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Acknowledgements

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Thank you.

Moriah Sims





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BACKGROUND



Museums & Attractions

Brownsville and Matamoros

Festivals and events are held year-round throughout Brownsville, TX and its sister city, Matamoros, Mexico. To celebrate the long-time friendship between Brownsville and Matamoros, a seven day fiesta (Charro Days) is held that features a parade, folkloric dancing, mariachis, and traditional food. Military aircrafts and vintage planes take to the skies during the CAF Air Fiesta. Another signature event is the Latin

Jazz Festival that showcases some of Rio Grande Valley's best acts. The Mitte Cultural District is home to several museums and attractions. Brownsville's Museum of Fine Art contains local and international pieces dating back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Historic Brownsville Museum also provides visitors with art, architecture, and history of the Rio Grande Valley. Children can experience a

lush landscape with over 1,500 rare species of animals at the Gladys Porter Zoo. 600 indigenous costumes of the Western Hemisphere are displayed at the Costumes of the Americas Museum. This museum collects these artifacts to exhibit and preserve indigenous art and textiles. These are some of the many activities locals and visitors can witness in the Valley.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY



CITRUS FARMING



Magic Valley

The Rio Grande Valley in the 1920's - 1930's was nicknamed "Magic Valley" for its near perfect conditions for farming. There was practically nothing gardened during that time in the southern part of the United States that had flourished as well as it did in this region. Climatic conditions, nature of the soil, and water accessibility

for irrigation all consolidated to support the creation of various gardening crops. The Valley created some of the greatest amounts of grapefruit and considered to have the best flavor in comparison to anywhere else. There were other various kinds of citrus grown there like lemons, limes, kumquats, and oranges.



Wonderful Climate

The Rio Grande Valley is extraordinary for winter planting. Harvests in Rio Grande Valley can be developed for a year consistently. Winter vegetables are the gloat of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Vegetables developed in this time prosper at a season when the stockpile is at a great decline and

costs at the greatest. During the Fall and Winter months, vegetables available in the Valley were cabbage, carrots, beets, potatoes, tomatoes, green beans, green corn, spinach, celery, asparagus, parsley, peppers, onions, and a large number of different assortments.



Prosperous Community

The boom in Agriculture created many opportunities for the area and a sense of pride in the community. The citrus natural products gave a wellspring of reliable income every year with the least amount of work. Schools at the time were among the brightest in

the country and churches and other spaces for community gatherings were on the rise. Although the Market for citrus in the Rio Grande Valley has declined it is still remembered for the citrus fruit variety, quality and "America's Garden of Eden".



Question:

What temporary Supportive Housing design would best influence Women and Children for productive futures?

The intention of this project is to create a Women's and Children's housing design that will enhance and support homeless women and single-mother households in need through community development encompassing, needs, autonomy, empowerment, guidance, and inclusion.

Considerations

Why a shelter?

The temporary Supportive Housing is represented as a shelter over other forms of housing due to constraints found in funding this type of project. The vast majority of homeless programs and agencies are funded by federal grants administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD has established a new rule barring particular residents from subsidized homes. The rule was said to prevent citizens without legal documentation from receiving federal housing aid. This could prompt evictions of families and provide them with no resources. Government domestic violence service programs and Non-profit organizations however, are explicitly exempt from verifying immigration status as a condition for providing services. Denying undocumented immigrants shelter in these organizations may be violating fair housing

laws and civil rights. Brownsville, has a higher percentage of undocumented citizens in its city than the national average. Brownsville is also in need of a women's shelter due to it having the highest percentage of single mothers with children (under the age of 18) living in poverty in the United States. It is imperative to remove these families from those conditions and equip them with resources for a better life. Since Brownsville also has the highest percentage of single mothers with children (under the age of 18) without health care, the better response would be to create a shelter that can manage all of the facets needed to support a diverse background of women and children. To best serve the most women and children in need as possible, a shelter is the best response to these circumstances.

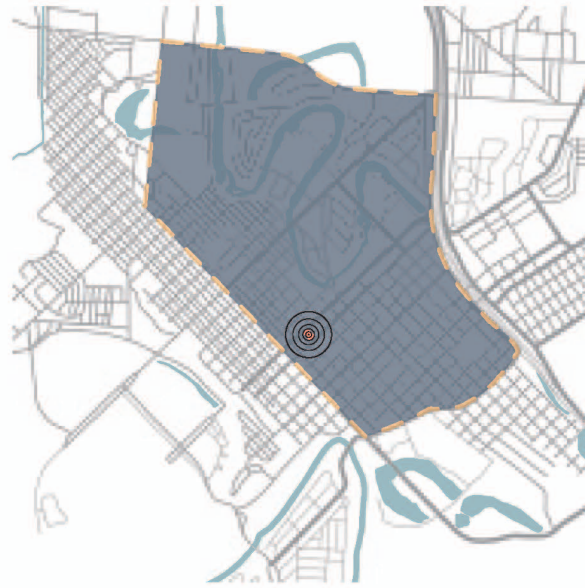
SITE PLAN



SITE ADJACENCIES



Churches in the community are a place of Refuge. Freedom from judgement and exterior pressures and struggles.



The Mitte Cultural District provides a sense of community as well as holds traditional significance for the Brownsville/Matamoros cities.



The schools in the area provide education to the society of Brownsville, TX.

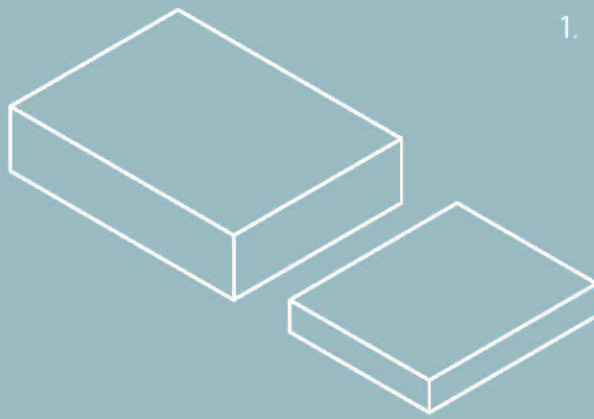


Advocate Centers are distributed throughout the city and provide an array of support for the community.

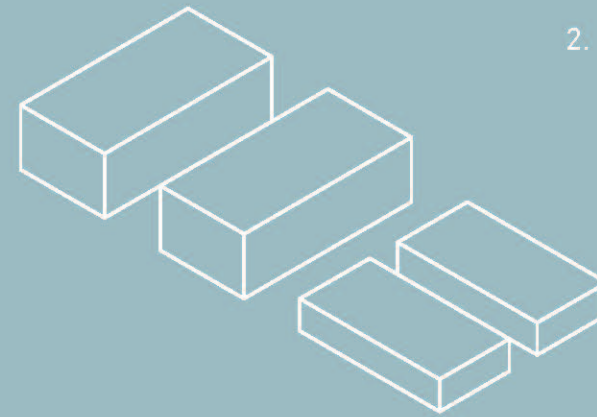


The importance of a Park in such a dense urban setting is great. Natural spaces help increase the overall health and well-being of those who interact with it.

