Preface:

Within a short year, my idea of architecture has been challenged, and the transcalar impact of design exceeded my own understandings. Somehow, each lesson, lecture and studio, were linked by cultures, conversations and personal experiences. This year was about questioning, aruging, exploring, and above all, having fun. This collection of work is broken up into 3 parts: Questioning, Testing, and Re-Writing.

Questioning?

Testing, Testing, Testing.
Testing Technology in Society: Beyond the Lab?

So Dirty It's Clean
Visual Studies

A Red Guggenheim Loudreaders

Testing...

Blurred Lines.

Visual Studies

The Village: An Urban Playground
The Future Public

Re-Writing.

The Wall and the Traveling Scarf Contextualizing a Concept

Chance Encounters
Shark-life

Food + Fuzz Mental Health Clinic + Nurses Housing

QUESTIONING?

How can we challenge pre-conceived notions of architecture to be more critical of previous understandings?

TESTING, TESTING, TESTING.

A response to the lecture "Testing Technology in Society: Beyond the Lab?" by Noortje Marres

The topic of "testing" leads to many ideas relating to unpredictability in architecture. How can we test social interactions and predict how users would inhabit and interact with the built environment... What kind of tests can take place? Is it ok that we can't test for specific things? Unpredictability is ok, because it prevents us from having total control over the built environment and allows us to continue questioning/testing ideas/outcomes. But when does the cycle stop? And when can we be satisfied?

Unpredictability remains a topic continually questioned by society. An actor's role is always shifting, making it difficult to conform to a society, and instead are active participants in the social. The social is defined by the term Actor Network Theory (ANT). Testing within the framework of ANT "enables the performative specification on a new set of connections between technical elements, social actors, objects, interests, and so on." On the contrary, Science and Technology Studies (STS) believes that tests are performed in a laboratory and have the possibility of transforming socio-technical arrangements in society. Noortje Marres and David Stark's Put to the Test: For a new sociology of testing, explores this idea of testing beyond a laboratory, emphasizing the importance of testing "in society" rather than performing tests of society. The sociology of testing, explained by Marres and Stark, redefines the linear definition of a test, by stating that a test does not have to be defined by a laboratory or social setting, but is the modification of society to make social life observable. Through this lense, the ultimate goal of testing, is to provoke further testing to continue questioning the shifting social environment. To further explore testing in architecture, the topic of unpredictability still remains. How can social interactions be tested and predict how users would interact and inhibit the built environment? What types of tests could take place to anticipate these relationships? Furthermore, if these tests are not possible, is unpredictability okay? Does unpredictability prevent the architect from having total control over the built environment?

Testing in architecture raises many questions regarding shifting conditions beyond the architect's control. One can begin to ask questions to define who will inhabit the space, how spaces change over time, the impact a space has on the surrounding context, who manages a space, and so on. These questions relating to unpredictability reveal the relationships beyond building and user, and tackle issues regarding sustainability, social impact, politics, and more. The tensions related to the unpredictability of architecture makes designing for a future challenging because of the shifting social environment. Architects take on the responsibility of designing for the future, and are constantly proposing models that reflect historical precedents to predict how new architecture will impact the social. However, this routine approach has neglected to resolve any issues relating to social or political influence within an environment. Since this is the case, why are architects continuously designing for a future that is constantly transforming and difficult to predict? To approach this question in Marres' tone, one solution could be for architects to continue designing in the same way, and modify certain aspects of a design over time to critically analyze the shifts in the social.

Engaging with architecture in a more collective, strategic way to identify where large shifts in design need to occur would change the dynamics of the profession. It could create tensions relating to who determines what elements to modify, the order of modification, the scale of the modification, etc. Another issue that could arise is the role aesthetics in architecture design as a medium to test within the social. What purpose does aesthetics serve in modifying architectural design in the investigation of the social? How can aesthetics in architectural design be tested as a modality that impacts the social, when aesthetics is based on the subjective? These on-going questions are exactly what Marres wants from those who are involved in modifying events in the social. In this sense, the social relies on unpredictability because it is impossible to generalize facts about actors, since their role is always shifting.

The topic of unpredictability allows for endless new revelations to surface. However, the conversation also revealed that the purpose of testing is not necessarily for the collection of objective data, but rather an observation tool to produce different responses to social interactions and the built environment. The ongoing cycle of unpredictability still makes the goal of testing ambiguous. To circle back to the endless loop of questioning, I would like to further explore the effectiveness of testing, due to the fact that there is never a common ground. If unpredictability is embraced, why is it not fully embodied by forgetting testing and truly living in the unpredictable?

MS AAD Arguments
Instructor: Eva Schreiner

Noortje Marres and David Stark, "Put to the test: For a new Sociology of Testing," Wiley (2020)

SO DIRTY IT'S CLEAN?

How can we start to depict the world around us in different ways? By utilizing light as a tool to alter perceptions of our reality, the New York Cityscape, renowned for its trash, can become a beautiful symbol of the city.



Architecture Photography Instructor: Michael Vahrenwald



Concept

A RED GUGGENHEIM is a loudreading event that exposes the Guggenheim's exploitation of labor in three different parts:

Guggen-mine,

Guggenheim,

Guggen-crime.

Location: Guggenheim Atrium Program: Loudreading Event

Time: Now







" "I very much fear for the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation,

because

its

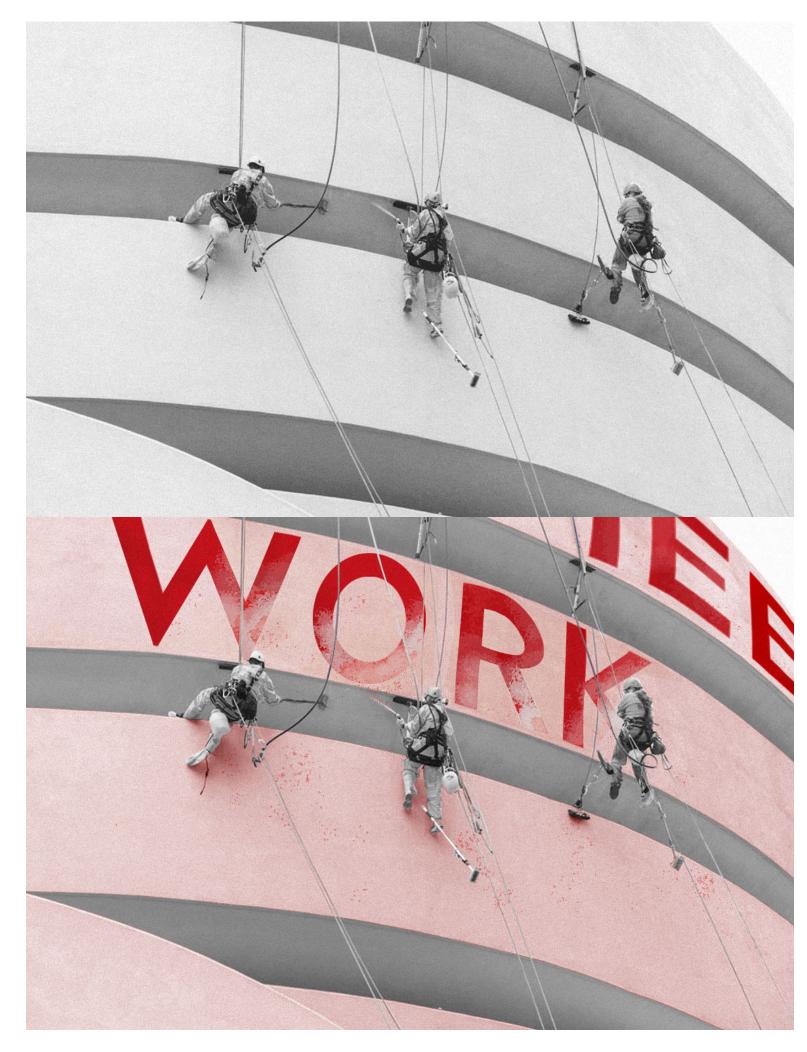
a hollow shell

that will be a liability

in the future." "

