



Inclusivity in Public Space: Architecture and the Disabled Body

Grace A. Dietz



Inclusivity in Public Space: Architecture and the Disabled Body

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

By
Grace A. Dietz

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree
of Master of Architecture

May 2023
Fargo, ND

Stephen A. Wischer

Primary Thesis Advisor

Stephen A. Wischer

Thesis Committee Chair

Table of Contents

Signature Page.....	3	Thesis Research.....	36
Table of Contents.....	4-5	Activism and Disability Rights.....	38
Tables and Figures	6-7	Disability Rights Timeline.....	46
The Proposal.....	8	Standardization.....	48
Abstract	11	Body in Space.....	50
Narrative	12	Human Library.....	52
Program	14	Site and Context.....	54
Justification.....	15	Public Transit.....	58
Project Emphasis	16	Climate.....	59
Project Components.....	17	Zoning.....	62
User Description.....	18	Topography.....	63
Project Goals	20	Design.....	64
Case Studies	23	Artefact	66
Sasc 24 de Maio.....	24	Design Process.....	68
Canadian Museum for Human Rights...	26	Design Solution.....	72
Good Job! Center.....	28	Appendix	94
San Francisco Main Public Library.....	30	References.....	96
Typological Research Takeaways.....	32	Previous Studio Experience.....	100
Plan for Proceeding	34	Acknowledgements.....	101

List of Tables&Figures

F1	Injustice Banner.....	10	F35	Site Plan.....	56
F2	Disability Rights Movement.....	13	F36	Bus Stops.....	58
F3	Federal Activism.....	14-15	F37	Average Temperature.....	59
F4	We Shall Overcome.....	21	F38	Hourly Temperature.....	59
F5	Liberation.....	22	F39	Rainfall.....	60
F6	Sesc 24 de Maio - Nelson Kon	24	F40	Humidity.....	60
F7	Sesc 24 de Maio section 3	24	F41	Wind Speed.....	60
F8	Sesc 24 de Maio - Nelson Kon.....	25	F42	Wind Direction.....	60
F9	Sesc 24 de Maio - Nelson Kon.....	25	F43	Zoning.....	62
F10	Sesc 24 de Maio - Nelson Kon.....	25	F44	Topography.....	63
F11	Sesc 24 de Maio Program Diagram.....	25	F45	Artefact.....	67
F12	Canadian Museum for Human Rights.....	26	F46	Process Sketches.....	69
F13	Canadian Museum for Human Rights.....	26-27	F47	Process Sketches.....	70
F14	Canadian Museum for Human Rights.....	27	F48	Process Sketches.....	71
F15	Canadian Museum for Human Rights Section	27	F49	Library.....	72-73
F16	Good Job! Center - Yoshiro Masuda.....	28	F50	Bird's Eye View.....	74
F17	Good Job! Center - Yoshiro Masuda.....	28	F51	New Site Plan.....	75
F18	Good Job! Center - Yoshiro Masuda.....	28	F52	Level 1 Diagram.....	76
F19	Good Job! Center - Yoshiro Masuda.....	29	F53	Vertical Circulation.....	77
F20	Good Job! Center - Yoshiro Masuda.....	29	F54	Public Circulation.....	77
F21	Good Job! Center Section 2.....	29	F55	Section.....	78-79
F22	San Francisco Main Library.....	30	F56	Exterior.....	79
F23	San Francisco Main Library.....	31	F57	Level 2.....	80
F24	San Francisco Main Library.....	31	F58	Ramp.....	81
F25	San Francisco Main Library.....	31	F59	Atrium.....	83
F26	San Francisco Main Library.....	31	F60	Lighting.....	85
F27	Judy Huemann at 504.....	39	F61	Booths.....	86
F28	504 Protest.....	41	F62	Study Room.....	87
F29	Sign 504.....	43	F63	Bookshelves.....	88
F30	Win for Rights.....	45	F64	Bookshelves Plan.....	89
F31	Standardization.....	49	F65	Level 3.....	90
F32	An Attempt.....	51	F66	Level 4.....	91
F33	Human Library.....	53	F67	Interior.....	92
F34	Large Site Plan.....	54	F68	Exterior Image.....	93



The Proposal



Abstract



F1: Injustice Banner

People with disabilities are living in a world that simply was not built for them and it creates a lot of unnecessary struggle and bias because of that. Public spaces are especially discriminatory towards the disabled body, and yet the public world as it exists today is also more and more discriminatory towards every single one of our bodies because of reductive design strategies that place more emphasis on evolving technology such as cars over our bodily experience of design and space. The only way we can interact with the world is through our bodies. Our bodies move us through space and create meaningful interactions and moments with one another and the world around us.

For these reasons, this project explores how our ability to engage with public space is entirely dependent on our bodily imagination, and how the experiences we have depend on the engagement of the body and space, the uniqueness of our bodies, and various scales of interaction. To explore these levels of involvement, I propose the design of a library situated in an area known for activism related to ableism. The various scales of the design explore inclusivity as a means of connection and meaningful exchange that allows for active participation within public spaces, in the space of reading, and in a "human library" wherein people can engage with one another's stories.

Narrative

Individuals are all complex, each with their own vast characteristics and motivations. There are so many special things that make an individual unique and stand out from the crowd, this variety that we find amongst the human race is special and deserves to be celebrated. Our complex emotions, belief systems and interests are all what makes us human and defines who we are and who we want to become. Humanity at its core should be celebrated in all the forms it comes in, this vastness of ideologies and ideas experienced and possessed by individuals is what makes people so exciting. Hearing stories and experiencing another person's way of life is something that can be incredibly eye opening and thrilling.

People all experience the world in unique ways, and although many people have similar experiences in the world these experiences exist on a spectrum. For some people going to the gas station at 3am for a quick snack is something that can be easily done without worry or stress, for another individual a solo trip the grocery store during the day can cause a great level of anxiety and stress for a myriad of reasons. While ADA requirements for public spaces have done a decent job of providing more accessibility for individuals with physical limitations, there are plenty of limitations that still exist that make these public excursions stressful and difficult for some people, sometimes going as far as to prevent people from going to that space entirely. One in Four American adults are living with a disability, this is an incredibly large portion of our population that is often neglected when it comes to our societal design.

Barnard Center for Research on Women houses a page titled "No Body is Disposable" that includes videos and writing from Patty Berne and Stacey Milbern, two activists with disabilities, where they share some of their experiences and struggles. Below is a quotation from that page that can give a better insight to the disability struggle and the problem with ableism.

"In the U.S. context, ableism has been forged with and through white supremacy, colonial conquest, capitalist domain, and heteropatriarchy so that bodies are valued for their ability to produce profit or have it extracted from them, or are otherwise excluded or eliminated through isolation, institutionalization, incarceration, and/or death. Since the 1960's, the disability rights movement has made important strides to establish the civil rights of people with disabilities, increase access for people with mobility and communication impairments, and advance a philosophy of independent living for people with disabilities. However, the wisdom and experiences of people of color and poor people have often been marginalized in the disability rights struggles, and the solutions have often been too narrow to get to the root causes of ableism that keep people with disabilities targeted for criminalization, poverty and isolation."

ADA, as it exists today, is purely focused on eliminating physical barriers into public spaces, but there are no regulations on mental limitations that prevent people from entering buildings. By focusing on eliminating all barriers, both mental and physical, we can design spaces for all members of the public not just the type of individual that architecture and society has prioritized in the past. Making public spaces accessible and comfortable for every person is only going to better enhance our world and push humanity in a positive and healthy direction.

This thesis aims to focus on designing a space that allows for true accessibility. While this thesis cannot single handedly dismantle ableism or the social body that puts disability barriers in place, it can add to the discussion around ableism and the disabled body that are incredibly overlooked by many designers. Hopefully, in the end, this thesis will help prove that architecture can still be just as exciting and bold when we provide people with true accessibility in all forms, we simply might need to be a little more creative in order to get there.

"There are always going to be people in pain, it's just the nature of being in a body. But the social body we can change."

- Patty Berne



F2: Disability Rights Movement

Program

Much of our public space lacks true accessibility for all individuals. This disproportionately affects people with disabilities and their ability to take part in community activities and events, for many individuals there is still a lack of accessibility in daily life and this project aims to provide a more accessible environment for all members of the city. Creating a space that can improve the quality of life for those with disabilities as well as the general public.

The narrative for this thesis involves focus on public spaces and the accessibility of individuals in those areas. A library that will be fully accessible aimed to create space for all individuals to come and engage with one another and learn about other people, the world around them, and even themselves.

Project Justification

Throughout our history on this earth many people have tried to push the narrative that there is a right and a wrong way to exist as a human, those same people try to place everyone in a box and expect them to follow their standards for how a life should be lived and how people should exist. Going as far as to implement strategies to force change onto those who do not fit their idea of humanity. The idea that individuals with disabilities, disorders or mental issues are people who need to be “made whole” or “fixed” is an outdated and false narrative. One in four adults in America have a disability, this is an incredibly large portion of our population, and we need to start designing spaces with the needs of those with disabilities in mind. By making spaces that are accessible in their nature we are creating a better life for everyone who utilizes the space.



Project Emphasis

ADA describes disability that can be both mental and physical and yet only makes guidelines for accommodations for physical disabilities. I would like to explore ways in which mental disabilities, disorders, and illness are both effected by and effect architecture and design. I believe that people should be the strongest point of emphasis within any design, especially designs that are for all members of the public. Listed below are the five main points of emphasis for this thesis project.

- 1. Inclusive Design:** Making inclusive spaces that are accessible to all members of the public is key to making a design that can truly be for everyone.
- 2. Creating Experiences:** Designing spaces that allow for people to linger and enjoy the little things in life. Creating spaces that allow for slowing down and resting as opposed to the fast and efficient spaces of our modern society.
- 3. Community and Learning:** Creating environments that allow for community building and bonding. As well as an intermingling of different communities. Spaces that allow for a newfound awareness and learning aspect surrounding not just disabilities but every aspect of life.
- 4. Invisible Disabilities:** Designing in ways that can benefit not just those with physical disabilities but also people with invisible disabilities is incredibly important.
- 5. Sustainability:** Both for people and for the environment, designing in a way that can allow for growth and change while remaining as environmentally friendly as possible.

Project Components

Library

Main library collections
Rare books/private collects
Archives
Makers/Media spaces
Children's space
Teen's space
Study rooms
Large conference/ Study rooms
Access services
Cataloging
References
Reference offices
Administration
Private offices
Staff lounge
Restroom
Loading dock
Storage spaces
Staff parking
Cafe
Bookstore

This library needs to house all of the necessary components in order to function as a traditional library, however in the modern age a library also needs to be more than a place for books. San Francisco as a whole is focused on developing libraries that behave more in the way of a traditional community center. Hosting events, clubs, game nights and more, a library needs to be a place for social and community exchange. A place where people can go and enjoy themselves freely while also engaging with and learning about one another and the world around them.

User Description

The Community:

This is a public community space and therefore all members of the public are welcome to utilize this space. Most people will likely be individuals who live within the city and seek to utilize one or more of the functions in the space. Students using the library to study, club members using the site as a meeting place, adults running errands and getting prescriptions filled. In a broad sense this can be boiled down to two categories of users, people nearby who are utilizing the necessities within the facility and people who are using the space to find community through events, clubs, and activities.

Given that this is a public space the user base is going to be incredibly diverse, encompassing people from all different walks of life. However, I will be giving specific focus to groups and people who have a stronger set of needs in order to function within the public realm properly and comfortably. This includes individuals with physical and mental disorders. The user base will encompass all individuals regardless of race, gender, religious ideology, etc.

When talking about physical and mental disabilities know that there is a large overlap and a gray area in regard to defining what's what, there are many brain problems that make bodily control difficult in the same way that bodily injuries can trigger mental disorders. Below I provide a simplified idea of definitions in order to better understand the types of accessibility implementations that are needed within this thesis.

People with Physical Disabilities:

Physical disabilities affect the body. This is a very broad category that encompasses many different people with many types of disabilities such as mobility and physical disabilities, spinal cord disabilities, head and brain injuries, vision disabilities, hearing disabilities, loss of limbs or amputation, etc. Since these are disabilities that affect the body itself, we need to understand how different bodies are able to move about and use spaces, the different methods for doing so, and what can make that difficult. Implementing tactile cues such as braille, specific choice of flooring textures, size and weight of doors and entryways all fall into this category.

People with Mental Disabilities:

Mental disabilities affect the brain. This is another very broad category that encompasses many different people with many different types of disabilities such as cognitive or learning disabilities, psychological disorders, invisible disabilities, etc. Since these are disabilities that affect the brain, we need to understand the brains responds to certain spaces. This includes color choices, lighting and day lighting, plant life, wayfinding, and even auditory cues.

Project Goals

Through this thesis I would like to emphasize the idea of designing for all. Focusing on inclusive design and creating spaces for all individuals especially those with disabilities and disorders. By doing so we have a bottom-up effect, where in designing buildings with consideration for individuals who need the most assistance and have been constantly neglected, we will have thus designed a building where everyone can feel comfortable and capable, making the daily lives of all individuals who utilize the space happier and healthier overall. This thesis aims to challenge the narrative around architectural design in regard to ADA and people with disabilities. To shift the focus onto designing with everyone in mind, and to reconsider how we think about design strategies to better include all members of our society. Everyone deserves to be included in public life and we can and need to make that a priority.



F4: We Shall Overcome



F5: Liberation

Considerations:

1. Disability design inclusion - how much where people with disabilities involved in the design process
2. Typology - what type of project is this and how is it relevant to this thesis
3. Overall building design - how much accessibility is there throughout the building and at what level is it integrated
4. Success - do people enjoy these spaces and how do they perform today

Chosen Case Studies:

1. Sesc 24 de Maio - Sao Paulo, Brazil
2. Canadian Museum for Human Rights - Winnipeg, Canada
3. God Job! Center KASHIBA - Kashiba, Japan
4. San Francisco Main Library

Sesc 24 De Maio



Typology: mixed use community center, adaptive reuse
Location: Sao Paulo, Brazil
Architect: MMBB Arquitetos, Paulo Mendes da Rocha
Area: 27,865m/sq
Year: 2017

Summary

Sesc 24 community center was designed as an adaptive reuse space in order to adapt to the slow change of new customs and way of life for the modern age of Brazil. With a focus on transformation and changing in place, as well as a focus on community and public space for all citizens Sesc 24 is designed in a way in order to allow for all members of the public to enjoy and utilize this space.

Utilizing the existing structure, the architects opened up the space to create a floating building allowing the ground level to be open to pedestrians, encouraging anyone and everyone to enter into and utilize the community center. With a large rampway funneling users up the building along the windowed facade this building allows for all people, including people in wheelchairs or parents with strollers to feel more prioritized with this ease of access.

The Community center has a myriad of different spaces including a dance space, theater, rock wall, pool, and even a dental clinic. “Rather than for millionaires, this rooftop pool is for the people” said Mendes da Rocha. This is a people focused design and has been since the conception of this project in 2002. Serving as a contrast to surrounding buildings that set up barriers to the public, Sesc 24 de Maio’s seamless open threshold invites everyone inside including the homeless and disabled population.



F8: Sesc 24 De Maio



F9: Sesc 24 De Maio



F10: Sesc 24 De Maio

Social Response

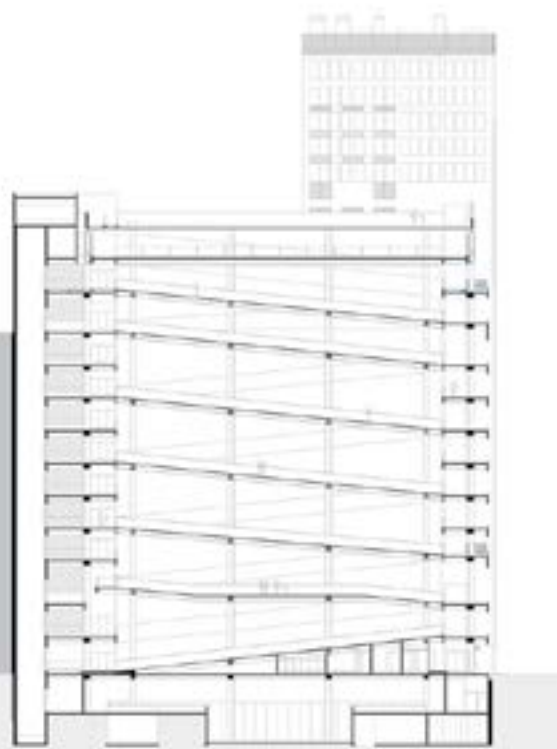
Paulo Mendes da Rocha insists that “every project is a political statement.” This community center allows the collective people to stand strong and powerful. Build in a high density area of Sao Paulo, the public demand for spaces like this is incredibly high, people flock to this space, enjoying the sense of community within the spacious rooms and the sloping ‘streets’ of the building. The architects manages to create a city within a city, allowing for many kinds of events and experiences to take place among the members of the public who utilize this space. The success of this building is even greater than imagined with up to 10,000 visitors on an average week, effectively doubling initial estimates.

