

HIDING IN PLAIN SITE

MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE THESIS

ABSTRACT

his thesis investigates an architectural intervention of a social concern, specifically the at-risk population of runaway and homeless youth, ages 18-24. Currently, there is a platform for spacial invention and innovation to accommodate this group in the social and architectural discourse because there is currently lack thereof.

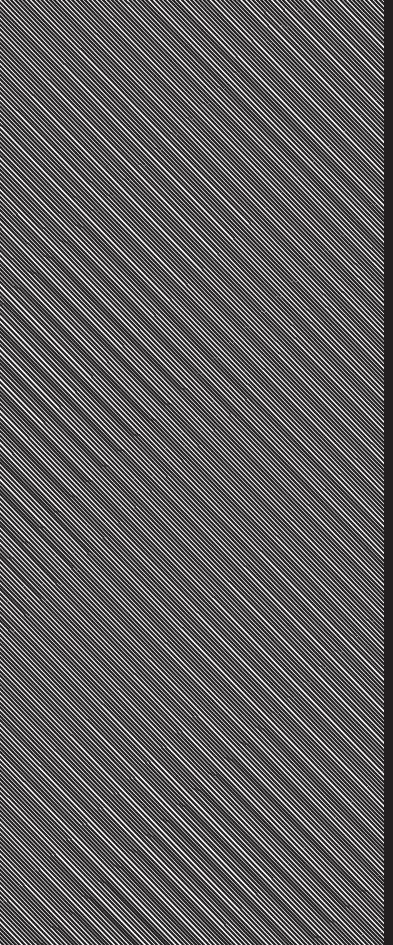
This invisible population has been historically under served. Large cities, such as New York, have developed youth shelters, but mid size cities, such as Grand Rapids, have failed to accommodate these youth appropriately. They are left in the sliver between children's shelters (serving 0-17 year olds) and adult shelters (serving 25 years old and up) While all too often being pushed to adult shelters. Displaced adults victimize a high percentage of these youth. Typical shelters serving adults are not appropriate for the unique stage of physical, emotional, psychological, and social development these youth are experiencing.

Due to fear, safety and lack of survival skills, a youth's preference for a safe place to sleep is not a doorway or a traditional shelter; it is on their uncle's couch, at a 24/7 location such as McDonalds, a public park, or a college campus library. They are **hiding in plain site.**

Within this social concern, there is an opportunity to utilize architecture to give these youth a place. A place that will meet their immediate basic needs of shelter, food, hygiene, and safety then give them connections so they then can focus on their life skills, stability, and future plans. This thesis demonstrates how their movement, behavior, tendencies, needs, desires, and aspirations can be translated into a strategic site location within the context of a city and be used to create a place to be safe, restore dignity, establish a community, and be empowered.

The design project, located in Grand Rapids, Michigan tests this thesis. Based on Grand Rapids extreme need for helping these youth, this project occurs at the junction of a spot to hang out and a place to get help, to grow and be nurtured. The program is structured around the process of exposing and connecting these youth to the appropriate resources of day center, overnight stay, and transitional living. This will not only give youth a place to hide in plain site, but also to offer help and support during a critical time of their development.

TABLE OF CONTENTS





8...... The Numbers and Facts

15......An Architectural Thesis and a Social Concern

17.....Bridging the Gap

18.....Collecting Secrets



27.....Existing Conditions

41.....A New Advocacy

47.....Proposed Strategy



64.....Site

70.....Program

72.....Design Concepts

76.....Program & Site

82.....Renderings

86.....Sections

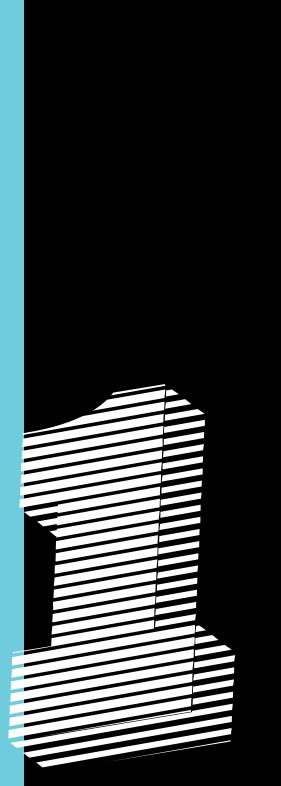
82.....Entry

APPENDIX

92.....Cited Sources

105.....Design Iterations

126.....MArch Thesis Exhibition





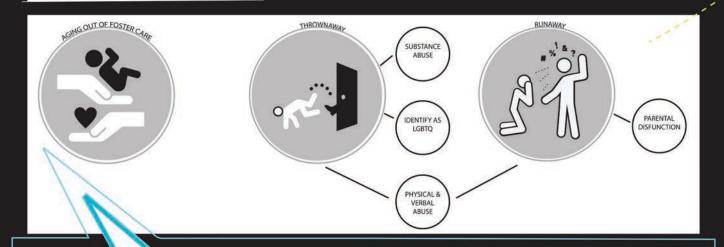
THE NUMBERS & FACTS



Have you ever heard the stories of the children who were left orphaned, but found refuge and independence through living in a boxcar until they were gloriously retrieved by their grandfather? The boxcar children along with other folk tales such as Huckleberry Finn, Peter Pan and Davey Crockett have romanticized the outcomes of runaway and homeless youth.

Or perhaps, you have looked at the kids who hang around entrances of buildings or in groups as causing trouble, loitering, or scheming.......

FANTASIZE OR..CRIMINALIZE

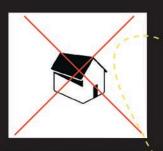


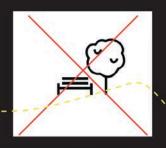
Runaway and homeless youth are a growing social concern but are not appropriately accounted for or cared for, and are historically under served. THIS IS A VERY REAL, SERIOUS ISSUE. Unfortunately, youth get tangled in different scenarios, which may result in them running away or becoming permanently homeless. Sometimes it is their choice to leave and other times they are forced to go. The top three reasons for the displacement of these youth are aging out of foster care, getting thrownaway by their guardian, or running away. ¹

AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE Every state has a different age set for youth to exit the foster care system or "age out". In the United States, 1 in 4 youth who age out of foster care, become homeless within four years. ² Often times, youth exit the foster care system lacking the finances and skills necessary to transition into independent living.

THROWNAWAY YOUTH In the scenario of a youth getting "thrownaway", the youth is asked/forced to leave by a parent or household adult, without any adequate alternative care arranged. Youth are thrownaway due to a variety of reasons, including: a youth has problematic behavior, parents can not financially support youth any longer, or there has been some type of conflict.

<u>RUNAWAY YOUTH</u> In this situation, youth leave by their own will. The most common reason for youth running away is due to them being abused in some way, whether it is verbally or physically. One night of absence is considered "running away".







In the face of one of these scenarios there is the horrifying reality a youth is out on their own, and it is all up to them to survive. Due to fear, safety and lack of survival skills, a youth's preference for secondary shelter is not a doorway or a traditional shelter; it is on their uncle's couch with no stability, at a 24/7 location such as McDonalds, a public park, or a college campus library.



SOCIETY'S RESPONSE

If a youth seeks help or is referred, society's current response is to connect a youth with an emergency shelter, safe haven or transitional living home. All great options, but in many cities (especially mid-size cities) there are not these available options for all ages. In many cases, there are children's shelters (age 0-17 yrs) or adult shelters (18 + yrs).



IN THE WORLD ARE WE ALLOWING
IN THE WORLD ARE WE ALLOWING
THIS?? According to the government,
these youth may be considered
adults, but socially, mentally,
emotionally, physically, and
psychologically they are at a
completely different point in their
life! They are adults - in progress

What happens to youth who are 18- 24?? In most cities, an adult homeless shelter is the only refuge in an emergency situation of an 18-24 year old youth. Youth have a large suspicion of these types of places due to homeless adults preying on them. Displaced adults victimize a high percentage of these youth.

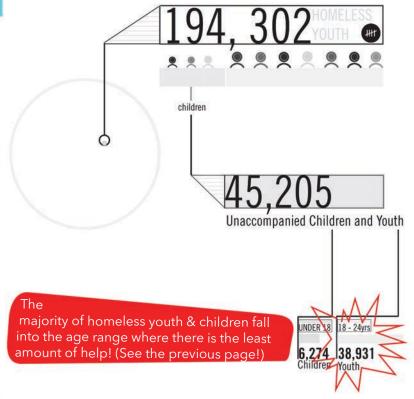
HOW MANY YOUTH ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

If these displaced youth do not find refuge they become homeless for a day, a week, a year, and at worst..... a lifetime.

Homelessness is a daunting social issue that is not only national but international. In it's most basic definition -a human being displaced from their home is homeless. Most often, they have an emergency need for the basic necessities of food and shelter

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) reported that were over a half million homeless people in the United States in 2014. Of that count, 194,302 were children and youth. (The HUD considers ages 0-18 as children and ages 18-24 youth.) If these children and youth are not part of a family, they are considered "unaccompanied".

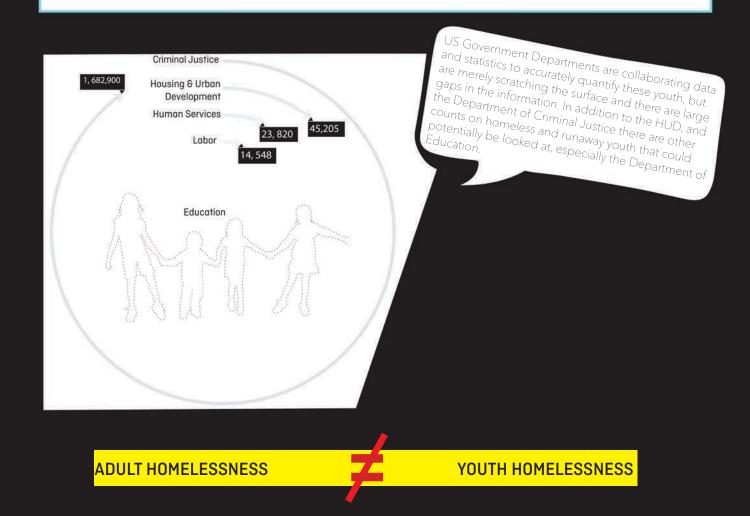
The HUD has made great advancements in identifying homeless youth, however there is still a deficit in numbers. ³





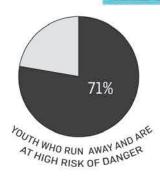
ERROR IN #s

YOUTH ARE DIFFERENT. They are episodic in their homelessness ...otherwise known as RUNAWAYS. They cannot be quantified in the same way as adults because they are not found in the same places and have different behaviors.

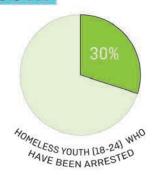


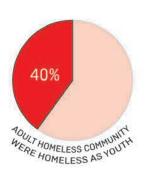
Although there is not a specific count on these youth, they are not invisible. THE ISSUE EXISTS

THE DANGERS & RISKS OF HOMELESS YOUTH

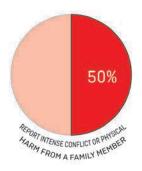


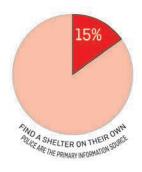


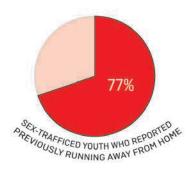


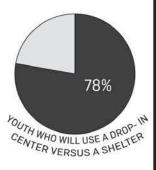


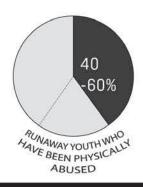


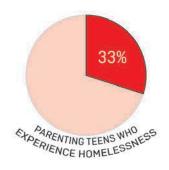


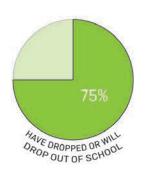












Looking at the situation, there is no question it requires action.

AN ARCHITECTURAL THESIS AND A SOCIAL CONCERN

"WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY."

- Winston Churchill

Architects are entrusted with a great power. The power to affect a person's life.

Most people spend the majority of their lives occupying architecture. The design of that architecture affects how people work, heal, think, aspire, produce, play, and live overall. Architects do not just design buildings; they design the fabrics of people's lives.

Along with addressing this concern in a new way socially, there is an opportunity to also address this issue in a new way architecturally.

Sam Davis said it well in his book *Designing* for Homeless:

"The buildings that we construct are a reflection of our values and our culture. At its best, architecture not only reflects but also serves society; it has a duty to provide for those with the greatest need and the fewest options.

An architectural opportunity exists to design and dream about a place for these youth, specifically thinking about their movement, behavior, tendencies, needs, desires, and aspirations. This designed place will give youth a destination within the city where they can get help but also pursue their dreams.

There are youth in our cities that are at risk. They are vulnerable and under served. There is a great danger if these youth go unnoticed; their lack of opportunity, resources, and housing stability leads to experiences of violence, illness, and exploitation.

OLLIDE

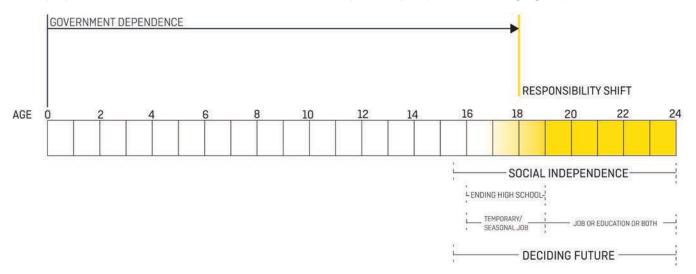
This thesis advocates for a social concern and elevates this segment of our population through the power of design and architecture.

BRIDGING THE GAP

YOUTH AGES 18 - 24

Looking at the "Numbers and Facts", youth who runaway or are homeless do not have a specific age. Being without a home or leaving one is a problem with infants all the way to the elderly. However, there is a certain age group who currently stands out: ages 18-24.

This group of youth is especially under served. In our current social frameworks, these youth are considered adults. At age 18, a youth legally becomes an adult. Some larger cities have social services for the specific ages of 18 - 24 but most cities move 18 and up to adult services. However, these youth are still adults in progress. Not to mention, a high percentage of adult homeless victimize these youth. Adult homeless often are not looking to a future as a youth is but instead are just looking to survive. They are experiencing this window of time where they are gaining social independence and are transitioning. Decisions are being made as to how they will fit into society: will it be employment, education, both, or different? This thesis specifically responds to this age group.



To service this age group, it is important to consider where they are psychologically and emotionally. Just as there is a shift legally, at the age of 18 there is a shift of maturity. There independence is becoming a reality as they have more responsibility to find a job (if they have not already) to support themselves or pursue secondary education. Once they are forced to live alone, an even bigger realization hits of how they will provide for themselves. By age 18 they have established friends and are highly influenced by the opposite sex, which in the case of a runaway or homeless youth could be detrimental. Most often they are enthusiastic about there future, but may be easily discouraged if resources are not available to them. The number one rule in helping this age group is offering, not imposing. They want to make their own choices. Most fear social services due to past experiences with authority or trauma from abusive adults. Only 15 % of all youth find a shelter on their own.



COLLECTING SECRETS

PERSONAL TALES & EMOTIONS

If there is not an accurate tally of how many youth are experiencing displacement and lack of attention to this group, how can the life situations of these youth truly be understood? To start to grasp this issue - articles, memoirs, second hand reports, videos, interviews, blogs, social media and other research were useful tools to collect the true experiences of these youth, and to begin to understand their secrets.

To process, represent and begin to re-tell their stories, a collage was made on canvas, with string representing the paths of two youth in particular: Lauren and Blacc.



It immediately became apparent that these youth are episodic, mobile, camouflage, and often on an emotional roller coaster ride. Their stories and paths are unpredictable and vary.

BLACC

New York City, New York

Originally from the Far Rockaway neighborhood in New York City, New York, a young man named Blacc experienced a routine of homelessness that is an all too common tale of a youth's displacement, moving over 20 times between the ages of 19 and 21.

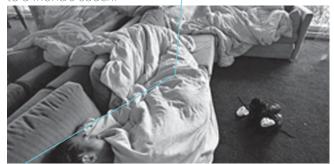
From the time Blacc was born, he was a part of the foster care system. After living with over a dozen foster care families, a rare situation happened where Blacc and his siblings were adopted when Blacc was eleven. Although Blacc had been adopted, he struggled with fighting and running away through his school years. Shortly after graduating high school, he was thrownaway by his adopted father over his lifestyle choices and lack of a paying job.

My father said, "You have thirty minutes to pack your S#@* and get out of here." S#@*, OK. And that was just it. I could have begged, but I was like "I'm not going to beg no more to stay in his house. " So I packed my s#@* and I left."



His first move was to his sister's boyfriend's family .

Due to overcrowding and **fear** of his sister's boyfriend's illegal activities, Blacc was forced to move on. Her boyfriend was heavy into car jacking and instead of enduring police raids and interrogation, he moved on to a friend's couch.



During this time, Blacc landed himself in jail for a letting his **anger** lead to a physical altercation with a man who had assaulted one of his friends.



After being released from jail, he went on to live with another friend at his father's house. His friend was upset with his father so he sought revenge by setting the



Because they had no where else to go, Blacc, his friend (who set the house on fire) and a couple of others continued squatting in the burned house until snow started to fall. Unable to endure the cold, one of the girls, Melissa, was able to get a studio apartment. Melissa then invited Blacc and his girlfriend to live with her and her boyfriend.



It did not sit well with the landlord that there were four people living in the studio apartment, so he locked them out without warning. They sought refuge in Brooklyn at a homeless shelter but did not stay because they all had to be separated and there was a cat to which Blacc was allergic. To make matters more difficult, Melissa was pregnant and refused to be separated from her boyfriend. There shelter for the night was the A train on the subway line. It became the only route Blacc new of and therefore trusted. The A train was referred to as the "moving hotel" by many of New York City's homeless population because it has one of the longest routes.



Without any communication, Blaac was unable to find his friends the next day after they were separated. He returned to their previous locations, when he found someone who had referred his friends to an adult shelter. Blacc figured he was too young to join his friends and was offered a spot at Covenant House so he took the opportunity. Covenant House is one of the oldest and largest youth shelters existing in the United States.

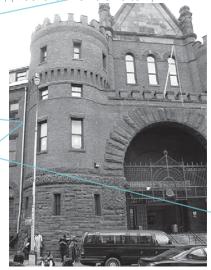


Blacc felt **uncomfortable** and **mistreated** at Covenant House.

"...They just was like they're shady staff don't talk to you with respect you know, some shelters are better than others." Despite the unpreferable conditions, it was worth enduring to avoid sleeping outside in the harsh New York City winter conditions.