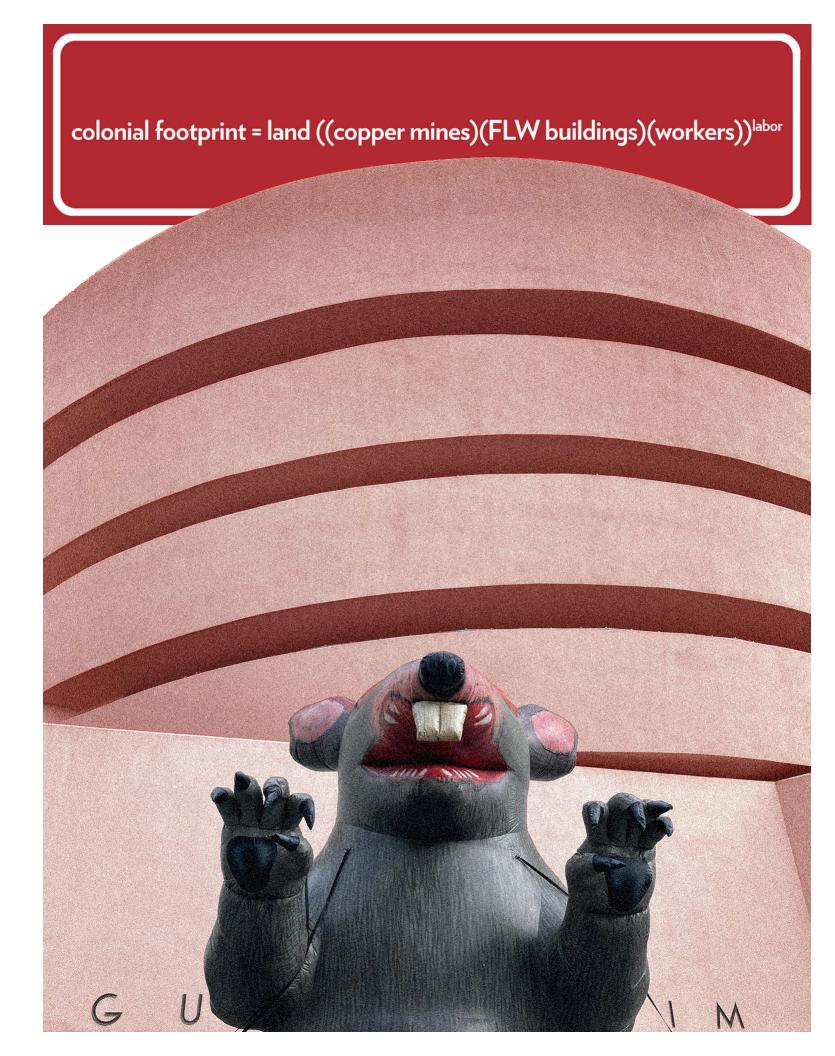


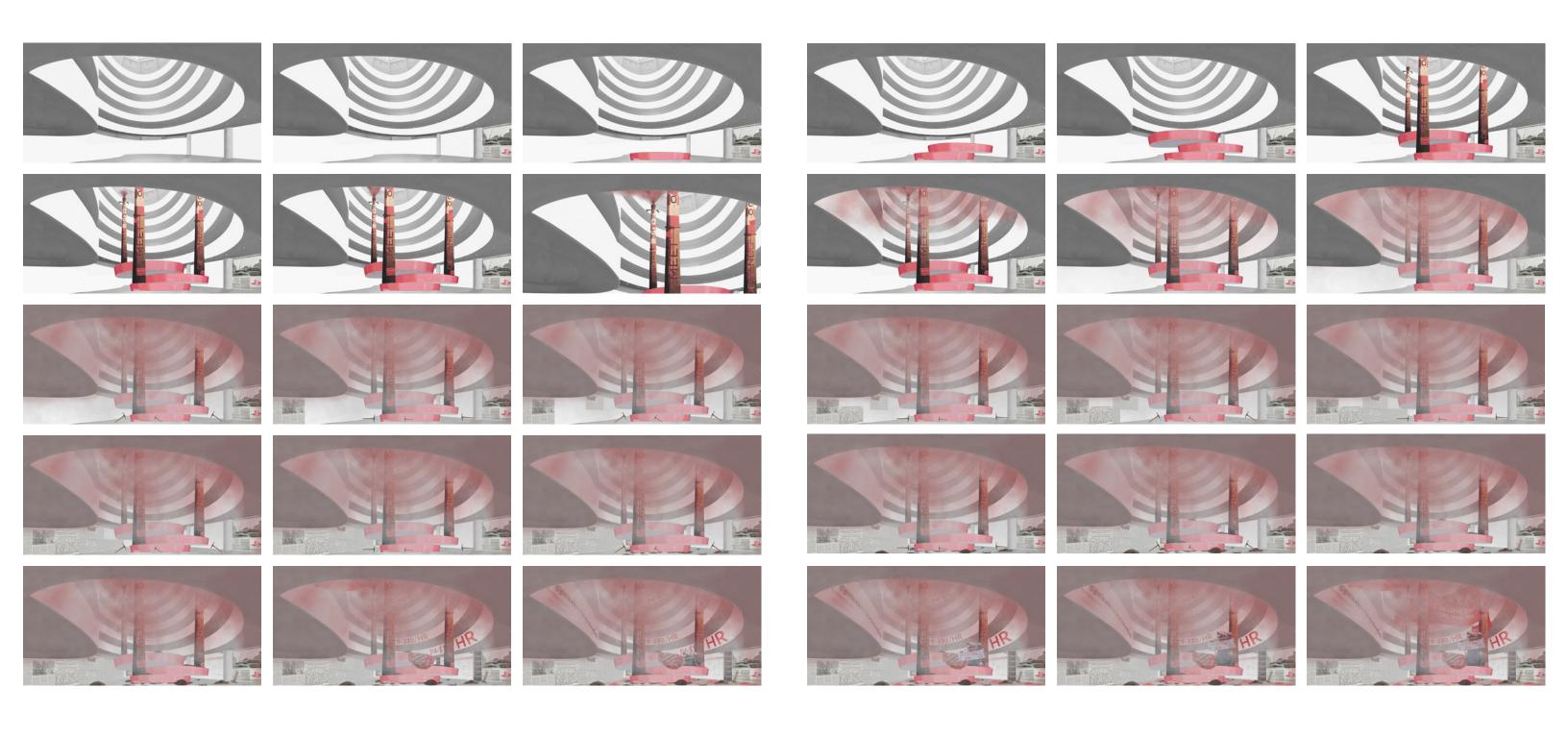
Frank Lloyd Wright's involvement in the design of the museum adds to the colonial footprint of the Guggenheim because of how poorly he treated his workers. Wright was known for mistreating his workers and extorting them for free labor. This Loudreading event titled, *A Red Guggenheim*, reveals the problematic behavior of the Guggenheim, and the colonial footprint of the institution in regards to labor. The event recognizes Wright's original intent for the facade of the Guggenheim to be red, and re-appropriates this idea by using red as a symbol of revolution, fighting for workers rights.





