

Beyond the Walls
Empowering Dwellings for Those
Living with Dementia

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fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

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ABSTRACT

Architecture has the potential to significantly enhance the lives of individuals with dementia, particularly through the design of their most immediate and personal environment. This thesis explores how responsive residential apartments could contribute to wayfinding, reduce anxiety, support orientation, and elevate a sense of independence and dignity. The vehicle for this thesis is a village for patients suffering from dementia directed by architectural conditions that suggest cognitive and emotional support.

As a primary measure each apartment is oriented toward the east with a series of windows to provide a direct connection to the sunrise. At the same time, the eastern view direction offers views of the surrounding activity of the complex. Personalized entryways, floor material changes, and distinct signage within the building further assist memory and recognition. The siting seeks to encourage residents to wake with the natural rhythm of the day and visually engage with the village life beyond their individual apartments. The architecture pursues an amplified navigational clarity with a kind of intuitive spatial organization: the residential blocks form the western boundary of a circular village, whereas the essential amenities

as the eastern boundary are placed in a direct line of sight from the apartment, thus visible and accessible from an internal path.

The presence of natural light inside the residential buildings plays a vital role in maintaining circadian rhythm and providing sensory stimulation. Daylight is brought deep into the space from the floor to ceiling windows, particularly during morning hours. There are varieties of spatial pocket, quiet alcoves, and open mezzanines as opportunities for solitude, reflection, or social connection. These spatial boundaries draw from a warm, tactile material palette to increase the haptic part of wayfinding. The choice of familiar colors and textures are intended to evoke a sense of comfort, while residential-scale finishes suggest a homelike environment over the stereotypic sterility of institutional care.

Overall, the architectural framework engages intuitive wayfinding, natural light, and diverse spatial experiences to develop a more dementia-friendly living dignified environment. The same framework is also the basis for the layout of the broader village to promote a higher degree of autonomy in a difficult stage of life.

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***GENERAL
AUDIENCE
ABSTRACT***

This project explores how architecture could possibly improve daily life for people living with dementia by proposing residential environments that support comfort, independence, and peace of mind. Set within a village created specifically for those with dementia, the focus is on apartments and communal spaces with the intent to reduce confusion, support memory, and foster a sense of belonging.

Each apartment faces east to bring in the morning sun, helping residents wake naturally and feel connected to the daily rhythm of village life. Subtle design elements—such as personalized entryways, changing floor textures, and gentle signage—make navigation intuitive and reassuring. The layout forms a circular path, with residences on one side

and shared amenities such as a library, dining hall, and gym, positioned clearly visible across the village.

Natural light plays a key role. It is brought deep into the apartments through large windows to support healthy sleep patterns and create a brighter, more uplifting atmosphere. A variety of spaces from quiet alcoves to open gathering areas offer residents flexibility depending on their mood. Familiar, tactile materials like wood and brick give the buildings a warm, home-like feel rather than a clinical one.

Ultimately, this project demonstrates how thoughtful architectural design can help people with dementia feel more at ease, engaged, and independent in their everyday lives.

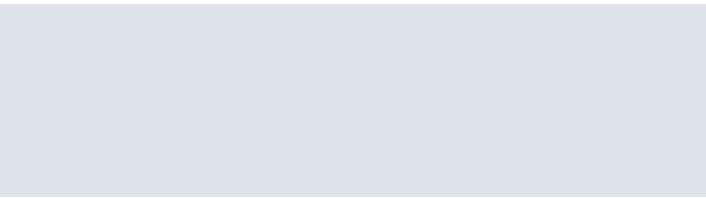
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To my family, thank you for your unwavering support, even from afar. I know that choosing to pursue this path meant putting distance between us, and I'm deeply grateful for your patience, understanding, and constant encouragement. Your love has been my foundation throughout this journey, no matter how many miles apart we've been.

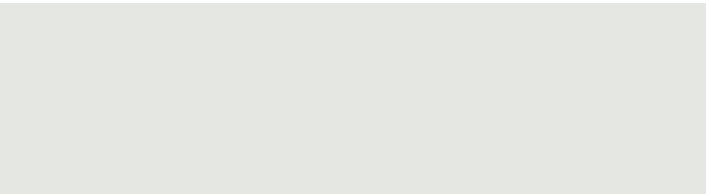
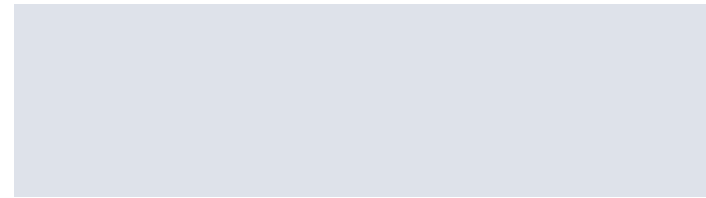
To my graduate friends, I am so thankful to have met each and every one of you. Thank you for the unwavering camaraderie through long nights in the studio, countless study sessions, and the

much-needed moments of laughter and escape. Your presence made even the most challenging days manageable and turned this experience into something far more meaningful than academic achievement alone. I'm deeply grateful for the support, encouragement, and sense of community we built together.

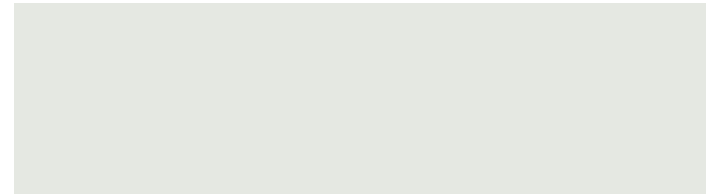
To my undergraduate friends, thank you for the friendships that first sparked my love for architecture, for the late studio nights, the laughs, and the belief in what was possible. Your support in those early years continues to resonate with me today.



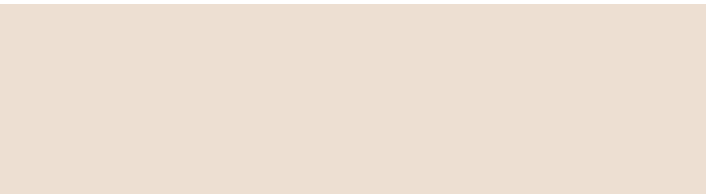
Room Design



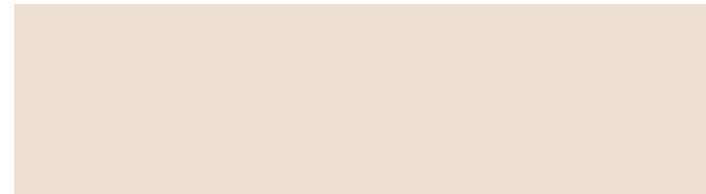
Wayfinding



Natural Light



Spatial Pockets



Materiality



FIGURE 1 : EXTERIOR OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS



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14 Case Study 1



FIGURE 2A : NORD ARCHITECTS WILLOW VALLEY COMMUNITIES SITE PLAN



FIGURE 2B : NORD ARCHITECTS WILLOW VALLEY COMMUNITIES EXTERIOR IMAGE

NORD Architects - Memory Care Center, Willow Valley Communities

NORD Architects operate with an image of formerly familiar domestic space. The project features warm colors, natural materials and an abundance of plants, in search of a calming and inviting atmosphere.

However, the uniformity of forms and materials may hinder wayfinding, and clear visual cues in dementia-focused environments.

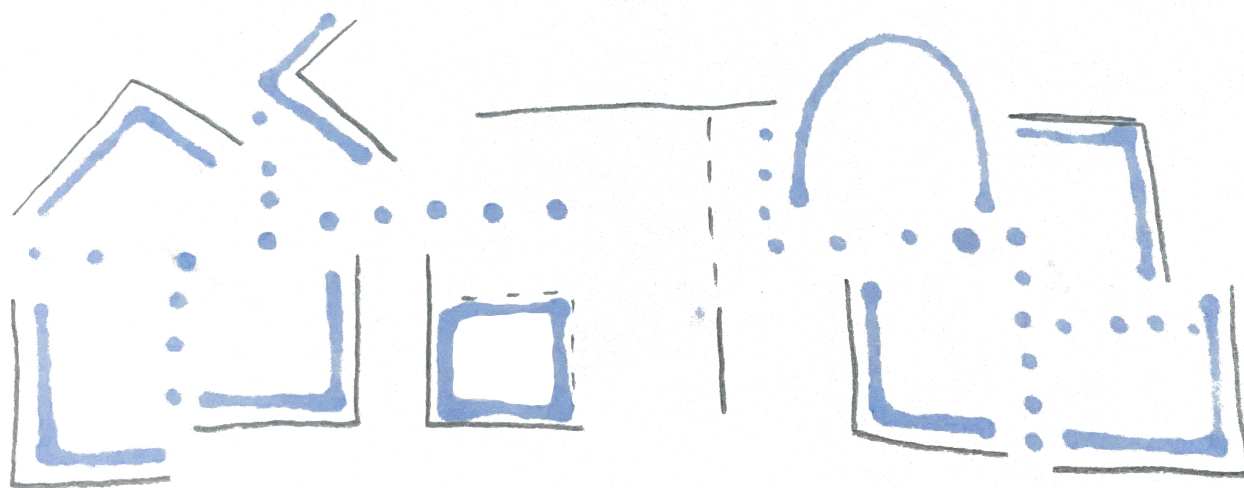


FIGURE 3 : INTERPRETATION OF SITE MOVEMENT

16 Case Study 2



FIGURE 4A : DVA BERLIN EXTERIOR IMAGE

DVA Berlin Berliner Demenzdorf am Wernersee

This dementia village is an unrealized project, intended to support resident autonomy through a multi-building layout, open circulation, and integration with the surrounding landscape. The pond, tree-lined edges, and multiple path options to travel the site radiate an assurance of spatial dimensions and sense of calm and normalcy. The integration of the site within a community suggested a public social engagement and to maintain a familiar rhythm of life.

However, the site's proximity to nearby neighborhoods without a clear boundary and the repetition of building forms and materials may have reduced clarity and compromise wayfinding.



FIGURE 4B : DVA BERLIN SITE PLAN

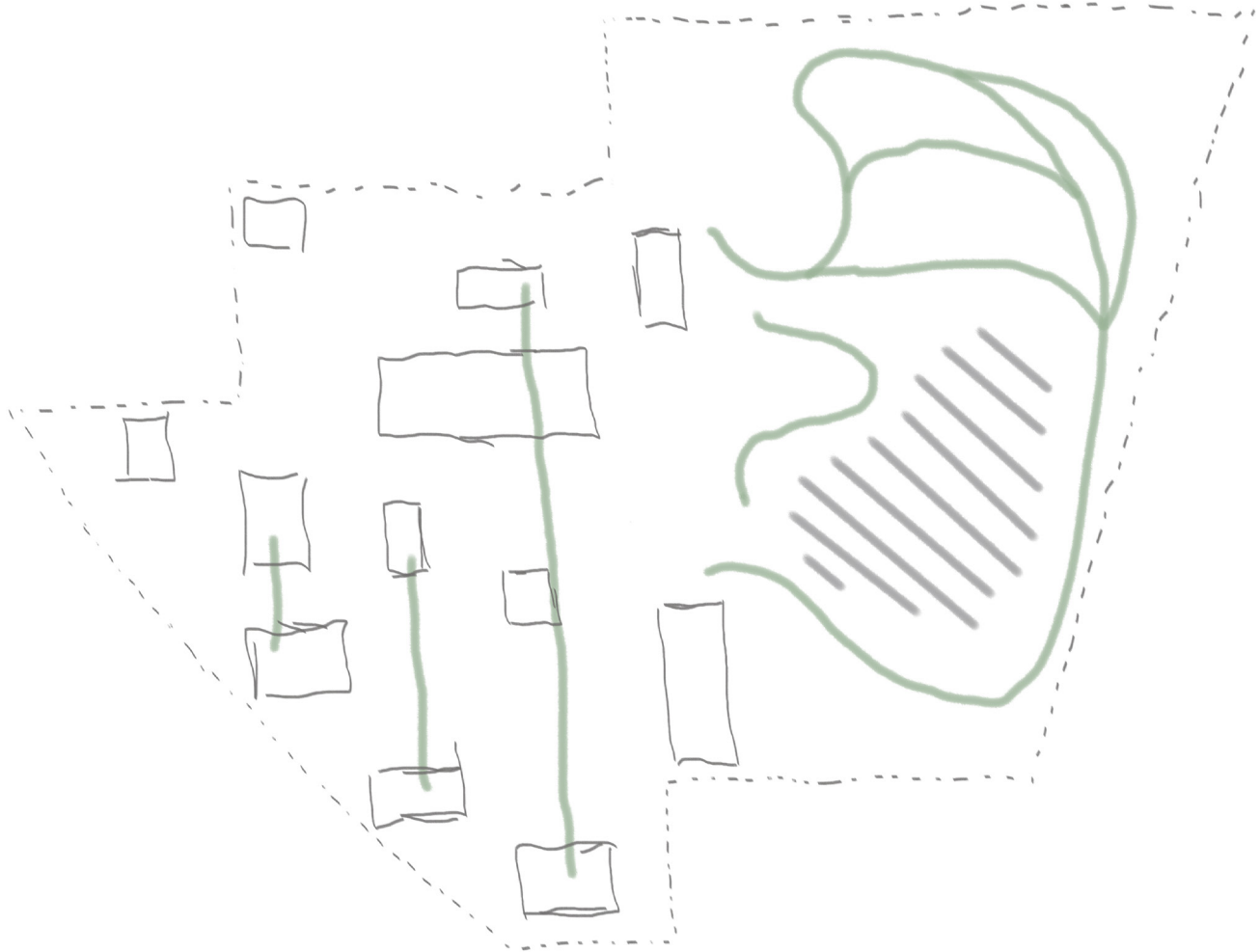


FIGURE 5 : INTERPRETATION OF SITE MOVEMENT

18 Case Study 3



FIGURE 6A : DVA THE NETHERLANDS SITE PLAN

DVA The Netherlands Healthcare district De Hogeweyk

De Hogeweyk sets a strong precedent in dementia care architecture by promoting a sense of normalcy. Residents are encouraged to maintain daily routines and engage with their surroundings as they would in everyday life, supporting dignity and independence with the available amenities.

However, the close spacing between buildings limits outdoor privacy, and the model of shared living arrangements may not suit all residents' needs for personal space and autonomy.



FIGURE 6B : DVA THE NETHERLANDS EXTERIOR IMAGE

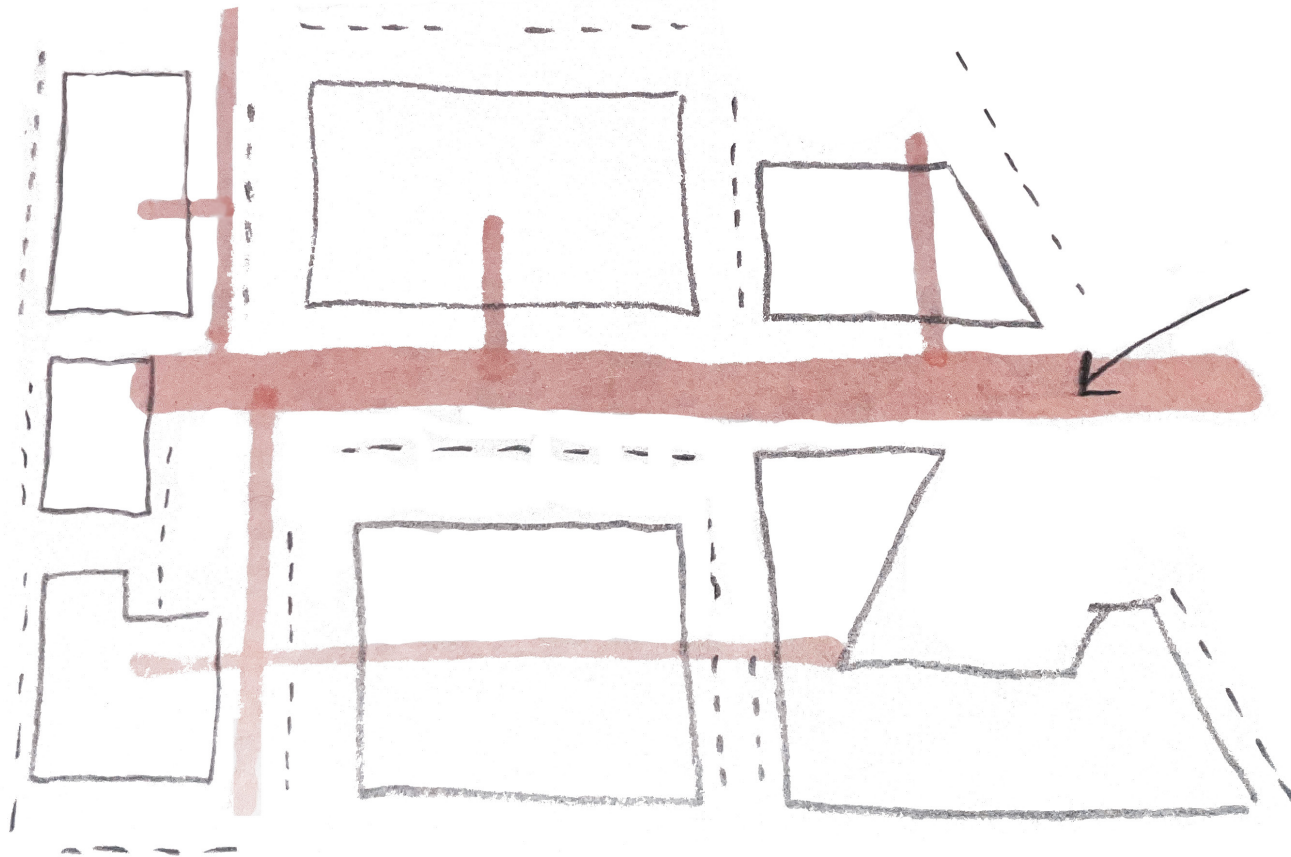


FIGURE 7 : INTERPRETATION OF SITE MOVEMENT

The selected site for a dementia village in Blacksburg, Virginia is a 25-acre parcel of land offering both seclusion and connectivity. Situated just south of an elementary school, the location fosters opportunities for intergenerational interaction, an aspect proven to have cognitive and emotional benefits for dementia patients.

To the north, beyond the school, a four-lane local road provides a major vehicle artery to the town. Although the setting is definitely rural with a definite sense of tranquility, major civic amenities and health care facilities are within a 10-minute driving radius. The more distant perimeter of the site is adjoined by residential neighborhoods to the south and east, offering a possibility to integrate the village into the broader community.

This site was chosen for its ability to implement a better intuitive wayfinding through natural landmarks, the short distance access to amenities and the existing pristine natural setting which invites outdoor spaces that enhance sensory stimulation and overall well-being.

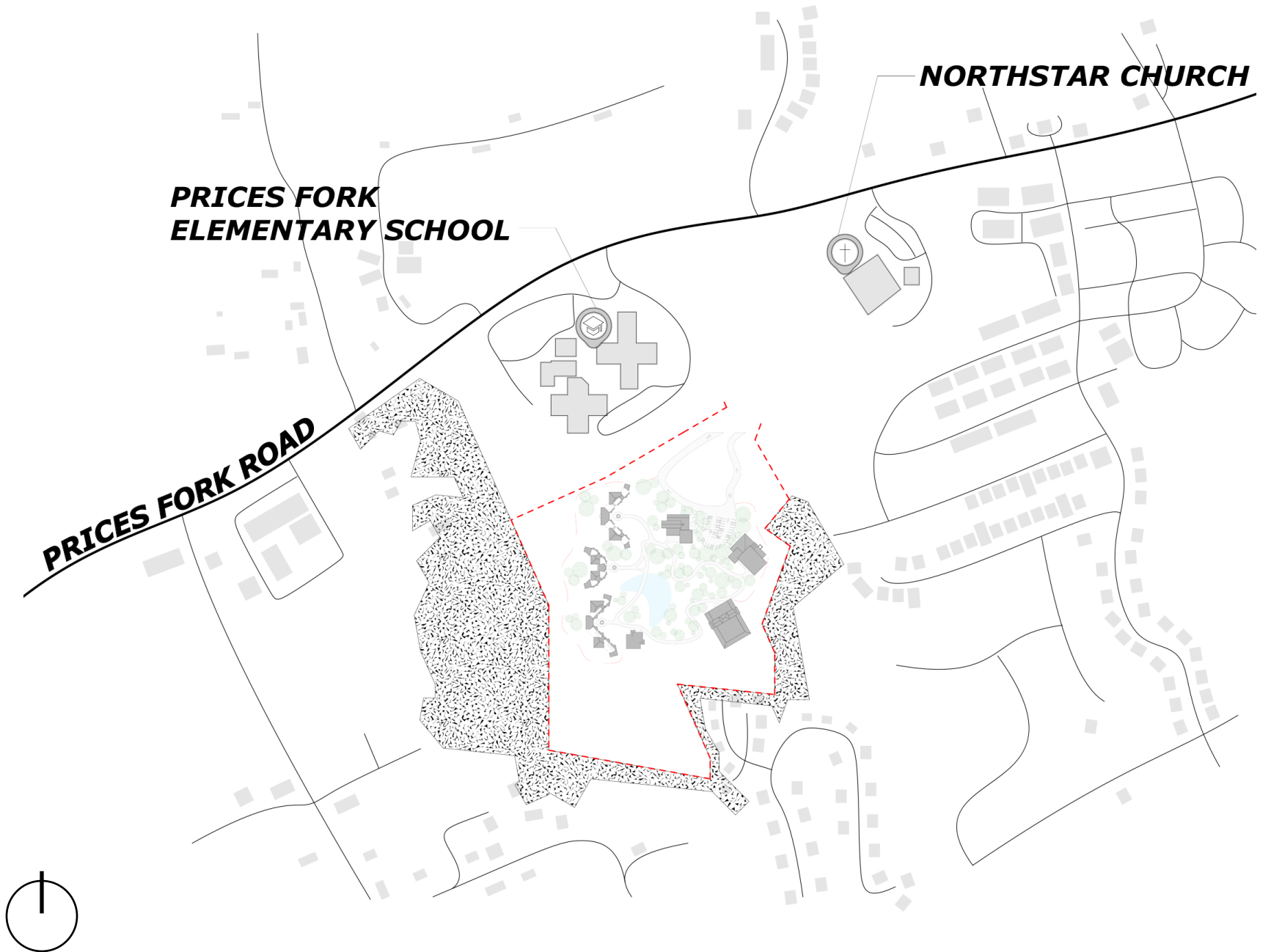


FIGURE 8 : VICINITY

22 Site Information

The existing natural landscape is surrounded by dense tree coverage on all sides except for a clearing in the north which provides the principal access to the site. The environment could be described as a peaceful, immersive setting that in itself has the potential to enhance orientation and sensory engagement. The rolling terrain not only contributes to the beauty of the site but also encourages gentle physical activity. The placement of buildings was supported by the landscape, employing views, topography, and cardinal directions.



