



The background of the image is a dense, abstract pattern of blue and purple leaves and branches, creating a textured and organic feel.

STEPHANIE ONUAJA
portfolio

What is the role of the arts in our community?

How can architecture strengthen a community?

Can art serve as a tool to influence our values?

How can we shape materials into artifacts?

How can we preserve our historical fabric?

How can we provide dignified housing for all?

Where does inspiration begin?

1

Kansas City Performing Arts High School
Kansas City, MO
Academic - Individual
Design Studio - Fall 2015

What is the role of the arts in our community?

To create an environment conducive for learning and creativity and to inspire the artists to grow in their fields; in the same way, to inspire the community to germinate a seed for the appreciation of the arts.

Art was of paramount importance in my education and my upbringing. In several systems of education around the world, the arts are placed on the back burner.

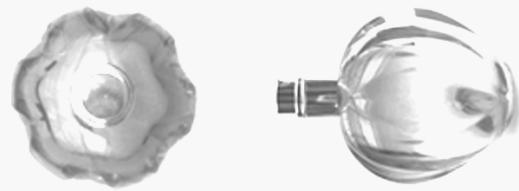
As an avenue for self-expression and an indispensable foundation for culture, art continuously tells the story of people. It speaks of the roads traveled and roads imagined, of reflection and of hope. It showcases, protests, and it celebrates. It is the mouthpiece of a community.

The design of the Kansas City Performing Arts High School aims to place artists in a realm in which they have the freedom to create and inspire art and to grow in their fields while beckoning the community to appreciate the arts for what it is.

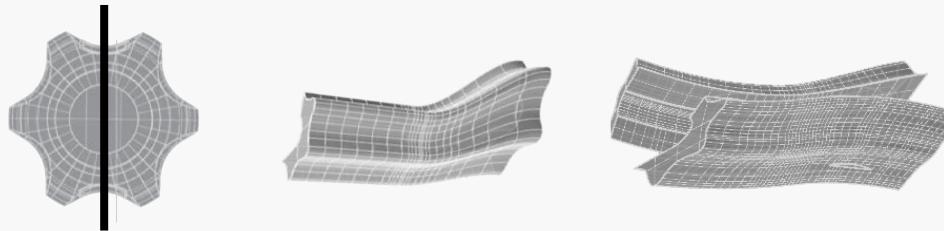


Function follows form.

An opposite approach to design was taken in this project. Instead of designing after being given a program, the focus was on creating the form, and function followed after.

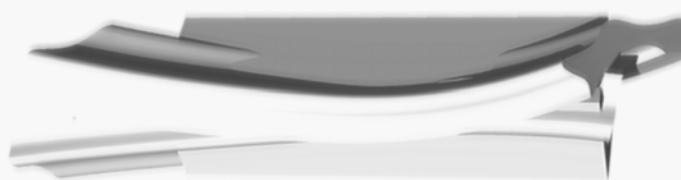


Found object

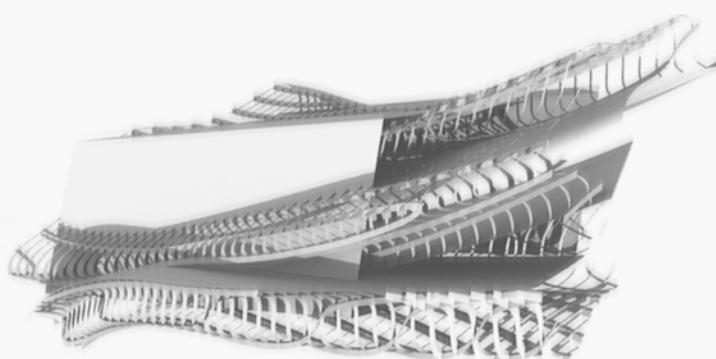


extrude / taper / mirror

After taking a cross-section of the found object's plan, the section was extruded and tapered to elongate the undulating surface of the transformed object.



Transformed object

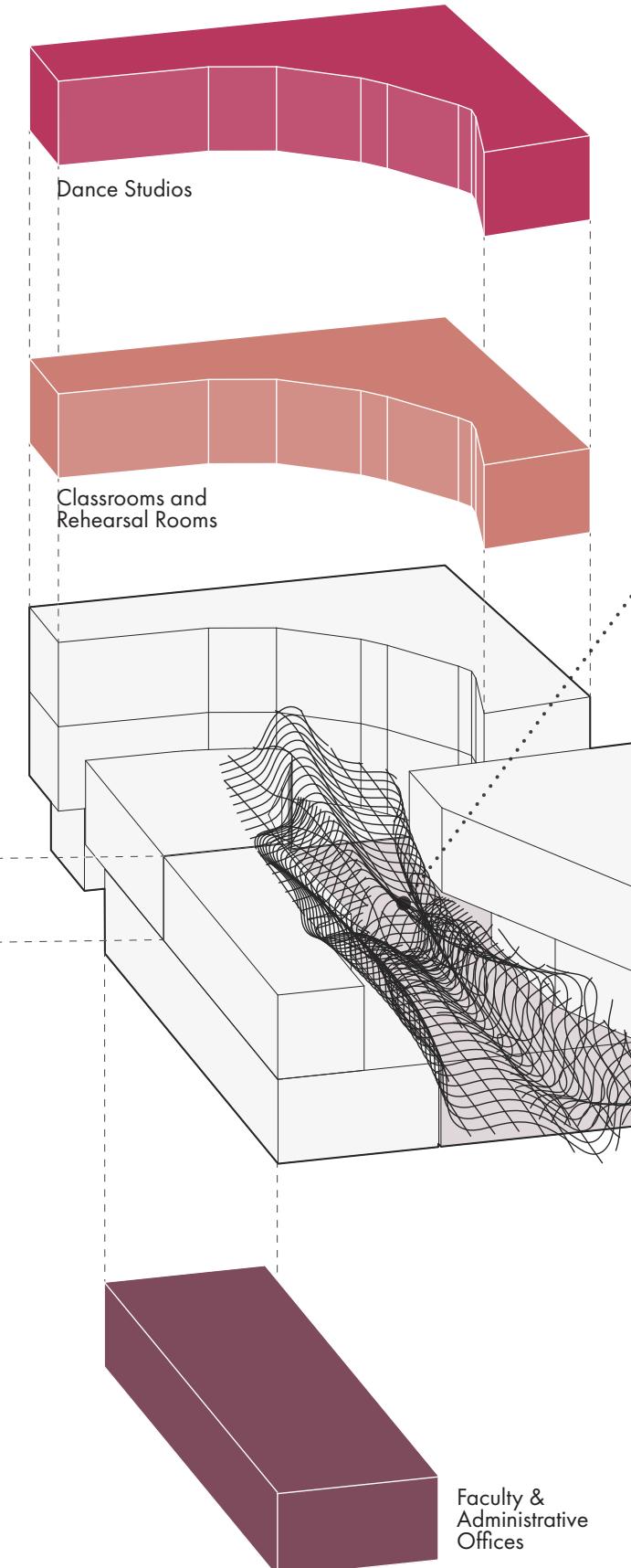


Open vs. solid masses

After the transformation, studies were carried out to determine what part of the mass should be solid and what should be open.

The **open mass** defines the **interior experience**

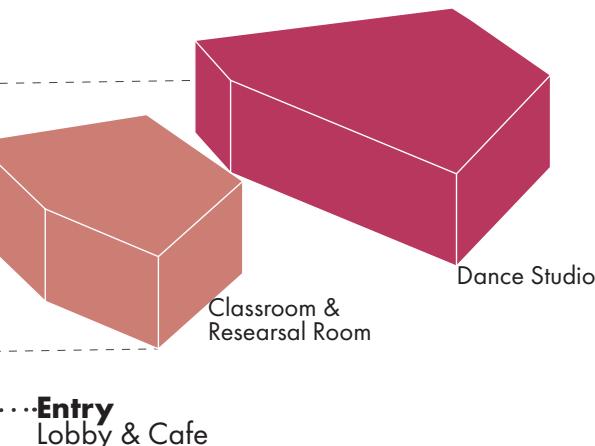
The **solid mass** defines the **programmed spaces**

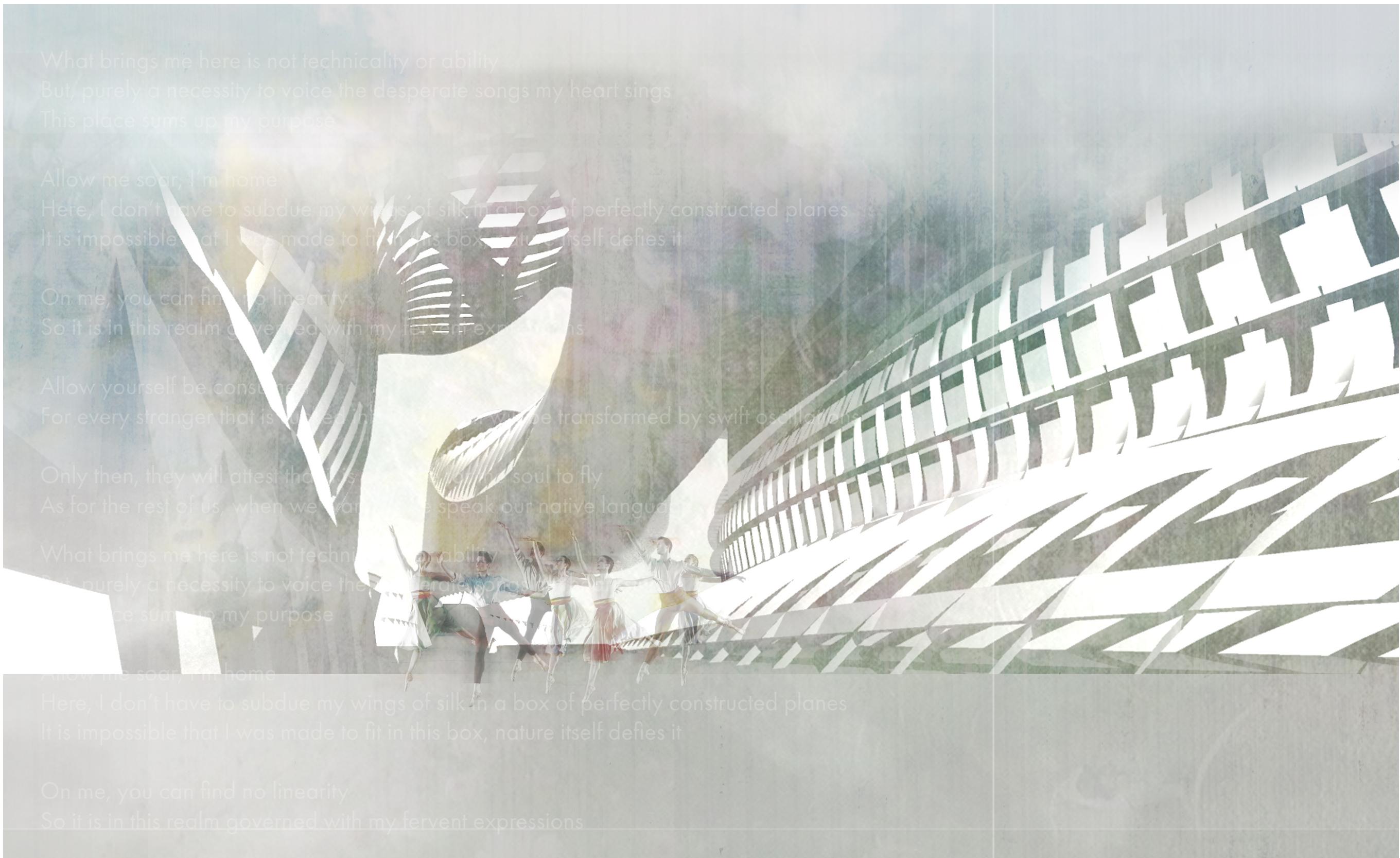


- Dance Studios
- Classrooms & Rehearsal Rooms
- Theatre Classroom
- Library
- Faculty & Administrative Offices
- Lobby & Cafe

Transformed object becomes the central interior experience

Programmed spaces surround the **sculptural spine** to frame the interior experience





As for the rest of us, when we wander we speak our native language

2

Seattle Center Master Plan
Seattle, WA
Academic - Group
Urban Design Studio - Fall 2017

How can architecture strengthen a community?

