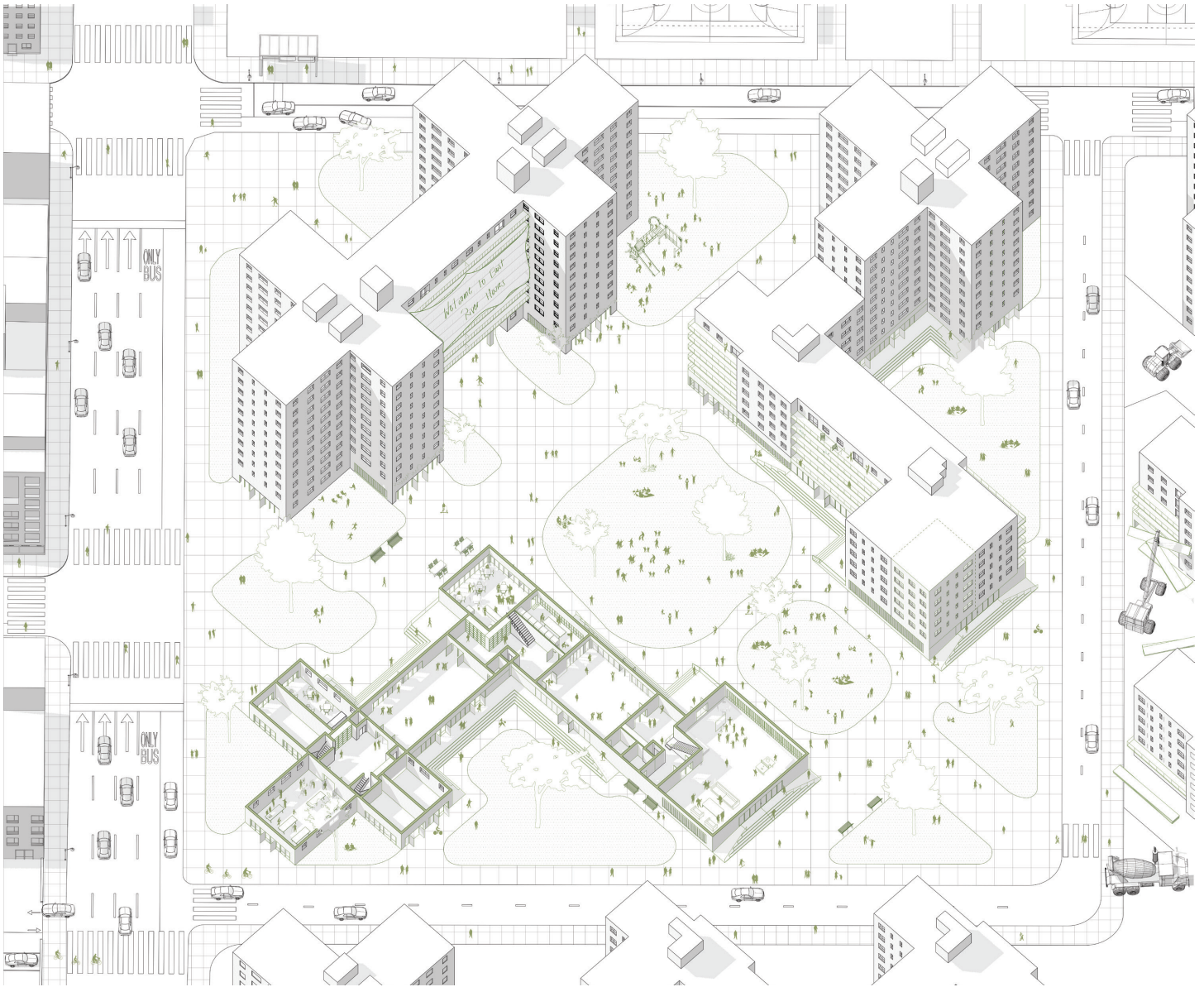


selected works 2023-2026

Portfolio



Gabriela Ramos Figueroa

My approach to design is rooted in the belief that architecture is most powerful when it operates as a mediator: between communities and their environments, between what exists and what is needed, between the social and the ecological. I am drawn to the spaces where these forces converge, and to the capacity of a building to make that convergence visible, inhabitable, and meaningful.

Whether working through the adaptive reuse of existing structures or the careful calibration of new development, I see architecture as a medium that connects the built environment with the social, economic, and ecological forces that sustain it. I aim to create spaces that are resilient, inclusive, and attuned to their surroundings, where design serves both individual well-being and collective growth. Architecture is not a passive setting, but an active presence in the life of a place.

Table of Contents

- 4 Bedford Commons**
Professional Work, 2025 ongoing

- 8 Hamptons Residence**
Professional Work, 2024

- 12 MAC Panama**
Contest-Professional Work, Spring 2026

- 18 Maintaining Microclimates**
Core III Studio, Fall 2023

- 24 ReHarvest Tower**
Advanced VI Studio, Spring 2025

- 30 Threaded Thresholds**
Advanced V Studio, Fall 2024

Bedford Commons

Bringing Grocery Access and Housing to an Evolving Neighborhood

Brooklyn, NYC

Program: Mixed-Use - FRESH Grocery Store and Multifamily

Role: Architectural Designer

Status: 100% DD

Toolset: Revit, Lumion, Adobe Photoshop, Chat GPT

Team: Yee Lin, Wei Li, Sebastian Dominguez

Bedford Commons is a mixed-use development located in Flatbush, Brooklyn, a neighborhood undergoing significant residential and commercial growth. The building rises within an R6/C2-4 zoning overlay and brings together three distinct use groups: a FRESH-designated grocery store at the ground level, a community facility, and 57 residential units distributed across affordable and market-rate configurations.

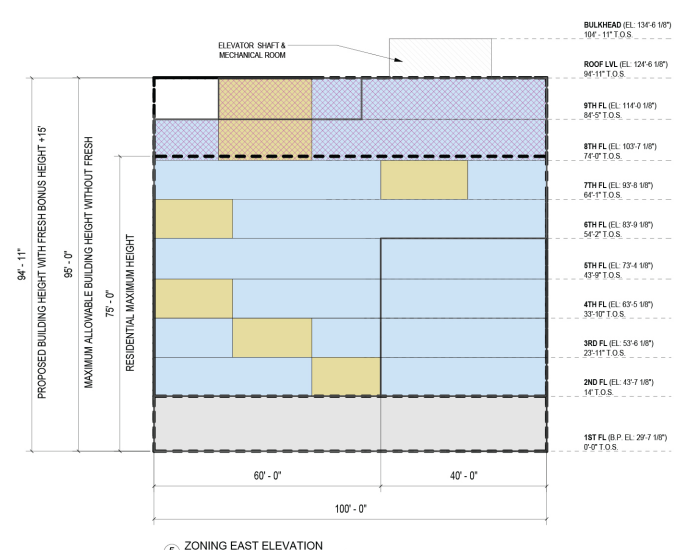
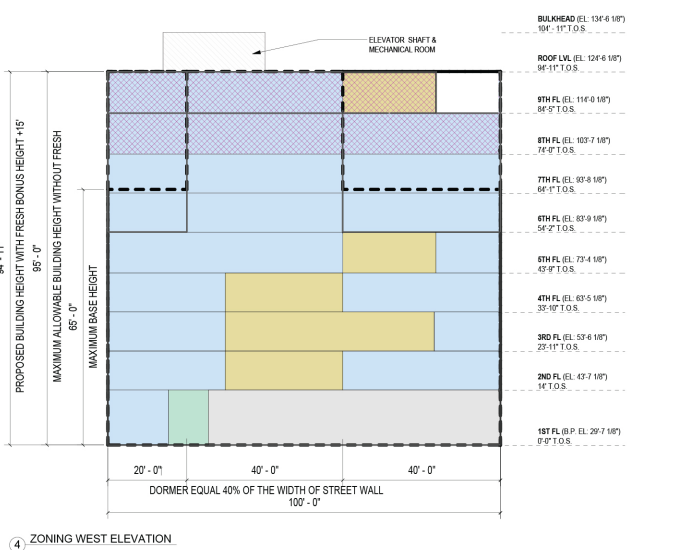
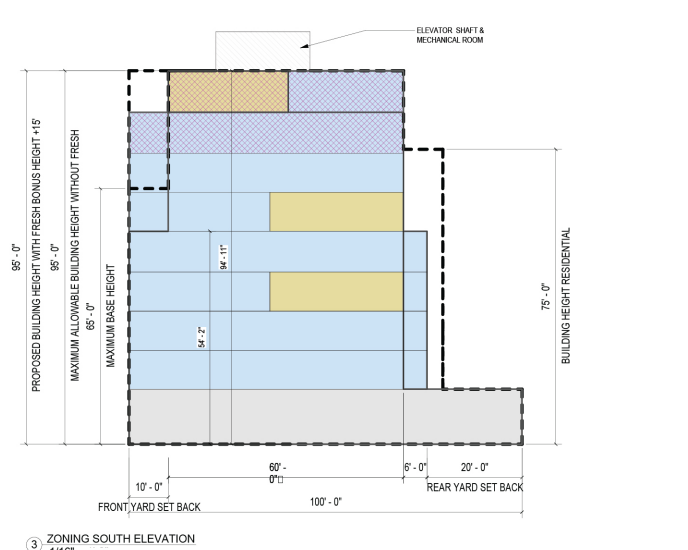
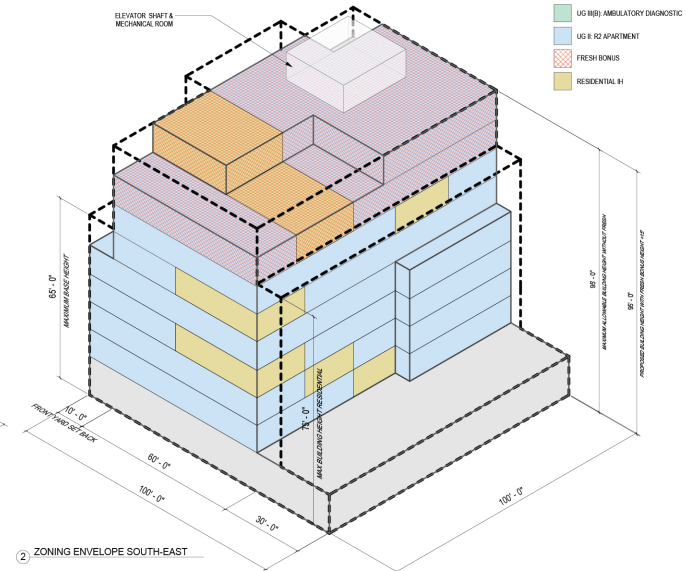
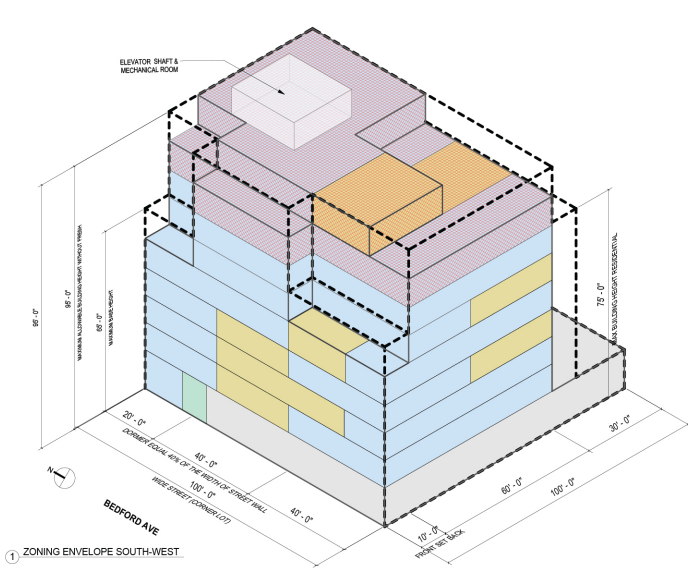
As architectural designer, the role encompassed leading the project from predevelopment through design development, including zoning analysis, massing, unit layout, egress coordination across use groups, and envelope compliance documentation. The FRESH program, designed to incentivize grocery retail in underserved New York City neighborhoods, anchors the building's civic identity and drives its massing and zoning strategy. Above it, the residential floors balance density with livability, responding to HPD guidelines and the layered regulatory requirements of a multi-use building in a transitional urban context. The facade, composed of a crisp precast envelope with punched windows, mediates between the scale of the surrounding brownstone context and the ambition of a new mixed-use typology in an evolving Brooklyn neighborhood.