FIGURE 9A : NORTH BOUNDARY. IMAGE SOURCE : GOOGLE EARTH IMAGE



FIGURE 9B : EAST BOUNDARY. IMAGE SOURCE : GOOGLE EARTH IMAGE

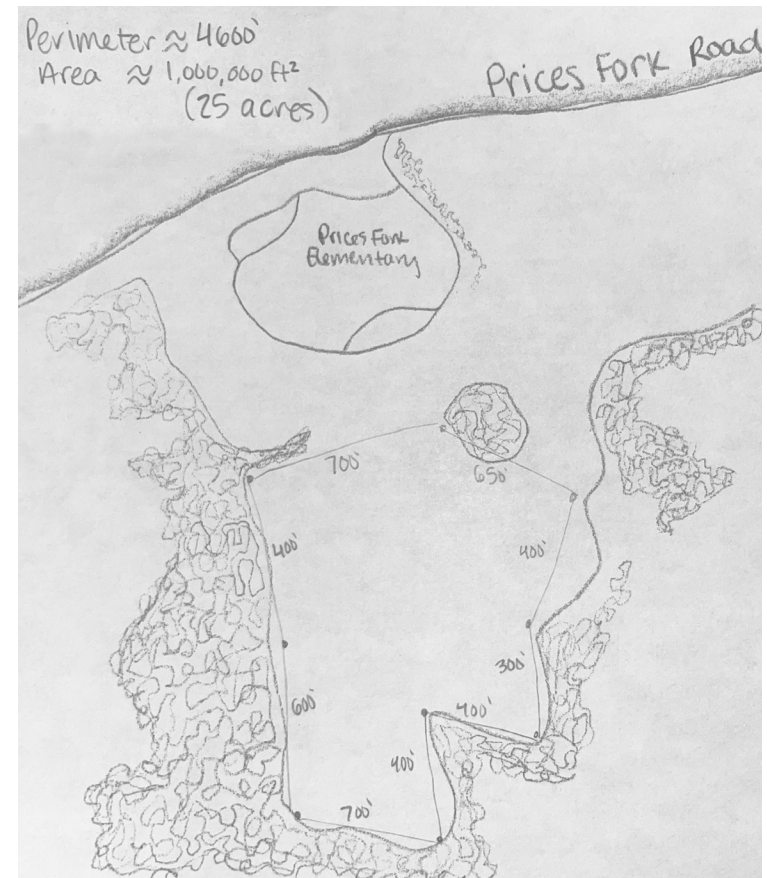
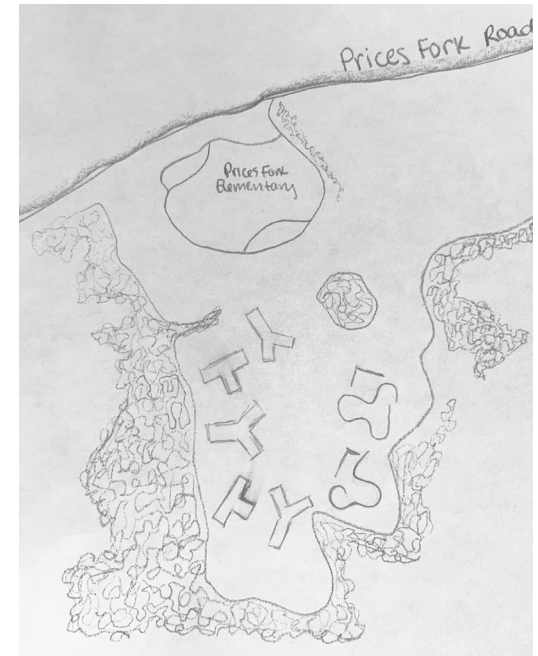
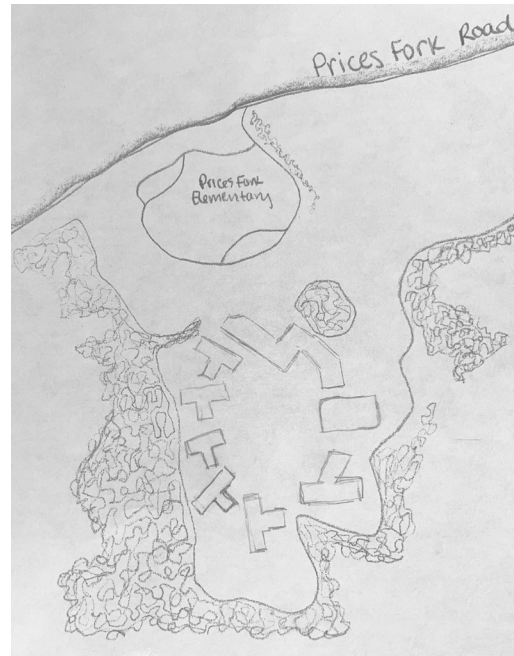
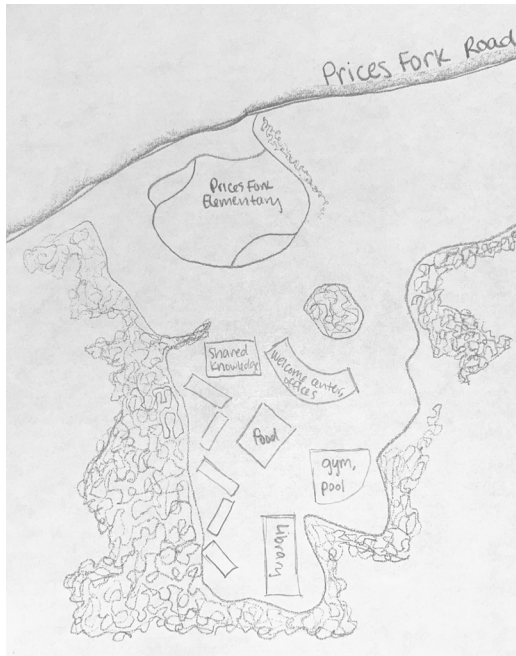


FIGURE 10 : EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS



FIGURES 11 A, B, C : SITE DEVELOPMENT ITERATIONS

Although the forms and configurations of the buildings evolved throughout the design process, several foundational principles established at the outset remained constant. First, the residential apartment buildings were always positioned along the western edge of the site to ensure that all units could face east—maximizing morning light and maintaining unobstructed views beyond nearby trees and neighborhoods. Second, the

entry sequence was designed to wind past the adjacent school to the north, anchoring the administrative building at this point to serve as both a gateway and a controlled access point to the village. Lastly, the remaining amenity buildings were arranged to complete a loose loop around the southern and eastern edges of the site, reinforcing a perimeter that encloses the village.

In principle, the buildings of the complex are arranged in a concentric formation with primary interior pathways connecting them. The network of paths allows residents to trace their interconnectivity from a central location, reinforcing spatial awareness and making navigation more predictable. By maintaining clear sight lines between structures, residents can orient themselves without relying solely on memory. The circular layout also allows a return to familiar surroundings, reducing the risk of becoming lost.



FIGURE 12 : SITE ORGANIZATION & CIRCULATION

BUILDING 1

BUILDING 2

BUILDING 3

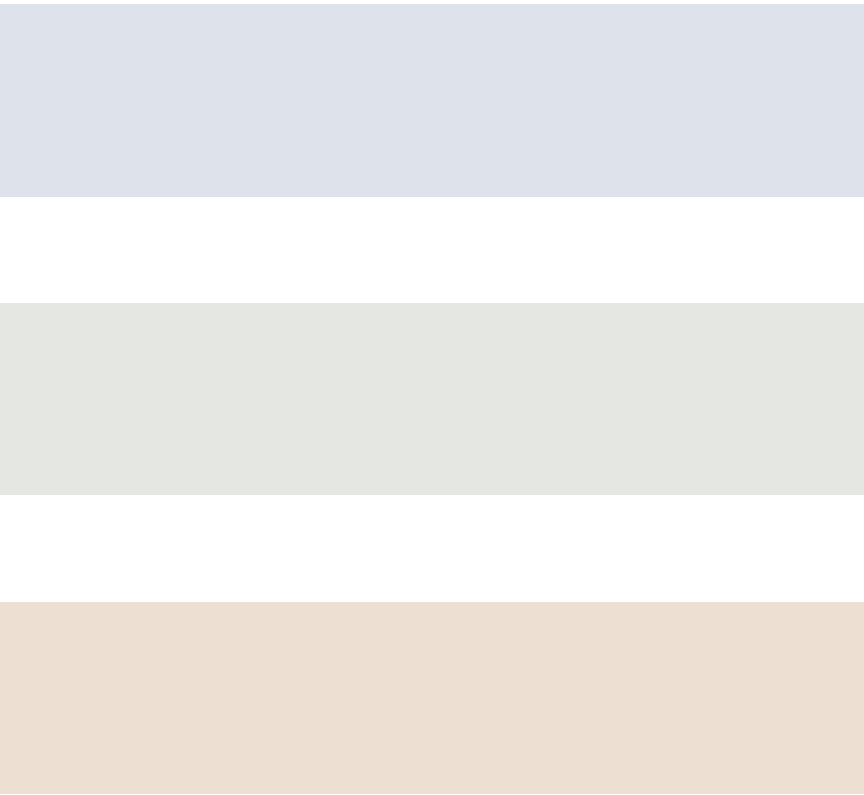


FIGURE 13 : SITE PLAN



1

*ROOM
DESIGN*



The residential units avoid confined, box-like rooms. Spatial differentiation of three main areas is subtly suggested with a geometric rotation of what could be called a living area, whereas sleeping and related activities adhere to the order of the building. The bathroom is treated as a house in house, with its own material identity. The architecture seeks spatial clarity while maintaining a sense of openness and flow.

Large east-facing windows allow the morning light in, helping regulate circadian rhythms. The windows also offer a view of the village and its interior life, perhaps a delicate encouragement to participate in village life. The overall intent is to promote both cognitive stimulation and physical movement, in short, a lifestyle that's active, social, and grounded in routine.

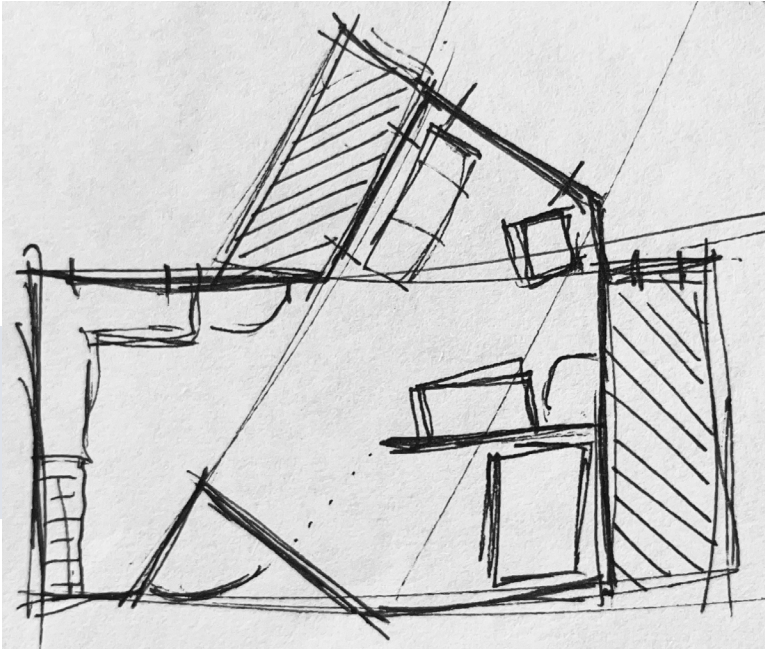


FIGURE 14A : UNIT ONE SKETCH

To establish the spatial flow inside, the unit assumes a conventional rectilinear form commonly associated with institutional nursing home rooms. A simple CLT box, injects a formal deviation by pivoting a part of the entry wall. It challenges the rigidity of the typical layout and defines a distinct threshold into the unit. This angled gesture informed a complementary outward shift in the opposite wall, carving out

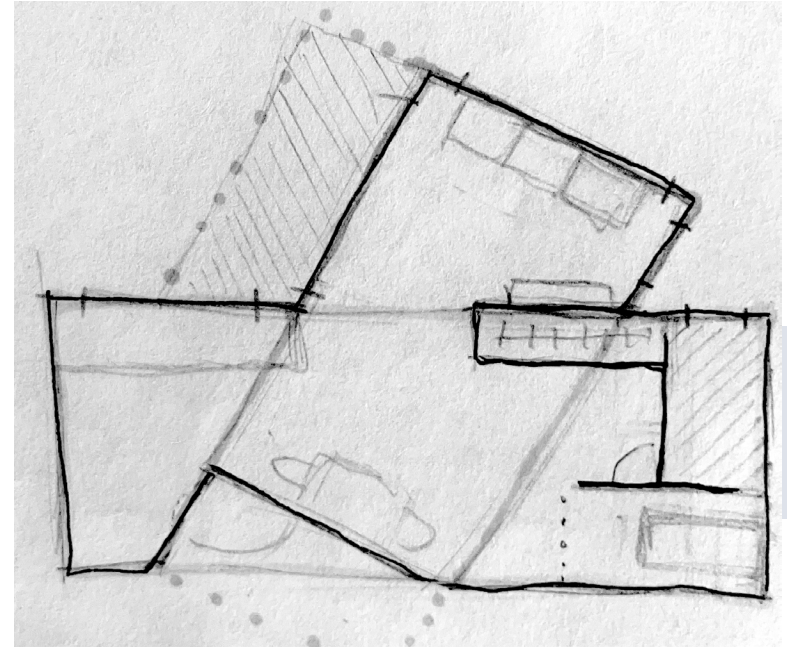


FIGURE 14B : UNIT ONE SKETCH

an exterior alcove enclosed in glass, allowing residents to physically and symbolically step beyond the conventional bounds of their living space. The bathroom, enclosed in brick, is positioned as a deliberate volumetric insertion within the unit. This massing not only anchors the space but also organizes it—subtly dividing functional zones while maintaining an open, continuous floor plan.