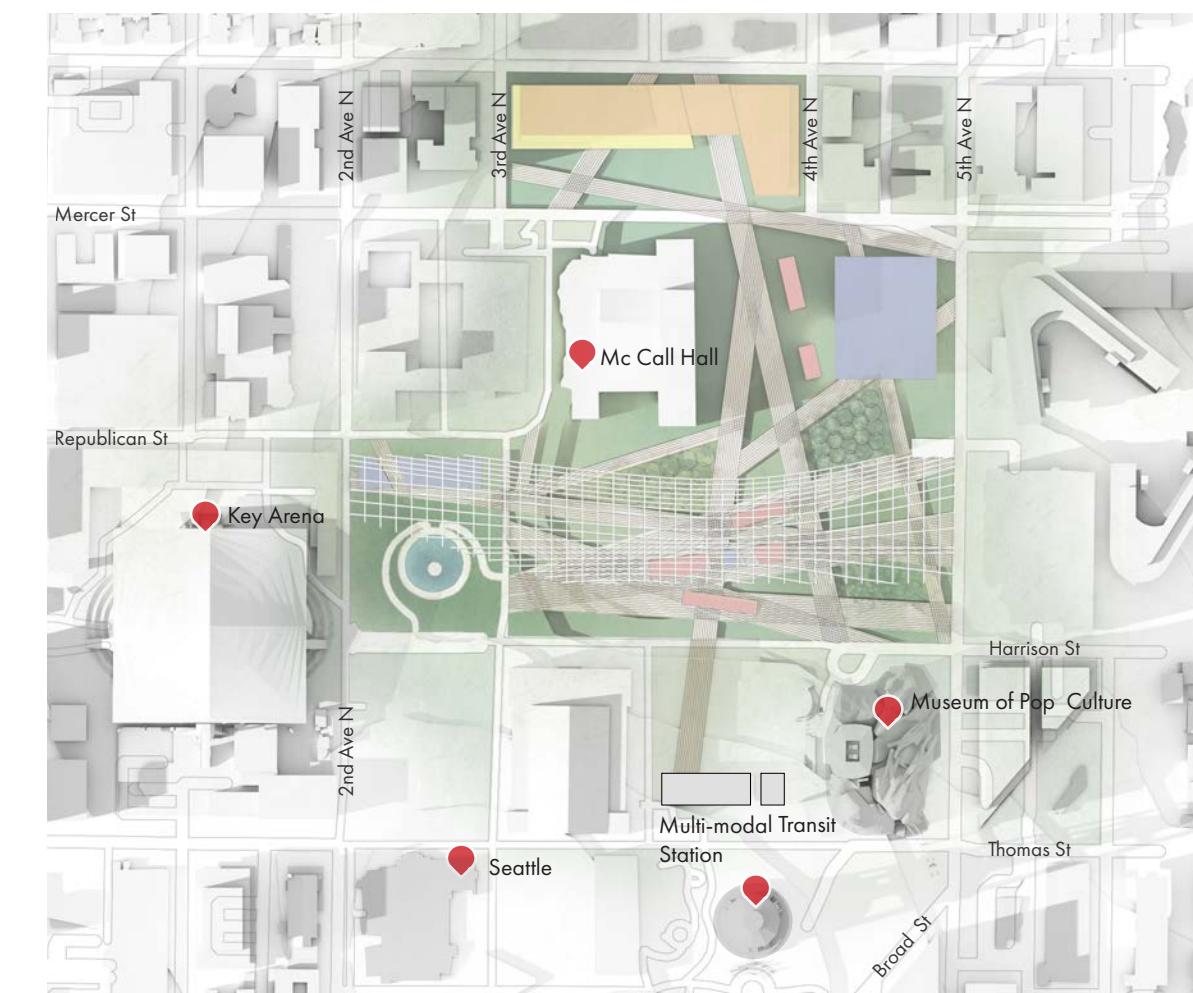
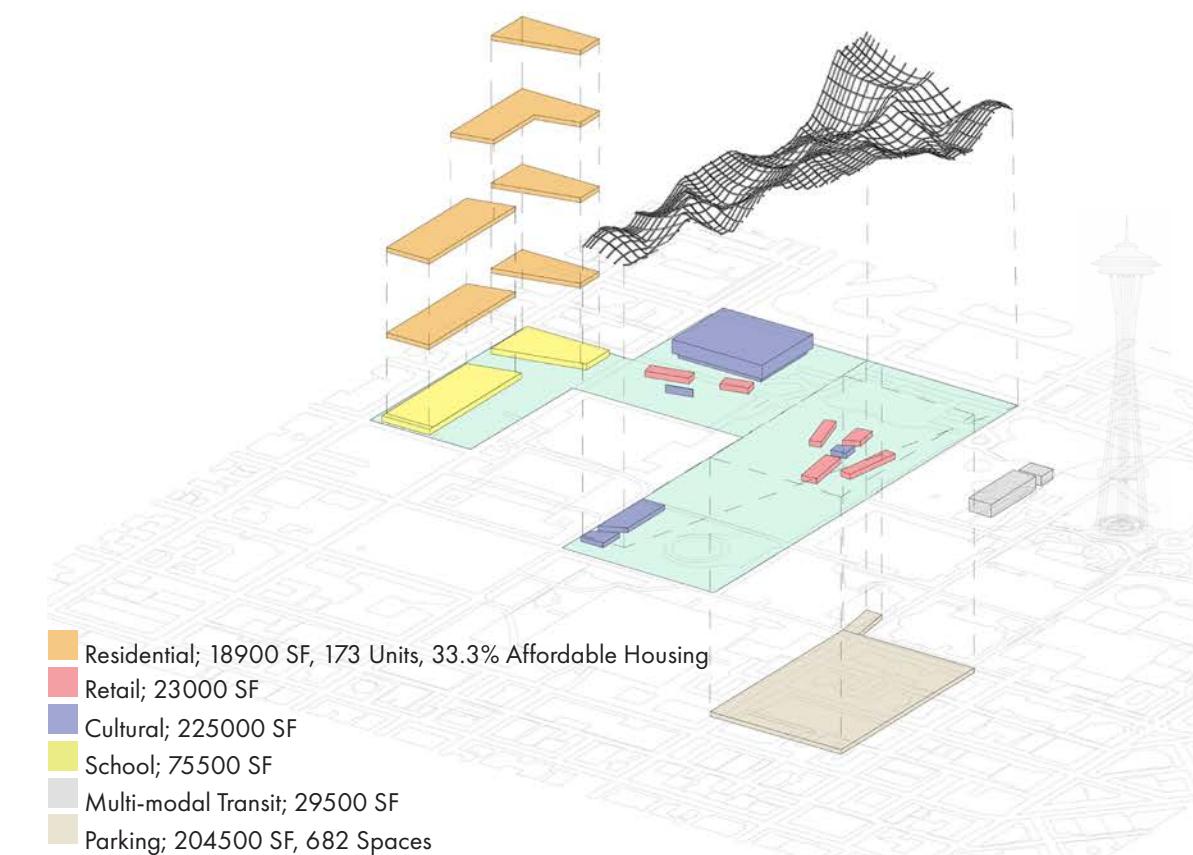
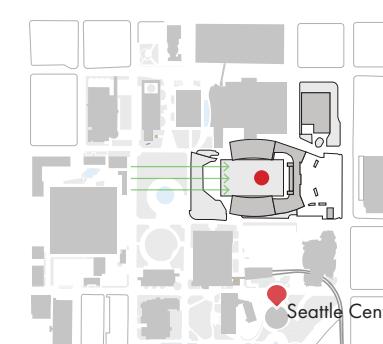
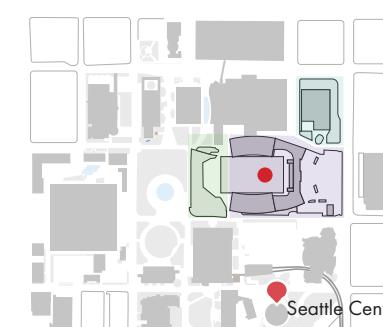
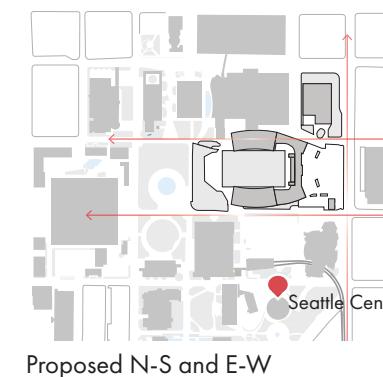
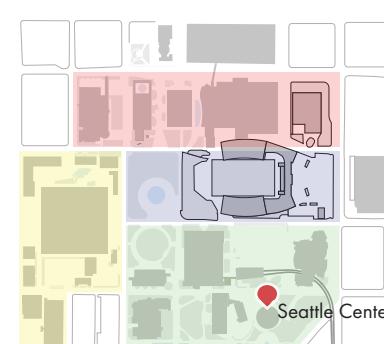
As humans, interacting with the built environment is part of our daily routine. We observed that there are spaces that are conducive for interaction and others that aren't. When we talk about public spaces, open space isn't necessarily flexible or usable. In developing a master plan for the Seattle Center, we studied the ways in which people gather.

Our proposal for redevelopment directly seeks to connect with the people of the City of Seattle and the multitude of local and Seattle-based companies and organizations that make an effort to positively impact the Seattle community.

