

# THE PAUSE

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*Re-Thinking Housing Through a Lens of Social Isoation and Loneliness*

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BY BHAVIKA LODHA

# THE PAUSE

*Re-Thinking Housing Through a Lens of Social Isoation and Loneliness*

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Thesis submitted to the faculty of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

**Master of Architecture**  
in  
**Architecture**

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**James R Jones, Chair**

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*Blacksburg, VA*

***Keywords: Urban streets, Loneliness, Interactions, Sense of Belonging,  
Community Engagement, Social Isolation***

# THE PAUSE

*Re-Thinking Housing Through a Lens of Social Isolation and Loneliness*

My thesis explores the profound impact of contemporary residential architecture on social interaction and a sense of belonging among dwellers. Based on personal experiences in the United States, a critical examination reveals a prevailing trend towards isolation within modern living spaces, fostering disconnection and loneliness. As an architect, I have tried to investigate the spatial and architectural barriers that hinder social cohesion, emphasizing the vital role of “pauses” in facilitating human interaction and community engagement within built environments.

Drawing inspiration from historical precedents and vibrant urban settings like the North End in Boston and plazas in Paris, this study advocates for a transformative approach to residential design. By integrating elements reminiscent of lively streets into vertical housing projects, the aim is to create opportunities for spontaneous human interactions. The research delves into specific examples, such as the Foxridge apartments in Blacksburg, to identify and address architectural deficiencies that inhibit verbal and non-verbal communication.

Through innovative design interventions and strategic placement of communal spaces, my thesis proposes a paradigm shift towards architecture that fosters community bonds and enriches daily life experiences. It underscores the inherent potential of architecture to bridge societal divides and counterbalance the pervasive trend towards digital engagement, promoting holistic well-being through meaningful human connections. Ultimately, my thesis advocates for a human-centric architectural ethos, envisioning spaces that not only accommodate but actively cultivate a sense of belonging and social connectivity.

ABSTRACT

BHAVIKA LODHA



# ABSTRACT (GENERAL AUDIENCE)

## THE PAUSE

*Re-Thinking Housing Through a Lens of Social Isoation and Loneliness*

As Frank Lloyd Wright has told, "We create our buildings and then they create us. Likewise we construct our circle of friends and our communities and then they construct us." Humans are social beings and we have an inert need for social connections and interactions with other humans and nature. We crave the warmth of human connection, the solace of shared laughter, and the embrace of understanding souls. Lack of social interactions and sense of belonging can lead to social isolation and loneliness, and can have really detrimental effects on one's physical and mental health and also on a society as a whole.

As Patricia Churchland says, "We long to belong, and belonging and caring anchors our sense of place in the universe." Architecture of the community has the potential or obligation to create a sense of community and belonging by providing opportunities for human interactions, celebrating gathering spaces and visual communication within the community.

In the midst of the urban sprawl, the need for community is palpable, like a silent cry echoing through the concrete jungle. With the more vertical the residential units get the social interactions are almost completely lost as it is only double loaded corridors with houses on either sides with uncomfortable, awkward to almost zero human interactions. Even in vertical living we need to keep in mind that those beautiful views from the 12th floor have no value if you are still feeling socially isolated.

My thesis focuses on tackling loneliness through the Built Environment and understanding what are the architecture barriers of social interaction. Through my thesis I have explored different strategies developed through my research to foster the sense of community and belonging. I am exploring these ideas in the context of Washington D.C. which is claimed to be one of the loneliest cities in the United States.

BHAVIKA LODHA

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am eternally grateful to Mummy Papa and Yash for being my constant support, immediate presence even in the midnights and for being my major source of encouragement throughout this journey. Mummy you have been my role- model and the strongest fighter I have ever seen and I hope to be like you someday.

To Tharun Bhalaji for being my constant support throughout, and helping me through few of the hardest times in my life. I really am thankful for all the your encouragement in my work and critique.

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To Jim,

For igniting my passion for Architecture and very insightful and though- provoking discussions which helped me explore more creative solutions.

To Aki,

For her critical feedback which helped me identify critical elements of my design and and her encouragement and belief in my abilities.

To Andrew,

For being so approachable and very critical insight in research which gave me great clarity in my thesis journey and his constant encouragement and belief in my abilities.

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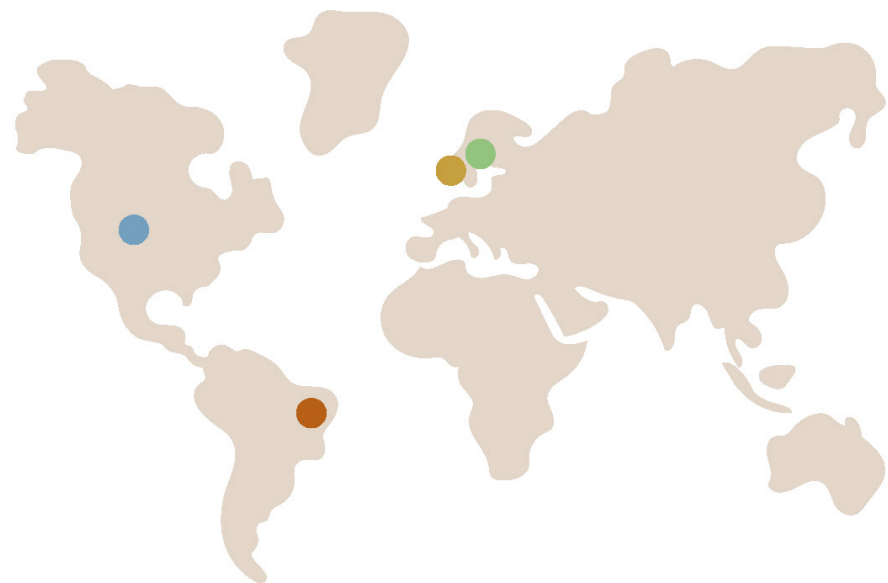
# INTRODUCTION EPIDEMIC OF SOCIAL ISOLATION & LONELINESS

U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy has highlighted the severe and widespread impact of loneliness and social isolation, describing it as an “under appreciated public health crisis.” In his advisory titled “Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation,” Dr. Murthy emphasizes that lacking social connections has significant consequences for both physical and mental health, contributing to increased risks of heart disease, stroke, dementia, depression, and anxiety (HHS.gov) (YSOM).

Murthy draws attention to the fact that loneliness is as detrimental to health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day, increasing the risk of premature death by 60% (Weill Cornell Medicine). The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these issues, amplifying the trends of social disconnection through enforced isolation and a shift towards more online interactions, which often lack the depth of face-to-face connections (Weill Cornell Medicine).

Source: <https://weillcornell.org/news/america%E2%80%99s-loneliness-epidemic-what-is-to-be-done>

## THE MAP OF LONELINESS



- **USA**  
48% of the entire population usually feel lonely
- **UK**  
60% of 18-34 year-old people often feel lonely
- **SWEDEN**  
51 % of the entire population usually feel lonely
- **BRAZIL**  
30% of the entire population usually feel lonely

FIGURE 1: MAP OF LONELINESS IN THE WORLD  
SOURCE: <https://slidesgo.com/theme/emotional-loneliness-first-aid>

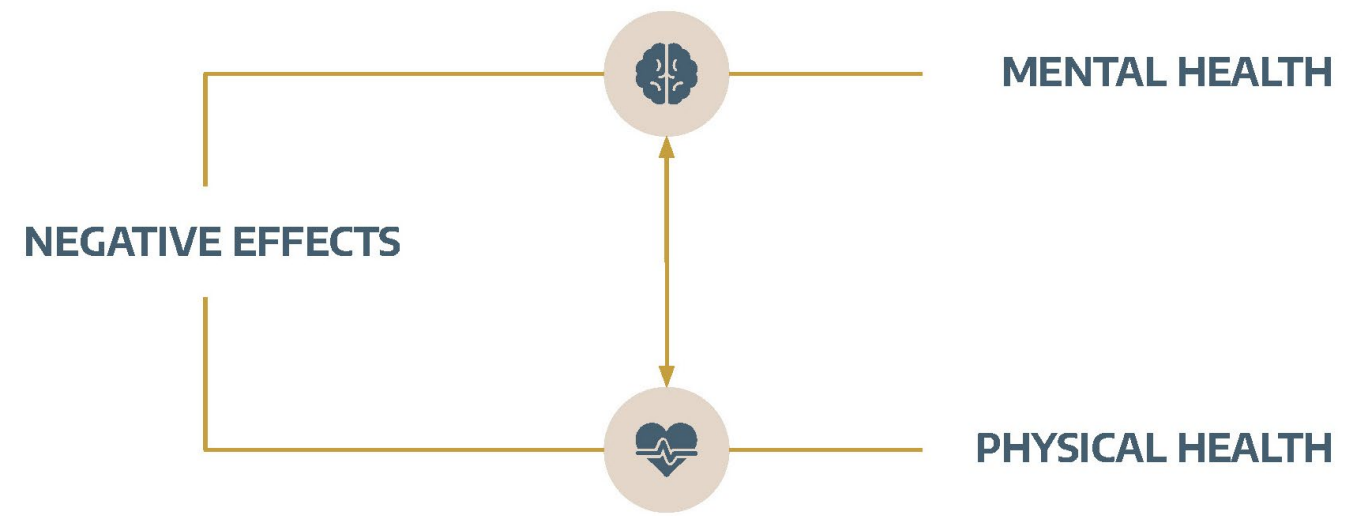


FIGURE 2: NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF LONELINESS  
SOURCE: <https://slidesgo.com/theme/emotional-loneliness-first-aid>

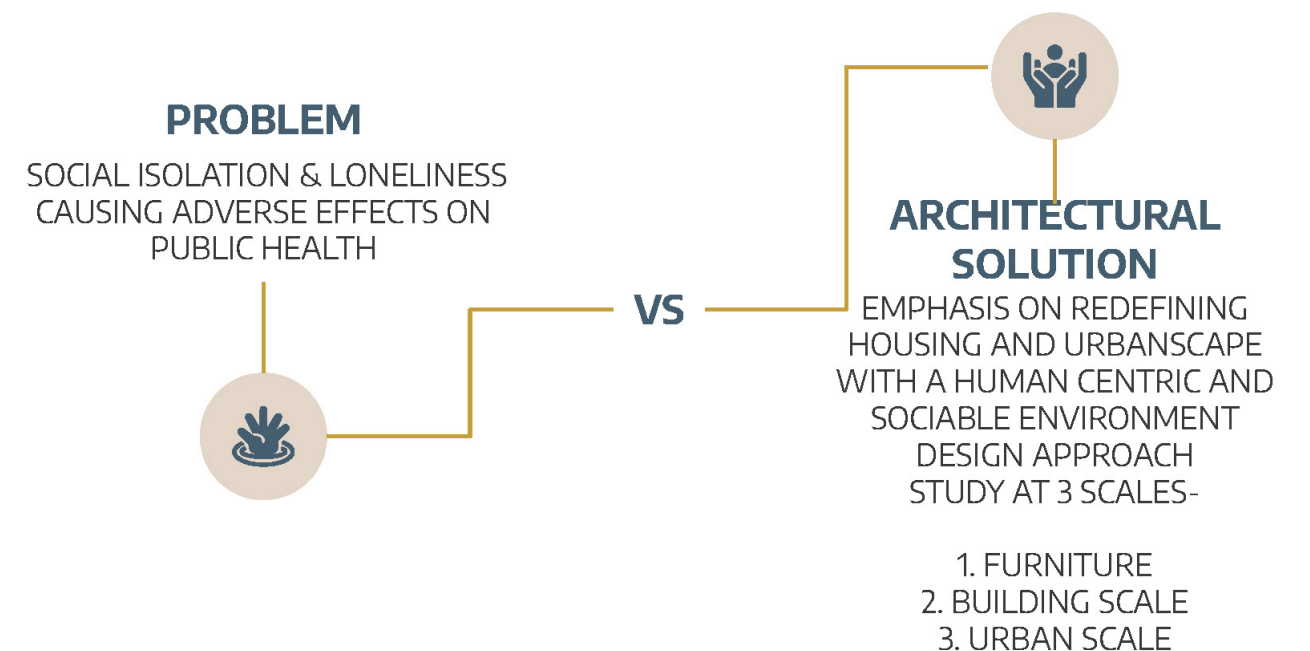


FIGURE 3: PROBLEM VS THE ARCHITECTURAL SOLUTION APPROACH

# EPIDEMIC OF SOCIAL ISOLATION & LONELINESS



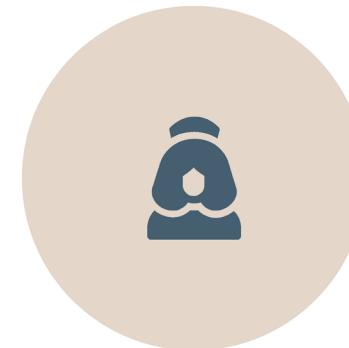
## PREMATURE DEATH

Loneliness increases the risk of premature death



## UNHEALTHY

Loneliness has the impact as smoking 15 cigs/day



## ANXIETY/ DEPRESSION

Increased rate of Anxiety/ Depression and Suicidal rates



## UNHAPPINESS

1 in 3 Americans over 45 are chronically lonely

**1/3**

FIGURE 4: DIAGRAM SHOWING HARMFUL EFFECTS OF SOCIAL ISOLATION AND LONELINESS

# HARMFUL EFFECTS OF SOCIAL ISOLATION & LONELINESS

# STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

## SKETCHES & ANALYSIS

### FOX RIDGE APARTMENTS, BLACKSBURG

My research started with a realization while living in Fox Ridge Apartments, Blacksburg, constructed by the developer William P. Kanto Jr. In Blacksburg where I lived for about one and half years. The huge lawns of grass with no benches, windows and balconies looking into abandoned parking lots and unwelcoming corridors and inactive spaces in spite of abundant open spaces intrigued me to study the Architectural barriers of social interaction in this place. I felt that these spaces lacked a sense of belonging and lead to a robotic, impersonal way of going about my daily life.

I have studied this project in the form of sketches at 3 scalescommunity, building and furniture scale

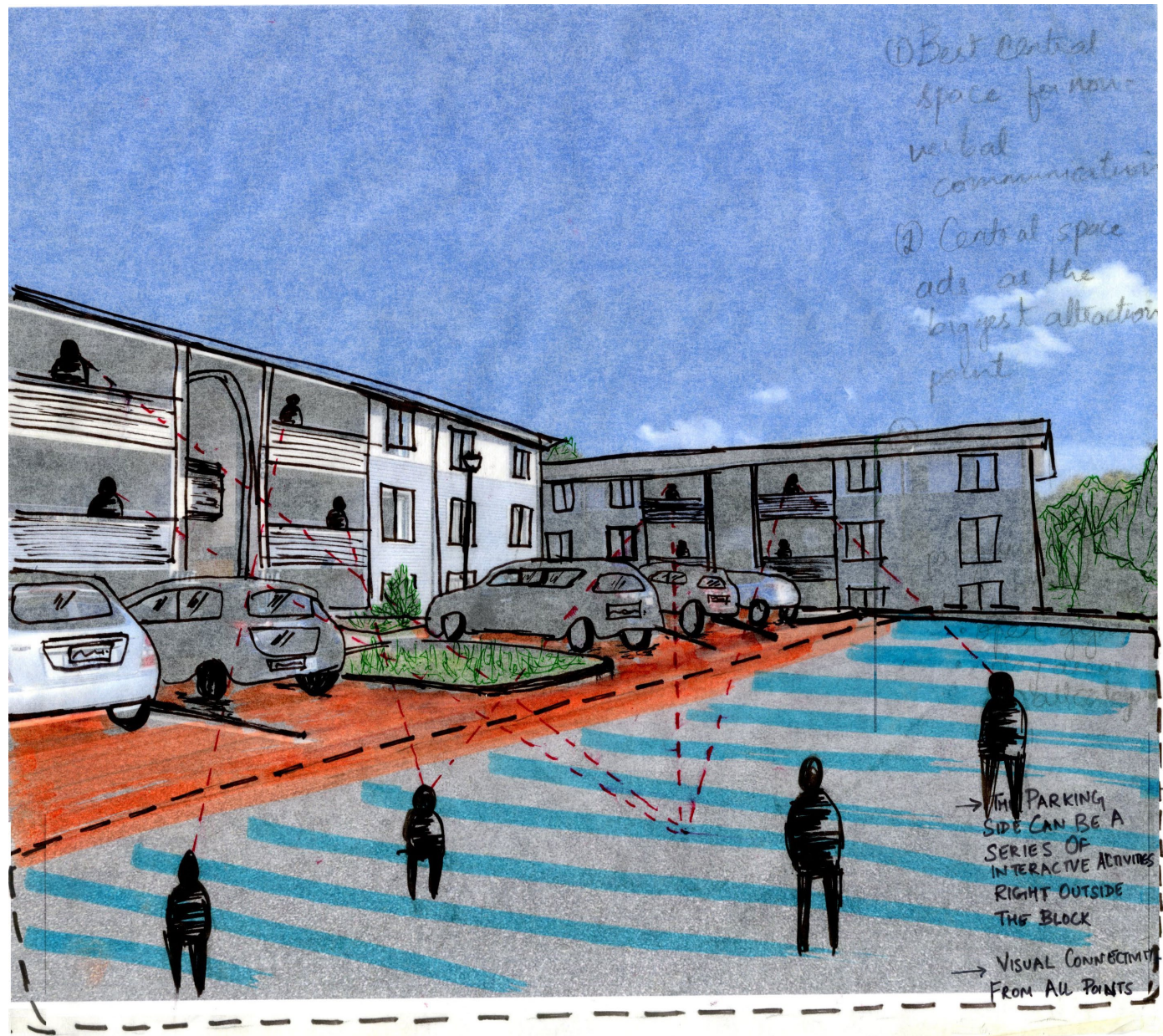


FIGURE 5: SKETCH ANALYZING THE POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND VISUAL CONNECTIVITY

The above sketch analyzes how the central highlighted space in blue has the potential opportunity to become the magnet for the community by promoting visual communication. Here all of the balconies look into the central space which can be the place where people can gather to engage in recreational activities like a sport or have outdoor seating for people to sit and watch or talk, instead of only a driveway which could be moved to the backside of these houses units



FIGURE 6: SKETCH SHOWING THE DOUBLE LOADED EMPTY AND INACTIVE DRIVEWAYS WITH ZERO SEATING

The sketch is used to question:

WHY NOT USE THESE KIND OF COMMUNITY STREETS AS STREETS OF CELEBRATION????

These streets can be used for various amenities and activities for the community where people can gather and interact instead of the typical double loaded driveway and parking.



FIGURE 7: SKETCH SHOWING THE SWIFT MOVEMENT FROM POINT 1-2-3 WITHOUT A SENSE OF PAUSE TO INTERACT WITH PEOPLE OR SURROUNDINGS AND EMPTY LANDSCAPES WITH NO SEATING



FIGURE 8: SKETCH ANALYZING THE LACK OF A NODE FOR THE NEIGHBORS TO STOP AND INTERACT WITH THEIR NEIGHBOR

The sketches highlight the lack of a place of pause in the architectural layering of the movement of the people in the community. The lack of a node contributes to a robotic and impersonal way of going about our daily lives. Without the pause these places lack a sense of belonging. Not having a space to be able to sit and talk in the narrow corridors restricts opportunities for people to stop and spontaneously interact with their neighbors.



FIGURE 9: SKETCH SHOWS HOW DURING THE DAY THE FACADE CONDITIONS LEAD TO COMPLETELY INACTIVE AND DULL OUTDOOR CONDITIONS THROUGHOUT THE DAY



FIGURE 11: SKETCH ANALYZING THE UNDER-UTILIZED KID'S PLAY AREA DUE TO LACK OF ANY PROVISION FOR PARENTS AND PEOPLE TO GATHER AROUND WHICH CAN CREATE A SENSE OF SAFETY FOR THE CHILDREN WHILE THEY PLAY



FIGURE 10: SKETCH SHOWS A PATH OF LANDSCAPE WITHOUT PROVISIONS SUCH A BENCH FOR PEOPLE TO TAKE A PAUSE AND ENJOY THE SPACES LEADING TO INACTIVE AND UNDERUTILIZED PATHWAYS

The sketches show how in different settings in spite of the large lawns and beautiful kids play areas communal spaces are underutilized and have been neglected by the community

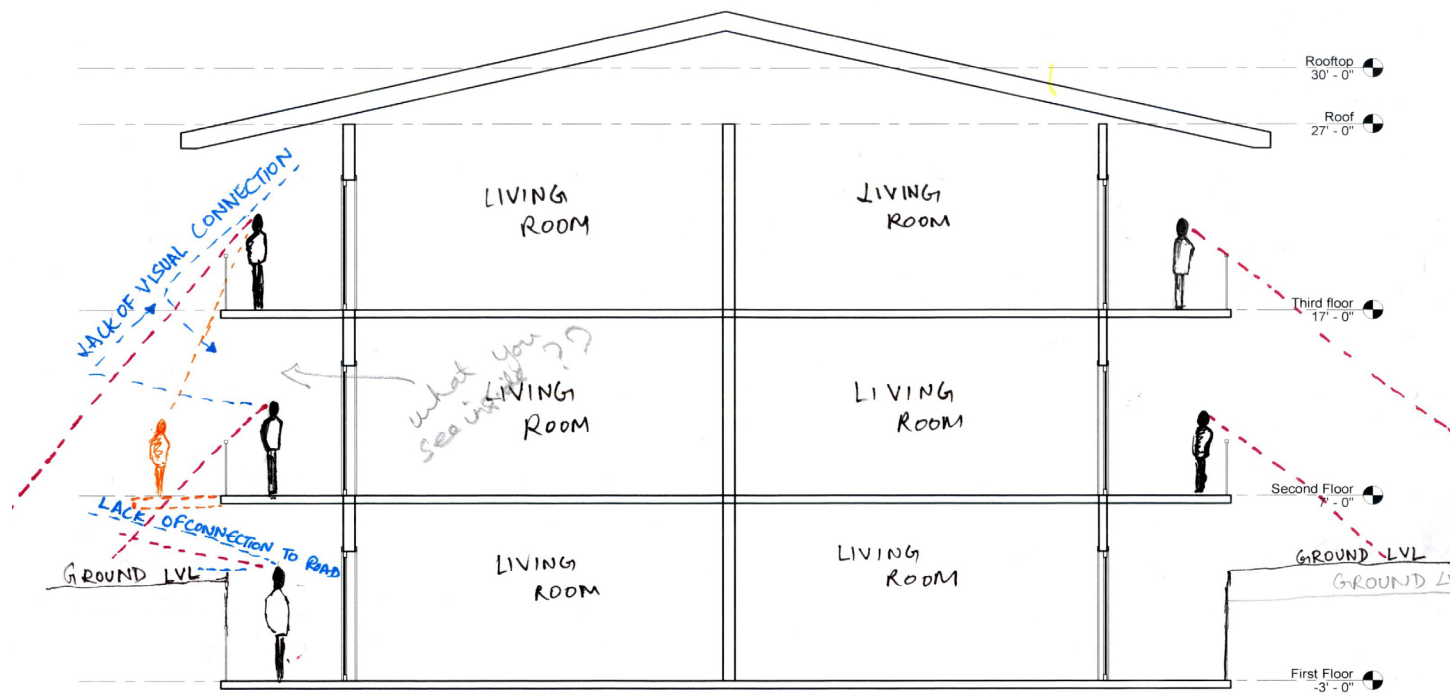


FIGURE 12: SECTION OF A MULTI- FAMILY RESIDENTIAL UNIT SHOWING SIGHT LINES WHICH ONLY LOOK AT EMPTY DRIVEWAYS AND PARKING

