

USE-LESS Building

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USE-LESS Building

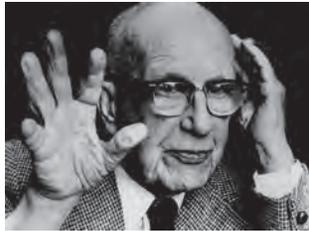
Rayya Newman

A USE-LESS Building aims to use less square feet and resources by adapting over time and by accommodating various uses like apartments, stores, offices, cafes, etc.

Adhering to the USE-LESS concept, this project was developed 4 dimensionally on a site in Mount Pleasant, Washington DC. The relationship between a building and time was explored through three elements, an existing wall that is preserved, a wet wall that houses services, and a moving wall that changes according to the user's will. This site specific approach to design, rather than program specific, enables the structure to adapt to the social and economic needs of the neighborhood at different rates.

ABSTRACT





Our beds are empty two-thirds of the time.
Our living rooms are empty seven-eighths of the time.
Our office buildings are empty one half of the time.
It's time we have this some thought.

-Buckminster Fuller

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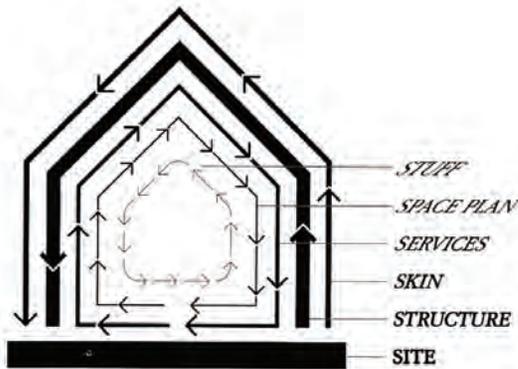
RESEARCH



“Thinking about buildings in this time-laden way is very practical. As a designer you avoid such classic mistakes as solving a five-minute problem with a fifty-year solution, or vice versa. It legitimizes the existence of different design skills—architects, service engineers, space planners, interior designers—all with their different agendas defined by this time scale. It means you invent building forms which are very adaptive.”

-Frank Duffy





SHEARING LAYERS OF CHANGE.

I've taken the liberty of expanding Duffy's "four S's"—which are oriented toward interior work in commercial buildings—into a slightly revised, general-purpose "six S's":

Site - This is the geographical setting, the urban location, and the legally defined lot, whose boundaries and context outlast generations of ephemeral buildings. "Site is eternal." Duffy agrees.

Structure - The foundation and load-bearing elements are perilous and expensive to change, so people don't. These are the building. Structural life ranges from 30 to 300 years (but few buildings make it past 60, for other reasons).

Skin - Exterior surfaces now change every 20 years or so, to keep up with fashion or technology, or for wholesale repair. Recent focus on energy costs has led to re-engineered Skins that are air-tight and better-insulated.

Services - These are the time working guts of a building: communications wiring, electrical wiring, plumbing, sprinkler system, HVAC (heating, ventilating, and air conditioning), and moving parts like elevators and escalators. They wear out or obsolesce every 7 to 15 years. Many buildings are demolished early if their outdated systems are too deeply embedded to replace easily.

Space Plan - The Interior layout—where walls, ceilings, floors, and doors go. Turbulent commercial space can change every 3 years or so; exceptionally quiet homes might wait 30 years.

Stuff - Chairs, desks, phones, pictures; kitchen appliances, lamps, hairbrushes; all the things that twitch around daily to monthly. Furniture is called *mobilia* in Italian for good reason.

-Stewart Brand (How Buildings Learn)

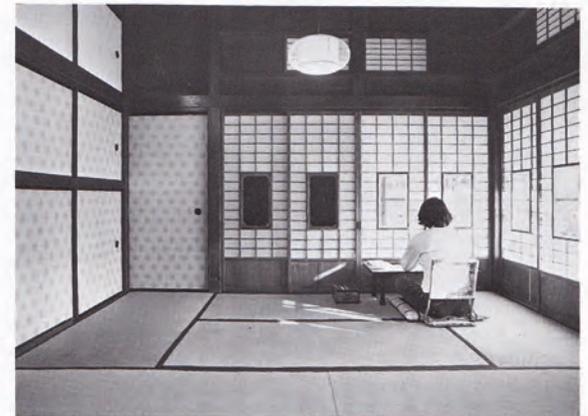
Figure 3. Diagram of Shearing Layers of Change (above)
Figure 4. Image of multiple uses for a Japanese room (right)



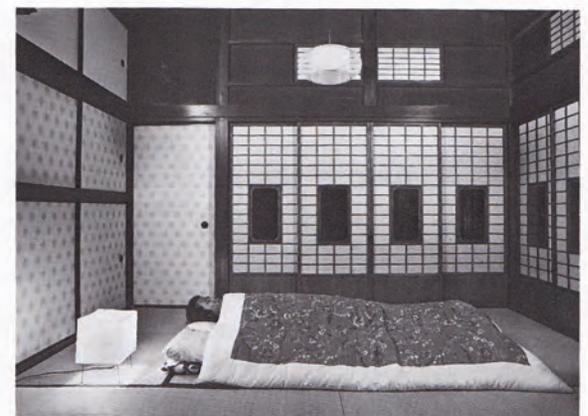
The same space can be used for eating,



entertaining visitors,



studying,

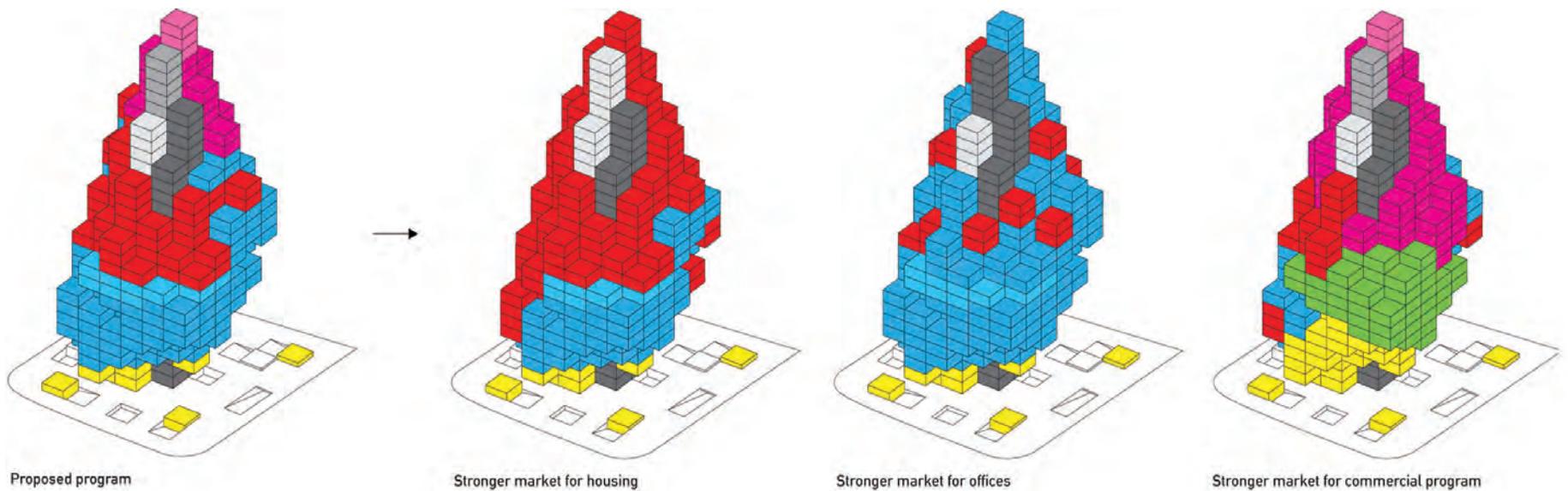


and sleeping.



● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● SKY VILLAGE

This tower in Copenhagen, designed by MVRDV, has a typical unit type that can be used as an office, hotel room, shop, or apartment. Units can be combined to create larger spaces too. Inspiration for this programmatic flexibility came from the unpredictable housing market and investors who were nervous about a building with only one function. This way the program can change with market forces.



The constellation of pixels allow for flexibility in function. Here is an illustration of how the program in the building could transform according to market forces.

Figure 14. Exterior rendering of Sky Village by MVRDV
Figure 15. Diagram of Sky Village and program flexibility

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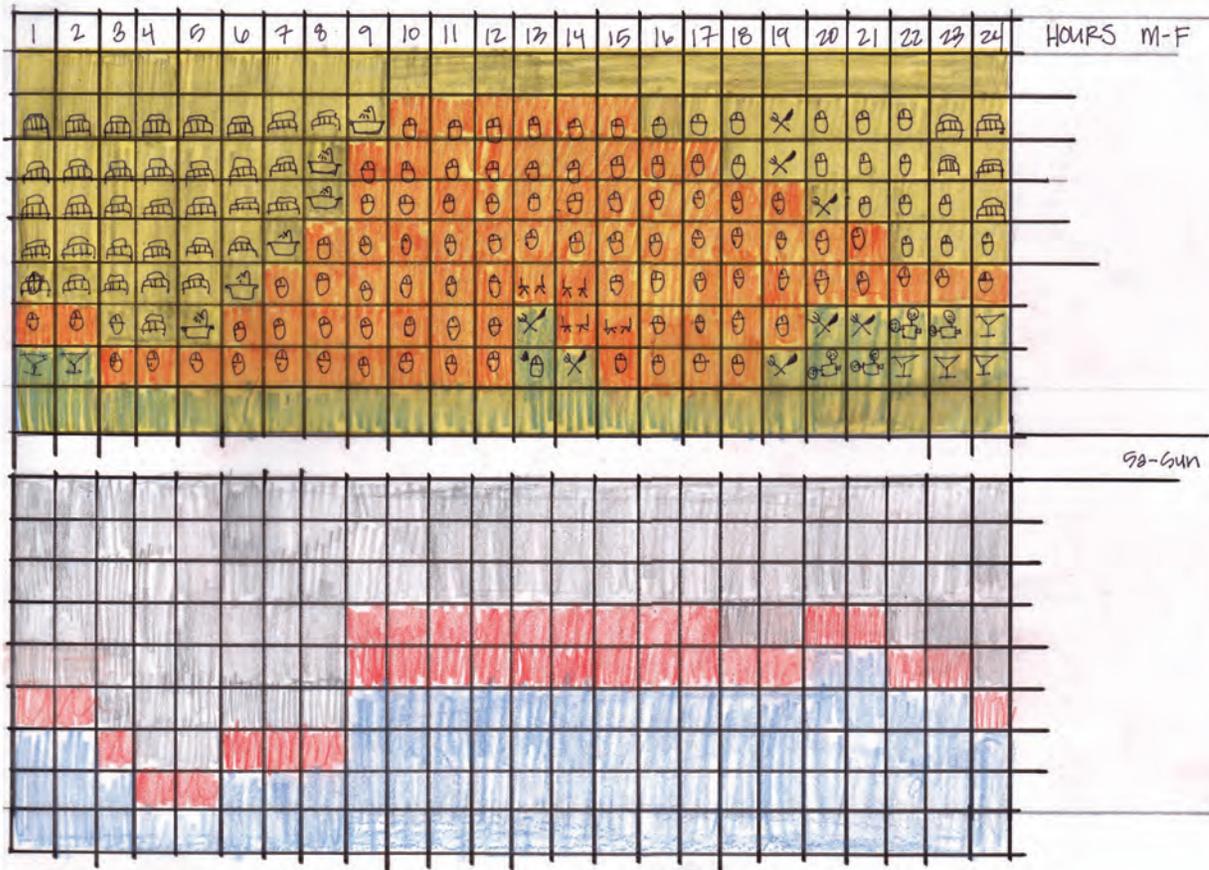
STRUCTURE
STRUCTURE

SITE

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LAYERS OF CHANGE

This is a diagram of the frequency of change within a building according to Frank Duffy and Stewart Brand. It is based on a 100 year timeline which reflects the age of the Chesterfield and Winston apartments that burned down 100 years after they were constructed. Site is the most permanent, structure may change twice in 100 years, skin may change four times, services six, space-plan twelve, and stuff eighty times.

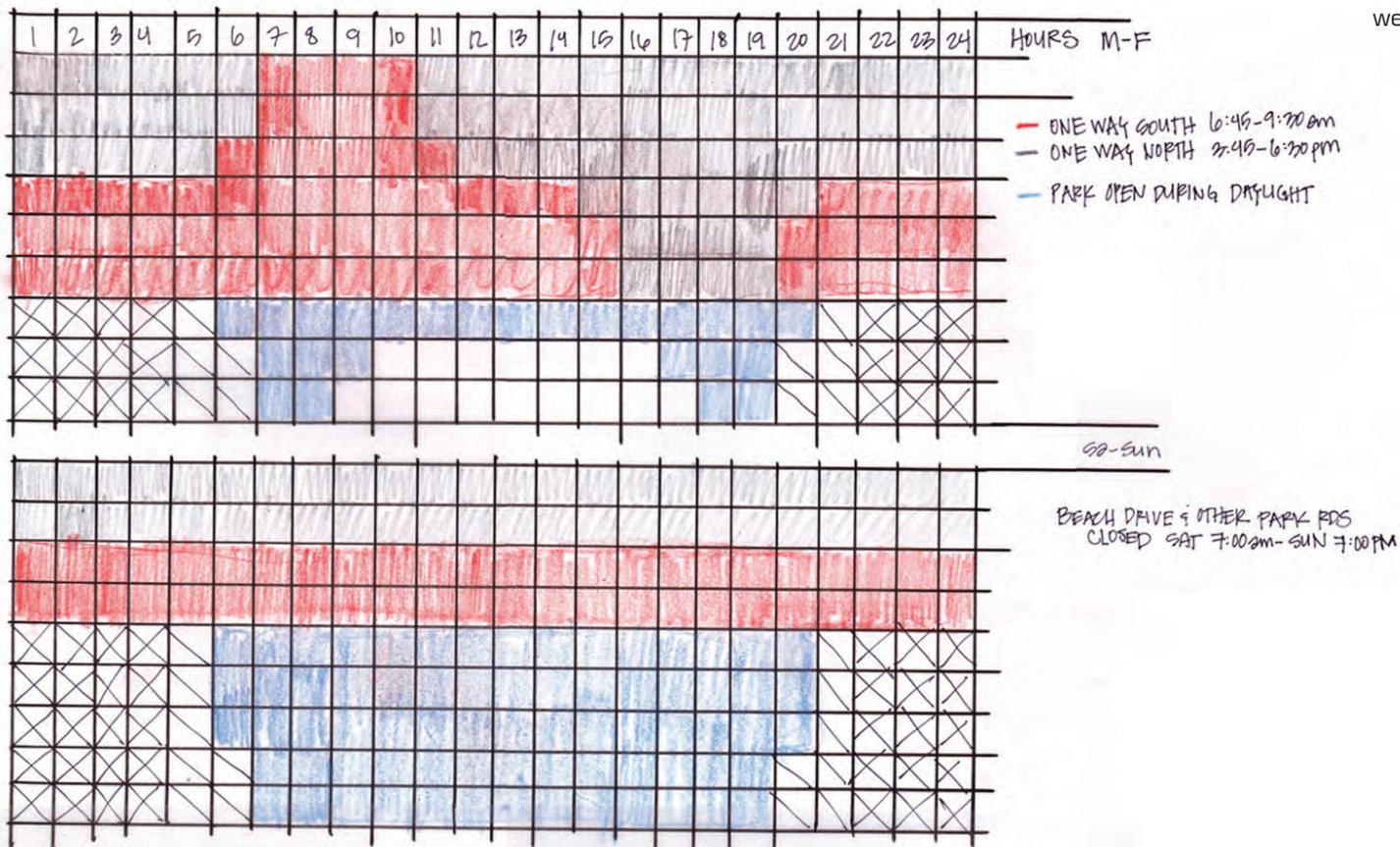
MAN HOURS: WORK, LEISURE, SLEEP



RUSH HOURS

These charts reflect the activities of the general population during the work day and a weekend day. Grey activities are at home, red at work, and blue are leisure activities. There are sleep rush hours, work rush hours, and leisure rush hours on the weekend. This corresponds with the analysis of Rock Creek Park, a street for commuters in Washington DC, that adapts to rush hours by switching a roads' use accordingly. Lanes switch direction for the morning and evening commutes in and out of the city. Streets switch to pedestrian use expanding the park for leisurely weekend activities.

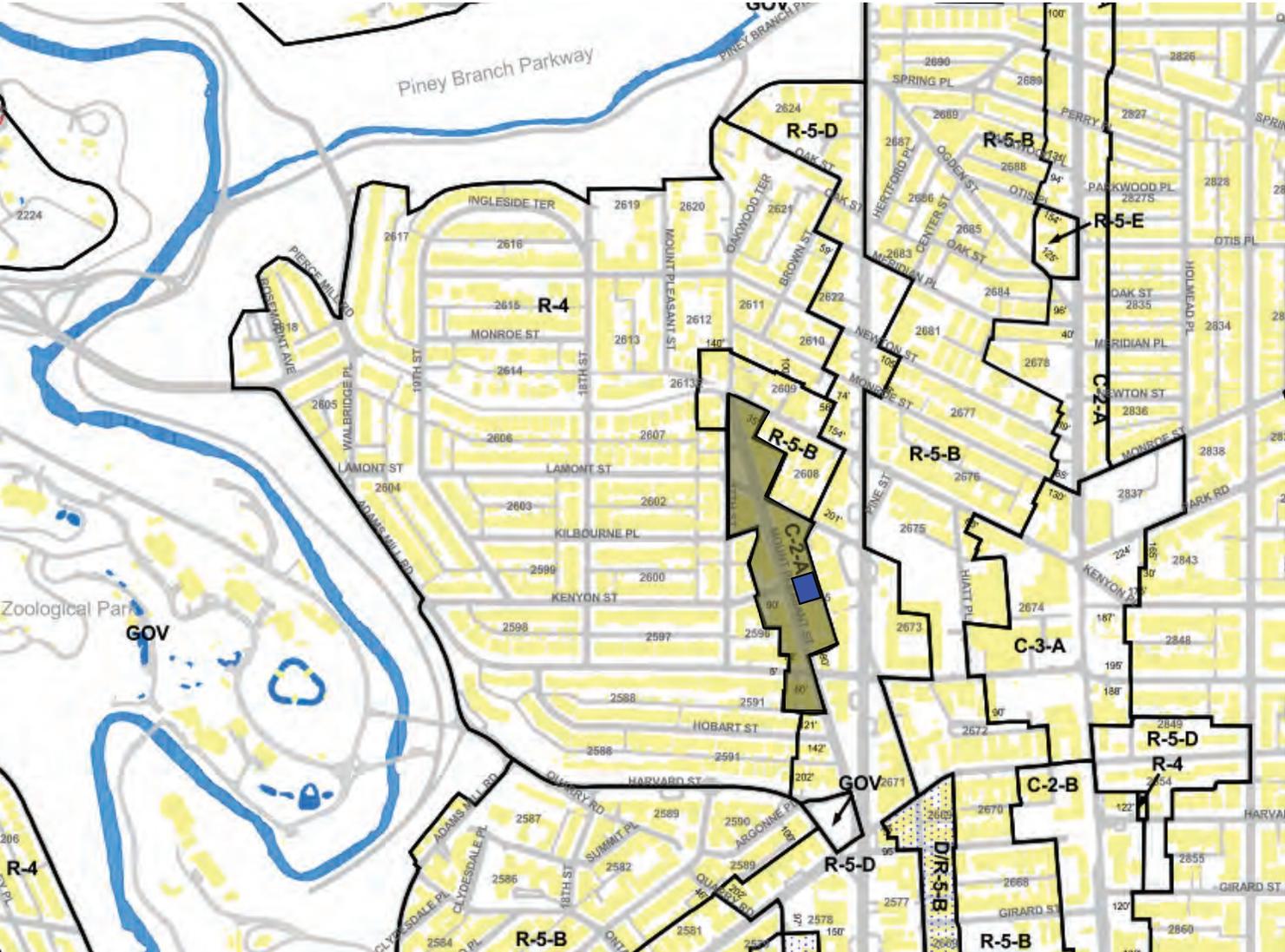
ROCK CREEK PARK



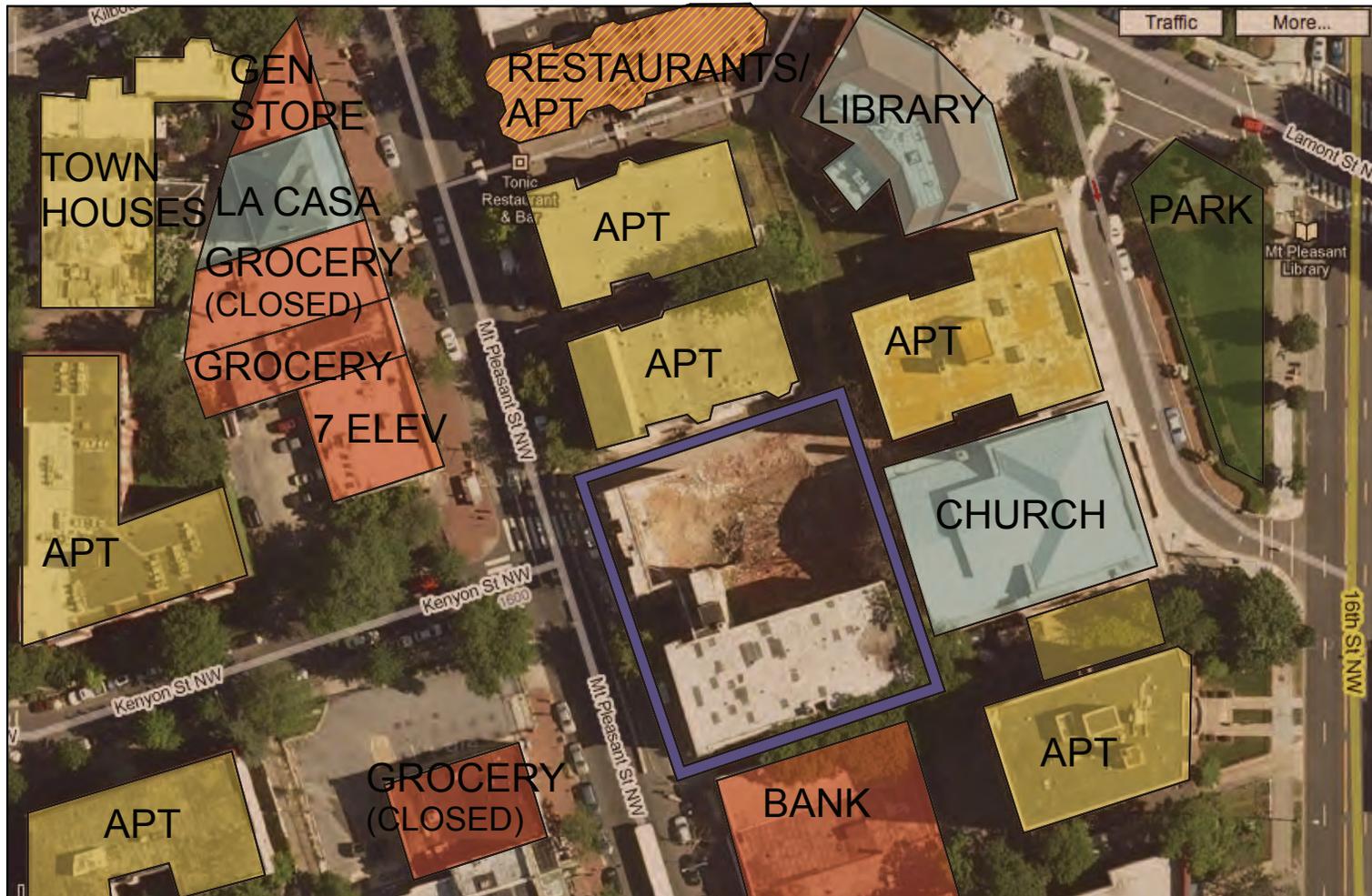
ZONING

C-2-A

Permits matter-of-right low density development, including **office, retail, and all kinds of residential** uses to a maximum occupancy of 60% for residential use, a maximum FAR of 2.5 for residential use and 1.5 FAR for other permitted uses, and a maximum height of **50 feet**.



