



charlotte tan

INTERIOR DESIGN

PORTFOLIO.

Selected Work of 2026

table of contents



WATERCOLOR (2025)

05 BOOKSTORE & CAFE

Using Geography as Reference for a Journey in a Store

Concept · Schematics · Revit · Enscape · Model Making · Adobe InDesign

12 HAND DRAFTING

Construction Documents Drafted by Hand

Document Literacy · Drafting Knowledge · Construction Basics · Technical Skills

15 JUXTAGONS

Creating Connection to the World & her Culture in an Ideal Home and Studio

Revit · Models · Adobe Photoshop · Adobe Illustrator

18 ARTIST LIVE & WORK

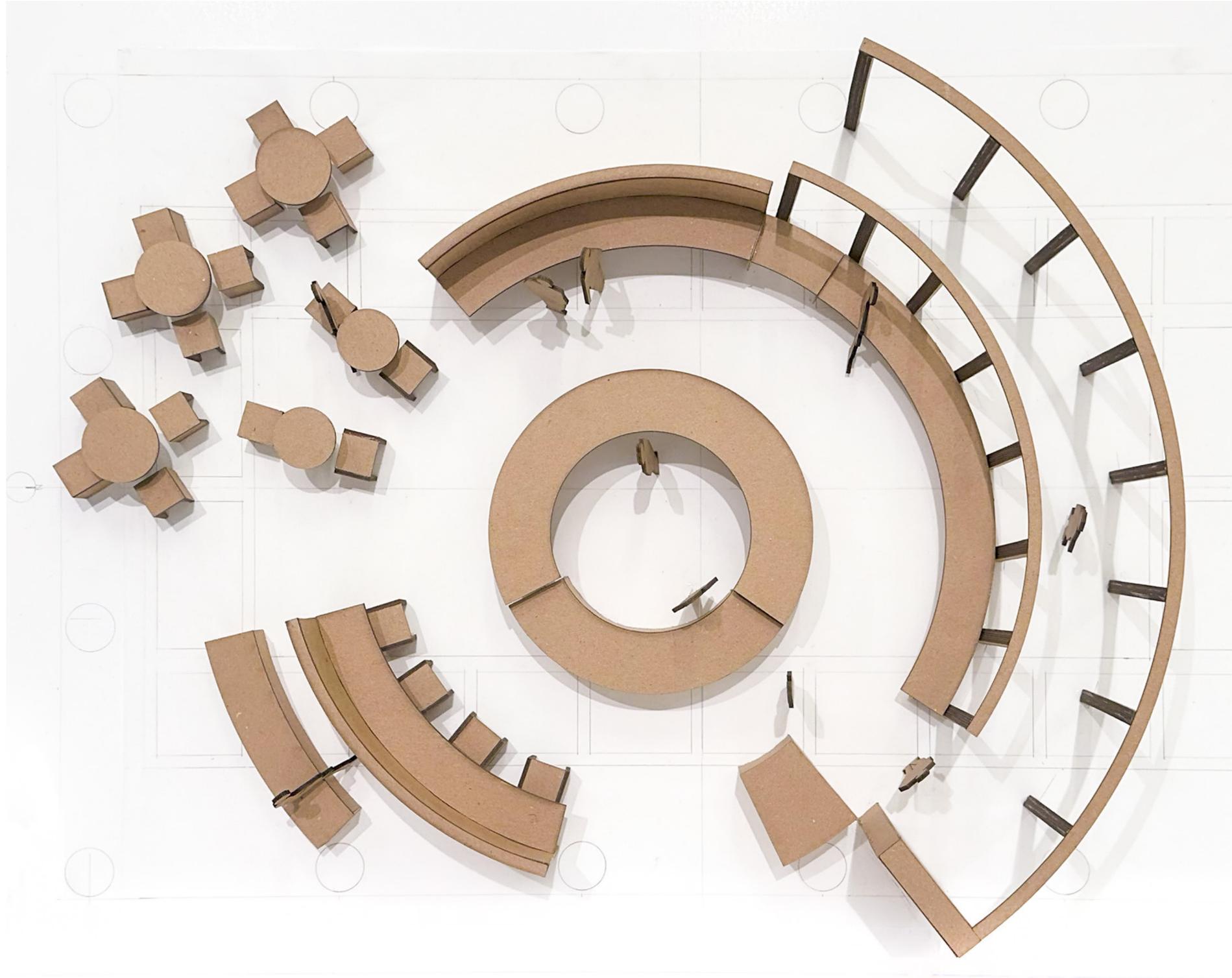
Creating Connection to the World & her Culture in an Ideal Home and Studio

Specifications · Material Selection · Revit · Enscape · Adobe InDesign

22 ADDITIONAL WORK

Developing Skills & Knowledge for a Career in Design

Sketching · Rendering · Hand Drafting · Sketchup · Adobe Suite



Big design fan. Big thirst for knowledge. I'm a marketer turned interior designer because I wanted to join the creative side. No cookies but lots to love in the design industry! I was born and raised in California and am currently based in DC, wherein I have spent almost 6 years. My interests lie in sustainability and public-facing design. I'm looking to get my hands on any and every kind of project - I want to absorb as much as I can. My strengths lie in relationship building and being a great collaborator. I'd love to work with you!

one whole, many parts

This is a model of a coffee kiosk within the atrium of a museum building, now used by an arts school.

My designs start simply with geometric shapes that try to embody the breadth of research done on the purpose and concept of the space. Afterwards, space within a space is made, echoing my original thoughts. I think heavily in form and create calmness through order. I enjoy continuity and flow. I prefer openness and incorporating light. This image captures my design style mentioned above, as well as my love for model-making and being hands on.

hello! i'm charlotte :)



experience

RUE IV - STUDENT INTERN

March 2025 - April 2025

- Organize samples and request additional from vendors
- Pull shops and sample requests requested
- Help clients with fabric selections, draping, and trims
- Refresh vignettes and fabric floor samples periodically

JAIMIE BELEW INTERIOR DESIGN - STUDIO ASSOCIATE

May 2023 - December 2023

- Send emails on behalf of the studio to leads and existing clients
- Manage 1000+ sample library and order samples from 20+ vendors
- Extend and request holds on materials and furnishings
- Support design team on installations for new build home

MERKLE - SENIOR SEM ANALYST & DEI MEMBER ENGAGEMENT LEAD

August 2021 - May 2023

- Manage client communication and monitor performance for 3 accounts
- Analyze data and optimize for awareness/conversion KPIs
- Present and implement new products to clients
- Write and update ad copy for 6 product categories weekly
- Encourage interaction in the 90+ members Multicultural BRG organization
- Create surveys to gauge member satisfaction for future programming
- Foster DEI with cultural events, fireside chats, and networking events

KUNG FU TEA - BARISTA

January 2018 - March 2020

- Worked in a fast-paced environment in a small, efficient team
- Ensured quality customer service in a highly visible role with a professional attitude
- Promoted 3 times in one year from being a quick learner and mentoring new coworkers

skills

● ● ● ○ ○	Revit	● ● ● ● ○	Model Making
● ● ● ● ○	Enscape	● ● ● ○ ○	Hand Drafting
● ● ○ ○ ○	Sketchup	● ● ● ○ ○	Sketching
● ● ● ● ○	AutoCAD	● ● ● ● ○	French
● ● ● ● ○	Adobe Suite	● ● ● ○ ○	Spanish
● ● ● ● ○	Microsoft Suite	● ● ○ ○ ○	Chinese
		● ○ ○ ○ ○	Korean

references

MICHAEL ABRAMS

Role: University Professor, Author
Relationship (time known): Professor (1 year)

Email: mabrams1@gwu.edu

JANINE GUERIN

Role: Owner of Rue IV Showroom
Relationship (time known): Mentor (1 year)

Email: janine@ruefour.com
Phone: 954-665-1555

education

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

M.F.A. Candidate Interior Architecture
IA Share Fund Startup Scholarship 2025
August 2024 - May 2026
GPA: 3.93/4.00

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

B.S. Business Administration (Marketing)
Minor in French
August 2017 - May 2021
GPA: 3.51/4.00

01 terrazze di pagine



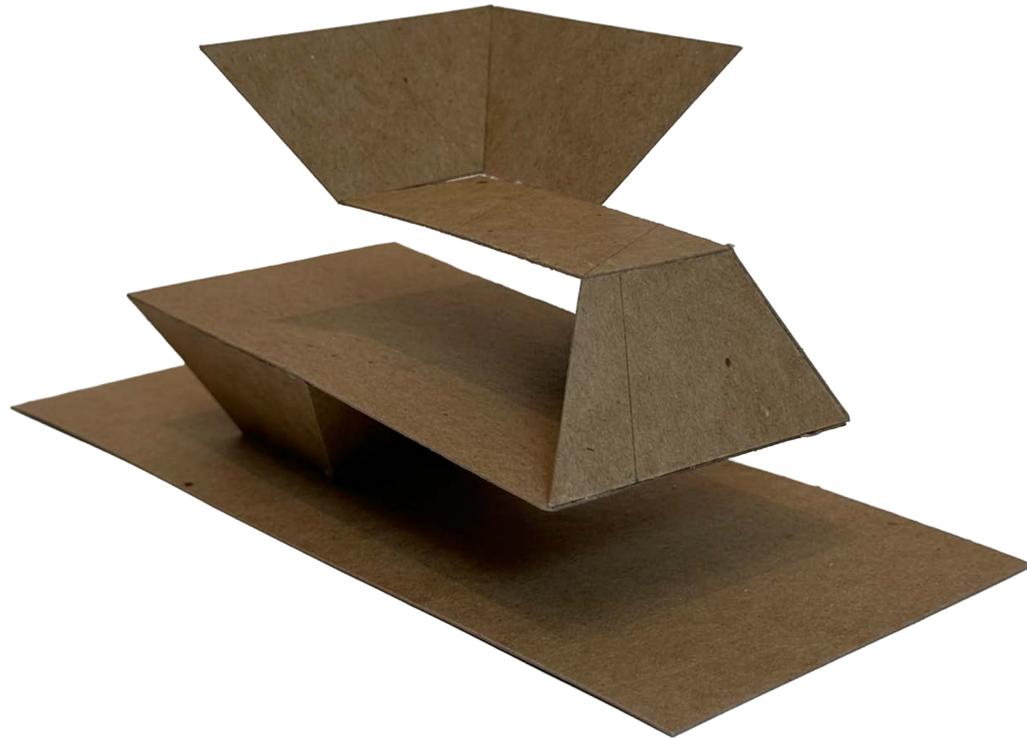
LOCATION: Piazza Della Signoria, Florence, Italy

AREA: ~ 8,000 Sq Ft

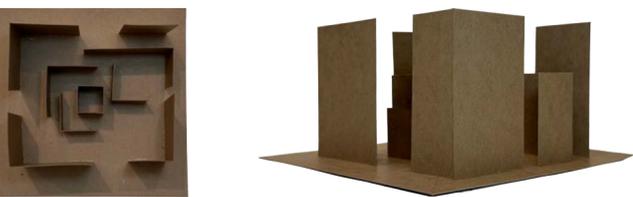
DATE: June 2025 - August 2025

revit · enscape · model making · adobe suite

This Florentian bookstore seeks to provide a sense of discovery for any that come in and explore by using prospect, circulation, and form. The space also serves as a community gathering spot and educational hub, capable of hosting lectures, workshops, and exhibitions. The books sold are focused on art, history, travel, and cuisine, compartmentalized in different zones based on each of the trapezoids. A corridor perimeters the space, creating a feeling similar to ancient Roman arcades and a way for visitors to take in the space and find another spot to investigate.



PARTI MODEL



INITIAL ITERATIONS



STORYBOARDING DRAWING - MAIN ENTRY

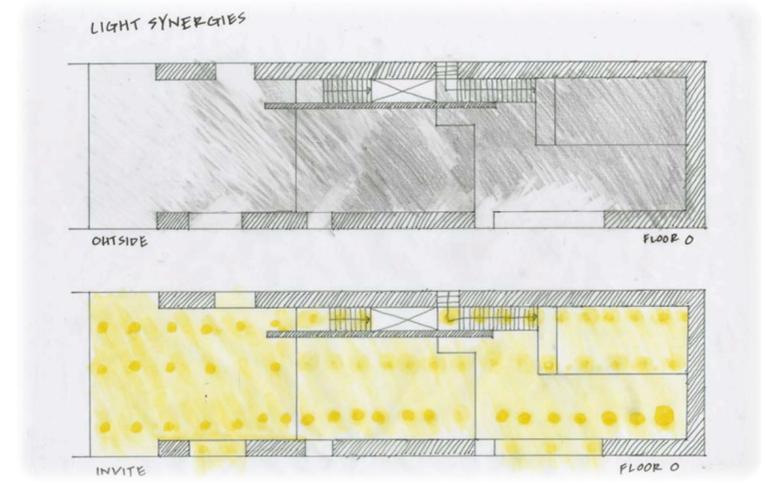
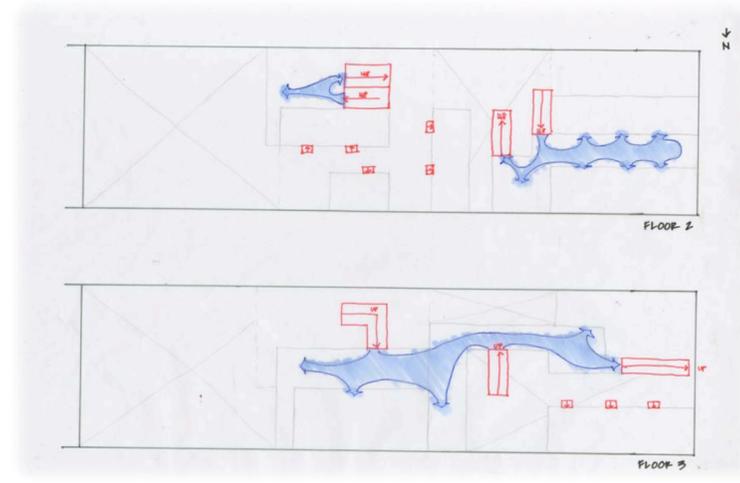
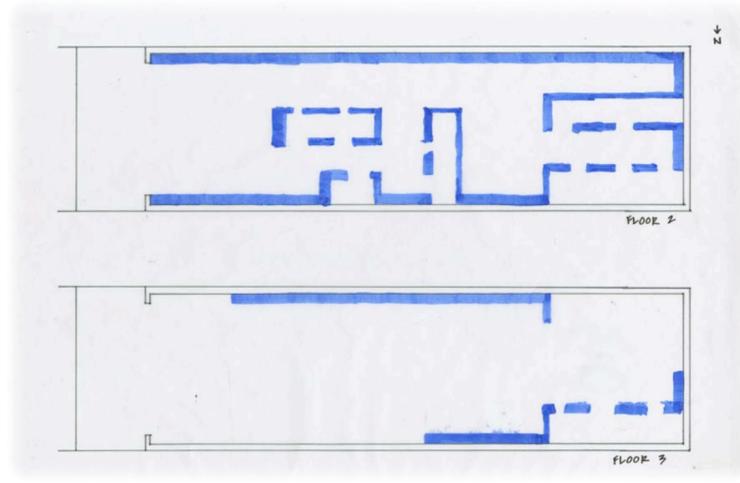
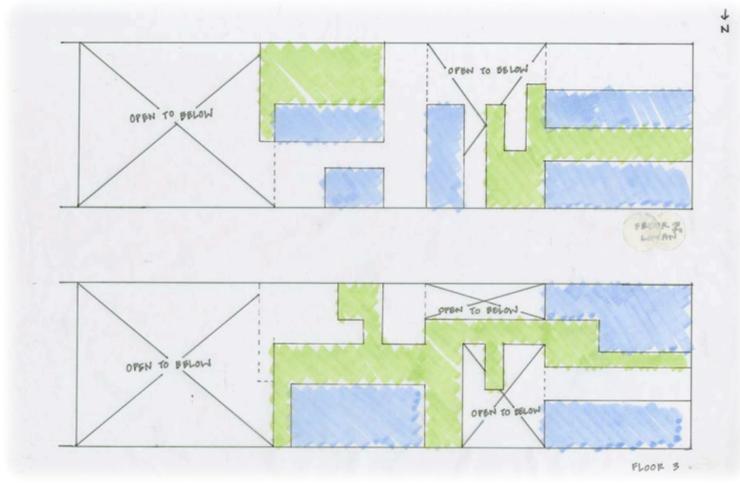
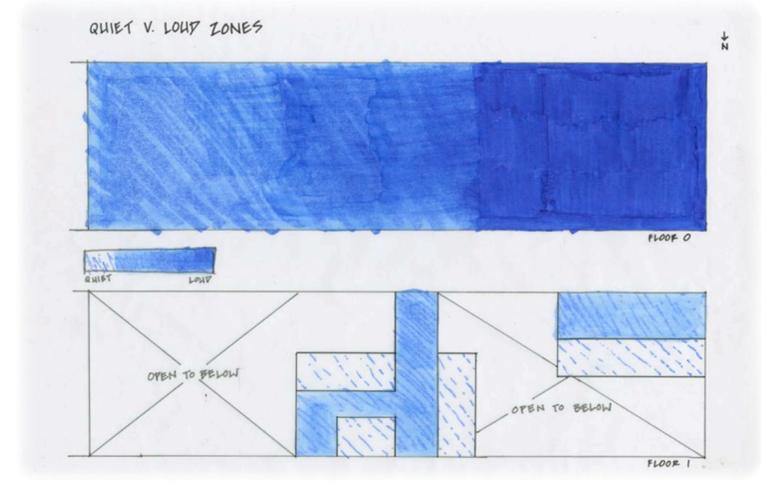
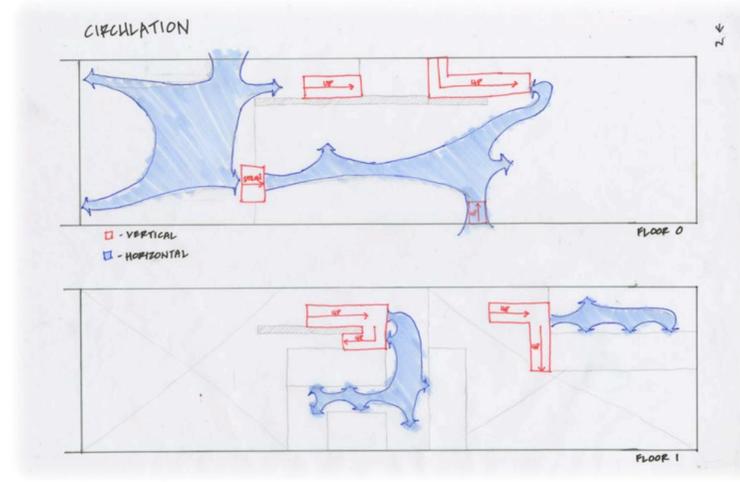
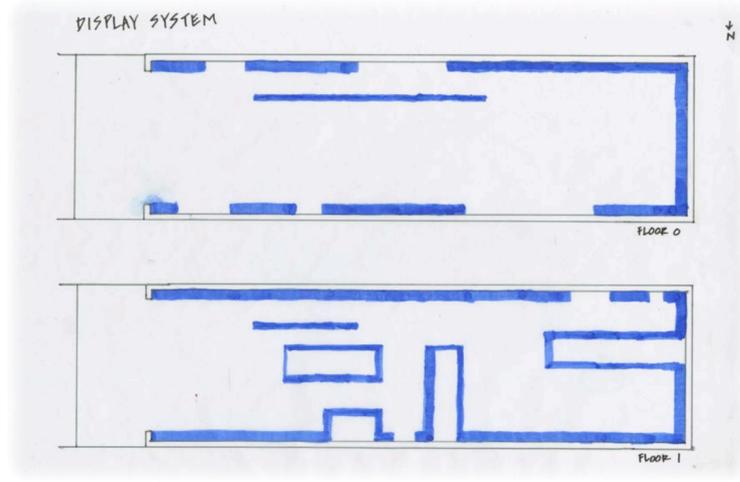
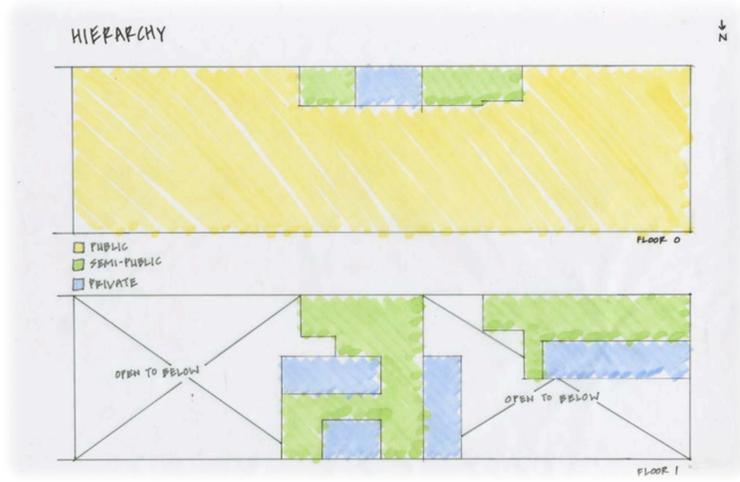
Inspired by Florence's geography and Tuscany's wine culture, the form comes from the terraced look of vinyards and the basin the city resides in. The idea of folding planes was explored and altered to fit the non-linear shape of the building. The courtyard, which was common in Renaissance Italy, was the jumping off point for the "space within a space" design for the overall building and the smaller trapezoids within.

