



WELCOME HOME



2023

CLARA OHLENBUSCH EMILY'S HOUSE



EMILY'S HOUSE  
ON HERMANN DR.



EMILY'S  
HOUSE  
ON HERMANN DR.

CLARA OHLENBUSCH

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## DEDICATION

To the children who fight every day to live, to the parents who are forced to face a reality without their children. To Emily for opening my eyes to the reality of chronic illness in pediatrics.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To my family: Thank you for showing me what it means to love fully, and without limits.

To Wyatt: Thank you for being there for me in all the highs and lows, and never letting me give up on myself.

To Professor Pentecost: Thank you for being an absolute sunshine and pushing me to be the best version of myself.

To my Committee: Thank you for constantly encouraging me and inspiring me to challenge my thinking.

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## A NOTE TO THE READERS

The terms “patient” and “child” are interchangeable in this book as they are one in the same. Child is referred to in an effort to humanize the patient and remember the audience, to remember the youthfulness and age of the patient. Emily’s House is not meant to be clinical and cold, but a place of love and joy. Children lose their lives every day, this was at the forefront of my mind as I designed the project. We must never forget that the patient is a child.

ABOUT



## EMILY

Emily's House has been a passion project for me, a project I have dreamed up since I first met Emily in the summer of 2017 (furthest left in photo). I was a first-year camp counselor fresh out of my first year of college, having been through my first set of architectural studios and design classes.

Emily had just turned ten and had been living with Cystic Fibrosis from an early age. I didn't know a lot about Cystic Fibrosis or many other chronic illnesses, but I was blown away by the maturity I saw in Emily. Emily had been placed in my care for the week, as the camp director believed I could better understand her situation and provide appropriate support. Every day I carry with me the lessons I learned from

Emily. I witnessed Emily trek to the medic station at least three times a day to receive treatment. She would walk into the medic station, strap herself into her life-saving vest, and then be physically shaken from the vest to help drain her lungs of excess fluid and mucus. This was not only heartbreaking to watch, but due to the rapid pace demanded of camp life, I had to leave her in the hands of the medics as she completed her treatment. Twenty minutes later she would rejoin the group. The twenty minutes for me was a game with the campers, and the twenty minutes for her was struggling to do something I took for granted, breathe.



## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Emily's House is an outpatient day healthcare facility and hospice house for children with long-term illnesses. Emily's House is focused on helping children find their place and come to terms with their illnesses, while not becoming them. The facility's top floor is strictly dedicated to the on-site hospice units for six patients and their families. I aim to challenge traditional architecture for health by utilizing play therapy, positive distraction,

and innovative architecture. Through this program, I have investigated a series of questions:

- With a program inherently institutional, how can I use design, the site context, and positive distraction to create a place that is inviting and playful for children (and their families) with chronic illness?
- How can we use space to create edge conditions in the design of a facility?

## THE HEART OF THE PROJECT

As a child, I grew up with a volatile gluten intolerance, with celiac disease looming, always threatening my digestive system. Although this pales in comparison to other chronic illnesses, I always felt displaced—inconvenient. I was never able to eat the same food in the lunchroom or the birthday treats brought in by parents. I had to make excuses about why I wasn't participating. The most common, "I already ate."

When I went to summer camp, my mother had to call ahead, get the menu for the week I would be there and spend hours creating meals to "match" the other campers. We would get to camp before check-in and stop by the kitchen with our cooler of food for the week. When mealtimes came around, I would go into the walk-in refrigerator, grab my meal, walk to a back room, and heat my food up. By the time I could join the others, many had almost finished their meals. As hard as I tried to fit in, I would receive stares and questions about why I was different. This simple isolation and feeling of being a bother was a terrible feeling. When creating Emily's House,

I used my past experiences to design a place where everyone could feel as included as possible, no matter their restrictions. A place where children could bond and see other children just like them.

The idea of Emily's House was conceived from the desire to provide a place for children with chronic, and even terminal, illnesses to come together and be children. It is a place of community, a safe space where you are no longer your illness. Emily's House aims to provide a safe haven for children who are so desperately in need of being a child. In desperate need to feel normal and act their age. Emily's House is an outlet. An outlet for the children to be their true selves. An outlet for parents, a place where their child can play and meet children they can connect to, to bond with. Finding one's sense of place while feeling included is an important marker in one's development.

I saw Emily's House as a place of safety-- as a home. While brainstorming how I could make this project more impactful for the community it will serve, I was introduced to the idea of hospice.

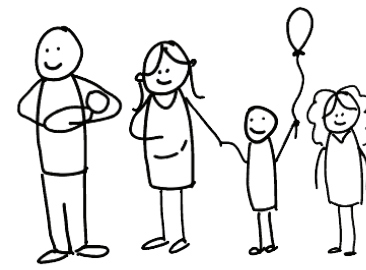


## LEVELS OF CARE

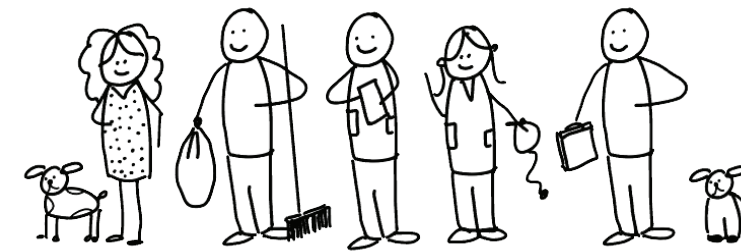
When designing Emily's House, I broke the project down to serve four separate groups of individuals: the patient, the family, the staff and the community. Through this book you will be able to see and explore how each group was impacted in this design. It takes a village to raise a child, and it takes a community to recover from the loss.



THE PATIENT



THE FAMILY



THE STAFF



THE COMMUNITY

RESEARCH

## CHRONIC ILLNESS IN CHILDREN

Emily's House aims to help all children with chronic or terminal illness –as a general population they are much more at risk for other obstacles in their life (Hysing et al, 2007.) According to the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, Children with diagnosed chronic illnesses are at a greater risk for developing emotional problems. (Chronic Illness,2017) These problems can stem from a multitude of places. "Chronic illness entails frequent physician visits and medical leaves requiring the child or adolescent to miss

classes and school activities. The lack of continuity in school attendance may cause problems, including avoidance or refusal to attend school. This can increase the child's loneliness and feeling of being different from other youngsters." (Chronic Illness,2017) There is hope for these children, by providing methods and strategies to understand the symptoms and complexities of their illnesses which can lead to a more effective treatment plan. (Bravoet al., 1993)

## MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATED WITH ILLNESS

Chronic illness in children can be especially detrimental as it can often lead to future mental health issues if not combated at an early age. (Chronic Illness,2017) Unfortunately, the reality of these Chronic illness can result in accidental neglect of care for the child's mental health because the parent, and even physician can find themselves focused on the physical pain and the tangible issues. (Garey, 2022) It takes

a village to raise a child and at Emily's House we aim to help shed light on the emotional damage an illness can cause. By including psychological services on site, we hope to make help readily accessible and affordable. We hope to help combat some of the most common results of a long-term illness such as anxiety, depression, and behavioral issues. (Garey, 2022)

## PEDIATRIC HOSPICE

Emily's House is different than some traditional forms of pediatric hospice as we try to create a safe, home-like environment away from the actual home to help take some of the stress off the family. Some studies show that families using pediatric hospice report negative feelings at the end of the child's life, (Dicken, 2010.) The

same study, however, did show positive feeling at the end of the family's journey in hospice. By understanding the psychology behind pediatric hospice patients, we can help combat feelings of pain, isolation, and hopelessness by enacting strategies that include play therapy, education, and group therapy (Sarwar et al., 2019.)

## AN OVERALL SUMMARY

Throughout my time here at Texas A&M I have had the privilege of taking many healthcare related classes and have in turn applied some of that knowledge to this project. By applying overall methods of positive distraction, I hope to provide healthy outlets and methods for coping with the harsh realities in these patients' lives. From my time as a camp counselor, I have understood the complexities of

children and learned to put myself in their shoes. This led to incorporating not only opportunities to learn, but play areas of many kinds, including music zones, imagination stations and messy zones where they can splash and paint. We as designers have the privilege of taking experiences we have had in life and applying them to our work, that is exactly what I have done at Emily's House.

PRECEDENTS



FIGURE 1.1

## THE KENZINGTON LEARNING SPACE

Architects: Plan Architects

Location: Krung Thep Maha Nakhon,

Thailand

Area: 4,305.56 sqft

Year: 2020

Project Type: Education

This “Out of School” learning center challenges the traditional education system. This Center aims to encourage physical skills and mental development for children 6 months to 11 years old through play and active learning. The belief that children learn best when they are engaged can be seen in all aspects of the design. This project is built on the concept of “play based learning” by providing several different play methods and styles. They emphasize structured play, open ended play, and play through exercise. Play areas are scattered throughout the entire complex.



FIGURE 1.2

A single drop off / pick up point provides a high level of safety, as each child is accounted for the entire time they are in the center. This concept is extremely helpful in keeping the children safe.



FIGURE 1.3

The second floor showcases studios for art and cooking classes as well as dance spaces among others. This promotes creativity among the kids, helping create a well-rounded student.

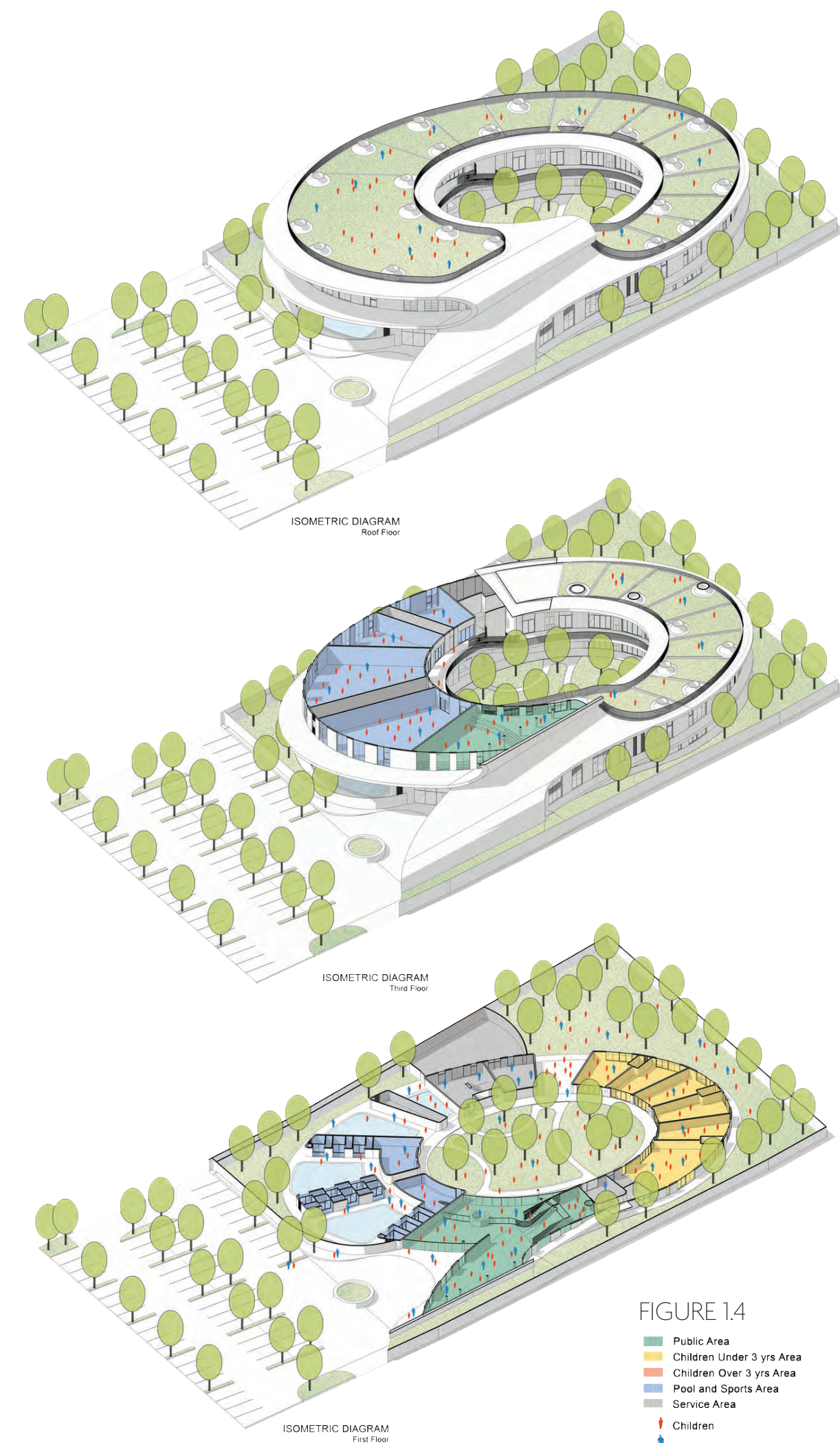




FIGURE 2.1

## NOAH'S ARK CHILDRENS HOSPICE

Architects: Squire & Partners  
 Location: London, UK  
 Area: 25,000 sqft  
 Year: 2019  
 Project Type: Healthcare

Noah's Ark contains six large children's bedrooms with room to play. The adjoining bathroom gives the opportunities for things we take for granted, such as bathing, to be easily accessible to all. The muted color palette with warm lighting helps the center feel more like a home. Each bedroom has direct access to the outside, allowing nature to be viewed at all times. Noah's Ark has an on-site cafe, preparing fresh meals at low cost for the

families and patients staying there. This amenity helps relieve a little stress of preparing food for oneself during one of the hardest parts of someone's life. This helps the parents remember their needs are important as well. Three family suites equipped with kitchens allow a comfortable space for a family for the duration of their stay at the Ark. Keeping the family together is so important during hard times such as the end of a life.



FIGURE 2.2



FIGURE 2.3



FIGURE 2.4



FIGURE 2.5



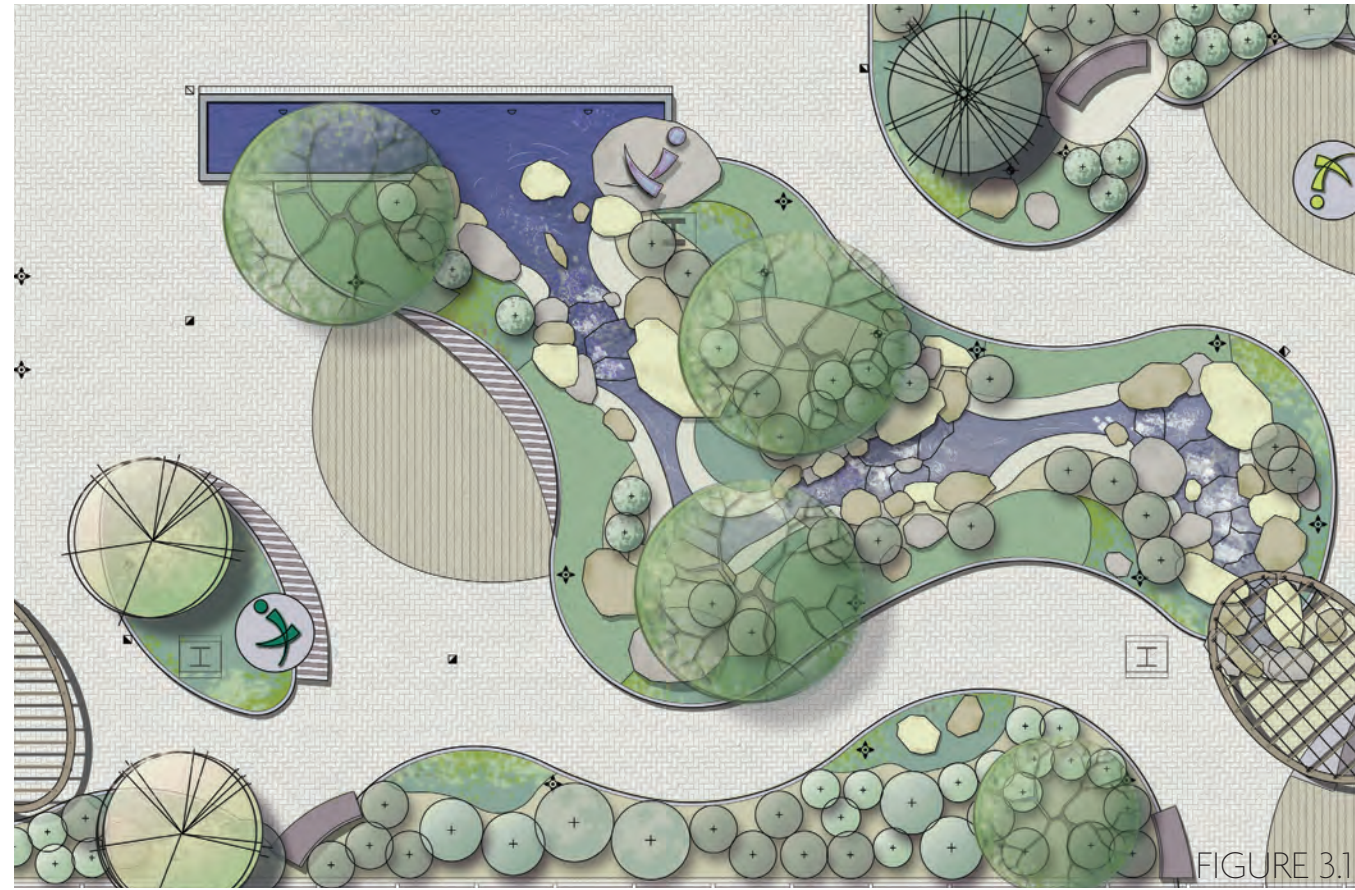
FIGURE 2.6

The Center's butterfly shaped plan boasts four wings. Each wing of the building has its own function, including therapy space, children's rooms, family room, and administration. The butterfly is symbolic of hospice, celebrating a brief, but beautiful, life. There are a series of rooms available to all children visiting the Ark. Sensory rooms provide a safe place

for children with developmental disabilities to comfortably play and interact. Art therapy classes support emotional processing while helping the child understand what is happening to them. A wide array of crafting supplies are used to maximize the ability to become enveloped in the creative process.



FIGURE 2.7



### BETTY RUTH & MILTON B HOLLANDER HEALING GARDEN

Landscape Architect: Shepley Bulfinch

Location: New Haven, CT

Year: 2013

Project Type: Garden

Located on Yale University's campus, the Betty Ruth & Milton B Hollander Healing Garden can be found on the roof of the Smilow Cancer Hospital. With the patients at the forefront of their mind, the garden was designed with constant input from patients, staff, and the community. Imitating a backyard, the somewhat free flowing garden provides a unique experience where patients can sit, have conversations, or even have alone time out in nature.

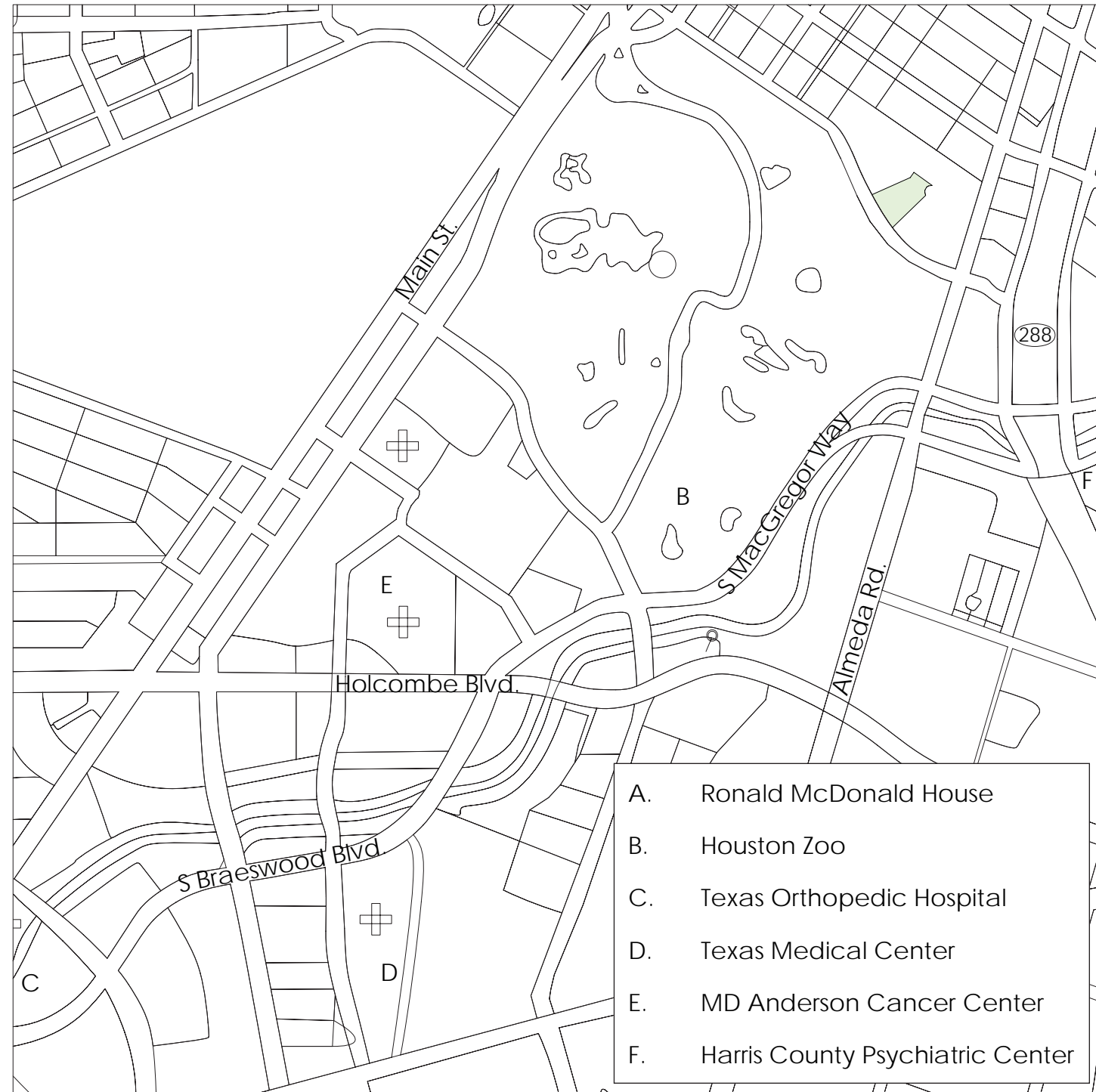


The paths are accessible to all within the hospital, no matter the level of mobility a patient is experiencing. A wide variety of views are an important part of this design as well. A variety of plants allows for a unique view no matter where you may be sitting.





SITE STUDY



### THE MEDICAL DISTRICT

Many factors went into the decision and placement of Emily's House. Emily's House is located at 2001 Hermann Drive in Houston Texas, the home of The Texas Medical Center. This district in Houston is world-renowned for its impact on the field of medicine, bringing attention and patients from across the globe. Patients, doctors, and their families flock to the medical center to receive treatment and care, research, and see the heart of healthcare innovation. The

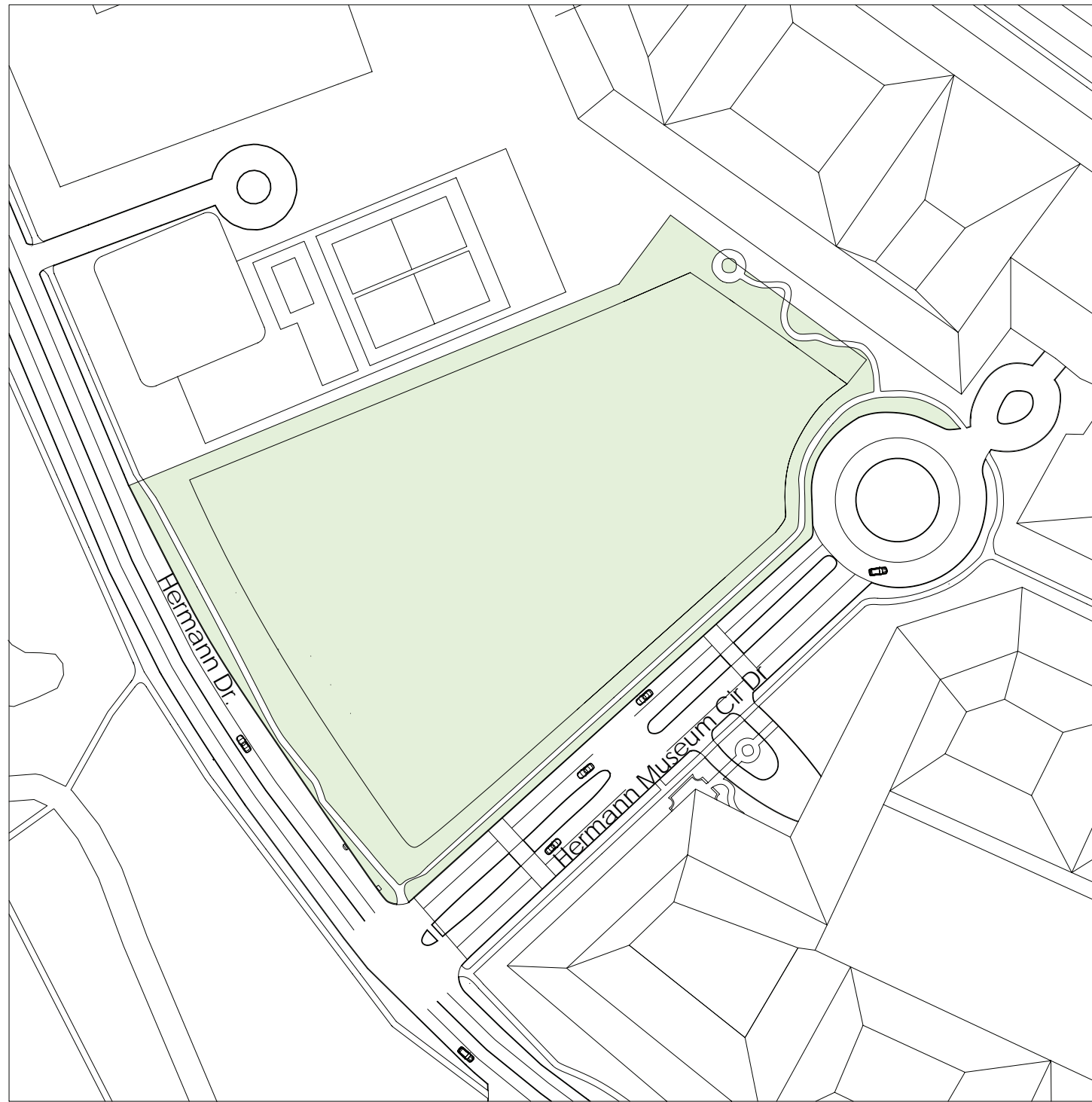
proposed site for Emily's House boasts a short 4-minute car ride from the Houston branch of the Ronald McDonald House, a proposed sponsor and inspiration for the project. Working side-by-side (ideally) with the Ronald McDonald House, Emily's House aims to provide a worry-free experience for the children and their families, a place where financial repayment is not a consideration, a place where the family can feel at peace in times of trial.



### THE SURROUNDING CONTEXT

Located to the north of the Houston Zoo, close to the Museum District, Emily's House is an ideal location for a wide variety of field trips and enrichment activities for the ever-

growing minds of the children who walk our halls. This helps serve our beliefs that children should never stop learning, that discoveries and activity are important, even to the end.

