

# The Forgotten In-Between

## Activating a Neighborhood

Sahar Radwan



# Dedication

To my Mom (1968-2014), who always believed in me and was the first person supporting me to study Architecture. I dedicate this project to your memory, as it is the product of what I proudly achieved through my years of study. I would not be the person I am today without the sacrifices and efforts you made in raising us...

To my Dad, Parents-In-Law, Siblings, Family, and Friends: your unconditional support is what keeps my spirit up and fighting to achieve what I dream of, I thank you always for being there for me.

To my Friend, Lover, Partner, and Husband, Naseem: you are the reason for my happiness, which gives me the energy to get up every day and achieve what I dream. You are the most incredible support system that I can ask for.

To my unborn daughter: I hope one day when you grow up, you look into my projects and be proud.

# Acknowledgement

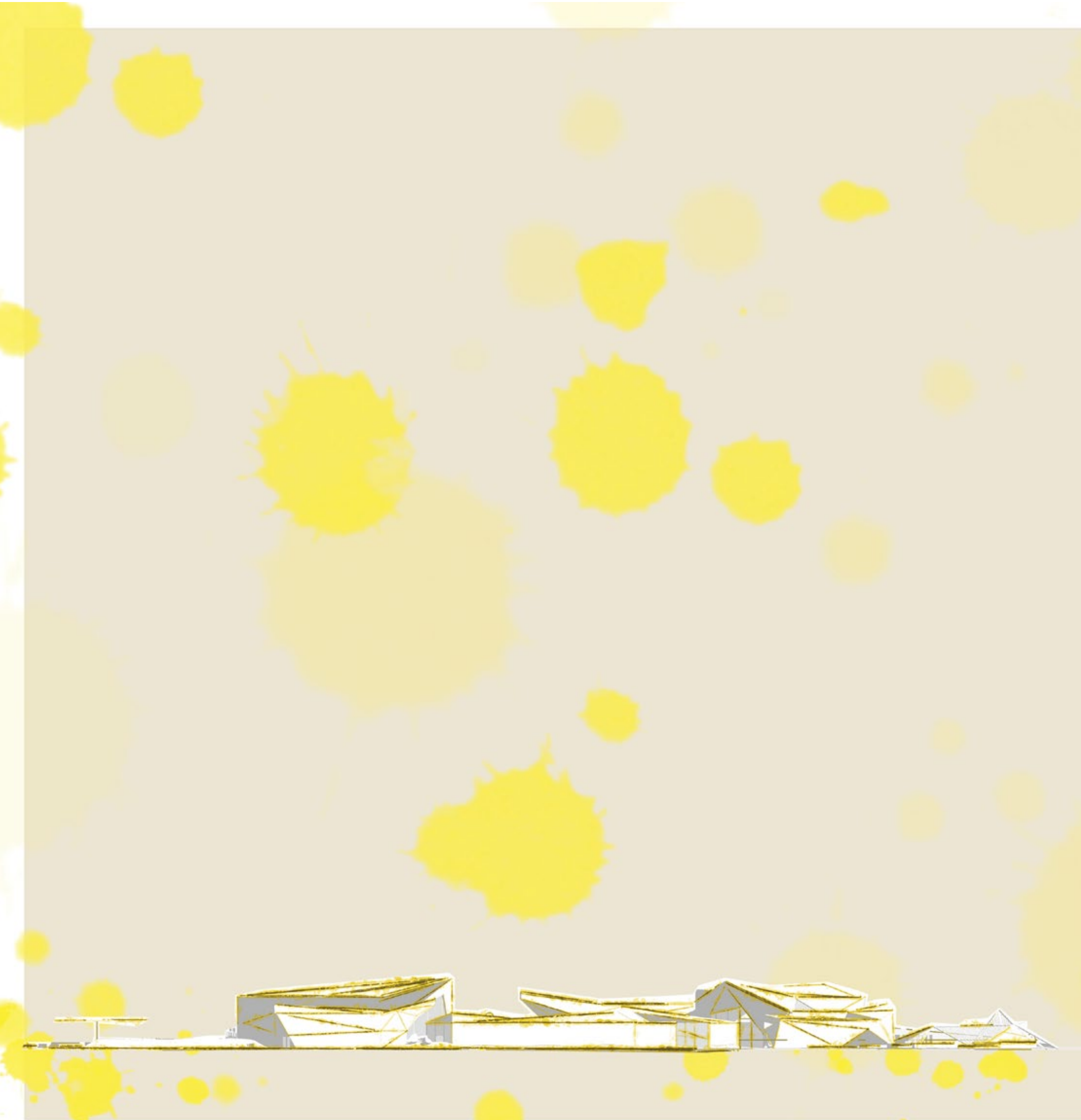
To my Studio Professor, Ray Holliday: I am incredibly thankful for having you as my professor for this year; your approach to dealing with our problem along the studio was greatly beneficial. I loved how you always guided me toward doing what is applicable without discouraging me from doing it in a creative new way. Your positive attitude was cheerful to me in many stressful moments. Thank you!

To my Committee Chair, Marcelo Lopez-Dinardi: You helped me from the beginning of my Master's program to see Architecture differently; I applied what I learned in this project; with your guidance and constant support, I have accomplished what I am proud of now. Thank you!

To my Committee Members, James Burdine & James Tate: Thank you for being there in my committee reviews and providing me with great insights and helpful feedback for the project.

# Committee

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| <br><b>Ray Holliday</b><br>AIA, ASLA, APA, ASID, LI   | <b>Studio Professor</b> |
| <br><b>Marcelo López-Dinardi</b><br>Assistant Professor   | <b>Committee Chair</b>  |
| <br><b>James Burdine</b><br>Professor, Director of the Center for<br>Community Health Development | <b>Committee Member</b> |
| <br><b>James Tate</b><br>Assistant Professor  | <b>Committee Member</b> |



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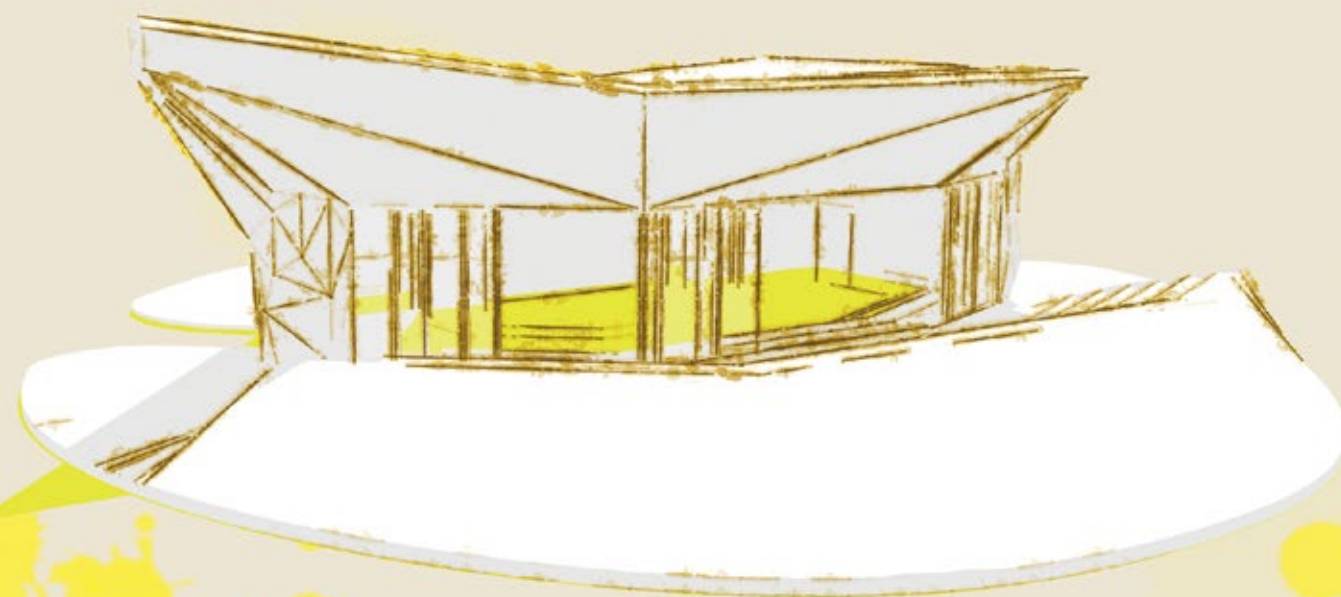
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# Abstract

Our urban experience is mainly divided by site boundaries and functions, where the in-between spaces are lost. By studying the hierarchy and relationships between the urban fabric parts, we can introduce a vibrant neighborhood where the built environment enhances its living conditions; therefore, supporting its dwellers' well-being and mental health.



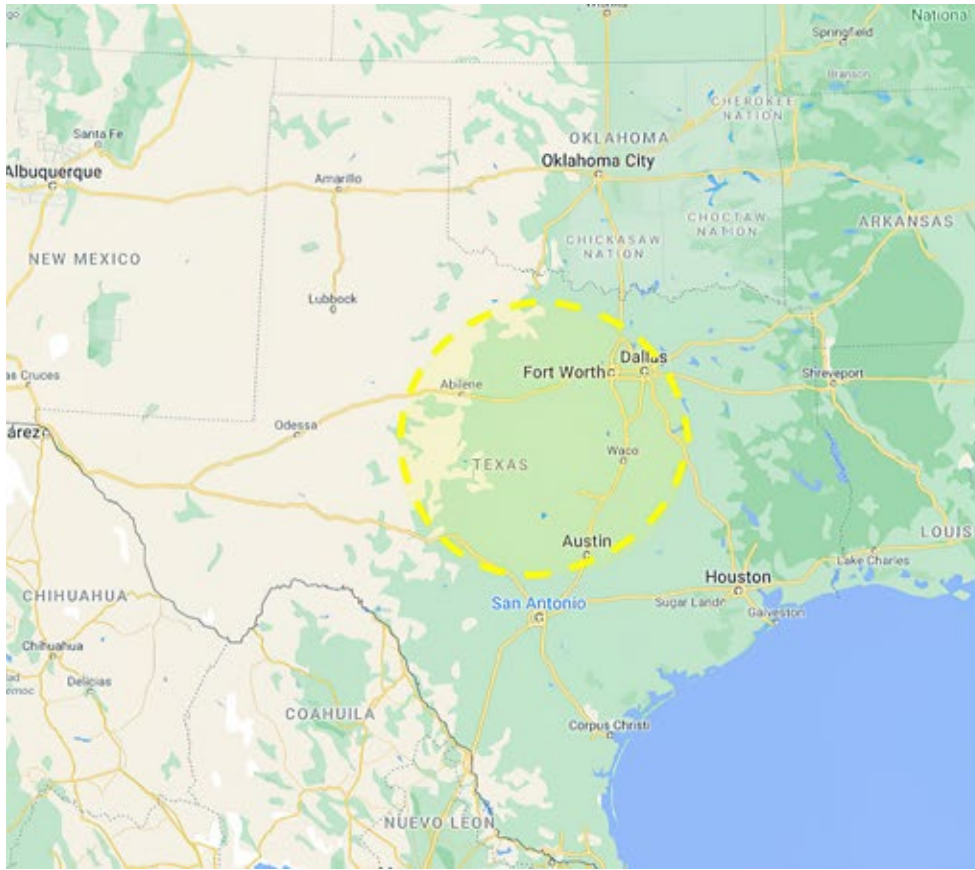
# Research



“Health problems related to physical inactivity have become a global health challenge affecting people from the full spectrum of income, age, and ethnicity.”

“Simple interventions such as street lighting, pavements, sidewalks, street trees, benches, bike lanes or trails, and traffic-calming devices appeared to hold some promise in promoting physical activities in neighborhoods. Long-term solutions should include strategies to enhance overall aesthetics, safety, accessibility, street connectivity, and social interactions among neighbors.”

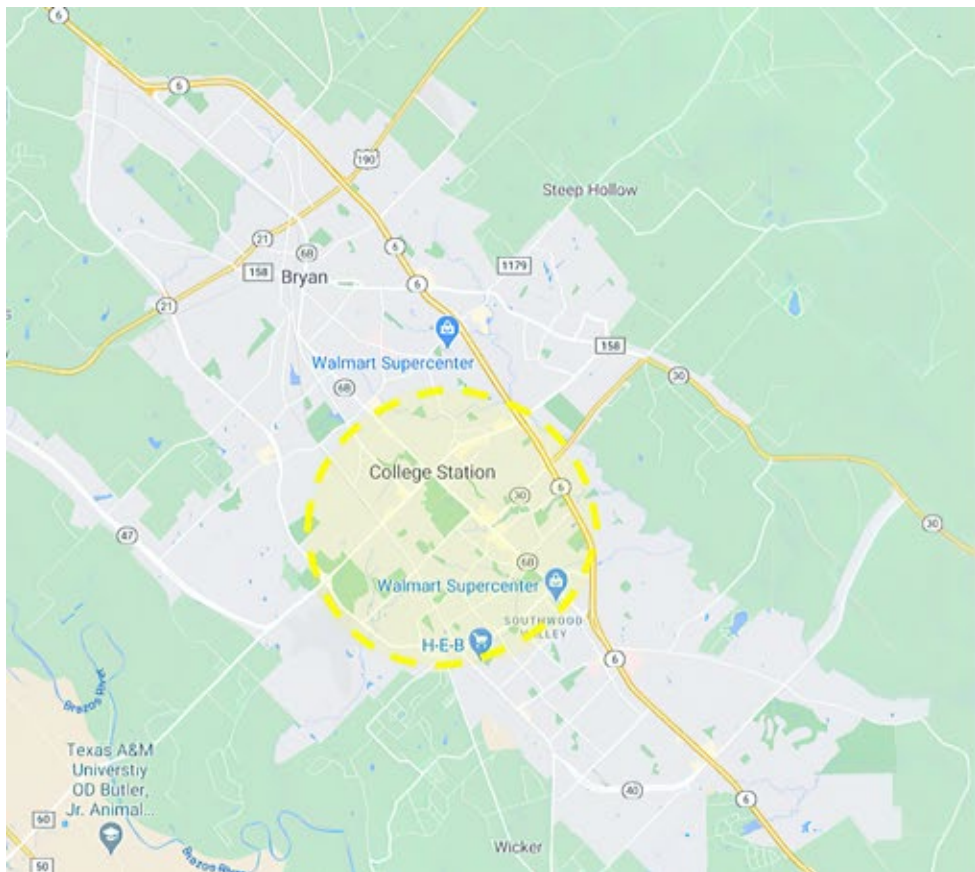
“Indirectly, the physical environment may influence mental health by altering psychosocial processes with known mental health sequelae. Personal control, socially supportive relationships, and restoration from stress and fatigue are all affected by properties of the built environment.”



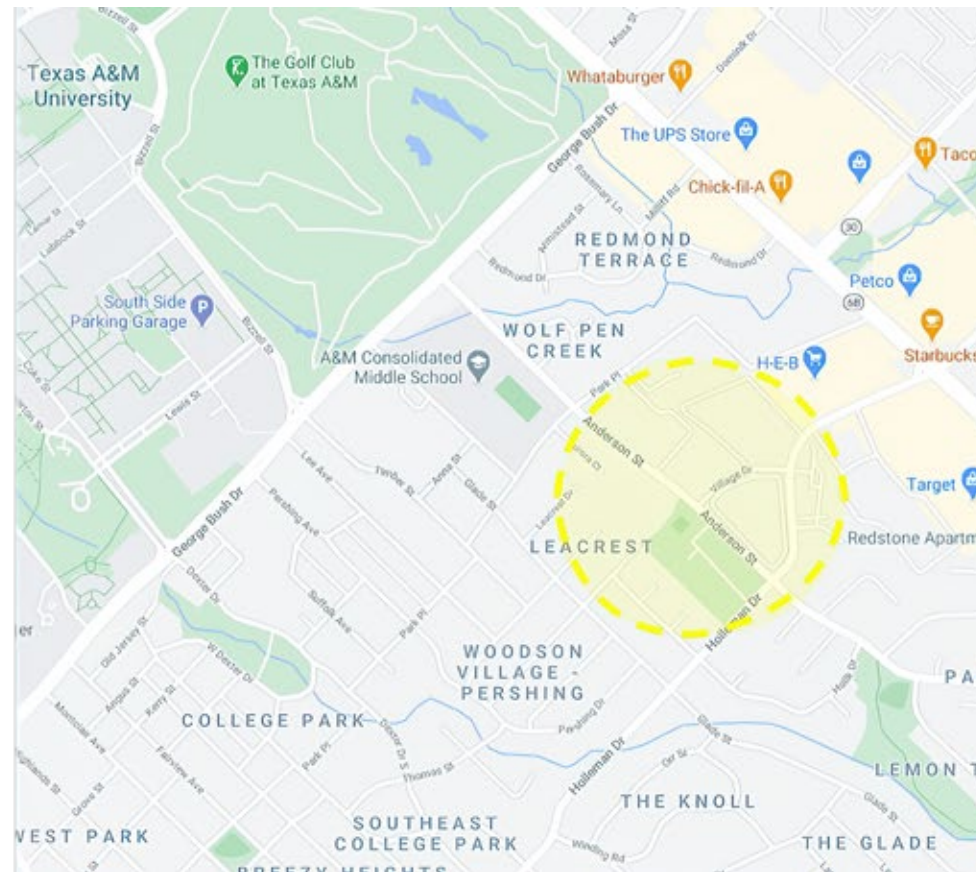
United States



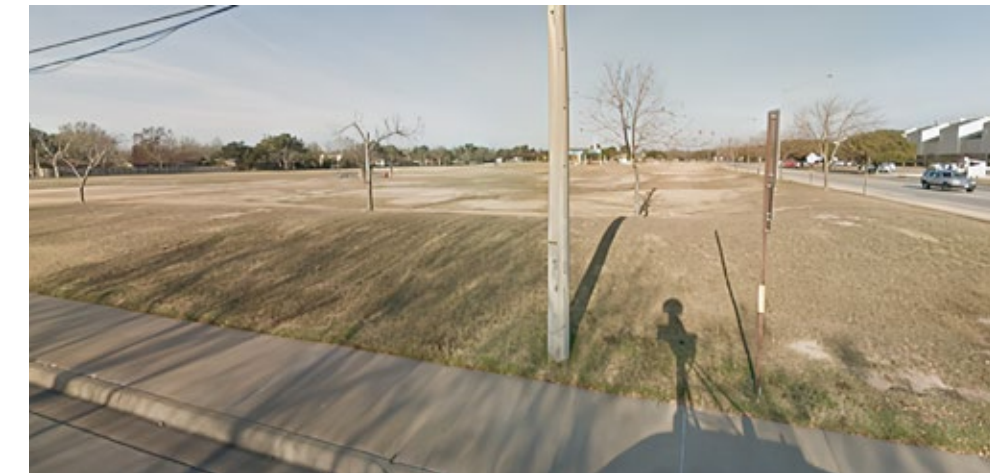
Texas



College Station



Leacrest Neighborhood



# Site / Analysis

## College Station, Texas

Every city in the world got affected by the current pandemic; each city has different challenges depending on many factors. In Texas, most municipalities have similar configurations; therefore, similar challenges.

The project will take place in one of the College Station residential neighborhoods, the study area will be a test sample to apply the project. College Station is a growing city with a flourishing community representing a diverse population and inclusive society.

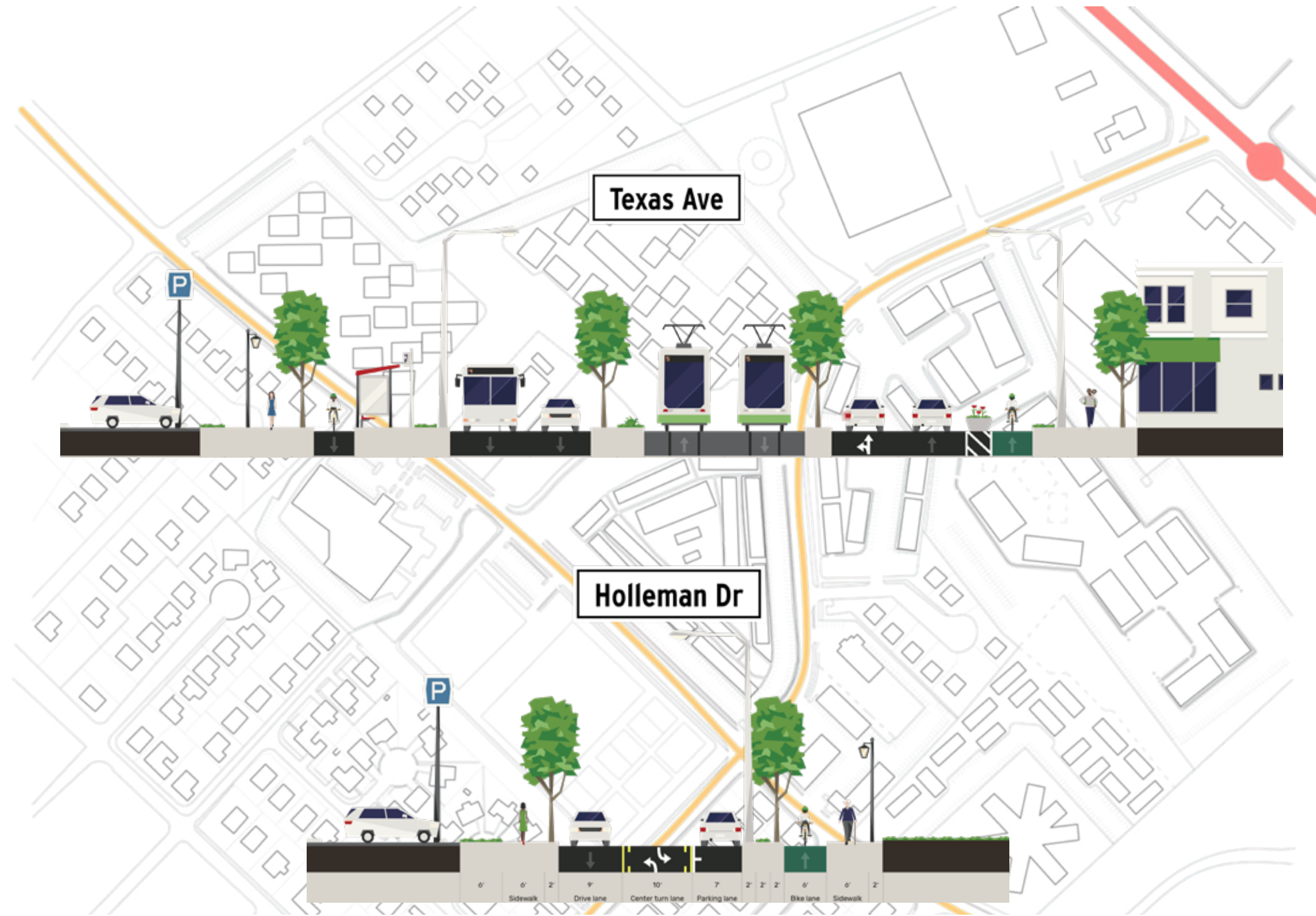
# Site Plan

The project will have different scenarios depending on the neighborhood configuration and the residents' formation, which can be a prototype that could be applied in other neighborhoods.