During development, realizing that enclosed spaces in trapezoids aided in creating clearer zones and helped in driving forward the concept. An earlier rendition seen in this sketch added more visual noise in the space and took away from the defining trapezoid form.



WEST SECTION

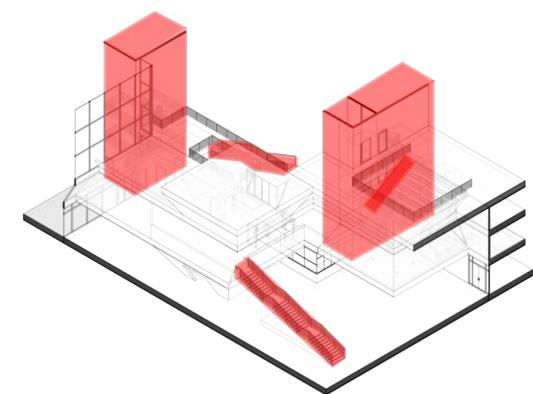
concept: shifting trapezoids



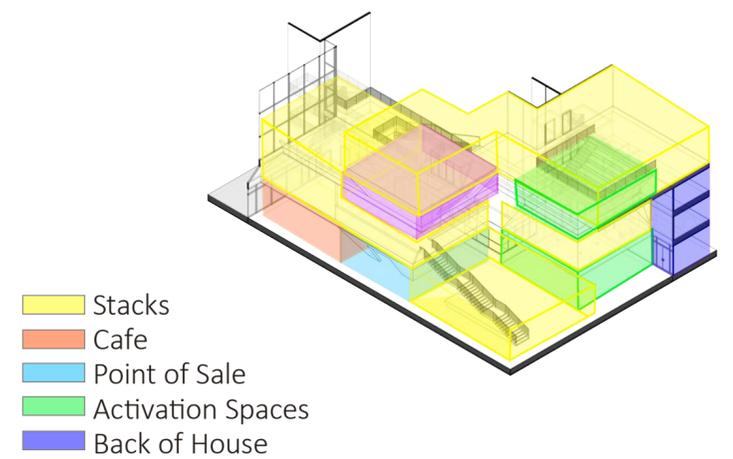
Atelier tao + c's capsule hotel is located in a small village in the mountains of China. There is an emulation of the topography in the area, and the designers wanted to recreate the feeling of meandering along a mountain path. Through analysis diagrams, some takeaways were:

1. Creating different heights among multiple floors enhances the feeling of change, with less or more compression.
2. Bookcases can be used for partitioning space, and creates additional privacy.
3. Multiple smaller floors can create a journey in the circulation, and many small stairs instead of one staircase enhances that feeling of a path.
4. Create noise level zones, which usually go from loud at entry to quiet at higher floors.

VERTICAL CIRCULATION



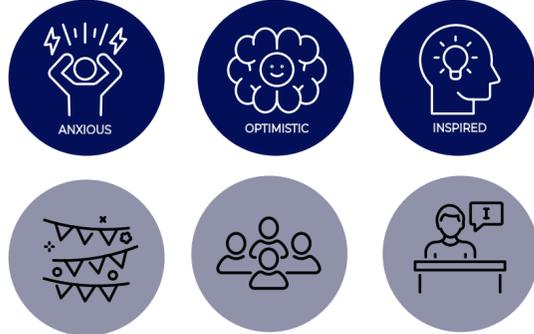
BOOKSTORE PROGRAMMING



precedent study capsule hotel by atelier tao+c

user feelings & needs

LOCALS:



- Buying a gift
- Searching for community
- Learning new things
- Popular books, gift ideas
- Gathering space & activities
- Lectures, new publications

TOURISTS:

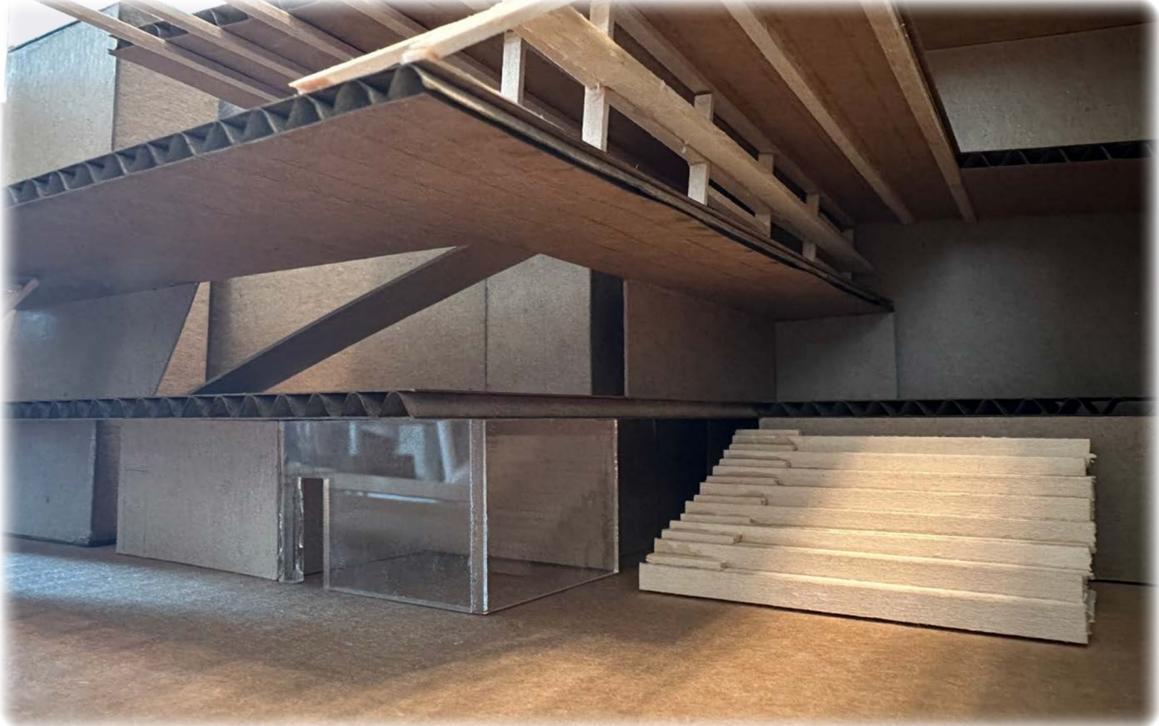
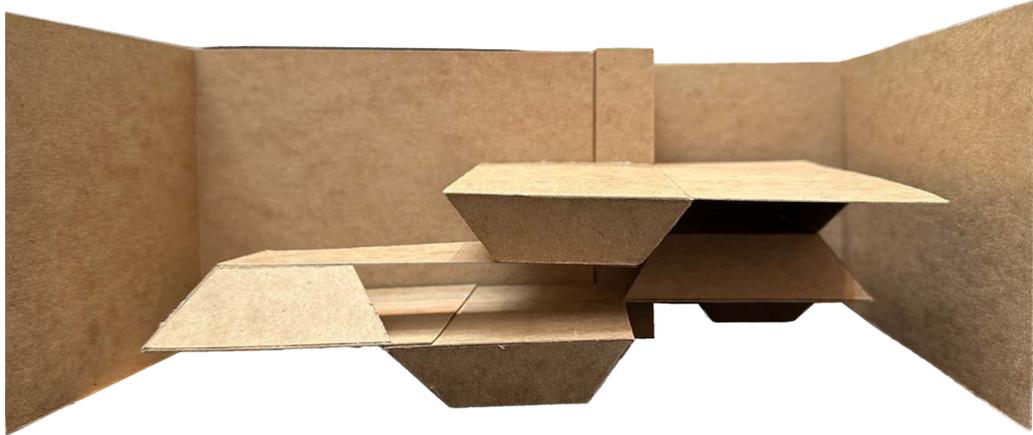


- Resting between attractions
- In need of wayfinding
- Learning a new culture & city
- Comfort seating of all sizes
- Food & drink
- Information, visual interest

EMPLOYEES:



- Handling customers
- Open & closing
- Receiving & restock
- Privacy, speech intelligibility
- Ease of access, BOH adjacency
- Cart clearance on floors, delivery access



study models

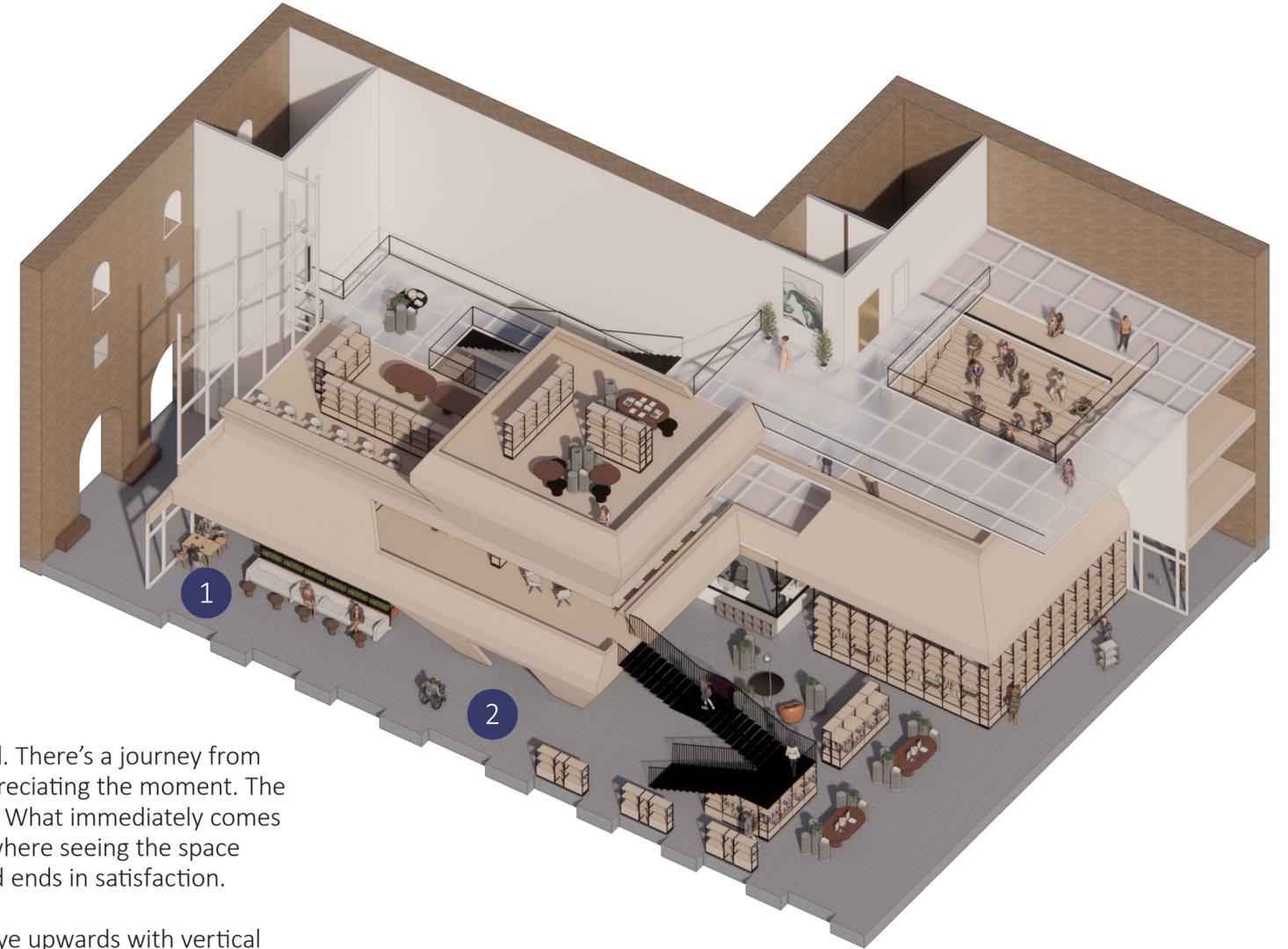
discovery · surprise · comfort · novelty · gathering · visibility



2. MAIN ENTRY

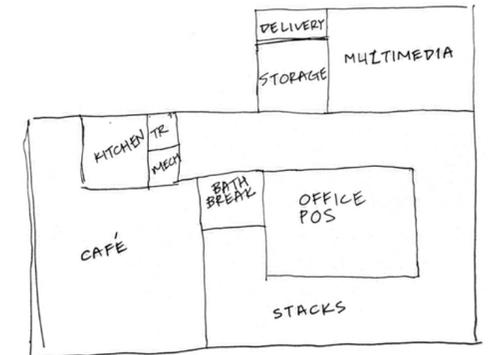
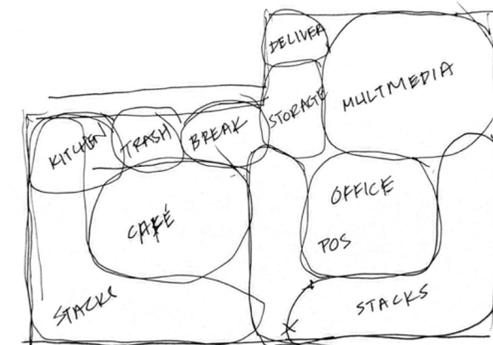
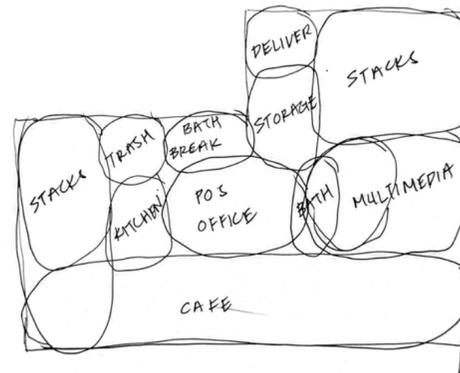
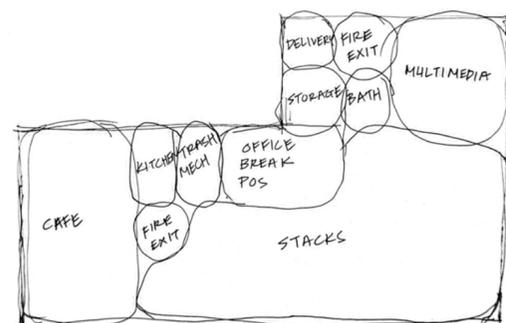
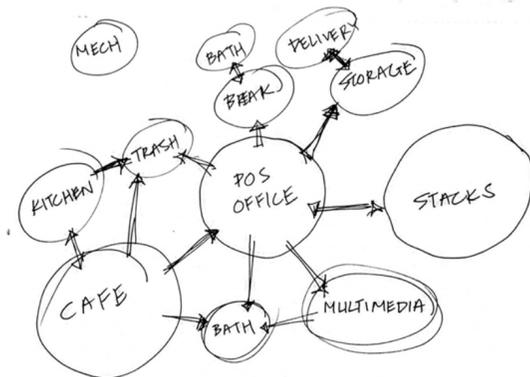


1. CAFE ENTRY



In Italy, wine culture immediately comes to mind. There's a journey from bottle to stomach that's about savoring and appreciating the moment. The potential users all seek stimulation in some way. What immediately comes to mind is creating an experience of discovery, where seeing the space makes the guest curious, invites exploration, and ends in satisfaction.

