

# RETURNING HOME

*Collective Dwelling  
through Incremental Architecture*



*the American Dream*





*Council Homes, Hackney (UK)*



*Wohnpark A11-En10a, Vienna (Austria)*



*Woesten Social Housing, Vleteren (Belgium)*



*Knickerbocker Village, New York City*



*Soviet Era Apartments, Belgrade (Serbia)*

28



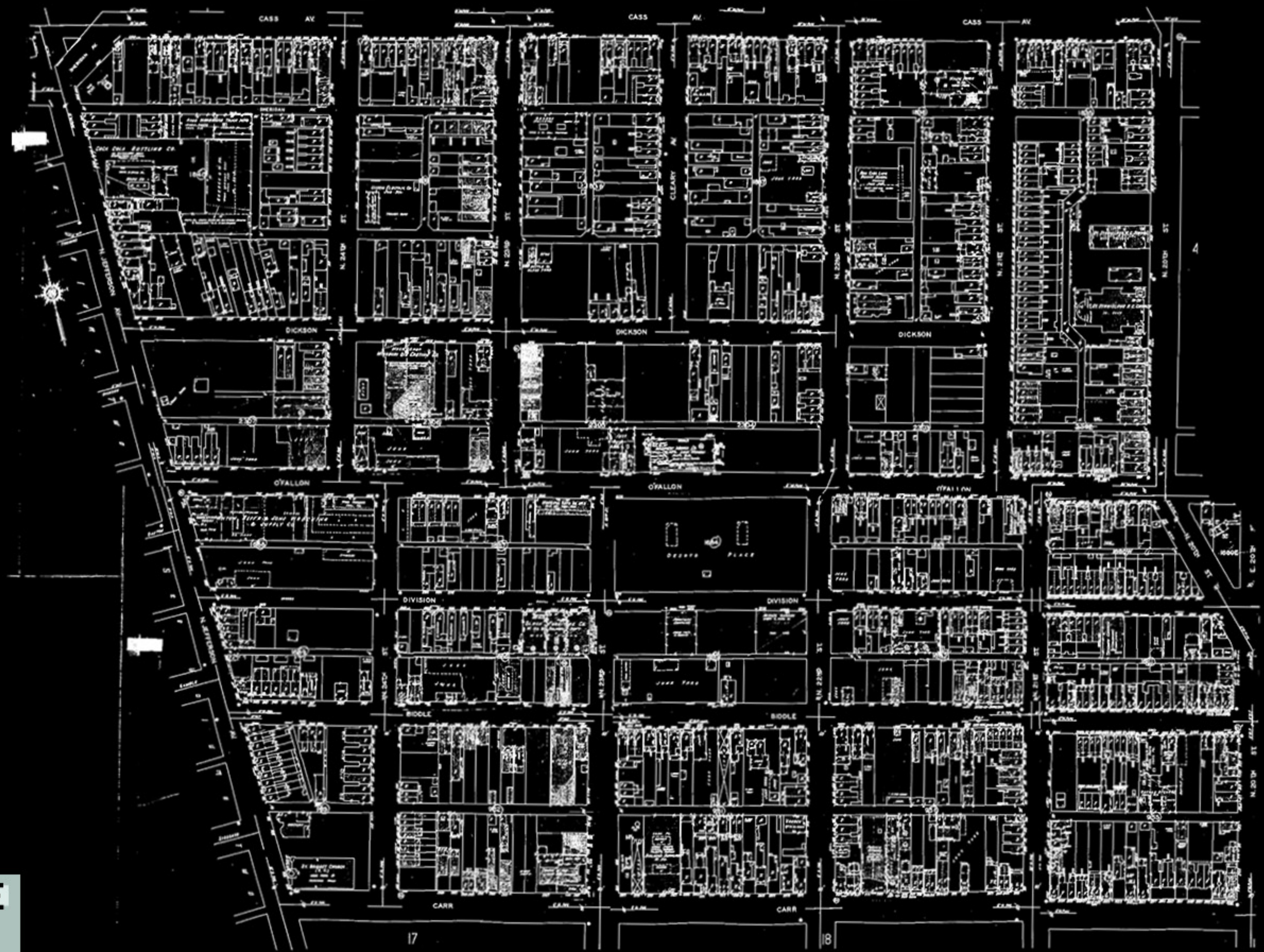
*Pruitt-Igoe, 1954 St. Louis*





*Carr Sq. Tenements, before Pruitt-Igoe*

**PRE-PRUITT-IGOE  
SITE DIAGRAM**





# PRUITT HOMES

1-2-3  
4-5 BEDROOM MODERN APARTMENTS  
\$4300 Per Month, including all utilities, stove and refrigerator  
A  
2401 DICKSON STREET - GA. 1-3554

ST. LOUIS HOUSING AUTHORITY

ALL APARTMENTS AVAILABLE  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE  
COMMISSIONERS  
ST. LOUIS HOUSING AUTHORITY  
1200 MARKET STREET  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63102











*The Death of Modernist Architecture*





ONE WAY

NO PARKING ANY TIME

STOP

BLACKWELL

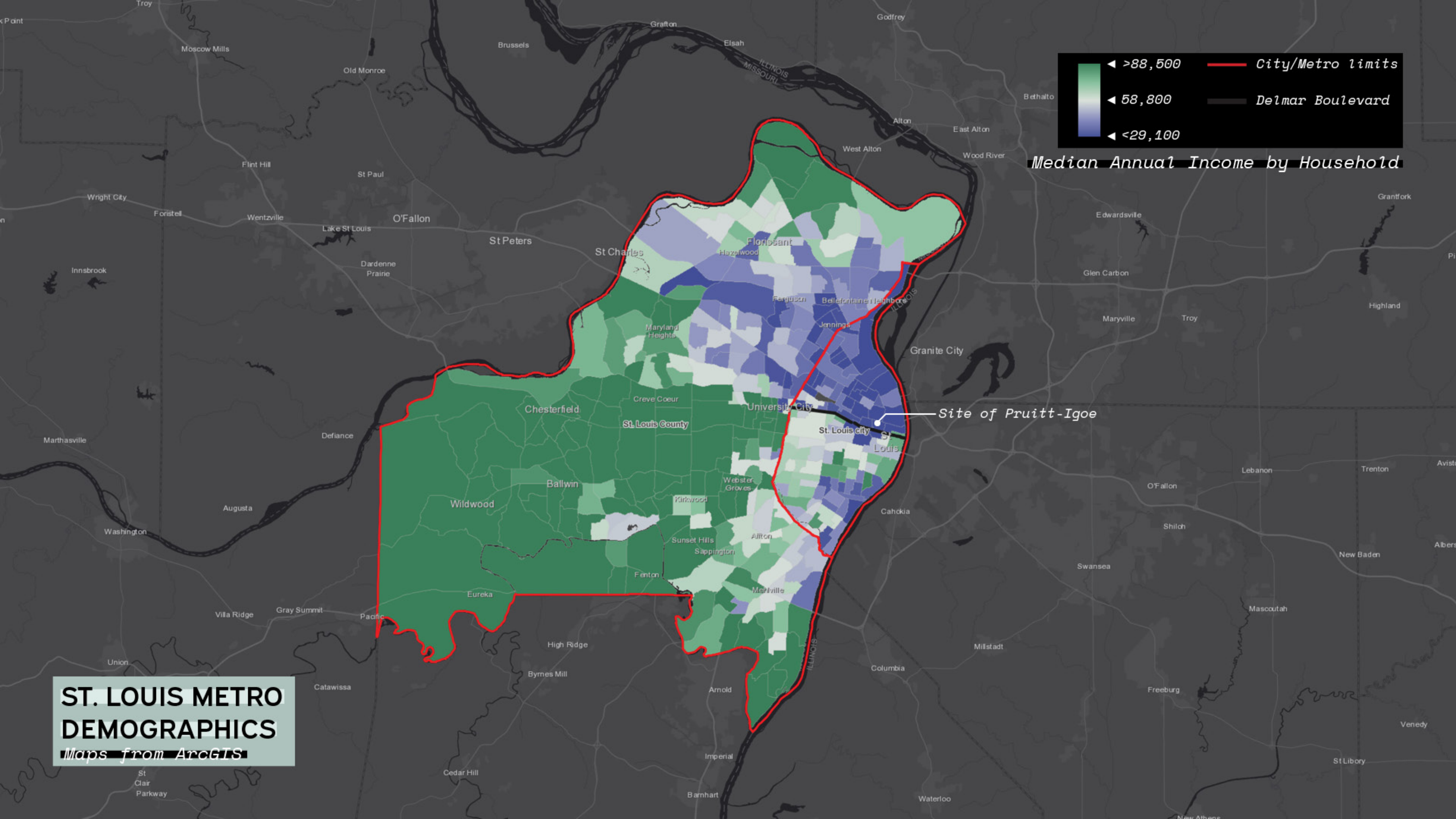
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING







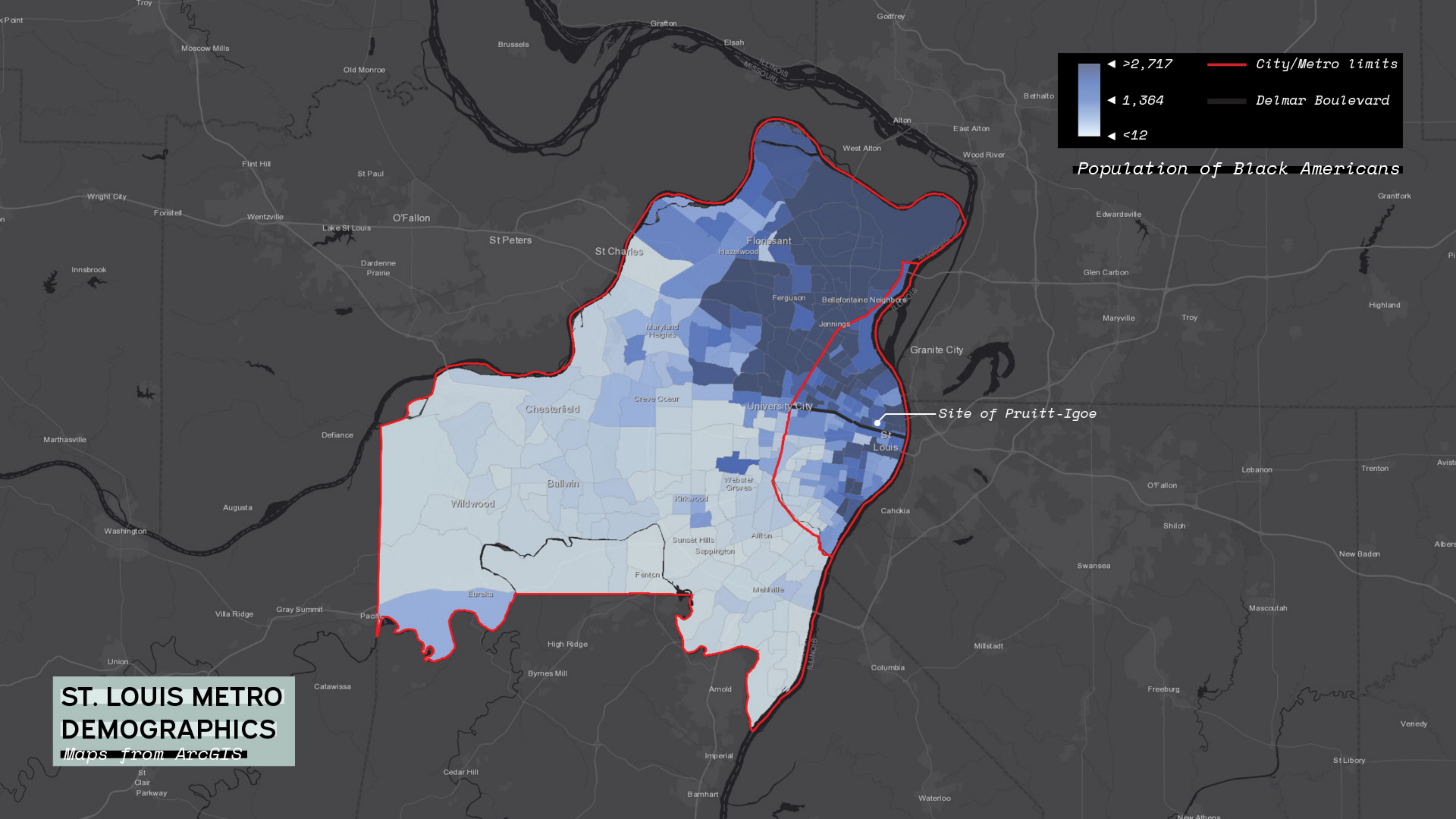
*Current Site of Pruitt-Igoe*



*Median Annual Income by Household*

**ST. LOUIS METRO DEMOGRAPHICS**  
*Maps from ArcGIS*

*Site of Pruitt-Igoe*



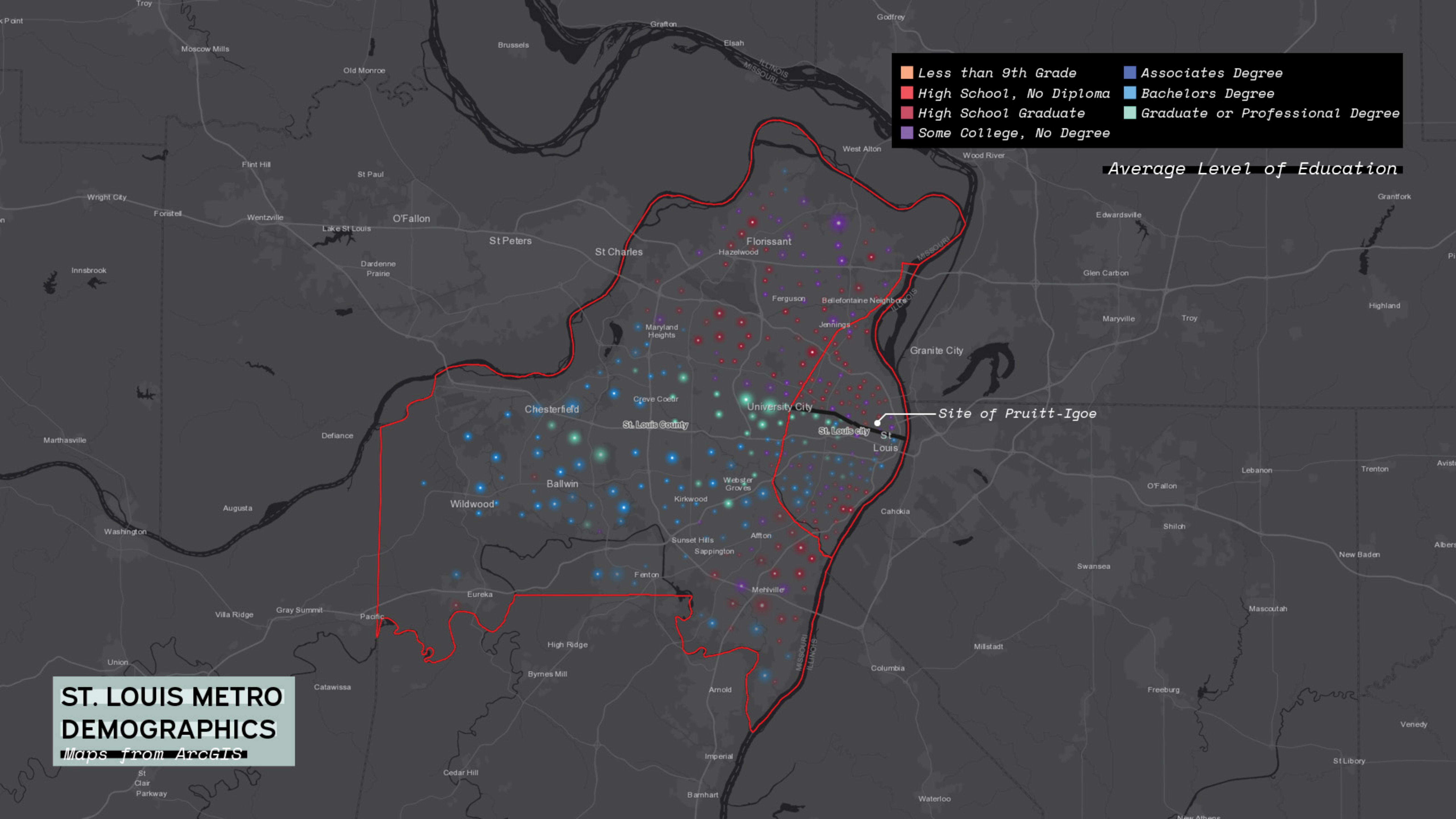
Population of Black Americans

**ST. LOUIS METRO  
DEMOGRAPHICS**  
*Maps from ArcGIS*

Site of Pruitt-Igoe



**Average Level of Education**



**ST. LOUIS METRO DEMOGRAPHICS**  
*Maps from ArcGIS*



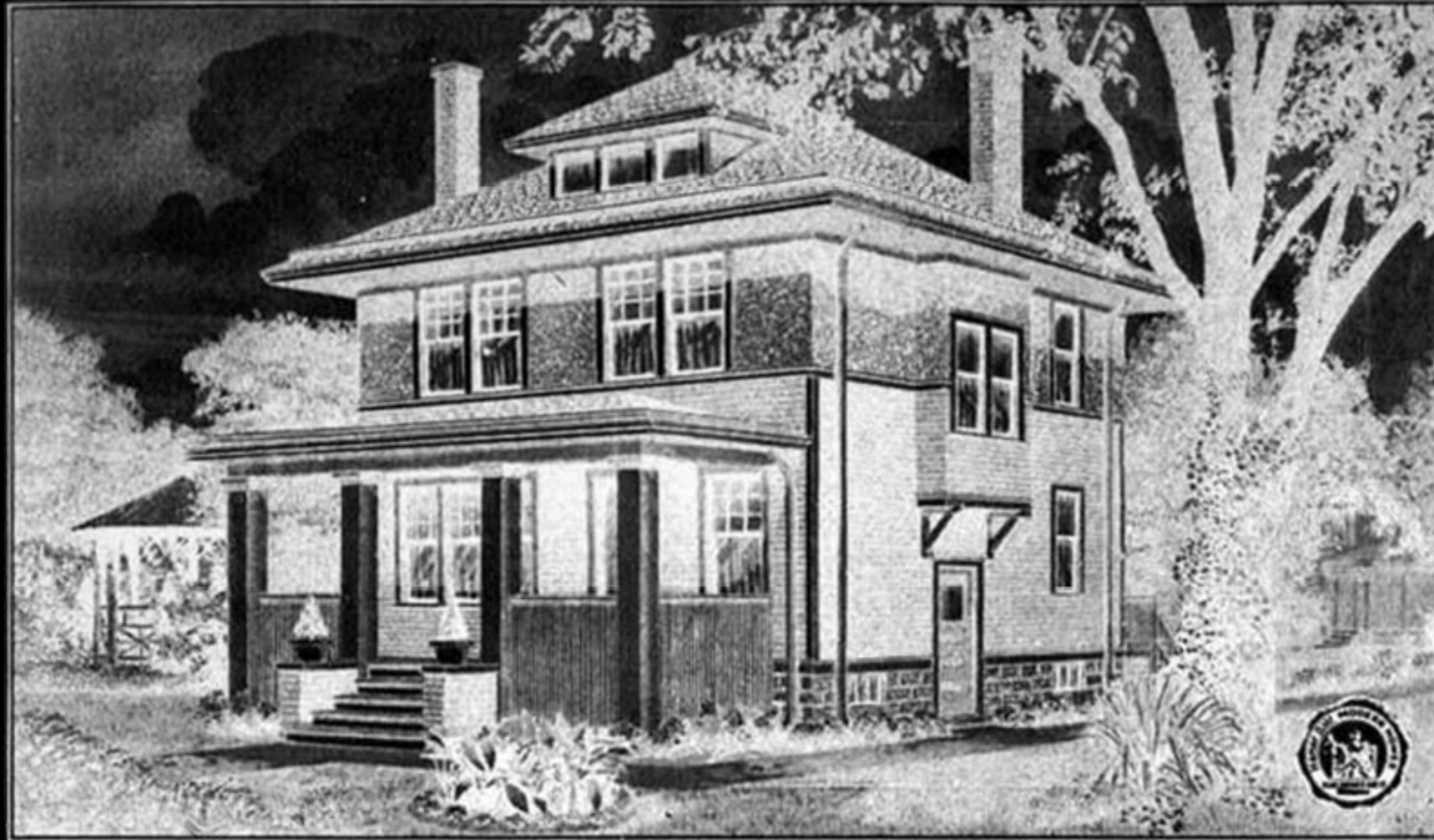


*Home - Earth from afar*



*Oneiric Space*





## The CASTLETON

No. 227 Not Cut or Fitted.

