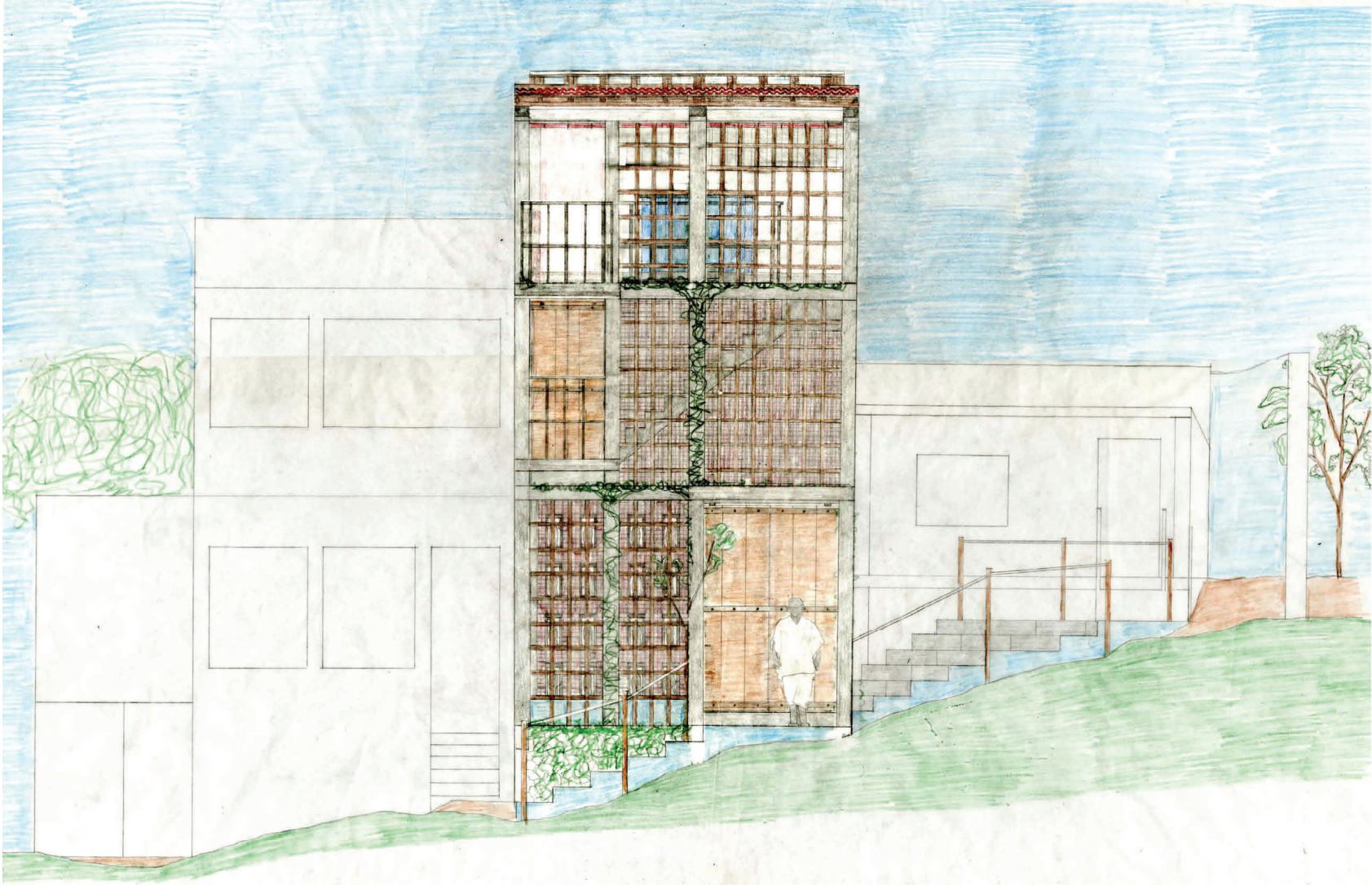


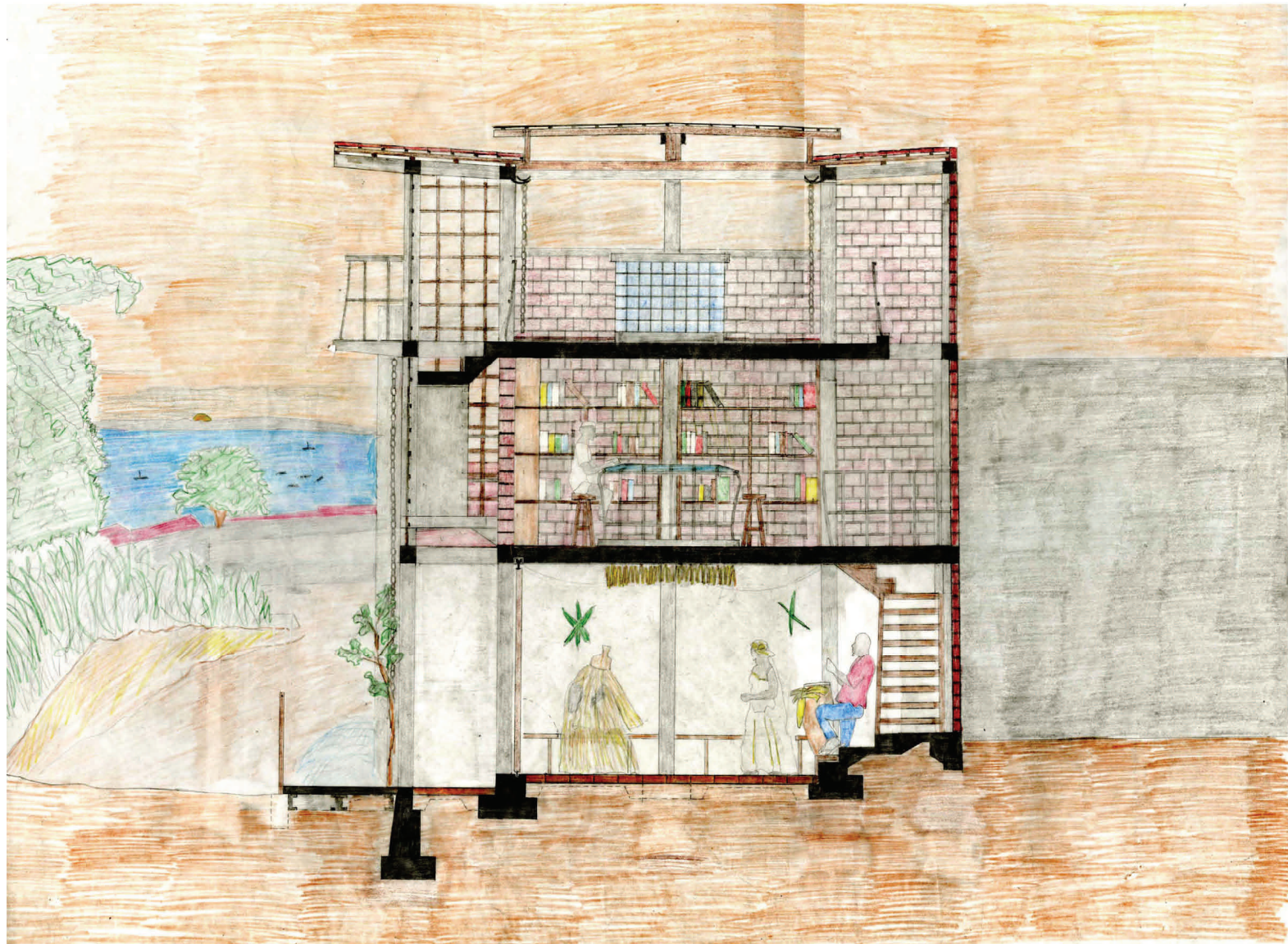
**Final Design- The temple of Candomble**



**North Elevation**



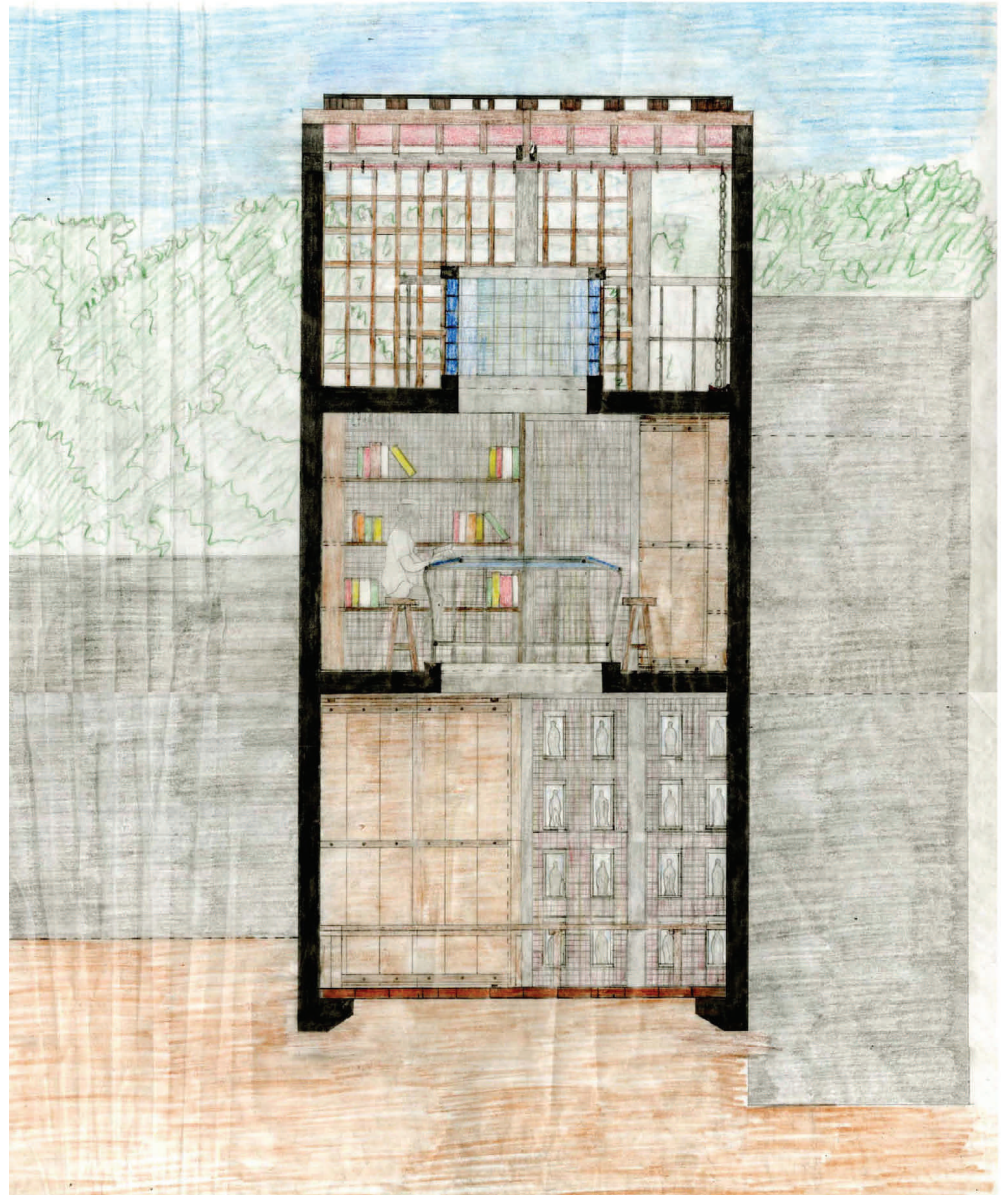
**Final Design- The temple of Candomble**