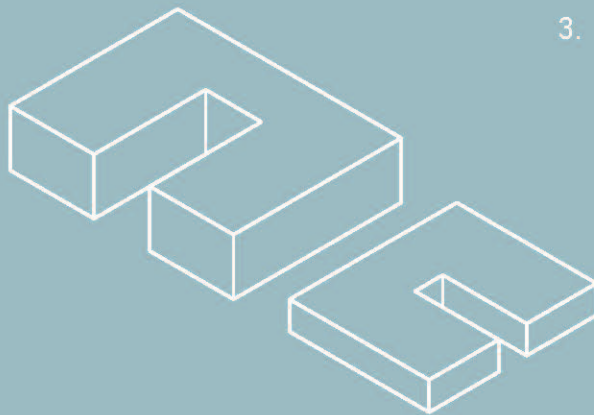
ARCHITECTURAL STRATEGIES



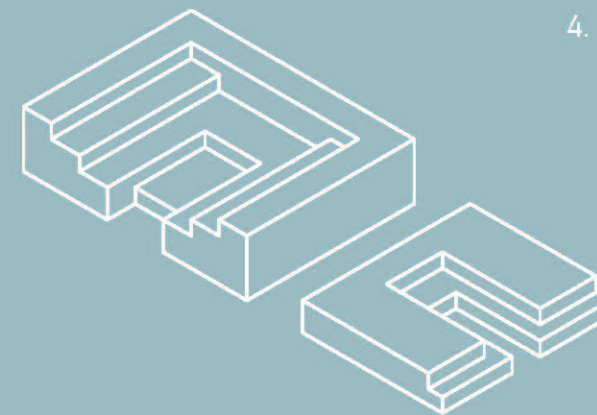
Two masses were created to identify Public and Private spaces



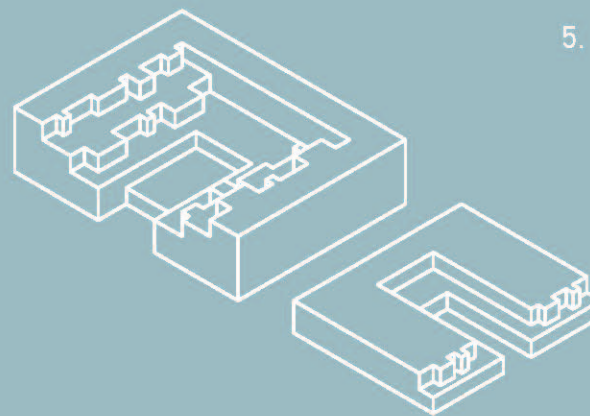
The two masses were split to signify the entrance points



A part of each mass was connected to allow interaction between each side

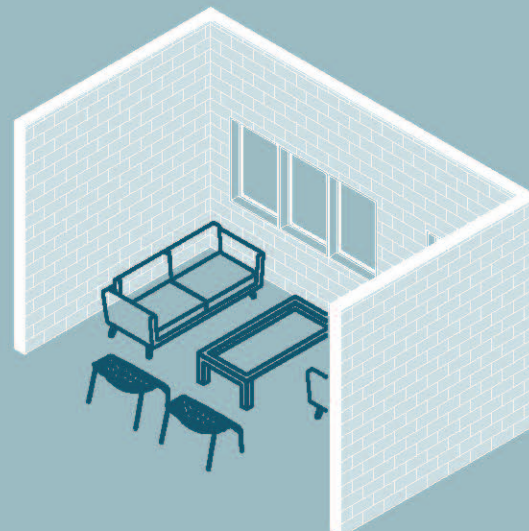
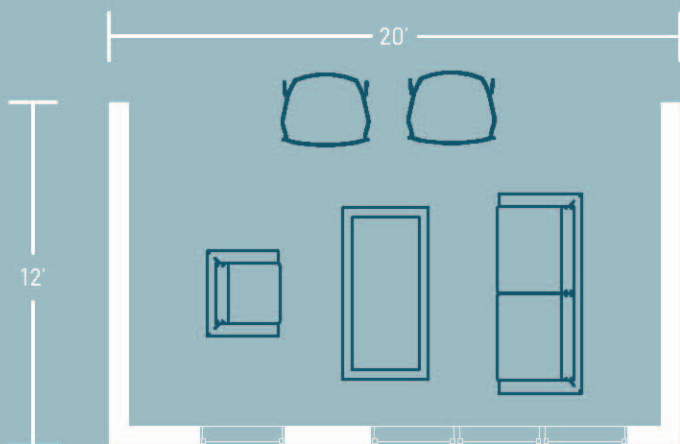
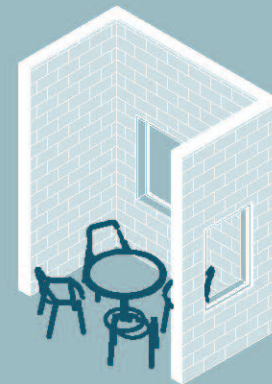
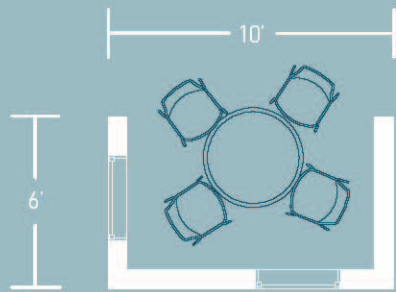
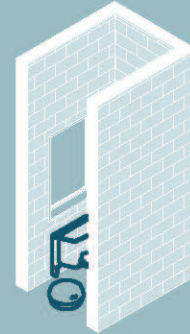
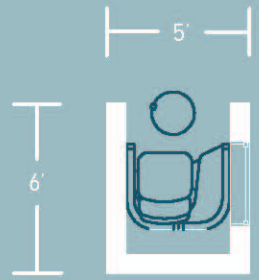


Cascading in section was incorporated to allow vertical views from every level



The addition of extruding facade elements draws attention and encourages differing interactions

EXTRUDING FACADE



FLOOR PLANS

1

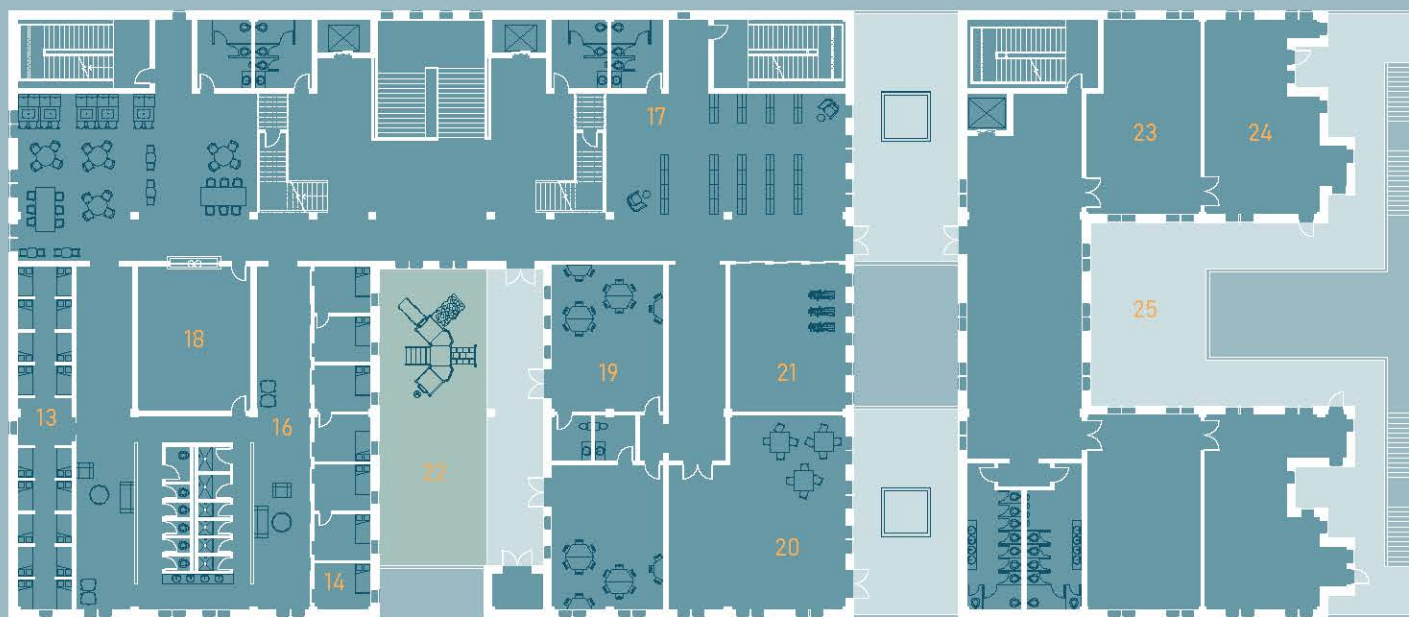


- 1 - Entry
- 2 - Classroom
- 3 - Advocates Office
- 4 - Counseling Office
- 5 - Staff Lounge