Key Features

Focus on how to engage and serve the public.

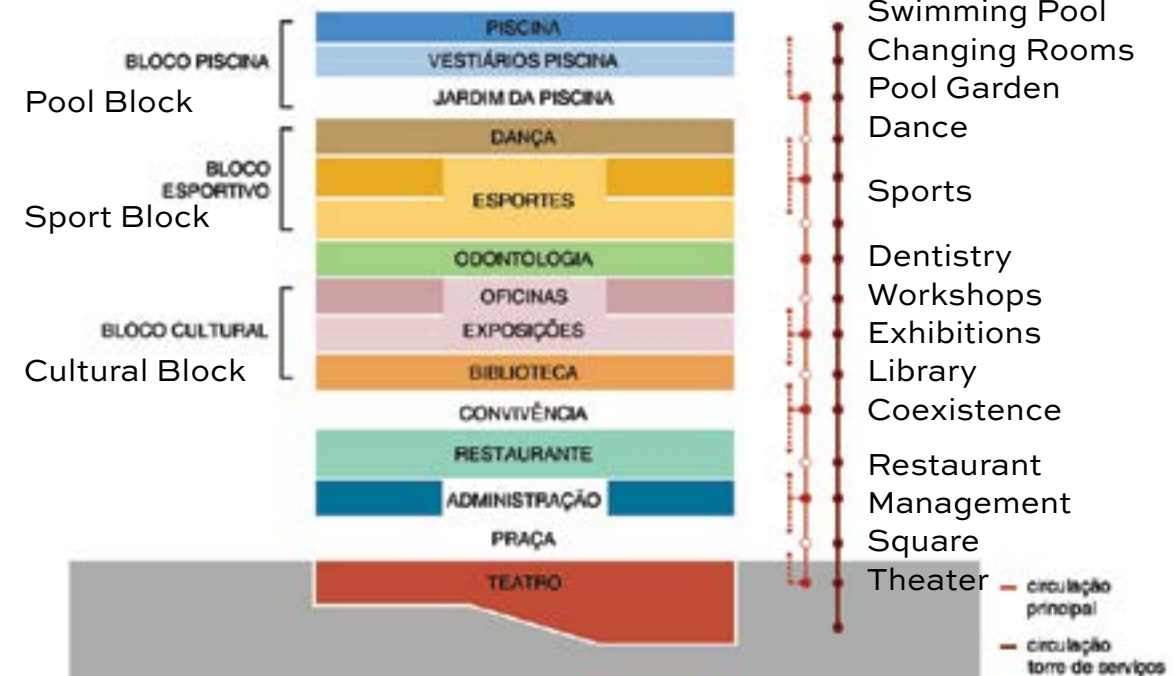
- Myriad of social events and activities
- Open concept ground floor/ door-less entry
- Large accessible ramp as main circulation space

F6: Sesc 24 De Maio



F7: Sesc 24 De Maio Section

Program



F11: Sesc 24 De Maio Program

Canadian Museum for Human Rights

Typology: Human rights museum
Location: Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
Architect: Antoine Predock
Area: 260,000ft/sq
Year: 2014

Summary

The Canadian Museum for Human Rights makes visible the fundamental commonality of humankind. This Museum was built to feature inclusive design, setting an example for accessibility in public spaces. Each and every space and exhibit is designed to be inclusive and accessible for everyone in true human rights fashion.

From entry to the user journey throughout the museum this building makes sure that every point is met with accessibility. Ramps take users throughout the exhibitions on display, all bathrooms are gender inclusive, and pay phones with TTY capabilities are located within the building. The Museum offers self-guided tours through a mobile app allowing visitors to take virtual tours in languages such as ASL, this app offers a wide variety of user friendly functions when visiting and navigating the museum. Universal access points that connect to users devices display audio content about exhibits near by. Every touchscreen is a universal keypad that allows tactile controls and voiced instructions throughout the exhibits. ASL, Braille, print size and contrast, descriptive audio and voice dubbing and closed captioning, and choice seating are all components that were intentionally designed throughout the Museum.

With consideration for everyone from children to elderly, to individuals with intellectual disabilities , learning disabilities, mental illness and mobility issues this complex structure seamlessly blends ADA compliance into an integral part of the structure. The building is LEED Silver certified and won awards such as the 2015 Award of Excellence in Accessible Environmental Design.



Social Response

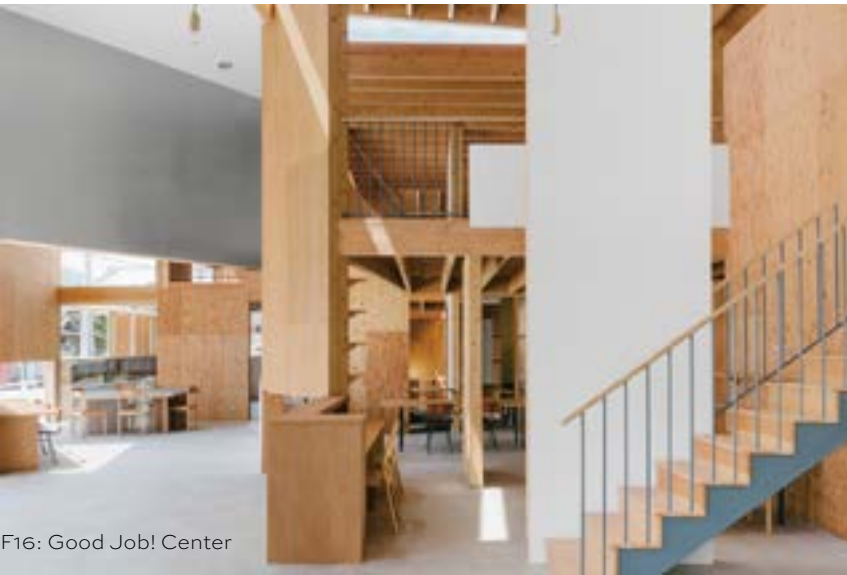
The Museum obtains an average of 295,000 visitors a year, higher than the target goal set in 2016. And over 60% of visitors came as tourists from outside Winnipeg, and 95% of responses from individual surveys states that they were either satisfied or very satisfied with their experience in the museum and out likely visit again and recommend a visit to others. The museum was voted as the second top Canadian attraction, and was in the top 20 must-see attractions in the world in 2016.

Key Features

Focus on inclusive design that involves all groups of people.

- Inclusive access in every element of the design
- Focus on human rights in design and exhibitions
- Large system of ramps that serve as main circulation

Good Job! Center KASHIBA



F16: Good Job! Center

Typology: Community center
Location: Kashiba, Japan
Architect: Onishimaki + Hyakudayuki Architects
Area: 691m/sq
Year: 2016

Summary

Good Job! Center aims to create new jobs that transcend the borders between art, design, and business by collaborating with people with disabilities. Featuring many diverse spaces from brightly lit with high ceilings to dimly lit spaces for a more cozy and calm feel. With this wide variety of spaces anyone who enters the building will be able to find a space that is comfortable for them and their needs while working on projects in the space. This design layout and the goal of comfortability for all users reflects a diverse philosophy that is important to people.

The focus of this project was to create a space where anyone can work with joy in their own work style in order to create a society where everyone can exercise their own abilities. Establishing a hub of networking where people in different lines of work can get together to collaborate and communicate about their work. A focus was placed on people with disabilities and making spaces that individuals could use freely without the need to ask for additional assistance, allowing people with disabilities just play a more independent role in their own life as well as their work life.

This design won the “Beyond Sustainability 2022” award hosted by Business Insider Japan, this award recognizes advanced sustainability companies that achieve both societal and business sustainability.



F17: Good Job! Center



F18: Good Job! Center

Social Response

The Good Job Store is focused on selling unique quality products made by individuals with disabilities. These individuals have control over inventory, manufacturing, and delivering of their products, giving them an opportunity to sell their own work and have work on display throughout the community center. Community members are always excited by the idea of homemade crafts and items, Good Job! Community center is a long lasting an popular site for the public complete with various workshops and events to keep people excited and engaged with the center.

Key Features

Focus on people with disabilities as an integral part of the design

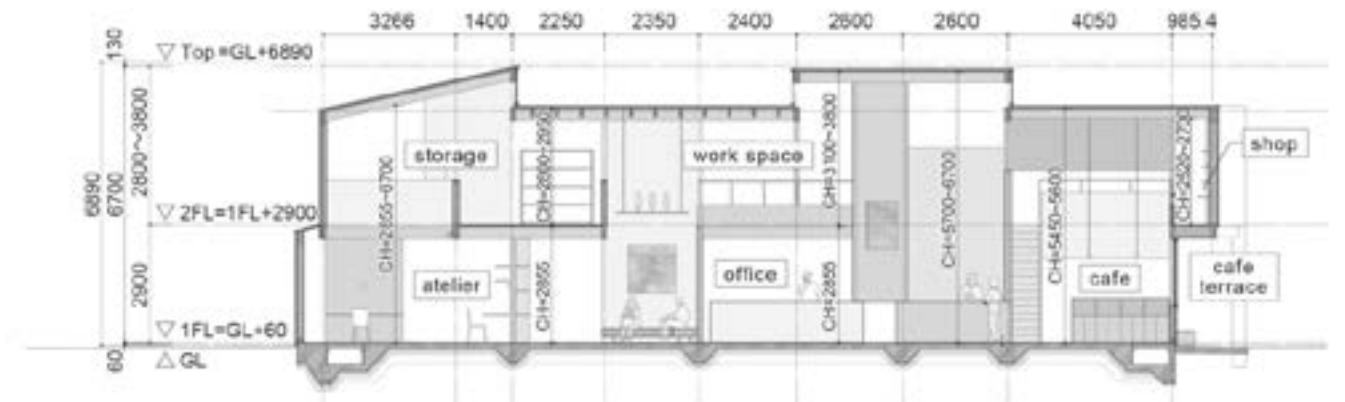
- Inclusive access and large walkways
- Prioritizing products design and made by people with disabilities
- Focus on community, creativity, and sustainability as a collective



F19: Good Job! Center



F20: Good Job! Center



F21: Good Job! Center Section

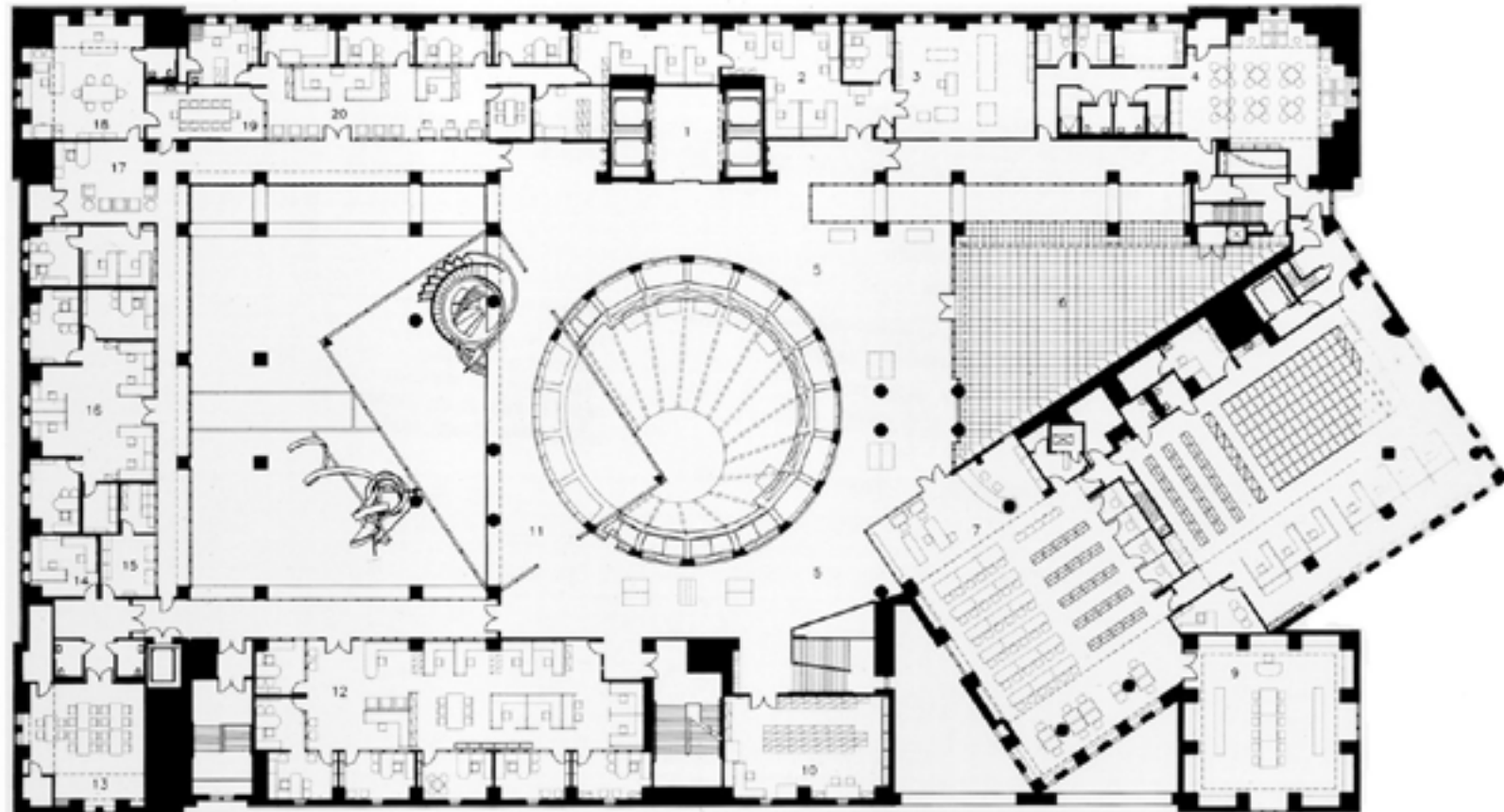
San Francisco Main Library

Typology: Main Library
Location: San Francisco, CA
Architect: Pei Cobb Freed & Partners + Simon Martin-Vegue Winkelstein & Moris
Area: 377,000 square feet
Year: 1996

Summary

The library is made to be “both a destination and a link connecting the modern city with its cultural core.” This Library has a grand white granite facade, the is consistent with the other San Francisco Civic buildings. The five-story building contains an atrium spanning all five floors, allowing daylight to flood the space. The Main Library was one of the first major public buildings in the United States that included high indoor air-quality in the design criteria, placing the health and wellbeing of users of the space at the forefront of the process.

This design includes a public atrium, grand staircase, auditorium, public meeting room, exhibition spaces, roof garden, cafe, bookstore, and commissioned art. This design received the Library Buildings Award: Award of Excellence for Library Architecture American Institute of Architects/ American Library Association, 1997. Other awards include the Best Library Award of Interiors Award, 18th Annual, 1996 and the Annual Ticker Award for Building Stone Institute, 1998.



F22: San Francisco Main Library Section



F23: San Francisco Main Library

Key Features

Focused on Designing happy and healthy spaces for all individuals who walk through the doors.

- Social Services for deaf and hard of hearing people
- talking books and books in braille
- accessible technology
- social workers on site

Social Response

San Francisco Public Libraries as a while a striving to shift their role in the public realm as times change and the digital age changes how people obtain their information. San Franciscos Main library has a goal of providing free public space that allows for people to connect and obtain various services. Shifting the concept of a library to be similar to that of a community center, housing clubs, events, and various classes.



F24: San Francisco Main Library

F25: San Francisco Main Library



F26: San Francisco Main Library

Typological Research Takeaways

Disabilities come in many different forms, while some disabilities are very visually noticeable there are many disabilities that are invisible. There is no right or wrong way to have a disability, and there should never be a need to prove one's disability in order to receive access or accommodation. There is a difference between accessibility and accommodation, and these case studies all strive to push for accessibility as an inherent and integral part of the building design. Listed below are four of the major components from these case studies as well as general research that are important for this thesis topic of inclusive design.