ZONING ANALYSIS & FEASIBILITY

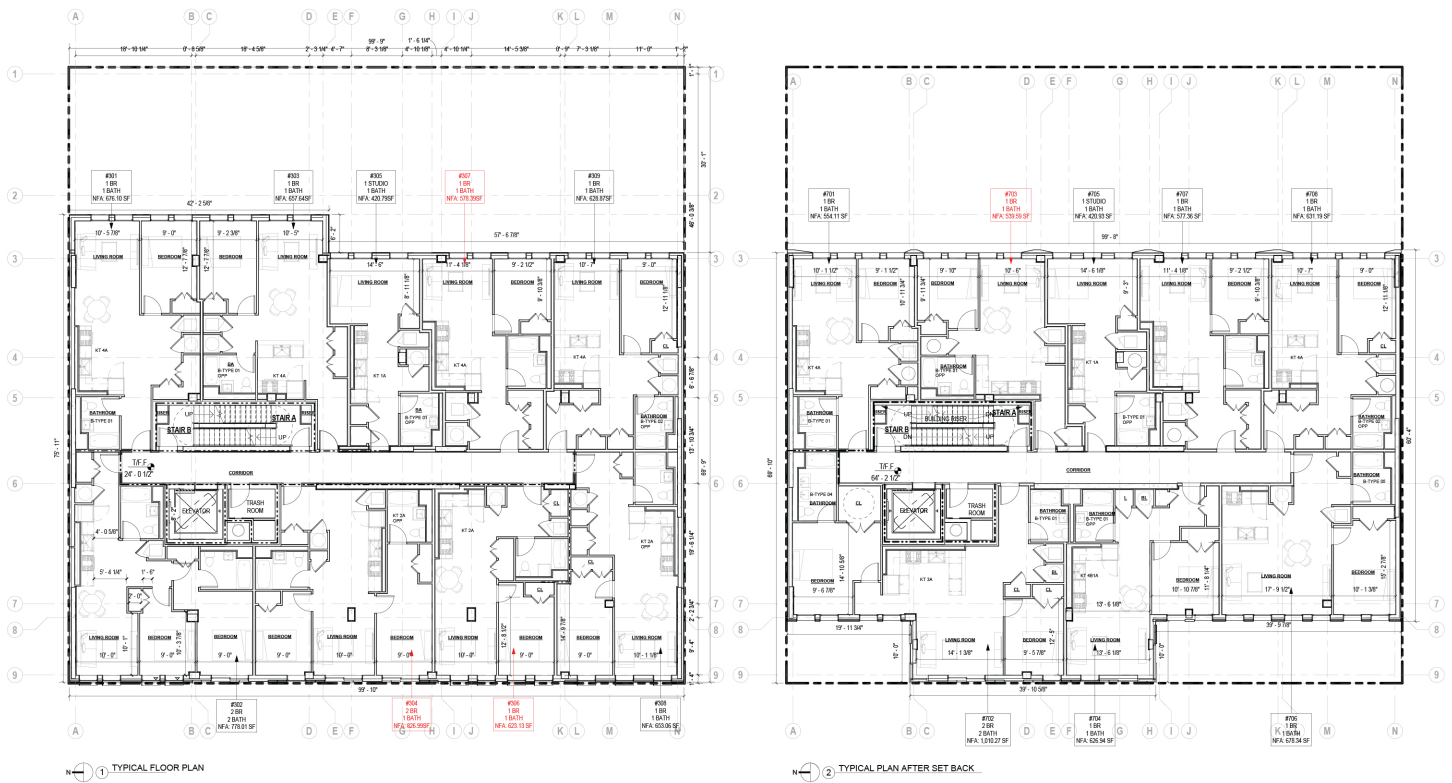
ZONING DIAGRAM LEGEND

- ALLOWABLE BUILDING VOLUME
- UG W/ GROCERY, RETAILERS (445)
- UG (RB) AMBULATORY DIAGNOSTIC
- UG R R2 APARTMENT
- FRESH BONUS
- RESIDENTIAL H



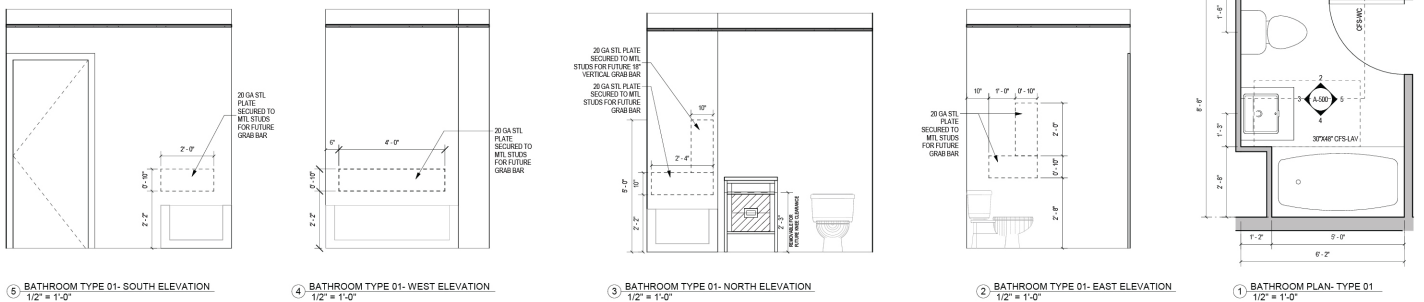
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RESIDENTIAL PLANS



TYPICAL BATHROOMS

Three standardized bathroom types developed in compliance with HPD guidelines, consolidating all residential units across the building



COMCHECK



MATERIAL KEY LEGEND

EXTERIOR SPRINGE WALL TYPES

- (CXA) EPS @ STD WALL (4" OPS INSULATION)
- (CX) EPS @ STD WALL (4" OPS INSULATION)
- (CXB) EPS @ STD WALL (2" OPS INSULATION)
- (CXI) CAST STONE @ STD WALL (4" OPS INSULATION)
- (CXII) CAST STONE @ STAIRS (4" OPS INSULATION)
- (CXIII) CAST STONE @ CORNICE (4" OPS INSULATION)
- (CXIV) EPS @ EAST STD WALL (4" OPS INSULATION)
- (CXV) EPS @ CORNICE (4" OPS INSULATION)
- (CXVI) PARAPET WALL @ ROOF
- (CXVII) OPERABLE DOOR
- (CXVIII) SHEAR WALL
- (CXIX) FLOOR ON GRADE

EXTERIOR VISION TYPES

- (W01) VISION GLAZING- FIXED SHGC 0.30 FACTOR 0.36
- (W02) STOREFRONT GLAZING SHGC 0.30 FACTOR 0.32
- (W03) VISION GLAZING- OPERABLE SHGC 0.30 FACTOR 0.32
- (W04) GLASS DOOR SHGC @ BALCONY SHGC 0.30 FACTOR 0.36
- (W05) GLASS DOOR @ STOREFRONT SHGC 0.30 FACTOR 0.36

THERMAL BRIDGING TYPES

- (T01) THERMAL BRIDGING @ WINDOW
- (T02) THERMAL BRIDGING @ TERRACE
- (T03) THERMAL BRIDGING @ LAB
- (T04) THERMAL BRIDGING @ SHELF ANGLE
- (T05) THERMAL BRIDGING @ PARAPET

NOTE FOR WALL TYPES: SEE SHEET T12

COMcheck Software Version COMcheckWeb
Envelope Compliance Certificate

Project Information

Energy Code: 2020 New York City Energy Conservation Code, Appendix CA (modified 90-1-2020)
 Project Title: 256 Bedford Avenue, Phos01
 Location: New York, New York
 Climate Zone: 4a
 Project type: New Construction
 Vertical Glazing / Wall Area: 15%

Performance Sim. Species: EnergyPlus 8.1.0.050 (EPV: USA_NY_NewYork-LaGuardia AP 725630_TMY3.epw)

Construction Sited: 256 Bedford Avenue
 Envelope: New York, 11226
 Designer/Contractor:

Additional Efficiency Packages(s)

Cooling: 1.0 (High) 1.0 (High)
 Heating: 1.0 (High) 1.0 (High)
 Infrared Lighting: 1.0 (High)

Building Area	Floor Area
1. Retail - Nonresidential	9985
2. Health Care/Child - Nonresidential	7987
3. Multifamily - Residential	7305

Envelope Assemblies	Assembly	Gross Area or Perimeter	Cavity R-Value	Const. R-Value	Proposed U-Factor	Budget U-Factor
Roof, Main Roof: Insulation Entirely Above Deck (Bldg. Use 3 - Multifamily)		6614	—	36.0	0.028	0.028
Roof, Terrace: Insulation Partially Above Deck (Bldg. Use 3 - Multifamily)		525	—	30.0	0.028	0.031
Roof, Decked: Insulation Entirely Above Deck (Bldg. Use 2 - Multifamily)		427	—	35.0	0.028	0.028
Roof, Terrace: Insulation Entirely Above Deck (Bldg. Use 2 - Multifamily)		1912	—	30.0	0.028	0.028
1st Floor Slab on Grade: Impervious Slab-On-Grade, Vertical > 10' (Bldg. Use 1 - Residential)		713	—	15.0	0.020	0.020
Cellar Slab on Grade: Uninsulated Slab-On-Grade, Vertical > 10' (Bldg. Use 1 - Residential)		388	—	15.0	0.020	0.020
Roof, Canopy: Concrete Floor (over unconditioned space). (Bldg. Use 1 - Residential)		39	—	15.0	0.025	0.020
WALL2: Shearwall: Cellar Wall: 2" EPS Other (Insulation outside) 100# Dens-ly Filling; Rebar: Wall R. 10.0; Drip R.G. 10.0; Hook: 6x6x16 @ 16" (Bldg. Use 2 - Residential)		1009	—	—	0.006	0.006
Ext. Wall: Cast Stone: 2" EPS (9" steel stud) 100# Other Steel Framed Wall (Bldg. Use 1 - Residential)		663	—	—	0.028	0.021

Project Title: 256 Bedford Avenue Phos01
 Data Location:
 Report Date: 01/22/25
 Page: 1 of 15



Nuasin School

Designing Identity through Space

The Bronx, NYC

Program: K-12 School

Role: Architectural Designer

Status: 40% CD

Toolset: Revit, Lumion, Adobe Photoshop, Chat GPT

Team: Yee Lin, Hannah Lin, Adina Banayan, Ben Lin

Nuasin Next Generation is a K-12 school in the Bronx designed around two guiding ideas: bold color and visible representation. Drawing from the school's brand identity, each of the four house colors anchors a floor, shaping wayfinding and fostering a sense of community and belonging throughout the building. Murals and motivational quotes reflecting the students' own backgrounds line the corridors, while a multicolored ceiling ribbon in the main lobby weaves all four house colors into a single civic gesture.

As architectural designer, the scope included leading the design and construction documents for the third floor, full egress coordination and code compliance across all building levels, and interior design for the gymnasium, dance room, cafeteria, and lobby. Material selection, sample coordination, and vendor management were also part of the role, translating the school's identity into a cohesive and durable interior environment

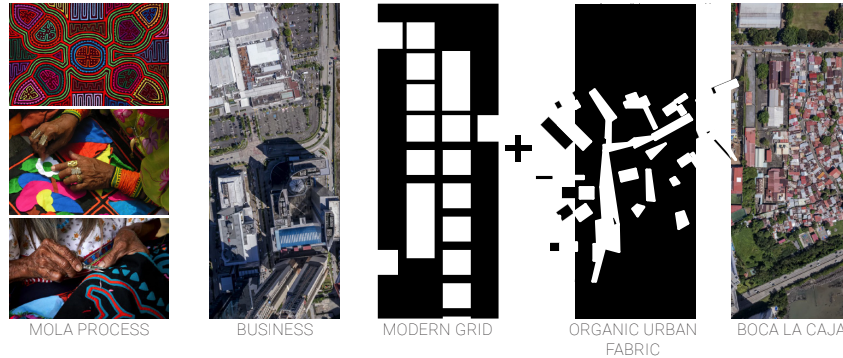


NUASIN

NEXT GENERATION

INTERIOR DESIGN & MATERIALITY





MAC Panama

Layering a Museum Between Contrasting Urban Fabrics

Punta Pacifica, Panama City

Program: Contemporary Museum

Role: Lead Designer

Status: Contest

Toolset: Revit, Adobe Illustrator, Lumion, Gemini Nano

Banano Pro, Adobe Photoshop

Collaborator: Sebastian Dominguez

The Museum of Contemporary Art of Panama is conceived as a civic framework shaped by overlap, where city and coastline, regular grid and organic fabric, art and everyday life are drawn into productive tension. Set at the friction point between Punta Pacífica's business district and the informal settlement of Boca La Caja, the project draws on Mola, the Kuna textile tradition of cutting, layering, and stitching, as both conceptual method and spatial logic, weaving divergent urban conditions into a single architectural field.

Rather than a sealed institutional lobby, arrival is reimagined as a civic sequence. Visitors ascend through a covered public plaza, open stairs, glazed landings, and internal cuts that connect galleries, terraces, and moments of pause. The building gradually reveals itself as it is inhabited. Materially, an earth-toned terracotta base anchors the plinth to the ground, lighter pleated panels give the gallery volumes a suspended and finely crafted quality, and a warm timber-finished soffit gathers the composition beneath a single sheltering canopy.

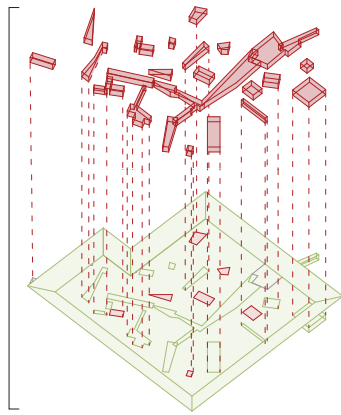


MAIN ENTRY
GROUND FLOOR

CONCEPT & PROCESS

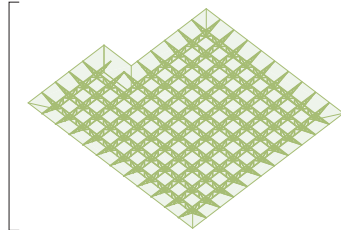
Urban and Spatial Logic

Mola techniques of cutting, overlaying, and stitching bring regular and oblique alignments into tension, organizing the museum through intersection rather than symmetry.



