

## The Program

Architecture involves the creation of a space through the physical expression of a shape or form. Many people are able to perceive these shapes and forms, and quickly compute large amounts of information through seeing with their eyes. However, the visually impaired must rely on other auditory and tactile clues to gain an understanding of the space they occupy including their orientation within it.

I was inspired to investigate this topic as I witnessed my late grandfather experience his own loss of sight. My design intent was to create a mixed-use building that was both a private assisted living facility and a public Braille Library. The assisted living facility would temporarily house visually impaired middle-aged residents who have the desire to learn Braille. The program facilitates the sightless residents to come together as a community. Here, they learn Braille to lessen the "gap" between them and the sight seeing world.

It is the idea for the visually impaired to be able to walk down a hallway guided by a sense of light and feeling of shadow created through architecture. Each level is also clad on the exterior and interior with brick that varies in size and texture. As you ascend in level, the bricks decrease in size and roughness to tangibly give orientation.



*My grandparents*