Disabilities and Inclusivity:

Inclusive design and accessibility for people with disabilities needs to be a focus in any architectural project. Each and every person within our community, either disabled or abled, has a right to be included in public spaces. If we can design spaces that allow an individual with a disability to thrive then we will have also created an environment that is better suited for everyone. In order to move into a brighter and more sustainable future we need to focus on designing for the entire public and making life happier and healthier for everyone.

Accessibility vs Accommodation:

There is a vast difference between accessibility and accommodation and as designers we need to move away from accommodation and focus in true accessibility. Accommodations require a person to ask for additional assistance and shifts a burden onto their shoulders. Accommodation relies on invasions of privacy and often having to prove a disability in order to work and obtain these necessities. Accessibility is when a space is always 100% welcoming to people with disabilities. Where "accommodations" are built into the building design and not particularized to an individual. This method allows for people with disabilities to retain their privacy and not have the burden of going out of their way in order to get extra but necessary assistance.

Complex and Bold Architecture:

People often think that if we have to provide accessibility then we will get stuck with basic and boring buildings that do nothing to challenge you and therefore do not enhance your daily life and your experience. However, this is simply untrue. The so called 'challenges' of accessible and inclusive design simply allow for greater expanse of creativity and design solutions when it comes to creating a building. Buildings that are inclusive and accessible have just as much ability to affect and enhance our experiences as non-inclusive buildings, we simply need to be creative and expressive with how we implement these needs.

Sensory and Invisible Disabilities:

Disabilities come in many forms and while physical and movement disabilities may often be the most noticeable there is a large number of people who have invisible and sensory disabilities as well. Often these types of disabilities are left out of designs being that they are 'more difficult' to accommodate for. But there are plenty of simple strategies that can be easily implemented in order to make life a little easier on individuals with these types of disabilities. These disabilities are just as important to provide accessibility for.

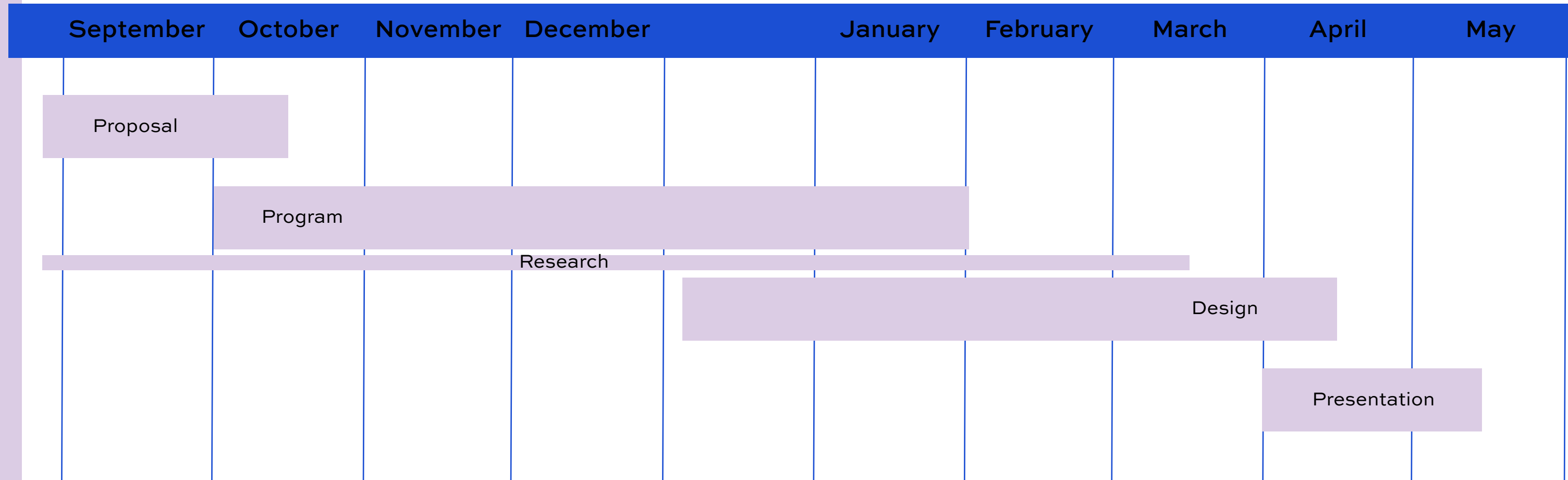
Plan for Proceeding

Research Direction: Research for this thesis consists of scientific, professional, and medical journals and articles, including firsthand experience and ideas from people who are directly affected by ableism in architecture. Case studies, building guidelines and requirements will all be used to help develop spatial programming. Analysis of site location and specific local regulations will make up research in regard to the proposed site.

Design Methodology: The design method will consider all of the research done in regard to disabilities and disorders and how to best implement ideas and needs into a physical space. Consideration for the site and the needs of the surrounding area and community will also play an important role in the development of the design. Using qualitative and quantitative research covering these topics as well as case studies and additional data.

Documentation of Design Process: All process, research, and design will be documented digitally and implemented into the final design documentation. Writing, sketches, notes, images, and graphics will all be part of the process in designing this thesis project. Official documentation will take the form of a formal presentation, and a thesis book that will be completed in May of 2023.

Schedule





Research



Activism and Disability Rights

Throughout history our public spaces and the social realm of our world have largely catered to a specific type of person and have largely ignored the needs of individuals who do not fall into that category. There are various disabilities and disorders that make it more difficult for people to inhabit and partake in public and social spaces that currently exist. With today's focus on public areas being largely centered around circulation and efficiency rather than the ability to linger and exist within the public realm without another motive we have ended up with cities that are unattractive and inaccessible. The Disability Rights Movement has been around in many forms since the 1800's and has been a long fight that has made little progress compared to other minority rights groups in terms of policy and laws in their favor. When laws are passed in attempts to improve current systems disabilities are often forgotten about, in some events amendments have been made later-on to then include disability rights, but time and time again the disabled community is often an afterthought of society at large.

The public world as it exists today is inherently discriminatory towards every single one of our bodies because of the way in which its designed, however, public spaces are especially discriminatory towards the disabled body. Disability discrimination is very different than other forms of discrimination. Things such as our race or gender are things that are part are a solid piece of our identity and, they tend not to change throughout our life.

But disabilities are different. Any one of us could become disabled at any moment, you may get into a really bad sports injury or a car crash that may end up having your body or your mind changed whether temporarily or permanently. And if you live a long and healthy life and eventually grow old you may start to experience things like hearing loss and mobility issues, these are things that are simple bodily effects of aging, but end up disabling you because of the world that we live in.

I want to emphasize that there is no wrong way to exist in this world and there is no wrong way to inhabit a body. But the way that the world was designed and built does discriminate against certain bodies and ways of life and that discrimination is the problem I would like to focus on. A disability is something that could happen to any of us at any time and yet when it comes to how we design the world talk of these disabilities, accessibility and inclusion is often left out of the picture which results in further discrimination against these bodies. 1/4 of American adults are living with a disability whether it be mental or physical or some combination of the two.



F27: Judy Huemann at 504

Activism and Disability Rights

Disability Language

Understanding the language that has been used in the past when it comes to disability injustice is very important in understanding the necessities of what needs to change and the best ways to do that. Reading through various articles, stories, and videos all created by disabled individuals talking about their own experiences and struggles, as well the larger struggles for the community as a whole, I noted some interesting points in terms of the language that has been used throughout history and language that is still used today in regard to disability rights.

Person with a Disability

Through reading various articles and amateur content to help give myself some understanding of first-hand accounts of the disability struggle I found a lot of discourse over the proper terminology that should be used when referring to a person who has a disability. Many people have been trying to push the term “differently abled” into use in modern times as a way to try and be more inclusive. However, I found that reading through articles and hearing stories from people with disabilities that this phrasing is actually doing more harm than it does good. While there is merit to the concept that all people are created equal in value, referring to a person as “differently abled” places an emphasis onto the differences that make discrimination

possible. The problem is not necessarily on the person themselves, there is nothing wrong with being in a body that disables you, but the environment we live in does disable people and if you change the language to get rid of the problem there then stems the idea that nothing needs to change when it should. While trying to erase the negativity that often comes with the word “disabled” people are then erasing the very idea that there is a problem in the first place. And while that problem doesn’t lie on the individual person, it does lie within our ableist society and the systems we have in place that make our society function.

While every individual is going to have preferences for how they refer to their own disability, many people seem just fine with “person with a disability”, or even “disabled person”. Many people prefer the phrase “person with a disability” as it emphasizes the individual person before the disability, however, many others also find this phrasing to be long and clunky. Which is why simply referring to them as a “disabled person” can be equally as preferable.

“The contradiction of having to survive in the oppressive world you are trying to change is always complicated and dehumanizing.”

- Mia Mingus
“Forced Intimacy: An Ableist Norm”



F28: 504 Protest

Activism and Disability Rights

504 Sit-in

The idea of minority rights is something that is still relatively new in the big picture of things, and disability rights are the newest of all of these. The most well-known disability law is ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disabilities, but this was only passed into law about 30 years ago. And the first big milestone in the fight for disability rights was Section 504 in 1977, which was the first time that any disability rights were written into and enforced by law. 504 protects individuals from discrimination based on their disability and applies to any organization that receives financial assistance from a federal department or agency. However, this law couldn't go into effect until certain regulations were met defining what qualifies as a disability and what counts as discrimination. Due to many different ideas and opinions on what should and shouldn't count this Law still wasn't in effect even four years after it was signed. In 1977 the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities (ACCD) became fed up with waiting, calling for the regulations to be issued unchanged from the original wording by April 4th otherwise they would take action. Protests took place all over the country on April 5th Yet, San Francisco's protest turned into a 26-day long sit-in on the steps of the federal building.

Judy Heumann and Kitty Cone were two of the people responsible for organizing and preparing for this month-long sit-in. Making committees to rally speakers, media, fundraising and gathering support from churches, politicians, and radical parties such as the black panthers. This month-long protest is the longest non-violent occupation of a federal building in US history. And finally, after a month of protesting and making their presence known the regulations were eventually passed, unchanged. And 504 officially became law on April 28, 1977. The disability rights movement as a whole is still at the very beginning of its journey and therefore has seen less progress than other minority fights for rights and laws in their favor. There is a lot of progress left to be made.

The HEW section 504 regulations established the basic operation principles that became the basis for legal compliance with the ADA and established nondiscrimination as a fundamental right. and established the 3-pronged legal definition of disability as opposed to the medical one that was in use prior to 504. For the first time those with disabilities had concrete federal civil rights protections.

Section 504:

“No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the US shall solely on the basis of his handicap, be excluded from the participation be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”



F29: Sign 504

Activism and Disability Rights

“At that time in history (before 504), there was simply no access - no right to education, no public transit, you couldn't get into a library or city hall, much less a courtroom. - In the 70s' there were no federally mandated social services or agencies for individuals living with disabilities.”

“Marginalized groups like the disabled community are accustomed to the type of cooperative interdependence necessary for 504. 100+ protestors made the building home immediately. Disabled people are incredibly resourceful, that is a commonly misunderstood and overlooked part of our history and it led to the success of 504.”

- Corbett Joan O'Tool
Disability rights activist



F30: Win for Rights

American Disability Timeline

American Disability Timeline - Progress and the Opposite

1815-1817: Formal Deaf Education Begins
1829: Braille is Invented
1907: Eugenic Sterilization Law for People with Disabilities (forced sterilization)
1920: [The Smith-Fess Act](#)
1932: FDR, a Person with a Disability, Elected President
1934-1940: National Federation of the Blind Founded
1935: [Social Security Act](#)
1939: Nazi Program Kills Thousands of People with Disabilities
1946: National Mental Health Foundation Founded
1947: National “Employ the Physically Handicapped Week”
Paralyzed Veterans of America Organization Founded
1950: Beginning of National Barrier-Free Standards
The Arc Champions Abilities of People with Intellectual Disabilities
1954: Brown vs Board of Education
1956: [Creation of Social Security Disability Insurance](#)
1962: Independent Living Movement- Ed Roberts Fights for University Admission
1963: Community Mental Health Act Signed into Law
1964: Civil Rights Bill Passed While Ignoring the Disabled Community
1965: Medicaid Assistance for People with Disabilities and/or Low-Income
1968: [Architectural Barriers Act](#)
1970: Judy Heumann is Denied Teaching License - Sues NYC Board of Education
1971: Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Children et al vs Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
1973: Disabled in Action, PA founded
[The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 \(Section 504\)](#)
1974: Inaugural Convention of People First
1975: The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act Enacted
The Education for Handicapped Children Act
United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons
Social Model of Disability replaces Medical Model
1976: Deaf Actress Cast in Sesame Street
1977: Halderman vs Pennhurst State School and Hospital
504 Sit-in, Protesters Occupy Federal Office of Health, Education, and Welfare resulting in Section 504 Laws to be passed
1978: National Council on Disability Established
“We will ride!” Protests of Inaccessibility of public transit in Denver, CO. resulting in ADAPT to be founded

1982: The UN Encourages Global Equality and Participation for the Disabled
Speaking for Ourselves, Pennsylvania is Founded
National Organization of Disability
1988: “Deaf President Now!” Protest, Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C.
1990: The Pennsylvania Early Intervention Services System Act -212
Capitol Crawl Protest for ADA
[Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\) signed into Law](#)
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
1991: Federal Government Makes Autism a Special Education Category
1993: National Home of Your Own Alliance Founded
1995: National Federation of the Blind Establishes Dial-up Synthetic-speech Talking Newspaper
1996: Federal Telecommunications Act Enacted
1998: Assistive Technology Act Signed into Law
1999: Olmstead vs L.C. and E.W.
2001: The Commonwealth of Virginia Formally Expresses Regret for Eugenics
2004: First Disability Pride Parade, Chicago, IL
Special Olympics
2007: Road-To-Freedom Tour
2008: West Virginia Requires Disability History to be Taught in Schools
[ADA Amendment](#)
2009: Rosa’s Law Enacted
2010: ADA Standards for Accessible Design
2012: Philadelphia Disability Pride Celebration
2014: The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
2017: ADAPT Activists Fight to Save Affordable Care Act/ Medicaid

Standardization

Our society and our architecture now perpetuate the idea of a good body and a bad body, forcing ableism into every aspect of daily life. This is the root of the problem, our societal mindset around ableism and disability discrimination, this 'othering' of disabled people. If we can adjust our perspective on what it truly means to be a human and inhabit a body, we can create a better experience for everyone.

When discussing disabilities in architecture most people jump straight into the idea of neutral design and standardization. Creating boring, unexciting buildings that do nothing to challenge us in our everyday life, spaces that fade into the background and fall into efficient circulation space. However, these do not have to be the results. There is a nuance to functionality and our designs cannot and should not be neutral. Standardization is not going to solve this issue and will most likely continue to play into our current efficient modern culture. Rather than focusing on designing new restrictions for compliance, as designers we need to stress a connection between architectural form and the capacities of the human body. Envisioning designs that fully integrate disabled bodies into the production of structure and completely reimagine the roots of what architecture is and should be.

“As a phenomenon inherent to the human condition, understanding and respecting diversity should stimulate and enable solutions that build a society centered on all individuals. We shouldn't try to create neutral designs because even a neutral or middle way cannot be the same for everyone.”

- Victor Delaqua,
Arch Daily Brazil Editor



F31: Standardization

The Body in Space

The concept of public spaces has shifted in meaning over time, at the end of the European eighteenth century we see a transition from a more poetic focus of life and public space to a more scientific and technological approach. Places that were once foundational to the idea of community and interconnectivity such as churches, theaters, and public squares, have shifted in importance in modern years, with more emphasis being placed on the automobile and public community spaces now took the form of digital space online, rather than in the physical world. What used to be places to linger and engage with one another are now merely a space for transportation. Our society has changed its collective mindset to provide a faster way from point A to point B with no regard for the experience or the journey.

The modern urban design is harsh and unapologetic towards to human scale, streetscapes grew harder and wider, forcing buildings further apart and making the human body feel unwelcomed. We pass through these streets in cars, never truly experiencing these locations. The experience we could have had in the journey is lost as we zoom by to reach our destination. This way of designing public spaces and functioning within our society has hurt everyone who lives in it, public spaces are discriminatory towards every single one of our bodies. With circulation that focuses solely on the automobile we have neglected to design for us and for the way in which we experience the world, our body.

