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CONVALESCENCE

A homeless rehabilitation project for domestic violence survivors in Atlanta



CONVALESCE
***A Homeless Rehabilitation Project for the
Distressed Women and Children of Atlanta***

Approval of Thesis Research
Project Book is Presented to:

Amen Farooq

and to the
Faculty of the Department of Architecture
College of Architecture and Construction Management

by

Beverly Grace Kunst

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree

Bachelor of Architecture

Kennesaw State University
Marietta, Georgia

May 9, 2023

Dedication

This project is dedicated to all those who feel as though they don't belong. You have innate value, and I am grateful that you are here. When society has pushed you out, never forget that you are allowed to take up space and you deserve happiness too.

There have been times in my life when I have felt I did not belong. With the loving support of my family and friends, I made it through, and my hope is that you find that too.

Psalm 139 : 14

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Acknowledgement

There are not enough pages in this book to thank the many people that have had a hand in this project and in finishing this degree.

To the Lord above, thank you for laying this project on my heart. I was not sure I was fully equipped to speak to such a heavy design topic, but I have learned so much through this process. Thank you for instilling in me the desire to pursue Architecture, and giving me peace and comfort for when I felt as though I was not made for this.

To my parents, thank you for showing me the humility of serving in a local community and church. Thank you for showing kindness to everyone you both meet. You have built within me a heart that loves fiercely and unapologetically. Without this foundation, this project would not exist.

To the rest of my family, thank you for loving me well through this season of my life. Your patience and dedication to me was much appreciated as I finished this degree. Your encouragement kept me going.

To my friends, thank you for your patience with me through this season. Every canceled plan, late night text, and spontaneous moments of freedom allowed me to focus on my studies and know you were still in my corner. *Especially to those in studio, thank you for the late night coffee runs, post all-nighter breakfast dates, and for telling me when my work needed improvement.*

To the faculty of KSU, specifically Dr. Farooq, Dr. Bedette, and Dr. Loreto, thank you for believing in me as a designer and pushing me to be better. I was never sure if I was "good enough" for architecture, but your words and teachings encouraged me to keep exploring, dig deeper, and shine brighter. I am forever grateful to you all.

“Forests were the first temples of God, and in forests men grasped their first idea of architecture”

-James C. Snyder

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Chapter 1.0 Defining the Problem



Figure 1 Denver Homeless Out Loud 1

ABSTRACT

What do you value most? Security or comfort? Could you choose only one? This is the daily dilemma for women and children trapped in violence and trafficking. They have a greater disposition to being re-trafficked or abused if they are unsheltered. Often, people within this group have been cut off from their friends and families, meaning they have no access to food, shelter, or finances. They need a place that can provide safety and security along with a support system for a fresh start. This thesis project aims to explore the socio-spatial dilemma and stigma of distressed and homeless women and children. This project is intended to be more than a homeless shelter, more so like a life rehabilitation complex. There are various stages within the complex that cater to specific types of needs including emergency and short-term housing, first aid, psychosocial skill-building, and social services based on their individual needs. Emphasizing the importance of the factors that lead to homelessness, each participant will have the opportunity to utilize different areas of this rehabilitation complex where architecture is a spatial facilitator. They have the means to determine how their socio-spatial journey would benefit them most.

1.1

Chapter 1.1 Who To Design For?

National Statistics About Homelessness

Homelessness is defined by Merriam Webster as “having no home or permanent place of residence.”¹ This term has been used to describe people without a home since the early 12th century and is certainly not a new issue by any stretch of the imagination. In the United States, we began to see the first casual usage of the term in the 1870’s, to describe the nomadic travelers making their way through the country with the intentions of finding work.² Because these travelers questioned the idea of whether a permanent home was necessary, they were often criticized and scorned for being different. These ideas, coupled with the facts of inadequate access to proper hygiene, outdoor living conditions, and the other factors mentioned above, have created a stigma that surrounds the homeless population and keeps many from taking the time to acknowledge their situation. There are members of our community that we walk past every day that do not have a type of shelter to go to at night. It is unacceptable.

1 Merriam-Webster. (n.d.). Homeless. In Merriam-Webster.com dictionary. Retrieved January 25, 2023, from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/homeless>
 2 “The History of Homelessness in the United States - NCBI Bookshelf,” National Library of Medicine- NCBI Bookshelf, accessed January 25, 2023, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK519584/>.

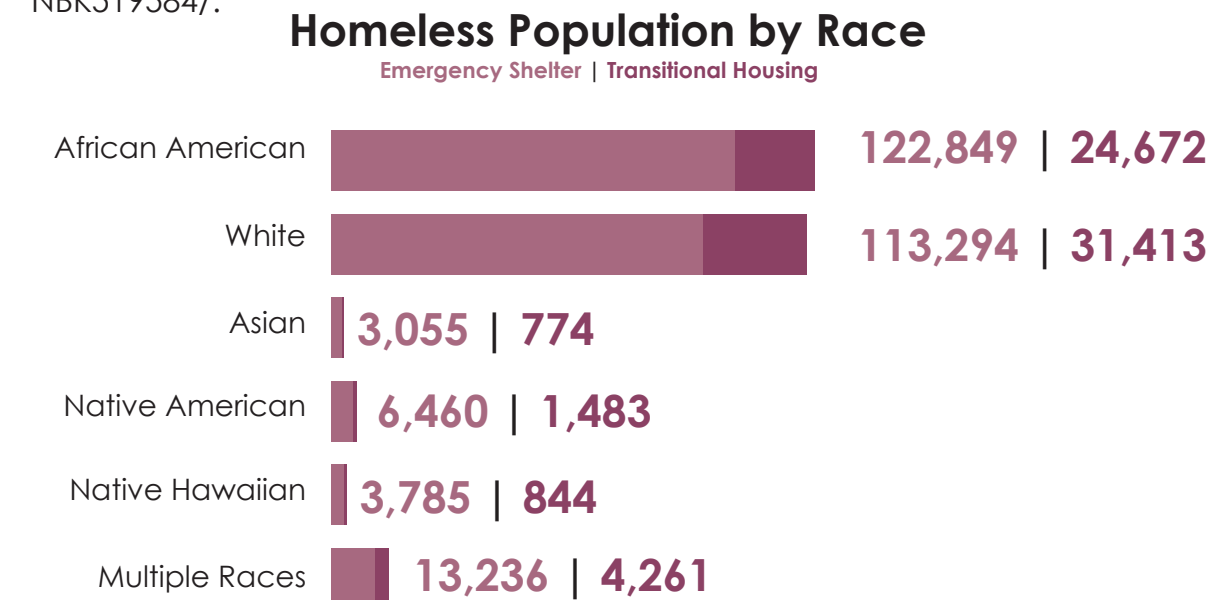


Figure 3 Figure Created by author, data from HUD 2021 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless Populations and Subpopulations, United States

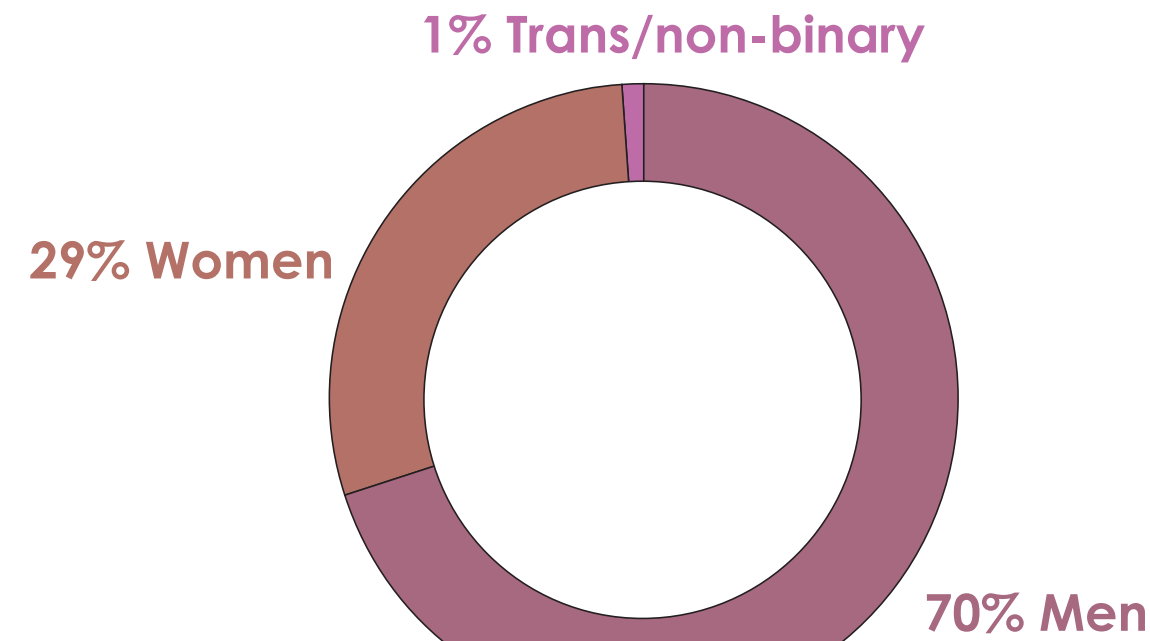


Figure 2 Figure Created by author, data from HUD 2021 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless Populations and Subpopulations, United States

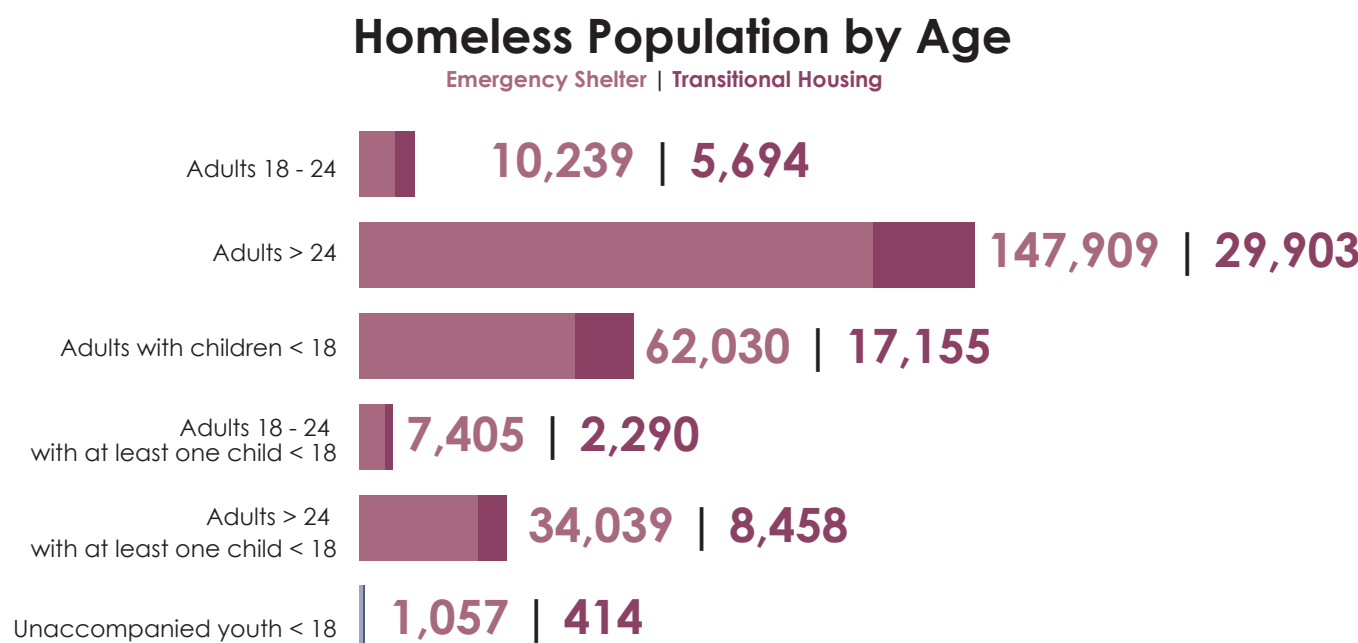


Figure 4 Figure Created by author, data from HUD 2021 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless Populations and Subpopulations, United States

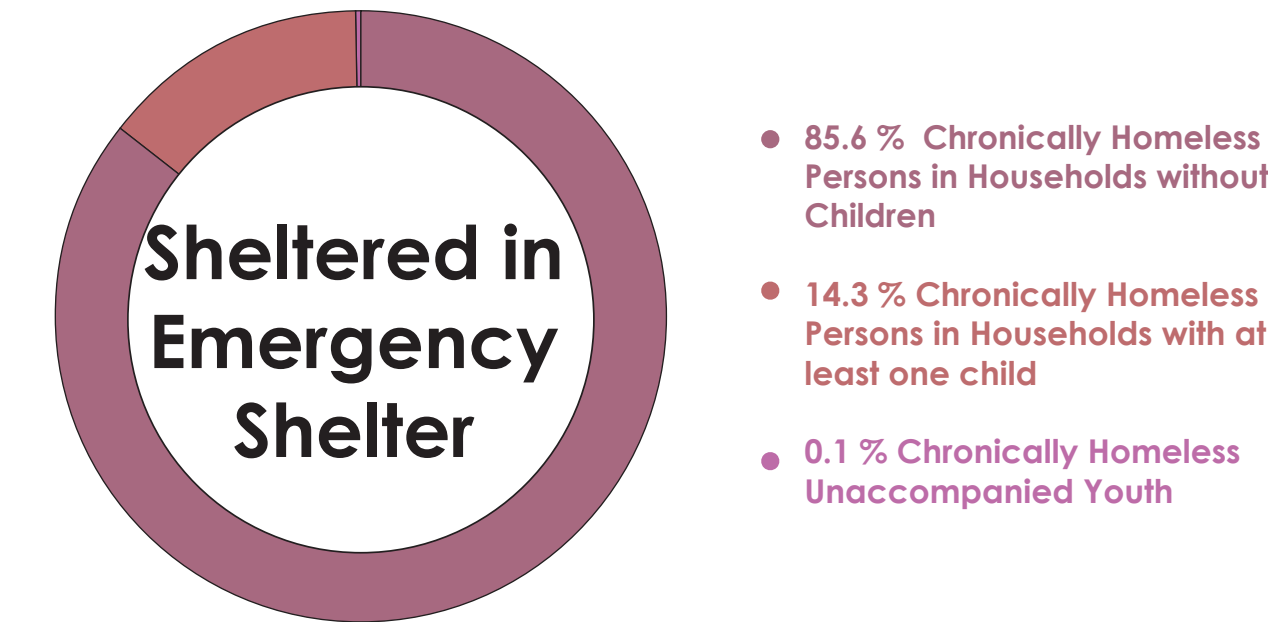


Figure 6 Figure Created by author, data from HUD 2021 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless Populations and Subpopulations, United States

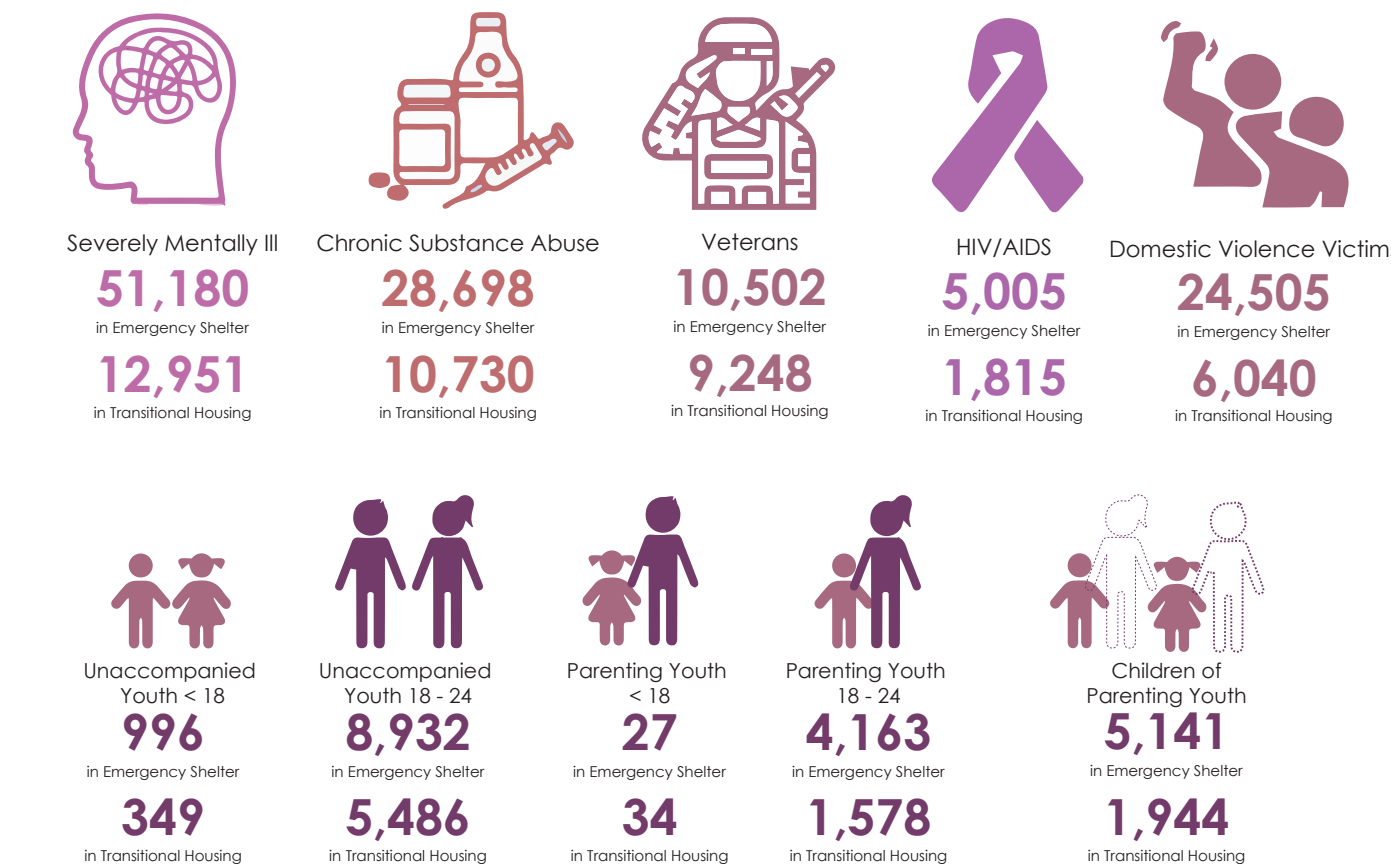


Figure 8 Figure Created by author, data from HUD 2021 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless Populations and Subpopulations, United States

863

Chronically Homeless Adults in Transitional Housing

Figure 7 Figure Created by author, data from HUD 2021 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless Populations and Subpopulations, United States

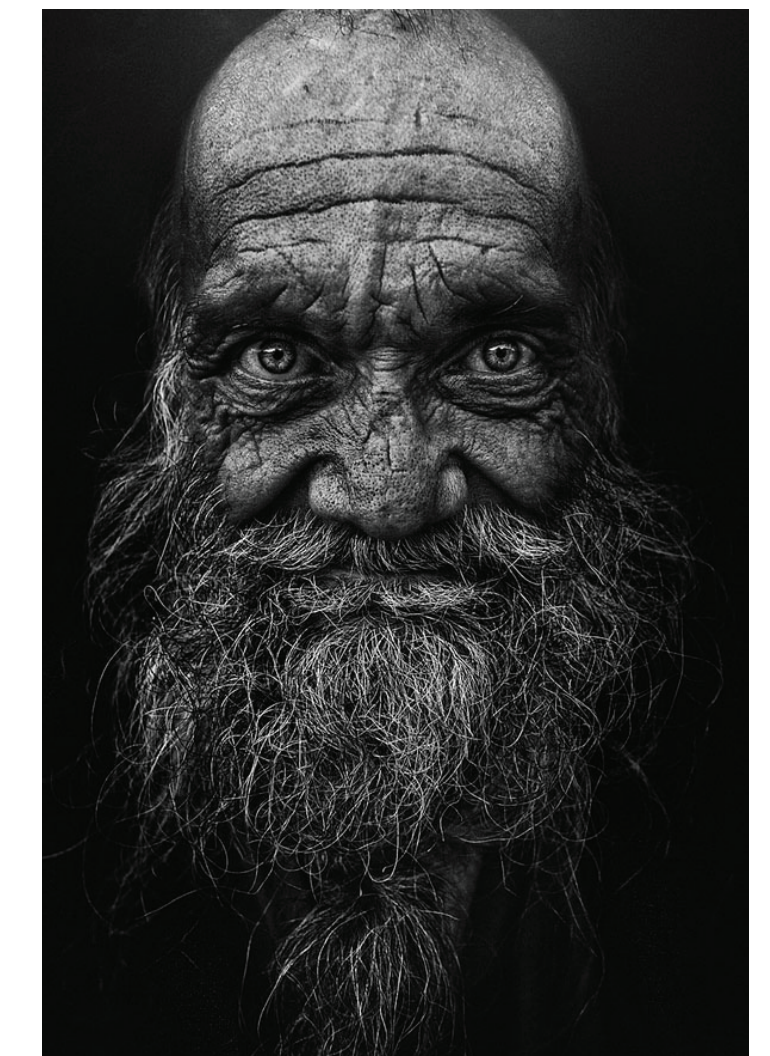


Figure 9 Homelessness Portrait by Lee Jefferies

Georgia Statistics About Homelessness

Several factors lead to homelessness. Many people assume it is a lack of drive, laziness, or that they do not want to be better for themselves. Many do want better for themselves. However external factors can still keep them trapped. Human trafficking is a major epidemic around the world today. While many know about slavery and the wars fought to free enslaved people, many today are unaware of the modern day slave trade. Modern day slavery is defined as “when an individual is exploited by others, for personal or commercial gain. Whether tricked, coerced, or forced, they lose their freedom.”¹ This occurs in the form of forced servitude, forced sex work, withholding access to citizenship, withholding wages, and so much more. Oftentimes the people who have been trafficked have little access to the friends, families, and loved ones, and have no kind of support system outside of their traffickers. It makes it incredibly difficult for them to create a life for themselves, and one of the main reasons a complex like this is so needed. They need a place that can support them as they rebuild their lives and keep them from reentering the trafficking world.

¹ “What Is Modern Slavery? | Anti-Slavery International,” Anti-Slavery, accessed January 26, 2023, <https://www.antislavery.org/slavery-today/modern-slavery/>.

