

**KIMBERLY  
VAN HOUTEN**

ARCHITECTURAL PORTFOLIO  
2022

# **INVERTED HOUSE**

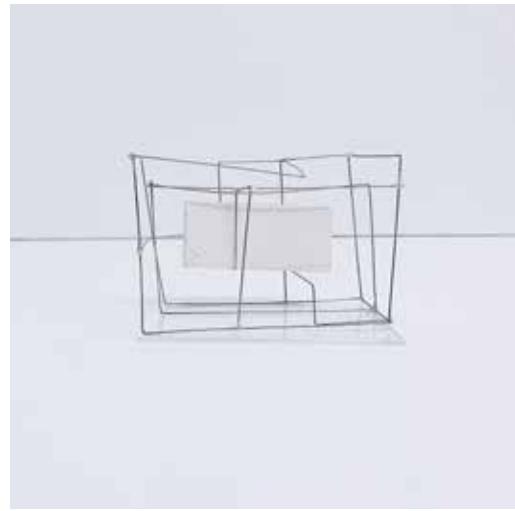
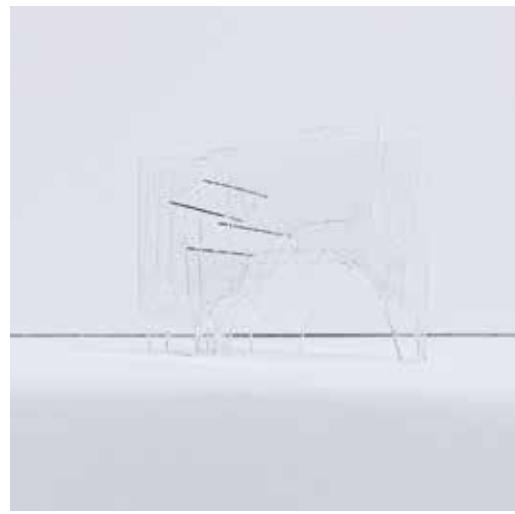
## **THE ILLUSION OF FLOATING**

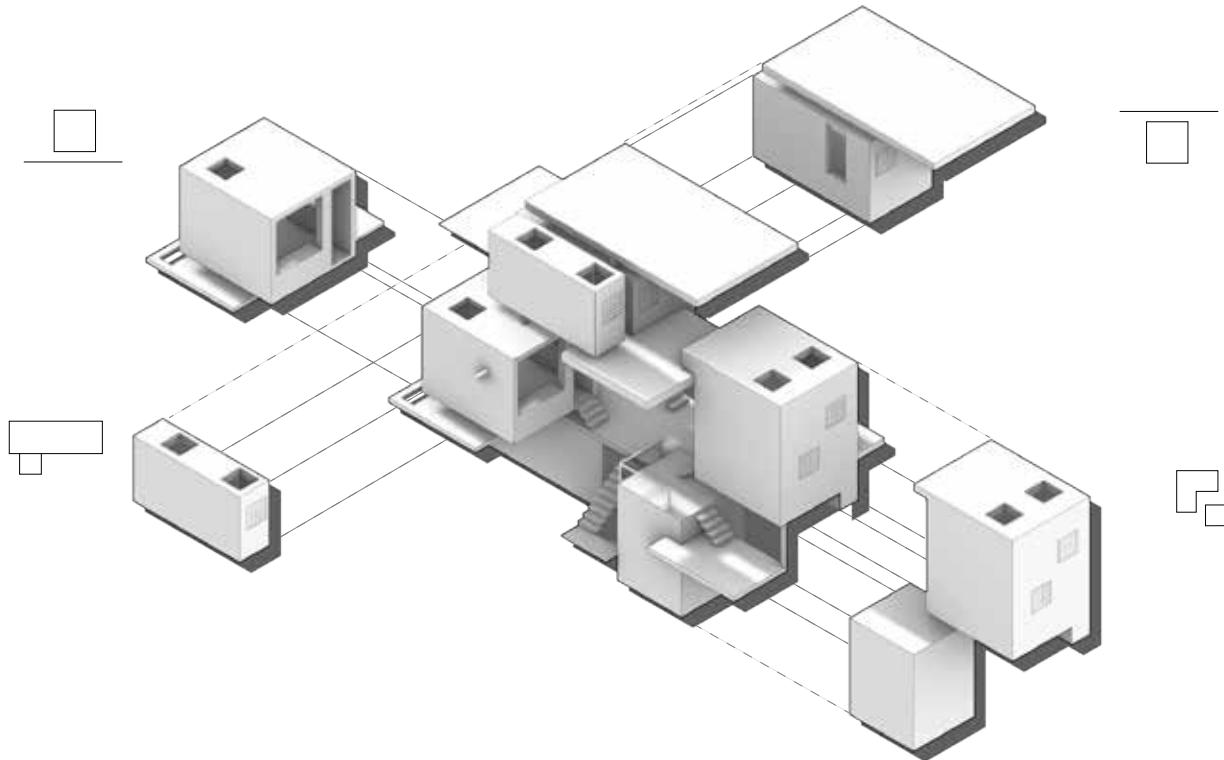
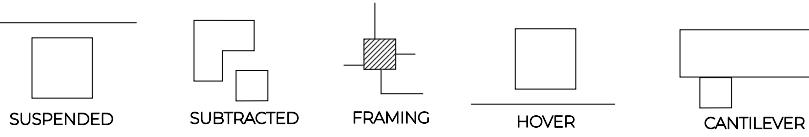
Fall 2021 | 7 weeks | UG 1 | Critic: Ishan Pal

