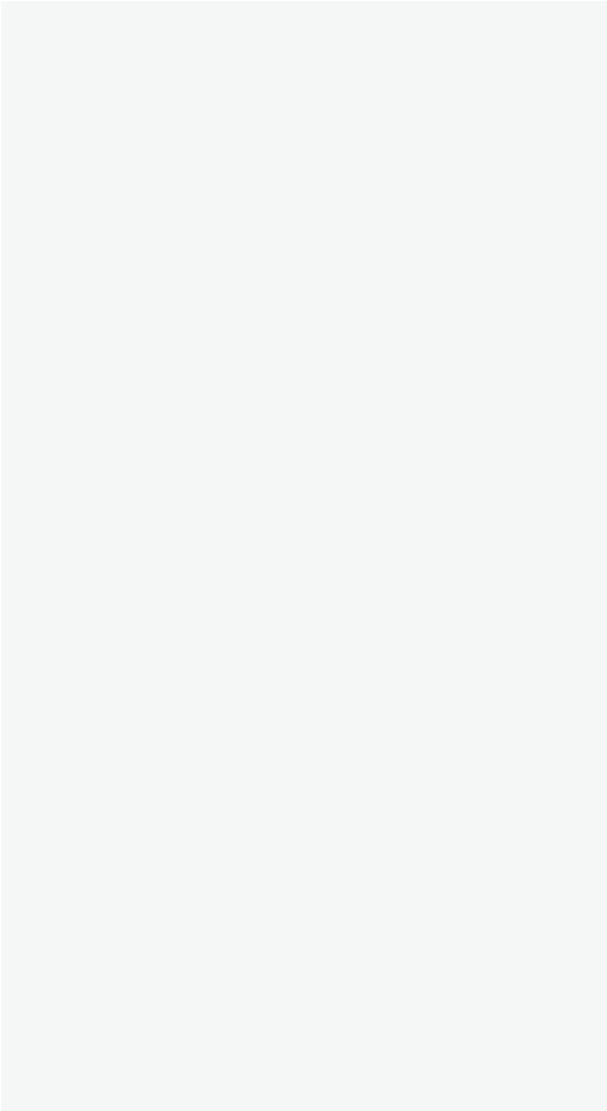
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Thesis Proposal

Abstract



Foster Care is an extremely prevalent thing in today's society. On any given day, there are nearly 424,000 children in foster care in the United States. In 2019, over 672,000 children spent time in U.S. foster care. With these numbers, 1 in 4 foster children become homeless after aging out of the foster care system. This project will be focusing specifically on children/young adults who become homeless after they age out of the foster care system. I am wanting to design a space for living but also create a sense of community. I want to give opportunity to these young adults to have a place to finally call home, even if it's just for a year or two until they get steady on their feet.

I don't want this design to be similar to the typical architecture of a shelter. I want to break stigma's that are usually held with shelters, low-income housing, etc. Rather than designing with cheap materials, easy floor plans, and minimal aesthetic, I want to design a welcoming, innovative community. With this being said, I will be designing residential as well as a commercial use community. I will be using factual statistics to determine the best solutions as well as personal interviews in order to get the best knowledge and information out of my research.



“All I did was
turn 18.”



Community

welcoming
environment
for all

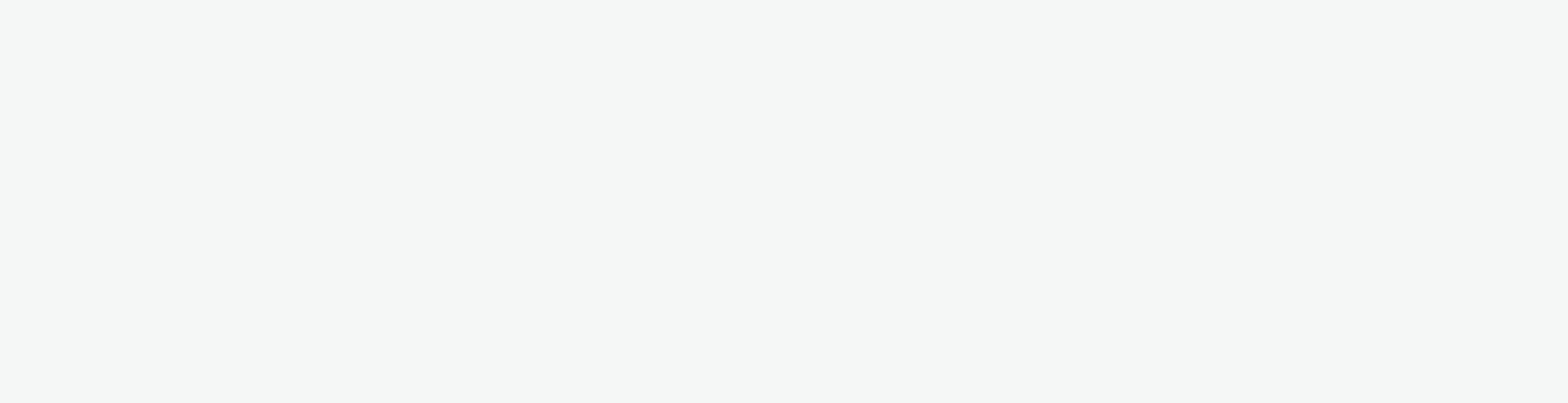
Narrative

Living in the Midwest my whole life and having very limited travel experience, I had my first major insight into the problem of homelessness when we visited Chicago on our class trip. I have never been exposed to such living conditions, feeling almost sheltered from reality. Going into the field of architecture, it's always been my goal to make someone's life better, even if that's for 20 seconds of their day. I want to see the change happening just as much as I want to be a part of the change. I know that architecture and design can shape the future in a meaningful way for many people, as I want it to shape the way for homeless youth. I want to explore different ideas and solutions, while still considering the practicality of it all through my thesis. I also want to explore different ways design can be implemented within cities and communities, alleviating this issue and creating more of a welcoming environment for all.

Project Typology

I will be focusing on short term housing that has the potential to transfer into long term housing. With immediate short-term housing, it will give the youth time to settle and find a constant in their life without having to worry about paying for a roof over their head. I want to also offer the opportunity for that short-term stay to transfer into something more long term, if wanted by the client. Giving this opportunity, those who may still need connections and help within the community can move to a more permanent residence. With that, I will also be focusing on commercial spaces, community spaces, and sustainable landscape and building design elements throughout. I will utilize the commercial spaces for needs within the community as well as needs outside of it.





Things to Consider:

Personal Impact: I want this project to positively impact the lives of those who need this type of community. I want to create a space where they feel like they can find a home there and/or get a start on their life without anything holding them back. I want to give them opportunities they may never have had before this project, succeeding in changing their paths in a positive direction.

Project Impact: Considering those outside of this project and client, I want to make an impact on the city this project will be based in. Benefiting not only this project and its users, providing a sense of community outside this project will be key in the client's future success in this location.

Project Typology: Large scale mixed-use community

Community Needs: Thinking of the needs of the residents, the commercial spaces will support programs that will be beneficial to the users. Within that, it may consist of libraries, computer labs, study rooms, grocery stores, counseling centers, activity center, and more. These will not only be open and encouraged for residents but will also be open to the surrounding public to act as a connector between the community within and the community surrounding.

Sustainable Strategies: Using precedent studies to support conclusions, the community will practice sustainable solutions to not only benefit its users but also the city it resides in.

Typology Precedents

Buildings and designs that will help me with aspects of my project:

Hilda L. Solis Care First Village (HSCFV)

WE Architecture + Erik Juul's Jagtvej 69 in Copenhagen

Chandler Boulevard Bridge Home Village

MLK1101 Supportive Housing

Homed (Framlab)

Pacific Garden Mission

Sarah's Hope Homeless Shelter

Landing Road Residence

Organizations I would like to talk with (list will continue to grow and change as more research is completed):

Humble Design (Non-profit in Chicago)

Chicago Tiny House Inc. (Non-profit in Chicago)

Bike & Build, Inc.

Rebuilding Together Philadelphia

Major Project Elements

Residential (Short Term + Long Term)

Many design considerations will be made when considering the residential areas. Major research considerations will revolve around user comfort and program flexibility. Considering the importance and effect of separating short term and long term spaces will be a design element that will require more exploration.

Public Outdoor Community Space

With the site being within a large city, I want to provide public outdoor space to encourage collaboration between residents as well as between the surrounding neighborhood. Within this design, consideration will go to outdoor space that creates a welcoming space for all.

Mixed-Use Offices

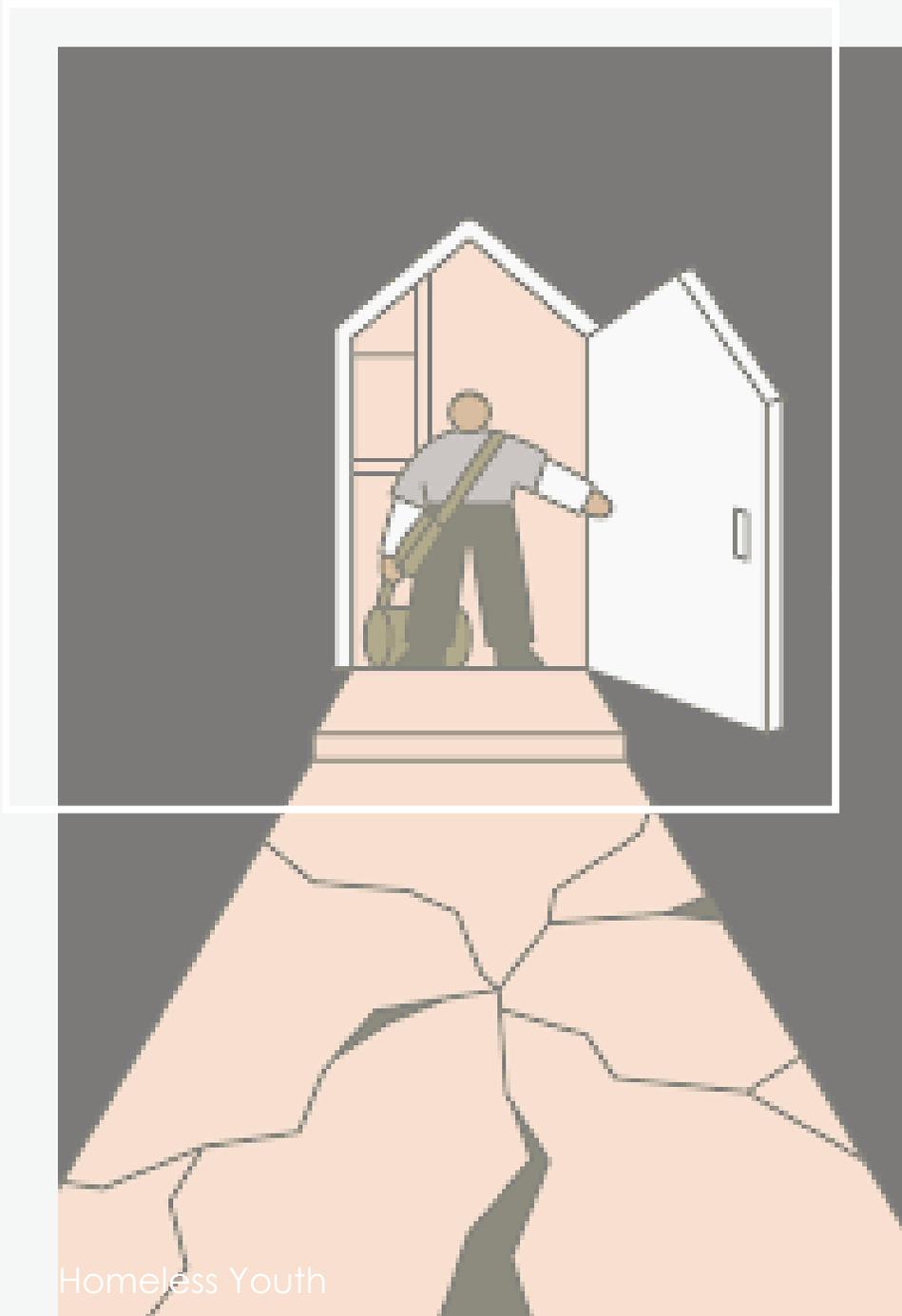
To support the programs within the community, offices and additional spaces will be needed to act out the expectations of those working. This includes (but is not limited to) officer for social workers, program directors, building management, and more.

Mixed-Use Spaces

With the consideration of the programs that could and should be present on my site, I think focusing on uses that could benefit both inside and outside community will be prevalent. A library, study spaces, grocery access, etc. will all be considered in researching the need of the client and users.

Counseling Center

Considering the likelihood of the mental, physical, and psychological state of some youth who are coming out of foster care, a counseling center will be their main resource of need. Creating a space where people feel safe will be the need of this specific design aspect.



Homeless Youth

Client/User Description

Homeless youth aging/aged out of foster care

My main target user will mainly be youth that have the risk of falling completely homeless after they age out of foster care. Though some have a plan and a place to go once reaching 18 years of age, a lot do not. This community is geared towards supplying them with the necessary things in order for them to succeed post foster care.

The neighboring communities

The public surrounding this site will also be a user. Creating spaces for the two users to interact is a large part of my design and will be beneficial for both.

Workers within the community

To keep the community running and thriving, workers and volunteers will be a large part of the functionality of the design. The design will be geared to creating safe and collaborative environments for all as well as encouraging inclusive experiences for all that enter the site.

Project Site

Location

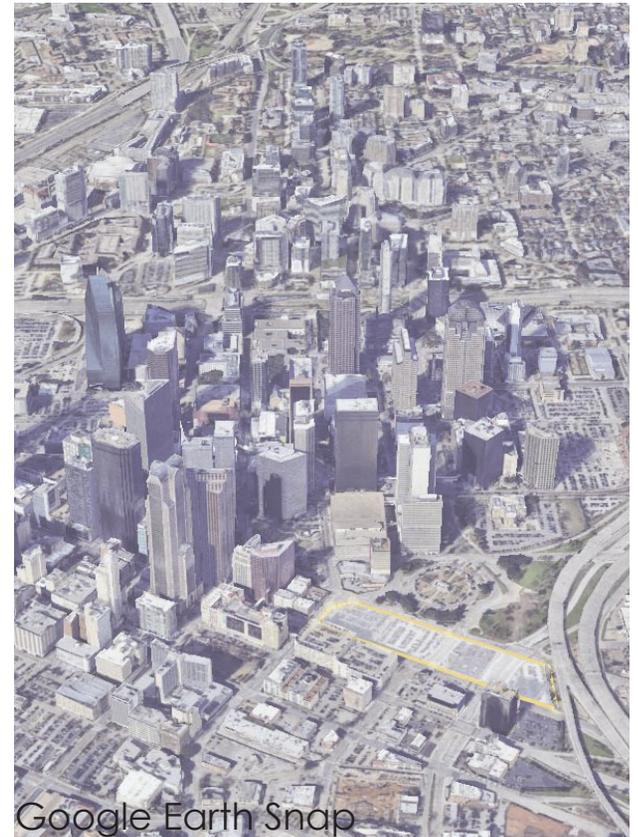
210 Olive St, Dallas, TX 75201
Dallas Downtown Historic District

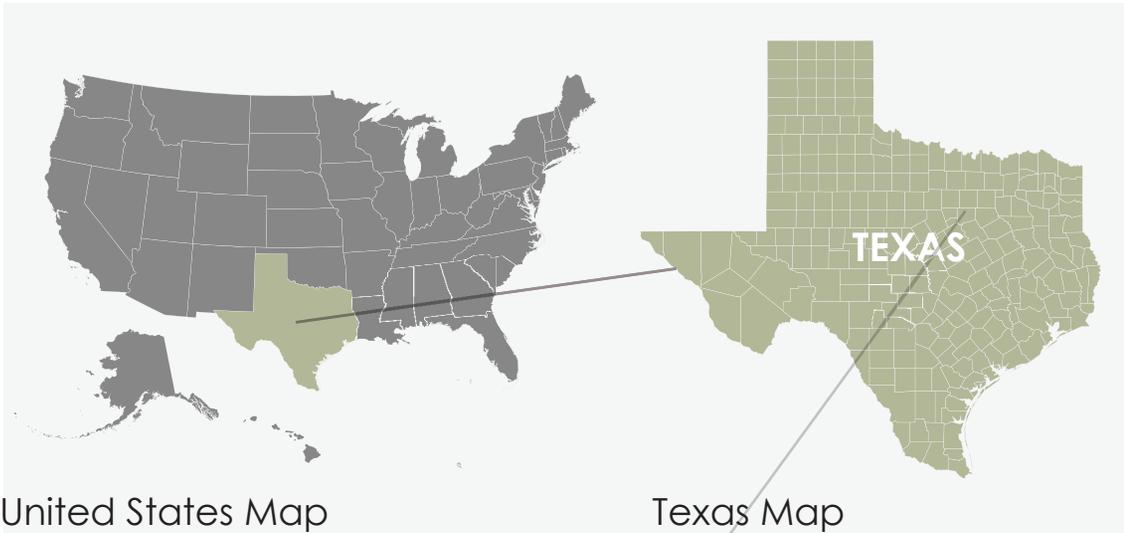
Reason for choosing this site

When thinking about my site and doing some research on where the best location would be for something like this, my options were endless. Unfortunately, this is an issue everywhere you go, and even more prevalent in the cities with larger populations. I started looking at statistics revolving around homelessness and where the 'hot spots' are. The more I got into that side of site selection I realized I'm just looking at my clients and users as statistics, something they unfortunately will always be being in the foster care system. I moved my focus more towards articles, blogs, etc. to dig deeper into a more personal connection. I discovered an article written a few months ago about a specific individual's experience going through the foster care system. Reading about how some nights (more than you would think) he would sleep in offices on the floor, in churches, and honestly sometimes not even sleep because it would get so lonely. This resonated with me tremendously and I automatically felt like I found the perfect location. Though the article didn't disclose the exact location in Texas, I chose Dallas based on city development and foster care system information.

Site Information

Current Use: 4 parking lots supporting the surrounding businesses
Size: 6.44 Acres





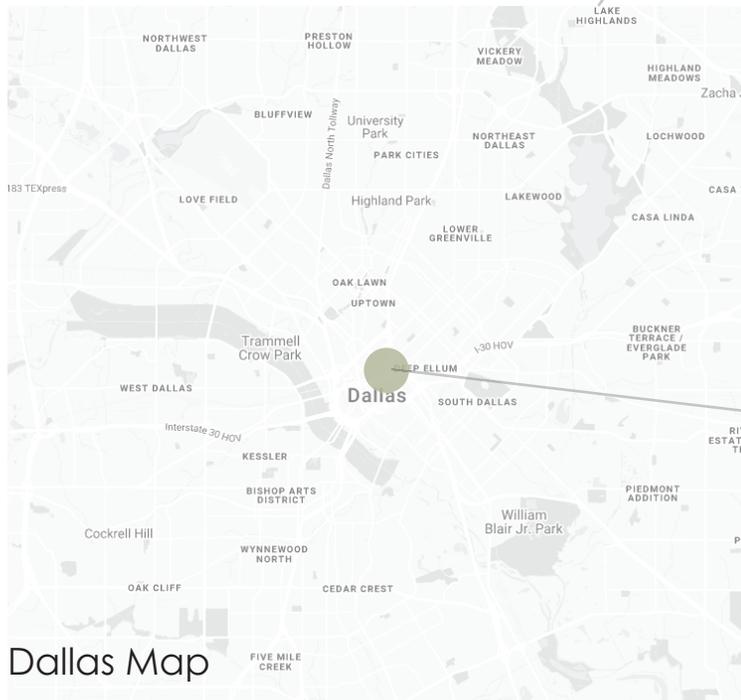
United States Map

Texas Map

Site Benefits + Considerations

The site is very close to a few community college options. I want to research a few ways my community and the local campus communities can collaborate to encourage and provide easy access for higher education for the youth in my community.

With a large bus transfer center across the street, transportation around the city is very accessible to all. Sandwiched between two of the most desired neighborhoods in Dallas, TX for young professionals (Deep Ellum + Uptown), this site offers high job security, easy city access, social opportunity, and more.



Dallas Map



Site Map

Project Emphasis

Collaborating between all typologies

Considering the needs of the site as well as the users, creating a connection between all programs will be extremely influential in the design process and execution. Combining all programs within one community will help create the appropriate atmosphere this site will need.

Creating a safe and welcoming environment

Understanding how these individuals will be entering the site for the first time, creating a welcoming entrance is essential for the innovative future development success. Throughout one's stay in this community, creating a safe environment is one of the most important aspects needed to be focused on throughout the research and design.

Emphasizing sustainable design throughout

Planning for the future, using sustainable design solutions will help further the advancement of this community and assist it in creating a long-lasting environment. Not only within the buildings, but also within the landscape are important pieces of my sustainable design.

Project Goals

1

Connect with people who are familiar with this issue, gathering their knowledge and expertise and use it in a constructive way towards my design.

2

Create a meaningful and impactful project that supports not only the needs of the users but also the wellbeing and livelihood of the users.

3

Personal goals would be to create a thesis I feel proud of, gaining knowledge in this problem, exploring a lot of solution ideas, and hopefully creating a pathway for me to continue growing after this thesis is completed.

4

Focusing on my personal life and doing fun things outside of school. It's so easy to put that on the back burner, but since this is my last year in Fargo I want to make sure I use my time with my friends and the city wisely!

Plan for Proceeding

Design Methodology

I will be using a mixed method approach that will allow me to explore different areas within my thesis topic. I will be investigating different case studies to determine what has been successful in homeless design and what has not been. Different exploration will encourage my path on designing an innovative community that's intended to contribute to a healthier and happier environment than what is typical of today.

Documentation of the Design Process

Physical + Digital Research Components

I want to explore readings, information, and articles available to me in order to fully research my topic. Exploring personal experiences, interviews will be influential so I can give true feeling behind my thesis topic.

Revit + Rhino

Technical software such as revit and rhino will be used as my main source of design implementation. This will allow me to explore my design in a realistic context and help me dive deeper into the details of the design.

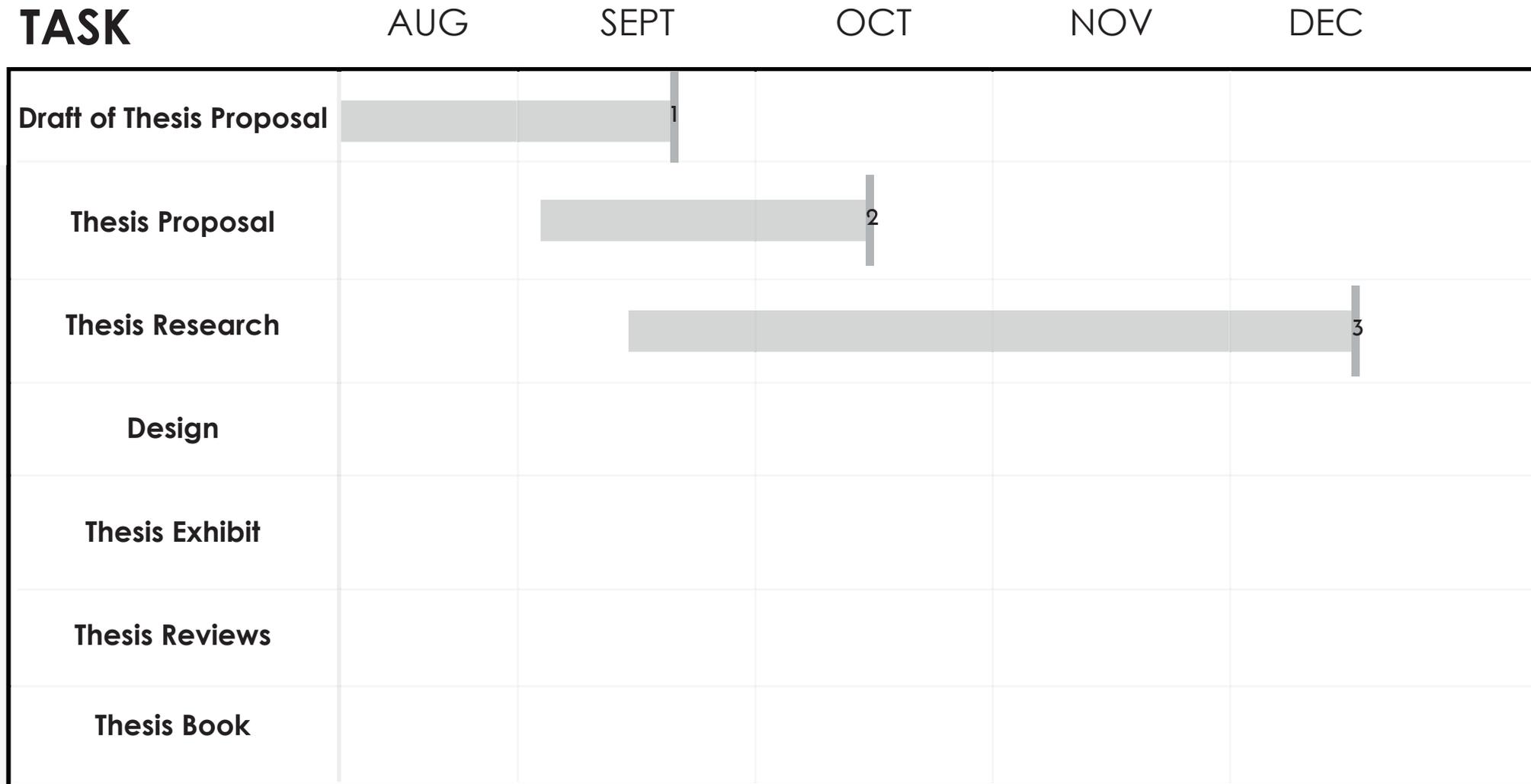
Hand sketching

Sketches and conceptual drawings will be used to display the preliminary design process. I plan to use quick sketch diagrams to plan out early program layouts and quick traffic (pedestrian + vehicular) patterns.

Adobe Suite

Throughout my design, I want to explore my talents of graphic design. Homing in on important aspects, I want to use graphic design to portray information in an easy and cohesive way. Using Adobe Suite will give me the flexibility to design whatever it is I may want/need.

Project Schedule



DEADLINES

1 Sept. 14th

2 Oct. 14th

3 Dec. 16th

4 Apr. 22nd

5 Apr. 26-28

6 May 2-5

7 May 13th

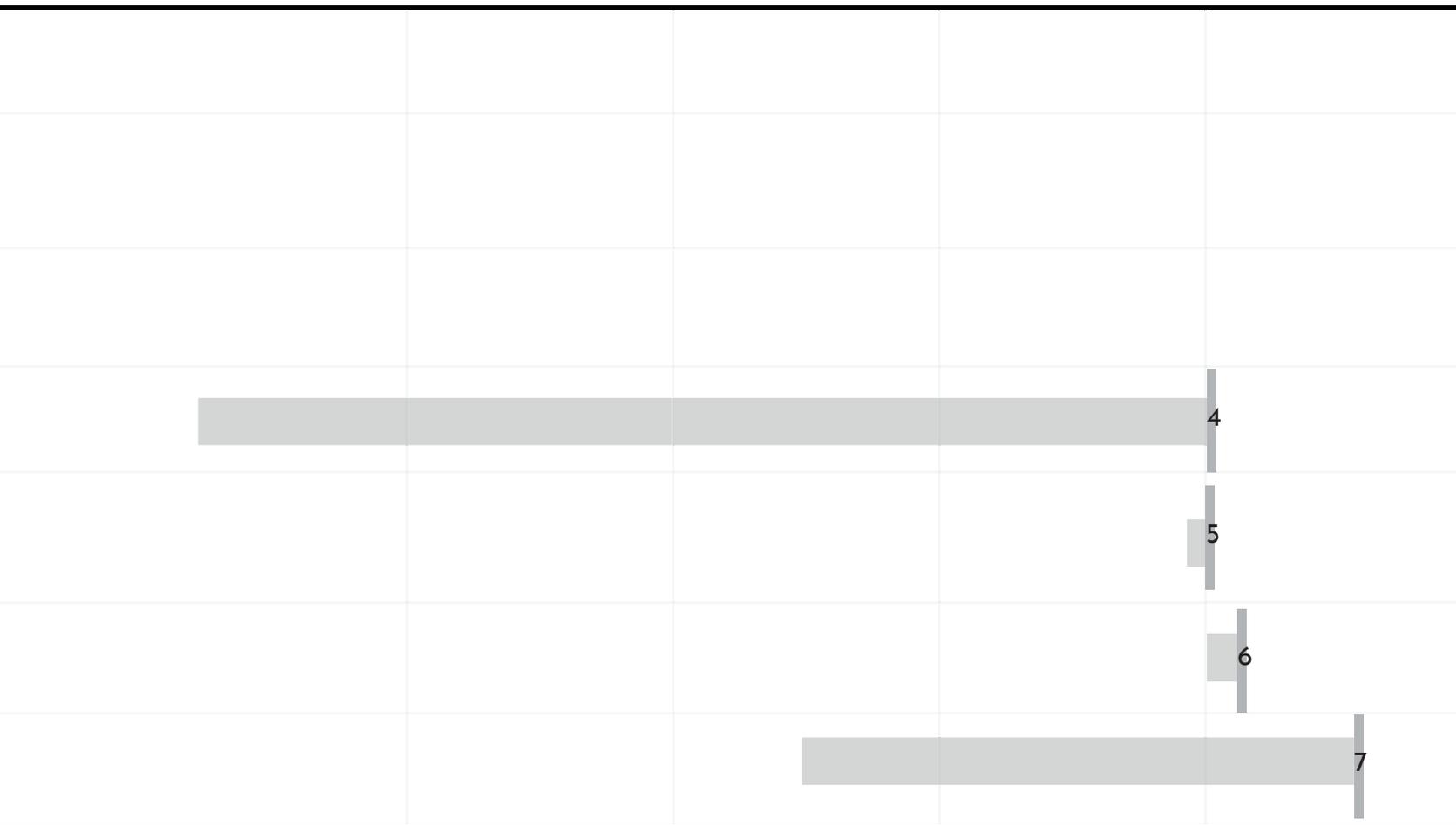
JAN

FEB

MAR

APR

MAY



Thesis Research

Results from your Research

Interviews

Key Take-Aways

- A sense of belonging
- Somewhere to call home
- Someone to believe in them

Exploration Trip

I received a travel scholarship for the summer of 2021. I conducted my travels in August, going to Boston, New York, and Philadelphia. I based my trip goals around my overall thesis topic, wanting to better my experience before beginning the Fall Semester of 2021. I gathered an abundance of knowledge regarding homelessness in major cities and now have a personal viewpoint on this aspect of my thesis topic. I will be using this experience as an additional resource throughout my research as well as throughout my design and my personal process.