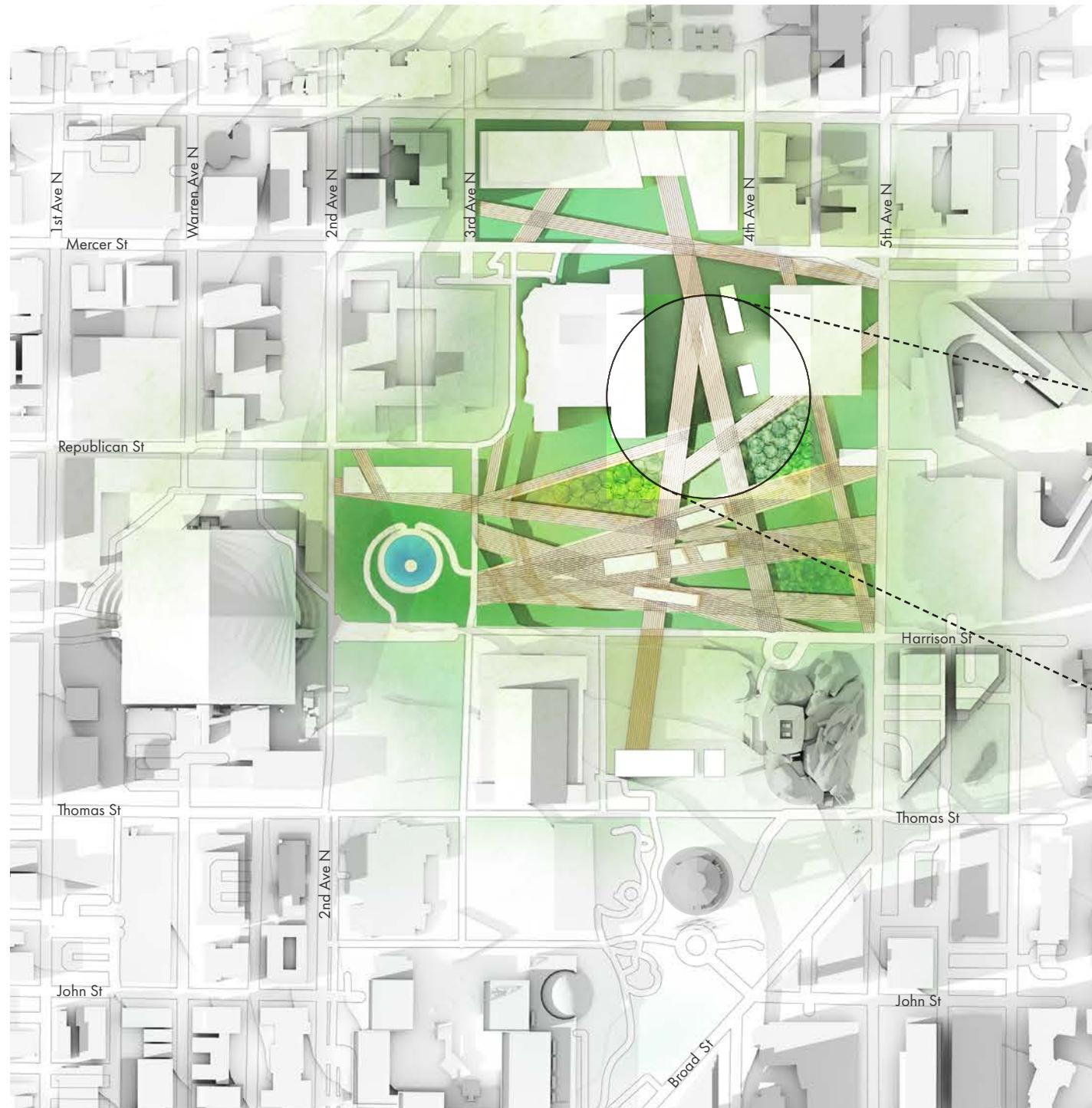
Our programmed spaces create opportunities for these entities to reach the community on an intimate level. From flexible indoor and outdoor retail spaces to structures dedicated to generating a sense of community, the improvements encourage gathering. As a design team, we understand the importance of uniting a community under one roof.

Responsible for community research, the development of the project scope and program, conceptual massing of programs and, landscape design development.

Studio Professor - Nathan Richardson
Rhino, Photoshop, Illustrator.



Architectural Site Plan



Landscape Site Plan

**Canopy**

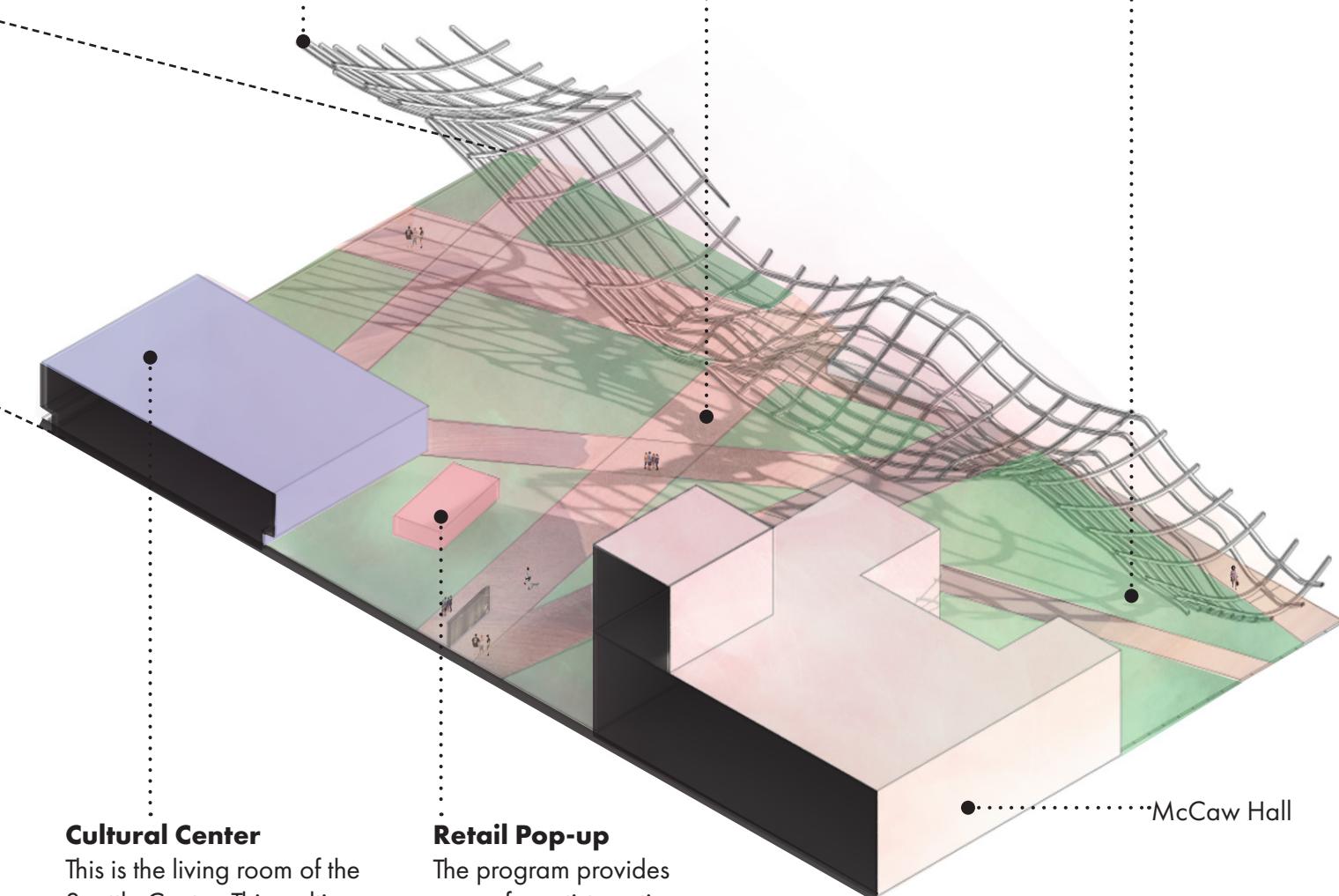
This is the architectural structure that defines the open space giving visitors variation of experiences as they move through the site without obscuring their connection to the sky.

**Connecting pathways**

Mimic the language of the canopy on the ground connecting visitors to major points on the site.

**Green space**

Between the pathways our visitors can be reconnected with nature on the ground.

**Cultural Center**

This is the living room of the Seattle Center. This multi-use space is where the community can exchange ideas, host events, and celebrate local artists will displaying their work at the center.

Retail Pop-up

The program provides space for artists, artisans, and farmers to sell their products to locals.

McCaw Hall

How do people gather?

com·mu·ni·ty

1. a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common.
2. a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, goals etc.

We studied three conditions in order to generate a powerful sense of togetherness and analyzed spaces with intimate, community, and event environments. To represent each of these types of spaces, we created spheres of varying sizes to indicate the number of people that could potentially inhabit these areas.

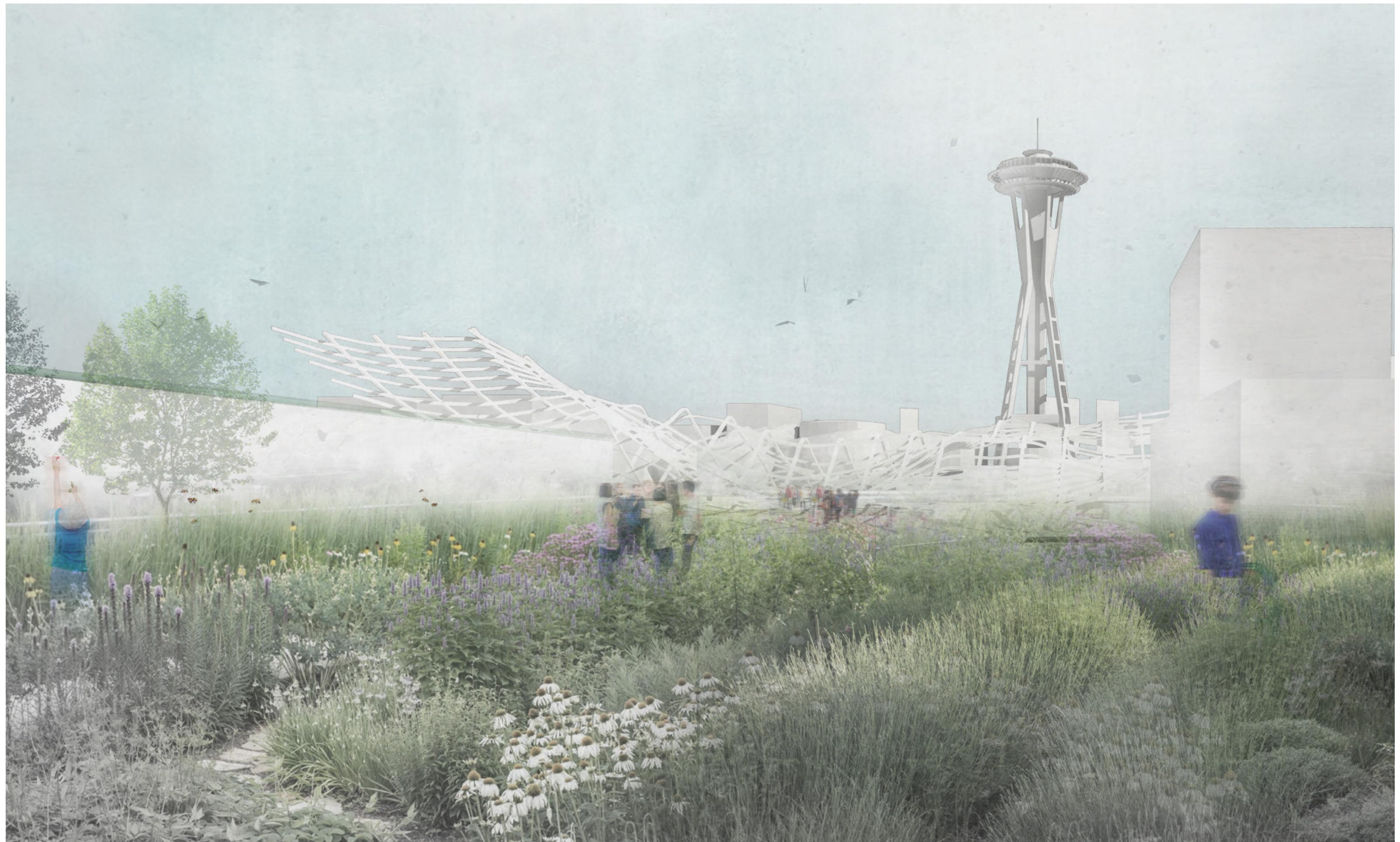
These spheres dictate the spatial qualities of these areas, creating an appropriately sized space for people to interact in at varying levels. A canopy that covers a majority of the site is created directly from the spheres and seeks to gather and connect these spaces under one roof.