Due to Covenant House's required condition of employment or in pursuit of, Blacc acquired a job in the formal economy, but also had a secondary job in the informal economy. Making \$200 a day, he and some friends had a business of bending metro cards to make them work then selling them to people. Working in a group, they had it down to a science. When Blacc got a higher paying job, the scamming was over and he was prideful of his honest work.

In the up swing of having a job and making new friends at the shelter, Blacc was kicked out after a month for fighting. He was then referred to the men's homeless shelter in Brooklyn, (Bedford Men's Shelter.)



The Bedford Men's shelter had a long history of dangerous conditions including drug abuse, mental illness, fighting and theft which still lingered from an even wilder past. The shelter used to serve up to 900 men but due to escalated life threatening conditions, it only serves 350 currently. Blacc did not have a good experience here.

"My stuff hasn't ever been stolen when I was out on the street. But the second I go into a shelter , all of my stuff disappears."

By this point, Blacc was 20 years old. Due to his age, the waiting lists of other small shelters, and his six month suspension from Covenant House, he had no other options other than to stay at the men's shelter so he tolerated the conditions for two months. He then caught wind that some of his previous friends were sleeping on the Atrain so he gladly joined them.

Blacc was able to enter a small youth center at which he stayed for about 2 months. By his own doing, he was discharged for intoxication. He then had a week stint in another emergency shelter but wanted to join his friends who were sleeping in Times Square.



Joining his friends in Times Square Blacc found security and familiarity in being in this group. According to him, "the first rule of the streets is sticking with your friends-as finding and keeping friends may mean the difference between surviving and not surviving on the streets."

His probationary period at Covenant House ended so he decided to head back there, but was refused stay. Covenant house referred him to a transitional living program at another location.



At the transitional living program, trouble arose. After getting in a fight over gang territory, he was referred to an 24 hour shelter, where he had spent time in before. Ironically, the other gentlemen he had fought with, also was sent to this shelter. The two ended up making amends and looking out for each other. The emergency shelter then tried referring him to the adult men's shelter. Instead, Blacc opted out due to **fear** of the conditions he had experienced and ended up back on the train. Moving around once again, he headed to Union Square, a popular hang out for street youth.



Union Square did not end up being a great option. There was too much drug and police activity. The police constantly tried prohibiting youth from sleeping in the park. Although drawn to groups of friends, Blacc was especially deterred by the youth who occupied Union Square. Blacc was no stranger to using alcohol to forget his problems, but with most of the Union Square youth on drugs, they were a whole different level of crazy. Blacc then found a staircase to sleep in the project buildings where he had friends, and eventually moved up to the roof



The roof got crowded quickly and as the season changed, the cold became intolerable. Blacc had no choice but to keep moving. He had stayed in U-Hauls before and knew of just the place where all of the trucks were parked.



To his misfortune, the U-Haul company had moved the trucks because youth lodging in them had become a frequent issue. While stopping in to use the bathroom at a LGBTQ youth shelter, Sylvia's Place, he was offered to stay and took the opportunity.



In the back of an old Protestant church, Sylvia's place was the first LGBTQ shelter in New York City and was often a packed house. Blacc made good connections here and was able to enter into an affiliated program that was a year round shelter. Sadly, that program came to an end but luckily Blacc had the chance to return to Sylvia's Place where he was able to be transferred into a transitional living program which finally offered stability. Blacc's future plans were to work to leave New York City.⁶

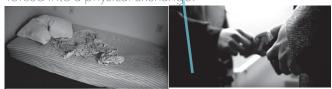
LAUREN

Grand Rapids, Michigan

Lauren was referred to and staying in a residential facility. Meeting a boy through school, she ended up



running away from the facility, lured out by him. Her boyfriend then introduced her to a madam (a female pimp). To be a part of this family, she was forced into a physical exchange.



After a few week of this, Lauren was able to receive help but soon returned to a life of prostitution.⁷

ANNA

Seattle, Washington

Anna's parents fell on hard economic times, leaving her little option but to move out. Now moving from shelter to drop-in centers, trying to get out of a homeless state, Anna longs for stability.⁸







LESSONS LEARNED

ON THE MOVE

These youth are highly mobile and episodic in their homelessness. Often, there are significant signs of a potential homeless youth. A high percentage of youth will experiment with running away before they leave permanently and become homeless. Youth who are in an instable housing condition rarely live "on the street". Envisioning them as "out on the street" is a static image for they are constantly on the move and live in several different places in quick succession as seen in the example of Blacc. 9

CAMOUFLAGE

The majority of youth are "blending in" or "hiding in plain site". They adapt to the social construct we place on them: "A youth with a backpack, they must be in school/college" or they go unnoticed because they are in the same clothes as us. Appearance is associated with personal identity and is something these youth often protect. They strive to fit in and do not want to be called or seen as "homeless" due to the stereotype that it is associated with.

SURVIVAL TACTICS

<u>Street Bonds</u>. Unlike homeless adults, a life of a homeless or runaway youth is extremely social. Youth form familial relationships to protect themselves and because they strive for relational connection. They rely on their peers for information and most often will learn about and trust helping services through word of mouth.

<u>Street Money</u>. Many youth depend on the informal economy for income. The top jobs include: 1) sex work (prostitution) 2) drug trade 3) theft 4) panhandling.

<u>Camouflage</u>. Not only is this a point of pride, but also a survival tactic. Looking homeless can draw unwanted attention from the police, pimps, drug dealers, and the general public. Although this invisibility may protect these youth, it makes it exponentially harder for social services and others to identify these youth to extend them help.

A NEW AGE OF HOMELESSNESS

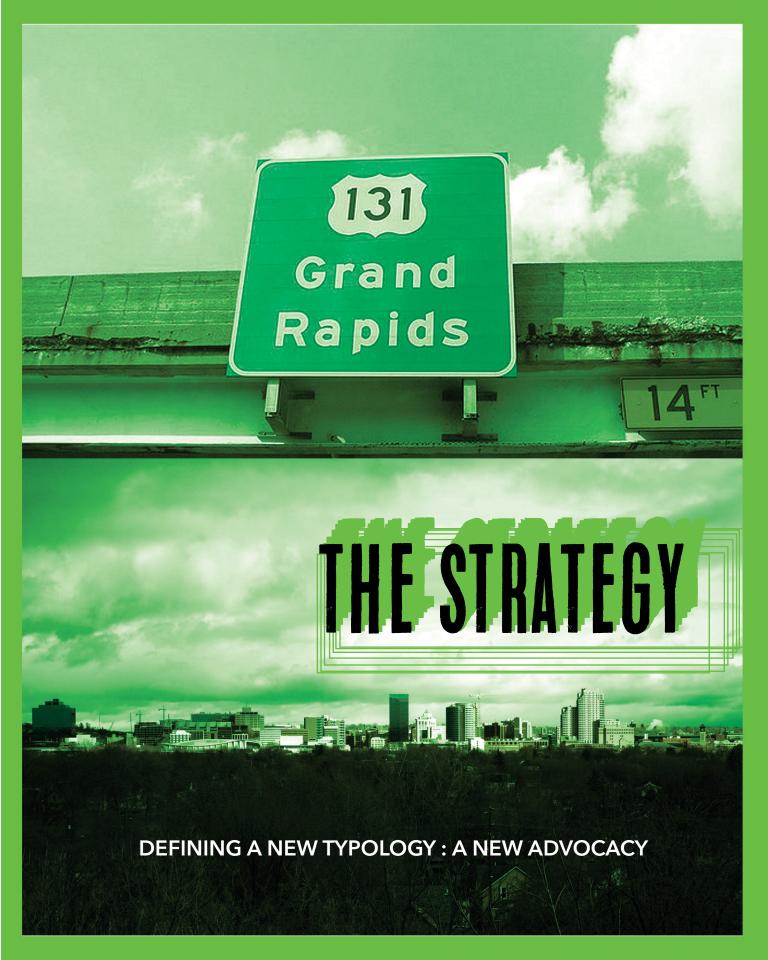
Anna's story is a testimony to a new generation of homeless youth - referred to as "transitional age youth". In this scenario, the issue is purely financial. In most cases, a youth has gone to college and is trying to make it, but gets slammed by the hardships of the economy and finds themself unable to pay rent with their dooming college debt and other expenses.

In some situations, these youth have over committed themselves financially and simply need a landing pad to redirect. Many cannot return to their parents household due to their parents own economic struggles. Many have the attitude: "Once I get my pay check, I should be on my way." The recession in 2012 left young adults from the ages of 18-24 with the highest unemployment rate. This group is most often couch surfing, sleeping in cars and other private places.....avoiding the stigma of homelessness. ¹⁰

EMOTIONAL ROLLER COASTER

Fear, anger, exhaustion, confusion, depression....as is evident in these life testimonies of Blacc, Lauren, and Anna - many emotions are experienced before, during, and after an episode of homelessness and are felt simultaneously.





EXISTING CONDITIONS

HISTORY • TYPES OF PROJECTS • TYPOLOGIES • PROCESSES

Now that the **issue** has been clearly defined, this section lays out the existing conditions of the history, types of social projects, social processes, and architecture that has/is responding to homeless & runaway youth ages 18-24. A visionary **strategy** is then presented on how a design intervention could address this social **issue**

HISTORY OF PERCEPTIONS

Homelessness is a daunting social issue that is not only national but international. The first record of "homelessness" in the United States was in 1640 when homelessness was considered a moral deficiency. Many historical shifts due to the economy, government, natural disasters, and other influential events have affected the amount of individuals who experience homelessness. To their misfortune, the perception and understanding of this population has determined how they have been accommodated and addressed throughout history.¹¹

The same patterns are evident in the case of the specific population of runaway and homeless youth. The social responsibility and response to youth who have needed help has been determined by the societal perceptions of who homeless and runaway youth are along with what they experience during their period of homelessness. These perceptions have been influenced and shaped by many agents.

Three main eras exist when paralleling responses and services with these perceptions.¹²

- 1 Child Savers Movement
- 2 Youth Development, Delinquency, and Subcultures
- 3 Street Kids and Youth Geographies

1800

1850

"CHILD SAVERS MOVEMENT"

JUVENILE DETENTION

823 In New York, Children were being incarcerated and put into adult prisons for working in the informal economy (scavenging, stealing, prostituting) and were

1825

and were labeled"homeless.

House of Refuge was opened to prevent youth from going to adult prisons and was the first "youth detention center in the United States 13

1853 Charles Loring Brace founded Children's Aid Society, a private child welfare



Brace stated in reference to "street kids":
"The police soon knew them as 'street-rats';
but like the rats, they were too quick and
cunning to be often caught in their petty
plunderings, so they gnawed away at the
foundations of society undisturbed" - a
statement from Brace in reference to
runaway & homeless youth

ORPHAN TRAINS

In the early 19th century, much attention was brought to the "working-poor children" in industrial cities. During this time, there was great segregation between the urban poor and the middle/upper class. These "working-poor children" were viewed with sympathy and condemnation. Sympathy was given to them as they were overworked,

poverty stricken, and exploited in the formal economy (factories, shops, mills) while they were condemned for working in the informal economies (stealing, picking pockets, begging, prostituting, peddling).

Charles Loring Brace along with others popularized the idea that "street children" (those working on the street and sometimes living there) were a product of a slum environment. These slums were occupied by poverty stricken people, many of them immigrants living in overcrowded, poorly maintained tenements.

Brace's solution to this problem was to "save" the youth by removing them from these slum environments.



1893 - 1903

PUBLISHED LITERATURE



JACOB AUGUST RIIS CHILDREN

OF THE TENEMENTS

Others along with literary works further projecting children of slums as victims15

authors Jacob Riis and Brace were publishing

EARLY 1900's

CHILD LABOR LAWS

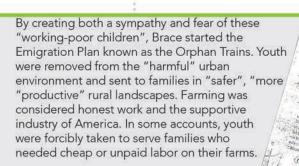
Reform and revolution begin to happen with child labor laws. The National Child Labor Committee and U.S. Children's Bureau are founded.

EDUCATION

The middle and upper class pushed for education for all children.¹⁷

Fewer work hours because of child labor laws and youth being taken from homes altogether caused families to financially suffer due to the portion of income they had depended on from their children working.

TROY, MO, ON FRIDAY, FEB. 25th, 1910



By the end of the 19th century, over 250,000 children were shipped across the United States to various faming families 16



"NEW STUDIES & NEW STEREOTYPES"

1920's - 30's

SOCIOLOGICAL STUDIES

Chicago School of Urban Ecology takes interest in studying working-class youth and gangs (Juvenile Delinquency Studies) in relationship to socioeconomic structures

"Children are blank slates that readily adapt to their social surroundings" (PG. 47) (Gibson)

SOCIAL CONSTRUCTS

Social norms of the expectations of youth are continued to be formed by the upper and middle classes causing curfews and recognizing gangs as deviant and dangerous.¹⁸

1961& 1967

FILMS & BOOKS

These works depicted street youth and youth homelessness as revolting with little to no adult presence and "gangs" of friends depended on for survival.¹⁹



RUNAWAY

A spike of young, white middle class females were fleeing the suburbs to the city during a cultural revolution in the 1960's coining the term "runaway"

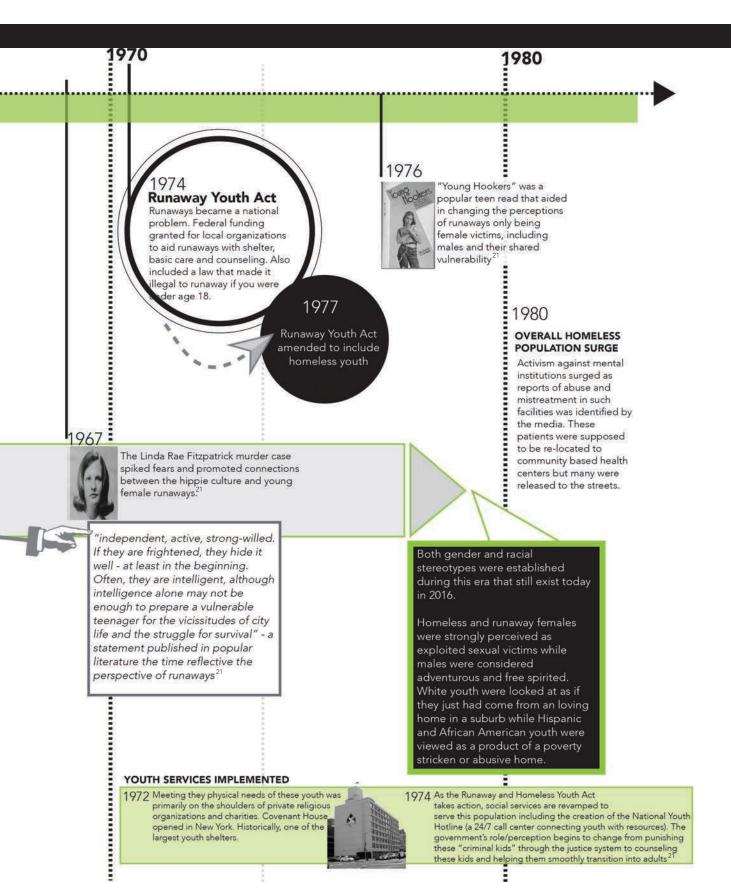


SOCIOLOGICAL STUDIES CONTINUE

1950's Youth Development continues to be studied and steps of childhood to adulthood are more clearly defined: the term adolescence arises from this period

SOCIAL SERVICES

With the recognition of gangs, social services start street outreach programs to meet youth on their "turf"²⁰







STREET KIDS AND A DAY IN THE LIFE

1990

HOMELESS HOUSING PROJECTS TRANSFORMATION

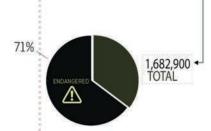
Due to disorder, crime, health issues, and other negative factors, a shift from large, warehouse - like shelters to small, private shelter with concentrated focuses on "problem issues" such as substance abuse, battered woman, and work readiness.²²



Pushes hard for homeless shelters to have social programming

1999

U.S. Department of Justice Issues a special report on runaway and thrownaway children.



45 % Runaways/Thrownaways 💸

43 % Missing Benign Explanation



For the first time in history, Youth are a part of the "One Night Count in LA and Boston. (One Night Count: occurs at the end of January. The Continuum Care Program governs a large base of volunteers who physically count people over the period of one night.

Although the counts have existed since 2005, it was not until 2011 that youth were considered.





Although adult counts have existed since 2005, children and youth did not officially become a part of the United States
Department of Housing Count until 2013.



2015

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

Issues Federal strategic plan to end homelessness in the United States



STREET KIDS

recently, progressive social service providers have begun to implement programs based on other facets of street youths lives and skills. In fact, the re-appropriation of the term street kid refers to the value placed in the resiliency and knowledge of youth who survive the streets.

9 % Abduction

TODAY

Perceptions of the Past, now the Present

From the societal perceptions of "youth are a product of the slums" leading to radical action of the orphan trains to the perceptions of these youth being "rebellious, wild, and untamed" causing charitable and religious organizations to rise up along with the government to enforce laws to keep these children under control - we, as a society in the United States culture, are experiencing another revolution in perception of runaway and homeless youth. First an item on the agenda of the Clinton administration, now the Obama administration, it is important to realize this is a big deal in our country and that there is a gap in the provision of help.

In our previous social constructs youth either have a home or they do not (putting them *on the street*), but on the contrary, youth who are without a home also exist in the interstitial spaces such as squatting in an uncle's barn, sleeping on a friend's couch, living out of their car, or staying in 24 hour coffee shops and university campus libraries. As already mentioned previously, there are several pressures on these youth that result in their homelessness whether they are forced to leave or go willingly. As of late, there has been more attention of the media on how youth are unright fully mistreated and rejected by their parents. In the past few years, we have seen this highlighted on the issue of gender shaming. We are finally grasping the perception that whatever the situation, youth should be helped. They are a fragile population that has hope and potential.

More importantly, a youth's perception of runaway and homeless youth is finally being taken into consideration. One of the biggest reasons youth are not getting help or seeking out services that are provided is due to their perceptions.

MORE THAN 50% FEAR USING SERVICES DUE TO...

- Personal Safety (most have been abused or mistreated by adults)
- Fear of entering the Foster Care System
- Lack of awareness of programs
- Word-of-mouth that no beds are available
- Fear of being a part of the "homeless" stereotype

EXISTING CONDITIONS

TYPES OF SOCIAL PROJECTS

To address an unstable housing condition, there are six basic types of housing projects, classified by the government, which often take different formats and are available based on requirements and lengths of stay. Whether operated by the government or a private organization, all housing types registered and are licensed with the United States Department of Housing. Temporary projects include: emergency shelters, transitional housing, and safe havens. Permanent projects include: rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, other permanent housing.²³

TEMPORARY YOUTH HOUSING





Temporary shelter often with some social services and nightly beds.



