

North Dakota State University Graduate School

Title

AMALGAMATION: EXPLORING THE CONTEXT OF HEALTH AND NATURE OF
LIBERIA

By

Worlikema Angel Golijikaye

The Supervisory Committee certifies that this *thesis* complies with North Dakota State
University's regulations and meets the accepted standards for the degree of

MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE

SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE:

Stephen A. Wischer

Thesis Coordinator

DocuSigned by:

Stephen Alexander Wischer

CBA6CA6223024AC...

Stephen A. Wischer

Primary Advisor

DocuSigned by:

Stephen Alexander Wischer

CBA6CA6223024AC...

Approved:

05/20/2024

Date

DocuSigned by:

Susan Schaefer Kliman

C9FF1C4ACFB7438...

Department Chair



AMALGAMATION: EXPLORING THE CONTEXT OF HEALTH AND NATURE OF
LIBERIA

A Thesis
Submitted to the Graduate Faculty
of the
North Dakota State University
of Agriculture and Applied Science

By
Worlikema Angel Golijikaye

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of
ARCHITECTURE

Major Department: Architecture
School of Design, Art, and Architecture

May 2024

Fargo, North Dakota

ABSTRACT

As a developing country, Liberia still faces significant gaps in essential services. About a year and a half ago, my mother explained, a loved one of hers passed due to health complications and couldn't receive help because there wasn't a clinic nearby. This revelation stirred a mix of emotions within me. It ultimately led me to formulate my thesis, which revolves around establishing a regional clinic or hospital.

This study focuses on how to better engage with the health, nature, and stories of Liberia people within the context of clinics. The design process incorporates the history of vegetation (particularly trees), representing the intersection of traditional medicine and Western medicine and the perspectives of the Americo-Liberian and Indigenous Liberian communities. The study additionally aims to showcase the connections between the two groups and demonstrate how they are interconnected while simultaneously discussing the factors that have contributed to their current lack of medical facilities.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS,

I want to express my gratitude to those who have helped me through this experience and process: Jennifer Brandel, my NOMAS advisor, and Stephen Wischer, my professor. I sincerely appreciate the learning opportunities I've gained from this process.

My thesis could not have been completed without the support of my parents, Laymah Golijikaye and Kekula Golijikaye, and my sister Khalaleema Golijikaye. Specifically, I give my heartfelt thanks to my sister, who stayed with me during those countless nights. Thank you all for being there for me through this process.

DEDICATION

I want to dedicate this study to my parents, especially my mother, who has been my main source of inspiration for this project. Her motivation has guided me to pursue my ambitions and has inspired me to contribute to our communities.

I also want to express my gratitude to our cousins, uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters, and friends who have provided valuable insights, information, and encouragement throughout this study.

Finally, I give thanks to Jehovah God for providing me with the strength, guidance, and determination to reach the heights that I have today. Despite the challenging journey, I have been able to persevere with his help.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	iii
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	iv
DEDICATION.....	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vi
LIST OF FIGURES	vii
1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1. MOTIVATION.....	2
1.2 OBJECTIVE.....	3
2. BACKGROUND	6
2.1.HISTORY.....	6
3. METHODOLOGY.....	9
3.1. ATTUNEMENT.....	9
3.2. FLESH OF LANGUAGE.....	11
3.3. TREES	13
4. CONCLUSION.....	16
4.1. SITE	16
4.2. DESIGN PROCESS.....	19
4.3. FLOOR PLAN.....	19
4.4. SECTION	21
4.5. AXON	23
4.6. MATERIALS.....	24
REFERENCES	26
APPENDIX PAST ARCHITECTURAL PROJECTS.....	28

