



COMMUNITY BRIDGE

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Department of Architecture
North Dakota State University

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

North Dakota State University Libraries Addendum

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THESIS PROPOSAL

THESIS ABSTRACT

The traumatizing effects of homelessness on families can have long lasting consequences, especially for children who often miss considerable amounts of school due to their newly disrupted life. Without a solid education, these children may struggle in the future to secure stable jobs which then places them at risk of entering back into homelessness. Additionally, homelessness in the United States comes with an attached stigma of being lazy, amoral, or even delinquent, so for parents or single mothers, the shame of being homeless can prevent them from seeking assistance and creates a barrier between them and the surrounding community. This project seeks to explore and develop strategies that facilitate the creation of a dignified living situation as a means of breaking down the barrier of homelessness by dismantling preconceived perceptions of homelessness.



NARRATIVE

The word homeless often conjures images of ragged men wearing dirty clothes and skulking under bridges, panhandlers with cardboard signs, or even endless stretches of tent cities where drug abuse is rampant. This is not the life that everyone without a home experiences and those who might be stuck in those situations don't always want to be. Due to our misconceptions about homelessness, I think we often miss the full extent of the problem and lose sight of those who may be struggling in life and who may be at risk of entering into homelessness.

Presently there are around 500 people experiencing homelessness in Fargo. None of their stories are the same; some stay at shelters, some stay in their cars, some are living with friends or relatives, some are in hotels, and others are on the streets. Contrary to the prevalent idea that homelessness is caused by poor money habits, drug abuse, or laziness by not working, many of these individuals have lost their homes from events outside of their control. Economic downturn, divorce, abuse, cost of living all contribute to the problem. Unfortunately, access to the help they need comes at the cost of their dignity and exposure to a judgemental public eye.

This project seeks to address the stigma of homelessness through the design of a transitional housing center for homeless families. To ensure a successful response to the current need, I believe research into the history and origins of the stigma in the United States is necessary. Additionally, to gain a better understanding of the local need, I will acquire and examine recent published stories of homelessness from people in the Fargo area. Finally, I hope to gain additional insights and ideas from analysis of written works and exploration of case studies.

Community Bridge hopes to be a place of safe and beautiful spaces for homeless families to not only find shelter but also to heal as they progress in their journey to find permanent housing. The design of Community Bridge allows residents to customize and personalize their individual living spaces but also provides places to build connections with other residents allowing them to start friendships, share knowledge, and empathize with each other. Children living in prolonged homelessness lose important academic and social opportunities which make it difficult for them when they reach adulthood. Single mothers also face potentially more abuse in situations of prolonged homelessness. This project will offer these families an escape from homelessness and a chance to have a brighter future.

PROJECT TYPOLOGY

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Transitional Housing is a vital step for individuals and families struggling with homelessness to regain their feet. Services on site and semi independent living. Transitional housing could provide shelter anywhere from a couple months to a couple years.



SUPPLEMENTAL TYPOLOGIES

POCKET PARKS

Pocket Parks are beautiful spaces for people to gather or to find a quiet alone space. Inclusion of sensory garden elements also offers spaces to allow for visitors to wind down and connect with self and with nature.

CHAPEL

Spiritual opportunities are vital to spiritual health. This project will seek to provide spiritual opportunities for its residents.

COFFEE SHOP

Small community coffee shops are great places to meet and collaborate with friends and colleagues. A community coffee shop also provides opportunities of employment for community members and as starter jobs for local youth. In the context of the project, a coffee shop acts as a safe middle ground for the project users and the surrounding neighborhood.

PROJECT ELEMENTS

DESIGN PROGRAM

PUBLIC SPACES

- Flower Gardens
- Coffee Shop

PRIVATE SPACES

- Private Living Spaces
- Laundry Room
- Communal Dining
- Communal kitchen
- Study Rooms
- Sensory Garden

SERVICES

- Parking
- Security Office
- Social Services Office
- Nurse's Office
- Chapel

TYPOTOLOGICAL RESEARCH

CASE STUDIES

HELP ONE

East New York, Brooklyn, NY - A redevelopment of an existing shelter. The new construction includes supportive and low income housing.

ADA AND TAMAR HOUSE

Tel Aviv, Israel - A domestic violence shelter for abused women and children. A place where Jewish, Arab, and Ethiopian women and their children have found shelter.

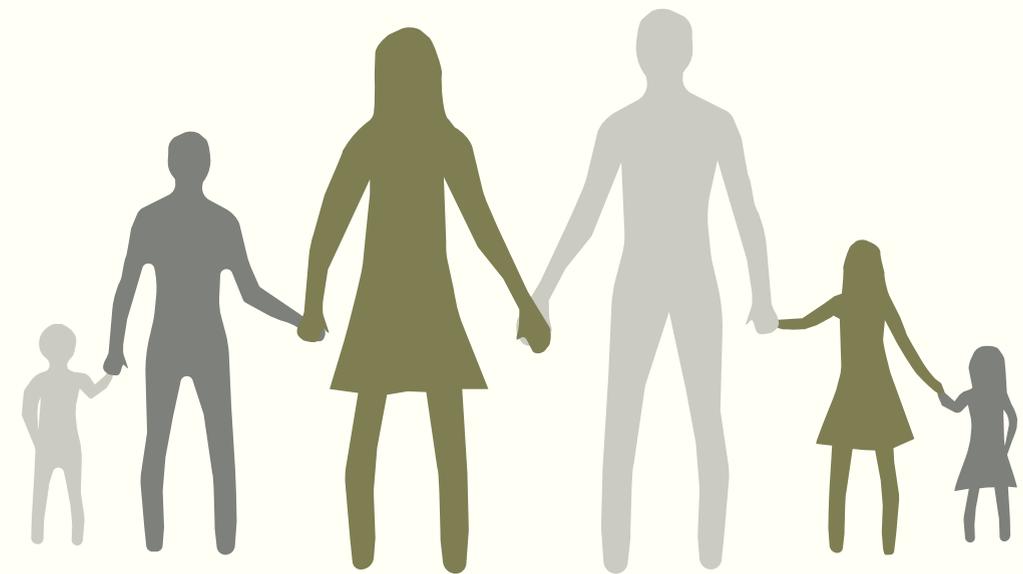
POSITIVE TOMORROWS SCHOOL

Oklahoma City Oklahoma - A school created for children experiencing homelessness. The project includes a kitchen for families to use, laundry services, and places for children to play with friends.

USER DESCRIPTION

HOMELESS FAMILIES

This project would like to highlight the needs and sensitivities of homeless parents and their children. Parents, especially single parents, may struggle with the dual responsibilities of work and childcare. Single mothers may also be working through the effects of previous abusive relationships which often trickles down into their childrens' lives causing future hurt. Other hardships homeless families may be experiencing include loss of loved ones, prolonged separation of family members, as well as irregular bedtimes and meals. Despite common experiences, these families are not a homogenous group. They may have vastly different backgrounds and values which must not be discounted. In order to meet the needs of this diverse group, the design of the project must be comforting, versatile, and accommodating.



SITE

3000 10TH ST N, FARGO, ND

The proposed site is located in north Fargo in a community known as Northport neighborhood, named after the northport shopping center that sits on the corner of 25th Ave and Broadway. The current use of the site is 6 small apartment buildings and their adjacent parking lots. Across the street to the south is McKinley Elementary School and just beyond the apartments to the west is the North Fargo Dog Park. As a previous resident of the Northport neighborhood, I know first hand that it is a quiet, friendly, and walkable community.



Figure 5: Site

CONTEXT AND CULTURE

NORTH FARGO

North Fargo is well known by its residents as having a small town feeling. Community members recognize and greet each other when out and about and several streets participate in annual block parties.

EXTREME WINTERS

As the site is located in North Dakota, long and cold winters are to be expected as a part of life. Deep snowfalls are also expected every year, however, Fargo has a skilled snow removal crew which works all hours to keep the roads clear.

GERMAN AND SCANDINAVIAN HERITAGE

A significant portion of North Dakota residents have at least some Norwegian or German ancestry. Some of the most prevalent last names in the state include Johnson, Anderson, Miller, and Smith.

IMMIGRANT DESTINATION

Fargo and its close neighbor, Moorhead, are also the final destination for immigrants from many different nations. Some of the largest groups are from India, China, Bosnia, and Nepal.

FARMING AND AGRICULTURE

North Dakota has a strong farming and agricultural heritage with most of its early arrivals being European immigrants in search of farmland. Bonanza farming also played a role in the history of Fargo.

SITE CONSIDERATIONS

AMENITIES

The Northport neighborhood in north Fargo has a full range of community amenities including, but not limited to grocery stores, dollar stores, pharmacies, fitness centers, libraries, coffee shops, dog parks, and community gardens. The site for the project allows residents easy access to all of these.

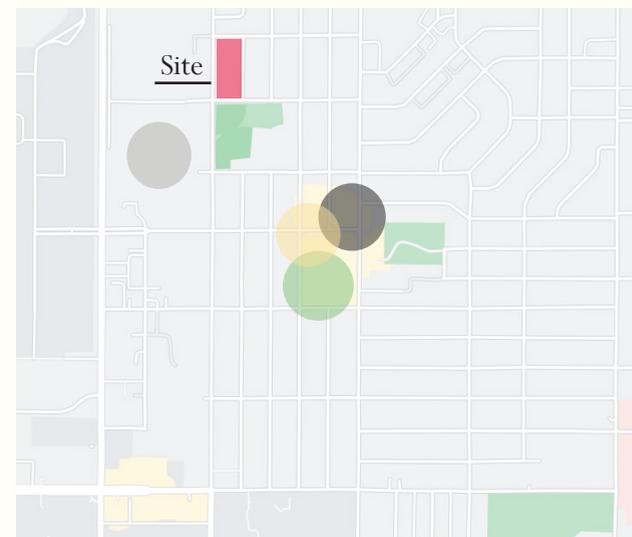


Figure 6: Amenities



BUSES

Buses are the primary source of public transportation in Fargo, ND. The neighborhood of Northport in north Fargo has access to two bus routes: route 11 and route 13. These two routes connect north Fargo with downtown Fargo and the Ground Transportation Center which then connects to south Fargo, Moorhead, and Dilworth. Access to Fargo's public transportation will provide homeless families transportation options.

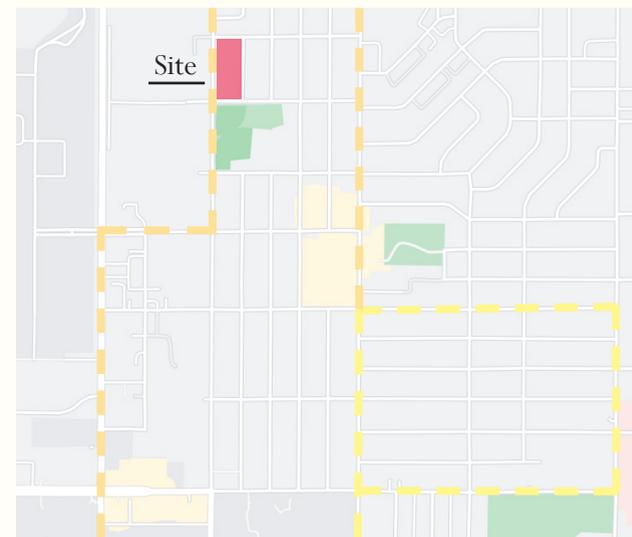


Figure 7: Buses



SCHOOLS

4 public elementary and high schools are located in north Fargo's Northport neighborhood. McKinley Elementary school is just down the block from the site, Longfellow Elementary school is several blocks to the east, and North High and Washington Elementary are to the south.

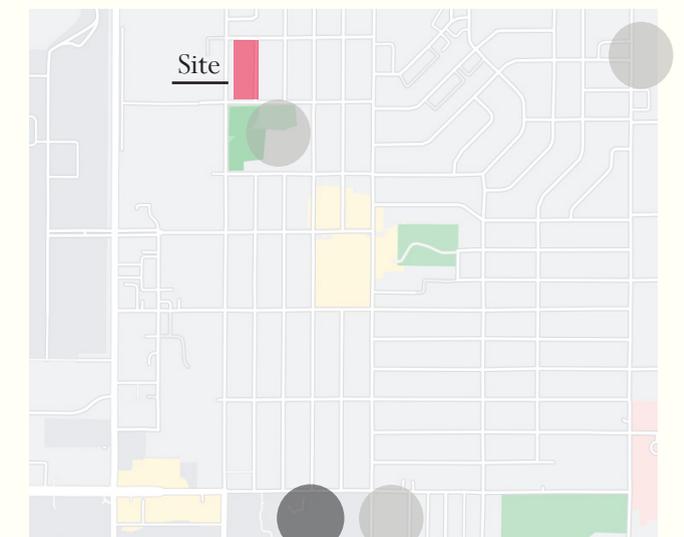


Figure 8: Schools



PARKS

The city of Fargo contains many parks and green spaces and the Northport neighborhood is no exception. In addition to the parks attached to the elementary schools, Northport contains Friendship Park located near to the Northport shopping center. Other nearby parks include Trollwood Park along the Red River to the north and Elephant Park on 19th Ave to the south.

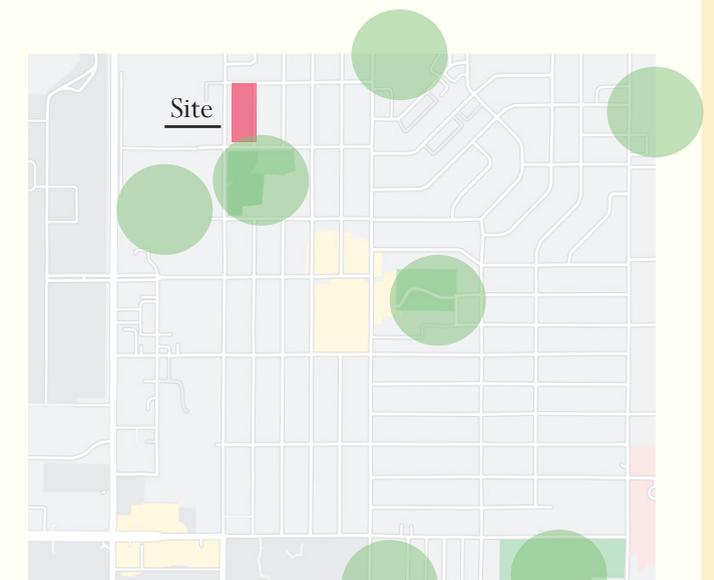
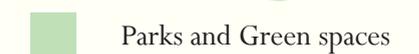


Figure 9: Parks



PROJECT EMPHASIS

ASSESSING AND RESPONDING TO USER NEEDS

The goal of transitional housing is to provide a place for homeless families or individuals to live while helping them regain their lives. This project wishes to be extra sensitive to user needs so as to make the transition less bewildering, more individualized, and more comforting.

VALUE

All architecture should aspire to bring value to a community no matter the typology. This project wishes to focus on creating valuable spaces to increase the quality of life for the users as well as decrease the negative response from the surrounding neighborhood.

INTEGRATION OF CULTURE AND EXPERIENCES

This project wishes to take into consideration and pay respect to the context and the local culture while also respecting the experiences and potentially different culture of the users.

THESIS GOALS

ACADEMIC

THEORETICAL

- Completion of study and analysis of a theoretical concept and thorough documentation of the results of said study.
- Better understanding of the transformation of ideas and theories into quality architectural design.

SOCIAL

- Understanding and representation of interpersonal perception and causation of stigmas resulting from homelessness.
- Understand the intricacies and effects of the designed environment on human experience so as to create a successful design of interior and exterior spaces that promote dignity, stability, and empathy for the user.

PROFESSIONAL

- Grow as a professional and hard working designer throughout completion of the thesis project.
- Grow and expand research experience through facing challenges in acquiring information.
- Make a quality contribution to an area of research in the field of theoretical architectural design.

PHYSICAL

- Compile a complete thesis project through meeting and exceeding program requirements, conducting the project in a respectful manner to thesis advisors and research participants, and by conducting in depth research.
- Create an aesthetic presentation through layouts and graphics included in the final book, slides, and boards.
- Complete a thorough design of transitional housing to include site design, floor plans, sections, details, and renders.

PERSONAL

- Maintaining continual self care throughout the completion of the project.
- Maintaining a positive attitude about schedules and assignments.
- Accept and learn from criticism.

PLAN FOR PROCEEDING

DEFINITIONS OF RESEARCH DIRECTION

THEORETICAL PREMISE

Stigmas associated with homelessness have a detrimental effect on individuals seeking help and eventually escaping homelessness. This project seeks to design transitional housing that reduces those stigmas and promotes empathy, dignity, and stability.

HISTORICAL BASIS

Stigmas associated with being homeless have been present in our society for many years. An understanding of the origins and continuation of these stigmas through textual analysis will provide a broad context for the project and inform design considerations and strategies.

PROJECT TYPOLOGY

The project is based on the concept of transitional housing for homeless families, single mothers, and children. This project will attempt to achieve a higher quality of living for residents through sensitivity of user needs as compared to the broader tradition of constructed transitional housing.

DESIGN METHODOLOGY

HISTORICAL AND CONTEXTUAL INVESTIGATION

- Study the basis of the social stigma surrounding homelessness and highlight activities that contribute to and reinforce the widespread stigma.
- Present archival examples of local experiences with stigma and struggles to escape from homeless situations. Also exploring local responses to homelessness and identifying any area of need.

TYPOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

- Analysis of case studies relevant to the design typology that meet user needs and bring about feelings of dignity as well as provide users quality of life.
- Explore and understand the phenomena of NIMBY (Not In My BackYard) movements which can prevent construction of homeless services in specific settings and acquire strategies to educate communities and overcome prejudices.

WEEKLY ITINERARY

DOCUMENTATION

COMPILATION:

- Archival research will be recorded in a written format which will include quotations, interpretations, and extrapolations. Key findings will be noted for reference and organization.
- Identification of key goals and needs will be recorded in outline format and strategies for meeting user needs will be compiled.
- Case studies and typological research results will be recorded in outline format and strategies discovered will be compiled.

PUBLICATION:

- All research and analysis will be included in the final written thesis document which will include a detailed list of contributors, sources, and references.

PRESENTATION:

Final presentation documents will comprise:

- A final thesis book
- Presentation boards including final site design, floor plans, and renders
- Powerpoint presentation of the complete research and design process.

FALL 2021

- Week 1 - 3: Brainstorming topic for thesis
- Week 4: Thesis proposal draft due
- Week 5 - 7: Begin thesis research and finalize thesis proposal
- Week 8: Final thesis proposal due
- Week 9 - 16: Conduct thesis research
- Week 9: Present thesis research methods
- Week 10: Site visit
- Week 17: Final thesis research due

SPRING 2022

- Week 1 - 8: Begin design portion of project
- Week 9: Projects reviews
- Week 10 - 12: Project revisions
- Week 13 - 14: Finalize thesis exhibit
- Week 15: Thesis exhibit due
- Week 16: Thesis Reviews
- Week 17: Final thesis book due

RESEARCH

RESEARCH RESULTS

PHILOSOPHICAL FRAMEWORK

The basis for gaining knowledge regarding the origins of the negative stigmas surrounding homeless individuals and particularly homeless single mothers in order to effectively design a transitional housing complex within an established neighborhood required an approach centered around historicism. Due to the limitations of the time allotted for research and the desire for a more focused look on the affects in America, the start of the research began with the American colonial period and covers the major time periods and periods of social upheaval and culminating with the qualitative experiences of the last two years from the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition to the broader historical context of American perceptions to homeless individuals, a brief dive in the movement known as the Not In My BackYard or NIMBY was required to further understand the implications of placing a controversial typology within an established neighborhood.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Centered around a desire for human centered design that pays particular attention to spatial and aesthetic needs, this project wishes to advance the knowledge of perception of homeless individuals and means of effecting those perceptions through architectural means. To further understand the impacts of housing, study of the book, *House as a Mirror of self* and the key aspects of feeling at home in a space. Another article, *Polarity or Integration? Towards a fuller understanding of home and homelessness* was consulted for further understanding of the meaning of home. These sources are aimed at gaining knowledge of making a space able to function as a home space for the homeless individual.

STRATEGIES

Strategies for the research consist primarily of historical research and case studies. Effective design of a transitional housing complex for homeless families and their children requires an understanding of the historical perceptions of homelessness by American society throughout history to understand the basis of how those views influence perceptions held in the present day. By understanding the origins of stereotypes and stigmas, effective design strategies can be developed to combat those negative ideas. Case studies on similar typologies and typologies that attempt to reduce stereotypes will help reinforce these strategies as they often provide post occupancy results or methods of achieving desired effects.

TACTICS

In the historical research, focus was laid on identifying and understanding the reasons causing homelessness in a particular era of American history and how broader society perceived the predicament homeless individuals found themselves in and finally how American leaders and their communities responded to the situation. The book *Down and Out on the Road: The Homeless in American History*, by Kenneth Kusmer serves as the primary reference and will be supplemented by various authoritative websites. For the study of the NIMBY movement, emphasis was placed on the origins and strategies for overcoming NIMBY activists. Finally, the case studies focused on the qualitative experience of the user and any unique or unprecedented design feature that benefited the user or the surrounding neighborhood.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

In order to try to understand the basis of the present day attitudes toward homelessness it would be beneficial to look back at the history of the crisis: causations, perceptions, and institutional responses. Throughout American history, different societal changes have led to increased awareness of the problem through increasing numbers of individuals impacted or rising stigmatization. Perceptions of these individuals have been observed to have been framed on circumstances of the causation although other factors including race and reputation were large influencers. Responses to this societal crisis were based on the perception of the larger population and the cultural ideals of the time period. Major changes in society and historical events such as the American Civil War and the Great Depression have brought about familiar labels such as tramp and hobo, while quieter events such as the closing of major psychiatric hospitals has unleashed many vulnerable members of society onto the streets without aid. In more recent years, the rising cost of living and changes in the job market meant that money was becoming more difficult to come by and less likely to cover expenses. In his book *Down and Out on the Road: The Homeless in American History*, Kenneth Kusmer notes significant demographic changes in those struggling with homelessness. Women and children, as well as members of minority groups, are increasingly likely to fall into a cycle of homelessness. (Kusmer, 2003). The last recent change to affect the homeless situation in the United States is the rise of Covid-19 which forced a series of policy changes both at the national level and within local communities. In order to prevent an overwhelming number of hospitalizations, mask wearing, social distancing, and a vast number of institutional closures made the ability of shelters to provide aid safely quite difficult. The following research into the origins of homelessness in America and the results will be conducted primarily through reference of the book *Down and Out on the Road: The Homeless in American History*, by Kenneth Kusmer.