The lighting is like hanging fruit that draws the eye upwards with vertical lines to take in the space.





FEATURED SECTION

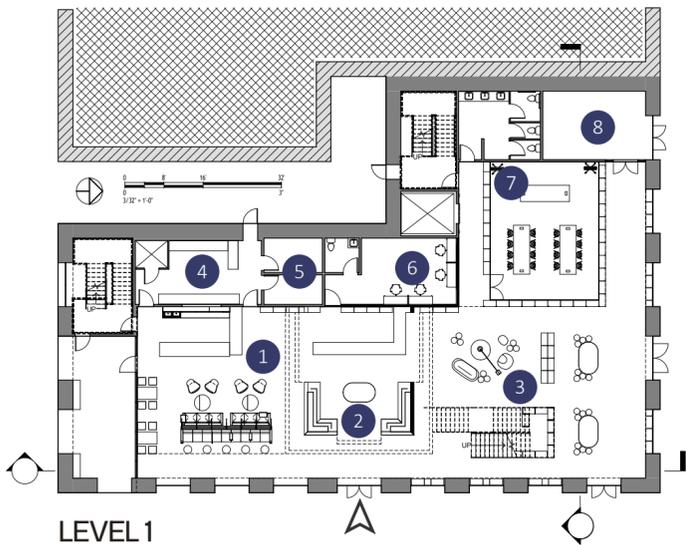


LECTURE STAGE

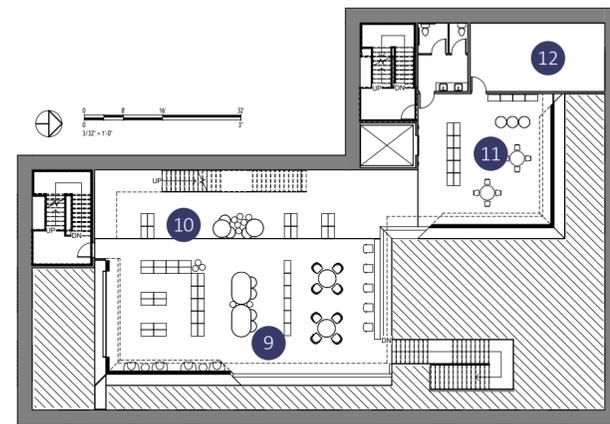
Bookstores today often serve as a civic space nowadays as book sales drop and a way for driving traffic to the store is needed. This usually occurs by way of book signing, lectures, and exhibitions. As the site is a centrally located plaza in a busy city, it is well-situated to gain traffic and attract customers with events and activities.

The third floor holds a lecture stage and steps that double as seating, which were inspired by the terracing seen in vineyards. The steps lead up to the fourth floor, where exhibitions can be held, making it convenient for the exhibiting artist to hold events at the lecture stage and direct listeners to the exhibit right after. The top floor also has the art section to cohabit space with art exhibitions.

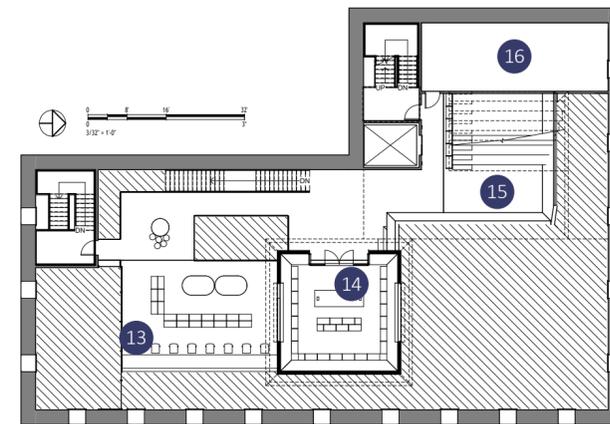
- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Cafe | 10. Food Section |
| 2. Check Out | 11. Children's Section |
| 3. Featured Section | 12. Storage |
| 4. Kitchen | 13. History Section |
| 5. Trash & Mech | 14. Rare Books |
| 6. Office | 15. Lecture Stage |
| 7. Workshop Room | 16. Storage |
| 8. Receiving | 17. Exhibition Space |
| 9. Travel Section | 18. Art Section |



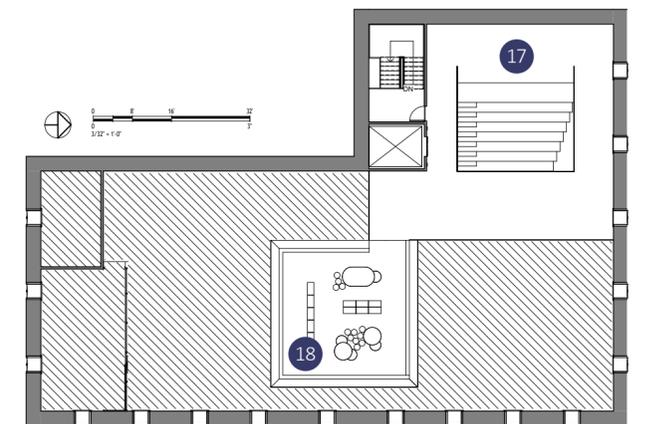
LEVEL 1



LEVEL 2



LEVEL 3



LEVEL 4



SOUTH SECTION

The folded trapezoids are oak or oak veneered, a tree native to the region. The structures that support the main form are neutral white to blend into the background. Floors in these areas are frosted glass with white powder-coated steel supports. This also creates division between book sections and improves wayfinding throughout.

As bookcases are the main way spaces are divided, acoustics become a concern for the site. The existing building is masonry. Books will provide a level of acoustic insulation, but additional furniture that double as sound absorbers will help mitigate the echo in the site. Acoustic baffles or clouds above the lecture stairs, the art section, and the history section would further improve sound intelligibility.