Provides temporary shelter and services to specific individuals who are especially at-risk. For example: there are emergency shelters specifically dedicated to woman who have been abused, therefore are considered a safe haven.



Provide an extended stay shelter and often other services. Stay periods range.

PERMANENT YOUTH HOUSING





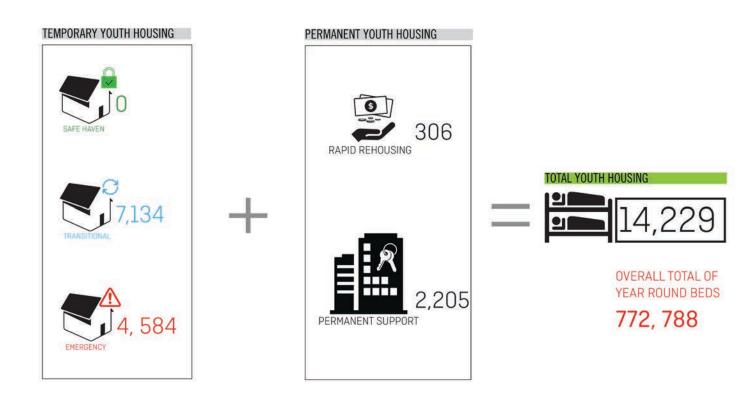
Provides short-term rental assistance and stabilizing services to formerly homeless people



Provides long-term housing for formerly homeless people

All of these types of social projects are excellent solutions and supply a variety of ways to help an individual who is experiencing homelessness. Unfortunately, there is not a sufficient amount of places for a youth. In 2014, HUD asked CoCs to report the number of beds targeted to youth. Homeless people in these subpopulations may access both beds set aside for them and those available for the general homeless population.

There were 14,229 beds identified as targeted to homeless youth (under 25). Half of youth beds were TH beds, 32 percent were ES beds,15 percent were PSH beds, and 2 percent were RRH beds. Out of 772, 788 types of places for homeless individuals in 2014, only 14,229 were allotted for youth, which is a far cry from the 45,000 + youth or are homeless or have runaway. ²³



Beds often are given to younger youth first as they are more vulnerable, therefore older youth (ages 18-25) are pushed to adult homeless places. Displaced adults victimize a high percentage of these youth. The programmatic spaces serving adults are not appropriate for the unique stage of physical, emotional, psychological, and social development these youth are experiencing.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

PROCESSES

Many different processes and programs exist when it comes down to helping homeless and runaway youth. Government departments have several more hurdles and regulations than private charities and organizations.

The Continuum of Care, a program of the HUD that coordinates housing and services for the homeless, has developed a model for serving homeless individuals and families. This model has been very successful, and is a good starting point for serving the specific population of runaway and homeless youth ages 18-24.²³

FRAMEWORK FOR ADDRESSING HOMELESS ADULTS FRAMEWORK FOR ADDRESSING HOMELESS ADULTS ISSUE **INCOME & HOUSING INCOME & HOUSING** STABILIZATION STABILIZATION manent Housing Permanent Housing Employment Employment Support Services Support Services TRANSITION TRANSITION ental Health Services Social Services Social Services **EMERGENCY** Mental Illness EMERGENCY Mental Illness RESPONSE RESPONSE Substance Abuse Substance Abuse Unemployment Unemployment inancial Assistanc Domestic Violence Domestic Violence

Addressing youth with the current framework for homelessness is not entirely feasible. The fundamental needs of youth are entirely different and although they may be able to be categorized much like the needs of adults, they function differently. The top reasons for adult homelessness include: mental illness substance abuse, unemployment, and domestic violence. The top reasons for youth experiencing homelessness are youth aging out of foster care, thrownaway youth, and runaway youth.

As mentioned before, one of the biggest barriers to these youth receiving help is their perception of people and places offering the help - there is a presence of fear. Young adults, eager for independence, are reluctant to admit that they need help and housing. Shelters designed with young adults in specifically in mind, are small and rare. Regulations and requirements for a youth who needs help need to be rethought and reconsidered to eliminate barriers. Process of entry...process of staying...Youth homelessness is unique - programs/processes should specifically address this demographic.

Youth homelessness is unique because young people:

- Are physically, emotionally, psychologically, and socially still developing they are <u>adults-in-progress</u> with unique strengths and assets.
- Enter into homelessness with <u>little or no work experience</u>.
- Are often <u>forced into leaving their education prior to completion</u> (i.e., junior high and high school) as a result of their homelessness.
- Experience high levels of criminal victimization, including sexual exploitation and labor trafficking.
- Often enter into homelessness without life skills, such as cooking, money management, housekeeping, and job searching.

CASE STUDY

SEATTLE, WA



- Shelter for young adults in a church basement
- Holds 45 people
- -Must be 18 years or older
- Included: meals, laundry services, counseling

Roots is a private organization responding to young adults who face the challenges and hardships of homelessness. There is process is simple: show up between the times of 8:30 and 9:00 pm to find a safe, clean overnight stay with food and showers. Unfortunately, there is a max capacity so if there are over 45 people, they use a lottery drawing to determine who gets a spot.



EXISTING CONDITIONS

ARCHITECTURE

As mentioned before, this specific age group is inadequately served. An enormous obstacle in addressing this social issue architecturally is the almighty dollar. Competitive and insufficient funding are often limiting. After touring and researching layouts of both youth and adult homeless shelters, problematic architectural issues were apparent that hindered the potential help to youth.

RECYCLED SPACES

Not only are the programmatic spaces insufficient for youth - the majority of the buildings and spaces used for homeless people are reused or donated buildings that have become a place for a charity or organization over time but were never properly designed to accommodate the experience. Limited funding only allows minor face lifts of color and casework.

CASE STUDY

LA, CALIFORNIA

Youth Center on Highland

"The use of color was one of the most successful aspects to add energy to the space. We could not afford very sculptural interior architecture or upgraded finishes. As a result, we relied heavily on color to activate the space." - HOK

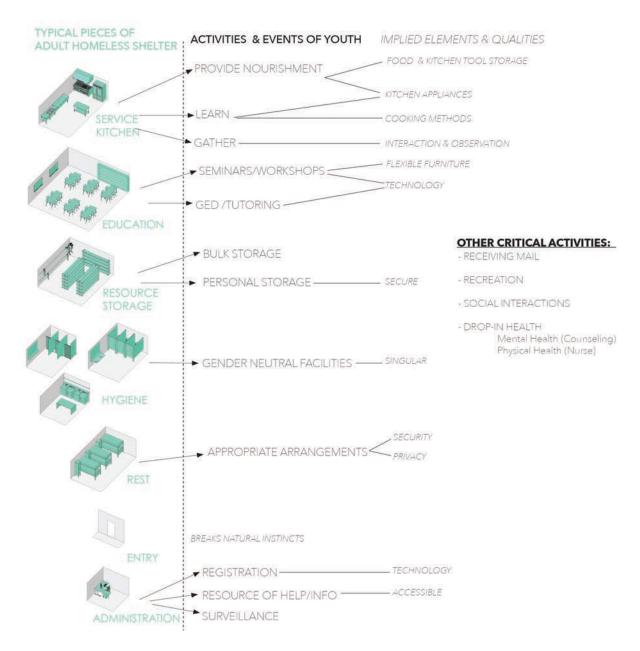






PROGRAMMATIC SPACES

In larger cities, there are large enough organizations to support shelters and services purely geared toward runaway and homeless youth 18-24. However, in most mid size cities, there are housing arrangements available for youth under 18 years of age, but any youth past age 18 years of age are expected to receive shelter and services through the frameworks of adults. The programmatic spaces are most often generic and not specific to a youth's interest or needs. The traditional programmatic spaces need to rethought of in terms of events/activities appropriate for youth.



A NEW ADVOCACY

It can be very tempting to look at the *existing conditions* of the history of homeless and runway youth, social projects, social processes, and existing architectural responses - only to be quickly discouraged with the complexity of this issue and all parties involved.

A passion for people and that ability to enhance a person's life through design drives my passion to practice architecture. Moving to the city from a very rural area, I have been struck by how people inhabit the street and endure the hardships of a nomadic life. I discovered that there are youth in our cities that were at risk. They grab my heart as they are vulnerable and under served. There is a great danger if these youth go unnoticed; their lack of opportunity, resources, and housing stability leads to experiences of violence, illness, and exploitation. I saw this thesis as an opportunity to advocate for a social concern and to elevate this segment of our population through the power of design and architecture.

Much can be learned from precedents where architectural thinking and design is intervening and enhancing our social infrastructures.

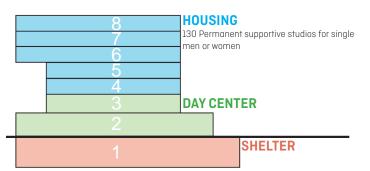
INSPIRATIONAL PROJECTS

BUD CLARK COMMONS

Portland, Oregon



HOLST ARCHITECTURE







DESIGN POINTS:

- The entrance replicates a park, much like the park some of the shelter's residents slept in the night before. The park allows a smooth transition to passing the threshold of committing to accept the services of the Bud Clark Commons and upholds dignity as they are not forced to wait alongside the street.
- The apartments are durable, simple, clean, and beautiful with well considered storage, furniture, day lighting, and materials.
- After really studying this population, more programmatic elements were included such as an art studio, meditation garden, and mailboxes for an address.
- The use of beautiful materials and day lighting elevates the level of quality of the spaces and respect for the place and individuals
- Careful consideration of thresholds day center/housing shelter/day center





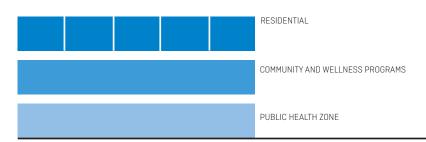


INSPIRATIONAL PROJECTS

STAR APARTMENTS

LA, CALIFORNIA

MICHAEL MALTZAN ARCHITECTURE



















DESIGN POINTS:

- One of the key design considerations of this project was the shared community spaces where those who live in one of the 102 apartments or surrounding community members can intermix. Programmatic spaces include public health services and community recreation
- all apartments are given to people who were formerly homeless



Throughout the duration of this thesis, not only was a final piece of built architecture designed, but also a process of how a place for runaway and homeless youth would work, what it would be, and where it would be located.

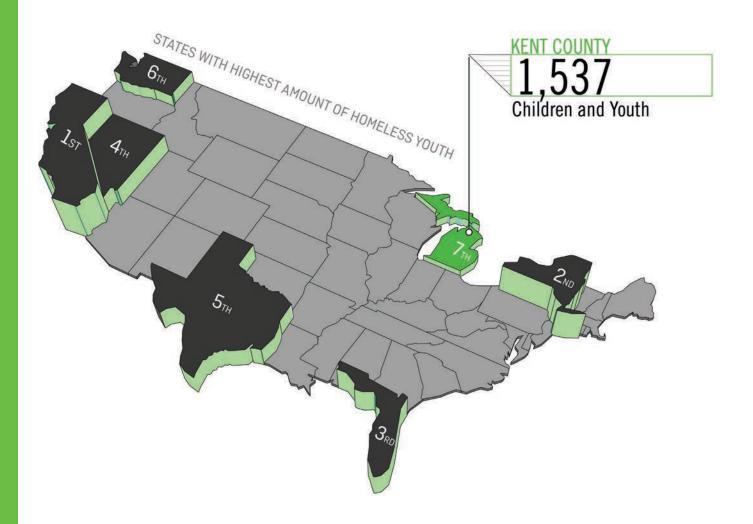
Due to the limited research on the topic, this strategy was developed to test the thinking and encourage careful consideration when addressing this social concern architecturally.

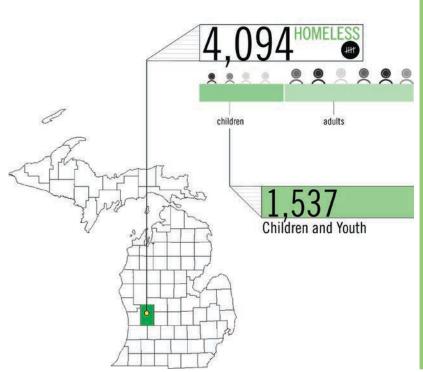


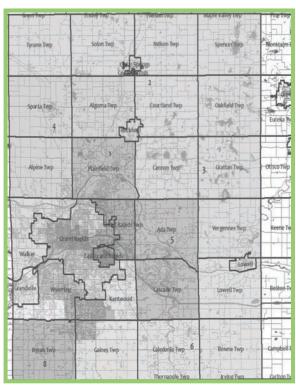
FIND A PLACE WITH A NEED

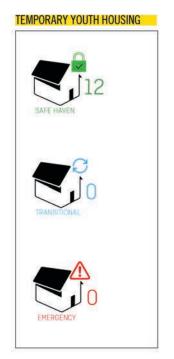
As mentioned previously, mid-size cities (such as Grand Rapids) have a great need for helping these youth, but often lack the resources and awareness of the issue to do so.

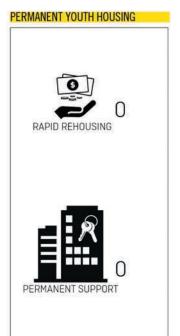
Evident through the research studies of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Michigan has the 7th highest population of homeless youth. Kent County alone has over 1500 youth without a permanent place to stay. Grand Rapids is the perfect opportunity to test this thesis.

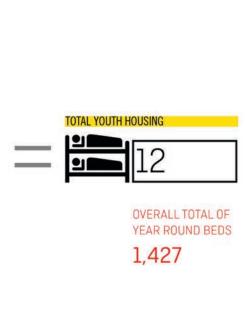












INVESTIGATE SOCIAL CONTEXT

Once a place with a need has been established, it is critical to gather as much information as possible about what's happening in the social services context of the city - WHO'S ALREADY HELPING?

Several interviews were conducted along with site visits to HQ, Arbor Circle, Wedgewood Christian Services, Mel Trotter, and Webster House. (interview questions can be found in the appendix)

By examining Kent County's social context, I was able to establish a knowledge of what services exist, what they are currently doing to help, and what are some of the gaps.



Arbor Circle Grand Rapids, MI







Webster House Muskegon, MI

2

INVESTIGATE SOCIAL CONTEXT

Although the programmatic pieces and parts of a place where youth can get help are translatable from city to city, it is critical to understand what programs exist within the particular city of interest, to identify what is most needed. These places vary in multiple ways, including: age limitations, duration of stay, government based verse charity based, rural verse urban and so on. Within Grand Rapids, HQ and Arbor Circle exist and were considered when developing program. Webster House was also a valuable resource in understanding what program parts are currently lacking in most places for youth.

A large "gap" in our current services is the component of shelter. Currently, Kent County has some good services, but not good spaces. A youth between the ages of 18-21 could not find a bed to sleep in at a shelter tonight. Arbor Circle has 12 of them, but they are constantly full.

PROGRAMMATIC SPACES

	Entry	Welcome Desk	Kitchen	Hangout	Game Area	Studio	Tech Lab	Laundry	Personal Day Storage	
GRAND RAPIDS										
Arbor Circle	x	x	х	x				х	х	
HQ	х	x	х	x			x	х	х	
MUSKEGON Webster House	x	х	x	x				х	x	

HQ DROP-IN CENTER FOR HOMELESS AND RUNAWAY

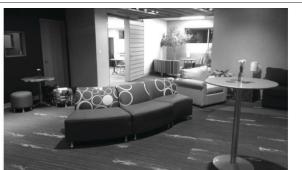




SOCIAL PROGRAM GRAND RAPIDS SUPPORT SYSTEMS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AGE 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 Arbor Circle HQ Runaway & Hameless Center SHELTER PROGRAMS Arbor Circle

Toilet Rooms	Shower Rooms	Formal Learning	Private Meeting Space	Offices	Exterior Hangout	Resource Storage	Overnight Shelter	Transitional Living
x	х	-	x	×	×	-	x (only up to 17 yrs)	
х	×	×	x	x		×		
х	x		х	x		x	x	x





3 LOCATE SITE

Where does this place happen within the city? Is it associated with the city (suburban, rural) or submerged (urban)? What is the appropriate context for this place?

Starting on a macro level, a SWOT analysis was done to begin the determination process of the location for this place. Ultimately, an urban setting was the most appropriate for Grand Rapids.

After the determination was made that this site would be located downtown or in very close proximity, four sites were considered based on a series of criteria (see Site Axon) and 447 East Fulton was selected as the most ideal primarily due to it's adjacencies, supervision, and accessibility (see diagrams on following pages).

URBAN

STRENGTHS

Proximity to other locations allow for drop in/out spaces

Higher Visibility - create awareness

Place will have to provide few amenities

OPPORTUNITIES

Proximity to institutional/cultural amenities (ie. Museums, Libraries, Colleges...etc.)

Proximity to recreational amenities (ie. parks, arenas, health & fitness centers)

Interconnected with pubic transportation (higher mobility for youth as most do not have their own vehicle/driver's license)

Higher visibility for the community to be aware of this place, causing awareness of this issue

WEAKNESSES

Higher visibility could impede on privacy & security of youth

THREATS

Location of adult homelessness - adults preying on youth

Higher access to abused substances

Higher crime rates and violence

Compact program (possibly limited on real estate)

SUBURBAN

STRENGTHS

High concentration of residential

WEAKNESSES

Amenities spread out

Youth less mobile

OPPORTUNITIES

Proximity to family living

Proximity to public transportation

THREATS

Neighborhood exclusiveness (subdivisions, gated communities)

RURAL

STRENGTHS

More space for program

WEAKNESSES

More supportive amenities due to lack of surrounding amenities

Isolated

Farther away of youth's social network

OPPORTUNITIES

Proximity to institutional/cultural amenities (ie. Museums, Libraries, Colleges...etc.)

Proximity to recreational amenities (ie. parks, arenas, health & fitness centers)

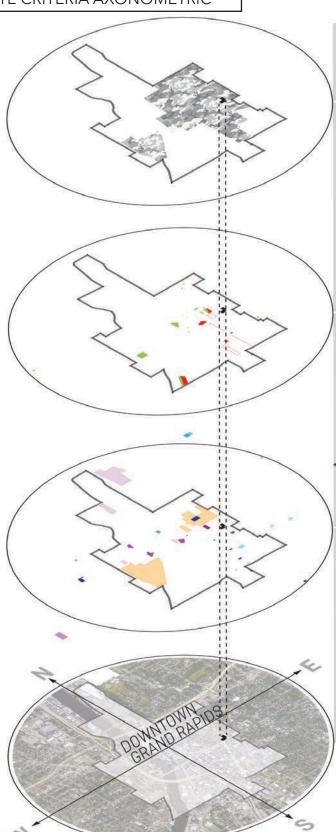
Interconnected with pubic transportation

THREATS

Lack of supporting community

No "eyes on the street"

SITE CRITERIA AXONOMETRIC



FUTURE HIDING PLACES

- TRANSPARENCY
- CAMOUFLAGE

Regions were identified as transparent or camouflage in relation to quality of hiding. Transparent areas are places where a youth would avoid hiding such as industrial areas. Camouflage areas are where there are ample hiding places such as college campuses .