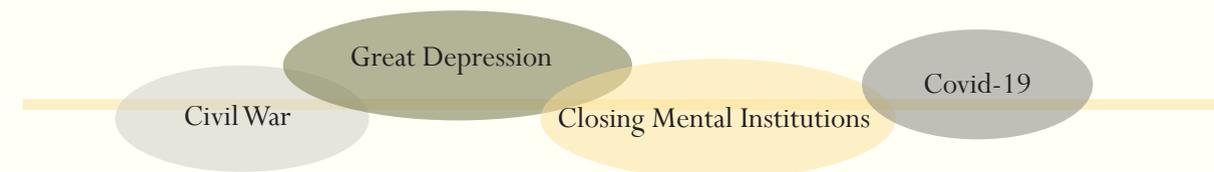


Figure 10: Significant Upheavals in American History

COLONIAL ERA

The colonial era in the history of the United States was not entirely free from the presence of homeless individuals. As at almost all times in American history, no single cause can be attributed and the experiences of being homeless varied from region to region. In his book *Down and Out on the Road: The Homeless in American History*, Kenneth Kusmer notes that in some regions, fighting with the native peoples brought about waves of escapees to nearby communities. (Kusmer, 2003) New arrivals to the colonies, escaped slaves, and roaming free spirits also contributed to the small community of homeless individuals. The dominant religions of the time, including the Puritans and Quakers, placed a high value on the individual's moral responsibility to work. This view led many prominent leaders across different religions and aspects of society and culture to condemn homeless vagrants who frequented their towns. As the colonies became more settled and towns grew larger, homeless populations also grew and the need for aid prompted community members to arrange methods of providing relief. Kenneth Kusmer points out in his book that prominent ministers encouraged philanthropy while not necessarily demanding virtue from recipients. (Kusmer, 2003)

Common responses to the presence of homeless people in this era ranged from barring entry to the community to making them work as servants for rich individuals. Homeless shelters at that time were often places where residents were expected to work.



Figure 11: Colonial style log fencing

EARLY 19TH CENTURY

Following the break with England at the end of the 1700s, the homeless issue in the newly independent nation had not changed. Occasional clashes with native peoples still left some people destitute and immigrants continued to come. In his book *Down and Out on the Road: The Homeless in American History*, Kenneth Kusmer reports that the rise of factories essentially bankrupted independent skilled workers. About this same time, slums had begun to appear in American cities. Poor wages and poor economy sent many families into poverty and during the first half of the 1800s, many children had begun living on the streets. In cities, thieving homeless children were becoming quite common as well as a growing population of homeless immigrants. Kenneth Kusmer also notes that in the countryside near Cleveland a large population of unemployed men irked the local residents. (Kusmer, 2003). Opinions at this time underwent a major shift from seeing neediness and homelessness as a preventable situation to an unpredictable plight. As poverty and homelessness in cities rose, cities at first tried to eliminate the problem through arresting and deporting the people. Also at this time, police stations offered housing to many of the homeless. Many societies were begun in the early 1800s to try to counter the rising crisis while others merely attempted to bring respite for the destitute.



Figure 12: Sunset

POST CIVIL WAR

In his book *Down and Out on the Road: The Homeless in American History*, Kenneth Kusmer writes about the rise of train usage during the American Civil War. These trains connected not only the tramps to remote parts of the country, but also the newspapers and the sensationalism of the stories the newspapers reported. Having an unsavory appearance and being strangers in isolated and obscure communities, suspicions about their character can only be expected. Unsurprisingly, the exploits of a few unruly tramps reported in the news caused tramps across the country to become the enemies of everyone and they subsequently took the blame for all ensuing wrongs and mishaps. Train workers, who were at times legitimately threatened by gangs of tramps, felt justified to deal with their fear and play the hero by forcible removal of a tramp caught on their train. Not all newspaper coverage was terrible towards the tramps. Some acknowledged the genuine predicament facing tramps and other wandering workers struggling to find adequate employment. This whole scenario resulted in negative stereotypes being blown completely out of proportion in regards to the homeless situation in the United States.



Figure 13: Railroad Tracks

GREAT DEPRESSION

As the Great Depression claimed more and more livelihoods, a sudden influx of homeless people needing shelter threatened to overwhelm community homeless services. Inadequate services and lack of employment saw many people persistently staying only for a brief time before trying their luck in the next place. Some organizations really began to grow at this time expanding beyond merely food and shelter and offer health services and indoor spaces where people could remain during the day. It would seem, the fearful hysteria of the late 1800s had been replaced by a mutual understanding of financial woes in the early 1900s. In his book *Down and Out on the Road: The Homeless in American History*, Kenneth Kusmer relates how the lower classes exhibited kindness and generosity to those, who, in earlier years had been treated with suspicion and contempt. (Kusmer, 2003) During this time, the federal government attempted to join the effort in aiding the homeless. One short lived program was the FTS, or, the Federal Transient Service. This program took a huge amount of the burden off of local shelters and created a standardized system of relief for men and women both black and white. Despite its success, the government ended it after only a few years leaving a smaller, but still raging problem in its wake.



Figure 14: Grass

THE END OF THE 20TH CENTURY

The second half of the 20th century saw many homeless individuals forced out of city slums and coupled with the release of residents from government mental hospitals, the need for shelter was extremely high. Around this same time, homelessness was undergoing a significant demographic change. Increasing independence among women as well as escalating numbers of divorces led to the immense number of single parent households. Many single mothers ended up in shelters. As during the days of the tramp, newspapers and other media helped to spread damaging reports on homeless people. Additionally, more people with mental illness were becoming displaced and were increasingly becoming the face of homelessness. All this resulted in homelessness gaining a bad name. Despite government involvement and abundant aid organizations, high housing prices and numerous other factors have continued to cause people to enter varying durations of homelessness.

SUMMARY

For over 300 years homelessness in America has seen many causes, from restlessness to wars to high rent. Responses to the problem have varied based on public opinion. In the colonial days, communities often worked together to care for their vulnerable neighbors. However, as America grew as a nation, travel became easier and news spread faster. People increasingly became disconnected from any specific community and news organizations spread damaging stories on the homeless. Today, in the 21st century, the news media still holds considerable power over shaping the perceptions of society and making it either the homeless advocate's biggest ally or enemy.

LOCAL EXPERIENCES

2018 SINGLE MOTHER - SHEYENNE RODRIGUEZ

In January, 2018, Sheyenne Rodriguez found herself living in her car with 3 young children. Temperatures in January in Fargo can often be well below 0 degrees Fahrenheit. Generous strangers helped her get a hotel room where she stayed until she was able to get a place at the YWCA women's shelter.

Sadly, this was not the first time for Shayenne Rodriguez to be homeless. In the late 90s, when she was only 15 years old, Rodriguez was living on the streets of Minneapolis. Her family had previously lived in Bullhead, SD on the Lakota Standing Rock reservation until they moved to Minneapolis. Not long after, her parents split up and Rodriguez and her siblings were taken to Kansas where they ended up in foster care. After fleeing an abusive foster home, Rodriguez found herself back in Minneapolis. Without parents and unable to stay with her aunts, Rodriguez was forced to survive on the streets. During this time, Rodriguez developed a drinking problem which eventually led to her going to jail for several years. Another time Rodriguez experienced homelessness was with her husband sometime in the 2010s.

Rodriguez's experience being a homeless single mother has been incredibly difficult. Her children need significant medical assistance, her car is in terrible shape, and the high cost of childcare is daunting. In order to effectively help local women like Rodriguez, considerable changes need to happen in Fargo to provide adequate support systems and to assist women in accessing those support systems.

2021 COVID-19 EXPERIENCE - WILLIAM JACKSON

Up until only recently, William Jackson has never been without a job. When he could no longer afford the price of housing, Jackson was forced into a shelter in Moorhead Minnesota. Jackson and his school age daughter have struggled not only with distance learning, as a Covid-19 precaution, but also from car troubles.

Although Jackson is optimistic about his and his daughter's future as he makes plans on finding an apartment for them, many others in the Fargo/Moorhead area are still facing destitution. Rising costs, low wages, and ongoing quarantines have placed many members of the community in a precarious position. As reported in the November 25th edition of the Fargo Forum, many shelters and aid providers have noted an increase in the number of people requesting assistance. Need in the winter, especially in Fargo and Moorhead, has always been greater than other times of the year, however, precautionary measures, such as social distancing, has created an additional challenge for everyone. Another issue facing these organizations is an inadequate number of workers. The Forum also reported on the mental strain taking place among those dependent on the shelters for survival. According to Sue Koesterman, who is a pastor and the director of Churches United, "Isolation has taken a tremendous toll on people who are in shelters and don't have a robust support system". (as cited from the Fargo Forum Nov. 25, 2021). The Covid-19 virus has taken an immense toll on the homeless population and will likely be a turning point in future policies regarding aid distribution.

NIMBY

DEFINITION AND ORIGINS

Not In My Back Yard (NIMBY) is a movement whose most visible members are commonly understood to be of a middle class origin. This is most likely due to the fact that poorer class members do not have the resources to make a difference and the upper class members hold enough influence that issues are resolved quickly and quietly. NIMBY fights to protect neighborhoods and local landowners from perceivably inconvenient and intrusive government or social building programs. According to Encyclopædia Britannica's website, NIMBY was born out of attempts in the 1970s of building nuclear power plants in small communities in New Hampshire and Michigan.

MOVEMENT/RESPONSE

In more recent years, NIMBY has become associated with a general disinclination by community members and landowners to allow homeless shelters to be built in local neighborhoods. While the movement may hurt some positive development with potential to serve many underprivileged families and individuals, not all claims of the movement can be ignored. Bringing shelters and similar buildings into an area can increase both intrusion of sounds, such as alarms from ambulances, as well as just a general sudden influx of strangers into an established neighborhood.

NIMBY DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY OPPOSE HOMELESS SHELTERS BUT HAS BEEN A MAJOR OBSTACLE SOCIAL HOUSING DEVELOPERS HAVE HAD TO OVERCOME.

STRATEGIES FOR OVERCOMING NIMBY

One of the most successful strategies for overcoming NIMBY in the case of homeless shelters and social housing is informing the community of the reality of the need for housing and laying out the positive impact of the project. In an article written for the Journal of Affordable Housing and Community Development, Tim Iglesias notes several important methods of gaining public approval for a project.

Be on the offensive: Mr Iglesias recommends project developers to take the offensive on a public information campaign. Proactive campaigning and preparing for community resistance efforts can save much time and money as well as protect the campaign from losing any gained community support.

Personal accounts: Mr Iglesias also recommends reassuring the community about potential issues through personal accounts and experience rather than through statistics and academic jargon.

Strategic problem solving: Another strategy encouraged by the article is for the project developer to narrow in on specific issues. Each problem solved could gain further support in the community. With enough support, the project developer can make meaningful impacts on the neighborhood without overextending.

Media usage: Finally, Mr Iglesias suggests that promoting the project through pictures and articles in the local newspaper can also be used to benefit the project. 20 years on from when the article was first published, social media could also be a powerful tool.

LITERATURE REVIEW

INTRODUCTION

In the following pages, I will examine and assess ideas and conclusions drawn from a book and a journal article that cover ideas related to the concept of what elements or aspects of a space contribute to feelings of home. The book I will examine is *House as a Mirror of Self: Exploring the Deeper Meaning of Home*, by Clare Cooper Marcus. In her book, Marcus shares a collection of short stories she gathered through interviewing people about the connection or disconnection they feel with their home. After the story, Marcus offers possible interpretations for the emotions her interviewees experience and then compares or contrasts those experiences with another person's story and experiences. Next I will explore some of the ideas Jeanne Moore presents in her 2007 article to the Journal of Architectural and Planning Research: *Polarity or Integration? Towards a fuller understanding of home and homelessness*. In this article, Moore challenges the common assumption that homelessness is a lack of belonging to or owning a physical space. Drawing on studies done on homeless individuals in London, England, as well as other opinions and research concerning the homeless situation, Moore argues that making home and homelessness inverse of each other creates too narrow a view of either.

Through study and analysis of these texts, I hope to broaden my understanding and challenge my assumptions about home, home acceptance, and homelessness. This knowledge will guide the creation of spaces that encourage positive self perception for single mothers and families transitioning out of the physical aspect of being without a home.

ESTABLISHING A PLACE

In the third chapter of her book, Marcus relates the stories and experiences of five vastly different individuals. As Marcus explores the psychology behind the choices and emotions each individual experiences as they navigate the development of their homes, she highlights a theme of control over one's surroundings. In her explorations, Marcus seems to promote an idea that control over a physical space provides a boost to one's self esteem. To back this up, she mentions a study completed by one of her former students into the yard care efforts of several homeowners and how higher levels of care correlated to owners with more restricted finances. (Marcus, 2006). Shadowing this idea of control, I would like to note how personal investment into improvement, or creation of a space affects homeowners and residents. In many of the stories in this chapter, individuals who struggled to find their place first had to make a small investment through choice of home location or a furnishing before they could really accept their home as their own.

“I feel at home, at ease,
among familiar trees and
plants. The waving grass
heads greet me like an old
friend.’”

Excerpt from author Clare Cooper Marcus's journal,
*House as a Mirror of Self: Exploring the Deeper Meaning of
Home* p. 31

POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

In the second chapter of her book, author Clare Cooper Marcus focuses on how sometimes elements that make up our present home environment often possess qualities that recall positive memories of our childhood. Marcus notes how the presence of these elements elicit comforting emotions and act as a physical connection with our past. (Marcus, 2006) A primary example of this special environment is represented in the author's own experience with the plants she grew up with and the plants that grow in her new home. Although the elements that Marcus illustrates in the stories in the chapter are mostly physical, I think the concept can be pushed to include our actions within a space. For example, if a child grew up in a culture that did not have a lot of furniture resulting in most activities occurring on the floor, in the child's later life, the floor may be vastly different but the former child's actions on the floor remain the same.

“In understanding the fabric of homeless lives, more appropriate support can be offered.”

- Jeanne Moore, 2007, p. 152

A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF HOME

In her 2007 article in the *Journal of Architectural and Planning Research*, Jeanne Moore purposes to demonstrate the inadequacies of pitting home against homelessness. As part of her approach to successfully illustrate the commonalities shared by the two ideas, Moore isolates and minutely studies home and homelessness and then highlights comparable aspects. Moore also explores areas where opposing home and homelessness does not follow sound logic. Home, Moore points out, is an imaginative idea. We do not call any four walls with a roof home because we demand it to fulfill our desire for beauty, or to be located in a particular region. (Moore, 2007). Contrastingly, as Moore makes note, a homeless individual is likely to be understood as a person without those four walls and a roof. (Moore, 2007). Another common illogical perception about home and homelessness that Moore presents in her article concludes that home is simply a place of perpetual sanctuary, when in fact, a home can contain danger and unrest. (Moore, 2007).

SUMMARY

HOUSE AS A MIRROR OF SELF: EXPLORING THE DEEPER MEANING OF HOME

In a temporary housing setting, the ideas and theories presented in the book, *House as a Mirror of Self: Exploring the Deeper Meaning of Home*, require some ingenuity to safeguard for the residents. Regarding control and investment, particular living spaces can be made customizable for current residents and easily revertable to ensure future residents are able to make their mark on the space, however, investment appears to be a personal choice completely dependent on the individual. Additionally, investment could very well be a frightening prospect especially for individuals with a history of being uprooted. One potential solution to this dilemma could be through the creation of community spaces that hesitant residents might be encouraged to invest in not for their own sake but to improve the space for their friends, neighbors, and children. A neutral ground that could provide some healing and connection to others. Regarding personal history and familiarity, a temporary housing project might consider incorporating an indoor garden space for cultivation of non native plants or utilize a diverse array of materials and architectural styles in community areas to supplement resident's personal effects in their living units. Due to the qualitative connections we make with our living spaces, particular care is required to ensure as smooth a transition as possible for residents coming out of sometimes traumatizing situations.

POLARITY OR INTEGRATION? TOWARDS A FULLER UNDERSTANDING OF HOME AND HOMELESSNESS

To effectively design a transitional housing complex, it is important to remember that pulling parents and their children off of the street and into a secure housing situation does not declassify them as homeless. Another consideration is the emotional well-being of the families. A solution that may assist these families is through creation of a space that can be perceived as secure from outside dangers such as perhaps an abusive ex-spouse, but not so confining as to bring back negative associations of being trapped in such a space.

CASE STUDIES

PURPOSE OF CASE STUDIES

Case studies are an important means of achieving insight into constituents of successful design solutions and revealing possible positive design directions as well as aspects of design to avoid. To aid in this research and to inform the future design portion, case studies of successful projects and project proposals were sought. These projects consist of HELP ONE, a family shelter and affordable living center in Brooklyn, the Ada and Tamar House, a shelter for domestic abuse victims in Tel Aviv, and the Positive Tomorrows School, a school focusing on homeless children and their parents in Oklahoma City.

SEARCH METHODOLOGY

In order to benefit the most from the case studies, I searched for similar or complementary typologies to my desired future design typology. I also wanted to explore responses to varying needs in different parts of the country as well as internationally to acquire a unique collection of responses to homelessness and similar situations.

POINTS OF INTEREST

The projects I assembled in the following pages will look at the focus on children and the design response as well as the qualitative experience the projects created for their users. In each case study, I will look at the services offered, any unique elements included, as well as the user experience and the value brought to the community through the project. Any elements that contribute to de-stigmatization of homelessness will be noted.



HELP ONE

Figure 15: Rendered Image of HELP ONE

THE ADA AND TAMAR HOUSE



Figure 16: Ada and Tamar House Front View



POSITIVE TOMORROWS SCHOOL

Figure 17: Positive Tomorrows School Front Entrance

HELP ONE

Project Typology: Housing and Shelter

Year Built: Proposed redevelopment

Location: East New York, Brooklyn, NY

Units: 521

Architects: Curtis + Ginsberg Architects LLP

Client: H.E.L.P.



Figure 18: Redevelopment Render

BACKGROUND

HELP ONE is a redevelopment of an existing shelter located at 515 Blake Avenue in Brooklyn. The project is a part of New York's push to relieve the homeless crisis raging in the city. HELP ONE, which covers a 200' x 500' city block, focuses primarily on families and children through its function as a family shelter.

SERVICES

In addition to providing almost 200 units of family shelter, HELP ONE also offers supportive housing and affordable housing. Several family oriented services the residents can benefit from include childcare and youth activities, along with various family support rooms and classrooms. Outdoor spaces protected from the street offer residents a protected and secluded place to enjoy.

UNIQUE ELEMENTS

As part of the project's goal of encouraging community acceptance of a homeless shelter within the neighborhood, HELP ONE provides several community focused spaces such as the inclusion of retail units on two of the four street fronts. HELP ONE also focuses on improved circulation to lower commonly congested spaces to lower the strain on the residents and on the surrounding community.



Figure 19: Courtyard Render

CIRCULATION

The project subdivides spaces within the buildings to ensure a comfortable scale for users. Like a small neighborhood, people have immediate access to family services and amenities. Multiple lobbies on the ground floor service groups of these mini neighborhoods.



Figure 20: Sample Floor Plan

MASSING AND HIERACHY

Divided by user specifications, HELP ONE comprises four conjoined buildings containing one component of family shelter, one component of supportive housing, and two components of affordable housing. Subdivision of interior spaces are also designed to create a more comfortable scale for the living spaces. Lower levels accessing the street contain public functions such as entrance lobbies, childcare and staff offices. Private living spaces and specialized service spaces are contained in the upper floors.

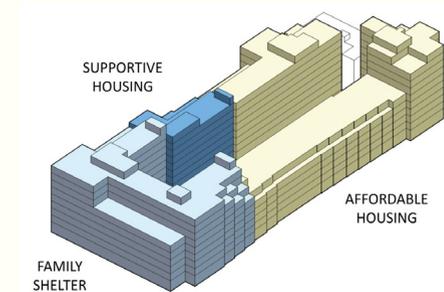


Figure 21: Massing

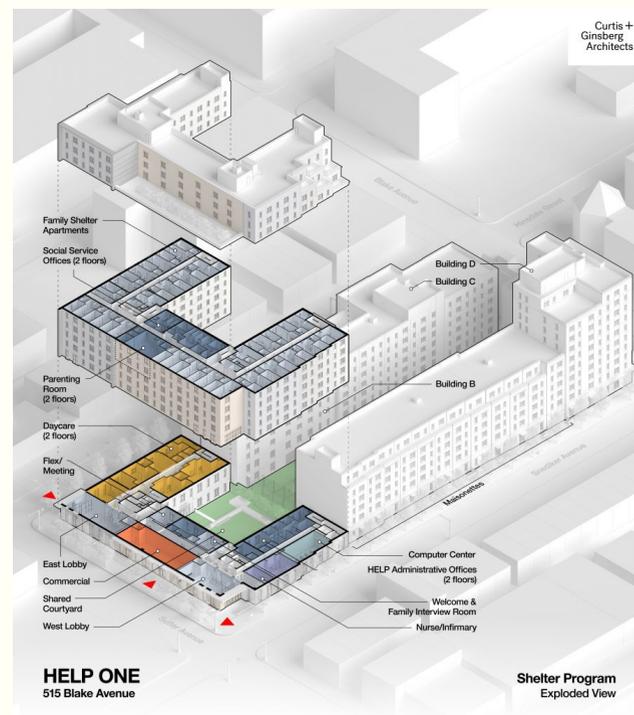


Figure 22: Arrangement

USER EXPERIENCE

HELP ONE is focused on helping families struggling through homelessness. The project also recognizes that children are extremely susceptible to the stress of homelessness. The project hopes to cater to the needs of the families and the children through design of positive qualitative spaces.

Inclusion of street facing retail plays an important role in creating shared community space.



Figure 23: Street Front Render

VALUE

Through careful consideration of intended user and community needs, the proposed project at 515 Blake Avenue holds the potential to aid in the de-stigmatizing of homelessness and assist struggling families to gain a footing as they work their way back into society.

COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS COUNTED CLOSE TO 40,000 CHILDREN LIVING IN SHELTERS WITH THEIR FAMILIES IN 2020

THE ADA AND TAMAR HOUSE

Project Typology: Housing

Year Built: 2018

Location: Tel Aviv

Size: 9,150 sf

Architects: Amos Goldreich Architecture

Client: No 2 Violence against Women



Figure 24: View of the Ada and Tamar House

BACKGROUND

Due to the extreme prevalence of domestic violence in Israel, the organization No 2 Violence opened a series of shelters for abused women and children. These shelters have previously used slightly renovated buildings which often posed a struggle for the residents due to their unconventional layouts.

SERVICES

Women suffering from abuse are given a private dwelling and are offered childcare, and medical and legal assistance. The shelter also offers its residents both shared and private spaces. 12 individual dwellings are connected to shared kitchen and dining spaces, a kindergarten and computer room, as well as staff offices and a laundry room. The connecting hallway overlooks a private courtyard that the residents can utilize for play and interactions.

UNIQUE ELEMENTS

The design of the shelter was to have all of the services revolve around a central community building courtyard to be used exclusively by the residents.



