



Akash Chainani

Architecture Portfolio
Selected Works
2026

“There is only one reality in existence, and that is the universe as it is, what differs from my version to yours is our perception of it.”

- Akash Chainani

AKASH CHAINANI

Chicago, IL | 312-532-3678 | akash.s.chainani@gmail.com | [LinkedIn](#)



[Work Links](#)
(Scan / Click)

SUMMARY

Architectural Designer with four years of international project experience across the Middle East, US, and India. Excellent track record contributing to 30+ projects, from 3,000 sq ft small-scale Residential to 3.2 million sq ft mega-scale Commercial, Institutional and Transportation projects with budgets exceeding \$5 Billion. Strategically led teams for smaller projects with direct client coordination. Collaborated within large multi-disciplinary teams ensuring completion within budget and time. Expert in 3D Modeling, Drawing, and Rendering across major industry-standard software in BIM, CAD and Visualization. Vivid thinker, problem solver and excellent team player.

LICENSES / CERTIFICATIONS / MEMBERSHIPS

Licensed Architect with the Council of Architecture (COA) India	Aug 2021
AIA & NOMA Member	2024 – Present
Certificate Autodesk Certified Professional in Revit Architecture	2020

HONORS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Archie's Best Architecture Design Award in <i>Exemplary Landscape Design</i> by SAIC AIAS	April 2026
Archie's Best Architecture Design Award in <i>Novel Adaptive Reuse</i> by SAIC AIAS	April 2026
International <i>Graduate Scholarship Awardee</i> at SAIC	July 2025
International <i>Travel Scholarship Awardee</i> at SAIC	March 2025
<i>Certificate of Recognition</i> – AECOM	September 2023

EDUCATION

School of the Art Institute of Chicago	
Master of Architecture + Certificate in Historic Preservation	August 2024 - May 2026
Relevant coursework: Architectural Design & Construction, Historic Preservation	

Indus University, Ahmedabad, India	
Bachelor of Architecture	August 2014 - Jan 2020
Relevant coursework: Architectural design, Building construction	

SKILLS

Technical: Autodesk Revit | Dynamo | AutoCAD | Rhinoceros 3D | Grasshopper | SketchUp | Blender | Adobe Creative Suite | Twinmotion | MS Office Suite | Sketching | Physical Model Making | Material Research | Design Ideation | Parametric Design | Sustainable Design | Project Phasing | BIM Coordination | AI Assisted Design Optimization | Collaborative Communication | Leadership & Mentoring | Problem Solving | Adaptability | Can-do Attitude

Languages: English, Hindi, Gujarati, Sindhi

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

School of the Art Institute of Chicago	Chicago, IL
◦ Teaching Assistant - Introduction to Architecture Class (Architecture)	Aug 2024 – Dec 2024
◦ Lab Monitor - Advanced Output Center (3D Printing, Laser Cutting Lab)	Jan 2026 – May 2026
◦ Teaching Assistant - Global Modernisms (Art History)	Jan 2026 – May 2026

AECOM EC (Enterprise Capabilities)	Oct 2022 - May 2024
Architect II	Bengaluru, India
◦ Worked on the Schematic Design, Design Development, Construction Documentation, and IFC stages of multi-million dollar architectural and infrastructural projects in the Middle East and the US	
◦ Developed and managed BIM workflow for models in Revit for the complete project lifecycle, including coordination with MEP and Structural consultants for final project delivery.	
◦ Coordinated with large teams from different disciplines for various stages of design development.	
◦ Adapted to various inter-disciplinary tasks and software workflows specific to projects under different verticals like Transportation, Landscape, Interior Design, and Architecture.	

Parikshit Dalal Architecture + Design	Oct 2021 – May 2022
Junior Architect	Bengaluru, India
◦ Worked on human scale residences, offices, and factory through all stages of design such as SD, DD, CD, Issued for construction documents and sanction drawings as well.	
◦ Managed up to 7 projects at once while intelligently delegating tasks to interns and colleagues	
◦ Extensively worked on Facade Designs, Client Coordination, Spatial Design, Construction Drawings, Consultant Coordination	
◦ Saved the firm's resources by becoming the Lead Visualizer and producing renderings and visualizations for few projects.	

Hunnarshala Foundation (NGO)	Feb 2021 – July 2021
Architect Volunteer	Bhuj, India
◦ Collaborated in the design processes for institutional, residential, and school projects, from master planning and village documentation to interior design and material specification.	
◦ Acquired Hands-on expertise in sustainable mud construction techniques, including the fabrication of Adobe and Compressed Stabilized Earth Blocks (CSEB), Cob wall construction, and application of Mud-IPS flooring and plaster finishes.	
◦ Developed compelling digital visualizations for project presentations, including 3D renders, animated walkthroughs	

Elevate Designs	Feb 2020 – Jan 2021
Co-Founder & Principal Architect	Gandhidham, India
◦ Designed facades – exterior skins for residential projects to interior remodeling of houses and offices while producing the architectural visualization and walkthroughs for the same.	
◦ First experience of opening own practice and leading the design with client and consultants	

Vision Infra Creations Pvt. Ltd.	June 2017 – Nov 2017
Architectural Intern	Ahmedabad, India
◦ Managed a diverse project portfolio including residential (individual houses, housing societies), commercial (high-rise apartments, shops), and interior design projects.	
◦ Led the design development for key project components, including heading the interior design of an office library with 72 hours onsite execution and creating the exterior elevation designs for two buildings.	
◦ Directed project coordination, including leading client meetings, liaising with material contractors, conducting site visits, and producing a full range of construction drawings.	

PROJECT EXPERIENCE

AECOM EC, Bengaluru, India	
Mall of Saudi, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)	
◦ Worked on the Interior design of a \$5 billion project along with 100+ team of people.	
◦ Prepared design development documents for Flooring & other parts of BOH and FOH areas	
Dammam Entertainment Complex	
◦ Worked on the BIM model and produced drawings for the design development stage.	
AU McDowell: Student dormitory renovation Project, Washington D.C, USA	
Stages of design: Pre-Design, Schematic Design, Design Development	
◦ Prepared the BIM model from the 30-year-old CAD drawings.	
◦ Produced drawings for demolition, and new construction phases with master key schedule.	
◦ Closely coordinating with the Lead team in Arlington, Virginia	
Diriyah Square, (Riyadh, KSA)- (Commercial Development) (Design package 03 Architecture and ID)	
◦ Complied and created landscape architecture project presentation documents for the client in UAE.	
NEOM, The Line – Saudi Arabia	
◦ Worked on the \$500 billion futuristic underground metro train stations with Transport Architecture team	

Parikshit Dalal Architecture + Design, Bengaluru, India	
Badami Resort, Hampi, Karnataka, India	
◦ Visualized and modeled the 3D model and renderings with Sketchup + V-Ray	
Residential Projects	
◦ Schematic to Design Development of the House of Slopes – Kerala, India	
◦ Design development to producing Construction drawings and coordination for the Vijay Residence	

Hunnarshala Foundation	
Sahyadri School - Pune, India	
◦ Worked on the concept design to finish material study with mud plaster.	
◦ Applied vernacular mud construction techniques on projects in real time.	
◦ Imagined and Drew from Schematic to Design development stages of a Wellness Center	
NGO Campus - Bhuj, India	
◦ Worked on the schematic design stage of a NGO office building made out of rammed earth, and adobe walls. Sustainable Design, LEED Certified.	
Wellness Center – Kashi, India	
◦ Worked on the concept to schematic design of a nature resort center in Varanasi (Unbuilt)	

Elevate Designs	
Hat house	
◦ Crafted three-dimensional facade designs & fenestrations for the skin treatment of a private residence.	

TRAINING

Working with Earth (Mud) - Hands-on	May 2021
Hunnarshala Foundation , Bhuj, India	
Poetics of Bamboo – Bali, Indonesia	Dec 2015
Learned & explored bamboo as a material with a workshop conducted in collaboration with Ibuku .	

Contents

Welcome,

To my world,

To my reality...

Academic

Page No.

01	The Century Zenith - Graduate Studio 05	08
02	More Tree Garden Center - Graduate Studio 03	24
03	Wood Craft Centre For Exhibition And Workshop - Undergraduate Studio 09	30
04	Sustainable Housing Sikkim - Undergraduate Studio 08	40

Professional

05	Mall of Saudi - AECOM	46
06	AU McDowell Hall Renovation - AECOM	48

01 THE CENTURY ZENITH

STATE & ADAMS ST, THE LOOP - CHICAGO DOWNTOWN

M.ARCH STUDIO SEM 05, FALL 2025



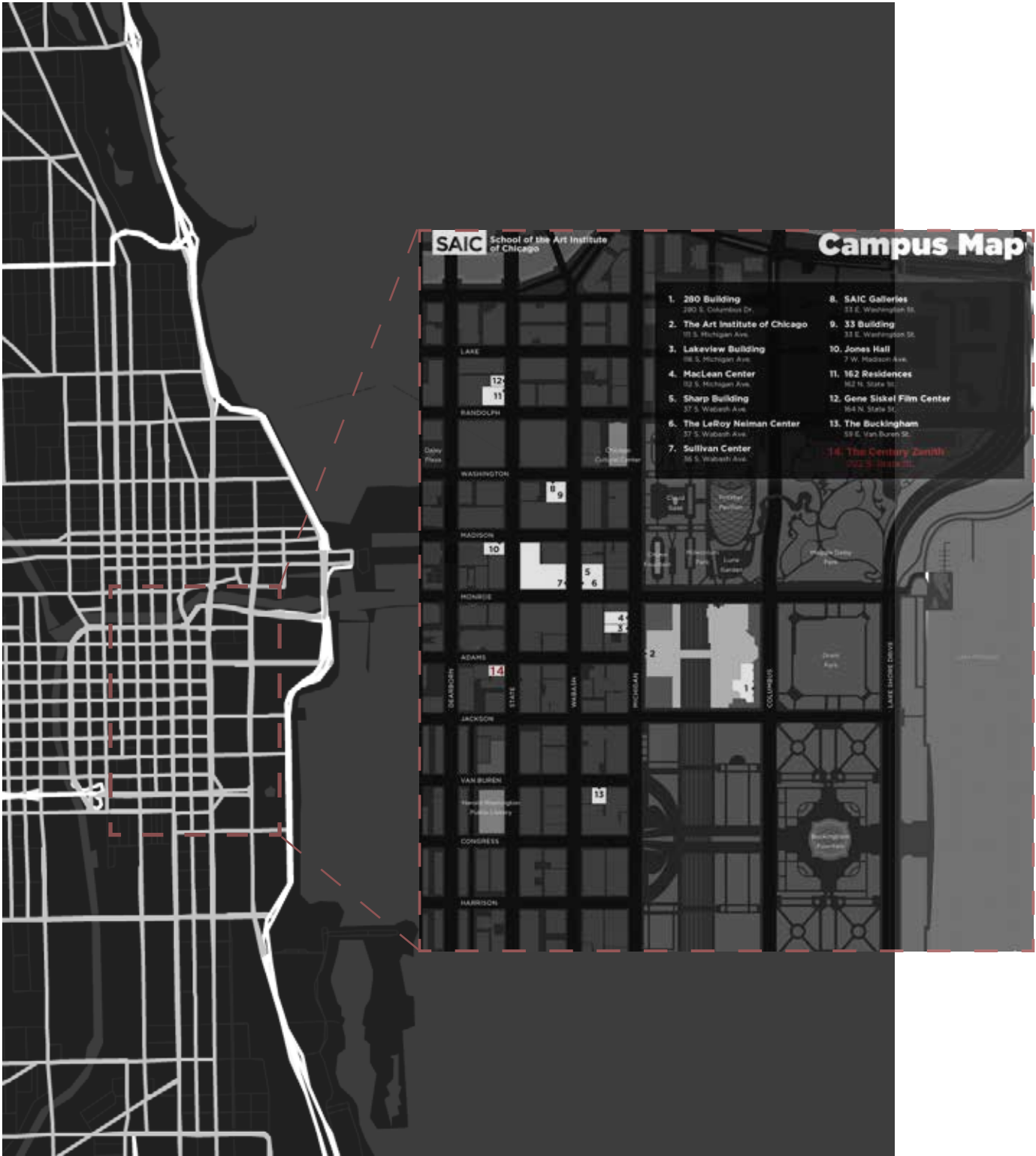
The Century Zenith is an Adaptive Reuse project to design new student dormitories for the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC). It is defined by the stark architectural and programmatic contrast between preserving the 110 years old Century Building and inserting the new Zenith Tower. The Century building, historically an office structure, embodies rigidity and formal seriousness. Its rectilinear massing, regular window grid, and solid facade speak to a traditional, unyielding architectural language. That prioritized function over expressive form. It was not program specific, serving general commercial purposes with an implied sense of permanence and restraint.

