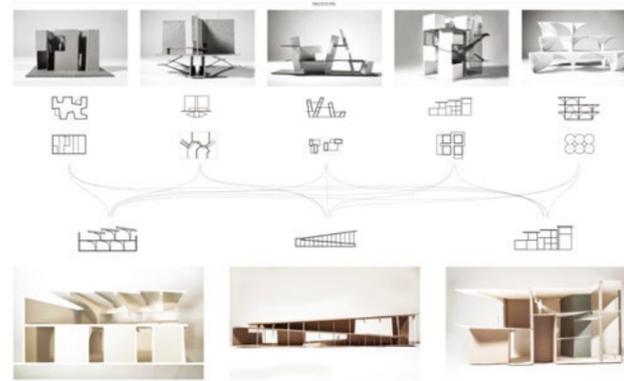


Siyu Xiao
Columbia GSAPP
2021-2022

*There is a whole messiness in that world,
WHY DON'T YOU SEE?*

Content



Spatial experiment of optimized factory use, studio work - A Factory as it Might Be, 2022 Spring.

Pieces of Equity

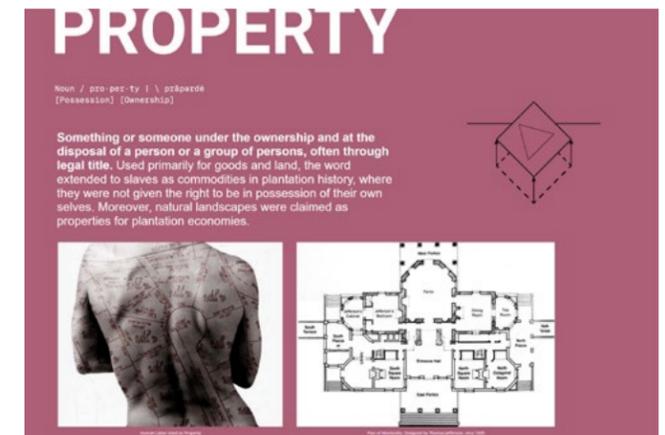
- 04 The creation of Manhattan's Chinatown
- 05 Arson



Collage of Urban armatures and micro Heterotopias of city of Dongguan, Recombinant Urbanism, 2022 Spring

Means of Design

- 01 Wallhouse
- 02 Hybrid
- 03 Cross



Plantation lexicon, definition of property, studio work - Post-Plantation Future, 2021 Fall.

Rationale of Urbanism

- 06 Equitable Open Street Activation



01 Wallhouse

Materialized and livable emotion

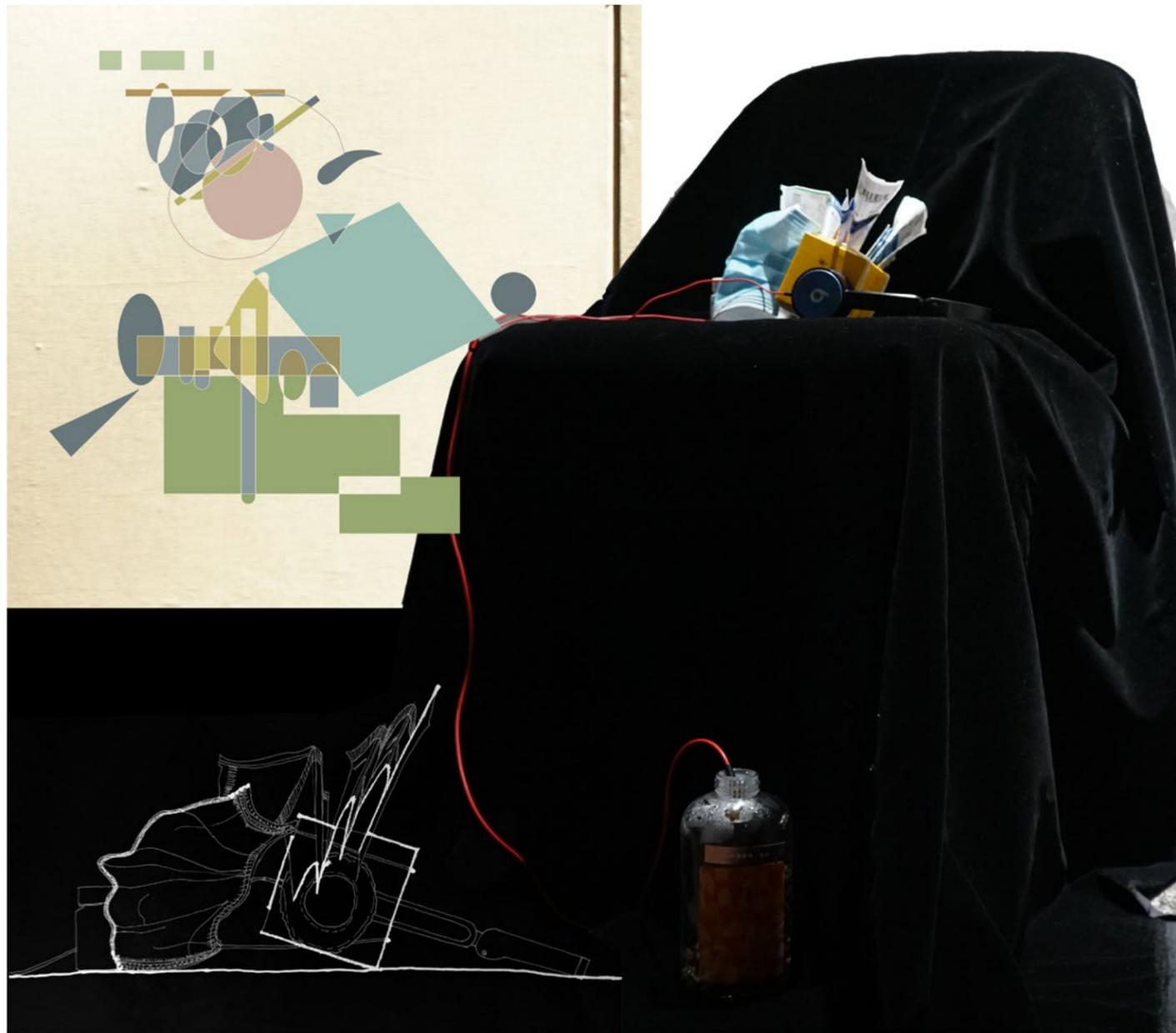
2021 Summer
Housefail studio
Instructor: Dan Wood
Individual work

Closely related to psychoanalysis, the studio utilized techniques of looking inward to unlock creative potential in the design of a private house. By embracing failure as a distinct possibility, the house design attempts to move beyond the "dream house" to one that embodies a broader range of subconscious actions, desires, emotions, gestures and elements.

How to tangibilize the chosen emotion is the key challenge of the design. Starting from a sound piece, the playful "inner child" is unlocked through the process of creating emotinal drawings and assemblies. The emotion of being sided and distracted is determined as the main concept of the personal house, as well as a daily feeling considering the contemporary lifestyle.

The house is located on the division line of forest and field, which recalls the feeling of being sided and distracted. The basic geometry of the house represents a wall-like, linear shape that intensifies this emotion. Mixed activities inside the house represents a chaotic lifestyle, which strongly contrasts the satisfying order of daily life.

Emotional concept of being distracted



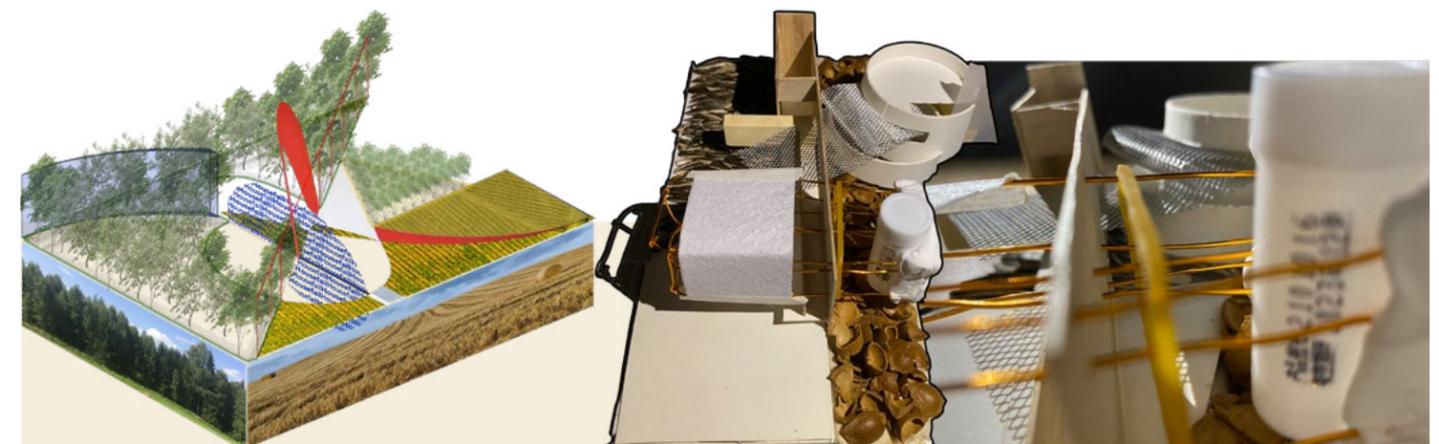
Materialization of the emotion

The division between physical performance and remote/online mindset is getting intensified in everyone's daily life. The feeling of being distracted is determined as the emotional concept in the house design. How space can house these divisive activities and even entangle them is the initial conflict.

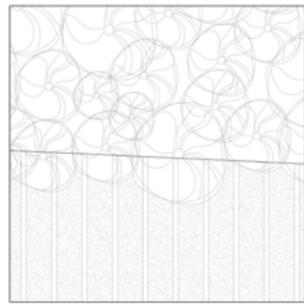
Puzzling site and puzzling mind



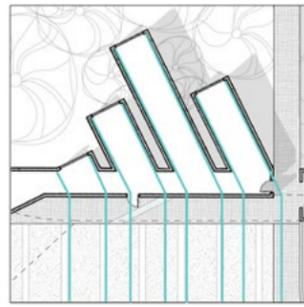
Master plan



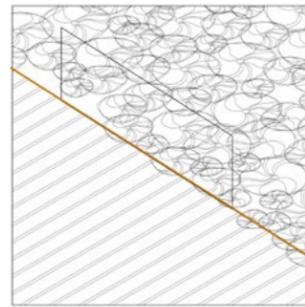
Emotional concept of the site



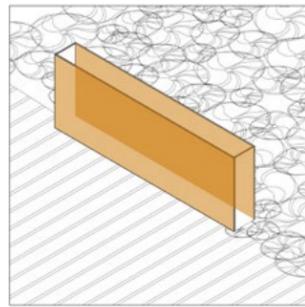
Division line of site



Extension of field grid



Division line of site

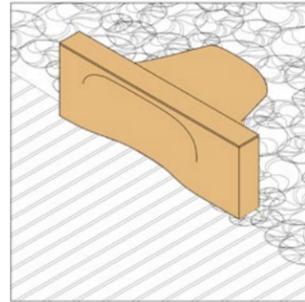


Extrusion of linear space



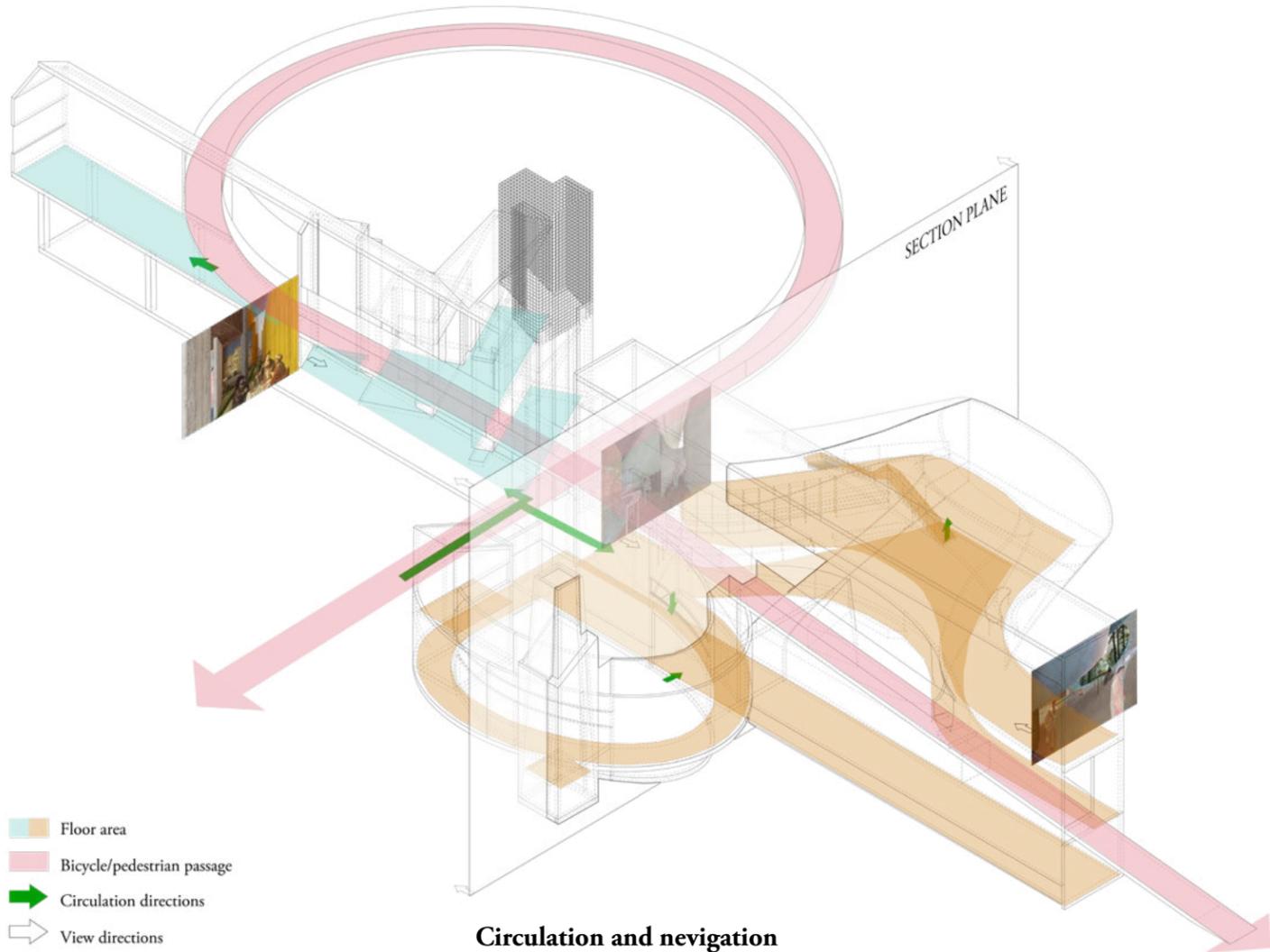
Integration of indoor space

Part of the design is inspired by the perfect grid of the field, which represents the order of human life. The house extended the grid as well as breaking it by mixing the indoor activities.



Straight line sided

The basic geometry of the house represents a wall-like, linear shape that intensifies this emotion. With some adjustments of indoor space to satisfy different uses, even the perfect straight line of the building is distracted.