**Longitudinal Section**

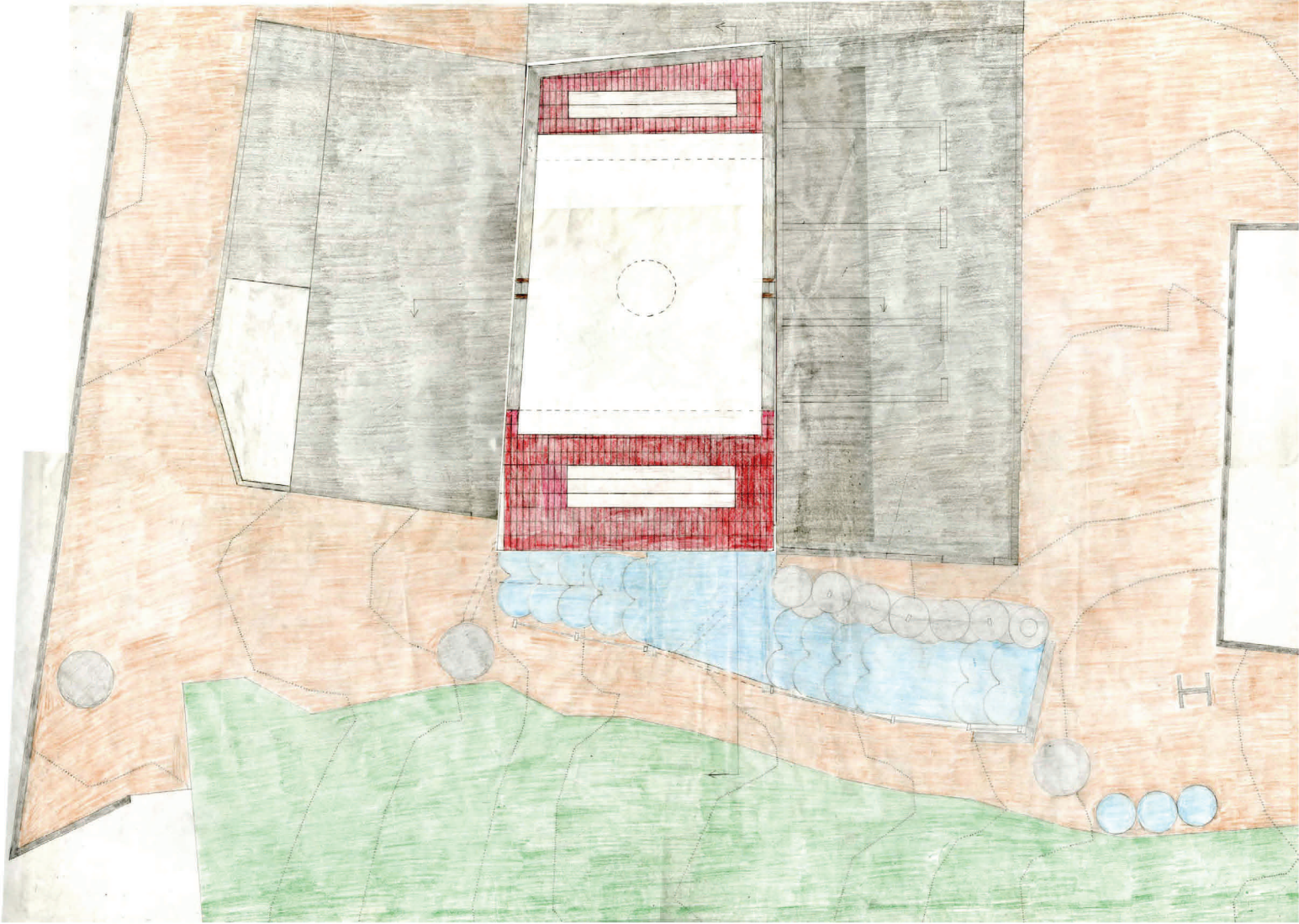


**Final Design- The temple of Candomble**



**Tranversal Section**

**Final Design- The temple of Candomble**

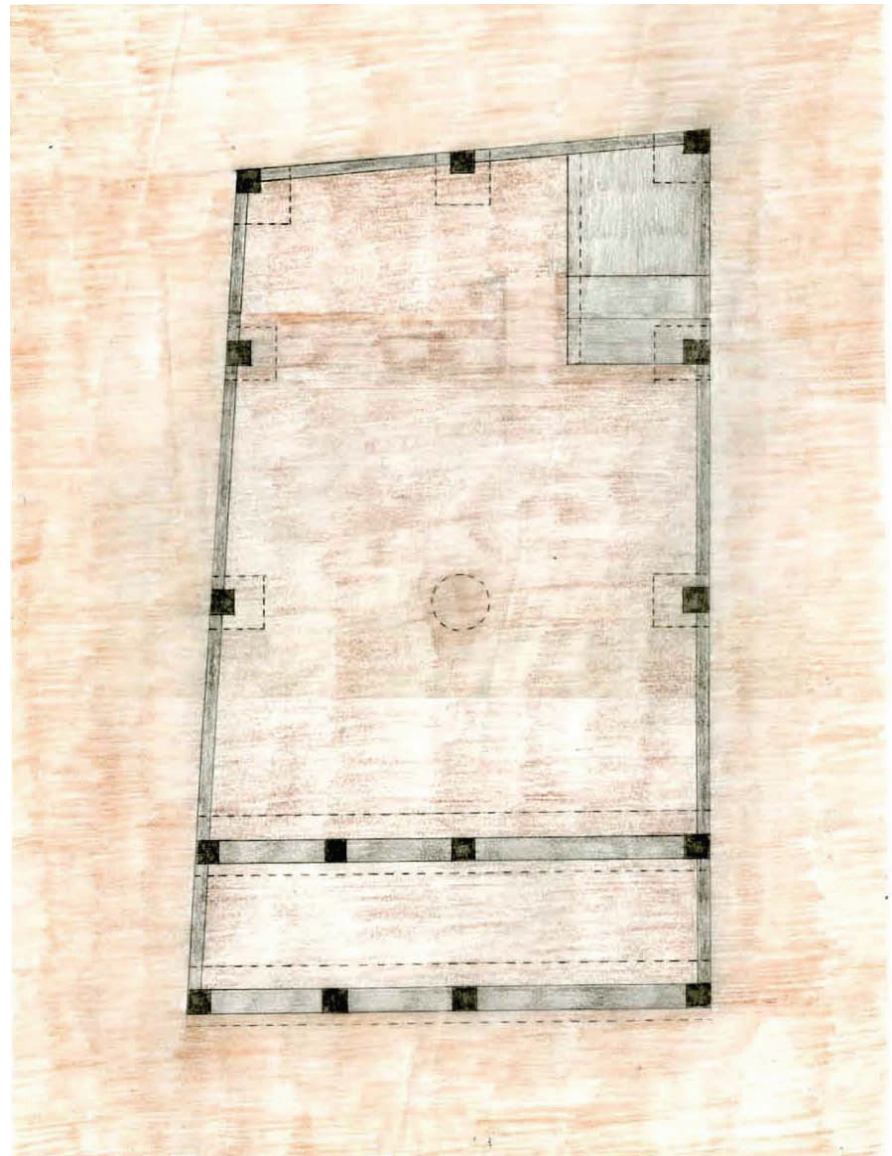


 **Site Plan**



## Final Design- The temple of Candomble

The foundation plan is drawn to show the placing of the different footings as well as the foundation walls that are used to respond to the different sloping site. Around the perimeter of the temple is a concrete base that supports the hollow clay bricks for the infill walls. The ground floor steps towards the back of the temple to come to a comfortable height that connects the temple to the residence for the priest.



**Foundation Floor Plan**

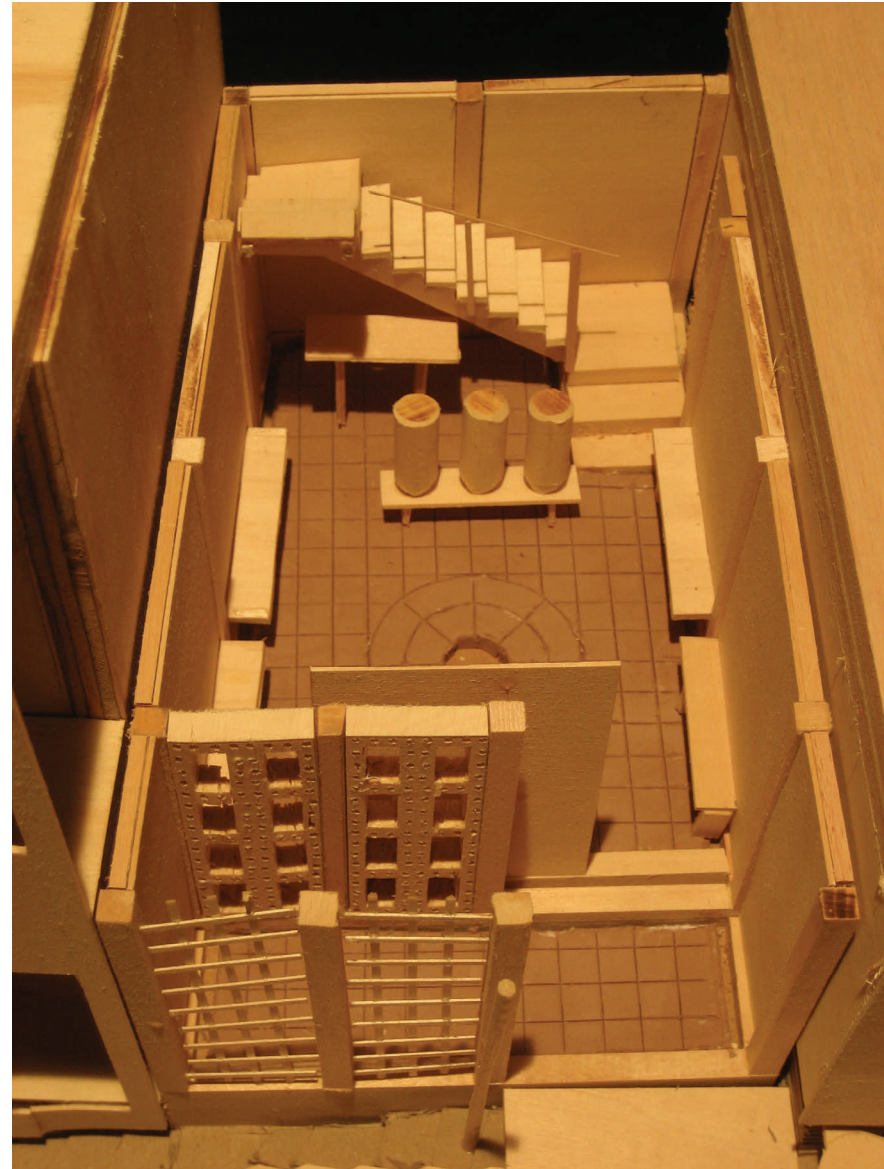


## Final Design- The temple of Candomble

The entrance to the temple is directly connected to the new stairs, yet remains discrete to honor the element of secrecy that accompanies Candomble. Presently, some neighborhoods in the country choose to keep Candomble a secret because it is not accepted by mainstream Brazilian society.<sup>2,10</sup> The first space of the temple is the same space that was dedicated to the Orixas in the old temple. The Orixas are organized as display figures placed in small stone openings in the wall. As previously mentioned, some of these cubbies are covered because some Orixas cannot be exposed to the outdoors and others cannot be in the presence of other Orixas. There are a total of sixteen cubbies, which can be seen from outside and inside the temple.

