

# **ALAA MUKAHHAL DESIGN PORTFOLIO**

**MASTER'S OF CITY PLANNING CANDIDATE, CLASS 2017  
MIT, DEPARTMENT OF URBAN STUDIES AND PLANNING**

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## ARCHITECTURE

*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Bachelor's of Science in Architectural Studies, May 2009*

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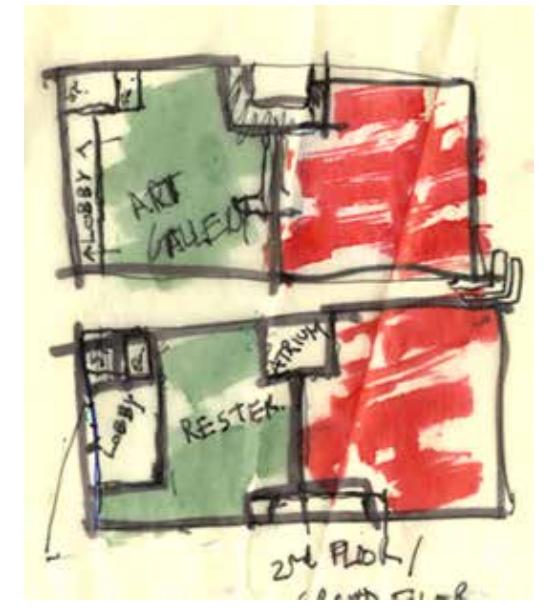
## GRAPHIC DESIGN

*2011-2012*

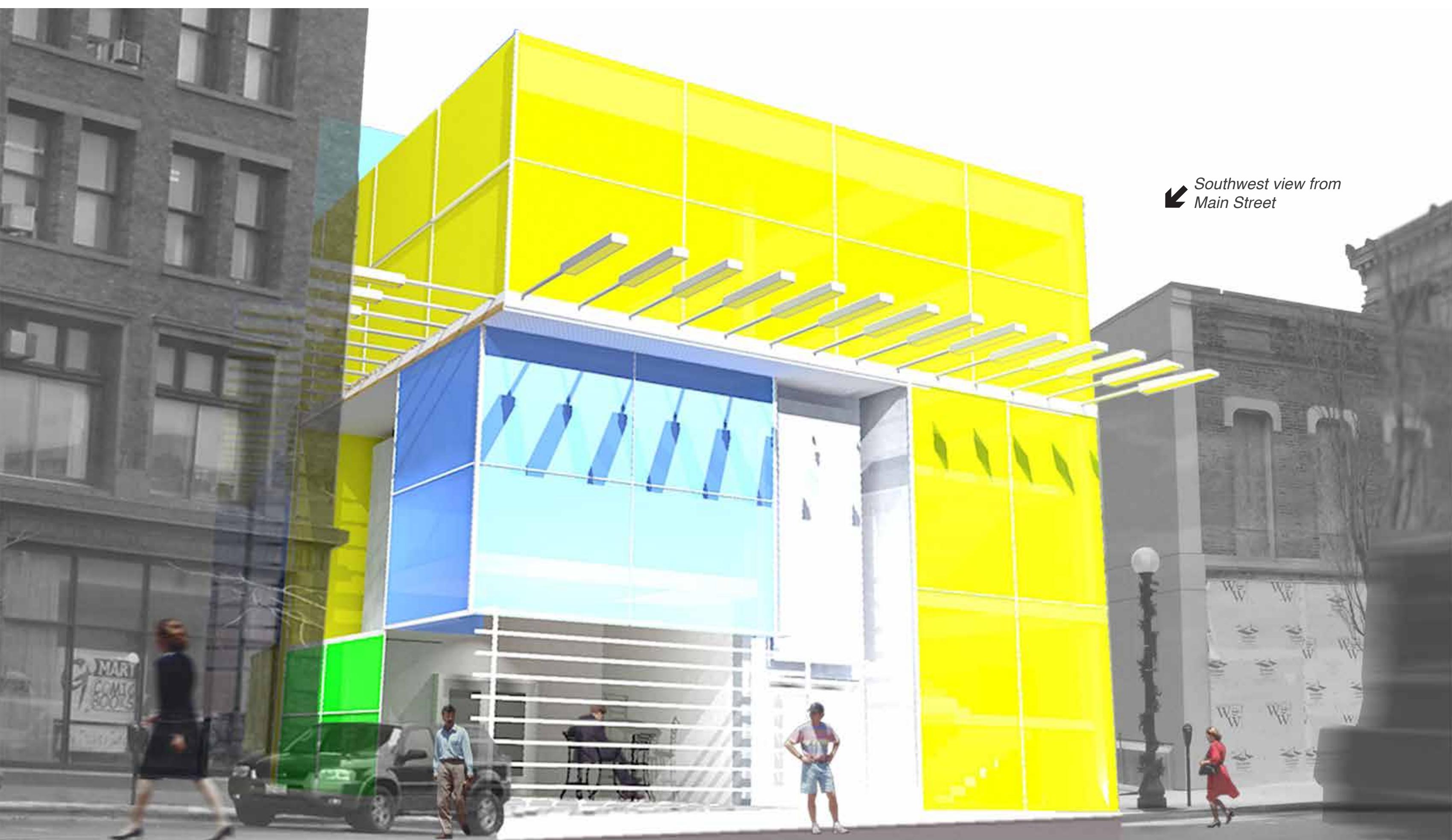
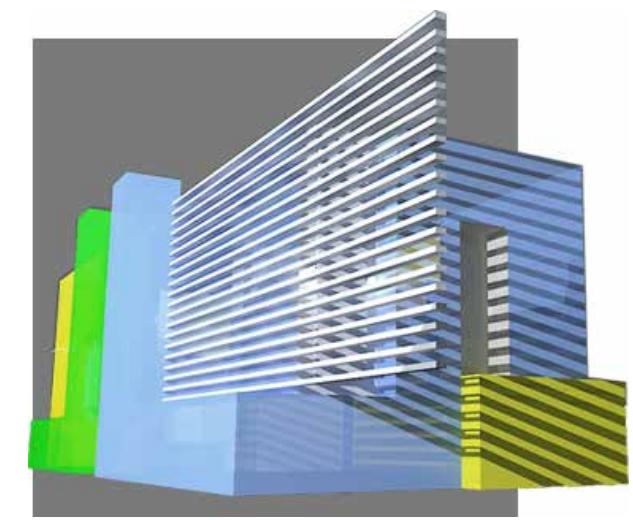
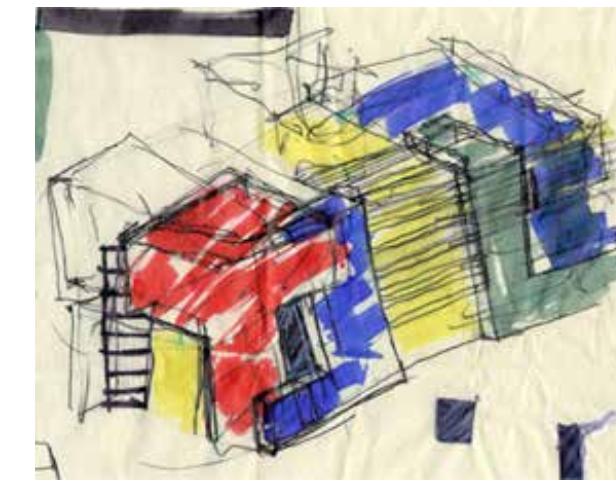
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## DESIGN PROCESS