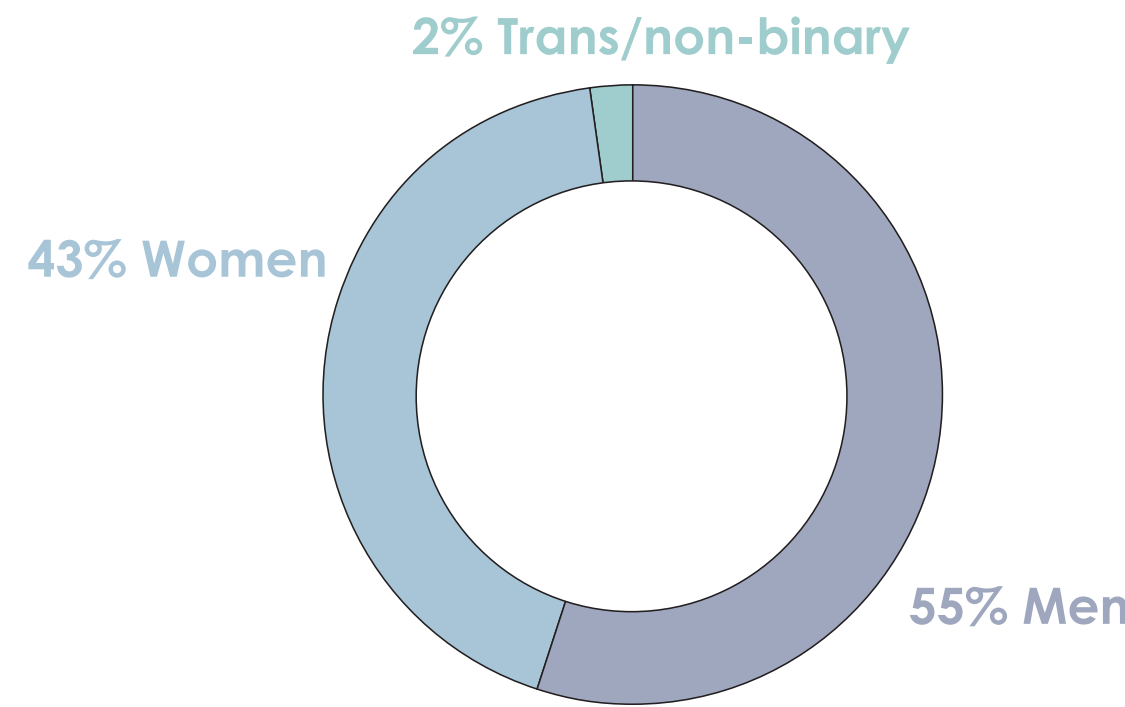


Figure 10 Figure created by author, data from HUD 2021 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless Populations and Subpopulations, State of Georgia

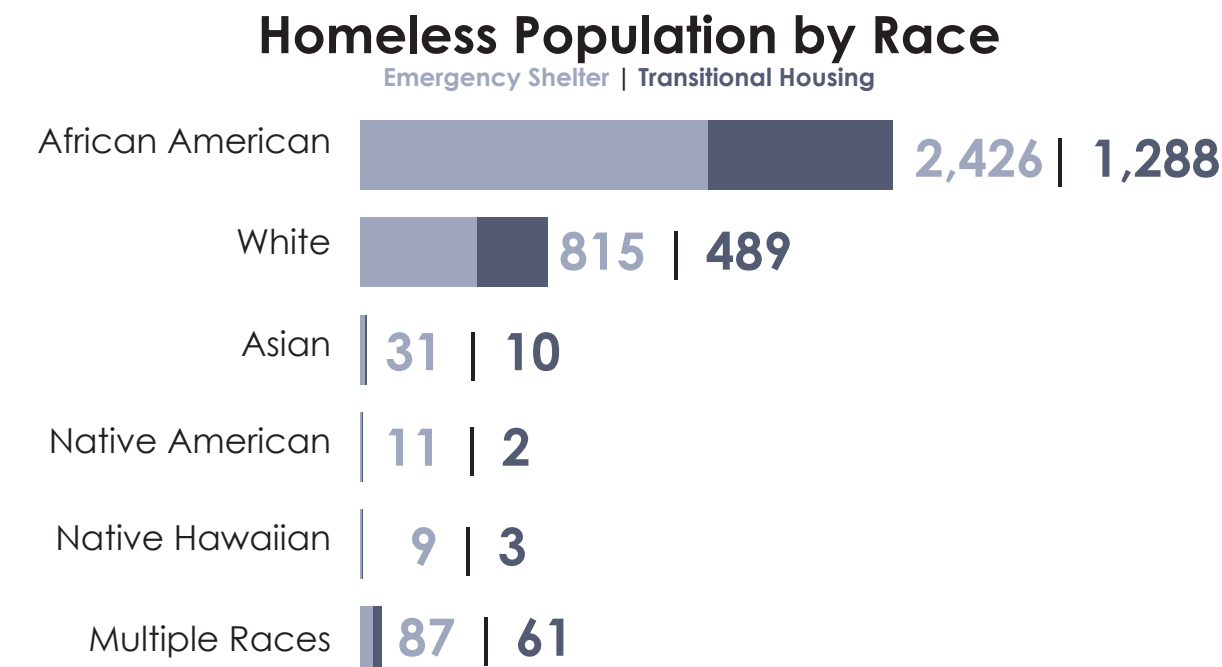


Figure 11 Figure created by author, data from HUD 2021 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless Populations and Subpopulations, State of Georgia

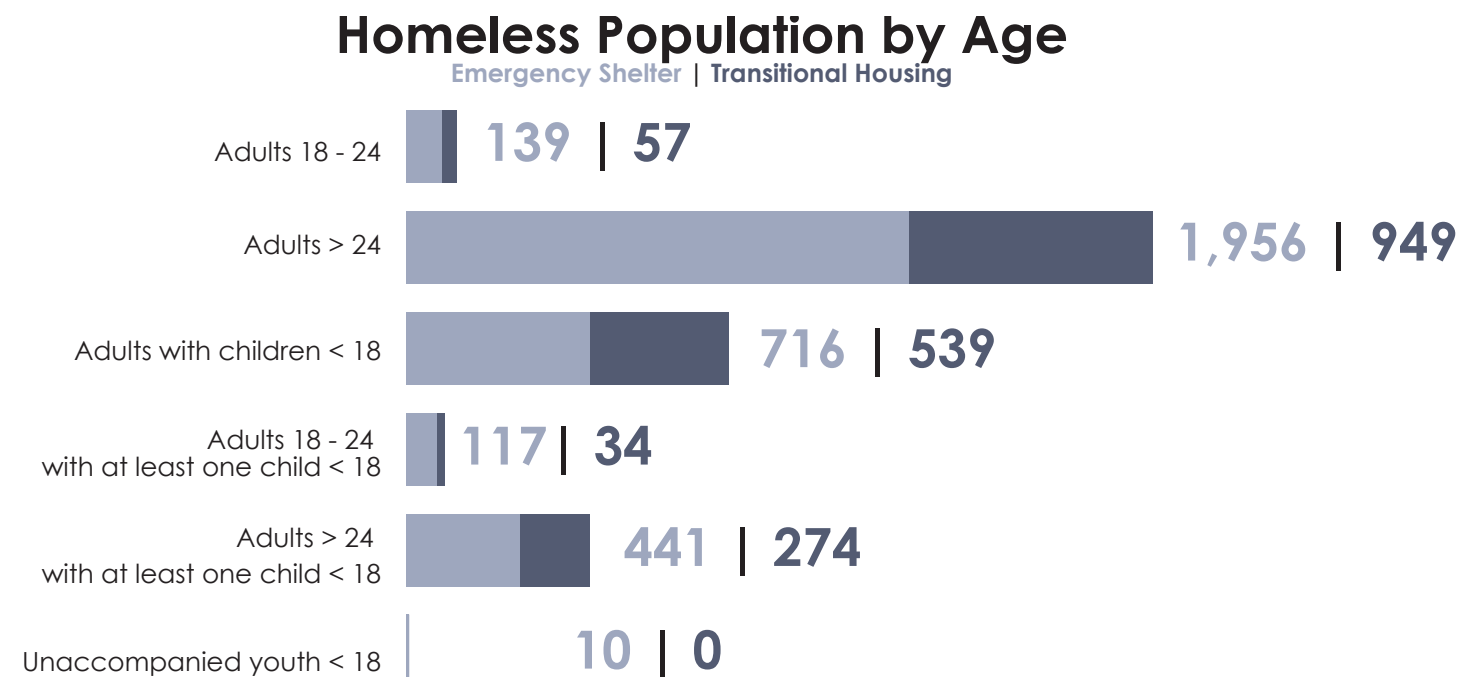


Figure 12 Figure created by author, data from HUD 2021 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless Populations and Subpopulations, State of Georgia

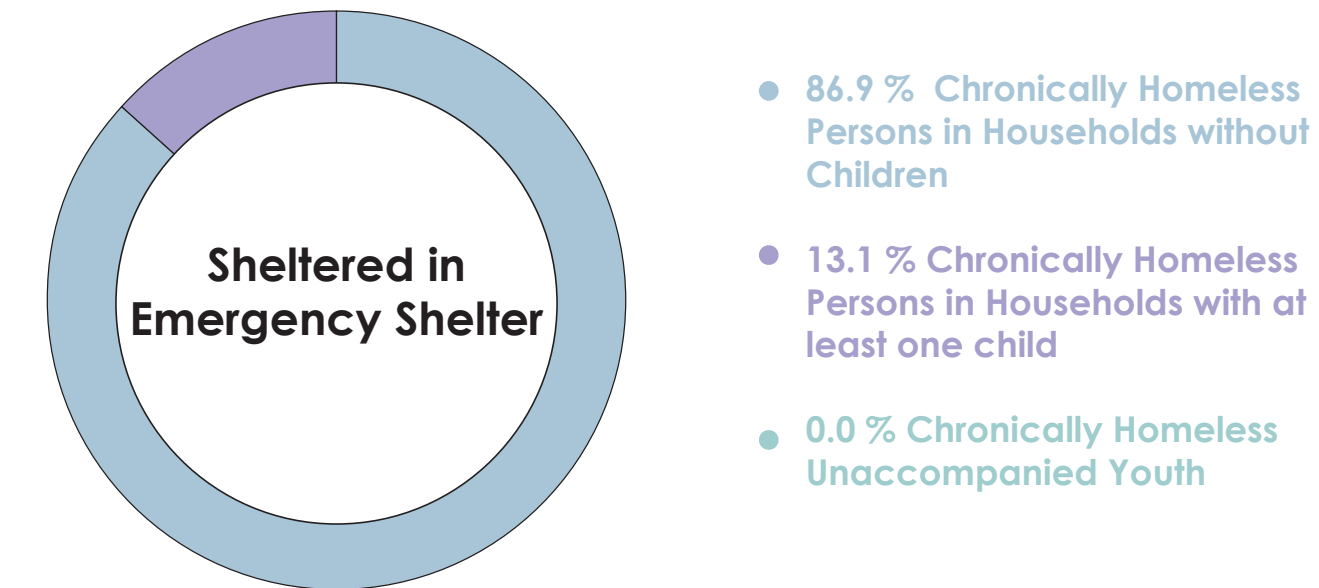


Figure 13 Figure created by author, data from HUD 2021 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless Populations and Subpopulations, State of Georgia

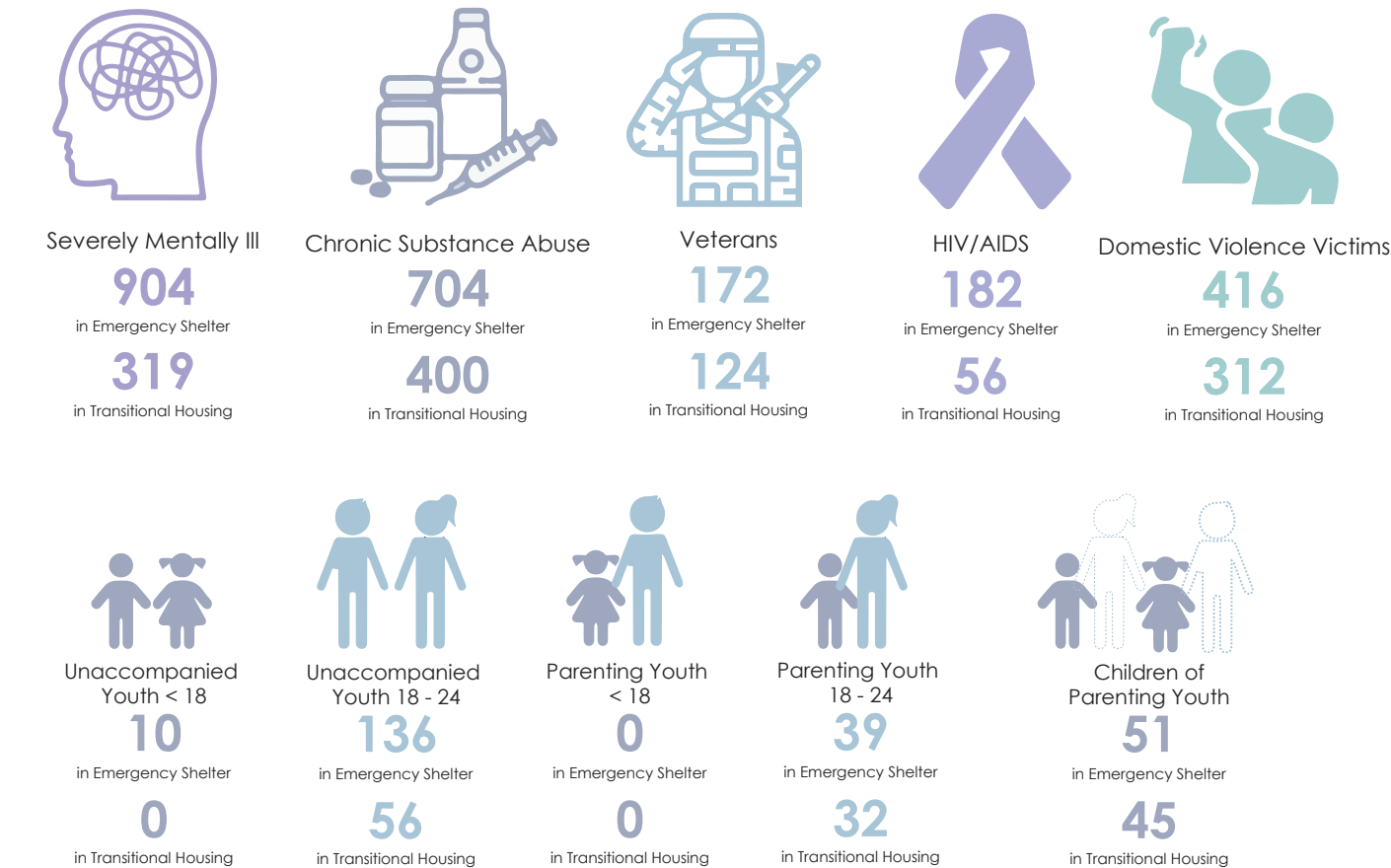


Figure 15 Figure created by author, data from HUD 2021 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless Populations and Subpopulations, State of Georgia

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Chronically Homeless Adults in Transitional Housing

Figure 14 Figure created by author, data from HUD 2021 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless Populations and Subpopulations, State of Georgia

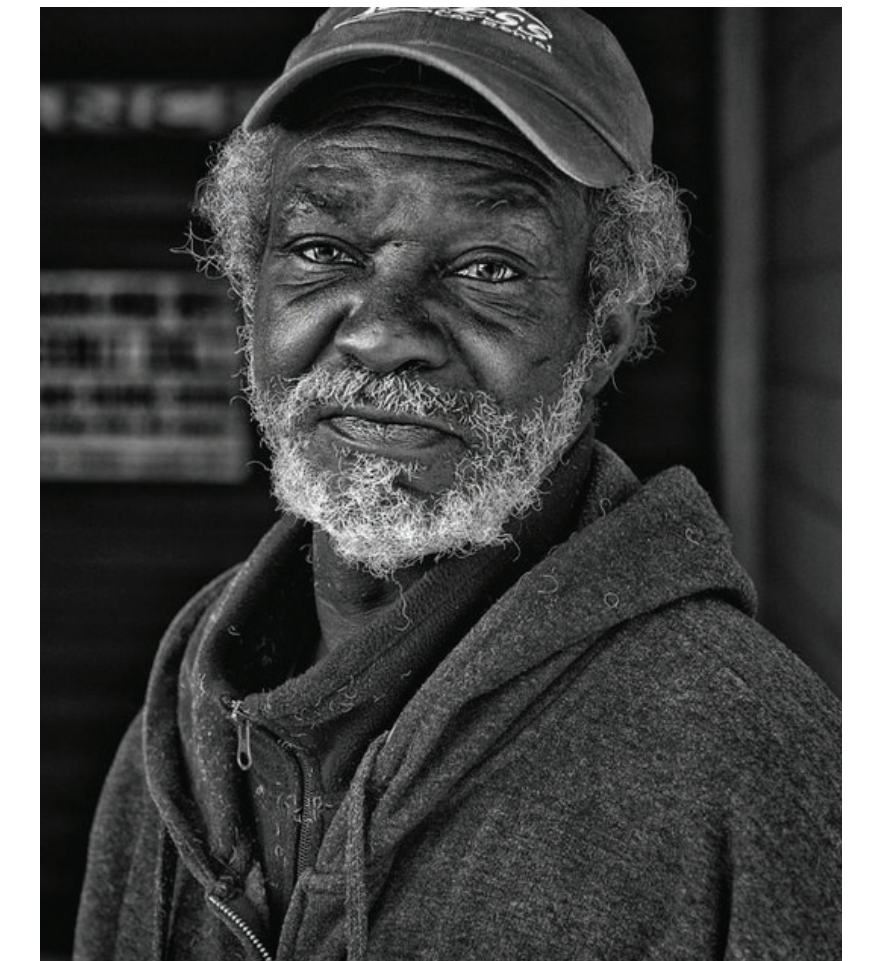


Figure 16 "I was a Soldier" by Jerry Tovo

Atlanta Statistics About Homelessness

Many of the shelters in the Atlanta area, however, have barriers to the care and services that they could offer. They have good reason for these measures in place, but this is a specific area that my thesis seeks to rectify in its design. Many of the current Atlanta shelters cannot accept those who are still in cycles of substance abuse, which this complex will have a safe and secure detox space for those who need time before entering the entire program. Many shelters also limit the number of women they can provide services to. Because of the sheer number of needs that the people in these positions require, it is hard for many shelters to accept more than a few survivors at a time. Many shelters also cater to mostly men, as they take up a large portion of the homeless population, but for domestic violence and trafficking victims, who are predominately women and children, they need a space that allows them to heal in a space that is meant for them. Lastly, almost all shelters will not accept unaccompanied youth. There is currently only one in Atlanta that will.

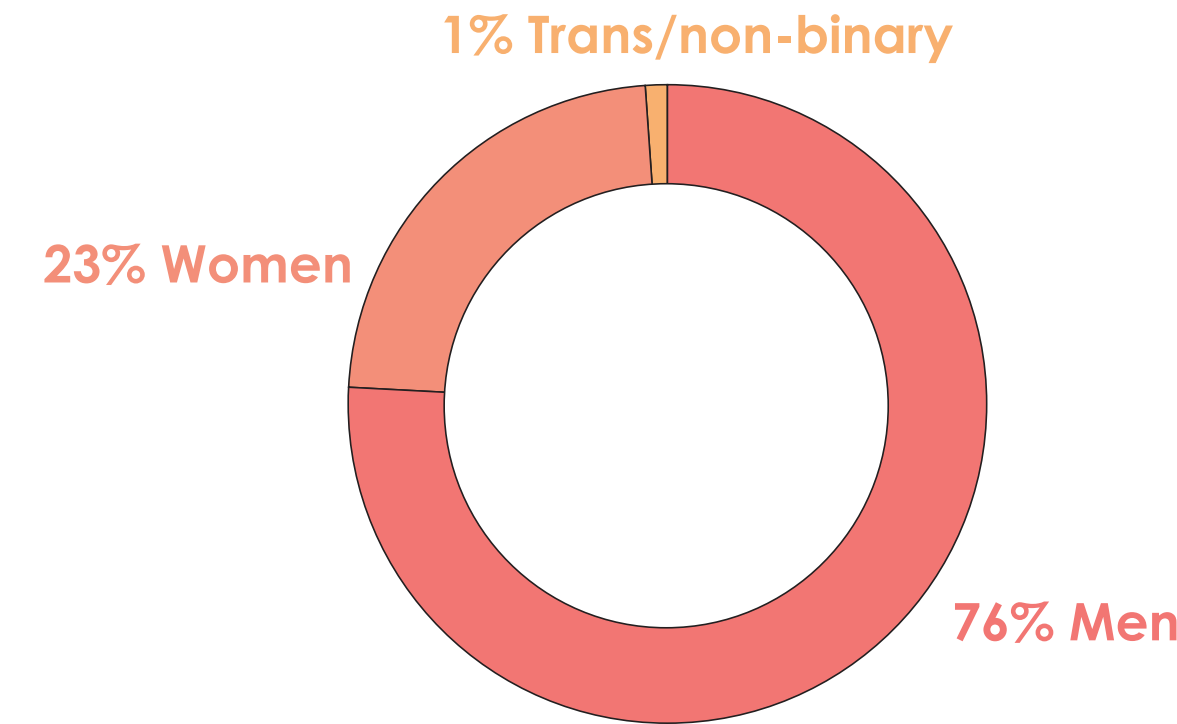


Figure 17 Figure created by author, data from 2022 Point-in-Time Count, City of Atlanta, GA

Homeless Population by Race

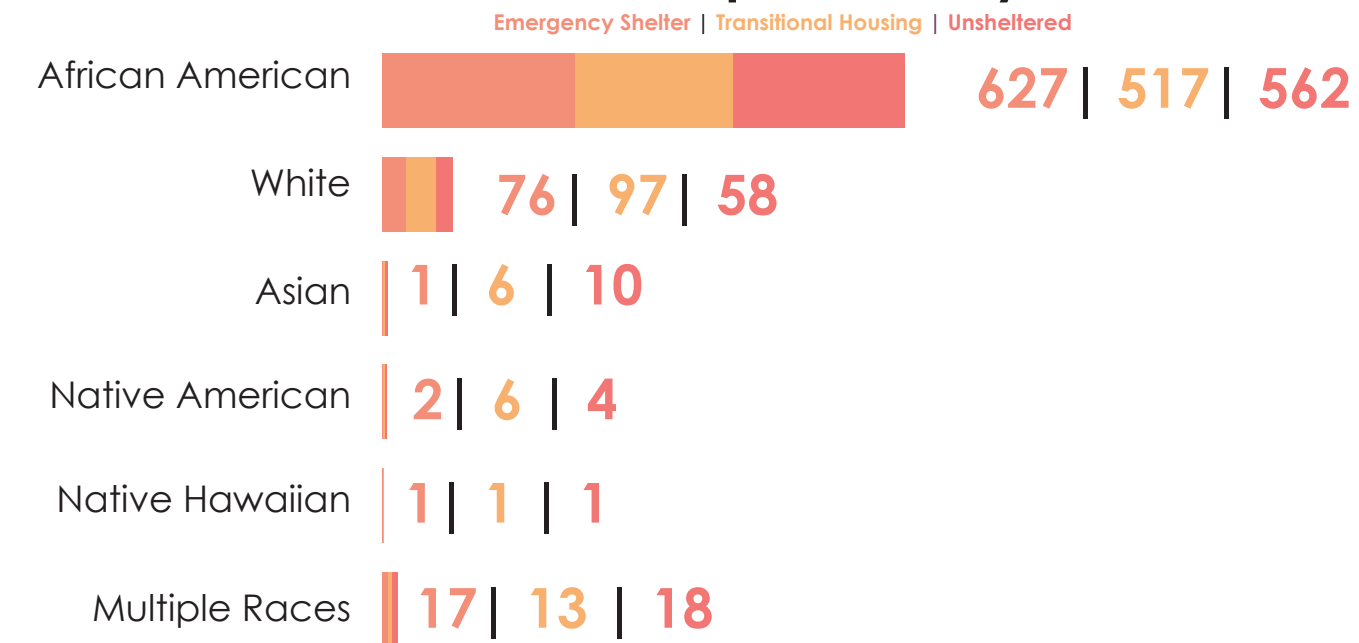


Figure 18 Figure created by author, data from 2022 Point-in-Time Count, City of Atlanta, GA

Homeless Population by Age



Figure 19 Figure created by author, data from 2022 Point-in-Time Count, City of Atlanta, GA

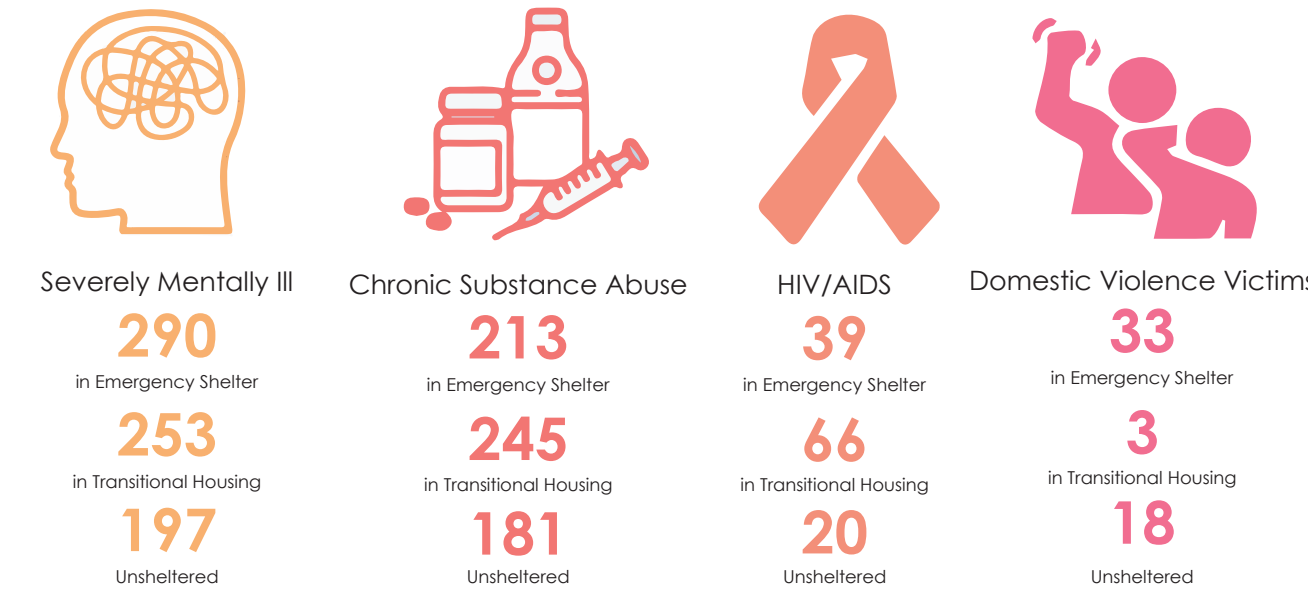


Figure 20 Figure created by author, data from 2022 Point-in-Time Count, City of Atlanta, GA

