Abhimata Nursilo

Selected Works



01

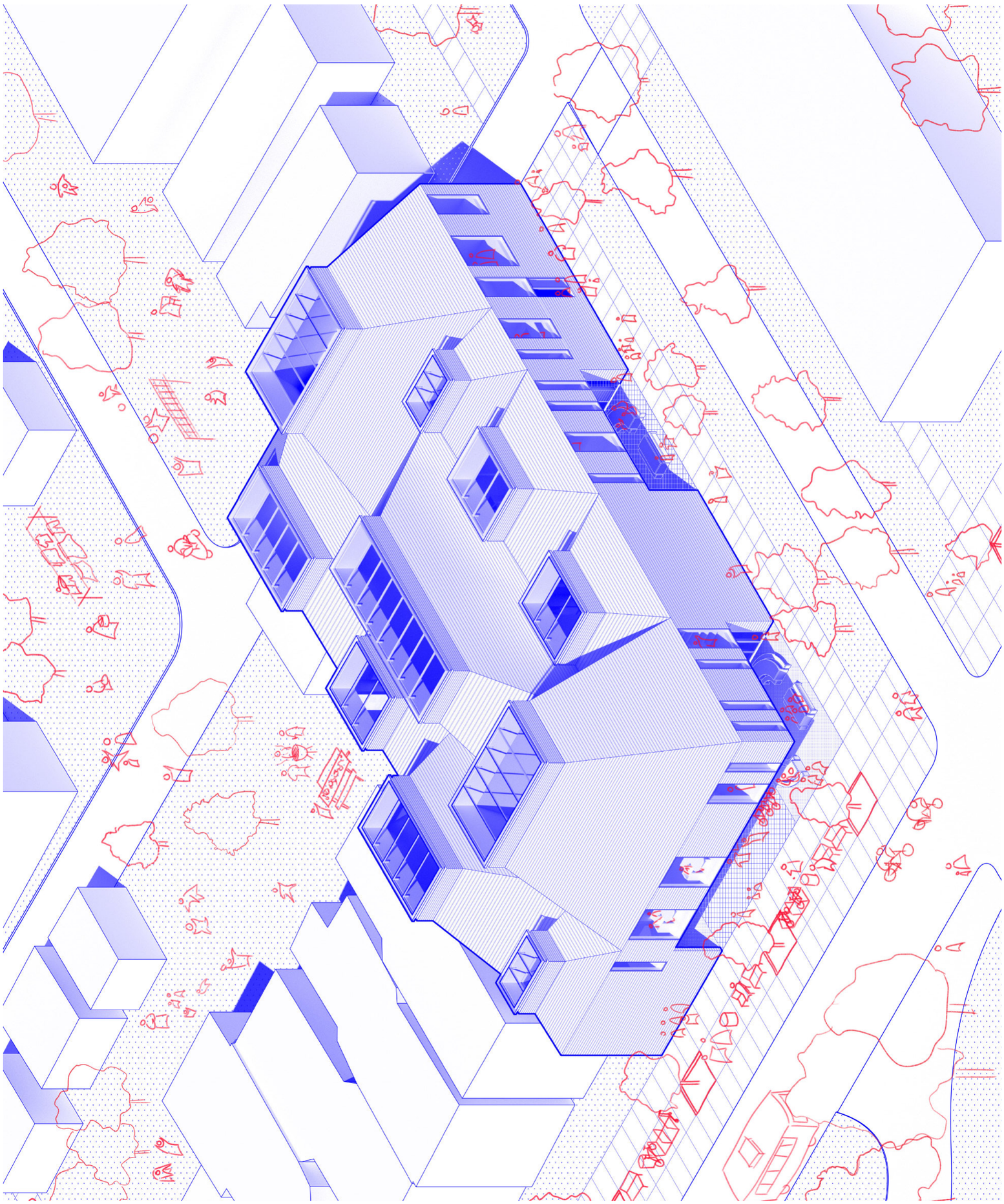
Dining Labaratories

Abhi Nursilo, Carolina Gonzales
5th Year Studio
Spring 2024
Instructor: Iker Gil, Michel Rojkind
Location: Humboldt Park & East Garfield Park, Chicago



Chicago's historic boulevard system, often referred to as the Emerald Necklace, stitches together parks and neighborhoods through a continuous network of green spaces. This idea of connection extends beyond the scale of the city, offering a way to reconsider the relationship between the spaces where food is researched, experimented with, prepared, and ultimately eaten.

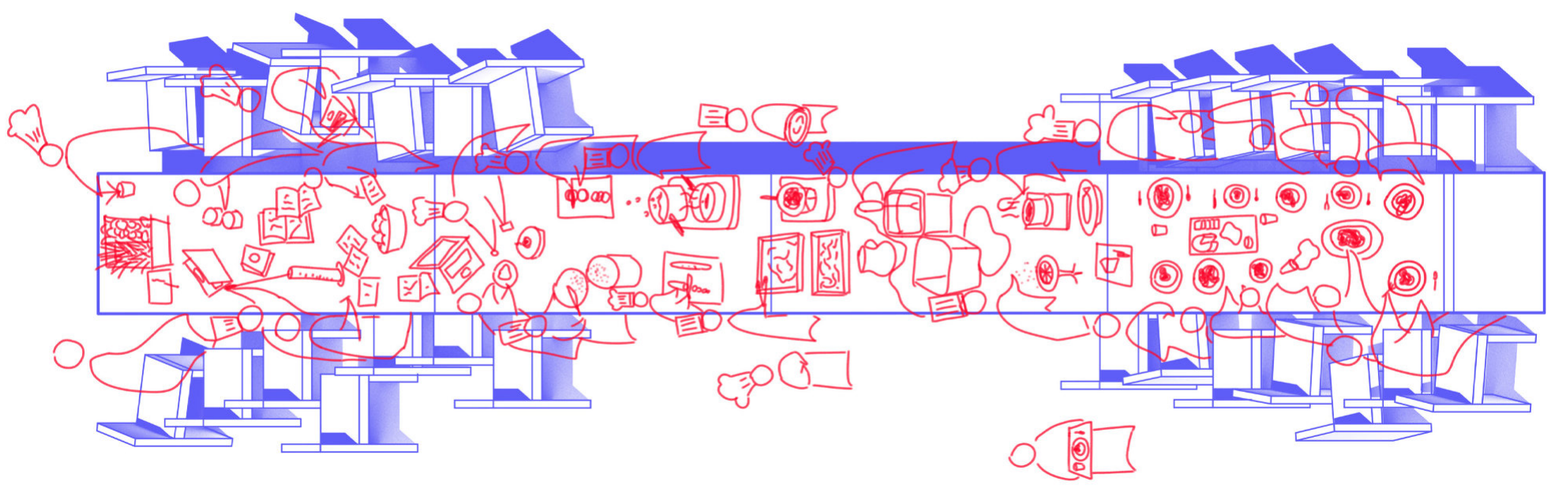
The spaces where food is prepared, studied, and experimented with are often separated from the places where we eat it. We began by questioning that separation, imagining a building where these activities could exist alongside one another. Food became a way of bringing together people with different interests, whether they were learning to cook, developing a business, or simply sharing a meal. We explored how the progression from experimentation to preparation and dining could inform the building's organization. These activities gather around a central dining hall, creating a shared space where the processes surrounding food become part of a larger public experience. Situated along Chicago's boulevard system, the building offers a new place for exchange within the neighborhood.