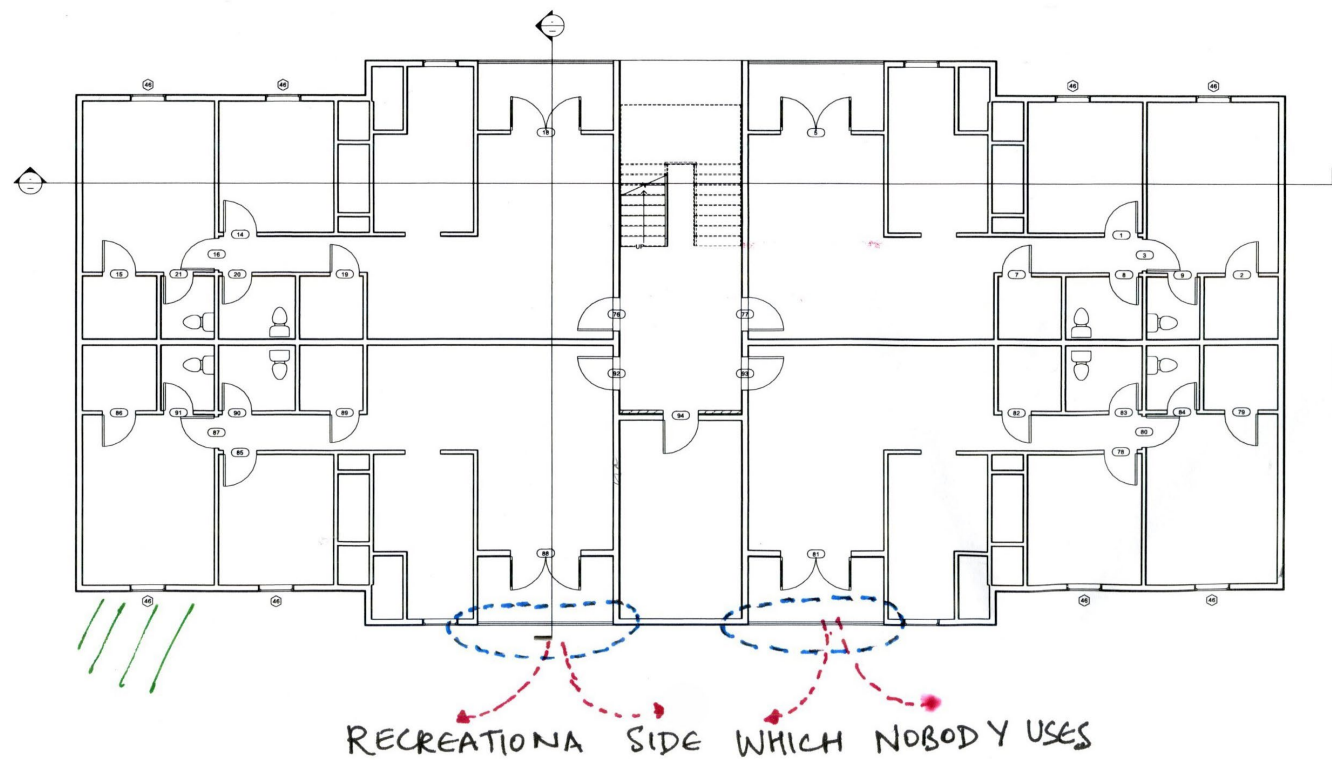


FIGURE 13: FLOOR PLAN OF A MULTI- FAMILY RESIDENTIAL UNIT

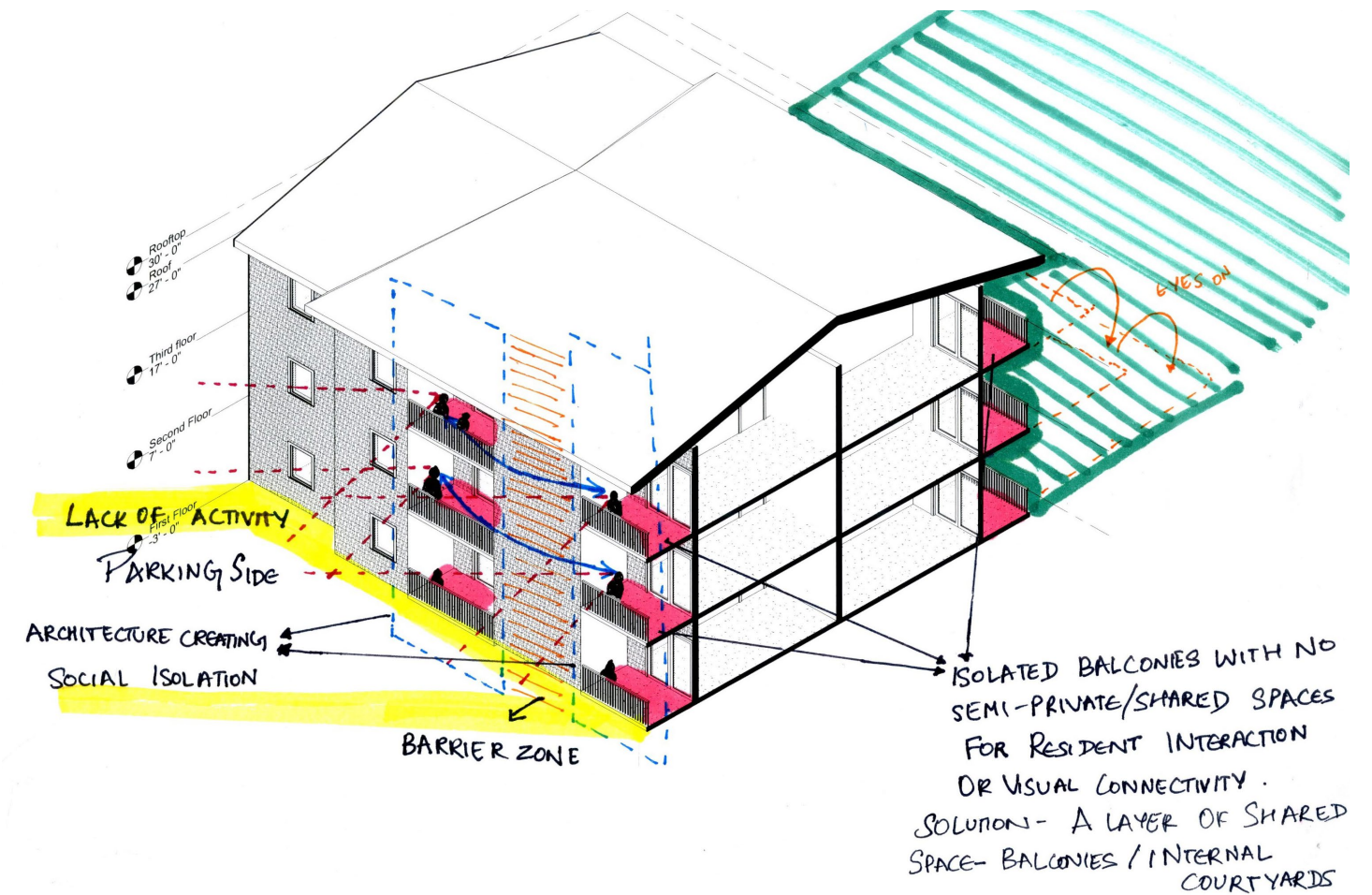


FIGURE 14: SECTIONAL PERSPECTIVE OF A MULTI- FAMILY RESIDENTIAL UNIT HIGHLIGHTING THE ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS LEADING TO SOCIAL ISOLATION



FIGURE 15: SKETCH SHOWING THE GREEN AND EMPTY HUGE BACKYARD LAWN AREAS

# STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

## SKETCHES & ANALYSIS

### MAIN STREET, BLACKSBURG

Main street in Blacksburg, the North End in Boston and plaza spaces in Paris were interesting studies to help understand what contributes to the liveliness and energy of a street and how some street features can help communities come together



FIGURE 16: SKETCH STUDYING THE HORIZONTAL LAYERING OF THE MAIN STREET

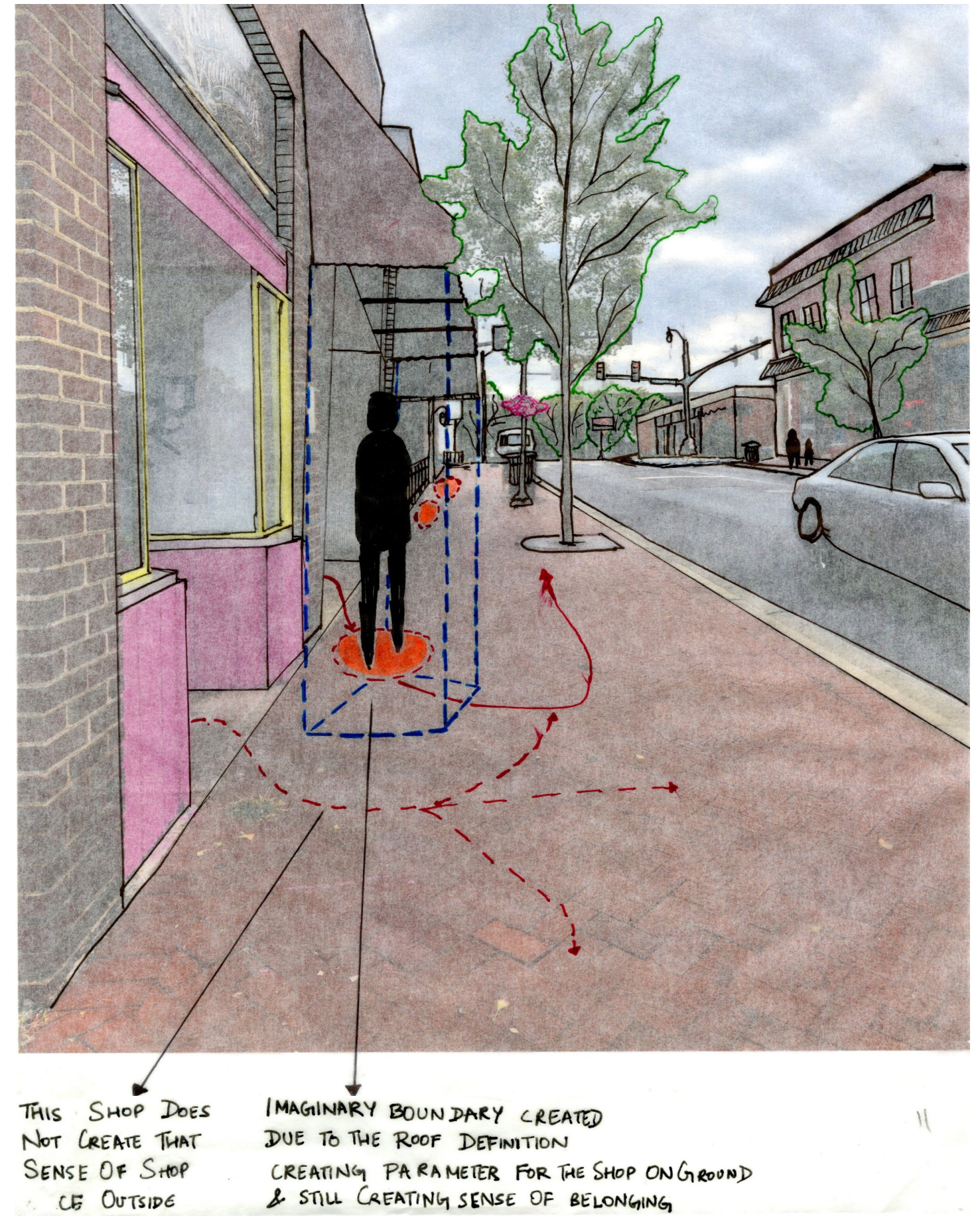


FIGURE 17: SKETCH ANALYZING SIMPLE CANOPIES DEMARCATES IMAGINARY 3- DIMENSIONAL SENSE OF PLACE WHERE IT STILL FEELS LIKE A PART OF THE SHOP

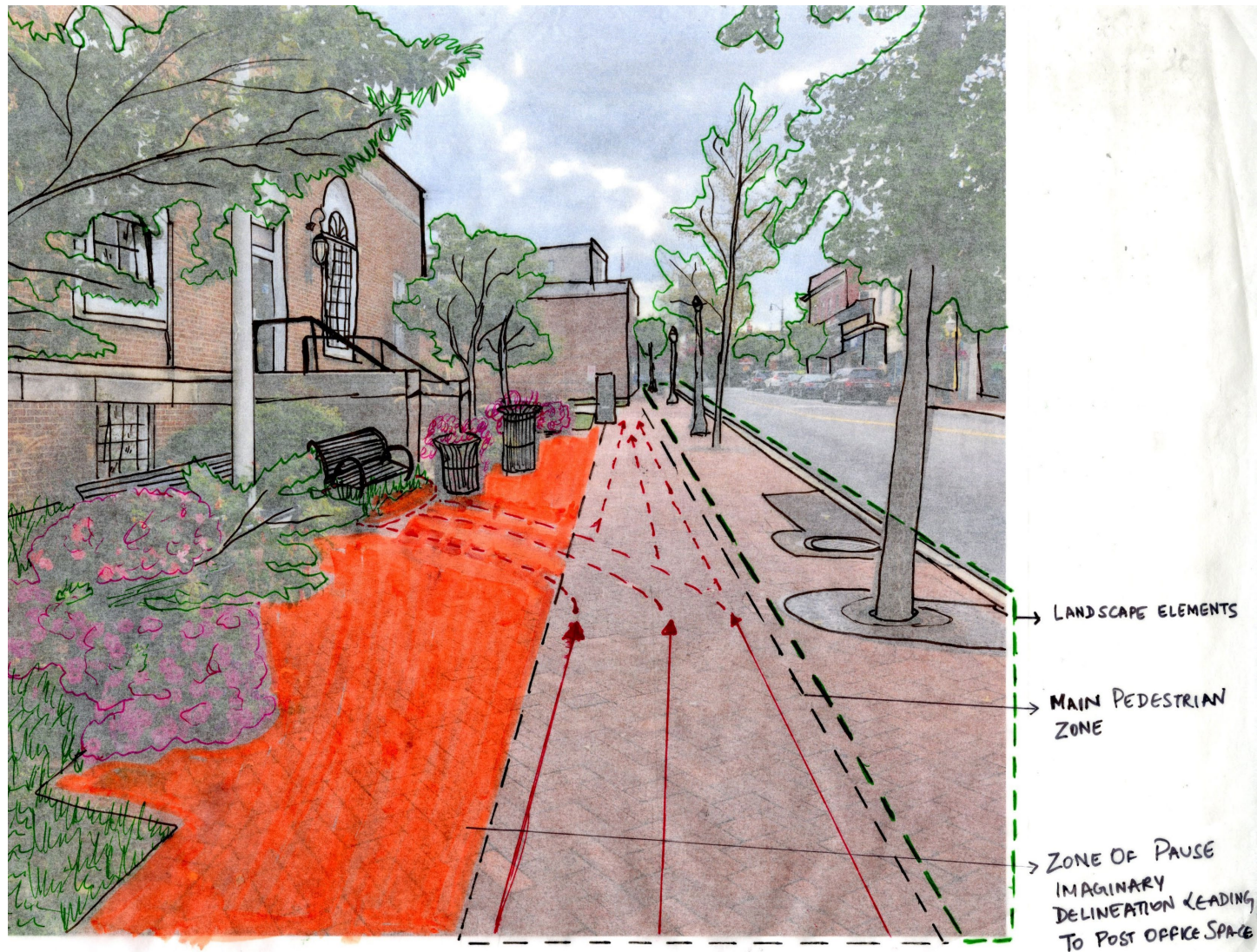


FIGURE 18: SKETCH ANALYZING THE USE OF DIFFERENT MATERIALS TO SOFTEN THE STREET. A BENCH IS USED TO DEMARCATATE A DIFFERENT LAYER ALONG THE MAIN STREET WHILE PROVIDING A PLACE OF PAUSE WHICH WAS LACKING IN THE FOX RIDGE APARTMENTS

FIGURE 19: SKETCH SHOWING THE VARIOUS ZONES IN MAIN STREET



**STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT**

*CASE STUDY ANALYSIS*



SOURCE: <https://www.archdaily.com/83307/8-house-big>

FIGURE 20



SOURCE: <https://www.archdaily.com/83307/8-house-big>

FIGURE 21



PROJECT NAME: 8 HOUSE  
LOCATION: COPENHAGEN  
PROJECT ARCHITECT: BJARKE INGELS GROUP

FIGURE 23: CASE STUDY VIEWS

SOURCE: <https://www.archdaily.com/83307/8-house-big>



FIGURE 22

SOURCE: <https://www.designboom.com/architecture/big-via-57-west-iwan-baan-bjarke-ingels-group-courtscraper-new-york-09-08-2016/>

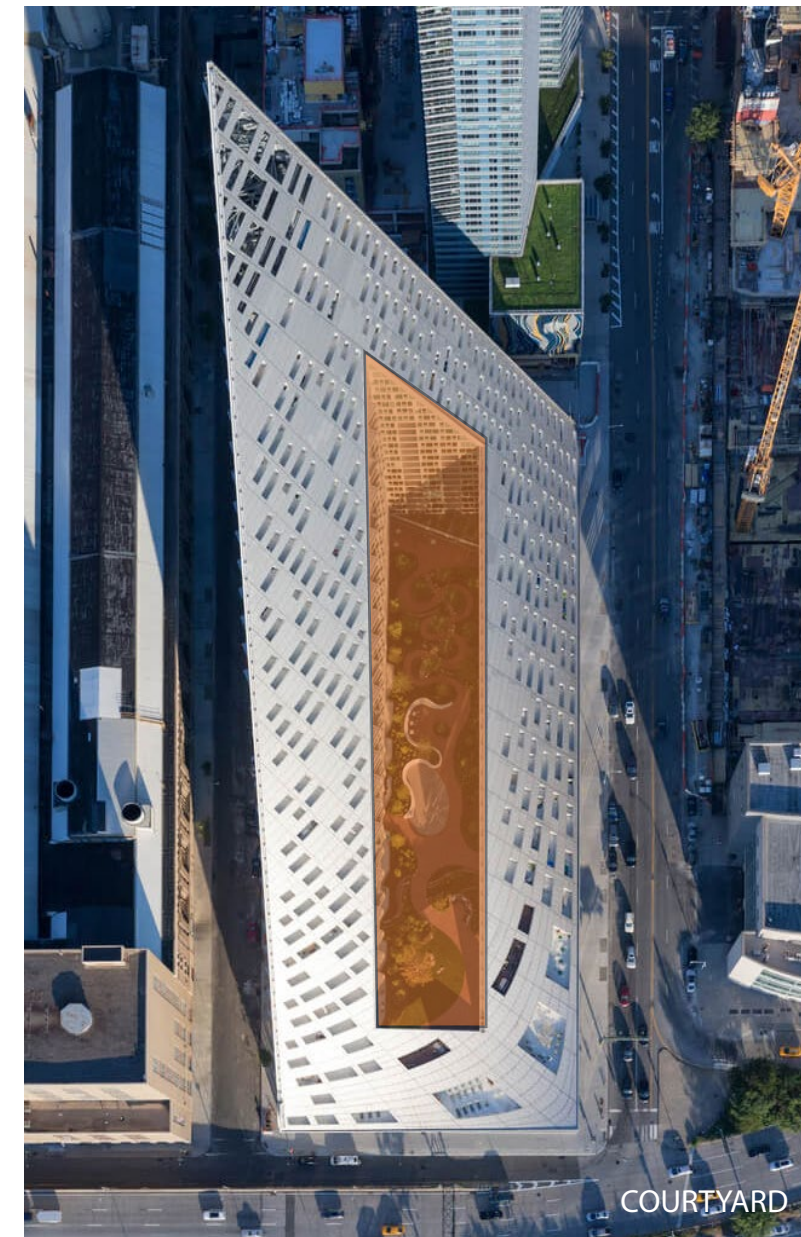


FIGURE 24: CASE STUDY VIEWS

PROJECT NAME: VIA 57 WEST  
LOCATION: NEW YORK  
PROJECT ARCHITECT: BJARKE INGELS GROUP

SOURCE: <https://www.designboom.com/architecture/big-via-57-west-iwan-baan-bjarke-ingels-group-courtscraper-new-york-09-08-2016/>



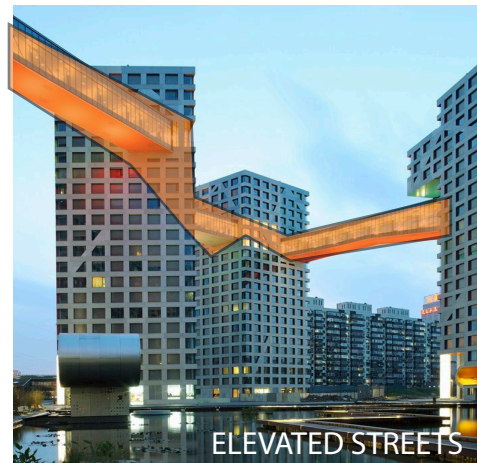
WATER ON SITE

SOURCE: <https://www.archdaily.com/483625/reviewing-urban-hopes-a-look-at-steven-holl-s-latest-in-china>



MASSING

SOURCE: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/sanyambahga/38940685604>



ELEVATED STREETS

PROJECT NAME: HYBRID  
 LOCATION: BEIJING, CHINA  
 PROJECT ARCHITECT: STEVEN HOLL  
 ARCHITECTS

FIGURE 25: CASE STUDY VIEWS

SOURCE: <https://www.archdaily.com/483625/reviewing-urban-hopes-a-look-at-steven-holl-s-latest-in-china>



PROJECT NAME:  
 BARBICAN CENTRE  
 LOCATION: LONDON  
 PROJECT ARCHITECT:  
 CHAMBERLIN POWELL  
 & BON

SOURCE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wbDa79U5I7I>

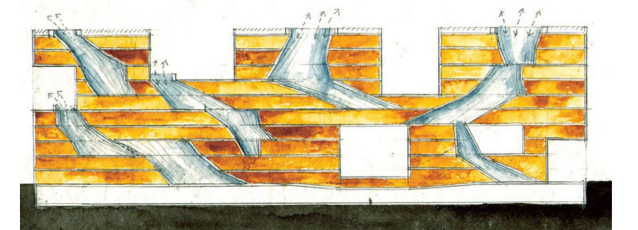


BORROWED LIGHTING INTO INTERIOR SPACES THROUGH VOLUMES

SOURCE: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/sanyambahga/38940685604>

PROJECT NAME: SIMMONS HALL  
 LOCATION: MASSACHUSETTS  
 PROJECT ARCHITECT: STEVEN HOLL  
 ARCHITECTS

FIGURE 26 & 26.1: IMAGES SHOWING THE VOLUMETRIC CARVING OF LIGHT LUNGS THROUGH THE BUILDINGS

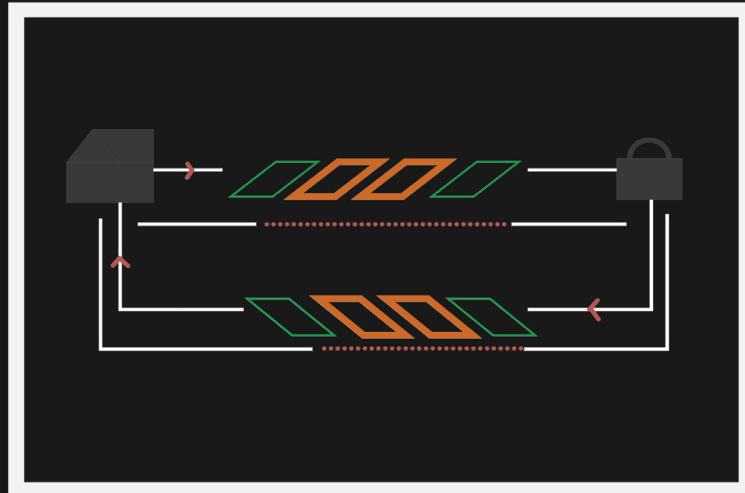


STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

CONSOLIDATED STRATEGY  
DIAGRAMS

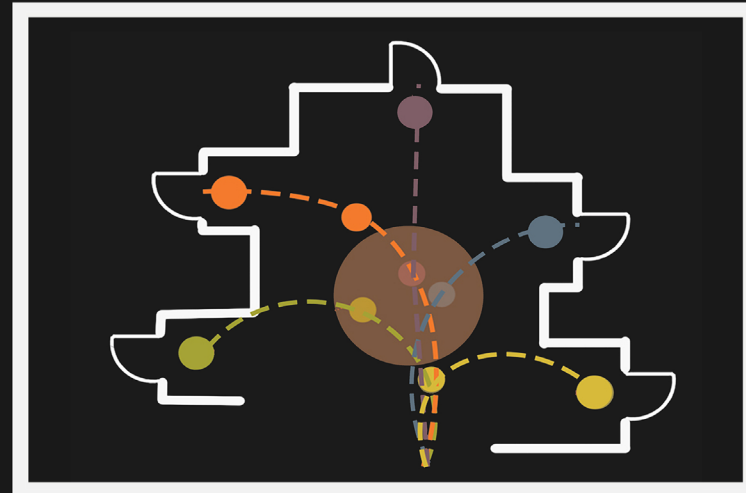
# CONSOLIDATED STRATEGIES FROM THE STUDY

## 1 THE PAUSE



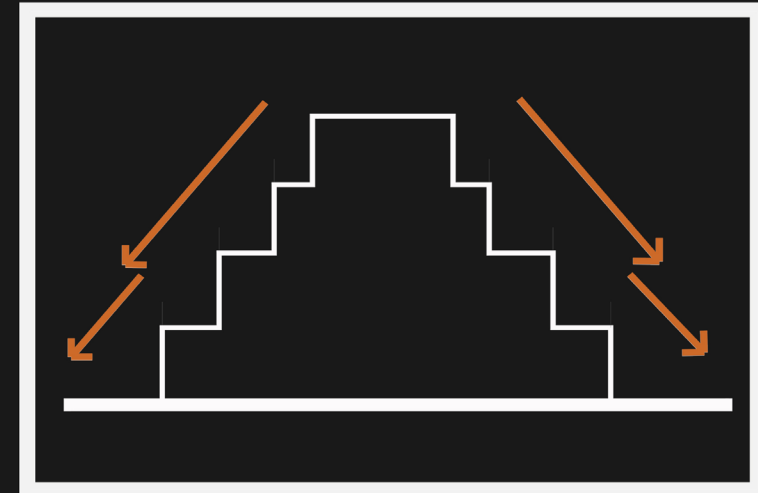
LAYERING THE MOVEMENT FROM FIRST-SECOND-THIRD SPACES THROUGH VARIOUS ARCHITECTURAL SPACES CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIAL INTERACTION

## 2 THE LAYER



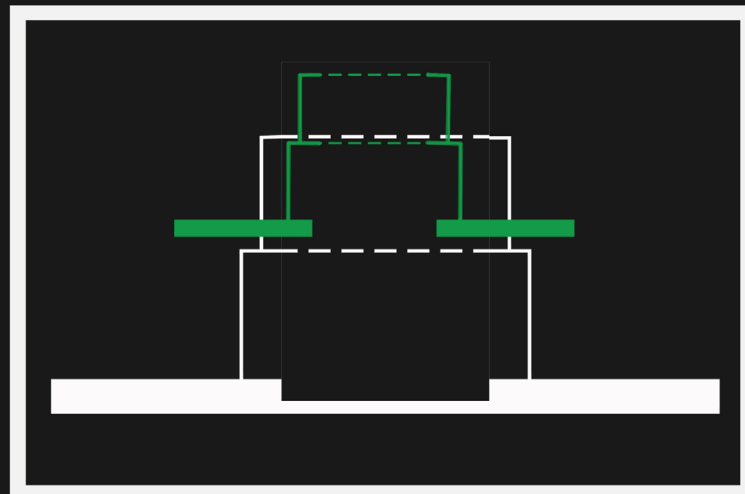
PROJECTION AND RECESSION- CREATING A FOYER WHICH ACTS AS A THRESHOLD BELONGS TO THE RESIDENTS TO CREATE A SENSE OF BELONGING

## 3 THE TERRACE FORM



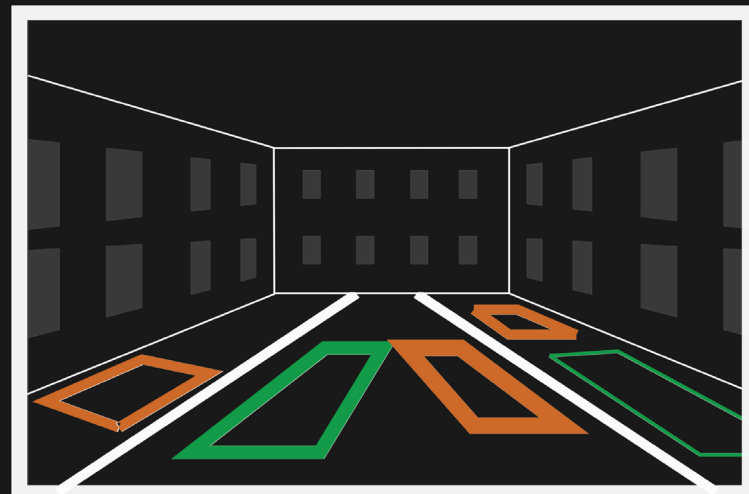
PLAY OF PROJECTIONS AND RECESSIONS EXPLORING THE TERRACE FORM ALONG THE SECTION TO CREATE VISUAL COMMUNICATION AND EYES ON STREET