Honor Bill

\$1,989<sup>00</sup>

At the price quoted we will furnish all the material to build this eight-room house. Price does not include cement, brick or plaster.

**First Floor** Four nicely arranged rooms on this floor, well lighted, and with plenty of room for furniture.

**Second Floor** Four bedrooms, bathroom and linen closet on this floor.

**Height of Ceilings** The basement has concrete floor and is 7 feet from floor to ceiling. The first floor is 9 feet from floor to ceiling; second floor, 8 feet 6 inches from floor to ceiling.

We furnish our best "Quality Guaranteed" mill work, shown on pages 118 and 119. Interior doors are five-cross panel, with trim and flooring to match, all yellow pine, in beautiful grain and color.

Paint for three coats outside, your choice of color. Varnish and wood filler for interior finish. Chicago Design hardware, see page 120.

Built on a concrete block foundation, excavated under the entire house.

Our Guarantee Protects You—Order Your House From This Book. Price Includes Plans and Specifications. For prices of Plumbing, Heating, Wiring, Electric Fixtures and Shades see page 115.

### OPTIONS

- Wood Siding on second story, \$70.00 extra.
- Sheet Plaster and Plaster Finish to take the place of wood lath, \$195.00 extra. See page 114.
- Oriental Asphalt Shingles, instead of wood shingles, \$22.00 extra.
- Fire-Chief Shingle Roll Roofing, Red or Sea Green in color, instead of wood shingles, \$6.00 less.
- Floors, Trim, Doors, etc., for living room, dining room, hall, den and stairs, furnished in clear red oak for \$142.00 extra.
- Clear Maple Flooring furnished for kitchen, pantry and bathroom, instead of yellow pine, no extra charge.
- Storm Doors and Windows, \$88.00 extra.
- Screen Doors and Windows, black wire, \$60.00 extra; galvanized wire, \$63.00 extra.
- If Mantel is not wanted, \$53.00 less.
- Should be built on a lot about 35 feet wide.

See Description of "Honor Bilt" Houses on Page 7.









A THE HUT



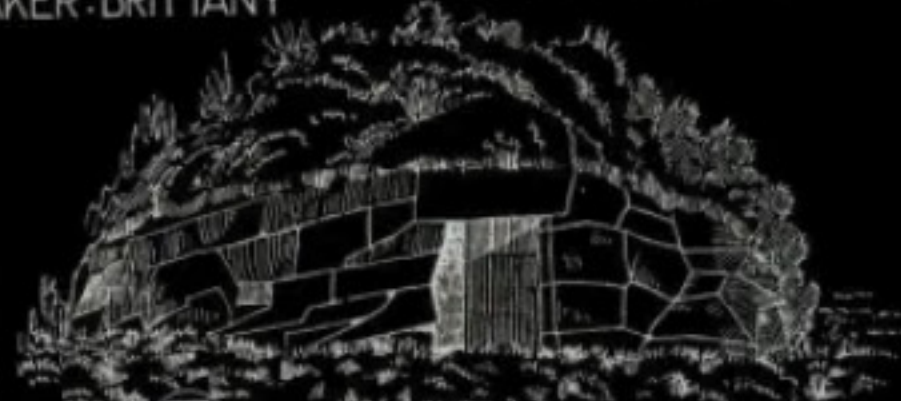
B MONOLITH:  
LOCMARIAKER: BRITTANY



C SHIELINGS:  
JURA: SCOTLAND



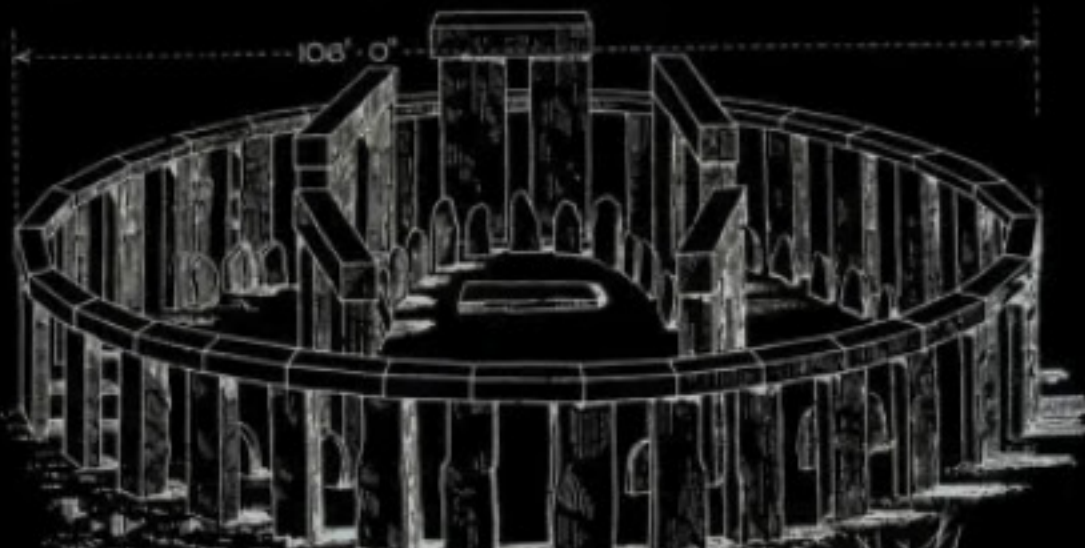
D BEEHIVE HUTS: LEWIS: SCOTLAND



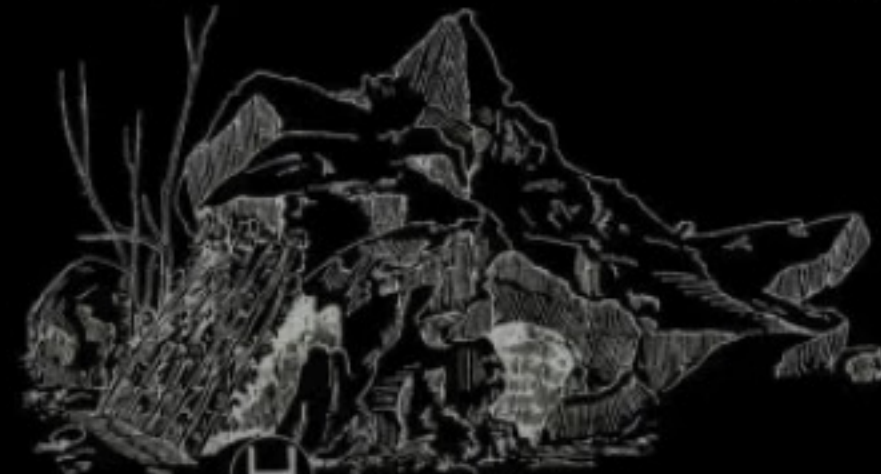
E BEEHIVE HUT: IRELAND



F DOLMEN: N<sup>o</sup>. REGNIER: SAVOY



G STONEHENGE (AS RESTORED BY WALTIRE)



H THE CAVE



J THE TENT









M·AGRIPPA·L·F·COSTERTIVM·FECIT





LUDWIG BECK

LUDWIG BECK

SU

PUMA

Restaurant Rischard

STADT









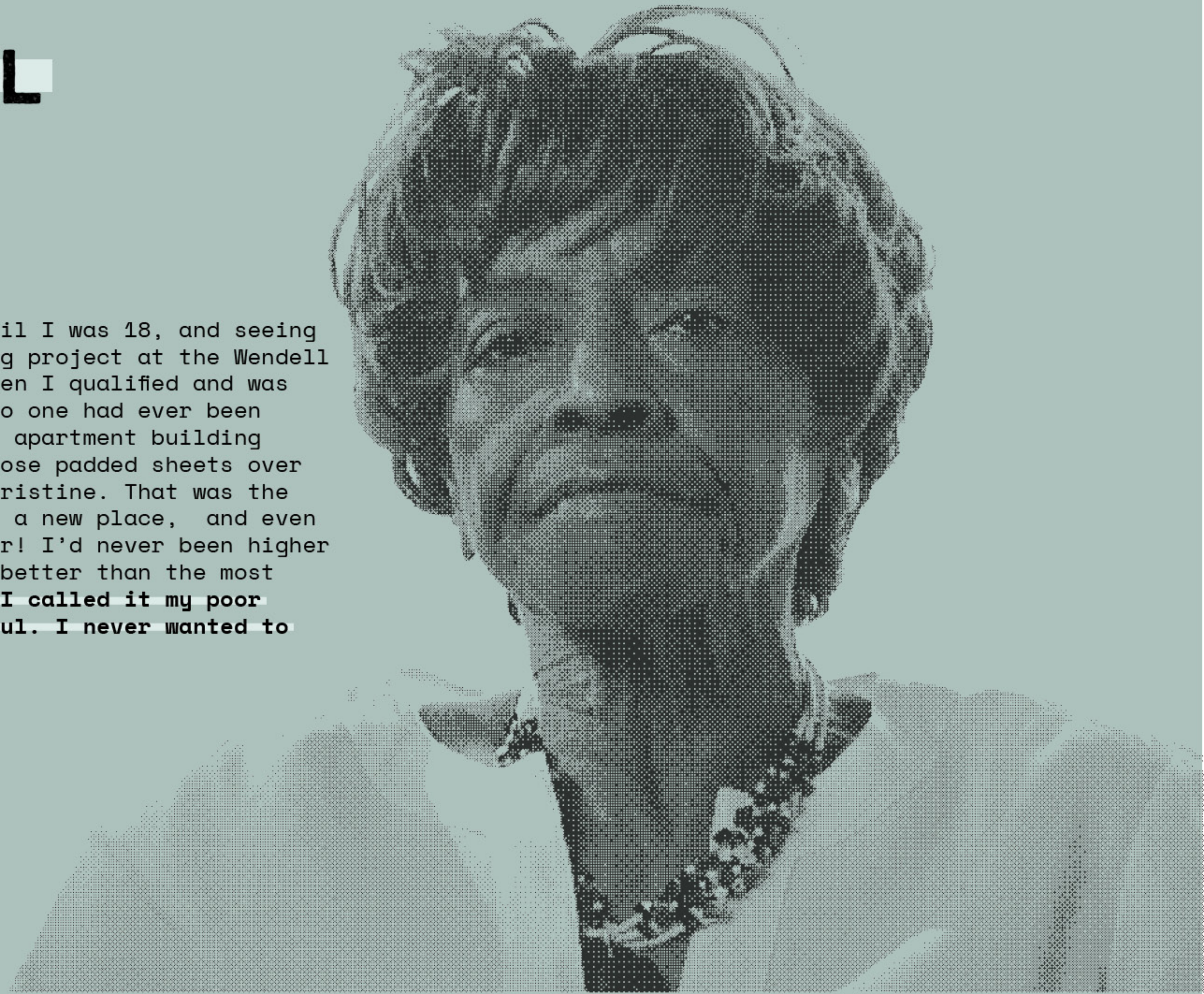




# RUBY RUSSELL

RESIDENT AT PRUITT-IGOE FROM  
1954 UNTIL ITS DEMOLITION

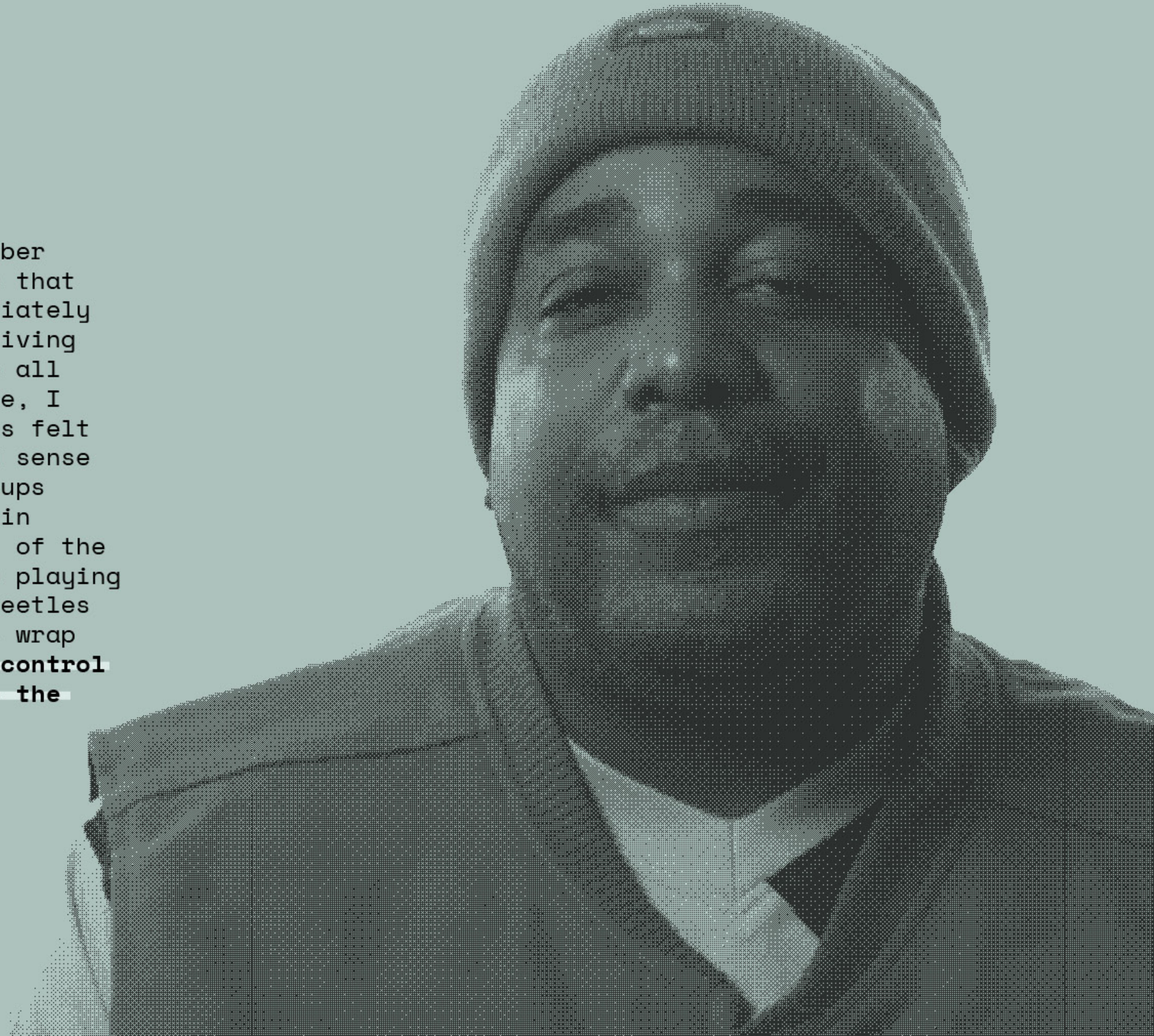
"I remember living up in the slums until I was 18, and seeing an application for a new public housing project at the Wendell Pruitt apartments. I was so excited when I qualified and was approved to move into my own place - no one had ever been there for me, I would be the first! The apartment building was so new and shiny, they even had those padded sheets over the walls in the elevator to keep it pristine. That was the first time I had ever gotten to live in a new place, and even better, they put me up on the 11th floor! I'd never been higher than the 2nd previously - I had views better than the most expensive places in all of St. Louis. **I called it my poor man's penthouse. The place was beautiful. I never wanted to leave.**"