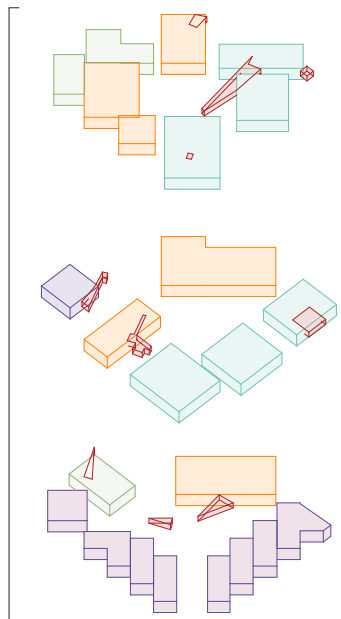
Environmental Canopy

Deep overhangs, folded planes, and light monitors gather the volumes below into a single environmental canopy, sheltering the civic base while becoming a legible fifth façade within the surrounding high-rise context.



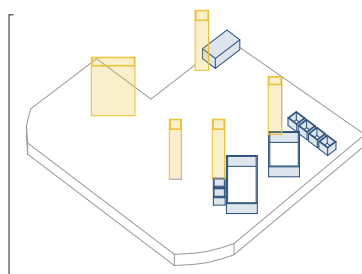
Civic Plinth and Museum Volume

A terraced public base elevates the museum into shade and ventilation, while clustered gallery volumes above reconcile the regular geometry of the new district with the oblique fabric of Boca La Caja.



Infrastructural Basin

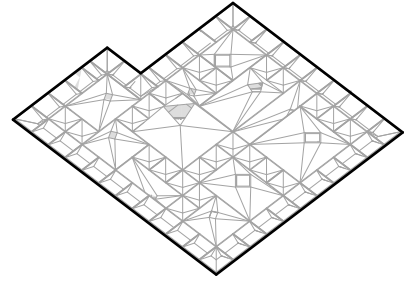
The existing excavation is reclaimed as the museum's base, consolidating parking, services, and stormwater detention within the inherited void.



Roof

+15.80m

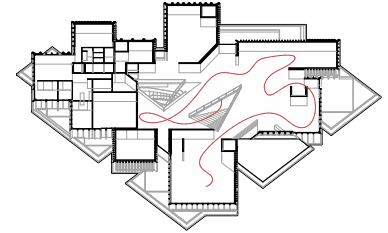
An active environmental canopy that captures and redistributes rainwater, regulates wind flow and solar exposure through integrated green terraces, shaping the museum's thermal and environmental character from above.



Third Floor

+11.20m

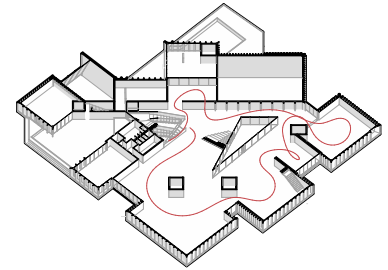
Administration, workshops, and additional galleries occupy this level, where the staggered displacement of building blocks generates a series of rooftops and terraces throughout.



Second Floor

+6.60m

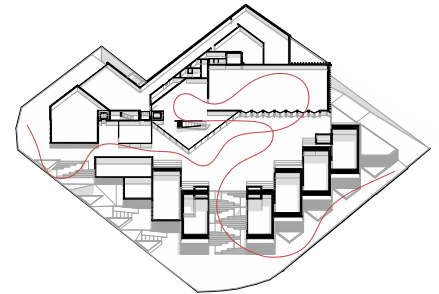
The primary gallery level unfolds as a continuous circulation sequence, with strategic openings framing views toward Boca La Caja and Panama City's urban core to enrich the visitor's spatial experience.



Ground Floor

+2.00m

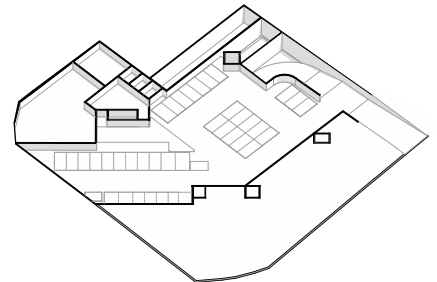
The elevated plaza serves as the civic heart of the project, linking lobby, multipurpose hall, retail, and museum shop while allowing each use to maintain its own identity.



Basement 01

-2.50m

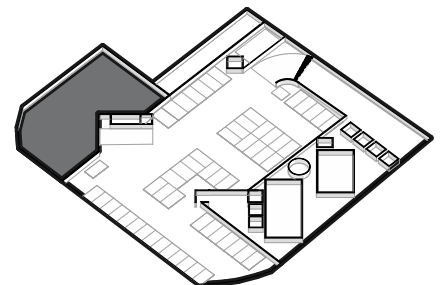
Directly connected to the plaza above, this level consolidates parking and service infrastructure alongside a vault and archive room receiving controlled zenithal daylight to protect stored artifacts.



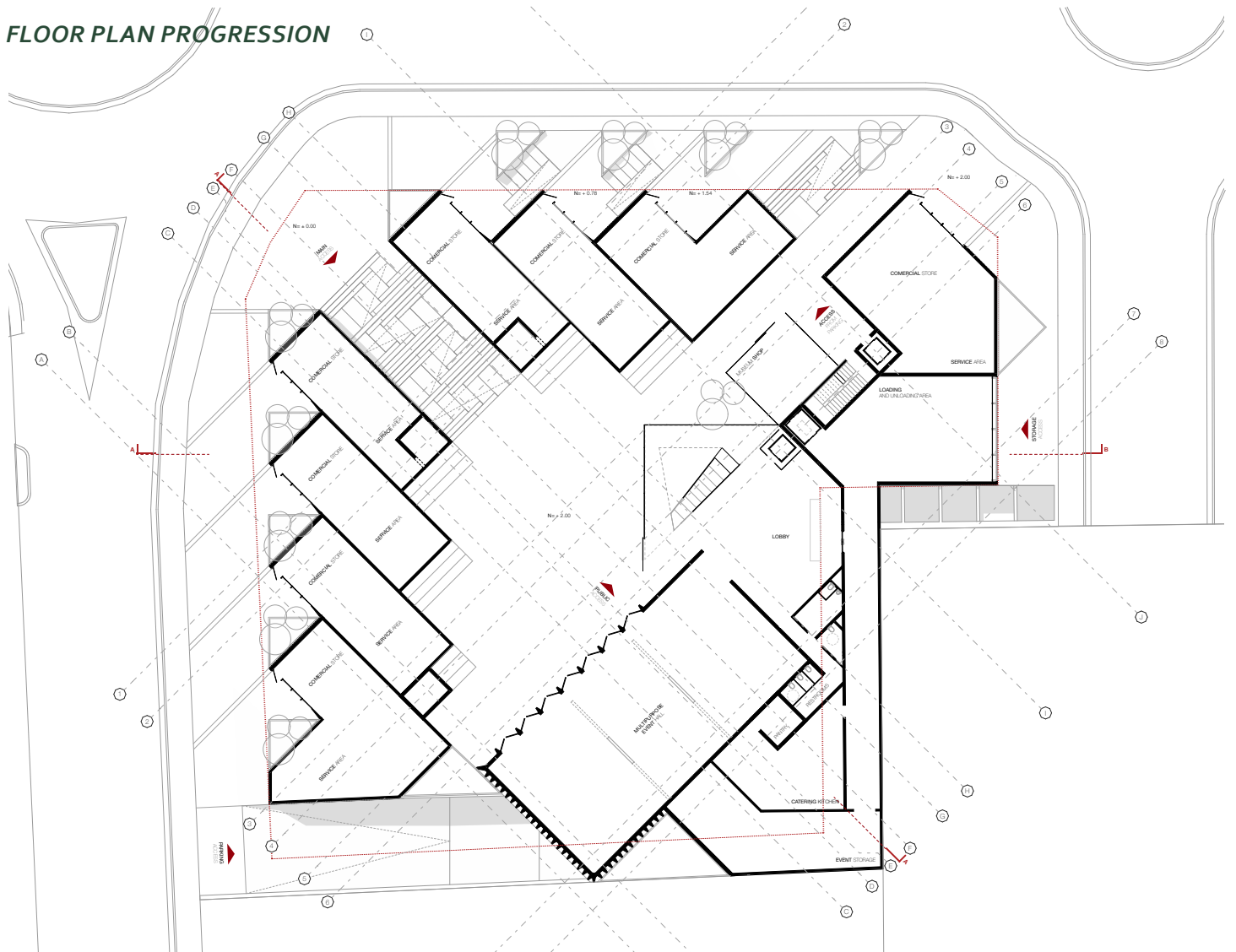
Basement 02

-6.00m

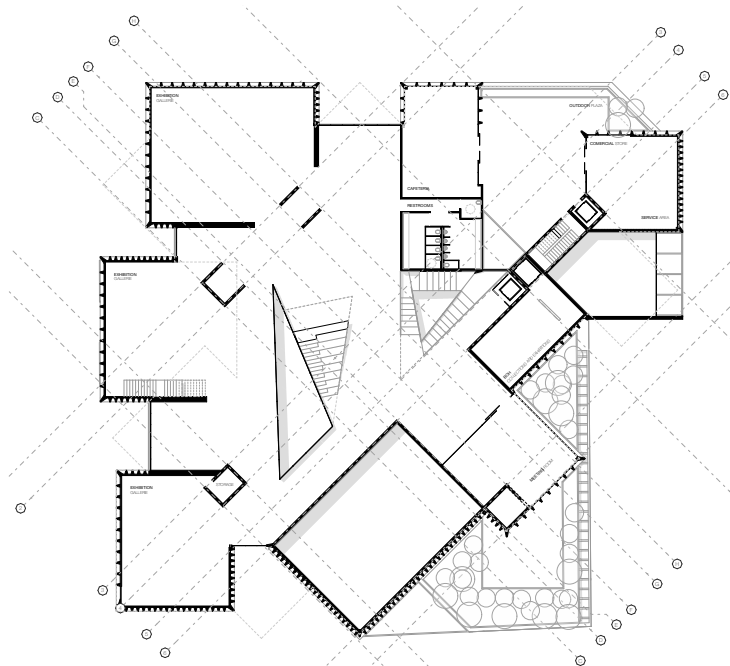
The lowest layer houses stormwater cisterns that feed the project's terraces, alongside parking and a public elevator connecting upward to the plaza, retail, and museum lobby.



