

thesis final: connection
allie devarona

The main inspiration for my pre-thesis project was to explore the connection between life and death within architecture. This was discovered through utilizing pre-existing buildings as a baseline and attaching, renovating, and rebuilding in order to bring this abandoned structure a new purpose. The fall semester began with exploring nature's patterns, in which I found fungi growth to be the leading inspiration for the initial form of my models as fungi are associated with decay, abandonment, etc. These initial models were intended to serve as individual gathering pods to be placed along the site and on the abandoned structure itself. The exploration of fungi growth patterns led me to choosing my site, which is the Hudson River State Hospital in Poughkeepsie, New York. I chose this site because it was an abandoned hospital that is in a temperate deciduous forest climate (where fungi can grow) and due to the history behind it. The Hudson River State Hospital Psychiatric Center was shut down in the early 2000s due to the use of inhuman practices on the patients that resided there. This was also another factor in my choosing of the site, as I wanted there to be a drastic juxtaposition between the building's old purpose compared to its new one. Moving forward onto the architectural program and function of the abandoned building alongside my additive structure, I decided it be fit to repurpose the hospital as a hospice, in an attempt to further improve upon hospice care in general. Typically, nursing homes and hospices are seen and associated with only death. However, these spaces serve as the transition between life and death, and the goal of my thesis is to make that transitional period as calming and enjoyable as possible for not only the residents, but also the visiting families. Looking more deeply into hospice care, there are an array of options when it comes to providing service for the residents, such as spas, spiritual care, quiet rooms, sun rooms, garden areas, family rooms, dining, etc. I decided that my additive structure be mainly focused as a family gathering space, along with a garden room and spiritual care being available in this new structure. I did this specifically because my new structure was placed high up on the pre-existing building, therefore being exposed to the sunlight. Furthermore, I decided this new structure be constructed of glass and steel in order to not only visually demonstrate the difference of life and death within architecture (as the old building contrasted greatly with these materials), but to also allow for there to be an ample amount of transparency when keeping the sunlight in mind. I felt the need to put an emphasis on letting sunlight through simply due to the fact that it is extremely healthy not only physically, but mentally for people to be exposed to enough sunlight. Moving forward into spring semester, however, I was made aware that I was not renovating the initial building enough for there to be much improvement on its old purpose. I began doing research on health campuses and found that creating multiple modules with different functions would serve better than what I had intended last semester. Overall, I ended with creating new additions to the initial building, while knocking down a bit of the building along the way. I kept the original hallway of the old hospital and used it as a connection from the old to the new, as it connects to these organic modules.

description + overview

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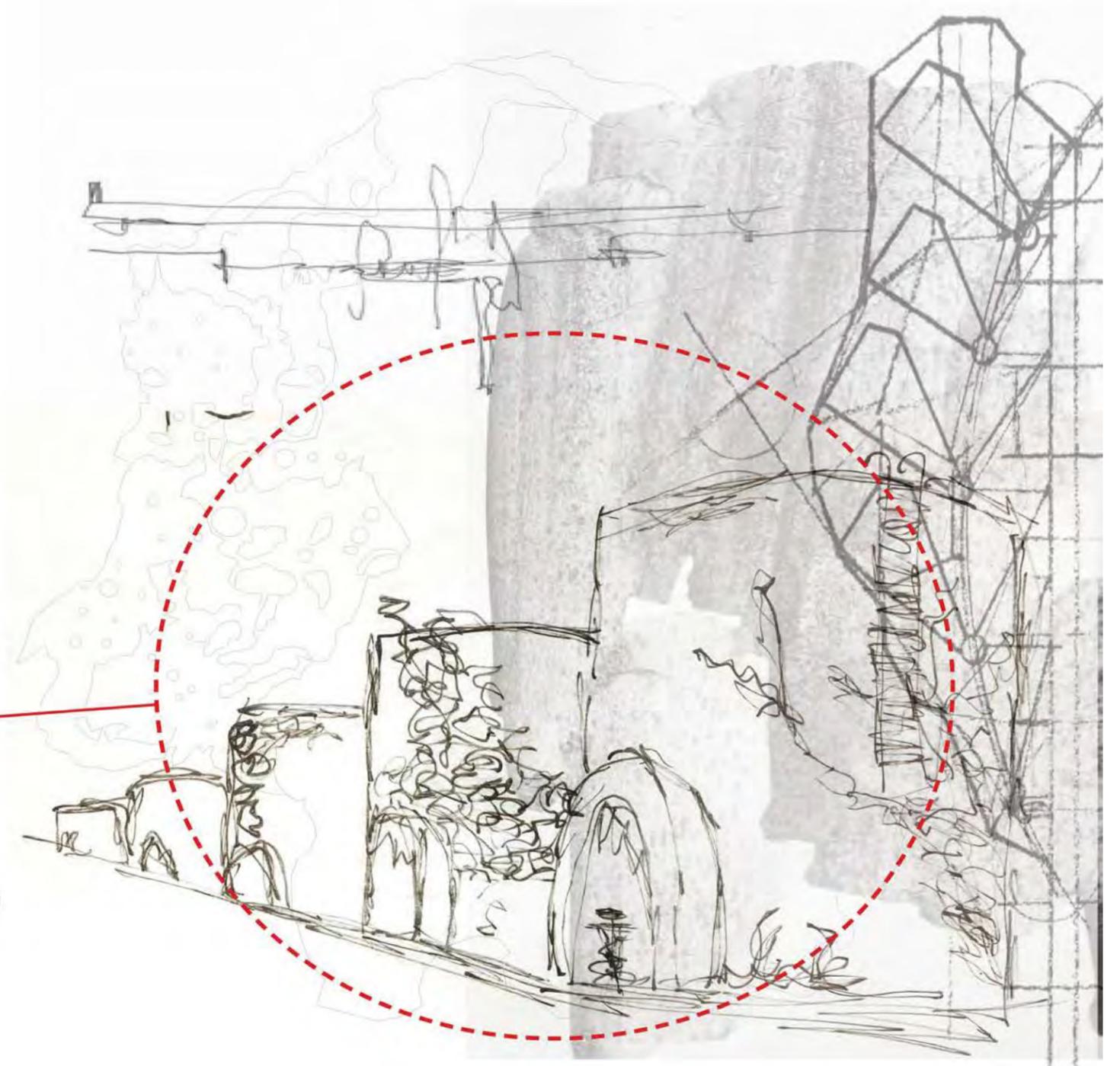
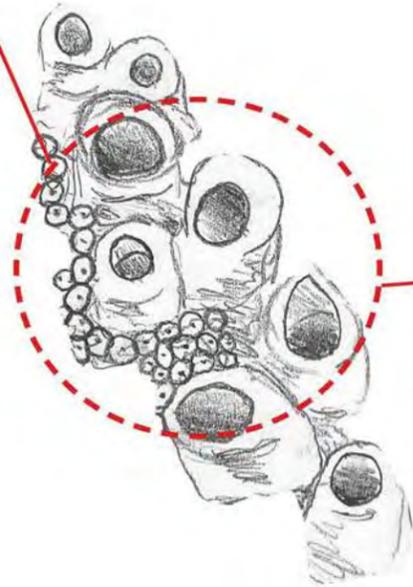
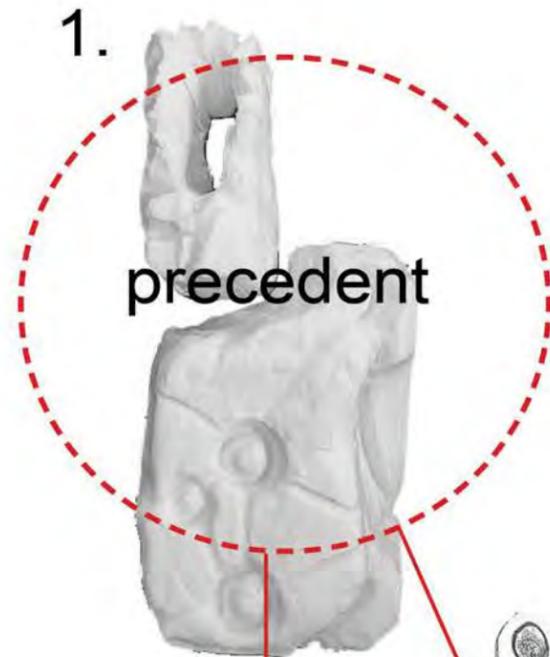
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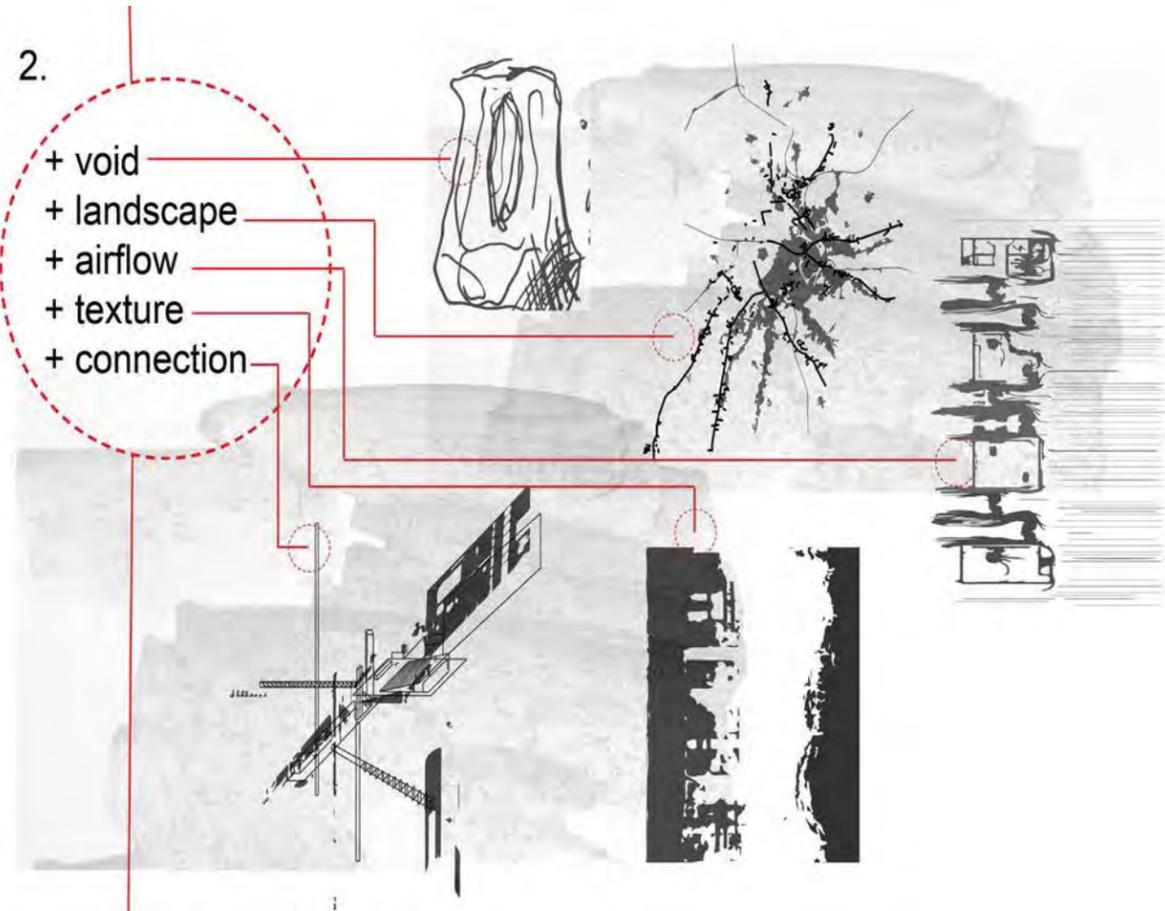
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FALL SEMESTER STORY-TELLING