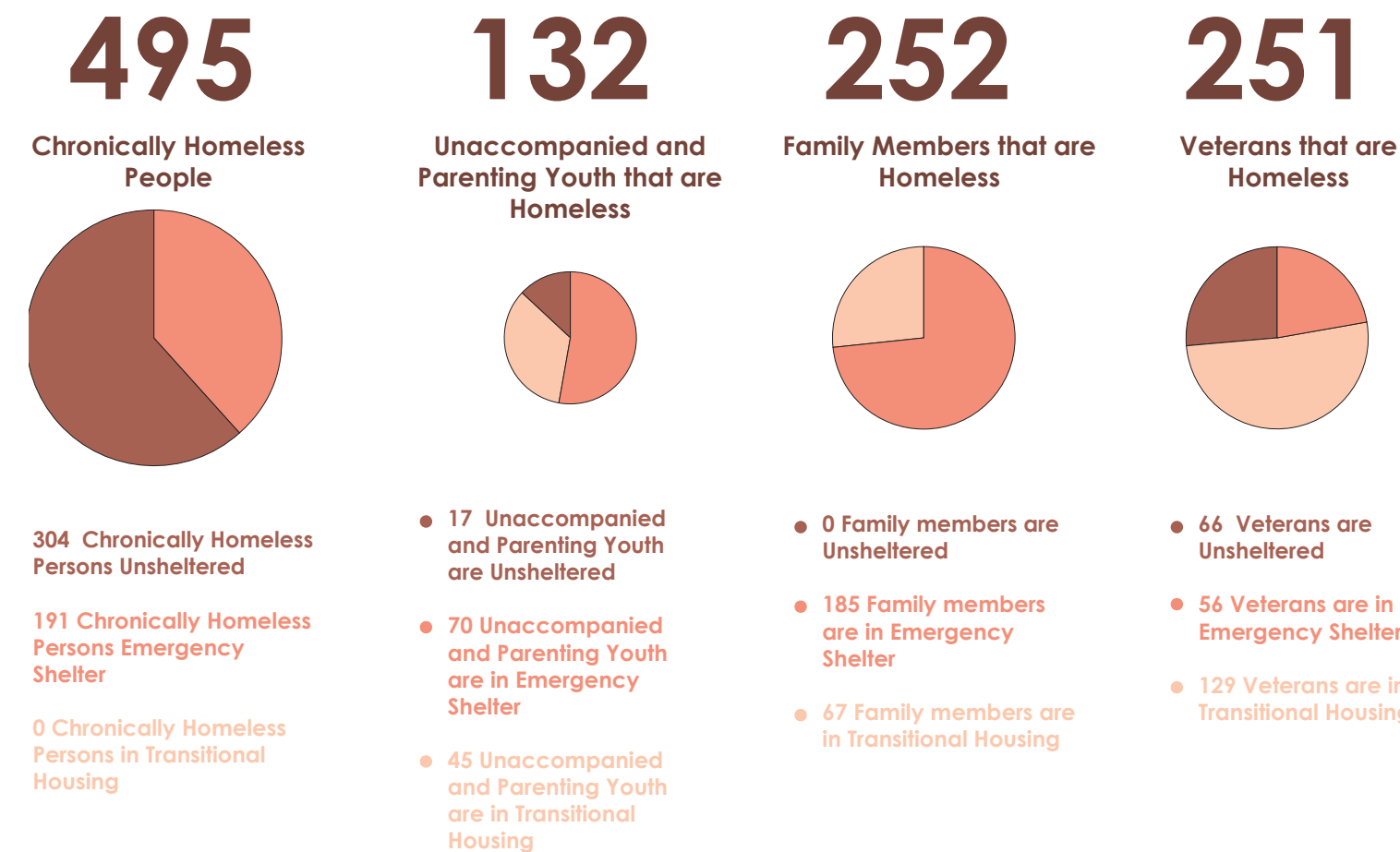


Figure 21 Figure created by author, data from 2022 Point-in-Time Count, City of Atlanta, GA



Figure 22 B by Lee Jeffries

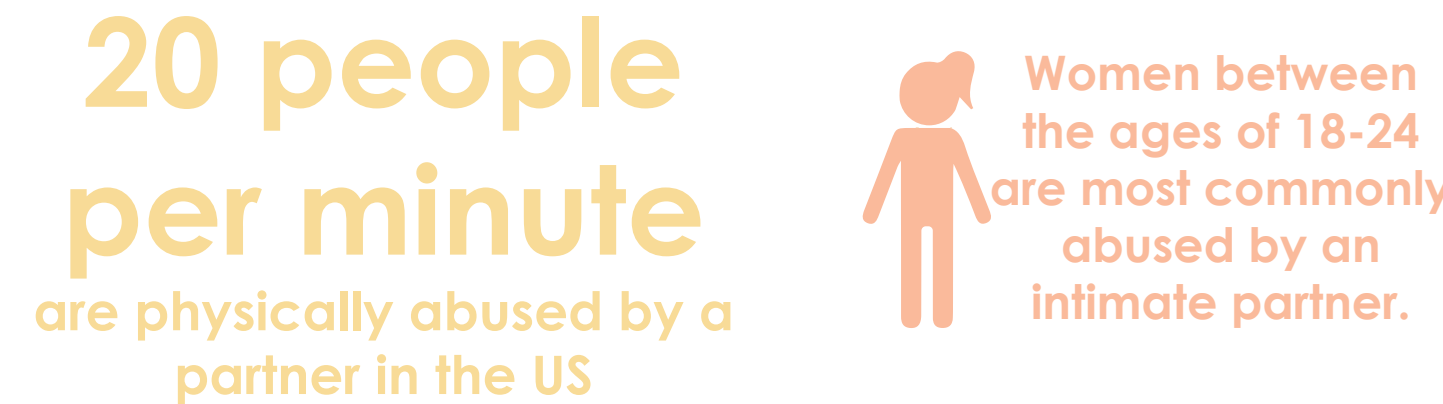
US Statistics About Domestic Violence

The same can also be true for survivors of domestic violence. Survivors of domestic violence have been told that no one cares for them, they have no hope, and that the only people who will 'love' or take care of them are their abusers. Cultural and religious norms also bar some victims from leaving their abusers or seeking help for fear of disgrace to themselves or their families. There is also an imbalance of power in these situations, like with human trafficking victims. Abusers will hoard money and resources so that the victim cannot leave of their own will. They will also hold immigration status, language barriers, and legal actions over them if they threaten to leave. Abusers and traffickers will also use forced drug use and physical harm to coerce their victims into compliance. These similar experiences between domestic violence and human trafficking survivors means that they have similar needs if we want to be instrumental and helpful in rehabilitating their lives.



experience severe intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner contact sexual violence, and/or intimate partner stalking

20 Figure 23 Figure created by author, data from National Coalition Against Domestic Violence



Presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by

500%

Figure 24 Figure created by author, data from National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

15% of all violent crime is intimate partner violence

WHY DON'T THEY WANT BETTER FOR THEMSELVES? WHY DON'T THEY LEAVE?

There are a number of factors that cause victims to stay in cycles of abuse:

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL IMPACT:

Being constantly belittled and talked down can have a severe negative impact on one's mental health. Being told that you have no worth, that no one would love you, and other lies can trap victims in to staying with their abusers because of the constructed false "sense of security." This constant barrage of false ideas can warp a person's thoughts and make it difficult for them to know that they deserve better, and can increase symptoms of depression and anxiety.

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

Victims of domestic violence and human trafficking are often barred from working, earning a livable wage, or handling their finances. This creates an imbalance of power, as it makes the victim solely reliant on the abuser. This is further exasperated by language barriers, victims being taken to foreign countries, lower education of victims, and age of victims.

STALKING:

It can be very difficult for victims to leave their abusers to begin with. Usually, women and children, especially minorities, often have a much harder time being taken seriously or being provided the help that they need. This means it can make it much easier for their abusers to find them again and harass them or their families.

Information from National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

In many cases, domestic violence can increase in severity of time in the relationship goes on. What starts out as yelling and verbal abuse, can then lead to punching walls, breaking surrounding belongings, before the violence turns to physical harm towards the victim. Sometimes this "slow start" can lure victims into thinking this is not the abuser's typical behavior, and that they will change or be their "old self" again. They won't.**

If this behavior sounds familiar, help is available. The national Domestic Violence hot-line is 800-799-7233. You are **worth it. You deserve the help you need.

RAPE:

Many victims are threatened with physical and sexual violence on a regular basis, which could worsen if the victim speaks out against their abuser or tries to leave. Abusers will also threaten loved ones of the victim to ensure compliance.

HOMICIDE:

It has often been said that many homicides occur at the hand of someone the victim knew, whether intimately or as an acquaintance. In fact, 72% of all murder-suicides involve an intimate partner, and 94% of the victims are female. That is why it is so important to seek help early, and to support those who are who have been victimized.

2.0

Chapter 2.0 What Is Currently Available?

Atlanta Mission

Atlanta Mission is an organization that has many homelessness facilities spread throughout the city and the Atlanta area. They seem to be the most successful in catering to all the nuances of homelessness in all of its various forms, however their approach is very independent. They do not have a single facility that tackles all of the issues at once. They have overnight facilities that limits stays for up to 30 days, for men and women separately. In addition, they also have short term housing, up to 90 days, that is to allow people to get back on their feet and have a soft spot to land in the mean time. What really sticks out is the fact that they have a facility that directly caters to substance abuse and homelessness. However, the downside is it only allows men and is a year long program outside of the city limits. They have a myriad of wonderful things to offer to the Atlanta area, and have developed a 'transformation model' that they use to keep their guests on track. They have been a wonderful base point to start from in looking at what programs I would need to implement in each phase of my complex.



Figure 25 Atlanta Mission Logo

Our Impact in 2021

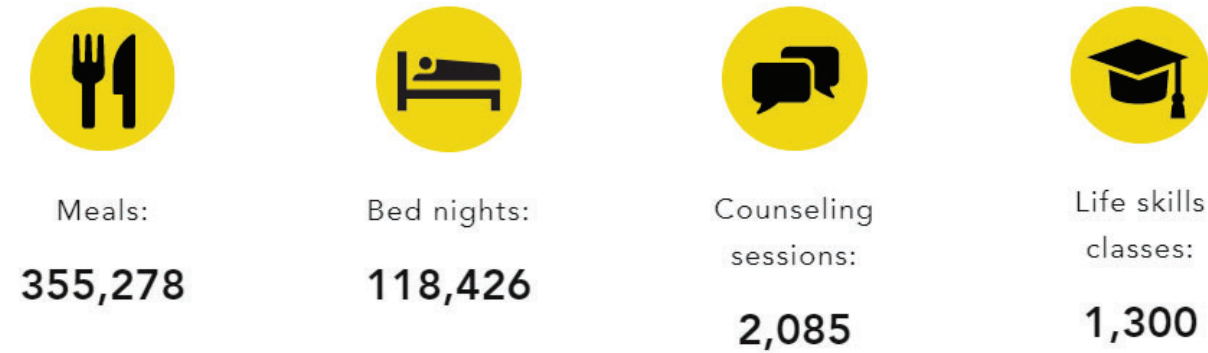


Figure 26 Our Impact in 2021



Figure 27 Shelter Options

Hope Transformation Model

Here Figure 3.1 shows the transformation model. It is a step by step process that shows the phases of which someone coming to use their facilities would experience. They also share the types of services they can expect within each stages.

From their website, they state that the services they provide are:

- Food and Shelter
- Critical Needs
- Addiction Recovery
- Job Attainment
- Counseling
- Spiritual Recovery
- Educational Services

They have a heavy focus on spirituality and want to encourage salvation as the users begin their journey through the shelter.



"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

Figure 28 Transformation Model

Covenant House

What sets Covenant House apart is that they are actively working to find homeless youth on the streets and take them in. They are focusing specifically on unaccompanied youth and victims of human trafficking. They are the only shelter in Atlanta that has such an undertaking. They understand the special challenges that plague victims of trafficking, especially minor victims who are not able to be re-integrated into traditional school and home placements. They provide homeless youth with services to work on their mental health and provide them with life skills that will help propel them to a successful future. This includes job training, personal finance classes, personal hygiene, and GED and secondary education services. However they fall short in providing a means to cater to victims who are stuck in cycles of addiction as well.



Figure 29 Covenant House participant



Figure 31 Covenant House participants



Figure 30 Covenant House Logo

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN ATLANTA

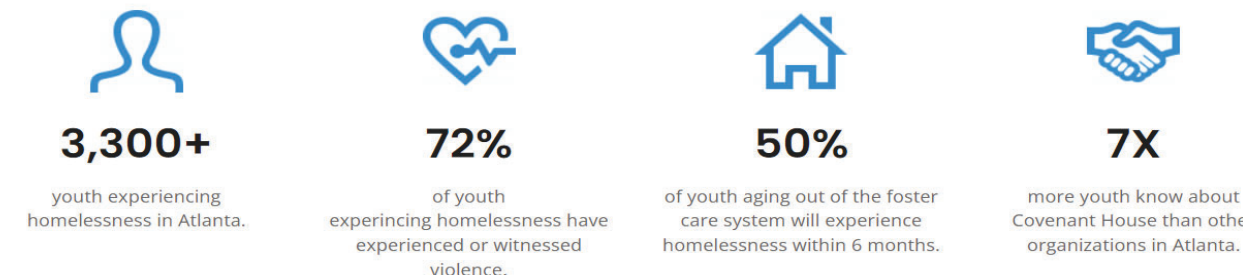


Figure 32 Fast Facts: Youth Homelessness

OUR STATISTICS

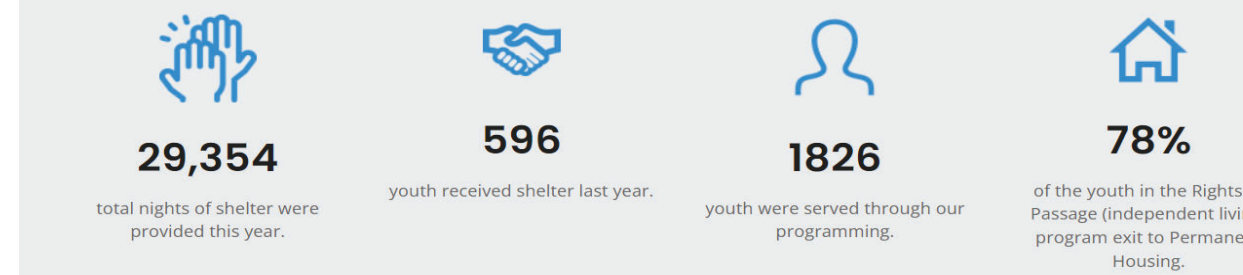


Figure 33 Fast Facts: Our Statistics

Rebecca's Tent

Rebecca's Tent is another wonderful response to the homelessness epidemic in the Atlanta area. They are a small shelter that only takes in 13 women at a time. They are only able to take this small number because they provide an intense and deep level of care. They are providing these women with new clothing, bedding, and linens, as well as toiletries that they would otherwise not have access to. In addition to that, they are also providing them with computer and telephone access as well as MARTA passes. These are huge benefits, as these are desperately needed in today's climate in trying to apply for jobs and such. Having access to these types of resources are what makes it possible for these women to truly be able to change their lives. Obviously, a major downside to their model is the size of their shelter. They are providing a great deal of services, but even at a small scale can quickly become unsustainable. That is why I would like to implement their ideas of job training and MARTA access within my own complex, but have it supported by other outreach points of the complex, and at a much larger scale.



Figure 34 Rebecca's Tent Logo

SERVICES PROVIDED:

- Food & Shelter
- Critical Needs
- Addiction Recovery
- Job Attainment
- Counseling
- Spiritual Recovery
- Education Services



Figure 35 Pookie, by Lee Jefferies

THESIS STATEMENT:

If we are to improve the lives of the homeless population, then we must approach the topic from a holistic viewpoint, focusing on not only shelter, but mental health services, jobs, and skill training as well. We must architecturally design in a way that promotes community, equity, and safety.



The best way to start to understand how to tackle these issues would be to look at these five questions:

- Is it better to readapt one specific area or provide a mobile system to accomplish our goal?
- How are restorative opportunities important as they relate to homelessness?
- Is it important to preserve the historical qualities of selected sites?
- Does this idea fall under the umbrella of healthy urbanism?
- How can this be incorporated into the downtown area without losing city and citizen approval?



Figure 37 Man on Sidewalk. ©Sam Kanter 2016

2.1

Chapter 2.1 Design Precedents



Figure 38 CAPSLO shelter rendering

CAPSLO

Architects: Gwynne Pugh Urban Design Studio, in conjunction with Garcia Architecture + Design

Year : 2011

The Capslo homeless shelter is an example of designing for the different types of homeless families, many of which this project seeks to target. Because of the nature of situations many of the tenants will be coming from, we have to ensure that there is adequate space to accommodate, as well as ensure security. This project is a great example of arrangement of spaces, as well as necessary sizing for the individual rooms. This was a very necessary building block in deciding how I wanted to move forward and make Convalesce more than "just another homeless shelter."



Figure 39 CAPSLO floorplans from ArchDaily, diagramming done by author

Les Coteaux Fleuris School

Architects: HEMAA Architectes, Hesters Oyon

Area : 1500 m²

Year : 2022

Including program typologies that are not homelessness centered ensures that I am taking a more well rounded approach to the design. Choosing the Les Coteaux Fleuris School as a precedent study allowed me to look into not only the layout of spaces and recommended class room sizes, but also be more comfortable with exploring materiality choices. This design blends aesthetic and function together beautifully, and it is something I plan to implement within my own project.

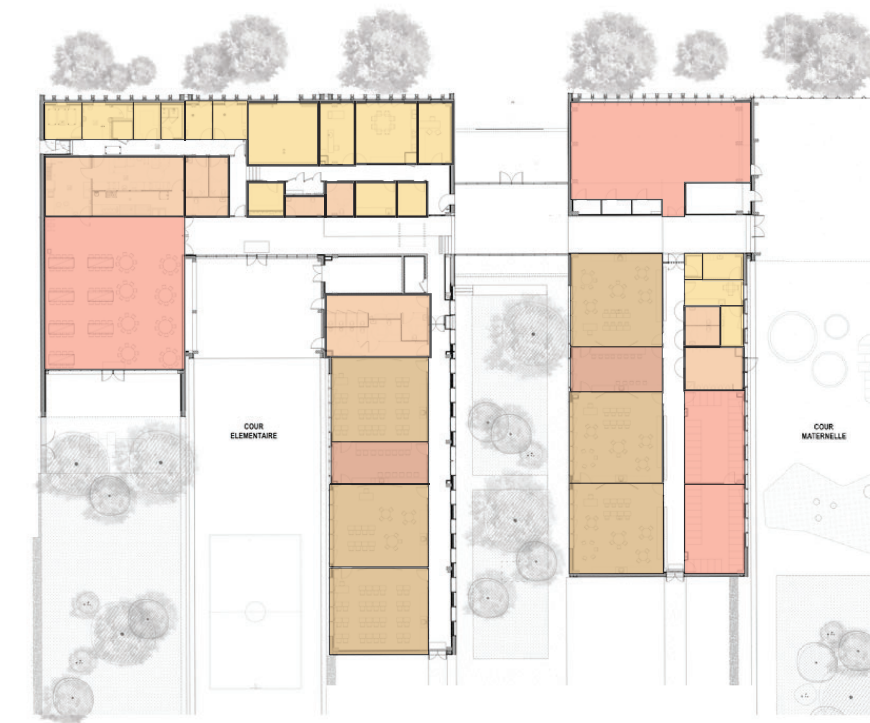


Figure 40 Les Coteaux Fleuris School



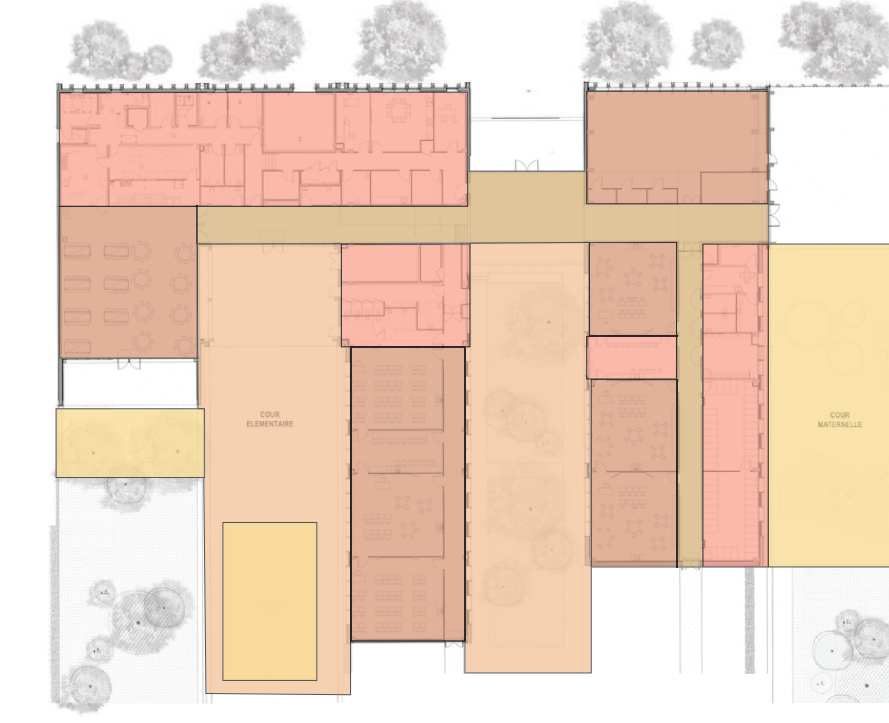
Figure 41 Les Coteaux Fleuris School , detail

SPACE DIVISIONS



- Admin Spaces
- Utility Spaces
- Larger Classrooms
- Smaller Classrooms
- Collaborative Spaces

INTERIOR VS EXTERIOR SPACE



- Admin Spaces
- Classrooms
- Corridor
- Hard scape
- Green space/Courtyard

BASE PLAN



Figure 42 Les Coteaux Fleuris School floorplans from ArchDaily, diagramming done by author

Promise at Dawn, Center of Emergency Accommodation

Architects: AIR, Moon Architecture

Area : 2800 m²

Year : 2016

POPS OF COLOR ON FACADE



Figure 44 Promise at Dawn

Color blocking helps divide spaces to create more variation on the facade and can be used as a way finding element.

NATURALISTIC ELEMENTS



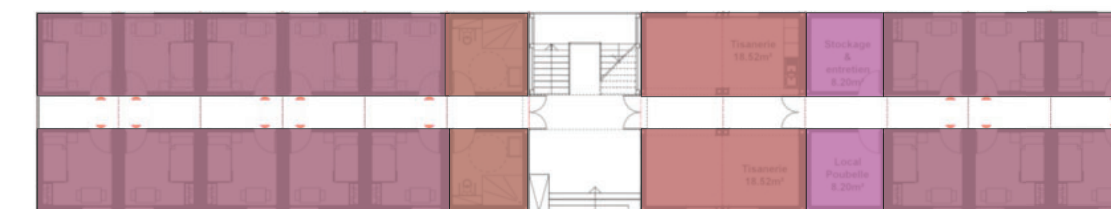
Figure 45 Promise at Dawn

Wood paneling adds warmth to the exterior of the building broken up with large color blocked spaces. This will be good to implement in my space to make the users feel more welcome and less of an "institutional" space.