Literature Review

Vulnerable Populations and the Transition to Adulthood (p. 209-229)

D. Wayne Osgood, E. Michael Foster, and Mark E. Courtney

Summary

Throughout this reading, D. Wayne Osgood, E. Michael Foster, and Mark E. Courtney explore different sections that influence the transition to adulthood for vulnerable populations. They consider seven populations in each category: the mental health system, the foster care system, the juvenile justice system, the criminal justice system, special education, the health care system (physical disabilities and chronic illness, and runaway/homeless youth. I focused on the foster care system and the runaway/homeless youth, but I still grasped information within the other five populations. Within the reading, the authors broke their points down into categories. I will be summarizing the overall view for each category below.

“If the transition to adulthood is slow and arduous for a large share of the general population, how much harder must it be for young people who have spent years in the mental health or juvenile justice system or in foster care?”

Challenges

Vulnerable youth experience many challenges throughout their lives that ultimately influence their future. These youth now take on extra burdens, which makes it that much more difficult to progress (get a college education, develop strong relationships, etc.). Even with the support of a job or education, it's hard for many to meet the expectations of employers and friends due to possible mental illnesses and/or behavioral problems.

Eligibility for Service Systems

“The services these vulnerable populations receive as children and adolescents often come to an end during the transition to adulthood, even if the need for them continues and even if current life circumstances present obvious difficulties.”

Within the current system of transition, there is not a gradual effort to slowly transition to adulthood. In reality, it's a long and complex process that the current system does not support. The need for continued guidance would benefit individuals greatly, but instead, there is a sudden loss right after aging out. This plays into society's role as well as the state's role in supporting the role of a guardian during an individual's life and transition.

“After the difficulties that youth in foster care have faced earlier in life, their need for continuing assistance from adults is no doubt greater than that of most other youth.”

Overlap among the Vulnerable Populations

When discussing the seven populations, the authors brought up the overlap between populations. This overall covered that the involvement within one system could create a possible problem (s), therefore needing another system to support that. For example, moving in and out of foster homes could lead to many future problems including mental health issues, disruption of education, and/or an increased chance of criminal activity.

Poor Outcomes

Taking into consideration the category areas within this topic, many end in poor future outcomes due to their circumstances. The three domains touched on include education, employment, and family formation.

- “One study finds that only 54 percent of youth discharged from foster care at age eighteen complete high school within 2.5 to 4 years.”
- “Similarly, fewer than 15 percent of homeless youth over age eighteen have high school diplomas.”
- “Only about one-third of homeless youth are employed full-time”

With combining a poor education and limited access to employment opportunities, this creates a life that's not supportive for any type of success. Adding in the aspect of functioning relationships and the hopes of forming a family, many individuals can't form these relationships because they lack not only lack education and employment but also likely hold other problematic issues, such as mental health. Diving into family formation, women overall were looked into separately as they pose a particular problem within this aspect. Mentioned within the reading included the fact that a large percentage of women who had been in foster care reported that their now children suffered from health, education, or behavioral problems. It was also reported that many children in those circumstances had been removed from their homes.

Successful Outcomes

Resources that contribute to resilience:

1. Individuals' skills and personality
2. Supportive relationships with other people
3. Involvement in groups like churches and clubs

It was fairly obvious throughout the reading and additional research that 'positive outcome' cases happened on a very rare base.

“It is important to recognize that the diverse missions of the systems that provide services for vulnerable youth complicate the task of assisting the transition to adulthood.”

Policy Challenges

1. Eligibility criteria exclude youth from services that might benefit them
2. Funding for transition services is inadequate
3. Lack of coordination across service systems hampers appropriate service delivery
4. Many service professionals lack training in developmental issues for young adults

Recommended Policy Changes

1. Embrace steps that would help all youth (better curriculum and support services at community colleges, universal health care, etc.)
2. Improve existing systems of care for children and adolescents
3. Address the loss of access to programs and services at the age of majority
4. Move from a set of independent systems to a single, integrated system
5. Shift to a family focus

Literature Review

Tumml Startup Incubator Trying to Solve Homelessness in San Francisco

Chris Peak - NationSwell

Summary

This article talks about how two young women created their own startup incubator, Tumml. With the intentions of helping the homeless as well as struggling entrepreneurs, Tumml “attempts to bridge the funding and mentorship gap business founders face by connecting them to investors, city officials, journalists, and advisors from Silicon Valley giants (Peak).” Tumml co-founders Julie Lein and Clara Brenner created this idea together while going to MIT. While creating the program, they considered many things. Consisting of a four-month-long program, Tumml provided entrepreneurs with free office space, training, lectures, and any other support they need to obtain seed funding. This is crucial in any introductory business, as it helps them build their business strategy as well as receive user and client feedback. With this program being an entrepreneur's first ‘person’ outside of their team, this program is designed rigorously to help each business reach its full potential. With that being said, the application process is quite rigorous as well (the article compared it to Harvard in acceptance rate). What's interesting is that even with a tough entry, each participant is extremely different in overall passion. Each business differs the next in large and small ways, creating diversity throughout the program.

**“The Success of the entrepreneur presents
a path forward to see a difference in their
communities.”
-Clara Brenner**

Conclusion

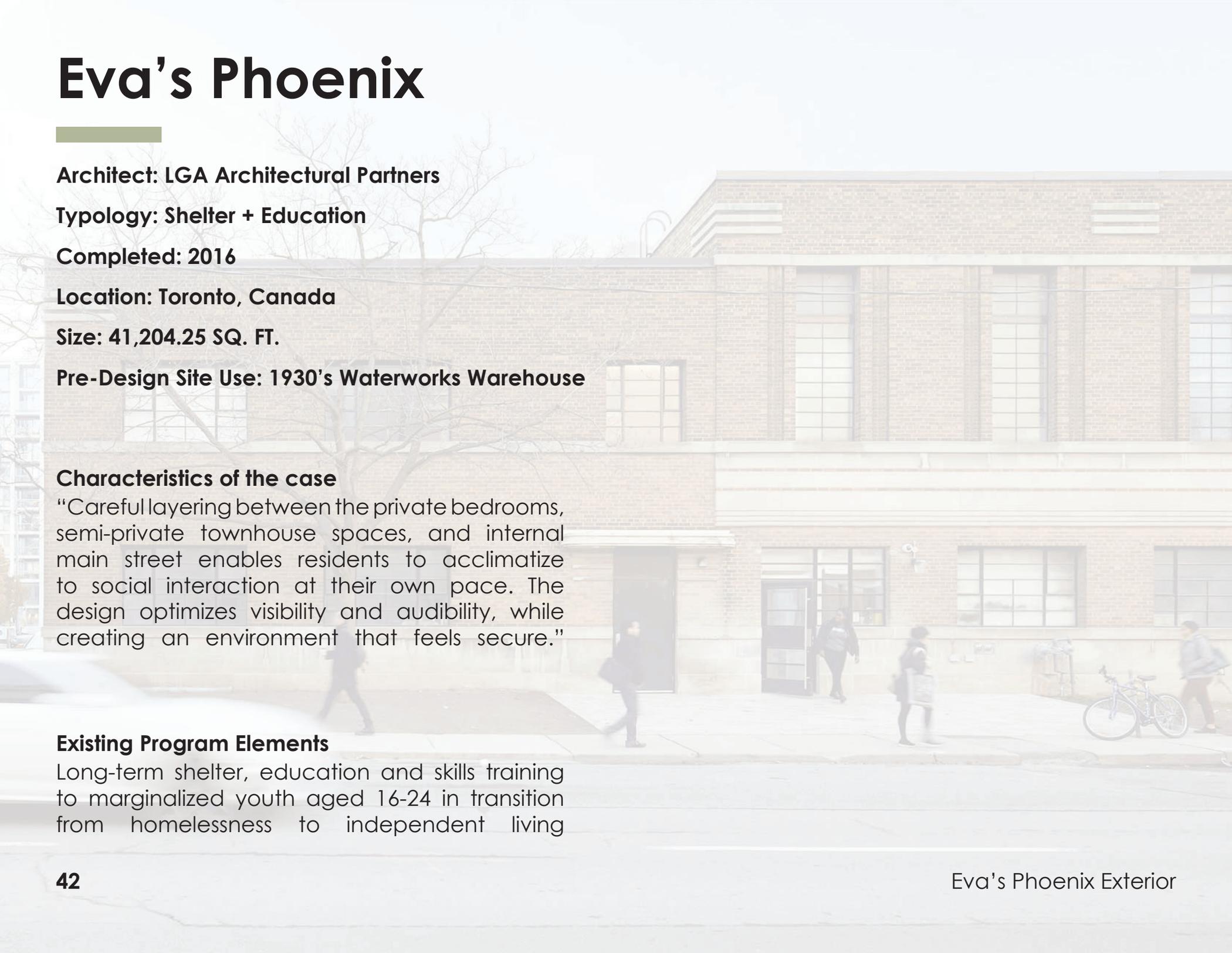
Within this article, an artist, Benner, who was acquired by Tumml shared his personal experience. He lost his job in 2009 and could no longer support himself, even with government and nonprofit help. His wife later left him and he ended up homeless with only a backpack of clothing to his name. Having a passion for art and business, Benner created ArtLifting in order to post his art for sale. Unknowingly, Tumml assisted in making ArtLifting reach a larger audience and soon after helped create the first large sale within the website. Today, Benner could have never imagined the success of ArtLifting. Using this article as inspiration for an educational aspect within my program will help me create a baseline for the needs of the targeted user.

“People see the power in taking the bull by the horns in a startup that directly addresses challenges. It’s a really powerful motivator to make the change that you want to see.”

-Julie Lein

The Precedent Research

Eva's Phoenix



Architect: LGA Architectural Partners

Typology: Shelter + Education

Completed: 2016

Location: Toronto, Canada

Size: 41,204.25 SQ. FT.

Pre-Design Site Use: 1930's Waterworks Warehouse

Characteristics of the case

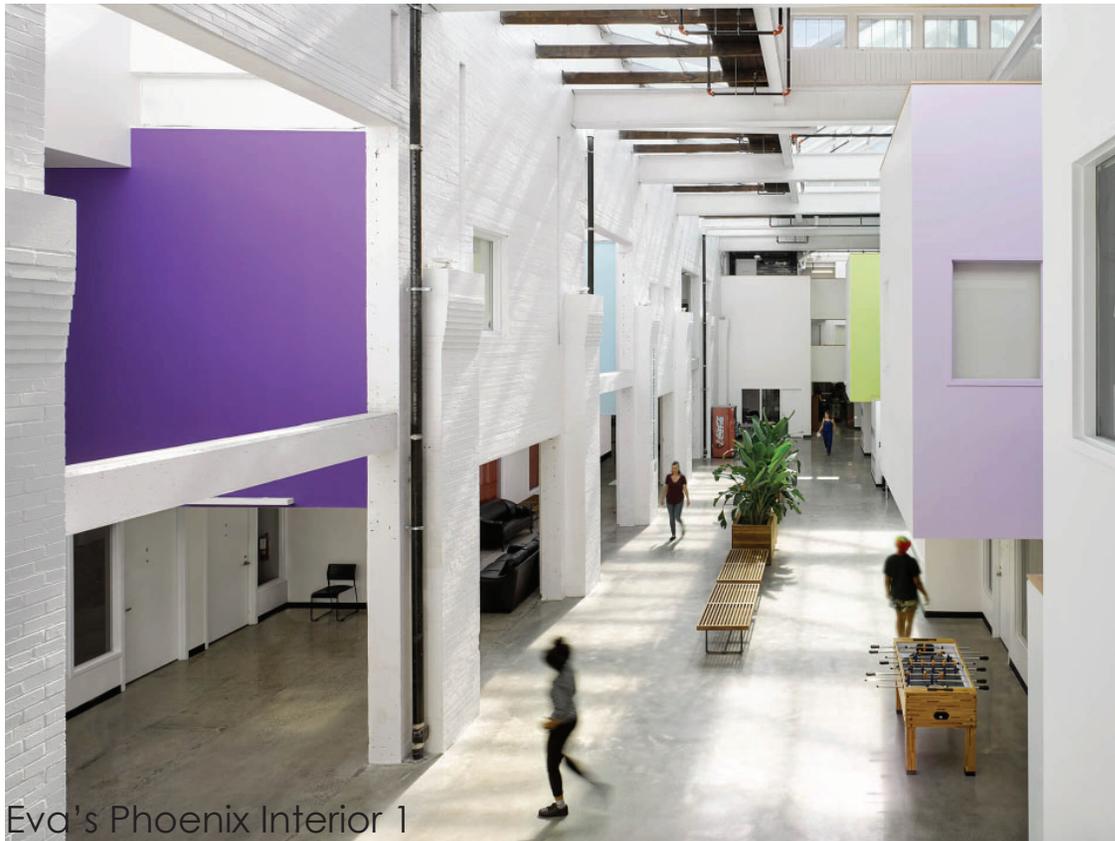
"Careful layering between the private bedrooms, semi-private townhouse spaces, and internal main street enables residents to acclimatize to social interaction at their own pace. The design optimizes visibility and audibility, while creating an environment that feels secure."

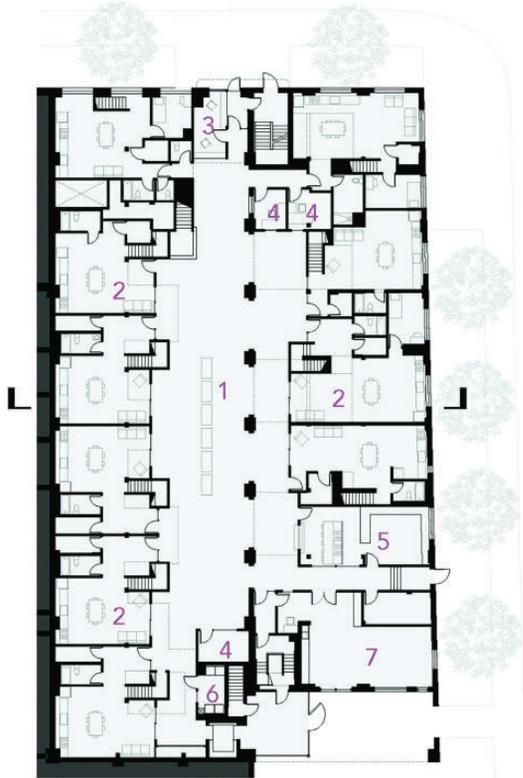
Existing Program Elements

Long-term shelter, education and skills training to marginalized youth aged 16-24 in transition from homelessness to independent living

Summary

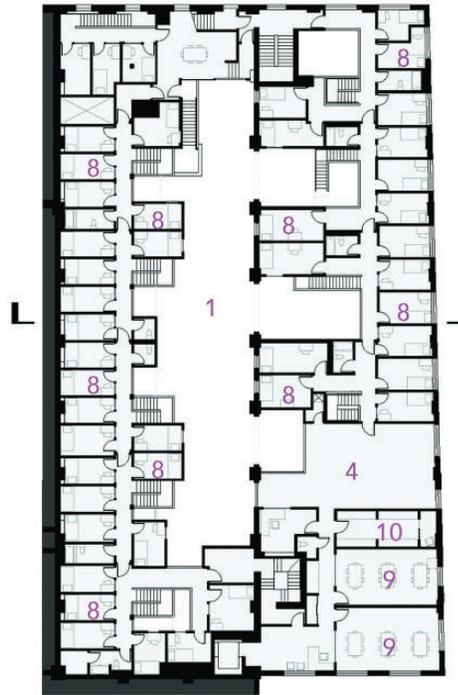
Eva's is a nonprofit initiative that seeks to provide shelter and educational facilities to homeless youth. This nonprofit organization has three residences, with Eva's Phoenix being one of them. All uses within the site are encompassed within two previously divided warehouses. The program includes 10 'townhouses', accommodating 50 residents in total, surrounding a 'main interior street'. This main interior street acts as the primary gathering space for the community within. The uses extend to educational facilities, including office spaces (working, meeting, counseling), demonstration kitchen, commercial print shop, etc. Eva's offers employment and life skills training to its residents (can live here for up to one year). This design and concept has become so successful that the city of Toronto is using Eva's as the redevelopment catalyst for redesigning a block within the city consisting of a food hall, a YMCA, a condo tower, and also enhancements to the existing park within the site. Eva's Phoenix won a Design Excellence Award in 2017 from Ontario Association of Architects.



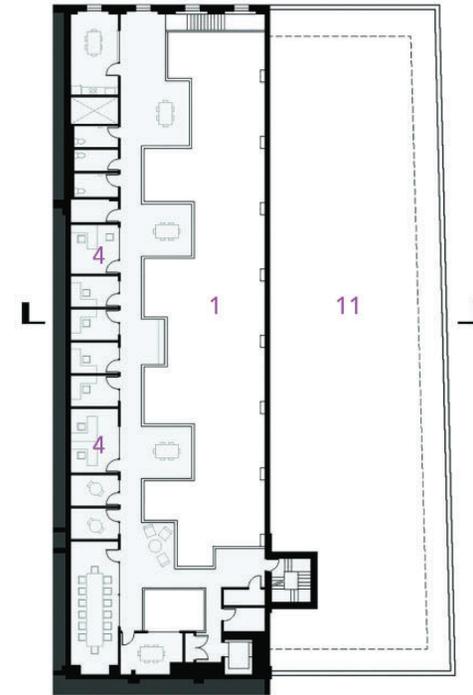


GROUND

- 1. Atrium
- 2. Living Room & Kitchens
- 3. Front Desk
- 4. Offices
- 5. Teaching Kitchen
- 6. Laundry
- 7. Training Workshop
- 8. Bedrooms
- 9. Training Classroom
- 10. Clothing Bank



SECOND



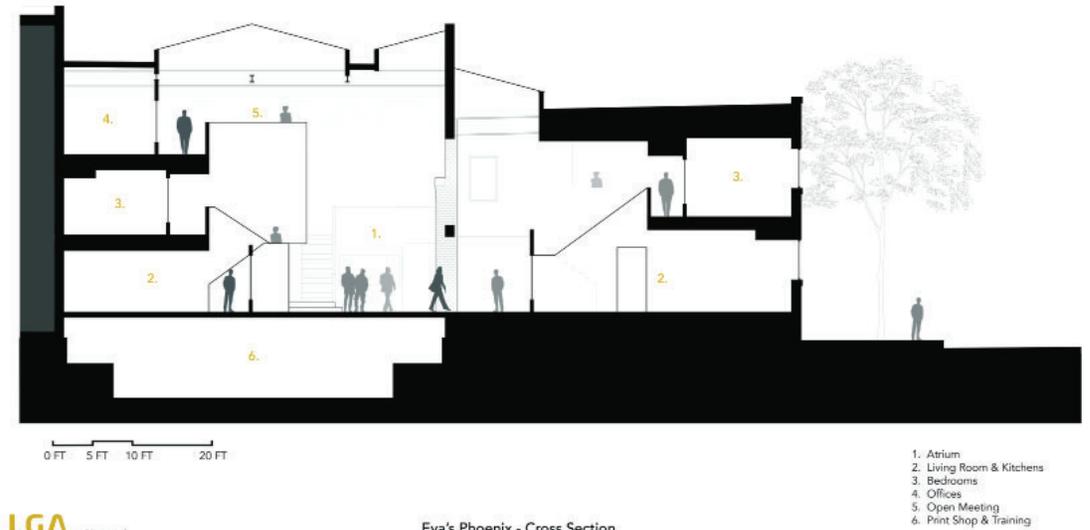
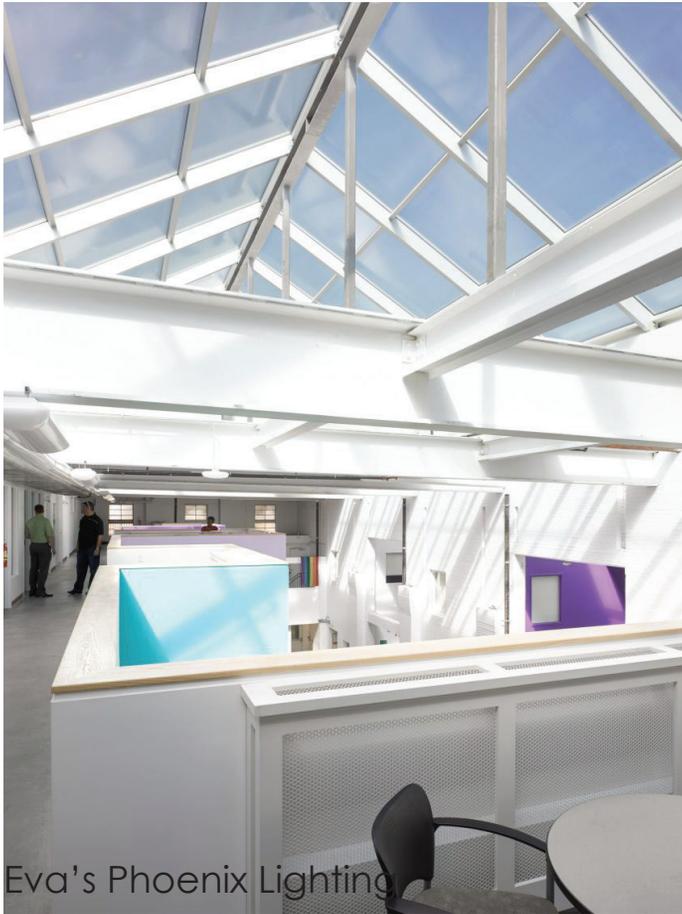
THIRD



Eva's Phoenix - Floor Plans



Eva's Phoenix Plans



LGA architectural partners

Eva's Phoenix - Cross Section

Eva's Phoenix Section

Analysis

To minimize cost and consumption, existing materials are exposed wherever possible and new materials were inserted only where needed. Light fixtures were salvaged from an about-to-be-demolished building and bedroom flooring was brokered donated by a supplier with remnant surplus stock. Carefully calibrated skylight fritting provides views of the sky from within Eva's, but ensures that residents in the future condo tower will not have clear sight lines into the shelter.

Major Project Elements

“This is a project that’s all about doing the right thing – for the kids, the neighborhood and the city,” said LGA co-founder Dean Goodman. “It’s architecture that results from will and collaboration – between the Eva’s community, the design and construction teams, and also the councilor and the planning department.”



Eva’s Phoenix Interior 3

“A portion of the budget was allocated to future-proofing the building, creating a strong foundation that can be altered by the organization with basic construction strategies to meet changing needs over time,” said LGA”



Eva’s Phoenix Interior 4



Eva's Phoenix Interior 4

“Creating safe, uplifting, boldly non-institutional space was crucial.”

Important Takeaways

Within this design as well as outside of this design, Eva's nonprofit has continued to make dramatic changes and improvements to the communities within. Truly looking into the needs of the user and responding accordingly has made this design model extremely successful to it's program. This project successfully addresses the need of privacy as well as the need for every user to experience the community at their own pace. Creating a safe and welcoming environment is the key to each design element.

Tiny House Communities for the Homeless

(multiple projects)

Architect: Lehrer Architects LA

Typology: Micro-home developments for the homeless

Location: Los Angeles, California

Size: Varies per project

Pre-Design Site Use: Converting leftover plots in LA into micro-home developments

Projects:

Chandler Boulevard Bridge Home Village

Alexandria Park Tiny Homes Village

Alvarado Tiny Homes Village

Saticoy and Whitsett Tiny Home Village

Characteristics of the case

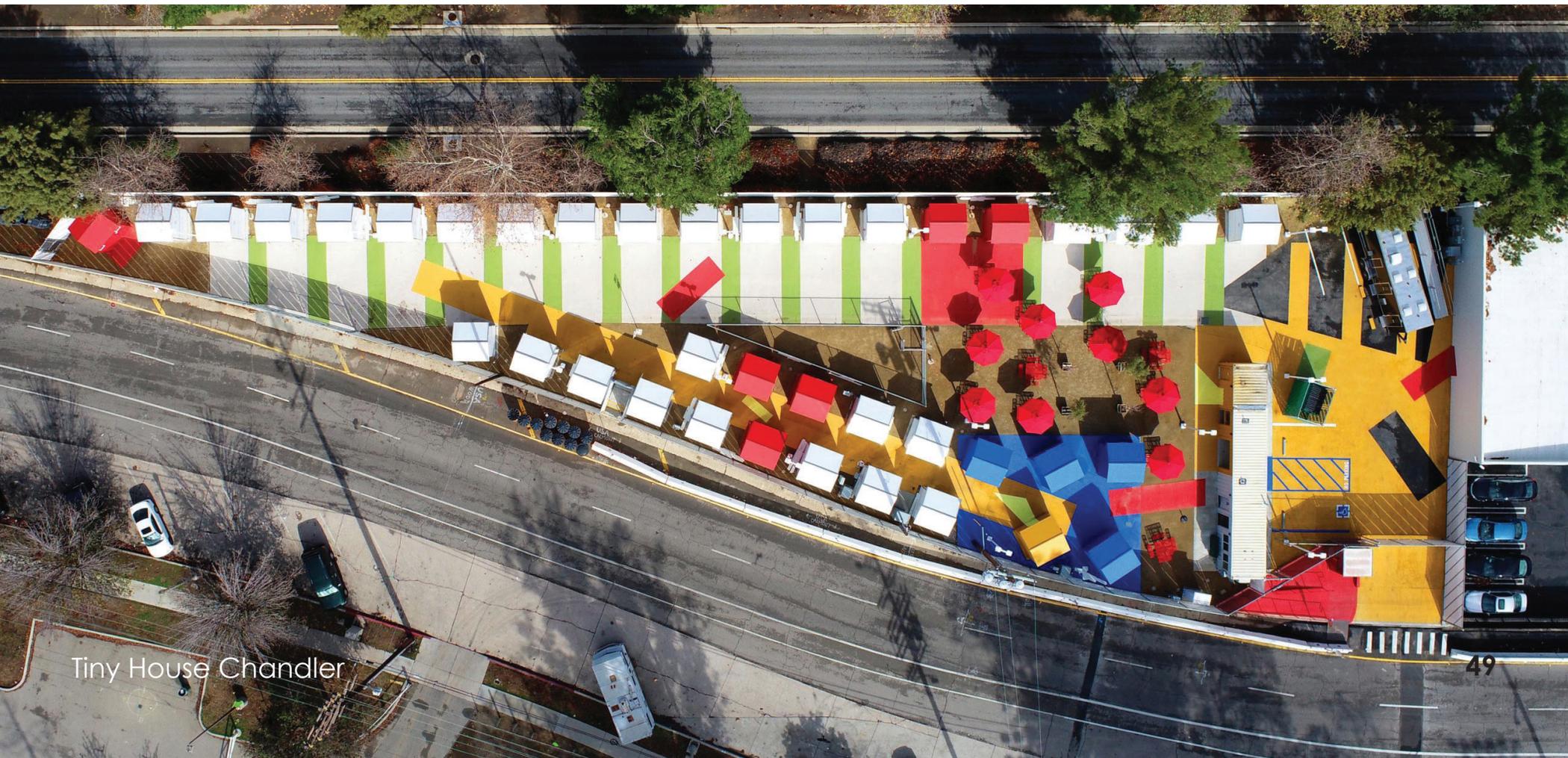
"The architecture firm creates an efficient yet functional design using prefabricated pallet shelters and brings character to the project through vibrant colors to shape a new sense of community and restore dignity through design."