LIST OF FIGURES

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
Figure 1 Main House Theater (Wikipedia, 2009) Image, n.d.).....	9
Figure 2 Classroom Image (Getty Image, n.d.).....	9
Figure 3 Elementary school in Senegal (Toshiko Mori, 2019) (officialncpnm, n.d.).....	10
Figure 4 Natural Medicine (officialncpnm, n.d.).....	10
Figure 5 Graphic (Unknown, n.d.) Nordquist, 2019).....	11
Figure 6 Ex. Of Narratives (R. Nordquist, 2019).....	11
Figure 7 Graphic (Unknown, n.d.) n.d.).....	11
Figure 8 Graphic (Unknown, n.d.).....	11
Figure 9 Graphic (A. Golijikaye, 2024).....	12
Figure 10 The Fallen Cotton Tree in Liberia (W. Allen, C. Banton, M. Reilly, 2023).....	13
Figure 11 Baobab Tree (B. Wursten, 2015).....	14
Figure 12 Sketches.....	17
Figure 13 Rip and Tear Model.....	18
Figure 15 Process of My Model.....	19
Figure 17 Revit West Section cut w/ Sketches on Top.....	19
Figure 18 Google Image of Project Location Johnsons Town.....	20
Figure 19 Floor Plan of the First and Second Floor of the Clinic.....	21
Figure 20 Diagram illustrating the flow and highlighting space that embodies both mind, body, and spirit.....	22
Figure 21 Westside section cut.....	23
Figure 22 Westside section cut w/ illustration of air flow with aromatic oils herbs and location of African traditional herbs.....	23
Figure 23 Axon view show the tectonics of the building and how it connects if places together.....	24
Figure 24 Perspective view from the tree on the top right looking out towards the pharmacy and the two buildings.....	25
Figure 25 Main Northside elevation image of the building w/ the canopy incorporated.....	26

1. INTRODUCTION

I come from an African background. Both of my parents were born and raised in Africa, particularly in Liberia. They experienced firsthand the tragedies of war in their homeland from a young age. This war was marked by sorrow, brutality, and heartbreak, and its effects continue to impact Liberia to this day.

A quick history of Liberia reveals that the country was established on land acquired for freed U.S. slaves by the American Colonization Society in 1821. This brought in both free and formerly enslaved individuals seeking freedom. Their main settlement, where they arrived, was named Monrovia, which is now the capital of Liberia. The country proclaimed its independence in 1847, expanding its boundaries. Liberia holds the distinction of being the first African republic to declare its independence and is also Africa's first and oldest modern republic, alongside Ethiopia.

The group of formerly enslaved individuals who settled in Liberia became known as Americo-Liberians. Unfortunately, their presence led to discrimination and division between them and the native Liberians, instead of unity and growth. The Americo-Liberians had limited means to integrate with the native Liberians, which further fueled discrimination and division.

The ill treatment experienced by the native Liberians led to the formation of groups and eventually, armed conflicts. These wars were marked by extreme brutality, fear, tragedies, and grief. Despite years of ongoing bloodshed and devastation, the native Liberians eventually emerged victorious. However, their lack of familiarity with the government system introduced by the Americo-Liberians created setbacks in the country's development and growth. These conflicts marked the end of one chapter of bloodshed, but Liberia continued to be affected by subsequent wars that still impact the nation today.

It is essential to ensure that healthcare facilities are accessible to everyone while maintaining the cultural connections that are integral to the community. In other words, it is necessary to identify the shortcomings in healthcare environments in Liberia and find ways to address them effectively.

This revolves around the establishment of a clinic or hospital in the region, acknowledging the importance of accessible healthcare without compromising the cultural fabric integral to the community. The implementation of such a project requires a nuanced understanding of the healthcare landscape in Liberia, identifying shortcomings and devising effective solutions that resonate with the cultural context. It is a call to bridge the gaps in essential services, ensuring that no one is left behind in the pursuit of a healthier, more resilient Liberia.

1.1. Motivation

See, as a developing country, Liberia still faces significant gaps in essential services. About a year and a half ago, I had a conversation with my mother when she shared the news of a loved one's passing due to health complications. Confused, I asked her why they couldn't go to the hospital. My mother explained, 'My dear, there's no hospital.' This revelation stirred a mix of emotions within me. Catering to those words my emotions grew. This led me to how we better engage the health, nature, and stories of Liberia in the field of a clinic.

Now, step into the canvas of your daily routine, a world familiar and comforting. Amidst the hum of your tasks, a subtle cough interrupts, you dismissed at first as an annoyance. Yet, with the passing of days, this once soft cough grows in strength, wrapping itself around your every breath.

Moving through the sanctuary of your home becomes a struggle, a dance with unseen weakness coursing through limbs like a silent tide of surrender.

One morning, you sweep the floors as a shadow leads you to a collapse, as your being laid bare on the floor. Loved ones rush to your side, and in this remote corner where clinics are but distant echoes, fear echoes through you. The journey to a small clinic unfolds, a car ride stretching into an hour of uncertainty. Relief washes over you as the clinic doors welcome you, but this sanctuary of care is limited in its embrace.