Maurice Merleau-Ponty argues that our bodies have consciousness that exists on two levels: a primary motor level and an intellectual one, stating that the body knows, motor functions become habitual, and our body can recognize places without “paying attention”. Our bodies are the way in which we all experience the world, we can walk into a room and have an immediate bodily reaction to a space and the energies that it holds. Our bodies and our gut reactions tell us if a space is comfortable or if it’s dangerous, it picks up on elements we do not consciously notice. So why are we stealing this element of life away from ourselves by neglecting the body in design?

When looking at Georges Perec’s “An Attempt at Exhausting a Place in Paris” we can see examples of an existence where we are allowed to sit and linger in a space, to observe and to enjoy. This book is essentially a collection of noticings that Perec made while sitting in public spaces in Paris and simply noting them down. This way of writing allows a reader to place themselves in this space, and inevitably in the shoes of the person watching, and allows us to gain an understanding of how we, throughout our bodies, experience the world. Through this reading we can place ourselves into a space and imagine and build up the landscape and environment Perec was existing in. We get to experience his experiences through his writing. We are seeing the world through Perec’s eyes, if you or I were sitting in this same café we may have taken note of other happenings. People all experience the world in unique ways, and although many people have similar experiences in the world these experiences exist on a spectrum. When picturing the space laid out by Perec we may have all envisioned the café he was in, however, we probably all envisioned it slightly different, because we, ourselves, have differences.



F32: An Attempt

Human Library

Throughout modern history our public spaces and the social realm of our world have largely catered to a specific type of person or more realistically an idea of a person and have largely ignored the needs of individuals who do not fall into that category. People of all minority groups have suffered at the hands of this societal mindset, and

I would argue that even people not belonging to minority groups have struggled due to these ideas as well, pushing people to embody certain ideas and characteristics in order to fit into that 'specific type' that society is for.

Individuals are all complex, each with their own vast characteristics and motivations. There are so many special things that make an individual unique and stand out from the crowd, this variety that we find amongst the human race is special and deserves to be celebrated. Our complex emotions, belief systems and interests are all what makes us human and defines who we are and who we want to become. Humanity at its core should be celebrated in all the forms it comes in, this vastness of ideologies and ideas experienced and possessed by individuals is what makes people so exciting. Hearing stories and experiencing another person's way of life is something that can be incredibly eye opening and thrilling.

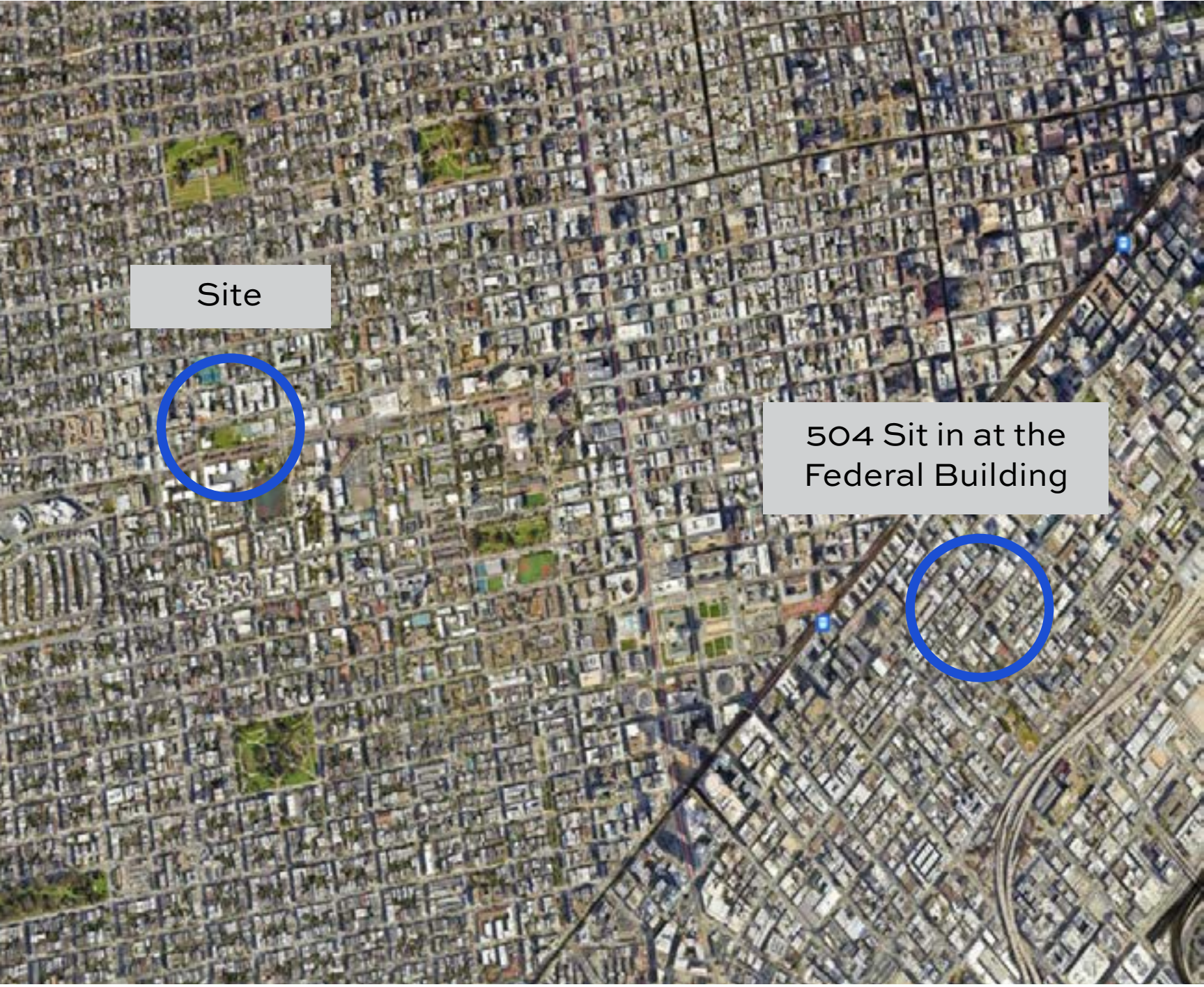
The Human Library is a good example of this concept. They are an international organization that was founded in the year 2000 in Copenhagen, Denmark. The Human Library addresses people's prejudices by allowing for interactions between people who otherwise may have never spoken. Following the idea of interpersonal communication, two people having a conversation in an attempt to learn and understand someone who is different than themselves. I found this concept to be very beneficial in expanding my own understanding of how storytelling and experiences can be shared. Within the human library a person can "check out" another person as a book to better understand their chosen topic of conversation, such as "homelessness" or "bipolar disorder". These people or "books" open up and extend an invitation to people to learn through the 'other'.

By placing oneself into other people's shoes and learning from their stories we can better understand and learn about ourselves through those differences. This understanding and appreciation for others opens up communication and opportunities for us as a society to progress forward in a positive way. Creating a space for this exchange to occur in is essential for our future, and what better place to do it in than a library.



F33: Human Library

Site and Context



F34: Large Site Plan

San Francisco, California

The program of this thesis is best suited to a larger city with a significant population of individuals with disabilities and where there is a need for improvement in accessibility. San Francisco is located on the West coast of the United States and has a large history within the disability rights movement, with events such as the month long 504 Sit-in of 1977, and has a larger population of individuals with disabilities and is home to many disability activists.

A study done by WalletHub listed out the best and worse places for those with disabilities to live in the US, the study analyzed 150 of the most populated cities in the US as well as the two most populated cities in each of the 50 states if not already included, analyzing 182 cities throughout the US in total. The study looked at healthcare, economy, and quality of life for people with disabilities as the main three components for this study. In the study by WalletHub San Francisco ranked at 12 out of 182, with a population of 815,201 with a growing 12% of the population living with a disability.

San Francisco Statistics

Population with a disability: 12% - roughly 98,000 individuals

WalletHub Scores for best city for disabled individuals:

- Total: 12 of 182
- Economy: 159 of 182
- Quality of Life: 9 of 182
- Healthcare: 11 of 182

San Francisco has one of the highest costs of living in the USA. However, they also had the highest percentage of walkable park access.



F35: Site Plan

Address: 1550 Scott St, San Francisco, CA 94115 + 1900
Greary Blvd, San Francisco CA 94115

The site is located along Geary Blvd, currently housing a small and unassuming library and recreation center. The library that exists there currently is designed more in the style of a single-family home which feels more like a private space rather than a public domain to encourage learning and storytelling.

This site could greatly benefit from a new design, one that celebrates the human body in all of its many forms and versatile experiences. My design attempts to bridge a connection between our bodies and the knowledge and learning that exists within a library. Forming connections between each other in order to better understand not only other people but also to better understand ourselves. Through the design I focused on three things:

- The individual and personal connections,
- the collective sharing of ideas between one another,
- the bridging of these ideas in space.

These ideas also need to correlate with the lack of inclusive design in the public realm.

Public Transit

Climate Data

San Francisco

Walkscore: 89 - very walkable
 Transitscore: 77 - excellent transit
 Bike score: 72 - very bikeable

Site location

Walkscore: 97 - walker's Paradise
 Transitscore: 76 - excellent transit
 Bike score: 91 - biker's Paradise

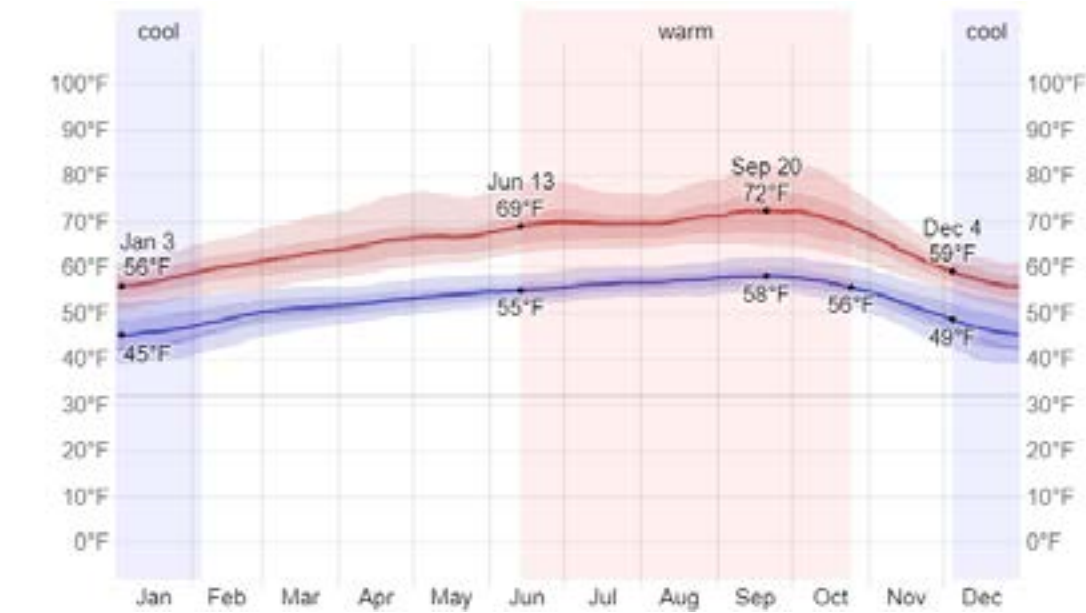


F36: Bus Stops

Rail lines:			
N JUDAH	1.0 mi	KT INGLESIDE-THIRD	1.1 mi
F MARKET & WHARVES	1.1 mi	M OCEAN VIEW	1.2 mi
J CHURCH	1.2 mi		
Bus lines:			
38 GEARY	0.0 mi	2 SUTTER	0.1 mi
38R GEARY RAPID	0.1 mi	24 DIVISADERO	0.1 mi
31 BALBOA	0.2 mi	22 FILLMORE	0.2 mi
NBUS JUDAH BUS	1.1 mi	N-OWL OWL JUDAH	1.1 mi
TBUS THIRD BUS SHUTTLE	1.1 mi	KBUS INGLESIDE BUS	1.1 mi

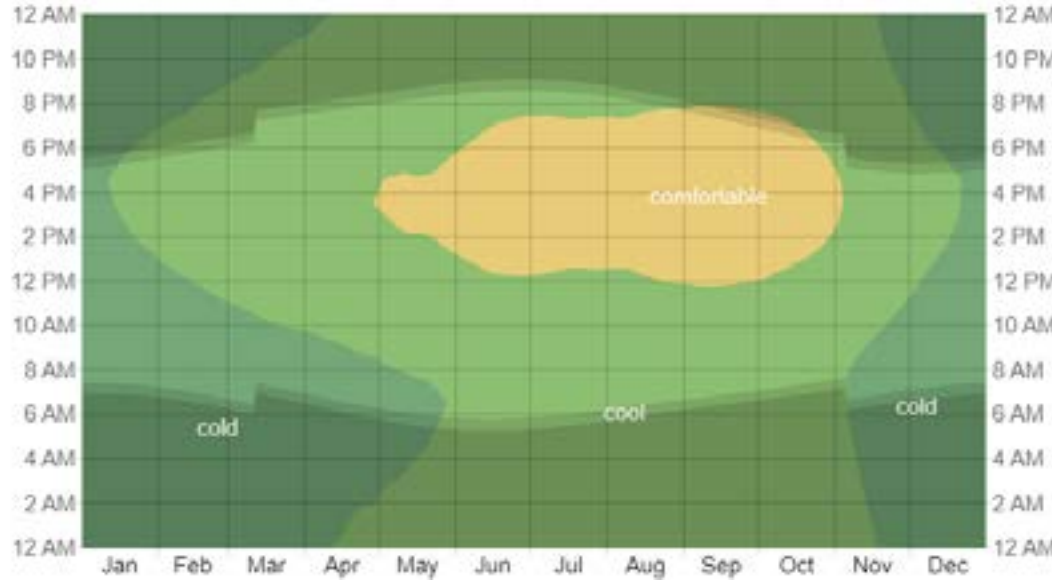
Plenty of Public transportation is available on the site, with bus routes coming and going from the north and south ends of the site, and two bus stops in the Southwest corner of the site. With five rail lines and ten bus lines within 1.2 miles of the site.

Average High and Low Temperature in San Francisco



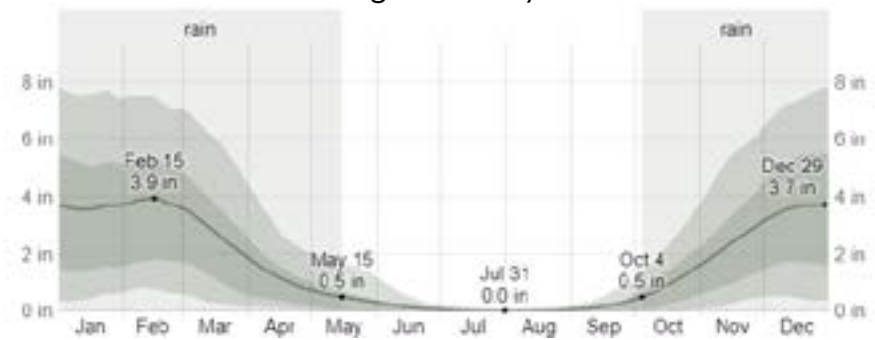
F37: Average Temperature

Average Hourly Temperature in San Francisco



F38: Hourly Temperature

Average Monthly Rainfall



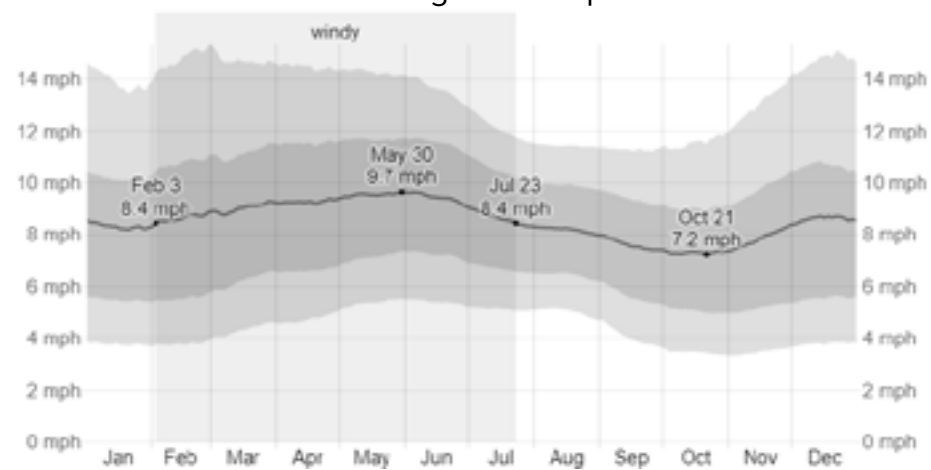
F 39: Rainfall

Humidity Comfort Levels



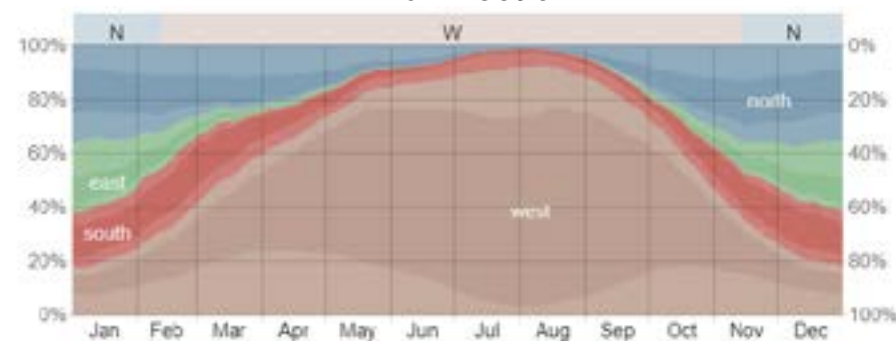
F40: Humidity

Average Wind Speed



F41: Wind Speed

Wind Direction



F42: Wind Direction

Climate

San Francisco has a Mediterranean- type climate that is characterized by mild, wet, and short winters, and warm, dry and sunny summers. The city doesn't experience all four seasons, but rather subtle changes throughout the year. Average temperatures throughout the year tend to fall between 45 degrees Fahrenheit and 72 degrees Fahrenheit. Leaving most of the year to be fairly comfortable temperatures and allowing for high biological diversity in the area.