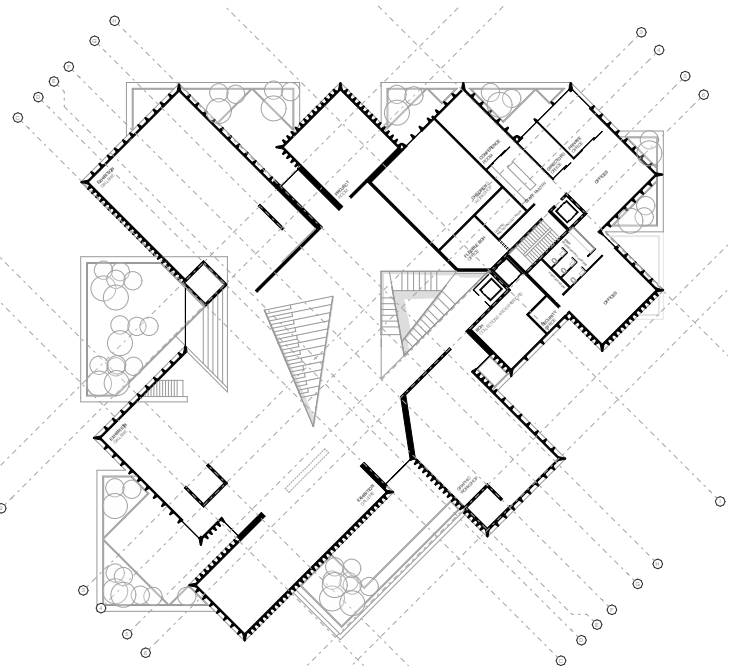
FLOOR PLAN PROGRESSION



GROUND FLOOR PLAN
0 1 5 10 20

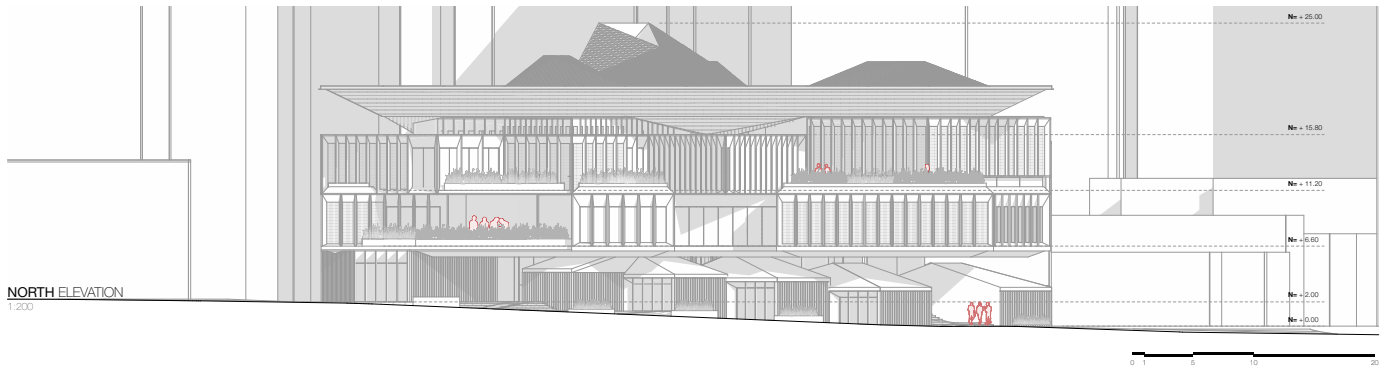


SECOND FLOOR PLAN

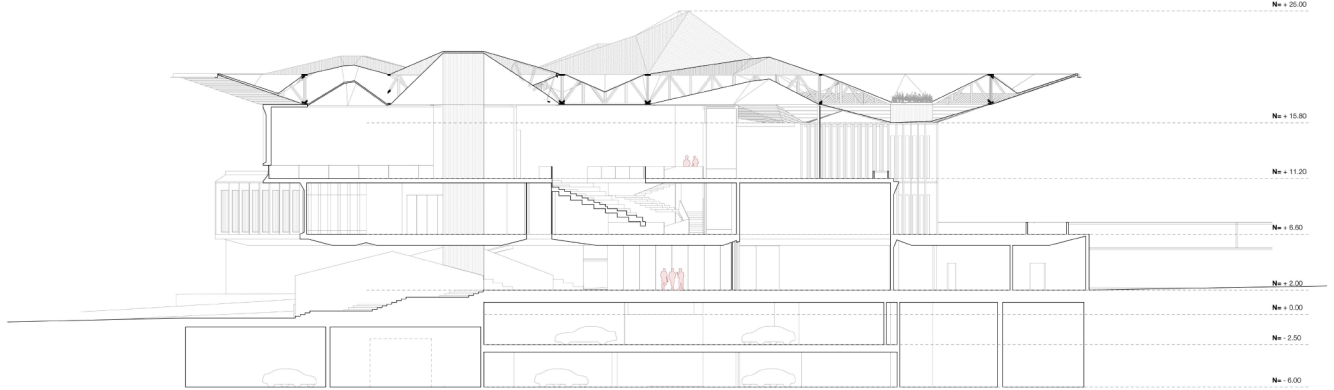


THIRD FLOOR PLAN





NORTH ELEVATION
1:200



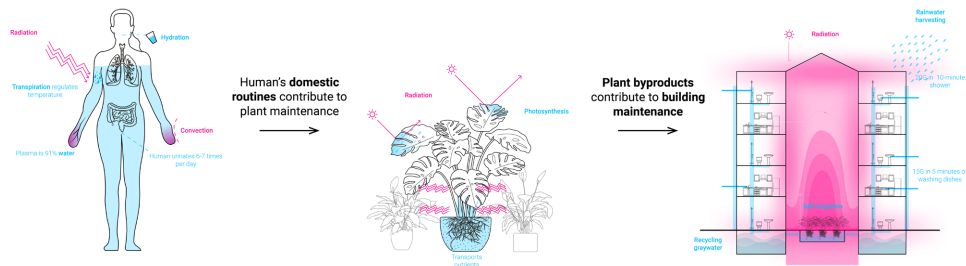
TRANSVERSE SECTION A-A
1:200



LONGITUDINAL SECTION B-B
1:200



SITE CONTEXT, PUNTA PACIFICA



Maintaining Microclimates

Co-composting as Affordable Domestic Infrastructure

West Harlem, New York

Program: Affordable Housing

Critic: Lily Wong

Toolset: Rhino, Enscape, Illustrator, Photoshop,
Model-making

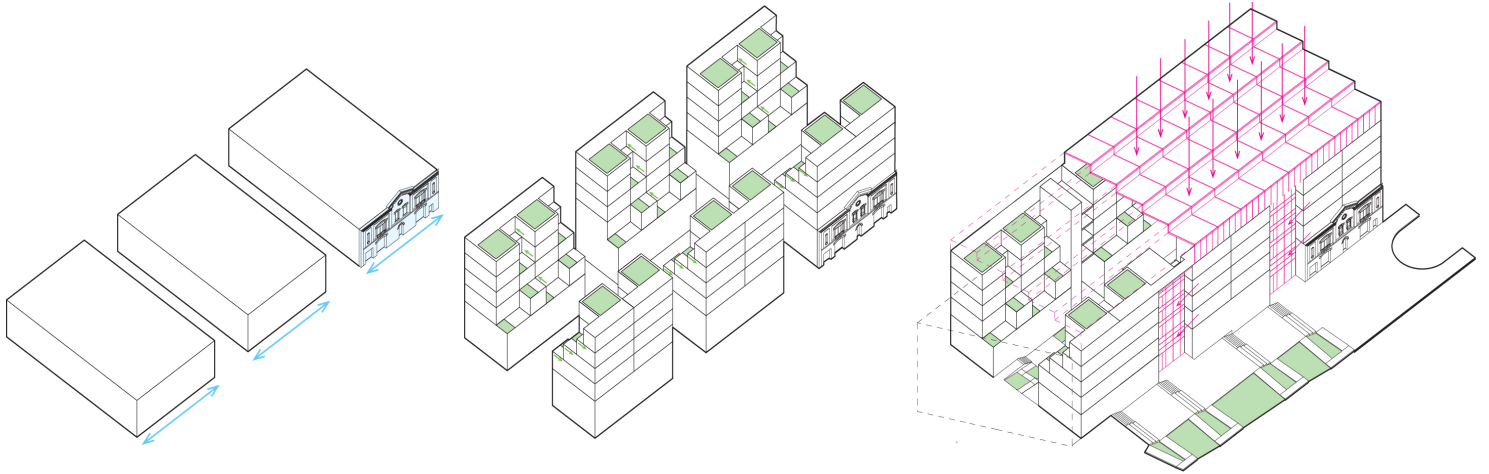
Collaborator: Anika Tsapatsaris

Situated in West Harlem amid a network of community gardens, *Maintaining Microclimates* places compost at the core of domestic life. The project begins with a simple question: how can a building both empower residents to cultivate their own spaces and relieve them of the burden of maintaining them alone? The answer lies in co-composting. Communal chutes thread through the building as shared domestic infrastructure, feeding an underground hot composting system whose upward release of heat and humidity sustains the courtyard and greenhouse above, where each resident's small daily act participating in a larger environmental cycle.

Apartments are arranged in terraced formation around a central courtyard, with all bedrooms oriented inward to capture thermal benefits from the composting system below. The terracotta facade, greenhouse canopy, and gravity-assisted irrigation system complete a closed loop in which domestic routine and building performance become inseparable, making co-living a reciprocal, symbiotic act.



DESIGN STRATEGY



PROPORTION

The intervention adopts the proportion of the existing building in order to maintain the scale and rhythm of the surrounding streetscape.

TERRACES

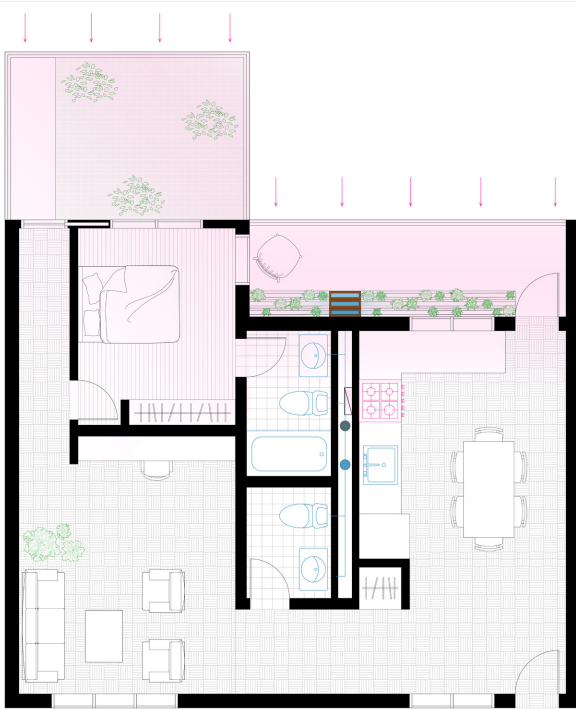
The apartments are arranged in terraced formation to enable gravity-assisted irrigation and communal engagement in inner balconies

GREENHOUSE

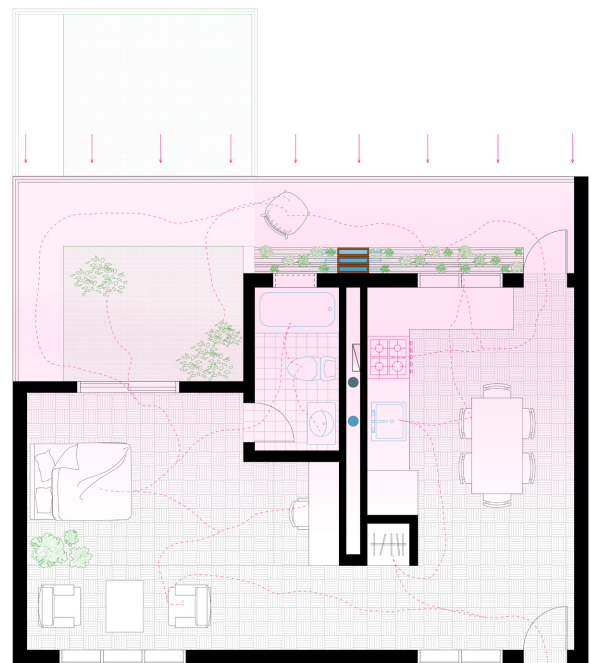
The buildings envelope creates a microclimate for the personal and communal growing spaces

APARTMENT PLAN

Rooms are arranged around a central wall chute housing water pipes and a heat extractor, with all bedrooms oriented toward the courtyard to maximize thermal benefits.



