

24

# ARCHAEL SUE 1

CONNECTING A COMMUNITY UNDER ONE ROOF POWER SUITS POWER HEELS POWER OF PINK WORKPLACE CLOSET SUPPORTS BRIDGEPORT

BRIDGEPORT FASHION INSTITUTE CLOTHING AS SHELTER

# CLOTHINGAS SHELTER BY GUADALUPE ALVAREZ





Committee Chair Marcel Erminy



Committee Co- Chair Gabriela Campagnol



Dear *Marcel*, From the moment I met vou the world of architecture became more beautiful. THANK YOU for always guiding me and sharing your expertise and how you see the world around you. I cherish every conversation we have had but most importantly you have taught me how to WONDER...

*CommitteeMember* 

Barbara Klein

Dear **Professor Gibbs**, Whereas my committee was chosen by choice vou happened to be in my journey by chance, THANKYOU for encouraging me to speak up and do better than I believed

Dear *Mrs.Klein*, Although our time together was short I feel very privileged to have been able to receive your advice and support during my final study, THANKYOU

Dear *Gabriela*, For every laugh, smile, and even a moment of sorrow THANK YOU for always guiding me in the right direction. No matter how scattered our conversations led, they always circled back to a moment of inspiration



Studio Professor Brian Gibbs





Features

#### 04 Cease the Overproduction of Garments

Overproduction has led to landfills and buildings filled with unused clothes

07 Abandoned by Industry

With over 500 factories in Bridgeport, Connecticut...many were left abandoned



Bridgeport is home to middle-class homes, burned-out houses, empty factories, and abandoned buildings

#### 20 The Glamourous side of helping

Button down shirt Ideal for a professional setting... can easily transition into a casual look.

IN THE KNOW 100 billion.. and counting Number of clothes go to waste each year, filling up landfills while "building" pollution



The cover displays the new plaza with a fashion show that showcases the new clothing by the resource center. Buisness atire is not all black and white, you can add a pop of color!

Features -

#### 39 How to reuse a building

Repurpose a three-story, red brick paper box factory into a fashion institute.Located on the corner of Myrtle, Gregory and Atlantic, the building has road access from all three roads, sharing a two block site that now serves a repurposed portion of the existing factory.

#### 54 Threading Connections

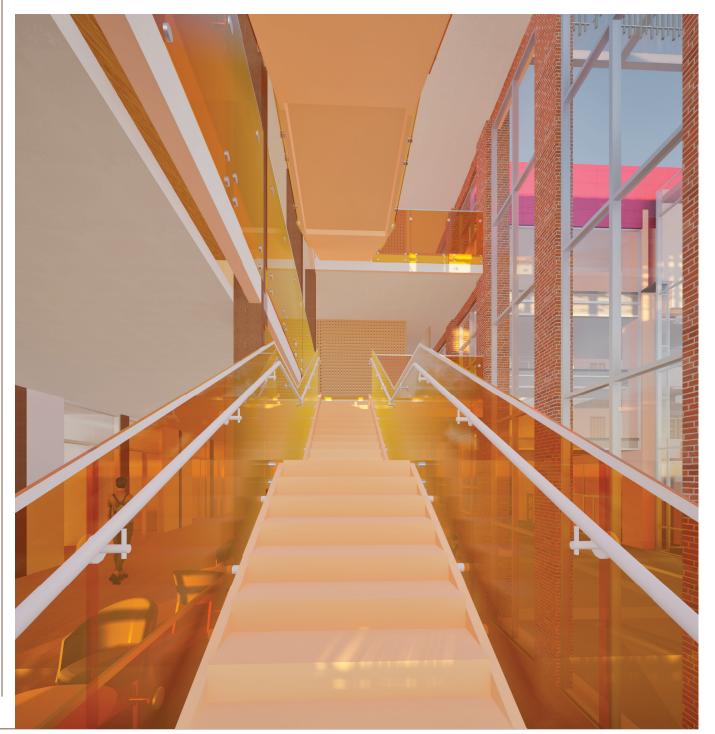
Through this project, the materials of the existing provide a presence of history and give the built environment a place to hold the identity of the community. The introduction of the new building and its materials is to mark a change in time and start a change in the community.

57 Stitching Old to New

Picking up where somewhen left off in their embroidery requires the need to carefully analyze the steps needed to achieve the same pattern. Likewise, when designing the new building the designer was challenged to analyze the details to re-create a pattern with no instructions.

#### PAGE 70

"what makes the resource center and fashion institute stand out from your typical goodwill or charity sponsor is the human connection."



"A runway does not simply present a collection against a background set design" [Pg 32]

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## Editor's Letter

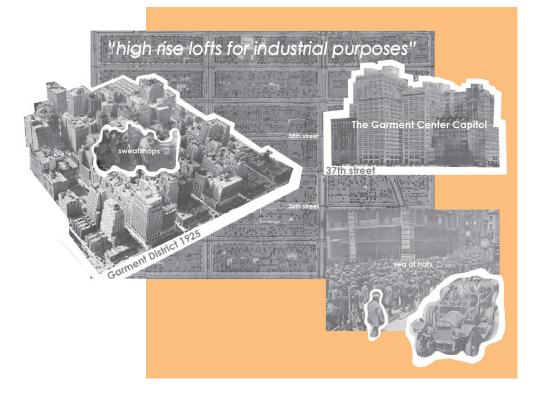


FAST FASHION

Fast fashion is a modern phrase referring to the quick production of impulse fashion trends. Originating from the mass production of garments from recent popular brands, the term has evolved from the overproduction of clothing since the 1800s. Fast fashion has not only had an environmental impact but has contributed to the mass production of buildings that are shortly abandoned. The overproduction of these temporarily used buildings is not a new phenomenon, it has been a common occurrence throughout the fashion industry that started during the Industrial Revolution. Textile factories dominated cities' urban landscapes, growing faster than the consumption needed. Today this overproduction has led to landfills and buildings filled with unused clothes, resulting in waste of clothing, and building materials. This subject relates to the field of architecture alone, as seen in the rise of abandoned buildings that are left neglected and begin to create "poorly developed neighborhoods". This generated the investigation as to how an adaptive reuse project intertwined with ideas of fashion could aid those with limited resources. n.a, P. (2024b). Knitting Factory – The Factory Floor. Project Mayhem. Retrieved 2024,.

To revive the cultural impact of a neglected community in Bridgeport, Connecticut, a clothing factory is being transformed into a fashion institute intertwined with a business aspect to address social challenges.

Fashion and architecture provide impactful design resolutions that are utilized daily but often overlooked. Designs are compositions that organize and portray an idea that aims to provide a solution to a problem. For the majority, buildings and clothing are seen as two separate basic amenities that serve two separate functions, seeming to be two very distinct elements. Taking a closer look, their parallels are evident as seen through the creative process, functionality, and synesthesia that create a perception that both entities address similar challenges through their distinct approaches. Despite these fields being able to stand independently, fashion and architecture derive from the same human impulse for protection and shelter. The project Clothing as Shelter is an investigation that highlights the capabilities of architecture to capture the attention of an observer the same way fashion gives attention to the person wearing a piece of clothing.



### **CEASE OVERPRODUCTION**

Textile factories dominated cities' urban landscapes, growing faster than the consumption needed.



Today this overproduction has led to landfills and buildings filled with unused clothes, resulting in waste of clothing, and building materials.



# DR.WARNER'S GORALINE

Trade card for Dr. Warner's Coraline Corset, c. 1885. Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Ubrary

CT Explored / 26

# CORSET.

# Abandoned by Industry

### **CORSETS** An important staple in women's wardrobe

#### BACKGROUND

With over 500 factories in Bridgeport, Connecticut making products sold worldwide, many were left abandoned by the change in industry. One is the Warner Brother's Corset Company. Corsets were popular in the 1800s and an important staple in women's wardrobes. Due to the steel and bone used to make them, they were uncomfortable and caused health complications. In response, the Warner Brothers Lucien and Ira Warner designed a flexible corset made of plant fibers, changing the industry of corsets.



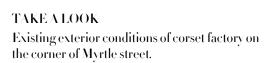
#### MOVING ON

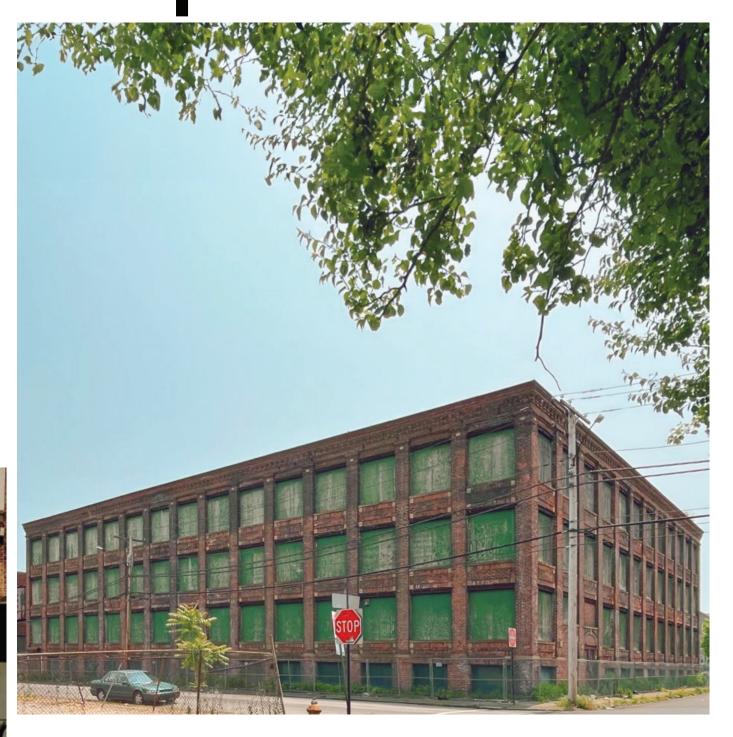
Furthermore, they provided free rooms for their primarily women workers across the street along with an education. This accommodation sets an example as to how companies should treat their workers and those in need. In the late gos, the corsets slowly started going out of fashion and the brothers moved the company overseas, leaving another abandoned building in Bridgeport. Today the east side of the factory has been re-adapted into lofts, but for four decades the western side of the factory remains under the radar.