Much of the rainfall throughout the year occurs during the winter months, although the area is relatively dry overall with very little humidity. Being right along the coast means that San Francisco gets ocean wind from the West which helps keep the air cooler year-round.

Climate Change Impacts

The region is expected to get up to 4.5 degrees warmer by 2050. The dry climate and little rainfall obtained throughout the year do lead to a higher risk of droughts and higher risk of fires. San Francisco will also be greatly impacted by the sea-level rise; projections show that the area will see between 1.1-1.9 feet of rise by 2050.

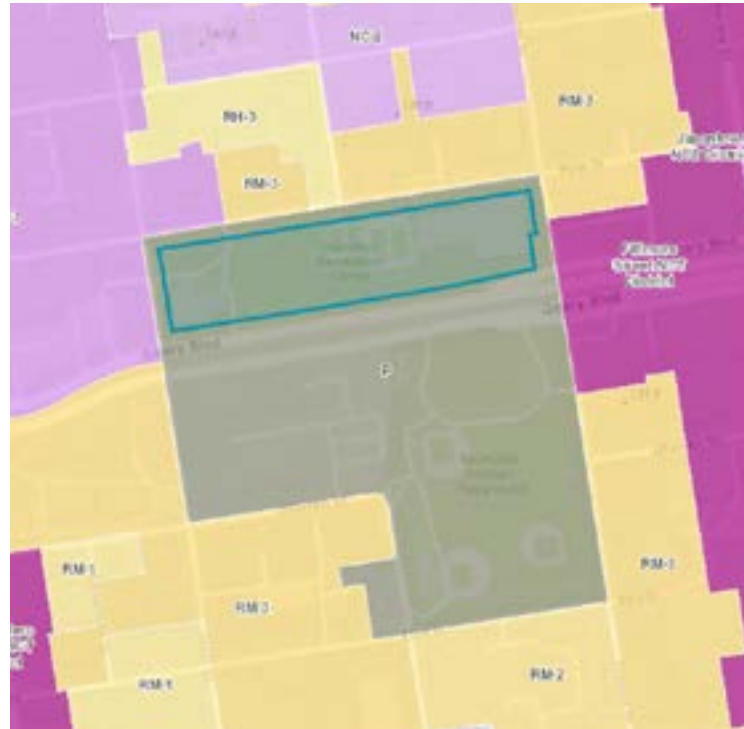
Zoning

Zoning Districts:
P -Public

Planning District:
District 5 Western Addition

Schools (K-12) Within 600ft:
Gateway Middle School
Creative Arts Charter School

Neighborhood (Planning Dept):
Western Addition



F43: Zoning

The following uses are principally permitted in all P Districts when found to be in conformity with the General Plan:

- (a) Structures and uses of governmental agencies,
- (b) Public structures and uses of the City and County of San Francisco, and of other governmental agencies,
- (c) Accessory nonpublic uses,
- (d) Neighborhood Agriculture,
- (e) City Plazas,
- (f) Any temporary use regardless of the zoning district
- (g) Any temporary use not considered in Subsection (f) above for which an enabling action is taken by either the Board of Supervisors, the Recreation and Parks Commission, the Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors, or other City Board or Commission with jurisdiction over the property.
- (h) A publicly owned and operated Wireless Telecommunications Services Facility used primarily for public communication systems.
- (i) Residential Uses in 100% Affordable Housing Projects and Educator Housing Projects

Topography

The site is located in the middle of San Francisco and is relatively flat sitting at about 125ft throughout most of the site, with a range from roughly 120ft to 130 ft.



F44: Topography



Design

Artefact

To better bridge these ideas with the concept of a library as well as inclusive design and designing for disabilities, I made an artefact. Here I have written three stories that can give an idea of disabilities in daily life as well as highlight the disability rights movement and the struggles and perseverance that have got us to where we are today in terms of the fight for rights. Each of these stories has varying levels of clarity when it comes to the disability, and this comes from the idea that disabilities aren't always something you can visually see, there are plenty of disabilities that are invisible.

This artefact involves three stories of different characters and their experience with the world as an individual with a disability. Taking inspiration from the community as a whole and the 504 sit-in of 1977 that eventually furthered the fight for equality for disabled people.

This piece utilizes three of our five bodily senses: sight, touch, and sound. All three work together to tell the stories described here. Along with the audio portion of this artefact the stories are also written out in both English and braille. The combination of these senses allows us to engage with and understand the stories more deeply through our physical bodies.

Aiming to bring an awareness to disability rights and accessibility in daily life, this work also emphasizes the work of activists that led to where the fight for rights has landed us today, while simultaneously acknowledging the work that still needs to be done. The human element of the hand punched braille is inherently flawed, as is with any human made system. Any imperfections in the code may go unnoticed by new or inexperienced braille readers; however, these same imperfections would be evident to anyone who understands braille, this emphasizes the problem with society's outlook on the disabled struggle, you don't notice or care until it affects you personally.

Written out in both English and Braille as well as having an audio portion this artifact utilizes three of the five bodily senses: sight, touch, and sound in order to allow the viewer to fully dive into and experience the stories. Placing the reader into the story and allowing them to have a spatial bodily experience and gain an understanding of how our bodies interact with the world around us and highlight the disability fight that is still prominent today.

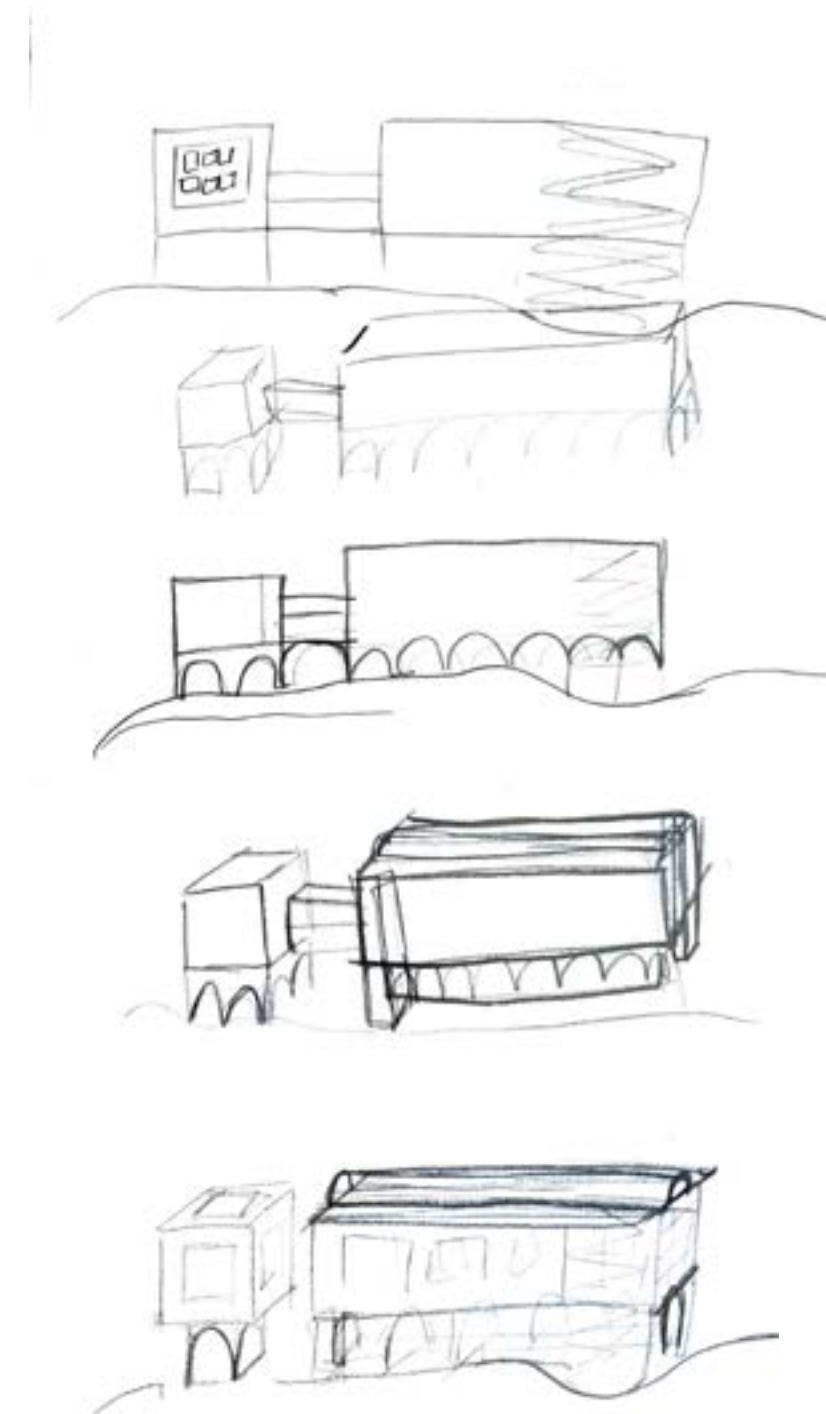


F45: Artefact

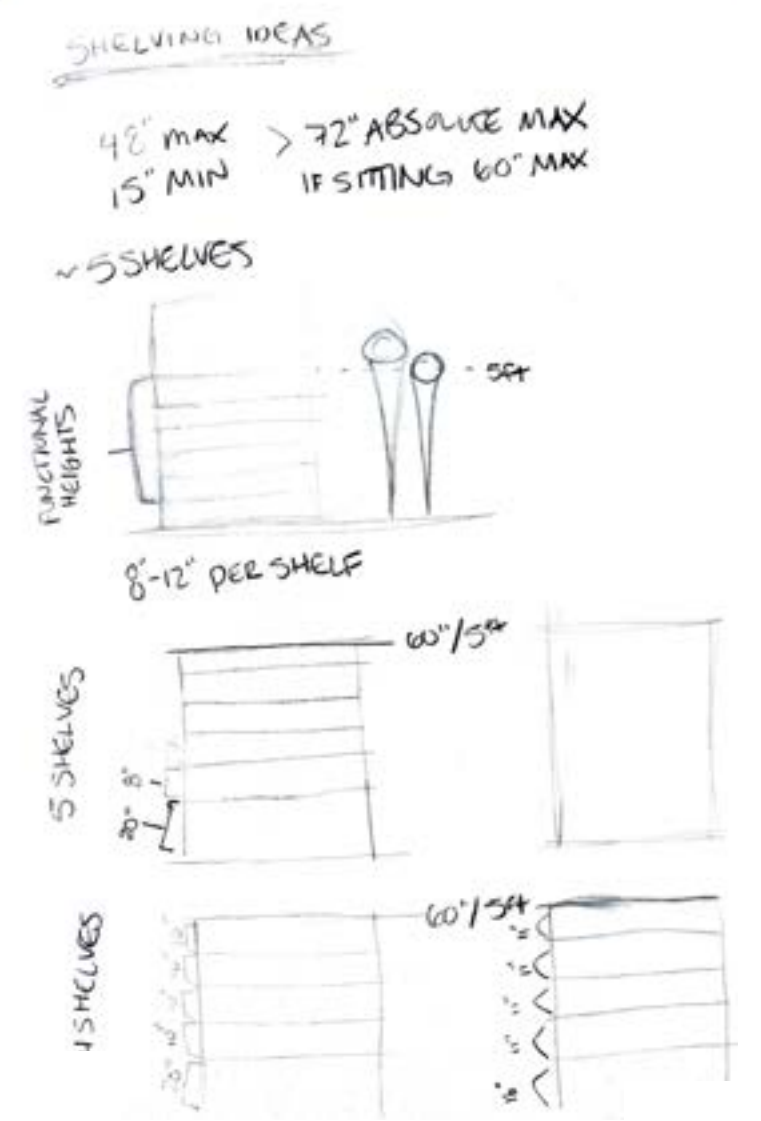
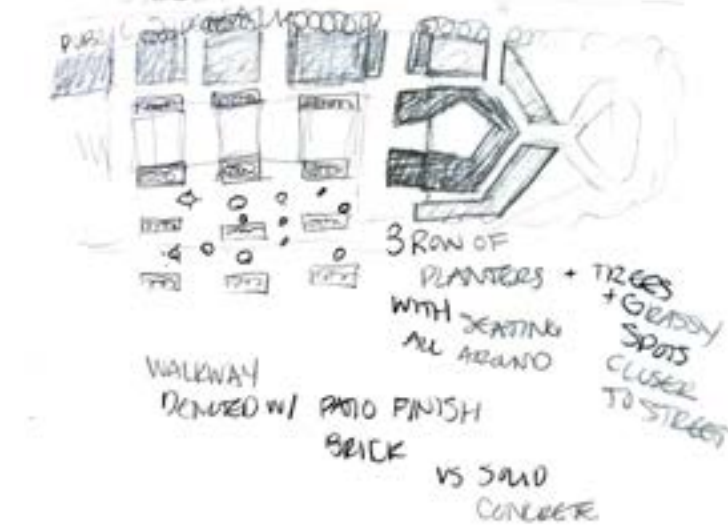
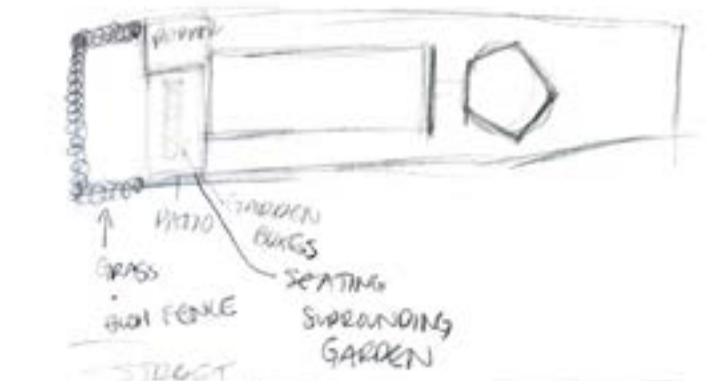
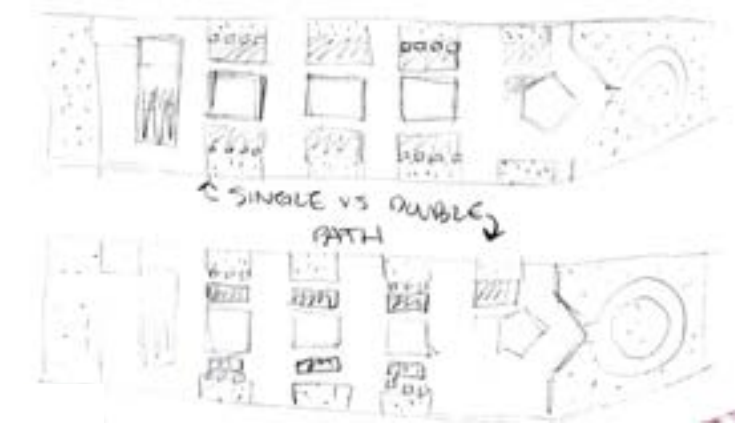
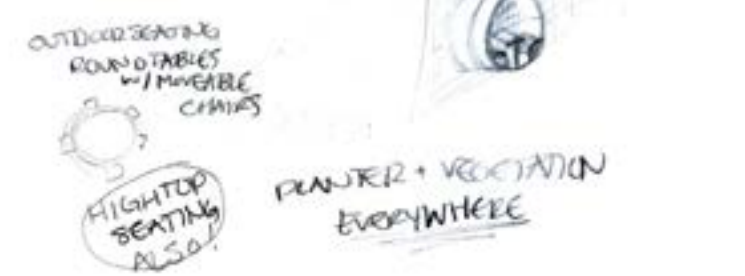
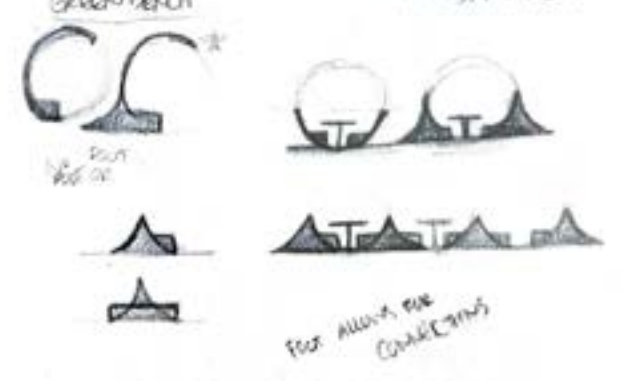
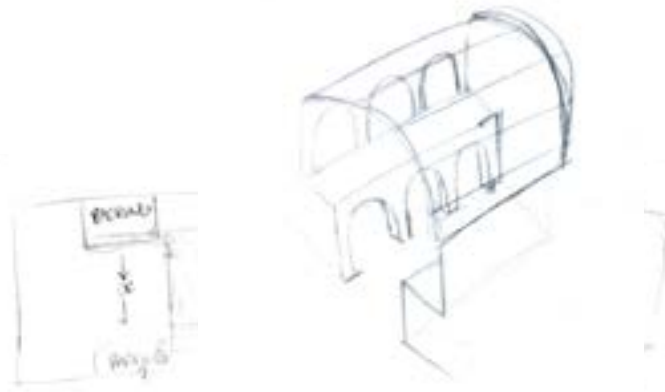
Design Process