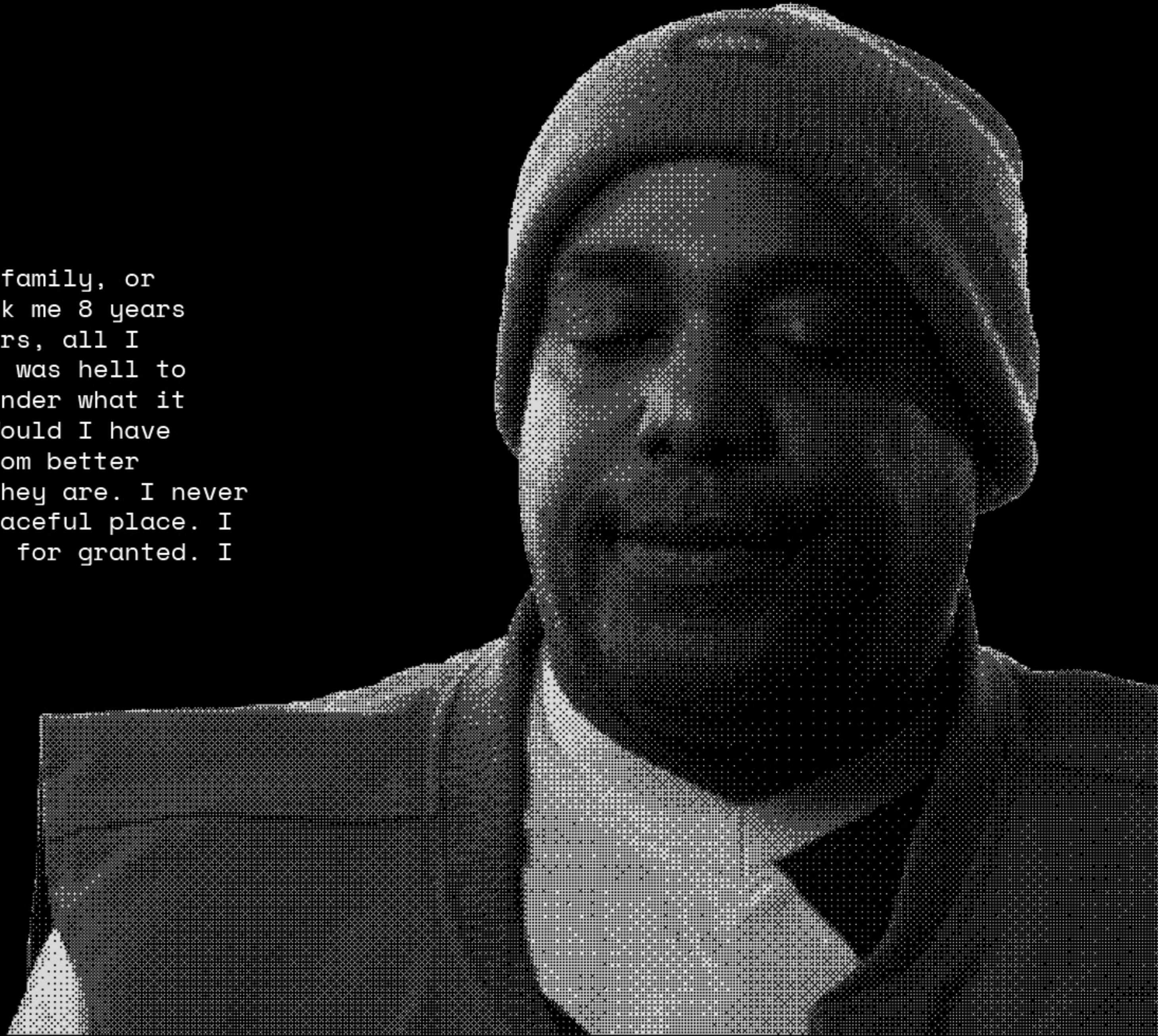
# BRIAN KING

RESIDENT AT PRUITT-IGOE FROM  
1967 UNTIL 1971

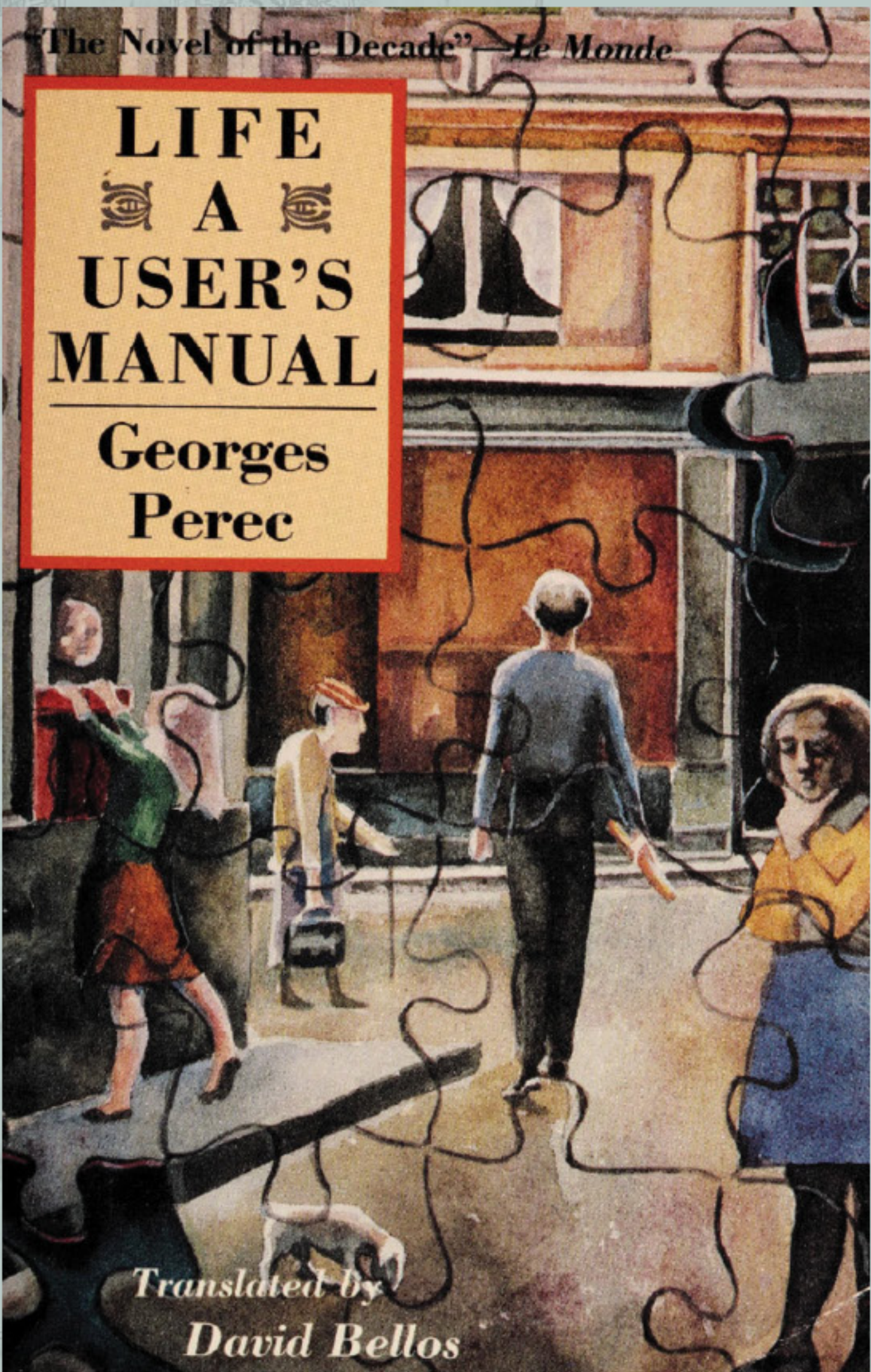
I was 9 when I first moved to Pruitt Igoe. I remember getting out the moving van and smelling the trash that was piling up outside of the incinerator... I immediately knew this was going to be a... different... sort of living arrangement. It was a shock to me as a kid to see all those tall buildings and the people who were there, I don't think I ever really got past it. The projects felt more like a prison than housing, there was just a sense of despair all around the place. I feared the groups of boys who I didn't know that hung around the main breezeways, so I would walk out in the fields west of the apartments instead to get home. I started to like playing with bugs out there, I would catch crickets and beetles and put them in spider webs and watch the spiders wrap em' up, you know. **I think I liked the feeling of control that I got when I did that. Like I was able to be the master of my own world for just a bit.**



We were bitter after that. There was no more being family, or cohabitating with our neighbors. I remember, it took me 8 years before I stopped dreaming about it. For those 8 years, all I could think about was: how do I murder somebody. It was hell to be trapped there, stuck in my thoughts. I always wonder what it would have been like if we had never moved there. Would I have been nicer, a better person? I always see people from better environments than me, and I'm envious of how kind they are. I never got the opportunity as a kid to just... exist in a peaceful place. I appreciate quiet, kindness, peace - I don't take it for granted. I mean, **if anything, the projects taught me empathy.**







The Novel of the Decade — *Le Monde*  
**LIFE**  
 A USER'S  
**MANUAL**  
 Georges  
 Perec

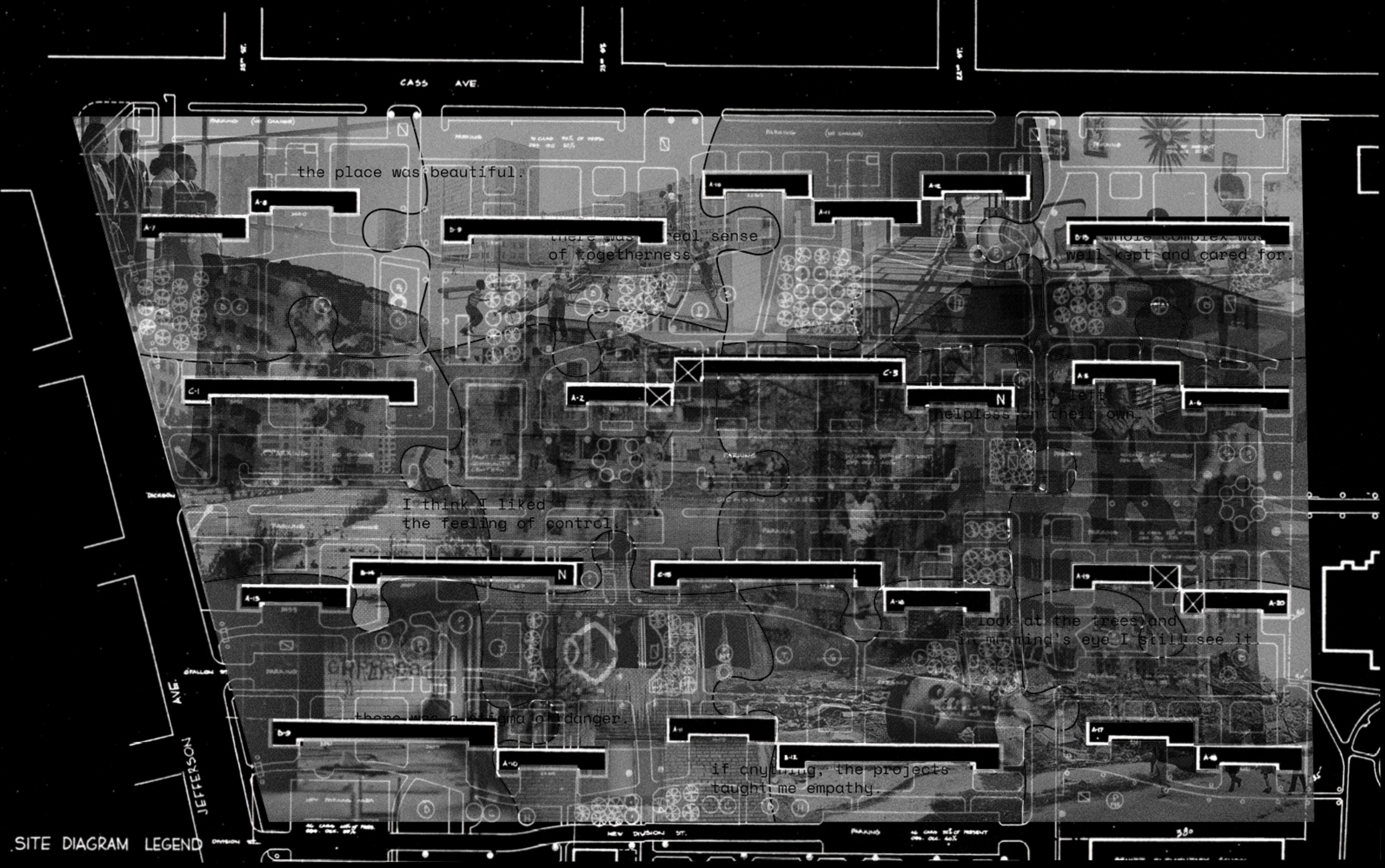
Translated by  
 David Bellos



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97 Mulling	58 Omer Gratiot [ancien propriétaire]	16 Schwartz GRESA	9 2 Joseph Nica Abel Pige		
Ph. J. C. V. C.	96	14	47	56	44
Nelson B. G. G. G. G. G.	Dr. D. G. G. G.				6
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61 Berger	13	17	27	73	34
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	anc. M. H. G. G. G. anc. M. H. G. G. G.	A. G. G. G. anc. M. H. G. G. G.			2
71	85	90	23	99	68
	R. G. G. G.				34
63 E. G. G. G.	74	86	73	95	22
anc. b.	R. G. G. G. anc. M. H. G. G. G.	M. G. G. G.			30
76 C. G. G. G.	64	21	67	94	78
B. G. G. G.	ch. G. G. G.	anc. M. H. G. G. G.	anc. M. H. G. G. G.	M. G. G. G. anc. M. H. G. G. G.	





the place was beautiful.

there was a real sense of togetherness.

the whole complex was well-kept and cared for.

I think I liked the feeling of control.

I look at the trees and in my mind's eye I still see it.

there was a real sense of danger.

if anything, the projects taught me empathy.

SITE DIAGRAM LEGEND





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real sense  
of togetherness.

well-kept and cared for.

all left  
helpless on their own.

I think I liked  
the feeling of control

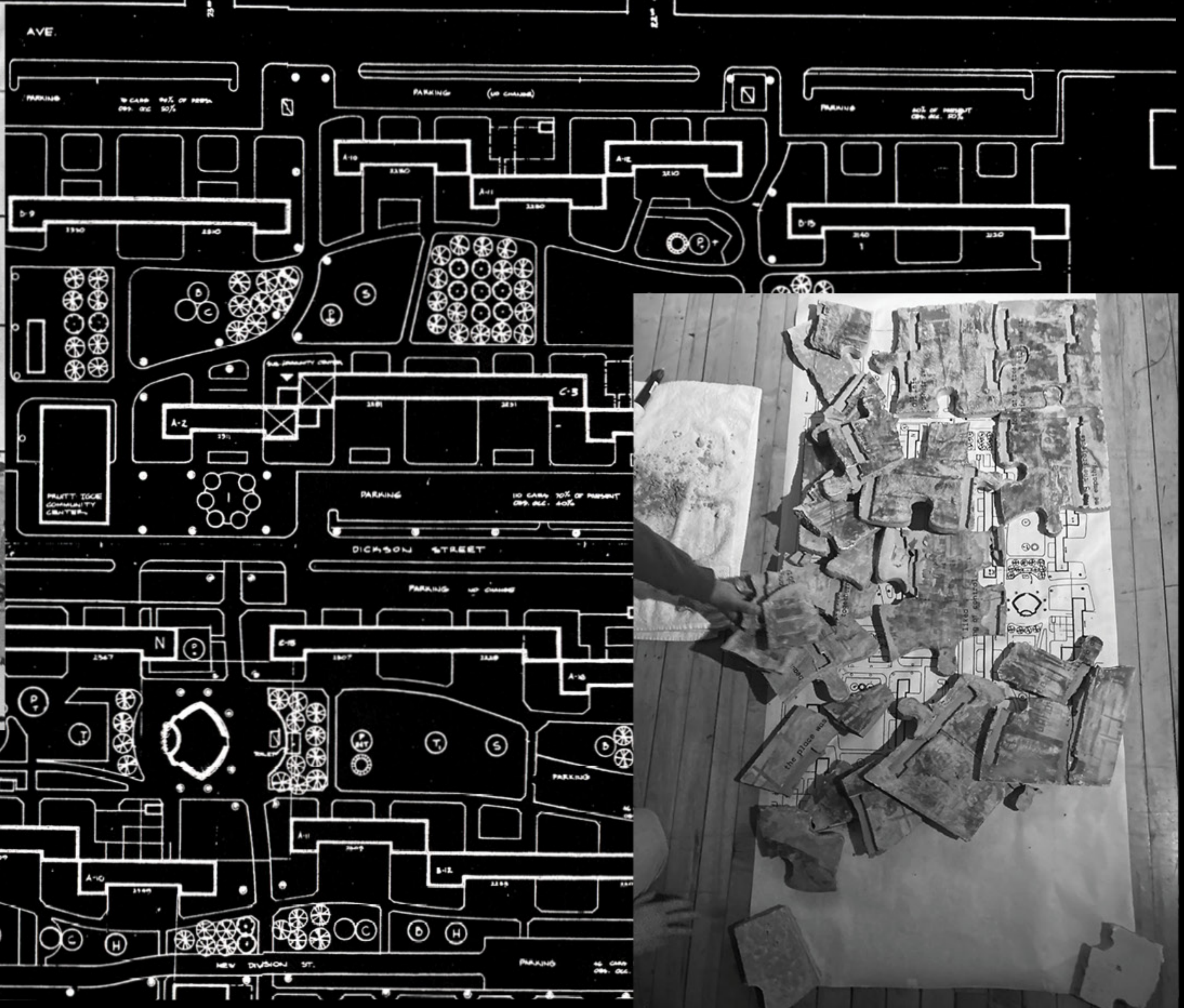
look at the trees and  
in my mind's eye I still see it.

and a danger.

if any... by the projects  
taught me empathy.