- 6 - Offices
- 7 - Storage
- 8 - Clinic
- 9 - Waiting Room
- 10 - Parking Garage

- 11 - Mechanical Room
- 12 - Market
- 13 - Short Term Single Unit
- 14 - Short Term Family Unit
- 15 - Lounge

2



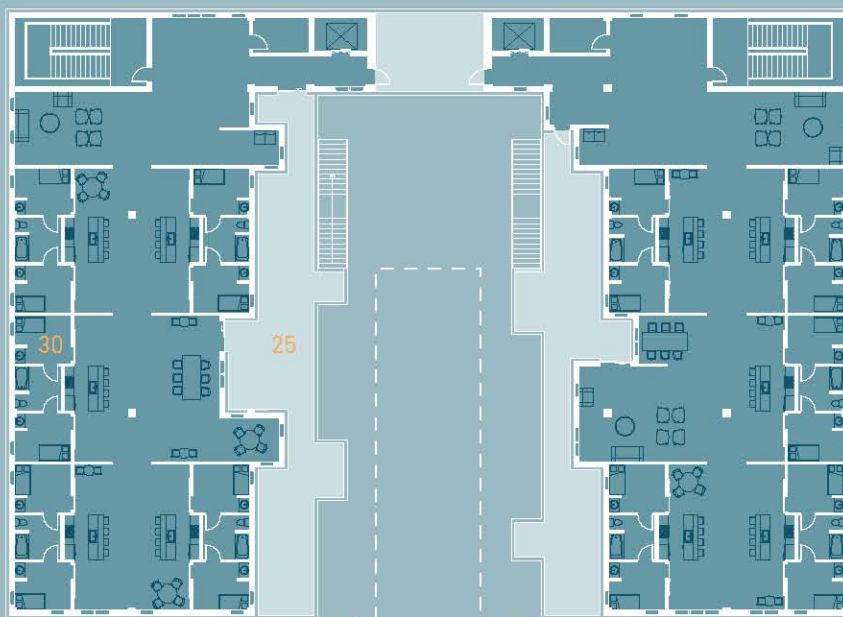


3

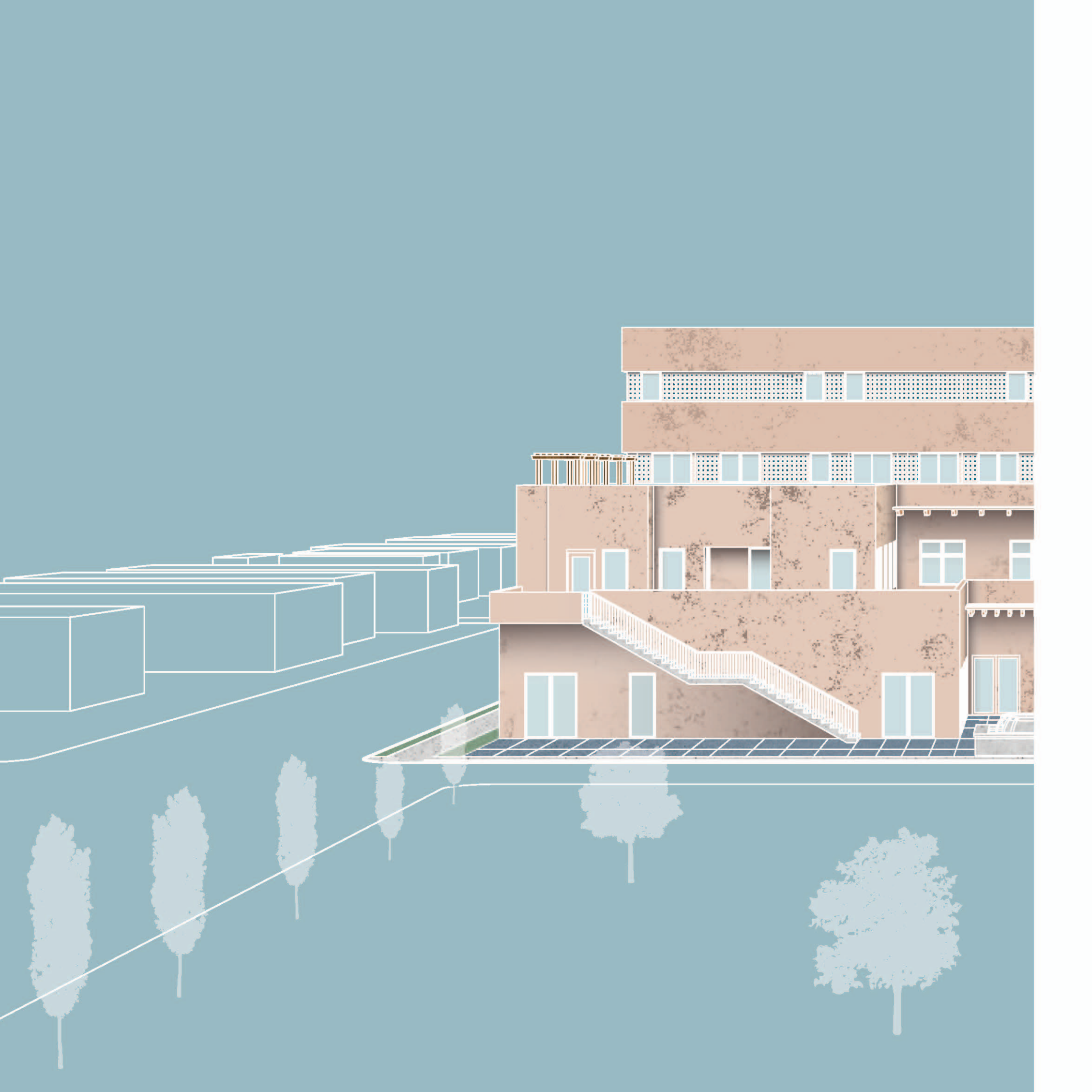
- 16 - Cafeteria
- 17 - Library
- 18 - Industrial Kitchen
- 19 - Day Care
- 20 - Multi-Purpose Room

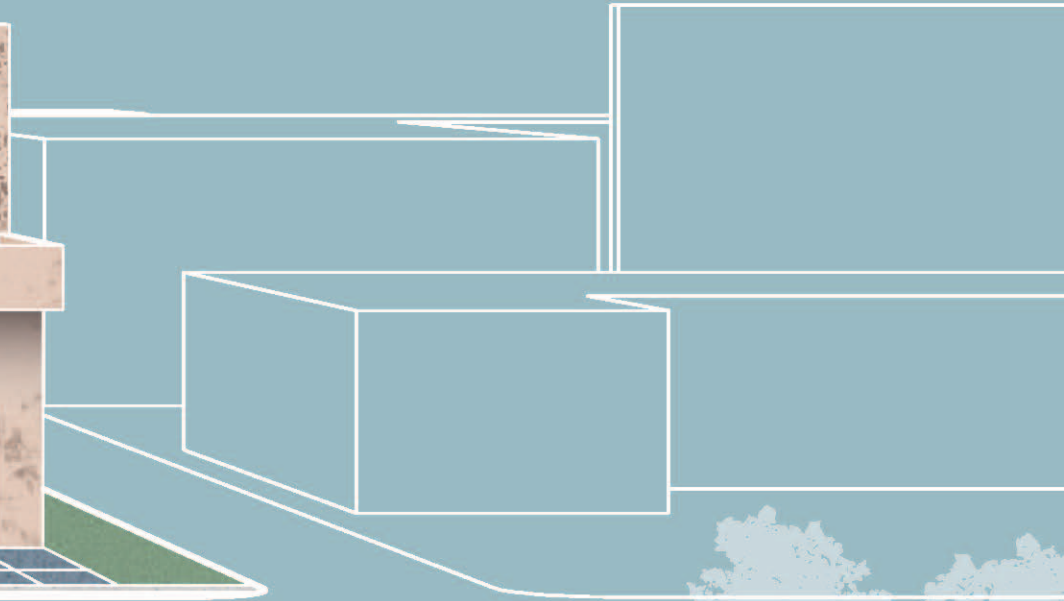
- 21 - Gym
- 22 - Playground
- 23 - Arts and Crafts Space
- 24 - Display Room
- 25 - Patio

- 26 - Laundry Room
- 27 - Living Space
- 28 - Community Kitchen
- 29 - Long Term Family Unit
- 30 - Long Term Single Unit
- 31 - Rooftop Garden



4





HOUSING UNITS

Single Units (Long Term)

LENGTH OF STAY: 6 months - 2 years

The Single Units provide a private room for each resident. Two dwelling units share a bathroom with a shower and a water closet. A sink is placed in each unit, outside of the bathroom, to allow for more flexibility among shared spaces. A communal kitchen is also shared between the two residents. The kitchens are open to the communal areas to encourage interaction between other residents.