# URBAN INFILL

**Champaign, IL**

Arch 374: Architectural Design and the City, Spring 2008  
Professor Carl Lewis

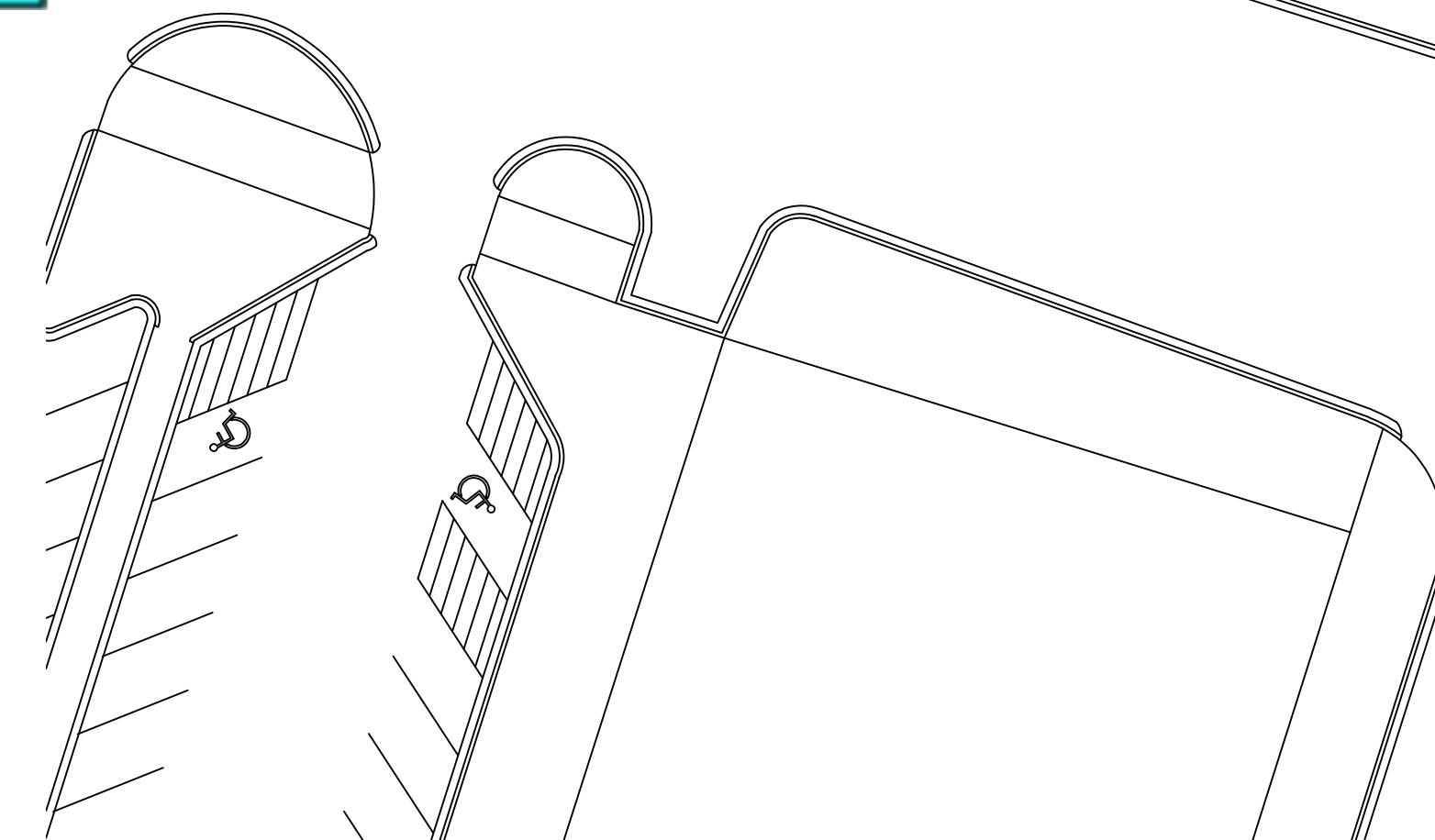
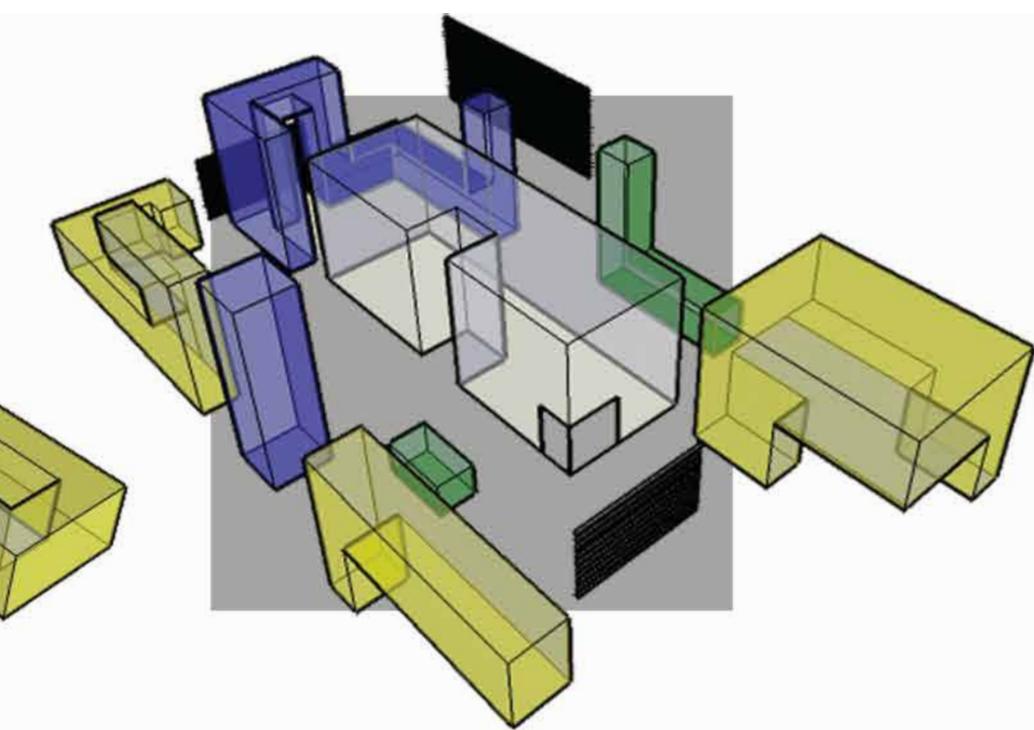
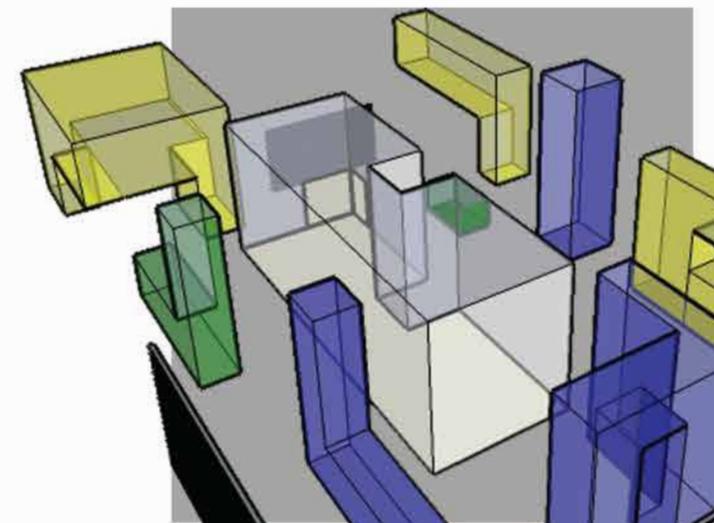
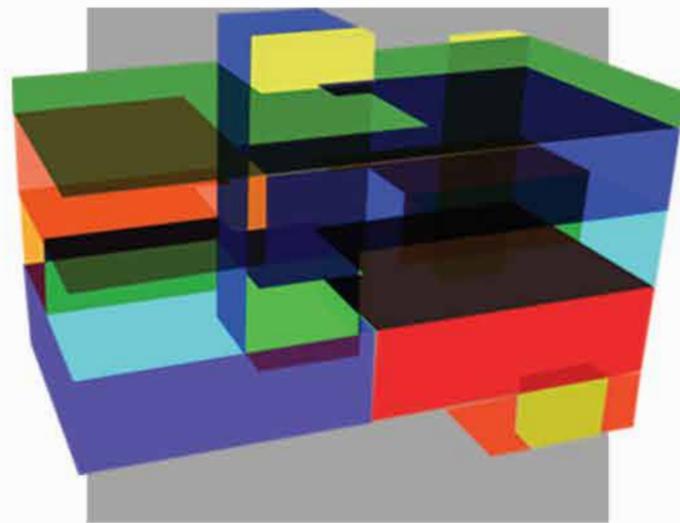
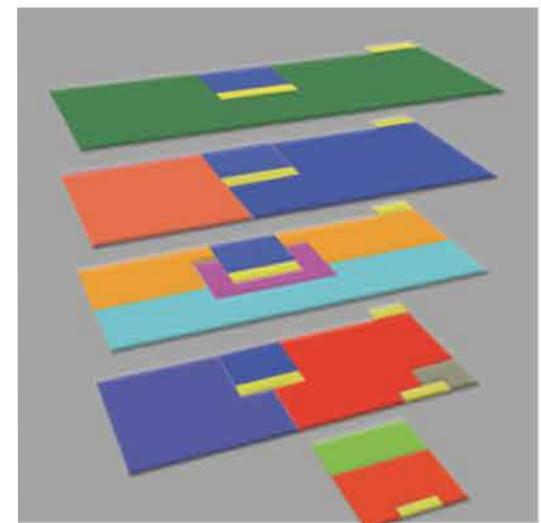
The design for the urban infill project in downtown Champaign is based on a part-whole notion. The building's mission will be to create an inviting and comfortable space while at the same time adding to the beauty of the area. The building is contemporary in design, celebrating the resurgence of the downtown area. It is made up of different individual parts which come together to form a single entity. The pieces fit together like Tetris parts.

It is a part of a whole; an unconventional single building that is a part of Champaign's scenery.