## 4 THE ELEVATED STREET



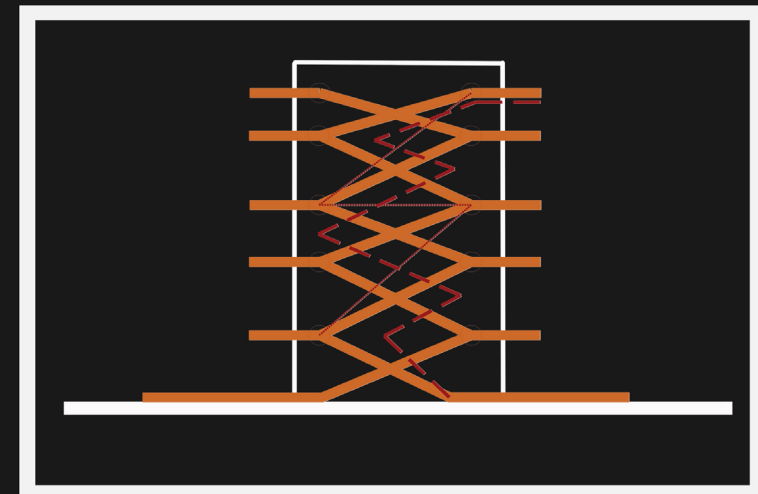
EXPLORING VERTICALITY WITH ELEVATED URBAN STREET CONDITIONS TO THE UPPER LEVELS OF THE BUILDING

## 5 THE MAGNET



WHY NOT USE THE STREETS OF THE COMMUNITY AS STREETS OF CELEBRATION OF GATHERINGS???? OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

## 6 NETWORK OF STREETS

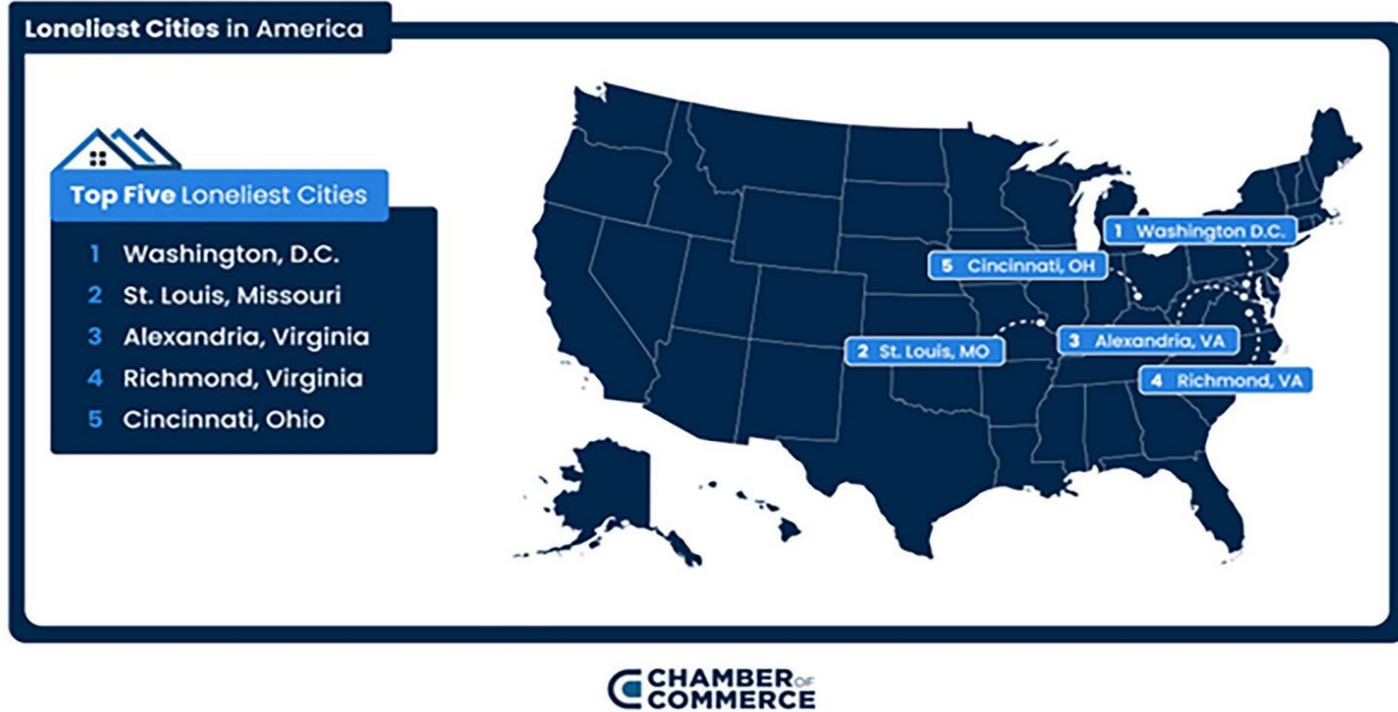


PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND TERTIARY STREETS TO REGULATE DIFFERENT CIRCULATIONS WITHIN THE BUILDING AND EXPLORING VERTICALLY AND HORIZONTALLY

FIGURE 27: COMPILATION OF STRATEGY PARTI DIAGRAMS DERIVED FROM THE FOXRIDGE, MAIN STREET AND CASE STUDY ANALYSIS

CRAFTING THE STREETS

WHY WASHINGTON D.C.?



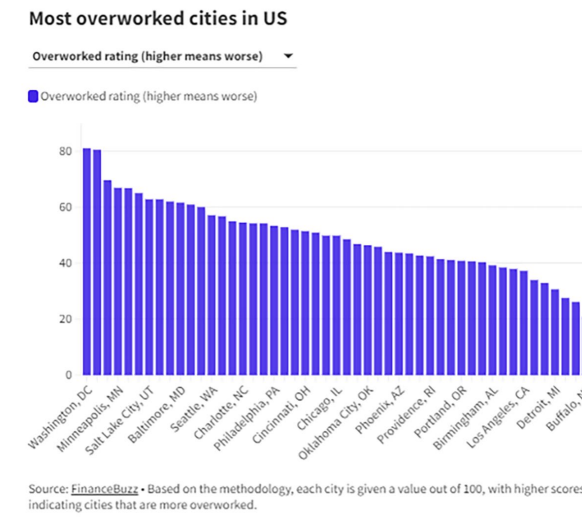
SOURCE: <https://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2008/10/washington-dc-report.pdf>

LONELIEST CITY IN THE US

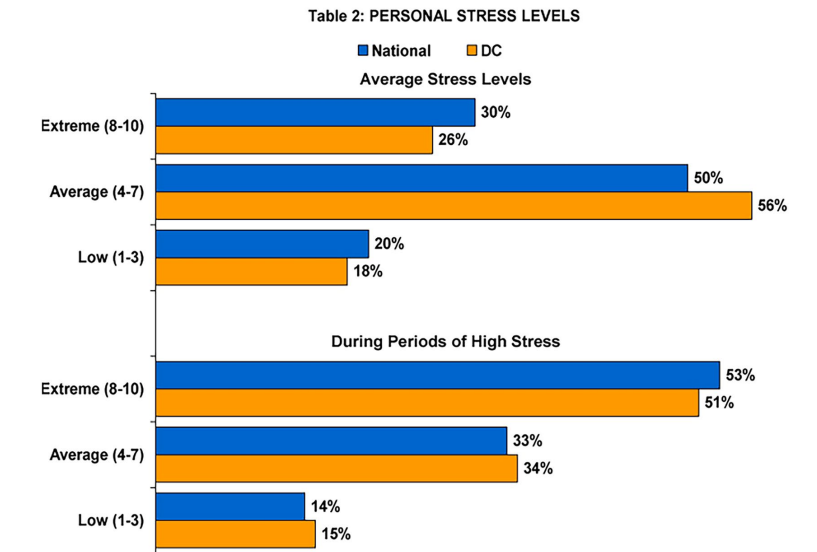
48.2% OF THE POPULATION IS LIVING ALONE

# AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

SOURCE: <https://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2008/10/washington-dc-report.pdf>



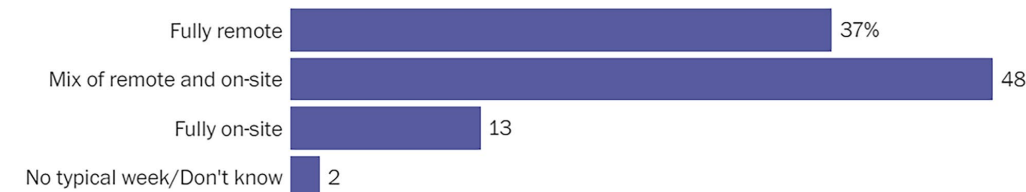
MOST OVER WORKED CITY IN THE US



D.C. EXCEEDING THE NATIONAL STRESS LEVELS

## Most D.C. area remote-capable workers are fully remote or hybrid

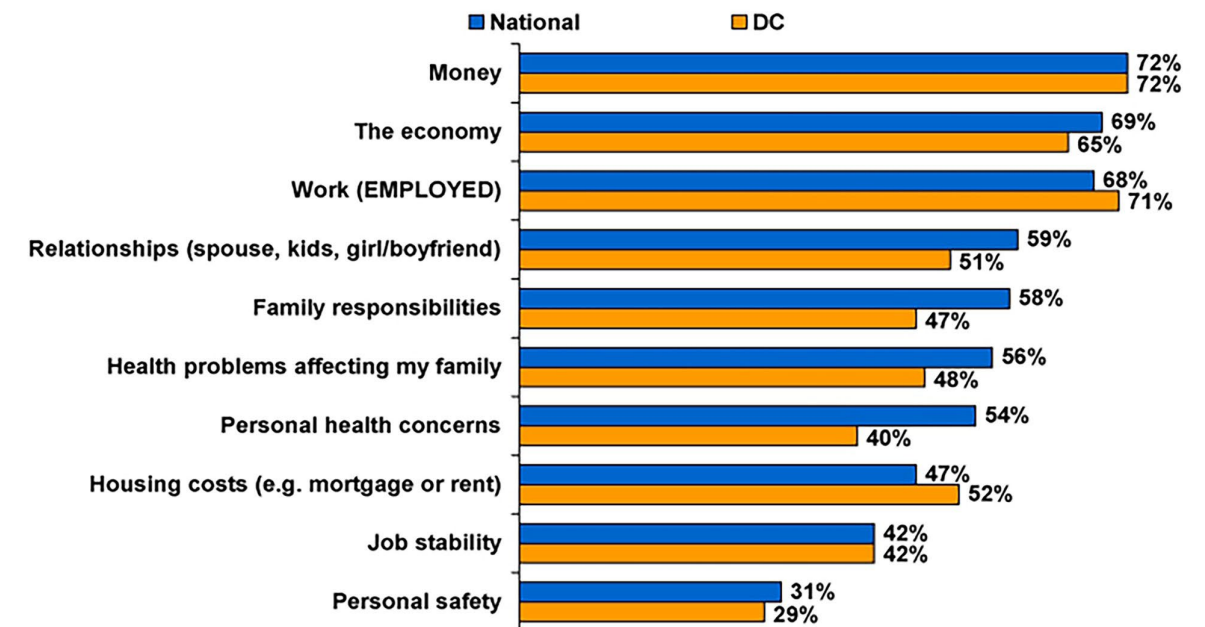
Q: In a typical week, how many days do you work from home/on-site at an office or other workplace for your primary job (Among the 47% of workers who are remote-capable)



Source: Feb. 17-27, 2023, Washington Post-Schar School poll of 540 remote-capable employed adults in the Washington, D.C. area with an error margin of +/- 5 percentage points. EMILY GUSKIN / THE WASHINGTON POST

ABOUT 50% OF D.C. POPULATION WORKING FROM HOME

Table 3: SIGNIFICANT SOURCES OF STRESS



3rd WORST- WORK RELATED STRESS

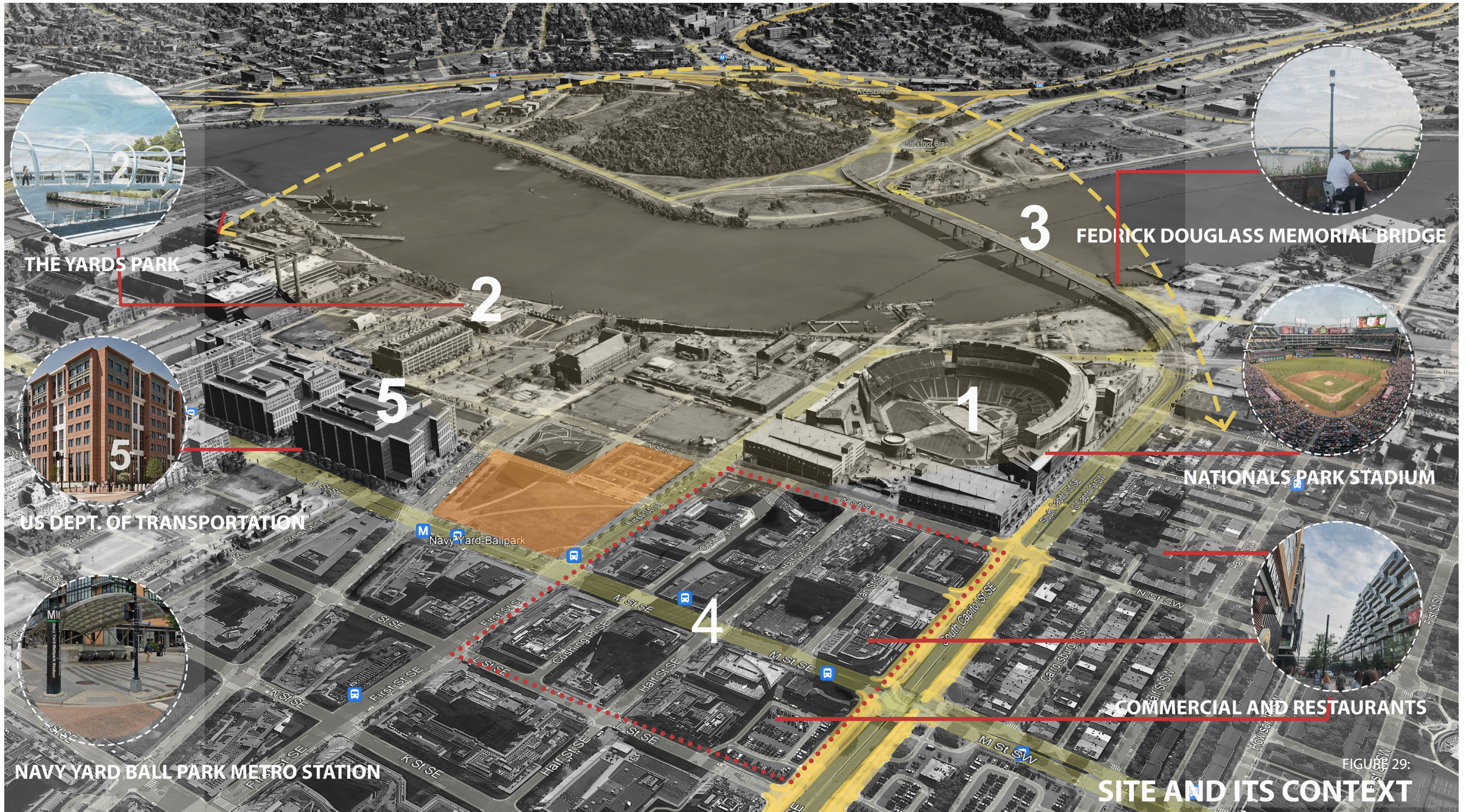
4th WORST- FAMILY RELATED STRESS

FIGURE 28: COMPILATION OF STATISTICS OF WASHINGTON D.C.

# WHY WASHINGTON D.C.?

# CRAFTING THE STREETS

## SITE AND ITS CONTEXT



The chosen site is in the Washington D.C. Navy Yard. The image shows the variety of recreational and commercial activities near the site, the Yards Waterfront re-development and connections to restaurants, bars, parks and shopping areas in the neighborhood. The site is ideal for promoting human interactions and strengthening connections to the neighborhood.

# NAVY YARD

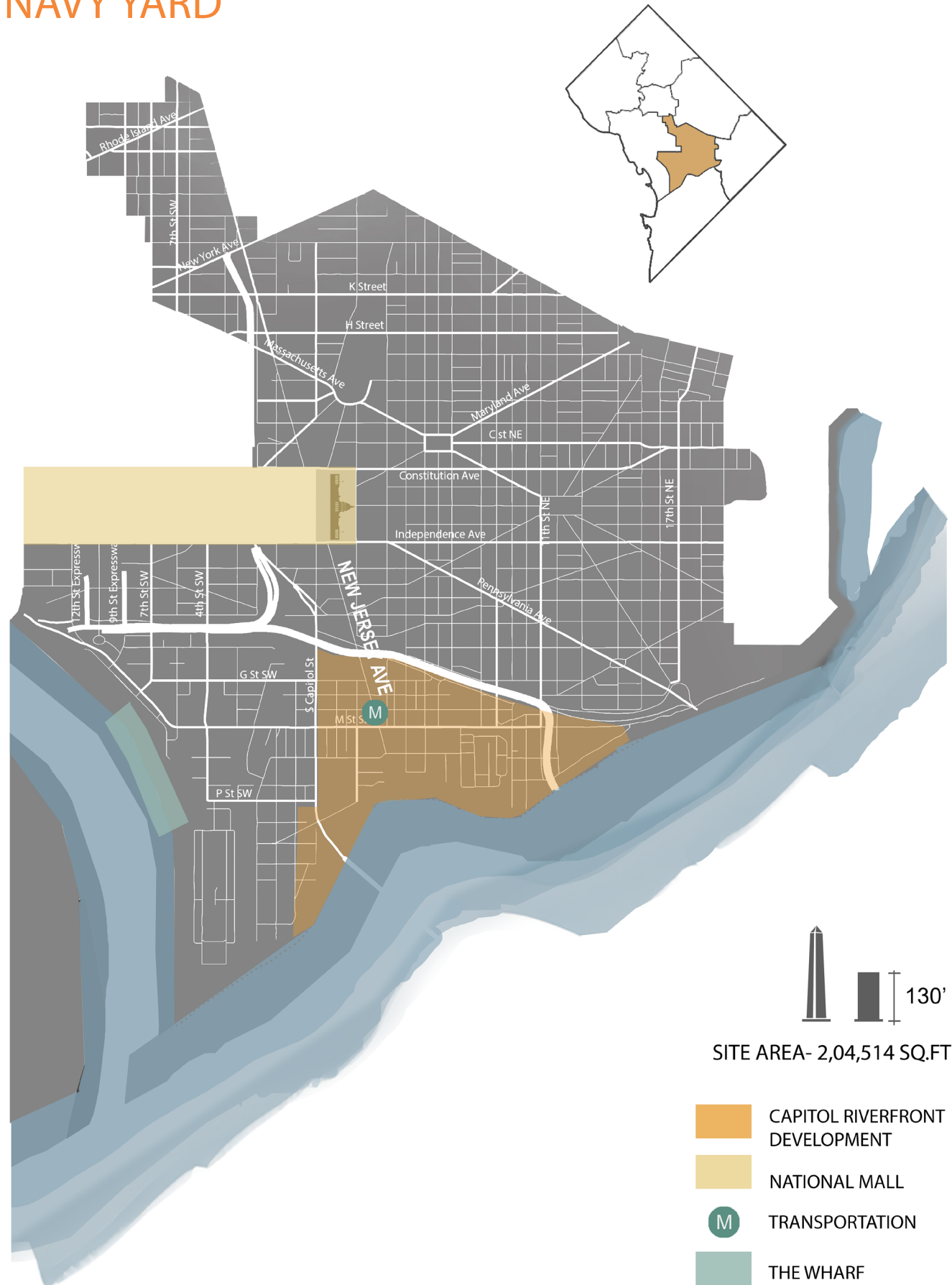
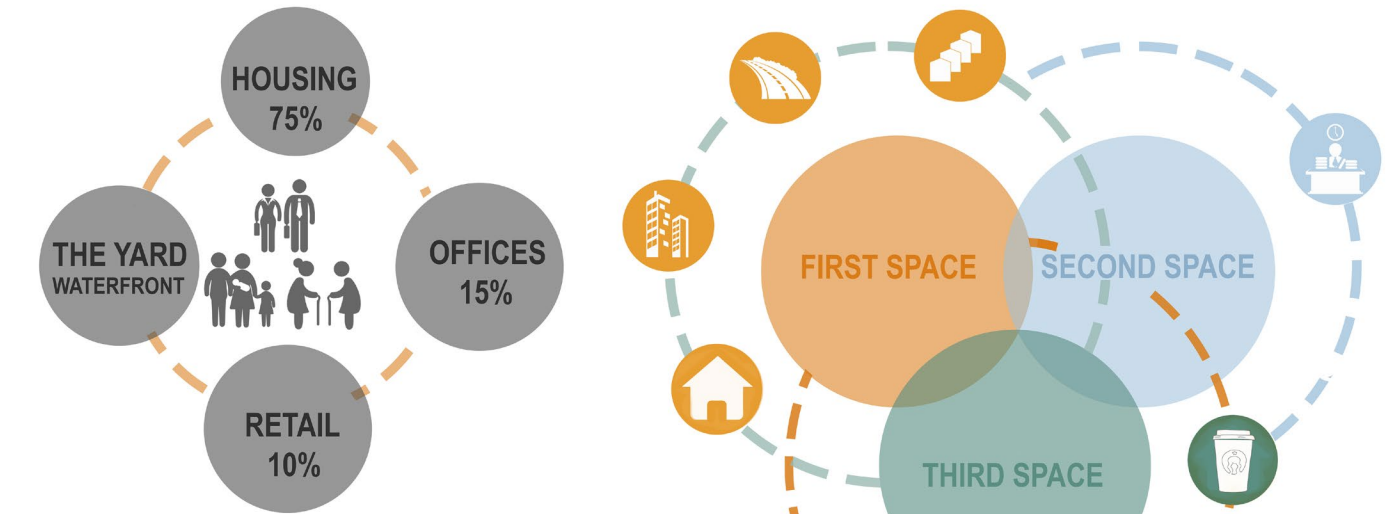


FIGURE 30: MAP HIGHLIGHTING THE ACCESS TO CAPITOL & THE YARDS RIVERFRONT REDEVELOPMENT SECTOR



# USER GROUP

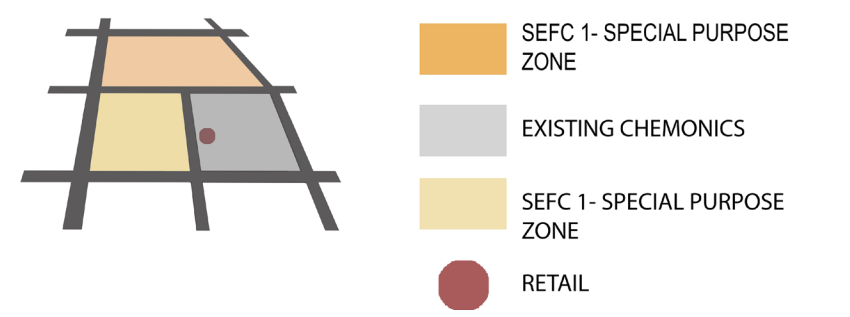
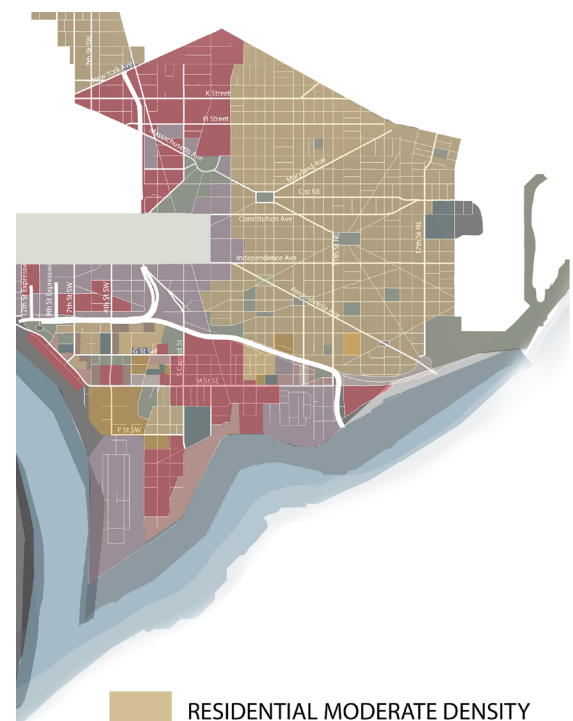


FIGURE 31: LAND-USE MAPS AND SITE INFORMATION

# CRAFTING THE STREETS

## CONCEPT & MASSING DEVELOPMENT

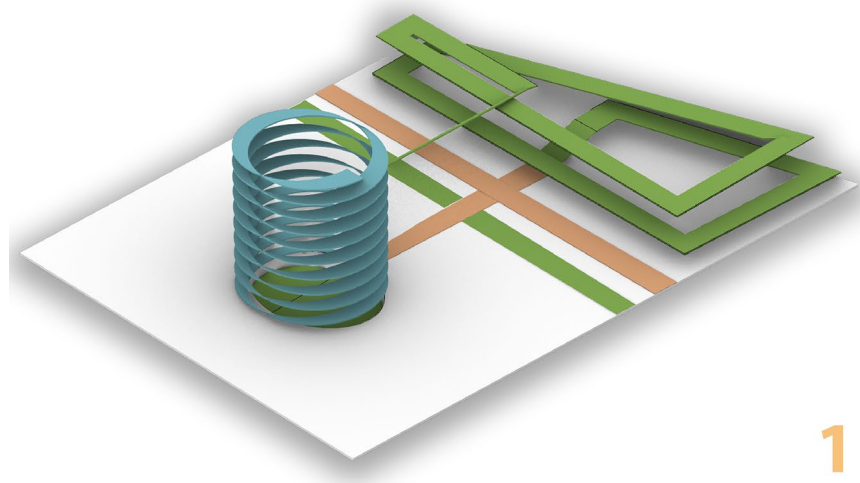
### **CONCEPT 1- INTERNAL STREET STYLE**

- Site control
- Clear segregation
- Different entities meeting at multiple locations and have access to different entities.