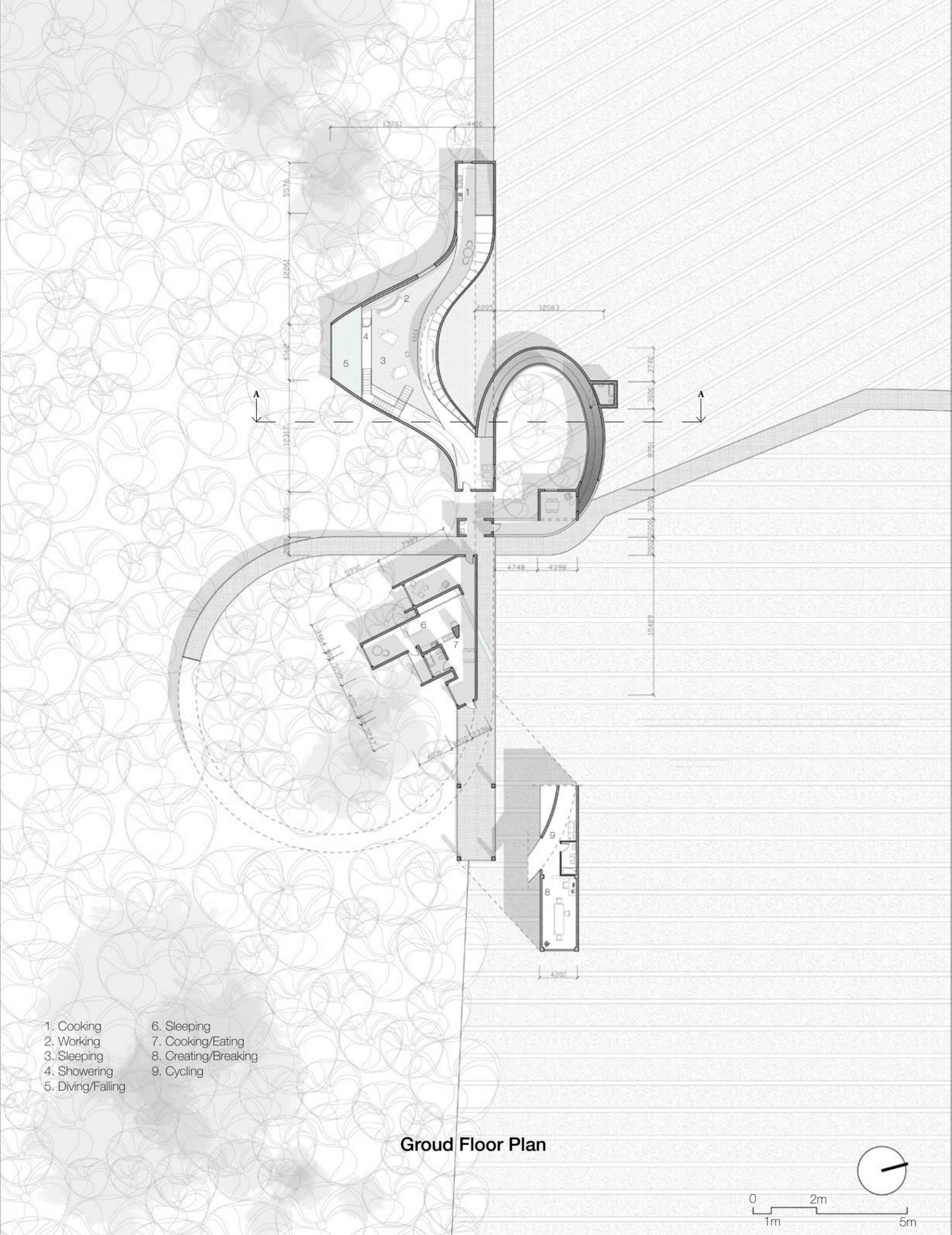


Circulation and navigation

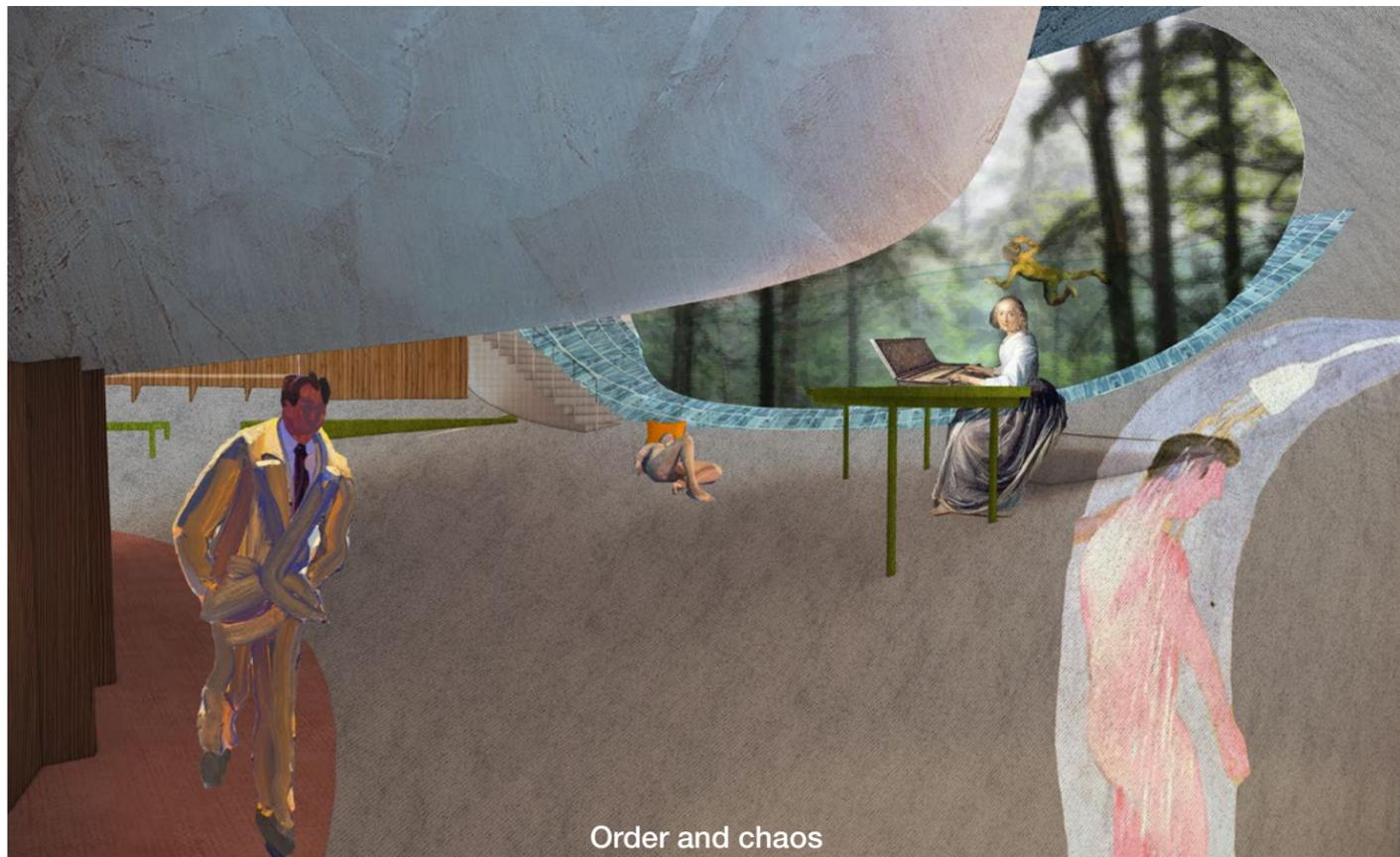


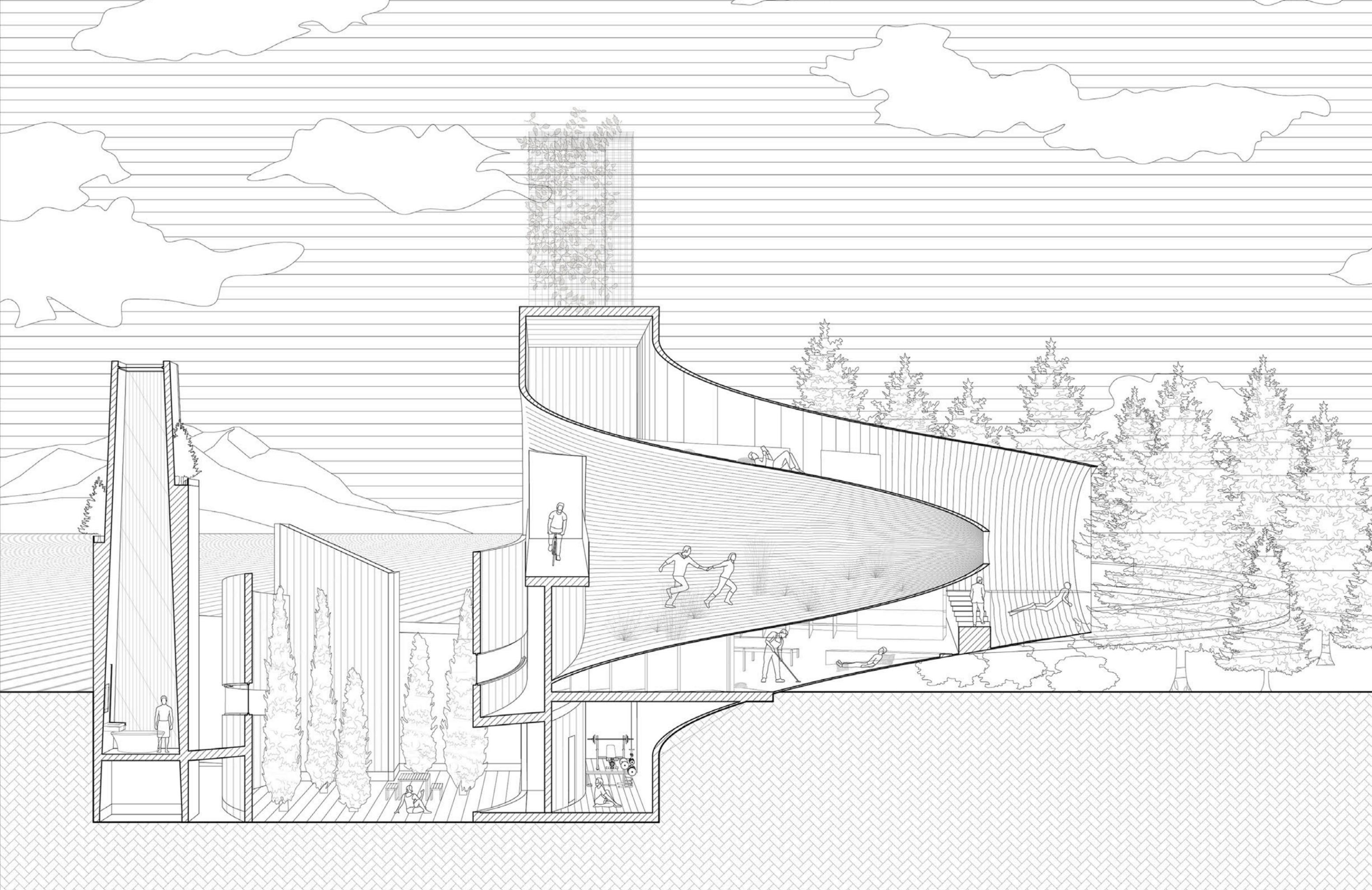


Axonometric view



Ground Floor Plan





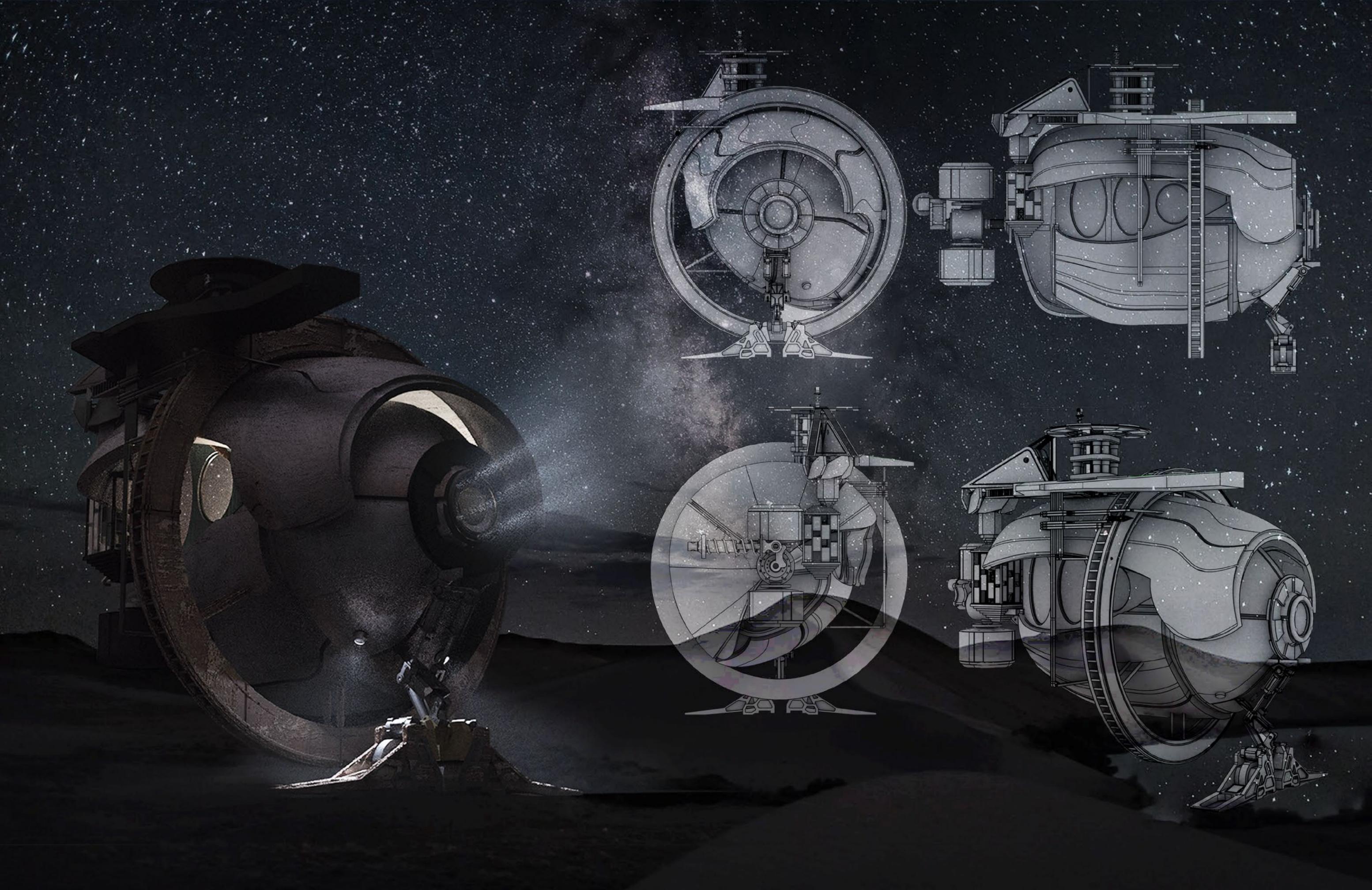
02 Hybrid

Spaceship Design



2021 Autumn
Ultrareal
Instructor: Joseph Brennan,
Phillip Crupi
Group work with Yuening Jiang,
Santiago Alvarez









03 Cross

Urban factory & optimized spatial design for industrial use

2022 Spring

A Factory as it Might Be studio

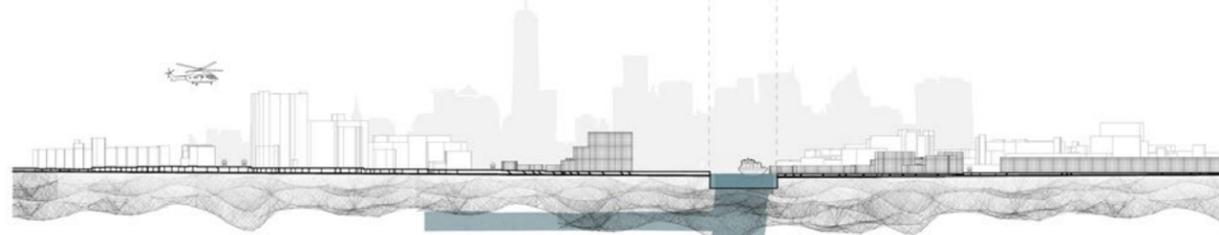
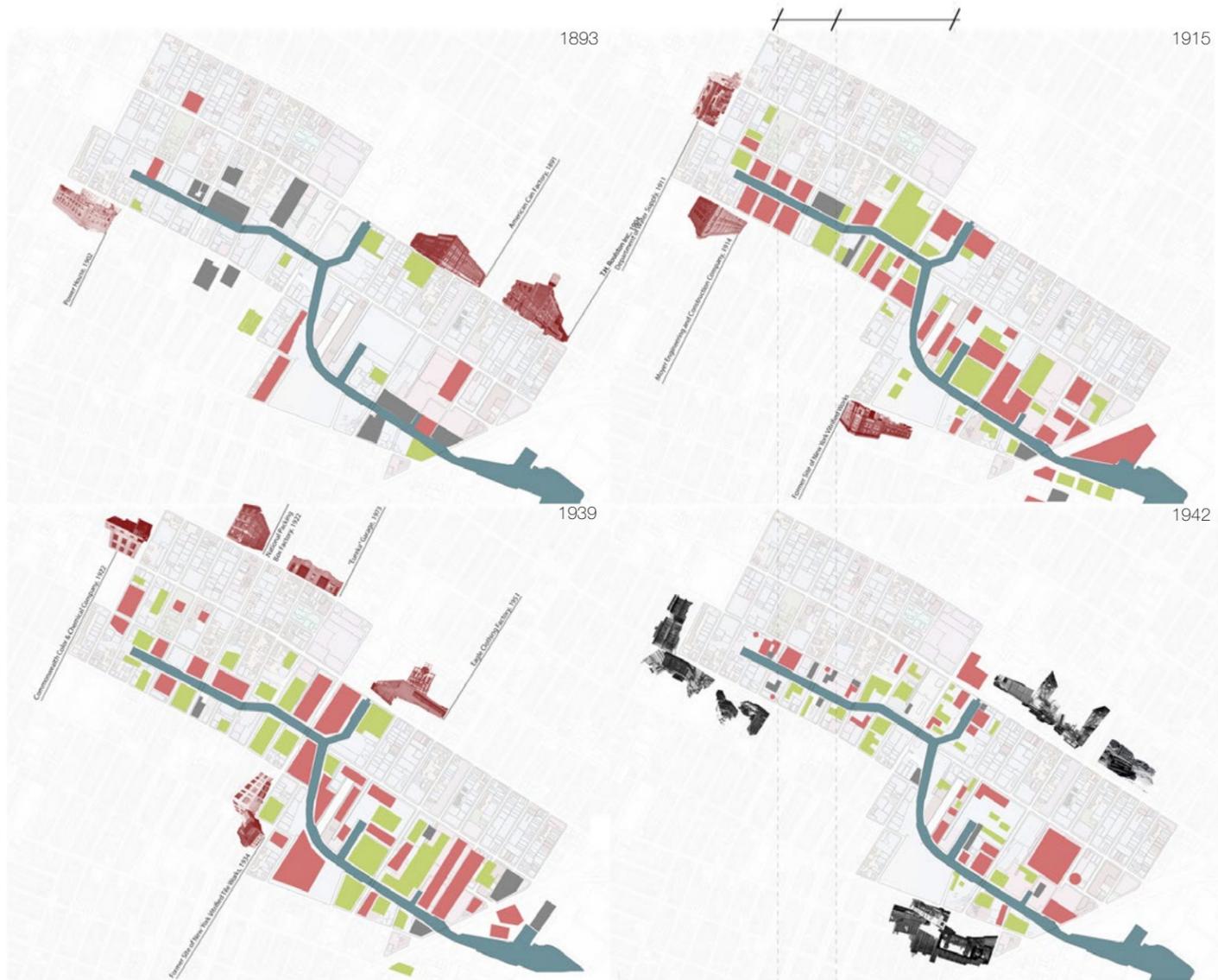
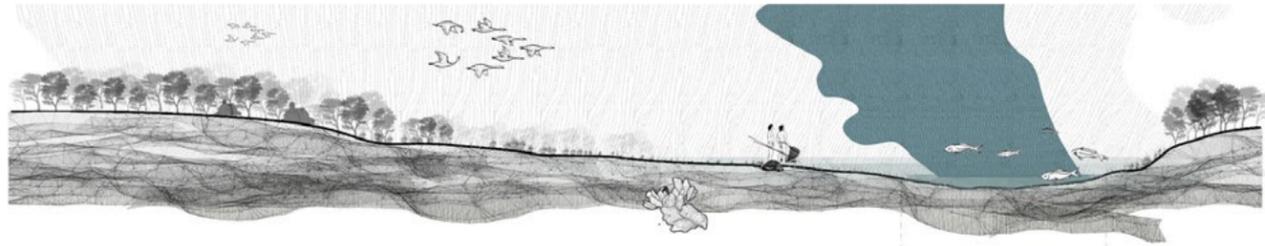
Instructor: Mimi Hoang

Group work with Yuening Jiang and Yinlei Pang

Gowanus canal has always been an essential territory of New York's waterfront industry. Recent years with the large-scale manufacturing moving out of the city, the canal is under cleaning, and more residential developments are happening around the canal. We are seeking a new role of an urban factory to preserve the collective industrial memories.

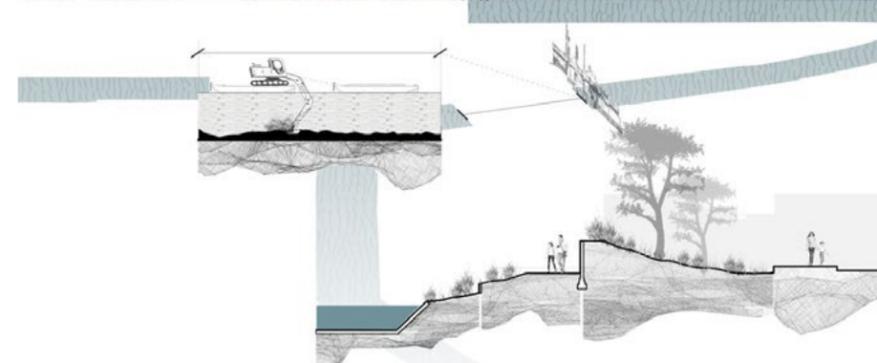
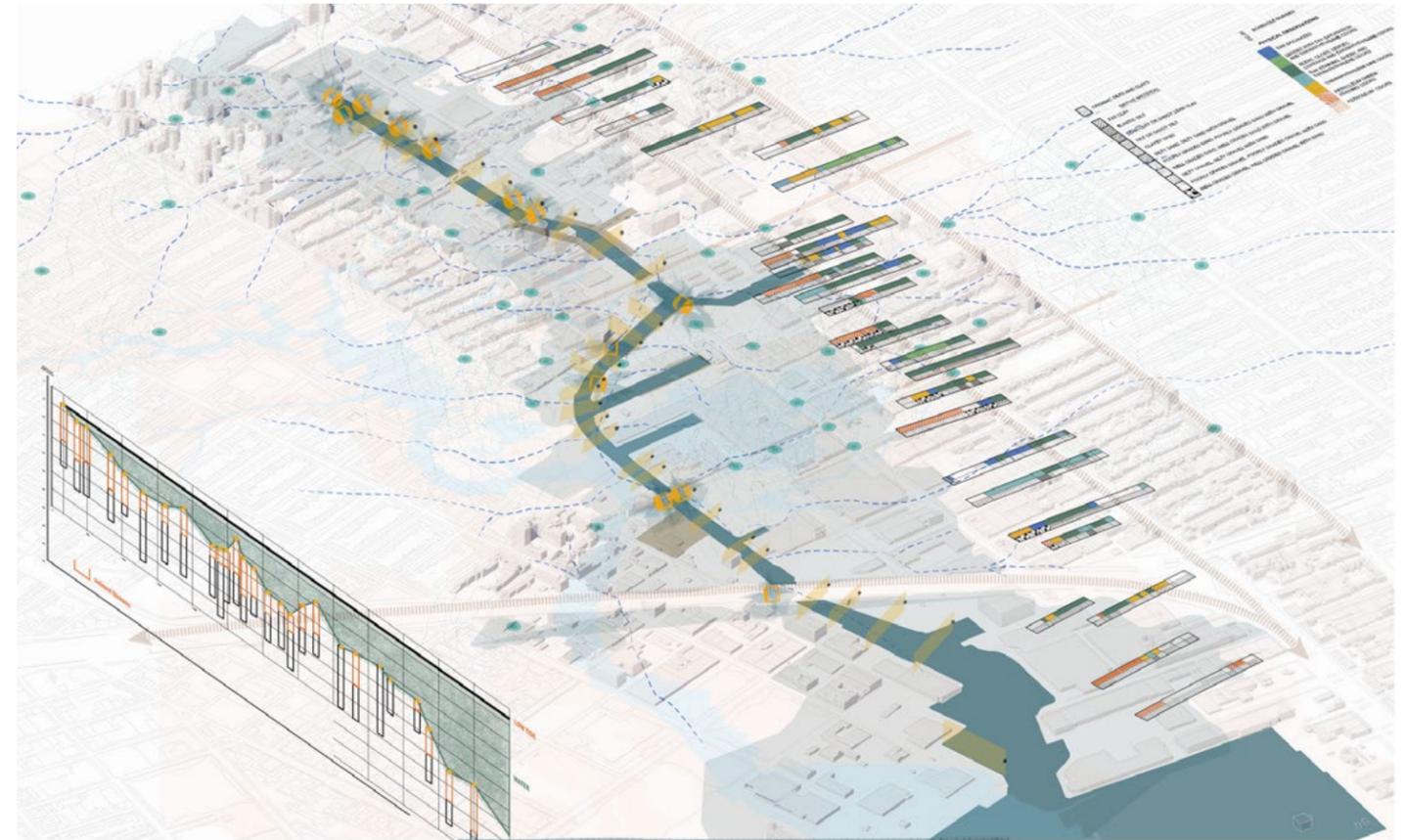
Since printing always has its vitality in New York, we tried to reveal the hidden printing manufacturing by involving local communities. Our future printing factory here will be more than a local amenity, but a gathering space for different communities, a support for artists, designers and educators, an inspiring attraction for citizens to see the hidden printing industry, and a transformative catalyst in the emerging neighborhood near Gowanus canal.

For the spatial design, we decide to use the structural system of arches and the reversed arches to create different zones while keeping a fluid connection between them. The open and transparent space creates a welcoming environment for working and learning activities to happen at the same time.



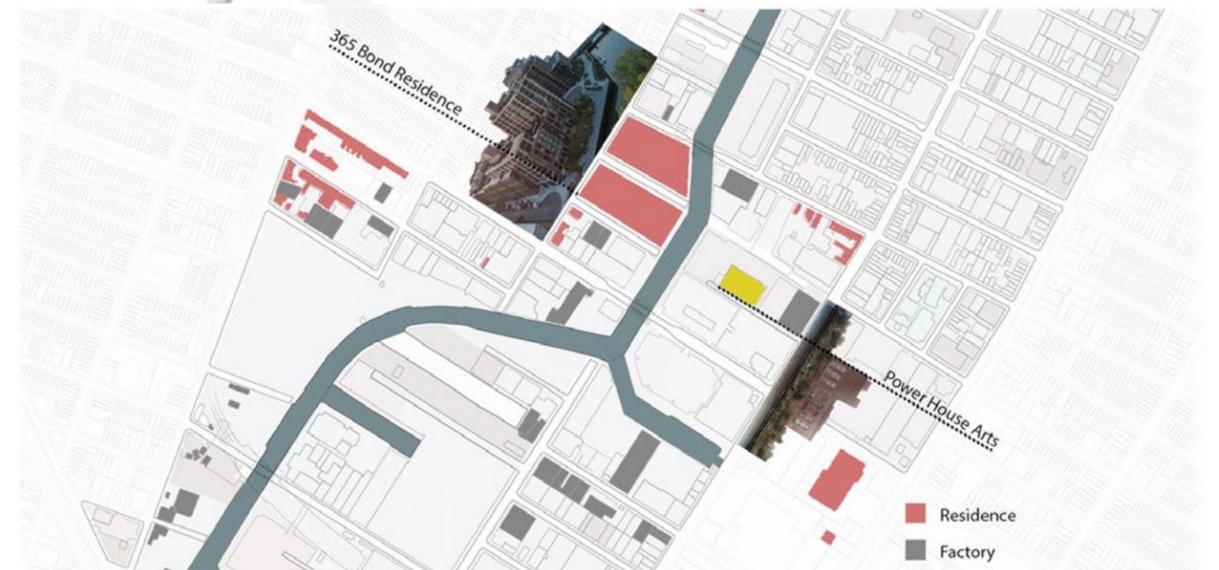
Analysis of existing industrial buildings

Gowanus canal was once a creek with large surrounding swamps. The whole ecology changed with the industrialization process. The transformation of industrial buildings indicates the shift of locations from the canal to 3rd Avenue on the east.



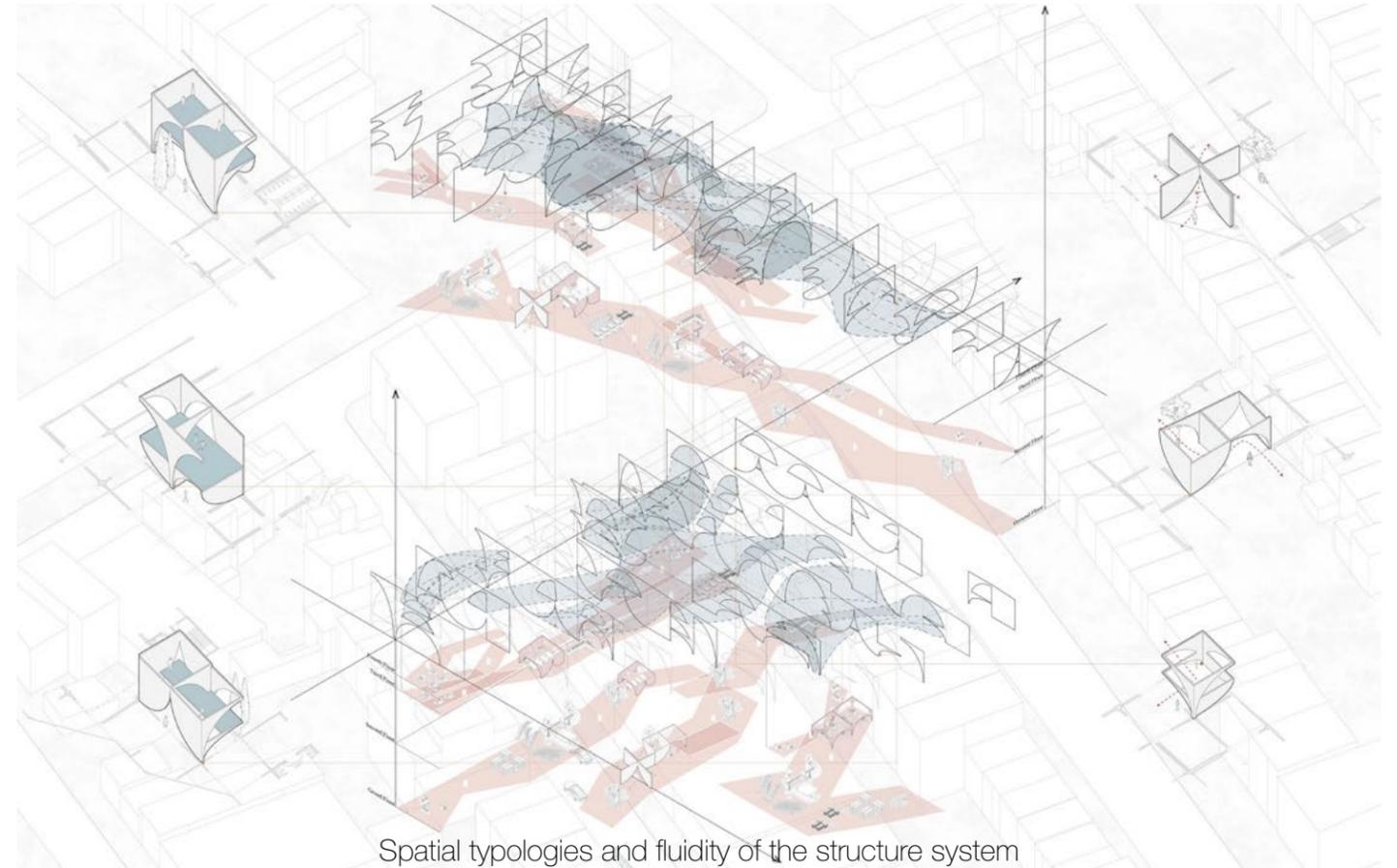
Residential developments

Now with the cleaning of the canal, more residential buildings are developed near the canal, with people reclaiming the waterfront as an urban amenity. New manufacturing, such as Herzog & deMeuron's Power House Art, which provides manufacturing spaces specifically for art production, has also arrived on the canal. Our project continues this new manufacturing spirit.