The doctor, distant and detached, offers little solace, as it cites the clinic's limitations. The return home becomes a quiet pilgrimage, and as you lay in the familiar laying of your bed, weakness claims you, stealing vitality with each tick of the clock. Family surrounds you, witnessing the gradual fading, your face pallor deepening like a ghostly canvas. Shivers ripple through your frame, and they observe the ebbing life, each moment etched in the hues of sorrow.

In the hushed stillness of your room, your gaze fixes on the ceiling, its once-clear view now blurred with impending departure. With each blink, lids descend in slow surrender, a gradual unveiling of the final act. The colors dim, the rhythm of your breath slows, and as your gaze meets the familiar ceiling, as you slowly blink the palette of existence shifts to a hue unseen since the moment of birth.

1.2. Objective

The building project has a primary objective of sustainability, aiming to construct a long-lasting structure that is cost-effective and blends seamlessly with the natural environment. The project focuses not only on environmental sustainability but also on connecting the trees, the two groups, and harmonizing with the local ecosystem. Through the adoption of sustainable

practices, the project aims to acknowledge the indifference between the two groups the Americo-Liberian, and the Indigenous Liberian as well as western medicine and modern medicine.

Provide a in depth concept of storytelling in the landscape of language. Gadamer suggests that it can be open to the whole human being. Alberto is suggesting that moods influence our stories, which are central to what my architecture is generated from. David Abrams talks about the idea of flesh and language, and how we feel empathy through the stories we share. This is how my architecture is based on that, such as trees.

The project's core principle is accessibility, recognizing the vast disparity between the availability of medical facilities in developed regions and the scarcity in Liberia. The project seeks to bridge this gap by strategically locating the facility where it is most needed, thereby bringing essential medical services closer to underserved populations. The focus is on making healthcare more accessible and connecting medical facilities with communities in need.

Cultural sensitivity is a crucial consideration in the project, emphasizing the importance of the building harmonizing with the local environment. The project avoids a one-size-fits-all approach, recognizing the uniqueness of the community it serves. The program design takes into account the cultural heritage and traditional methods of dealing with sickness in Liberia. To recognize the differences between the Americo-Liberian and the Indigenous-Liberian groups, as well as Western medicine and Traditional medicine. Efforts are made to integrate these cultural practices seamlessly, ensuring that the facility respects and complements the existing ways of the community.

Regarding traditional medicine in Liberia, the project proposes a comprehensive research initiative to delve deeply into the local methods, including herbal teas, minerals, and spiritual-based treatments. The research aims to understand and integrate these traditional practices into

the medical facility's offerings, fostering a holistic approach to healthcare that respects and incorporates both conventional and traditional healing methods.

2. Background

I will be discussing the history of Liberia, including its beginnings, the tragedies, division, and indifference that have motivated me to choose this topic for my thesis. I will also include a detailed timeline of the events that have occurred in the country.

2.1. History

Liberia was established on land acquired for freed U.S. slaves by the American Colonization Society in 1821. This brought in both free and formerly enslaved individuals seeking freedom. Their main settlement, where they arrived, was named Monrovia, which is now the capital of Liberia. The country proclaimed its independence in 1847, expanding its boundaries. Liberia holds the distinction of being the first African republic to declare its independence and is also Africa's first and oldest modern republic, alongside Ethiopia.

The group of formerly enslaved individuals who settled in Liberia became known as Americo-Liberians. Unfortunately, instead of unity and growth, their presence led to discrimination and division between them and the native Liberians. The Americo-Liberians had limited means to integrate with the native Liberians, which further fueled discrimination and division.

The ill treatment experienced by the native Liberians led to the formation of groups and eventually, armed conflicts. These wars were marked by extreme brutality, fear, tragedies, and grief. Despite years of ongoing bloodshed and devastation, the native Liberians eventually emerged victorious. However, their lack of familiarity with the government system introduced by the Americo-Liberians created setbacks in the country's development and growth. These conflicts marked the end of one chapter of bloodshed, but Liberia continued to be affected by subsequent wars that still impact the nation today (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2024).

Besides the division and the classism and the push of westernization onto the country (leading Liberia to lose its sense of culture and identity). These factors lead to the downfall of the operations of the clinics itself. This includes the expectation of quality convenience and/or cost, respectful treatment/physician, point of views of the patients, and no longer considering traditional medicine in the practice.