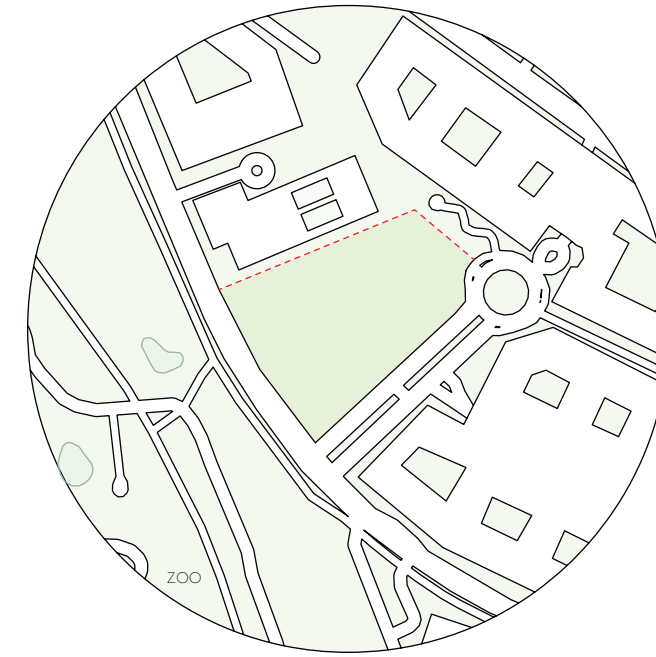


### THE NEIGHBORS

The site itself is unique in its design and has many advantages. The previous building, a small medical facility, was torn down leaving the site vacant and ready for construction. The site is fully equipped with the utilities

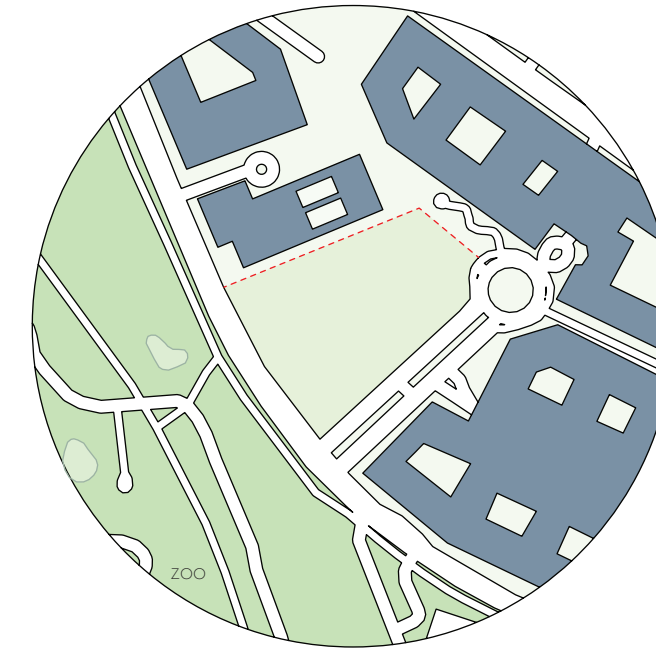
already wired to the site. The site consists of 3.39 acres, surrounded by residential units on all three sides with views of the park to the south.

### THE SITE



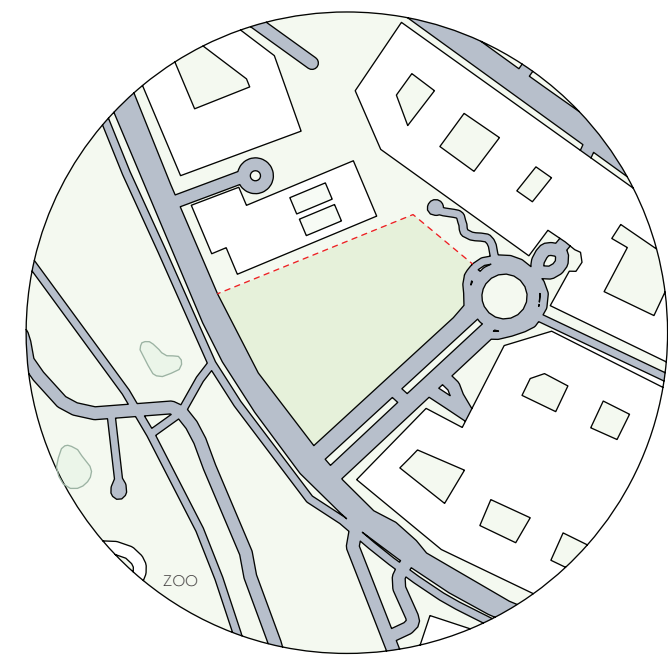
These 3.39 acres of fully bulldozed land north of the Houston Medical Center provides a convenient urban center.

### THE SURROUNDINGS



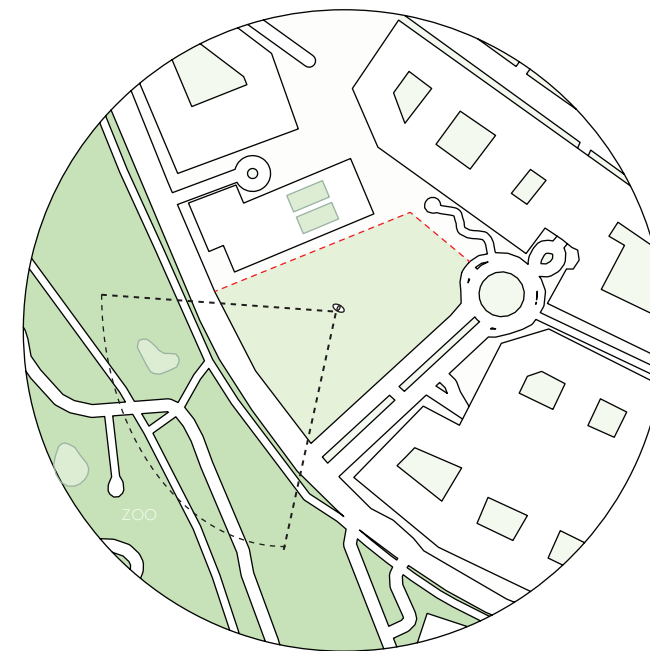
High-end residential complexes on three sides provide a safe, quiet "neighborhood" feel.

### THE ROADS



Hermann Drive is located at the south end of the site and allows for ease of travel, while allowing for a private entrance of a turnaround.

### THE BEST VIEWS



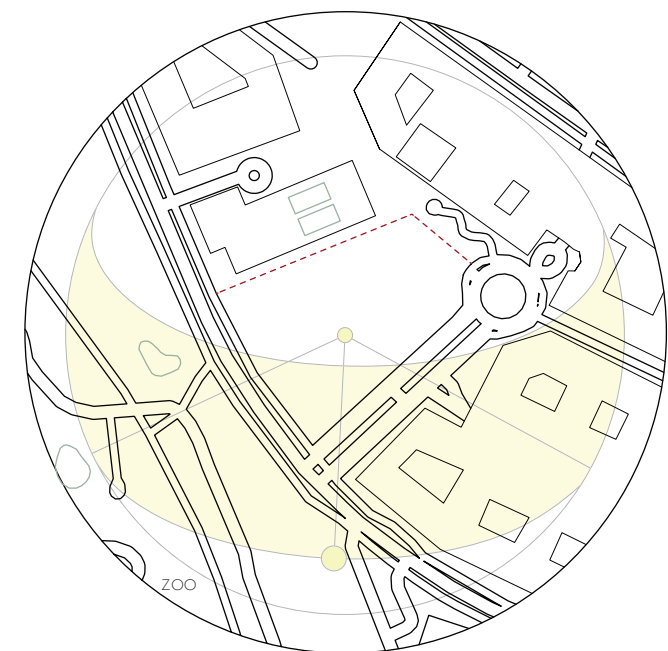
Across Hermann Drive we have a beautiful view of the park with walking paths, allowing for a connection with the natural landscape.

### THE ENTRANCE



Several opportunities to enter the site allow for separation of traffic flows and a more relaxed site entrance, away from the main road traffic.

### THE SUN PATH



The sun path provides an opportunity to provide patients with light directly into their living spaces, which may help bring feelings of joy.

PROCESS

## CONCEPT

Each parti was evaluated and judged based on a series of criteria to discover what the best option was for the program.

The main goal of the Parti process revolved around the desire to give patients the best overall view of the park across the street, while striving to give each child, family, and staff member a sense of community.

It was important to me to separate the

flow of patients, staff, and service vehicles, while limiting overall site access. This concept plays into the safety of the site.

The third important criteria for this site was that there must be a space for a private park for the patients and their family. This park was to act not only as a place of joy and play, but to be a space of flexibility in years to come.

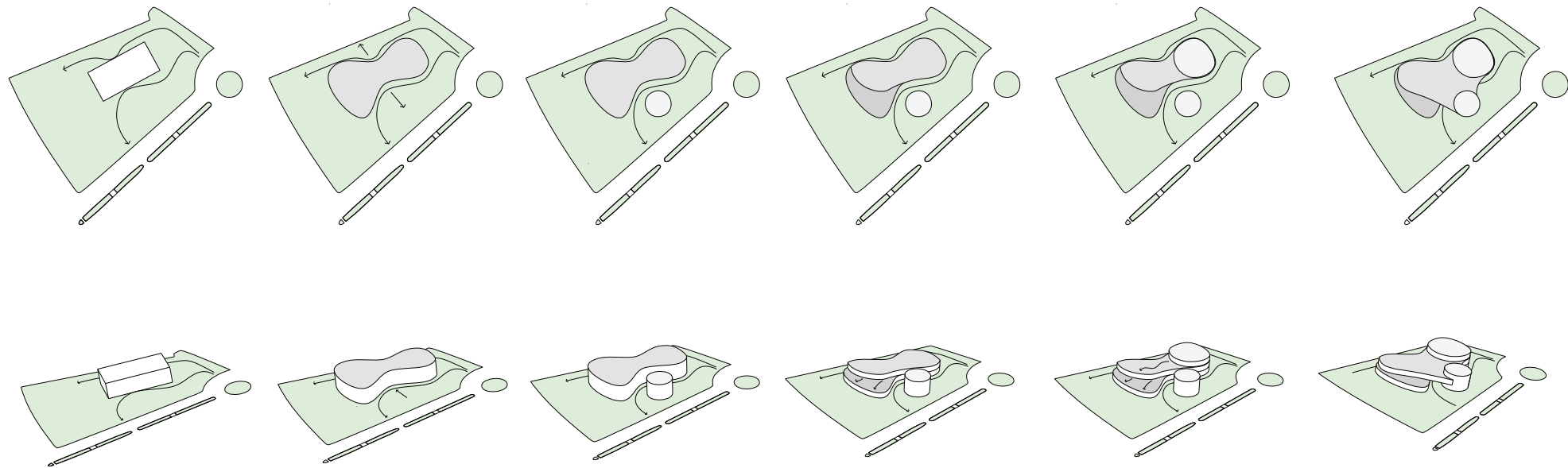
### Judgement Criteria

- View of the Park
- Private, separated site access.
- Large Park area
- Room for expansion

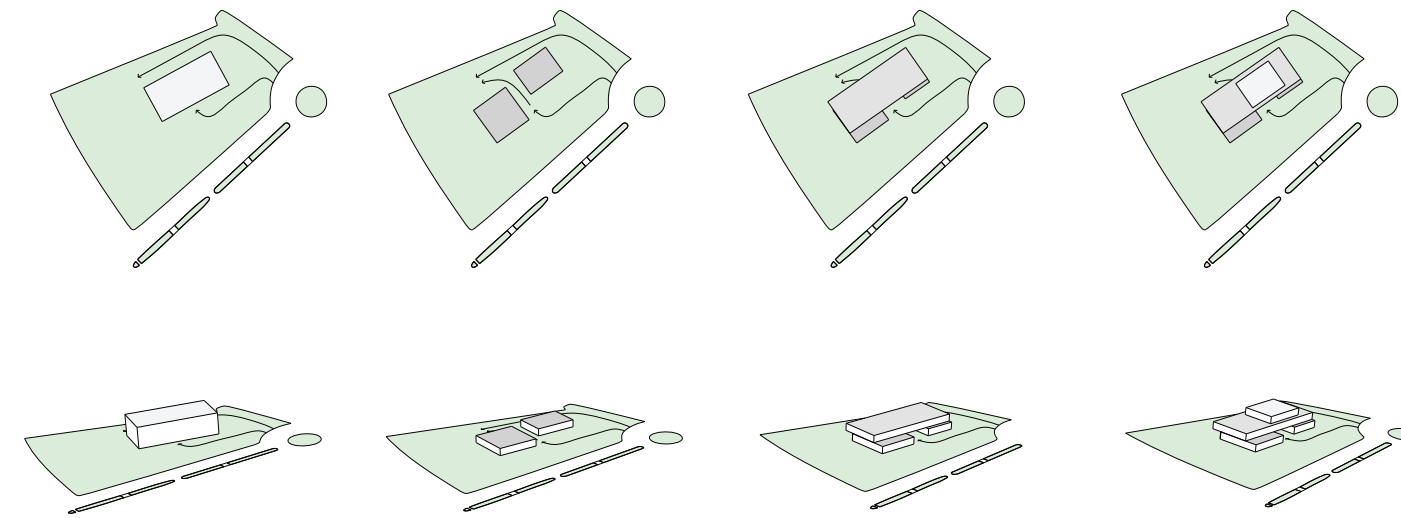
### SCORE CARD

View of the Park 1/5, Seperate Traffic 5/5, Large Park 2/5, Room for expansion 1/5  
 -Patients came second to the form  
 Total: 9/20

Staggered Views: Parti 1



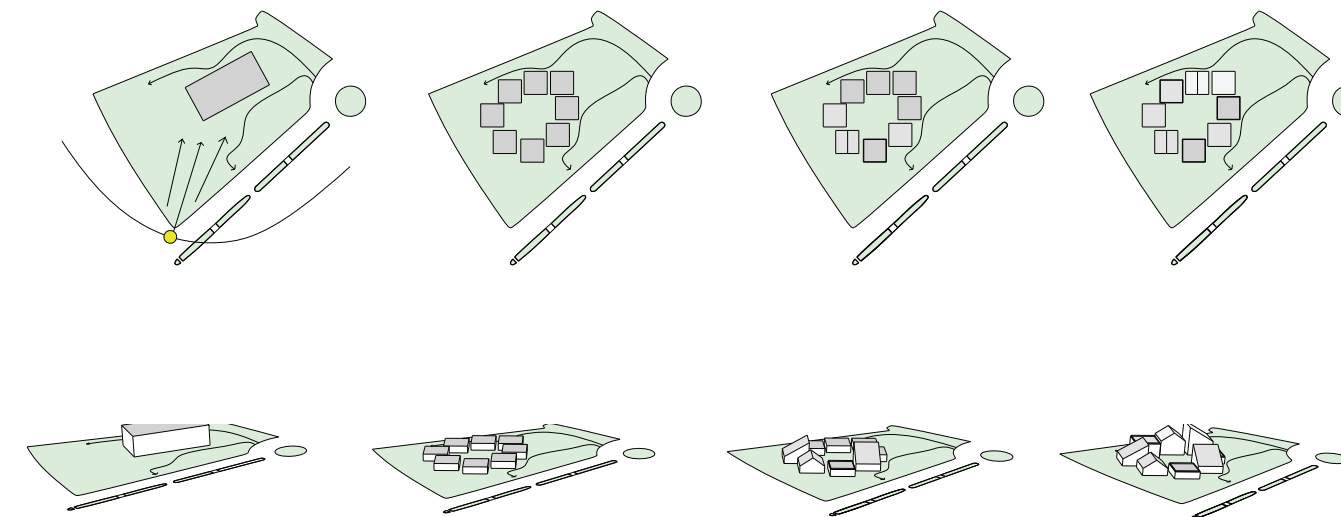
The Sandwich: Parti 2



### SCORE CARD

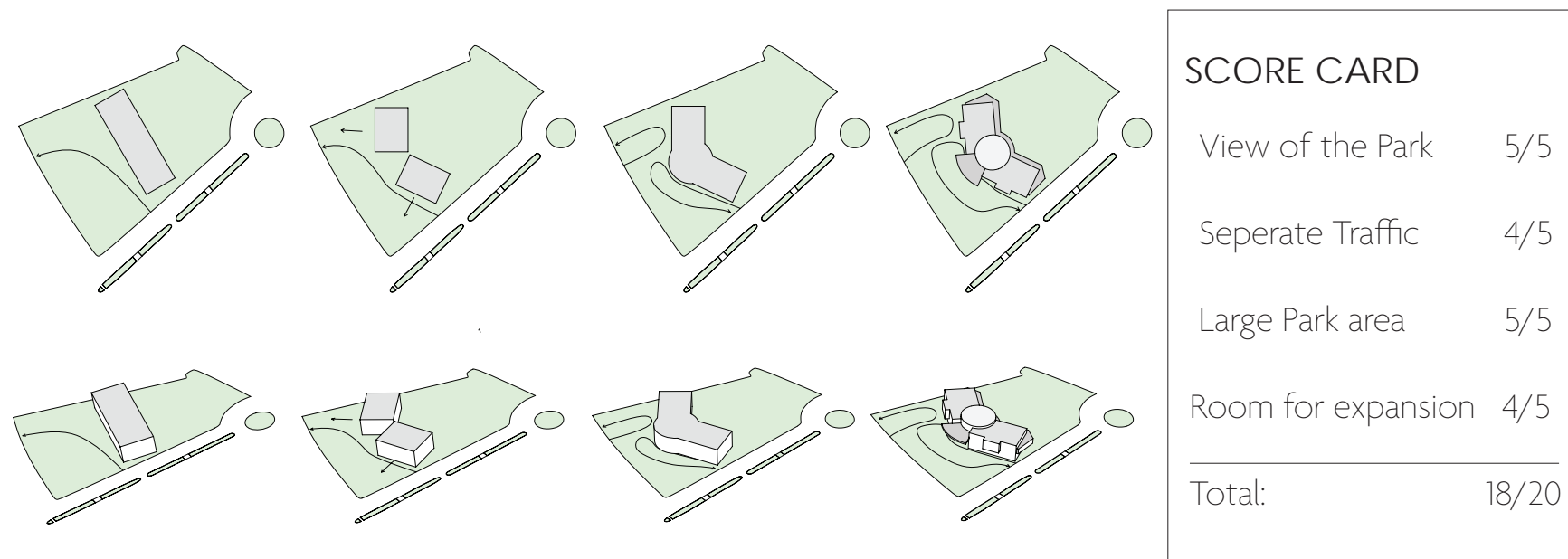
View of the Park 1/5  
 Seperate Traffic 1/5  
 Large Park area 2/5  
 Room for expansion 1/5  
 Total: 5/20  
 -Lacks Flexibility of Space  
 -No View of Park

The Play Village: Parti 3



### SCORE CARD

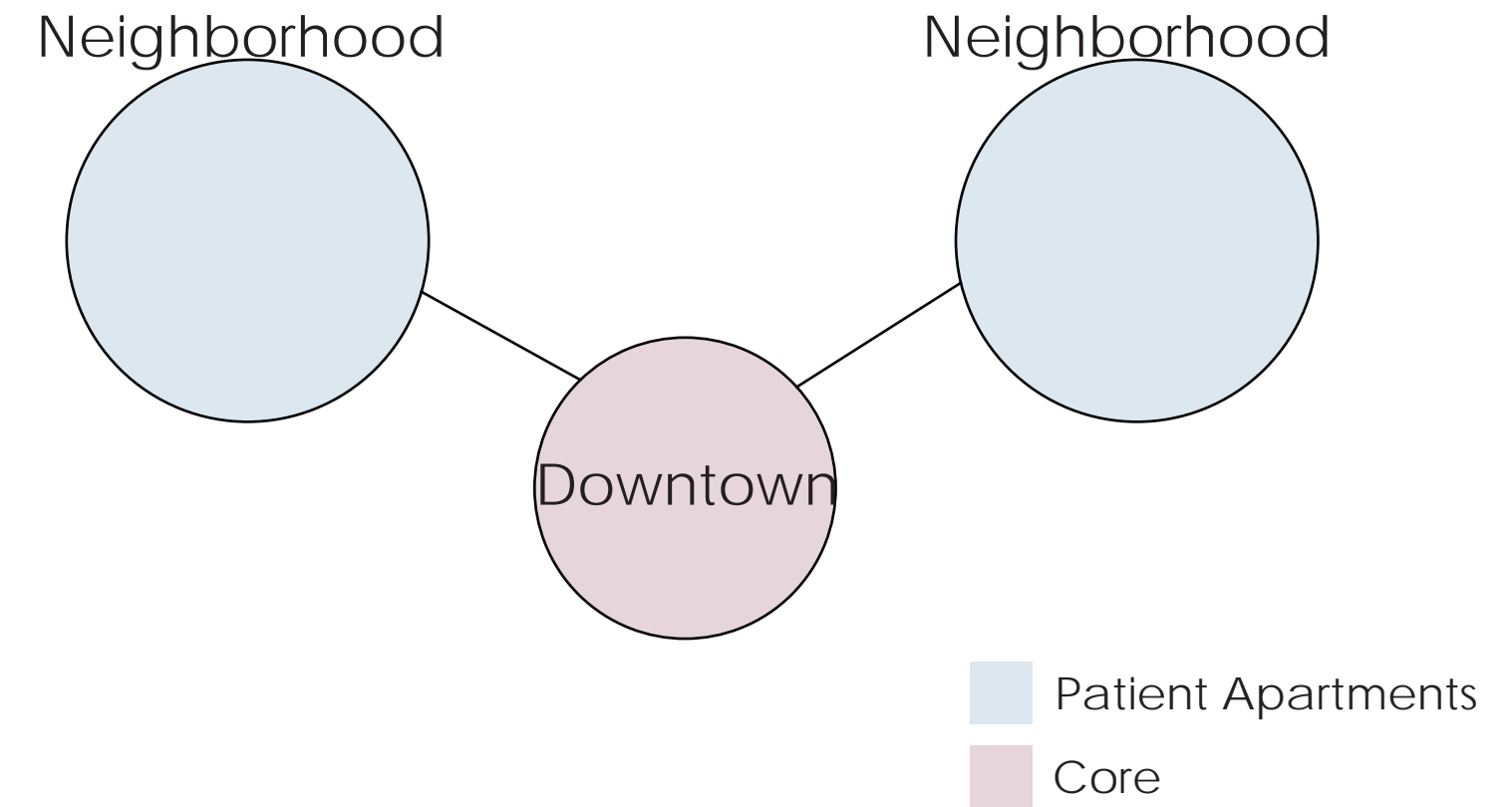
View of the Park 2/5  
 Seperate Traffic 3/5  
 Large Park area 3/5  
 Room for expansion 2/5  
 Total: 10/20  
 -Accessibility may be a problem  
 -Hard to expand, lacks verticality



### THE FINAL PARTI

When deciding the orientation and overall shape of the design, several site factors were at play. The biggest factor driving the design was the desire for patients to have a view overlooking Hermann Park. This view allowed patients to not only feel connected to nature, but created a unique opportunity to play with how

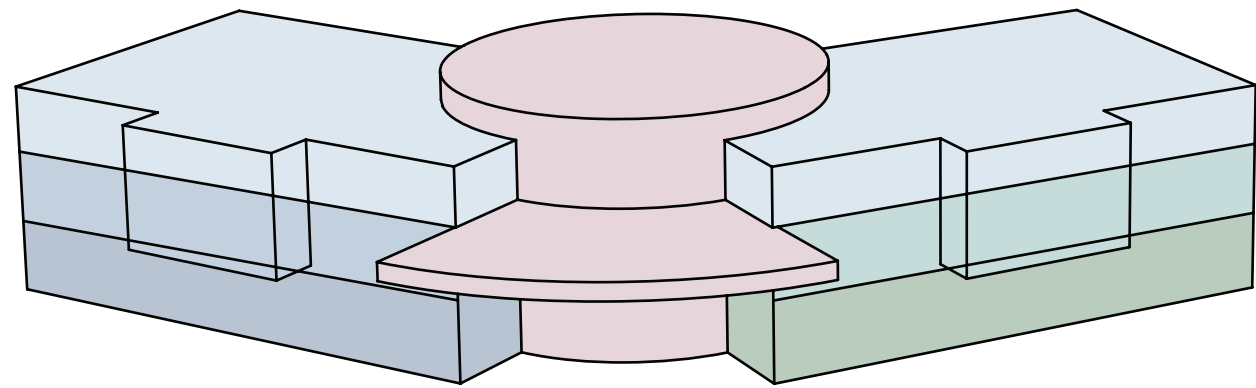
the room would be arranged. Another important goal of the project was to create a safe zone of play on site, allowing the hospice patients and their families a dedicated place to play away from the street. This parti met each of the required aspects of the design.



### THE CONCEPT

The Center is divided into two separate wings with a cylindrical center, creating a centralized core that contains a nurse's station as well as the main building vertical circulation. The third floor, the hospice floor, was designed to create an intentional community, a "neighborhood." The hospice suites are divided into two sets of three units on either wing of the building. These

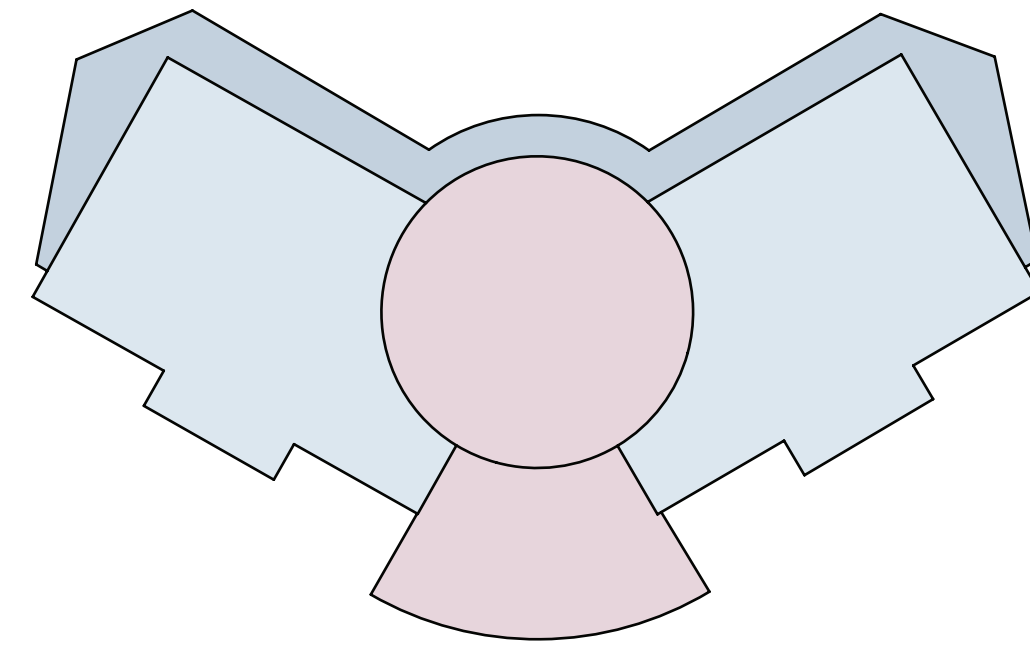
three units create a semi cul-de-sac creating a sense of community within each wing of the building. The two cul-de-sacs are connected by a hallway, or "highway." At the center, or core, of the two communities we see the spaces where both wings can come together to share a meal, play games, or relax outside.