Family Units (Long Term)

LENGTH OF STAY: 6 months - 2 years

Each family is given a private master bedroom, patio, and bathroom. The other 2 rooms are shared between each mother's children and separated by gender and age. This encourages children to connect and grow friendships with other kids. 4 families share a large communal kitchen. The living areas are also shared between the 4 families with extruding facades creating opportunities for differing interactions and group activities.

Single Units (Short Term)

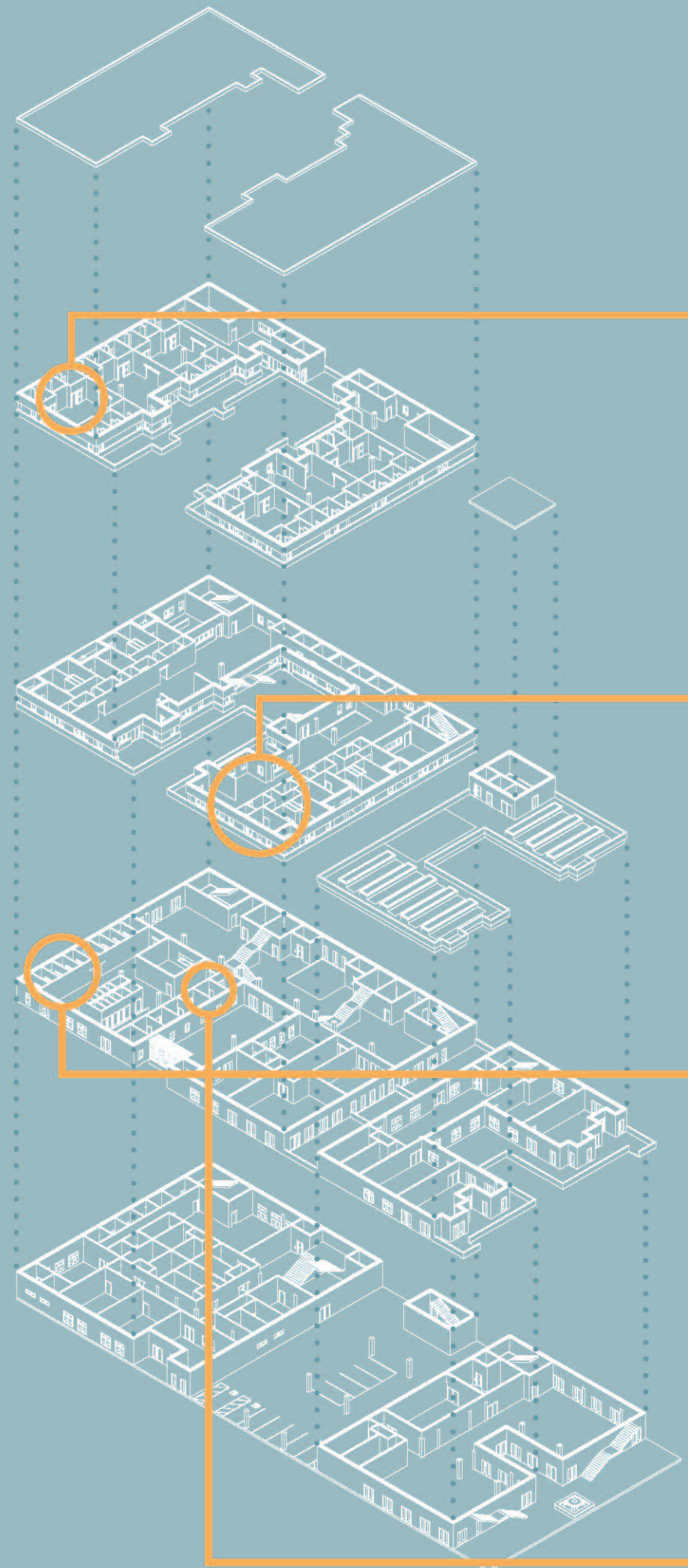
LENGTH OF STAY: 1 day - 5 months

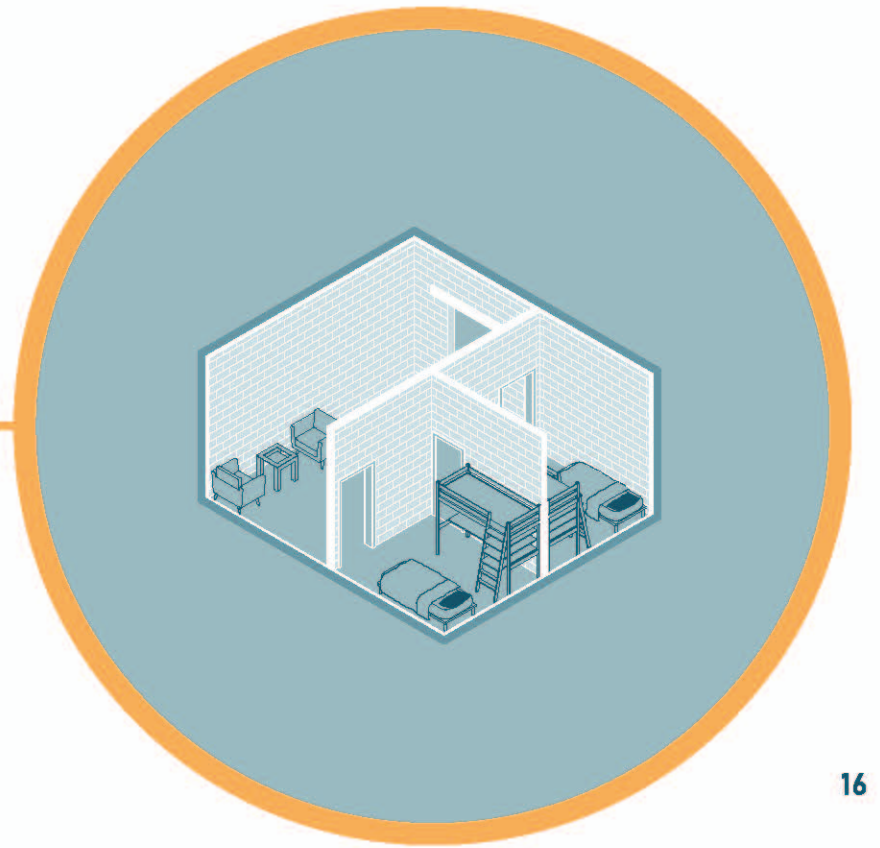
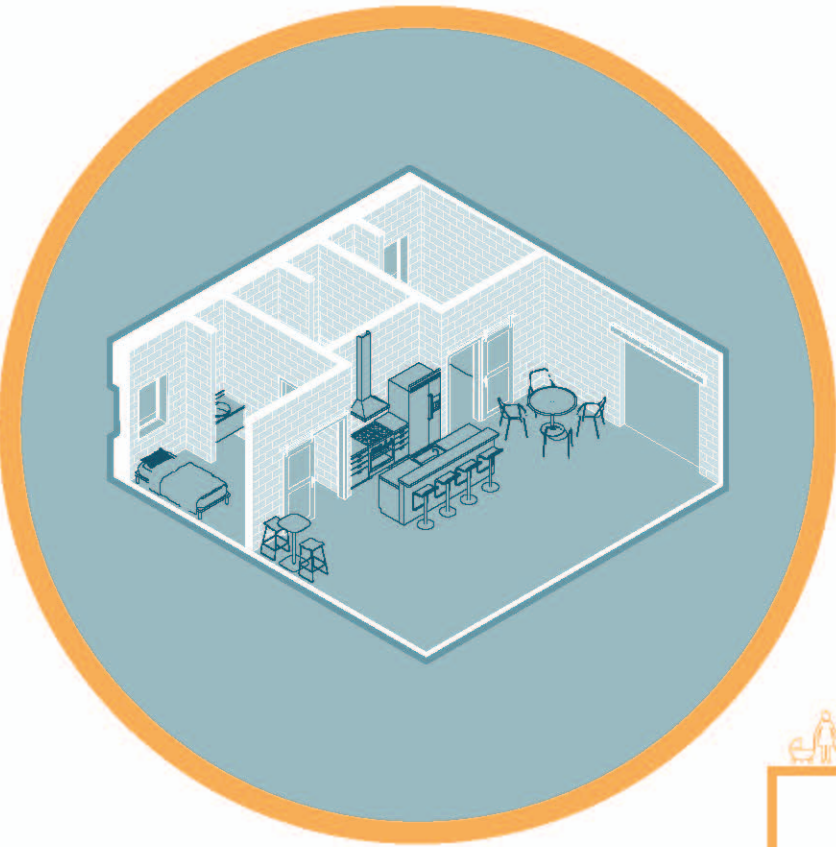
Shared dwelling units are provided for women staying for a short period of time. The areas are created solely for resting to eliminate disruption and encourage interaction in the shared living space. Showers, water closets, and sinks are provided and shared with all short term residents. Meals are prepared by the shelter and served 3 times daily for all short term residents in the cafeteria.