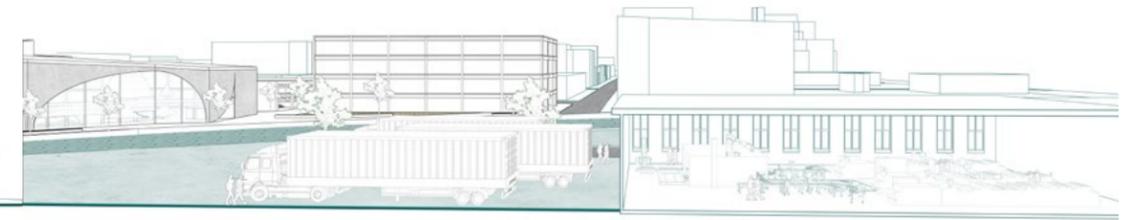
Industry and residence distributions near the site



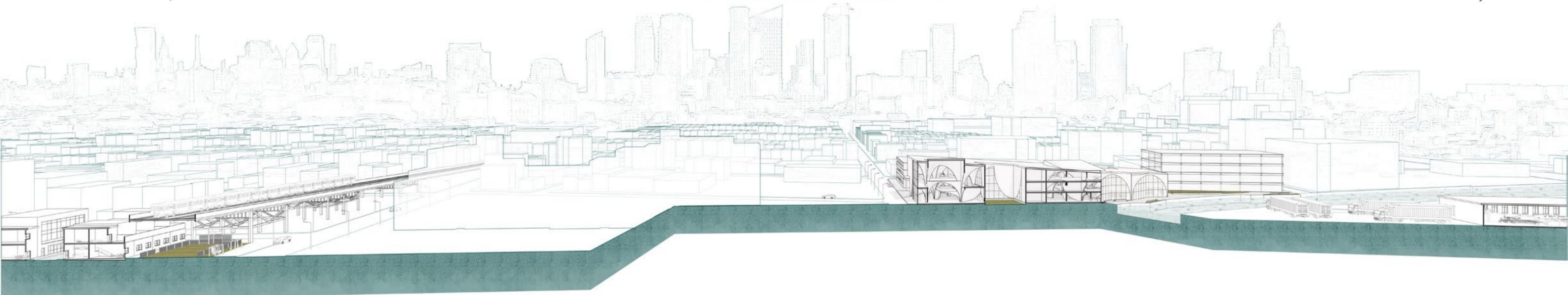
Spatial typologies and fluidity of the structure system

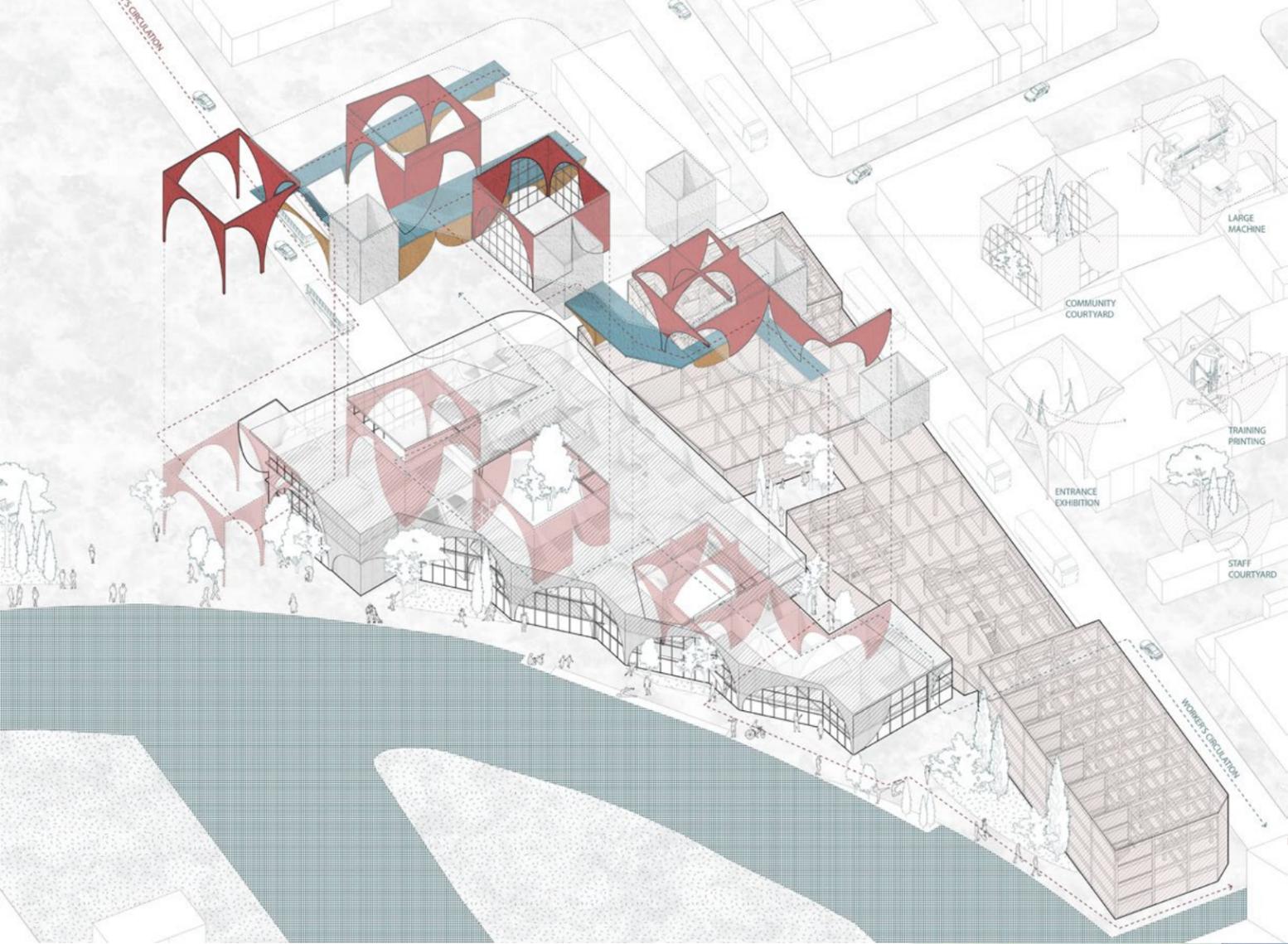


Section of community district

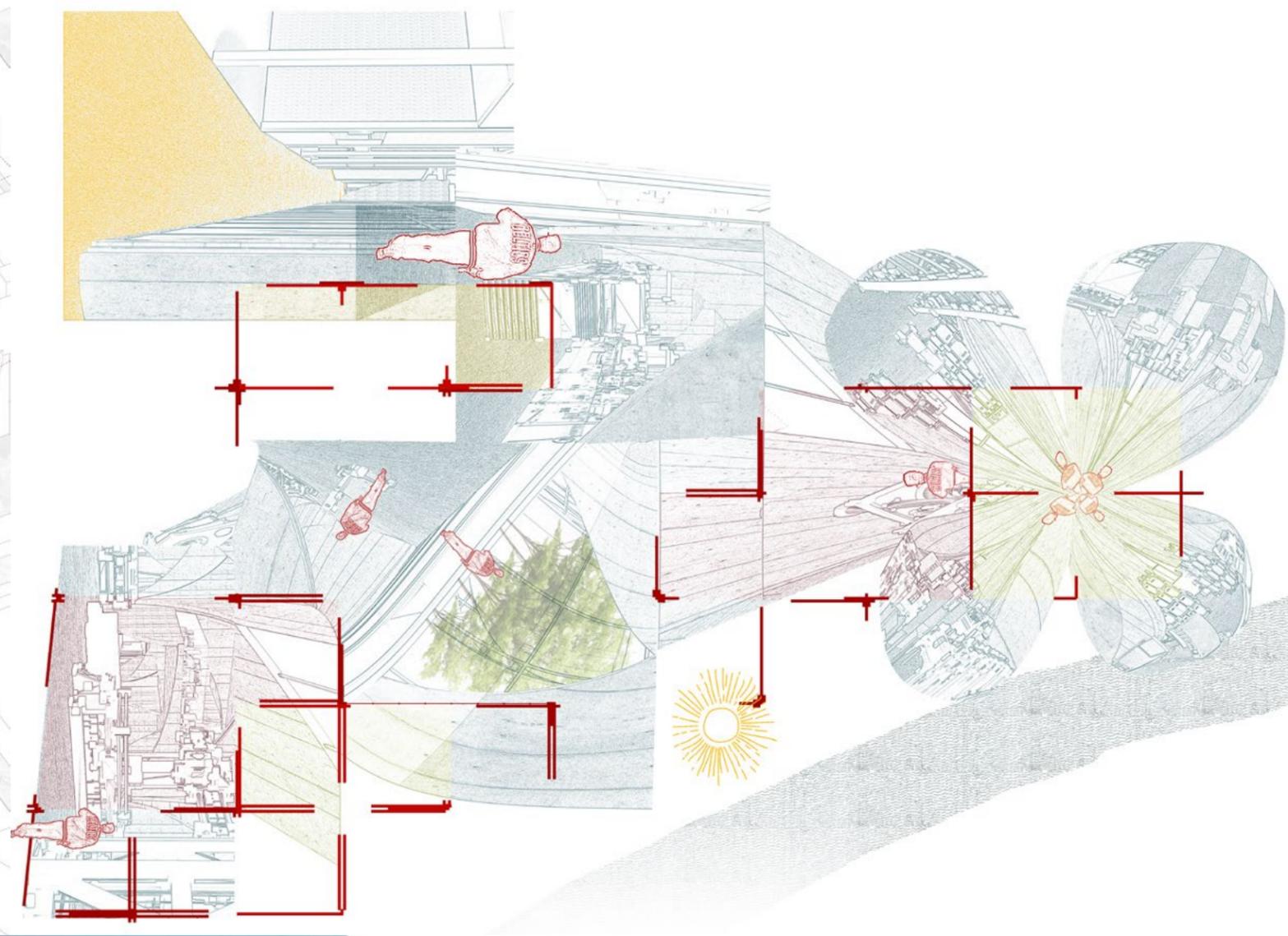


Section of industry district



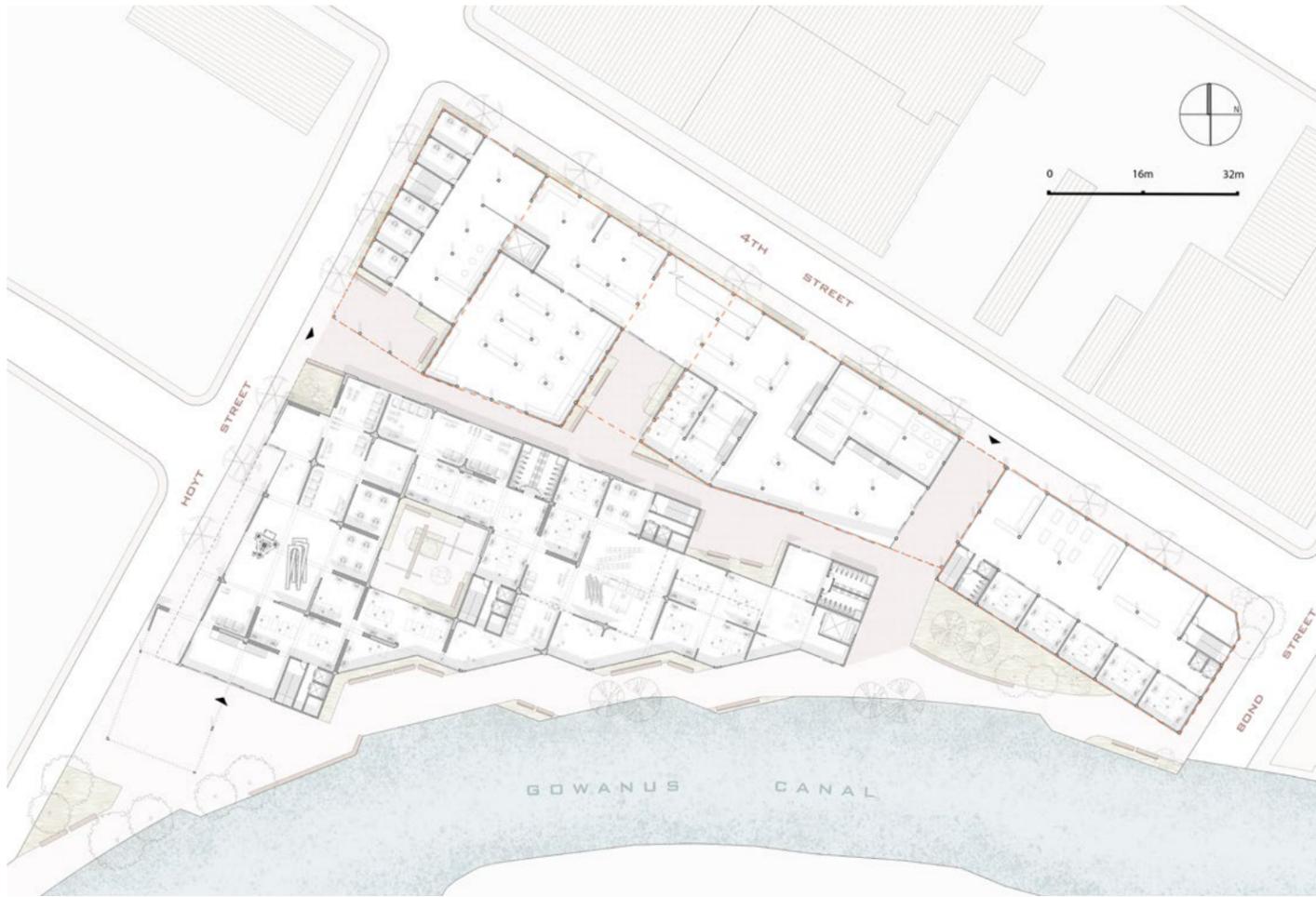


Dominant cores and spatial organization

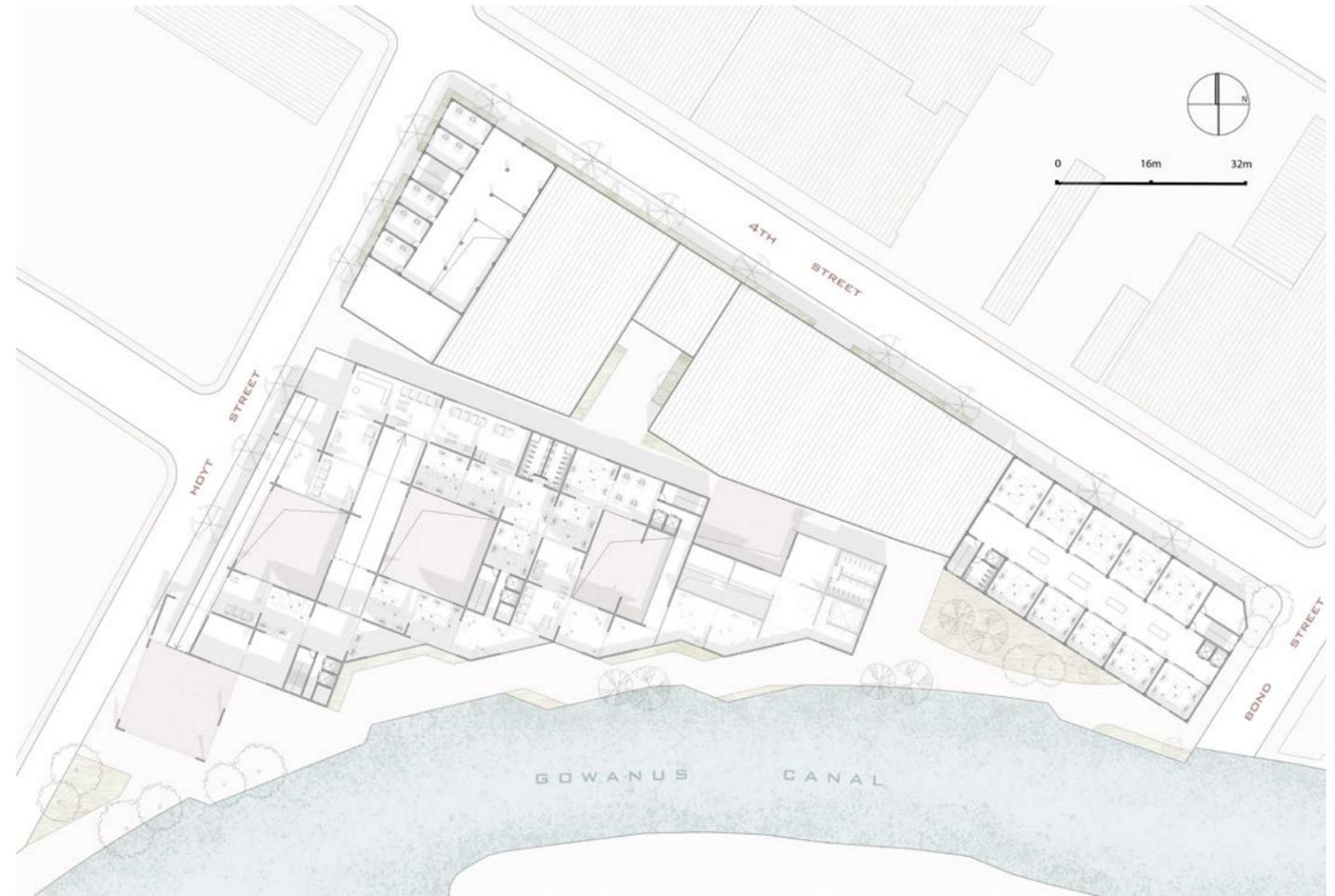


Navigating through different arrangements of space

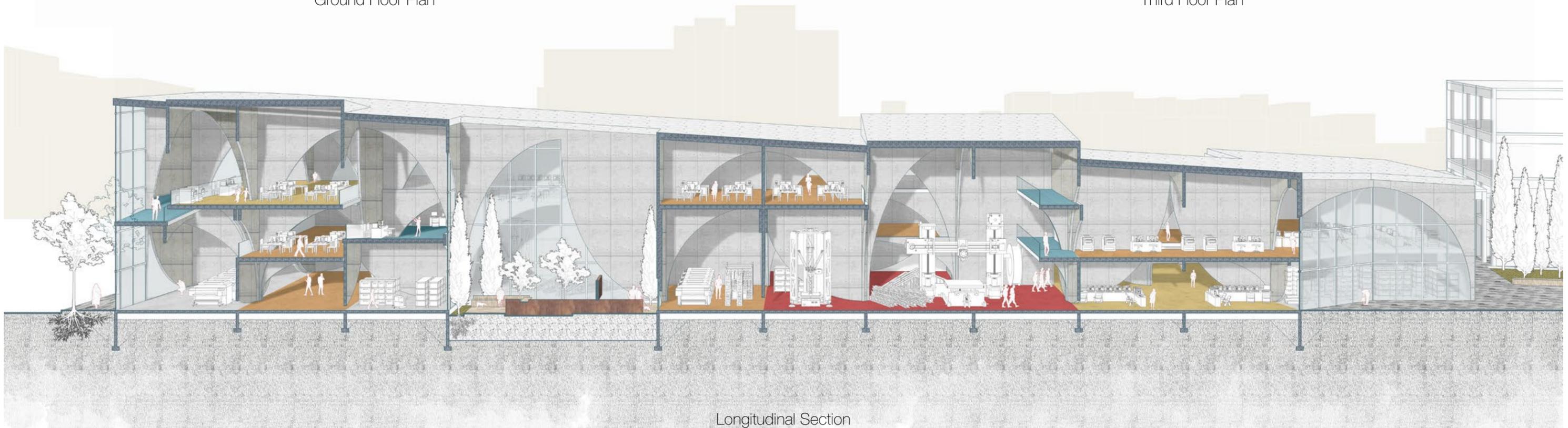




Ground Floor Plan



Third Floor Plan



Longitudinal Section



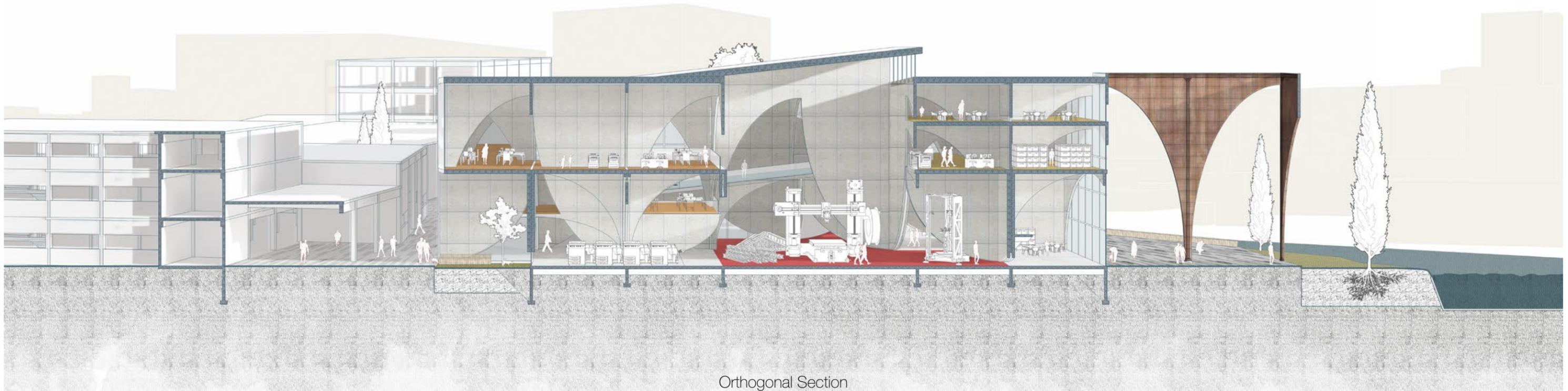
Community ramp

When a local resident comes to visit the factory, he will walk upstairs to the ramp next to the large-scale printing space, watching how workers print architectural components and furniture, seeing other workers carrying raw materials passing through the ramp on the other side.