The main door to the temple is a sliding door, which remains closed during ceremonies. The door has a folding bench that comes down to provide continuity around the perimeter of the room. Also, when the bench is down, it acts as the locking mechanism for the temple after closing. The track for the door runs across the ceiling from the inside of the temple.

The ground floor of the ceremonial space is made of mud tiles that were made from the dirt that came out of the footings for the building. This directly connects the temple with the underground world where the Orixas are believed to be located.<sup>10</sup>



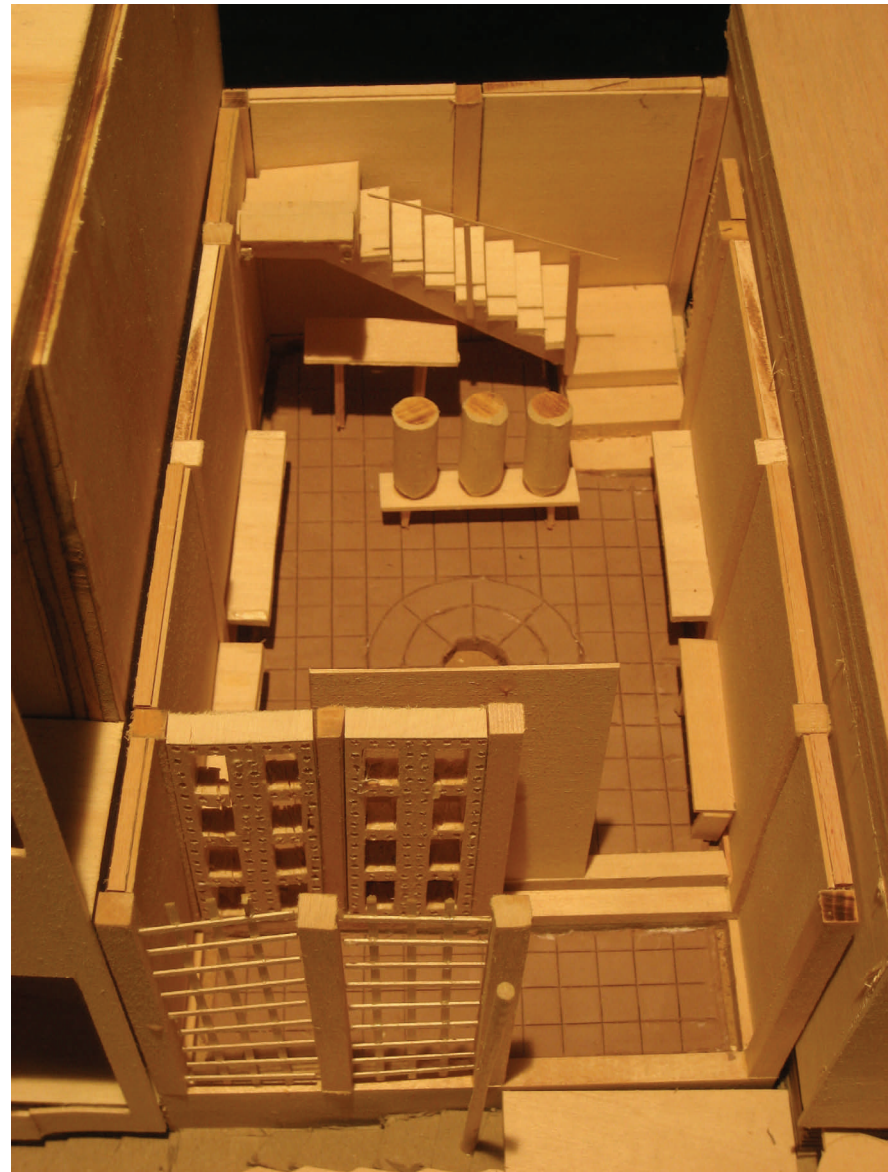
Final model section of First floor plan



## Final Design- The temple of Candomble

The center of the site is also the center of the ceremonial space, with a circular pattern on the mud tiles marking this most sacred area of the temple. At the center, the temple opens up to the sky with only the removable canvas roof covering the opening when it rains. The square area of the sacred space is symmetrical to the floors above, breaking up each floor into three different spaces in the front and the back of the temple. Towards the back of the first floor, tucked under the stairs, is the consultation space where the priest can have customers come in for spiritual healing. The furniture on the ground floor consists of the benches that are around the perimeter of the ceremonial space, including the folding bench attached to the main door, the shorter bench used by the drummers, and the consultation table and chairs under the stairs.

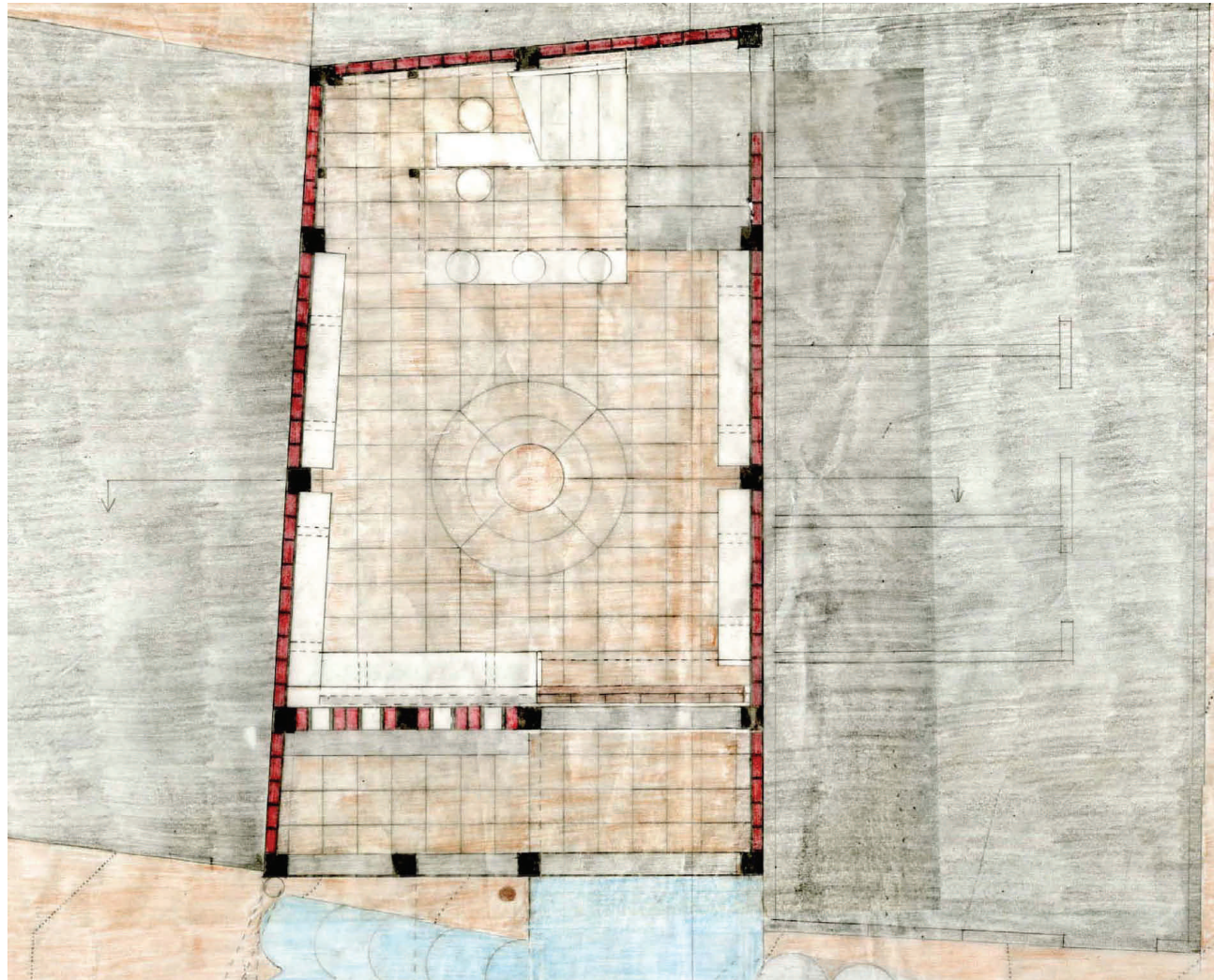
The first floor is ventilated with natural air coming from the façade of the temple. This façade uses the same infill clay bricks as the rest of the temple, but here the bricks are turned to let the air pass through the hollow part of the brick. The air circulates through the temple, moving towards the back, then vertically, and finally coming out from the circular opening at the center and the opening at the back of the building where the stairs are located. Natural light also comes from both of these openings, allowing the building to stay free of humidity that commonly attracts mold.