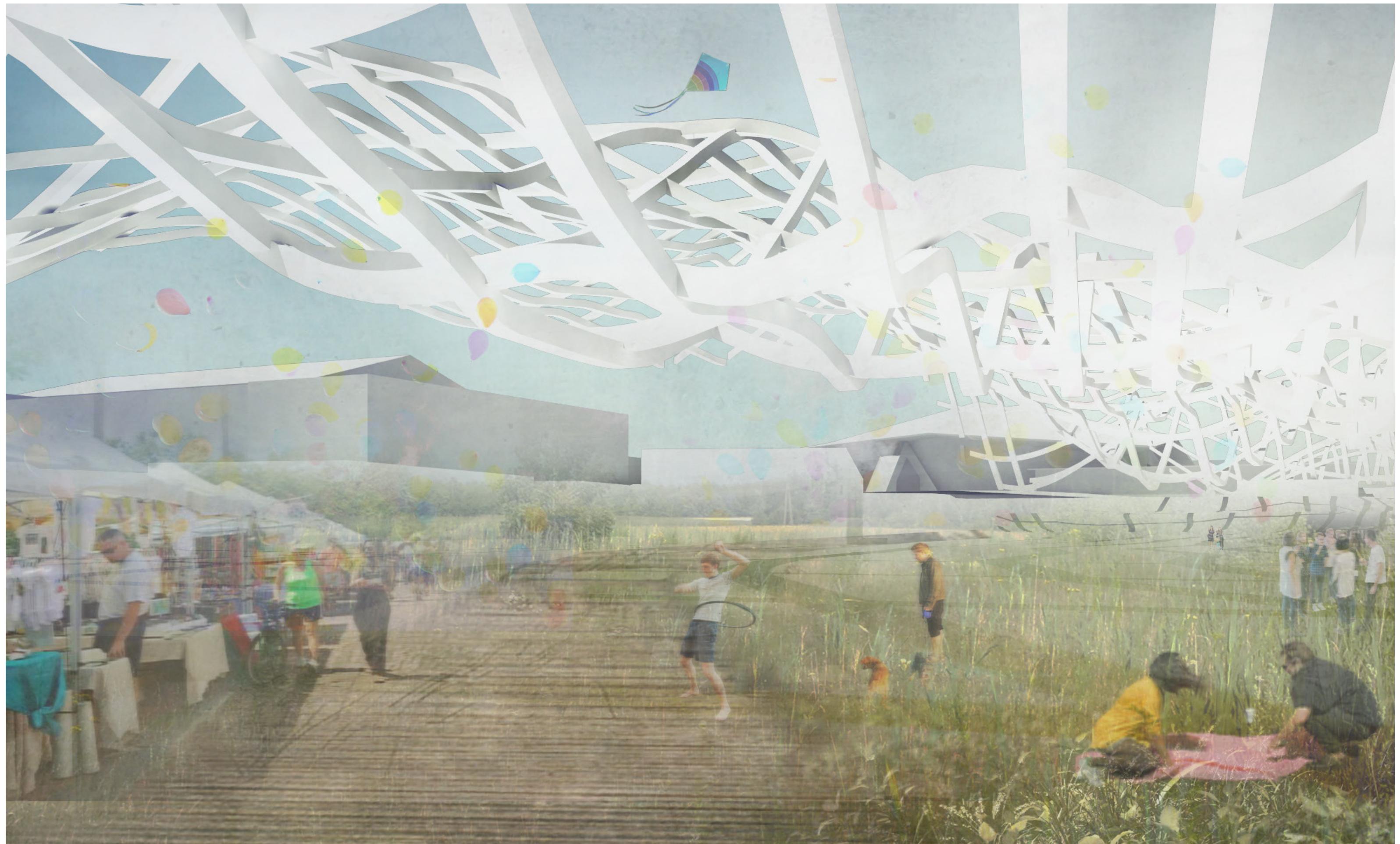
Gather Create and Give individuals a common purpose to form community.

A canopy grows out of the community spaces and stretches across nearly the entire market area, providing shelter, shade, and necessary edges for successful public spaces. The structure serves to draw in and unify the community under one roof and form spaces of various sizes for adaptability and flexibility.





View from Mercer lot looking towards the Space needle



View approaching the canopy

3

Waterfront Seattle Master Plan
Seattle, WA
Academic - Group
Urban Design Studio - Fall 2017

Can art serve as a tool to influence our values?

The Waterfront Seattle Program is an incredible opportunity to transform Seattle's central waterfront, fully embracing the removal of the Alaskan Way Viaduct and improving the connections between downtown Seattle and Elliott Bay. The aim is to further develop the Waterfront Seattle Program's plans for Pier 57, Union Street, and the Union Street Pier, and the blocks south of Union Street to University Street. Our part of the development includes an operating steam power plant named Enwave Seattle. It continues to produce steam energy as well as biomass energy.

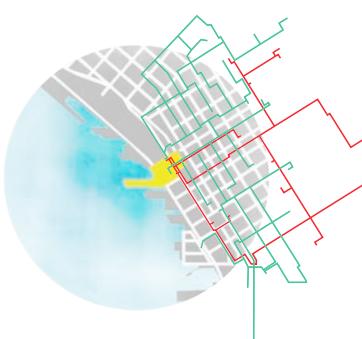
Seattle is well known for being at the forefront of environmental sustainability, and our redevelopment of the site serves as an educational tool that informs the public on current and future changes in sustainable energy generation. Encouraging the integration of active and energetic spaces with the infrastructure creates a sense of familiarity, removing the mystery that seems to surround clean energy generation.

Using infrastructure to enliven Seattle's Waterfront.

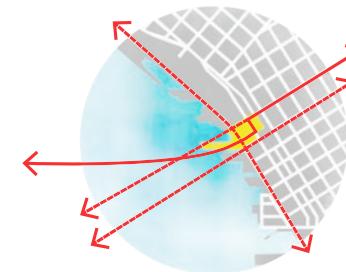
This development will be a piece of the puzzle in the redevelopment of Seattle's Waterfront. It aims to create an understanding of Seattle's clean energy generation, using infrastructure to activate, enliven, and reconnect the city to its Waterfront.



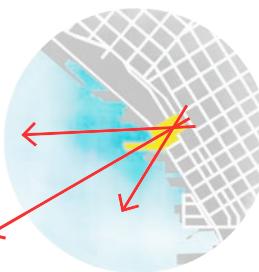
Landmarks and attractions



Energy lines Enwave Seattle serves



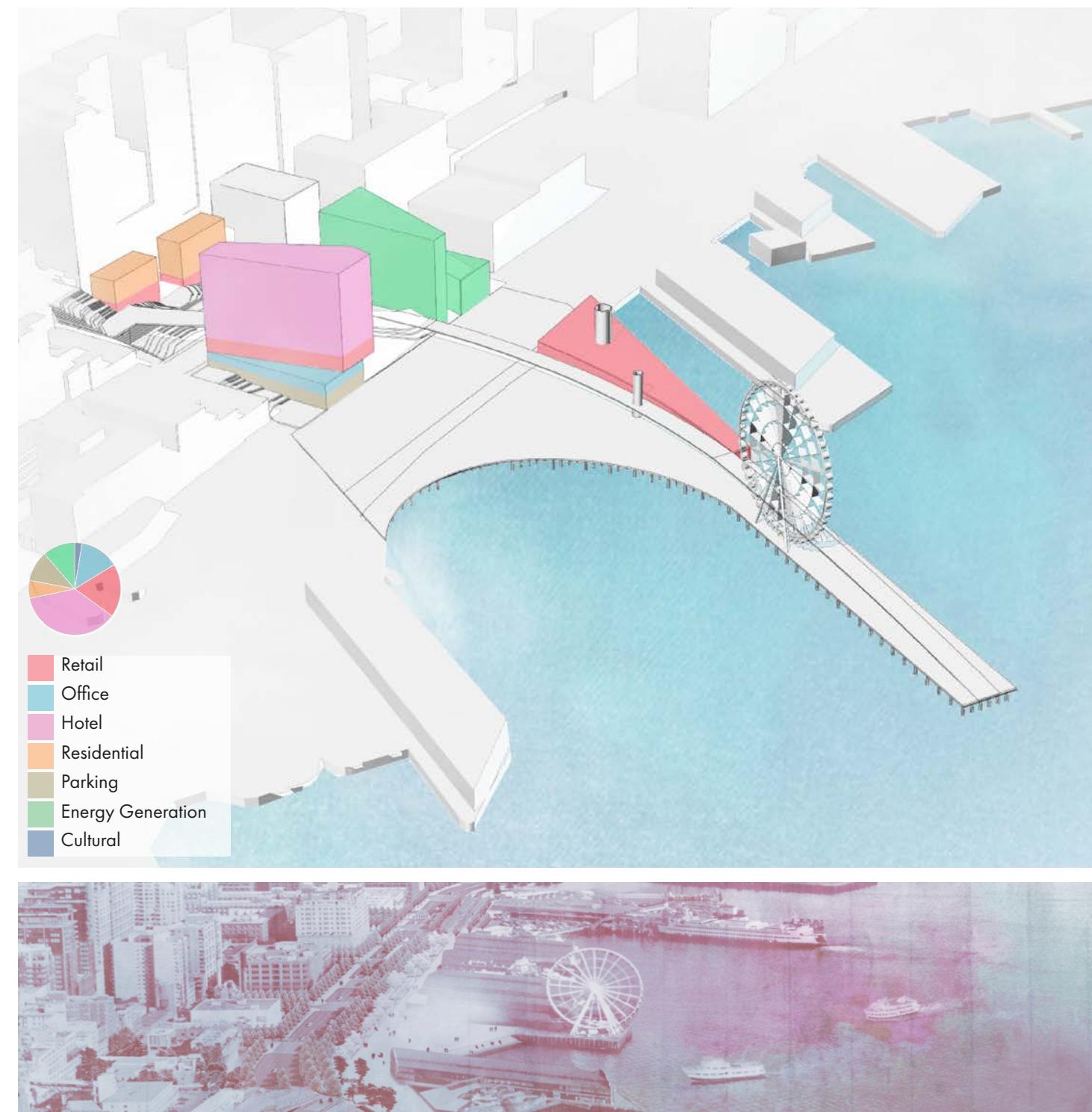
Main paths of circulation around the site