Within the reading and research Hans-Georg Gadamer brings up the very thing that Liberia is struggling with in health at the moment. He discusses the challenges of modern healthcare, with limited opportunities for genuine dialogue, especially in hospitals, are highlighted. He emphasizes the fragility of the doctor-patient relationship in the contemporary medical landscape.

The modern science ethos of achievement is causing Western culture to examine itself as it interacts with diverse global traditions. Western culture is forced to think critically about its own values, assumptions, and ways of thinking when it encounters different cultural and philosophical traditions. Modern science, with its emphasis on objectification and achievement, often leads to a kind of disconnection from the self and the natural world. When Western culture engages with diverse global traditions, it is presented with alternative worldviews and ways of understanding the human experience, which can challenge the dominant paradigms of scientific materialism and individualism.

This encounter raises questions about the nature of knowledge, the role of the human body, the concept of the self, and the relationship between humans and the natural world. It encourages self-reflection on whether the current trajectory of Western culture, driven by scientific and technological progress, is sustainable and aligned with human values. In this context, diverse global traditions offer different perspectives on what it means to be human, the

interconnectedness of all life, and the importance of spiritual and ethical dimensions of existence.

To sum up, the interaction between modern science and diverse global traditions prompts Western culture to reexamine its values and direction, potentially leading to self-reflection and reevaluating its ethos of achievement. Losing deep cultural connections that are latent to the place and people. Having that in perspective, I need to understand how I'll go about the space and atmosphere of the building.

3. Methodology

This section will focus on the study and its research to understand the project as well as clarify its history before entering the clinic's design process.

3.1. Attunement - Space

It is evident that human actions can affect the mood of a room, and architects can design spaces that create a lasting atmosphere that we can associate with the room itself. These atmospheres can be solemn, strange, quiet, cheerful, reverential, oppressive, or any other mood that suits the purpose of the space. Nonetheless, our experience of architecture ultimately depends on our participation in an event that takes place in space. Therefore, architecture is a means to an end, and it depends on the context in which it is used.



Figure 1 Main House Theater (Wikipedia, 2009)



Figure 2 Classroom Image (Getty Image, n.d.)

Mézières argued that the only way to incorporate harmony into design was to describe the moods or atmospheres of rooms using words. He proposed a sequence of spaces in a house, each with different attributes related to the focal actions that take place in them, such as lighting, color, texture, and decoration. This approach enables architects to seek the harmonic potential of architecture and its meaning, not through numbers, but through descriptive narratives.



Figure 3 Elementary school in Senegal (Toshiko Mori, 2019) Figure 4 Natural Medicine (officialncpnm, n.d.)

With that statement I want to contribute to the context of health today by creating thoughtful and meaningful atmosphere that affects the inner life of human beings. When going into the design of the building I want it to represent the atmosphere of the history, culture, and the complex relationship within the two groups. As well as highlighting spaces that present the mind, body, and spirit and space the represent a mesh of those three.

Now one of the biggest factors in my whole thesis is language. Such as a dialogue incorporating Liberia in the discussion. The first thing I'll state is storytelling in Africa.

3.2. Flesh of Language

Storytelling has a long tradition throughout Africa. Elders have used stories to share their wisdom and knowledge through the generations, passing along their history, traditions, and lessons. Our anthology continues this tradition through stories about relationships that provide a cross-cultural awareness we can learn from and share with others. We offer a window into everyday village life: work in the classroom or the clinic, living among the people, relationships that were formed and lost, and the trials and tribulations of civil unrest and epidemics (Greisen, Gorbett, & Lange, 2022).

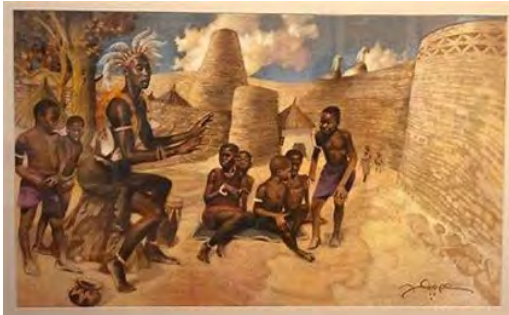


Figure 5 Graphic (Unknown, n.d.)



Figure 6 Ex. Of Narratives (R. Nordquist, 2019)

This is a process that helps the viewer/reader understand the process, stories and journey of what I plan to execute for this project. Storytelling is one of the most significant factors to my thesis as the goal is for the reader/listener to understand why my focus is on this topic and why the stories of where my family is from are filled with an abundance amount from individuals in Liberia.