The Inverted House serves as a residence and studio for a photographer where every space can act as both a canvas for artist interaction and also spark artist inspiration. Formally, this house explores the notion of balance and floating by asking how to invert the relationship of light and heavy by letting lightness and light contain heaviness. Through a series of study models, there was an exploration of the ways that scale, relationship to an object and lighting conditions all might enhance the illusion of floating. The main living space is located on the ground floor where one can look up to

see suspended volumes above while 2 main floor spaces hover just above the ground level. In the basement level, there is the dark room and studio equipment storage with double height moments for light to leak through. The bedroom is on the top level which provides privacy and also the benefit of both morning and evening light. This house for a photographer provides a inspiration through the provocative nature of architecture and balance while offering a multitude of lighting conditions that afford a range of opportunities for creative expression.

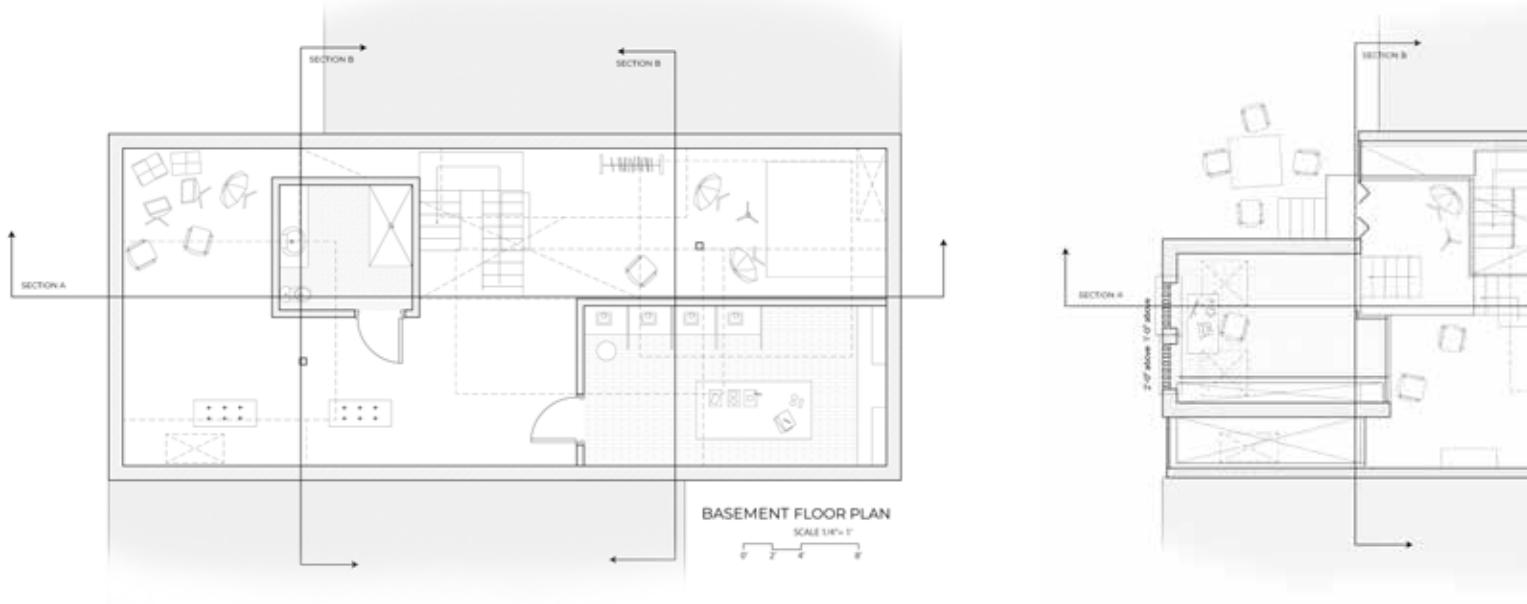


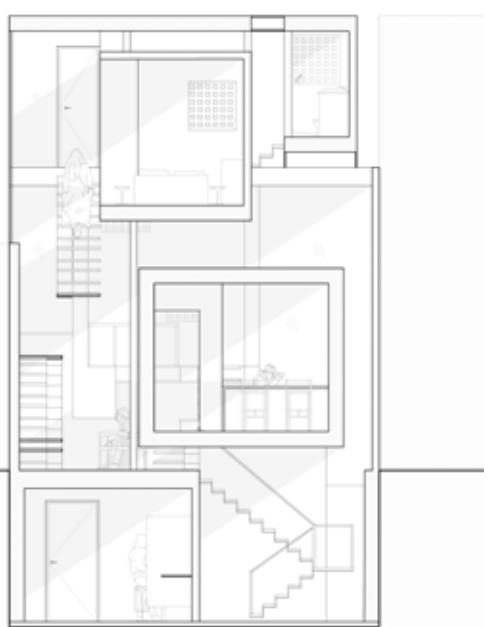
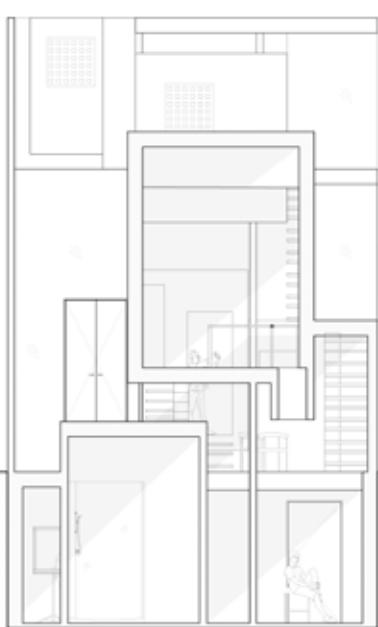
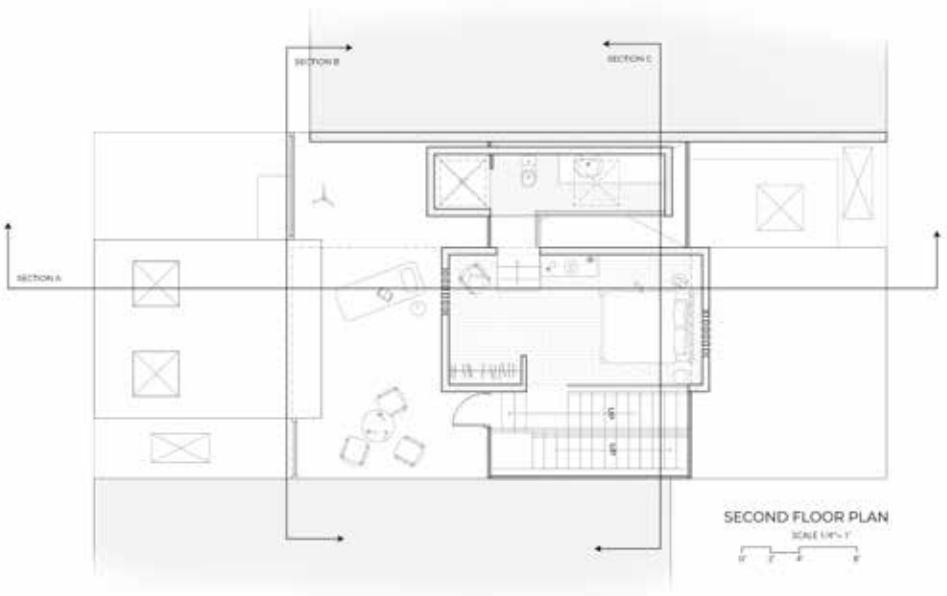