Figure 43 Promise at Dawn

SPACE DIVISIONS



- Individual Bedrooms
- Common Spaces
- Auxiliary Spaces

VIEWS AROUND SITE



- Walls
- Windows
- Views

Figure 46 Promise at Dawn floorplans from ArchDaily, diagramming done by author

Centre For Cancer And Health

Architects: NORD Architects

Area : 2250 m²

Year : 2011



Figure 47 Center for Cancer and Health

INTERIOR EXPERIENCE



Figure 48 Center for Cancer and Health

FLOW OF FRAMED SPACE

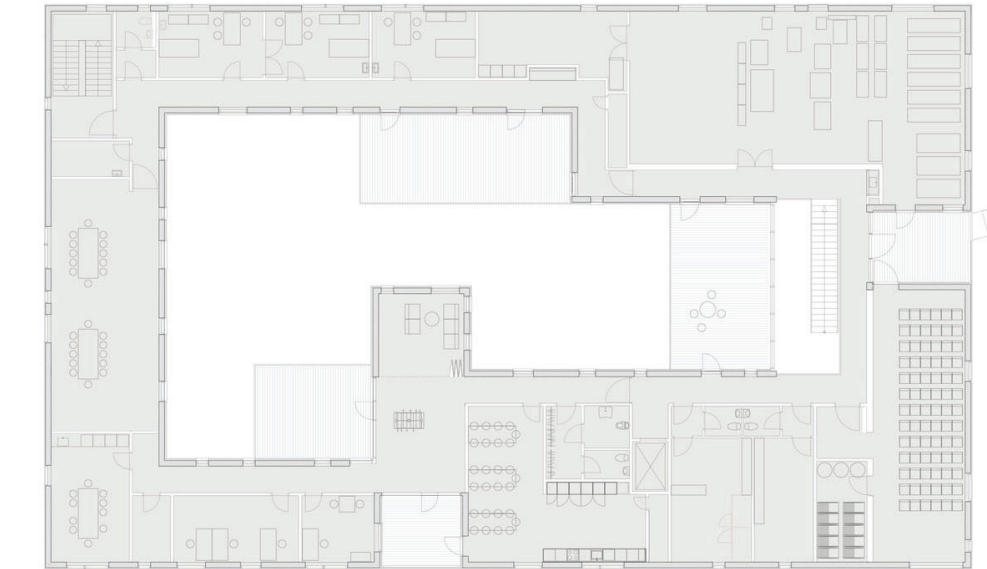


SECURITY, BUT OPENESS

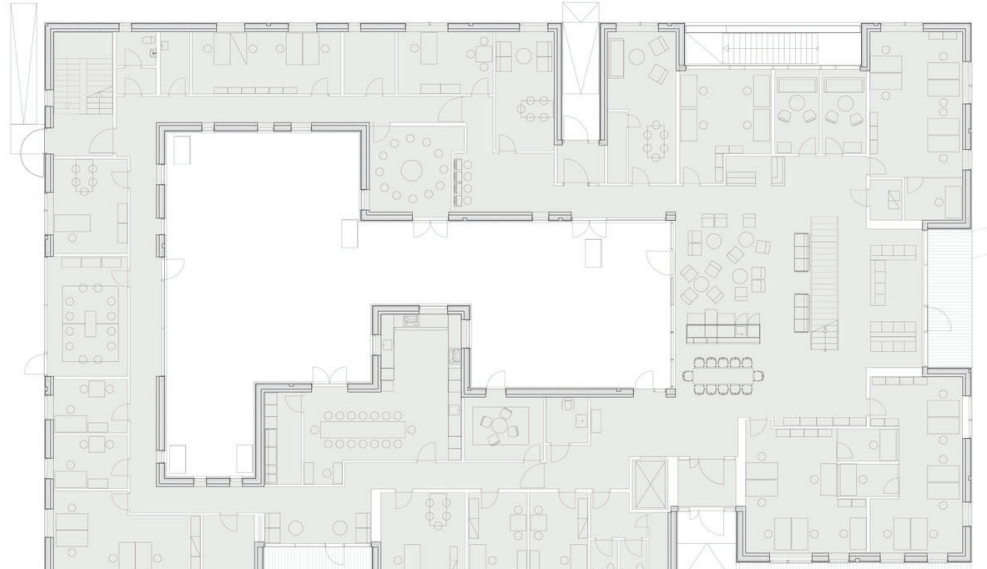


Figure 49 Center for Cancer and Health, diagramming by author

ORIGINAL PLANS



1.st floor



Groundfloor

Figure 50 Center for Cancer and Health

The last precedent may seem as if it's a little out of place, however, it is most assuredly not. Many of tenants who will be inhabiting these spaces have experienced very traumatizing events and are more than likely physically and emotionally wounded. While this design is for a cancer rehabilitation center, cancer also wreaks havoc upon your mind and bod in different ways. I am hoping to use the space layouts and aesthetic design choices, to help my project feel comforting and safe. For victims of domestic violence and human trafficking, security and healing is some of the top priorities during some of their most vulnerable times.

Maggie's Cancer Centre Manchester

Architects: Foster + Partners

Area : 1922 m²

Year : 2016

INTERIOR EXPOSED ELEMENTS



Figure 52 Maggie's Cancer Centre Manchester, diagramming by author

EXTERIOR VIEWS



Figure 53 Maggie's Cancer Centre Manchester, diagramming by author

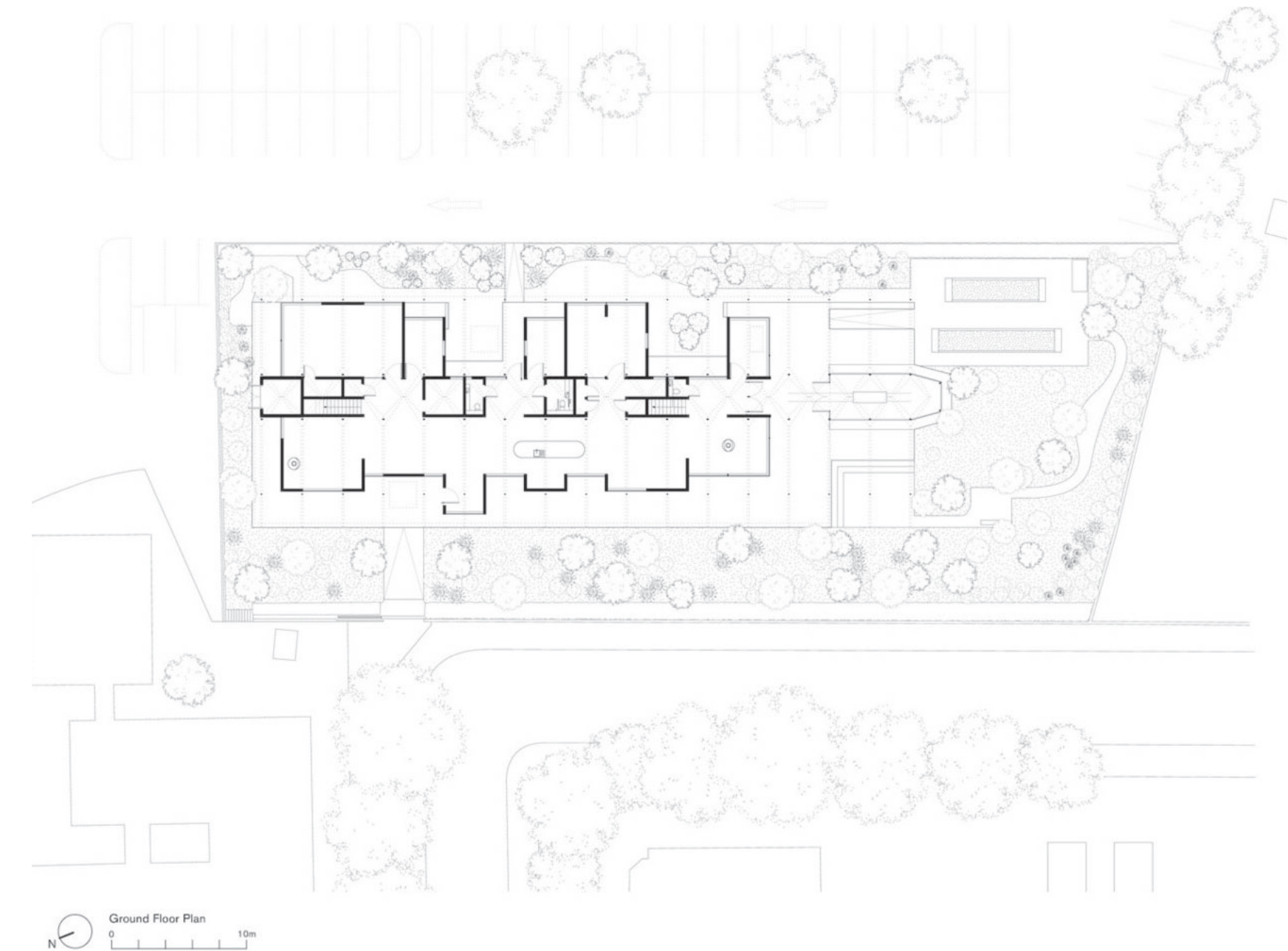
INTERIOR EXPOSED ELEMENTS



Figure 54 Maggie's Cancer Centre Manchester, diagramming by author

I similarly used the Maggie Cancer Center as a precedent for how I wanted the interior spaces. I wanted to include wood elements to break up the stone facades needed for the design of the complex. Using a cancer rehabilitation space as a design precedent was intentional, as even though the users of my complex would be there for a very different reason, the things that would help make a cancer patient feel comfortable could also make a distressed person also feel safe.

VIEWS AROUND SITE



Ground Floor Plan

0 10m

Figure 55 Maggie's Cancer Centre Manchester



Figure 51 Maggie's Cancer Centre Manchester

Trauma Center

- Check - In
- Medical Attention
- Counseling
- Life Coach
- Bathing
- Sleeping
- Laundry
- Eating
- Communicating
- Working
- Mental Health
- Drug Treatment

Transitional Center

- Check In
- Sleeping
- Bathing
- Eating
- Laundry
- Life Coach
- Lounging
- Counseling
- Socializing

Training Center

- Learning
- Working
- Socializing
- Care
- Gardening
- Counseling
- Lounging
- Life Coach

Figure 56 Author created matrix of needed program for proposed complex design

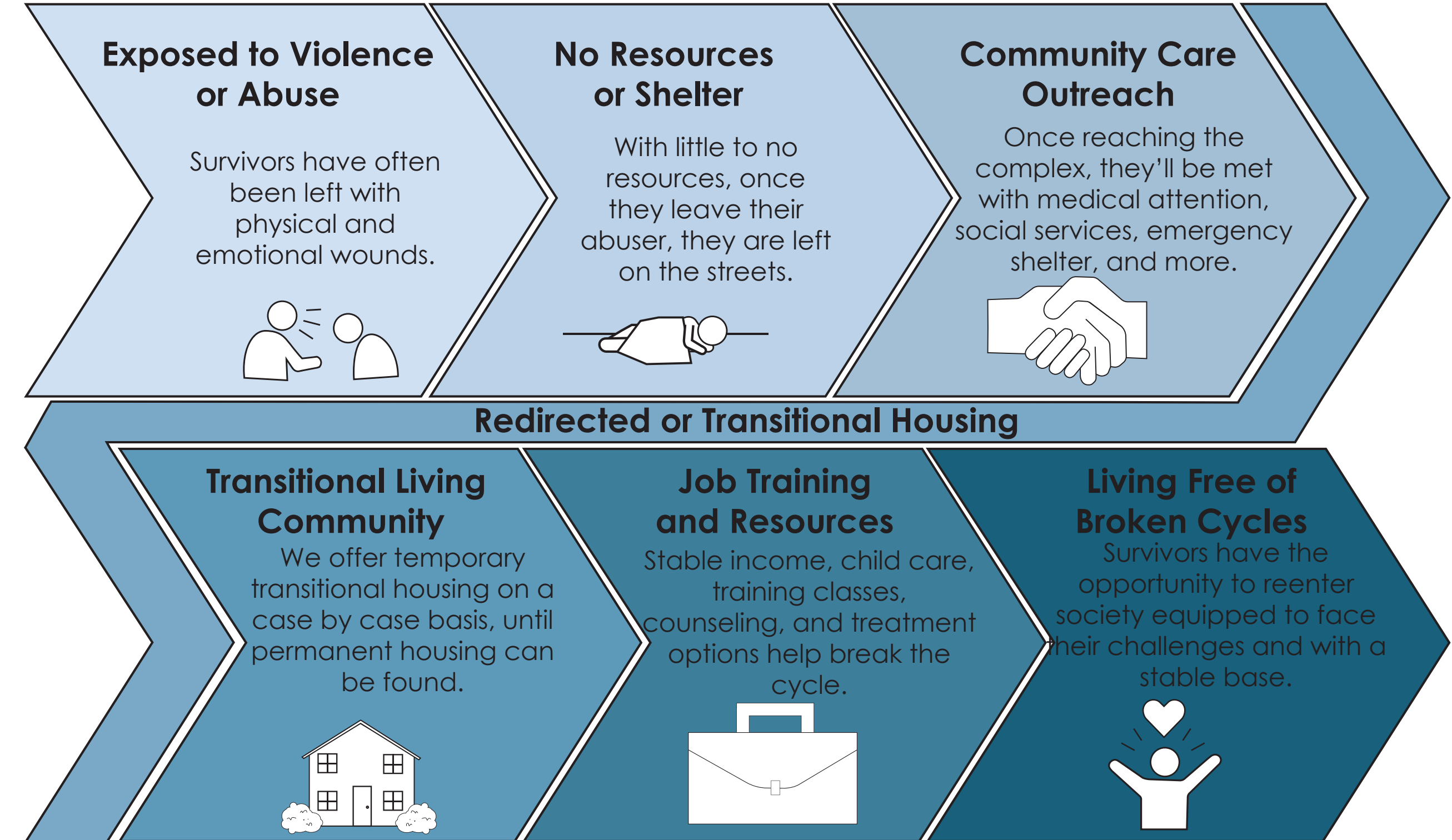


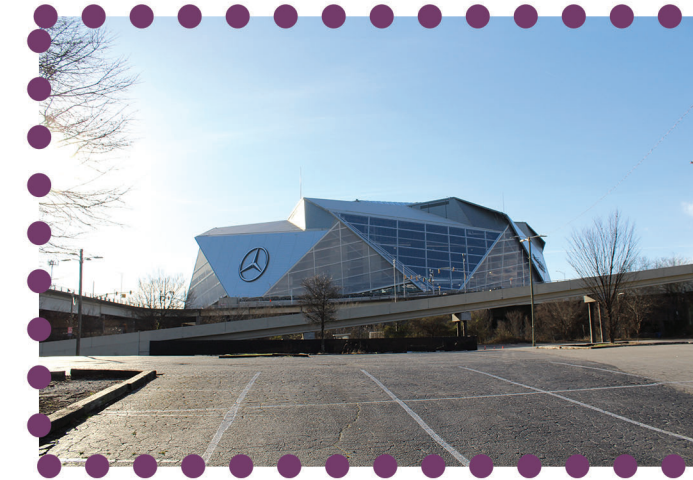
Figure 57 Author created transformation model for proposed complex design

3.0

Chapter 3.0 Site Selection

SITE VIEWS

I have chosen a site in downtown Atlanta to pursue my design development. Located just down the street from the Mercedes Benz stadium, this site was chosen because it has a close proximity to not only the city center, but also connections to MARTA transportation and government municipalities. My main goal when locating this site was to find a space that is accessible to the population as a whole. Being from a rural town with little access to resources and support for the homeless population, I was only ever truly exposed to homelessness in smaller-scale instances. It wasn't until I began living, working, and traveling through the Atlanta area on a regular basis that I began to see the disparity of the problem for what it was. Seeing the tent cities lining the edges of the highways and witnessing members of the population coming into my workplace to ask for spare food ignited a desire to create a project that catered to this "hidden" population. While this is a theoretical proposition, I am hopeful that a project like this could be utilized and implemented in the future, whether that be Atlanta or other larger cities that face the same challenges of the homelessness epidemic.



Images are author's own work



The views around the site show two of Atlanta's most notable event spaces, Mercedes Benz Stadium and State Farm Arena. With these large event spaces, the surrounding areas have begun to be modernized and made more enticing. However, just the next block over, the buildings and storefronts have been dilapidated, with people wandering the streets.

SITE VIEWS

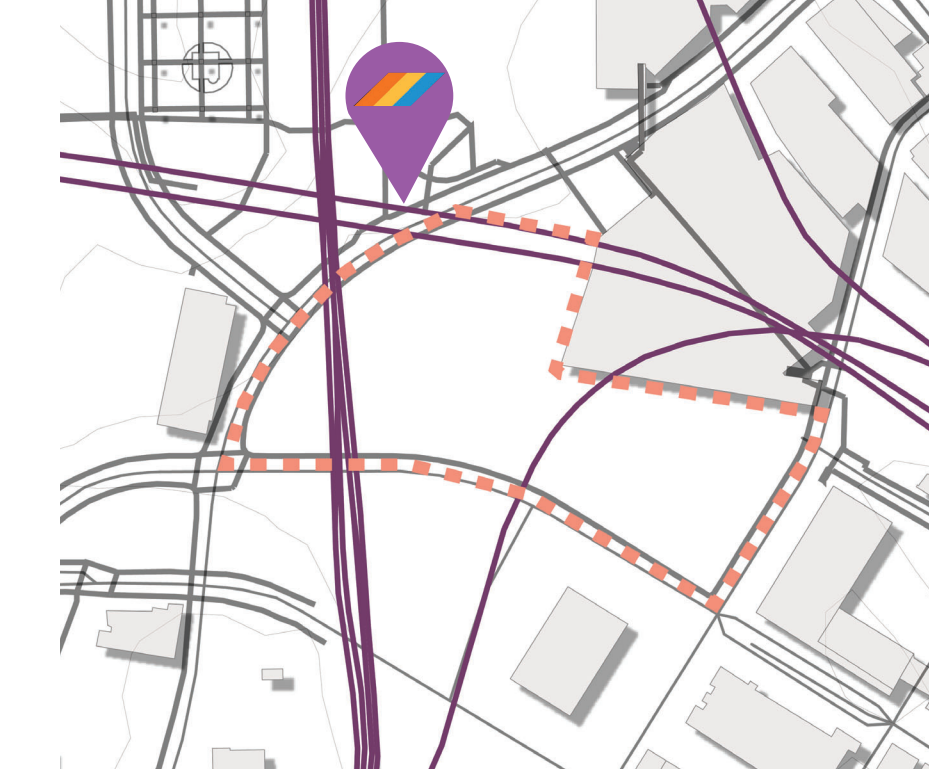
This site is situated in the parking lot adjacent to the Mercedes Benz Stadium and State Farm Arena. What's unique about the space is that the actual parking lot is located about 40 feet below the street level, in a sort of "hole."

This space is part of "The Gulch," and is home to rail yards, parking lots, and vacant land. Recently, it has been the topic of conversation for many developers, as it is in a prime location, it has just fallen into disrepair and has been under-utilized. At one point it was a hub for transportation and industry, but has recently become an eyesore and a representation of the economic inequality and urban blight of Atlanta.

Development in this area has been heavily criticized because of the implications of displacement and gentrification that could happen. That is why a project that seeks to bridge the gap between the budding infrastructure development around the stadiums and the desolate dilapidated store fronts just a block away are needed. With many people living on the streets in this area, and being centrally located to downtown, a homelessness rehabilitation complex could greatly benefit the greater Atlanta area.

**ROAD NETWORK**

These roads are especially important, as they are situated approximately 40' above the actual site. One major design challenge has been to "fill" the hole.

RAILROAD NETWORK

These are existing freight lines that run through the site, as well as a passenger MARTA line. I would hope to utilize the freight lines for supplies and MARTA to benefit the tenants.

ENTRANCES TO SITE

These are existing entrances to the site on the ground level. I hope to utilize these as well as tying in to the road network above.

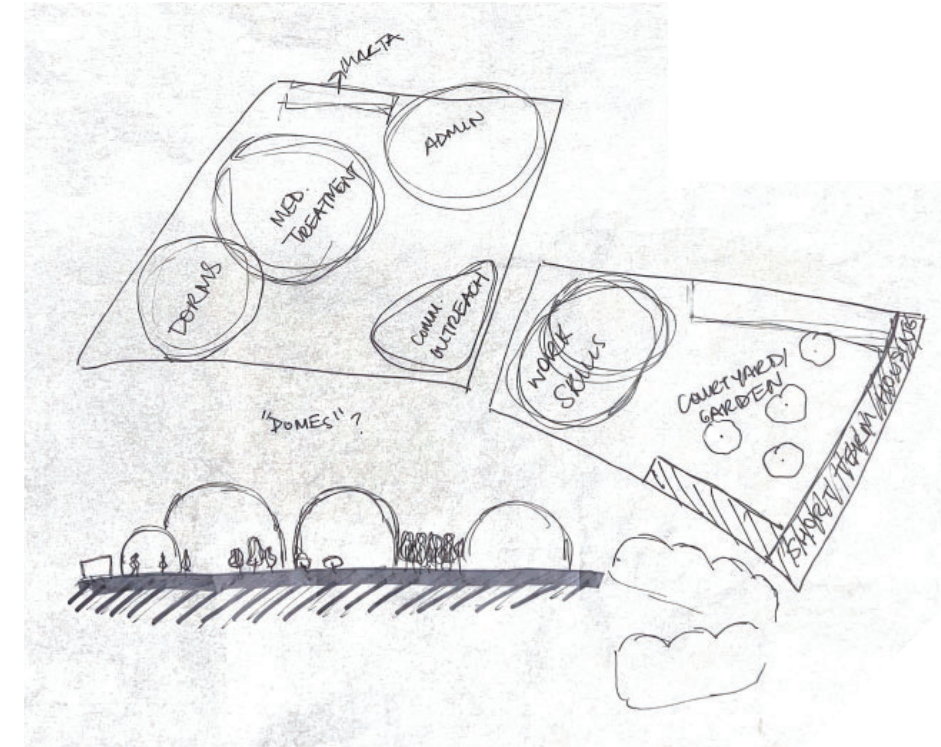
4.0

Chapter 4.0 Design Proposal

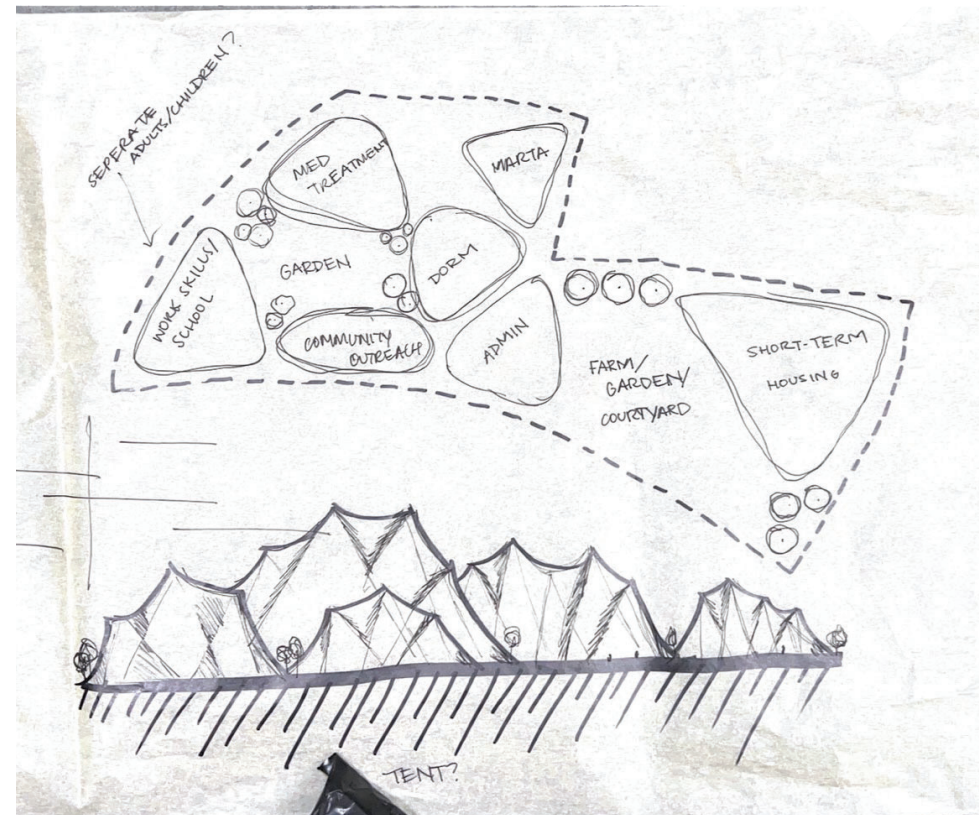
PROCESS SKETCHING

Through a series of process sketching and diagramming, I studied how I wanted to divide my spaces. I followed the armature lines I diagrammed from the existing site context and began to try and extrude forms and design language from them. I explored the 2-D relationships between the built portions and landscaping, and began to explore the 3-D spatial relationships between the proposed program and existing site context.