Existing Program Elements

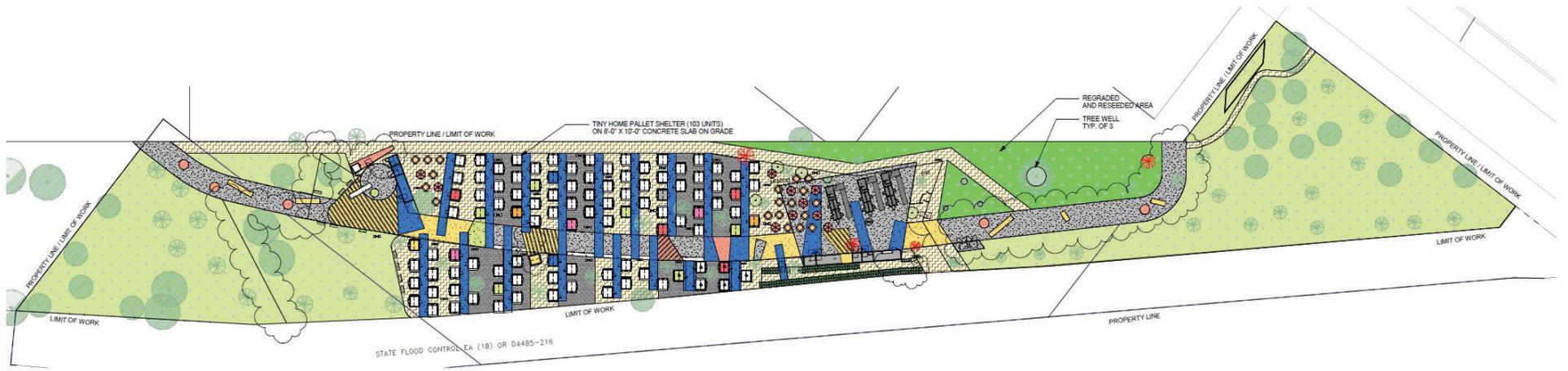
Comprised of 40 prefabs, shared outdoor spaces, and in-house social services

Summary

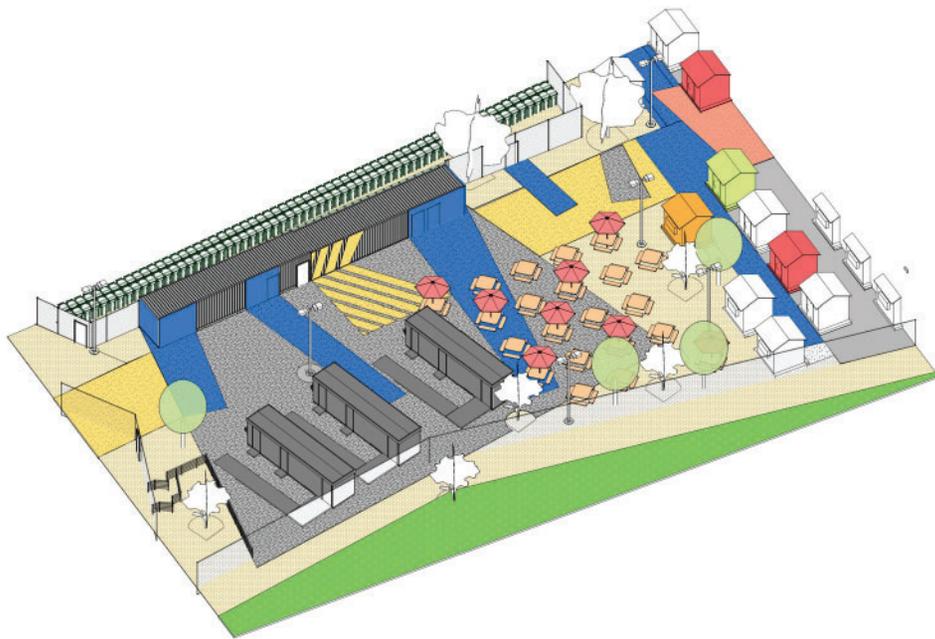
Lehrer Architects have been converting multiple vacant plots into 'micro-home developments' in Los Angeles. Using the same base template for all sites, their 'efficient yet functional' design uses prefabricated pallet shelters as well as vibrant colors to shape the community and 'restore dignity' throughout their design. Each community is created to be a vibrant experience for all, utilizing color and shapes to get such a reaction towards the site. Each unit provides shelter for two people as well as some units house dining, gathering space, showers, laundry, secure storage, and city service accommodations. The villages are under video surveillance and 24-hour security for the safety of residents. No alcohol is allowed on site and there is a curfew. In August 2020, Michael Lehrer was awarded the AIA | LA Gold Medal, its highest honor, for design excellence and his service to the community through architecture.



Tiny House Chandler



Tiny House Axonometric 1



Tiny House Axonometric 2



Tiny House Axonometric 3



Tiny House Interior

Analysis

“Every move is conceived to add significant value and be cost-neutral,” says architect Michael B. Lehrer, founding partner of Lehrer Architects. “In that vein, color is used extensively to create a sense of community and places of respect, dignity, and joy. Projects for people at all levels of the social ladder, but particularly those near the bottom, remind us again and again that beauty is a rudiment of human dignity.”



Tiny House Exterior 1

Major Project Elements

“For us, projects like this are exhilarating. Political, time and cost constraints were severe—demanding extreme design discipline and chops. Our focus was to honor, nurture and restore a modicum of wholeness and delight to our fellow citizens without homes. Every move is conceived to add significant value and be cost-neutral: in that vein, color is used extensively to create a sense of community and places of respect, dignity and joy. - Michael B. Lehrer FAIA, Founding Partner of Lehrer Architects”



“The developments represent an intermediary step in the city’s strategy of helping homeless people access permanent housing. The defining feature of the projects is the use of color, which turns the strictly functional solution into a visually stimulating space that can foster a community.”

Important Takeaways

Lehrer Architects is taking into account the needs of the city and adapting with futuristic but cost-efficient designs. With these designs, safe accommodations are made for the homeless within the area while also respecting said users. Much of the design is to create a valued experience and create a vibrant community within the project area. With the use of prefab houses, this opens up the possibility to change locations and/or uses very easily, creating a design that is adaptable to the growing future needs.



Jagtvej 69 in Copenhagen

Architect: WE Architecture + Erik Juul Architects

Typology: Temporary Homeless Housing and Urban Gardens

Completed: Proposed in 2017

Location: Copenhagen, Denmark

Size: 2000 SQ M / 21527.82 SQ FT

Pre-Design Site Use: Vacant Lot

Characteristics of the case

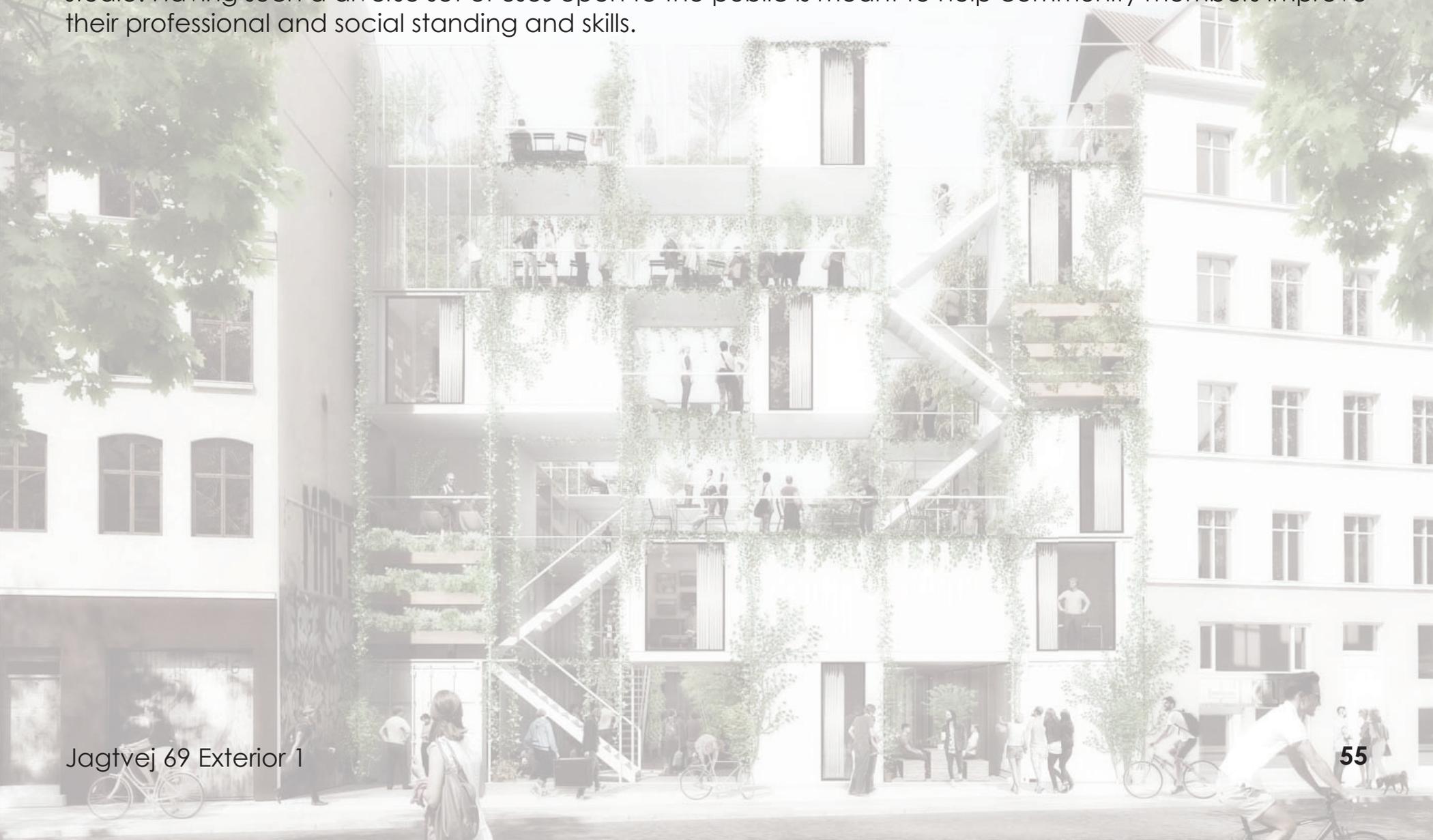
“The project will have a positive visual contribution to the neighborhood – a landmark people can relate to with social and environmental sustainable initiatives,” explain the architects. “The visibility aims to raise awareness of the initiative, in terms of attracting new users to the neighborhood, but also volunteers and current residents.”

Existing Program Elements

Assembled from containers placed within a scaffolding net, WE Architecture’s Jagtvej 69 aims to create alluring public space while simultaneously providing temporary housing for the homeless.

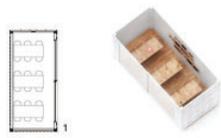
Summary

In a design proposal, WE Architecture and Erik Juul Architects have submitted a mix between an urban garden and a housing structure. The project goal was to create temporary accommodation for the homeless while also creating a meeting space between the locals and the homeless. They state this as creating a 'path for a new beginning'. With the use of modular containers, each space is designed to meet a specific need. Uses within the site include bedrooms, kitchens, dining spaces, offices, living rooms, and a yoga studio. Having such a diverse set of uses open to the public is meant to help community members improve their professional and social standing and skills.

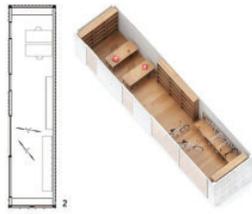


Jagtvej 69 Exterior 1

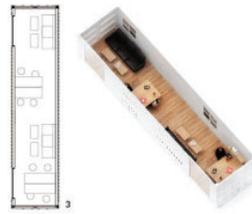
Jagtvej 69 Plans



1 Spisestuen
Spisestuen er indbygget i lokale medstødet, her med en benævnelse med de enkelte og bygningskassen.
M2: 16,6 kv.
Antal: 1
Samlet bruttoareal: 16,6 kv.



2 Værkstedet
Værkstedet er et åbent værksted for håndværk, smede, projekter, reparation af udført, samt værksteds.
M2: 29,3 kv.
Antal: 1
Samlet bruttoareal: 29,3 kv.



3 Stuen
Stuen er et åbent rum, hvor man kan komme hen, hvis man har brug for at tale med nogen. Her vil man normalt gå og arbejde.
M2: 29,3 kv.
Antal: 1
Samlet bruttoareal: 29,3 kv.



7 Yoga
Yogastuen er et åbent rum, der kan bruges til yoga, meditation og andre aktiviteter.
M2: 16,6 kv.
Antal: 1
Samlet bruttoareal: 16,6 kv.



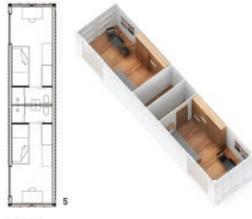
8 Kontor
Kontoret er et åbent rum, der kan bruges til kontorarbejde og andre aktiviteter.
M2: 16,6 kv.
Antal: 1
Samlet bruttoareal: 16,6 kv.



9 Køkkenet
Køkkenet er et åbent rum, der kan bruges til madlavning og andre aktiviteter.
M2: 16,6 kv.
Antal: 1
Samlet bruttoareal: 16,6 kv.



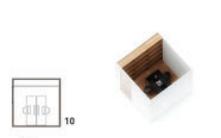
4 Bolig
Boligen er et åbent rum, der kan bruges til bolig og andre aktiviteter.
M2: 16,6 kv.
Antal: 1
Samlet bruttoareal: 16,6 kv.



5 To boliger
To boliger er et åbent rum, der kan bruges til bolig og andre aktiviteter.
M2: 29,3 kv.
Antal: 2
Samlet bruttoareal: 58,6 kv.



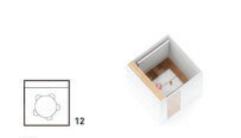
6 Fire akutboliger
Fire akutboliger er et åbent rum, der kan bruges til bolig og andre aktiviteter.
M2: 29,3 kv.
Antal: 4
Samlet bruttoareal: 117,2 kv.



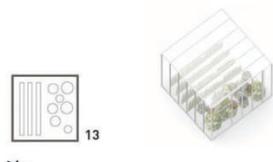
10 Lille kontor
Lille kontor er et åbent rum, der kan bruges til kontorarbejde og andre aktiviteter.
M2: 7,3 kv.
Antal: 1
Samlet bruttoareal: 7,3 kv.



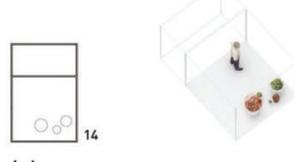
11 Opholdsrum
Opholdsrum er et åbent rum, der kan bruges til ophold og andre aktiviteter.
M2: 7,3 kv.
Antal: 1
Samlet bruttoareal: 7,3 kv.



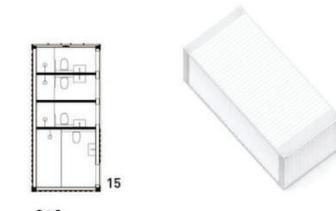
12 Møderum
Møderum er et åbent rum, der kan bruges til møder og andre aktiviteter.
M2: 7,3 kv.
Antal: 1
Samlet bruttoareal: 7,3 kv.



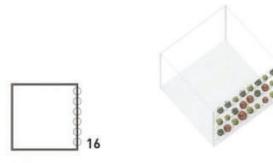
13 Drivhus
Drivhuset er et sted, hvor man kan dyrke grøntsager året rundt. De er placeret på højliggende og solrige steder.
M2: 7,3 kv.
Antal: 4
Samlet bruttoareal: 29,3 kv.



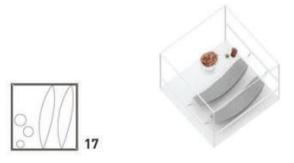
14 Stillsads komponenter
De 14 komponenter af stillads, det halve- og hele modul.
M2: 16,6 kv.
Antal: 2
Samlet bruttoareal: 33,2 kv.



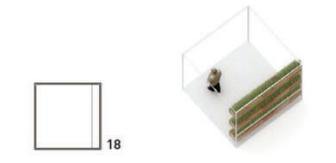
15 Toiletter
I bygningskomplekset er der 2 containere, der indeholder offentlige toiletter.
M2: 16,6 kv.
Antal: 2
Samlet bruttoareal: 33,2 kv.



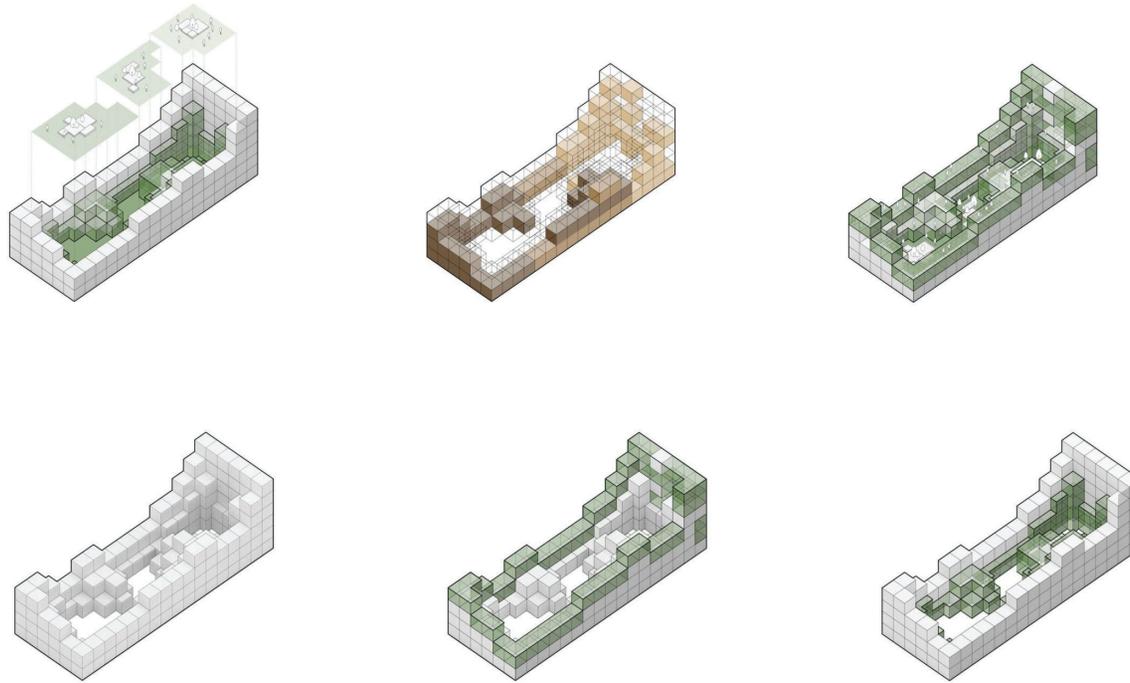
16 Blomster
Stillsad med blomster.
M2: 16,6 kv.
Antal: 1
Samlet bruttoareal: 16,6 kv.



17 Møbleret modul
Stillsad er møbleret på forskelligvis, fx med borde, bænke og hængekøjer.
M2: 16,6 kv.
Antal: 1
Samlet bruttoareal: 16,6 kv.



18 Plantekasser
Stillsad med altankasser.
M2: 16,6 kv.
Antal: 1
Samlet bruttoareal: 16,6 kv.



Jagtvej 69 Axonometric

Analysis

“Currently envisioned for a site in Copenhagen, the proposal is designed to be disassembled and then reassembled in different locations, making it a kind of traveling social aid that is also custom tailored to the needs of its particular community.”

“Based on a simple scaffolding system, the concept is for the structure to be flexible, with the ability to add new features and change according to new needs. In the future, the project could be completed dismantled, and moved to a new site that needs help.”

Major Project Elements

“The project will have a positive visual contribution to the neighborhood – a landmark people can relate to with social and environmental sustainable initiatives,” explain the architects. “The visibility aims to raise awareness of the initiative, in terms of attracting new users to the neighborhood, but also volunteers and current residents.” -WE Architecture

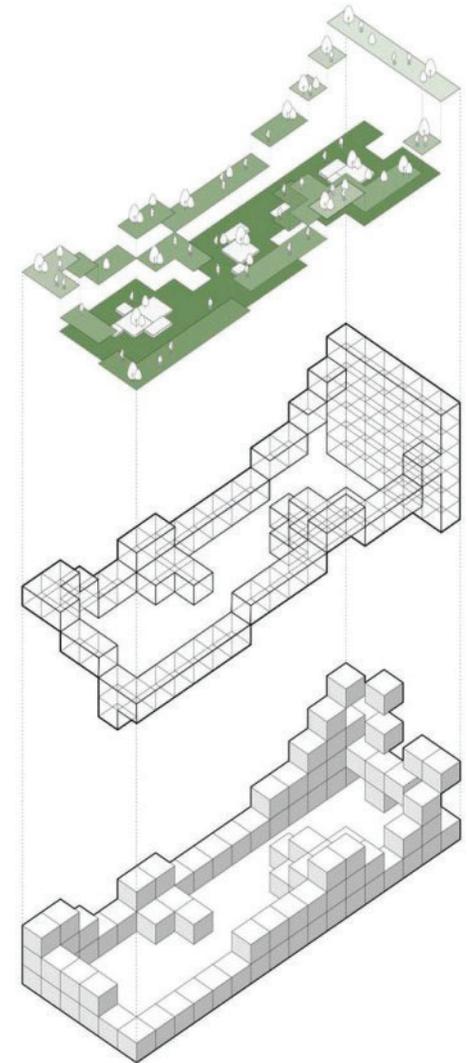


Jagtvej 69 Exterior 2

“The project gives back the site to Copenhagen, and create a platform where people can meet and interact around the green gardens.”
-WE Architecture

Important Takeaways

Incorporating the use of a simple scaffolding net and containers, this design creates the ability to change at any point in the future. “Designing for the future” is a large aspect of the project. Designing for the user and communities comfort and invite is also a large aspect of the project. Incorporating natural vegetation throughout as well as inviting uses, such as a yoga studio, brings people from the outside in, combining both communities with neutral ground.



Jagtvej 69 Axonometric 2

Case Study Summary

Common Characteristics

1. Design for the future

A common theme throughout all of the precedent studies was the design was made to be adaptable and easily changeable in the future. This not only benefits the needs of the program but also the future growth these facilities hope to achieve. Each project was unique in its use of adaptability, but they all had the same overall goal in that context. Something unique about these projects is they were all designed to be adaptable to a new environment if needed. They were originally designed for a specific site, but kept in mind the possibility of change in the future. This is a strong design decision that upholds the value of the program but also gives a base to the program itself to thrive for future growth.

2. Know your users

Sometimes buildings and spaces are design to cater towards to program instead of the people. But, in the case of truly strong designs where users are considered the main priority, a successful design comes out to aid that user in future growth. With the importance of the user, specific design decisions were made to accommodate each person's possible experience throughout the programs. Detailed research and thought was put into this aspect, ensuring that goal was not only met but exceeded all expectations.

3. Create an experience

Throughout the uses of each project, a users experience was highly considered. Keeping privacy, safety, and comfort at the top priority, spaces are welcoming for everyone to use and interact with. With creating said spaces to be purposefully interactive and welcoming, a community within a community is created. Focusing on user experience makes the programs and spaces surrounding thrive with use.

Uncommon Characteristics

1. Location needs

In terms of location, each project required a different focus in terms of site needs. This is a very common aspect in each project to differentiate. Especially with the choices of projects, locations widely vary.

2. Program use

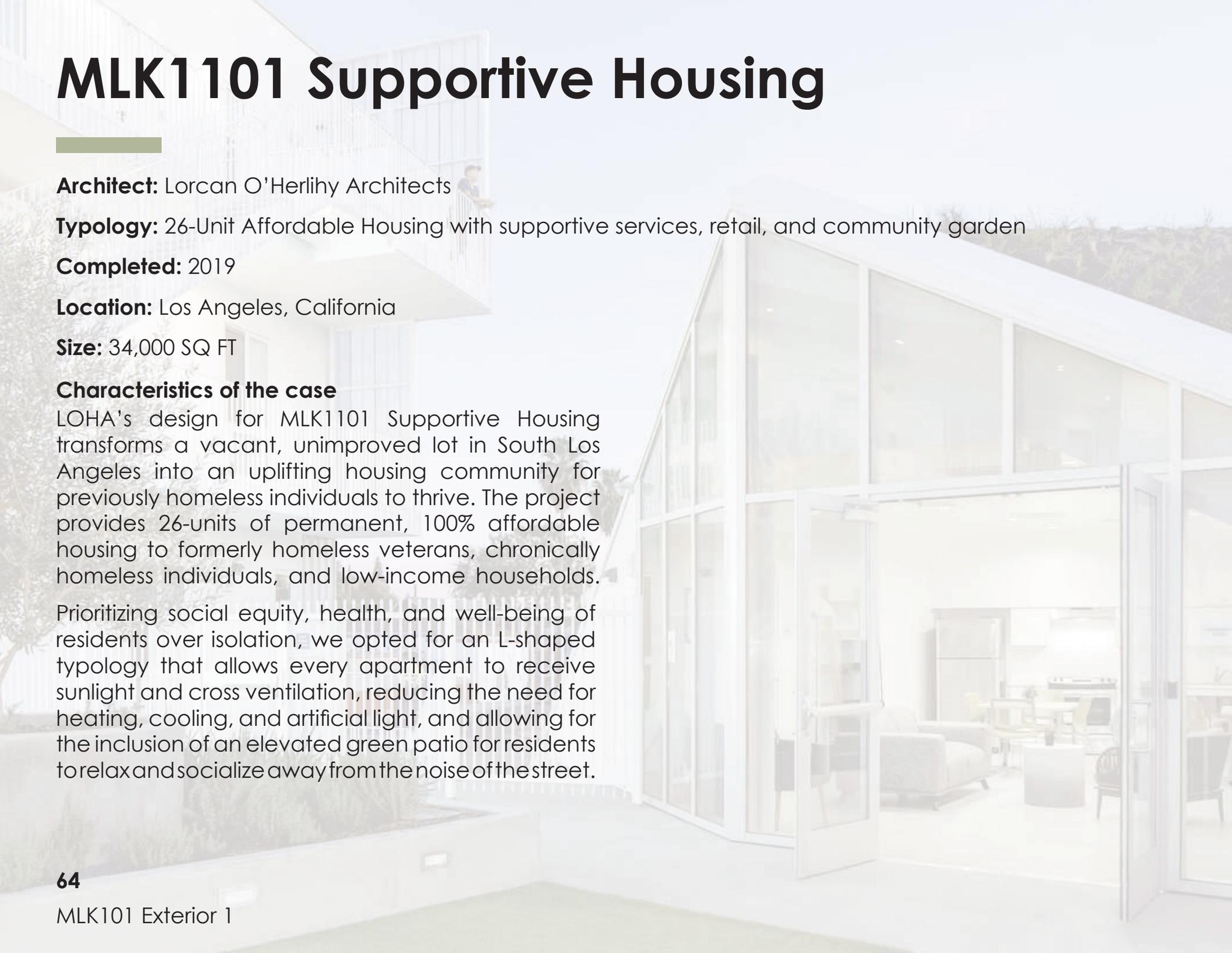
In terms of typology, all precedent studies were similar. But diving more deeply into the programs, each study had a different program unique to that specific project. This is interesting seeing which programs were more successful and/or which programs created more of a need within the site area.

3. Cultural, Political, and Social Contexts influence on the project

With choosing three precedent studies in majorly different places of the world, it's bound to hold differences in culture and politics. The largest difference I noticed between the studies was the use of public dollars funding certain projects. The study in Los Angeles held a lot of controversy around the dollar amount spent for these spaces and housing. Whereas the study in Copenhagen applauded the use of public dollars in the competition of making a better space for the homeless.

Additional Precedent Studies

MLK1101 Supportive Housing



Architect: Lorcan O’Herlihy Architects

Typology: 26-Unit Affordable Housing with supportive services, retail, and community garden

Completed: 2019

Location: Los Angeles, California

Size: 34,000 SQ FT

Characteristics of the case

LOHA’s design for MLK1101 Supportive Housing transforms a vacant, unimproved lot in South Los Angeles into an uplifting housing community for previously homeless individuals to thrive. The project provides 26-units of permanent, 100% affordable housing to formerly homeless veterans, chronically homeless individuals, and low-income households.

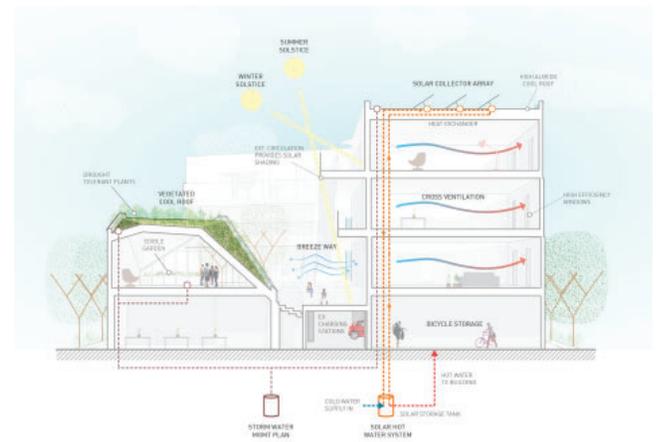
Prioritizing social equity, health, and well-being of residents over isolation, we opted for an L-shaped typology that allows every apartment to receive sunlight and cross ventilation, reducing the need for heating, cooling, and artificial light, and allowing for the inclusion of an elevated green patio for residents to relax and socialize away from the noise of the street.



MLK101 Exterior 2

Existing Program Elements

The units are designed for individuals and families, ranging in size from one to three bedrooms each with their own bathroom, and all are equipped with kitchens and living spaces. Tenants are encouraged to use the shared amenities in the community room, which has shared kitchen and dining areas for cooking classes, potlucks, group therapy, and other planned / impromptu gatherings. An outdoor garden with drought-tolerant plants and raised-bed edible gardens connects the community room to the living spaces, giving residents a place to relax and socialize.



MLK101 PASSIVE DESIGN



MLK101 Exterior 3

Hilda L. Solis Care First Village (HSCFV)

Architect: NAC Architects

Typology: Homeless Housing Facility

Completed: 2020

Location: Los Angeles, California

Size: 60,000 SQ FT

Characteristics of the case

Bernards' vice president Mike Funderberg. "Public Housing for those unhoused individuals on our streets, coupled with a long-term focus on ancillary services—such as mental and behavioral healthcare, which encompass true comprehensive redirection of the growing population of individuals experiencing homelessness—are long absent and much-needed infrastructure projects for our modern times."



HSCFV Exterior 2



HSCFV Room Example



HSCFV Site Plan

Existing Program Elements

The several trailers across the site are designated for interim housing, while an administrative building centralizes several residential services, such as dining and laundry, as well as support service offices that include case management and counseling. The space in between the buildings is landscaped with facilities for a dog park, as many residents are likely to bring their pets.