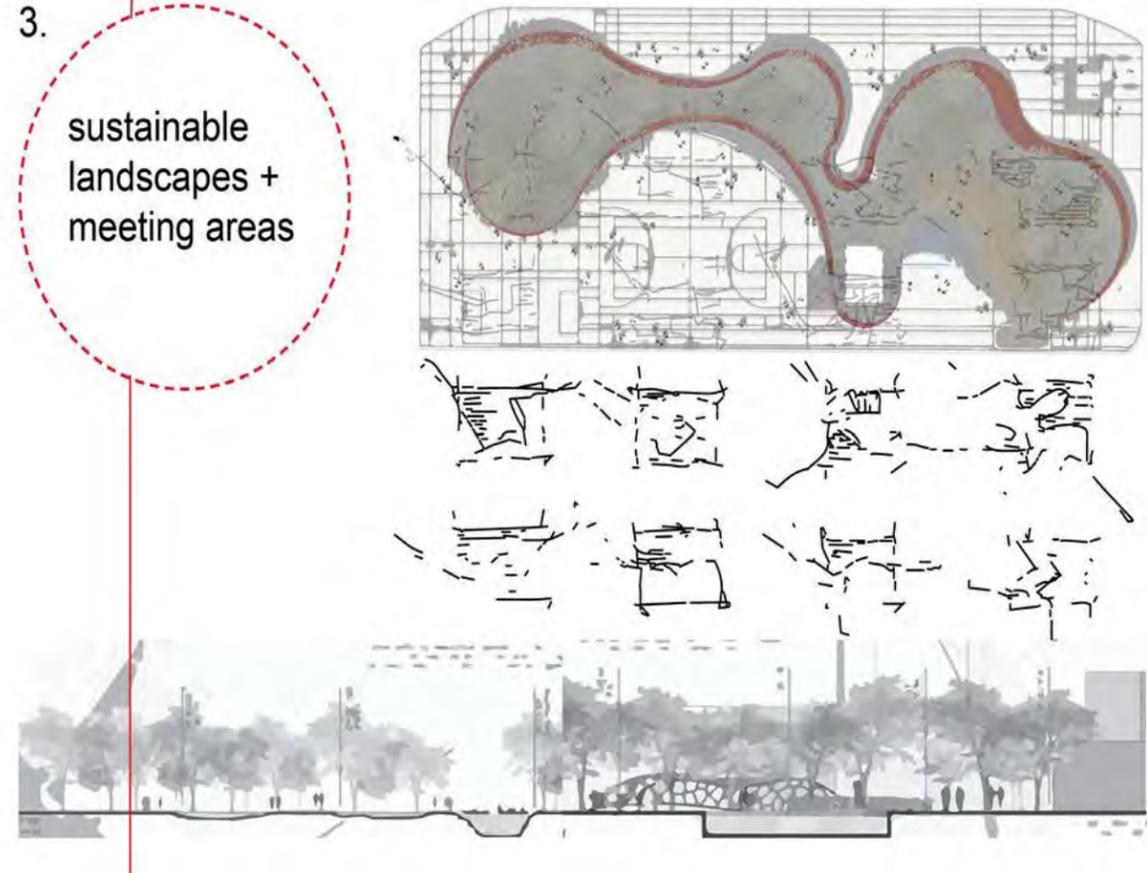
2.

- + void
- + landscape
- + airflow
- + texture
- + connection



3.

sustainable
landscapes +
meeting areas



4.

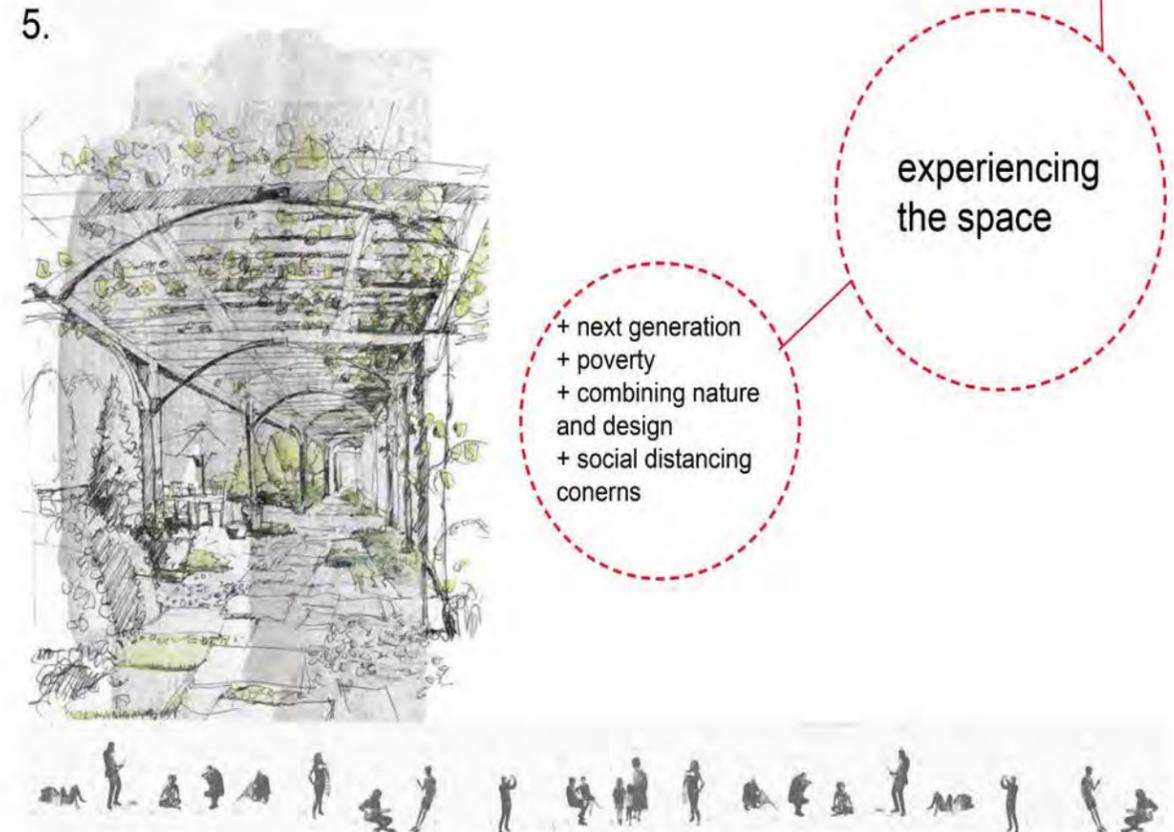
site
possibility



5.

experiencing
the space

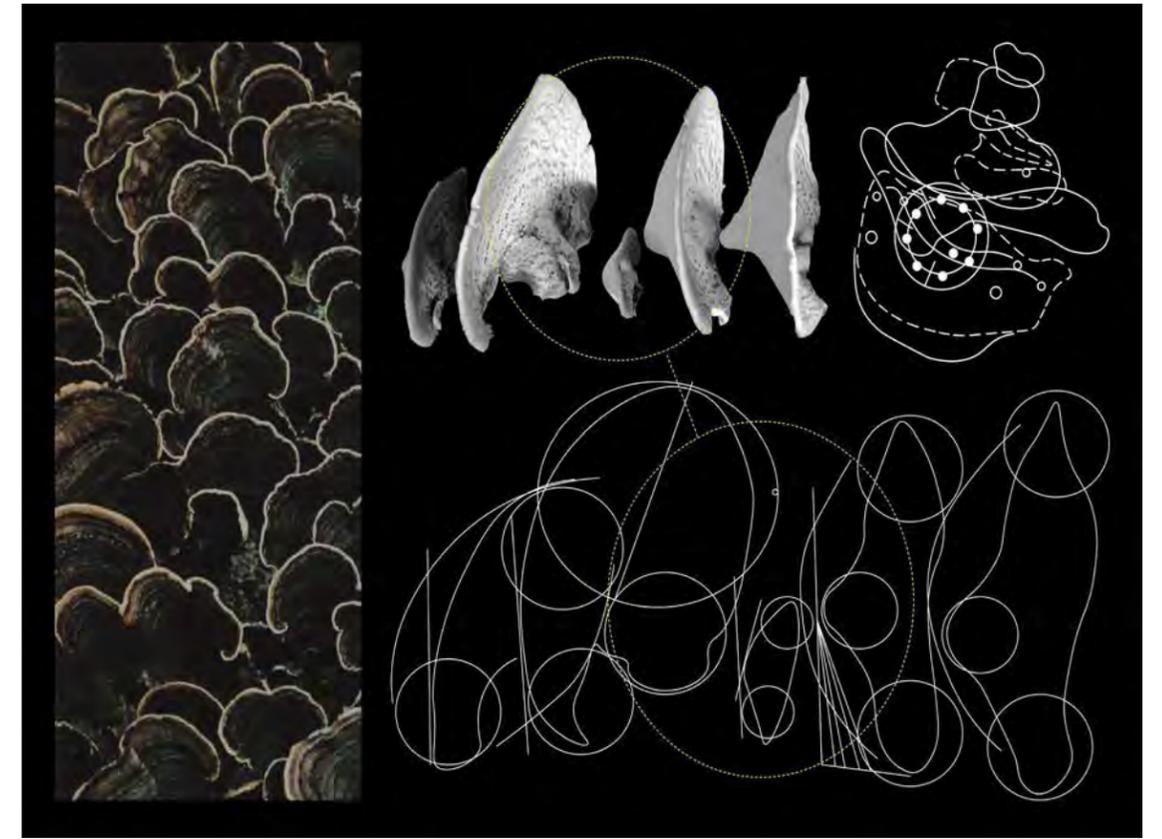
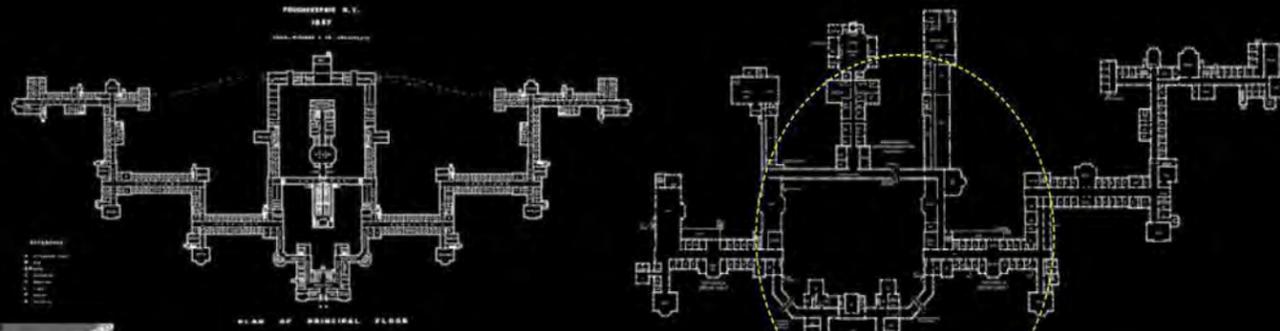
- + next generation
- + poverty
- + combining nature
and design
- + social distancing
concerns