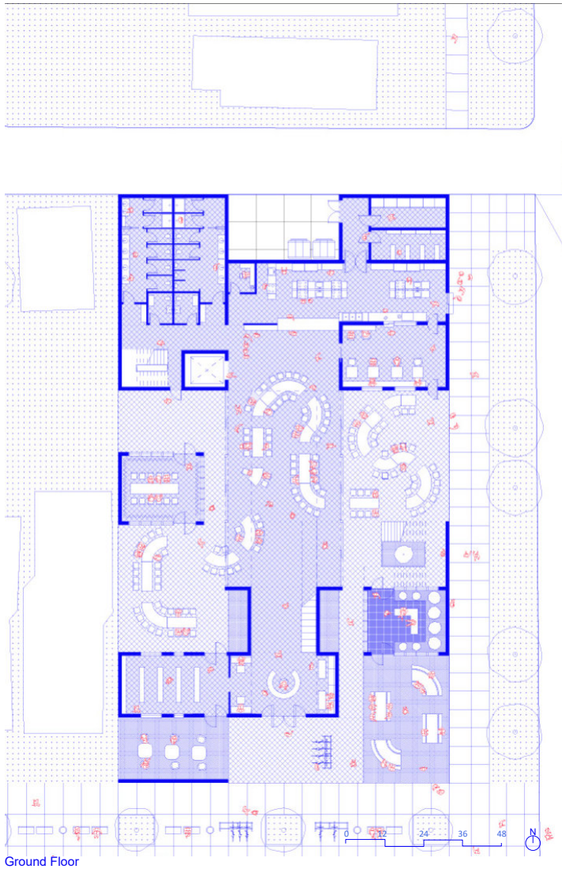


Research/Experiment

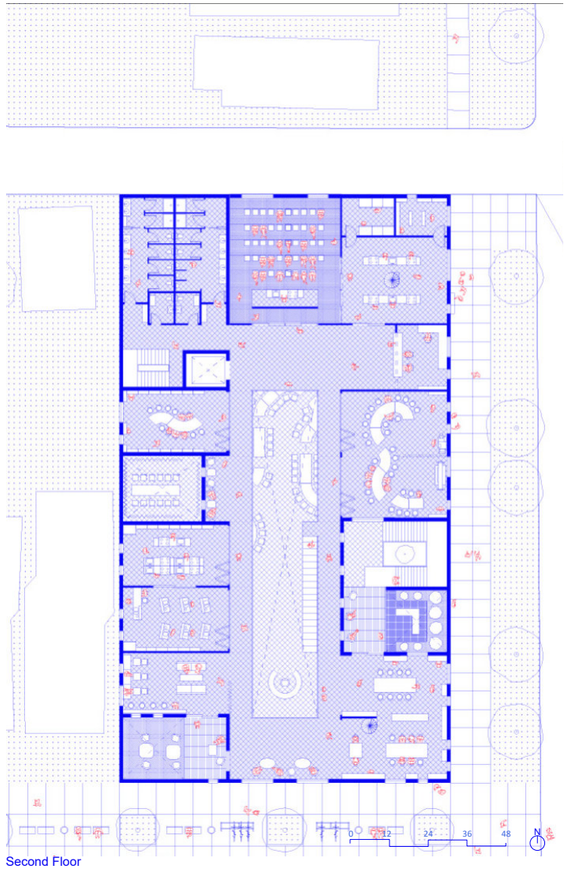
Cooking/Testing

Eating/Serving





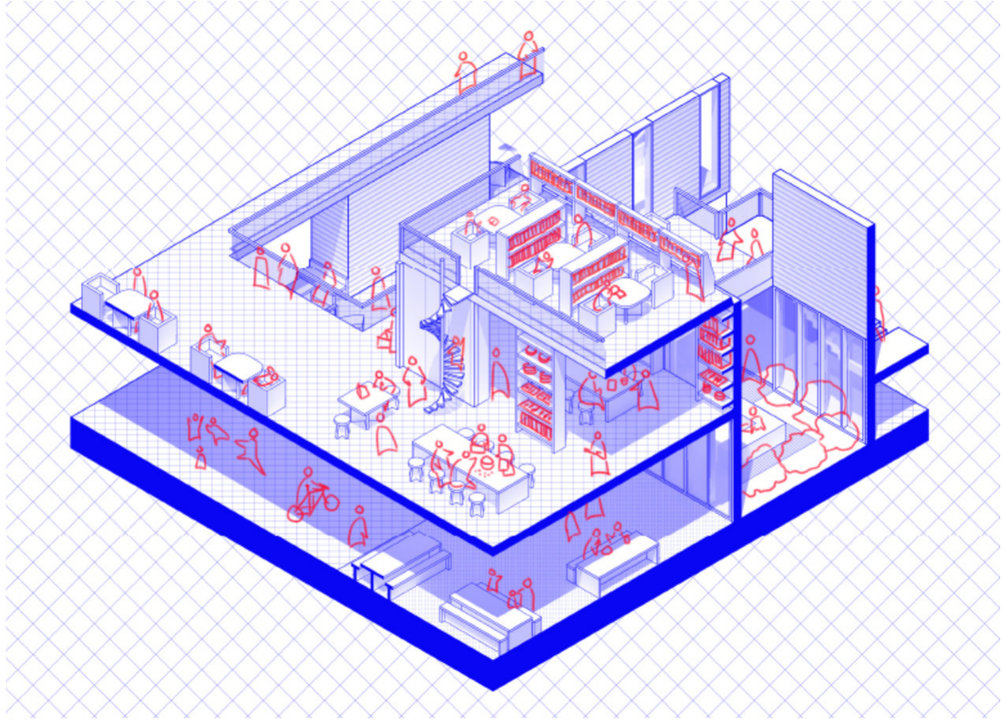
Ground Floor



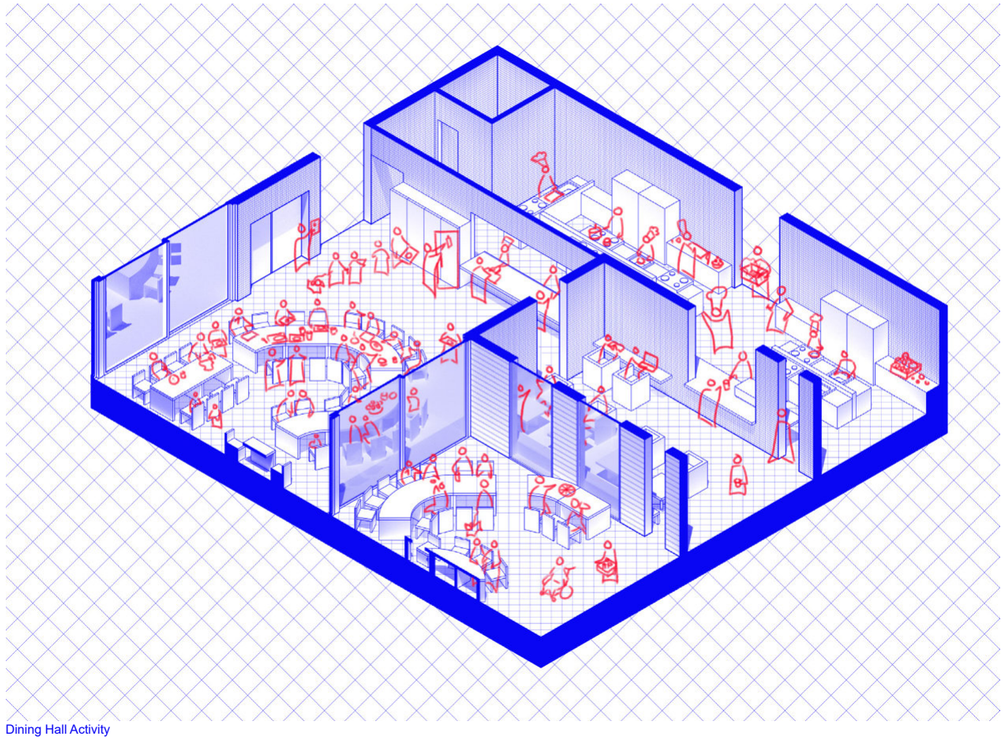
Second Floor



