

The background is a complex line-art illustration. It features a large gear mechanism on the right, a crane-like structure at the top, and a city skyline at the bottom. In the center, two figures are shown working with a large cylindrical object. The overall style is technical and architectural.

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

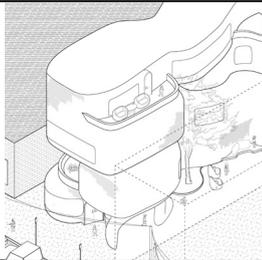
PORTFOLIO

**BLEONA VELIC**

*SELECTED WORKS 2022-2026*

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# 01

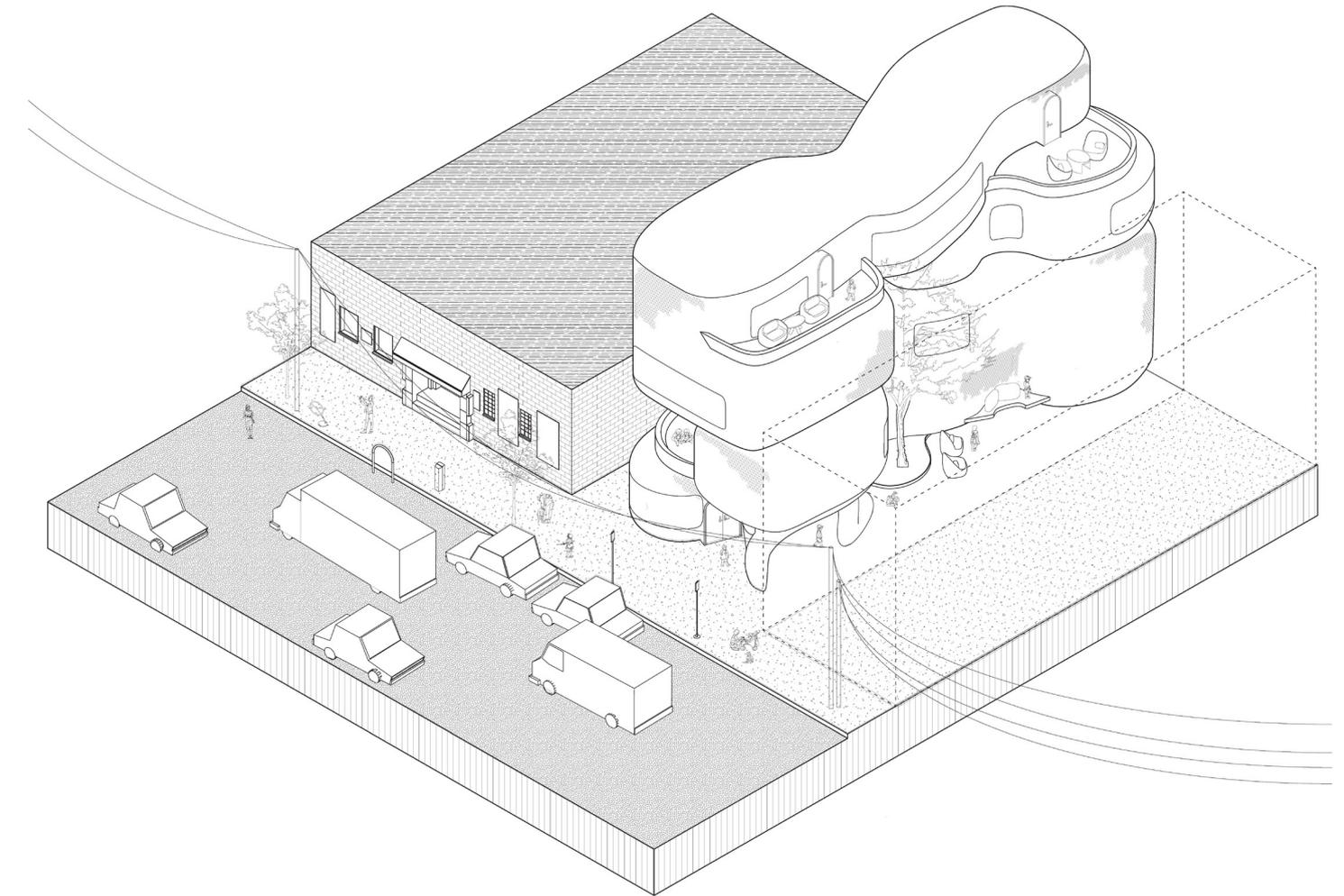
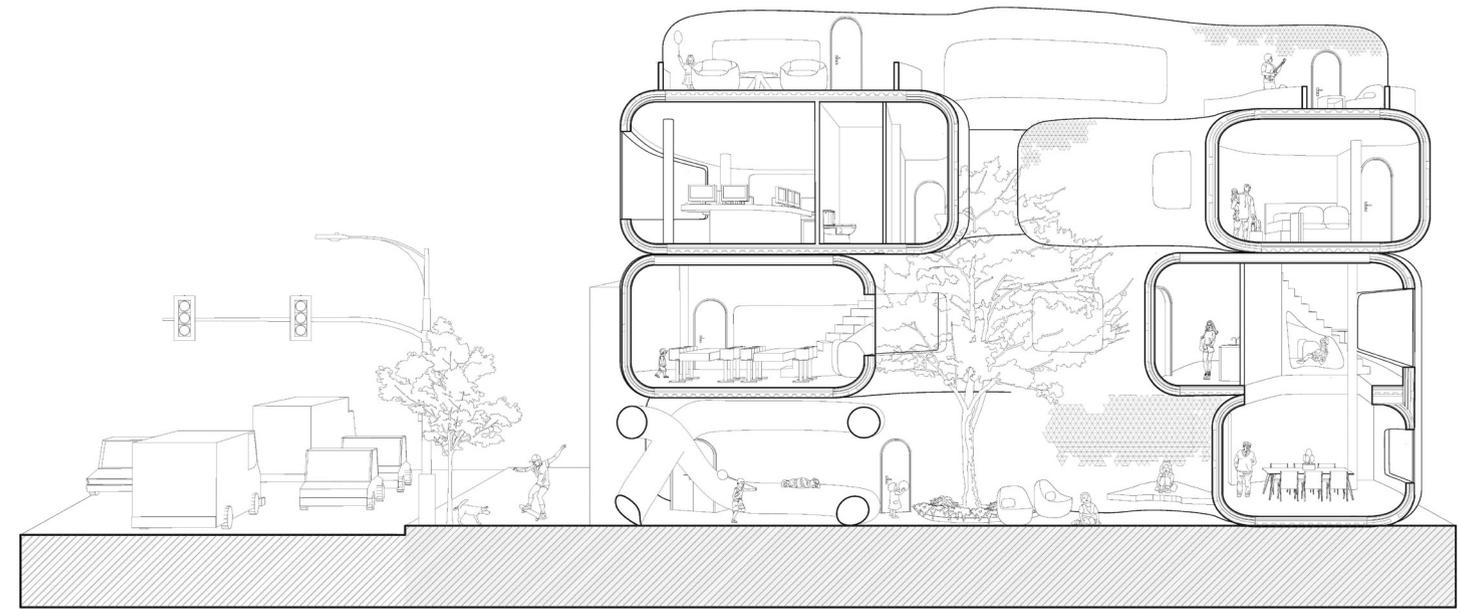
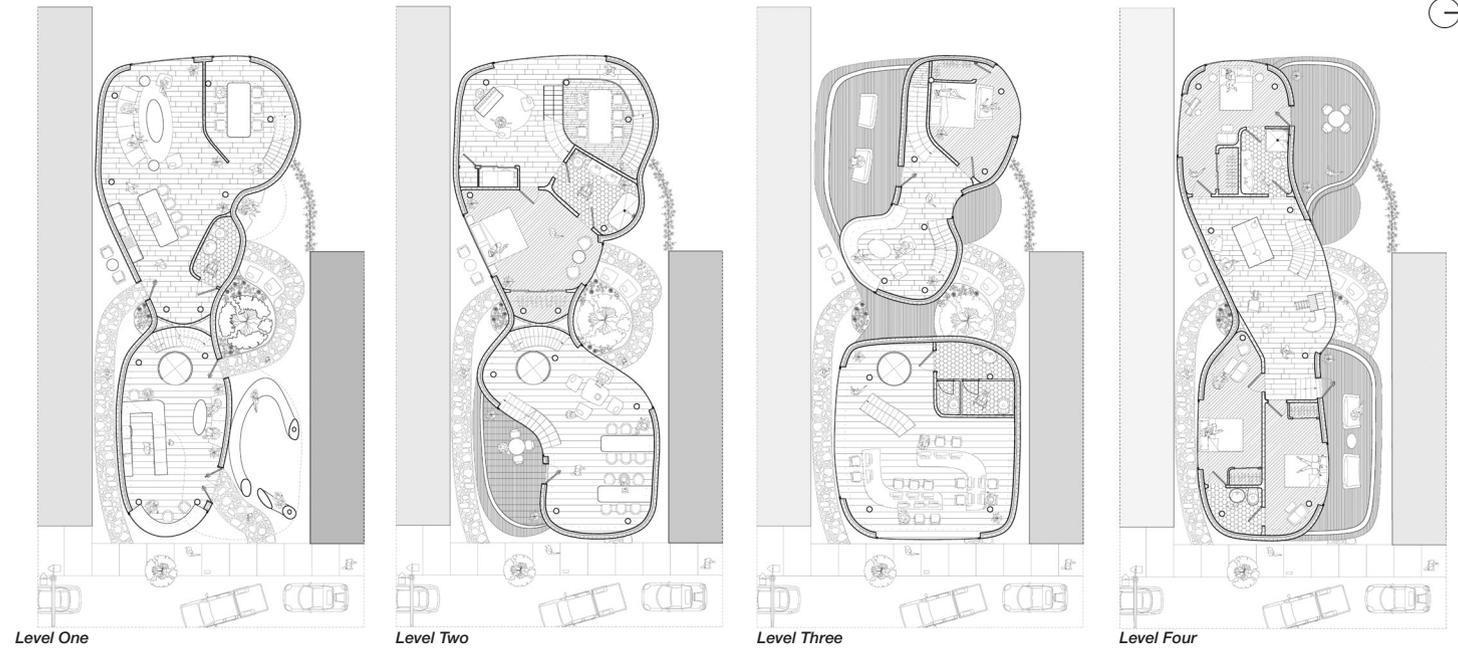
## CLOUD HOUSE

