

Ryan Alexander

2019

2022

Columbia GSAPP
Master of Architecture

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Clinton Senior Care

On W 51st St between 9th and 10th Ave, there are 78 residents over the age 60 who are living alone. Recognizing that it can be difficult for older adults to manage their household chores, finances, meals, and health, there is a need for an organization that could provide care to these individuals.

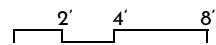
Site:	W 51st ST, Manhattan
Studio:	Adv VI, GSAPP
Critic:	Hilary Sample
Date:	Fall, 2021

Vacant Storefront Elevation

Existing Conditions



North Facing



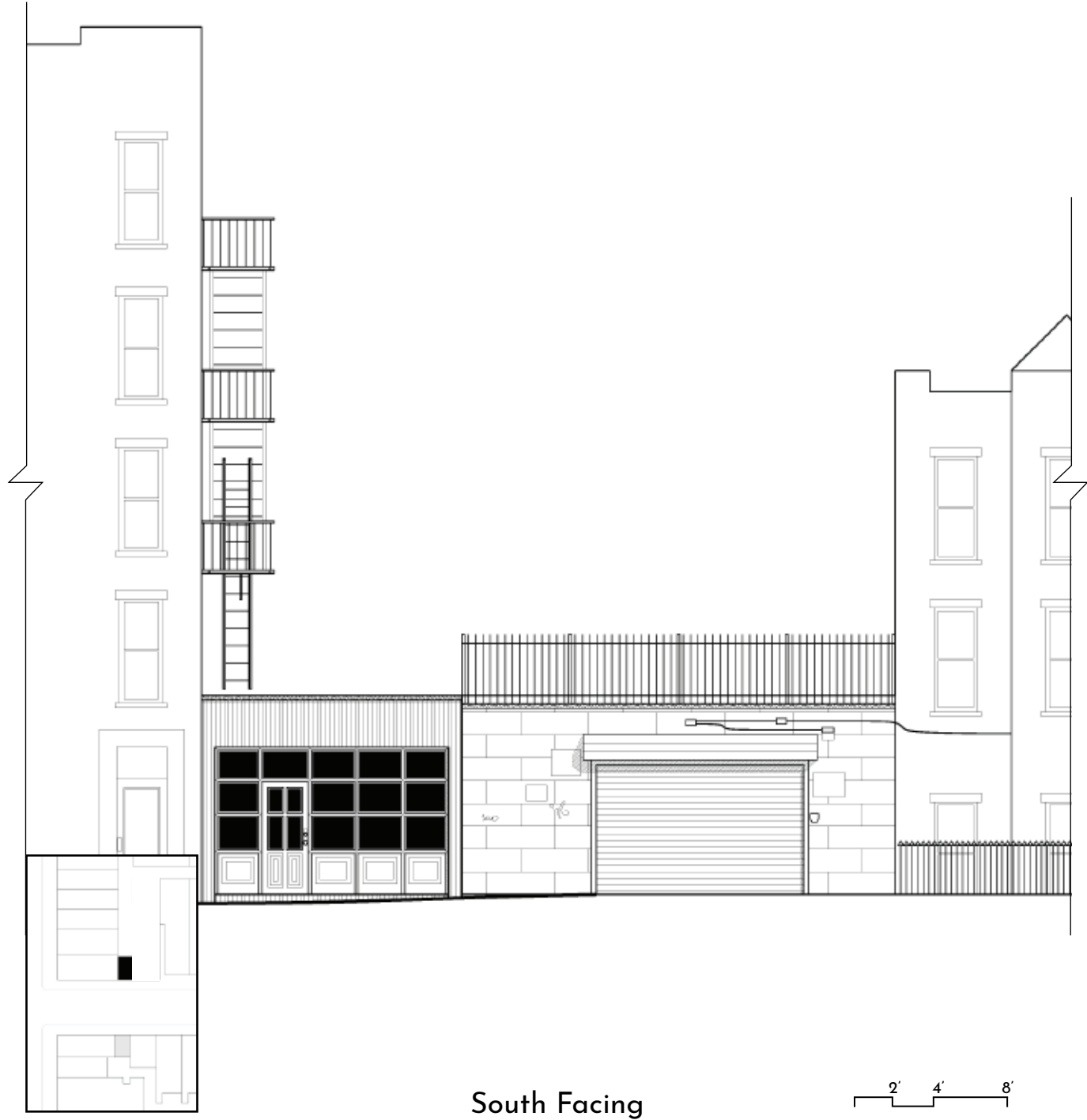
Clinton Senior Care



Considering the site as a group of isolated buildings connected only by their physical location, the two vacant storefronts facing each other at the west end of the street have the potential to unite the block and bring these atomized residents together.

Vacant Storefront Elevation

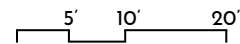
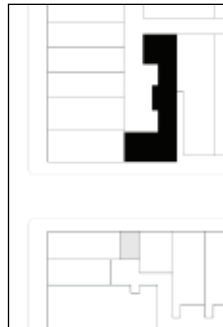
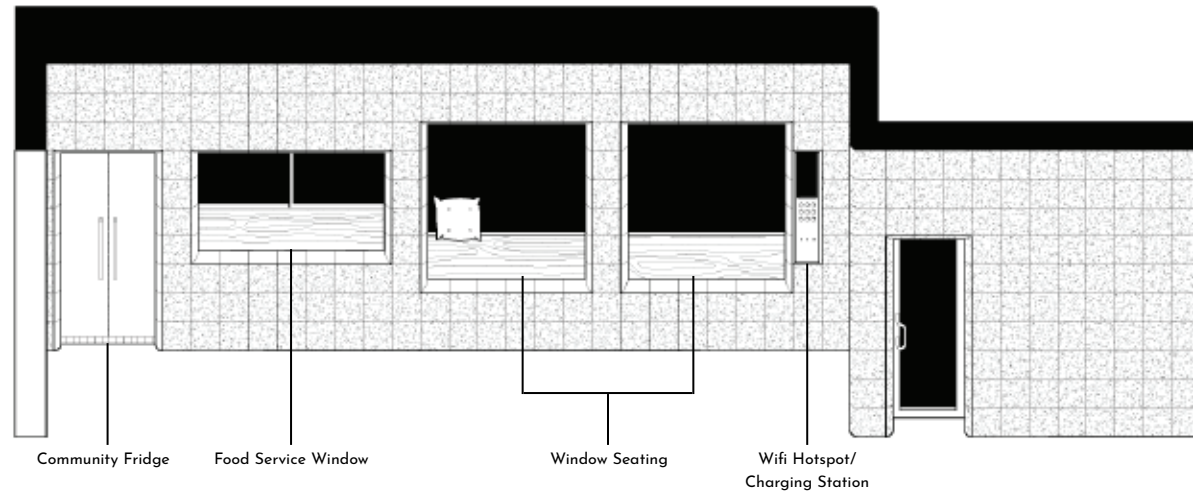
Existing Conditions



Clinton Senior Care



Facade Oblique

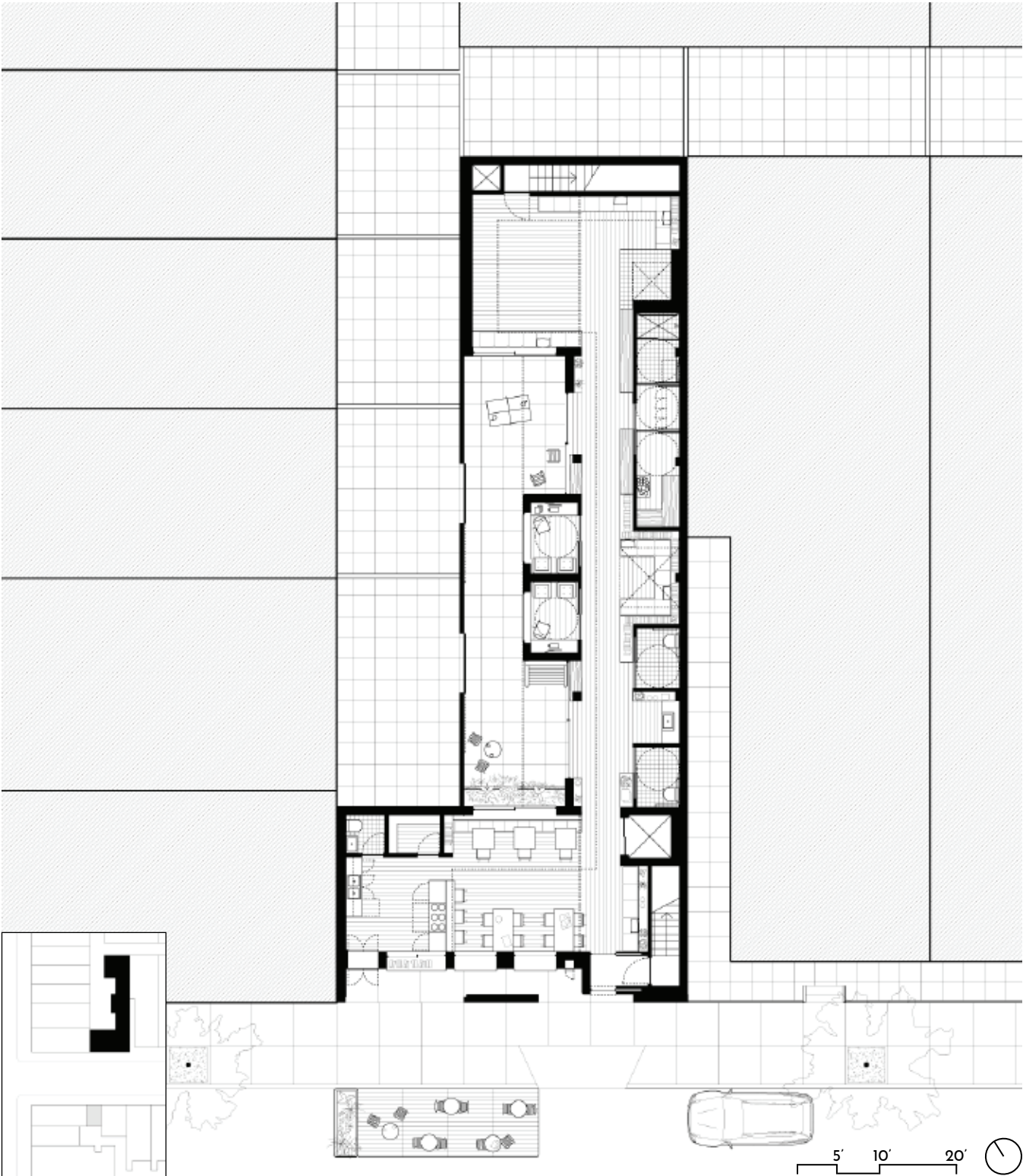


Clinton Senior Care



Clinton Senior Care is a geriatric social work organization that operates as a community center for the elderly. Sitting just behind the frame of the original storefront and adjacent parking lot, the new interactive facade is embedded with window seating and public amenities. This recessed zone provides a covered area for folks to wait while they pick up free meals.

Ground Plan

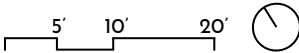
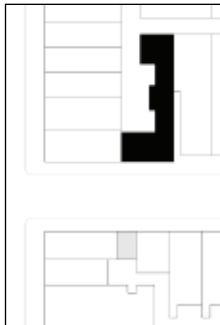


Clinton Senior Care



To circumvent the typical waiting room in a social work clinic, the front area is articulated as a cafe dining space for the community to hangout. The full service kitchen serves to provide meals for those facing food insecurity.

Ground Plan

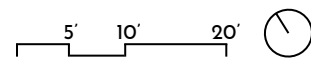
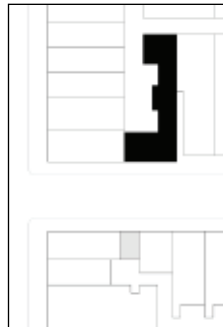


Clinton Senior Care



The front cafe is connected to a group exercise room in the back through a wide social corridor. To accommodate for the narrow footprint of the lot, most of the building's services, seating and storage are built into the party wall along this corridor. Equipped with a reading nook, fireplace and a sauna the hallway is broken up into pieces of a living room.