BUILDING USES





HISTORY OF MOUNT PLEASANT

The area of Mount Pleasant is rich with history as it transitioned from a village to a suburb and finally to an urban neighborhood. Mount Pleasant Street was originally the northern portion of 16th Street, but when 16th was extended as a north-south thoroughfare in 1900, it was renamed. The Winston and Chesterfield Apartments, in the Italianate style, were built as two matching buildings in 1908 soon after the streetcar arrived in Mount Pleasant making it a desirable suburb.



WILDERNESS WILDERNESS

10,000 years before the European Settlement - Rock Creek and Kingsley valleys were among Native Americans' quarried stone.



1727 - Rock Creek to Congregational area patented to James Robinson, a vestryman of Rock Creek parish.

1760 - Robert Peter, 1st Mayor of Georgetown, assembled parcels of land in the Woodlands Area. The land was named Mount Pleasant in a Federal City survey.



COUNTRY ESTATES COUNTRY ESTATES COUNTRY ESTATES

1822 - Washington Jockey Club opened a race course. James Edlin opened an inn in 1820 on Pony Branch and Taylor's Lane. Road intersection of Mount Pleasant Street and Columbia Road.

1850 - William Seiden, former US Treasurer, built his house north of Park Road.

1851 - Ingelide estate was built by architect Thomas Ustick Walter in Italian Villa style. This is the oldest building in Mount Pleasant, 1815 Newton Street.



1852 - Seiden, a southern sympathizer, is forced to sell estate to Samuel H. Brown. The house was used as a Union Army hospital during the Civil War.

1905 - Brown moves into the house after the war. His three subdivisions and sections off part of the estate to government employees from New England. This determined the old street pattern still in place today.



VILLAGE VILLAGE VILLAGE VILLAGE VILLAGE

1871 - A new school is built after the first public school of 1859 is destroyed.



1874 - Union Hall Company and Citizens Association join to build a public hall rather than a church for all village uses.



1890 - Rock Creek Park is founded along with the National Zoological Park in 1889.



STREETCAR SUBURB STREETCAR SUBURB

1900 - The uniform extension of grid streets for city water is implemented by Congress, including Mount Pleasant 1900 with embassies, churches, and mansions. This separates the streets and makes Mount Pleasant a very desirable suburb.



1908 - Deuville Apartments are built at 3145 Mount Pleasant Street.



MOUNT PLEASANT

Originally a bucolic country village, Mount Pleasant has been a fashion-able streetcar suburb, working-class and immigrant neighborhood, Latino barrio, and hub of arts and activism.



www.historic-map.com

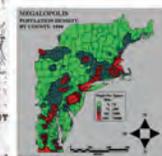
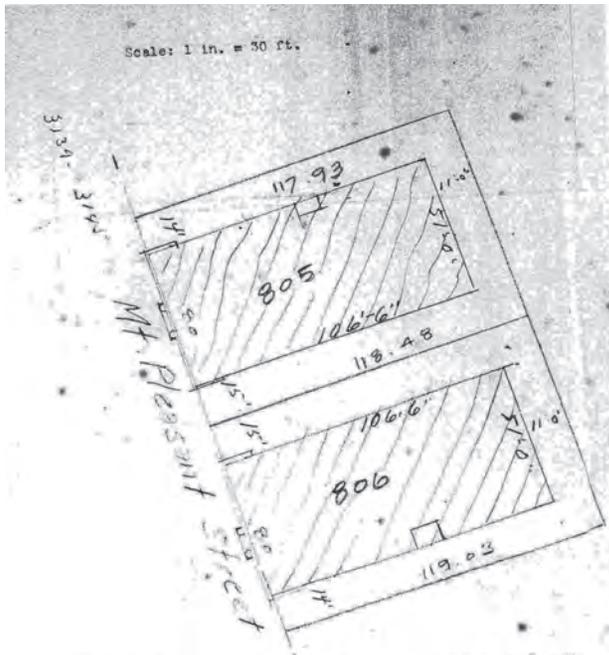
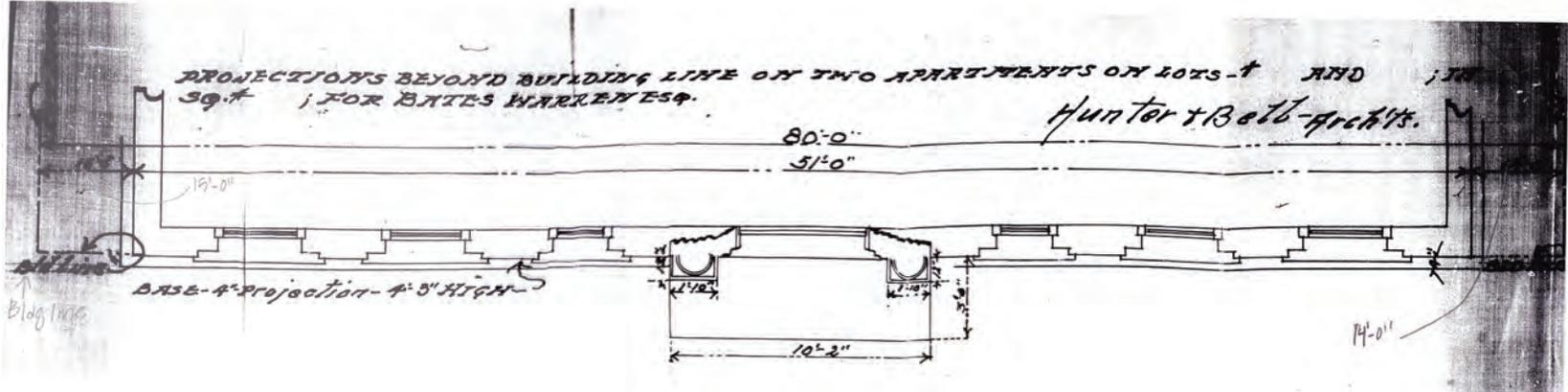


Figure 19. Time line with historic images and maps of Mount Pleasant



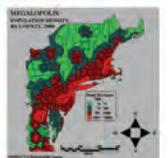
Approved in accordance with Section 26, Building Regulations
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DUPLICATE
 owner
Mr. Gay



STREETCAR SUBURB **STREETCAR SUBURB** **STREETCAR SUBURB** **URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD** **URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD** **URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD** **URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD** **URBAN**

- 1905 - Mount Pleasant Branch Library is built on 14th Street. Replaces a site by architect Edward L. Tibon. The library stood as a meeting place for the Union Hall once used.
- 1905 - Baker's Bakery
- 1920s - Homes are subdivided for WWI housing shortage due to refugees. Greek and Italian families move into the Decasile Apartments.
- 1948 - Communist coup in Czechoslovakia causes an influx of refugees to Park Road and enclave known as "Czech Row"
- 1950s - local Jimmy Dean
- 1960s - local hit Doolley, Rock and roll clubs the Crockett Lounge open up in the area. Streetcar is replaced with buses.
- 1968 - DC vote after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- 1974 - Mount Pleasant Festival, nicknamed the "Miss UVA" for its diversity.
- 1980s - 1990s - Punk rock. Businesses in the basements of Mount Pleasant.
- 1981 - Mount Pleasant riots after police officer shot and wounded Blackman man.
- 1996 - Radio City's local radio station, La Casa hosts live music events.
- 2005 - Decasile apartment fire in March.





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SITE SECTION
MOUNT PLEASANT ST.

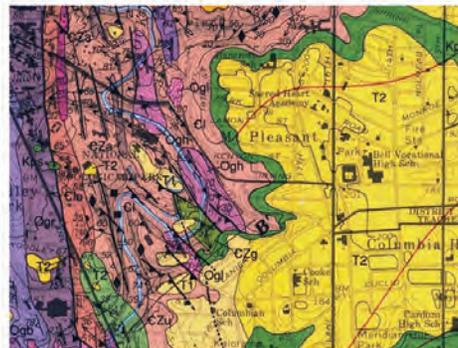
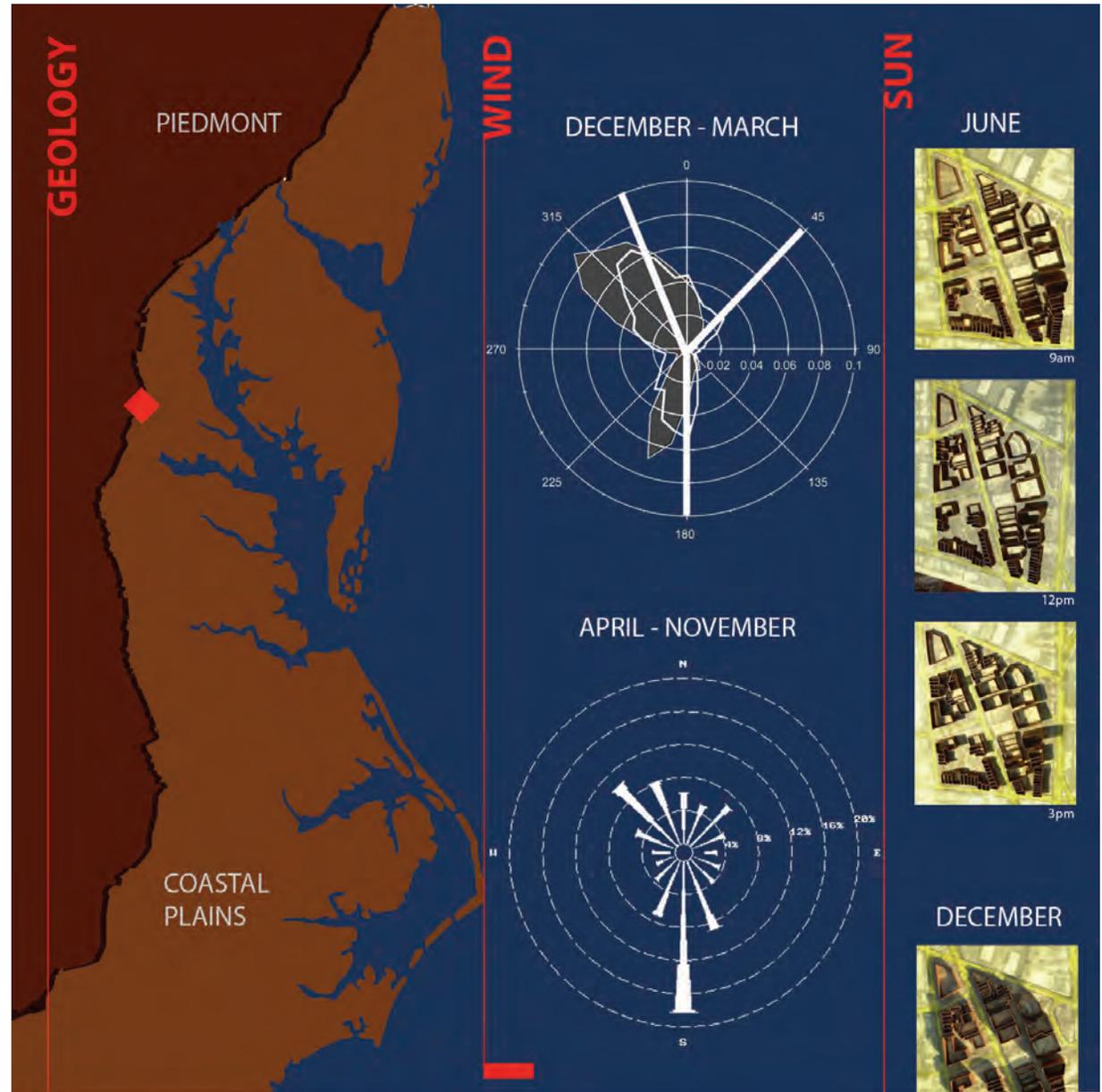
Cut through the land of Mount Pleasant Street and you will find a diverse layer of histories. It is known for its transient residents from Civil War soldiers in a temporary hospital to a mix of immigrants fleeing wars in Europe. Latin American, African, and Southeast Asian ethnicities make up much of the neighborhood today, but who knows what tomorrow will bring.

SITE CONDITIONS MOUNT PLEASANT ST.

Earth - Washington DC is located on the fall line between the Piedmont and Coastal Plains. The new and rocky geological make up of Rock Creek Park is the dividing line. Mount Pleasant is to the east with older earth of gravel, sand, silt, and clay.

Wind - During the winter cold harsh winds come from the northwest. During the summer cooling breezes travel over the Potomac River and into the city from the south.

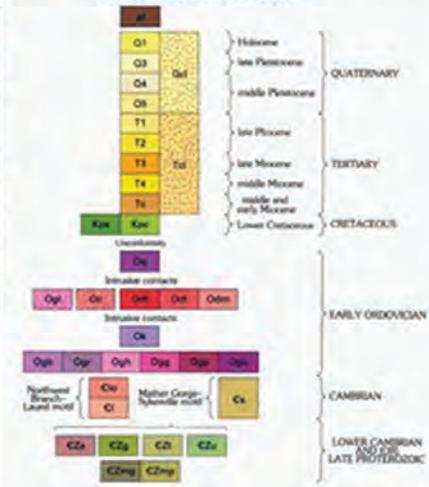
Fire - The sun and the moon rise in the east and set in the west. The hot southwestern setting sun is a direct hit for angled street.

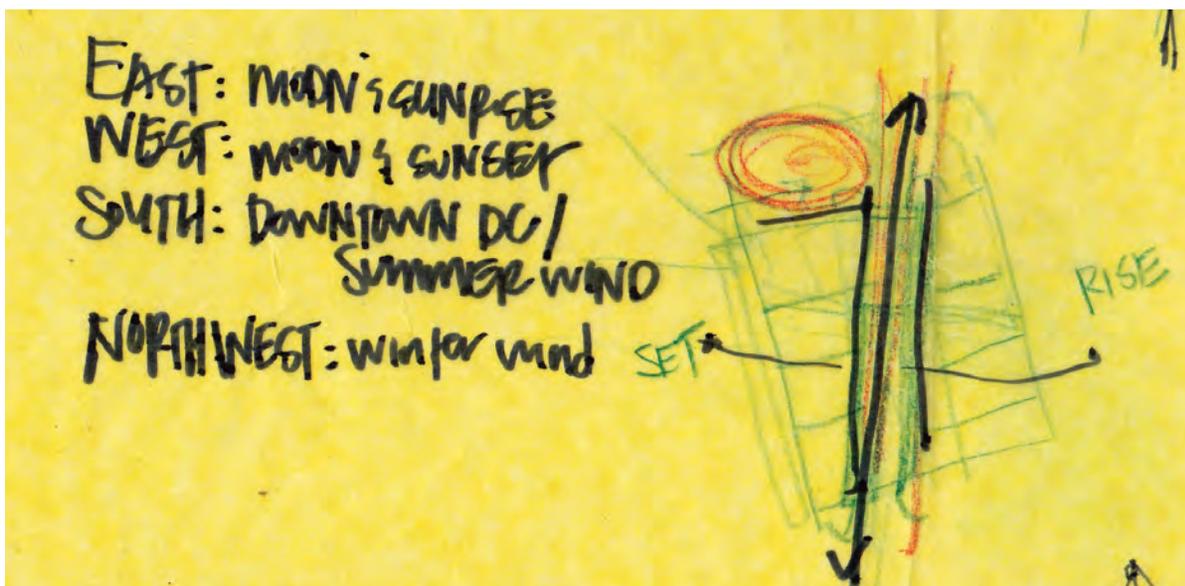
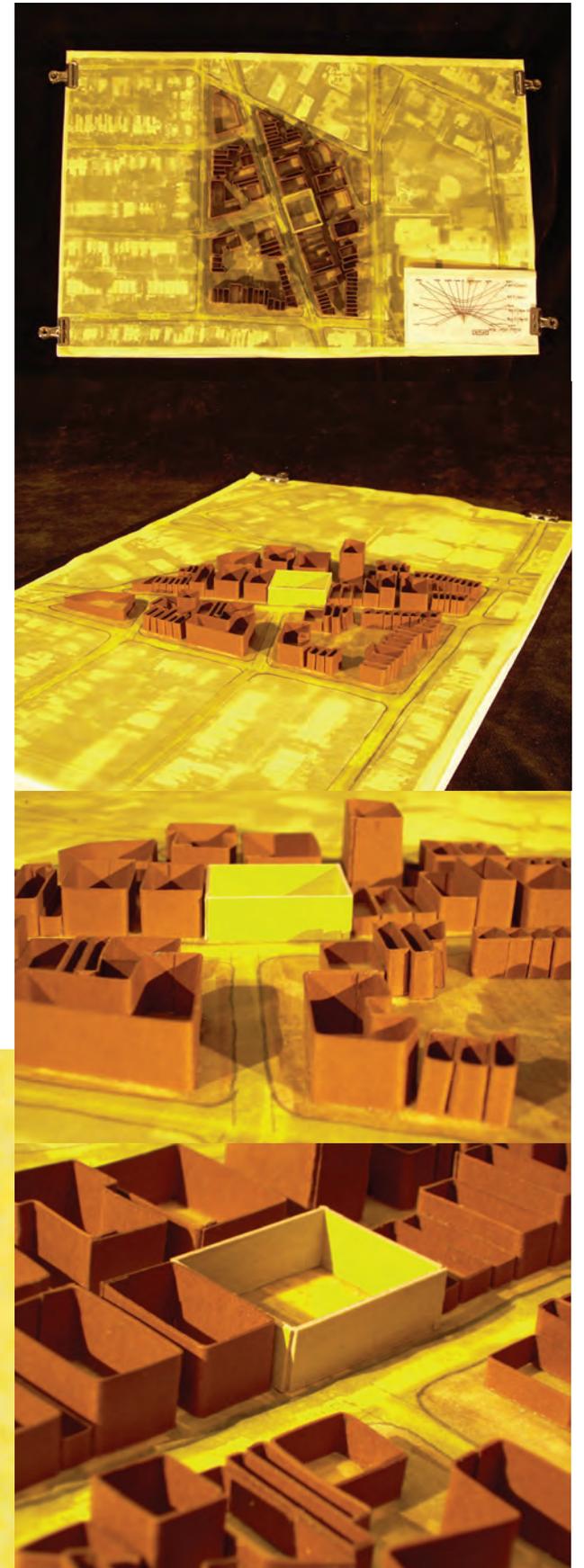
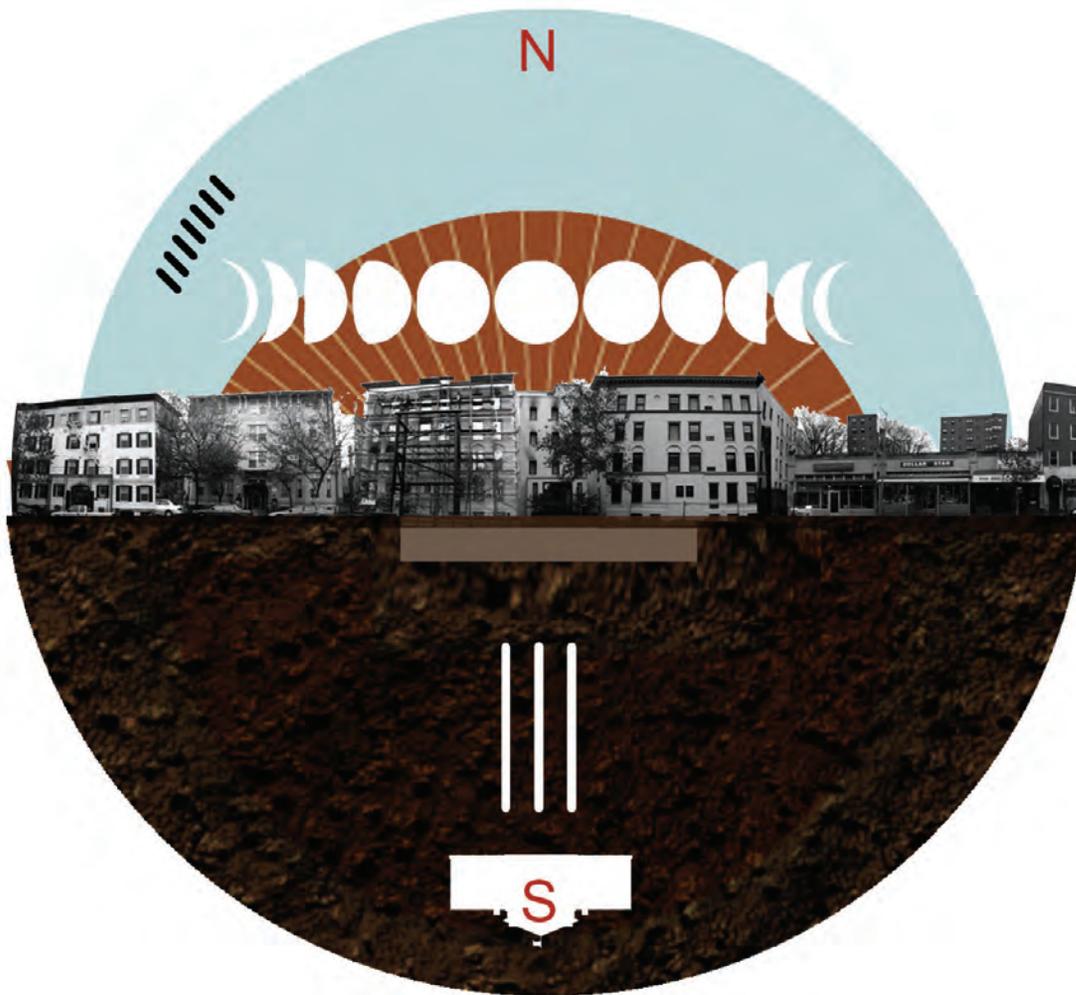