Figure 7 Graphic (Unknown, n.d.)



Figure 8 Graphic (Unknown, n.d.)

David Abram expresses how language and the power of words have to enhance or stifle the spontaneous life of the senses and that our most cherished human attributes – from the gift of language to the awareness of past and future to the rational intellect itself – all emerge in interaction with the animate natural world and remain wholly depended upon that living world or coherence (The spell of the sensuous, 2016).



Figure 9 Graphic (A. Golijikaye, 2024)

It's only through the prism of our sensory experience that we are able to speak back to the world with language, to imagine beyond the present, and to know ourselves. Such a shift also renders the boundaries between the self and the world permeable, between the human community and ecological context (Strain, Gamman, 2017).

(In the landscape of language, by what Gadamer says, it can be open to the whole human being. Alberto is suggesting moods and influences of our stories are central to what influences my architectural design, which generates from that. David Abram talks about the idea of the Flesh and Language and how we feel empathy through the stories we share. My architecture building is based on that. Focusing on the western and eastern side, but also the nature such as the tree.)

3.3. Trees

Trees are symbolic and hold a great significance in the African mythology. It symbolizes various aspects of life, wisdom, spirituality, and tradition. Breath and Body are connected, starting with trees. They are the biggest factors in African culture in many ways, including outside of Africa.



Figure 10 The Fallen Cotton Tree in Liberia (W. Allen, C. Banton, M. Reilly, 2023)

In 2019 a massive cotton tree came tumbling down on Providence island in Liberia, a premier heritage site. It's the original meeting between the indigenous Liberians and the Black Americans who arrived in Liberia seeking freedom marking the beginning of the complex relation between the two group. In all even though the tree is considered the abode of good and evil spirit. It also shed light on the intricate historical divide between the two group (Cornelius, 2023).



Figure 11 Baobab Tree (B. Wursten, 2015)

Mythical tales of the Baobab Tree: also known as the tree of life. In the mythology its believe to be the first trees created by the gods as a symbol of their presence on earth. In mythology the healing properties within the trees are used as traditional medicine to treat a range of ailments. Within spiritual rituals the tree is considered sacred and is presented with rituals such as dance, music, storytelling. With other engaging factors, such as communal gathering, fostering a strong sense of community and spirituality (The Enlightenment Journey, 2024).

My architecture serves as a prime illustration of this concept, which leads us into the process of what I'm about to undertake.

4. Conclusion

Having discussed the information necessary to understand the overall project and its history. I will now go over my design process and the final design that I have come up with to address Liberia's lack of medical facilities, as well as highlight the differences and bridge the gap between Westernized medicine as it pertains to Americo-Liberians and Traditional medicines as it pertains to Indigenous Liberians. I believe that this design will aid the Liberian population in acknowledging the equally positive attributes of traditional medication (as it relates to its counterpart being Westernized medication) and its effects on the country, culture, nature, and overall stories of the Liberian people. Including the country, culture, and differences,

4.1. Site

The intended location where the clinic would be located is Johnsons Town, a mile from the uncle's location.



Figure 12 Google Image of Project Location Johnsons Town

4.2. Design Process

These are the design processes I've navigated through before arriving at my final building design. The initial step involved simple sketching, not necessarily aimed at creating a definitive design, but rather at drawing freely and seeing where it might lead. My first design emerged as two masses joined together, having two trees positioned at opposite ends of the structure. A canopy over the building, supported by bamboo columns. After completing my sketch, I proceeded to construct a mass model based on it.



Figure 13 Sketches

Initially, the design of the model I brought forth underwent significant changes to evolve into what you see now. While collaborating with Stephen, I made the decision to dismantle the two mass-building concepts. I sensed the necessity for a pathway between the structures, symbolizing a neutral ground and a passage representing air and breath, linking the two trees

together to symbolize the journey and interconnectedness of the two groups. The Western and Tradition, as well as the Black Americans and the indigenous Liberians.