Second Level



Clinton Senior Care

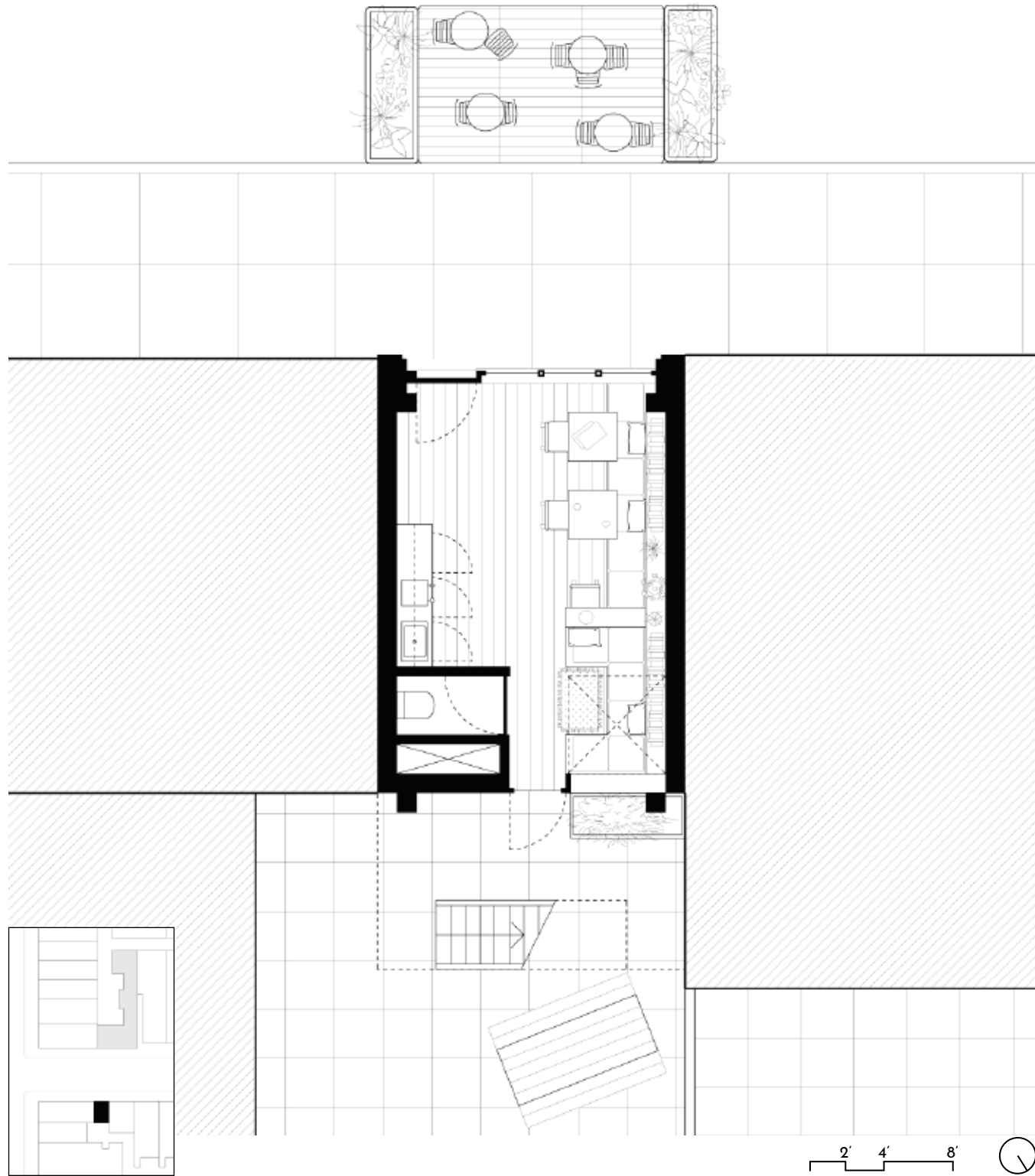


The second level has an apartment for the social worker, which is bookended by two larger event spaces. Separated by an exterior walkway, the apartment is given privacy from community members who are invited upstairs. The building is also organized around three shafts for a fireplace, periscope, and an elevator. Since the periscope cuts through the middle of the apartment the social workers are able to look down to see if anyone is waiting outside their office.



To promote intergenerational relationships, and to provide students with first hand experience caring for the elderly, the organization partners with the Columbia School of Social Work. On the south side of the street, a small tower with dormitory style rooms is added on top of the vacant two story shop.

Ground Plan

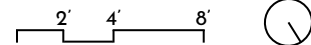
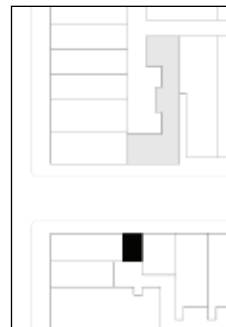
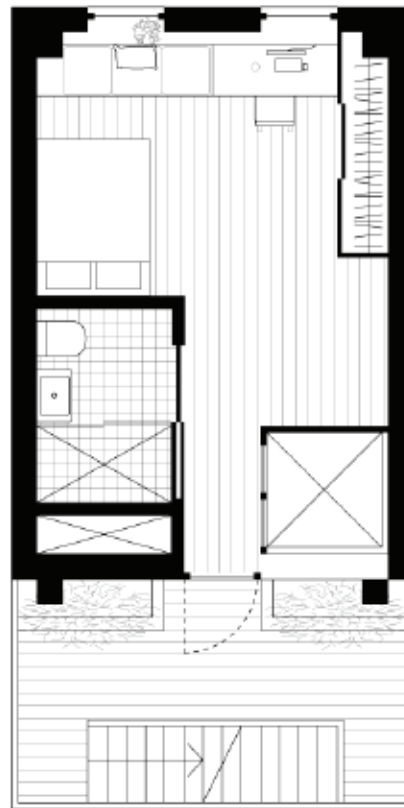


Clinton Senior Care



The publicly accessible ground floor is used as an informal class room, or a lounge where students can invite their elderly companions. This building has a second periscope that faces its pal across the street. The two periscopes allow people sitting under either shaft to look into the building across the street and see if an event is happening, or just wave to their neighbor.

Typical Plan



Clinton Senior Care



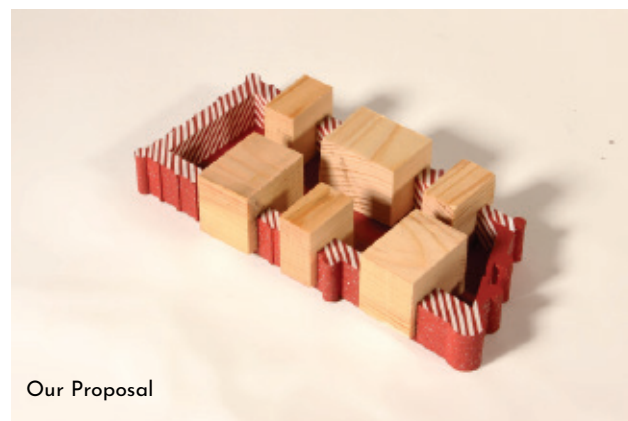
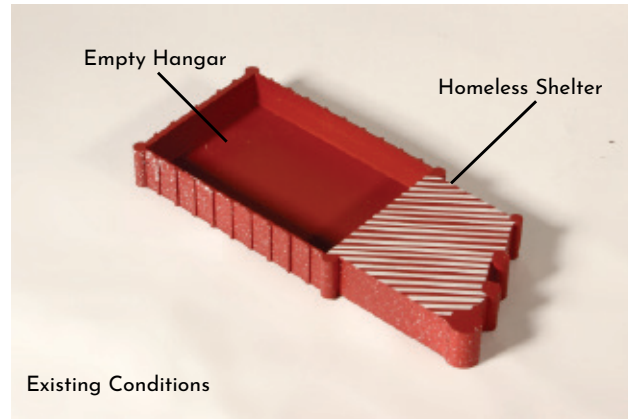


Bedford Atlantic Armory

Our proposal for the Bedford Atlantic Armory brings together sports, entertainment, education, health care, and a homeless shelter under one roof.

Site:	Brooklyn, NY
Studio:	Adv V, GSAPP
Critic:	Wonne Ickx
Partner:	Livia Calari
Date:	Fall, 2021

Program Diagram

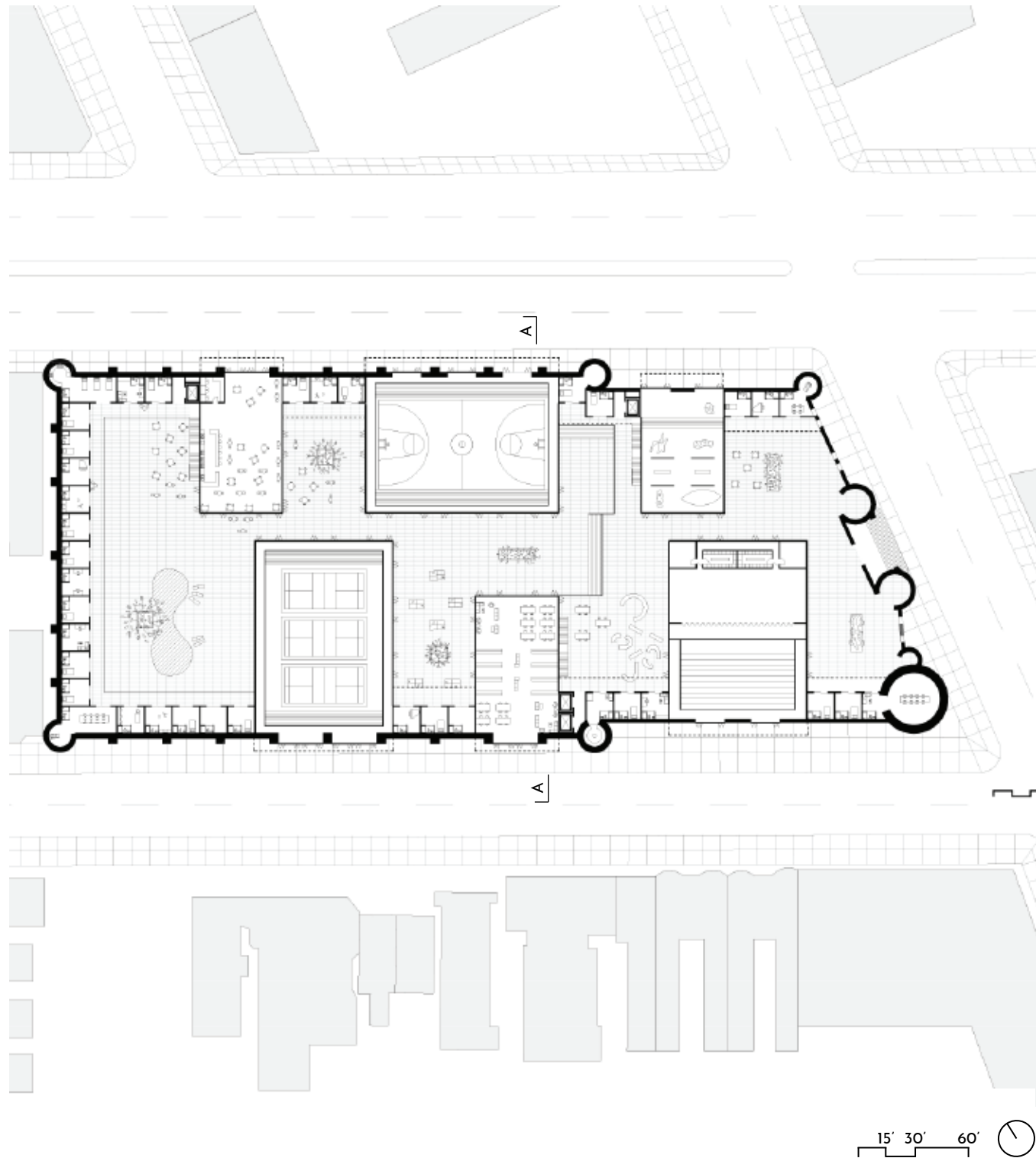


Bedford Atlantic Armory



Currently, the administrative offices in the front of the armory are being used as a homeless shelter and the large hangar space in the back is vacant. The brief called for us to preserve the shelter and place a community center in the empty hangar. However, we found this segregation between the two programs concerning. We instead chose a scheme that mixed the homeless shelter in with the various activities of the community center.

Ground Plan

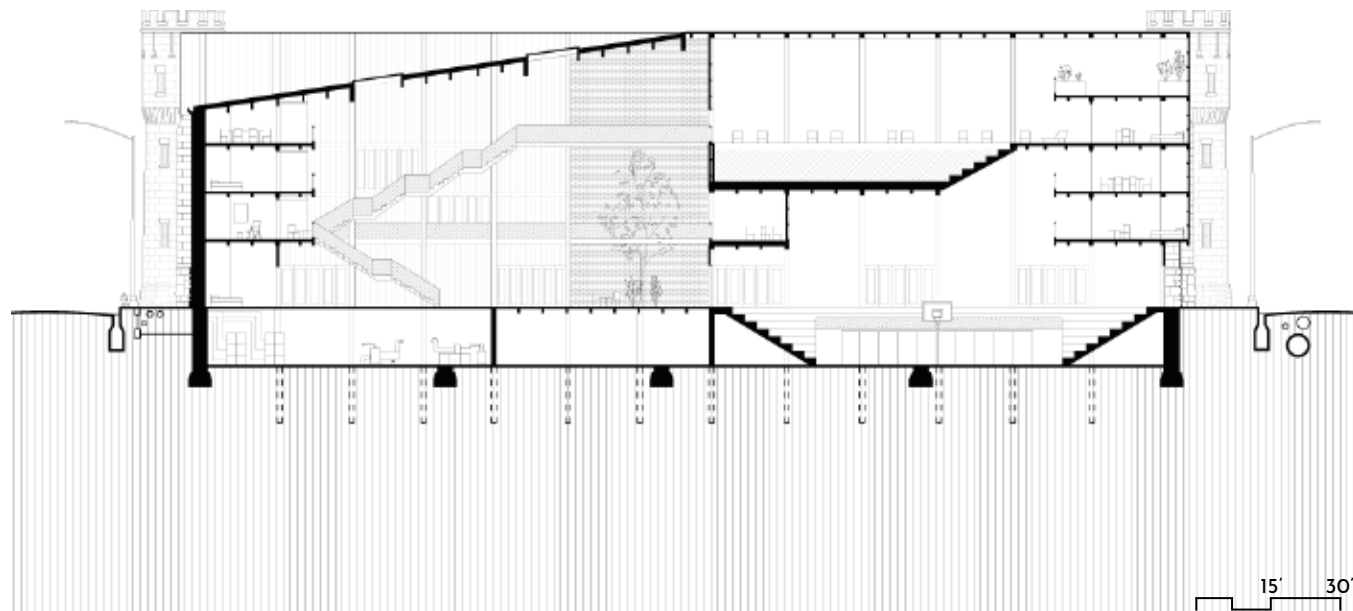


Bedford Atlantic Armory



The community center is broken up into a cluster of light polycarbonate volumes that pierce through the formidable masonry walls of the armory and open the building up to the street. This circumvents the typical lobby entrance, and enables community members to step directly off the street into a pick-up basketball game or a theater performance. This creates a productive social friction as community members pass through these active rooms to navigate the building.