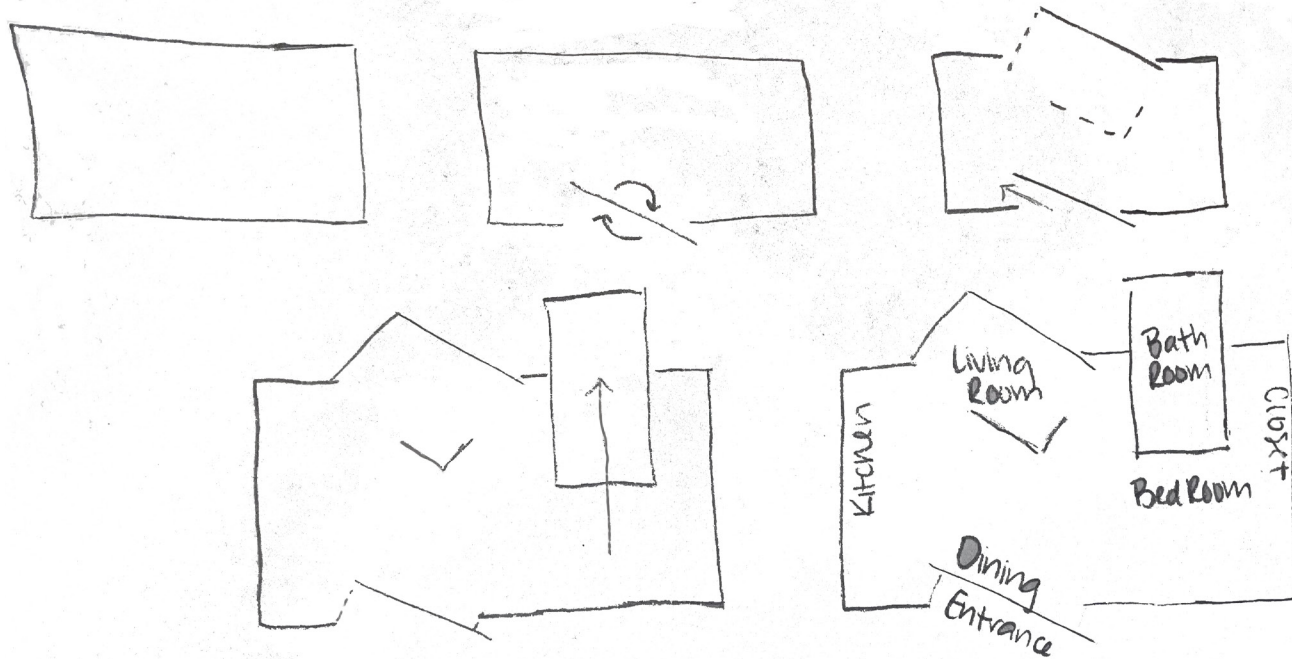


FIGURE 15 : UNIT ONE PROCESS DIAGRAM

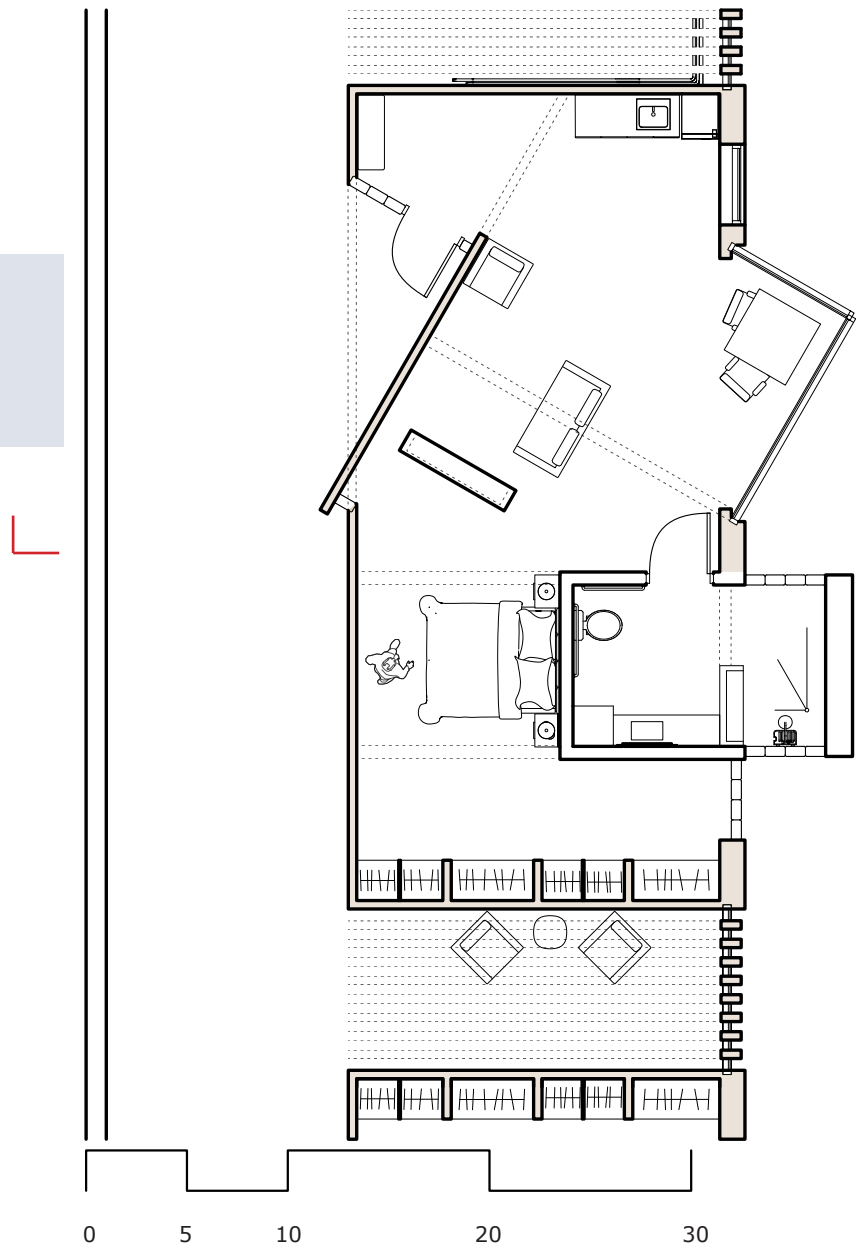


FIGURE 16 : UNIT ONE FLOOR PLAN

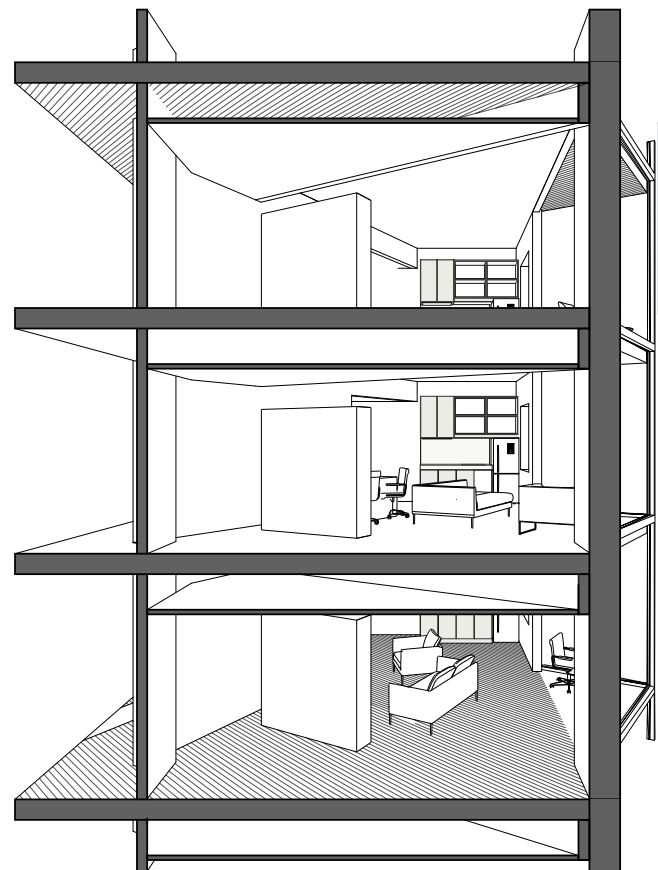


FIGURE 17 : UNIT ONE SECTION

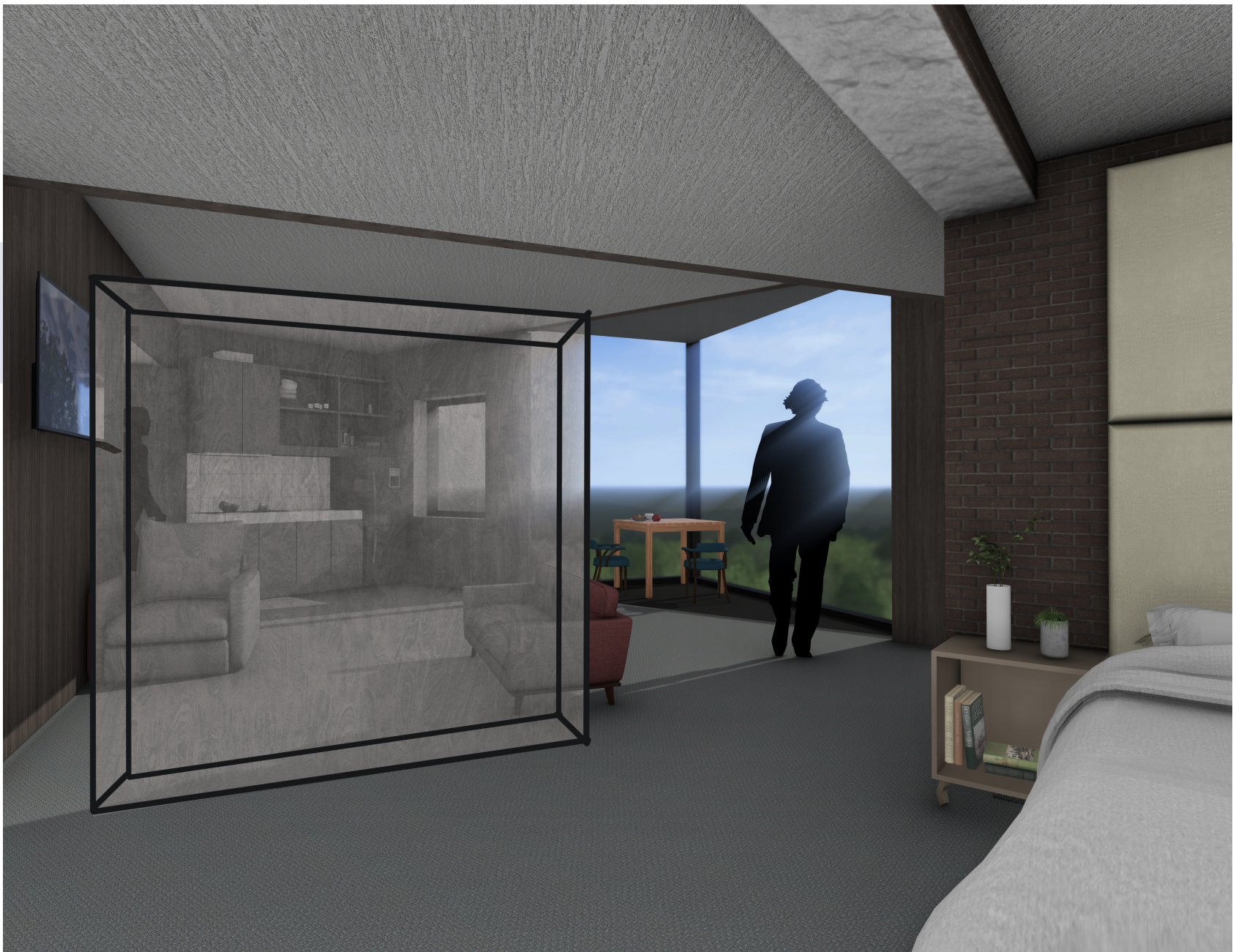


FIGURE 18 : UNIT ONE INTERIOR

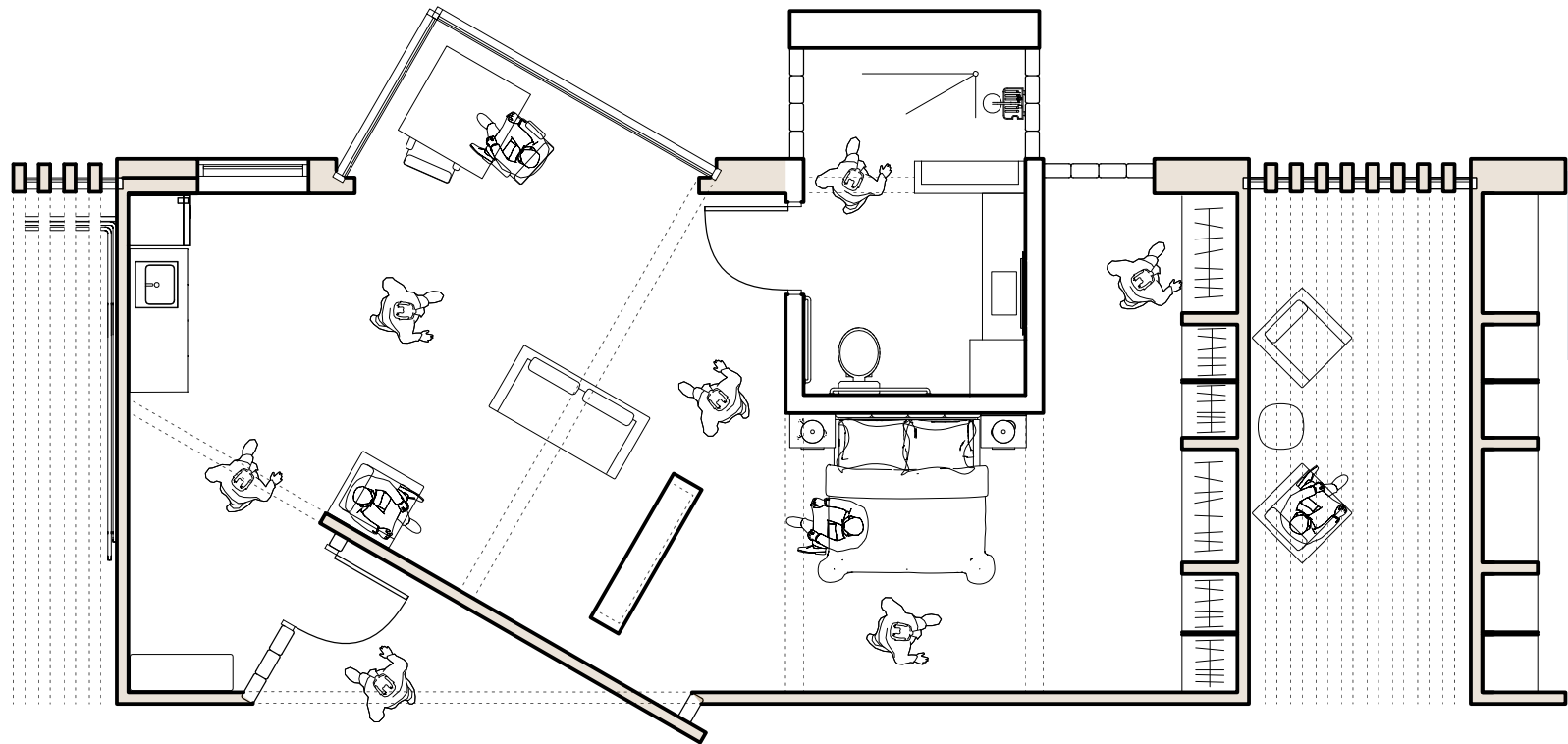


FIGURE 19 : UNIT ONE MOVEMENT DIAGRAM

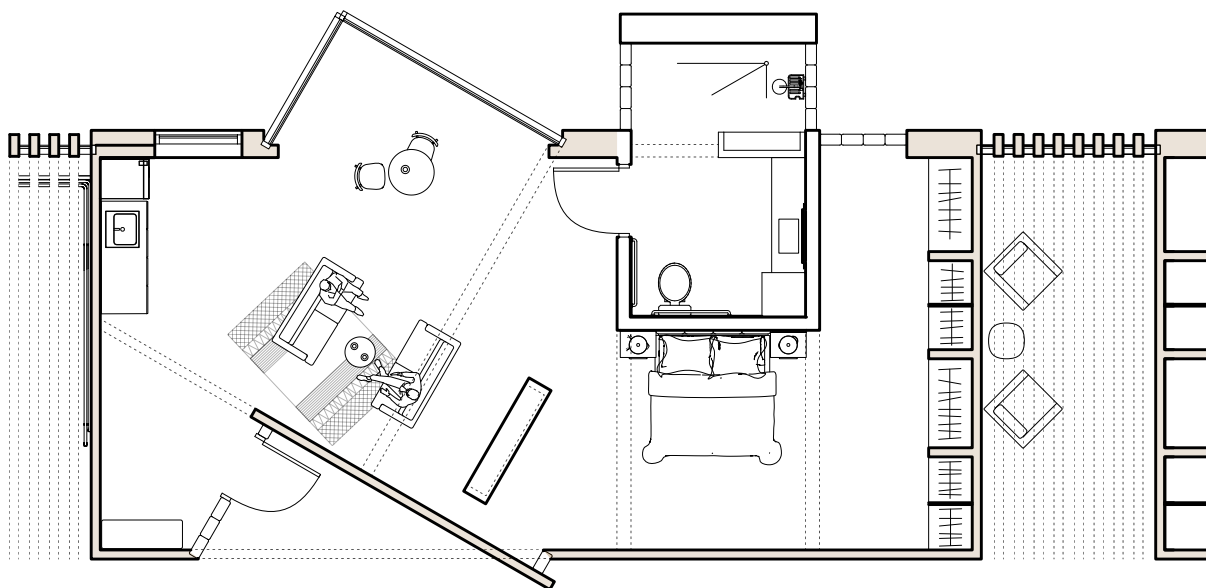
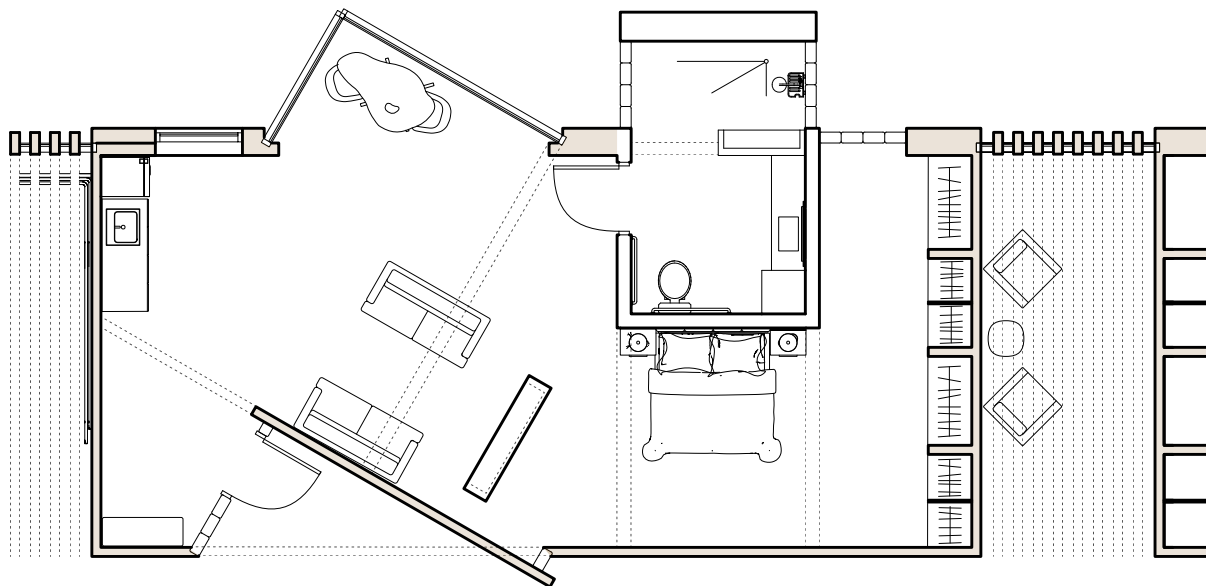


FIGURE 20 : UNIT ONE ALTERNATIVE FURNITURE ARRANGEMENTS

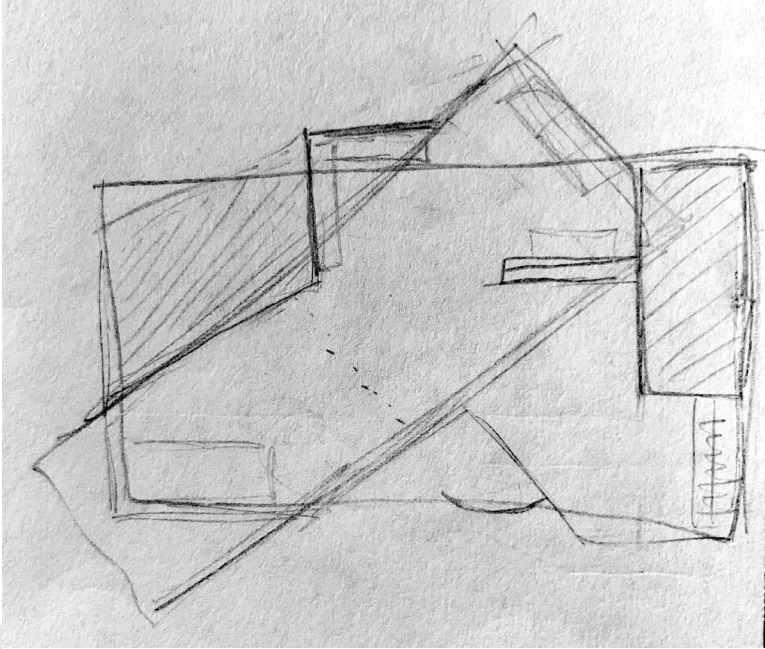


FIGURE 21A : UNIT TWO SKETCH

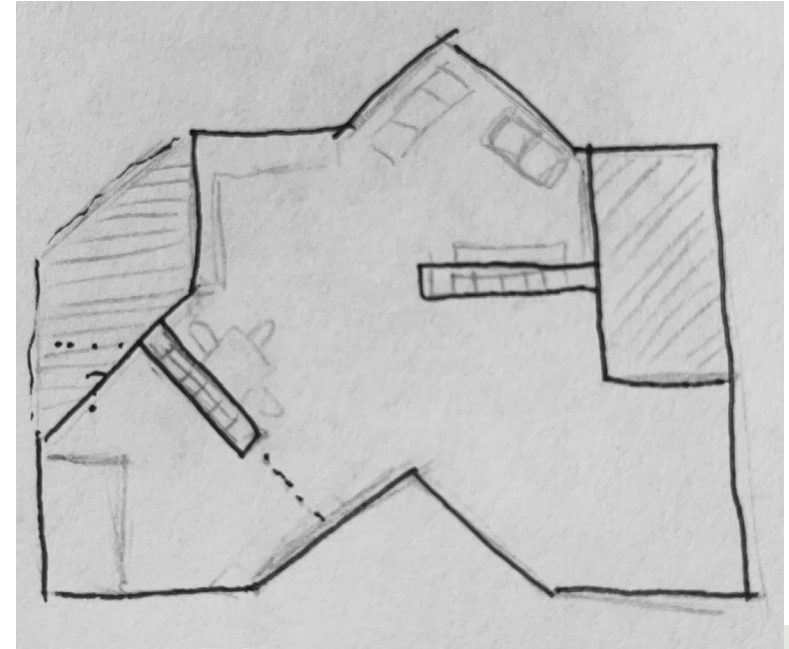


FIGURE 21B : UNIT TWO SKETCH

While unit two shares several formal strategies with unit one, it employs the rotated geometries of individual spatial components differently. In unit two, the angled entry and living area are extended to shift the bedroom outward from the core, resulting in a distinctly different

spatial experience. In contrast to unit one, unit two introduces a primary brick volume which is subdivided by a glass block walls and a CLT enclosed bathroom. These layered materials and geometries create a dynamic interplay of enclosure, light, and movement within the unit.