After researching and studying the historic jazz clubs of the hill district, I learned of the community jazz provided for marginalized people in Pittsburgh. In designing my intervention for Lawrenceville, I wanted to create a community space that would work to benefit a marginalized community in the area.

The proposed intervention is a mixed-use building that serves residential and commercial purposes. Through engaging in fieldwork, I noticed one community in particular that did not fit into the social framework of Lawrenceville, and that group was children. Despite the large public middle school between Central and Lower Lawrenceville, the commercial scene primarily comprises bars, tattoo parlors, and formal dining spaces.

In my design, I desired to create a building form that would present as welcoming for children, contrasting the angular and mature building language developed by and for adults. To do this, I was concerned with finding ways to build spaces of play into the structure of the building through unconventional forms of circulation and entry, as well as an emphasis on indoor-outdoor space. Finally, in the program space, I wanted to design a commercial space that would serve the needs of the middle school-age population that is made up of students from predominately low-income households.





# 02

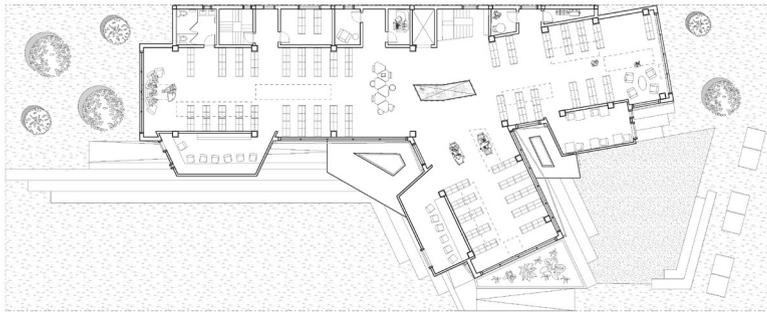
## PROJECT WAQUOIT LIBRARY

Waquoit Public Library is a Boston civic space named after the Wôpanâak term Waquoit, meaning “place of light.” For the Wôpanâak people, light is not a tangible object but an ephemeral expression—representing mutual benefit, exchange, and reciprocity. This concept forms the foundation of the library’s role, shaping both its function and appearance as a space of shared knowledge and community exchange.

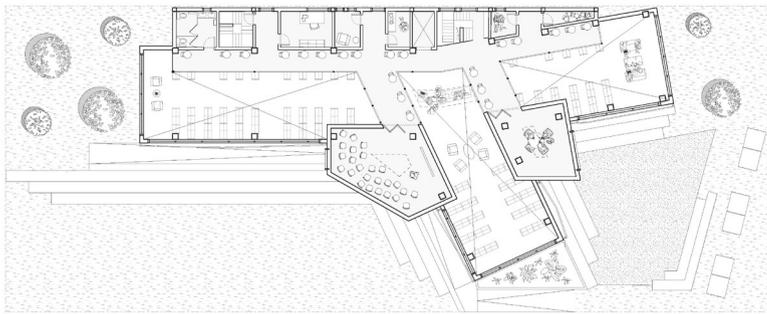
The building is organized along a central axis that intersects the site at three primary nodes of interaction, creating urban thresholds on each edge that invite entry and encourage passage through the library as part of everyday local movement. The architectural envelope blankets this axis, framing three key view corridors and reinforcing the library’s presence within the surrounding urban fabric.

This three-pronged approach allows the library’s program to be clearly organized: open book spaces align with the axis, while geometric support pods attach to it to house more focused functions such as computer labs, meeting rooms, and support spaces. An outdoor marketplace extends the library’s mission, serving as a space for community members to exchange ideas, lessons, and resources—embodying the concept of light as shared benefit in action.

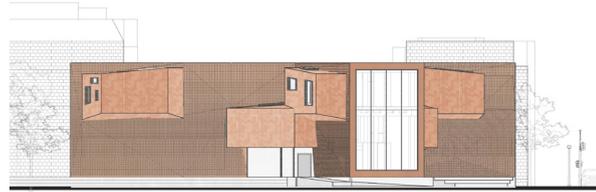
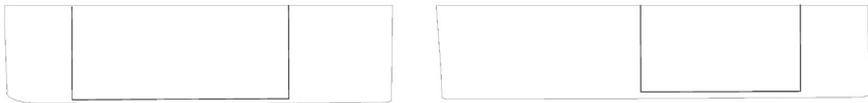