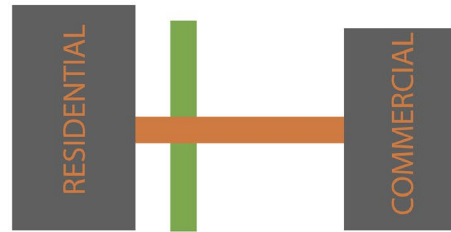
### **CONCEPT 2- RE- INTERPRETING THE STEPPED FORM**

- Clustered housing creating internal communities

### **CONCEPT 3- S- LAYERING**

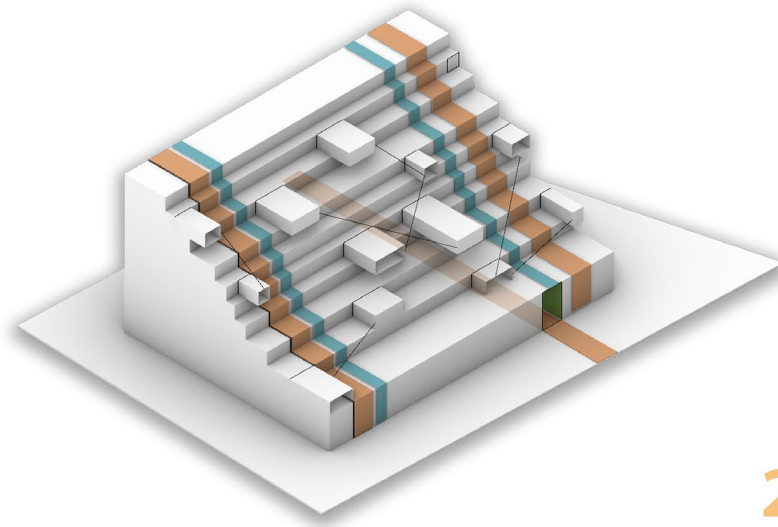


1



**THE DIVIDE**

- SITE CONTROL- CLEAR SEGREGATION OF THE COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL FOOT FALL.
- DIFFERENT ENTITIES MEETING AT MULTIPLE LOCATIONS AND HAVE ACCESS TO DIFFERENT ENTITIES.

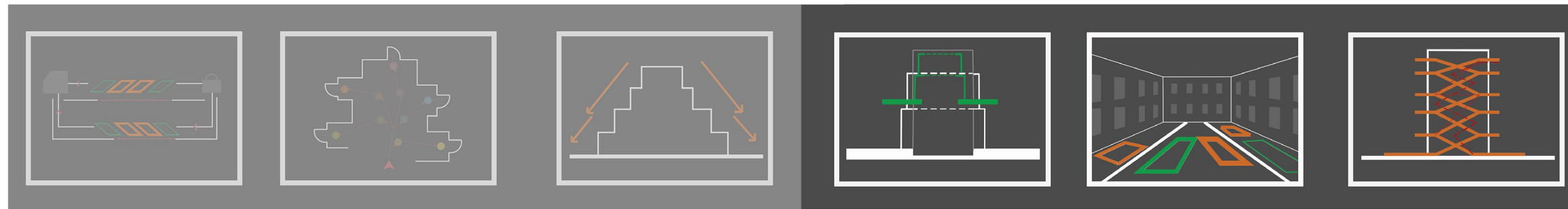


2



**THE STEPPED COMMUNITY**

- CLUSTERED HOUSING CREATING INTERNAL COMMUNITIES



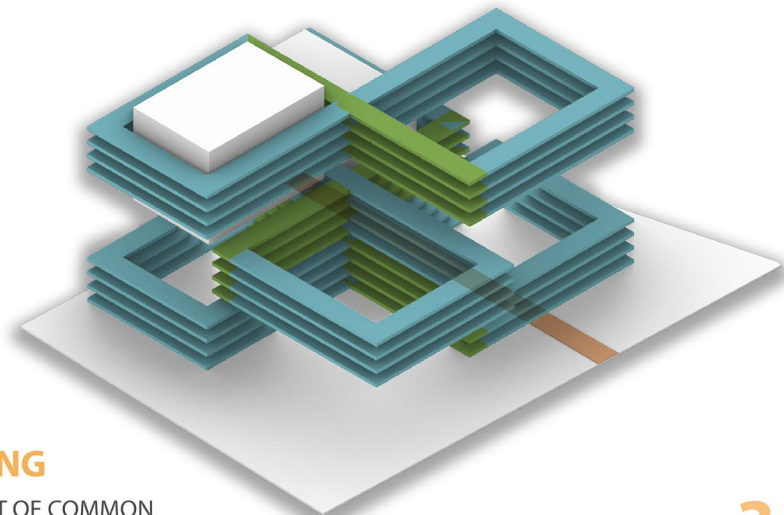
COMMON AMENITIES RESIDENTIAL UNITS



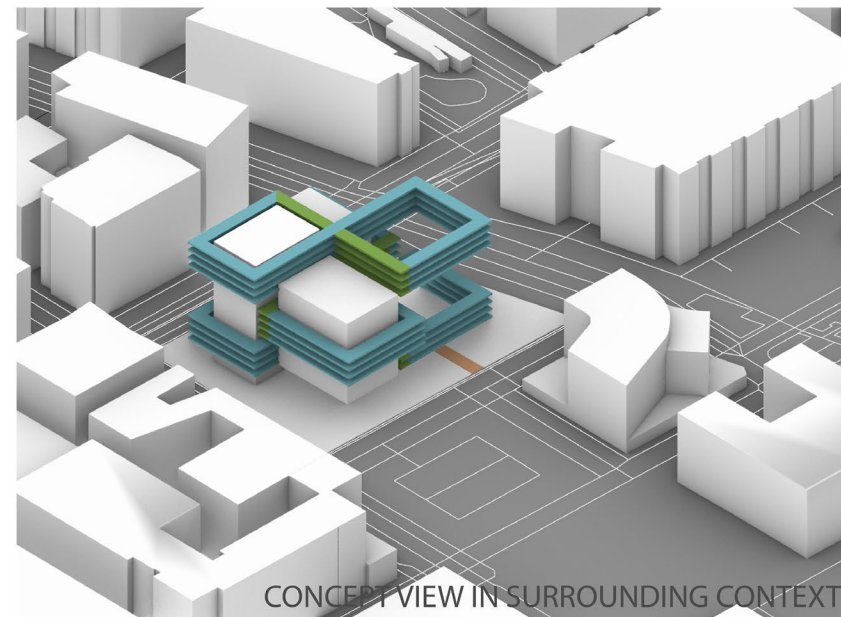
SCHEMATIC PLAN

**THE S- LAYERING**

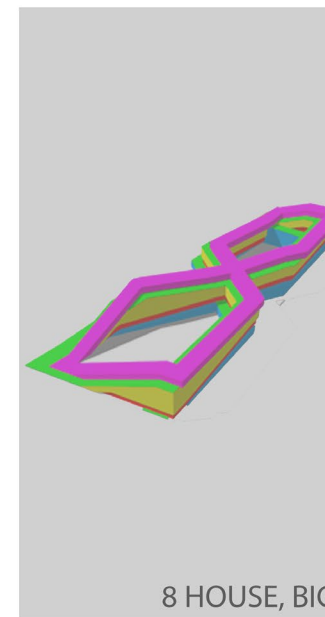
STRATEGIC PLACEMENT OF COMMON PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY GATHERING



3



CONCEPT VIEW IN SURROUNDING CONTEXT



8 HOUSE, BIG



FIGURE 32:

**CONCEPT OPTIONS**

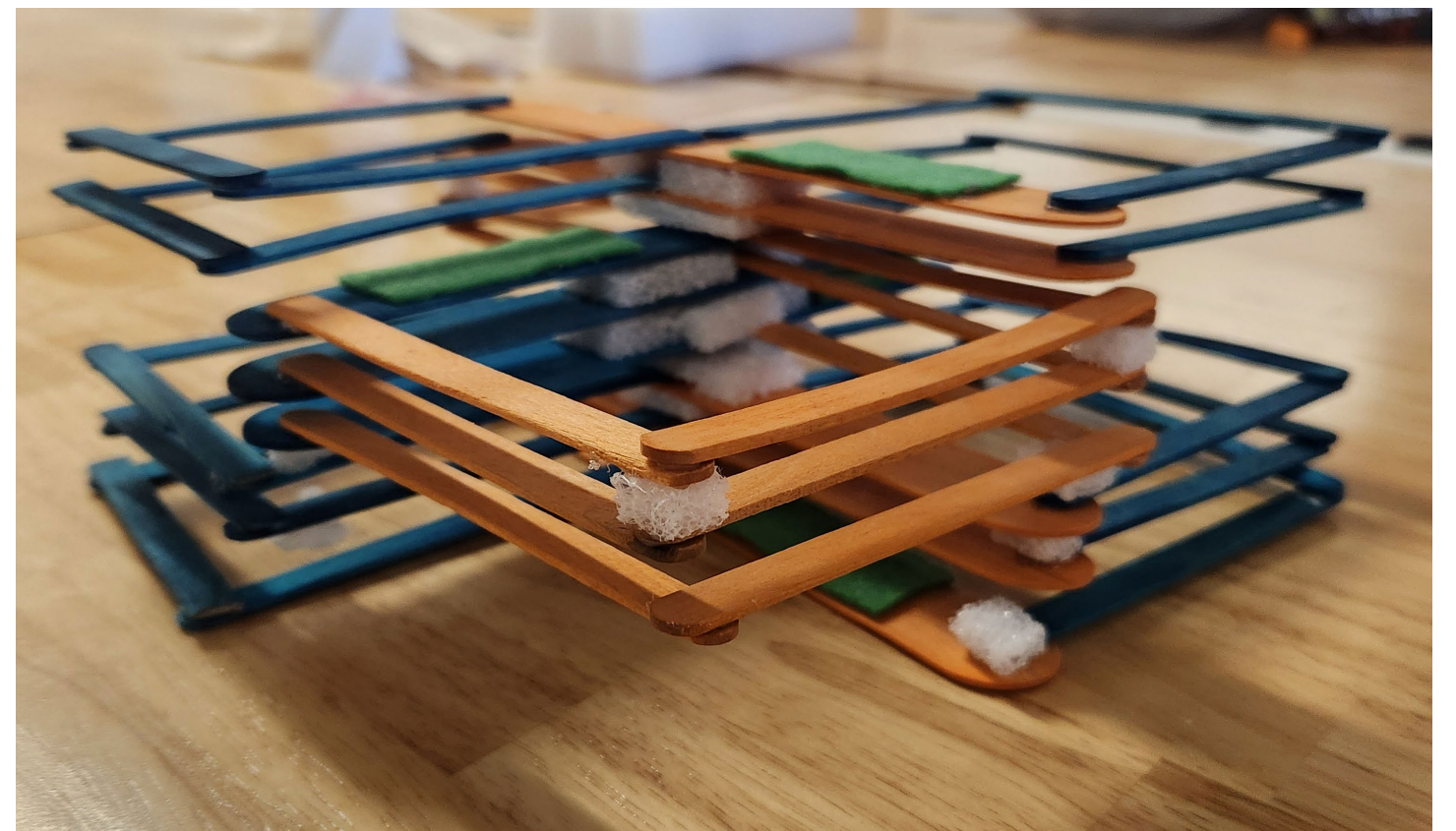
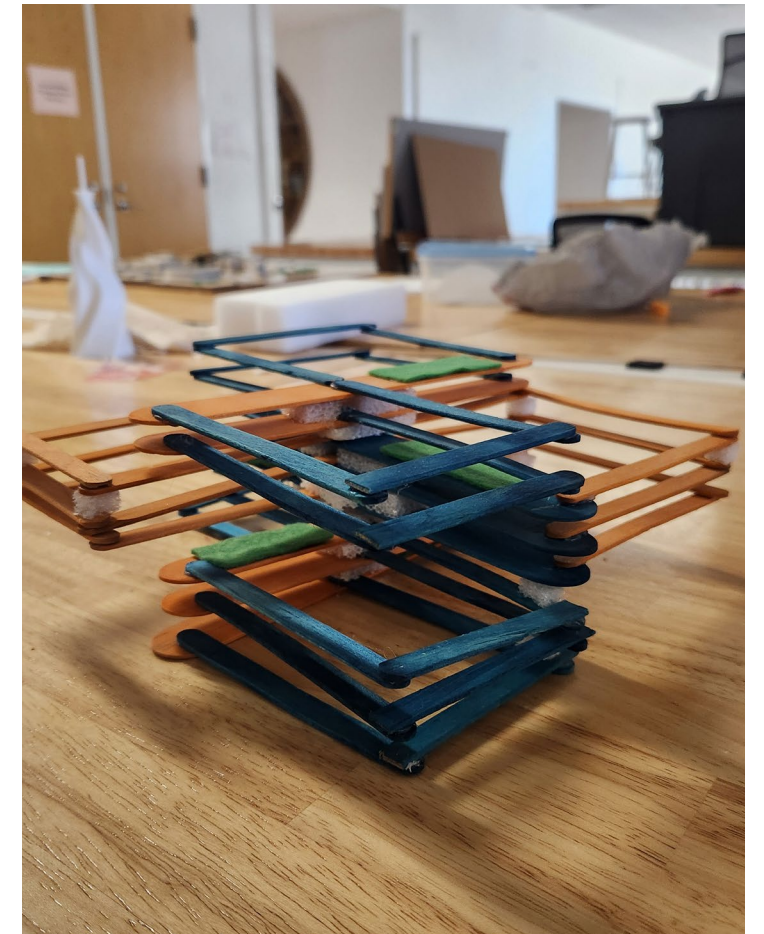
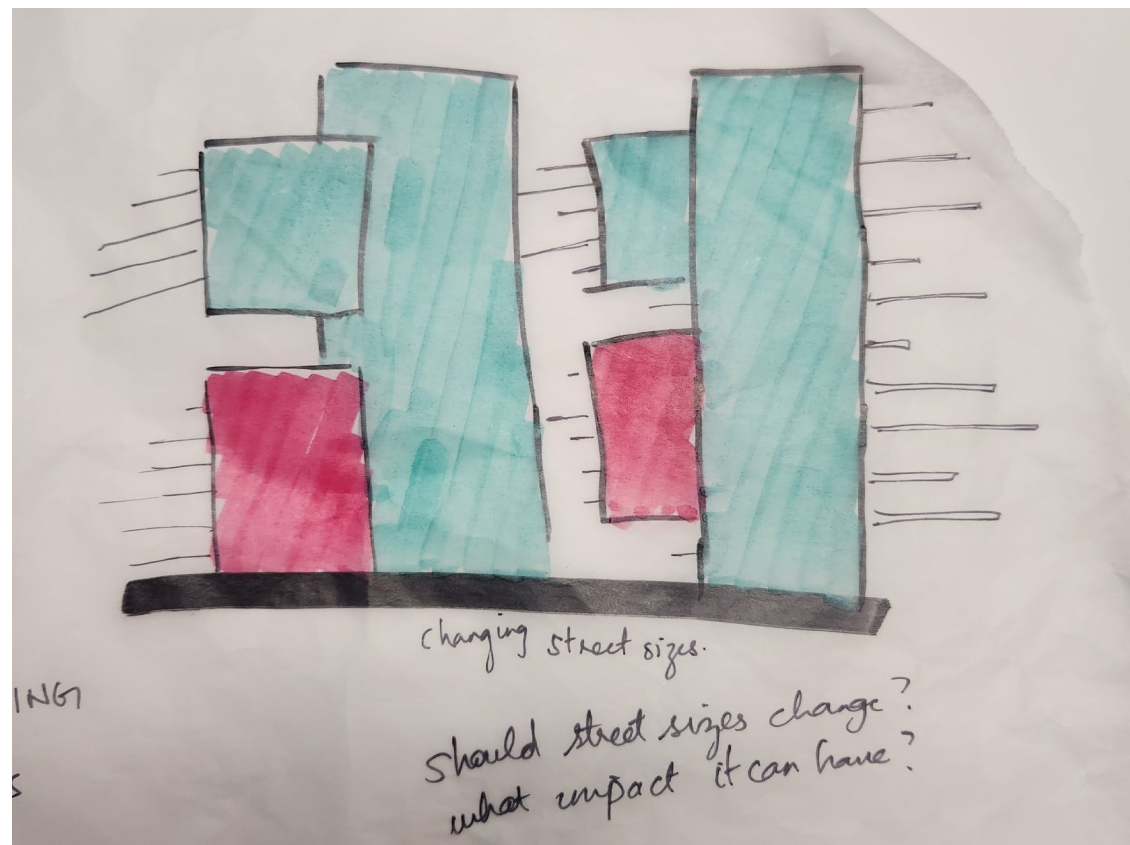
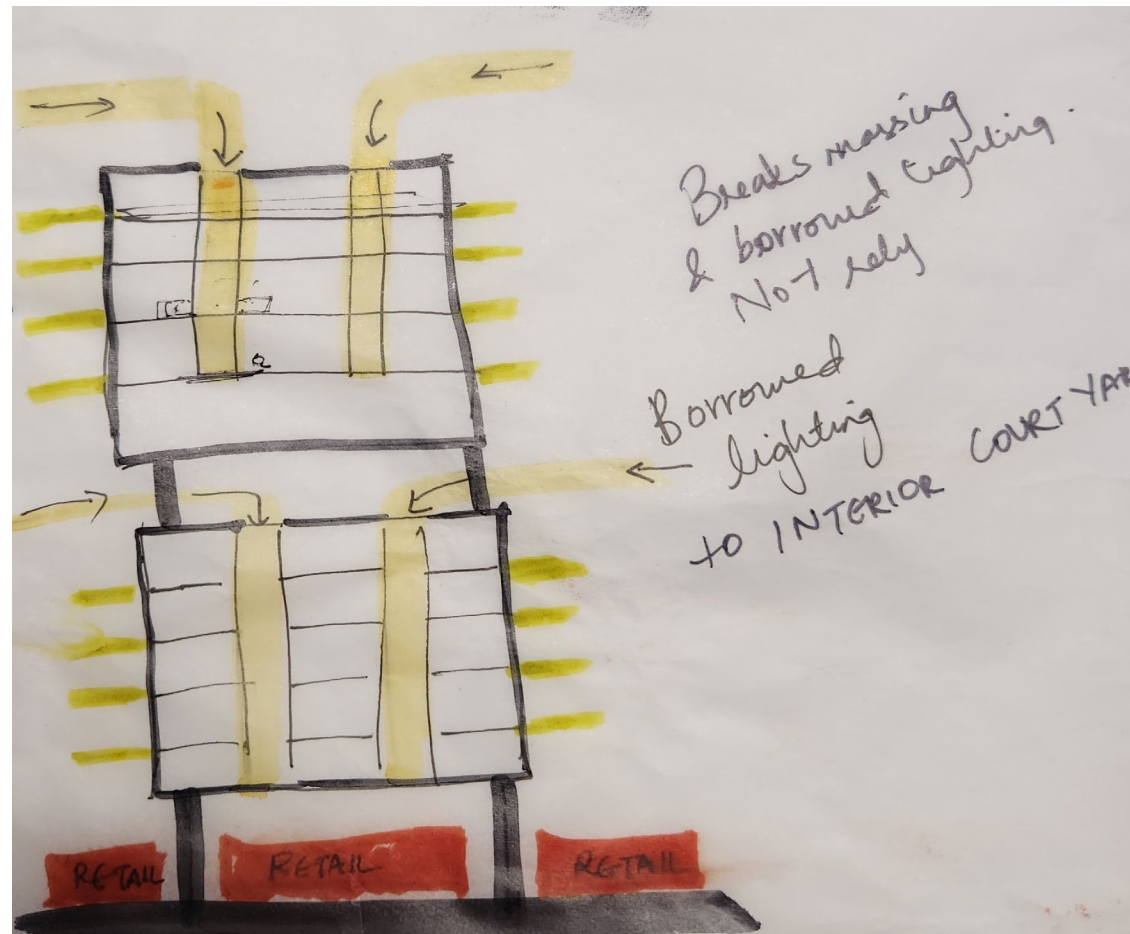
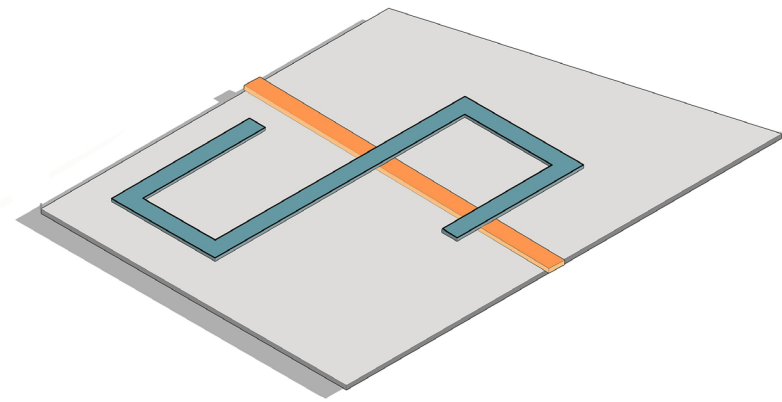
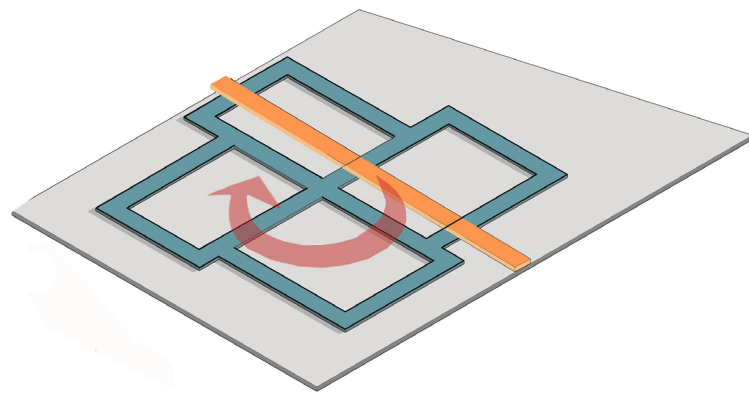


FIGURE 33 & 34: SKETCHES SHOWING PRELIMINARY IDEAS EXPLORING THE VOLUMES TO CREATE HUGE VOIDS FOR BORROWED LIGHTING TO PENETRATE INTO THE INTERIORS OF THE BUILDING

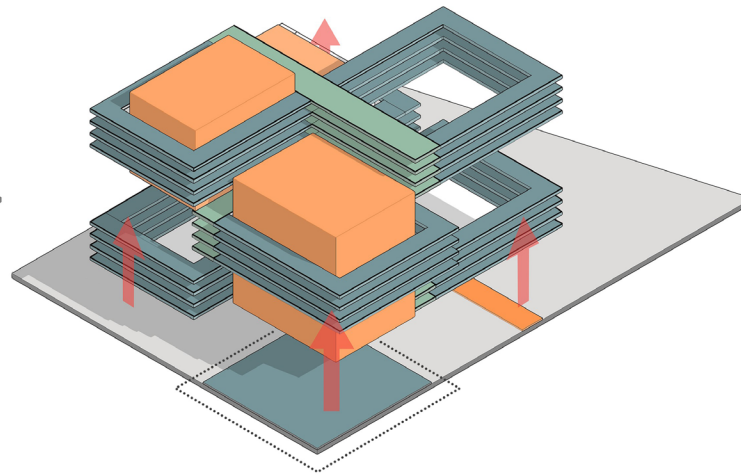
FIGURE 35, 36 & 38: MODEL STUDY EXPLORING THE VOLUMES AND URBAN STREETS WHICH CREATE A NETWORK OF PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND TERTIARY STREETS



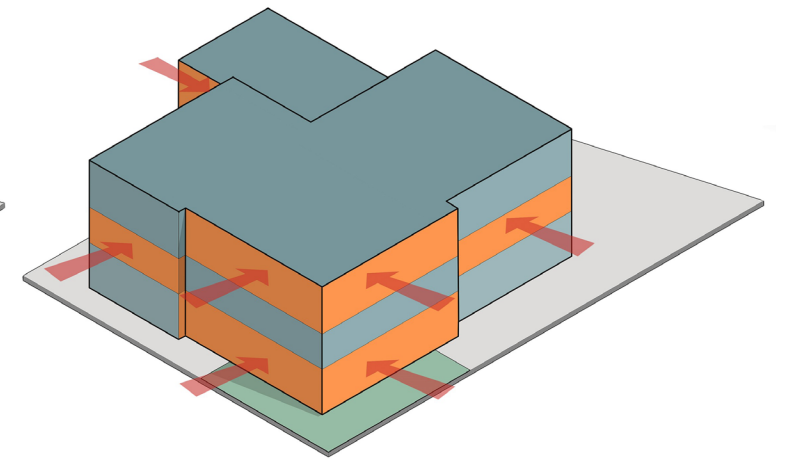
CENTRAL AXIS ROAD CREATED WITH DIRECT CONNECTION TO WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT. THE FIRST S- LAYER STREET IS LAYED