TODAY

In 2015, a redevelopment plan was set in place to renovate the remaining factory building into 350 apartment units and retail at ground level with no intention of remembering the factory and those who once worked there. Today this plan has yet to become a reality and the building continues to deteriorate inside and out. Unless improvements are made, this building is set to be demolished. The existing building being utilized in this project is a three-story, red brick paper box factory with a raised basement level, segmental-arched window openings with brownstone sills, and a denticulated and corbelled brick cornice.







## ABANDONED **BY INDUSTRY**

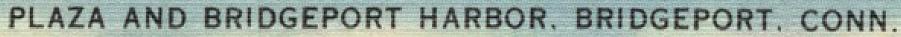
BRIDGEPORT

CT

This project is in Bridgeport Connecticut, an old manufacturing town and a headquarters to fund billionaires, creating a clear economic divide where residents live in different worlds.



BRIDGING TO BRIDGES



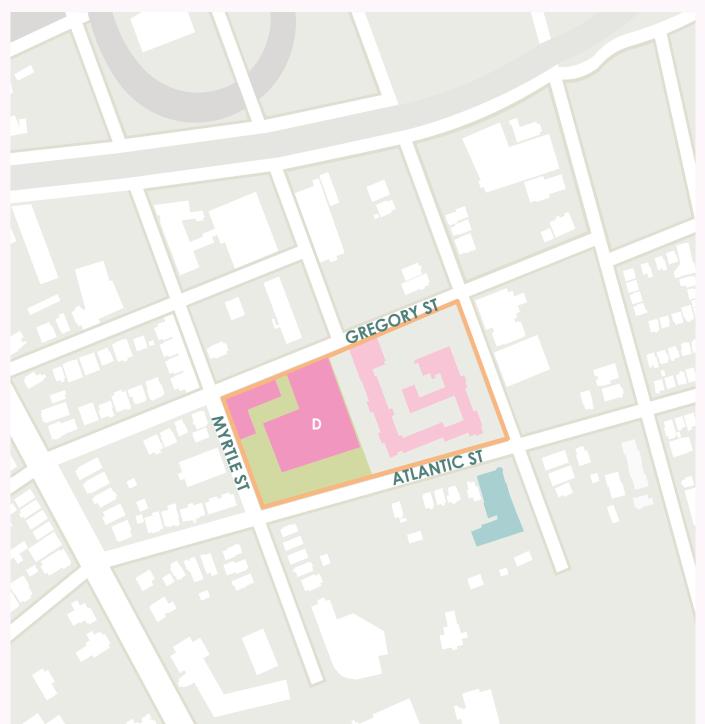


Plaza and Bridgeport Harbor Postcard. (n.d.). Retrieved 2024, from https://www.flickr.com/photos/boston\_public\_li-brary/2381536307/sizes/o/in/set-72157604358537187/.

14

6





330 MYRTLE

BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604 AVE

EXISTING FACTORY COVERTED LOFTS DEMOLISHED BRIDEPORT INT. ACADEMY ORIGINAL SITE BOUNDARIES

COME VISIT THE SITE

11 ARchicTECTURE

This is how Bridgeport looks from above today - no different from yesterday.

HOM

Google Earth

#### WARNER BROTHERS



DR. LUCIEN & IRA DE VER WARNER CHANGING THE HISTOR OF WOMEN WEAR

1.Part of the former Warnaco factor, seen from Myrtle Avenue in Bridgeport. 2.Postcard,The Warner Bros.Co 3.Part of the Warnaco property in Bridgeport,Connecticut 4.Postcard of the Warners Brothers Company Factories 5.Views of the former Warnaco factory complex at Myrtle Avenue 6.Postcard,Bridgeport International Academy







## In the Know

Did you know?

# **BRIDGEPORT**, CONNECTICUT

A town with no signs of improvement.



ut in a town with no signs of improvement, simple life necessities can be a challenge and much less the ability to do things for fun is slim if any. The site location is in a strong transportation hub where people can access and abandoned buildings lining the main the building by car, bus, train, or ferry. Despite the abundance of transportation methods that one would think would be a result of a bustling town, opportunities for obtaining a better life can be difficult if the town is still left with the scraps of the 19th century. This project is in Bridgeport Connecticut, an old manufacturing town now left abandoned by industry and a he-

adquarters to fund billionaires, creating a clear economic divide where residents live in different worlds. Bridgeport is home to middle-class homes, burned-out houses, empty factories, street. The middle class is defined as someone who can afford the basics, rent, electricity, and a decent functioning vehicle to get from point A to B, and nowadays having high-speed internet is essential as well.



# Bricebort STU one-time manufacturing

because it is a one-time manufacturing hub whose jobs went overseas as factories moved away in the late 20th century."- The Atlantic (news, politics, culture, technology, health magazine)

#### **Below Average**

#### BRIDGEPORT HARBOR

Low income







INCOME

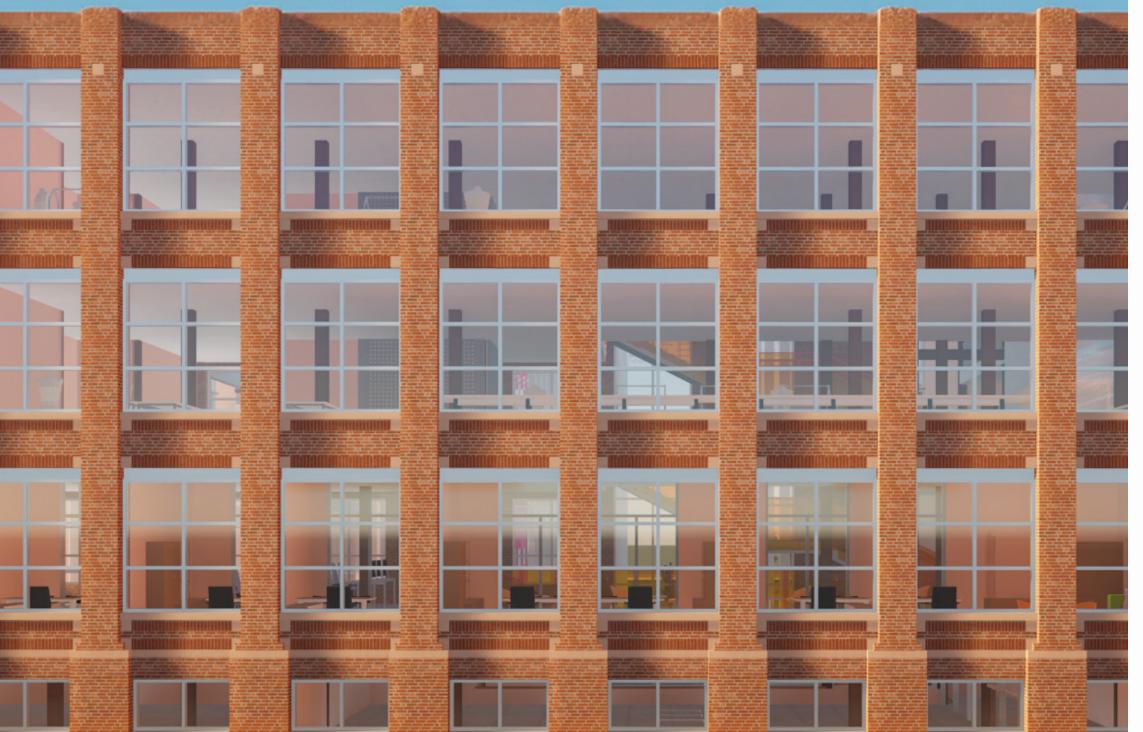
APHICS



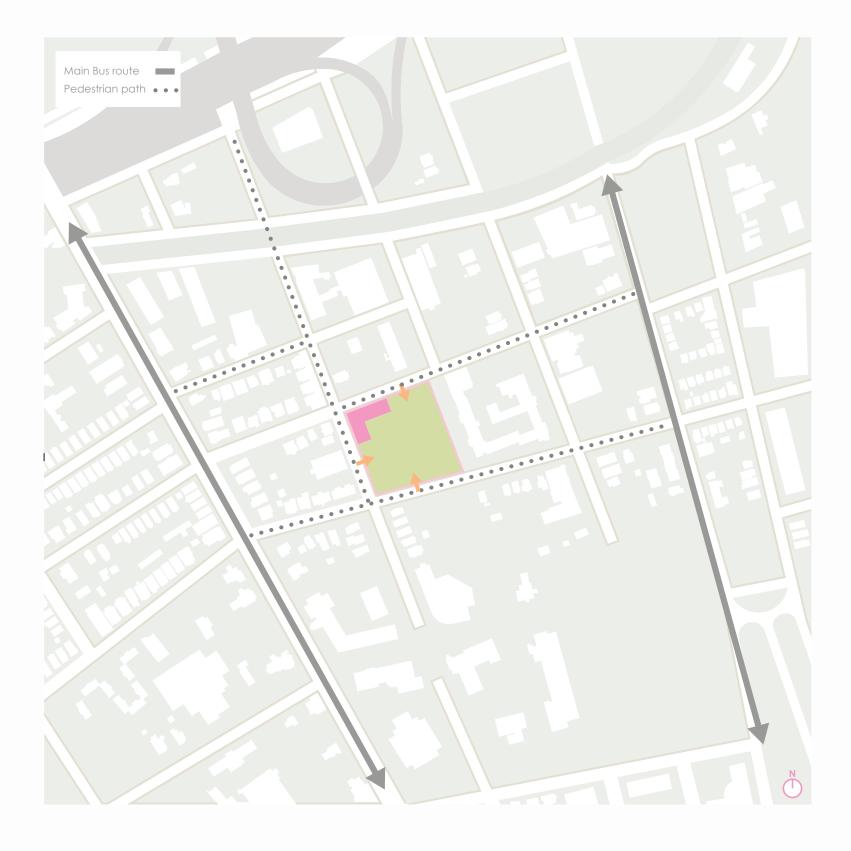
Person's in poverty, percent: 23.2%

bestneighborhood.org 10808 S River Front Pkwy, UT, 84095, US ©Best Neighborhood





21 ARchieTECTURE





The Site Access Since1870

BUS ROUTES | PEDESTRIAN PATHS | BUILDING ENTRANCES



### Building Heights 📜

23 ARchicTECTURE

#### SURROUNDING HEIGHTS

How do the surrounding buildings affect the site?How will the new building height affect the surrounding buildings? Respecting the existing conditions of a site is crucial to integrating the existing community. 1 story 2 story 3 story