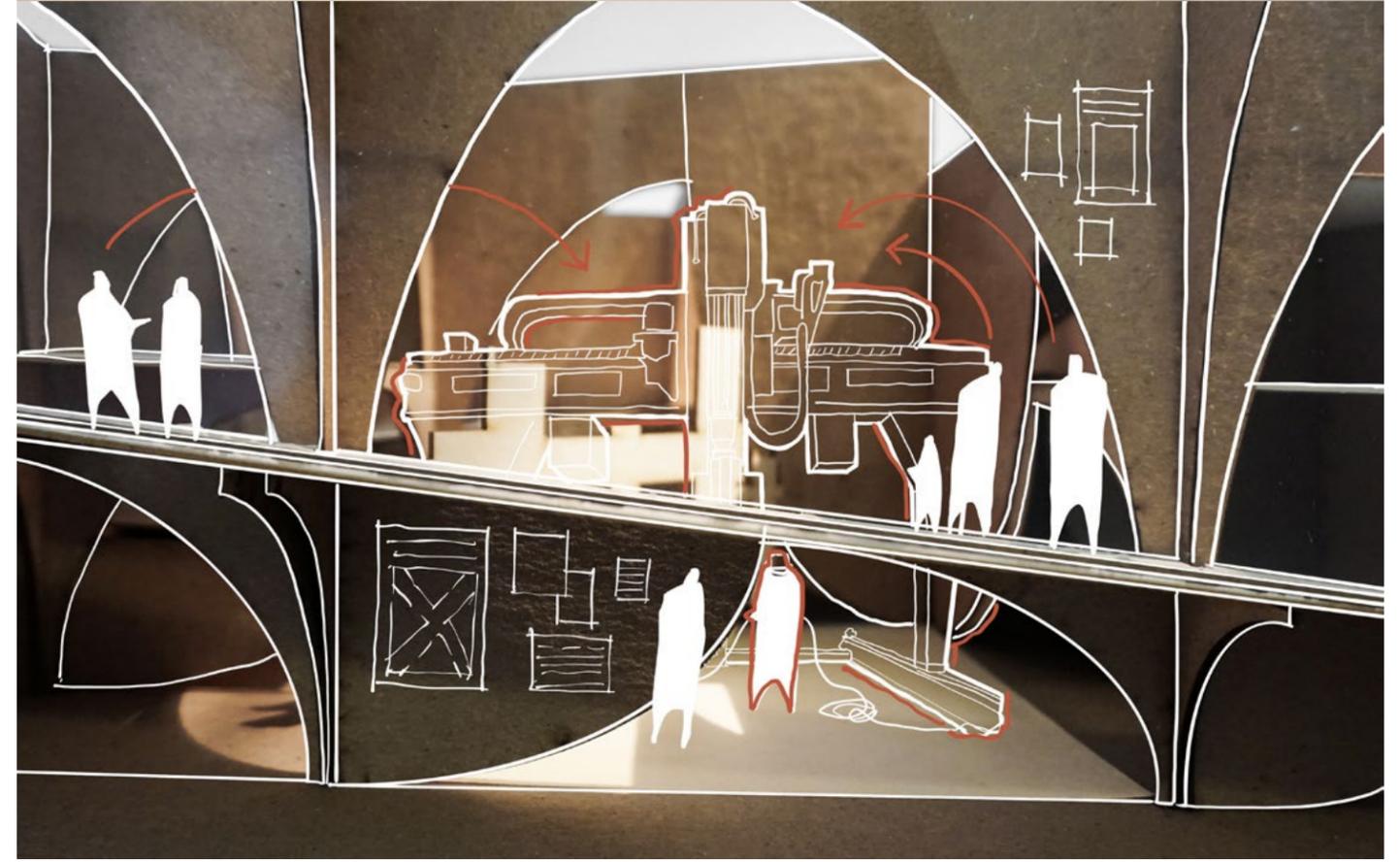
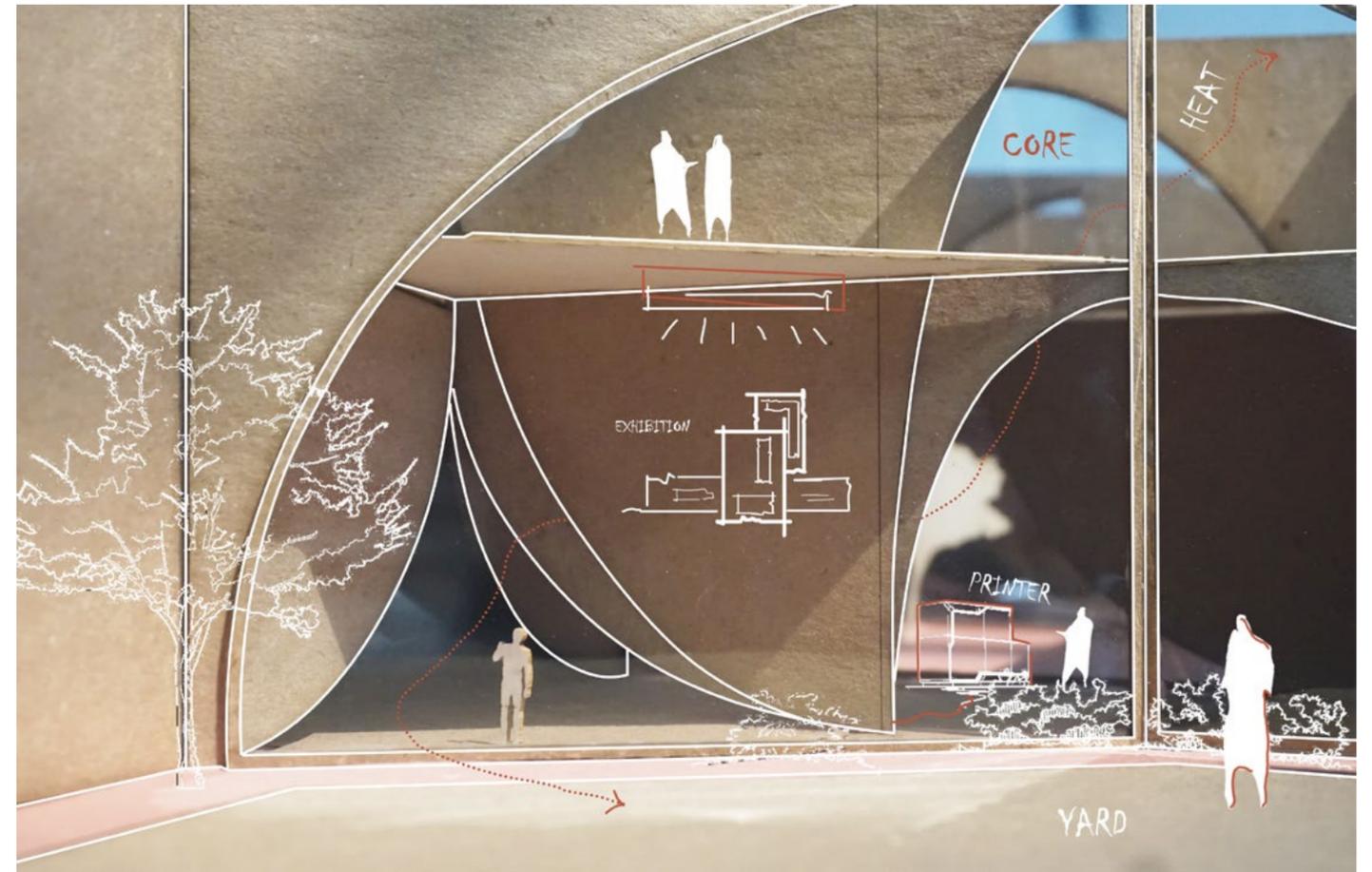
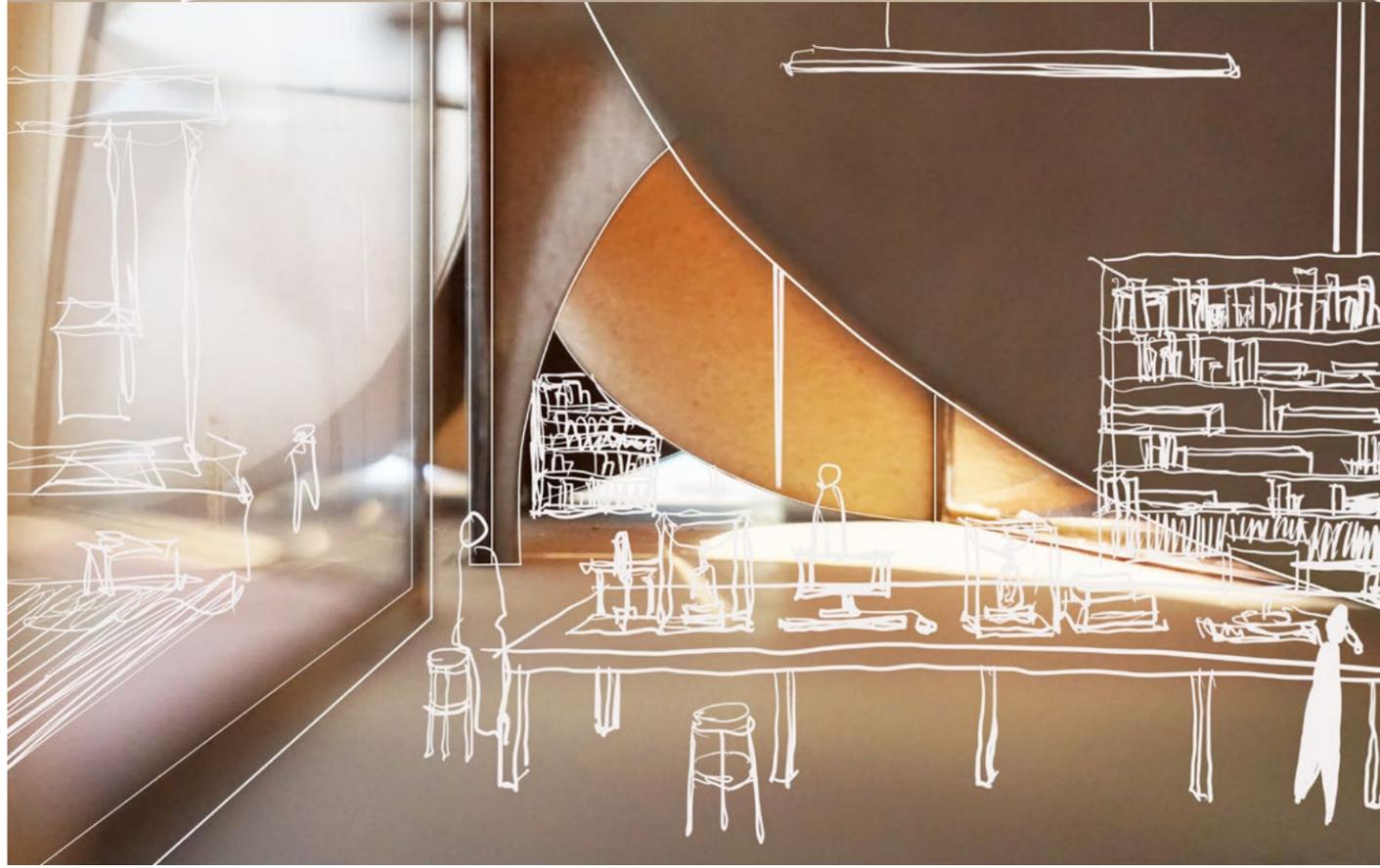
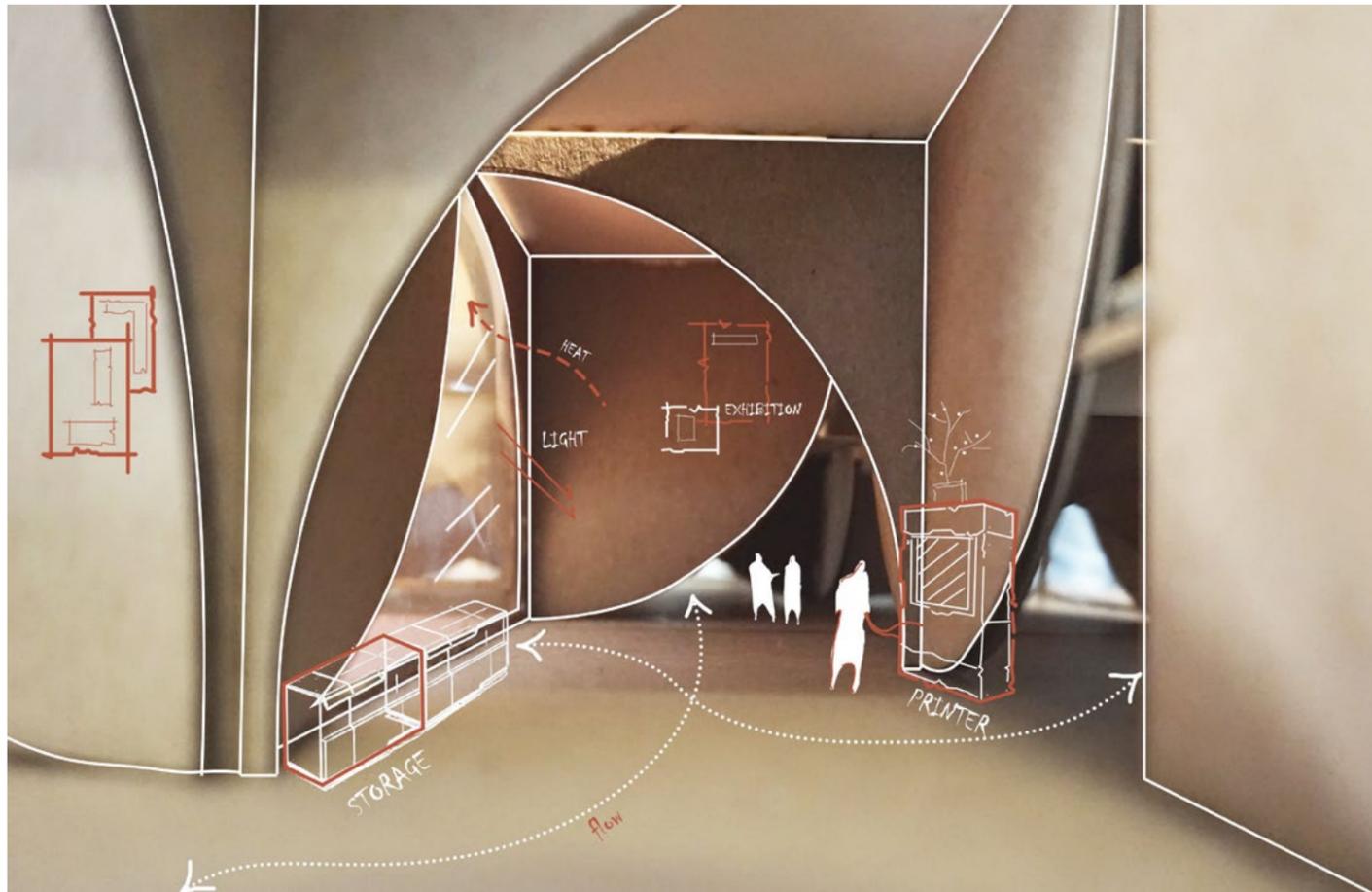


Manufacture ramp

A gentle slope which is proposed for paper and small 3D printing, is located between the large-scale manufacturing area and the courtyard. By mixing the circulations of both workers and communities, the residents can have a closer look at the manufacturing of printing, as well as getting involved in some factory work.



Orthogonal Section





A new urban factory

Our goal is to create a new role of printing factories inside the city, making them an open gathering and educational place, connecting the community and industry in different urban contexts.



04 The Creation of Manhattan's Chinatown

- What are the driving forces that led to Chinatown's emergence as an ethnic enclave and where did the former inhabitants of the area relocate to?

**New York Rising: How real estate shapes a city?
Prof. Kate Ascher, Thomas Mellins**

Introduction

There are two versions of the origin of Chinatown in lower Manhattan, both focusing on the settlements of individual Chinaman. Either the anecdotes of Quimbo Appo as the pioneer resident in New York, running his tea business in the 1840s; or the cigar store on Park Row opened by Ah Ken in the 1850s, as the first permanent immigrant Cantonese businessman, are fascinating stories. While the concentration of Chinese people in creating the ethnic enclave (Figure 1) occupying large territories of lower east Manhattan must have more social economical forces behind the relatively random choice of individual settlement. The article tries to unfold some of these forces considering both why Chinatown stands in its current location, and how it generates itself as an enclosed enclave. Besides, special interest on the relocation of former inhabitants of that area during the expansion of Chinatown provides extra evidence on understanding the development of Chinatown.

Why Chinatown has to be where it is?

The geographic location of Chinatown in lower Manhattan has its deep rationales in history. Although it all started with the settlement of the first Chinamen in New York, the choices of locations were really limited. The very beginning of the gathering of Chinese people in Manhattan is strongly intertwined with the urban transformation in a specific period of time.

1) Historic context

A brief discussion of the site's history prior to the emergence of Chinatown provides necessary context. During the second half of the 18th century, New York was on its way expanding itself towards north. 8 Mott Street, which is recognized as the foundation of later Chinatown, is occupied by the 5-acre pond named "the Collect" (Figure 2). As the site was still at the periphery of the city, the neighborhood surrounding the pond was the favorite location for most industries. The contamination of the fresh water by the industrial waste led to the landfill in 1813. The rapid growth of population during that time made the Collect neighborhood an ideal place for residential and commercial use. Speculative real estate investments started on that filled land, where middle class such as artisans, bakers, masons, shopkeepers and professionals were the first tenements. The area would soon become the most notorious slum in the world named Five Points, starting from the moving out of artisans, due to declining economic status in the market. The enormous immigration flow into the city provided a profitable housing business in the 1820s and 1830s (Figure 3). The landlords started to transform the houses into small apartments. Gentrification process during that time started to shape New York with divisions between commercial and residential districts. Discrimination, or the movement of "finding peers", due to social and economic status following the gentrification, strongly affected the demographic patterns in Five Points.

By the time that successful merchants and artisans moved out of Five Points for better housing quality, the constant movement of tenements, sinking ground and frequent disease made the area unattractive to prosperous New Yorkers. The discrimination of wealth started to convert to the discrimination of race. The immigrants who arrived in the 1830s were relatively dichotomous. One kind is seeking speculative opportunities, the other is merely refugees seeking survival opportunities. The poor Irish and Catholic immigrants had to choose the cheapest area to live, ending up Five Points. At the same time, the newly emancipated African Americans were also pushed to Five points due to the lack of training in difficult occupations. Five Points would soon be densely populated by global immigrants, creating crimes, riots, diseases and other tremendous problems. Although it is recorded that there were almost no Chinese residences in Five Points in 1855, it was provided here, the social context of the first arriving and settling of Chinese immigrants.

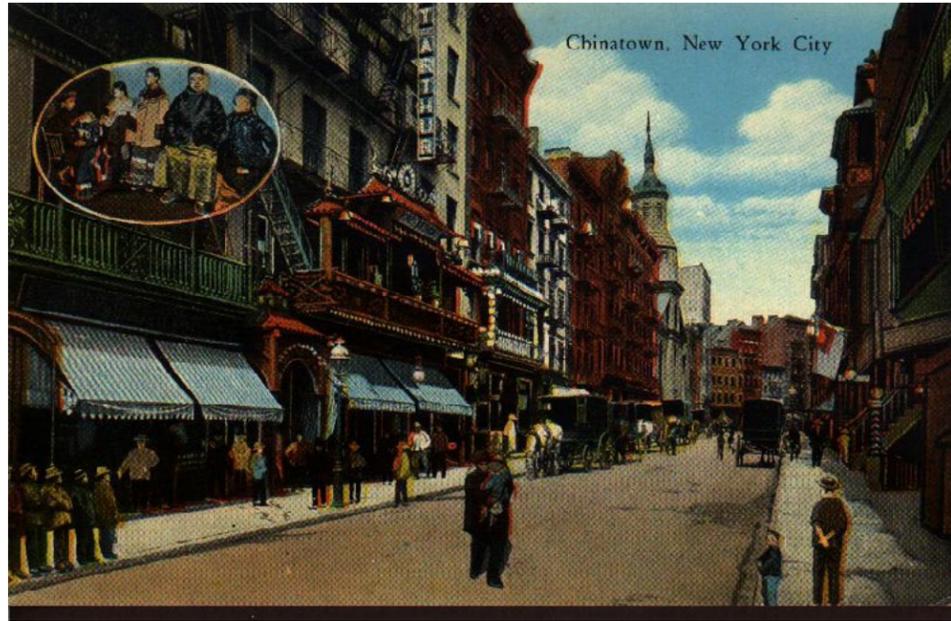


Figure 1: Starting point of Chinatown, Mott Street.

Postcard. China Town. Mott St. New York. Postmark date: 1909. Columbia Digital Library Collections [Columbia University Libraries].

2) Demographic changes

The development of Five Points in the 19th century is deeply related with the creation of Chinatown. Among all the factors demonstrating the social changes in that area, the demographic transformations may best illustrate how Chinatown grew piece by piece. Back in 1855, influenced by the enormous influx of immigrants, the foreign-born accounted for 72 percent of Five Points' population. Mostly from Ireland and German States, some from Italy and Poland, also very few Chinese lived there (Figure 4). The African American population in Five Points dropped dramatically during 1830-1855. They largely moved to the West Side of Manhattan. The exodus of black people revealed the fluctuated demographic structure of Five Points during that period of time.

The Civil War period contributed greatly to the population change in Five Points. With a great number of Five Pointers joining the army and navy, the rising incomes provided them a chance to move to uptown and on Lower East Side. The Irish and German people, who used to be the largest portion of residences in Five Points, were dramatically replaced by Italians in the 1880s (Figure 5). Little Italy evolved around Mulberry Street by that time, remaining a center of Italian immigrant life for many years. Most Italians moved north above Canal Street, leaving the portion of Little Italy south of Canal the fringe of the community rather than its core. By the time of the 1920s, the immigration restrictions cut off the largest immigrant groups of Chinese and Italian. Five Points, Little Italy and Chinatown soon transformed to a quiet district, without the constant influx of immigrants in the neighborhood's tenements. In the late 1930s and 1940s, New Deal housing programs drew many Italian Americans to the suburbs, especially New Jersey. The Feast of San Rocco moved with them, to Fort Lee and other towns (Tyler Anbinder, 2014). Although it is hard to demonstrate all the relocation of all other immigrants in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the exodus of Italians, who composes a large population in and near Five Points, provides the demographic gaps in the neighborhood for a new wave of immigrants to fill in. With the repealing of the immigration restrictions in the mid-1960s, Chinese immigrants again started to fill tenements in the neighborhood. While Italians were still main streams of immigrants, they tended to settle above Canal Street or in Queens and Brooklyn. With the steady growth of Chinese immigrants in the neighborhood in 1979s and 1980s from mainland China, Chinatown grew to its today's shape.

3) Key Factors that keep Chinatown there

In many literature documentations, the first Chinaman settled in New York is always attributed to the origin of Chinatown in lower Manhattan. It seems that the mysterious and even legendary stories of either Quimbo Appo or Ah Ken are attractive enough to offer the basic understanding of Chinese people, as well as some amusement to readers. However, some key factors other than the individual choice of starting tea or cigar business strongly defined the evolving of Chinatown in specific geographic locations.

The first Chinese New Yorkers mostly settled in the poor, Irish-dominated Fourth Ward to the east of Five Points, before the Civil War.

Strongly related to the occupancy and social status of these Chinamen, they lived in a number of boardinghouses as poor sailors. Working on a ship with Caucasian crews as cooks, the neighborhood on the waterfront with modest prices became the best choices for them. Similarly, when Five Points evolved into a crowded neighborhood filled with poor immigrants all over the globe, Chinese people were part of the crowd.

The tension between Chinese and Irish people is also an essential factor that shaped the subtle division of ethnic neighborhood in Five Points during that time. Five Points started to become homes for more Chinese immigrants the years after the Civil War, because Irish people somehow pushed the Chinese out of the Fourth Ward, to the block on lower Baxter Street. No matter it's the racial discrimination of the Irish, or that Chinese felt more welcome in the community of Italian and Jewish, the pattern of the distribution of these Chinese people in Five Points started to form in certain scale.

The story between Irish and Chinese didn't end by that time. In the 1880s, there was a large movement on stopping Chinese people from creating "colonies" in Five Points. According to the press during that time, the Irish in particular sought to stop the Chinese influx into Five Points, with the slogan of "Driving Out the Chinese." Rather than renting the house to Chinese and receiving at least \$1000 per year, Five Points landlords preferred to leave it vacant. The Chinese did try to find possible locations on Eighth Avenue uptown, while ending up having an even harder time renting property in other parts of town. The tenacious Chinese protected themselves by buying buildings in Five Points themselves. With Wo Kee bought 8 Mott for \$8500, Tom Lee bought 16 Mott for \$15000 by 1883, Chinatown persisted, and even got more prosperous. By that time, the location of future Chinatown as an enclave had been strongly bounded by the ownership of real estates.



Figure 2: Extension of the built environment in lower Manhattan, 1767

The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs: Picture Collection, The New York Public Library. "The Ratzler map of New York City, 1767" New York Public Library Digital Collections.



Figure 3: Crowded streets full of immigrants in Five Points, 1827

General Research Division, The New York Public Library. "Five Points, 1827" New York Public Library Digital Collections.