Final model section of First floor plan



**Final Design- The temple of Candomble**

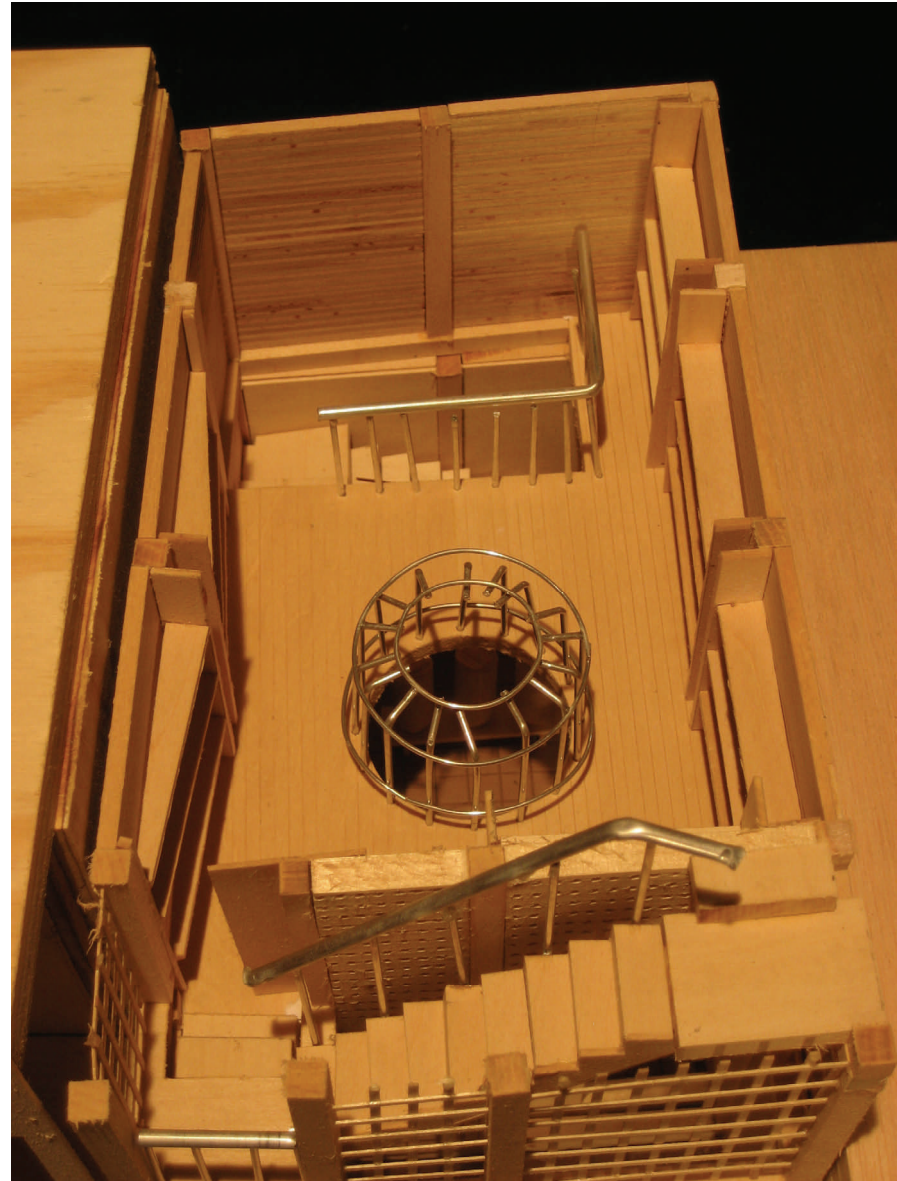


 **1st Floor Plan**



## Final Design- The temple of Candomble

The second floor is the religious library and reading room. Candomble is becoming a forgotten religion by the younger generations who are not following the beliefs. The library allows new members of the religion who will be spending a few weeks in isolation, to have all their study materials readily available. The room is naturally ventilated and lit in the same manner as the first floor. A round table located at the center doubles as the reading table and railing for the opening on the floor. The table has sixteen legs, mimicking the Orixas' cubbies at the entrance of the temple. The design attempts to enhance the spiritual atmosphere by allowing the student to study in a natural setting. Most importantly, the table is located within the sacred circle, symbolizing the gathering of knowledge not only from the reading material, but also a sacred knowledge coming from the spiritual circle of the Orixas. Books that are placed on the table can be seen from the ceremonial space below, creating a connection between these two sacred spaces. Similar to the continuity created by the benches on the first floor, the bookshelves line the perimeter of the second floor. The bookshelves on the right side of the space narrow down at the ends to highlight the circulation route to the stairs leading to the courtyard floor above. At the end of this library is another sliding door, half the size of the main sliding door.

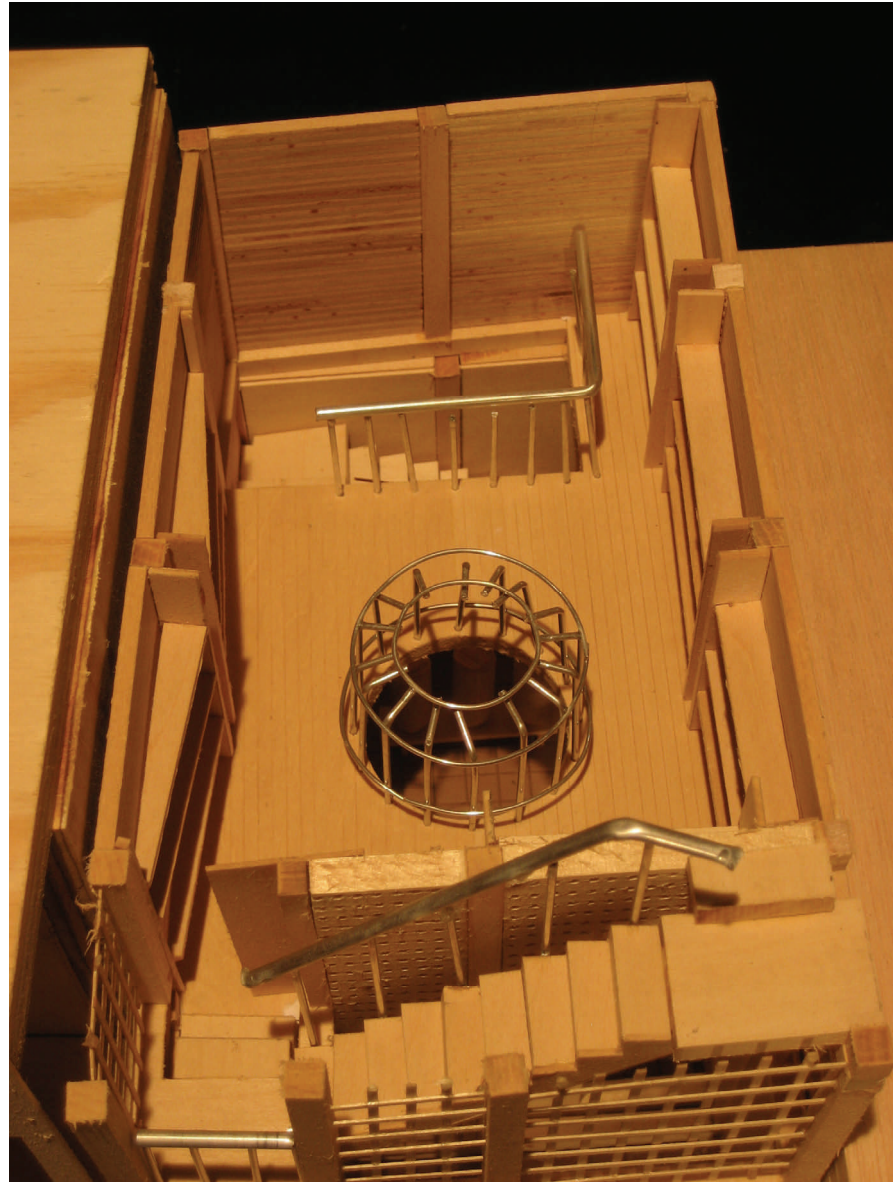


Final model section of Second floor plan



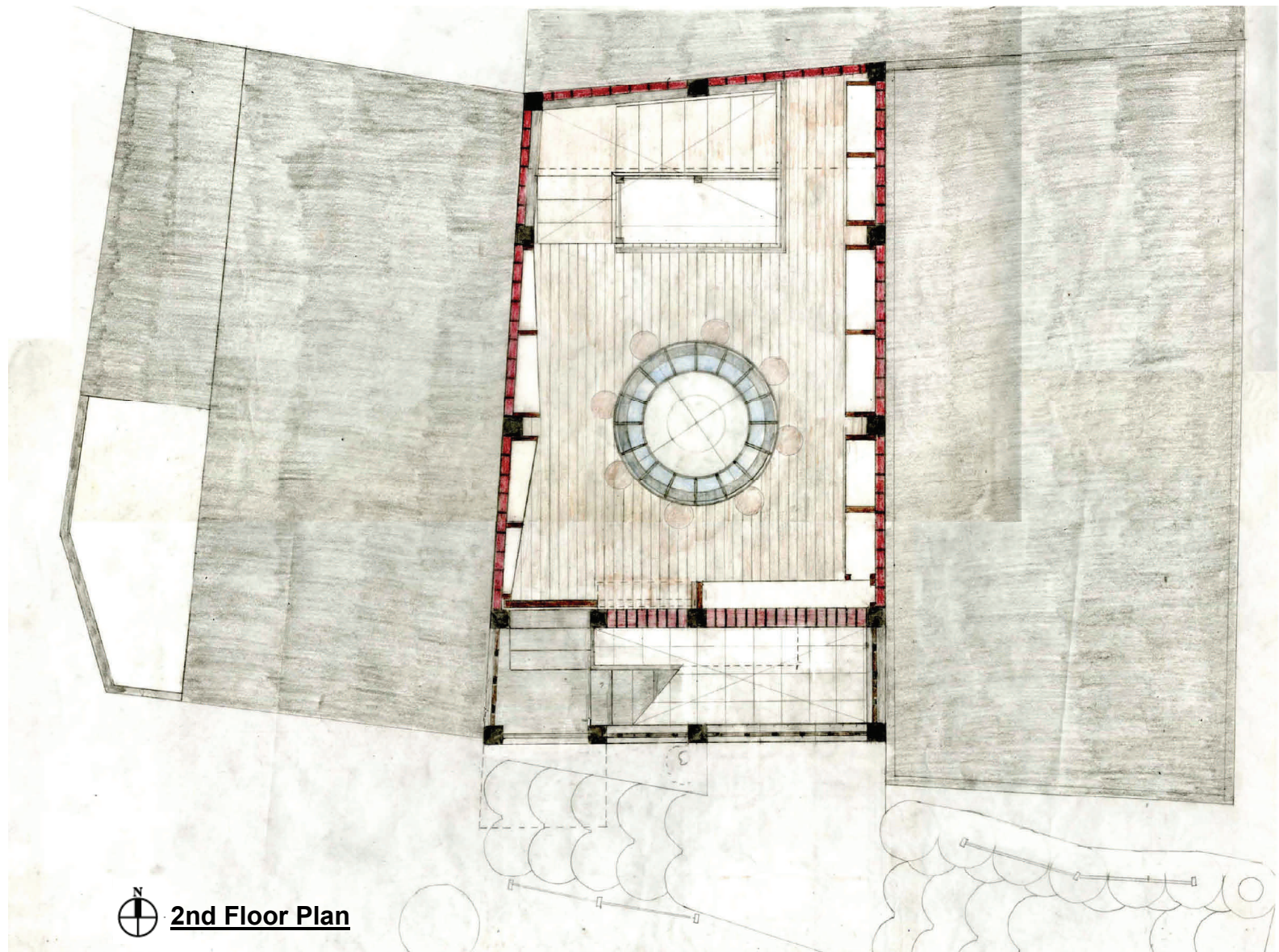
### Final Design- The temple of Candomble


This passageway leads to a landing/balcony space that does not overhang, and slows your ascend to the courtyard floor above. This design of the landing and the stairs to the next floor is symmetrical to the design of the landing and stairs on the first floor. The two spaces that are created in the front and the back of the temple are the vertical circulation spaces, while the circulation to the top of the temple is in a circular and vertical pattern. This pattern relates to the counterclockwise movement created during the ceremonies of Candomble.