SOUND ABSORBENT FURNITURE



TRAVEL SECTION

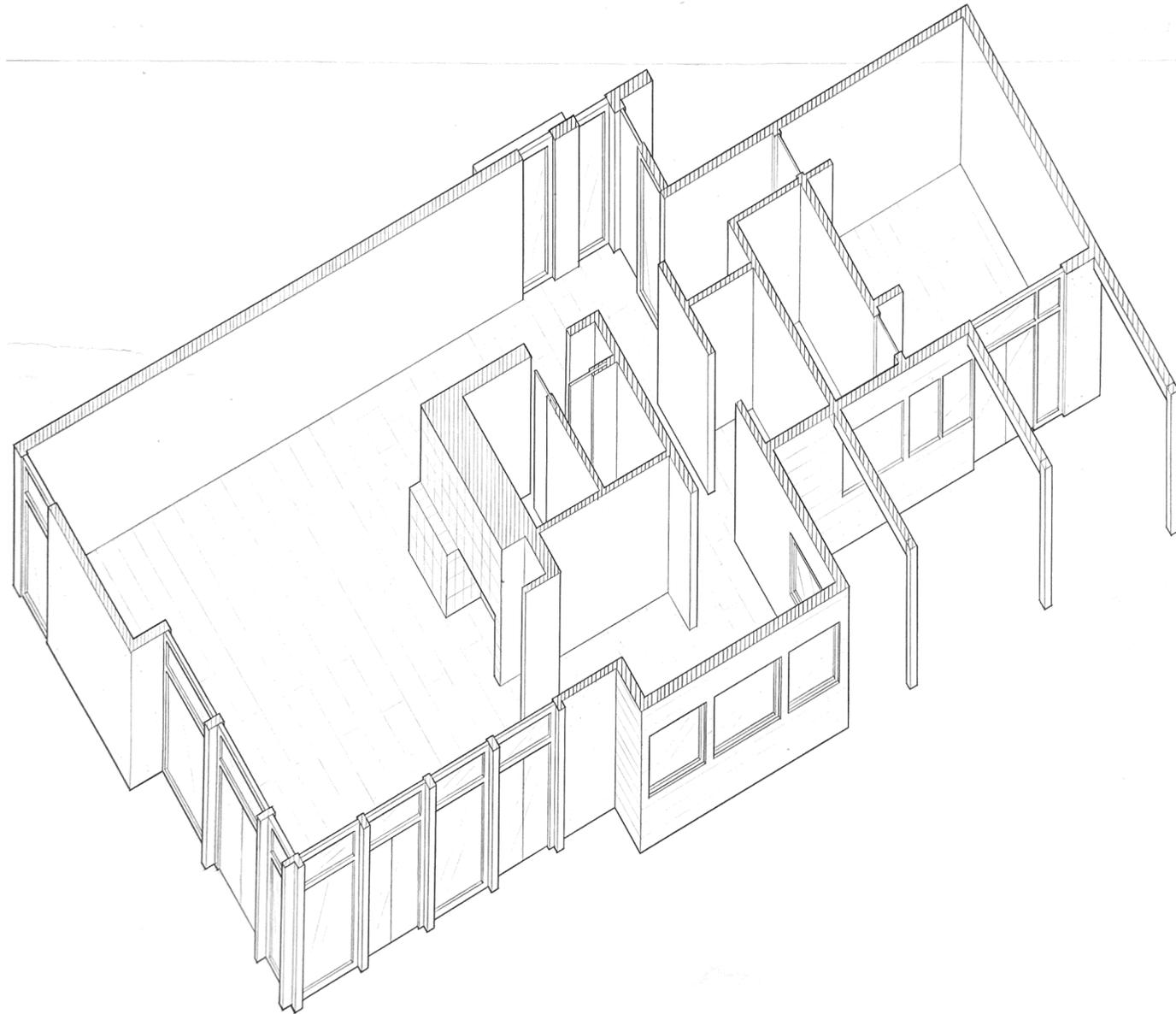


CAFE, SOUTH ENTRY



EXHIBITION SPACE

02 hand drafting



PROJECT: Crystal Springs Usionian Home - Lindal Homes

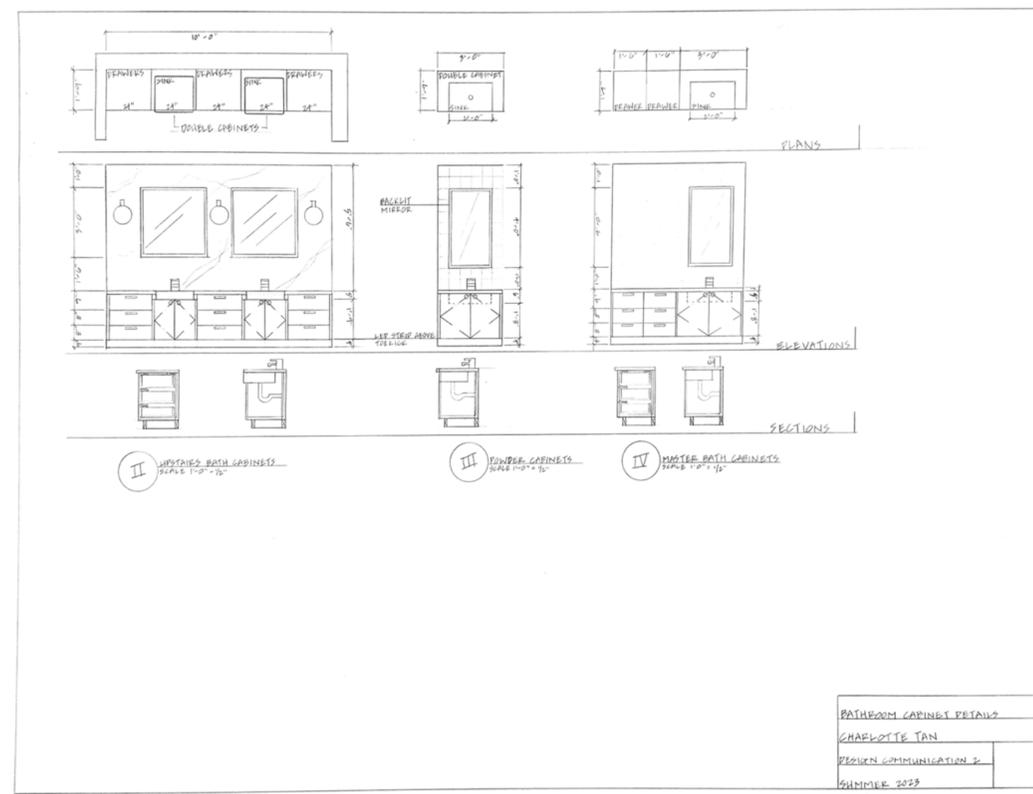
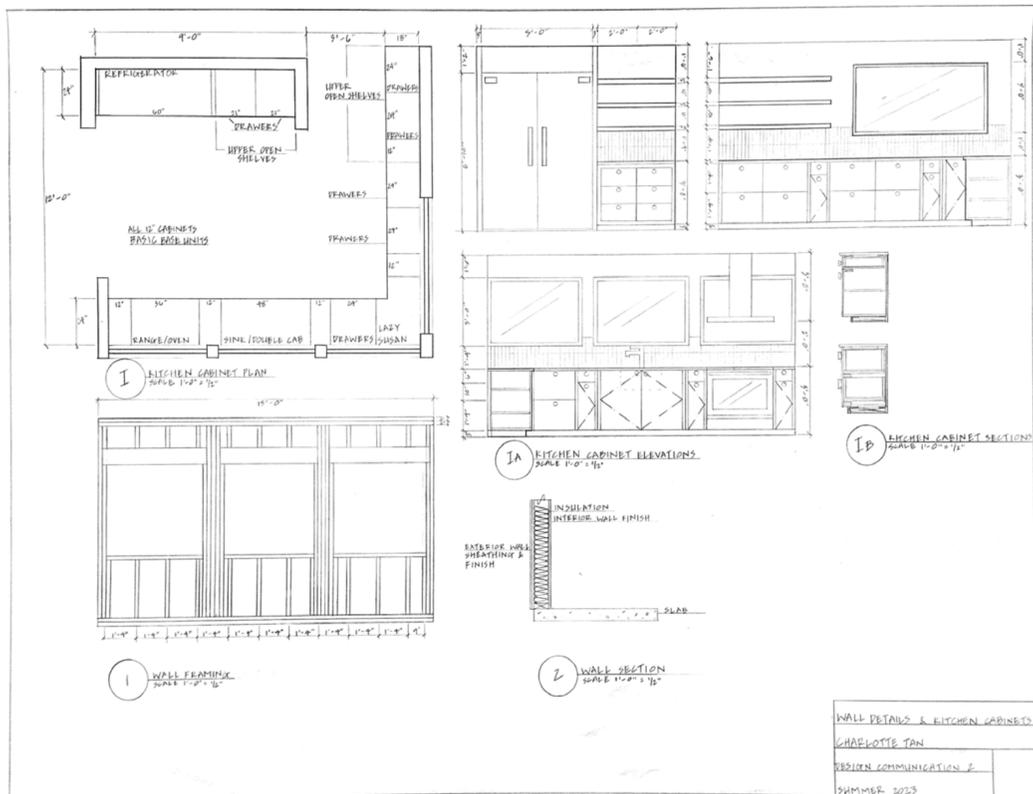
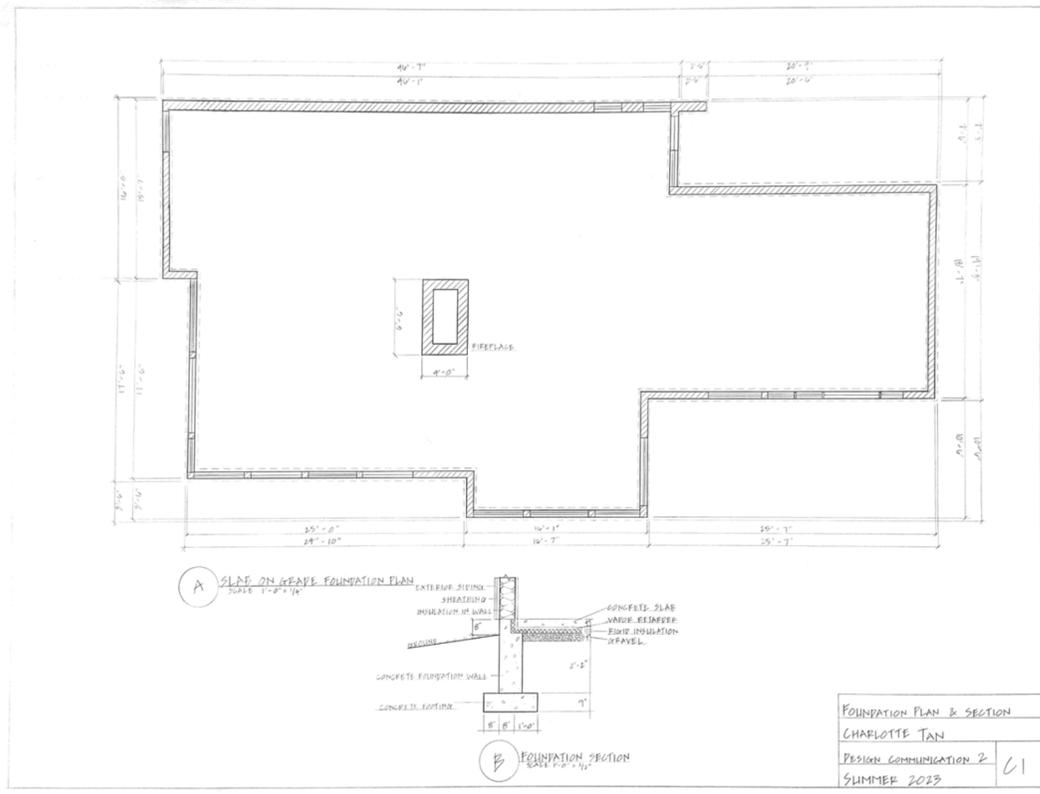
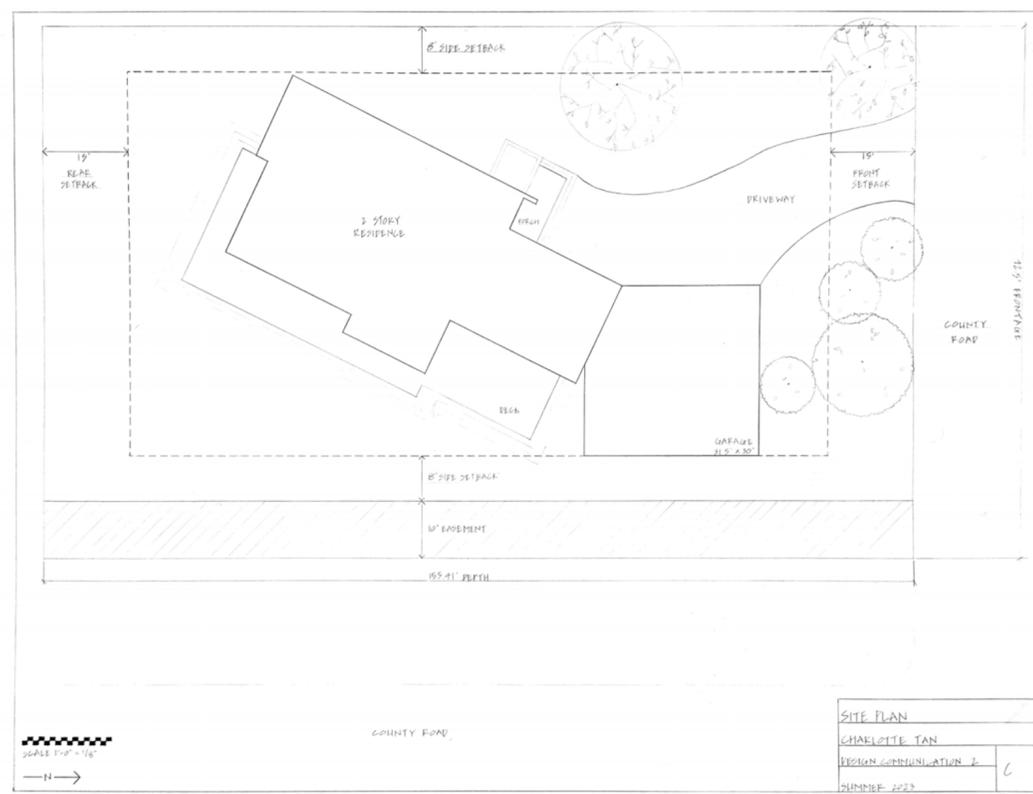
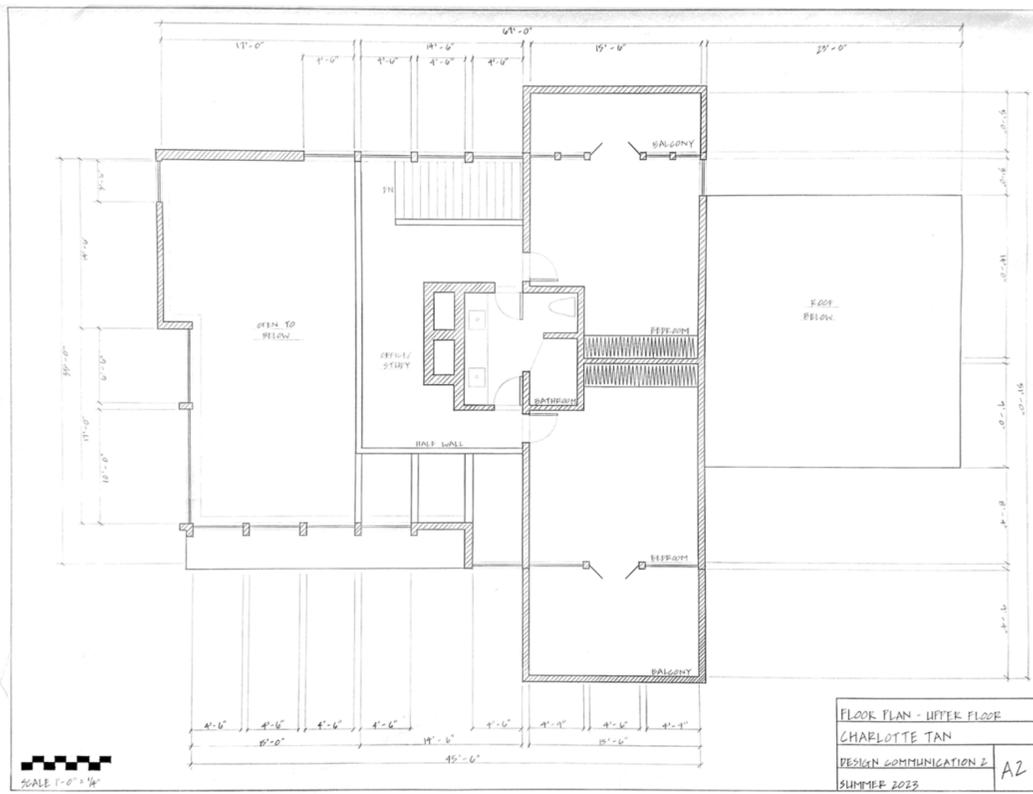
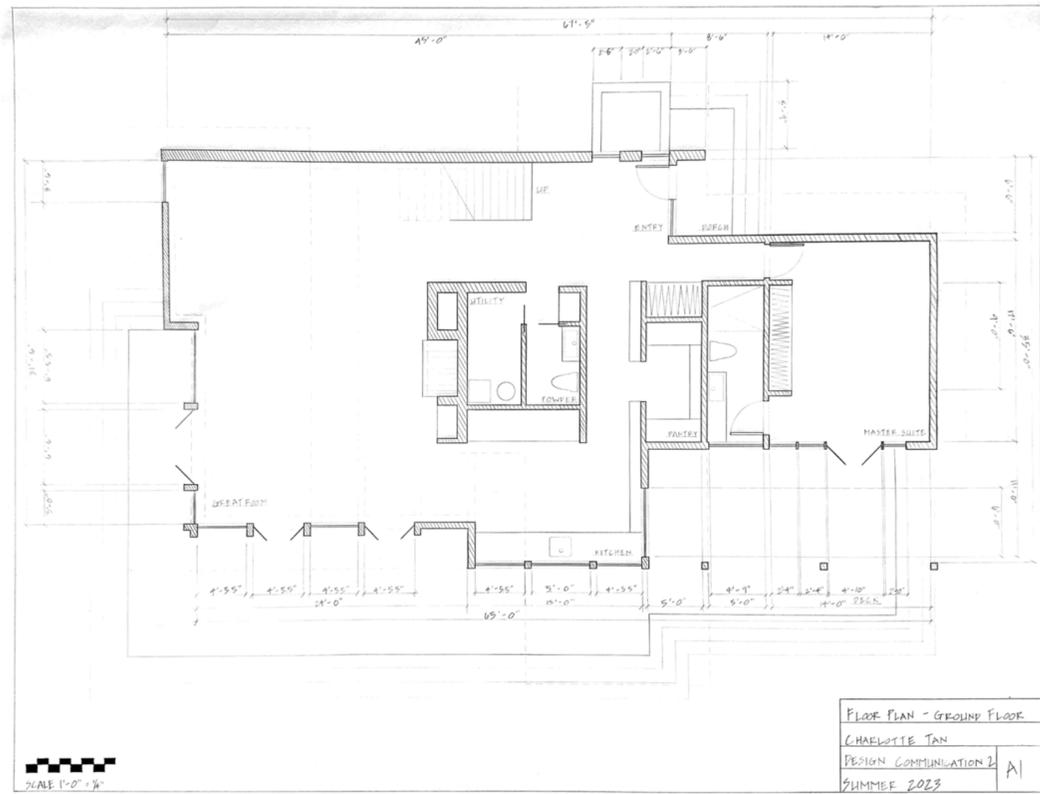
DATE: Winter 2023

This study of a Usionian home by Lindal Homes helped to improve drafting skills and create a foundation of knowledge on construction basics. The house has a slab on grade foundation and a detail drawing attached. Elevations, wall and cabinet sections, and site plans were made as well.

PROJECT: Master Bath Remodel

DATE: Fall 2023

This project consisted of a remodel of an existing bathroom. A set of construction documents were made, from existing conditions, demolition, and proposal. How to draw sections and drainage basics were explained. Drafting one and two point perspectives created the final render results.



03 juxtagons



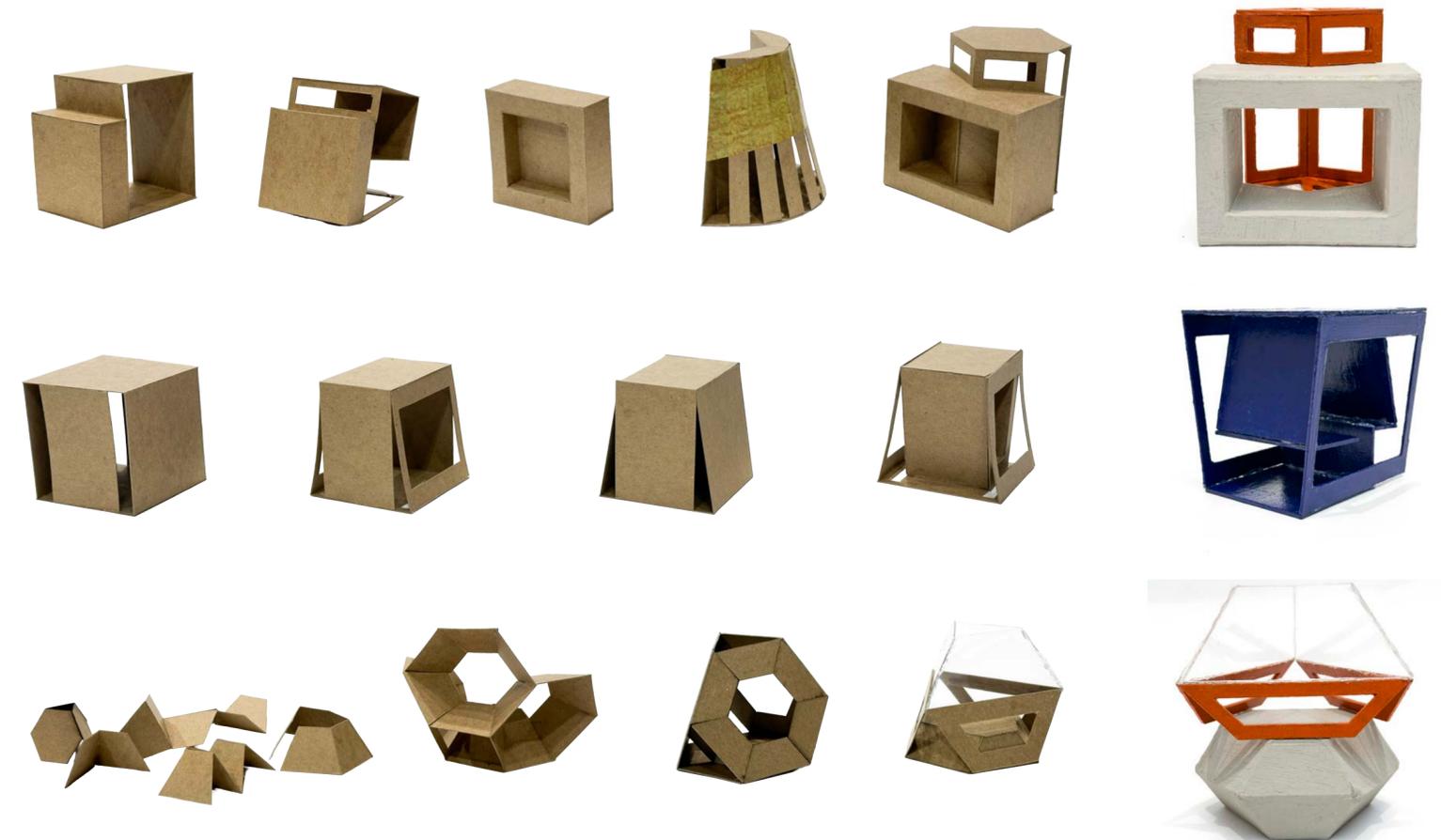
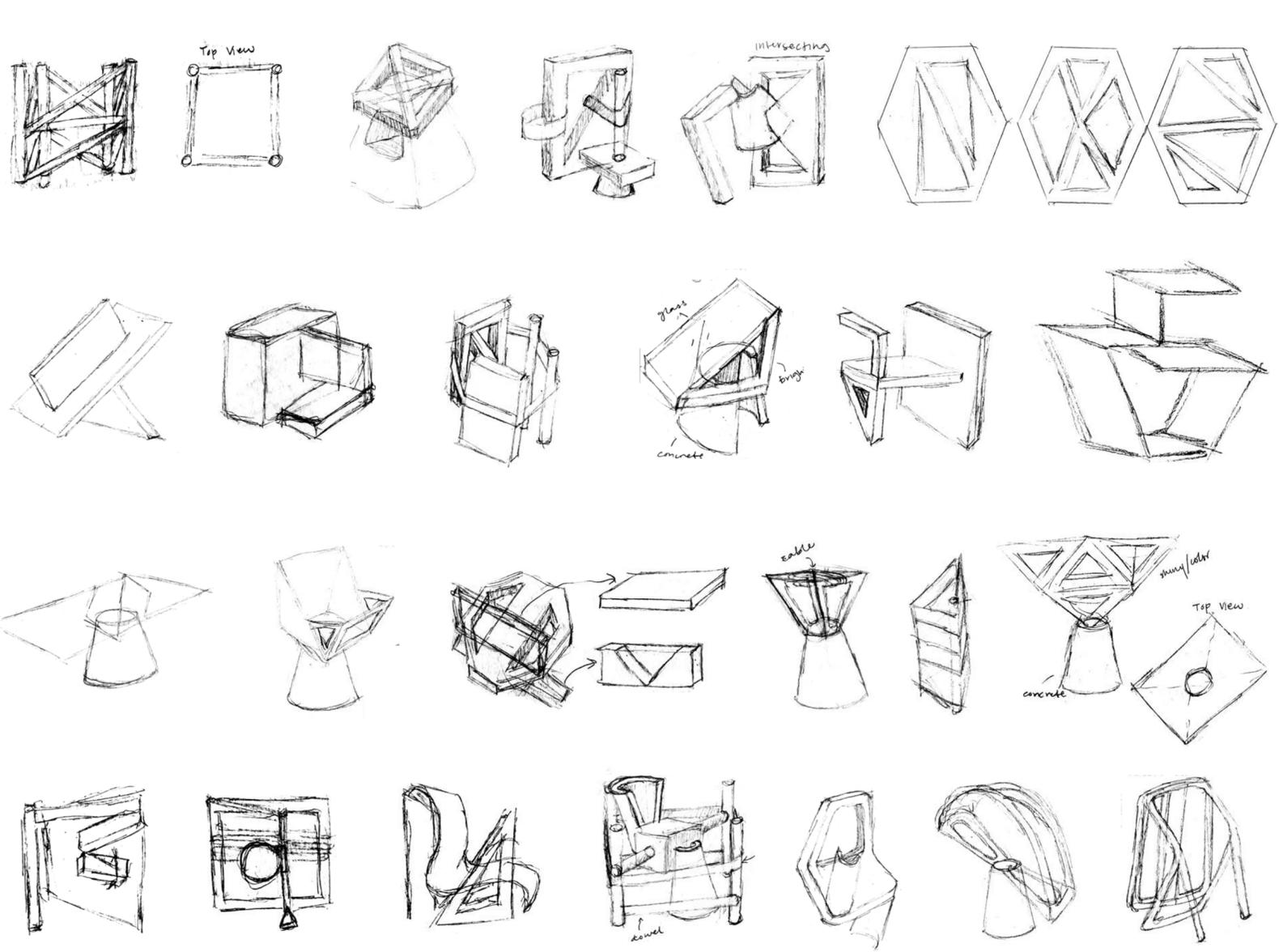
LOCATION: M Street, Georgetown, WDC

AREA: ~ 1,300 Sq Ft

DATE: February 2025

revit · models · photoshop · illustrator

This sneaker store is located in the busy Georgetown neighborhood, with high foot traffic. The ask was to reinterpret an existing designer's design language into a retail space that is functional and successful. Stores generally require an eye-catching display to bring in customers, assuming no brand knowledge or loyalty. Once in store, the layout, product, and customer service are what determine a purchase. The displays here serve as the visual hook and the modular structure that creates a gallery-like experience for any guests walking in.