In striking opposition, the adjacent Zenith tower is an honest, transparent representation of an art school building and the creative life of its occupants. Its signature feature, the modern, organic, triangulated glass facade, creates a highly expressive and transparent architectural skin. This design is inherently playful, utilizing complex geometry that shimmers and shifts with light, embodying the experimental spirit of the art school.

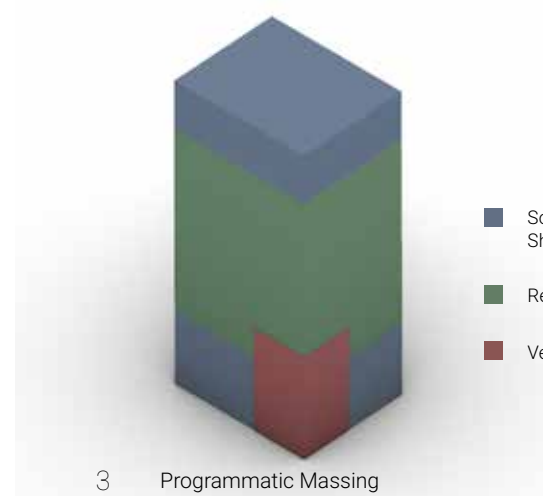
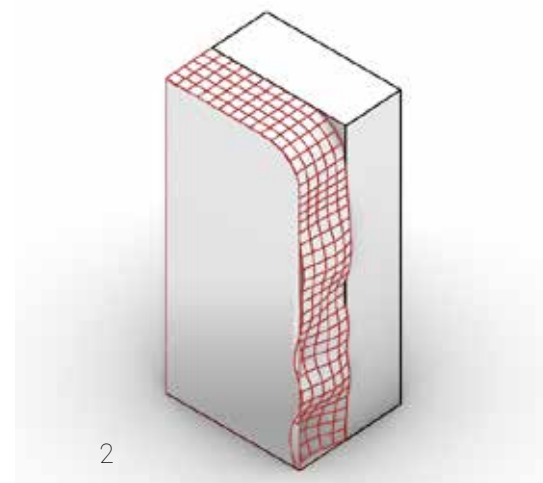
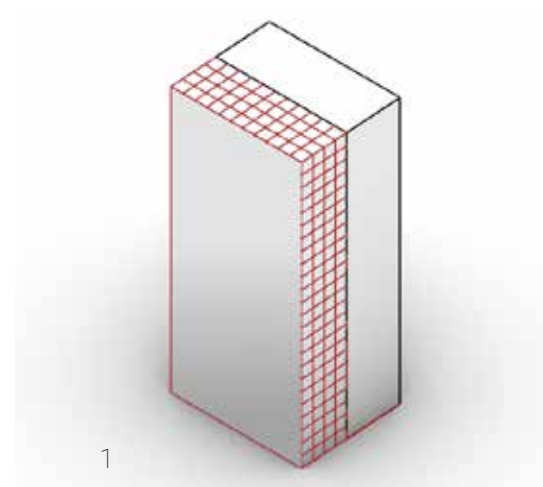
The interior spaces of the Zenith Tower are designed to support this vibrant program, featuring a dramatic vertical gallery spanning the first five floors are a visual pipeline of art and activity—and culminating in a social two storey Winter Roof garden. These communal features break away entirely from the constrained office logic of the past, ensuring the Zenith Tower is a dynamic, light filled, and utterly unique environment that perfectly reflects the unbound creativity and energy of the artists it houses, giving the site a forward looking lifespan for the next century. With the total headcount capacity of 204 students it is one of a premier luxury residences of the school.

Software used:

Revit	Parametric Mass Curtain Wall modeling for Non-Euclidian Organic Facade, everything else
AutoCAD	Drawing
Twinmotion	Rendering
Photoshop	Touch up

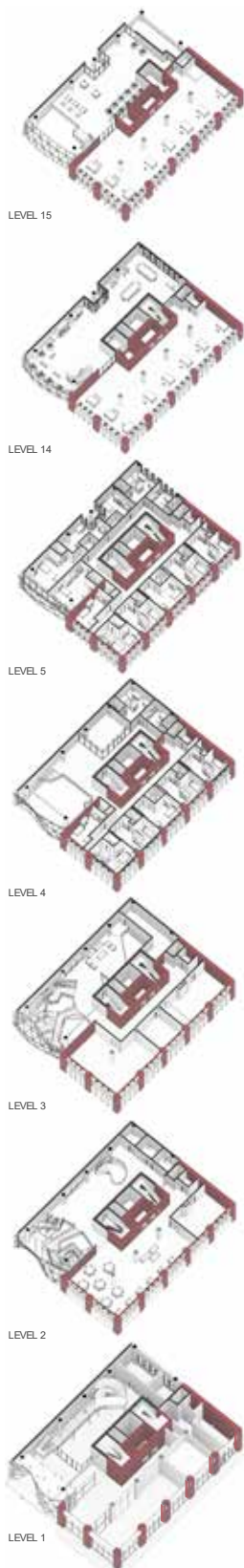


Design Diagrams



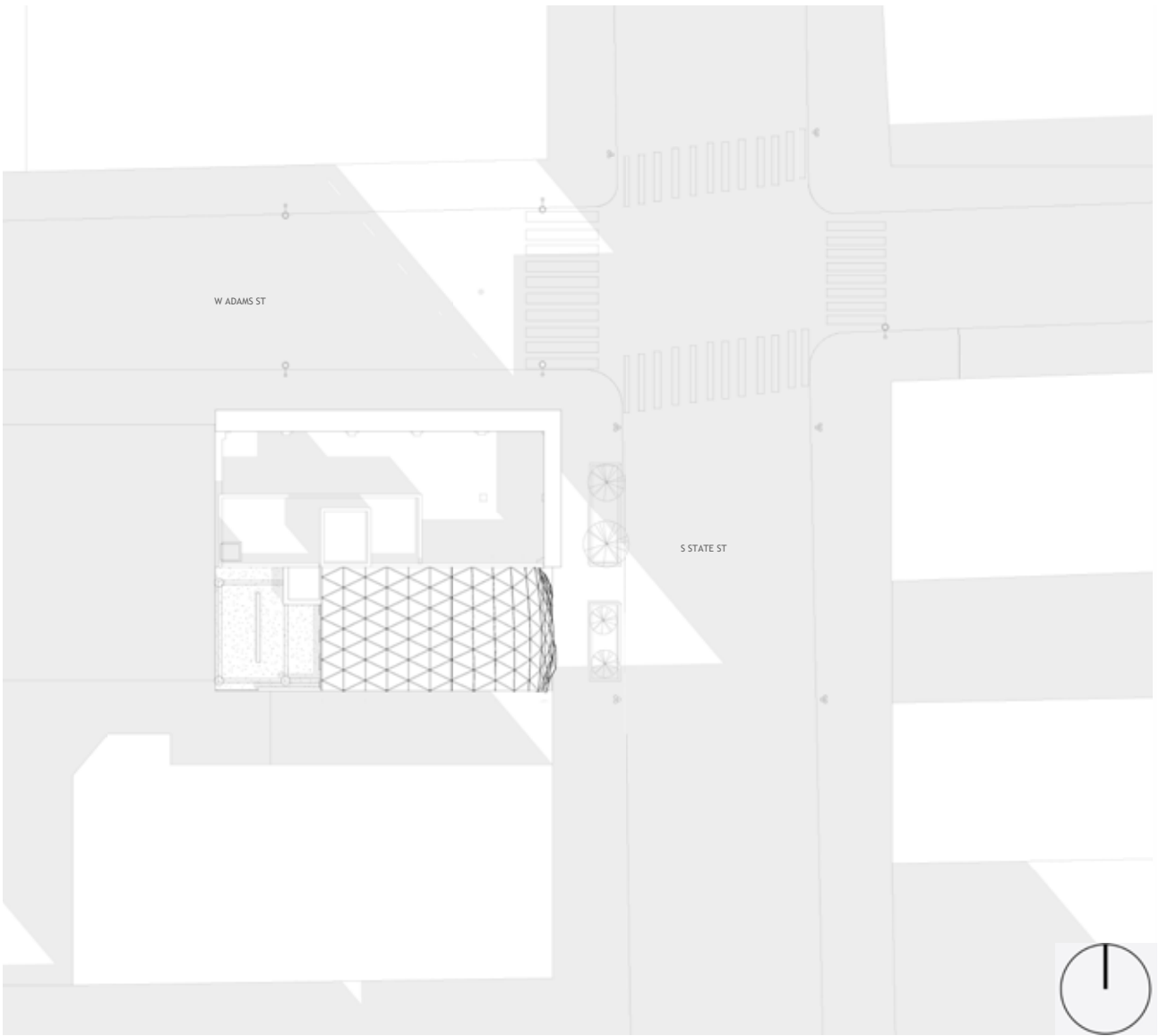
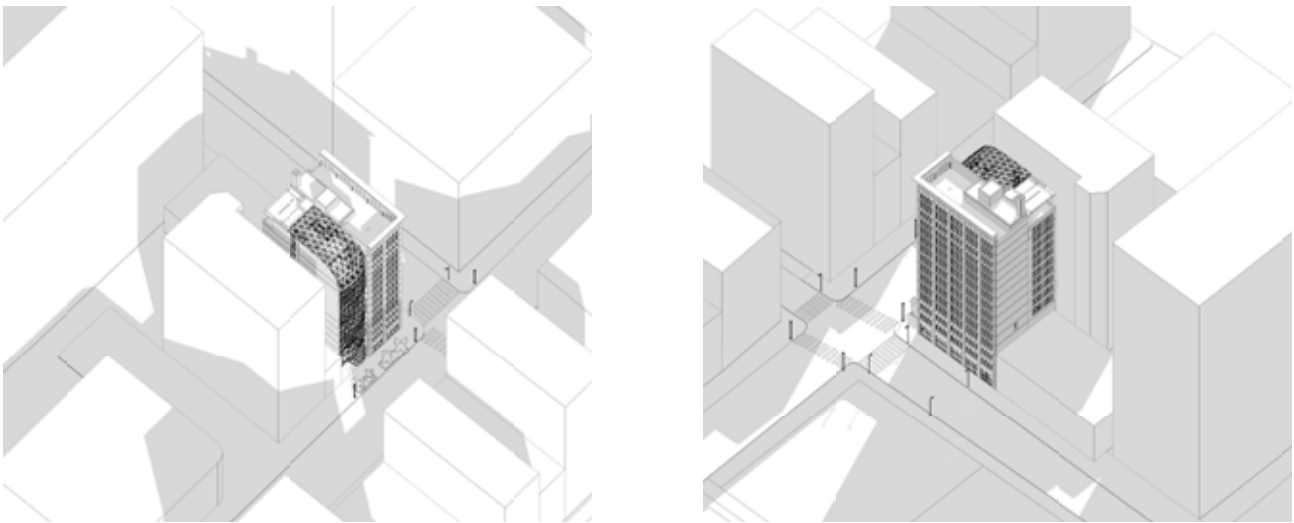
- Social - Gallery, Shared Workspaces
- Residential - Dorms
- Vertical Gallery