Final model section of Second floor plan

**Final Design- The temple of Candomble**



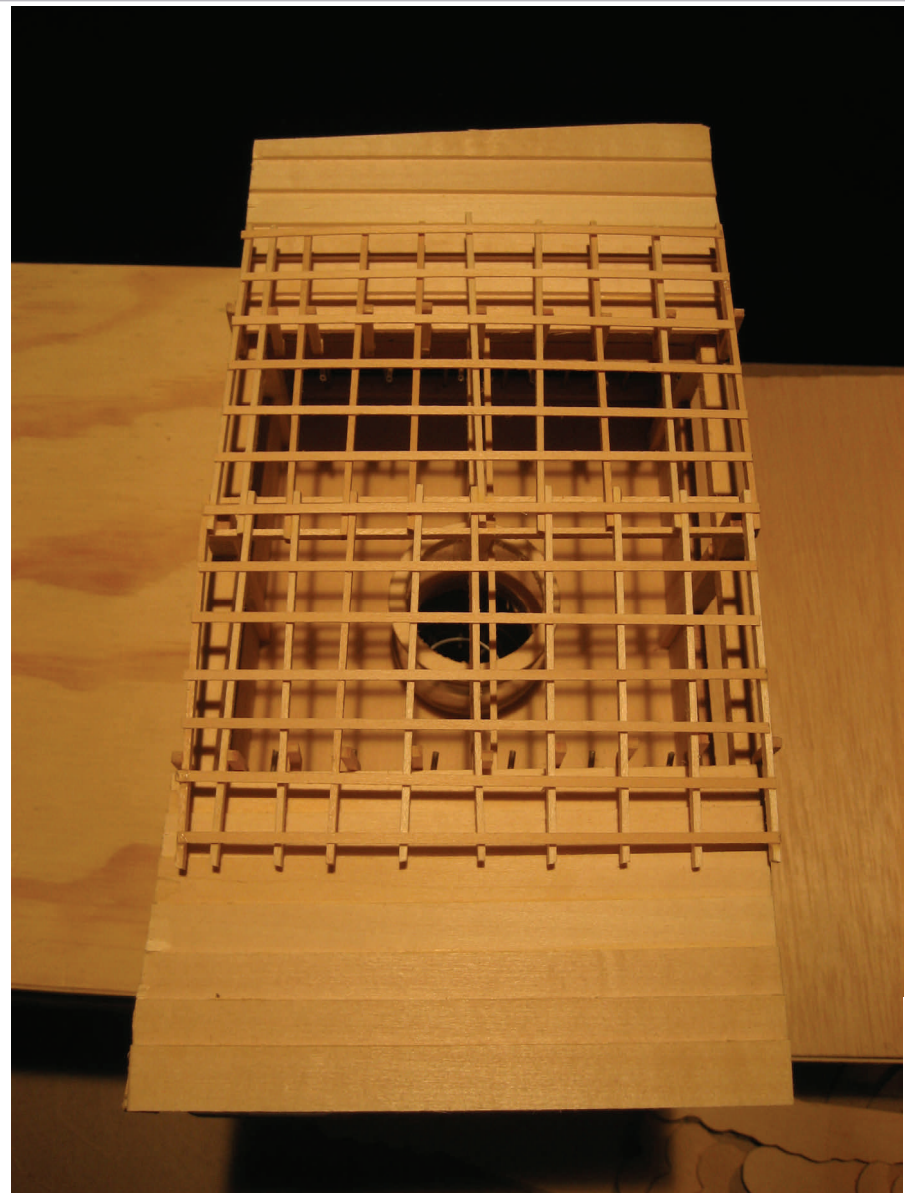
 **2nd Floor Plan**



### Final Design- The temple of Candomble

While climbing the steps to the third floor above, one is now outdoors but covered by the roof above. At the top of the stairs there is another landing that frames a view of the neighborhood before you turn to enter the third floor, which acts as a courtyard. The first view on this level is the opening at the center, which has a railing made of glass blocks where one can look down into the floors below. Towards the back of the third floor is another opening that allows natural light to go down into the stairs and allows the air to exist. Towards the front of the temple, continuing with the counterclockwise circulation, is another balcony that acts as a pulpit. This balcony is cantilevering, symbolizing a way for the temple and the religion to extend out to the community. On this pulpit, the priest can talk to the community and creates a view of the neighborhood on one side and the Bay of Saints on the other.

The wood framed roof is similar to that of the original temple, but has clay tiles instead of corrugated fiberglass. This roof has a three foot overhang that represents the Portuguese Architecture, but slopes towards the inside of the third floor. This symmetrical system occurs at the back of the church, making the middle part of the roof overlap with the two outer roofs. This design allows water to drain from the roof in a controlled manner.

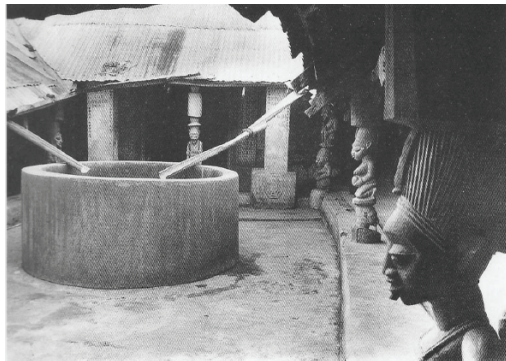


Final model section of Third floor plan

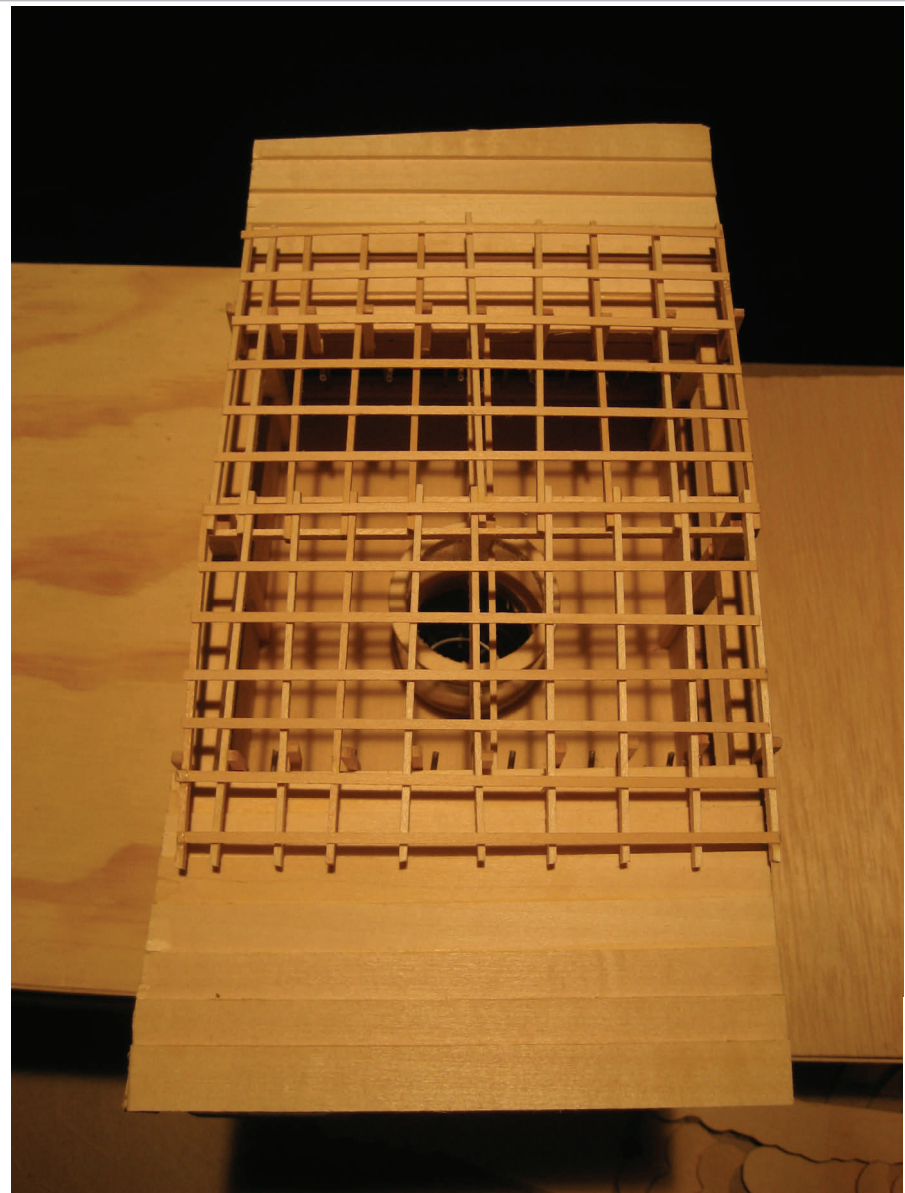
## Final Design- The temple of Candomble

The center roof is a removable, transparent canvas that protects the temple from water going into the opening in the middle and allows light to shine through. For added sunlight, the canvas can be removed. The clay tiles are made of the same material as the walls and floors on the first floor. The roof tiles are flipped to create a channel that carries water to rain chains attached at the end. The water then travels down to the clay tile channels created on the sloped floor slab and drains out. Finally, the roof contains solar panels that are embedded in the roof tiles, allowing the temple to generate energy. Solar panels power the temple at night without having to use electricity from the grid.

The courtyard is placed on the roof to account for space constraints. The third floor simulates the temples of the Yoruba people,<sup>11</sup> with a courtyard in the middle and sloping roofs framing the courtyard.