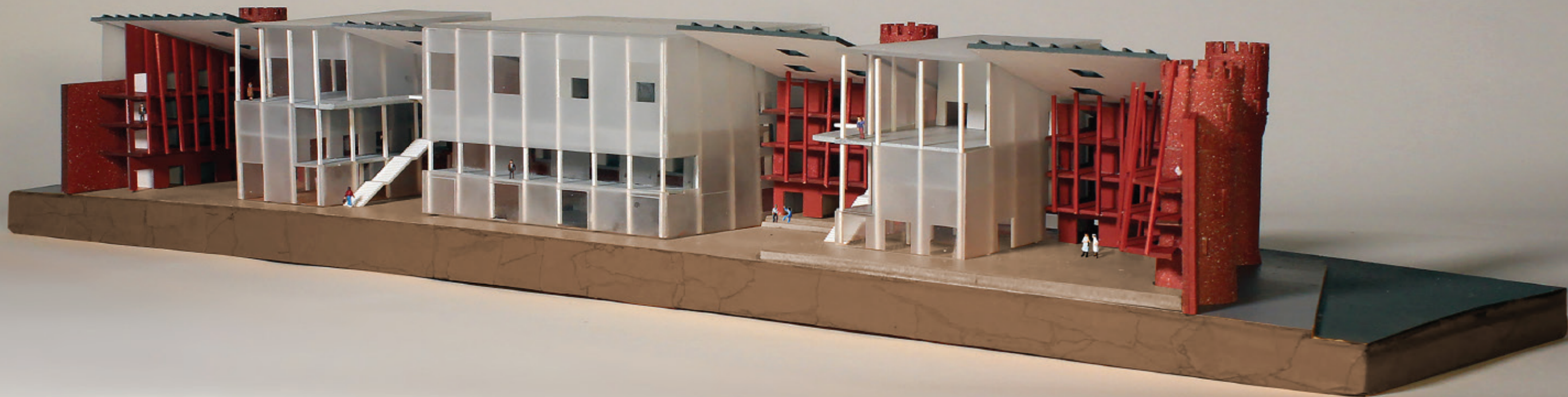
Section A-A



Bedford Atlantic Armory



The homeless shelter is reconfigured into a band of rooms running along the perimeter walls of the armory. Every room has the same dimensions, so that they can each accommodate a range of programs from homeless living units to medical clinics to nail salons to yoga studios etc. In doing so, the building becomes highly flexible and is able to adapt to the changing needs of the neighborhood.



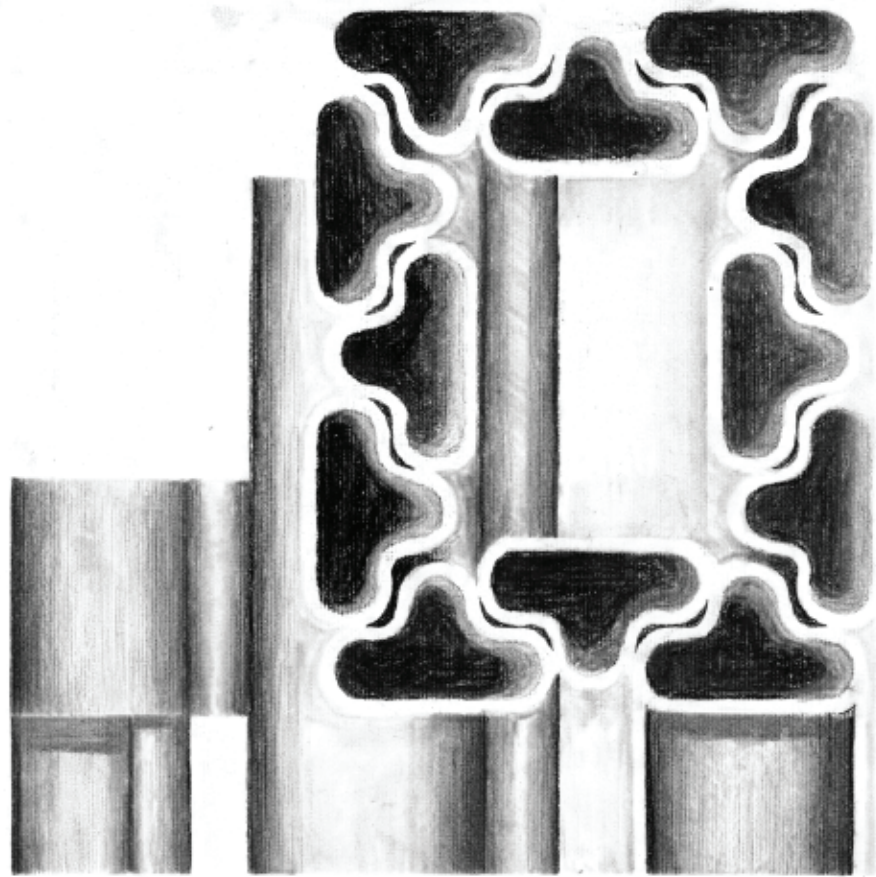
Remixed Readymades



Studio:
Critic:
Date:

Make, GSAPP
Ada Tolla, Giuseppe Lignano
Fall, 2021

Remixed Readymades

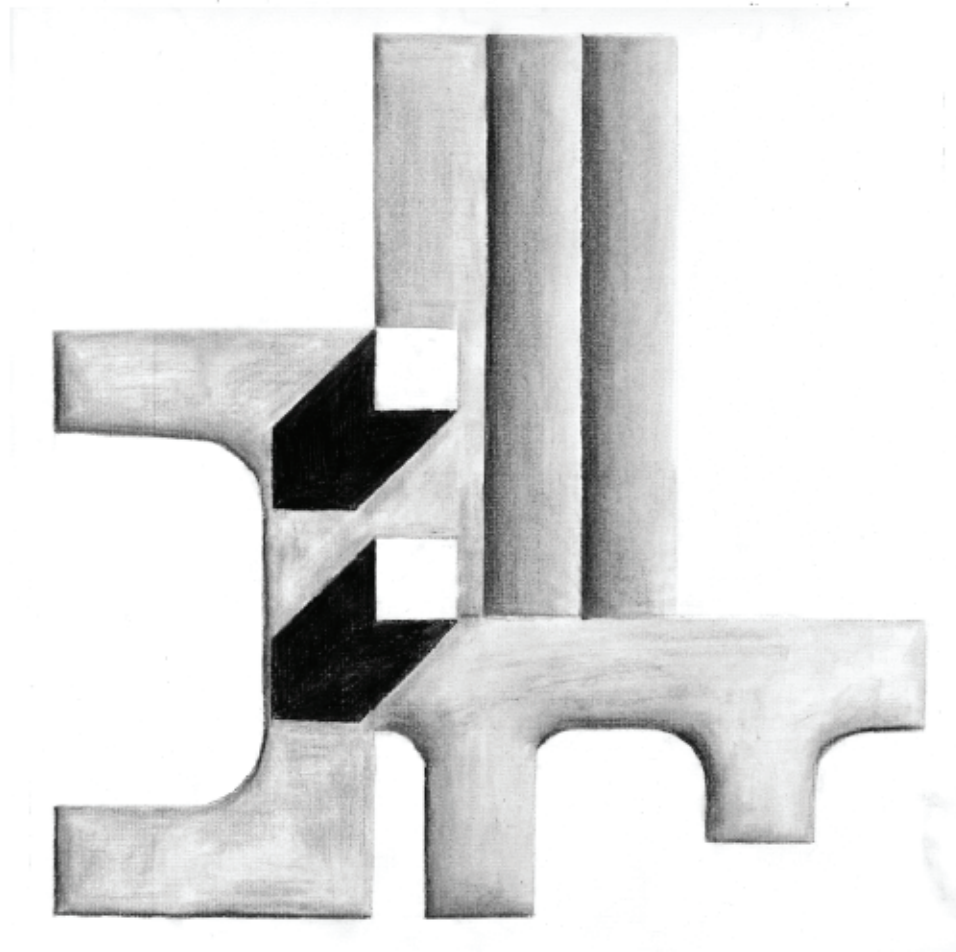


Plastic 02: Charcoal on laid paper, 12" x 12"



Plastic 02: 3 Traffic Guide Posts, 32 Zip Ties, 12" x 12" x 12"

Remixed Readymades



Concrete 02: Charcoal on laid paper, 12" x 12"



Concrete 02: One Concrete Masonry Unit, Rockite, 12" x 12" x 12"

Remixed Readymades



Plastic 01



Plastic 02



Metal 01



Metal 02



Concrete 02



Concrete 02



Concrete 01



Concrete 02



Fabric 01

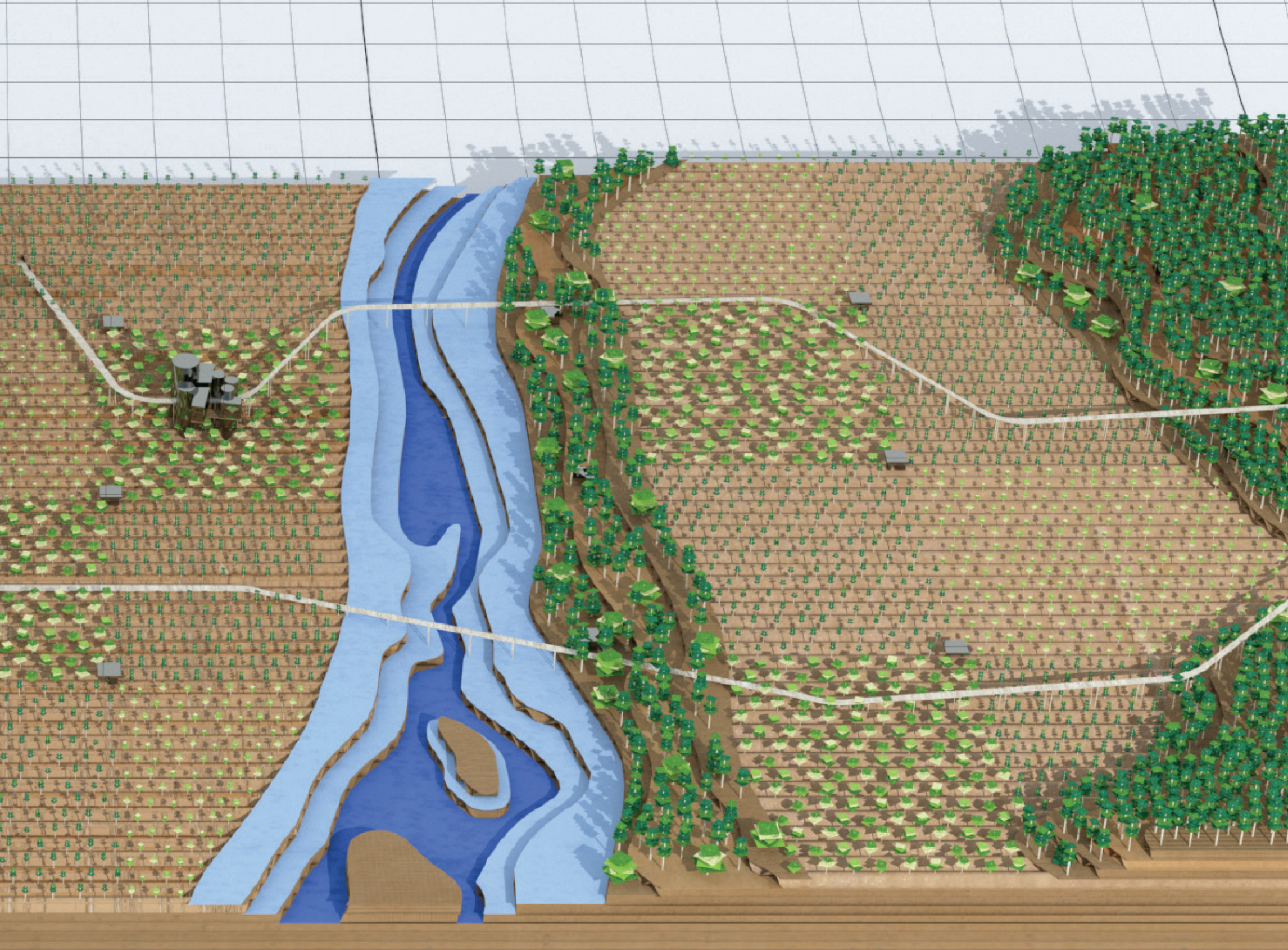


Fabric 02

Formest

is a strategy for remediating depleted farmland through mycology enhanced reforestation.

Land in the Hudson Valley has oscillated between being commodified as profitable timber forests, or productive farms. These conditions have been treated as mutually exclusive use of the land for either monoculture crop production or clearcut logging. Our project overlaps the conditions of forest and farm to create a biodiverse, mixed use landscape.