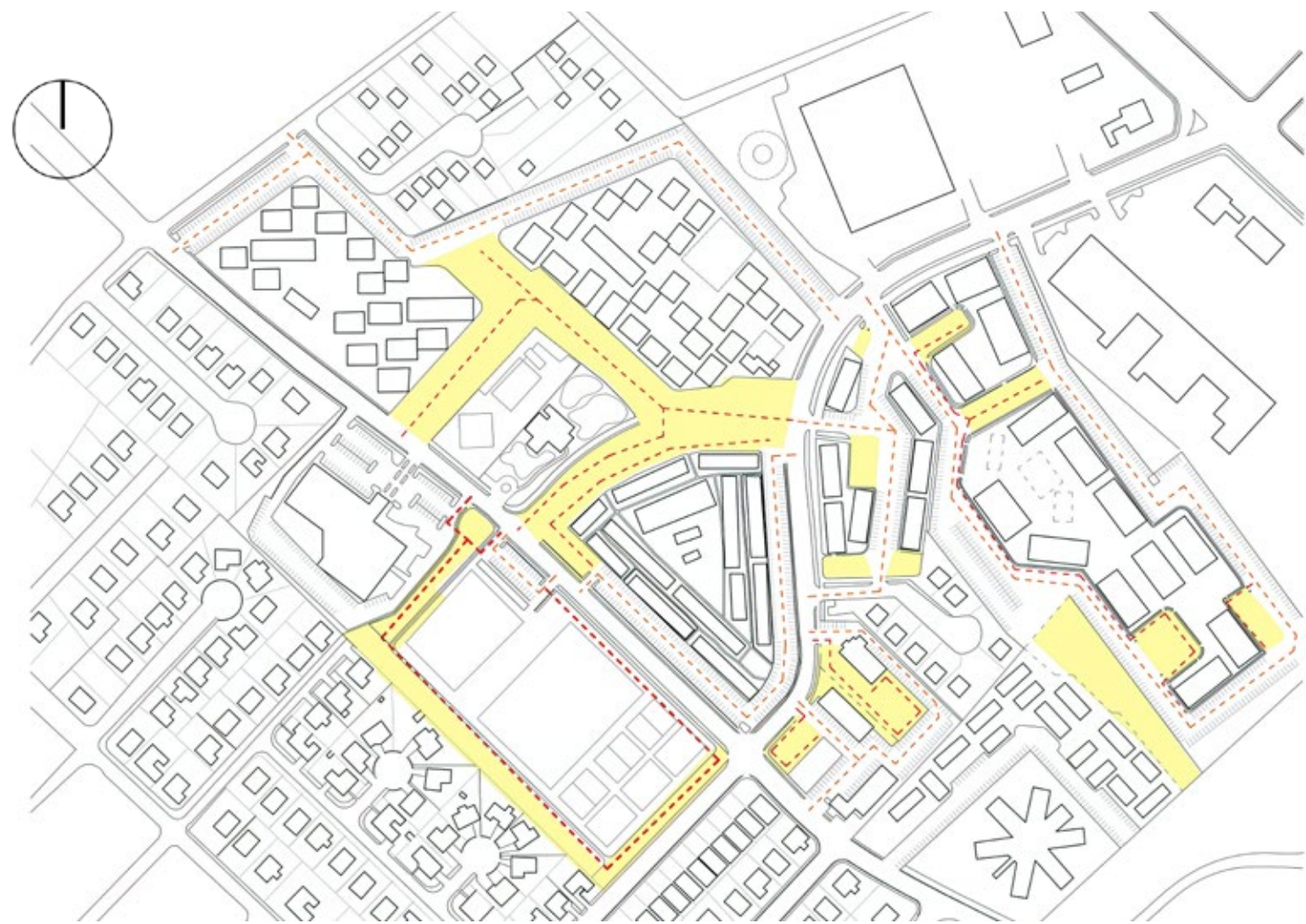


# Transportation System

The project's first step is proposing a new mass transportation system in College Station that connects the neighborhoods. Therefore, we reduce the use of cars and the need for more parking lot areas.

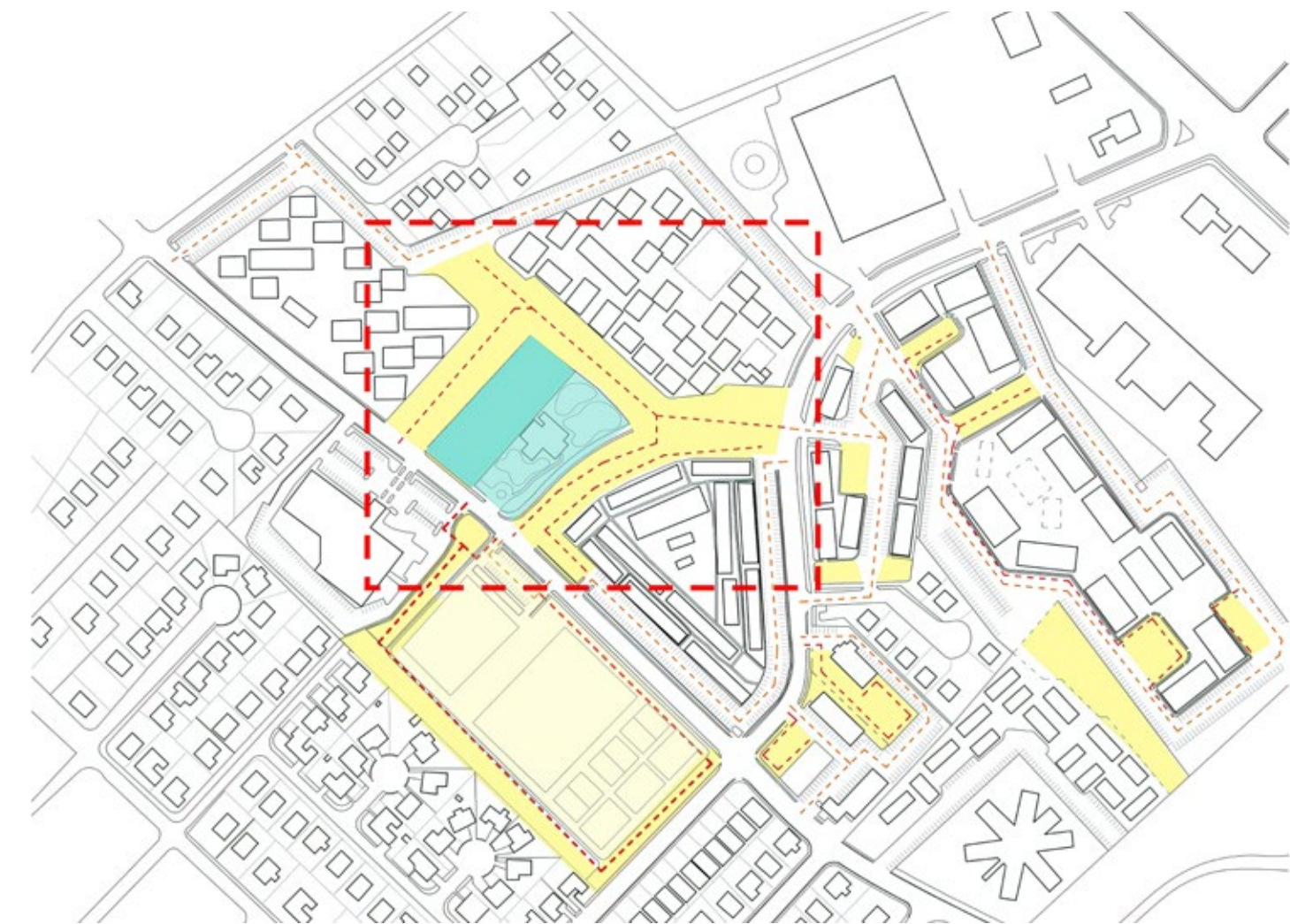






## Parking Lots

Proposing to reduce the Parking lots number for the area.



## Existing Buildings

Reconfiguring the community facilities in the site.



## Zooming-in

Selecting the central part of the site to focus on for the project proposal.



## Flow Paths

Imagining the cognitive map of how people would receive the site. (natural elements, circulation path, and canopies).

# Concept

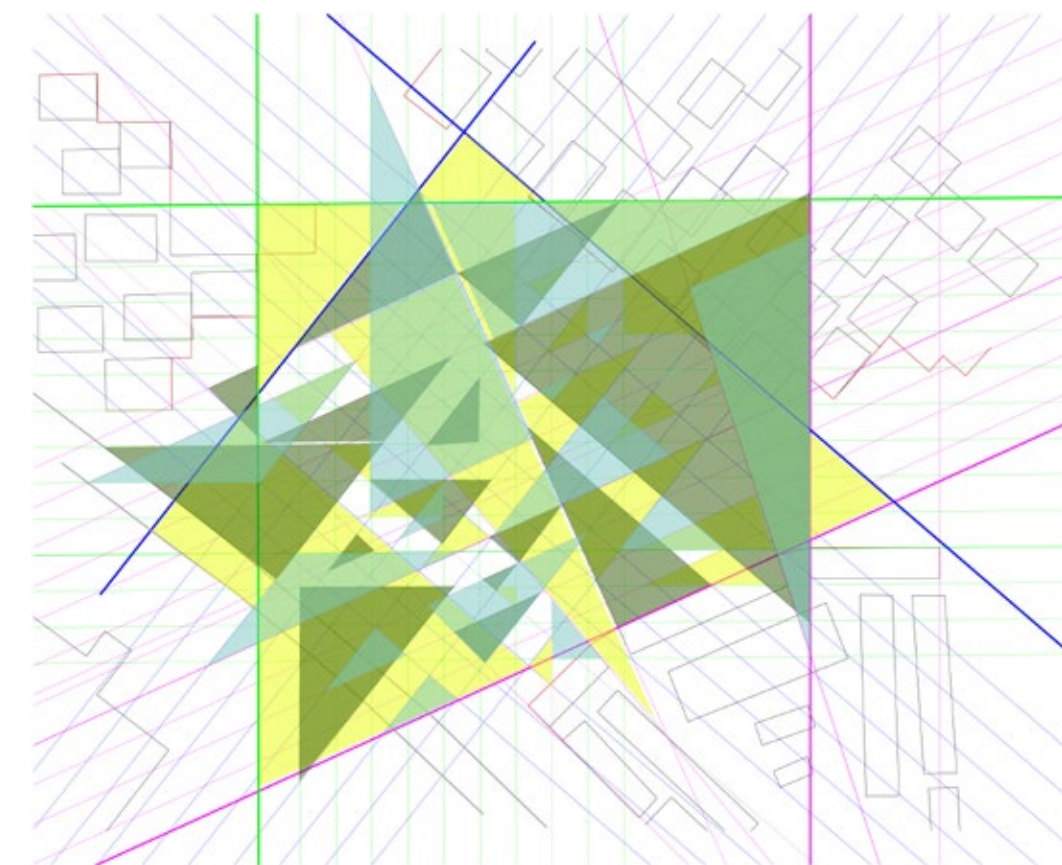
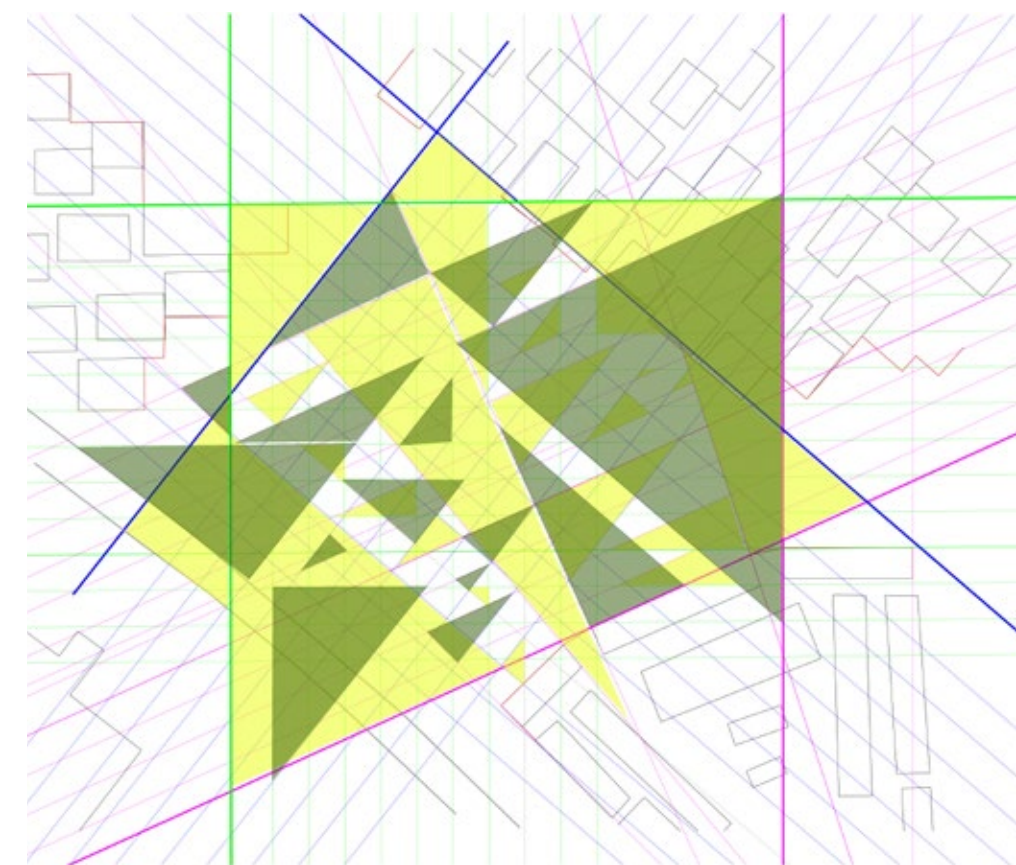
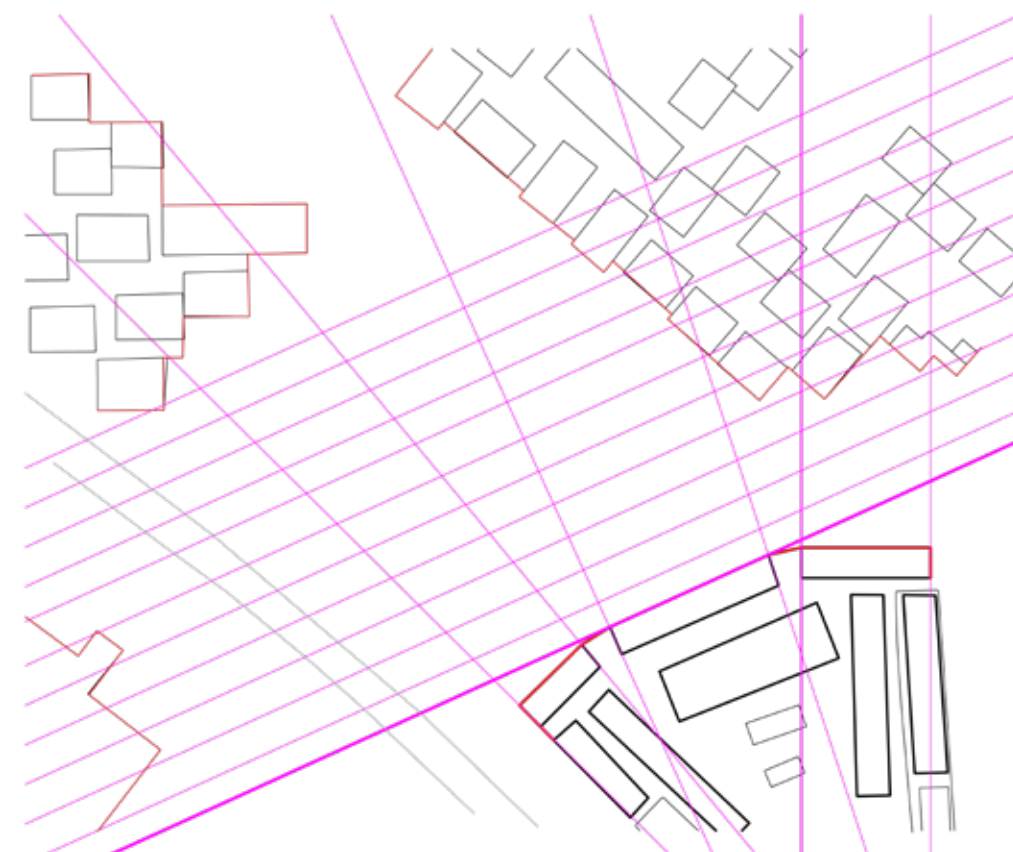
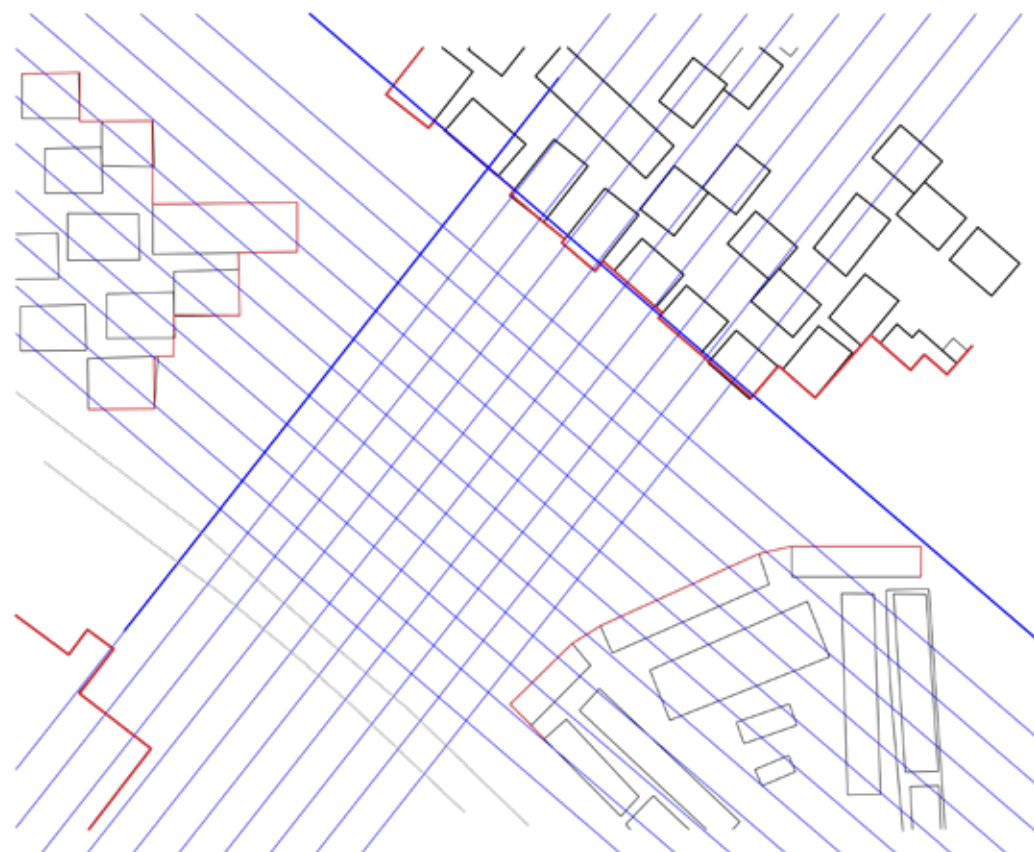
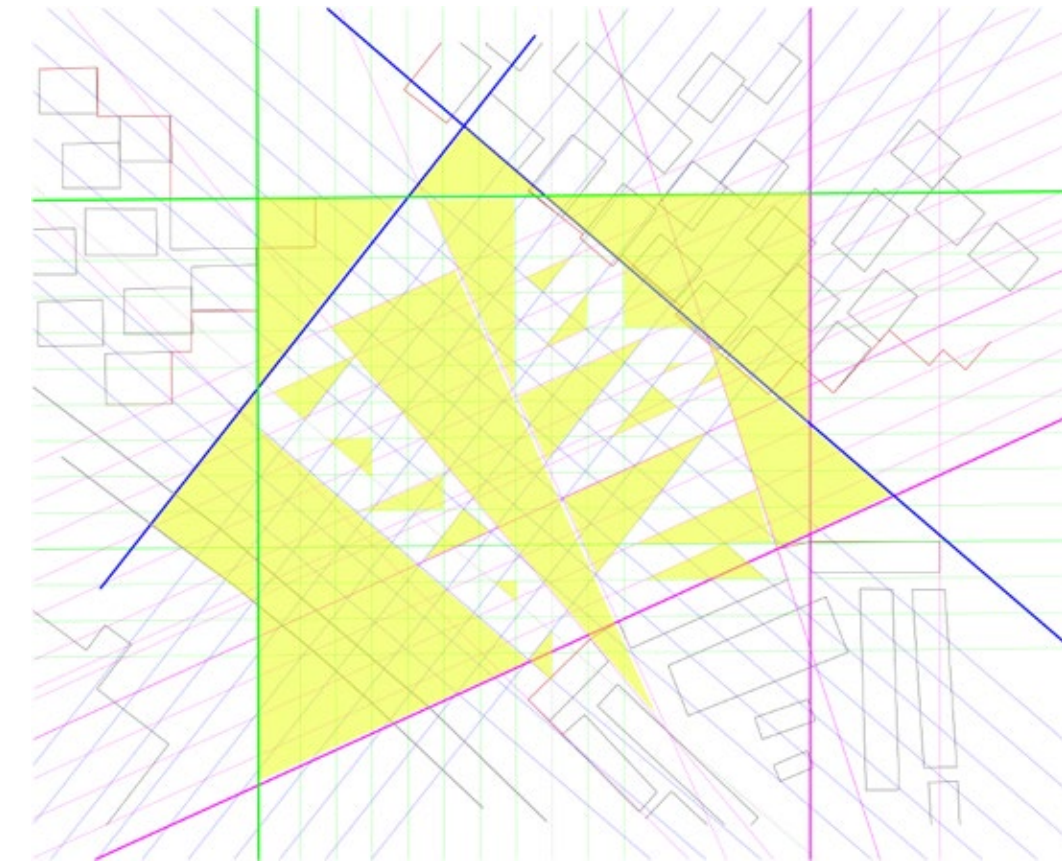
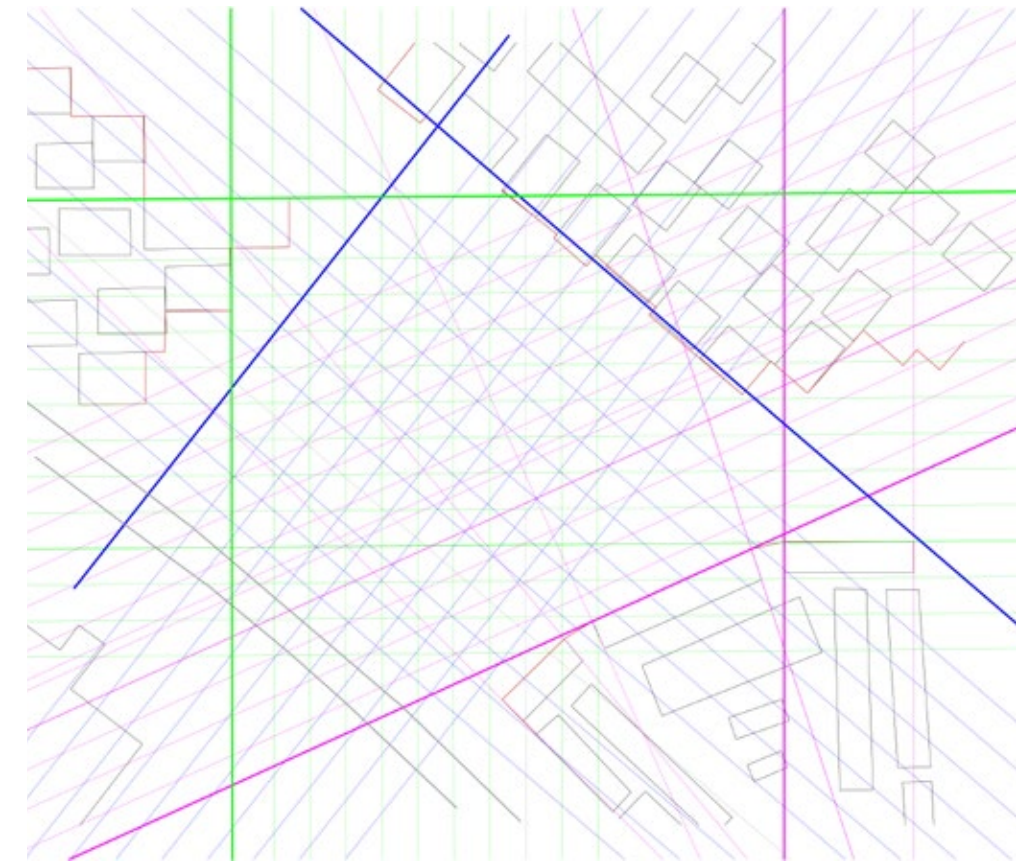
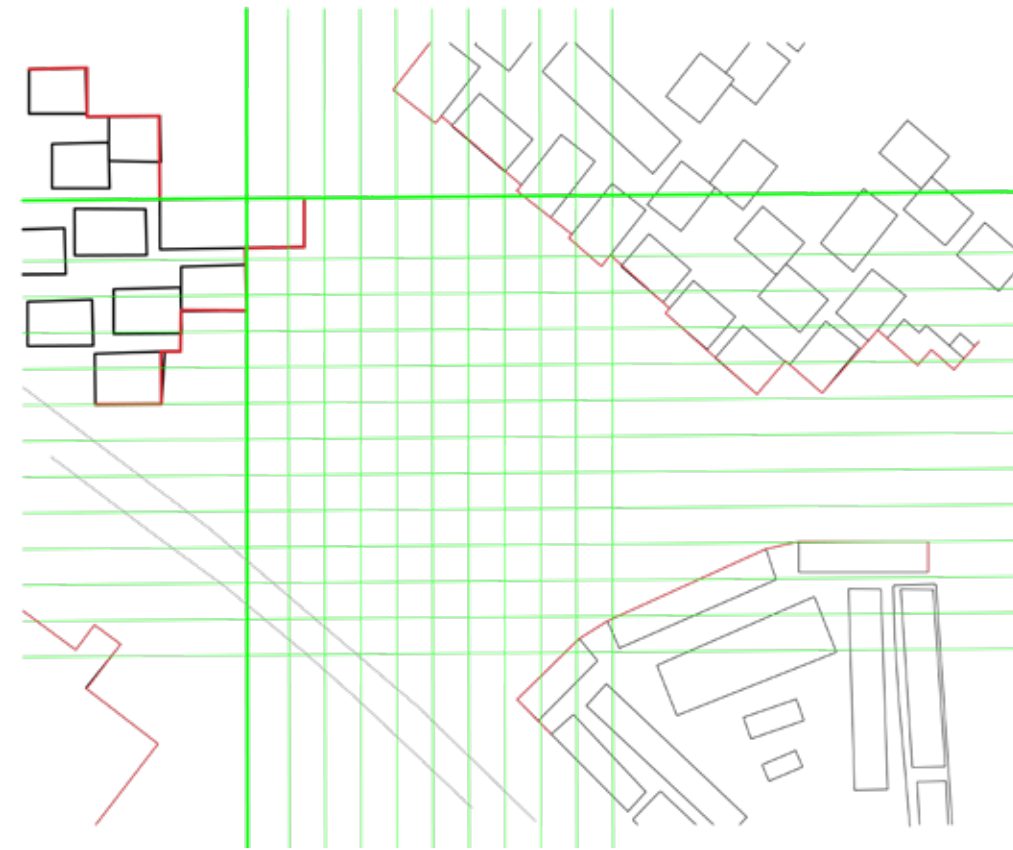