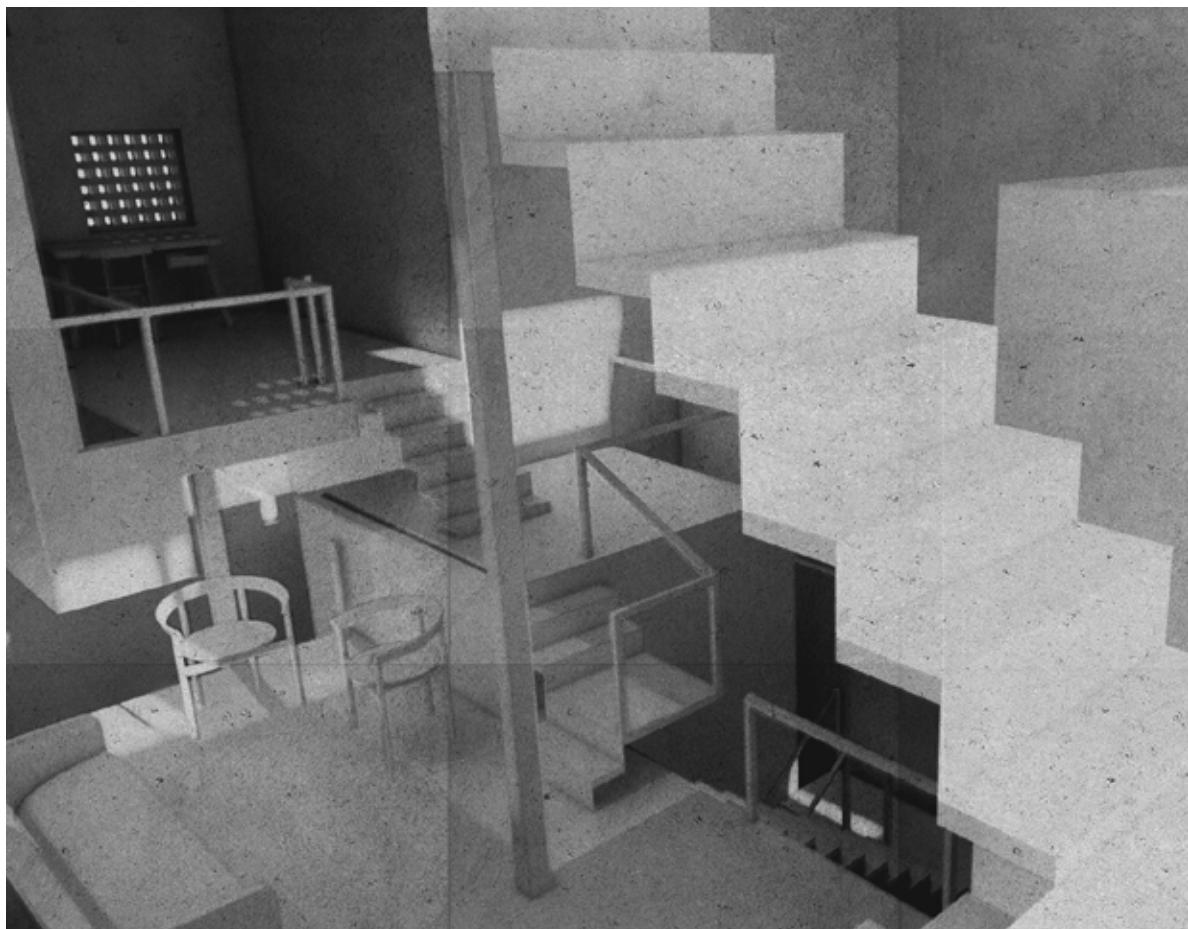
### Exploration of Lightness Containing Heaviness

Of the first iteration, the one model focused on a light volume encasing a heavy volume, the other study model focused on hiding heaviness based on orientation. With the next set of models, I posed more questions – what is the least amount of light material needed to hold a heavy volume, can you create the heaviness with only light material and how much is needed, how does one hold a heavy volume without making the light material feel heavy. It became a question of how do we highlight the heavy? Or how do we hide it until we want to show it. There must be an exaggeration – the light must be very light and the heavy must be very heavy. The study models allowed me to determine five ways to express the illusion of floating.