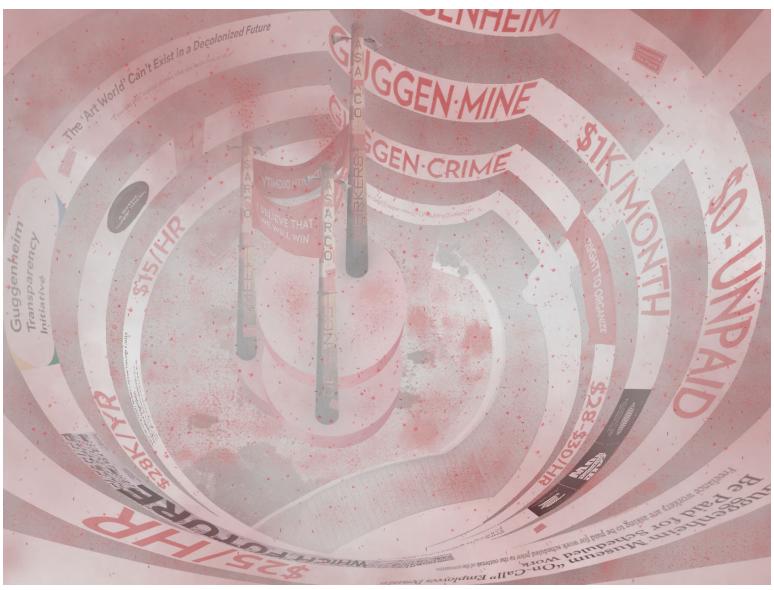
There has been a pattern of racism, discrimination, and unfair demands asked of workers. Their labor has resulted in unfair pay and misrepresentation from the Guggenheim foundation.