My research about the effects of space and places on people's mental wellness led to a greater understanding of what elements needed to be incorporated into my final design. When it comes specifically to disabilities, many of them bring anxiety, depression, apprehension, and confusion to people's daily lives. The goal then is to create spaces that simplify complexities and provide a clear and easy understanding of the spatial environment in order to ease those anxieties. Three major elements that seem to do just that include daylighting, greenery, and ease of wayfinding. Incorporating these elements creates spaces that decrease stress levels while also providing a healthy amount of stimulation. A focus on daylighting, greenery, and ease of wayfinding were the key factors when it came to beginning the design process.

The design process began with many different drawings



F46: Process Sketches



F47: Process Sketches

F48: Process Sketches

Design



Library vs Human Library

The building is divided up into two distinct sections. The more formal, classic library space, and a second space designed for more personal interactions whether between individuals or by oneself. This space houses private study rooms as well as a more open sitting room that allows people to more easily interact especially during Human Library events that may be held here.

Library

Human Library

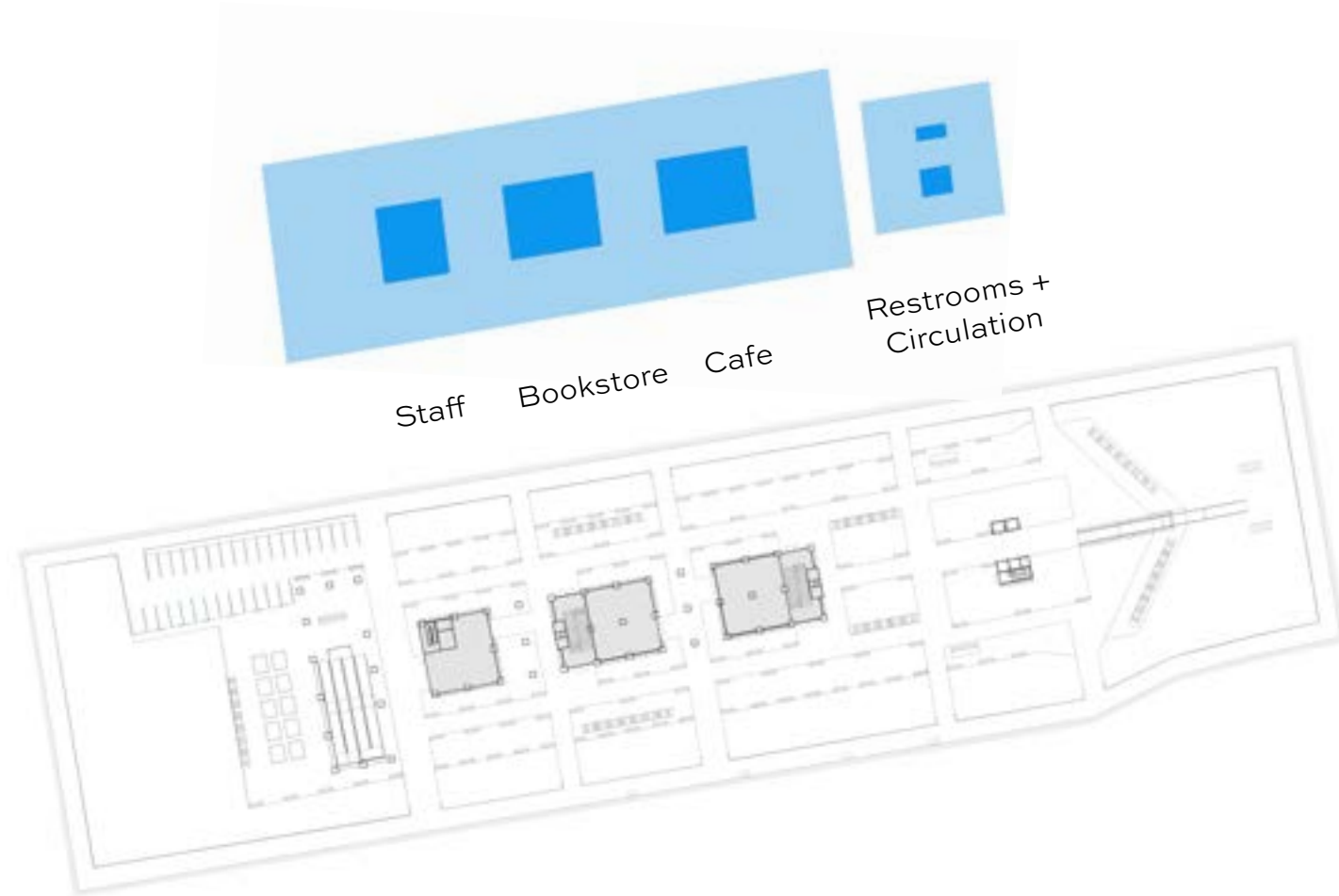


F50: Birds Eye View



F51: New Site Plan

Level 1

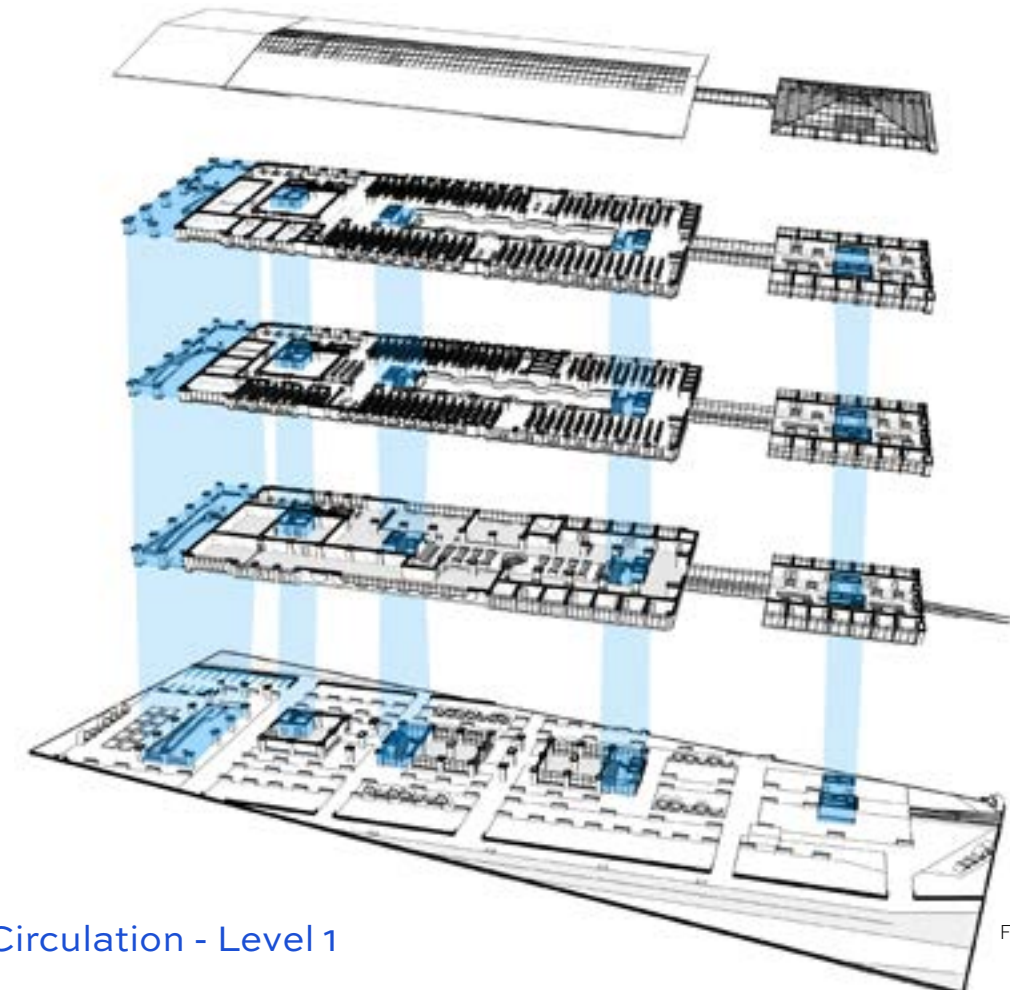


F52: Level 1 Diagram

When it comes to the design itself I had a focus on designing for all members of the public, this design needed to include a lot of public space. By elevating the library itself onto the 2nd floor of the building and leaving the ground floor more open to the public it creates a more welcoming entry into the site. The building only touches down in the areas denoted in a darker blue. Creating large overhangs, denoted in light blue, that allow for movement underneath and through the building. Each of these zones has entries into the library upstairs while also housing more commercial spaces, such as a “Friends of the library” bookstore and a cafe.

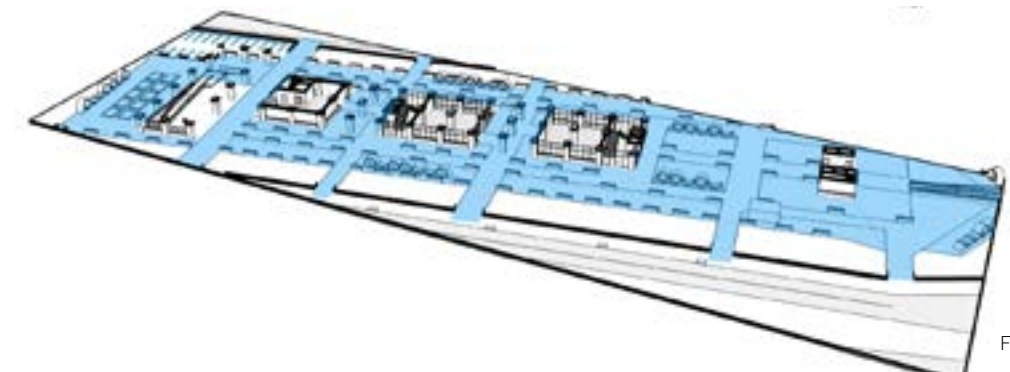
In these diagrams we can better understand the circulation that can happen around the structure of the building, with a majority of the site comprised of public areas. When we begin to stack the floors on top of each other we see how that public space transitions up and into the library.

Vertical Circulation



F53: Vertical Circulation

Public Circulation - Level 1



F54: Public Circulation

Public Space



F55: Section

Here we can better understand the open flow through the ground floor of the building. Seeing across to the other side of the structure through the pathways in which people can walk and explore.

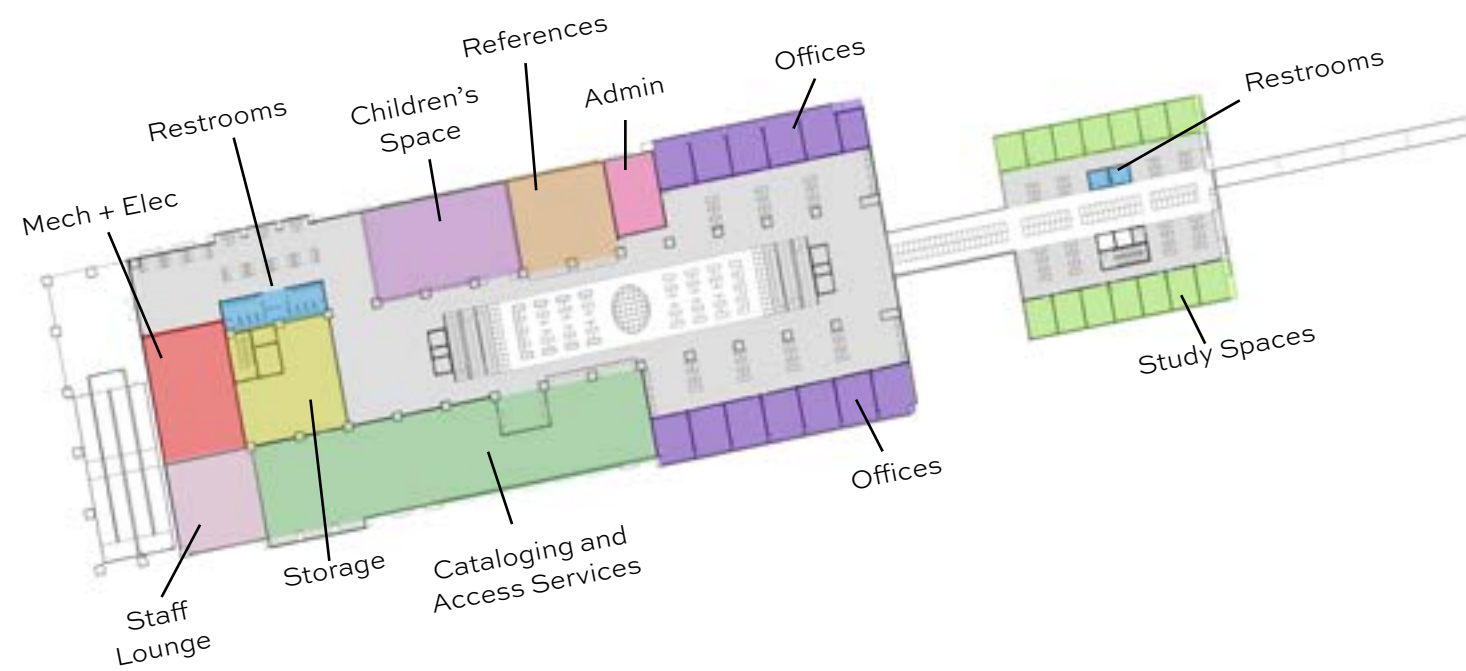
Complete with various seating types, plenty of greenery, and large pathways, the public space under the overhang invites people to hang out and relax, maybe having grabbed a coffee from the café seated on the ground level. And perhaps the user will be enticed upstairs and into the library, where they can engage and learn.