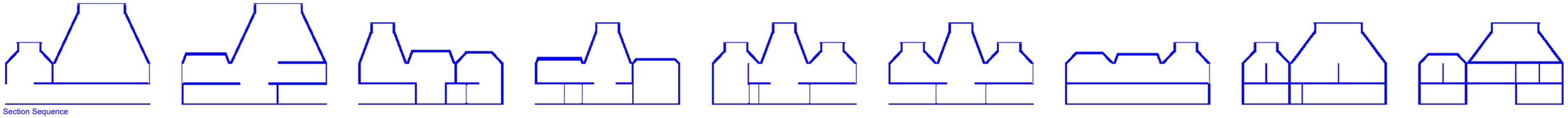
Dining Hall Activity



Culinary Activity

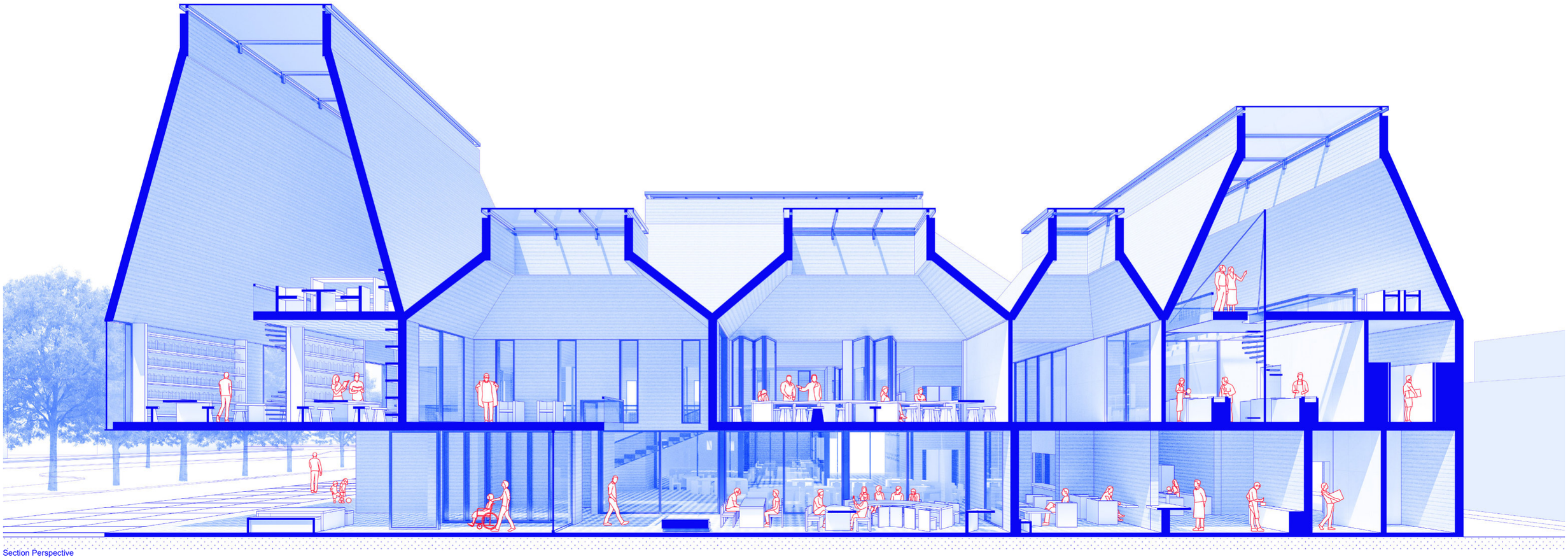


Dining Hall Activity



Section Sequence

Variations in sectional height establish a series of interconnected spaces, each with its own scale and atmosphere.