Figure 25: Diagram of circulation

BASED IN ISRAEL, NO 2 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN HAS HELPED OVER 6,000 JEWISH, ARAB, AND ETHIOPIAN WOMEN WITH CHILDREN IN THE LAST 40 YEARS.

MATERIALS

Primary building materials for the project include reinforced concrete and silicate bricks. Due to low budget for construction as well as maintenance, the project relied on local materials and easily cared for indigenous plants.

Locally sourced materials

Native plants

Low maintenance



Figure 26: Ada and Tamar House

NATURAL LIGHT

Following the theme of low budget maintenance, a low energy consuming structure was necessary. To reduce energy bills, natural lighting was used as much as possible which resulted in the creation of clerestory windows and light colored interior materials which reflect and diffuse incoming light.



Figure 27: Courtyard



Figure 28: Corridor

MASSING

The project consists of primary masses enclosing a central courtyard. Located along the south and east faces of the building are the individual living spaces for the women. These spaces are angled just slightly to allow for maximum views within the enclosing compound walls.



Figure 29: Massing

CIRCULATION

The project contains both interior and exterior walkways. Sightlines from interior spaces to exterior courtyards and yard space are maintained through straight hallways and corridors.



Figure 30: Circulation

GEOMETRY

Mimicking the rectilinear, flat roofed surrounding forms, the project maintains a low profile in the surrounding neighborhood. Additionally, the architects used a larger brick size on the second floor to create the illusion of a smaller form.

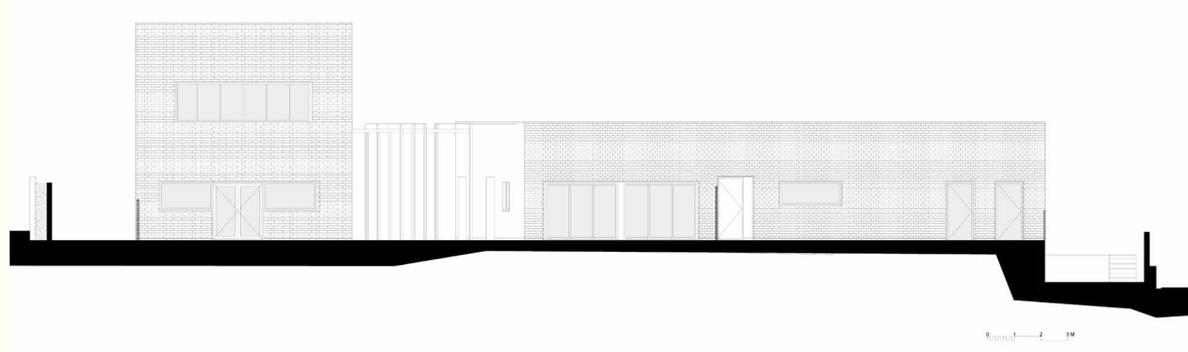


Figure 31: Geometry

HIERARCHY

From the main entrance to the compound, functions within the building are placed on a scale of very public to very private. Staff offices are adjacent to the entryway and the individual living spaces are across the courtyard.

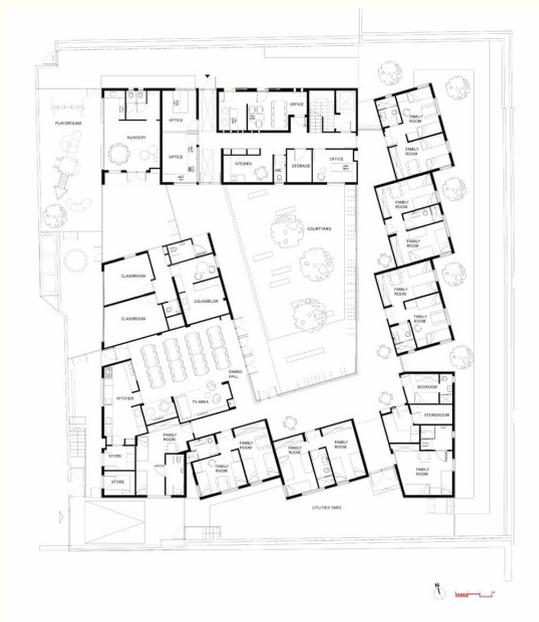


Figure 32: Floor Plan

USER EXPERIENCE

The qualitative experience of the users was a huge consideration for the project. Design elements and organization of the project were created to provide a perception of security. The nature of the central courtyard was also designed to allow for outdoor activities and small social gatherings at a comfortable scale.



Figure 33: Hallway



Figure 34: Outdoor Walkway

CULTURE

Due to the multicultural context of the project and the diverse ethnicities of the users, a simple and neutral design language was used. Additionally, by making the courtyard the center of attention spares the users from intimidating outside influences.

VALUE

The value of this project is felt most by those who have received help at the Ada and Tamar House. The provision of health and educational services in a safe environment helps women recover and prepares them to start a new, better life for themselves when they leave.

POSITIVE TOMORROWS SCHOOL

Project Typology: Education

Year Built: 2019

Location: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Size: 41,379 sf

Architects: MA+ Architecture

Client: Positive Tomorrows



Figure 35: Positive Tomorrows School

BACKGROUND

In response to the ever-present need for food, shelter, and education by homeless families, the Positive Tomorrows School is designed specifically to facilitate learning and living for homeless children. Part of the design process for the project included listening to special requests from homeless children themselves.

SERVICES

Not limited to just education, the school offers family spaces, food preparation rooms, play areas, homework areas, and laundry facilities. The school is aimed at serving as a makeshift home for children while their families work to find their feet.

UNIQUE ELEMENTS

Due to the ability of the school to focus on the needs of homeless children, the project includes such features as study lounges, a room called the Food Lab where the children's families can cook meals together and a laundry room where children can get their clothes cleaned.



Figure 36: Study Space



Figure 37: Food Lab

The Food Lab provides the scale of an average home kitchen and dining room as opposed to the main cafeteria.

MATERIALS

Warm, soft, and colorful materials are used across the building in an attempt to create a more homelike environment. Hallways are well lit and easy to navigate and everywhere fun design elements are included.



Figure 38: Materials



Figure 39: Playground

NATURAL LIGHT

The design of the project incorporates an abundance of natural light into primary spaces within the building. Incorporation of colored glass in the cafeteria adds a layer of fun to the admitted light and casts diffused shadows across the room.



Figure 40: Hall



Figure 41: Natural Light



Figure 42: Circulation

CIRCULATION

Access to different parts of the building occur along 2 parallel north/south hallways and along one longer hallway which connects the two parallel hallways with the main entrance. These straight paths facilitate lines of sight from different ends of the building.



Figure 43: Floor Plan

CHILDREN WHO ATTEND POSITIVE TOMORROWS SCHOOL MAY ONLY BE THERE A SHORT TIME BUT THE ORGANIZATION HOPES THAT THEY WILL HAVE BENEFITED FROM THE EXPERIENCE.

GEOMETRY

Straight lines and mix of brick and concrete facades create a solid but not quite imposing structure. Portions of the wall made of brick resemble wide, solid columns suggest strength and stability. For a homeless child in a suddenly chaotic world, these might be subconsciously reassuring.



Figure 44: Geometry

HIERARCHY

Organized arguably like a suburban home, the entrance of the school opens into the cafeteria called the family room, much like a front door might open into a living room. Services, like the parent's room, open off of the main hallway and the classrooms, like the childrens bedrooms are pushed farther down the hall. The playground, called the backyard, is accessible from the family room and is visible from other rooms in the school.



Figure 45: Hierarchy

USER EXPERIENCE

The qualitative experience of the children utilizing the school and the various other services offered at Positive Tomorrows is very important to the design. Fun spaces, such as the Treehouse, which takes a study space and adds a playful twist through the incorporation of a tree trunk and ceiling element resembling branches.



Figure 46: Treehouse



Figure 47: Library

CULTURE

The life of a child who is experiencing homelessness with his family can be frightening and isolating. The design of Positive Tomorrows school addresses the negative impacts of homeless life with fun, welcoming spaces that incorporate community and family.

VALUE

The uniqueness of the Positive Tomorrows School creates opportunities to help homeless children that other institutions do not have. This along with an environment designed with the ideas and insights of homeless children helps the school make a positive impact on the homeless community in Oklahoma City.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

TIMING

The last four years studying architecture has exposed me to a wide variety of typologies. Residential design, however, is one area where I feel especially passionate. As a final project before I pursue a professional career, I think this project will help me grow my design abilities in the typology I'm most interested in.

In a professional light, I hope to use this project in my portfolio to exemplify my experience and design skill in a design typology I hope to work in in the future.

GAINING KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

The research I have completed thus far has increased my understanding of some of the social complexities surrounding the homeless crisis. I also believe this project will increase my knowledge about the cultural aspect of social housing and their surrounding communities and how better to connect them. Another skill I hope to have achieved is becoming a better researcher and using critical thinking and analysis which will be valuable in my future career. Finally, the design aspect will grow my abilities in the use of design softwares commonly utilized in the profession.

IMPORTANCE TO ACADEMICS AND THE PROFESSION

This project is highly relevant at this time due to the growing rate of homelessness and increasing problems surrounding unaffordable housing. This project seeks to propose a solution to a small part of the problem that is relevant to the Fargo area.

This project is also important academically because it serves as an exercise to explore theoretical solutions without the weight of financial feasibility within a "real" project. In the context of theoretical propositions, ideas or concepts have the potential to be identified as something applicable to the real world.

PROJECT ECONOMICS

In a real world context, this project would most likely not generate any money at all; however the real return on investment would be the lives affected by the finished outcome. Being a non profit or government funded program, the project would require a certain amount of money to maintain, however, similar typologies have demonstrated a significant positive social impact in their communities.

POST OCCUPANCY

The goal for the design would be for single mothers and their children to find a safe and beautiful space to find their feet after becoming homeless. A successful project should achieve their safe transition out of homelessness.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The chosen site for the project would be a redevelopment of a previously occupied piece of land. The low energy building standards I hope to achieve will outperform the current standards in use at the site.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT

Fargo does have a homeless crisis and due to the extreme climate of the region the situation should have top priority. Additionally and not just for Fargo, studies have shown that children who experience extended homelessness are put at risk for educational, social, and health issues. Helping to shorten this time for them is crucial.

Within the local culture in the Fargo area I believe there is a willingness to help, but there's also a hindering stigma that causes suspicion and mistrust on one side and fear and embarrassment on the other side. This project hopes to begin to remove some of those barriers.

ADVANCEMENT OF THE PROFESSION

I believe this project will help to advance the profession through further exploration of how people perceive themselves through their homes and their neighborhoods. By designing to improve a positive perception, this project could help inform the design of neighborhoods and social housing that uplifts the inhabitants.

MY QUALIFICATIONS

This project fits in with what I want to continue to do in the professional world. Additionally, this topology requires a high level of empathy and an understanding of the local culture. Having lived within close proximity of the site and having a willingness to view situations from a different perspective qualifies me for this work.

SITE ANALYSIS

SITE AND CONTEXT

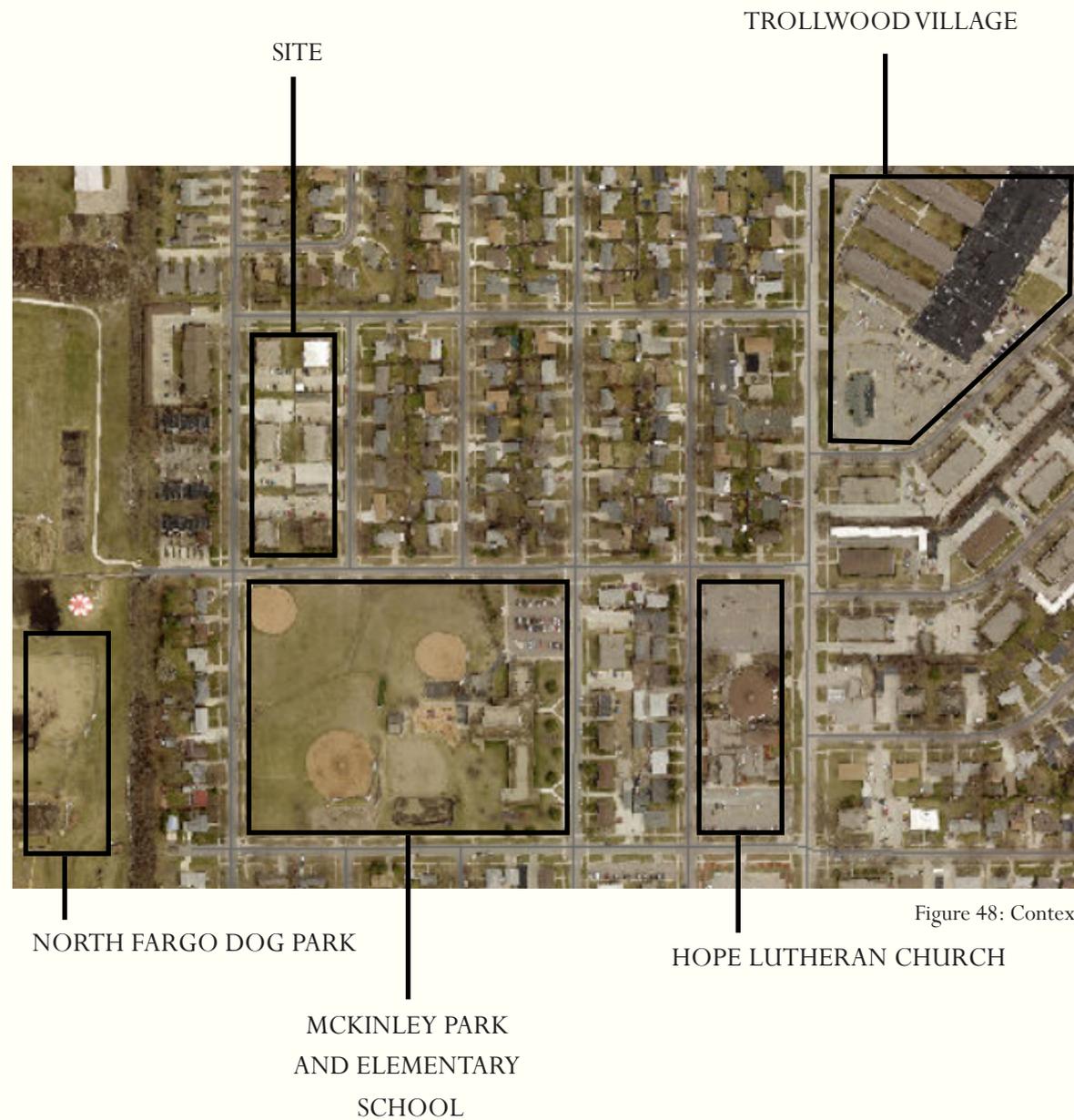


Figure 48: Context

ZONING

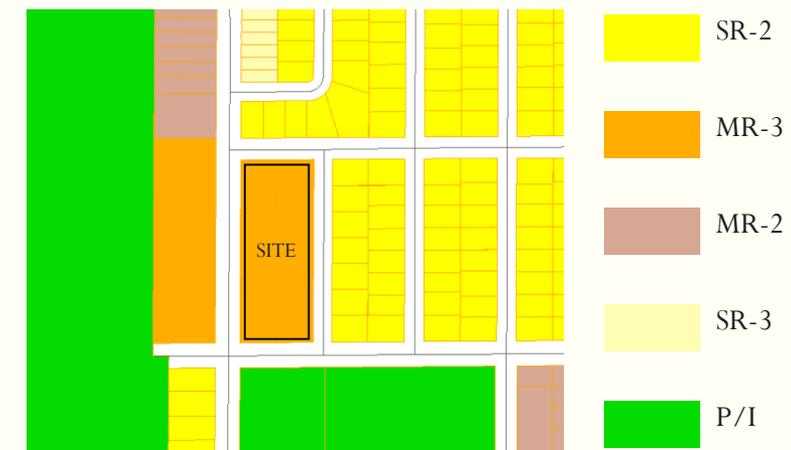


Figure 49: Zoning

The site is located in a MR-3 zone that allows primarily single and multifamily residential structures. Group living and other services are permitted after review. This project would be subject to such review. Performance will be judged based on thorough analysis and following of the the local zoning code. Project success will be determined if all requirements outlined in the Fargo city building code are met.