Existing & New Construction Plans



- New
- Existing

Site Context

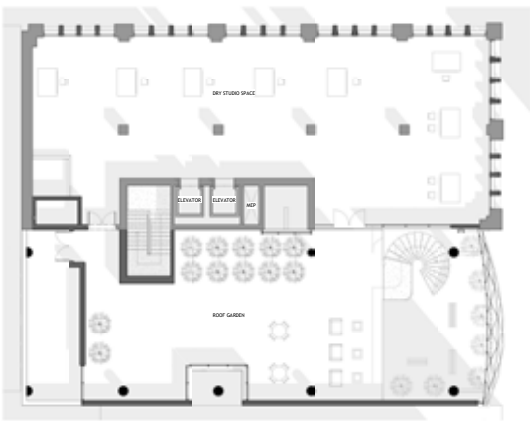


Site Plan

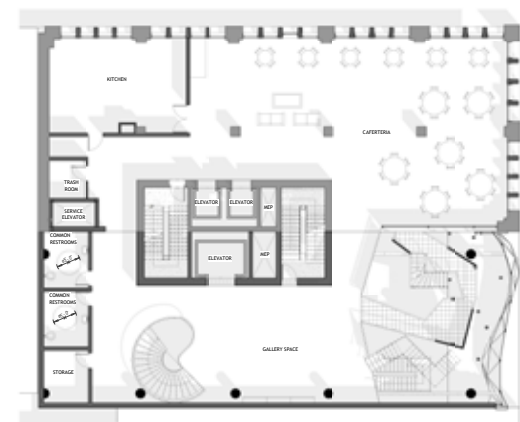
Floor Plans



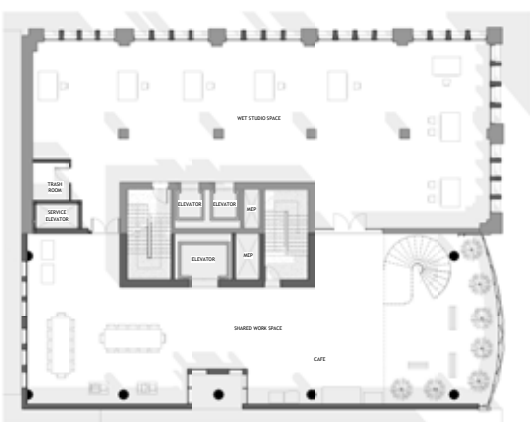
Level 3



Level 15



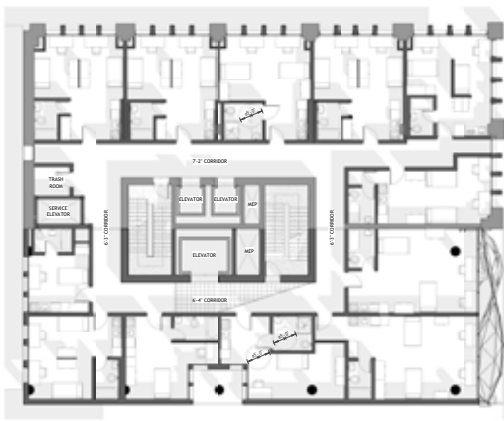
Level 2



Level 14



Level 1



Levels 5 - 13



East West Building Section

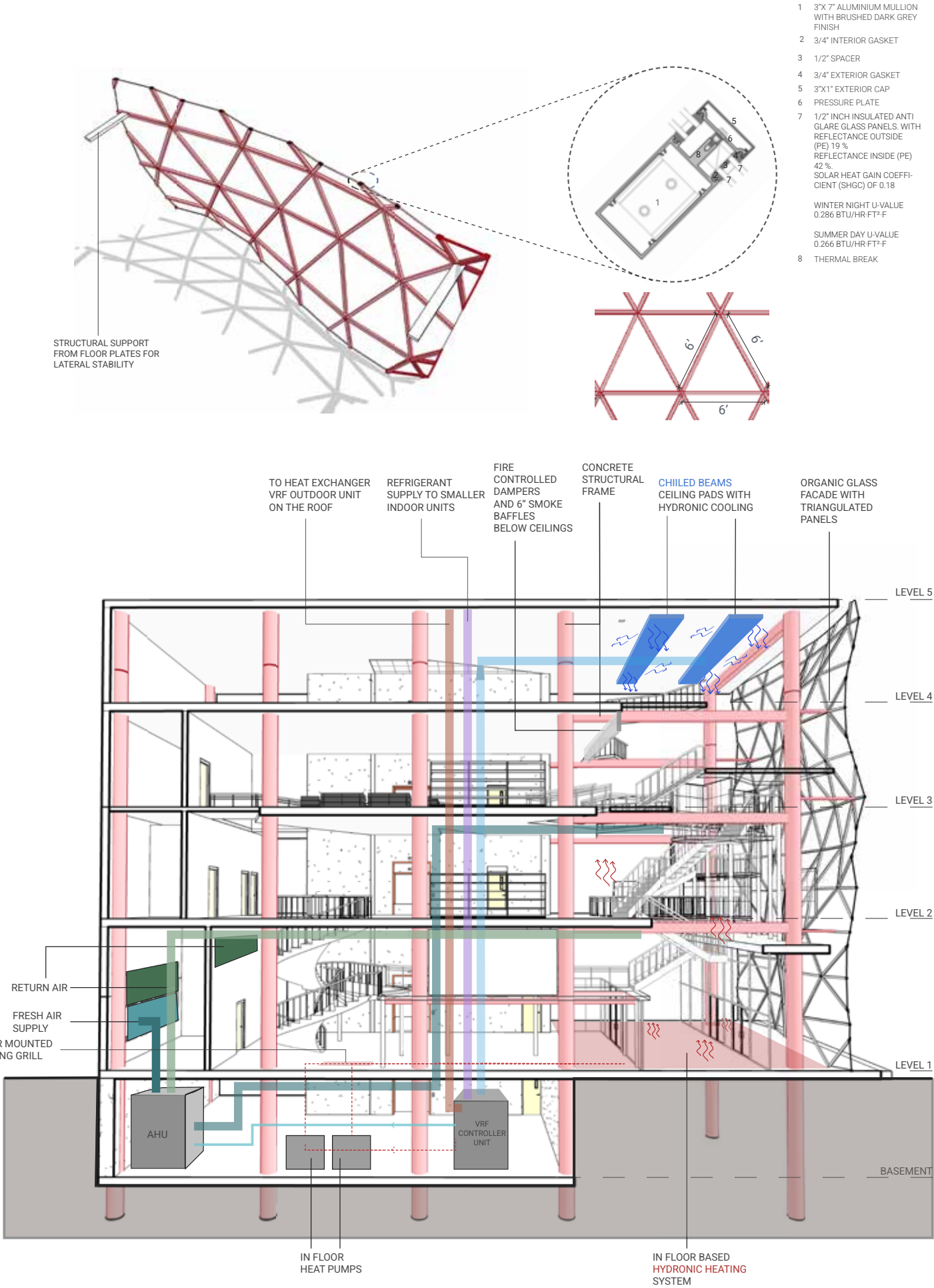
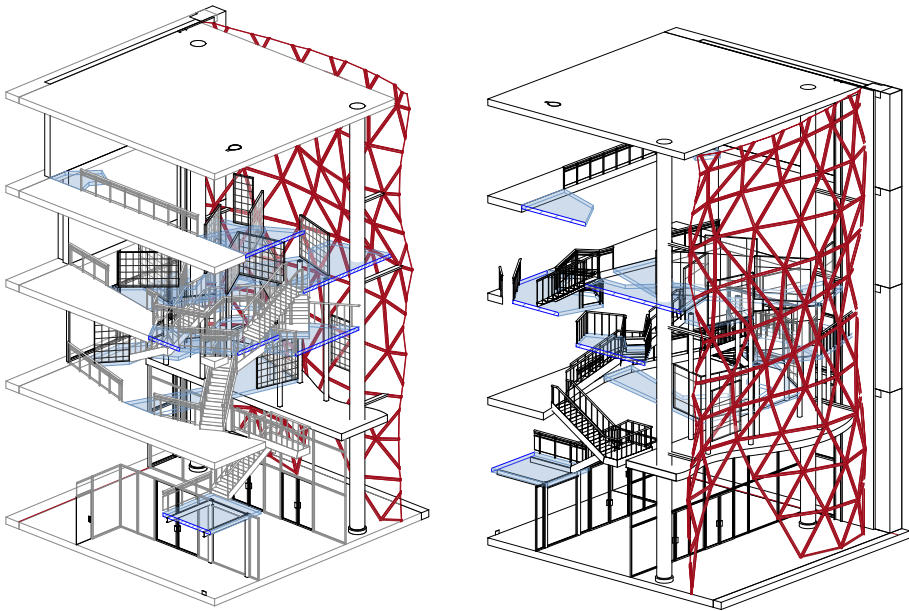
VERTICAL GALLERY
AT FLOORS 1 - 5



View of the Vertical Gallery from Level 4

A Vertical expansive space for students that categorize into Artists, Scholars, Architects and Designers to display their artwork into segregated floating 6” structural glass platforms hovering over the span of Five stories upto 55 feet of connected exhibition space.

3’-3” wide Steel staircases inspired by the earlier fire-escape of the Century building connects the floating platforms/display pieces to each other as well provide another playful access to the four stories. One can enjoy the commute to floors above while traversing through the glass and steel showcase areas.