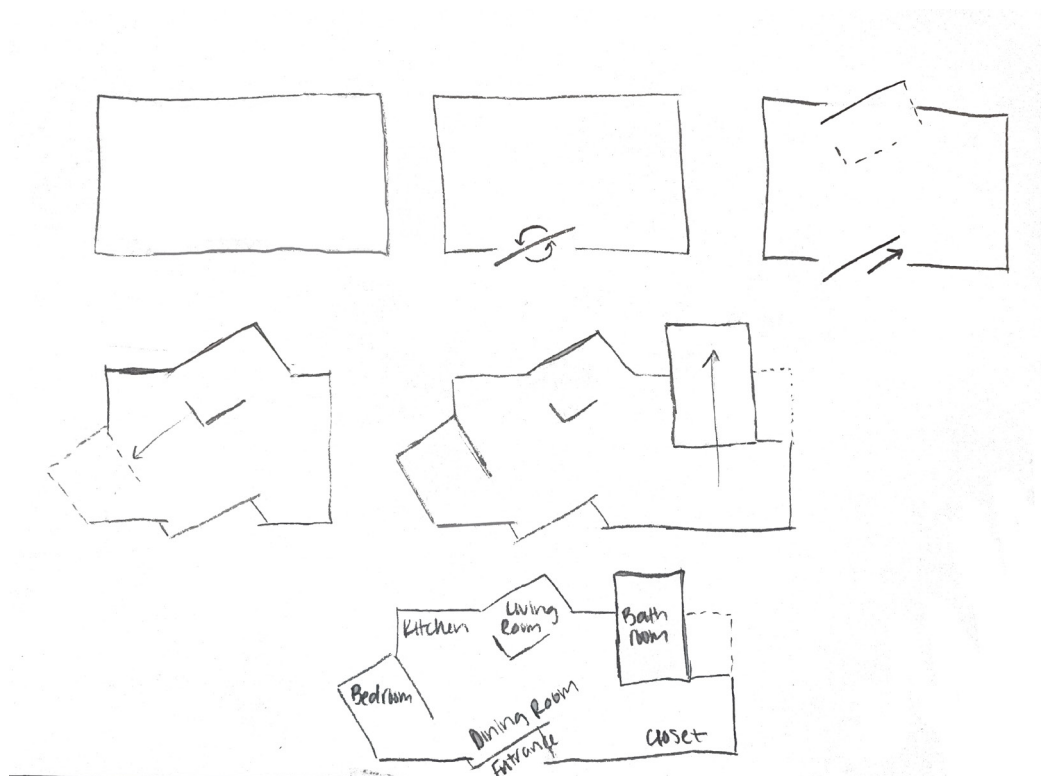


FIGURE 22 : UNIT TWO PROCESS DIAGRAM

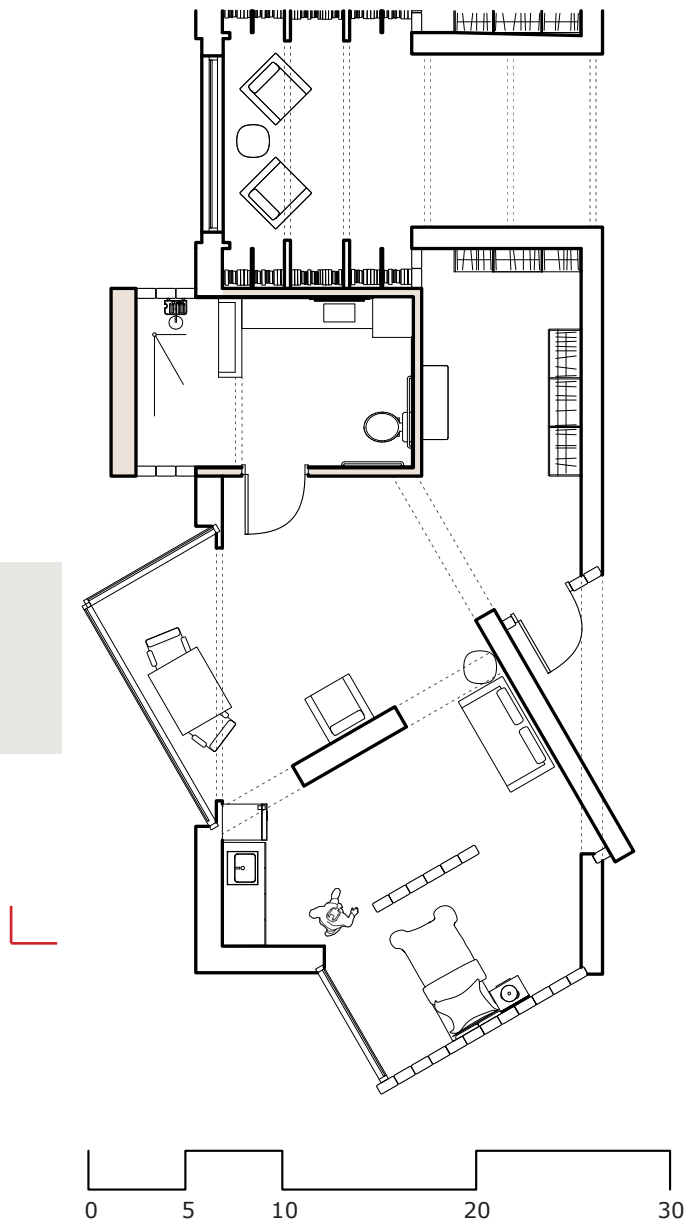


FIGURE 23 : UNIT TWO FLOOR PLAN

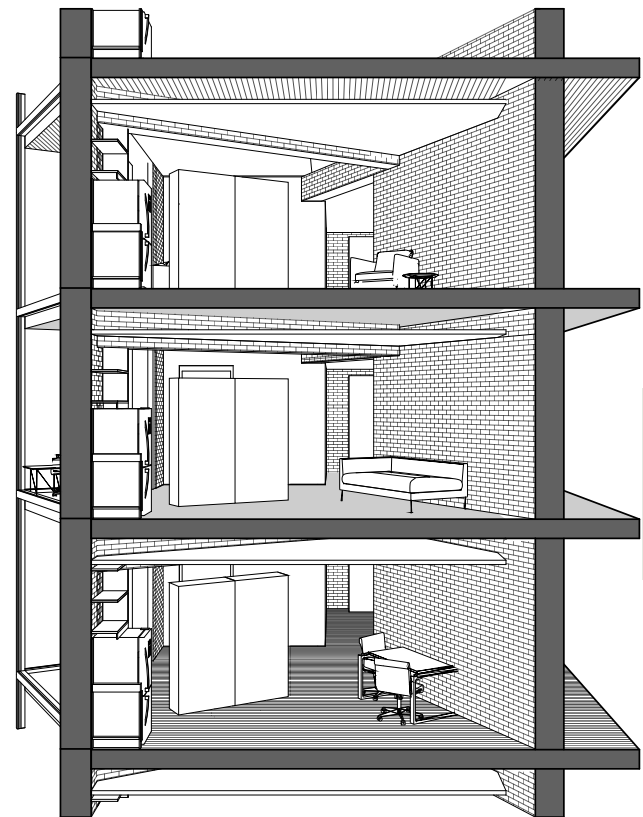


FIGURE 24 : UNIT TWO SECTION

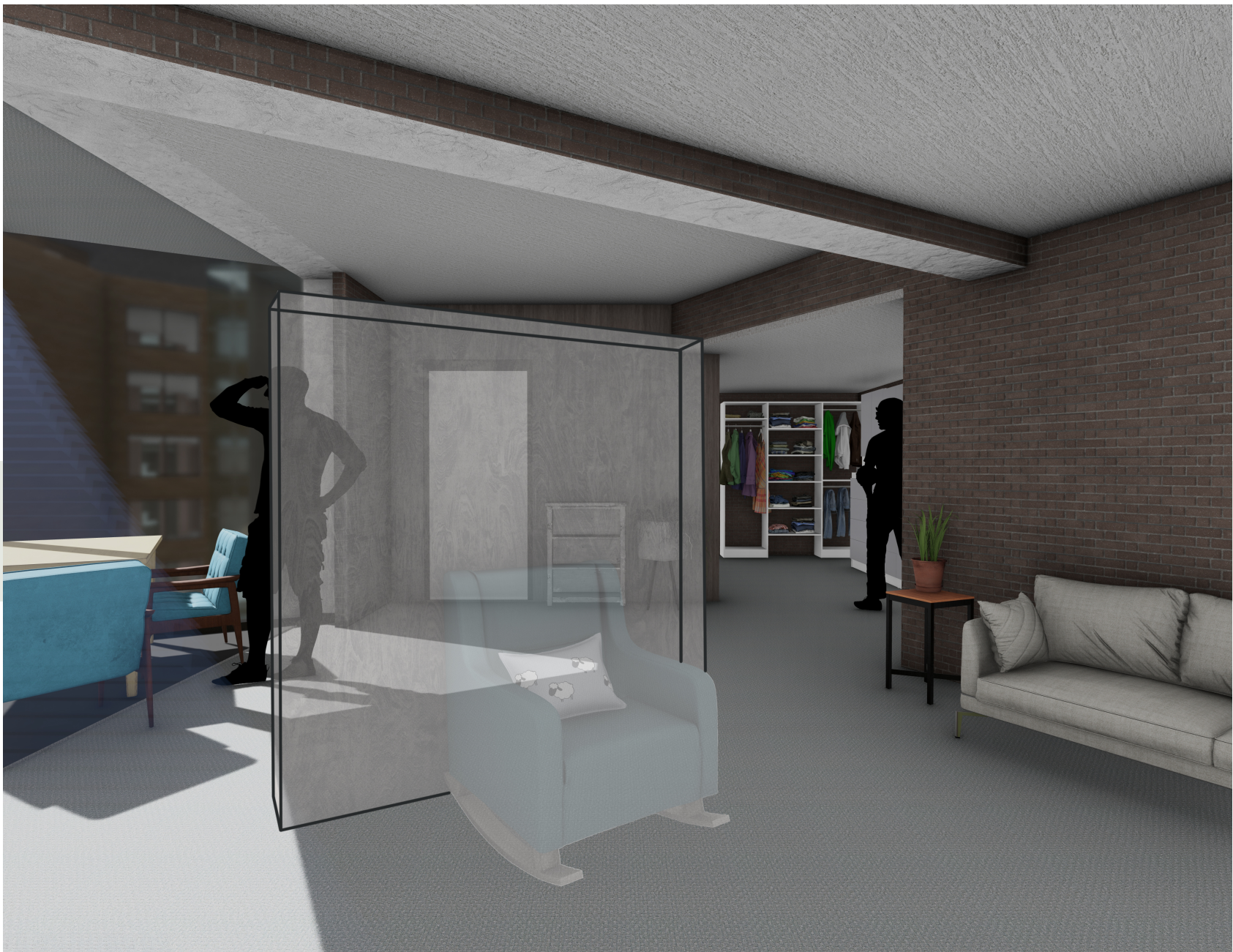


FIGURE 25 : UNIT TWO INTERIOR

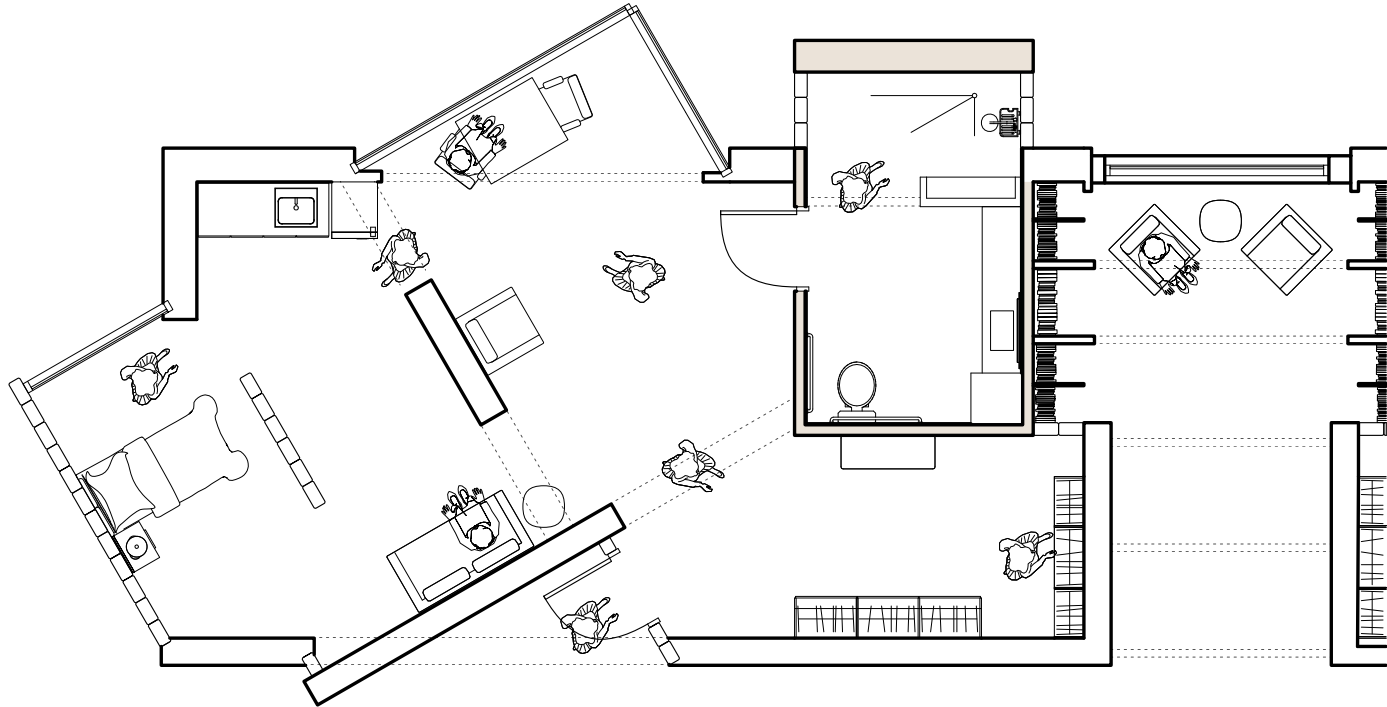


FIGURE 26 : UNIT TWO MOVEMENT DIAGRAM



FIGURE 27 : UNIT TWO ALTERNATIVE FURNITURE ARRANGEMENTS

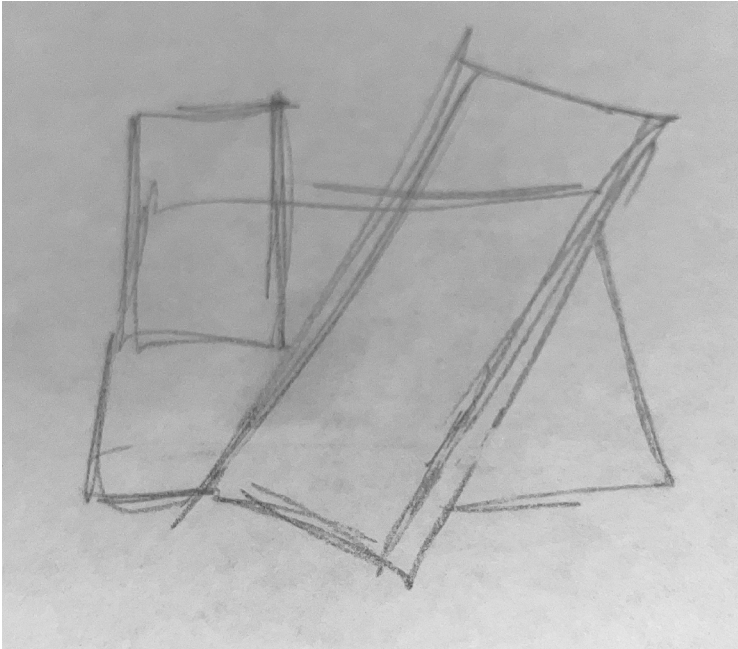


FIGURE 28A : UNIT THREE SKETCH

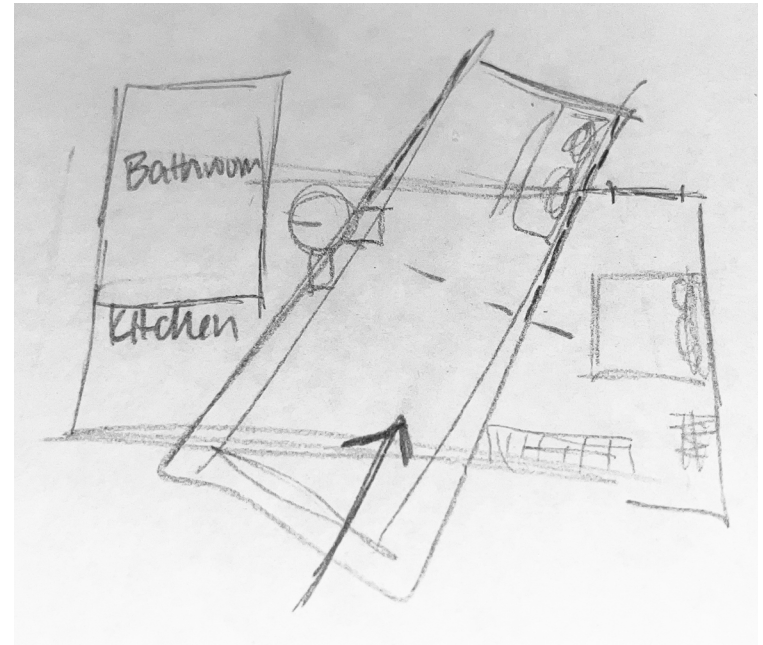


FIGURE 28B : UNIT THREE SKETCH

Unit three builds upon the established material language but introduces a more segmented spatial experience. A primary CLT volume forms the foundation of the unit, while a glass insertion intersects this form, creating a subtle threshold that distinguishes living

zones without closing them off. Adjacent to this layered composition, the brick-walled bathroom projects outward, disrupting the boxy geometry and carving out a moment of spatial tension. This interplay of volumes and materials offers a spatial rhythmic sequence of

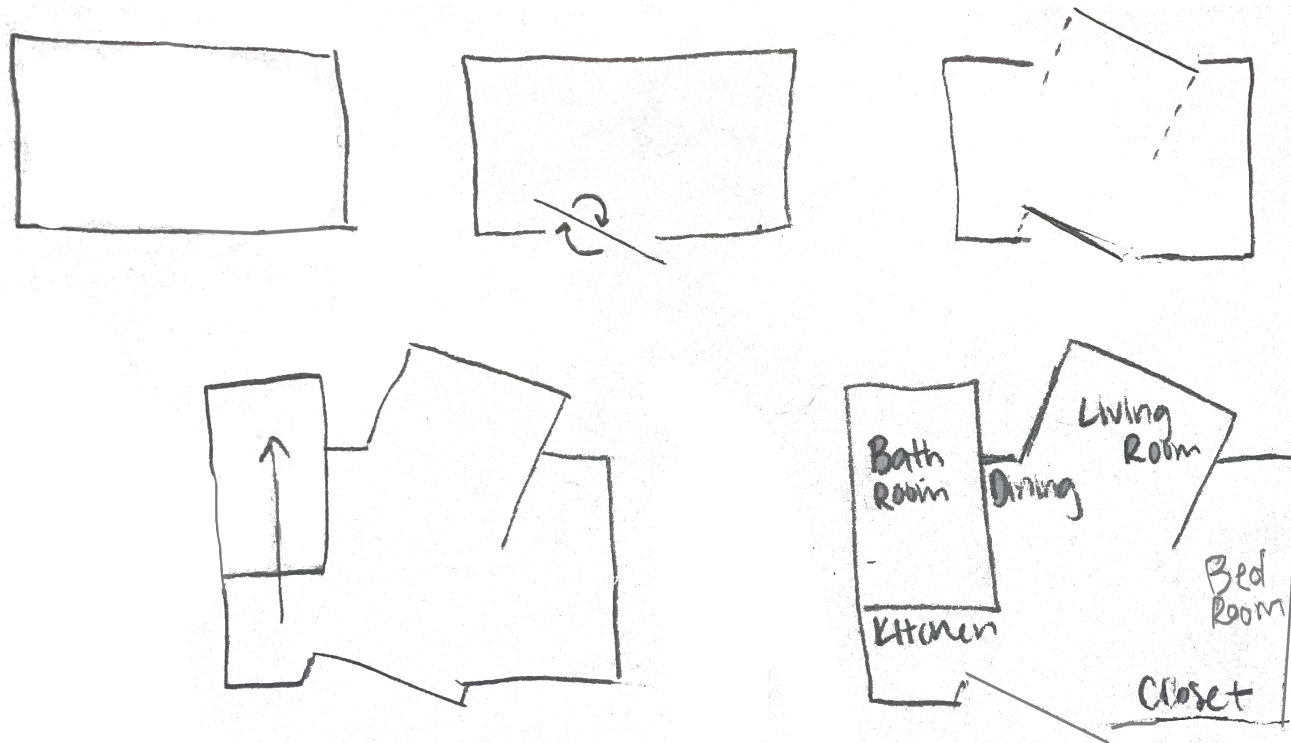


FIGURE 29 : UNIT THREE PROCESS DIAGRAM

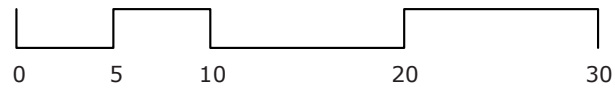
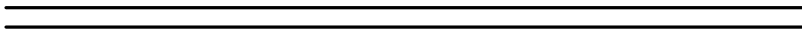
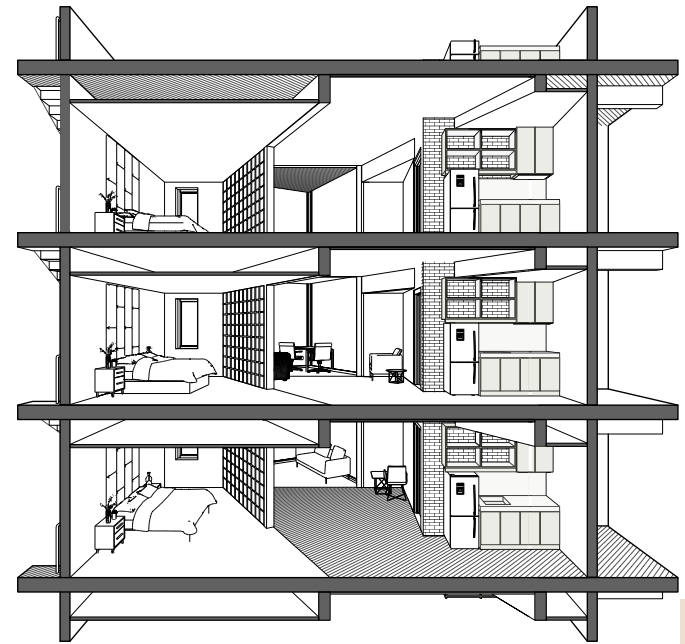
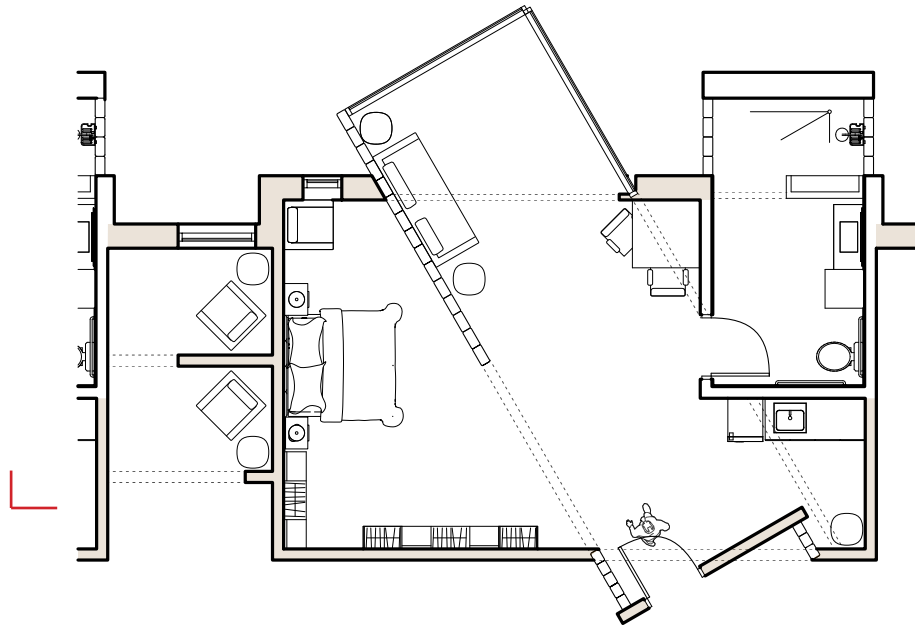


FIGURE 30 : UNIT THREE FLOOR PLAN

FIGURE 31 : UNIT THREE SECTION



FIGURE 32 : UNIT THREE INTERIOR

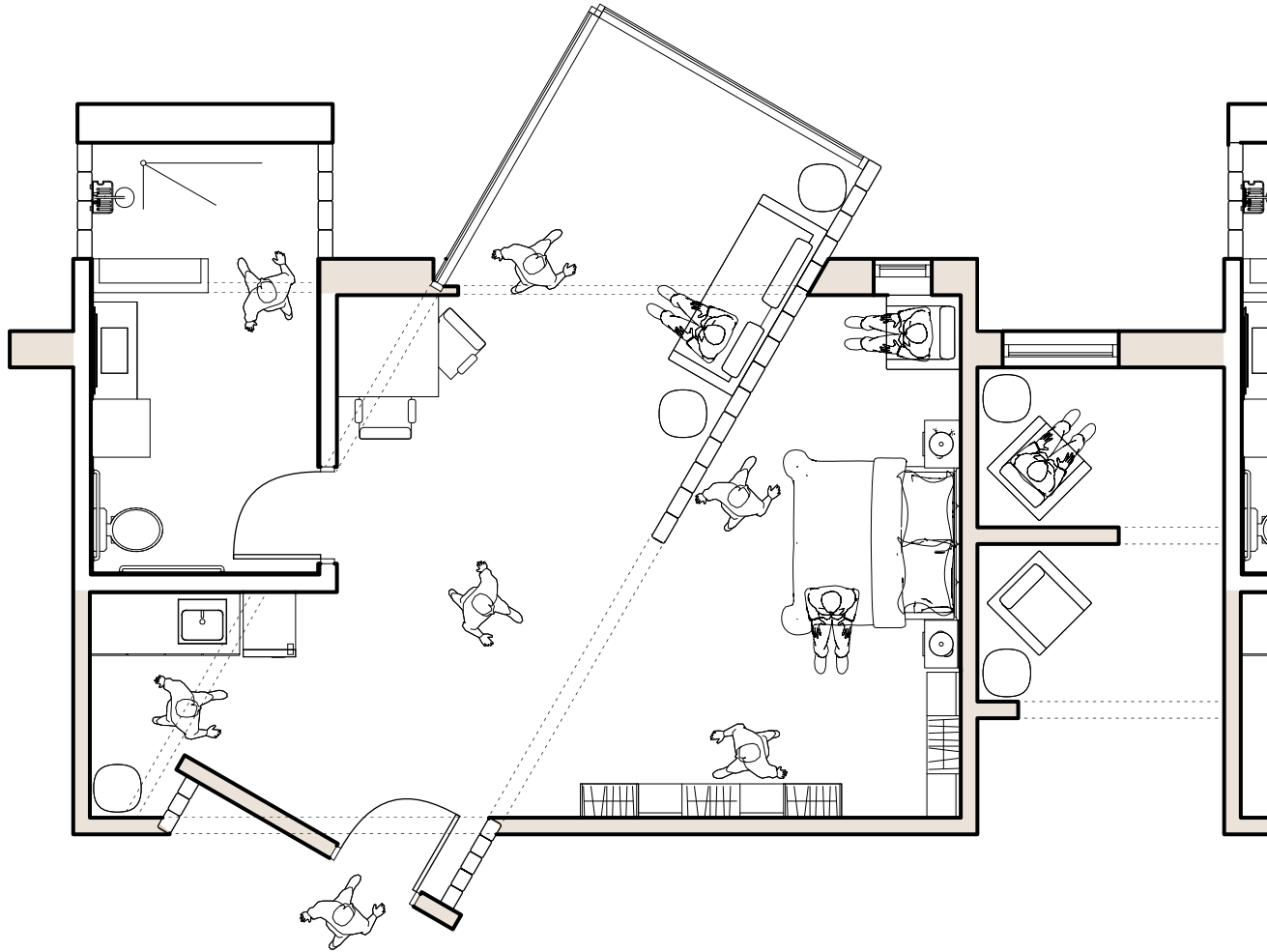


FIGURE 33 : UNIT THREE MOVEMENT DIAGRAM

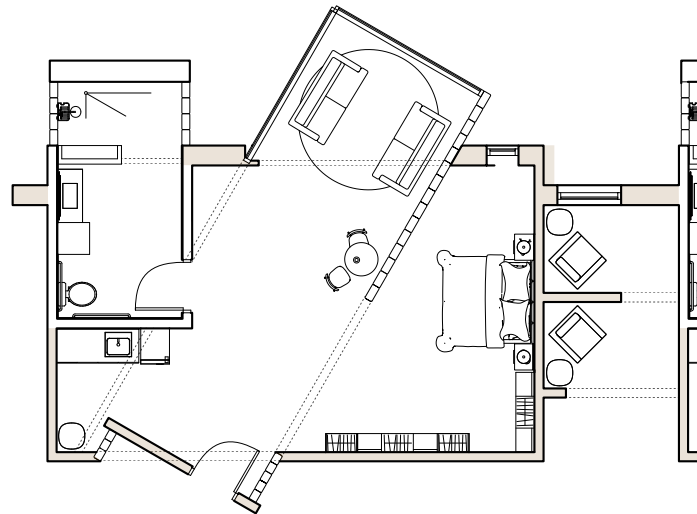
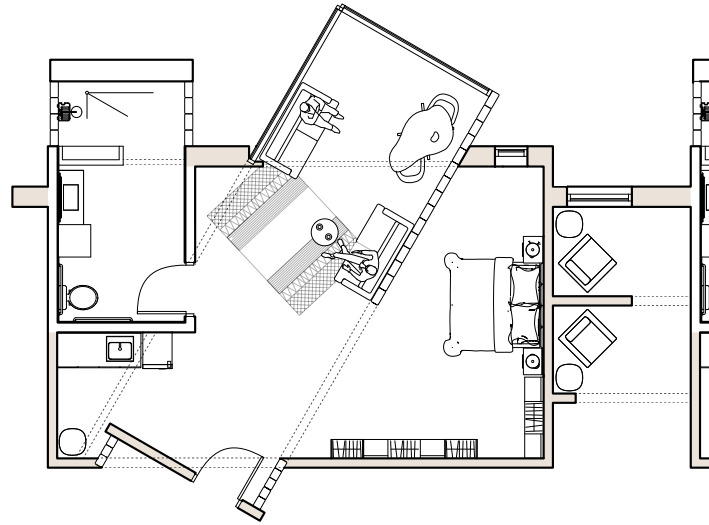


FIGURE 34 : UNIT THREE ALTERNATIVE FURNITURE ARRANGEMENT

2

WAYFINDING

Wayfinding, especially in the residential buildings, is intended to feel intuitive, calming, and personal, addressing the spatial disorientation often experienced by individuals with dementia. Instead of repetitive apartment layouts with long access corridors on each floor, each building is organized around a small central node, branching into two short hallways, each containing just two to four units. This compact and clear configuration makes it easier for residents to mentally map the space and move through it with a heightened sense of confidence.

The aforementioned east-facing orientation across all units was selected to assist residents to stay oriented throughout the day. Morning sunlight provides a natural anchor with the constant direction, reinforcing a stable internal rhythm and sense of orientation. Within the access hallways, wayfinding is further supported by a clear identity of entrance definition to an individual apartment, floor material changes, personalized wall sections near each entrance, and seating nooks. Signage is present but understated, offering subtle visual reassurance without a clinical atmosphere.

Together, these strategies foster a navigable, human-scaled environment where residents feel grounded, supported, and empowered in their daily routines.

Tower Typology

The basic logic of skyscrapers is employed in the vertical organization of the residential buildings. It consists of a three-part system with a base that serves public or communal functions, a middle that houses repeated units or floors, and a top that typically contains mechanical systems or specialized spaces.

In the residential buildings, the ground floor contains shared entry spaces, circulation nodes, and community functions. The main floors hold a small number of repeating residential units, organized along short, west-facing hallways with clearly identifiable entry ways into the apartments that promote orientation and limit confusion. The compact repetition reinforces familiarity, while the branching layout ensures that no unit feels lost in a maze of corridors. At the top, instead of mechanical infrastructure, a rooftop garden offers a controlled tranquil outdoor environment where residents can safely enjoy fresh air and light physical activity.

The familiar architectural rhythm supports intuitive navigation and cognitive comfort. The simple vertical division into base, middle, and top proposes a clear mental map for residents, depicting a recognizable order within their living environment.