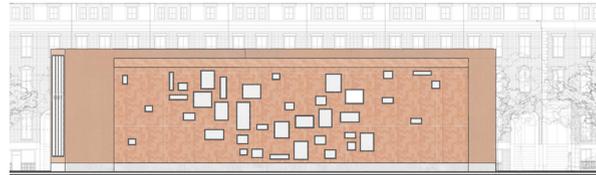
Level Two



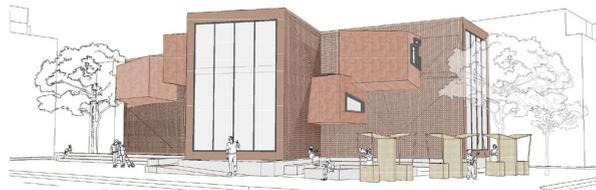
Mezzanine



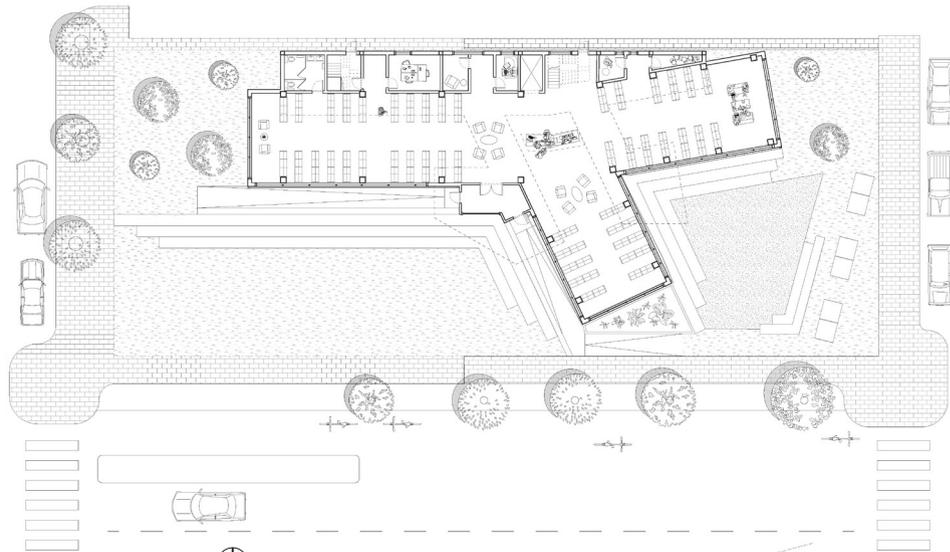
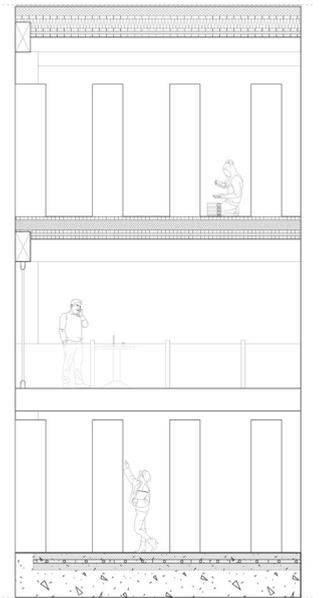
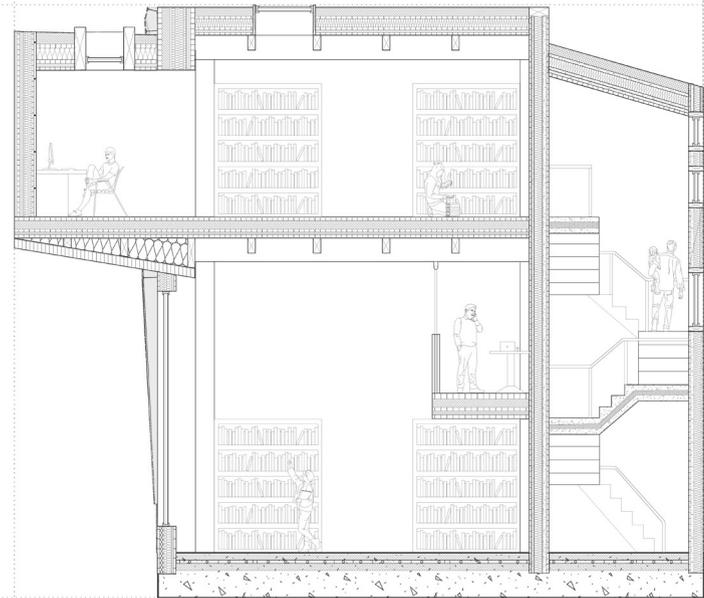
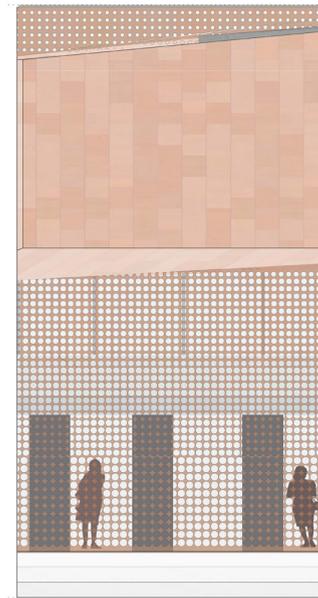
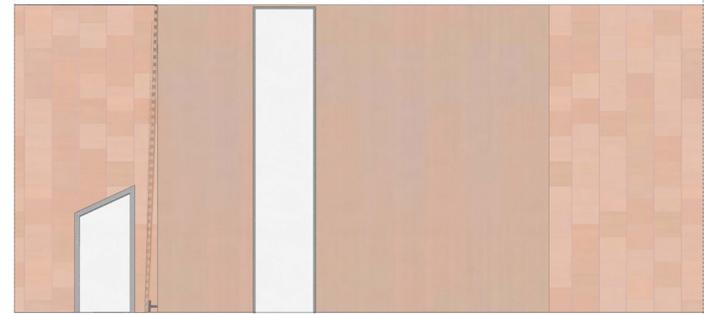
Front Southern Elevation



