

# **EMPOWERMENT THROUGH ARCHITECTURE:**

Women's Transitional Cohousing in Northern Ontario

By

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## ABSTRACT

This thesis is a response to the lack of supportive post-intervention housing for women who have survived domestic violence. In Canada, 76.2% of the women who are murdered, are killed by a spouse, family member or intimate partner.<sup>1</sup> Women are statistically at a higher risk of being killed by someone they are close to than their male counterparts<sup>2</sup>. As a result of experiencing violence, they require new housing and support as their previous residence is not an appropriate place to return. Additionally, having an affordable and safe housing option when vulnerable situations<sup>3</sup> arise is important for women, so safety does not need to be compromised for the sake of urgent need or financial circumstances. This presents the need for housing options for women transitioning out of vulnerable situations. Women are celebrated in the proactive and reactive supportive housing model that is explored in the design proposal for the Women's Transitional Cohousing.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Nichole Thompson. "Every 2.5 days, a woman or girl is killed in Canada, New report shows," Global News, January 30, 2019, [https://globalnews.ca/news/4904975/a-woman-or-girl-is-killed-every-2-5-days-in-canada-report/?fbclid=IwAR1WUabseuv6fseRRg7J4OFhQuXFnpXJicWFetcjqosBA35X5\\_Sg6QvBcT4](https://globalnews.ca/news/4904975/a-woman-or-girl-is-killed-every-2-5-days-in-canada-report/?fbclid=IwAR1WUabseuv6fseRRg7J4OFhQuXFnpXJicWFetcjqosBA35X5_Sg6QvBcT4).

<sup>2</sup> 23% of male victim homicides the perpetrator was a family member, spouse or intimate partner<sup>1</sup>

<sup>3</sup> "Vulnerable situations" refers to circumstances that present emotional and/or financial challenges to women-led families, where there is limited to no healthy support from outer family and friend network. [Lack of support may be a result of/combined result of: physical proximity, past-conflict, safety concerns, space constraints] Such situations could include: a young pregnancy, a separation with a spouse or intimate partner, the death of a spouse or intimate partner, fleeing domestic physical or emotional violence, long period of joblessness, return to full-time studies with children. These situations have the potential to put women in a position of hopelessness or being less aware of entering a potentially unsafe environment when seeking new housing.

<sup>4</sup> This "typical transitional housing" does not include high risk<sup>29</sup>





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To my thesis advisor, Dr. Tammy Gaber, thank you for your encouragement throughout this process and for sharing your passion about creating dignified and beautiful spaces for women. To my second reader, Dr. Thomas Strickland for your critical feedback and patience. To Steve Hilditch for his presentation on women-led household housing and community engagement. To Emilio Portal for his woodworking expertise and mentoring, I wouldn't have been able to build my "Mon Mur" rolling wall partition without you. To all my friends and colleagues at the school, thank you for all your hours of listening, reading and design debating with me. All your critiques, comic relief and support was invaluable. To all my family members, close and far away, for your relentless hope, support and patience with me. To my mother and Josiah for keeping me focused and sane. To God, who has given me this opportunity and the necessary peace and strength to complete my research. Special thanks to my Grandma Carol who shared her knowledge as a Sudbury-dweller, searched with me for the perfect site, and offered her unapologetic critique based on her volunteer experience with vulnerable populations and her heart and passion for all. And finally, to all women who have hope and pursue independence regardless of circumstances.

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## INTRODUCTION

In Canada, transitional housing and shelters are at maximum capacity. A 2016 survey revealed that “73% of Canadian women and children who seek emergency shelter are turned away [due to lack of capacity]”, emphasizing a need for more transitional housing specifically devoted to serving the needs of women and women with children who are in risk of danger and need shelter.<sup>5</sup> Additionally, for many Canadian cities there has not been a new shelter [including transitional housing] built in over ten years.<sup>6</sup> This presents an opportunity to rethink the current transitional housing typology to allow for proactive and reactive supportive housing that celebrates women and highlights the need for intentionally designed spaces that can complement program

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<sup>5</sup> Leslie Young, "73% of Canadian women and children who seek emergency shelter are turned away: survey," Global News, published: 28 April 2016, accessed: 3 Oct 2018,

<https://globalnews.ca/news/2668480/73-of-canadian-women-and-children-who-seek-emergency-shelter-are-turned-away-survey/>.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

and facilitate the successful transition of women to independent living. This design proposal investigates methods of designing women's transitional housing specifically in Northern Ontario.<sup>7</sup> Women in non-metropolitan areas are more vulnerable [nearly twice as likely to experience domestic violence] due to increased isolation and lack of access to resources.<sup>8</sup>

This proposal recognizes current interdisciplinary research that emphasizes the intertwined complexity of the relationship humans have to their habitat and the need to value the human experience. This thesis is informed by relevant literature which focuses on transitional housing, as well as texts which specialize in architecture feminist critiques, ethnography, environmental psychology and phenomenology. The social, family

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<sup>7</sup> Statistics Canada defines all of Northern Ontario is defined as non-metropolitan

<sup>8</sup> Leslie Young, "Rural, small-town women nearly twice as likely to be

assaulted by their partners: StatCan," Global News, published: 16 Feb 2016, accessed: 3 Oct 2018. <https://globalnews.ca/news/2520345/rural-small-town-women-nearly-twice-as-likely-to-be-assaulted-by-their-partners-statcan/>.

and individual scales were considered as well as the context of the neighbourhood, housing community and city to inform the design of the proposed transitional housing. In a literature review, the following was examined in relation to women's transitional housing: *More Than Housing: Lifeboats for Women and Children*<sup>9</sup>, *Housing as If People Mattered: Site Design Guidelines for Medium-Density Family Housing*<sup>10</sup> and *From Object to Experience: The New Culture of Architectural Design*<sup>11</sup>. Joan Forrester Sprague's book, *More than housing: lifeboats for women and children* provides insight into transitional housing and its relationship to architectural design. Sprague shares her experience-gained knowledge of working with emergency housing for women and children (which she refers to as lifeboat housing) as an architect,

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<sup>9</sup> Joan Forrester Sprague, *More than housing: lifeboats for women and children* (Stoneham, MA: Butterworth Architecture, An Imprint of Butterworth-Heinemann, 1991).

<sup>10</sup> Clare Marcus and Wendy Sarkissian, *Housing as If People Mattered: Site Design Guidelines for Medium-Density Family Housing* (Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 1986).

<sup>11</sup> Harry Francis Mallgrave, *From Object to Experience: The New Culture of Architectural Design* (New York: Bloomsbury Academic, An imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, 2018).

planner and her experiences as cofounder of many related organizations. In addition to her own experience, Sprague brings information from other architects, sponsors and residents that have shaped the lifeboat typologies. A thorough analysis of strategies of emergency housing for women and children is provided. Clare Marcus' and Wendy Sarkissian's book, *Housing as If People Mattered: Site Design Guidelines for Medium-Density Family Housing* provides guidelines summarized from "fifteen years of examining houses, conducting post-occupancy evaluation research, and analyzing comparable studies". The book's primary concern is families with children, elevating a concern for children's needs in common spaces as well as purpose-built play areas. Also tackled in this book are strategies to common challenges, including management maintenance, security and vandalism. The book illustrates these ideas with site plan diagrams and photos of case studies. Harry Francis Mallgrave's book, *From Object to Experience: The New Culture of Architectural*

*Design* combines history with cross-disciplinary research in anthropology, philosophy, aesthetics, biology, and neuroscience to highlight the criticality of incorporating scientific breakthroughs in these fields in the design of the built environment. Mallgrave argues that science is revealing how “profoundly our built habitats condition and influence the very core of our being.”<sup>12</sup> He challenges designers to prioritize the human phenomenological experience, by engaging all aspects of the way people experience space, including sound and temperature. Mallgrave exalts the responsibility of architects:

“...that architects are not charged with designing.... for specific functions but places for human life to flourish. And only by viewing design within the full temporal spectrum of our affective, perceptual, social, and cultural dimensions will we

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<sup>12</sup>Ibid., 2.

begin to see the range of our possibilities as designers.”<sup>13</sup>

In addition to the transitional housing availability crisis, there is also a lack of transition-informed architectural design for these residences. Globally, only a handful of purposely designed housing for women and women with children in transition exist.<sup>14</sup> This is significant, because current research in anthropology, philosophy, aesthetics, biology, and neuroscience is revealing the intertwined complexity of human’s relationship to their habitat.<sup>15</sup> Yet, despite research emphasizing the profound impact, transitional housing often fails to apply these research-based concepts. This critique is significant for transitional housing, as the quality and safety of the space is important for it to be a

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<sup>13</sup> Ibid, 5.

<sup>14</sup> "Shelter For Victims Of Domestic Violence / Amos Goldreich Architecture + Jacobs Yaniv Architects," ArchDaily, Published: 11 May 2018 Accessed: 3

Oct 2018, <https://www.archdaily.com/894042/shelter-for-victims-of-domestic-violence-amos-goldreich-architecture-plus-jacobs-yaniv-architects/>.

<sup>15</sup> Mallgrave, *From Object to Experience*, 5.

place of healing and restoration.<sup>16</sup> Across Canada, transitional housing and shelters are not meeting the needs of the public. In addition, one woman is killed every six days at the hand of her intimate partner in Canada, and many more have near fatal encounters with their intimate partner.<sup>17</sup> In other words, the number of Canadian women who are murdered in a ten-year period by their intimate partners is greater than the number of Canadian troops killed in Afghanistan.<sup>18</sup> The lack of transitional housing and shelters in Canada is not inconvenient, it is lethal.