### A SMALLER FOOTPRINT

This desire to maximize the site led to a need for a design with multiple stories to minimize the footprint on site. By creating a smaller footprint, I was not only able to create a large park space but provide ample room for

future development of Emily's House. The final main site factor to consider in creating the mass of the building, was the flow of traffic and the need for a protected drop-off and to separate flows within the design.



### PROGRAM

The arrangement of the program allows for each floor to be separated according to function. The top floor, the hospice floor, gets the ultimate level of privacy as it has become the home of the patients. The second floor provides services for the day center children as well as hospice families. The bottom floor is divided into public and private spaces, divided into several wings.

- Patient Apartments
- Therapy Space
- Staff Zone
- Learning Environment
- Parents Corner
- Core

the BUILDING





## EMILY'S HOUSE

Designer: Clara Ohlenbusch

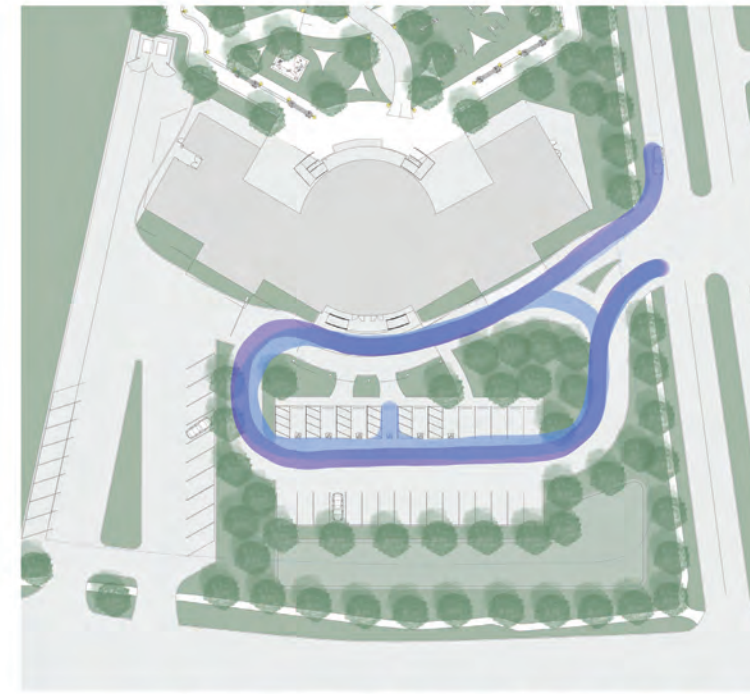
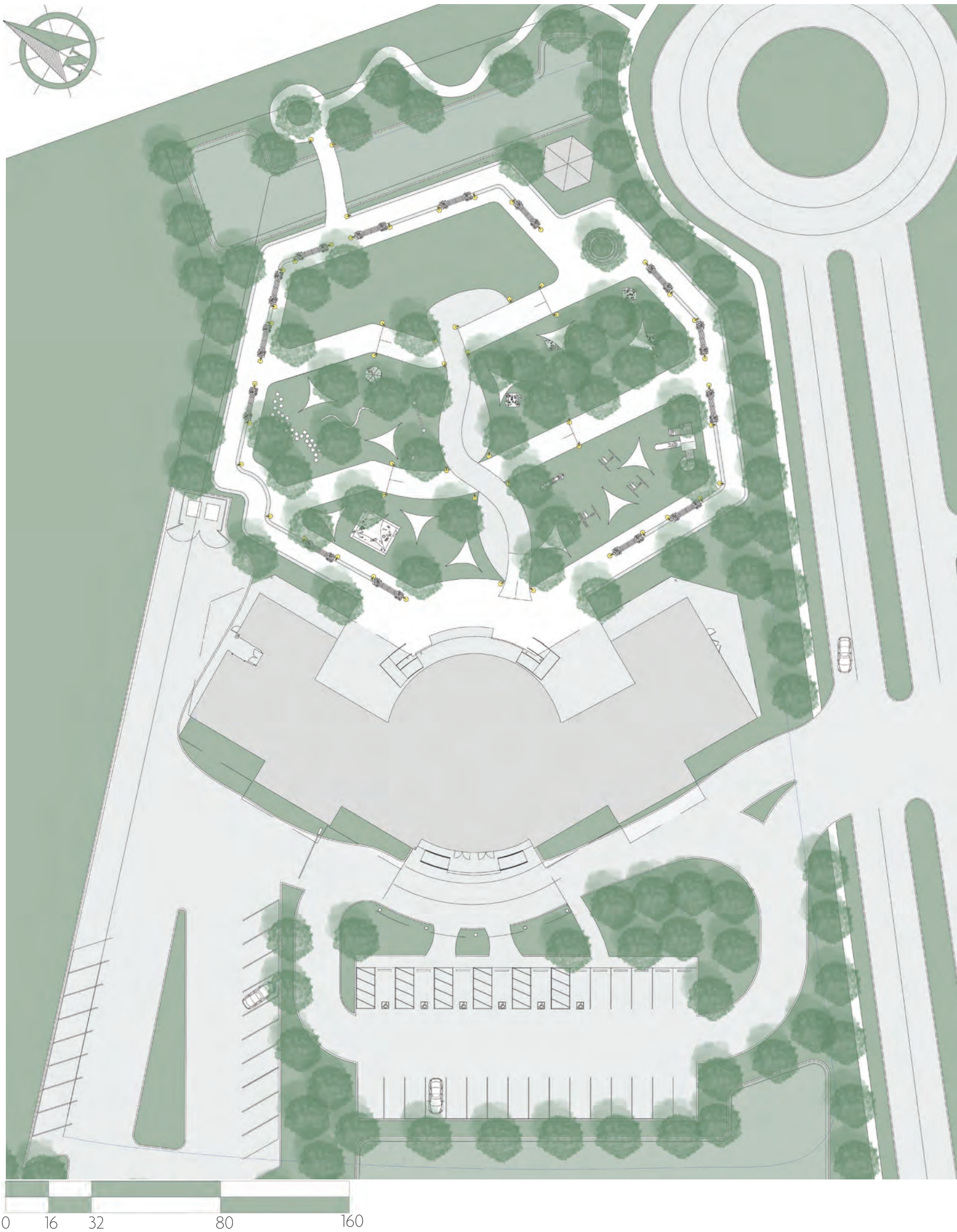
Location: 2001 Hermann Dr., Houston TX

Area: 45,000s qft

Classification: I-4, Ia Construction

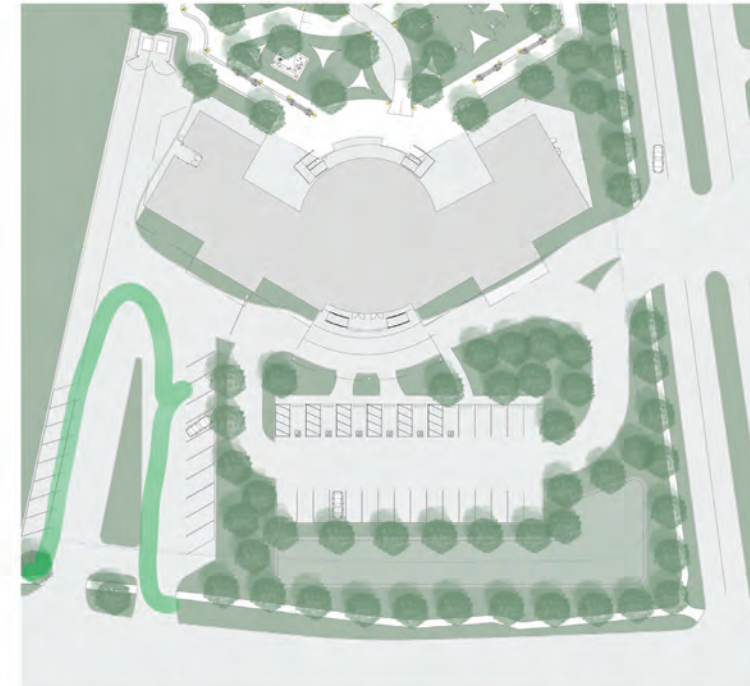
Structural System: Steel

Mechanical System: Variable Air Volume System



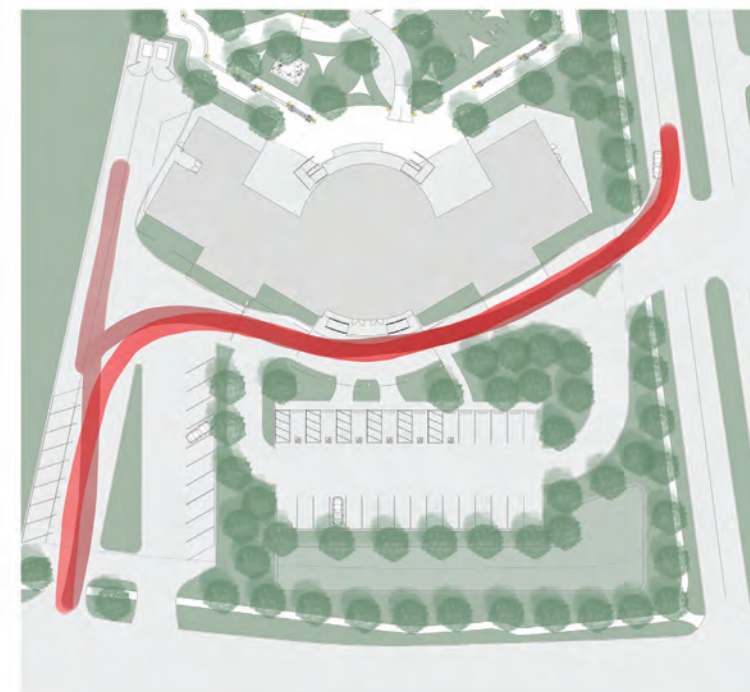
### VISITOR TRAVEL

Considering the patient and family experience was a priority in creating Emily's House. Having a covered drop-off point was necessary in this building typology. By creating a turnaround on site, I was able to create an opportunity to pick up one's family member without needing to exit the property entirely. The entrance off the secondary road allows for traffic entering the site to remain off the busy main road, increasing the visitor's safety. A single entry and exit point allows for the security team to easily monitor who is entering the site.



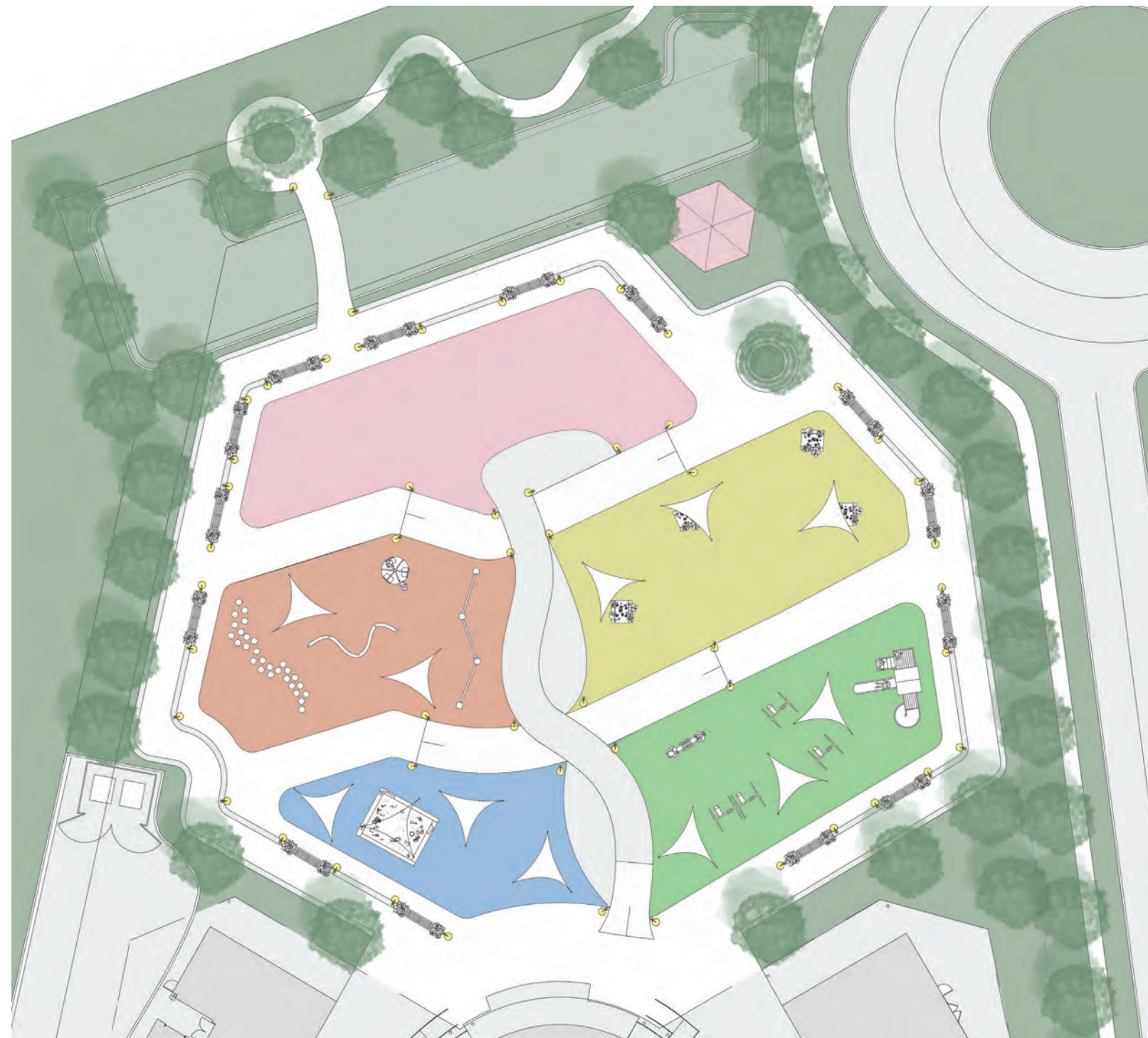
### STAFF TRAVEL

It was important to me to separate the staff entrance from the main, public entrance. This separation allows staff to begin their day in the private staff corridor, only accessible by key card access. This separate site entrance allows for a private parking lot dedicated to the staff so that they never need to search for a place to park. Direct access from Hermann Drive was deemed appropriate and convenient for the staff.



### EMS/SERVICE TRAVEL

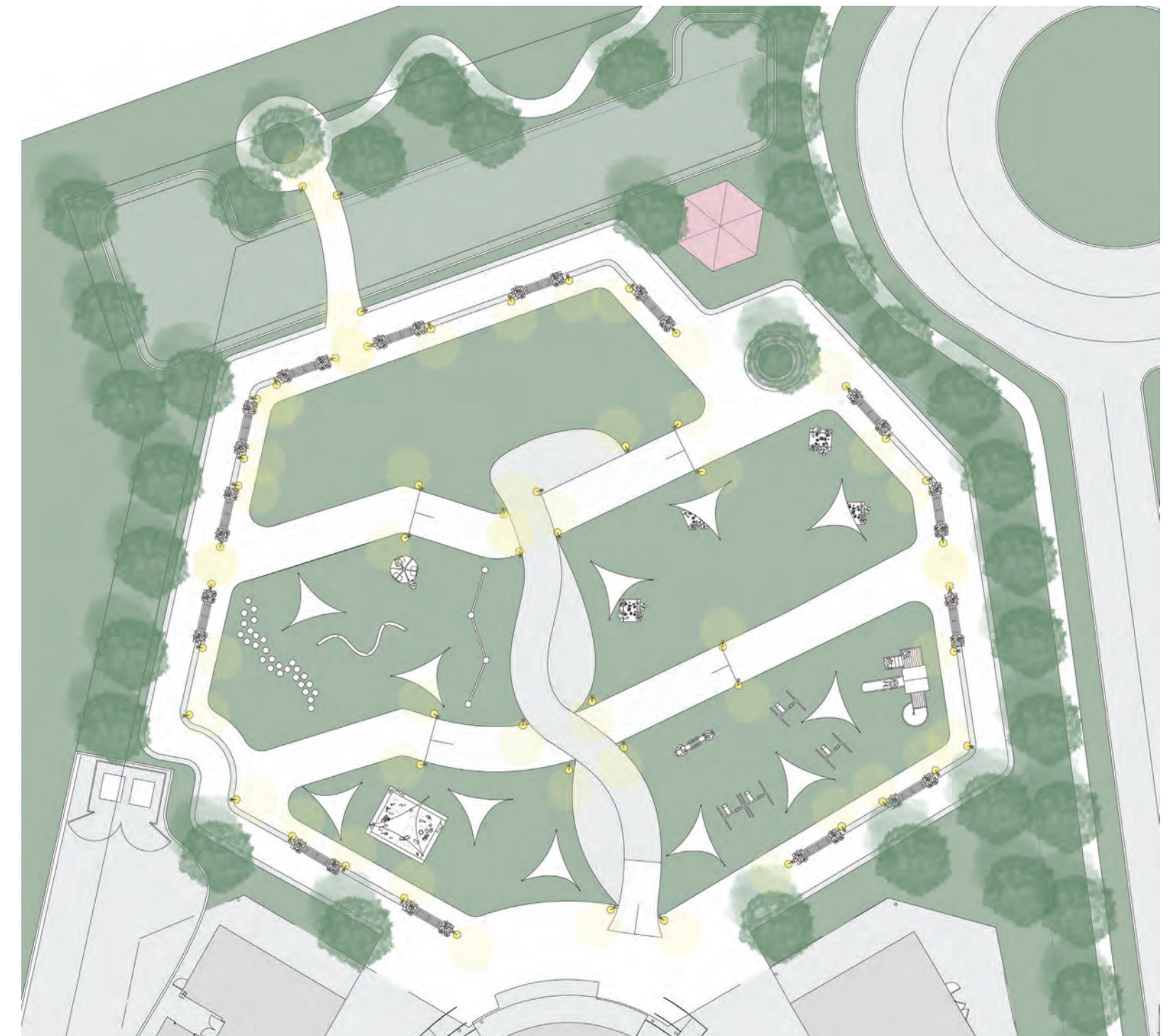
Emily's House is expected to receive many different forms of vehicular traffic, including EMS and other service vehicles such as deliveries and garbage disposal. I have created two potential paths of travel. EMS would enter in the same manner as the visitors for ease of access to the building and would exit out of the staff exit through a monitored gate. Service vehicles would be expected to travel in a similar way but would make an alternative hammerhead turn to deliver their products to the service entrance on the side of the building.



## ZONES OF PLAY

Creating an outdoor space unique to Emily's House exclusively for the patrons and their visitors was imperative in creating a fun, safe, and healing environment. The children's park, located on the north side of the lot, incorporates several variations of play with a variety of levels of mobility. As one progresses through the park they are met with a higher level of play. It was important to place the

lower impact, lower intensity play areas closer to the building, allowing the patients who may be in the weakest physical condition to have the largest horizon in front of them. This was not only done in an effort to provide a sense of inclusion, but to make it easy to interact with nature, no matter the physical state one is in.



## LIGHTING AND SAFETY

A large walking path, or track, surrounds the entire back park, allowing multiple paths for patients to use, depending on their energy levels. Taking a page out of the design for elderly patients, I thought creating options for paths was the best way to encourage exercise, while still allowing an easy path "home" with many places to sit and rest along the way. The park is separated into 5 parts

with a large deck or path in the middle allowing for an area for parents and patients to sit and overlook the play below while having easy access to the play area when needed. This path connects the entire park and leads back into Emily's House. Using lights at the corners of the park allows for easy visibility of potential obstacles. The lighting design allows for park usage all day.

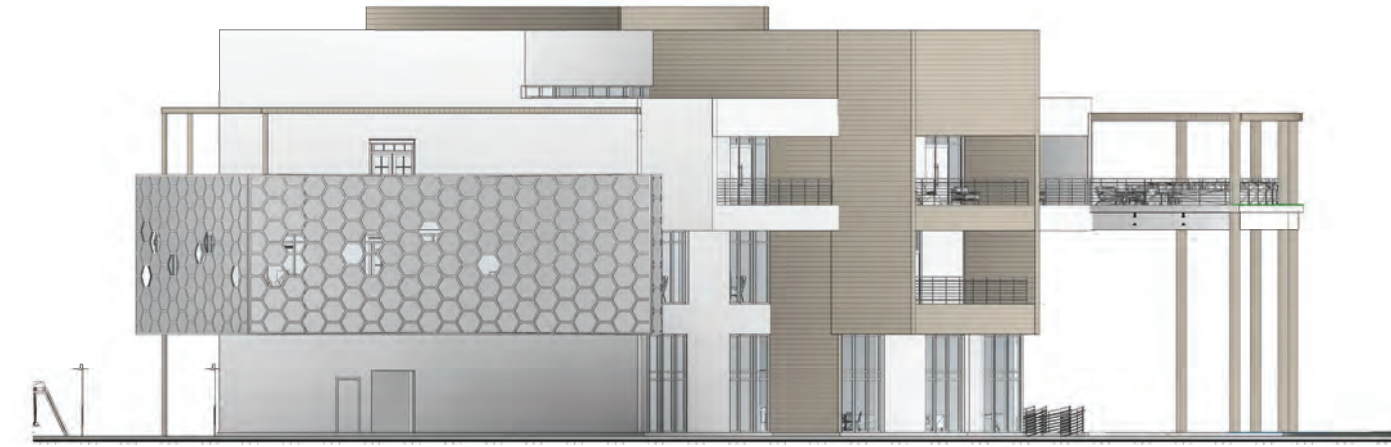


# PICNIC AREA

## A PARK WITH A VIEW

In the view to the left we are able to see what it may look like on a nice day in the back play area, specifically the fairy garden eating area. It was important to me to include a place where the families and their visitors could go outside on a nice day and

commune with nature from a safe, shaded space. I see this area being a place to celebrate or host birthdays and special events. Unique furniture creates a fun, unique space that makes one feel included in nature.



## THE EXTERIOR

The exterior of the building was designed to create a modern, relaxing space. The use of natural materials such as stucco and wood is meant to help connect the building back into nature. The wave pattern in the stucco evokes calming serenity and the hopeful nature of tomorrow.

The glass panels of the second floor are shaded and protected with a large shading structure designed to resemble a beehive. I created this beehive pattern to not only provide privacy for the children, but to symbolize the commitment and love bees have for their hive. Bees as a species are fiercely loyal, and they protect one another at all costs. Each bee is valued and plays an important role for the hive. Each child, parent, and staff member is valued at Emily's House, just like a bee to the hive. The large overhang at the front of the building was created to not only provide an outside deck with a beautiful view but a two-lane covered drop-off zone.

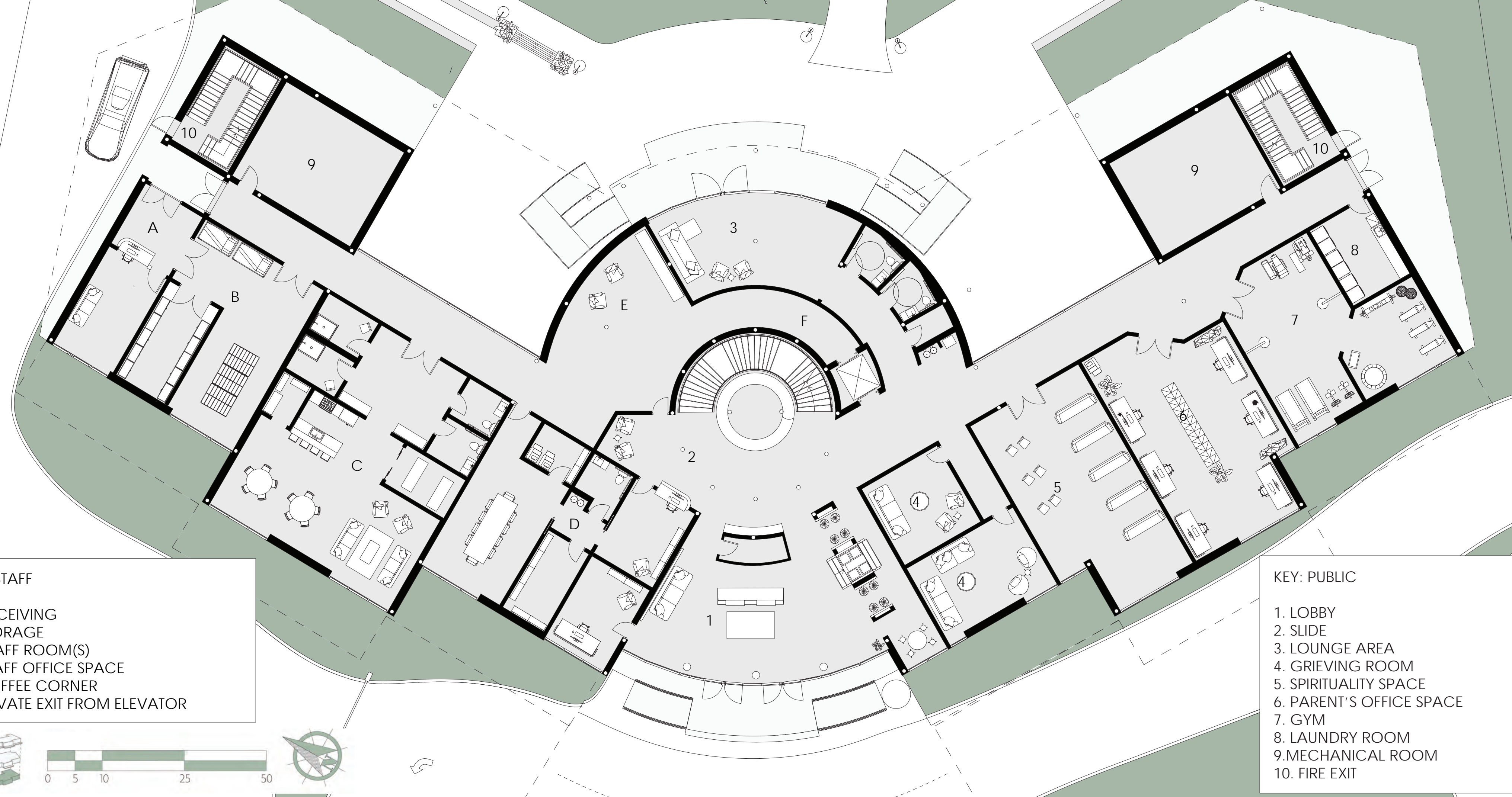




EMILY'S  
HOUSE  
ON HERMANN DR.

EMILY'S  
HOUSE  
ON HERMANN DR.