Starting with very gestural "bubble" diagrams and arranging program based on the precedent analysis:



Beginning to explore solid void conversations between built and natural site context:



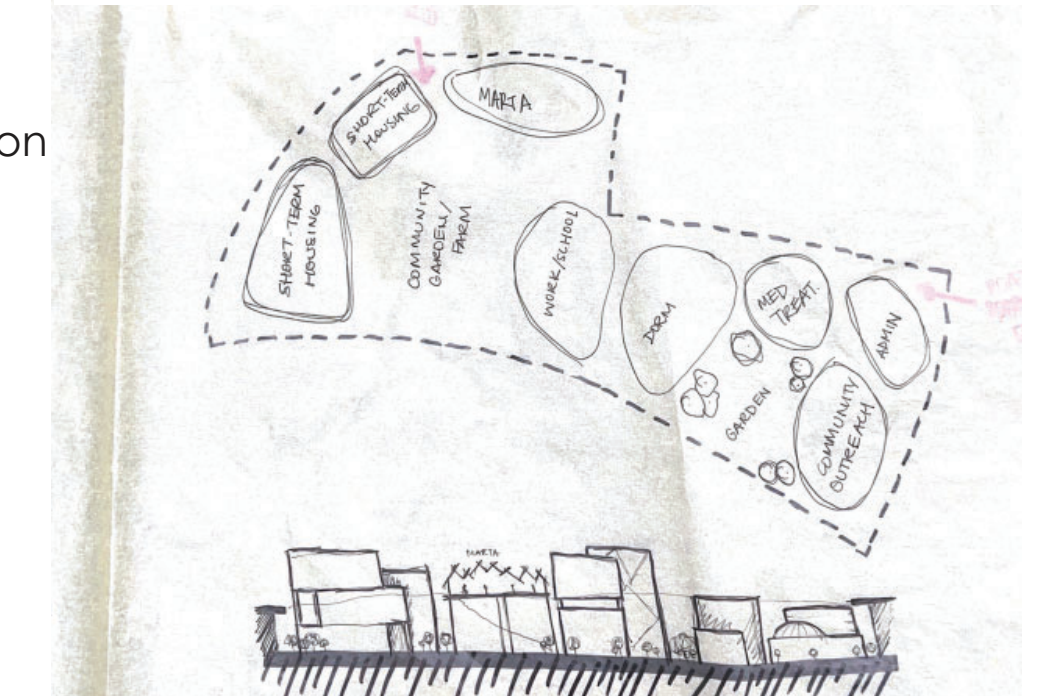
Still very fluid in nature, beginning to understand spatial relationships based on program:



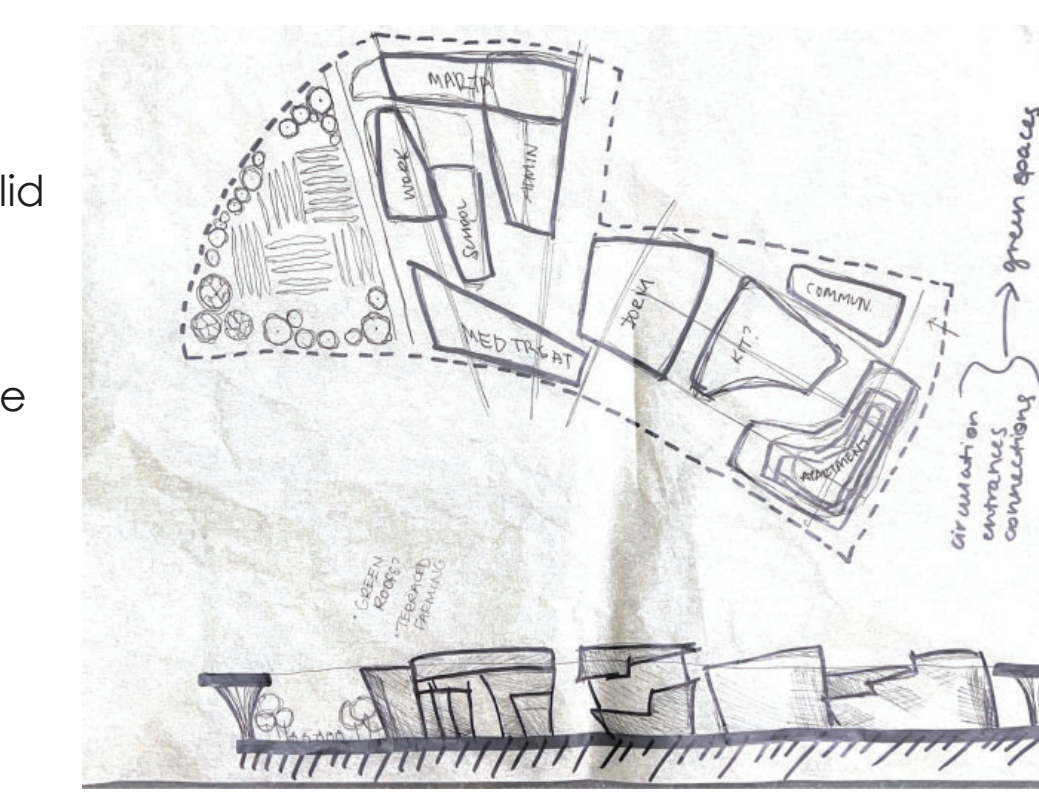
Creating more orthogonal shapes to better integrate with one another and explored the relationships between solid and void space.



Varying program arrangement on the site:

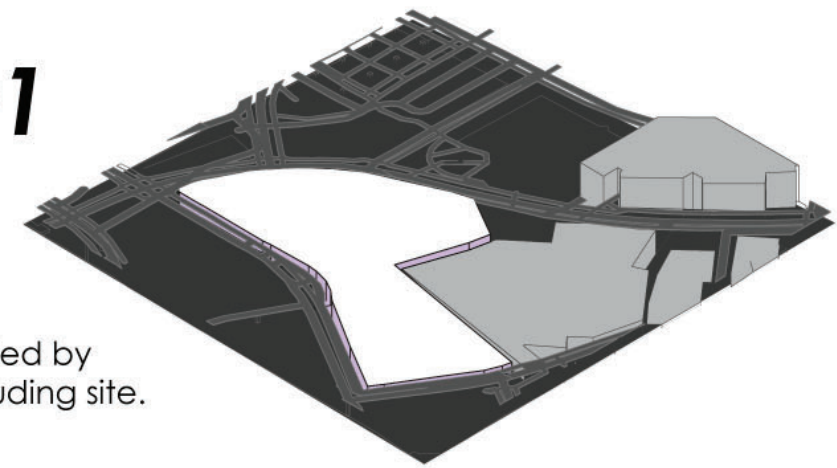


Exploring program to program interaction, solid and void interaction, as well as surrounding site context interaction:



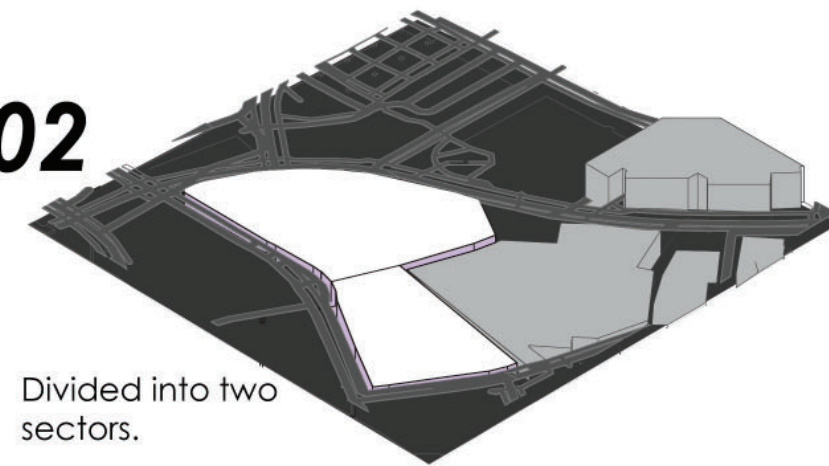
These diagrams show the process of finding the armature lines for dividing spaces within the site. For this section I was mainly focusing on 2-D spatial relationships of design.

01



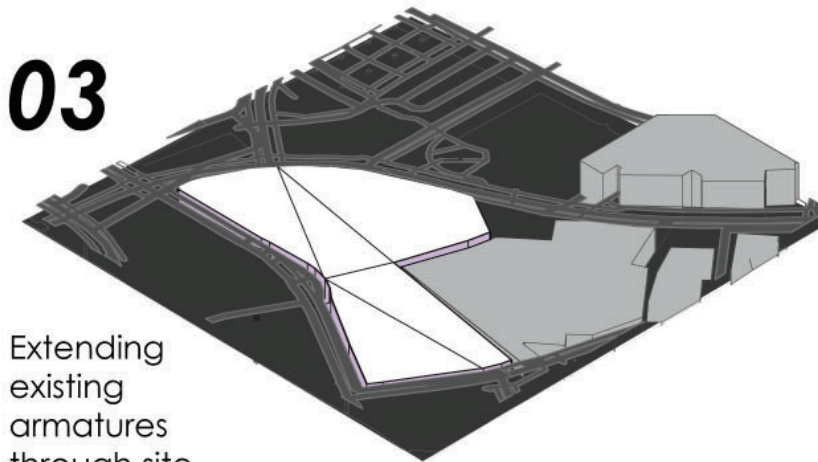
Started by extruding site.

02



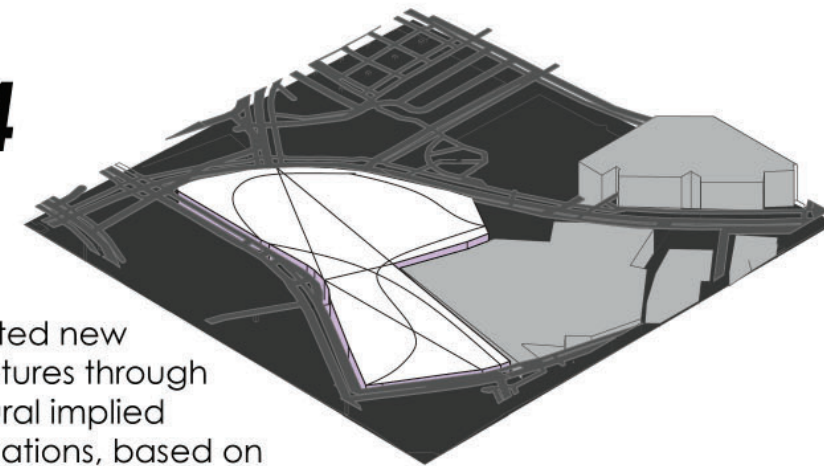
Divided into two sectors.

03



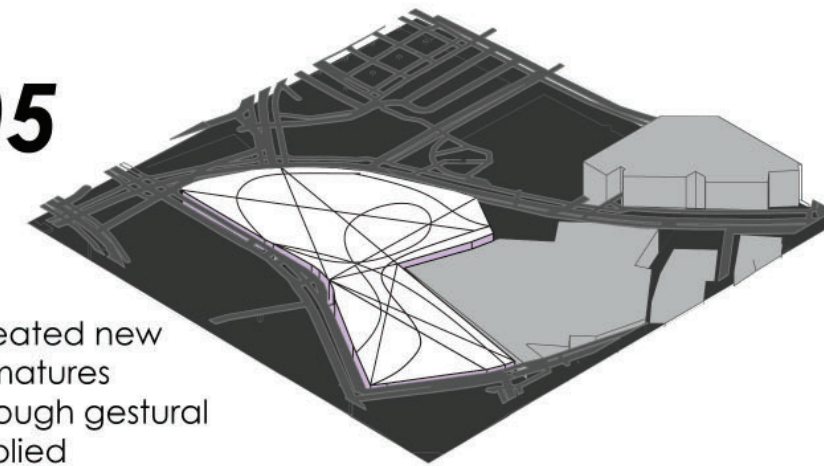
Extending existing armatures through site.

04



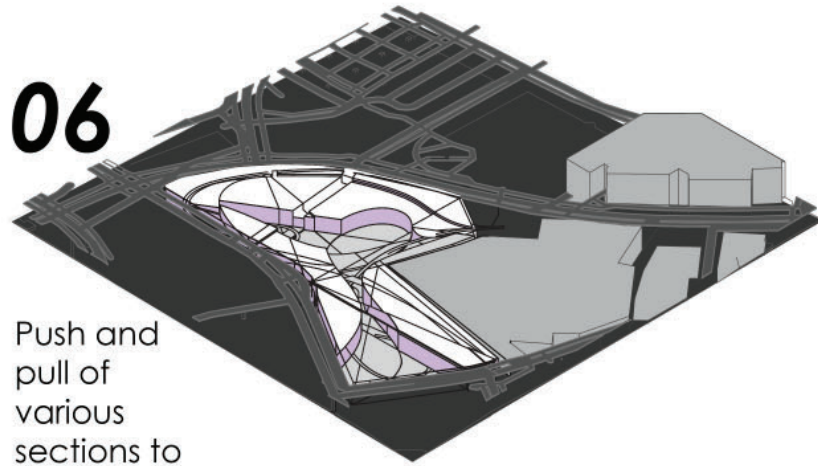
Created new armatures through gestural implied circulations, based on existing entrances.

05



Created new armatures through gestural implied circulations, with new entrances and midpoint lines.

06

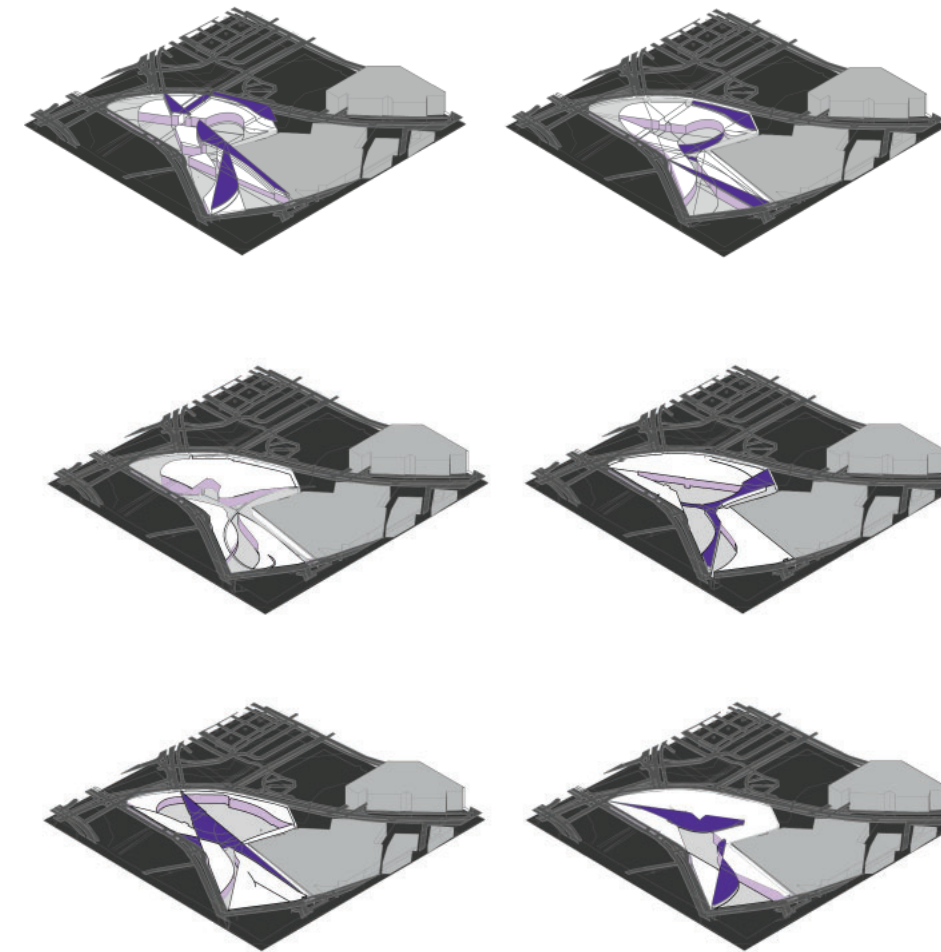


Push and pull of various sections to create depth.

After dividing the spaces of the site, I then began to push and pull varying portions of the site to create depth. I wanted to fully develop the 3-D spatial relationship between site and design.

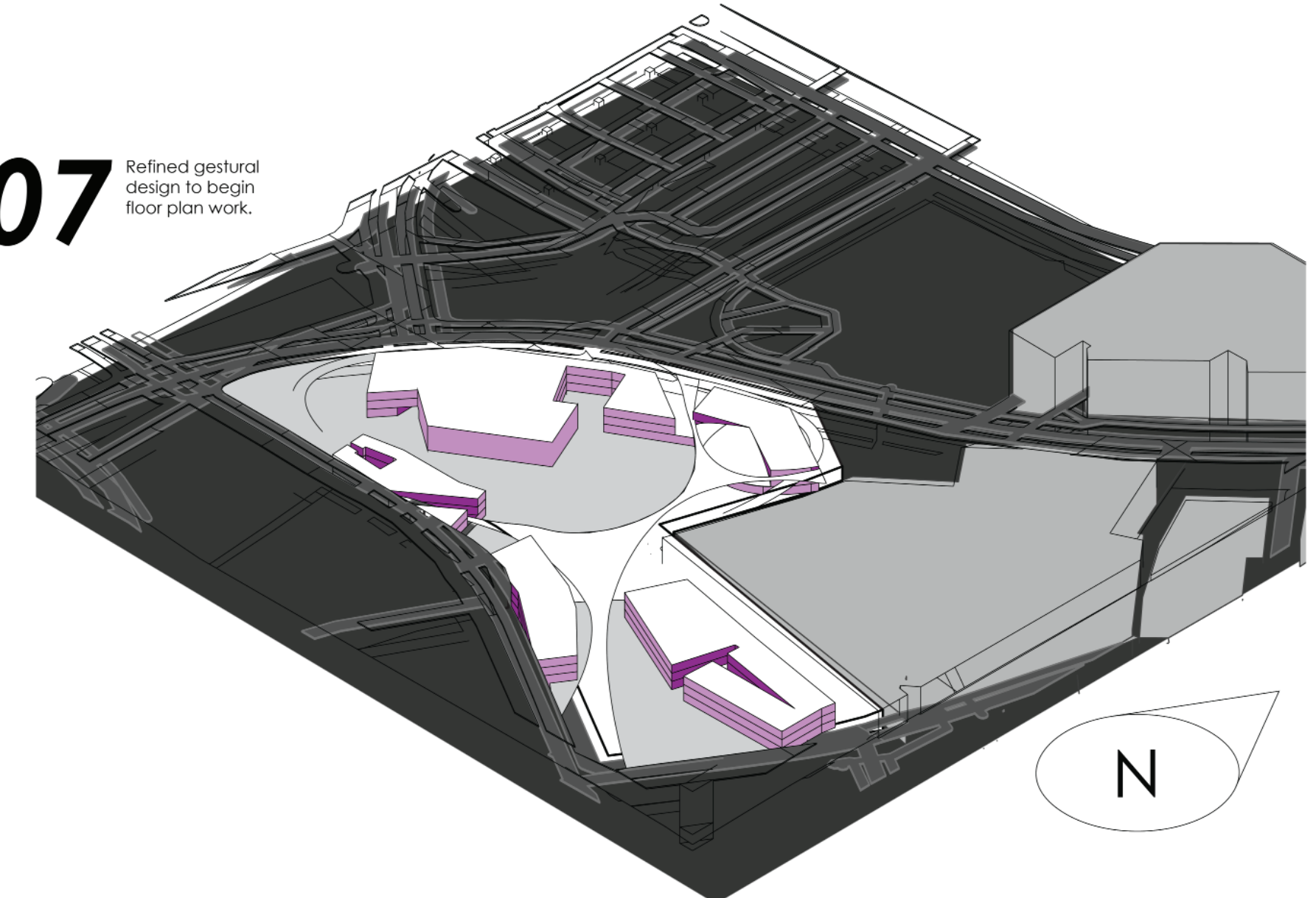
06.5

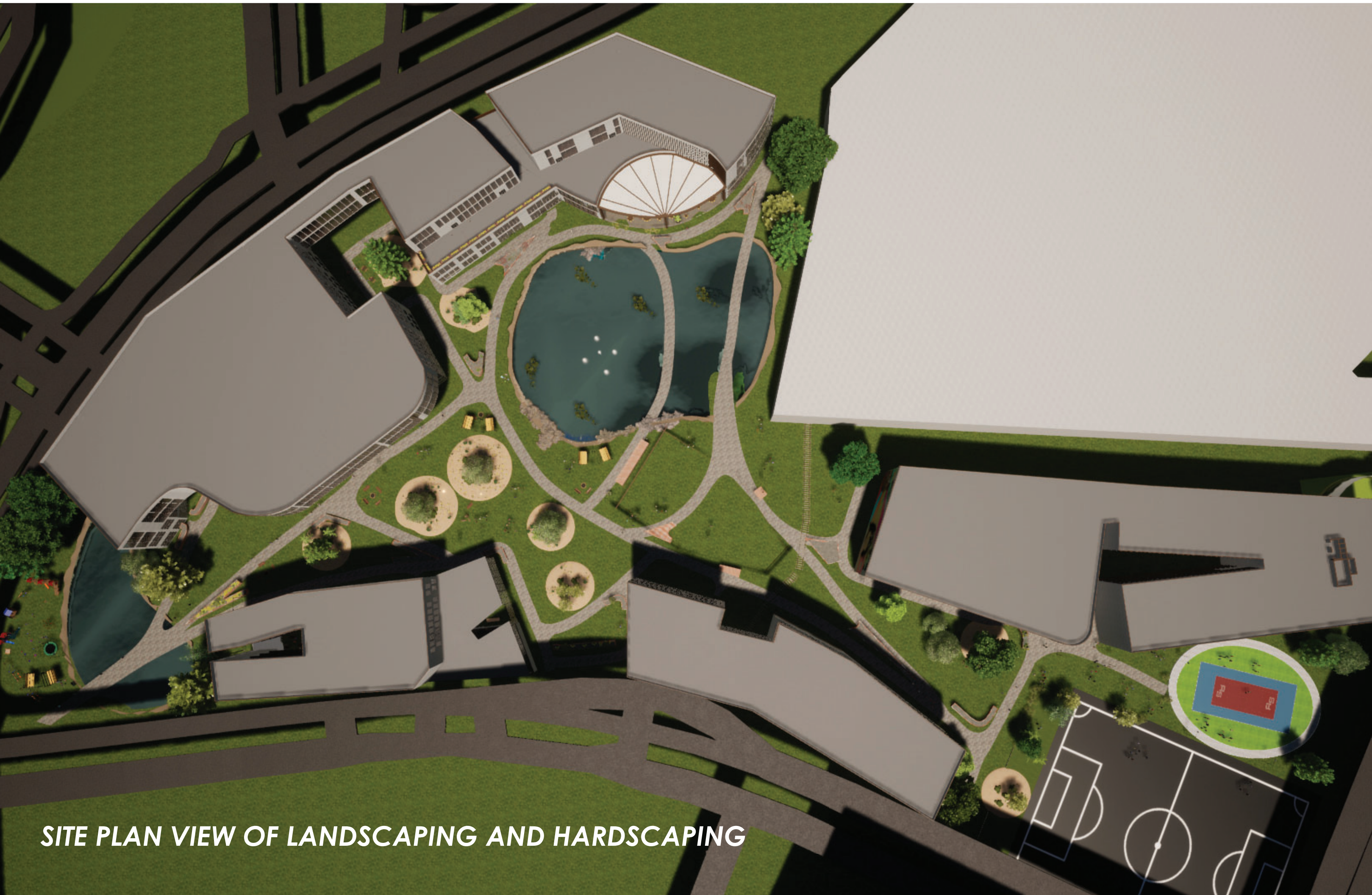
Iterations of design massing based on armatures.



07

Refined gestural design to begin floor plan work.