Many spaces are lost in our neighborhoods; edges between plots and parcels are one the areas that could be exploited in a better way. Creating a new hybrid environment around our buildings with multiple functions. The accessible outdoor parts gives attraction points to the people to interact and connect with the project.

The selected neighborhood for the project has multiple themes that seem to be randomly added at first. Studying these themes and grids to create a project that connects these parts was the central aspect of developing the concept.

# Process

Each one of the three multi-family complexes around the site has a different grid and orientation. By extending each one of these grids and then combining them together, we got a random complex grid. By filling the triangles from the formed grid, we can see a different pattern each time, which led me to form the masses' geometry and outlines.



# Vibrant Multi-Functional Environment

The project's primary goal is to introduce a new vibrant environment to the neighborhood where the inside and outside are well connected. A significant aspect of the project is redefining the edges between the buildings, which are mostly neglect and not used for the community's benefit.

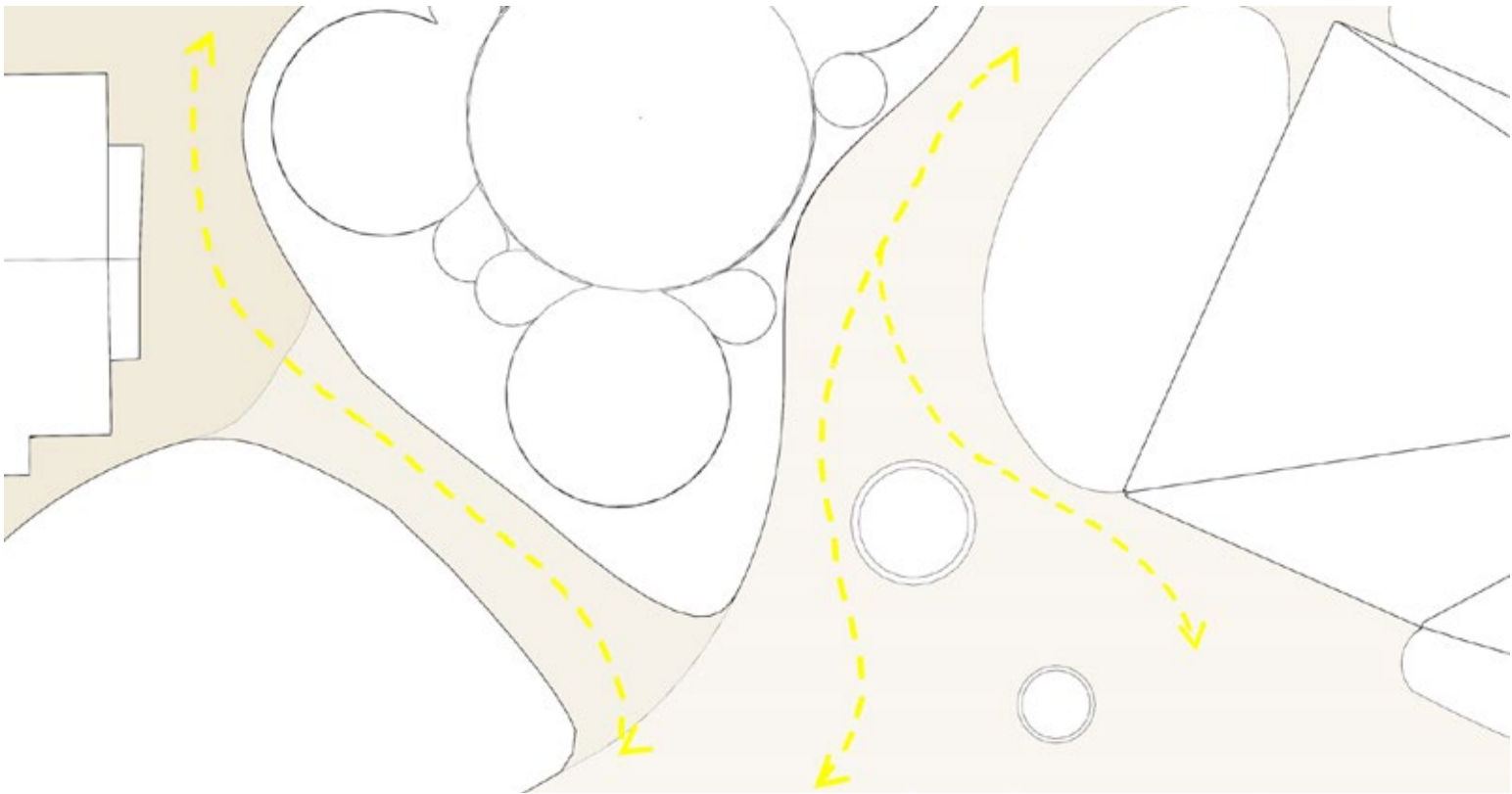
Three components are integrated to form the project; the first one is the canopies, which include outdoor functions. These functions are what connect the community around the site directly with it, visually and physically.

The second component is the landscape, an integral part of the project to provide a pleasant environment around the project and enhance walkability by having a long connected walkway shaded with natural elements.

The third part is the masses, the main functions of the project. Most of the functions are informal and accessible for community use.

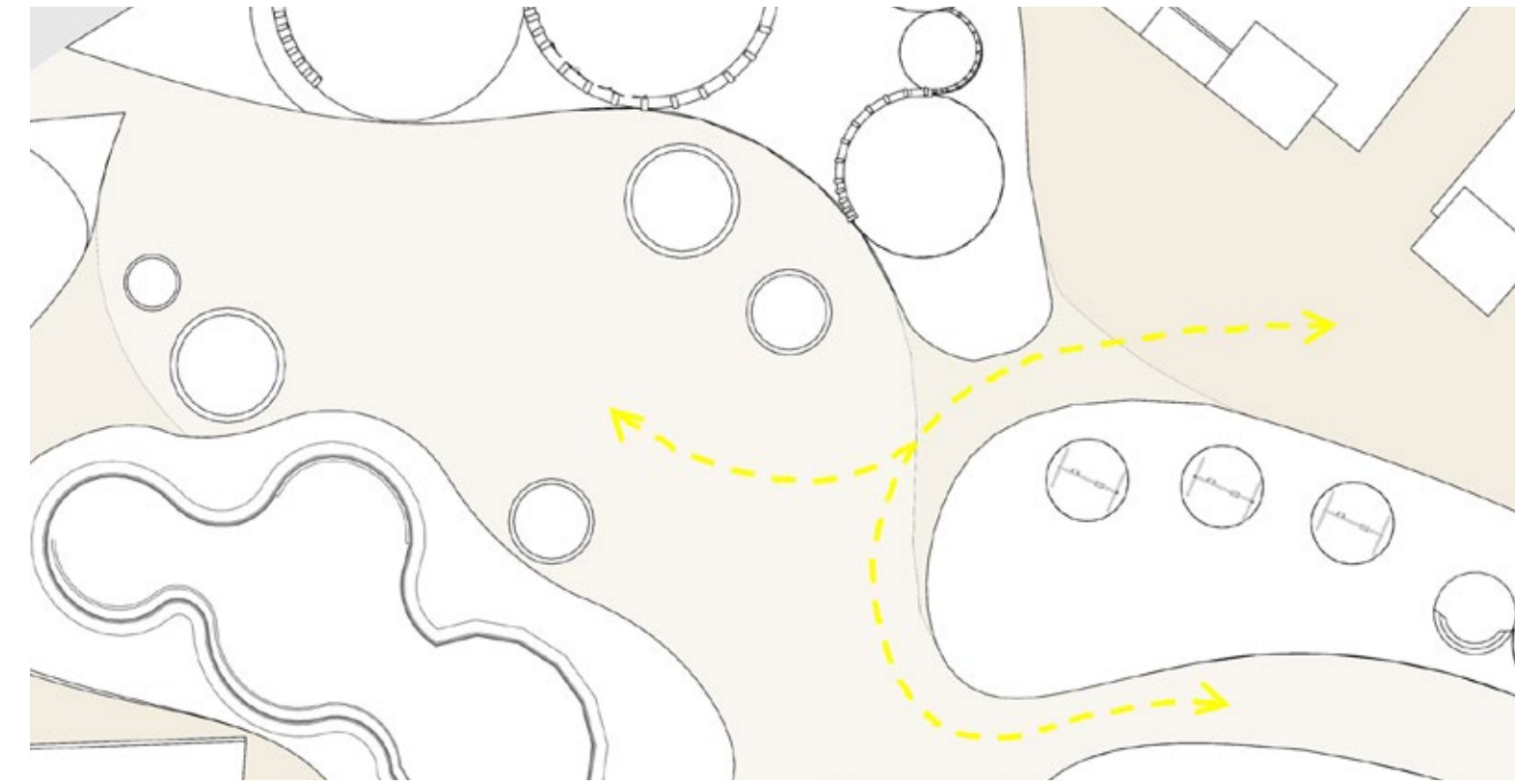
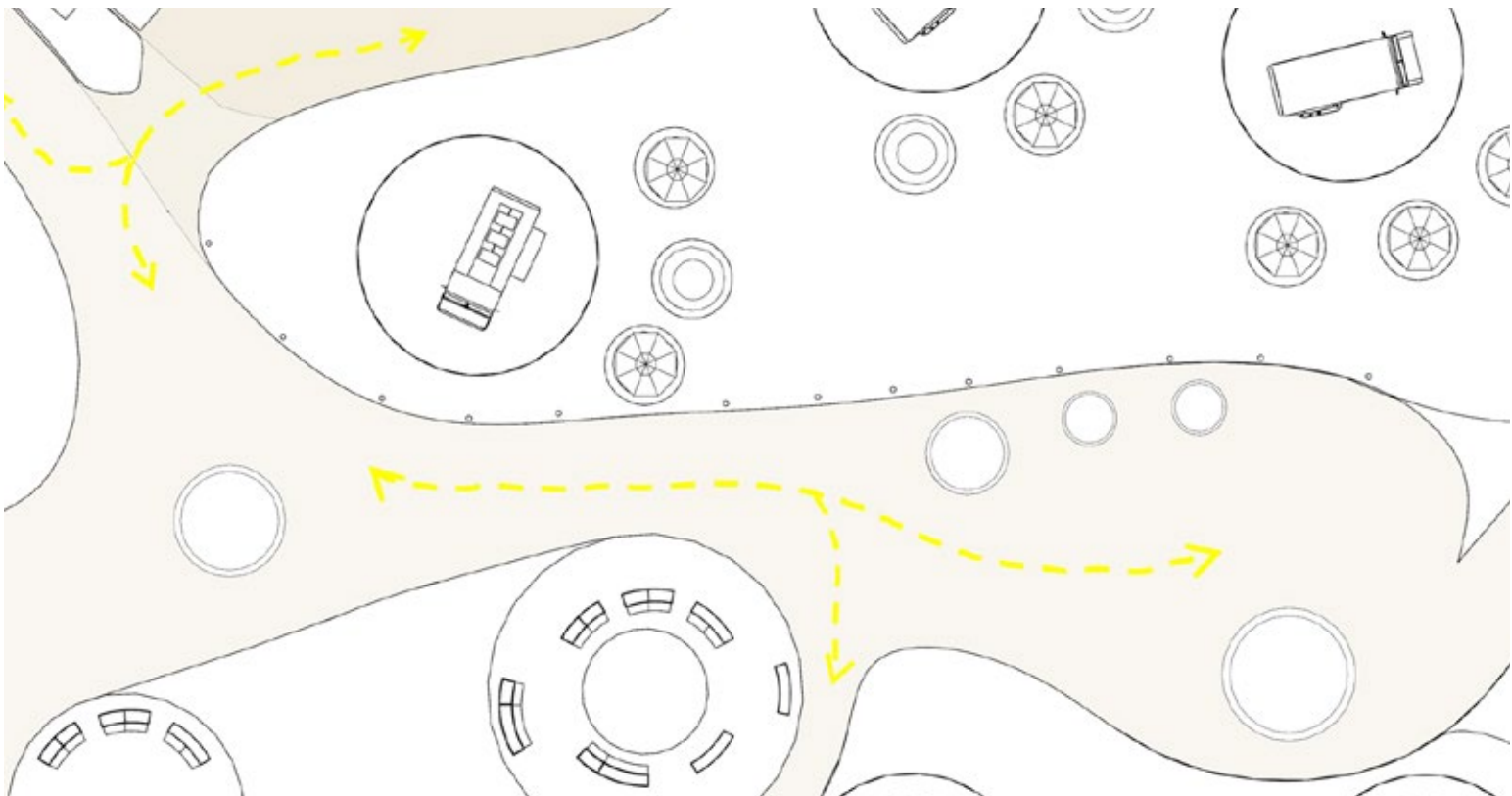
# Canopies - Landscape - Massing





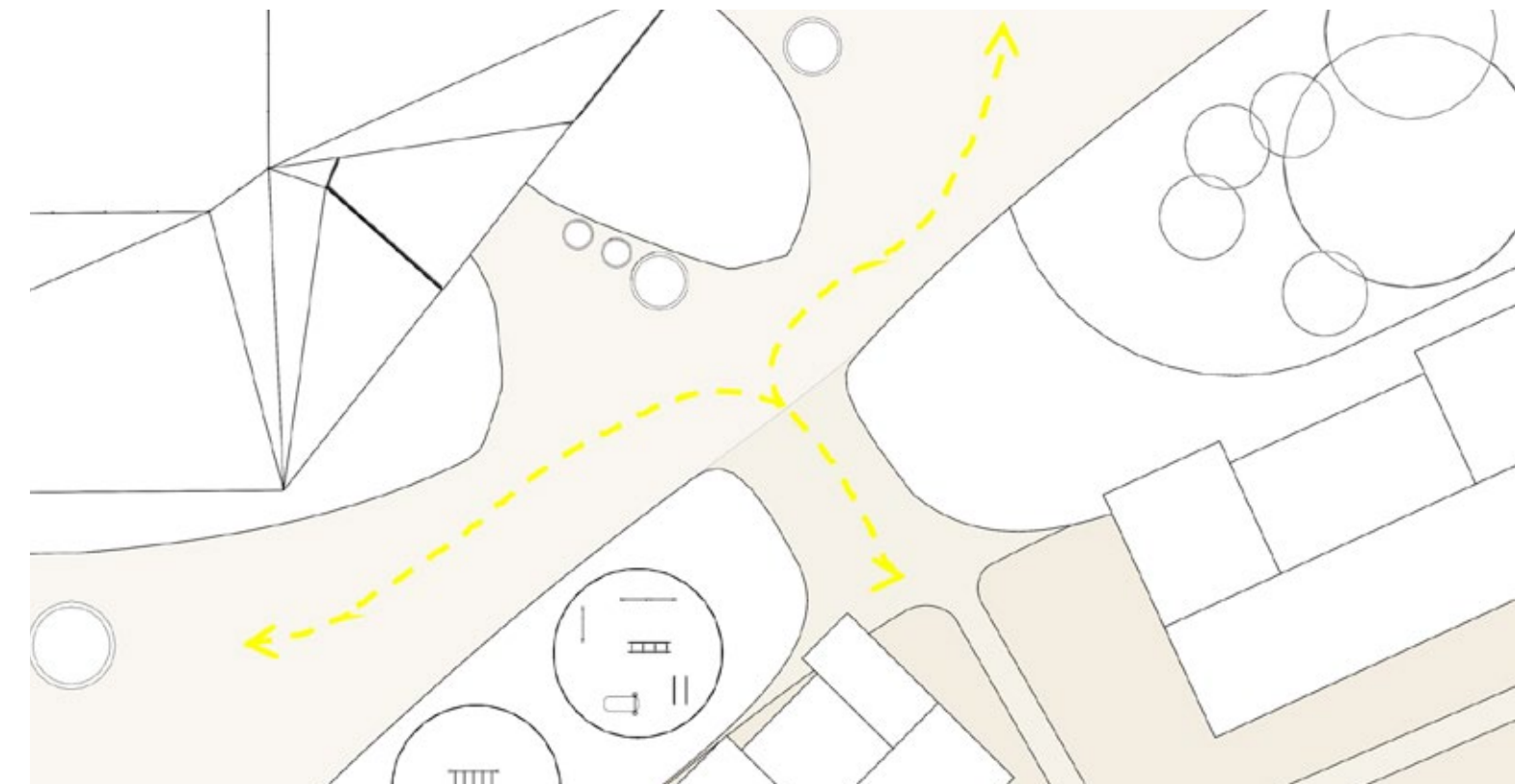
### Adjacency

The new proposed functions are defined with different colors and textures, at the same time visually and physically connected with the existing context.



### Connectivity

The project is well connected to the existing typology of the neighborhood through main walkways.