Vertical Gallery at Level 2



Vertical Gallery at Level 4



Vertical Gallery at Level 1

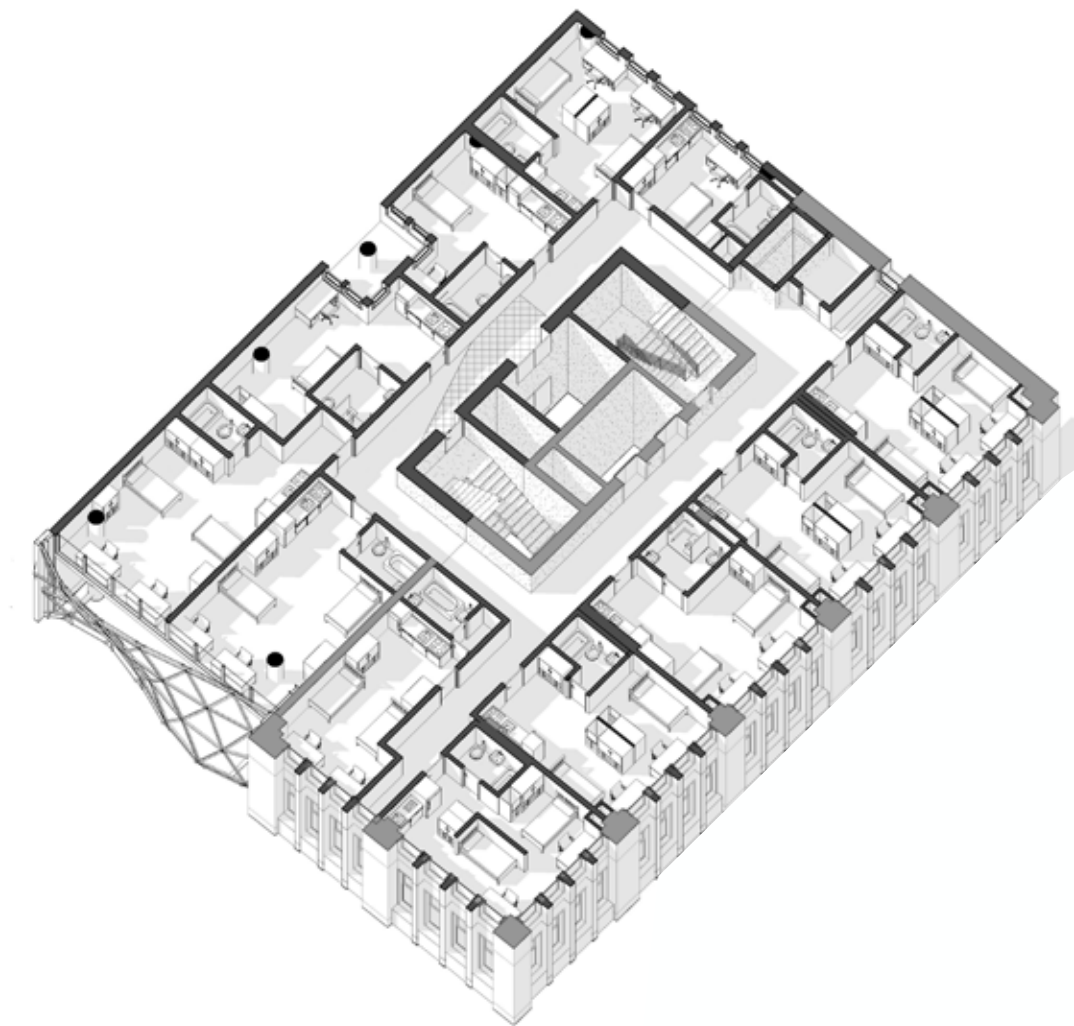


Vertical Gallery at Level 3

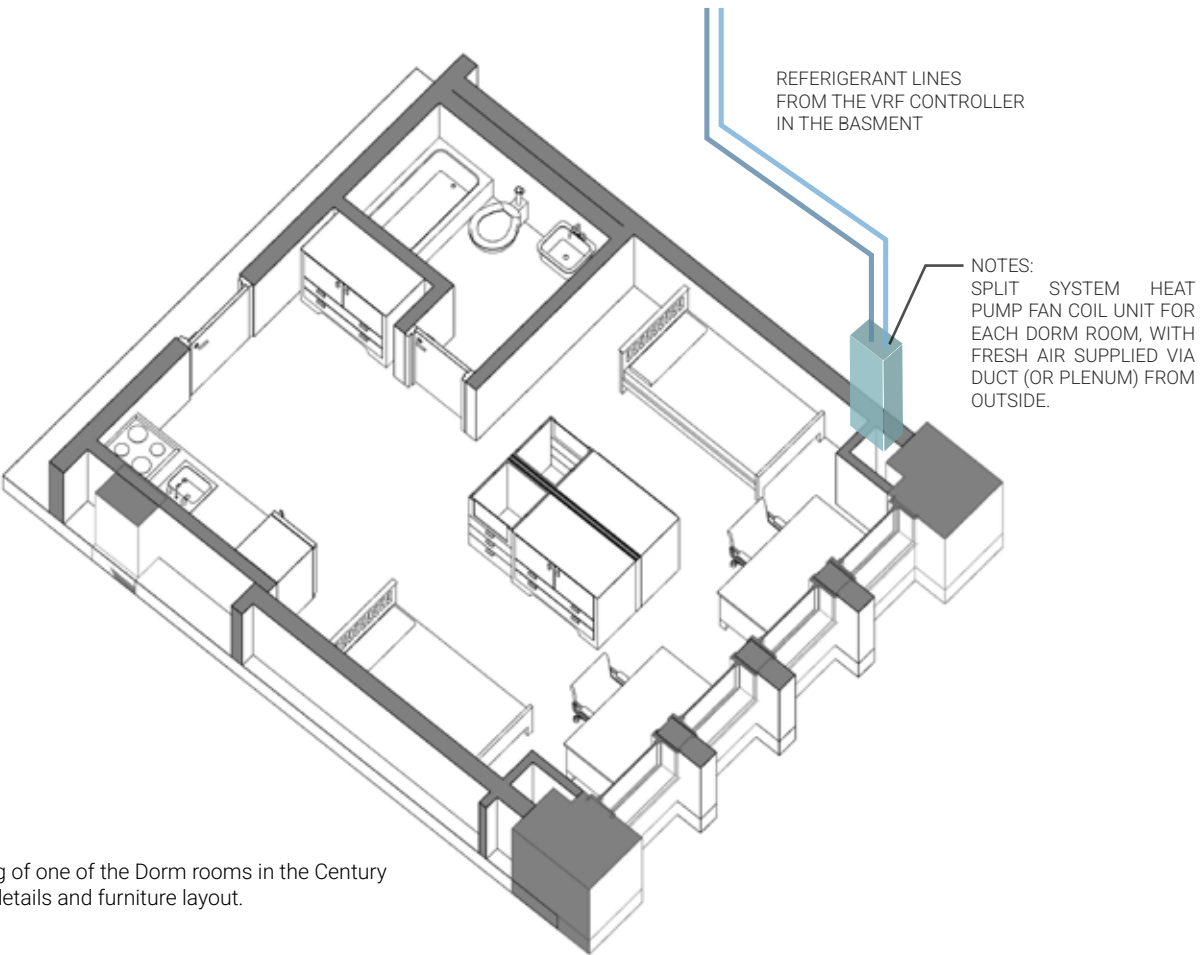
DORM ROOMS
AT FLOORS 5 - 13



Dorm room view inside the Zenith building



Typical Dorm room layout across levels 5 - 13



Axonometric drawing of one of the Dorm rooms in the Century building with HVAC details and furniture layout.

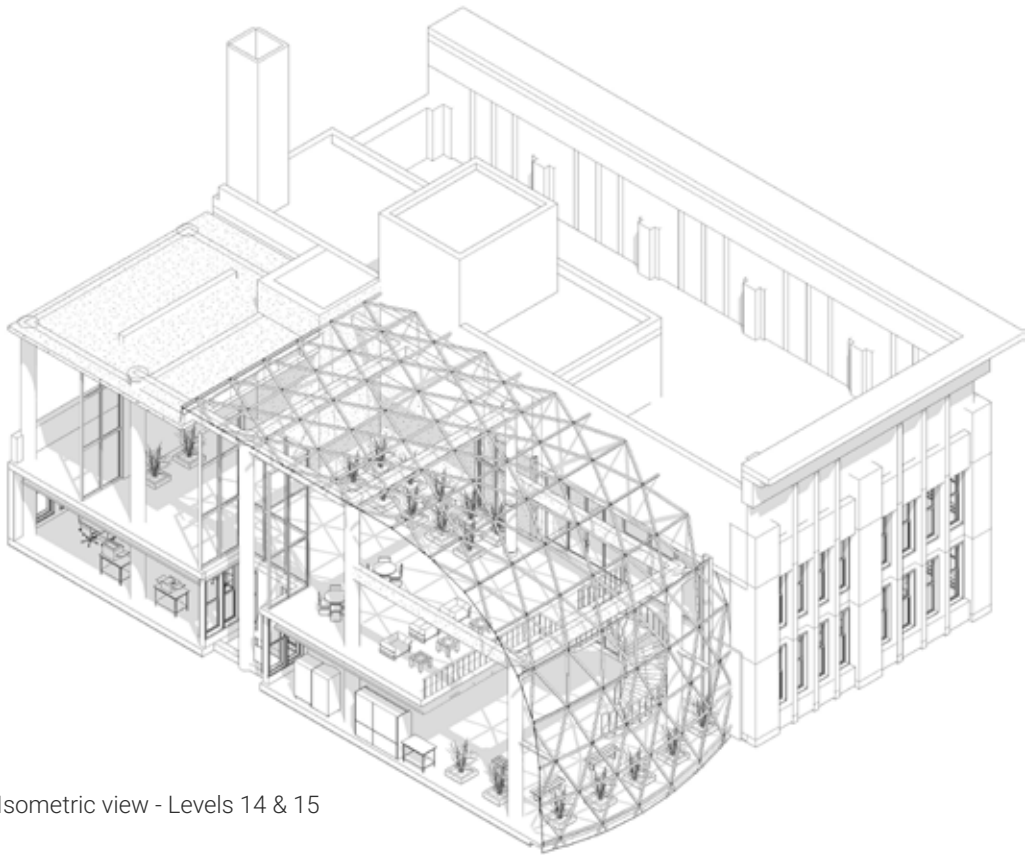


Render of one of the Dorm rooms in the Century building with materials

ROOF GARDEN
AT FLOORS 14 & 15



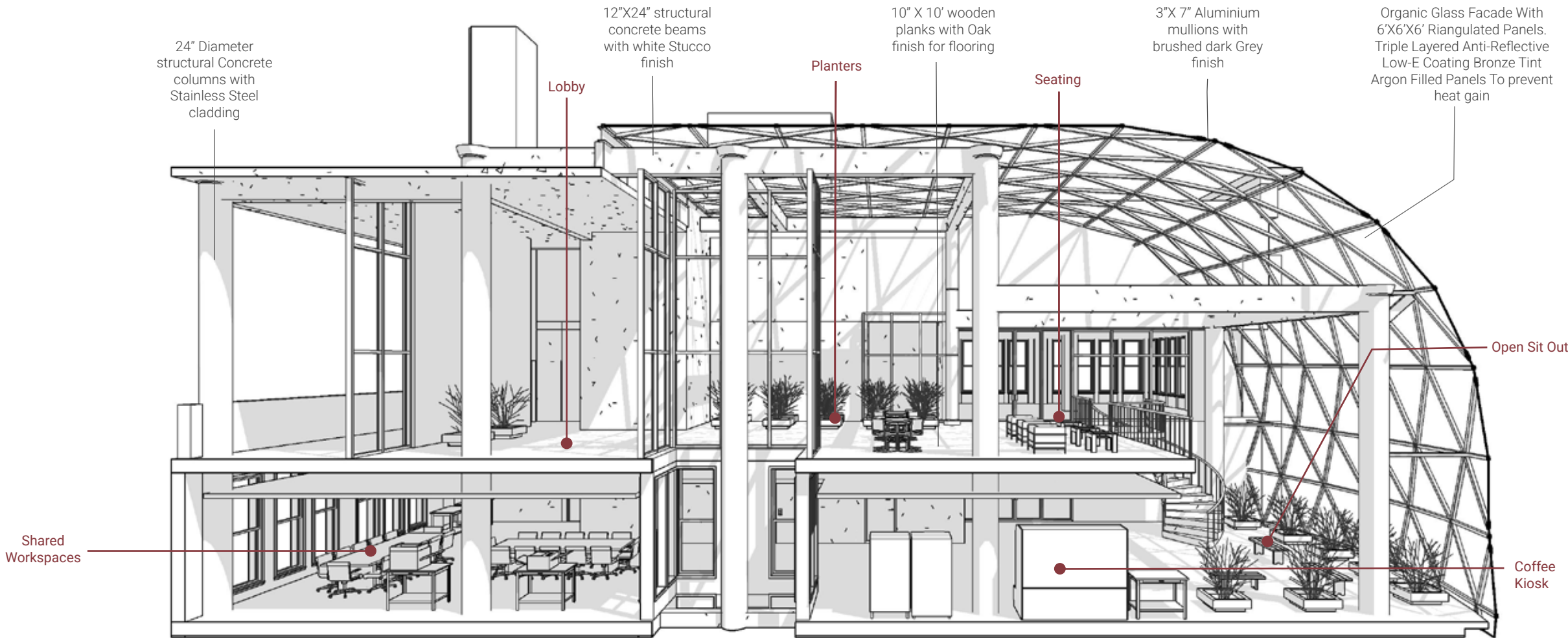
Roof Garden view from Level 15



Isometric view - Levels 14 & 15

A double heighted space, the Roof Garden of The Century Zenith is designed as a high-performance biophilic sanctuary, enclosed within a striking geodesic dome that balances structural expression with environmental comfort. The 3D section reveals a multi-level social hub where the rigorous geometry of the space-frame roof contrasts with the organic softness of the interior landscaping.

This climate-controlled atrium serves as a vital “third space” for students, featuring integrated seating clusters and a spiral staircase that connects the terrace to the academic zones below. By utilizing large-scale glazing and a slender column grid, the design maintains a sense of transparency and lightness, allowing the architectural skeleton to frame expansive views of the surrounding urban context.