Site:	Kingston, NY
Studio:	Adv IV, GSAPP
Critic:	Nahyun Hwang
Partner:	Livia Calari
Date:	Spring, 2021

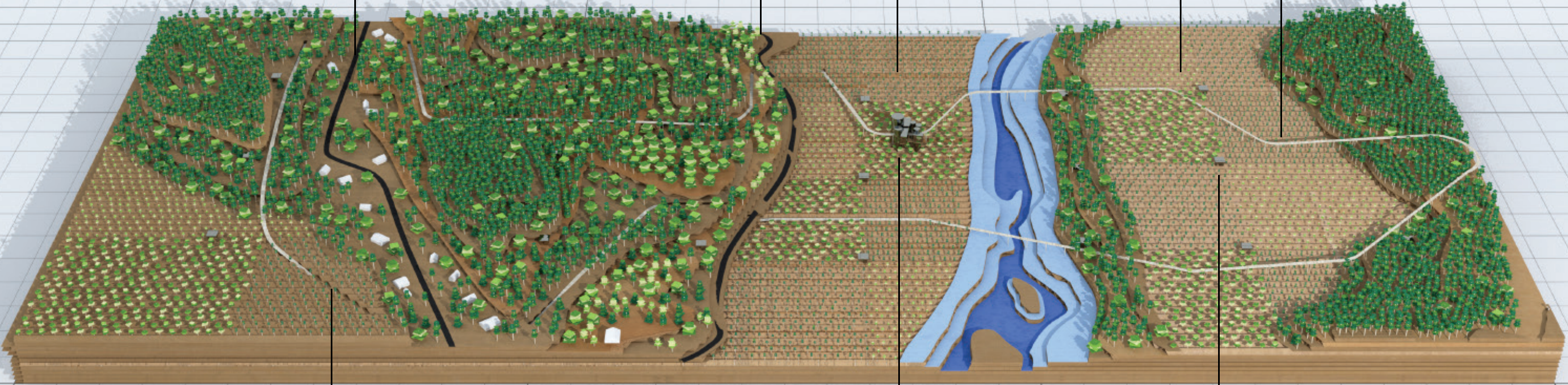
08 Back road removed through microbial degradation and mechanical breakdown from resilient plant species

02 Research forests are planted to remediate depleted farmland

07 Access road preserved for residential properties

01 Mycelium infused in the soil to enhance reforestation and produce mushroom crops

03 Raised path constructed to transport harvested mushrooms

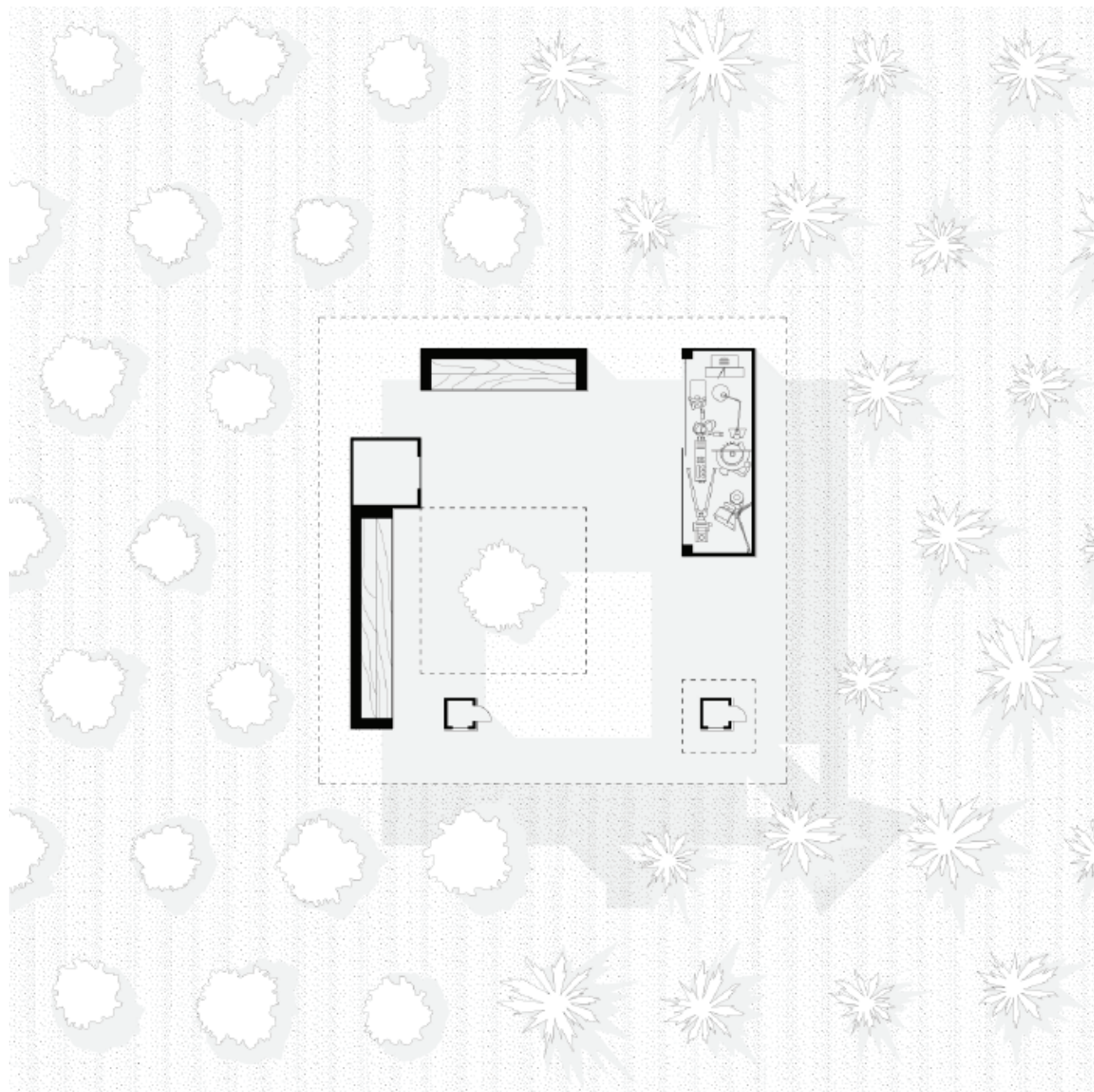


06 Transport path dives below grade to reveal underground mycelium networks

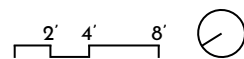
05 Preexisting grain silos converted to mycelium laboratory

04 Forest monitoring stations placed at regular intervals across the site

Monitoring Station



Time: Preset Day

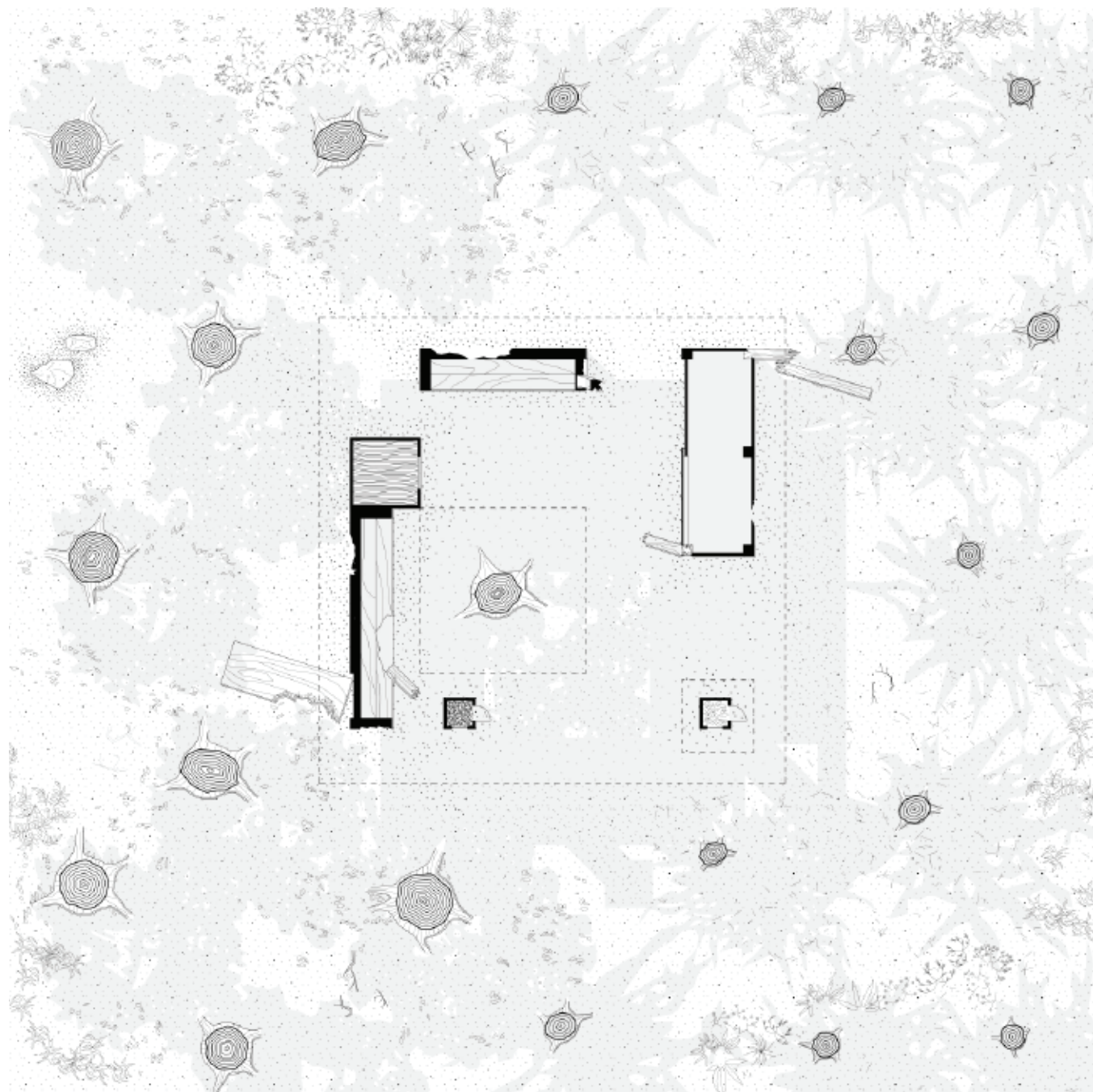


Formest

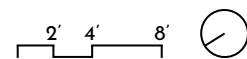


Five native tree species will be planted on the farmland in discrete 1000sf plots along a grid. Each species is coupled with a specific type of fungi that has been shown to enhance its growth. Monitoring stations equipped with litter fall collectors, deposition samplers, water collectors, and other surveying tools are placed at the intersection of forest patches. The architecture acts as both a hub for data collection and as a wayfinding device in the large landscape.

Monitoring Station



Time: + 50 Years



Formest



As forest patches grow to maturity, the monitoring stations will become unnecessary. At this point the protective silver enamel no longer needs to be applied to the wood structure and the station can be consumed by the flourishing mycelia.

Distribution Path



A distribution path will be constructed to transport harvested mushrooms and help navigate the large site. At a 12' height the path provides an experience of moving through the changing tree canopy and allows for continuous plant growth underneath.

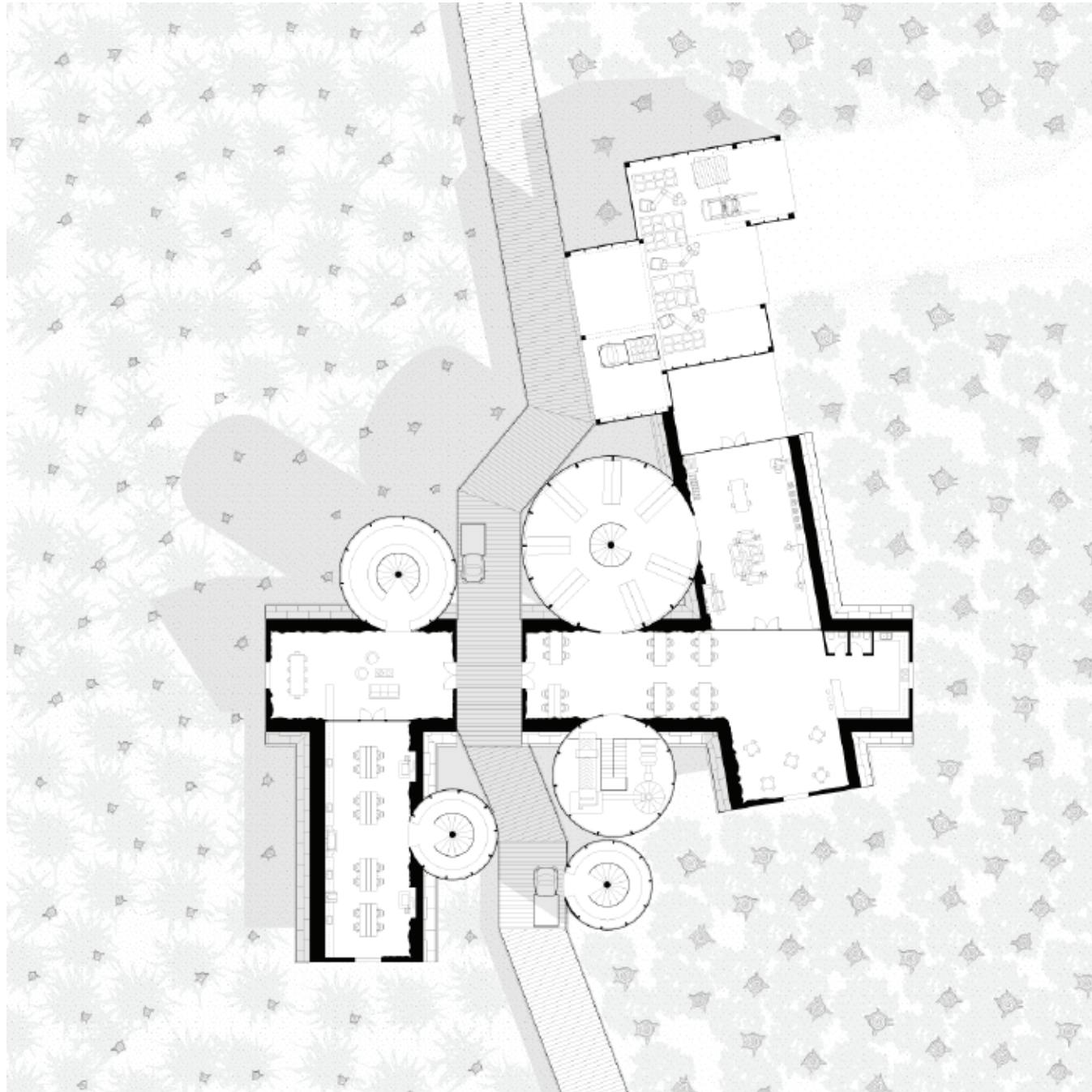
Formest



At certain moments the path will dive underground to avoid conflicting with necessary car access roads. Framed by glass walls, these sections of path will provide views of the underground mycelia network.