Family Units (Short Term)

LENGTH OF STAY: 1 day - 5 months

Women with children staying for a short period of time will stay in these dwelling units. Each mother is provided a private room for her to share with her children. If the mother has more than 3 children in her care, she will be given an adjoining room as well, connected by a doorway for convenience. Like the single short term units, these units share showers, water closets, and sinks with other short term residents. As well as have their meals served and prepared by the shelter in its cafeteria daily.



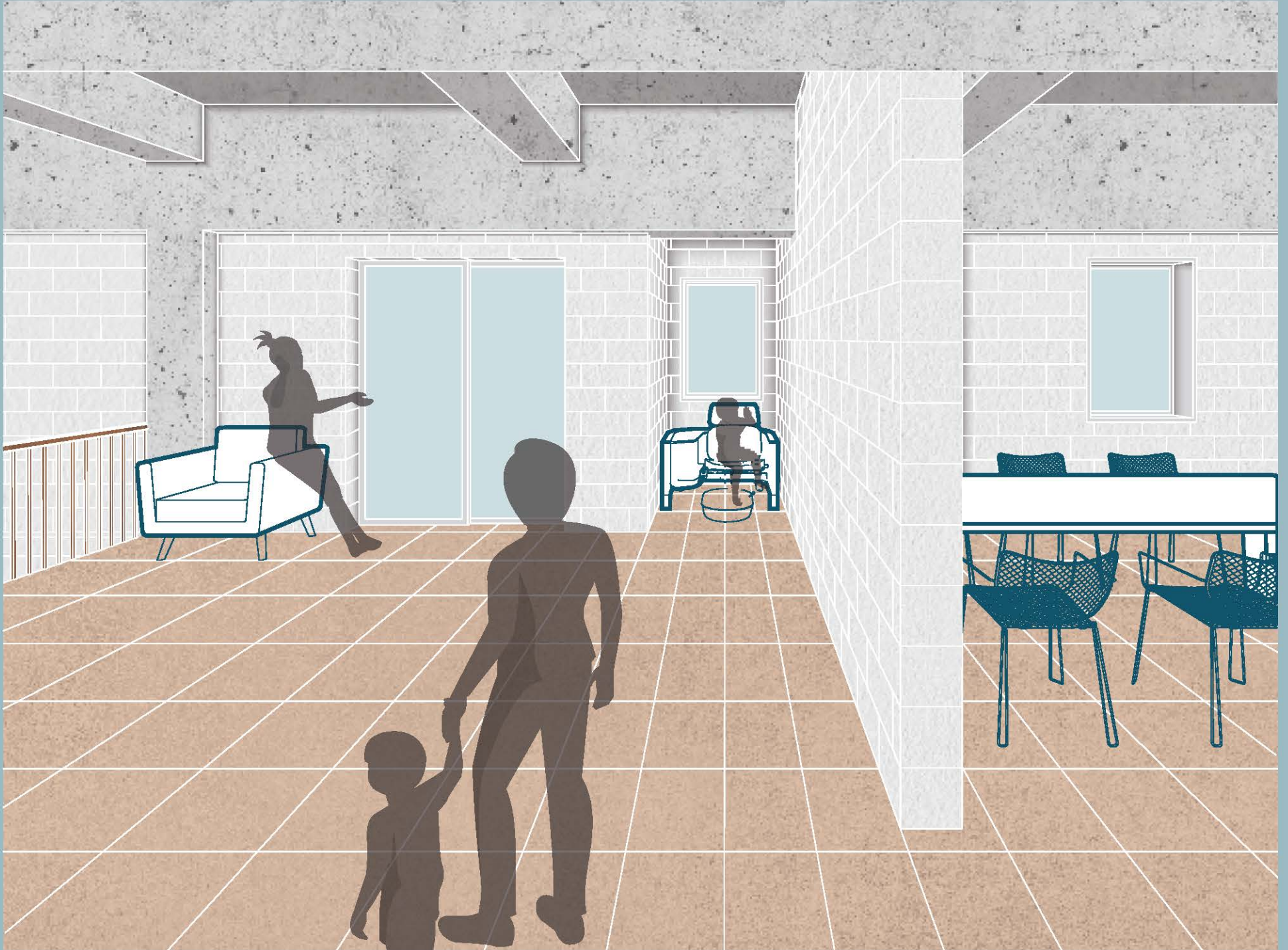


DESIGN SOLUTIONS

Autonomy

Refuge Space

Choosing when to interact and with whom is an essential component of autonomy. Being unable to find privacy was one of the most common reported problems among residents in women's shelters. Private rooms allow families to establish routine. Establishing areas outside of private rooms with multi purpose, flexibility and refuge creates appreciation of control over social interactions. The extruding facade has created the spaces for diverse gatherings without removing people from the community. These facades range from individual to intimate group and large- scale assemblies. These facades not only affect interior socialization but the exterior as well. Creating areas of refuge that are located on the exterior encourages residents to interact with nature and participate in outdoor activities.



Empowerment

Roof Top Garden

There are stigmas associated with women's shelters that present the residents in a negative light. There is an assumption that the women who reside there are not productive citizens of society and are living off of the work of others. The citrus garden was designed to help reduce this stigma so women would seek help without the fear of feeling judged and show the community their contribution to society. The rooftop garden overlooks the neighborhood around it. Displaying the hard-work and dedication of the women who tend to it. The women are uplifted through gardening by being able to see the "fruits of their labor". This can be a practice that the women incorporate in their new way of life after leaving the shelter.