# 1ST FLOOR

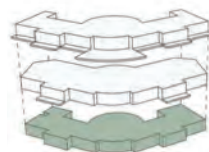


KEY: STAFF

- A. RECEIVING
- B. STORAGE
- C. STAFF ROOM(S)
- D. STAFF OFFICE SPACE
- E. COFFEE CORNER
- F. PRIVATE EXIT FROM ELEVATOR

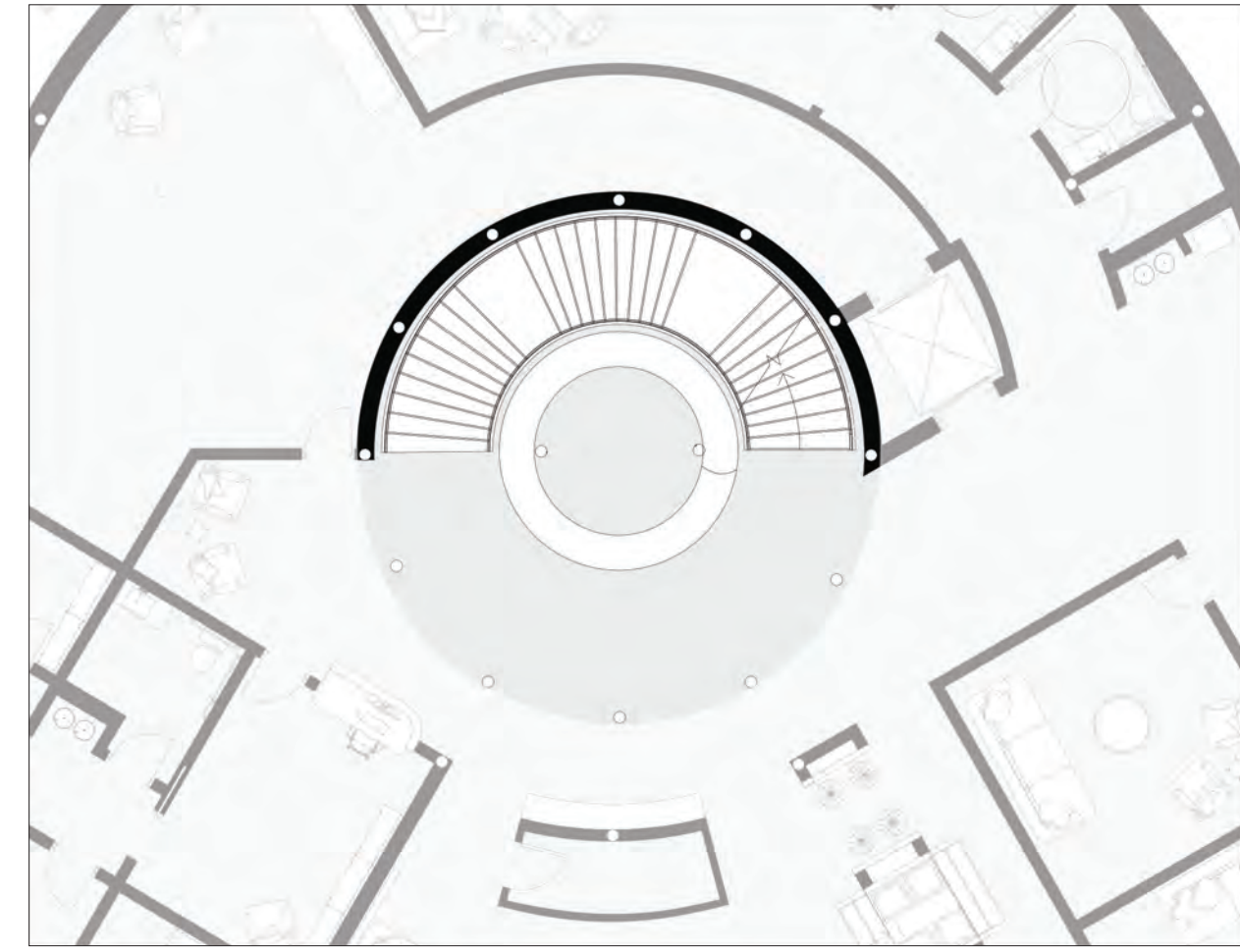
KEY: PUBLIC

- 1. LOBBY
- 2. SLIDE
- 3. LOUNGE AREA
- 4. GRIEVING ROOM
- 5. SPIRITUALITY SPACE
- 6. PARENT'S OFFICE SPACE
- 7. GYM
- 8. LAUNDRY ROOM
- 9. MECHANICAL ROOM
- 10. FIRE EXIT





# THE SLIDE



## AN EXCITING EXIT

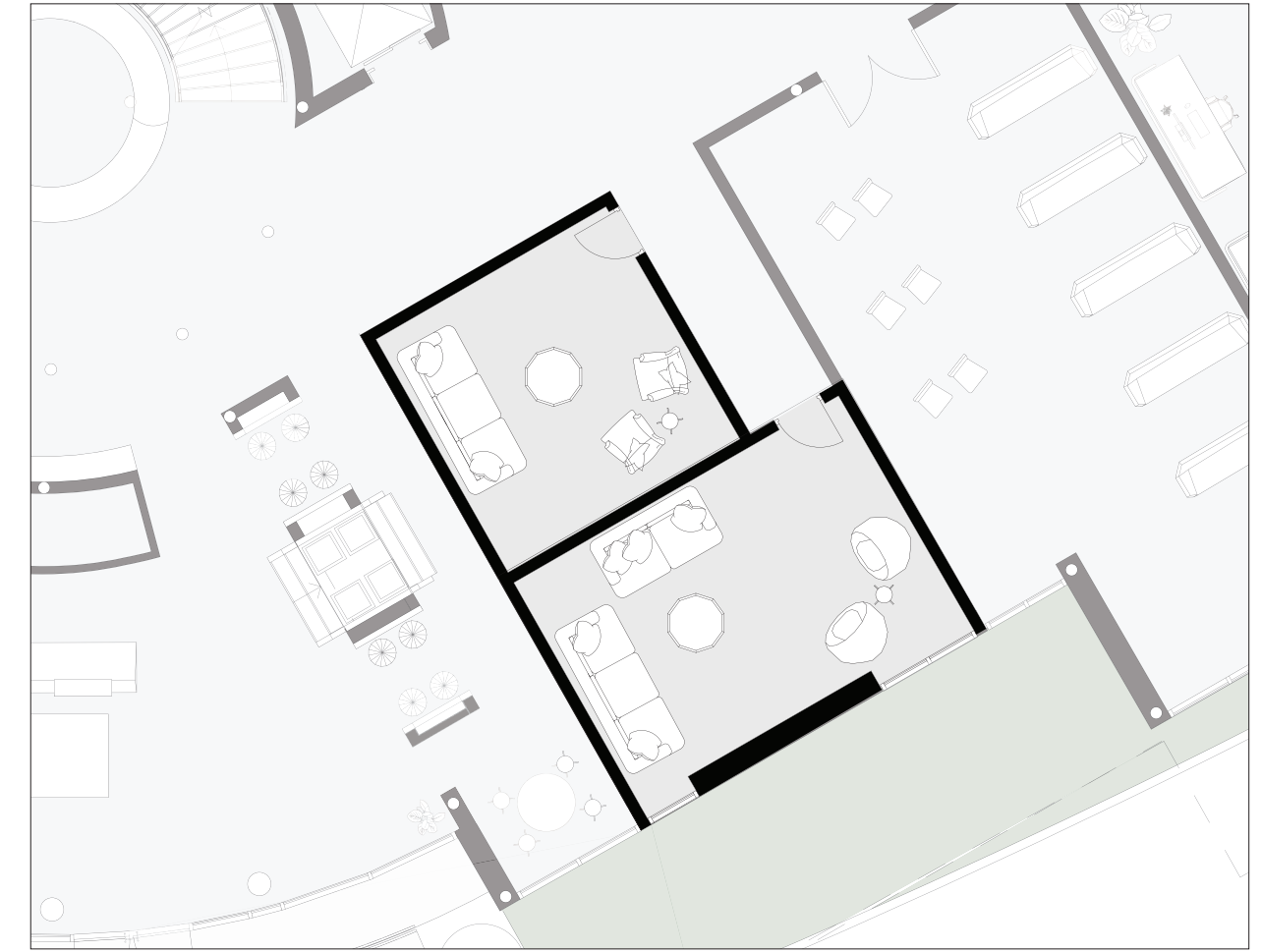
The Lobby, designed to create an exciting, welcoming experience, provides a grand entry into the facility, with close monitoring of who enters the facility. The lobby information desk provides a unique opportunity for volunteers either interested in healthcare, or that have been impacted by Emily's House, to interact with the community of Emily's House. Once the child passes the entry desk, they are

met with the exit slide connecting the first and second floors, with Harry the Hippo waiting for his daily hug at the bottom. This inclusion was to create joy, even when leaving the facility. The addition of the slide was a thoughtful choice to help decrease the child's anxiety when entering the building. The slide helps to teach the children that medical care is not something to be feared.





# GRIEVING ROOM



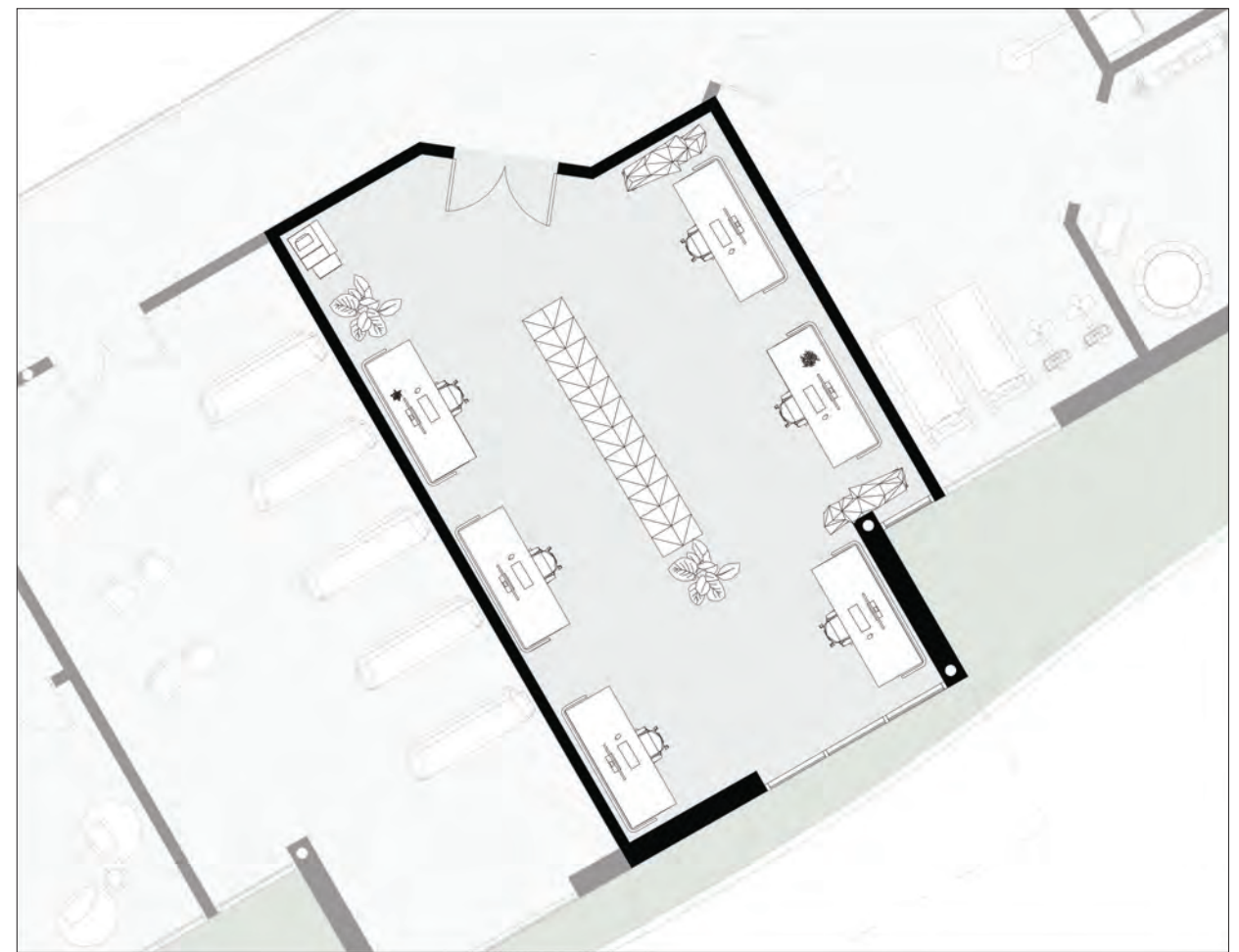
## GRIEVING

The unfortunate reality of Emily's House is that there will be a time when a patient passes away. Located on the first floor are two different grieving rooms that can be used at any time by the residents of Emily's House. By creating a variety of spaces, families

and friends can come together to remember the lost child and reminisce about the good times. These rooms were designed to be as relaxing and calming as possible to help create a safe space to grieve.



# HOME OFFICE



## WORK FROM HOME

The first floor of the project features staff and parent spaces. By including a large laundry facility, gym, and office with a dedicated workspace for each unit, I have created a space for the parents, family, and staff to escape to while staying in close proximity to the child.

The office space in particular is unique because it allows the parent to continue working if that is needed. When tragedy strikes sometimes parents are unable to take time off work and must continue working to support their families.



# STAFF ROOM



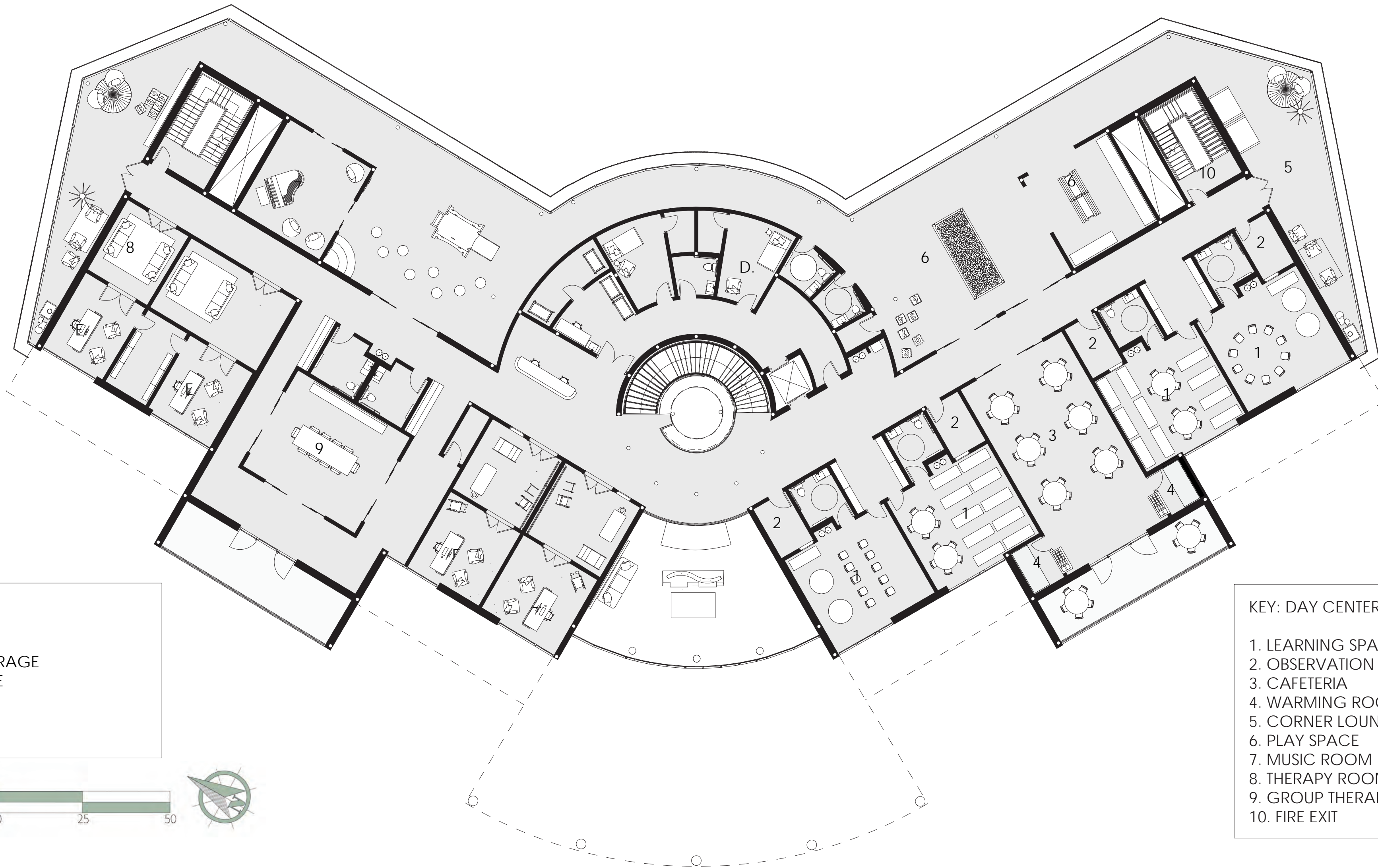
## STAFF RESPITE

The first floor on the west wing of the building is dedicated to the staff. In the images above and to the left, we see a large staff room, showers, a conference room, and offices in this wing, shielded from the public eye.

It was important to me to create a luxury escape for staff at Emily's House, as it can be emotionally taxing and stressful. The staff room includes a place to lounge, eat, and shower, and there's even a small multipurpose room to grieve or meditate.



# 2ND FLOOR

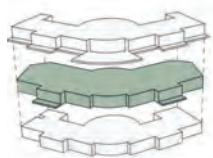


KEY: STAFF

- A. NURSES STATION
- B. MEDICATION STORAGE
- C. CHARTING SPACE
- D. RESTING ROOM
- E. STAFF OFFICES
- F. STORAGE

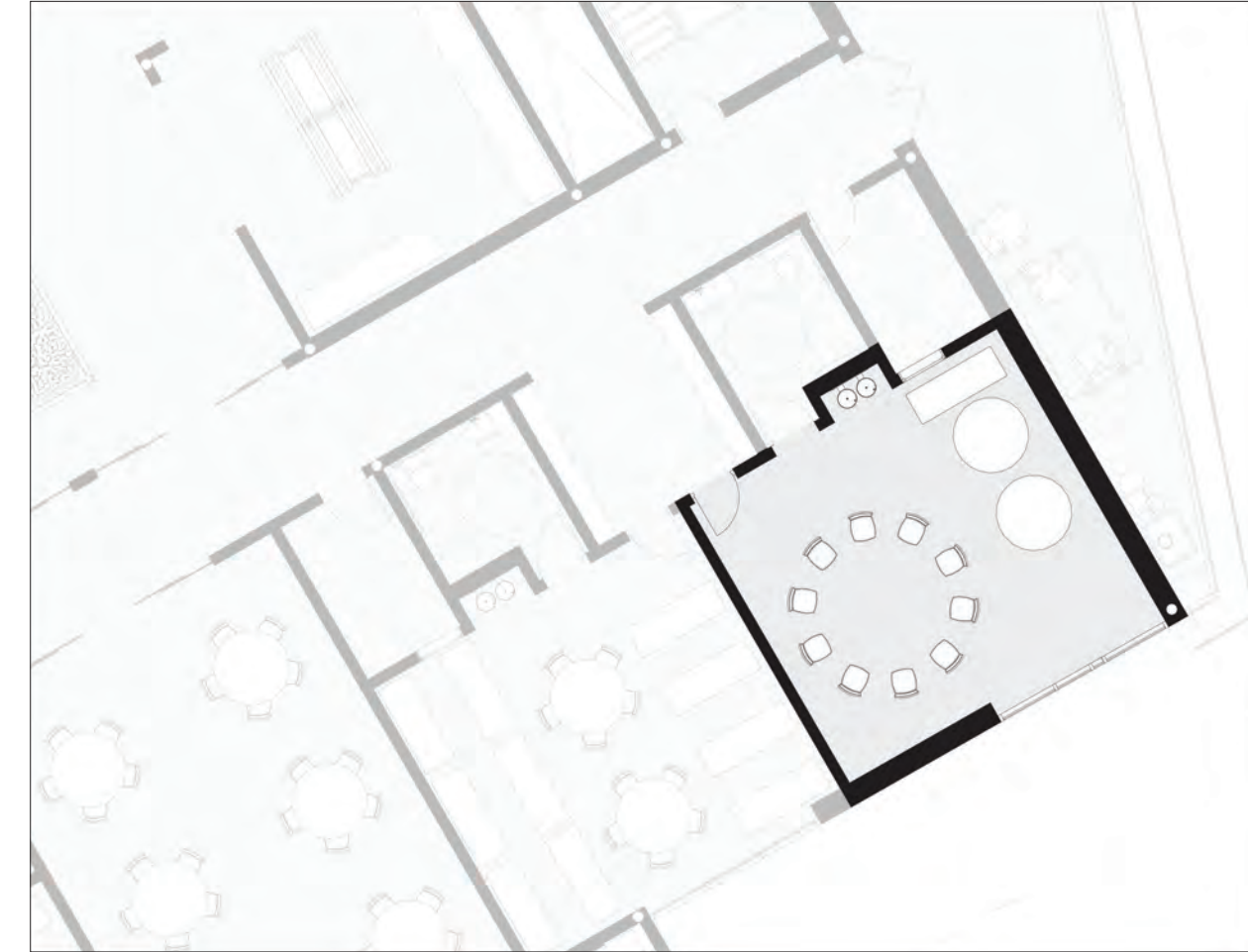
KEY: DAY CENTER

- 1. LEARNING SPACE
- 2. OBSERVATION ROOM(S)
- 3. CAFETERIA
- 4. WARMING ROOM
- 5. CORNER LOUNGE SPACE
- 6. PLAY SPACE
- 7. MUSIC ROOM
- 8. THERAPY ROOM
- 9. GROUP THERAPY ROOM
- 10. FIRE EXIT





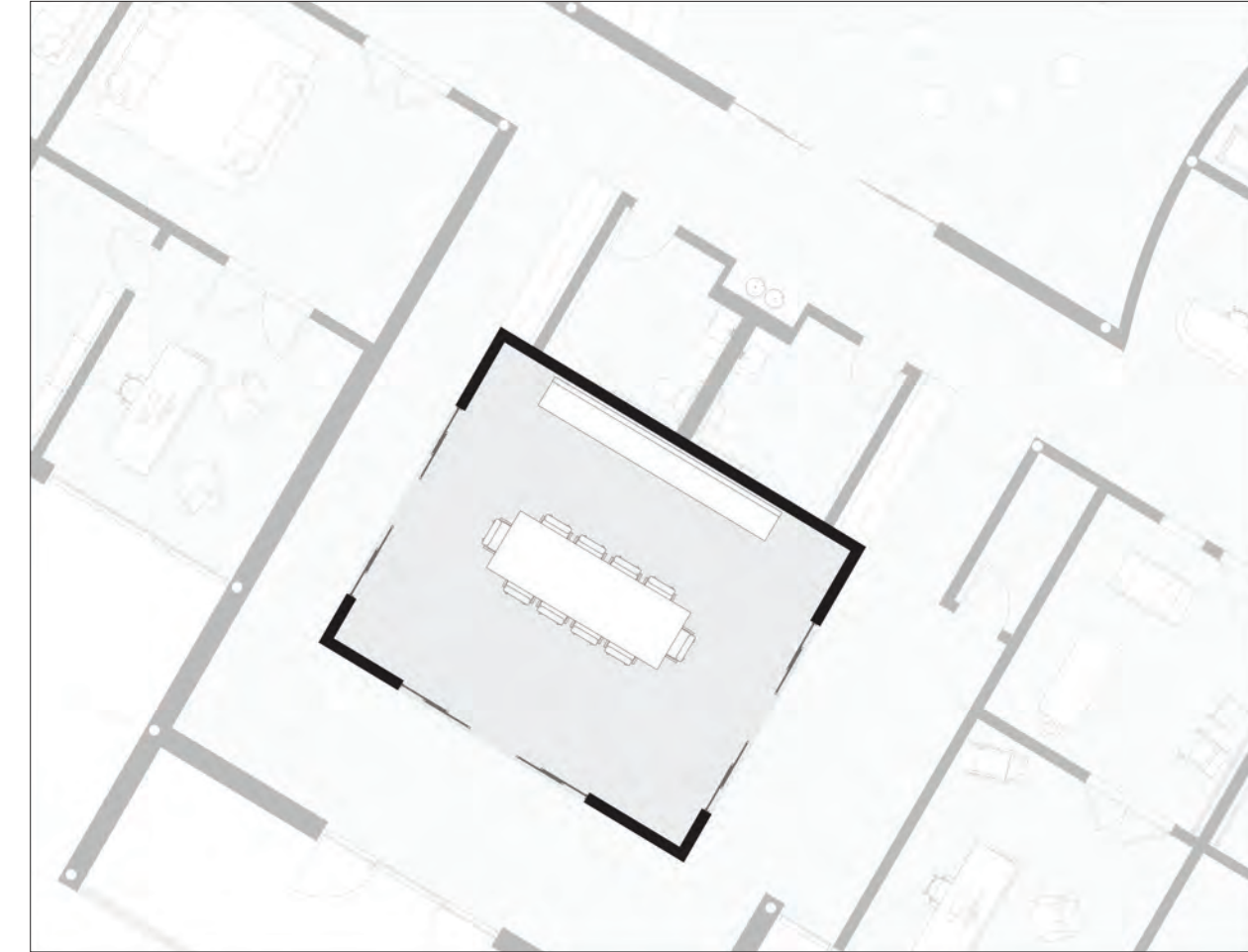
# CLASSROOM



## A PLACE TO LEARN

The second floor is mainly dedicated to the day patients (and hospice patients) with several areas of play, as well as classroom spaces. These spaces were created from the belief that children, no matter their condition, should be able to be curious. I believe that learning, asking questions, and being curious are imperative in the growth of a child. The play spaces on the second floor are divided into

several smaller spaces that allow for freedom of choice. Play spaces range from messy play, imagination station, to quiet areas to get away and seek respite with a book. It was important for me to acknowledge that all children are different, and each child has their own form of play; this also meant creating safe spaces to escape when overwhelmed.



## HEALING

The second floor also provides a space for a variety of therapists and therapies to take place, including, but not limited to, group therapy, physical therapy, and counseling for parents and families of the patients. Lack of access and availability to mental health services can provide obstacles for families and children suffering with mental health issues. By providing therapy on site it can easily be incorporated

into the day. The space above and to the left represents a therapy room used for meetings, group therapy, and small activities led by therapists. The floorplan and image to the left show a few different options of furnishings and set-ups to show the flexibility of the space. The chairs can be replaced with yoga balls to create a livelier space for different audiences.