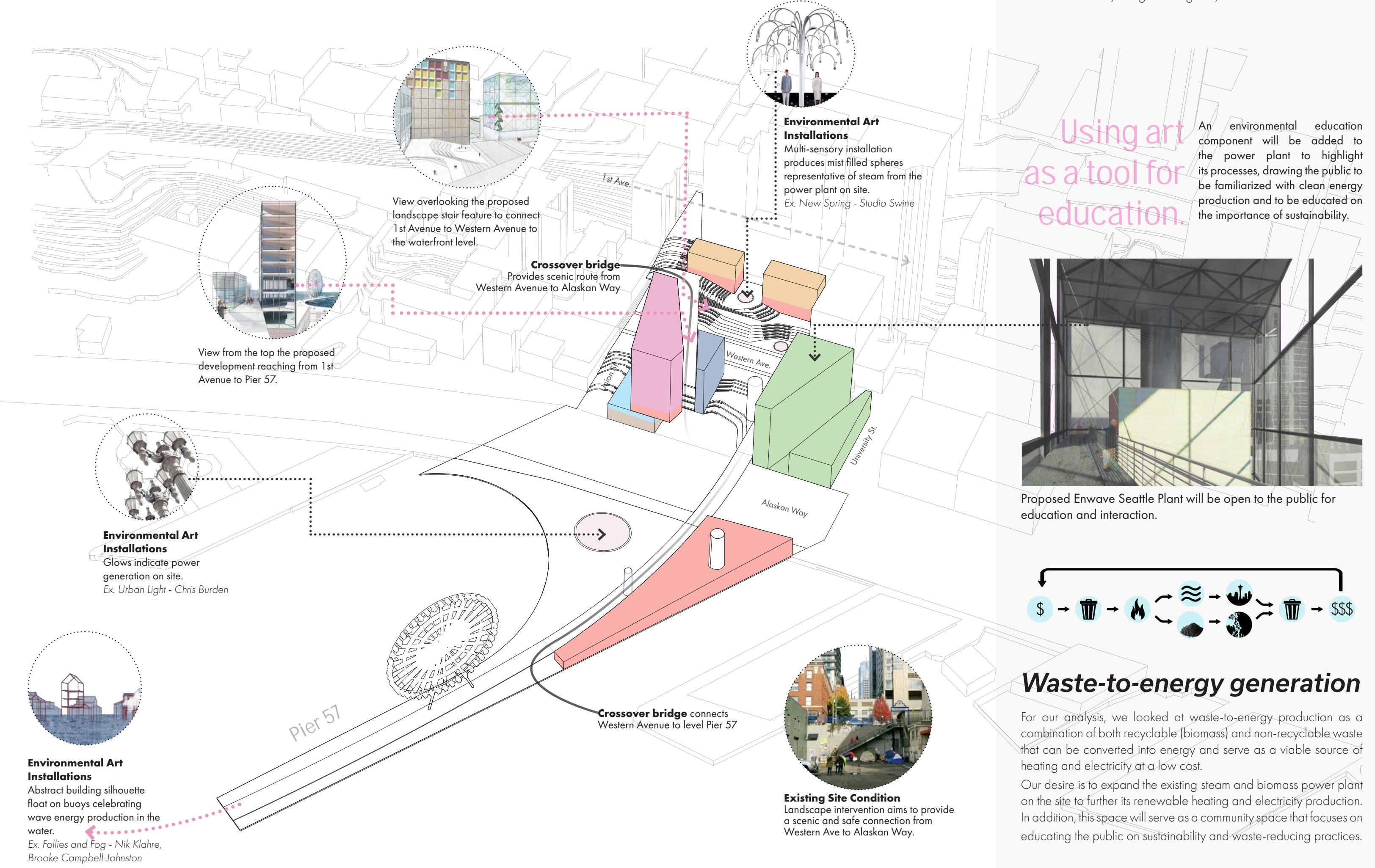


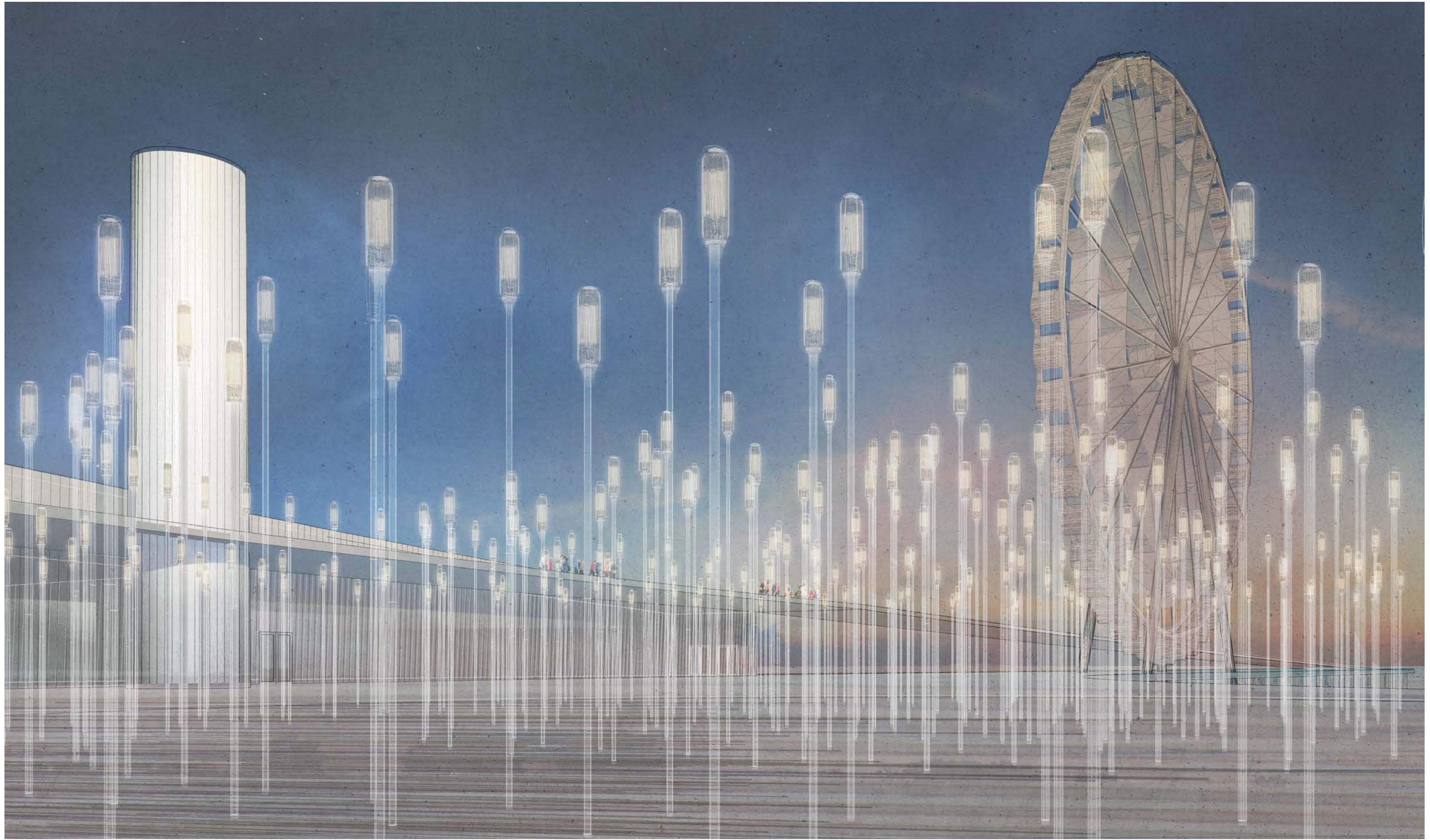
Scenic views of Elliott Bay, West Seattle and Bainbridge Island

Responsible for the development of the project scope and program, conceptual massing of programs and, research on the integration of public art for education.

Studio Professor - Nathan Richardson
Revit, Rhino, Photoshop, Illustrator







Art installation on Pier 57 glows indicate power generation on site



Site Overview

4

Adina

Shaping Materials: a plywood made seating artifact

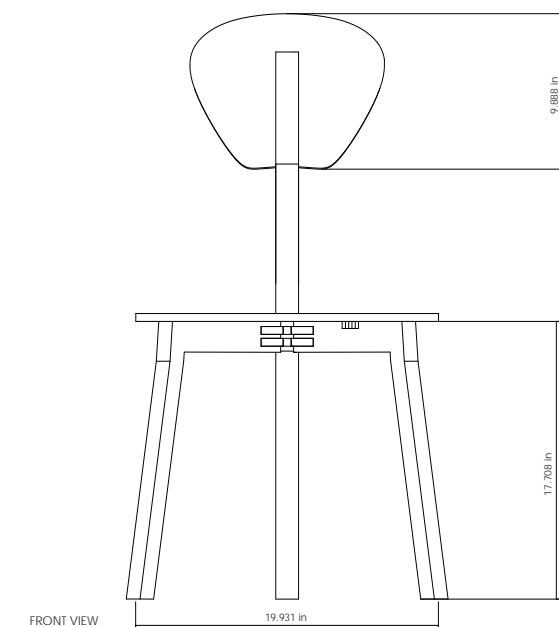
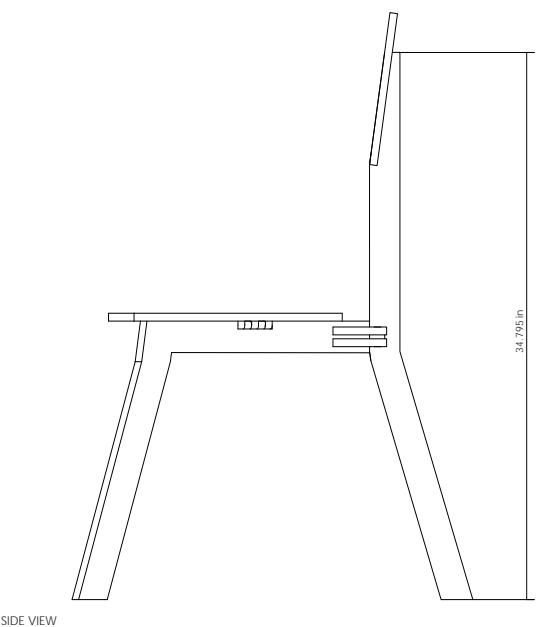
Academic - Group

Design/Build - Spring 2016

How can we shape materials into artifacts?

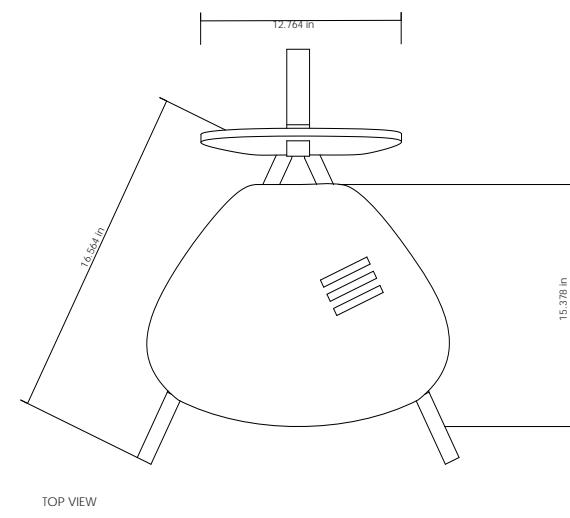
In architecture, tectonics refers to the art of construction both in relation to its use and its artistic design. It goes beyond the apparent surface of an object to study the fashion in which the object was put in place by its structural connections.

Our goal was not to redesign the chair but instead to focus on designing the connections that enabled the chair to fold flat. To highlight those connections, we used walnut for those pieces to contrast with the plywood.