Section Perspective

02

South Shore Street Hall

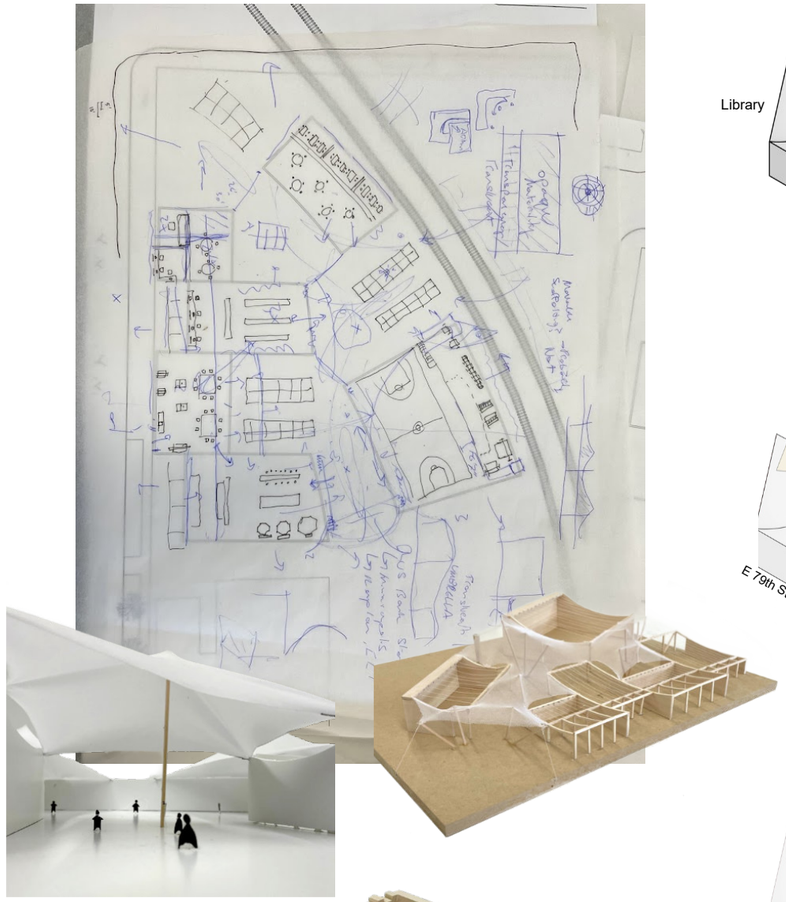
Abhi Nursilo and Sam Larsen
4th Year Studio
Fall/Spring 2022
Instructor: Andy Tinucci
Location: South Shore, Chicago

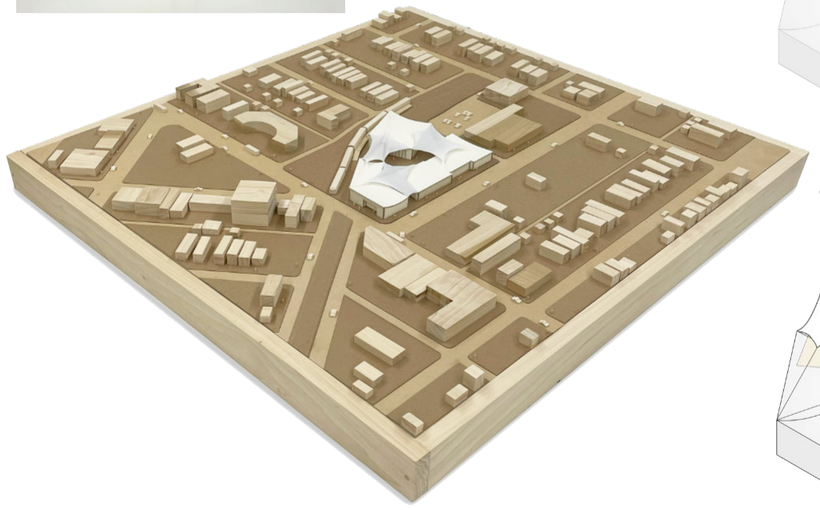


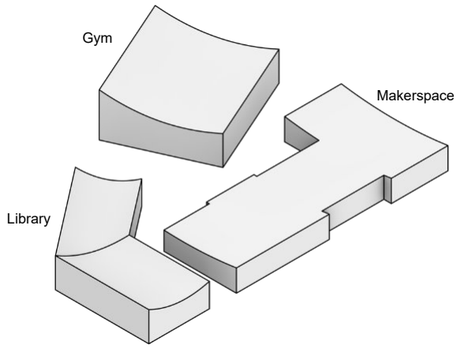
The train line running through the site became a starting point for exploring how movement and circulation could shape the architecture. Looking at the arcade typology throughout history, circulation was considered not simply as a means of getting from one place to another, but as a space for gathering, activity, and exchange.

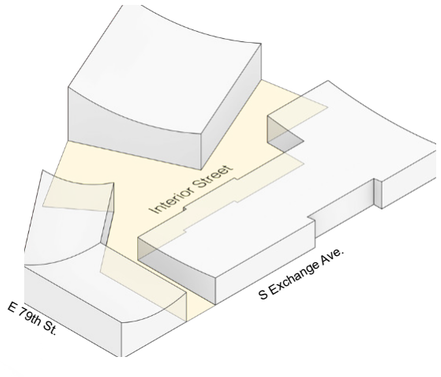
These ideas developed into a campus organized around an interior pedestrian street, where a library, gymnasium, and makerspace form a series of interconnected public spaces. The placement of these programs creates smaller plazas and passages throughout the site, while operable facades allow activities to extend beyond the building and into the surrounding neighborhood. The resulting campus becomes an extension of the street itself, where circulation is as much a part of the program as the spaces it connects.

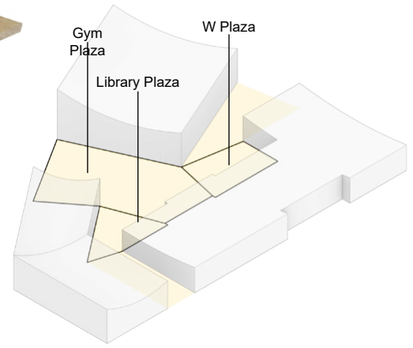
The interior street becomes the organizing element of the campus, connecting individual programs while creating opportunities for gathering along its path.