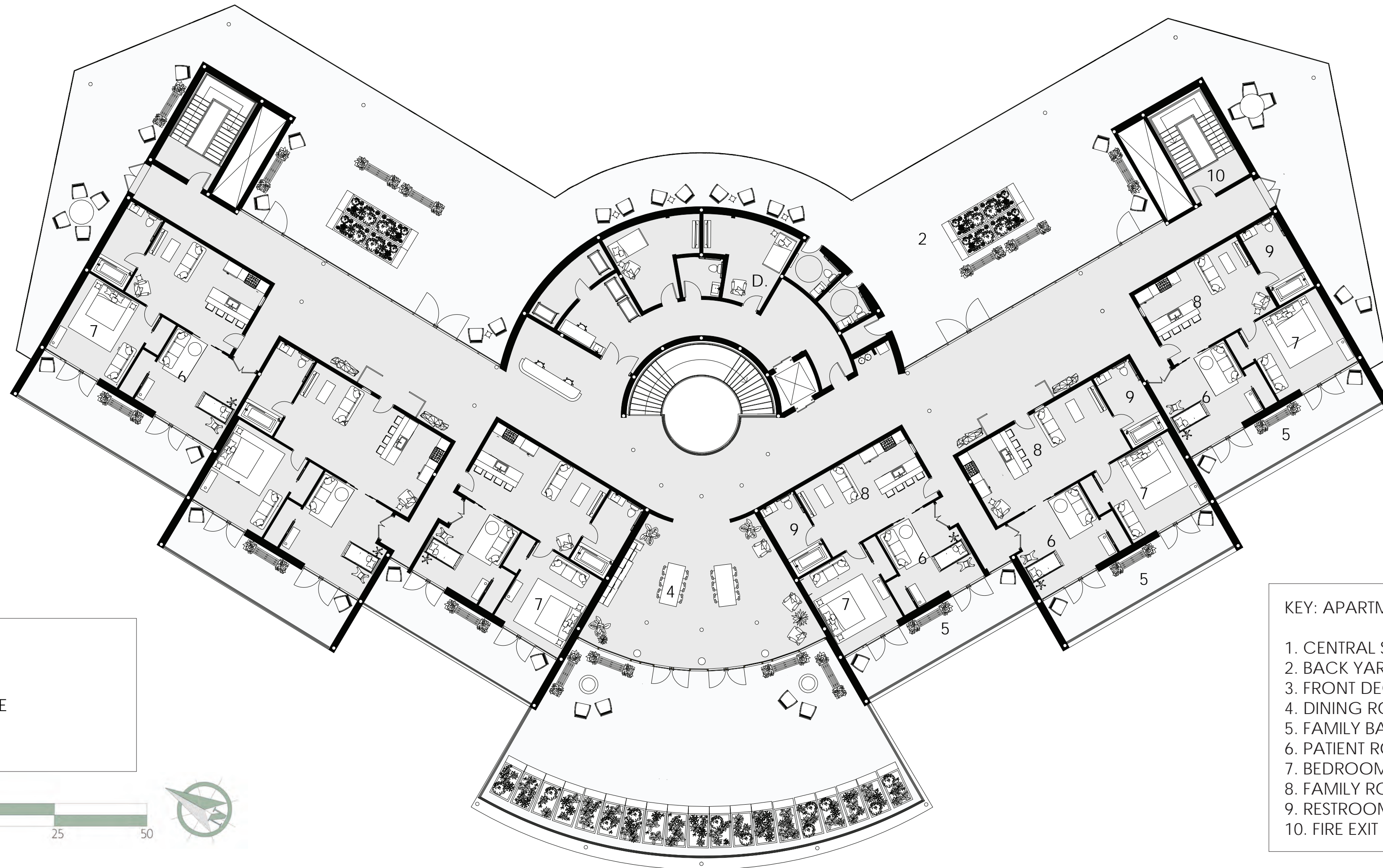


# THERAPY



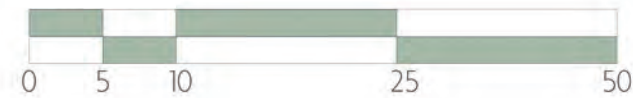
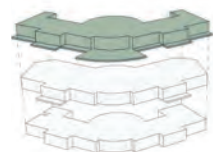
# 3RD FLOOR





KEY: STAFF

- A. NURSES STATION
- B. MEDICATION STORAGE
- C. CHARTING SPACE
- D. RESTING ROOM

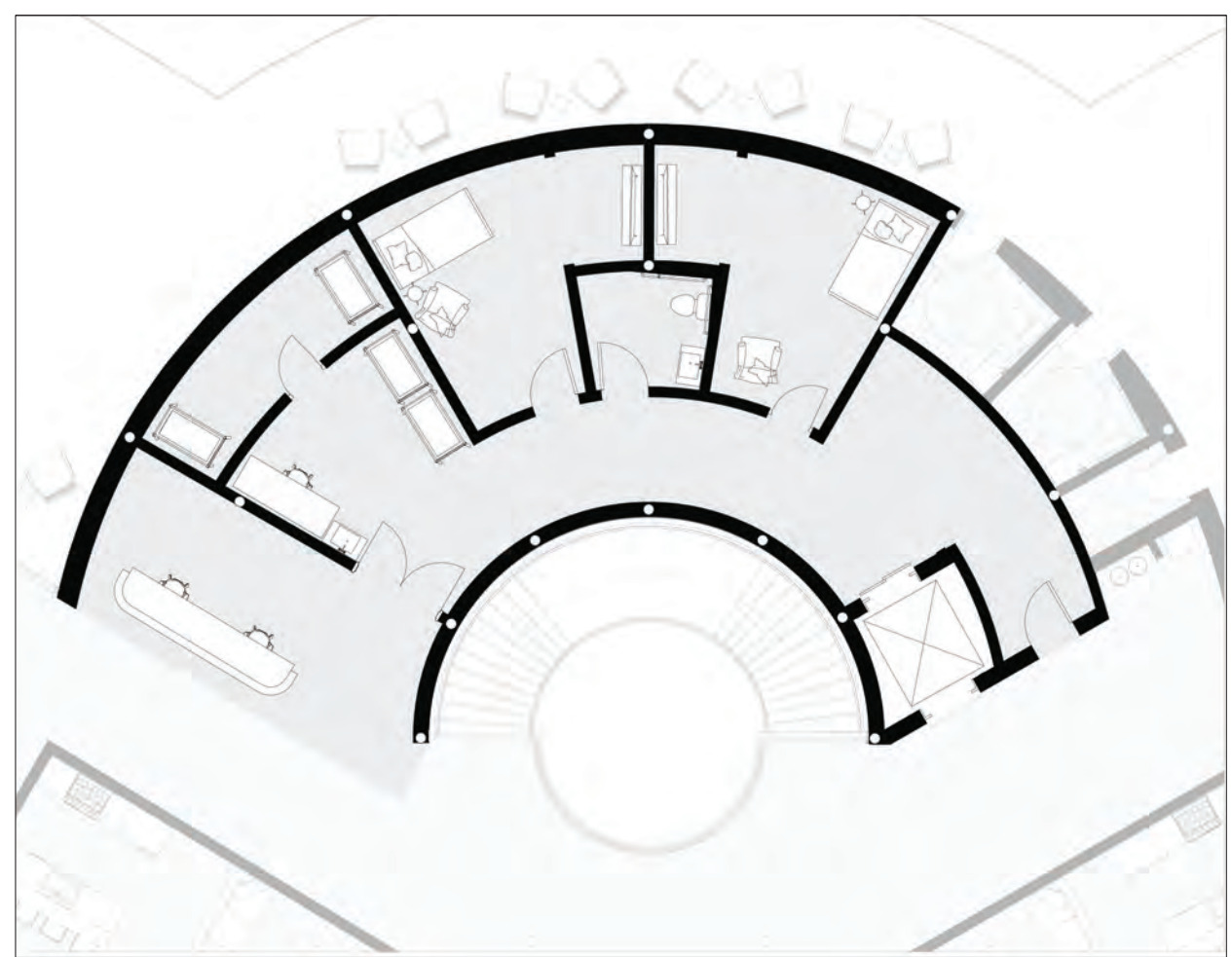


KEY: APARTMENTS

- 1. CENTRAL STAIR
- 2. BACK YARD DECK
- 3. FRONT DECK
- 4. DINING ROOM
- 5. FAMILY BALCONEY
- 6. PATIENT ROOM
- 7. BEDROOM
- 8. FAMILY ROOM
- 9. RESTROOM
- 10. FIRE EXIT



# NURSE'S STATION



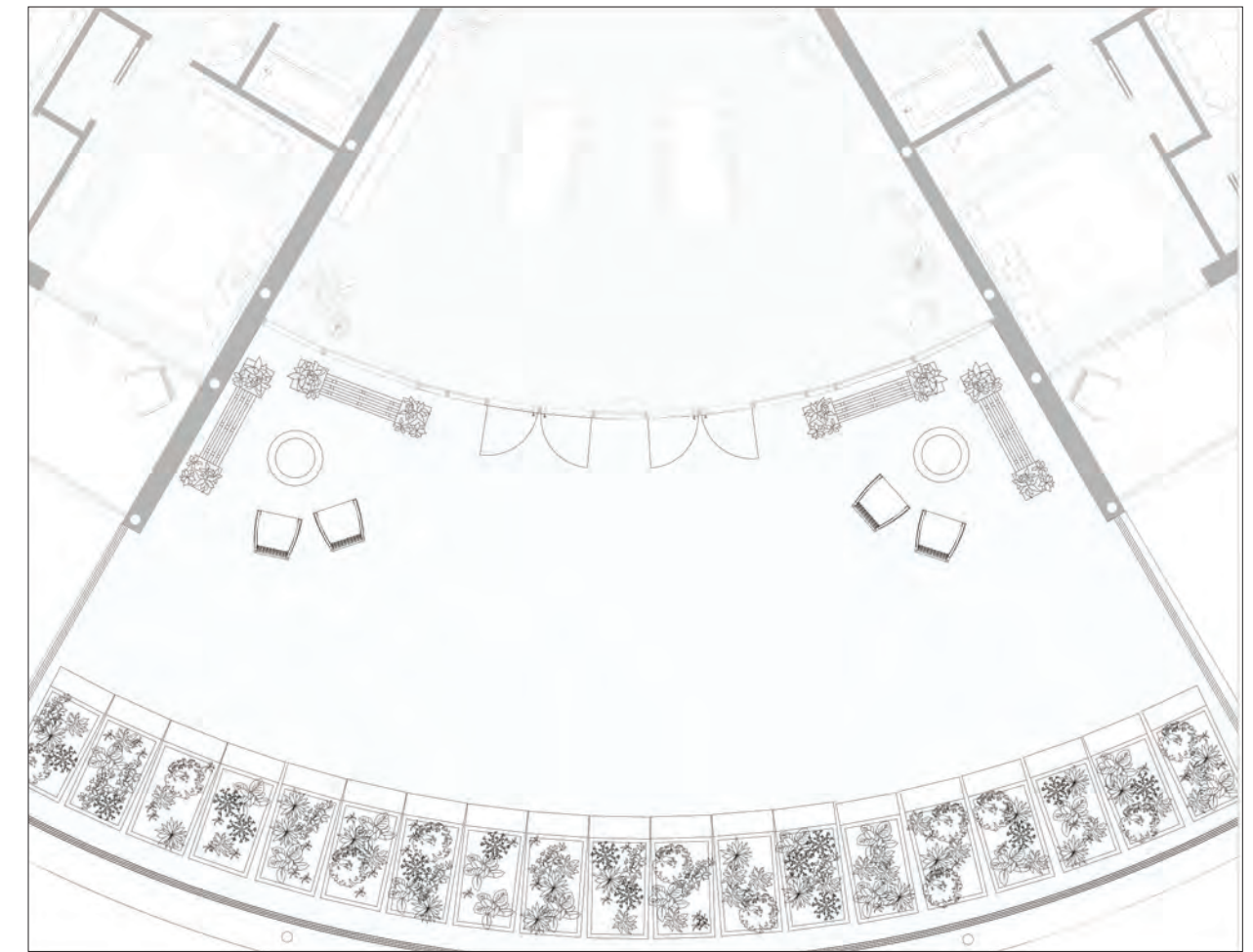
## A PLACE OF CARE

Providing a nurse's station in a central location allowed for ease of travel between patient rooms, as well as a private area dedicated solely to the staff. A 1:3 nurse to patient ratio at the hospice level allows for two nurses to work and rest within their given station. With a job so emotionally taxing, like pediatric hospice nursing,

it was important to create a space of respite and seclusion, while maintaining a close proximity to the patients. The station allows for a charting space, rooms for resting, medication storage, and a private elevator entrance connecting all three levels of staff zones.



OUTDOOR



## WATCHING THE WORLD

Emily's House boasts two large deckspaces at the front and back of the building, allowing for nature to be viewed from many angles. The large, shaded outdoor deck pictured is located at the front of the building, allowing for a flexible space that allows patients of all levels

of mobility to get to experience the sunlight and fresh air. It was important to me to create a space that allowed the patients and their families a place to look over Hermann Park and get to see different aspects of life. This view in particular allows for an excellent view of the Houston Medical District.

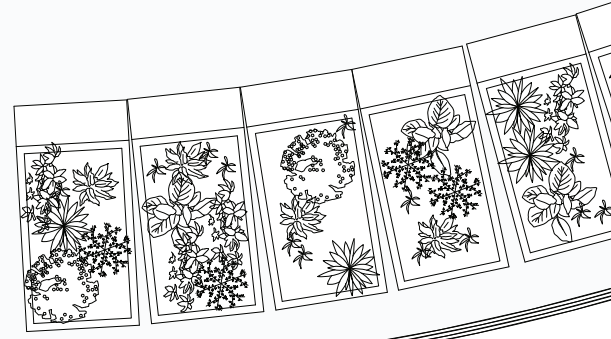
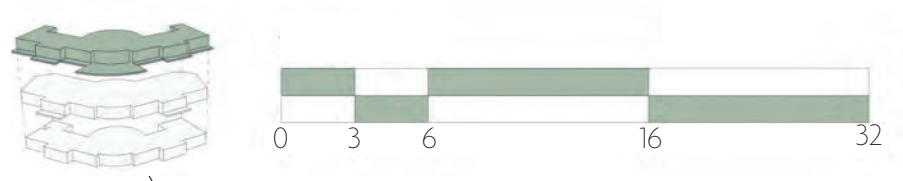


# PATIENT UNIT



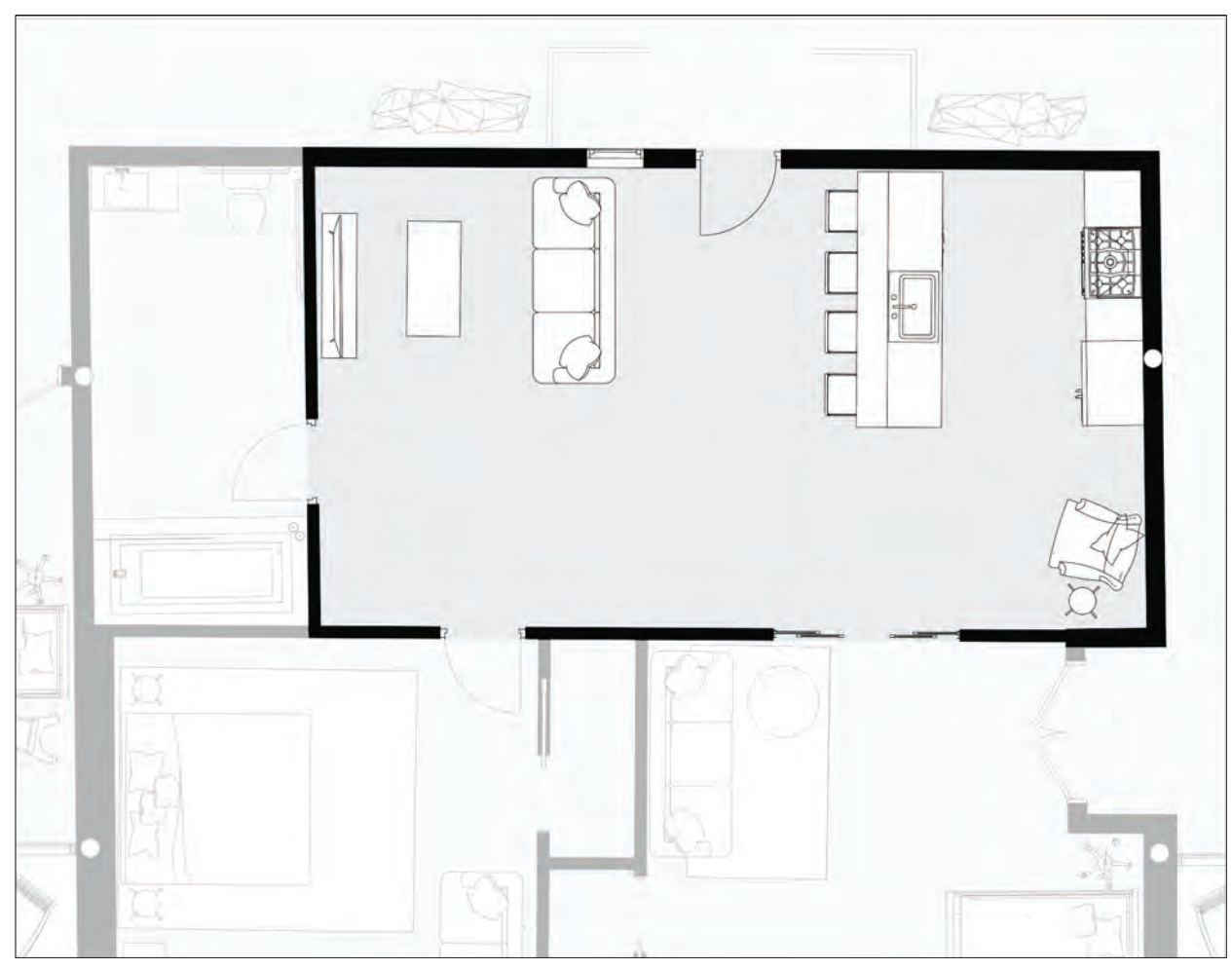
KEY: APARTMENT

- 5. FAMILY BALCONY
- 6. PATIENT ROOM
- 7. BEDROOM
- 8. FAMILY ROOM
- 9. RESTROOM





# FAMILY ROOM



## A PLACE TO LIVE

Each of the six patient units features a two bed, one bath apartment with a cozy living room and a kitchenette. Although each apartment comes with a kitchenette, Emily's House will be connected with local services to provide hot meals for the families in their care. The meals will be stored until picked up in the centralized dining

room. This sliding glass wall allows for the child to still feel included, even on their worst days when they are too weak to leave the bed. Clerestory windows help bring light into the interior of the living room. The living room provides a place to play and a place for family life to continue. The patient room has a separate entrance for staff to increase the level of privacy for the patient and their family, while allowing for easy access for the nurses.



## A PLACE TO SLEEP

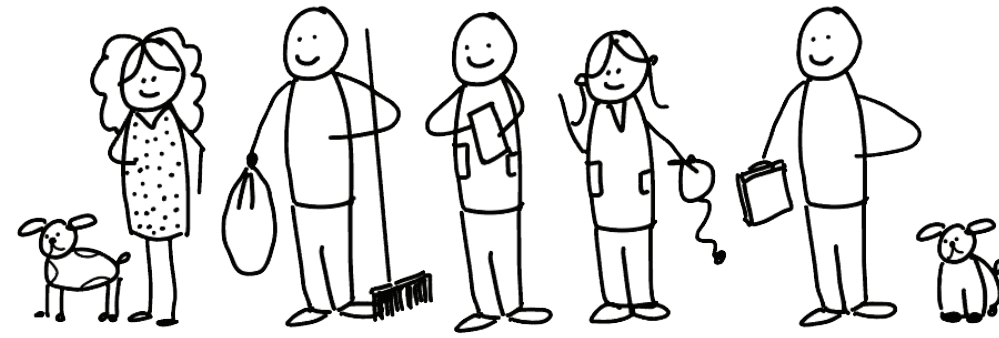
Each of the bedrooms features their own access to the shared apartment balcony overlooking the park across the street. On nice days, the patient bed can be placed on the balcony to allow for fresh air and a little sunlight. Designed with family in mind, each room has an allocated space for a

couch that, at the family's request, could be replaced with a bunk bed from the storage facility on the first floor, or used as a pull-out couch to house more friends and family. The parents' room was designed to create a sense of peace and relaxation--a place to escape to.

# FAMILY SUITE

## THE FLOWS OF DESIGN

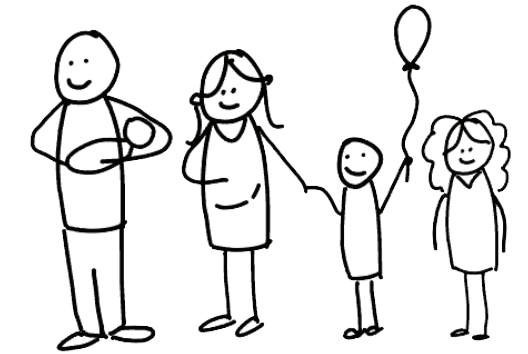
In an effort to make Emily's House a "Machine for Empathy" many aspects of daily life were considered. A system, known as the "7 Flows of Healthcare" (7 flows of Healthcare) was considered early on in the project to create an efficient and thoughtful layout. The flows are as follows, Flow of Staff, Flow of Patients, Flow of Families, Flow of Information, Flow of Medication, Flow of Supplies, and Flow of Equipment.