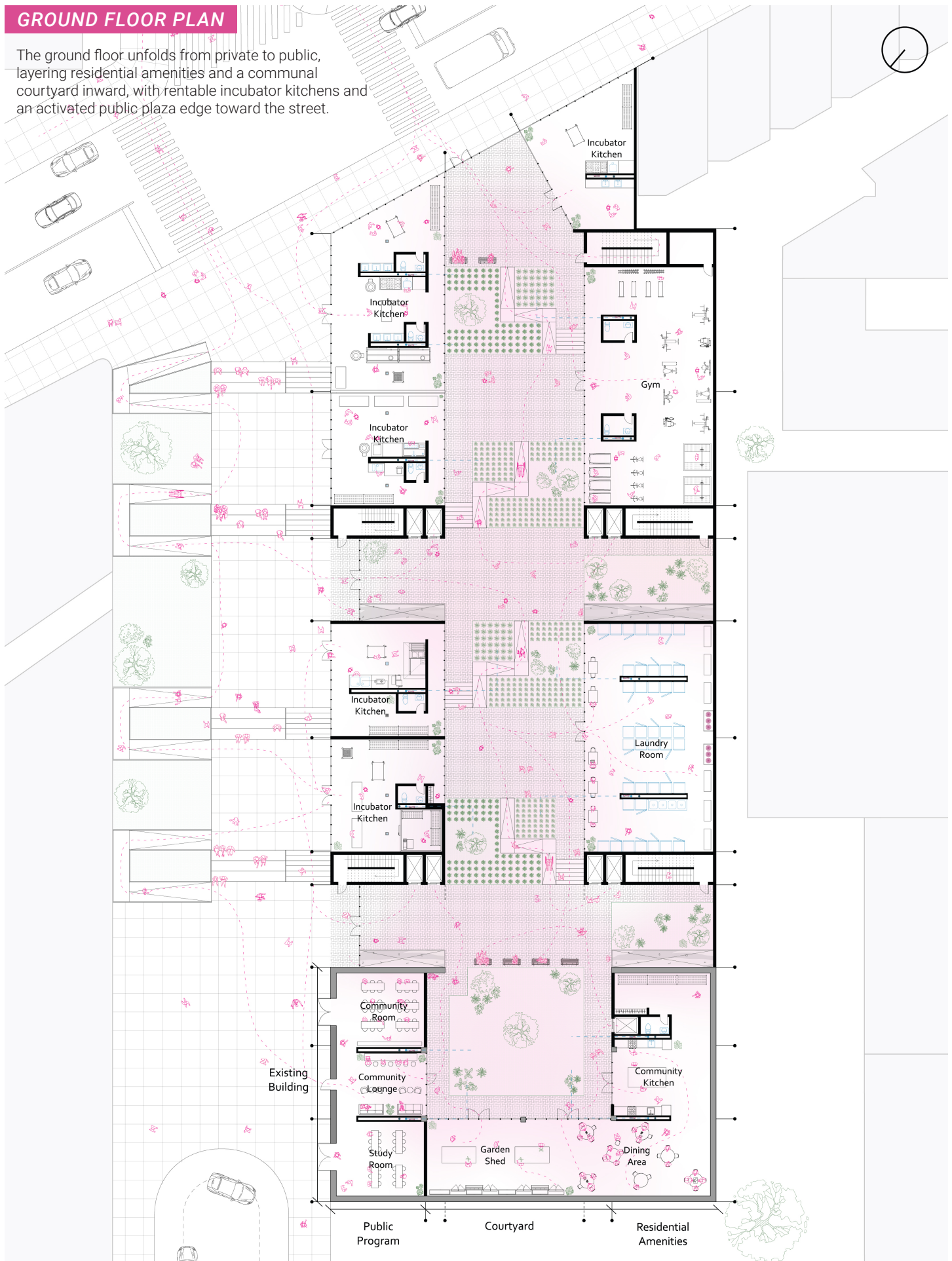
1 BD Apartment
785 sq ft



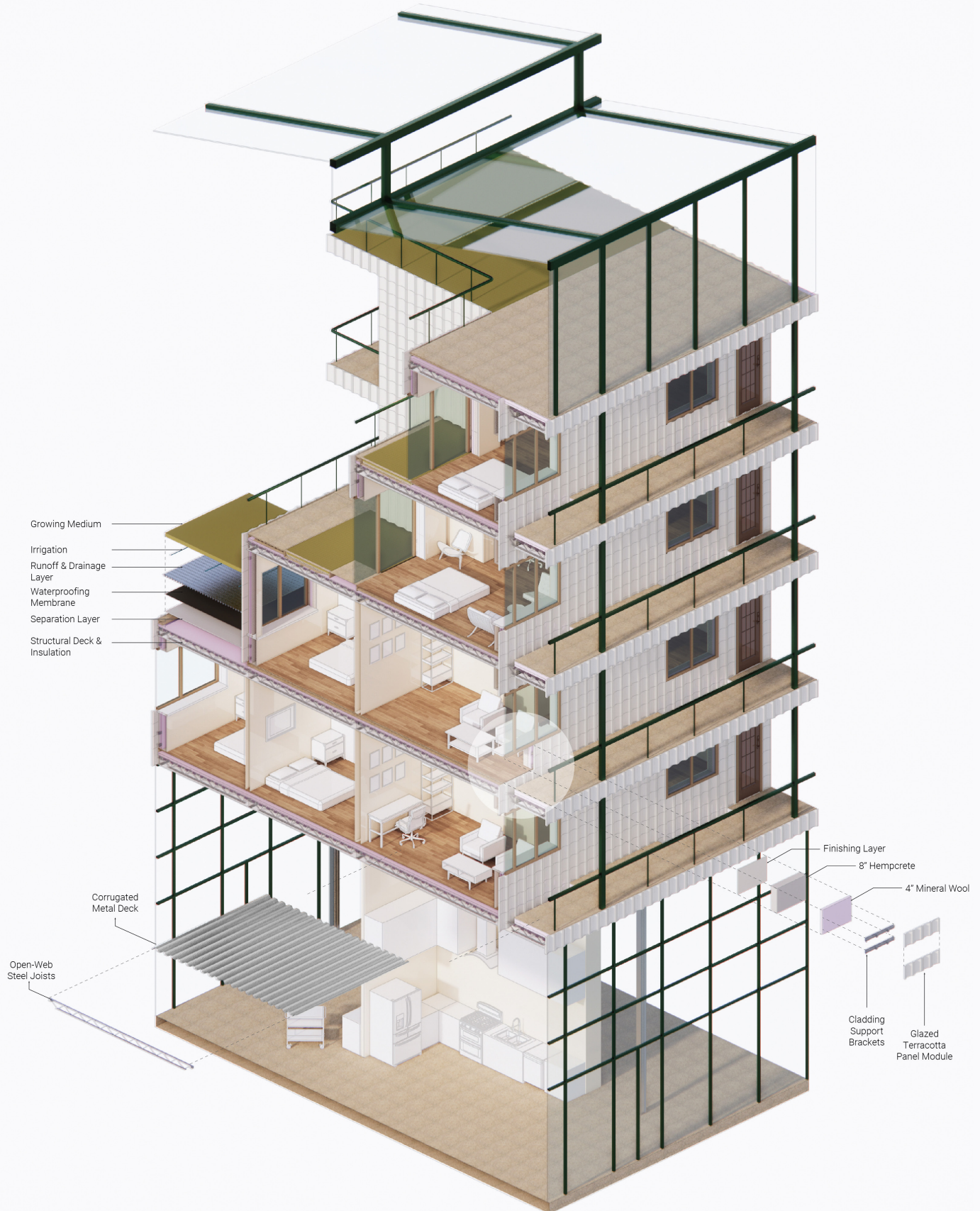
Studio Apartment
614 sq ft

GROUND FLOOR PLAN

The ground floor unfolds from private to public, layering residential amenities and a communal courtyard inward, with rentable incubator kitchens and an activated public plaza edge toward the street.

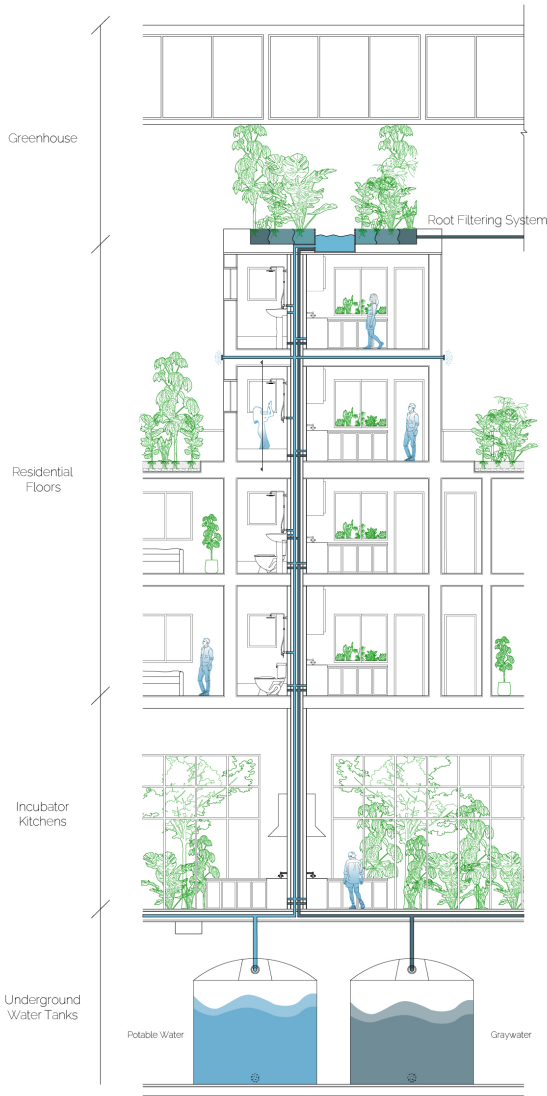


FACADE DETAIL



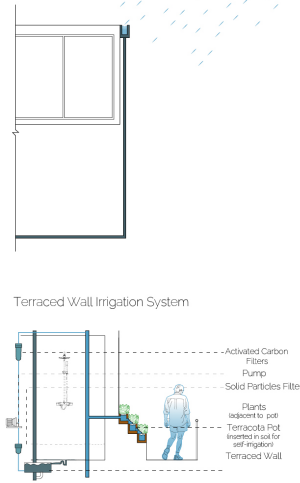
The facade assembly layers structural, environmental, and agricultural systems - a terracotta rainscreen, hempcrete core, and rooftop growing medium that together sustain the building's thermal and ecological performance.

ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS



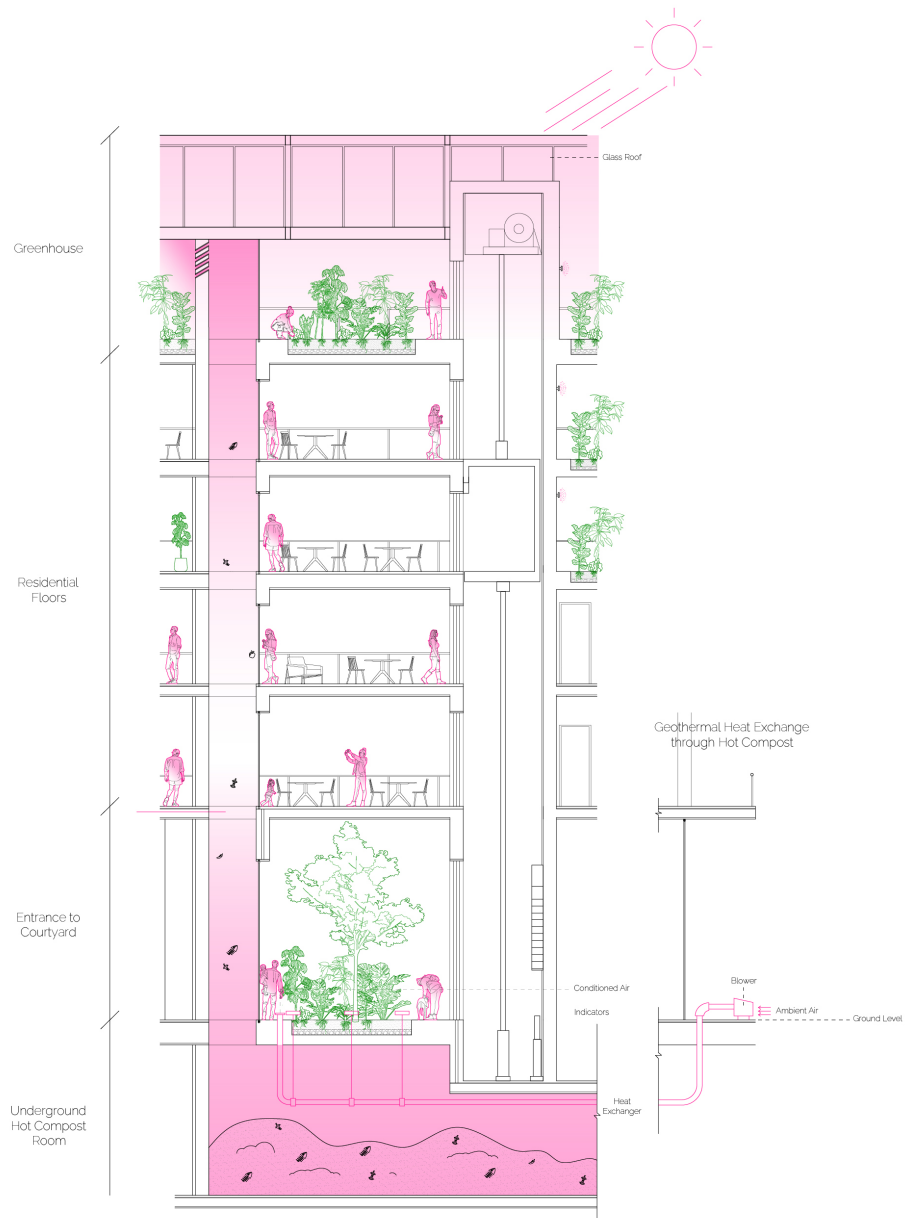
Thermal Systems

Compost deposited through communal chutes accumulates in an underground hot composting room, generating sustained heat that rises through the building as a geothermal-like exchange, warming the courtyard and greenhouse above.



Water Systems

Rainwater is harvested and recirculated through consolidated kitchen and bathroom cores, feeding a closed-loop irrigation network that supplies the terraced growing beds and greywater flushing throughout the building.





ReHarvest Tower

Harvesting Water, Waste, and Shelter from a Single Crop

Punjab, India

Program: Migrant Agricultural Housing + Water
Infrastructure

Critic: David Benjamin

Toolset: Rhino, Enscape, Illustrator, Photoshop, Gemini AI,
Material Testing

Collaborator: Claire Navin

ReHarvest Tower is a rural infrastructure prototype in Punjab, India, responding to three crises produced by the annual rice-wheat cycle: groundwater depletion, stubble burning, and the lack of seasonal migrant housing. The project begins with a relationship already visible across Punjab, where sculptural rooftop water tanks sit above homes and make water storage part of domestic identity. ReHarvest Tower brings that relationship into the farm, joining water, shelter, and agricultural waste.


Instead of pumping groundwater upward, the tower catches rain at its highest point through an inverted roof, allowing gravity to supply sanitation, wash facilities, and shaded farm amenities below. Used water is filtered, stored, and returned for irrigation, extending the interval between rice harvest and wheat sowing so straw can be composted rather than burned. During monsoon season, overflow recharges the groundwater below. Built from what the land discards, the structure uses rice husks as ash for concrete and rice straw as modular wall panels. It serves farmers year-round, while the upper floors become harvest-season housing, aligning architecture with the crop cycle.



THE AGRICULTURAL CONDITION

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1943
Bengal Famine
An estimated 2-3 million people die of starvation in British-ruled India, making food self-sufficiency a national emergency.



1968
Green Revolution
Under Indira Gandhi, high-yield seeds and tube wells are deployed across Punjab, transforming it into India's breadbasket.



2009
Preservation of Subsoil Water Act
The state bans rice planting before June 10, restricting the crop to monsoon season and compressing the harvest window to days.



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1970
Monoculture
Punjab produces 70% of India's food grains. Pulses, maize and oilseeds vanish from the landscape.