Shelter with Dignity



Architect: Framlab

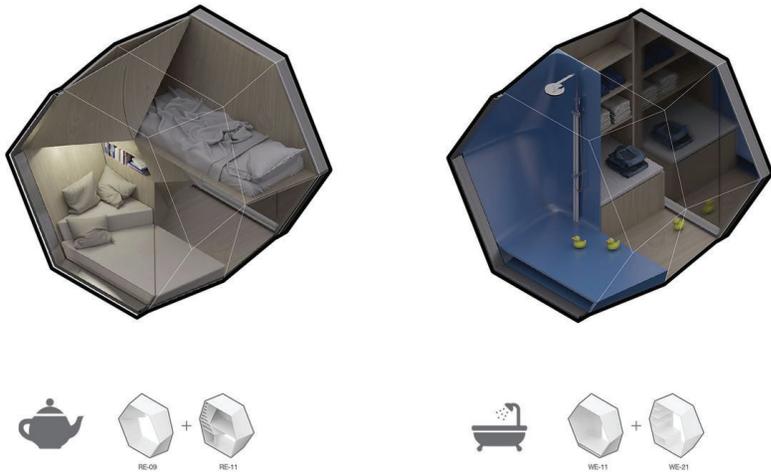
Typology: Homeless Housing Solution

Completed: Conceptual

Location: New York, New York

Characteristics of the case

“The front face of the pod is made up of a smart-glass assembly with a layer of thin film diodes. This allows the face to be clear (aligned particles/light transmitted) and open to the city outside, translucent (particles in random positions/light absorbed), and provide privacy for the resident, or transmit digital content. This can be artwork curated/created by the resident, public information, or commercial content - effectively enabling revenue opportunities.”



Shelter with Dignity Model

Program Elements

Framlab has brought up the idea of using the blank sidewalls of buildings.

“In conjunction with a flexible framework that already exists in the city - scaffolding - hexagon-shaped housing modules are designed to connect to the scaffolding structure, pack densely, and create a second, active layer on top of the empty wall. In aggregate, this forms clusters of suspended micro-neighborhoods of shelters for the city's least fortunate.”

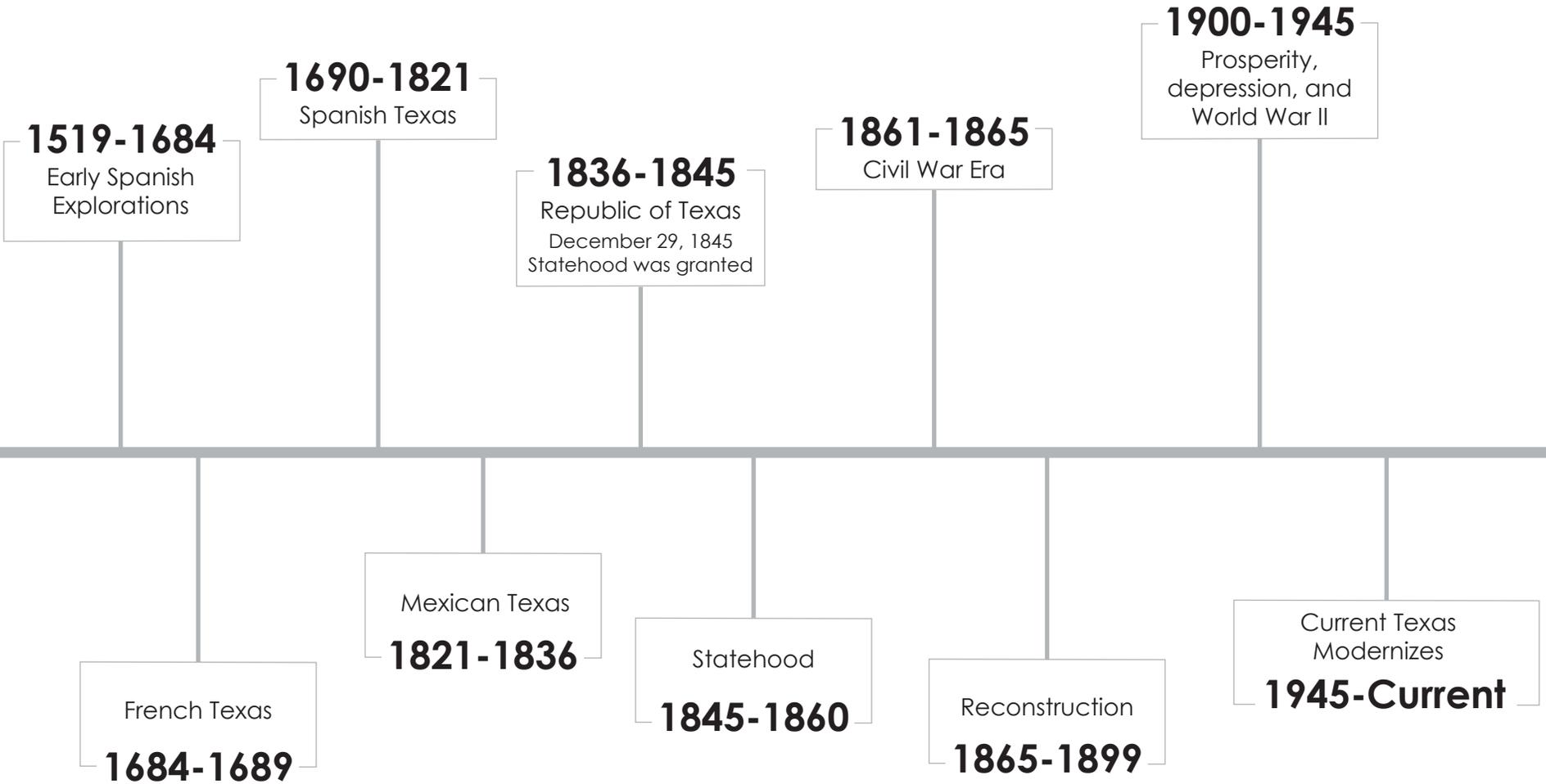


Project Justification

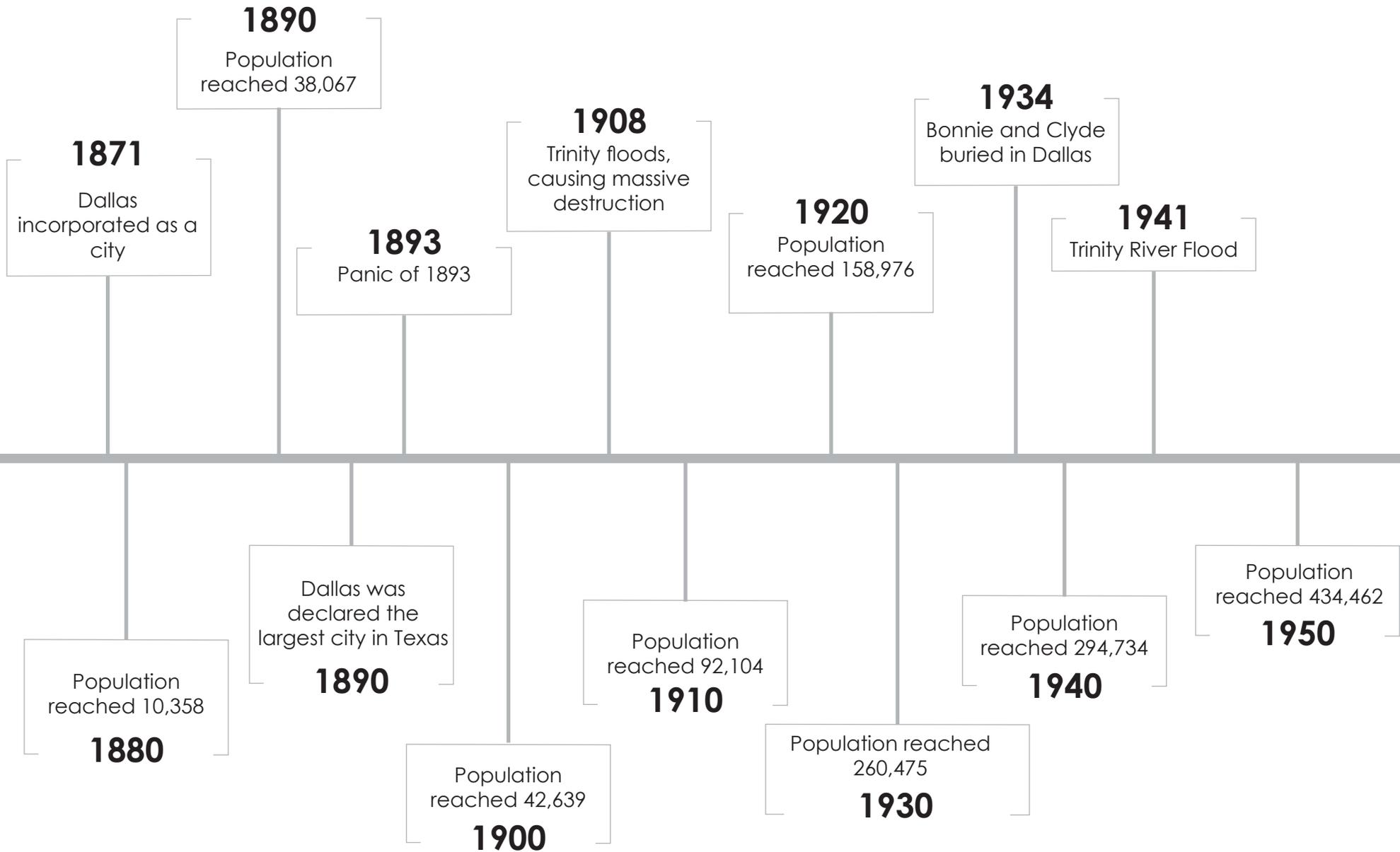
When choosing this project topic, my main reasoning was to create a better life, experience, and opportunity for those with a specific struggle. Homelessness after aging out of Foster Care is a prevalent issue within every community. There doesn't seem to be much of a solution out there. There also doesn't seem to be much attention on this issue, leaving many people in the dark about this. With a group of people living their life already at a disadvantage in many ways, having a loss of resources right away at the young age of 18 is a true concern and usually ends with homelessness, jail, on the welfare system, or many times even ending with suicide. Diving into what needs are required for these individuals to thrive in their future is a solution that is imperative for the futures of all communities. In regards to the solution and site program, my design and intent will be to prepare the future of this program in such a way that return on investment and impact on future growth and development will be implemented throughout.

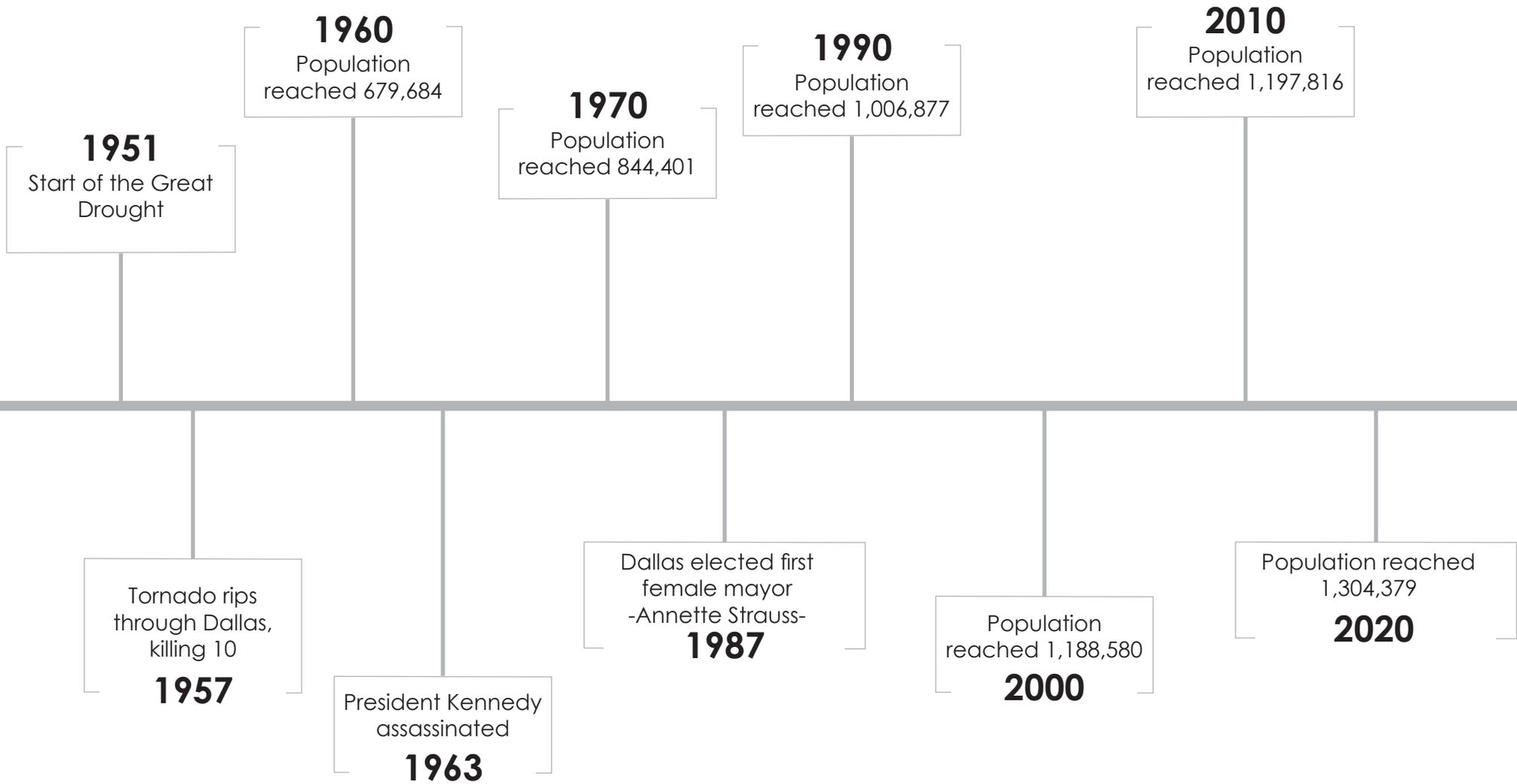
Historical, Social, and Cultural Context of the Thesis

History of Texas Timeline



History of Dallas Timeline (Population + Major Events)





History of Site/Area - Photos

Located on the edge of the Downtown Historic District

The buildings that were previously on my site are now gone due to the added freeway

1933



76

Dallas 1933

1935



Dallas 1935

1936



Dallas 1936

1939

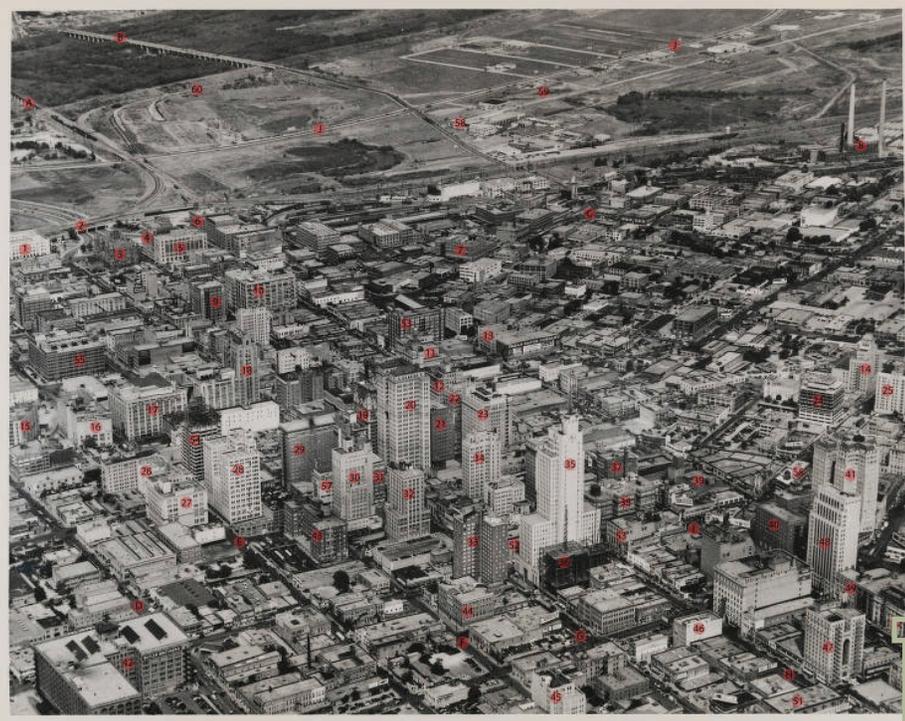


Dallas 1939



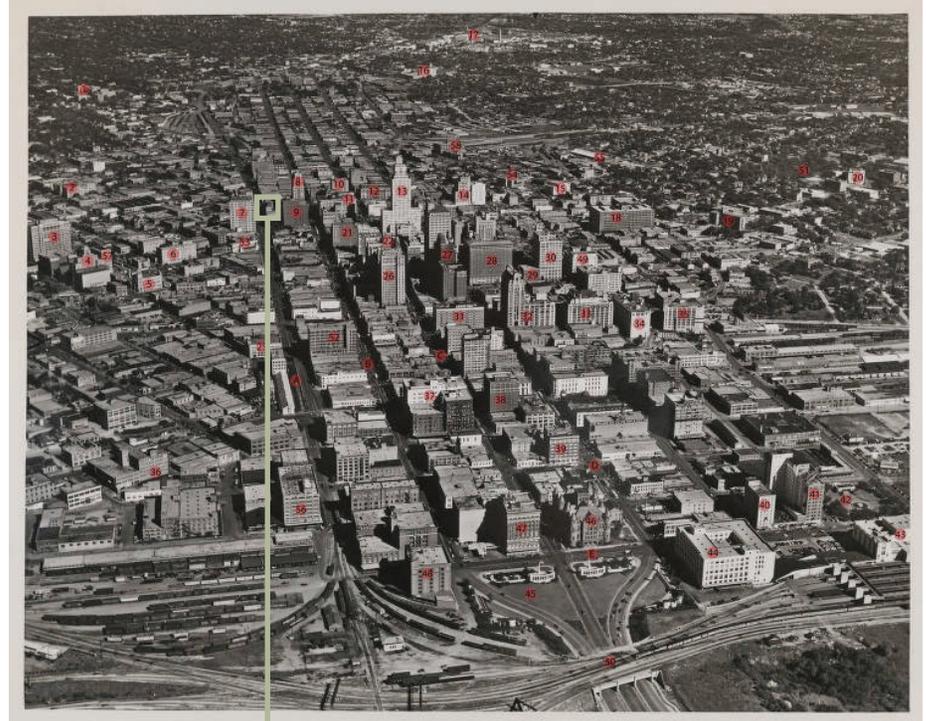
Dallas 1939 (2)

1948



Dallas 1948

1949



Dallas 1949

History of Foster Care - Timeline

NA

The first record of child care is found in the **Old Testament + the Talmud**

1830

Children's Aid Society was founded by Minister Charles Loring Brace
The Children's Aid Society mainly operated industrial schools for boys, where they could learn basic education for inexpensive room and board

Brace believed that these children would lead better lives out in farm country, so he hatched a plan to dispatch children individually to farms across the Midwest. In 1854, 45 children were transported to various places in the Midwest via railroad and were adopted by local families. Many of these families seldom had background checks before adopting. Once these children were adopted, they were expected to serve as extra help around the farm, in exchange for the adoptive parents to raise them as their own.

The Poor Laws

1536

Orphan Train System

From 1855 to 1875, an average of 3,000 children were adopted via the Orphan Train system. Many children were used as labor on farms, while others were adopted by loving families. Critics of the system railed against the weak background checking of the adoptive parents, as well as the lack of support the system provided for the children after they were adopted.

1855-1875

Early 1900'S

Modern Foster Care (+ more regulation)

In the early 1900s, social agencies began to supervise and screen foster parents by keeping records and considering every child's individual needs before placing them with a family.

1997

Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA)

Established to add stricter limits to the amount of time a child was allowed to remain in foster care before adoption or reunification.

Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act

Established to solidify the federal funding structure for child welfare systems and services and involved the courts to oversee this system. From the 1980s until present day, amendments have been made to this act that increase support of kinship care and create resources for teen youth in foster care.

1980

Social impact of foster care in Texas

2010-2014 - 114 children died despite the fact that CPS was investigating claims of abuse in those cases

2011 - Texas was sued over its foster care system

- The lawsuit claimed the foster care system routinely put foster children in danger
- The judge on the case agreed, finding that Texas children “leave state custody more damaged than when they entered.”
- High risk of physical abuse, sexual abuse, suicide, and insufficient supervision
- On any given day, over 30,000 Texas kids are in the Texas foster care system
- A CPS worker stated he had between 50-60 cases at once. The Child Welfare League of America recommends a caseload of no more than 12-15 kids.

2015 - A federal judge in Corpus Christi ruled that long-term foster care in the state was unconstitutional

2017 - The Texas Legislature passed a bill that allowed communities to take charge of foster care in their own cities and counties. This new model is called Community-Based Care, or CBC.

- Community-Based Care is intended to keep children safe in their foster placements, keep children close to their home communities, keep children with their siblings, keep up meaningful family connections, and respect the child's culture.

Social Impact of being a foster youth

When a child first enters foster care, they are often going through the most traumatizing time of their lives. Many foster youths experience severe trauma while simultaneously trying to adjust to their new environment. Through this experience, many people express this sudden stress and trauma in different ways. They may be labeled as 'problematic', 'poorly behaved', 'has anger issues, etc. These misjudgments affect these children in so many ways, including the deterrence for future chances of being adopted. Many of these negative behaviors are actually coping mechanisms for children and are not a true expression of who they are. When given this label, many people start to think the same of themselves if that's all they've been told, which later leads to criminal behavior, depression, suicide, lack of self-worth, etc. The stigma of foster care and being a part of the foster care service is in itself traumatizing to these children/youth, later affecting them in more ways than one when they age out of the system.

Site or Context Analysis

Narrative

When thinking about my site and doing some research on where the best location would be for something like this, my options were endless. Unfortunately, this is an issue everywhere you go, and even more prevalent in the cities with larger populations. I started looking at statistics revolving around homelessness and where the 'hot spots' are. The more I got into that side of site selection I realized I'm just looking at my clients and users as statistics, something they unfortunately will always be being in the foster care system. I moved my focus more towards articles, blogs, etc. to dig deeper into a more personal connection. I discovered an article written a few months ago about a specific individual's experience going through the foster care system. Reading about how some nights (more than you would think) he would sleep in offices on the floor, in churches, and honestly sometimes not even sleep because it would get so lonely. This resonated with me tremendously and I automatically felt like I found the perfect location. Though the article didn't disclose the exact location in Texas, I chose Dallas based on city development and foster care system information.

Descriptions, Characteristics, Underlying Abstract Ideas

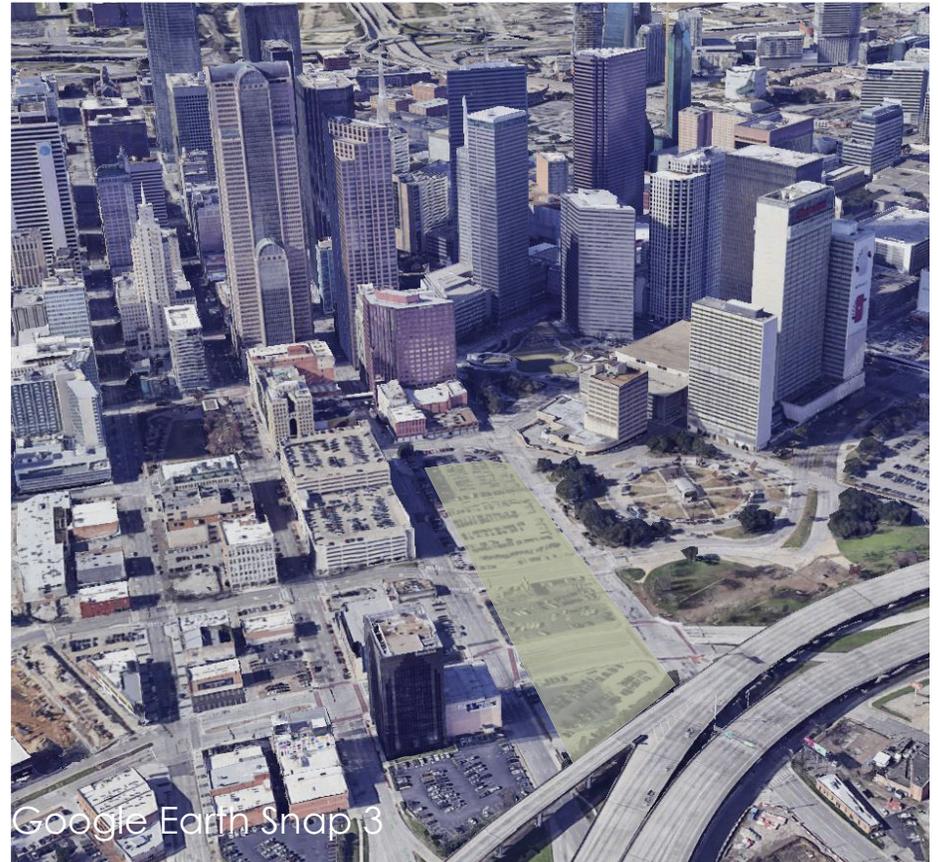
Location

210 Olive St, Dallas, TX 75201
Dallas Downtown Historic District

Site Information

Current Use: 4 parking lots supporting the surrounding businesses
Size: 6.44 Acres

Built Features



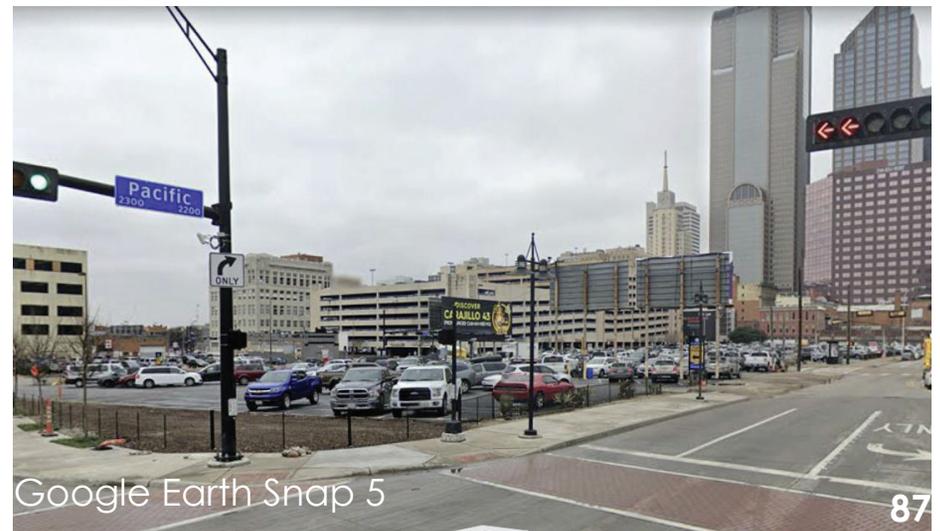
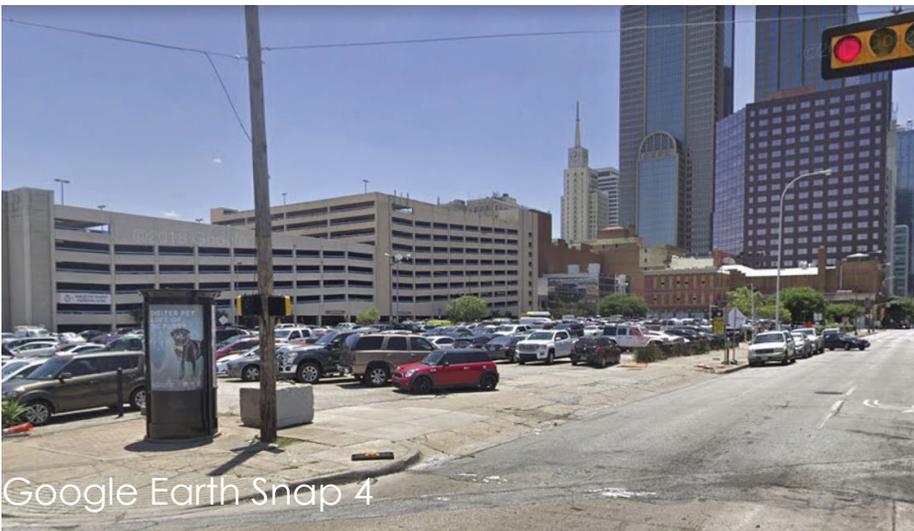
Site Character

The site is very close to a few community college options. I want to research a few ways my community and the local campus communities can collaborate to encourage and provide easy access for higher education for the youth in my community.

With a large bus transfer center across the street, transportation around the city is very accessible to all.

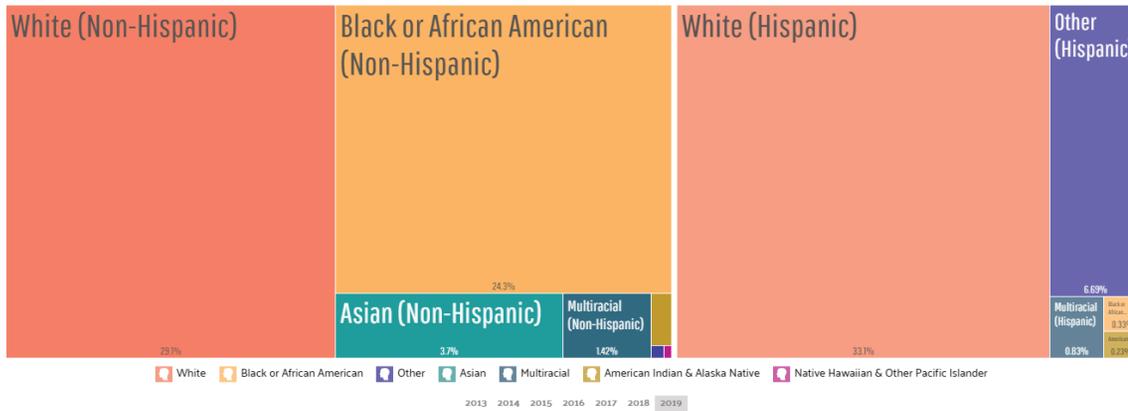
Sandwiched between two of the most desired neighborhoods in Dallas, TX for young professionals (Deep Ellum + Uptown), this site offers high job security, easy city access, social opportunity, and more.