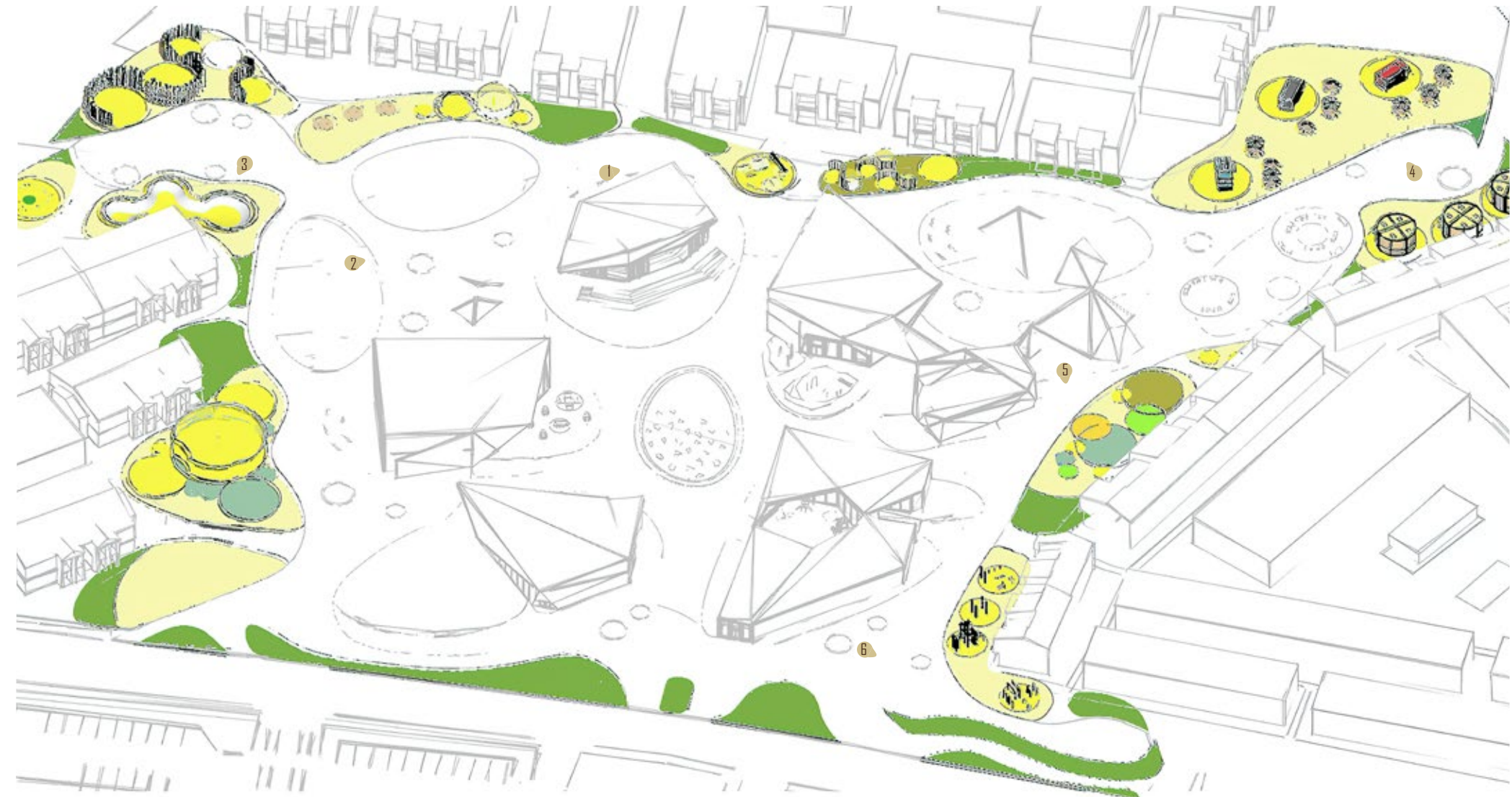
1 Gymnastic Space



2 Skating Rink



3 Open Platform



4 Food Trucks with Seating Area



5 Performance Steps

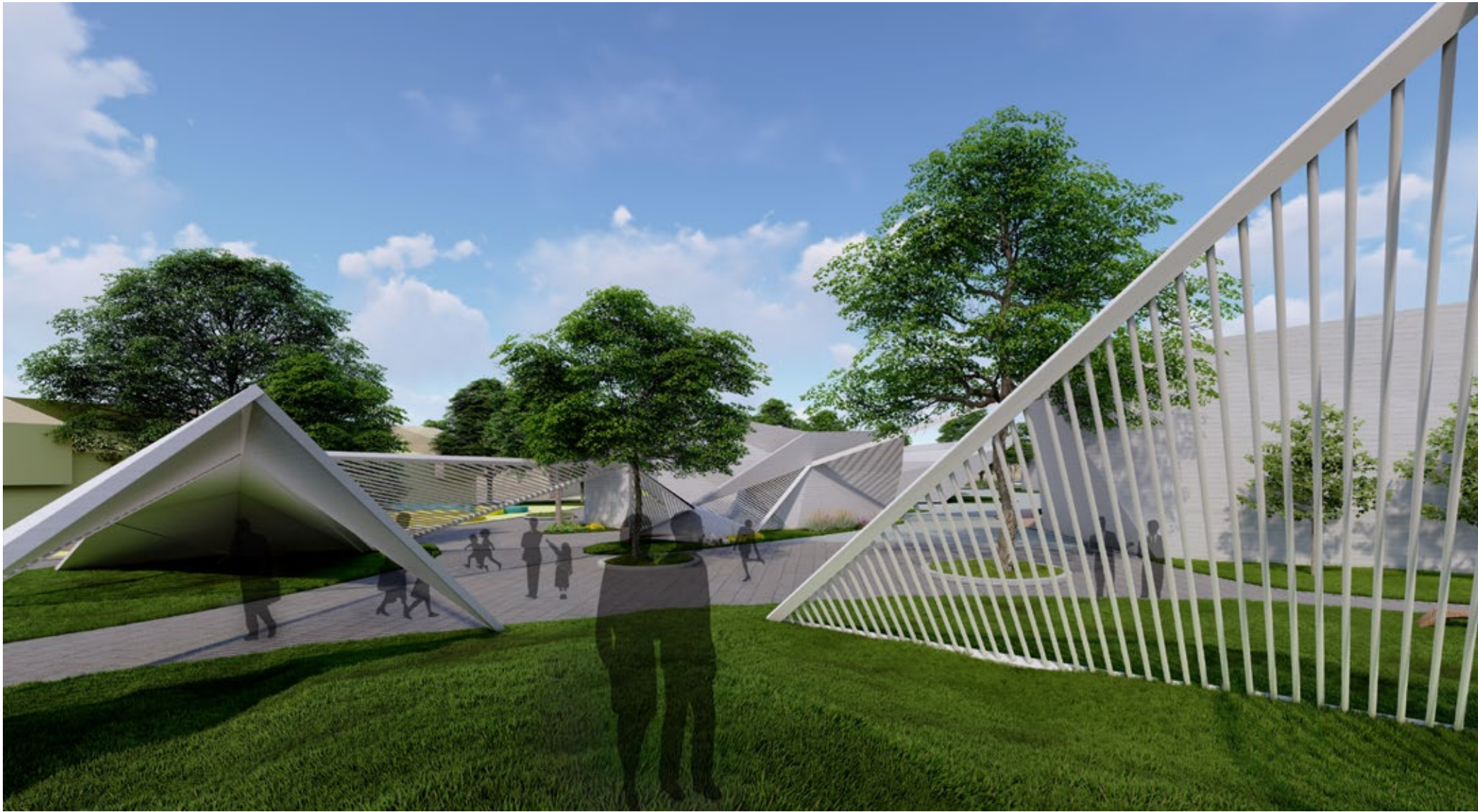


6 Outside Exercise

# Canopies - Landscape - Massing



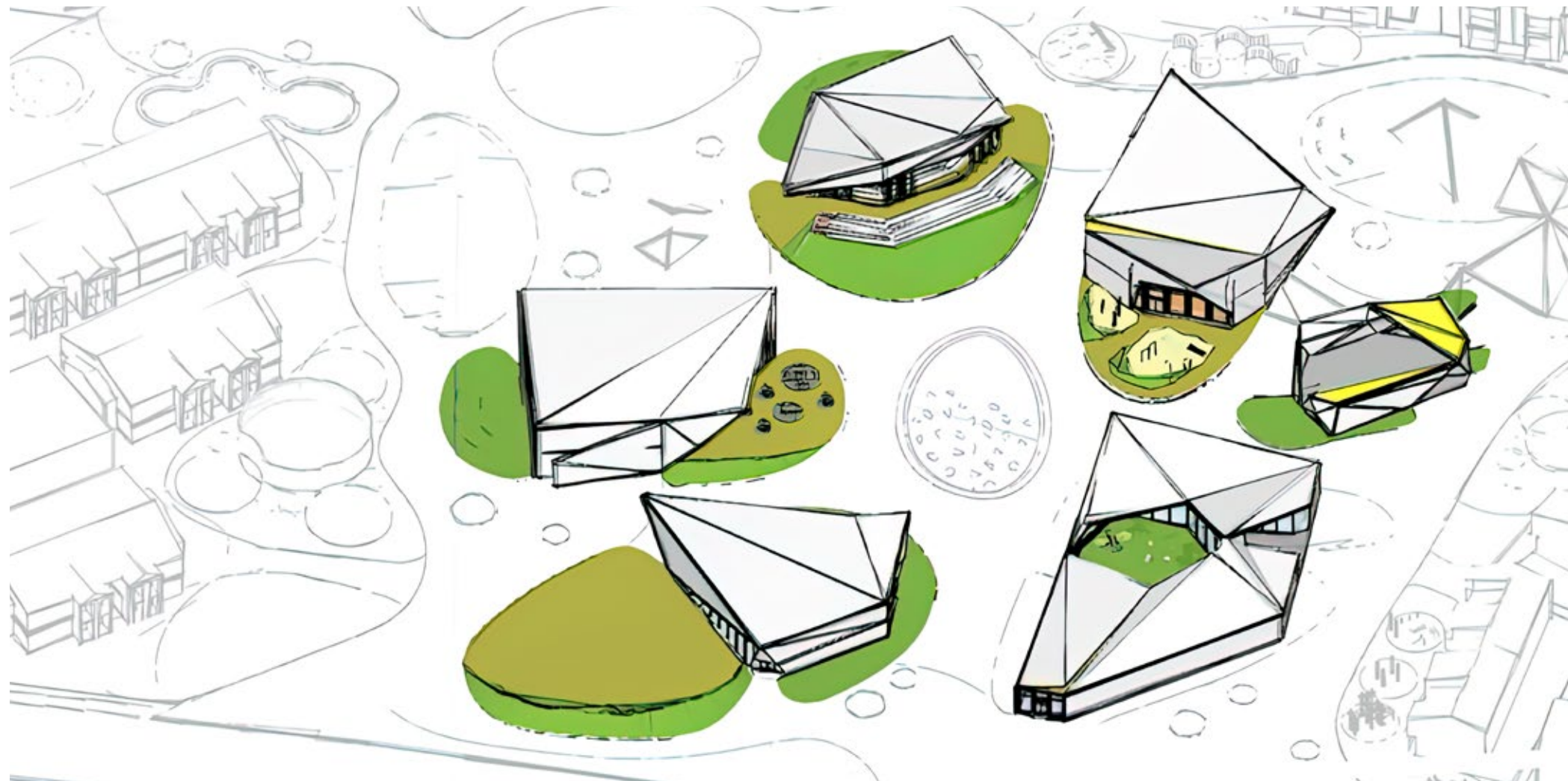






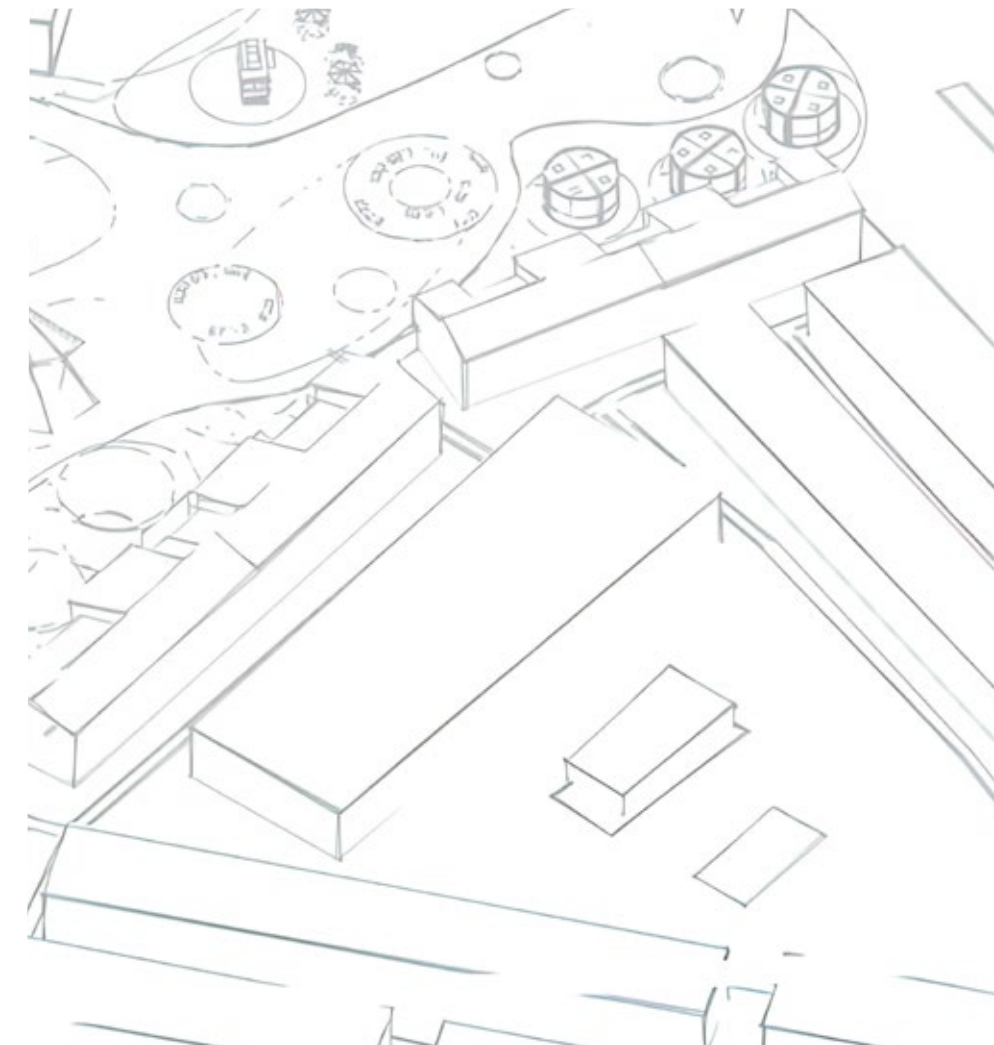


# Canopies - Landscape - Massing

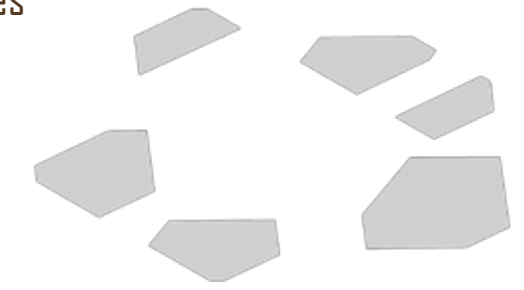


# Massing Development

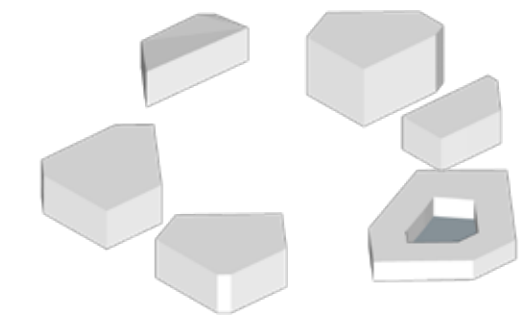
Each of the masses is unique and has different functions, making an endless possibility triangular grid a perfect way to express the pavilions' geometry.



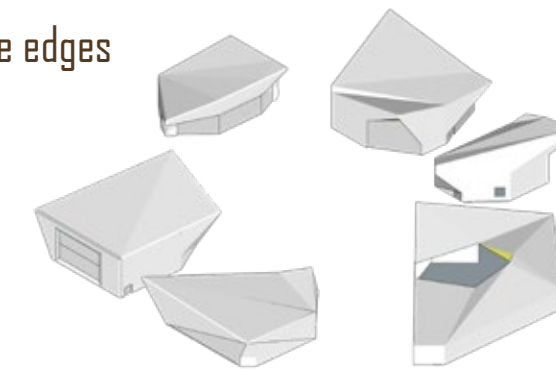
**Phase 1**  
Masses Outlines



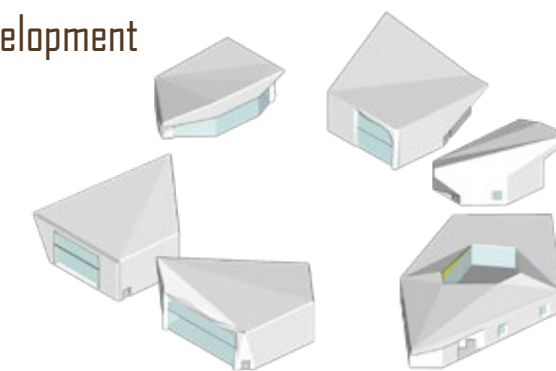
**Phase 2**  
Height Extension



**Phase 3**  
Modifying the edges and corners



**Phase 4**  
Opening Development



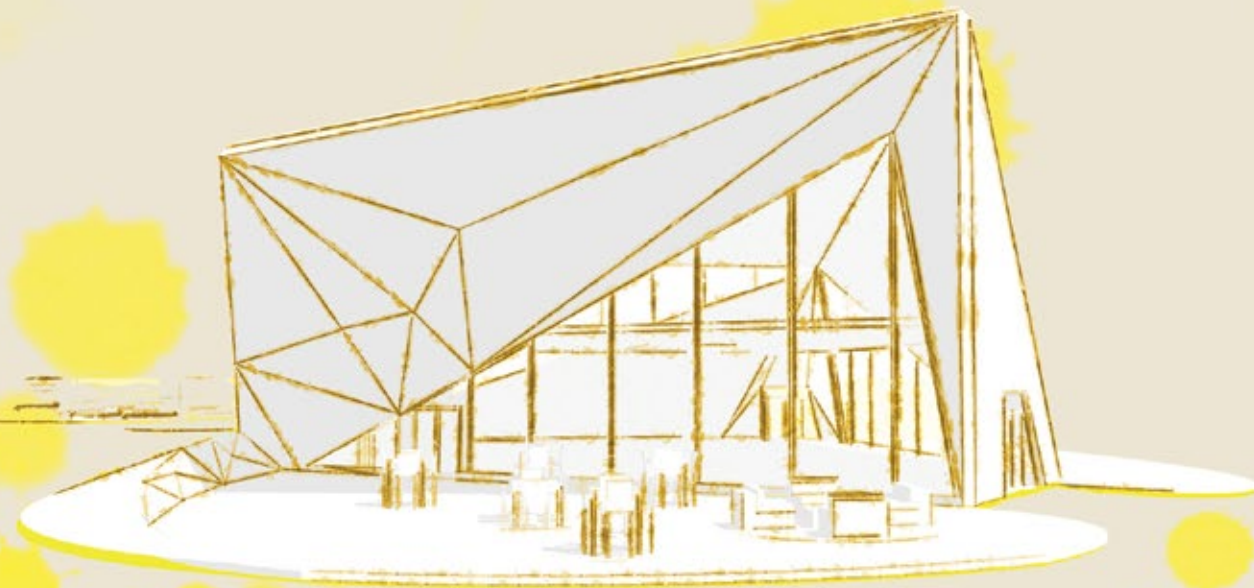
# Program



Mass	Floor	Function	Area sq/ft		
Mass 1 (Stage)		Stage	724		
		Seating area	1124		
		outdoor seating	1962		
		Services (backstage)	912		
Mass 2 (Recreation)	Ground Floor	Workout hall	1700		
		Hoppy (dance/ music/art) room	2036		
		Offices			
		Reception	600		
	First Floor	Services	1060		
		Library	1960		
		Study Hall	795		
		Work Hall	710		
		Studio	1156		
		Reception	503		
		W.c	340		
		Mass 3 (Multi-events)	First Floor	Multi- purpose hall (Community Events)	3269
				Reception Buffet	494
Kitchen	694				
Services	428				
Mass 4 (Day Care)	First Floor	Offices	870		
		Classes	2700		
		Reception	310		
		Dinning room	380		
		Sleeping room	430		
		Services	500		
		Indoor Play	1400		
Outdoor Play	2400				

Mass 5 (Cafe)	Ground Floor	Community Cafe	2713
		Lounge	1353
		Admin	230
		Kitchen	1190
	First Floor	Storage	430
		Services	570
		Support hall	644
Mass 6 (Open Plaza)	Community Hub	Offices	1350
		College Youth Classes	1180
		Services	560
		Community Hub	2690

# Design



The design is a new intervention of internal and external elements to support the neighborhood's active living environment. The different functions introduced in the masses and canopies aim to help the residents maintain good mental and physical health. A variety of activities are presented to meet the needs of all community demographics.

Integrating every part of the project with the neighborhood's urban planning was a significant aspect of the design; to create a connective community with better quality of the surrounding that will enhance the residents' living conditions.