TOPOGRAPHY/SOILS

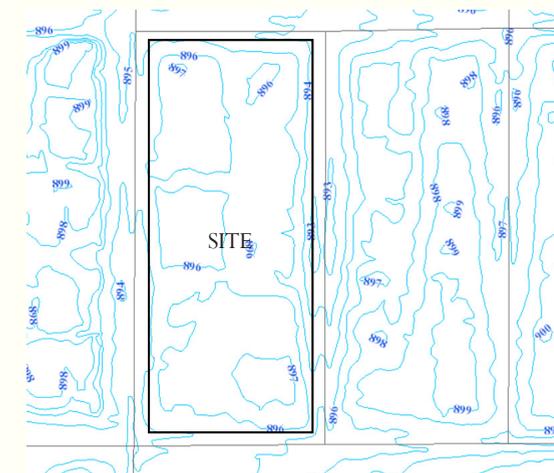


Figure 50: Contours

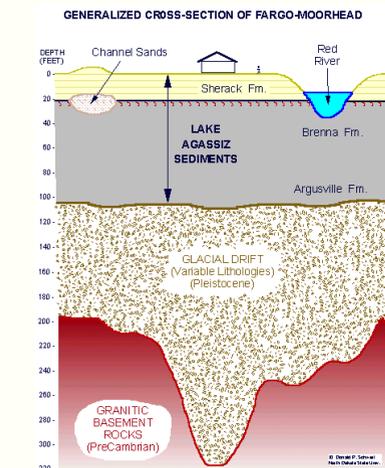


Figure 51: Soils

CIRCULATION

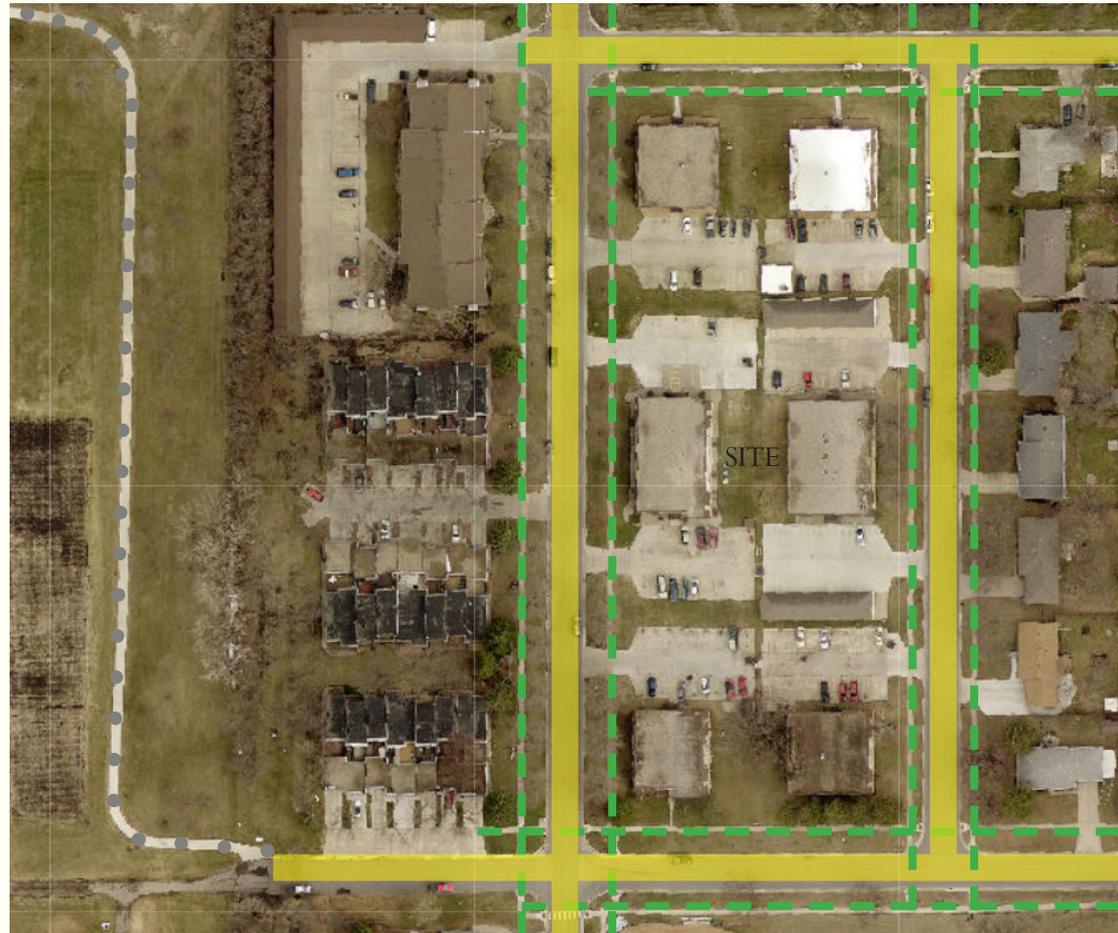


Figure 52: Circulation

WALKING PATH

.....
BIKING PATH

■■■■■
STREETS

WALKABILITY

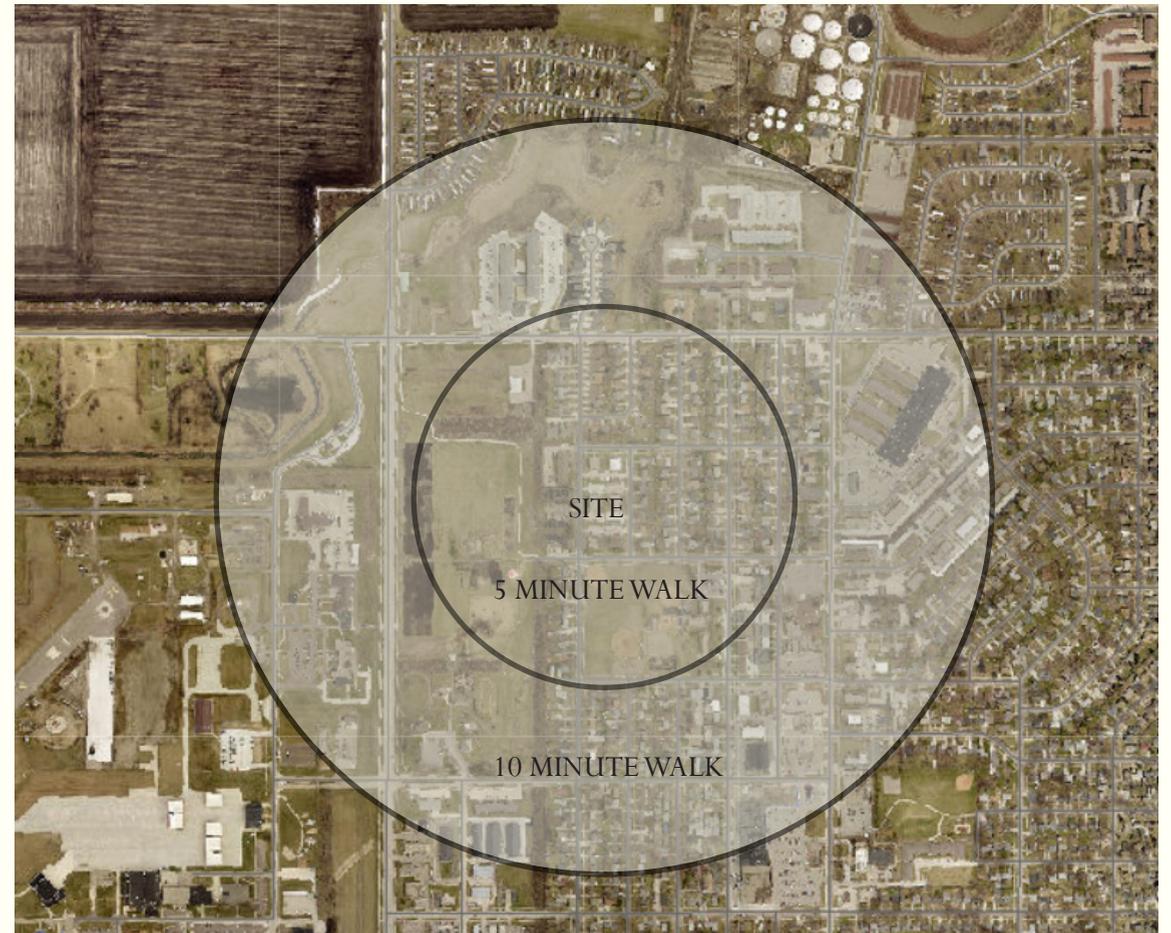
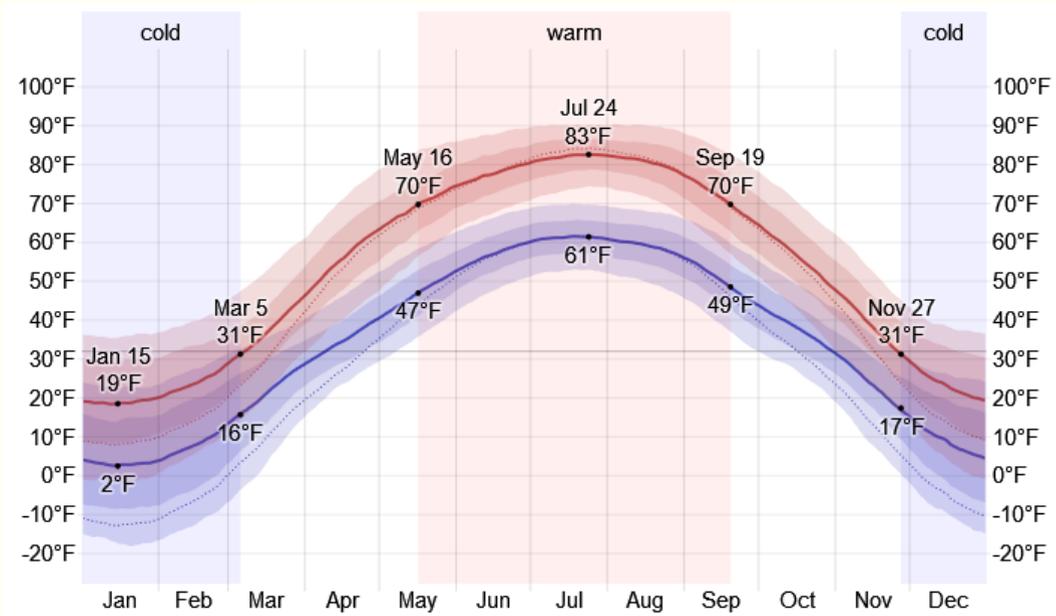


Figure 53: Walkability

CLIMATE

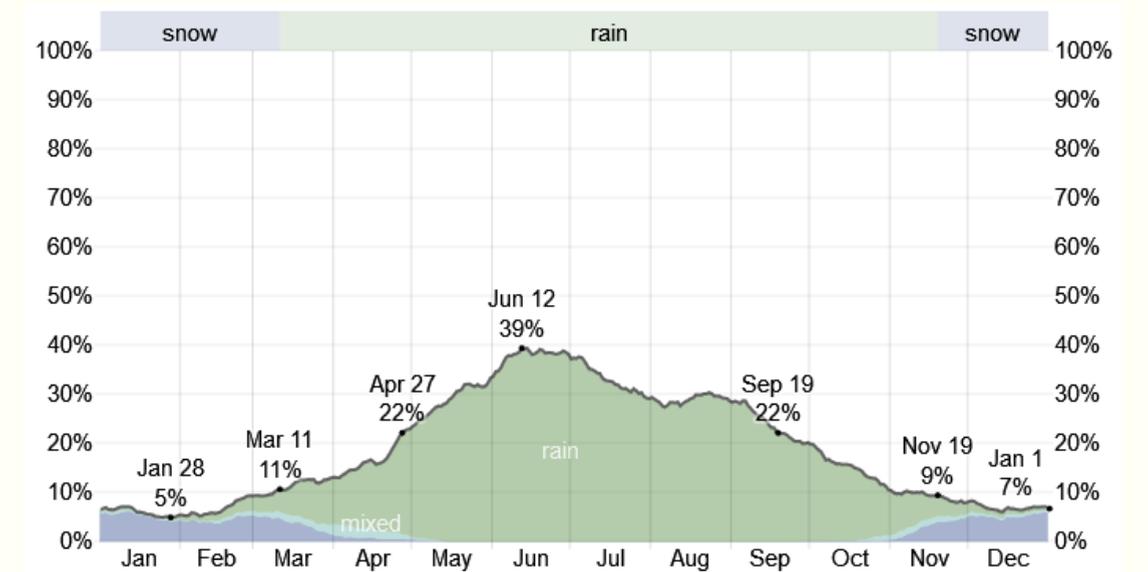
TEMPERATURE

Average Temperature

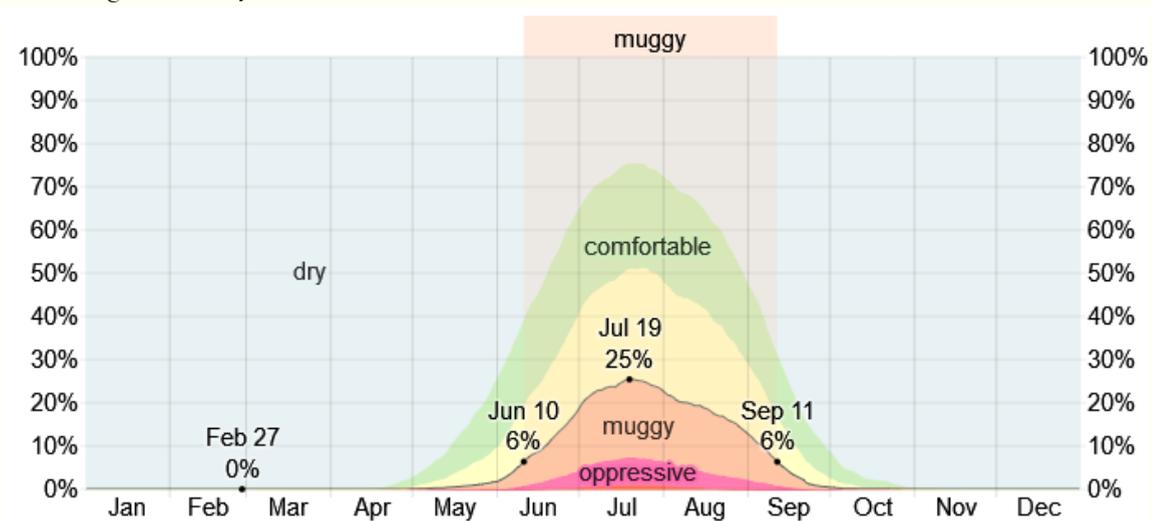


PRECIPITATION

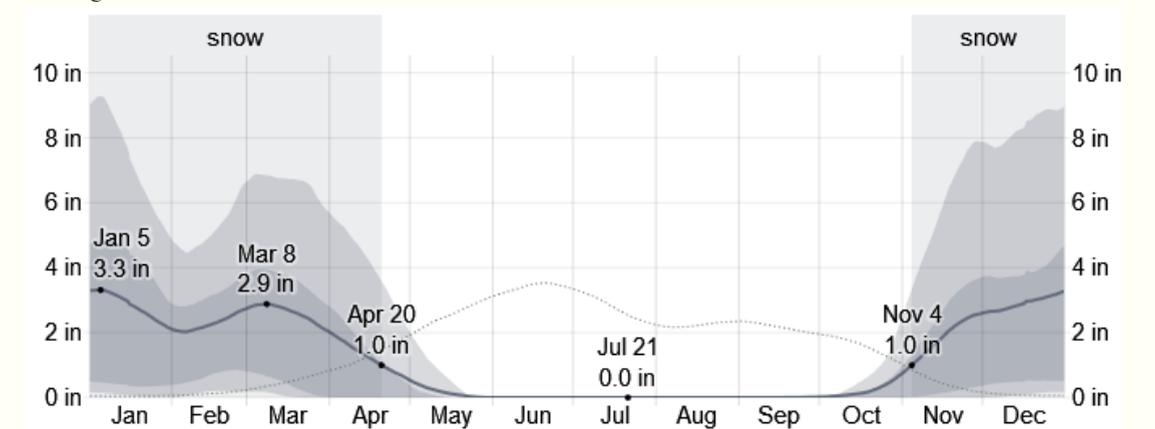
Average Precipitation



Average Humidity

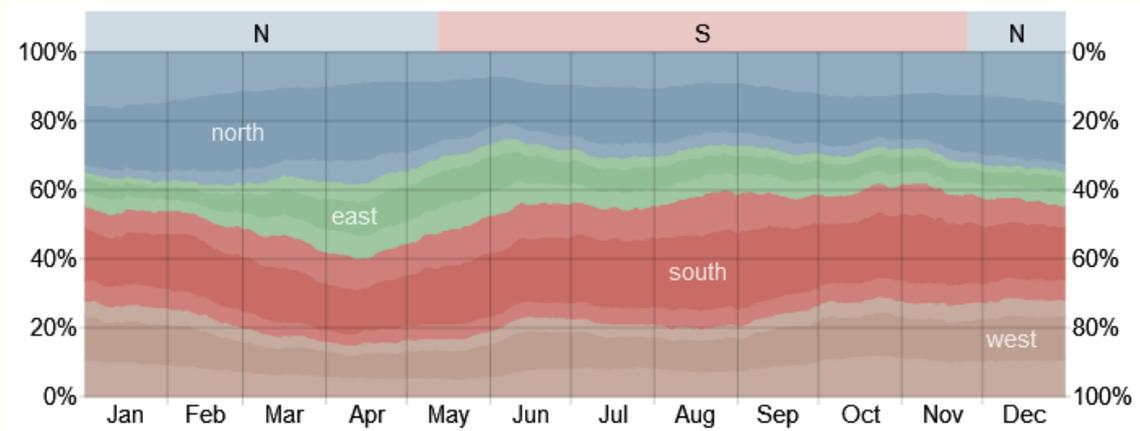


Average Snowfall

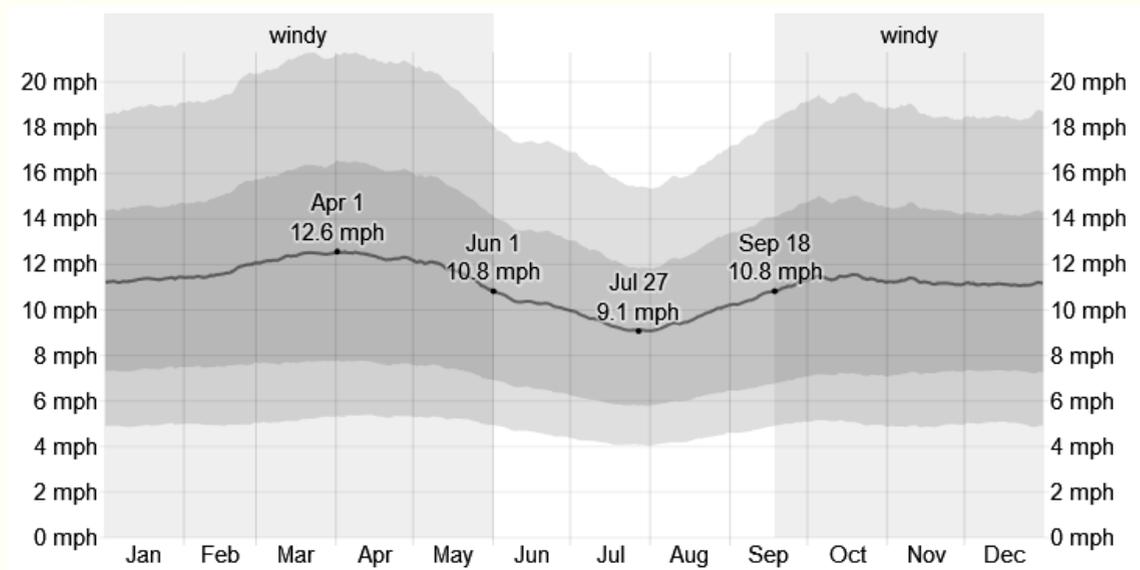


WIND

Average Wind Direction

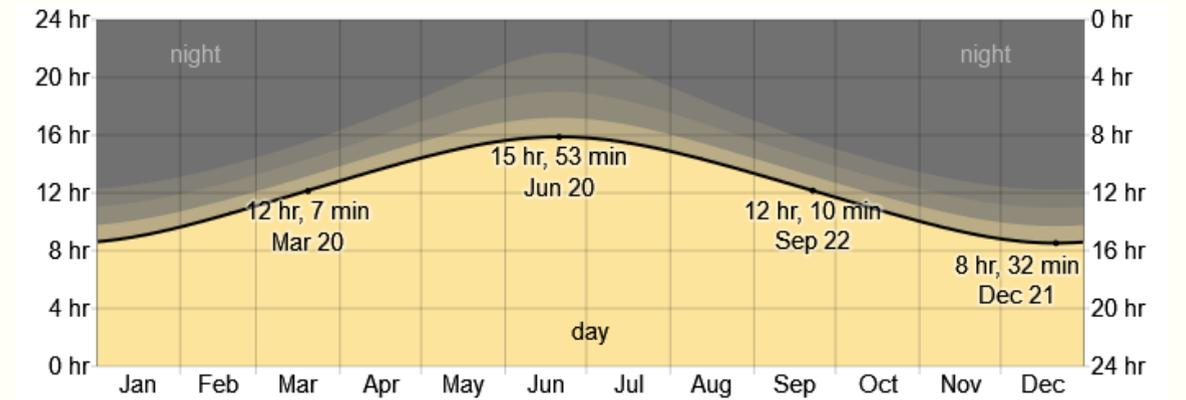


Average Wind Speed

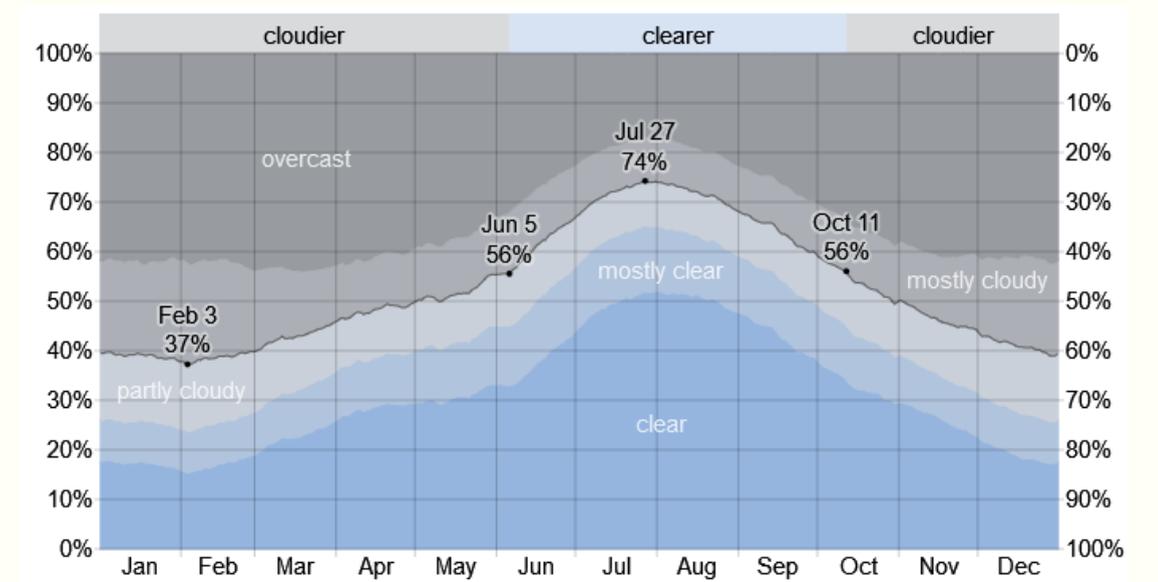


SUN AND CLOUD COVER

Average Daylight Hours



Average Cloud Cover



TREE COVER AND PLANTING ZONES



Figure 62: Tree cover map

- Deciduous
- Coniferous

Present tree cover on the proposed site consists of both deciduous and coniferous species. Most common street trees in north Fargo are American Elms. However, as these trees age and die a larger variety of street trees are being introduced including maple, ironwood, and varieties of crabapple.

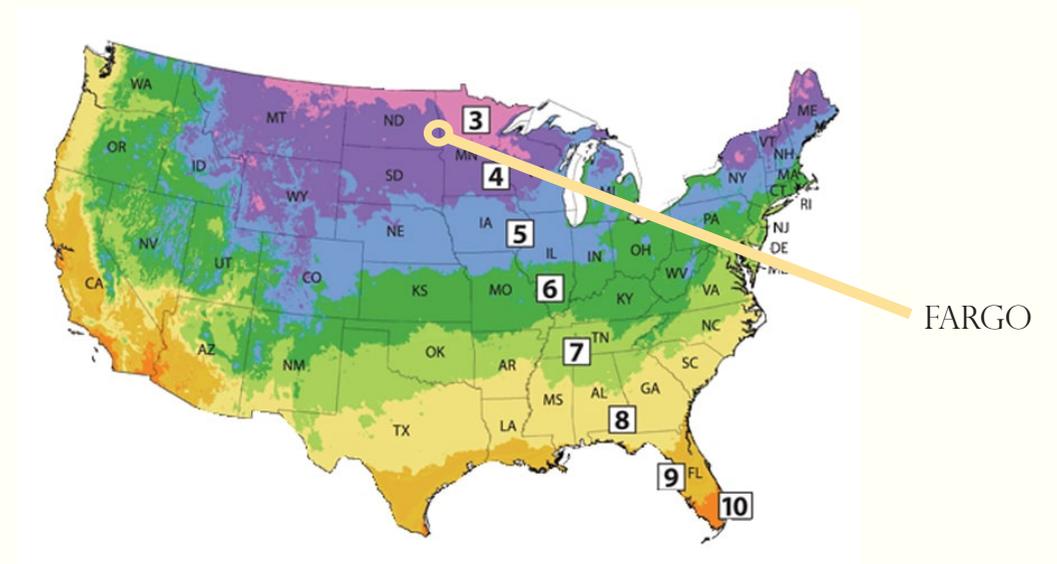


Figure 63: USDA Hardiness Zones



Figure 64: Bee Balm



Figure 65: Aster



Figure 66: Black-Eyed Susan



Figure 67: Daylily

The proposed site for the project, located in north Fargo, is situated comfortably in zone 4 of the USDA hardiness zoning map. Plants chosen for planting in this zone must be able to survive the long cold winters that affect the region. Specifically, plants I am looking for to include in the project will be hardy, low-maintenance, and colorful.