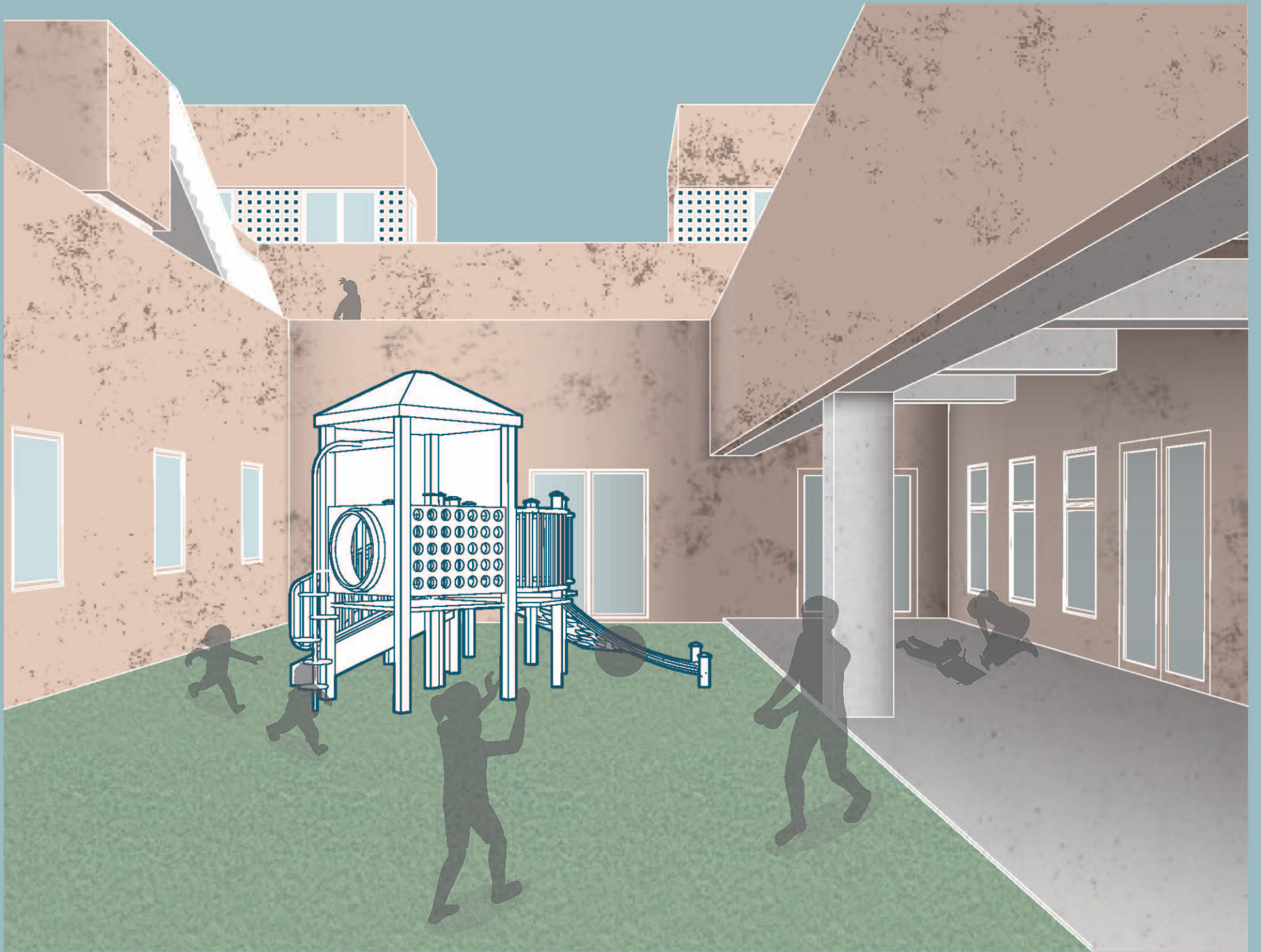


DESIGN SOLUTIONS

Guidance

Play Ground, Classrooms, Counseling

The playground was designed to provide a space for the children to interact and explore that is easily monitorable by their guardians. The views to the playground can be seen from virtually every level and allows mothers to attend to tasks outside of the playground and children still be overseen. The day care center provides guidance for the children residing in the shelter and classrooms for the women in the shelter provides opportunities of education. The counseling offices assist in legal, therapeutic, and psychological aid. Advocate offices connect women with resources for money management, job training, education, and future housing programs. These services are located near the faculty area to encourage relationships with the advocates who can best assist each individual.



DESIGN SOLUTIONS

Needs

Laundry Space, Cafeteria, Housing, Clinic

The shelter provides women and children with many resources and appropriate supplies/ equipment. In addition to laundry services , a line-dry station was designated on the patio to connect women drying and preparing laundry to views and open areas of interaction with other residents. This placement also offers an outdoor experience that is meditative and helps reduce stress. Food is provided through donations and what is grown in the garden. Most units are provided with kitchens for residents to prepare their meals. Dwellings without kitchens have meals prepared by the shelter in an industrial kitchen and are then served in a cafeteria. To accommodate women without health care the clinic provides health screenings, assessments, and education as well as prenatal evaluations. These resources can provide pregnant mothers with information for safe pregnancy and delivery. For treatments the shelter cannot provide the physicians can direct them in what steps to take next.

