

Site description

The site for the YWCA shelter for women and children is a lot in south Fargo, North Dakota located at the 17th Avenue Southwest and 43rd Street block. The former Banner Health Systems building located to the west is the closest built structure near the site and is now vacant. To the north of the site there are three-story apartment buildings and the U.S. Bank building. The Ramada hotel is northeast of the site and the east side is flanked by more 3-story apartment buildings.

The lot is between commercial areas and residential areas making the site a good location for fitting the facility into the context of the surroundings.

The site has easy access to transportation routes. I-94 and 45th Street are the major connections in the area to all other locations. The area is also served by local bus routes which minimizes the need for the residence of the shelter to have their own cars.



Ramada Hotel



Former Building of Banner Health Systems



Apartment Buildings

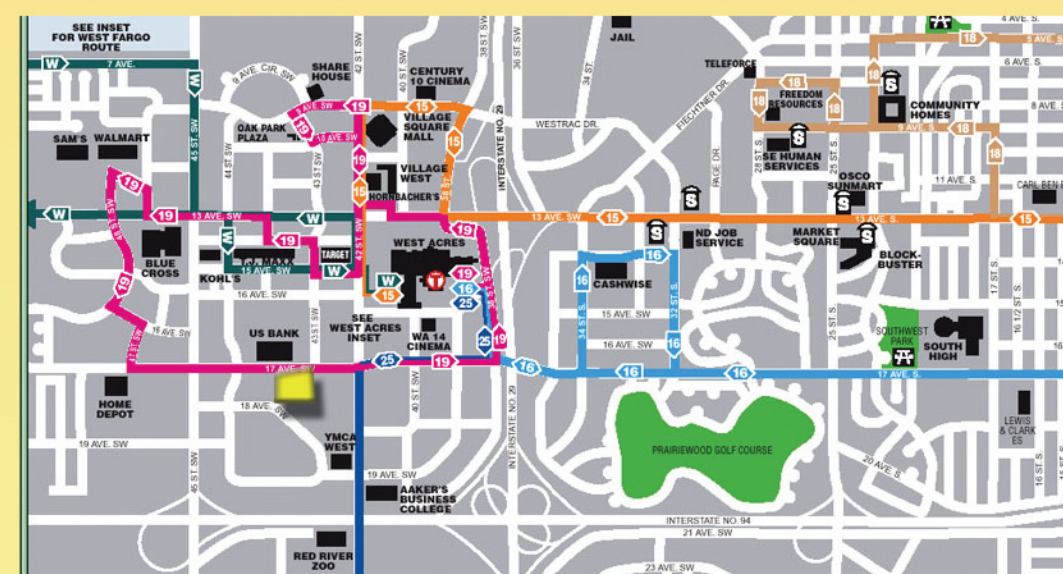


US Bank

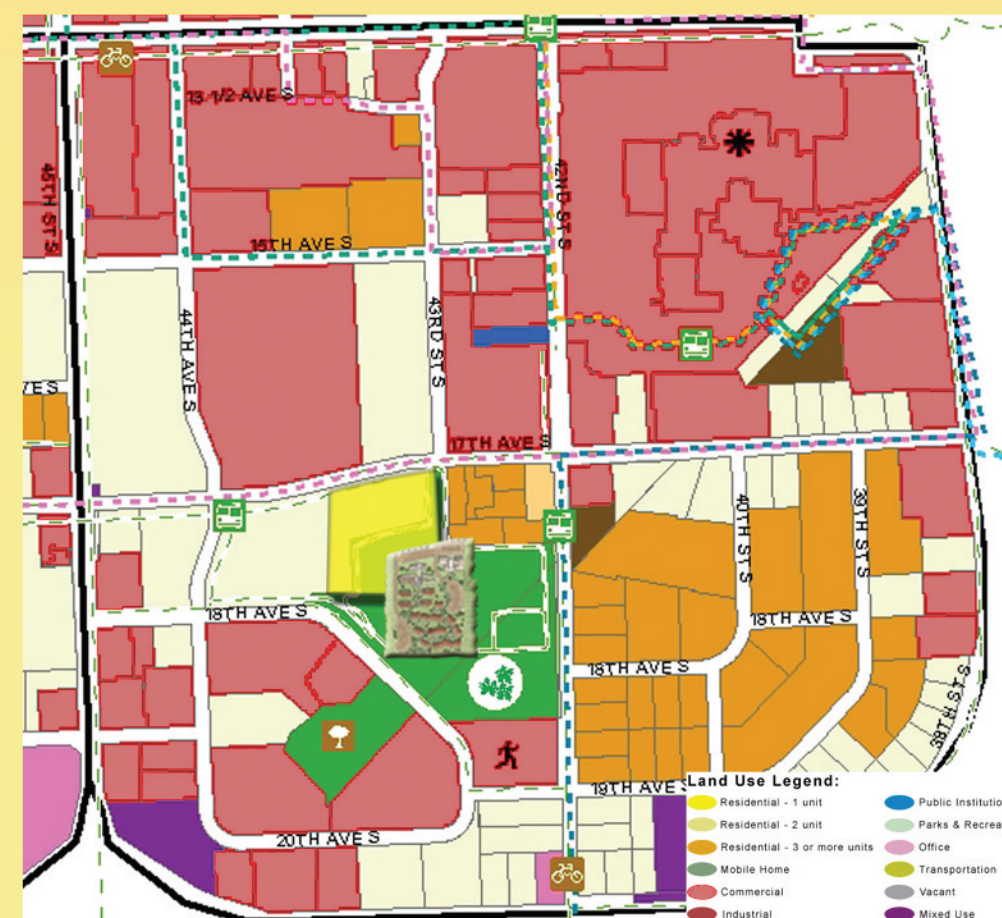


Office Building

Site analysis



Local Bus Routes



Land Use



Site Analysis

The Modern Movement

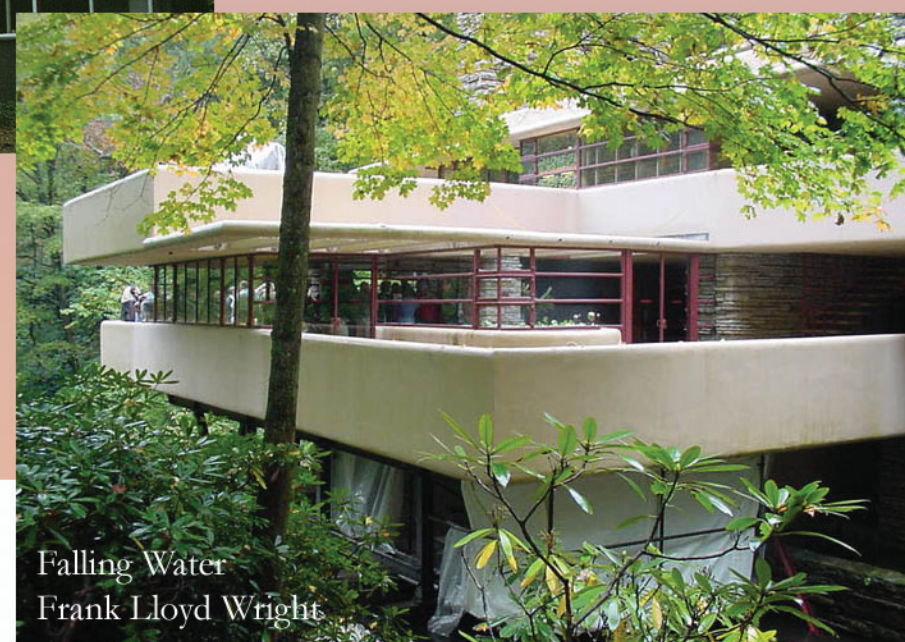
The Modern Movement created a broad style of architecture that began in the early 1900's. While the Modern style can be interpreted to mean different things to different people, the architects of the Modern Movement all used the same unifying concepts. Their goal was to look toward the future instead of the past in order to create solutions that would be universal, functional, and economic. The Modern Movement began in the early 1900's and the post war conditions of the time helped this architectural style to grow considerably because of the need for more affordable housing and the lack of funds available. The design solutions of the style focused on producing a building that would serve the occupants, create a sense of community and provide a healthier environment by bringing in as much sunlight and fresh air as possible.