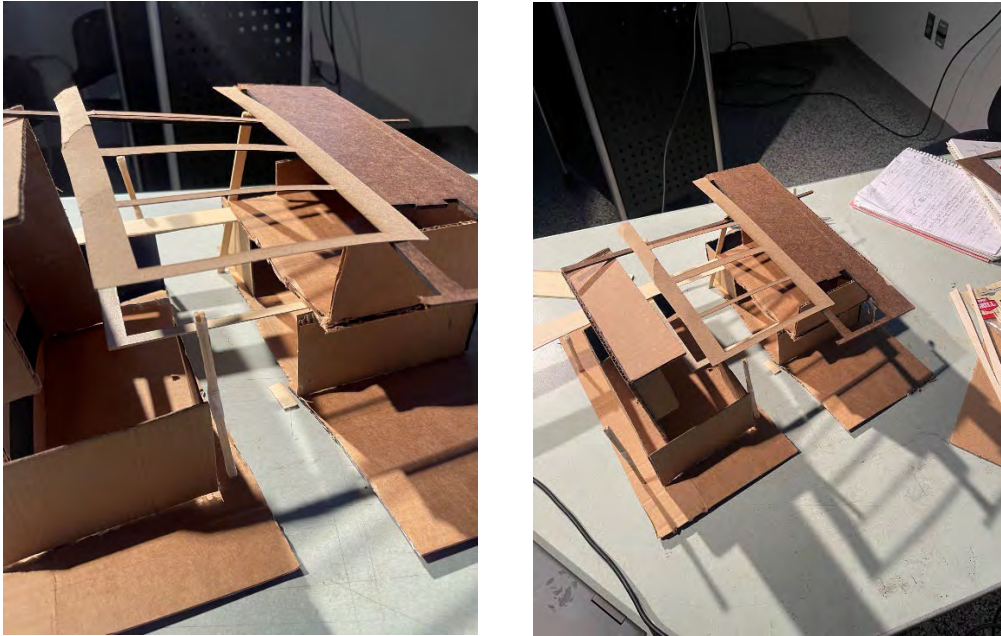


Figure 14 Rip and Tear Model

We integrated elements that serve as bridges, maintaining a connection between the two buildings. This transition propelled the process into the next phase of my design evolution.

Here, we have achieved a cleaner design for the building after gaining clarity on its structure. However, the development continues, refining the form until it reaches the final iteration. Yet, following this stage, there's more to incorporate, particularly focusing on tectonics.

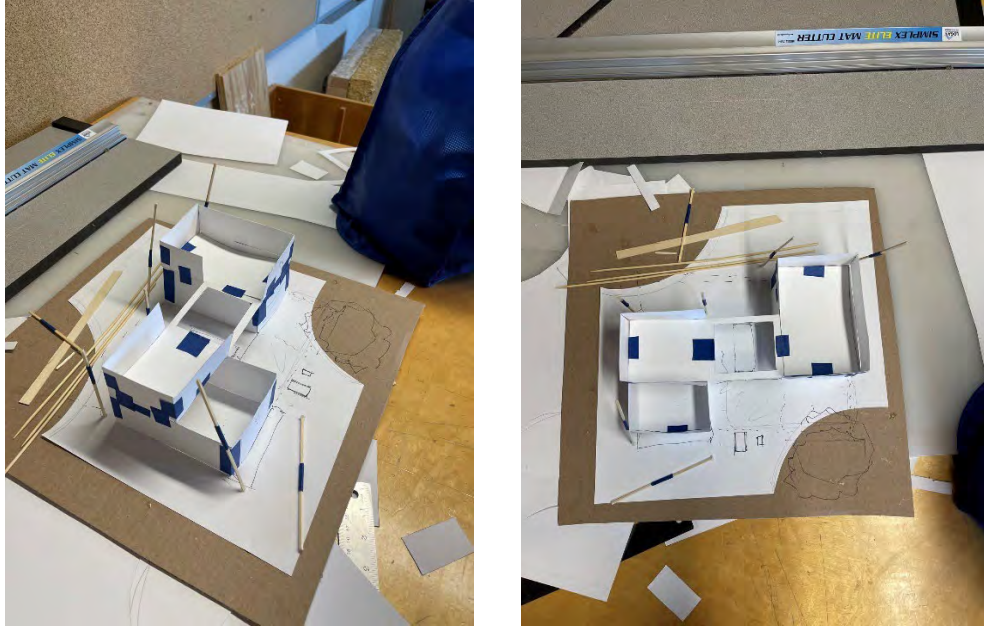


Figure 15 Process of My Model

Within my building, particularly the exterior, the intention is to highlight the dynamic interplay of architectural elements, demonstrating how they can seamlessly connect. If you were to bring both buildings together, you would observe the tangible connection between them and the spaces that symbolize this bond.