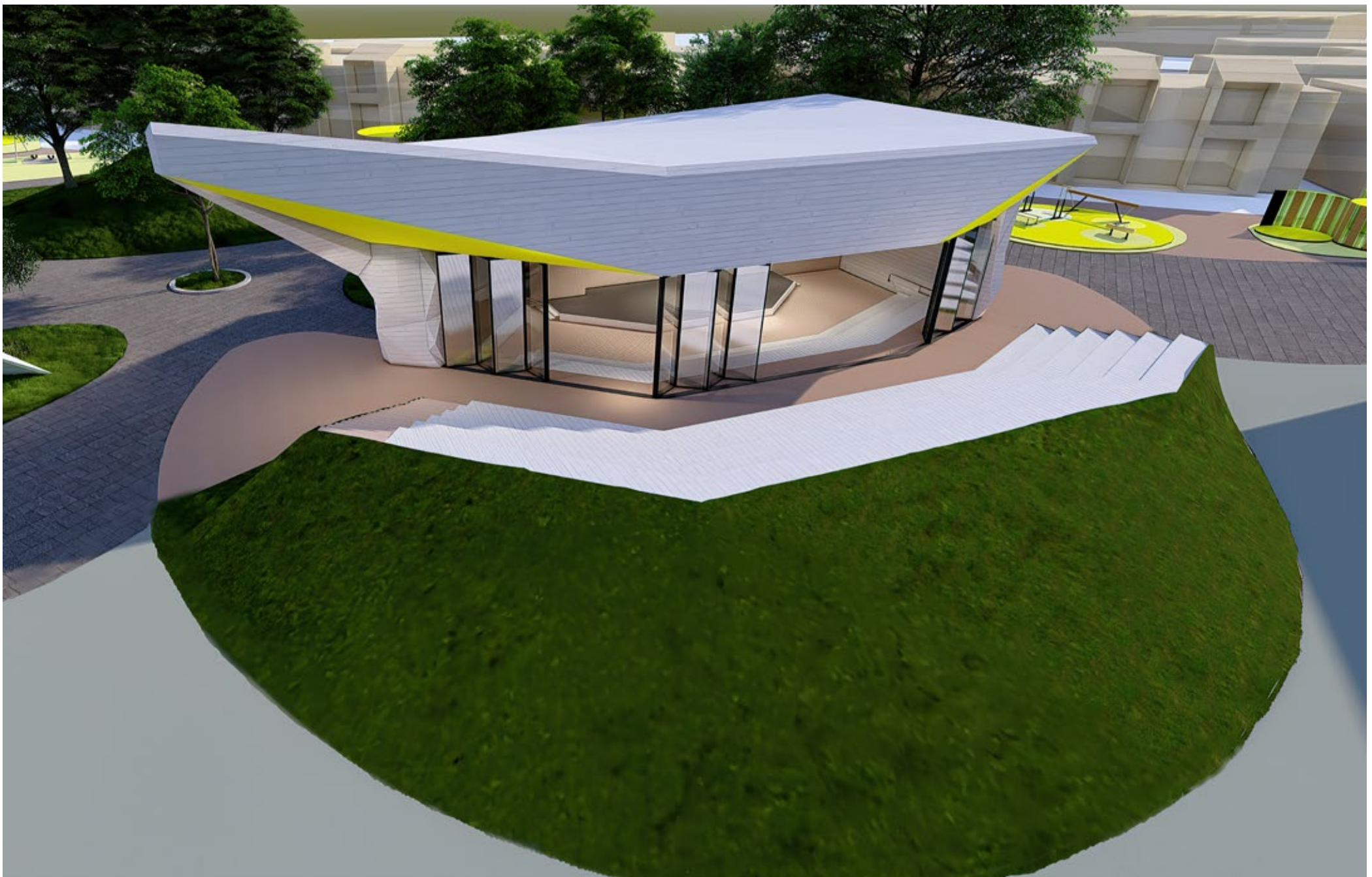
# Site Plan

This master plan shows the results of integrating the main three parts of the project. Each part of it has its unique character. They are blending together to produce vibrant spaces for the community.

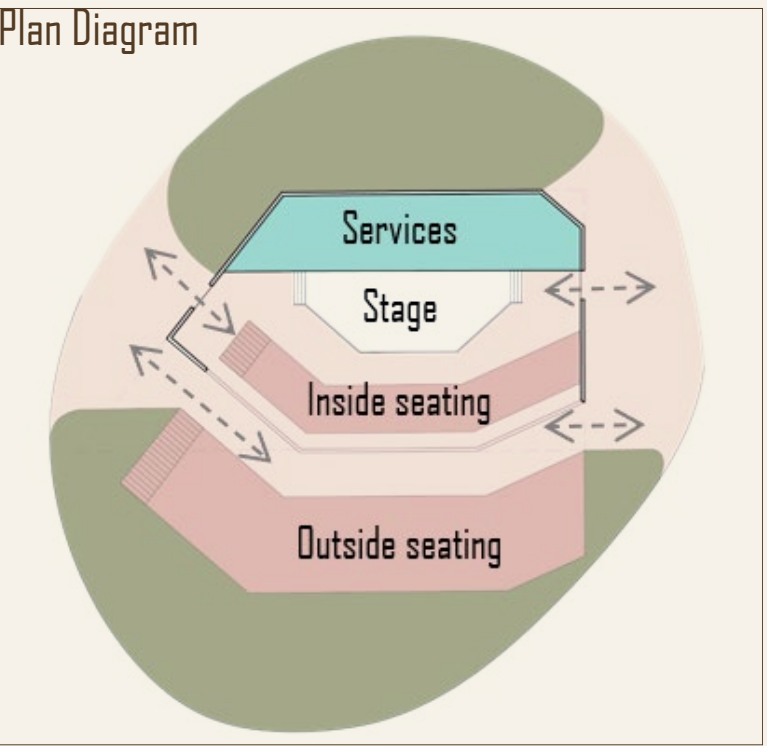
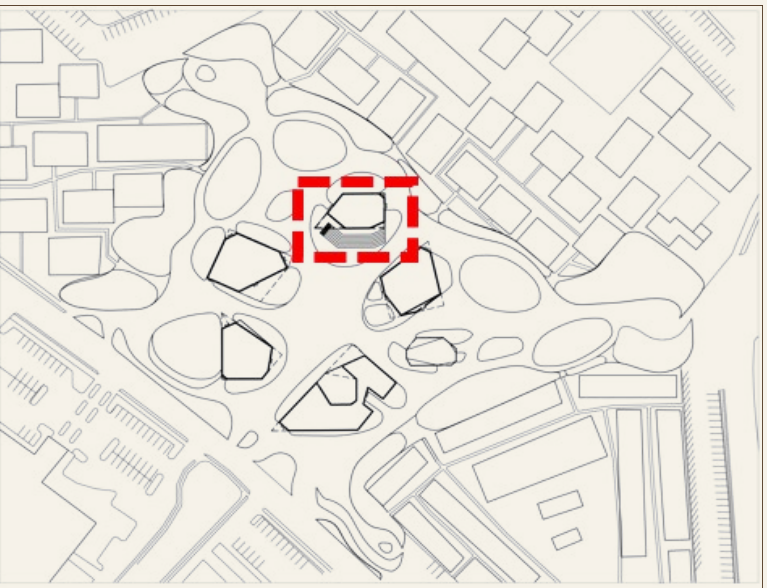
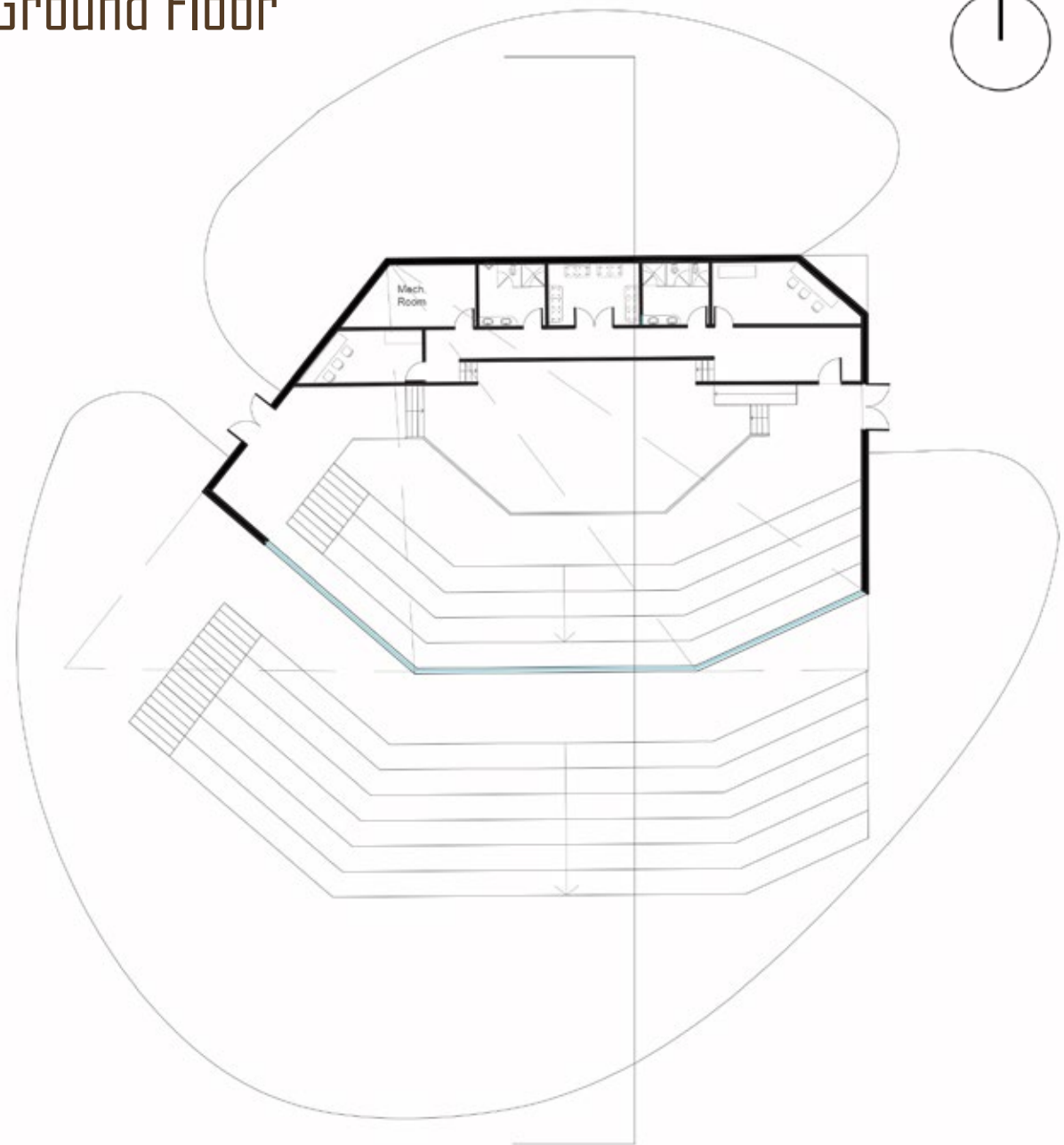
The six masses are formed in the site's central area, creating the middle central plaza with the interactive water feature. Each mass has an outside area purposed to its function to enhance the connection with the surrounding environment.

# Stage

The stage mass has a unique design character, the seating area is divided inside and outside to give the users both options. Movable curtain walls are placed, as they are easily managed to function for both options. The back area of the outside seating functions as a green lawn where people can lay down or sit to listen or see the performances and shows happening.



## Ground Floor



Mass Section



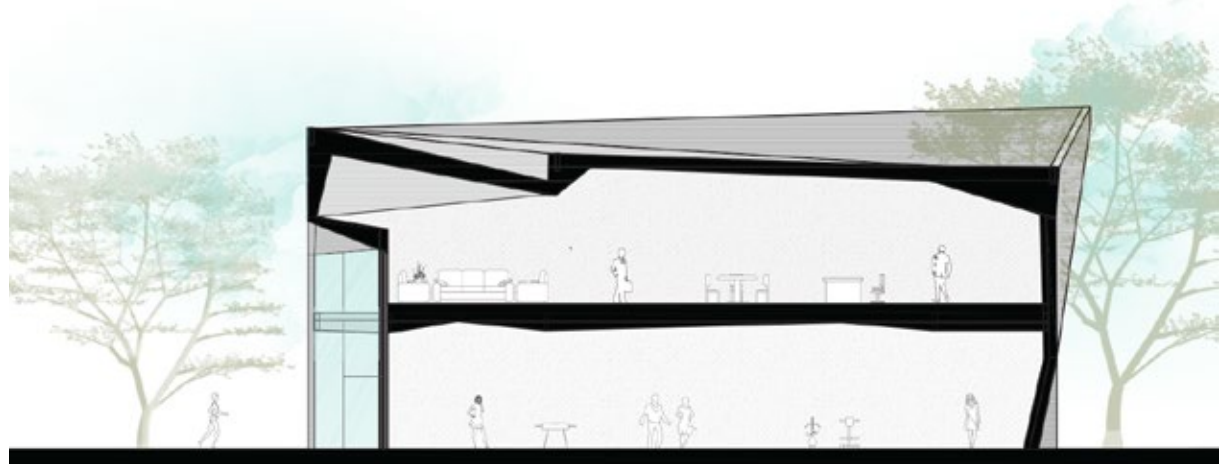
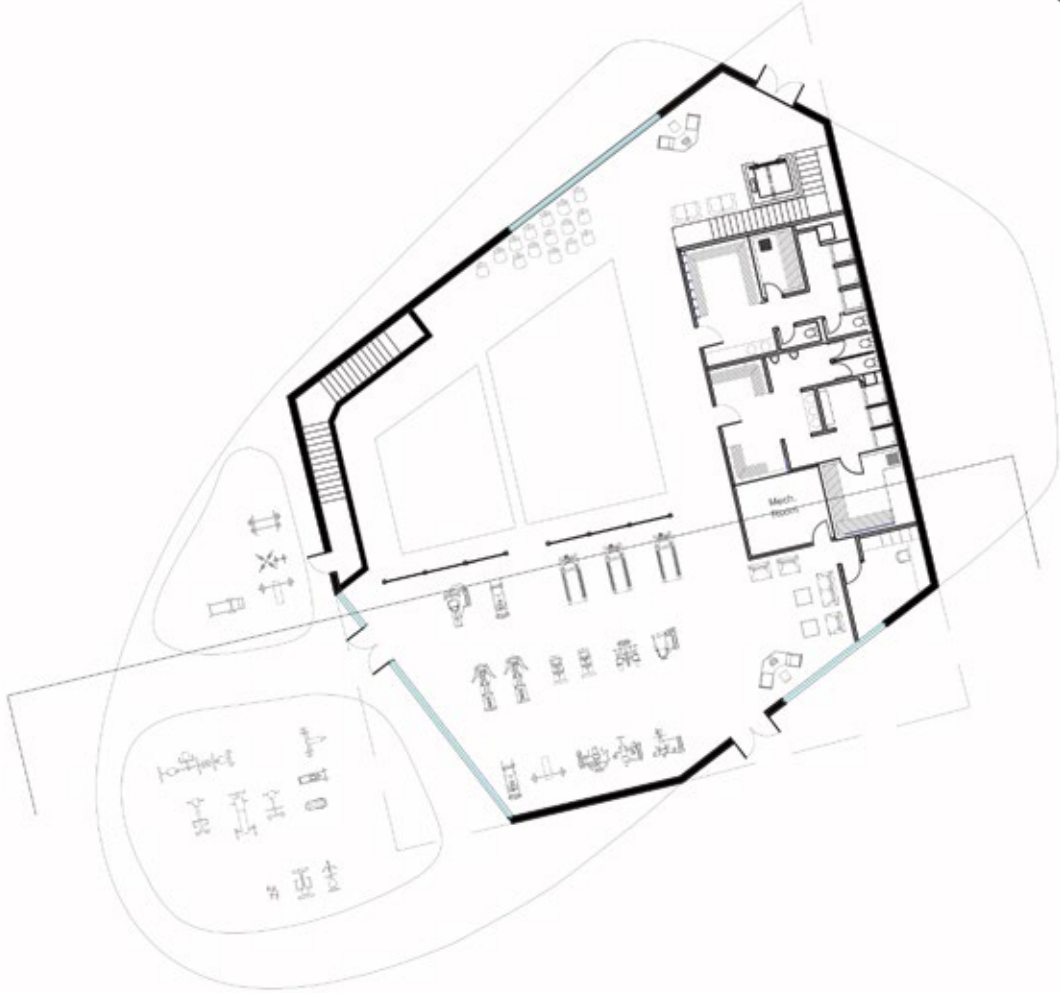


# Recreation

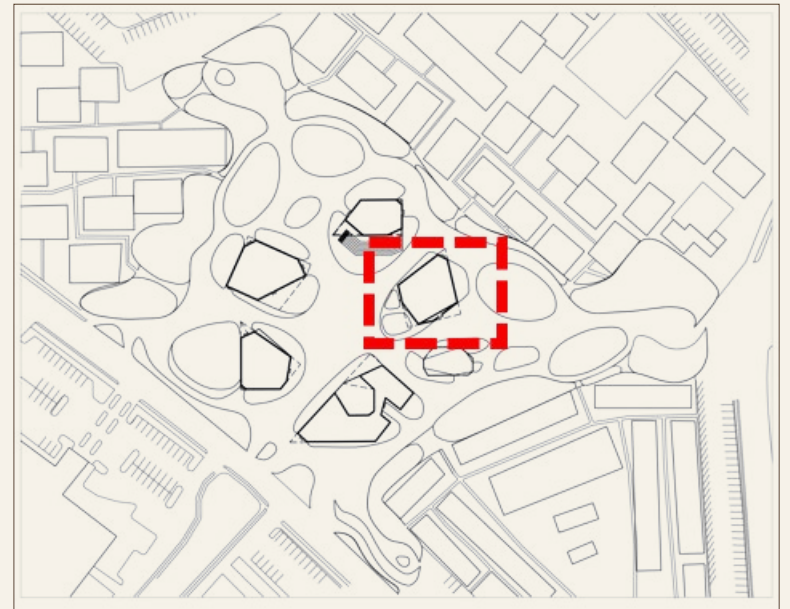
The functions introduced in this two stories mass are mainly to provide easy access to essential facilities for our community's well-being. The first floor has a gym hall with workout machines and an adjacent dance, music hall, where people can practice their hobbies. The second floor has a small library and a convenient place for working or studying for those who do not have adequate places to do so in their homes.