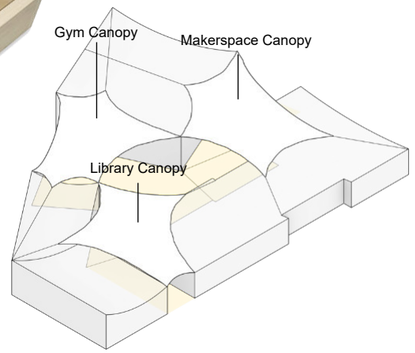


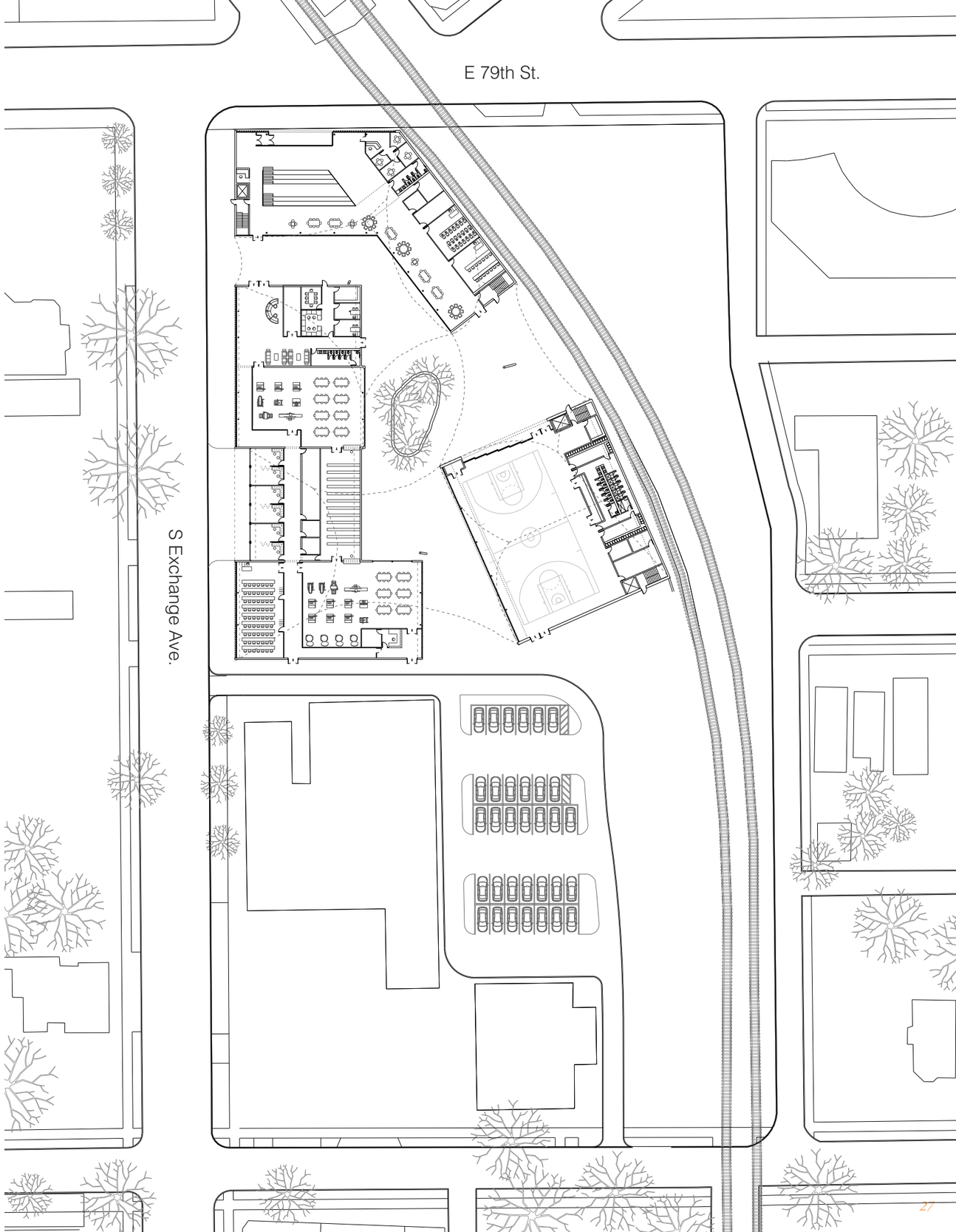








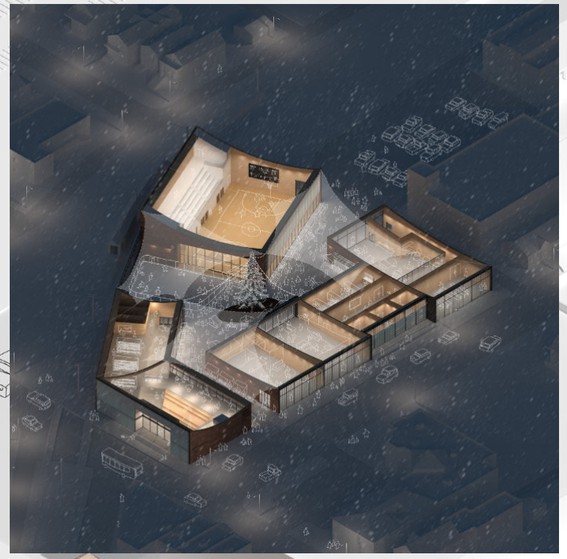


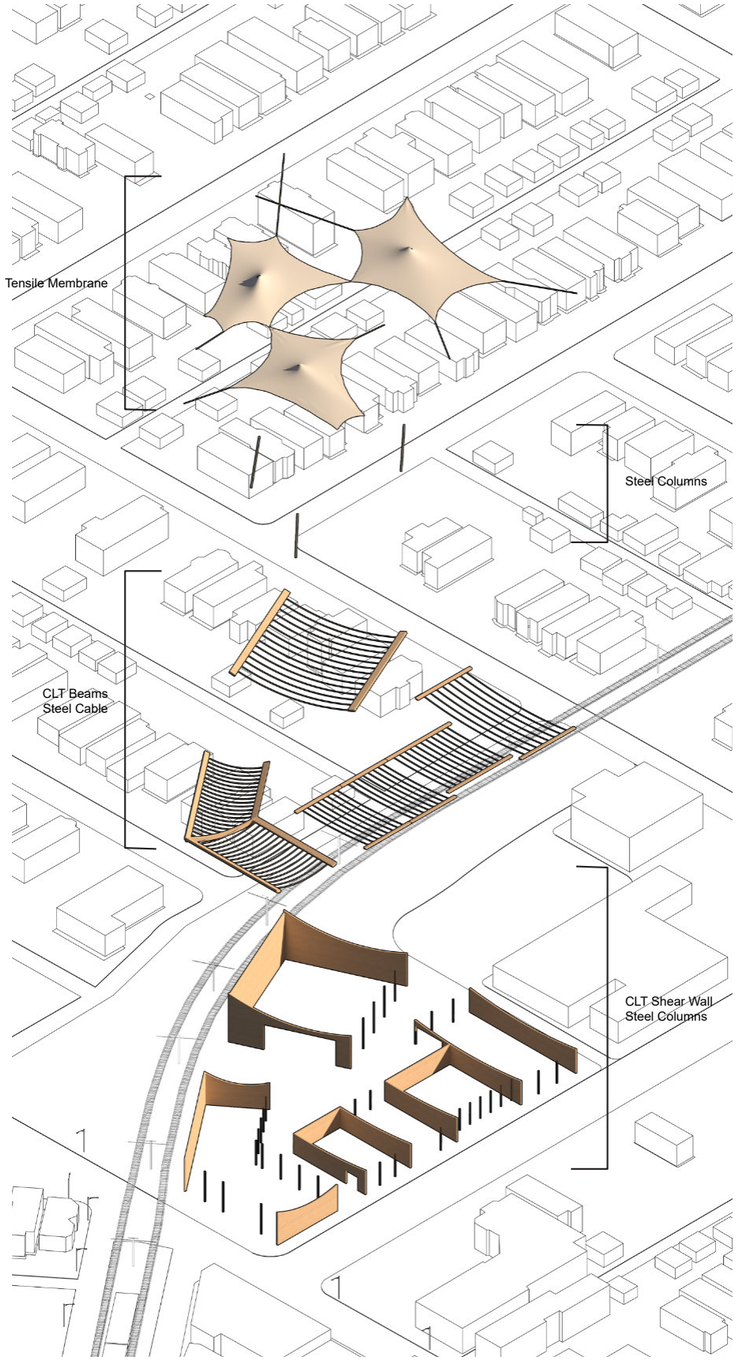


Ground Floor



2nd Floor







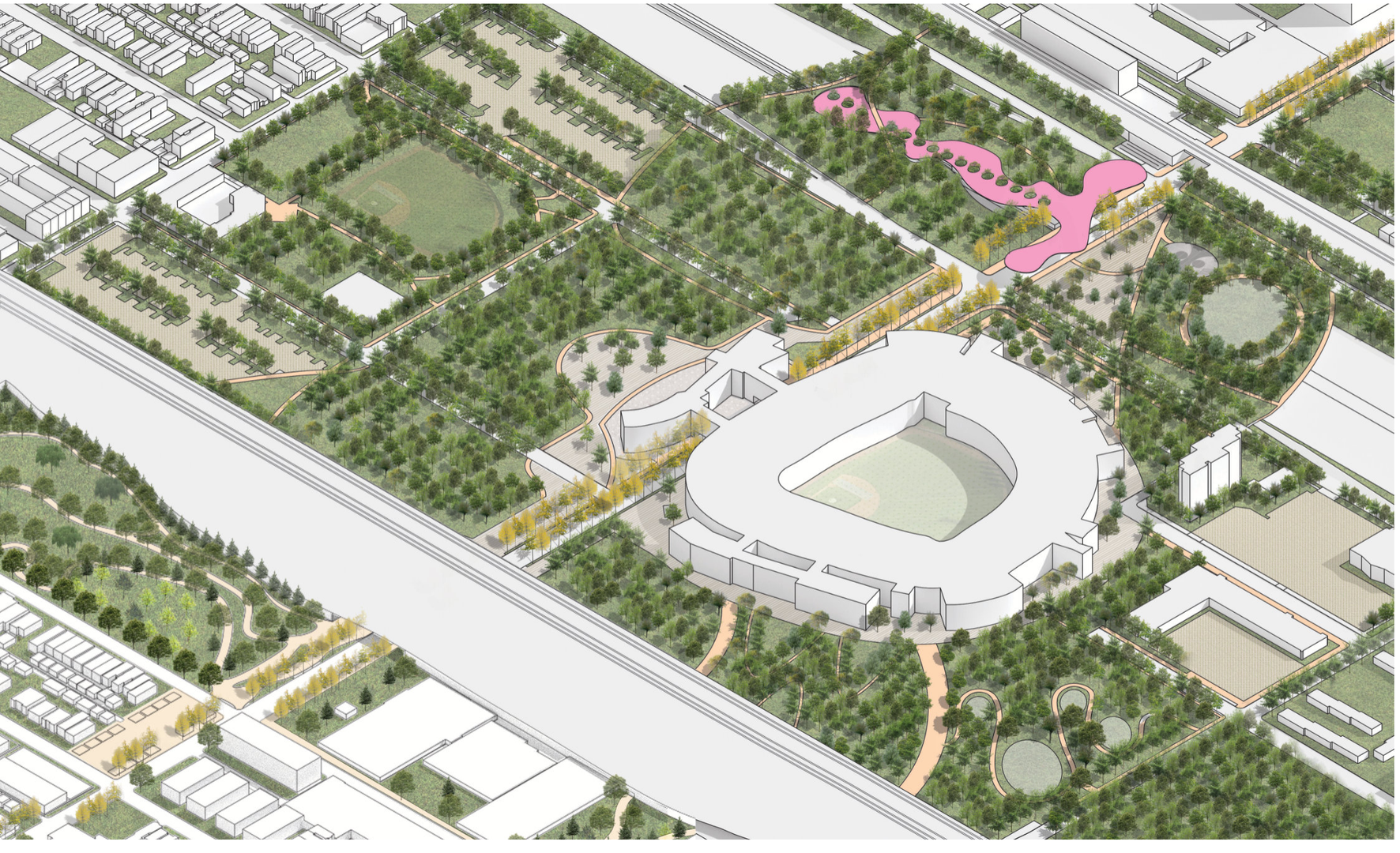
A combination of timber, steel, and tensile elements establishes the structural framework for the campus.



03

35th Street Arboretum

Abhi Nursilo, Carolina Gonzales, Samra Shahid, Galilea Ines
5th Year Studio
Fall 2023
Instructor: Dirk Denison, Maria Villalobos, Justin Degroff
Location: Bridgeport and Bronzeville, Chicago



Traditionally, arboretums exist as defined landscapes, often separated from the surrounding urban environment. The 35th Street Arboretum challenges this boundary, exploring how the landscape of an arboretum could instead become part of the city itself. Extending Chicago's lakefront ecology into the neighborhoods of Bridgeport and Bronzeville, the project explores the relationship between nature, circulation, and the existing urban fabric.