Prefabrication was a growing practice at the time and the advances in technology led to mass production of pre-made building parts. The pre-made doors, windows, beams and fixtures became more economical to use and this had an impact on the way the buildings looked in the Modern Movement era.

Identifying features of a Modern building are the clean lines and lack of excessive ornamentation on both the exterior and interior. The floor plans are open and kept clear of clutter and the design is simple with focus on the clarity of the form itself.



Vanna Venturi House
Robert Venturi



Falling Water
Frank Lloyd Wright



Villa Savoye
Le Corbusier

Design Concepts

The concept for the shelter combines the Modern Movement ideas with the needs of the YWCA organization to create a healthy environment and affordable housing.

The design for the YWCA shelter focuses on the need for fresh air and sunlight regardless of a person's income level. These healing aspects of the environment are important parts of the design and are incorporated in the flow-through ventilation of the buildings, the south-facing windows for sunlight and the walking path that represents flowing water. The meandering path and herringbone paving pattern creates the feeling of moving water and the buildings represent the clustered developments that occurs along river banks.

The material of the Modern Movement time was concrete and this is incorporated into the design for the shelter in the form of concrete blocks for structure. The CMU is tinted at the factory which reduces the cold, hard feeling of gray concrete and also reduces time and money spent in up-keep of the buildings by eliminating the need for constant painting.

A sense of community and interaction between the people in the shelter is encouraged by creating many common spaces in the design. The walking path pools out in areas in front of the transitional and temporary housing buildings to creating a common yard. Community balconies allow for more outdoor interaction between neighbors and shared living rooms and sitting spaces bring the community feeling inside.



Downtown Fargo



Residential Neighborhood



Fargo Dome



West Acres Mall

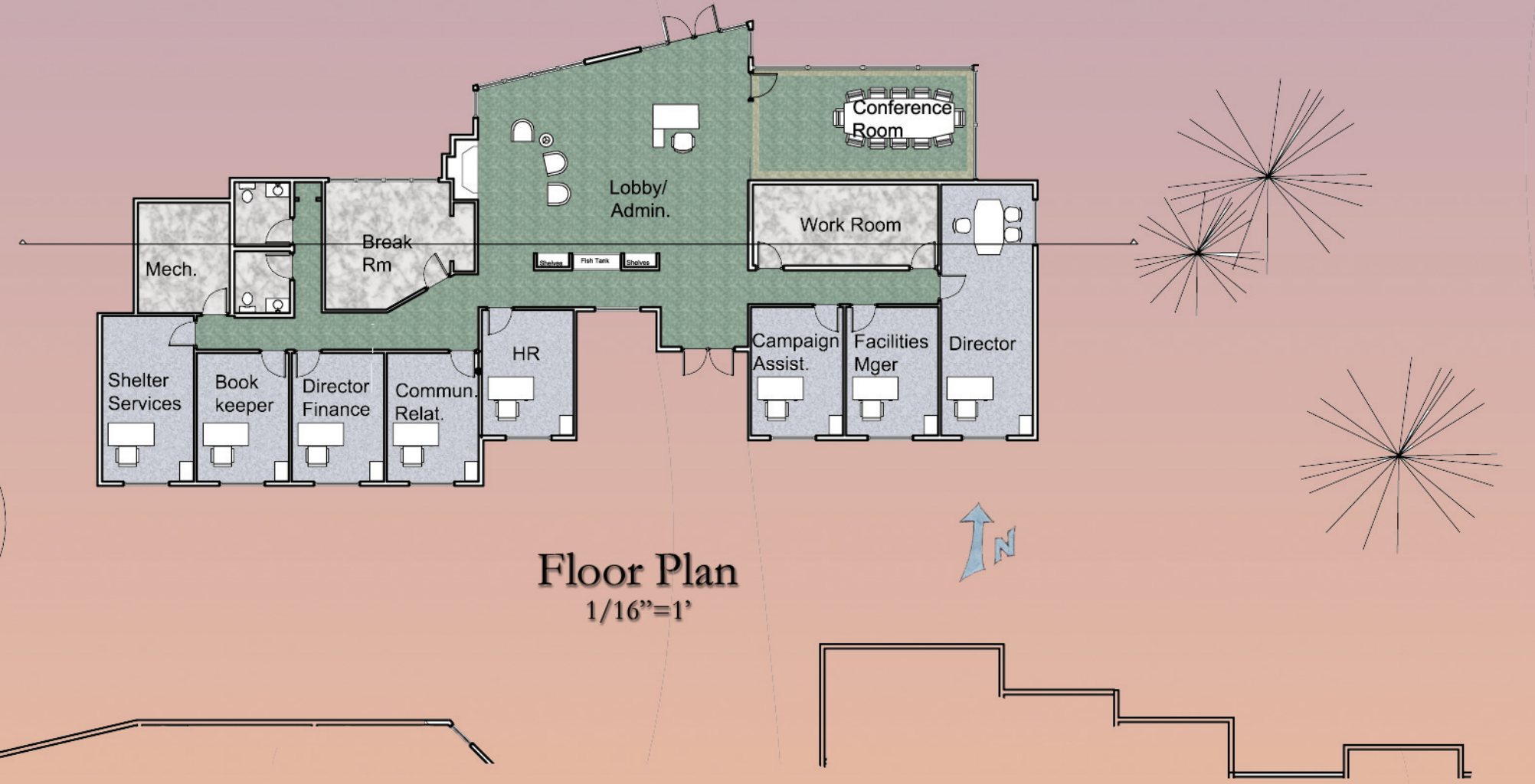
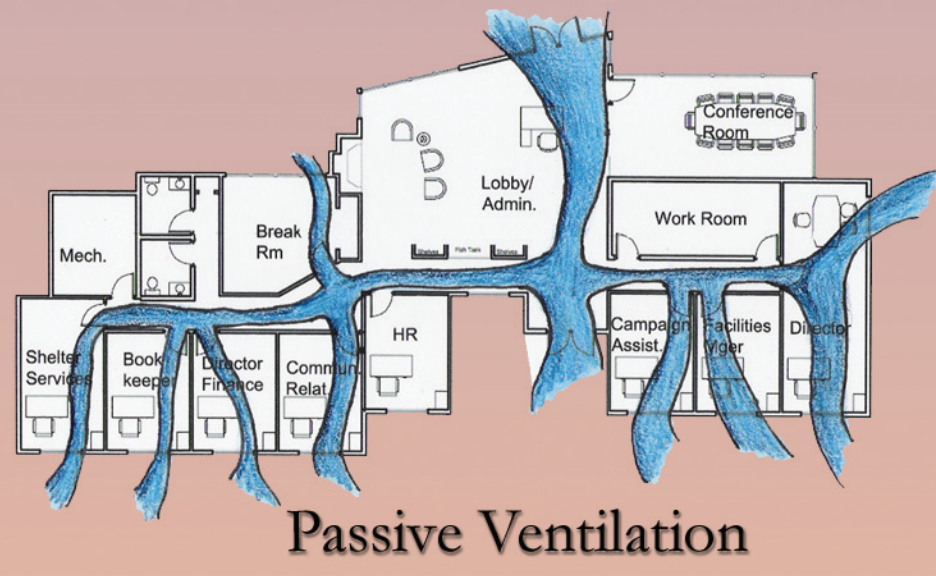
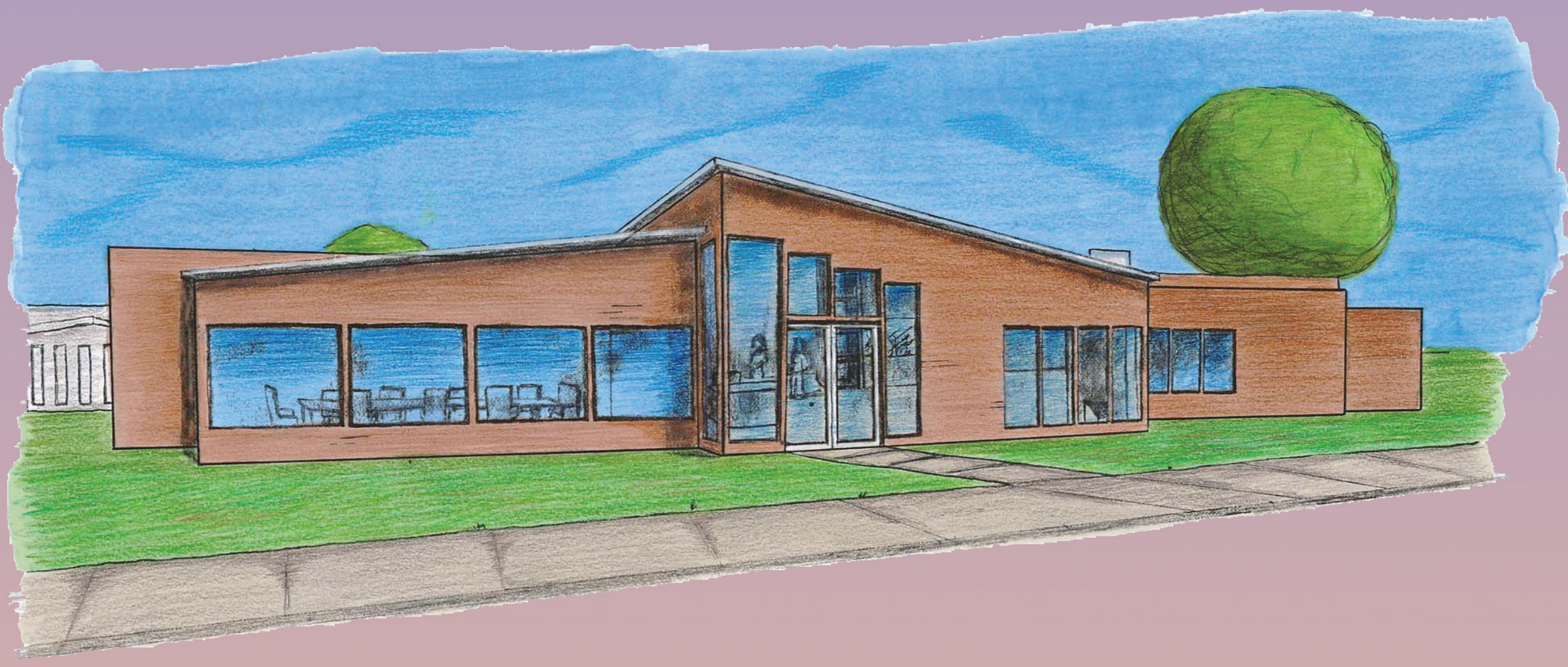
YWCA History