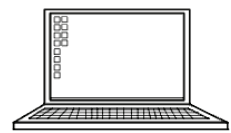
FLOW 1: STAFF



FLOW 2: PATIENTS



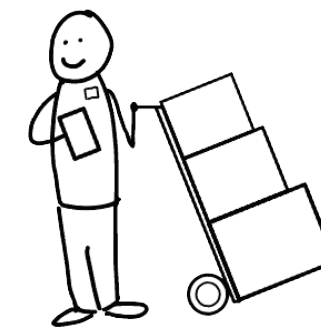
FLOW 3: FAMILY



FLOW 4: INFORMATION



FLOW 5: MEDICATION

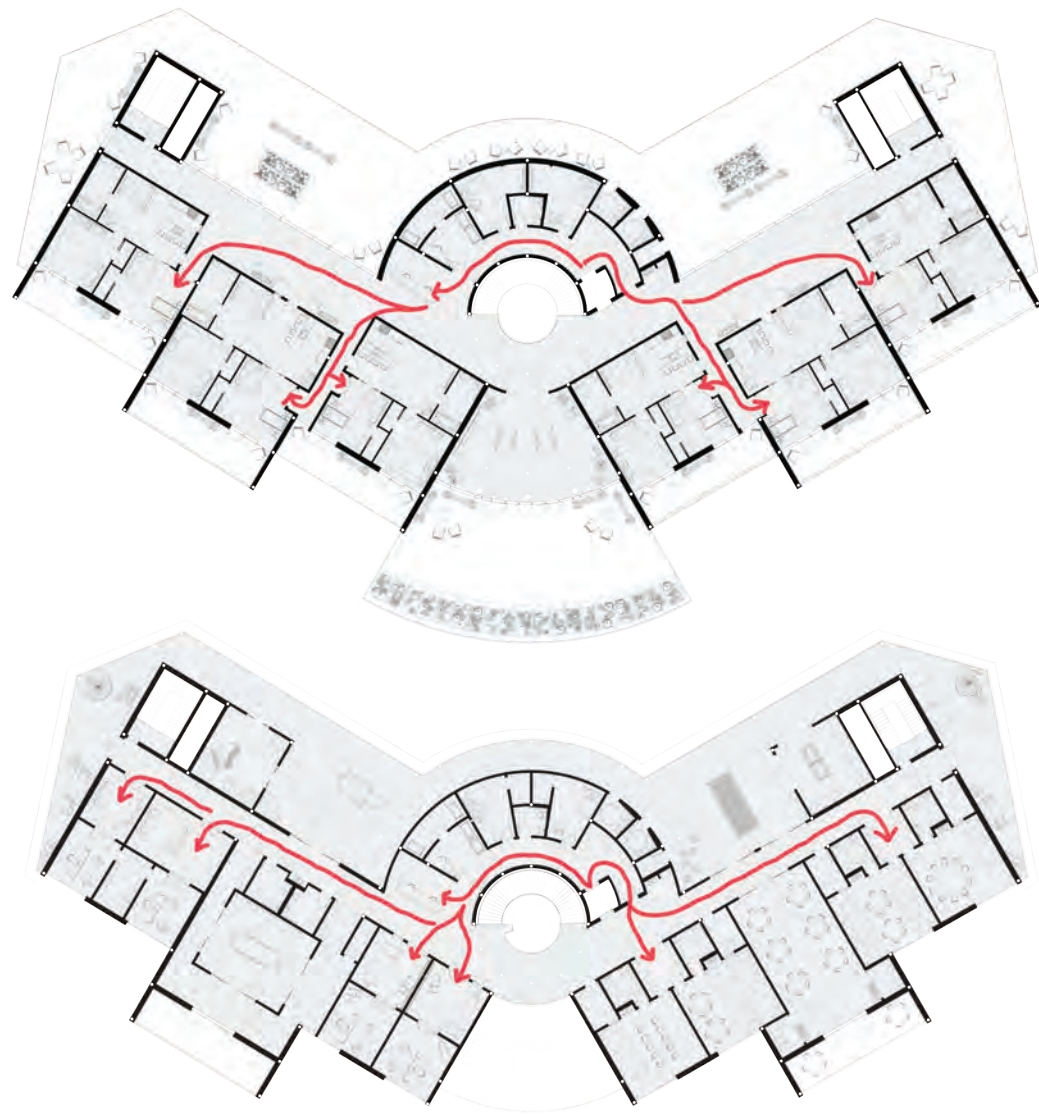


FLOW 6: SUPPLIES



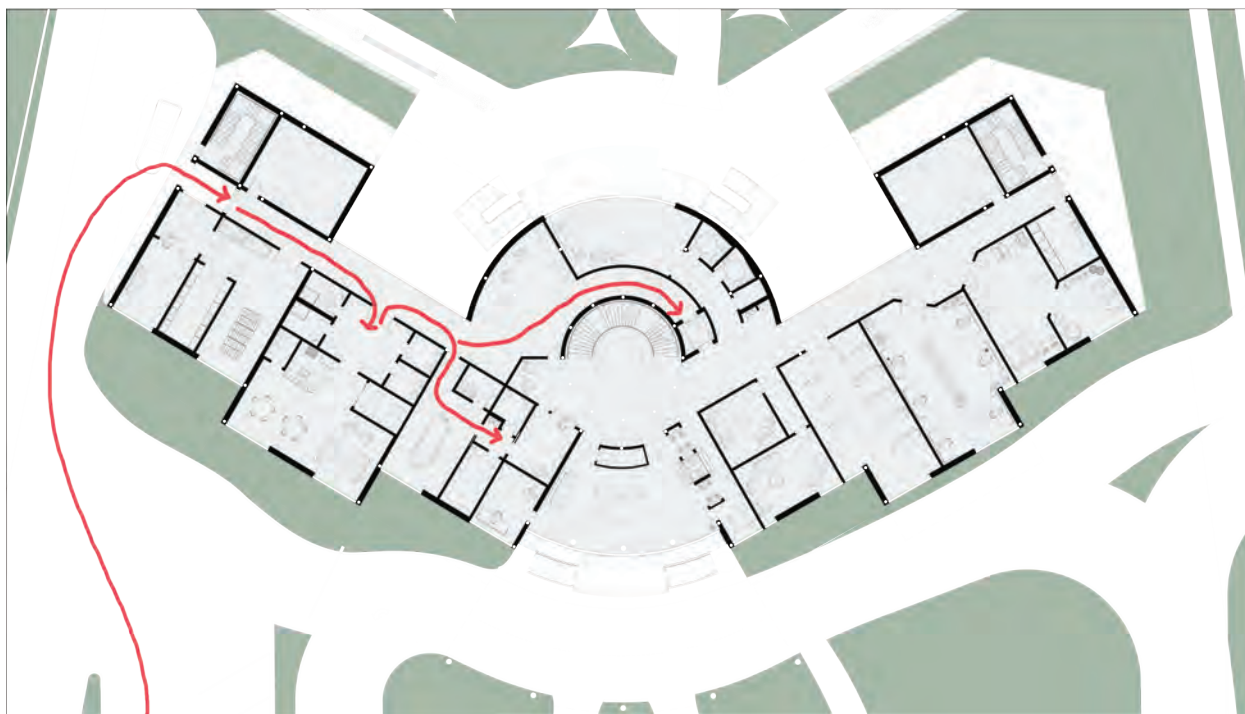
FLOW 7: EQUIPMENT





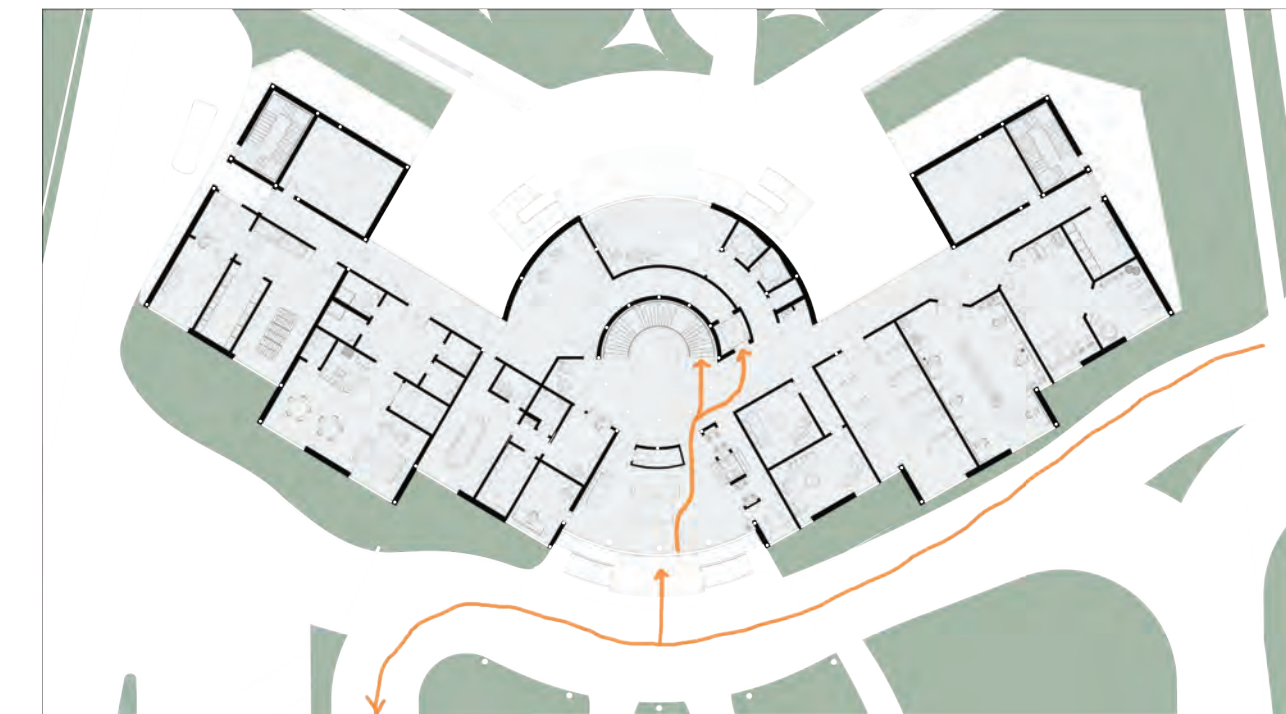
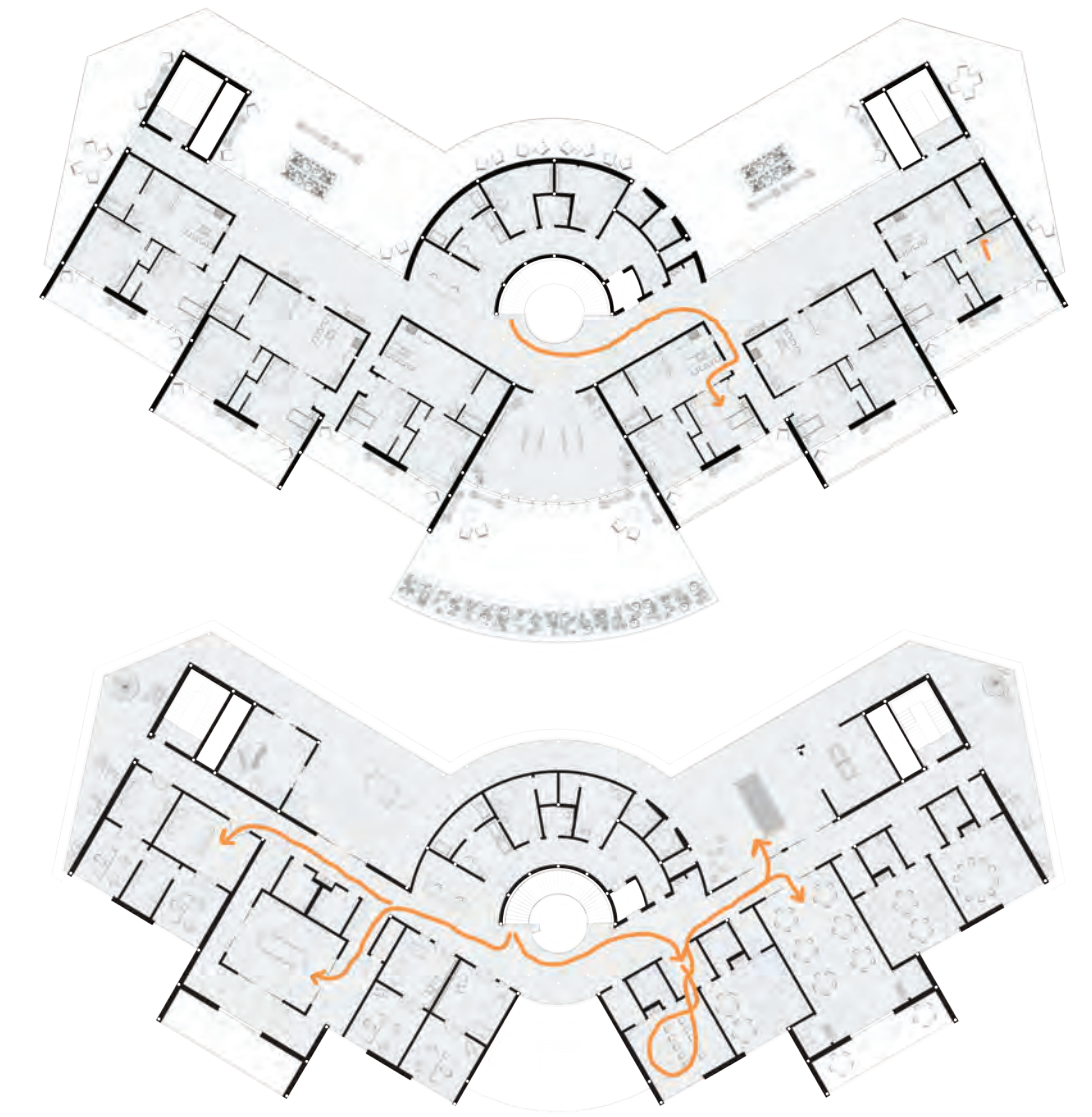
### FLOW 1: STAFF

Flow of Staff was one of the first considerations, after the patient and the family, as a well-thought-out system not only increases efficiency but increases worker retention. In the high-stress, high-emotion field of pediatric hospice I felt it was imperative to take extra care of the workers at Emily's House. We see this from the moment the staff member first enters the property. The staff at Emily's House enter the property through a separate, dedicated entrance. Here they are free to park among other staff and enter through the side entrance of the building. This initial separation allows the staff member to enter the private wing on the first floor, away from the general population of Emily's House. This was intentional so as to provide a place of respite and separation to allow the staff member to mentally prepare for the day. From here the staff member has full access to all three floors without needing to leave the privacy of the staff zones. Entering the elevator from the rear doors allows for a seamless integration into Emily's House. When a nurse does lose a patient, they also have the ability to enter the centralized nurse's station and travel, unseen to the staff room on the first floor to grieve or take a second to compose themselves before returning to work.



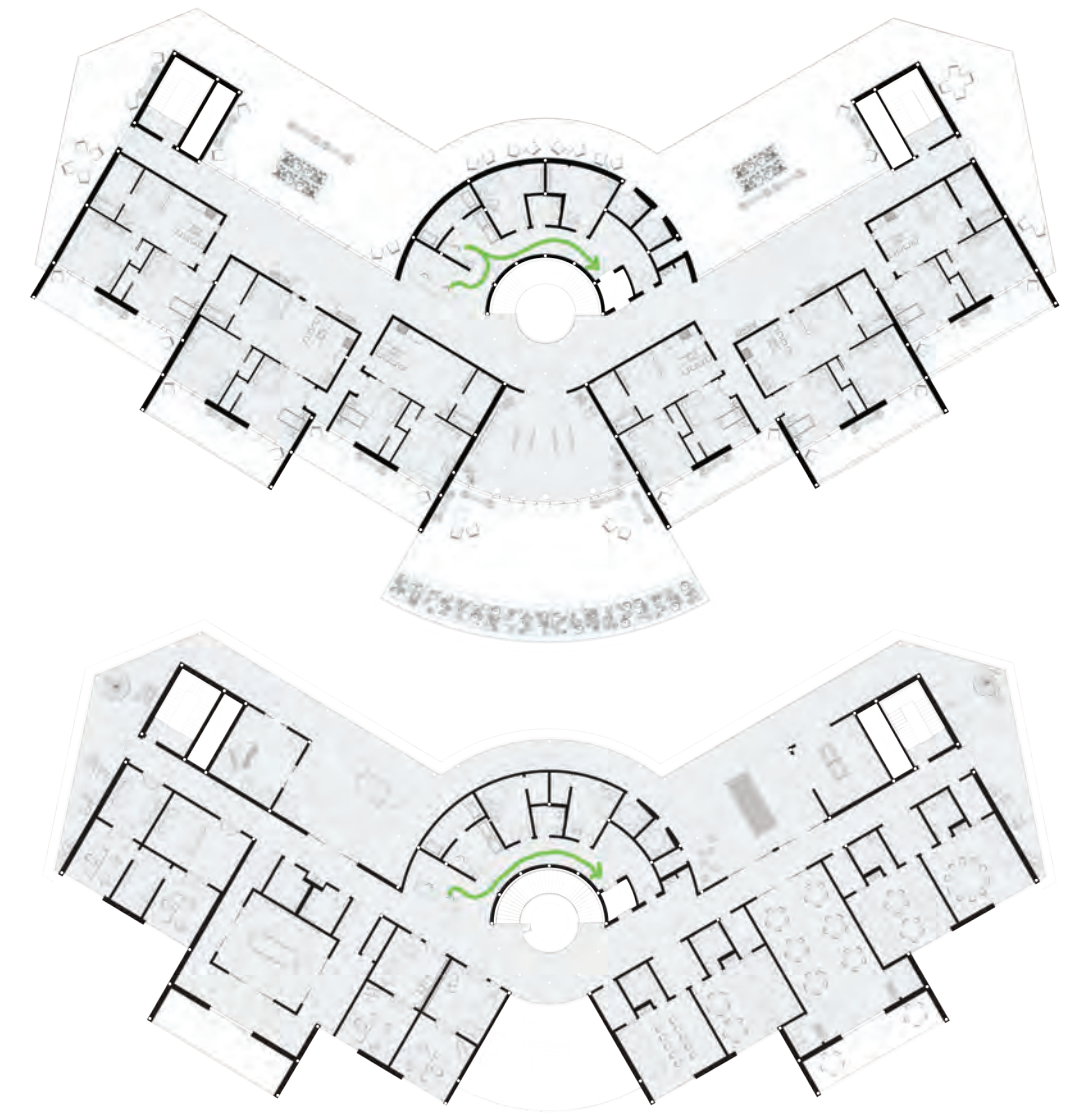
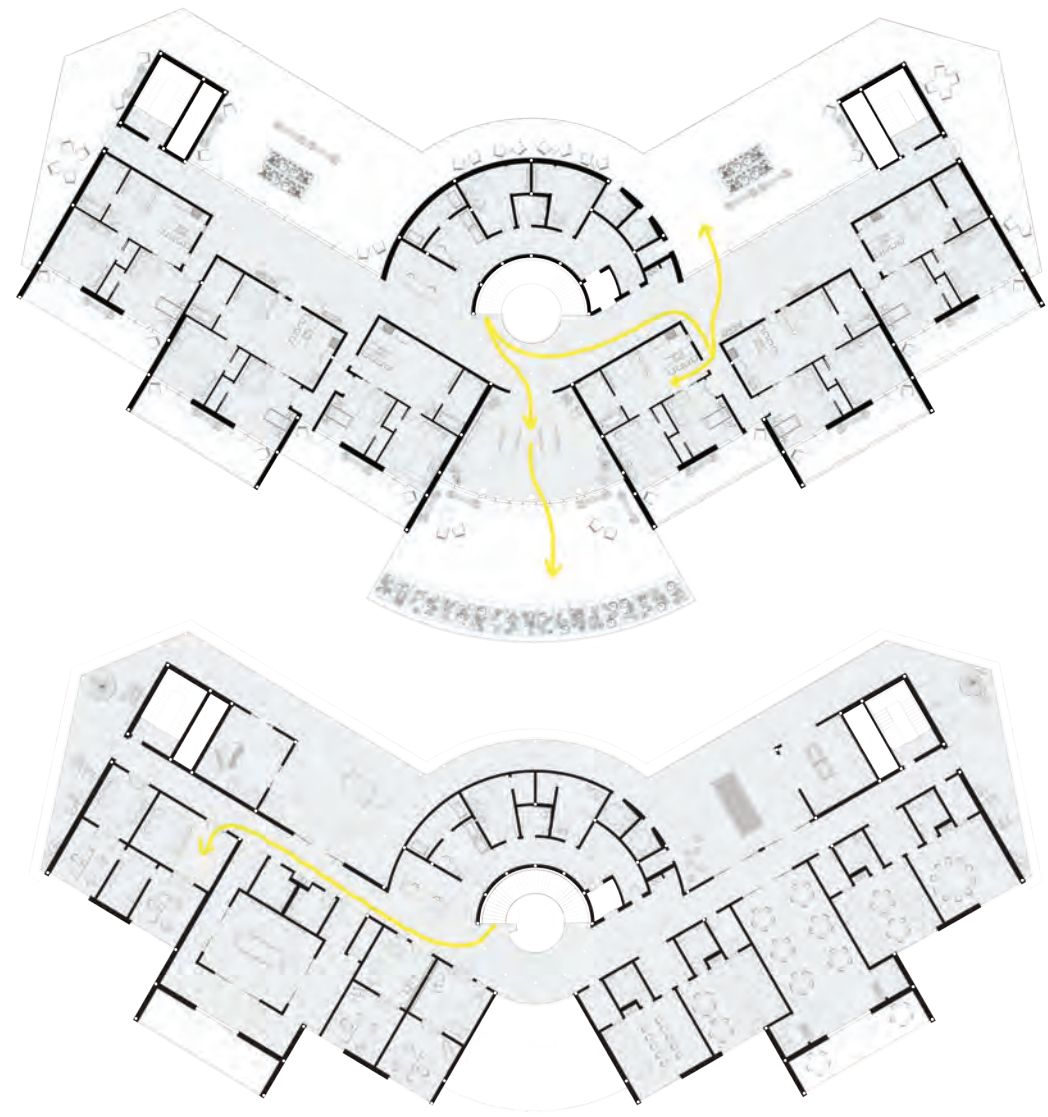
### FLOW 2: PATIENTS

The second flow, Flow of Patients, although largely integrated with the Flow of Family, does have some unique experiences that set them apart. The children coming to Emily's house for the day care program enter with their loved ones in the lobby, where they are welcome to travel to the second floor to be dropped off for the day in their dedicated learning space. This learning space is connected with indoor enrichment and play spaces, dedicated to the day patients and hospice patients during the day. This area is seen as a "Kids Zone," a place where the children can connect and play. The patient, is free to play and learn with like-minded children, and children who in many ways are like them medically. At the end of the day, all children are able to exit via the second-floor slide, meeting their families, and Harry the Hippo, at the bottom. Here the children are off in separate directions, the day care children to their respective homes and the Hospice children to travel back up to the third floor to their new homes. The ability for all children to "exit" in the same way was a thoughtful consideration that would allow the child to feel included as they get to experience the same "exit" as their friends, an attempt to fight any ostracization of the child.



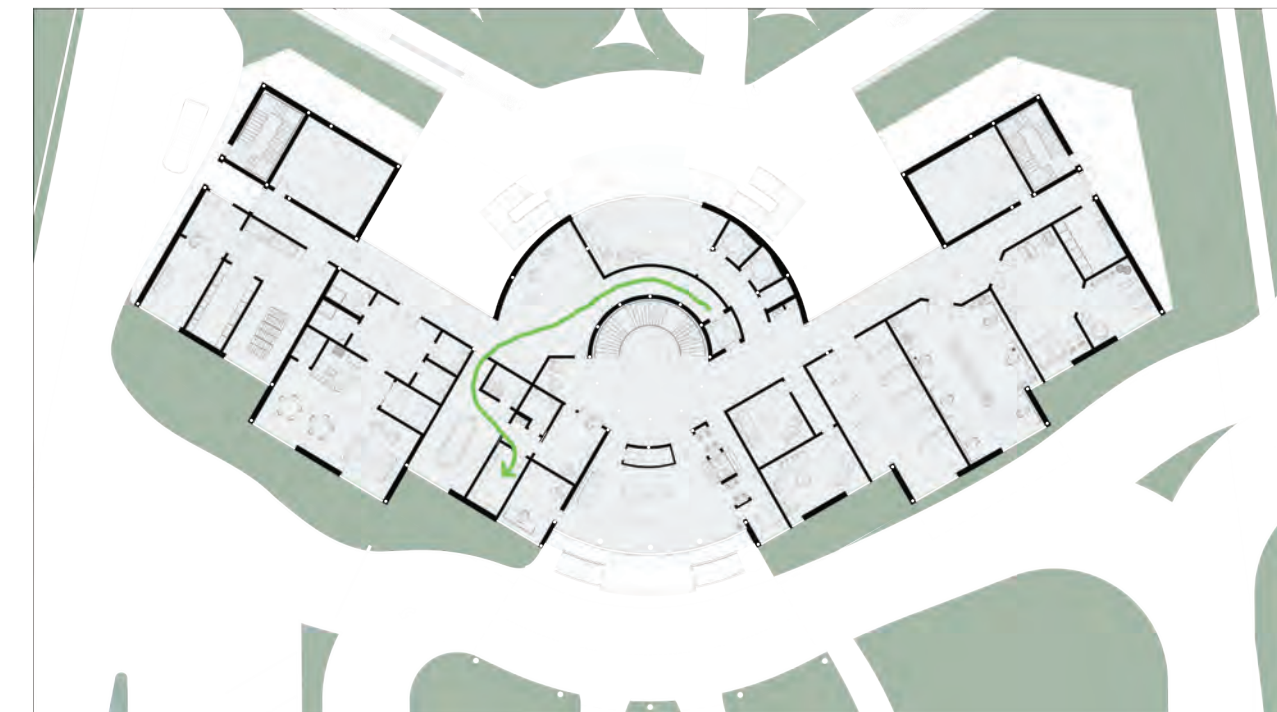
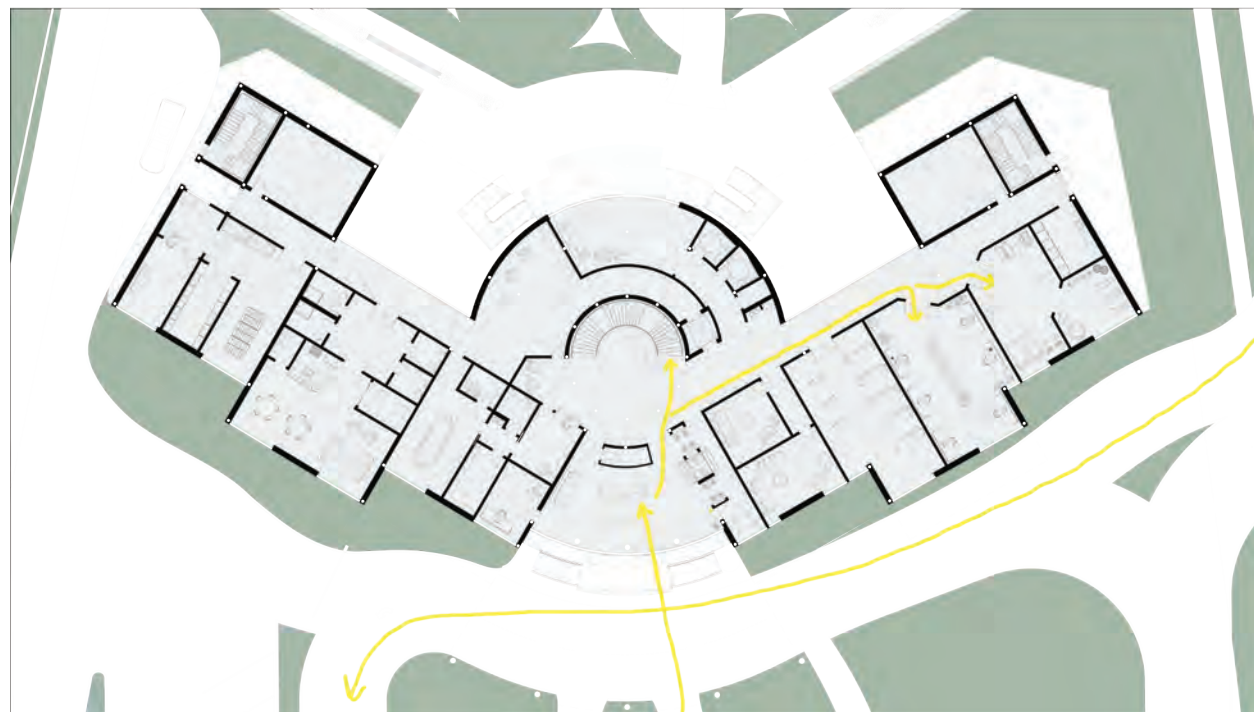
### FLOW 3: FAMILY

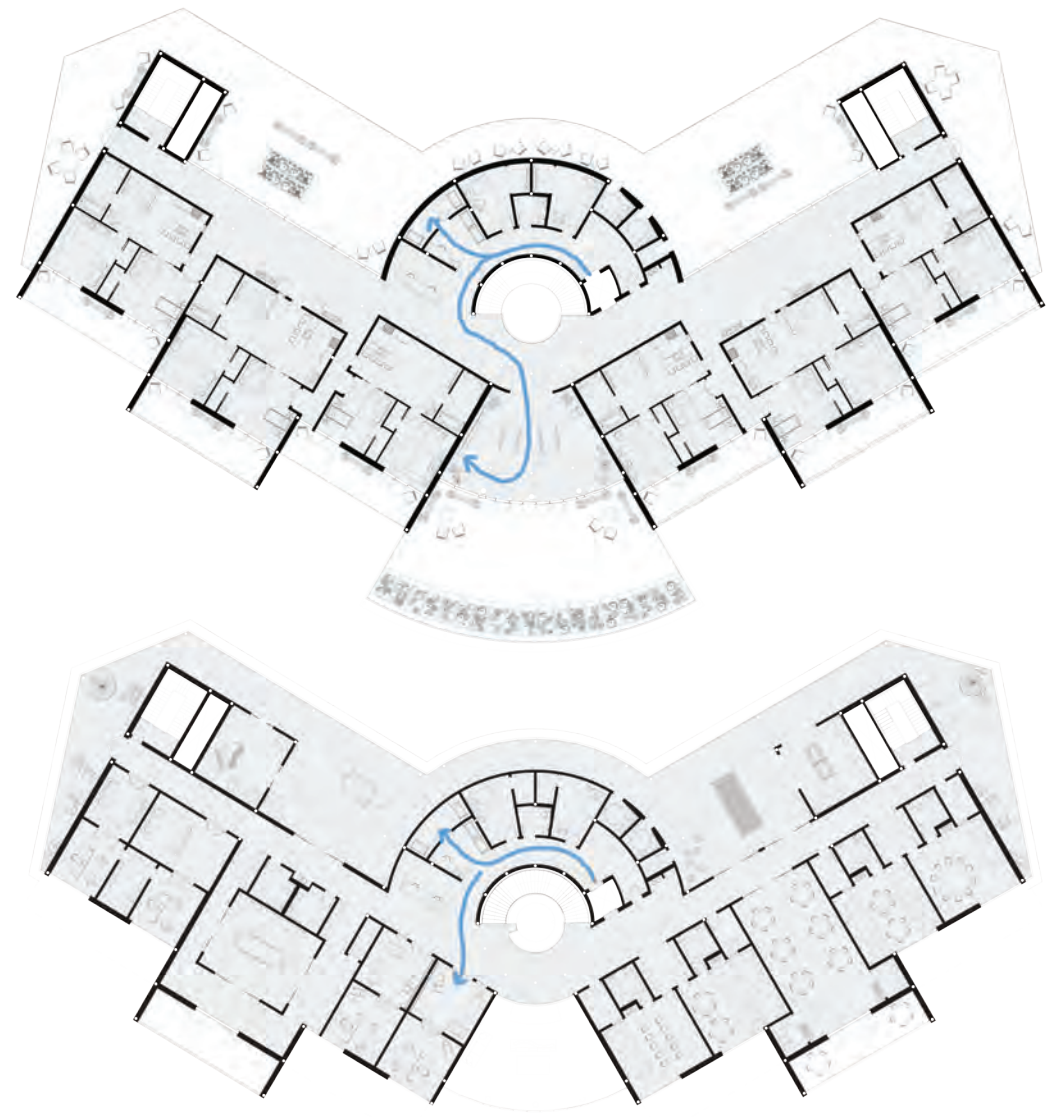
The third flow, Flow of Family, starts as soon as the family enters the lot. The family, and by extension the patients, have a separate entrance with a drop off for the day care kids as well as an attached parking lot for longer stays and visitors. The families are met with a volunteer in the lobby to welcome them to Emily's House and help direct them to where they are going. These volunteers are not able to access any private information, however, they can direct the families and provide anecdotes of their own experiences with Emily's House. The families, once checked in, can either stay on the first floor and take advantage of the community spaces, including the outdoor play area, or continue up with their child.