VIEWS



Figure 68: Walking path north of the dog park



Figure 69: McKinley Park - Looking south



Figure 70: Looking west toward the dog park

NORTH SIDE SITE VIEWS



Figure 71: Looking South - West Side



Figure 72: Looking South - East Side



Figure 73: Looking East - West Side



Figure 74: Looking West - East Side

SOUTH SIDE SITE VIEWS



Figure 75: Looking North - West Side



Figure 76: Looking North - East Side



Figure 77: Looking East - West Side



Figure 78: Looking West - East Side

BUILDING HEIGHTS

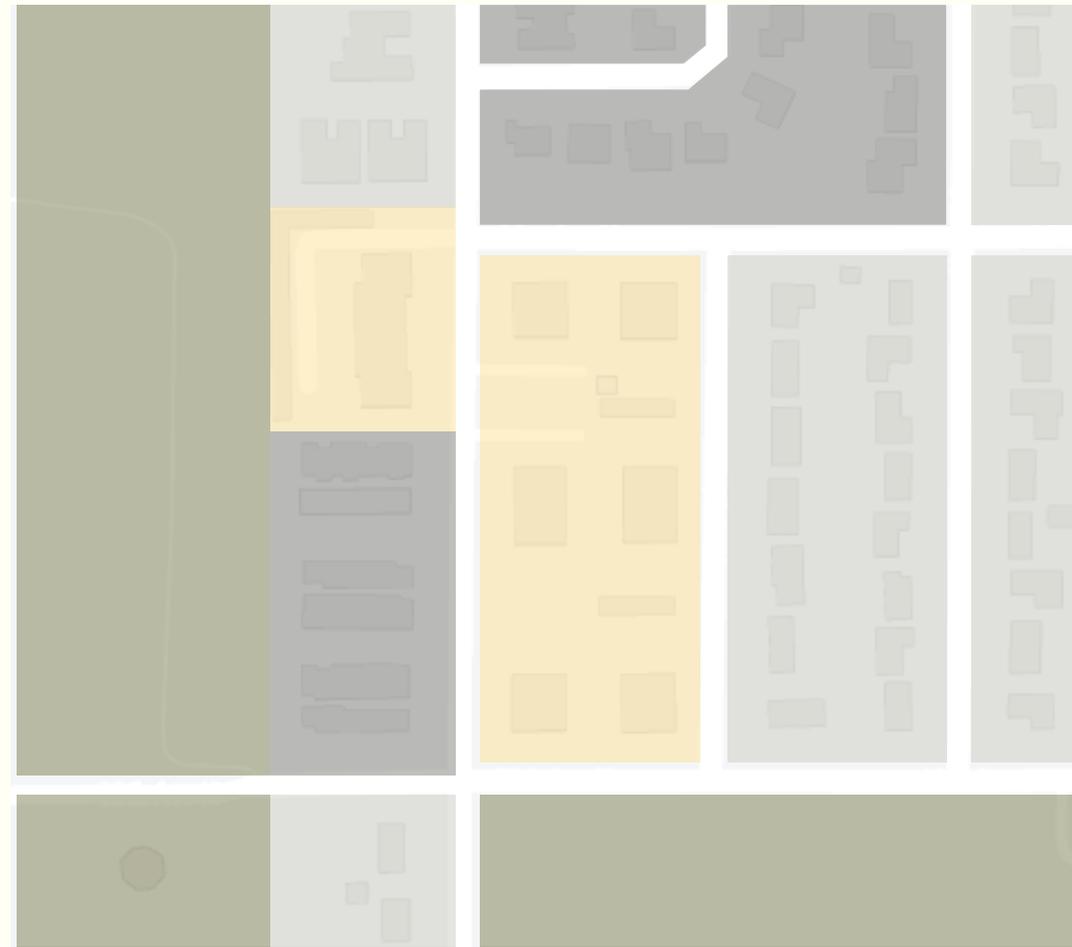


Figure 79: Building Heights



DENSITY

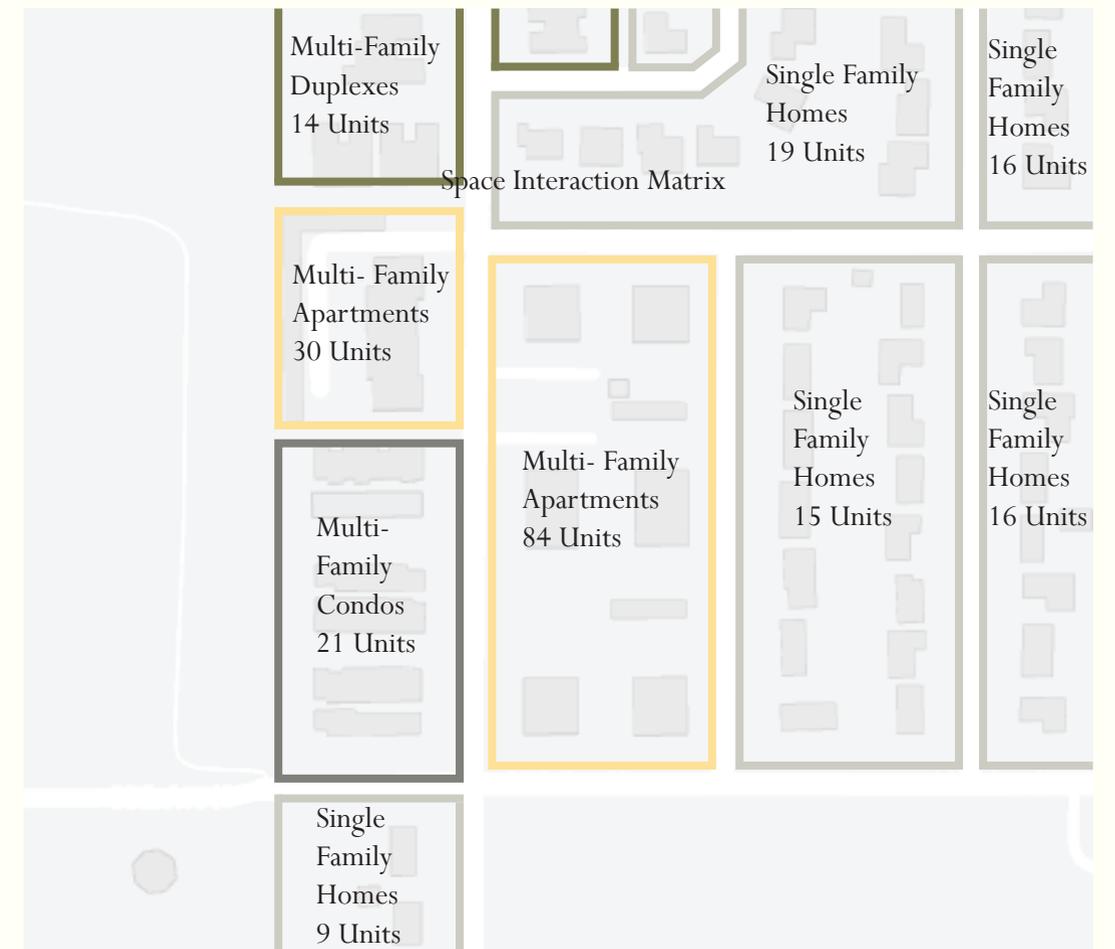


Figure 80: Neighborhood Density

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

BEHAVIORAL PERFORMANCE

The measurement for success for this category is based on the ease of wayfinding and ease of access for the residents, staff, and visitors on the site. The staffed services should be centrally located for equal access. The staff services will also not be visible from the street but visible from primary access points across the facility. Housing will be visible from the street and will be easily accessed from the sidewalk, however suitable security measures will be implemented for the safety of the residents. Parking will be appropriately located and will be monitored to prevent parking violations and loitering. Public access spaces will be visible from the street and close to the street for easy access for the public. Suitable separation space that will diminish noise and views from the coffee shop will protect residents' privacy. Performance will be judged based on lines of sight and other needs concluded from the research.

CONTEXT IN ACADEMICS AND PROFESSION

Aesthetically, the visible portion of the facility will fit into the surrounding environment to not visually disrupt the existing neighborhood. Analysis of the built context will be performed to note existing trends. This analysis will also study materials, proportioning, and vegetation. The interior spaces will have abundance of light, fresh air, and use appropriate materials.

SUMMARY

The goals of this project is to elevate the experience of the residents, not impose upon the surrounding neighborhood. Key components to measure the success of the project will be through analysis of case studies as well as aesthetic quality and analysis of surrounding neighborhoods. Project spaces include services to meet basic needs of residents and must be laid out in a manner practical for the use of the residents.

SPACE ALLOCATION

Private Access

Housing Units - 36 units - 24 hours

Laundry Room - 9 units, 1 laundry room to service 4 housing units - 24 hours

Kitchen - 9 units, 1 kitchen to service 4 housing units - 6am - 10pm

Dining Room - 9 units, 1 small dining room to complement each kitchen- 6am - 10pm

Chapel - 1 unit, to service complete facility - 6am - 10pm

Study Rooms - 18 units, 2 for every 4 housing units - 24 hours

Staffed Services

Security Office - 1 unit, to serve complete facility - 24 hours

Nurse Office - 1 unit, to service complete facility - 9am - 5pm

Social Services Office - 1 unit, to service complete facility - 9am - 5pm

Parking - estimate 10 parking spaces for staffed services and handicap needs- 24 hours

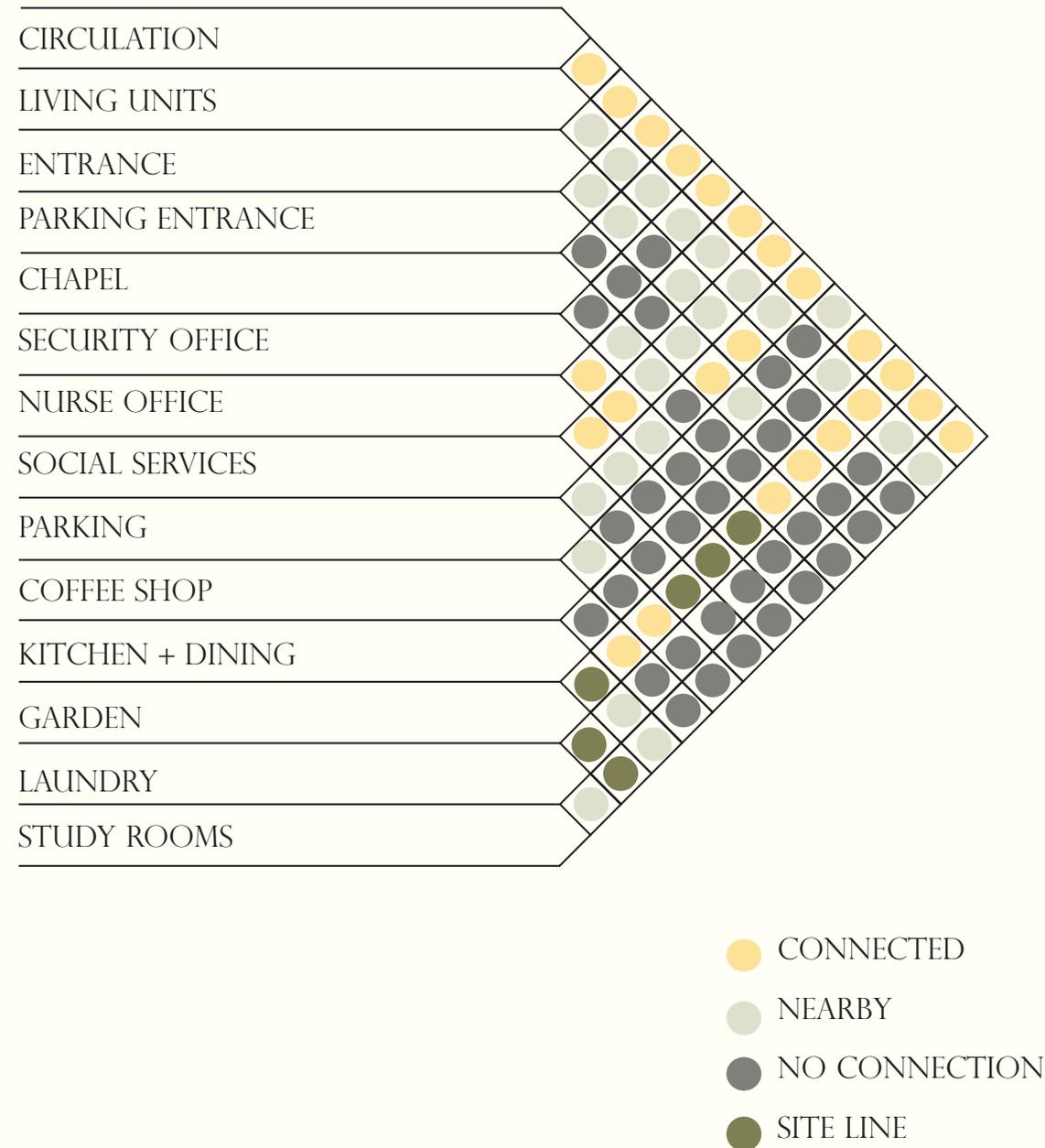
Public Access

Gardens - estimate separate garden spaces to complement built environment - 9am - 6pm

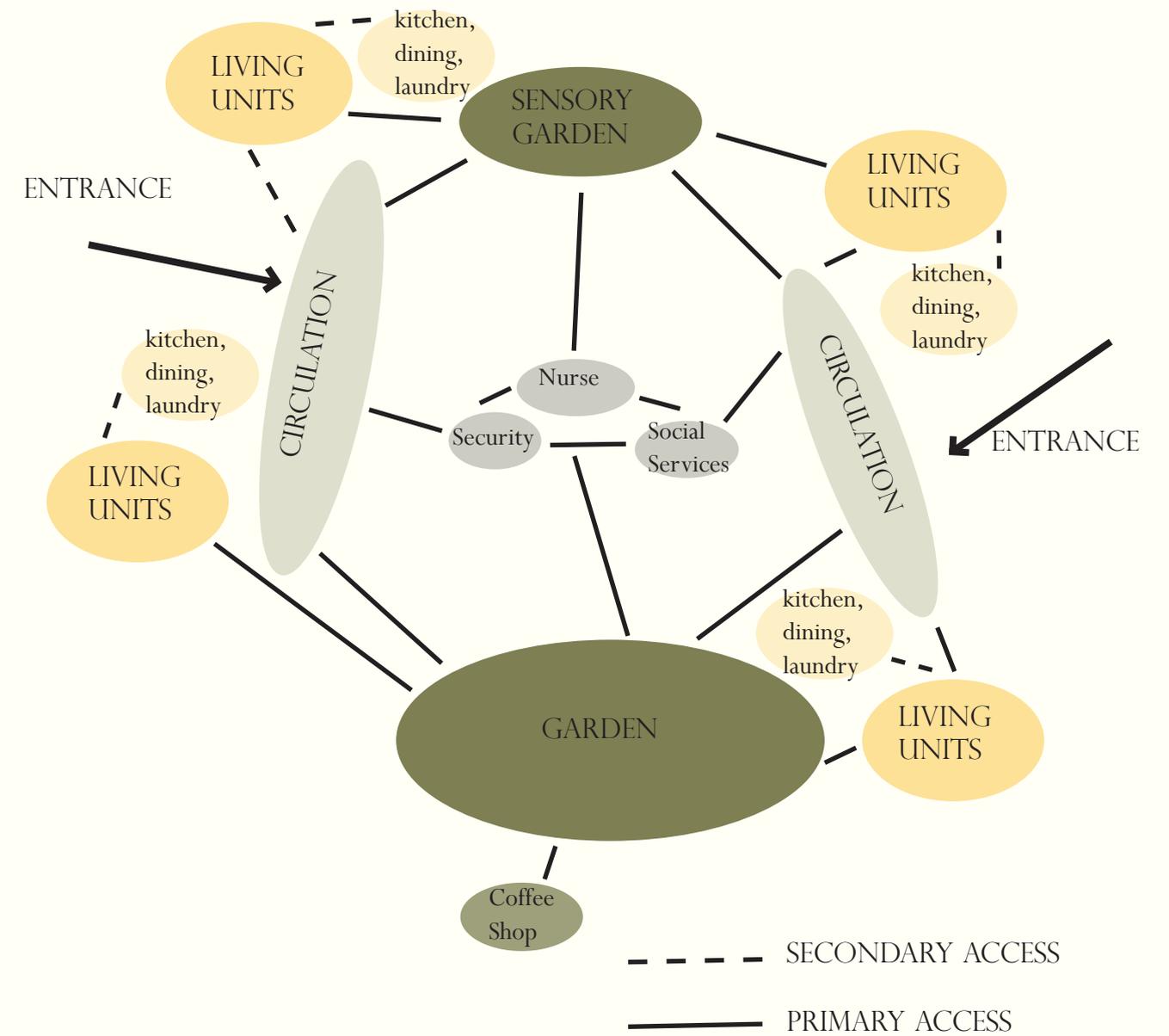
Coffee shop - 1 unit - 6am - 3pm

All hours of access and operation are set out for the safety and utility of the residents. A successful design will allow the residents adequate space and time in each location and prevent unhealthy loitering by residents and non residents.

SPACE INTERACTION MATRIX



SPACE INTERACTION NET



PROJECT SCHEDULE

FALL
2021

AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC

THESIS PROPOSAL DUE - OCT. 14TH				
			Thanksgiving	
	THESIS RESEARCH DUE - DEC. 16TH			
				Christmas

SPRING
2022

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY

		Spring Break		
	Midterm Thesis Reviews Mar. 7th-11th		Easter	
PROJECT DESIGN DUE - APR. 22ND				
			Physical Exhibit Apr. 25th	
			THESIS REVIEWS	
			Thesis Book May 9th	

DESIGN SOLUTION

PROCESS DOCUMENTATION

STAGES OF DESIGN PROCESS

The process of arriving at the final solution for my project comprised 4 major design stages: Spatial Ideation, Schematic Design, Critique and Revision, and Finalization. Throughout each step, consideration for user experience was prioritized with an emphasis on promoting empathy, dignity, and stability among the intended residents.

SPATIAL IDEATION



SCHEMATIC DESIGN



REVISION



FINALIZATION

In this stage I focused on denoting key project elements and exploring their potential arrangements on the site as well as the relationships between them.

The next step in the project was compiling a list of design goals drawn from my research and, through a meticulous design process, incorporating them in the creation of each of the spaces.

After a critique from an outside professional, changes and adjustments were made to the design and new considerations were obtained and assimilated.

In the last stage of the project overarching design concepts and ideas were resolved and specific elements were ultimately realized.

SPATIAL IDEATION

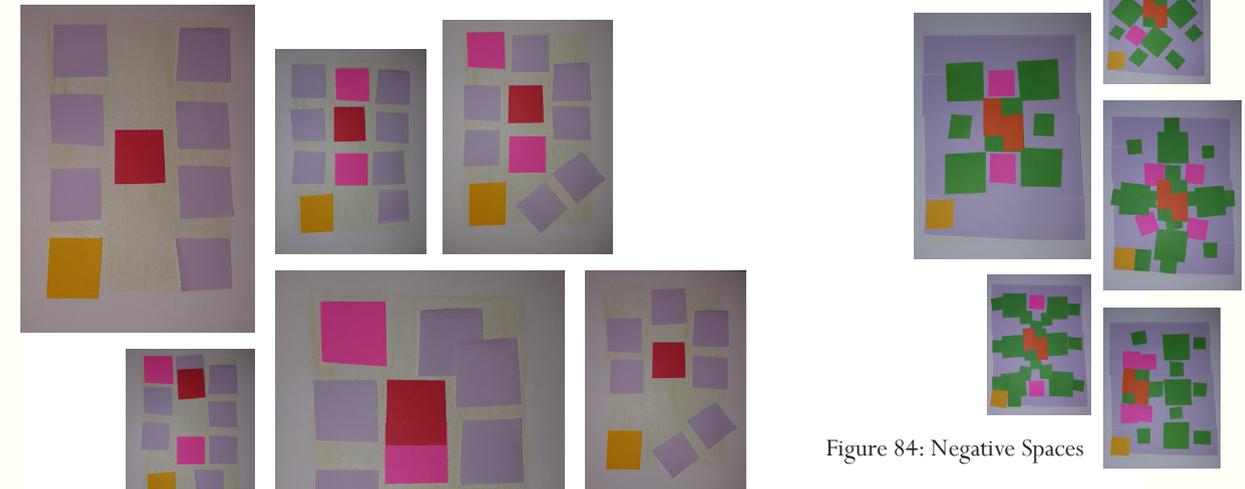


Figure 83: Positive Elements

Purple squares represent detached housing units accomodating several families, red squares mark space for services, pink sqaures designate parking and yellow squares the coffee shop. Services were generally placed toward the center of the site to ensure equal access and the coffee shop was placed in the south west corner bordering a high traffic area.

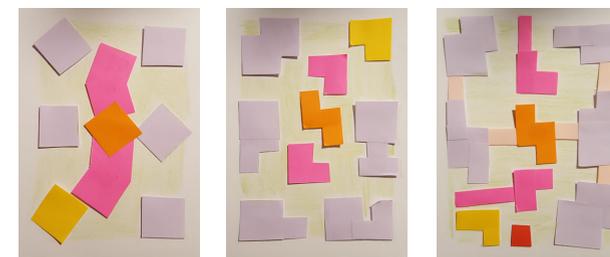


Figure 85: Idea Development

One idea involved the creation of connecting hallways for better accessibility in winter. However, the result broke the site into a distinct northside and southside which was in opposition of my intention of creating a shared "backyard" space.

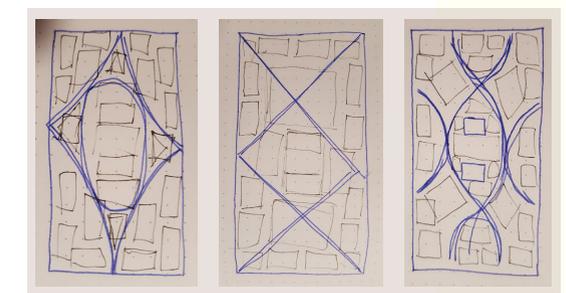


Figure 86: Site Circulation Diagrams

SCHEMATIC DESIGN

Design Goals

- Provide a healing environment to address physical and emotional homelessness
- Create a beautiful setting to promote a positive image of the users
- Create opportunities for learning useful life management skills
- Provide for inclusion of elements that facilitate familiarity and comfort
- Offer users a degree of control in domestic decision making

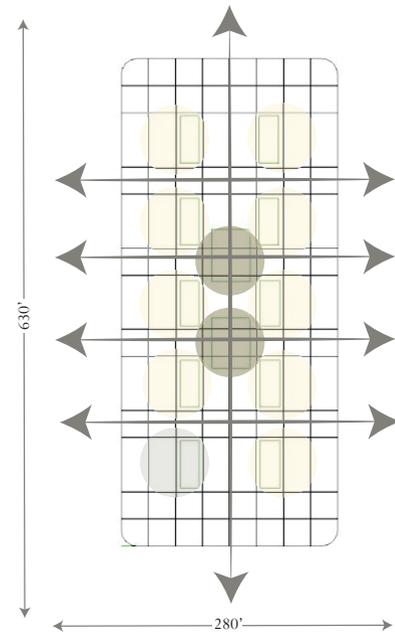


Figure 87: Site Grid

To successfully provide a healing environment, it was necessary to consider every inch of my site. To make this possible, I began by creating a grid. The grid starts with a base unit of 3.5' x 3.5'. This unit determined the larger components with which I divided the site. 3.5' was used due to its connection with human scale. 3.5' is generally a comfortable width in which to walk, 7' - 2 x 3.5 - creates an appropriate height for a lintel, and 1'-9" generally is a comfortable height for sitting.

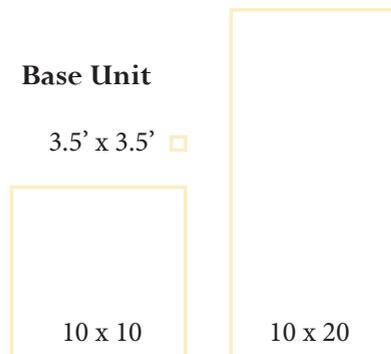
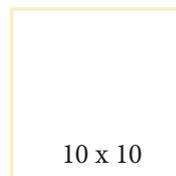


Figure 88: Sun Path

Base Unit

3.5' x 3.5' □



By alternating the large and small components of the grid I was able to create a horizontal emphasis correlating to the movement of the sun. This correlation was to maximize the sun access in all areas across the site.