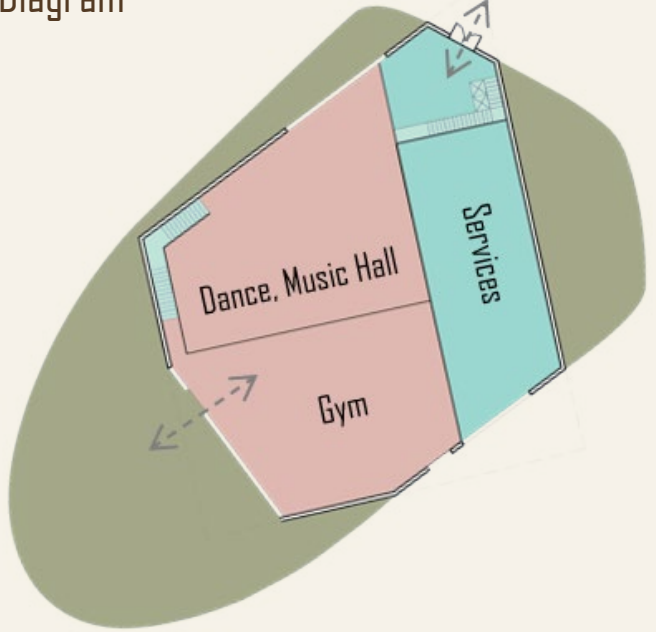
## Ground Floor



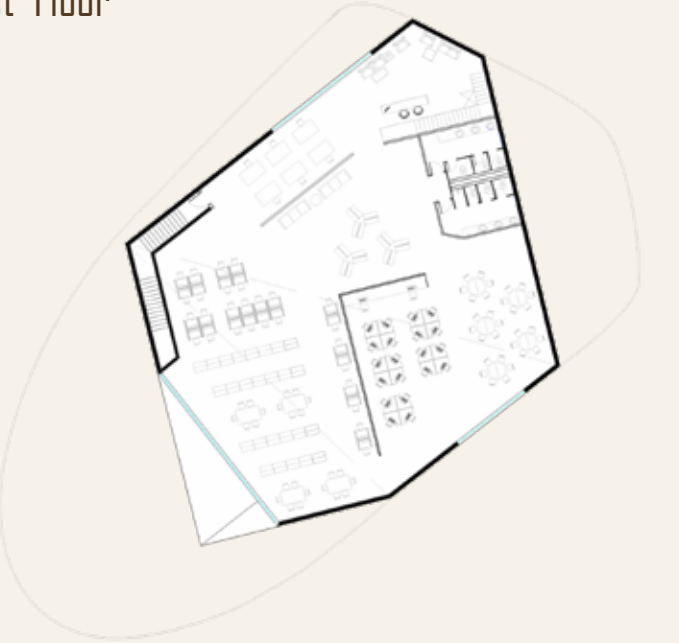
Mass Section

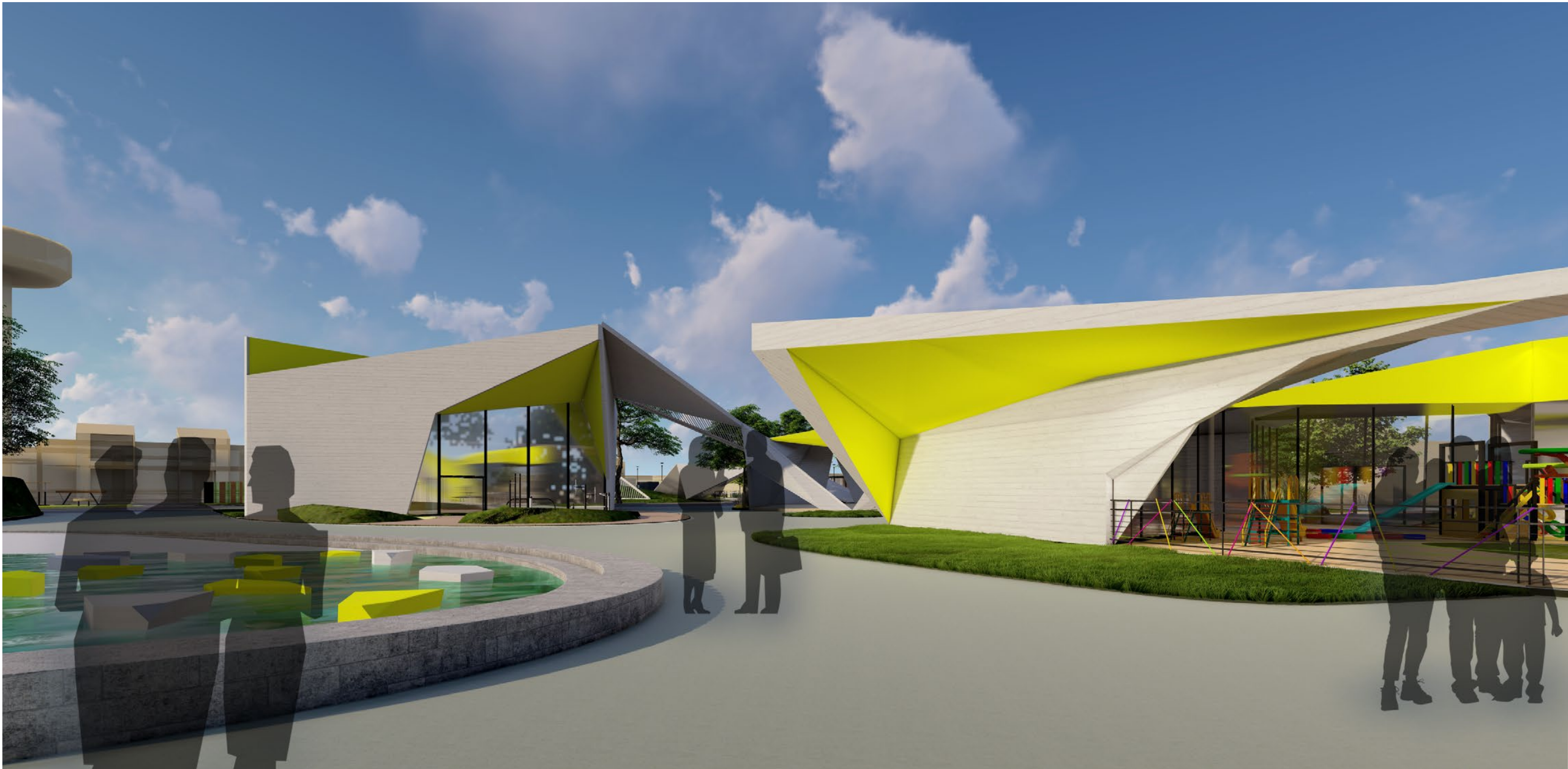


Plan Diagram



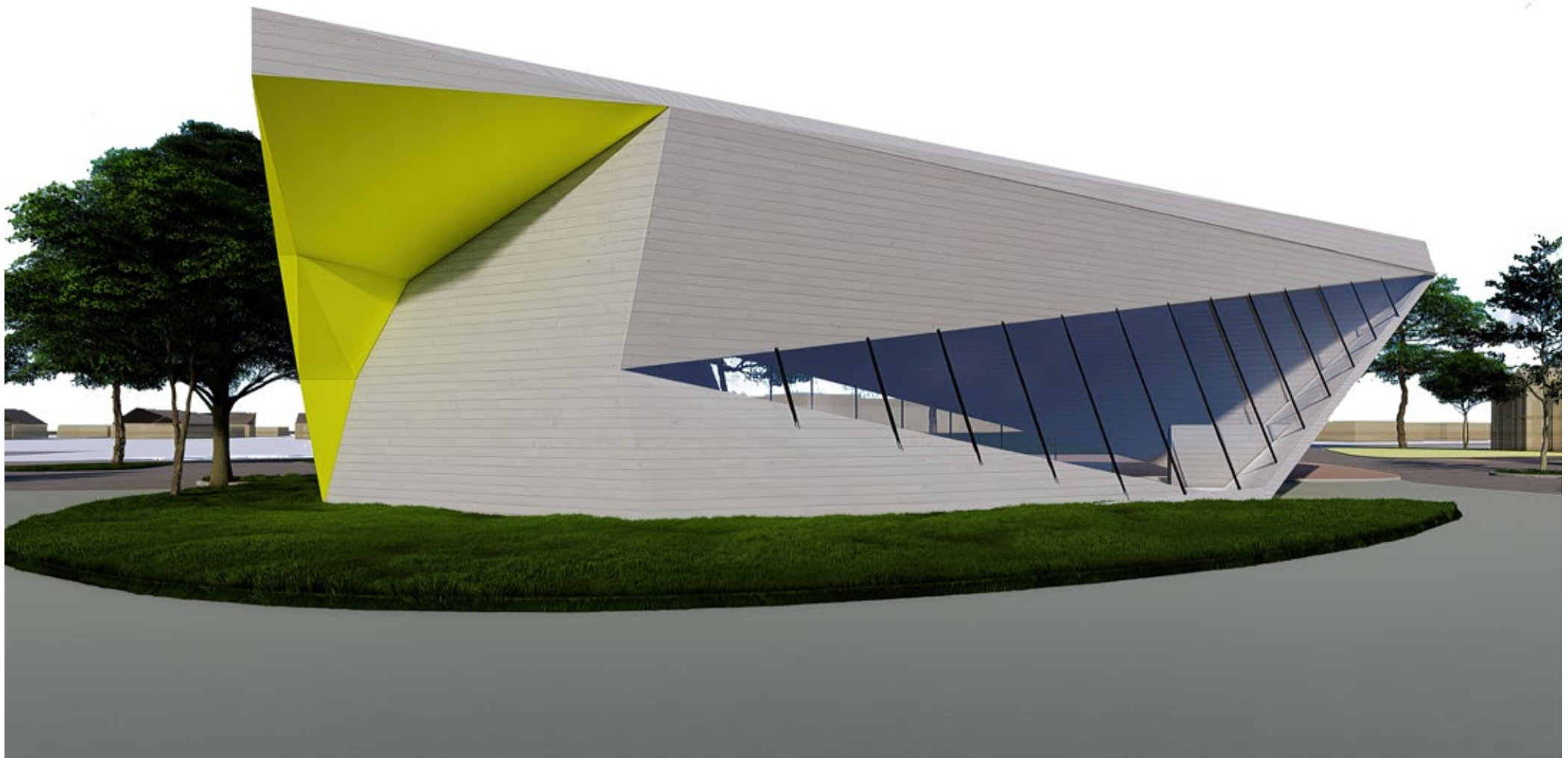
First Floor



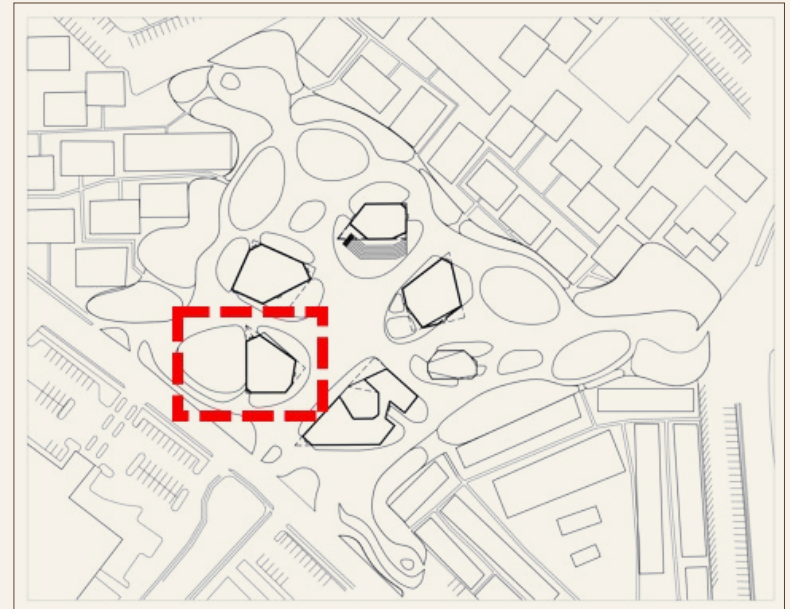
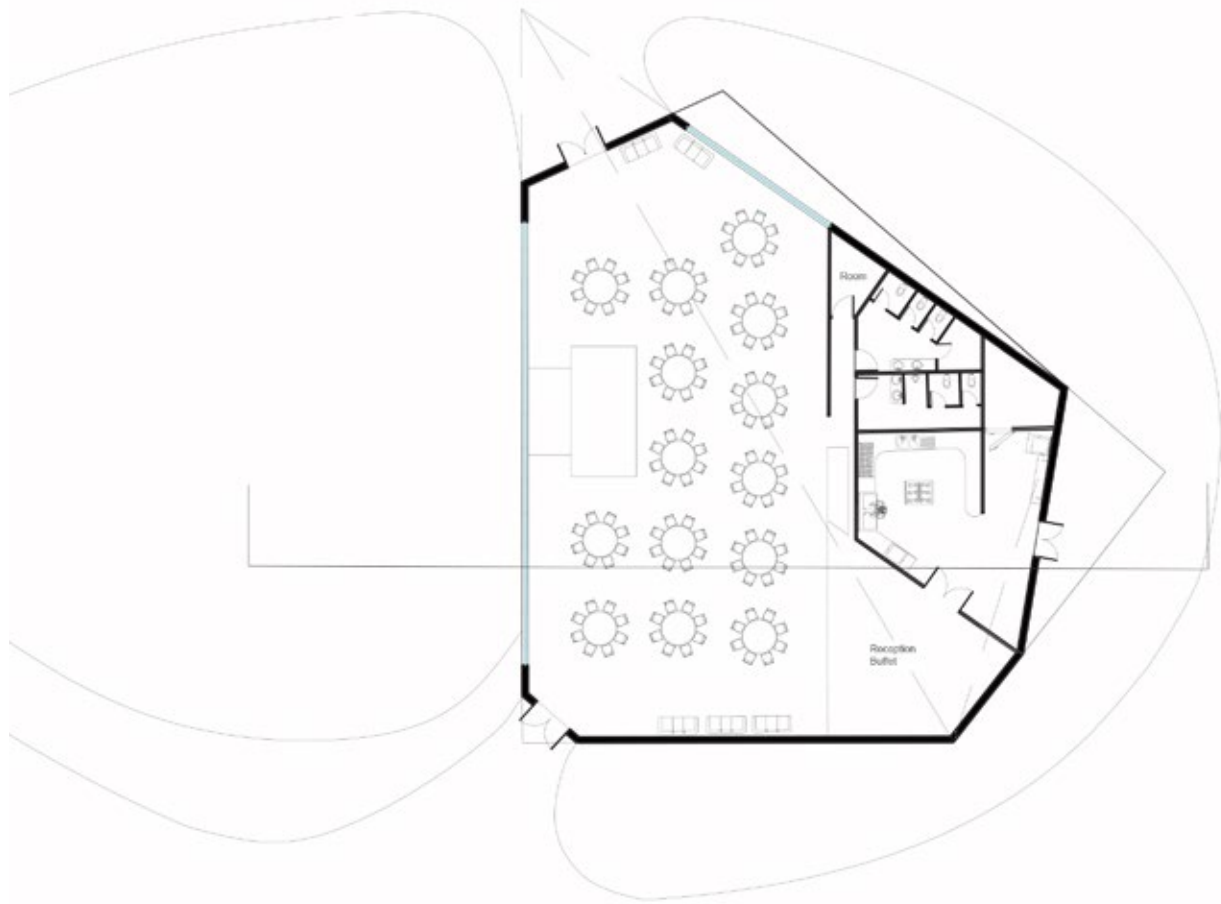


# Multi-events

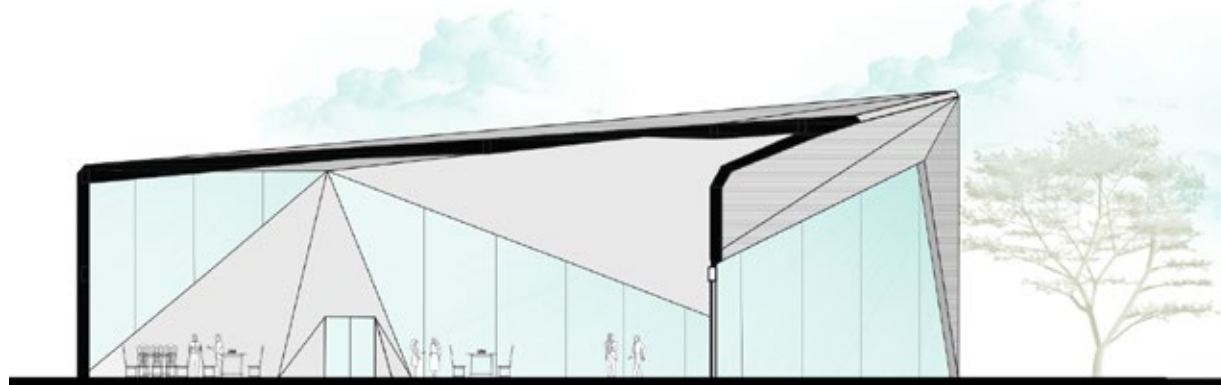
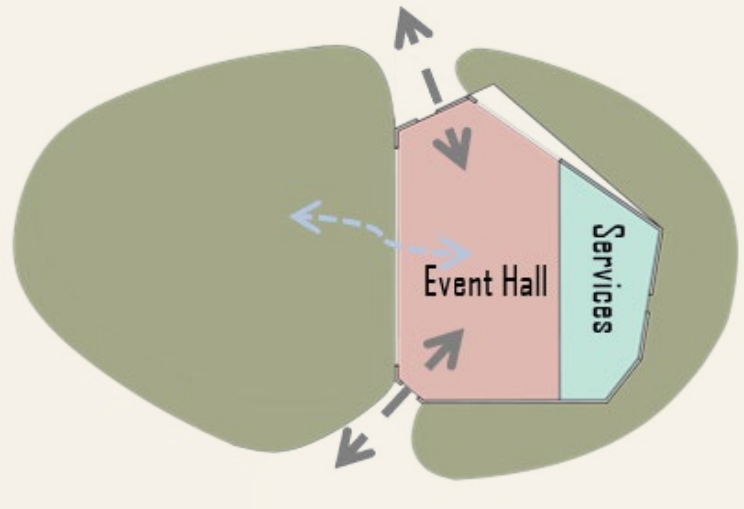
One of the existed functions in the previous building that been replaced is a multi-event hall that accommodates church events and other community ceremonies. The outside seating area for this mass is oriented toward the church to be more connected.



## Ground Floor



### Plan Diagram



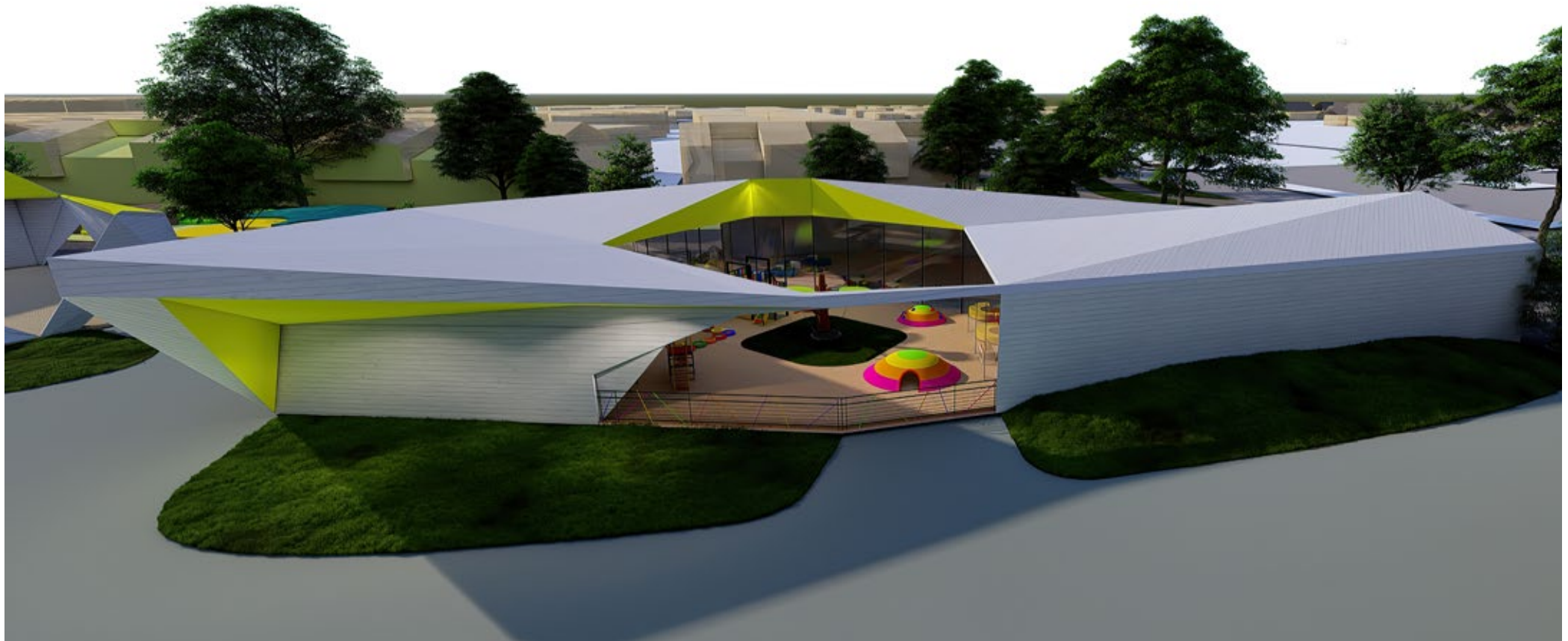
Mass Section



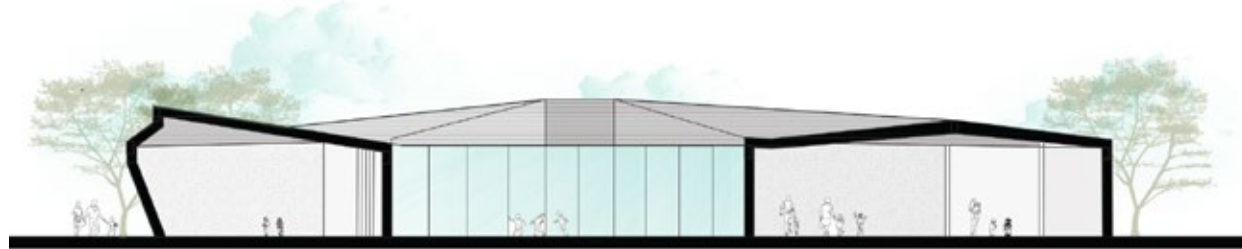
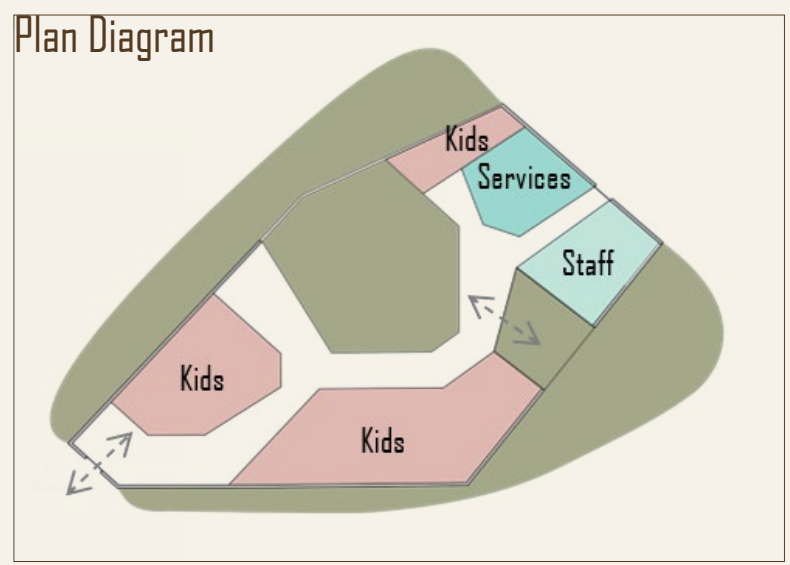
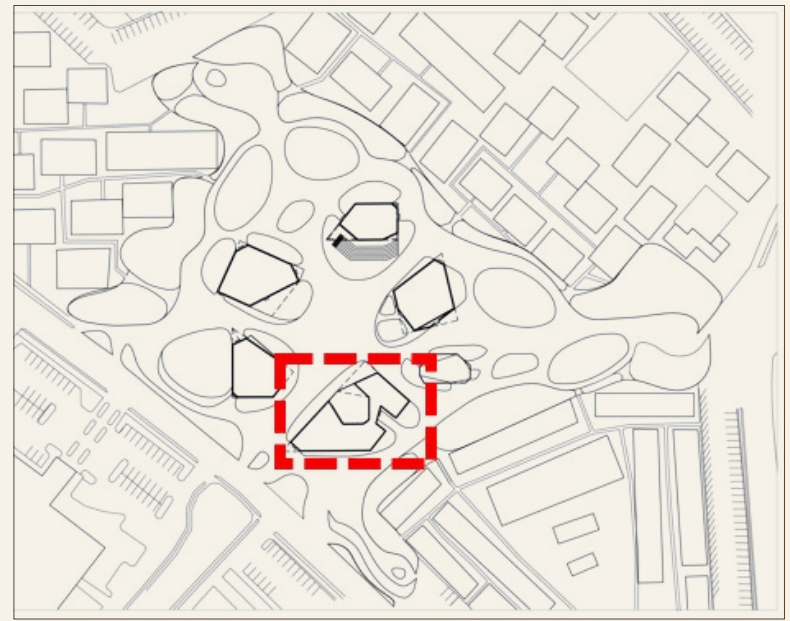
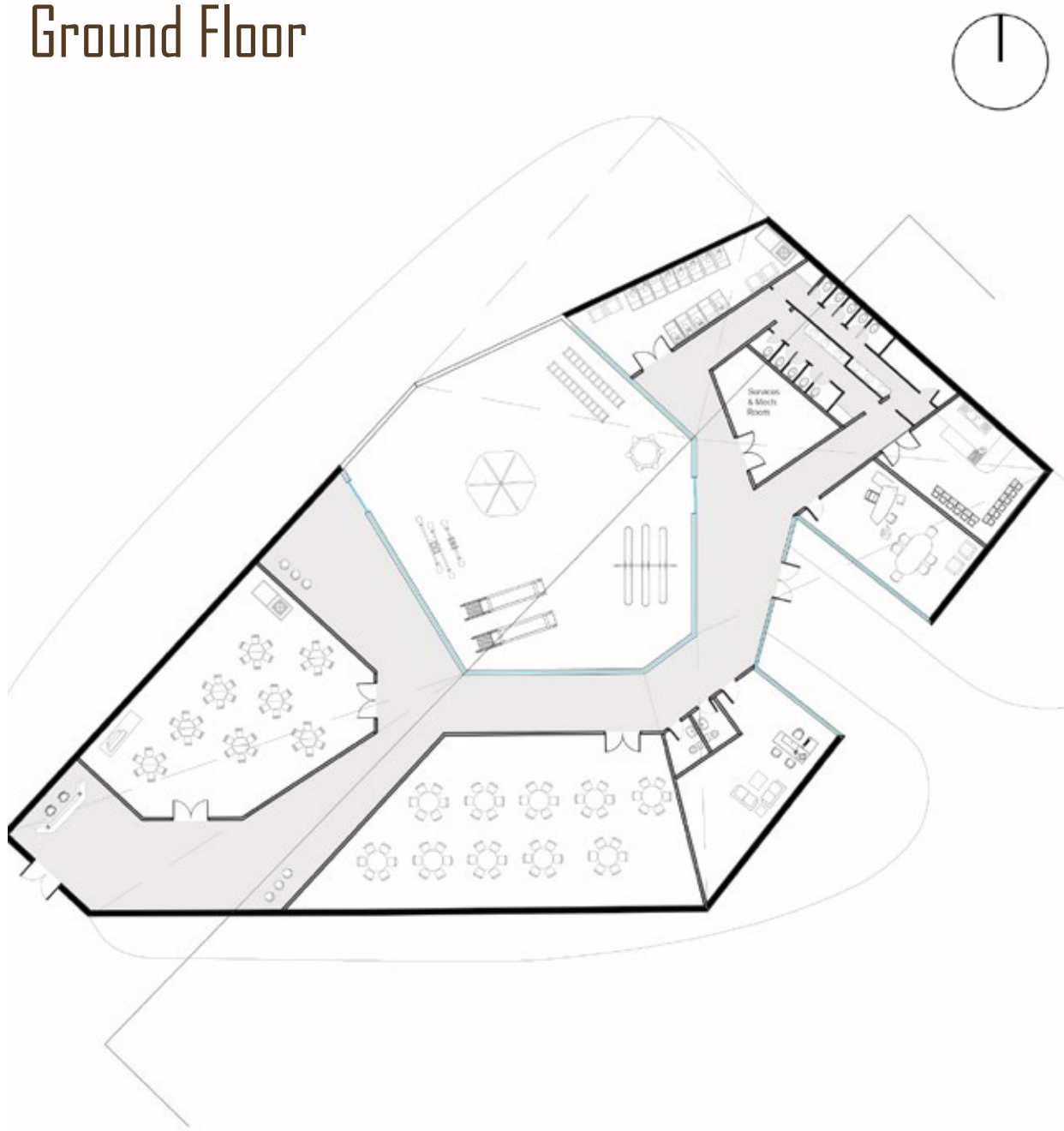
# Day Care

The daycare was one of the existed buildings on the site. The same functions are provided in this mass, but with a new design that creates a dynamic environment for the kids and the area around.