HIDING SPOTS

AVDIDED AVDIDED

Due to fear, safety and lack of survival skills, a youth's preference for secondary shelter is not a doorway or a traditional shelter; it is on their uncle's couch, at a 24/7 location such as McDonalds, a public park, or a college campus library.

Hiding Places in Grand Rapids include Rosa Park Circle, the parking garage stairwells, coffee shops, the Grand Raids Public Library. They are hiding in plain site.

CONNECTIONS

- medical
- permonent housing assistance
- egal services
- dounseling
- substance abuse rehab
- Db centers
- pregnancy resources
- Universities & colleges
- Cultural & civic
- recreationa

Within Kent county, the majority of the connections for youth in need lay within the downtown limits along with the transportation systems. Therefore, it was immediately established that this place would be located within this area.

DETERMINING FACTORS









SITE SUPERVISION









SITE ACCESSIBILITY









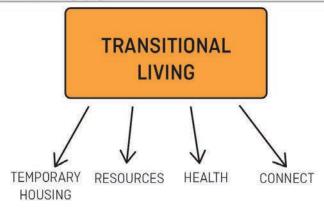
DETERMINE PROCESS

The path and process of engaging with this place is not an linear one. Each youth will experience a different sequence of activities and varied levels of help based on their specific needs and preferences. This place will meet basic needs, help establish connections and frameworks, then allow aspirations and desires to become reality. By meeting basic needs then giving the opportunity to go through a transitional living program where they can establish patterns, habits, skills, and goals, then achieve them. the sky is the limit.

YOUTH IN NEED Qualifications: - Must be age 18-24 - Accept membership (agreement to respect this place, the people within it, and yourself DAY **NIGHT OVERNIGHT DAY CENTER** STAY **EMERGENCY SLEEP** HYGIENE EAT RESOURCES REST [MAX 14 DAYS] RECREATION

Qualifications:

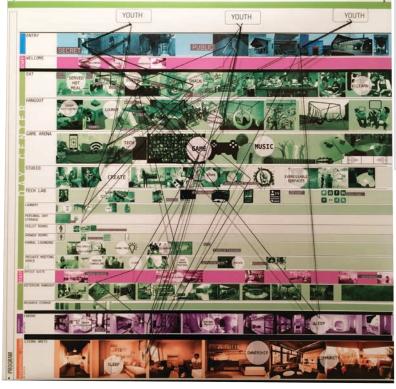
- Need stable housing
- Go through application/background check/interview to determine proper placement



DETERMINE PROGRAM

After all of the other steps are executed, there is the knowledge to form a program based on what the need is, what other social services are/are not providing, what the process is of a youth's engagement with this place, and where the place is located.

When striving to form a networked community it is important to include spaces that bring youth together, spaces where common interest can be shared, but also spaces for youth to be alone. It is equally important to understand the culture of the youth and their interests. For example, activities popular in the West Michigan (Grand Rapids) culture that bring youth together are music, movies, and video games.



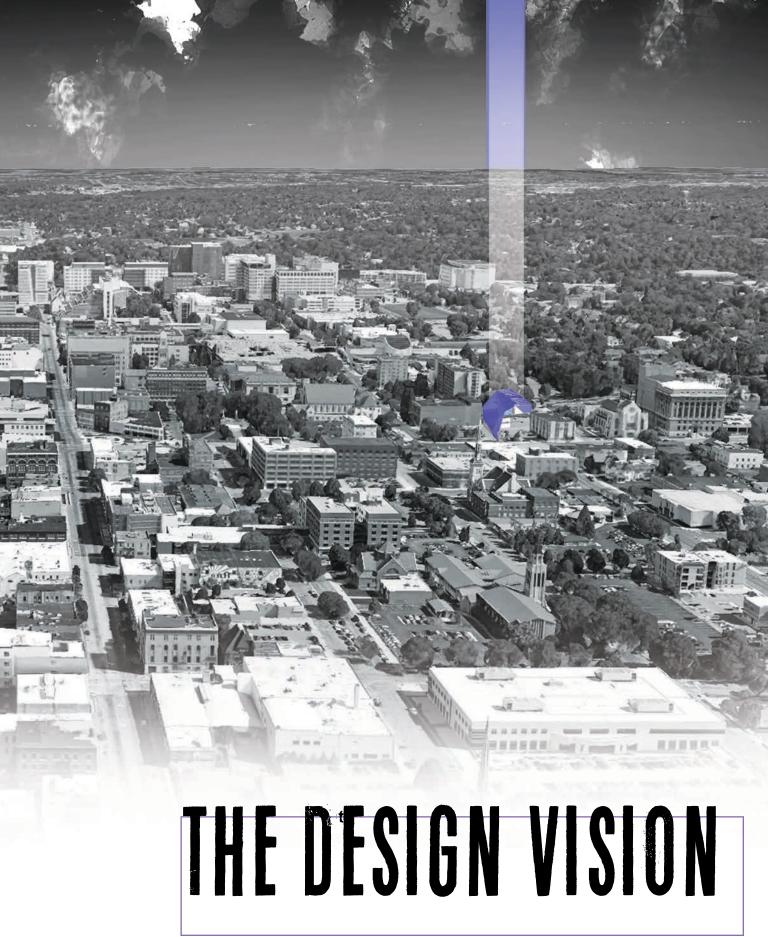
This program diagram represents each of the different programs pieces, the activities that happen within them along with a collaged experience of the space.

String was then applied on top of this print to demonstrate how mobile youth could be within this place. (As seen in the image to the left)

PROGRAM DIAGRAM

YOUTH YOUTH YOUTH ENTRY PUBLIC SECRET WELCOME EAT SERVED DINING SNACK HANGOUT LOUNGE GAME ARENA MUSIC GAME 1 STUDIO EXPRESSABLE SURFACES TECH LAB (STATE OF THE STA P .. S 5 LAUNDRY PERSONAL DAY STORAGE TOILET ROOMS 事 SHOWER ROOMS FORMAL LEARNING PRIVATE MEETING SPACE OFFICE SUITE EXTERIOR HANGOUT RESOURCE STORAGE LIVING UNITS OWNERSHIP

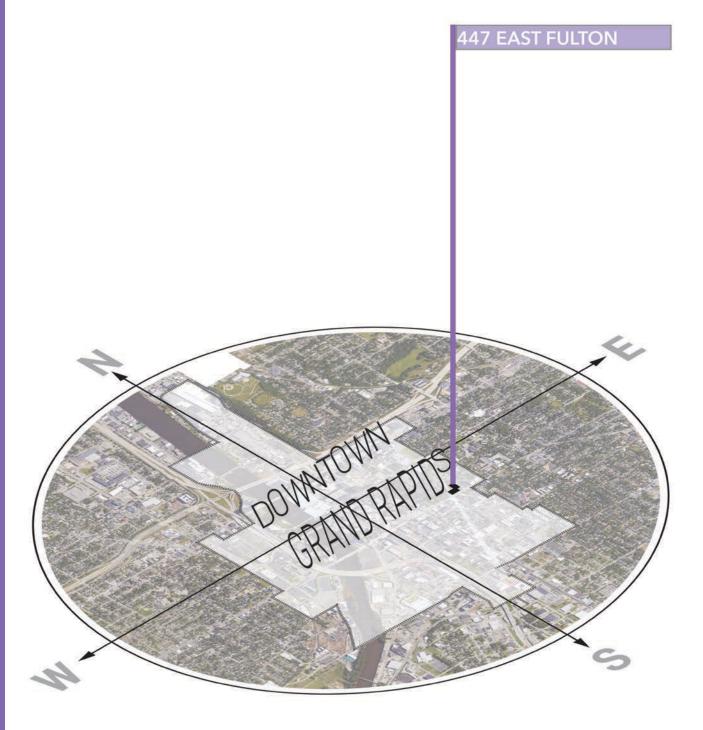






CONTEXT

Currently utilized for surface parking for St. Cecilia Music Society and Lutheran Social Services - the proposed site is in an excellent location with downtown directly to the west and the historic Heritage Hill neighborhoods to the east There is variety of typologies surrounding the site.





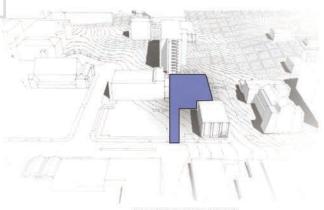
MEET THE NEIGHBORS



The site is nestled within a traditional context of religious and historical architecture. The architecture of this new place demands to be different because it is a different response to this social concern. The form and materials reinforce a statement architecture among the neighbors.

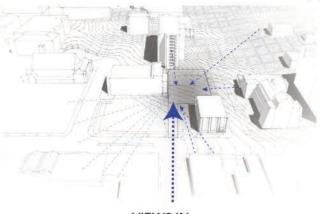




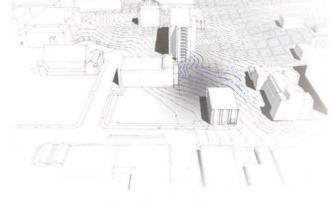


PROPOSED SITE

147 East Fulton



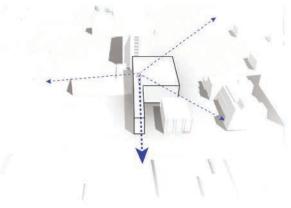
VIEWS IN



TOPOGRAPHY

The neighboring buildings have direct visual access to the site and currently there is a parking lot to the west allowing visual access until further development takes place. A large terminating viewpoint occurs at the intersection of Jefferson Avenue and

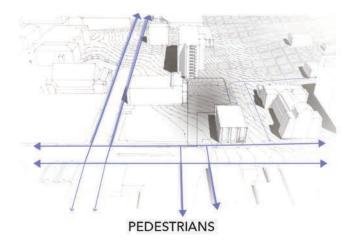
Fulton Street



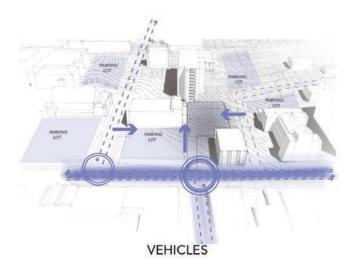
VIEWS OUT

As far as views go, the majority of the site is landlocked but as you reach the elevation above the surrounding neighbors, views of the Grand Rapids skyline become more apparent. There is also a clear view corridor to the south looking down Jefferson Avenue.

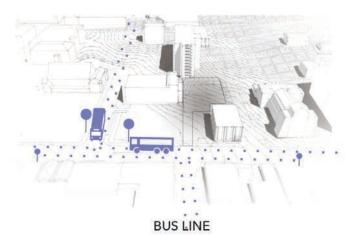
The site has an elevation change of approximately 10' from the north east corner to the south west. There are currently two levels of parking on the site.



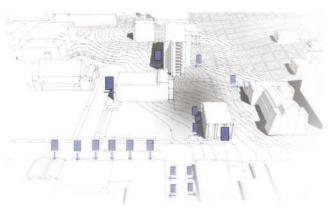
Fulton Street is a main side walk artery to downtown from the hill neighborhoods. There is a high volume of people walking by the site on Fulton for their daily commute.



Fulton is a main arterial running directly through the heart of downtown, connecting the west and east sides. It is one of the highest volume traffic roads in downtown Grand Rapids.

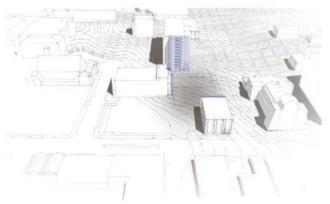


Two major bus stops for the Grand Rapids' bus system are located to the southwest of the site.



FRONT DOORS

Many front doors are located on Fulton and contribute to the circulation adjacent to the site.

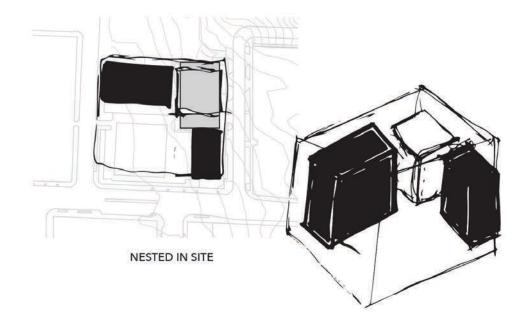


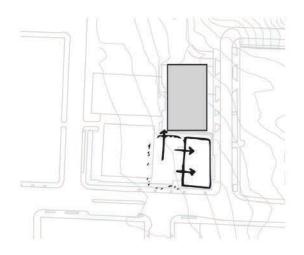
NEIGHBORING WALLS

Lutheran Social Services, St. Cecilia Music Society, and Ransom Apartments all have a facade within 50' of the site boundaries. Respecting each facade is crucial to strengthening community connections and neighborhood engagement.

SITING THE DESIGN

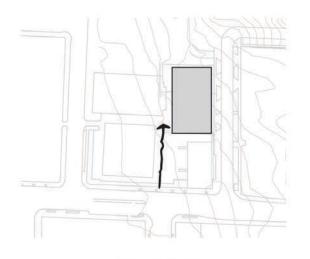
With such a rich surrounding context in and urban context, many factors weighed in on where the design intervention would take place on the site.





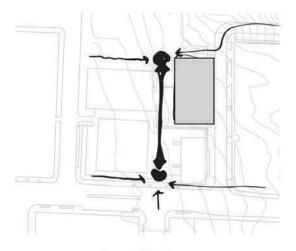
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EXISTING ENTRY ZONE

Lutheran Social Services currently has two existing entrances on the west side of their building.



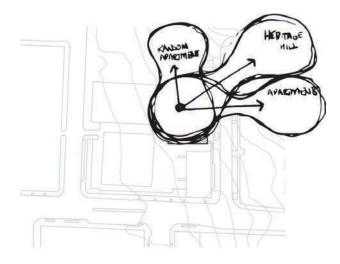
PATH TO PLACE

Allows for elongated path sequence

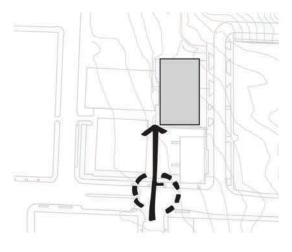


AXIS OF ENTRY

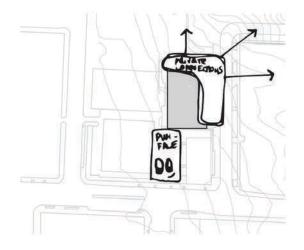
With elevation change and surrounding context, there is opportunity for two entrances to accommodate different personalities of youth



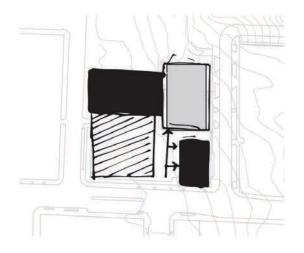
NEIGHBORHCOD CONNECTIONS



ALIGNED ENTRY WITH MAIN VIEW

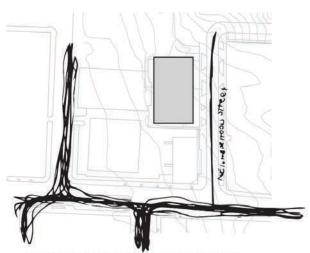


PUBLIC FACE, PRIVATE CONNECTIONS



PLANNING FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

This approach will preserve the existing entrance zone while allowing for future urban street front development in the St. Cecila parking lot.



OFFSET FROM MAIN THOROUGHFARE

PROGRAM

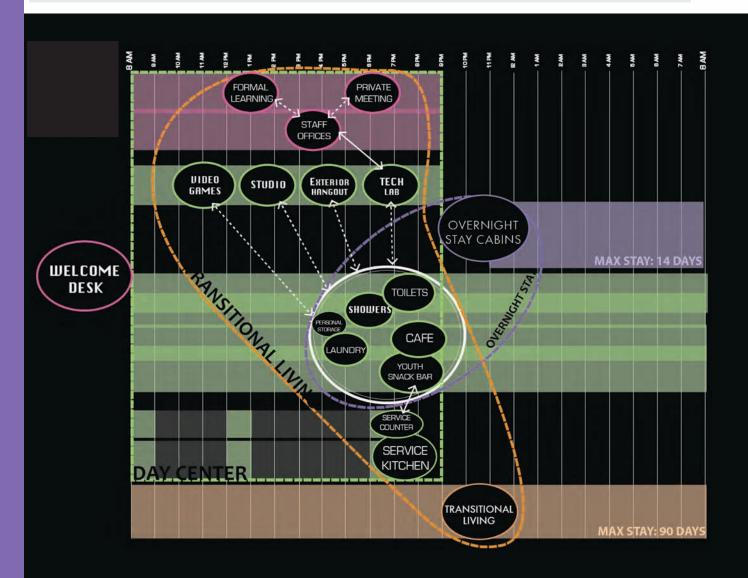
ADJACENCIES & TIME FRAMES

The programmatic spaces, characteristics, and criteria laid out in "The Strategy" will be implemented, but furthermore adjacencies and specific details of the program are identified.

There is definite thresholds between the interventions of day center, overnight stay, and transitional living. All of these 3 components are intertwined and are forming the overall community of this place, but they are operating on different time schedules.