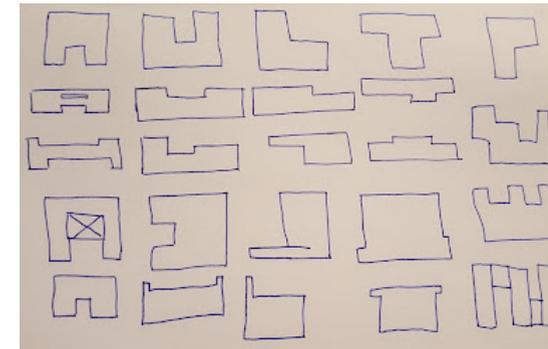


Figure 89: Footprint Exploration



Figure 91: Clay Model

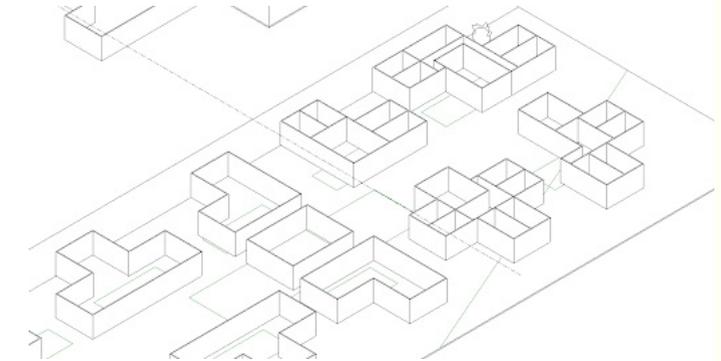


Figure 90: Interlocking Forms

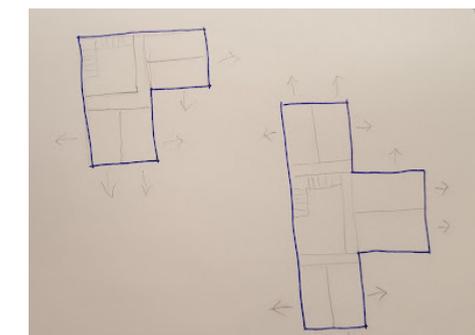
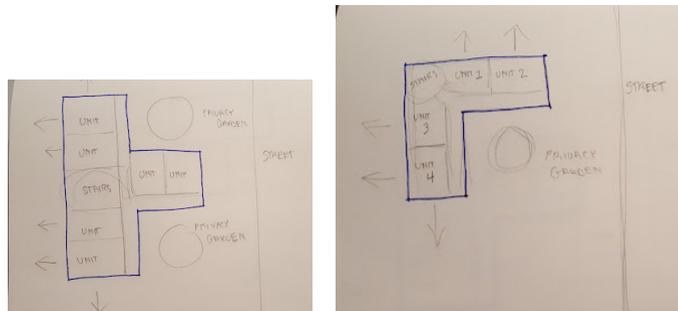


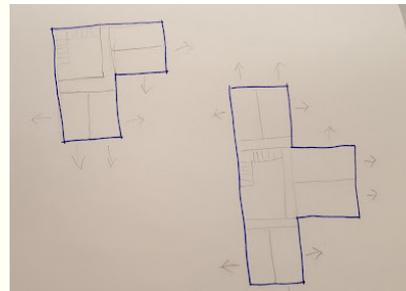
Figure 92: Floor Plan Exploration

To obtain a harmonious relationship with the surrounding neighborhood and help promote a positive image for the users, the housing units were detached from each other and arranged like a standard residential city block. To help differentiate between the public facing portions of the site and the private portions, careful consideration of the houses' forms required.

With the inspiration of the interlocking pieces of a wood block puzzle, I developed a basic L-shaped form from which I was able to derive a series of variations. Additionally, the indented portions allowed space to plant vegetation intended to pull an outside viewer's focus away from the translucent portions of the building.



The development of the interior spaces of the buildings began with sketching simple floor plans. Each house was to have private living spaces for the families and shared spaces for growing community among the residents.



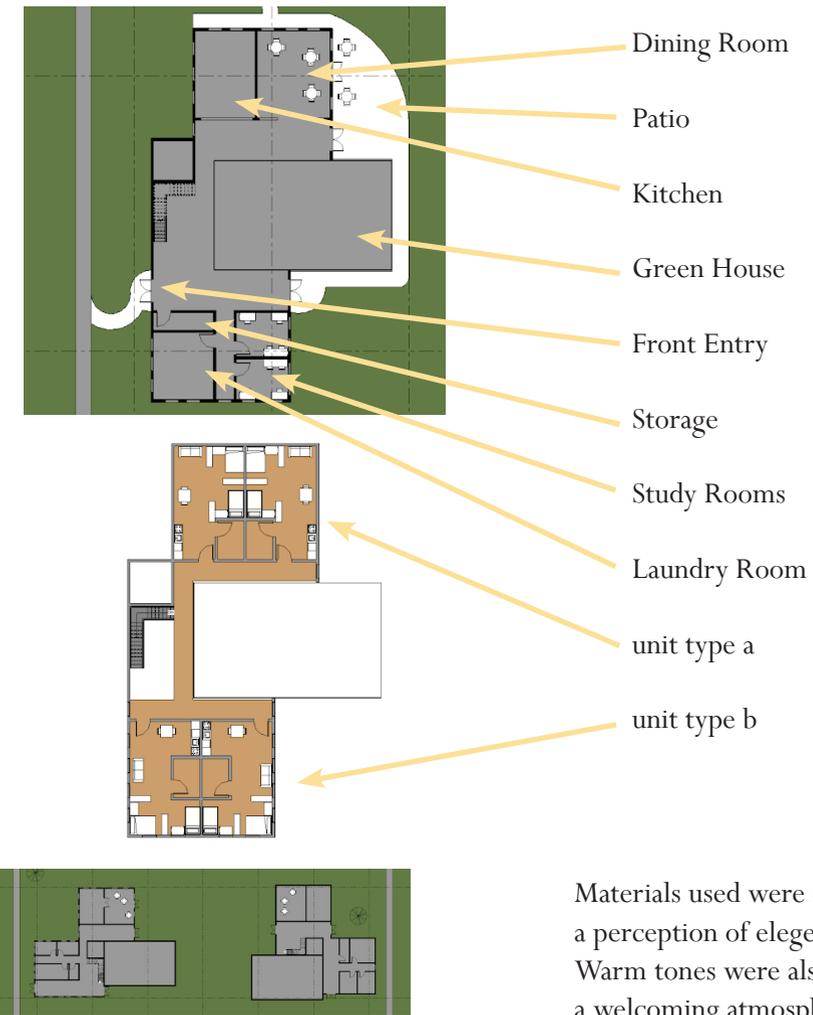
As the design developed, the shared spaces were designated for the 1st floor and the private for the 2nd floor. Other considerations in the design were maintaining two outward facing walls for each private dwelling unit, open floor living spaces to provide users a degree of control in domestic decision making, and ensuring natural light in the circulation spaces.



Figures 93-96: Floor Plan Development

This sketch focused on highlighting the connections between the 1st and 2nd floor and the 1st floor and the site. The shared facilities on the 1st floor, such as the laundry room and the kitchen, allow residents to interact with each other and share skills and life experiences.

Figure 97 - 98: Initial Layouts of the 1st and 2nd Floors



Materials used were chosen to advance a perception of elegance and stability. Warm tones were also chosen to promote a welcoming atmosphere.

Figure 99: Similar Arrangements

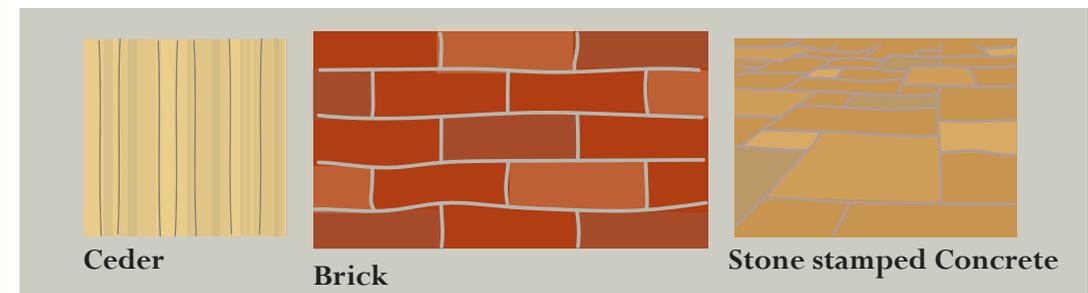
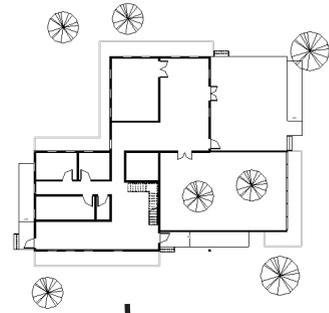


Figure 100: Materials

REVISION

Figure 101: Initial Floor Plan



One of my first goals in the revision process was to reconfigure the floor plans to optimize the usable space. The kitchen and dining spaces were combined, opening up space for a lounge, and the wall separating the dining room from the patio was pulled back to create a sheltered outdoor eating space.

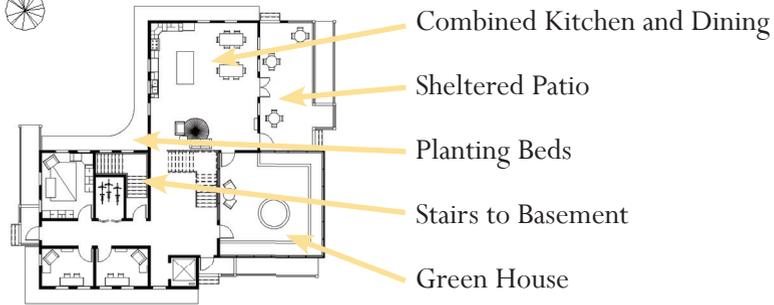


Figure 102: Revised Floor Plan

Other adjustments included the creation and connection to the basement, shrinking the green house into a more practical and compact space, and making strategic alterations to the exterior raised planting beds. One of the critiques my project received was failure to demonstrate desired room usage through layout of the respective spaces which I resolved through including and arranging potential furnishings.



Figure 103: Details

Partially in response to a critique of the detailing of my buildings, I decided to simplify the exterior and create a more comprehensible facade.

FINALIZATION

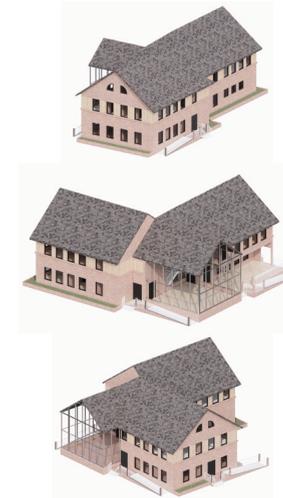


Figure 104: Final Houses

I ended up designing 3 variations of houses that fit together to create the final composition. Each house contains 4 private living spaces for families which can be arranged per user desire. The rest of the house is a series of shared spaces. A final addition to the design was adding a workout space and space for private storage in the basement.

Sensory Garden

The last piece of my project to be finalized was the sensory garden. Raised planting beds give the garden a sense of enclosure and carefully selected plantings and materials address the user's sensory needs as well as a small water fountain in the form of a flowing stream.



Figure 105: Sensory Garden

DESIGN SOLUTION

PRESENTATION BOARDS



SENSORY GARDEN



COMMUNAL LOUNGE

COMMUNITY BRIDGE

Homelessness has been an issue throughout American history and today thousands of American families feel helpless and humiliated as they struggle to find housing. Community Bridge seeks to alleviate some of the trauma caused by homelessness by creating a transitional housing community and by exploring ways in which families struggling with homelessness can find healing as well as build connections with other families and help them to build friendships, share knowledge, and empathize with each other.

COFFEE SHOP
A neutral space for residents to connect with the surrounding neighborhoods.

CHAPEL
A place for worship and contemplation.

SERVICES
A nurse's station and a private security office to ensure constant safety on the site.

GREEN HOUSES
Due to the harsh winters experienced in Fargo, the outdoor growing season is fairly short. Greenhouses are connected to the dwelling spaces to provide space for residents to grow flowers and medicinal herbs year long.

SENSORY GARDEN
On the northern end of the site, a sensory garden offers residents a calming place to relax and heal from any stress or trauma they may have experienced.

PATHWAYS
The spaces between the buildings on the site are organized into parklike gardens and courtyards connected by a meandering path. Brick pedestals are scattered throughout the site providing residents a place to create and display artwork.

SOLAR ORIENTATION
The horizontal emphasis of the site's spatial organization allows for greater opportunities for natural daylight penetration into gardens and interior spaces.

PROPORTIONS
To achieve an attractive image in the surrounding neighborhood, the houses of Community Bridge were designed with respect to traditionally pleasing proportions including the golden ratio. Plinth, lintel, and ceiling heights were determined from a base unit of 3.5 feet.

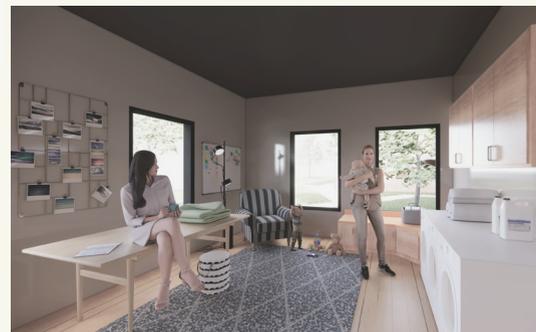
BUILT CONTEXT

MULTIFAMILY CONDOS	SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCES
MULTIFAMILY APARTMENTS	PARK

TRANSVERSE SECTION

LONGITUDINAL SECTION

50



COMMUNAL LAUNDRY ROOM



STUDY ROOM

Part of the upheaval that people entering into homelessness face is a loss of control in their life and in their surroundings which can be damaging to their self esteem. To address this trauma and give residents the opportunity to be personally invested in their temporary surroundings, private dwelling units contain basic built-in house-hold pieces and the rest is open, customizable space.

If residents do not own any furniture, they may borrow what they need from the facility's furniture storage. If they wish, they also have the opportunity to buy these pieces from the facility through completion of chores or odd jobs. By letting the residents own their own furniture they may feel more invested in the care and upkeep of their living spaces.

HOUSE TYPE 1
HOUSE TYPE 2
HOUSE TYPE 3

UNIT TYPE A: SINGLE MOTHER + CHILDREN
UNIT TYPE A: SINGLE MOTHER + BABY
UNIT TYPE B: FAMILY
UNIT TYPE B: FAMILY + BABY

1. FRONT ENTRY
2. STUDY ROOMS
3. LAUNDRY ROOM
4. BIKE STORAGE
5. KITCHEN/DINING
6. LOUNGE
7. PATIO
8. GREENHOUSE
9. UNIT TYPE A
10. UNIT TYPE B
11. PANTRY
12. WORKOUT ROOM
13. PRIVATE STORAGE
14. MECHANICAL/FURNITURE STORAGE

SOUTH ELEVATION
WEST ELEVATION
NORTH ELEVATION
EAST ELEVATION

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

RESPONSE TO SITE

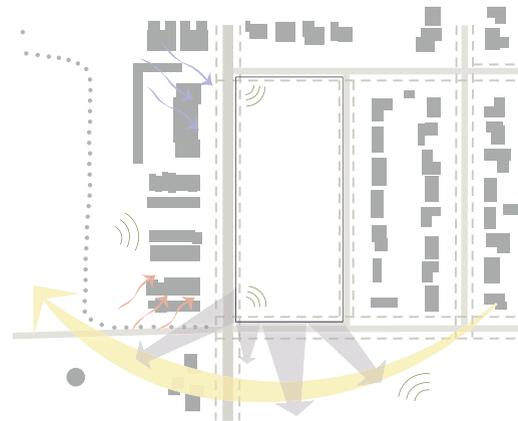


Figure 111: Site Analysis

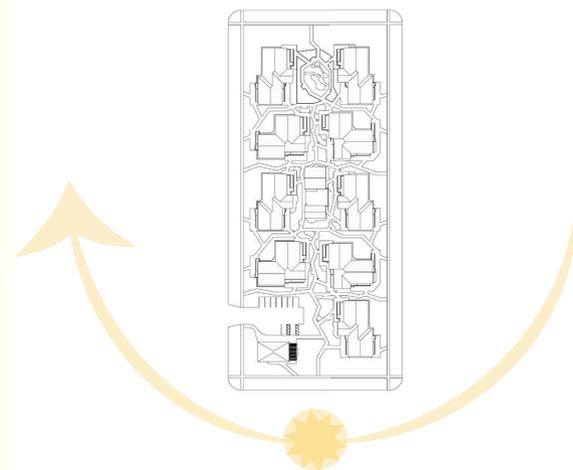
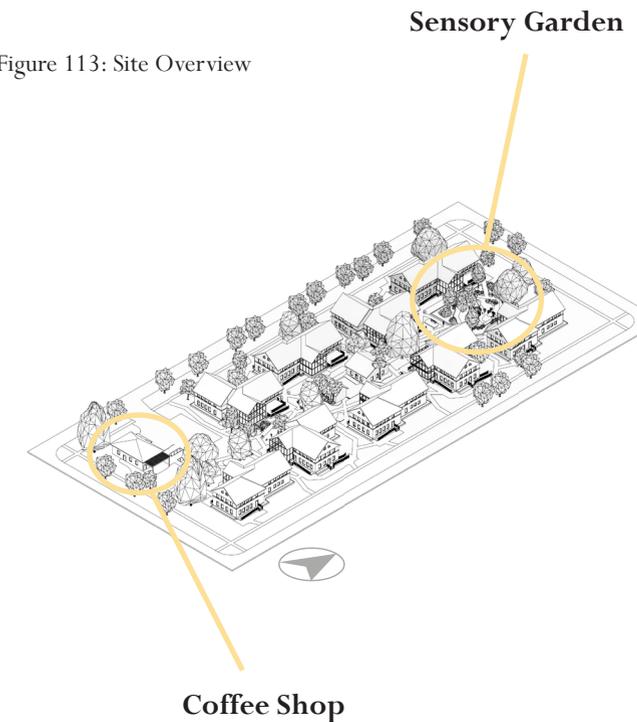


Figure 112: Sun

To successfully integrate my project into the site, a preliminary site analysis was completed identifying key influences such as sun, wind, and views. Another factor especially pertinent to my project was traffic. Due to the sensitive nature of certain spaces in my design, specific care was taken to distance those spaces from the busier streets and sidewalks.

From the start of the design process, I sought to simultaneously maximize the penetration of sunlight into the interior spaces and minimize the entry of cold winter winds. To resolve these design considerations, I arranged the houses on a horizontal axis and allowed for adequate spacing between the buildings. Meanwhile, the interlocking nature of the houses' forms works to prevent gusts of wind from blowing through the site. An additional consideration in relation to the sun was the placement of the kitchens in the houses on the northern side to mitigate cooling costs in the warmer months.

Figure 113: Site Overview



The placement of the sensory garden was very carefully considered. As this specific area was to function as a secluded place reserved for the residents, the northern side of the site was determined to be more appropriate as the southern side borders a higher traffic street and the northern edge of McKinley Park. Placement of the coffee shop, on the other hand, was determined to be quite appropriate for the southern end of the site, so as to be more accessible to the public.

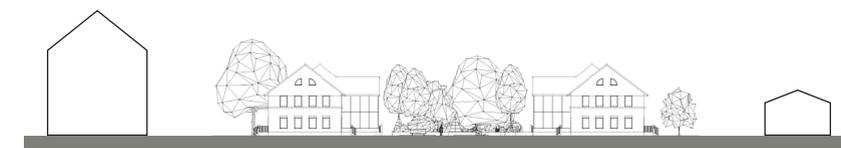


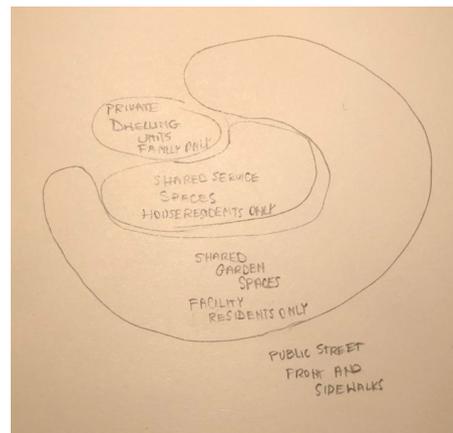
Figure 114: Height Diagram

Building heights surrounding the site also informed the number of floors and the ultimate height of the structures in my project. To the west of the site, the condos and apartments were generally between 1-3 stories. To the north, the residential block contained 1-2 storied houses, and to the east, the residential block contained single storied houses. These observations informed the 2 storied structures that make up my project solution.

RESPONSE TO PRECEDENT RESEARCH

SEARCH GOALS

In the assembly and analysis of my case studies, I focused on several key ideas to inform and inspire my project design. These ideas included looking at the qualitative experience of the users, services the facility offers as well as unique elements, and finally, the value the project brings the the users and the surrounding community. Additional aspects include spatial hierarchy, spatial organizations, outdoor spaces, and feelings of hominess.



SPATIAL HIERARCHY

A common theme across the case studies I looked into was a conscientious approach to the spatial hierarchy. Spaces within each project are ordered on a scale of public to private. My project offers a similar response through 4 stages of accessibility.

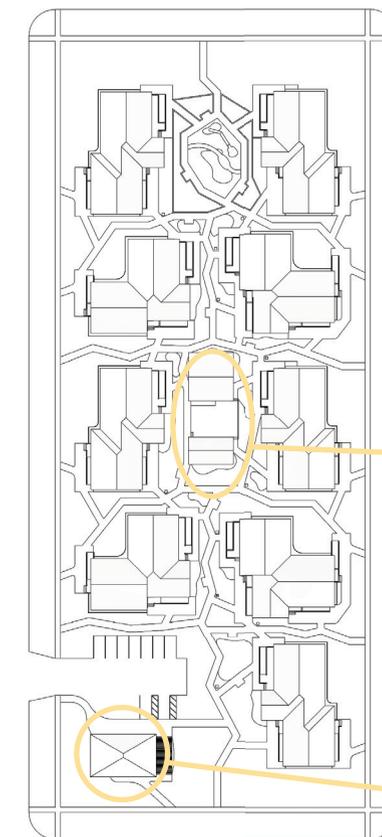
Figure 115: Spatial Hierarchy



Figure 116: Private Living Space Arrangements

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION

Another design consideration addressed by two of my case studies was how the project fits into the surrounding neighborhood. In my design, I addressed this through the spatial organization of my site to mimic a standard residential block.



SAFETY

User safety was another common consideration in my case studies. To address this in my project, I included office space in the central services building for a security officer to be able to inobtusively remain on site at all times and respond immediately to user needs.

Services

Social Services Office
Security Office
Nurse's Office

Coffee Shop

Figure 117: Site Plan

SERVICES

One of the aspects of the Postive Tomorrows School project that I especially appreciated was the way the spaces were focused on families. This concept informed the design intentions of many of the spaces of my project as well as prompted the inclusion of several of the service spaces.

OUTDOOR SPACE

Each of my case studies included an outdoor space of some kind. These spaces were all sheltered from the public and catered to the specific needs of the project users. The interconnected gardens in my project are designed to create an impression of openness while maintaining a comfortable degree of privacy for my users.



Figure 118: Elevations



Figure 119: Courtyards



Figure 120: Garden



Figure 121: Greenhouse

HOMINESS

Inspired by the attention each of the case studies paid to the needs of their users, the design of my houses was done to provide varying levels of privacy and also that the design of the spaces fits the needs of a family so that they can live and not just survive.