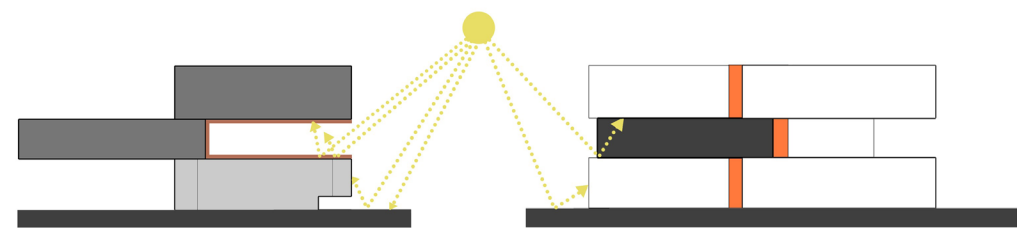
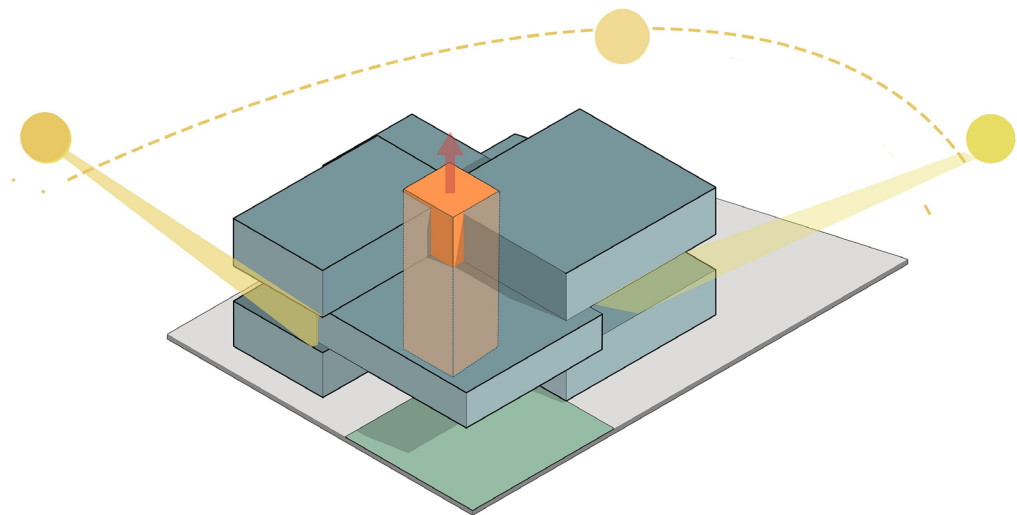
THE STREET IS ROTATED BY 90 DEGREES TO ACHIEVE A NETWORK OF THE STREETS IN THE FORM OF RESIDENTIAL UNITS



THE NETWORK OF STREETS IS EXTRUDED TO ABOUT 12 FLOORS WITH THE CENTRAL PRIMARY STREET STARTING FROM THE SITE PLAZA SPACE TO THE INTERIOR STREETS AS CORRIDORS ON THE UPPER FLOORS



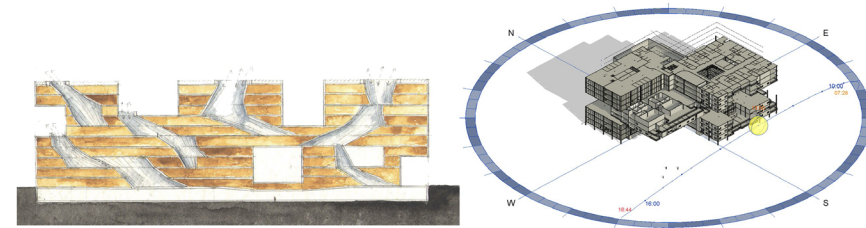
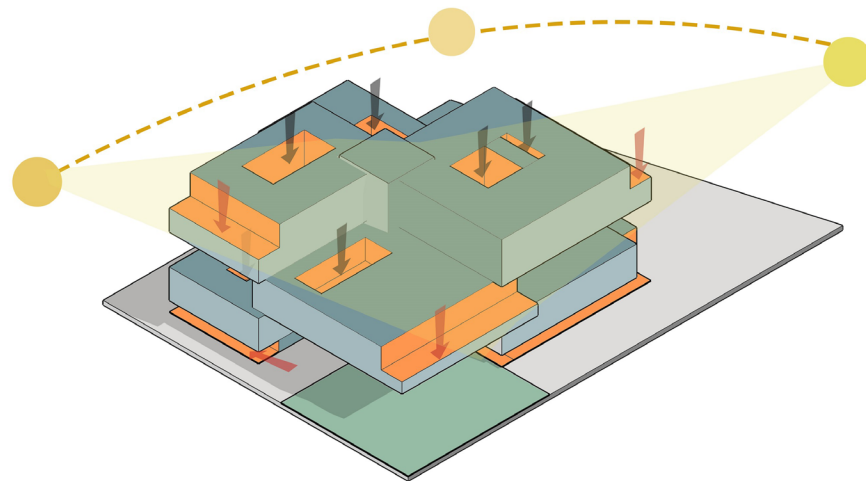
THE ENTIRE NETWORK OF STREETS IS CONVERTED TO A HUGE MASSING



SECTION

SECTION

THE HUGE VOIDS ARE STRATEGICALLY CREATED BY PUSH & PULL TO BRING THE BORROWED LIGHTING INTO THE CENTAL AREAS OF THE RESIDENTIAL UNITS AND OFFICES. THE CORE IS INTRODUCED IN THE CENTRE TO RUN ALL COMMON SERVICES TILL THE 12TH FLOOR

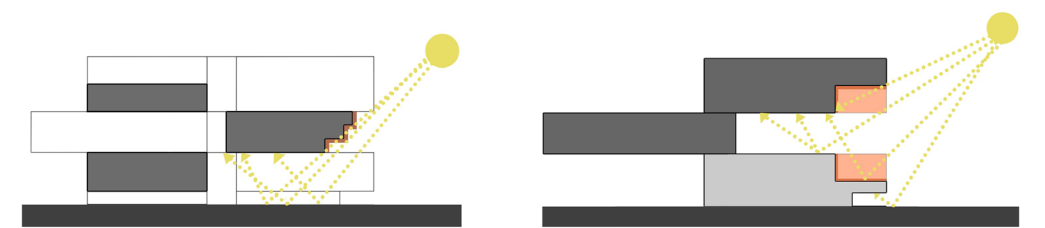
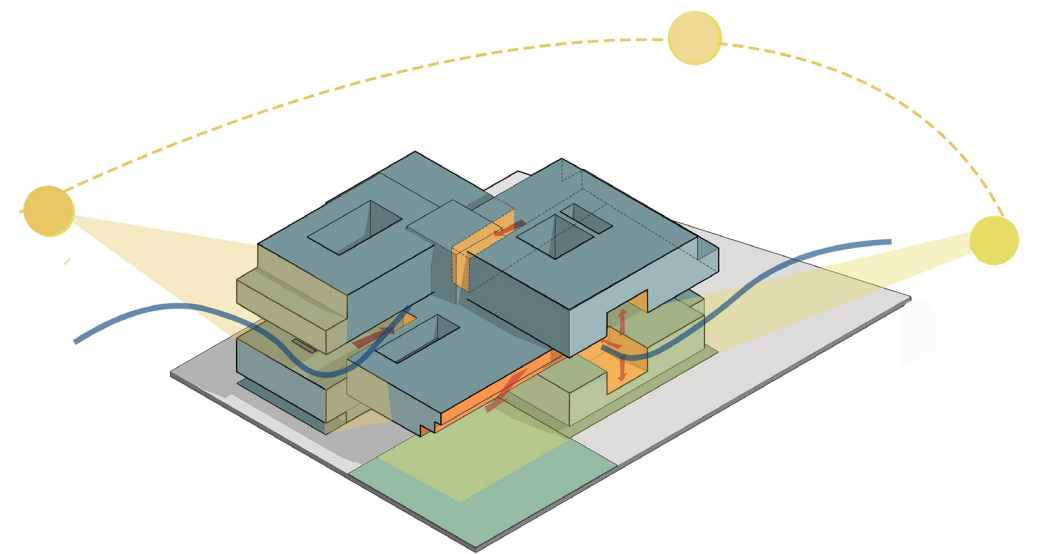


SIMONS HALL, MIT

THE SIX, CALIFORNIA

SOLAR STUDY

MULTIPLE DOUBLE HEIGHT OPENINGS OUR CREATED TO PROVIDE THE URBAN STREETS ON THE EXTERIOR TO CREATE A CONNECTION WITH THE NEIGHBOURHOOD AND EXPERIENCE THE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE AT THE SAME TIME.



SECTION

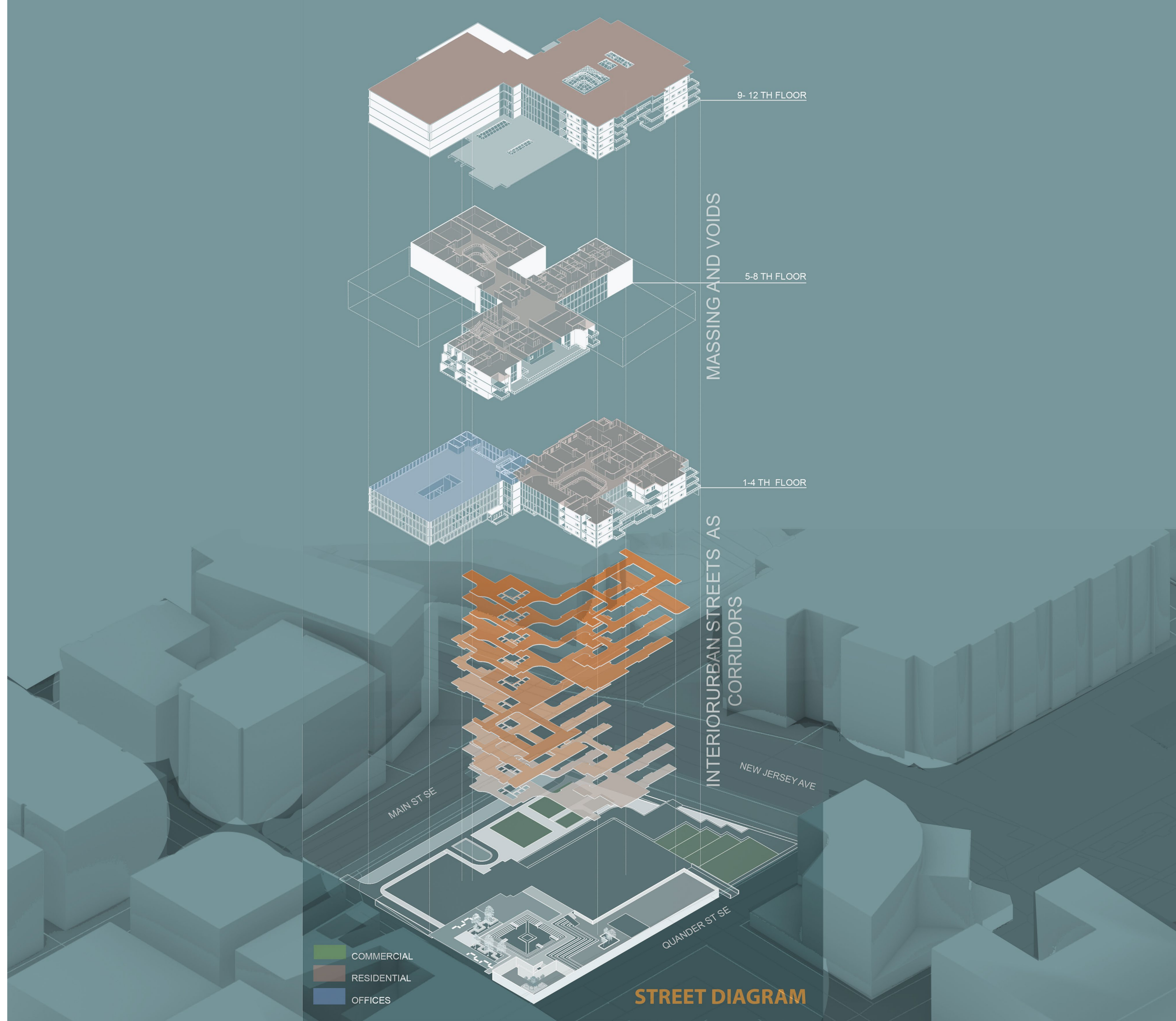
SECTION

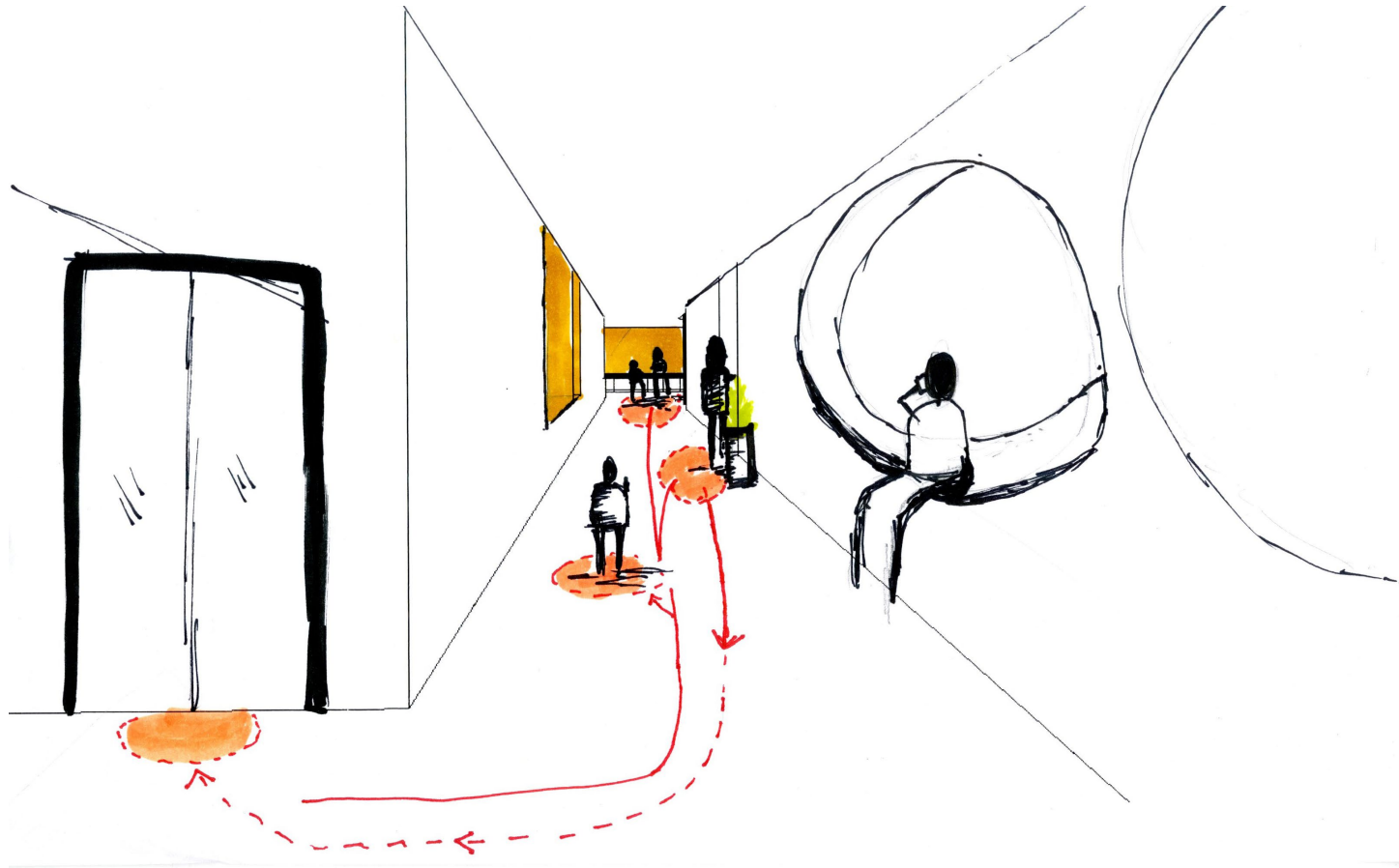
THE SOUTHER FACADE IS OPENED UP FURTHER BRINGING DIRECT AND BORROWED LIGHTING DIRECTLY INTO TH INTERIOR SPACES

FIGURE 39: MASSING DEVELOPMENT STAGES

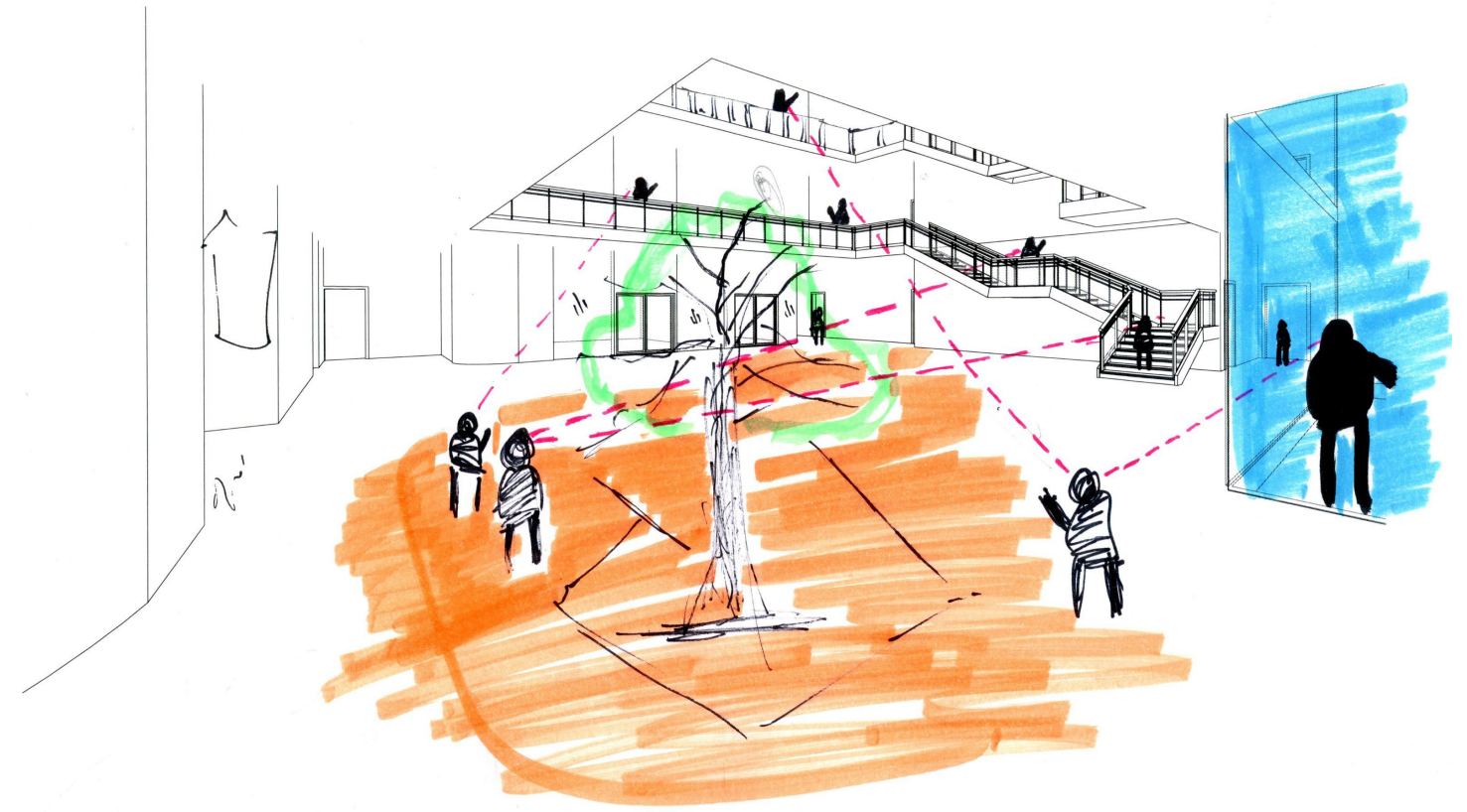
# NETWORK OF THE INTERIOR STREETS

FIGURE 40: EXPLODED AXONOMETRY SHOWING THE INTERIOR STREETS ACTING AS CORRIDORS AND CONNECTION TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD



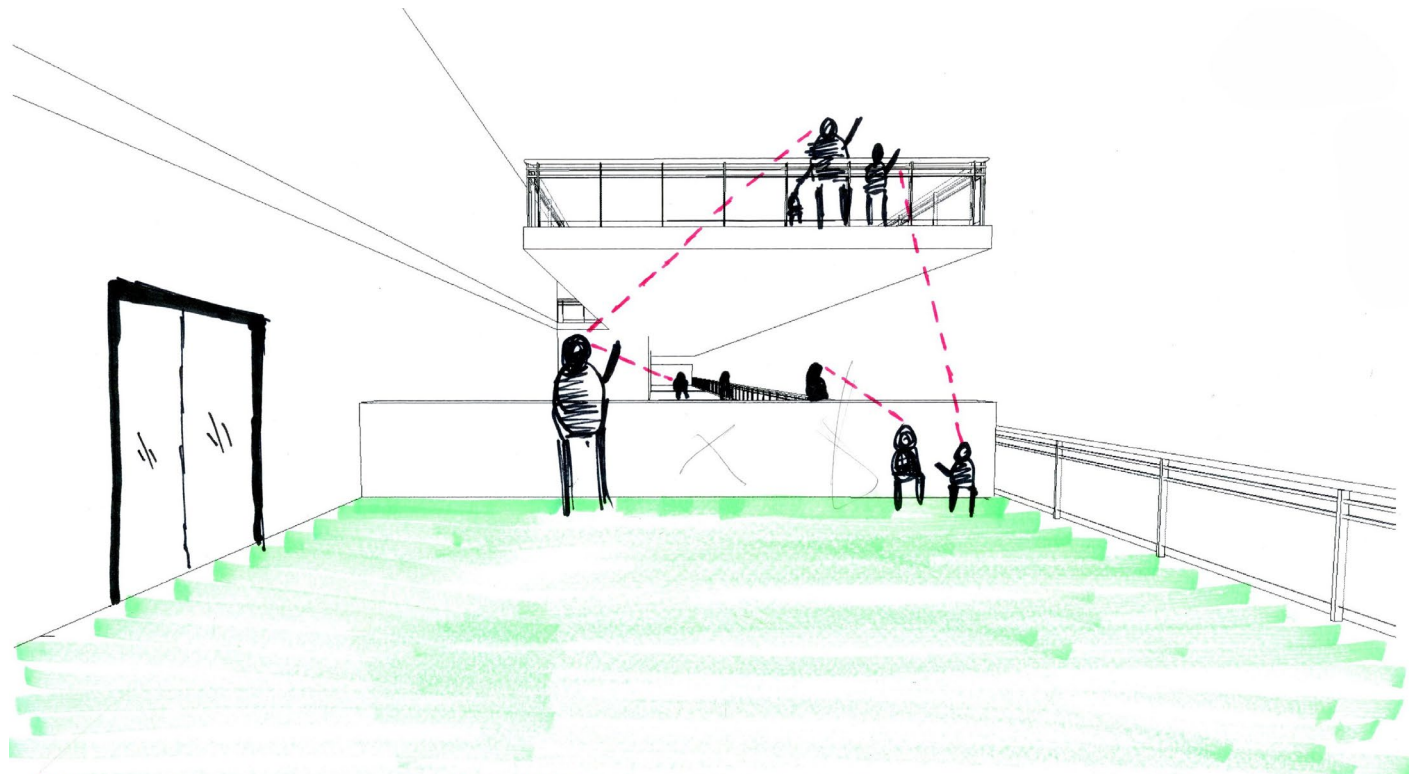


CREATING INTERESTING CORRIDOR EXPERIENCE BY INTRODUCING LIGHT WELLS AND RECESSED WALL SEATINGS FOR PEOPLE TO SCATTER AND ACTIVATE THE CONVENTIONAL UNLIT AND EMPTY RESIDENTIAL CORRIDORS



CENTRAL ATRIUM ACTING AS THE MAGNET WITH NICE OUTDOOR SEATING AND CELEBRATING GATHERING SPACES WHICH ATTRACT PEOPLE TO GATHER AND INTERACT IN THE EVENINGS AND WEEKENDS

FIGURE 41, 42, 43 SKETCHES SHOWING PRELIMINARY IDEAS TO CREATE MOMENTS OF INTERACTIONS BETWEEN THE RESIDENTS AND SENSE OF BELONGING



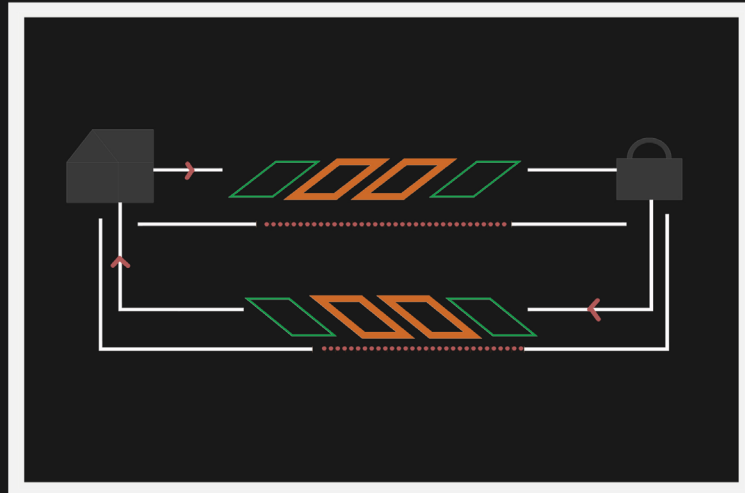
VISUAL CONNECTIONS AT DIFFERENT LEVELS ACROSS THE ENTIRE BUILDING WHICH CREATES MOMENTS OF HUMAN INTERACTIONS

CRAFTING THE STREETS

STRATEGY APPLICATIONS

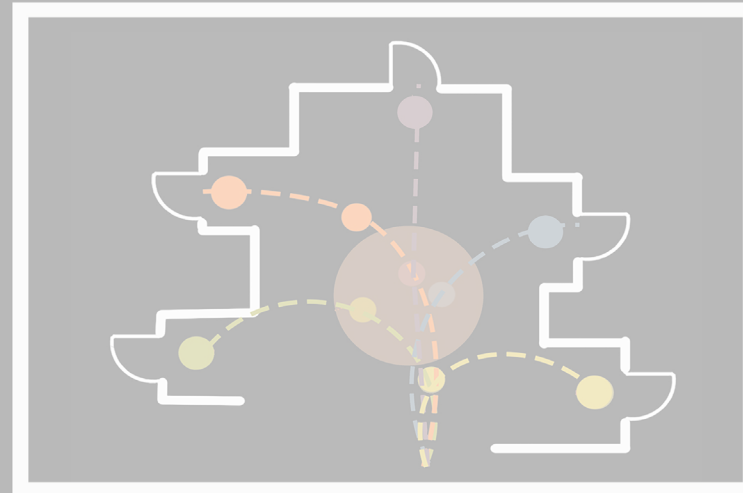
# STRATEGIES APPLICATION- I

## 1 THE PAUSE



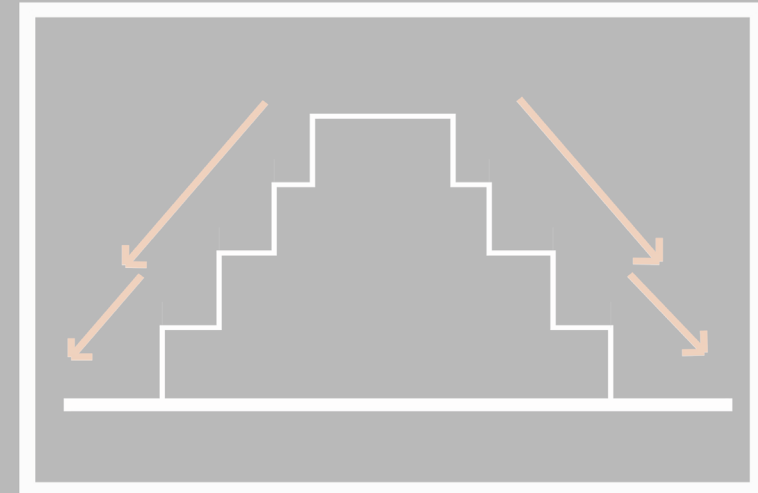
LAYERING THE MOVEMENT FROM FIRST-SECOND-THIRD SPACES THROUGH VARIOUS ARCHITECTURAL SPACES CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIAL INTERACTION