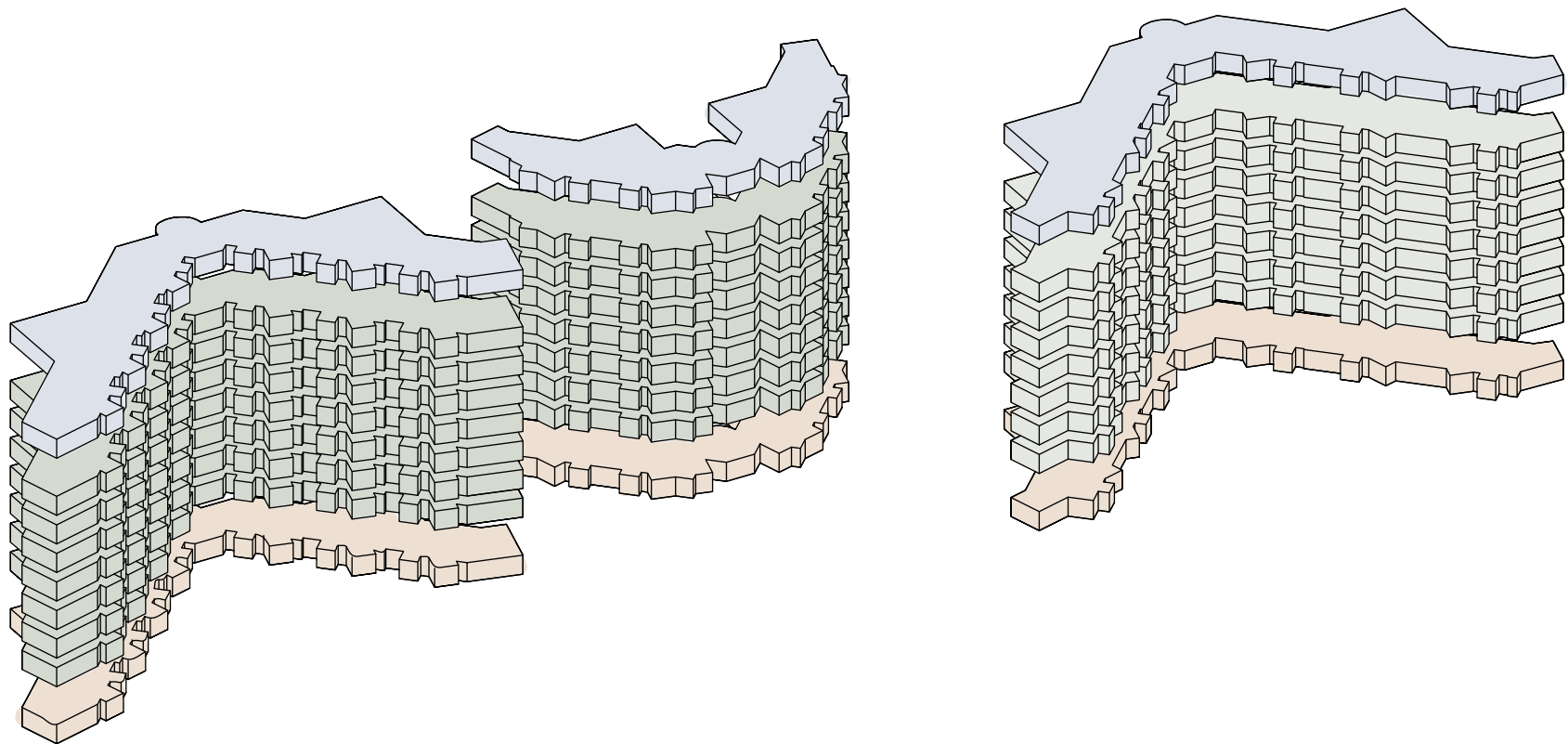


FIGURE 35 : TOWER TYPOLOGY DIAGRAM

52 Horizontal Wayfinding

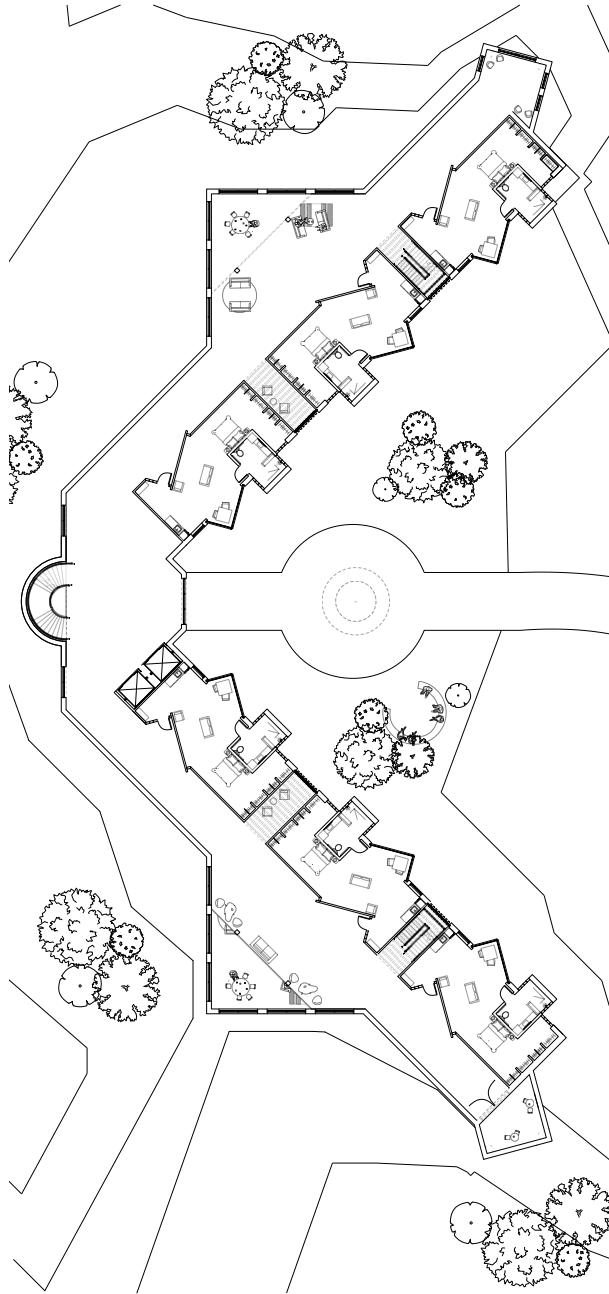


FIGURE 36 : BUILDING ONE FLOOR PLAN

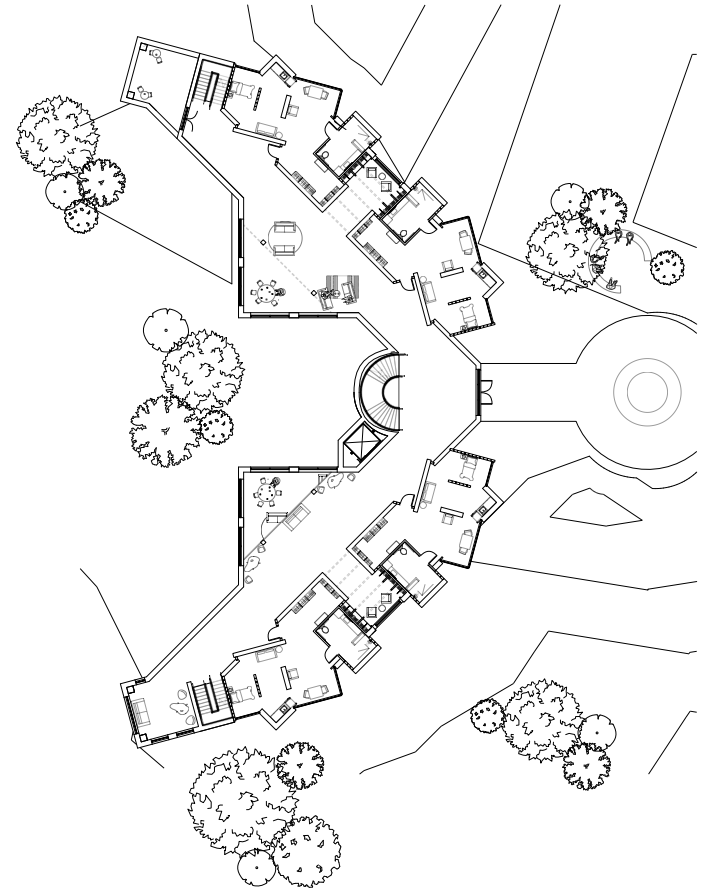
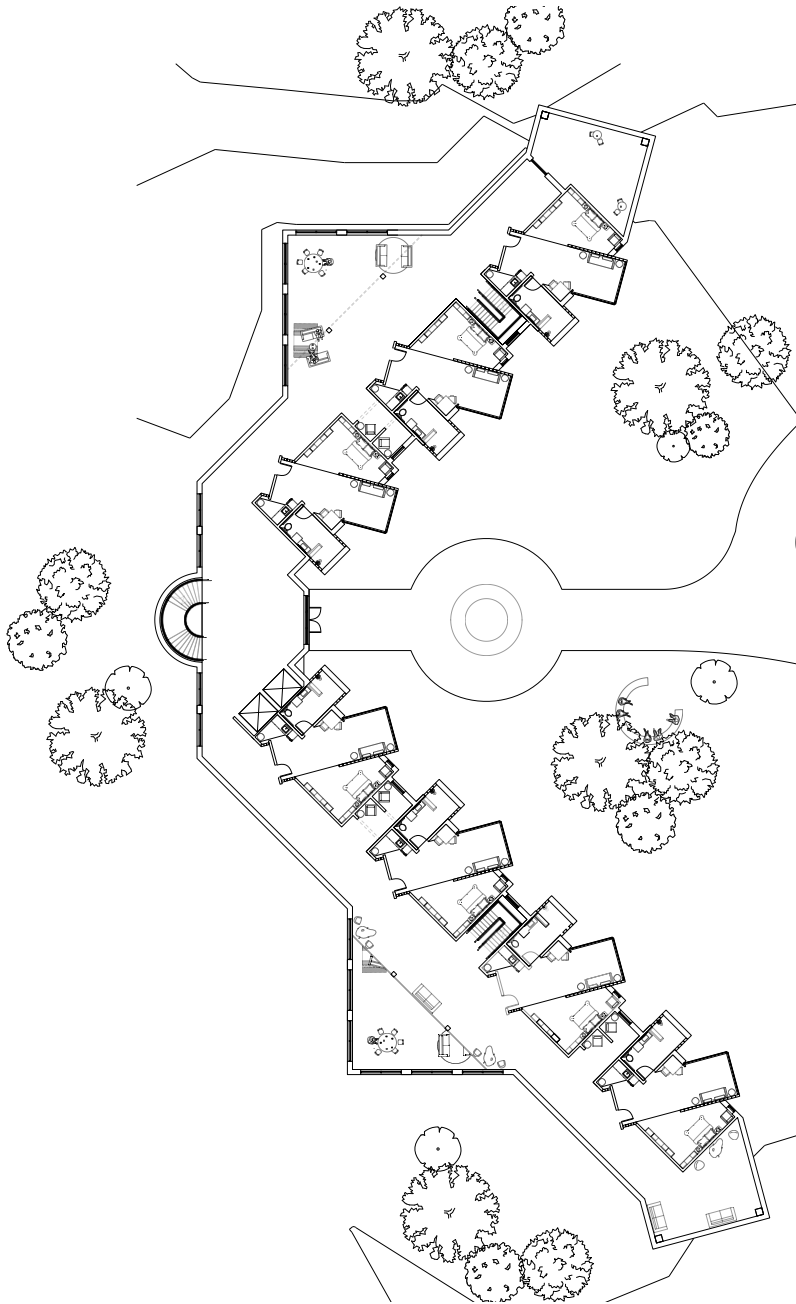


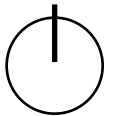
FIGURE 37 : BUILDING TWO FLOOR PLAN



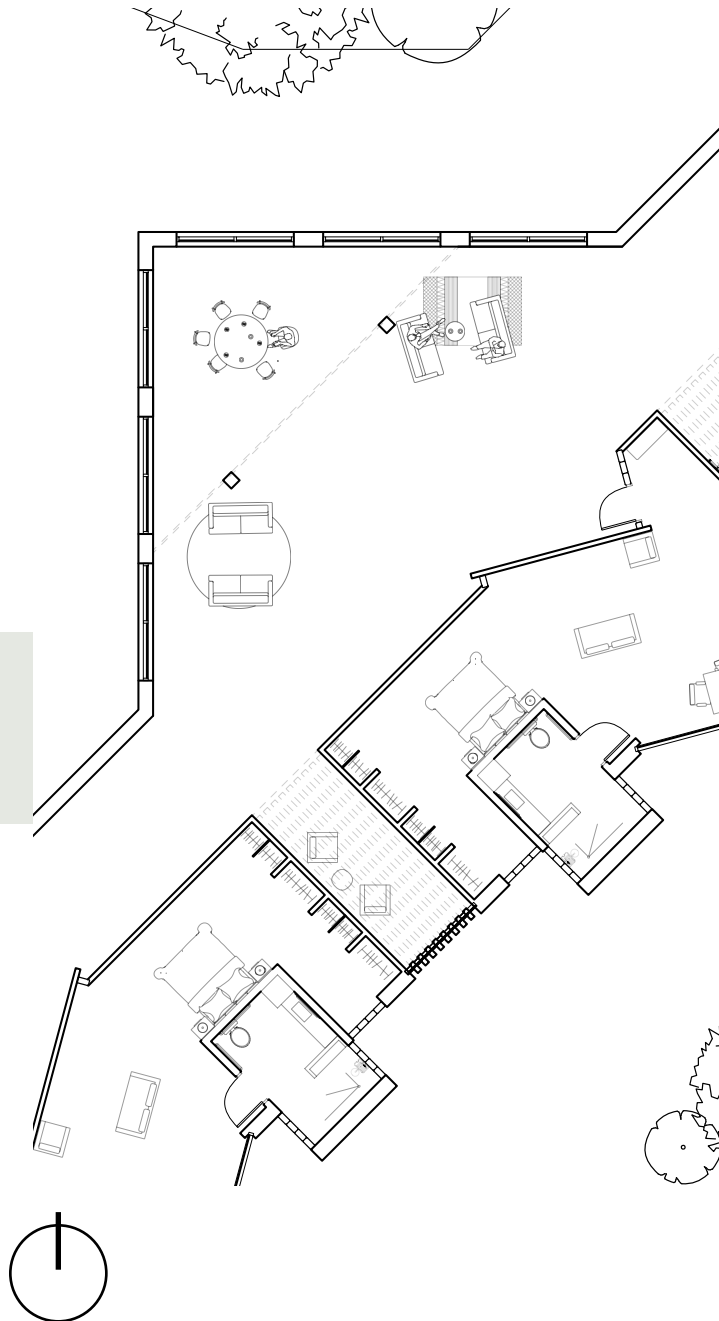
Where Life Unfolds

Each residential building is organized around a central node, which serves as the heart of the structure, functioning as both an entry point and a communal gathering space. From this node, two short wings extend outward at slight angles, each wing limited to a maximum of four residential units. These slightly angled corridors prevent direct sight lines from one end of a wing to the other, intentionally minimizing the perception of long, institutional hallways that can feel overwhelming or disorienting for individuals with dementia.

FIGURE 38 : BUILDING THREE FLOOR PLAN



54 Wayfinding using Landmarks



Each residential unit features a dedicated personalized wall just outside the entry, acting as a visual landmark. These walls can be customized with familiar photos or meaningful objects from the resident's past. For individuals with dementia, this personalization supports memory recall and spatial recognition, making it easier to identify their own space without relying on numbers or signage. The gesture seeks to provide a sense of ownership and perhaps initiates an emotional connection while aiding intuitive wayfinding.

Within the residential hallways, small yet memorable landmarks—such as art niches, potted plants, and furniture—act as gentle visual anchors. Paired with discreet, thoughtfully placed signage at decision points, these elements support intuitive navigation without overwhelming the space. The layered cues should provide its residents with a better sense of orientation, and help them feel in familiar territory while moving independently through the complex.

FIGURE 39 : TYP. MEZZANINE SPACE (BUILDING ONE)



FIGURE 40 : TYP. MEZZANINE INTERIOR

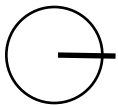
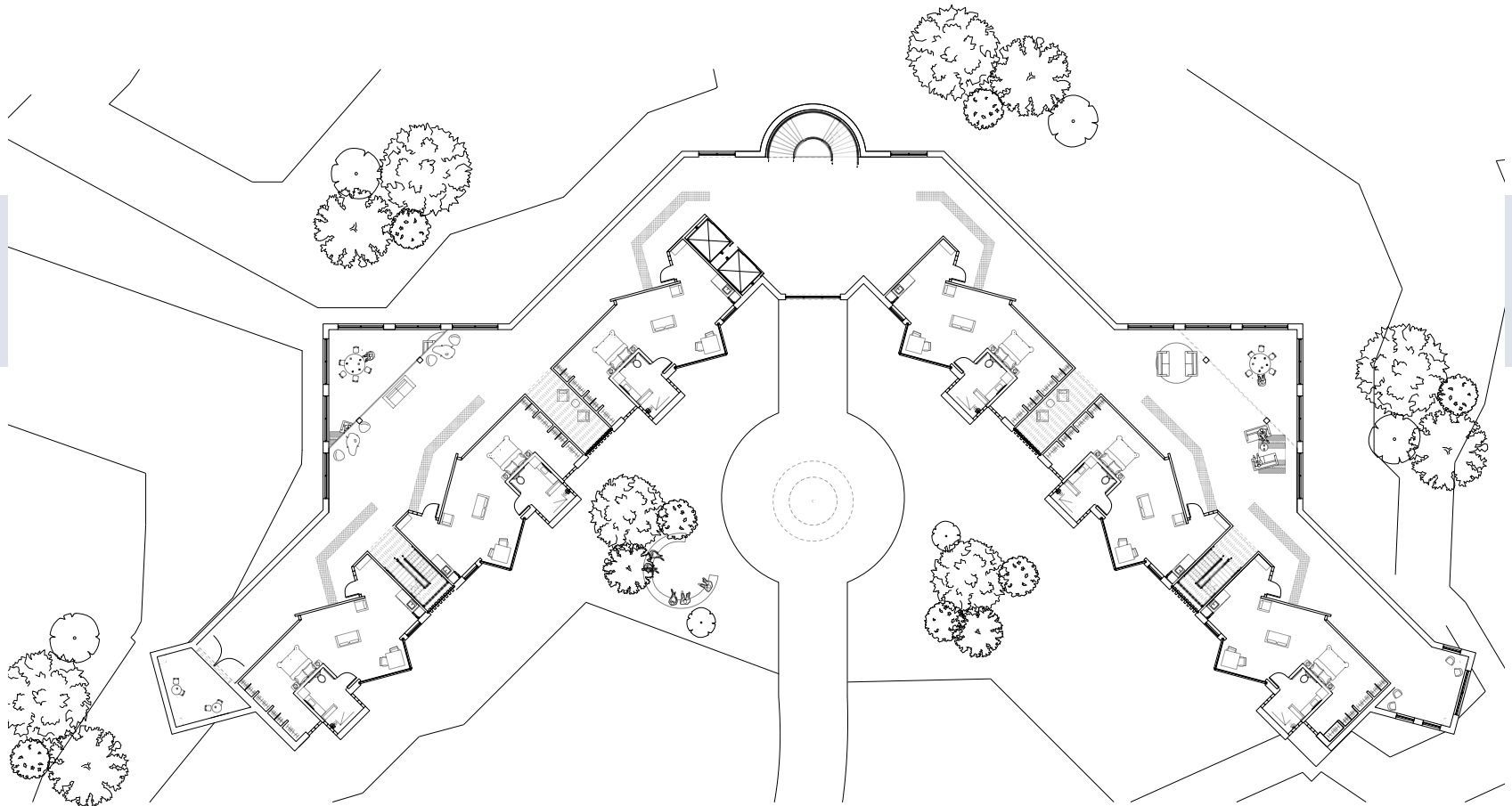



FIGURE 41 : PROPOSAL FOR FLOOR PATH WAYFINDING (BUILDING ONE)

Subtle texture and color changes in the floor materials help to define intuitive pathways through the building, operating in a way like a yellow brick road for residents. The pathways are a directional assistance to find the central common area and residential wings, guiding residents without signage. Both the tactile difference underfoot and the visual contrast in material help individuals with dementia orient themselves naturally, reducing confusion and supporting independent movement throughout the space.

3

*NATURAL
LIGHT*



Natural light is a tool for orientation, routine, and emotional grounding. Eastern natural light dominates in the private apartments, while the building's social nooks and communal pockets are strategically positioned along the west side, where afternoon sun-washed areas invite social interaction. Balance of morning light in private spaces and afternoon light in communal areas, supports both personal and collective rhythms based on the time of the day.

This solar path diagram is the basis for positioning the residential buildings along the western perimeter to capture morning light whereas the western portions of the site are buffered by trees and terrain, ideal locations for communal spaces that might benefit from afternoon sun.