Site Reconnaissance



Human Characteristics - Demographics

Race and Ethnicity



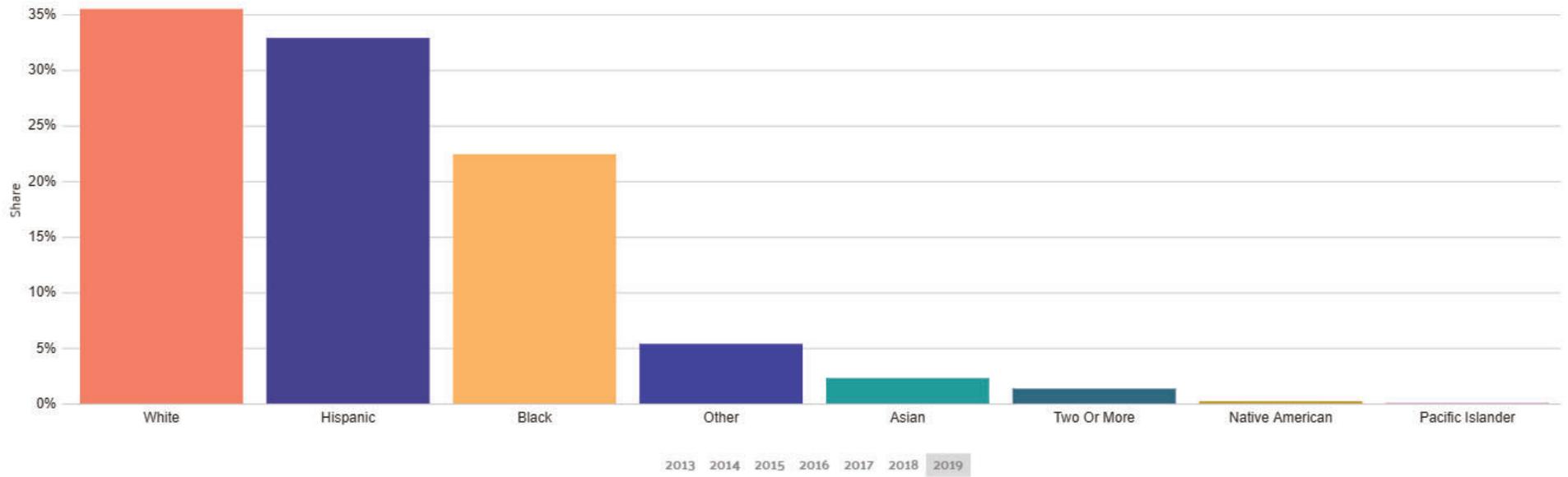
Employment by Industries



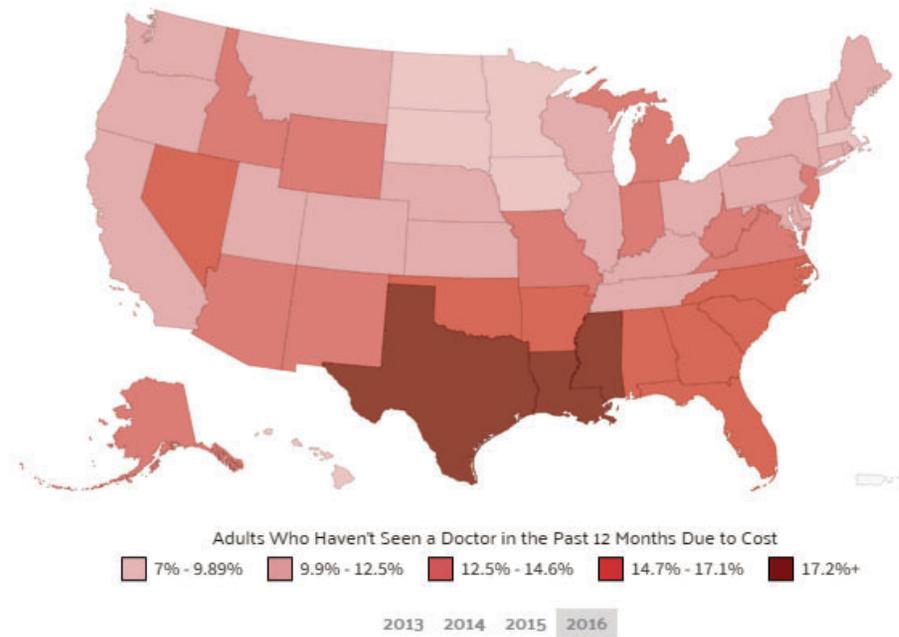
Employment by Occupations



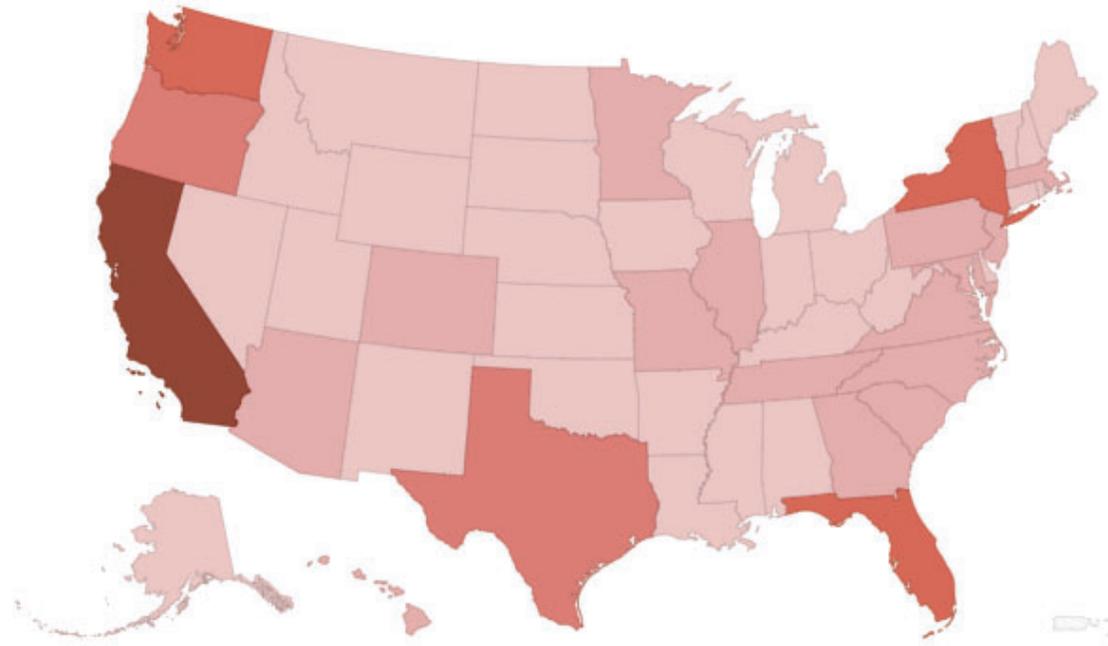
Poverty by Race and Ethnicity



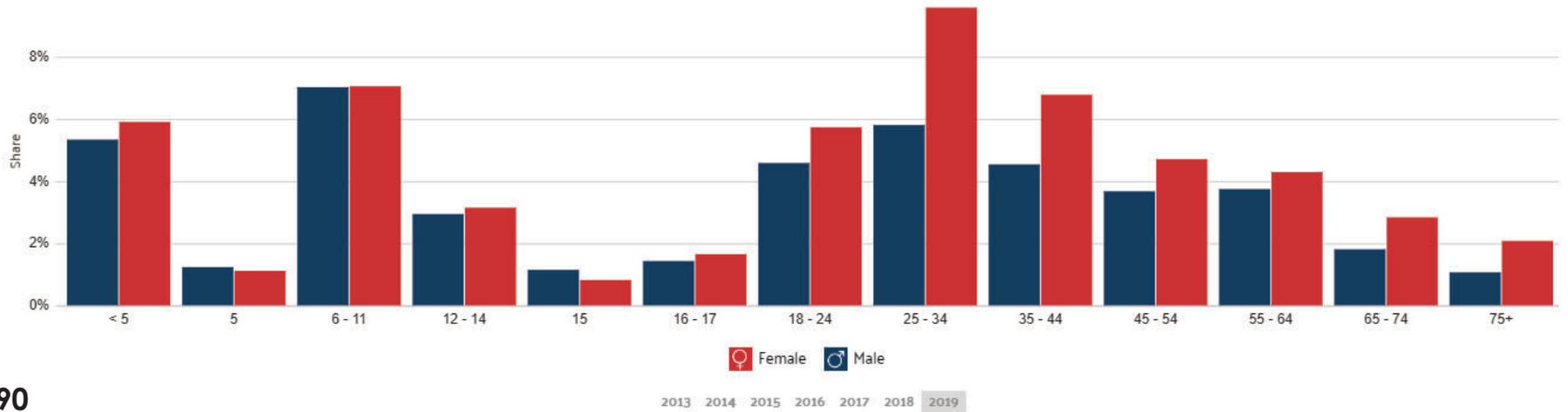
Access and Quality



Social Needs

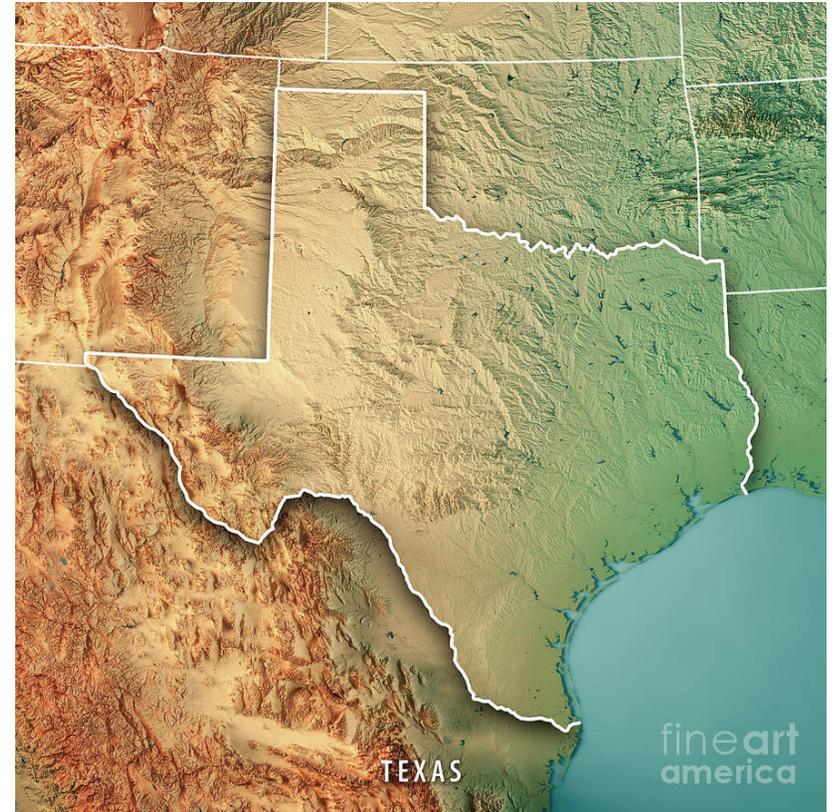


Poverty by Age + Gender



Topography + Distress

Dallas and the surrounding cities are relatively flat. Elevations range from 450 to 550 feet above sea level. My site is located in a very developed area, so little to no topography changes happen in the area.



Topography

Utilities

Located in the Downtown Historic District of Dallas, Texas, my location has access to all utilities by private and city service.