Within the day center, overnight stay, and transitional living – 3 important factors are key in consideration of adjacencies:

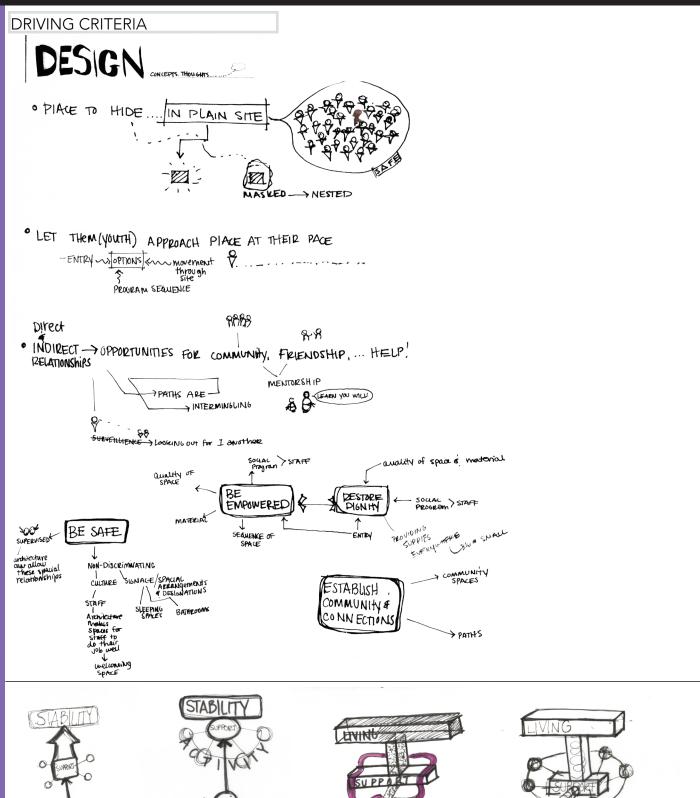
- 1 Maximize resources
- 2 Form a community within this place
- 3 Control security and access



PROGRAM SPECIFICS

Space		F Per	# people #	rooms SF Pe	rRoom TOT	AL SF		Notes
	_							
SUPPORT SPACES								
STAFF	Welcome Desk		1			150		Welcoming, but secure - non- transparent. Staffed by (1) welcome staff/receptionist
	Admin Offices			4	100	400 550 SF		open office workspace - (4 work stations, collaboration table)
STORAGE	Resource Storage					300		Donation storage
	Personal (for youth) Storage	10	50			500 800 SF		lockable by admin - keep for up to 14 days
SERVICE KITCHEN	Service Kitchen	15	60			900		Industrial kitchen equipment, kitchen forvolunteer staff to come and make meals: teaching kitchen
	Service Counter					80 980 SF		Service Hot Meal (seating available when food isn't being served)
					2,	330	SF	
DAY CENTER ACTIVITIES &	SPACES							
SERVES 30-60 YOUTH PER D								
Youth Kitchen								
	Youth Kitchen	7.5	30			225		Microwaves, sink, refrigerator, accessible snacks and quick meals, coffee!
Café (Dining)						225 SF		
Hangout Space	Dining	20	40			800 SF		Variety of dining space - high bar 8 low table clusters (flexible furniture)
	Lounge Resource Storage	20	50			1000 100 1100 SF		Variety of seating space. (comfortable, relaxing) - places for people to gather - nooks for individual Book shelves and open cabinets (games)
Formal Learning	Formal Learning	20	20			400 SF		Audio/visual capabilities - writing surface - gather(learning together) instead of lecture
Tech Lounge	Tech Hub	15	30			450 SF		Computer stations - printer
Video Game Lounge		25	35			875 SF		Large plasma screens [2-3] - comfortable/flexible seating for gamers
Studio	Create Space Art Supply Storage	20	25			500 25 525 SF		Large surfaces for painting - graffiti - drawing - painting along with smaller spaces for writing a poem or sketching Open cabinets/shelving
Laundry	Washer/Dryer					200 SF 200 SF		Washer/Dryer (4 each), Folding surface, resource storage (open cabinets for resources - soop.)
Toilet Rooms				4	150	600 SF		Available seesusee of famining products condemns and other tallatries
Shower Rooms								Available resources of feminine products, condemns, and other toiletries.
Private Meeting Space				4	100	400 SF		Available resources of towels, soap, other toiletries
Exterior Space						200 SF		Private meeting place to have confidential conversations, meet with a case worker or parole officer, counselor
Exterior opaco						5775 SF		
			cı	RCULATION FACTOR	0.5	4052.5		
						827.5 SF]
OVERNIGHT STAY								
CABINS								
CABINS	Girls Boys	70 70	15 15			1050 SF 1050 SF		
	20,0	,,,	13			2100 SF		
TRANSITIONAL LIVING						2200 07		
UNITS				20	300	6000 SF		
COMMUNITY KITCHEN/LOUNGE						500 SF		
						6500 SF		
			CI	RCULATION FACTOR	0.3	2580		
					1	1180 SF		
				TOTAL BU	JILDING 23	3,338 SF]

DESIGN CONCEPTS



ENFER

ACTIVITY CIECULATION

(DEDECEDED COEDANIZING COMPONENTS)

(LEVELS OF ENGAGEMENT)

MAIN CONCEPTS

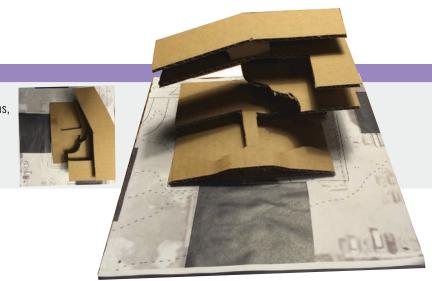
ORDER & CHAOS

Determine site organization. Strong entrance axis with chaotic activity then formal bar of support.



CONCENTRATED MASSING

Stacking floor plates to on east side of site will allow for open visual access to the entire place giving youth options, opportunities and ultimately the choice



PROTECTIVE SKIN

The skin will be protective of it's contents (the youth) but will allow for a radical form within the context to elevate the social issue

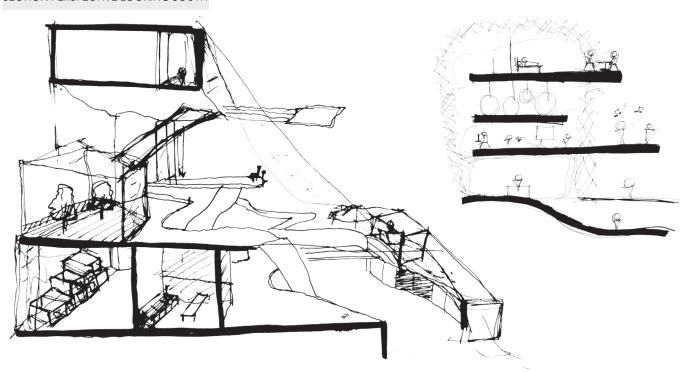


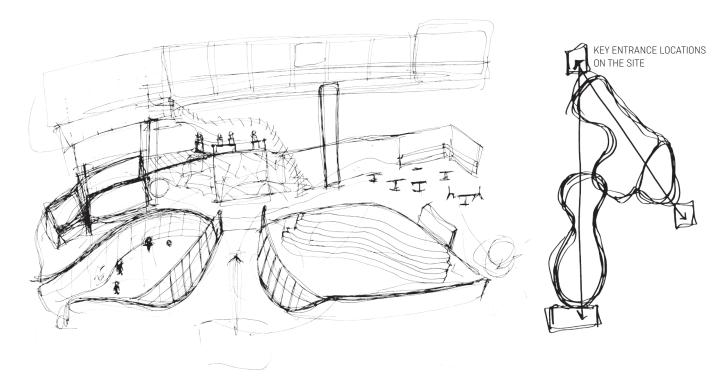
DESIGN CONCEPTS

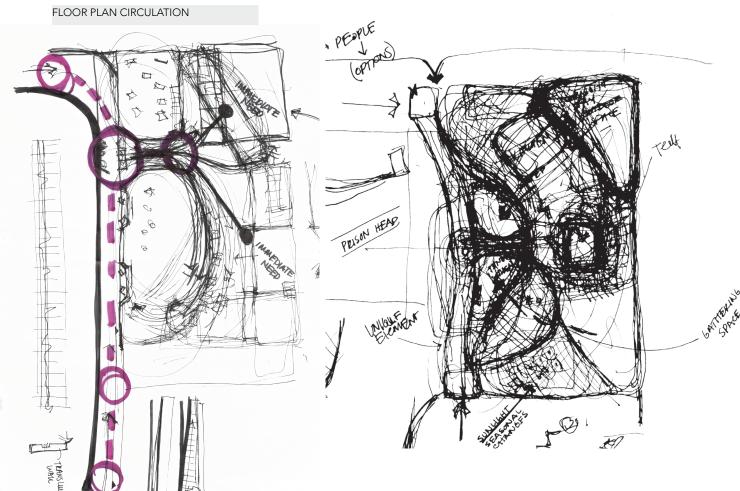
SKETCHES



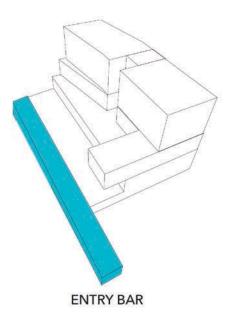
SECTION PERSPECTIVE LOOKING SOUTH



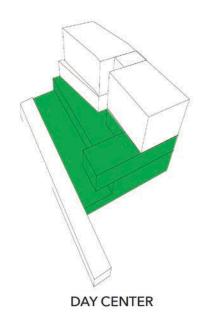




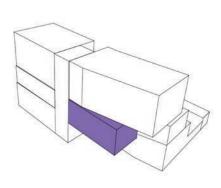
MASSING STRATEGY



Takes advantage of the opportunities for multiple entrances, while preserving a single point of check in. This entry bar is the seam between St. Cecilia and the activity of this place. The one story volume also preserves the views from the balconies of Ransom Apartments.

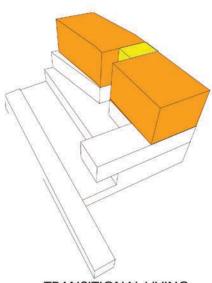


First level placement allows for immediate access. Stacked and shifted floor-plates create an overall connectivity of the community and visual access to all available options of this place.



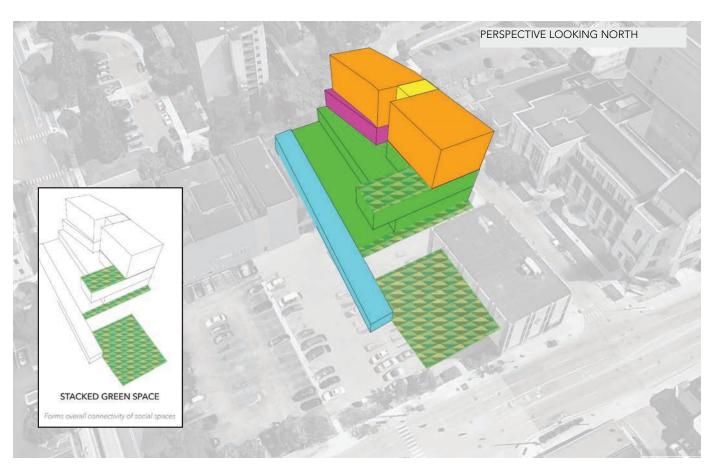
EMERGENCY STAY

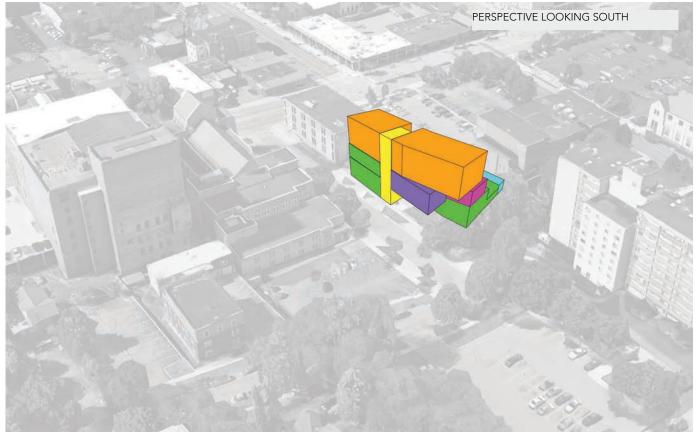
Nestled in the north east corner of site. This location is removed from the public face of the building allowing for quiet , rest and protection.

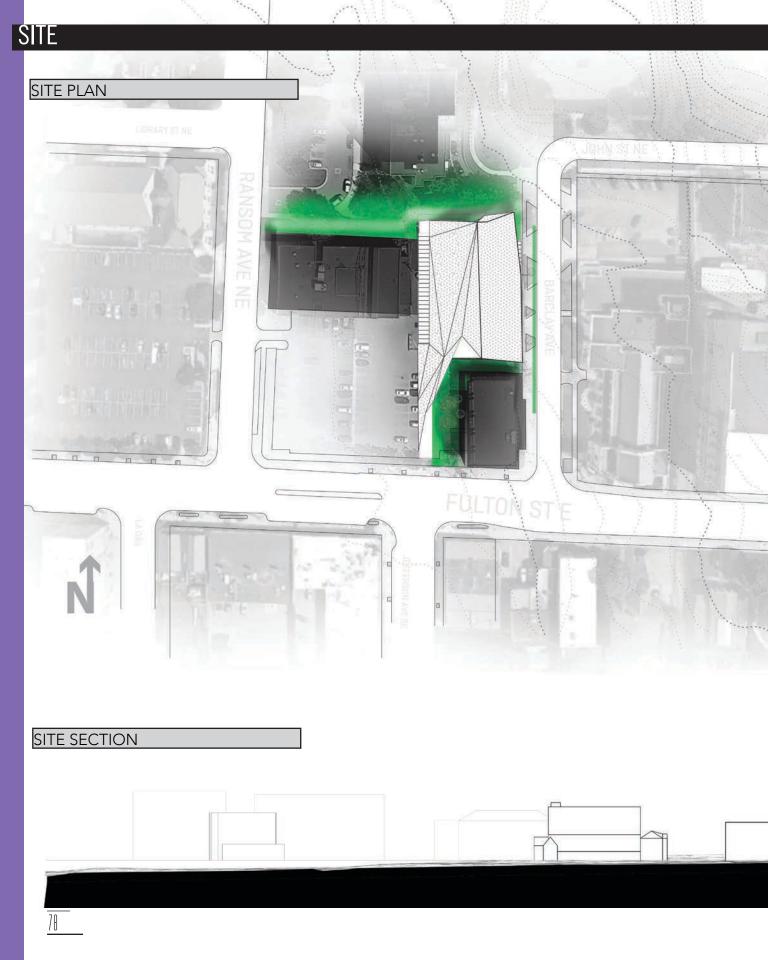


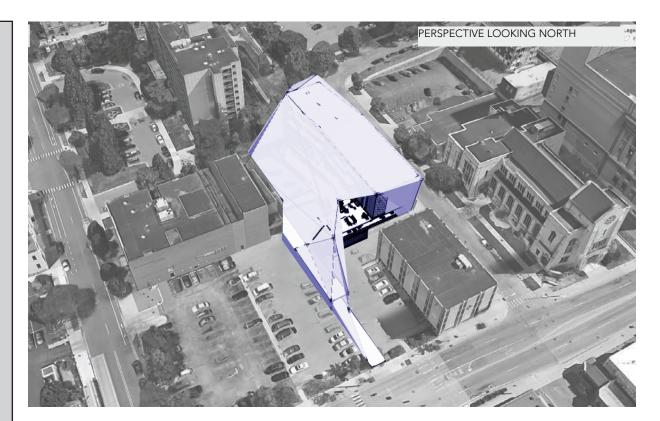
TRANSITIONAL LIVING

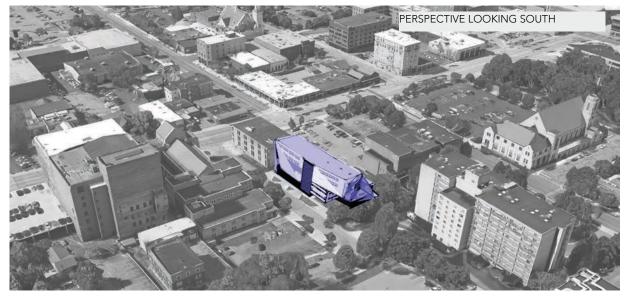
This element is located at the highest level of the building as being apart of the Transitional Living program is the highest level of stability in this place. A youth can "move up" in the system to be a part of this space. The elevation gives incredible views to the downtown and puts this program component at the same elevation as neighboring apartments.



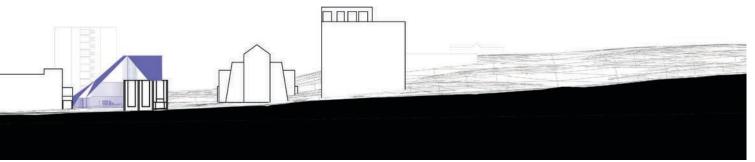




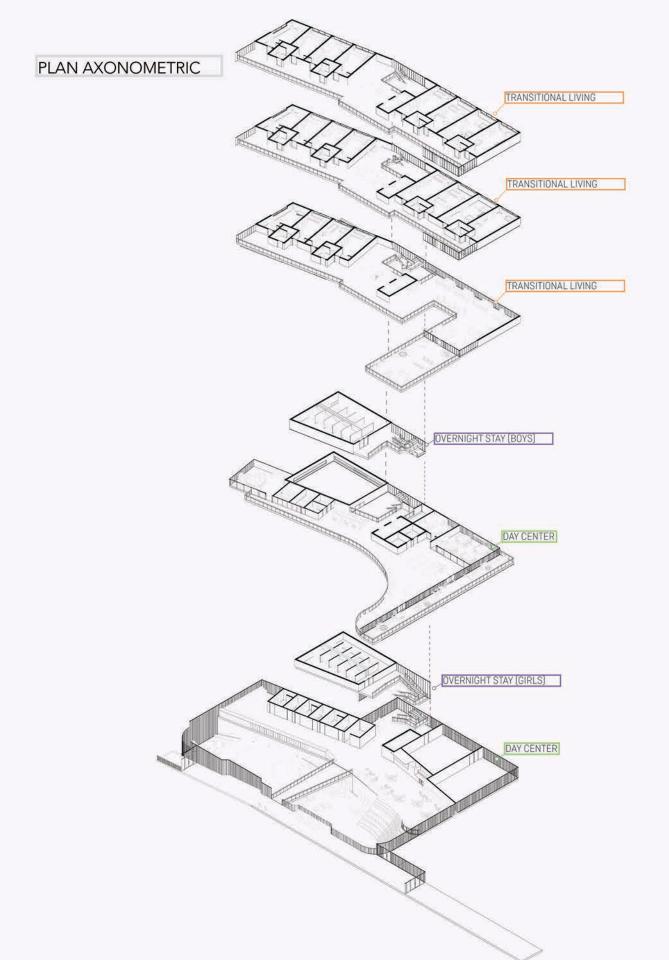




AERIAL VIEWS



PROGRAM & SITE PROGRAM AXONOMETRIC RELINGUNIS DAY CENTER TE INNO UNITS OVERNIGHT STAY TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM TPINNGUNIS TE INNO UNIS TPUMGUNIS TO STOUR WAS CEARNING SNOW GAME ARENA

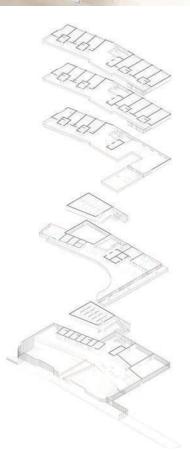


INTERIOR RENDERINGS



Coming across the bridge, there is a moat of activity happening below. The programmatic spaces of studio and game zone are acting as an "arena" of activity to be observed from all areas above. Leading down from the cafe, there are terraced stairs allowing for a gradual decent into this area. The staff is located on the second level to allow for surveillance but has open workstation near the computer lab so staff are accessible to youth.