# Suspending Time

## MODELING MOTION OF A FALLING OBJECT

Fall 2022 | 2 weeks | Architectural Design III (UG3)

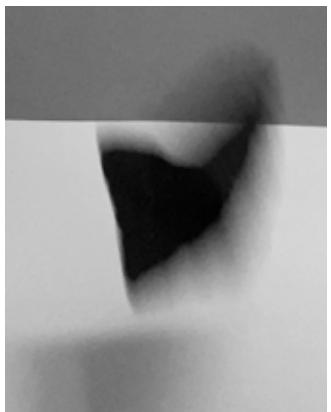
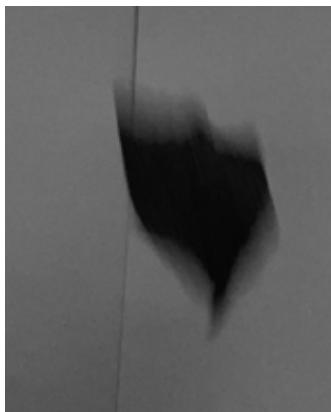
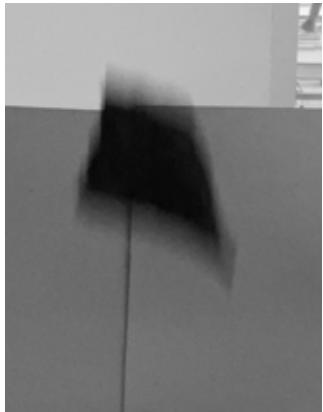
| Critic: Zain Abusier

This work is exploring how to moments of motion that are not rendered visible in our daily lives might be captured through form. The simple act of dropping a cloth is represented in four sequential instances. The process began by photographing motion in a way that is reminiscent of stop-motion

photography. From these images, cloth was cast in plaster to emulate the forms. Several iterations of this process helped determine which moments best captured movement and what scale offered the clearest reading of a failing cloth.