Vegetation

Vegetation



PLAZA + VEGETATION

Vehicular Traffic



Vehicular Traffic



Pedestrian Traffic



Pedestrian Traffic



HIGH TRAFFIC



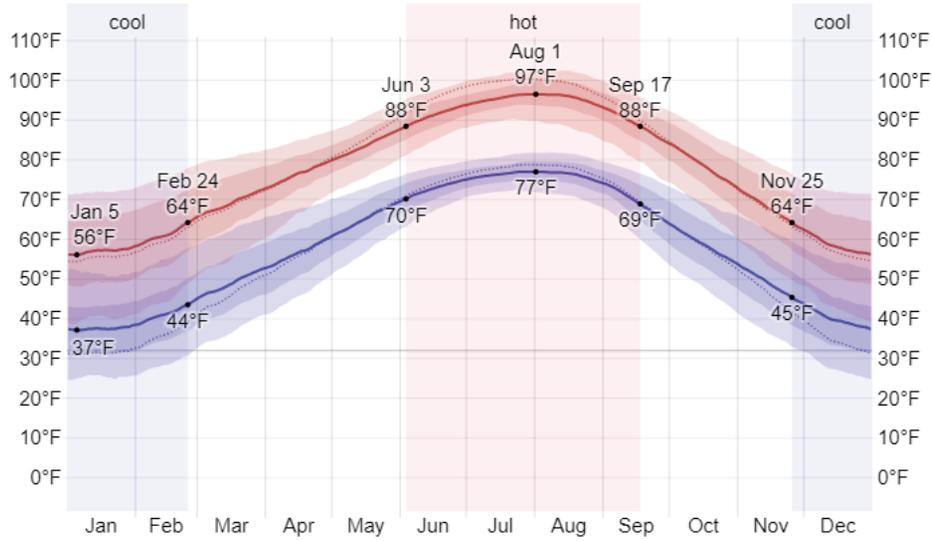
MEDIUM TRAFFIC



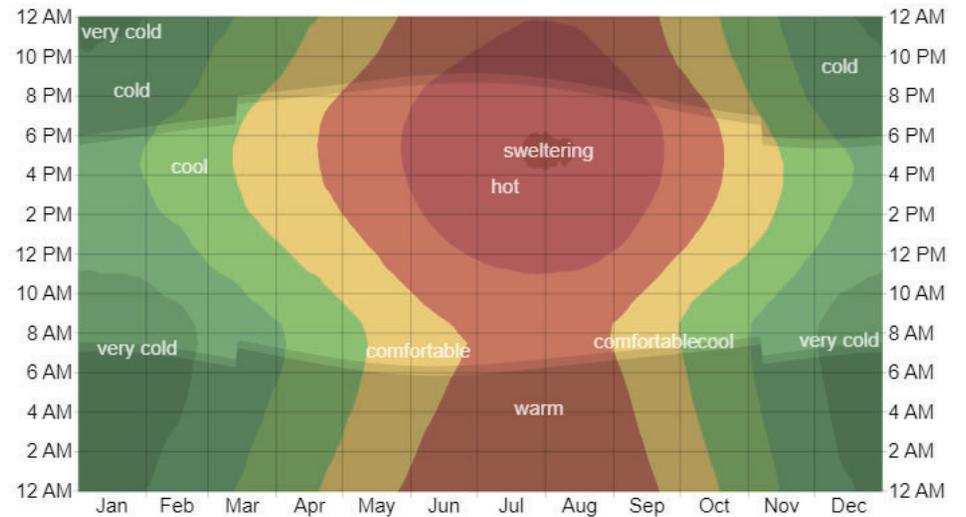
LOW TRAFFIC

Climate

Temperature

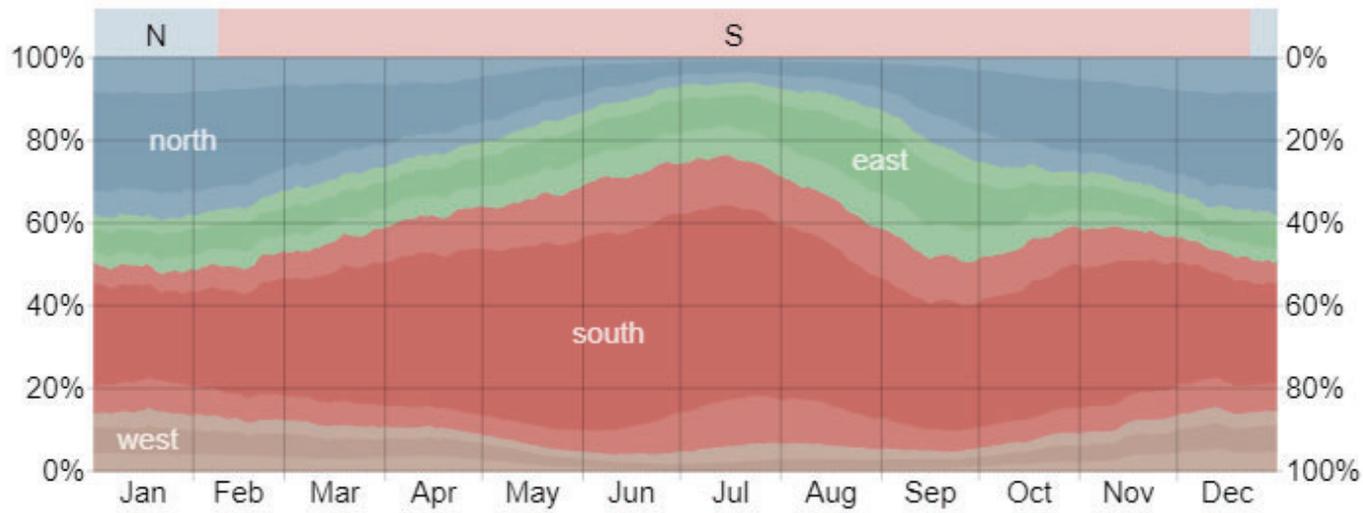


Temperature Chart

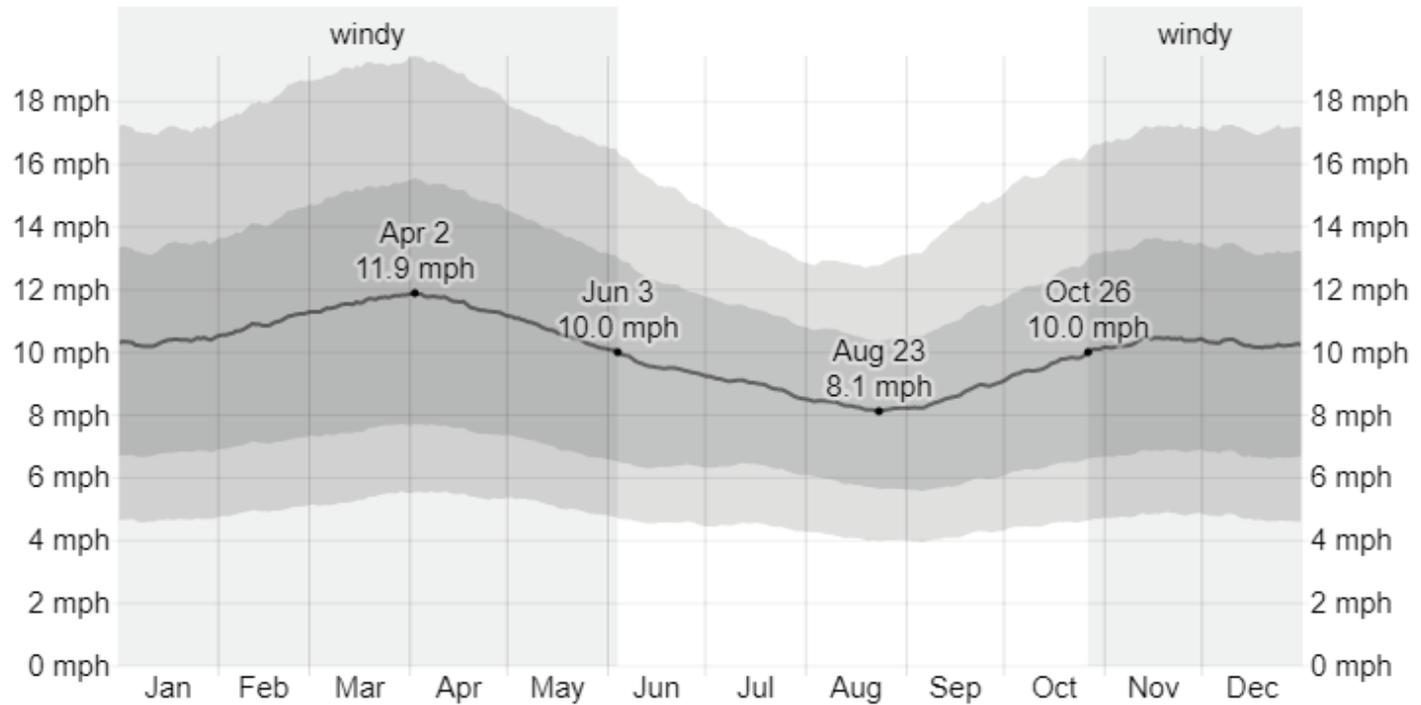


Temperature Chart

Wind

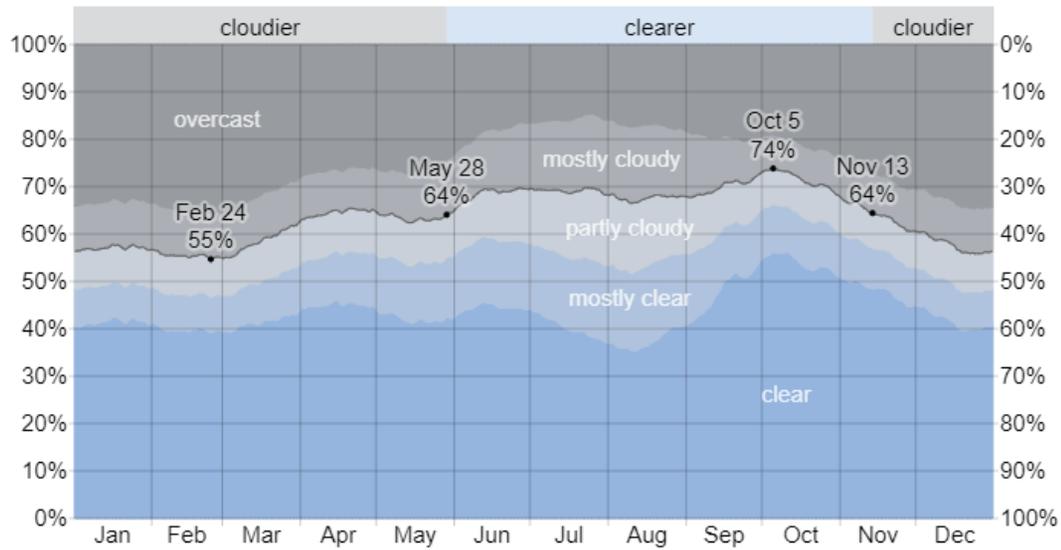


Wind Chart



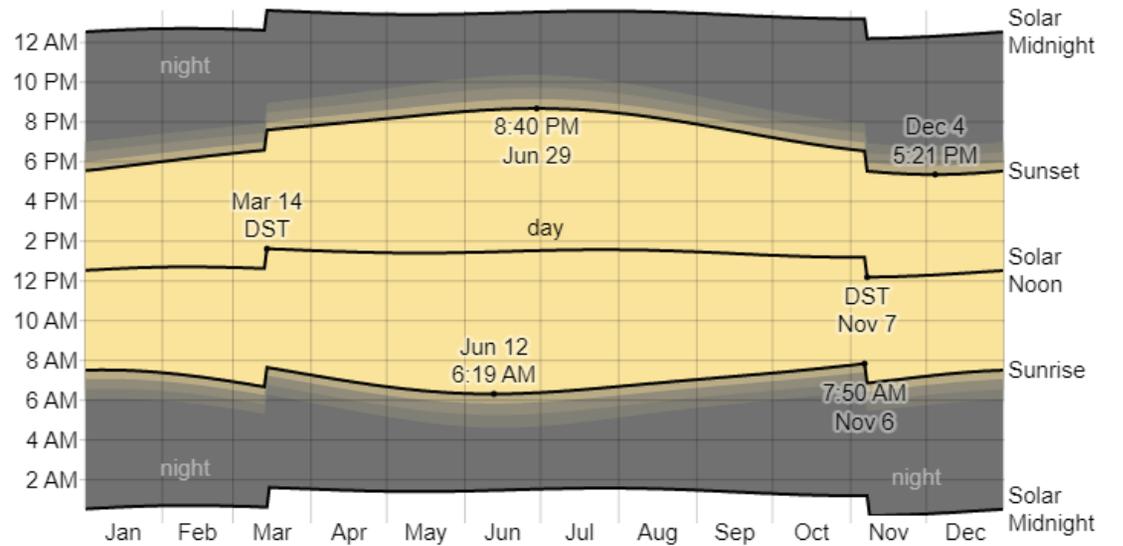
Wind Chart

Clouds



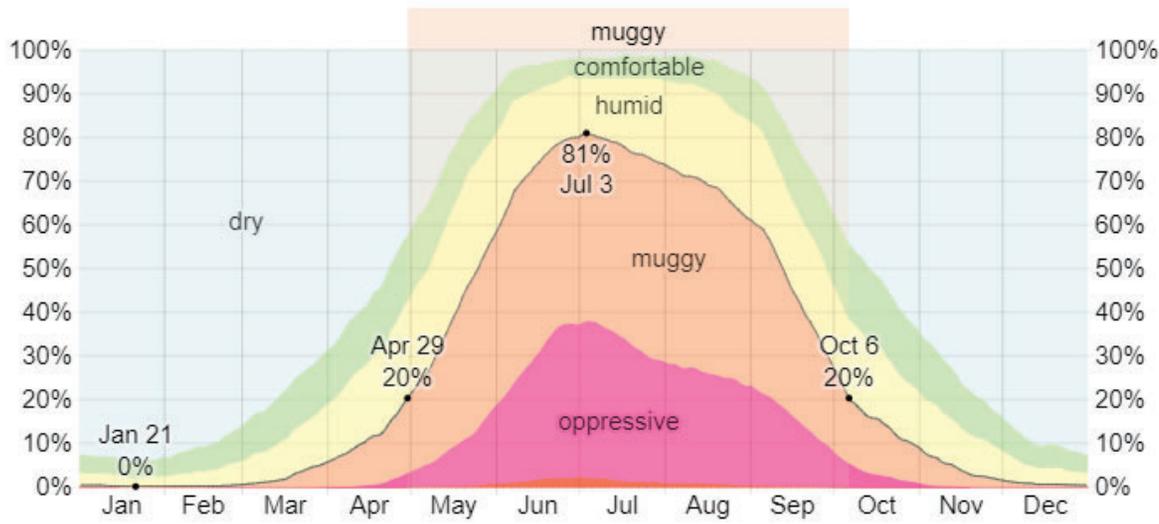
Cloud Chart

Sun



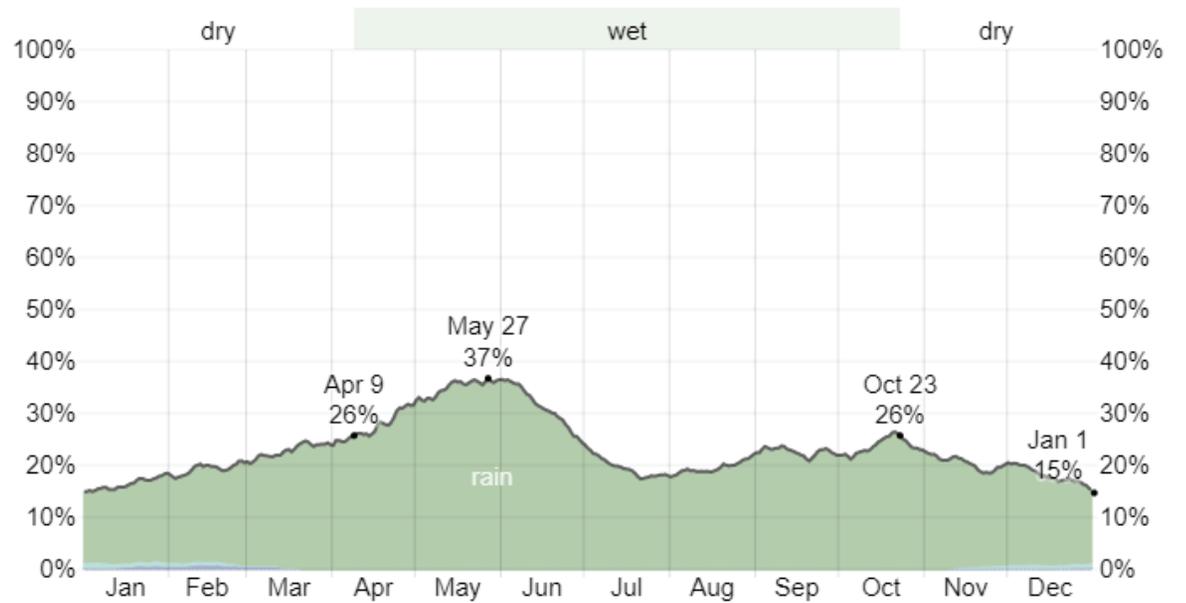
Sun Chart

Humidity

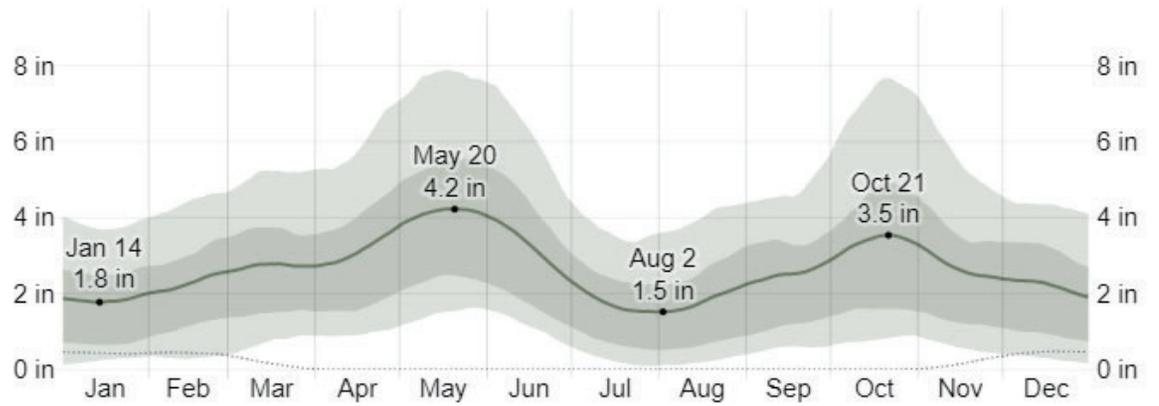


Humidity Chart

Precipitation



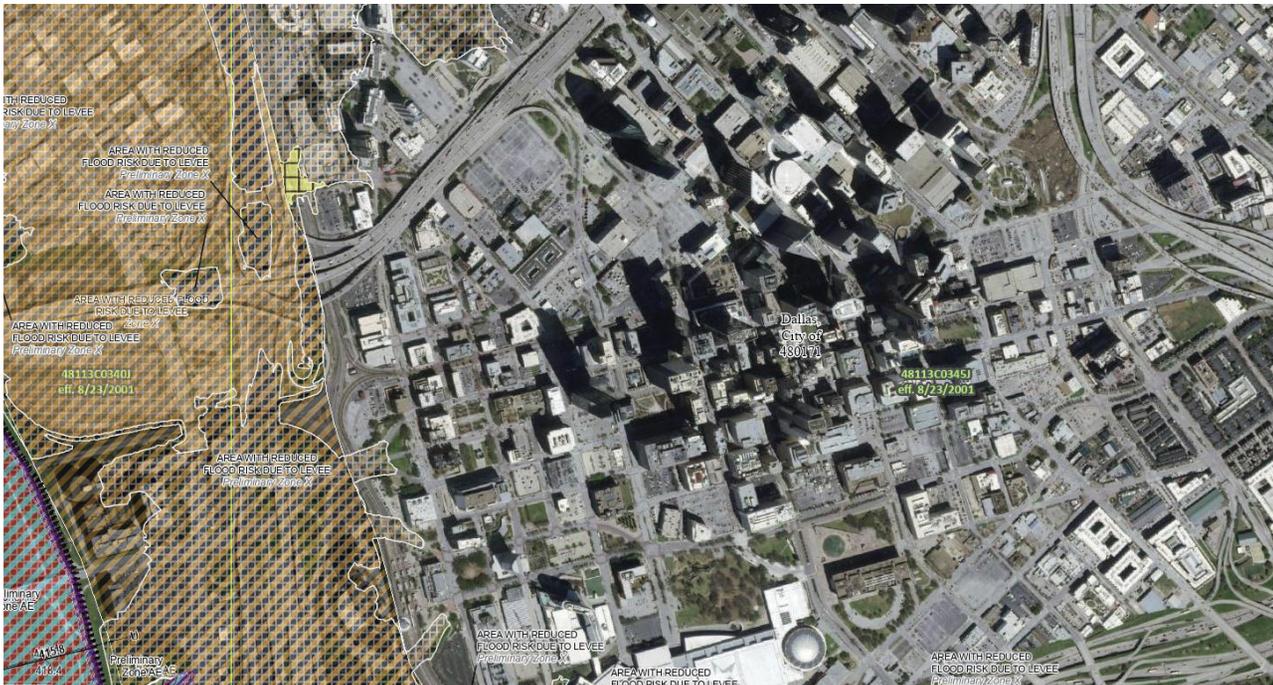
Precipitation Chart



Rainfall Chart

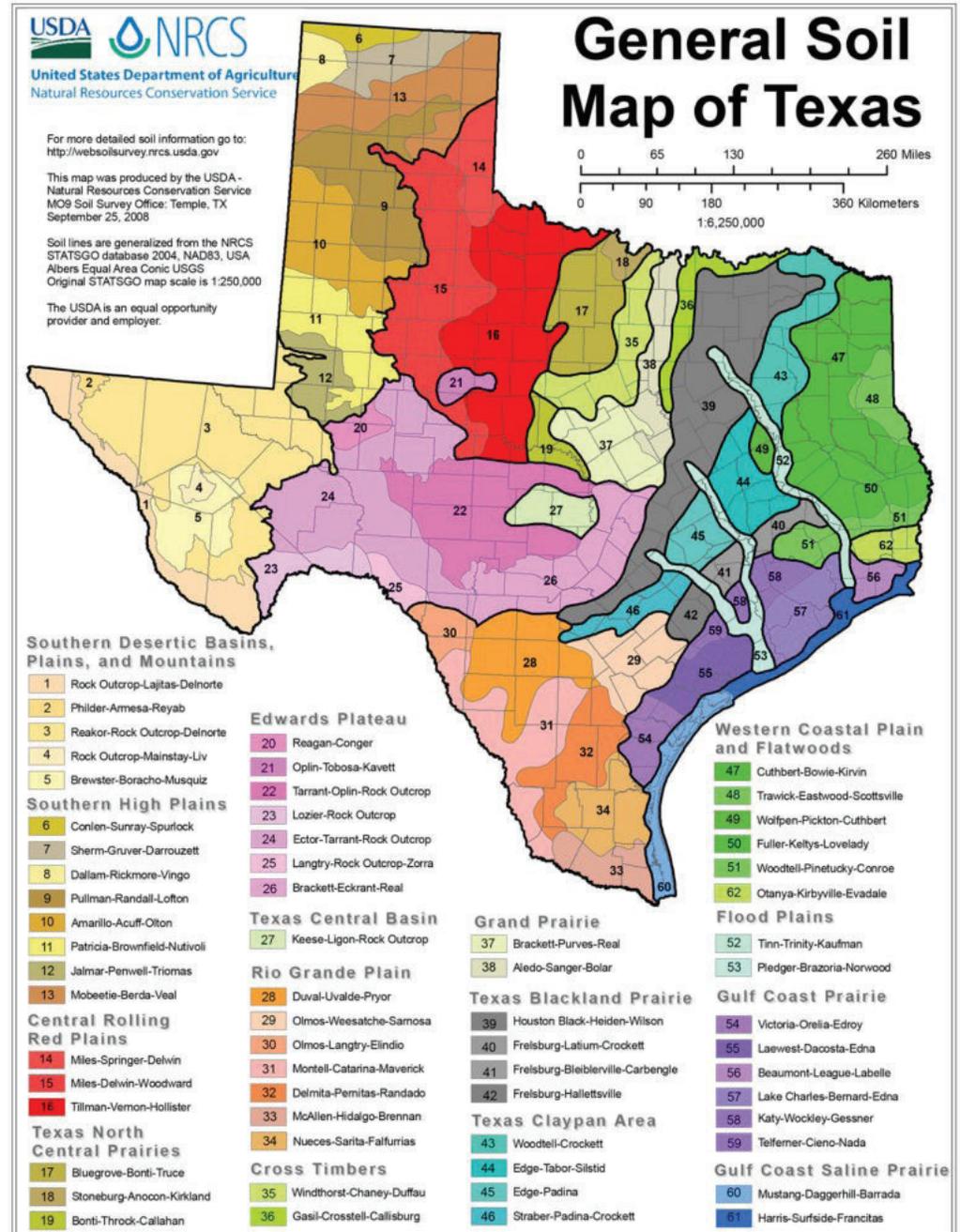
Flooding

Flooding used to be a large problem around my site, but the city has since managed that problem by putting in a levee.

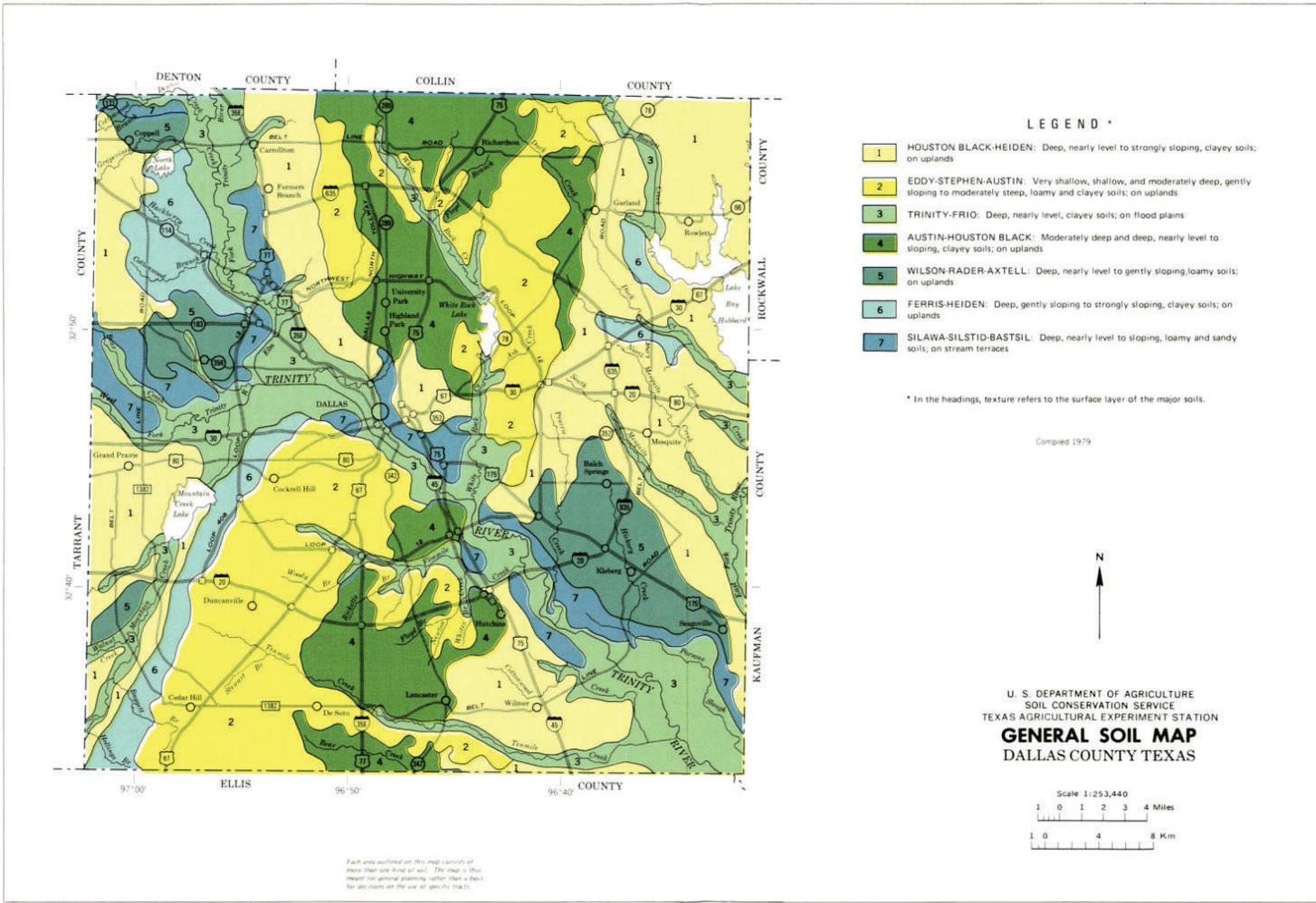


Flooding Map

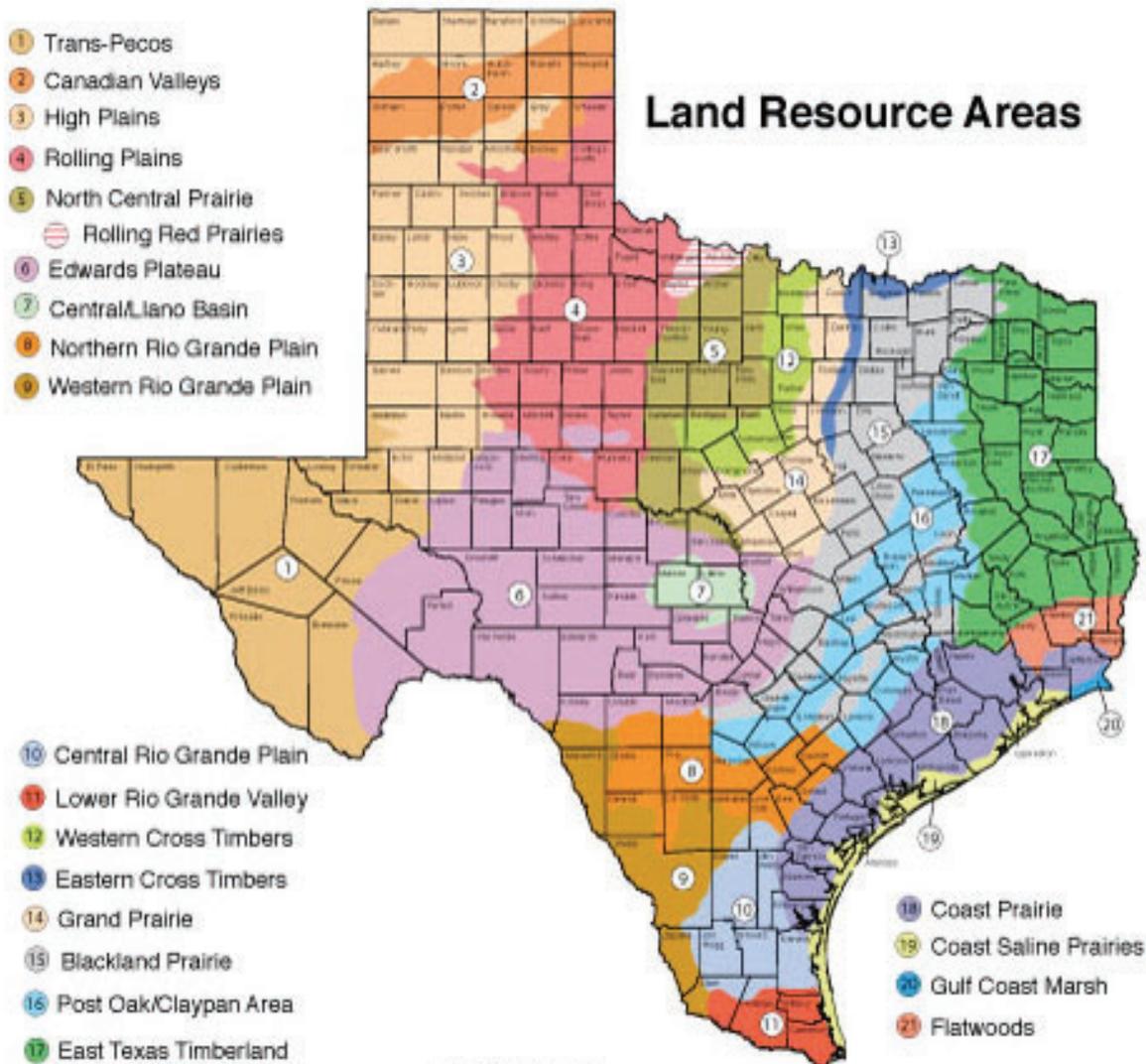
Soil



Texas Soil Map



Dallas Soil Map



© 2010 Texas A&M University System
 Source: Natural Resources Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Land Resource Area Map

Performance Criteria for Thesis Project

Space Allocation

Considering the size and location of my site, the typology of spaces will be diverse. The needs of each program will be met with an adequate amount of space as well as a design to account for the possibility of future growth. With being in the center of a city, space allocation will be forefront in design consideration as well as site layout.

Energy Consumption

With the focus on sustainability as well as 'design for the future', energy consumption will be a large consideration within the performance of the buildings. Using energy tools such as Insight and Revit Energy Analysis will assist me in building energy performance and consumption.

Environmental Performance

The main focus in regards to environmental performance will consist of material usage and surrounding impact. This requires additional research throughout the designing process to achieve adequate and successful usage. Looking into case studies will help determine overall environmental performance as well.

Behavioral Performance

Being a primary consideration during design, pedestrian usage, and traffic flow will be largely considered to design for successful spaces and usage. Through this, considerations on space usage as well as time usage will be largely focused on.

Psychological Impact

When considering users that have possible mental health issues, psychological impact through design will be a leading consideration throughout my entire process. In order to achieve what I am aiming to do, additional research through case studies, interviews, medical journals, etc. will need to be completed. Creating spaces that will be able to adjust with future growth and program needs will also be implemented in order to move in progression with changing times.

Environmental Impact

Through my focus on sustainability, environmental impact will be considered throughout the entire process of research and design. This will require constant attention and consideration as well as continual research in order to confirm the right intentions. Considering the future of green building design, I want to be at the forefront of the future of design. In order to create a sustainable design solution, environmental impact will need to be a large priority throughout each phase.

Code Compliance

Within the process of design, following ADA and any additional regulations will be required. Creating an environment that's welcome to all is the forefront of my thesis topic, so this will be a heavy and high expectation I have for myself and for my design. In order to be successful, inclusivity needs to be implemented throughout.

Cost

The cost will not be considered as a hard line throughout my project. I don't want to constrict my design based on a budget that I give myself, but I do want the final product to be a realistic solution as well. In a larger view, this project will hold a high cost but in the end, it will also create an environment and solution that considers return on investment and cycle cost through users.

Executive Summary of Performance Criteria

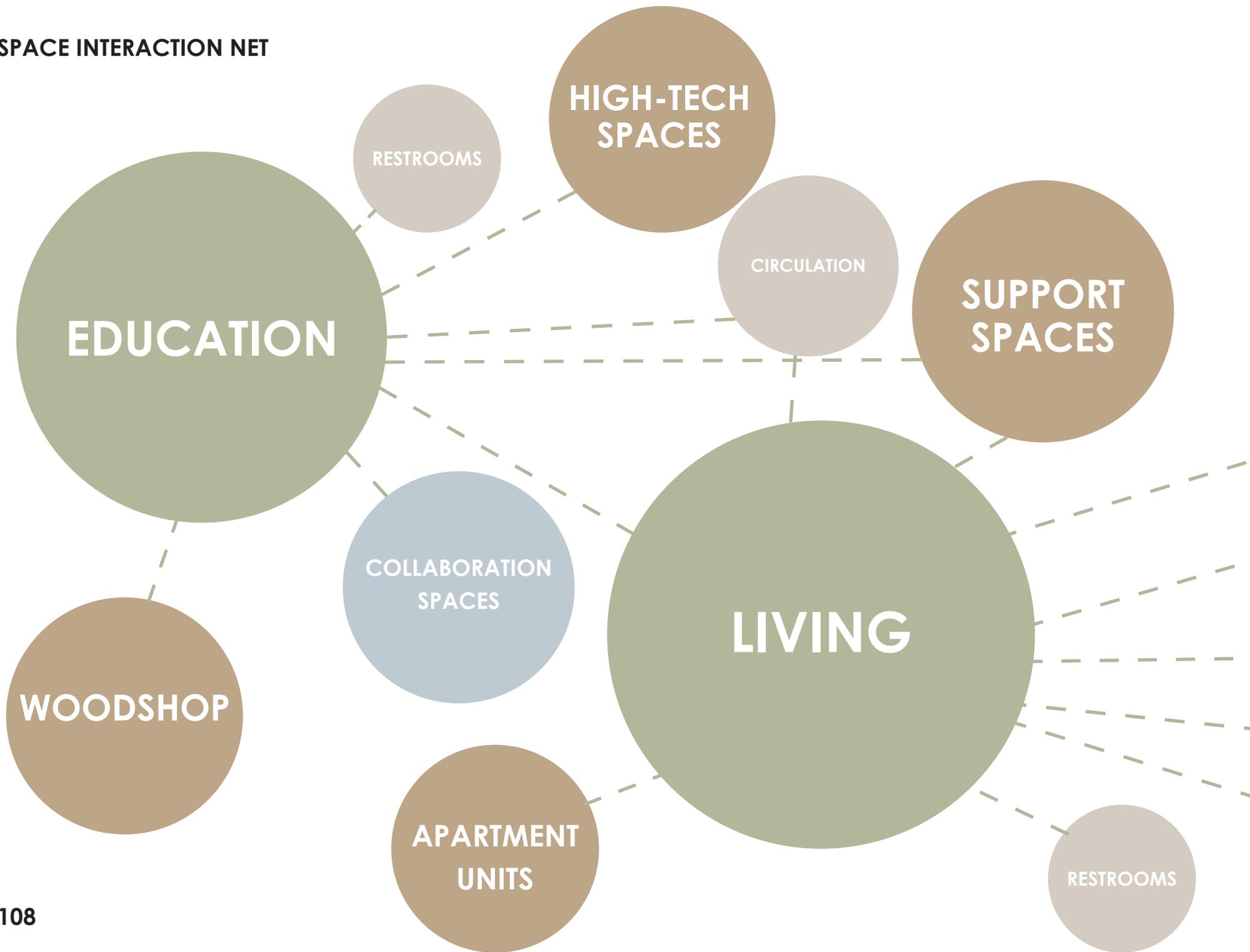
Breaking my focuses into three main criteria will benefit me as well as the project in terms of detail and success. These three criteria sections are formatted not in terms of preference but in terms of focus. In wanting to incorporate the most into my research and design, these three bases will determine the specifics needed for each space.

1. Building/Site Functionality and Efficiency Criteria
2. User experience and Program Allocation Criteria
3. Environmental Sustainability and Performance Criteria

The first criteria section is focused on the building/site's functionality and efficiency. This section will act as a baseline for my expectation of the project's success as well as a baseline for design needs. Using research through case studies of similar projects that have been both successful and unsuccessful will help me determine my own plan of action in terms of site, building, and program layout. Considering three main aspects of flow will assist in the making of a functional and efficient design: the flow of the site, flow from building to building, and flow throughout the interior of the buildings.

The second criteria section is focused on the user experience and program allocation. Determining final program uses as well as details within each program will be assisted through heavy research using case studies and program studies. Finding the user benefits for each program will assist in making the overall project stronger. Focusing most on user experience throughout the programs and finding benefits for everyone will be one of the main driving points in the entirety of the design process.

The third criteria section is focused on environmental sustainability and its performance. Designing and planning for the future are another one of my main project focuses and the hope is that the solution will be able to thrive for as long as sustainably possible. Focusing on aspects throughout each building through performance and impact as well as focusing on the outside sources coming in will help achieve this goal. Said before, designing for the future is a crucial part of this process.



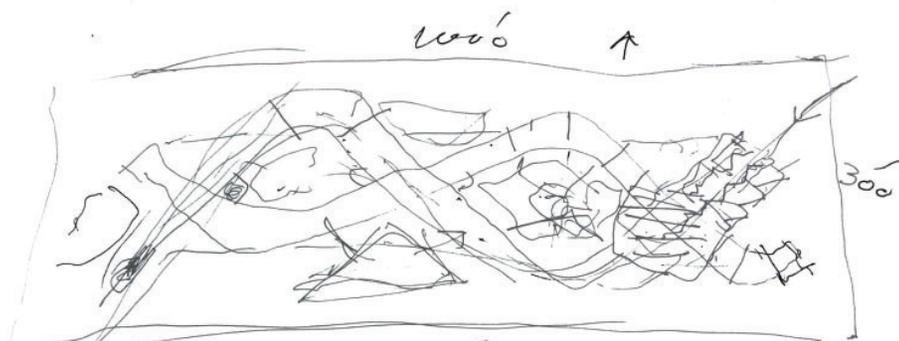
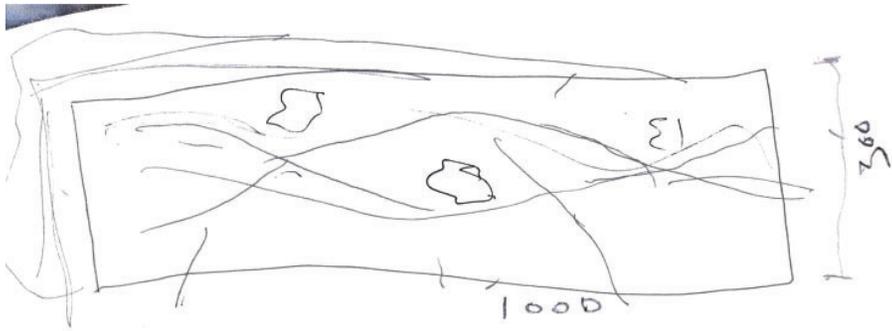
SPACE INTERACTION NET



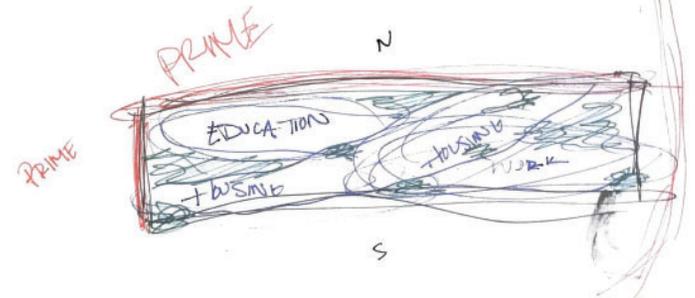
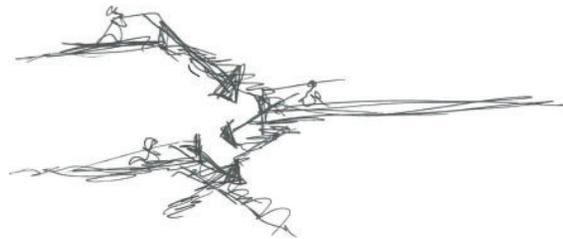
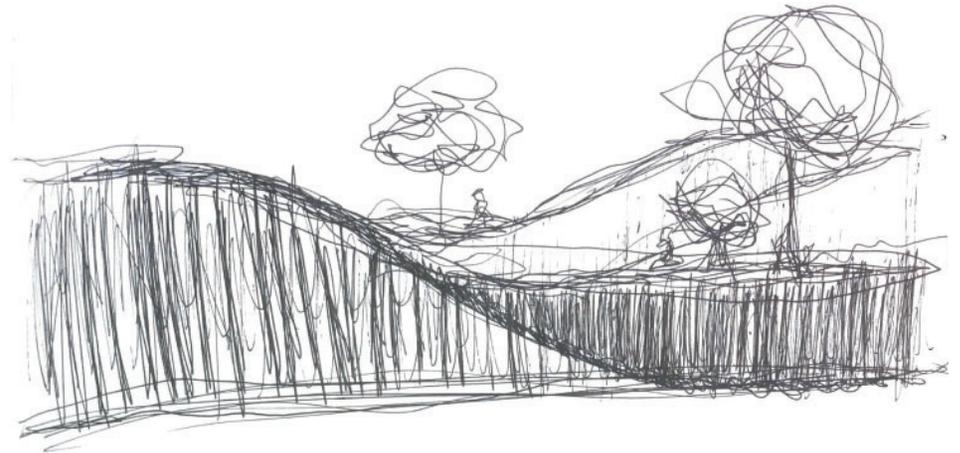
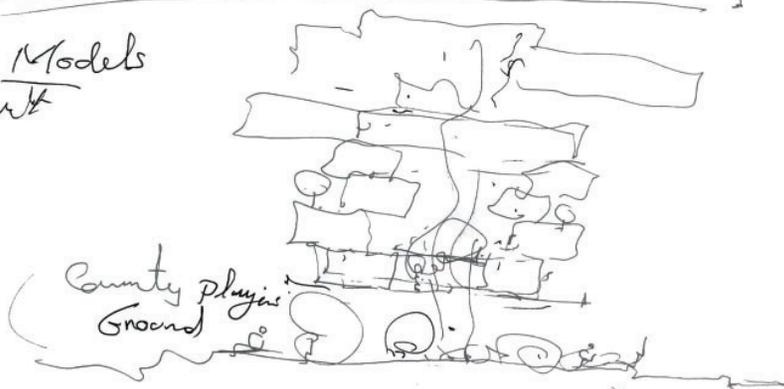
Design Solution