A study of historical and contemporary arboretums provided an understanding of how planting strategies, pathways, and public programs have been organized over time. By layering these precedents onto the existing neighborhoods, new opportunities for pedestrian connections and ecological corridors began to emerge. The resulting network of paths, plantings, and public interventions transforms the arboretum from a singular destination into a landscape experienced through everyday life.



University of Padova Botanical Garden (1545)



Botanical Gardens of Montpellier (1593)



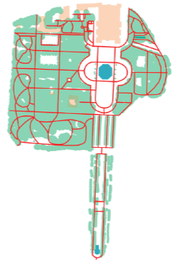
The Arboretum in Nanterre (2023)



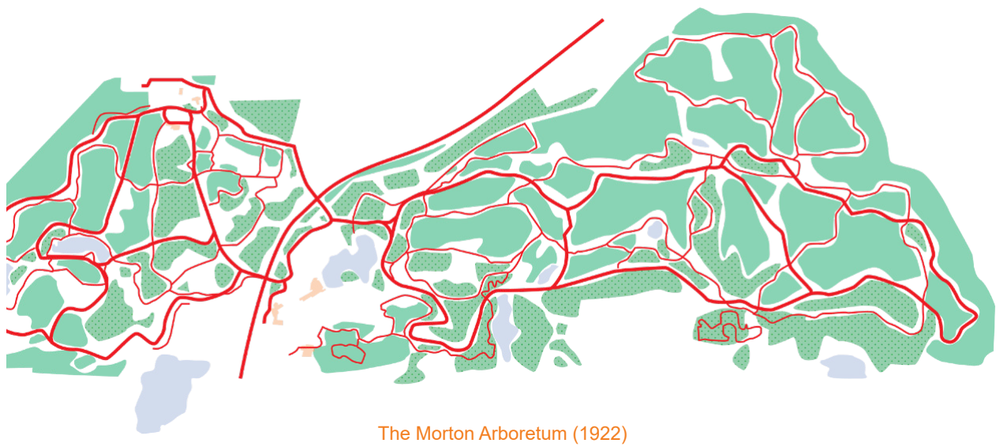
Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden (1808)