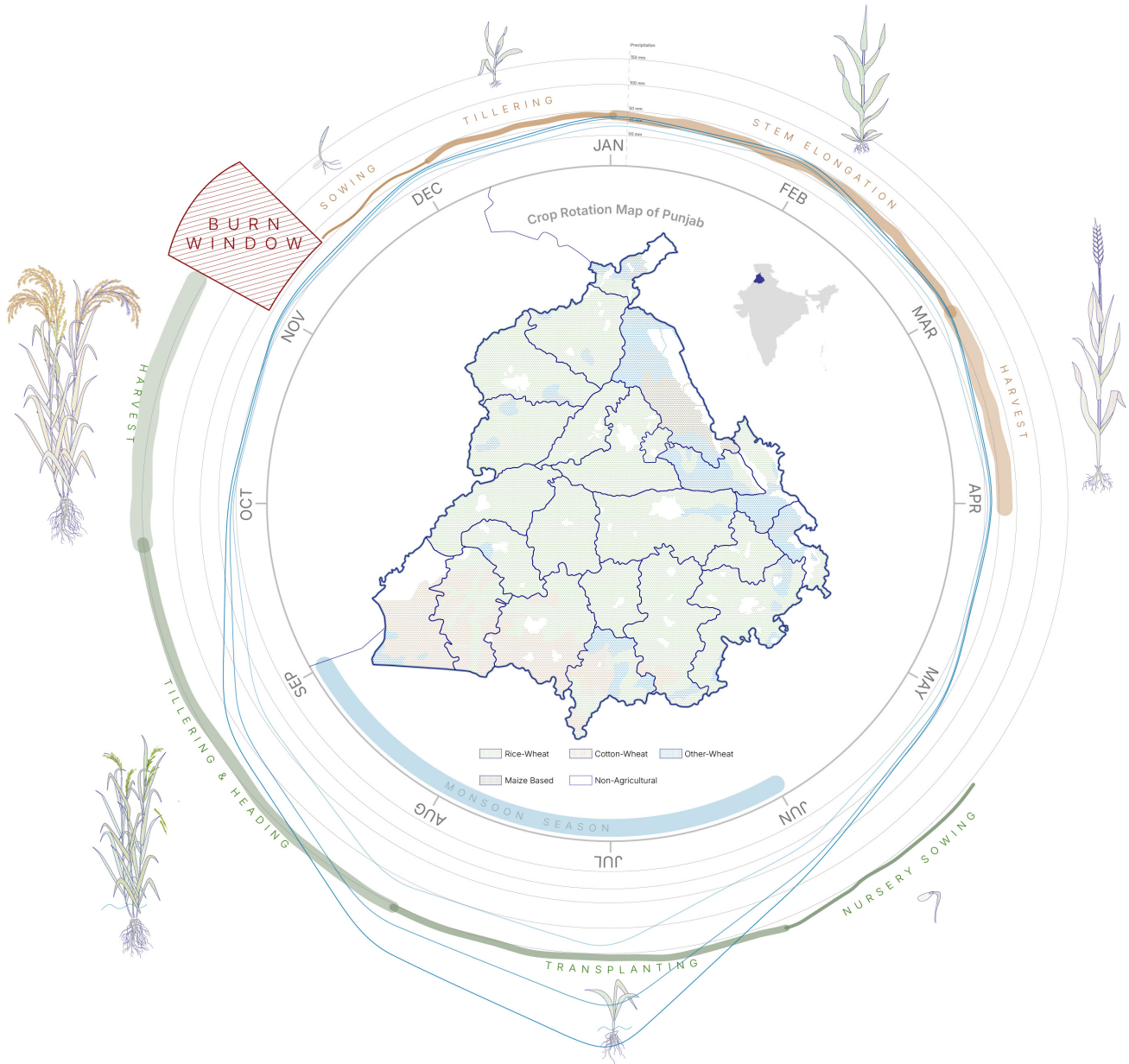


1982-2006
Groundwater Collapse
Groundwater levels drop faster every decade. The decline goes from 18 cm per year to 75 cm per year by 2006.



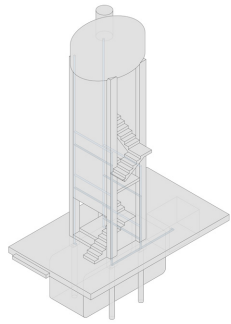
2009 onward
Stubble Burning
With days between rice harvest and wheat sowing, farmers burn fields simultaneously across the state. Burning increases 47% after the 2009 law.

In 2019, 105 of 138 Punjab groundwater blocks classified "overexploited." Usable water projected to run out within 22 years.

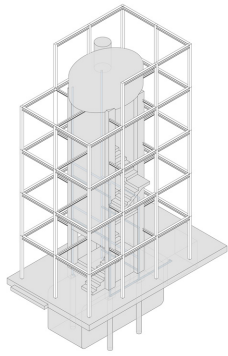


The Green Revolution locked Punjab into one rotation: wheat through winter, rice through monsoon. The 2009 Subsoil Water Act compressed the harvest window to under two weeks and fire became the fastest solution for farmers to clear the fields, but groundwater depletion is the deeper crisis.

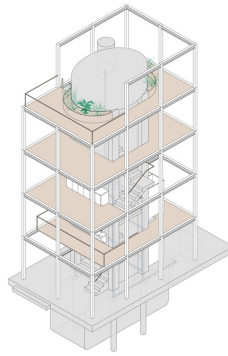
MATERIAL AND CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCE



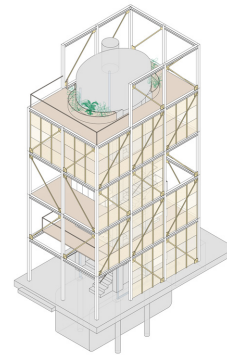
RHA CONCRETE CORE



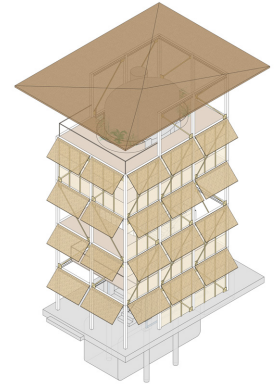
STEEL FRAME



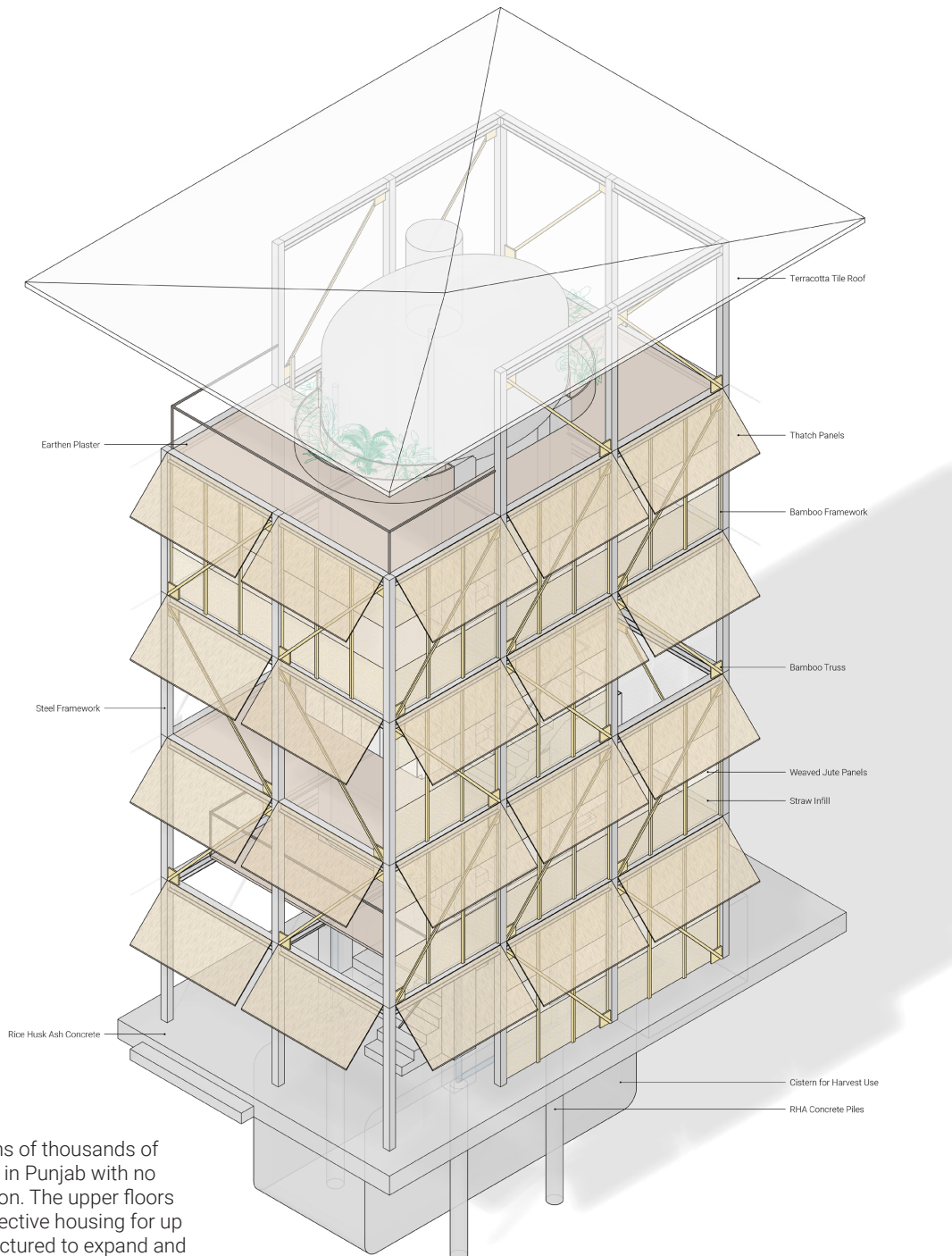
PROGRAM INFILL



BAMBOO+STRAW PANELS

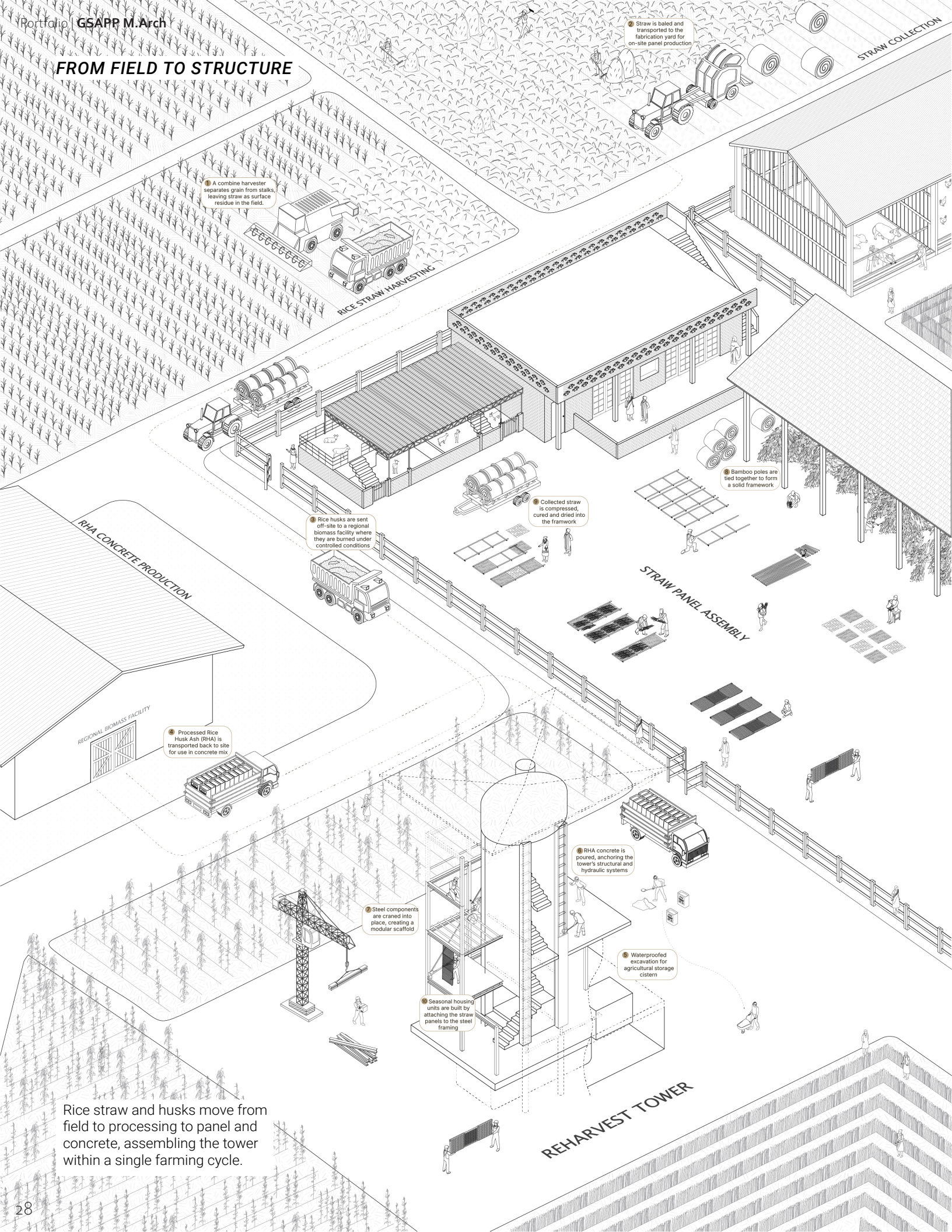


RAIN HARVEST ROOF



During rice harvest, tens of thousands of migrant workers arrive in Punjab with no existing accommodation. The upper floors provide temporary collective housing for up to twelve workers, structured to expand and contract with the seasonal cycle.