VISIT

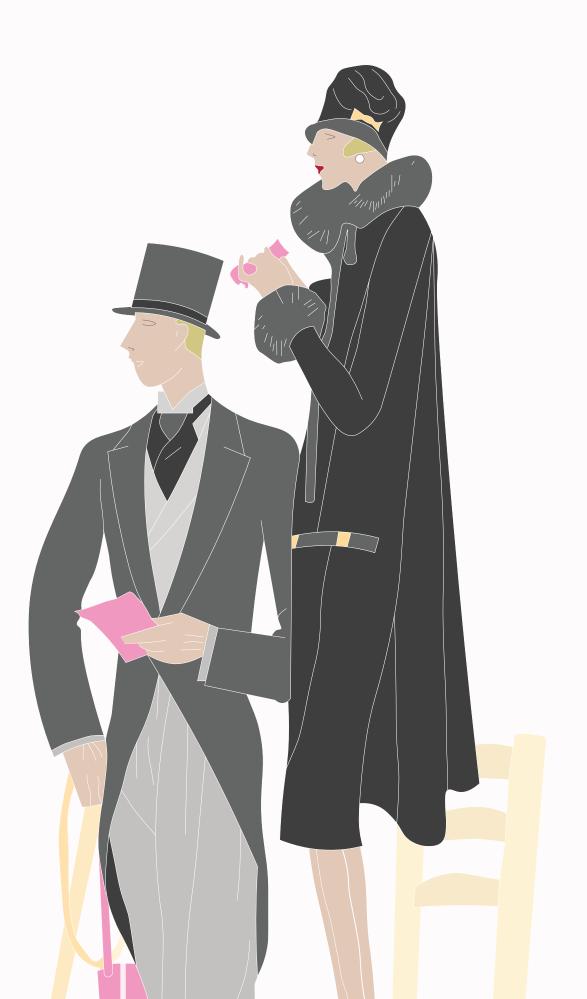
### Hello Neighbor

The site is surrounded by residential, commerial,worship,education and many vacant buildings



kecreated Illustrations:Redding, J. (1926, October 1). The Debut of the Winter Mode.pg62-63.V

27 ARchicTECTURE



#### WHAT'S NEW Self CONFIDENCE



1. WHITE T-SHIRT A classic piece that can be

paired with a blazer and slacks for a smart casual look or worn casually with a pair of jeans.

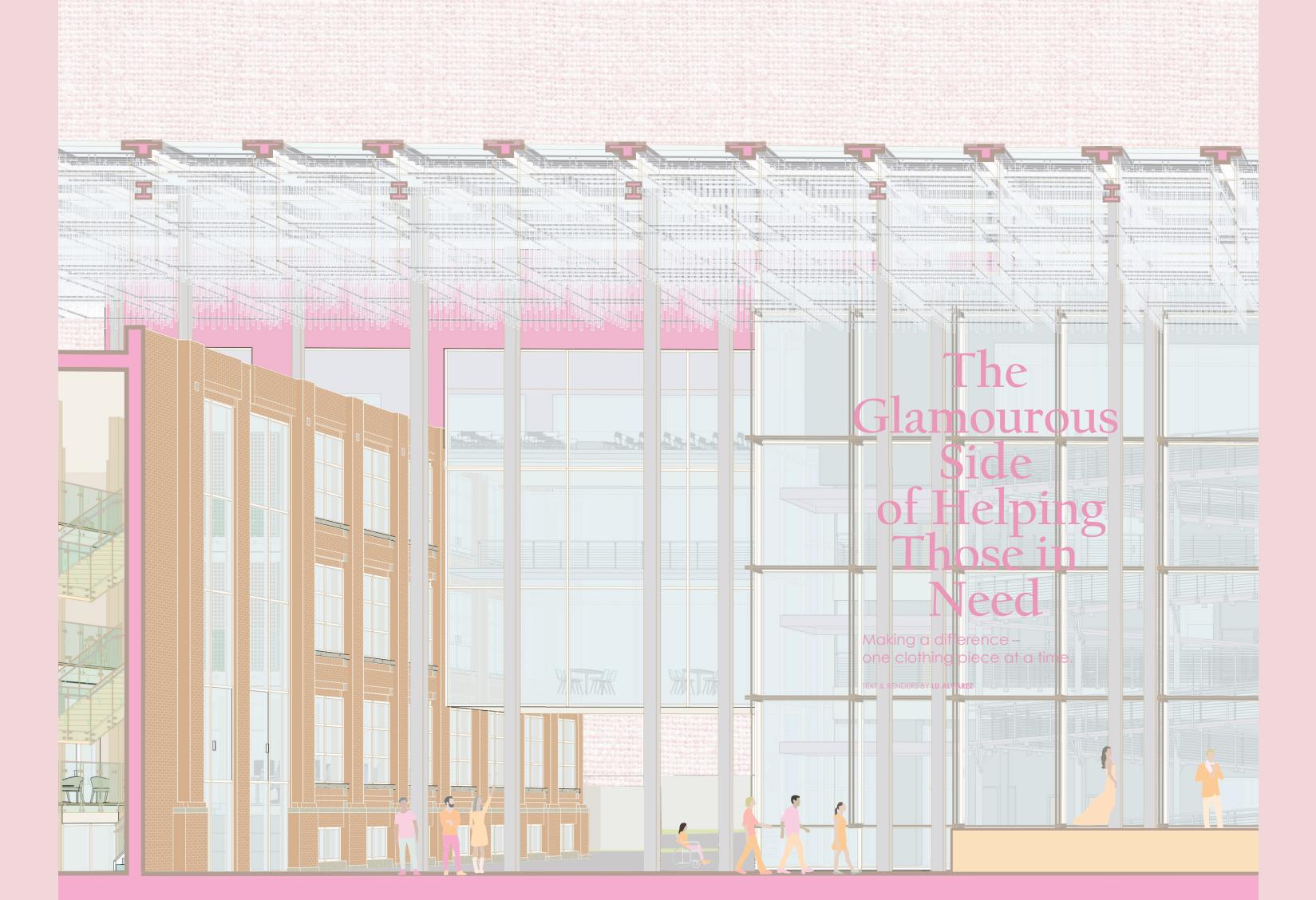


#### 2. DENIM JEANS

Available for all body types, a pair of jeans can be used casually or styled for a more elevated look perfect for a relaxed business style.



3. BLAZER Perfect for layering and transforming an outfit from casual to formal wear. Available in neutral colors and vibrant options for a pop of color.





#### 4. BUTTON DOWN SHIRT

Ideal for a professional setting for both men and women but can easily transition into a casual look. A go to staple in anyone's wardrobe.



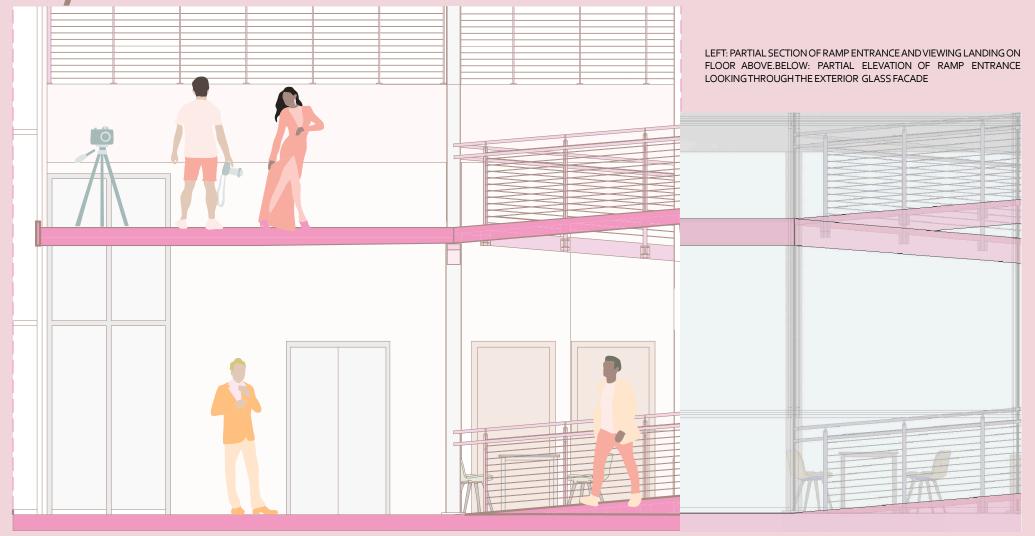
#### 5.LITTLE BLACK DRESS

Simple yet classy. LBD can be used for a variety of occasions ranging from casual meet ups or formal events. An easy way to make a good impression.



#### 6. SNEAKERS A fashionable yet comfortable piece that can be used casually with jeans or paired with a dress or suit for a modern look.

### Impressions standards



ashion is crucial because it sets a tone for how people present themselves as seen through impressions. Impressions are the first thoughts people perceive when experiencing something new Pet-

er Zumthor believed that "he could enter a building, and in a fraction of a second — have this feeling about it".

Likewise, clothing does the same for a person and how they are perceived by others when walking into a room. The pieces of clothing one wears increase self-confidence. The right piece of clothing in the right situation can boost a person's mood and completely transform them. Wanting to look presentable is not about vanity, it's about wanting to make a good impression. The sensation one perceives when seeing the façade of a building is like that of seeing a new face. It is said that "architecture affects us emotionally before we can consciously understand it".

Similarly, societal standards have set the tone for how people present themselves and judg

ment takes over before being able to truly get to know someone. The underlying theme of fashion and architecture noted that the rise of the fashion industry has created a domino effect in which the overproduction of garments has led to vacated buildings being at large.