# **Forest Perspectives**

## **BLURRING BOUNDARIES BETWEEN THE BUILT AND UNBUILT SPACES**

Winter 2022 | 12 weeks | Architectural Design II (UG2)  
| Critic: Neal Robinson

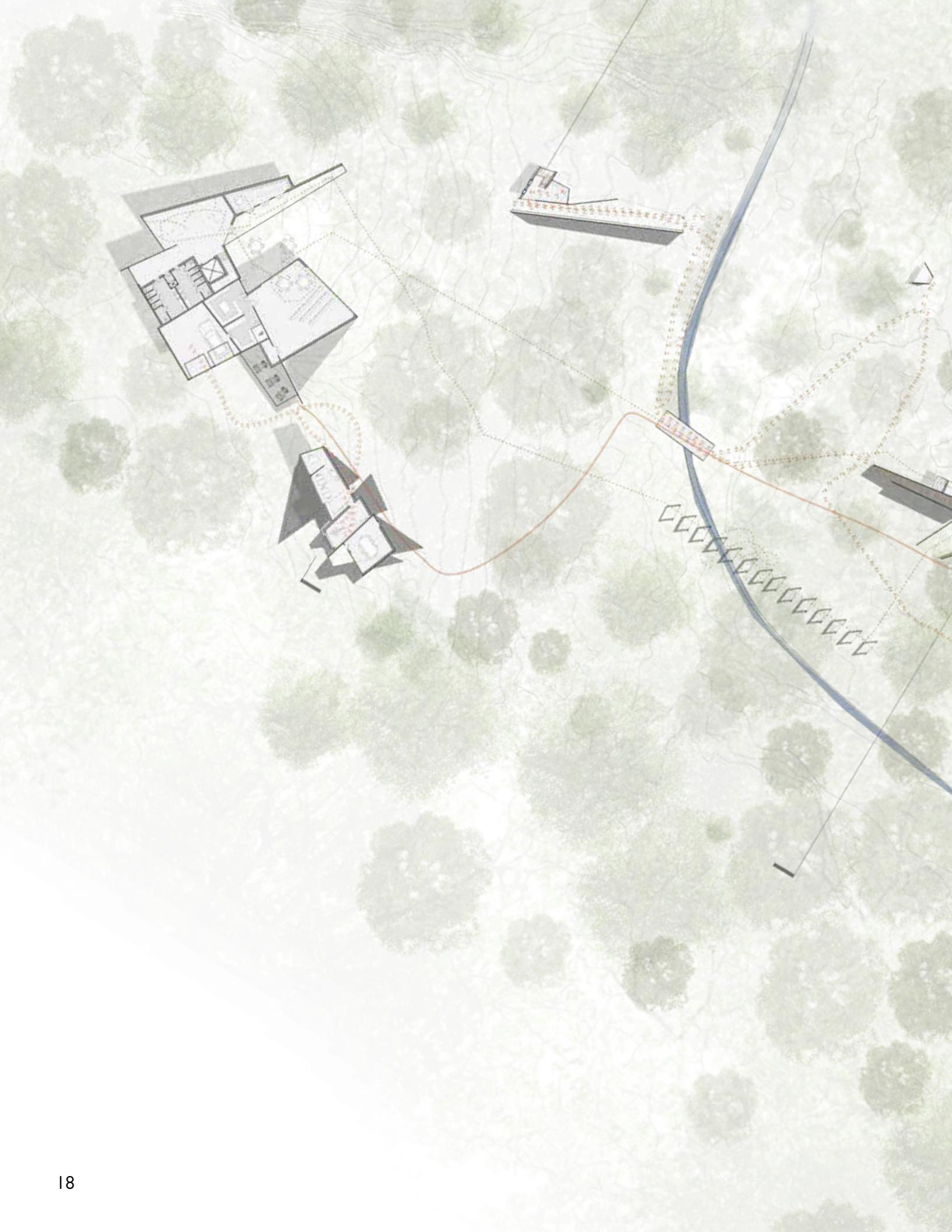
The existing cuts of paths through the Parker Mill site establish a passive relationship with the surrounding environment. This proposal aims to foster active engagement with the forest through a series of spaces expanded across the hill, ravine, and creek. The fragmentation of the forms