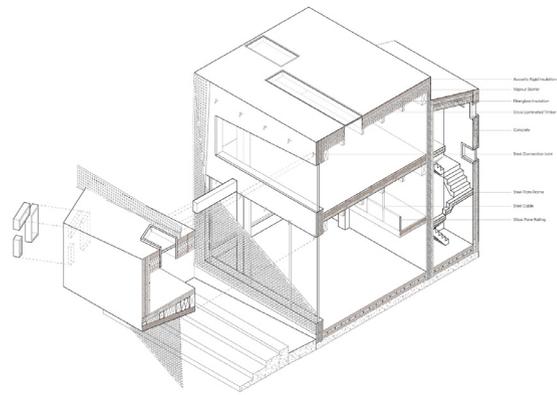
Rear Northern Elevation



Perspective on Approach

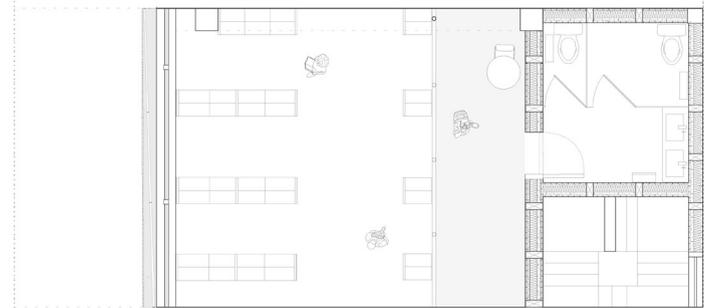


Level One



Exploded Isometric

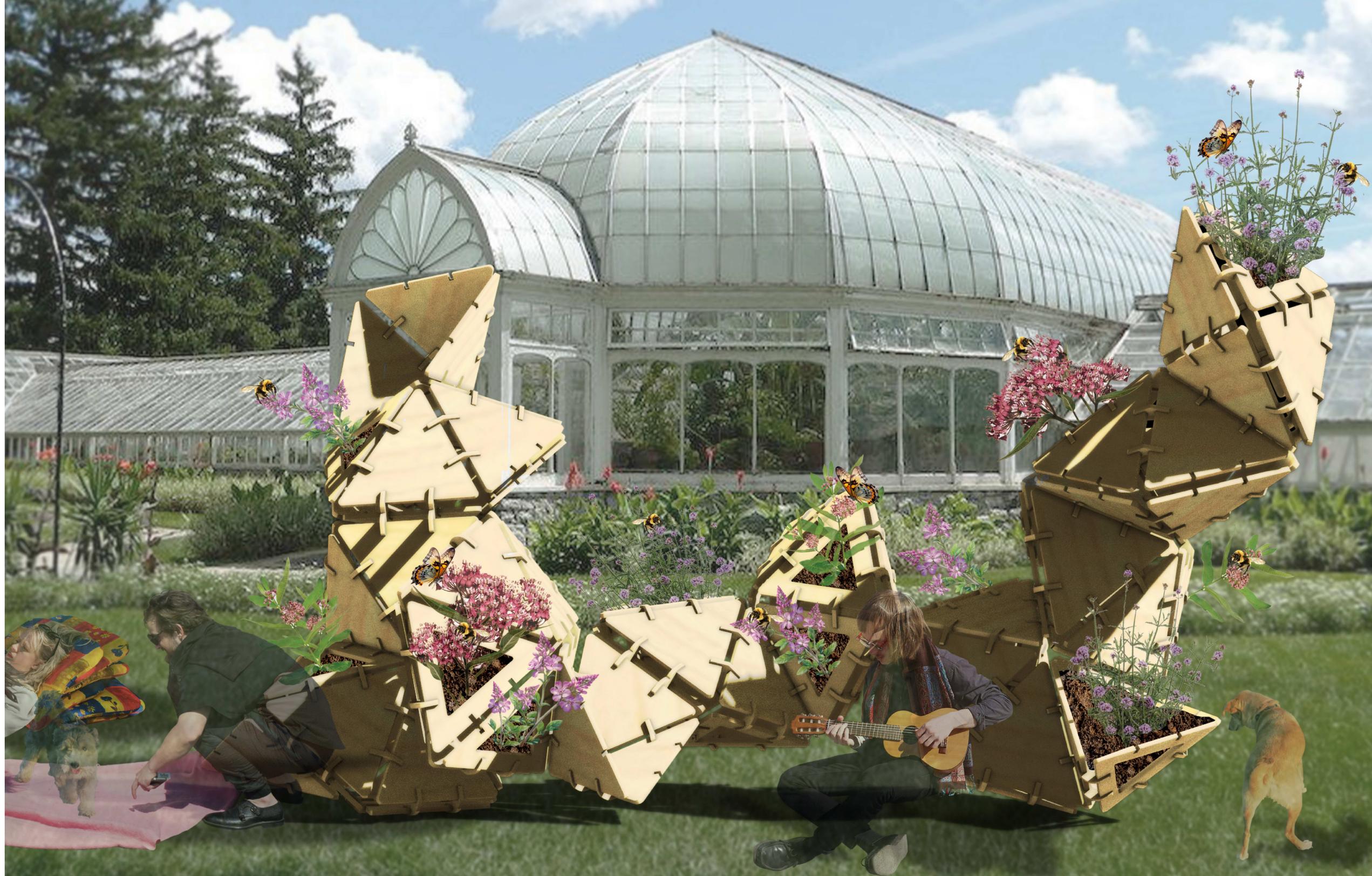
Deconstructed Building Detail

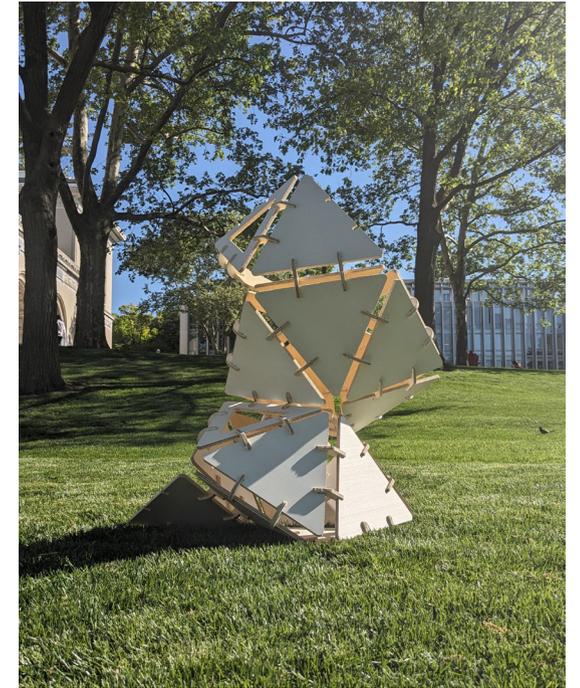
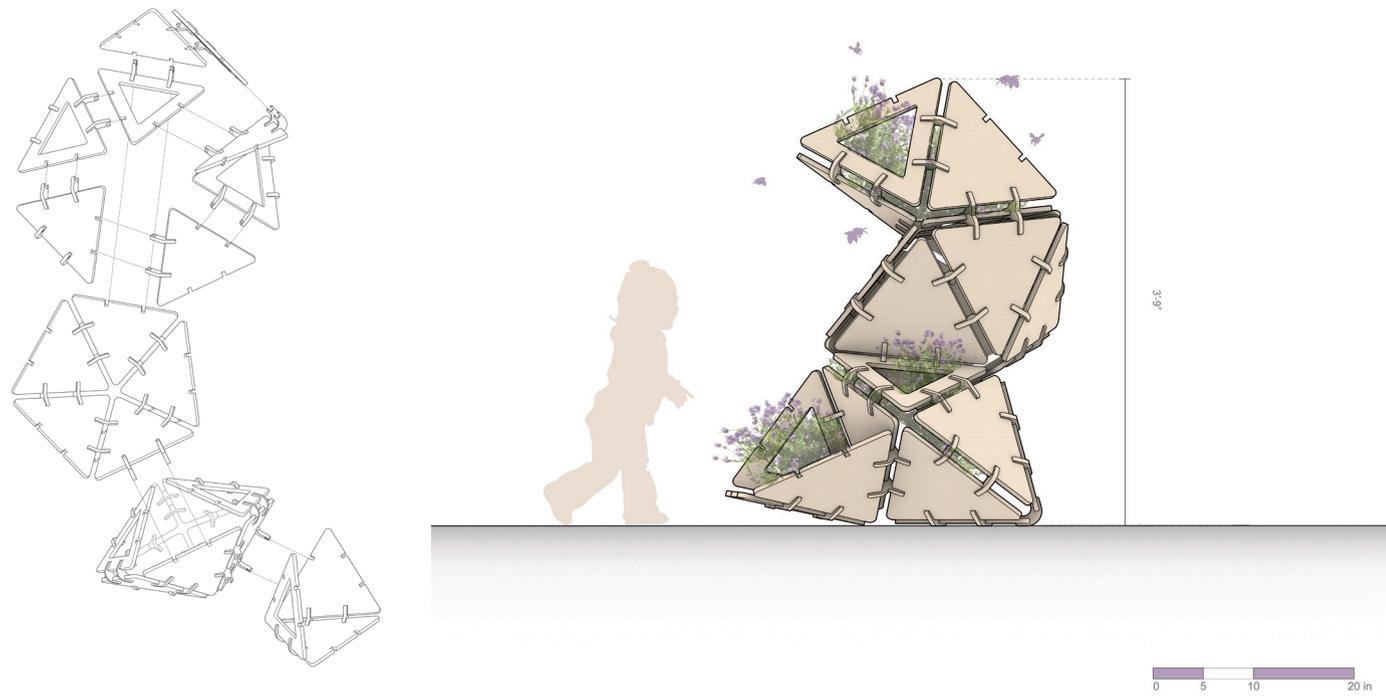
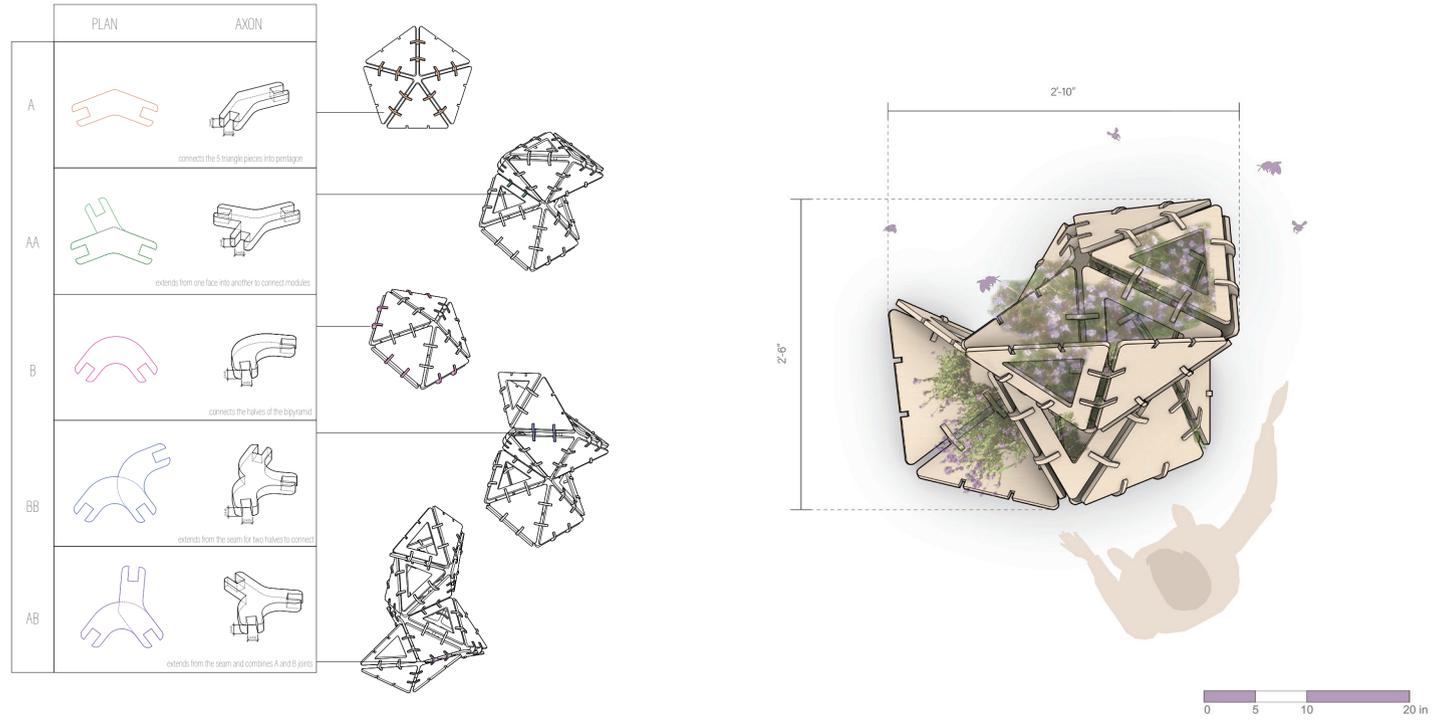


# 03

## VERTICAL GARDEN

Our project draws inspiration from the geometric shape of pollen grains found in nature. By applying principles of biomimicry, we chose to replicate this natural structure using equilateral triangles. This choice guided our exploration, ranging from three to five sides (triangle, square, pentagon). The resulting pentagonal shape was inspired by platonic solid pollen grains. In our vertical garden design, we prioritize plants such as bluemink, milkweed, and verbena that attract pollinators. This selection ties back to our initial inspiration from pollen geometry. This project required the use of a CNC to manufacture parts for practical assembly.