Fashion schools produce many clothing pieces that never see a Fashion Week runway but can make a difference in lives. The idea behind intertwining the fashion school with a resource center is so that the fashion students could help create something that will make the people feel important, comfortable yet presentable. Most people think of the glamorous side of fashion, but a clean set of clothing can make a difference to those who have none.

Through the new addition, the building is designed with a ramp that serves as the main form of circulation that would easily allow users to reach all levels and those connecting to the existing building. For the fashion school, the ramp has a dual purpose, one being for accessibility and the other for entertainment since it can be used as an impromptu runway for fashion shows. As users approach the school through the plaza, users can immediately see the bright pink color of the ramp.

Pink is a calming color associated with love and affection and is often associated with femininity. In fashion history, it was originally seen as masculine power often worn by royalty through hues of red and those of higher rank, in architecture pink is playful and correlates with optimism and energy which is what the client wants to bring to the community. While the school serves most of the building's program, the introduction of the resource center gives the school a greater meaning beyond providing education. The combination of the fashion institute with a resource center is set to instill power. The symbolism of power can be seen through a "power suit" or "power heels" and what it does to the person wearing them. Such fashion elements derive from creating a strong appearance. In the same way, the presence of a building type can lead to negative or However, for the resource center users, the ramp within the school gives greater meaning to their need for clothing assistance. From the first floor, they can privately enter and use shower rooms, cosmetology rooms, fragrance labs, and the clothing boutique before interacting with the school users. Once done using the hygienic amenities they can

take the ramp passing through the

school amenities that can often be

overlooked by the common user but

for them instills optimism. On the

upper floors they can access life skills

classrooms, and a writing center as

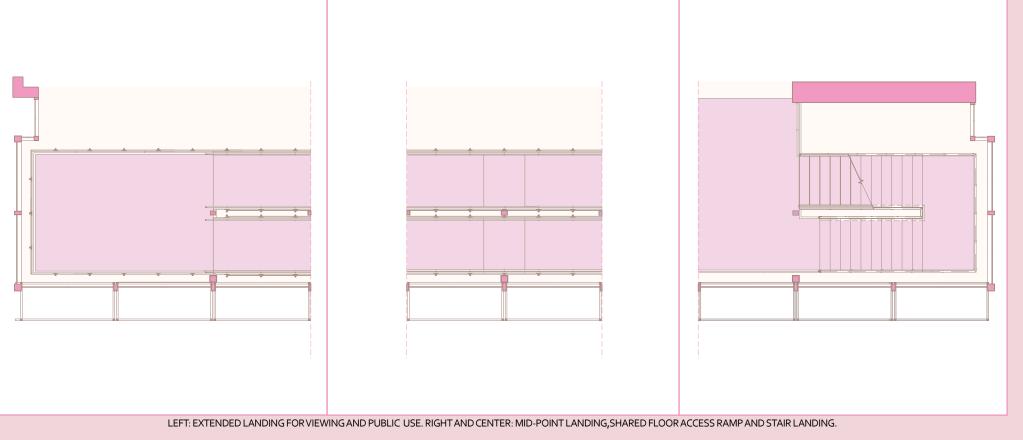
positive connotations of a location. Architecture can shape a community by establishing a strong appearance. For Bridgeport, this is essential in revitalizing a community that requires reshaping. The ramp is an essential piece in this project that creates a platform for the community to seek power. Despite the separate entrances for both user types, the ramp is set in a public location where it can be easily accessed by not only those going to the school but also by those using the resource center. "A runway does not simply present a collection of clothes against a background set design; it uses scenograp-

"A RUNWAY DOES NOT SIMPLY PRESENT A COLLECTION OF CLOTHES AGAINST A BACKGROUND SET DESIGN; IT USES SCENOGRAPHY MORE INSTRUMENTALLY AS THE SETTING" - Silvano Mendes

hy more instrumentally as the setting...".For the students, the ramp is a way to get from the café and exhibition rooms on the first floor to the library and class-room amenities on the upper floors. The ramp makes going to class fun.

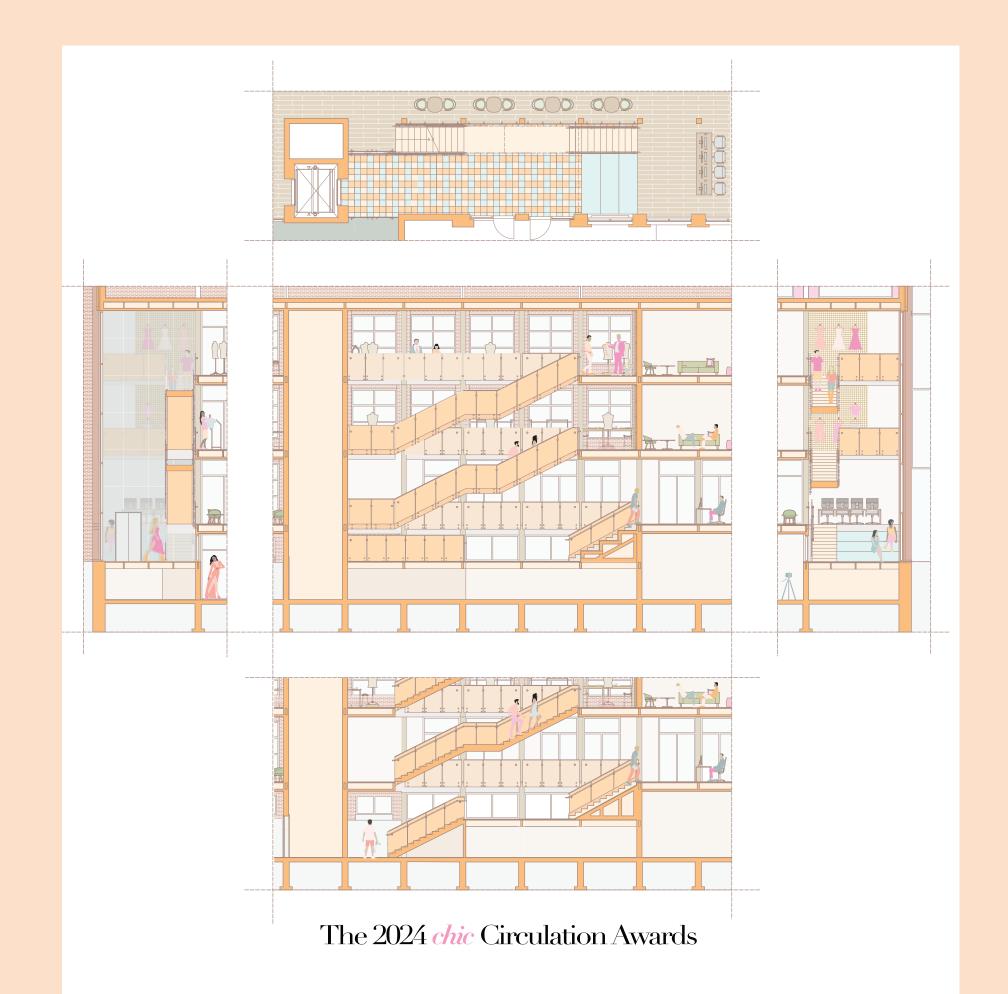
ROUND SET ENOGRAPHY NTALLY AS NG" ndes well as use the public-school amenities. At the end of the pink ramp, both users can access the rooftop that leads to a pink exhibition space that can be seen from the surrounding site. It is meant to symbolize the power of revitalizing a community that has long been abandoned and calling attention to the community to come together in this location. For people who have no one it can be challenging

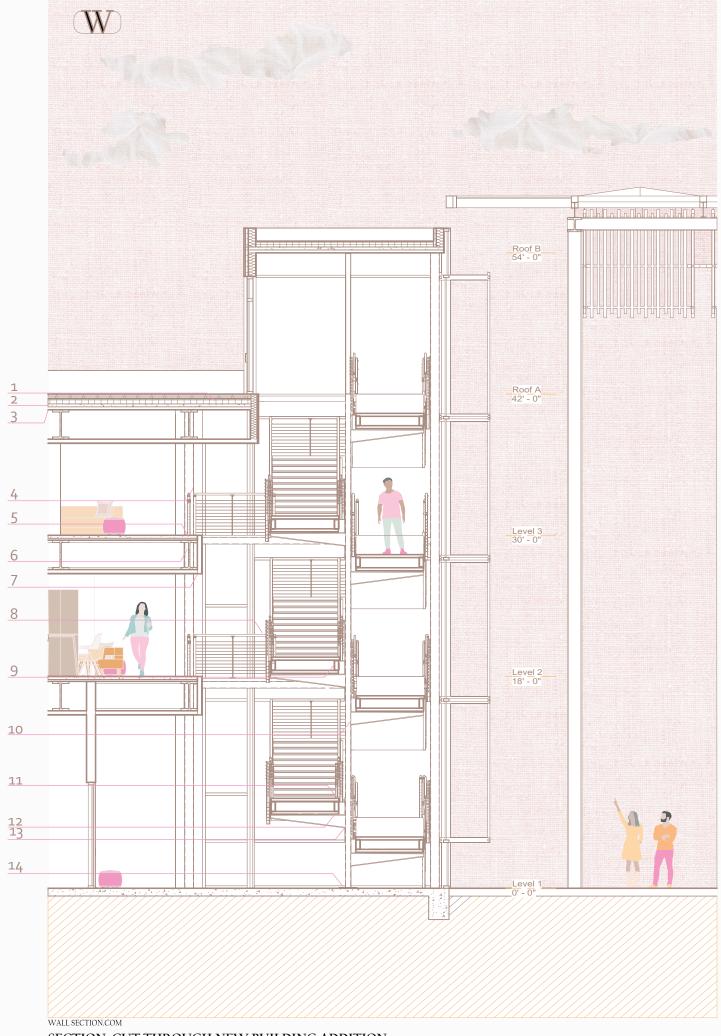
to keep going, through the color of pink the hope was that they would be influenced and feel the warmth of the color not only through their eyes but through their new found habits.