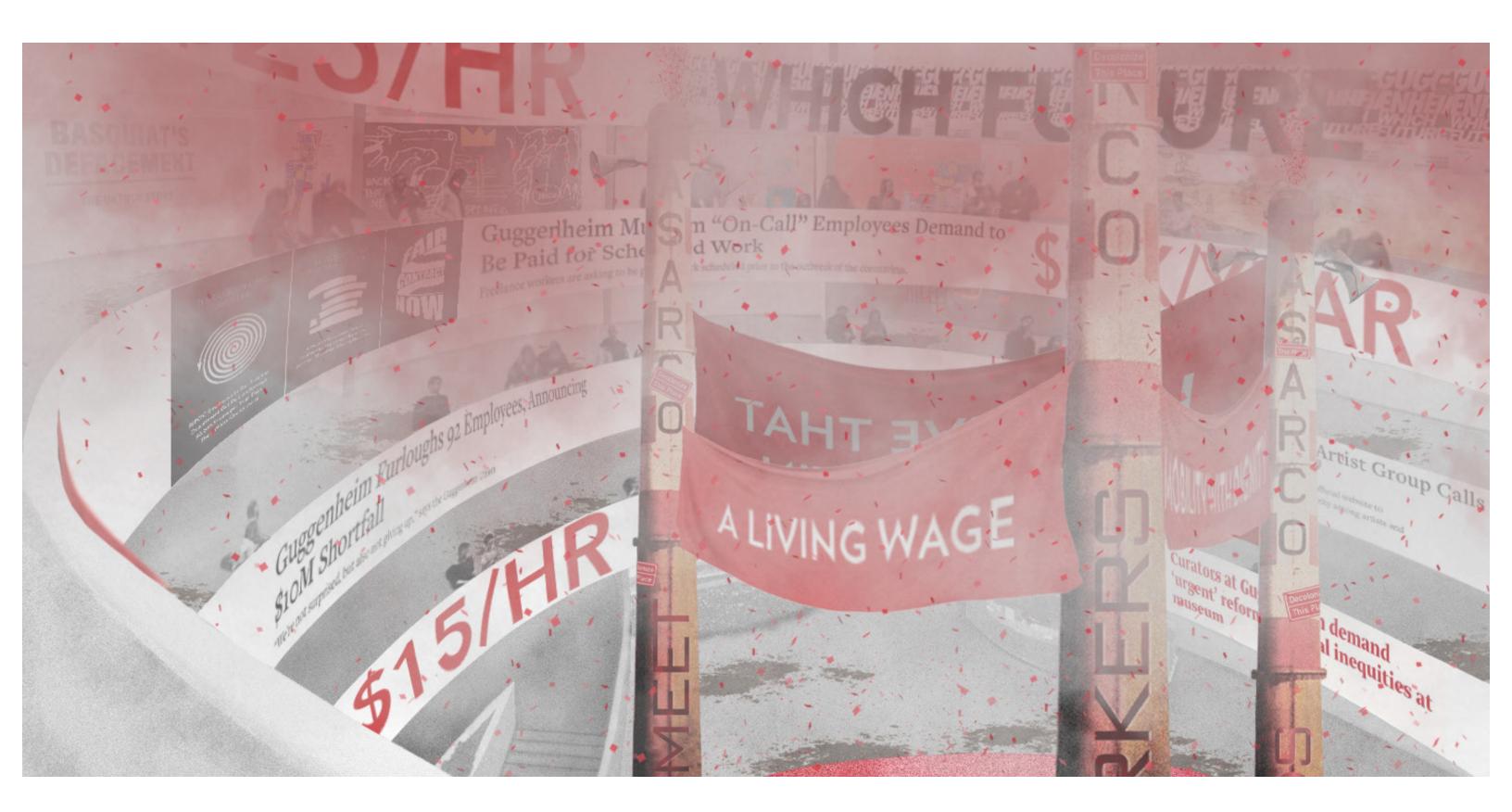












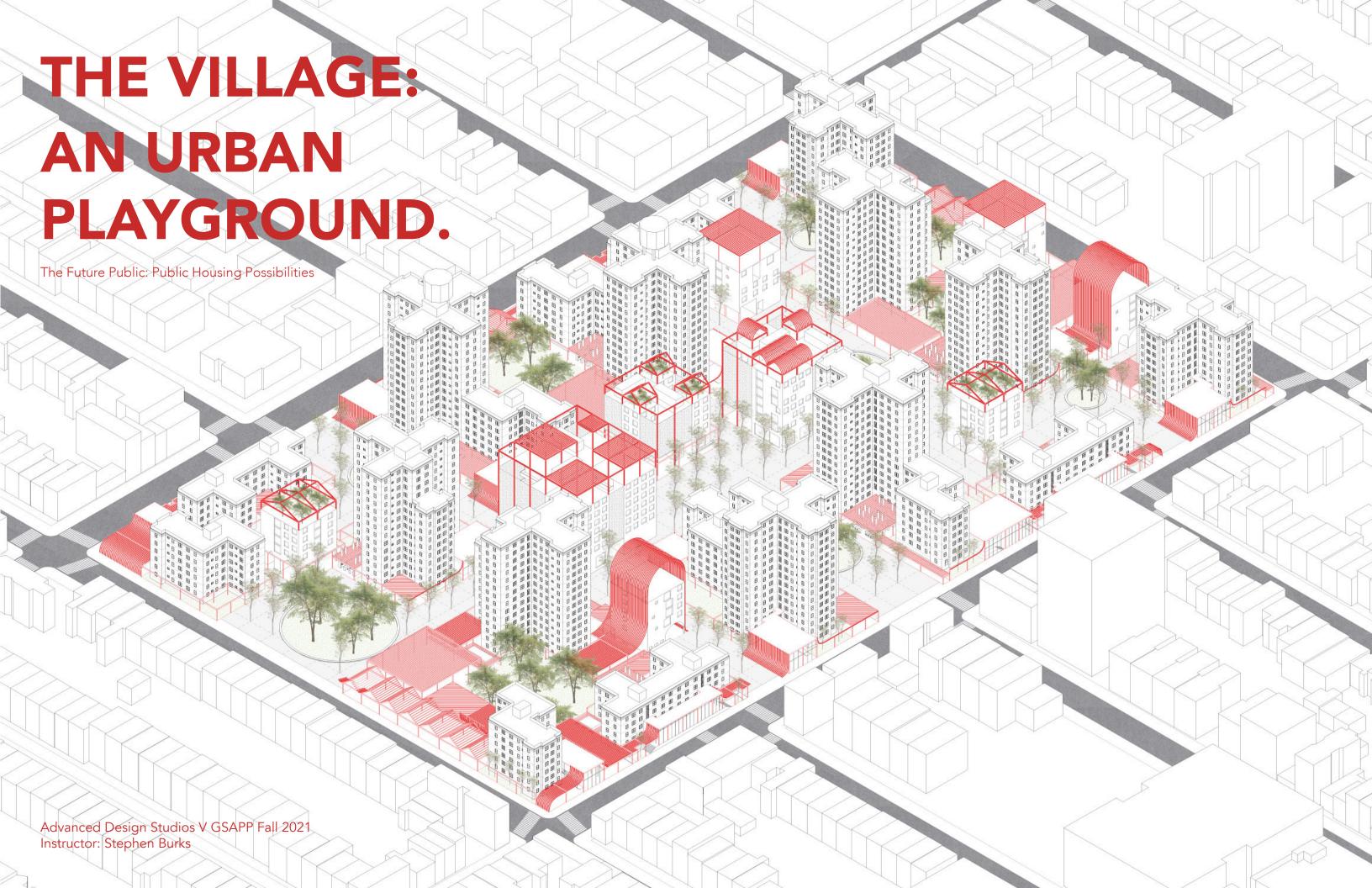
TESTING...

How can modes of questioning be applied to different mediums?

BLURRED LINES.

Through various layers, lights, and objects, photographing reflections can obscure a subject matter, blurring different elements within a scene to re-write new narratives.





The Village: An Urban Playground

The Gowanus Houses was developed by the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) in 1948 to provide low and moderate income New Yorkers with affordable housing.

The current site of the Gowanus Houses sits as an island within the gridded urban fabric of the surrounding neighborhood, with large amounts of under-utilized green space, monolithic housing blocks, playgrounds and inactive circulation paths.

To improve the site condition of the Gowanus Houses, the emphasis on a non-hierarchical grid, interstitial spaces, and random circulation will create an urban playground named The Village.

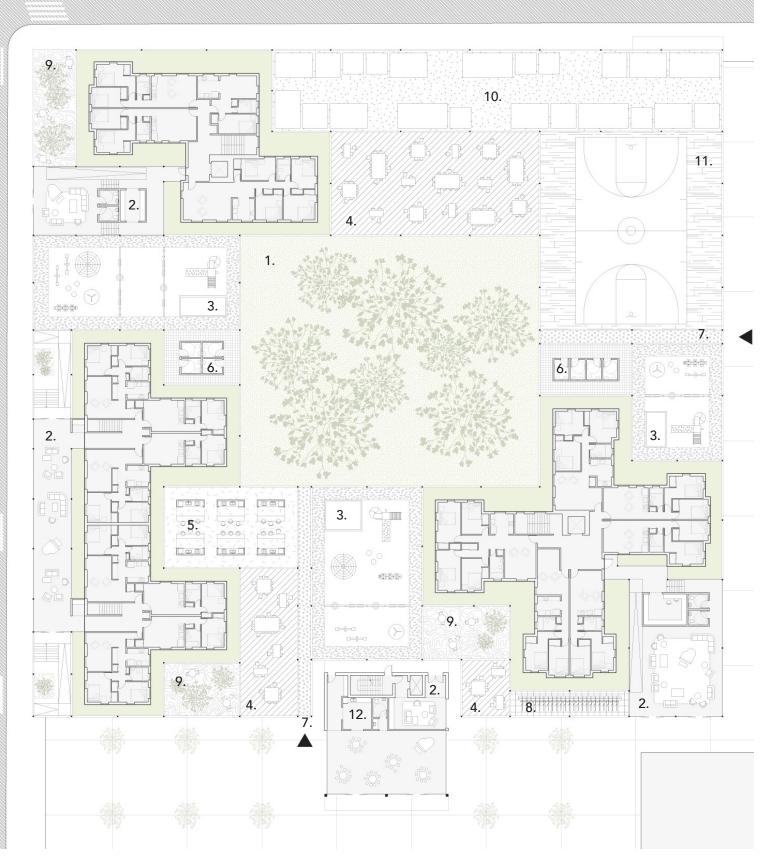
The Village is a collection of various organized programs to invite residents and surrounding neighbors to the island, to experience a new sense of community.

The system that defines the Village is a transitional canopy that provides the framework for the community programs that lie beneath it. In addition to the re-organization and redesign of existing programs, a few additional buildings are added on site to provide more housing, as well as new community programs such as a day care center, community kitchen and greenhouse.

The village acts as an urban playground for the neighborhood of Gowanus to provide different opportunities of engagement and interaction through different community programs for both visitors and residents. The emphasis of the island creates a city within a city to give life to a new community to the existing Gowanus Houses, making it a new exciting destination for surrounding neighbors, and place for people to live.



Wyckoff St.