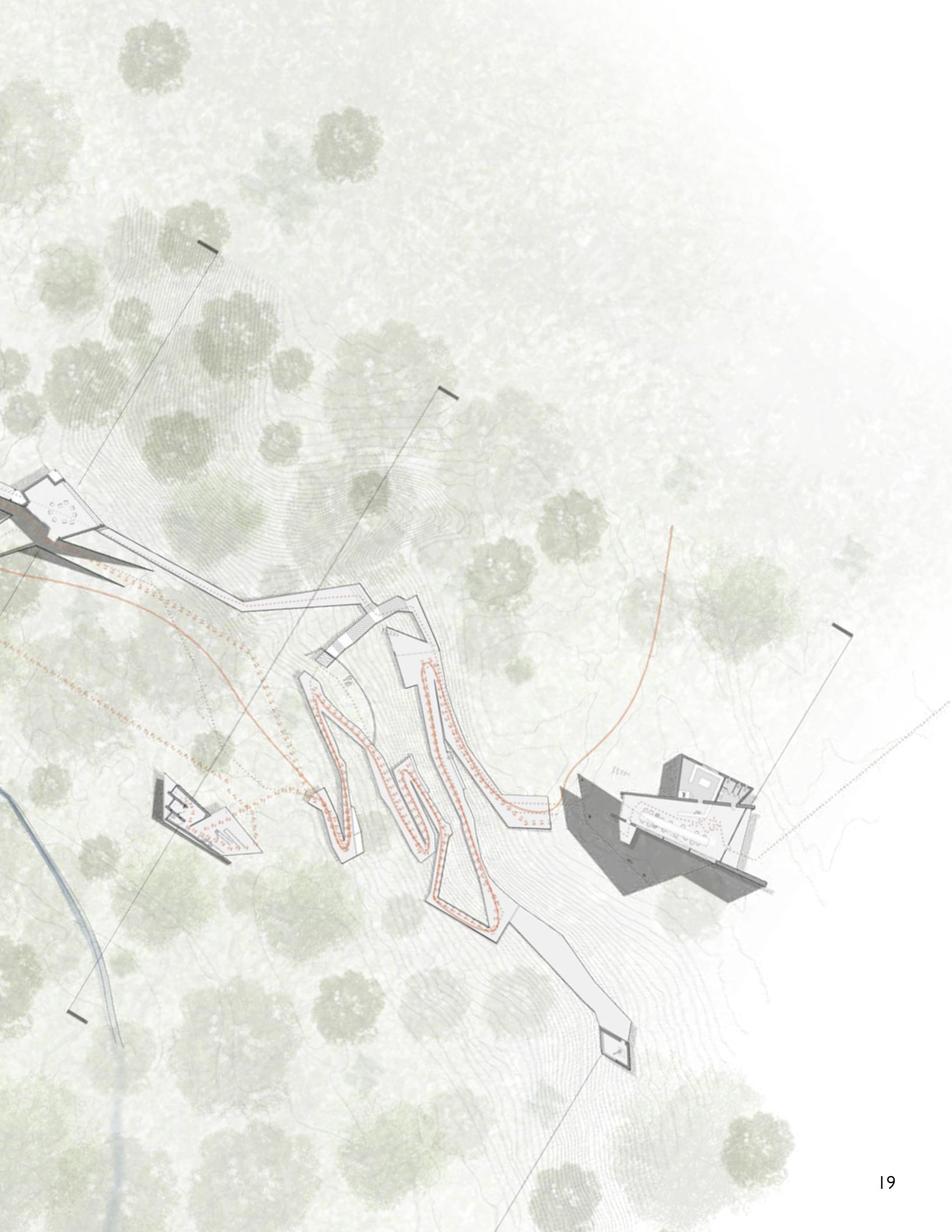
seeks to de-emphasize the presence of a structure while foregrounding nature. Framed views and exaggerated perspectives guide the user deeper into the forest while sensory exhibits and therapy spaces enact all five senses for an immersive experience.