STUDY MODELS

Konstantin Grcic is an industrial designer who has explored a multitude of spatial mediums, like furniture, interior design, and vehicles. He distills his designs down to it's most essential use and uses simple geometry to create items that are beautiful and practical. The designs are very utilitarian but shows the thought behind how the material is being used and expressed. It is often the material itself driving the form of the design.

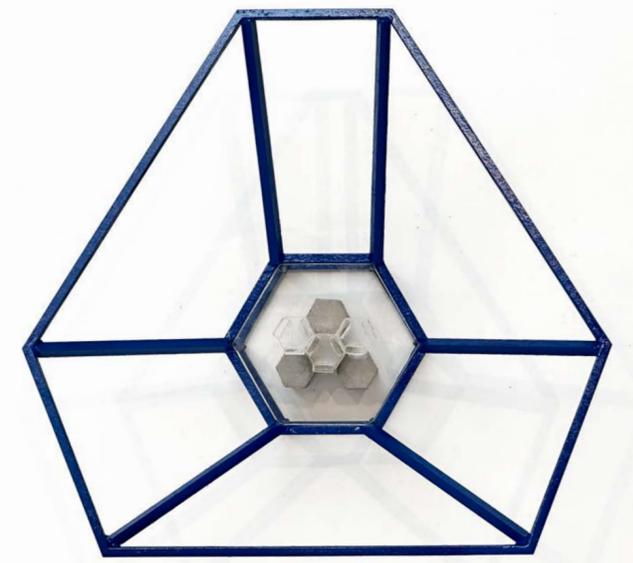
For the retail store, the design language taken from Grcic were:

1. Expression through lines and planes
2. Material use and juxtaposition
3. Bold, singular color
4. Basic geometric shape

precedent study konstantin grcic



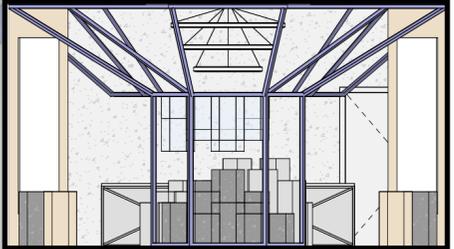
FEATURED ITEM DISPLAY MODEL



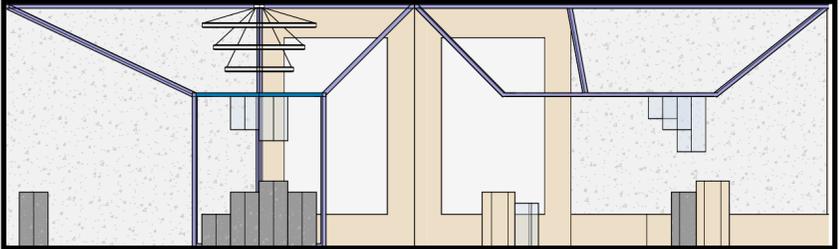
The idea for this store was to create a stage for the shoes. Sneaker culture likens shoes to art; it's collectable and something to admire on display. The store aims to capture this sentiment by having a main feature display that draws the eye in the front of the store. The structure further inside would be a modular display, where the pedestals on the floor can be moved as needed and the ceiling grid would allow display cases to be attached and detached. Mirrors and benches line the wall, centering shoes and allowing customers to view other options as they try items on. The pedestals make perusing shoes feel like an art gallery.



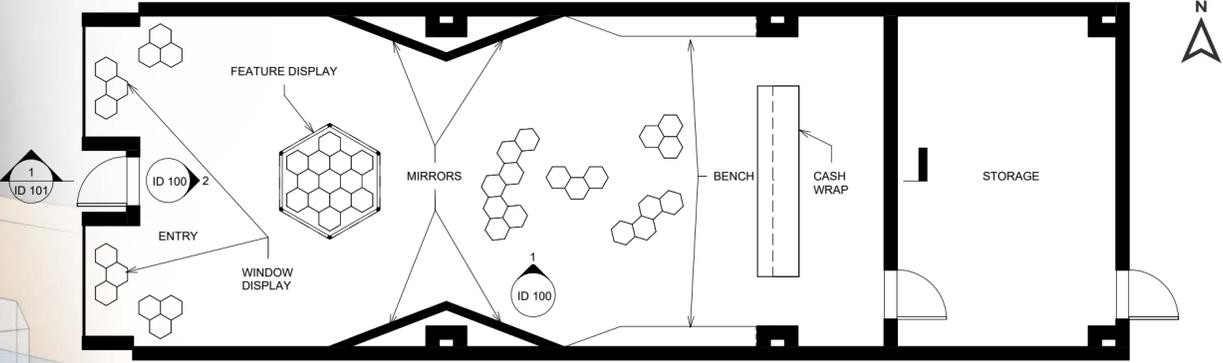
MODULAR DISPLAY



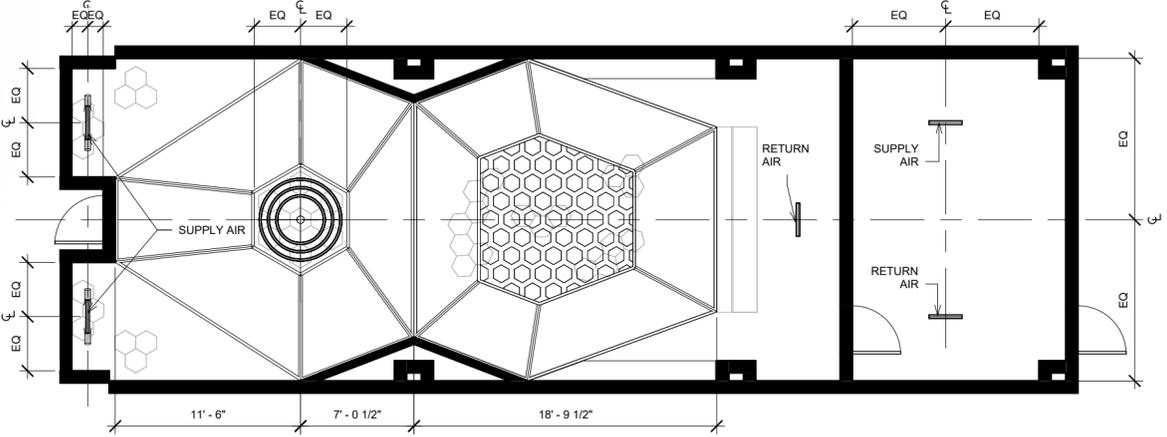
ENTRY ELEVATION



LONGITUDINAL ELEVATION



FLOOR PLAN - SCALE: 1/8" = 1' - 0"



REFLECTED CEILING PLAN - SCALE: 1/8" = 1' - 0"

04 sky woven earth



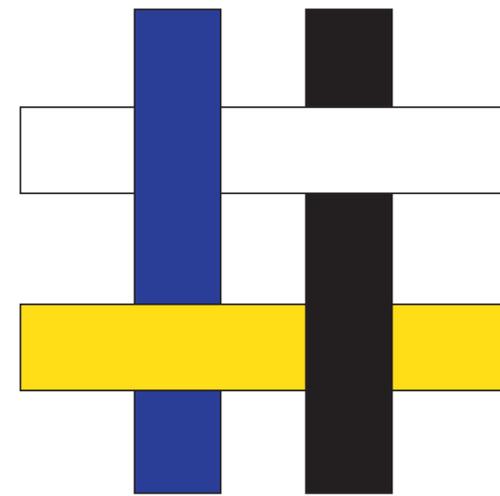
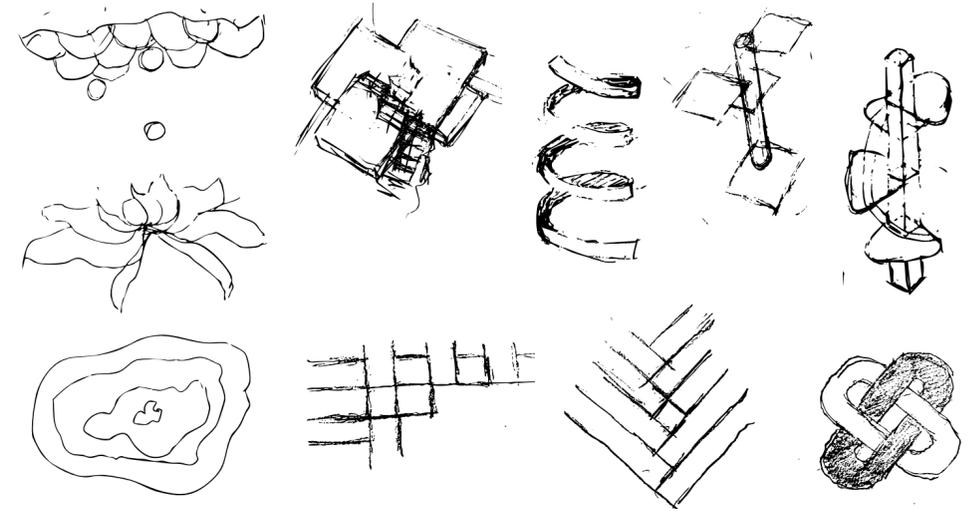
LOCATION: Georgetown, Washington, DC
AREA: ~ 3,840 Sq Ft
DATE: March 2025 - May 2025

revit · enscape · specifications · materials

A place where spaces weave into one another and create connection all throughout, allowing seamless transitions into different areas of the home and easy wayfinding for guests. This artist live/work combines gallery, studio, and home for Emmi Whitehorse, a Dine painter. Traditions from her culture require a deep connection to nature and the outdoors, which heavily inform the layout and materials of the space.



STUDIO



Encompassing the idea of Interwoven, this concept partie takes into account the four directions of Dine faith and the idea of Hozho: different pieces together in harmony.

- East - Dawn
- South - Day
- West - Dusk
- North - Night



ARTWORK

Whitehorse's works are large format, abstract paintings and prints with multiple mediums drawn on top. She uses a large table that can fit a 60" x 90" paper that can be worked on from any side. The work is mounted on canvas afterwards. She creates layer of hues before drawing small details of nature. Her inspirations are:

1. The movement and color of the earth, clouds, water, and vegetation, which inform hue & form.
2. Her Dine heritage, which defines the subjects of her work and the artist's own relationship to nature.
3. Her childhood, when she helped her grandmother weave textiles, which influenced color choices.
4. The layers of nature, which influence her layering on the page.
5. The "microcosms of nature" like seed pods and grains, which she draws on top of the paint and ink.
6. Cy Twombly and Mark Rothko, large, abstract format artists, who influenced Whitehorse's hue, line and form.

<https://www.nga.gov/stories/articles/emmi-whitehorse-paints-harmonies-her-homelands>

charlotte.e.tan@gmail.com

concept: interwoven

client research emmi whitehorse



1 MAIN BED, 1 GUEST BED, FLEX SPACE

Whitehorse lives with her husband for half the year, and has three adult children who may visit during the holidays.

HOZHO

The Dine philosophy that centers nature and the universe. Implies central feature that symbolizes nature, specifically not a habitable space. Access to outdoors and views of nature are essential.

WORKSPACE & GALLERY

Minimum 8' x 6' table for painting, ideally larger. Space for printing press. Storage for paints, inks, canvas, and paper. Gallery walls should be large enough for 6' heights and 15' widths for diptychs. Separation from living spaces and kitchenette for hosting.

Whitehorse lives alone for half of her time, and lives strongly by Dine philosophy. She needs to feel strongly connected to nature. She is relatively small. Her works are large format and she uses painting and printing mediums.



EAST SECTION (NTS)



SOUTH SECTION (NTS)

The house is largely split between North and South, North being zones of rest, and South being zones of activity. This is from the sacred directions but it also makes good lighting sense, with the darker, indirect light in the North creating softer ambience. The ground floor serves as a transition space, signifying moving from earth upwards. The second floor is public, with the Gallery, Guest Suite, and Studio. The third floor is the most intimate, with the Primary Suite and personal spaces for Whitehorse.

The materials chosen were to represent earth and sky, which are connected through the staircase. The lowest floor is warm and earthy, and the materials transition to adding blues into the mix for the "sky." The spaces are mostly warm or neutral, to keep the home feeling cozy for one inhabitant and to avoid any distractions in the studio.



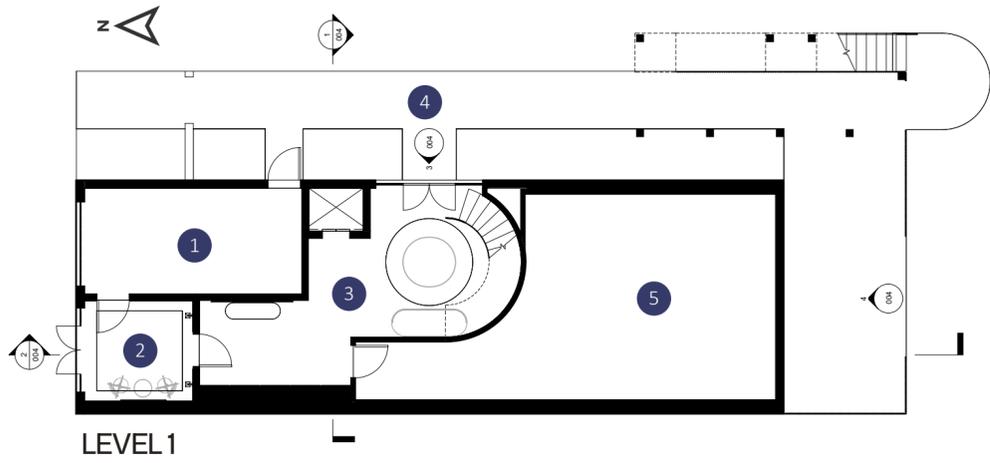
DINING



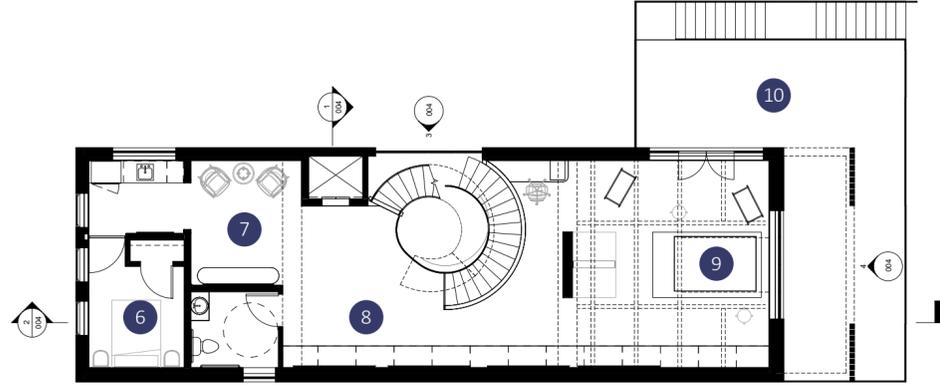
ENTRY



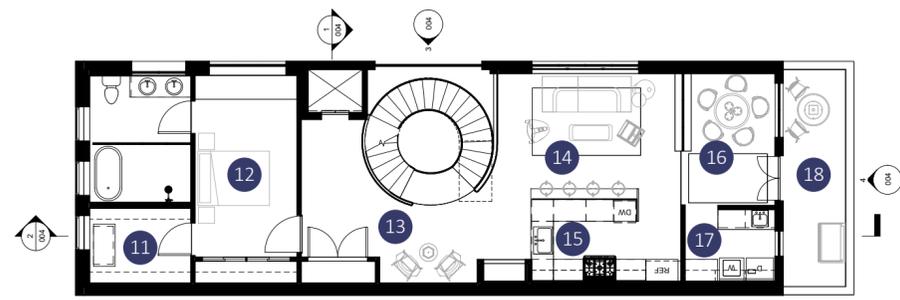
ENTRY MATERIALS



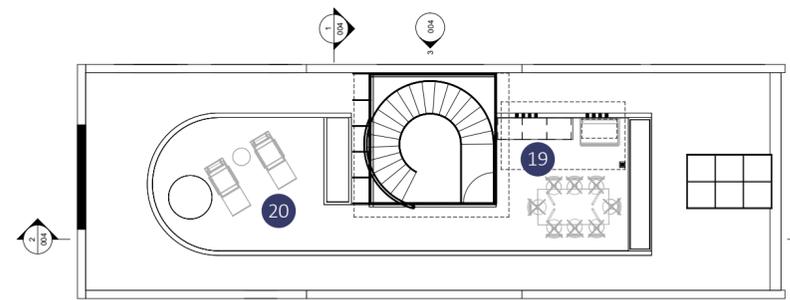
LEVEL 1



LEVEL 2



LEVEL 3



ROOF

PROGRAM

- 1. Garage
- 2. Mudroom
- 3. Entry
- 4. Main Entry Door
- 5. Storage
- 6. Guest Bed
- 7. Kitchenette
- 8. Gallery
- 9. Studio
- 10. Balcony
- 11. Closet
- 12. Primary Bed
- 13. Sitting
- 14. Living
- 15. Kitchen
- 16. Dining
- 17. Laundry
- 18. Private Balcony
- 19. Outdoor Kitchen
- 20. Deck