1. Great Lawn

2. Lobby

3. Playground4. Outdoor Seating

5. BBQ

6. Public Bathrooms

7. Direct Entrance Breezeway

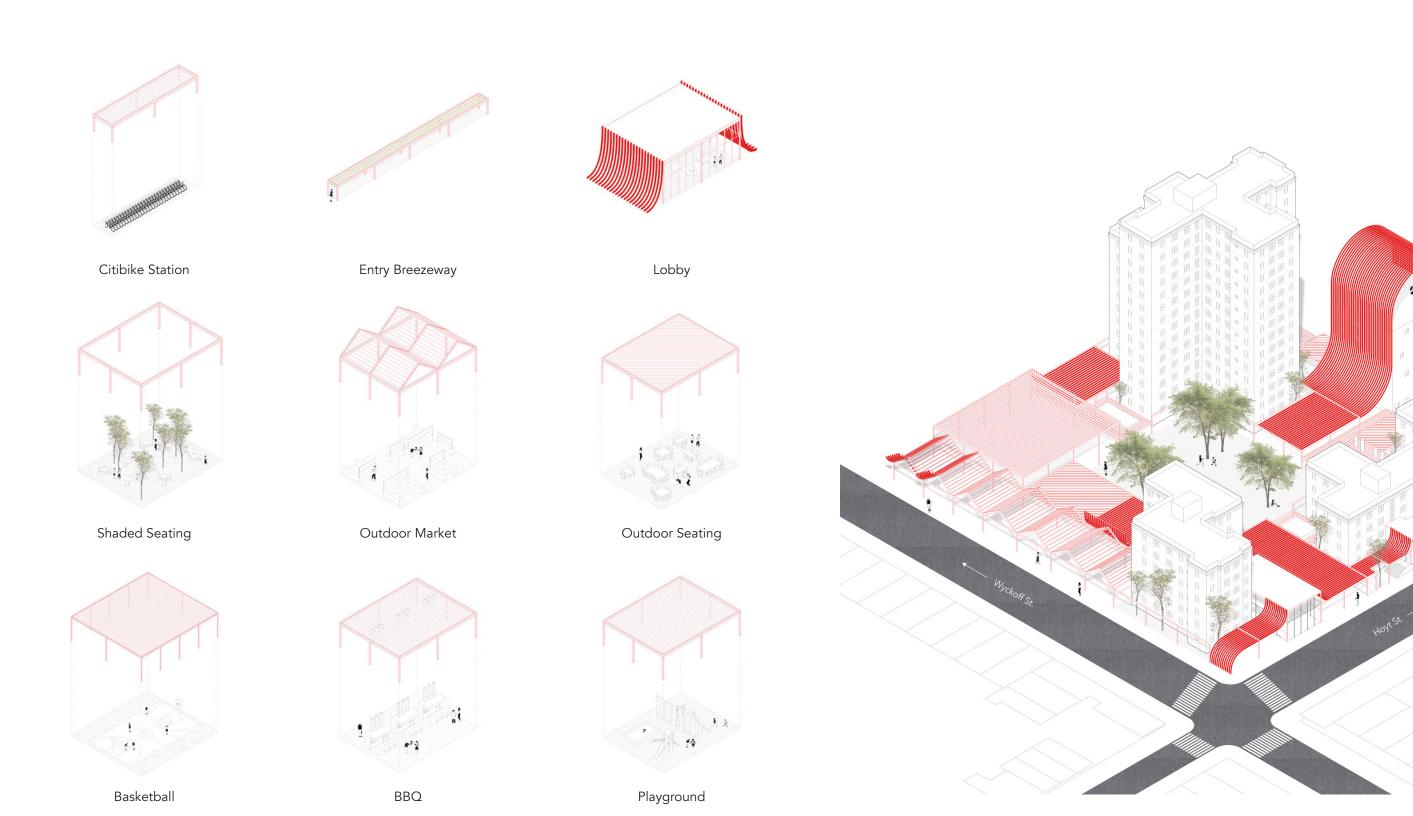
8. Citibike Station

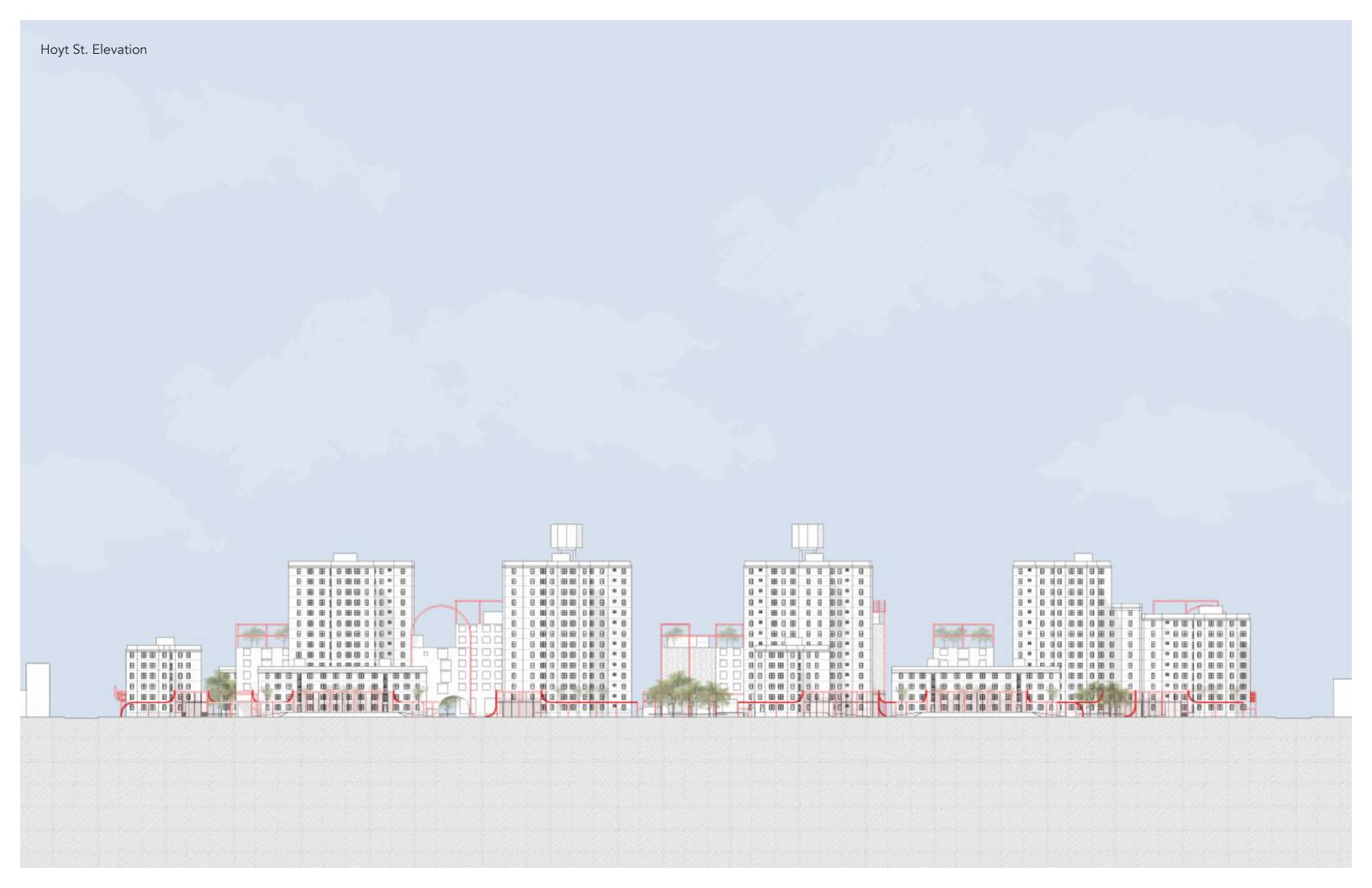
9. Shaded Seating

10. Outdoor Market

11. Basketball Court

12. Daycare











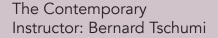
RE-WRITING.

How can new narratives emerge to link different ideas, questions, lessons and challenges together?

THE WALL AND THE TRAVELING SCARF.

Contextualizing a Concept Aya Abdallah, Adrianna Franz, Emma Sumrow, Sophia Le

How can a project be re-imaged as a Contextualized Concept, despite it being renowned as a Contextless Concept?





Left to Right: Wall House #3 - Austin, Texas; Wall House #4 - Zermatt, Switzerland; Wall House #5 - Great Barrier Reef, Australia; Wall House #6 - Mars

The Wall House as a Context

The Wall House is one of the most critical projects to arise from the postmodern era, as it is one of the only designs to be constructed almost exactly as it was intended. Historically, this project is heavily understood as a built concept that neglects its context, but we have decided to challenge this statement and reveal the virtues that argue for the Wall House in contextualizing a concept. Hedjuk designed the house in isolation, lacking a specific context, by working on the drawings of this house before having a client.

The Wall House project was a research on the broader scheme of architectural elements - the wall, the stairs, the room, etc. It began as a research on a mode of representation and how one can push the axonometric drawing style. It questions the notion of program by pulling the programs apart and making each room separate with their own configurations. Is the wall a wall? Or is it a corridor?