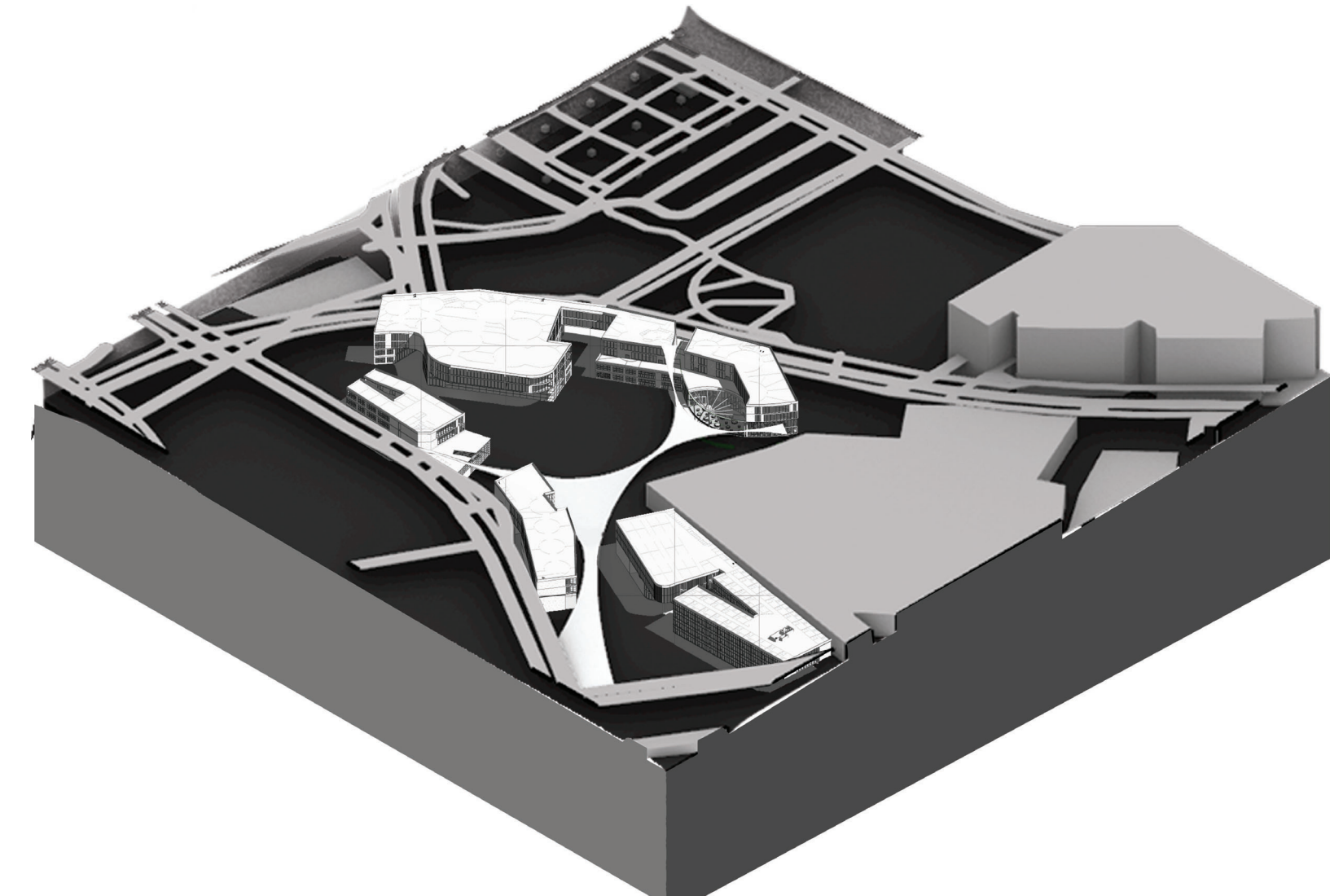




SITE PLAN VIEW OF LANDSCAPING AND HARDSCAPING

DESIGN VISUALIZED

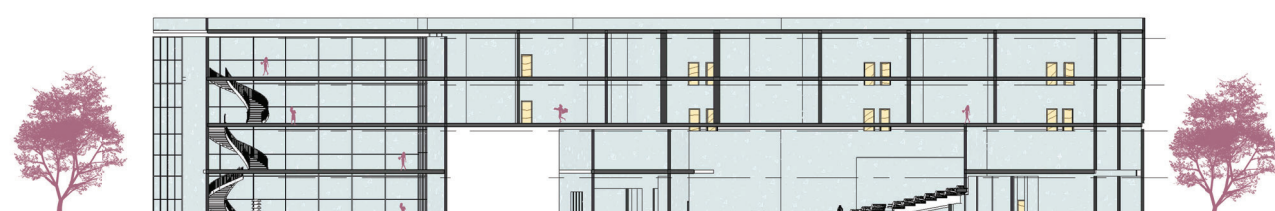
The use of the site plan, building sections, and shaded axon, allow us to get a large scale idea of the spaces before getting into the experiential views of the complex. The materiality is kept clean, with white concrete, to maintain the complexity of shapes and structure. However, to avoid the "institutional" look, wood and glass accents are utilized, along with painted murals. The glass elements are used to ensure peace of mind of enclosure, while still maintaining field of view, which is very important for trauma victims, who want to feel safe and aware of their surroundings.



TRAINING CENTER WEST LATITUDINAL SECTION



TRANSITIONAL HOUSING LATITUDINAL SECTION



TRAINING CENTER EAST LATITUDINAL SECTION



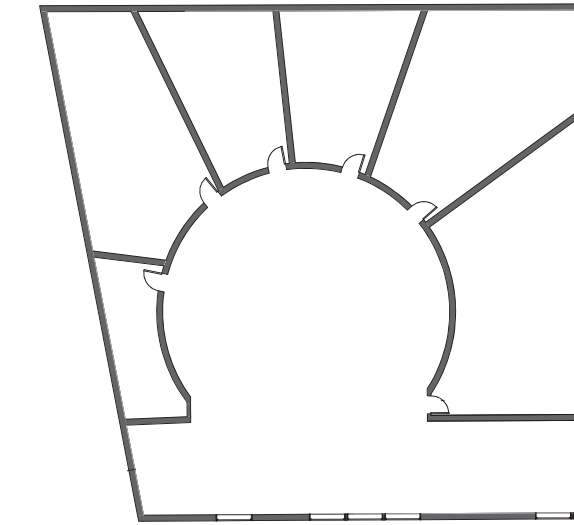
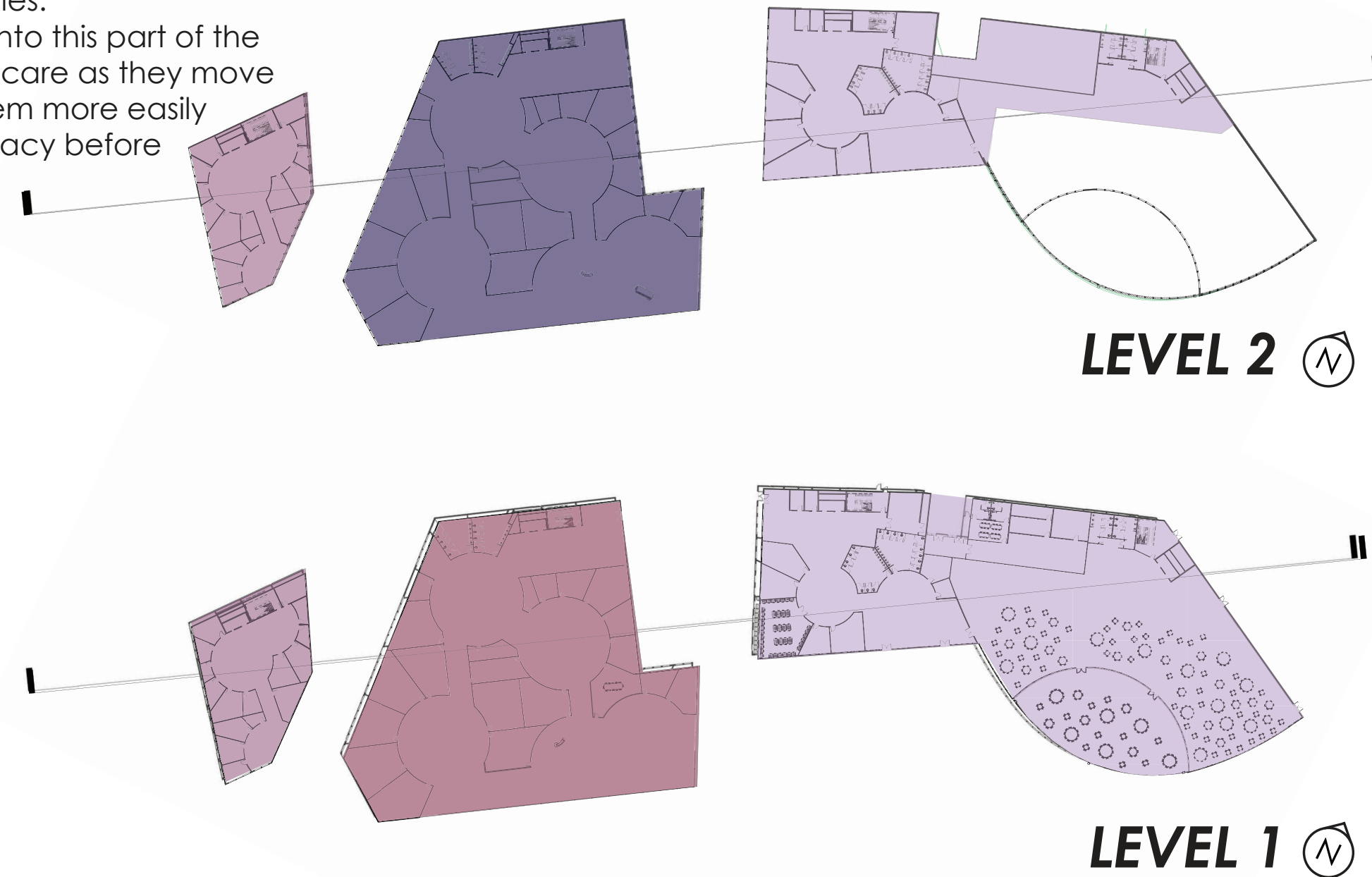
THERAPY CENTER LATITUDINAL SECTION

THE THERAPY CENTER

These are the massing floor plans for the Therapy Center. Within its walls, there will be group and individual therapy options to help combat the effects of anxiety, depression, substance abuse, and other mental illnesses. These spaces will allow for meditation and self centering, either alone, with a qualified therapist, or in a group setting. There are also community rooms and lounge areas for visitors of the complex to congregate in outside of the dormitories.

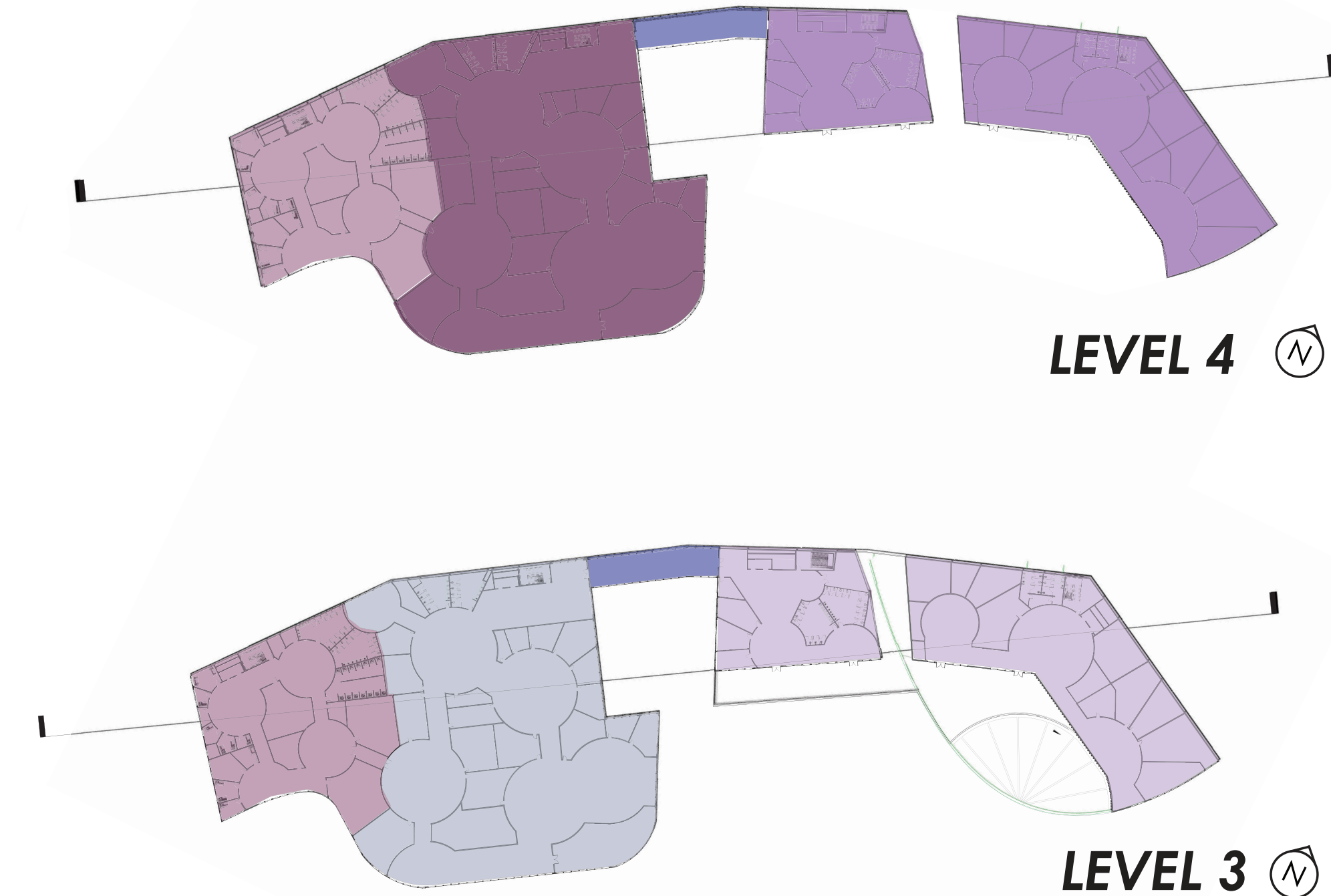
The substance abuse dormitories are separated into this part of the complex as they are at a higher need for trauma care as they move through the detox process. This not only allows them more easily accessible specialized care, but also needed privacy before integrating into the complex and community.

- Administrative Space
- Trauma/Immediate Attention Care
- Dormitory (Substance Abuse Detox)
- Complex Community Space (Cafeteria and Lounge Spaces)
- Wellness Healthcare (OBGYN, Pediatric)
- Circulation
- Group Mental Healthcare Facilities
- Meditative/Individual Therapy Space



In the therapy and training centers, these circular nodes are used to encourage that same sense of community throughout the expanse of the complex.

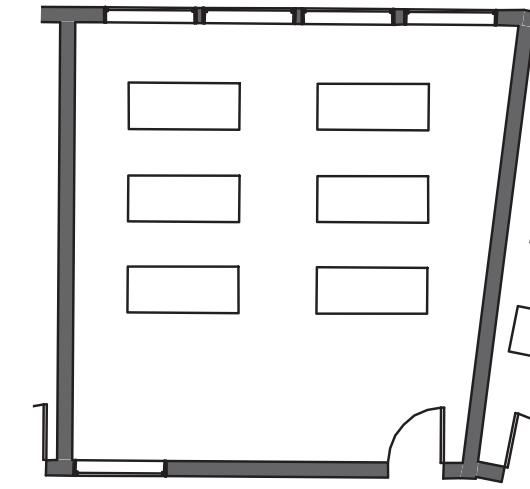
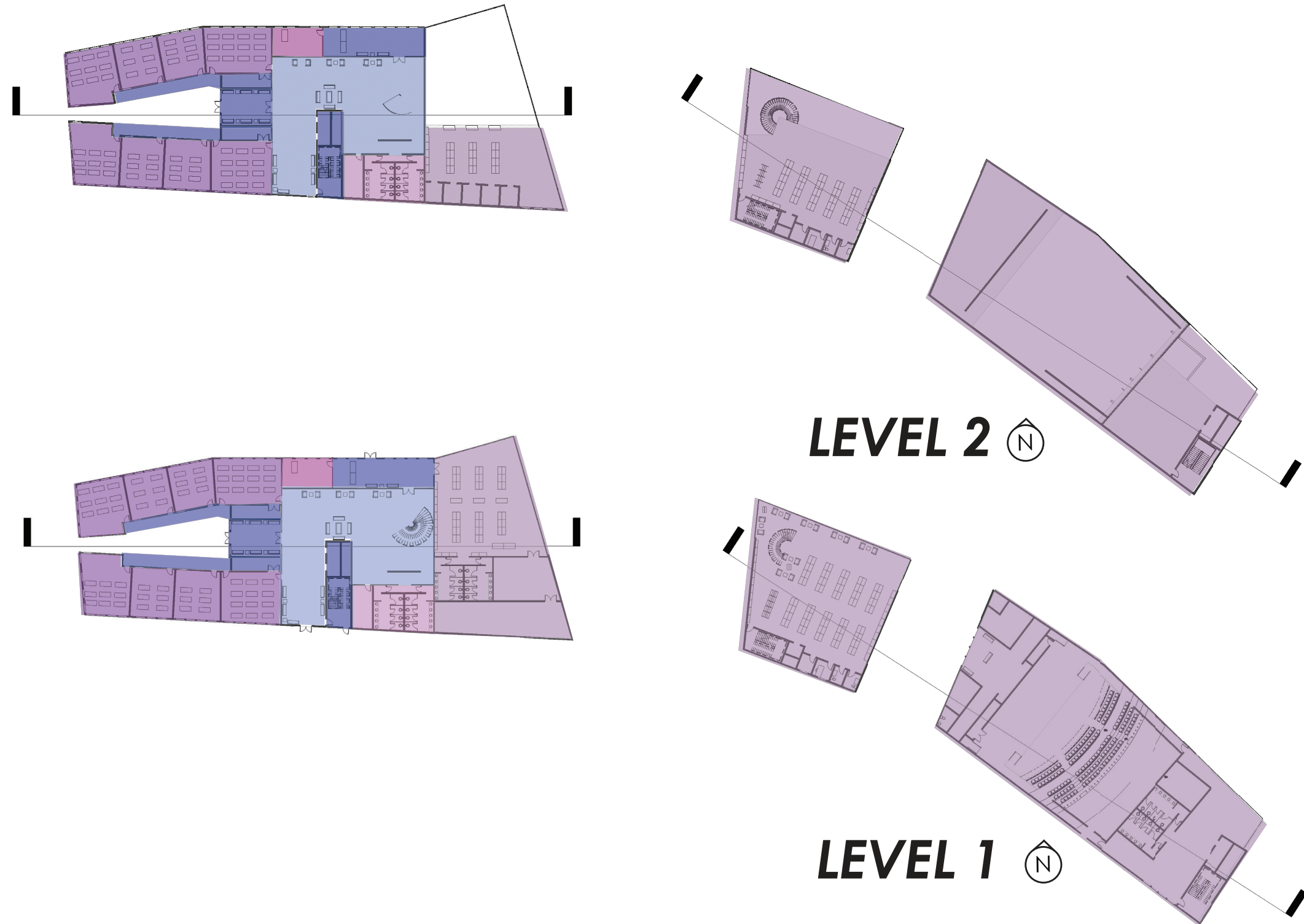
- Administrative Space
- Trauma/Immediate Attention Care
- Dormitory (Substance Abuse Detox)
- Complex Community Space (Cafeteria and Lounge Spaces)
- Wellness Healthcare (OBGYN, Pediatric)
- Circulation
- Group Mental Healthcare Facilities
- Meditative/Individual Therapy Space



TRAINING CENTER

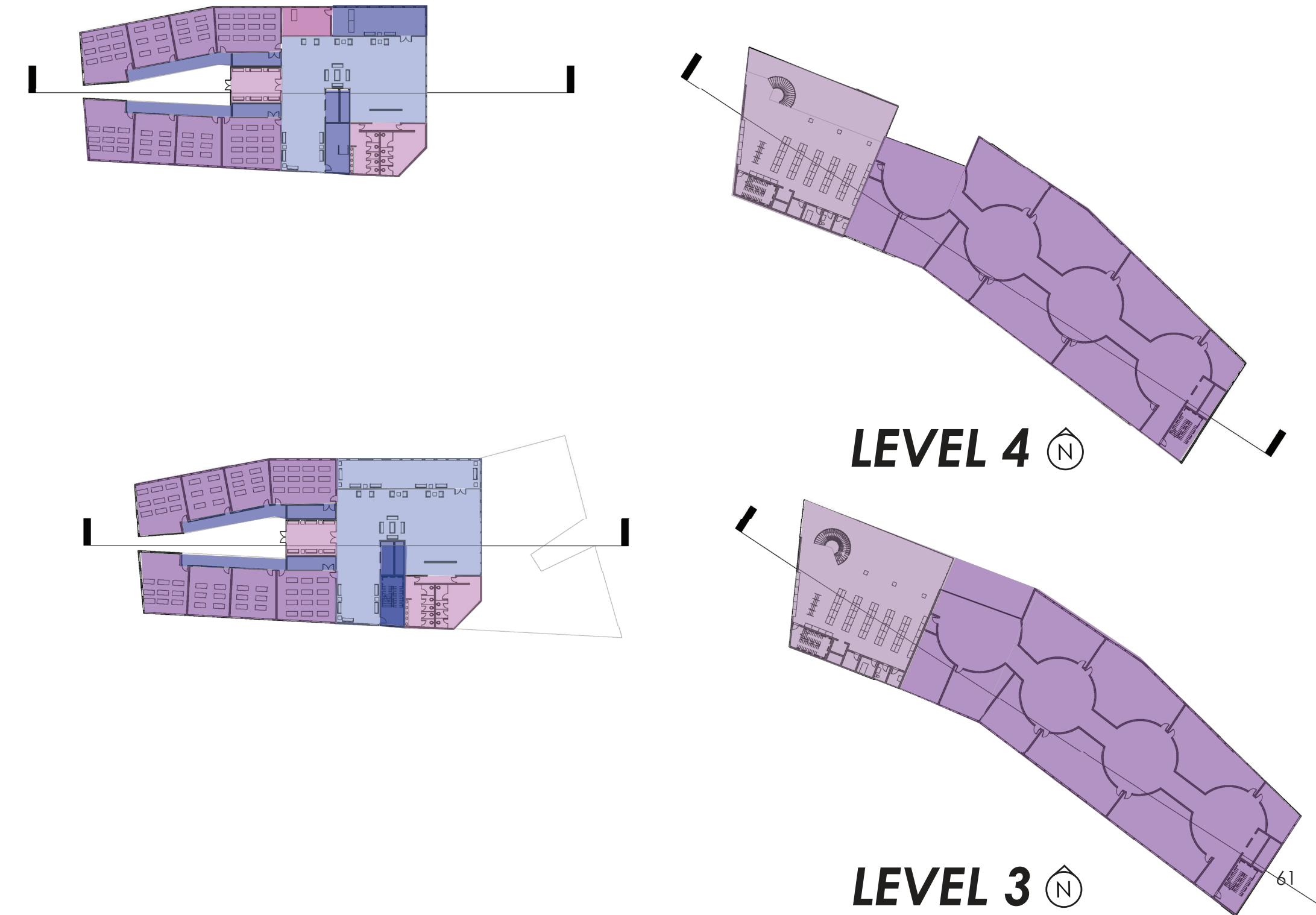
For the training center, it was important to keep class sizes small, to ensure that each member attending classes received the one on one interaction needed. There are plenty of lounging spaces for members of the community to work on 'assignments' or collaborate before classes. This is also home to the community outreach portion of the center, boasting a clothing boutique, theater, and library. These spaces allow the complex to still be integrated with the larger surrounding community, but on their own terms. This is a safe buffer zone, to still be connected with the outside world, before being fully immersed back in. This is also an opportunity for members of the complex to work on soft skills and other job training techniques.

- Classroom Spaces
- Circulation
- Utility Spaces
- Local Community Space (Clothing Boutique, Theater, Library)
- Administrative Space
- Lounge Spaces



Small class sizes are proven to encourage more social interaction. Including them in the training center will allow users to feel more included in the work they are learning.