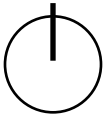
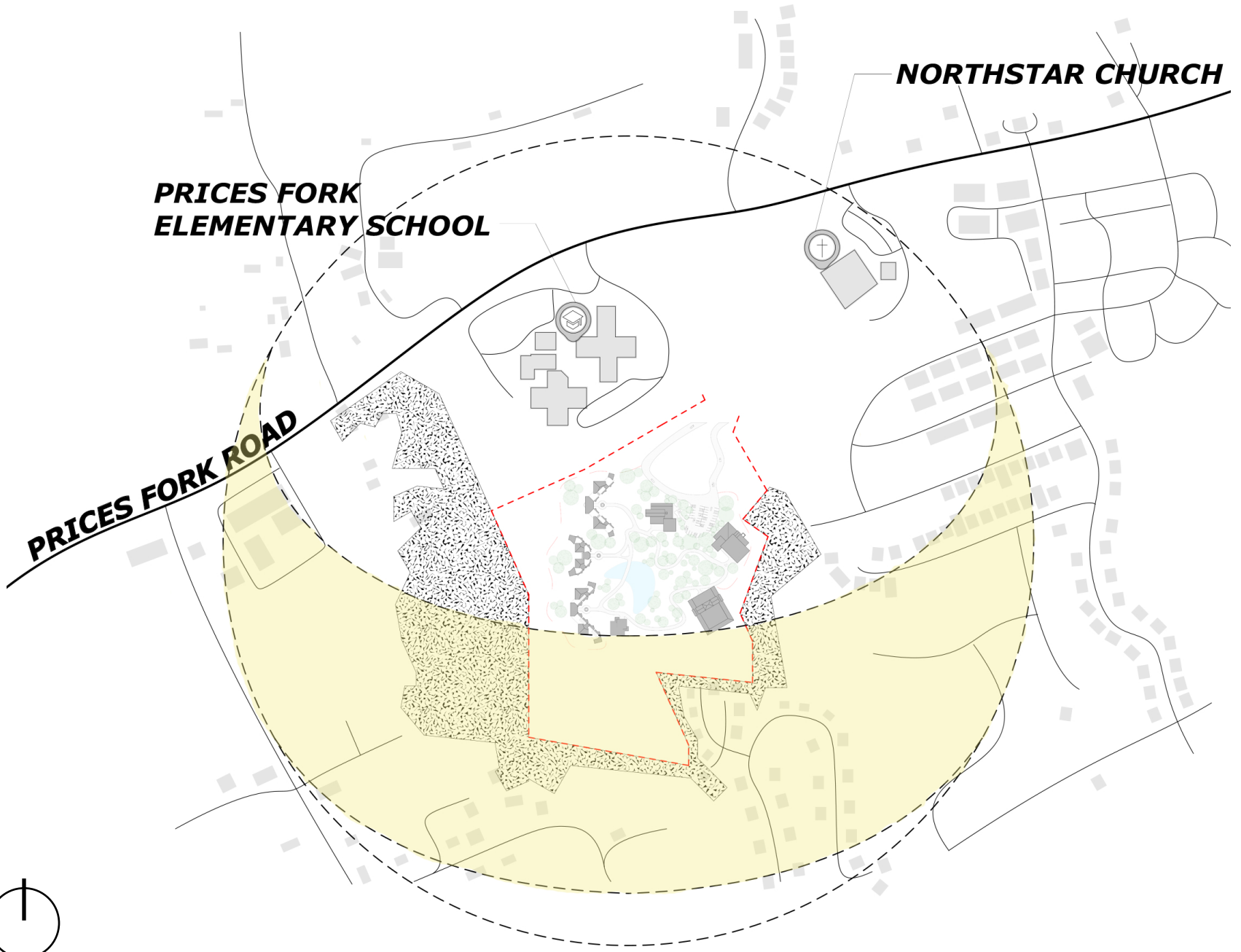
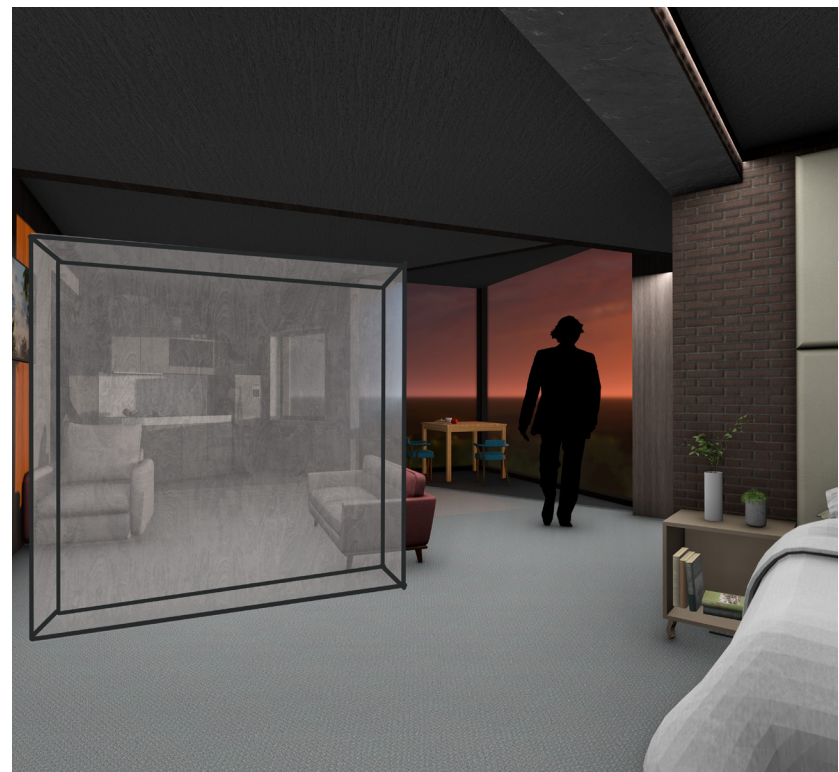
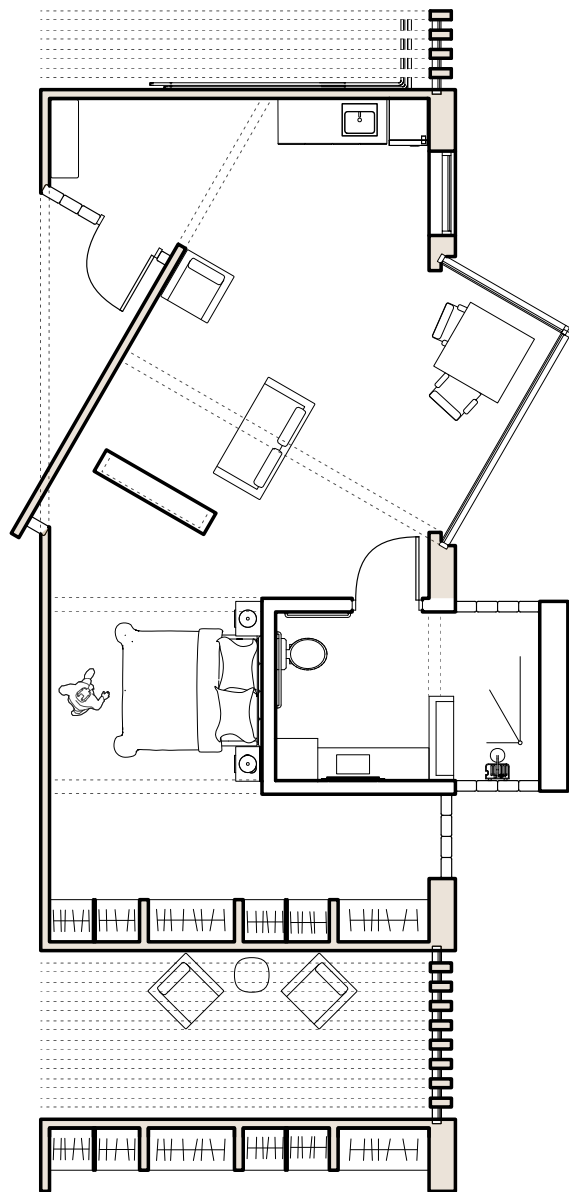
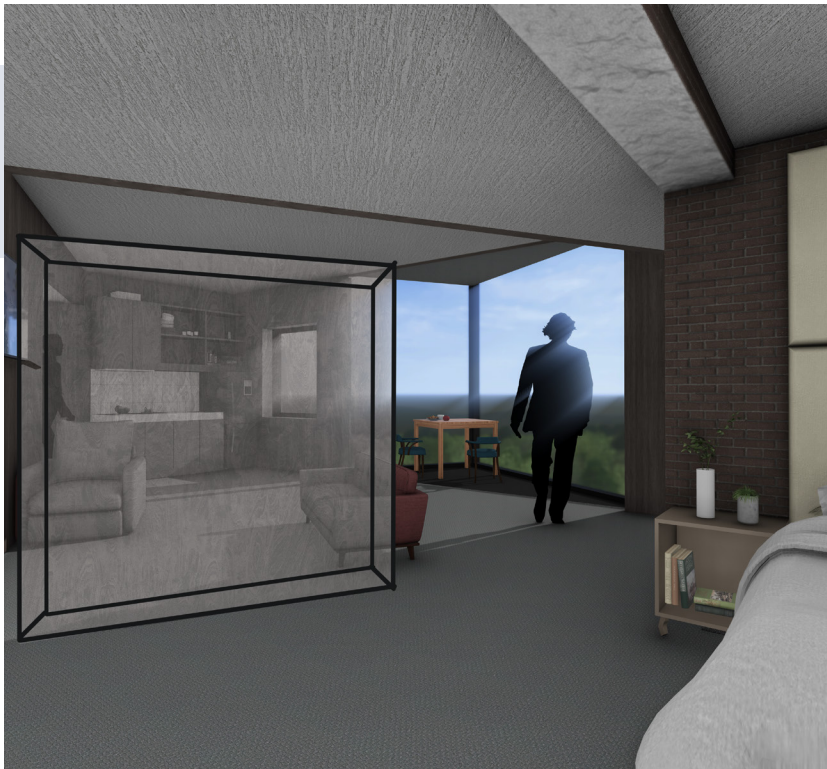


FIGURE 42 : SOLAR PATH



Morning

FIGURE 43 : UNIT ONE FLOOR PLAN

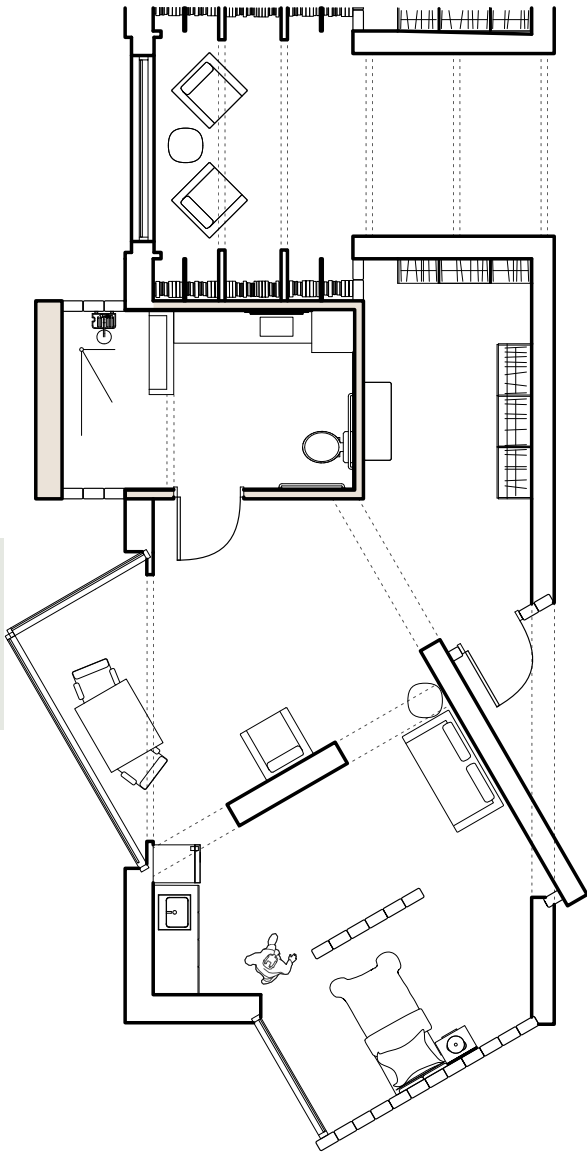


Midday



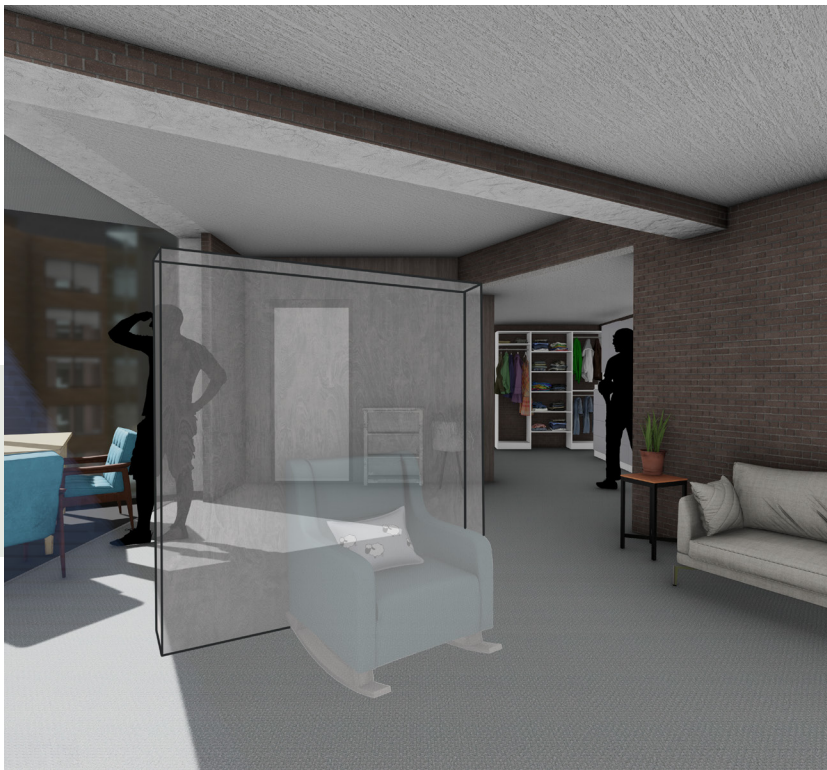
Evening

FIGURE 44 A, B, C : UNIT ONE INTERIORS THROUGHOUT THE DAY

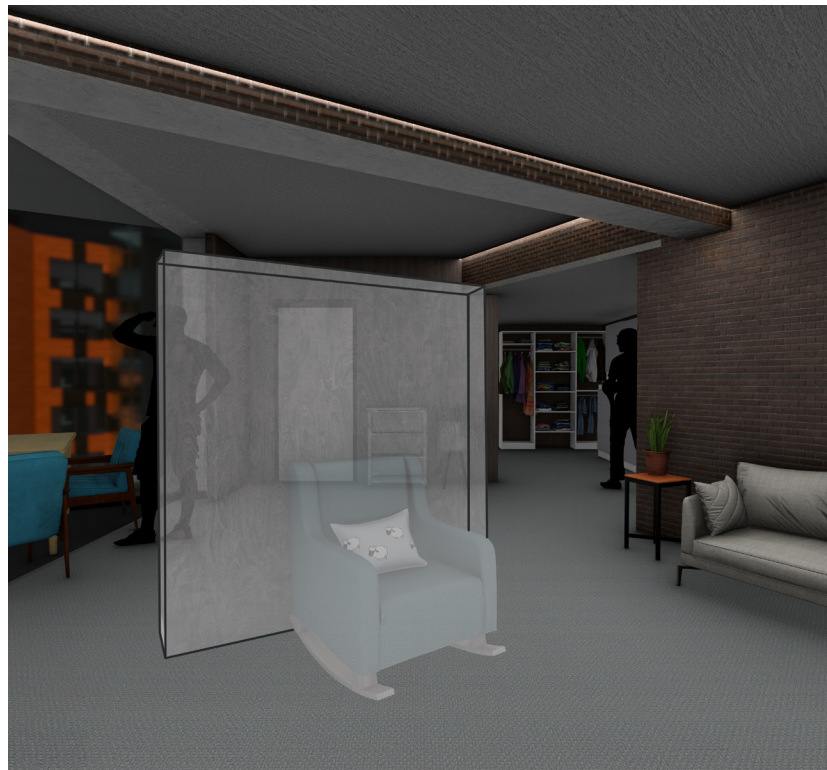


Morning

FIGURE 45 : UNIT TWO FLOOR PLAN

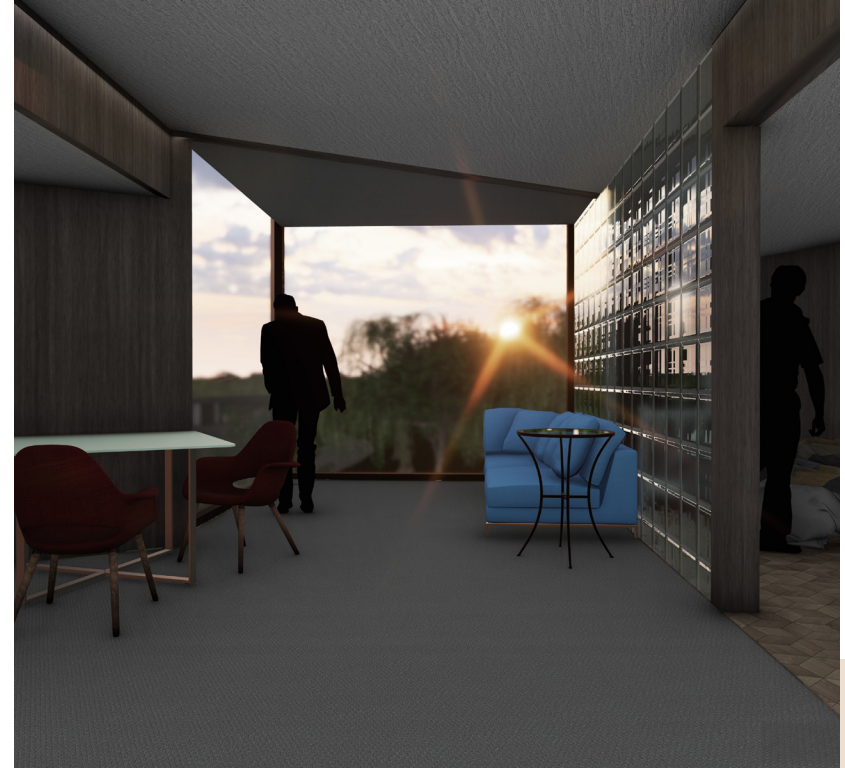
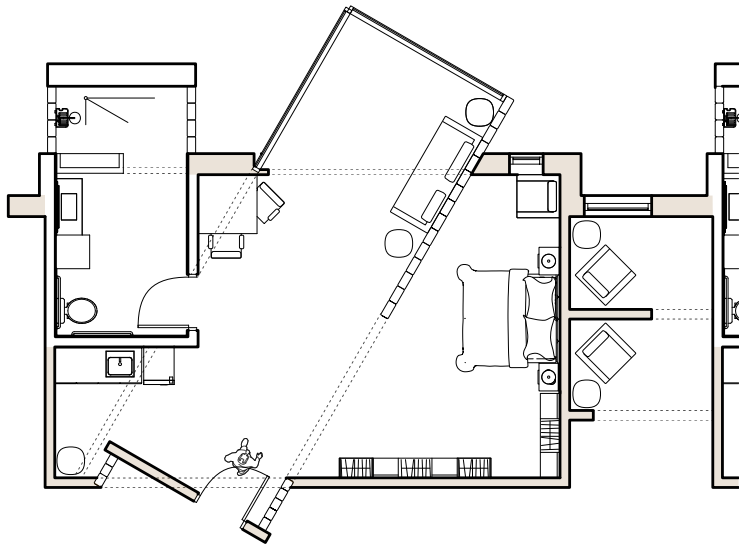


Midday



Evening

FIGURE 46 A, B, C : UNIT TWO INTERIORS THROUGHOUT THE DAY



Morning

FIGURE 47 : UNIT THREE FLOOR PLAN



Midday

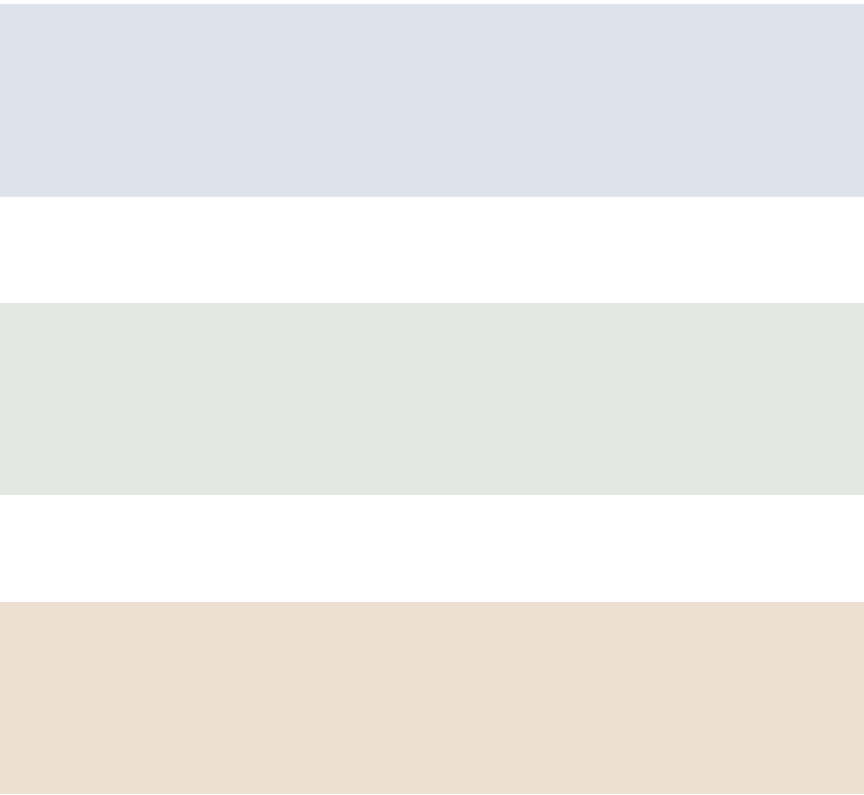


Evening

FIGURE 48 A, B, C : UNIT THREE INTERIORS THROUGHOUT THE DAY

4

*SPATIAL
POCKETS*



A dementia-friendly residential environment should offer a range of spatial experiences and levels of social interaction. Within each residential building, spatial pockets offer residents a choice of how they engage with their surroundings. From quiet nooks between units, to larger activity spaces on each floor, the architecture encourages both solitude and connection in a safe, familiar setting.

The mostly open ground floor accommodates spaces that require flow and flexibility. The rooftop gardens provide a peaceful retreat with expansive views to the nearby nature and the complex interior. Balconies at the end of each wing serve as semi-private outdoor extensions of the living space, inviting residents to pause collectively without leaving the comfort of the building. These layered environments vary in scale and intimacy to help residents feel in control of their experience, promoting comfort, curiosity, and a greater sense of well-being.

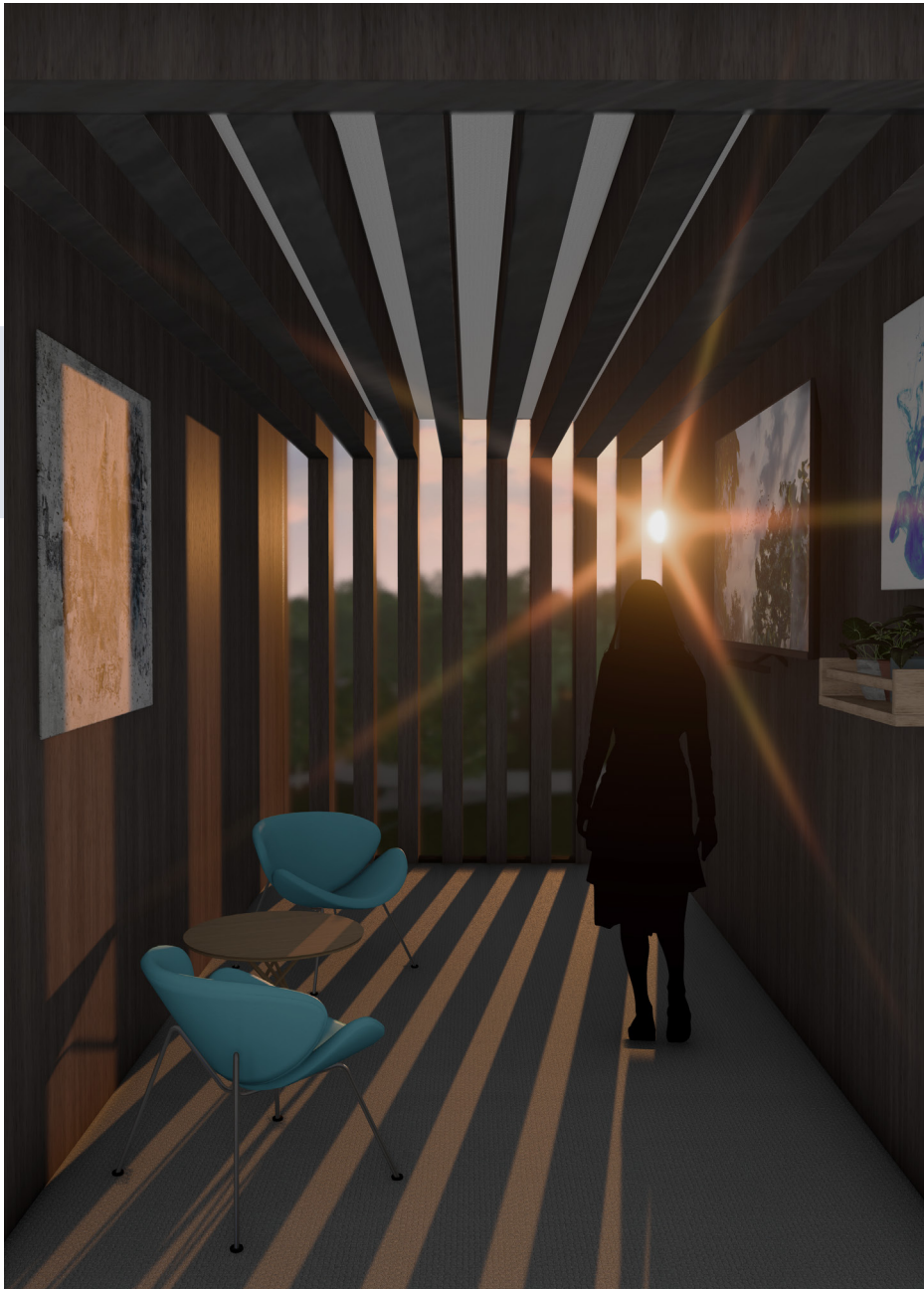


FIGURE 49 : BUILDING 1 TYP. ALCOVE

The residential buildings are designed with a clear gradient of privacy, guiding residents gently from public to personal space. The most private areas are the individual rooms, tucked into angled wings that reduce visibility and noise. Semi-private zones include entry alcoves formed by angled entry walls. The public zones consist of the central hallways, large activity rooms, and shared gathering spaces, while interstitial nooks between units offer quiet moments for social interaction.