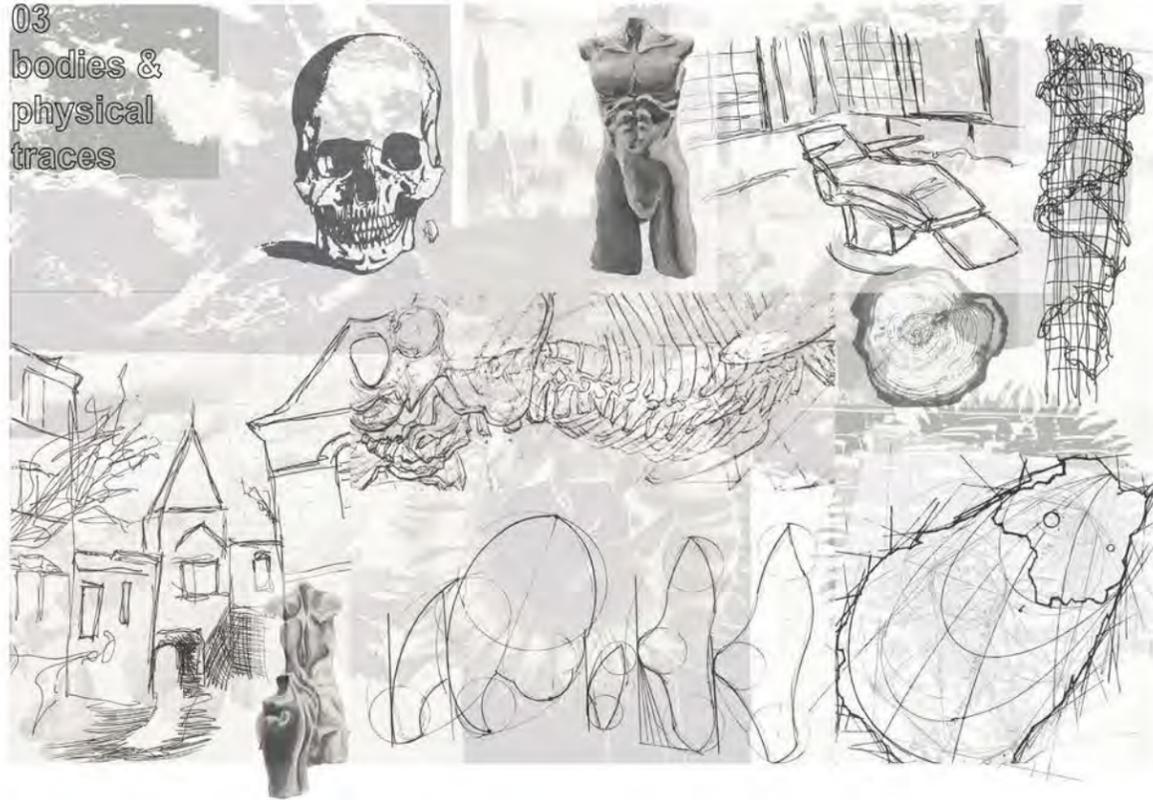
FALL SEMESTER SITE & NATURE STUDIES

01

site + scale
poughkeepsie, new york
HUDSON RIVER STATE HOSPITAL



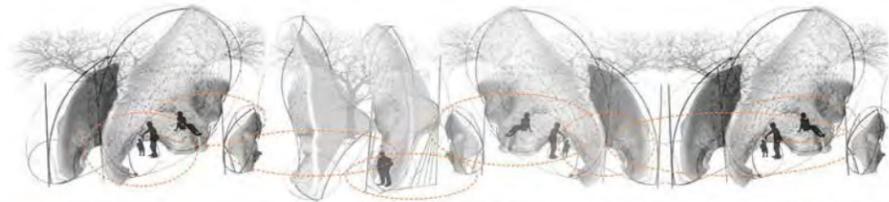
03 bodies & physical traces



02 history



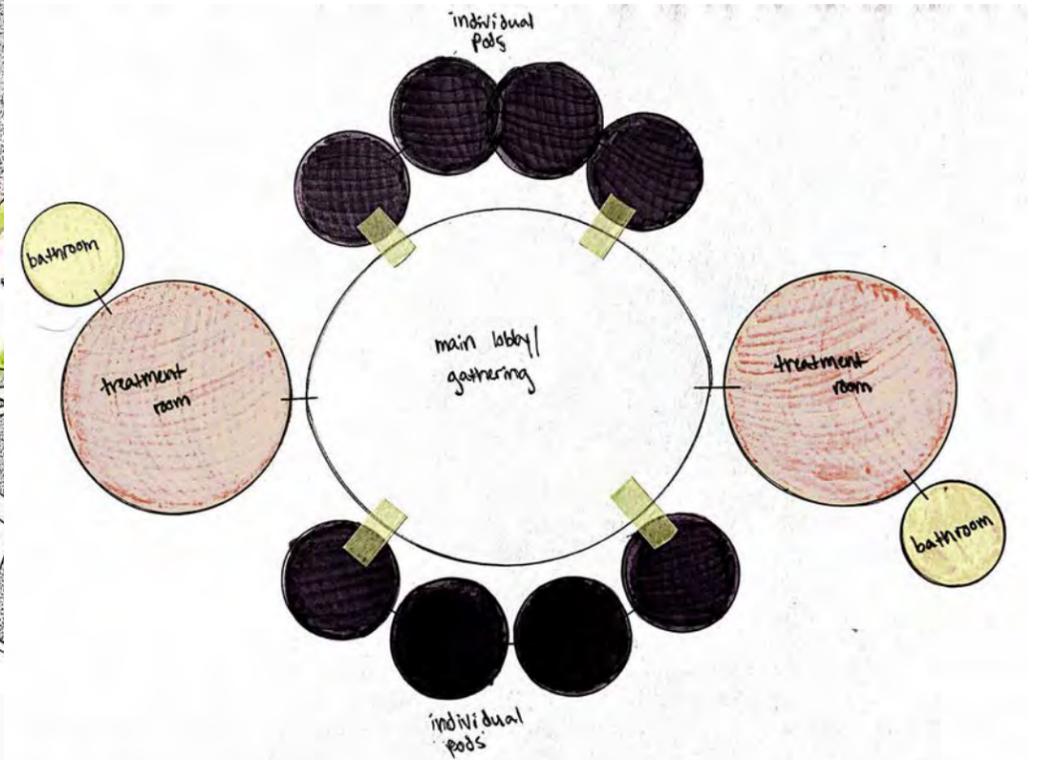
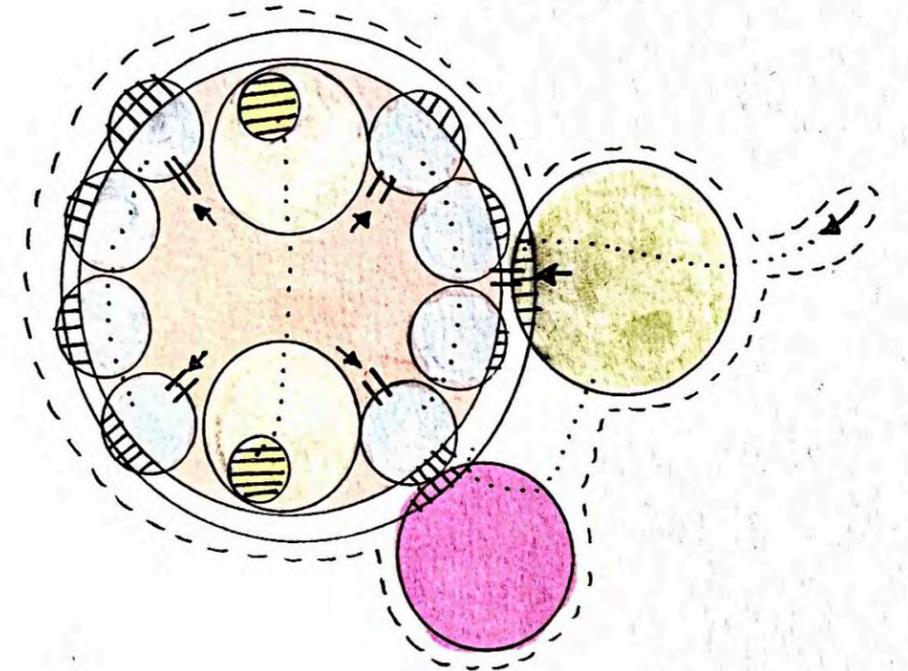
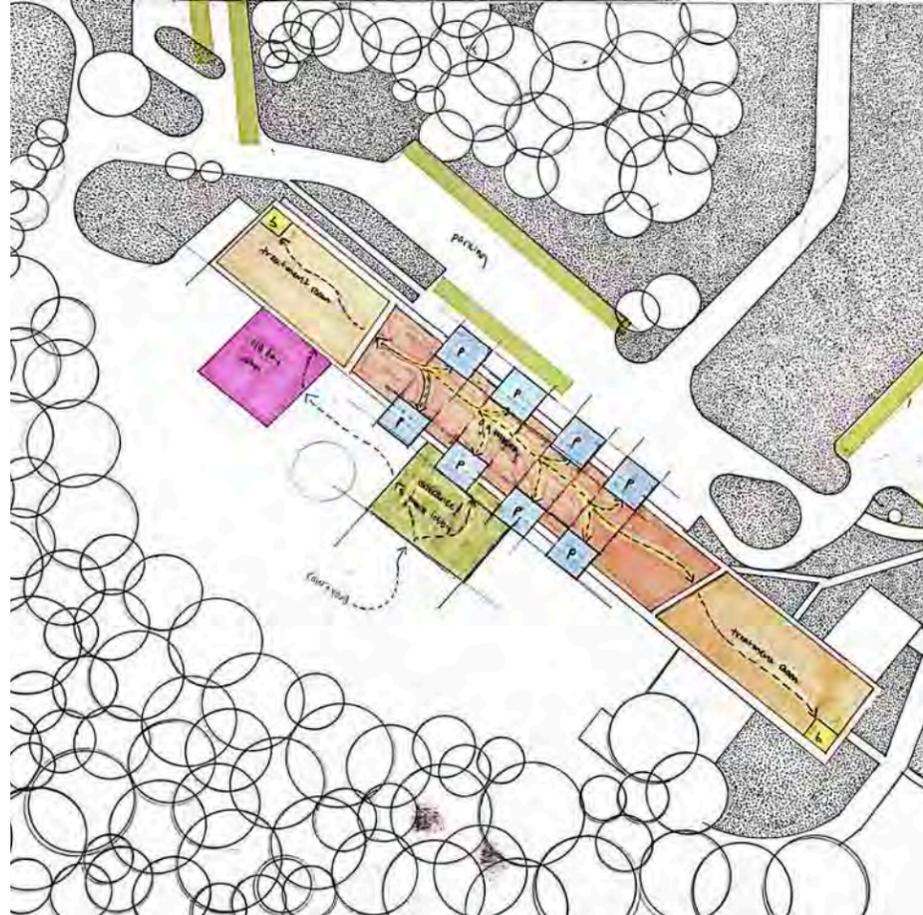
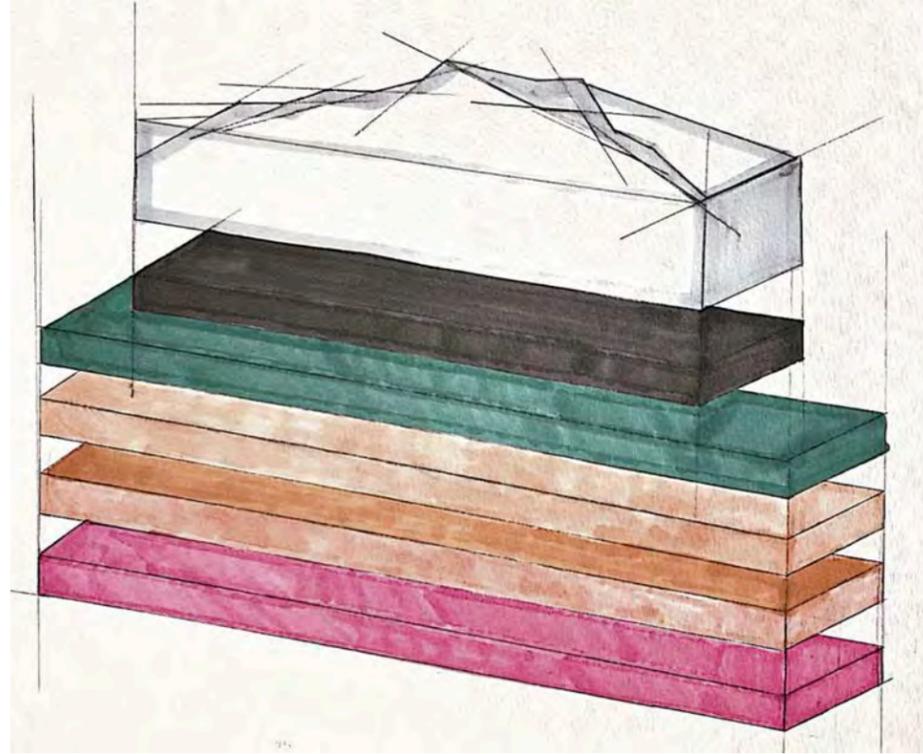
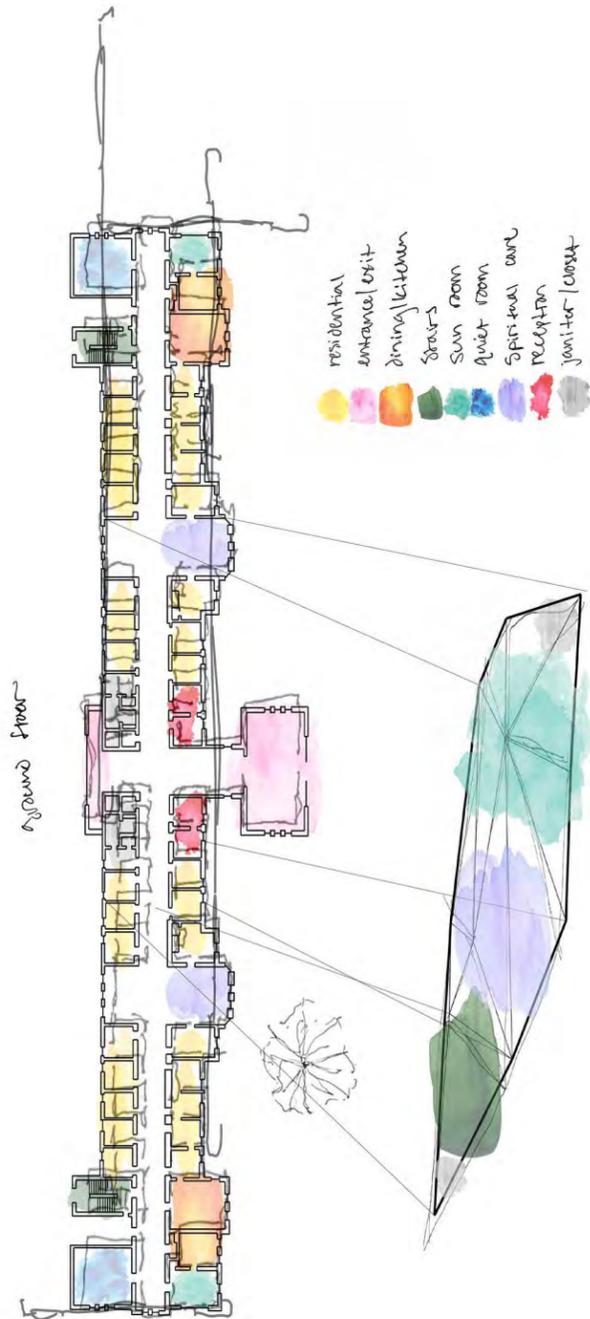
04 public & private