<i>Place of Birth</i>	<i>Percentage of 1855 Adult Population</i>	<i>Percentage of 1880 Adult Population</i>
Ireland	66%	31%
Italy	3	23
United States	11	22
Poland	2	11
German States	14	7
England	2	3
China	0	2
Other	1	1

Figure 4: Navignty of adults population in Five Points

<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Italian	49%
Jewish	18
Irish	10
Chinese	5
German	1
Unknown	17

Figure 5: Ethnicity of Five Points residents, 1890

What are the forces that create Chinatown as an ethnic enclave?

Today, there are plenty of ethnic enclaves in New York City, with its population of great diversity. It is always fascinating to explore the streets, architecture and even conversations among people in these exotic neighborhoods. There are no simple answers on how these enclaves evolved to their looks today, Chinatown in lower Manhattan is no exception. The history of Chinatown is twisted with personal experiences, with opium and gambling, with gangs and riots, and even with transformations of the whole lower Manhattan. By reviewing the history, as well as combining it with the understanding of my own cultural background as a Chinese, some factors stand out as driving forces of the making of Chinatown.

Although ethnic enclave is a complex topic in terms of its intricate social, economical and cultural distinctions, the definition of it is really simple: a portion of territory within or surrounded by a larger territory whose inhabitants are culturally or ethnically distinct (Oxford Languages). So, I attempted to understand the question by simplifying it to only two parts: Why did these Chinese people come, and why did they concentrate. Further I divided the forces that caused the concentration of the Chinese population into internal and external factors. All these factors or forces will be discussed below.

1) Movement of Chinese population

The census data in 2019 shows that there are more than 100,000 Chinese American living in lower Manhattan Chinatown. Though the generation has been changing, the large number of Chinese people is still contributed by waves of immigrants.

As mentioned in previous paragraphs, Chinese immigrants occupied a very small portion of the city's population before 1870. Most of these Chinamen were sailors, tea or cigar merchants. Some Chinese (arriving in California during the Gold Rush) started to move from California to New York by the time that transcontinental railroad had completed in 1869. But the most dramatic increase of the Chinese population derived from the Chinese exclusion movement in California. Thousands of Chinese were pushed out of the West coast, and headed their ways to New York in the year of 1877 (Figure 6). More details of the movement will be discussed as an external force later. While an interesting fact, according to a newcomer named Wah Ling, the price war between rail and steamship companies that cut the cost of a transcontinental journey from San Francisco to New York in half, was an indispensable reason for him to move.

The effect of the anti-Chinese movement continuously affected the Chinese movement from West to East until the end of 19th century. Merchants from China immigrated to New York constantly during that period of time, but there was no such significant population influx. In the period between 1920s and the mid-1960s, the Chinese population remained relatively stable due to the immigration restrictions.

Floods of Chinese immigrants came after the discriminatory immigration quotas were repealed. Most of these immigrants came from Taiwan, due to the tension of the political environment. Immigrants came constantly during that time. When the People's Republic of China relaxed emigration restrictions in the late 1970s, another flood of Chinese people from Fujian province flowed into Chinatown, creating their neighborhood named Little Fuzhou.

If the movement of Chinese people provides the fuel, different forces that pushed or aggregated these people together may act like the engine in creating Chinatown.

2) Cultural difference

That there is the most radical difference between the civilization of the Orient and that of Western nations needs no affirmation. It is manifest at a glance. These people have been born and educated under that form of civilization which has prevailed in the Chinese empire for thousands of years. Our civilization is the outgrowth of a few centuries. (Louis J. Beck, 1898)

There must be some inner force that kept these Chinese people together, which I used to believe was language. The language system of the east is so distinct from the west, that without several years of learning and practicing, it was hard for Chinese to efficiently communicate with Caucasian. However, history records proved that either Quimbo Appo or Ah Ken could speak fluent English, making it an improper guess that language built barriers between Chinese and others. Following the idea that language is always a representation of mental processes and even cultural behavior, it was proposed in 1940, by linguist Benjamin Lee Whorf that there existed an extreme level of interdependence between language and thought. People think in language and that native speakers of different languages think (reason) differently. That does explain some experiences of my own, as a Chinese person living in New York. Sometimes I understand every single word from a native English speaker, but I don't feel what he/she said makes any sense, or I will never think that way. The personality embedded with orient cultural and social behavior lying behind the language, as a Chinese, made it hard to quickly adapt to a white society. It is a very interesting phenomena that when a Chinese merchant came back to his

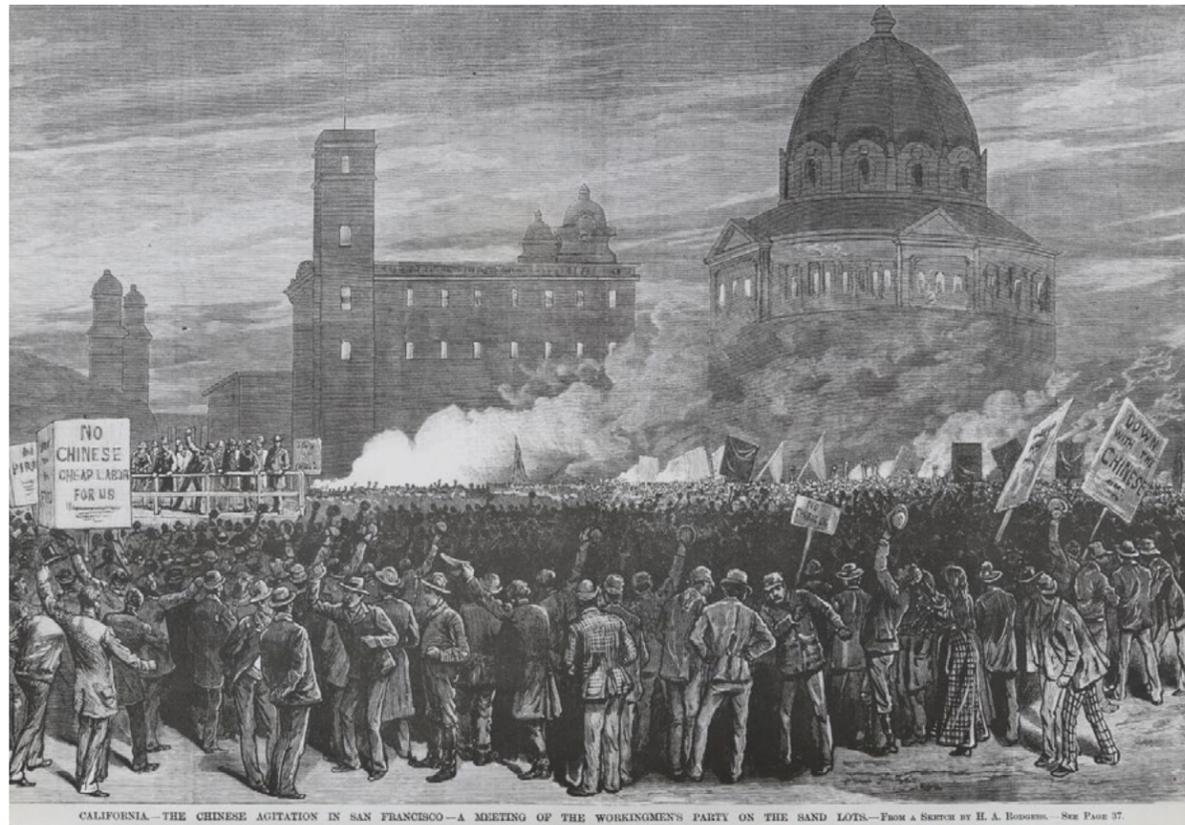


Figure 6: Anti-Chinese riot in San Francisco.

H. A. Rodgers, Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, March 20, 1880.

hometown, he described that he made his fortune in a city named Mott Street, instead of New York.

It seemed that there were no easy ways for Chinese to call a foreign place, neighboring with foreign people, home. The nostalgia feeling lied under their skin, deep in their genes. They cooked their traditional food, played their own games in order to cherish memories. As early as 1880, the Times called Mott Street New York's Chinatown. By that time, Chinese entrepreneurs preferred to lease entire buildings rather than individual apartments, opening shops on the ground floor while providing dormitories and rooms for socializing above. This led to the concentration of Chinese on just two of the neighborhood's approximately twenty blocks: Mott Street below Pell and Pell Street between Mott and the Bowery. Although the Chinese constituted only a tiny portion of the Five Points population. It seemed to many observers that the Asians had overrun the neighborhood. This might be a rebarbative phenomenon for the white people, creating a cognitive sense that "Chinese are creating their colony".

Chinese always keep their traditions of cherishing their families and fellows from their hometown. Examples like Hakka houses can best explain this cultural phenomenon of living as a cluster bound by blood and building architecture like fortresses, for certain ethnic groups in an unfamiliar environment (Figure 7). In the expansion of the Chinese population in the 1880s, Chinatown's residents replaced the all-encompassing mutual aid societies of the 1870s with more selective groups organized around family and geographic origins.

3) Economic and political variables

It is obvious that the gathering of Chinese people in Chinatown didn't all come out of the internal feeling of self-seclusion. Certain political and economic forces strongly shaped their decision making. Among all these forces, anti-Chinese movement had its persistence in pushing Chinese into the peripheries of the city, not only geographically, but politically and economically. It was recorded that Chinese experienced discrimination and racism on California, from their arriving during the Gold Rush. The racial discrimination peaked in the 1877 riot against Chinese immigrants in San Francisco. The competition of occupation between Chinese and Caucasian was getting more and more intense, especially during the Long Depression period. This fear of Chinese people

occupying jobs somehow found its way spreading from the west coast to the east, affecting how Chinese people worked and lived in New York.

In the mid-19th century New York, the commodifying of other cultures and the production of "otherness" in peoples and cultures driven by marketplace economics in lower Manhattan strongly shaped the cognitive identity of white New Yorkers. Even under that situation, there was room for African Americans, Irish, Chinese, and everyone else to intermingle and to have a good time in New York. While the thriving of ethnic otherness in Five Points started to shrink when the very advantages started to diminish due to the bad economic climate in late 1870s. According to Tchen, the space of tolerance for otherness began to disappear in post-Reconstruction America as political debates over free labor evolved into a naked white racism against the Chinese and other nonwhites. Probably largely influenced by Denis Kearney's racist views about Chinese immigrants, Irish labor leaders and politicians, fearing Chinese competition for jobs, advocated ridding the country of the Chinese. In the gradually formed racial hierarchy during that time, Chinese were portrayed as rat-eaters, slavish coolies, criminals, and morally inferior heathens. Tchen concludes that Chinaman, who used to live and work in highly multicultural working-class neighborhoods and professions, were pushed into "Chinatown" where they were ghettoized residentially and commercially.

The attitudes and perceptions of the Chinese shifted to more pessimistic and self-protection in this increasingly anti-Chinese environment. The shifts of Chinese occupations in the 1880s might represent a reaction due to the social and economic trauma. With the Irish immigrant women who had once taken in laundry leaving the business as their economic status improved, the Chinese shifted their focus from cigars to shirts. It appeared that laundry work was safe, which did not threaten the occupations of white men and therefore would not lead to the labor unrest that had driven them from California.

Economic restrictions within the developing patterns of Chinese people. When enough money accumulated from laundry work, some Chinese started to open groceries, as profitable institutes in loaning money. It soon evolved as a systematic chain for Chinese newcomers to start a business with the money from storekeepers of these groceries. Certain restrictions were put on these newcomers such as responsibility of buying things from the grocery, rather than a certain interest on these loans. These early contracts bound Chinese people close. Gradually these groceries became a gathering center for these Chinese people, by serving the community as clubs, the general newspaper stations and post-offices, according to the Chinese-American journalist Wong Ching Foo. It was very common to see Chinese drinking, gambling and spreading gossip in these places on weekends. Associations like Chinese "tongs" might be another social political factor that brought Chinese people together. By the mid-1880s, Chinatown had become a shopping, social, and leisure center for the city's far-flung Chinese residents (Figure 8).

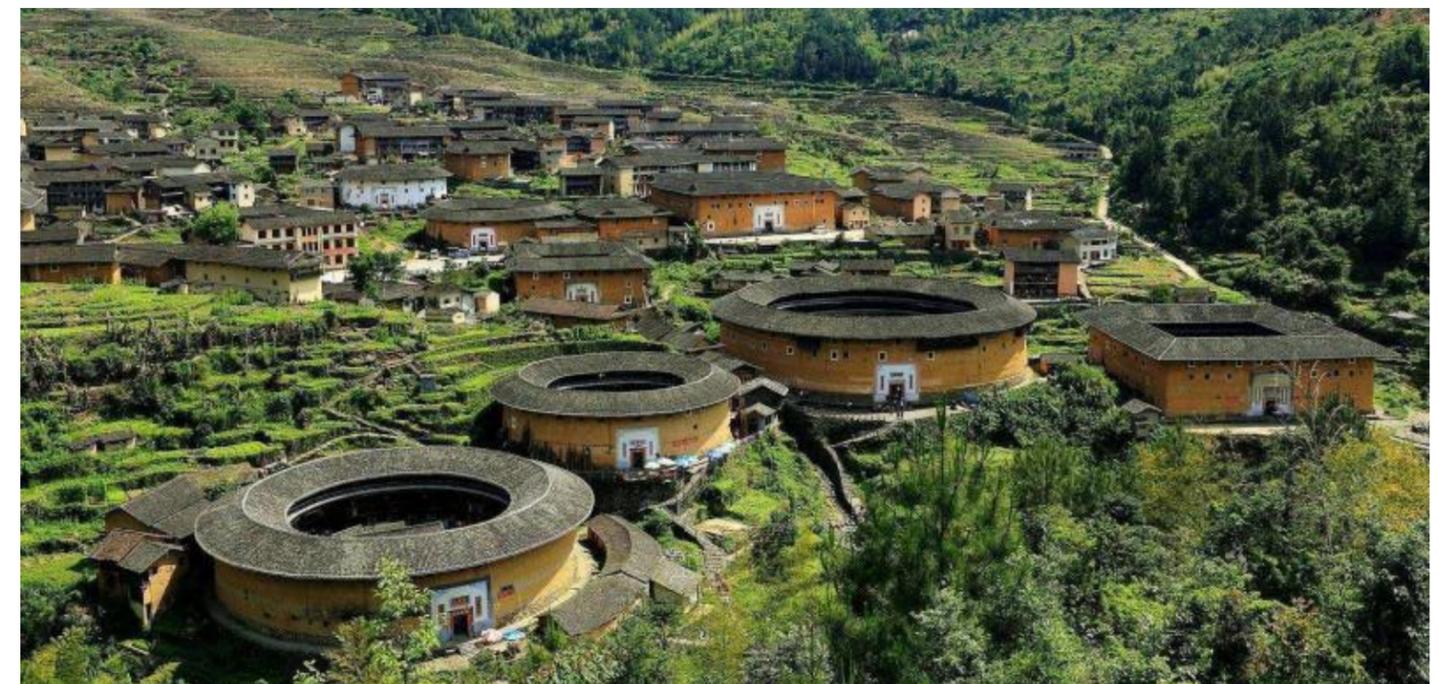


Figure 7: Houses of Hakka in southeast China. The round architecture with most its openings towards inner courtyard represents a defensive cultural behavior.



Figure 8: Street life in Chinatown in 1898.

Ostrow, David., Ostrow, Daniel. Manhattan's Chinatown. United States: Arcadia Pub., 2008.

4) Urban/architectural discrimination:

Without officially defined borders, today's Chinatown is commonly considered Lafayette Street to its west, and Worth Street to the southwest. Walking along Centre Street from Canal Street, with the massive, gigantic court building and city offices on your left, it is impossible to know that Chinatown with dwarfed residential buildings is located just next street behind these civic authorities. On the streets near Columbus Park, one might encounter a similar experience. Huge mass of the civic buildings blocks all the view to the west and south (Figure 9). These buildings resemble barriers, which provide a strong sense of dividing neighborhoods, in the architectural analysis of a local neighborhood.

Conclusion

It is impossible to know all the stories of the creation and development of Chinatown in lower Manhattan. Answering the question of "Why Chinatown emerged as an ethnic enclave?" should be precise, rather than comprehensive, because tons of thousands of incidences may contribute a piece of bricks of the Chinatown today. In defining the reasons behind Chinatown's current location by retrieving essential moments from the history, some special focuses are developed. The driven forces concluded as cultural differences and political/economic variables can be traced following these moments. Some visual evidence such as the urban configuration in the neighborhood of Chinatown deserves further discussion.



Figure 9: The civic buildings as visual barriers, surrounding the westsouth of Chinatown.

Photo took from Columbus Park, November 5, 2021

Bibliography

1. Tchen, John Kuo Wei. 1999. New York before Chinatown: Orientalism and the shaping of American culture, 1776-1882. Baltimore, Md: Johns Hopkins University Press.
2. Whorf B L 1940 Science and linguistics. Technology Review (MIT): 42. Reprinted in Carroll J B (ed.) 1956 Language, thought, and reality: selected writings of Benjamin Lee Whorf. Cambridge (USA), The MIT Press: 207-19.
3. Beck, Louis Joseph. New York's Chinatown: An Historical Presentation of Its People and Places. United States: Bohemia Publishing Company, 1898.
4. Hemp, William H. New York Enclaves. New York: Clarkson M. Potter, 1975. ISBN 0-517-51999-2
5. "Selected Population Profile in the United States 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates – Kings County, New York Chinese alone". United States Census Bureau. Retrieved November 10, 2021.
6. Tyler Anbinder. Five Points : The Nineteenth-Century New York City Neighborhood. Free Press; 2014.
7. Hay, Mark (July 12, 2010). "The Chinatown Question;". Capital. Archived from the original on November 1, 2010.
8. Xu, Nannan. Why Chinatown Has Gentrified Later Than Other Communities in Downtown Manhattan: A Planning History. United States: Columbia University, 2013.
9. Kinkead, Gwen. Chinatown: a portrait of a closed society. New York: HarperCollins, 1991.

"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

VOL. CLXIX ... No.

© 2020 The New York Times Company

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2023

\$6.00

LOWER MANHATTAN, THE TOMBS IS ON FIRE

The Community of Chinatown in a Ritual Ceremony.

The history of the Manhattan detention complex is an accumulation of side effects. Before the first colonial settlement, this place was a huge pond later exploited as an essential water resource and named Collect Pond. Since then, people started to dumb the side-effect of extraction and exploitation to this site, from toxic chemicals to unfit people. The authorities also have figured out many ways to redact the hazardous side effects, like the landfill covering the polluted pond, the facades hiding the cells behind, and the skyscraper jails compressing more people at the same place. Moreover, this leviathan array of jails, courthouses, and governmental buildings themselves are the wall that segregates the unfit community, Five Points slum, and Chinatown from the city.

The enclosure logic of the tombs is not only about the incarceration of human bodies but also about the repression and exclusion of specific social communities, as collective bodies, of Chinatown. The resistance of Asian communities against the jail started as early as the 1980s. Although the rebellious attitude lies firmly behind their slogans, activities, and even their business near the jail, the community's voice and power stayed low and unperceivable. A skyscraper jail project was recently released to hold inmates moved from Riker's Island. Before constructing the new jail, the previous one must be demolished. We found this period is the last chance for the community's voice to be heard, so we will try to intervene with a carefully designed process of demolishing the previous jail. By revealing the redacted fact through the deconstruction of the jails, vertically and horizontally, more public sectors will participate in the decision of building a new jail. In addition, the project would shed light on new visions, spaces, and plans for the both ultimate abolition of incarceration and a fair spatial relationship between the city and Chinatown.



Advanced studio V, Post-Plantation Futures, Prof. Mable O. Wilson, Work by Siyu Xiao, Ralph Cheng.

05 Arson

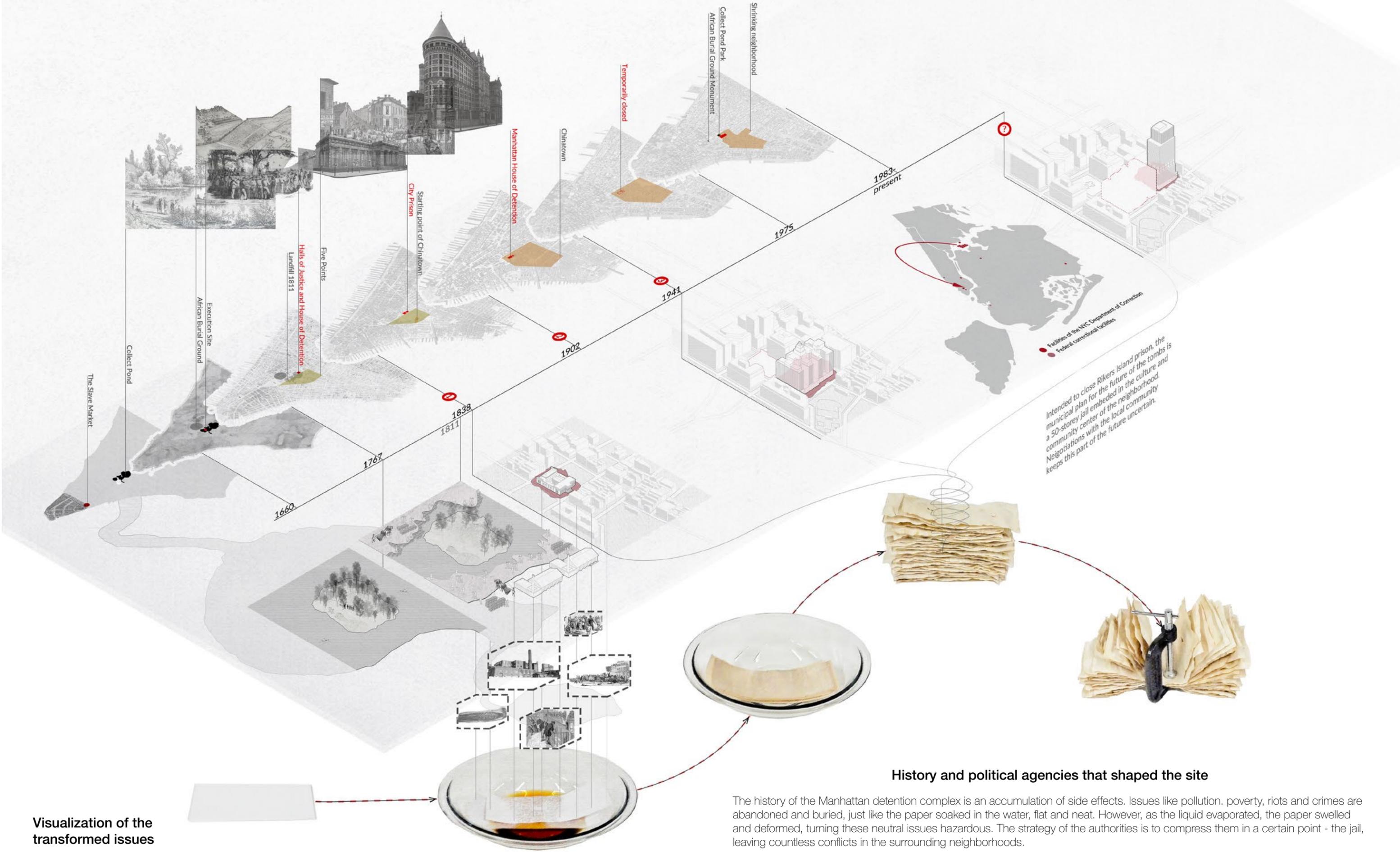
Political power &
resistance of local
community

2021 Autumn
Post-Plantation Future studio
Instructor: Prof. Mabel O. Wilson
Researcher: Jordan Carver
Group work with Ralph Cheng

The history of the Manhattan detention complex is an accumulation of side effects. From toxic chemicals to unfit people, political otherness is covered by the facade of the jail, and segregated by the array of municipal buildings.

The resistance of local Chinatown community against the jail started as early as the 1980s. Although the rebellious attitude lies firmly behind their slogans, activities, and even their business near the jail, the community's voice and power stayed low and unperceivable.