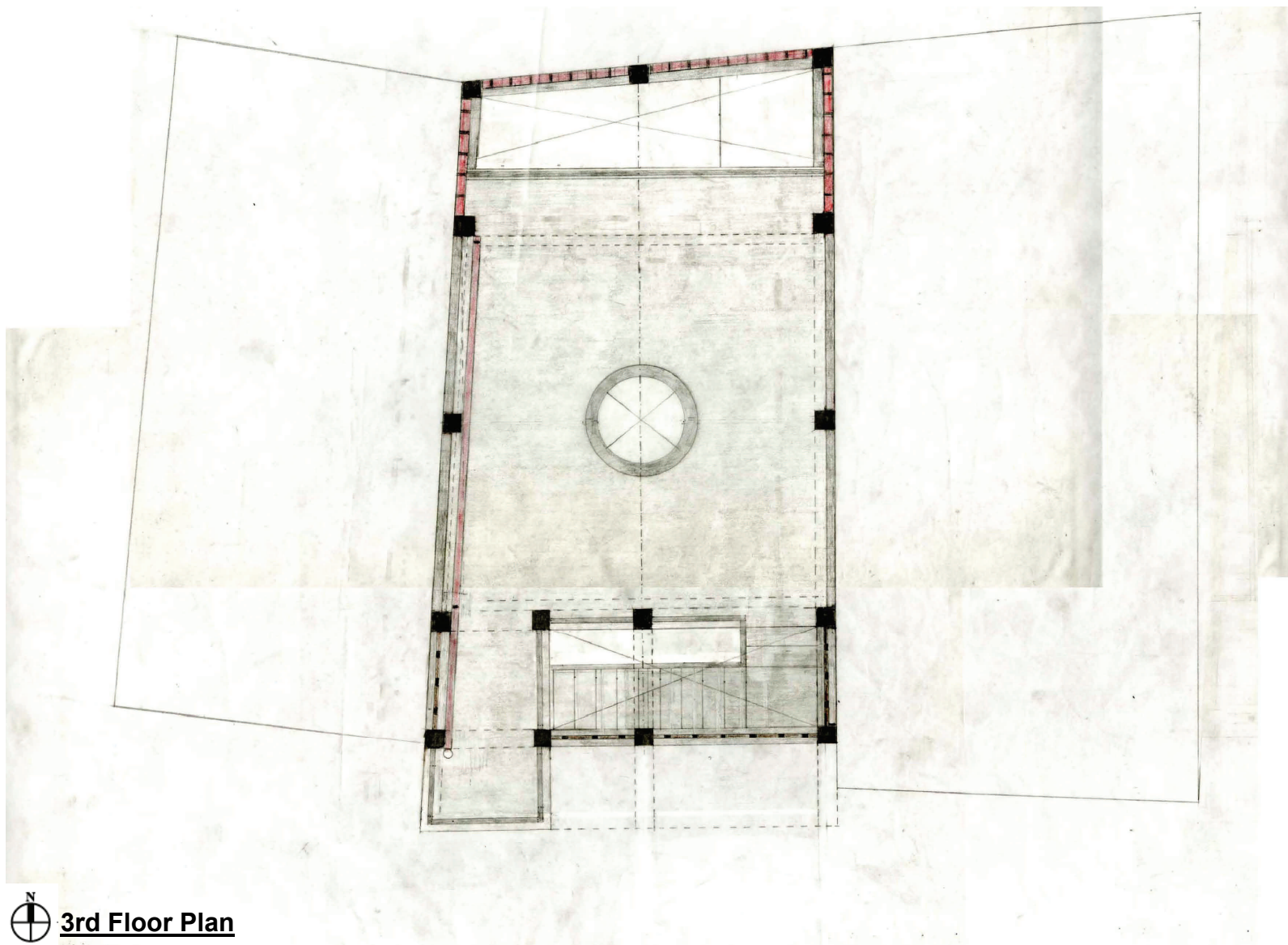
Terreiro of Candomble Yoruba traditional architecture  
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Final model section of Third floor plan

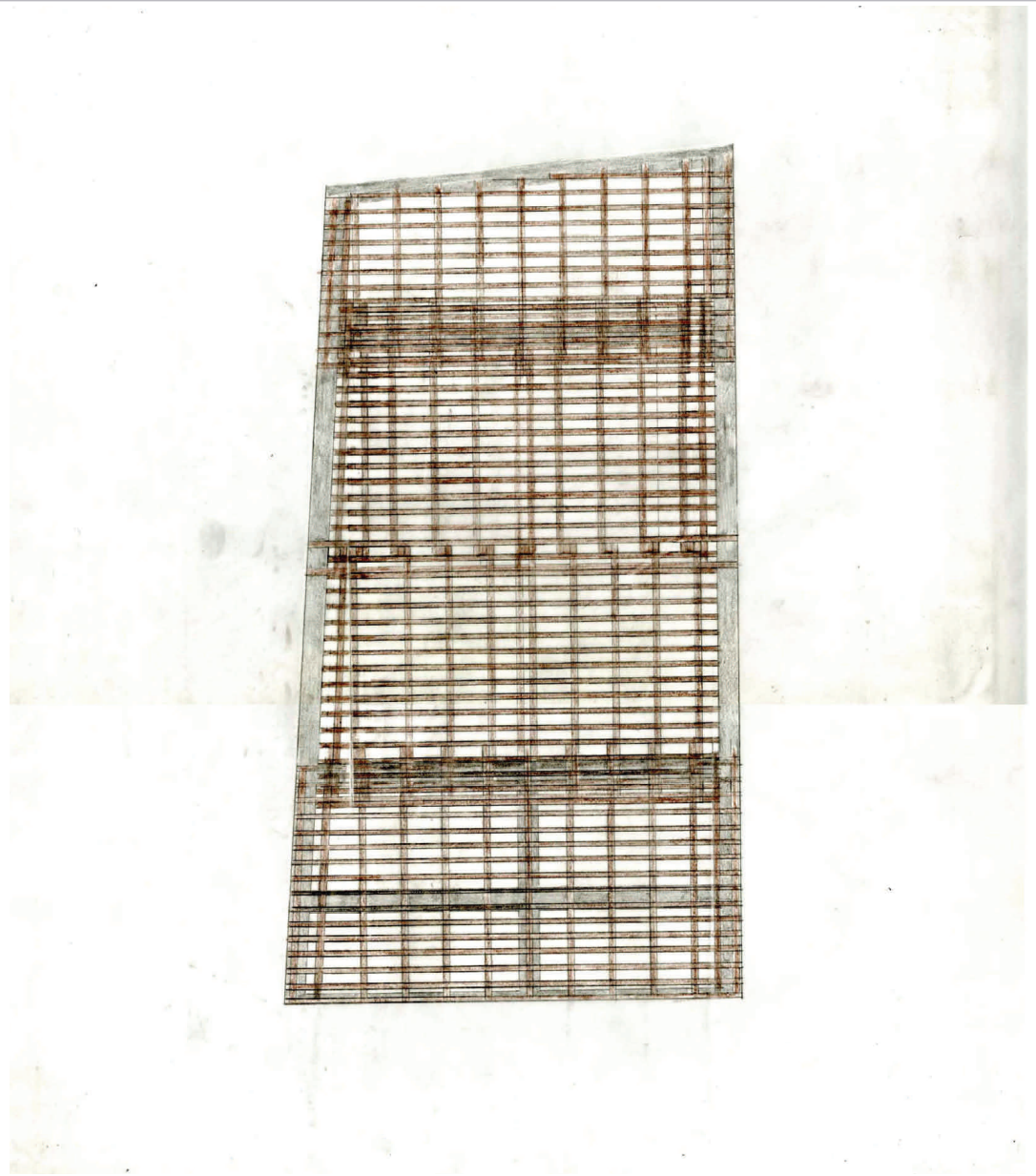


**Final Design- The temple of Candomble**



 **3rd Floor Plan**

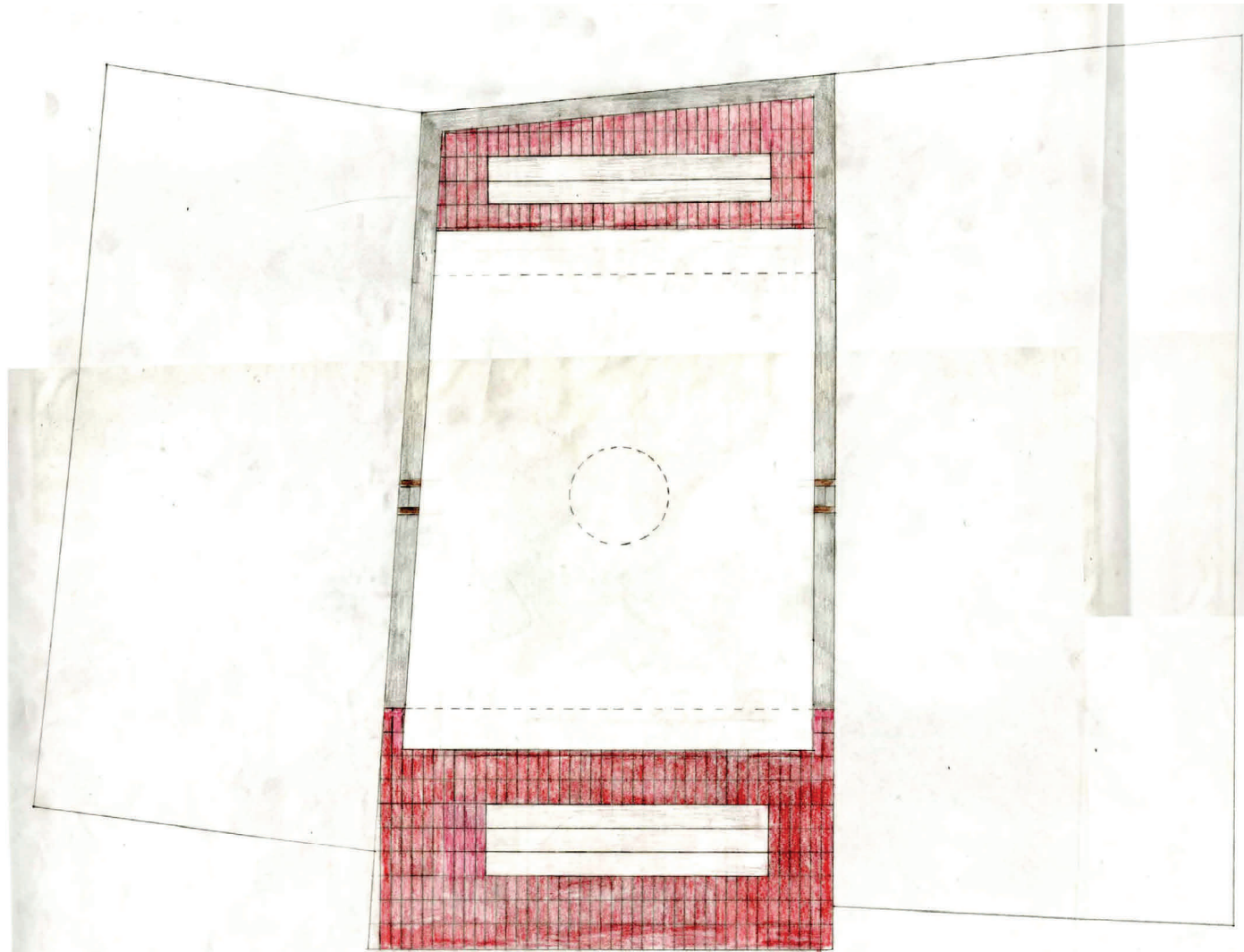
**Final Design- The temple of Candomble**