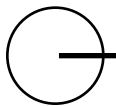
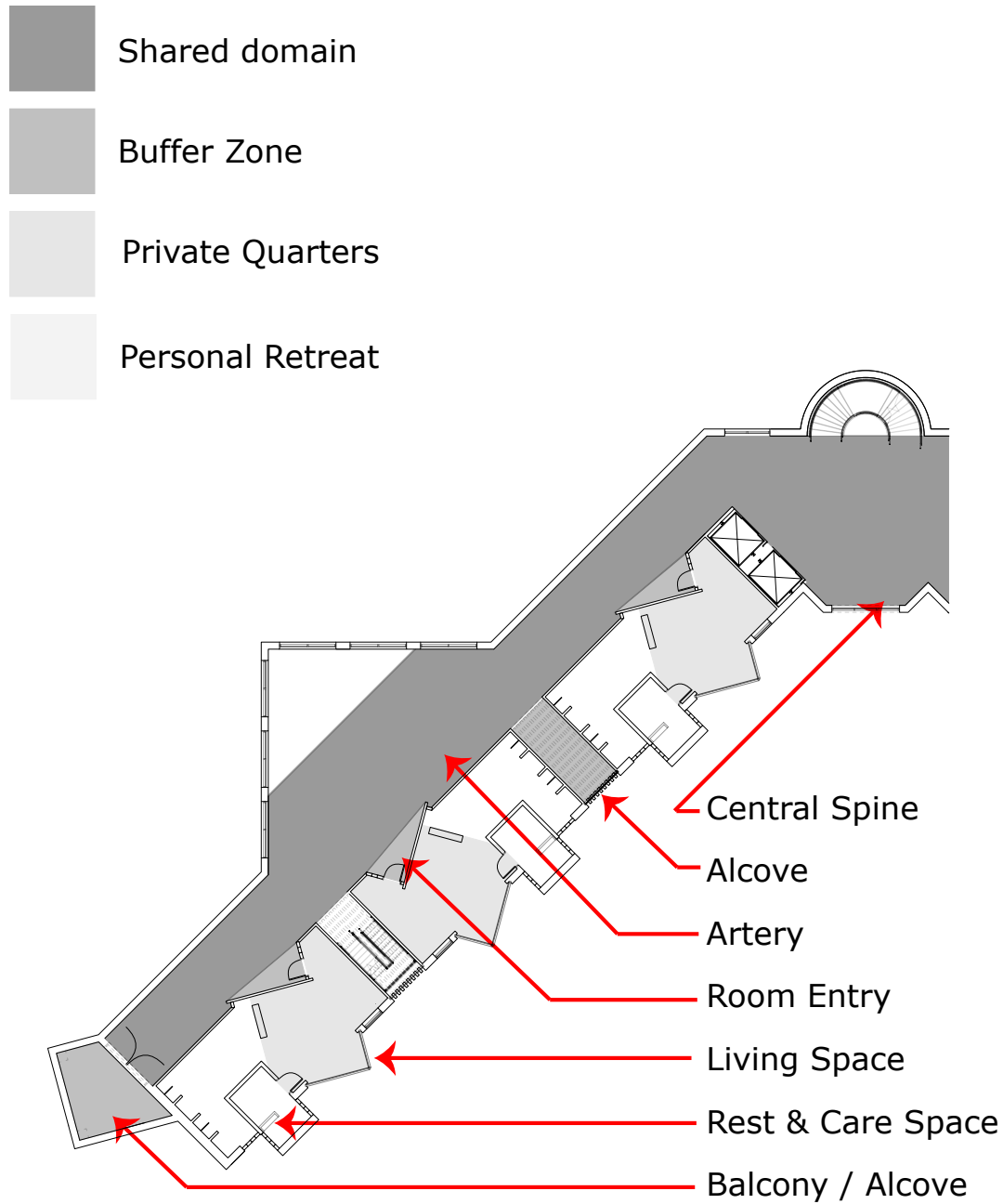



FIGURE 50 : LEVELS OF PRIVACY DIAGRAM

5

MATERIALITY

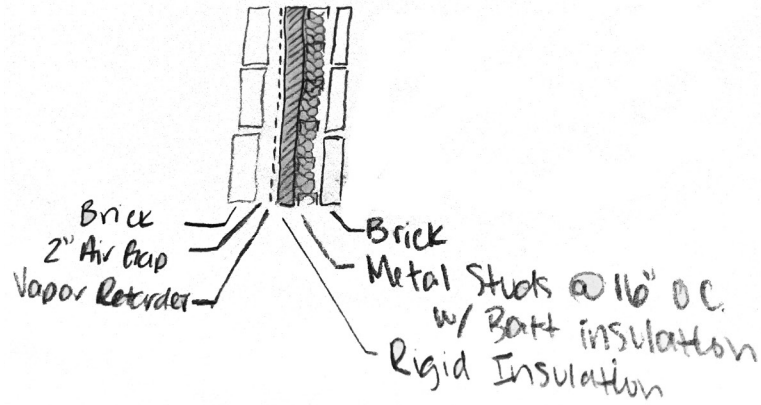


Material plays a vital role in how residents perceive, navigate, and feel within a space. In dementia-friendly design, materials influence sensory comfort, spatial clarity, emotional response, and especially wayfinding. The selection, layering, and junctions of materials are chosen to compose a tactile, warm, and legible environment that supports both psychological ease and physical safety.

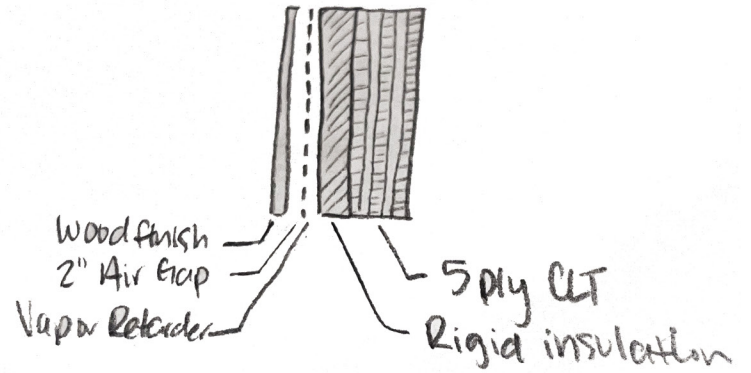
Two primary wall types are used throughout the residential buildings: double-sided brick walls and cross-laminated timber (CLT) walls. The double-sided brick construction offers both thermal mass and acoustic insulation, contributing to a stable, quiet interior environment that reduces sensory over stimulation. In addition, its visual familiarity and tactile quality evoke a sense of home and permanence.

CLT walls, on the other hand, provide warmth through exposed wood grain and natural variation. Their structural integrity allows for relatively large, open interiors with minimal additional framing. These wall types are combined to invoke a solid and grounding, yet warm and calming atmosphere supporting both physical durability and emotional comfort.

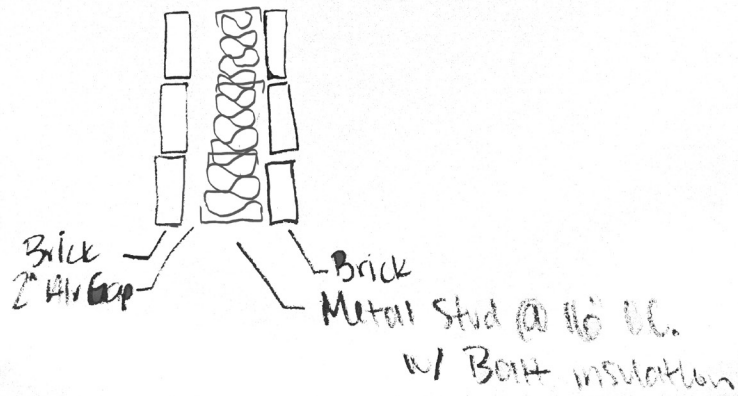
exterior brick wall :



exterior Mass timber



interior brick



interior brick wall (Bathroom)

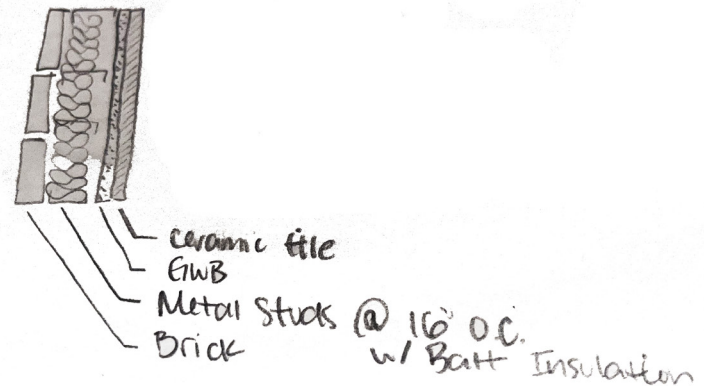
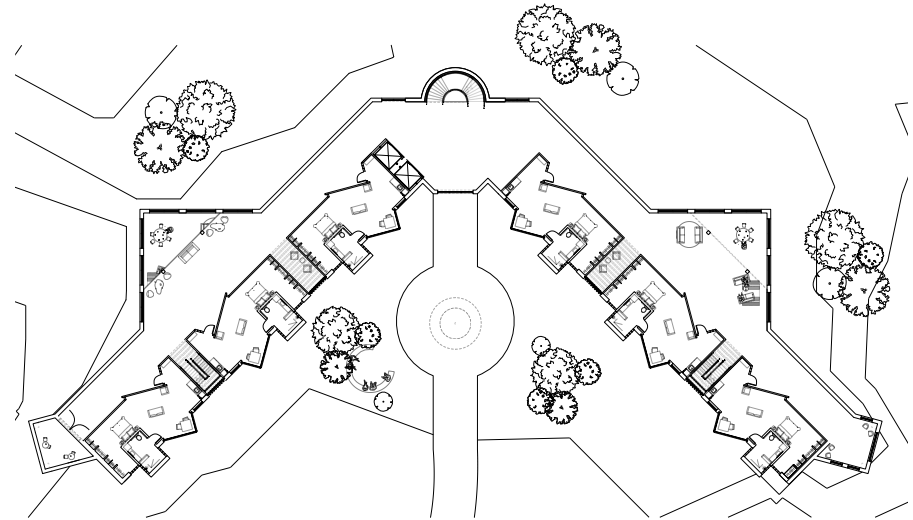
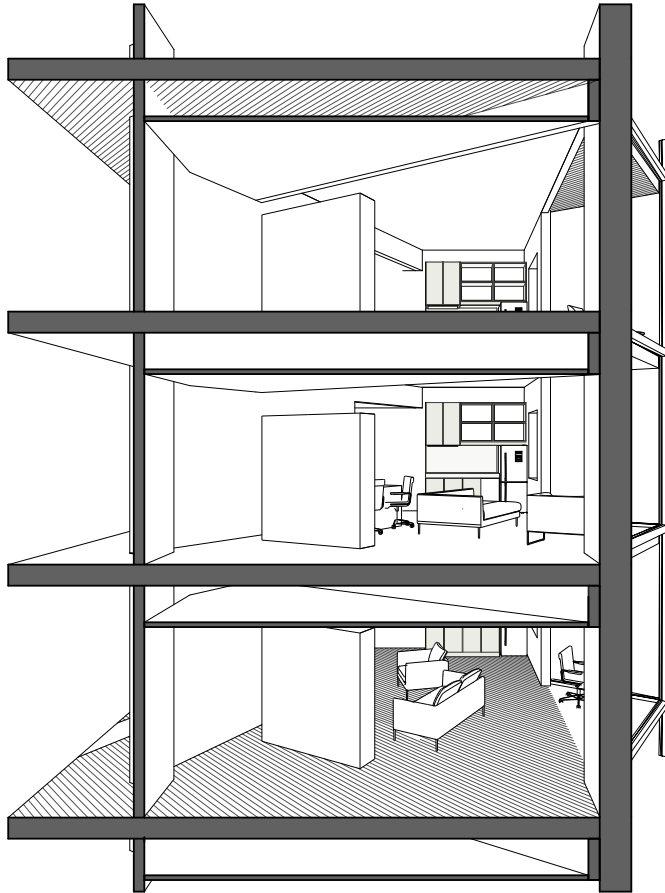


FIGURE 51 A, B, C, D : WALL LAYER SKETCHES



A rhythm of familiar materials, namely brick, wood and glass in alternating vertical bands characterize the facade of the residential buildings. The repetition of materials between units ties the elevations together.

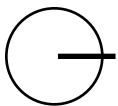


FIGURE 52 : BUILDING ONE SECTION

FIGURE 53 : BUILDING ONE FLOOR PLAN

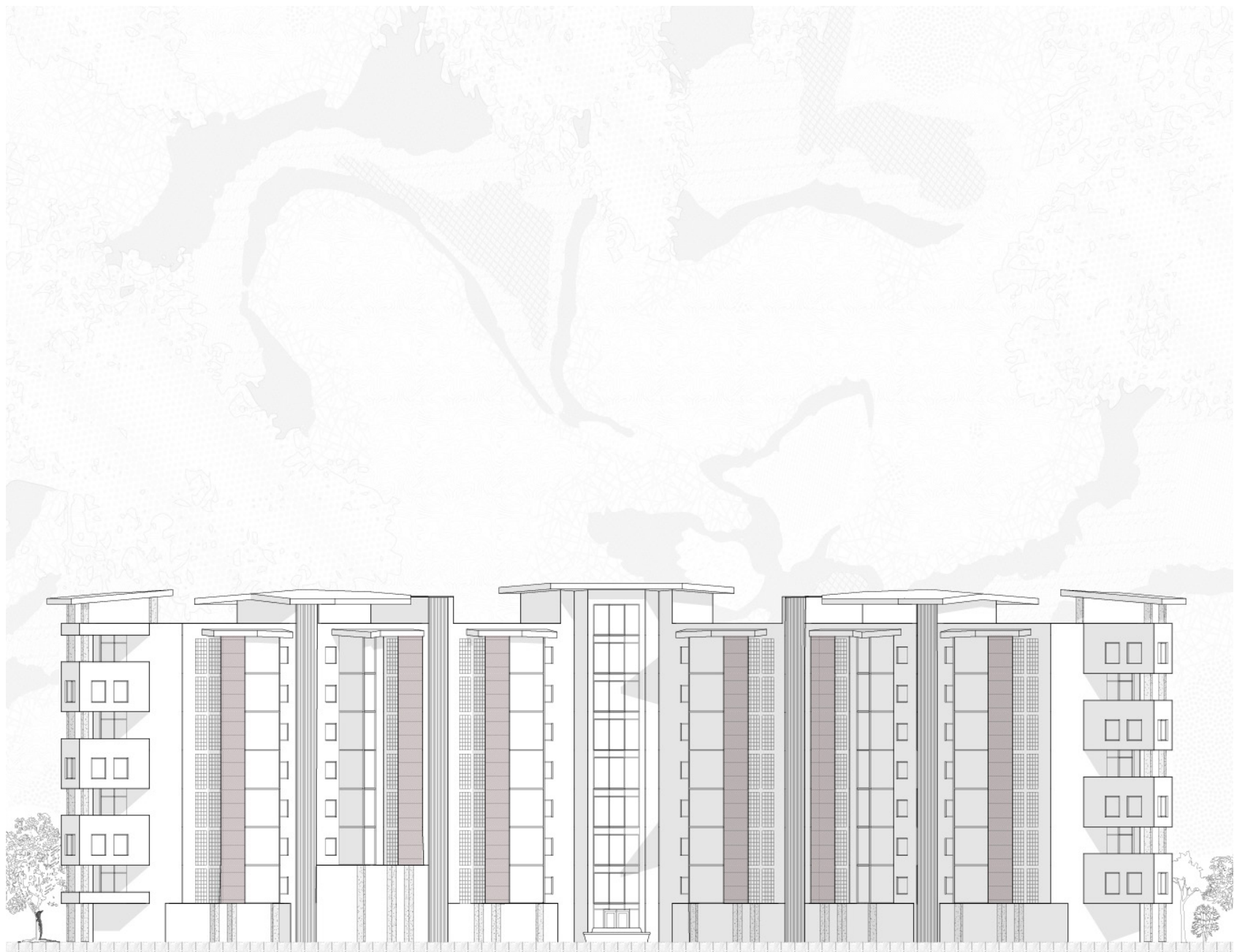


FIGURE 54 : BUILDING ONE EAST ELEVATION

78 Floor Plans Showing Wall Materials

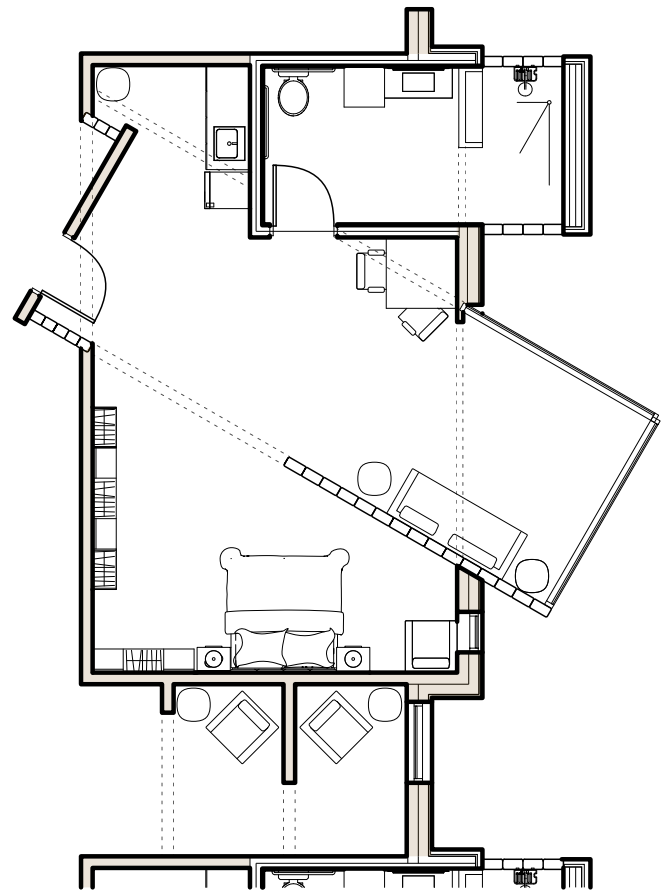
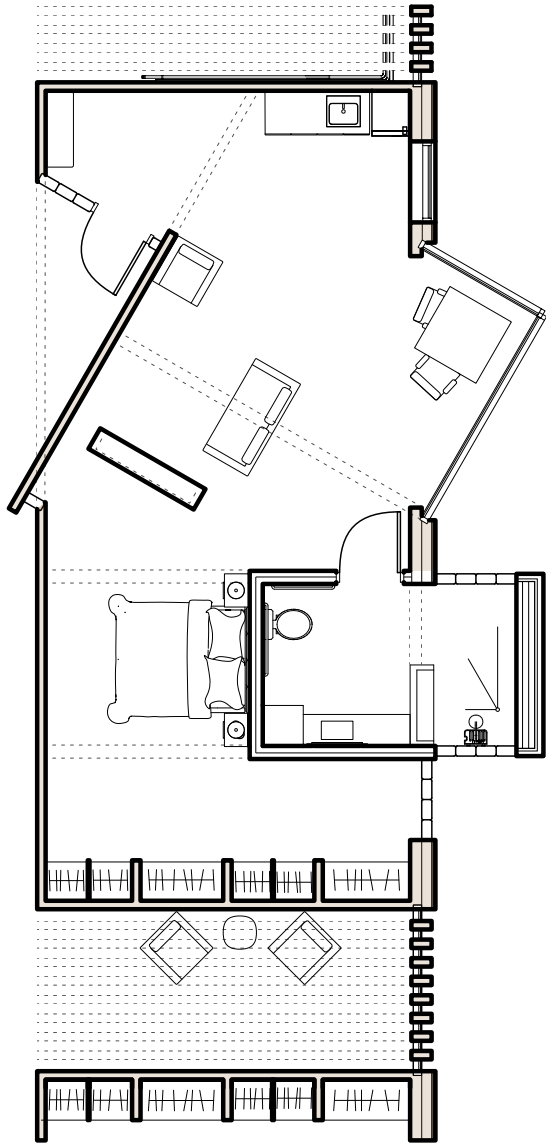
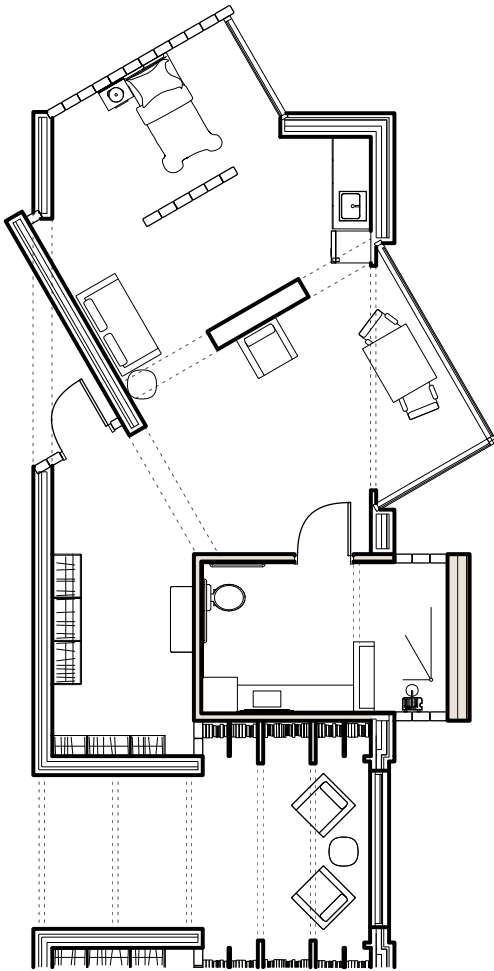


FIGURE 55 : UNIT ONE FLOOR PLAN WITH WALL LAYERS

FIGURE 56 : UNIT THREE FLOOR PLAN WITH WALL LAYERS



Although each unit varies in spatial arrangement, together they share the material palette of cross-laminated timber, brick, and glass, materials chosen for their warmth, durability, and sensory familiarity.