KITCHENETTE

FURNITURE SPECIFICATION SHEET	PROJECT: 14 St. NW - Artist Live/Work DESIGNER: Charlotte Tan
Room: Gallery	
Manufacturer: GUBI	
Item/Name: Sejour Lounge Chair with Armrests	
Finish (legs): Antique Brass	
Finish (arms): Oak Oiled	
Fabric: Karakorum Boucle	
Manufacturer: Dedar	
Item # / Name: 00T1701100001	
Color: 001 Ivory	
Pattern: Karakorum Boucle	
Repeat: N/A	
Bolt Width: 51.2"	
Price Per Unit (yards): TBD Units Needed: TBD Total Cost: TBD	
Description: Lounge Chair Remarks: Size: 31.5" D, 25.5" W, 28" H x 13.8" H Seat	



OUTDOOR GRILL



ROOF DECK

EASTERN ENTRANCE, CLOCKWISE CIRCULATION

Traditional Dine hogans use an eastern entrance to greet the sun and when visiting, guests should walk in a clockwise fashion throughout the space. The house's main entrance is accessed from the garage or the garden, allowing a moment of nature before entering the home. The central staircase is clockwise and connects earth to sky, representing Hozho and the interrelationship of everything.

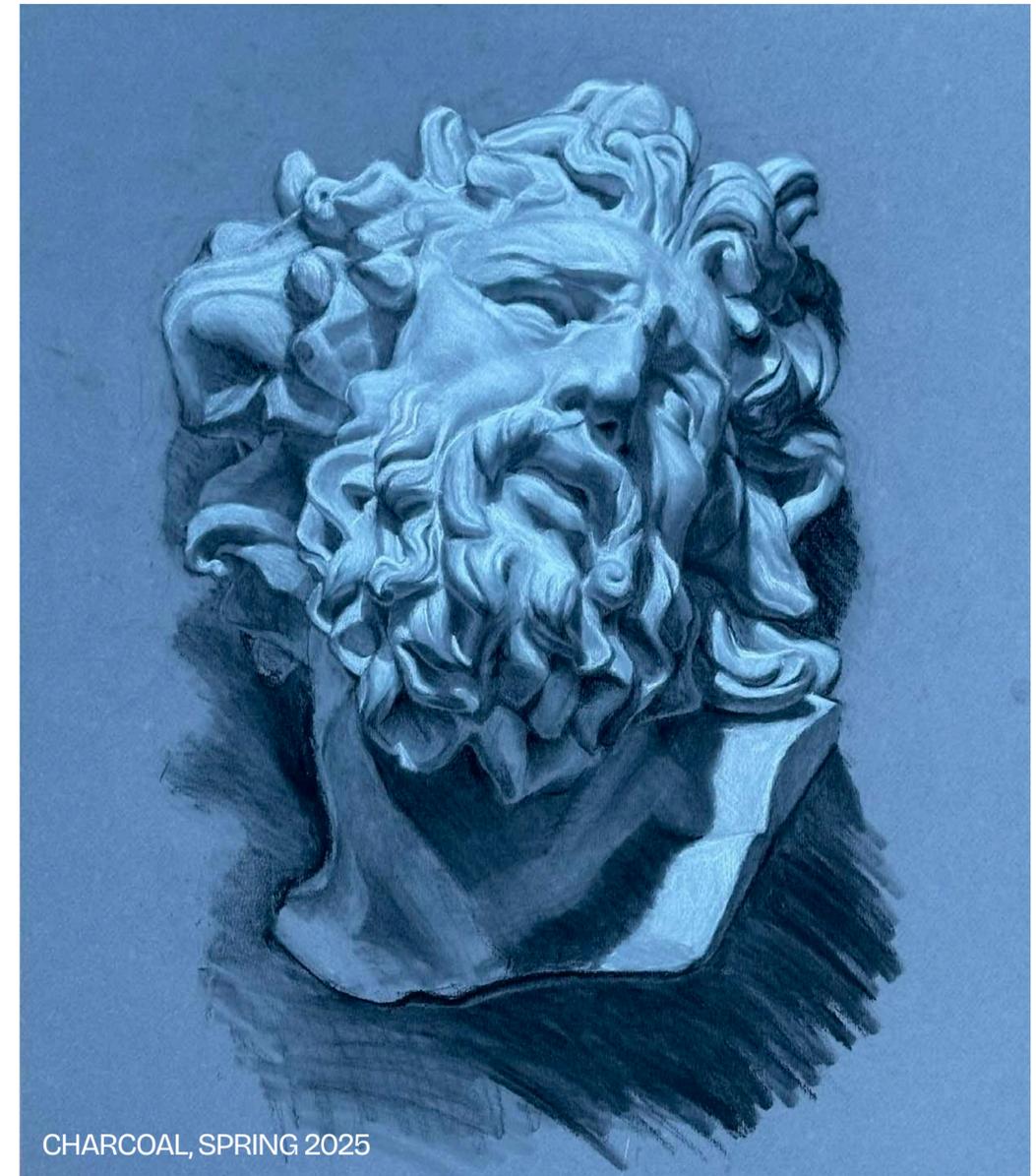
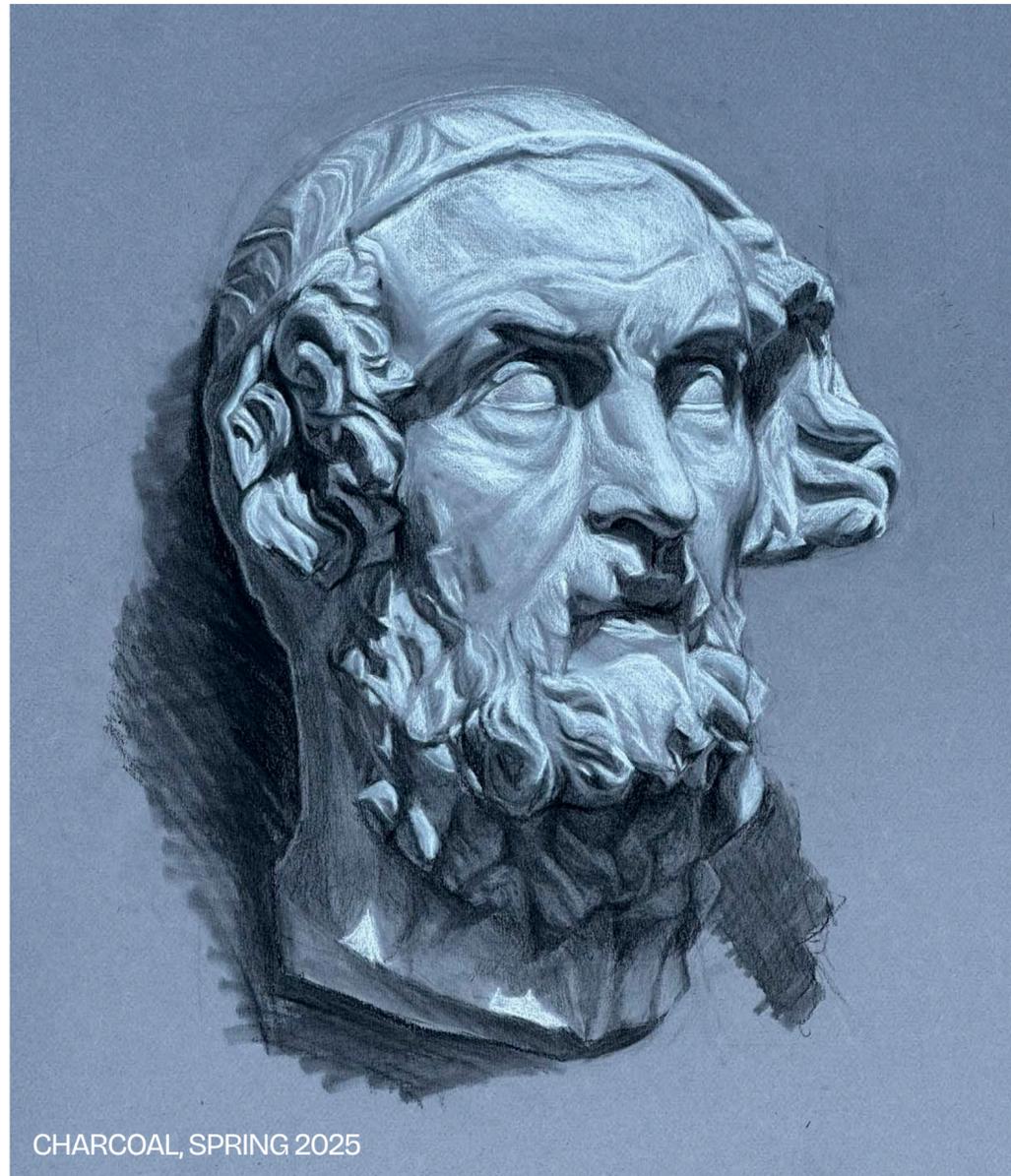
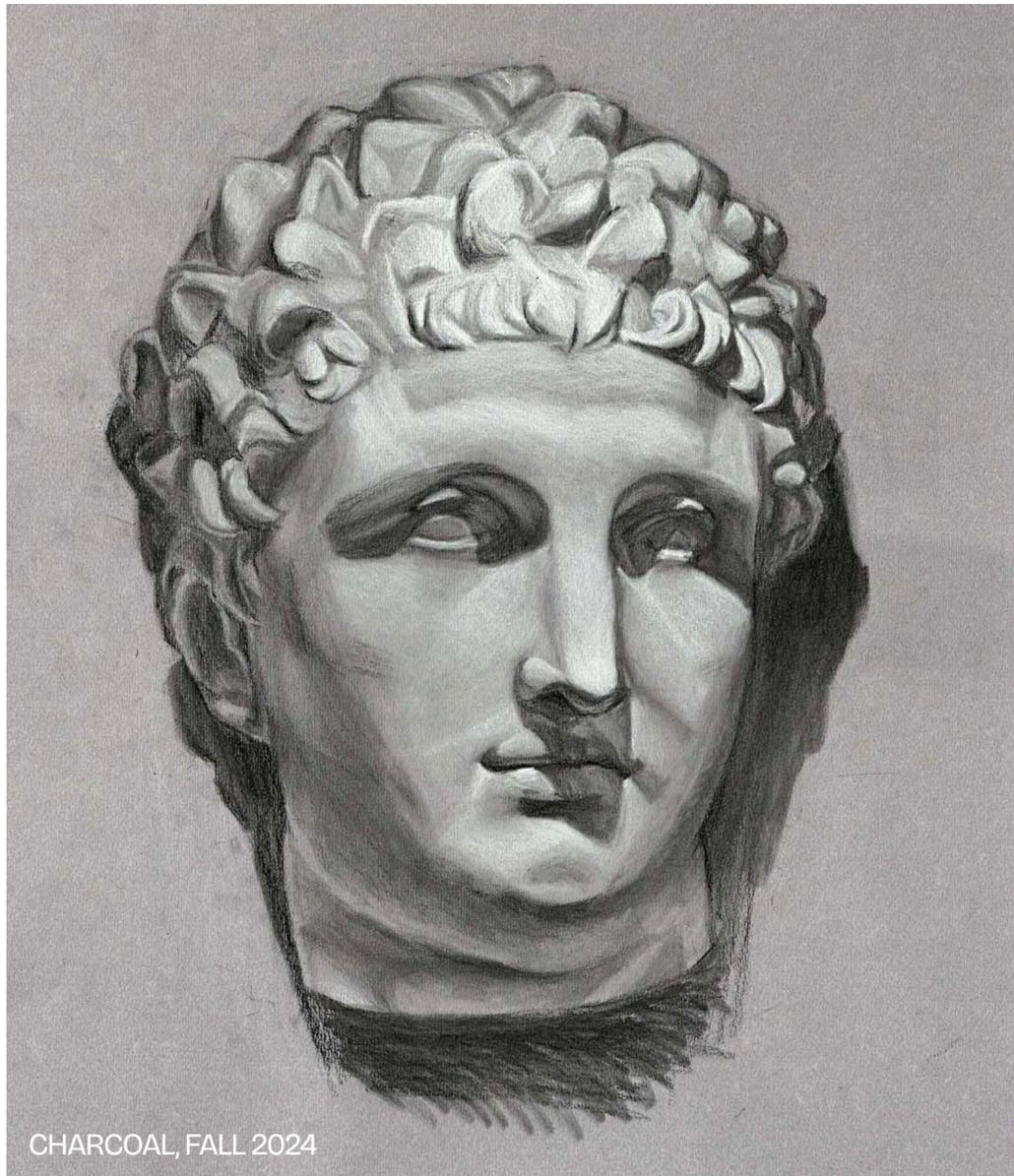


EAST ELEVATION (NTS)



SOUTH ELEVATION (NTS)

05 additional work





MAIN ENTRY



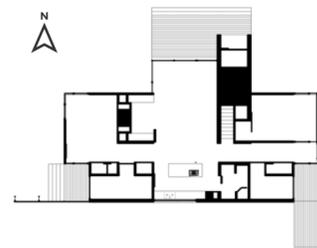
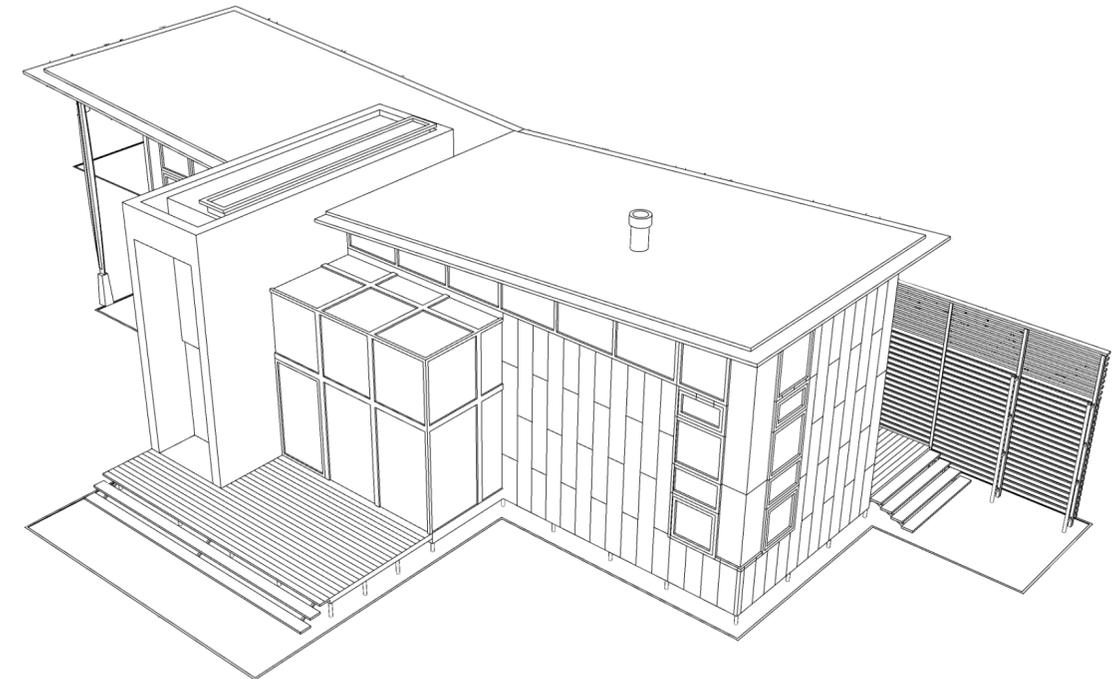
LIVING