FROM FIELD TO STRUCTURE



1 A combine harvester separates grain from stalks, leaving straw as surface residue in the field.

2 Straw is baled and transported to the fabrication yard for on-site panel production

3 Rice husks are sent off-site to a regional biomass facility where they are burned under controlled conditions

4 Collected straw is compressed, cured and dried into the framework

5 Bamboo poles are tied together to form a solid framework

6 Processed Rice Husk Ash (RHA) is transported back to site for use in concrete mix

7 RHA concrete is poured, anchoring the tower's structural and hydraulic systems

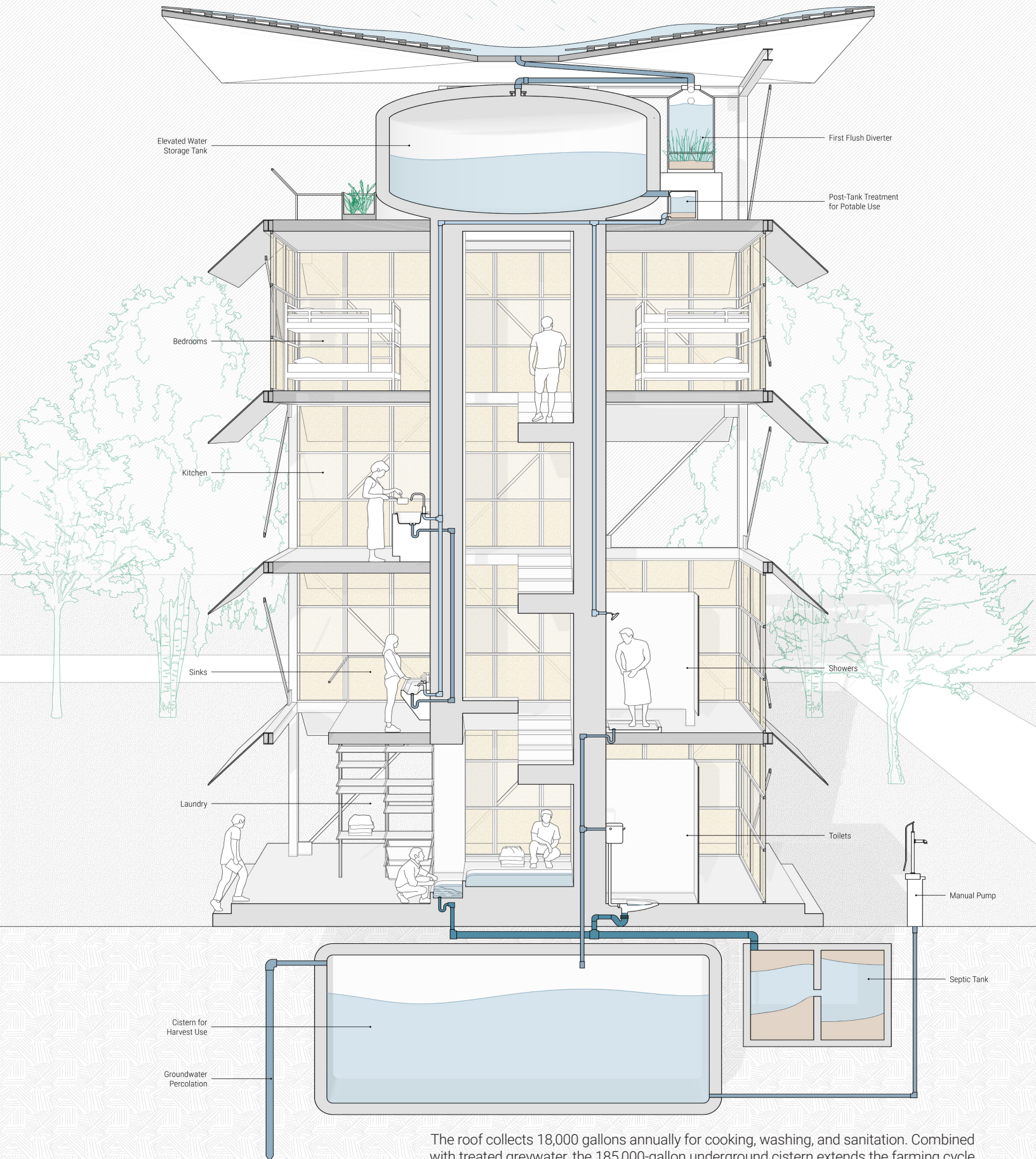
8 Steel components are craned into place, creating a modular scaffold

9 Waterproofed excavation for agricultural storage cistern

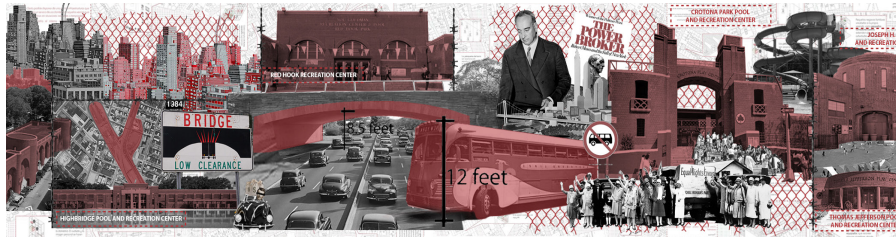
10 Seasonal housing units are built by attaching the straw panels to the steel framing

Rice straw and husks move from field to processing to panel and concrete, assembling the tower within a single farming cycle.

WATER HARVESTING AND IRRIGATION SYSTEM



The roof collects 18,000 gallons annually for cooking, washing, and sanitation. Combined with treated greywater, the 185,000-gallon underground cistern extends the farming cycle by ten days, enough time to compost straw rather than burn it. While housing is seasonal, the water system serves farmers and the surrounding community year-round.



Threaded Thresholds

Stitching a Park and Recreation Center into a Network of Care

Sunset Park Recreation Center, New York

Program: Rec Center

Critic: Phu Hoang

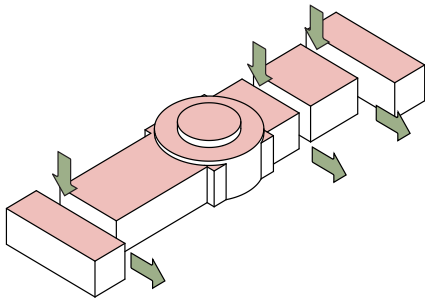
Toolset: Rhino, Enscape, AutoCad, Illustrator, Photoshop,
Model-making

Collaborators: Khushi Saraiya, Anisa Khan

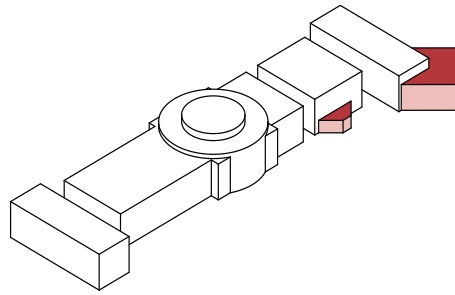
Sunset Park's recreation center sits within a vibrant yet fragmented network of care, where daycare apartments and adult daycares depend on the park but are separated from it by fences, elevation changes, and compartmentalized programming. **Threaded Thresholds** reimagines both the building and its surrounding park as an interconnected, multigenerational hub, leveraging spatial and social thresholds to foster interaction and adaptability. Inspired by the neighborhood's own spatial language, its stoops, terraces, and balconies, cuts are introduced into the recreation center's rigid form, creating open, visually connected spaces that encourage movement and gathering across generations.

Inside, a community kitchen, media lab, library, and childcare pods activate exchange at every level. The park is simultaneously restructured through six activity axes woven together by regraded terrain and new paths that dissolve the boundary between street and green space. Geothermal heating, rainwater collection, and passive ventilation ensure environmental resilience, while the pool transforms seasonally into an ice-skating rink, reinforcing the park as a year-round social anchor.