SITE DIAGRAM LEGEND

38°



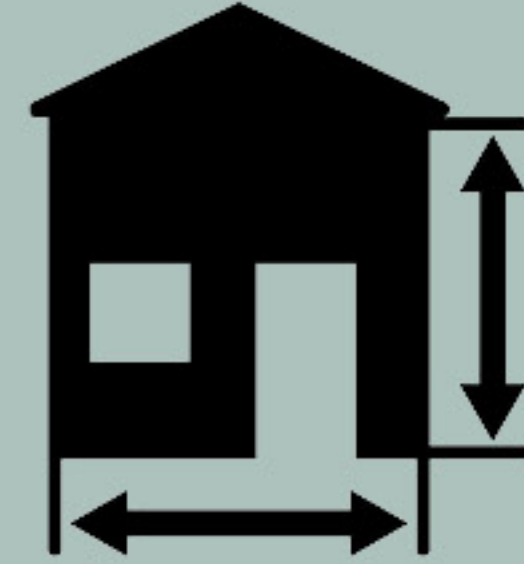
SITE DIAGRAM LEGEND



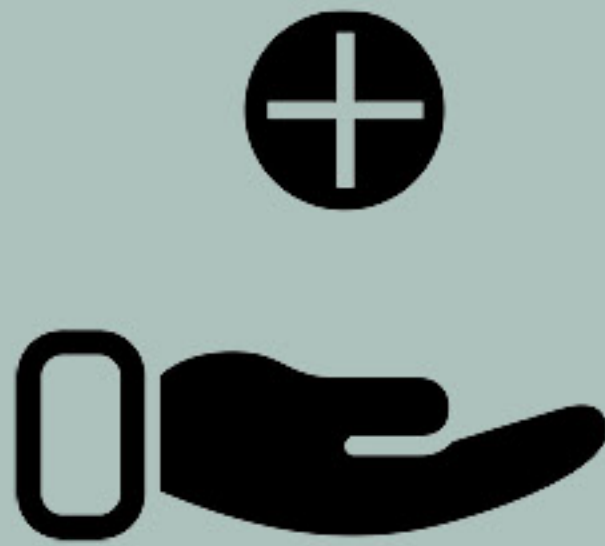
SITE DIAGRAM LEGEND



**RENEW  
HISTORY**



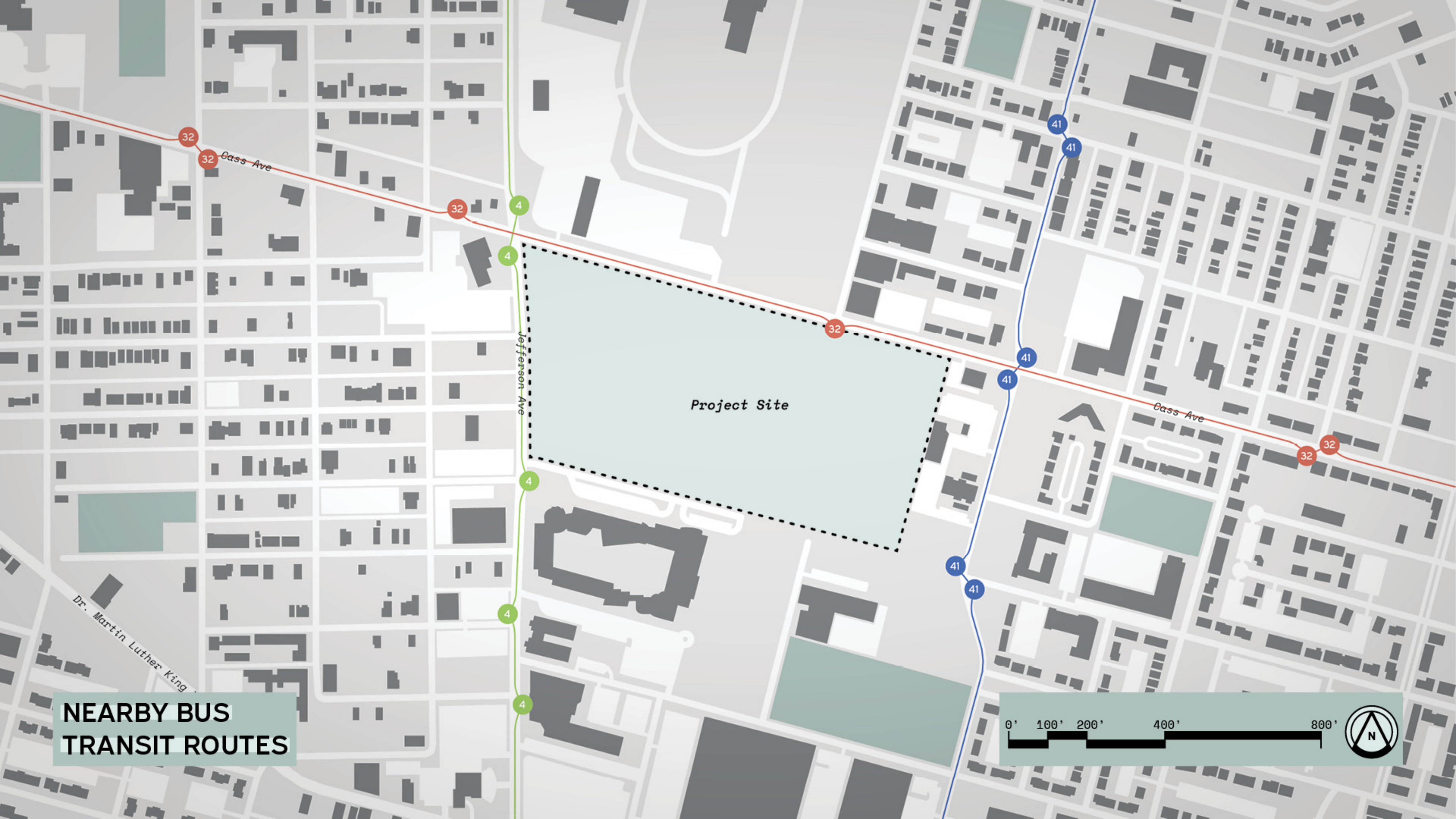
**BUILD  
TO DWELL**



**CREATE  
OPPORTUNITY**



**MAKE EQUITY  
FROM AGENCY**



32

32

32

4

4

Jefferson Ave

4

4

4

41

41

32

41

41

Cass Ave

32

32

41

41

NEARBY BUS  
TRANSIT ROUTES



Dr. Martin Luther King

Project Site

National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (Campus Opens 2026)