Mycology Lab

+ 50 Years



Formest



Preexisting grain silos on the farm will be converted to facilities for cultivating more rare mushroom types and for casting mushroom bricks. Laboratories and working spaces will be placed in a network of new buildings that tangentially connect to the silos.

Mycelium Bricks



Personal Work Summer, 2020

Post-meat Metropolis



After the USDA ban on livestock factory farming, many cattle ranchers abandoned their unprofitable herds. When meat production and harvesting regulations were put in place to allow a certain amount for personal consumption, city dwellers began adopting these homeless animals. The trend became so popular among Brooklynites, that the borough's streets became overrun with loosely monitored livestock. While the new animal owners were busy posting pics in cattlecore fashion, the NYC Planning Department began installing infrastructure to manage and care for the zoological population.

Site: Brooklyn, NY
Studio: Model Fictions, GSAPP
Critic: Joshua Jordan
Partner: Livia Calari
Date: Summer, 2021



Melrose Mews

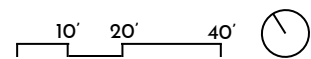
Incomplete Housing

While conventional housing models come complete with a fix number of bedrooms and bathrooms, these prescribed layouts may be seen as a limitation to nontraditional households. Similarly, a standardized suite of kitchen appliances, may be seen as a superfluous cost to those who don't cook regularly. Melrose Mews challenges these notions of what must be provided in order for housing to be considered complete.

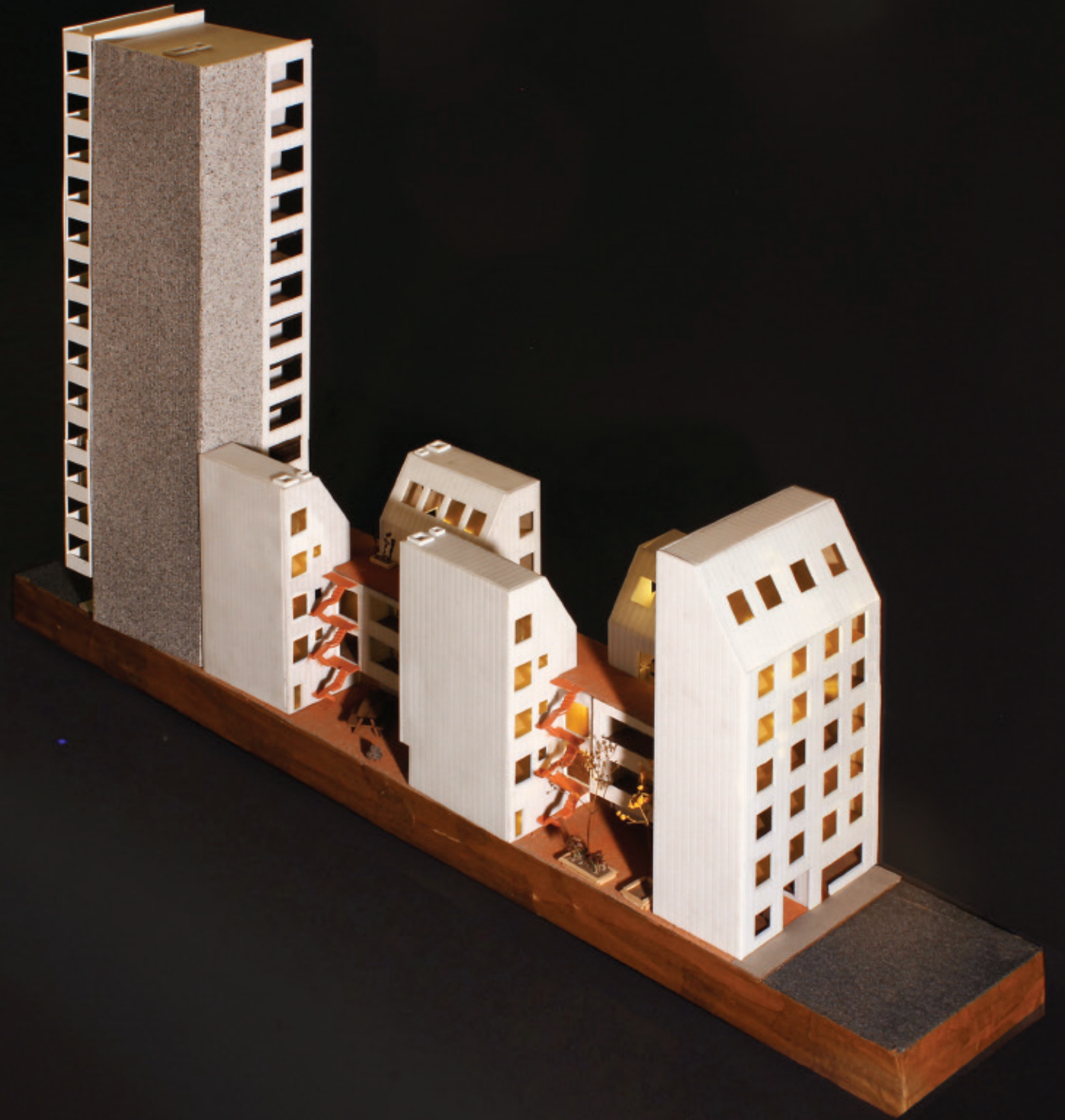
Site:	Melrose, Bronx
Studio:	Core III, GSAPP
Critic:	Adam Frampton
Partner:	Livia Calari
Date:	Fall, 2020

Typical Floor

Incomplete

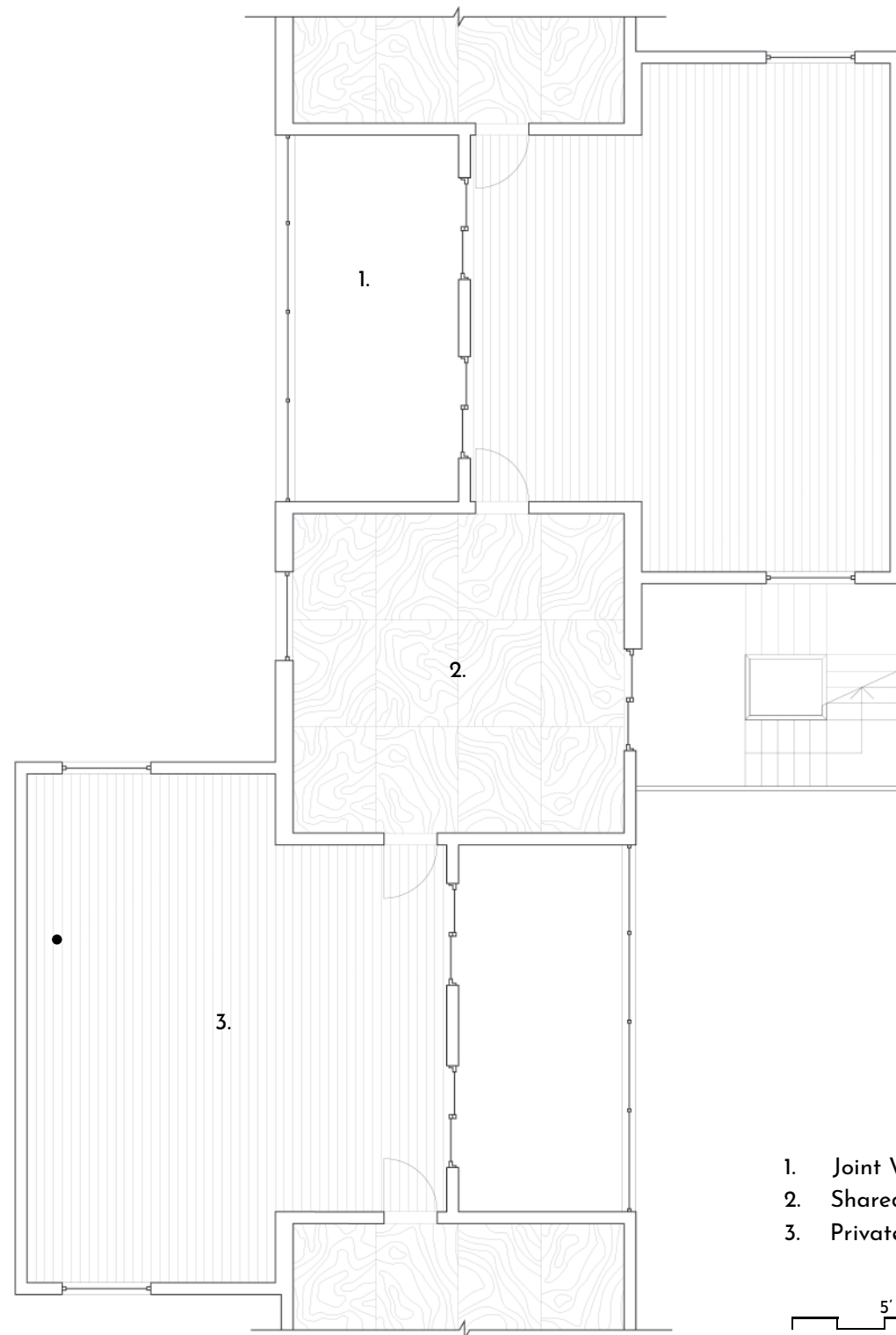


60



Typical Floor

Incomplete

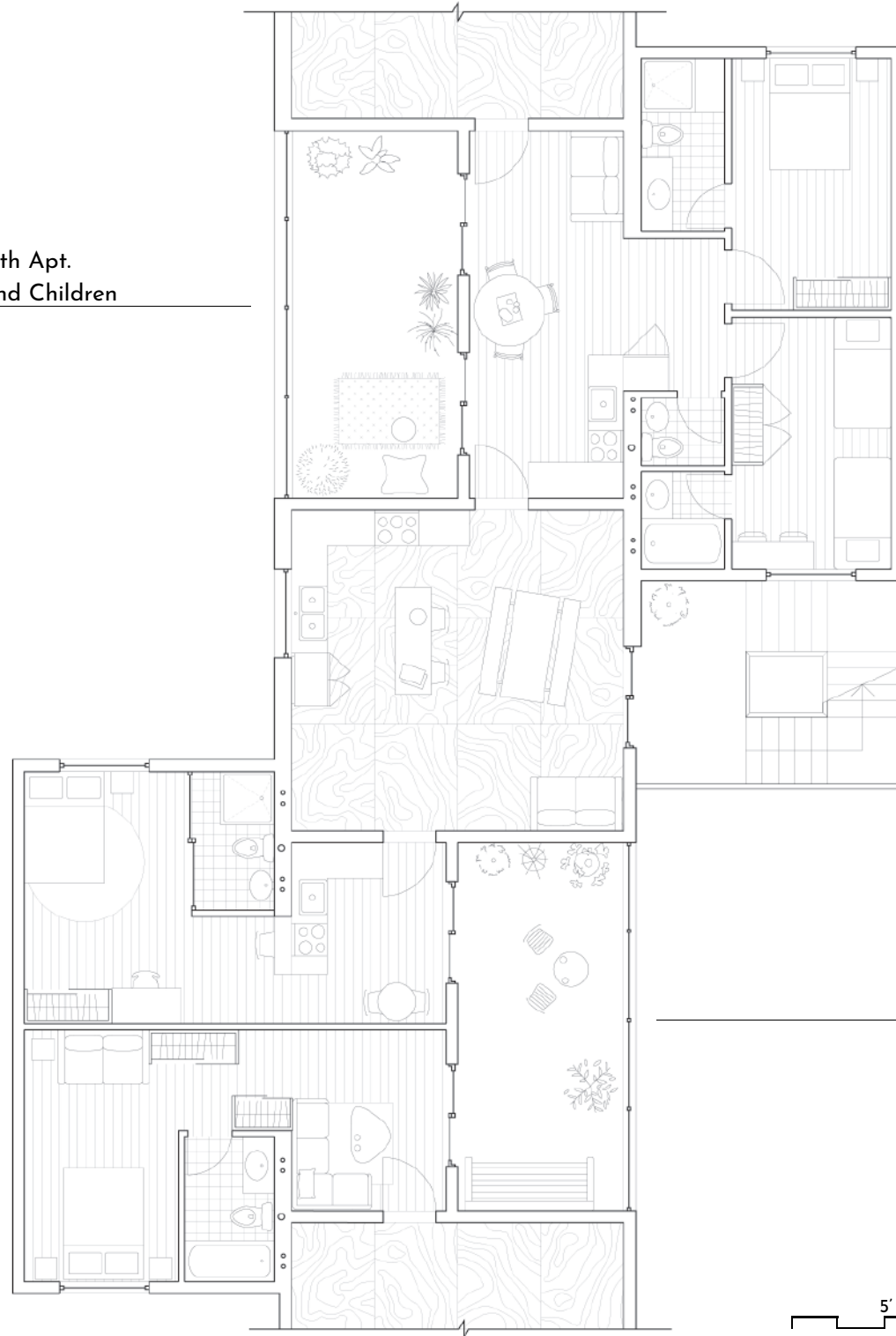


By offering an empty shell of an apartment, residents are able to build out interiors to fit their own unique lifestyle and household structure.