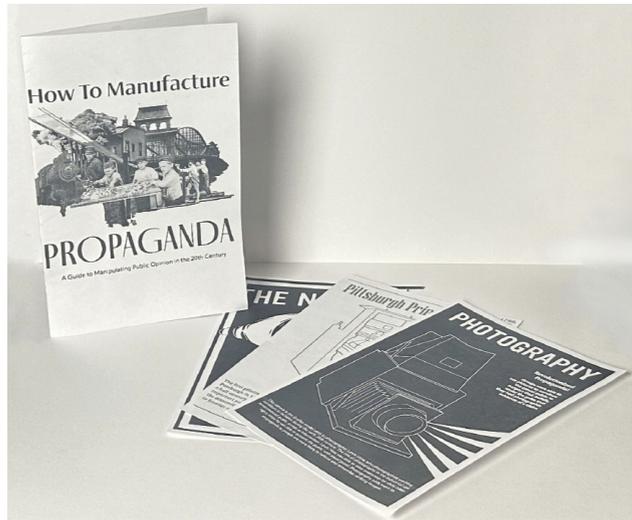
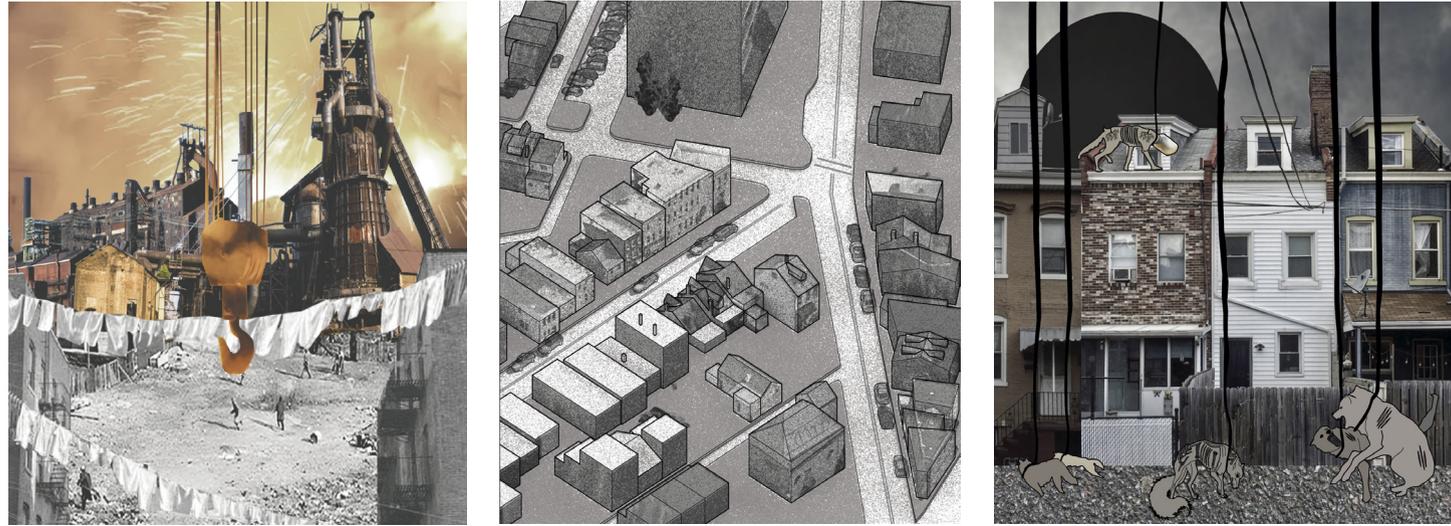




# 04

## WOLF PACK ARCHITECTURE

The myth that labor is culture is perpetuated by the architectural style of Accelerature. The myth is broken down by the implementation of Wolf Pack Architecture, which seeks to repair and rebuild the community on which culture is built that has been lost to industry. Learning from the Ojibwe cultural tradition of looking to the wolf for guidance and seeing the ma'iingan (Ojibwe word used to refer to a wolf), which translates to "brother," as one's kin we can reassign the roles of people in a society to promote a greater level of collective responsibility and care. By reimagining neighborhoods as vibrant and inclusive habitats where individuals thrive through the strength and protection of their communities, Wolf Pack Architecture reclaims the teachings of the wolf. It pushes us to begin living in harmony with each other and nature again, not with oppressive ordering systems. Wolf Pack Architecture seeks to repair a fractured social bond through physical changes. The social assets of community spaces like benches, gardens, and spaces of rest and play should be acknowledged more in the modern city but ignored as they serve no monetary benefit or function. However, implementing these systems plays a crucial role in nurturing a sense of belonging and collective identity amongst community residents. The investments made into social infrastructures can empower people to become active participants in their local communities and, in the long term, the greater human community. As it exists today, people feel no ownership and responsibility for preserving and developing the towns they live in. There is no sense of a shared public; instead, they feel a public owned and operated by larger economic forces and systems. Wolf Pack Architecture works to counteract this narrative and encourage a sense of belonging to enable people to think about how they can help support their local community.



**Design Proposal Basis of Research**

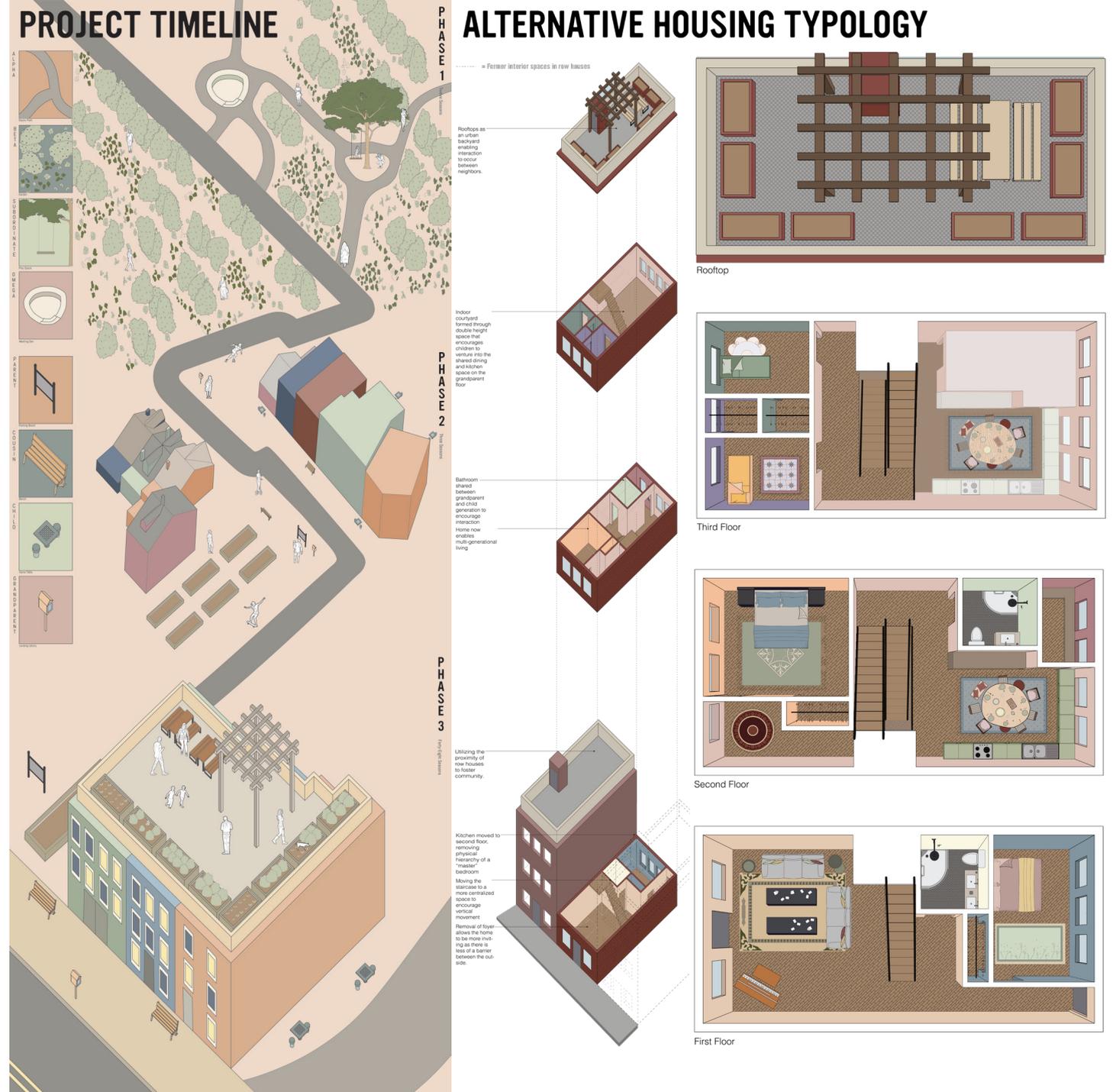
Accelerature, a term developed for this project, refers to design that intends to continue building upon the momentum of the industrial era by drastically intensifying the growth of capital, modern technology, and urban infrastructure and materiality. The ultimate goal of this movement is to reach technological singularity, which refers to a future that would build upon every generation's growing speed and result in the take over of technological superintelligence that would surpass and thus replace human capabilities. The power of this style is rooted in convincing individuals of the belief that labor can be one's culture and thus submission to labor would not be submission of one's humanity. The resolution to this dominant narrative was developed after studying the city through its history of propaganda and drawing through the city in this style to set up the framework for the design proposal.