The original context is architecture in an abstract sense. Hedjuk was interested in narratives and storytelling, more specifically what we can do: Architectural exercise and narrative exercise.

To rewrite the original intentions of the project, we have re-contextualized the Wall House in different locations to confront how that alters the perception of the house, and how we may want to alter the house.

Collage as a storytelling device has allowed us to explore the Wall house in different contexts. By choosing different sites in which to locate the new Wall Houses 3-6, it shows how the contrasts of the variety of habitat types allow the Wall House to become a singular project or object within each space that adapts to various climates, timelines, users, programs, and scales. This oscillation of scales and uses begins to fill the blank surrounding space in each of Hedjuk's drawings that were referenced and produced upon its conception.

CHANCE ENCOUNTERS.

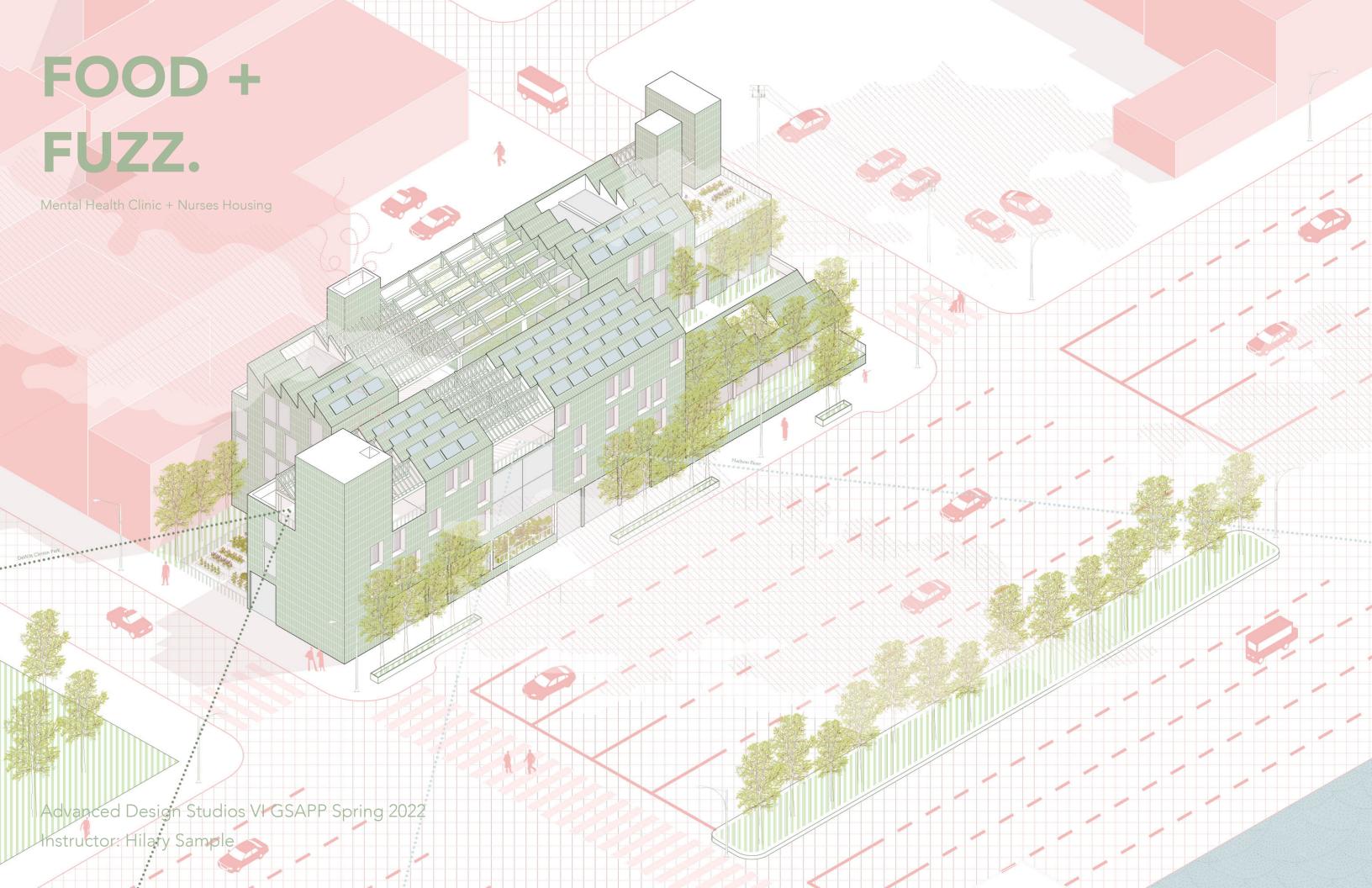
Sharklyfe Sophia Le, John Trujillo, Joyce Zhou

Significant advancements in organ transplantation (and organ engineering), coupled with the accelerating effects of a fragmented gigeonomy has resulted in a population of humans that need very little sleep but instead must move constantly, like sharks, to stay fit and alive. They sleep in sub 1-hour bursts wherever they can and move on.

In a world where sleep ceases to exists, two people who are destined to fall in love, never meet...



Model Fictions
Instructor: Josh Jordon



FOOD + FUZZ!

The topic of mental health has always been a pressing issue, especially within minority groups. Prior to the pandemic, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders faced nearly 4,000 hate incidents, such as verbal harassment, insults, jokes and violent attacks. The pandemic has exacerbated xenophobia and bigotry toward these communities. Early research has linked the uptick in anti-Asian discrimination to increases in anxiety, depressive symptoms, and sleep problems among those who are targeted. Stop Asian American and Pacific Islander Hate, a non profit organization, recorded nearly 1900 incidents of anti Asian American discrimination between March 19, 2020 and May 13, 2020. Asian Americans are the least likely to seek help when it comes to addressing their mental health due to the cultural bias against it, and lack of culturally relevant approaches to treatment. To further maximize their impact with AAPI communities, psychologists should focus on interventions that carry less stigma than one-on-one therapy.

The program of a mental health clinic is limiting to the needs of the AAPI community. This project utilizes nontraditional methods to destigmatize mental health, through large amounts of Food and Fuzz, allowing the clinic to be redefined as a community center. This clinic will create a safe space for Asian Americans to help destigmatize mental health through a collection of non-hierarchical spaces by utilizing layers of transparency to reveal different relationships within the clinic.

FOOD + FUZZIII

Location: 630 W 52nd St., New York, NY 10036 Program: Mental Health Clinic + Nurses Housin

MEDICINAL GARDEN

1. St. John's Wort

Natural remedy for mental health issues like anxiety or depression, also a useful anti-bacterial agent anc can be used topically to treat and heal wounds or other skin abrasions.

2. Lemon balm

Relax and relieve stomach problems

3. Chamomile

Traditionally used in tea and aromatherapy to induce mental relaxation and as an anti-inflammator lotion, has calming powers.

4. American Skullcap (Lateriflora

Used to treat anxiety and is a sedative (part of the mint family)

5. Valeriana Officinalis

One of the most widely used natural sedative medicines in the world. Valerian has an effect on anxiety

6. Lavender

Helps with anxiety, can impact mood and cognitive performance. Also has sedative properties and carries anti-inflammatory benefits as well. Aromatherapy

7. Rosemary

Rosemary oil has useful anti-inflammatory and antibacterial properties when you apply it topically. In te form, rosemary is hailed as a valuable memory booster.