 **Roof framing plan**

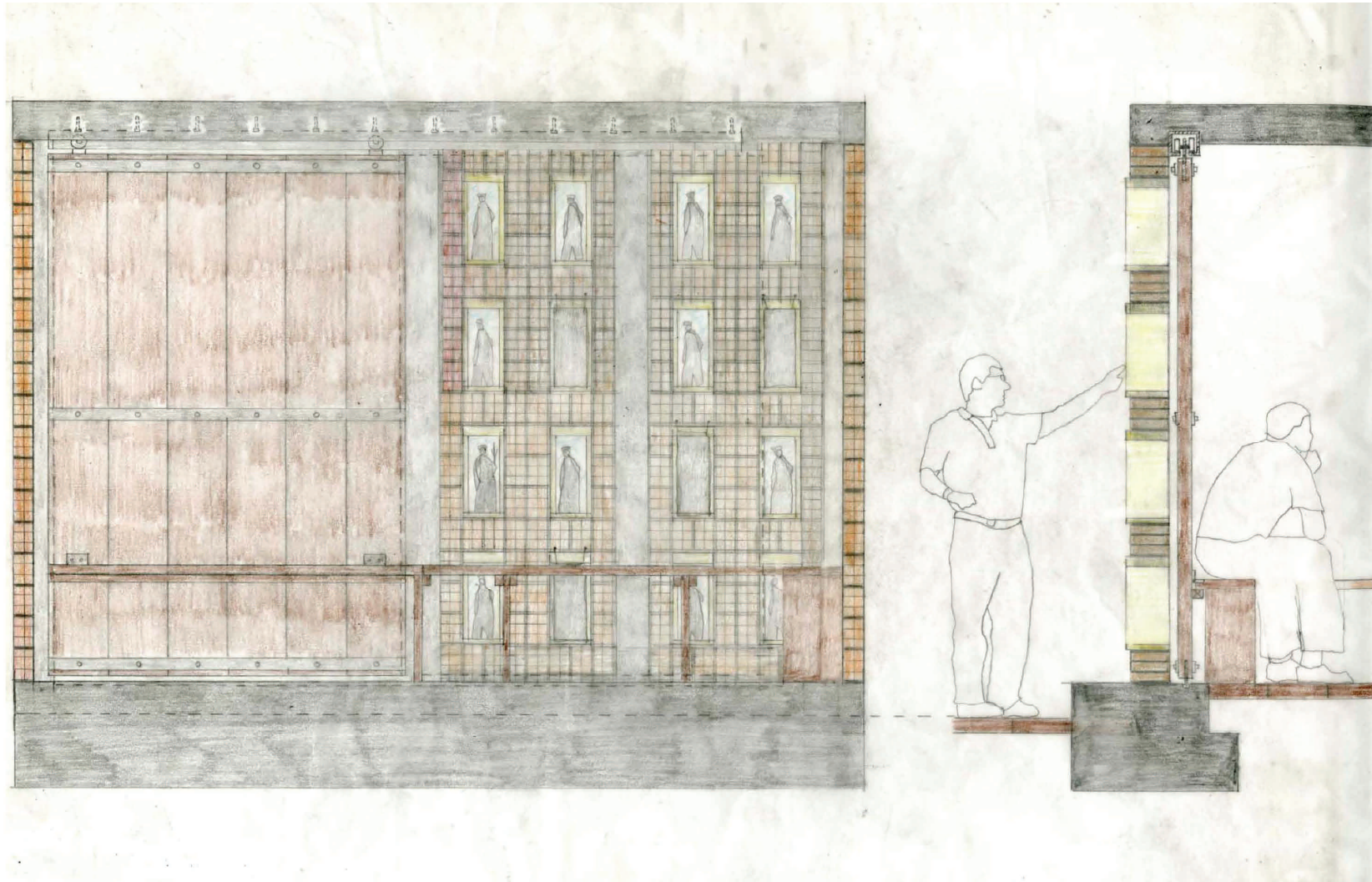


**Final Design- The temple of Candomble**



 **Roof Plan**

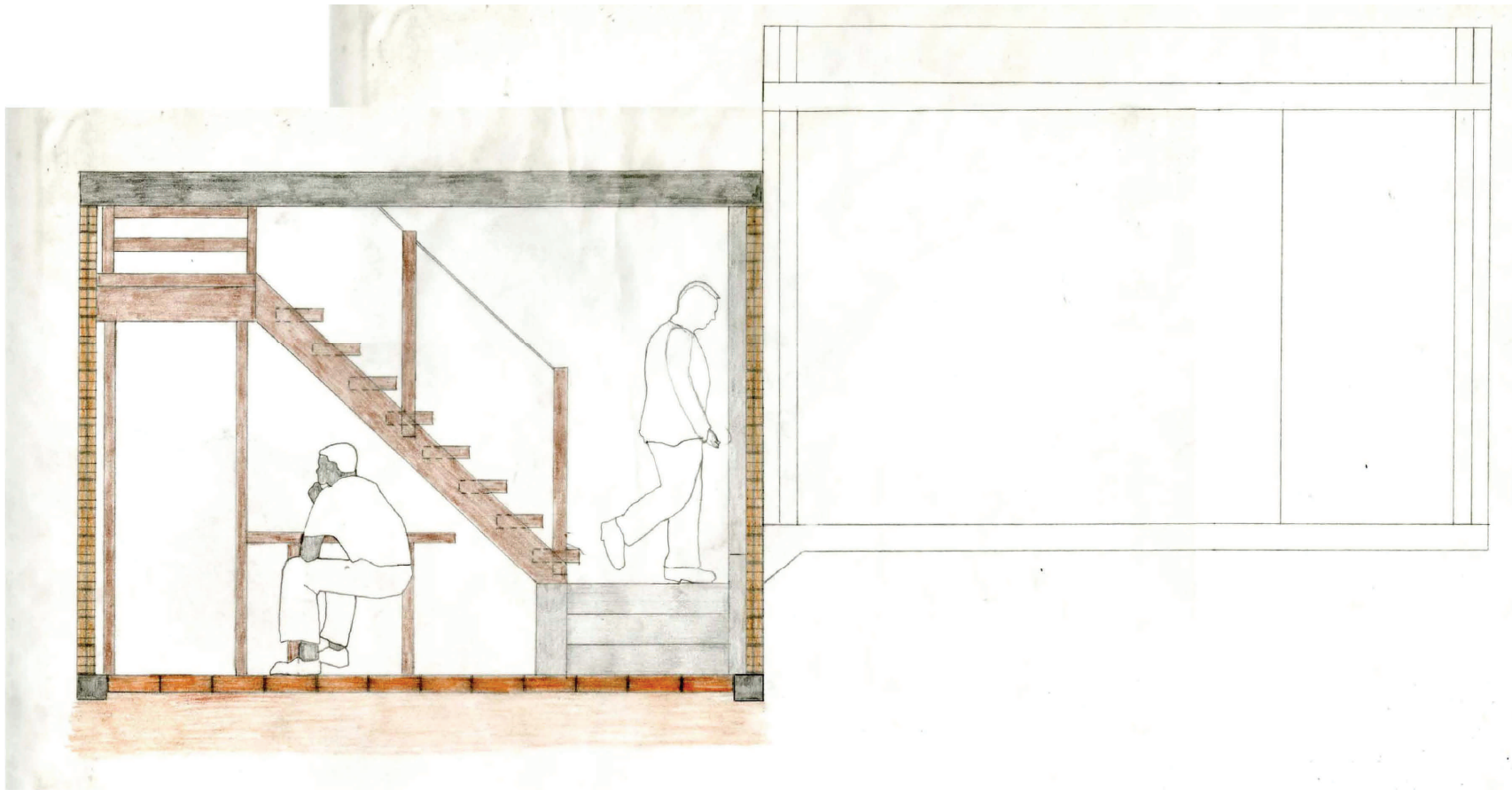
**Final Design- The temple of Candoble**



**Detail Section of Sliding Door and Small Shrines**

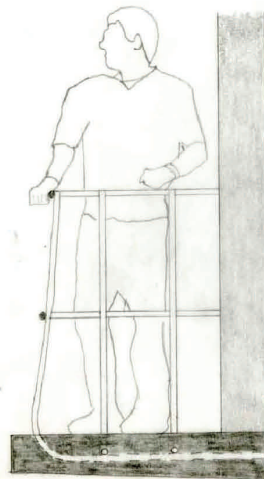
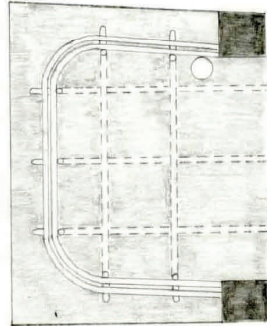


**Final Design- The temple of Candomble**

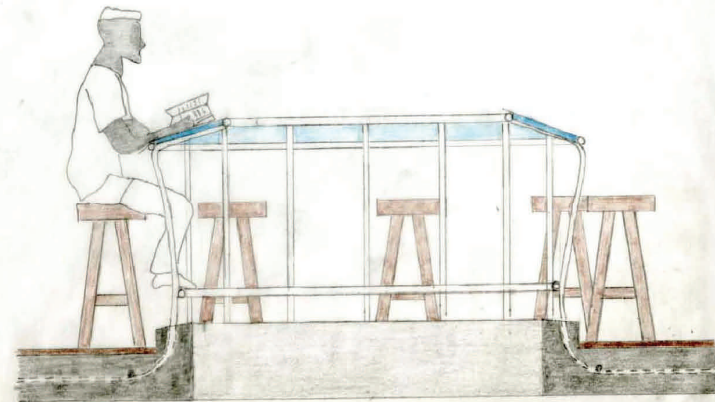
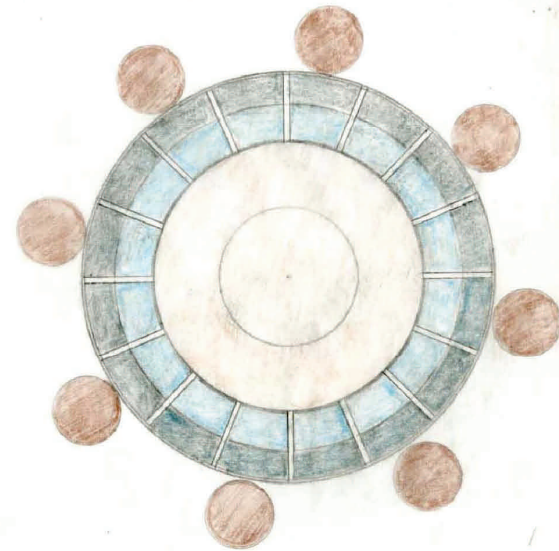