### FLOW 4: INFORMATION

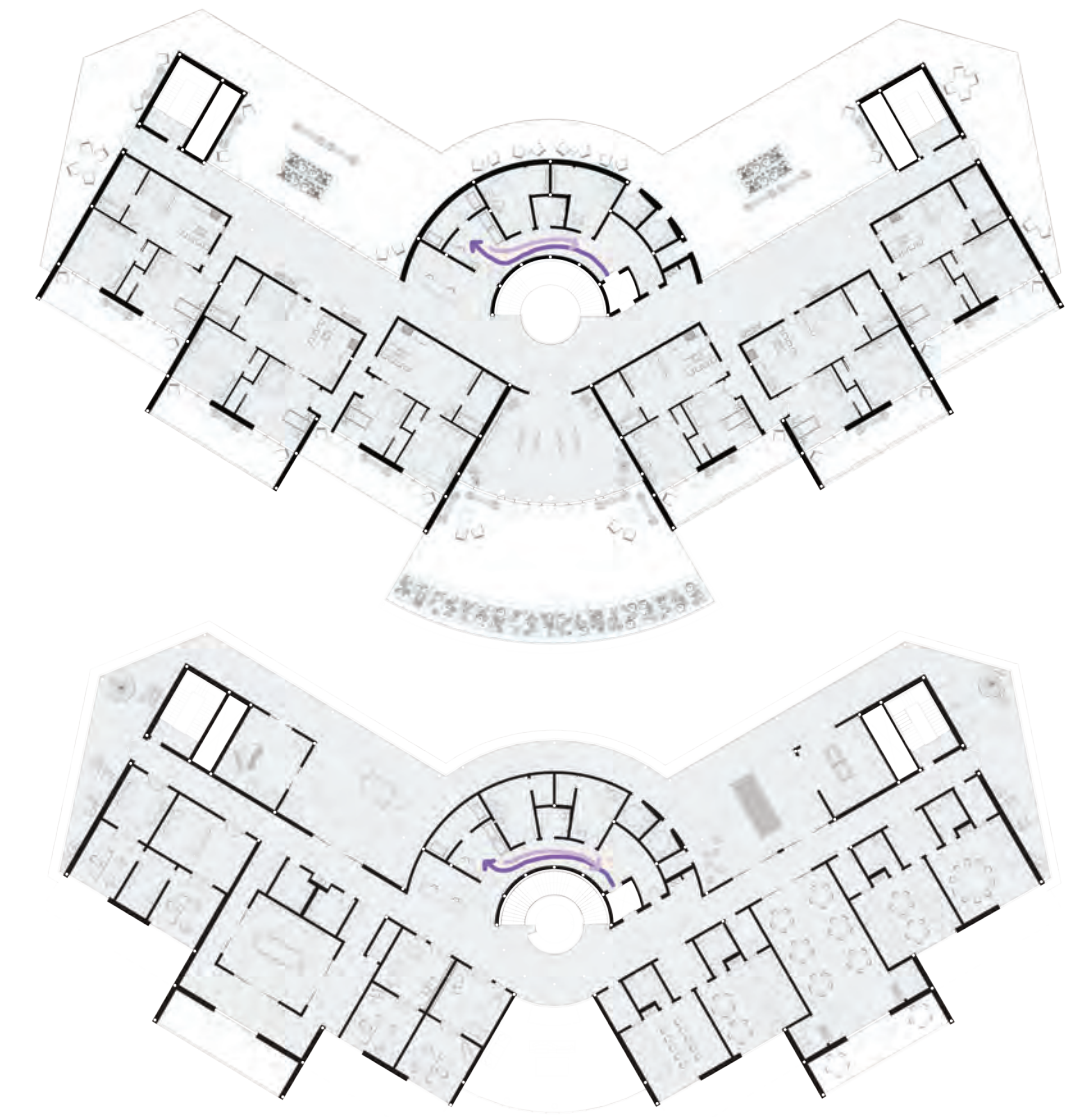
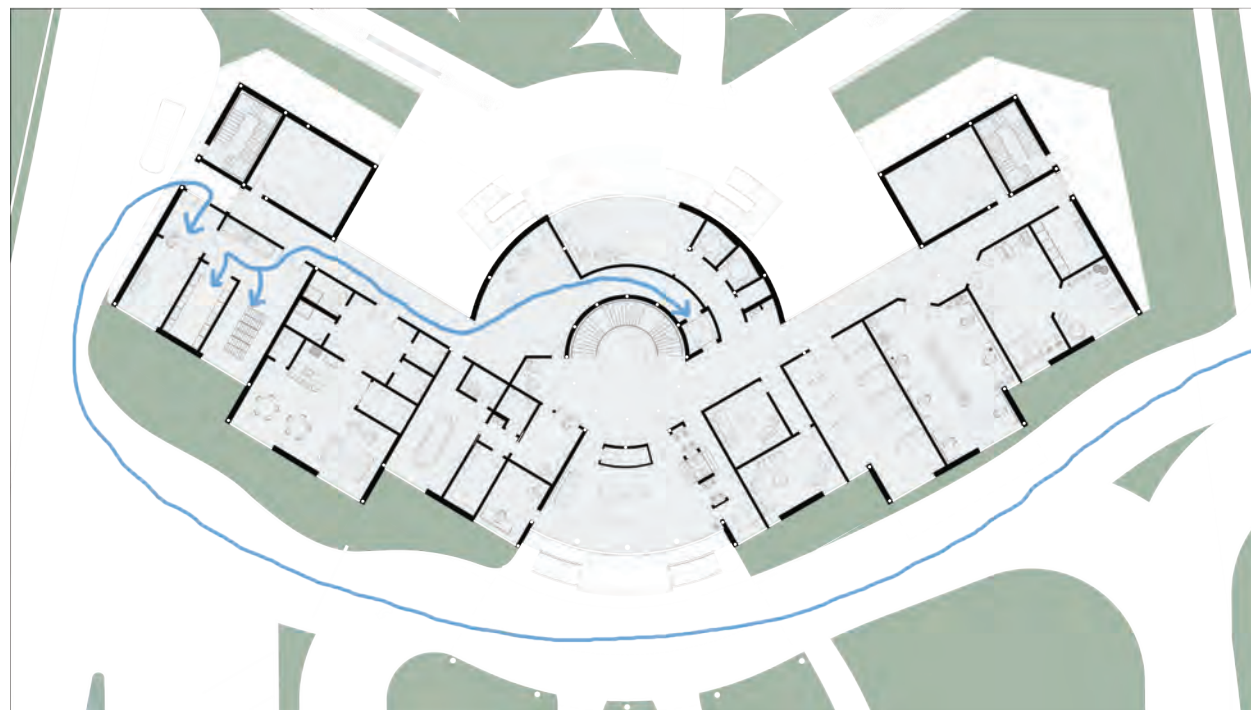
The fourth flow, Flow of Information, is done mainly through digital means, however paper copies will travel directly from the hands of the staff to the secure file room on the first floor. By utilizing the private entrance to the elevator from the central nurse's station, the information can travel securely, only accessible by staff members with the key card that lets them enter the zone.





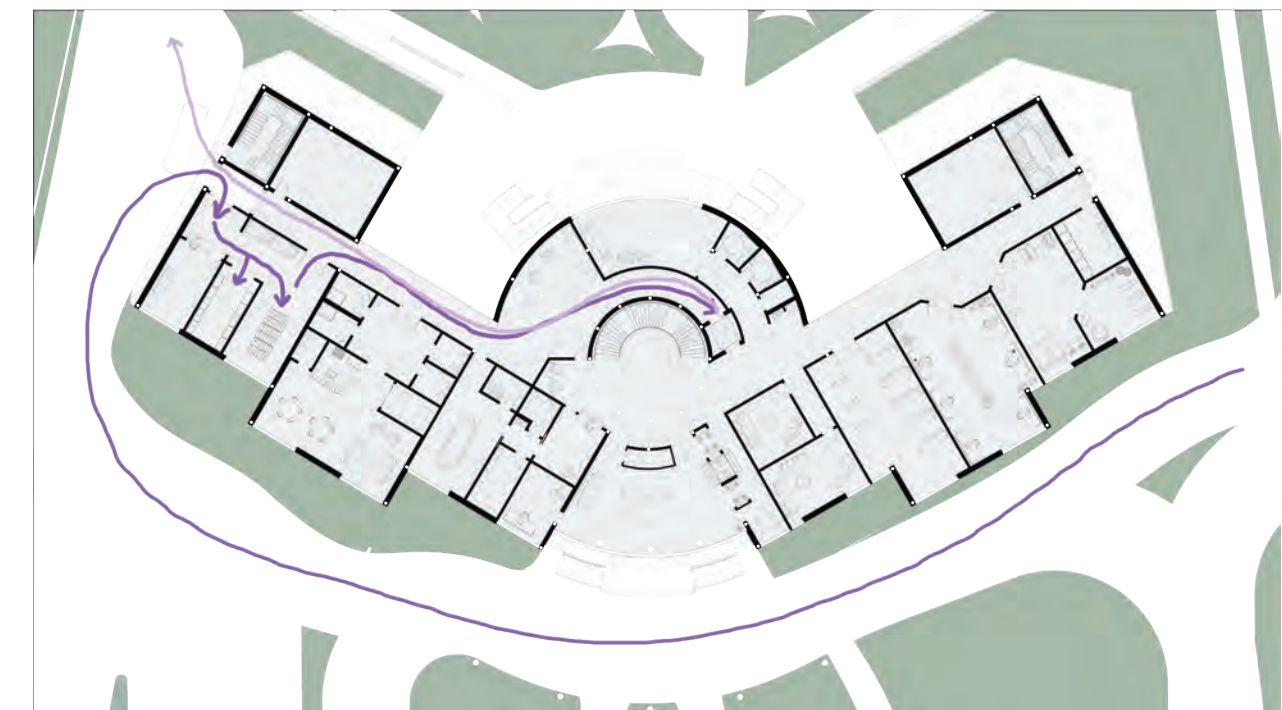
### FLOW 5&6: MEDICATION & SUPPLIES

The fifth flow, Flow of Medication, is linked with the sixth flow, Flow of Supplies. Supplies and medication are delivered through the same side entrance staff enter through, and met with a delivery clerk, who is tasked with meeting and accepting all deliveries into Emily's House. Once the medications and supplies are signed for and received, the clerk can either bring them directly to the nurse's station using the private elevator entrance or they may call upon a nurse to come receive the medications. The medications are then stored in a secure room within the secured nurse's station. The medications are then distributed to the patients' rooms or to the child as required. The supplies are stored safely within the nurse's station, with excess supplies held on the first floor in a locked storage room as well. Supplies, toys, beds, books, and other items delivered to Emily's House, once received, are stored in the large storage room on the first floor. Food deliveries, although received in the same manner, are stored in different ways. The meals at Emily's House are provided by local vendors and are stored on the second and third floor warming kitchens. Each family receives dedicated meals,



### FLows 7: EQUIPMENT

The seventh flow, Flow of Equipment, is similar to the Flow of Medication. While this facility is less officially regulated than a typical hospital, equipment flow is also closely monitored through the nurse's station. At the end of a family's stay at Emily's House, the apartments are thoroughly sanitized by an outside professional cleaning crew, aware of the requirements of healthcare cleaning.





### PERSONAL SPACE

Looking at a building in section is important to understand the overall connection of spaces and thoughts. In the image to the left we see a variety of spaces, all created to bring peace or joy. On the third floor we see the patient apartment and the interior "front yard" space connecting the apartments. Here we see the addition of clerestory

windows and the connection to the outdoor spaces.

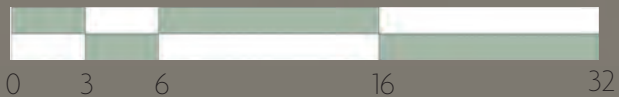
The second floor shows a group therapy space and the child's play area. On the first floor we see the connection to the ground. We see the staff rooms and the private corridor of the staff wing.

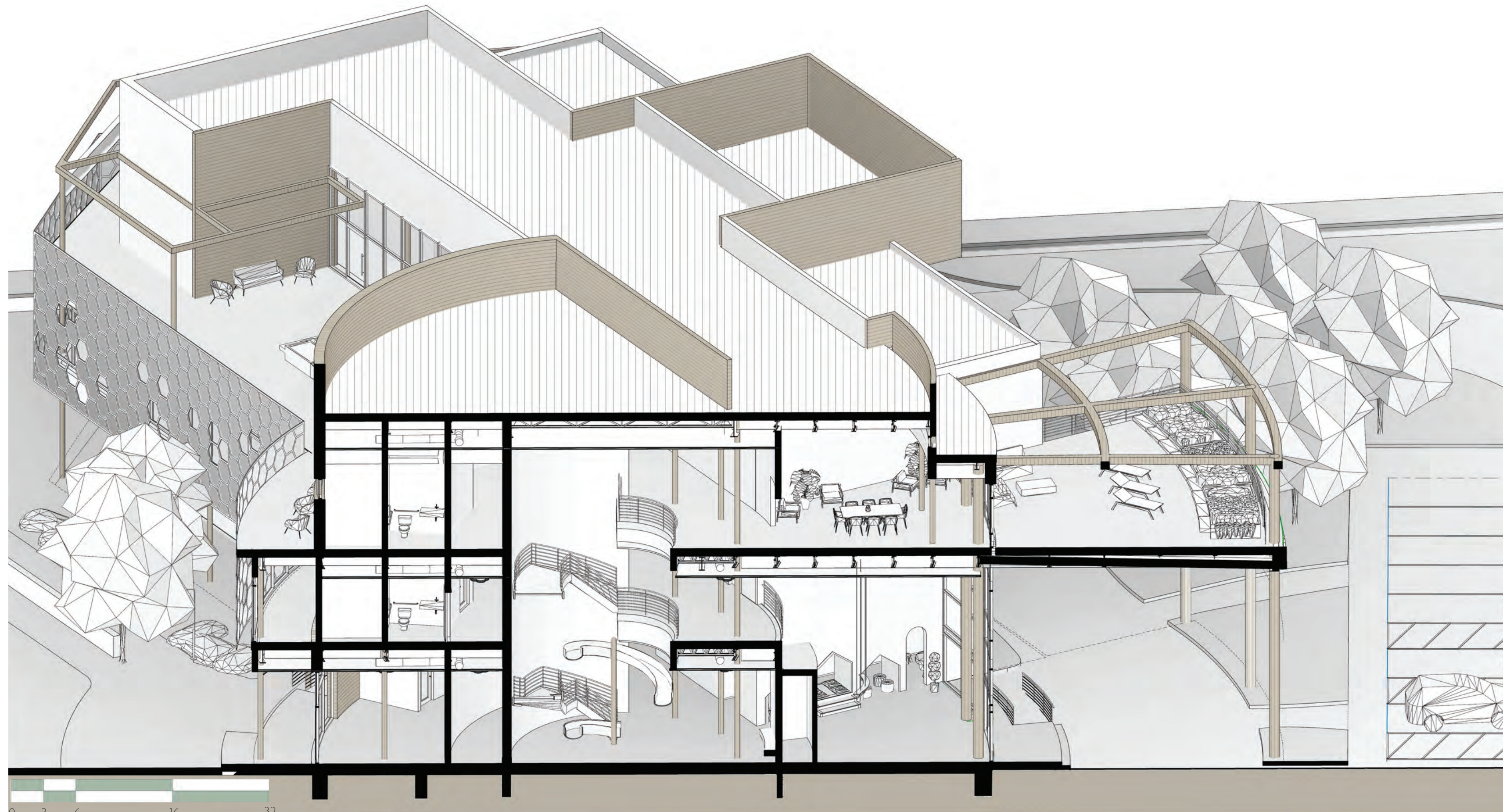


## DOWN THE HALL

Connection is the theme of this section. We see how the spaces are connected vertically, tied together by the centralized staircase and exit slide. We see the multistory lobby connecting the floors visually. On the

left half of the section, we see the indoor-outdoor connection. This view is imperative in understanding how the building functions and how patients, families, and staff are meant to move about the building.

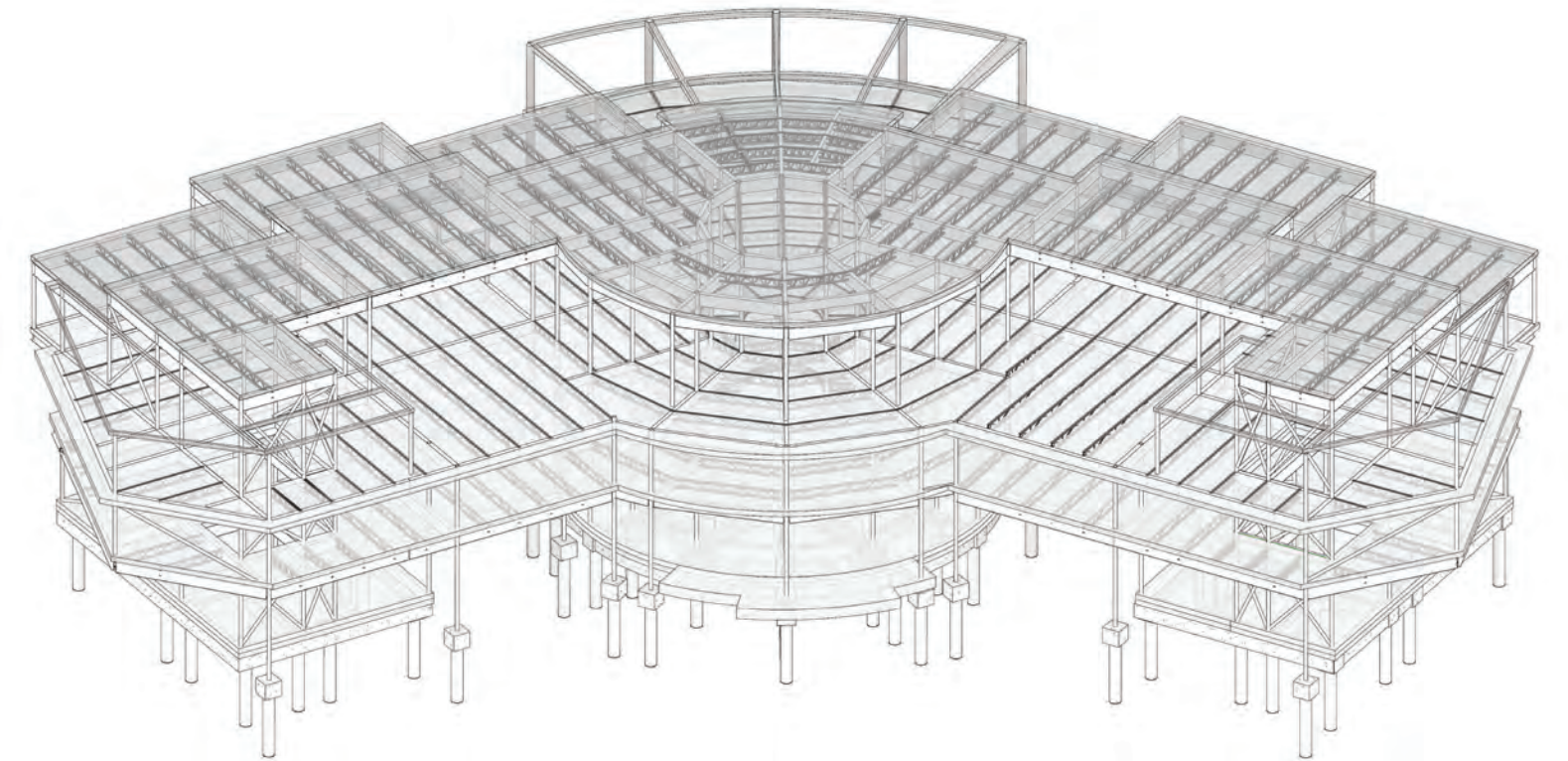
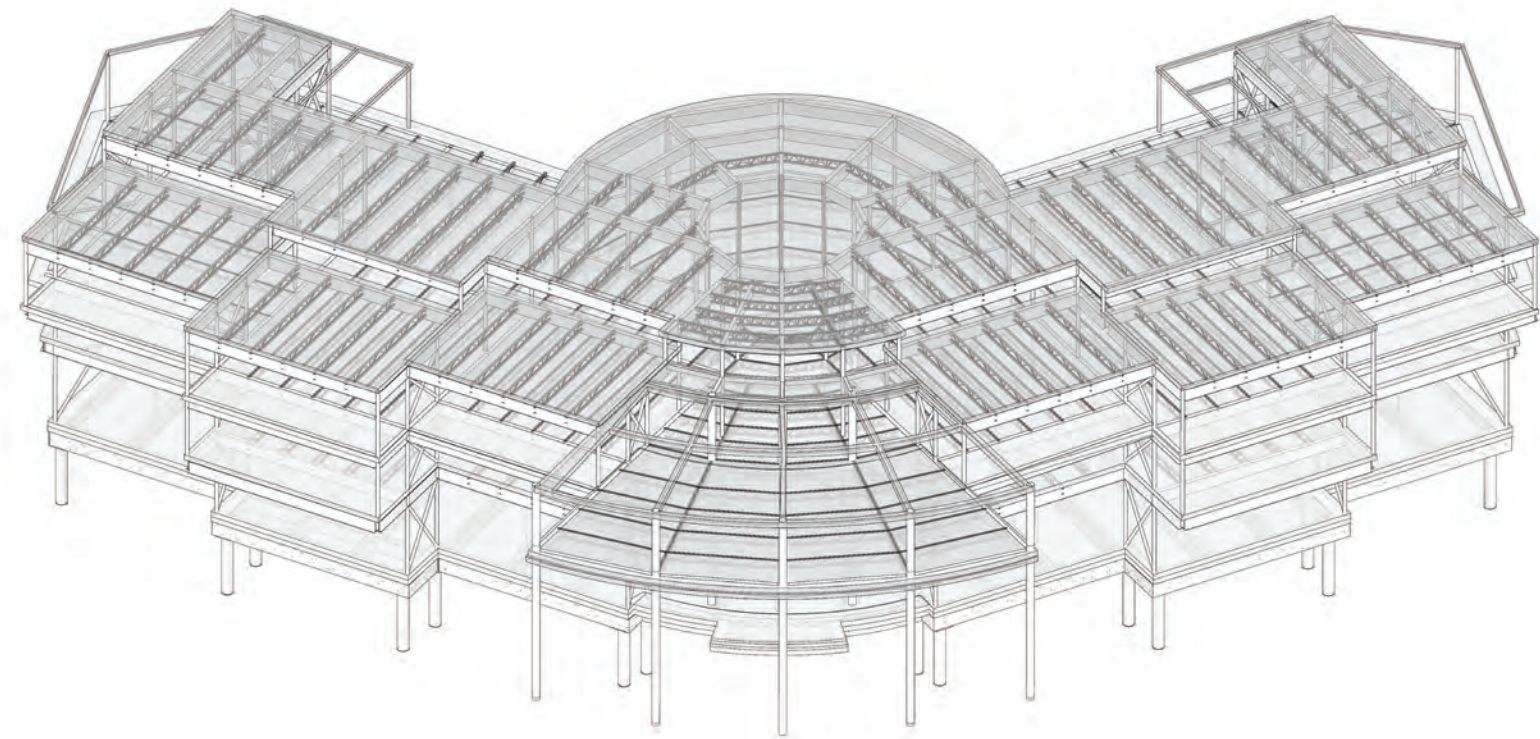




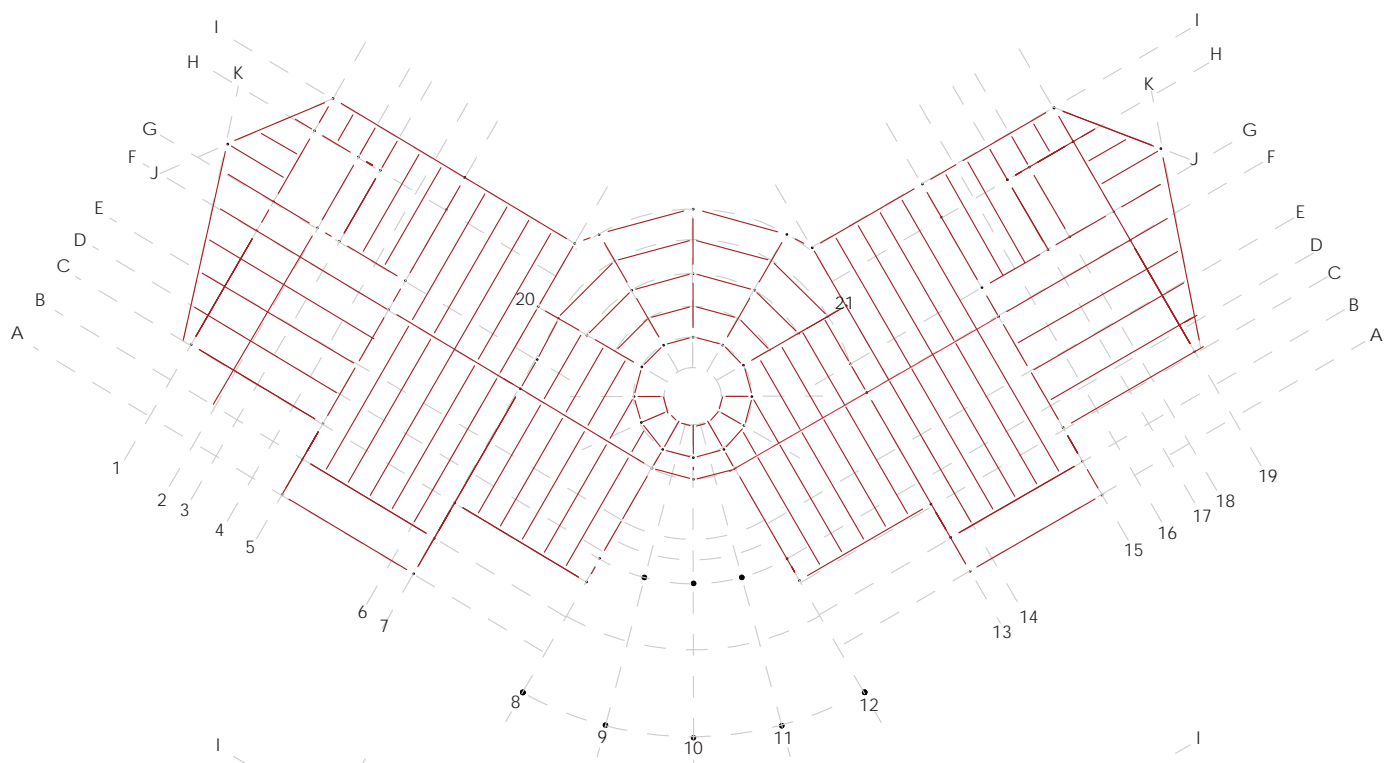
### MEETING IN THE MIDDLE

In this view we are able to focus on community aspects and meeting areas in the design. The large, centralized staircase and exit slide provide a dynamic core, bringing all three levels together. As this section highlights the core we see the lobby, nurses' station, exit to the children's park, and dining area on the fourth floor. All these spaces are connected and come together to create a welcoming atmosphere.

STRUCTURE...