Sk8 Liborius Church

Cass Ave

St. Louis FD Headquarters

Jefferson Ave

Project Site

Church of the Living God

Blewett Innovative Concept Academy

True Light Missionary Baptist Church

Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church

Faith Temple Church

Polish Heritage Center

Gateway Middle School

KIPP Inspire Academy

Fiance Early Learning Center

Jefferson Elementary School

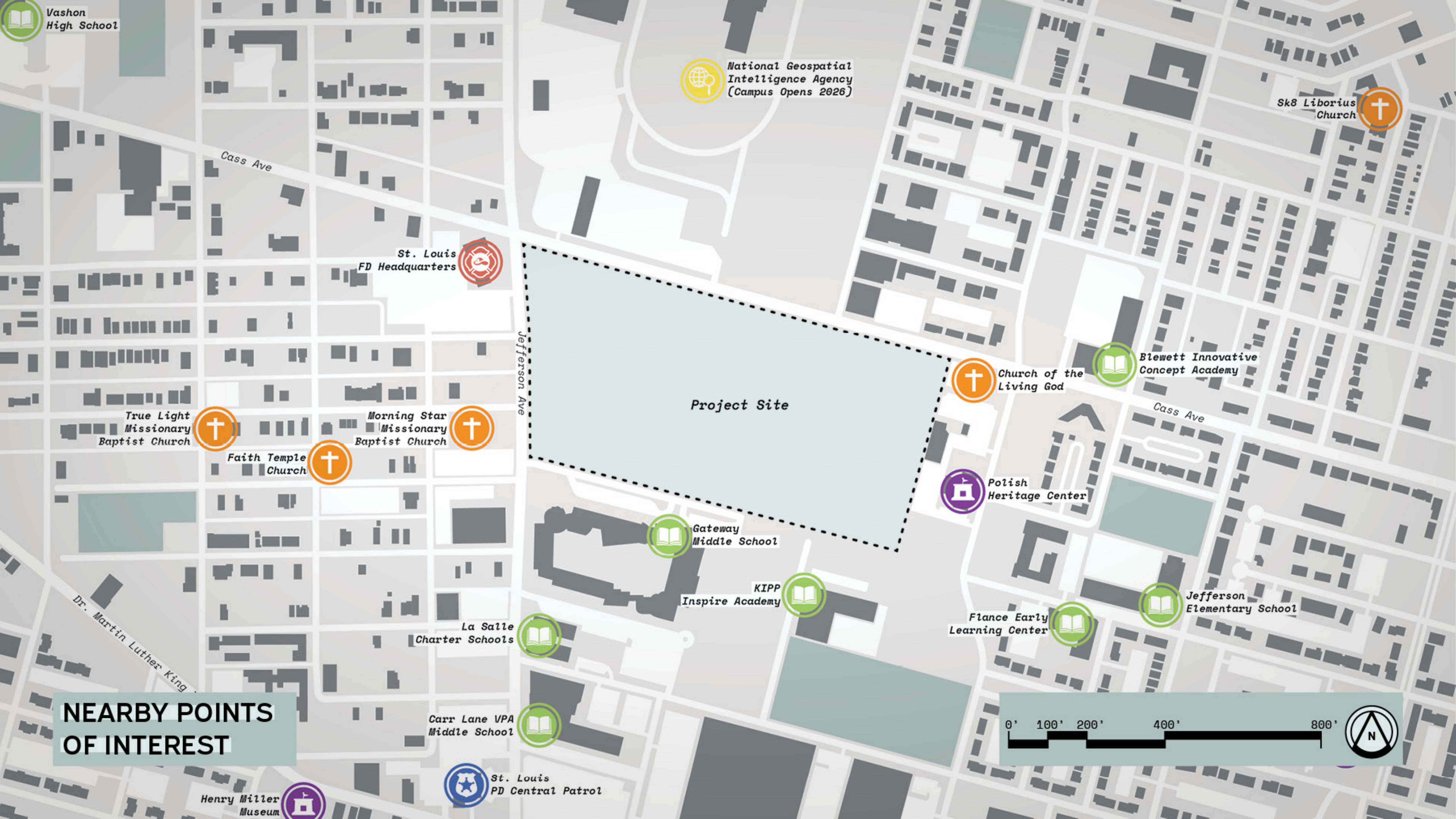
La Salle Charter Schools

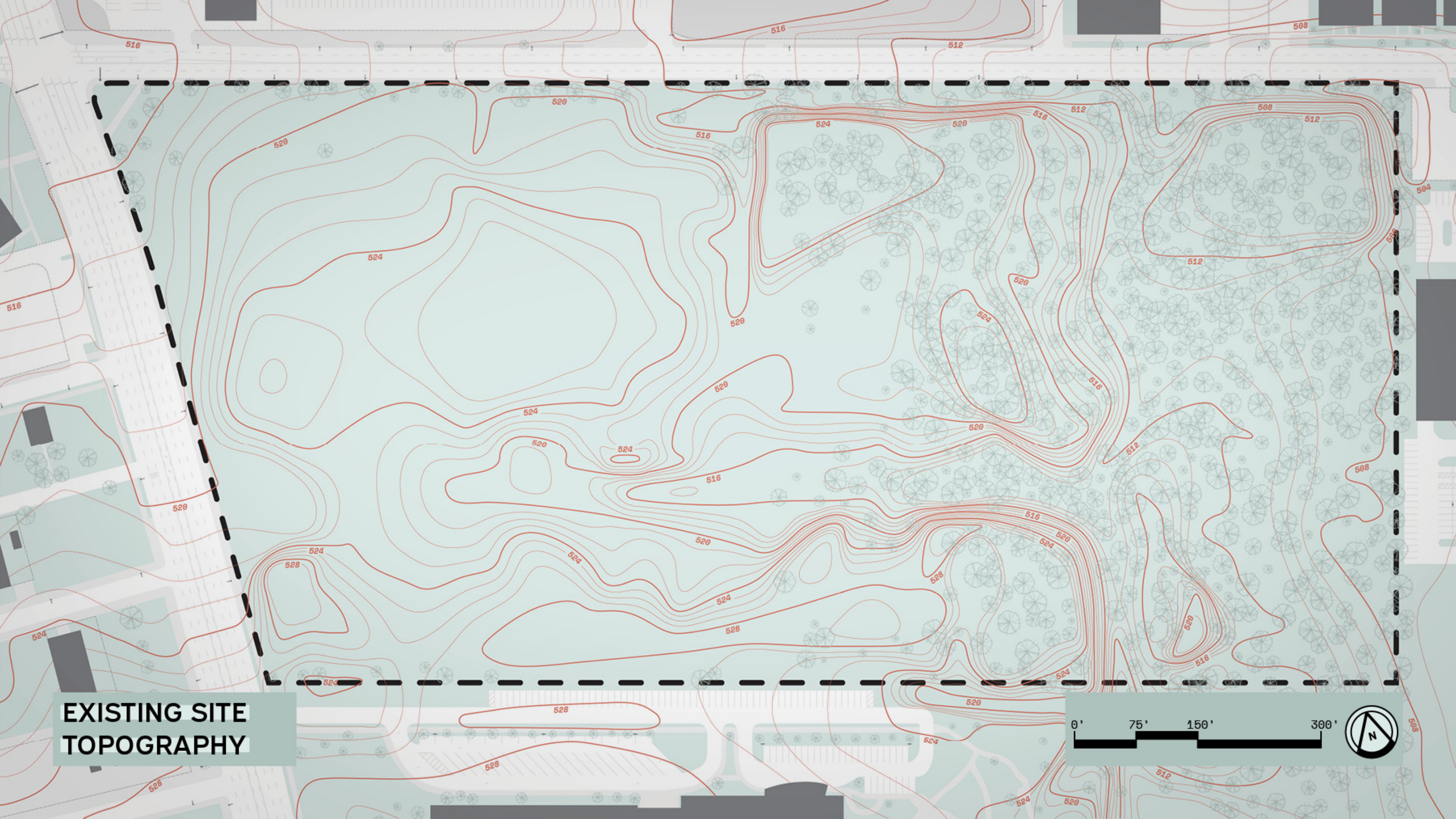
Carr Lane VPA Middle School

St. Louis PD Central Patrol

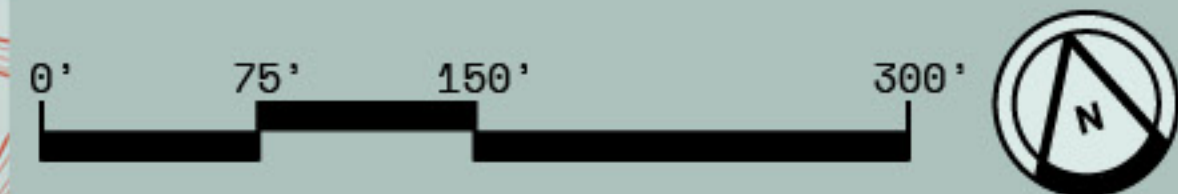
Henry Miller Museum

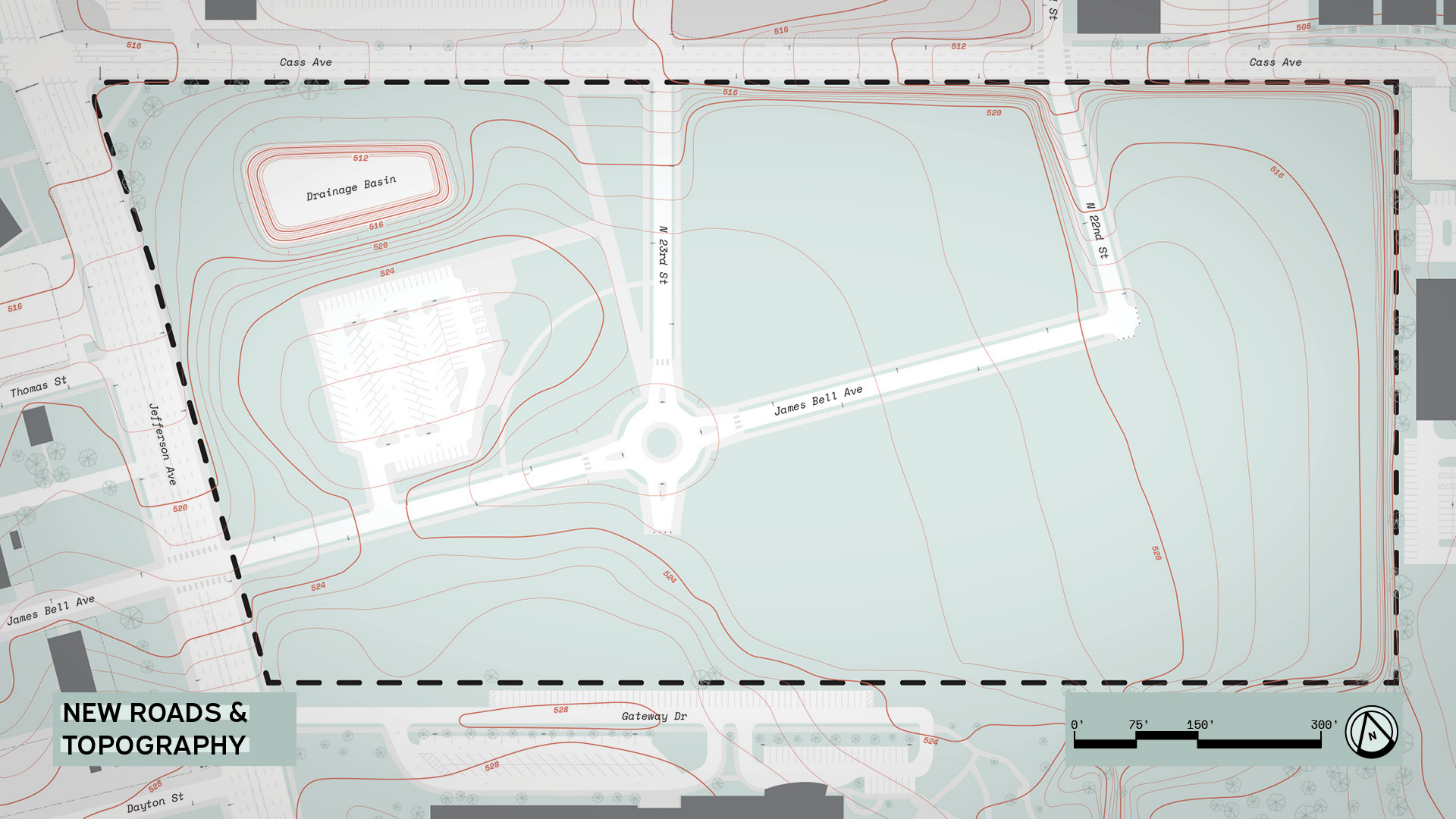
# NEARBY POINTS OF INTEREST





**EXISTING SITE  
TOPOGRAPHY**

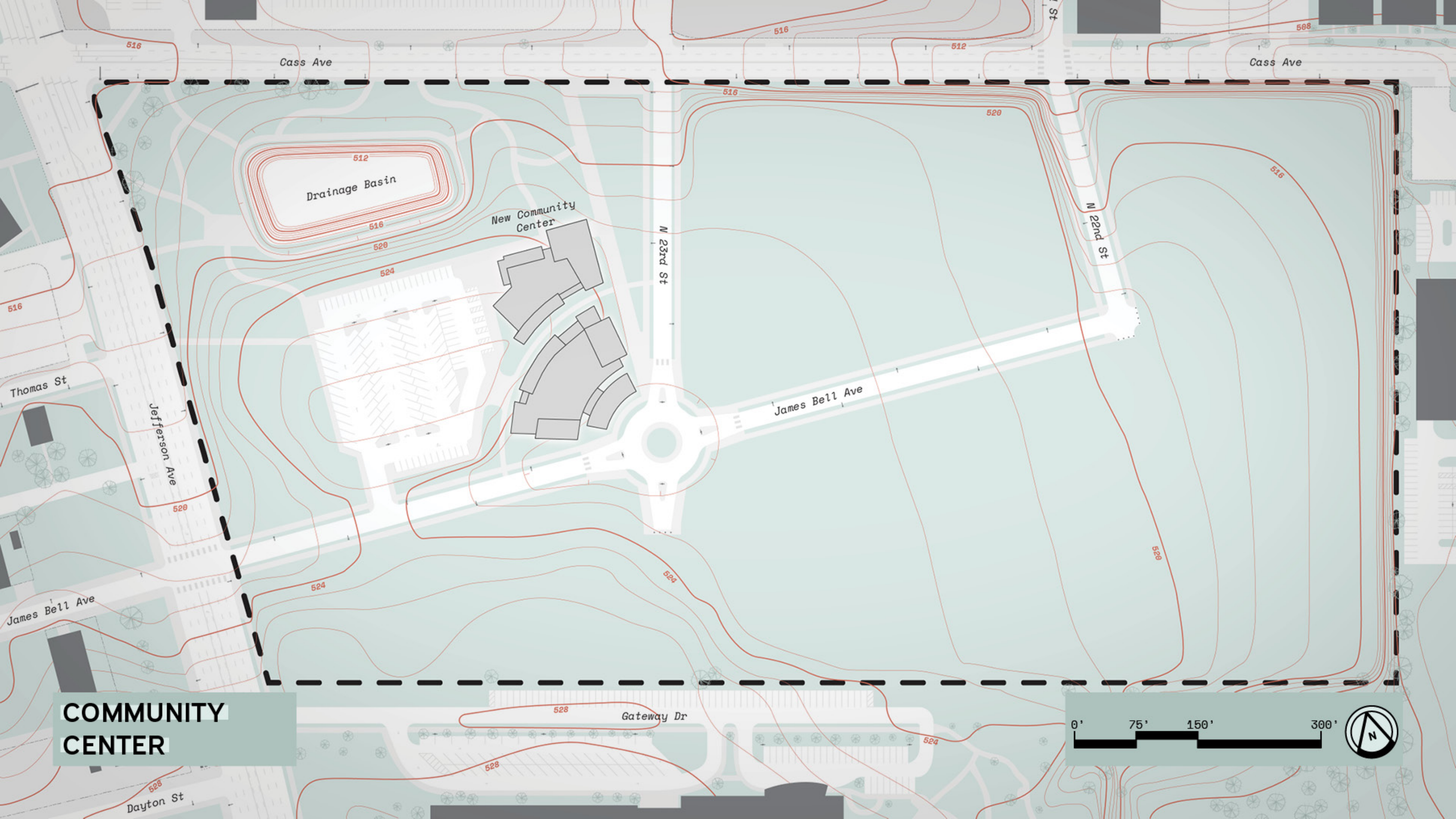




**NEW ROADS &  
TOPOGRAPHY**







**COMMUNITY CENTER**

Cass Ave

Cass Ave

Drainage Basin

New Community Center

N 23rd St

N 22nd St

James Bell Ave

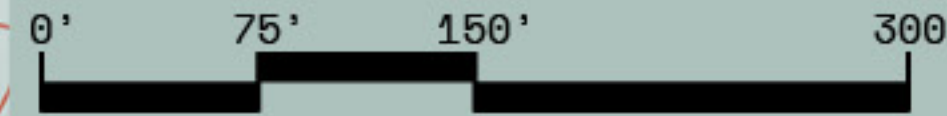
Jefferson Ave

Thomas St

James Bell Ave

Gateway Dr

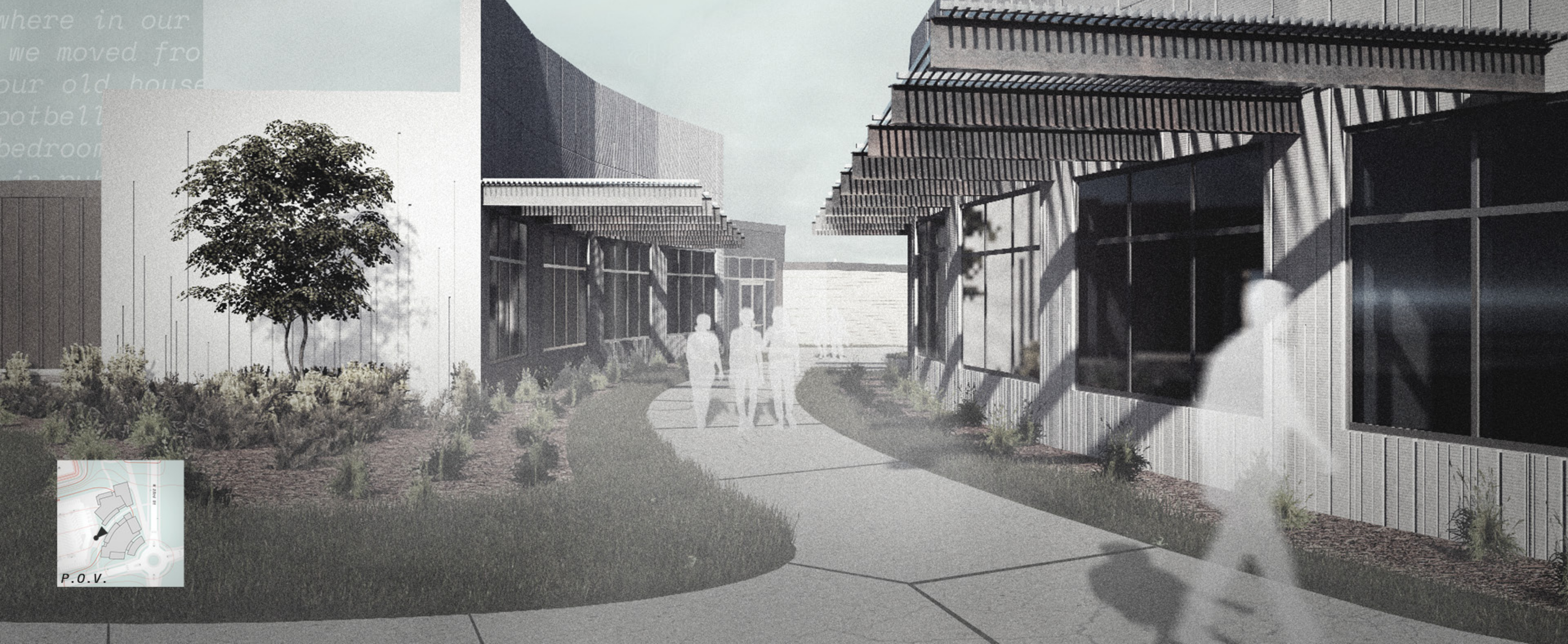
Dayton St

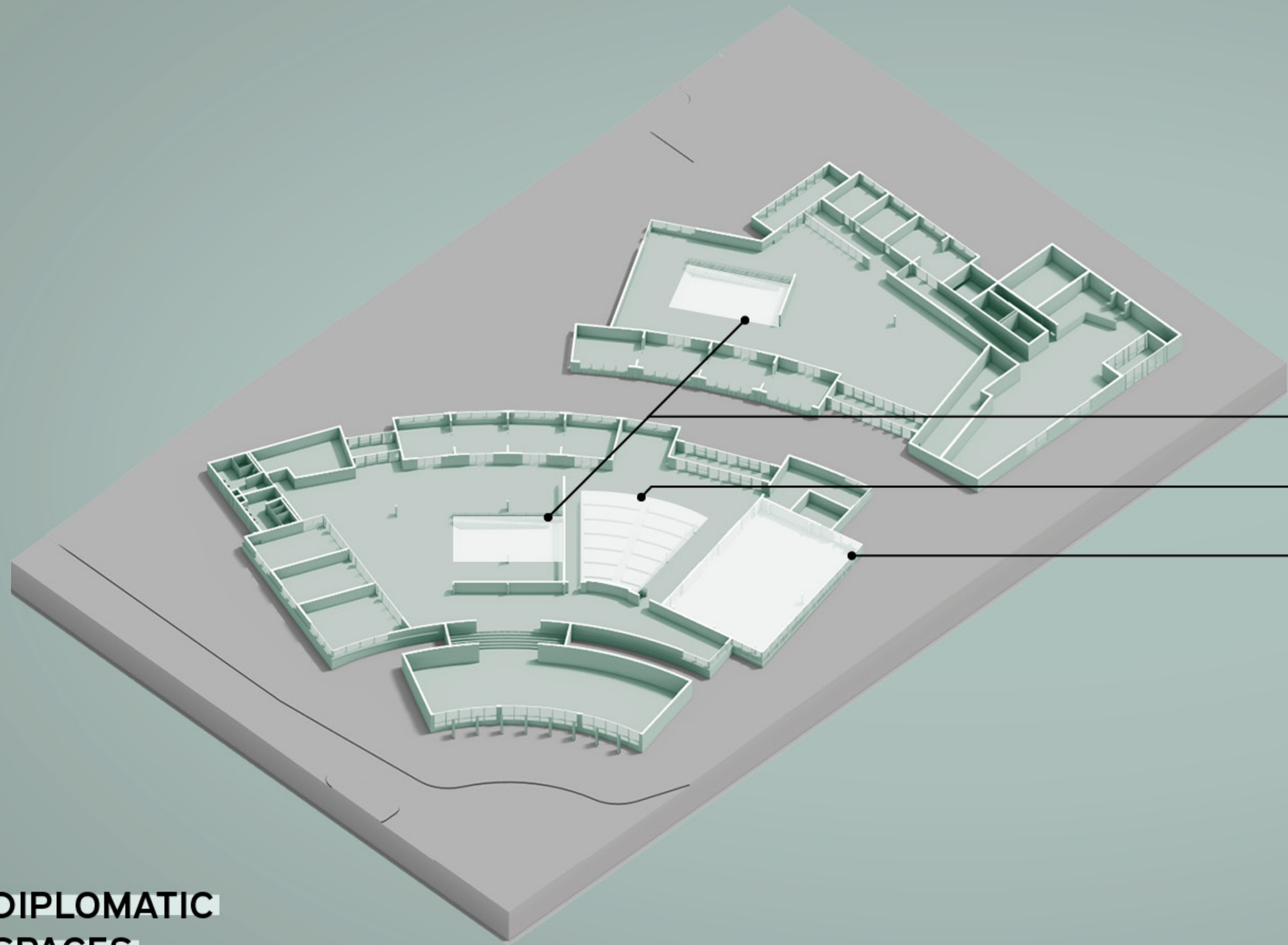


in Pruitt-Igoe, it was really like being in a whole town of community together. We lived on the 4th floor, so there were people below us, and above us, and on both sides there were neighbors, we were all so close to each other. I remember seeing kids playing in the breezeways, runnin' up and down the steps and in the parks, or putting on plays and talent shows together at the community center. It was really nice, there was a real sense of togetherness, we were never alone. Living in Pruitt-Igoe, it was really like living in a whole town or community together. We lived on the 4th floor, so there were people below us, and above us, and on both sides there were neighbors, we were all so close to each other. I remember seeing kids playing in the breezeways, runnin' up and down the steps and in the parks, or putting on plays and talent shows together at the community center. It was really nice, there was a real sense of togetherness, we were never alone. Living in Pruitt-Igoe, it was really like living in a whole town or community together.



We moved from the slums Pruitt, we were moving into so much more space. Our old house had 3 rooms. My momma would pull out a rollaway bed in the potbelly stove. At Pruitt and Igoe, we all had our own beds and it was a bedroom door! We had to live as a group of 11 though - the housing in public housing, there couldn't be an able bodied man living in a room. My daddy had to move across the river out of the state, and I'm gonna move out of the slums, but if someone ever came asking for me, I'd seen our daddy in years. Sometimes people would come and ask where in our neighborhood we moved from. Our old house had a potbelly stove and a bedroom door in the kitchen.