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<sup>16</sup> Andrea Hetlin et al. "Long-Term Housing and Intimate Partner Violence: Journeys to Healing." *Affilia* 33. no.4 (2018): 526-542. doi:10.1177/0886109918778064.<http://resolver.scholarspo>

[rtal.info/resolve/08861099/v33i0004/526\\_lhaipv](http://rtal.info/resolve/08861099/v33i0004/526_lhaipv).

<sup>17</sup> *The War at Home*, Directed by Shelly Saywell, Toronto, ON: CBC-TV, March 2016.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

In the context of a small Northern Ontario city, questions like these arise:

- How can a transitional housing complex be an asset to and accepted by a neighbourhood?
- What cross-programming could be viable in this location?
- What design suggestions remain valid in less-densely populated areas?
- How can “eyes on the street” be created?
- How can security and safety be maintained while still providing a home atmosphere?
- How can diversity be encouraged in designs?
- How do interior and exterior common areas respond to the harsh climate?

This thesis will explore and rethink the current transitional housing typology and highlight the need for human-experience-centered designs in transitional housing. This project aims to posit a process model of how such informed design can be



incorporated into women's transitional housing, along with related programming, to aid the effective transition of women and their households. This model values and celebrates women and is intentional in creating spaces for children and opportunities for personal customization. A variety of flexible unit types are explored to encourage diversity in community and to provide a sense of control to the resident. Special attention is given to the balance of public and private spaces within the housing complex. Mixed use opportunities and the potential for a connection to the surrounding community is also captured in this model. The result of this research aims to reinforce that transitional housing location, design and composition are complex and critical to creating environments to aid women in their effective transition out of vulnerable situations.

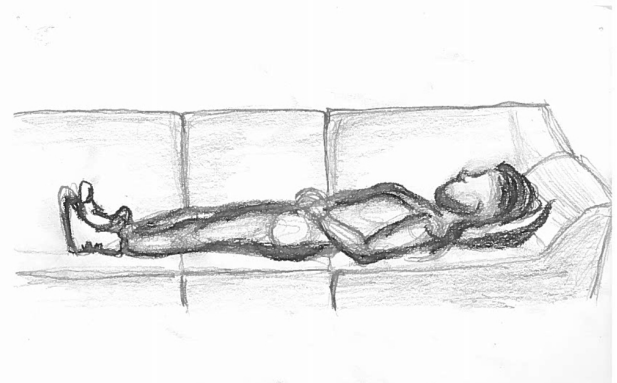
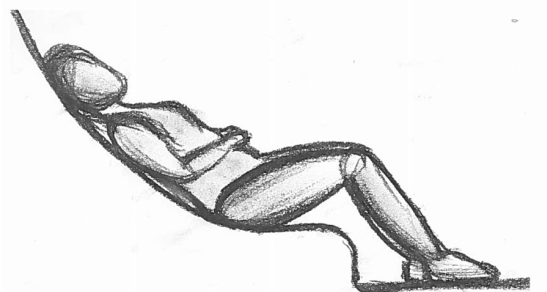
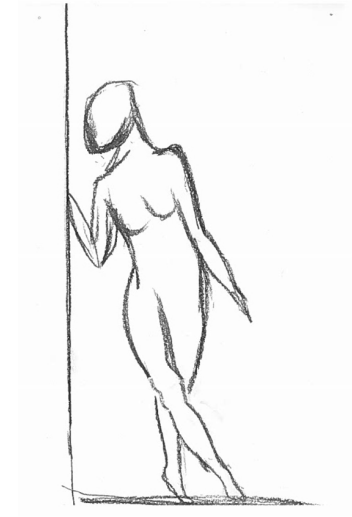
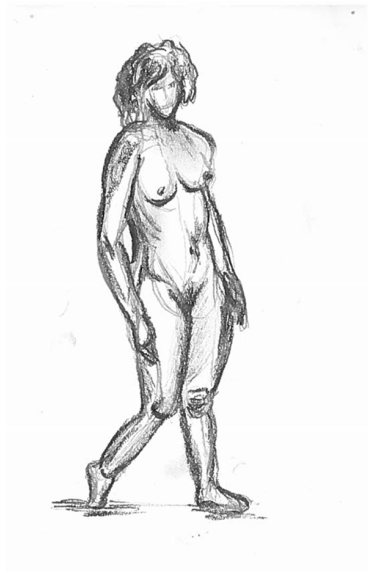
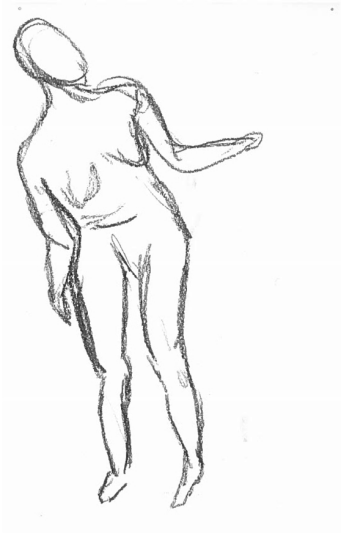
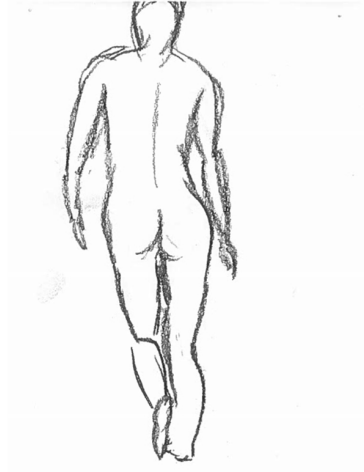
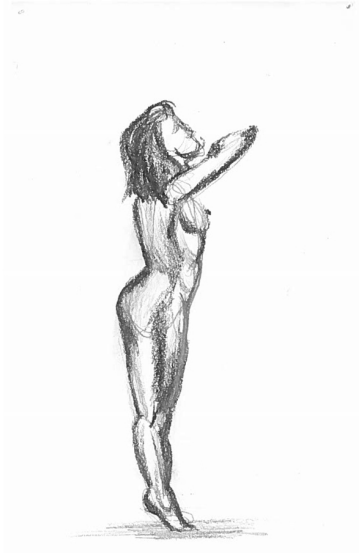


Figure 1: Author, *Drawing Study 1/4*, 2018, charcoal on paper. See Appendix: Drawing Study.

## 1. WOMEN & VIOLENCE

“A woman or girl was killed every 2.5 days on average in Canada last year.” 76.2% of those women and girls were killed by a family member or intimate partner.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Thompson. “Every 2.5 days, a woman or girl is killed in Canada.”



## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Violence against women intersects all areas of life, even in Canada, as many norms have allowed it to perpetuate. Architecture and city planning commonly reflect society, and thus societal values are commonly reinforced, such as the suppression and repression of women.<sup>20</sup> It has been said the deadliest words in the world are “it’s a girl.”<sup>21</sup> Across the globe, women are marginalized and even killed<sup>22</sup> because of their gender. Women are commonly seen as second-class citizens, less deserving of attention, overreacting, and less able. The view of, and value of, women subconsciously and consciously affects many aspects of society, including a lack of spaces and places for women in the design of cities and buildings. When women and children are valued less than an adult human male, any action against women or children can be ignored and easily dismissed as acceptable.

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<sup>20</sup> See Appendix:  
Women in Architecture

<sup>21</sup> Evan Grae Davis, *It’s a Girl!*, film, directed by Evan Grae Davis (USA: 2012).

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

### IN CANADA

“The majority of victims of spousal abuse are females, accounting for 83% of victims.”

– *The War At Home, CBC*<sup>23</sup>

“Cost of violence against women:

|                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Criminal justice system, | \$684 million          |
| Police,                  | \$187 million          |
| Counselling,             | \$294 million          |
| Total:                   | \$1 billion each year” |

– *The War At Home, CBC*<sup>24</sup>

“Small-town women [definition includes all of Northern Ontario] are nearly twice as likely to be assaulted by their partners”

– *Statistics Canada 2014.*<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> *The War At Home*, directed by Saywall.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>25</sup> Young, “Rural, small-town women nearly twice as likely to be assaulted by their partner.”

## A GENDERED ISSUE

Violence against women (VAW) is a world-wide phenomenon.<sup>26</sup> The commonness of the issue is such that VAW can be viewed as ordinary. Despite the prevalence, and the increasing loss of lives,<sup>27</sup> the issue persists.

As domestic violence in Canada is undeniably a gendered-issue this thesis will unapologetically address the needs of women and women with children. Since architecture commonly reflects what a society values, this thesis challenges current values that undermine females and proudly celebrates and prioritizes women in the proposed building and site design.

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<sup>26</sup> Mary White Stewart, *Ordinary Violence: Everyday Assaults Against Women Worldwide, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. Santa Barbara, California: Praeger, 2014.

<sup>27</sup> BayToday Staff, "Rate of domestic homicide rises 150 per cent from the previous year in

northeast Ontario say police," BayToday. March 29, 2019, accessed April 1, 2019, <https://www.baytoday.ca/local-news/rate-of-domestic-homicide-rises-150-per-cent-from-the-previous-year-in-northeast-ontario-say-police-1347107>.

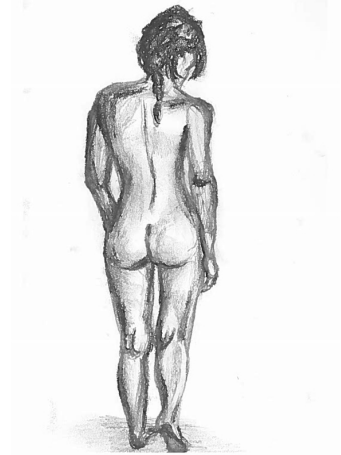


Figure 2: Author, *Drawing Study 2/4*, 2018, charcoal on paper. See Appendix: Drawing Study.