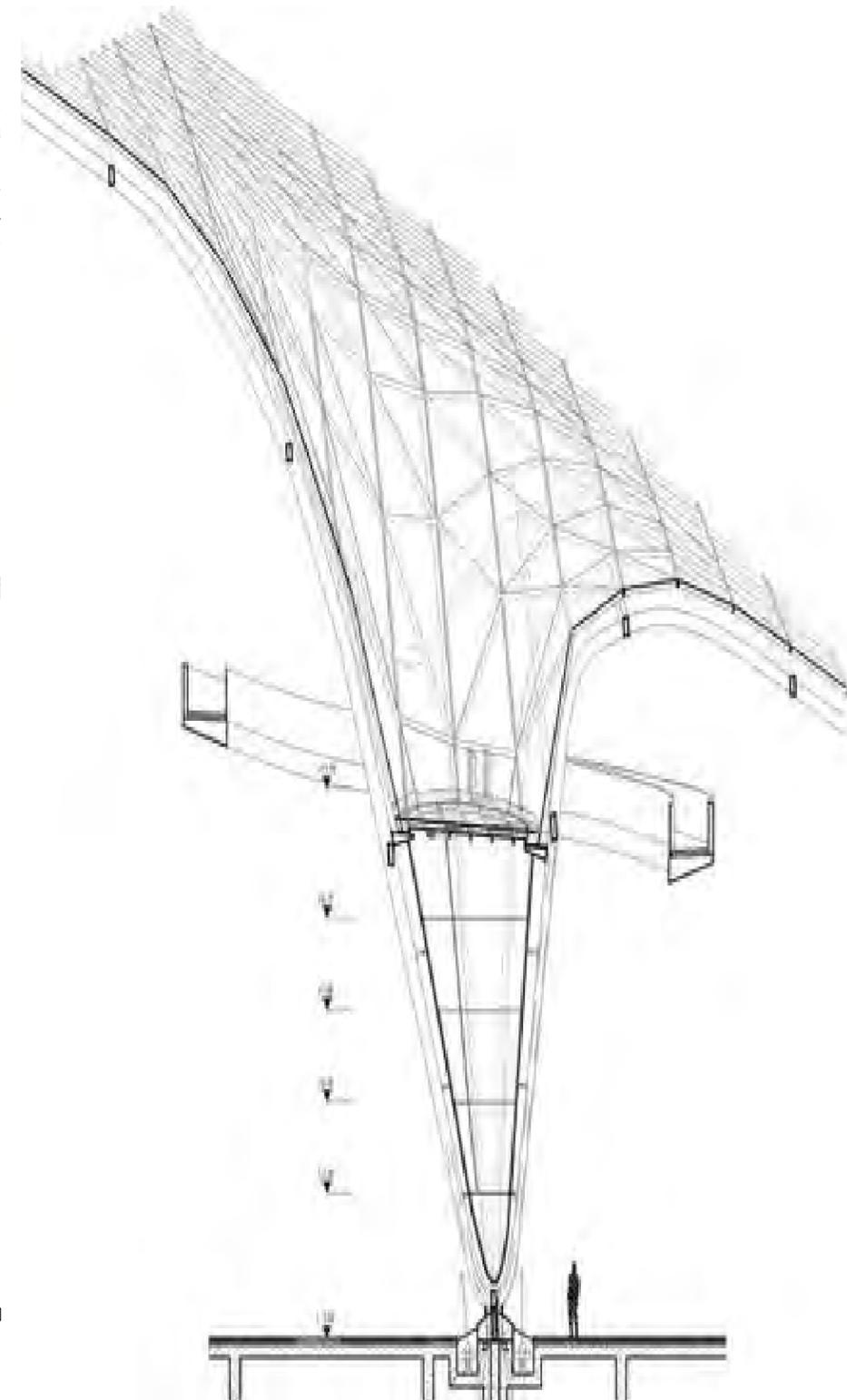
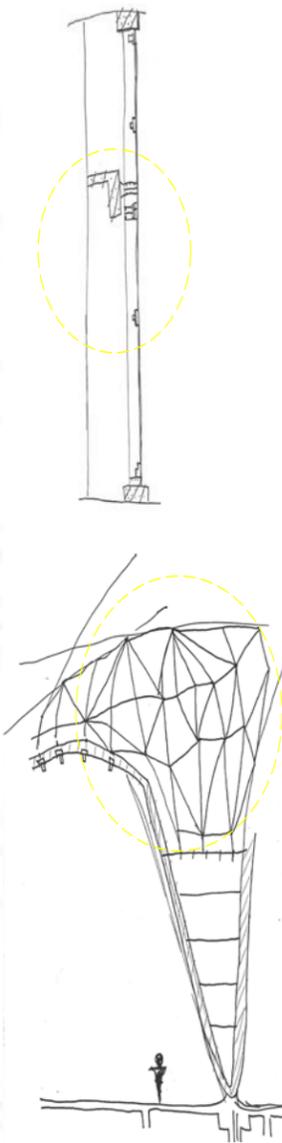
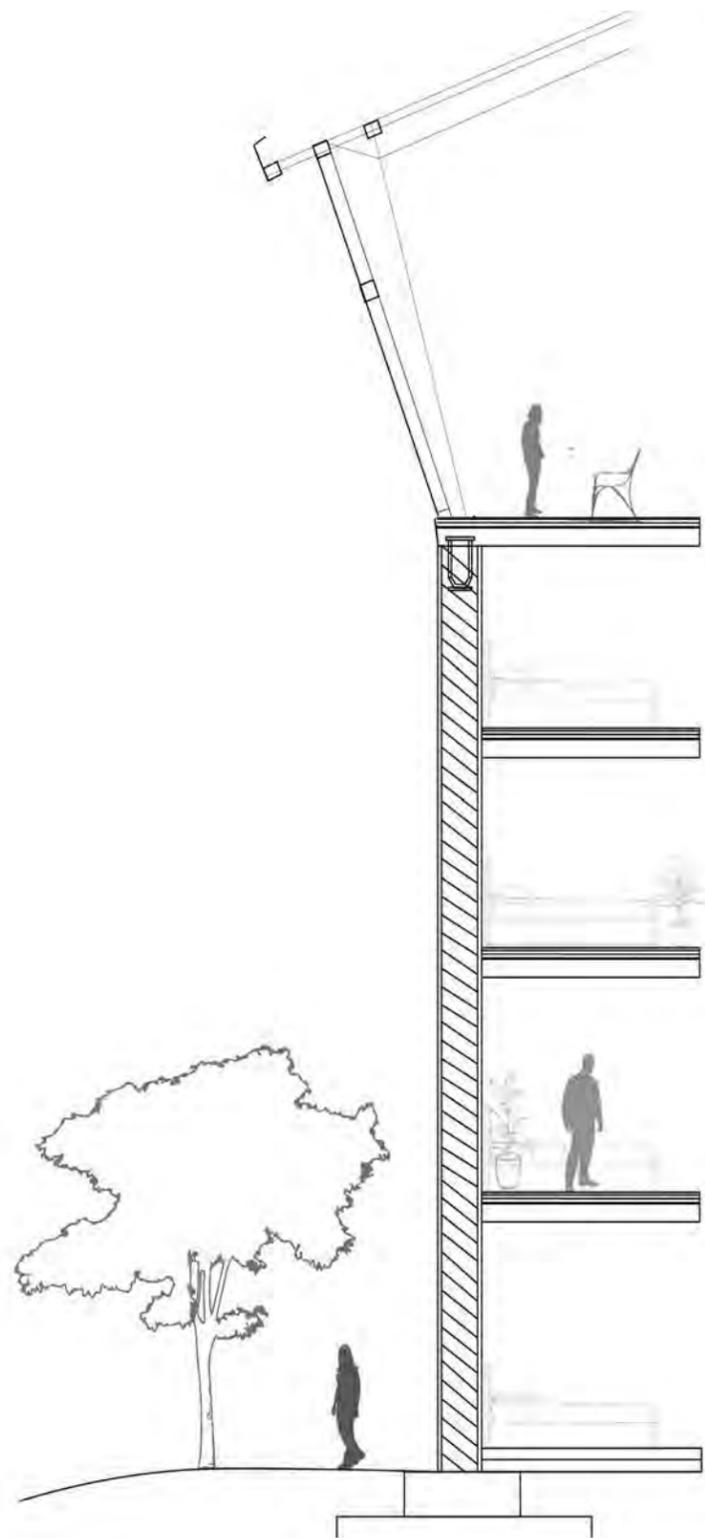
05 speed & reflections