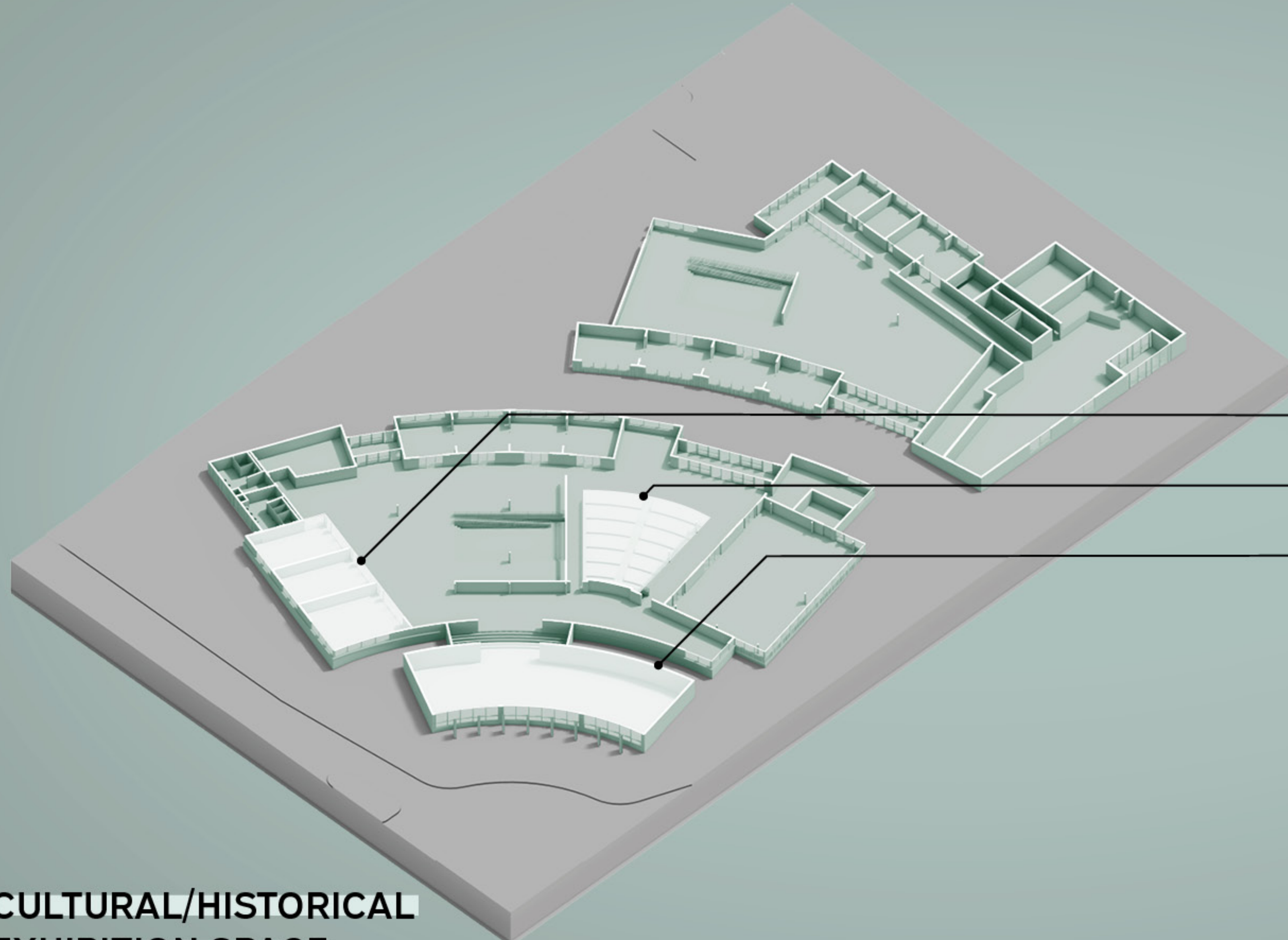


*Open Conference Areas*

*Sunken Presentation Stage*

*Large Forum Space*

**DIPLOMATIC  
SPACES**

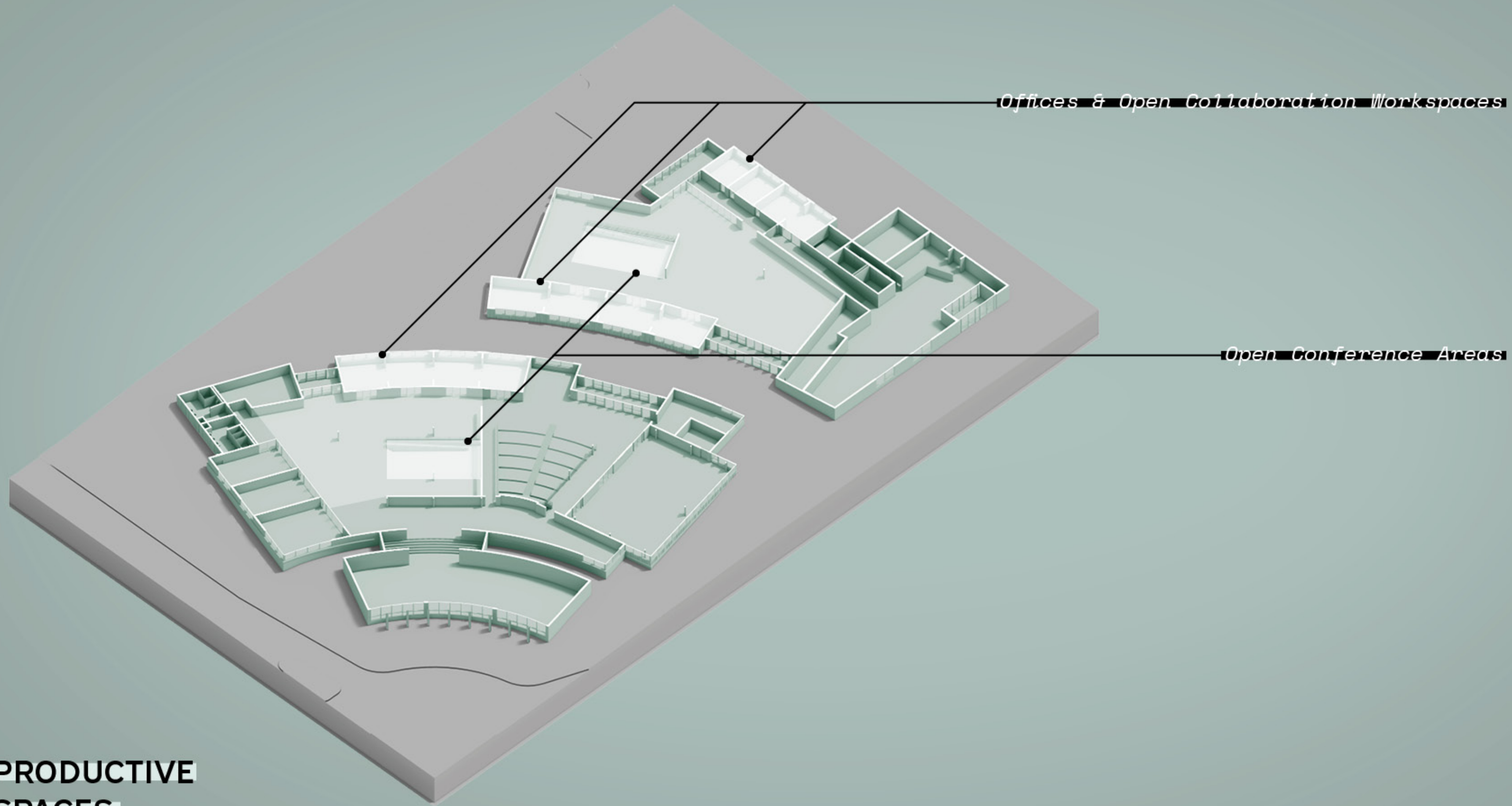


*Classrooms/Studios*

*Sunken Presentation Stage*

*Exhibition Gallery*

**CULTURAL/HISTORICAL  
EXHIBITION SPACE**

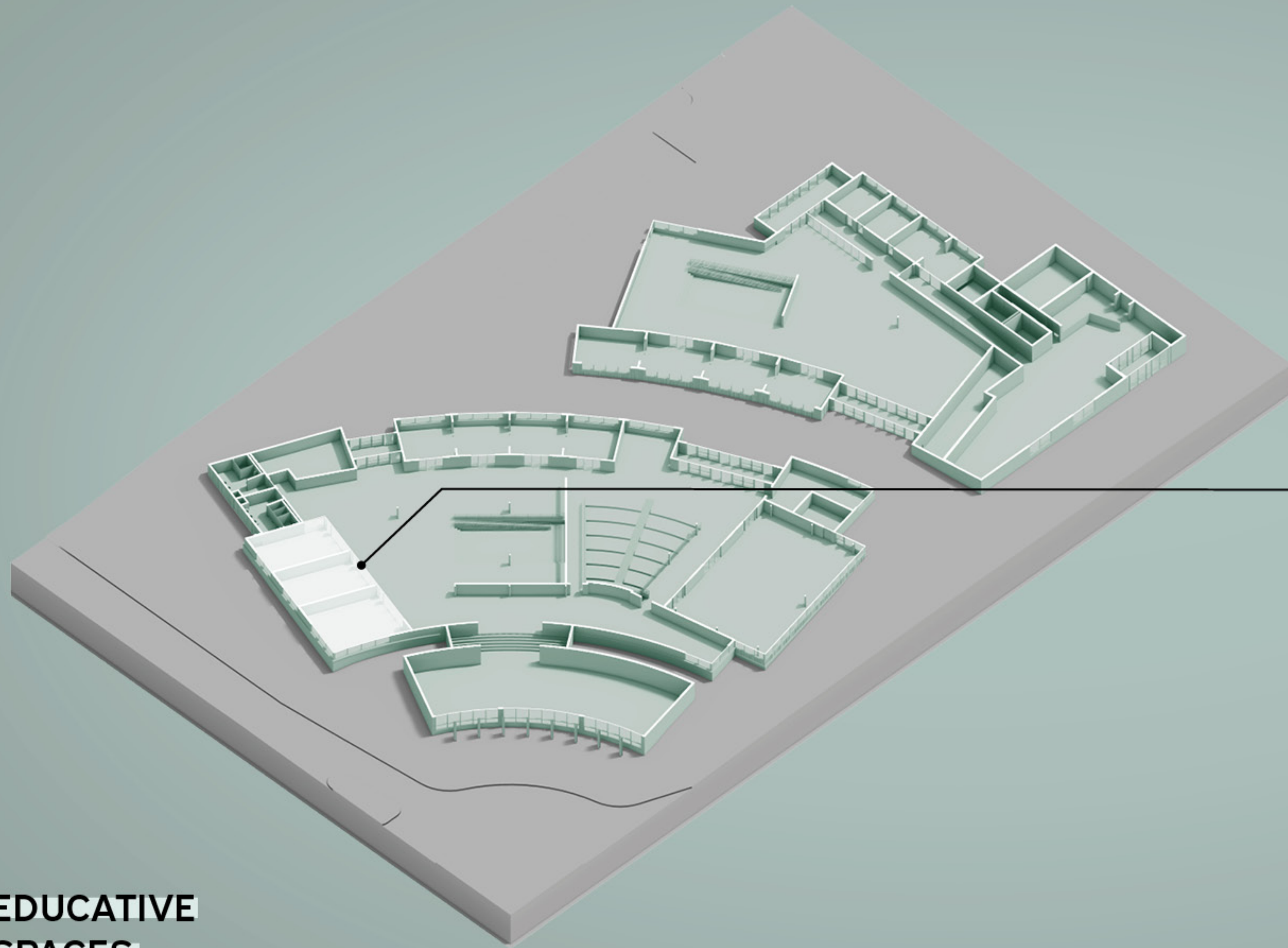


*Offices & Open Collaboration Workspaces*

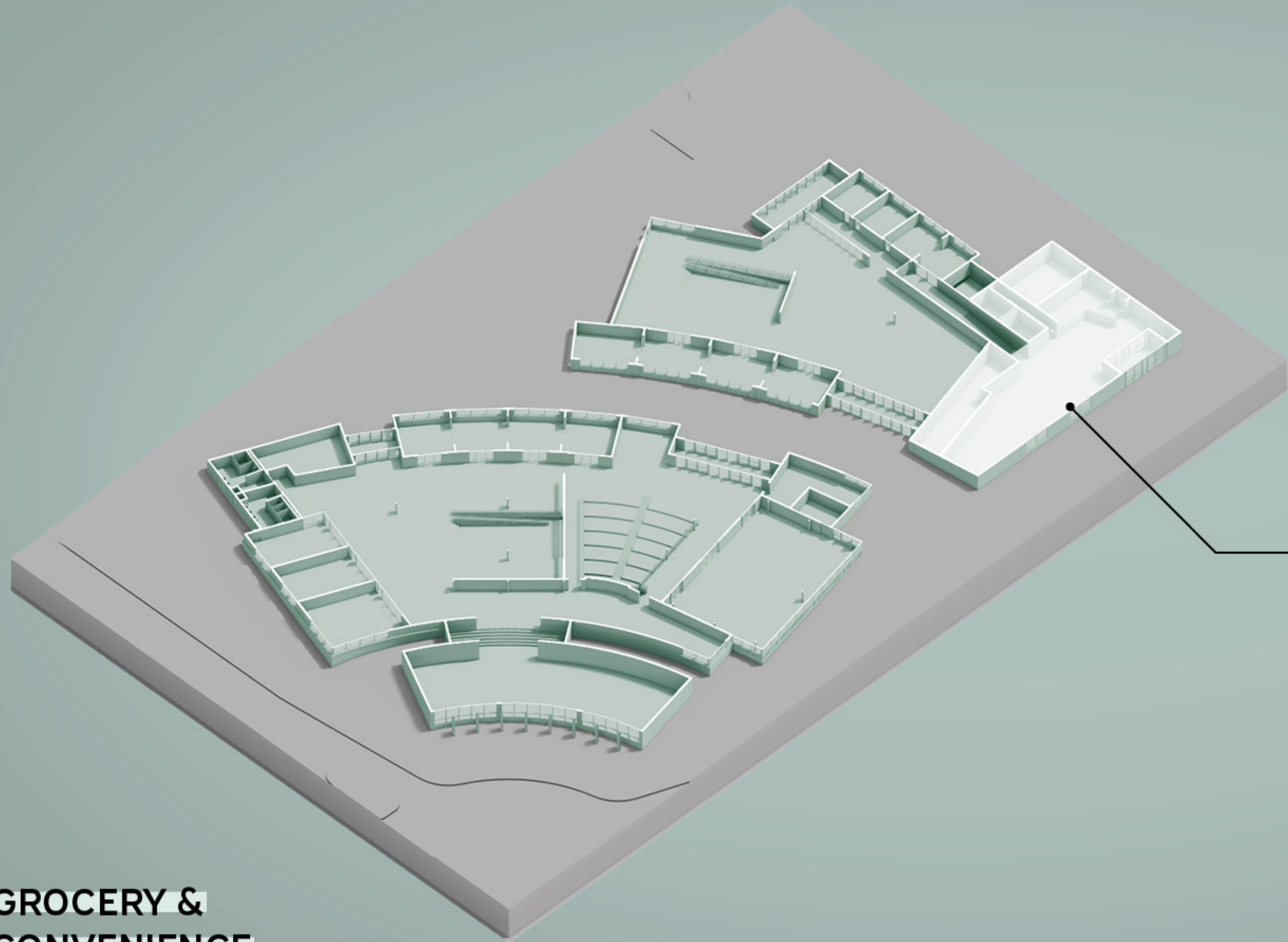
*Open Conference Areas*

**PRODUCTIVE  
SPACES**

**EDUCATIVE  
SPACES**



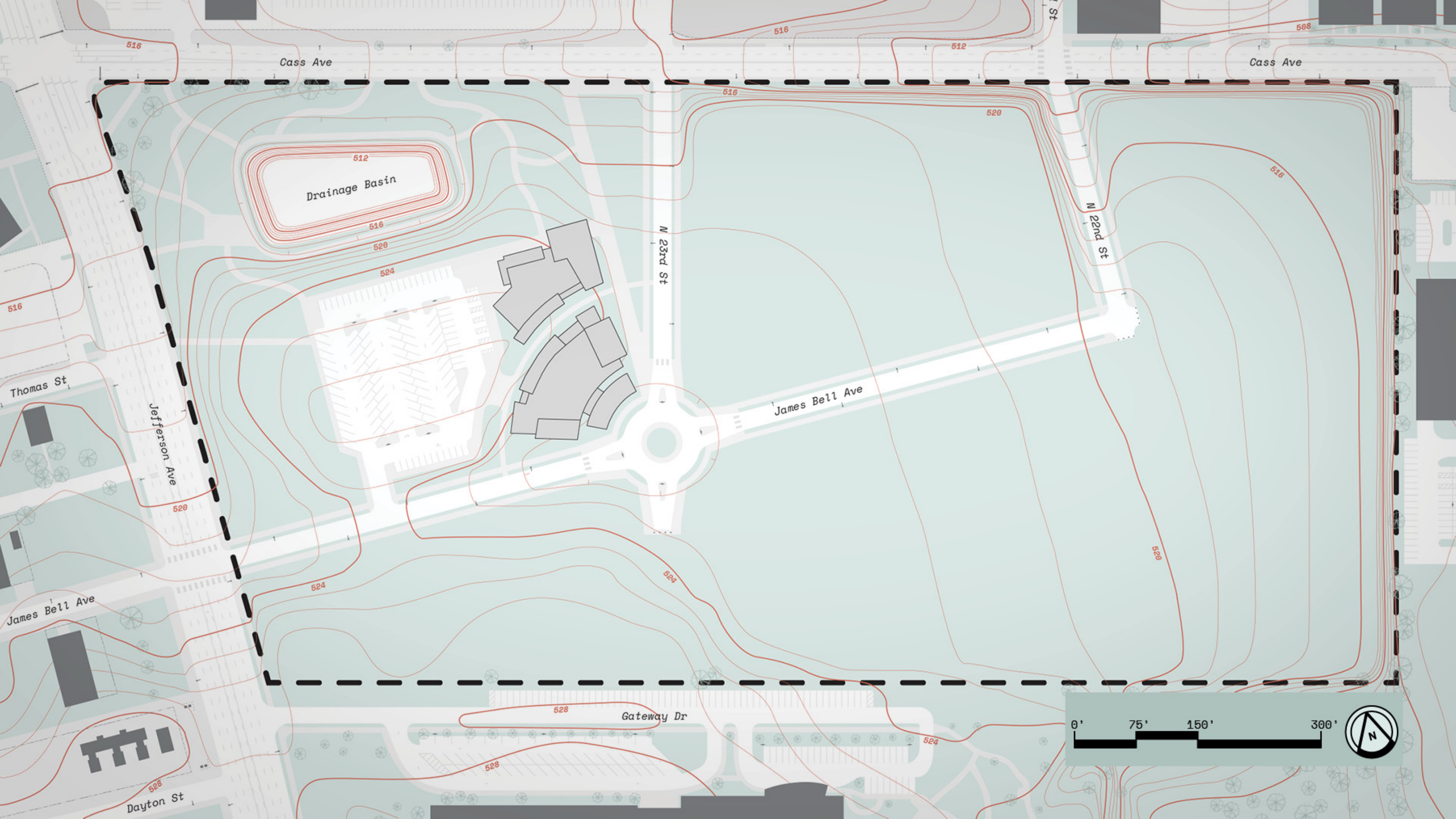
**Classrooms/Studios**



*Convenience Store & Facilities*

**GROCERY &  
CONVENIENCE**





Cass Ave

Cass Ave

Drainage Basin

N 23rd St

N 22nd St

James Bell Ave

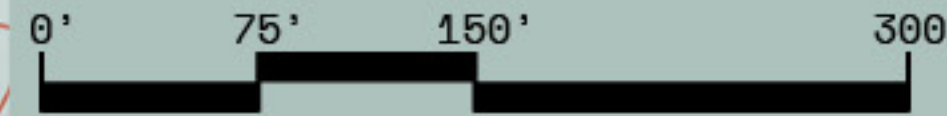
Jefferson Ave

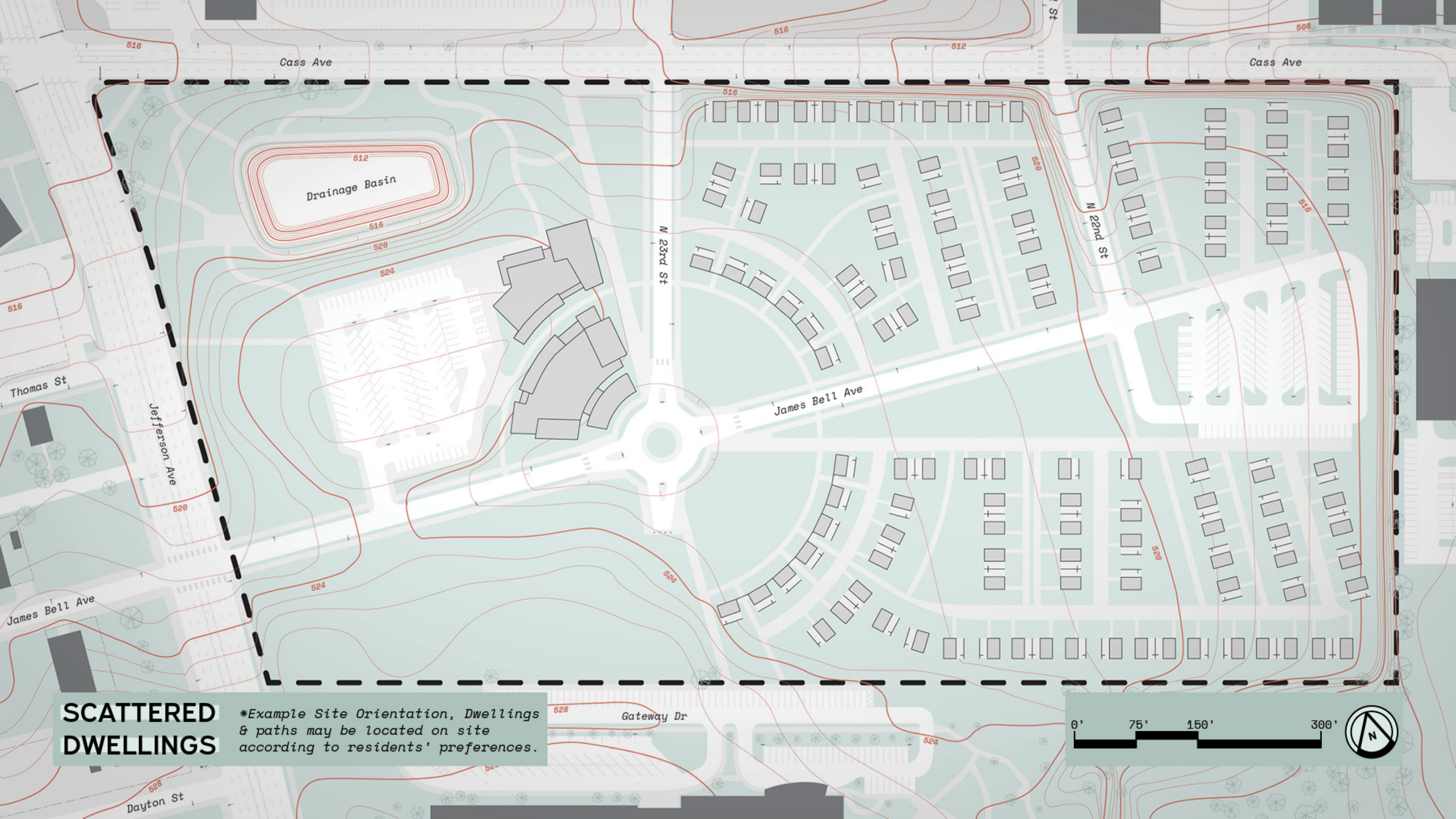
Gateway Dr

Thomas St

James Bell Ave

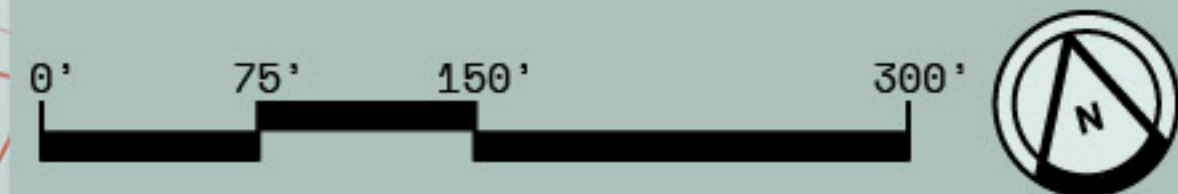
Dayton St





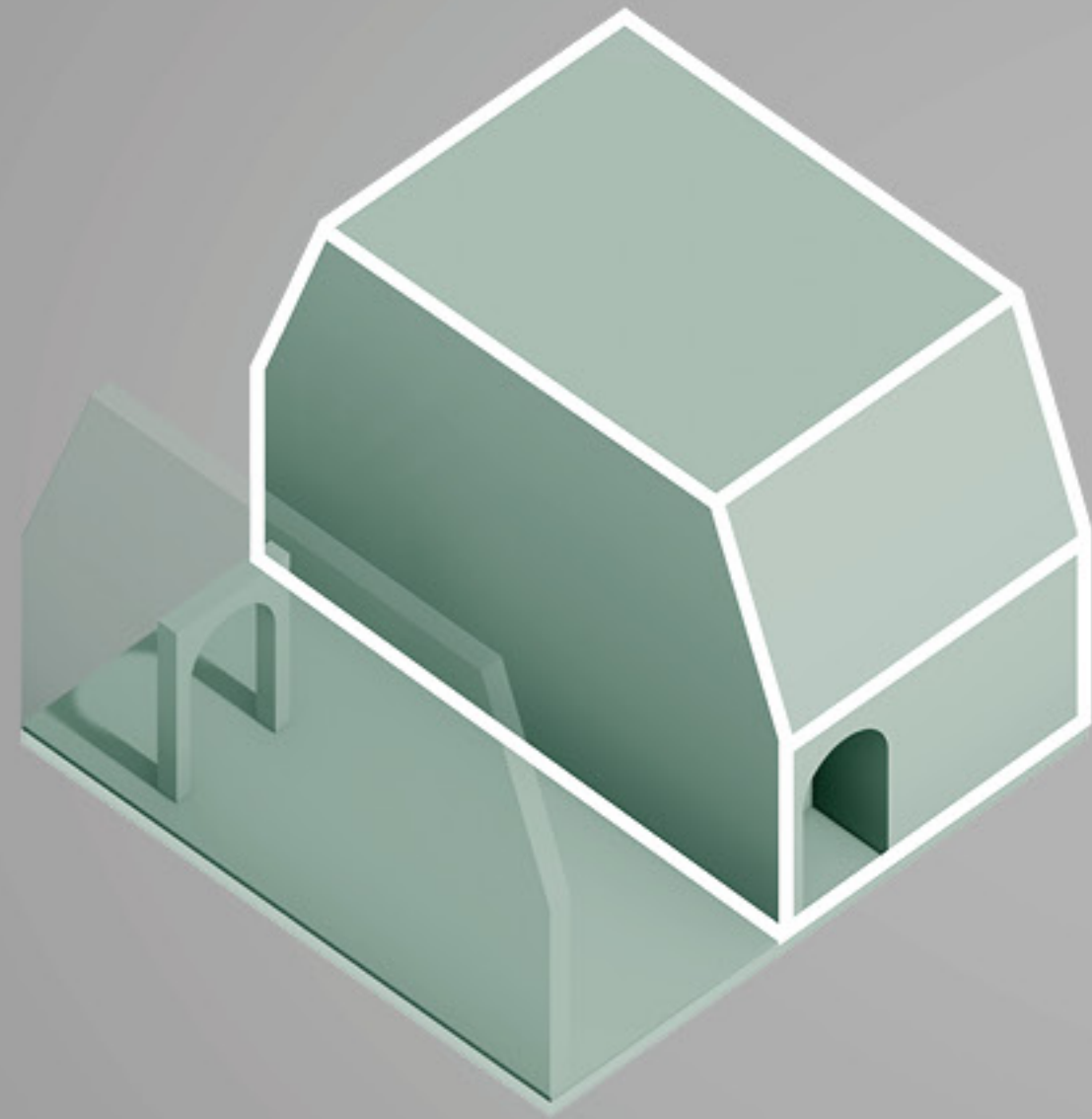
# SCATTERED DWELLINGS

*\*Example Site Orientation, Dwellings & paths may be located on site according to residents' preferences.*