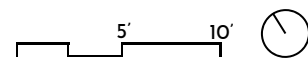
Typical Floor

Complete

Option 1:
2 Bed / 2 Bath Apt.
for Parent and Children



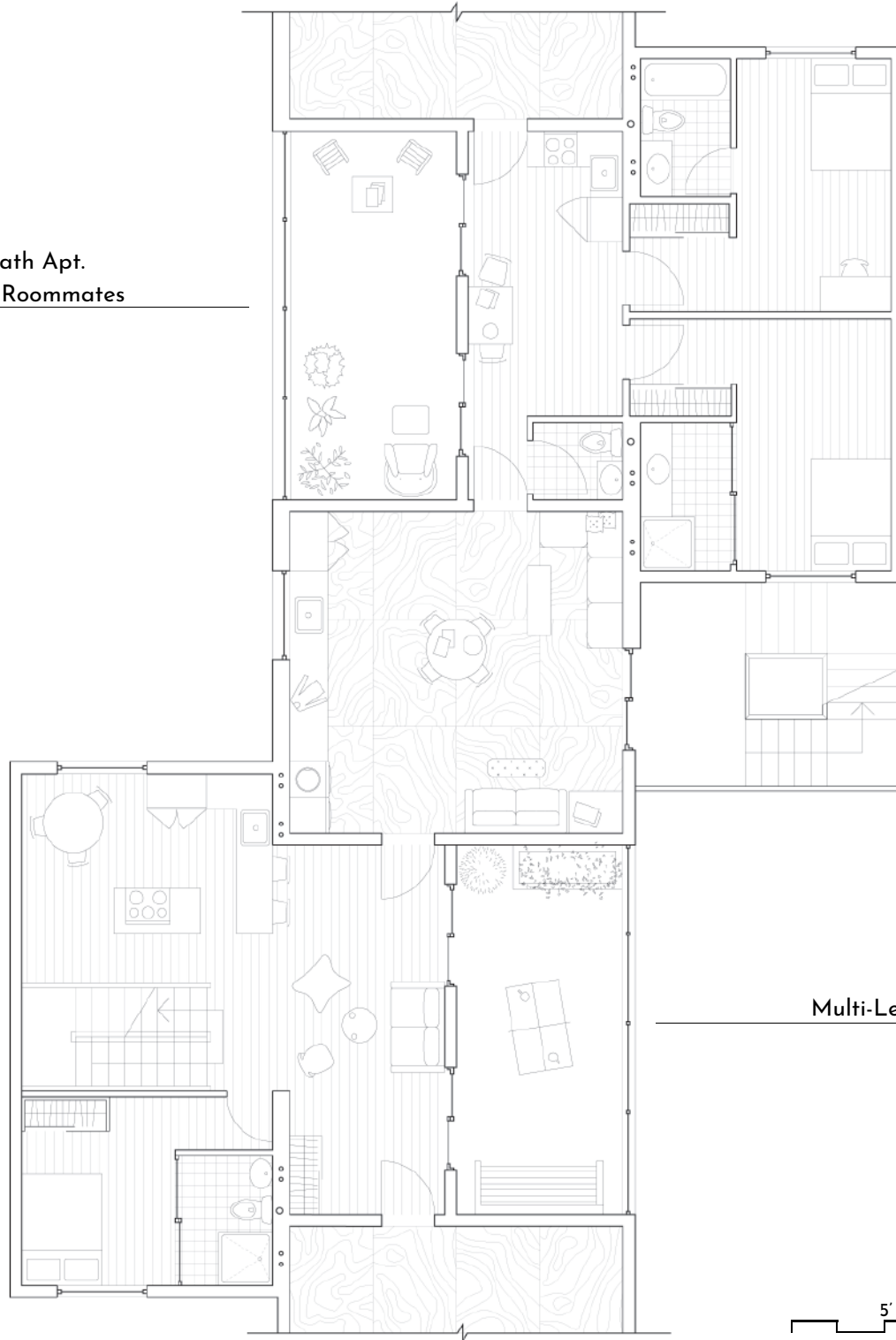
Option 2:
2 Studios



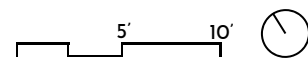
Typical Floor

Complete

Option 3:
2 Bed / 2.5 Bath Apt.
for a Pair of Roommates

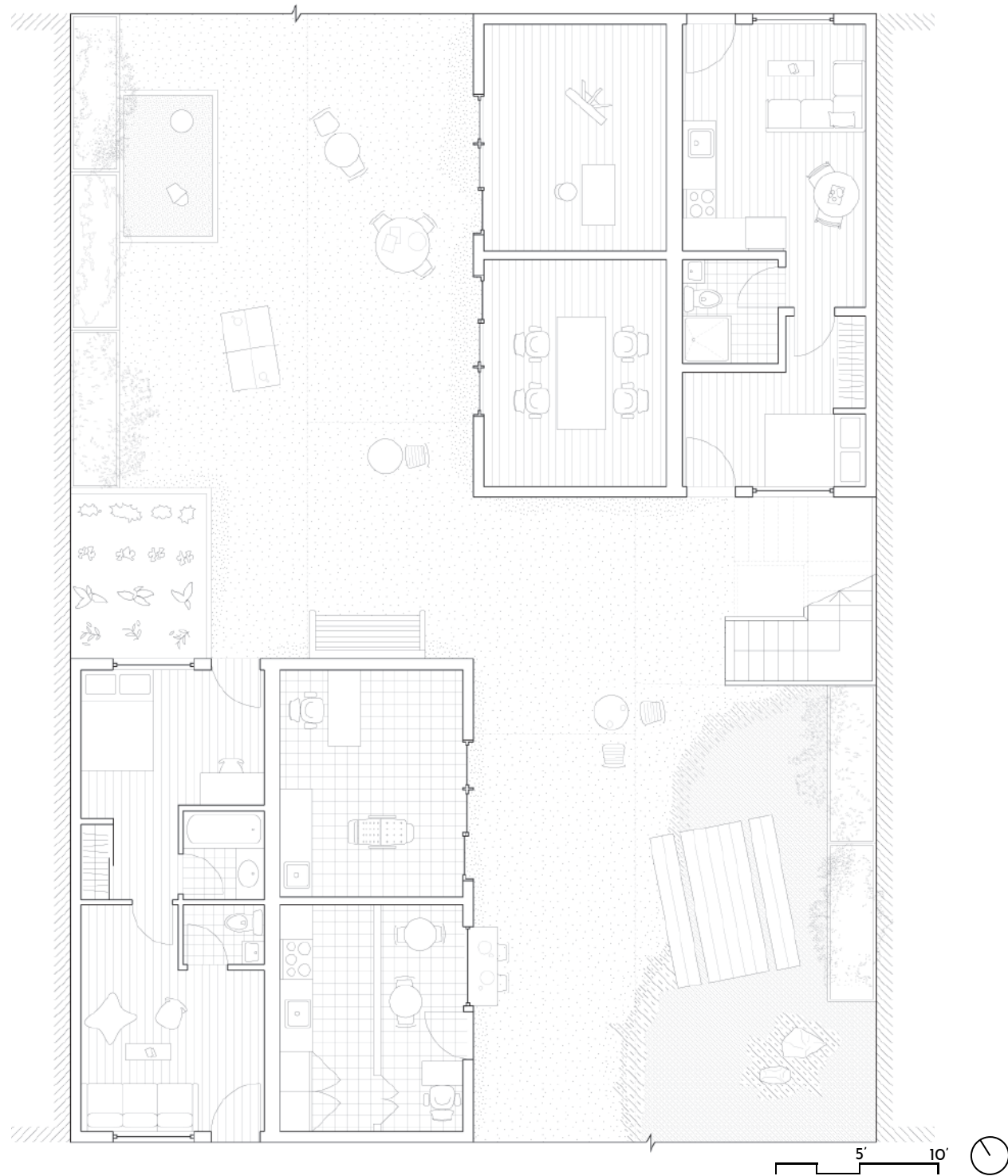


Option 4:
Multi-Level Co-op Apt.



Ground Floor

Complete

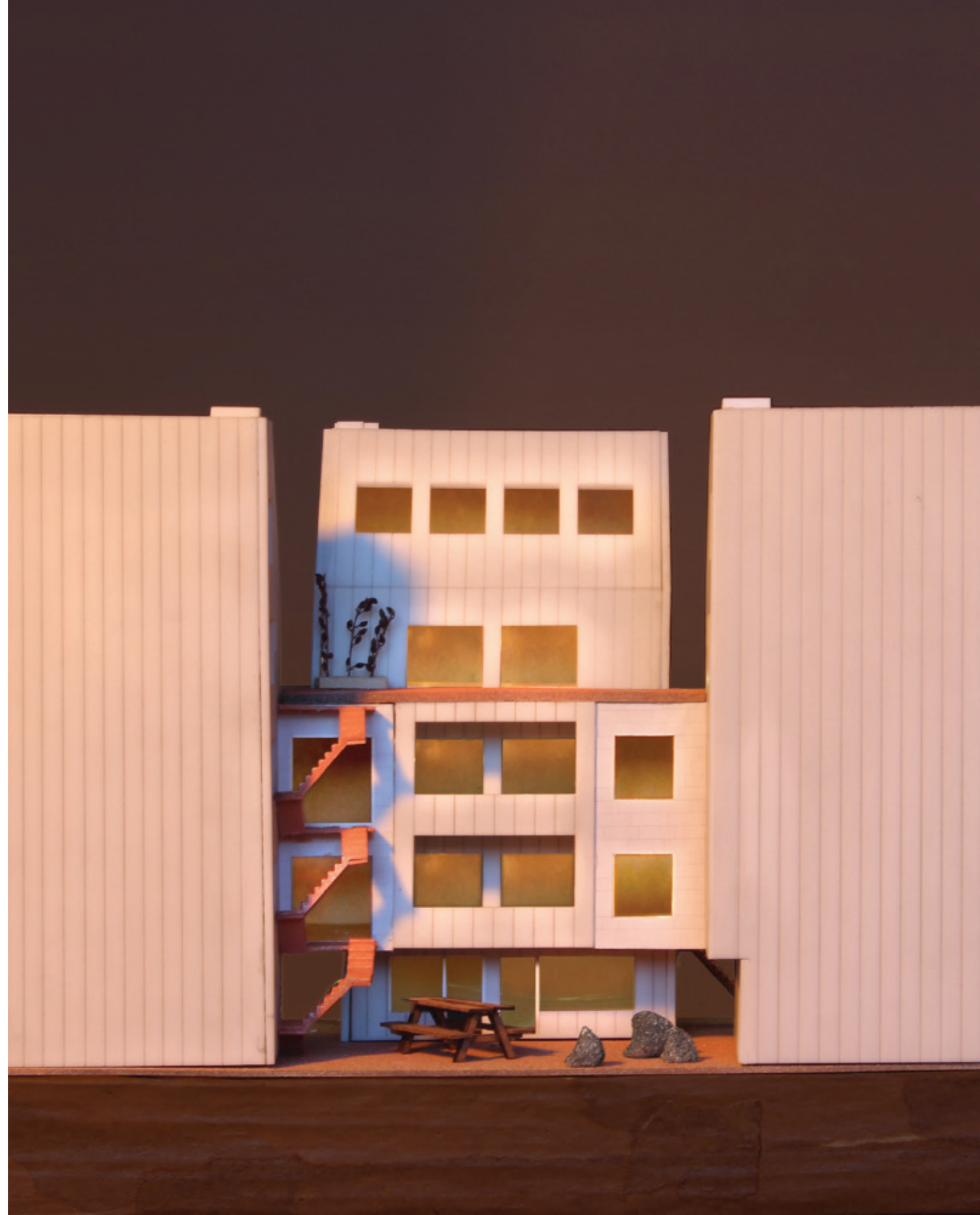
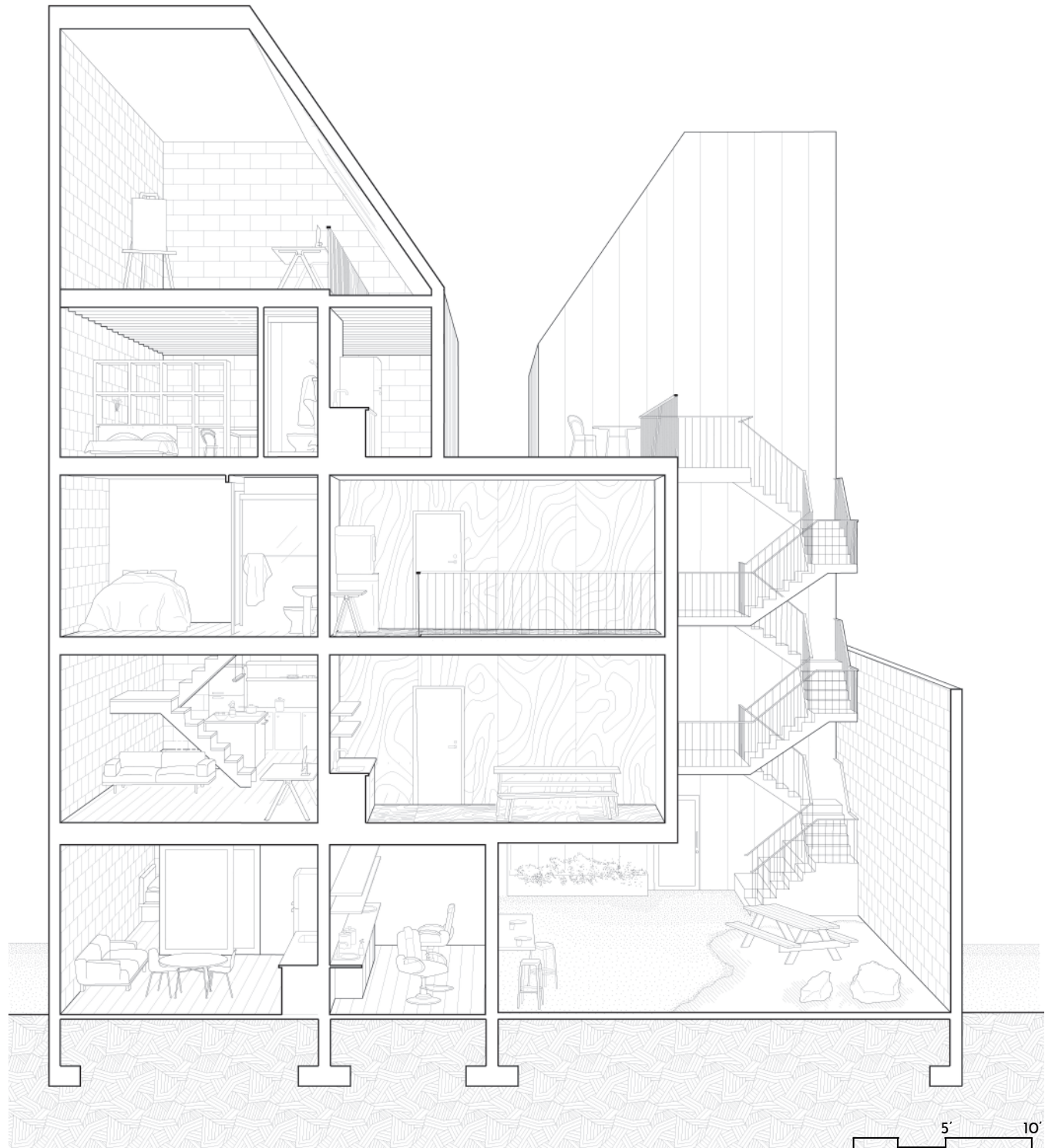