The YWCA was originally formed in 1858 with the goal of empowering woman and eliminating racism. Since the first established YWCA, the organization has expanded to about 300 communities across the nation. It is considered a safe-haven for women and children to come to during troubled times. The YWCA provides many programs built around the basis that all people deserve to be respected, to have shelter, to be free, and to live in peace. The YWCA offers shelter for those who don't have any other place to go, counseling for abuse and rape, and education in job training and personal health and safety. In 1910, the YWCA started community programs in Fargo, North Dakota and in 1977, shelter services were added. The YWCA now operates the largest shelter in North Dakota and northwest Minnesota. There were 882 women and children taken in at the shelter during 2001 alone. The largest percentage of people who come to the shelter are leaving an abusive relationship.

Young Women's Christian Association
A Home to Run to

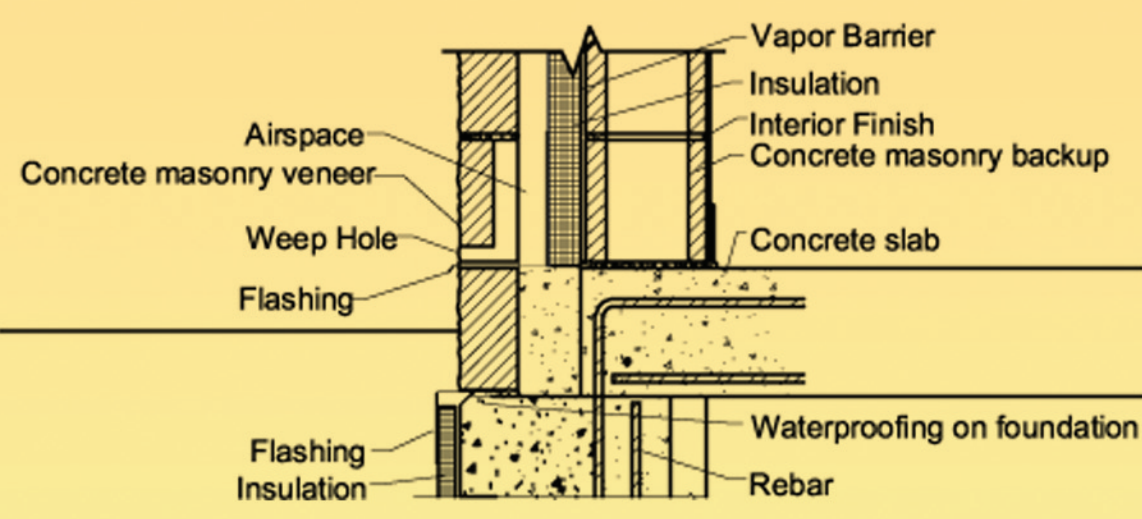
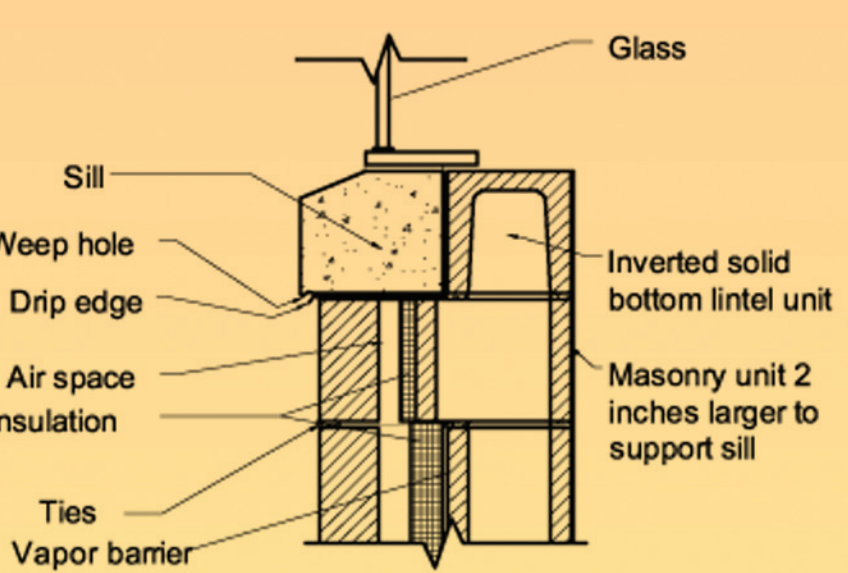
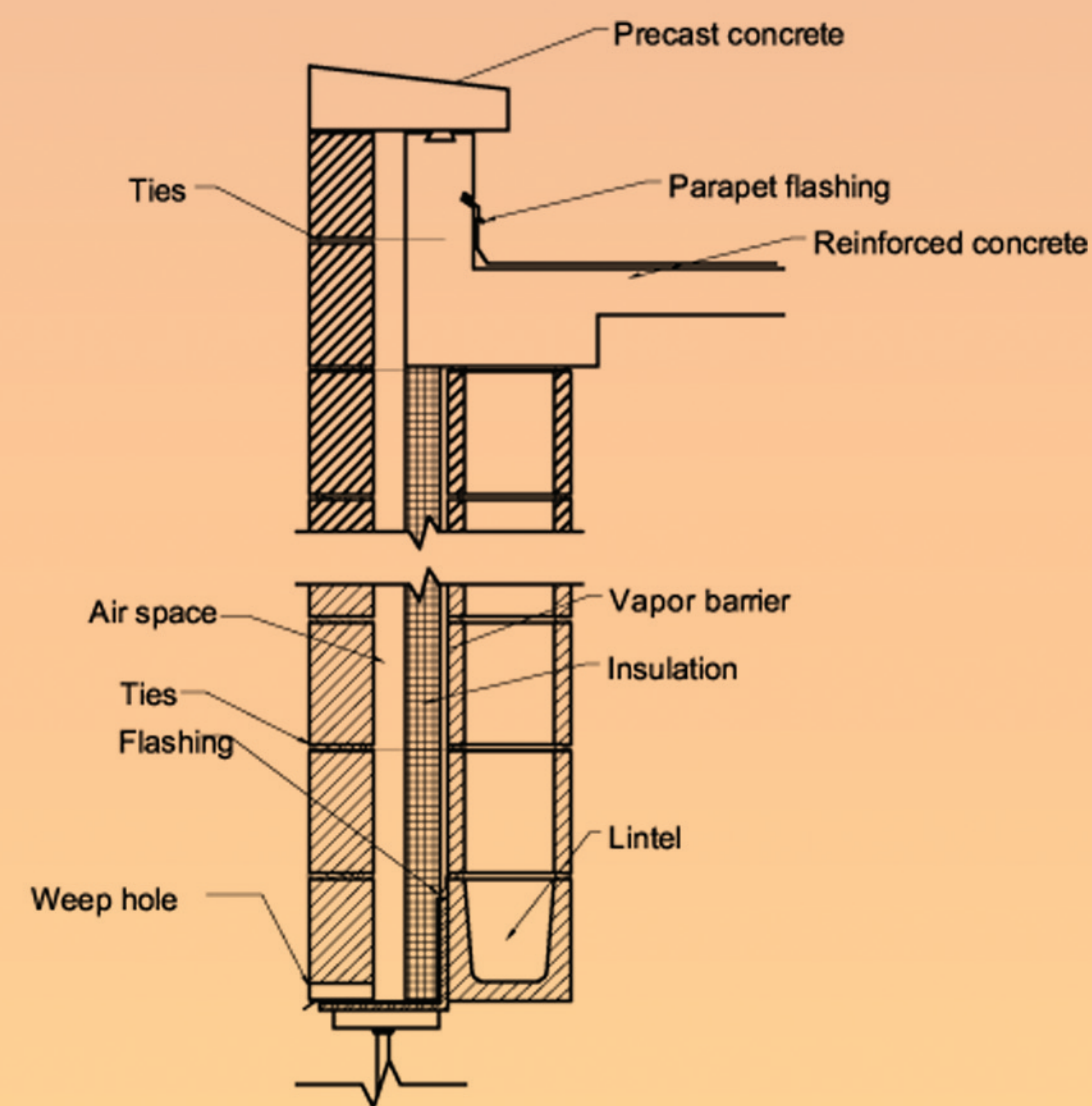
Administration Building

The purpose of the Administration building is to act as a security point for the shelter and to provide the employees with a comfortable working environment. The building is positioned at the entrance of the site for monitoring vehicles entering the shelter complex and to provide a place to screen visitors. This building will also be the information center for all the programs the shelter offers.