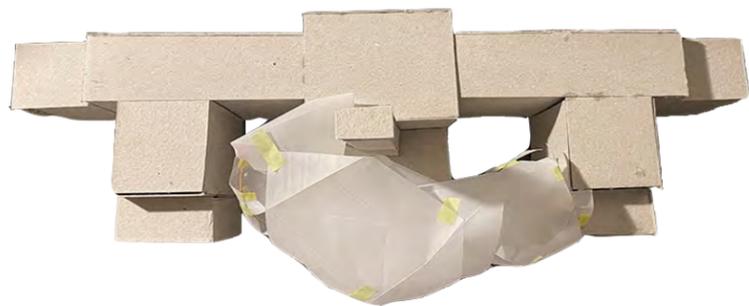
FALL SEMESTER DIAGRAMS



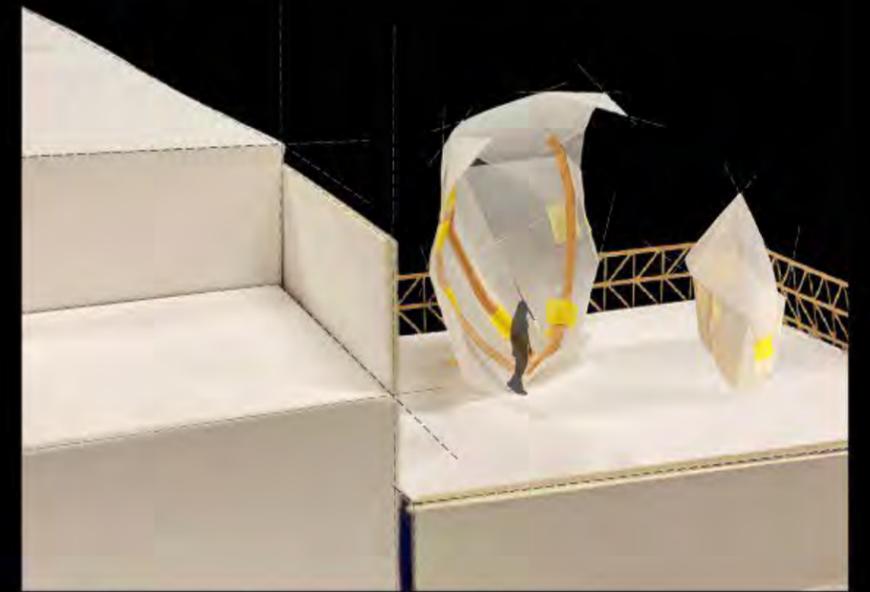
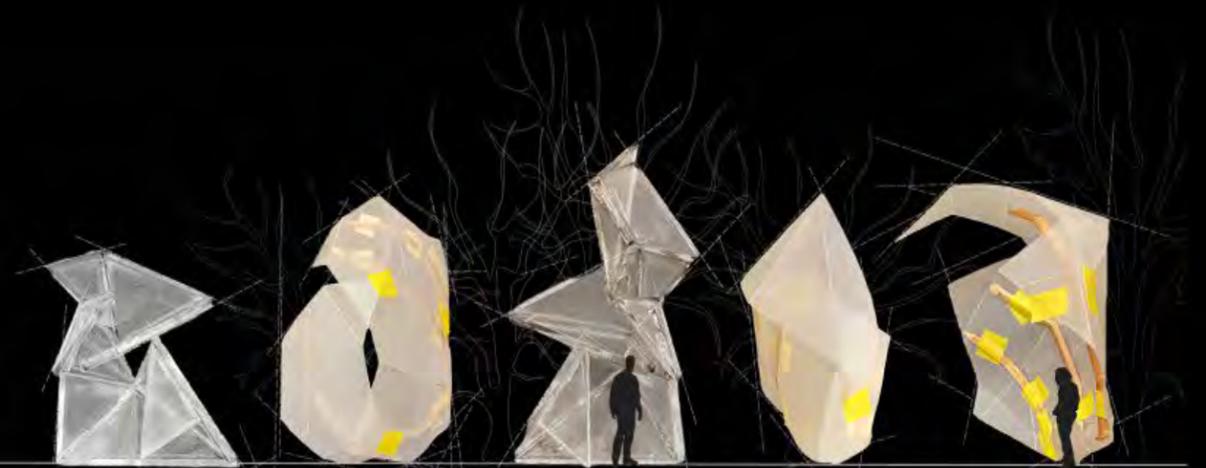
FALL SEMESTER WALL
SECTION



FALL SEMESTER FINAL MODELS

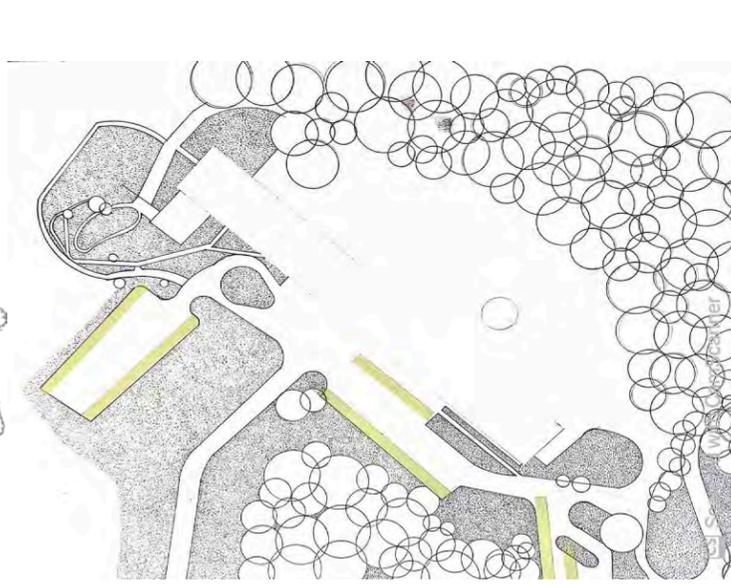
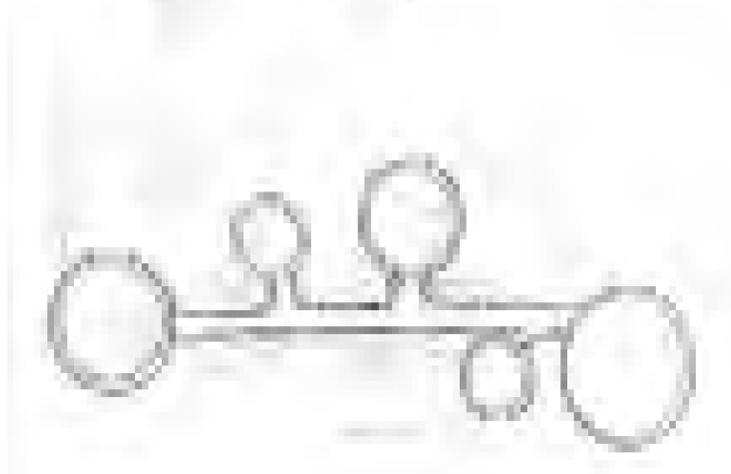
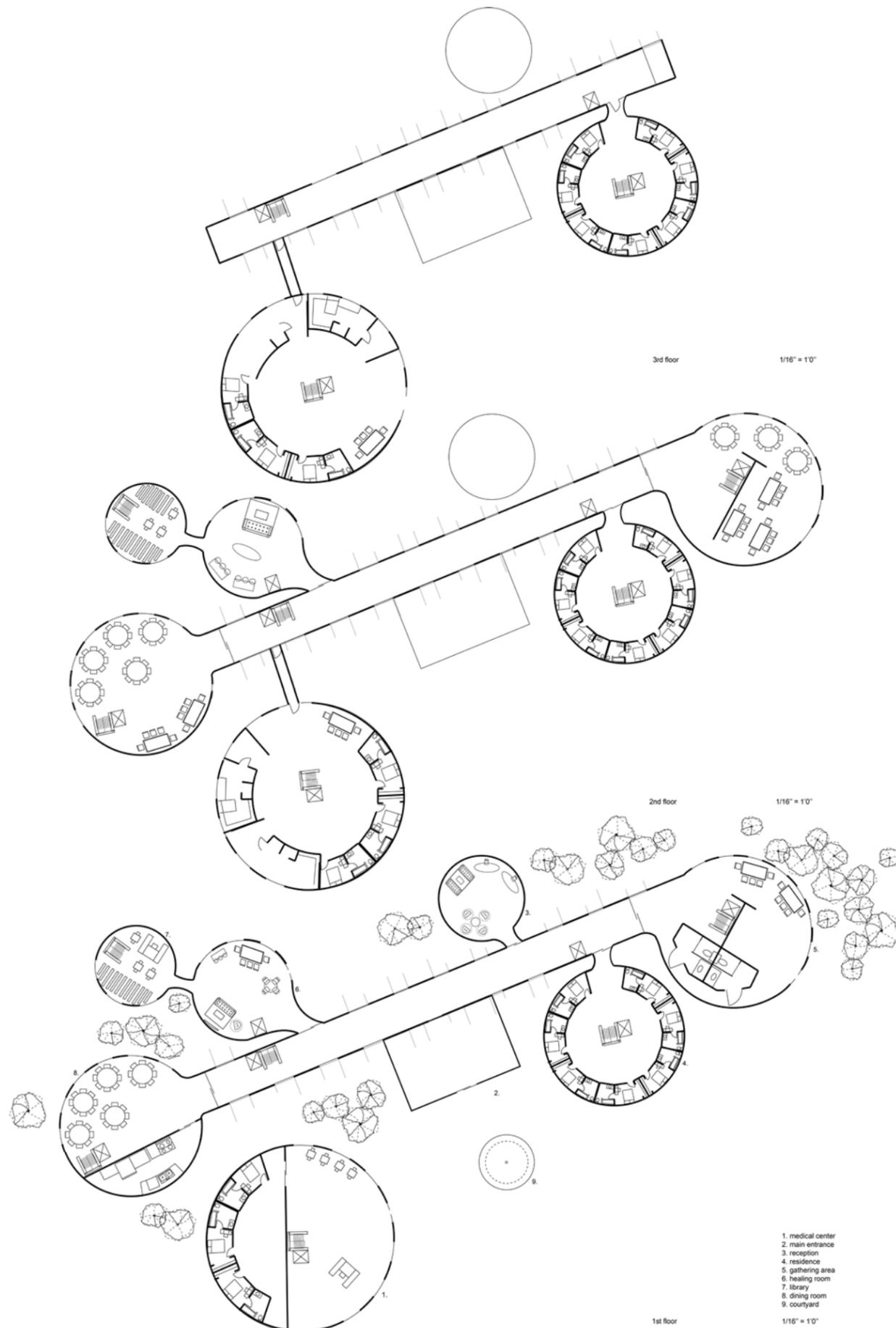