T2

Gravel, sand, silt, and clay (late Pliocene)—Pale-brown to medium-yellow, crudely bedded. Reddish-orange in upper part of unit. Gravel and sand are coarse; silt and clay are mainly interstitial, presumably emplaced post-depositionally. Clays are mainly kaolinite and soil vermiculite. Weathering has affected most of the deposit. Gravel includes several varieties of crystalline rocks, vein quartz, quartzite, red and brown sandstone and siltstone, and minor chert. Some clasts have desiccified and are friable. A few friable clasts and thick brightly colored weathering profiles in most sections are typical of unit T2. Sand is mainly quartz and some feldspar, and rock fragments. Unit T2 is present mainly in two large areas north and south of the Potomac River. The age is late Pliocene, on the basis of stratigraphic position and correlation with the Bacons Castle and Yorktown Formations in southern Maryland and Virginia (McCartan, 1989b, c; see also Mixon and others, 1989).

CORRELATION OF MAP UNITS

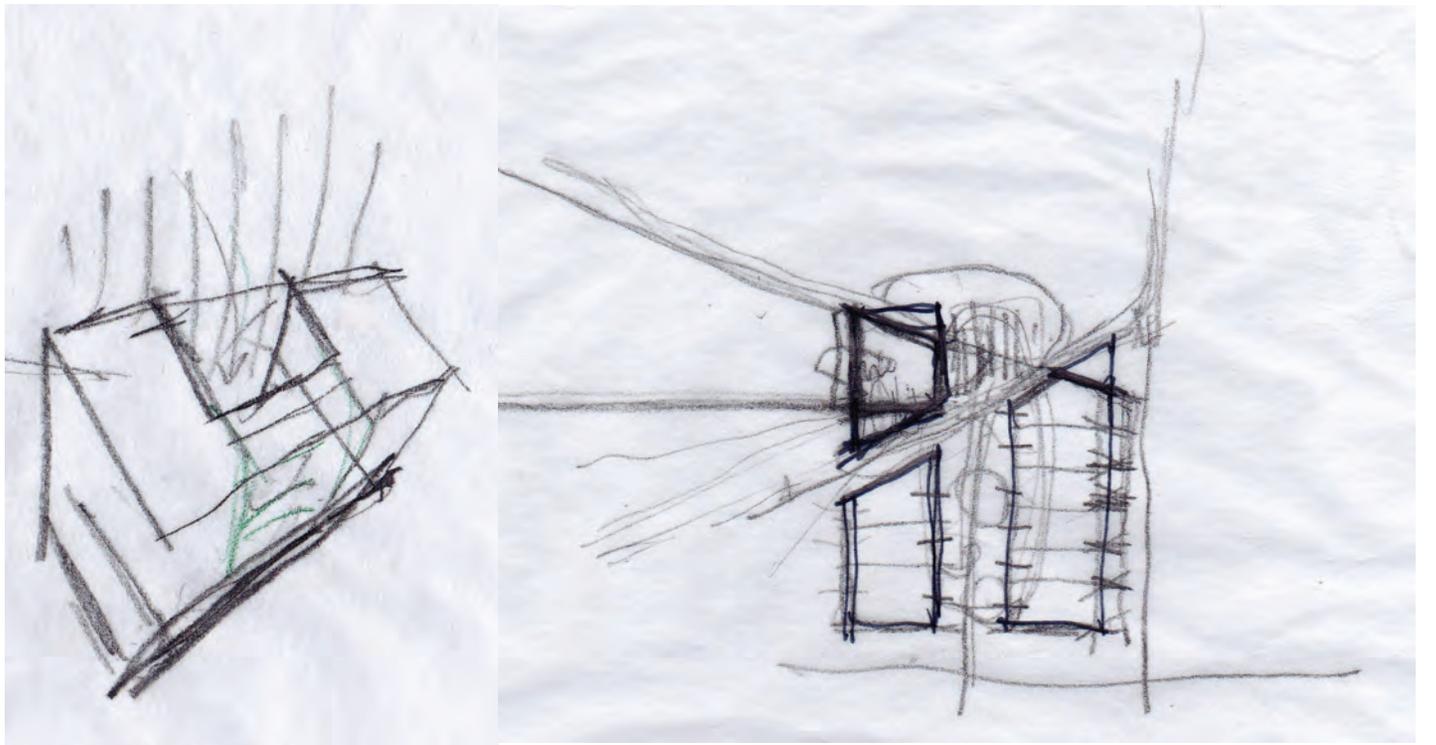
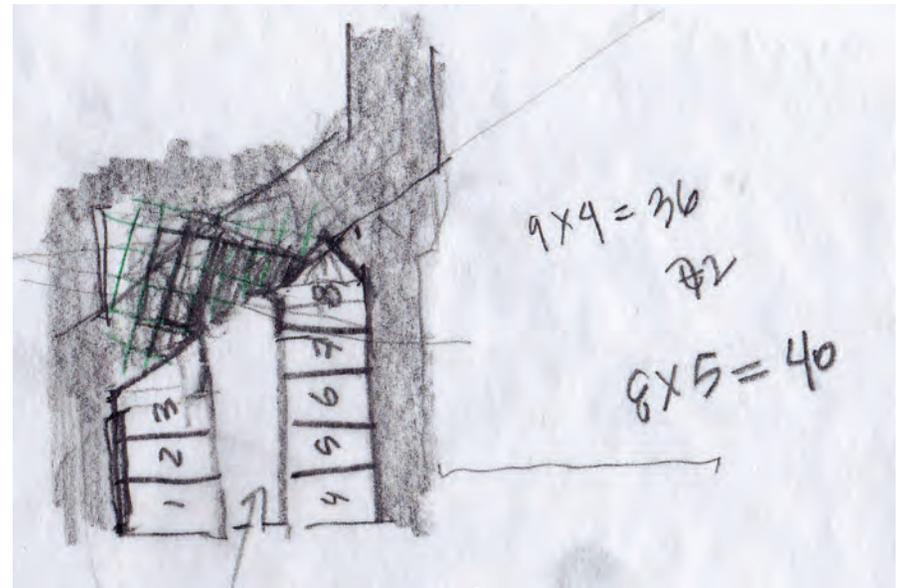


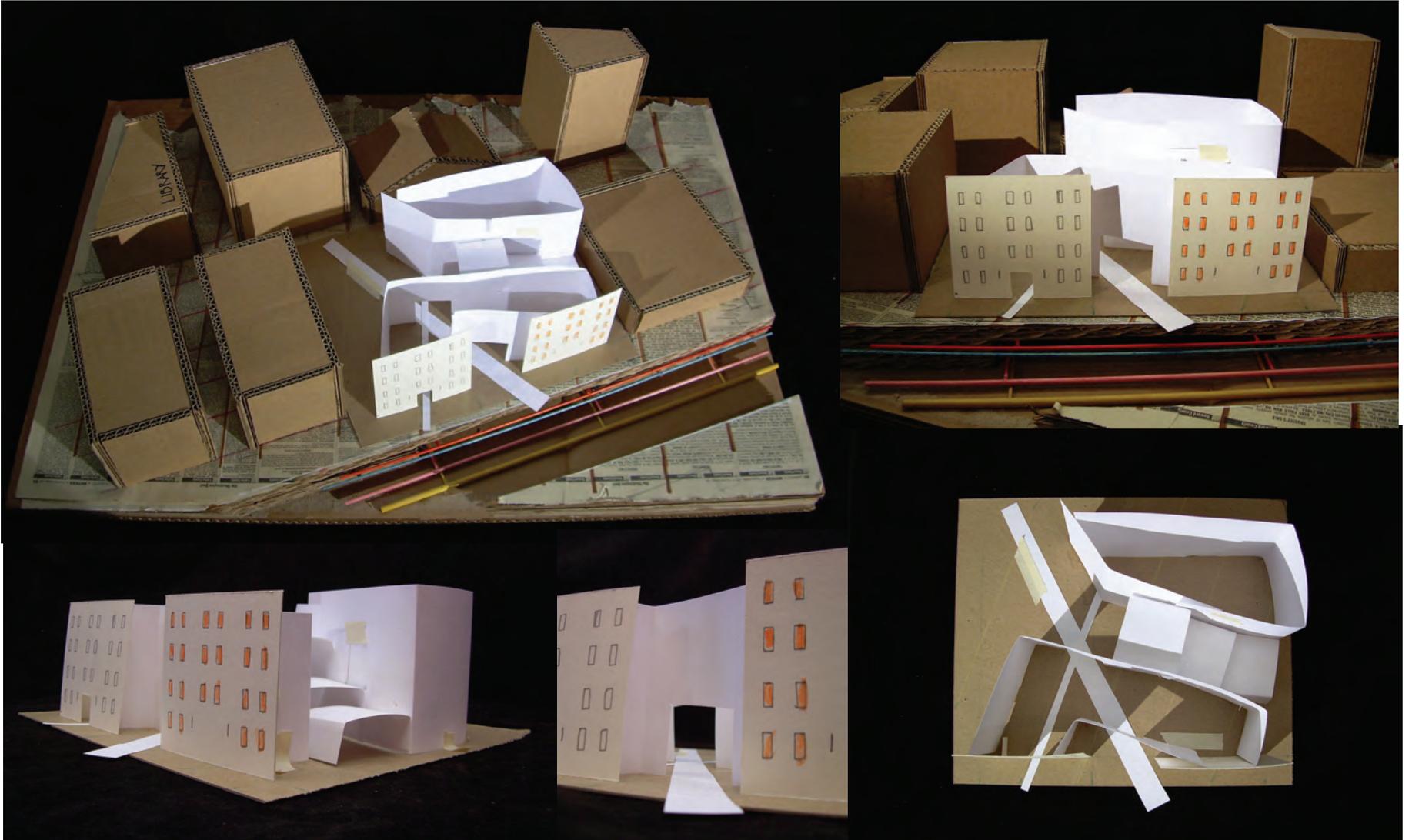


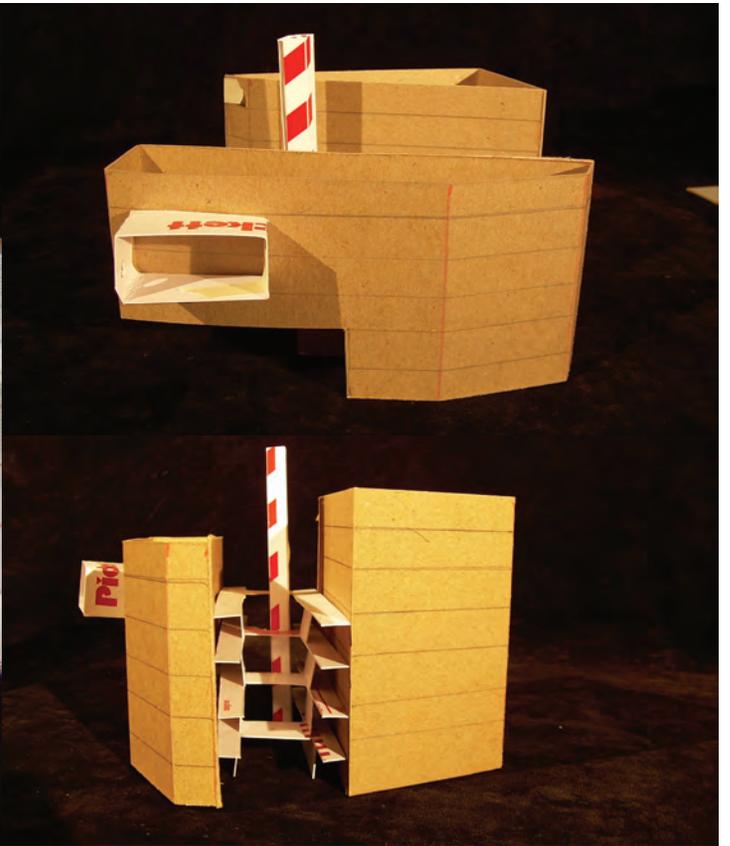
BUILDINGS SCHEMES

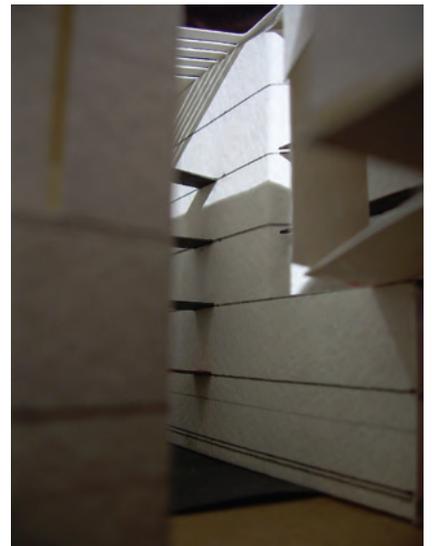
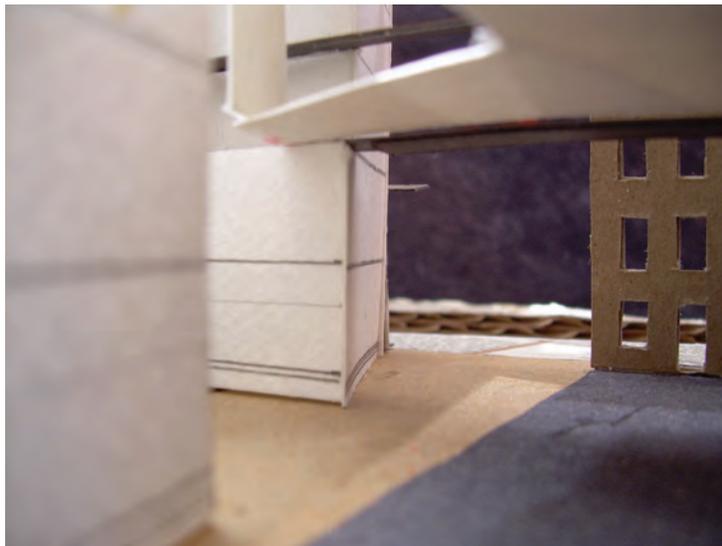
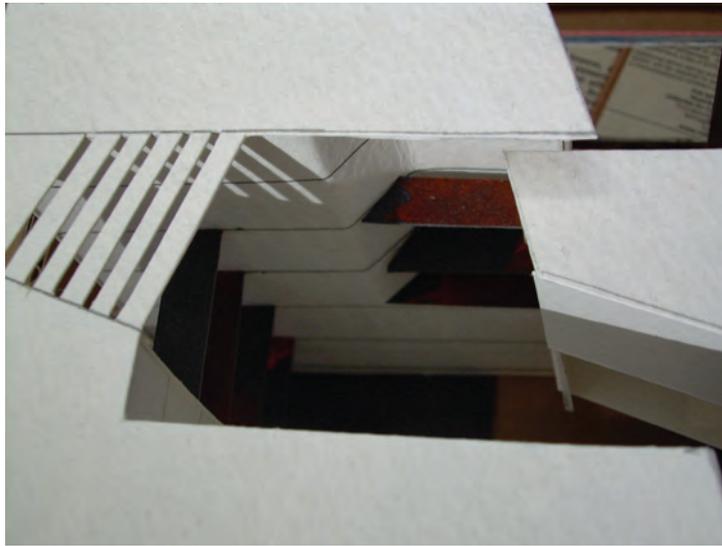
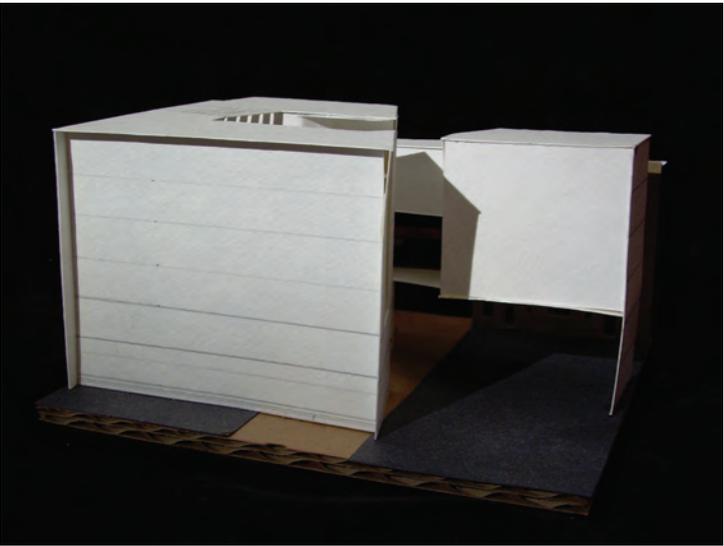
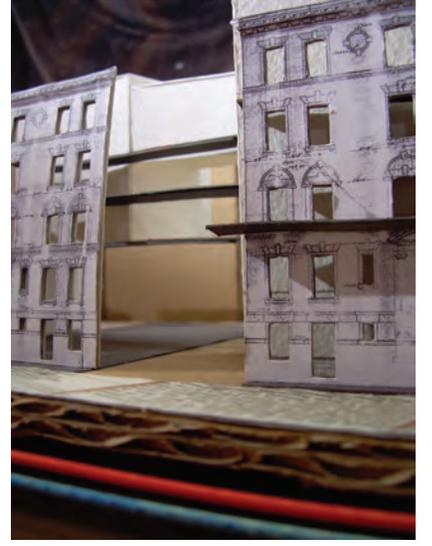
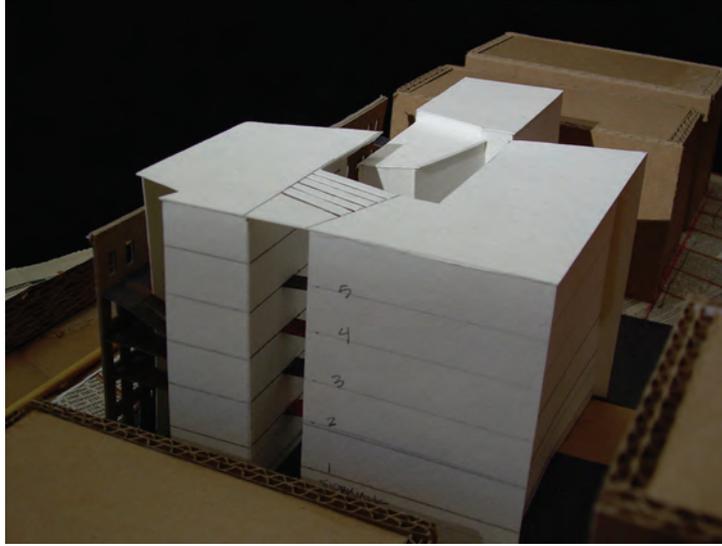
●●●●●●●● BUILDING DESIGN SITE CONDITIONS

These sketches and models show the process of the initial building design. First was to establish the importance of the site. The footprint was reorientated for the direction of wind and sunlight. The existing facades were preserved for screening and historical nature of the neighborhood. A connection to Library was made through reestablishing a fire alley. The two building ideology came from existing city service connections.