3D Section through Roof Garden & Shared Spaces Level

02 MORE TREE

GARDEN CENTER, THE LOOP - CHICAGO

M.ARCH STUDIO SEM 03, FALL 2024

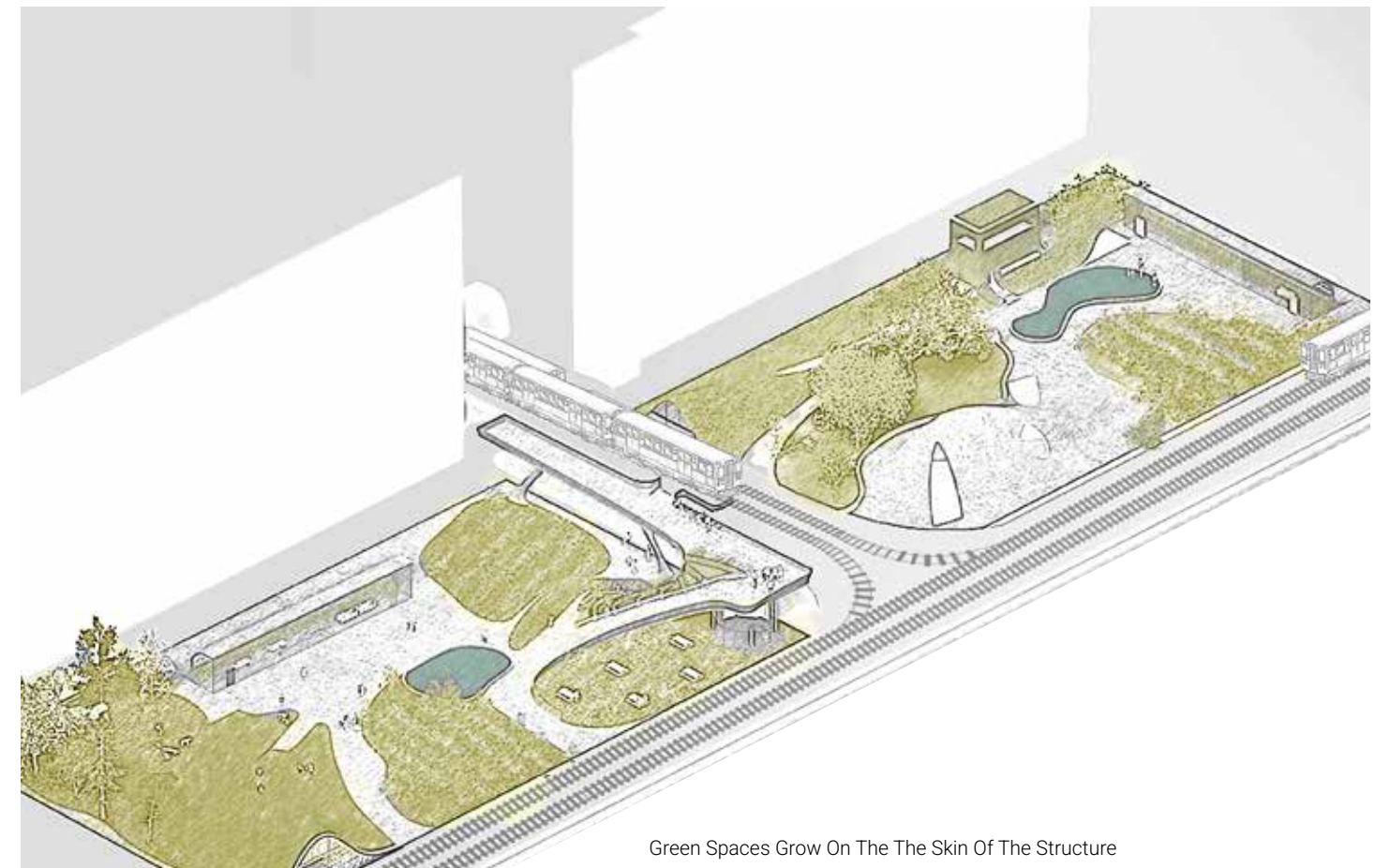
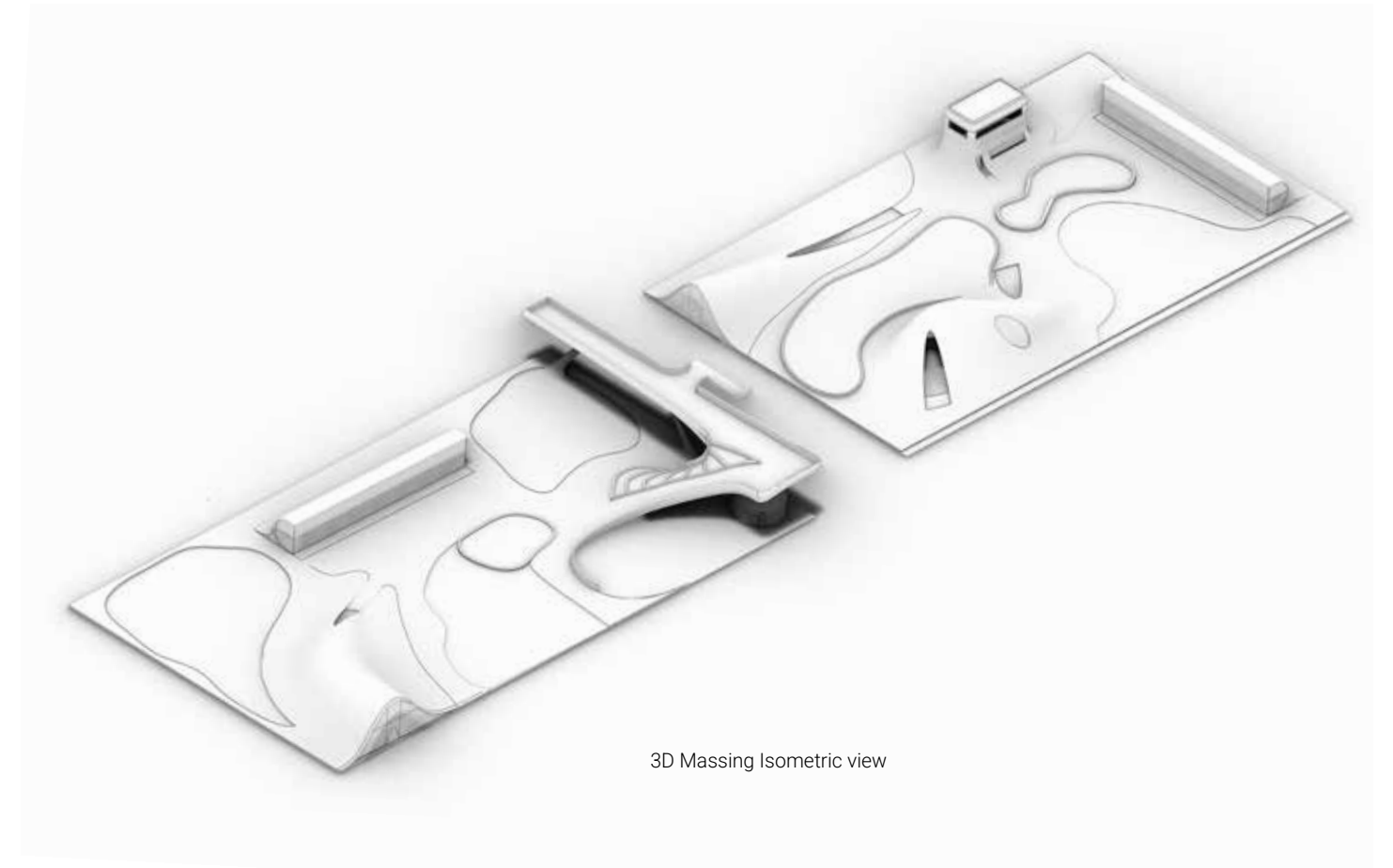
A green - grey volume sitting in the lap of concrete towers. Like a herb in a curry that enhances not only tastefully but visually as well. The space that takes some of the existing conditions of the site of being spatially, visually, and aurally open has an intention to become an ally in the life of everyday folks in the Chicago downtown.

This is a place where you will bring yourself to immerse in the sensory evoking, naturally connected place right in the middle of your commute or not to breathe, see, hear, smell, taste and lastly just to be. The users might experience extreme calmness, and a connection to nature eventually transpiring to life in the overall theme. The curved overlapping volumes sometimes lying flat on the ground gradually become the roof and vice versa. It is a delicately placed intricate collection of inviting open volumes leading to open spaces through narrow doorways

Software used:

Rhinoceros 3D	Subdivision surface & Nurbs Modelling techniques
AutoCAD	Drawing
Twinmotion	Rendering
Photoshop	Editing & Touch up



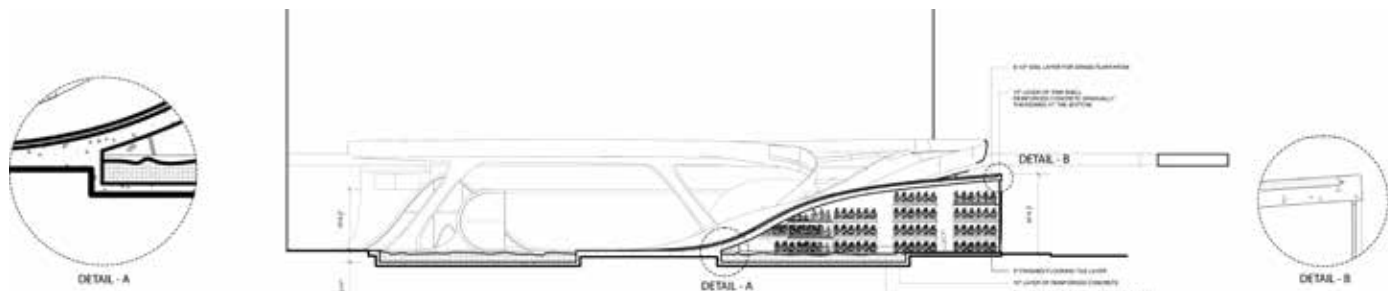




Plan



East Elevation



Greenhouse Section looking North



Greenhouse And Landscaping Towards South



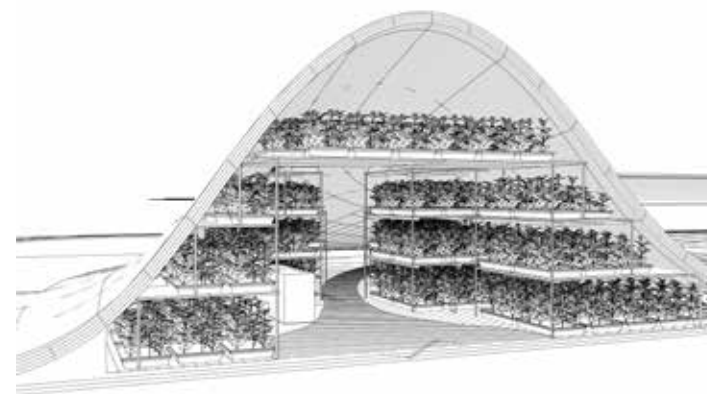
Semi Covered Space below the CTA Train Connection



Central Court



Plant Nursery



Greenhouse View From The South Wabash Ave



View Looking Towards The Entrance

03 WOOD CRAFT CENTRE FOR EXHIBITION AND WORKSHOP

JODHPUR CITY, RAJASTHAN, INDIA

B.ARCH STUDIO SEM 09



THE PROGRAMME

The project refers to a specific artistic talent of Jodhpur 'the Woodcraft industry', which stands for making creative artistic items from wood. The city is famous for wooden products and contributes a major share of 40% in the country for the export of the same.

But now this industry is suffering from losses because of recession and lack of interest of the younger generation. Even in the area of Toorji's Stepwell, a historic jewel in the old walled city there is barely a display or seller of wooden items. Though the area witnesses lots of tourist activities in the region which supports other art and crafts industry of the city but hardly any shop or museum present in the city depicts knowledge or information about the wooden sector. So the programme intends to promote the importance and value of this skilled industry in the city.

The programme is divided into two main categories namely the exhibition and the workshop space as the core spaces. The exhibition displays various wooden furniture and handicrafts items such as wooden doors, chairs, old reclaimed furniture, toys, decorative items, etc. The workshop area will help the artisans in honing their skills or satisfy the curious nerve of a person on how the wooden

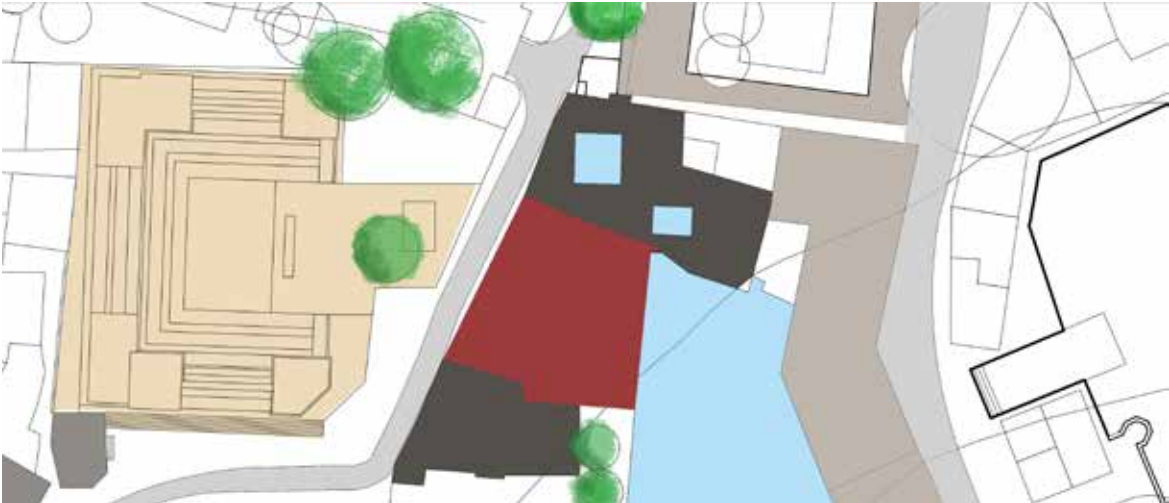
products are made. As the function requires the exhibition space is more public and the workshop more private.

The design attempts to follow the context along the edges taking the material and the form from it. The two free edges of the site are used as a medium to connect the inner space to the outer and vice versa and also connects the open space to the street. The street edge is thought to be more open and inviting by opening up on the lower level that is the street level.

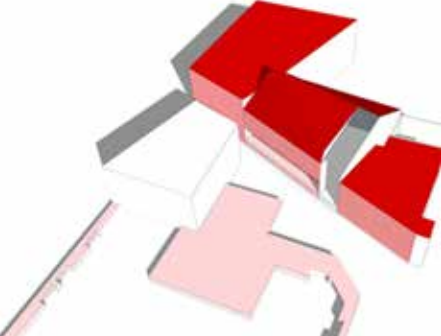
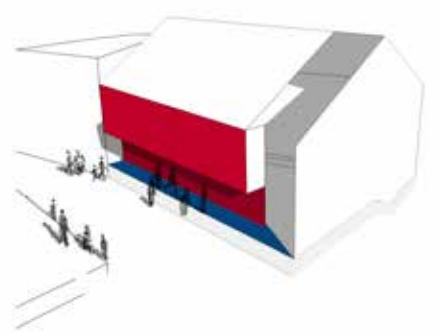
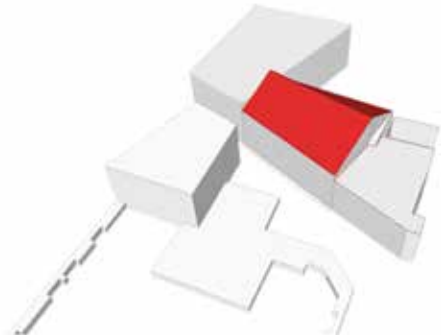
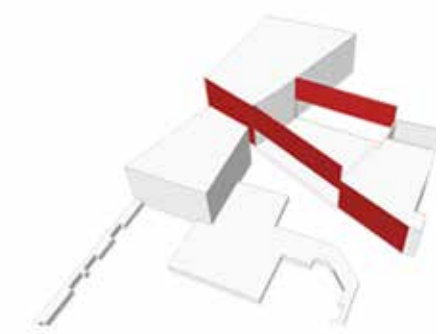
The main masses are placed along the edges of the site separated by an atrium space which connects the two core spaces. The exhibition space is a large volume with more height than all the spaces to bring light and create openness.

The roof on the other hand contrasts the flat terrace idea of the context by taking the form of a sloped roof which brings light and unifies the two cores as one. The main idea attempts to juxtapose the application of context on to the design in order to give the programme and users a different environment. The user group includes the locals, tourists, artisans with all age groups.