## 2. TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

“For life improvement, the transitional period is over when a single mother has achieved her goal: a foundation for long-term family stabilization and self-sufficiency.”<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> Joan Forrester Sprague, “Transitional Housing Planning and Design: Practice and Education by Women for Women in the USA,” *Ekistics*, vol. 52, no. 310, 1985. 52.

In Canada, there is a shortage of shelters and emergency housing for women who are in crisis situations.<sup>29</sup> Extensive efforts are made to accommodate women and women with children that turn to shelters for help, but unfortunately 73% are still turned away.<sup>30</sup> These women often return home to their assailant as they don't want to be "on the streets with children," and even consider illegal methods to be free of their assailant.<sup>31</sup> For woman that are fortunate enough to receive the services of a shelter they can be placed in emergency housing or directly into transitional housing depending on the situation.

## WHAT IS TRANSITIONAL HOUSING?

Transitional housing fills the need between shelter and permanent housing. It often provides

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<sup>29</sup> Crisis situations could include, but are not limited to: domestic violence, homelessness, risk of homelessness, severe mental health concern.

<sup>30</sup> Young, "73% of Canadian women and children turned away."

<sup>31</sup> Anna Melbin, Cris Sullivan, and Debra Cain. "Transitional Supportive Housing Programs: Battered Women's Perspectives and Recommendations." *Affilia* 18. no.4 (2003): 456. doi:10.1177/0886109903257623.

conveniences to aid in the transition, such as on-site support services and employment training as well as child-care. Transitional housing is also a place where residents can establish a community of personal support.

## **HIGH RISK IMMEDIATE HOUSING**

The architecture of “transitional housing” includes high-risk<sup>32</sup> immediate housing that supports women and their households who have fled from domestic violence for the initial transition period of eight months to one year. This high-risk immediate housing is typically designated for women and women with children who are fleeing severe domestic violence. The high-security features of the housing complex allow them to

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<sup>32</sup> “High risk” refers to high risk of violent partner returning to seek harm or life of their past partner. These centres require high security, door-to-door shuttles for women leaving and returning, heavily restricted access.

start to rebuild their lives after the trauma. These high-security places are necessary for some for the immediate period after leaving the home, where they remain at risk of danger from their assaulter returning. This period could be as long as eighteen months after fleeing.<sup>34</sup>

## TYPICAL TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

In addition to providing higher security than market-rent housing, typical transitional housing, offers a place for the residents to regain their independence and develop skills to equip them for success when they move on to permanent housing. A wide range of transitional housing types, sizes and organizations exist. Available on-site programming to support transitional housing residents may include: job training, nutrition planning, financial planning and trauma counseling.

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<sup>34</sup> *The War At Home*, directed by Saywall.

In most cases, typical transitional housing only provides time limited accommodations for an eight-month to one-year period. After this time, the support programs may help women attain market rent or rent geared to income housing.<sup>35</sup> Legal, counseling, safety planning and support resources are provided for an additional year to aid and educate the women to allow them to realize a life free from abuse.<sup>36</sup> Women are commonly invited to participate in sharing circles and empowerment events, so they are supported through this time.

This method has its advantages, but not all women are equipped to be independent a year after fleeing.<sup>37</sup> Frequently market-rent and affordable housing cannot sufficiently provide the feeling of safety and community that is required. This highlights that the lack of longer-term post-

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<sup>35</sup> "Transition & Housing Support," YWCA Sudbury, 2019, <https://ywcasudbury.ca/programs/tran>

sition-and-housing-support-worker-program/.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> Andrea Hetling, et al., "Long-Term Housing and Intimate Partner Violence: Journeys to Healing," 533.

intervention housing<sup>38</sup> that allows for women to regain the psychological and financial independence needed to support themselves and their family.

## BROADENING THE ROLE OF TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

A year is not necessarily enough time to complete the necessary steps for transition, which could include additional skills training, education, job searching and counselling. Furthermore, women may not have the confidence to live alone in typical housing. It is recommended that women and their families have transitional housing available for up to two years after fleeing to effectively transition into independent living.<sup>39</sup>

This thesis will therefore explore an extended typical transitional housing model, that provides the option for two-year long accommodations.

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<sup>38</sup> Post-intervention housing and housing for those who are in vulnerable situations<sup>1</sup> requires security but less than the high-risk immediate housing<sup>28</sup>

<sup>39</sup> Sprague, "Transitional Housing Planning and Design: Practice and Education," 53.

Women re-establishing themselves after fleeing domestic violence are not the only ones who could benefit from the community and professional support services intended for survivors of domestic-violence. This thesis will explore the potential of expanding the definition of “transitional housing” to be inclusive of others in vulnerable situations.

A composite women-led cohousing complex approach is proposed. This approach integrates all women-led households transitioning from different vulnerable situations, including, but not limited to women-led households seeking a post-intervention housing community. The women-led cohousing complex allows for the fostering of community and support for women and their families.





## CASE STUDIES

My research included analysis of five housing projects for women. The projects included local, provincial and international examples. The following are summaries of my research and site visit findings. There was a limitation of visual materials available to the author and included in this document in order to protect the security and privacy of the women living in these places.



Figure 3: Google Maps, YWCA Geneva House, 2018.



Figure 4: Hilditch Architect Inc., YWCA Toronto Bergamot Affordable Housing Play Area.

## 1. YWCA Genevra House, Sudbury, Ontario

Use: Long-term Emergency Women's Shelter

Security level: High, women shuttled to and from housing

Notable features: Secure entrance with 24/7 staffed front desk, located at the end of a residential neighbourhood, building height consistent with surrounding area, building set back from street, fenced-in outdoor playground and recreational area, privacy heightened with landscape features.

## 2. YWCA Toronto Bergamot Affordable Housing<sup>40</sup>

Use: Women's Affordable Housing, Day Care Centre and Park

Architect: Steve Hilditch Architect Inc.

Notable features: Community consultation was

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<sup>40</sup> "YWCA Toronto Bergamot Affordable Housing," n.d. Hilditch Architect Inc, Hilditch Architect Inc, accessed April

25, 2019, <https://www.hilditch-architect.com/Projects/Housing/Bergamot/>.

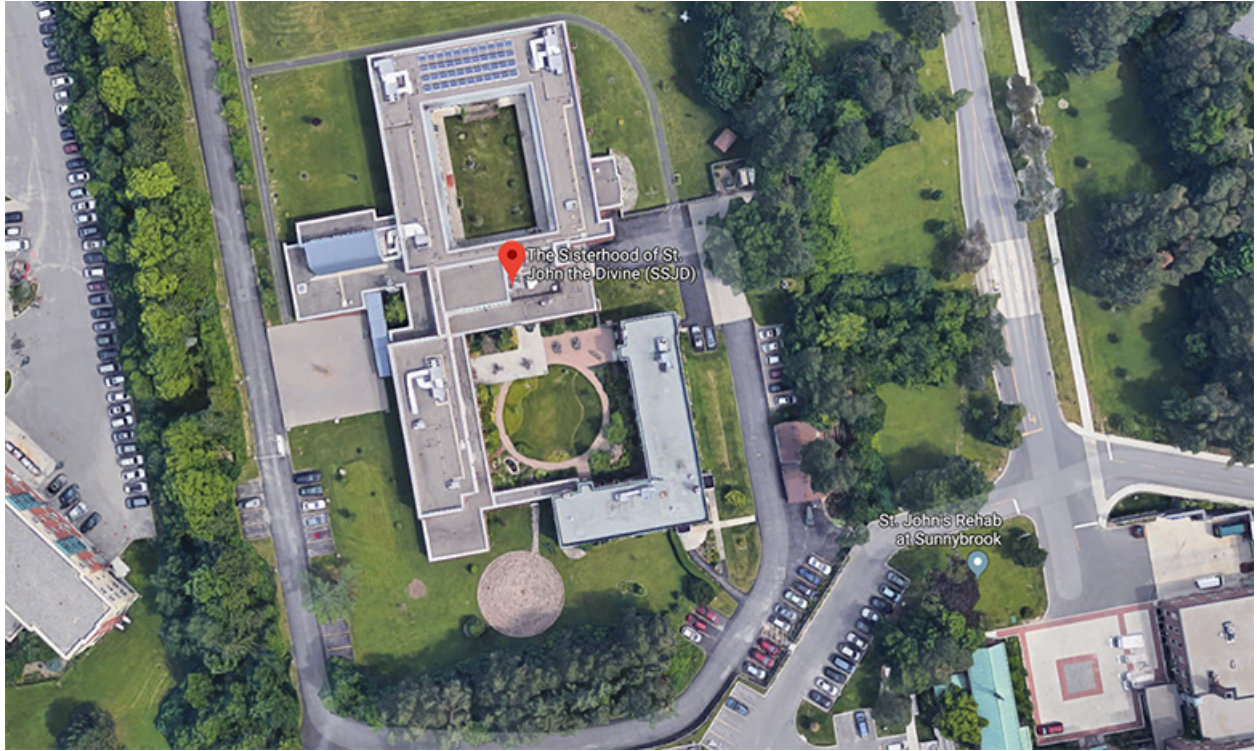


Figure 5: Google Maps, Sisterhood of the St. John Divine, 2018.



Figure 6: Rietveld Schröder House Second Floor Interior

used to gain support despite political oppositions. A private/public park was designed on neighbouring site (serves daycare by day and public after hours and weekends).