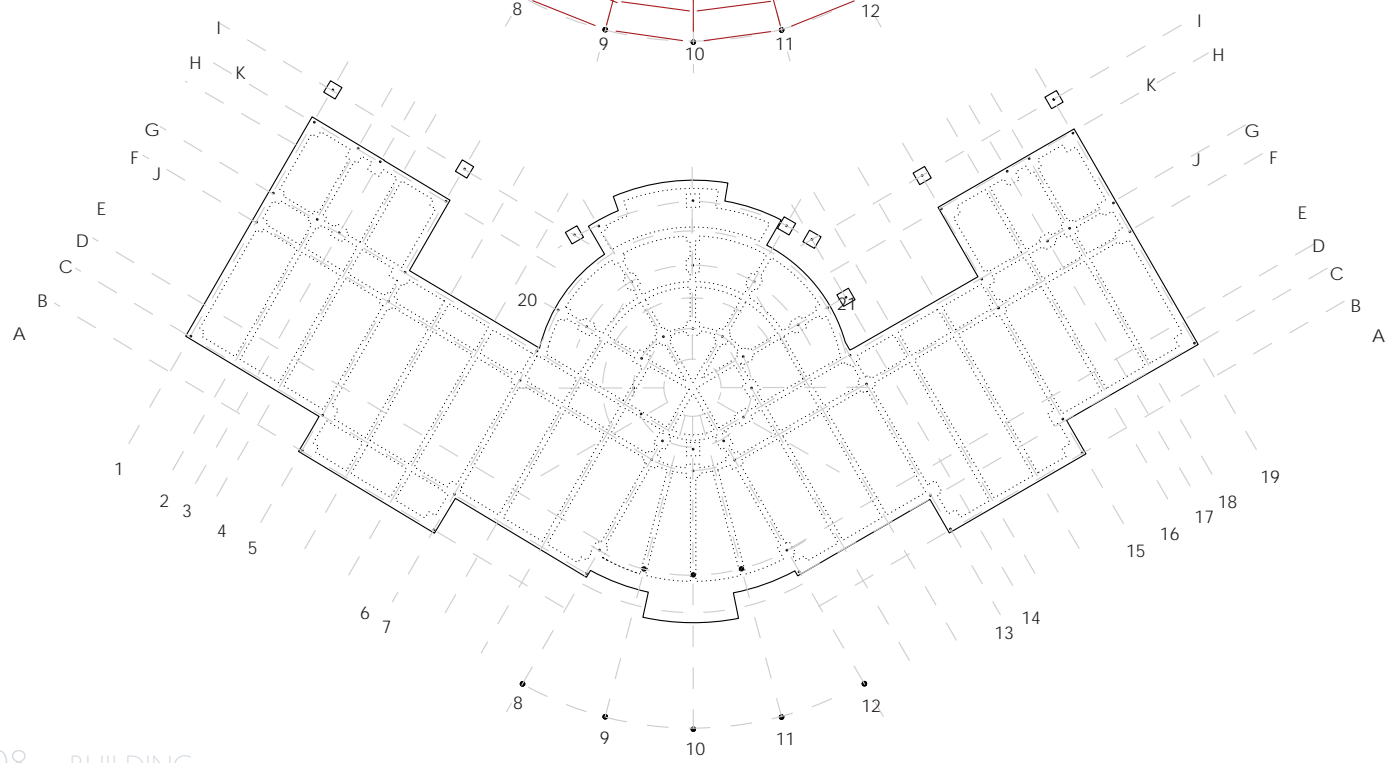
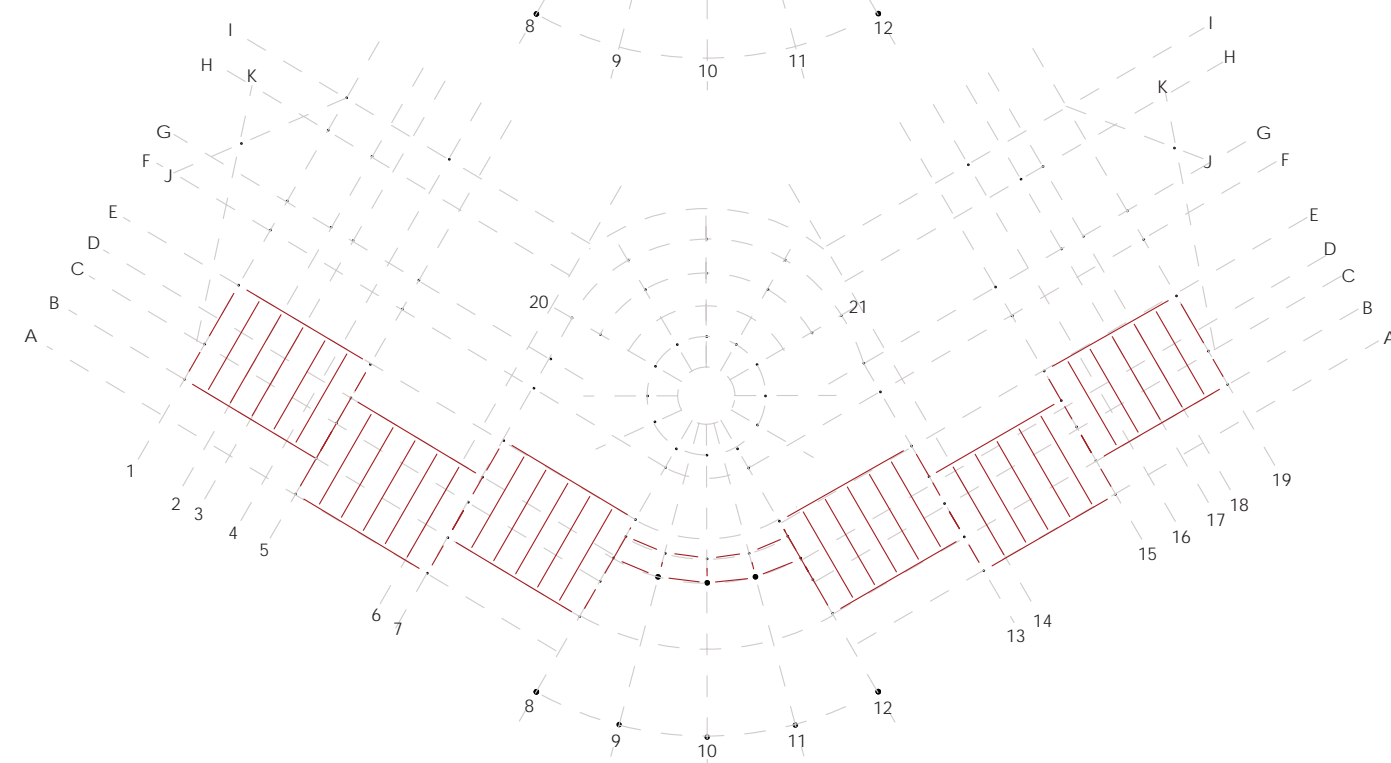
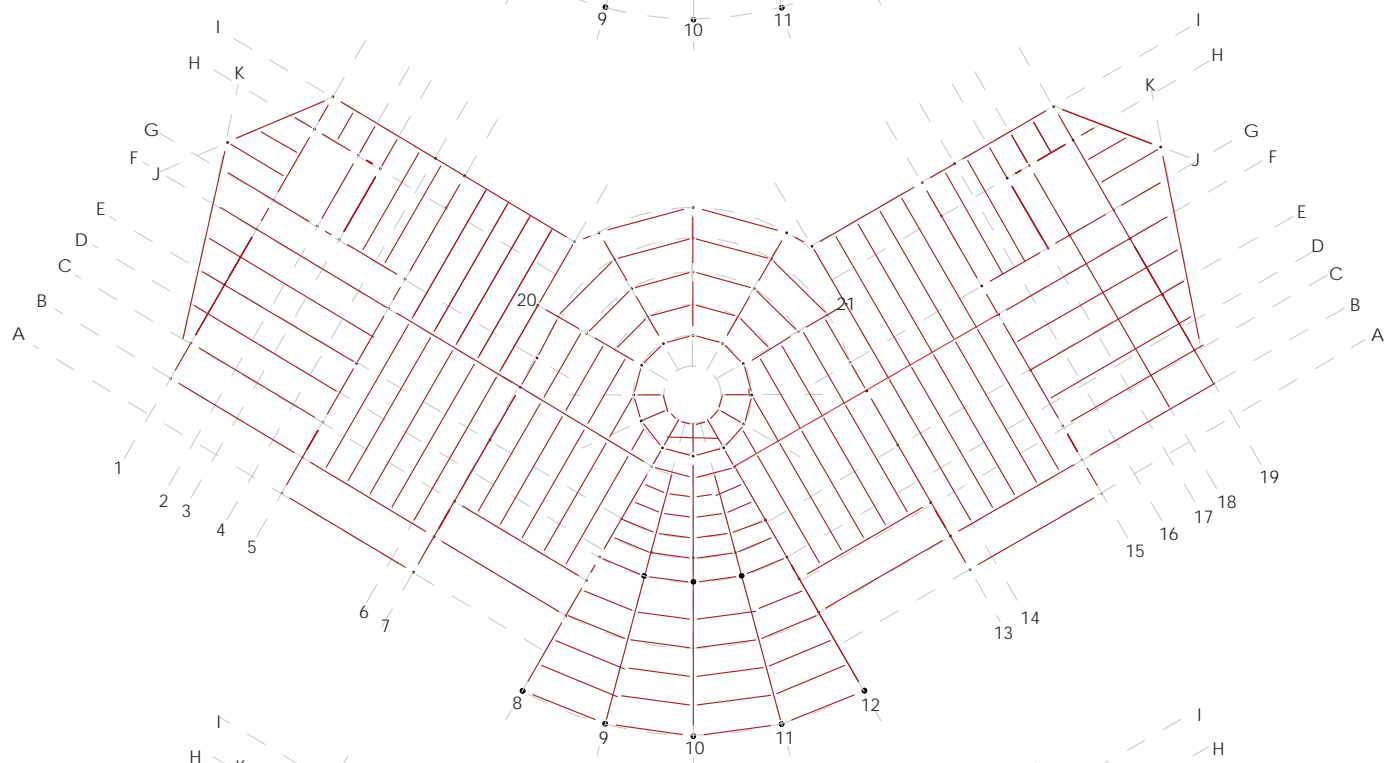
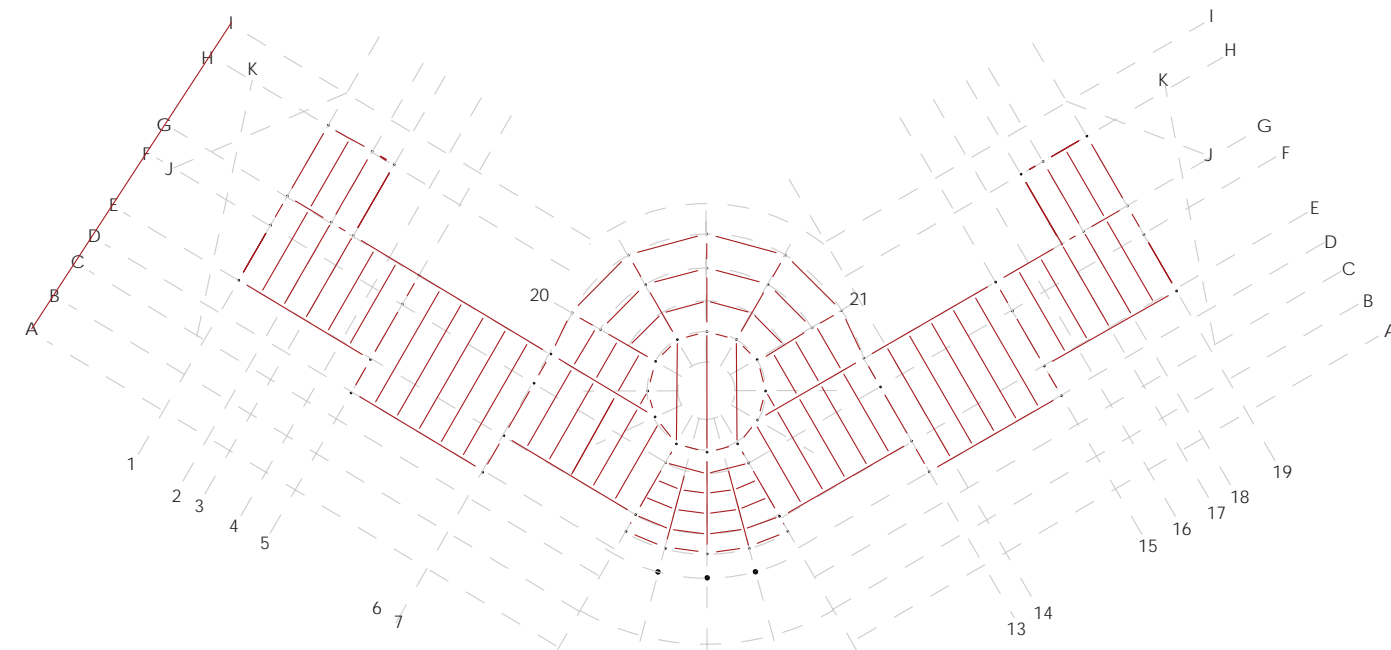


BEYOND GIRDERS AND BEAMS



## SYMMETRY

This steel system of Emily's House was designed to be a perfect reflection of symmetry. Starting at a structural level the building was designed to push and pull at spaces creating a series of indoor/outdoor spaces bringing in vast amounts of light.

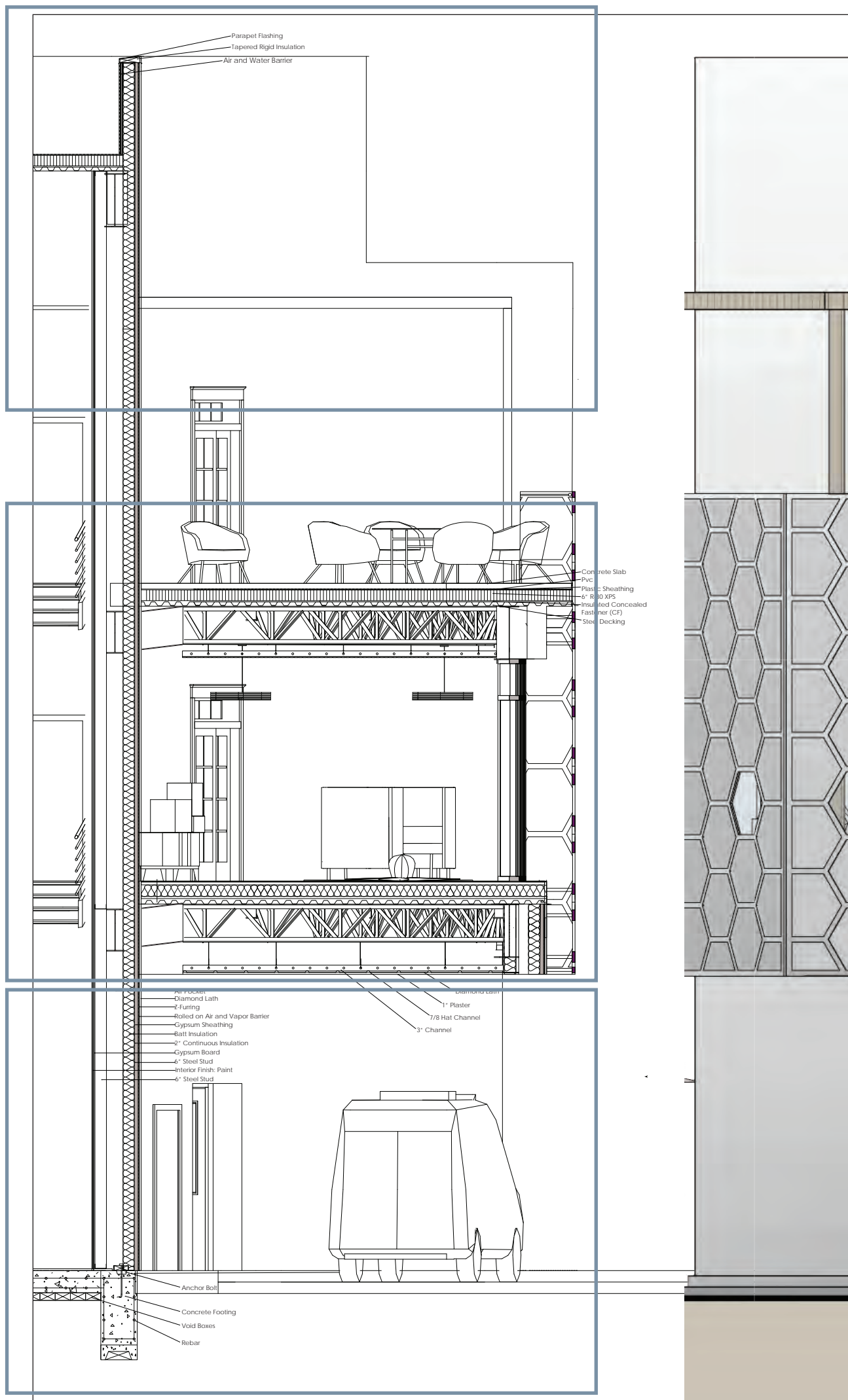


## LEVELS OF INTRICACY

The structural design of Emily's House reached several different levels of intricacy as it created a multi-level roofing system used to bring light into the internal parts of

the design. Understanding the connection of space was key in understanding how the system could work together.



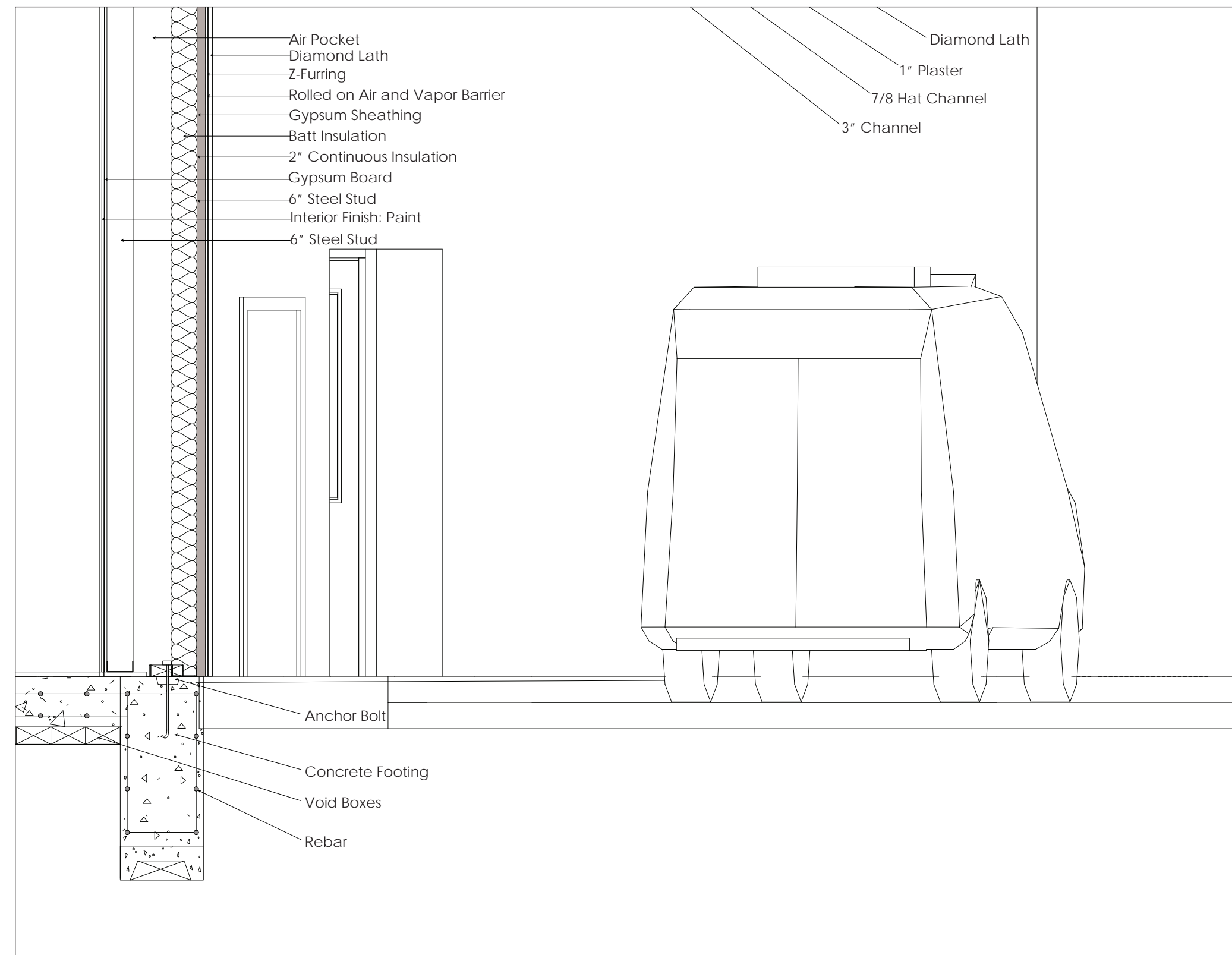


## PIECES COMING TOGETHER

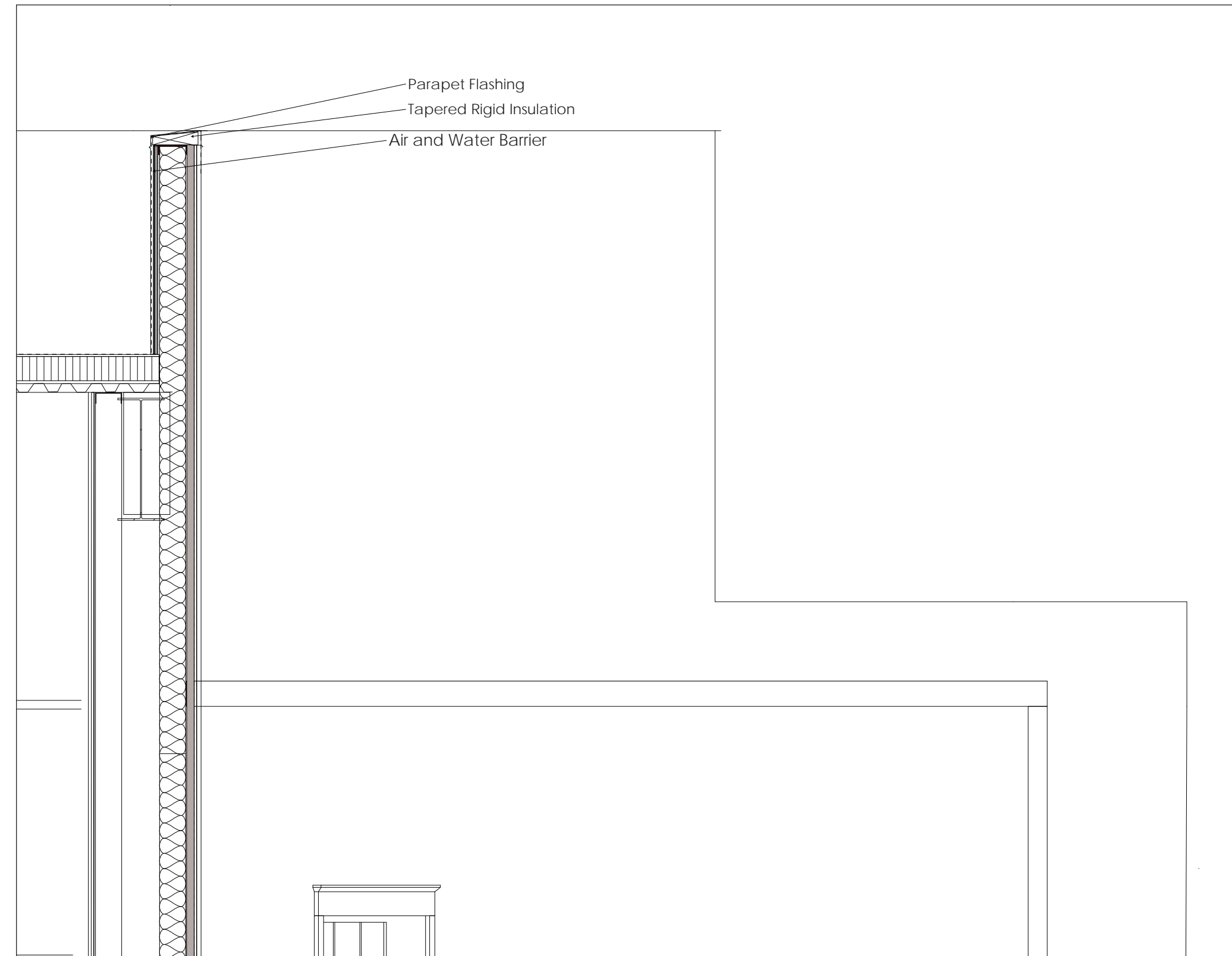
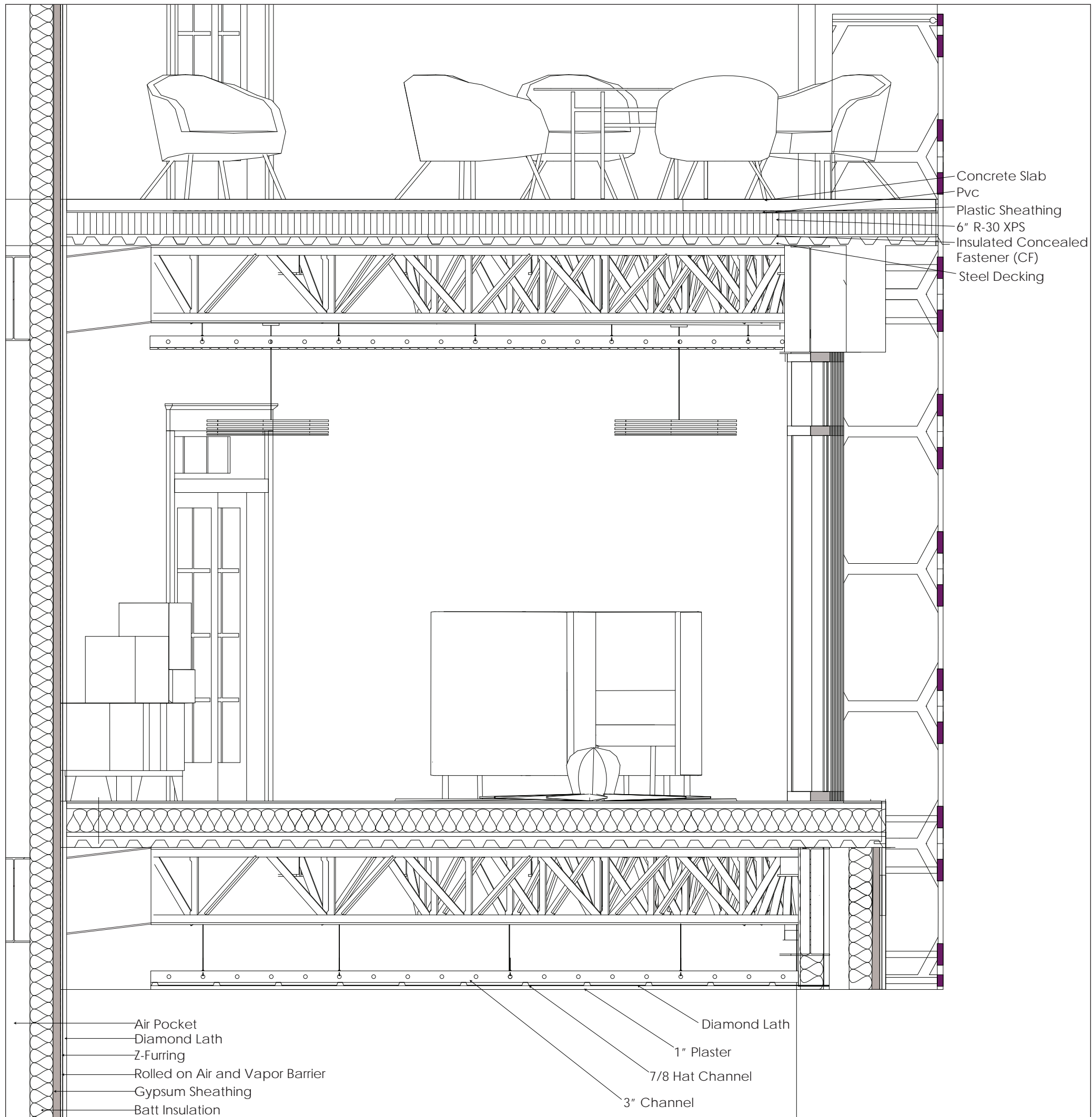
Looking at the assembly of a wall is a very interesting thing in architecture. This view in particular tells us many things about the portion of the building we are studying. This portion of the building includes a cantilevered space on the second floor which in itself has created a covered pick-up / drop-off zone for the ambulance or other service vehicles.

The area highlighted is the zone created for quiet play and reflection, providing the patient a place where they can sit and escape from loud play or other stressors. This is a safe place, a place of comfort.

This function tells us many things, that this wall is exterior and will need to deal with moisture in the air as the structure continues into the main section of the building. It is especially important to create a well-insulated area that provides the patients with comfort in every season.



CONNECTION WITH THE EARTH



### THE IN-BETWEEN

In the image to the left we see many interactions between structure and living spaces. We see the interaction of materiality and design. Exploring the intricacies of building construction

allows us to not only have a better understanding of how buildings are put together but the importance of each and every material.

# CONCLUSION

## CONCLUSION

As designers we have a unique place in society as we have the ability to physically shape the fabric of people's lives. I think we should not take this power lightly, that we should use our knowledge and our skills to better the world around us. We should take on projects that challenge us, that stir up emotions in an incredible way to not only remind us to connect to humanity, but to go beyond our comfort levels. This is exactly what Emily's House

did for me. I have been challenged, I have felt sadness, joy, confusion, and grief. Overall, what I felt the most was accomplishment. Always strive to be the best designer you can be, to make the world a little better with every design. In Emily's House, considerations for the family's happiness, safety, and well-being were weaved into every aspect of the building. Emily's House is for the patient; it is for the family; it is for Emily.

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Figure 1:

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Figure 2:

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Figure 3:

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