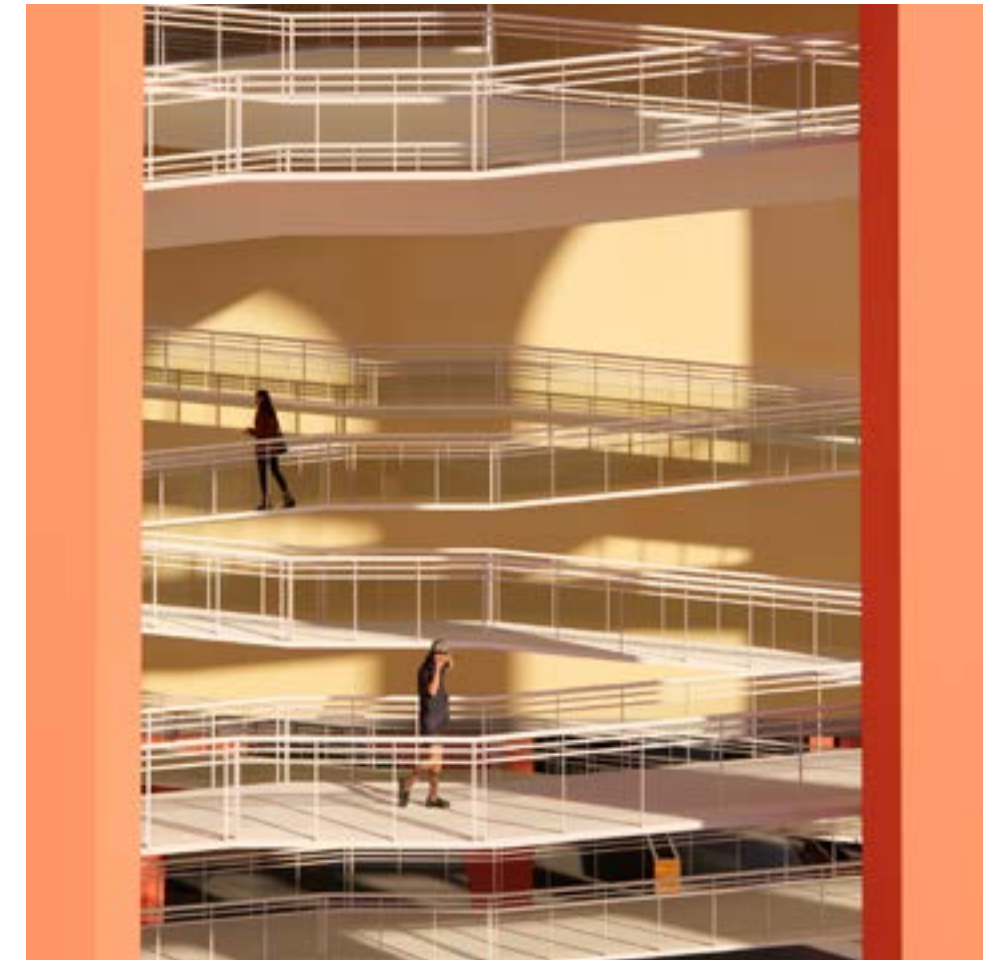
F56: Exterior

Level 2

Reaching the second level we can see the user's entry points into the building. This main level houses the majority of the staff and administrative spaces that allow a library to function, such as private offices and the cataloging department.



F57: Level 2



F58: Ramp

Atrium

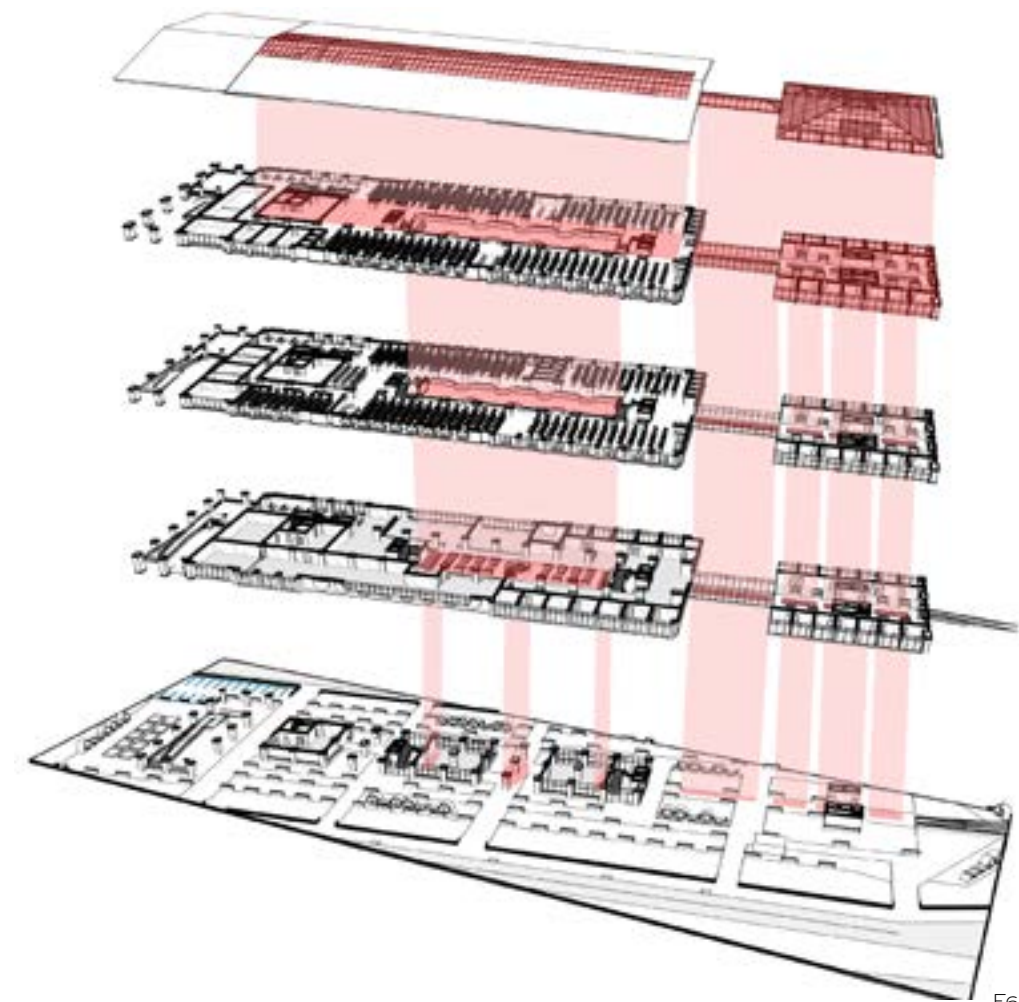
When it comes to inclusivity in design, and designing in a way that is welcoming and inviting to all people. Natural light, greenery, and easy wayfinding are key to an inviting environment, and all three can be found in the central atrium. Flowing water provides background noise that helps ease tensions in an otherwise quiet library, while still drowning out distracting sounds. The interior of the Main Library is complete with a large atrium that lets sunlight bask on everything but the books, as to not fast track their wear. Large semicircle balconies provide additional seating within the sunlight. And sections of clear flooring on the main level allow for light to touch the ground, connecting the top floor to the ground floor.



F59: Atrium

Day Lighting

In this diagram we can see the atrium and clear floorings denoted in pink and are able to visualize how light coming in through the roof moves through the building to touch the ground floor and create that deeper connection between where the user came from and where they are now, up and inside any level of the building.



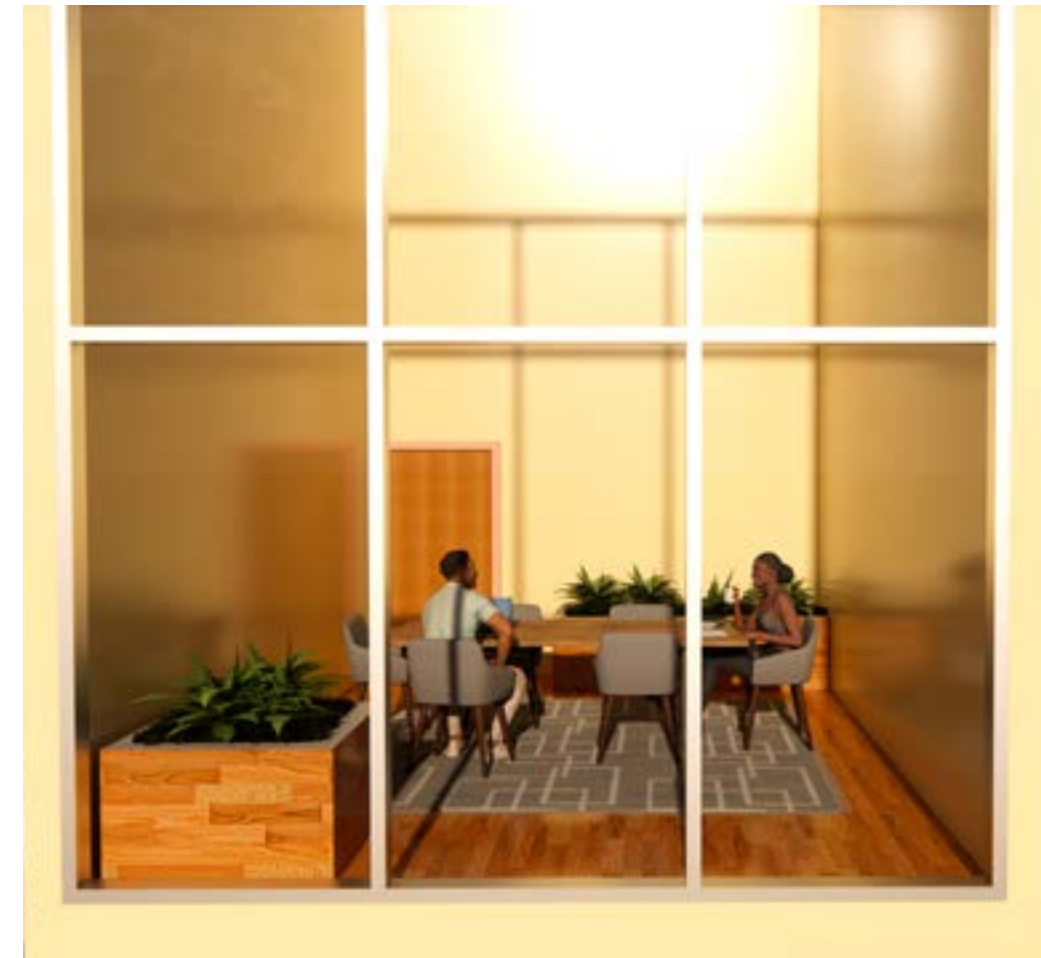
F60: Lighting

Seating

Various types of seating options are necessary for engaging and including all types of individuals looking to utilize this space. Over in the Human Library and more interactive side we have study rooms with large tables to house multiple people or have private sessions one on one. This set up allows for those interpersonal connections to develop and for these important discussions to happen. In addition to private study rooms, other seating options throughout the library include these circular booths on the outside walls of the main library area. These booths allow for closer proximity to any books one wishes to read while still providing some semblance of a private enclosure to occupy, whether alone or with others, these booths create an environment that looks outside to the big picture of the San Francisco streetscape and looks inside through the stacks of books and knowledge. Bringing the ideas of the human library over into the main space as well. Other seating types throughout the library include traditional desks and sofas for users' choice of seating that's conducive to their comfort level.



F61: Booths



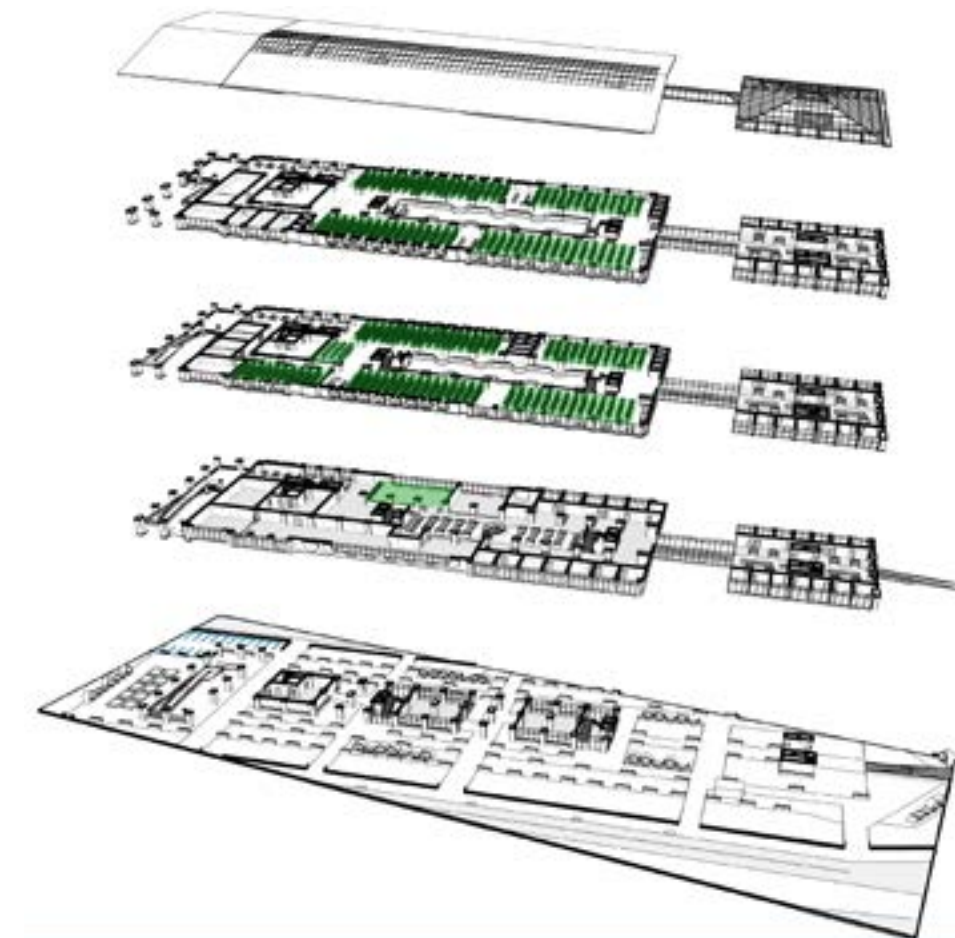
F62: Study Room

Bookshelves

The general stacks of books and collections throughout the library are located mainly on the 3rd and 4th floors. The shelves used throughout the library are specially designed to appeal to people's natural reaching heights. Suspended from the ceiling the lowest shelf sits at 16" high, while the highest shelf is only at 5'. This arrangement allows users in wheelchairs to reach every book they could need, while also benefiting shorter persons, and allowing libraries to clear the pathways of any stepstools that are often found blocking the path. Additionally, these lower heights can provide options for display areas above the books themselves.