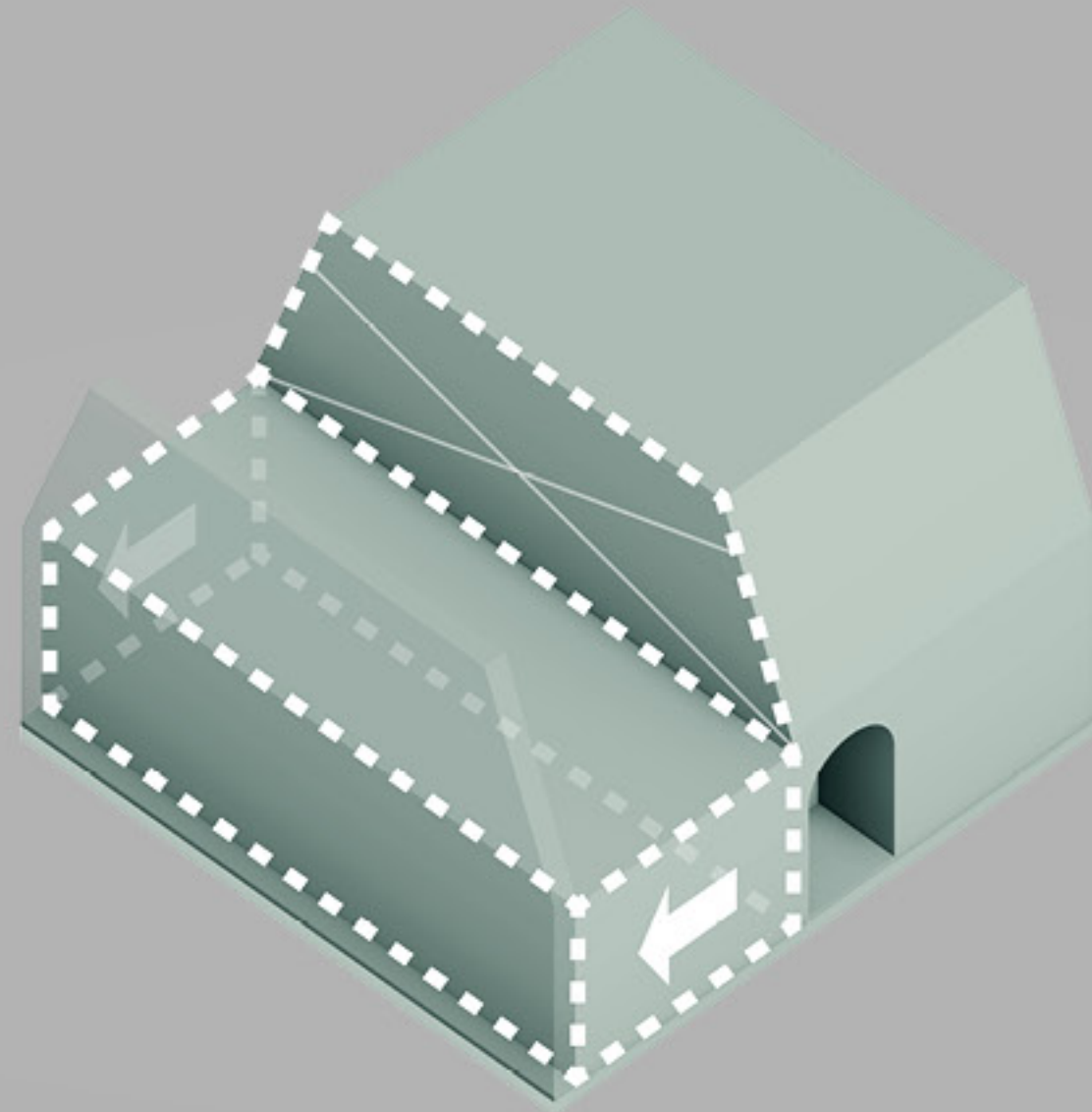


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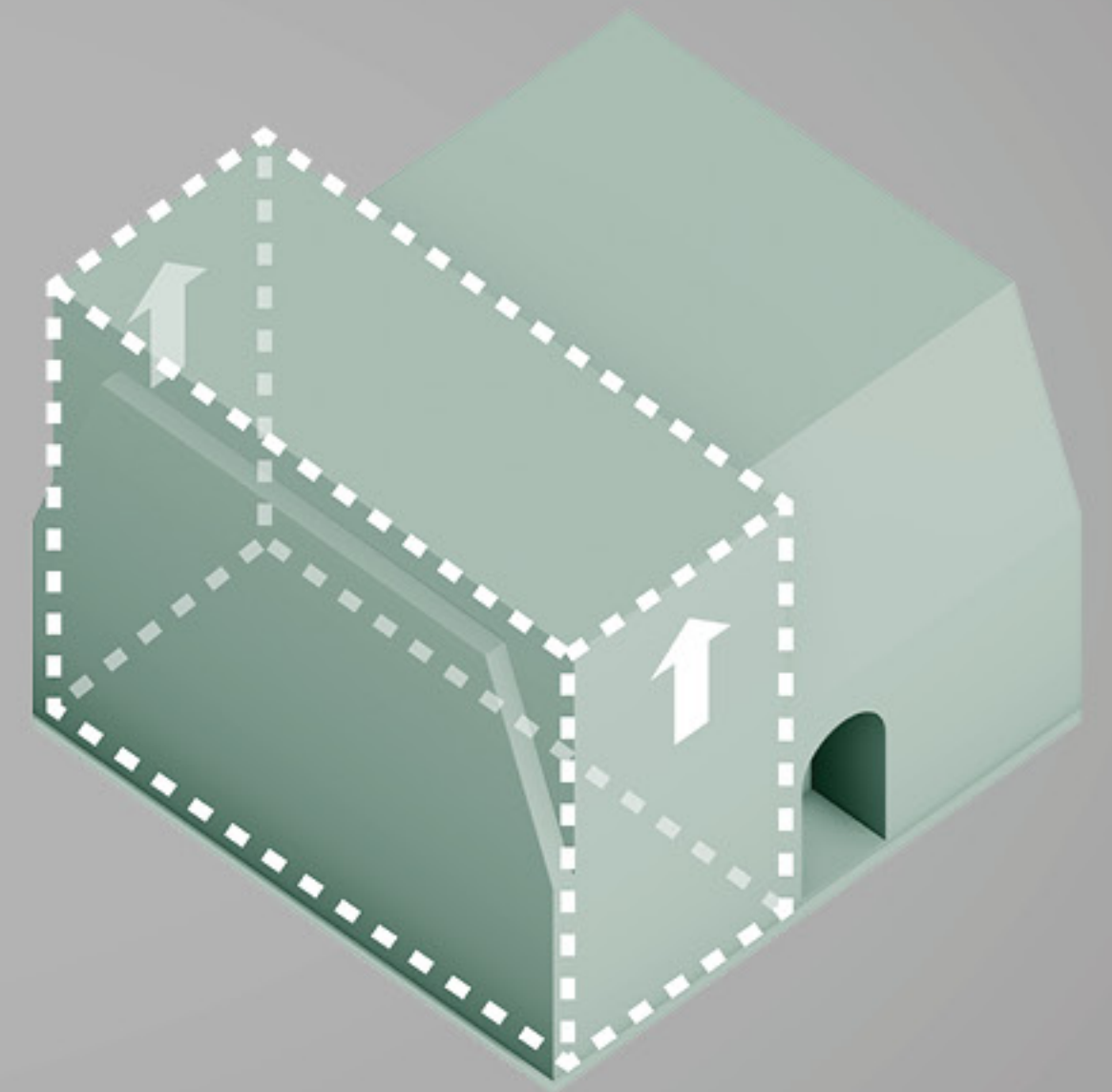




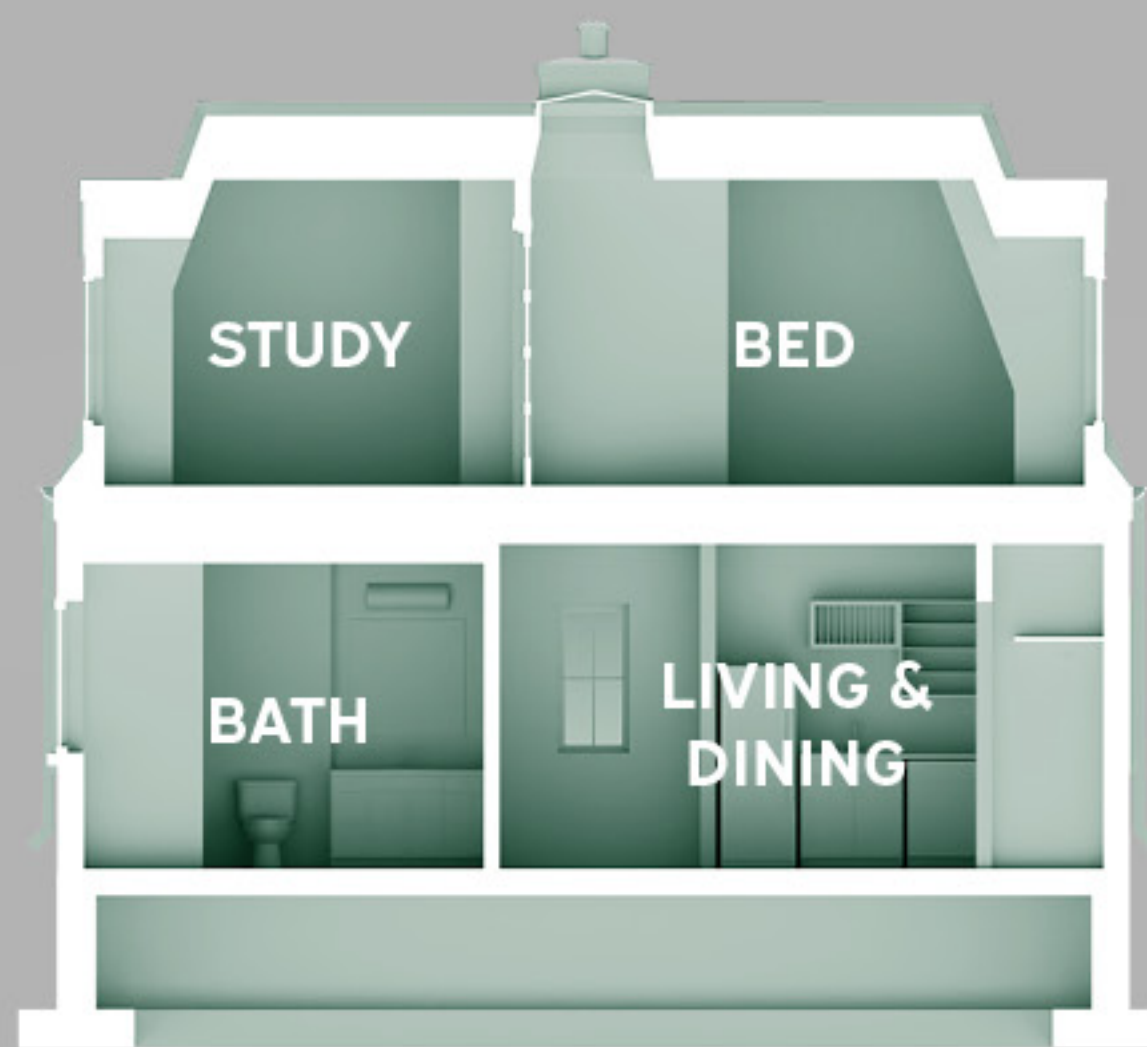
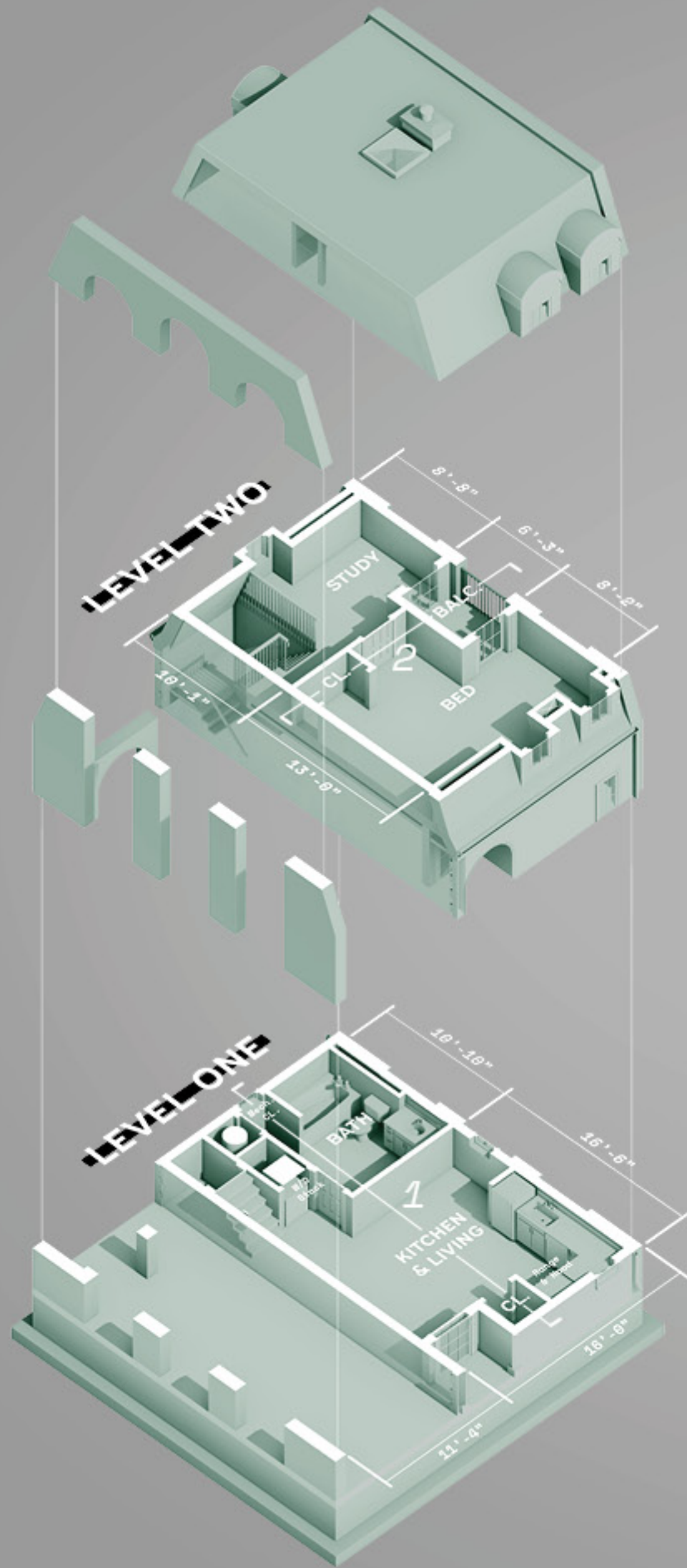
*Initial Dwelling Form*  
**~850 SF**