### 3. Sisterhood of the St. John the Divine, North York, ON

Use: Anglican Woman's Monastic Residence and Multi-faith Retreat Center

Notable features: Guest house, chapel, gardens, private courtyard, meditation labyrinth, generous site for walking

### 4. Rietveld Schroder House, Utrecht, Netherlands

Use: Built in 1924 as a Single-family housing for a Women-led household of four

Architects/Designers: Gerrit Rietveld & Truus Schröder-Schröder

Notable features: custom-designed for and in collaboration with the client, sliding walls on the second floor to allow for the separation or joining of bedrooms and shared space.



Figure 7:  
Shelter For Victims of  
Domestic Violence  
courtyard

Figure 8:  
Shelter For Victims of  
Domestic Violence  
Ground Floor Plan

**5. Shelter For Victims Of Domestic Violence, Tel Aviv-Yafo, Israel**

Use: co-housing for survivors of domestic violence, nursery, staff housing, support services

Architects: Amos Goldreich Architecture + Jacobs Yaniv Architects

Notable features:

Co-housing approach: shared dining and kitchen and communal areas, private units equipped with bedroom, small living room and bathroom. Child-care services on-site, support services on site.

Generous corridors.

In analyzing these women's housing projects various techniques of organizing programming and providing dignified space were studied. On-site childcare, courtyards and spaces for children were popular strategies for creating spaces that value the women's experience. These studies helped to inspire possible applications for the design of the proposed transitional housing in Chapter 4.





## ARCHITECT

## STEVE HILDITCH

## PRESENTATION

With over 30 years of experience working with the non-for-profit sector, including architecture for vulnerable populations, Steve Hilditch, at Hilditch Architect Inc. has worked with his team to design many YWCA Toronto housing projects for women-led households, some of which are transitional. Past projects have been cherished and taken care of by residents, aging well, even after 20 years. Over these years he has developed close relationships with the organization and earned their trust. The following are summaries of the insights from his professional presentation *Experience in Housing and Community Engagement*.<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> Steve Hilditch, "Experience in Housing and Community Engagement." (presentation, Hilditch Architect Inc.

Office, Toronto, ON, November 21, 2018).

## **FIRST, PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

With each agency there are differences in operating methods, decision-making processes and preferences for project management. It is important to establish an understanding of the organization of the agency. Does the agency prioritize hierarchical or consensus-driven decision making? Once this understanding is established, a meaningful and effective dialogue can happen between the architect and client.

## **SECOND PROGRAM**

Each project design starts with a discussion with the client about the program. The client may have a firm functional program, such as we need to house or serve 'x' number of people and we need 'x' services with no more than 'x' amount of dollars. Deconstructing the client needs is

important to understanding the root of the needs and ensuring that the architectural form will truly serve the client's needs.

### **SEEK PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

Teaming up with other agencies to provide needed services, such as childcare, foodbank, women's centre etc. can be worthwhile if the housing agency does not have these programs in-house. In choosing an agency, consider the following: What opportunities exist for partnership with other non-profits in the community? How can this project partner with existing established services to address the programmatic needs of the project? Are there current non-profit organizations looking to expand? How can this partnership increase the quality of project? Is there opportunity for rentable commercial, office or meeting space to offset building costs?

## **SECURITY FEATURES EMPHASIZED BY CLIENT**

A secure entrance that is less prominent but still visible from the street and has a home-like atmosphere is often preferred by some clients. Occasionally a 24-hour staff or security-controlled entrance may be required, depending on the nature of the project. Fenced courtyards are often preferred in to provide another layer of security.

## **ADDITIONAL SAFETY AND SECURITY DESIGN STRATEGIES**

The ground floor is commonly designated as a semi-public area. Entrances to buildings are minimized and emergency-only exits added. “Communication stairs,” wide attractive and naturally lit stairs, are often used to encourage use of the stairs and minimize elevator use and expenses.

## **DESIGNING FOR A COMMUNITY OF EQUALS**

It is important to recognize power relationships in the space. It is important that staff are not seen as superior to residents. Design that emphasizes or creates an atmosphere that staff are superior should be avoided. By prioritizing the creation of a community of equals it upholds the value of the residents and aids in establishing and maintaining a more respectful environment.

## **NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE**

Humans have rights to housing, regardless of who they are. If the site use is compatible with residential-use, then the profile of the people who will reside there cannot be considered a valid reason to challenge the project.

## **COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

Community support is beneficial in the acceptance and execution of a project, as well as its overall success. The level of community support can contribute to the thriving or declining of a program.

## **BUILD YOUR TEAM & DEBUNK MYTHS**

Lack of community support often arises from misinformed community members. Fears of lowering their property value (which they may rely on for retirement), fear of poor people, fear of crime and fear of the unknown, need to be addressed by any new project proposal. These can be daunting concerns to address all at once at a community meeting, which has the potential to be derailed by a citizen that is especially dissatisfied with the idea. One strategy is to create a respectable team from the community to aid in advocating for the project, prior to community

meetings. The architect can approach valued and respected community groups and explain the project and its benefits as well as gain feedback.

In the event that such groups agree that such a project would serve the common good, they could co-host a meeting or even present to the community on the firm's behalf.

## **COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

Once these networks are established, a larger public community presentation can be held, and those networks can be present to support the project. It is important to disseminate clear and correct information out, such as: who is moving in and how is the project going to improve the neighbourhood. Following the presentation, small group discussion is encouraged to allow for feedback and concerns to be expressed and recorded to facilitate response. Each small group would be equipped with an expert on the project.

These small groups provide the participants with the opportunity to be heard and can reduce the risk of the project to being derailed by a disgruntled citizen.

## **ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY**

Work with everyone you can at the meeting. Show you are actively listening. Use the meeting to build honest and open trust and to develop a network of support. In community meetings lead the community participants in design charettes and visioning sessions. Ask questions like what is lacking in the community? What would you like changed in your community? In the YWCA Bergamot project, the discussion raised concerns about the neighbourhood's poor physical condition including pot holes and the unmaintained desolate lot. Safety concerns were also raised for the area, including: excessive car speeding and low-visibility.



Hilditch Architect worked with public works to address these concerns in their design.

## **POST-OCCUPANCY EVALUATION**

Hilditch Architects seeks to work with like-minded non-profit individuals and organizations and often develops enduring friendships with their clients. As a result of these relationships, the firm is often invited to do more projects for the client and has a chance to hear of about issues with completed projects.

## FEAR OF OTHERS

Setha Low echoes Hilditch's concepts in her examples of gated communities in *Spatializing Culture: The Ethnography of Space and Place*, stating that at the core of the problem, it is the fear of others or unknown.<sup>43</sup> Some communities make excuses, but at the core, are adamant in maintaining their utopia, free of "undesirables." When a social project such as affordable housing, shelter or transitional housing is proposed to an area, the community may raise its own concerns. These fears are varied, but include fears of: property value decrease, crime increase, drug use, negative influence on children and unwanted noise.<sup>44</sup> The majority of these fears are grounded in myths. For example, many studies have shown "that the inclusion of well-managed housing for special populations has no negative effect on

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<sup>43</sup> Setha Low, *Spatializing Culture: The Ethnography of Space and Place* (New York, NY: Routledge, 2016).

<sup>44</sup> Hilditch, "Housing and Community Engagement."

property values”.<sup>45</sup> There are instances when previously abandoned or underused buildings or sites have been transformed into housing for women and children and have become an asset to the neighbourhood, displacing crime that had previously occurred there.<sup>46</sup> An awareness of positive examples helps to demystify the concept. There have even been cases where community members have set fire to the site of a proposed shelter to express their dissatisfaction.<sup>47</sup> When extreme actions have been pursued, an alternate location should be sought, as this environment would not be healthy or safe for vulnerable people.<sup>48</sup> Community approval can have effects on the safety and experience of the future residents, so attaining community support will aid in the success of the proposed development.

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<sup>45</sup>Sprague, *More than housing*, 37.

<sup>46</sup> Hilditch, “Housing and Community Engagement.”

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

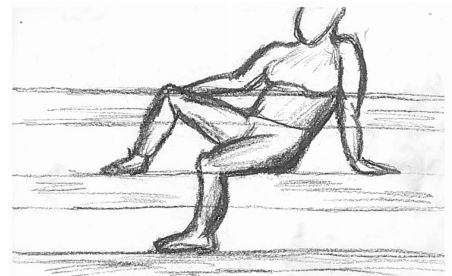
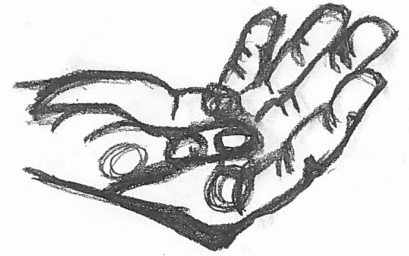
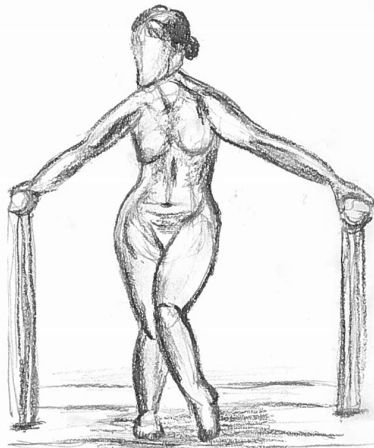
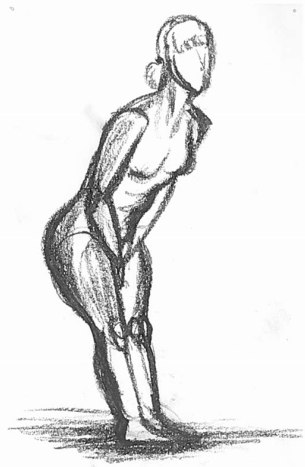


Figure 9: Author, Drawing Study 3/4, 2018, charcoal on paper. See Appendix: Drawing Study.

## PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

## PROCESS

In Canada, women in non-metropolitan areas are more at risk of experiencing domestic violence.<sup>49</sup>

The design exploration focuses on how this new transitional cohousing programming could be architecturally manifested in non-metropolitan Canadian cities and towns, specifically in Northern Ontario. The posited design exploration proposes a site in Sudbury, Ontario, where there is an established need in the region and outlying areas.

Transitional housing aims to foster the skills a woman needs to regain her independence. Housing ought to support the development of community, independence and ownership. The design considerations should be reflective of the community and the needs of social support.

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<sup>49</sup> Young, "Rural, small-town women nearly twice as likely to be assaulted by their partners: StatCan."

Establishing these features is important before other design elements are applied.

To guide program development, Sprague's *More than Housing: Lifeboats for Women and Children*<sup>50</sup> and Clare Cooper Marcus and Wendy Sarkissian *Housing as if People Mattered* were referenced.

In working through the checklist provided at the end of the *More than Housing: Lifeboats for Women and Children*<sup>51</sup> a greater understanding of the transitional and supportive housing typology and its responsibilities was gained. The checklist also provided a framework to guide and define who the residents would be, outline the resident's physical and security needs, address corresponding accessibility to these needs, and outline the organization's and community's role in providing for them. In working through this process, critically informed decisions were made.

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<sup>50</sup> Sprague, *More than housing*, 223-225.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

The 254 guidelines for the planning of medium-density family housing, provided in *Housing as if People Mattered*<sup>52</sup> gave similar insight and direction with a focus on site planning. The guidelines provided insights of the functional needs of multiple families living in close-proximity and how the designer should approach meeting those needs. There is special attention given to families with children, elevating a concern for children's needs in common spaces as well as suggesting purpose-built play areas. One example provided suggests using different pathway treatments to encourage or discourage use, such as medium river rocks on path by the water's edge is difficult to traverse and therefore discourages use and can prevent children from wandering to unsupervised water. Also tackled in this book are strategies to common challenges, including maintenance, security and vandalism.

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<sup>52</sup> Marcus and Sarkissian, *Housing as if People Mattered*.



In distilling and combining the knowledge gained from these texts, with case studies and examining the presentation with Hilditch Architects Inc., the following programs were selected for the proposed design on Southview Drive Site: Women's Transitional Cohousing Complex with Park, Day Care and Support Services.

## DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The proposed facilities would be owned by the non-for-profit social service organization, such as, Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) who would manage the transitional cohousing program. The Day Care and Support Services program and building would be managed and maintained by a separate sub-contracted organization. These services would work in partnership to serve both the transitional residents and the wider community. A portion of the proceeds generated from rent will directly offset costs of the transitional housing.

## WOMEN'S TRANSITIONAL COHOUSING

As previously defined, this thesis will explore an extended typical transitional housing model, providing accommodations for a period up to two years. The residents will include both post-intervention lower risk survivors of domestic-violence and other women in vulnerable situations seeking a housing community. The children and youth of these women will also be on site. The cohousing approach is informed by valuing and providing space for community to grow within the cohousing house.

Each house will provide accommodations for eight households. In *More than housing: lifeboats for women and children*, Sprague recommends “a minimum number of five or six families living in proximity” to foster “[p]eer support advantages... [and] service provision convenience”.<sup>53</sup> Sprague continues explaining that “[s]ome service providers

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<sup>53</sup> Sprague, *More than housing*, 34.

recommend an optimal subgroup size of eight to ten households [small enough] to know each other and large enough for diversity.” For larger sites, clustering is recommended to promote community, but privacy must also be valued<sup>54 55</sup> The project size should also “not seem overwhelming to its inhabitants” but be large enough to provide adequate space for children’s activities.<sup>56</sup> The posited solution proposed in this project will explore the idea of clustering five three-storey houses, each containing eight households, together. The posited housing complex will support a total of forty households, providing accommodations for seventy to ninety residents. As with programs which focus on life improvement and stability, that are structured for residents to stay up to two years, each household will have their own private unit for sleeping and bathroom needs.<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> Marcus and Sarkissian, *Housing as If People Mattered*, 67.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid., 36.

<sup>57</sup> Sprague, *More than housing*, 50.

## SCALE OF HOUSING

Neighbourhood acceptance is important as it can facilitate the success of both project approval and program support. Sprague explains that “[t]here are direct relationships between local acceptance, program characteristics, and scale. Most neighbourhoods prefer to maintain the existing scale, appearance, and resident mix.”<sup>58</sup> The posited project will therefore reflect the existing neighbourhood’s residential fabric, drawing inspiration from the area’s single and double story modest housing, with most having red brick facades. Sprague argues that although “[n]eighbourhoods generally prefer small developments of twenty units or less,... small sites are costly to manage and maintain unless the program has management and maintenance capability. Professional housing managers prefer sites of fifty or more units.”<sup>59</sup> The proposed forty

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<sup>58</sup> Ibid., 34.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

units, along with the selected programs shared with the neighbourhood<sup>60</sup> will work together to aid the community's acceptance. The cross-programming on site and opportunity to organically expand the housing over time allows this project to be more feasible for a developer. A larger-scale project (over one-hundred families) was not selected for this Sudbury site, as it would be incongruous with the fabric of the surrounding area. A smaller model was favoured in order to advocate for community and higher quality living standards while also avoiding the creation of an institution or ghetto.<sup>61</sup> A smaller model also affords greater opportunity to refine the design and advocate for quality. The design of the transitional housing scale, thresholds and architectural details is significant as "for a resident[,] the image of housing reflects personal identity and value, both to self and others. It can

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<sup>60</sup> Hilditch, "Housing and Community Engagement."

<sup>61</sup> Sprague, *More than housing*, 38.

contribute to self-worth and can help a woman and her children gain control over their lives.”<sup>62</sup>

The transitional cohousing complex houses are clustered to form a fenced in central courtyard. This courtyard includes: various play structures and opportunities for recreational activities for the transitional cohousing families. Picnic tables and benches are dispersed in the site. There is a designated barbeque area. This secure courtyard would only be accessible to the transitional cohousing families and their guests. This was chosen, as a sense of community and security is likely to be enhanced when access to the site is discouraged by others.<sup>63</sup> This design also keeps cars outside of the courtyard, providing a safe space for children to play as it is separated from cars.<sup>64</sup> It would allow for a third place for the

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<sup>62</sup> Ibid., 40.

<sup>63</sup> Marcus and Sarkissian, *Housing as if People Mattered*, 40.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid., 37.

## SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAMMING

cohousing community to connect with other houses in the complex and with invited guests.

The case study research and professional presentation revealed the benefits of incorporating supplementary on-site services and programs or related mixed-use typologies with transitional housing. The supplementary programs for the design proposal were chosen on the basis of community needs and opportunities for expansion and partnership with existing established non-for-profit organizations.<sup>65</sup> The questions were asked: How can this project benefit and serve the wider Sudbury community? and What services could be provided through partnerships with the local support services non-profits? A common theme in the research has advocated for on-site childcare and support services in housing serving

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<sup>65</sup>Hilditch, "Housing and Community Engagement."

transitioning women-led households.<sup>66 67 68</sup> These needs were analyzed in the context of Sudbury's needs and opportunities for partnership.

These on-site services are offered to the wider neighbourhood. This distinction also allows women to still access these services after they move to permanent housing.<sup>69 70</sup> Similarly, the on-site Day Care open to residents and the wider community can maintain continuity for family life for mothers that move to permanent housing.<sup>71</sup> This is significant for mothers gaining independence, as "there is typically long waiting period for a new center and the potential interruption of services can be yet another obstacle in a household's progress".<sup>72</sup> This disruption can be prevented by having children move from on- to off-site childcare during the time the family lives in transitional

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<sup>66</sup> Melbin, Sullivan, and Cain. "Transitional Supportive Housing Program," 453.

<sup>67</sup> Marcus and Sarkissian, *Housing as If People Mattered*, 193.

<sup>68</sup> Hilditch, "Housing and Community Engagement."

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> Sprague, *More than housing*, 34.

<sup>71</sup> Ibid.

<sup>72</sup> Ibid.



housing[, if the permanent housing location is confirmed].”<sup>73</sup> The onsite childcare also offers convenience for the mothers and mimics a working parent schedule.

## SUPPORT SERVICES

In visiting support services in the community, their critical contribution to the city was evident, as were their space constraints. One of the places included, “Sudbury Women’s Centre” which is a “non-profit charitable organization dedicated to providing information, referral and support services to women who have been impacted by violence and/or difficult life circumstances.”<sup>74</sup> This centre offers a variety of free programs for women in need in the community. These programs include: Self Compassion Workshops, Drop-in Sisters Support group for Women and their children,

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<sup>73</sup> Ibid.

<sup>74</sup> "Resources." Sudbury Women's Centre. accessed March 28, 2019. <https://sudburywc.ca/resources/>.

Violence Prevention Workshops, Safety Plan, Workshops, Sewing Circle, Collective Kitchen, My Sister's Closet.<sup>75</sup> There would be the potential to partner with and expand this successful organization to offer such services on-site at Southview Support Services Centre. This organization, along with YWCA, and the Sudbury's Pregnancy Care Centre & Infant Food Bank, which is looking to expand, could offer services and have office space in this building. Other opportunities for partnership include: "Sudbury Vocational Resource Centre", "YMCA" job training and newcomer services, "Sudbury Mental Health and Addictions Centre", "Child and Family Centre" (child and youth mental health agency) could also be a potential partnership. Alternatively, a flexible office space could be shared by multiple organizations, each renting the office space on a weekly basis.

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<sup>75</sup> Ibid.