Process Documentation

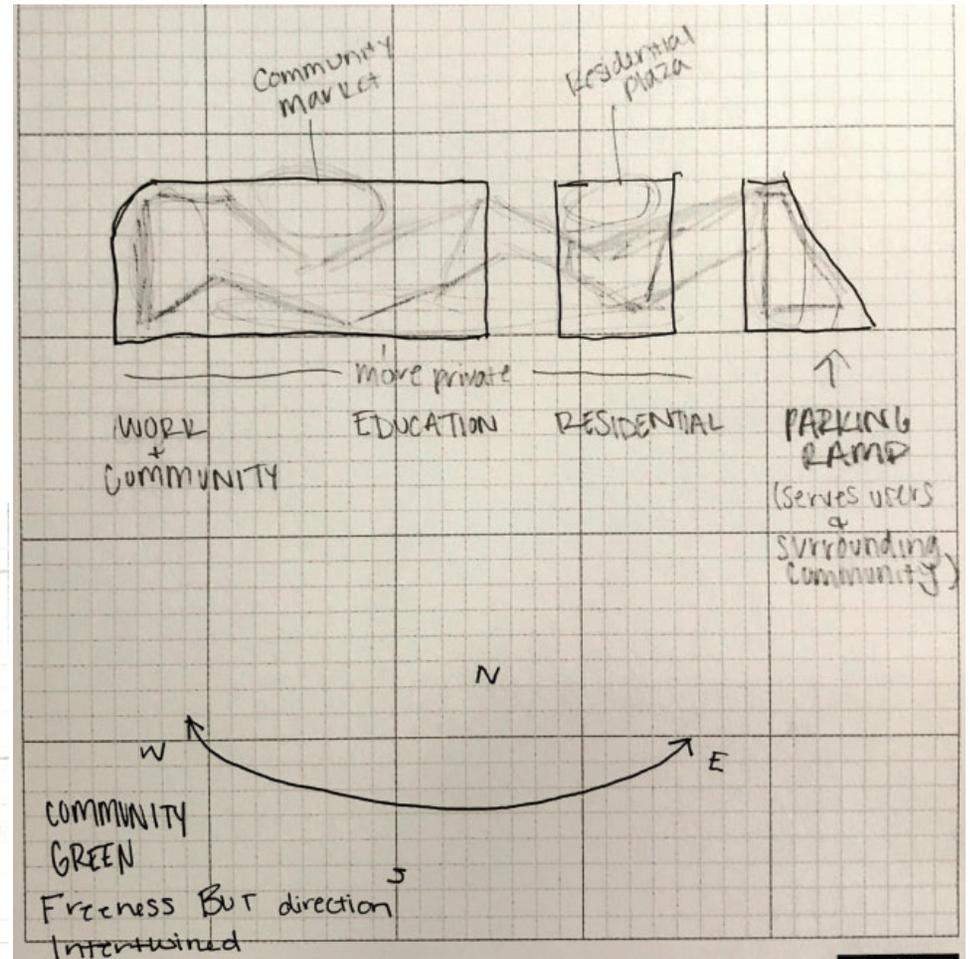
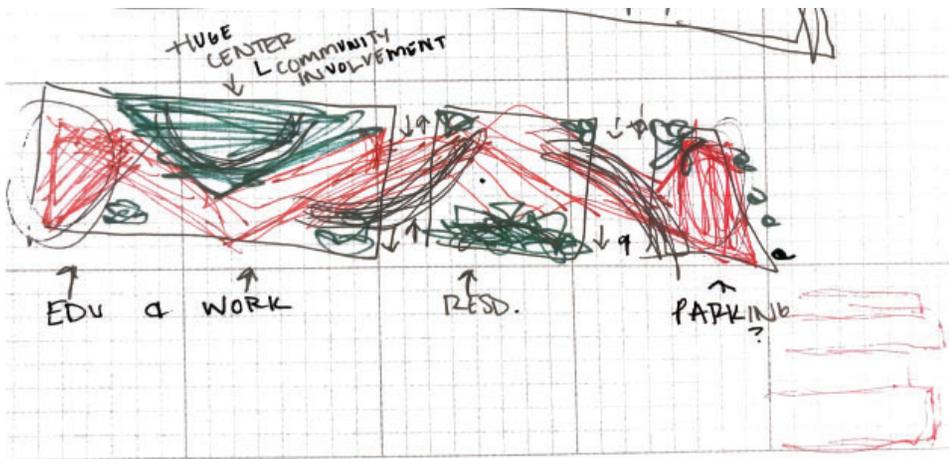
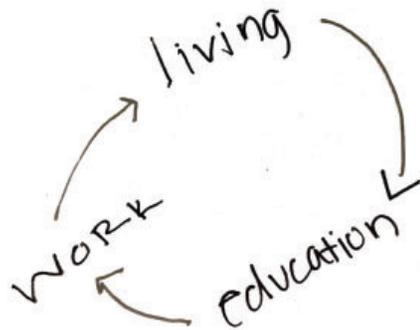
PROCESS DOCUMENTATION



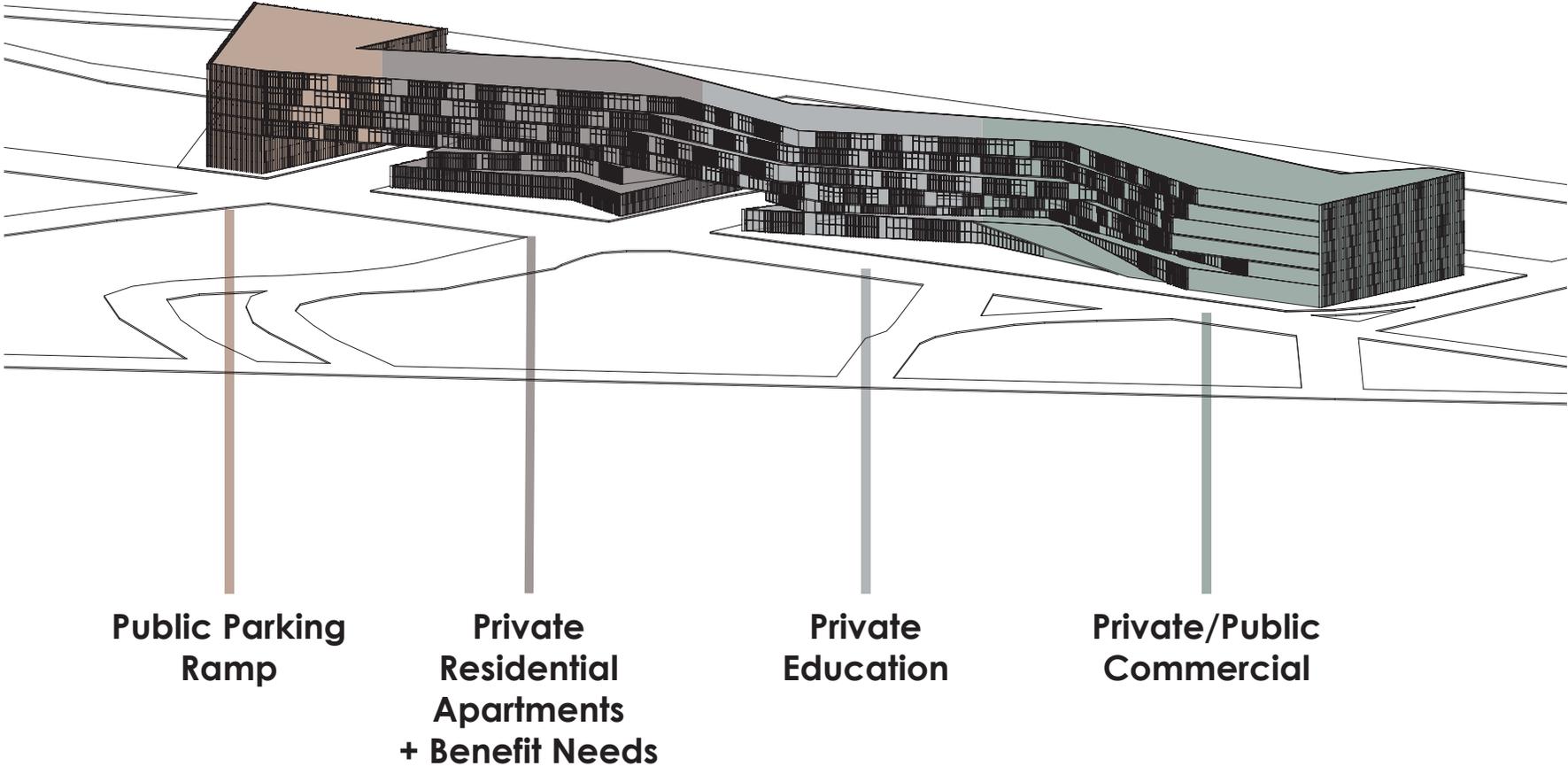
Models
concept



PROCESS DOCUMENTATION



PROCESS DOCUMENTATION



PROCESS DOCUMENTATION

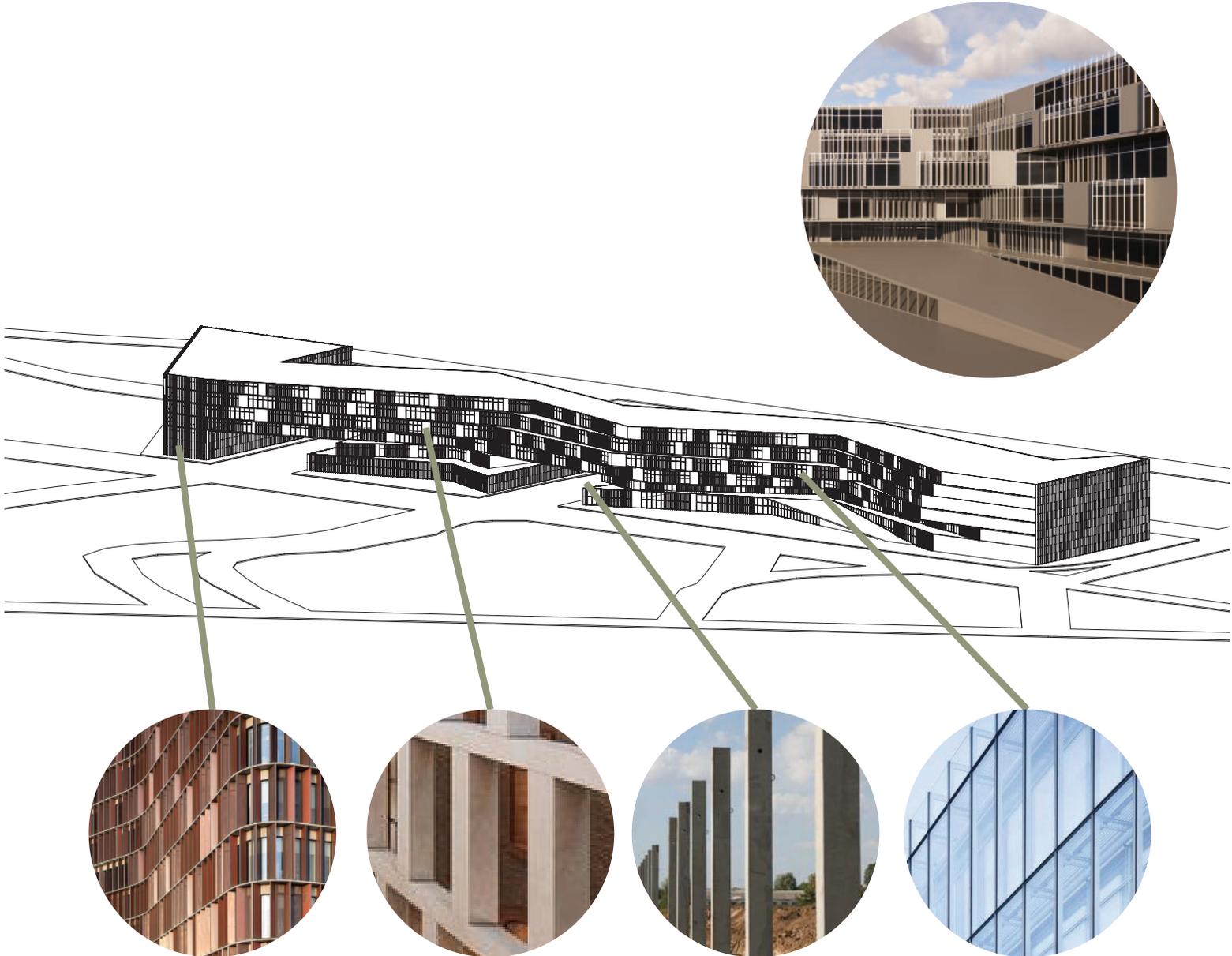


**Green Roof
(mixed)
(part-accessible
to residents)**

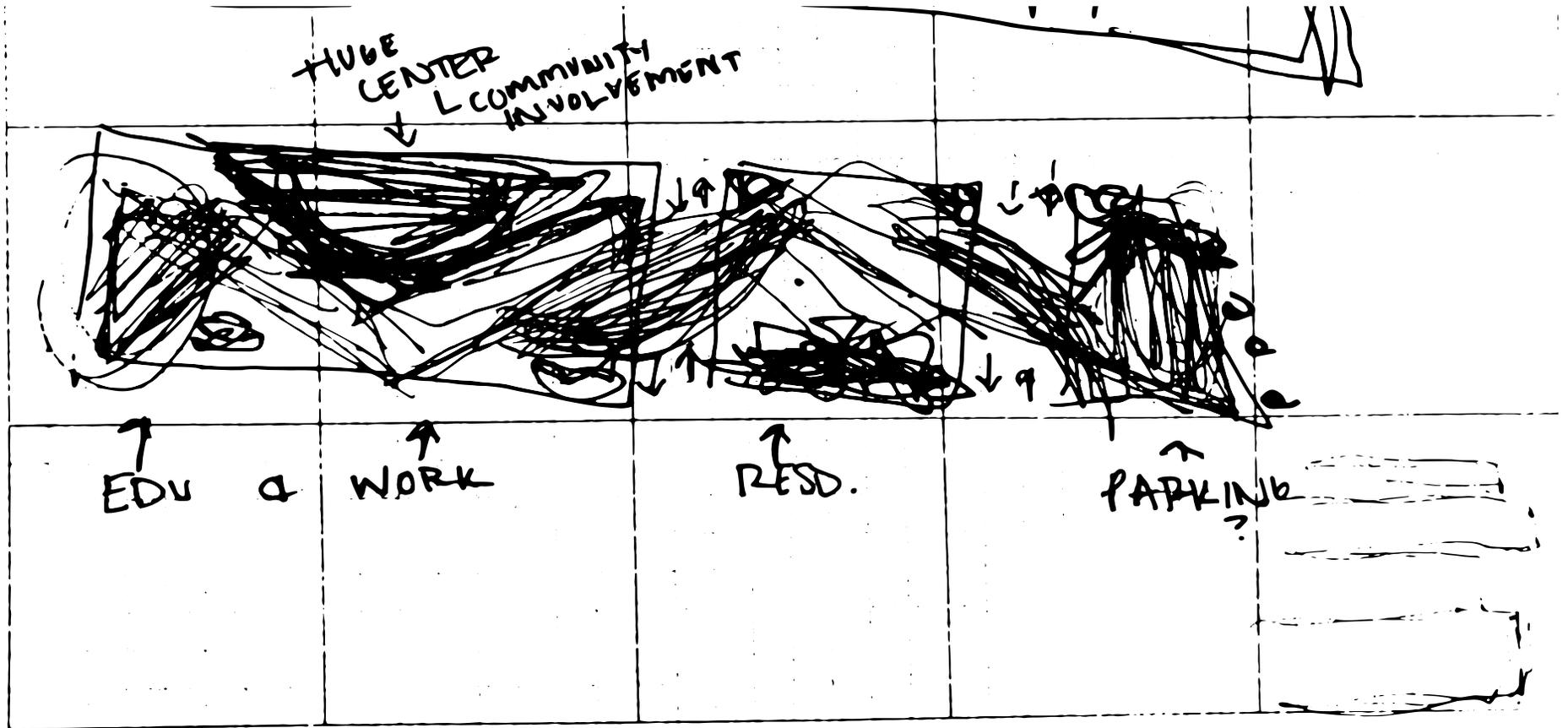
**Public Plaza
(Continued)**

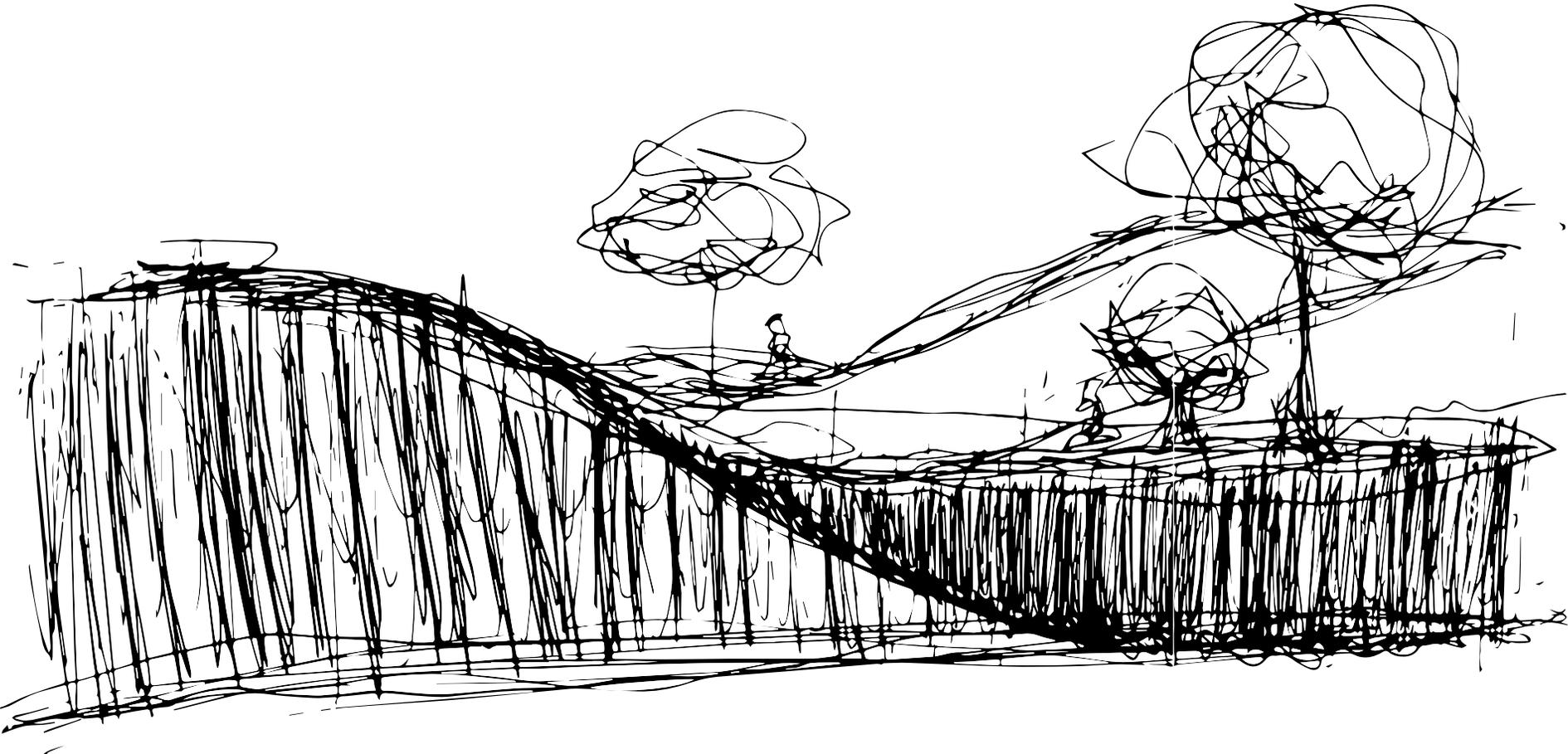
**Public
Community
Space (plaza,
market space,
etc.)**

**Solar Panels
(mixed)**

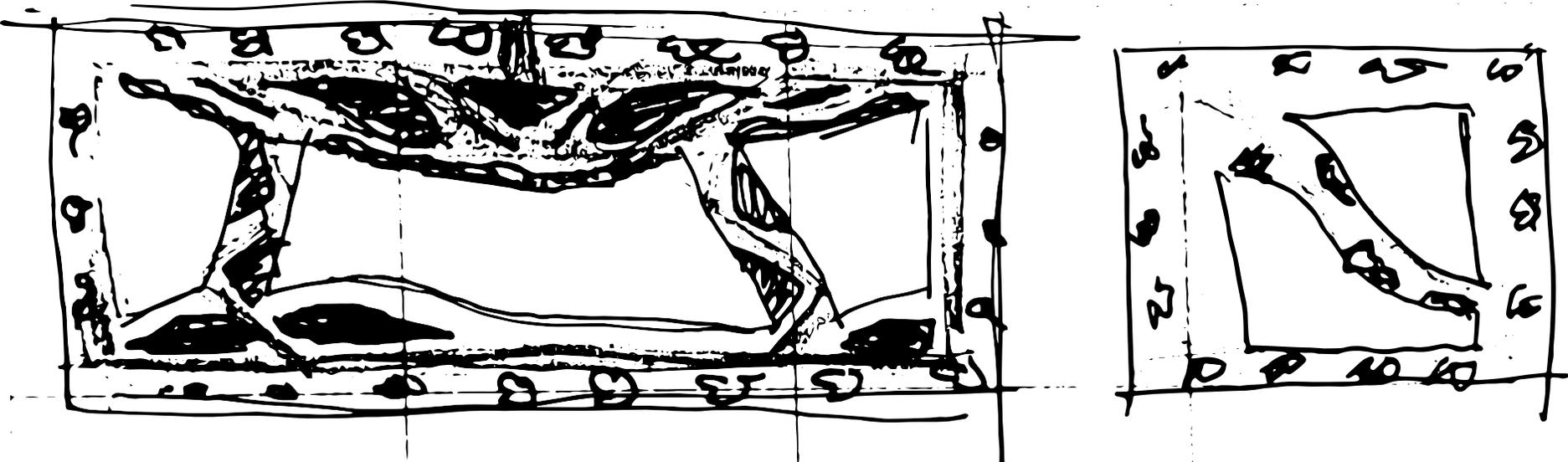


PROCESS DOCUMENTATION





PROCESS DOCUMENTATION



Project Solution Documentation

FOSTERING COMMUNITY

CONNECTION • OPPORTUNITY • COMMUNITY

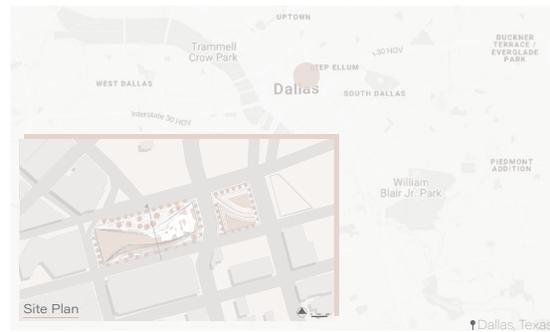


Education Center



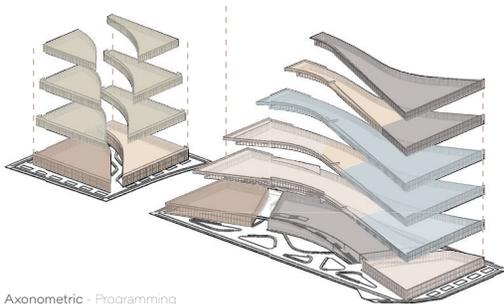
Process Sketches

On any given day, there are nearly 424,000 children in foster care in the United States. In 2019, over 672,000 children spent time in U.S. foster care. With these numbers, 1 in 4 foster children become homeless after aging out of the foster care system. This project will be focusing specifically on young adults who become homeless after they age out of the foster care system. This design will explore different spaces that can foster a sense of community and growth for those who need it. It will provide opportunities that are currently not available, such as furthering one's education, economic growth, and supporting individual needs. This design specifically focuses on creating social opportunities with surrounding communities and how design can positively affect one's community. This project is specifically designed to create a space where these young adults to have a place to finally call home, even if it's just for a little bit.



Site Plan

Dallas, Texas



Axonometric - Programming

- Private Residential
- Service Center
- Administration
- Business Center
- Community Center
- Education Center