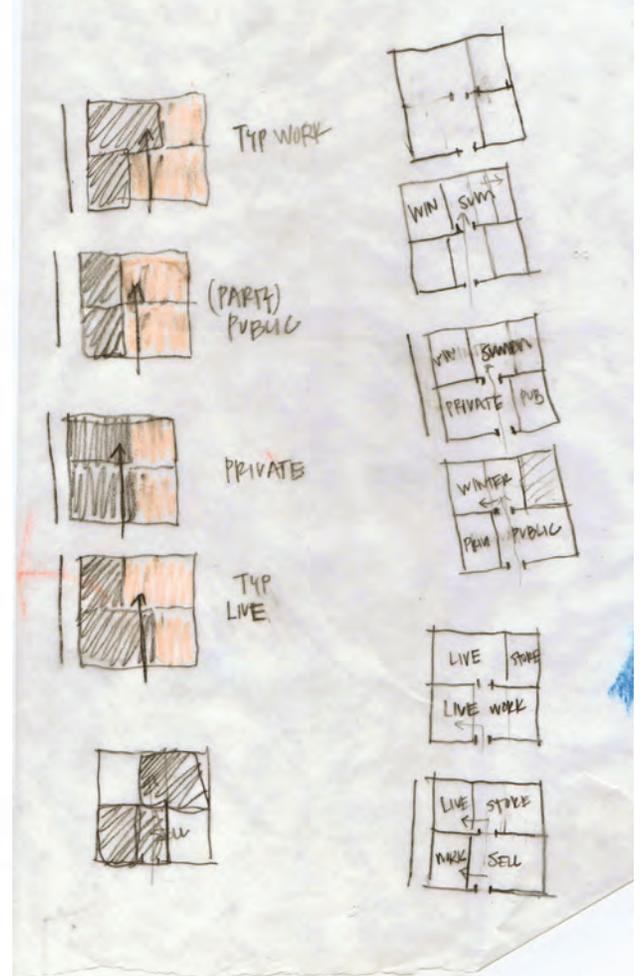
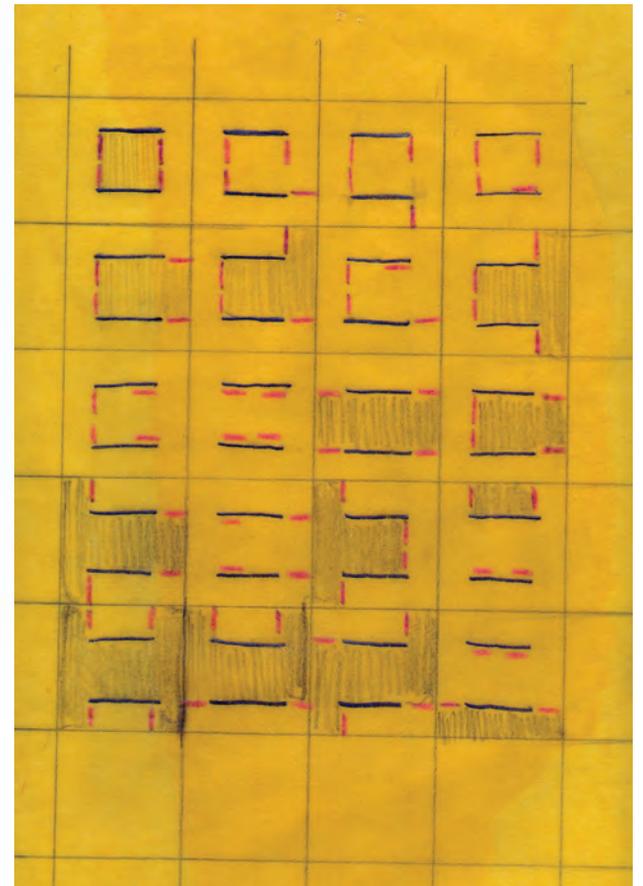
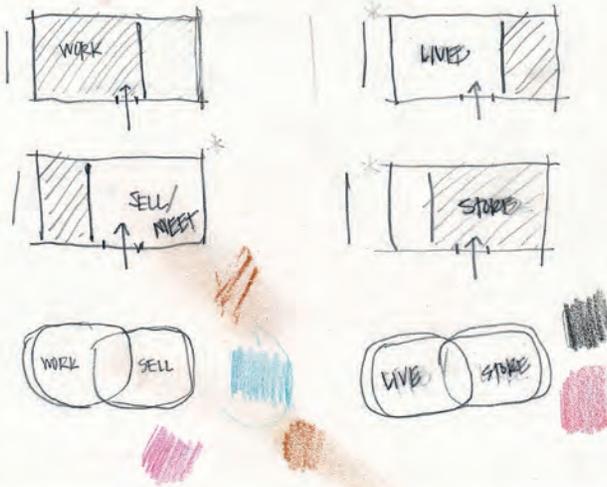
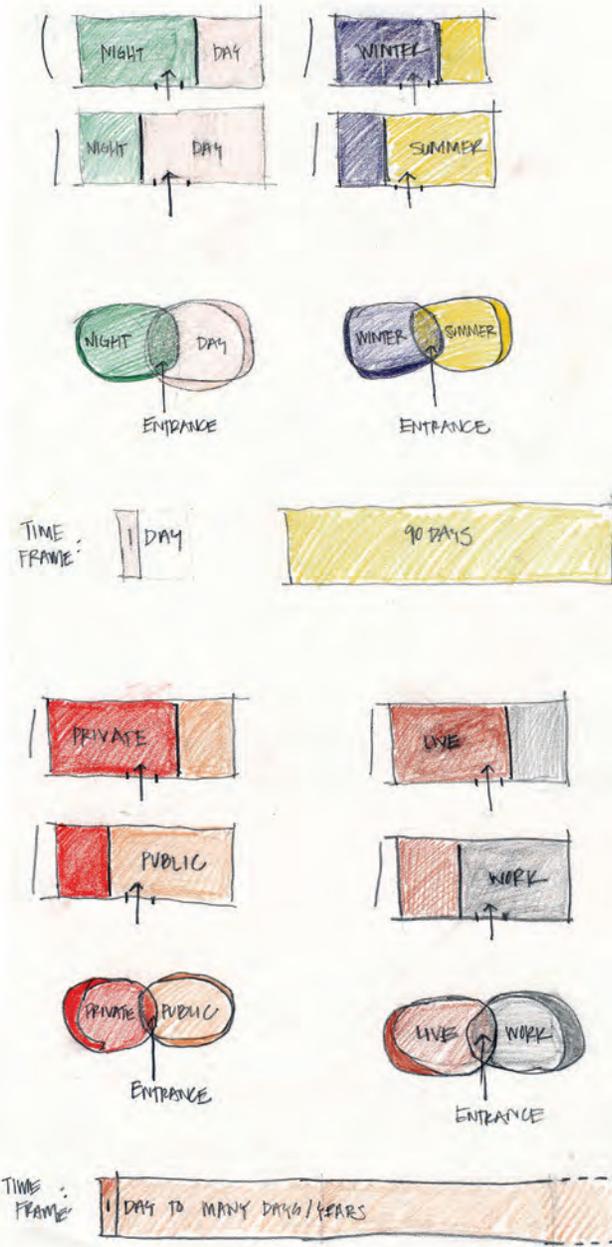


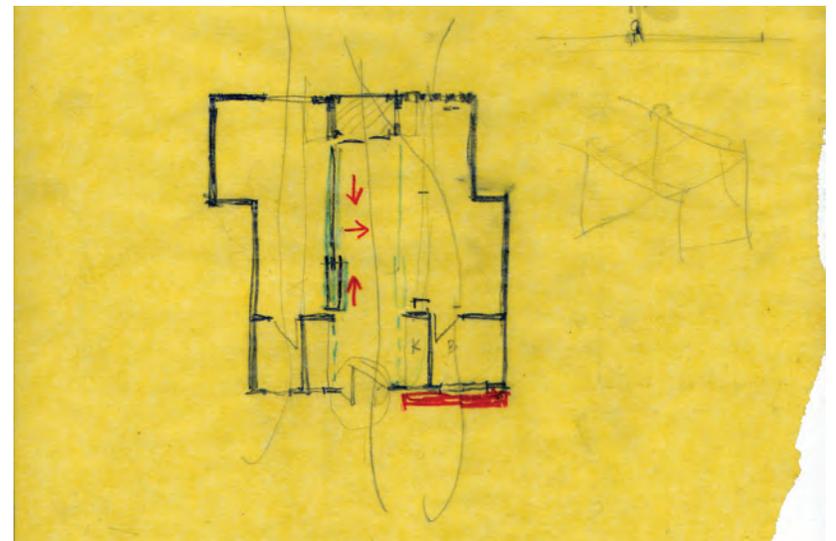
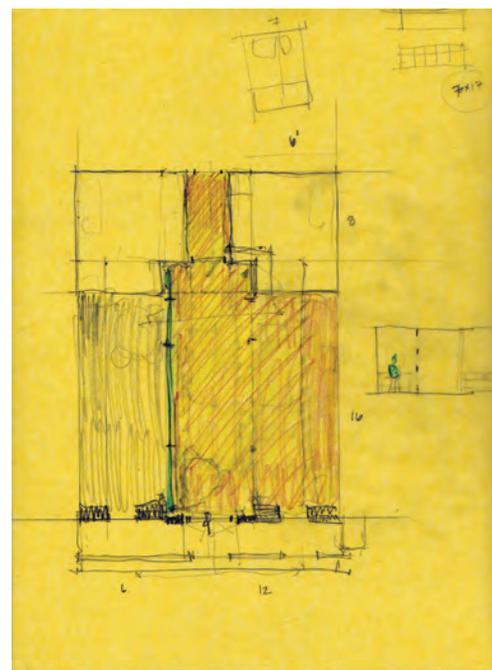
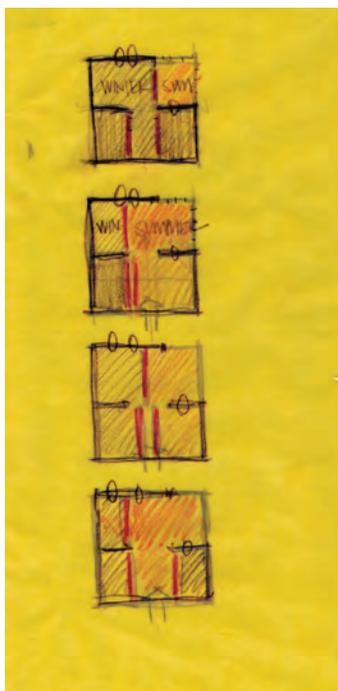
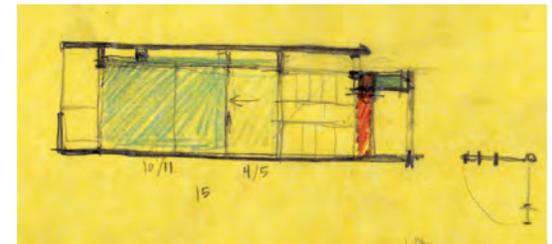
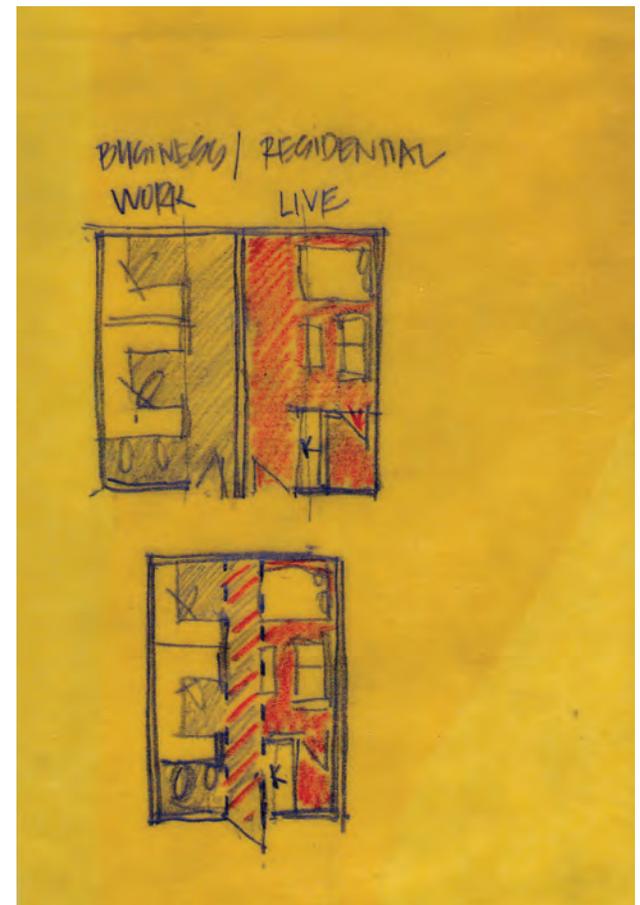
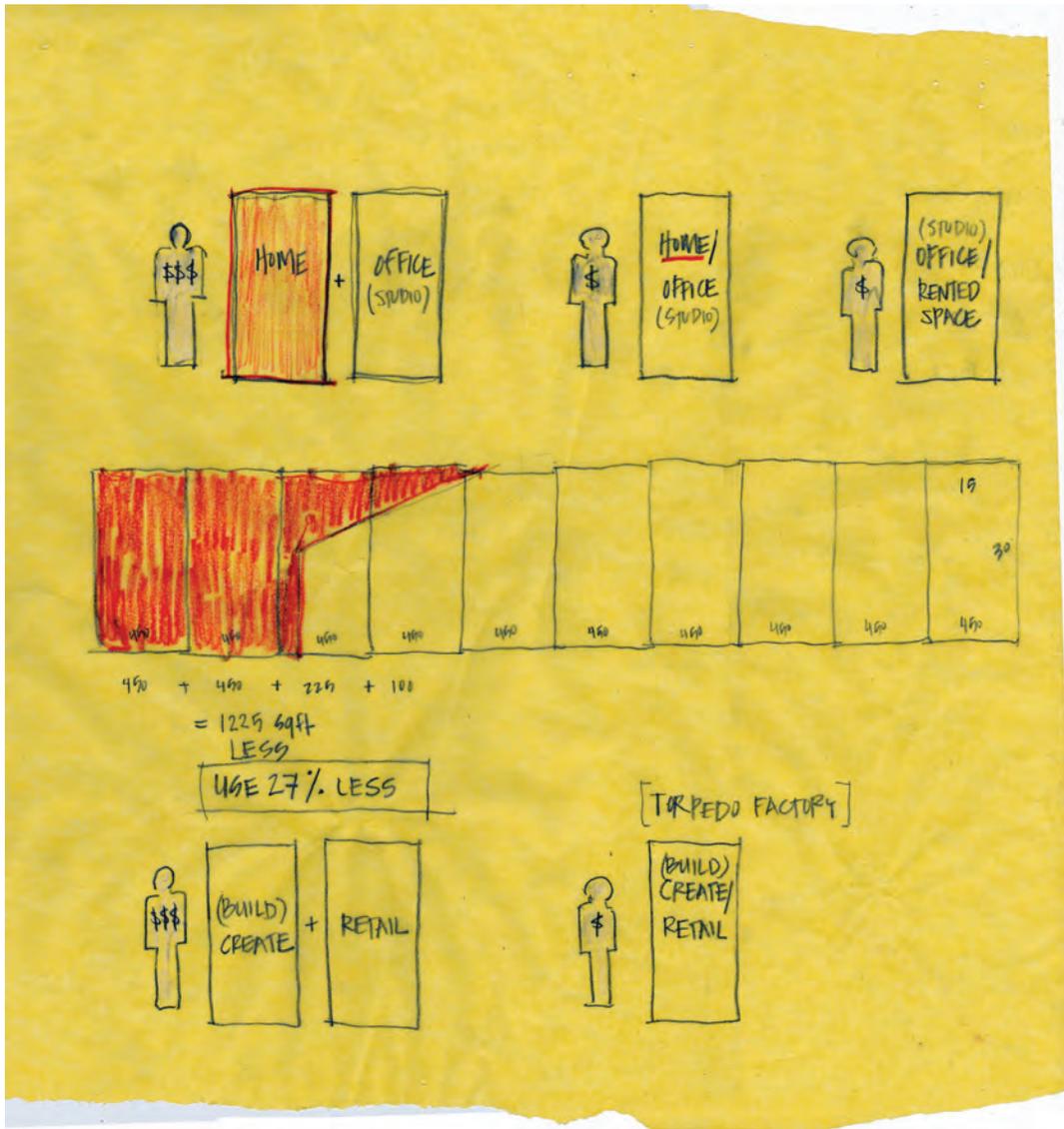


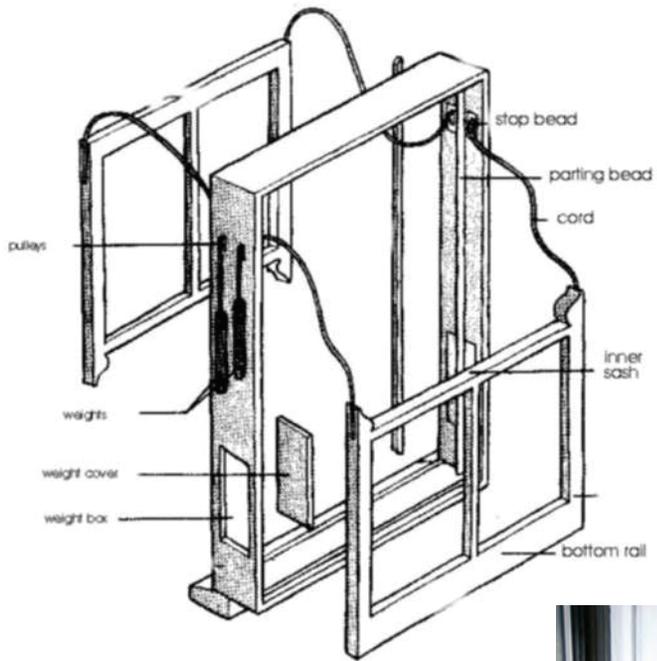
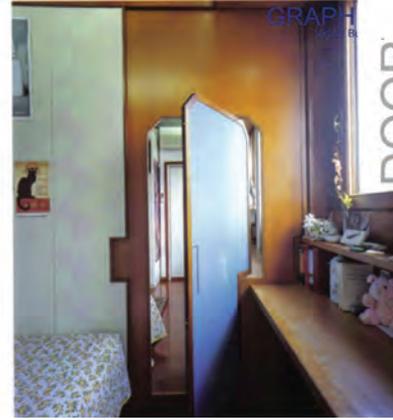
UNIT CONCEPTS

UNIT DESIGN

These diagrams show the relationships between different human rush hours, like public and private, work and sleep, sell and build, etc. There is the initial idea in symbolic form of same entrance into one or the other. The inside shifts to make one place act as two. Circulation space is re-used reducing overall footprint and therefore cost for rent.



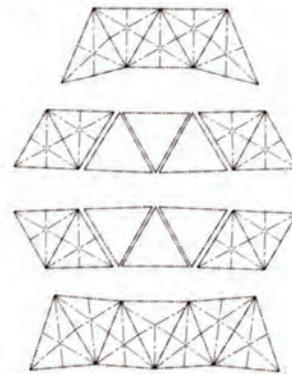




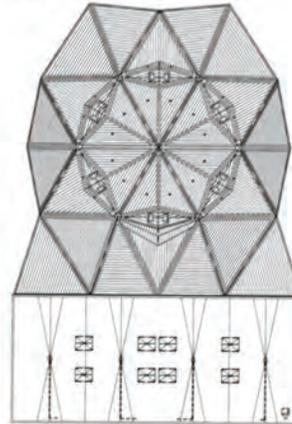
WINDOW



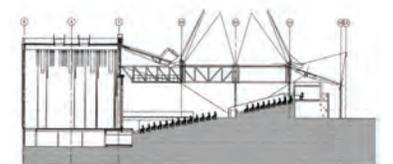
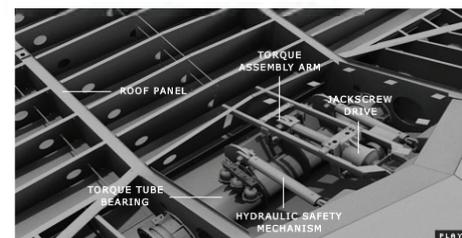
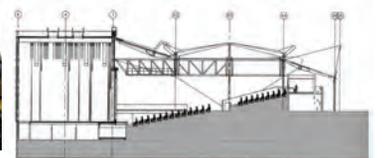
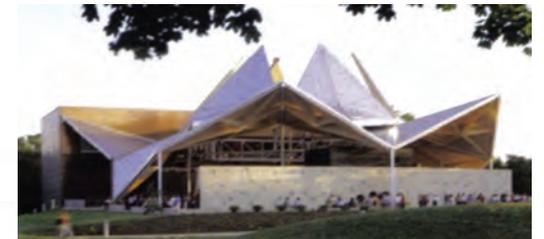
Bengt Sjöström Starlight Theater,
Rockford, Illinois, USA, 2003: Studio
Gang O'Donnell (now Studio Gang
Architects).