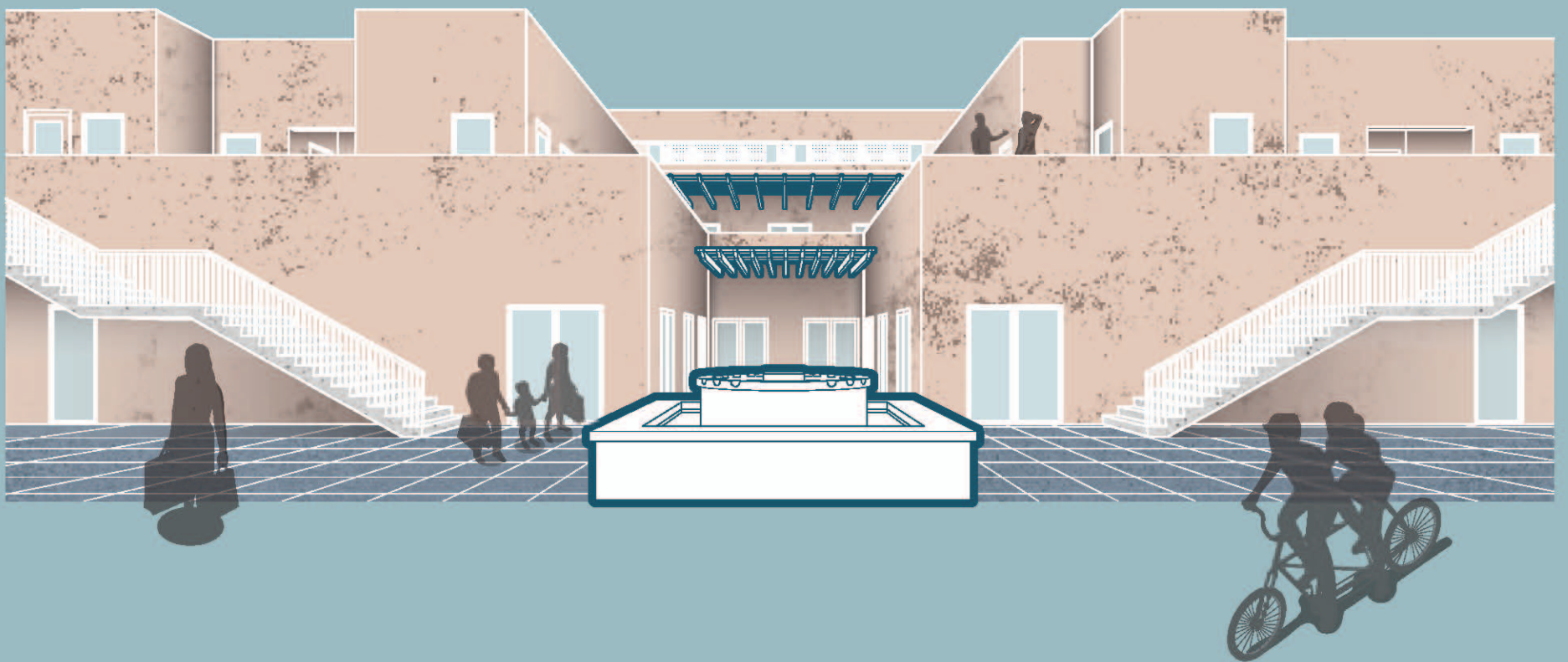


DESIGN SOLUTIONS

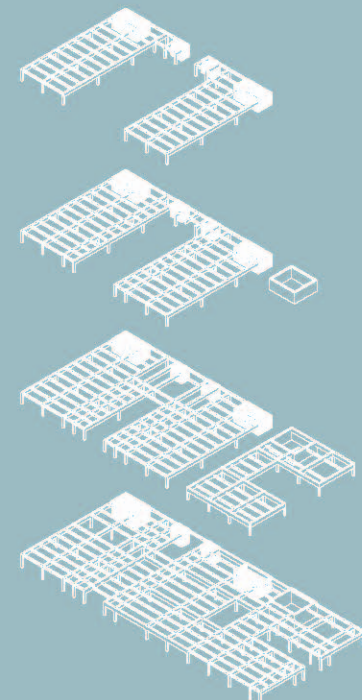
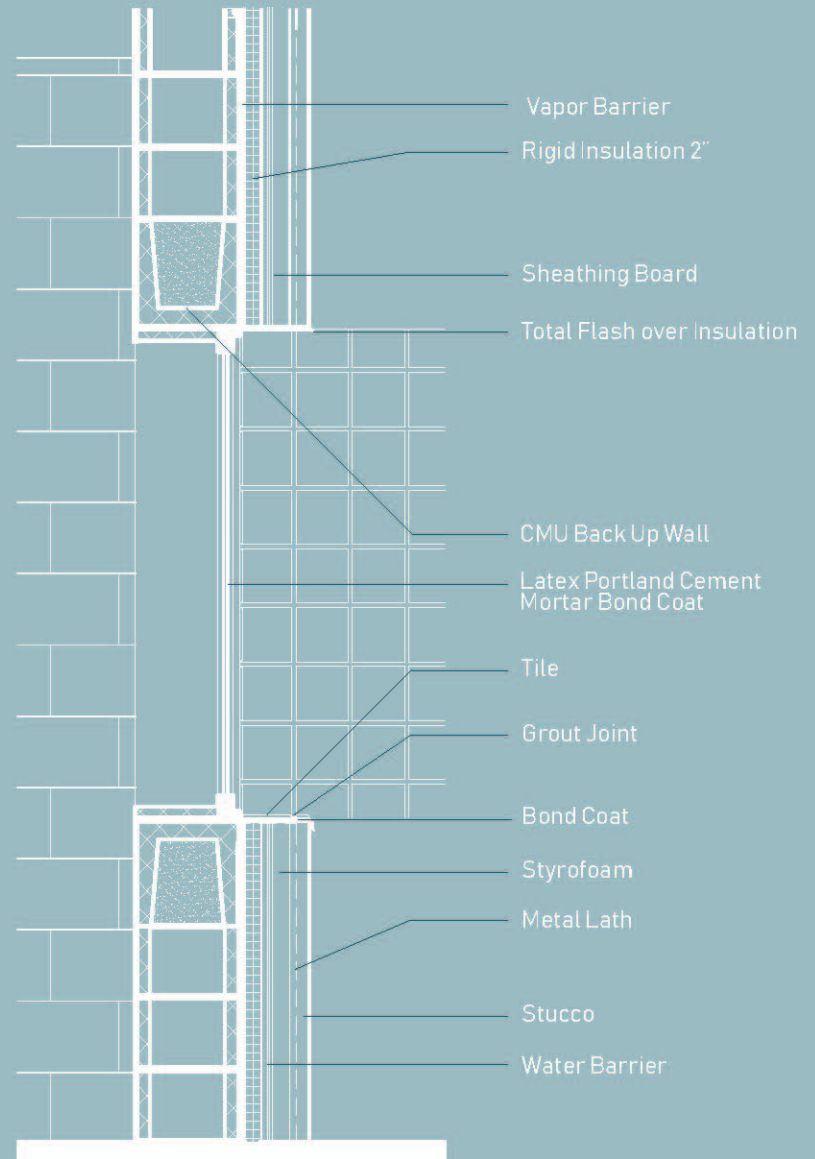
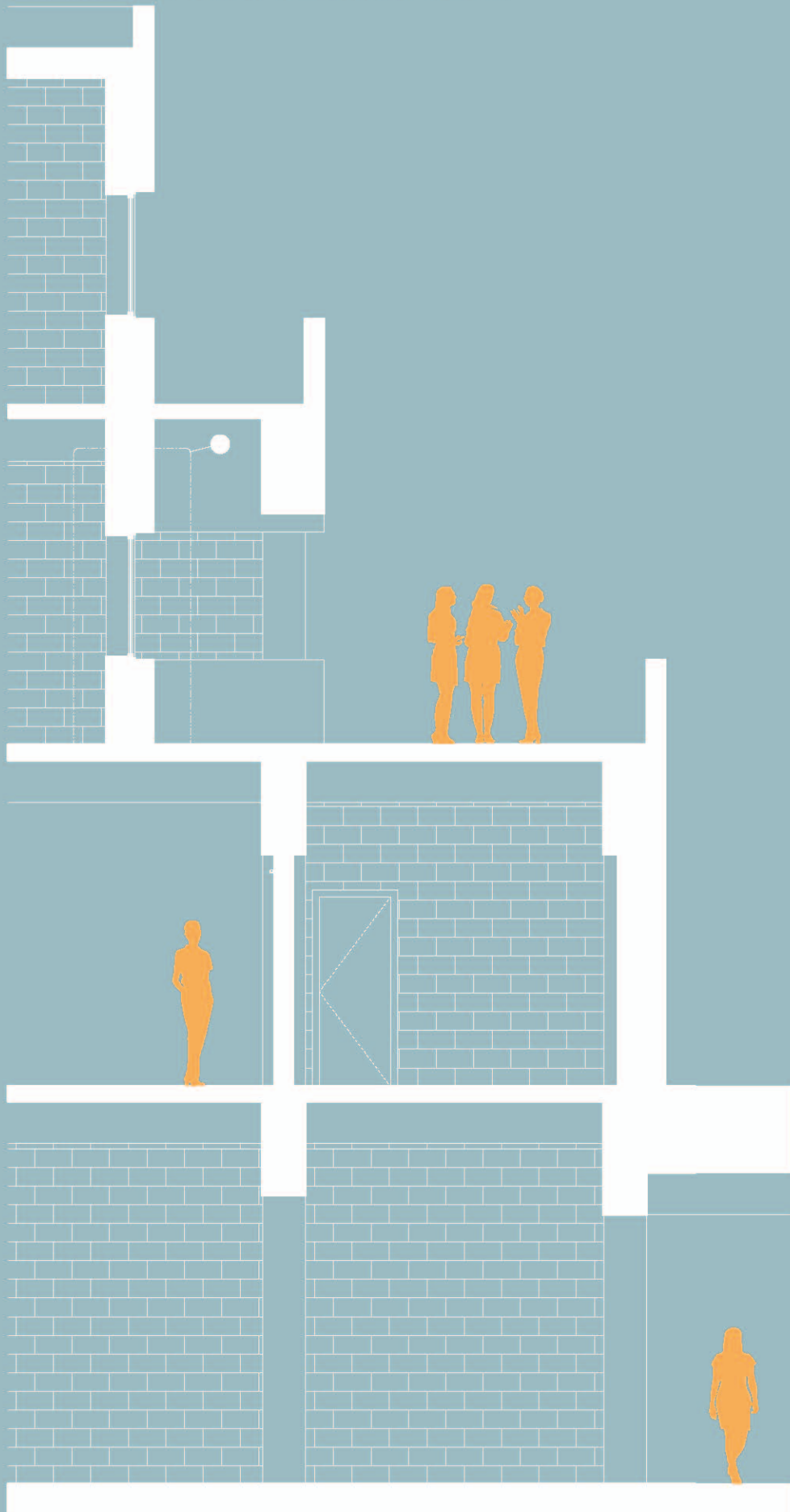
Inclusion

Farmers Market

Sitting in the heart of Brownsville's Historic Multi Cultural district the market creates a great opportunity for inclusion. The market draws in the community through its adjacent setting to parks, schools, churches, historic sites and attractions. The farmers market was intended to make use of an outdoor gathering space and use it for public events and activities without compromising the privacy of the residents. The market also invites members of the community to participate in the consumption of local produce as well as inspire the developments of community farming and get involved in fulfilling the shelter's mission.