68



Small deli counters, barbershops and working studios occupy part of the ground floor to bring life and a sense of security to the courtyards.

69



Route 60 Gas & Diner



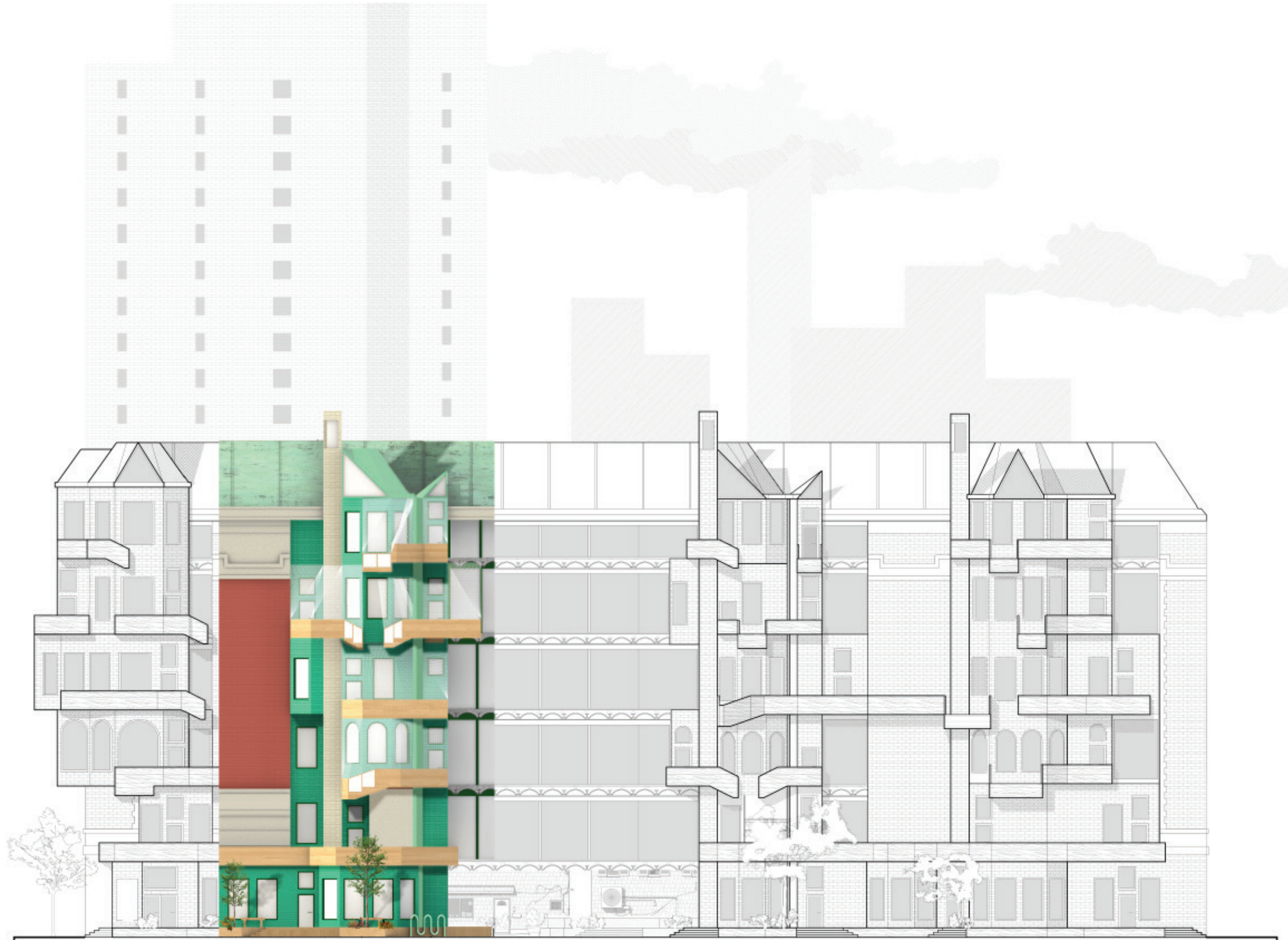
Site:
Studio:
Critic:
Partner:
Date:

Route 60, Texico, NM
Ultrareal, GSAPP
Philip Crupi, Joseph Brennen
Takashi Honzawa, Yefei Yuan
Spring, 2021

Personal School 64

Breaking Down Scale

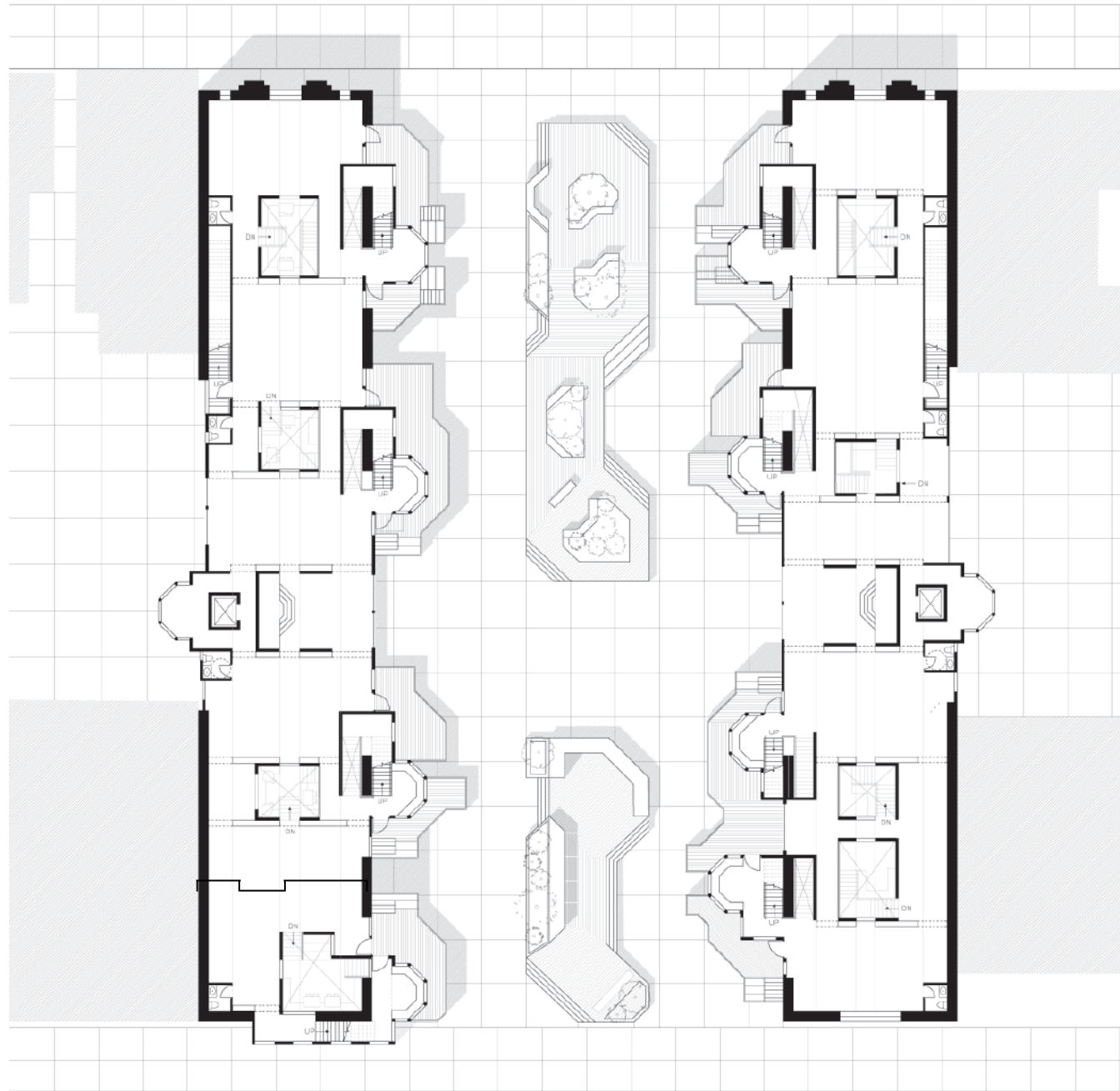
Personal school 64 is a proposal to renovate and modify a dilapidated school building in Manhattan's Lower East side. By grafting a set of townhouses onto the current school building, the preexisting monolithic entrance is broken down into congenial idiosyncratic moments that are more welcoming to children.