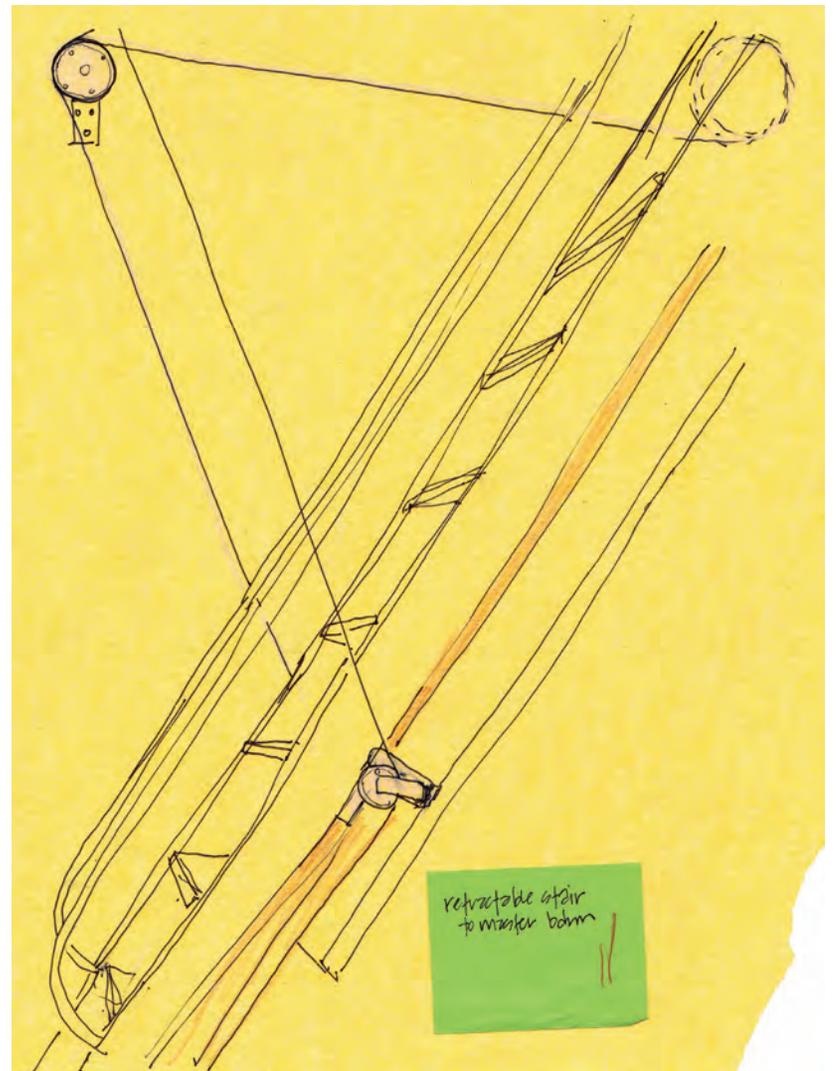
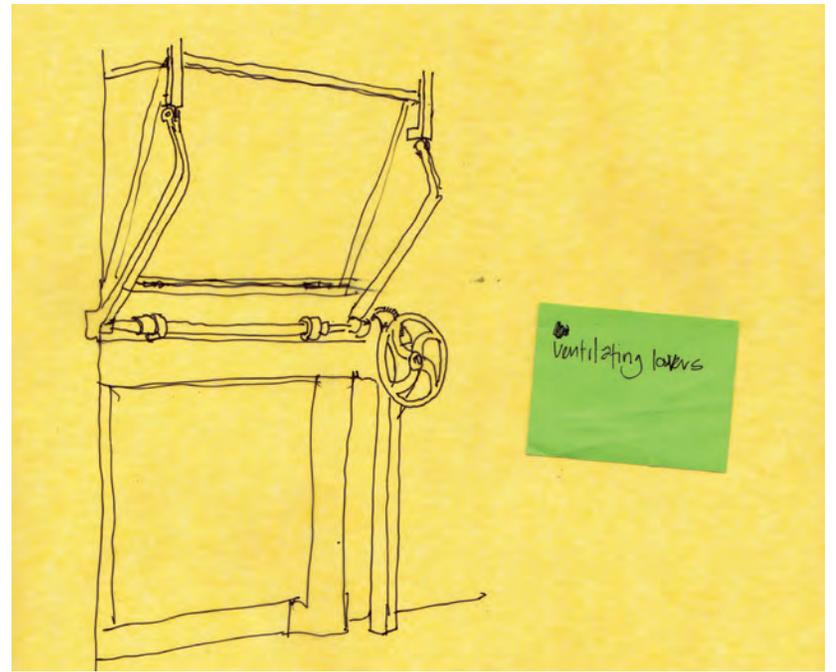
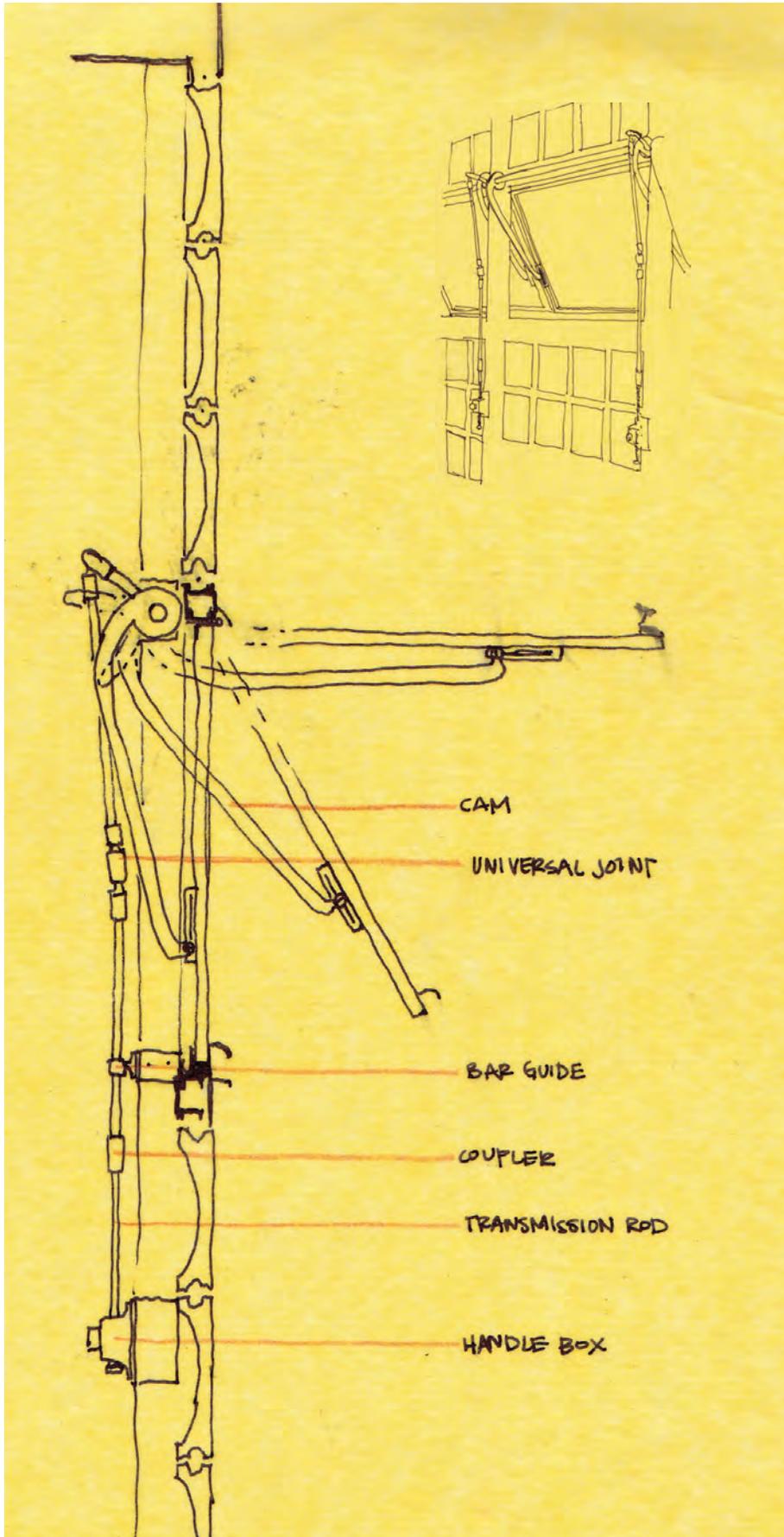
Roof geometry showing fixed and
movable elements.



ROOF



Sections showing roof open and closed



UNIT DESIGN

Further development of unit with the study of airflow in apartment types. Also the location of the wet wall and moving wall with 6'-0" grid and room dimensions that maximize furniture layouts and work well with human inhabitation. Different combinations of uses in a the unit are explored.

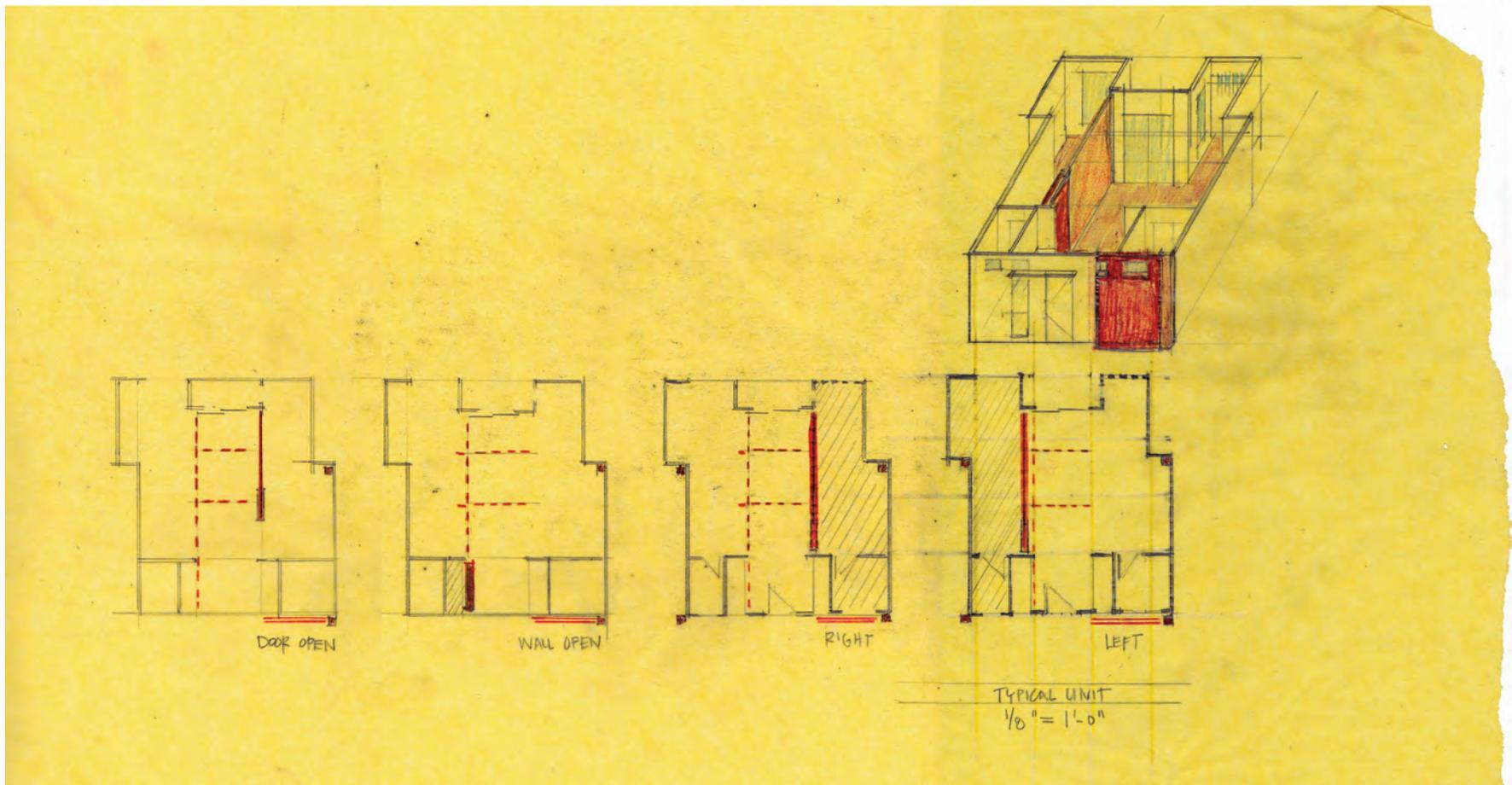
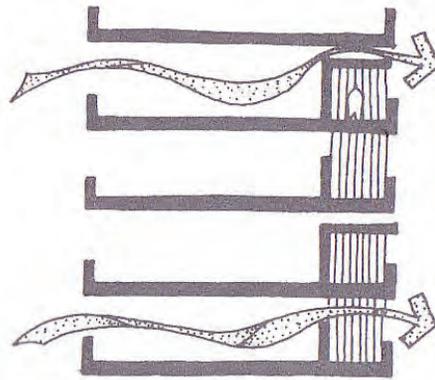
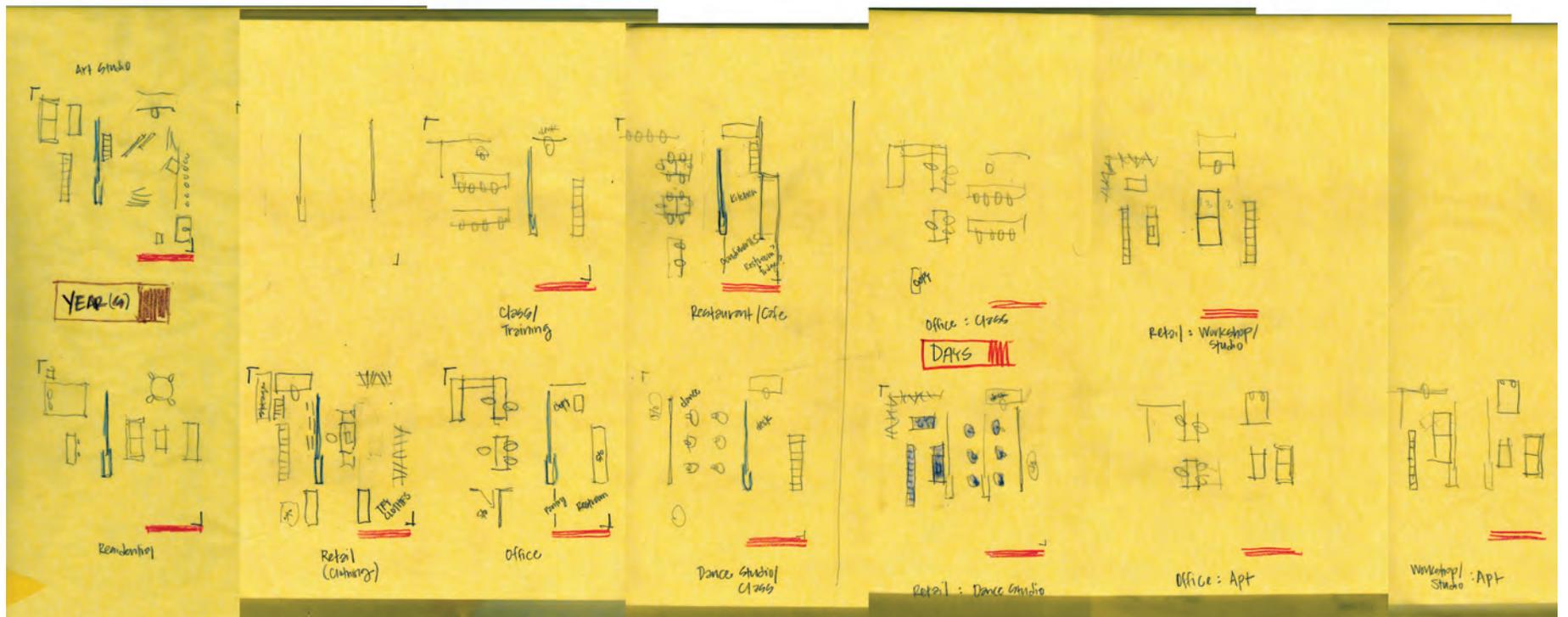
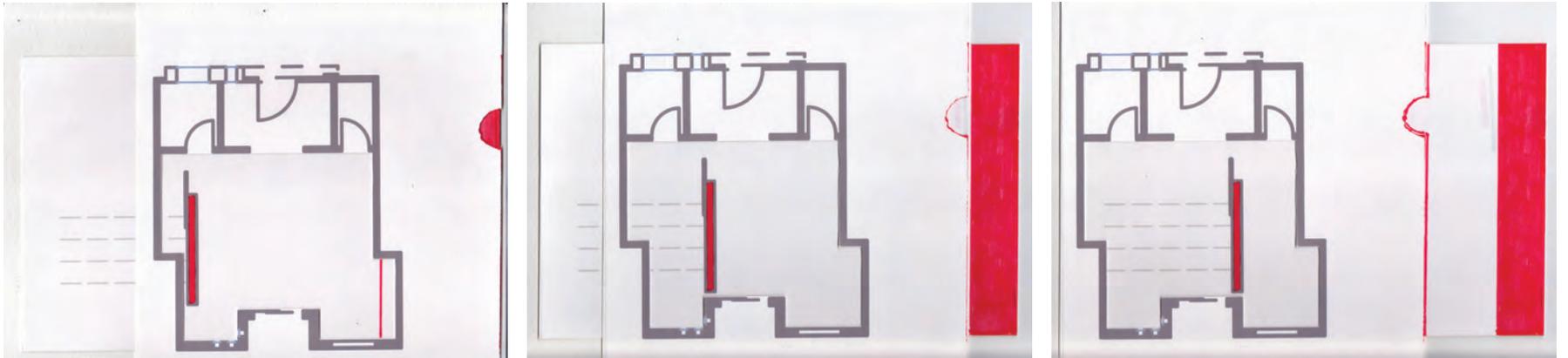


Figure 22. Diagram of airflow through typical apartment layout (top left)



DESIGN A UNIT

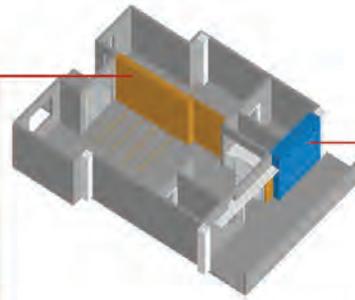
●●●●●●●● MAKE YOUR OWN

Here is an example of active participation with design. A template and sheet explaining the wet wall and moving wall unit components was sent to 20 friends. Many suggestions were made and responses were drawn out showing how they would use this unit type. Also shown was a time frame to explain when the shift would occur and how often.



moveable wall

this wall follows tracks in the floor so it can be placed and locked in different locations, 3 ex. are shown below. there is also a sliding door.