The on-site support services would provide added convenience for the women living in the cohousing complex, as well as women in the surrounding neighbourhood and South End community to access these services.

## **CHILDCARE CENTRE**

The need for childcare spaces was identified as a community need. Childcare costs are high and there continues to be a shortage of registered spaces in Ontario. Greater Sudbury is also noted for its desert-like pockets, highlighting the need that exists in the city. High childcare costs coupled with long waiting lists, are a challenge for women-led households in vulnerable situations. Registered childcare centres are respected for their high security, professionalism, and healthy learning environment for children.

Providing on-site childcare allows for safe childcare and convenience for mothers in transition. The

Childcare Centre would provide services for infants, toddlers and preschool aged children and before and after-school programs. Priority would be given to the cohousing families, with extra spaces being filled by the families in the community. The childcare centre also acts as a connection for the children and parents to develop friendships in their surrounding community and is an effective and compatible program with the women's transitional cohousing.



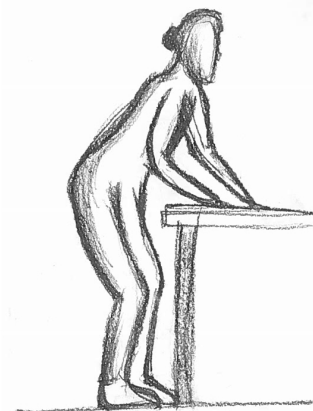
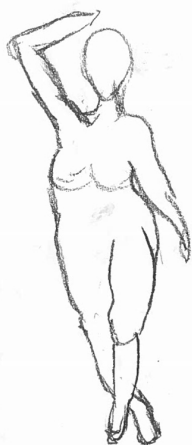
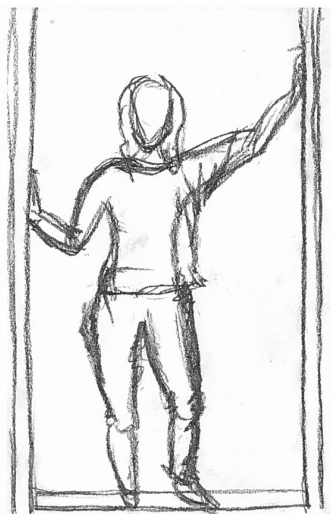


Figure 10: – Author, Drawing Study 4/4, 2018, charcoal on paper. See Appendix: Drawing Study.

**SOUTHVIEW DRIVE**

**WOMEN'S COHOUSING**

**PROPOSAL**

**TRANSITION** *verb/noun*

tran·si-tion | \ tran(t)-'si-shən

The process of period of changing from one state, stage or place to another.

*Definition Adapted from  
Merriam-Webster Dictionary*





## SITE

In Canada, transitional housing and shelters are at maximum capacity. This thesis focuses on Northern Ontario, as women in non-metropolitan areas are more vulnerable [nearly twice as likely to experience domestic violence] due to increased isolation and lack of access to resources.<sup>76</sup> Sudbury was chosen as it is the largest Northern Ontario City by population size, and is better equipped with social and transit services than a less dense area. There is a need for transitional housing in Sudbury as all current transitional housing is at maximum capacity.

## SITE SELECTION

Sudbury is also known as the hub for Northern Ontario, allowing the potential for people from surrounding Northern communities to be referred to this housing program. The Southview site was

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<sup>76</sup> Young, "Rural, small-town women nearly twice as likely to be assaulted by their partners: StatCan."



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Garbage and Recycling Area</li> <li>2. Resident Parking</li> <li>3. Resident Access Road</li> <li>4. Secure Fence with Resident access only</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Transitional Cohousing- 8 Households each</li> <li>6. Resident park</li> <li>7. Resident sandbox / skating rink</li> <li>8. Resident BBQ &amp; picnic area</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

Figure 11: Author (base topography adapted from topography received from the City of Greater Sudbury), *Proposed Site Plan*, 2019.



- 9. Secure Main entrance, 24/7 surveillance and intercom system buzz-in
- 10. Childcare Centre and Support Services Parking

- 11. Support Services Building
- 12. Childcare Centre
- 13. Existing Neighbourhood Single-Family Households

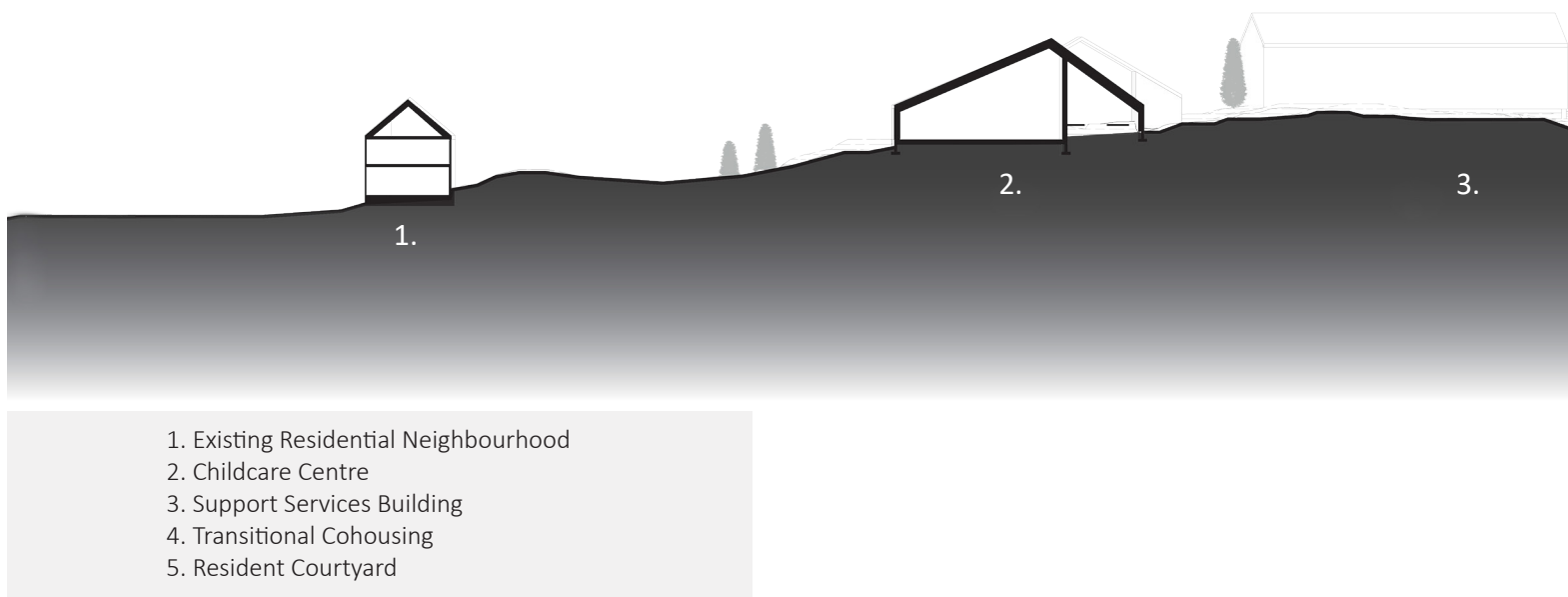


Figure 12: Author (base topography informed by topography received from the City of Greater Sudbury), *Proposed Site Section*, 2019.



selected for its privacy as well as its ability to be incorporated into an existing transit route.<sup>77</sup> The site has an expansive view of Robinson Lake and enjoys privacy due to the natural elevation changes, mature coniferous trees, and open conservation area opposite the site. The site area is currently vacant but zoned for future development and allows for privacy without isolation as it is located adjacent to a developed, moderately active, single-family neighbourhood. The location is in close proximity to walking trails, schools, grocery stores and clinics, including the “NEO Women’s Health Network” which specializes in obstetric and gynaecology services.

## **SITE ZONING**

To choose the site programming zones, the site was visited, and the views and topography

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<sup>77</sup> Marcus and Sarkissian, *Housing as If People Mattered*, 199.

informed the siting of the buildings. The proposed childcare centre was located on the North East portion of the site, bordering the residential neighbourhood and the site. The North East portion is dramatically higher in elevation than the residential neighbourhood allowing for the childcare centre architecture to be an icon on the site and take advantage of the rocky landscape. The proposed support services building was located adjacent to the childcare centre. The location allows for the offices to maximize lake views and take advantage of heat generated through south facing windows. The proposed buildings work together to create a services complex to be used by both the community and transitional cohousing residents. Parking will be shared by the two programs. The transitional cohousing houses will be nestled in the portion of the site that dips to a flatter valley, to allow for a more sheltered area for courtyard activities and ease of access to housing by bike, car, walking, or with a stroller.