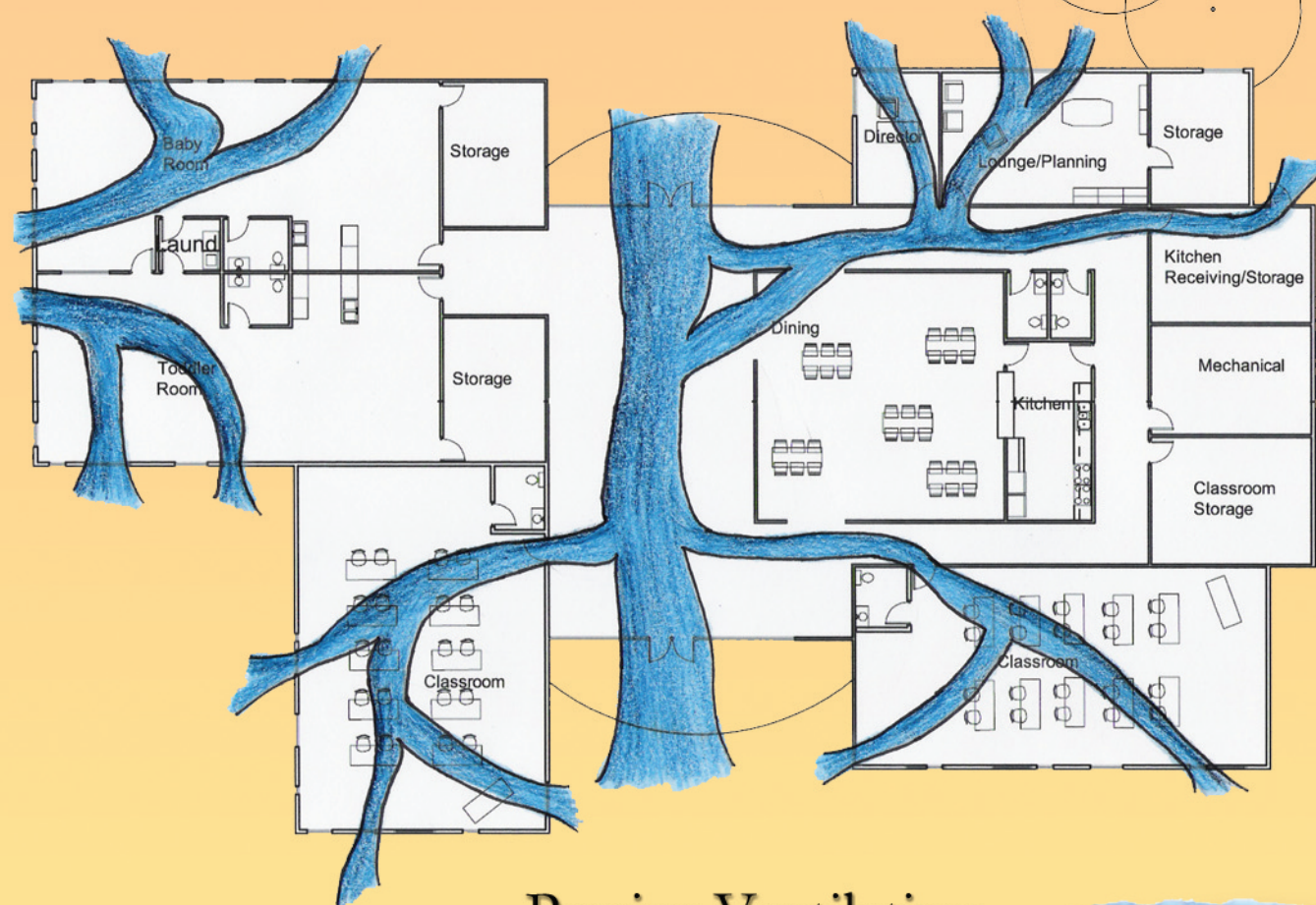


Childcare Building

The daycare facility provides childcare to mothers that are attending classes, work, counseling or other appointments. The daycare offers infant and toddler care as well as before and after school programs for elementary age children. The divisions of age groups are brought together by common hallways, play yard, and a single lunch room to encourage interaction between all ages and to allow siblings