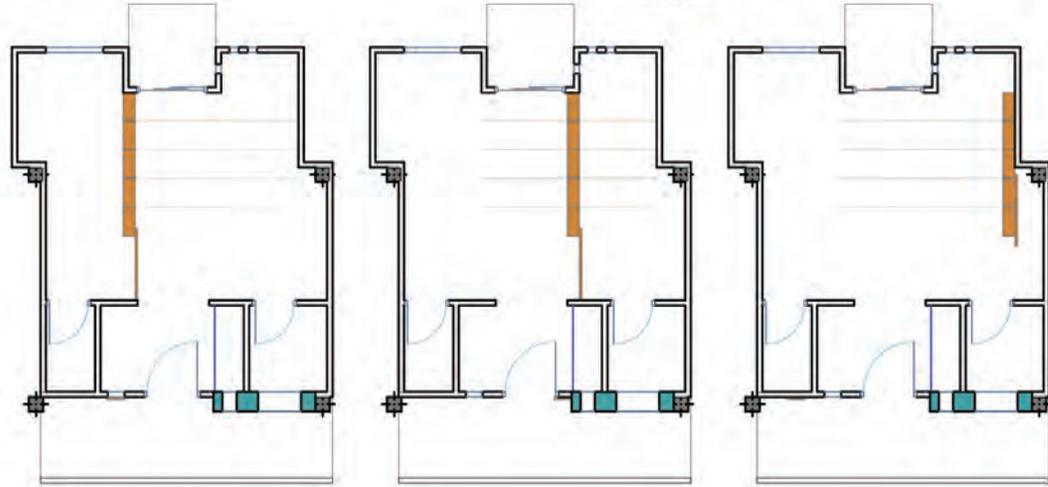


wetwall

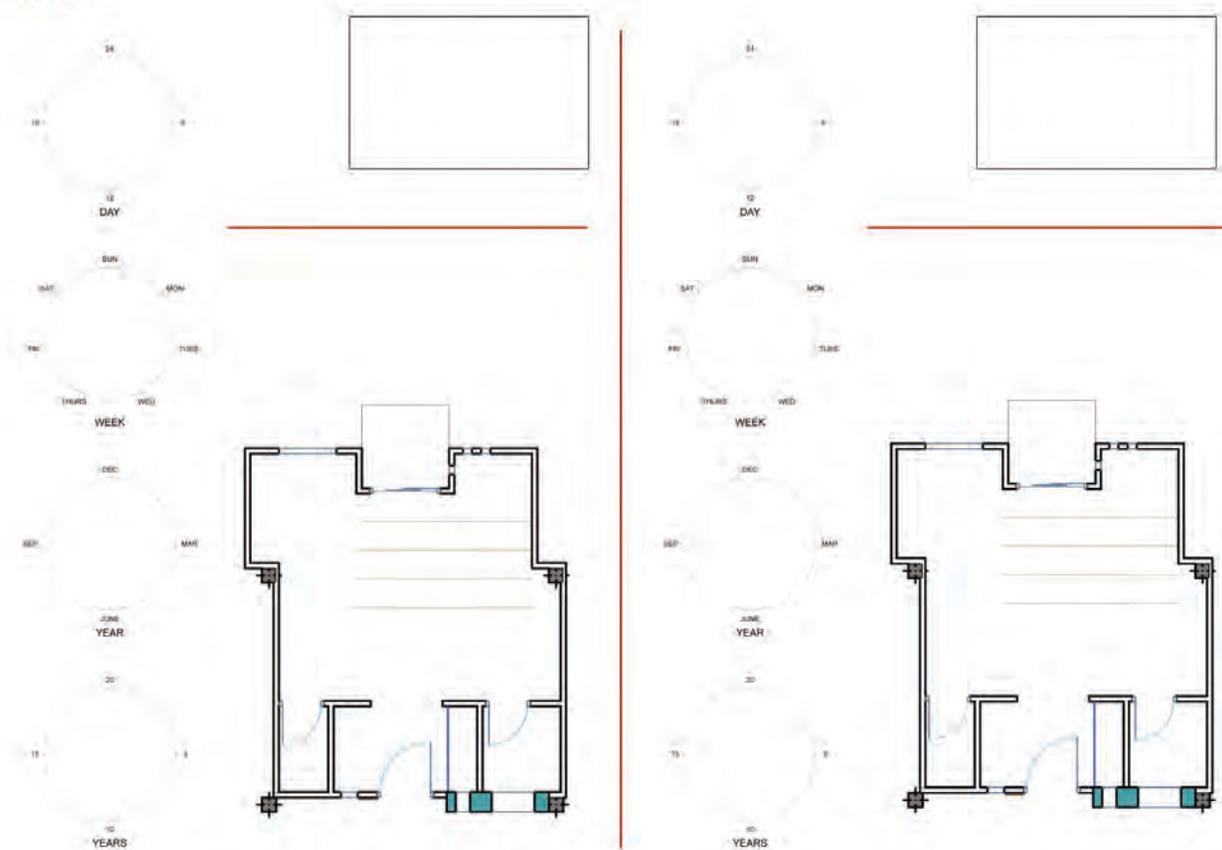
anything with water should be connected to this wall, like sinks toilets, showers, etc

timeframe

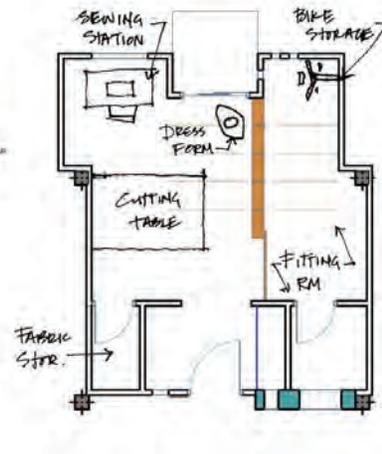
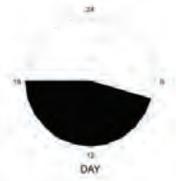
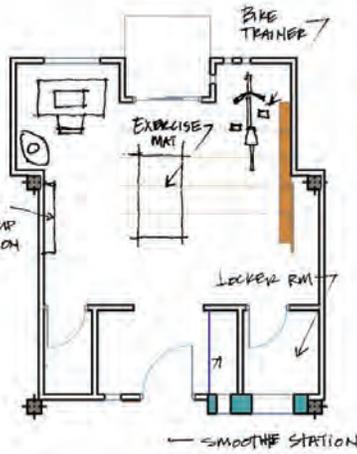
the wall can move every hour, day, week, monty, or year. you chose the time frame



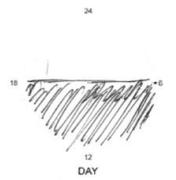
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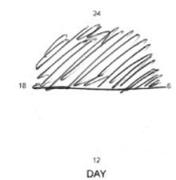
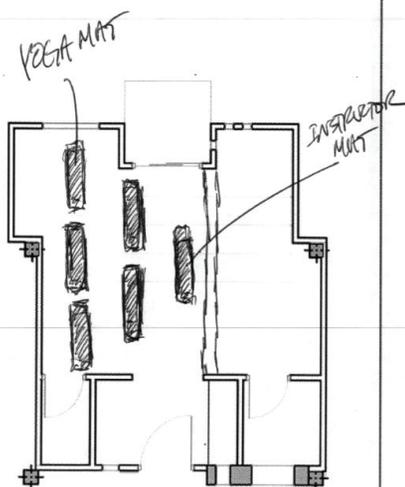
NAME: "Sweatshop" for an exercising seamstress



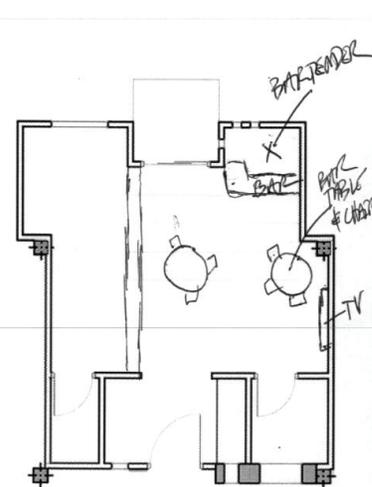
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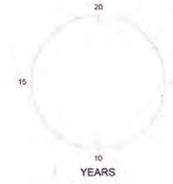
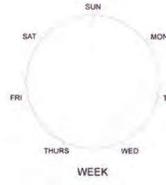
YOGA
STUDIO



BAR

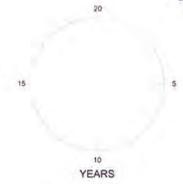
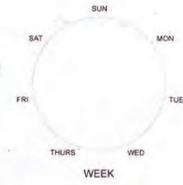
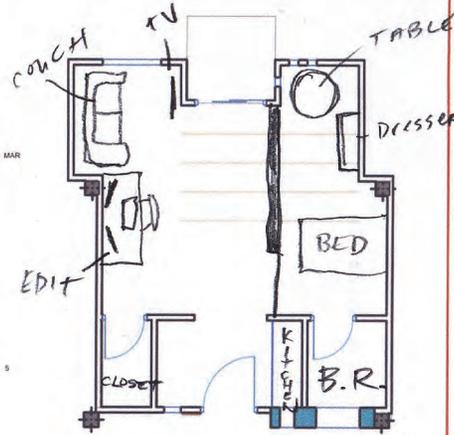


NAME: ADAM K.



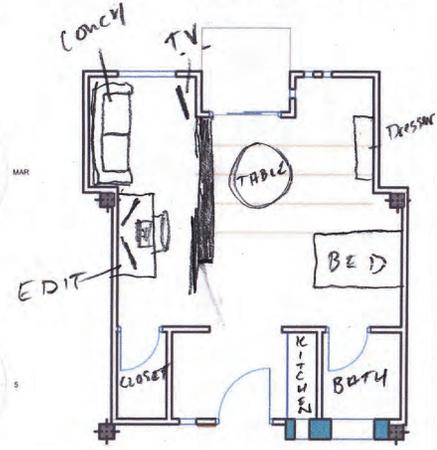
EDITING SUITE

- Editing suite expands when working with clients.

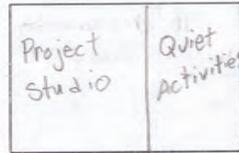


STUDIO APT

- Most of the time I will have it as a studio apt. I can still edit alone in the smaller portion.

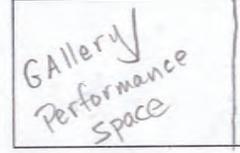
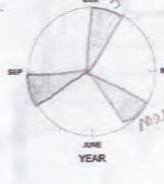
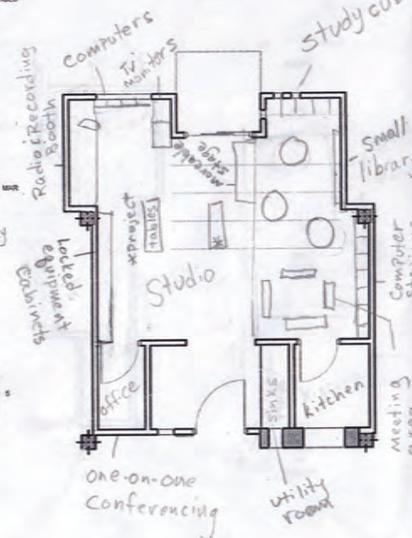


NAME: Emily Gasoi



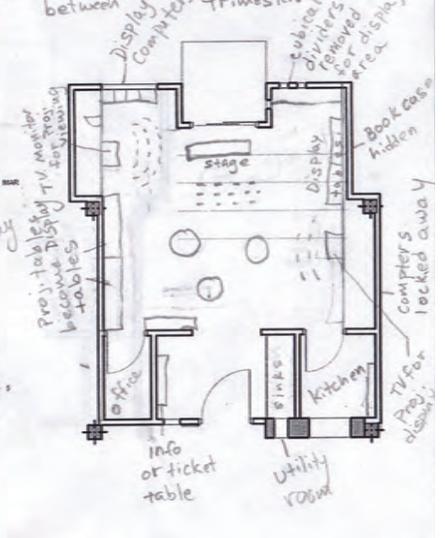
2 Classrooms

Project-based courses run in 3 mos. trimesters. Students work on projects over the 3 mos blocks indicated.



Assessment Gallery

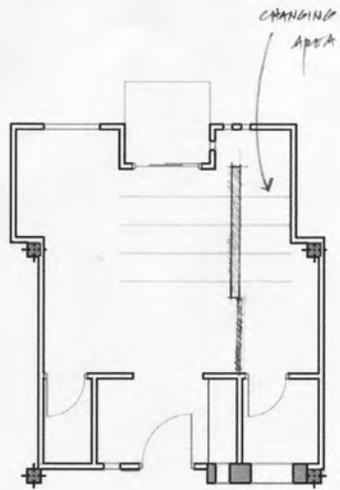
students are graded based on their ability to create a "product" that can be presented to teachers, family, community. "Gallery" times last one mos. between trimesters.



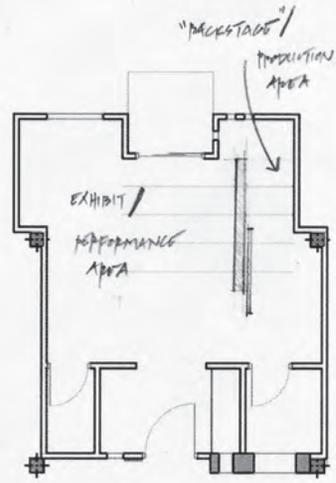
NAME: ANTHONY HARRIS



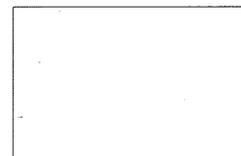
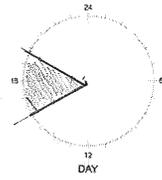
STUDIO APARTMENT



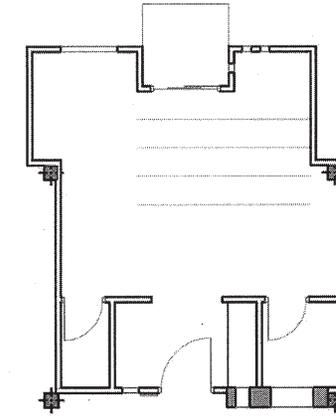
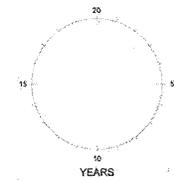
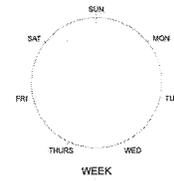
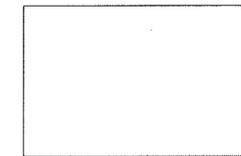
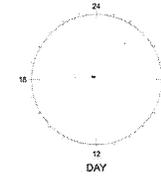
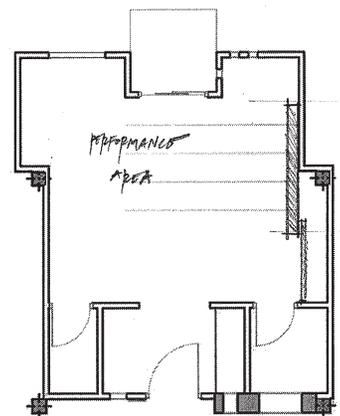
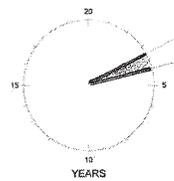
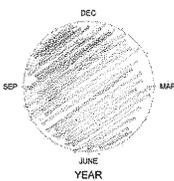
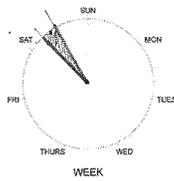
EXHIBITION/PERFORMANCE SPACE
(SATURDAY EVENINGS)



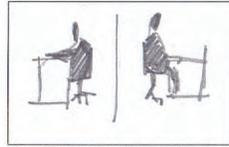
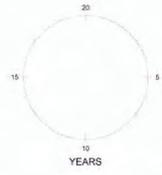
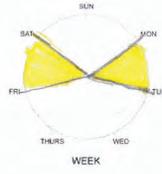
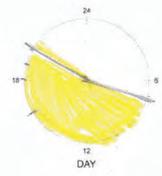
NAME: ANTHONY HARRIS



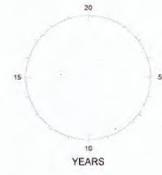
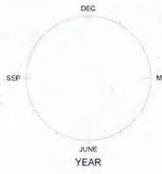
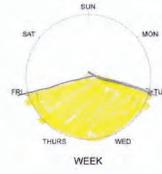
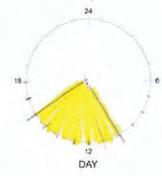
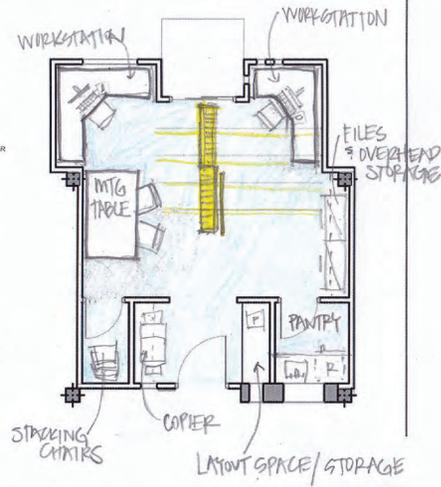
EXHIBITION/PERFORMANCE/PARTY SPACE
(SATURDAY LATE NIGHT)



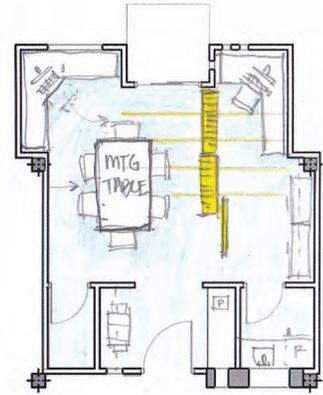
NAME: RAYYA



TWO OFFICES



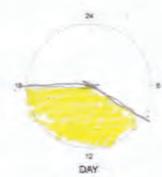
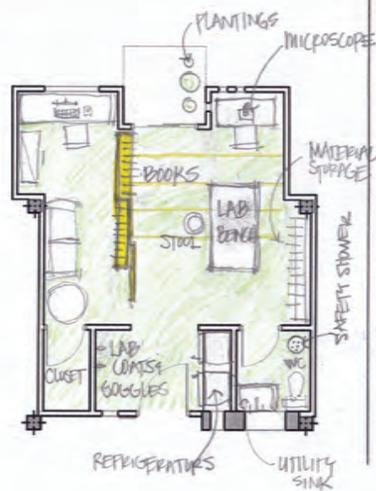
CONFERENCE ROOM/OFFICE



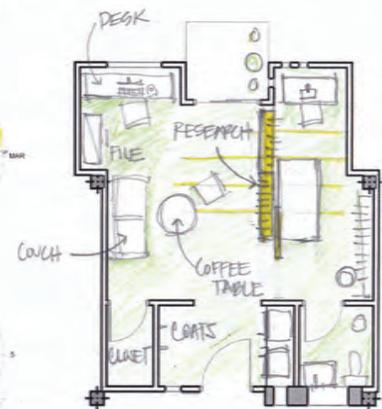
NAME: RAYYA



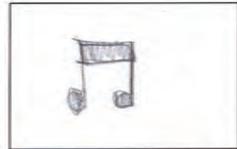
BOTANIST'S LABORATORY
TO PERFORM EXPERIMENT



BOTANIST'S OFFICE
TO RECORD EXPERIMENT



NAME: PASYA



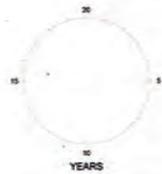
MUSIC LEARNING



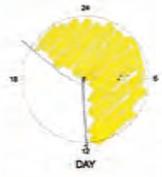
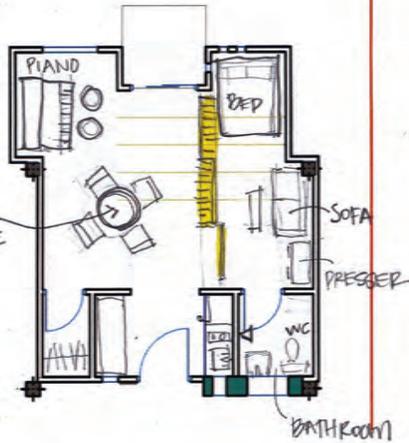
WEEK



YEAR



YEARS



APARTMENT



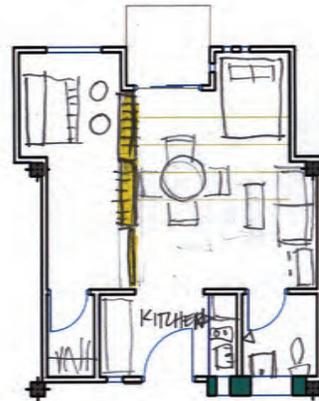
WEEK



YEAR



YEARS



NAME:



SHOE STORE



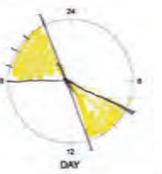
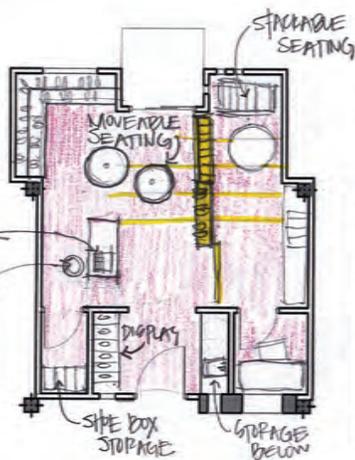
WEEK