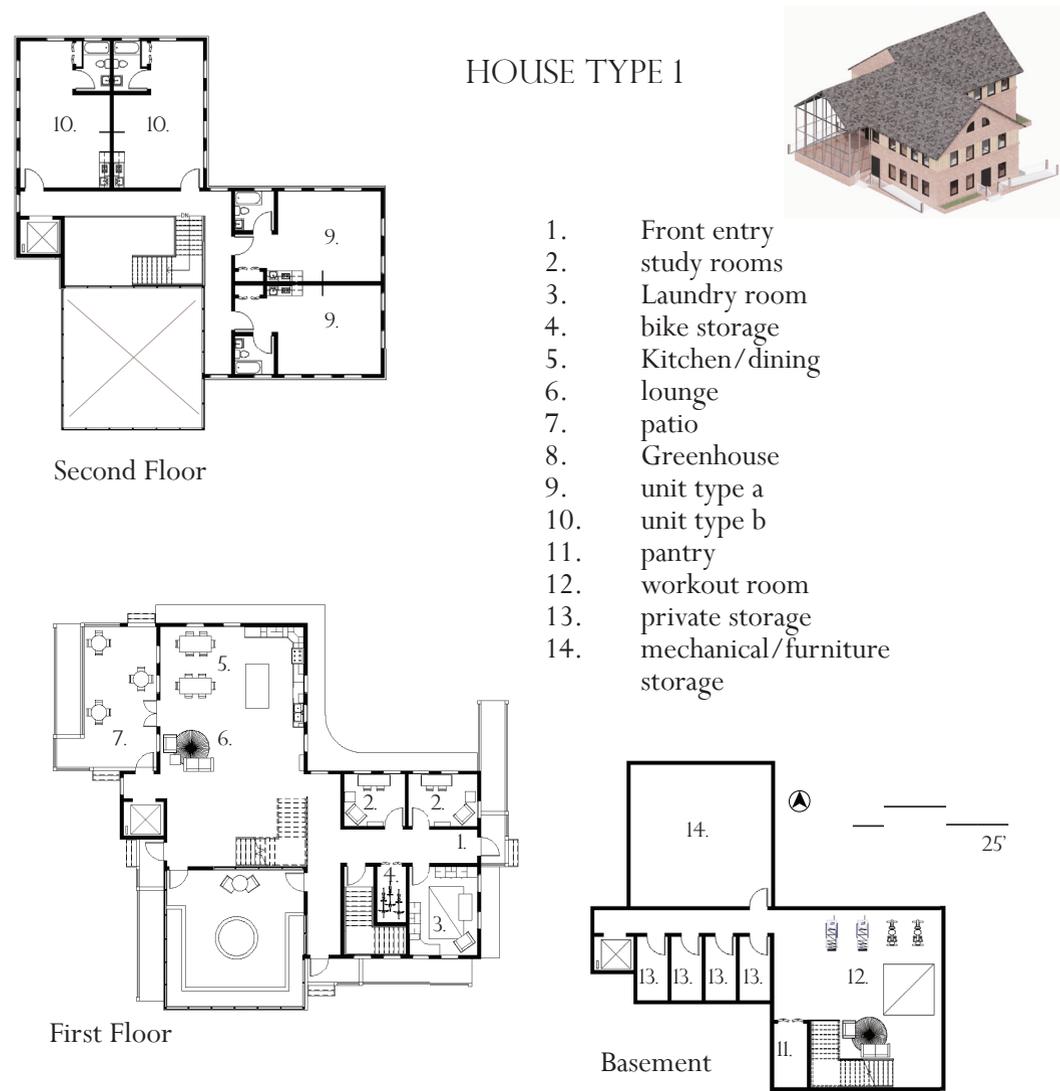


Figure 122: House Type 1

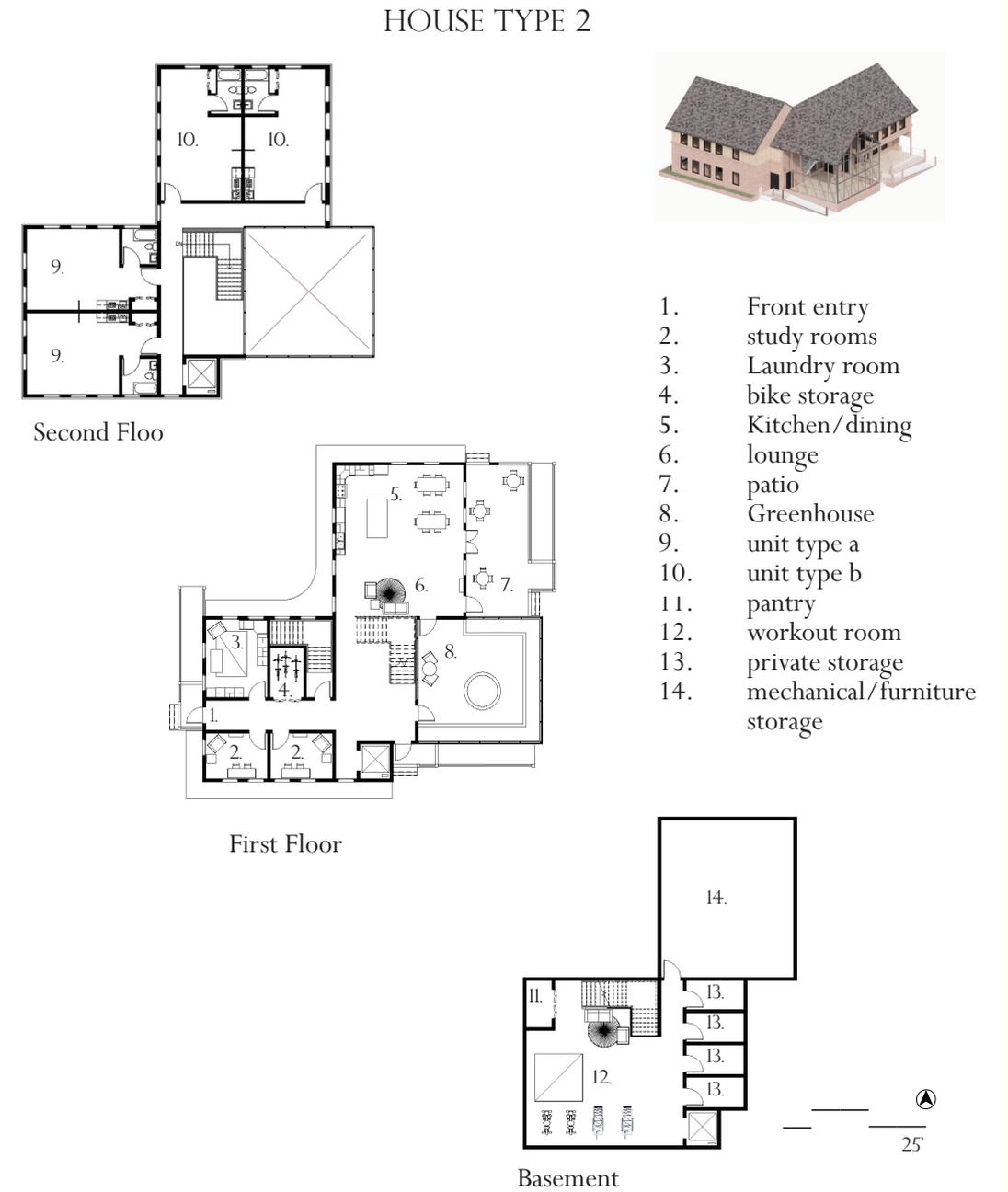
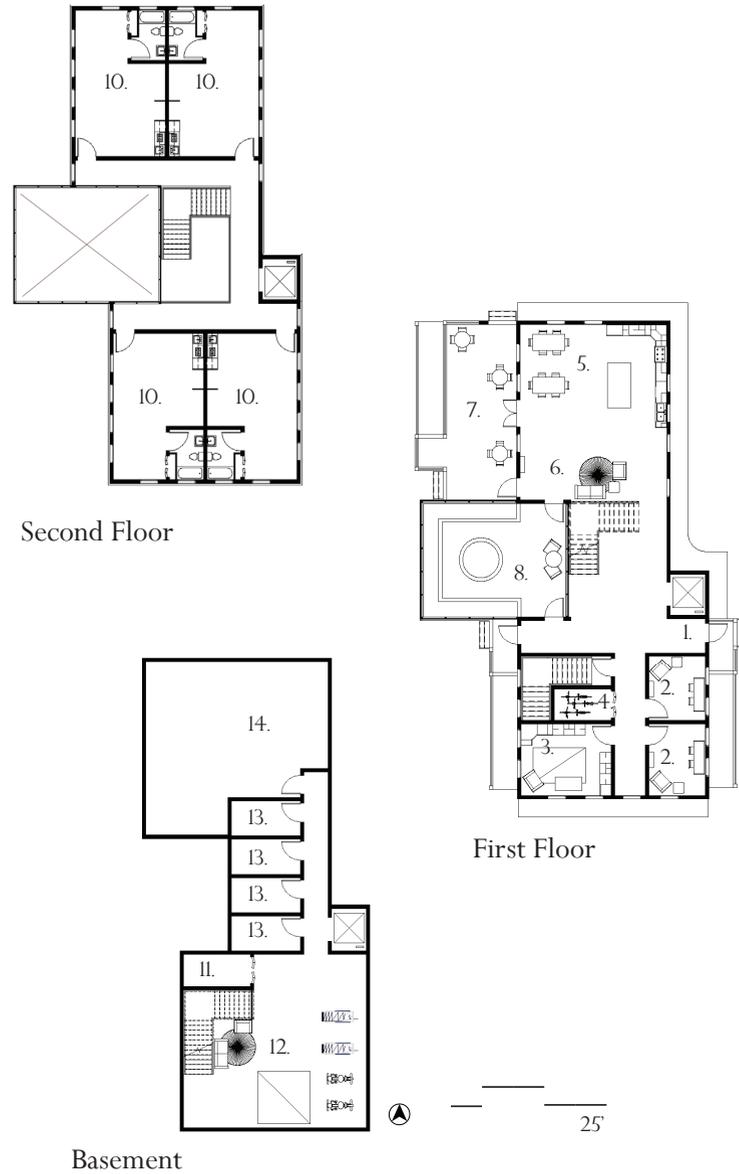


Figure 123: House Type 2

HOUSE TYPE 3



1. Front entry
2. study rooms
3. Laundry room
4. bike storage
5. Kitchen/dining
6. lounge
7. patio
8. Greenhouse
9. unit type a
10. unit type b
11. pantry
12. workout room
13. private storage
14. mechanical/furniture storage

Figure 124: House Type 3



Figure 125: Study Rooms

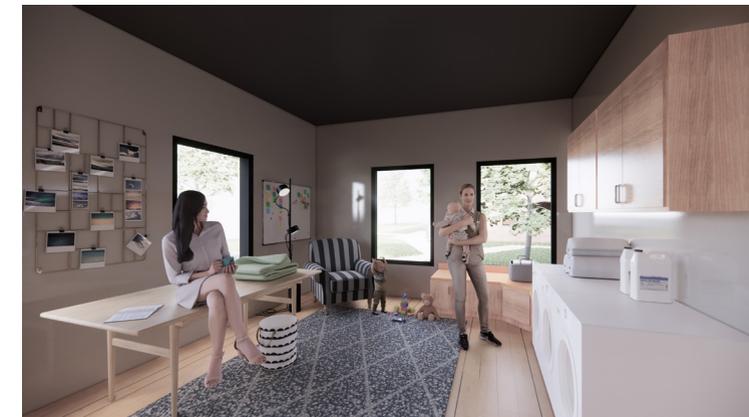


Figure 126: Laundry Room

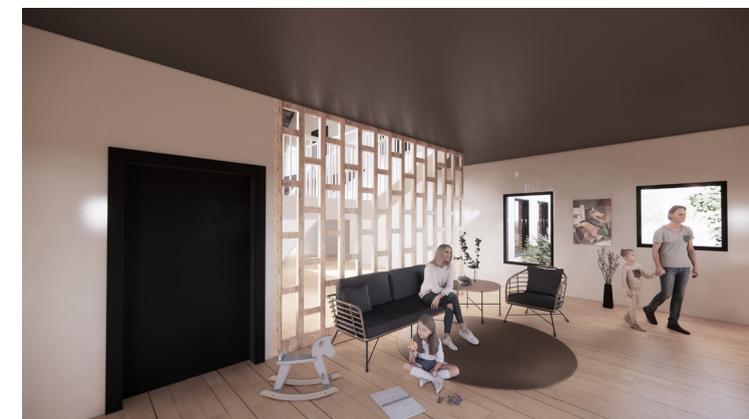


Figure 127: Lounge

RESPONSE TO THESIS GOALS

THEORETICAL AND SOCIAL GOALS

My goals for this project were to gain an understanding of the basis for the stigma surrounding homelessness and to design an environment in which to effect the perceptions of the viewers to a more positive view of homelessness. Through my research into the history of homelessness in America, I was able to identify major influences on the public perception and how they affect the public response in the present day. Along with strategies that I gained from researching my case studies I was able to knowledgeable implement design decisions to successfully affect public perceptions.

PHYSICAL GOALS

To document both the research and the final design solution, I have completed the project requirements including a complete theoretical design of a transitional housing community. This design solution was also shared through public exhibition of project boards and through oral presentation.

PROJECT EMPHASIS

In order to create a place where homeless families can live comfortably and find community and healing, I carefully analyzed my case studies for applicable design strategies and incorporated those ideas into the creation of my own spaces. In order to achieve value in the project, I aspired to leave no area in my design undeveloped and attempted to learn from criticism and heed advice. Finally, I sought to be as welcoming as possible to diverse cultures and experiences through designing the spaces to be adaptable so as to allow the project's residents to make as many of their own decisions as possible.

RESEARCH CRITIQUE

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The first method of research that I employed in this project was investigation into the history of homelessness in America. This research focused primarily on the book *Down and Out on the Road: The Homeless in American History* by Kenneth Kusmer. This book covered causation of homelessness in America as well as common experiences of homeless people and finally the responses from residents of different local areas and from their leaders. To supplement the findings from the book, I accessed an assortment of websites that contributed additional historical information. What I learned from history provided a solid basis on which to conduct additional analysis into more localized experiences, case studies, and exploration of written works.

LOCAL STORIES

Because of the broadness of the historical research, I looked into the regional experiences of homeless individuals in the context of my site. With my site located in Fargo, North Dakota, I examined several stories from the local newspaper to unobtrusively gain an insight into what a person experiencing homelessness in Fargo might face. What I found included limited resources, limited support systems, and a difficult climate.

NIMBY

Due to the nature of my project in placing a type of homeless shelter in a neighborhood, I decided to look into the movement that is generally in opposition of such an endeavor. Although not strictly pertinent to the actual design, the knowledge I gained provides my project with a sense of what the next step might be in a real world development of my project.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Understanding the basis and the historical facts of homelessness lead me to consult written works to gain inspiration and direction for the design phase of the project. The first piece I consulted was the book *House as a Mirror of Self: Exploring the Deeper Meaning of Home* by Clare Cooper Marcus. Marcus's work provided a lot of insight into the philosophical nature of home. The next piece I drew inspiration from was an article by Jeanne Moore called *Polarity or Integration? Towards a fuller understanding of home and homelessness*. This short article challenged my own understanding of the topic through Moore's identification of illogicalness of our standard definition of home.

CASE STUDIES

Finally, I carefully selected three case studies of built projects that address the situation of homelessness, or as in the case of the Ada and Tamar House in Israel, the situation of single women rebuilding their lives after surviving abuse. Through analysis of these case studies I was able to assemble an array of strategies to address the local considerations and goals of my project.



COMMUNITY BRIDGE
Emily Olson | Arch 772 | Spring 2022

THEORETICAL PREMISE

ABSTRACT

The **traumatizing** effects of homelessness on families can have long lasting consequences, especially for children who often miss considerable amounts of school due to their newly **disrupted** life. Without a solid education, these children may struggle in the future to secure stable jobs which then places them at risk of entering back into homelessness. Additionally, homelessness in the United States comes with an attached **stigma** of being lazy, amoral, or even delinquent, so for parents or single mothers, the shame of being homeless can prevent them from seeking assistance and creates a **barrier** between them and the surrounding community. This project seeks to explore and develop strategies that facilitate the creation of a dignified living situation as a means of breaking down the barrier of homelessness by dismantling preconceived perceptions of homelessness.



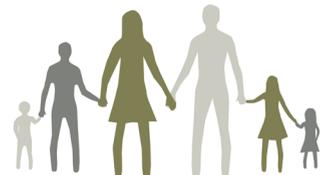
THEORETICAL PREMISE

The word homeless often conjures images of ragged men wearing dirty clothes and skulking under bridges, panhandlers with cardboard signs, or even endless stretches of tent cities where drug abuse is rampant. This is not the life that everyone without a home experiences and those who might be stuck in those situations don't always want to be. Due to our misconceptions about homelessness, I think we often miss the full extent of the problem and lose sight of those who may be struggling in life and who may be at risk of entering into homelessness.

Presently there are several hundred people experiencing homelessness in Fargo. None of their stories are the same; some stay at shelters, some stay in their cars, some are living with friends or relatives, some are in hotels, and others are on the streets. Contrary to the prevalent idea that homelessness is caused by poor money habits, drug abuse, or laziness by not working, many of these individuals have lost their homes from events outside of their control. Economic downturn, divorce, abuse, cost of living all contribute to the problem. Unfortunately, access to the help they need comes at the cost of their dignity and exposure to a judgemental public eye.

This project seeks to address the stigma of homelessness through the design of a transitional housing center for homeless families. To ensure a successful response to the current need, I believe research into the history and origins of the stigma in the United States is necessary. Additionally, to gain a better understanding of the local need, I will acquire and examine recent published stories of homelessness from people in the Fargo area. Finally, I hope to gain additional insights and ideas from analysis of written works and exploration of case studies.

Community Bridge hopes to be a place of safe and beautiful spaces for homeless families to not only find shelter but also to heal as they progress in their journey to find permanent housing. The design of Community Bridge allows residents to customize and personalize their individual living spaces but also provides places to build connections with other residents allowing them to start friendships, share knowledge, and empathize with each other. Children living in prolonged homelessness lose important academic and social opportunities which make it difficult for them when they reach adulthood. Single mothers also face potentially more abuse in situations of prolonged homelessness. This project will offer these families an escape from homelessness and a chance to have a brighter future.



NARRATIVE

THEORETICAL PREMISE

USER FOCUS

This project would like to highlight the needs and sensitivities of homeless parents and their children. Parents, especially single parents, may struggle with the dual responsibilities of work and childcare. Single mothers may also be working through the effects of previous abusive relationships which often trickles down into their childrens' lives causing future hurt. Other hardships homeless families may be experiencing include loss of loved ones, prolonged separation of family members, as well as irregular bedtimes and meals. Despite common experiences, these families are not a homogenous group. They may have vastly different backgrounds and values which must not be discounted. In order to meet the needs of this diverse group, the design of the project must be comforting, versatile, and accommodating.

SITE

The proposed site is located in north Fargo in a community known as Northport neighborhood, named after the northport shopping center that sits on the corner of 25th Ave and Broadway. The current use of the site is 6 small apartment buildings and their adjacent parking lots. Across the street to the south is McKinley Elementary School and just beyond the apartments to the west is the North Fargo Dog Park. As a former resident of the Northport neighborhood, I know first hand that it is a quiet, friendly, and walkable area.



RESEARCH

HISTORICAL
CONTEXT

LOCAL
EXPERIENCES

NIMBY

LITERATURE
REVIEW

COLONIAL ERA

The dominant religions of the time, including the Puritans and Quakers, placed a **high value on the individual's moral responsibility to work**. This view led many prominent leaders across different religions and aspects of society and culture to condemn homeless vagrants who frequented their towns. As the colonies became more settled and towns grew larger, homeless populations also grew and the need for aid prompted community members to arrange methods of providing relief. Aside from those escaping disaster, escaped slaves, and roaming free spirits were primary members of the small community of homeless individuals.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

GREAT DEPRESSION

The time of the Great Depression saw a **sudden influx** of homeless people needing shelter and threatening to overwhelm community homeless services. Inadequate services and lack of employment saw many people persistently staying only for a brief time before trying their luck in the next place. Some organizations dedicated to aiding homeless people really began to grow at this time expanding beyond merely food and shelter and beginning to offer health services and indoor spaces where people could remain during the day. It would seem, the fearful hysteria of the late 1800s had been replaced by a **mutual understanding of financial woes** in the early 1900s.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

CIVIL WAR ERA

In his book *Down and Out on the Road: The Homeless in American History*, Kenneth Kusmer writes about the rise of train usage during the American Civil War. These trains connected not only the tramps to remote parts of the country, but also the newspapers and the sensationalism of the stories the newspapers reported. Tragically, the **exploits of a few** unruly tramps reported in the news caused tramps across the country to become the enemies of everyone and they subsequently **took the blame** for all ensuing wrongs and mishaps.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

20TH CENTURY

The second half of the 20th century saw many individuals forced out of city slums and coupled with the release of residents from government mental hospitals, the need for shelter was extremely high. Around this same time, homelessness was undergoing a **significant demographic change**. Increasing independence among women as well as escalating numbers of divorces led to the immense number of single parent households. Many single mothers ended up in shelters. As during the days of the tramp, newspapers and other media helped to spread damaging reports on homeless people. Even today, the **news media holds considerable power over shaping the perceptions of society** and making it either the homeless advocate's biggest ally or enemy.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

SINGLE MOTHER: SHEYENNE RODRIGUEZ

In January, 2018, Sheyenne Rodriguez found herself living in her car with 3 young children. Temperatures in January in Fargo can often be well below 0 degrees Fahrenheit. Generous strangers helped her get a hotel room where she stayed until she was able to get a place at the YWCA women's shelter. Sadly, this was **not the first time** for Shayenne Rodriguez to be homeless. In the late 90s, when she was only 15 years old, Rodriguez was living on the streets of Minneapolis. Her family had previously lived in Bullhead, SD on the Lakota Standing Rock reservation until they moved to Minneapolis. Not long after, her parents split up and Rodriguez and her siblings were taken to Kansas where they ended up in foster care. After fleeing an **abusive foster home**, Rodriguez found herself back in Minneapolis. Without parents and unable to stay with her aunts, Rodriguez was forced to survive on the streets. During this time, Rodriguez developed a drinking problem which eventually led to her going to jail for several years. Another time Rodriguez experienced homelessness was with her husband sometime in the 2010s. Rodriguez's experience being a homeless single mother has been incredibly difficult. Her children need significant medical assistance, her car is in terrible shape, and the **high cost of childcare** is daunting. In order to effectively help local women like Rodriguez, considerable changes need to happen in Fargo to provide adequate support systems and to assist women in accessing those support systems.

LOCAL EXPERIENCES

NIMBY

Originally a movement by middle class neighborhoods to protect the land value of their neighborhoods and properties from inconvenient and intrusive government or social building programs, NIMBY, (Not In My Back Yard) has more recently become associated with a general disinclination by community members to allow homeless shelters to be built in local neighborhoods. However, some claims of the movement cannot be ignored. Bringing shelters and similar buildings into an area can increase both intrusion of sounds, such as alarms from ambulances, as well as just a general sudden influx of strangers into an established neighborhood.

STRATEGIES FOR OVERCOMING NIMBY

One of the most successful strategies for overcoming NIMBY in the case of homeless shelters and social housing is informing the community of the reality of the need for housing and laying out the positive impact of the project. In an article written for the Journal of Affordable Housing and Community Development, Tim Iglesias notes several important methods of gaining public approval for a project.