The Site



DESIGN CONCEPTS



1. Following the Edge of the Context



2. Breaking the Roof Typology

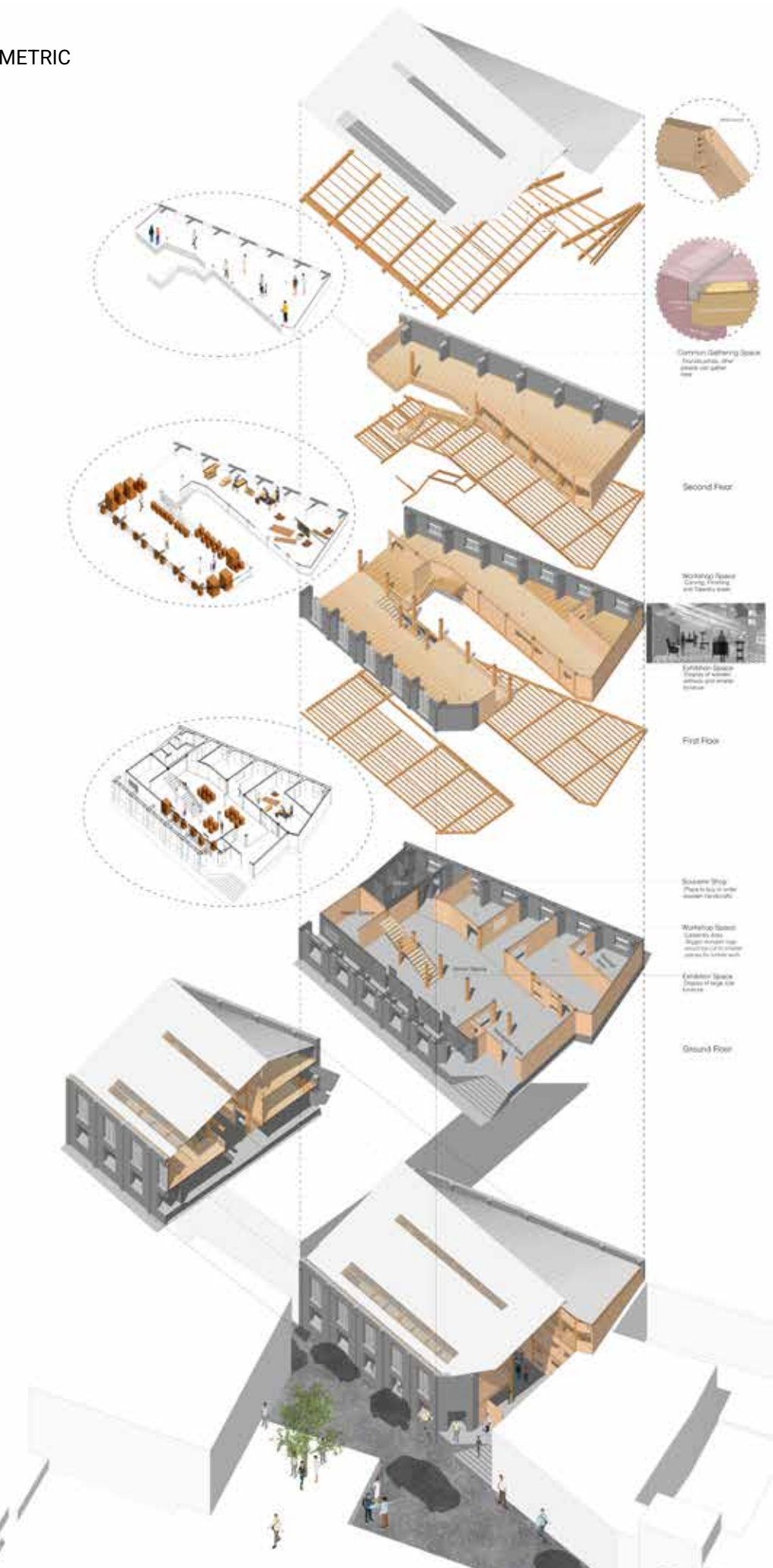


3. Pushing the Edge Inward To Be More Inviting



4. Overall Response to the Edge, Plinth, and Terrace





Material and Space

The material consists of 'Saag' wood (Teak wood), and the locally available 'Chittar' (Sand) stone or the Jodhpur sandstone. The exterior edge of the spaces that is the front as well as the back edge are made of stone, while the internal spaces are made out of timber. That goes along the main idea of the project of being similar to the context on the outside on basis of the material and form. On entering the space one would feel the softness of space with timber and contrast from the surrounding buildings that is visible only on the inside. The covered open space in the center of the structure also contrasts the narrow corridors with minimal widths and areas typically found in the neighbourhood.



Light and Function

The exhibition being one of the main spaces of the project is filled with beautiful light coming from the north-west side. It is lit with indirect lighting the most part of the day. Though when sun races to set, it lights the exhibition space with 'Jaali' patterns that are on the western facade falling softly inside the space. It also lights the eastern part that is the workshop space with the golden glazes on the timber walls. Here, the exhibition space is depicted with 'Furniture' pieces in display that commend the structure itself inside of which they are held.

MODEL 1: 100 (Metric)
1/8" = 1'-0"

Final Design Model with Urban Site context. Made out of Cardboard, MDF, glue and lots of passion.



WALL-SECTION MODEL 1: 20 (Metric)
3/4" = 1'-0"

Detailed Wall Section model showcasing the Materiality and Joinery intersections of different materials coming together. Made out of Balsa Wood, MDF, Cotton, Transparent Acrylic, Cardboard and glue.



04 SUSTAINABLE HOUSING SIKKIM

SIKKIM, INDIA

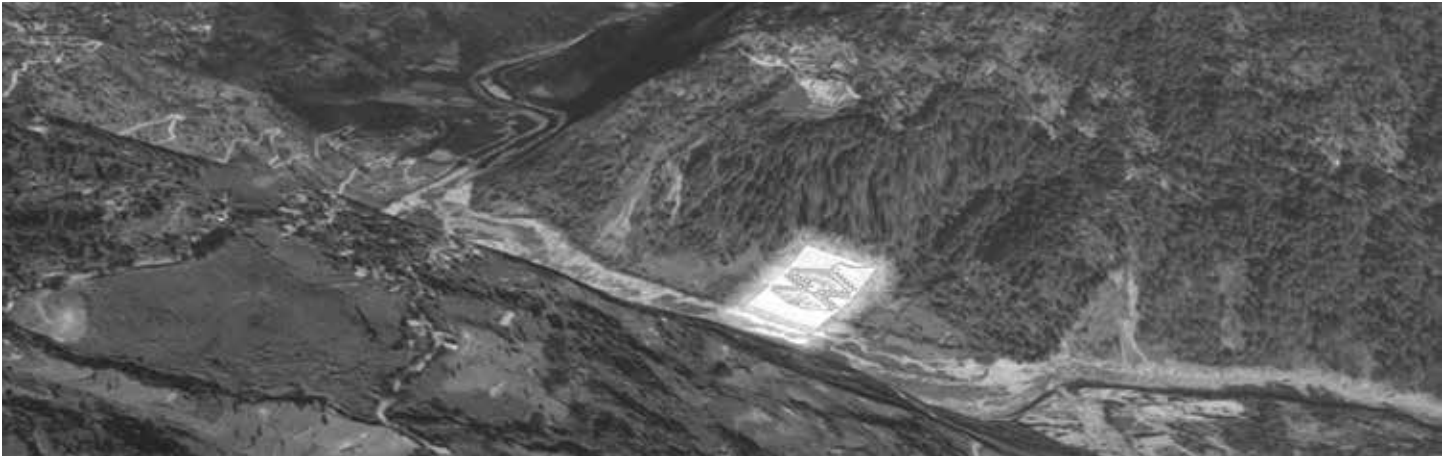
B.ARCH STUDIO SEM 08



THE PROGRAMME

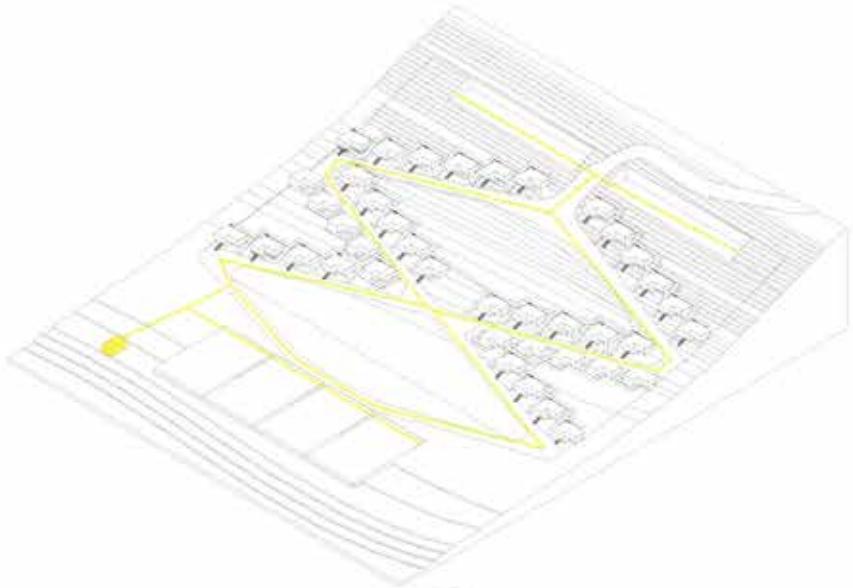
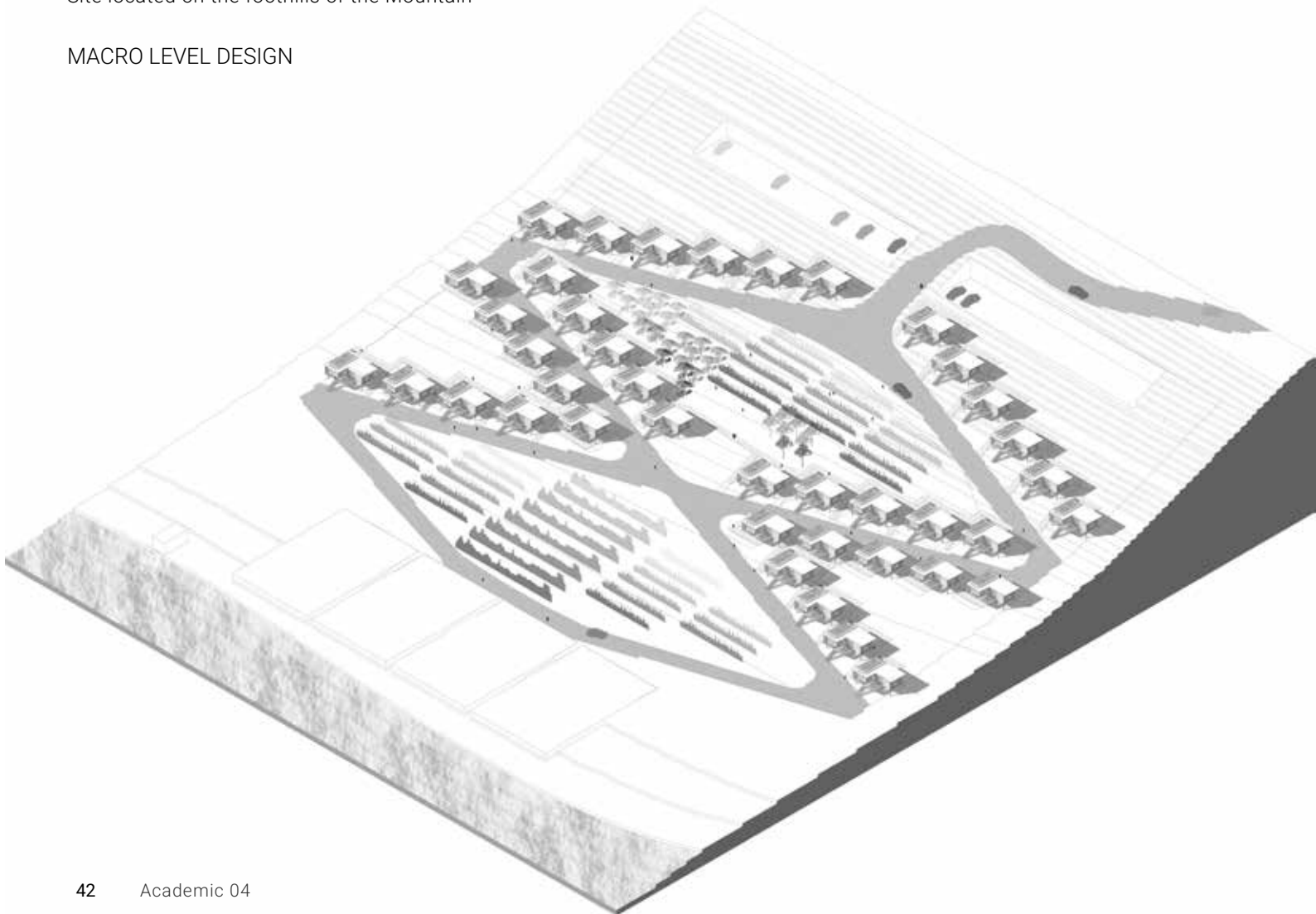
The program is of a self-sustainable housing of 40 families having 4 members each in which there are 2 adults and 2 children. Hence total population that will occupy is 160 people. The people are assumed to be of the local areas of South Sikkim as it lies among the mountainous terrains of the southern district of Sikkim. The main goal was to develop a system to cater the needs of Food, Water, Energy, Waste and Air of the people by trying to achieve self sustainability as much as possible and to not rely on the resources outside of the given site area. Here various techniques

have been applied such as Living Roof as terrace garden providing food as well as thermal comfort to the house, land farming at site level growing deep rooted veggies. Bamboo a material that is majorly in the project is also grown on the site reducing reliance on outer source and helps in reducing carbon footprint. Some other techniques are Piezoelectric energy harvesting and Hydropower energy harvesting for electricity; Rainwater harvesting and water harvesting from the river Teesta.