Intervention will take place in the demolition of the old jail, due to the future plan of a skyscraper jail. It is considered the last chance for the community's voice to be heard. By revealing the redacted fact through the deconstruction of the jails, more public sectors will participate in the decision of building a new jail. In addition, the project would shed light on new visions, spaces, and plans for the both ultimate abolition of incarceration and a fair spatial relationship between the city and Chinatown.

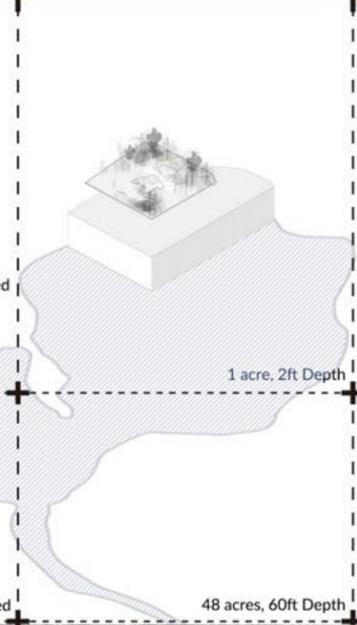


Double agent and voice of Chinatown community

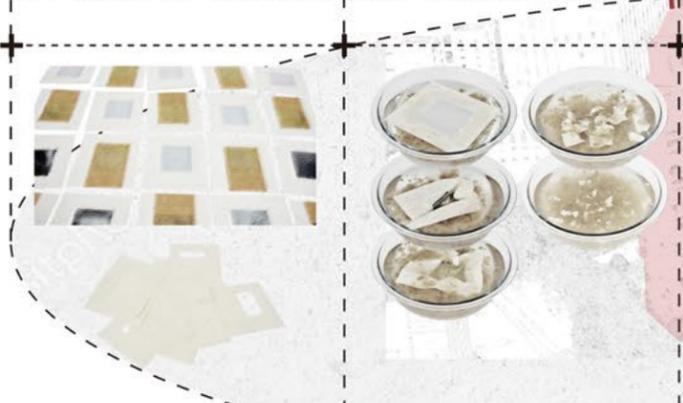
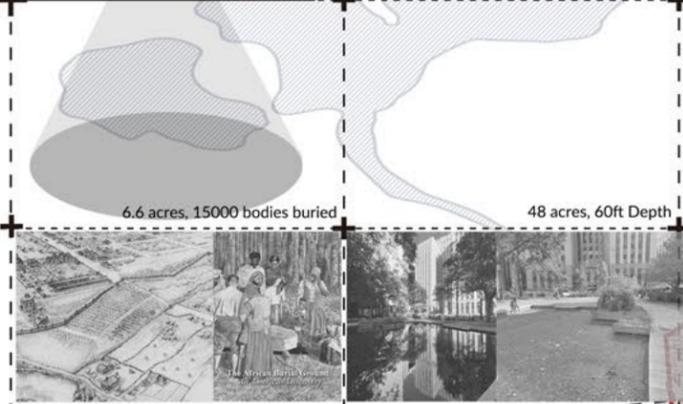
To better understand the plantation present around the site, double agent effect is concluded as missing, erased, redacted and camouflage. Instead of individual-body incarceration, the research and design are focused on collective-body incarceration. Neighborhood of Chinatown is largely segregated by the array of municipal buildings. Residents of Chinatown reacted to this sense of enclosure by placing several funeral services nearby Columbus Park.

Asian people commemorate their deceased relatives by burning the spirit money, which represents a sophisticated aspect towards death. While on the other side of the previous Collect pond, the jail itself dissolves a part of the souls which belong to the people who were incarcerated. Around the Tombs, is the metamorphosis of death.

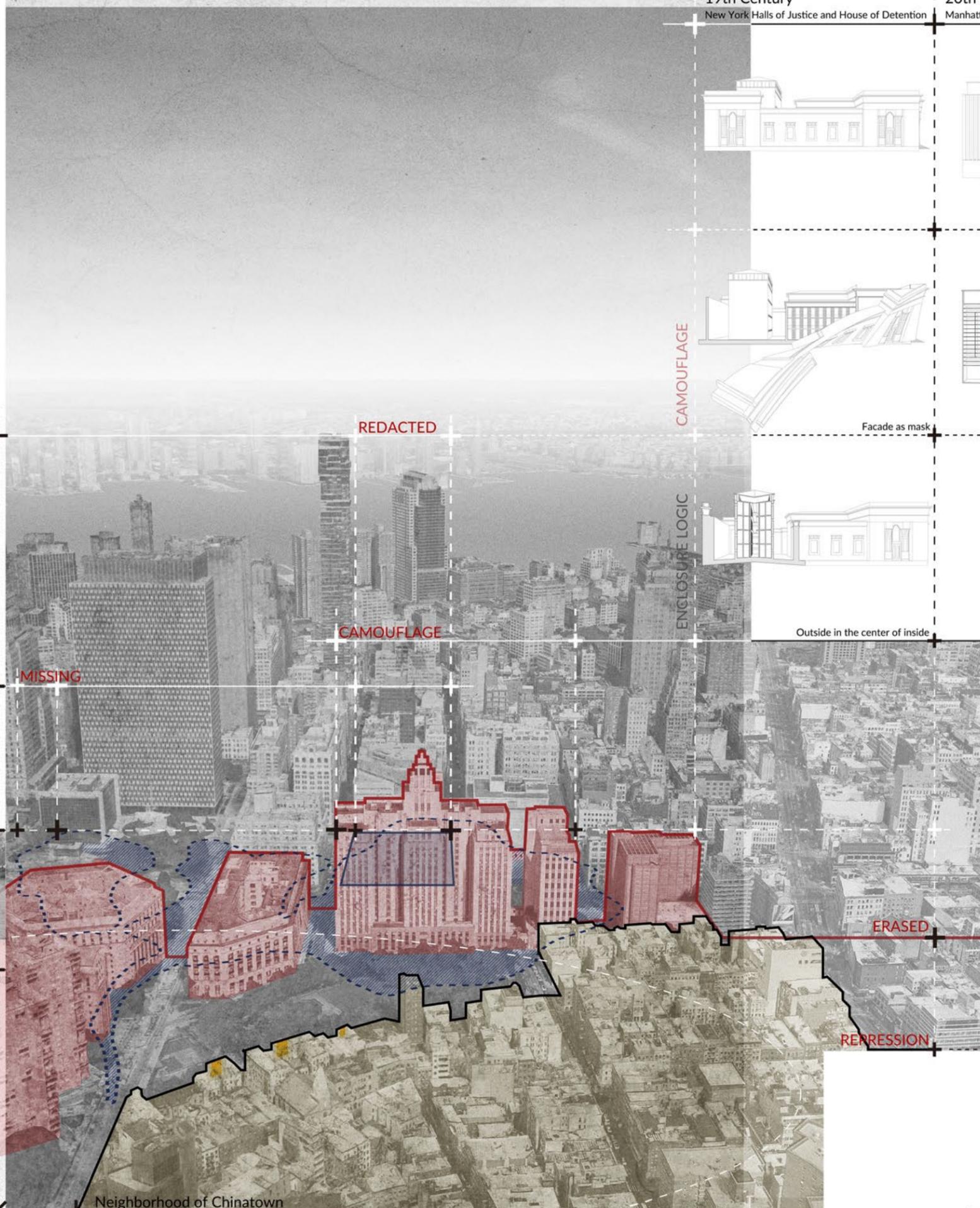
18th Century
Collect Pond & Collect Pond Park



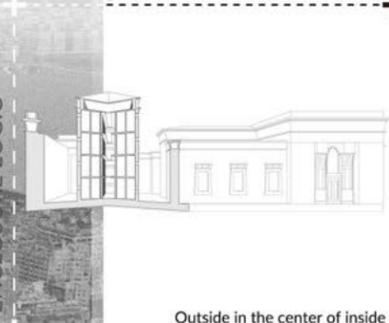
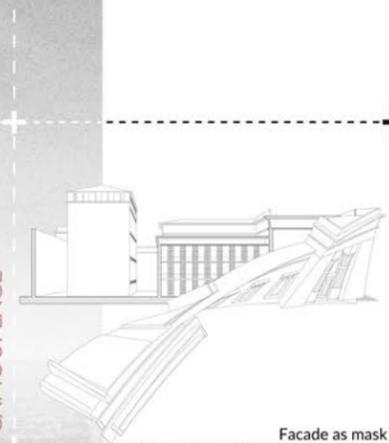
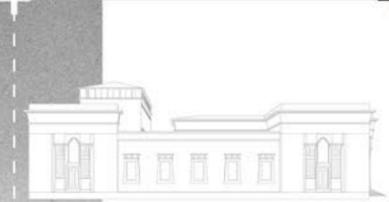
17th Century
African Burial Ground & Monument



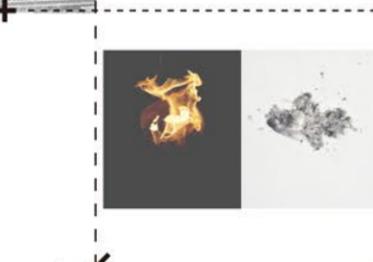
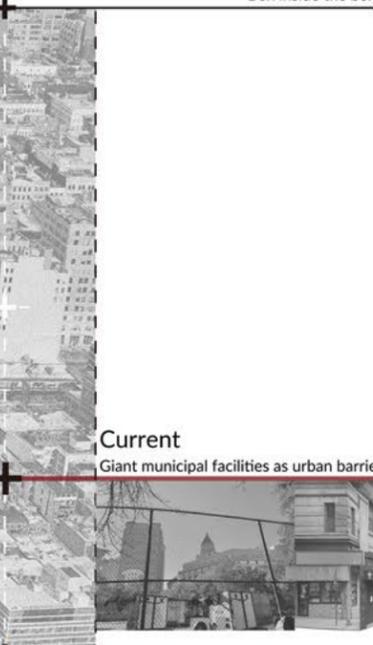
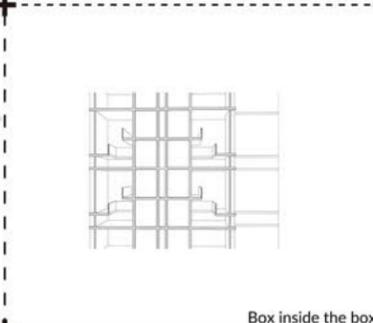
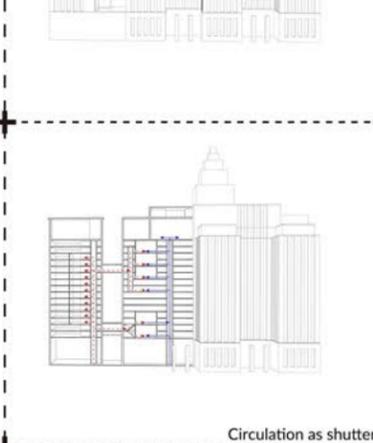
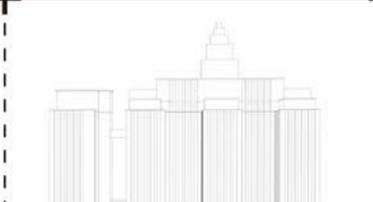
How death is deformed | How death is reformed



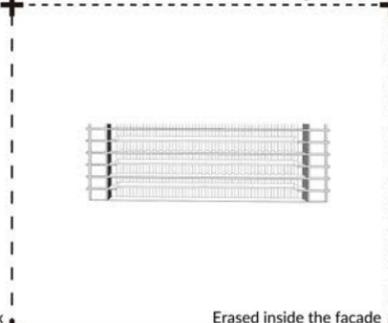
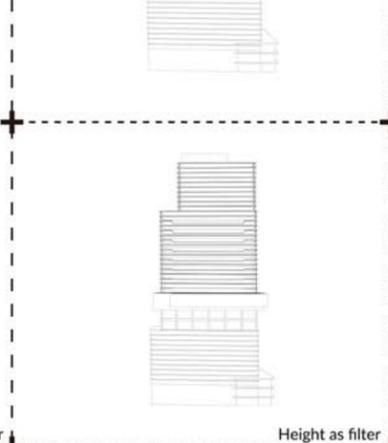
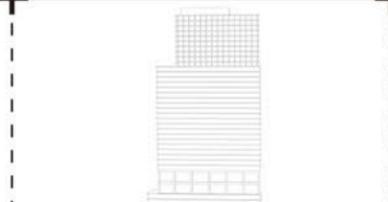
19th Century
New York Halls of Justice and House of Detention



20th Century
Manhattan House of Detention



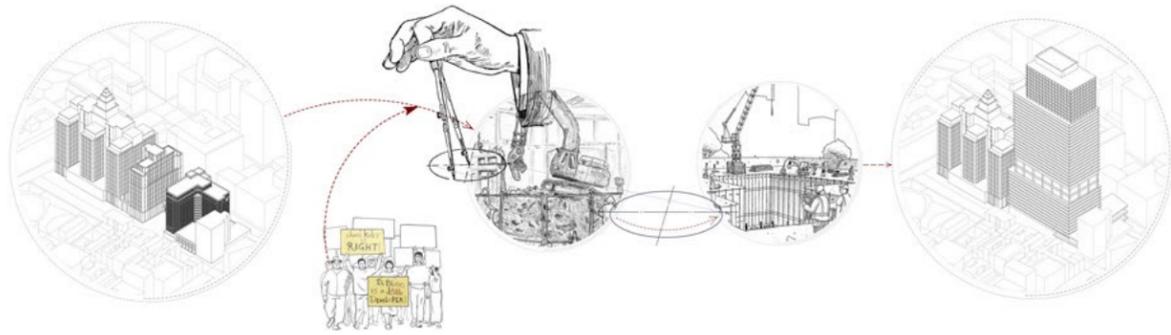
21st Century
Municipal Plan of Prison Skyscraper



Current
Giant municipal facilities as urban barrier

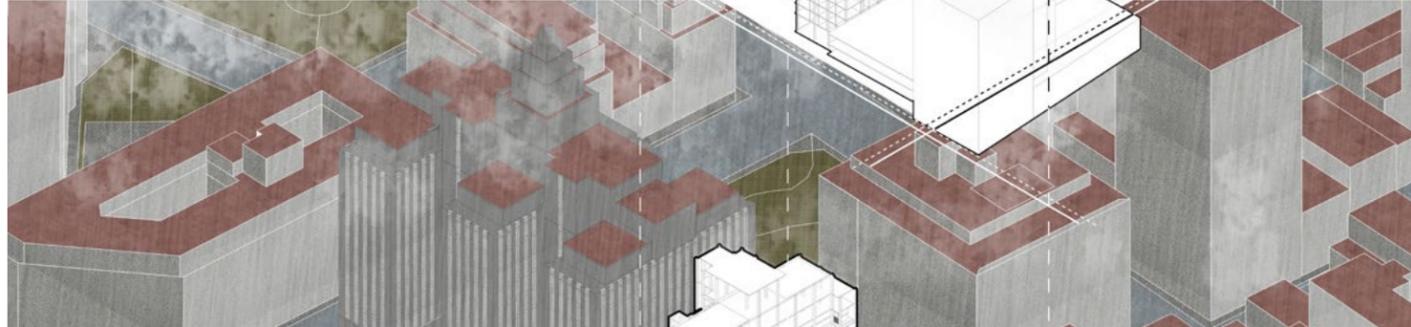
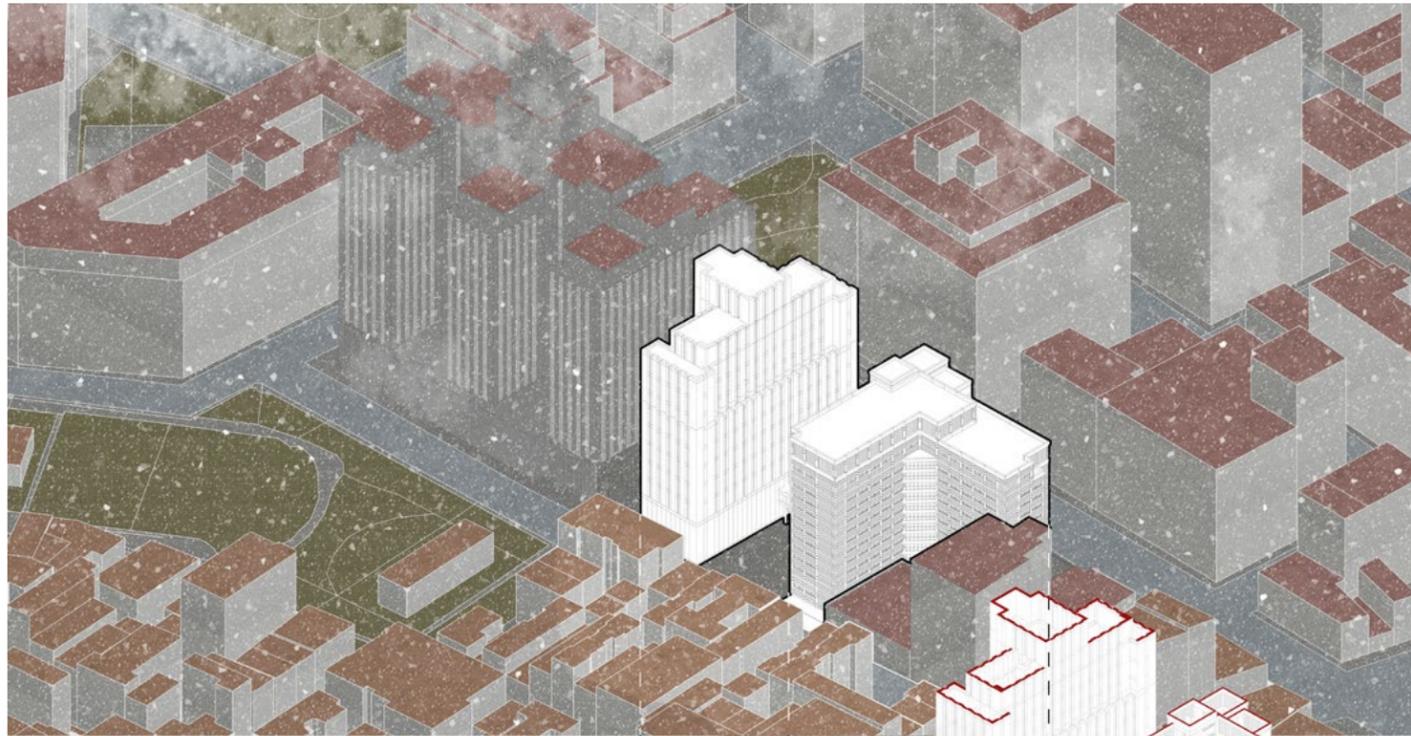


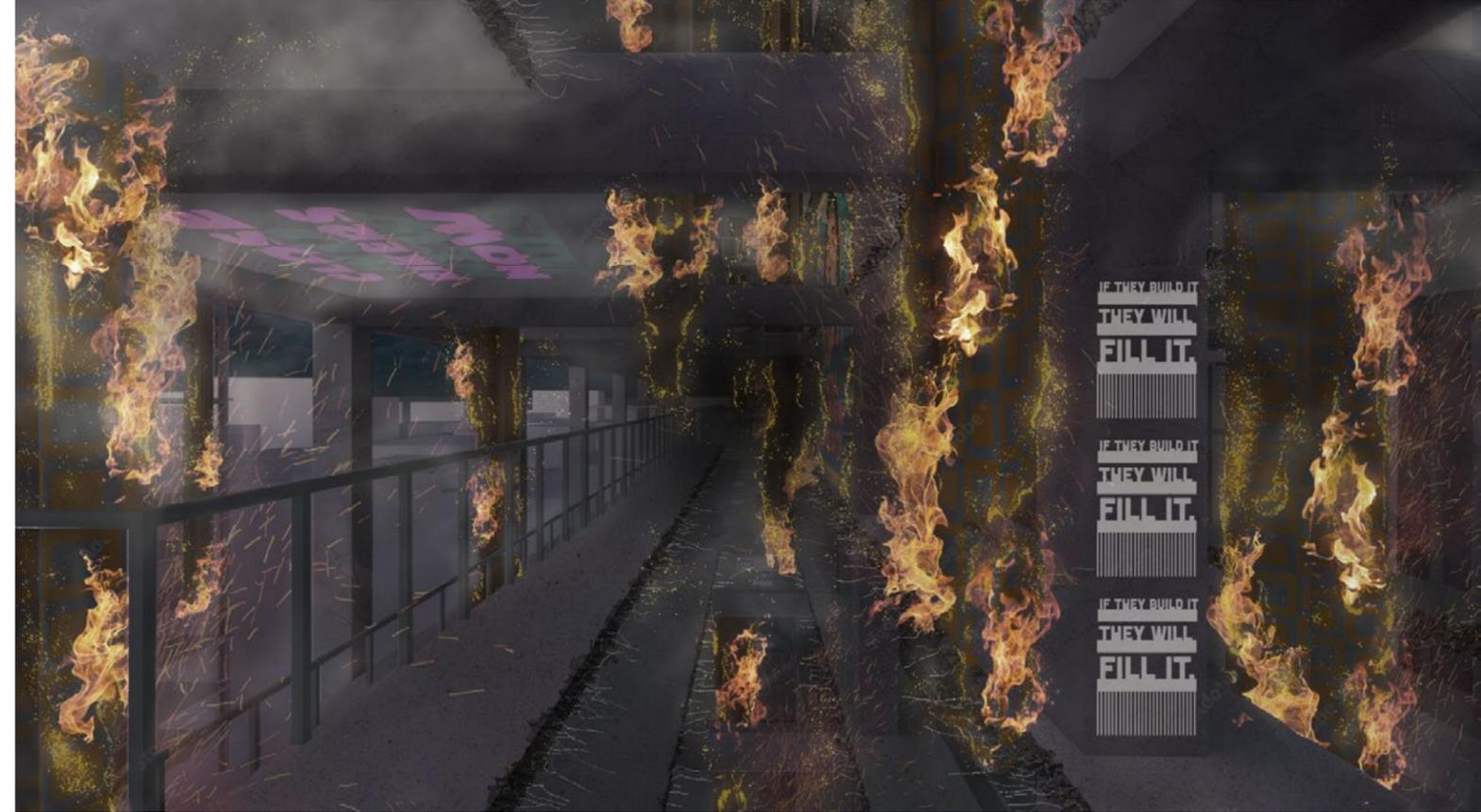
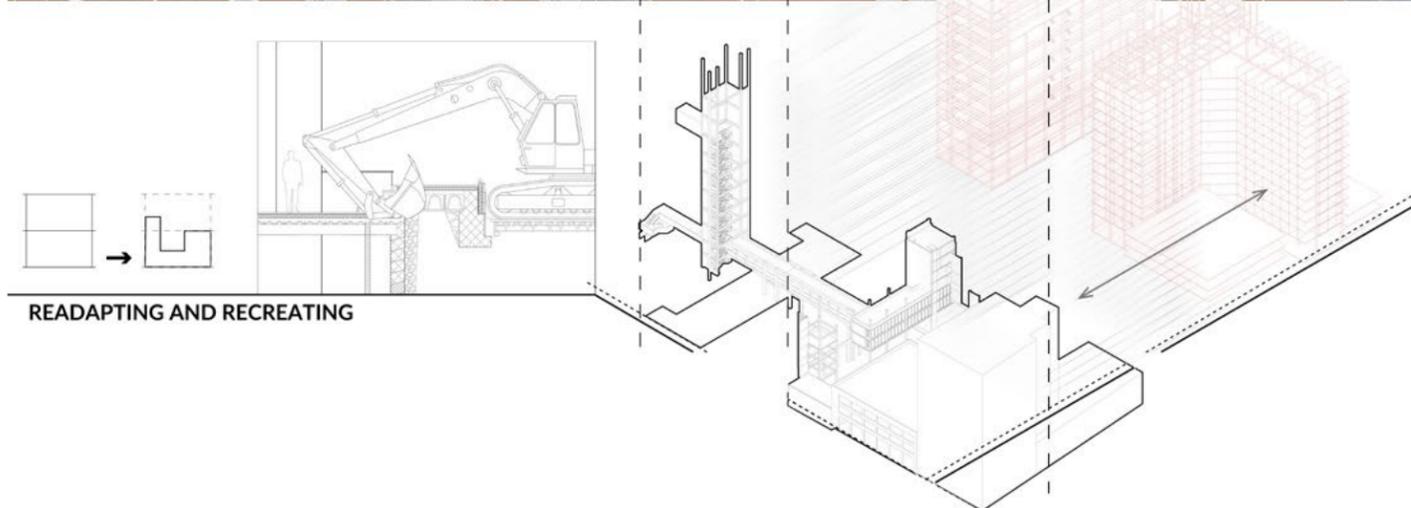
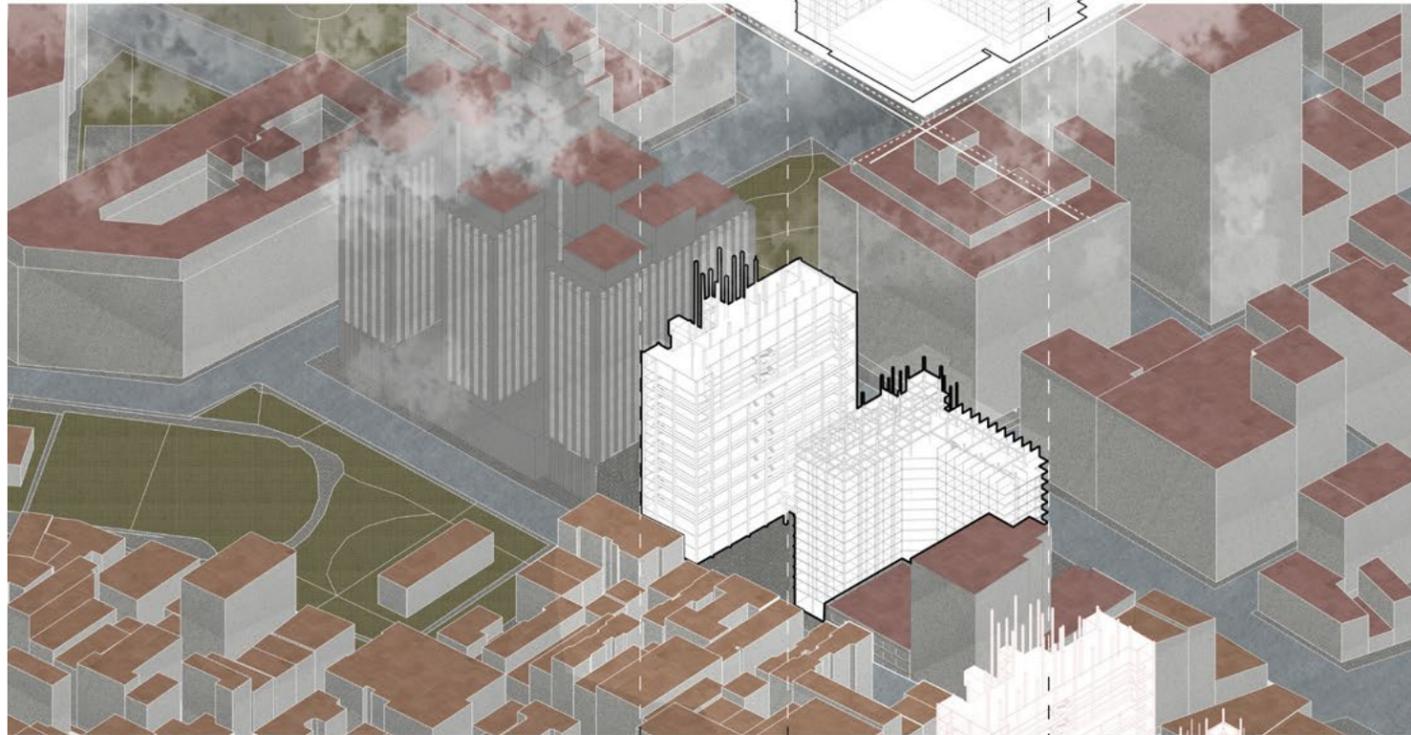
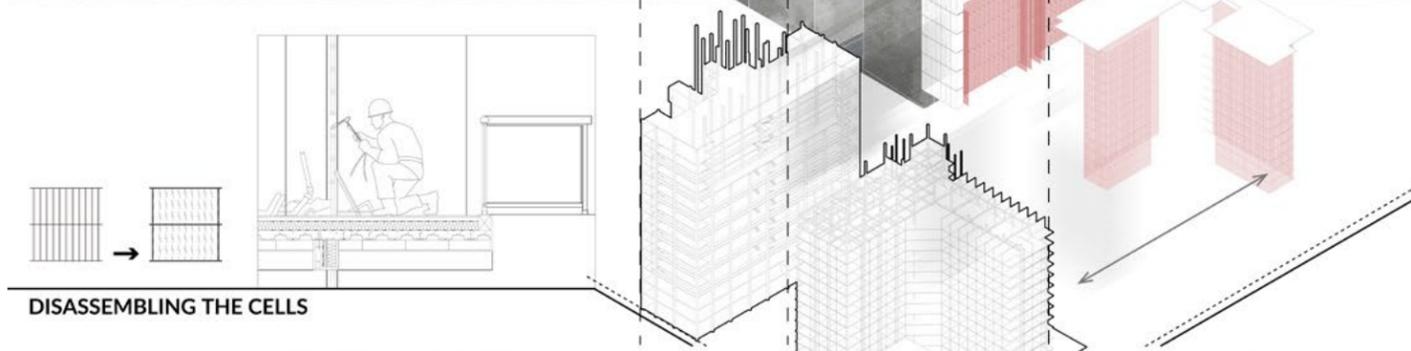
How death is transformed | How death is resisted