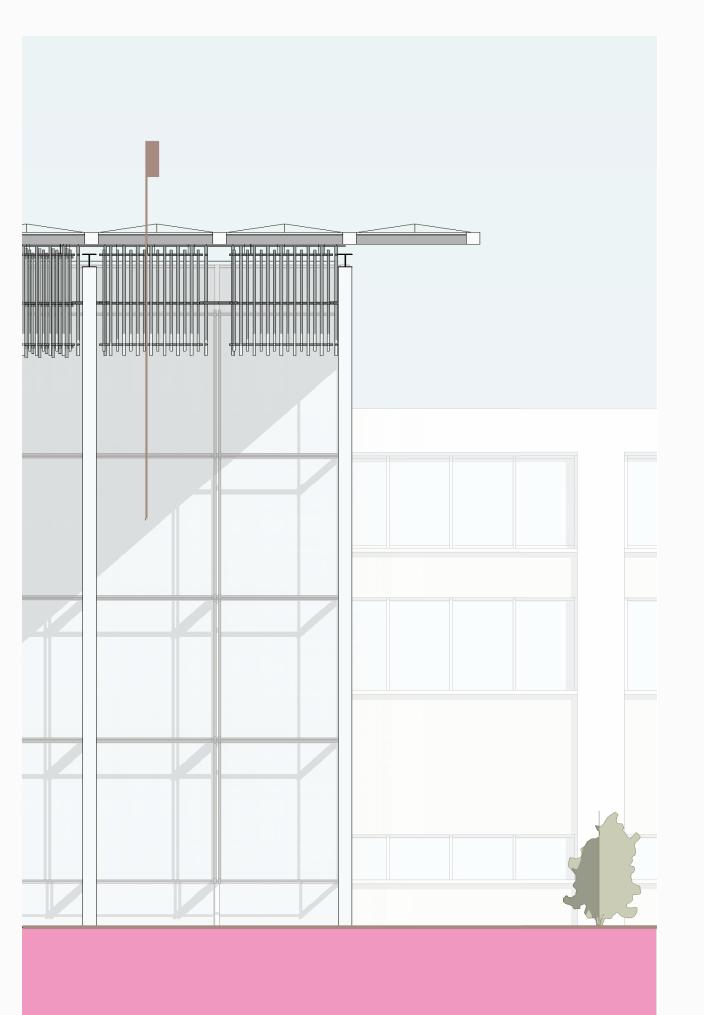


Ramps are the new stairs. PARTIAL RAMP SECTION | PARTIAL RAMP ELEVATION | PARTIAL RAMP FLOORPLAN





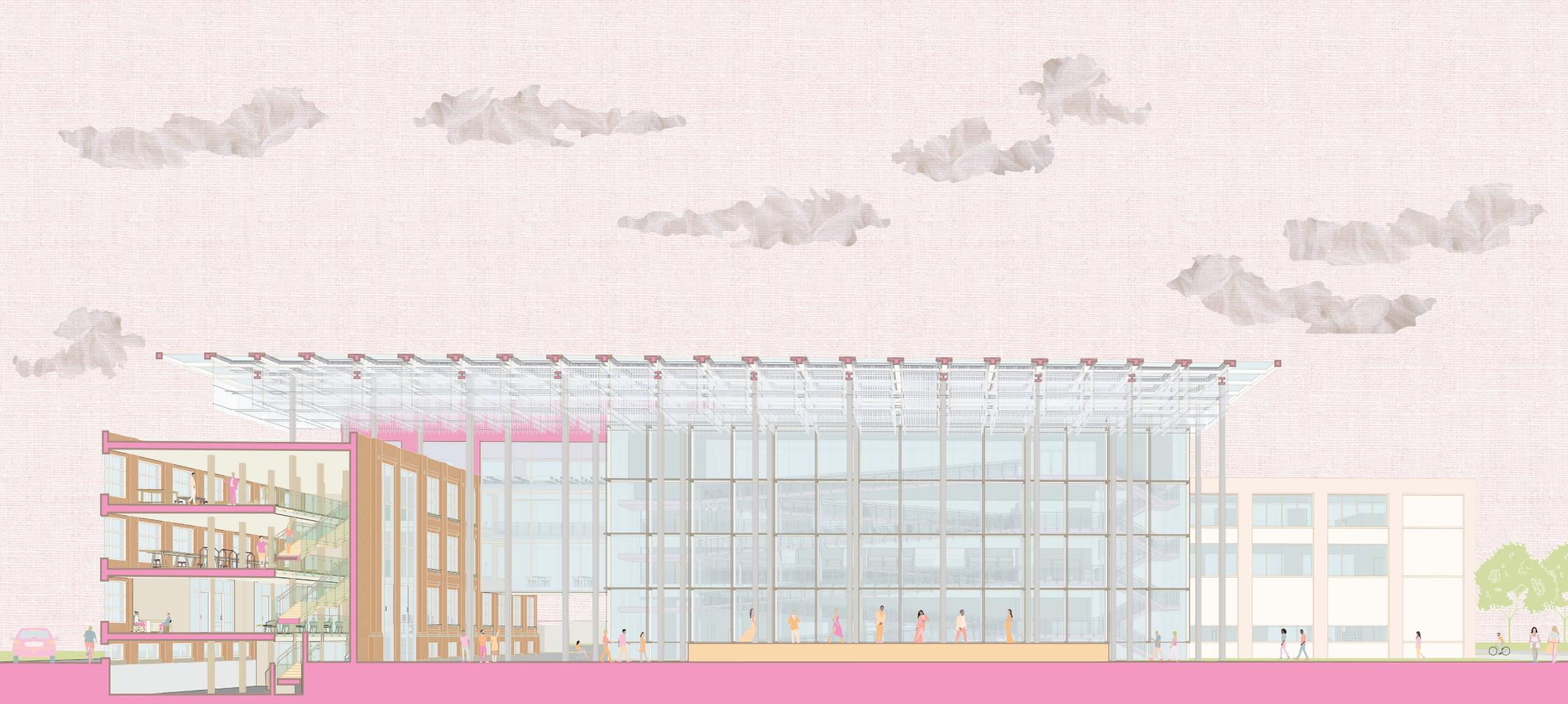
SECTION CUT THROUGH NEW BUILDING ADDITION 1)5" RIGID INSULATION 2)3" STRUCTURAL CONCRETE DECK 3)3" ROOF SHEATHING 4)W 8 STEEL COLUMN 5)3" CONCRETE METAL DECK 6)W 27 WIDE FLANGE 7)4" COMPOUND CEILING 8) CABLE INFILL RAILING



9)HSS 10 HOLLOW STEEL TUBE 10)HSS 7 HOLLOW STEEL COLUMN 11)RAMP ALUMINIUM FLOORING 12)RAMP ALUMINIUM COVERING 13)STEEL RAMP ARM 14)1" COLUMN BASE PLATE

ARE UNDRESS

С



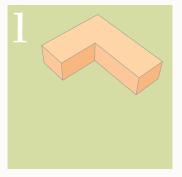
# UNDER ONE ROOF

# Reuse an EXISTING BUILDING

Repurpose a three-story, red brick paper box factory into a fashion institute. You can use the existing building or make a new one yourself.

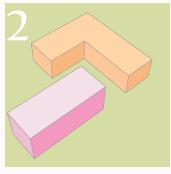
#### You will need

- abandoned building
- site research
- reuse of existing material
- new building
- proposal
- introduction of new materials
- modern safety regulations



STEP 1:

Locate an existing building to rescue it from abandonment. In this example, a three-story, red brick paper box factory abandoned in the early 90s was left to decay and created an eye sore for the surviving community. Only 40,000 sf of the 100,000 sf of the factory was kept to further develop the project.

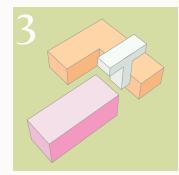


#### STEP 2:

Propose and develop a program to inhabit the abandodned building and renovaate to meet modern day needs. This building was propsoed to serve as a fashion school and resource center. To accomodate larger school functions and resource center a 40,000 sf addition was added to meet the needs of the school and public ammenitities.

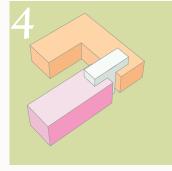
#### Note

The existing building being utilized in this project is a 52' x 168' three-story, red brick paper box factory with a raised basement level, segmental-archedwindow openings with brownstone sills, and a denticulated and corbelled brick cornice. The structural system is load bearing masonry with a gable roof covered in asphalt. The brick walls are in need of repair and the fenestration needs to be replaced, overall the building is structurally sound. The building is adjacent to main roads and visble to the public from the road.Located on the corner of Myrtle, Gregory and Atlantic, the building has road access from all three roads, sharing a two block site that now serves a repurposed porition of the existing factory.



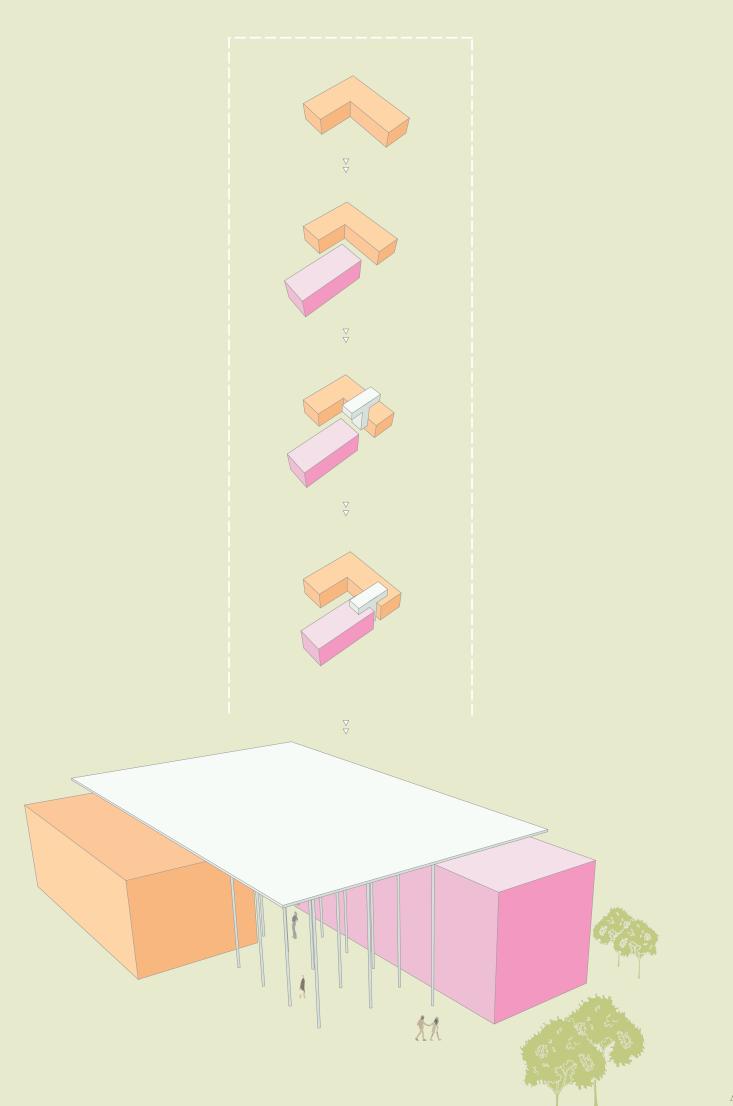
#### STEP 3:

Implement new materials that can create a bridge between the existing and the new. Finding a median between the existing and the new is crucial when it comes to respecting the integrity of the existing building while at the same time introducing modern elements.