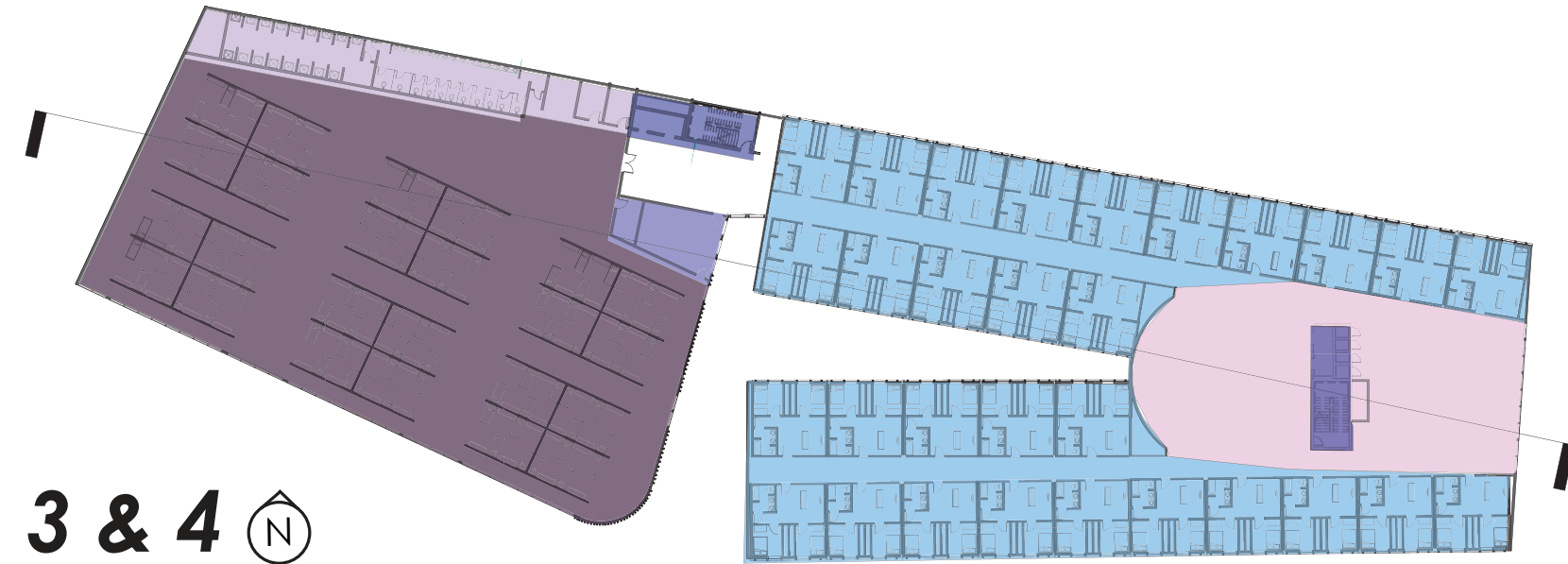
- Classroom Spaces
- Circulation
- Utility Spaces
- Local Community Space (Clothing Boutique, Theater, Library)
- Administrative Space
- Lounge Spaces



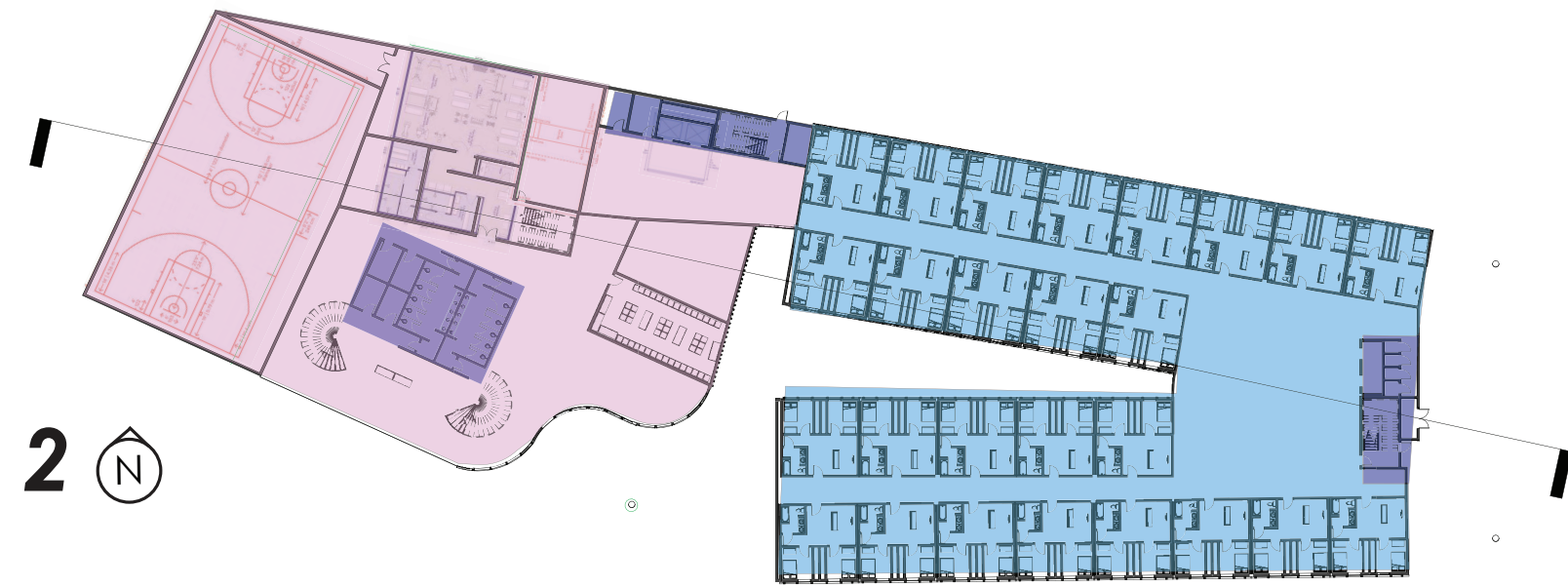
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING CENTER

Housing is one of the top priorities for people in homelessness. The design of these spaces, especially the cluster style dormitory shown on Level 3 and 4 are meant to foster community, as you are surrounded by bunk mates in similar situations. This community mindset is continued into the short-term stay on the east side of the building, allowing more privacy, but still encouraging interaction through shared spaces.

LEVEL 3 & 4 



LEVEL 1 & 2 



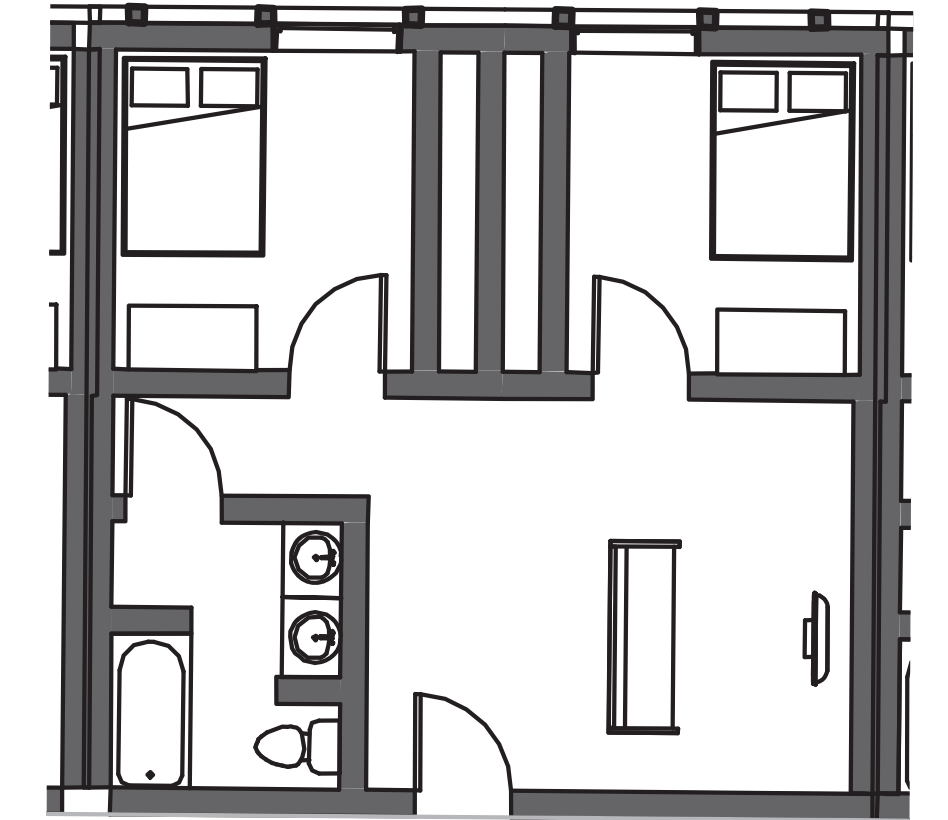
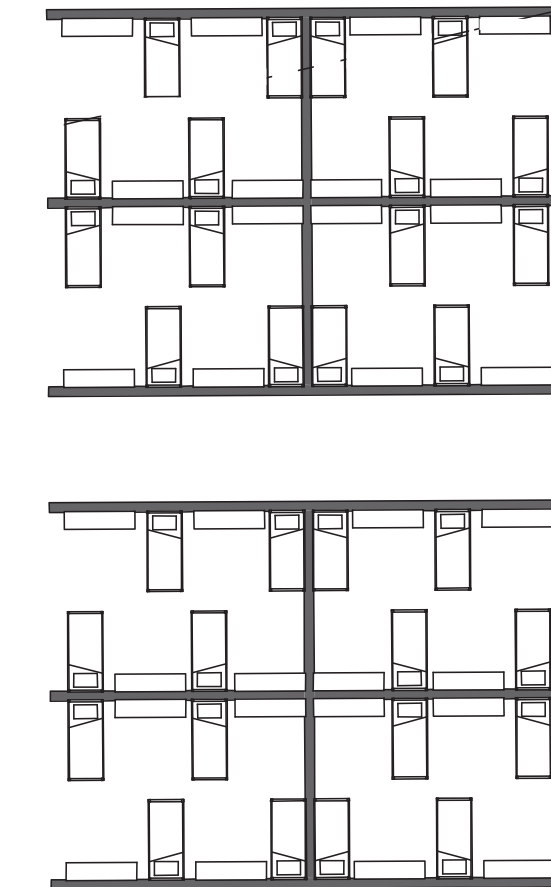
-  Lounge and Recreation Spaces (Gym, Coffee Bar, Laundry, Games)
-  Circulation
-  Short Term Stay Housing
-  Utility Spaces
-  Administrative Space
-  Dormitory Style Housing

DIVIDING SPACE

I provided three variations of dwelling units with the intent of maximizing customizability to the individual's need. I created a dormitory style dwelling space for those that are first entering the complex. Since they are entering at such a pivotal moment in their journey, prioritizing a sense of community was a must. By encouraging bunked spaces, this provides at least 3 other people that the individual will interact with in a given day. These individuals will be able to encourage one another and build relationships based on their similar stories.

The second variation is the short-term housing option, This is for those that need a longer term solution before being able to live fully independently. Shared common spaces are given so that the users can still have that sense of community encouraged while having semi-independence and their own space.

The last housing style, not shown here, is the substance abuse dorms. These are private spaces for individuals experiencing withdraws. These individuals need intense supervision and medical care best suited in the therapy center, at the beginning of their journey through the complex.



4.1

Chapter 4.1 Experiencing Design

These renders are representations that should allow you to experience the spaces and how it would feel to move through them.



VIEW FROM EAST SIDE OF SITE



INTERIOR COURTYARD SPACE, TRAINING BUILDING



EXTERIOR DINING SPACE



EXTERIOR LOUNGE SPACE AT WATER FEATURE



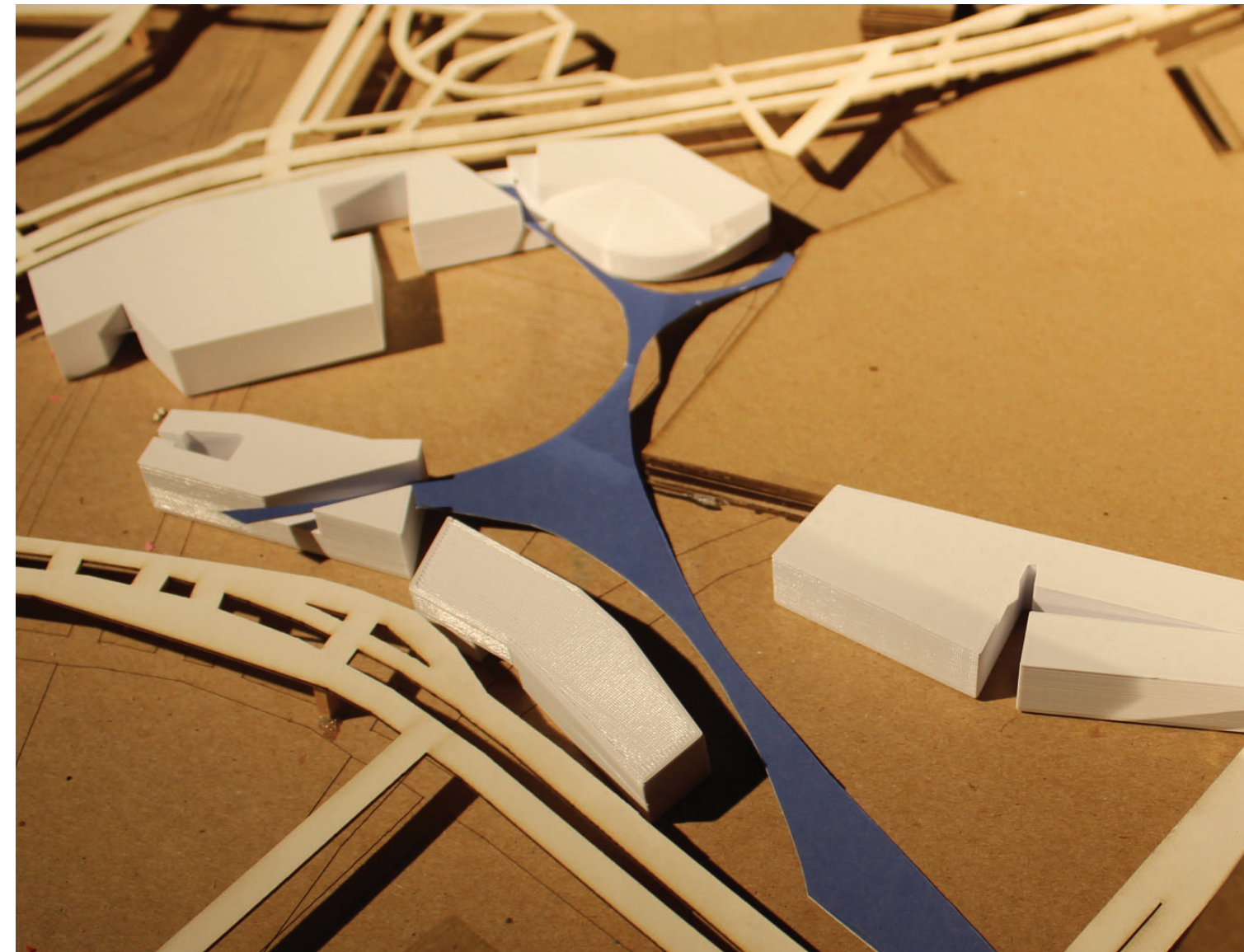
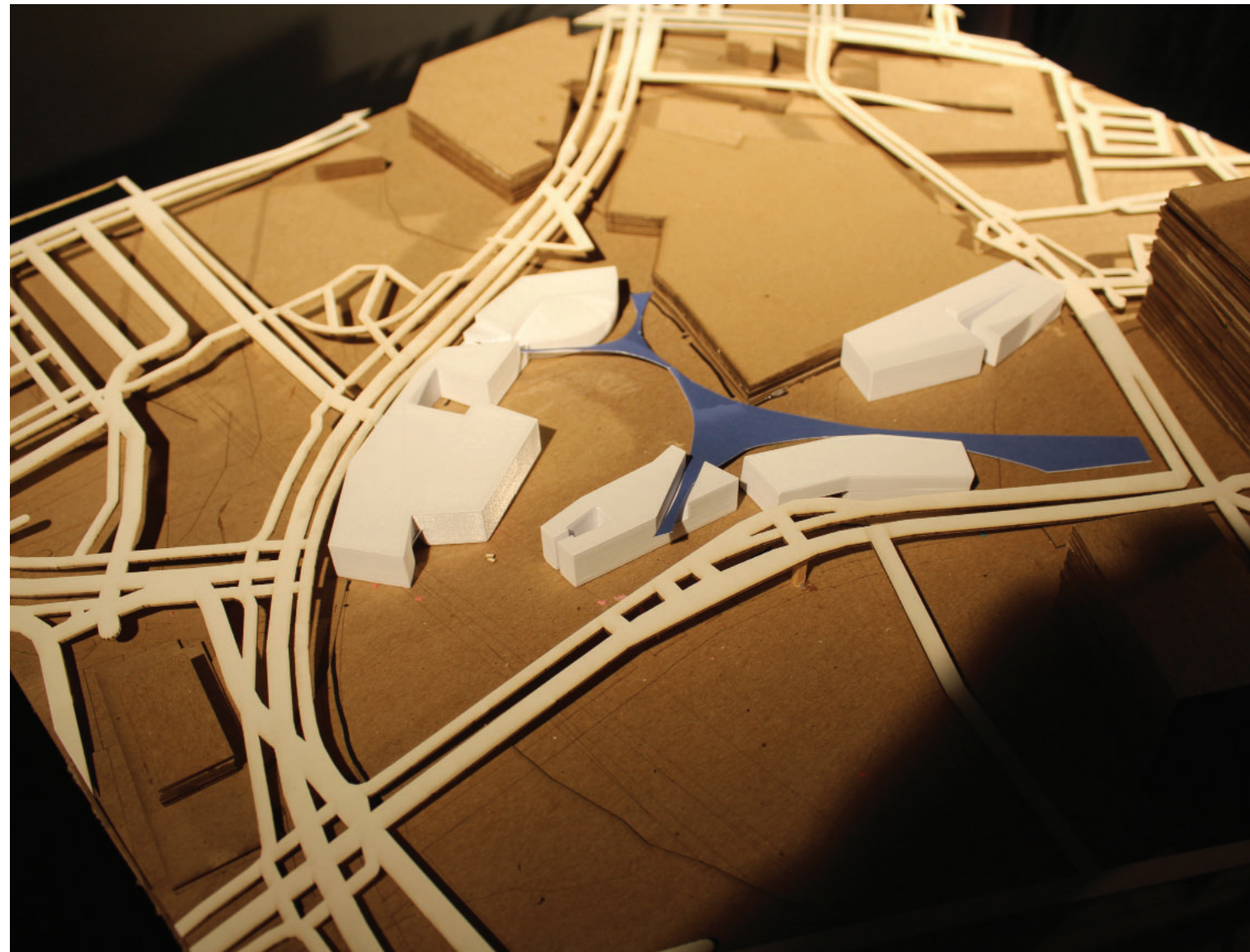
INTERIOR DINING SPACE



SEMI-ENCLOSED COURTYARD AT THERAPY BUILDING

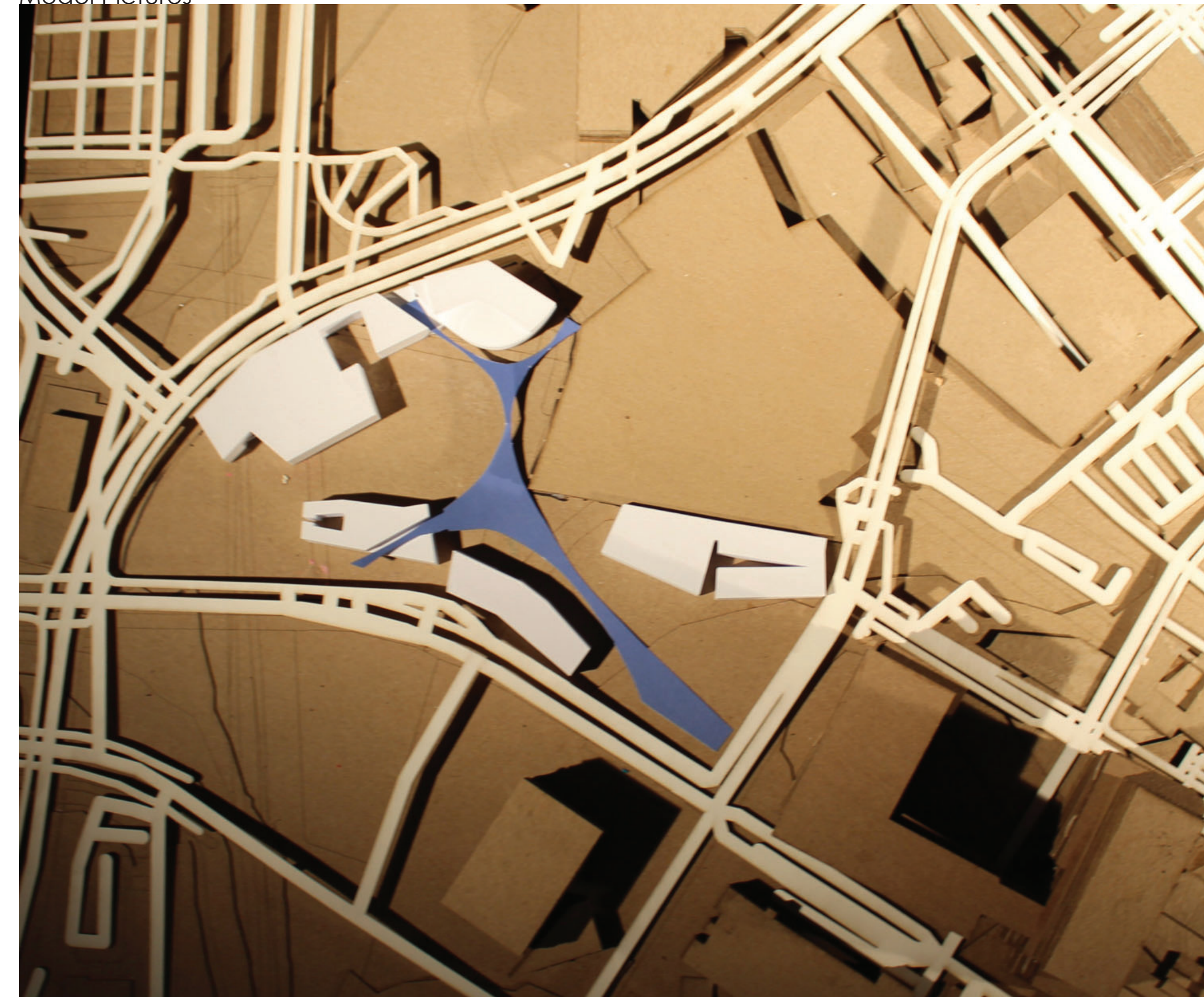
SITE VIEWS

These models were made to begin to understand the project spatially with the surrounding contexts and the scale at which I would need to design by. At a 1"= 100' scale, I developed a 24" x 24" section of the site and began to study the spatial relations between street level and ground, as well as massing spaces.