YEAR



YEARS



COUNSELING



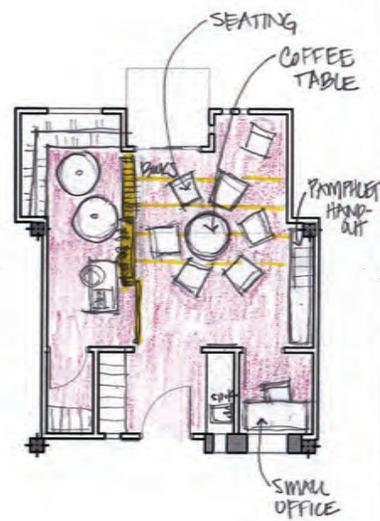
WEEK



YEAR



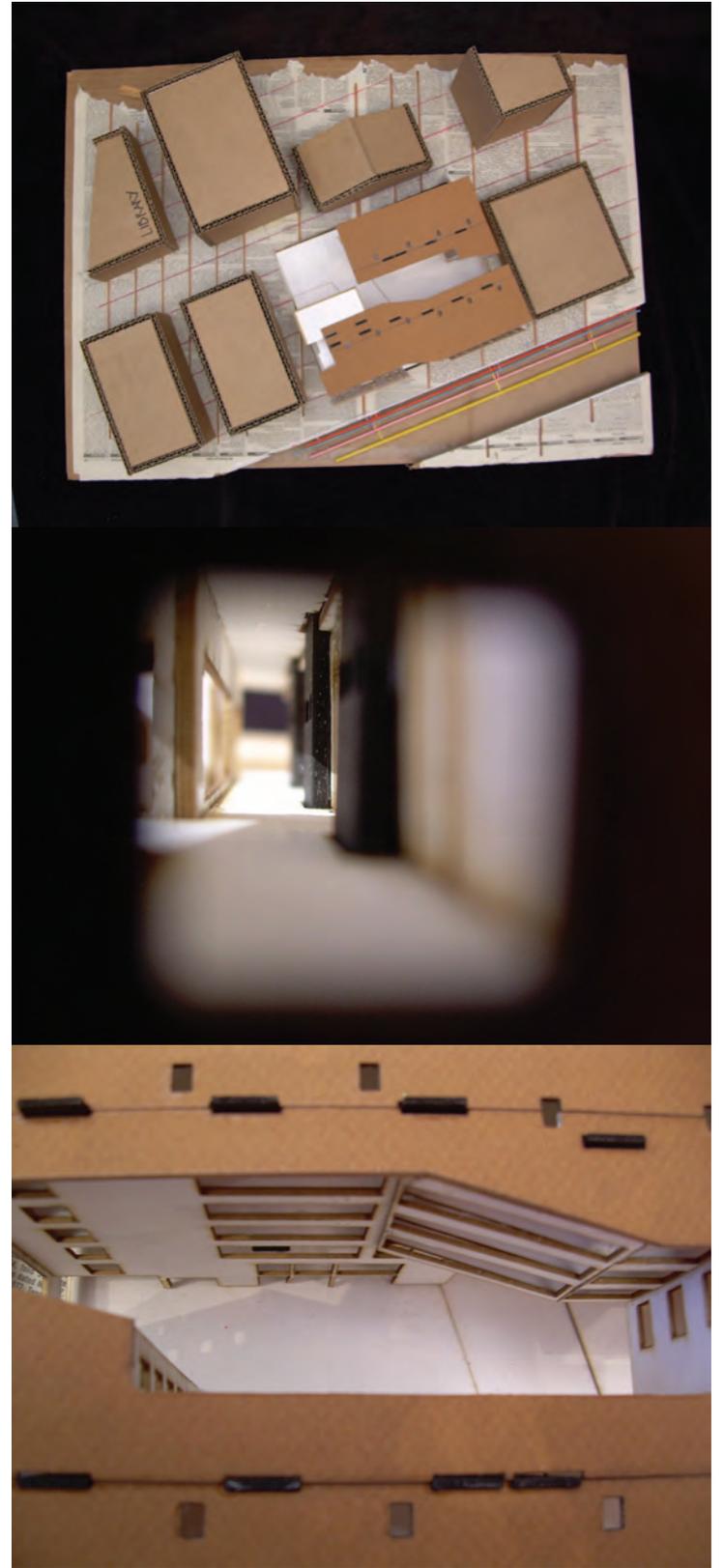
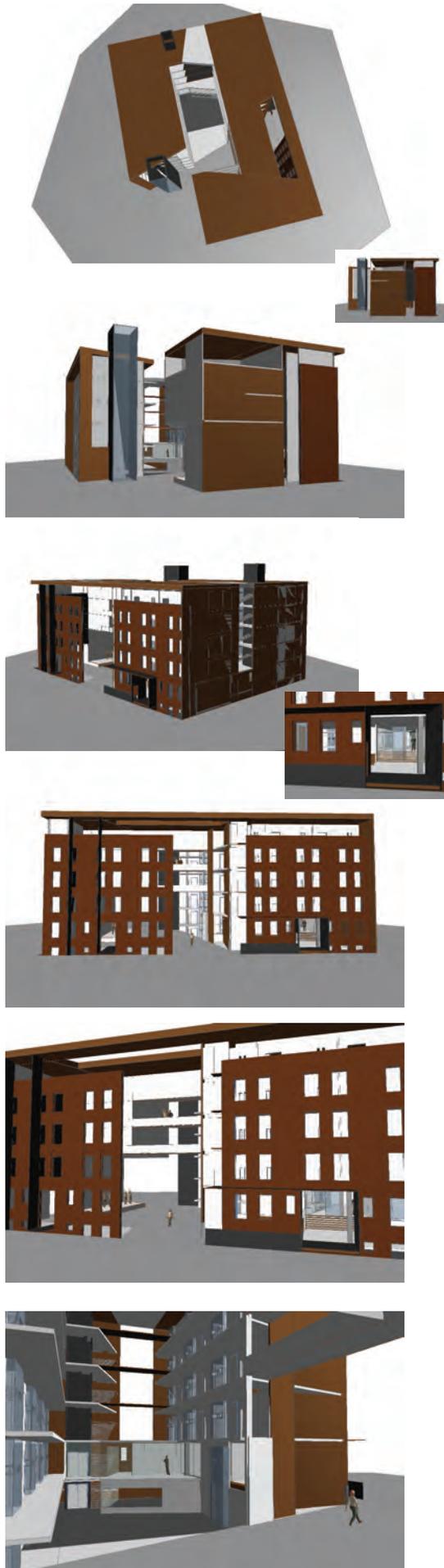
YEARS

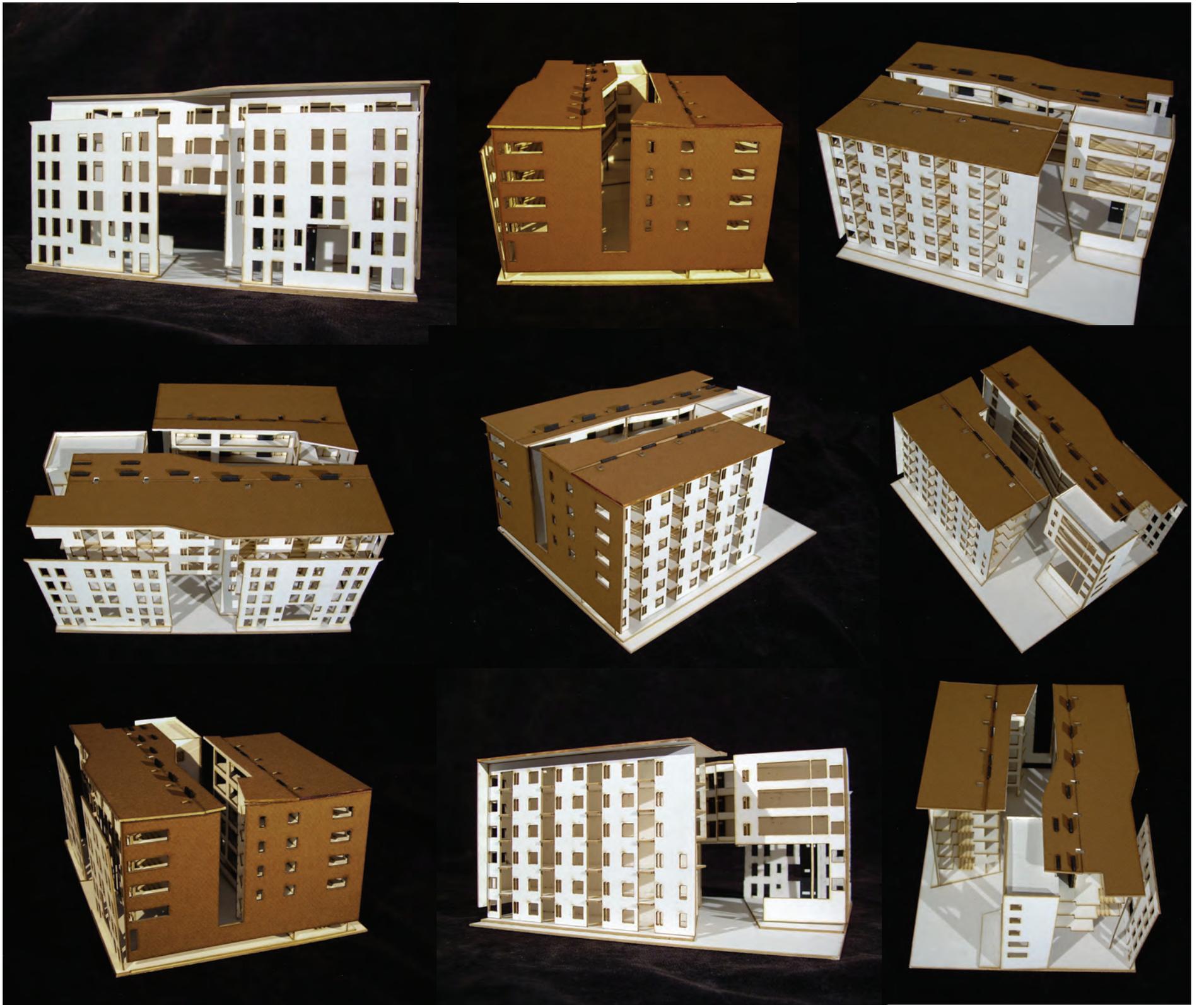


RENUITIMATE

MODEL DEVELOPMENT

Building forms were explored through 3D modeling and physical models. The path to library is a distinct entrance to building's public areas. More units are added to public side to keep the same density as previous Deauville apartments.

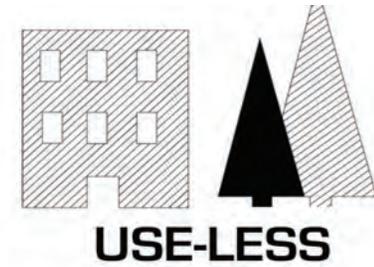
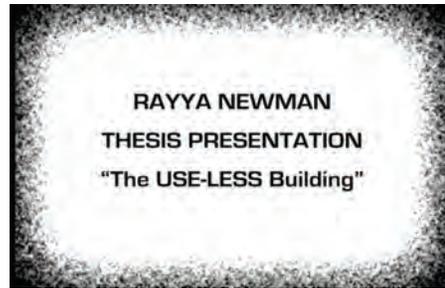




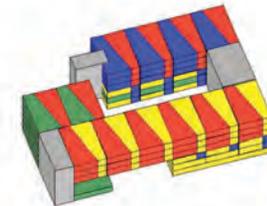
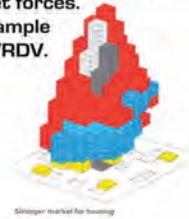
DEFENSE FILM

FILM

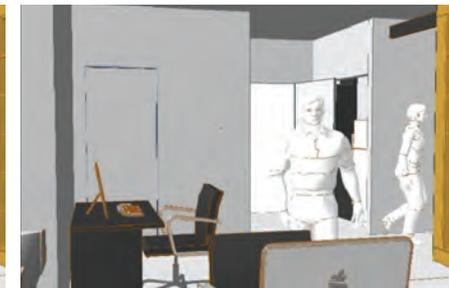
For the thesis defense a film with graphics, photographs, site video, and 3D model movies to explain project process and concepts, was presented. The three wall types are explored through this 4 Dimensional medium - Moving Wall, Wet Wall, and Existing Wall.
(Read from left to right)



A building's use changes according to market forces.
An example by MVRDV.



...or at the frequency of the user.



THE WET WALL

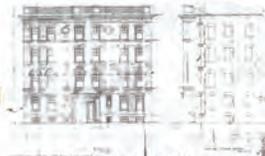


Historical Timeline of Mt. Pleasant, DC



1861 - Military Barracks

Historical Timeline of Mt. Pleasant, DC



1908 - Site's original building constructed

Historical Timeline of Mt. Pleasant, DC

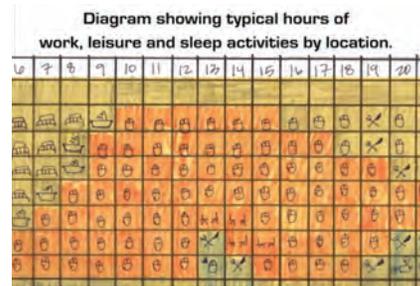
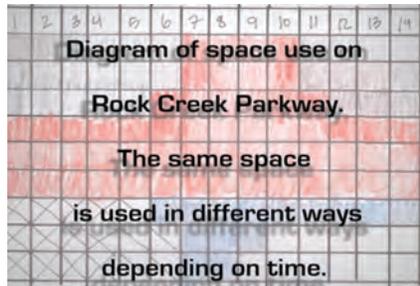


2008 - Fire destroys original building.





Our office buildings are empty half of the time.



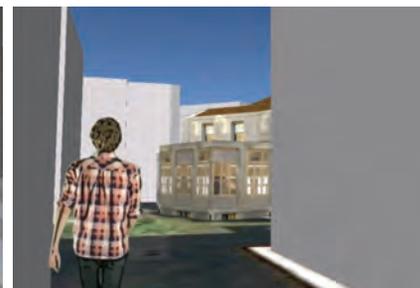
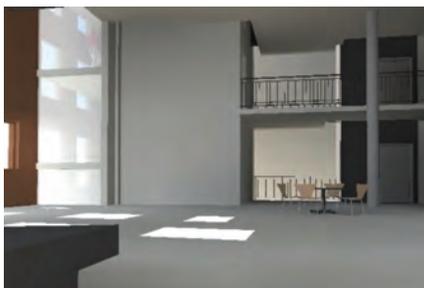
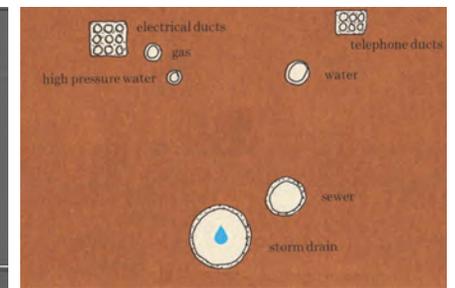
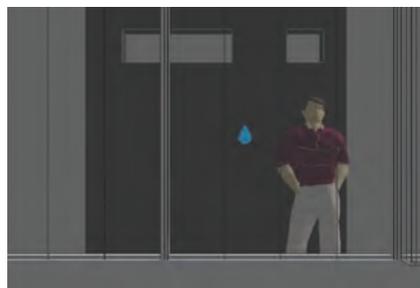
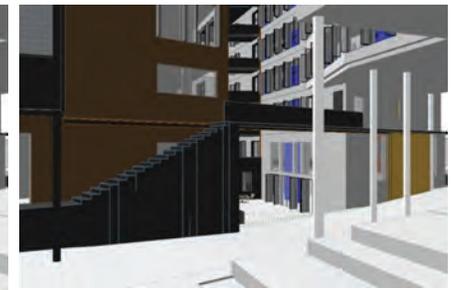
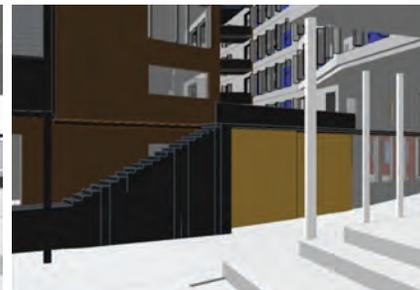
Thinking about buildings in this time-laden way is very practical. As a designer, you avoid such classic mistakes as solving a five-minute problem with a fifty year solution, or vice versa.

Frank Duffy

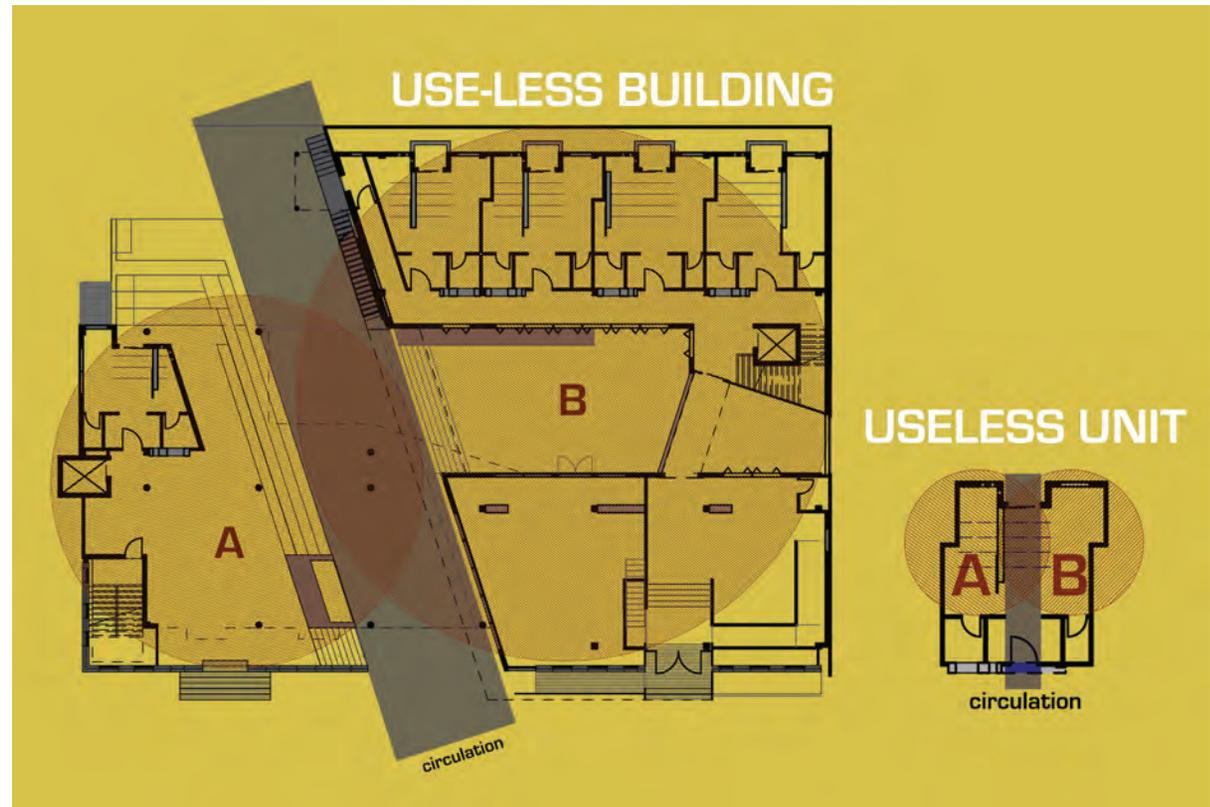


THE MOVING WALL

Slides past the entrance allowing the unit to be used in different ways, or even as two different units.



DEFENSE DRAWINGS

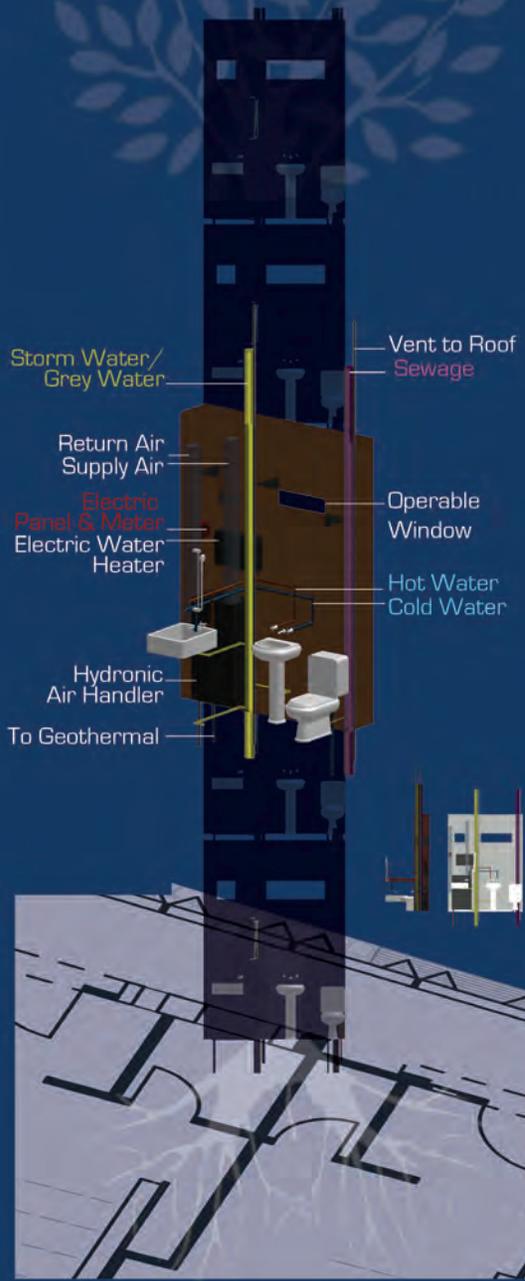


THESIS DEFENSE

A USE-LESS Building and a USE-LESS Unit are shown through interactive plans and sections. Collaged boards full of imagery explain the major concepts of the USE-LESS idea, the Moving Wall, Wet Wall, and Existing Wall.