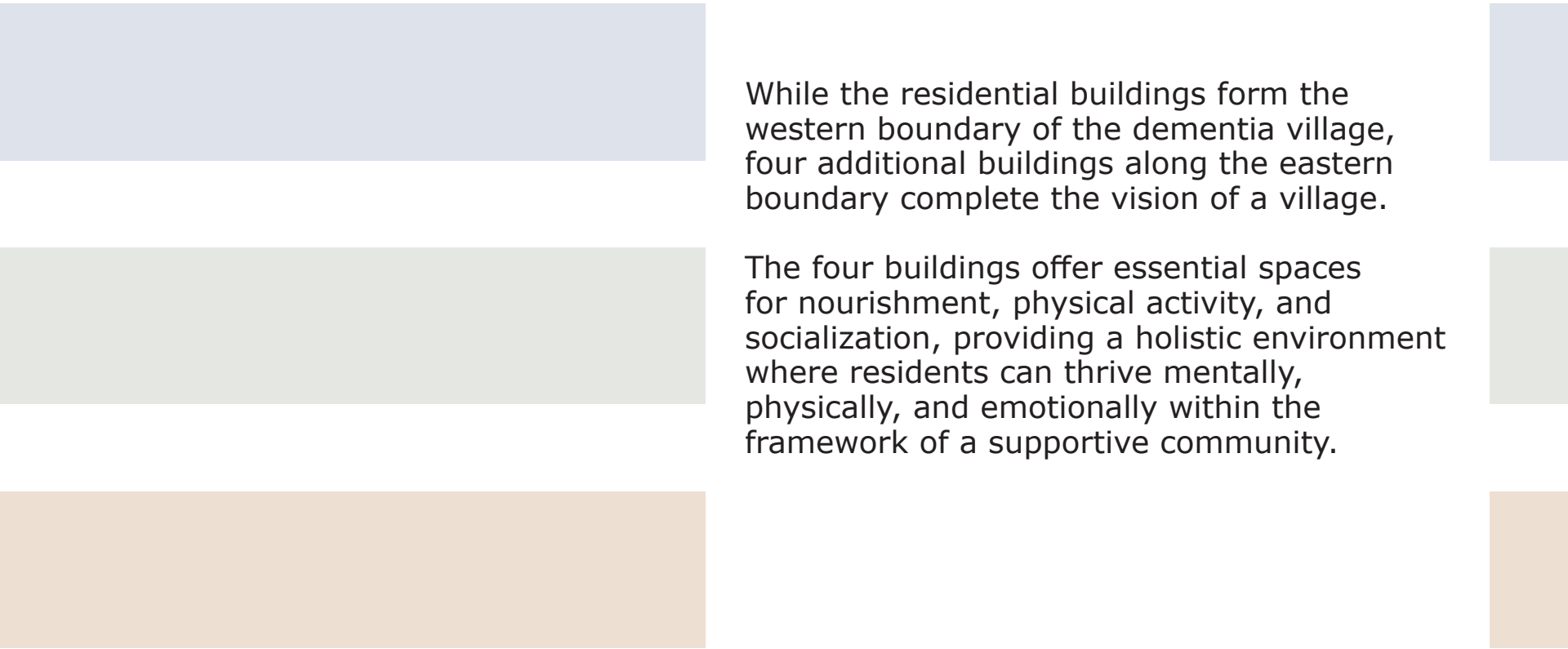
These materials serve as both visual anchors and functional elements: in the two units on the left, brick defines the bathroom core, while timber forms the structural and tactile base throughout. In contrast, the unit on the right flips this relationship, using brick as the base form and enclosing the bathroom in CLT. Glass is used consistently to mediate light and transparency between interior zones, encouraging openness without sacrificing clarity.

Despite these shared elements, the units diverge in how they organize daily life. The first prioritizes linear openness, guiding movement from a defined entry through a continuous living space. The second uses angular shifts to pull private spaces—like the bedroom—away from the core, introducing spatial hierarchy. The third explores a more segmented composition, layering programmatic volumes to create visual rhythm and subtle separation.

FIGURE 57 : UNIT TWO FLOOR PLAN WITH WALL LAYERS

6

*VILLAGE
AMENITIES*



While the residential buildings form the western boundary of the dementia village, four additional buildings along the eastern boundary complete the vision of a village.

The four buildings offer essential spaces for nourishment, physical activity, and socialization, providing a holistic environment where residents can thrive mentally, physically, and emotionally within the framework of a supportive community.



FIGURE 58 : SITE PLAN

ADMINISTRATION

NOURISHMENT CENTER

ACTIVITY BUILDING

LIBRARY & GREENHOUSE

84 Administration

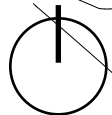
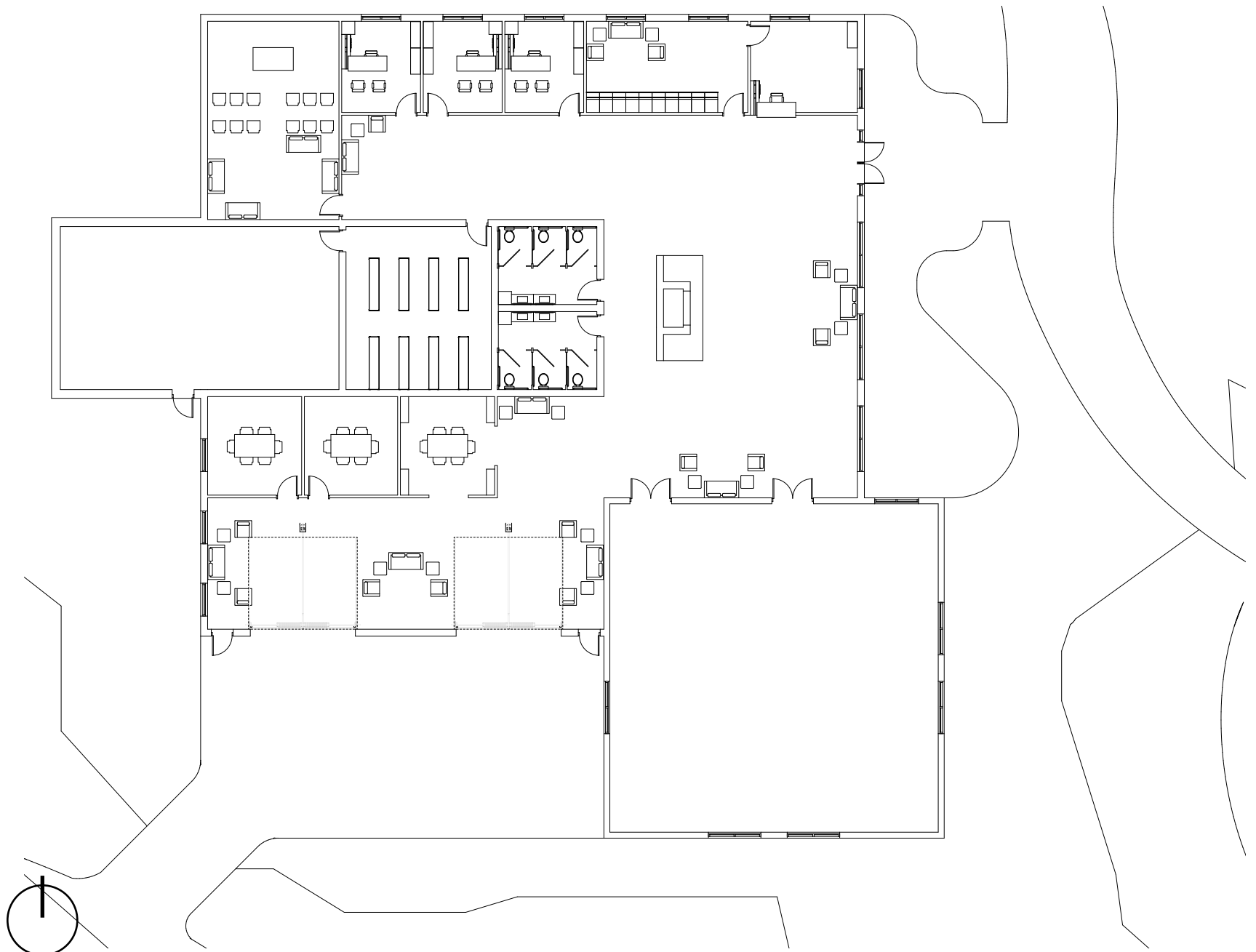


FIGURE 59 : ADMINISTRATION CENTER FLOOR PLAN



An administration building serves as the secure entry point to the village, as an anchor and a safe threshold between public and village life. In addition to typical office functions, it offers open seating areas, family rooms, a chapel and a children's center to encourage intergenerational interaction.

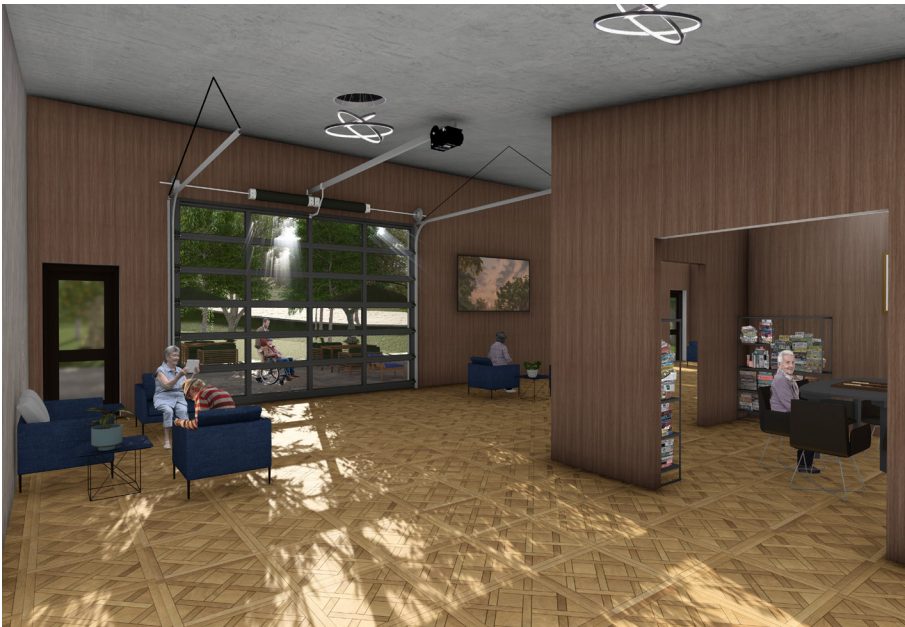


FIGURE 60 A, B : ADMINISTRATION CENTER INTERIORS

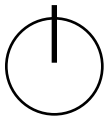
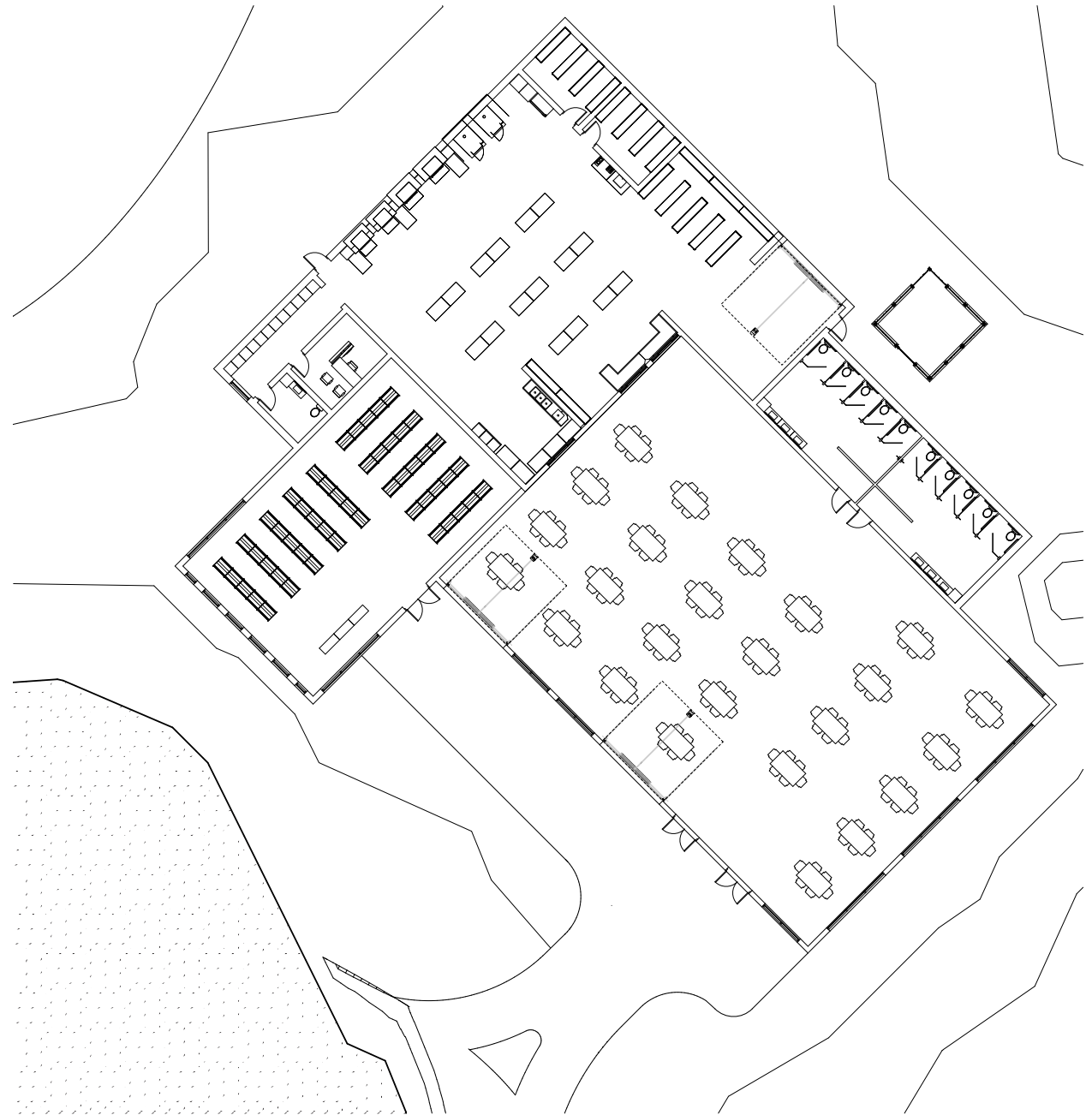


FIGURE 61 : NOURISHMENT BUILDING FLOOR PLAN



The nourishment center houses a cafeteria, market, and kitchen. Though not centralized, its placement along the circular path makes it easily accessible and encourages residents to engage with the entire village. The cafeteria consists of a restricted food preparation area and a single large, open space. The space seeks to promote conversation, foster a sense of community and normalcy, and above all allow residents to dine together in a familiar communal setting.



FIGURE 62 A, B : NOURISHMENT BUILDING INTERIORS

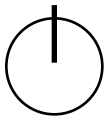
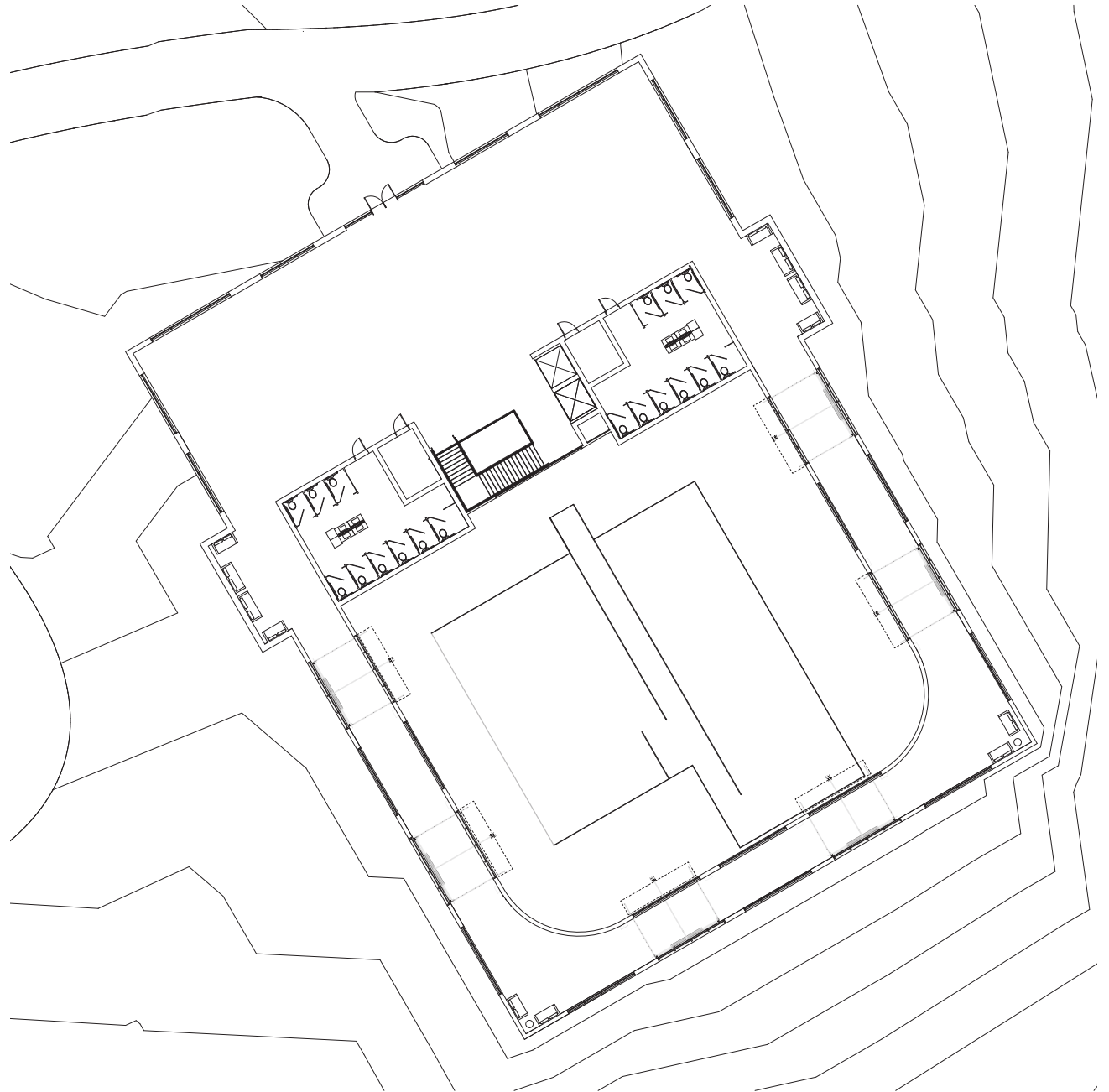


FIGURE 63 : ACTIVITY BUILDING SECOND FLOOR PLAN



The activity building supports physical wellness with a pool and gym on the lower level, while an encircling walking track on the upper level connects visually with the activities in the pool and gym. This architectural arrangement is attempting to generate motivation to undertake physical activity to increase mobility and cardiovascular health combined with improved mood, memory, and sleep patterns.



FIGURE 64 : WALKING TRAIL INTERIOR

90 Library & Greenhouse

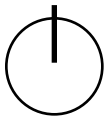
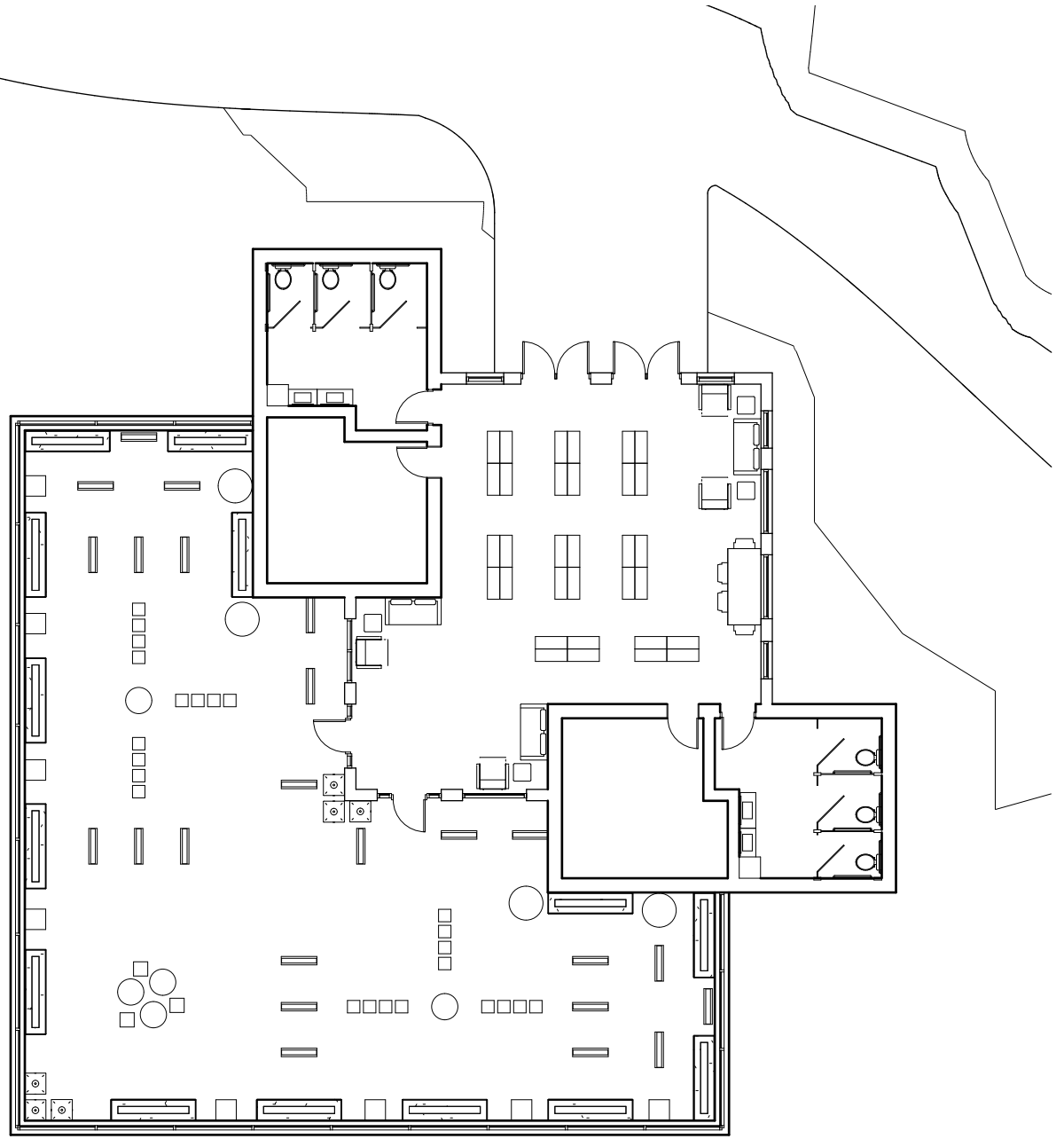


FIGURE 65 : LIBRARY & GREENHOUSE FLOOR PLAN



A library with an attached greenhouse provides a sensory-rich space for quiet stimulation. The library is envisioned as a peaceful environment for reading and rest, while the greenhouse introduces natural textures, smells, and diffused southwest light, as a soothing backdrop for visiting or light gardening. Library and greenhouse together pursue a spatial sequence to support emotional regulation, sensory enrichment, and moments of peace within the rhythm of the village.



FIGURE 66 A, B : LIBRARY & GREENHOUSE INTERIORS

CONCLUSION

This thesis is an attempt to probe how architecture through thoughtful room layout, materiality, natural light, wayfinding, and spatial variety can act not merely as a backdrop to dementia care, but as an active participant in supporting cognitive and emotional well-being. By rethinking residential buildings as tools for orientation and relative independence, the architectural language employs east-facing units for consistent light and orientation, personalized entryways, intuitive circulation, and a composition of tactile, familiar materials. While the project evolved through iterations, its core remained the same: a village that promotes dignity through design. The resulting layout and residential architecture seeks to offer more than housing, perhaps they provide a framework for living that responds to vulnerability with care and intention. In this context, architecture becomes a quiet caregiver—guiding, supporting, and honoring the individuals who live within it.

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