time together while at the facility. The windows of the building are placed at various heights to imitate the dynamic activity of the building's function while providing views of the outdoors to children of various ages.

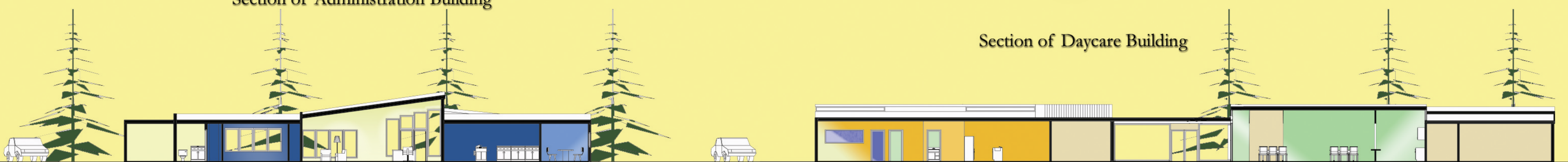


Typical Wall Section for Community Areas
1"=1'



Section of Administration Building

Section of Daycare Building

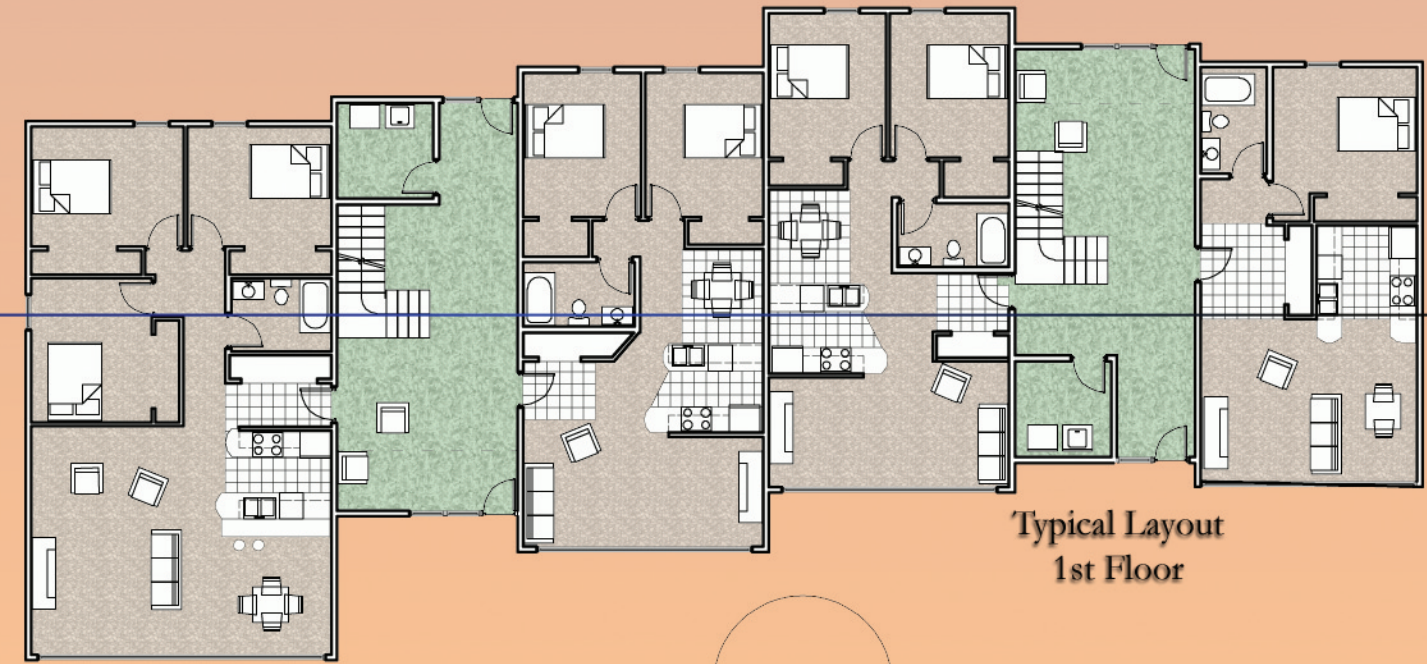
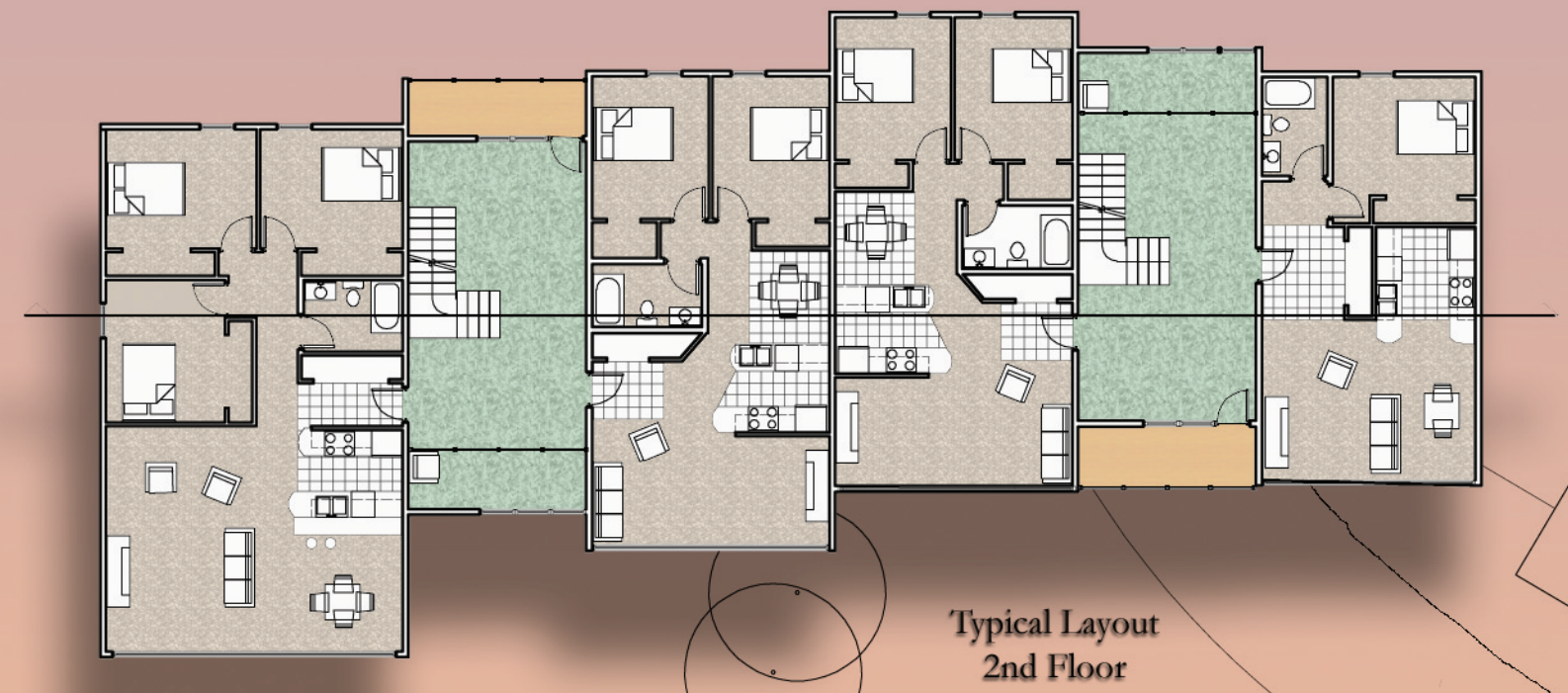