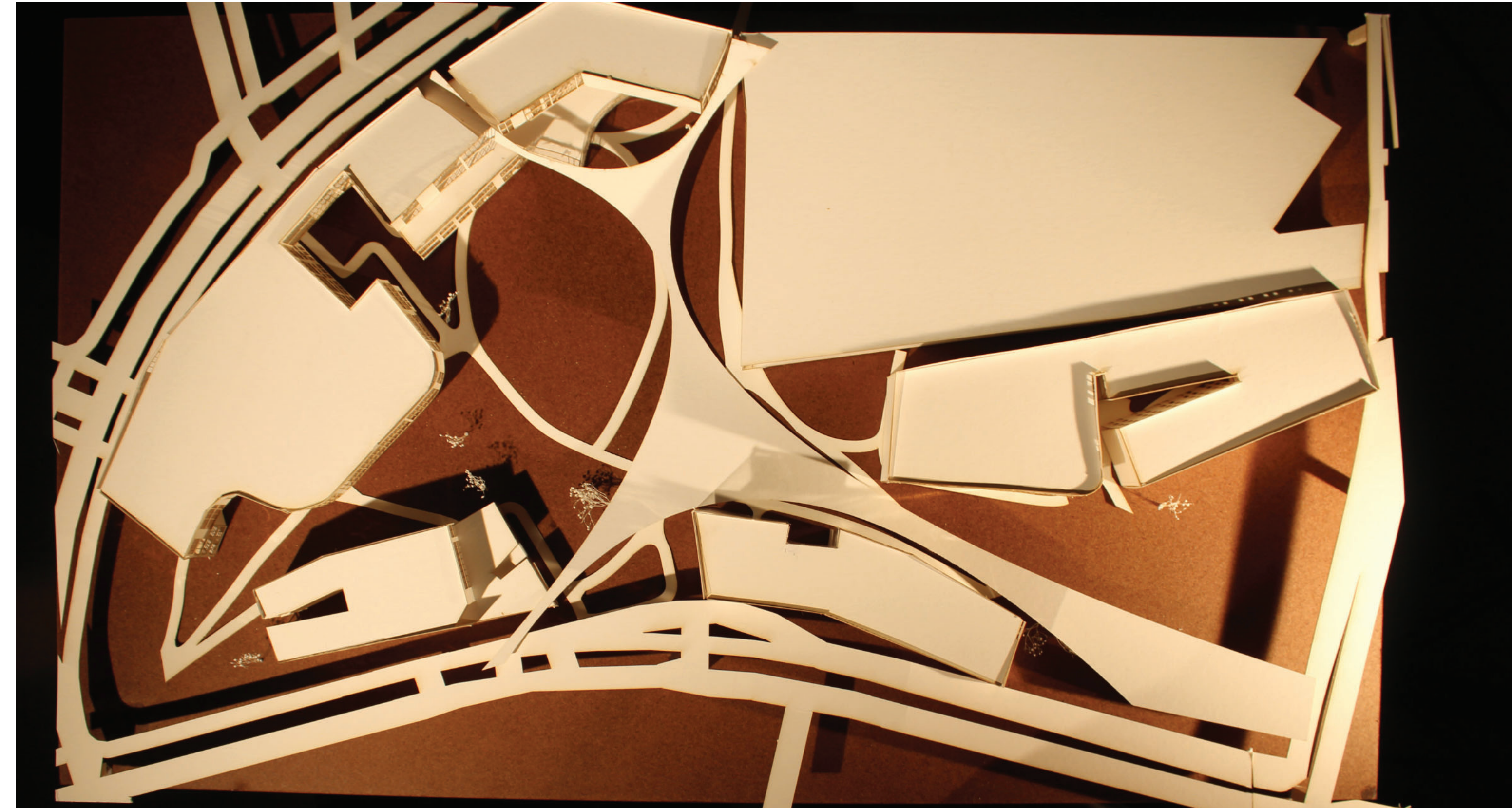
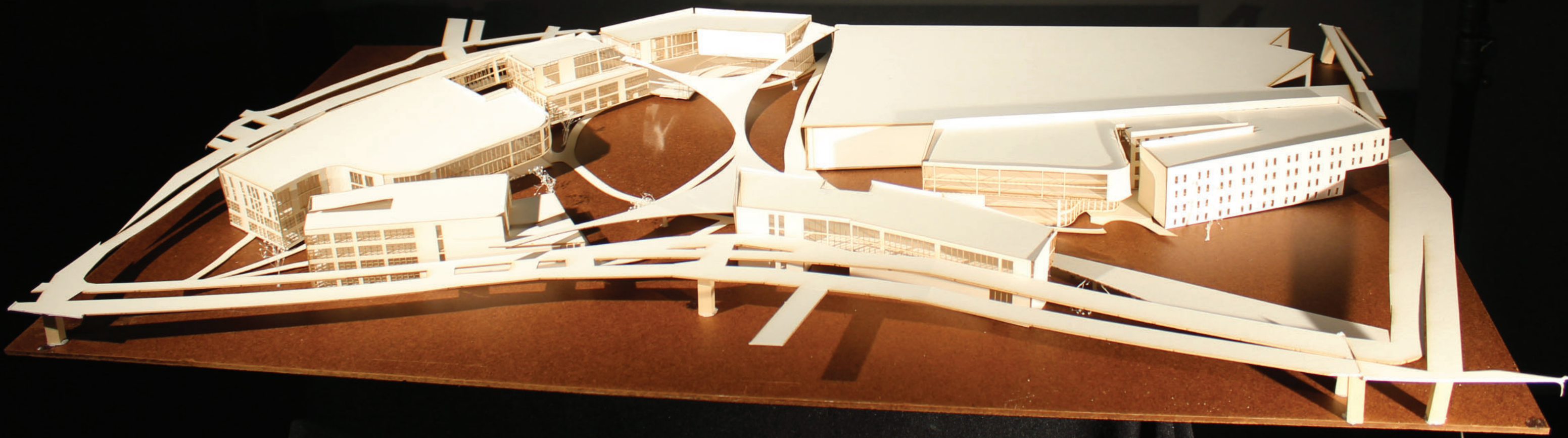


SITE VIEWS

This overhead shot gives context to the elevation of spaces through shadow and light studies. I was able to further determine what massing changes I would need to make moving forward.

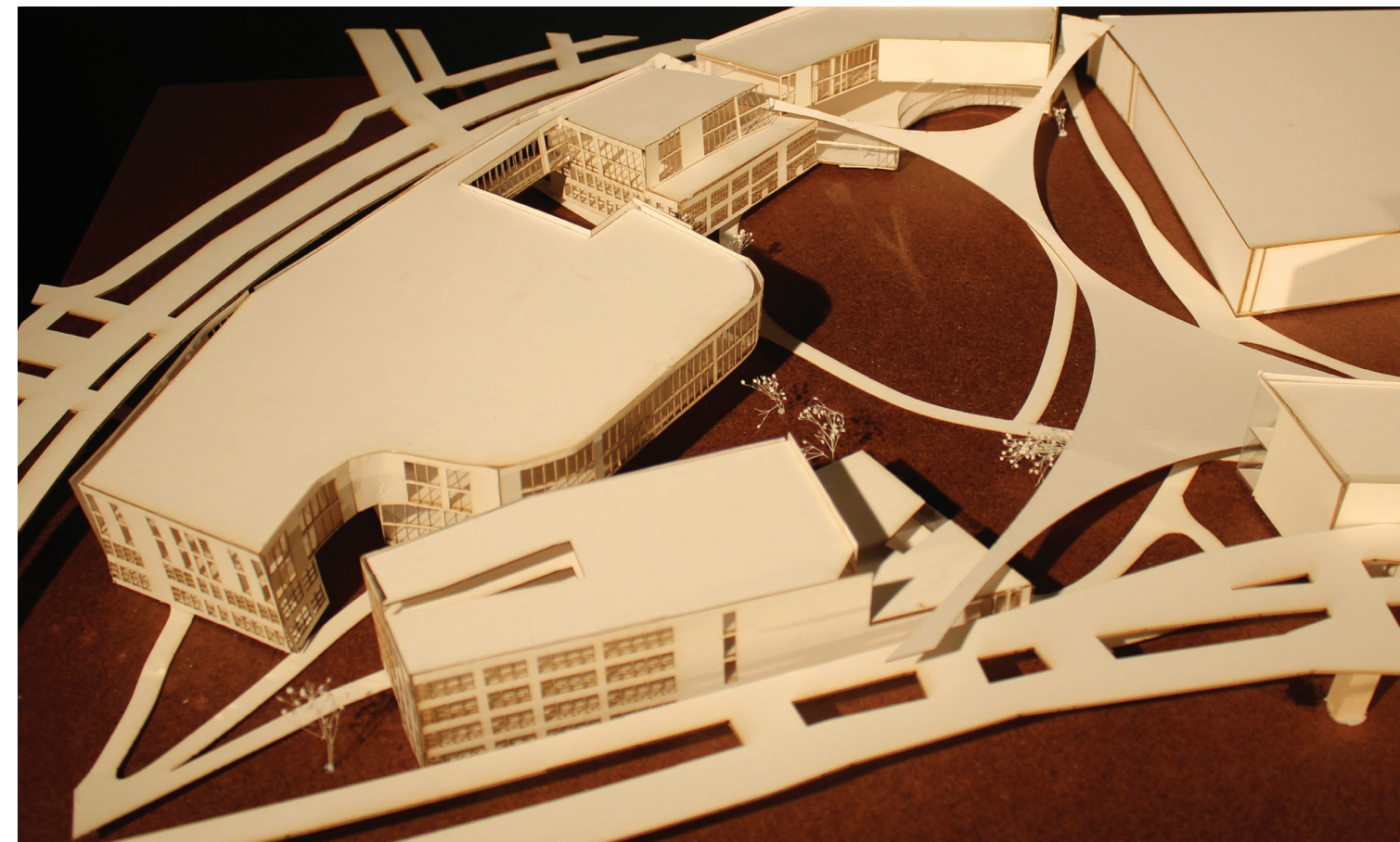
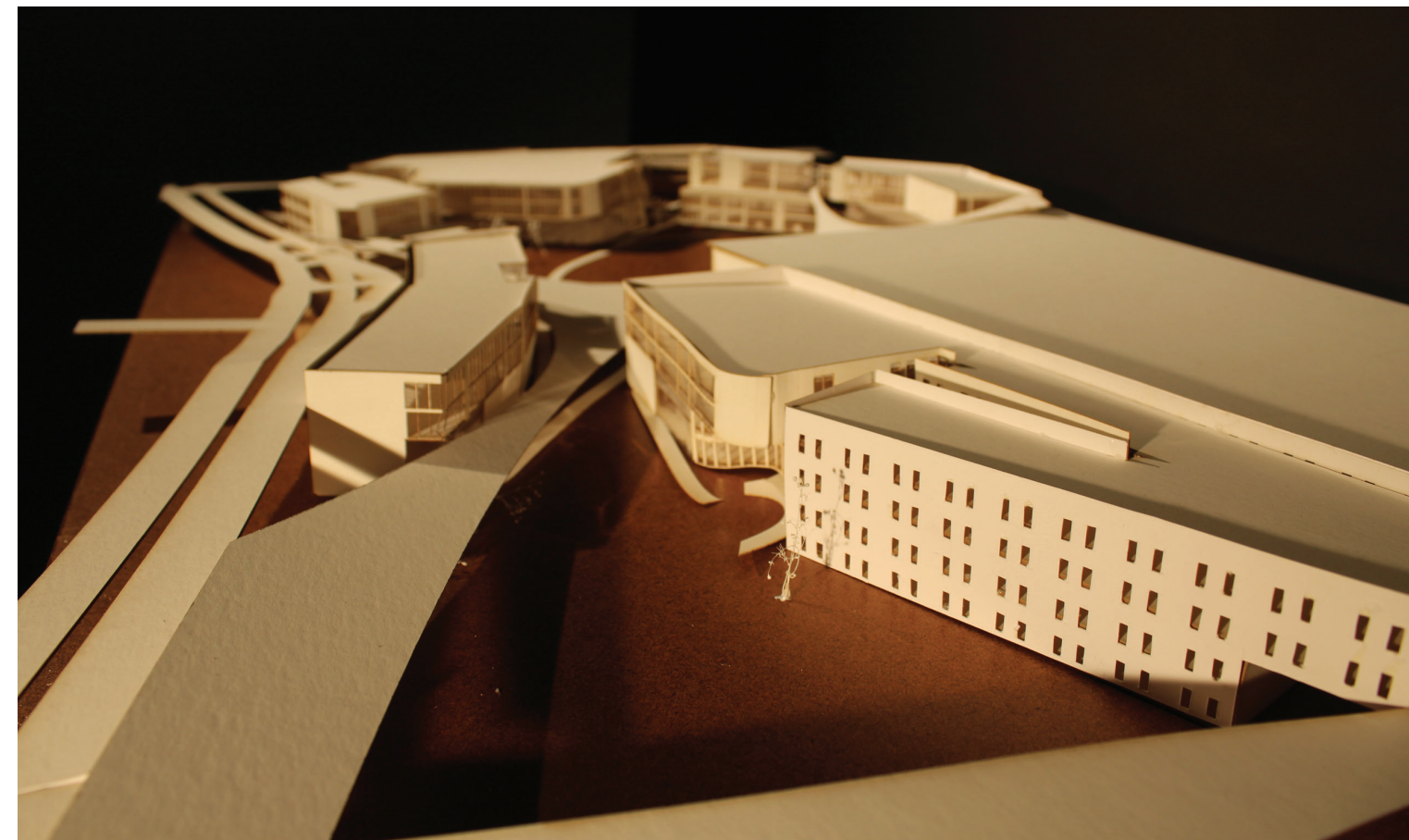
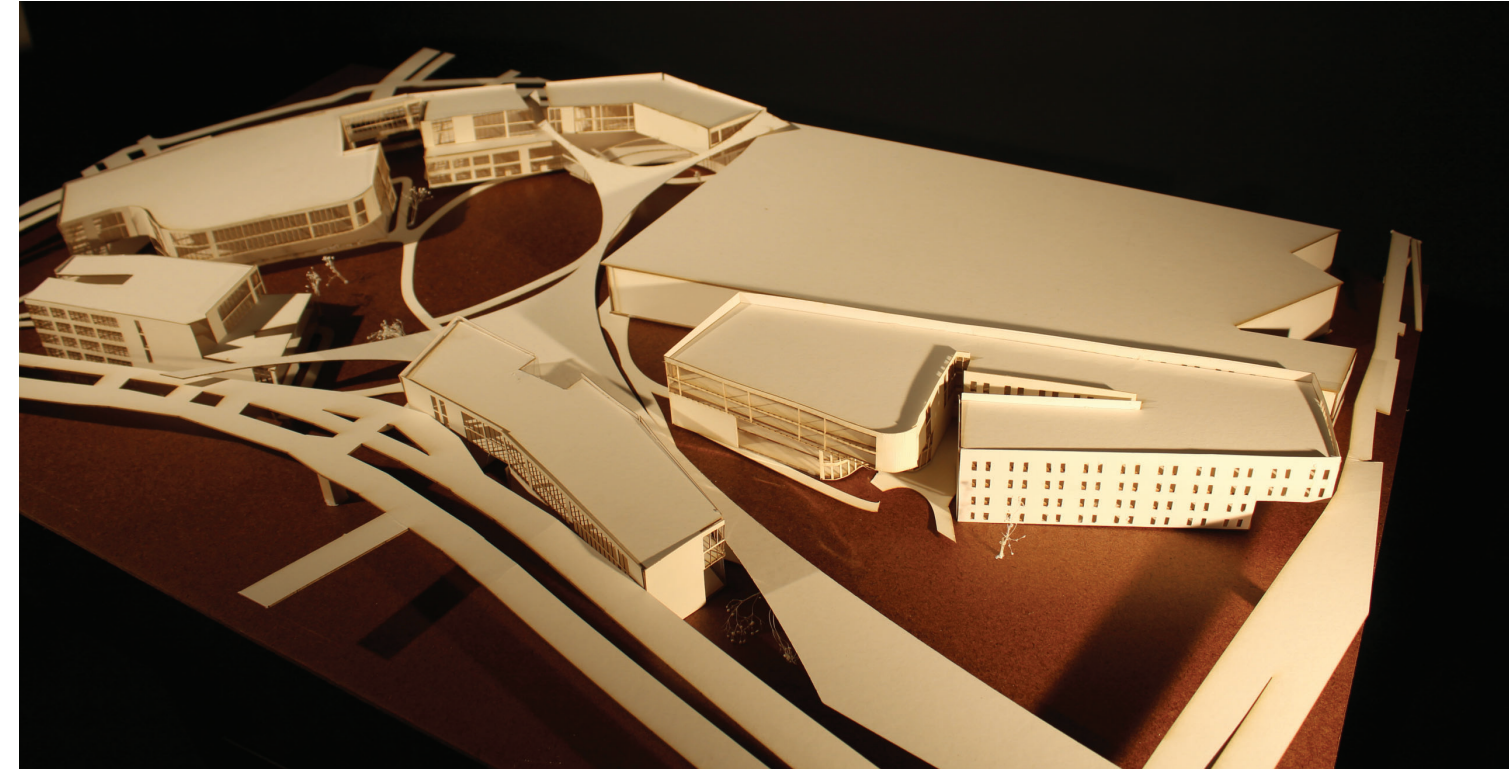


FINAL DESIGN

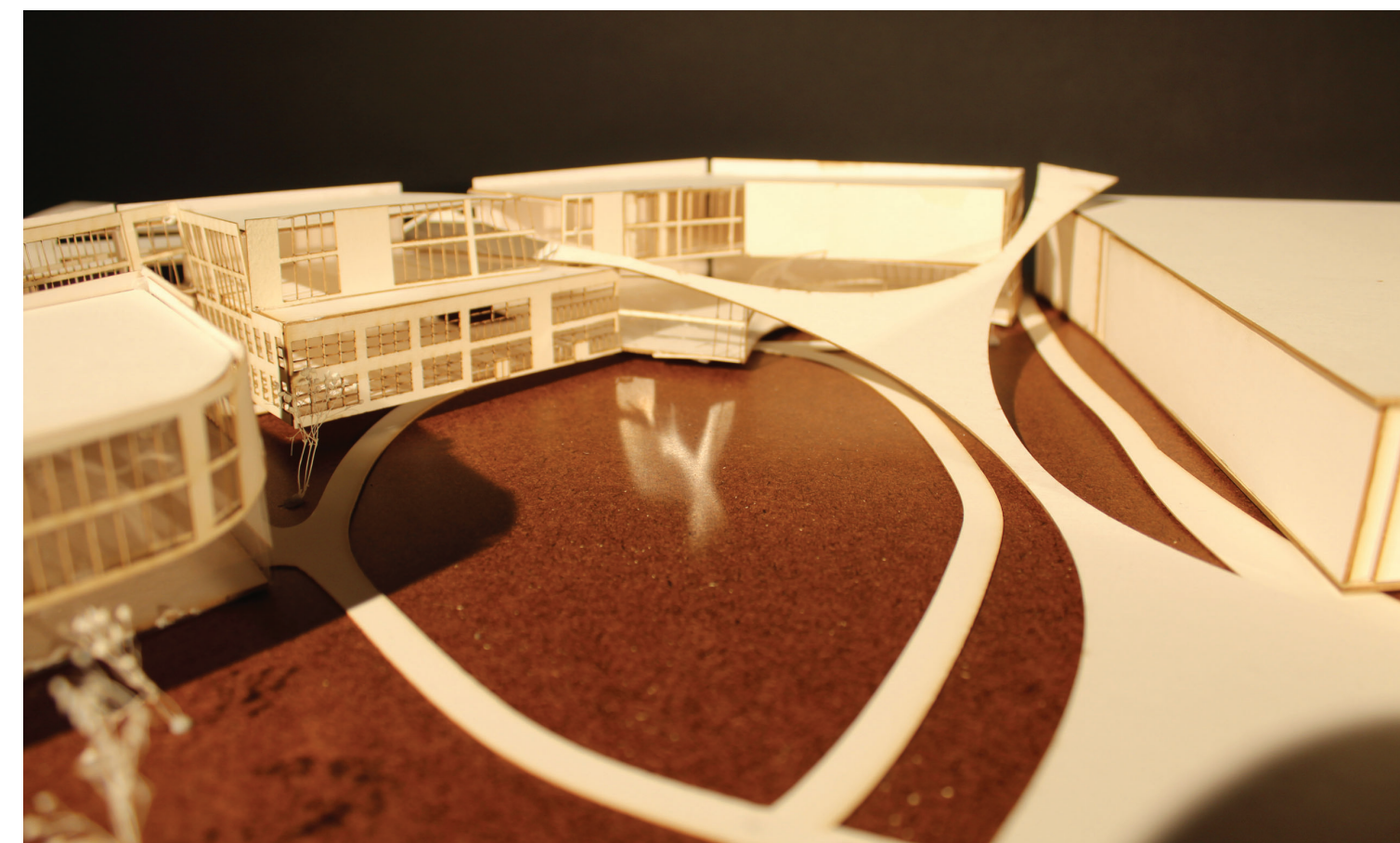


FINAL DESIGN MODEL

This model allowed me to further explore the relationship between ground and street levels, as well as look at the facade relationships between building to building. I also began to explore the walking path further, and with more time would like to further explore its integration into the design complex.



Use this QR code to experience a video walkthrough through the exterior spaces and the complex design as a whole. This walkthrough focuses specifically on the exterior spaces and community gathering spaces for the users of the complex, that hopefully communicates a welcoming and tranquil environment.



5.0

5.0 Reference Lists

Figure List

FIGURE LIST

Figure 1 Denver Homeless Out Loud 1

Figure 2-8 Figure Created by author, data from HUD 2021 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless Populations and Subpopulations, United States

Figure 9 Homelessness Portrait by Lee Jefferies, retrieved from: https://www.boredpanda.com/homeless-people-lee-jeffries/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=organic

Figure 10-15 Figure created by author, data from HUD 2021 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless Populations and Subpopulations, State of Georgia

Figure 16 "I was a Soldier" by Jerry Tovo, retrieved from: <https://www.workshop.org/calendar/i-was-a-soldier-lecture-with-jerry-tovo/>

Figure 17-21 Figure created by author, data from 2022 Point-in-Time Count, City of Atlanta, GA

Figure 22 B by Lee Jefferies, retrieved from: <https://mymodernmet.com/black-white-child-photography-contest/>

Figure 23-24 Figure created by author, data from National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Figure 25 Atlanta Mission Logo, taken from <https://atlantamission.org/transformation-model/>

Figure 26 Our Impact in 2021, taken from <https://atlantamission.org/services/#impact>

Figure 27 Shelter Options, taken from <https://atlantamission.org/services/#impact>

Figure 28 Transformation Model, taken from <https://atlantamission.org/transformation-model/>

Figure 29 Covenant House participant, taken from <https://covenanthousega.org/Housing>

Figure 30 Covenant House Logo, taken from <https://covenanthousega.org/Housing>

Figure 31 Covenant House participants, taken from <https://covenanthousega.org/Housing>

Figure 32 Fast Facts: Youth Homelessness taken from <https://covenanthousega.org/Fast-Facts>

Figure 33 Fast Facts: Our Statistics taken from <https://covenanthousega.org/Fast-Facts>

Figure 34 Rebecca's Tent Logo, retrieved from <https://rebeccastent.org/programs-and-services/shelter/>

Figure 35 Pookie, by Lee Jefferies

Figure 37 Man on Sidewalk. ©Sam Kanter 2016, retrieved from: <https://www.dpreview.com/forums/post/63427197>

Figure 38 CAPSLO shelter rendering, retrieved from: https://www.archdaily.com/195063/design-for-homeless-shelter-in-san-luis-obispo-awarded?ad_source=search&ad_medium=projects_tab&ad_source=search&ad_medium=search_result_all

Figure 39 CAPSLO floorplans from ArchDaily, diagramming done by author, plans retrieved from: https://www.archdaily.com/195063/design-for-homeless-shelter-in-san-luis-obispo-awarded?ad_source=search&ad_medium=projects_tab&ad_source=search&ad_medium=search_result_all

Figure 40-41 Les Coteaux Fleuris School, retrieved from: https://www.archdaily.com/989035/les-coteaux-fleuris-school-hemaa-plus-hesters-oyon?ad_source=search&ad_medium=projects_tab

Figure 42 Les Coteaux Fleuris School floorplans from ArchDaily, diagramming done by author retrieved from: https://www.archdaily.com/989035/les-coteaux-fleuris-school-hemaa-plus-hesters-oyon?ad_source=search&ad_medium=projects_tab

Figure 43-45 Promise at Dawn, retrieved from: https://www.archdaily.com/912467/promise-at-dawn-center-of-emergency-accommodation-air-plus-moon-architecture?ad_source=myarchdaily&ad_medium=bookmark-show&ad_content=other-user

Figure 46 Promise at Dawn floorplans from ArchDaily, diagramming done by author, taken from: https://www.archdaily.com/912467/promise-at-dawn-center-of-emergency-accommodation-air-plus-moon-architecture?ad_source=myarchdaily&ad_medium=bookmark-show&ad_content=other-user

Figure 47-48, 50 Center for Cancer and Health retrieved from: https://www.archdaily.com/430800/centre-for-cancer-and-health-nord-architects?ad_source=search&ad_medium=projects_tab

Figure 49 Center for Cancer and Health, diagramming by author, retrieved from: https://www.archdaily.com/430800/centre-for-cancer-and-health-nord-architects?ad_source=search&ad_medium=projects_tab

Figure 51-55 Maggie's Cancer Centre Manchester, taken from: https://www.archdaily.com/786370/maggies-cancer-centre-manchester-foster-plus-partners?ad_source=search&ad_medium=projects_tab

Figure 56 Author created matrix of needed program for proposed complex design

Figure 57 Author created transformation model for proposed complex design

Every image and diagram past this point is author's own work.

INTRO SCOPE ANALYSIS DESIGN

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