#### STEP4:

Maintain a lightweight connection. If you are adding an addition to an existing building it is important to note that often times the existing structure is not the best suited to support extra weight. Contact your local engineer to ensure you do not make this mistake.

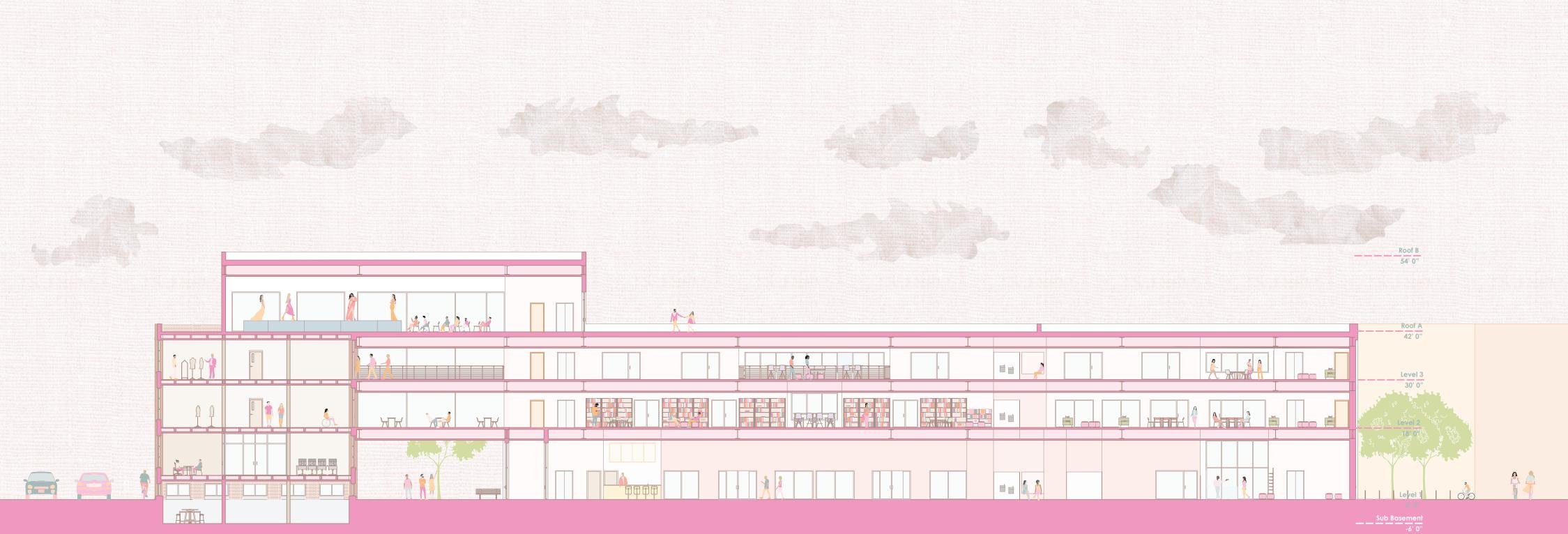


#### **POWER OF PINK** Eastern elevation of the existing

and addition sponsered by the color Pink, the color of power as

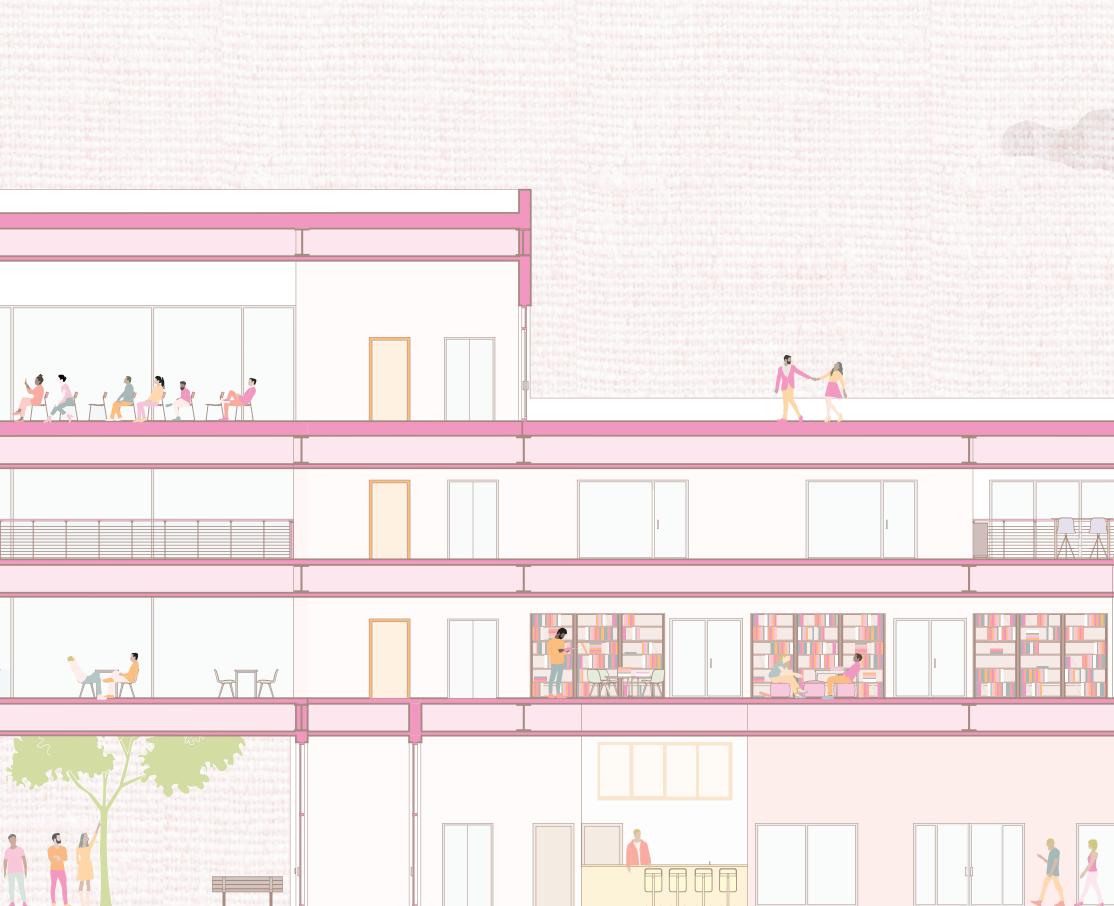


the integrity of the existing building while introducing a statement piece that made the site stand out amongst the forgotten



CATWALK ACROSS





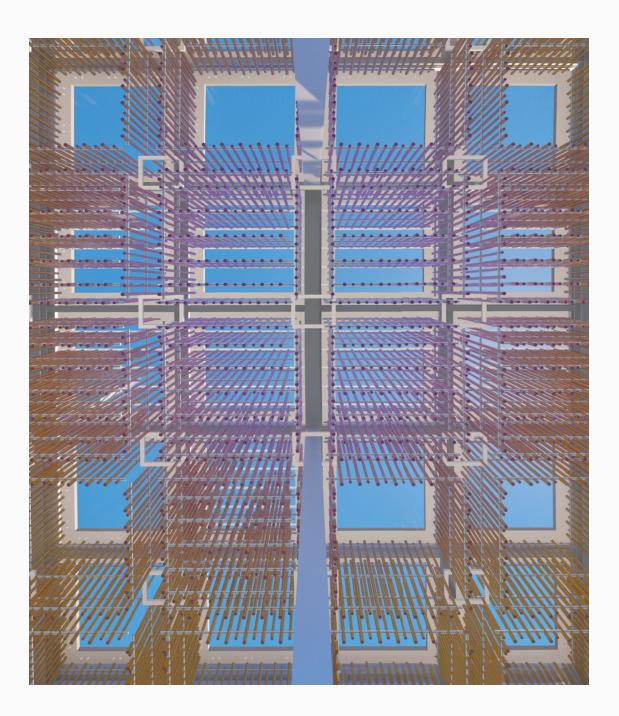
CATWALK ACROSS



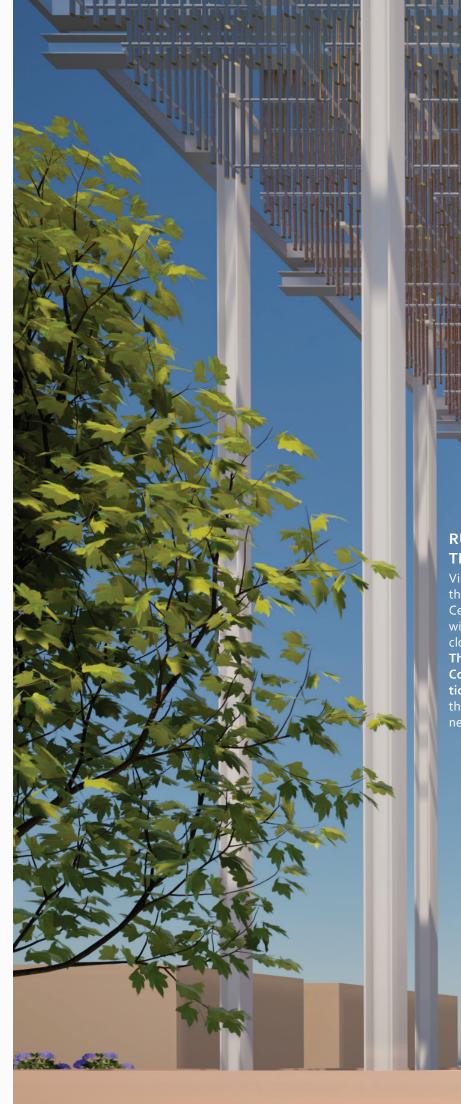


# THREADING CONNECTIONS

In between the existing and the addition lies a plaza that is cov-The plaza intends to create a