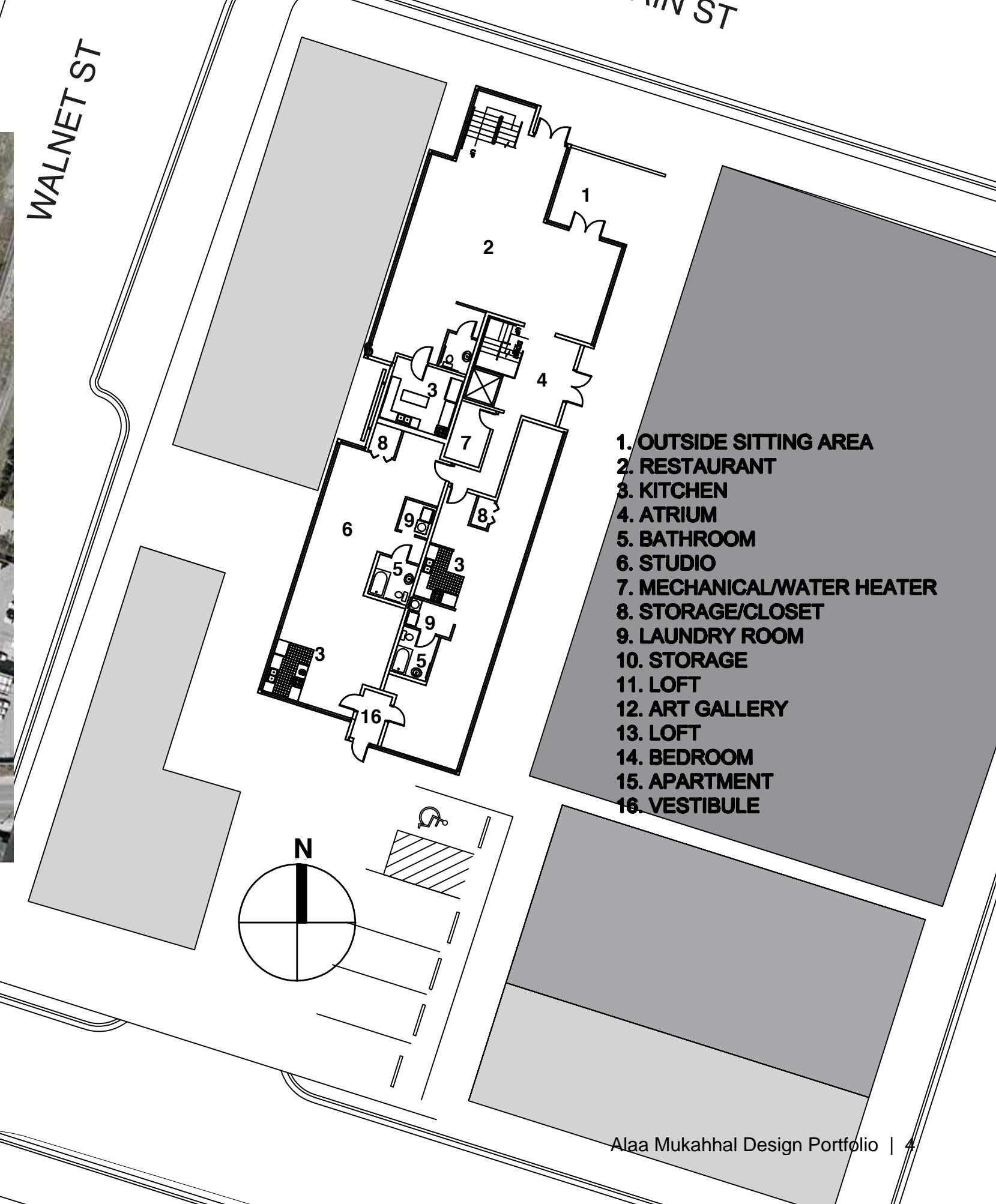
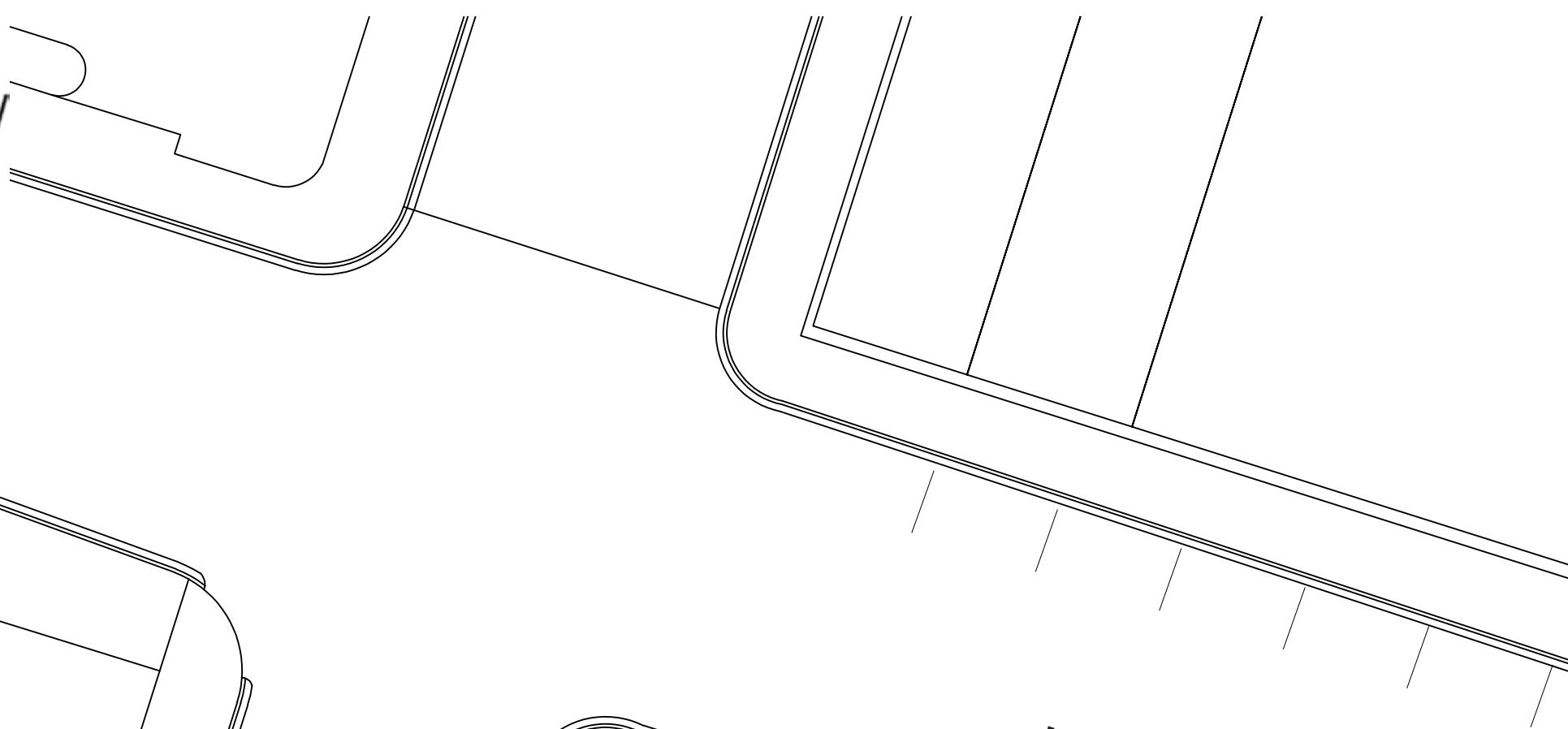
The design and concept for the building was inspired by Zaha Hadid's Contemporary Arts Center in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Completed for a third year undergraduate studio, the project spanned three weeks and focused on form and concept development.

## URBAN INFILL DIAGRAMS



Site Plan, Champaign, IL



# EACH AND ALL

## Reconnective Play Center in Richmond, VA

Arch 401: Independent Study, Spring 2009

Project Designers: Alaa Mukahhal, Daniel Ramos, Amy Kuo, Jon Reyes

The 2009 Green Spaces Competition was a "Play Space" challenge to design a sustainable outdoor play space that will serve as a cultural, environmental, and economic amenity for the surrounding neighborhood as well as a teaching tool to educate children and adults about their environment. The program calls for an adult space, a children's space, a community space, and an environmental space. The spaces are integrated with each other and the overall park space.

The project site covers 10.42 acres and is located in the City of Richmond's East End, Virginia, and is a brownfield site owned by the City at the former Fulton Gas Works. Once a vital part of Richmond's economy, it has become an empty, forgotten hole in the community. In order to revive the industrial site without taking away from its industrial integrity, it must be reconnected to the community in a way that preserves parts that tell the community's and industry's story. My contribution to the project involved concept development, the form of the final design, and final renderings of the final

project. After analyzing the site, demographics, and history of the area, we choose to transform the site into a community center, park and educational center. Understanding that the contaminated piece of the site will take years and possibly decades to clean, reclaim, and revitalize completely, we designed an area around it to engage the community in its rehabilitative process. This project was a defining moment that influenced my decision to apply to MIT.

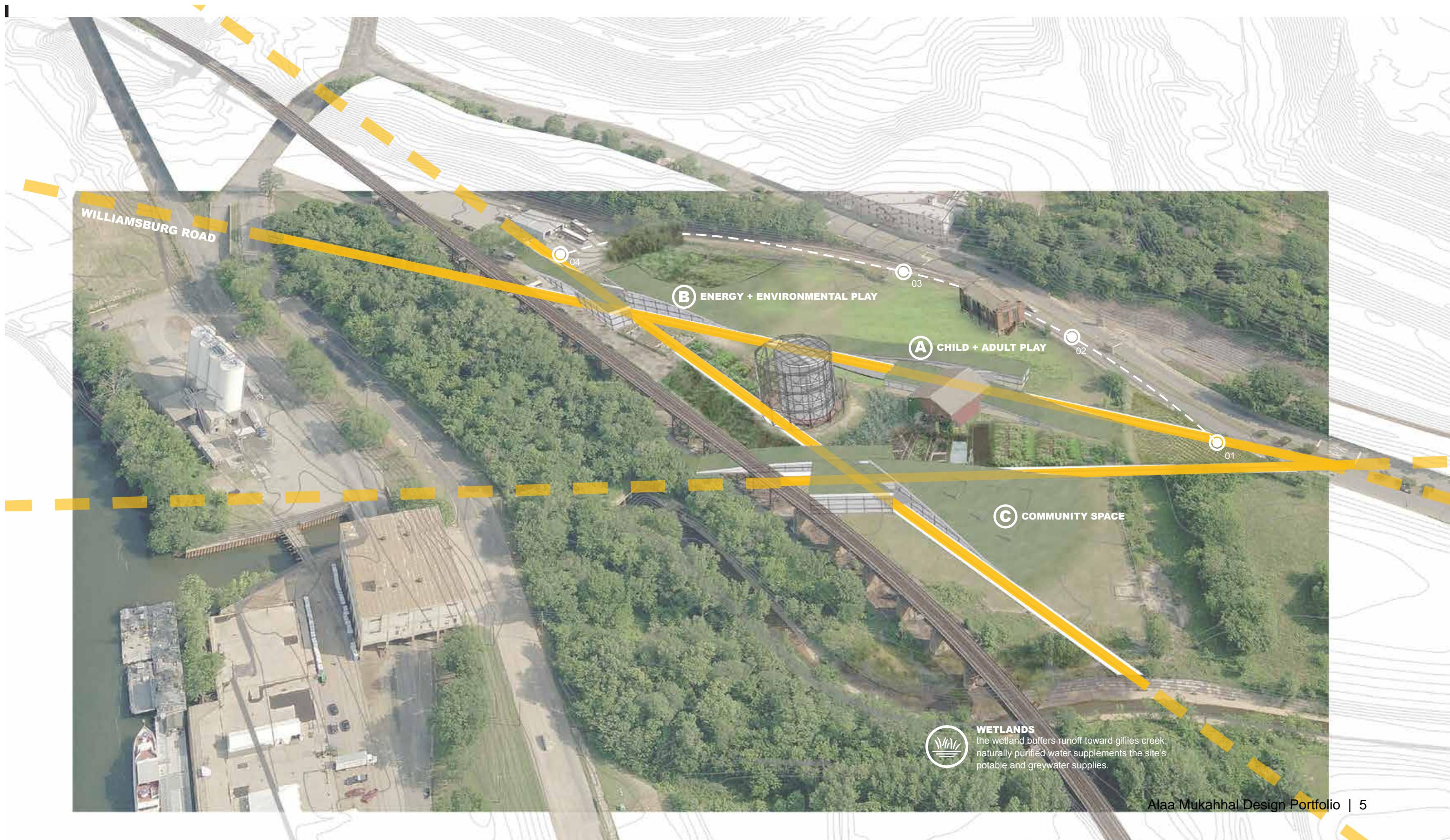
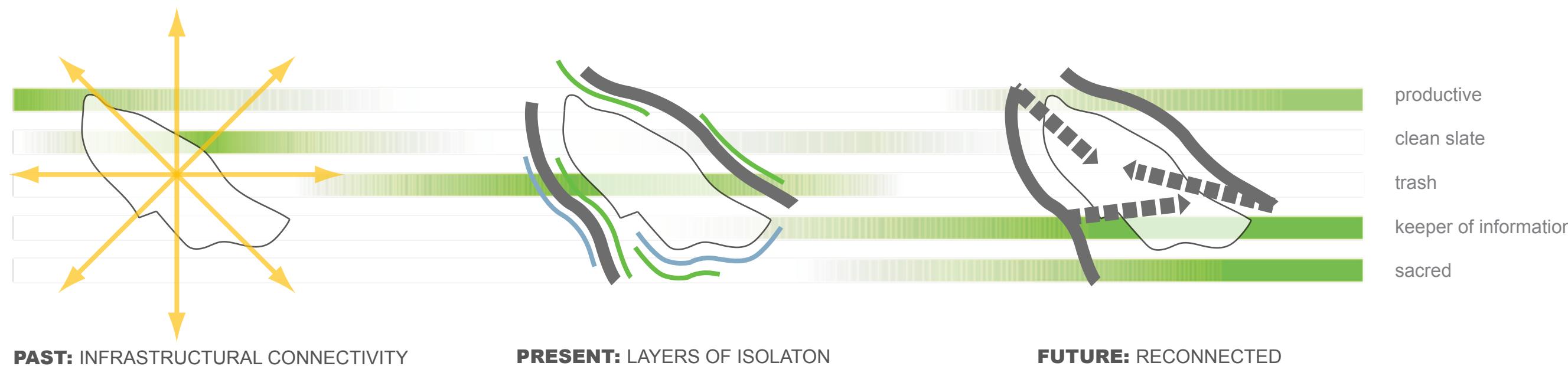
The design concept focused on the *Past*, *Present*, and *Future* of the site:

**PAST:** After clearing the land, the emergence of the productive Fulton Gas Works socially and economically tied the site to the community.

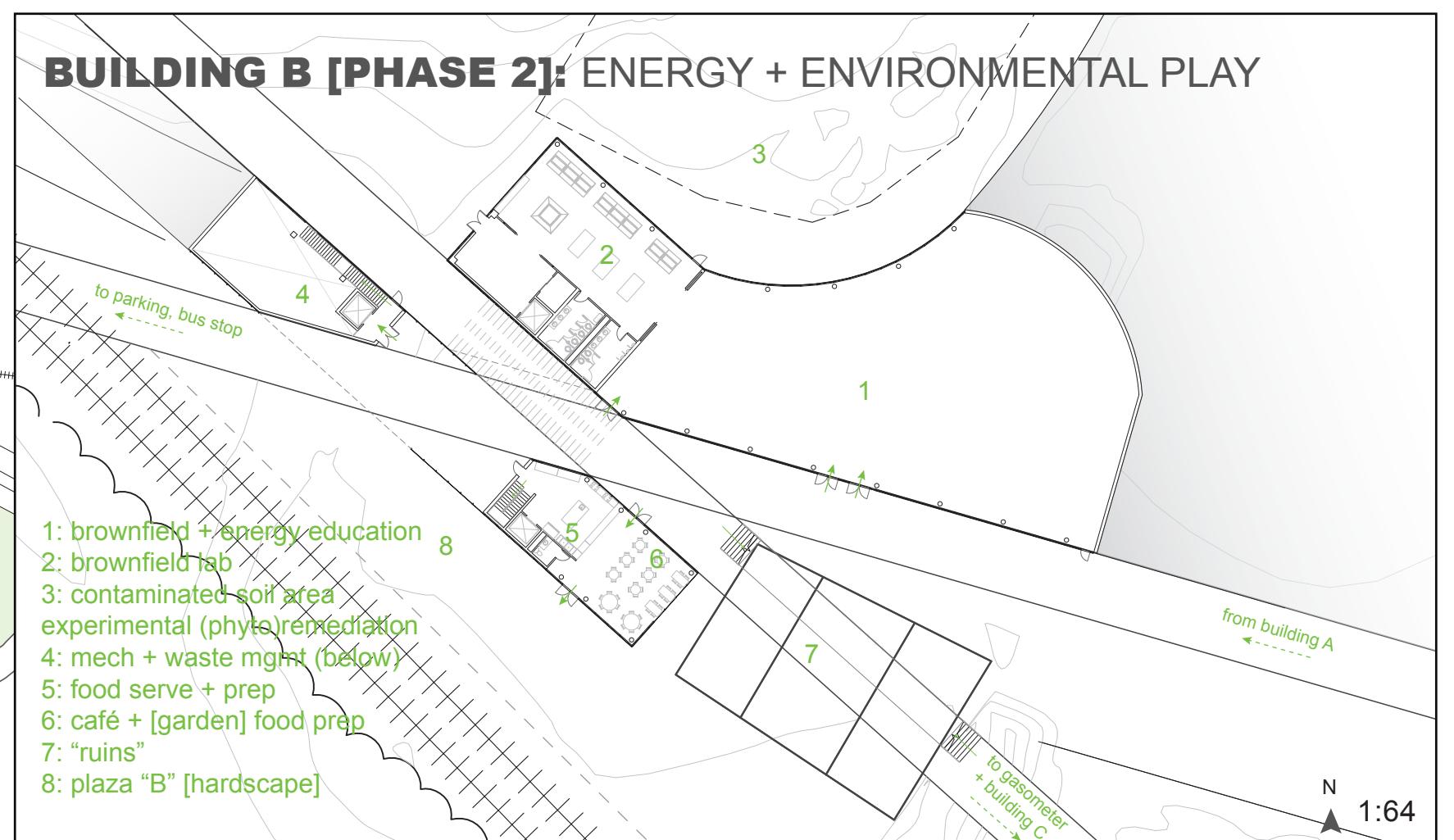
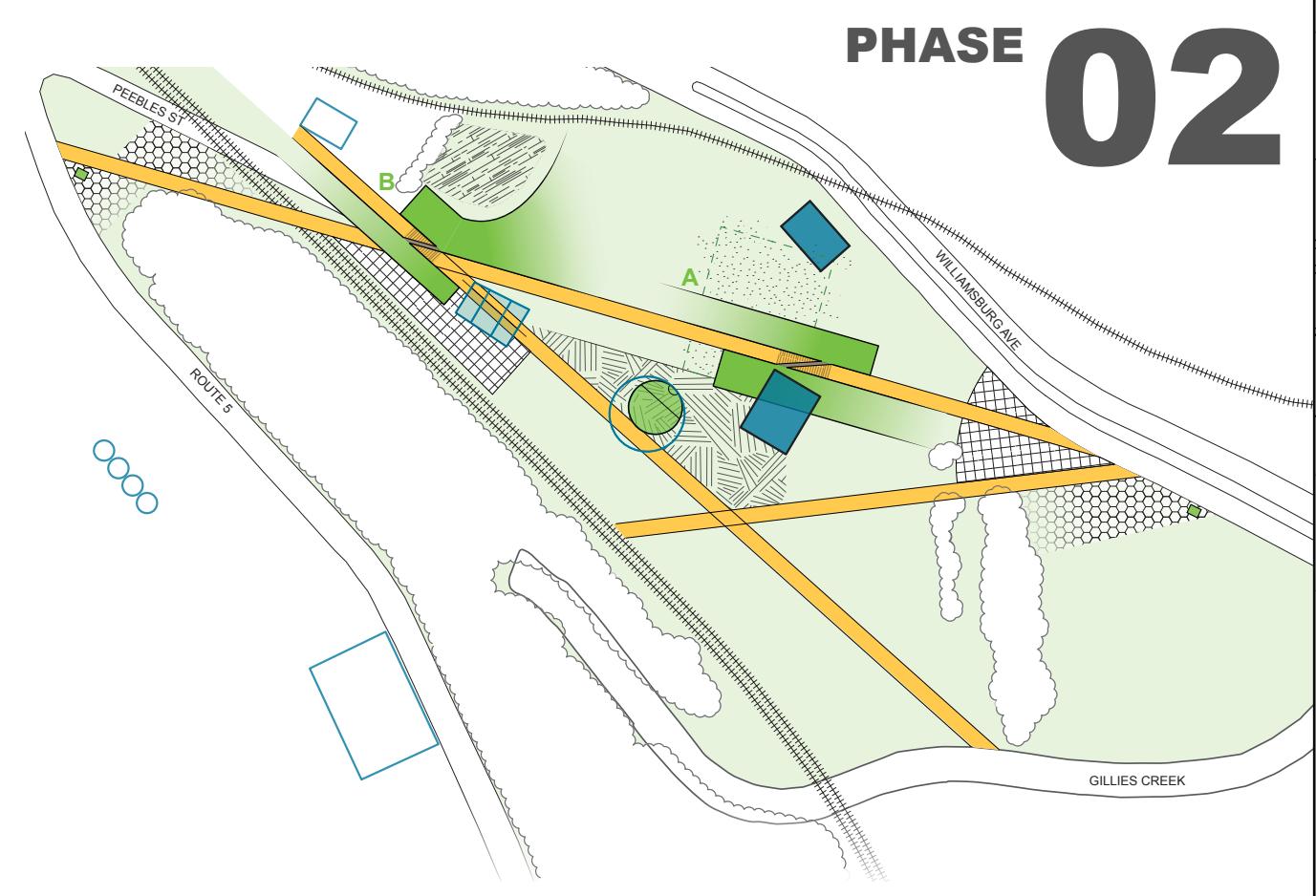
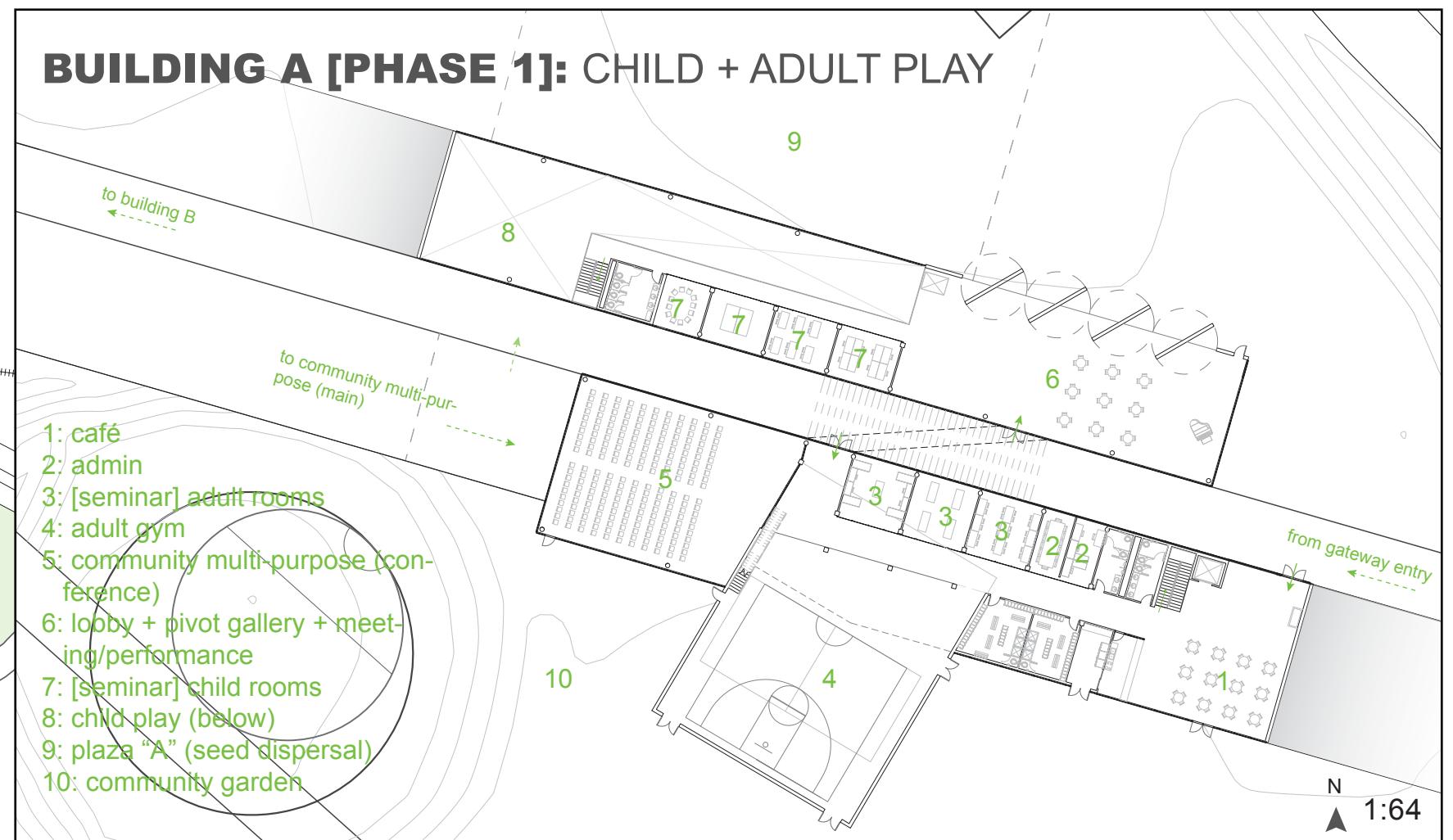
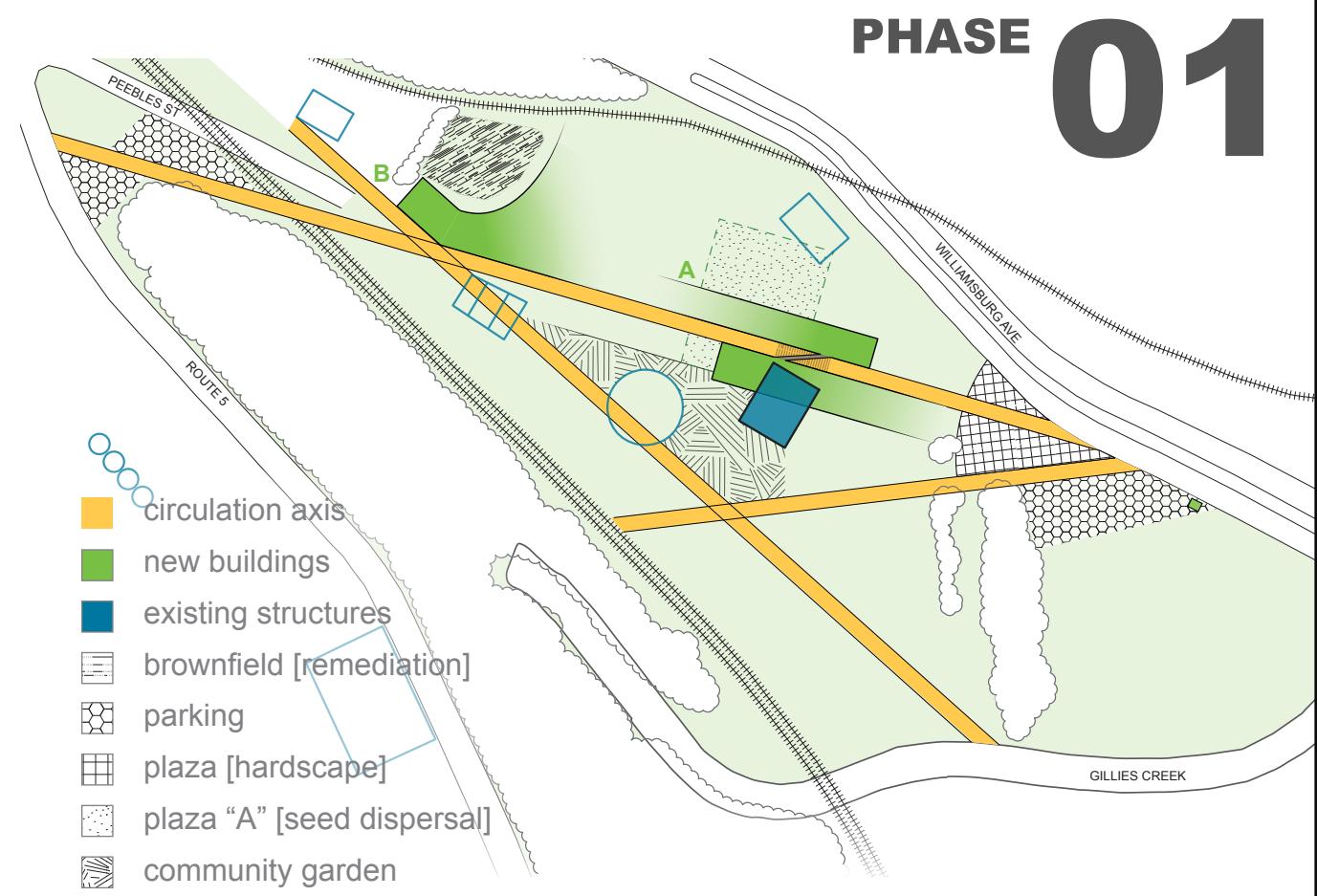
**PRESENT:** Exploitation results in land dismissed as trash. Following the gas work's obsolescence, decay occurs in isolation as infrastructure and natural elements flow past the