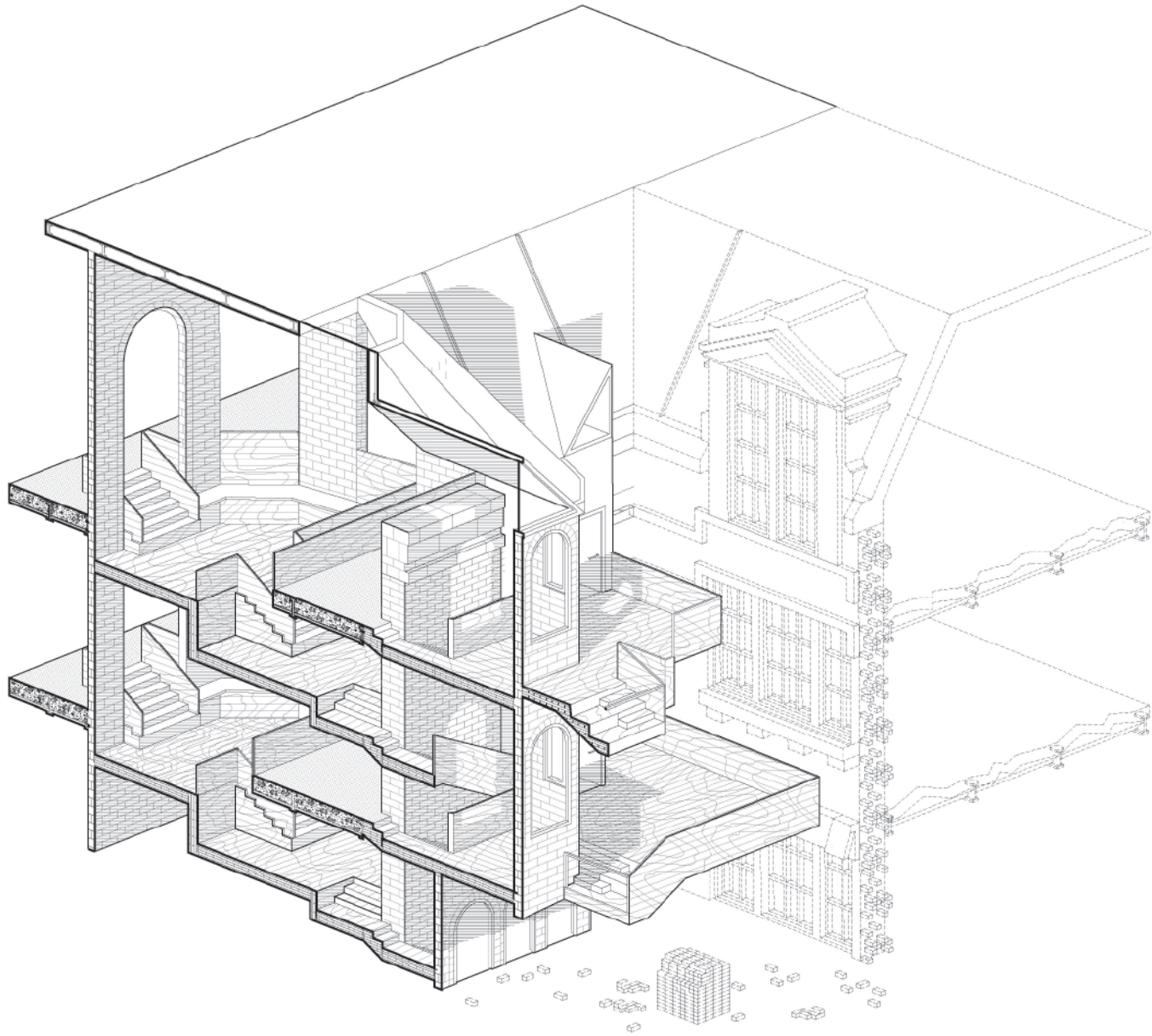
Site:
Studio:
Critic:
Date:

P.S. 64, Manhattan
Core II, GSAPP
Emmet Zeifman
Spring, 2020

Typical Floor



Sliding bookshelf walls create flexible boundaries between classrooms on the open plan floors.



Reclaimed bricks from the deconstruction of the central bar are used to construct the townhouse additions.



Sunken mezzanine levels provide intimate study nooks that remain visually and acoustically connected to the classrooms.

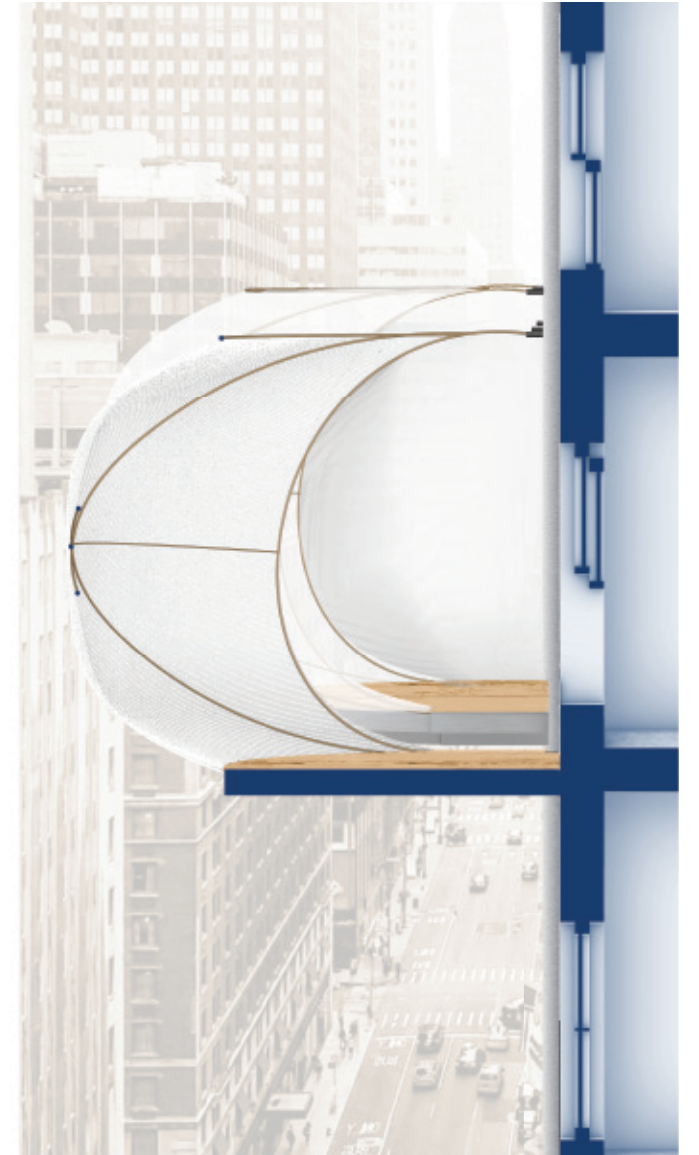
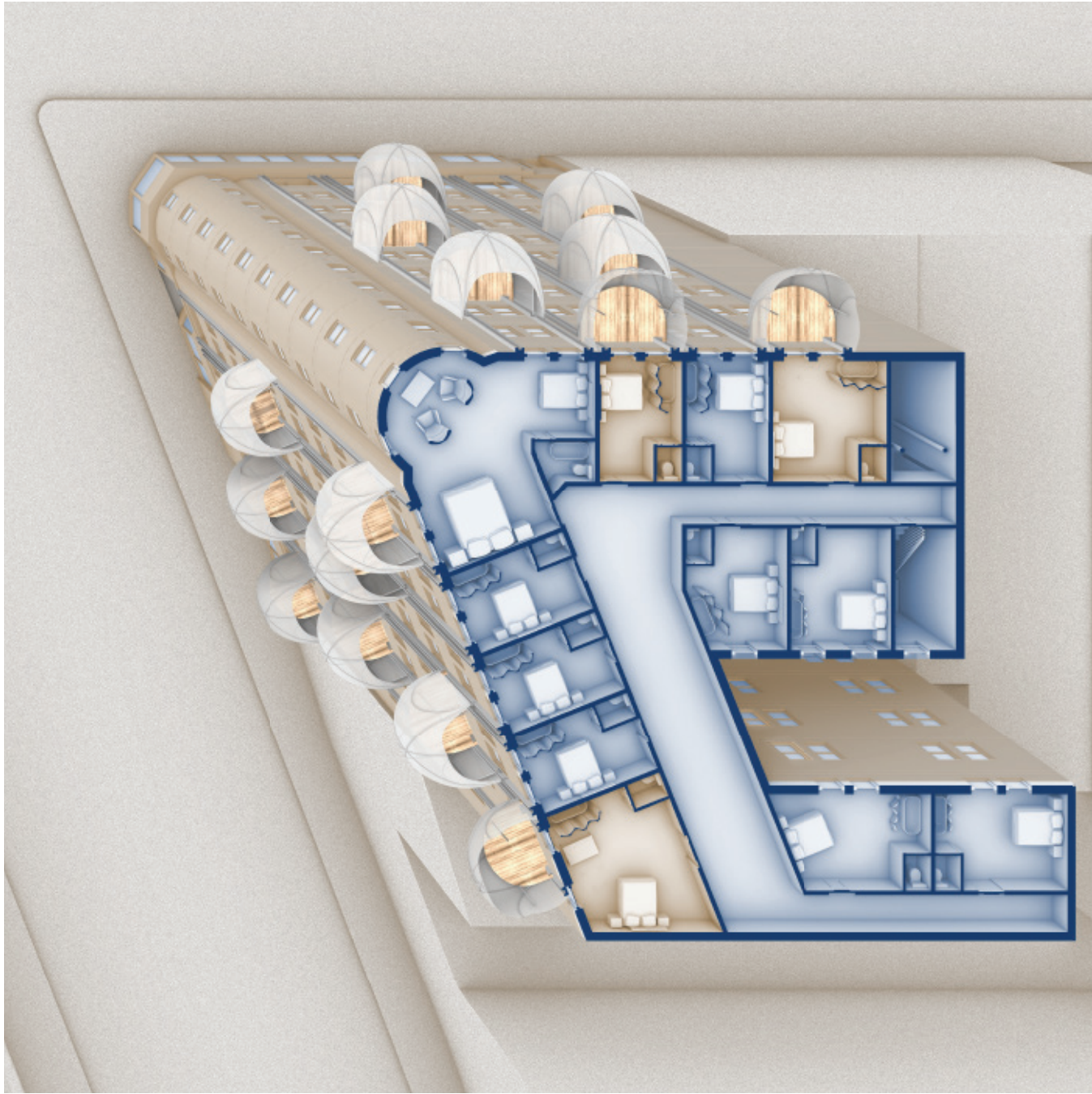


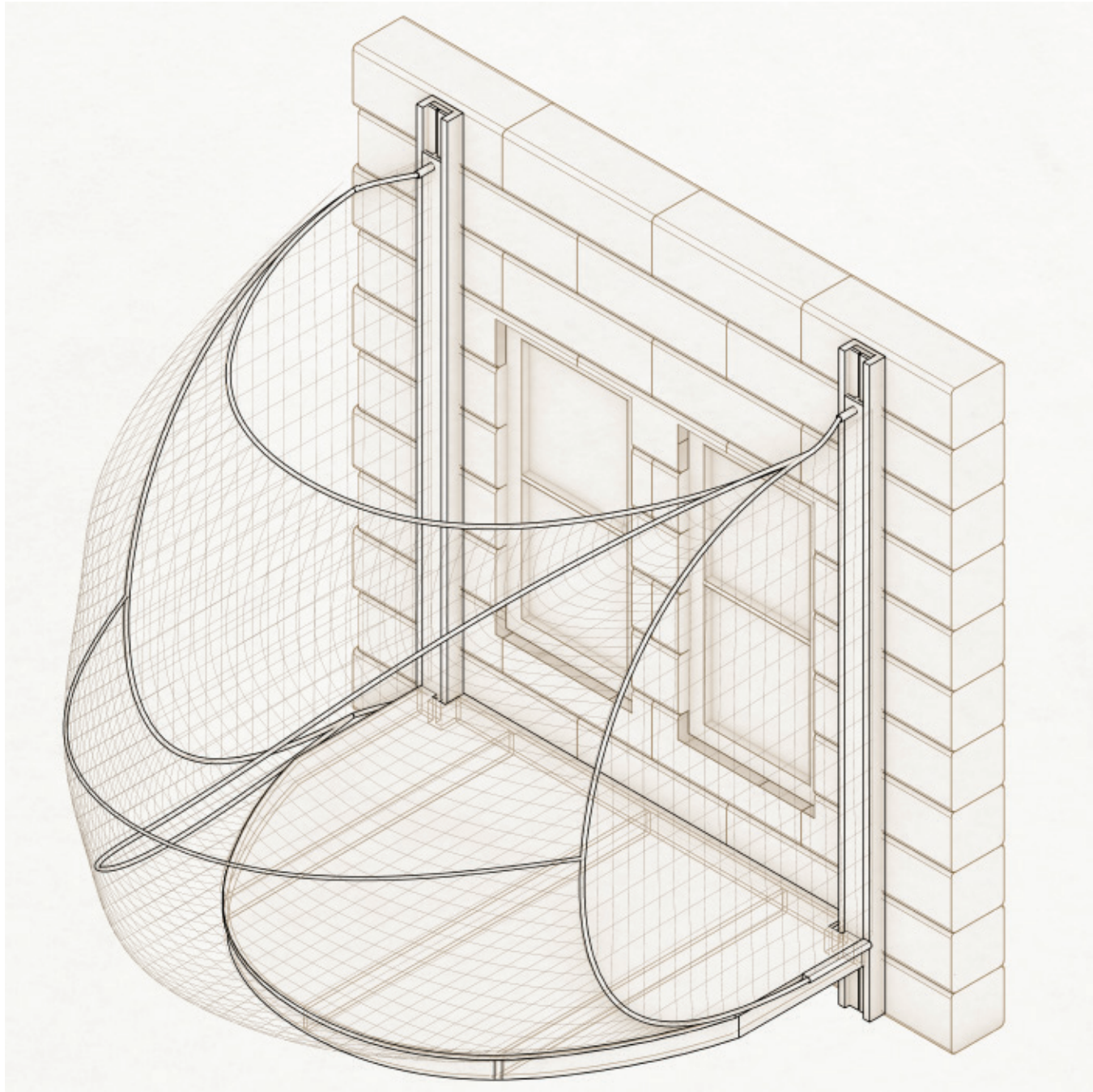
Nomadic Modules



Nomadic Modules draws inspiration from the ephemeral scaffolding perched on nearby construction sites. The project proposes pods wrapped in a diaphanous scrim, to create light, airy spaces on the facade of the NoMAD hotel that can be temporarily appropriated by guests. With the ability to move vertically against their host, the pods fuse together and split apart to accommodate a range of activities from an individual painting session to a ballet company rehearsal.

Site:	Nomad Hotel, Manhattan
Studio:	Core I, GSAPP
Critic:	Amina Blacksher
Date:	Fall, 2019





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