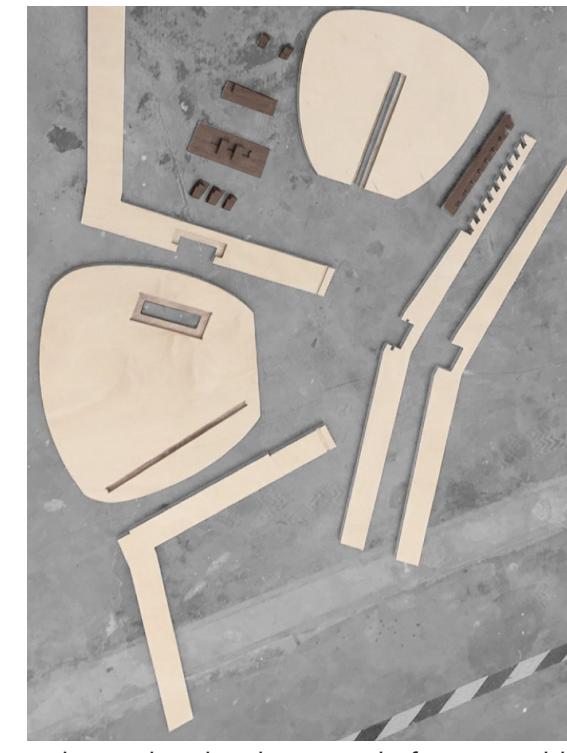
Chair dimensions / Adina

Developed design concept and assembled the chair prototyped collaboratively.
Studio Professor - Sanza Paolo
Rhino, AutoCad, CNC router, Laser cutter,
Photoshop



The goal wasn't to redesign the chair.

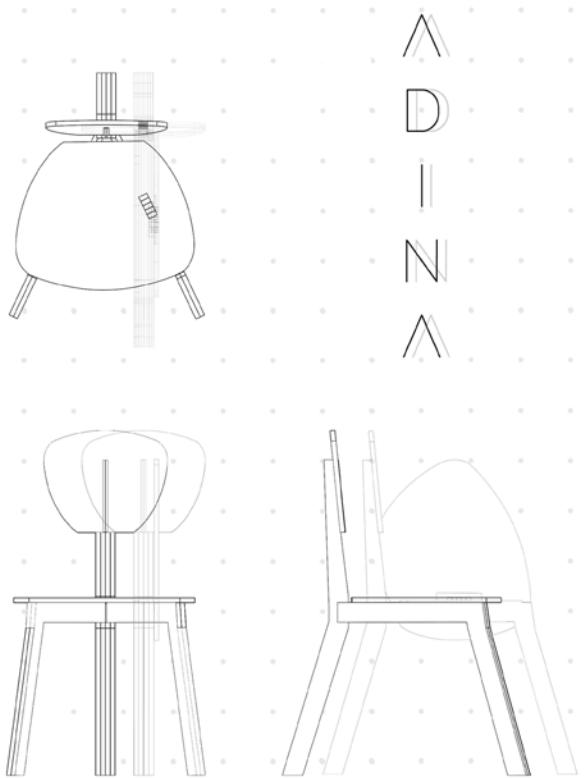
Adina was designed to evoke lightness and simplicity. The chair features walnut connections with a plywood body. It was designed to be used, stored, and displayed.





trans · for · ma · tion

1. a thorough or dramatic change in form or appearance.



Posters from advertisement campaign

Adina, lean and subtle





Unreinforced Masonry Building Improvements - Eagleson Hall
Seattle, WA
Professional - Mithun
Adaptive Re-Use - 2020 - Present

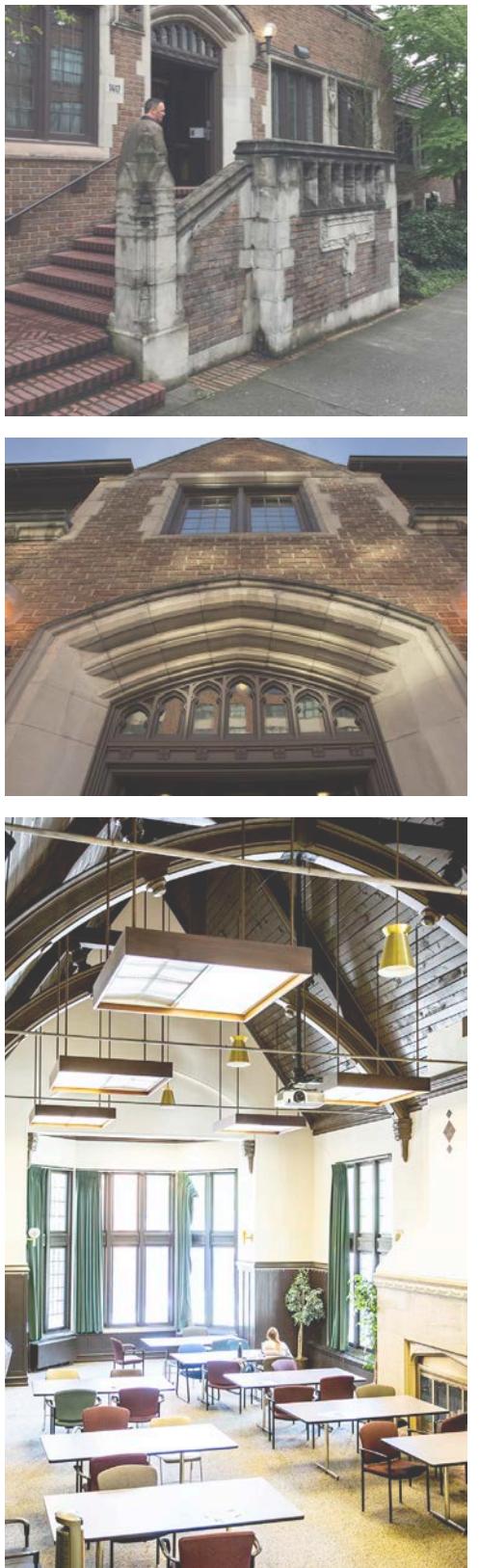
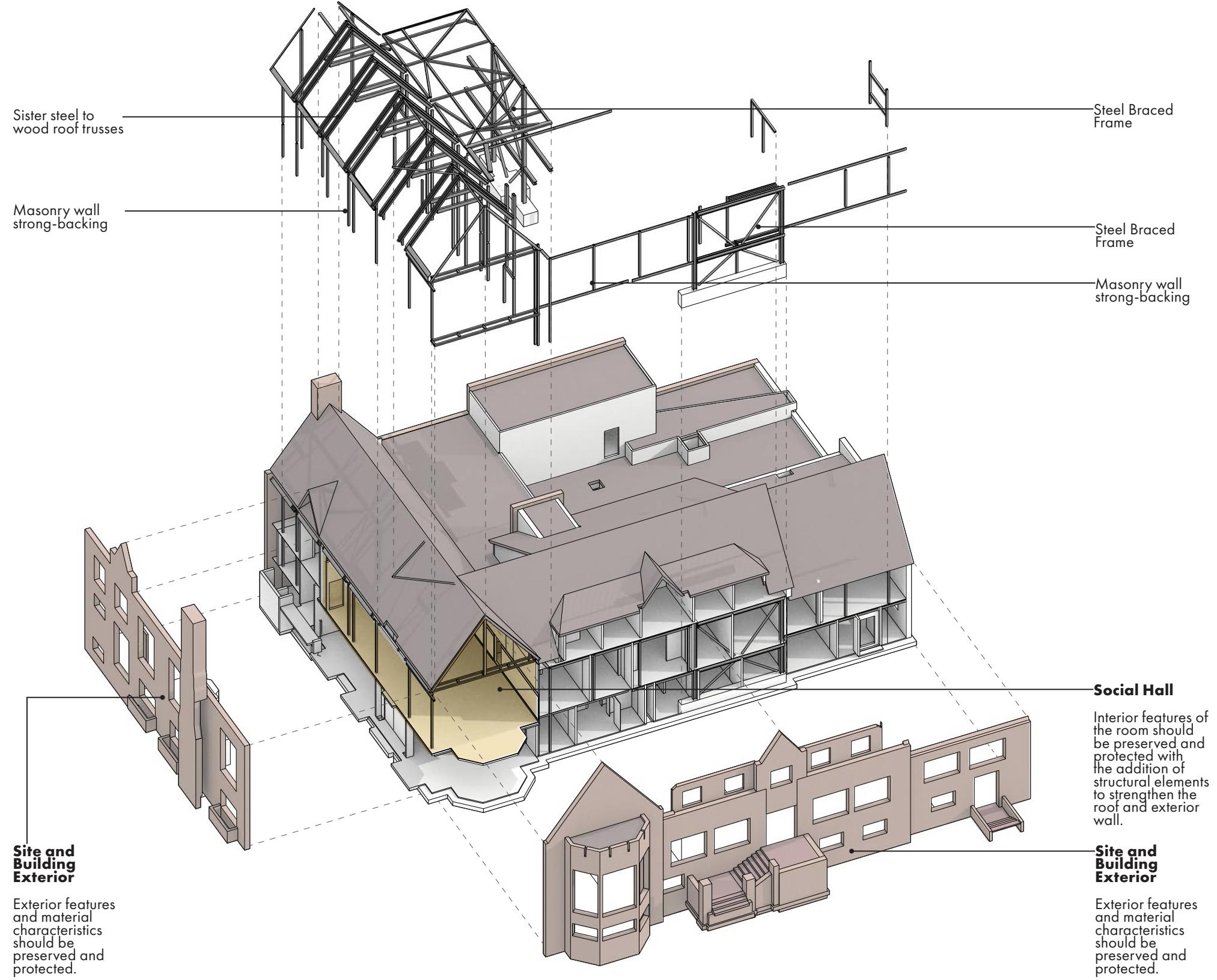
How can we preserve our historical fabric?

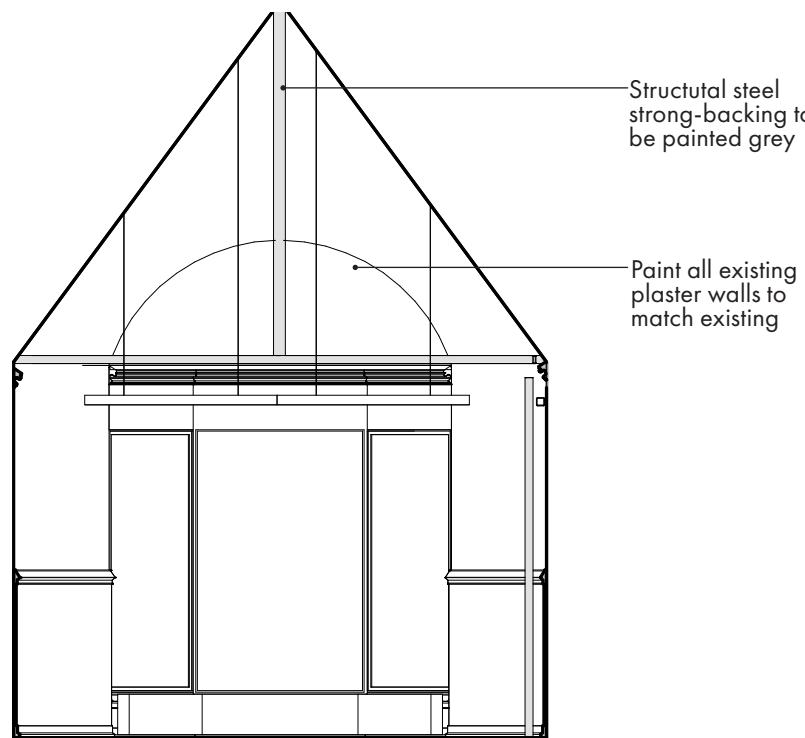
Eagleson Hall is a structural masonry building built in 1925. It was recognized by the Landmarks Preservation Board for its architectural style and social history as the former home of the YMCA. It is currently home to the University of Washington's Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences.

The seismic strengthening of Eagleson Hall is intended to meet the proposed City of Seattle URM Retrofit Ordinance. The scope includes the addition of structural elements to the building along with the associated renovation of impacted rooms and protection of the landmark designated spaces.