site.

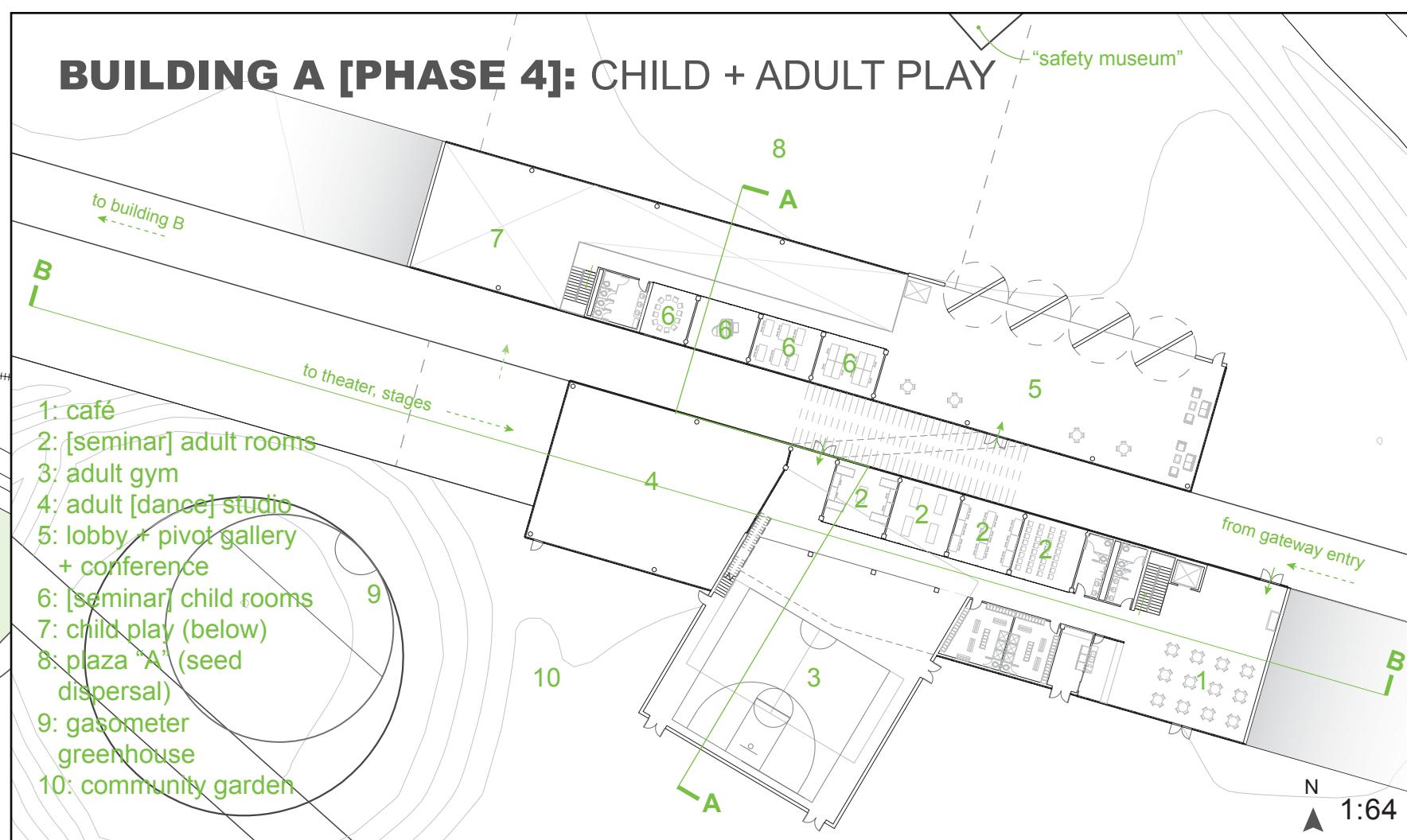
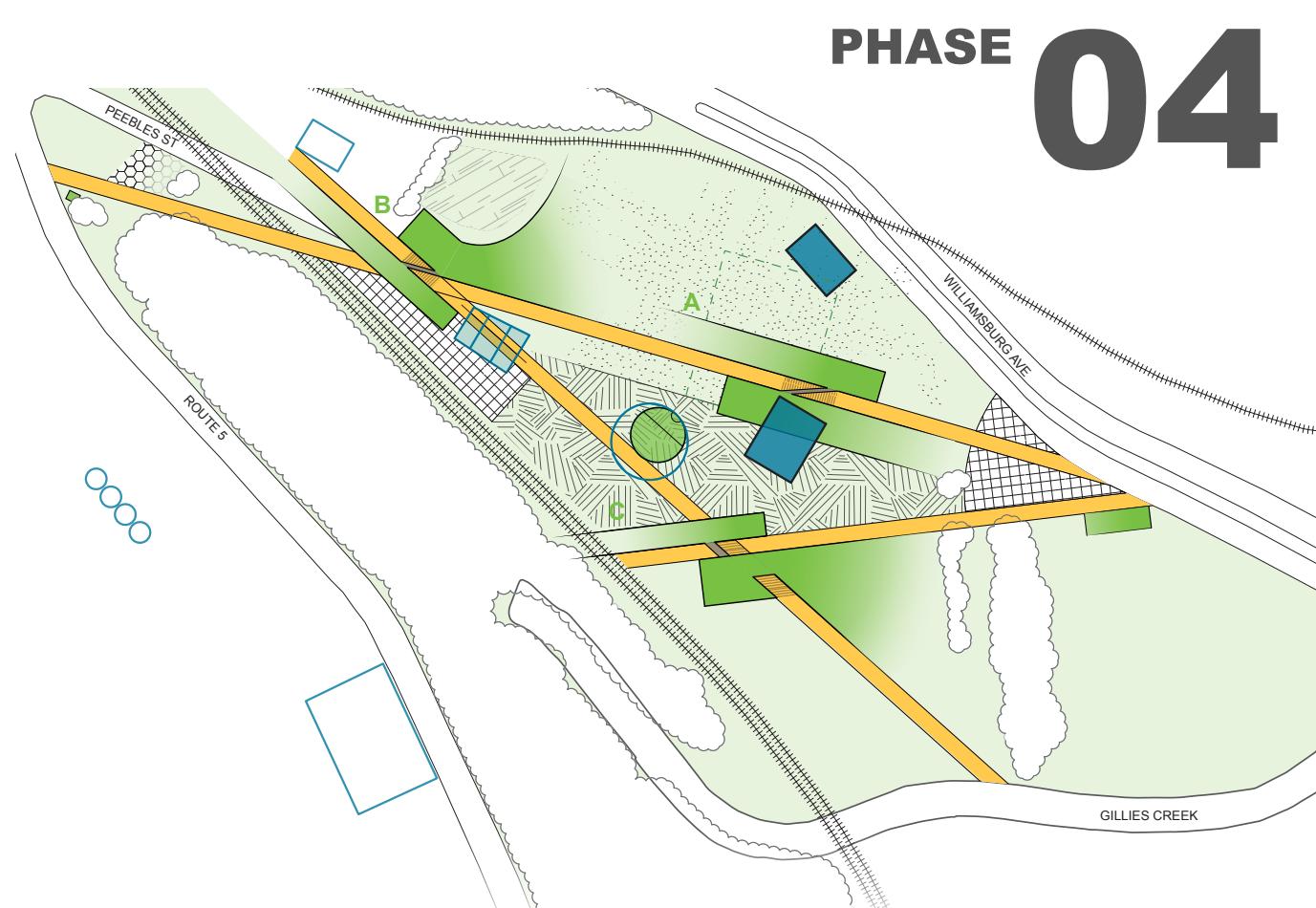
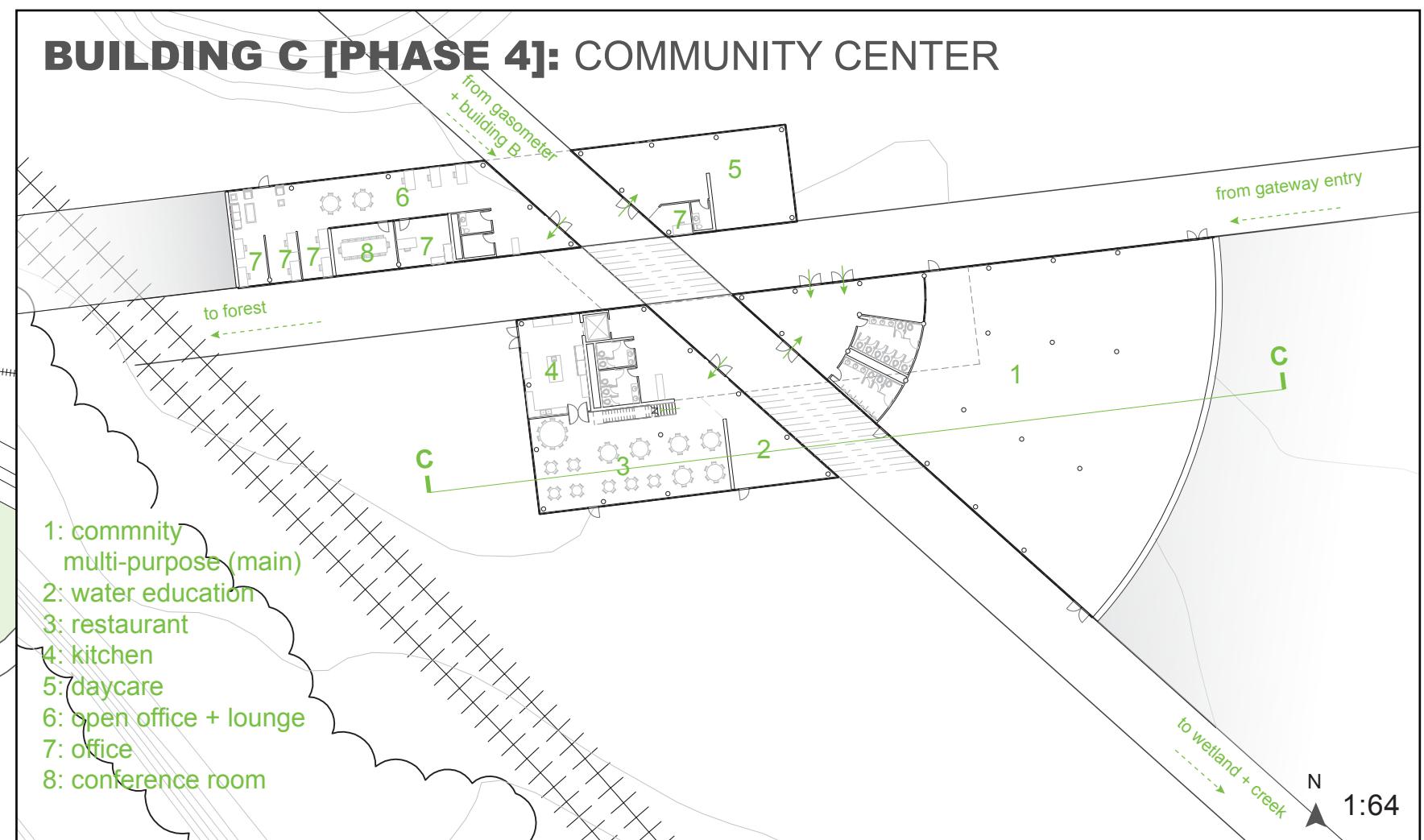
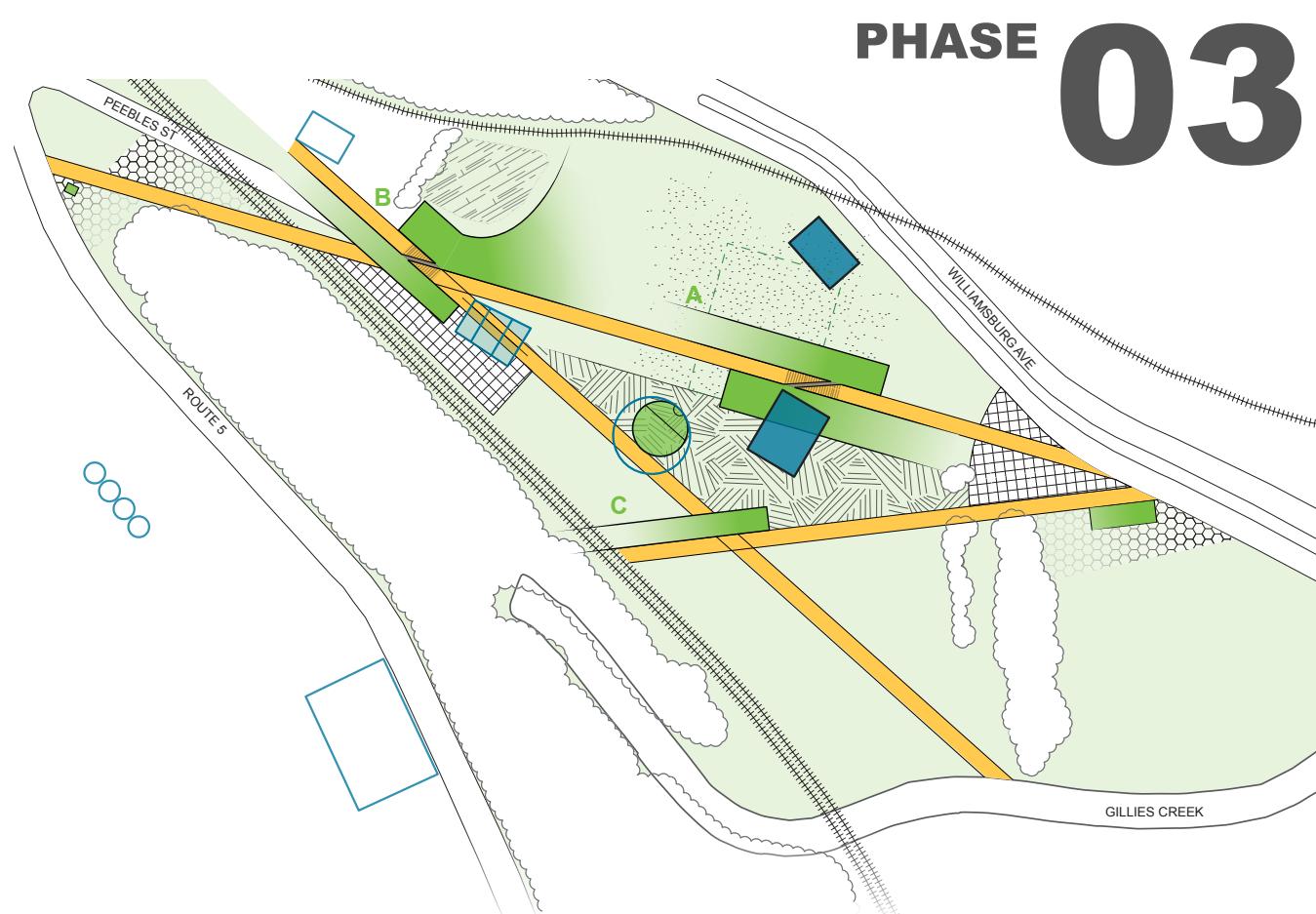
**FUTURE:** Redirecting flows into the site revitalizes the former gas works. Transportation inflows transition into the primary pedestrian circulation routes, which establish physical and visual continuity to the city while retaining the site's innate isolation. These axes create a formal framework around which land and program spaces interact. Phased development provides necessary program spaces that grow and expand with the elements of the design, which incorporates the memory of the industrial past as well as environmental features and education. Reconnecting the land to the community creates a productive space that, as in Emerson's "Each and All," emphasizes context: its image will evolve over time, reflecting the changing community while preserving its history.