03
initial model exploration
pods, small scale



ARCHITECTURE AS A MYSTERY: FLOOR PLANS

Assignment #1 consisted of sketching floor plan ideas to illustrate the interior spaces and how the multiple floors interact with each other. I began by utilizing the original floorplan of the pre-existing building and then altered it by keeping the main hallway to serve as a connection from the past (old building) to the present (new construction). Through sketching and brainstorming, I created individual circular modules that each have a different function. This floorplan attempts to show a new playful/organic take on what health care facilities could be.



bottom right image: initial sketch and programs for modules, playing with the thought of the surrounding area and incorporating a courtyard, exits from the modules, the idea of having the main hospital separate from the whole health center, and overall playing with form.

upper middle image: initial floorplan of pre-existing building and beginning sketch of possible modules.

lower middle image: pre-existing site plan drawing with surrounding context (parking lot, trees, pathways).

left image: updated drawing of floor plans, showcasing the three separate floors and how they connect to each other.

TELL THE TAIL DETAIL: SECTION PERSPECTIVE

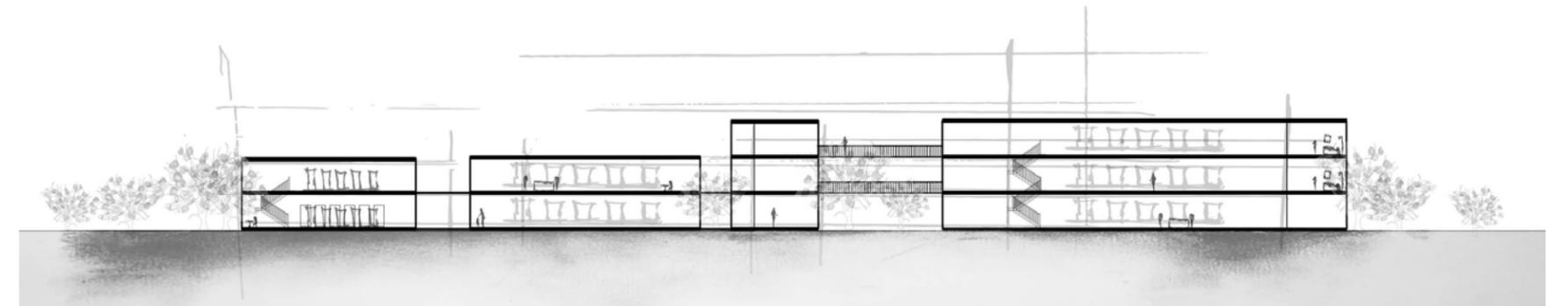
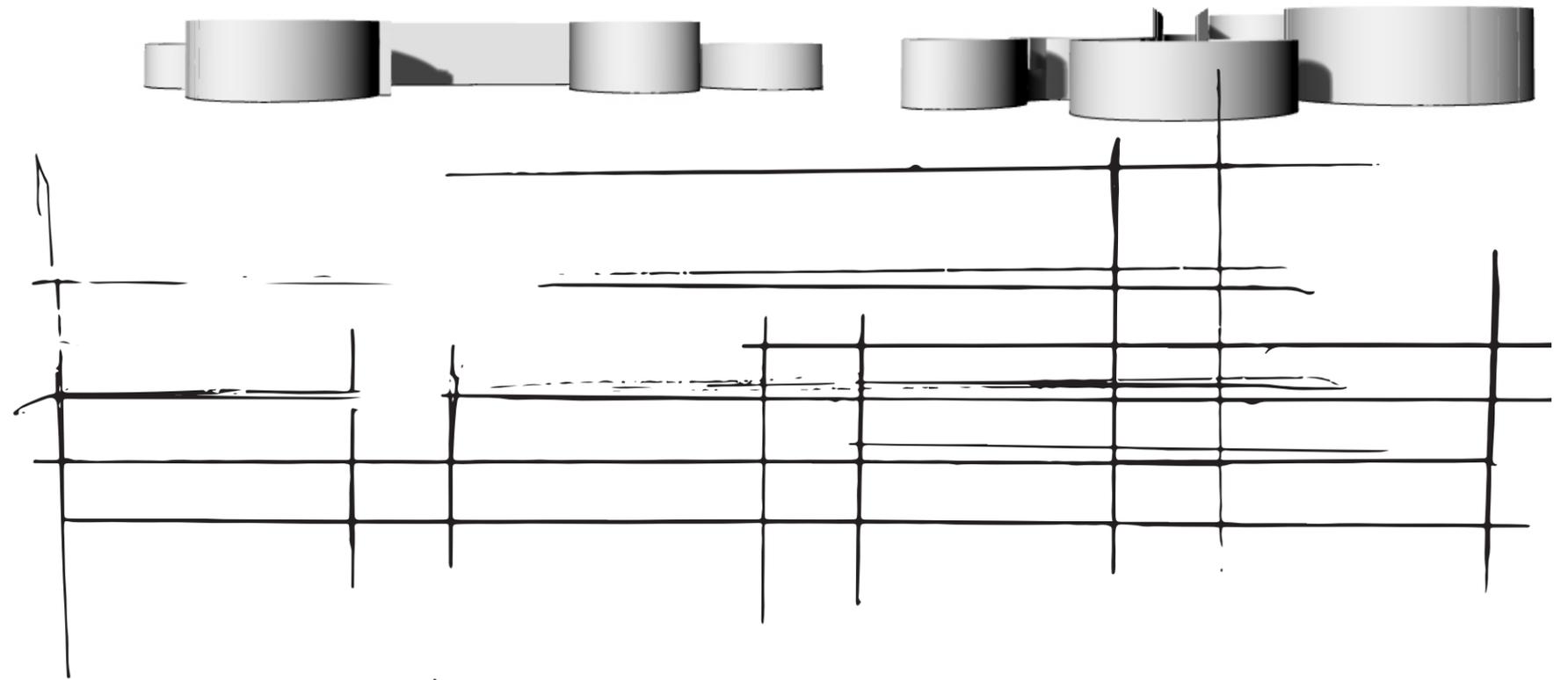
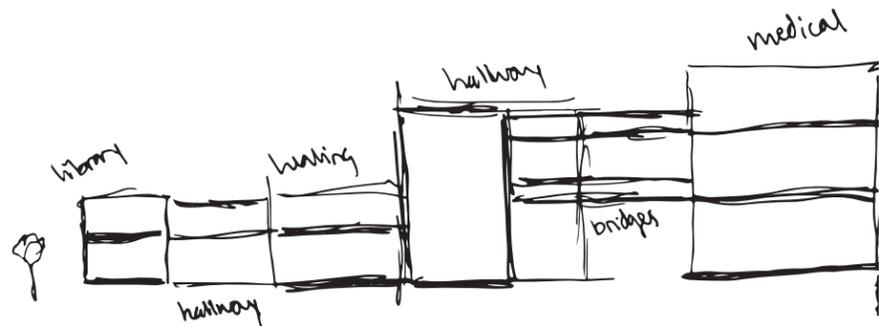
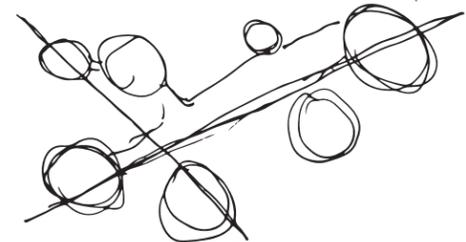
Assignment #2 involved creating a section perspective to further illustrate the connection between the outside and inside spaces as well as how the different floors interact with each other. Sketches began with trying to showcase all of the modules and how they interact. In order to get a better grasp on how this building would look in perspective, my floor plan was taken into Rhino to create a 3D model and show the cast shadows. This was a helpful step when going from my first pass at the section to then working on it further to create it in perspective.

Floor plan arrangement notes:

+ bring of your floor plan / building in 3D simultaneously

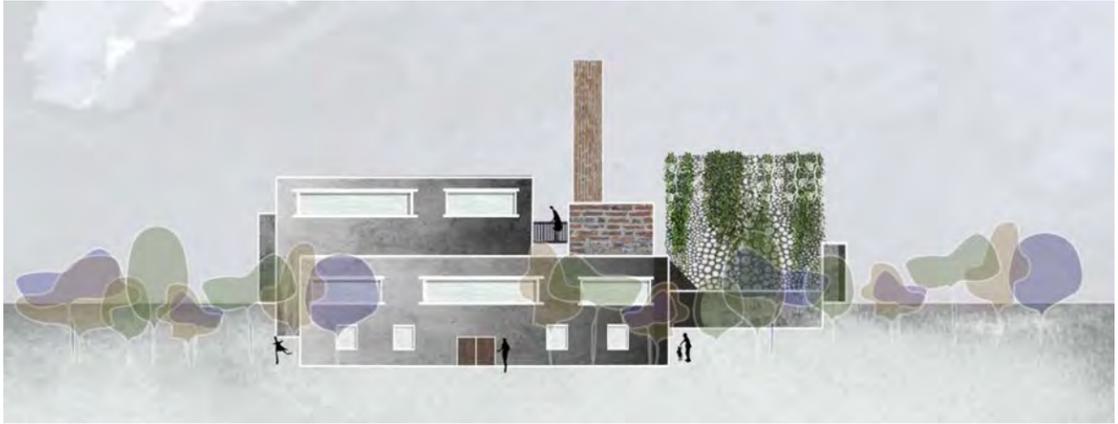
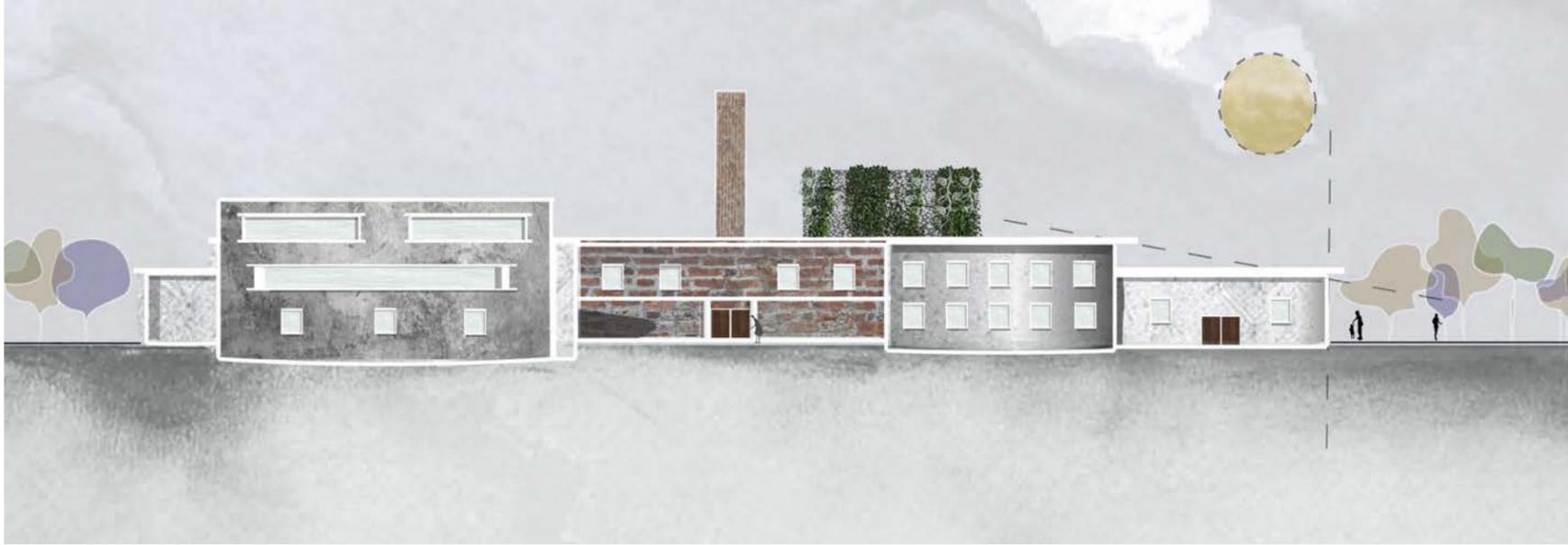
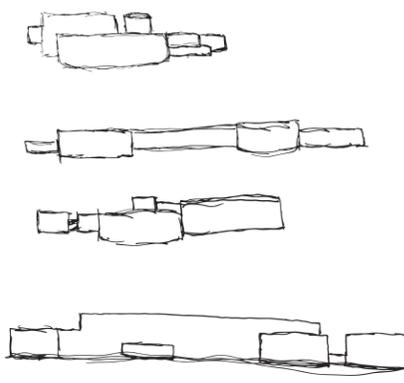
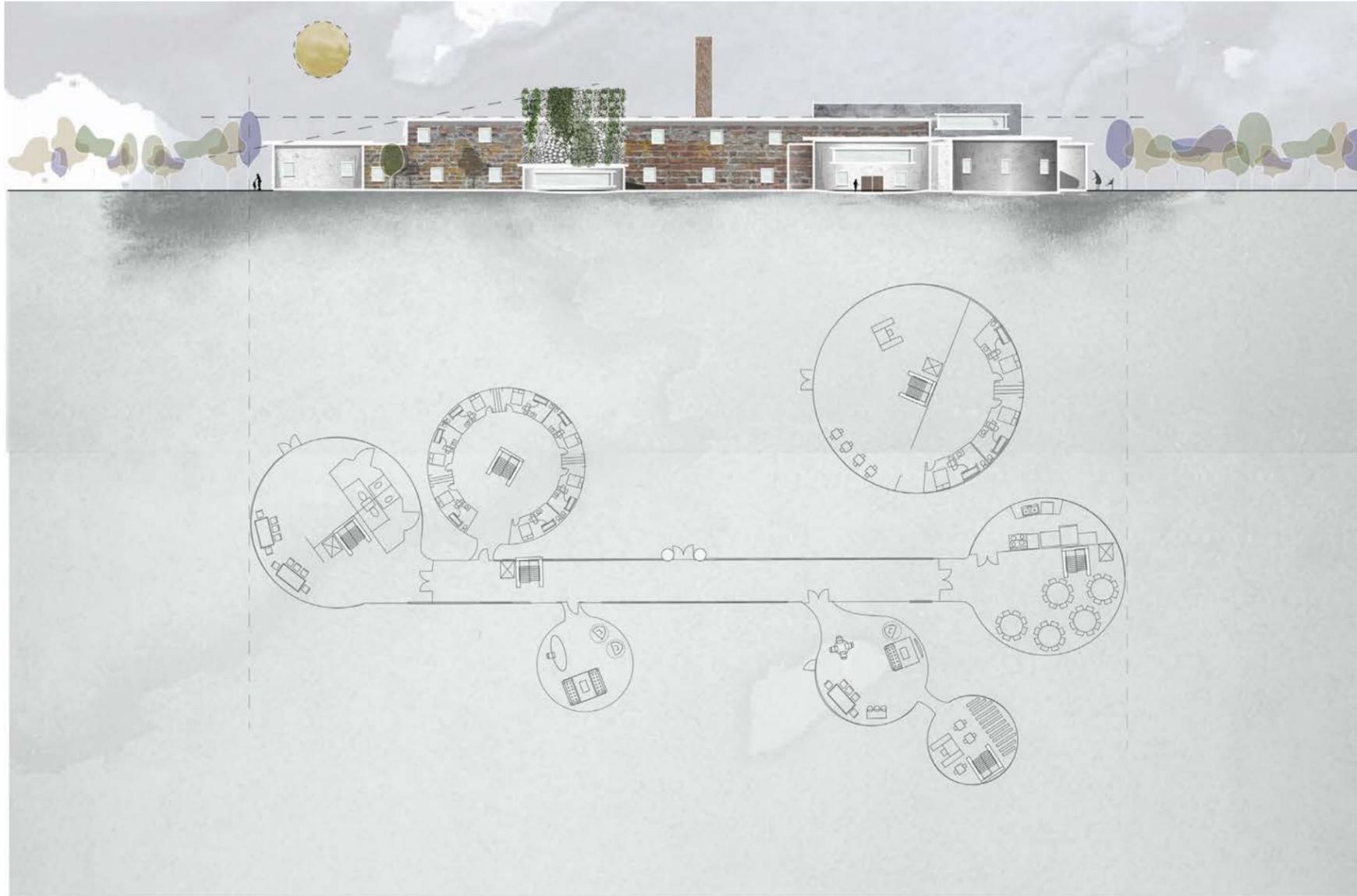
+ main entrance should be identifiable (columns, etc.)

+ look @ sketch notes, no spiral staircase, redo heating + reception



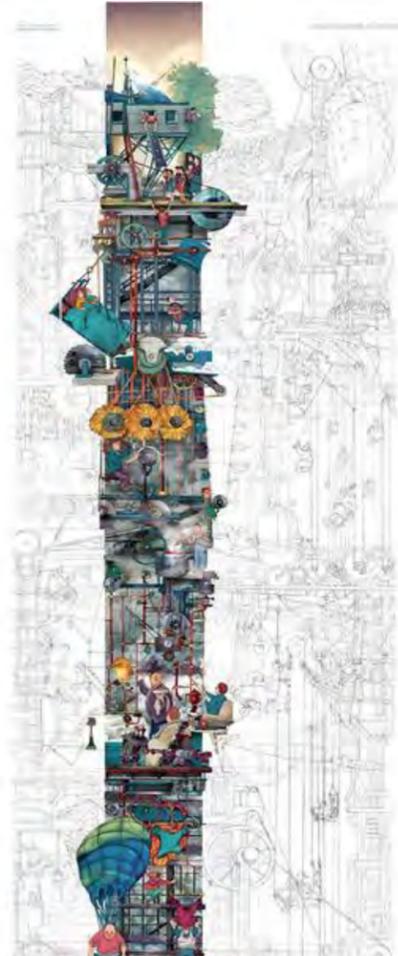
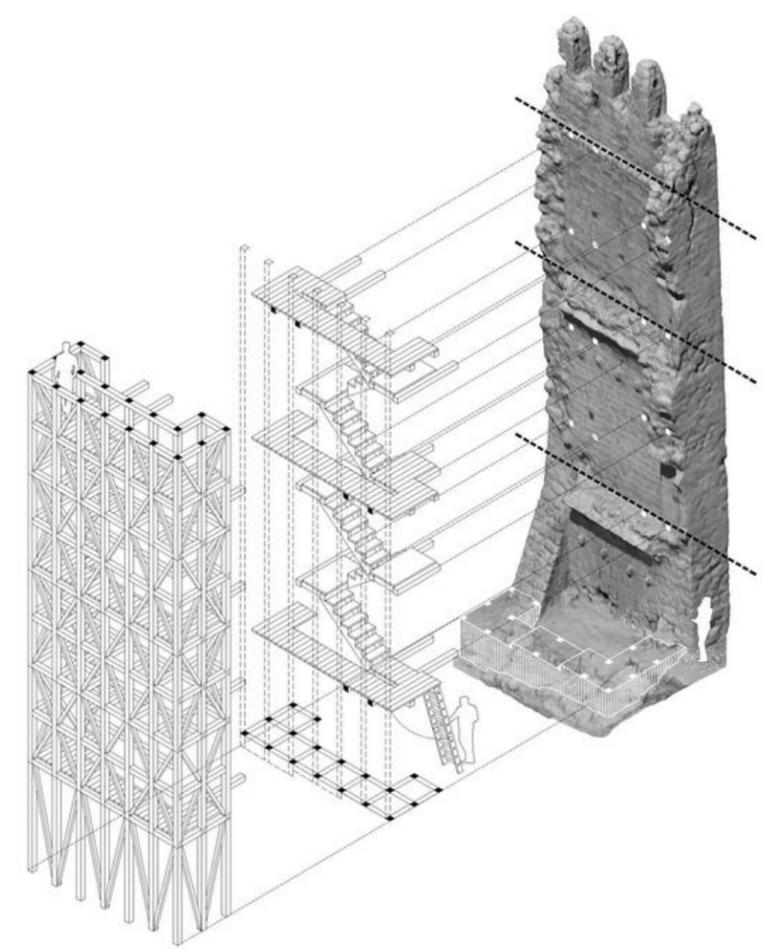
THE JOURNEY OF ORTHOGRAPHIC PROJECTION: ELEVATIONS

Assignment #3 tasked creating elevational drawings in order to demonstrate materiality and the outside essence of the building. I began by sketching out the four different views from each side of the building and then went deeper into exploring the materiality of the new modules, ultimately choosing concrete. The elevation drawings also allowed for me to play with the different heights of the modules, and really consider how to make this building more interesting to view. I also research aluminum facades and incorporated a vertical garden with one atop of the reception module.