1. STAY ON THE OFFENSIVE WHEN ADDRESSING THE COMMUNITY

2. PROMOTE POSITIVE PERSONAL STORIES AND ACCOUNTS

3. UTILIZE STRATEGIC PROBLEM SOLVING

4. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE MEDIA

COVID-19: WILLIAM JACKSON

Up until only recently, William Jackson has never been without a job. When he could **no longer afford the price of housing**, Jackson was forced into a shelter in Moorhead Minnesota. Jackson and his school age daughter have struggled not only with distance learning, as a Covid-19 precaution, but also from car troubles. Although Jackson is optimistic about his and his daughter's future as he makes plans on finding an apartment for them, many others in the Fargo/Moorhead area are still facing destitution. **Rising costs, low wages, and ongoing quarantines** have placed many members of the community in a precarious position. As reported in the November 25th edition of the Fargo Forum, many shelters and aid providers have noted an increase in the number of people requesting assistance. Need in the winter, especially in Fargo and Moorhead, has always been greater than other times of the year, however, precautionary measures, such as social distancing, has created an additional challenge for everyone. Another issue facing these organizations is an inadequate number of workers. The Forum also reported on the **mental strain** taking place among those dependent on the shelters for survival. According to Sue Koesterman, who is a pastor and the director of Churches United, "Isolation has taken a tremendous toll on people who are in shelters and don't have a robust support system". (as cited from the Fargo Forum Nov. 25, 2021). The Covid-19 virus has taken an immense toll on the homeless population and will likely be a turning point in future policies regarding aid distribution.

LOCAL EXPERIENCES

House as a Mirror of Self: Exploring the Deeper Meaning of Home

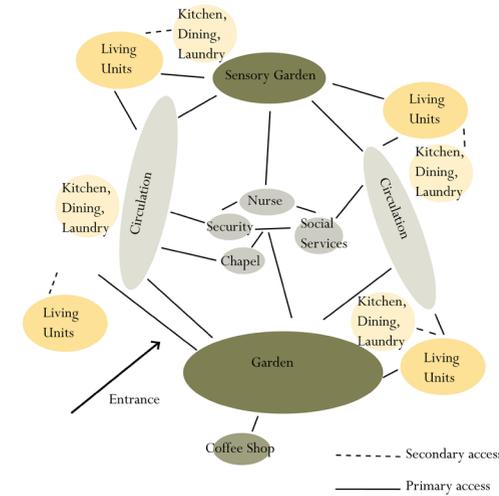
In her book, Clare Cooper Marcus explores the psychology behind the choices and emotions each individual experiences as they navigate the development of their homes. Marcus seems to promote ideas such as **control** over one's living situation as well as **personal investment**, such as taking the time to care for a space or item. In the 3rd chapter of her book, she mentions a study completed by one of her former students into the yard care efforts of several homeowners and how higher levels of care correlated to owners with more restricted finances. (Marcus, 2006).

LITERATURE REVIEW

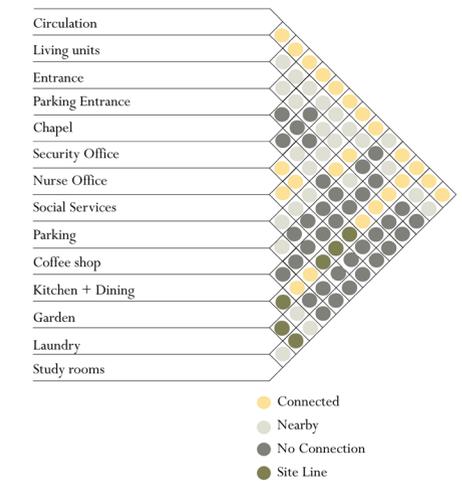
Polarity or Integration? Towards a fuller understanding of home and homelessness

In her article in the Journal of Architectural and Planning Research, Jeanne Moore proposes to demonstrate the inadequacies of pitting home against homelessness. Home, Moore points out, is an imaginative idea. We do not call any four walls with a roof home because we demand it to fulfill our desire for beauty, or to be located in a particular region. (Moore, 2007). Contrastingly, as Moore makes note, a homeless individual is likely to be understood as a person without those four walls and a roof. (Moore, 2007). Another common illogical perception about home and homelessness that Moore presents in her article concludes that home is simply a place of perpetual sanctuary, when in fact, a home can contain danger and unrest. (Moore, 2007).

LITERATURE REVIEW



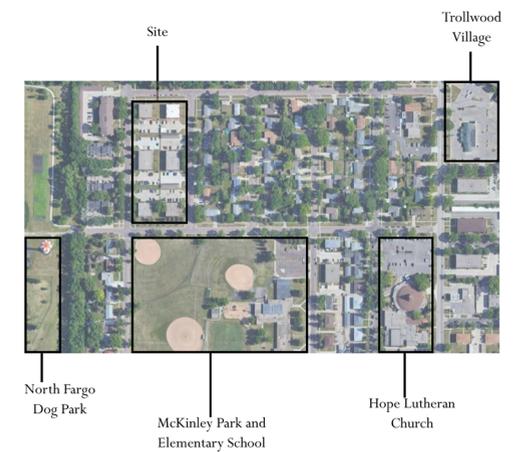
SPACE INTERACTION NET



SPACE INTERACTION MATRIX



SITE ANALYSIS



SITE CONTEXT

SITE & ANALYSIS

TYOLOGY: TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Transitional Housing is a vital step for individuals and families struggling with homelessness to regain their feet. Contains services on site and semi independent living. Transitional housing could provide shelter anywhere from a couple months to a couple years.

PROGRAM

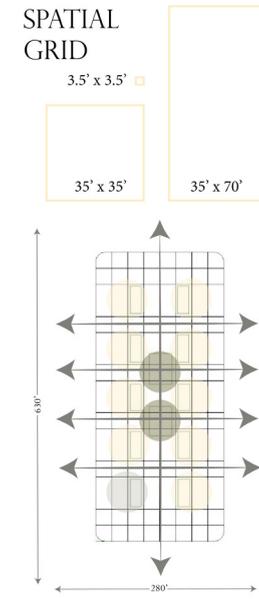
- Private Living Spaces
- Communal Kitchen and Dining
- Laundry Room
- Study Rooms
- Sensory Garden
- Security Office
- Social Services Office
- Nurse's Office
- Chapel
- Coffee Shop
- Parking

SITE & ANALYSIS



SITE VIEWS

DESIGN PROCESS



SPATIAL IDEATION FOCUSING ON POSITIVE ELEMENTS



SPATIAL IDEATION FOCUSING ON NEGATIVE SPACE



FORMATION OF INTERLOCKING L-SHAPED HOUSING

DESIGN PROCESS



DESIGN GOALS

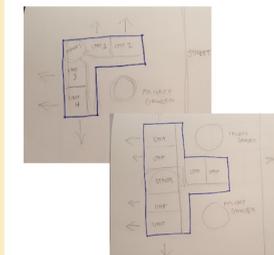
- Provide a healing environment to address physical and emotional homelessness
- Create a beautiful setting to promote a positive image of the users
- Create opportunities for learning useful life management skills
- Provide for inclusion of elements that facilitate familiarity and comfort
- Offer users a degree of control in domestic decision making

STRATEGIES

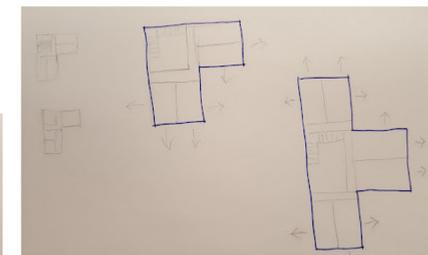
- Wholistic design of site focusing on human experience and inclusion of sensory garden
- Deliberate and thoughtful choice of materials, plantings, and consideration of human scale
- Spaces dedicated to instruction, communal cooking and dining rooms, community planting beds, and study rooms
- Focus on opportunities to grow familiar plants and traditional furnishings in common spaces
- Design of flexible living spaces to be easily adjusted per user need

DESIGN PROCESS

FLOOR PLAN CONSIDERATIONS



Initial sketches exploring different layout iterations of L-shaped housing



Further exploration into design which maintains two outward facing walls allowing for increased natural light and views to the exterior



Sketch focused on highlighting the connections between the 1st and 2nd floor and the 1st floor and the site

Units to be completely open to have space for whatever furnishings residents desire

Inclusion of space for vegetation to shield residents from visual contact

Use of open stairs for increased light and improve connection between the 1st and 2nd floor

Avoiding dark and frightening corridors by having hallways end in windows or border the open stair

Attached greenhouse to provide opportunities to grow flowers or medicinal herbs throughout the year

Shared facilities to promote natural and sympathetic interactions between residents

Initial sketches exploring different layout iterations of L-shaped housing

Further exploration into design which maintains two outward facing walls allowing for increased natural light and views to the exterior

Sketch focused on highlighting the connections between the 1st and 2nd floor and the 1st floor and the site

Windows - 3' x 5'

PROPORTIONS

To achieve an attractive image in the surrounding neighborhood, the houses of Community Bridge were designed with respect to traditionally pleasing proportions including the golden ratio. Plinth, lintel, and floor to floor heights were determined from a base unit of 3.5 feet.

2nd floor window top - 7' from floor

Floor to floor height - $3 \times 3.5' = 10.5'$

Lintel - $2 \times 3.5' = 7'$ from floor

Plinth - $0.5 \times 3.5' = 1.75'$

PROGRAM

- Single mother focused housing
- Family focused housing
- Mix single mother and family

GARDENS

The spaces between the buildings on the site are organized into parklike gardens and courtyards connected by a meandering path. Brick pedestals are scattered throughout the site providing residents a place to create and display artwork.

SOLAR ORIENTATION

The horizontal emphasis of the site's spatial organization as well as the spacing between buildings allow for greater opportunities for natural daylight penetration into gardens and interior spaces

Supportive Services

Chapel

Coffee Shop

Transit bus stop

PROGRAM

- Single mother focused housing
- Family focused housing
- Mix single mother and family

SENSORY GARDEN

A sensory garden offers residents a calming place to relax and heal from any stress or trauma they may have experienced.

GARDENS

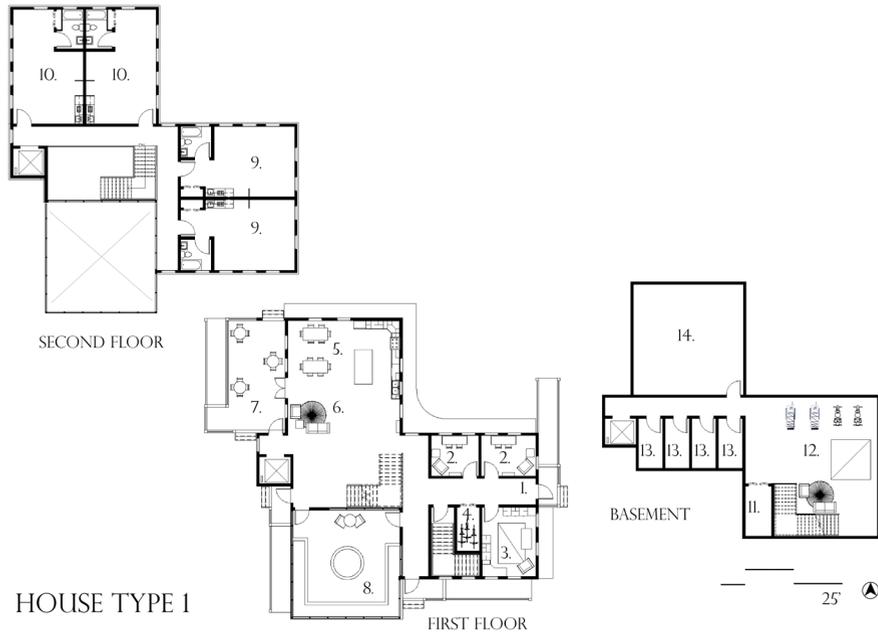
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SOLAR ORIENTATION

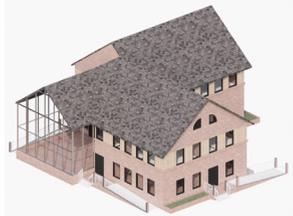
The horizontal emphasis of the site's spatial organization as well as the spacing between buildings allow for greater opportunities for natural daylight penetration into gardens and interior spaces



FINAL DESIGN



HOUSE TYPE 1



- 1. FRONT ENTRY
- 2. STUDY ROOMS
- 3. LAUNDRY ROOM
- 4. BIKE STORAGE
- 5. KITCHEN/DINING
- 6. LOUNGE
- 7. PATIO
- 8. GREENHOUSE
- 9. UNIT TYPE A
- 10. UNIT TYPE B
- 11. PANTRY
- 12. WORKOUT ROOM
- 13. PRIVATE STORAGE
- 14. MECHANICAL/FURNITURE STORAGE

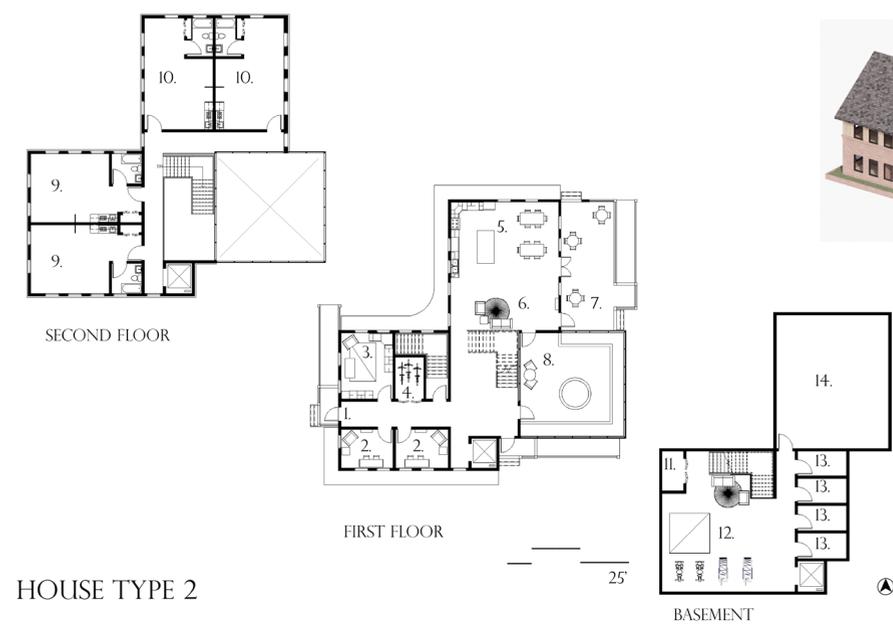


WEST ELEVATION

SOUTH ELEVATION

EAST ELEVATION

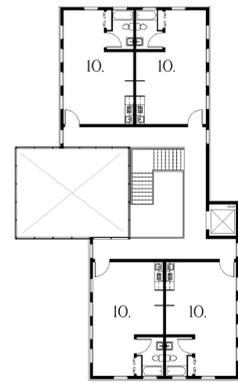
NORTH ELEVATION



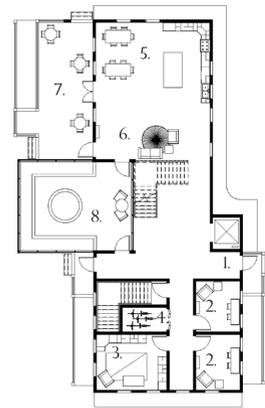
HOUSE TYPE 2



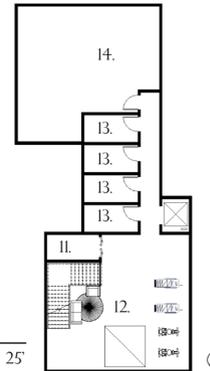
- 1. FRONT ENTRY
- 2. STUDY ROOMS
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SECOND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



BASEMENT

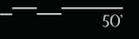


- 1. FRONT ENTRY
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- 10. UNIT TYPE B
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- 12. WORKOUT ROOM
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- 14. MECHANICAL/FURNITURE STORAGE

HOUSE TYPE 3



TRANSVERSE SECTION



UNIT TYPE A:
SINGLE MOTHER
+ BABY



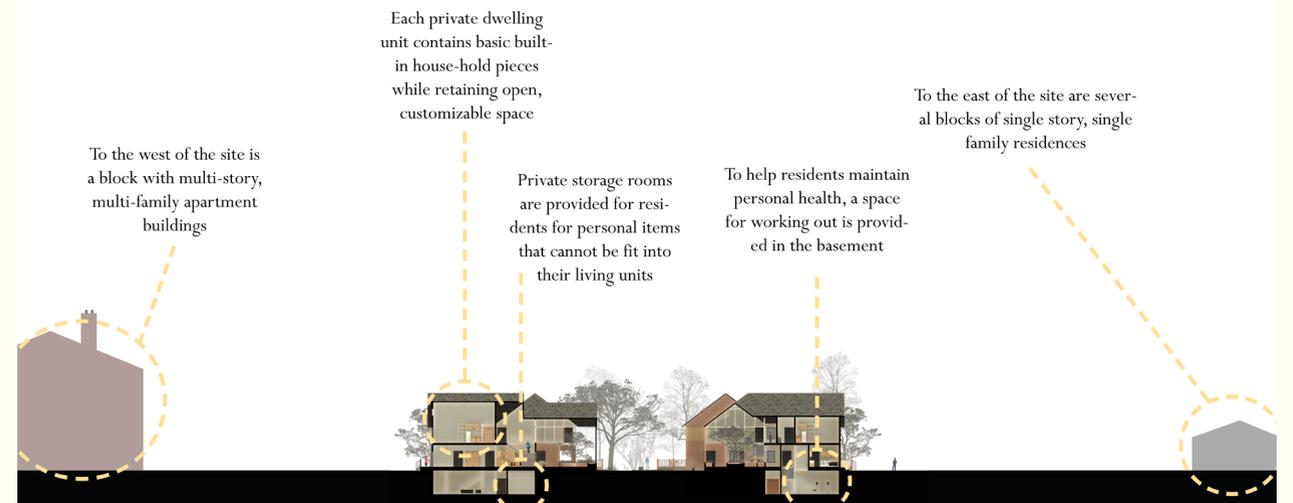
UNIT TYPE A:
SINGLE MOTHER
+ CHILDREN



UNIT TYPE B:
FAMILY



UNIT TYPE B:
FAMILY + BABY



TRANSVERSE SECTION



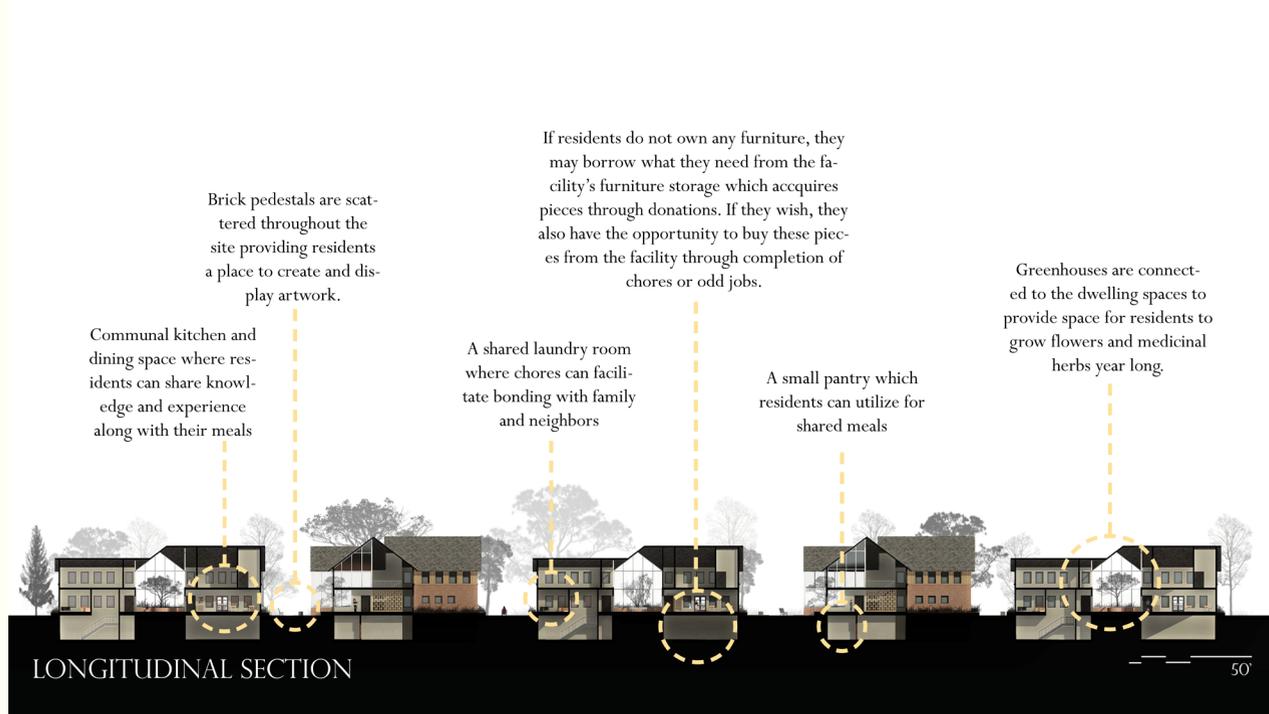
To the west of the site is a block with multi-story, multi-family apartment buildings

Each private dwelling unit contains basic built-in house-hold pieces while retaining open, customizable space

Private storage rooms are provided for residents for personal items that cannot be fit into their living units

To help residents maintain personal health, a space for working out is provided in the basement

To the east of the site are several blocks of single story, single family residences





LOUNGE



STUDY ROOM



THANK YOU!

PROJECT INSTALLATION



Figure 168: Thesis Display

PRESENTATION BOARDS



Figure 169: Thesis Boards

APPENDIX

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STUDIO EXPERIENCE

2ND YEAR

FALL

Instructor: Cindy Urness

Project 1: Breathing Room

Project 2: Boat House

SPRING

Instructor: Charlott Greub

Project 1: Dwelling

Project 2: Mixed Used Residential

3RD YEAR

FALL

Instructor: Paul Gleye

Project 1: Visitor Center

Project 2: Brick Construction Student Center

SPRING

Instructor: Niloufar Alenjery

Project 1: Elderly Assisted Living Center

Project 2: Steel Office Building Competition

4TH YEAR

FALL

Instructor: David Crutchfield

Project: Miami High Rise Competition

SPRING

Instructor: Mark Barnhouse

Project 1: Marvin Windows Competition

Project 2: Miami Arboretum

5TH YEAR

FALL

Instructor: Bakr M. Aly Ahmed

Project 1: 1-2 week design sketching assignments

Project 2: Digital Development of Sketch Design

SPRING

Instructor: Ganapathy Mahalingam

Project: Thesis Design

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