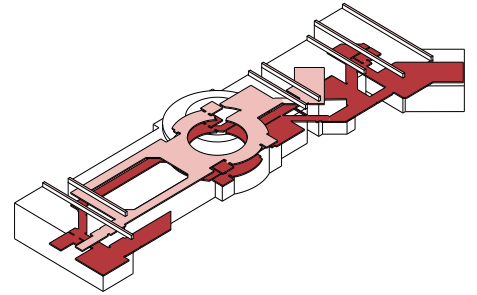
BUILDING DESIGN PROCESS



Breaking horizontality

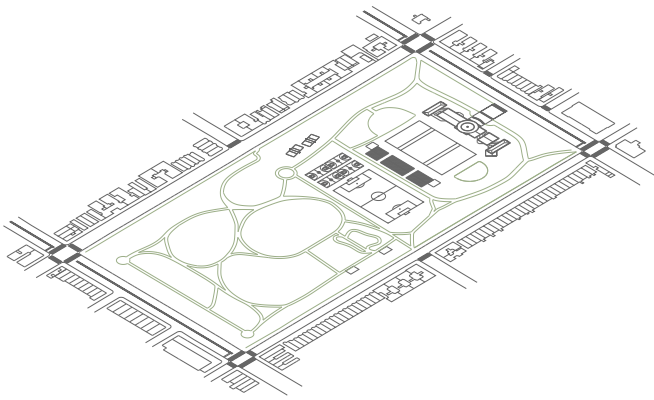


Adding volumes

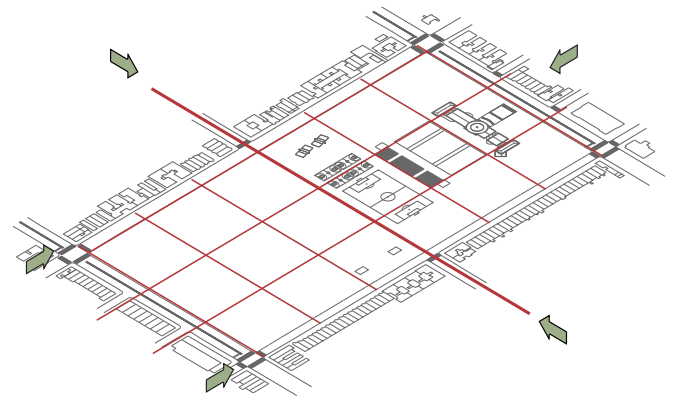


Building threshold conditions

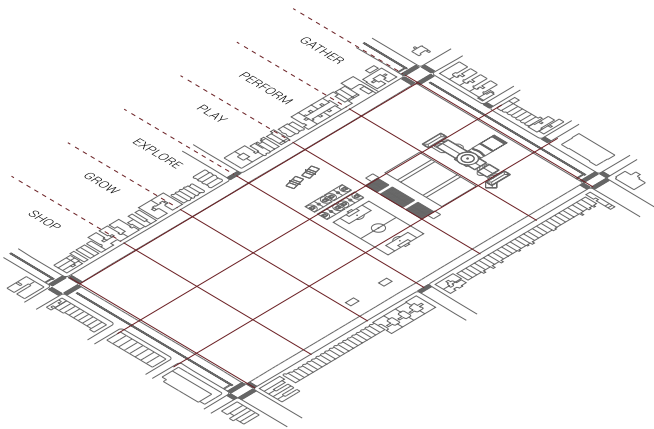
PARK DESIGN PROCESS



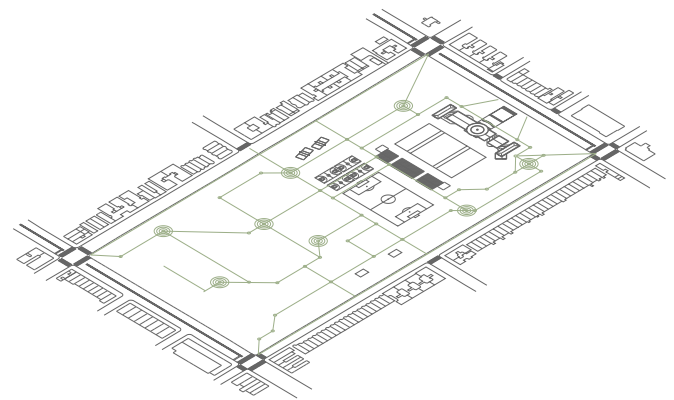
Current condition of Sunset Park



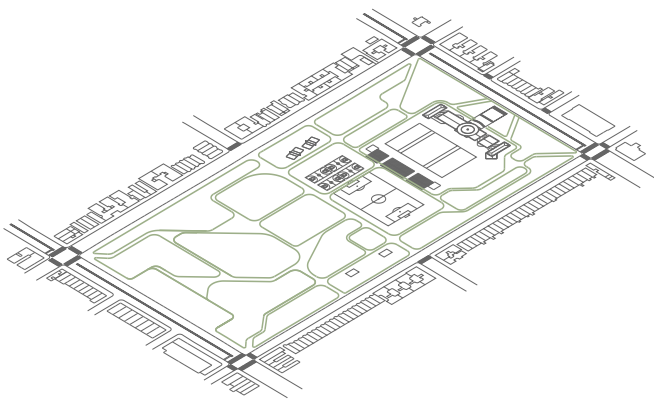
Bringing the street into the park



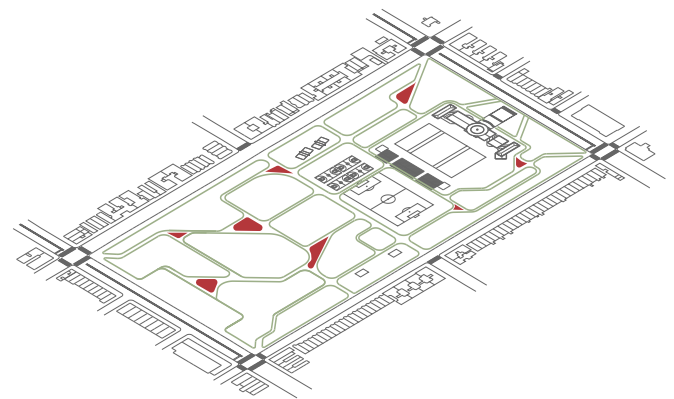
Activity based zoning developments



Potential threshold zones



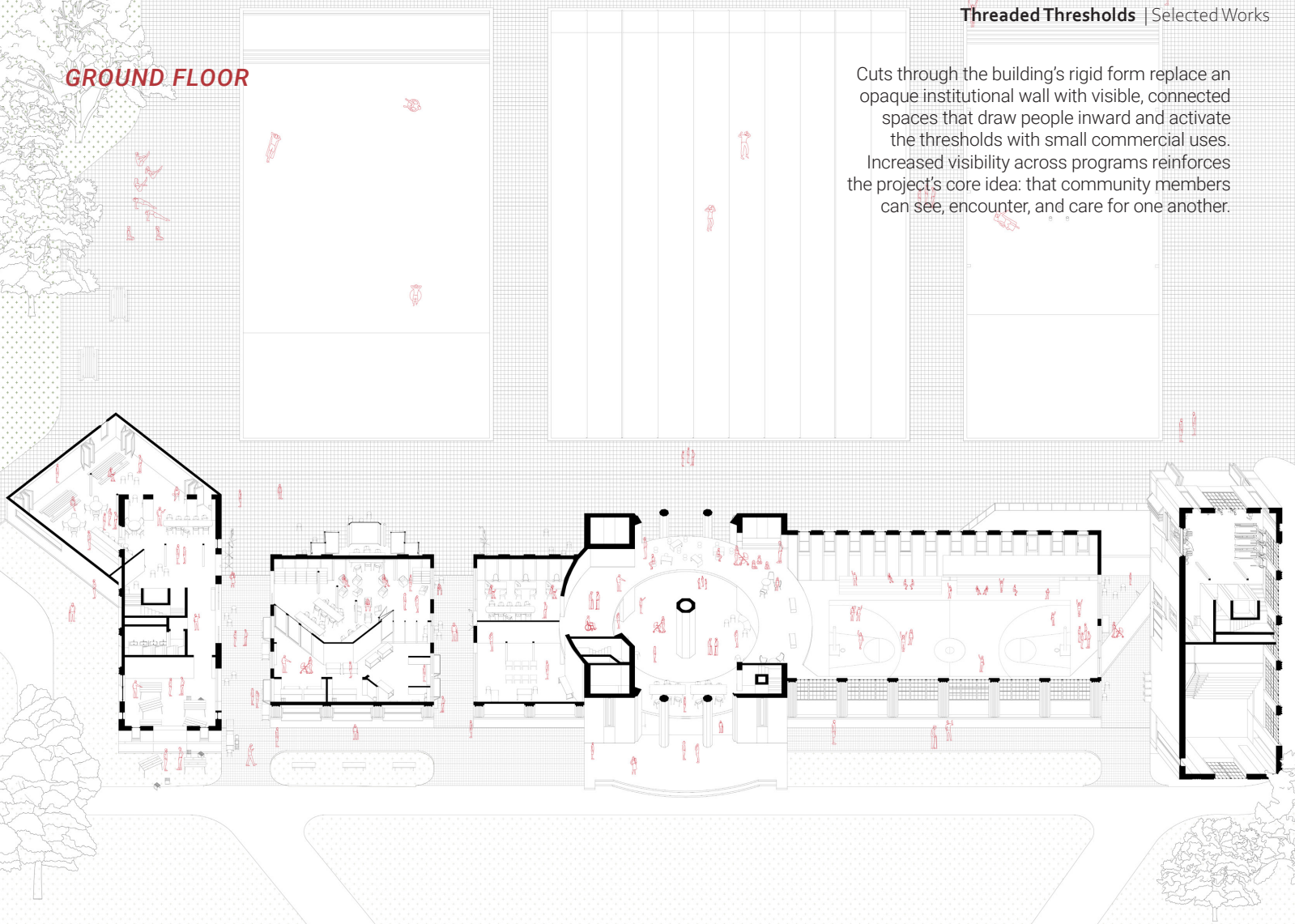
Crafting new paths



Inserting threshold conditions

GROUND FLOOR

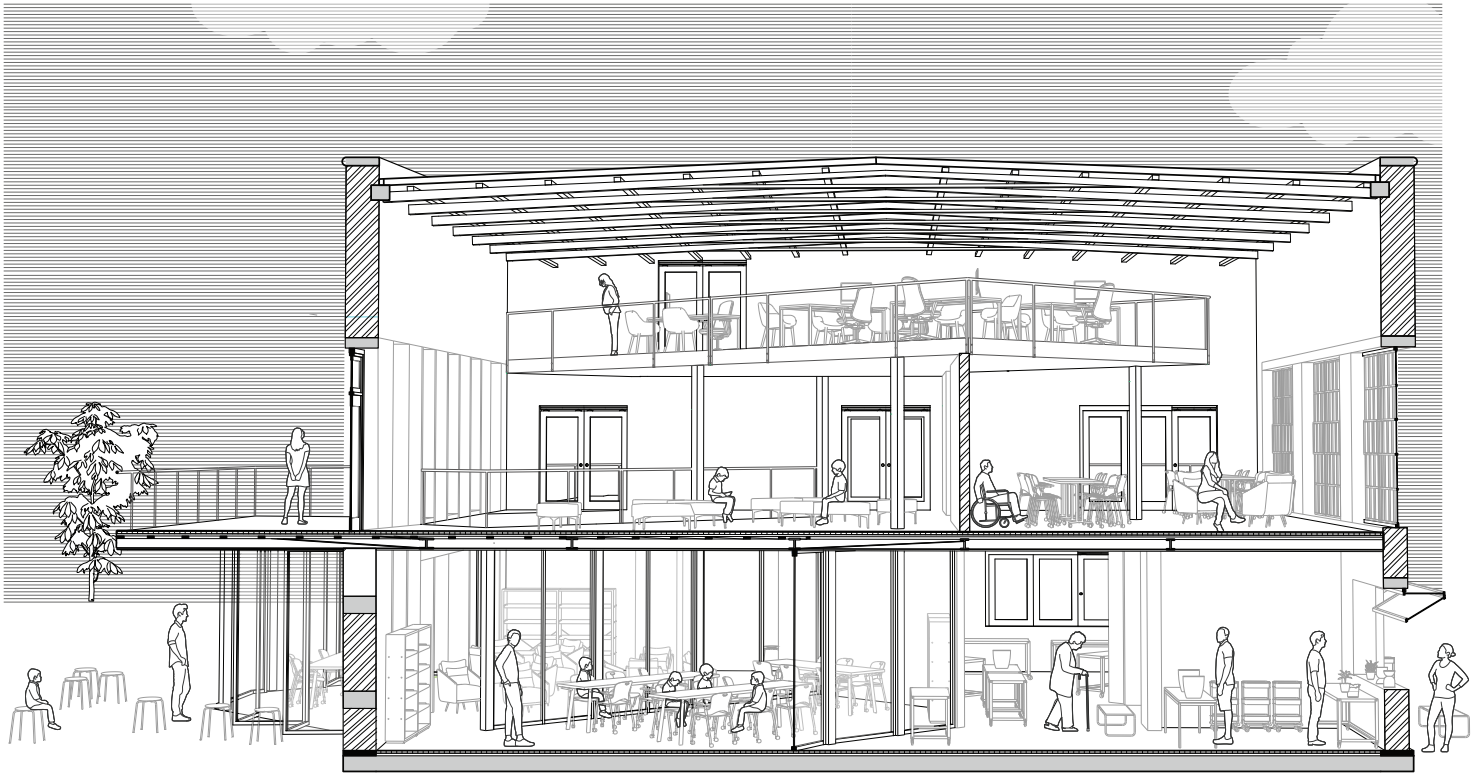
Cuts through the building's rigid form replace an opaque institutional wall with visible, connected spaces that draw people inward and activate the thresholds with small commercial uses. Increased visibility across programs reinforces the project's core idea: that community members can see, encounter, and care for one another.



TRANSVERSE SECTION

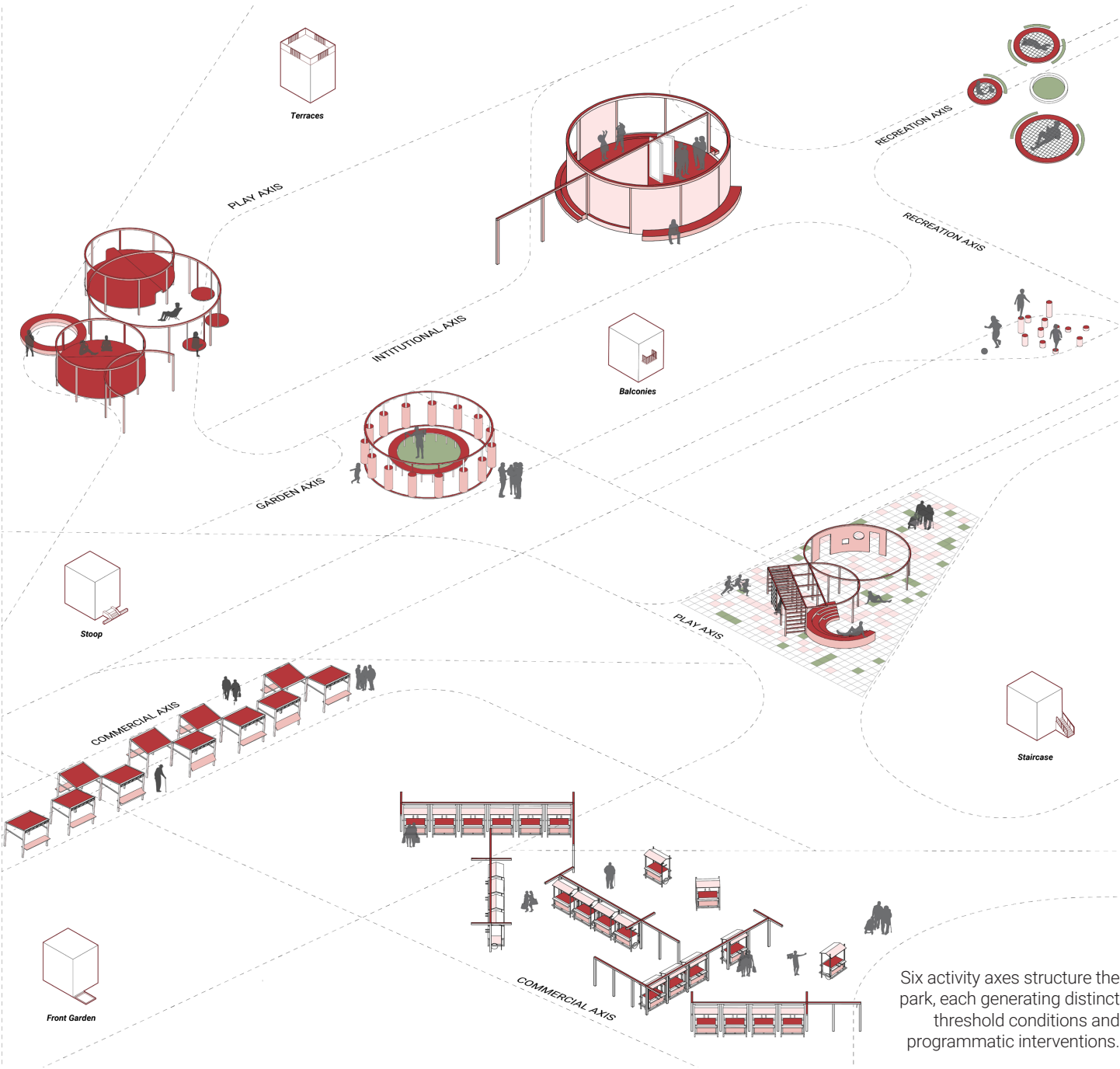


LONGITUDINAL SECTION



VIEW OF LIBRARY (DOWN), LOUNGE AND COMPUTER LAB (UP)





Six activity axes structure the park, each generating distinct threshold conditions and programmatic interventions.

AERIAL VIEW OF ACTIVITY AXES