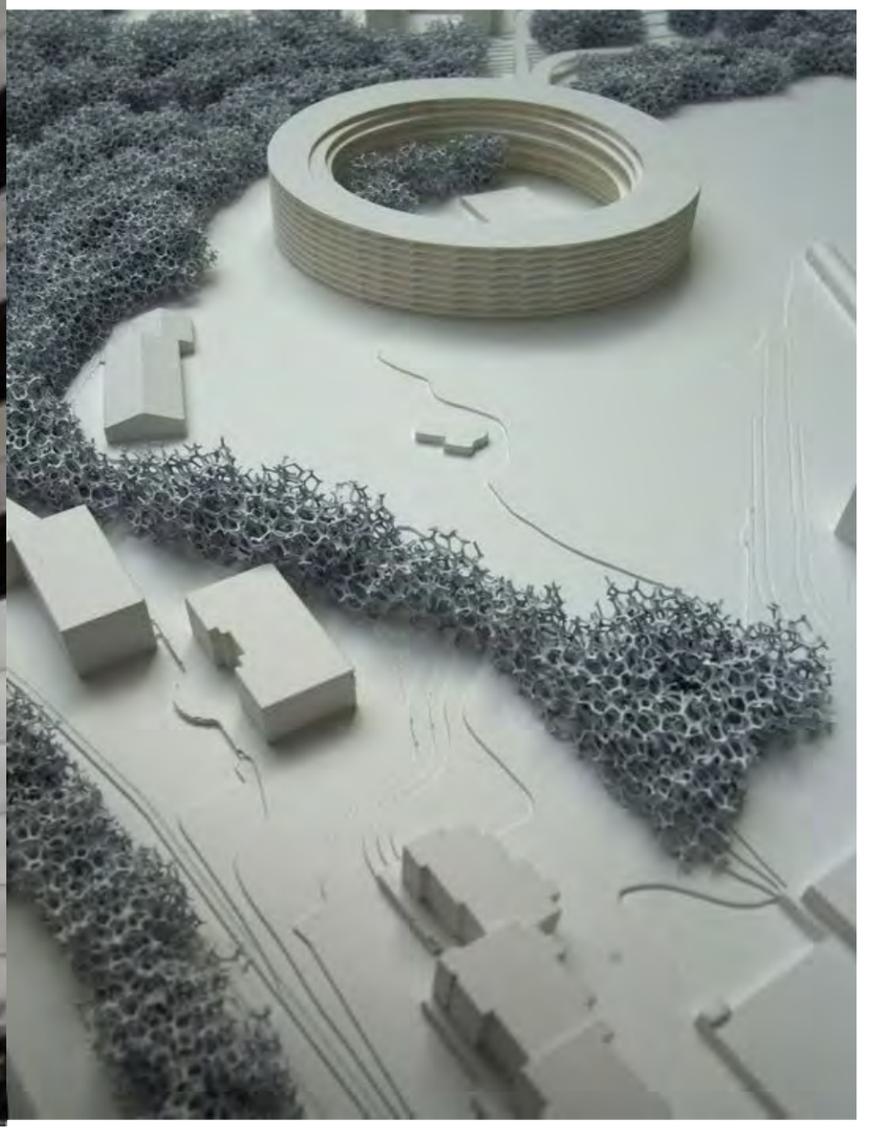
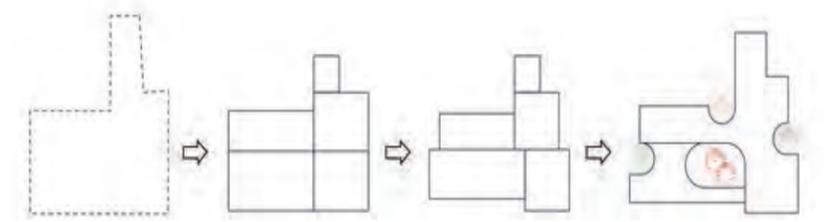
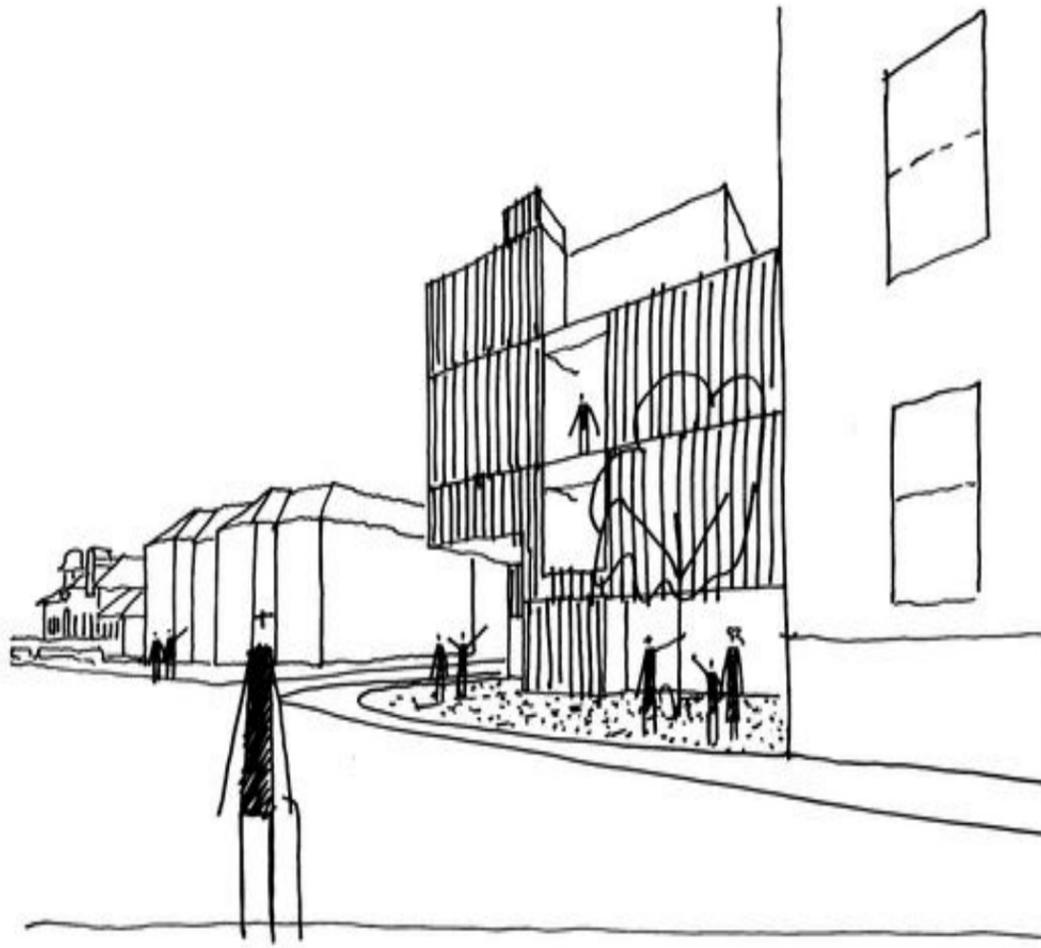


PRECEDENTS: RESEARCH

Studies made looking at architecture involving old and new construction along with a case study on hospice care in a more abstract way. Main precedent used during the midterm portion of the project was studies on health care campuses and organic shapes.

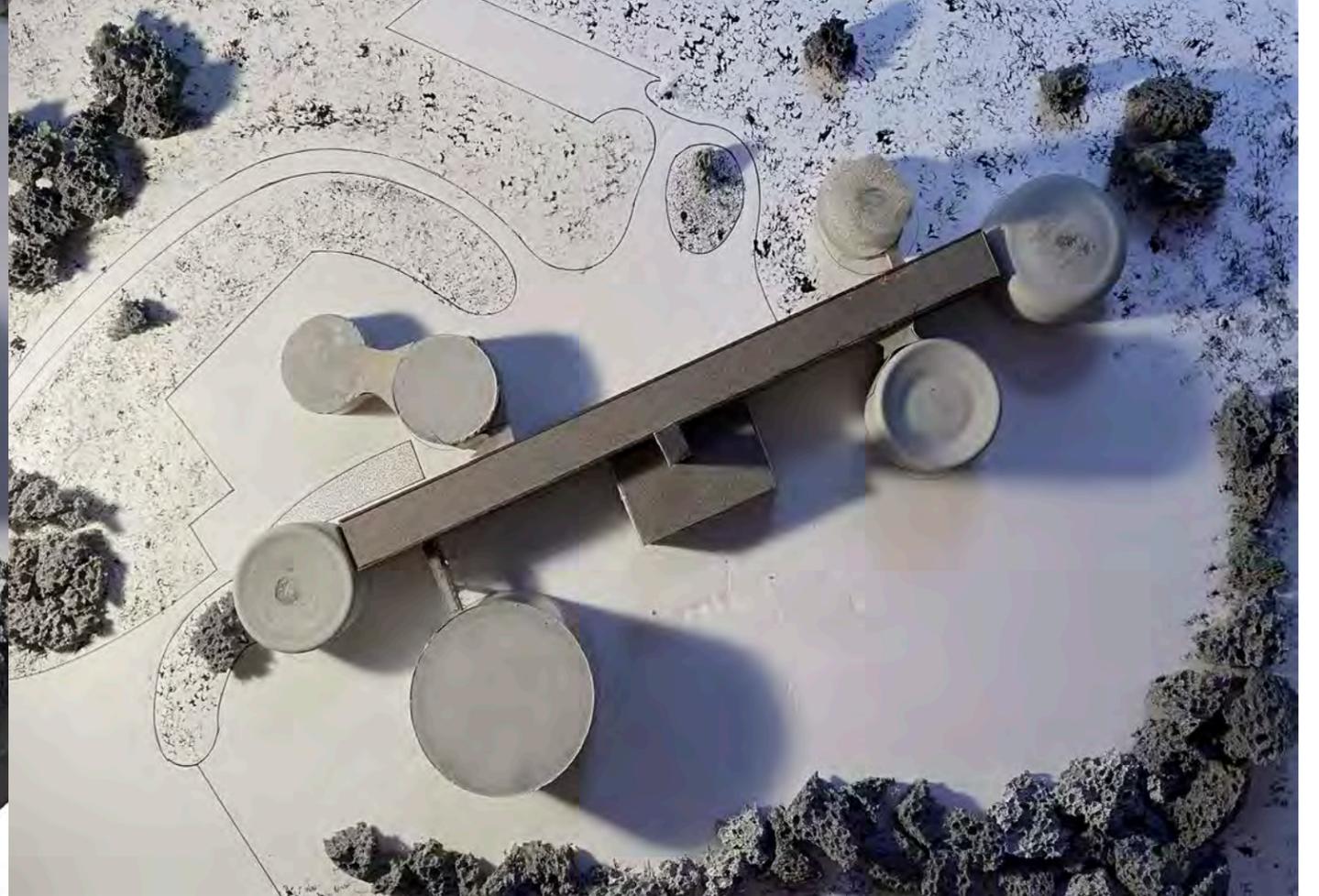


SUBJECT TO CHANGE DURING CONSTRUCTION



FINAL MODEL

Final model was constructed using mattboard, concrete, foambard, and sponge. The site of the building remains true to the initial one, and trees and foliage were abstracted using a stippling method along with cutting up sponges. Concrete cylinders were cast hollow in order to use a dremel to carve out openings.



THANK YOU