8. Aloe Vera

Slimy-gel of the interior is used to treat a number of conditions from sunburns to stings.

9. Roseroot

Has restorative abilities, improves mental functioning. Can treat burns, and relief for indigestion

10. Valerian

Useful sleep aid and relaxant, also helps with indigestion.

11. Sushni (Marsilea Quadrifolia)

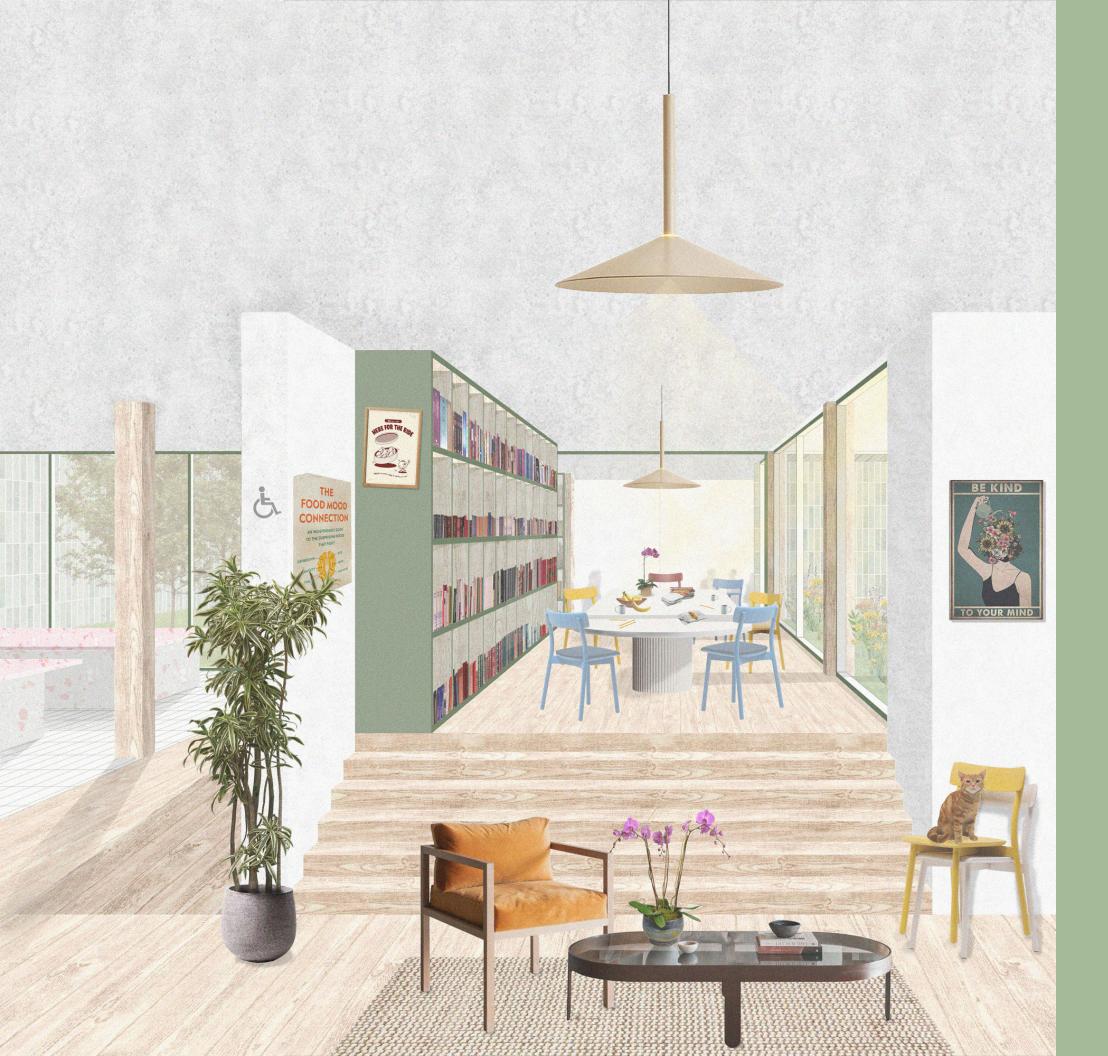
Sedative properties that are helpful for battling insomnia, also shown to lower cholesterol levels.

12. Mint (Mentha)

Smells great and is good for tea. Can help with IBS and allergy sufferers. It also relieves muscle pair indigestion, and ulcers.