Activation during the demolition, before construction

Although the rebellious attitude of asian community lies firmly behind their slogans, activities, their voice and power stayed low and unperceivable. Intervention will take place in the demolition of the old jail, due to the future plan of a skyscraper jail. It is considered the last chance for the community's voice to be heard.





Carefully designed demolition process

The first step is tearing down the jail's facade. Next, the cells of the jail will be demolished, transforming this building into a neutral structure. Several planned activities will take place during this stage to help the voice of Chinatown community to be heard. Later, the demolition continues. Some parts of the structure will be kept for further use.



Episode 1: Tearing down the facade

Usually, a building will start losing its identity when it starts losing its façade, just like a man losing his face. However, the identity of this building as a jail will reach its peak when the façade, the mask, is torn off. The notorious condition of it will finally be exposed. People can walk through the cells freely, understanding the fact of the jail, and penetrating the enclosure with their own movement.

Episode 2: Spirit money as collective voice

The former surveillance corridor would become the visiting path, and the void left by the vanished cells will be the space displaying the collaborative art work of Chinatown. Although each segment of art work mimics a piece of spirit money carrying its ritual meaning for the Asian residents, others will view them as a neutral pattern. Just like the silence of language and softness of texture, the protestants' voice will temporarily hide in this ephemeral gallery.

Episode 3: Ritual ceremony of fire

Without any indication, we set fire on this crocheted spirit money. The hidden voice of these residents becomes so strong all of a sudden. Burning down the enclosure, the soft and quiet community turns into the heat of the flame. While the public is stunned by the arson, according to their culture, the people of Chinatown are actually commemorating the deceased lives sacrificed on this land with a ritual ceremony of fire.

Episode 4: Restorative justice

The new open space will connect the existing Columbus Park and Collect Pond Park, creating a continuous public space for the communities nearby. Next to the courthouse buildings and the Civic center, social campaigns might be held here and the opinions will be heard. Programs of improvement replacing the incarceration will be introduced to the site, such as Young New Yorkers. This organization will tutor the young people with misbehavior to work together and create a collaborative art work. Through the process of expressing, exhibiting, collaborating and bounding, these young people will have a chance to be reconnected with society.







Post-Plantation Future

Finally, the enclosure formed by the gigantic government buildings will be opened. The space between Chinatown and Tribeca will be reconnected. This is not an unfit area any more, but eventually part of New York City.

EQUITABLE OPEN STREET ACTIVATION

2021 Fall

Geographic Information System
Prof. **Leah Meisterlin,**
Daniel C. Froehlich

Group work with **Hyuein Song,**
Candice Siyun Ji,

06

INTRODUCTION

New York City's Open Streets program is led by the city's Department of Transportation (DOT) under the umbrella of the Public Space Activations program. Open Streets aim to prioritize pedestrians and cyclists by transforming streets into public space, allowing for a range of activities and supporting local businesses and schools. The Open Streets program was largely initiated as an emergency response to the Covid-19 pandemic, but now, DOT is taking the necessary steps to make this program permanent and sustainable in the long term. Although the program is both popular and a net-positive for improving life in the city, there have been significant inequities in the planning and operation of the program. According to the Transportation Alternatives report, the city's promise to incorporate "equity and inclusion at the heart of the Open Streets expansion, with underserved neighborhoods getting new opportunities to participate" has not been met.

Given that Open Streets provide great opportunities to rearrange the public space distribution equity throughout the city, our team developed priority criteria and suitability analysis to determine where new Open Streets are needed in order to increase equitable access to public space beyond the Covid-19 era. It is our hope that our equity-based suitability model will help inform the determination of new Open Streets locations in New York City.

RESEARCH QUESTION

Which streets should DOT prioritize activating across NYC to increase equitable access to public space?

Using the decision criteria illustrated below, we selected 6 segments of the street roadbeds across Queens, Bronx and Brooklyn, as the new Open Street sites.

OPERATIONALIZING TERMS

Equitable

The meaning of “equitable” can be interpreted in multiple ways depending on context. This project defines an equitable approach to be meeting the needs of underserved communities through the Open Streets program that reduces disparities while fostering healthy and vibrant public spaces.

Underserved Communities

To assess which communities are underserved, we analyze two demographic factors indicative of underprivilege. The two demographic factors are:

Minority Race: According to this report, the racial composition of white people in NYC was 42.73% in 2019. Therefore, this project defines the community as underserved if the average Minority (Non-white) Race accounts for over 57% of the overall population.

Low Income: According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Median Household Income of NYC is \$63,998 in 2019. This project thus defines the “low-income” community as Median Household Income lower than \$64,000 in NYC.

Access

For our study, access is defined by physical accessibility to existing open spaces and Open Streets by walking.

Proximity: residential lots with access to open spaces or Open Streets within a 10-minute walking distance. A 10-minute walking distance is defined as 0.5 mile (2640 feet) calculated with a typical walking speed of 0.05 miles/minute.

Open Space: For our project, open space includes all features in the Open Space (Park) dataset, which includes parks, all types of sport courts, tracks, and skating rinks. Our team excluded greenstreets from this dataset, because we deemed that greenstreets (streets with green median strips) do not provide the same value as do other open spaces included in the same dataset.

PRIMARY DATASET

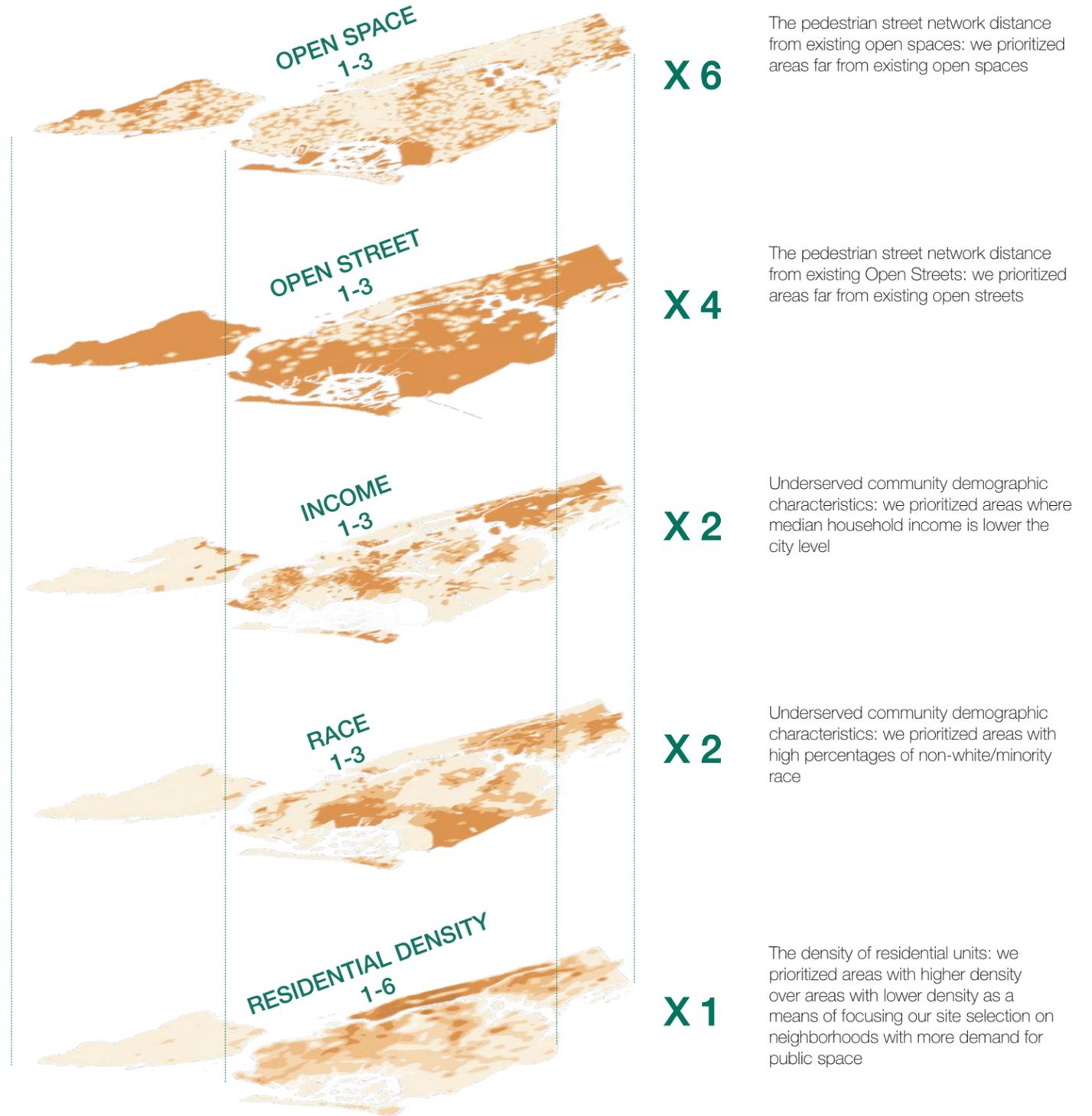
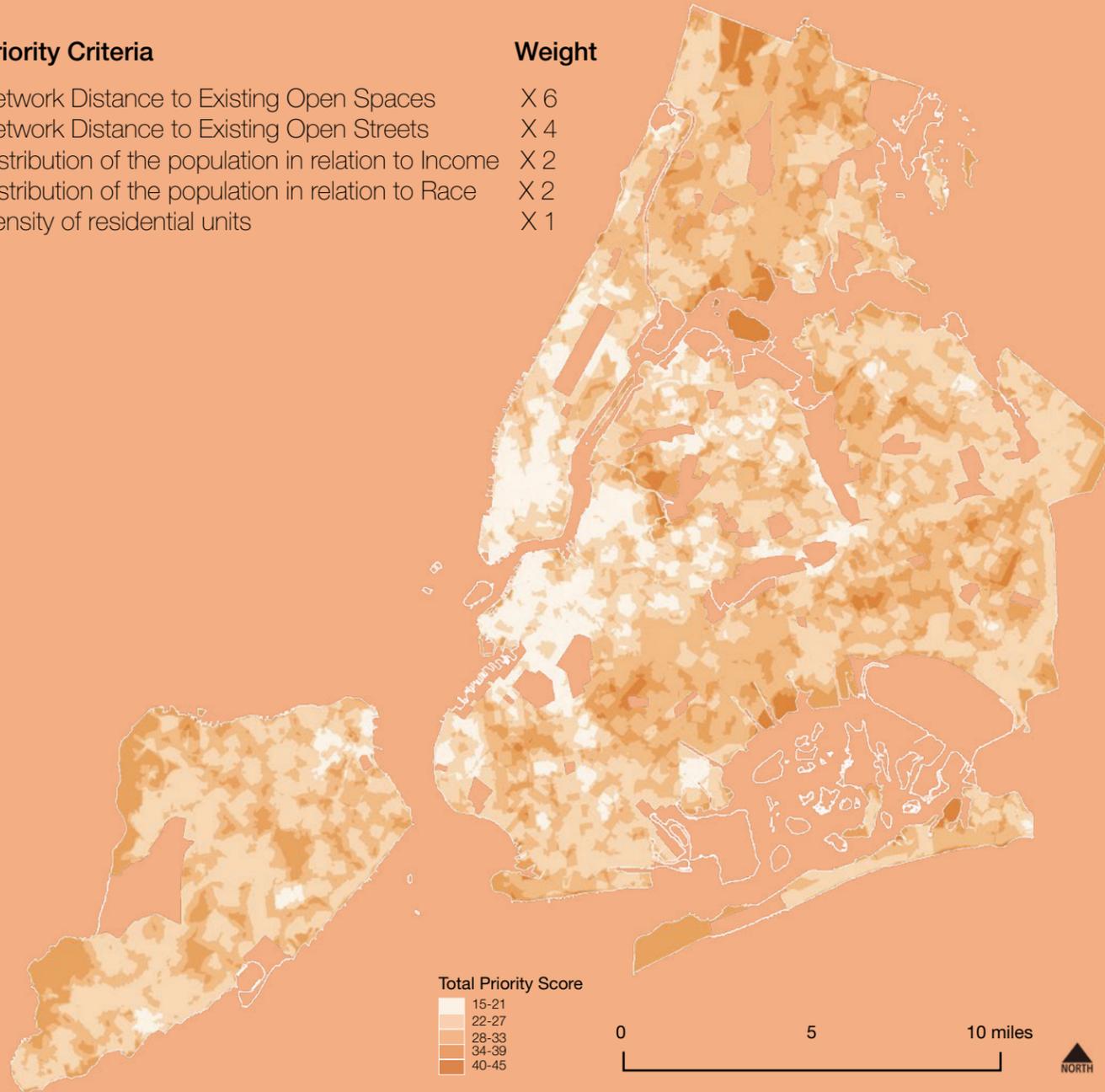
- 1 New York City Open Streets**
Department of Transportation, 2021
- 2 New York City Roadbed**
Department of Information Technology & Telecommunications (DoITT), 2014
- 3 New York City Open Space (Parks)**
Department of Information Technology & Telecommunications (DoITT), 2014
- 4 Demographic Data (Census Tracts)**
American Community Survey, 2019
- 5 New York City Residential Density**
New York City Department of City Planning, 2016

FINDINGS

Open Streets for Equitable Access to Open Spaces

This research will use Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis to analyze site suitability for new Open Streets, which will increase the equitable access to Open Spaces in NYC. A weighted decision map involving the following criteria was created to define suitable neighborhoods and, further, suitable street segments for new Open Streets.

Priority Criteria	Weight
Network Distance to Existing Open Spaces	X 6
Network Distance to Existing Open Streets	X 4
Distribution of the population in relation to Income	X 2
Distribution of the population in relation to Race	X 2
Density of residential units	X 1



The pedestrian street network distance from existing open spaces: we prioritized areas far from existing open spaces

The pedestrian street network distance from existing Open Streets: we prioritized areas far from existing open streets

Underserved community demographic characteristics: we prioritized areas where median household income is lower the city level

Underserved community demographic characteristics: we prioritized areas with high percentages of non-white/minority race

The density of residential units: we prioritized areas with higher density over areas with lower density as a means of focusing our site selection on neighborhoods with more demand for public space



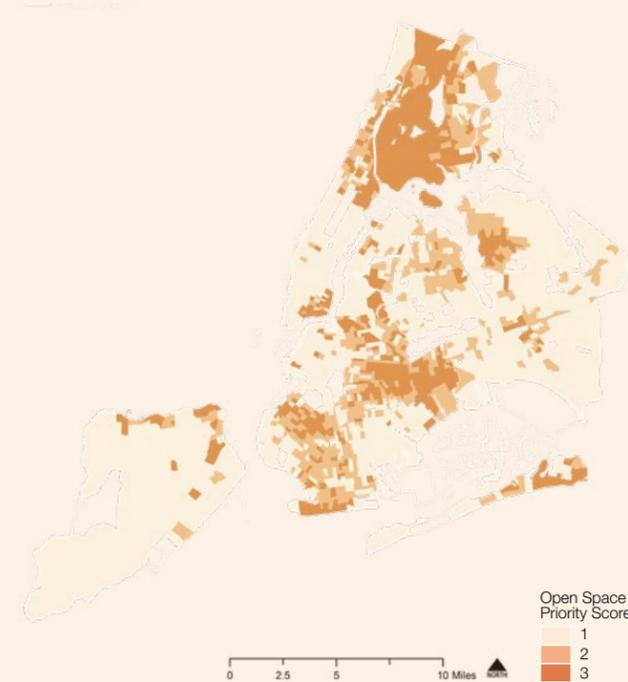
PROXIMITY TO EXISTING OPEN SPACE

This decision layer reveals the network distance from the nearest park access points to the rest of the city. Our team created a 0.25-mile and a 0.5-mile service area for existing parks on a pedestrian street network. Together, the two lightest colors on this map illustrate all pedestrian streets that can be reached within five to ten minutes on foot from parks. These two service areas helped us evaluate the accessibility of existing open space. The darkest color on the map calls for prioritization in the determination of new Open Streets locations in New York City. Since access to equitable access to open space is the center of our study, this decision layer is weighted the heaviest (6 times) amongst all decision layers in the final decision map.



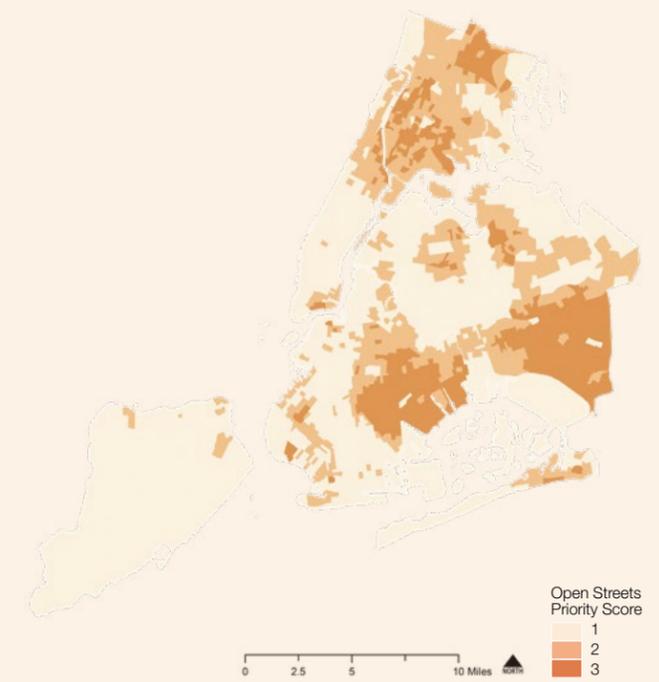
PROXIMITY TO EXISTING OPEN STREETS

This decision layer reveals the network distance from the nearest Open Streets both ends access points to the rest of the city. Similar to the open space decision layer, our team created a 0.25-mile and a 0.5-mile service area for existing Open Streets on a pedestrian street network. Again, the two lightest colors on this map illustrate all pedestrian streets that can be reached within five to ten minutes on foot from the current Open Streets. This decision layer is weighted the second heaviest (the score for this layer is weighted 4 times more than the layer weighted the least heaviest).