## 2 THE LAYER



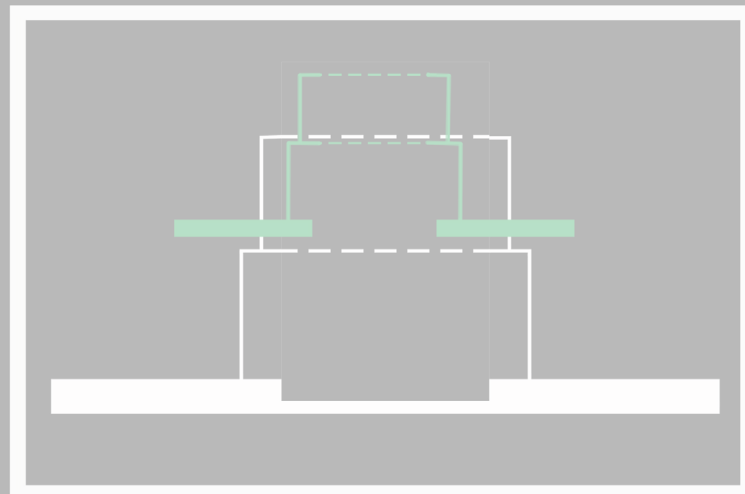
PROJECTION AND RECESSION- CREATING A FOYER WHICH ACTS AS A THRESHOLD BELONGS TO THE RESIDENTS TO CREATE A SENSE OF BELONGING

## 3 THE TERRACE FORM



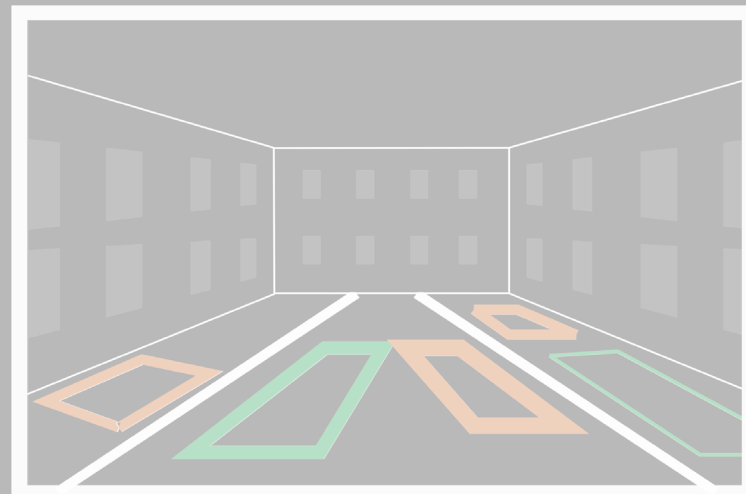
PLAY OF PROJECTIONS AND RECESSIONS EXPLORING THE TERRACE FORM ALONG THE SECTION TO CREATE VISUAL COMMUNICATION AND EYES ON STREET

## 4 THE ELEVATED STREET



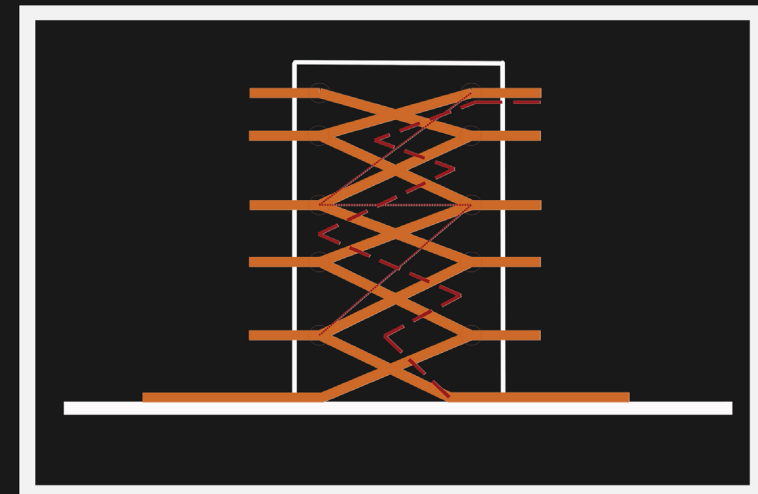
EXPLORING VERTICALITY WITH ELEVATED URBAN STREET CONDITIONS TO THE UPPER LEVELS OF THE BUILDING

## 5 THE MAGNET



WHY NOT USE THE STREETS OF THE COMMUNITY AS STREETS OF CELEBRATION OF GATHERINGS???? OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

## 6 NETWORK OF STREETS



PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND TERTIARY STREETS TO REGULATE DIFFERENT CIRCULATIONS WITHIN THE BUILDING AND EXPLORING VERTICALLY AND HORIZONTALLY

FIGURE 27: COMPILATION OF STRATEGY SKETCHES DERIVED FROM THE FOXRIDGE APARTMENTS, MAIN STREET AND CASE STUDY ANALYSIS

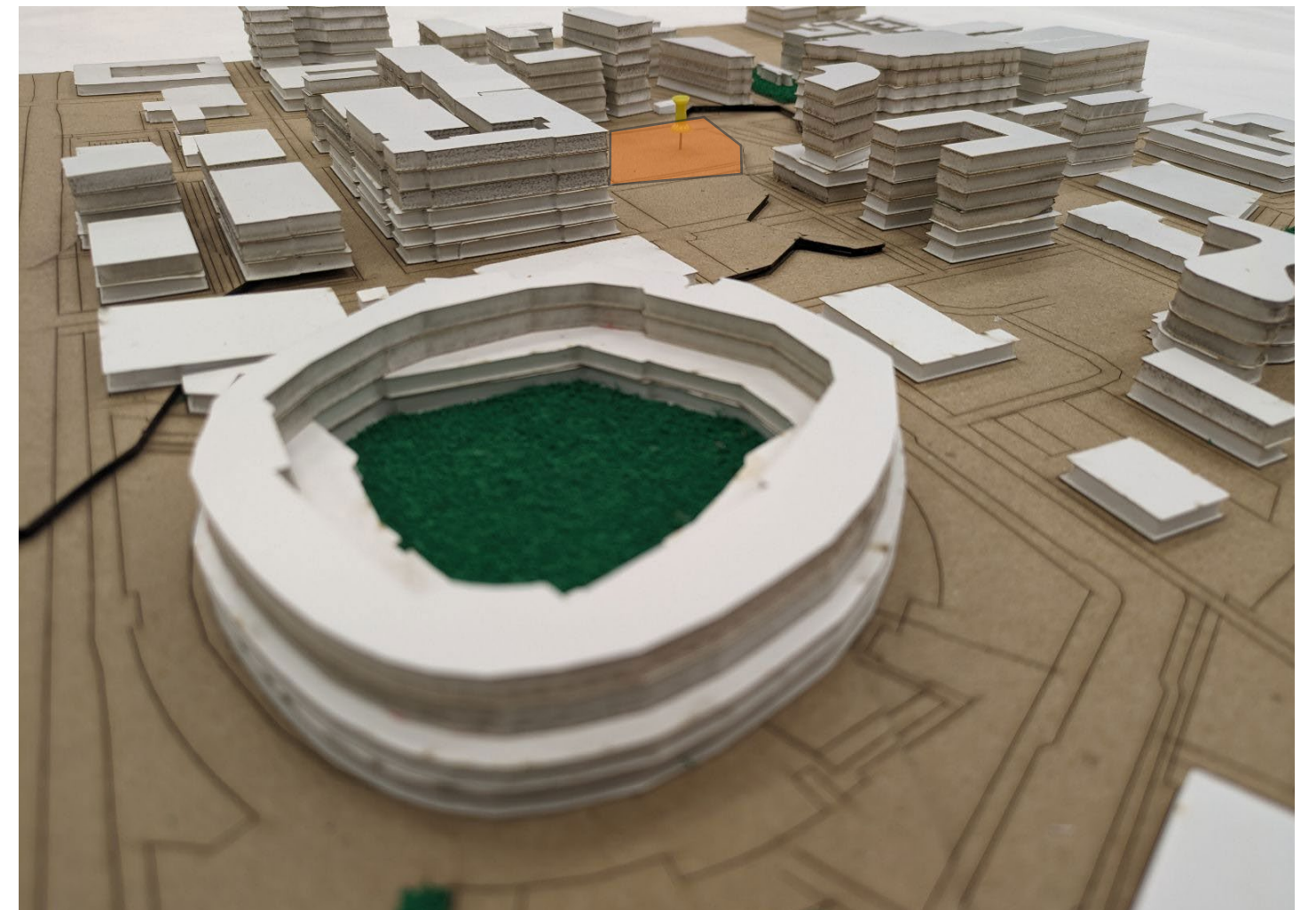
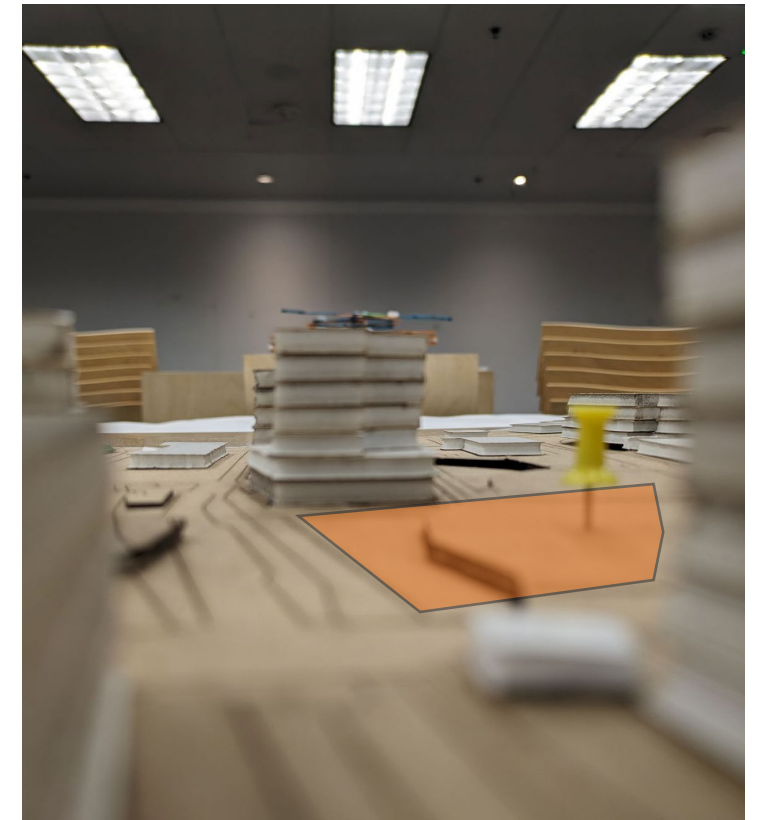


FIGURE 44: MODEL STUDY TO UNDERSTAND THE SITE AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO IT CONTEXT

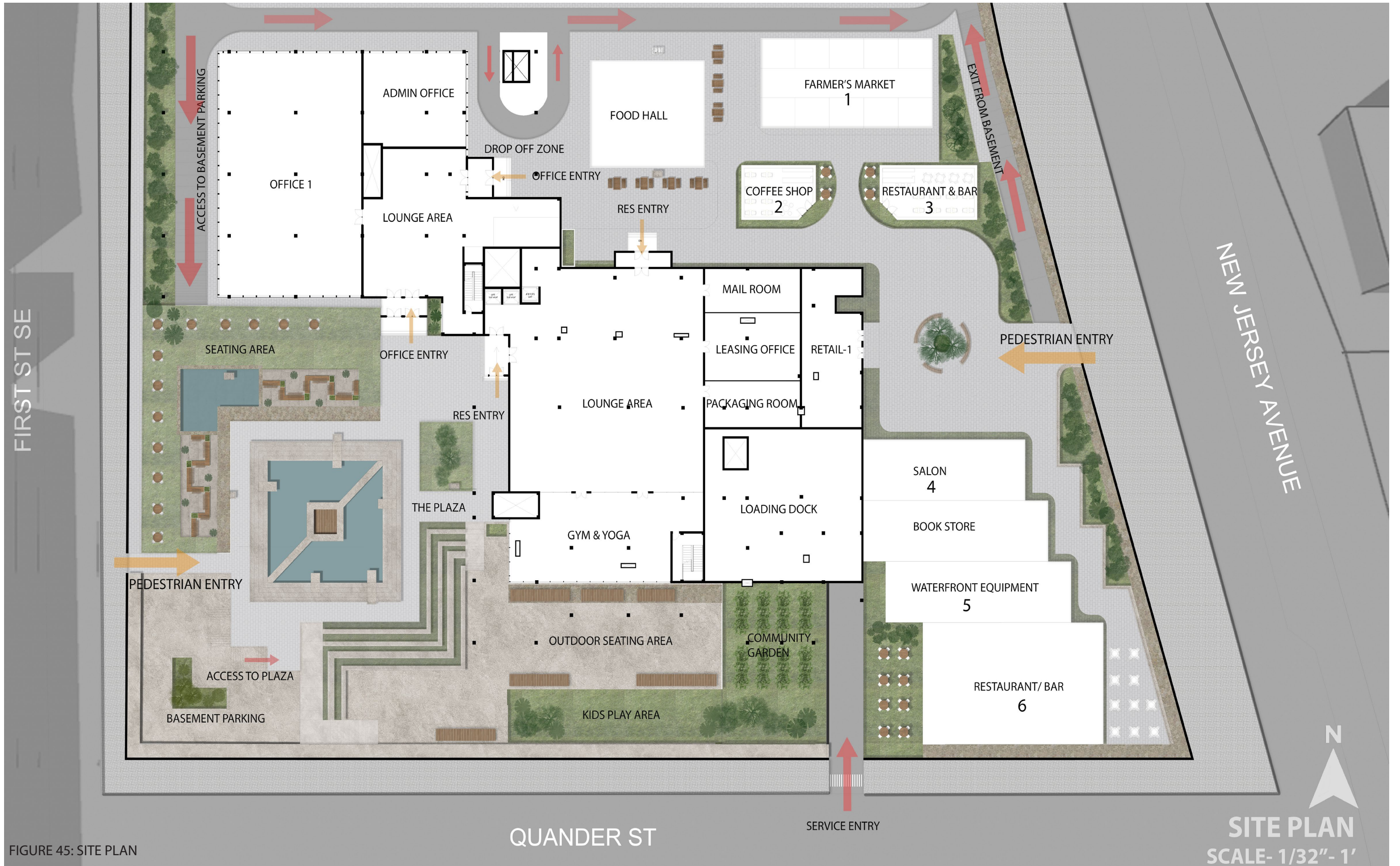
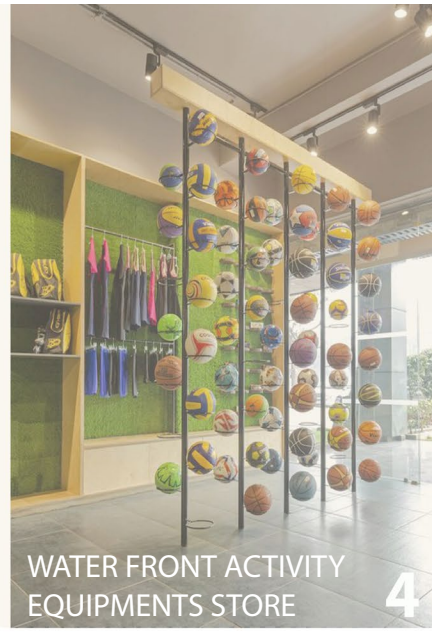
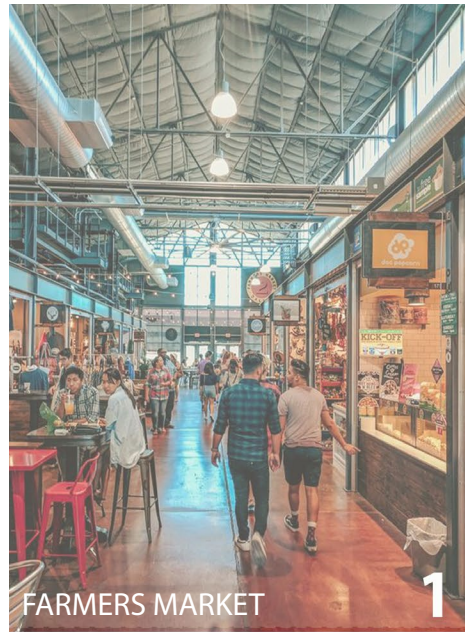
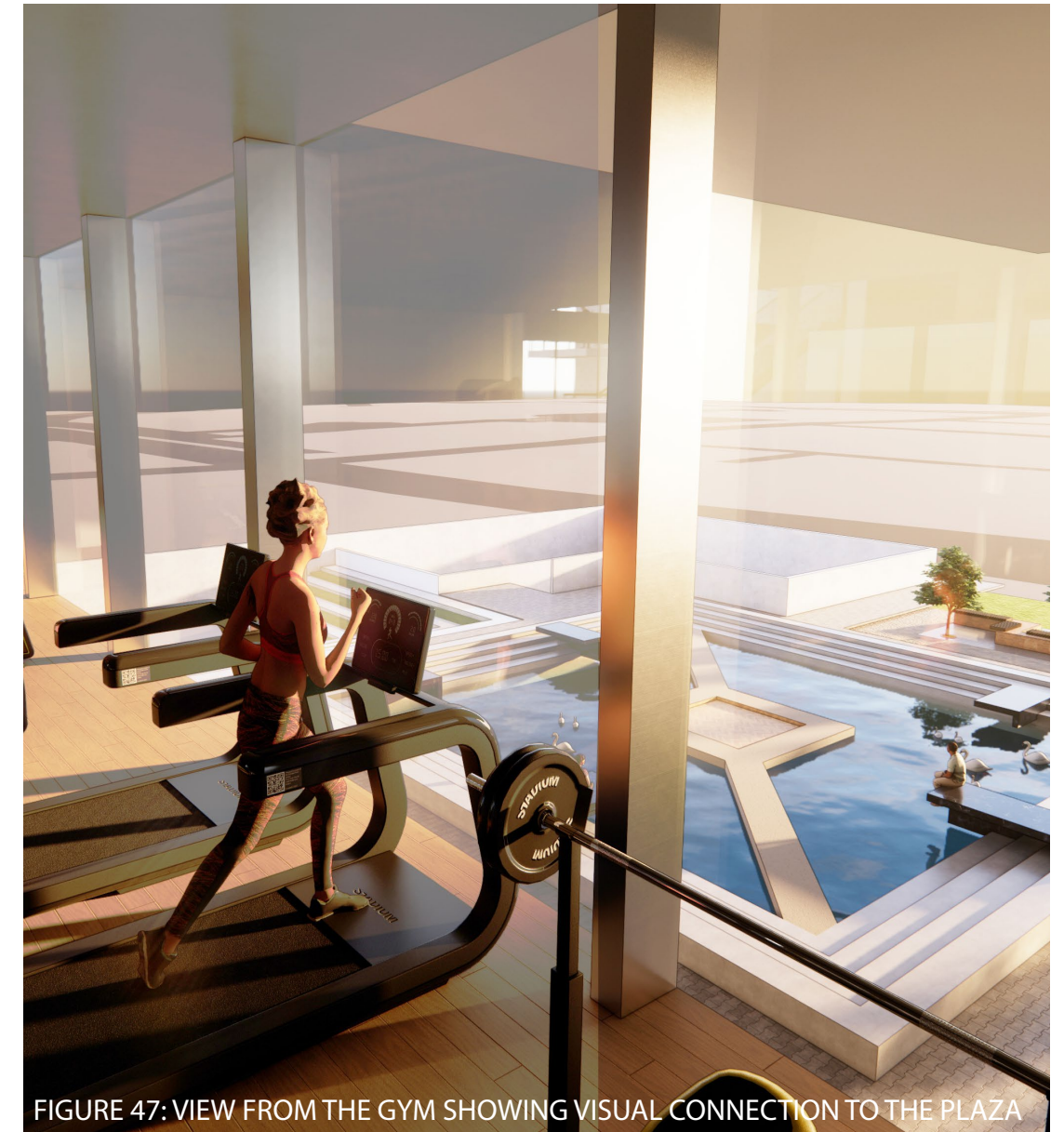
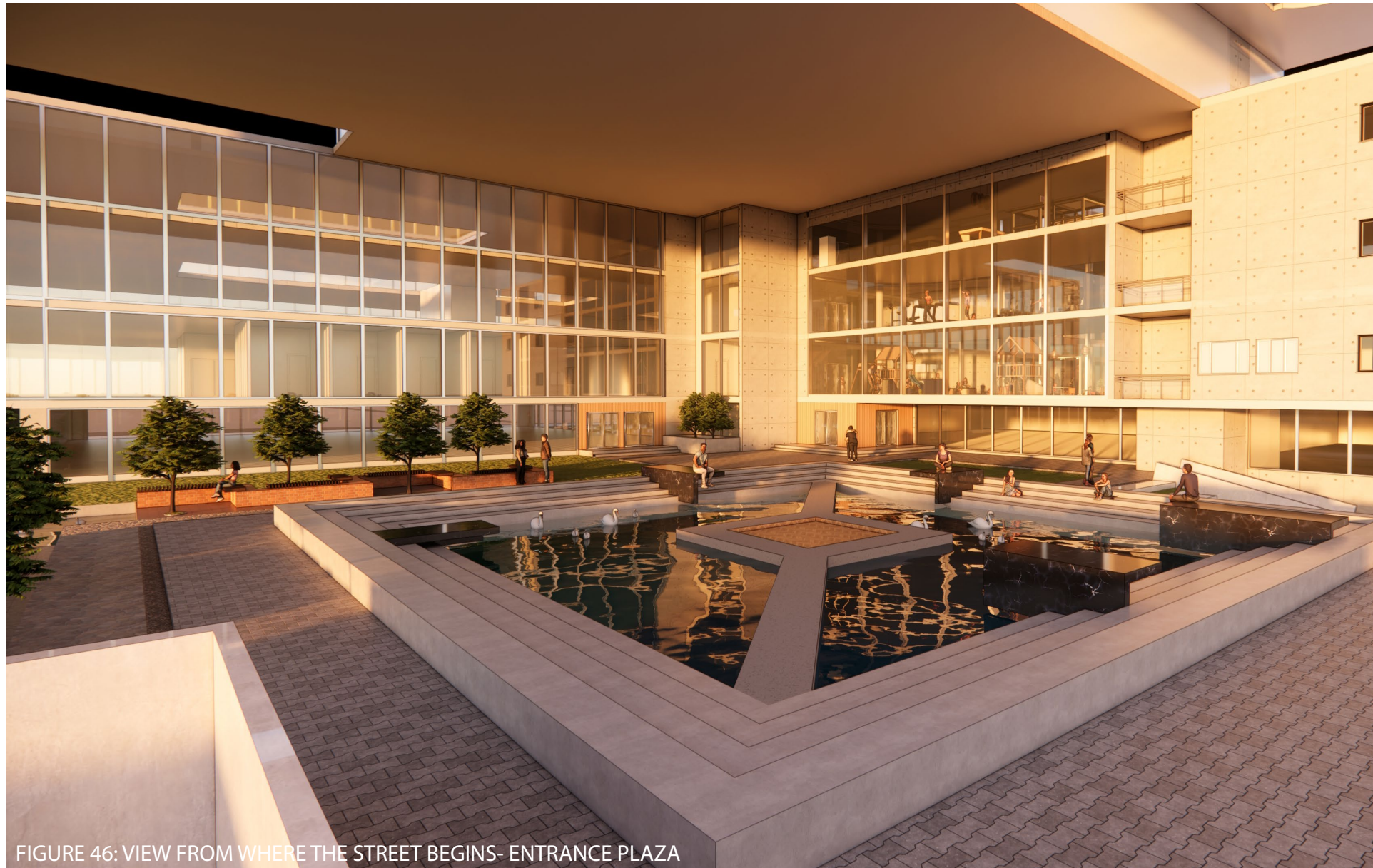


FIGURE 45: SITE PLAN

**SITE PLAN**  
SCALE- 1/32" - 1'



VARIOUS AMENITIES ON THE SITE WHICH INVITE NON-RESIDENTS TO INTERACT WITH RESIDENTS



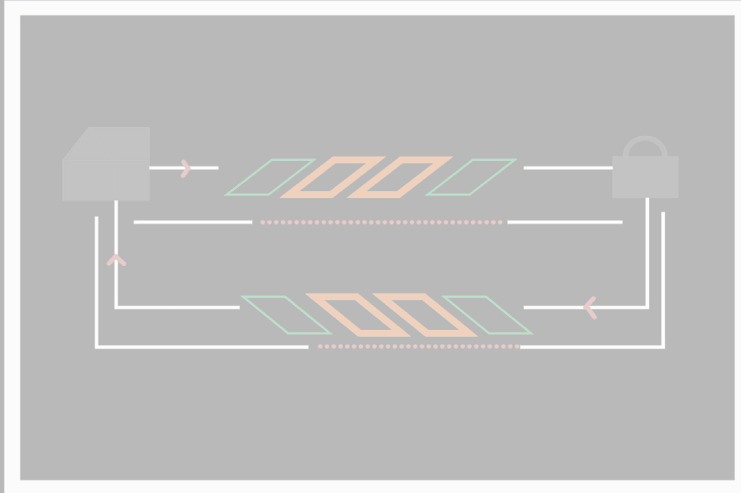
AERIAL VIEW

FIGURE 48:



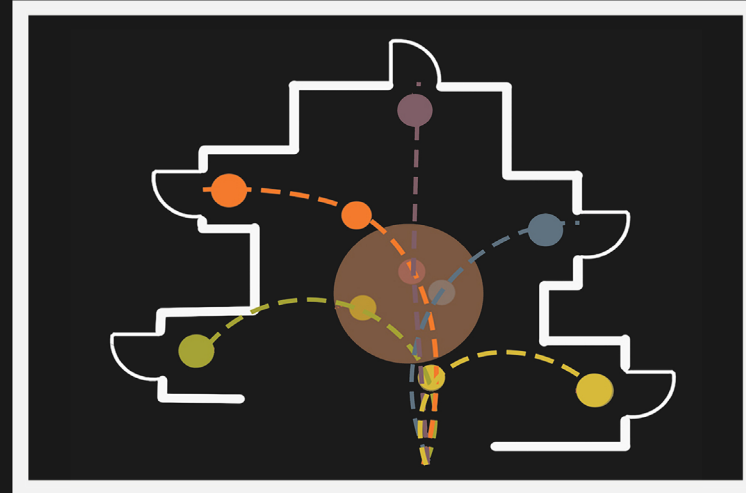
# STRATEGIES APPLICATION- II

## 1 THE PAUSE



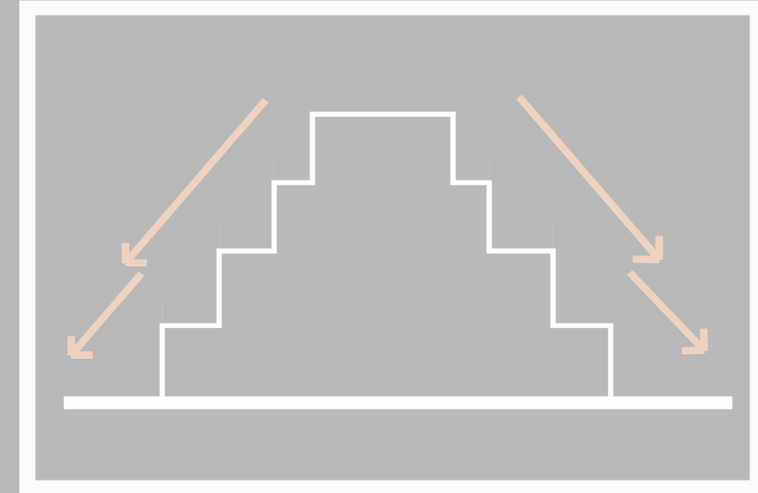
LAYERING THE MOVEMENT FROM FIRST-SECOND-THIRD SPACES THROUGH VARIOUS ARCHITECTURAL SPACES CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIAL INTERACTION

## 2 THE LAYER



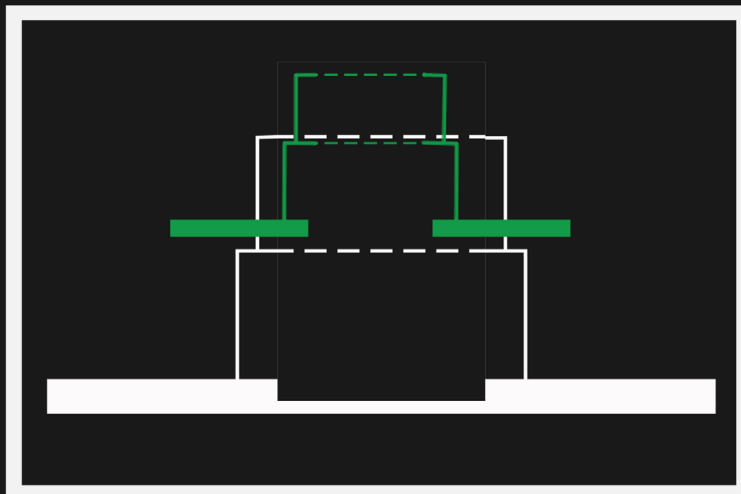
PROJECTION AND RECESSION- CREATING A FOYER WHICH ACTS AS A THRESHOLD BELONGS TO THE RESIDENTS TO CREATE A SENSE OF BELONGING

## 3 THE TERRACE FORM



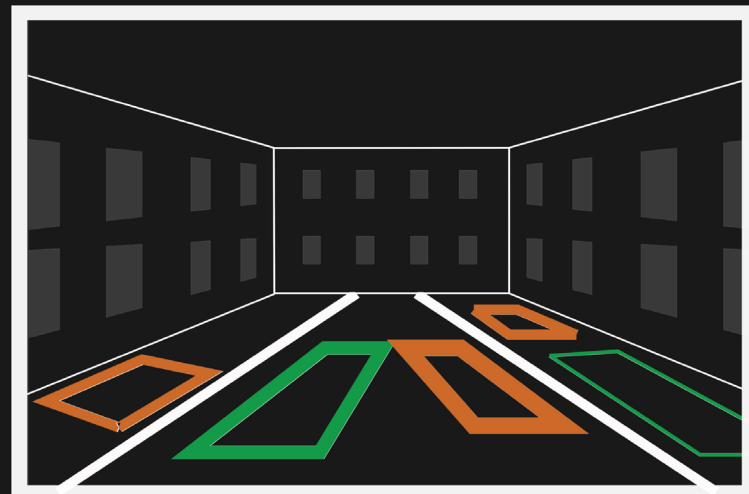
PLAY OF PROJECTIONS AND RECESSIONS EXPLORING THE TERRACE FORM ALONG THE SECTION TO CREATE VISUAL COMMUNICATION AND EYES ON STREET

## 4 THE ELEVATED STREET



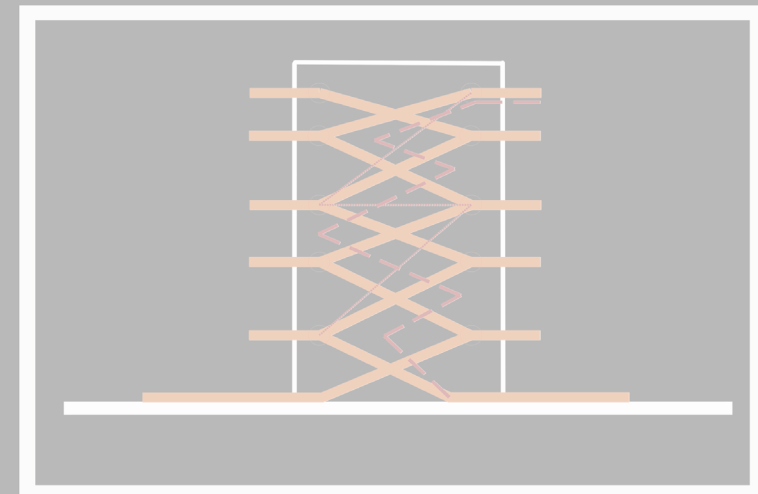
EXPLORING VERTICALITY WITH ELEVATED URBAN STREET CONDITIONS TO THE UPPER LEVELS OF THE BUILDING

## 5 THE MAGNET



WHY NOT USE THE STREETS OF THE COMMUNITY AS STREETS OF CELEBRATION OF GATHERINGS???? OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

## 6 NETWORK OF STREETS



PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND TERTIARY STREETS TO REGULATE DIFFERENT CIRCULATIONS WITHIN THE BUILDING AND EXPLORING VERTICALLY AND HORIZONTALLY

FIGURE 27: COMPILATION OF STRATEGY SKETCHES DERIVED FROM THE FOXRIDGE APARTMENTS, MAIN STREET AND CASE STUDY ANALYSIS



FIGURE 49: FLOOR PLANS

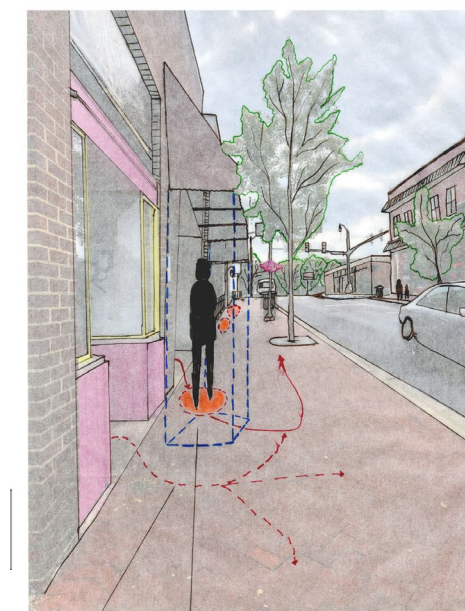
THIRD FLOOR PLAN  
SCALE 1/4" = 1'

- POTENTIAL SPACES FOR ACTIVITIES IDENTIFIED THROUGH ANALYSIS
- THE INTERIOR URBAN STREETS
- MORE PRIVATE VERSIONS OF STREETS AS BALCONIES
- TYPICAL FLOORS

RESIDENTIAL UNITS: 12 UNITS  
TYPE : 2, 3 BHK & STUDIO  
SECOND FLOOR PLAN  
SCALE 1/8" = 1'



FOUND AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PLACE INTERESTING ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMMUNITY IN SPACES WHERE ALL HAVE VISUAL COMMUNICATION



- POTENTIAL SPACES FOR ACTIVITIES IDENTIFIED THROUGH ANALYSIS
- THE INTERIOR URBAN STREETS
- MORE PRIVATE VERSIONS OF STREETS AS BALCONIES
- TYPICAL FLOORS



SECTIONAL PERSPECTIVE  
THROUGH THE RESIDENTIAL UNITS  
FIGURE 50



Figure 51: 3D VIEW

*View of the central atrium space creating a hub for gathering, celebrations and lounging*



Figure 52: 3D VIEW

*View from outside the lift- Beginning of inviting interior streets with seating and kid's play areas and gym*



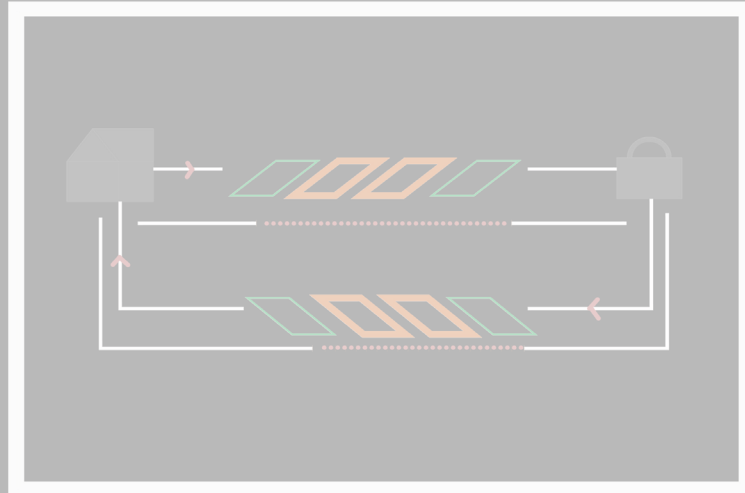
Figure 53: 3D VIEW



*View of the re-interpreted residential entrance creating a sense of belonging by a moment of self-reflection*

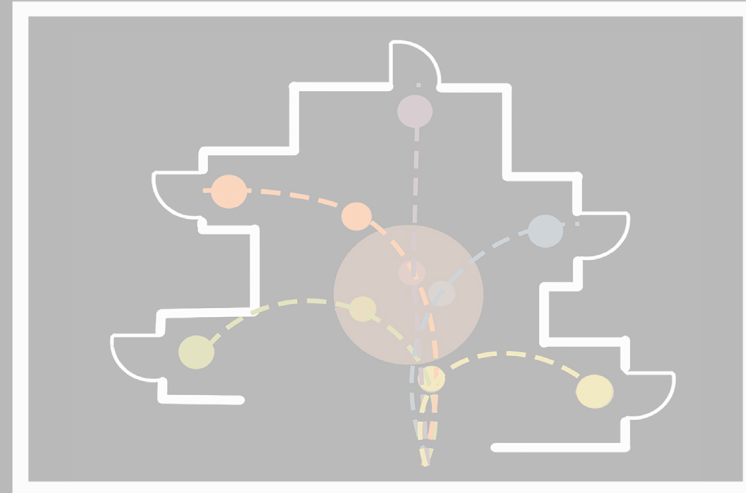
# STRATEGIES APPLICATION- III

## 1 THE PAUSE



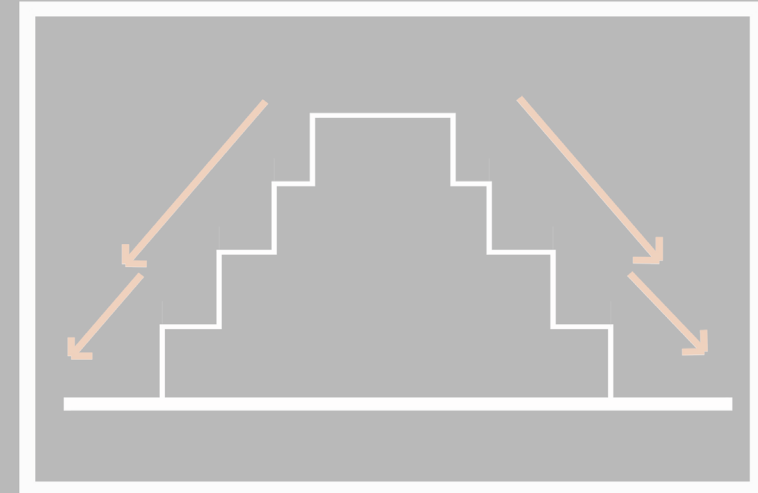
LAYERING THE MOVEMENT FROM FIRST-SECOND-THIRD SPACES THROUGH VARIOUS ARCHITECTURAL SPACES CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIAL INTERACTION

## 2 THE LAYER



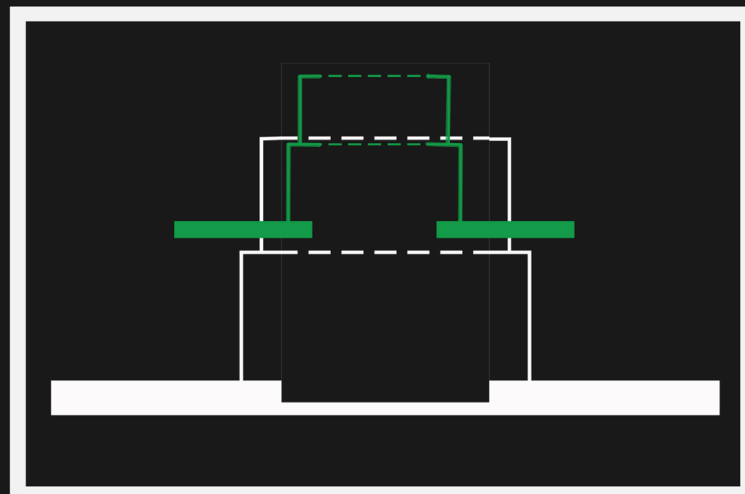
PROJECTION AND RECESSION- CREATING A FOYER WHICH ACTS AS A THRESHOLD BELONGS TO THE RESIDENTS TO CREATE A SENSE OF BELONGING

## 3 THE TERRACE FORM



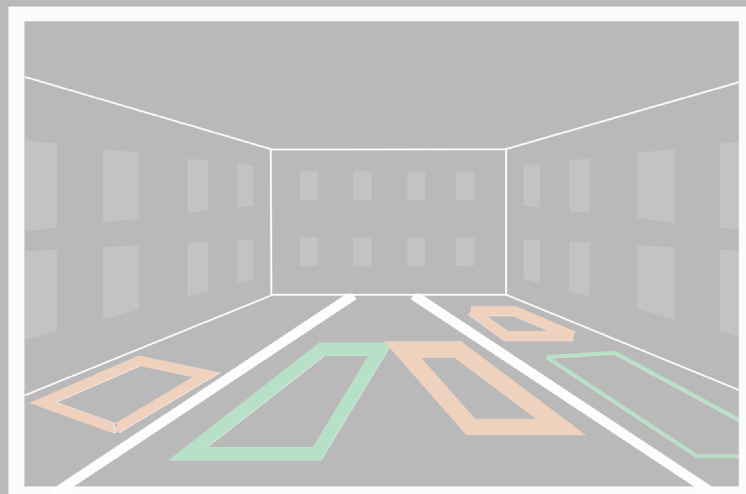
PLAY OF PROJECTIONS AND RECESSIONS EXPLORING THE TERRACE FORM ALONG THE SECTION TO CREATE VISUAL COMMUNICATION AND EYES ON STREET

## 4 THE ELEVATED STREET



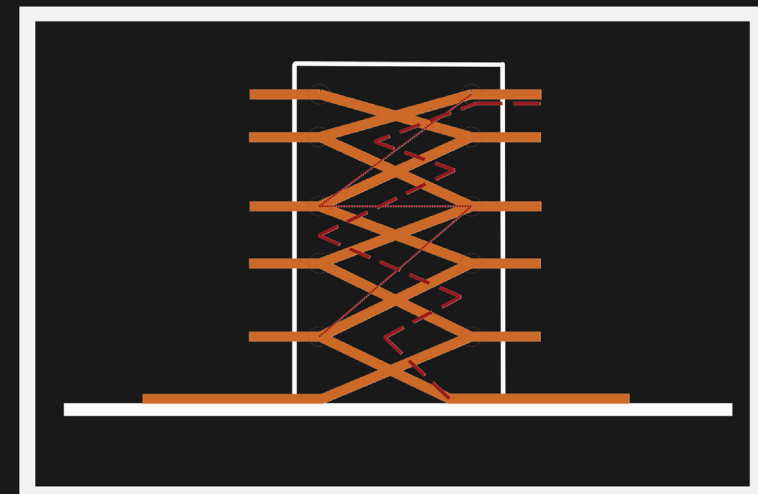
EXPLORING VERTICALITY WITH ELEVATED URBAN STREET CONDITIONS TO THE UPPER LEVELS OF THE BUILDING

## 5 THE MAGNET



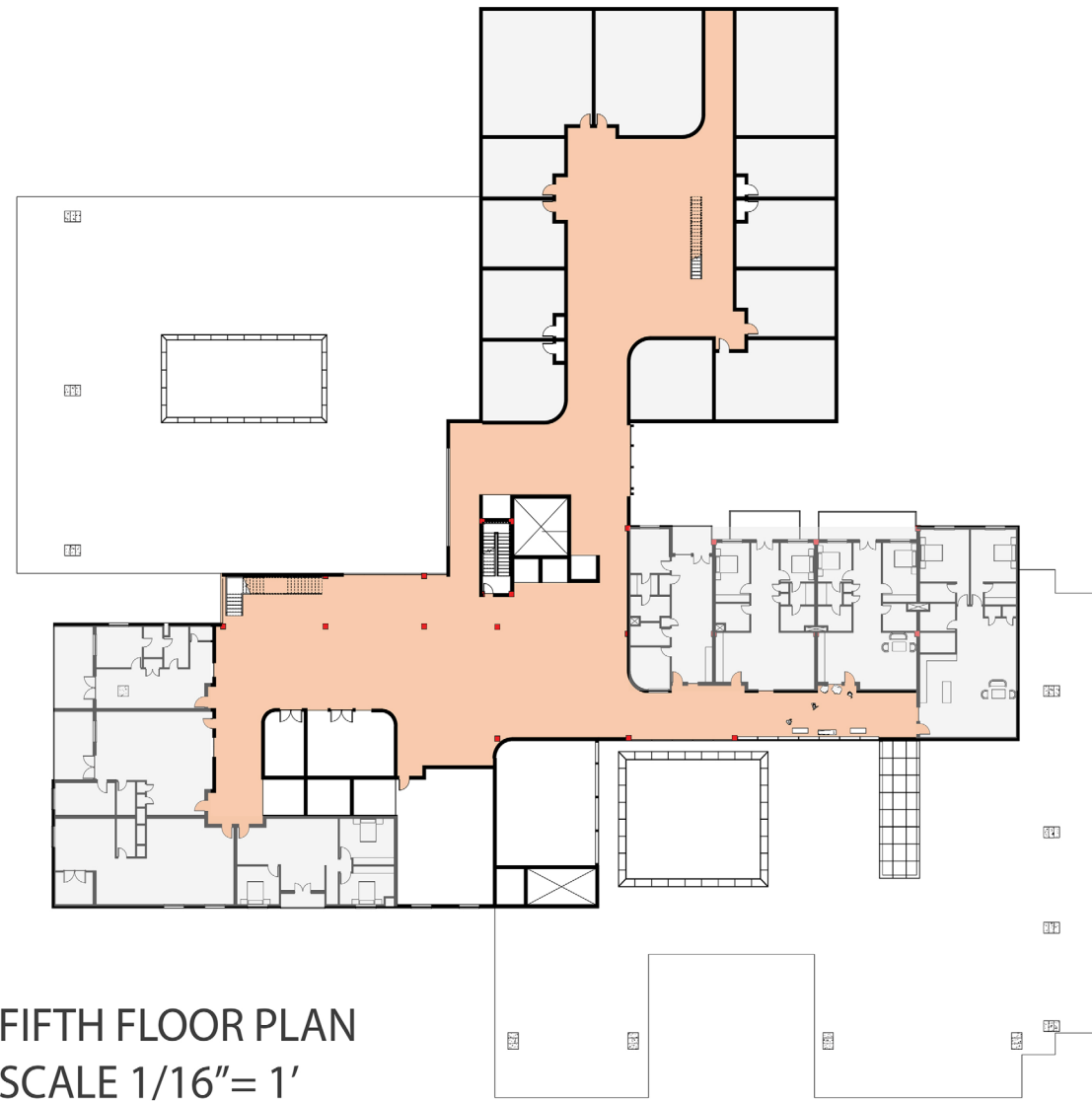
WHY NOT USE THE STREETS OF THE COMMUNITY AS STREETS OF CELEBRATION OF GATHERINGS???? OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

## 6 NETWORK OF STREETS



PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND TERTIARY STREETS TO REGULATE DIFFERENT CIRCULATIONS WITHIN THE BUILDING AND EXPLORING VERTICALLY AND HORIZONTALLY

FIGURE 27: COMPILATION OF STRATEGY SKETCHES DERIVED FROM THE FOXRIDGE APARTMENTS, MAIN STREET AND CASE STUDY ANALYSIS



FIFTH FLOOR PLAN  
SCALE 1/16" = 1'

- POTENTIAL SPACES FOR ACTIVITIES IDENTIFIED THROUGH ANALYSIS
- THE INTERIOR URBAN STREETS
- MORE PRIVATE VERSIONS OF STREETS AS BALCONIES
- TYPICAL FLOORS

Figure 55: FLOOR PLANS



STRATEGY SKETCH  
TENTH FLOOR PLAN  
SCALE 1/16" = 1'

The streets are layered with a strategy developed from the Main Street analysis and how the layering of those streets are done. The outdoor kitchen, grilling spaces provide opportunities for people have more creative interactions and get to know the people living in their community.