Private Residential



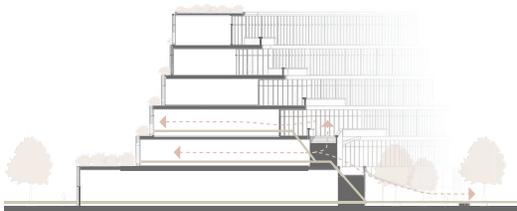
Community Center



Community Center



Community + Business Center



Section Cut - Community Connection

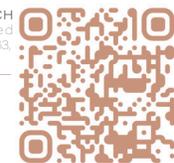


Analysis - Community Connection



Analysis - Pedestrian + Vehicular Traffic

RESEARCH Completed in ARCH 763, Fall 2021



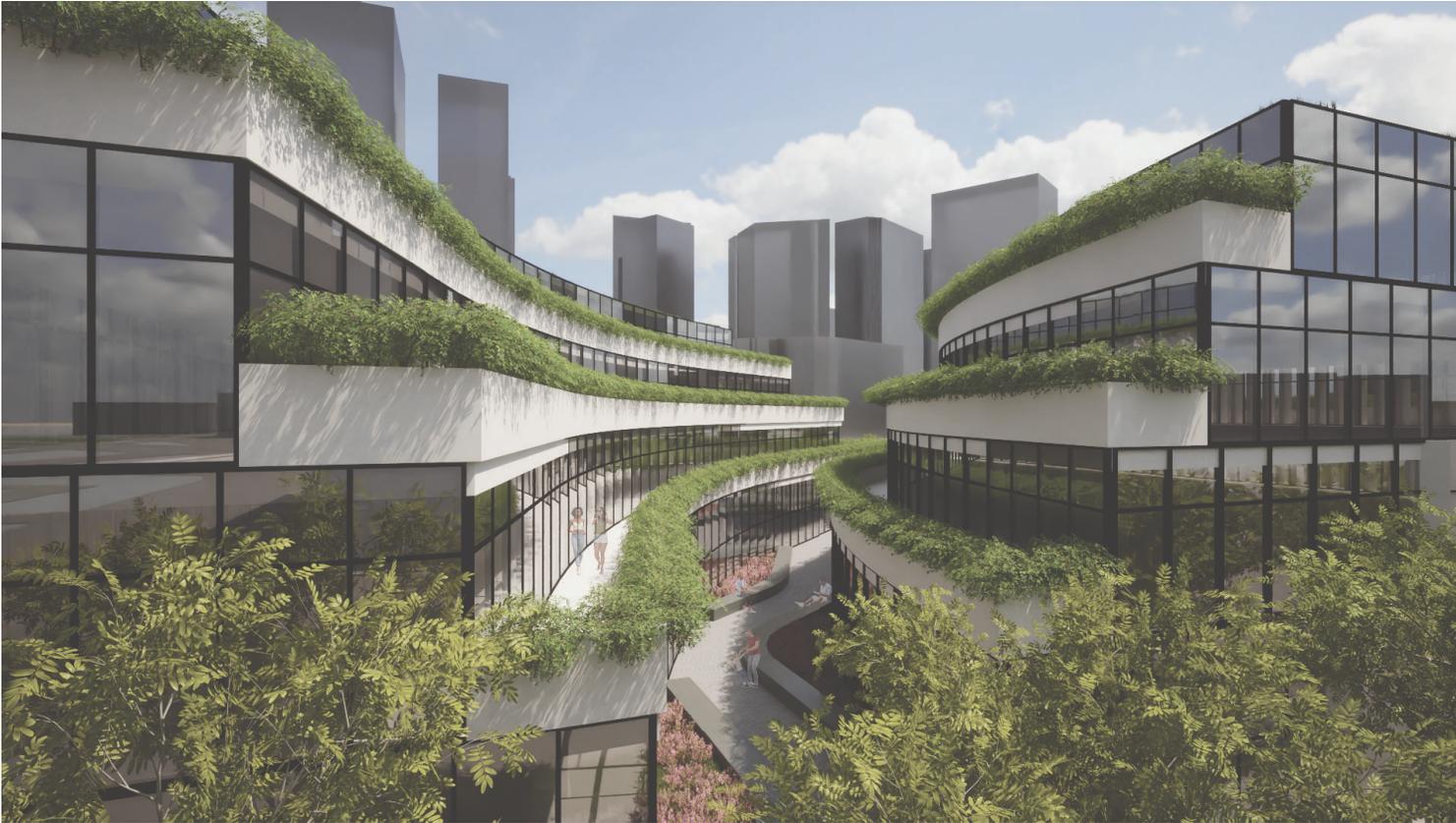










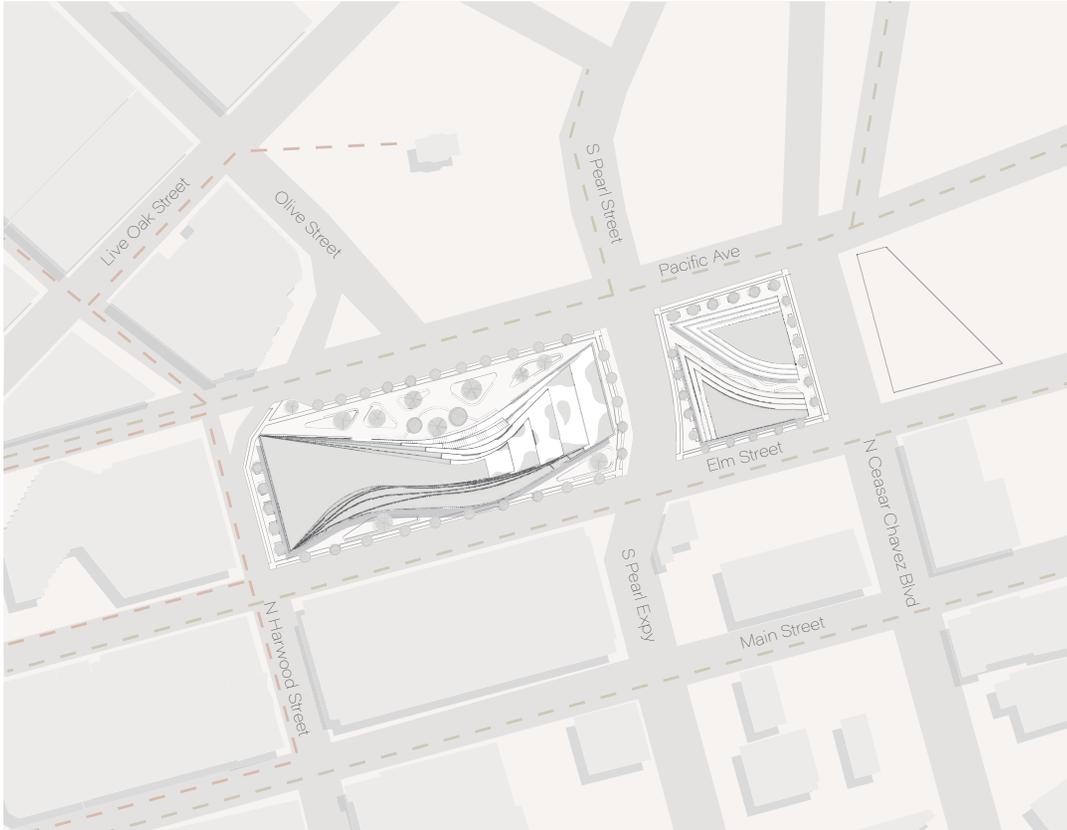


Performance Analysis: Response to the Site or Context





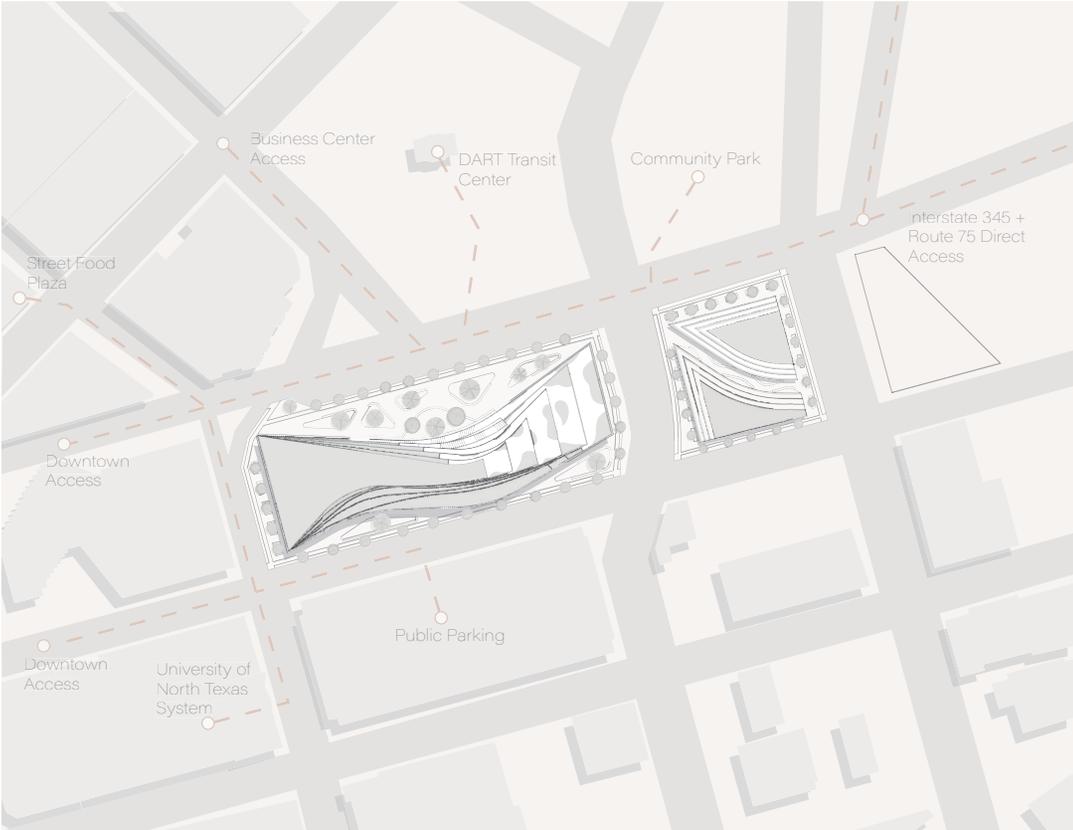
Response to the Site or Context



Analysis - Pedestrian + Vehicular Traffic



Response to the Site or Context



Analysis - Community Connection

Response to the Site or Context

PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC



VEHICULAR TRAFFIC



VEGETATION



Performance Analysis: Response to the Typological or Precedent Research

Program Analysis

Community Space
+ Center

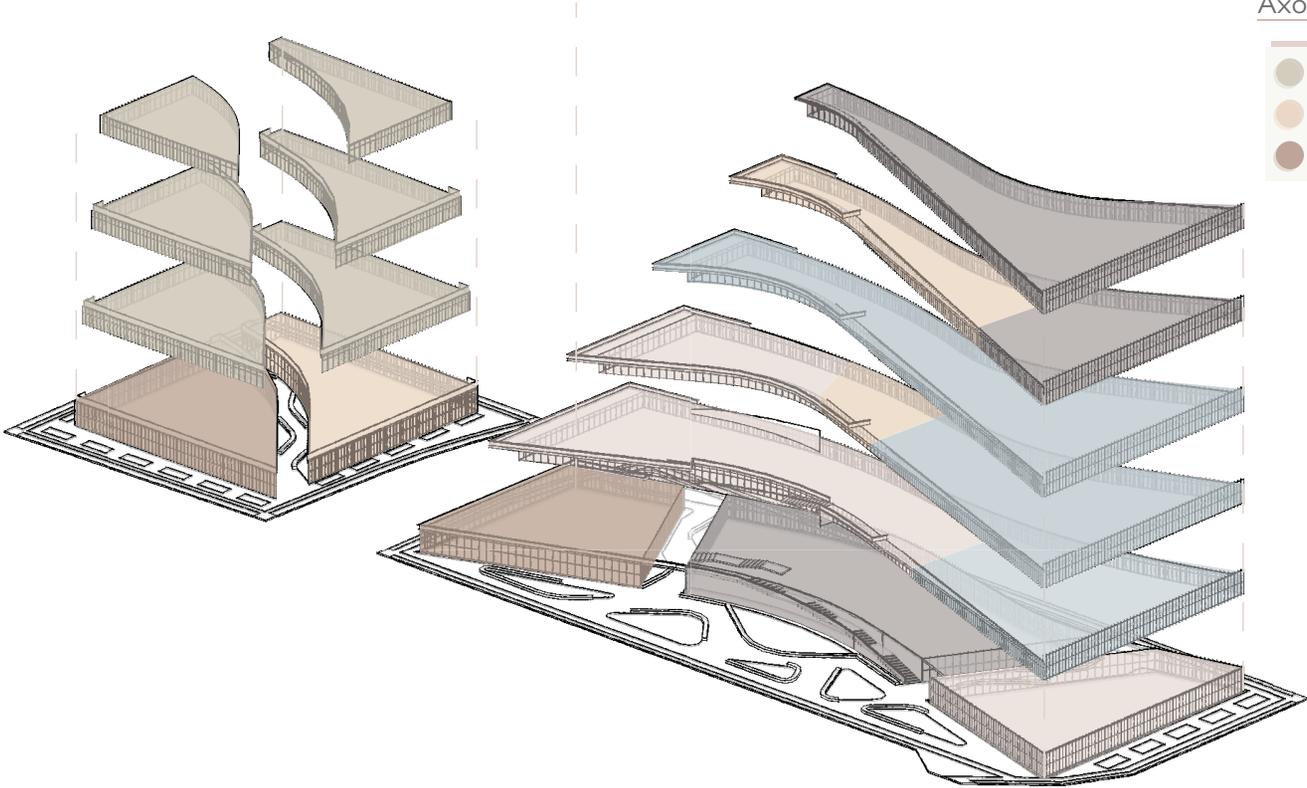
Business
Center

Education
Center

Service
Center

Residential

Program Analysis



Axonometric - Programming

- Private Residential
- Service Center
- Administration
- Business Center
- Community Center
- Education Center

Performance Analysis: Response to Goals and Project Emphasis

Project Goals

1

Intertwining inside and outside communities, creating spaces and moments for those connections to thrive

2

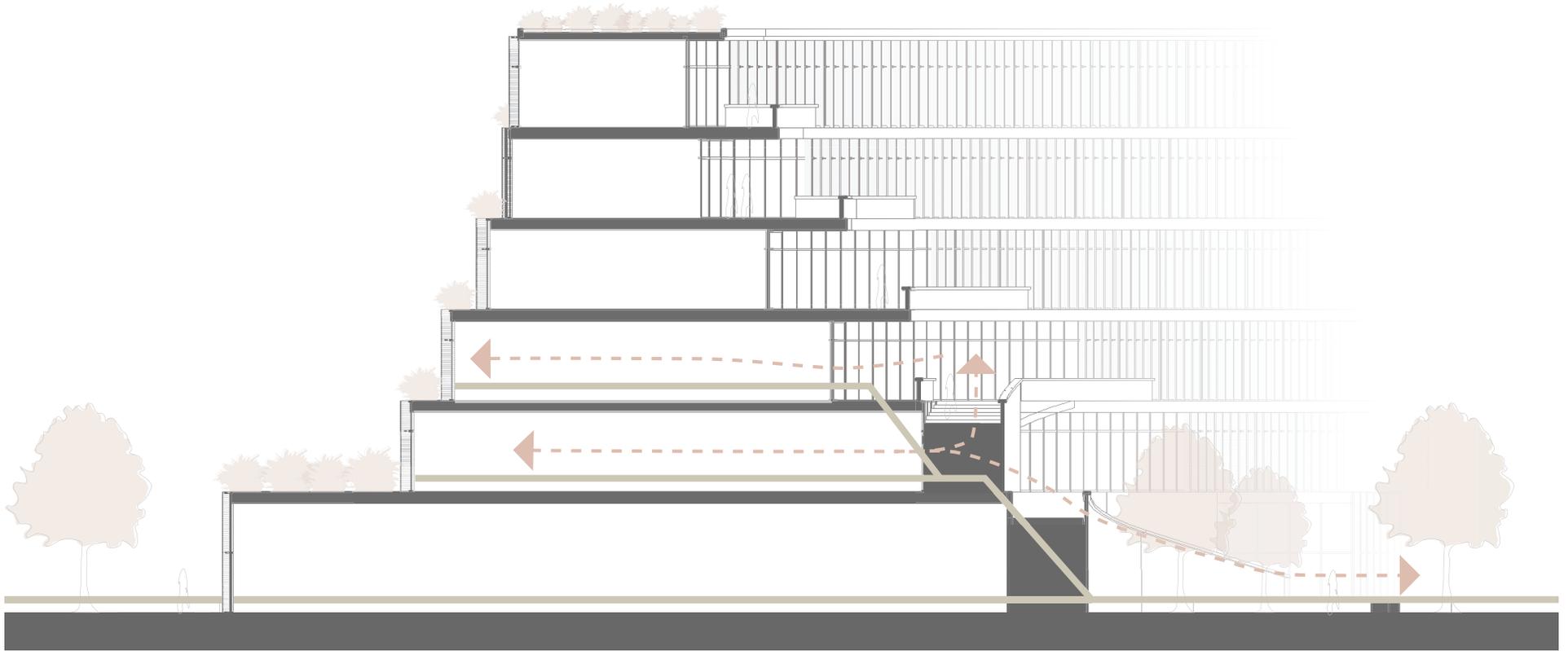
Creating a safe and welcoming environment for all community members

3

Create spaces for public interaction, blending all communities together

What to bring to the site and design

- A sense of community
- Public space
- Vegetation



Section Cut - Community Connection



Digital Presentation

FOSTERING COMMUNITY

A Design Thesis by Reanna Lardy



The 'Lost Kids' represent the current 62+ pages of 15+ year old children waiting for adoption (adoption.com). It represents the child who is lost on page 48 and will likely age out without ever having a family or a place to call home.

Thesis Topic

This thesis proposal will be exploring different ways design can improve the quality of life and the impact of community involving foster youth aging out of the system.

Research Phase

Brief Foster Care History

1500's

The Poor Laws

"English Poor Laws" allowed those in poverty, without a home, or orphaned youth to be placed in indentured service until adulthood. This lamentable practice was carried to the Colonies, where "foster homes" were considered homes of families or adults that took in these indentured children.

1830

Children's Aid Society was founded by Minister Charles Loring Brace

The Children's Aid Society mainly operated industrial schools for boys, where they could learn basic education for inexpensive room and board.

Brace believed that these children would lead better lives out in farm country, so he hatched a plan to dispatch children individually to farms across the Midwest. In 1854, 45 children were transported to various places in the Midwest via railroad and were adopted by local families. Many of these families seldom had background checks before adopting. Once these children were adopted, they were expected to serve as extra help around the farm, in exchange for the adoptive parents to raise them as their own.

1855-1875

Orphan Train System

From 1855 to 1875, an average of 3,000 children were adopted via the Orphan Train system. Many children were used as labor on farms, while others were adopted by loving families. Critics of the system railed against the weak background checking of the adoptive parents, as well as the lack of support the system provided for the children after they were adopted.

Early 1900's

Modern Foster Care (+ more regulation)

In the early 1900s, social agencies began to supervise and screen foster parents by keeping records and considering every child's individual needs before placing them with a family.

1980

Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act

Established to solidify the federal funding structure for child welfare systems and services and involved the courts to oversee this system. From the 1980s until present day, amendments have been made to this act that increase support of kinship care and create resources for teen youth in foster care.

1997

Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA)

Established to add stricter limits to the amount of time a child was allowed to remain in foster care before adoption or reunification.



Client

Homeless Youth (aging/aged out of foster care)



Neighboring Communities



Interviews

Key Take-Aways

- A sense of belonging
- Somewhere to call home
- Someone to believe in them

Project Considerations

1

Personal Impact

2

Project Impact

3

Community Needs

Project Goals

1

Intertwining inside and outside communities, creating spaces and moments for those connections to thrive

2

Creating a safe and welcoming environment for all community members

3

Create spaces for public interaction, blending all communities together

Pre-Design Phase

Social Impact of Foster Care in Texas

2010 - 2014

114 children died despite the fact that CPS was investigating claims of abuse in those cases.

2011

Texas was sued over it's foster care system

- The lawsuit claimed the foster care system routinely put foster children in danger
- The judge on the case agreed, finding that Texas children "leave state custody more damaged than when they entered"
- High risk of physical abuse, sexual abuse, suicide, and insufficient supervision
- On any given day, over 30,000 Texas kids are in the Texas foster care system
- A CPS worker stated he had between 50-60 cases at once. The Child Welfare League of America recommends a caseload of no more than 12-15 kids.

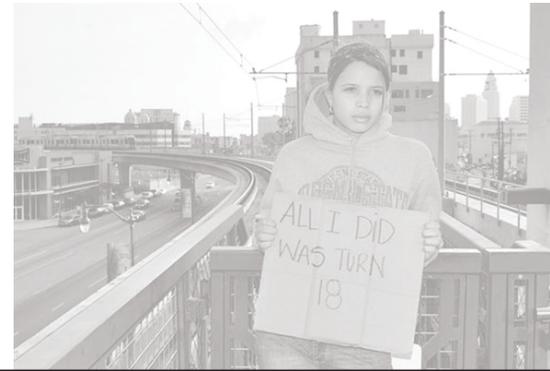
2015

A federal Judge in Corpus Christi ruled that long-term foster care in the state was unconstitutional

2017

The Texas Legislature passed a bill that allowed communities to take charge of foster care in their own cities and counties. This new model is called Community-Based Care, or CBC.

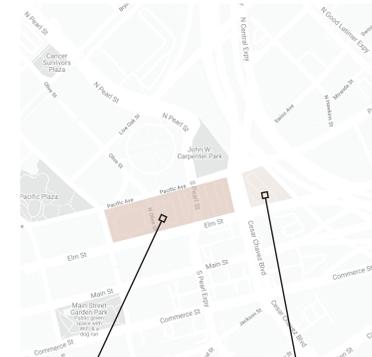
Community-Based Care is intended to keep children safe in their foster placements, keep children close to their home communities, keep children with their siblings, keep up meaningful family connections, and respect the child's culture.



Site Selection



Dallas, Texas



Site I will be designing for

Opportunity for possible future expansion

Site Context



Site Visit



Site Analysis



Project Needs

What to bring to the site and design

- A sense of community
- Public space
- Vegetation

Design Phase

Project Goals

1

Intertwining inside and outside communities, creating spaces and moments for those connections to thrive

2

Creating a safe and welcoming environment for all community members

3

Create spaces for public interaction, blending all communities together

Program Analysis

Community Space
+ Center

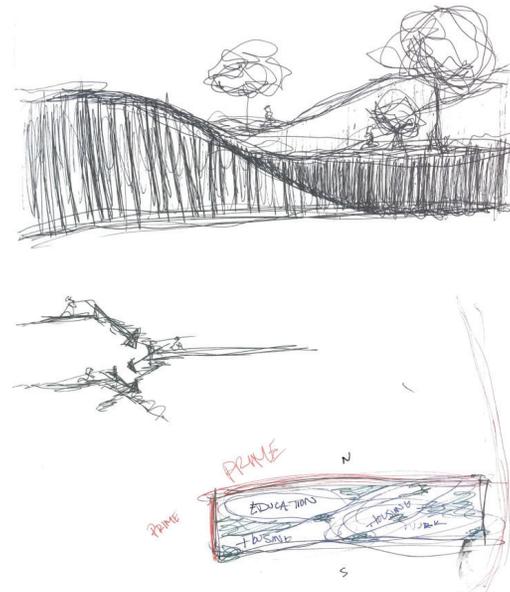
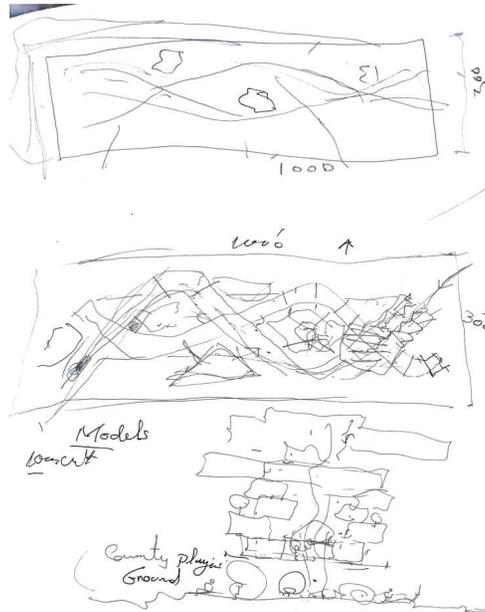
Business
Center

Education
Center

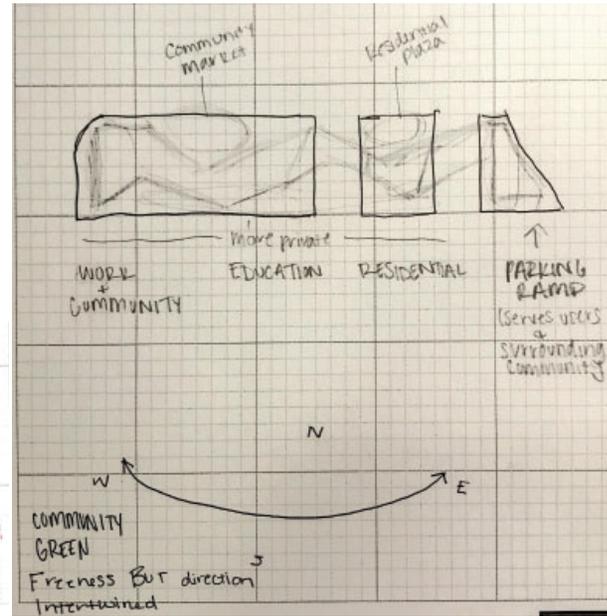
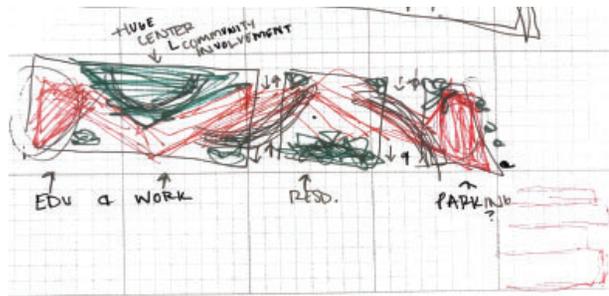
Service
Center

Residential

Process



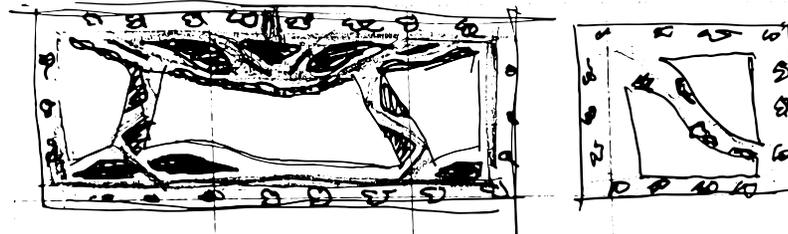
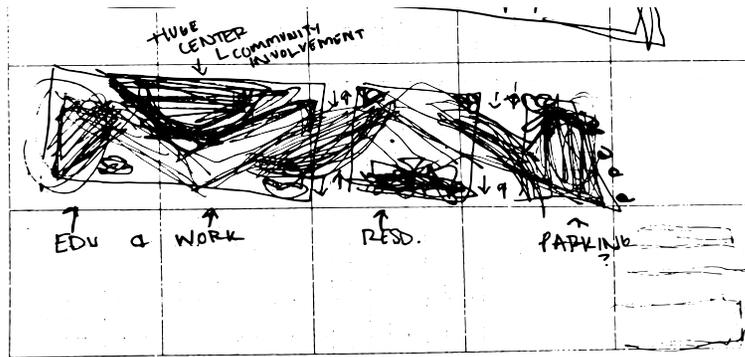
Process



Process



Process



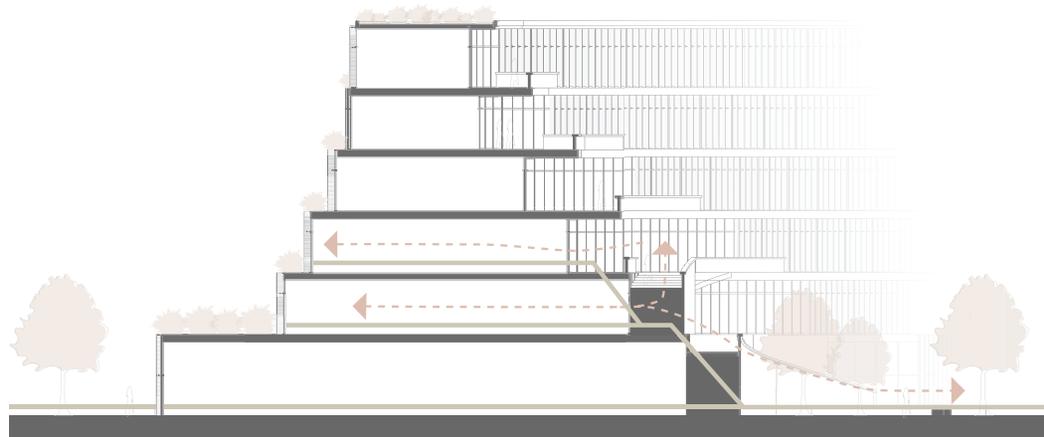
Final Design Solution



Final Design Solution



Final Design Solution



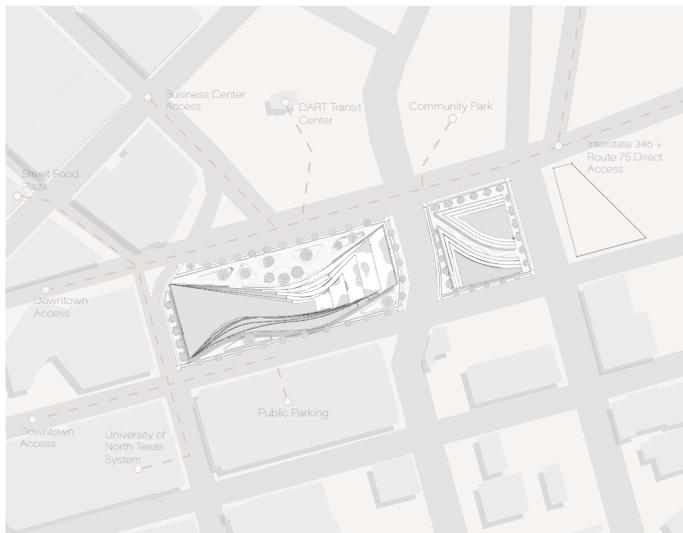
Section Cut - Community Connection



Final Design Solution

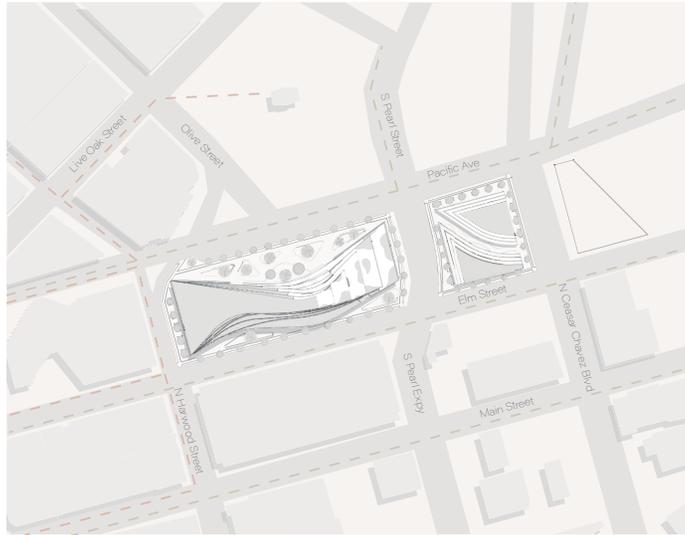


Final Design Solution



Analysis - Community Connection

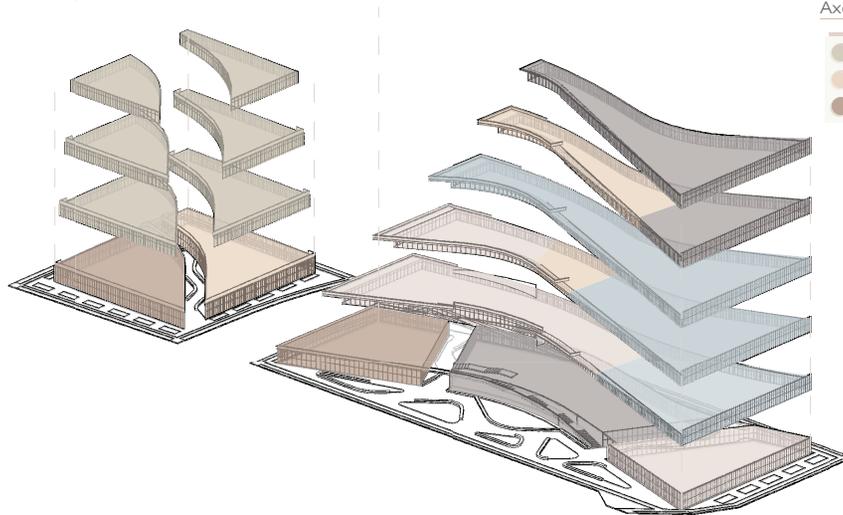
Final Design Solution



Analysis - Pedestrian + Vehicular Traffic

- Heavy Pedestrian Traffic
- Heavy Vehicular Traffic

Final Design Solution



Axonometric - Programming

- Private Residential
- Service Center
- Administration
- Business Center
- Community Center
- Education Center

Final Design Solution



Final Design Solution



Final Design Solution



Final Design Solution



FOSTERING COMMUNITY

CONNECTION • OPPORTUNITY • COMMUNITY



Education Center

On any given day, there are nearly 424,000 children in foster care in the United States. In 2019, over 672,000 children spent time in U.S. foster care. With these numbers, 1 in 4 foster children become homeless after aging out of the foster care system. This project will be focusing specifically on young adults who become homeless after they age out of the foster care system. This design will explore different spaces that can foster a sense of community and growth for those who need it. It will provide opportunities that are currently not available, such as furthering one's education, economic growth, and supporting individual needs. This design specifically focuses on creating social opportunities with surrounding communities and how design can positively affect one's community. This project is specifically designed to create a space where these young adults to have a place to finally call home, even if it's just for a little bit.

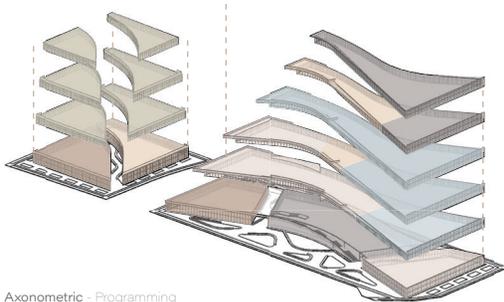


Process Sketches



Site Plan

Dallas, Texas



Axonometric - Programming

- Private Residential
- Service Center
- Administration
- Business Center
- Community Center
- Education Center



Private Residential



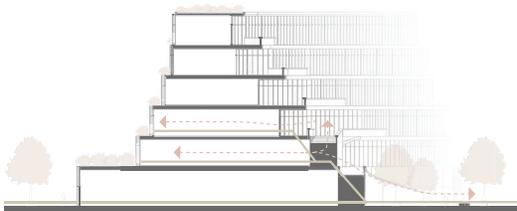
Community Center



Community Center



Community + Business Center



Section Cut - Community Connection

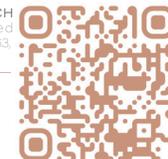


Analysis - Community Connection



Analysis - Pedestrian + Vehicular Traffic

RESEARCH Completed in ARCH 763, Fall 2021



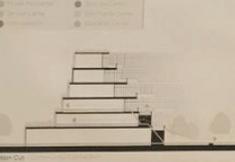
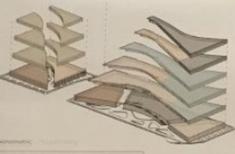
Project installation

FOSTERING COMMUNITY

CONNECTION • OPPORTUNITY • COMMUNITY



On any given day, there are nearly 420,000 children in foster care in the United States. In 2016, over 870,000 children spent time in U.S. foster care. With foster care numbers on a faster decline because businesses often require a lot of time away from school, this project will be focusing specifically on young adults who become homeless when they age out of the foster care system. The design and research effort will provide opportunities that are currently not available. Such as: furthering their education, economic growth, and supporting national needs. The design team is focused on creating social opportunities with surrounding communities and how design can positively affect their community. The project is specifically designed to create a space where these young adults can have a place to thrive, and have access to the rest of the world.



Thesis Appendix

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Previous Design Studio Experience

2nd Year

Charlott Grueb

Meditation Pavilion | Moorhead, MN

Boathouse | Minneapolis, MN

Cindy Urness

Small Dwelling | Cripple Creek, CO

Mixed-Use Project | Fargo, ND

3rd Year

Regin Schwaen

Visitor Center | Cooperstown, ND

Museum | Nekoma, ND

Bakr Aly Ahmed

Concrete House | Moorhead, MN

Steel Office Complex | Bismarck, ND

4th Year

David Crutchfield

Highrise Capstone | Miami, FL

Amar Hussein

Marvin House | Fargo, ND

Urban Design | Miami, FL

5th Year

Lance Josal

High Speed Bullet Train Station | Fargo, ND

Dr. Bakr Aly Ahmed

Design Thesis | Dallas, TX