WET WALL

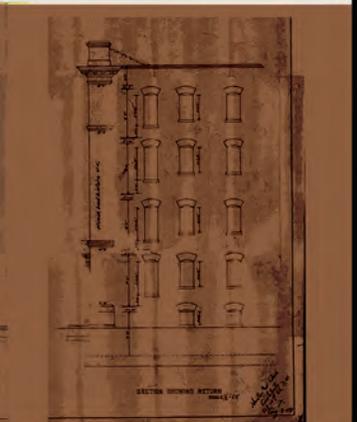
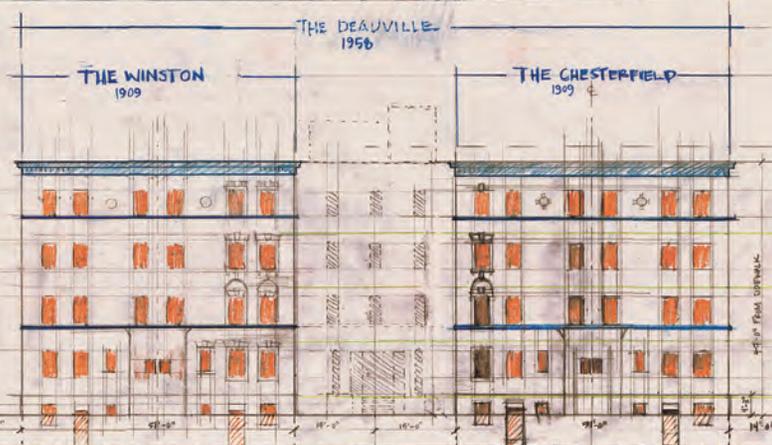


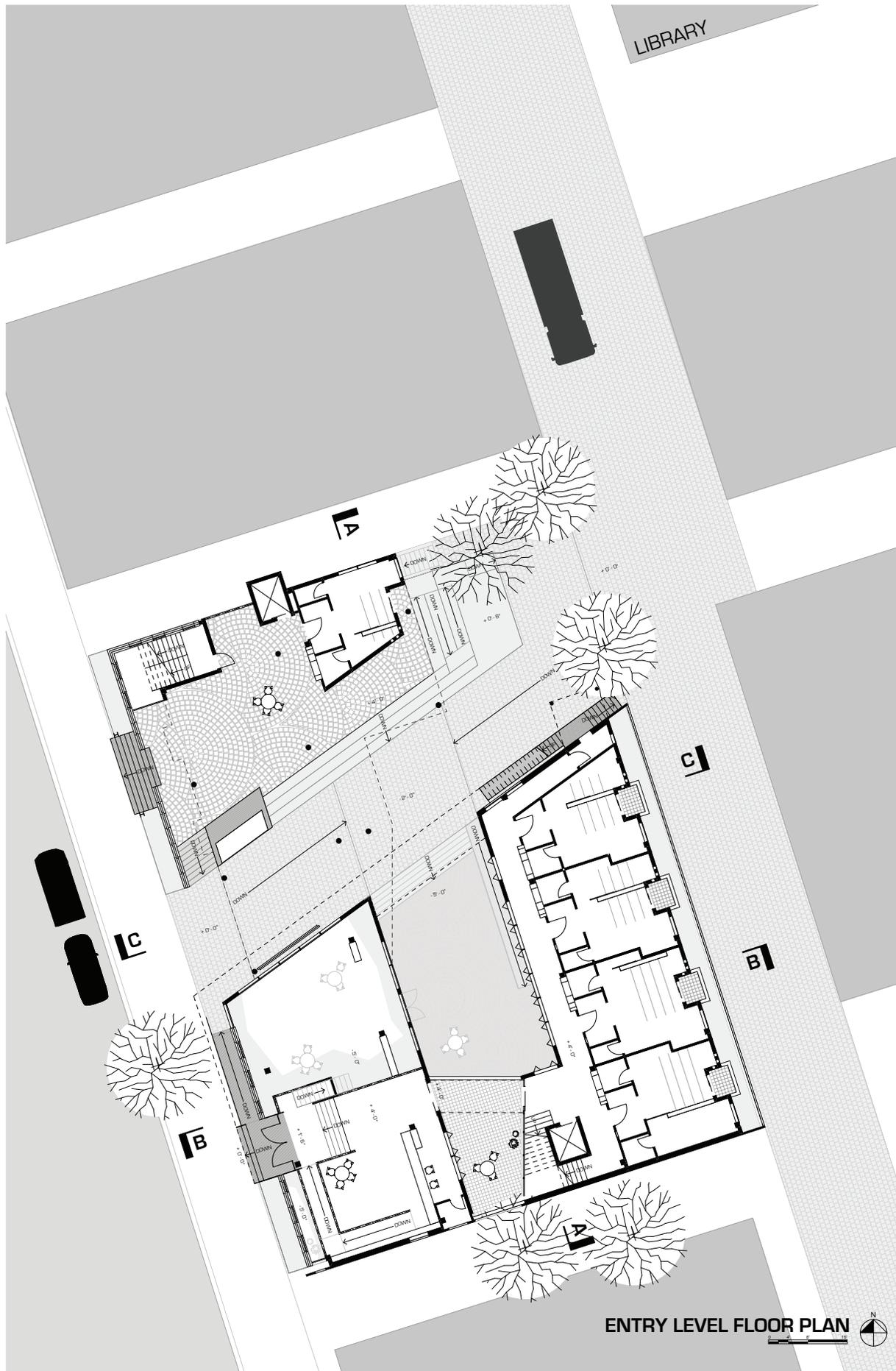
EXISTING WALL





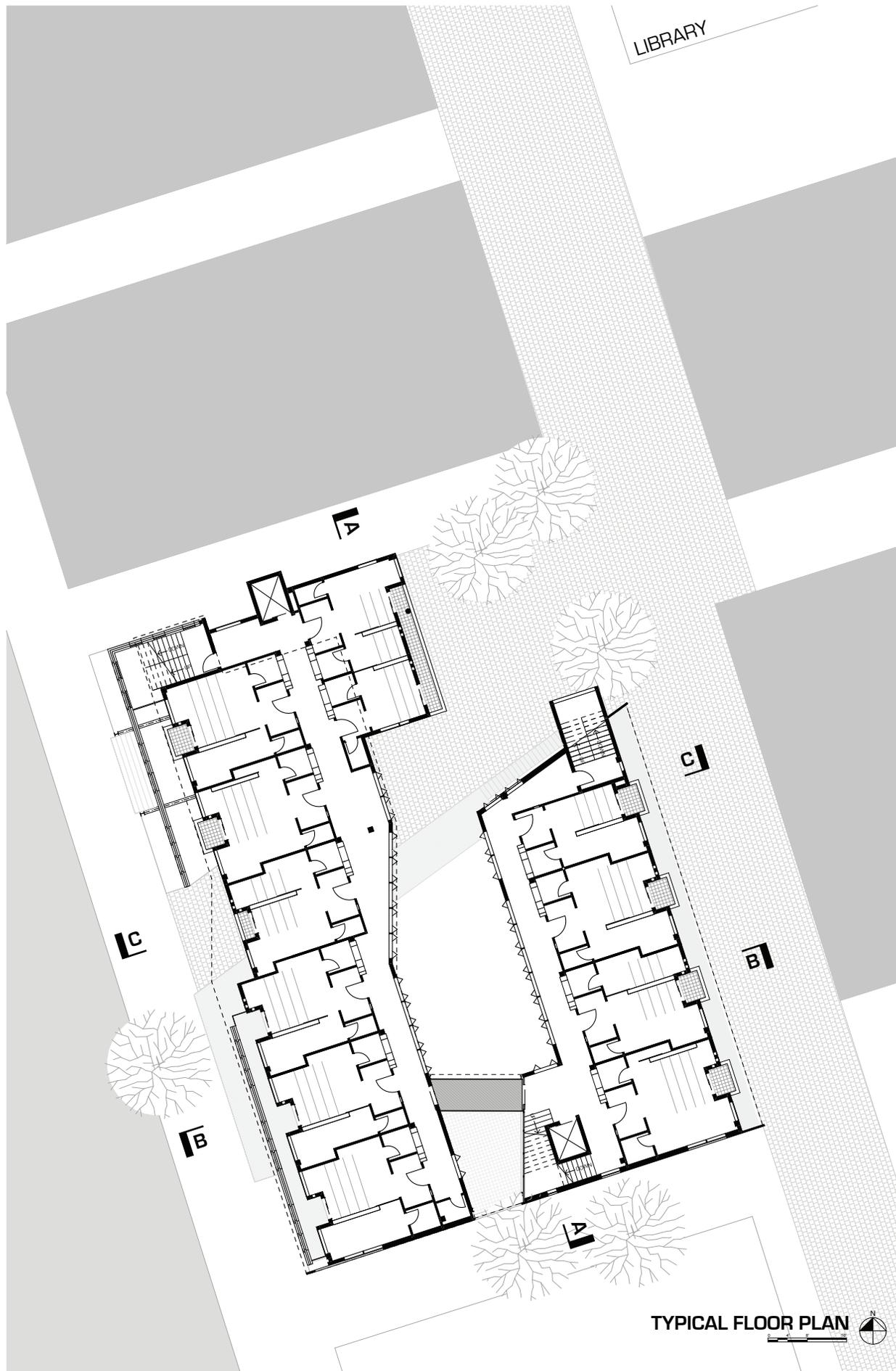
MOUNT PLEASANT STREET ELEVATION

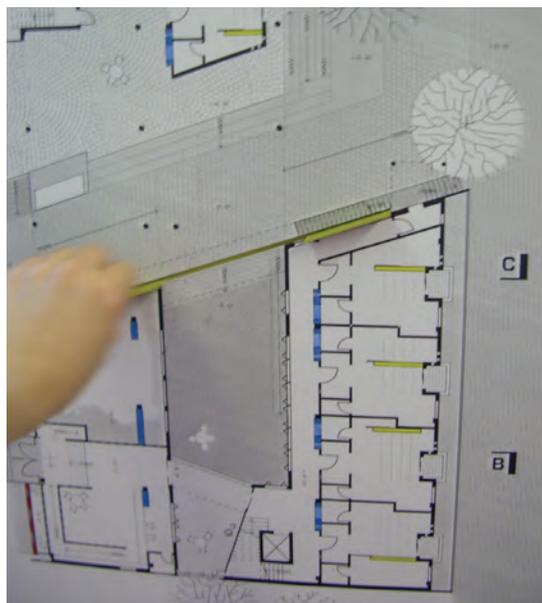
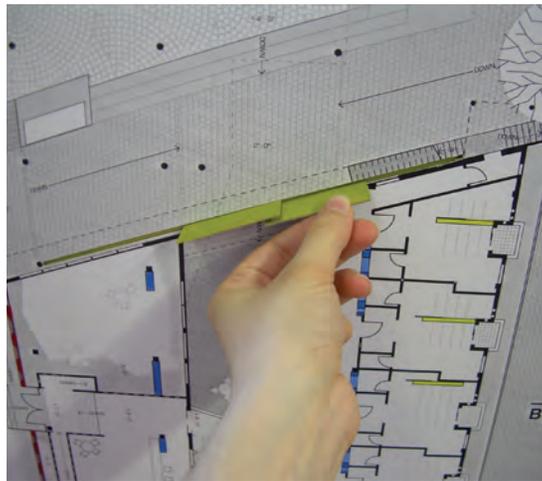
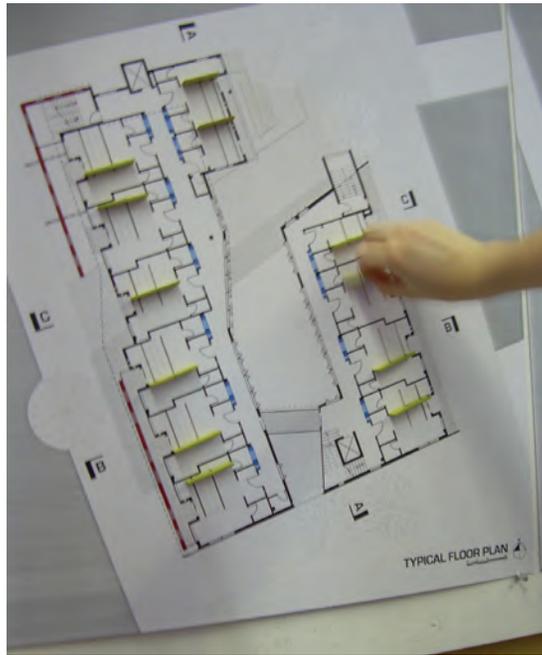




ENTRY LEVEL FLOOR PLAN

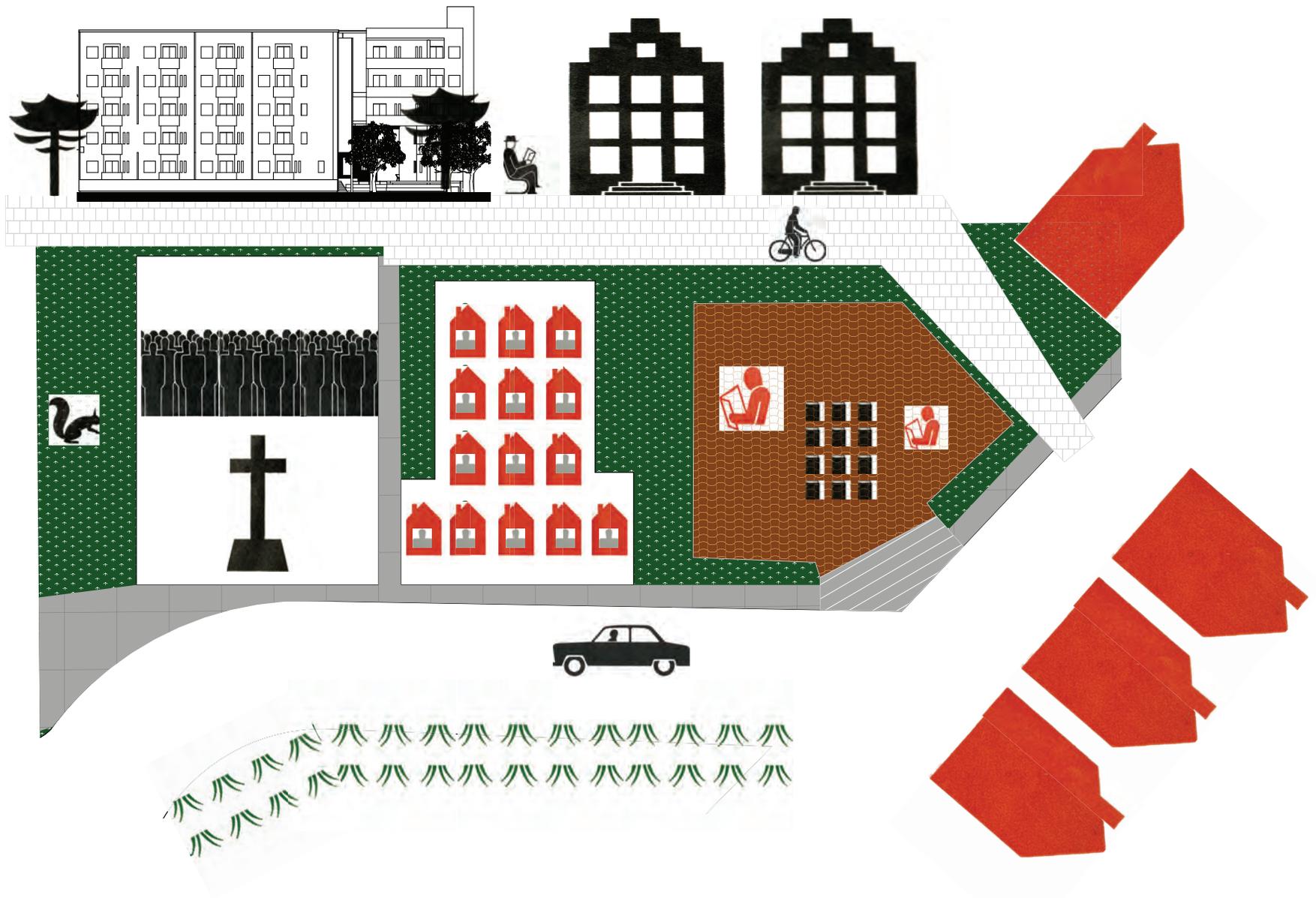
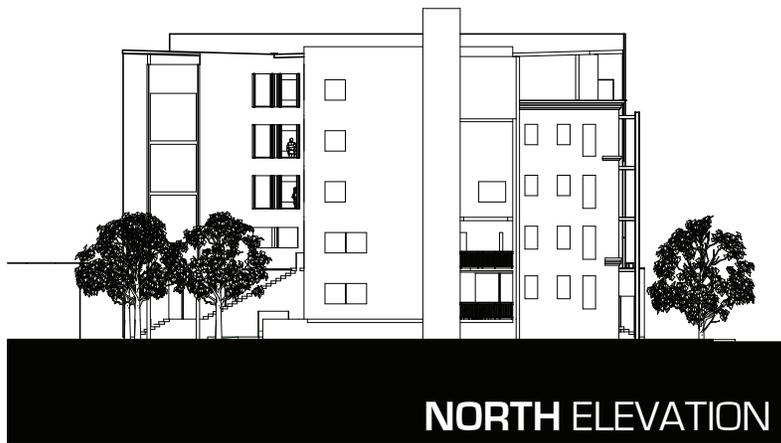






INTERACTIVE DRAWINGS

Thesis defense drawings had interactive pieces to engage the audience. The Typical Floor Plan had the unit Moving Wall slide back and forth to try out different unit options. The Section had a scale model of the unit with a Moving Wall as well. The Entry Level Floor Plan had the giant Moving gates that slid to close off the public and private sides of the building and showed how different locations could create different views into the courtyard.

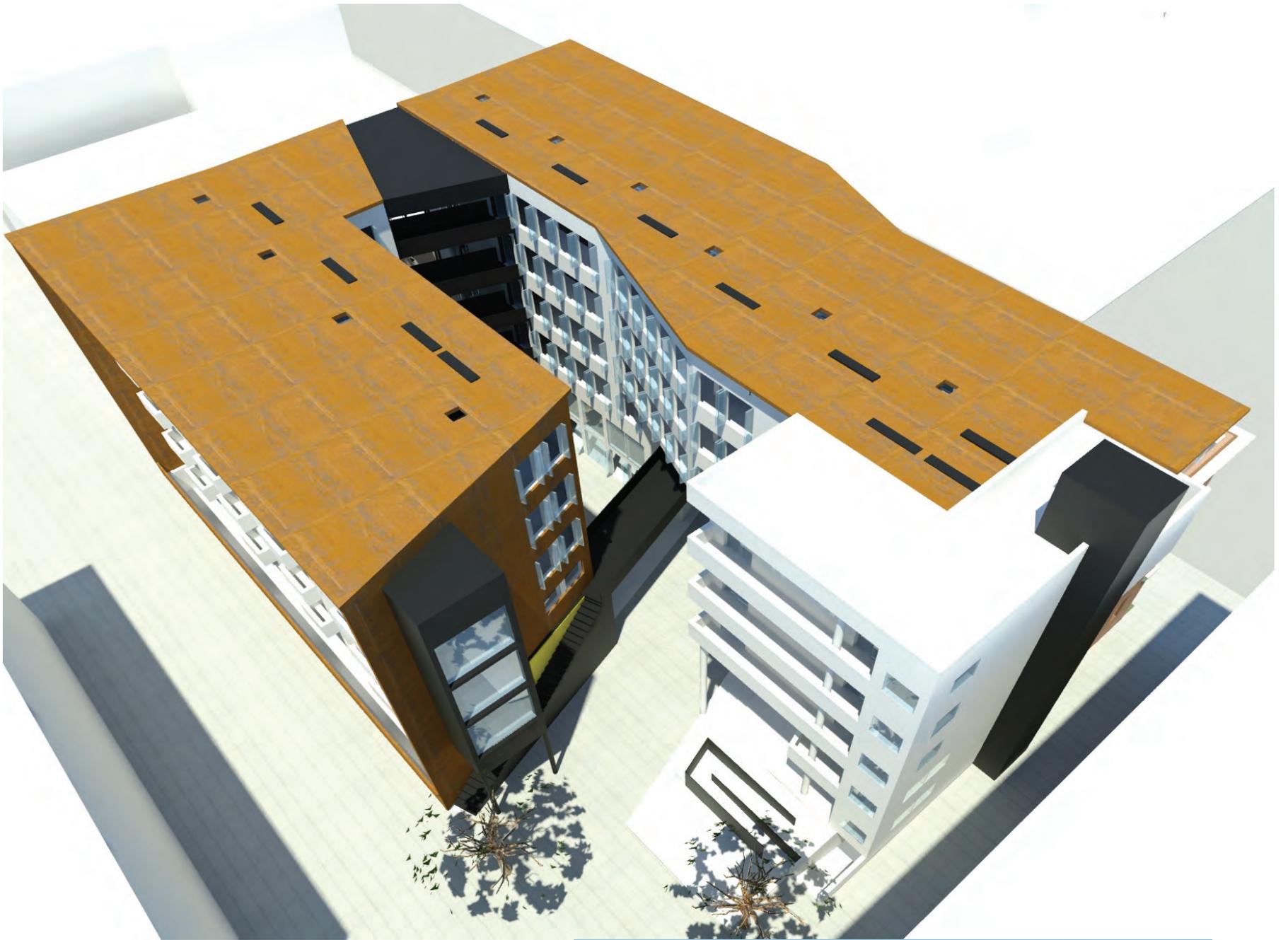




MODEL

These are 3D renderings of the USE-LESS Building. The close-up is a view from the main street entrance toward the Library.







IMAGES

- Figure 1. Buckminster Fuller Institute <www.bfi.org>
Figure 2. Image of Frank Duffy - google image search
Figure 3. Stewart Brand. How Buildings Learn.
Figure 4. Koji Yagi. Photographs by Ryo Hata. A Japanese Touch for Your Home.
Figure 5. Jennifer Leonard. Illustrations by Mark Weaver. Hurry Up and Wait. GOOD Winter 2010.
Figure 6. Robert Kronenburg. Flexible.
Figure 7. Robert Kronenburg. Flexible.
Figure 8. Olson Kundig Architects. <<http://www.olsonkundigarchitects.com/>>
Figure 9. Olson Kundig Architects. <<http://www.olsonkundigarchitects.com/>>
Figure 10. Bernard Khoury. <<http://www.bernardkhoury.com/>>
Figure 11. Live/Work/Home. Web. <<http://www.liveworkhome.com/>>
Figure 12. Live/Work/Home. Web. <<http://www.liveworkhome.com/>>
Figure 13. Live/Work/Home. Web. <<http://www.liveworkhome.com/>>
Figure 14. MVRDV. Web. <<http://www.mvrdv.nl/#/projects>>
Figure 15. MVRDV. Web. <<http://www.mvrdv.nl/#/projects>>
Figure 16. Otto Neurath. Modern Man in the Making.
Figure 17. Chart created from U.S. Census Bureau Daytime Population data 2000.
Figure 18. District of Columbia Office of Planning Existing Land Use Map.
Figure 19. Historic Mount Pleasant. <<http://www.historicmountpleasant.org/home.html>>
Figure 20. Image of Maison de Verre <<http://untappedparis.wordpress.com/2010/07/28/the-maison-de-verre-house-of-glass/>>
Figure 21. Image of Maison de Verre <<http://untappedparis.wordpress.com/2010/07/28/the-maison-de-verre-house-of-glass/>>
Figure 22. G.Z. Brown and Mark DeKay. Sun, Wind, & Light.

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