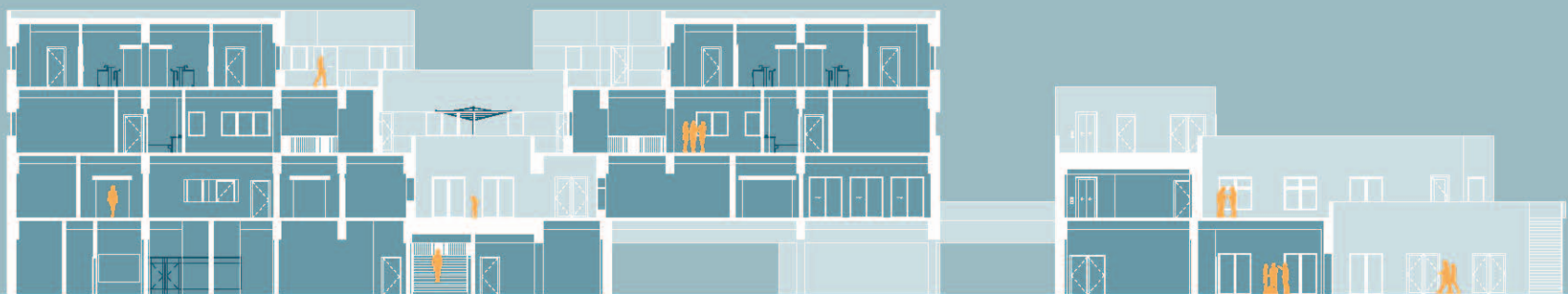
STRUCTURAL SYSTEM



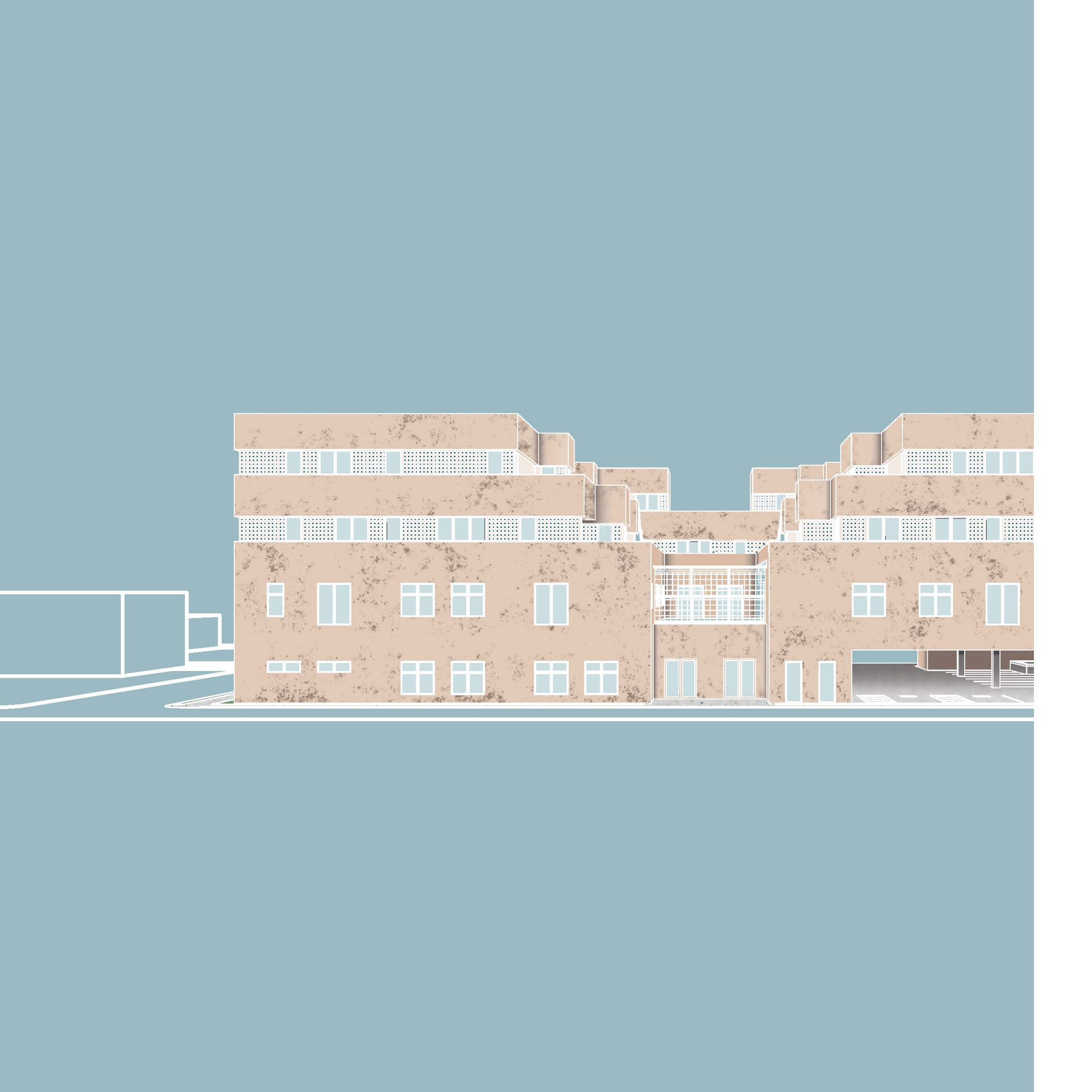
BUILDING SECTIONS

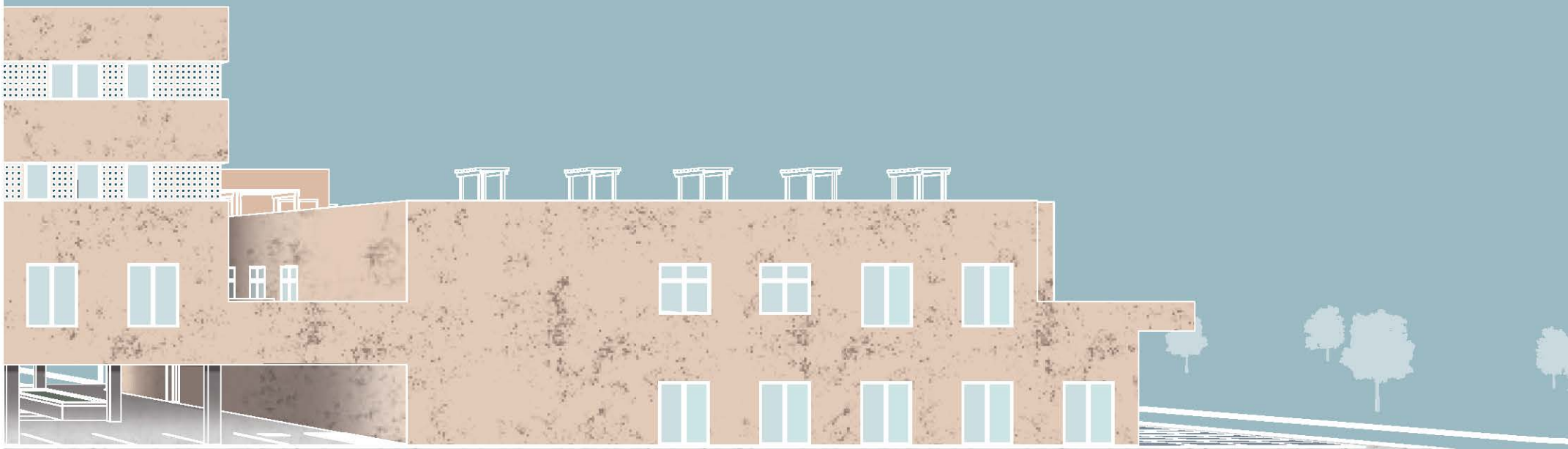


West Section



South Section





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