Transitional Housing

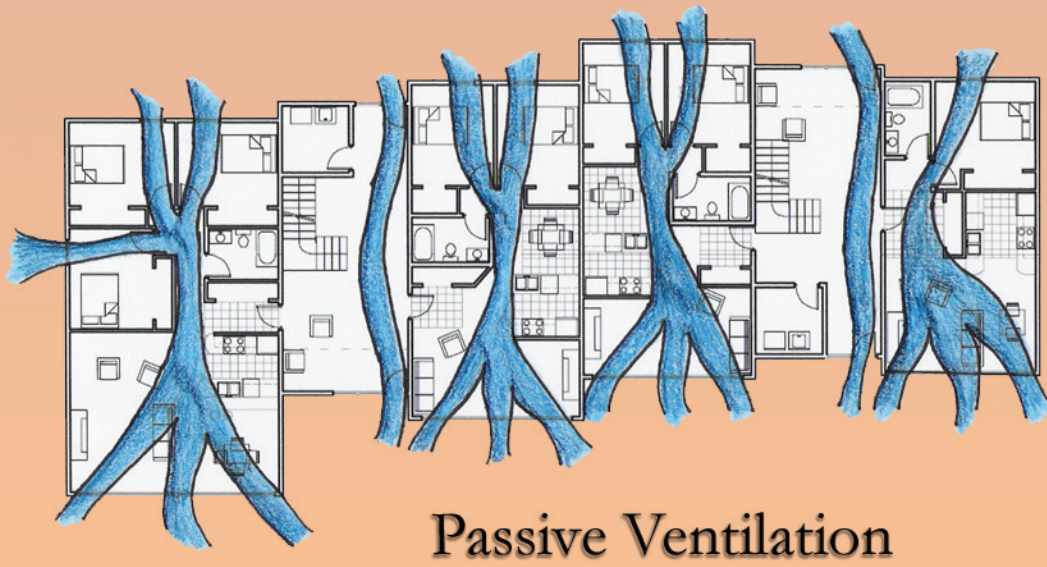


The typical residents of the transitional housing are women that are coming to the shelter because of financial problems and the lack of affordable housing in the area. The purpose of this housing type is to give more independence than the temporary housing offers. The residents will receive assistance, such as job training, to again become self-sufficient.

A common entry connects 2 upper and 2 lower apartments and contains laundry facilities on the 1st floor. Community gathering spaces are on the ground floor sitting area and on the second story balconies.

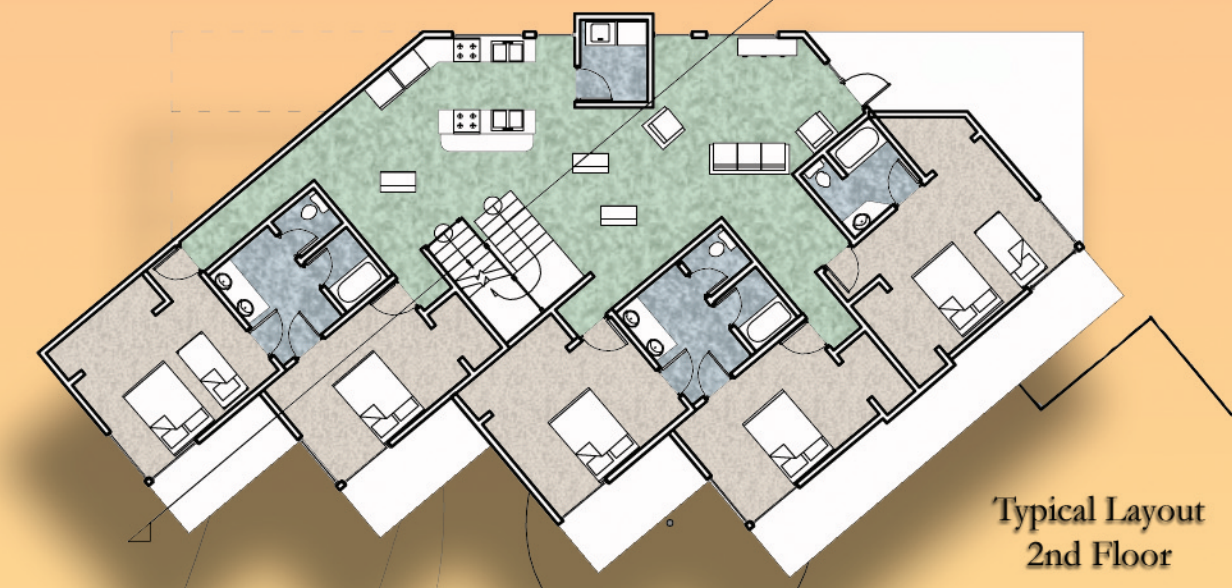


Floor Plans
1/16"=1'

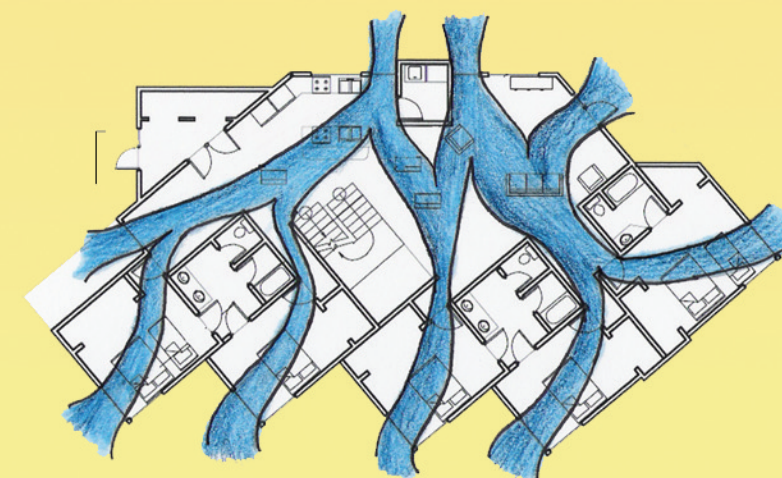


Temporary Housing

The temporary housing serves women needing to stay at the shelter for only a short time because of circumstances such as homelessness or running from an abusive relationship. This housing type consists of 5 single room occupancy units to a floor and each floor shares the kitchen and living room areas. Furniture is provided in all units.