**Phased Implementation of Wolf Pack Architecture**

Wolf Pack Architecture will manifest itself in Polish Hill through a series of community action interventions and a challenge to the home structure. It will empower individuals to take roles and cultivate a sense of collective responsibility that will allow a pack to form within a neighborhood. Using the material of language and taking reference from post World War II American housing advertising the collection of postings seeks to use the teachings of the wolf pack to make statements of social resistance against the current cultural landscape of housing and urban planning that promotes social division.



# 05

## RECLAIMING URBAN SPACES

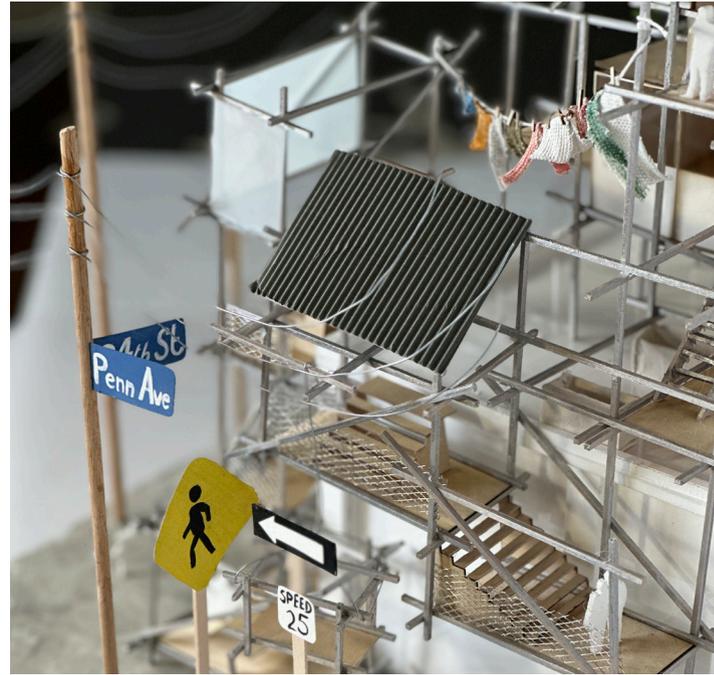
The economic structure shaping the contemporary architectural profession has shifted toward a profit-centric paradigm, prioritizing market-driven development over affordability and livability. This project seeks to intervene by proposing a strategic framework for repurposing underutilized urban spaces, such as abandoned warehouses, into affordable and equitable housing solutions. At the same time, an abandoned church becomes a center for the arts and the roots for a dwindling art community to regenerate. The two sites are connected by abandoned buildings and vacant lots that dot Penn Avenue. We aim to make these increasingly privatized spaces in Pittsburgh accessible to regenerate communities and allow local cultures and practices to exist and flourish. The rooftop settlement and warehouse will now host art installations, gatherings, and performances that activate the area and provide a platform for marginalized voices. Across the city, similar interventions will materialize in other vacant and abandoned spaces, encouraging users to craft temporary art structures that later serve community needs—whether through collective gardens, pop-up services, or educational programs. In all of these projects, scaffolding acts as the connective tissue linking the infrastructure of the interventions and materializing the space necessary for individuals to be able to project their own ideas. The interventions aim to challenge the traditional notion of architecture that views buildings as static objects placed into areas without considering how they interact with their surrounding conditions. Instead seeking to repair social fractures by enacting change by forcing the larger network of the city grid to be hacked and manipulated to allow for spores of social reparations to infect the city grid and resolve fundamental issues of disconnect and disillusion in modern cities.



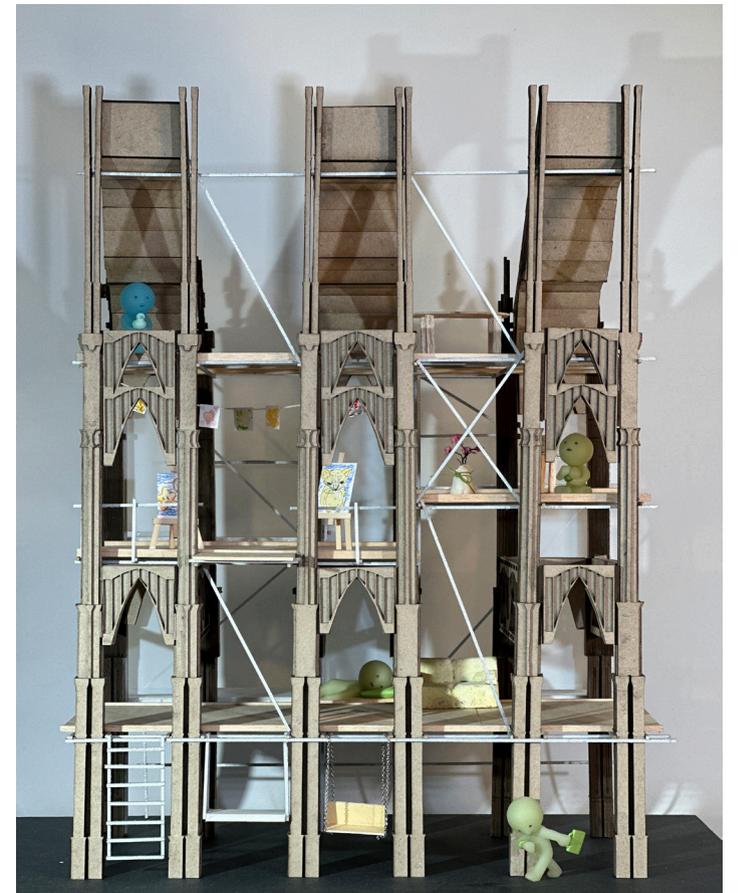




*Strip District Warehouse Scaffold Housing Section Perspective*



*Strip District Warehouse Scaffold Housing Chunk Model*



*Abandoned St. Peter and Paul Church as Arts Center*

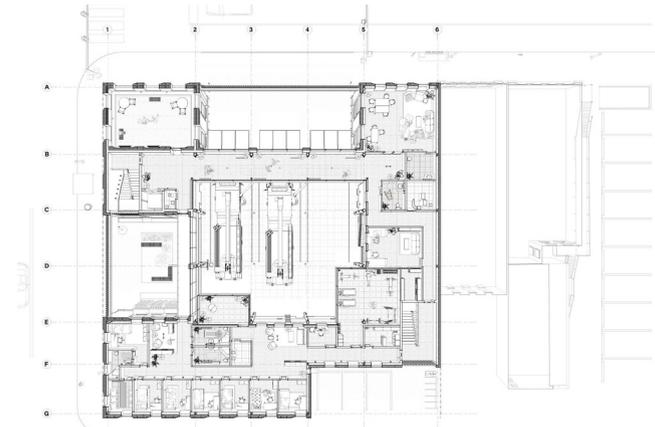
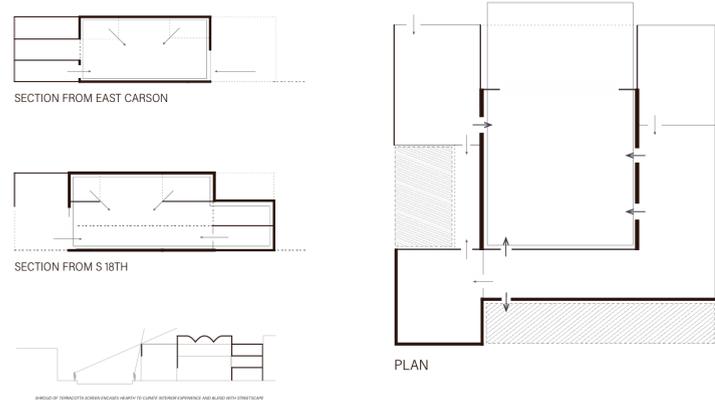