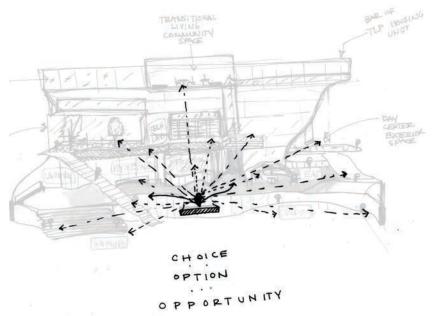
In the studio area, there are movable "walls" that can be used to paint, draw on, or exhibit work along with nooks for sketching/observing and gathering spaces along the east wall tucked under the floor plate.

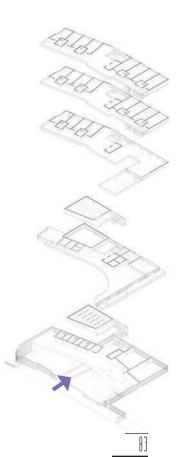




This place is all about **choice**, which may be a first time experience for some youth. By arranging the program vertically and opening up the building - visual access is given to all of the available options of this place - giving someone the choice to engage with whatever they want and have the <u>option</u> to take an <u>opportunity</u>.

Although visual access is given to everything the direct path across the bridge leads to the immediate need options of the hygiene bar to the left (hot shower - clean clothes - toilet) and the open cafe (all you can eat!) to the right.



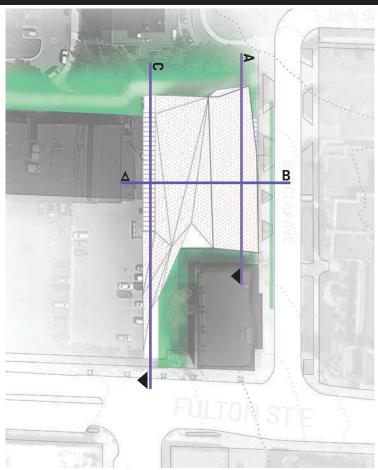


EXTERIOR RENDERING

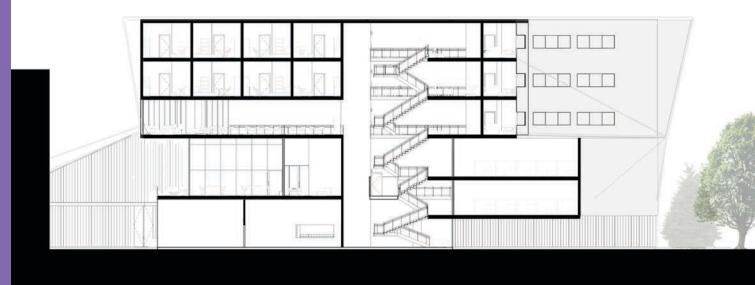




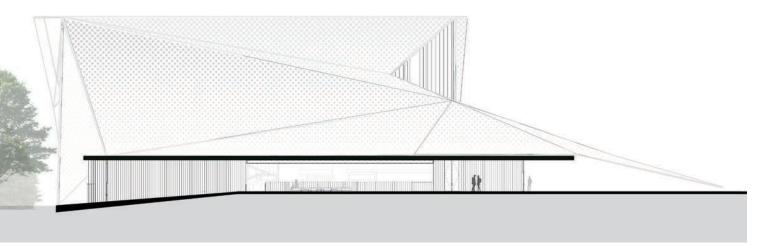
SECTIONS



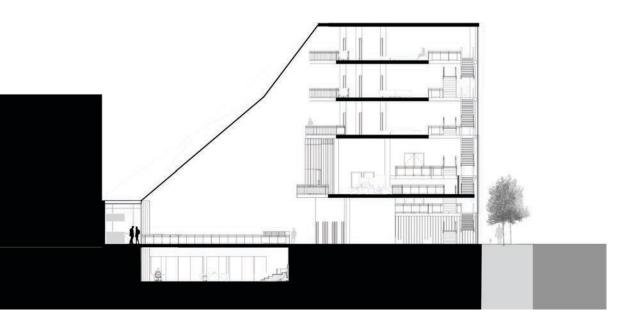
SECTION A



SECTION C



SECTION B



ENTRY

ADJACENCIES & TIME FRAMES

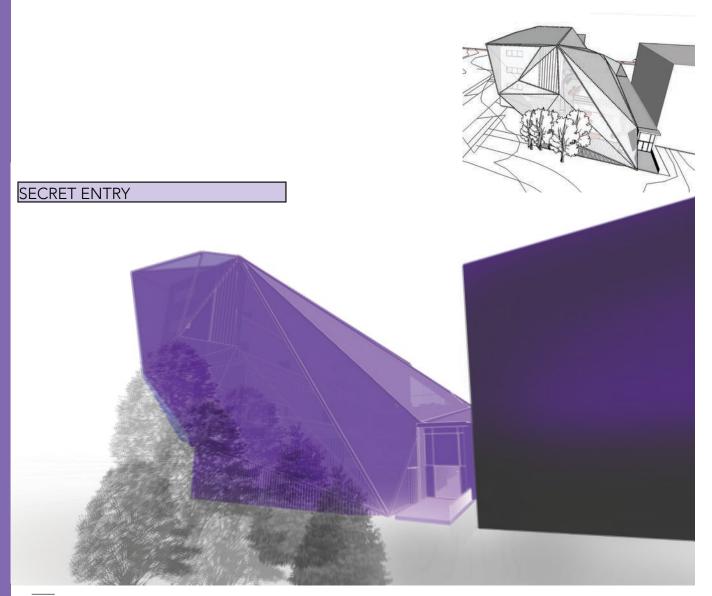
There are multiple options of entry. As mentioned, entering may be the biggest barrier in receiving help. If you want to come to this place there are two different options of entry both leading to a single reception desk.

PUBLIC ENTRY

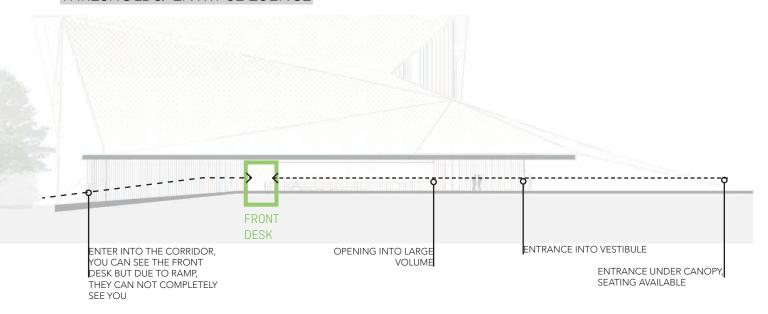
The public entry is where a youth can enter a pronounced, celebrated entrance, entering with dignity and pride. most likely walking past gathered groups of youth sitting on the green or seating.

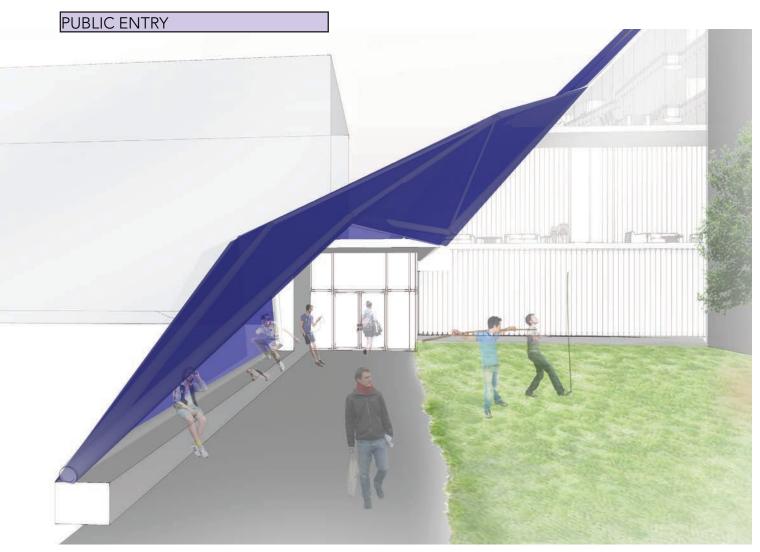
SECRET ENTRY

The secret entrance accommodate youth who are scared, nervous, or unsure. This entrance is not known to everyone so behaves as if it were the "rave entry".



THRESHOLDS/ ENTRY SEQUENCE





APPENDIX

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1. Bardine, Darla. "What Works in Ending Youth Homelessness." The Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information. 2015. Accessed November 2015. https://www.nn4youth.org/wp-content/uploads/2015-What-Works-to-End-Youth-Homlessness.pdf.
- 2. Gibson, Kristina E. Street Kids: Homeless Youth, Outreach, and Policing New York's Streets. New York: New York University Press, 2011.
- 3. U.S. Department of Housing. "The 2014 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress." HUD Exchange. October 2014. Accessed October 2015. https://www.hudexchange.info /resources/documents/2014-AHAR-Partl.pdf.
- 4. Witmer, Denise. "Emotional and Social Development: Your 17-Year-Old Teen." Verywell. February 29, 2016. Accessed March 2016. https://www.verywell.com/emotional-and-social-development-of-17-year-old-2609029.
- 5. DeYoung, Mary. "YOUTHFUL DATA PROJECT." HQ Runaway & Homeless Drop-In Center. 2015. Accessed October/November 2015. http://hqgr.org/youthfull-data-project/.
- 6. Gibson, Kristina E. Street Kids: Homeless Youth, Outreach, and Policing New York's Streets. New York: New York University Press, 2011. Chapter 3.
- 7. Human Trafficking: Closer Then You Think. Directed by McCloe Production. Performed by Andy Soper. Human Trafficking: Closer Then You Think. April 25, 2012. Accessed January 2016. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-RyQ4iHVdE.
- 8. Saulny, Susan. "After Recession, More Young Adults Are Living on Street." New York Times, December 18, 2012. Accessed April 11, 2016. http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/19/us/since-recession-more-young-americans-are-homeless.html?_r=0
- 9. Gibson, Kristina E. Street Kids: Homeless Youth, Outreach, and Policing New York's Streets. New York: New York University Press, 2011. Pages 61-65.
- 10. Saulny, Susan. "After Recession, More Young Adults Are Living on Street." New York Times, December 18, 2012. Accessed April 11, 2016. http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/19/us/since-recession-more-young-americans-are-homeless.html?_r=0
- 11. Carlson, Steve. "A History of Homelessness: Homelessness 101." MESH-MN. Accessed January 2016. http://mesh-mn.org/workshops-events/homelessness-101/.
- 12. Gibson, Kristina E. Street Kids: Homeless Youth, Outreach, and Policing New York's Streets. New York: New York University Press, 2011.

- 13. Gibson, Kristina E. Street Kids: Homeless Youth, Outreach, and Policing New York's Streets. New York: New York University Press, 2011. Pages 30-36.
- 14. Gibson, Kristina E. Street Kids: Homeless Youth, Outreach, and Policing New York's Streets. New York: New York University Press, 2011. Pages 35.
- 15. Gibson, Kristina E. Street Kids: Homeless Youth, Outreach, and Policing New York's Streets. New York: New York University Press, 2011. Pages 36.
- 16. Gibson, Kristina E. Street Kids: Homeless Youth, Outreach, and Policing New York's Streets. New York: New York University Press, 2011. Pages 30-42.
- 17. Gibson, Kristina E. Street Kids: Homeless Youth, Outreach, and Policing New York's Streets. New York: New York University Press, 2011. Pages 40-42.
- 18. Gibson, Kristina E. Street Kids: Homeless Youth, Outreach, and Policing New York's Streets. New York: New York University Press, 2011. Page 47.
- 19. Gibson, Kristina E. Street Kids: Homeless Youth, Outreach, and Policing New York's Streets. New York: New York University Press, 2011. Page 45.
- 20. Gibson, Kristina E. Street Kids: Homeless Youth, Outreach, and Policing New York's Streets. New York: New York University Press, 2011. Page 9.
- 21. Gibson, Kristina E. Street Kids: Homeless Youth, Outreach, and Policing New York's Streets. New York: New York University Press, 2011. Pages 40-50.
- 22. Gibson, Kristina E. Street Kids: Homeless Youth, Outreach, and Policing New York's Streets. New York: New York University Press, 2011.
- 23. U.S. Department of Housing. "The 2014 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress." HUD Exchange. October 2014. Accessed October 2015. https://www.hudexchange.info /resources/documents/2014-AHAR-Partl.pdf.

OTHER RESOURCES

Andrea, Elliot, "Invisible Child," New York Times 9 Dec. 2012, Web.

Bell, Bryan, and Katie Wakefors. Expanding Architecture: Design as Activism. New York: Metropolis, 2008. Print.

"Child Protective Services." Michigan Department of Health & Human Resources - Vallier, Christopher. Personal interview. 1 Oct. 2015.

Davis, S. (2004). Designing for the Homeless: Architecture That Works.

Erickson, Jon and Charles Wilhelm. Housing the Homeless. Piscataway: Transaction Publishers , 2012. Print.

Gowan, Teresa. Hobos Hustlers and Backsliders. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2010. xxi, 27-56, 185-192. Print.

Graham, J., & Walsh, C. (2008). Homeless shelter design: Considerations for shaping shelters and the public realm. Calgary: Detselig Enterprises.Book.

Kinchin, J., & Connor, A. (2012). Century of the Child: Growing by Design 1900-2000. New York, New York: Museum of Modern Art. Book.

"Learn More about Trafficking in West Michigan." Wedgwood Christian Services: Manasseh Project. Web. http://www.manassehproject.org/?q=trafficking.

"Recommended Practices: Preventing Challenging Behavior in Young Children: Effective Practices" by Peter J. Alter & Mareen A. Conroy

Schatz, Howard, and Beverly J. Ornstein. Homeless: Portraits of Americans in Hard times. San Francisco: Chronicle, 1993. Print.

Zwaag, Anne Van Der. Looks Good, Feels Good, Is Good: How Social Design Changes Our World. Lecturis, 2014. Introduction. Print.

IMAGE DIRECTORY

PAGE	IMAGE	SOURCE
7	MARNIA -	http://imgfave.com/ view/4245144?utm_ source=feedburner&utm_ medium=feed&utm_campaign=F eed%3A+imgfave%2Fpopular+% 28imgfave+%7C+popular%29
8	III — A New Horn in the Woods A ** Last Jenne of 49470 was h And the Last Jenne of 49470 was h And the Control of the Mark of the And And the Control of the Mark of the And And the Control of the Mark of the And And the Control of the And And the	http://readmeastorynow.blogspot. com/2012/07/boxcar-children. html
10	Donar e.s. Estimates of Unaccompanied Homeless Cirildons and Youth by time. 2015.	https://www.hudexchange.info/re- sources/documents/2014-AHAR- Part1.pdf
19		http://ultimateyouthworker.com. au/blog/
19		http://www.sfgate.com/business/ article/Youth-hit-hard-by-lack-of- jobs-school-grants-3292423.php
20		http://connecticut.cbslocal. com/2015/12/17/connecticut-to- open-prison-for-young- adults/

20	http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2012/08/syracuse_fire-fighters_battling_5.html
20	http://www.flickriver.com/ photos/4725227 5@ N03/4377203161/
20	http://www.nycsubway.org/wiki/ IND_Fulton_Street_Line
20	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cov- enant House
21	https://thefacesofbrooklyn.word- press.com/2010/08/02/bedford- atlantic-armory-shelter-in-bed- ford-stuyvesant/
21	http://www.alexbakerphotogra- phy.com/?page_id=33

21		http://crownheights.info/ nyc-news/46484/mayor- under-fire-for-comment- on-homeless-shelters/
21		http://www.nydailynews.com/ new-york/appellate-judges- give-boost-mayor-plans- union-square-restaurant-arti- cle-1.1375870
22		http://www.nydailynews.com/ life-style/real-estate/fulton-house- west-chelsea-gentrification-good- word-rapidly-transformed-neigh- borhood-article-1.383840
22	LI-HAUL LI-HAUL	http://markets.on.nytimes. com/research/stocks/ news/press_release. asp?docTag=201511191541PR_NEWS_ USP63101&feedID=600&press_symbol=276238
22	Exercise Consider Constant	http://www.nytimes. com/2011/11/06/nyregion/ sylvias-place-faces-licensing- problems.html
22		https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=I-RyQ4iHVdE

22		https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=I-RyQ4iHVdE
22		https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=I-RyQ4iHVdE
22		http://www.nytimes. com/2012/12/19/us/since-reces- sion-more-young-americans-are- homeless.html
23		https://www.buzzfeed.com/ shannonkeating/these-portraits- show-homeless-youth-as-they- wish-to-be-seen?utm_term=. fkqnz0ELR#.vsgdbxyJL
25	Grand Rapids	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ U.S. Route 131
25		https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ File:Grand rapids skyline by terry johnston.jpg
28		https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Charles Loring Brace

28		http://www.authentichis- tory.com/1898-1913/2- progressivism/3-laborreform/2- hine/
29	MAGGE 141	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Maggie: A Girl of the Streets
29	Mow Other Malf Lives and	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ How the Other Half Lives
29	ACOB AUGUST RUS CHILDREN OF THE TENEMENTS	Riis, Jacob August. "Children of the Tenements", 1903. 1st Ed. MacMillan Co., London. Image source and edition shown un- known.
29	BATTLE Was the SLUM	http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/battle-with-the-slum-jacob-riis/1101068903?ean=9780486157061
29	Homes for Children THOY, MIL ON THINAY, FIR 25th, 1910 ON M. C. S.	http://www.freerangekids.com/ mom-on-child-abuse-registry- for-letting-kids-11-9-and- 5-play-in-park-literally-across- the-street/

29	De limit	http://orphantraindepot.org
30	WEST STORY	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ West Side Story
30	THE OUTSIDERS	Hinton, S.E. "The Outsiders", 1968. First edition, cover. Dell (Paperback) Publishing.
30		Social Science Research Committee and the Local Community Research Committee, "Chicago in the 1920s and 1930s: View from the Chicago School". Repository: University of Chicago Map Collection. https://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/collections/maps/ssrc/
31		http://theinjusticefile.blogspot. com/2012/09/black-male-atrocities-since-1964-white.html
31	Conflodes	Greller, Joyce C. "Young Hookers", 1976. First edition cover. Dell (Paperback) Publishing. Image source: https://www.amazon.com/Young-Hookers-Joyce-C-Greller/dp/B004G-W0AIA
31		https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Covenant_House

	32	Volunteer Today! Count They Count, Will You?	https://melrosevillage.word- press.com/2015/01/22/ volunteers-needed-for-home- less-count-thursday-evening- january-29th/
	32	ORESIDENT OF SHIPS	https://commons.wikimedia.org/ wiki/File:Seal of the Presi- dent of the United States.svg
	32	STREET KIDS SWINDLINE STREET STREET SWINDLINE STREET	Gibson, Kristina E. "Street Kids: Homeless Youth, Out- reach, and Policing New York's Streets", 2011. NYU Press. Image source: https://books. google.com/books/about/ Street Kids.html?id=L2nQjoij- LQC&source=kp_cover&hl=en
	37		http://www.rootsinfo.org/
	38	All Rud Clark Commons Images	http://www.hok.com/about/ news/2013/03/01/la-youth- center-among-interior-designs- 100-big-ideas/
102	41-42	All Bud Clark Commons Images	http://www.archdaily. com/189376/bud-clark-com- mons-holst-architecture

44-45	All Star Apartment Photos Images	http://www.mmaltzan.com/proj- ects/star-apartments/
120	Aviary Images	Google Image Search

OVERVIEW/ GENERAL INFORMATION

Please give a brief overview of your function / role in the organization

How has the scene of runaway and homeless youth changed in the last 3 years? What has driven/is driving these changes?