Floor Plans
1/16"=1'



Section of Temporary Housing

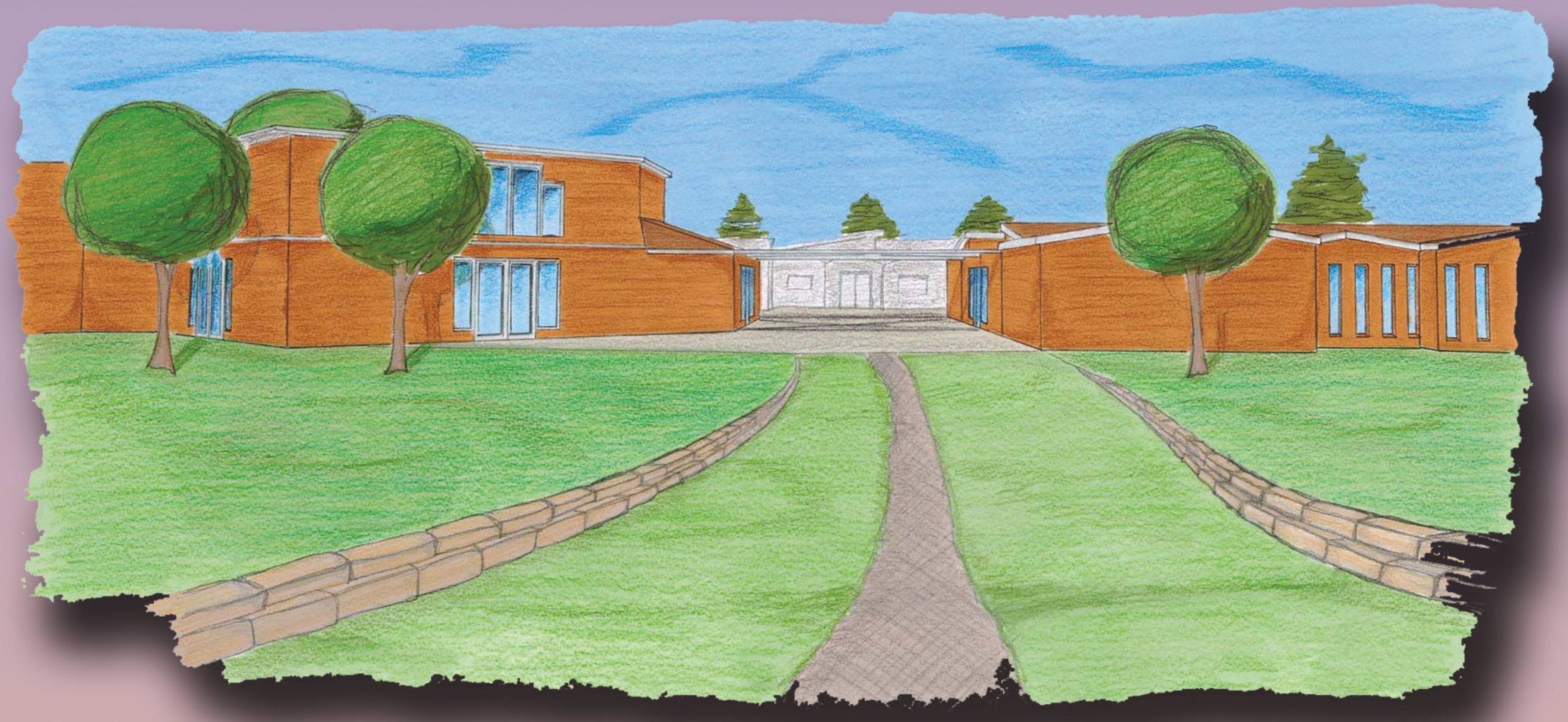


Section of Transitional Housing



Community Building

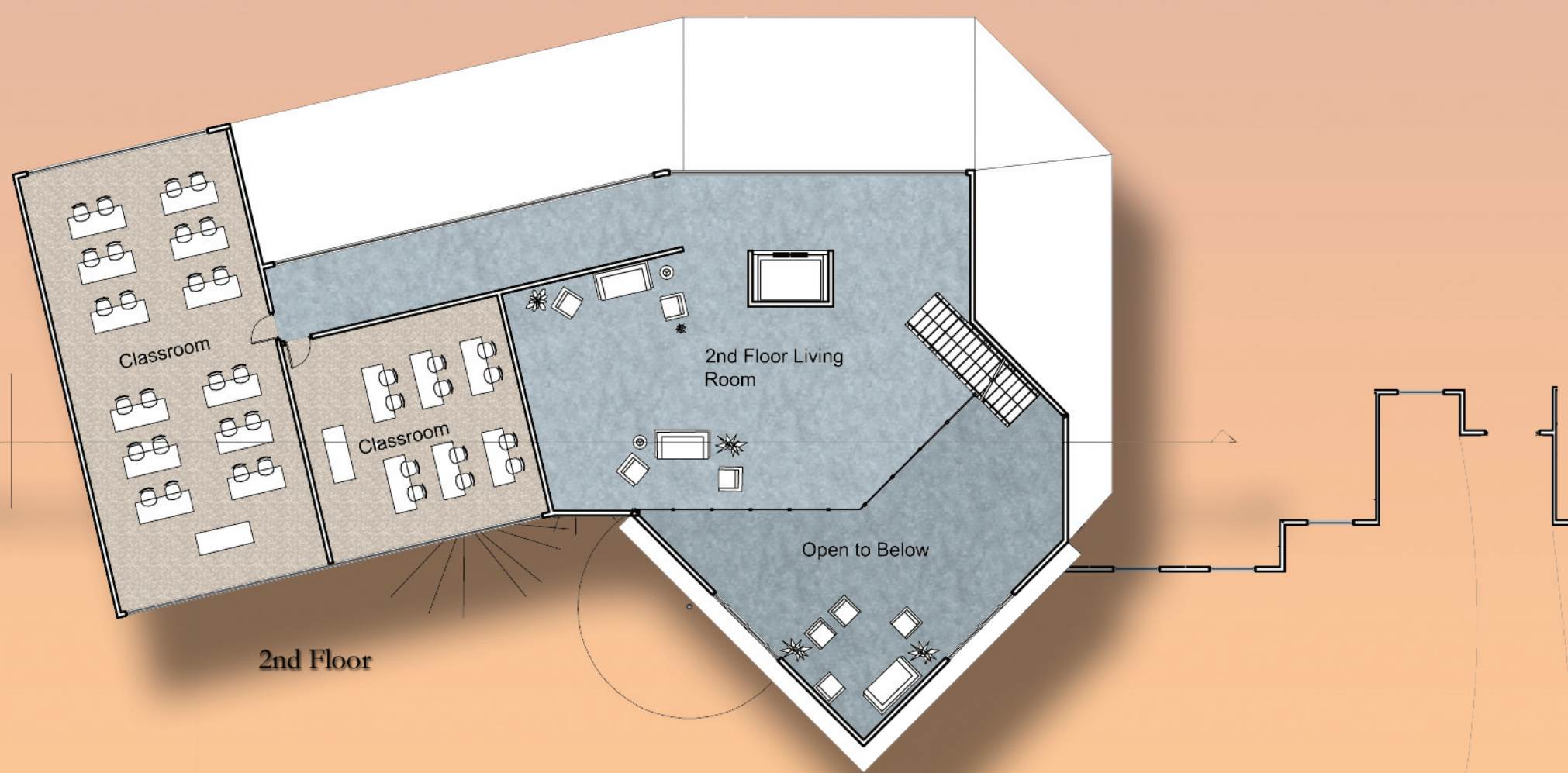
The community building is used by residents of the shelter and non-residents who are participating in programs at the YWCA. The living room area contains T.V. viewing areas, conversation areas, and room for board games and other activities. The library contains research books on topics covered in classes, such as abuse, violence, and pregnancy. In the education wing, the four classrooms can be arranged in a variety of ways to fit the needs of the classes and the computer room is located nearby for class and personal use.