Figure 16 Revit West Section cut w/ Sketches on Top

4.3. Floor Plan

Here, we present the floor plan, visually representing the building's layout. The structure to the south, situated on the top, symbolizes the modern facet of medicine and commemorates the journey of Black Americans who settled in Liberia as free slaves. On the bottom, to the north, lies the traditional aspect of the building, embodying the essence of Indigenous Liberian culture.



Figure 17 Floor Plan of the First and Second Floor of the Clinic

Within the floor plan, my aim was to underscore the interconnectedness envisioned for the building, particularly evident in its exterior. Note the outline encircling each structure, where deliberate gaps accentuate the connection; one side recedes while the other extends, resembling a puzzle interlocking to form a cohesive whole. This design choice metaphorically represents hands reaching out to link spaces together.

The central pathway serves as a conduit, symbolizing movement and unity, akin to a neutral ground bridging the gap between the two groups. It also represents the flow of breath,

connecting one tree to another, mirroring the symbiotic relationship between humans and nature. This connection highlights the reciprocal exchange of breath, wherein we inhale what the tree exhales, and vice versa, emphasizing our interconnectedness with the environment.



Figure 18 Diagram illustrating the flow and highlighting space that embodies both mind, body, and spirit

Furthermore, I aimed to emphasize spaces within the building that could embody the concepts of mind, body, and space, either individually or in harmony. The selected spaces serve as focal points to evoke a sense of unity and holistic well-being within the building's design

4.4. Section

In our section plans, several key features stand out. Firstly, the interior spaces are designed to not only foster connectivity within the building but also to serve specific purposes. Strategically placed openings throughout the floors facilitate this connectivity while serving functional roles.



Figure 19 Westside section cut

One notable space is the area housing the pharmacy, which I chose to highlight as a representation of the integration between holistic and modern medicine. This concept stems from my research, which revealed traditional techniques, including the use of aromatic oils derived from plants and fruits. These oils, considered the essence of the plant and often referred to as the soul and spirit, have roots deeply intertwined with the etymology of the term "spirits." Across various African traditional medical systems, aromatic species play a vital role, utilized in forms such as extracts for ingestion or inhaled smoke.



Figure 20 Westside section cut w/ illustration of air flow with aromatic oils herbs and location of African traditional herbs

One notable space is the area housing the pharmacy, which I chose to highlight as a representation of integration between holistic and modern medicine. This concept stems from my research, which revealed traditional techniques, including the use of aromatic oils derived from plants and fruits. These oils, considered the essence of the plant and often referred to as the soul and spirit, have roots deeply intertwined with the etymology of the term "spirits." Across various African traditional medical systems, aromatic species play a vital role, utilized in forms such as extracts for ingestion or inhaled smoke.

4.5. Axo

This view provides another perspective on how the two buildings would connect, offering a glimpse of the exterior and highlighting the architectural tectonics. The aim was not only to illustrate the connection between the structures but also to convey the dynamic interplay of the walls. This is accentuated using colors; those in one hue represent the earth materials, while contrasting shades depict the sections in motion, emphasizing the push and pull within the design.



Figure 21 Axon view show the tectonics of the building and how it connects if places together

Imagine you are cramped up in a cold room with nothing but white tiled walls and a small window displaying the disarray of the hustle and bustle of traffic and constant disregard of nature cloaked in the disguise of “construction” as you lay in sickness and uncomforted by your surroundings, you decide to stand up and look outside of your hospital door as you are greeted with walls matching the hue of the earth and as you walk into the next hospital door as you are greeted with walls matching the hue of the earth and as you walk into the next hospital room you look out the window to see different forms of vegetation at every turn. As you lay in your new hospital bed, you are filled with a feeling of warmth and comfort at the mere sight of Liberia scenery and are pulled further away from the monotoned discomfort you had previously experienced.

4.6. Materials

The materials chosen for this structure include earth wall and red clay. Another material included was masonry brick, visually represented by the white walls. White holds symbolic significance, not only accentuating the architectural tectonics but also representing untold stories that demand attention and recognition.



Figure 22 Perspective view from the tree on the top right looking out towards the pharmacy and the two buildings

Additionally, bamboo is utilized for the canopy, paying homage to Liberian craftsmanship found in traditional vernacular buildings. This design element adds historical context and serves a practical purpose, allowing for the modulation of pattern density to control sunlight and transparency within the interior.

Regarding its absence in previous drawings, the decision to include or exclude certain details may stem from various factors, including design evolution or focus on different aspects during different stages of development.