# EACH AND ALL DIAGRAMS, PLANS AND FINAL RENDERINGS



# EACH AND ALL DIAGRAMS, PLANS AND FINAL RENDERINGS



# COMING OUT OF THE SHADOWS

## Poster Series

2011-2012

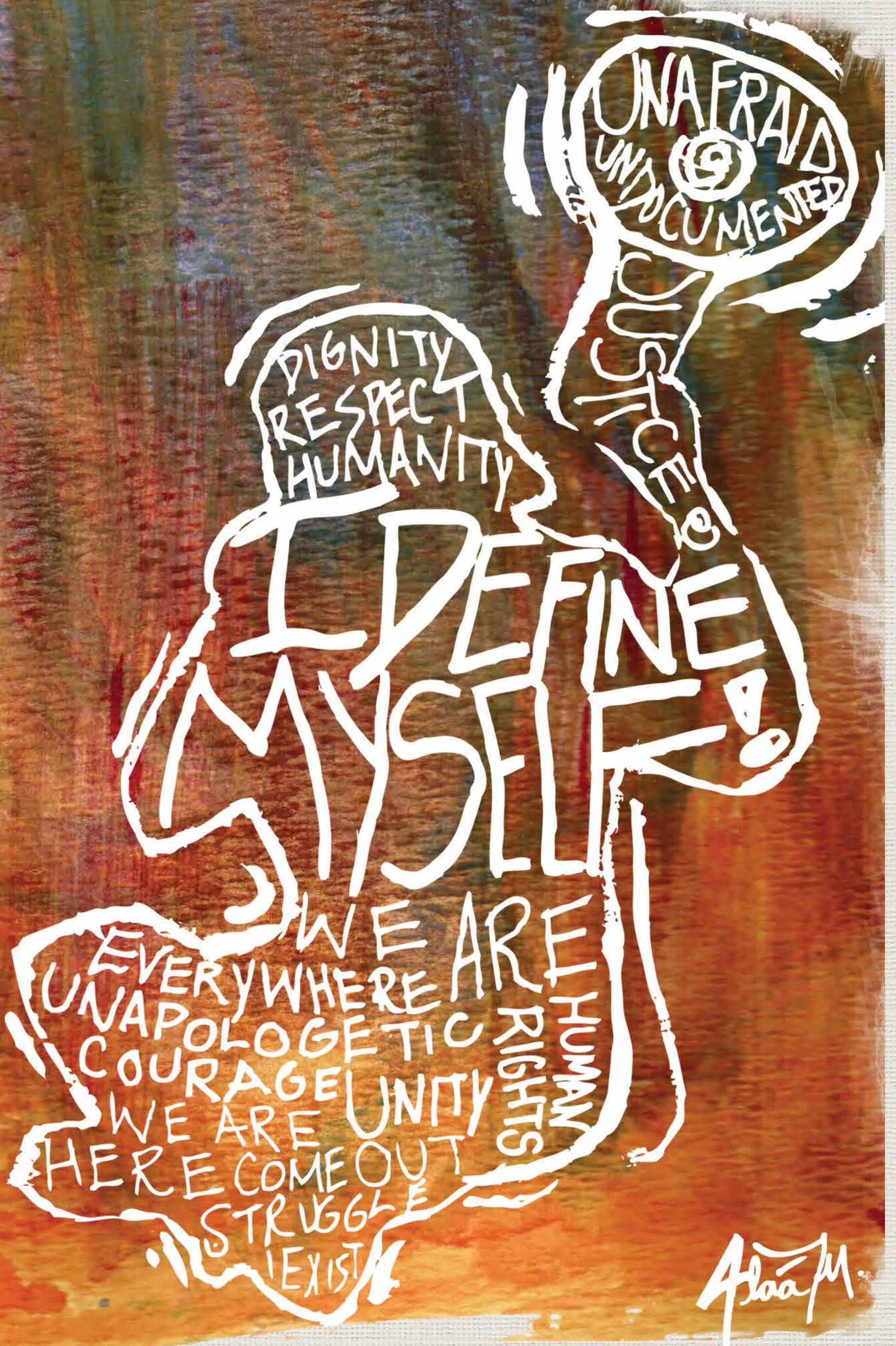
Borrowing from the gay rights movement, "Coming Out of the Shadows" Rallies were first started in 2010 by the Immigrant Youth Justice League in Chicago as a way to give undocumented people a platform to tell their stories. It was a monumental and historic moment for the immigrant rights movement. Sharing undocumented stories publicly was meant to be used as political tool to challenge narratives on who is a "deserving immigrant" and to empower those most affected by the immigration issue to tell their own stories. The rallies became an annual event held in many cities from New York to Los Angeles and part of "Coming Out of the Shadows" Week in March. In 2011 and 2012 I helped organize these rallies and craft their messaging and communications. The following pages show the posters I designed for the events

# UNDOCUMENTED UNAFRAID UNAPOLOGETIC RALLY

## DALEY PLAZA | 118 N. Clark St., CHICAGO | 3:00 PM

**WWW.IYJL.ORG**

**UNDOCUMENTED  
DOING UNAPOLOGETIC  
COMING OUT OF THE SHADOWS RALLY**

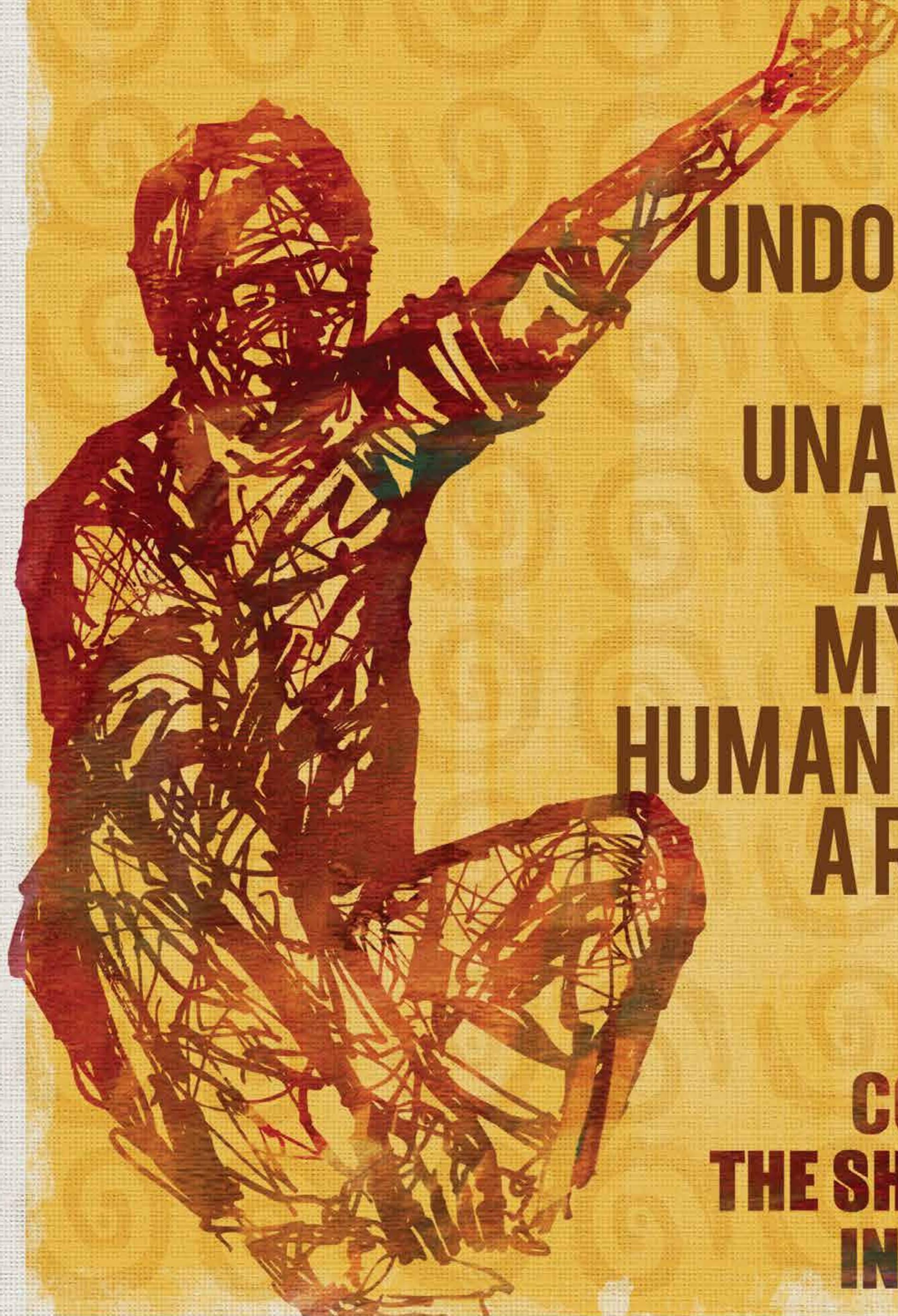


**MARCH  
10, 2012**

**DALEY PLAZA, CHICAGO  
118 N. CLARK ST  
1:00 PM MUSIC GATHERING  
2:00 PM COMING OUT OF THE SHADOWS**

**VISIT [WWW.IYJL.ORG](http://WWW.IYJL.ORG) FOR MORE INFO**

**WE ARE EVERYWHERE. WE ARE HERE.**



**I AM  
UNDOCUMENTED  
UNAFRAID  
UNAPOLOGETIC  
AND I DEFINE  
MYSELF. I AM  
HUMAN AND I HAVE  
A RIGHT TO BE  
HAPPY.**