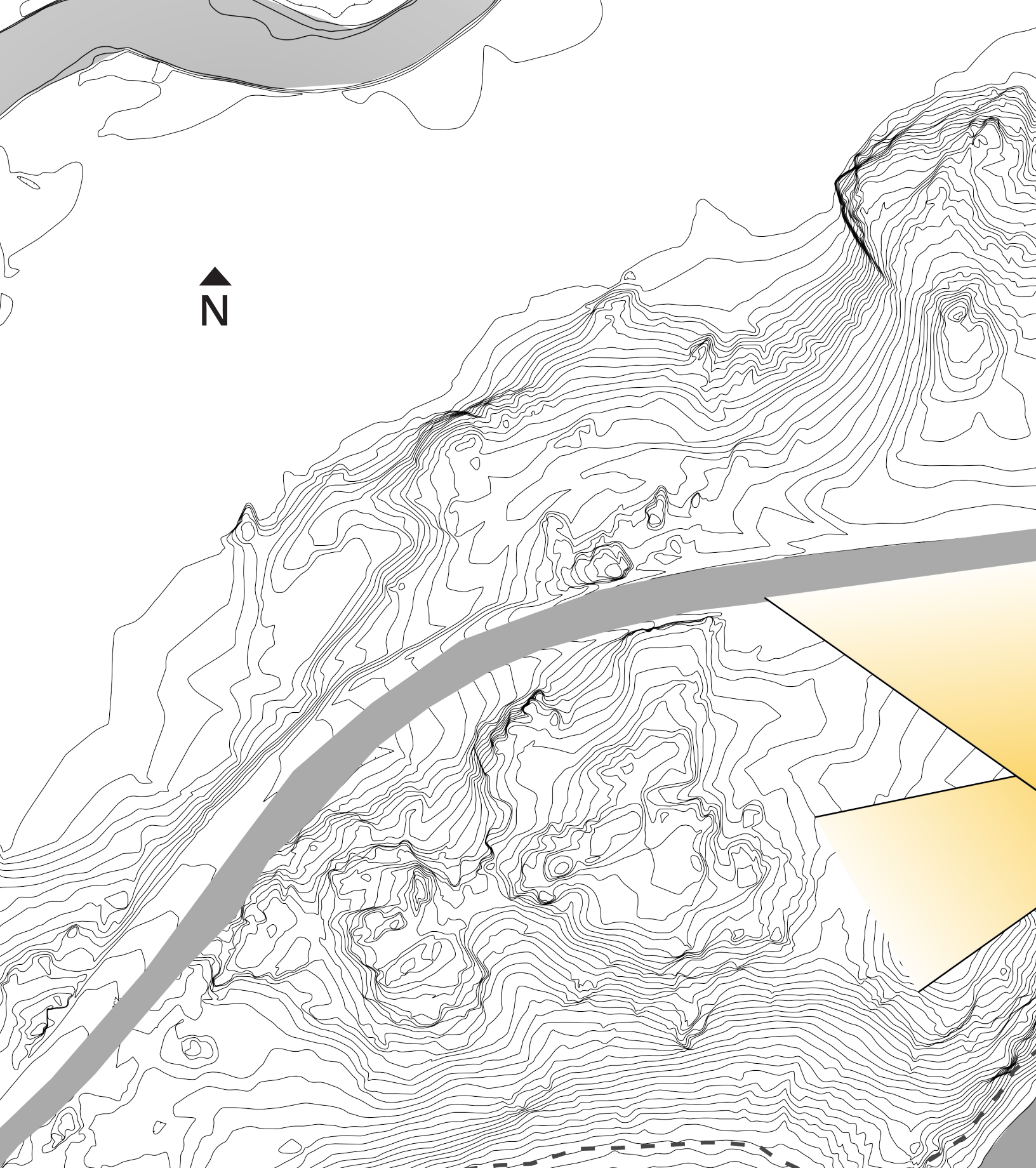
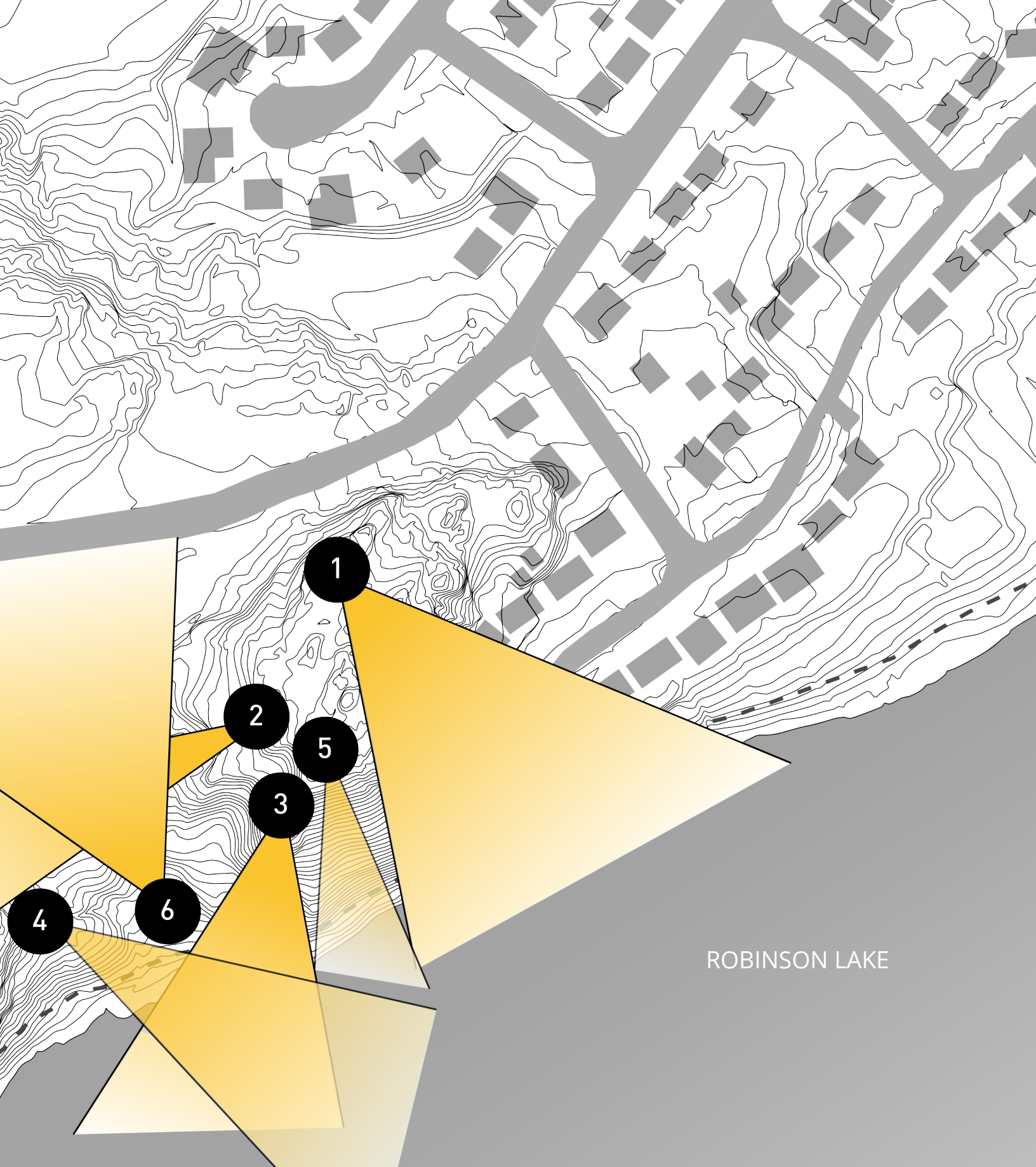


Figure 13: Author (base topography informed by topography received from the City of Greater Sudbury), *Proposed Site with Views*, 2019. Refer to Figure 14.





ROBINSON LAKE



Figure 14: Author, *Selected Site Views*, October 21, 2018 & December 8, 2018, photography. Refer to Figure 13 for site reference.



## SAFETY & SECURITY

In designing the proposed transitional housing for women and children who have fled from domestic violence, privacy, safety and security are valid considerations. Designing a restorative, phenomenologically engaged, place for survivors can be a daunting challenge to pursue. Over the years, a variety of methods have been employed, including highly secure, prison-inspired high security thresholds, private secret locations, condo-concierge desks, number code access apartments and converted single family homes. For the design of the transitional cohousing zones it was important to create a space that prioritized the dignity and safety of residents while supporting the transitional and restorative experience. In addition to standard safety measures,<sup>78</sup> Jacobs'

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<sup>78</sup> Standard safety measures include: security cameras, appropriate lighting,

secure fob or pin-code entry, priority of visibility, such as the avoidance of visually obstructing large trees.

theory of “eyes on the street,”<sup>79 80</sup> was employed in the design process to create a vibrant and highly visible central courtyard. A proposed high wooden fence surrounds the site with secure entrances. A proposed main secure supervised entrance is designated for visitors, deliveries, yard maintenance and snow removal to provide added security.

A similar idea, the “defensible space” theory, developed by Oscar Newman, an architect and city planner theory was applied. This theory addresses the relationships of crime, safety and security to space and critiques that many methods of security are required and argues that designing for safety must be considered at the initial stages of architectural design, and not left to post-construction.<sup>81</sup> Newman explains that “defensible

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<sup>79</sup> “Eyes on the Street theory” recognizing that spaces which are designed to be vibrant and allow many views to the street, rather than being desolate, feel and are safer.

<sup>80</sup> Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* (New York, NY: Random House, 1961).

<sup>81</sup> Oscar Newman, *Design Guidelines for Creating Defensible Space* (Ohio: Oscar Newman, 1975).

space” is a theory that empowers occupants to participate in the security of their homes. He argues that the design of site and physical aspects can encourage “an environment that is intensively utilized and continually monitored by its inhabitants.” Newman’s theory draws strong parallels to 1961 theories proposed by Jacobs but focuses more on the lens of housing. His design guidelines comprehensively span all levels of the project from site layout to construction materials. Newman differentiates design principles for different housing types and different occupant ages and lifestyles. In “Shared Life-Style” Newman advocates for smaller groups in housing, as it makes it possible to recognize all the people living in the area.

The design proposal intentionally applies the theories of Jacobs and Newman. Their concepts are expanded on by incorporating a variety of sizes of private units in the residential co-housing, ensuring a mixing of household types within each

co-housing house, to promote activity in the residence zone at varying hours and lead to safer and more vibrant areas.