06

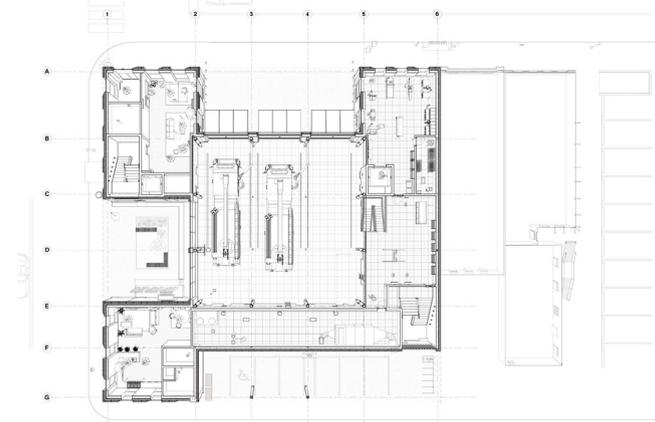
## HEARTH FIRE STATION

The structural narrative of our fire station is centered around the “hearth” of our design, which refers to the spaces that function as the symbolic core of our building. A “hearth” in a domestic concept is the most integral part of one’s home and functions as the centralized gathering space; in the fire station, it refers to the programmatic spaces where the community and firefighters intersect. From East Carson St, the apron invites the community into the active “hearth” of the apparatus bay: the primary vehicle of intersection and a key component of the fire station. It borders public facing programs that radiate in plan and section around the site, such as the lobby, meeting room, public restrooms, receiving space, library, public gardens, and an elevated walkway that allows the public to view into the apparatus bay without disturbing the work of the firefighters.

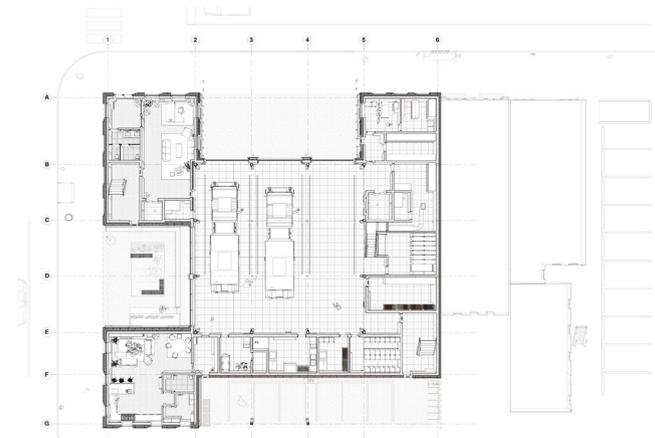
The structural system seeks to empathize this concept through the revealing and concealing of a steel frame. Locally manufactured to reduce embodied carbon loads, this steel structure is concealed in the more private and intimate spaces in the fire station. Inspired by the Victorian style of architecture around the site, the steel frame takes the formal shape of groin vaults in the apparatus bay. Its expressive geometry seeks to transform the utilitarian function of the bay into a monumental space, paying structural homage to the neighborhood’s vernacular. Historically these types of spatial gestures were used in the interior of churches, which were the primary spaces of gathering and community in the Southside Flats neighborhood that was once home to a primarily working-class immigrant population. Today this community dynamic is much different, as the area is primarily white collar and single resident community spaces are restricted to the bars and nightlife scene, which excludes younger residents and puts up a paywall for others preventing them from being able to engage with their fellow community members. The structure is instrumental in creating a fire station that can function as both a strong civic anchor for the community and a comfortable private dwelling for the firefighters who spend much of their lives living in the station.