The central courtyard or playground gives this sense of movement and excitement for the people looking toward the kids playing. There is another yard at the back of the mass to provide natural elements and sunlight to the building.



## Ground Floor

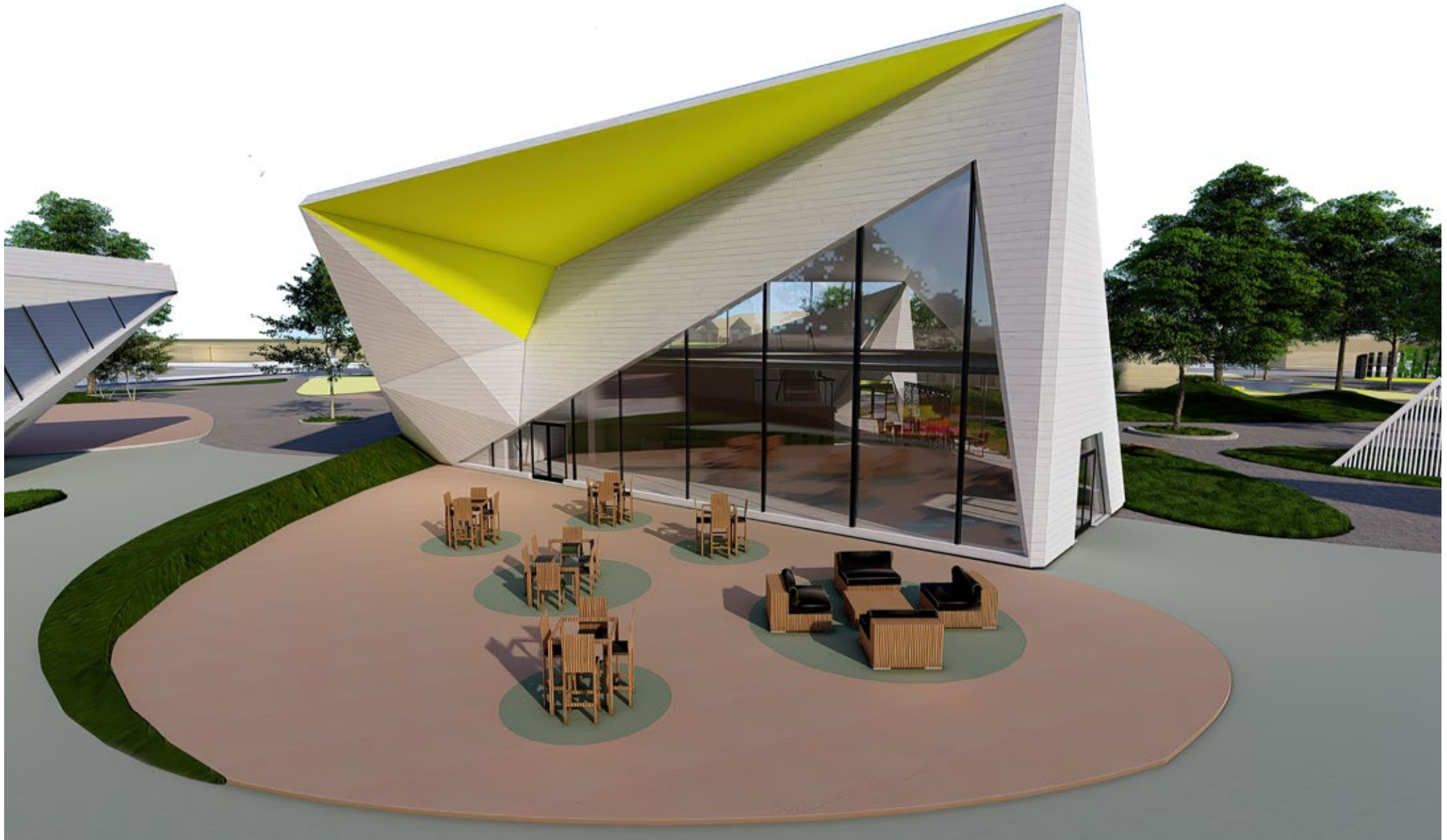


Mass Section

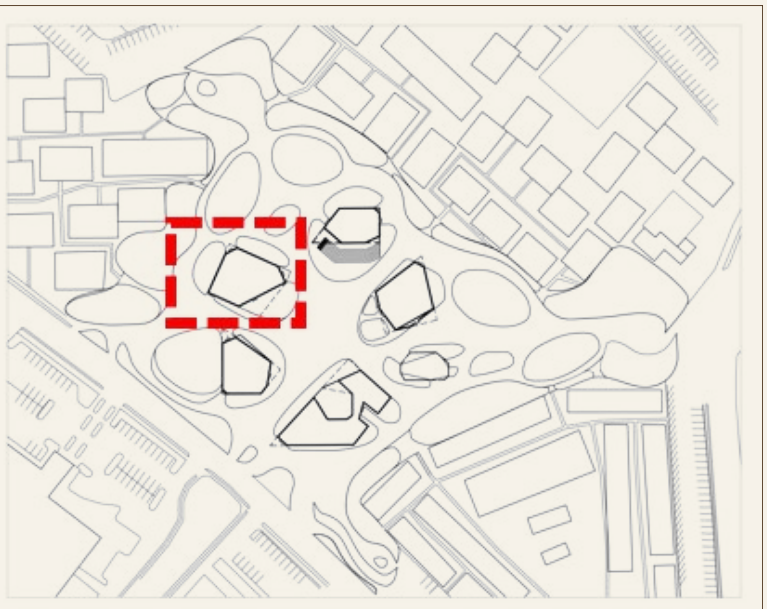
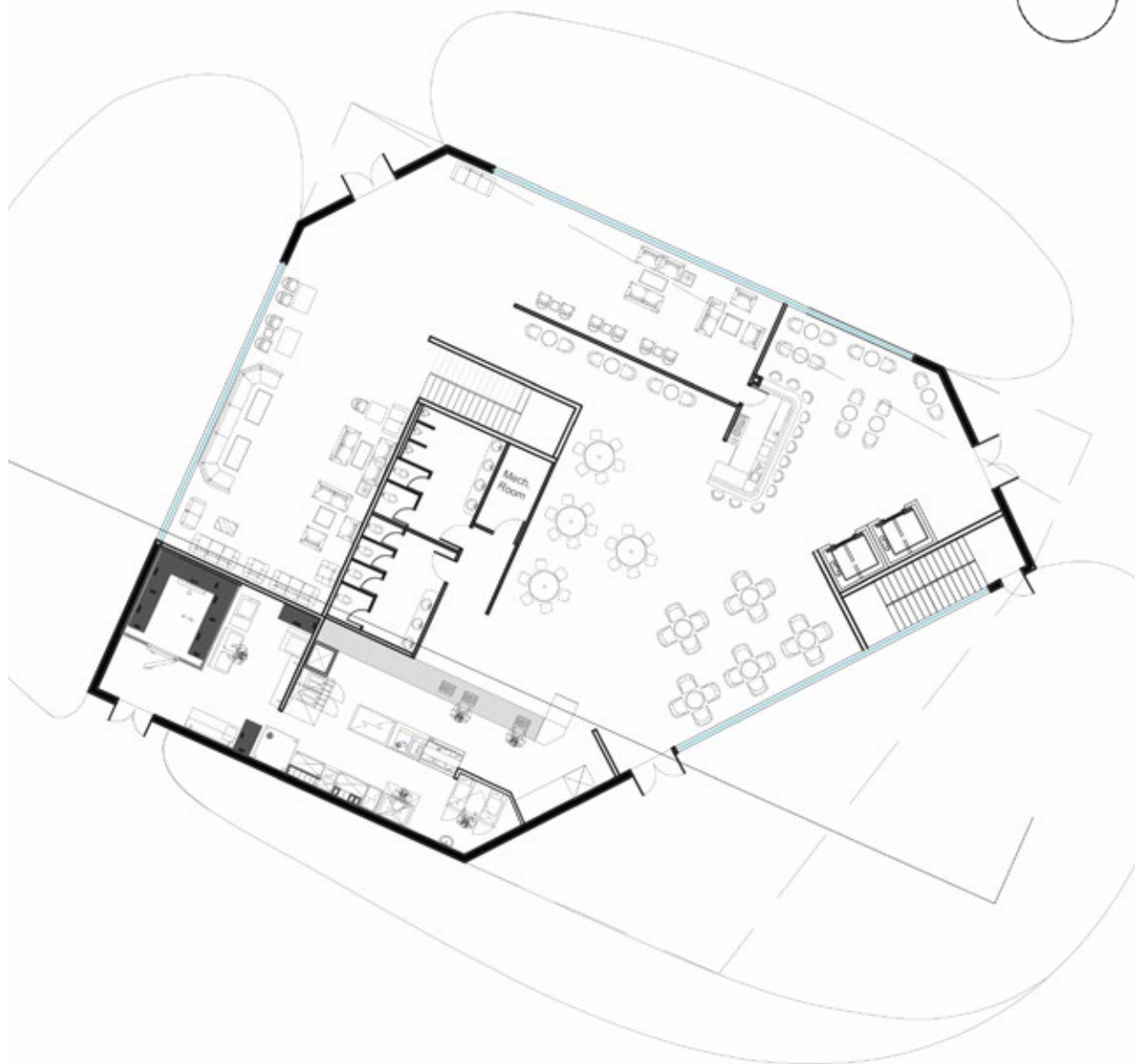


# Café/Lounge

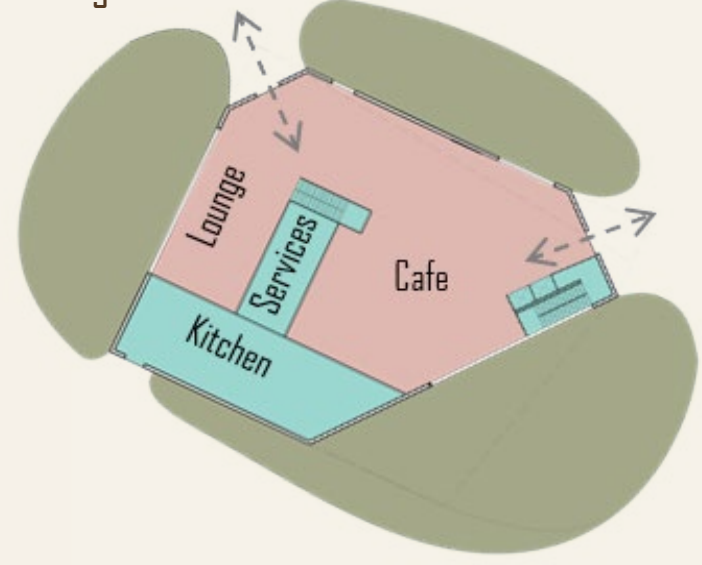
On the ground floor of this mass, a community cafe and lounge are provided. The cafe and restaurant is an excellent destination for many people, having these functions in a community hub area was necessary. Outside seating areas are provided as a transition point between the central plaza and the indoor. The first floor has office spaces as these offices existed in the previous building.



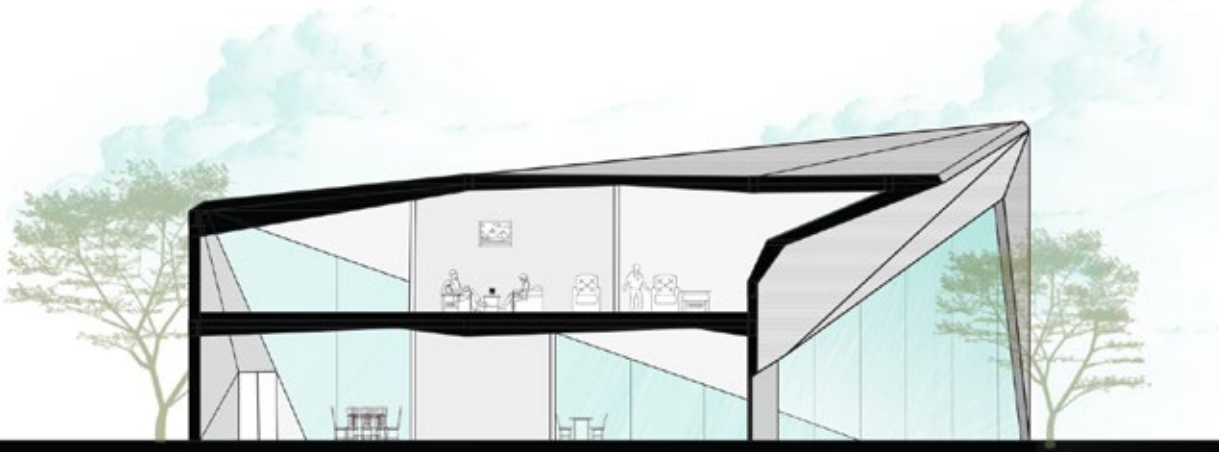
## Ground Floor



## Plan Diagram



## First Floor



Mass Section



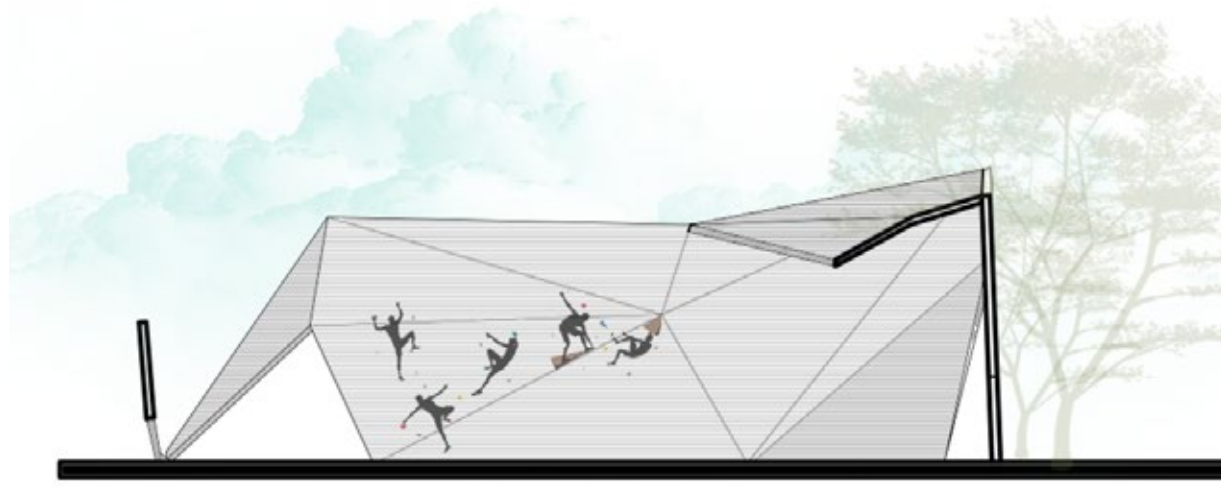
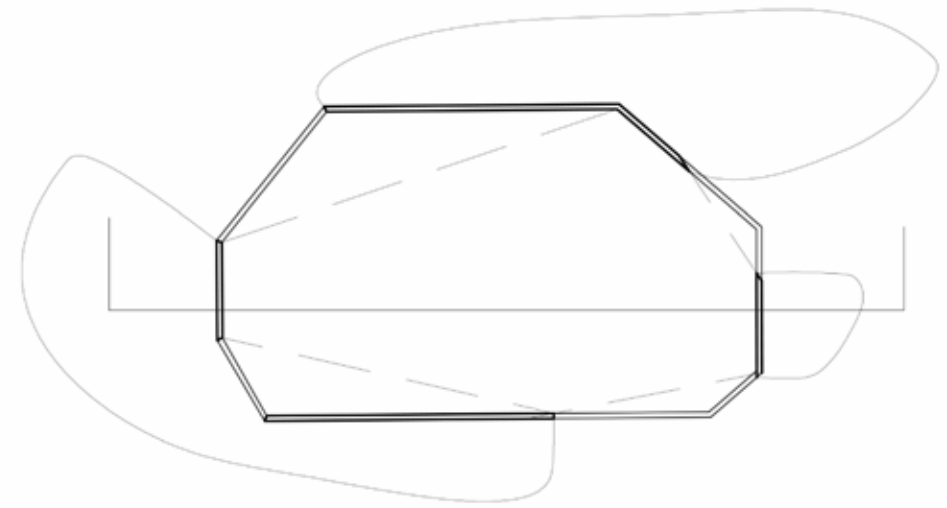
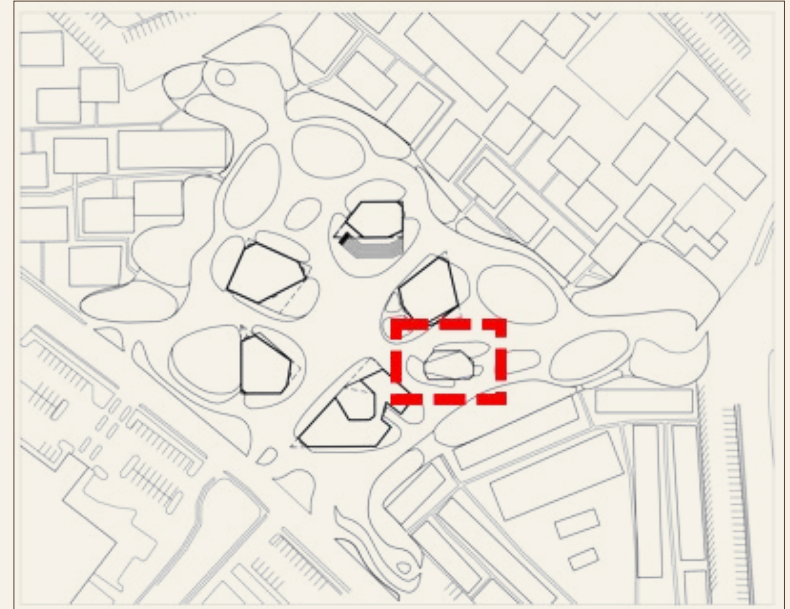


# Open Plaza

This open pavilion allows the community members to create their own functions and interact with the space. The pavilion walls could work as a climbing wall or as an art show gallery, the central area could also have different functions, from photoshopping to art performances, etc.