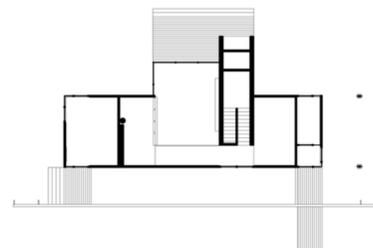
LOFT



REAR ENTRY



FLOOR 1



FLOOR 2



NORTH ELEVATION



EAST ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION

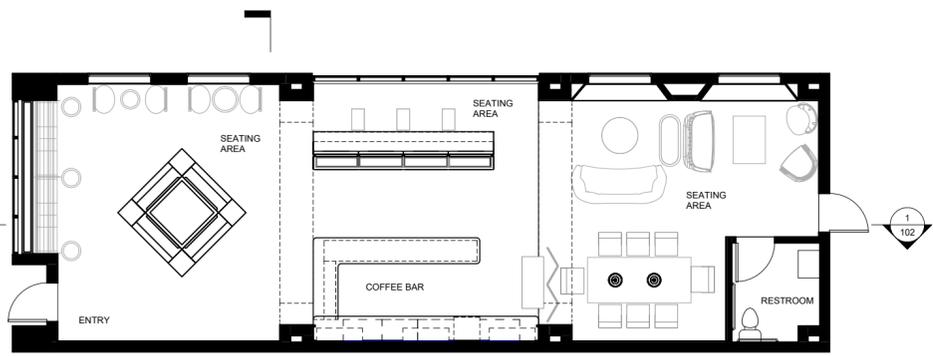
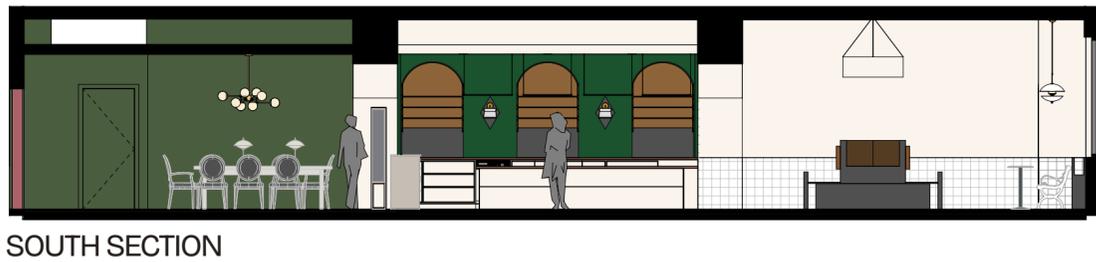


WEST ELEVATION

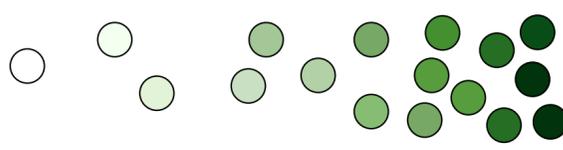
sketchup · enscape · autocad

jackson family retreat

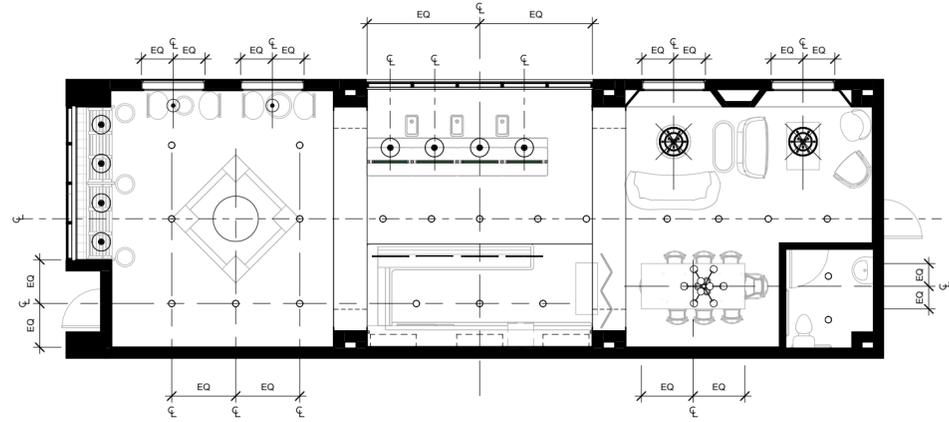
ORIGINAL PROJECT BY
FOUGERON ARCHITECTURE



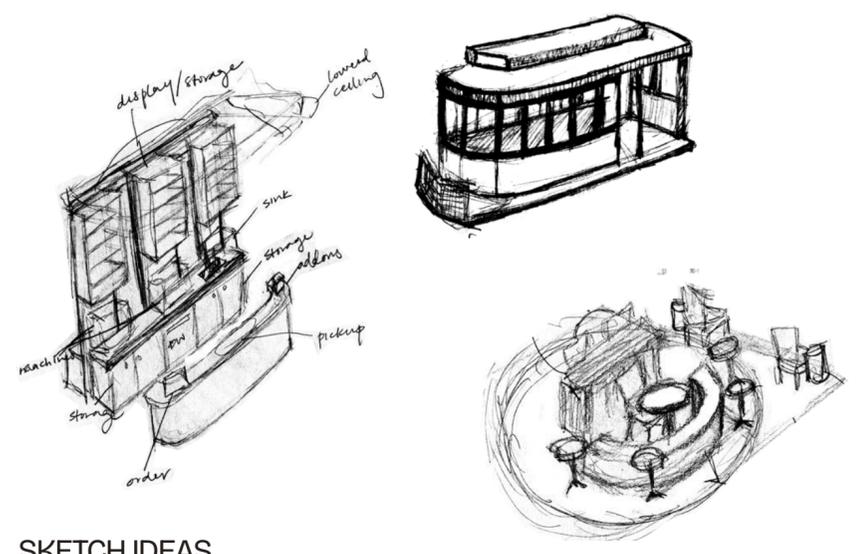
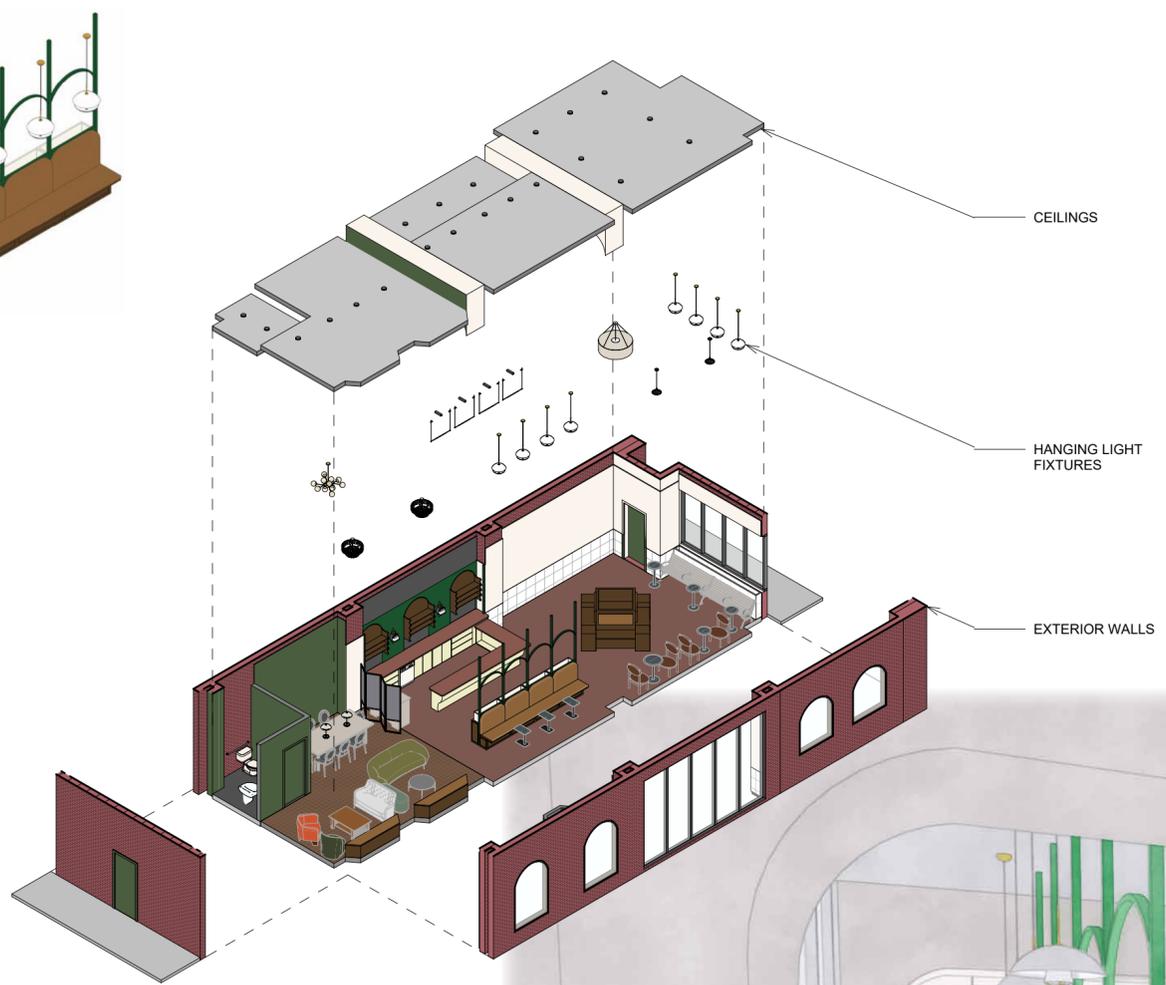
Inspired by the Mt. Pleasant trolleys of the early 1900s, this multi-zone cafe offers a space for working individuals & a space for social groups, both served through a centralized coffee bar.



PARTI - CLUSTERING TRANSITION



RCP



SKETCH IDEAS

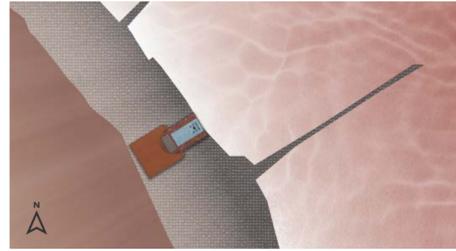


COFFEE BAR

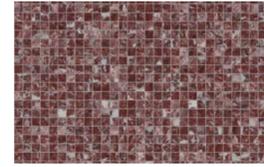
revit · enscape · custom furniture

routine 40 cafe

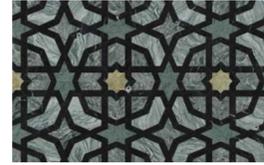
MOUNT PLEASANT, WASHINGTON, DC
SPRING 2025



SITE PLAN



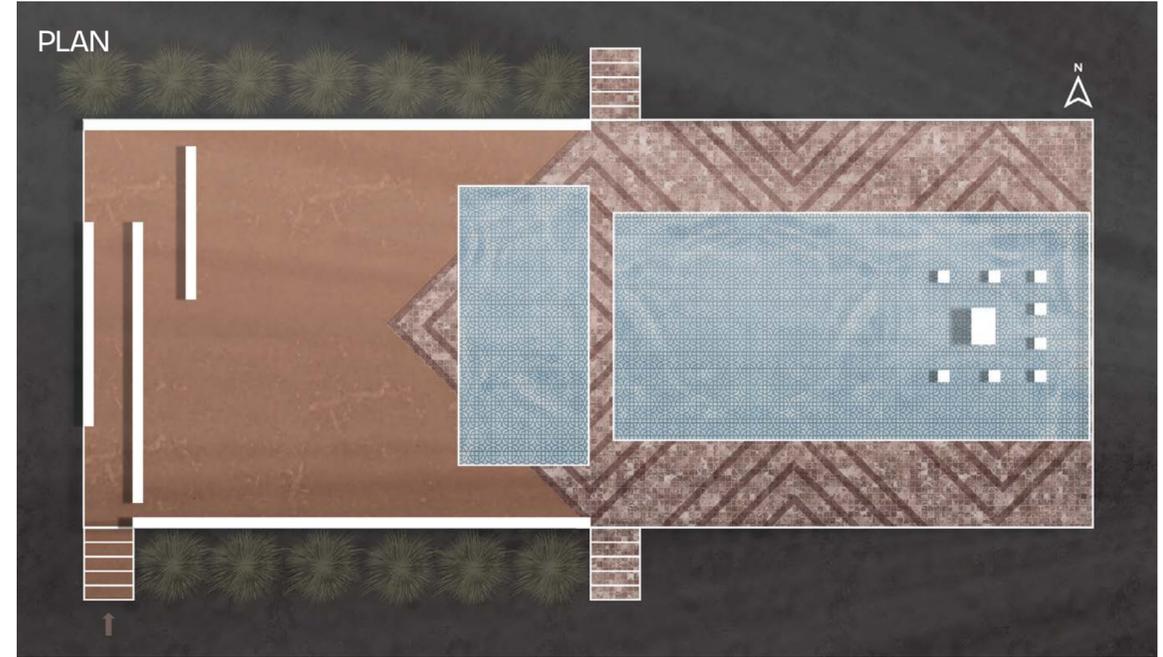
MOSAIC TILES (RED & GOLD)



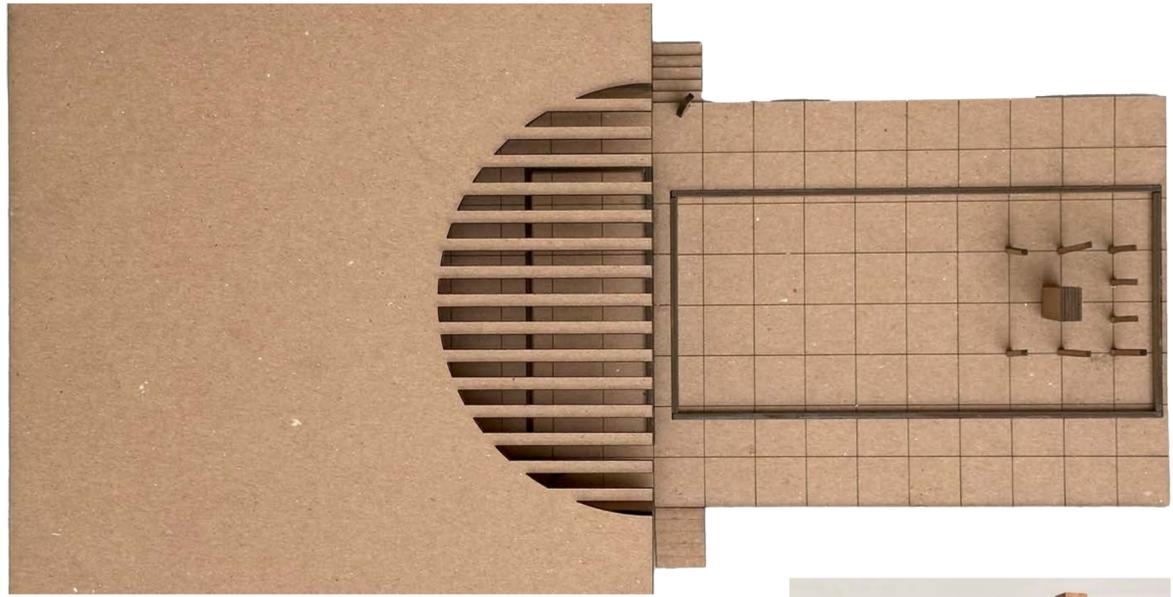
PATTERNED CERAMIC TILES



RED CLAY



PLAN



SHIRAZ, IRAN



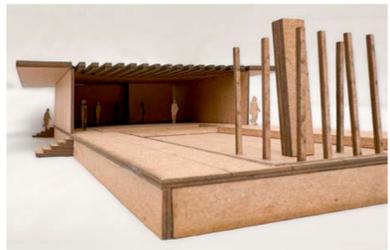
MAHARLOO LAKE

These materials were chosen to emulate different symbols of the tradition: clay for man, gold for God, red for warmth, blue for water. They also reflect different locations in the region. The two tiles are inspired by the Nasir al Mulk Mosque and Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque. The red clay is reminiscent of the ancient town Abyaneh.

Each element facilitates a **transition from darkness to light** and to emulate the central gathering of people in awe of the Sun God. This also speaks to a broader definition of **ceremony**: a formal act or series of acts prescribed by ritual, protocol, or convention. There is only one path in the beginning to follow and the end of the ritual must terminate at the two stairs in the middle of the plinth. The experience is a series that transitions from dark to light that mirrors the change from winter to spring, a ritual that occurs every year.