Site located on the foothills of the Mountain

MACRO LEVEL DESIGN



ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION
GENERATION WITH THE HELP OF 1 MW TURBINE FROM THE RIVER WATER. USED FOR STREET LIGHTING AND WATER PUMPS AT SITE LEVEL. ALSO SERVING AS AN EMERGENCY SHORTAGE RESOURCE

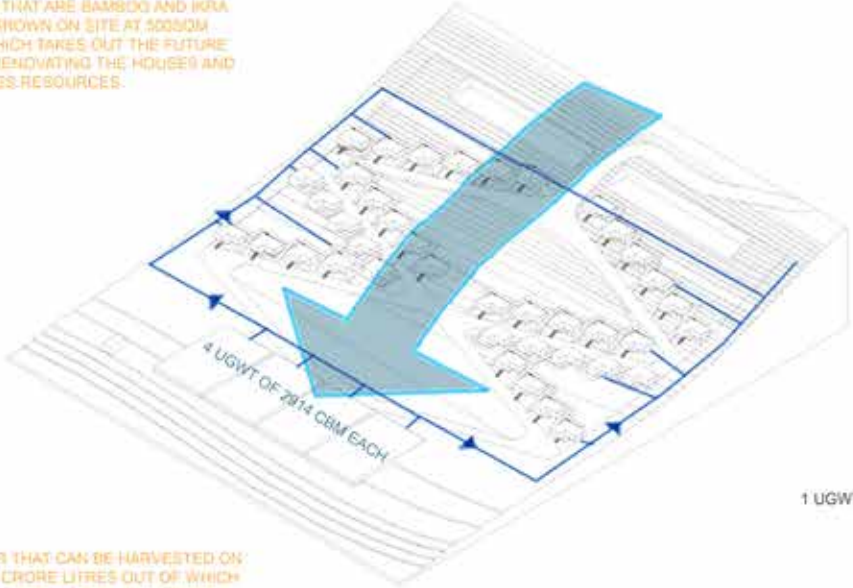


CROP FARMING
MEDIUM TO DEEP ROOTED VEGETABLES AT SITE LEVEL HAVING SOIL DEPTH OF 18"-36"

7240 SQM

TOMATOES
OKRA
WHEAT
PADDY
CARDAMOM
TEA
BAMBOO
IKRA

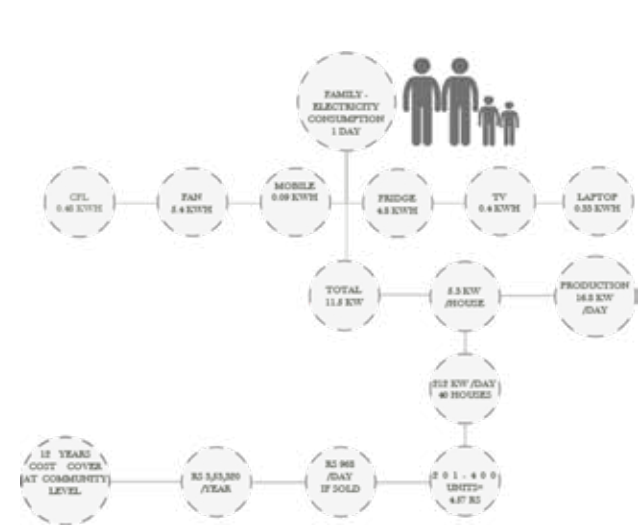
HERE THE MATERIAL USED FOR CONSTRUCTION THAT ARE BAMBOO AND IKRA ARE BOTH GROWN ON SITE AT 5000SQM AREA SO WHICH TAKES OUT THE FUTURE COSTS OF RENOVATING THE HOUSES AND HENCE SAVES RESOURCES.



RAIN WATER HARVESTING
FROM RUN OFF ON THE SITE

1 UGWT LASTS 134 DAYS FOR 40 FAMILIES

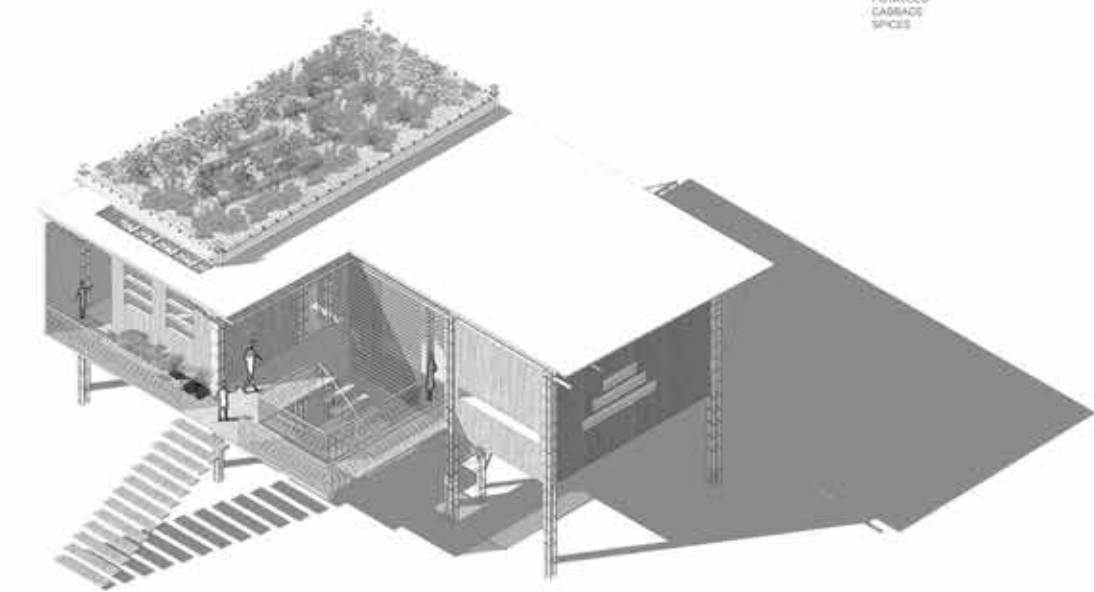
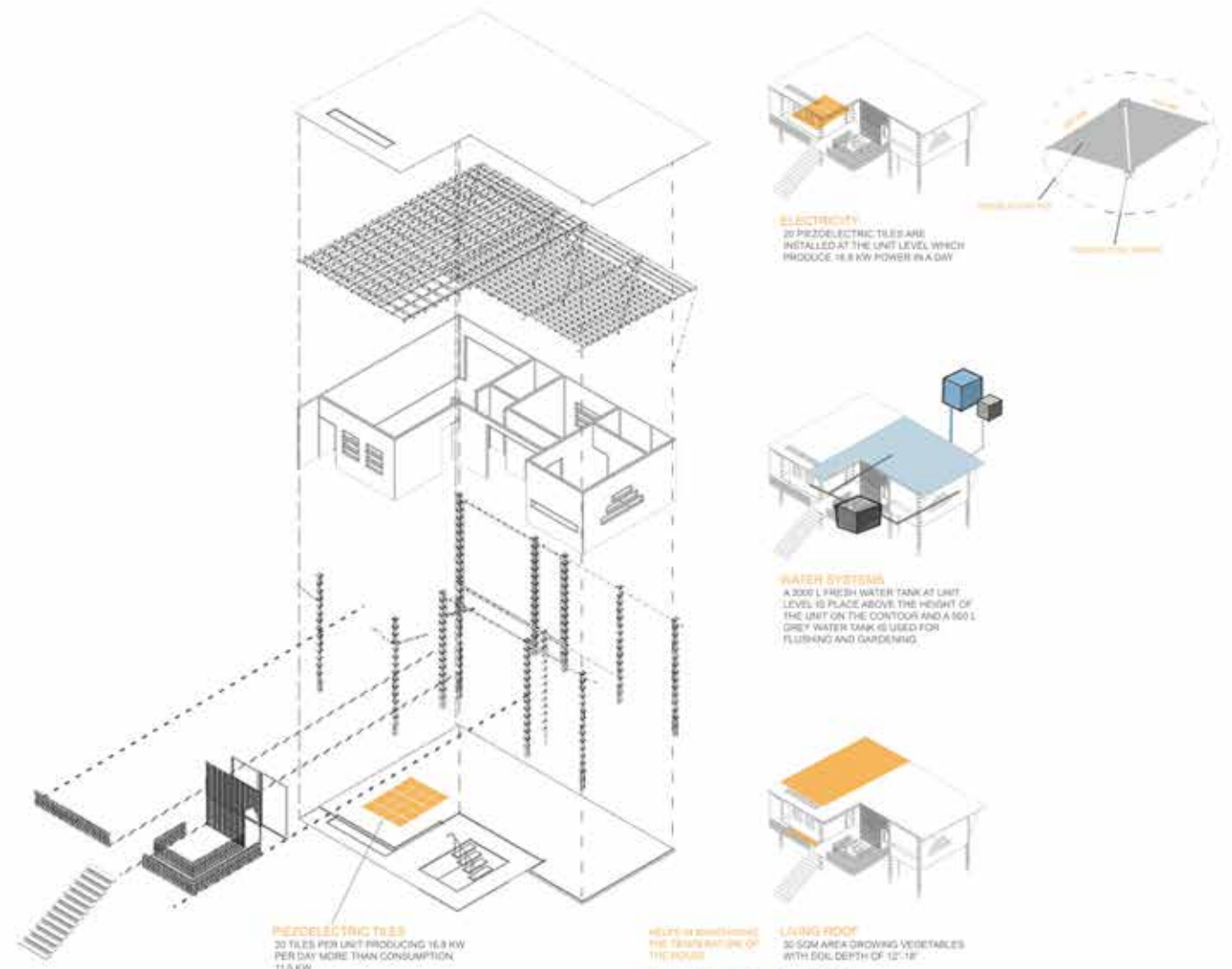
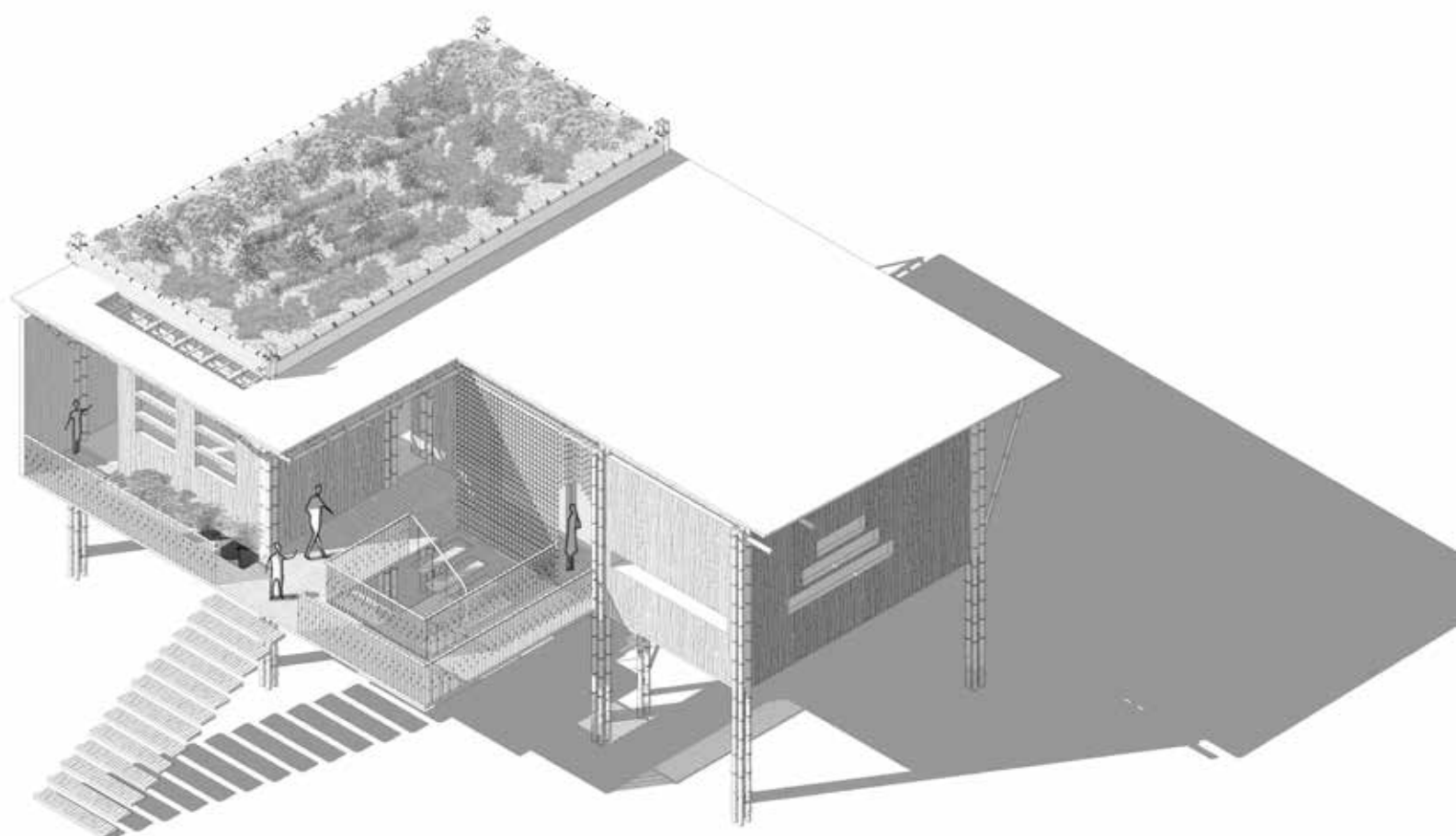
THE WATER THAT CAN BE HARVESTED ON SITE IS 4.8 CRORE LITRES OUT OF WHICH ONLY 78 LACS IS USED BY 40 FAMILIES ANNUALLY