**PATTERNS IN THE SKY** ABOVE: Shading panels from **Threading Connections**;us.threading connections.com Iridescent acrylic rods "thread"down from the canopy into the "forest of needles" made up of steel columns from **Threading Connections**;us.threading connections.com

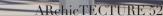


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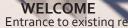
#### RUNTHE THREADS

Visitors of the Resource Center pose clothing from **Threading** Connections;us. threading con-nections.com



i - C y - C ki - C y

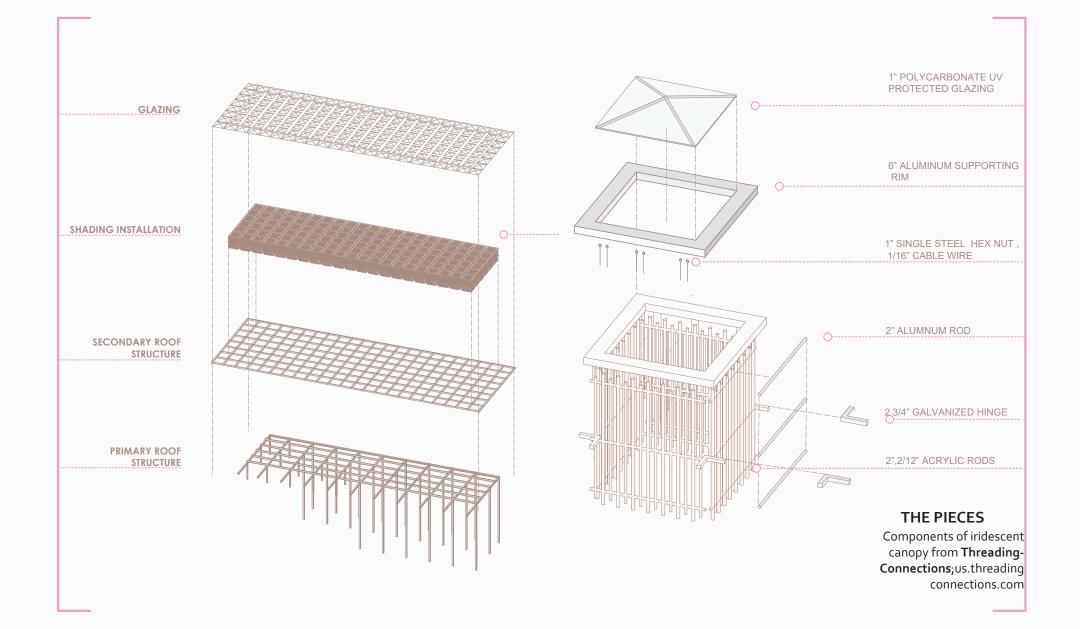
Real



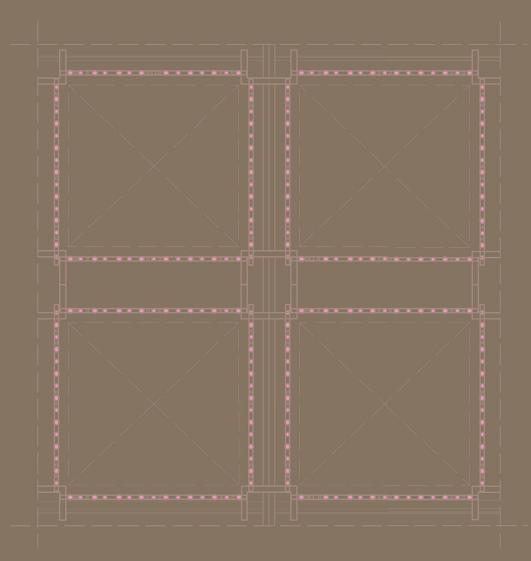
2 2 2 17 17

AREA IN INCOMENTATION OF THE REAL PROPERTY.

under iridescent canopy from ThreadingConnections; us. threading connections.com

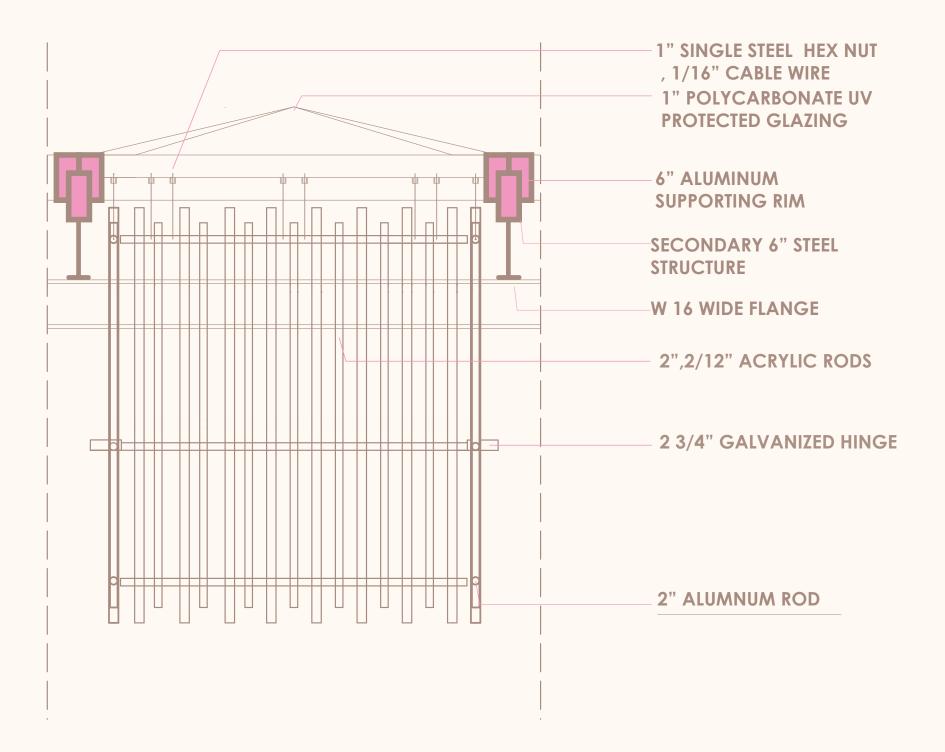


his is the location to be in the neighborhood to hold fashion shows, festivals, markets, craft fairs, and student exhibitions. The first reaction might have been that it is too large or not needed but on the other hand, it is an opportunity to bring life back to an old part of town that is filled with decaying buildings. It is meant to bring life as seen through the experiences of the people visiting the location whether it be for a clean set of clothes or learning about fashion. Storytelling sets the atmosphere for a moment to pause and listen. As mentioned before fashion not only serves as a human need, but it makes an evolution in important changes in society. Every era has a look that defines the most important details and sets the base for improvement and innovation. New fabrics and applications develop daily opening doors to new and better ideas. Through this project, the materials of the existing provide a presence of history and give the built environment a place to hold the identity of the community. The introduction of the new building and its materials is to mark a change in time and start a change in the community. Architects must capture and captivate an observer's mind while being challenged to create a design solution that unwraps over time. The large roof added above the plaza is supported by a "forest of needles" that holds the roof 54 feet in the air with minimal points of contact with the existing structure to alleviate loads. The roof is composed of a pattern of iridescent acrylic rods held together by aluminum rods, cable wires, and an aluminum supporting rim, resting on a secondary roof structure and primary structure. At first, the roof began as a covered walkway that would protect the users from natural elements, but its true purpose was unwrapped from the possibilities of connecting people.