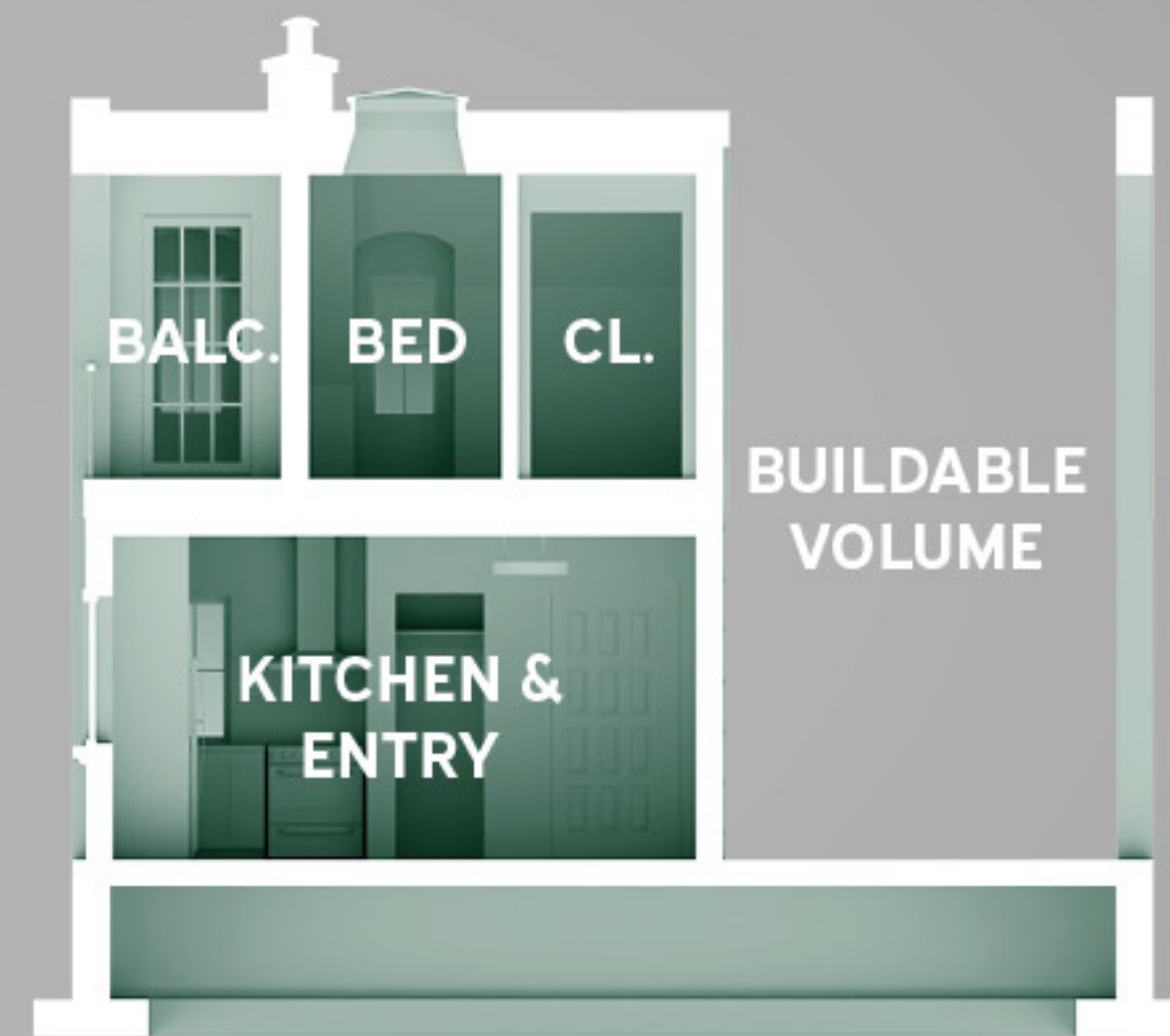
*Resident Led Expansion*



*Completed Dwelling Form*  
**~1500 SF**

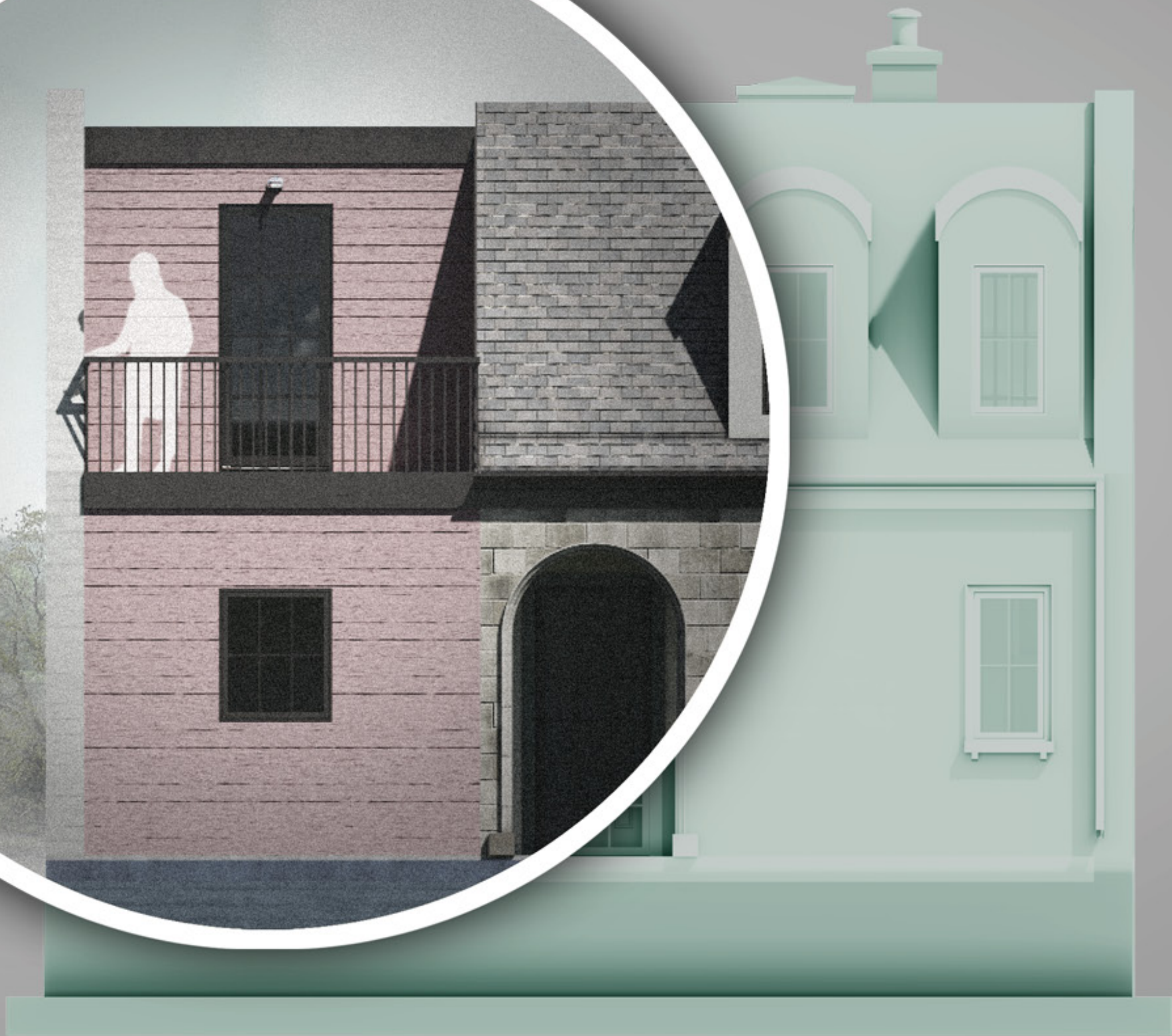


*Section 1*



*Section 2*

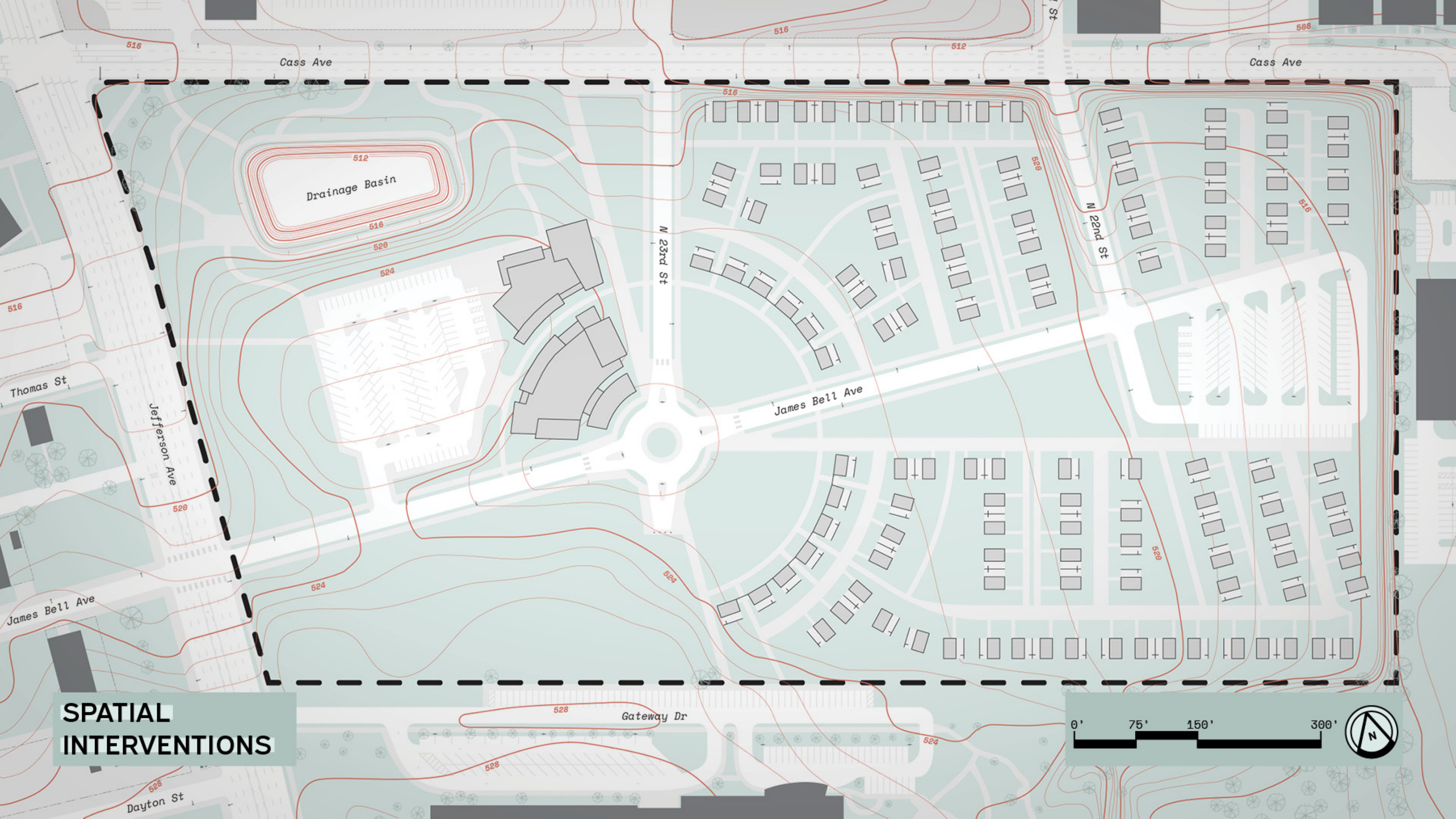








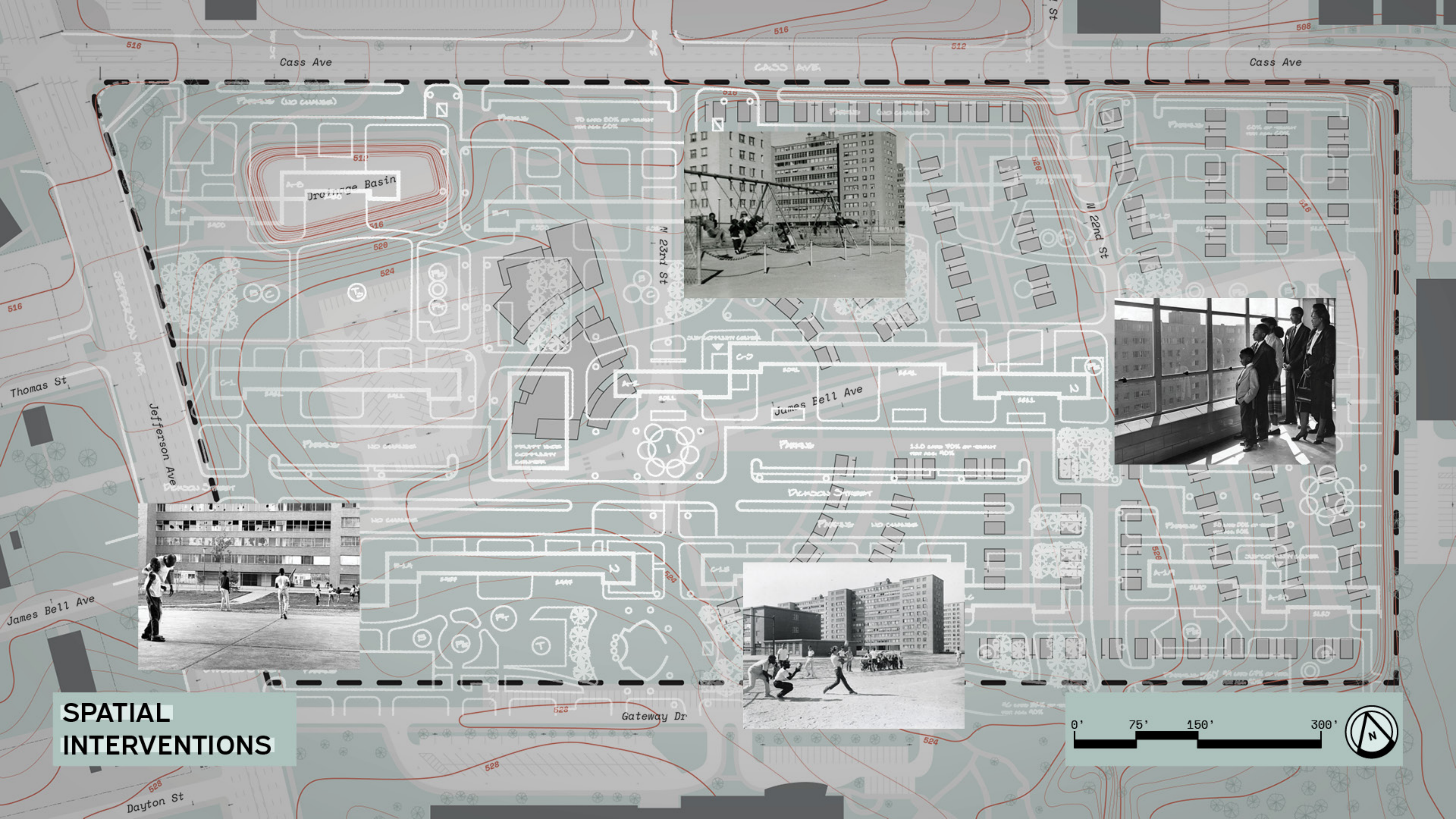


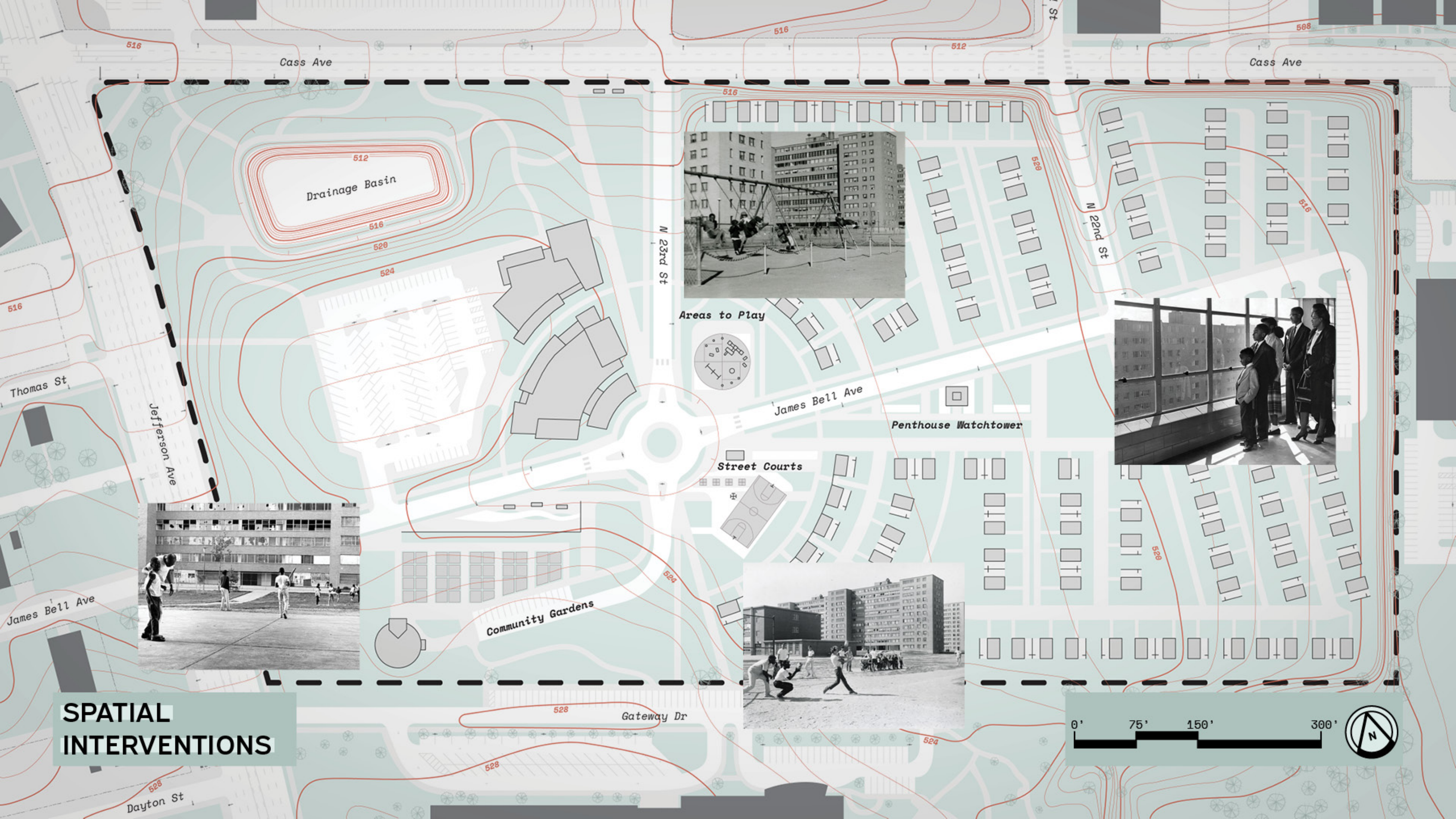


**SPATIAL  
INTERVENTIONS**



# SPATIAL INTERVENTIONS





Areas to Play



Street Courts



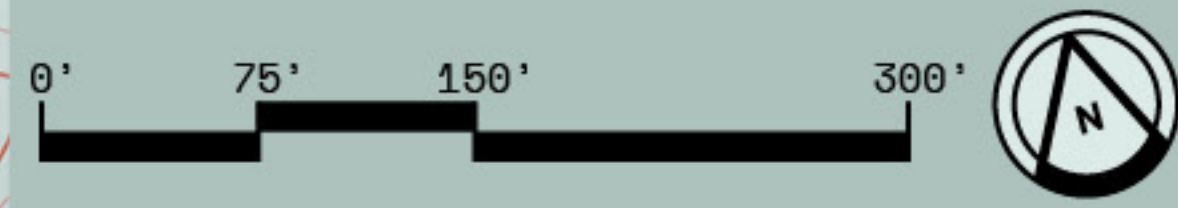
Penthouse Watchtower



Community Gardens



# SPATIAL INTERVENTIONS





Areas to Play

Penthouse Watchtower

Street Courts

Community Gardens

of janitors in uniform who would mop the halls and stairs and all that, and we would learn  
dule. When they were gone a couple of us would get together and play wall ball, you know, just do  
eren't really supposed to do. If a janitor caught you they'd tell your parents or take your ball,  
kids so of course we just moved on and kept playing. At first there was a lot of cleaning and maint  
would go on, but they sorta switched parts out at the buildings to make the place seem more dur  
went on. I remember that a bit later on in the time that we lived there, they started putting  
light and windows and stuff to make them "indestructible", but really that would just make a k  
mine break it.



the wa much o 50's, I remember  
al of j it, and we would  
When all, you know, j  
t re nts or take you  
s so a lot of clean  
ter wo ke the place se  
as , they started p  
hat w just



I know their stories... I was one of the long term residents of Pruitt-Igoe, so when they finally  
blishing the towers in the 70's they invited me out to see it happen. It was terrible, it was almost  
ng a child... Sure, the place had its ups and downs. I know it had its share of drugs, and prostitu  
thieves and whatever, but I still cared for it! It started to fall apart though, and when you'd co  
none would come. When we tried to get the housing authority to take responsibility, they would  
mayor, who would just blame the fed, so there was a lot of resentment. But still, you hated to  
Whenever I drive down Cass Avenue on my way to church, I look at the trees and in my mind's eye I  
it. I still remember so much of it, the snow, the rain, the people and people getting beat up,



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# RETURNING HOME