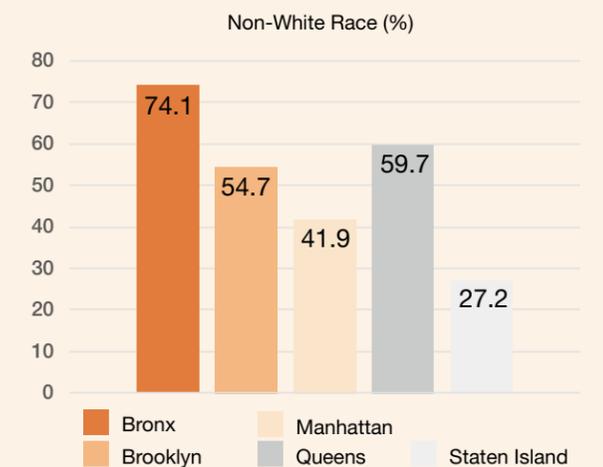
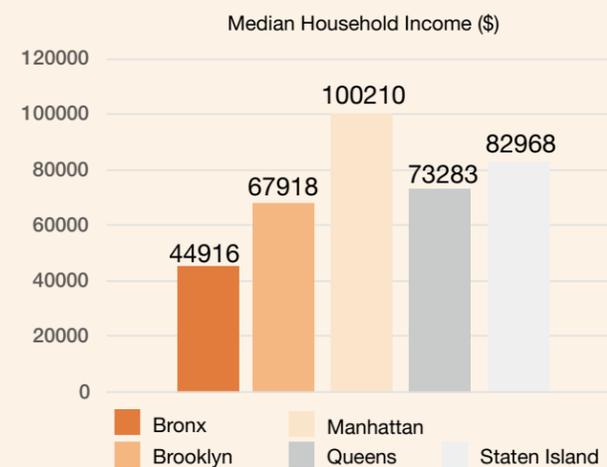
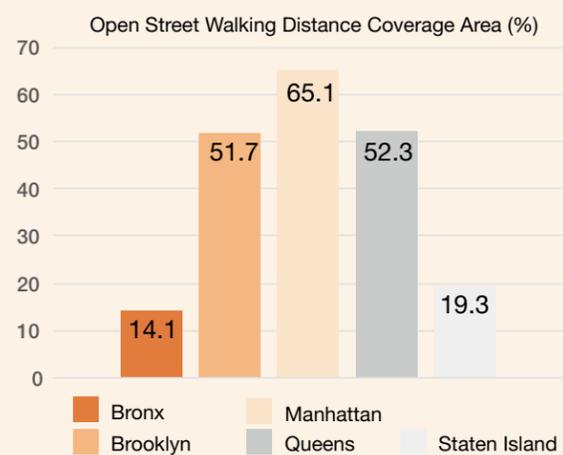
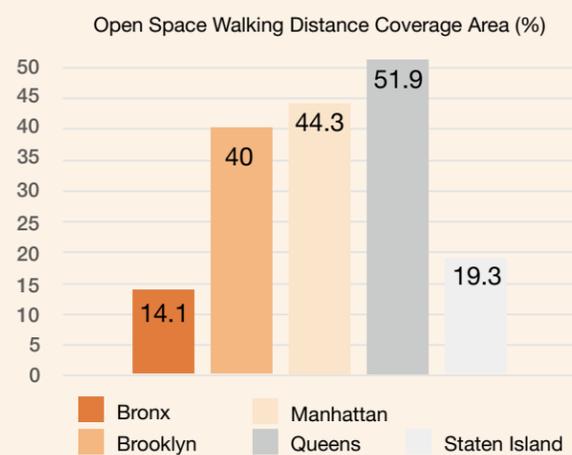
LOW-INCOME POPULATION

This decision layer reveals the spatial distribution of the population with Median Household Income lower than the city's average (\$64,000). Clusters of low-income communities can be seen in the Bronx, central Brooklyn, and parts of Queens. This decision layer, along with the other demographic variable layer, is weighted the third heaviest.



NON-WHITE POPULATION

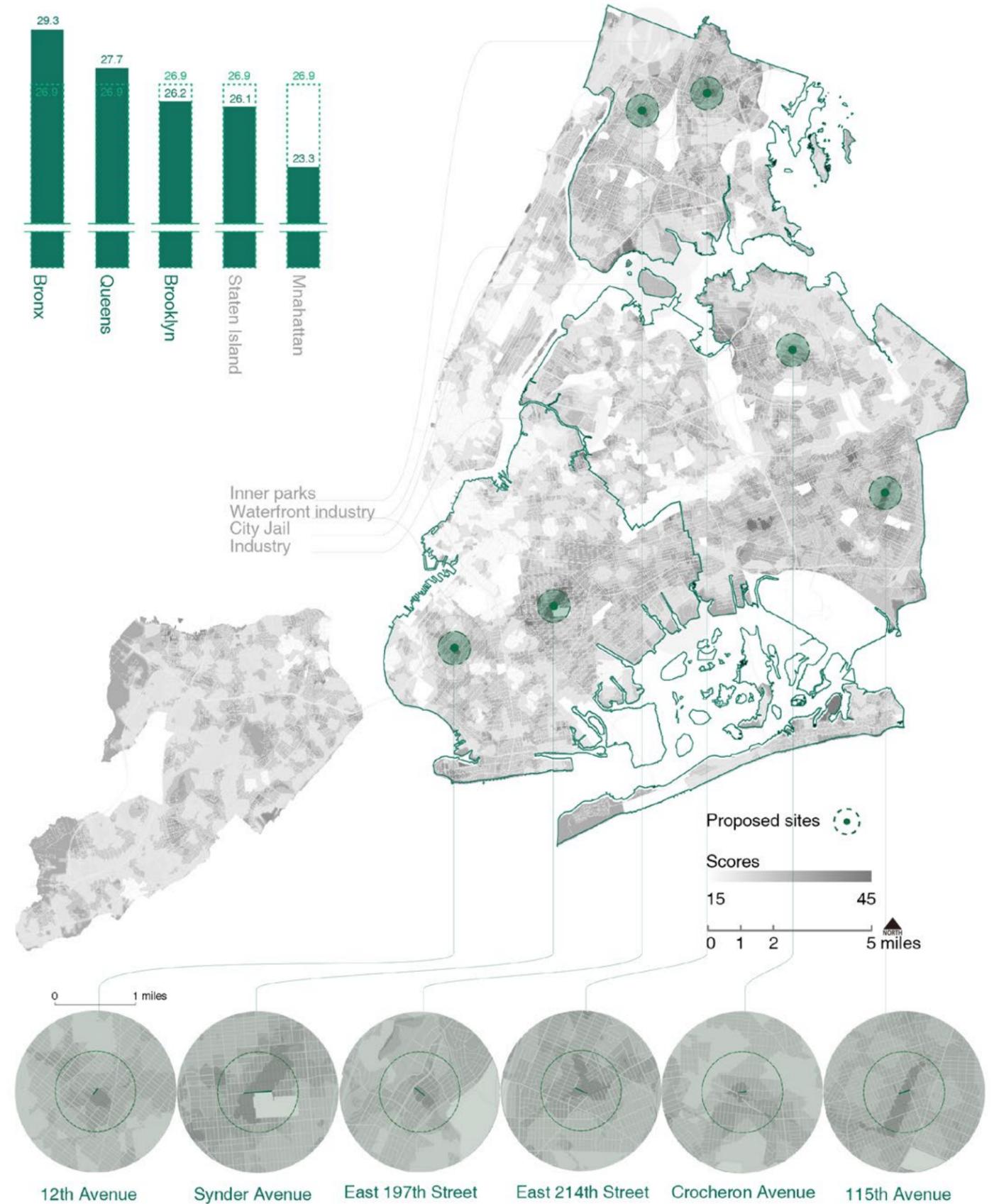
This decision layer reveals the spatial distribution of population with average minority (non-white) race accounting for over 57% of the overall population. Major clusters of low-income communities can be seen in Queens, Brooklyn, and the Bronx. This decision layer is weighted the third heaviest.



Recommendations for New Open Streets Activation

The new Open Streets activations should prioritize neighborhoods with the least access to open spaces, least access to current Open Streets, lowest income level, highest minority race percentage, and highest residential density. In addition, proximity to schools, access to affordable transit options, and flexible car reroute are also taken into consideration in this new Open Streets site selection process.

Based on the weighted decision map, this project selected 6 sites with scores over 40 in Brooklyn, Bronx, and Queens; Manhattan and Staten Island did not have any roadbeds that received scores over 40 based on our analysis. It is our hope that this project's equity-based site suitability model will help inform the determination of new Open Streets activation in New York City.



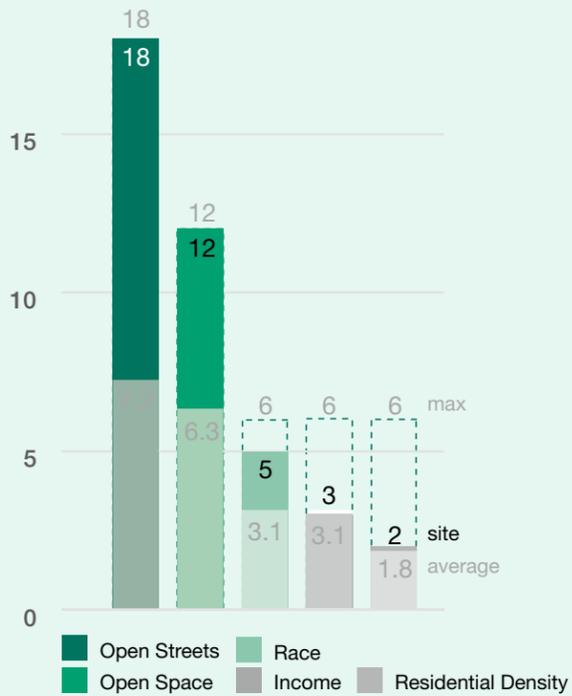
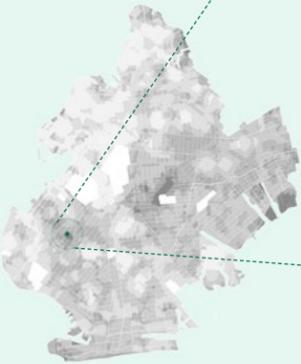
BROOKLYN

SITE 1

12 AVE

Start: 58 ST
End: 60 st

Total Score: 40
Zoning:
R5 medium density residential district
Street Roadbed Length:
486 ft long
Added Public Space (if activated) :
0.46 acre



ADDITIONAL REASONS

- High overall score
- Lack of access to open space, open streets
- Diverse community
- Subway access
- Proximity to schools
- Proximity to commercial streets
- Flexible car reroute

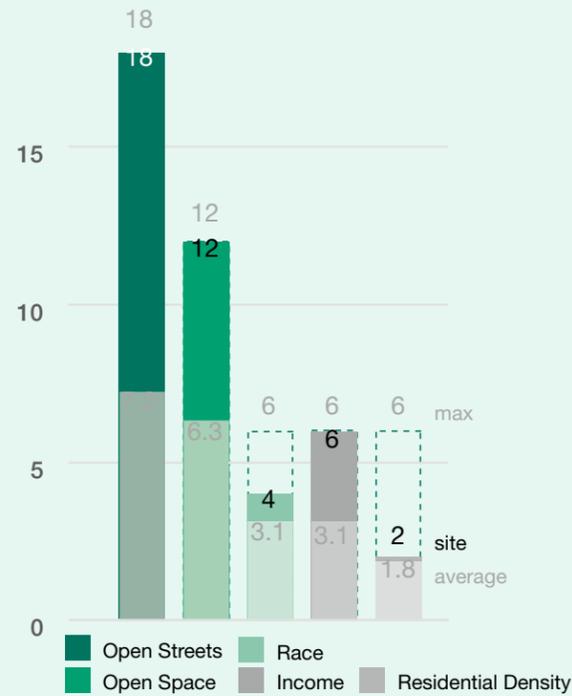
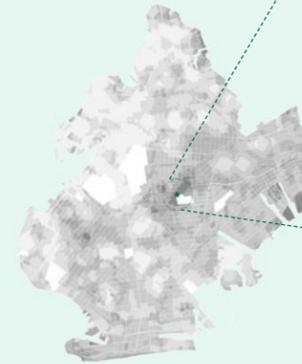
BROOKLYN

SITE 2

SNYDER AVE

Start: Albany Ave
End: E 34 St

Total Score: 42
Zoning:
R5 medium density residential district
Street Roadbed Length:
1850 ft
Added Public Space (if activated) :
1.7 acre



ADDITIONAL REASONS

- High overall score
- Lack of access to open space, open streets
- Low-income community
- Bus access
- Subway access
- Proximity to schools
- Proximity to commercial streets
- Flexible car reroute

BRONX

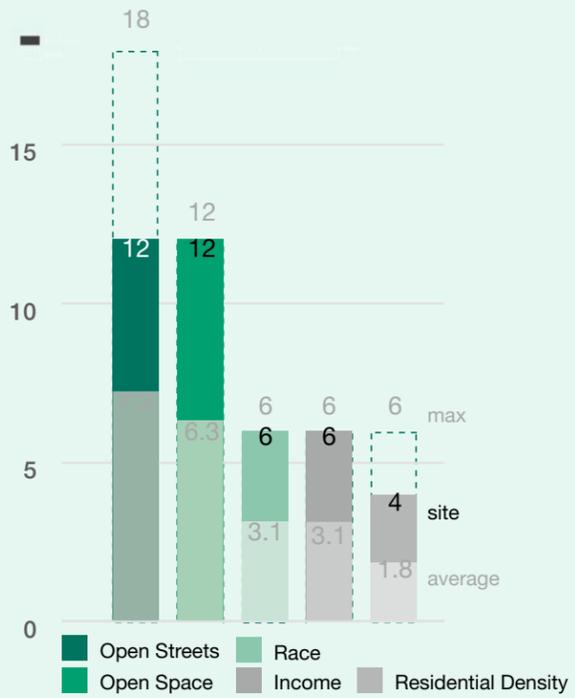
SITE 3 EAST 197TH ST

Start: GrandConcourse
End: Bainbridge Ave

Total Score: 40
Zoning:
R8 high density residential zoning
Street Roadbed Length: 2080 ft
Added Public Space (if activated) : 0.49 acre



- Open Street Site
- ▲ Public Schools
- Subway Station
- Bus Station
- Commercial areas
- - - Alternative Car Route



ADDITIONAL REASONS

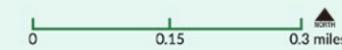
- High overall score
- High residential density
- Diverse, low-income community
- Bus access
- Subway access
- Proximity to schools
- Proximity to commercial streets
- Flexible car reroute

BRONX

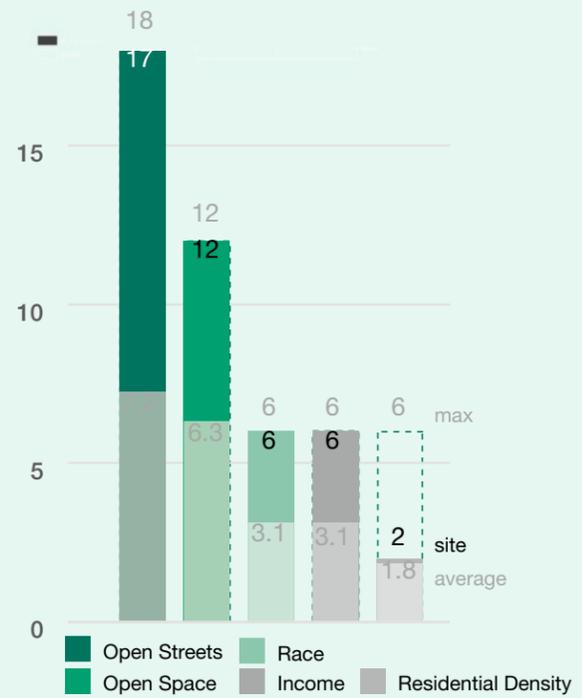
SITE 4 EAST 214TH ST

Start: Laconia Ave
End: Wilson Ave.

Total Score: 43
Zoning:
R5 medium density residential district
Street Roadbed Length: 1865 ft
Added Public Space (if activated) : 0.68 acre



- Open Street Site
- ▲ Public Schools
- Subway Station
- Bus Station
- Commercial areas
- - - Alternative Car Route



ADDITIONAL REASONS

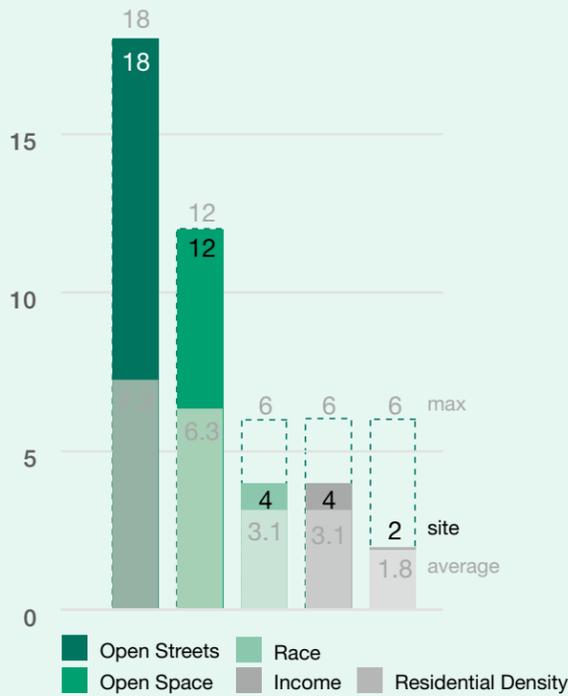
- High overall score
- Lack of access to open space, open streets
- Diverse, low-income community
- Bus access
- Proximity to schools
- Proximity to commercial streets
- Flexible car reroute

QUEENS

**SITE 5
CROCHERON AVE**

Start: 162 ST
End: 164 st

Total Score: 40
Zoning:
C1-2 low and medium
density commercial district
Street Roadbed Length:
1098 ft
Added Public Space
(if activated) :
0.46 acre



ADDITIONAL REASONS

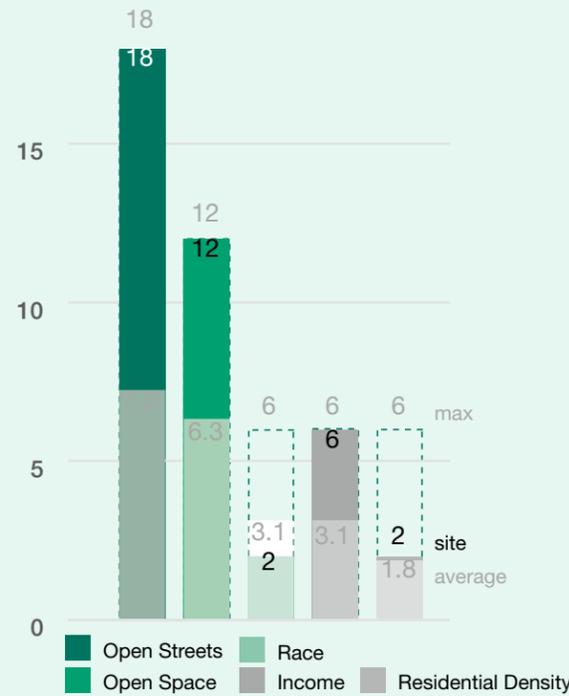
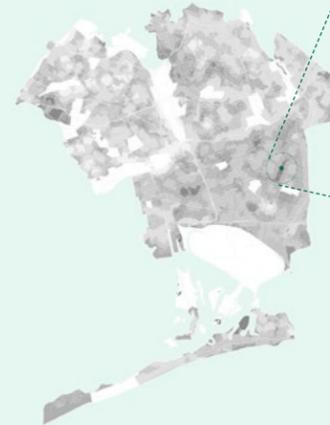
High overall score
Lack of access to open space, open streets
Diverse, low-income community
Bus access
Proximity to schools
Proximity to commercial streets
Flexible car reroute

QUEENS

**SITE 6
115TH AVE**

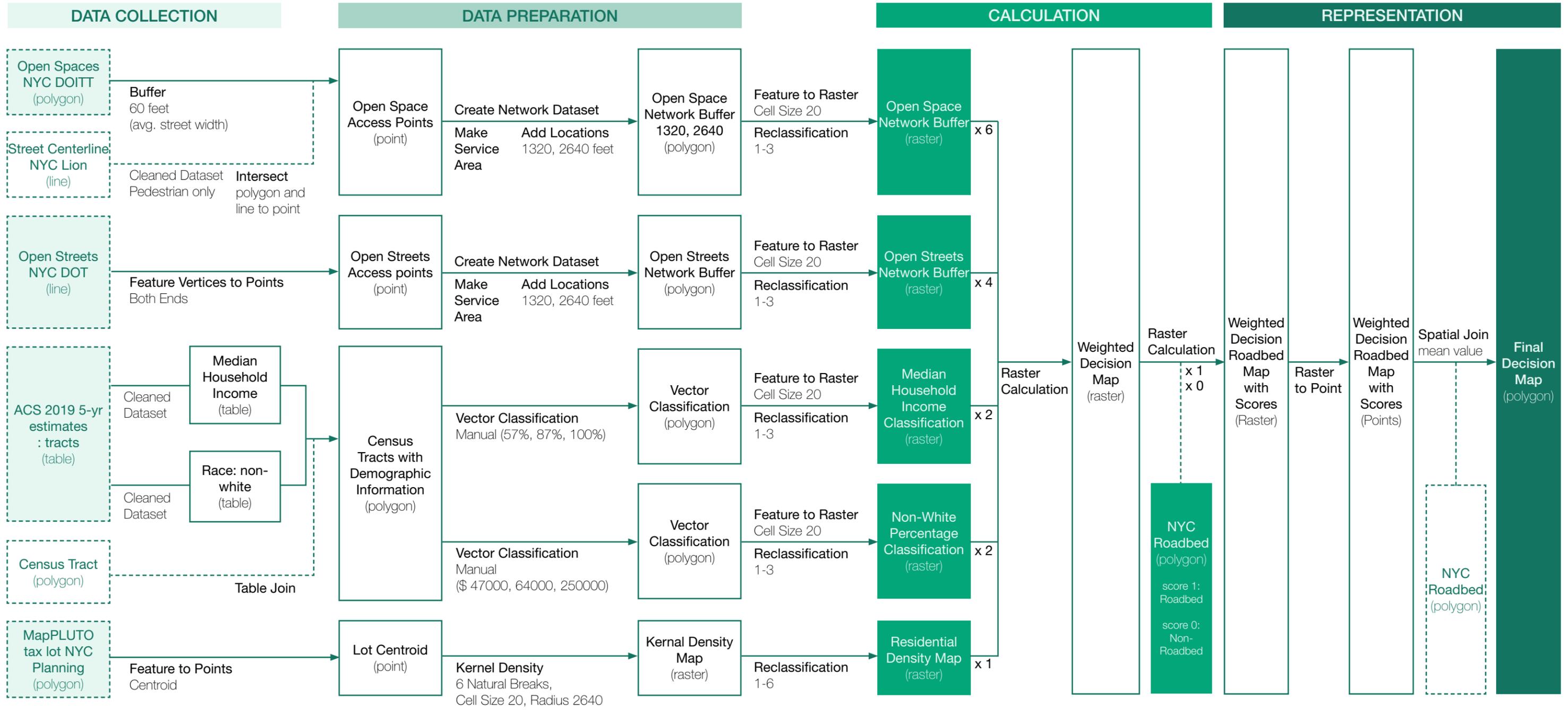
Start: Francis Lewis Blvd
End: 204th St

Total Score: 40
Zoning:
R3-2 Low density
residential district
Street Roadbed Length:
1577 ft
Added Public Space
(if activated) :
0.55 acre



ADDITIONAL REASONS

High overall score
Lack of access to open space, open streets
Low-income community
Bus access
Proximity to schools
Proximity to commercial streets
Flexible car reroute



SITE SELECTION

<p>BROOKLYN 12 Ave Start: 58 ST End: 60 st score: 40</p>	<p>BROOKLYN Snyder Ave Start: Albany Ave End: E 34 St score: 42</p>	<p>BRONX East 197th st Start: GrandConcourse End: Bainbridge Ave score: 40</p>	<p>BRONX East 214th St Start: Laconia Ave End: Wilson Ave score: 43</p>	<p>QUEENS Crocheron Ave Start: 162 ST End: 164 st score: 40</p>	<p>QUEENS 115th Ave Start: Francis Lewis Blvd End: 204th St score: 40</p>
---	--	---	--	--	--