Electricity Consumption



Electricity Production



A TYPICAL HOUSEHOLD
FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR MADE
OUT OF BAMBOO

05 AECOM

1. MALL OF SAUDI, RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA

The Mall of Saudi, a centerpiece of larger SAR 16 billion (\$4.3 billion) Riyadh city master-planned development, is a premier retail and lifestyle destination featuring lead design and construction supervision by AECOM. Spanning an impressive 300,000 sqm (3.2 mil sqft.) of gross leasable area, the mega-mall will house over 600 stores, a flagship Carrefour, and a 31-screen VOX Cinema complex equipped with the world's largest IMAX.

Architecturally, the project functions as an integrated, climate-controlled oasis anchored by a massive 430,000-square-foot indoor ski slope and snow park - the largest in the Middle East and is complemented by luxury hotels and branded residences covering an additional 214,000 square meters of built-up area.

AECOM's comprehensive scope involves pre- and

post-contract lead consultancy services, utilizing advanced digital project management and sustainable engineering methodologies to deliver this landmark destination ahead of its 2026 opening.

My role involved working in a large team of people spanning across three offices and two countries. The tasks were preparation of Interior Design package comprising of concept presentations and drawings including Design Development (DD), Construction Documents (CD), and IFC stage.

Working, Maintaining, Co-ordinating with Architecture and other consultants (MEP, Structural) for the 3D BIM model in Revit and the preparation of drawings in batches.

Below, is a work-sample from the entire scope and the area which I was involved in. These are the DD stage drawings of Ablution & Prayer rooms and Luxury Washrooms.



Overall ID Scope Plan



Overall ID Scope 3D



Overall Prayer Room & Washroom - Plan



Overall Prayer Room & Washroom - Rcp



Overall Prayer Room & Washroom - Elevation

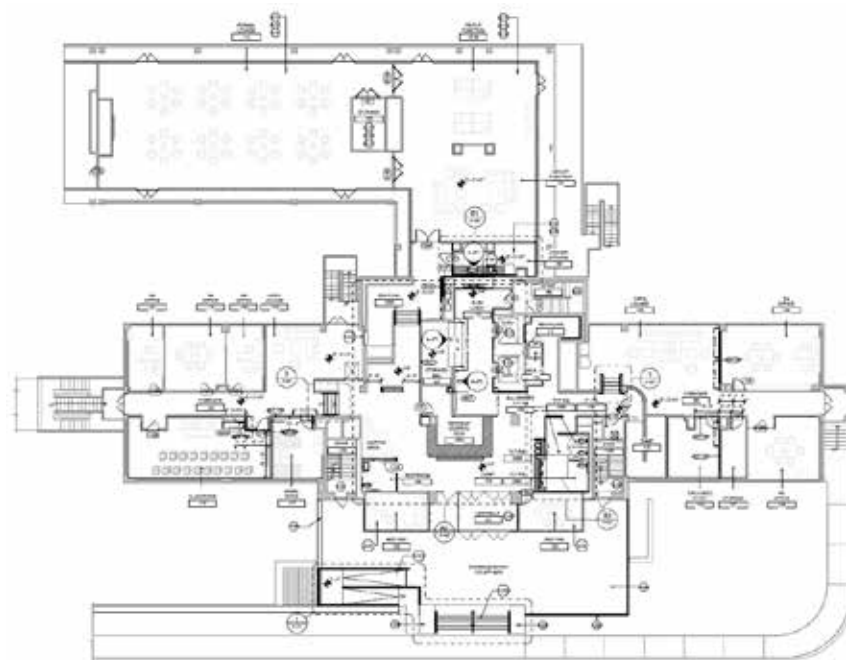
06 AECOM

2. AU MCDOWELL HALL RENOVATION, WASHINGTON DC. 2023

This is an interior renovation project of the Residence Hall building in the AU McDowell University, Washington D.C. I was involved in two stages of this project, the first was creating a Revit BIM model from 30 year old CAD drawings. The second was for the production of drawings for the Design Development (DD) and Construction Documents (CD) stages. The work was done in two teams from the US and India team. I was part of the production team.

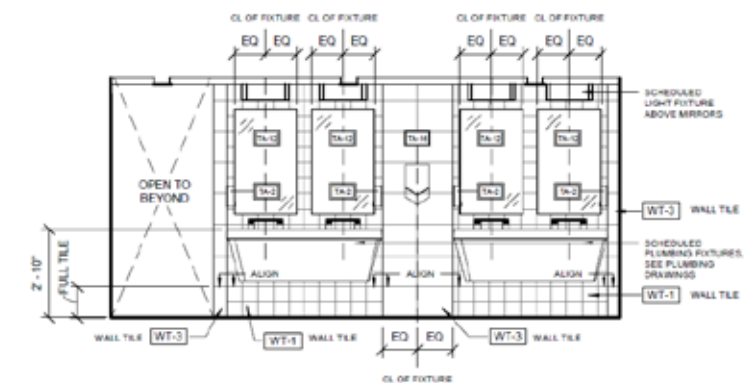


3D View of the BIM Co-ordinated model in Revit

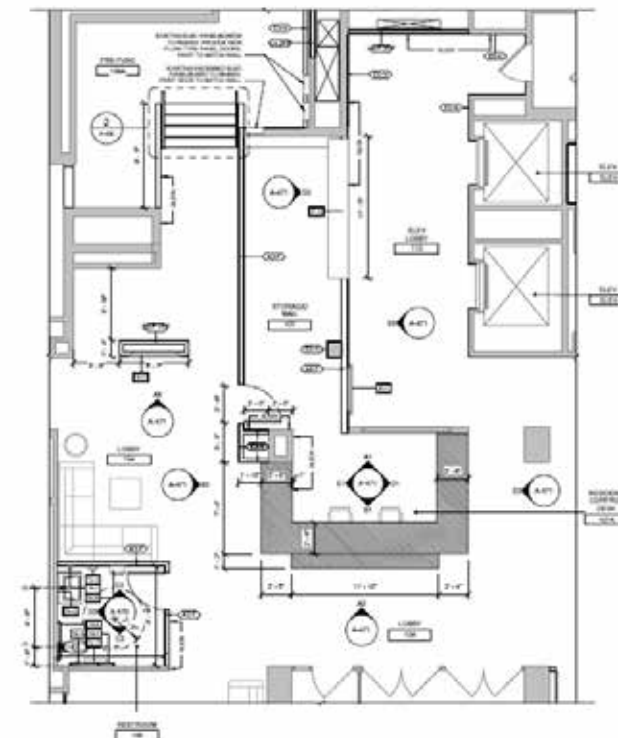


First Floor Plan

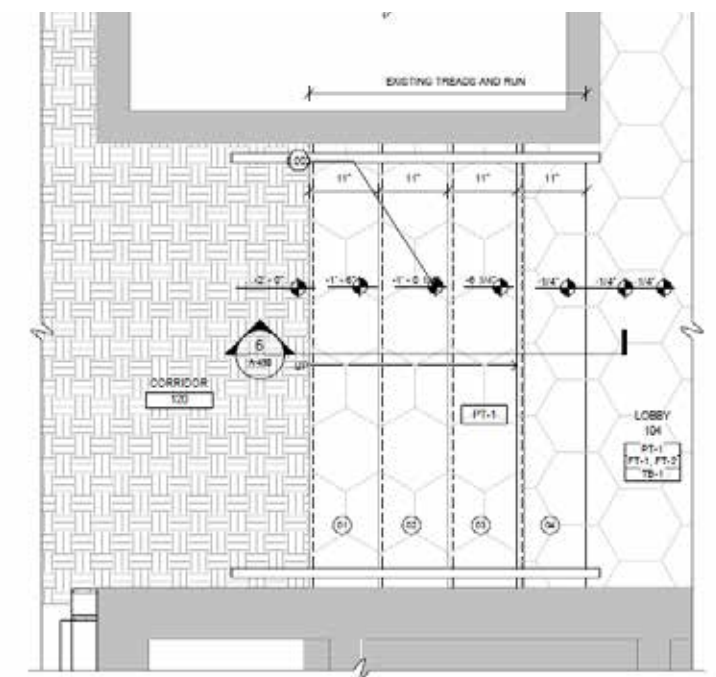
On this page are small samples from the whole set of Detail drawings of selected portions of the project. Includes certain material intersections as well such as the Toilet Fixture Elevation, Enlarged Reception Plan, Stairs details, and Ceiling detail.



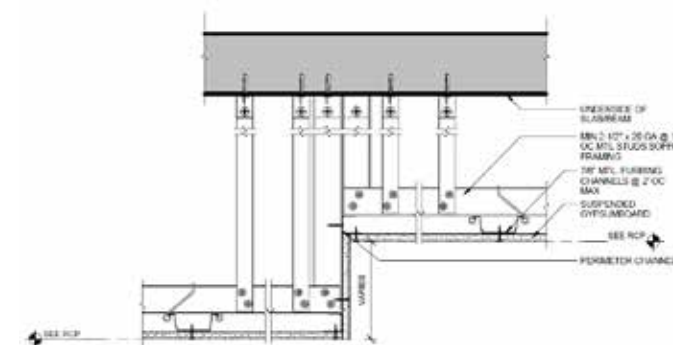
Elevation - Resident Pod - Main Lavatory



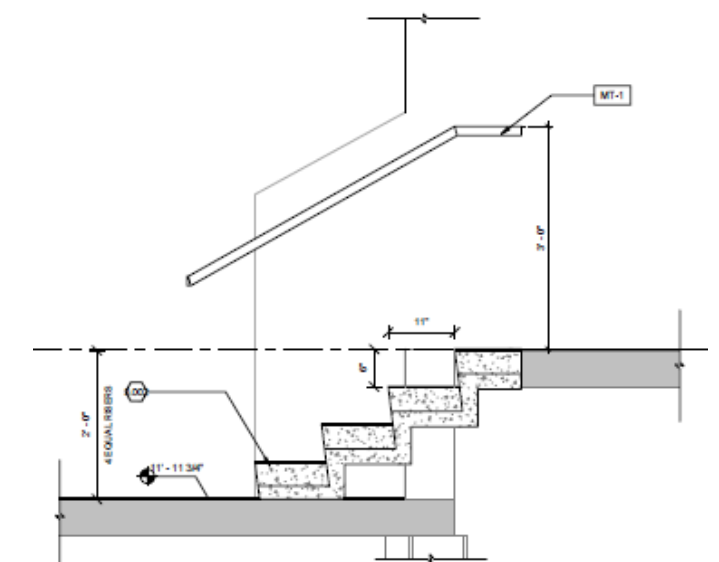
Enlarged First Floor Reception Plan



Enlarged Stairs Plan



GWB to GWB - Ceiling Plane Detail



Enlarged Stairs Section



Thank You