Threading Connections

CONNECTING A COMMUNITY UNDER ONE ROOF



### **STITCHING**

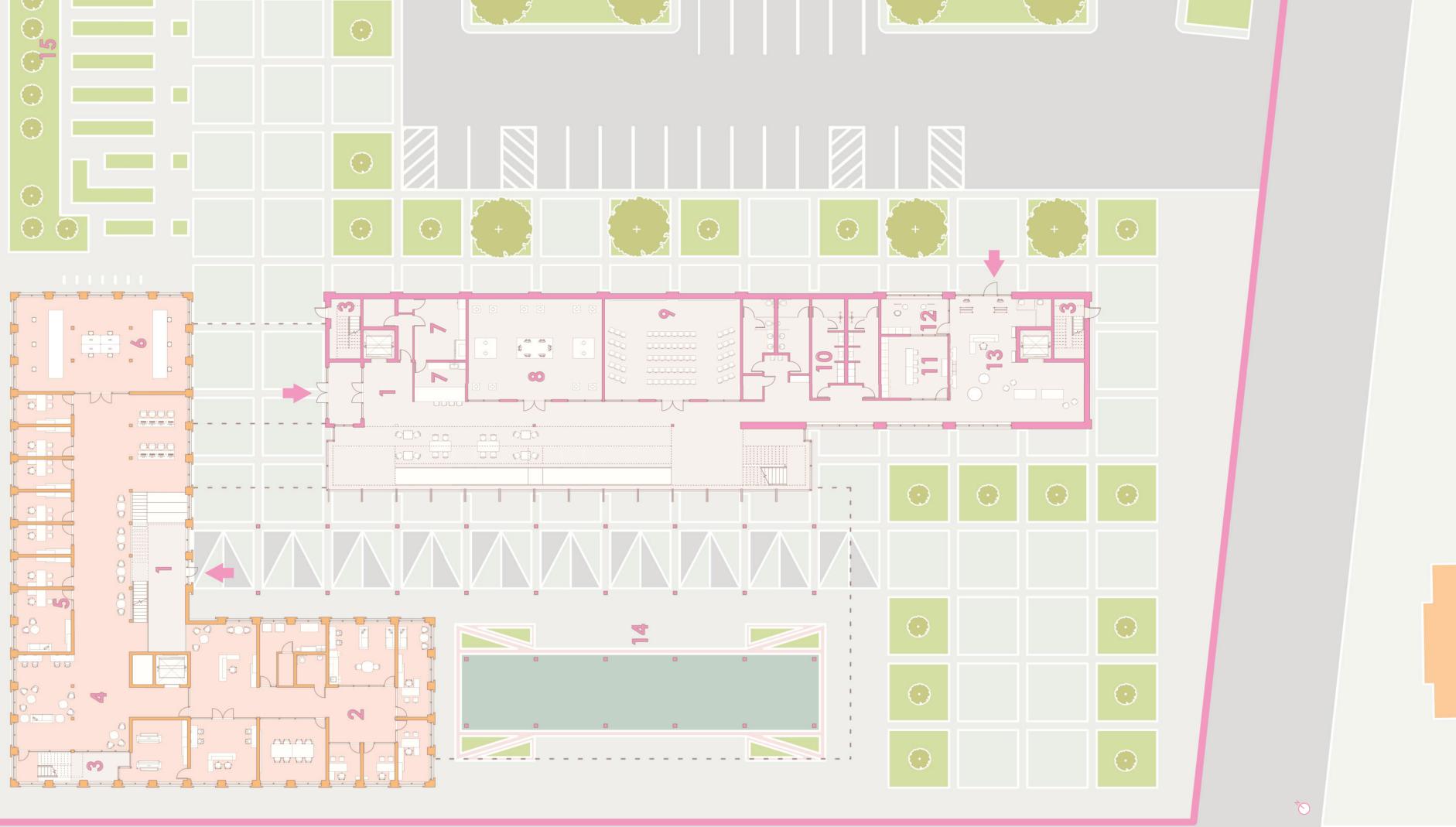


BEHIND THE PLANS THAT CROSS STITCHED THE BUILDING TOGETHER TEXT, ILLUSTRATIONS & RENDERS BY LU ALVAREZ  he existing building lies on the corner of the site, creating the initial cross stitch to get the project started.Using

relied on the numbers and sequences used by the old factory. Picking up where somewhen left off in their embroidery requires the need to carefully analyze the steps needed to achieve the same pattern. Likewise, when designing the new building the designer was challenged to analyze the details to re-create a pattern with no instructions.



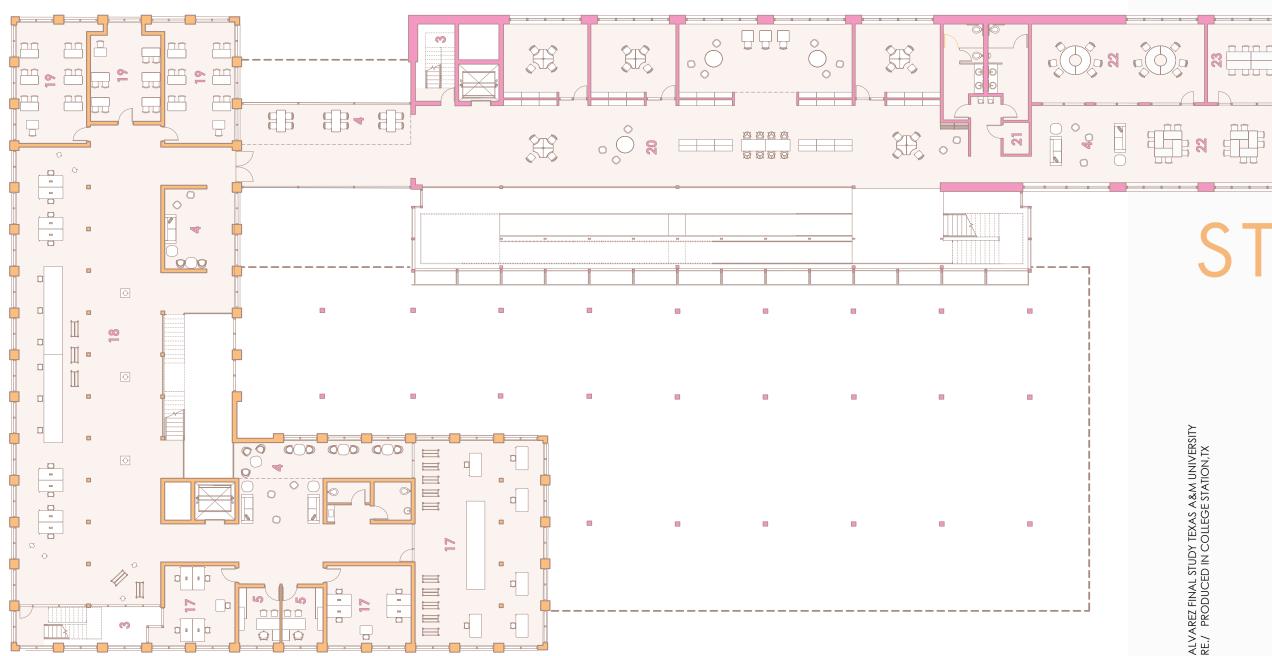
RehicTECTURE 58



1.Entry 2.Administration 3.Egress Stairs 4.Student Lounge 5. Professor Office 6. Media Lab 7.Cafe 8.Permanent Exhibition 9.Lecture Hall 10.Shower Rooms

59 ARchicTECTURE

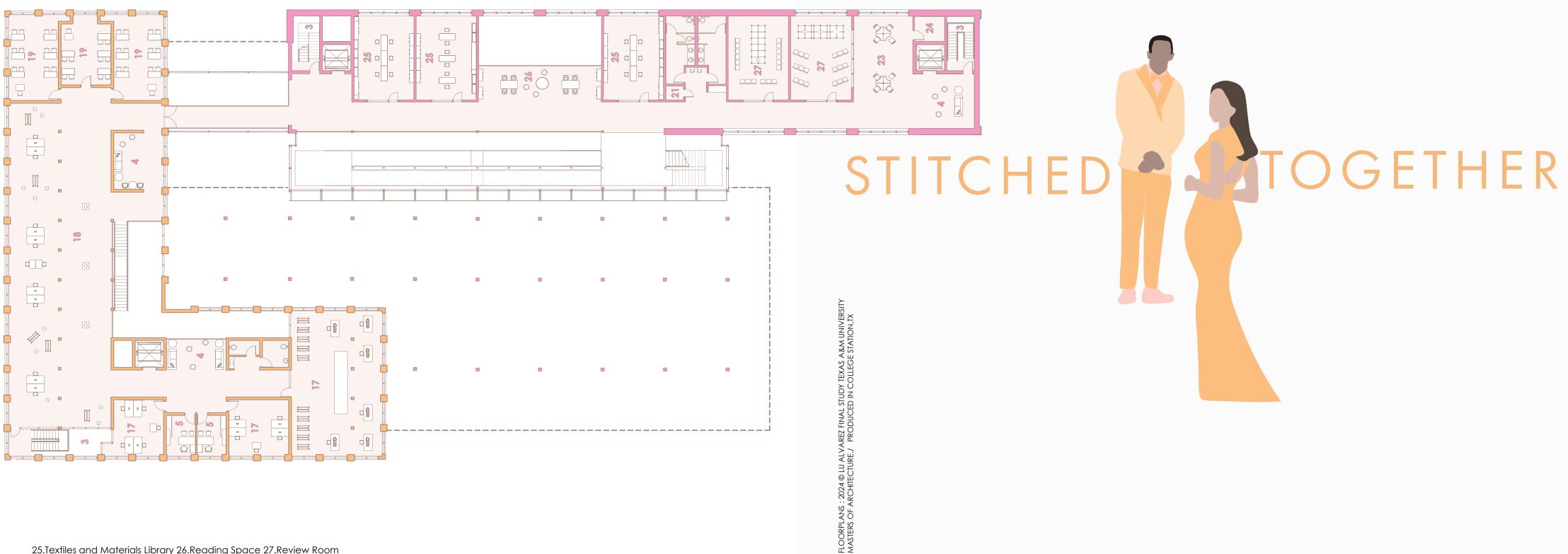
11.Cosmetic Lab 12.Cosmetic Salon 13.Clothing Room 14.Reflection Garden 15.Textile Garden



17.Garment Lab 18.Fashion Studio 19.Classroom 20.Book Library 21.Janitorial Closet 22.Life Skills Classroom 23.Writing Center24.Storage

61 ARchicTECTURE

# 24 ര 33 TOGETHER STITCHED

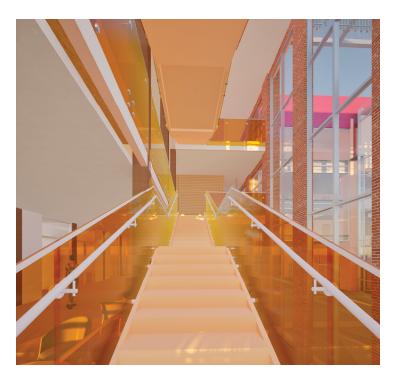




28.Multipurpose Exhibition

65 ARchicTECTURE





TAKE ME IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF FASHION ASSISTANCE

#### **BRIDGEPORT'S CHOICE**

Overall, what makes the resource center and fashion institute stand out from your typical goodwill or charity sponsor is the human connection. As stated before, fashion and architecture derive from the same human impulse for protection and shelter. The idea of human connection is set through the values and bonds we form with one another. This is important because it is what sets forth the quality of life we have. Not everyone is fortunate enough to have a support system to alleviate moments of weakness and help them get back up. Clothing as Shelter is a project that began with an investigation to cease the overproduction of garments but developed into a focus on everyday environments aiding physiological and physical benefits as seen through fashion and architecture.

WORKPLACE CLOSET

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# WORKPLACE CLOSET





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BRIDGEPORT FASHION INSTITUTE CLOTHING AS SHELTER