How do you measure success at

_? Do you use any metrics/tracking?

What's your current staff count?

How many youth do you currently serve? Are your numbers decreasing, increasing, or consistent?

What is your first interaction with a youth?

What is the process of a youth coming and interacting with Webster House, logistically? (How does your process work)

What is the process of a youth coming and interacting with Webster House, emotionally?

How do you connect with other organizations or services?

THE YOUTH

What makes youth decide to engage this service? Is there anything that makes them not return once they have come?

How do youth know to come to this place?

How often do they come? How long do they stay?

What are the most important events in the day for these youth? (Eating? Sleeping?)

Where are they coming from? Where are they going to? (What are their patterns of travel?)

What is their most common way of transit? Foot? Public Transportation? Bike?

What are these youth aspiring to do/to be?

Are youth social or anit-social? Or both? Does this change when they engage with Webster House?

How do these youth connect socially to each other?

What are their common interests? What unites them?

THE ORGANIZATION

What are the biggest challenges or barriers to your organization? (i.e.: people/communication, spatial/storage, workload/process)

What role does technology play in your work and within the services of your organization?

What types of spaces do you (your staff) need for the administration part of your work?

YOUTH ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS/SERVICES

What are the top needs of these youth?

If you could have any one thing to serve this group of youth what would it be?

What is the expectation of a youth when they come to this place?

Are there special equipment needs in your service delivery? (i.e.: physical therapy, emotional therapy, occupation therapy, large T.V. monitors, etc.)

Has HQ House considered including a shelter for youth? Why or why not?

What is one of the most **successful** things about this place and why?

What is one of the most unsuccessful things about this place and why?

What spaces are the most successful? Why?

What spaces are the most unsuccessful? Why?

If you could change anything about this physical place, what would it be?

What is the most used space at Webster House? What is the least used space?

STORAGE

Please describe storage amounts and types (lateral drawers, shelving, pedestal drawers) that you use to serve the youth.

Do you give personal storage to youth? If so, how?

Do you store items to give to youth?

PRIVACY/SECURITY

Describe any physical security concerns.

Describe how your organization handles any confidential or sensitive information.

Are they internal concerns of safety? If so, in between youth?

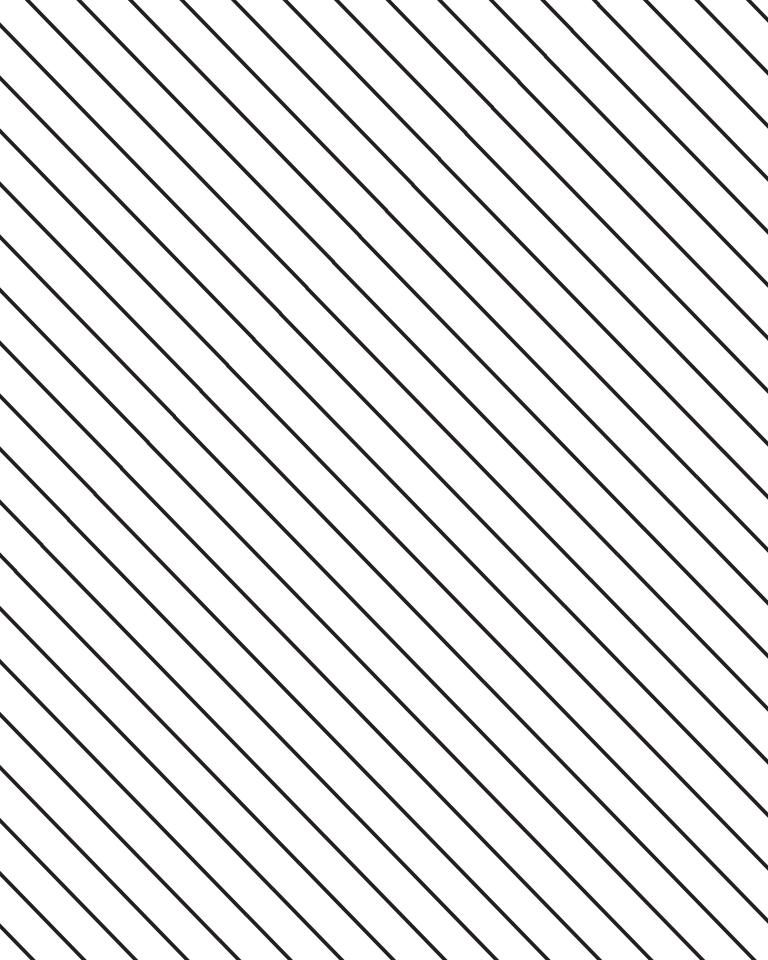
Are there external concerns of safety? If so, from who/what?

LOCATION OF PLACE

Were there strategies in how you geographically located this place within the context of the city?

If you could change the location, would you? To Where?

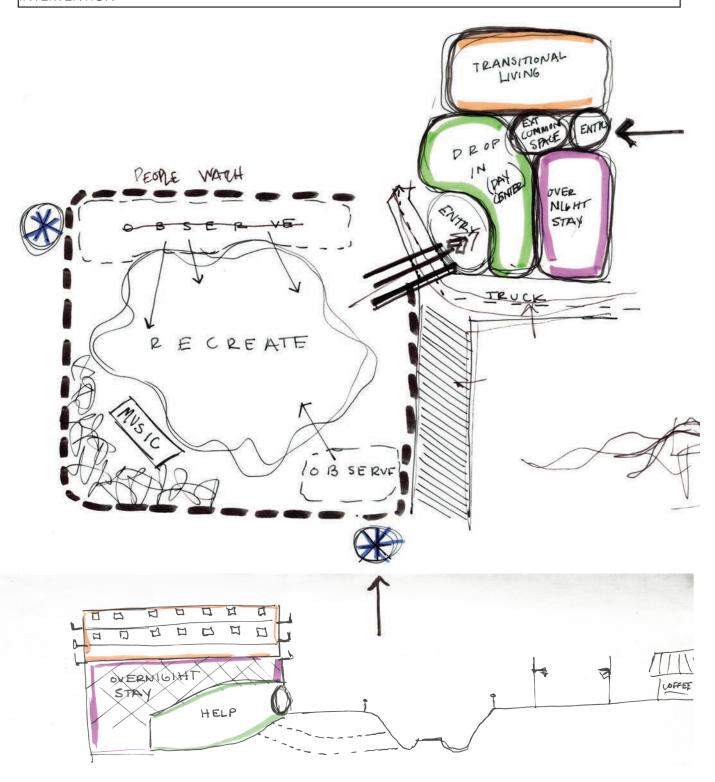
If you could suggest one article, book or other piece have you read or are reading that pertains to working with these youth?

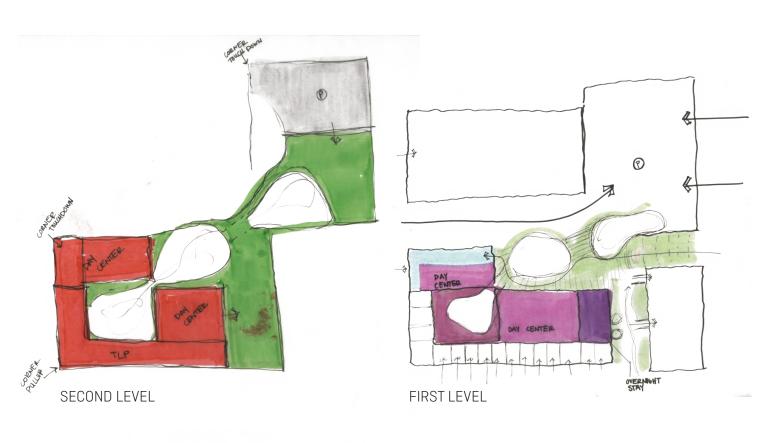


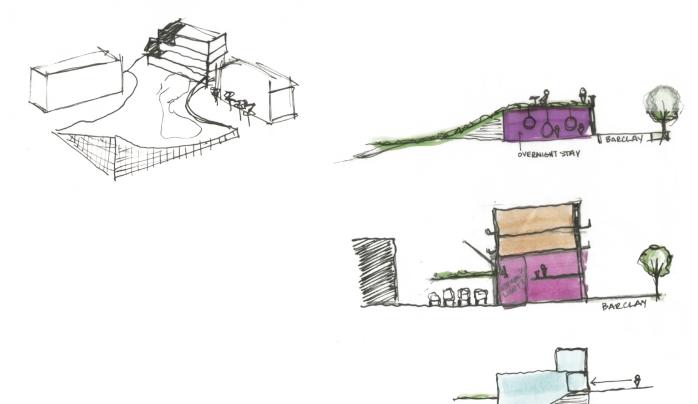


BEGINNING WORK...

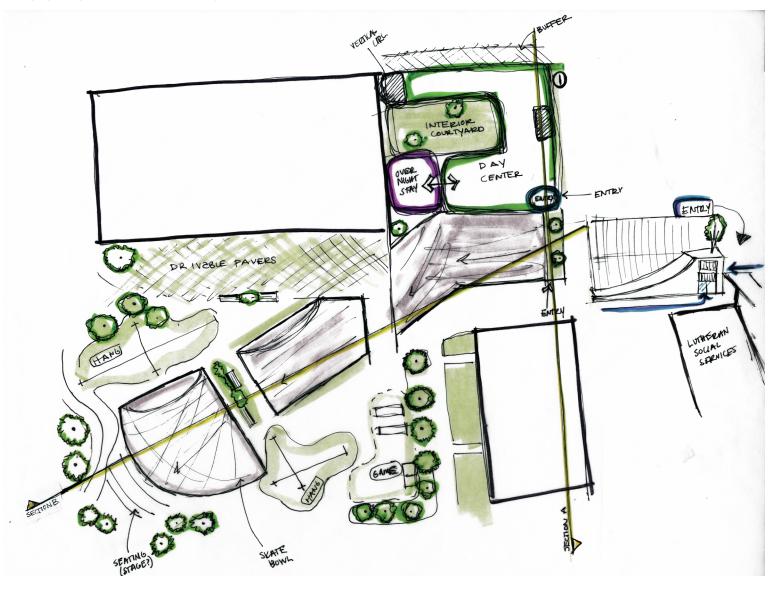
STARTED WITH SCHEMING TO TAKE OVER BOTH PARKING LOTS FULLY WITH A LARGE RECREATIONAL COMPONENT OF THE PROGRAM - BUT DECIDED TO FOCUS MORE HEAVILY ON A BUILDING INTERVENTION

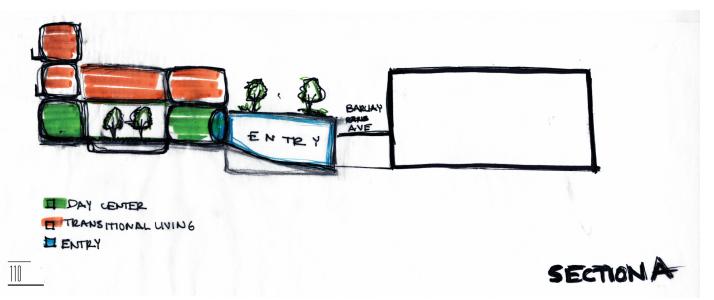


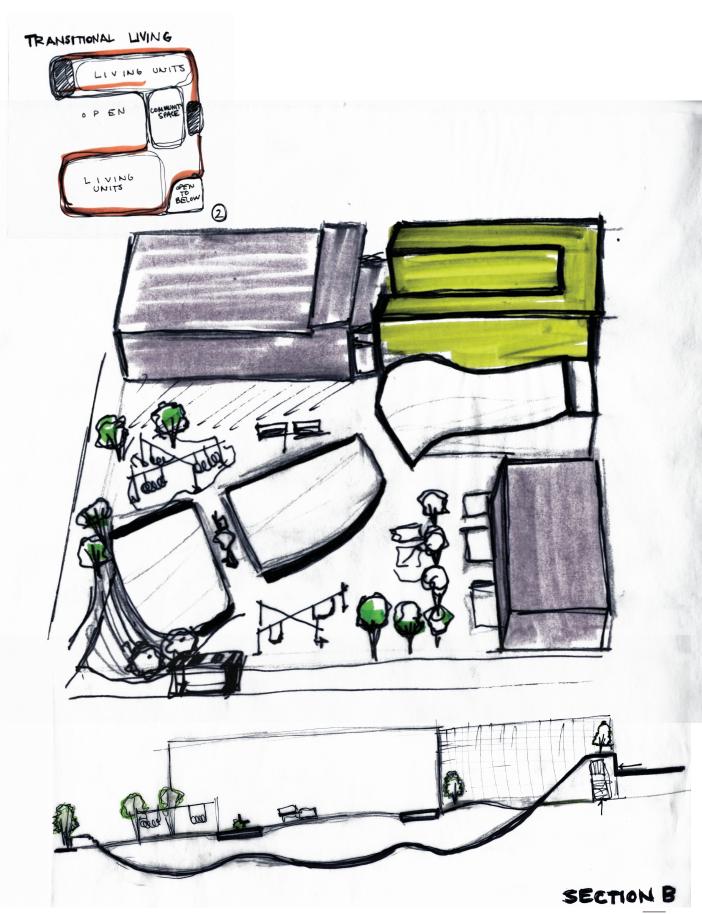




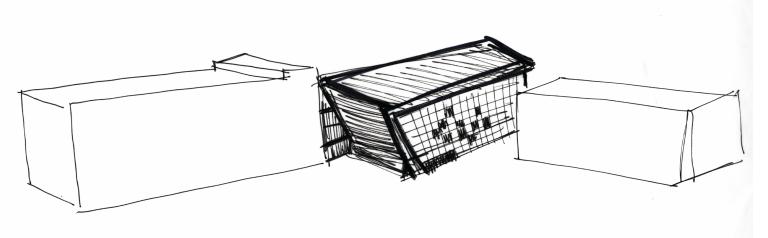
CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

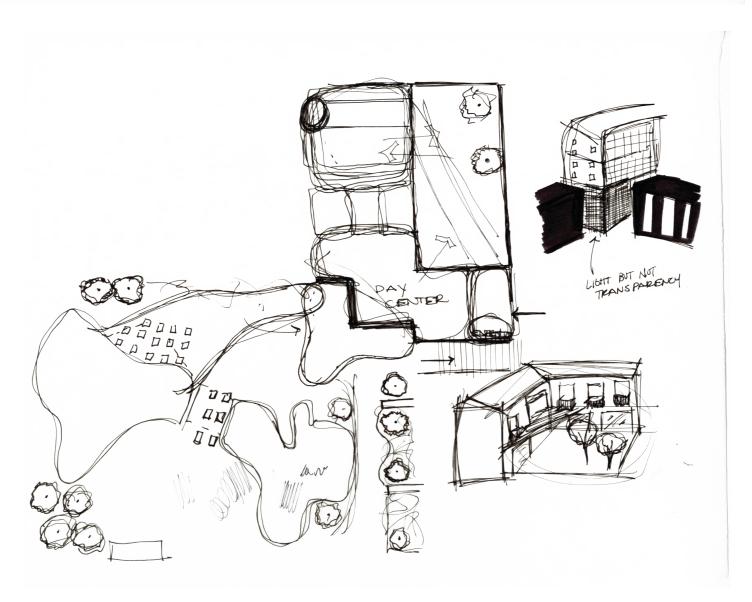


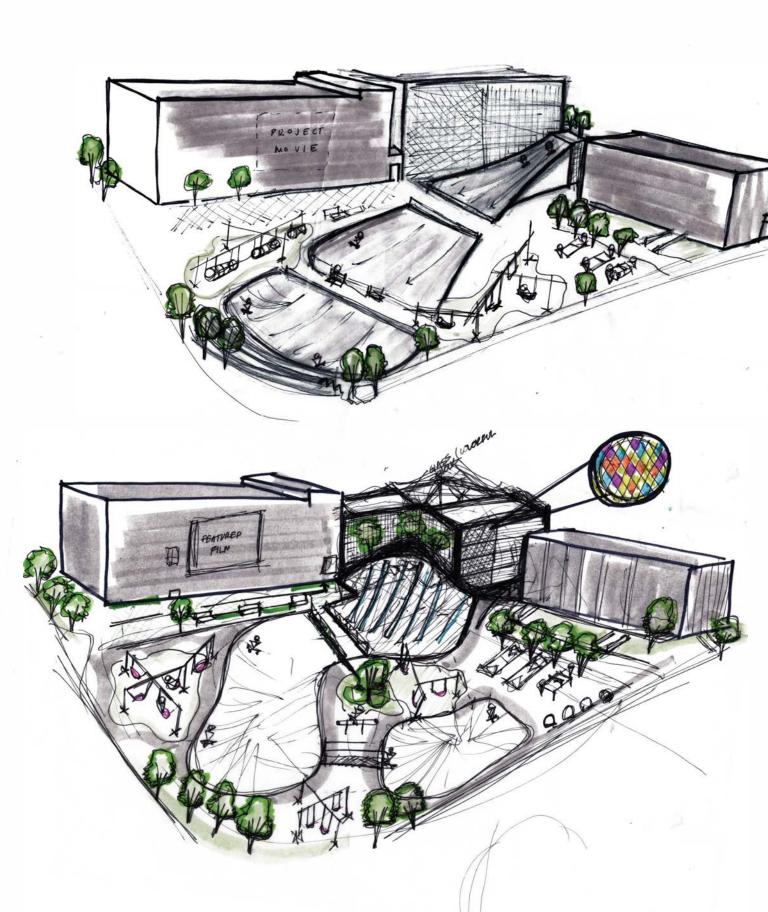




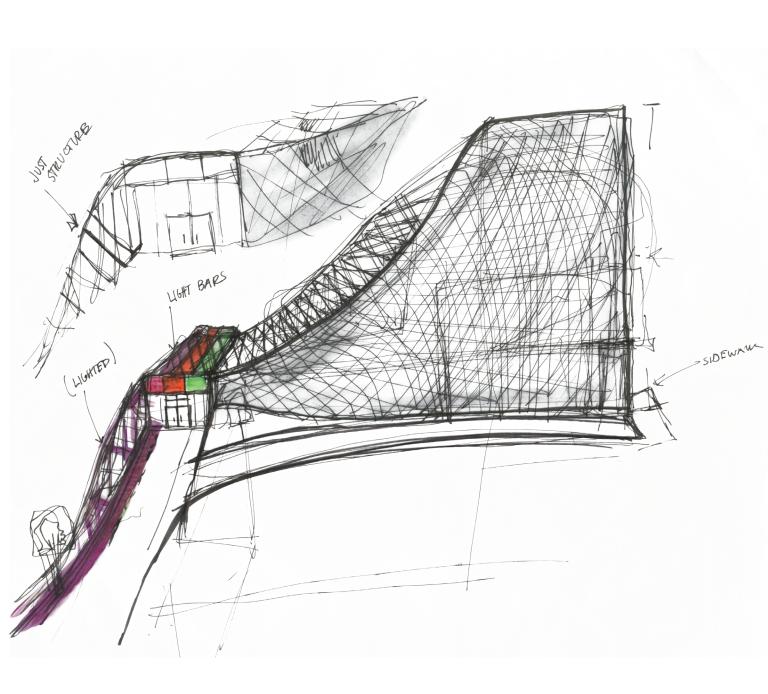
CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT







CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

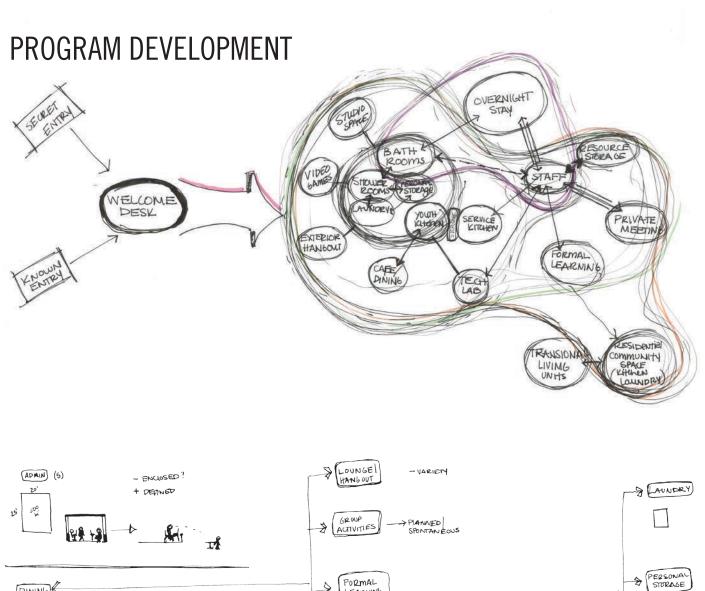


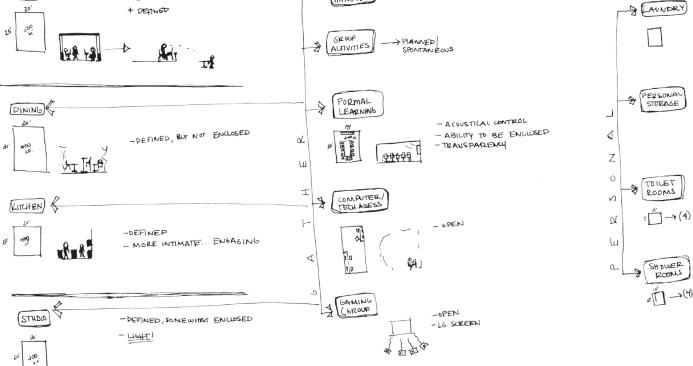
EMERGENCY STAY VERTICAL STAUR EMERSENCY SHELTER SECOND Floor of DAY CENTER any up bathrooms? NHAT HEIGHT FEELS TO ENCLOSED? FROM BARCIAN TE SECURITY? ONLY FOR TLP? 国 INTERCONNECTED TLP FLOWING -> HIDDEN BUT OPEN OVERNIGHT LEAST AMOUNT OF TIME SPENT HERE NOED CHANGE Teur

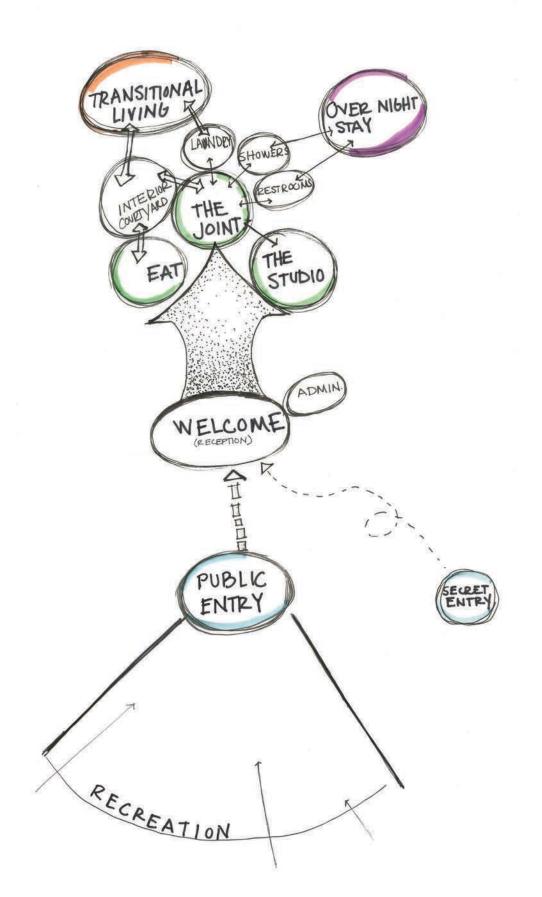
EMICH

(compression then expansion)

115

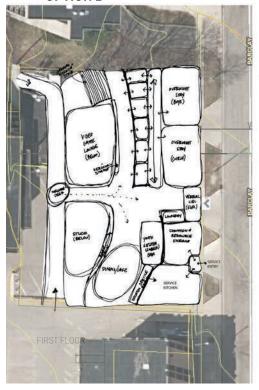


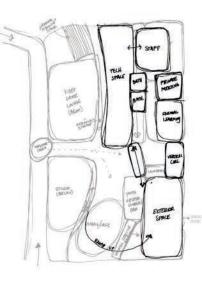


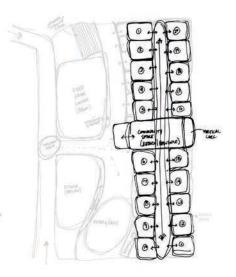


PLAN DEVELOPMENT

OPTION 1



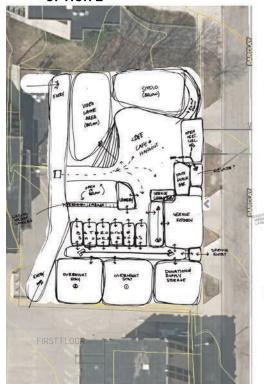


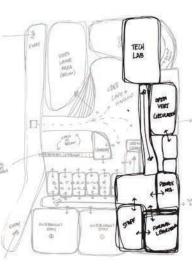


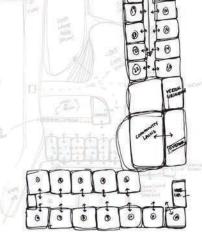
SECOND FLOOR

THIRD FLOOR

OPTION 2







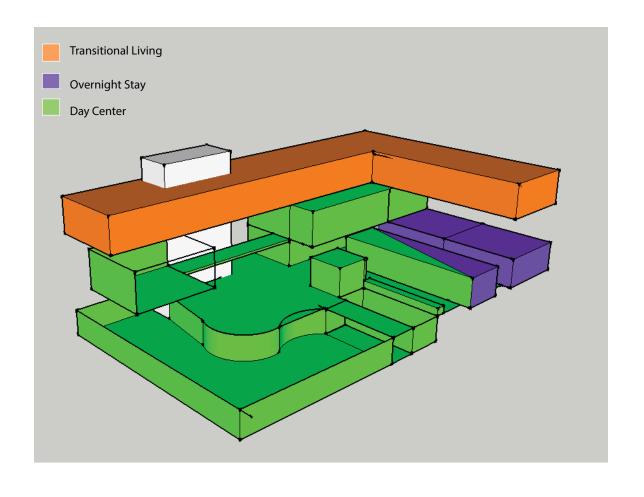
SECOND FLOOR

THIRD FLOOR

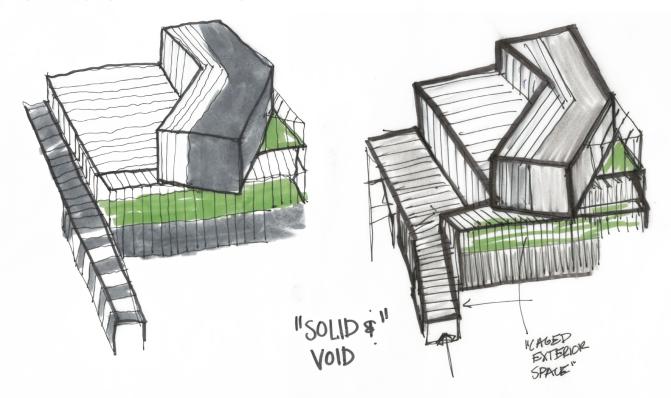
OPTION 3 46 FIRST FLOOR

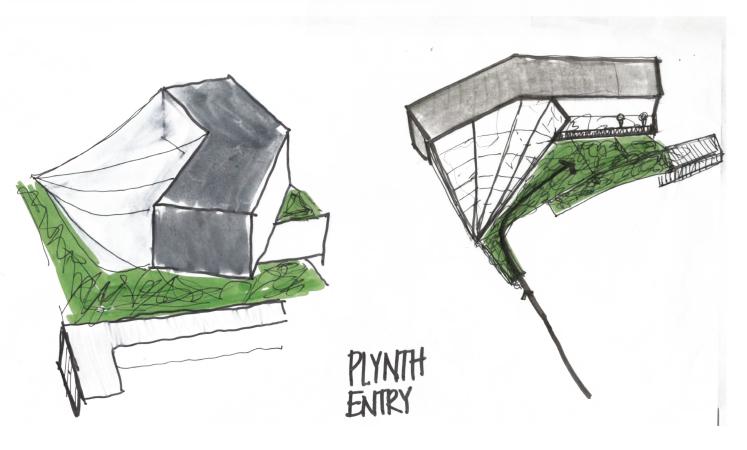
SECOND FLOOR

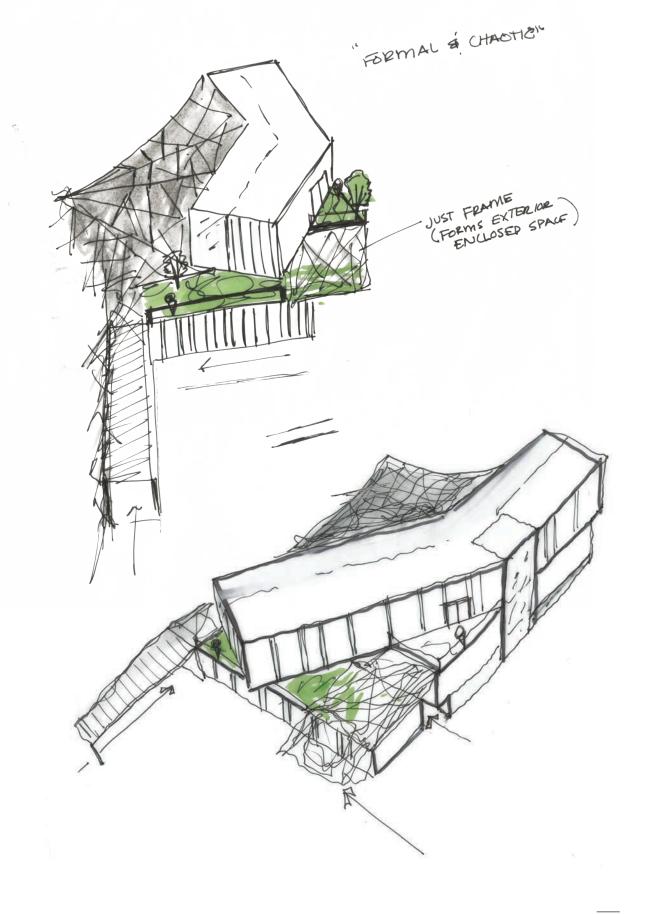
THIRD FLOOR



FORM & SKIN DEVELOPMENT







STUDY MODELS



122





SKIN RESEARCH

DESIGN INSPIRATION: AVIARY STUDIES





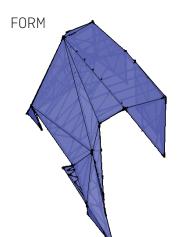


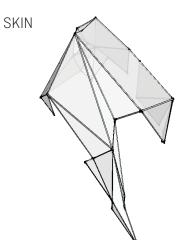


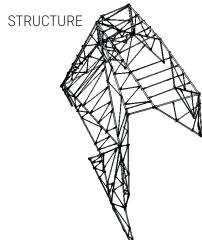




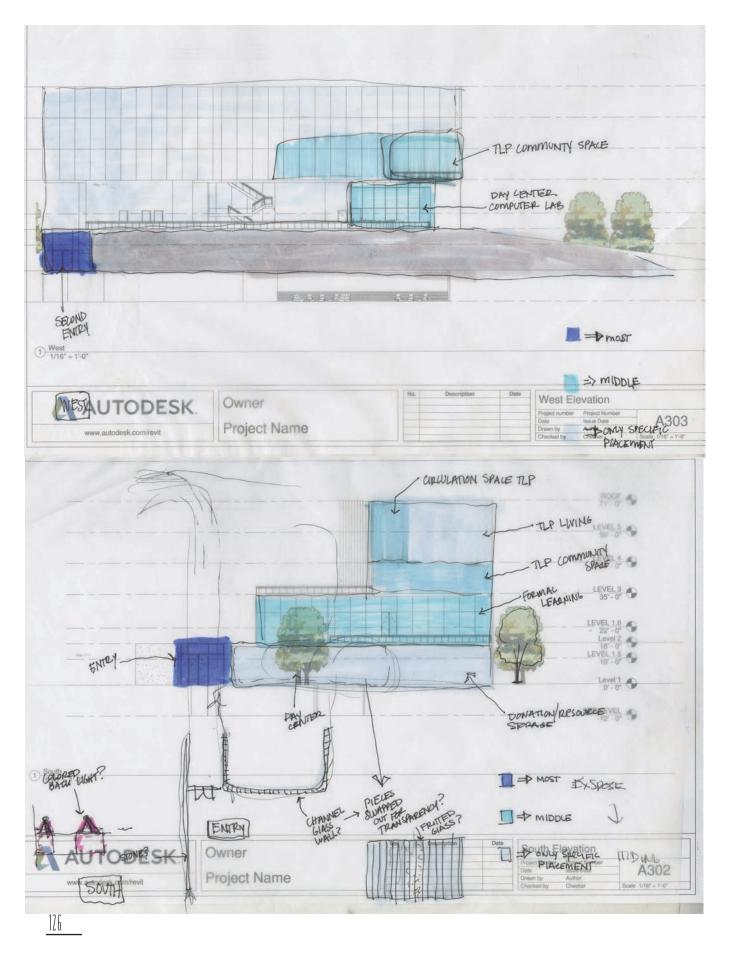


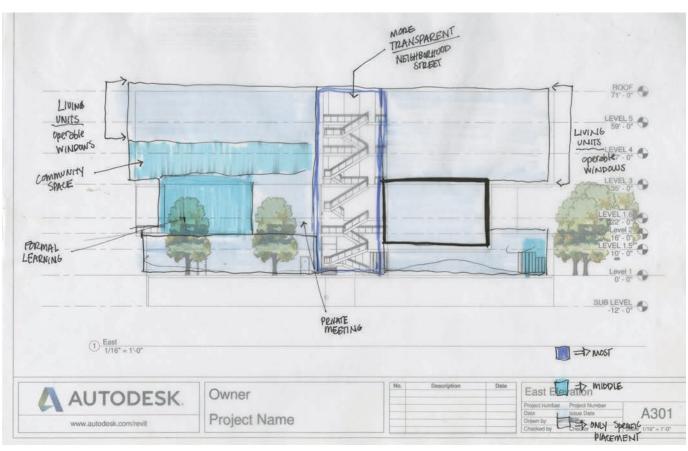


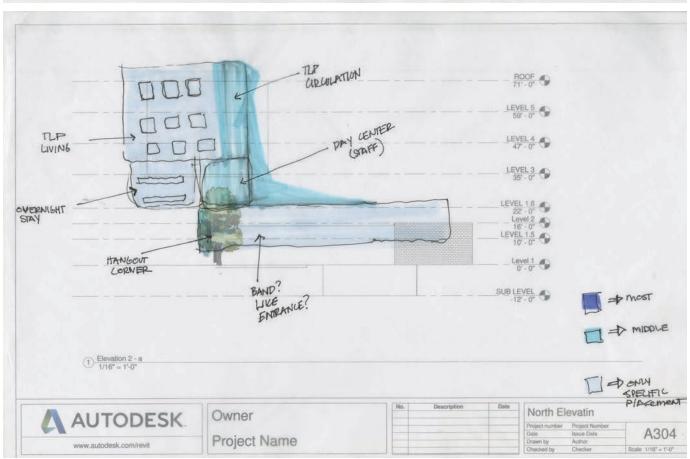












FED GALLERIES MASTERS EXHIBITION





A HUGE THANK YOU TO ...

THE ROCKSTAR FACULTY:

BRIAN CRAIG,
JULI BRODE,
TRAVIS WILLIAMS

AN
OUTSTANDING
THESIS ADVISOR:

THOM DANCKAERT

Fellow MArch Students:

MRS. Anne Doornbos, Alicia Miller, Geena Pickering, Dan "the man" Montgomery. Courtney Wierzbicki, and Jenn Hicks

MY FAMILY

HUSBAND CHRIS VALLIER

the FRIEND PACK