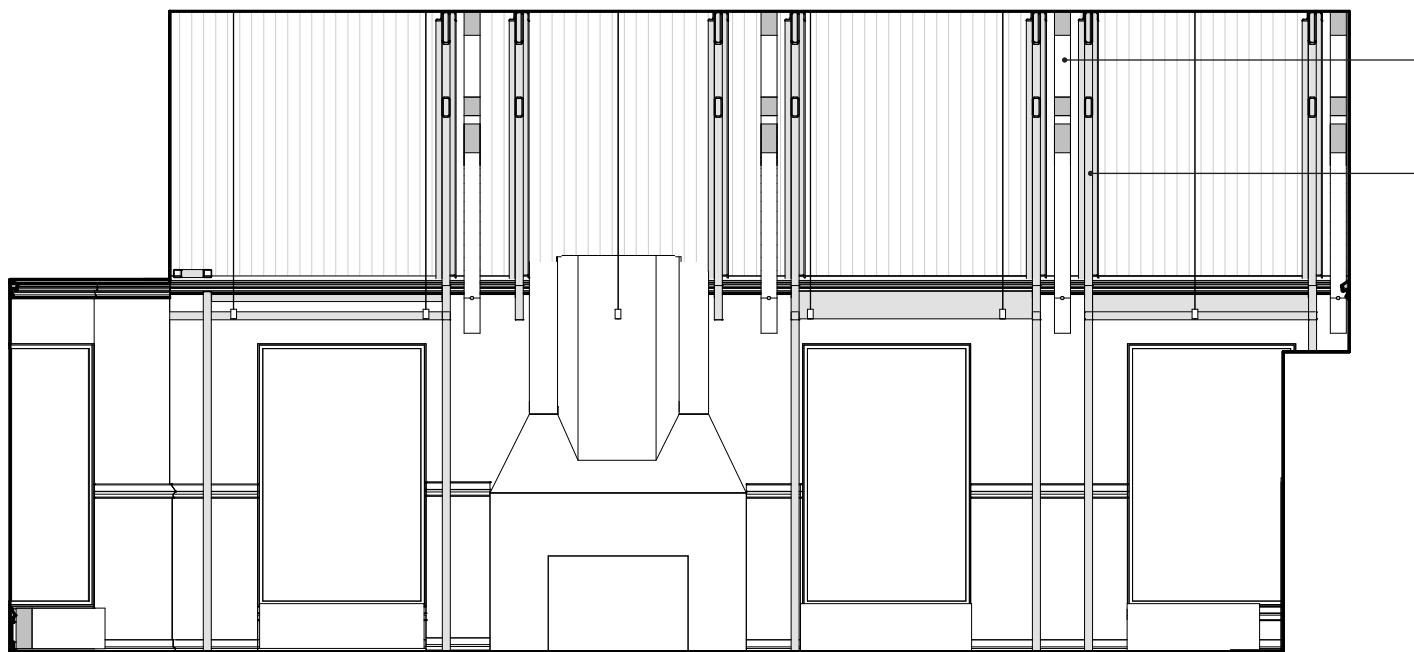
Responsible for modeling and documentation for permit set, CD sets; and landmarks and preservation set for approval. Coordinated change directives during construction administration.

Project Manager - Carl Dominguez





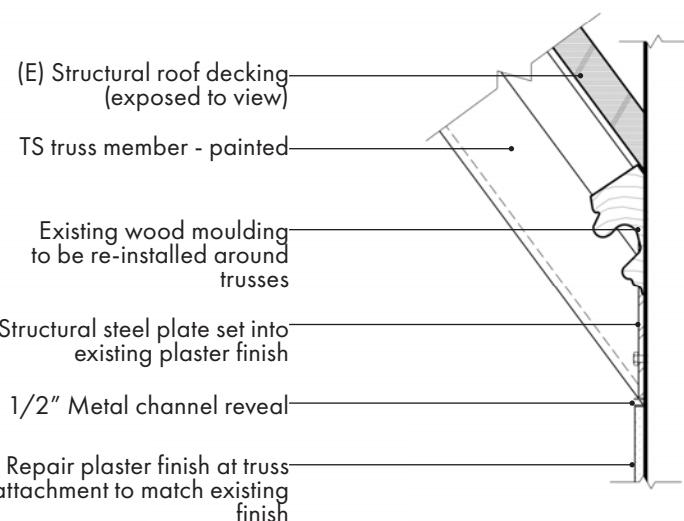
Social Hall - North Elevation



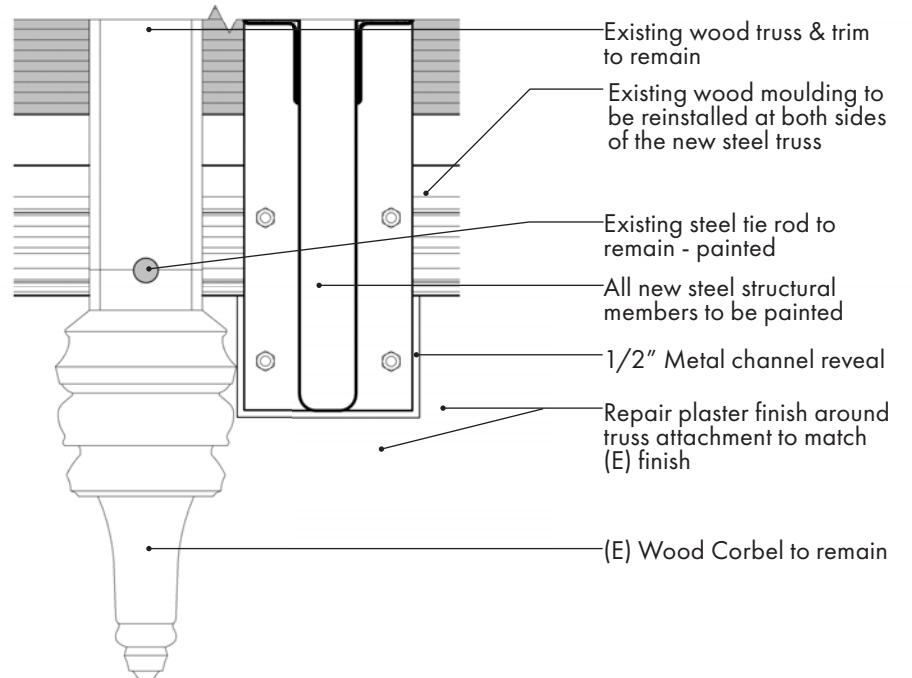
Social Hall - East Elevation



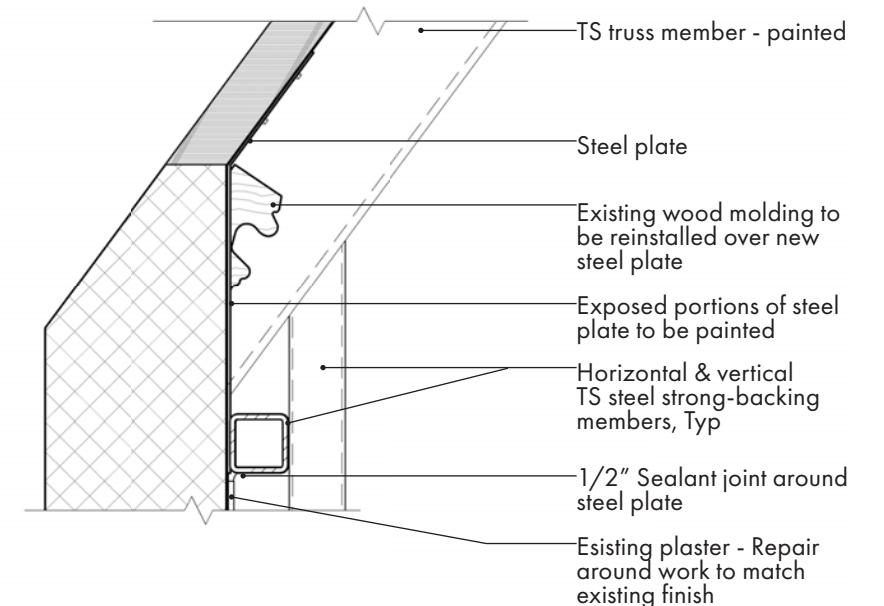
Existing conditions of the Social Hall



Elevation - Steel Truss Connection at West Wall, Typ



Elevation - Steel Truss Connection at West Wall, Typ



Section - Wood Moulding at East Wall, Typ



Proposed conditions of the Social Hall



6

Fireweed House
Seattle, WA
Volunteer - Sawhorse Revolution
Design/Build - Fall 2018 - Spring 2019

How can we provide dignified housing for all?

The Fireweed house was named after a flower that grows in The Pacific Northwest, known for its resiliency. Twelve students from Franklin High School worked with design mentors from Mithun to develop the design of the house and continued on with mentors from Dowbuilt construction to bring the design to life. It was designed to provide dignified shelter for our clients currently experiencing homelessness in Seattle.

The students' aim was to create a versatile, comfortable environment that welcomes a person when they enter and makes them want to come back when they leave. The house features a storage unit designed to create a distinction between private and public space within 120 square feet. The french door allows for future residents to open their space to friends and enjoy the sun in good weather.

In order to add a welcoming touch to the house, the students painted a mural of the fireweed flower on the side of the house that captures the spirit of resilience embodied by its namesake.

Served as a design mentor to high school students introducing them to the principles of design, drafting and client interaction.
Program coordinator - Sam Schultz



final project construction design



Featured double doors allow residents to open their homes to visitors and enjoy the weather in good weather.