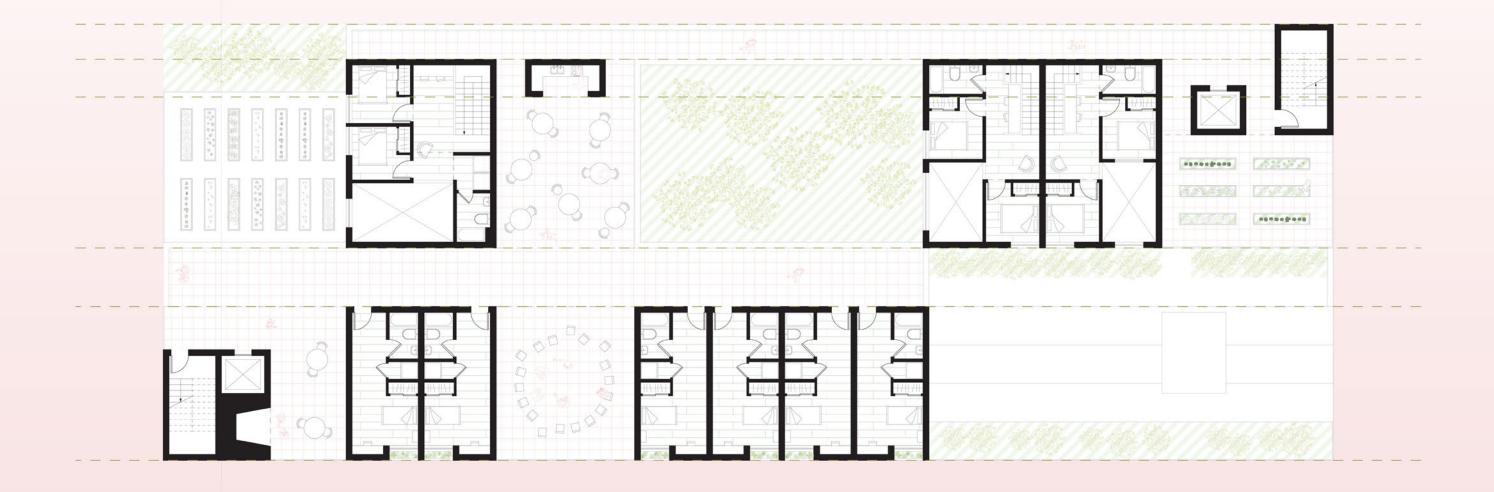


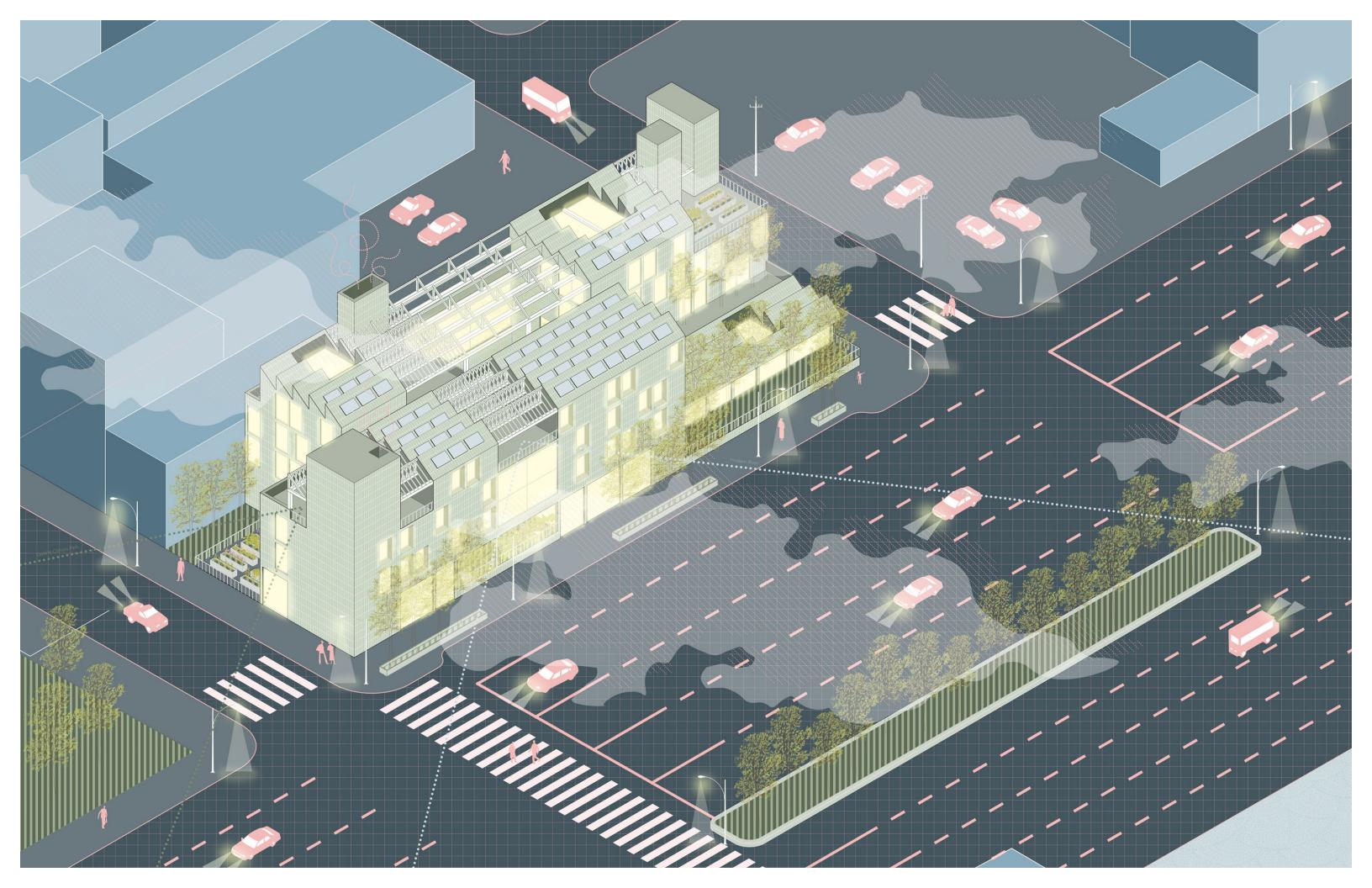


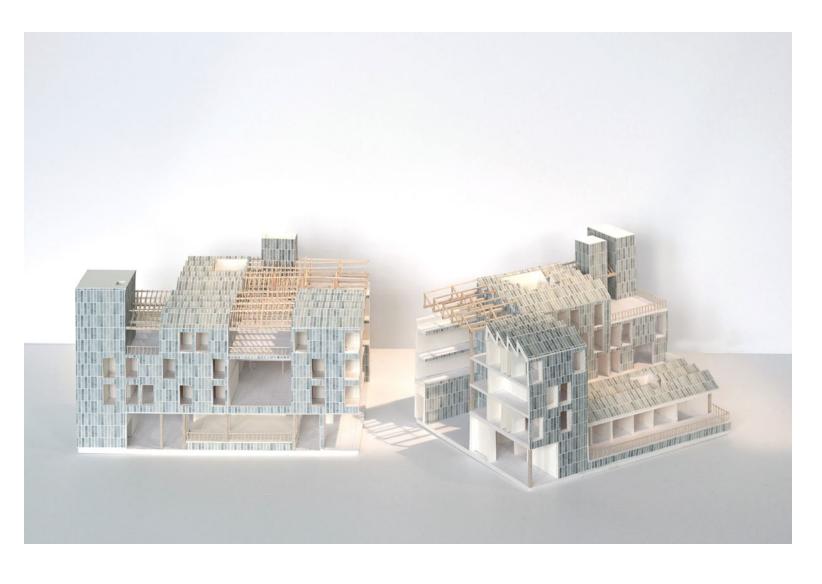
View of Recipe Exchange Zone:

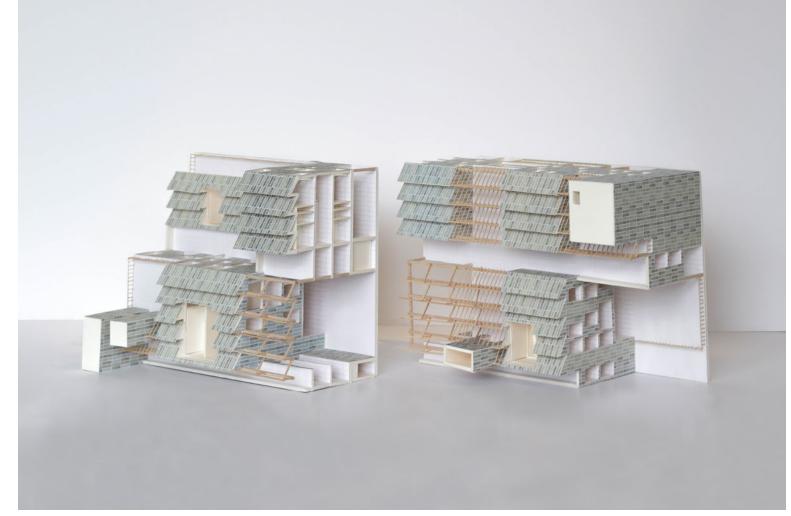
To address the needs for a more unconventional approach to addressing mental health, the clinic I am proposing will utilize **culinary therapy**. Culinary therapy uses arts, cooking, gastronomy, and an individual's personal, cultural, and familial relationships with food to address emotional and psychological problems. This "nontraditional" approach to addressing mental health creates an opportunity for intergenerational support through recipe sharing, a medicinal garden, cooking and eating as the link between different groups and cultures to express AAPI heritage and pride. In addition to the mental health clinic, there will be housing provided for nurses above.











Closing:

The questioning, testing, challenging, re-writing, and re-learning was cruicial in developing this body of work. The various modes of representations, from drawing, writing, collaging and film, reveal how architecture transcends buildings. This portfolio brings all these things together, as the first step in understanding how different ideas can be linked. My work represents my interests, my curiousities and my confusions to achieve my goals as a storyteller, educator, and designer.

Professors & Collaborators

Stephen Burks
Valeria Paez Cala
Maur Dessauvage
Nathalie Frankowski
Cruz Garcia
Andres Jacque
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Ateya Khorakiwala
Ana Puigjaneer
Hilary Sample
Eva Schreiner
Bernard Tschumi
Michael Vahrenwald

Aya Abdallah Stella Dai Adrianna Franz Emma Sumrow John Trujillo Joyce Zhou