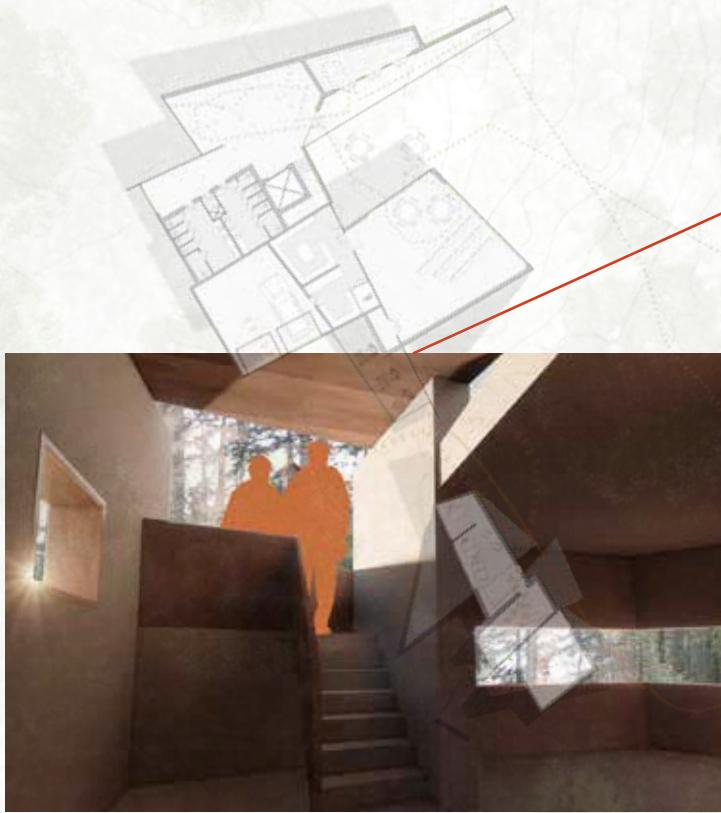














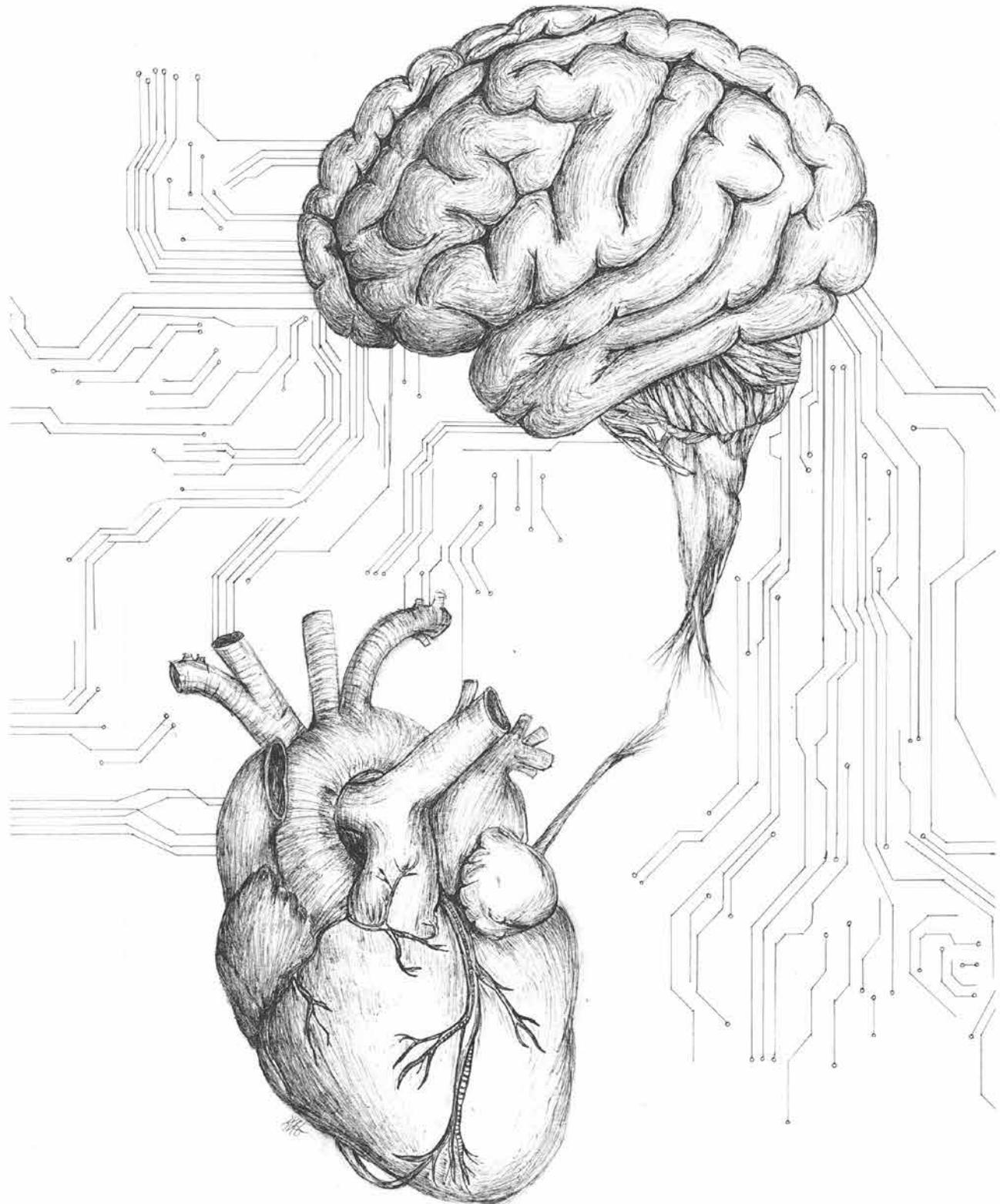
# **DRAWINGS**

## **STUDYING HUMAN EXPRESSION**

2019-2020 | Personal Projects

Drawing is something that has propelled my creativity because of the unlimited potential. I use drawing as a form of experimentation. Oftentimes what interests me in a new project is knowing that I have not done something like that before. These

three images explore different aspects of human expression - the internal, facial and the artistic. Drawing has strengthened my design skills as it encourages self-evaluation, dedication to a project, and creative ideas









**THANK YOU!**

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