ELEVENTH FLOOR PLAN  
SCALE 1/16" = 1'

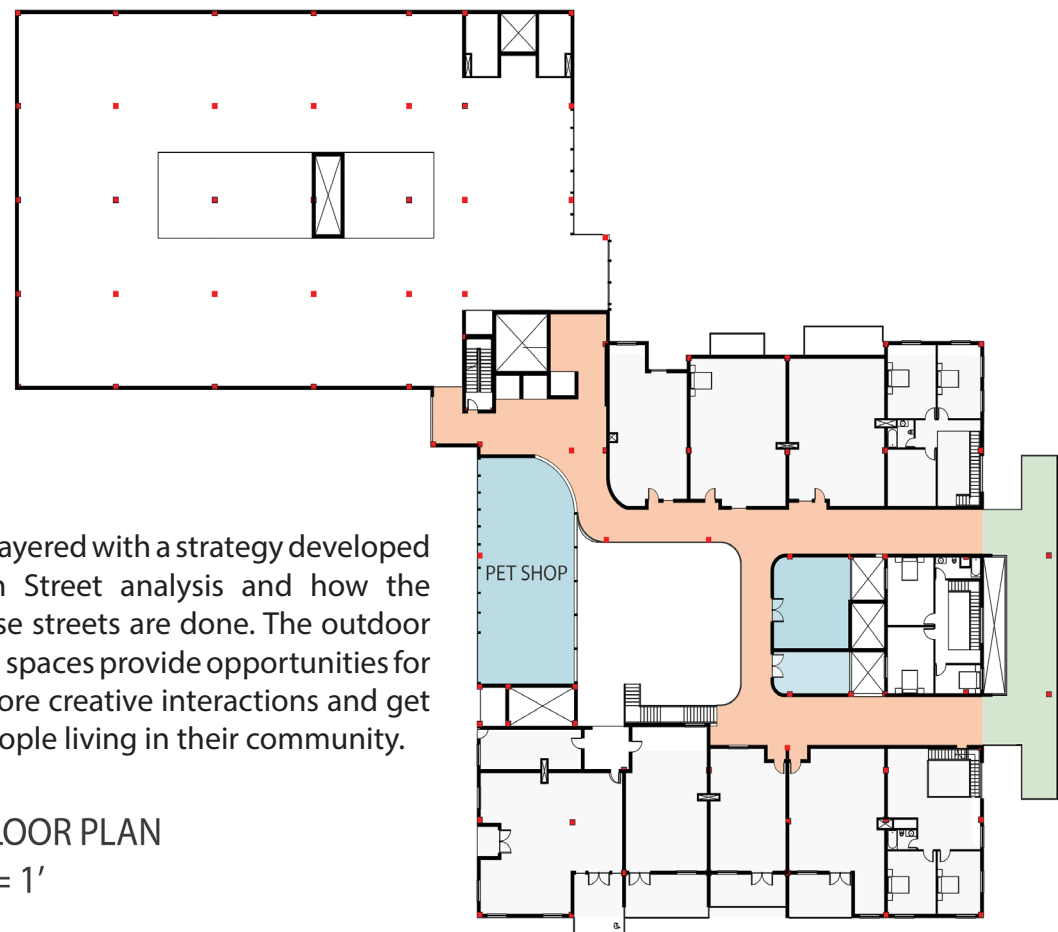
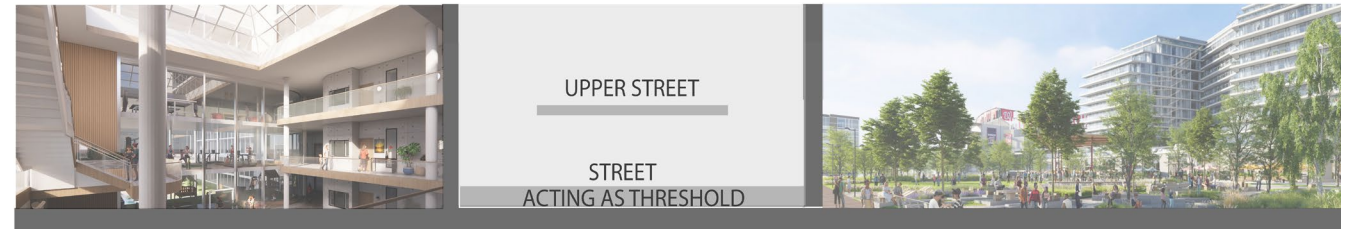




Figure 54: 3D VIEW

*View from the 5th floor of the re-interpreted corridors through the sectional and volumetric relationships*

- POTENTIAL SPACES FOR ACTIVITIES IDENTIFIED THROUGH ANALYSIS
- THE INTERIOR URBAN STREETS
- MORE PRIVATE VERSIONS OF STREETS AS BALCONIES
- TYPICAL FLOORS



# PERSPECTIVE SECTION THROUGH RESIDENTIAL SPACES

FIGURE 56



Figure 57: 3D VIEW

*View of the exterior street which acts like a threshold and creates connection with the neighborhood*



Figure 58: 3D VIEW

View of the street with double height spaces with an outdoor kitchen, seating and walking space

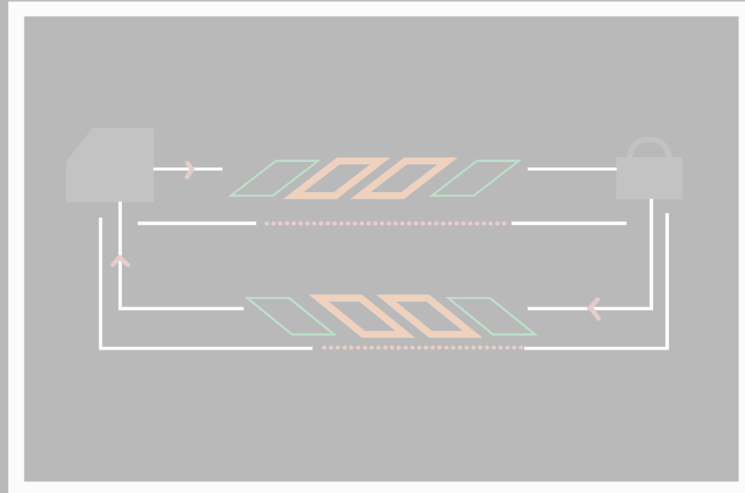


Figure 59: 3D VIEW

*View of the open deck on the third floor to let abundant lighting and create porosity at a volumetric scale and create visual connect with the neighborhood*

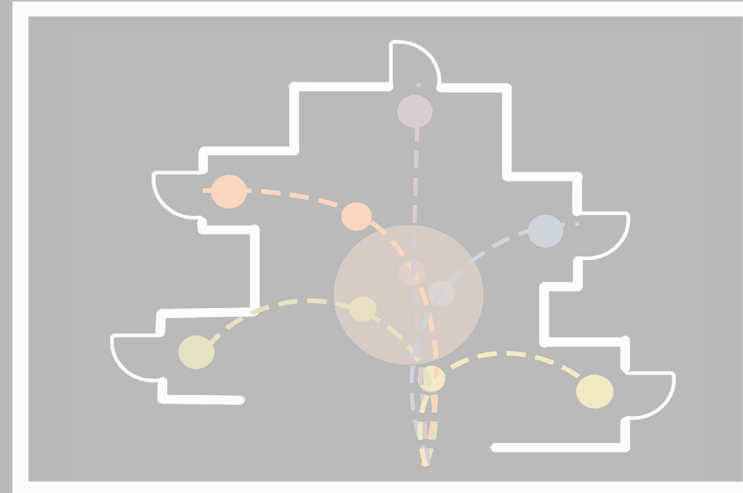
# STRATEGIES APPLICATION- IV

## 1 THE PAUSE



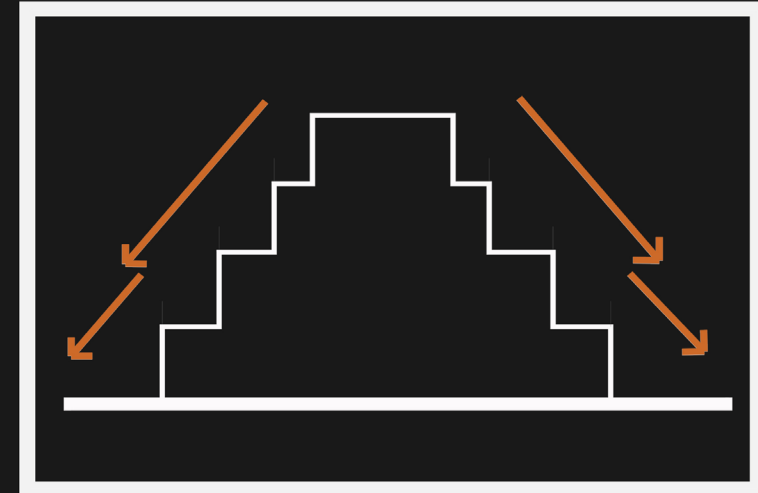
LAYERING THE MOVEMENT FROM FIRST-SECOND-THIRD SPACES THROUGH VARIOUS ARCHITECTURAL SPACES CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIAL INTERACTION

## 2 THE LAYER



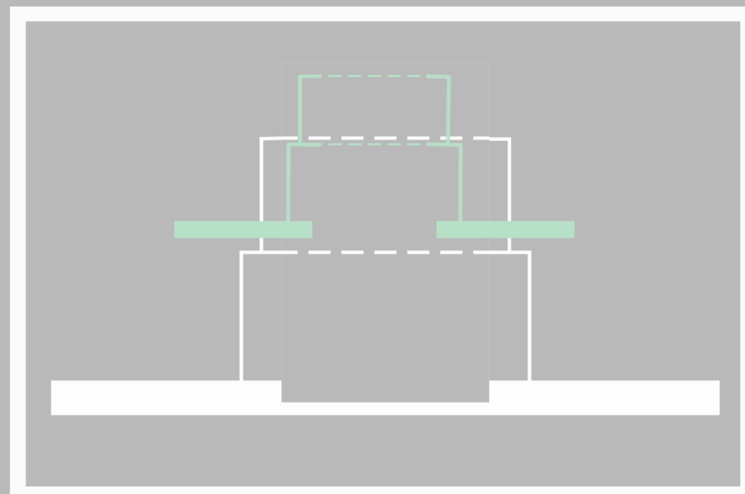
PROJECTION AND RECESSION- CREATING A FOYER WHICH ACTS AS A THRESHOLD BELONGS TO THE RESIDENTS TO CREATE A SENSE OF BELONGING

## 3 THE TERRACE FORM



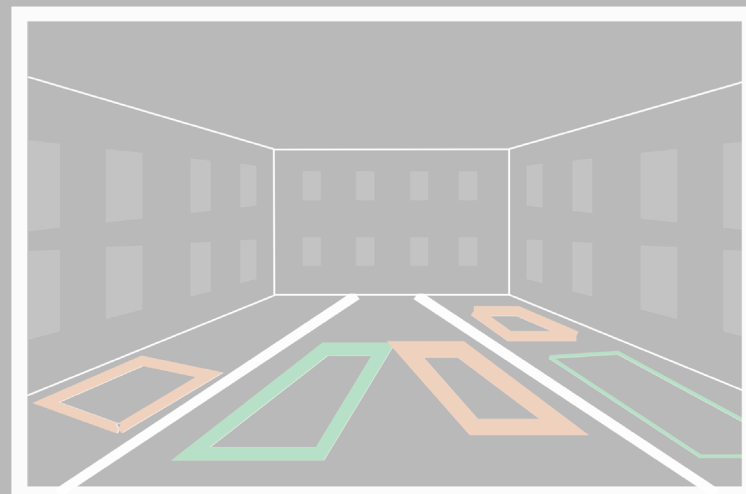
PLAY OF PROJECTIONS AND RECESSIONS EXPLORING THE TERRACE FORM ALONG THE SECTION TO CREATE VISUAL COMMUNICATION AND EYES ON STREET

## 4 THE ELEVATED STREET



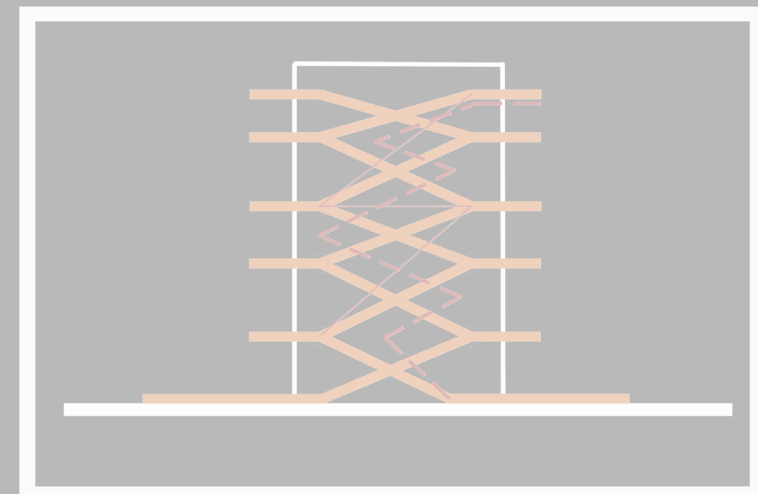
EXPLORING VERTICALITY WITH ELEVATED URBAN STREET CONDITIONS TO THE UPPER LEVELS OF THE BUILDING

## 5 THE MAGNET

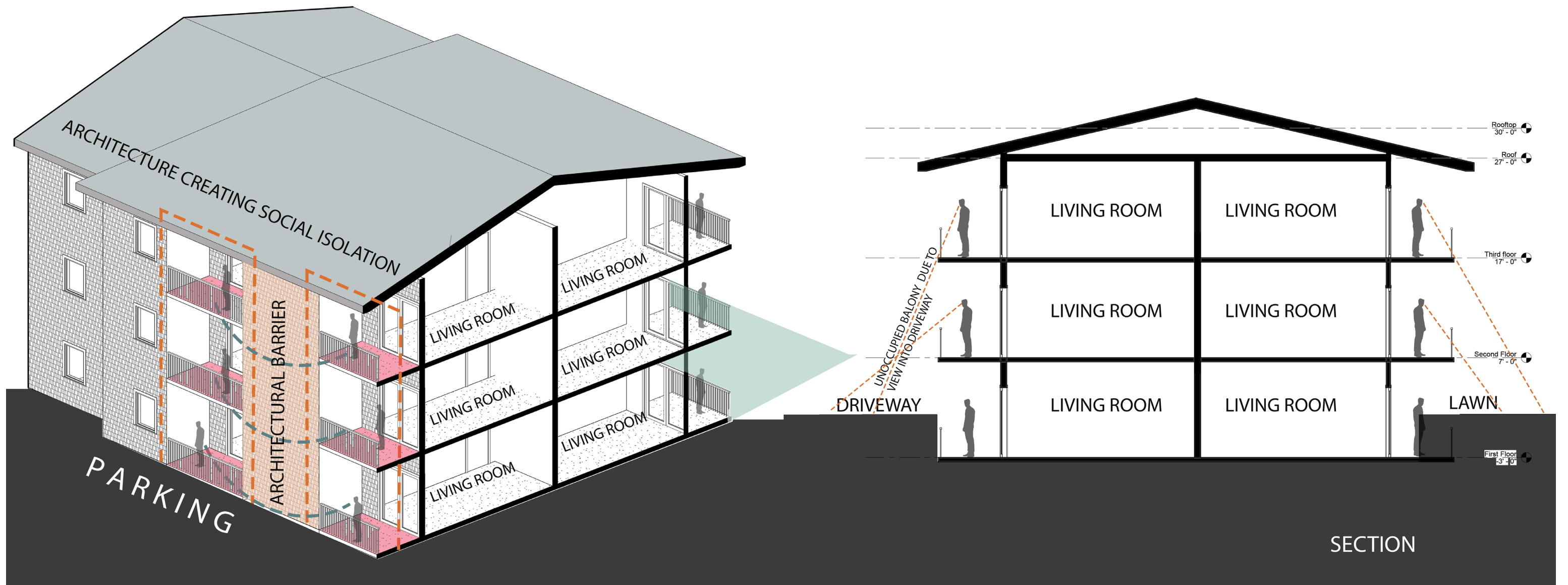


WHY NOT USE THE STREETS OF THE COMMUNITY AS STREETS OF CELEBRATION OF GATHERINGS???? OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

## 6 NETWORK OF STREETS

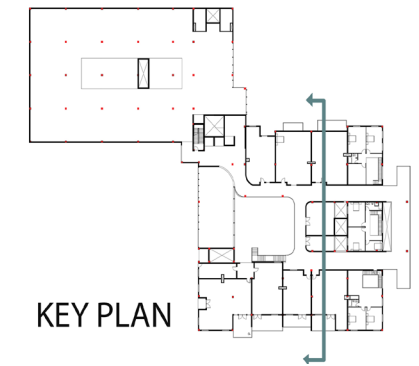
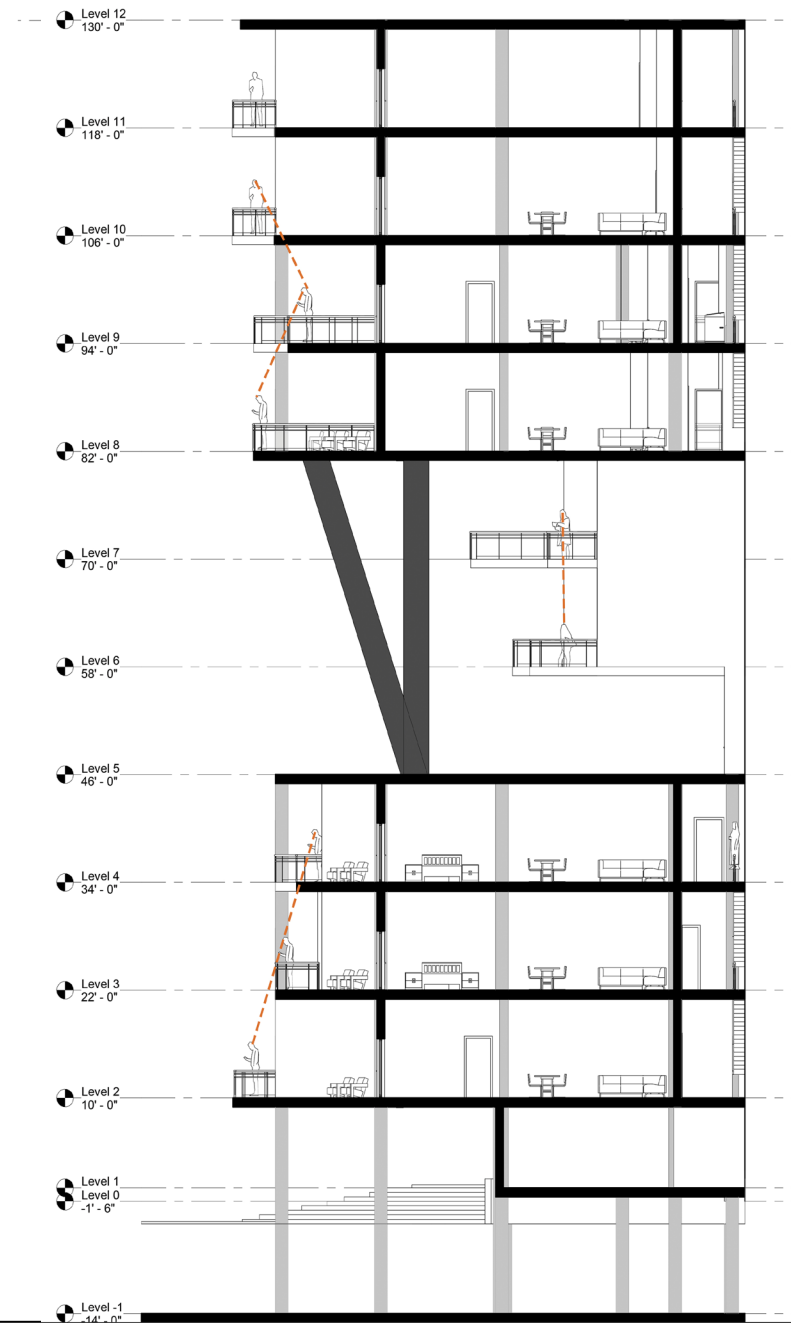
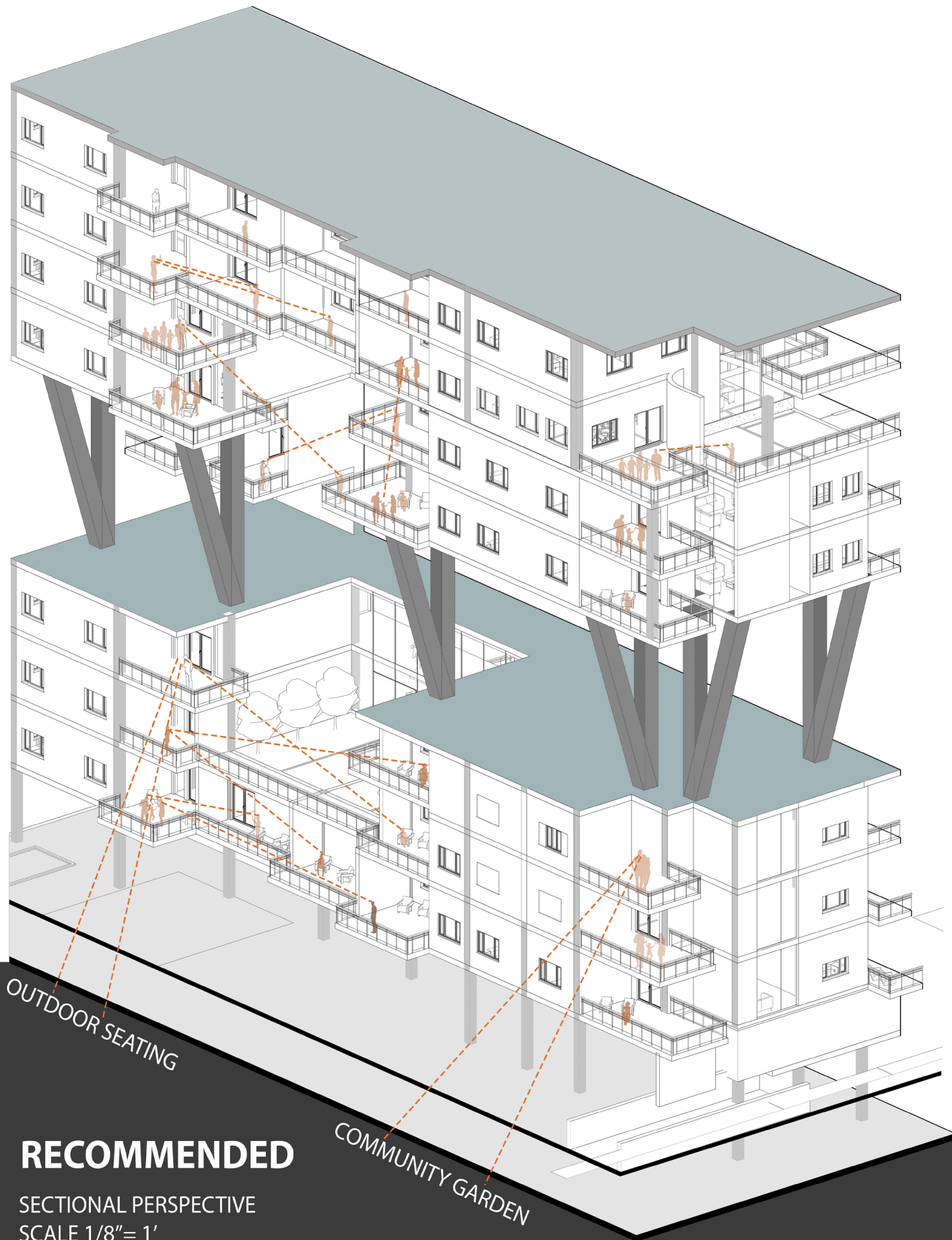


PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND TERTIARY STREETS TO REGULATE DIFFERENT CIRCULATIONS WITHIN THE BUILDING AND EXPLORING VERTICALLY AND HORIZONTALLY



# CONVENTIONAL- FOXRIDGE APARTMENTS

Figure 60: SECTION AND SECTIONAL PERSPECTIVE- FOXRIDGE APARTMENTS, BLACKSBURG



The projections and recessions in the balconies help to create visual connections with the neighbors. There is also a sense of choice when one does not want to step into the visually communication zone and be by themselves and have a semi- enclosed space which does not look into the neighbors balconies.

Figure 2: SECTION AND SECTIONAL PERSPECTIVE- THE PAUSE

SECTION  
SCALE 1/8" = 1'



Figure 62: 3D VIEW- AT NEIGHBORHOOD LEVEL



Figure 63: 3D VIEW- UNCONVENTIONAL VOLUMETRIC RELATIONSHIP TO ITS CONTEXT WHERE THE VOLUMETRIC RELATIONSHIPS PROMOTE SOCIAL INTERACTION

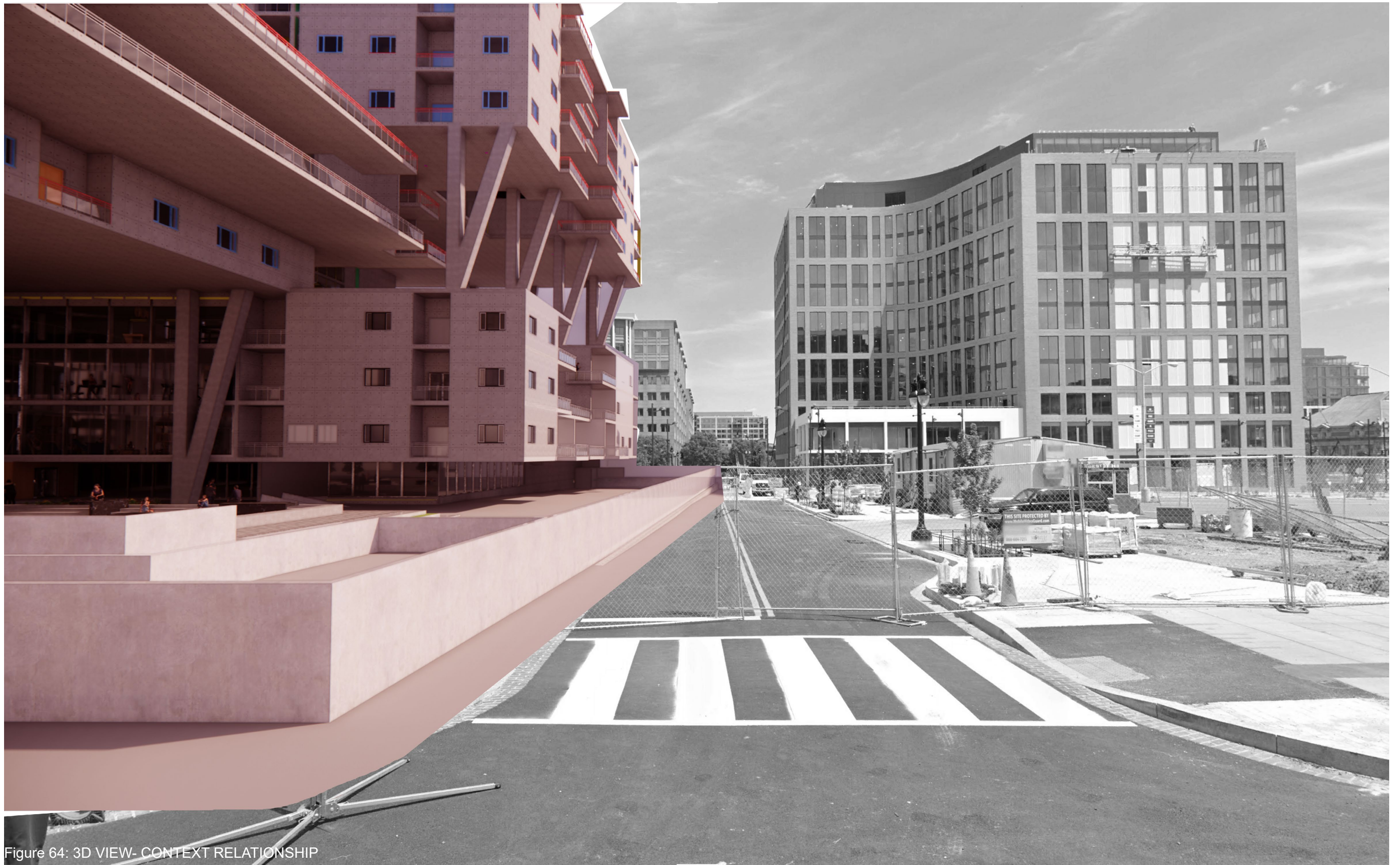


Figure 64: 3D VIEW- CONTEXT RELATIONSHIP



# CONCLUSION

In conclusion, "The Pause" addresses the growing concern that contemporary architecture is losing its essence of humanity and the sense of belonging that communities once cherished. While it is impossible to mandate social interactions, this thesis explores how architecture can naturally facilitate spontaneous human interactions and gatherings, fostering a sense of belonging among community members. Architecture holds both the obligation and the potential to create moments of connection and engagement through thoughtful spatial design and urban planning.

The thesis acknowledges that while it cannot completely eradicate social isolation and loneliness, it can provide the necessary infrastructure for healthier social lives. By focusing on urban streets and community spaces, the design promotes spontaneous interactions that contribute to a sense of community. This approach emphasizes that meaningful connections and a better quality of life stem from individuals' efforts to engage with their surroundings and the people in them.

Moreover, this thesis caters to individuals who thrive on socializing, meeting new people, and fostering relationships. The subtle yet impactful role of architecture is to provide opportunities for these interactions, creating beautiful and memorable moments. Materiality also plays a crucial role in this context, as the choice of materials can make spaces more inviting and help establish visual connections within residential buildings and the broader neighborhood.

Throughout the thesis, I have strived to create a sense of belonging by designing spaces that encourage human interactions at the building, community, and neighborhood levels. By doing so, the thesis highlights the transformative power of architecture in enhancing social cohesion and fostering a vibrant, connected community.

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