Level Two



Mezzanine



Level One



Architectural Strategy and Conceptual Collaging



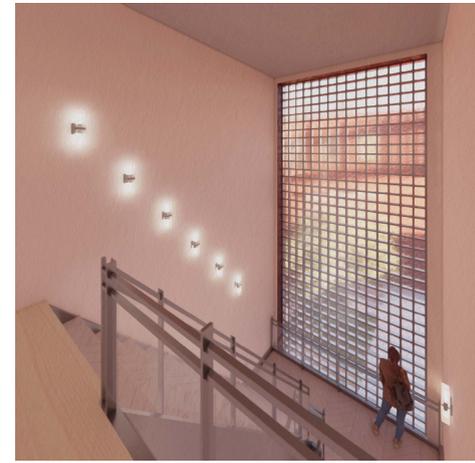
East Carson Street North Elevation



S18th Street West Elevation



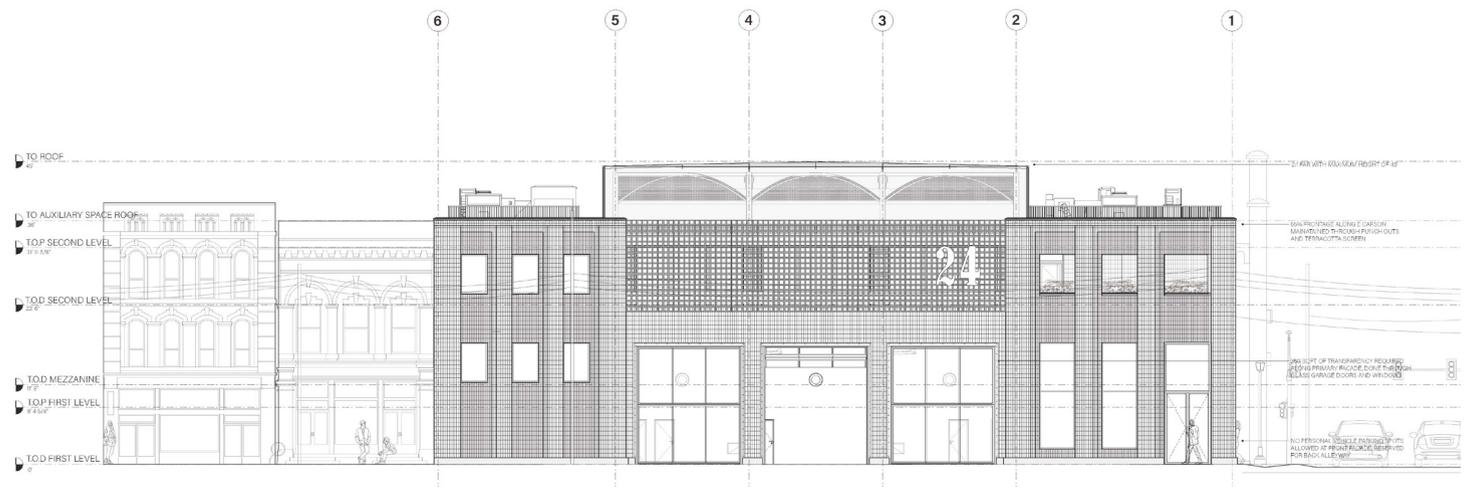
Walkway



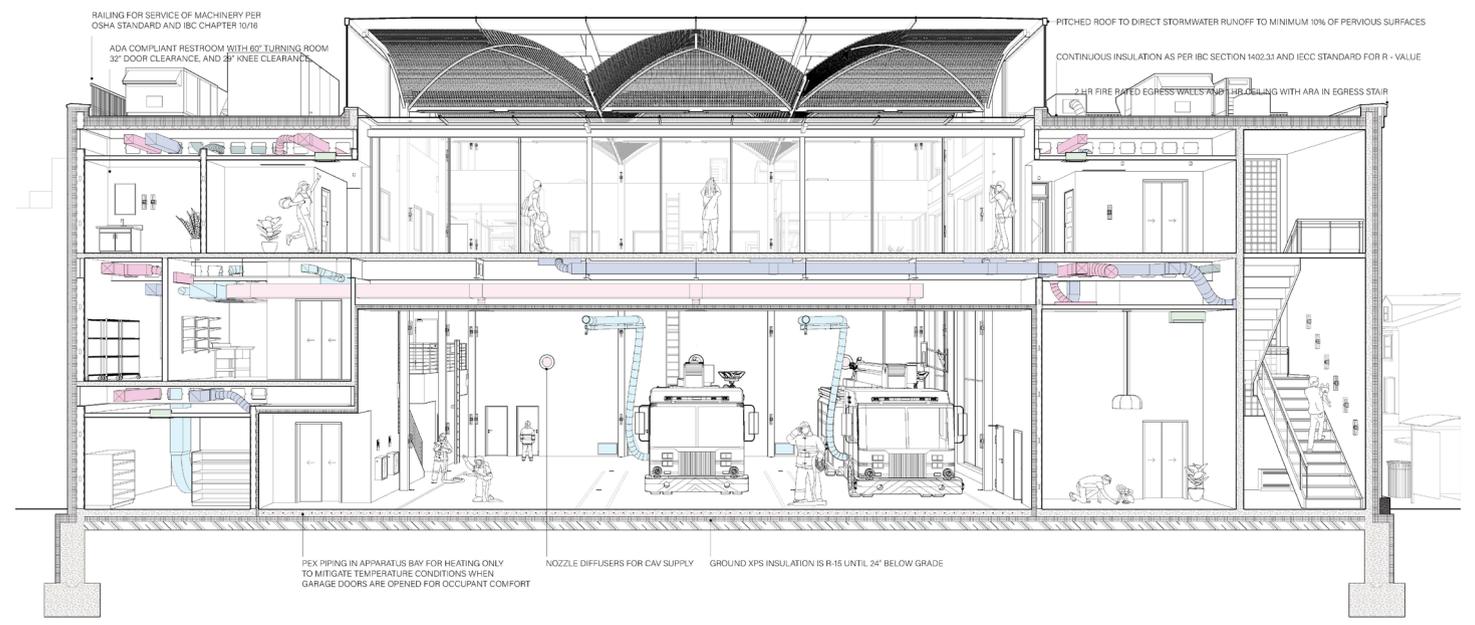
Main Egress



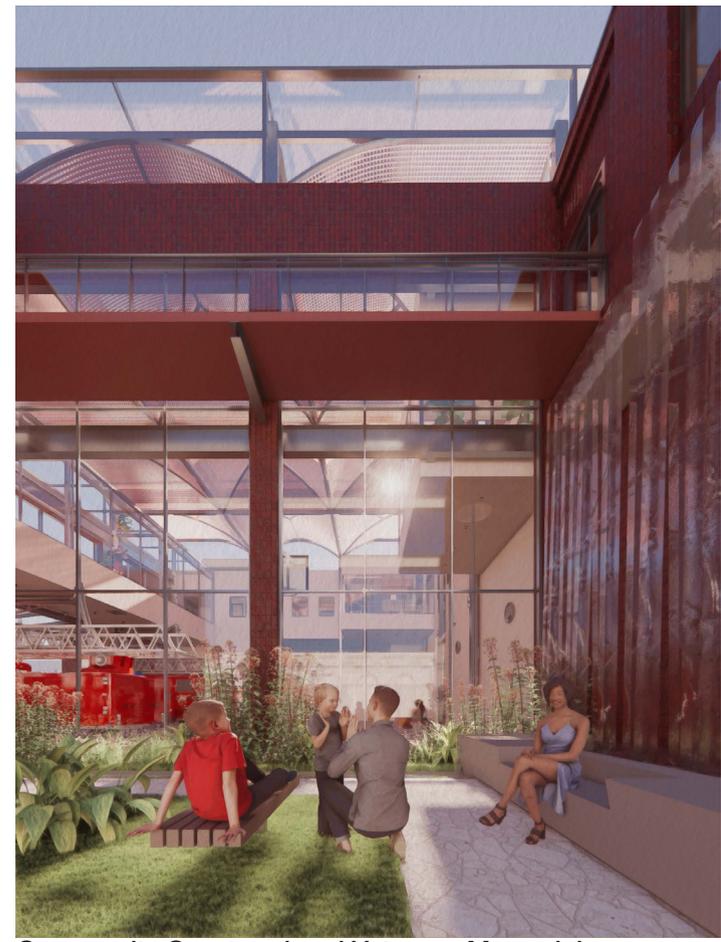
Community Corridor



East Carson Street Elevation



East Carson Street Perspective Section



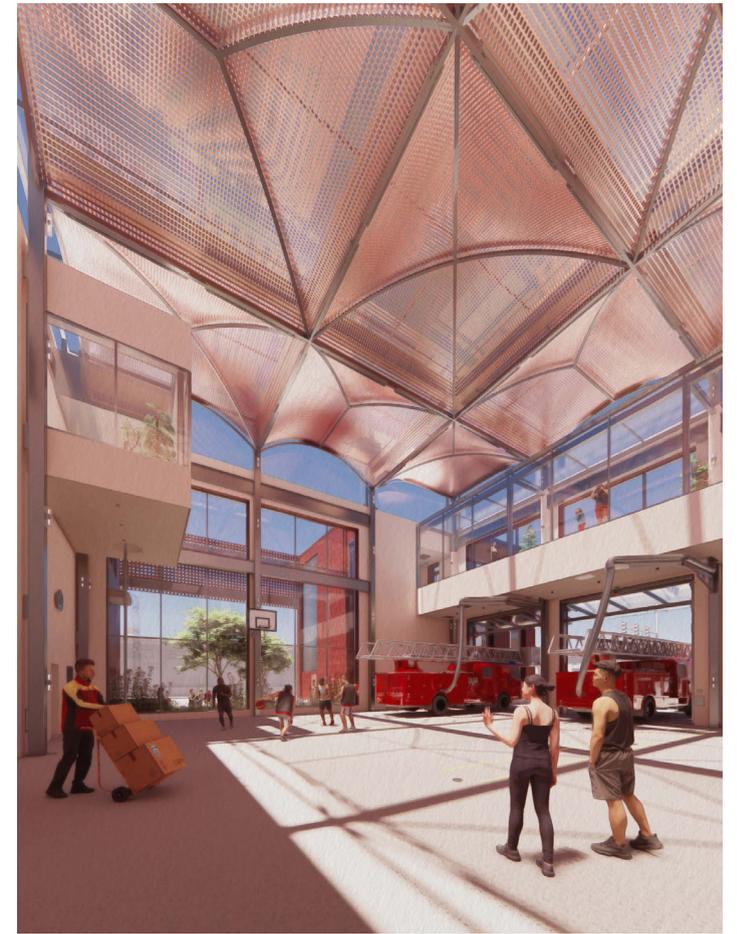
Community Courtyard and Veterans Memorial



Firefighter Kitchen and Break Space



Firefighter Gym



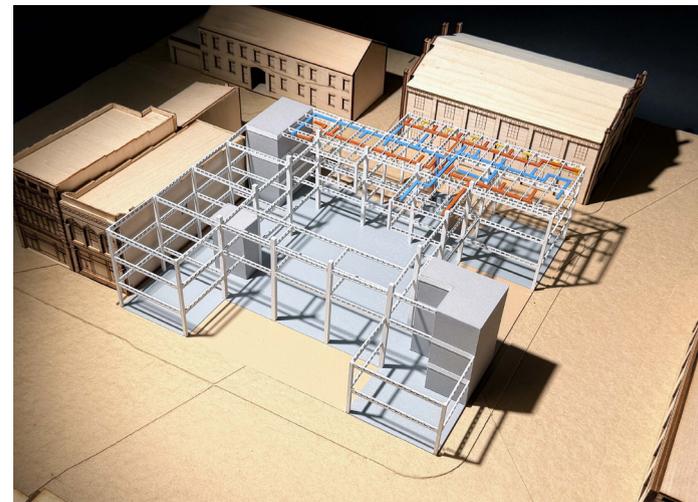
Apparatus Bay



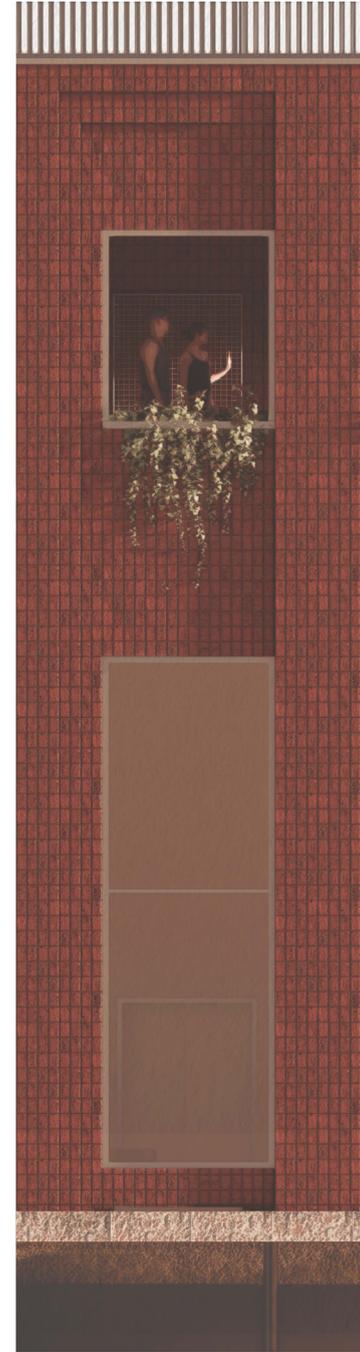
1/8" Structural Model



3/4" Chunk Model



1/8" HVAC Model



Enlarged Details