**COMING OUT OF  
THE SHADOWS RALLY  
IN THE SUBURBS**

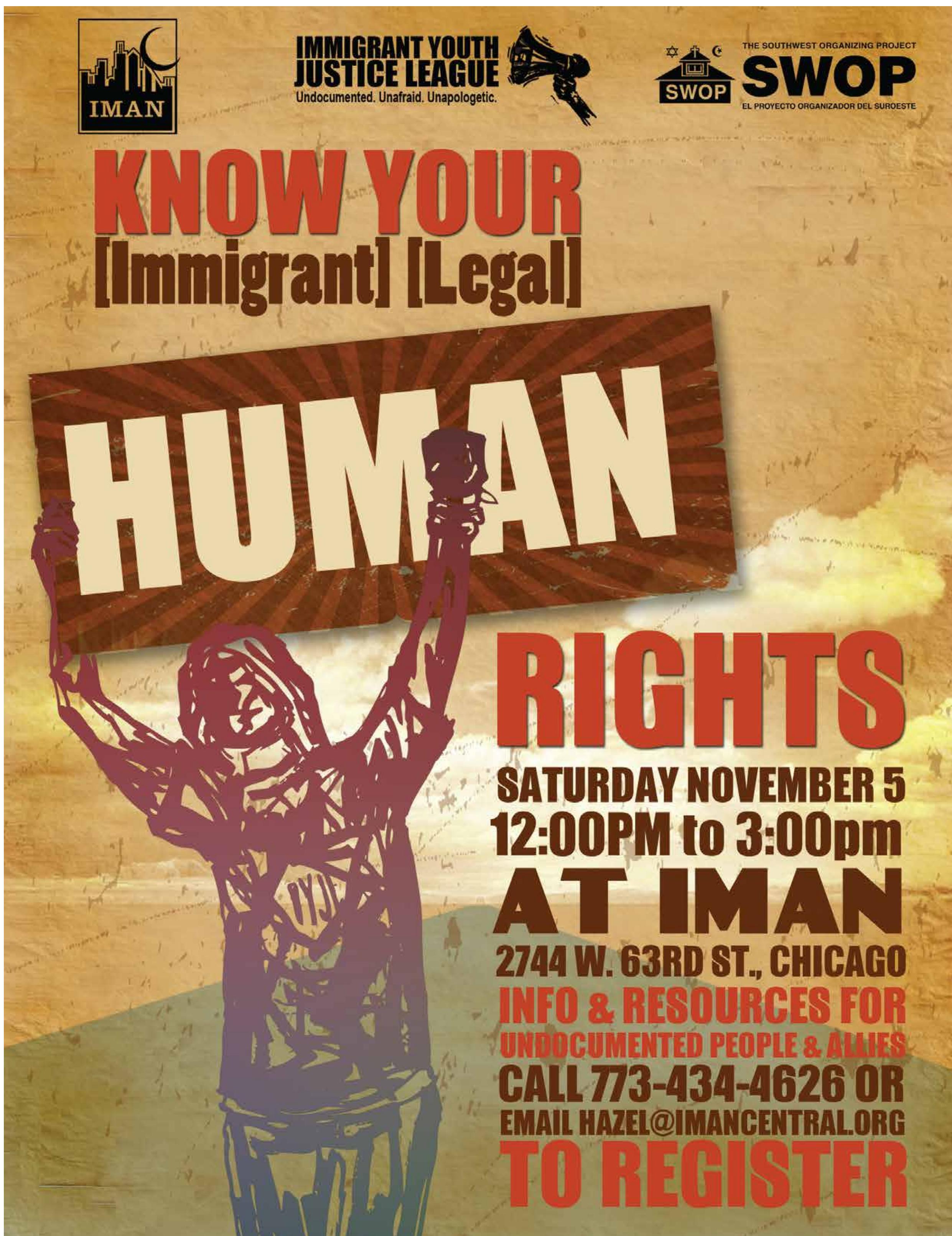
**MARCH 16, 2012 WHEATON, IL 60187**  
505 COUNTY FARM ROAD, BLDG 505  
**4:00 PM GATHERING**  
4:30 PM COMING OUT OF THE SHADOWS  
**VISIT [WWW.IYJL.ORG](http://WWW.IYJL.ORG) FOR MORE INFO**

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WORKSHOP

Poster

2011

I designed the poster for one of the first workshops I organized and led on deportations and immigrant rights. It was co-sponsored by the Immigrant Youth Justice League, Southwest Organizing Project Chicago and the Inner City Muslim Action Network.



# KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER

Poster

2012

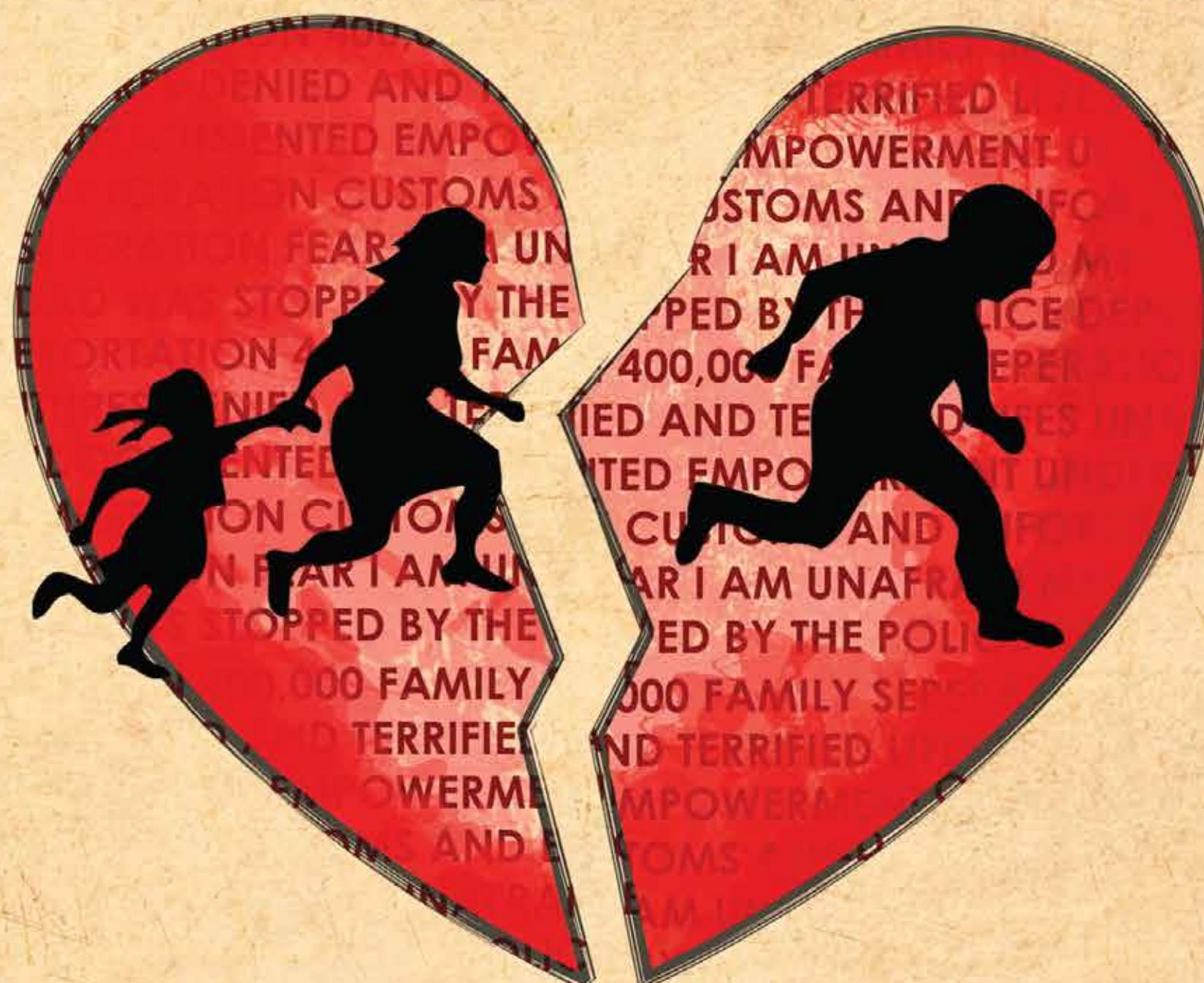
After a difficult and long Get Out the vote Campaign in 2012, the national network of immigrant rights organizations decided to hold a national vigil on Election Night. The purpose was to immediately hold the winner of Election Night's presidency accountable for deportations and begin immediately to apply pressure

on the President and Congress to keep families together and pass immigration reform.

## KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER RALLIES CELEBRATING THE POWER OF OUR VOTE NOW IS THE TIME FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM!

CHICAGO, BOSTON, WASHINGTON D.C., & 14 OTHER CITIES

Over the last 4 years over 1 million people have been deported, destroying hundreds of thousands of families. We have mobilized our voters, and now we celebrate and expect both political parties to work for immigration reform that keeps our families together!



JOIN US FOR THE CHICAGO MARCH AND RALLY OUTSIDE  
OF THE OBAMA ELECTION NIGHT PARTY,  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2012



7-8PM

PARTY AT CHINESE AMERICAN  
SERVICE LEAGUE  
**2141 S. TAN COURT**  
1 BLOCK NORTH OF CERMACK & ARCHER

8-8:30PM

MARCH TO  
**2333 S KING DR**

8:30-11PM

VIGIL AT MCCORMICK PLACE  
**2333 S KING DR**

FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR FOR MORE INFO EMAIL CARRIE FOX AT [CFOX@ICIRR.ORG](mailto:CFOX@ICIRR.ORG).

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