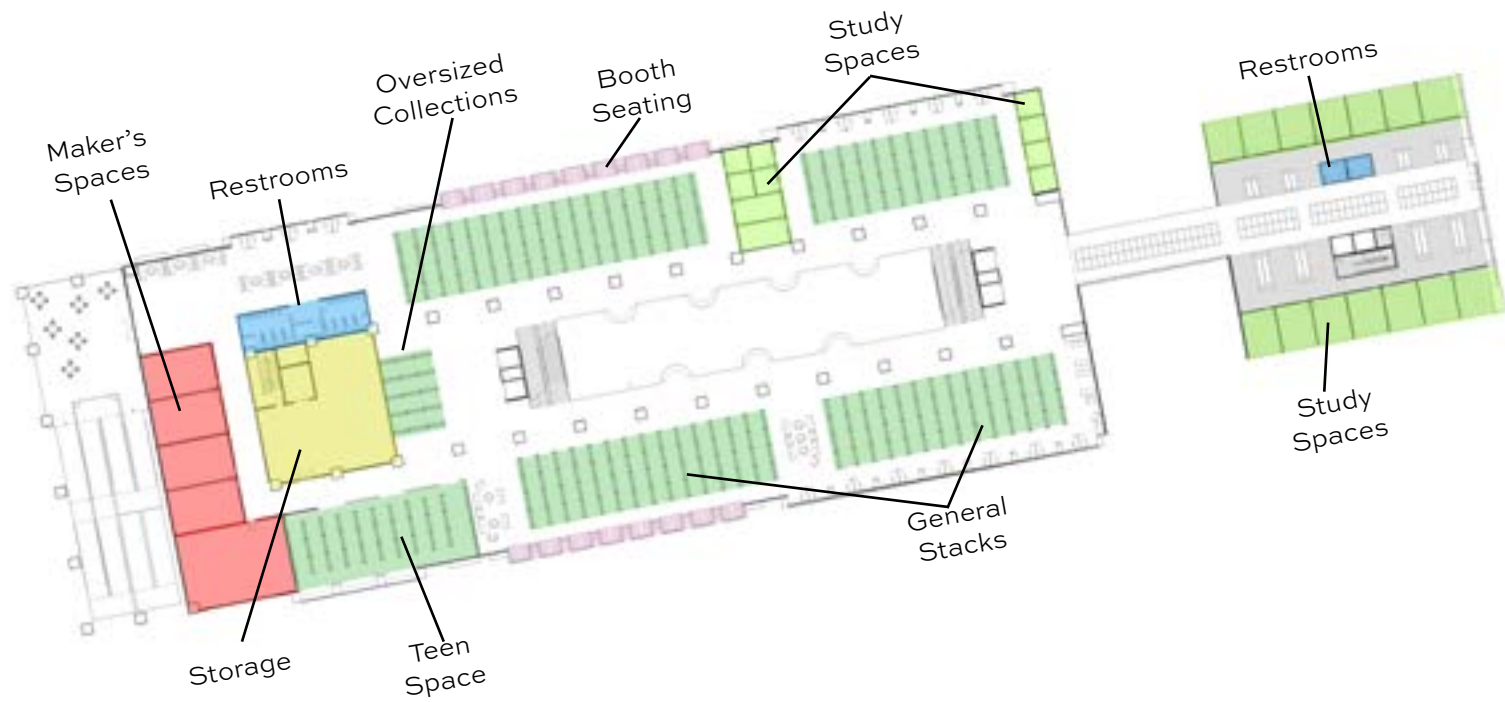
F63: Bookshelves



F64: Bookshelves Plan

Level 3

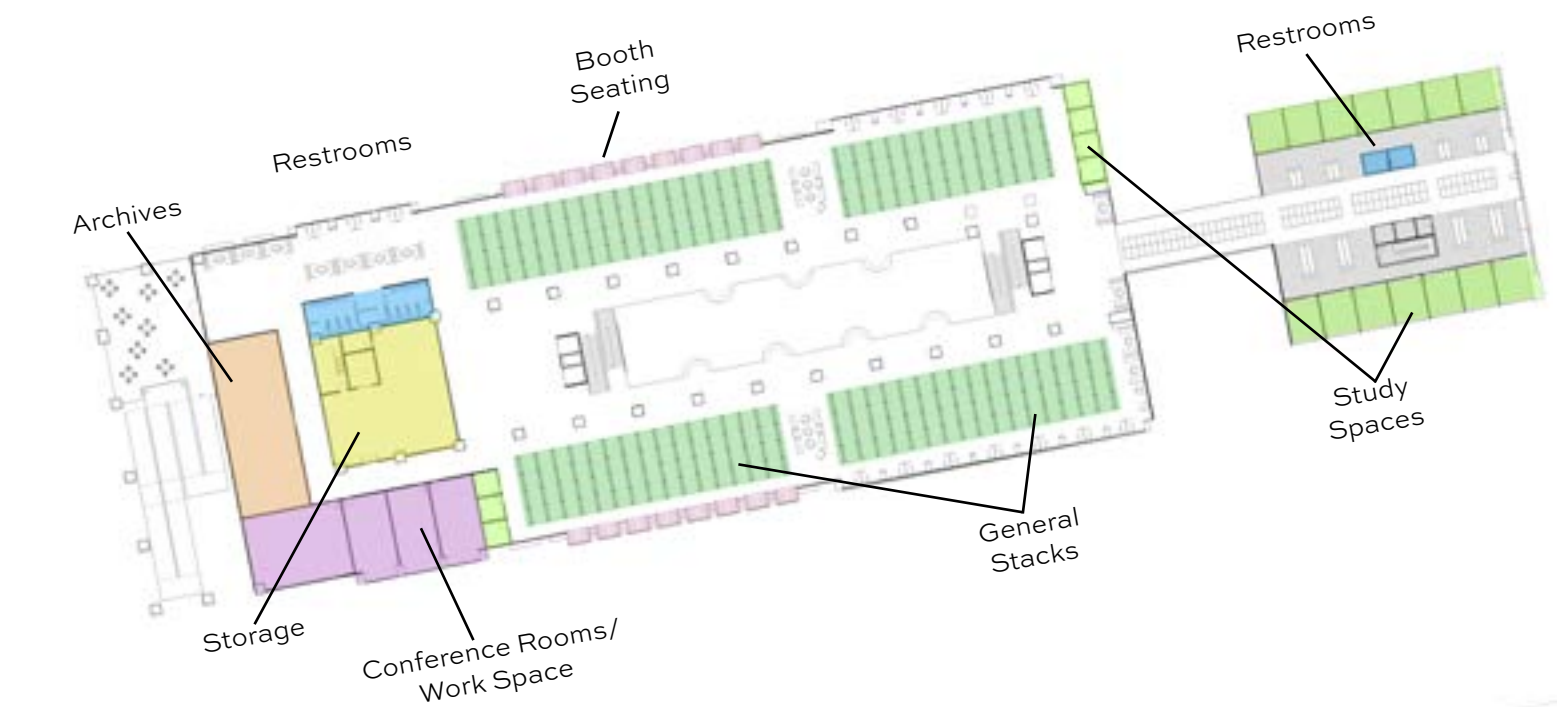
The library also contains various multimedia and makers spaces on the third floor, which users can use to create videos, podcasts and more. By incorporating these makers spaces users are provided with even more reason for participating in and engaging with the library, and lets those users share and express their own stories and ideas through those various medias.



F65: Level 3

Level 4

The fourth-floor plan looks very similar, housing larger conference or study spaces and the archive collections.



F66: Level 4

Conclusion

Storytelling and perhaps even more importantly understanding are the best ways to begin designing better. The more we are willing to and allow ourselves to engage with other perspectives and ideas in a respectful manner, the better spaces we can create. Inclusivity is a necessity in our public spaces, allowing for an easier more accessible public domain benefits every single one of us, and will help push us forward into a brighter future.



F67: Interior



F68: Exterior Image



Appendix



References

Case Studies:

- Antoine Predock Architects PC. (2022). CANADIAN MUSEUM FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Retrieved October 10, 2022, from <http://www.predock.com/CMHR/CMHR.html>
- ArchDaily. (2018, May 3). SESC 24 de Maio / Paulo mendes da rocha + MMBB arquitetos. ArchDaily. Retrieved October 10, 2022, from <https://www.archdaily.com/893553/sesc-24-de-maio-paulo-mendes-da-rocha-plus-mmbb-arquitetos>
- ArchDaily. (2022). Goodjob! Center Kashiba / Onishimaki + Hyakudayuki architects. ArchDaily. Retrieved October 11, 2022, from <https://www.archdaily.com/945934/goodjob-center-kashiba-onishimaki-plus-hyakudayuki-architects>
- Arquitectura Viva. (2020, May 28). SESC 24 de Maio, São Paulo - Paulo Mendes da Rocha ; MMBB ,. Arquitectura Viva. Retrieved October 10, 2022, from <https://arquitecturaviva.com/works/sesc-24-de-maio-so-paulo->
- Beaumont, E. (2020, July 26). Social climber: SESC 24 de maio cultural centre in São Paulo, Brazil by Paulo Mendes da Rocha and MMBB arquitetos. Architectural Review. Retrieved October 10, 2022, from <https://www.architectural-review.com/buildings/social-climber-sesc-24-de-maio-cultural-centre-in-sao-paulo-brazil-by-paulo-mendes-da-rocha-and-mmbb-arquitetos>
- Canadian Museum for Human Rights. (2022). Architecture: A Journey From Darkness to Light. CMHR. Retrieved October 10, 2022, from <https://humanrights.ca/about/architecture>
- Good Job! Project. (2022). *Good job! center kashiba: グッドジョブ!センター 香芝 "English. Good Job! Center KASHIBA | グッドジョブセンター 香芝*. Retrieved October 10, 2022, from <http://goodjobcenter.com/english/>
- Japan Institute of Design Promotion. (2017). Facilities of Social Welfare service. Good Design Award. Retrieved October 10, 2022, from <https://www.g-mark.org/award/describe/45789?locale=en>
- O'Brien, C. (2019, June 24). How San Francisco's public libraries are embracing their changing role. Shareable. <https://www.shareable.net/how-san-francisco-public-libraries-are-embracing-their-changing-role/>
- Paulo Mendes da Rocha. (2018). SESC 24 de Maio. MCHAP. Retrieved October 10, 2022, from <https://www.mchap.co/MCHAPprojects/SESC-24-de-Maio>
- Pei Cobb Freed & Partners Architects LLP. (2023). Pei Cobb freed & partners. Pei Cobb Freed & Partners. <https://www.pcf-p.com/>
- San Francisco Public Library. (2023). San Francisco Public Library. <https://sfpl.org/>

Research:

- Anti-Defamation League. (2015, June 19). A brief history of the disability rights movement. ADL. Retrieved October 10, 2022, from <https://www.adl.org/education/resources/backgrounders/disability-rights-movement>
- Barnard Center for Research on Women. (n.d.). No body is disposable. Barnard Center for Research on Women. Retrieved October 10, 2022, from <https://bcrw.barnard.edu/no-body-is-disposable-series/>

- Bureau, U. S. C. (2022, October 6). Census.gov. Retrieved October 10, 2022, from <https://www.census.gov/>
- Carmel, J. (2020, July 22). Before the A.D.A., there was Section 504. The New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/22/us/504-sit-in-disability-rights.html>
- Cone, K. (2022, March 23). Short history of the 504 sit in. Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund. <https://dredf.org/504-sit-in-20th-anniversary/short-history-of-the-504-sit-in/>
- Crosbie, M. J. (2018, December 19). Why architects still struggle with disability requirements 28 years after passage of the ada. Common Edge. Retrieved October 10, 2022, from <https://commonedge.org/why-architects-still-struggle-with-disability-requirements-28-years-after-passage-of-the-ada/>
- Dalle Pezze, B. (2006). Heidegger on Gelassenheit. Minerva - An Internet Journal of Philosophy 10.
- Econometrica, Inc. (2021, November 18). Remembering the section 504 sit-in. Econometrica, Inc. <https://econometricainc.com/blog/2021/04/06/remembering-the-section-504-sit-in/>
- Gissen, D. (2022). The architecture of disability: Buildings, cities, and landscapes beyond access. University of Minnesota Press.
- Grim, A. (2015, July 8). Sitting-in for disability rights: The Section 504 protests of the 1970s. National Museum of American History. <https://americanhistory.si.edu/blog/sitting-disability-rights-section-504-protests-1970s>
- Human Library Organization. (2023, May 9). Unjudge someone. The Human Library Organization. <https://humanlibrary.org/>
- McCann, A. (2022, September 27). 2022's Best & Worst Cities for people with disabilities. WalletHub. Retrieved October 10, 2022, from <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-worst-cities-for-people-with-disabilities/7164>
- McCann, R. (n.d.). Wild Beauty: A Sensuous Ethics of Architecture.
- Mingus, M. (2017, August 6). Forced intimacy: An ableist norm. Leaving Evidence. Retrieved October 10, 2022, from <https://leavingevidence.wordpress.com/2017/08/06/forced-intimacy-an-ableist-norm/>
- Orfield, S. J. (2022, June 24). When it comes to design for the disabled, let the science lead the process. ArchDaily. Retrieved October 10, 2022, from <https://www.archdaily.com/984212/when-it-comes-to-design-for-the-disabled-let-the-science-lead-the-process>
- Ottendorf, L. (2020, July 29). American cities are a nightmare for disabled people. coronavirus is giving us a chance to change that. Mic. Retrieved October 10, 2022, from <https://www.mic.com/impact/american-cities-are-a-nightmare-for-disabled-people-coronavirus-is-giving-us-a-chance-to-change-that-30165313>
- Perec, G. (1982). An Attempt at Exhausting a Place in Paris.
- Perez-Gomez, A. (n.d.). architecture: the space of participation.
- Pezze, B. D. (2006). Heidegger on Gelassenheit . Minerva - An Internet Journal of Philosophy 10, 94–122. <https://doi.org/ISSN 1393-614X>

- Rose, K. (2018, August 5). Can you tell the difference between accommodation and accessibility? Medium. Retrieved October 10, 2022, from <https://medium.com/disability-acts/can-you-tell-the-difference-between-accommodation-and-accessibility-7a7afd9dacd7>
- Shoot, B. (2017, November 9). The 1977 Disability Rights Protest That Broke Records and changed laws. Atlas Obscura. <https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/504-sit-in-san-francisco-1977-disability-rights-advocacy>
- StateraArts. (2020). Disability justice. StateraArts. Retrieved October 10, 2022, from <https://stateraarts.org/disability-justice>
- Stouhi, D. (2021, August 2). “our cities are not designed for the disabled” according to CityLab. ArchDaily. Retrieved October 10, 2022, from <https://www.archdaily.com/966066/our-cities-are-not-designed-for-the-disabled>
- Temple University. (2022, February 15). Disability rights timeline. College of Education and Human Development, Institute on Disabilities. <https://disabilities.temple.edu/resources/disability-rights-timeline>
- United Nations. (2019). Disability-inclusive language guidelines - UN geneva. Disability- Inclusive Language Guidelines. <https://www.ungeneva.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/Disability-Inclusive-Language-Guidelines.pdf>
- Valencia, N. (2019, September 16). Neutral architecture doesn't exist. ArchDaily. <https://www.archdaily.com/923803/neutral-architecture-doesnt-exist>
- Zinn Education Project. (2022, July 25). April 28, 1977: Disability rights sit-ins force enactment of Section 504. Zinn Education Project. <https://www.zinnedproject.org/news/tdih/sit-ins-force-504>

Site:

- American Legal Publishing. (2023, March 28). Sec. 211. P (public) districts. American Legal Publishing. https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/san_francisco/latest/sf_planning/o-o-o-50175
- American Lung Association. (2022). American Lung Association State of the air 2022. State of the Air | American Lung Association. Retrieved October 10, 2022, from <https://www.lung.org/research/sota>
- California, S. of. (2023). Region San Francisco Bay Area. San Francisco Bay Area Region- California Climate Adaptation Strategy. <https://climateresilience.ca.gov/regions/sf-bay-area.html>
- Cedar Lake Ventures, Inc. . (n.d.). Weatherspark.com. San Francisco Climate, Weather By Month, Average Temperature (California, United States) - Weather Spark. <https://weatherspark.com/y/557/Average-Weather-in-San-Francisco-California-United-States-Year-Round>
- Google. (2022). Google Maps. Google maps. Retrieved October 12, 2022, from <https://www.google.com/maps>
- San Francisco Planning. (2023). San Francisco Property Information Map. Sf Pim Large Map. <https://sfplanninggis.org/PIM/map.html?search=0703002>
- Walk Score. (2022). Get your walk score. Walk Score. Retrieved October 10, 2022, from <https://www.walkscore.com/>

Previous Studio Experience

2nd Year

Fall 2019: Charlott Greub
Boathouse
Land Artist's Studio

Spring 2020: Emily Guo
Dwelling
Safe House

3rd Year

Fall 2020: Regin Schwaen
City Puzzle and Puzzle City
Nekoma

Spring 2021: Cindy Urness
Surgery Clinic
Red River Pavilions

4th Year

Fall 2021: David Crutchfield
Miami High Rise

Spring 2022: David Crutchfield
Marvin Windows Competition
Affordable Housing

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my appreciation for all of the people who have supported me and guided me through this thesis project over the past year. Firstly, I would like to thank my friends and fellow colleagues for giving me helpful insight, understanding, and having lent me an ear when I needed it. I would not be where I am today without your support.

I would also like to thank my family for their constant support and encouragement throughout this process, and for always believing in me and my abilities.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the faculty and advisors who have offered advice and guidance, especially Stephen Wischer, without whom my thesis would not have taken the direction that it did. I have expanded my worldview and understanding of architecture in ways I never anticipated, and I am very grateful for that.

Creating true inclusivity in architecture is no easy task, and I learned so much surrounding the topic of ableism, and disabilities both within the realm of architecture and outside of it. I hope this thesis can, at the very least, provide an understanding of the importance of accessibility and inclusivity and I plan to keep implementing these ideas throughout my professional and personal life.

Thank You,
Grace Dietz