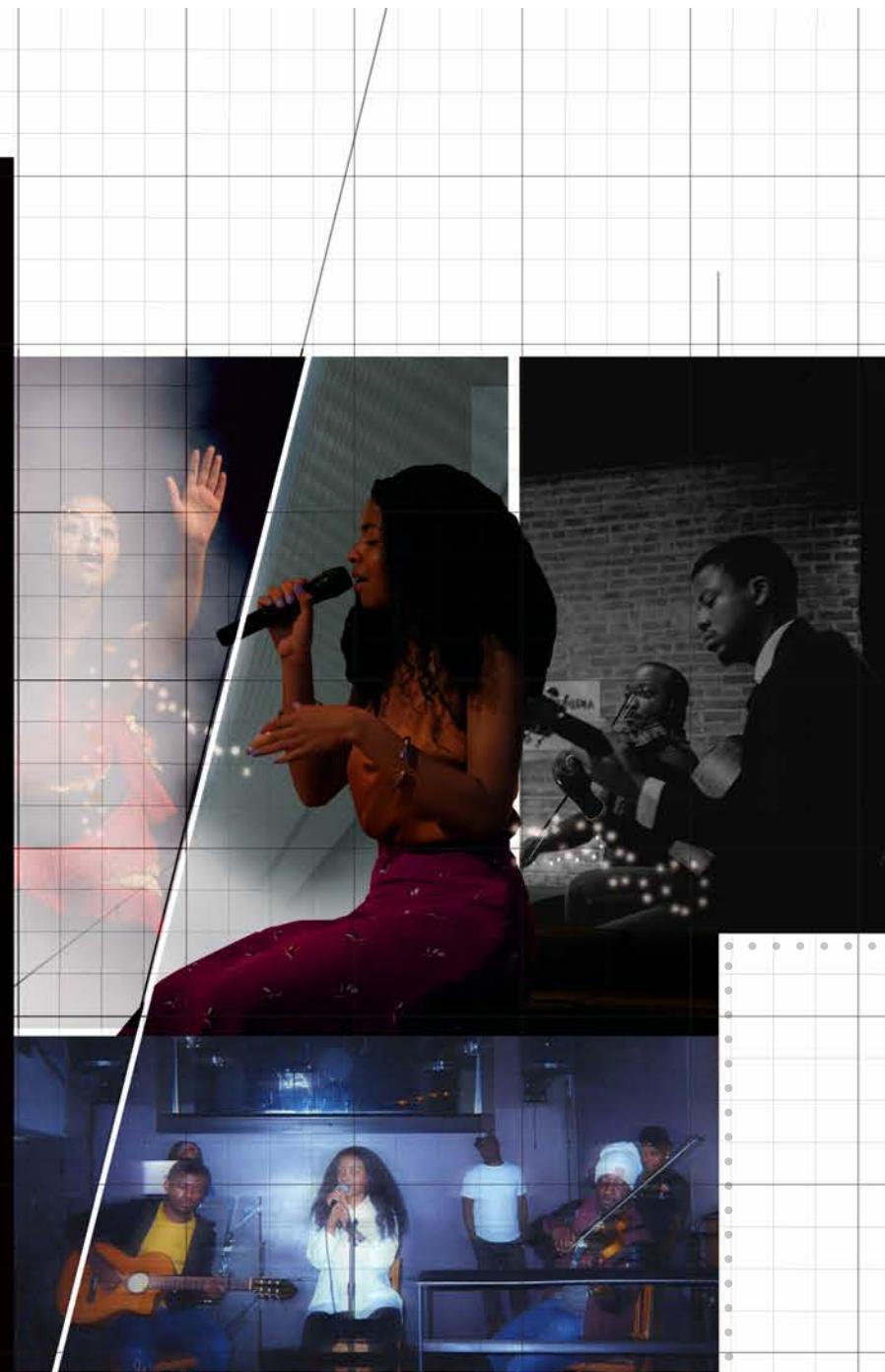
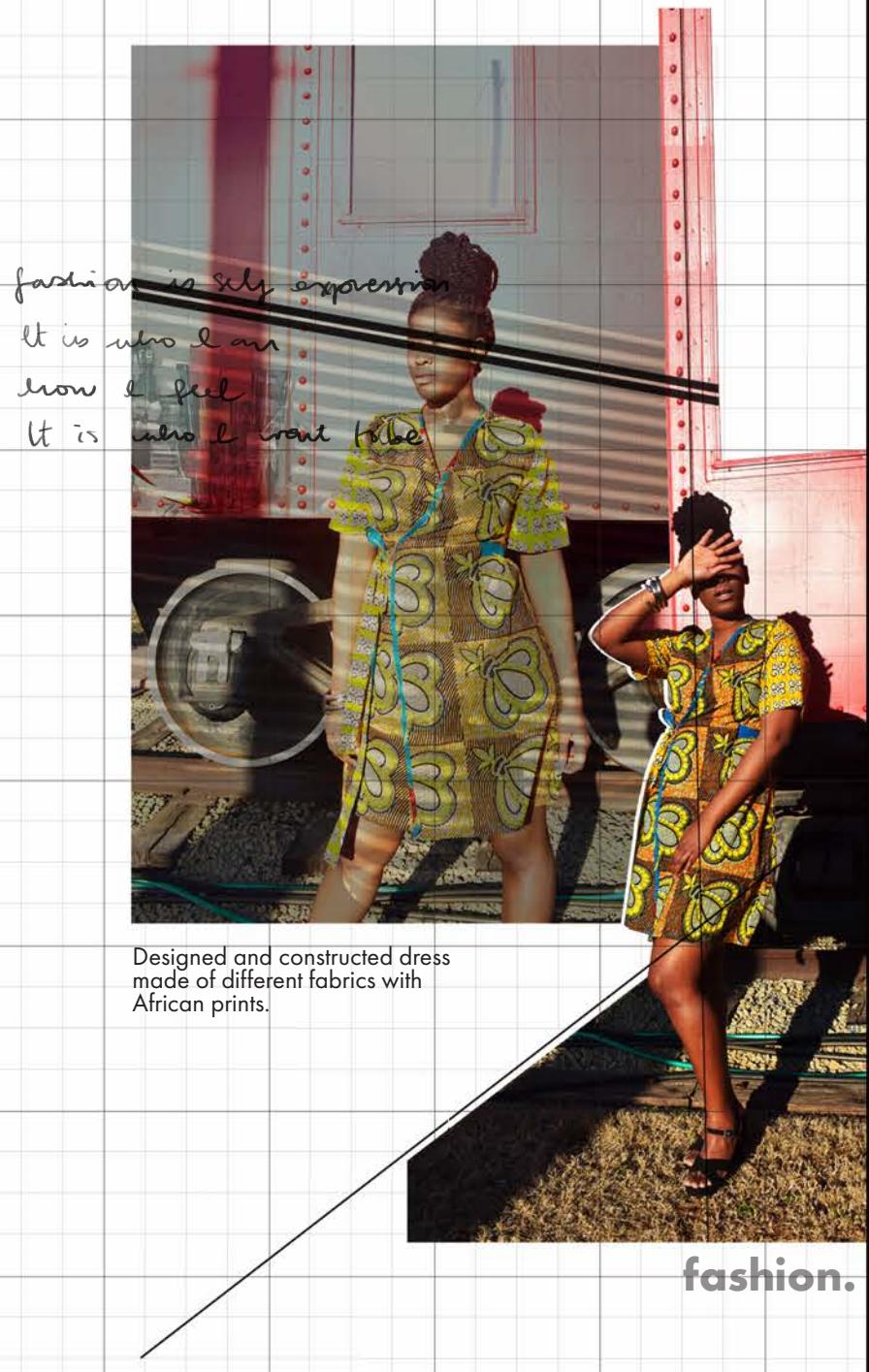


Interior shelving feature creates a separation of public and private space in the tiny house.

7

Personal Explorations
2012 - Present

Where does *inspiration* begin?



music and dance.

I find inspiration in music for its ability to transcend the barriers of language, time, and place. When I sing or dance, I am transported to many moments in time and then drawn back to my center. Through these mediums, I am able to have my culture close to my heart.

Along with other students who were a part of the African Student Organization, we organized showcases to celebrate our African culture through music, dance, poetry, and theatre.

In the past two years, I spend time with other artists in Seattle to write and compose original music. Writing is a way for me to organize my thoughts and feelings. Writing music synthesizes the things I do to express myself.

fashion.

Similar to architecture, clothing is a basic human need made to protect our bodies from external elements.

Fashion and Architecture have many parallels. They create solutions through the principles for form and function and exploration of structure and materiality.

Fashion for me has been a source of inspiration as well as an avenue for self-expression. It is an extension of my personality and a representation of my story.

I am interested in the design aspect of fashion but also in its construction. Through trials and errors, I designed and sewed clothing for myself and friends, experimenting through color and patterns reminiscent of my origins.

Writing.

What brings me here is not technicality or ability
But, purely a necessity to voice the songs my heart sings
This place sums up my purpose

Allow me soar, I'm home
Here, I don't have to subdue my wings of silk in a box of perfectly constructed planes
It is impossible that I was made to fit in this box, nature itself defies it

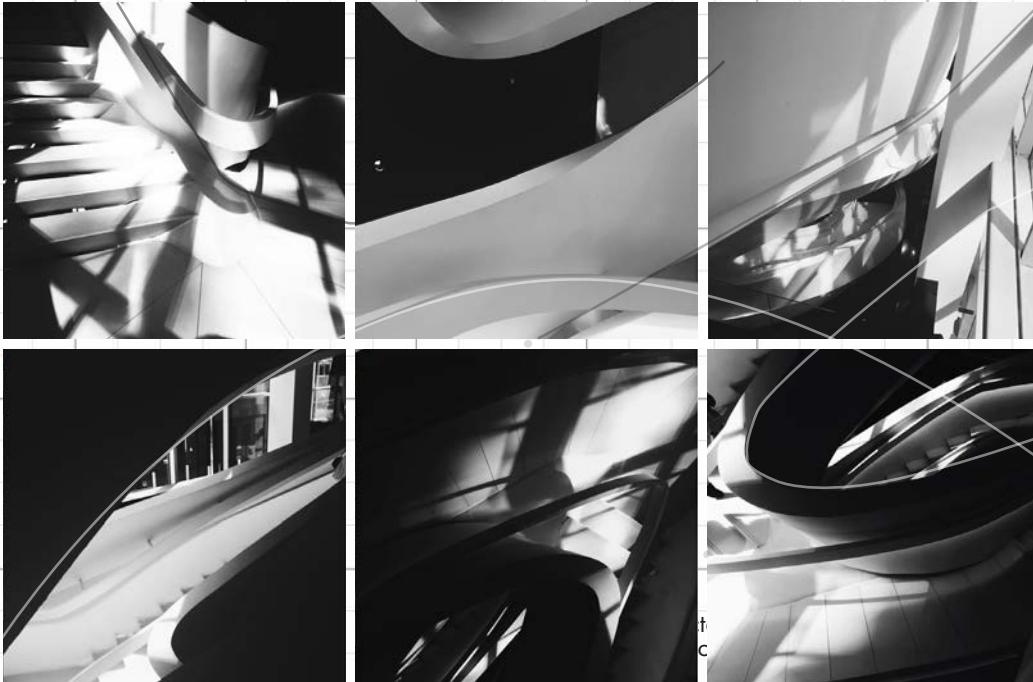
On me, you can find no linearity
So it is in this realm governed with my fervent expressions

Allow yourself be consumed
For every stranger that is sucked into this realm will be transformed by swift oscillations

Only then, they will attest that it is possible for the soul to fly
As for the rest of us, **when we wander we speak our native language.**

Poem written while designing the Kansas City Performing Arts High School

photography.



Shadow Dance

Explorations with light and shadow. Photograhgs read as composition which

collages to work as one form.

Photographed at Armani 5th Avenue

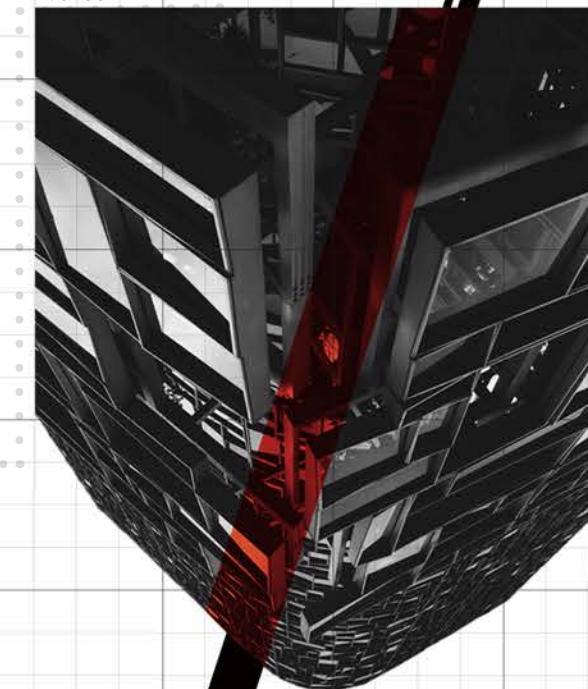
Designed by Fuksas Architects

music to me is a form of release
it grounds me back to my center
& transports me to places in time

I dance to express joy
I feel every move of the music
I feel free when I dance

It is about capturing life
in its simplicity
in its grandeur
moments in time that say
a thousand words.

Photographed at 100 Eleventh Avenue



photography.

Photographed at the Guggenheim Museum

Photographed at the MoMa PS1 Lumen, an immersive, interactive installation by Jenny Sabin Studio