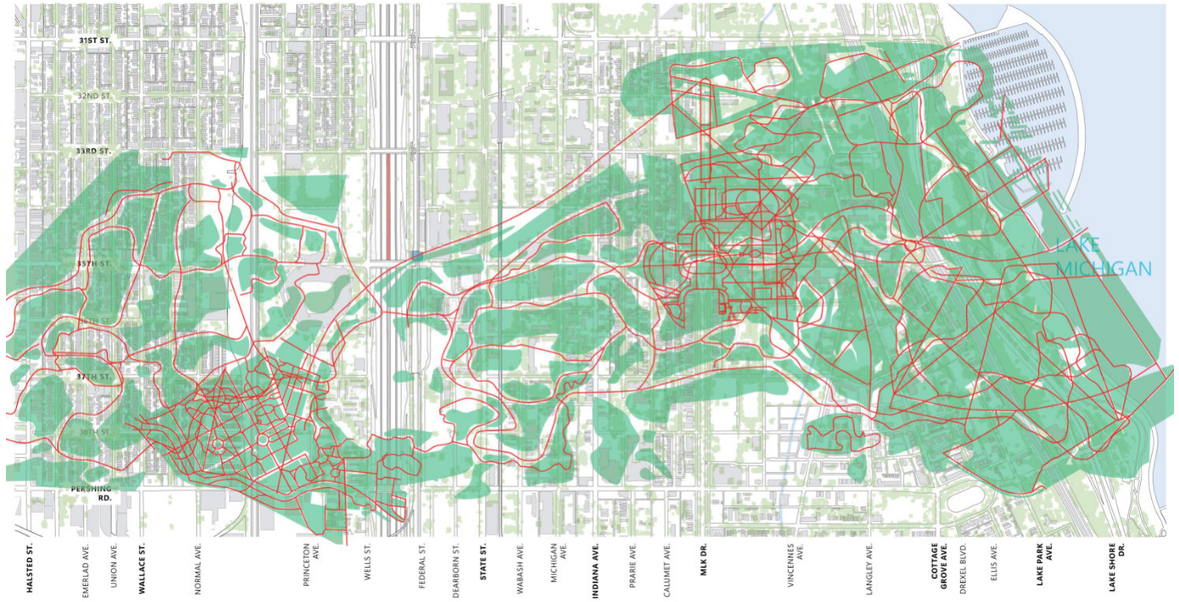
Parc du Sausset (1978)



Luxembourg Garden (1612)



The Morton Arboretum (1922)



Understanding the scale, programs, planting strategies, and pathways of historical and present arboretums provided a route to inhabiting the neighborhoods with an Arboretum.

Layering the researched arboretums to scale onto site led to moments of new dense pedestrian pathways, as well as integration of different planting schemes that could be layered over the existing tree canopy.

Rather than creating an arboretum within the neighborhood, the project explores the idea of having the neighborhood exist within the arboretum. The landscape extends beyond the boundaries of a traditional park, finding its way into existing streets, residential blocks, and public spaces. New pathways, tree plantings, and smaller interventions connect these spaces, allowing the arboretum to grow around the existing neighborhood. Instead of becoming a separate destination, the arboretum becomes part of everyday life, where homes, streets, and public spaces all exist within a larger connected landscape.