Counseling Building

The counseling area is located near the community building and is used by residents and non-residents of the shelter. A lobby area is at the entrance and looks out into the courtyard. The walls around the courtyard are glazed to let as much light as possible to the interior. The windows that face the outside of the building in the counseling rooms are translucent to provide privacy.

The passive ventilation in building cannot rely on open windows for airflow because of privacy issues. For this reason, openings in the exterior walls are placed above a false ceiling in the private rooms that will help ventilate the warm air that rises to the ceiling. This system would be complimented by an active ventilation system when necessary. The active system uses vents placed near the floor on the interior wall for the additional air supply and a vent in the ceiling on the exterior wall to pull the air through the room.



2nd Floor

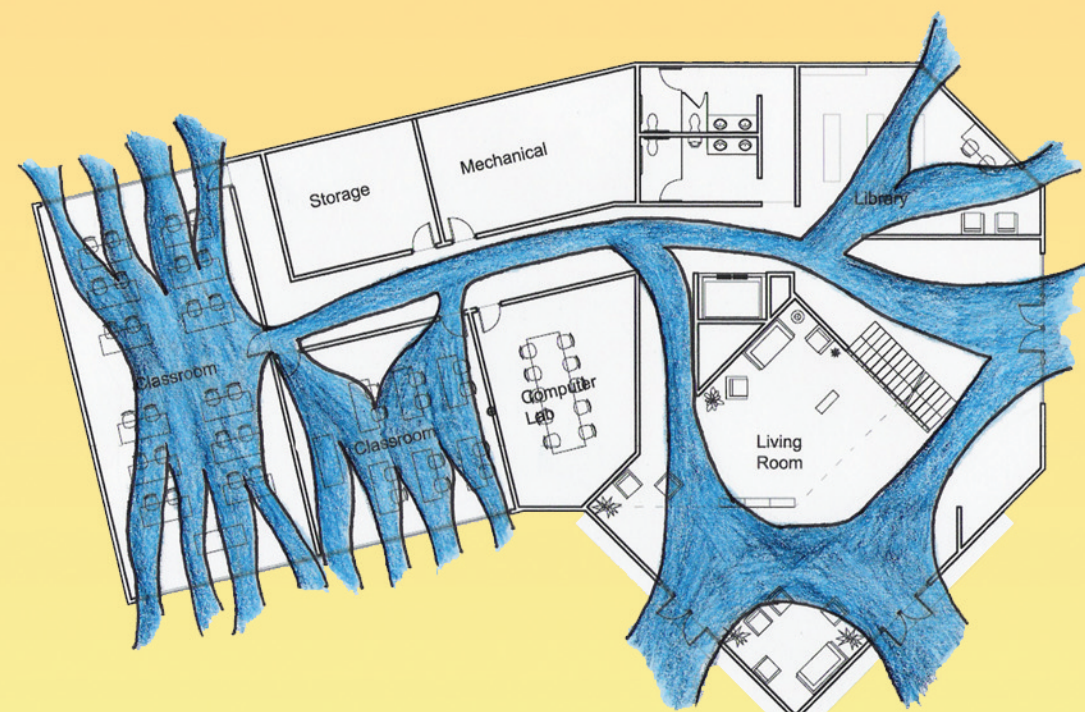


1st Floor

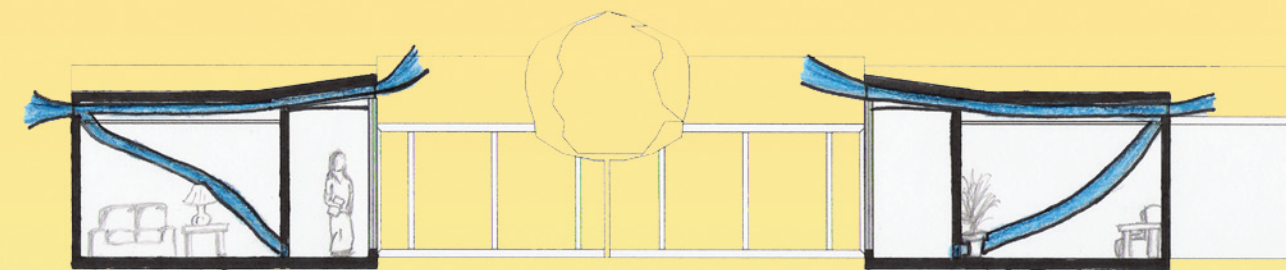
Floor Plans
1/16"=1'



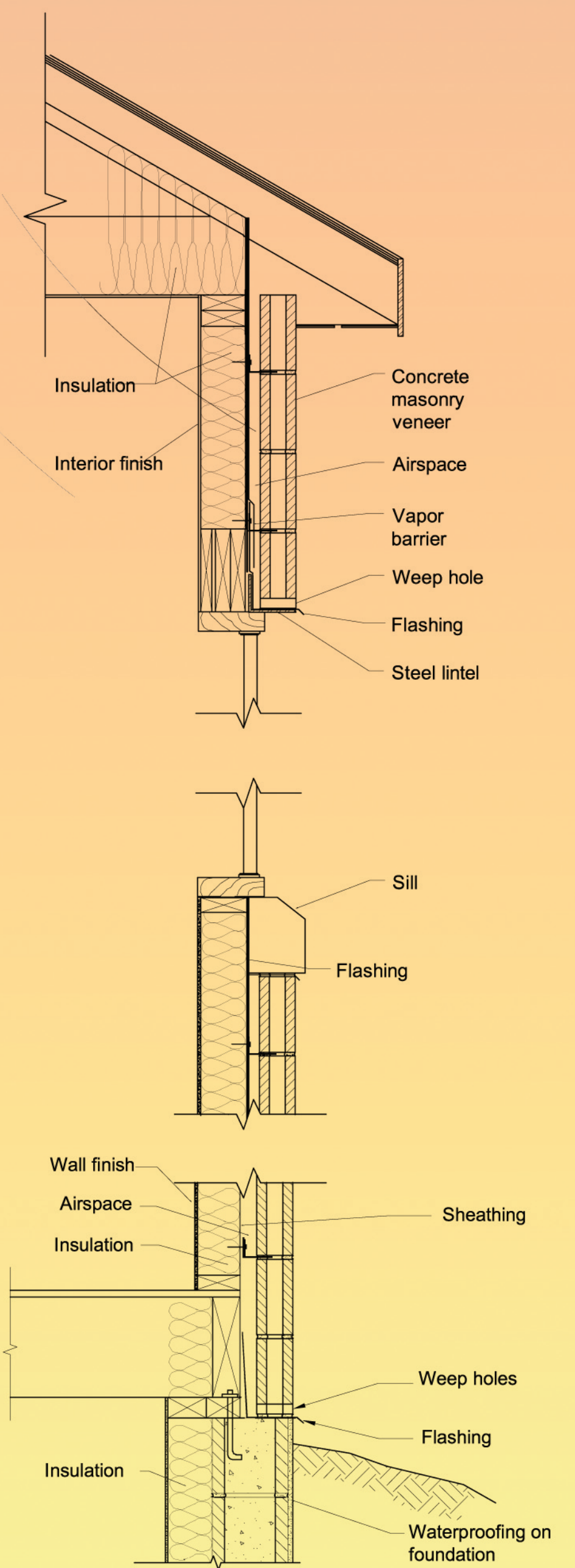
Floor Plans
1/16"=1'



Passive Ventilation



Passive Ventilation



Typical Wall Section for
Private Counseling and
Residential Areas
1"=1'