PERSPECTIVES



EAST ELEVATION



NORTH SECTION

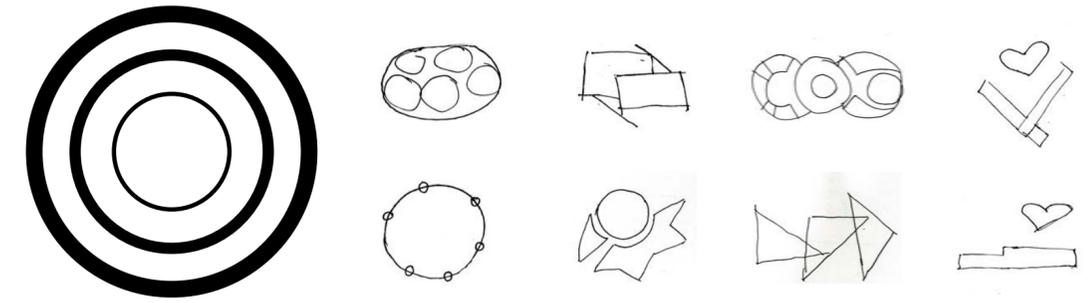
adobe · models · materials

yalda pavilion - kit of parts

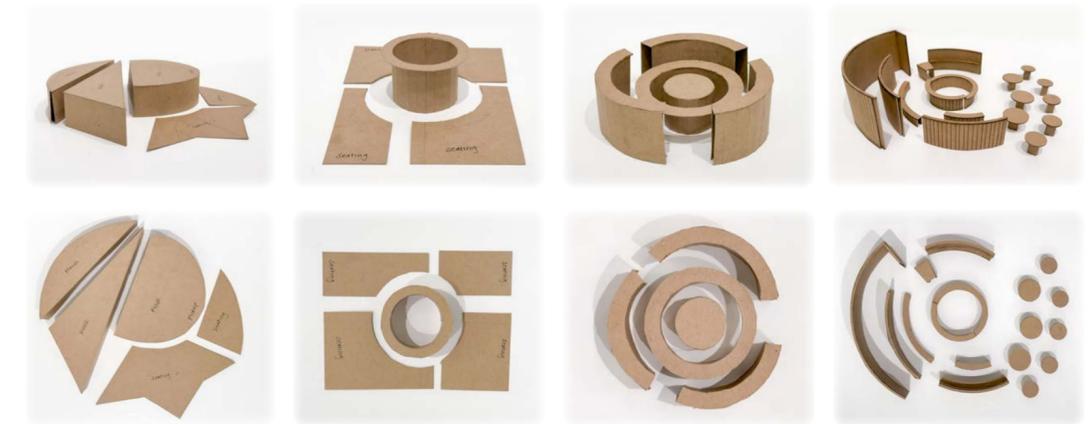
SHIRAZ, IRAN
FALL 2024



QUEUE



PARTI



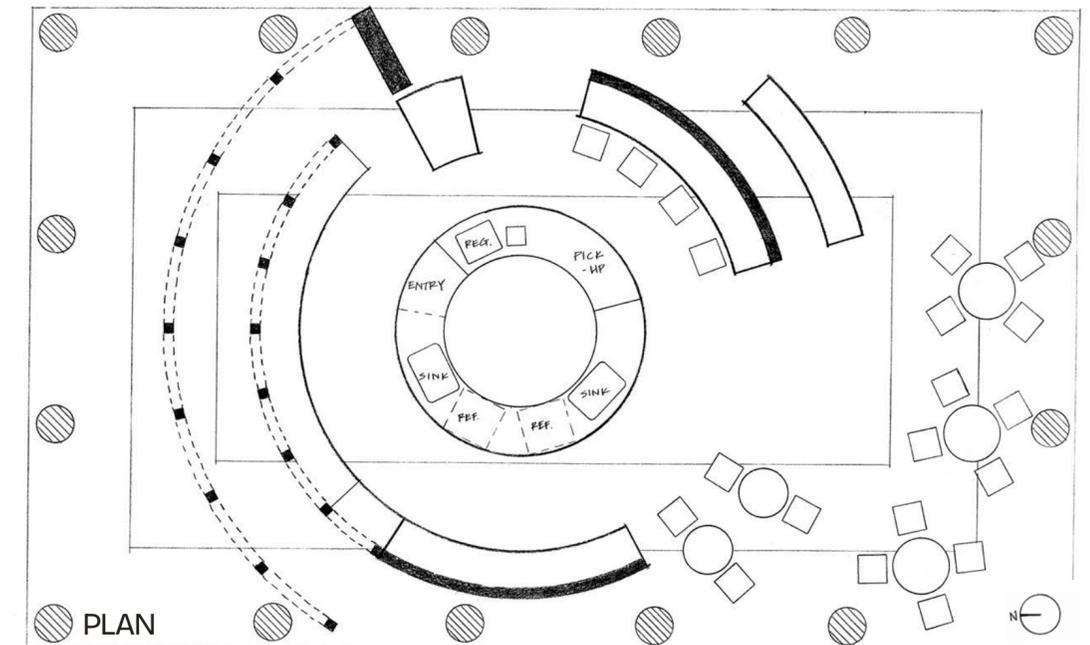
PROCESS



SEATING



KIOSK



PLAN

model making · hand drafting

community coffee 17TH ST NW, WASHINGTON, DC
FALL 2024

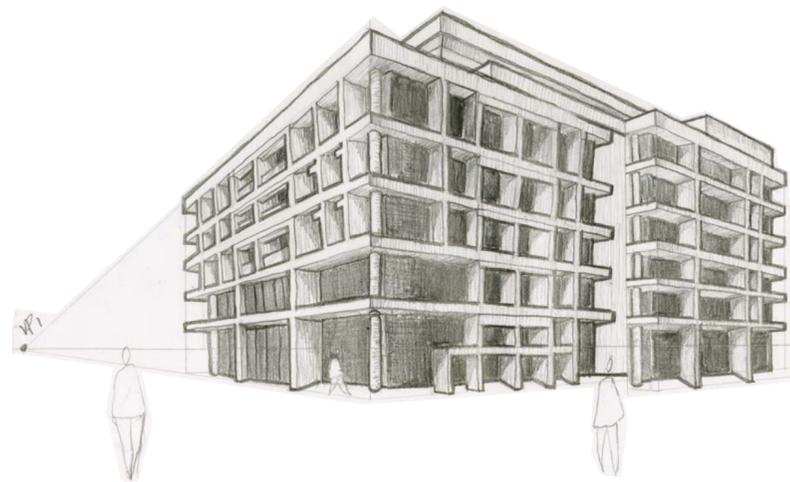
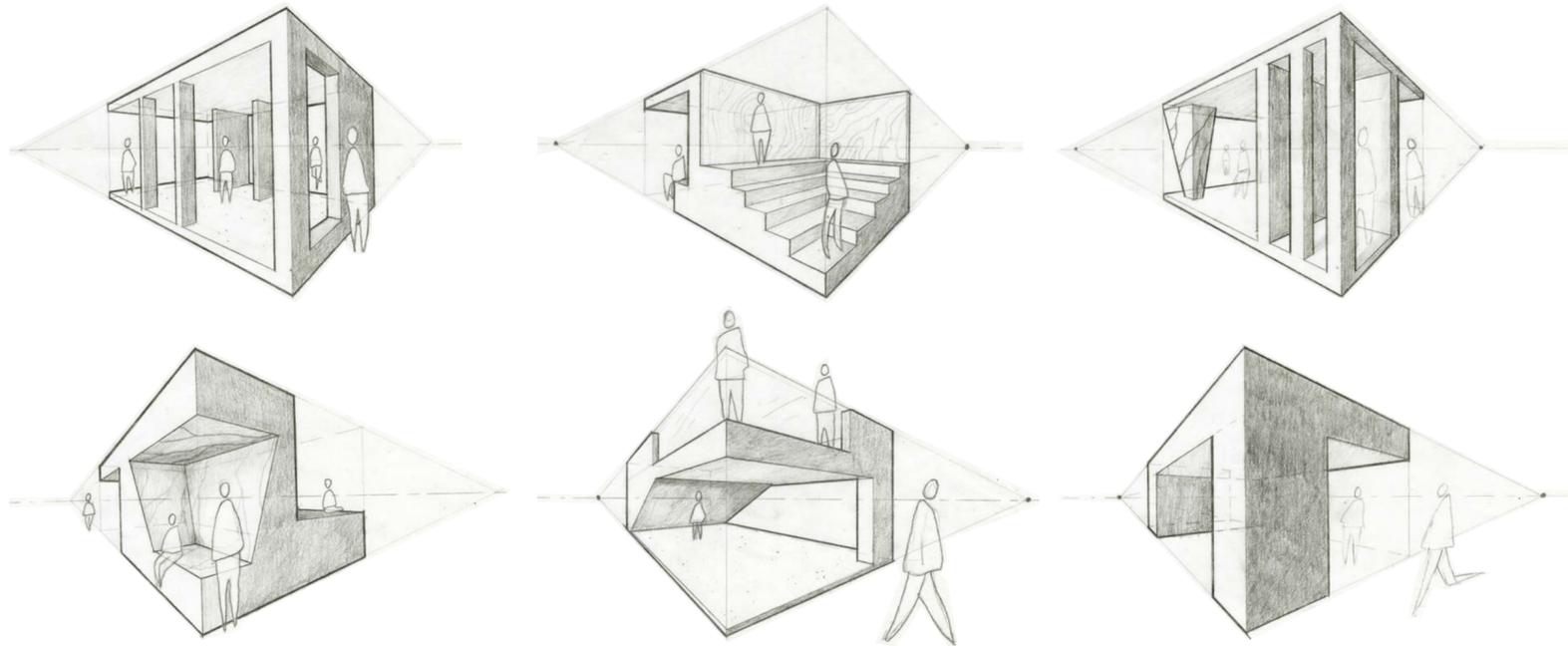
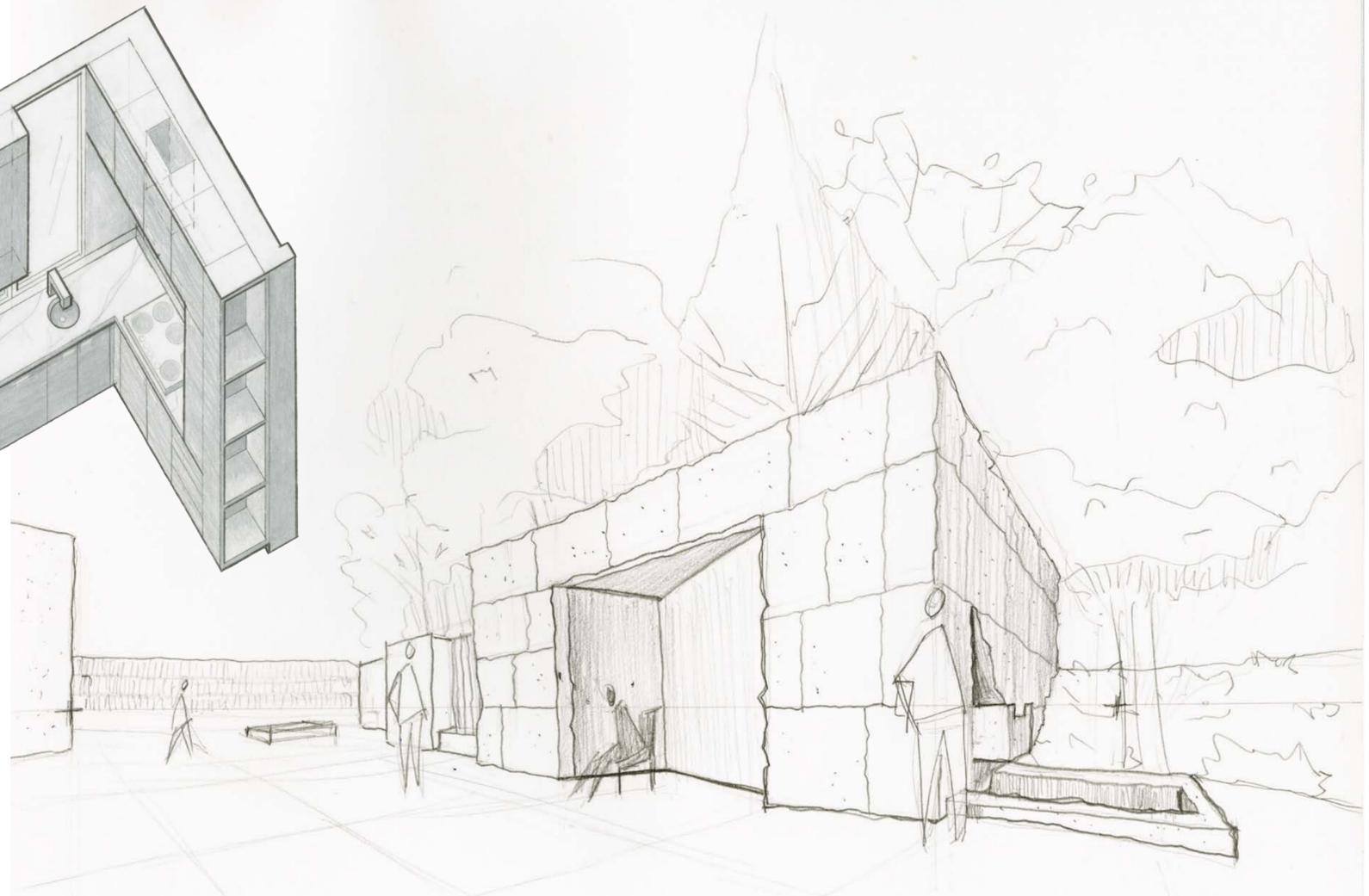
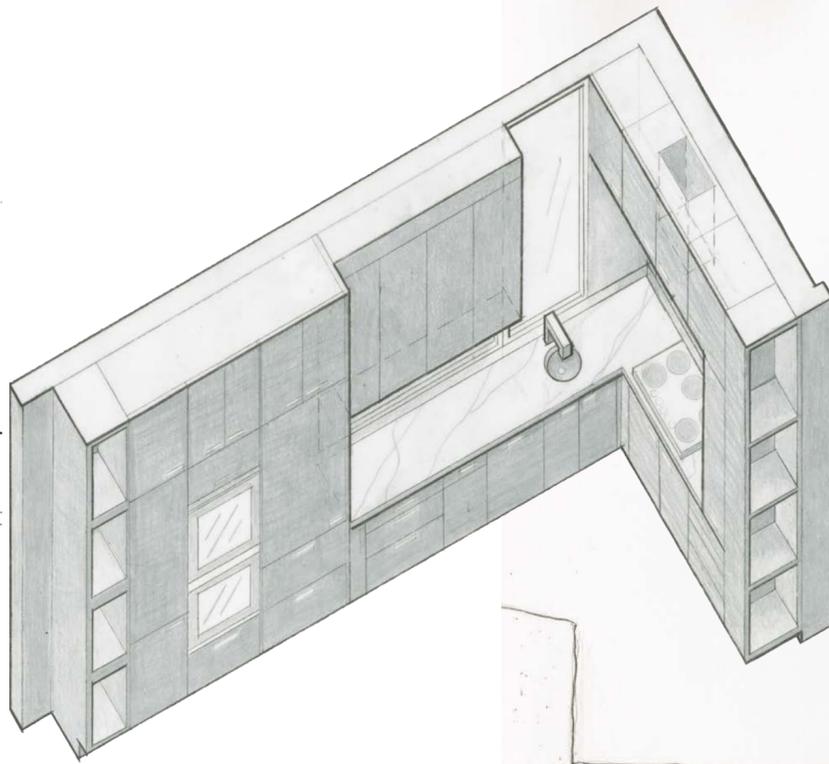
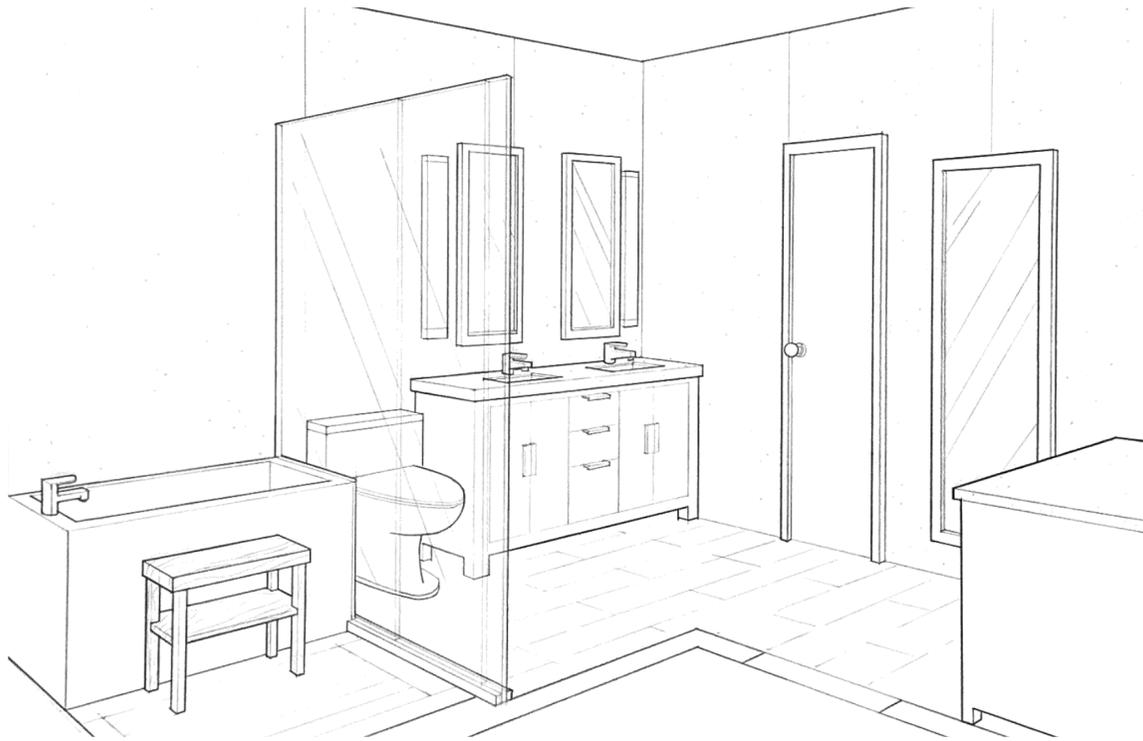


LANDSCAPE PLAN

adobe · rendering · visuals



ARCHITECTURAL COLLAGE - SAINT ANGE RESIDENCY BY STUDIO ODILE DECO



sketching · rendering



thank you

charlotte.e.tan@gmail.com
(510) 371-2117