04

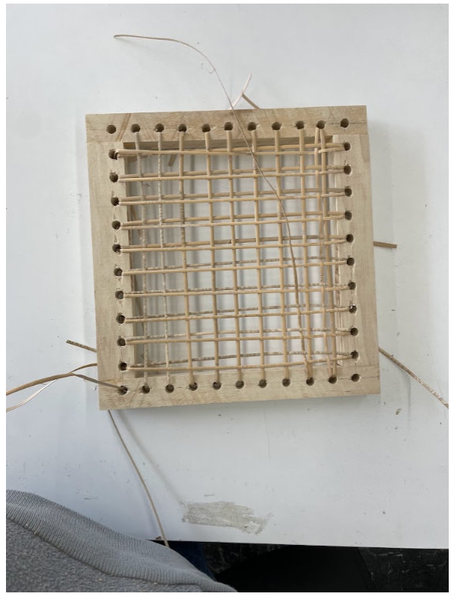
Rattan Stool

4th Year Alternative Chairs
Spring 2023
Instructor: John Kriegshauser

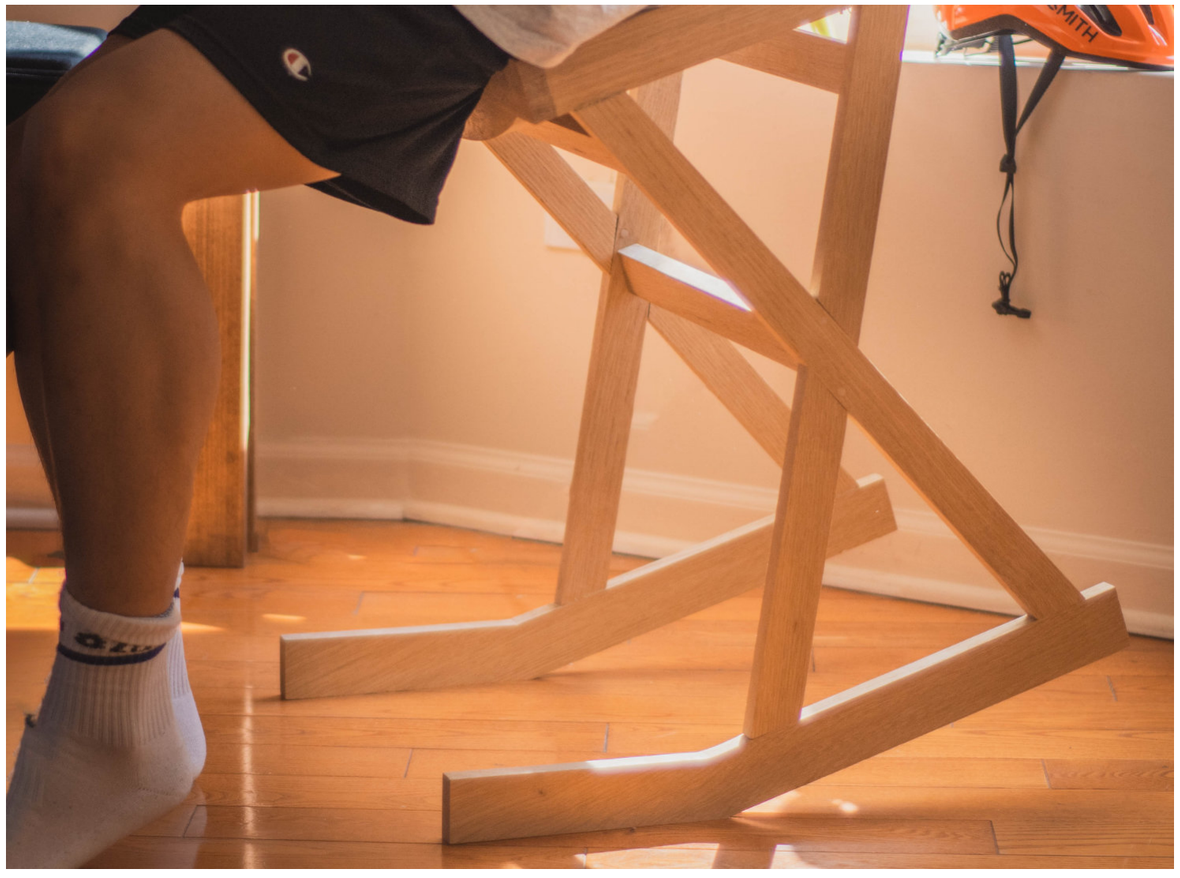


Unlike rigid materials, woven rattan has the ability to bend, flex, and respond to the weight of the body. Understanding these qualities led to an investigation into how the material itself could inform the shape and function of a seat, rather than simply act as its surface.

The flexibility of the weave allowed for a curved seating surface that responds to changes in posture, introducing the already well established idea of active sitting. Rather than supporting the body in a single fixed position, the stool accommodates two ways of sitting. Leaning backward allows the stool to bear the body's weight, while leaning forward transfers some of that weight to the user's legs. The resulting design brings together the craft of rattan weaving and an exploration of how furniture can encourage movement and interaction with the body.











The stool accommodates two postures, allowing the user to shift between supported and more active sitting positions.

05

Ribbat Meat Co Company Newsletter

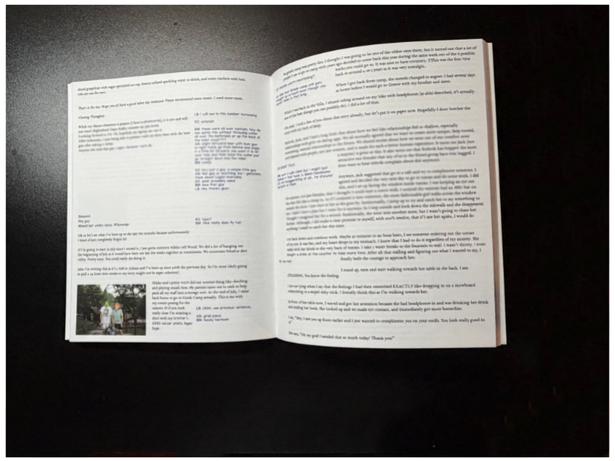
An Ongoing Collection
2023-Present



What began as a way for a group of friends to keep up with one another gradually developed into an ongoing collection of stories and experiences. Each month, everyone contributes an entry sharing updates on their lives, from everyday happenings and personal milestones to the occasional unexpected story. At the end of each year, these monthly updates are compiled into a printed book, bringing together twelve months of different voices and perspectives. The process of organizing these entries creates an opportunity to experiment with typography, composition, and the relationship between text and imagery. The resulting publication becomes a physical record of the year.





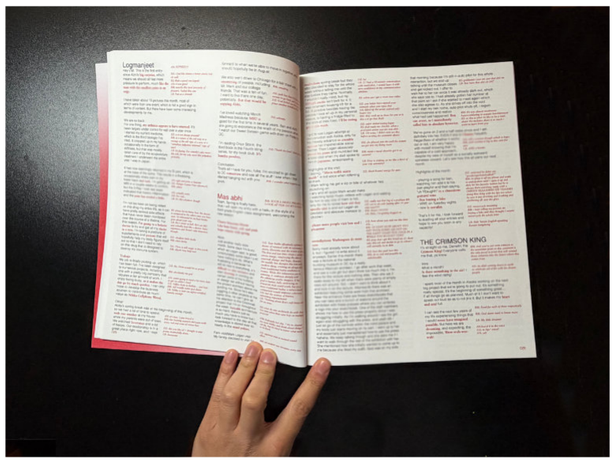


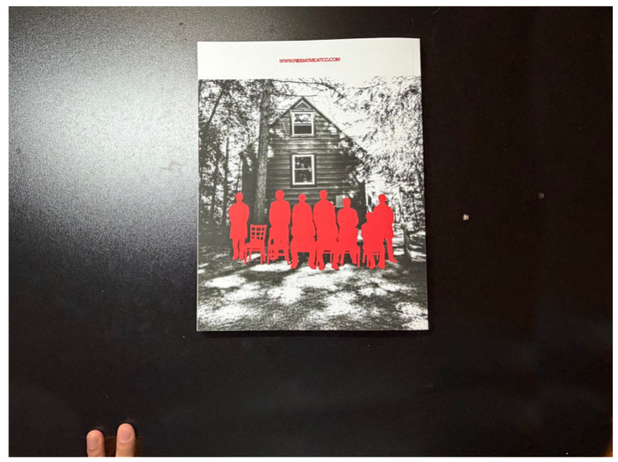


Each edition becomes an opportunity to try something new, with changes in typography, page layouts, and the way photographs and text are arranged. While the content follows the same format each year, the visual language evolves, giving each book its own character.

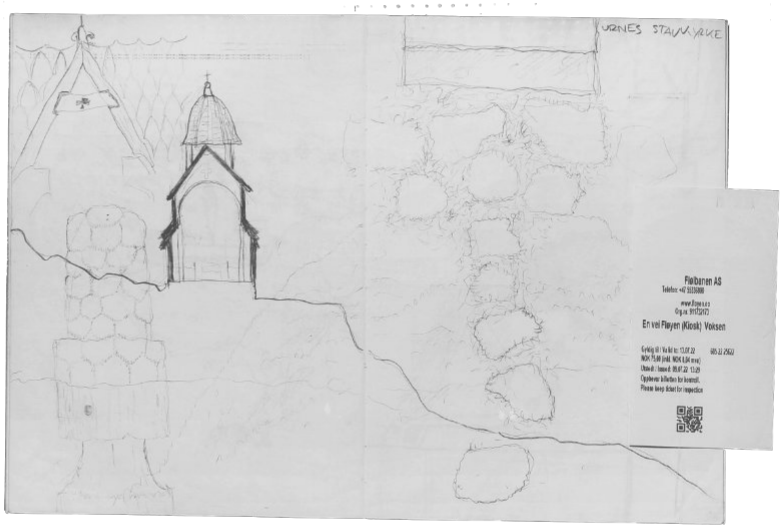









OVERLOOK
CRASHING
RIVER
CARS ALL ALONG
THE LADDER


URNES STAVKYRKE
Fleibarnen AS
En vei Fløyen (Kiosk) Voksen