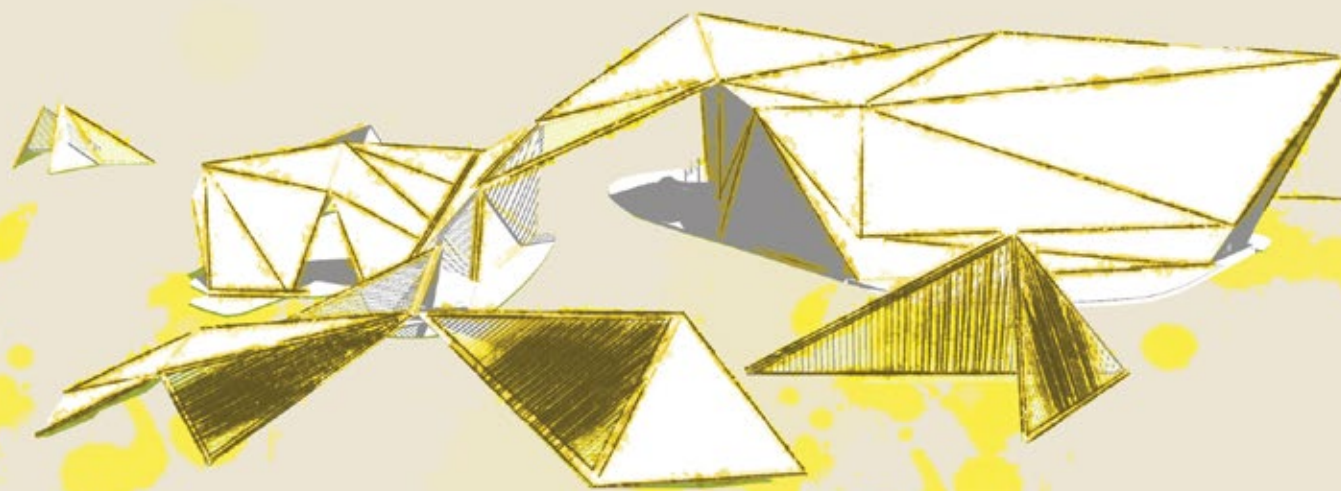
# Ground Floor



Mass Section



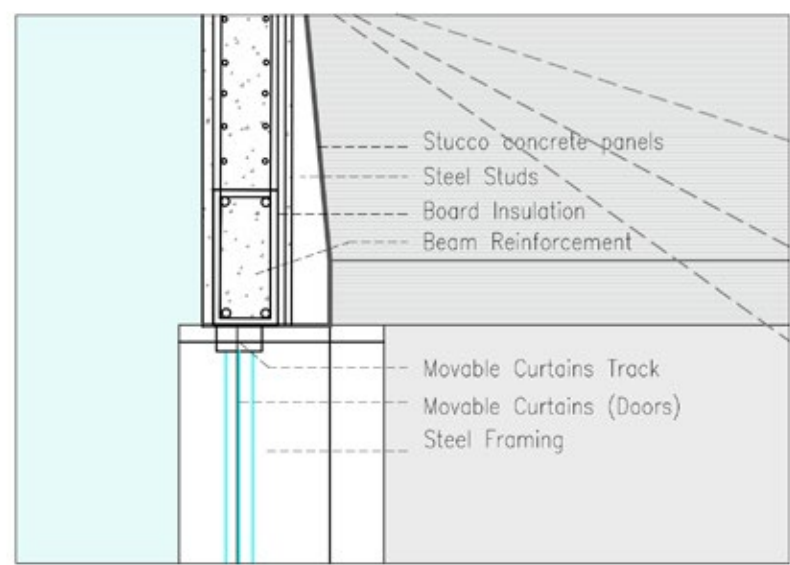
# Details



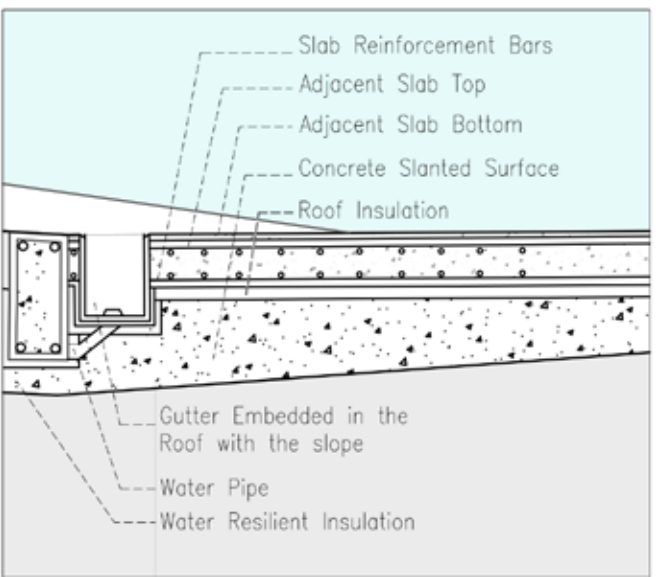
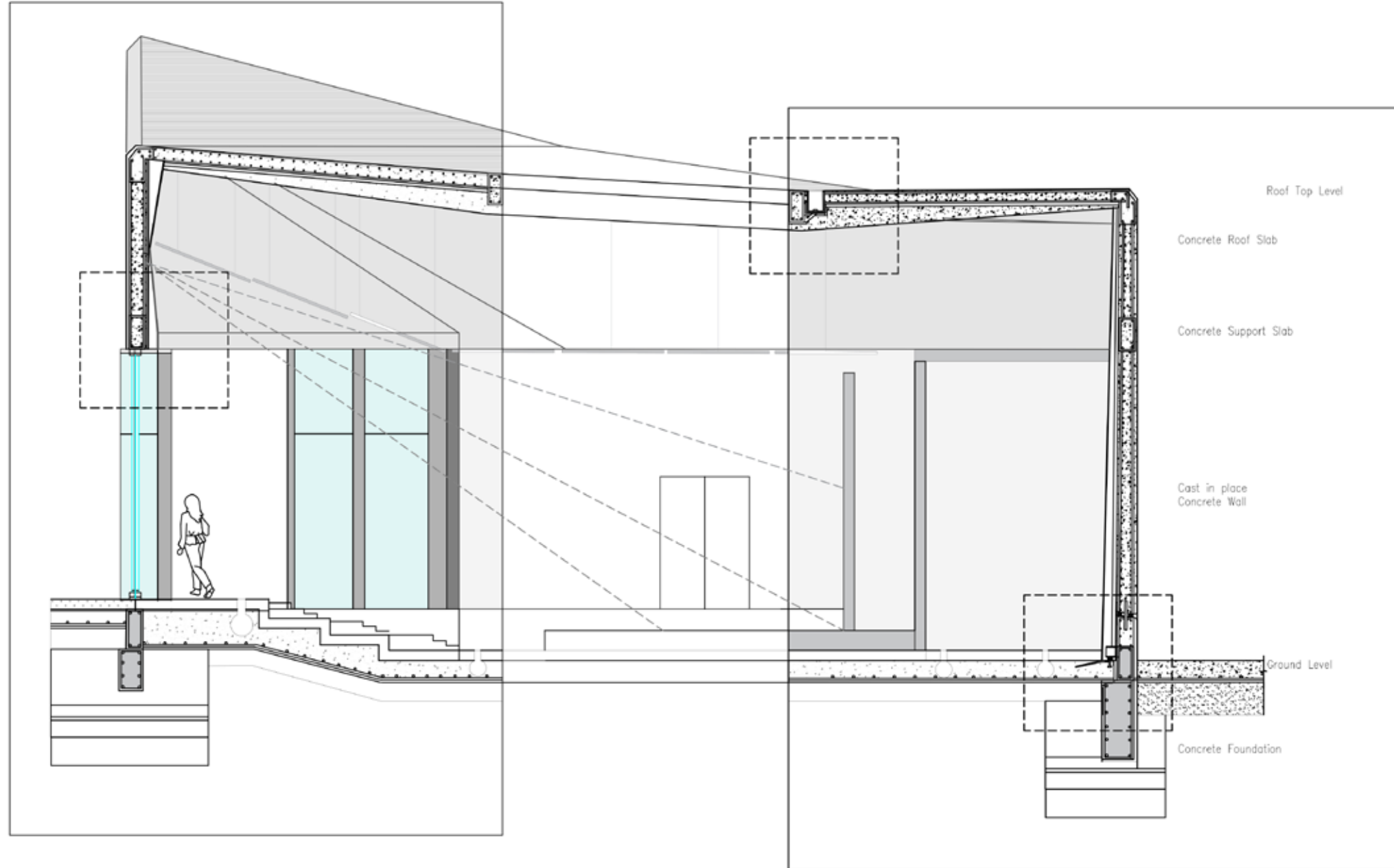
The Detailing part of the project is a critical phase, establishing the systems and materials that the project would be constructed and presented in, ensuring that the finishes and colors express the design concept without losing the site and neighborhood's identity.

The project consists of different public interventions; choosing the colors for canopies and masses was part of the concept. The strong yellow color gives a hint of an energetic theme, full of life and intensity. The white concrete is blended with a glimpse of yellow from the corners to bring the energy from the outside canopies and typology to the inside functions.

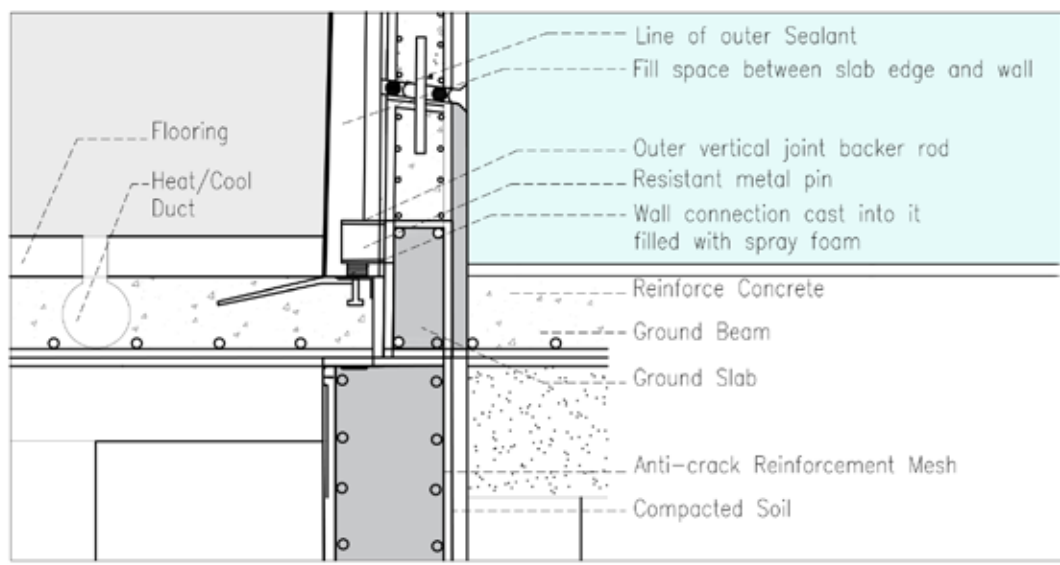
# Wall Section Details



Wall System



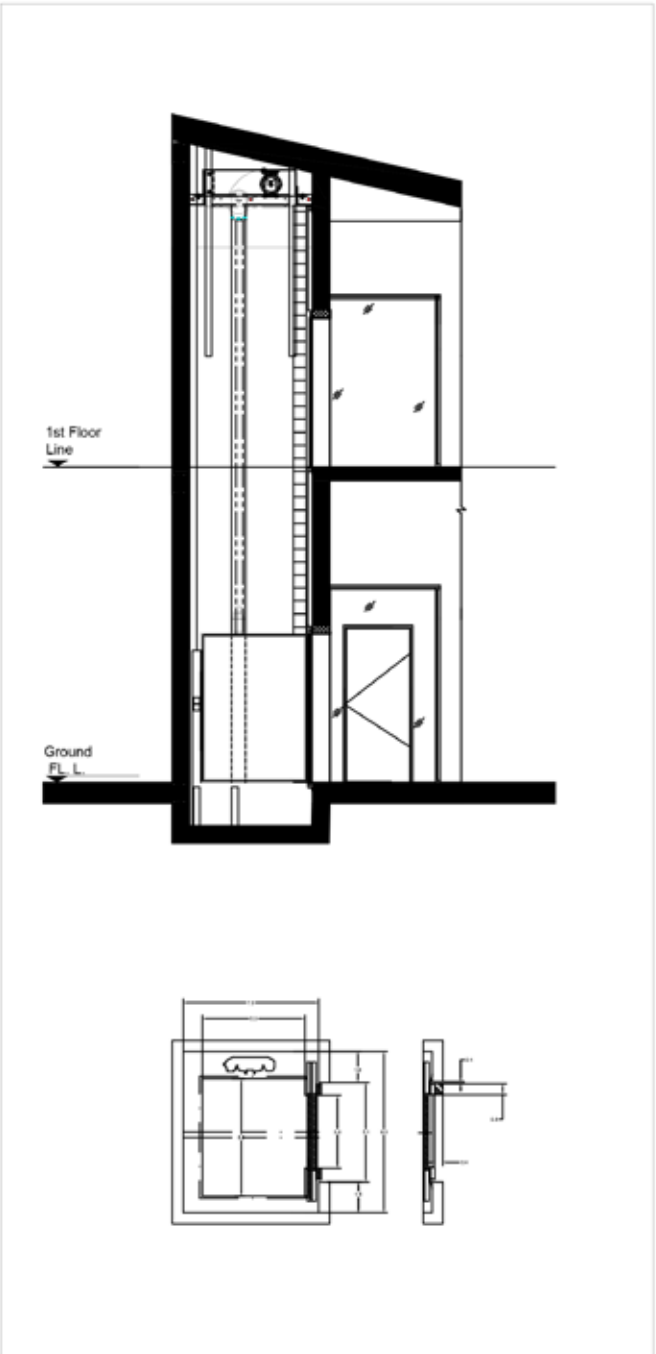
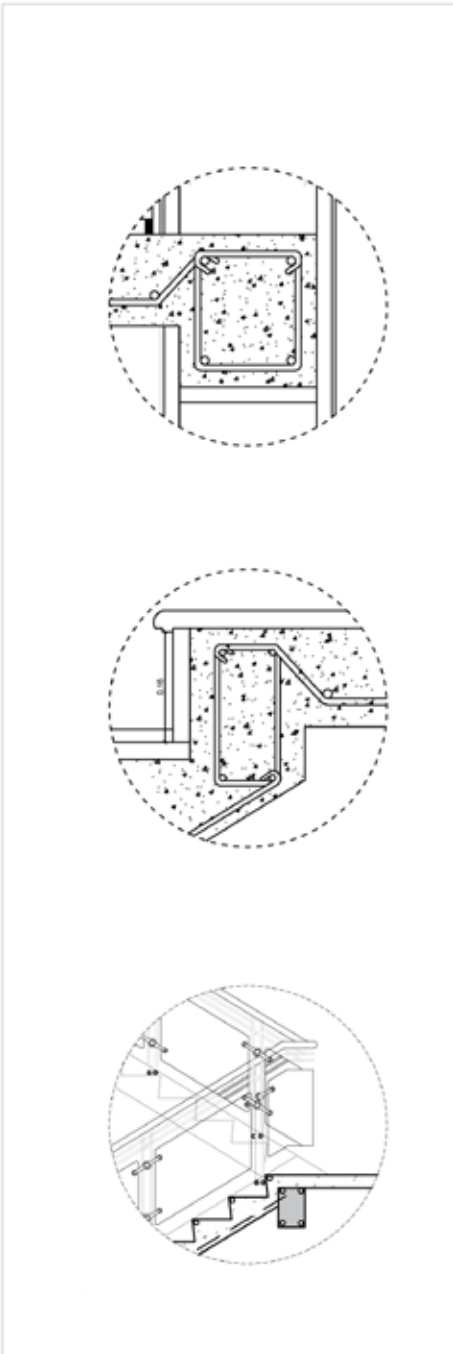
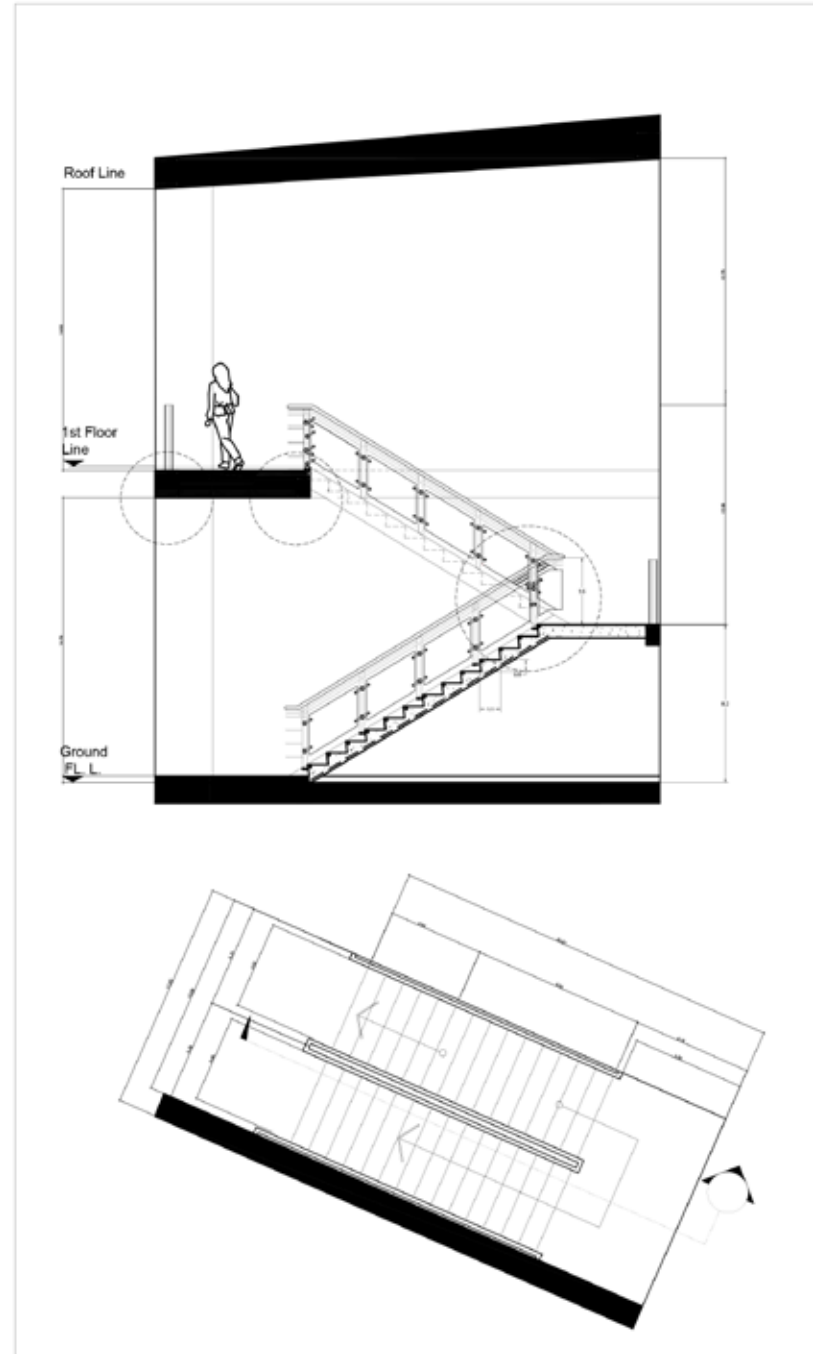
Roof System



Foundation System

This wall section detail for the stage mass shows the structural components of how the building could be constructed. The same structural system could be applied to the other masses. The unique shapes of the masses in the design and the surface shapes of the walls and roofs led me to use cast-in-place concrete as the structural system. Concrete is the perfect material to express the design shapes and angles flexibly.

# Stair & Elevator Details

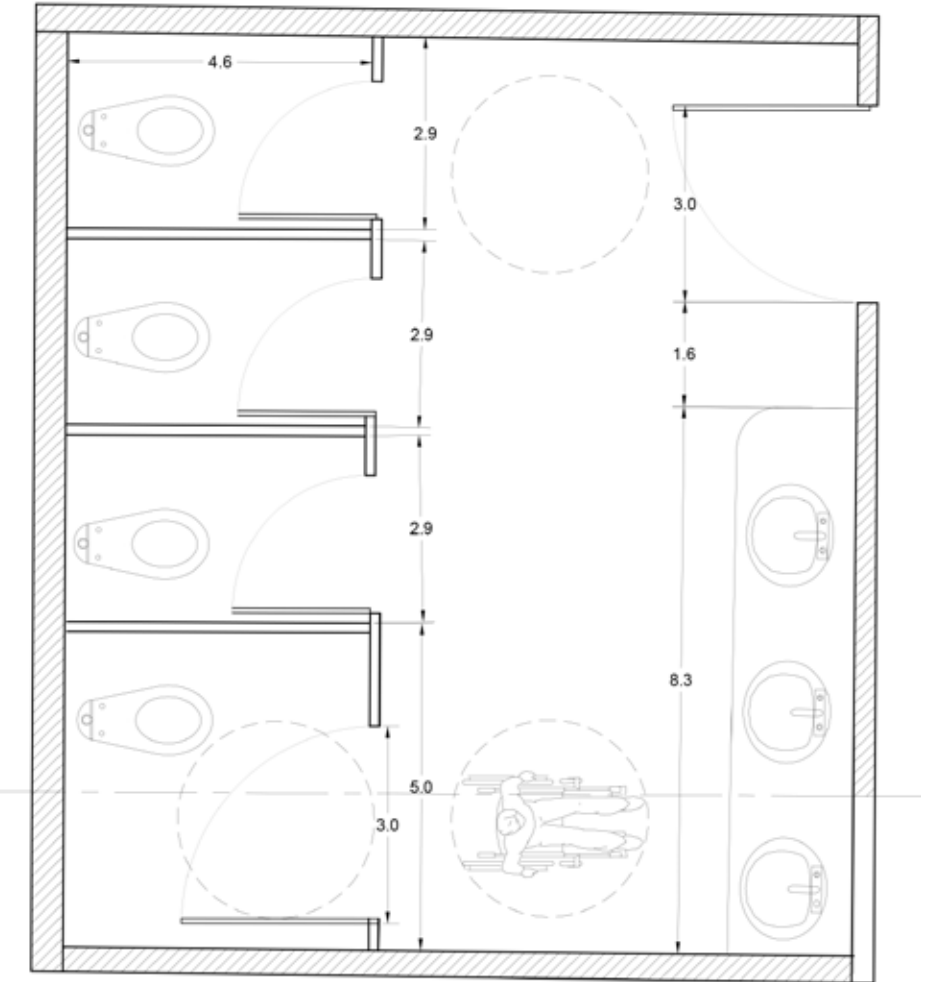
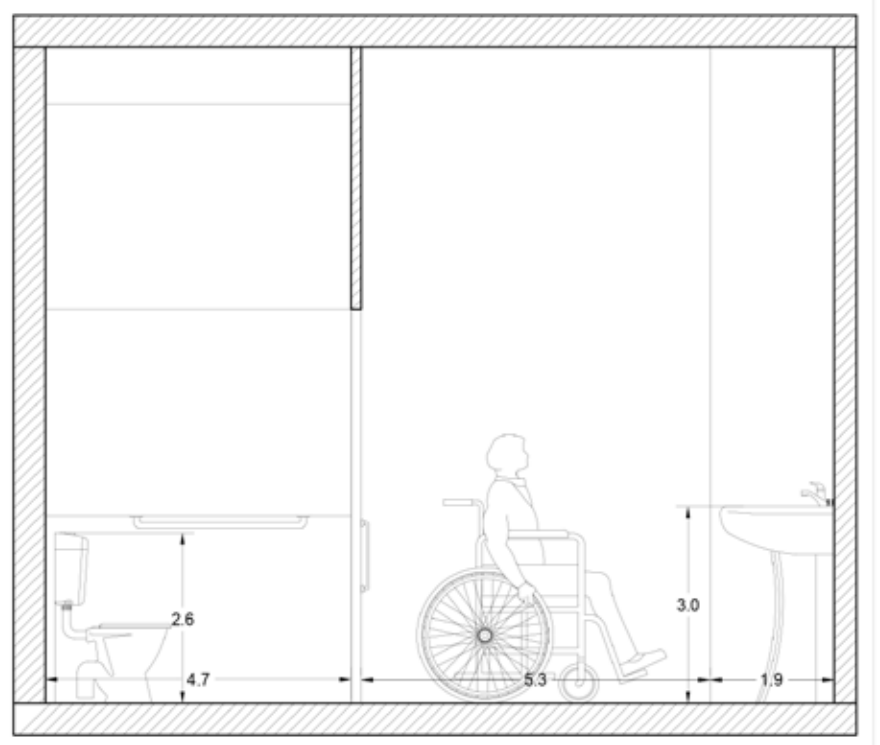


Zoom-In Details

Stair Plan and Section

Elevator Plan and Section

# ADA Toilet Details



Toilet Section

Toilet Plan

# Conclusion

I always wanted to make the world a better place for the people around me. I observed that Architecture has a significant impact on our beings, physical, behavioral, and emotional. I choose architecture as the way for me to contribute to human development. Having big ideas to help the public is what motivates me to design. And this project is another attempt for me to do so.

At the end of the project, I would like to leave you with open questions, Could these Ideas become a Prototype that Influences the Built Environment in our Neighborhoods? How can we Improve the Public-built Environment in our Neighborhoods? Can our Neighborhoods make our lives better or worst?

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