Ultimately, the emphasis lies on prioritizing cultural narrative and identity, providing a platform for the multitude of untold stories that enrich our understanding of the past and present, guiding us toward a more informed future.



Figure 23 Main Northside elevation image of the building w/ the canopy incorporated

REFERENCES

- Abram, D. (1997). *The spell of the sensuous: Perception and language in a more-than-human world*. Vintage Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC.
- Adansonia digitata* L. Flora of Malawi: Species information: individual images: *Adansonia digitata*. (n.d.). https://www.malawiflora.com/speciesdata/image-display.php?species_id=139770&image_id=26
- Author links open overlay panel Nicholas J. Sadgrove, & Abstract The modern paradigm of aromatherapy is based on in vitro assays of pure volatile organic compounds (as an essential oil). (2020, July 28). *Southern Africa as a “cradle of Incense” in wider African aromatherapy*. Scientific African. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2468227620302404>
- Cornelius, K. (2023, February 16). *With the fall of a tree, archaeology returns to Liberia*. SAPIENS. <https://www.sapiens.org/archaeology/archaeology-liberia/>
- Encyclopedia Britannica, inc. (2024, May 13). *Liberia*. Encyclopedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Liberia>
- The Enlightenment Journey The Enlightenment Journey is a remarkable collection of writings authored by a distinguished group of experts in the fields of spirituality. (2024, January 22). *The Baobab Tree: Symbolism in African mythology*. The Enlightenment Journey. <https://theenlightenmentjourney.com/the-baobab-tree-symbolism-in-african-mythology/>
- Gadamer, H.-G. (1997). *The Enigma AF Health: The art of healing in a scientific age*. Poliy Press.
- Greisen, S. E., Gorbett, S., & Lange, K. E. (Eds.). (2022). . Sidekick Press.
- Home – the maltings*. Home – The Maltings. (n.d.). <https://www.maltingsberwick.co.uk/>
- Nordquist, R. (2019, January 20). *What is a narrative and how do I write one?*. ThoughtCo. <https://www.thoughtco.com/narrative-composition-term-1691417>
- Pérez-Gómez, A. (2016). *Attunement: Architectural meaning after the crisis of modern science*. The MIT Press.
- Robinson, S., & Pallasmaa, J. (2015). *Mind in architecture: Neuroscience, embodiment, and the future of Design*. The MIT Press.
- The spell of the sensuous: Perception and language in a more-than-human world*. Alliance for Wild Ethics. (2016, May 10). <https://wildethics.org/the-spell-of-the-sensuous/>

Strain, D., & Gamman, A. (2017, March 15). *Book review: The spell of the sensuous*. The Spiritual Naturalist Society. <https://www.snsociety.org/book-review-the-spell-of-the-sensuous/?replytocom=10388>

We are dedicated to the field of natural medicine. Nigerian Council of Physicians of Natural Medicine. (n.d.). <https://officialncpnm.ng/About>

Webcontent. (2023, October 4). *Toshiko Mori's Fass School opens in Senegal, offering "architecture as a big vision."* Harvard Graduate School of Design. <https://www.gsd.harvard.edu/2019/03/toshiko-moris-fass-school-opens-in-senegal-offering-architecture-as-a-big-vision/>

APPENDIX PAST ARCHITECTURAL PROJECTS

2nd year

Fall: 2020

Texas Boat House, Professor: Emily Guo

Spring: 2021

Marfa Hills Single-family dwelling, Professor: Milton Yergens

Boutique Hotel, Professor: Milton Yergens

3rd year

Fall: 2021

Farmers Market, w/ Kamryn Brecht, Kaitlyn Bridgeman, Elizabeth Kucala,
Professor: Charlotte Grueb

Mixed Used Downtown, Professor: Paul Gleye

Pella Window, Professor: David Crutchfield

Spring: 2022

North Dakota State University Cultural Center, w/ Sophia Naranjo, Professor:
Regin Schwab

Fargo National Veteran Cemetery, w/ Jonny Deitz, Derek Freborg, Sydney

Seamands, Amin Abdi, Landscape: Kaleb McGraw. Graphics: Mary Nyaronga

4th year

Fall: 2022

Capstone: Mixed Used Building in Washington D.C, Professor: Bakr Aly Ahmed

Spring: 2023

Minot Downtown Revitalization, Professor: Kristi Hanson

5th year

Fall: 2024

Thesis Research, Professor: Stephen Wischer

Spring: 2024

Thesis Production, Professor: Stephen Wischer