**Detail Section of Consultation Space**

**Final Design- The temple of Candombe**



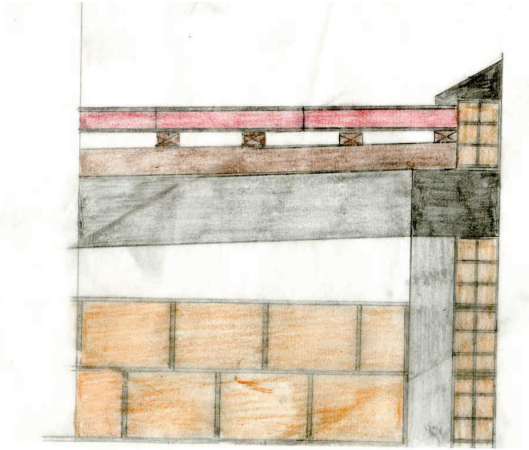
**Detail Section of Balcony**



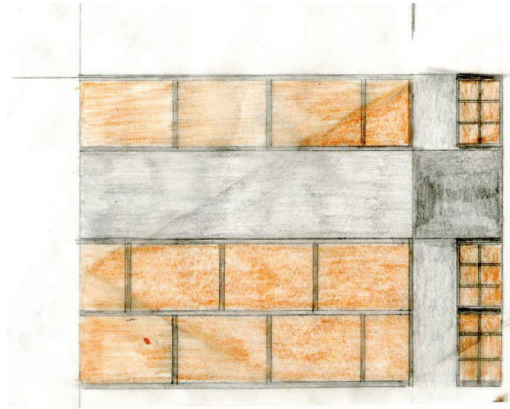
**Detail Section of Reading Table**



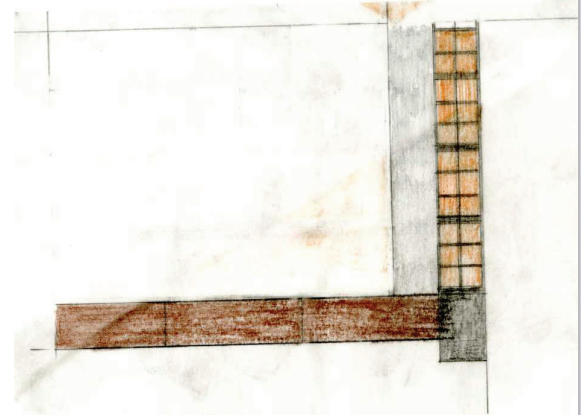
**Final Design- The temple of Candomble**



**Wall Section Detail at Roof**



**Wall Section Detail at 1st Floor**



**Wall Section Detail at Ground Floor**

## The temple of Candomble



Perspective view of temple in its context



**Final Design- The temple of Candomble**



Final model North temple view

**Final Design- The temple of Candomble**



Final model temple view from the bottom of the slope



Final model temple view from the top of the slope



## Final Design- The temple of Candomble

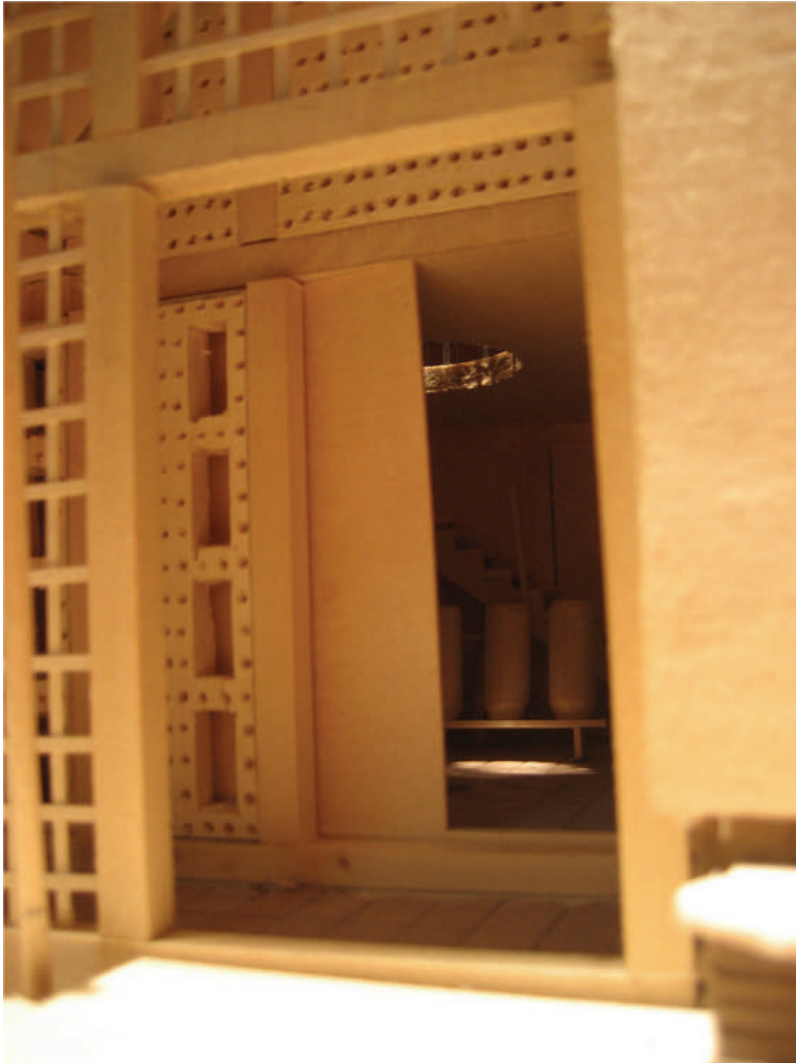


Final model temple view of roof framing

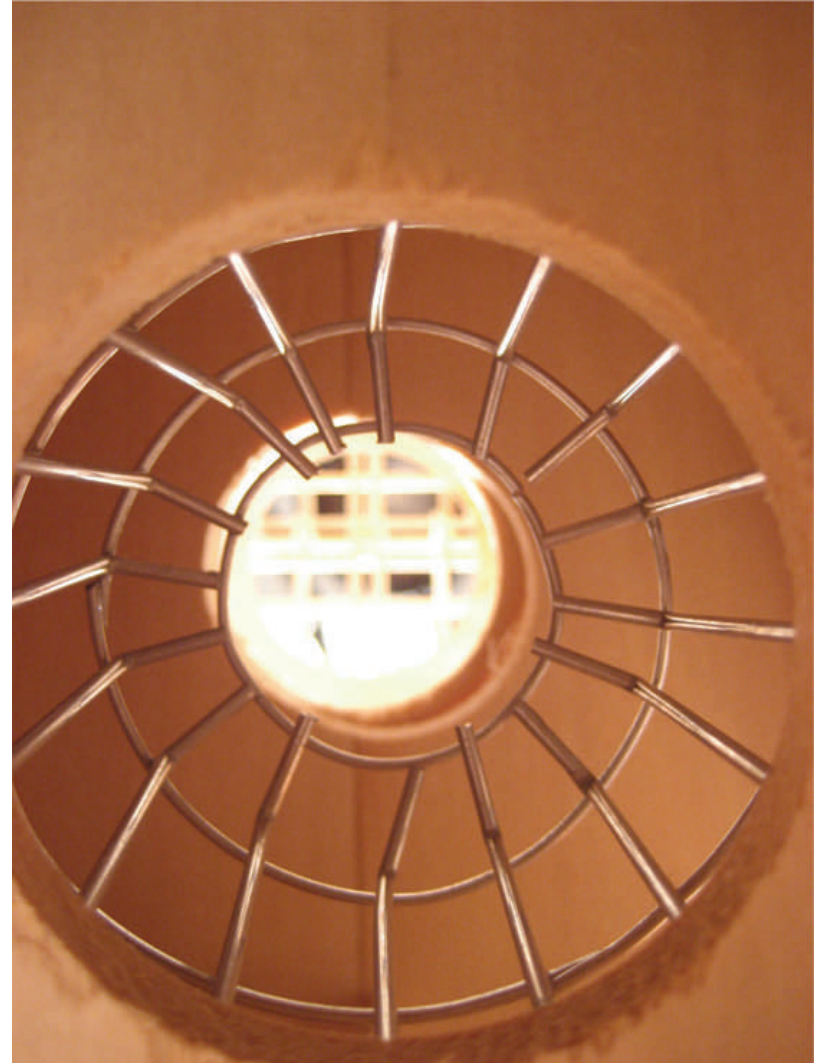


Final model temple view of light coming through the opening to the ritual space

**Final Design- The temple of Candomble**



Final model temple view of the entrance and small shrines



Final model view opening in center



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29. Dmochowski, Z. R. *An Introduction to Nigerian Architecture, South-West and Central Nigeria*. Great Britain: Ethnographica Ltd, 1990



## Joaquín Gustavo Robles

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### Education

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
Master of Architecture  
Degree: to be awarded  
GPA 3.34/4.0  
Thesis Title: *“Religion and Architecture – Designing a Temple of Candomble in Salvador Bahia, Brazil”*  
Alexandria, VA

The Catholic University of America  
Bachelor of Architecture  
Degree Conferred: May 2005  
GPA 3.4/4.0  
Dean’s List, 2004-2005  
Washington, DC

Northern Virginia Community College  
Associates of Applied Science in Architectural Technology  
Degree Conferred: May 2003  
GPA 3.6/4.0  
Dean’s List, 2001-2003  
Alexandria, VA

### Professional Experience

**Architectural Intern** November 2005 – June 2007  
Hayes Architects McLean, VA

Specific responsibilities include:

Under supervision of registered architect, contributed to design of commercial and residential projects from the conceptual stage to the construction documents

Prepared 3D modeling and Photoshop rendering for conceptual and client meetings

Worked closely with interior designer to lay out and plan interior room arrangements for commercial buildings, using computer-assisted drafting (CAD) equipment and software  
Attended construction phase meetings

**Architectural Intern**

May 2005 -November 2005

Gauthier Alvarado and Associates

Falls Church, VA

Specific responsibilities include:

Under supervision of registered architect, contributed to design of commercial and residential projects from the conceptual stage to the construction documents

Prepared material and color palates

Completed post-construction survey of projects

**Architectural Intern**

May 2004-August 2004

O’Norte Architects

Recife, Brazil

Specific responsibilities include:

Assumed lead in designing and launching company website

Contributed to design of a restaurant and hostel in Olinda, Brazil

**Related Experience**

**Teacher’s Assistant - Brazil Summer Studio**

July 2006-August 2006

Axis Mundi - non-profit organization

The Brazil Studio is an architectural design-construction program, based in Brazil, where students and professionals create community based projects involving architecture, landscape and urban design.

**United States Marine Corps**

August 1998-August 2006

Rank: Sergeant

Infantryman/Nuclear, Chemical, Biological Rapid Extraction Team

Secret Clearance. Honorable Discharge effective 08/05/06

Certified Emergency Medical Technician

Military Law Enforcement Course at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, NC

Team Leader Rapid Extraction Team/ Casualty Extract Team, CBIRF 2000-2001



**Additional Qualifications**

**Computer Skills**

Proficient in the use of both Windows and Macintosh operating systems with programs including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Internet Research, Photoshop CS, AutoCAD, Vectorworks, 3D Max, Sketch up, Dreamweaver, Macromedia Flash

**Artistic Skills**

Proficient in model building, hand drafting and color rendering

**Language**

Bilingual in English and Spanish, conversational knowledge of Portuguese, Native Spanish Speaker; fluent in reading, writing, and speaking Spanish

**Professional Associations**

**Participant**

July 2004

ENEA (National Conference for Architectural Students), Brasilia, Brazil  
Attended architectural classes, discussions and hands on activities

**Secretary**

January 2003 -May 2003

American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS)  
Organized student field trips  
Recruited new members

*References available upon request*