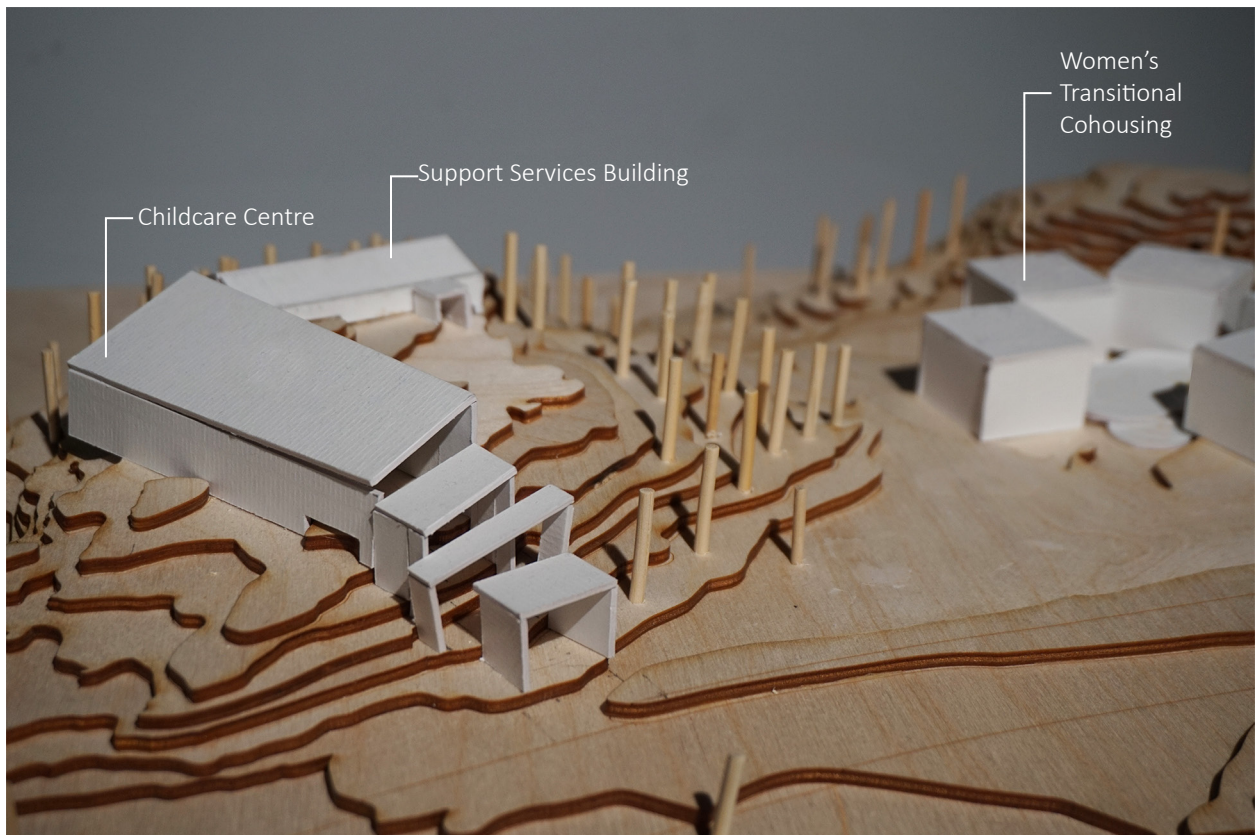


Figure 15: Author, *Massing model of Proposed Women's Transitional Co-housing Complex: View 1*, 2019, photograph of model.



## CHILDCARE CENTRE

The proposed childcare centre is to provide services for both the transitional housing community and the neighbourhood. It will be spacious to allow for a variety of learning styles. The design will be informed by the comprehensive Child Care Design & Technical Guideline<sup>82</sup> and input from the Sudbury childcare providers. All-day care will be provided for infants, preschool and toddler-aged children. Before and After-school programming will also be available for elementary school aged children.

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<sup>82</sup>LGA Architectural Partners, "Child Care Design & Technical Guideline," Child Services Toronto, published 2016, accessed March 29, 2019,

[https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/8641-CS-childcaredesign.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2qVFk4Rg9fbtlzm7nwfPyVQGvAZy-V1Pw\\_quIVbHTwFNOGj3sxQg1l1vE](https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/8641-CS-childcaredesign.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2qVFk4Rg9fbtlzm7nwfPyVQGvAZy-V1Pw_quIVbHTwFNOGj3sxQg1l1vE).



Figure 16: Author, *Massing model of Proposed Women's Transitional Co-housing Complex: View 2*, 2019, photograph of model.

## SUPPORT SERVICES

It is important for transitional housing to provide on-site services, which are dependent on program goals and resident needs, but “can include counseling in[:] self-esteem, budgeting, nutrition, job training, and career planning.”<sup>83</sup> Rather than re-creating programs that may be existing in a community, the proposed design opts for partnerships to allow for the expansion and integration of other community programs. The proposed building will be rented to a mix of organizations with similar agendas to provide valuable services to the housing complex residents as well as the surrounding area.

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<sup>83</sup> Sprague, *More than housing*, 34.

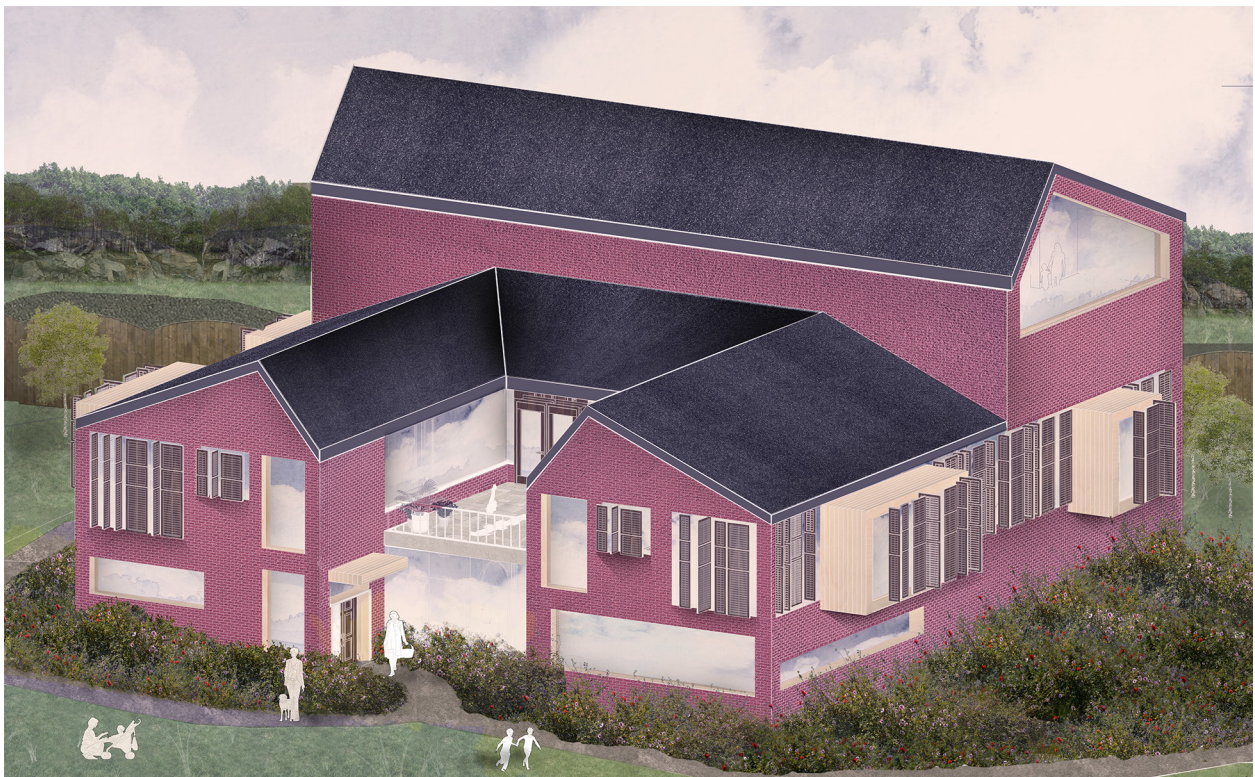


Figure 17: Author, *Women's Transitional Cohousing Exterior Render*, 2019.

## WOMEN'S TRANSITIONAL COHOUSING

When designing a new home for survivors of domestic violence and women in vulnerable situations, who are seeking to take control of their lives, user experience should be prioritized.

Unfortunately, this is not often the case with social housing. Design of these spaces is commonly not given the same attention and time as other typologies. With tight budgets, social housing often strives for peak-economy, but in this striving the human experience is neglected. Cross-disciplinary research in anthropology, philosophy, aesthetics, biology, and neuroscience have revealed the profound intertwined complexity of human's relationship to their habitat and its influence on overall health. Mallgrave emphasizes the need to incorporate these scientific breakthroughs in the

design of the built environment.<sup>84</sup> Mallgrave expands on the value of designing for the human phenomenological experience, highlighting the behavioural and health benefits. This is especially significant when working with vulnerable populations. The co-housing approach in addition to providing a community where responsibilities can be shared and skills taught has been shown to have

“both mental and physical health benefits, [even] avoiding or delaying [the] need for medical care through neighbour support, increasing mental stimulation through community involvement, and increasing feelings of efficacy and self-esteem that come with helping other community members.”<sup>85</sup>

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<sup>84</sup> Mallgrave, *Object to Experience*.

<sup>85</sup> Amy Lubik and Tom Kosatsky, “Public health should promote co-operative housing and cohousing,” *Canadian Journal of Public Health* 110, no.2 (2019): 124.

The proposed transitional co-housing therefore intentionally gives priority to valuing and upholding the human experience of the resident and promoting social inclusion.

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# GROUND FLOOR PLAN

1 : 175

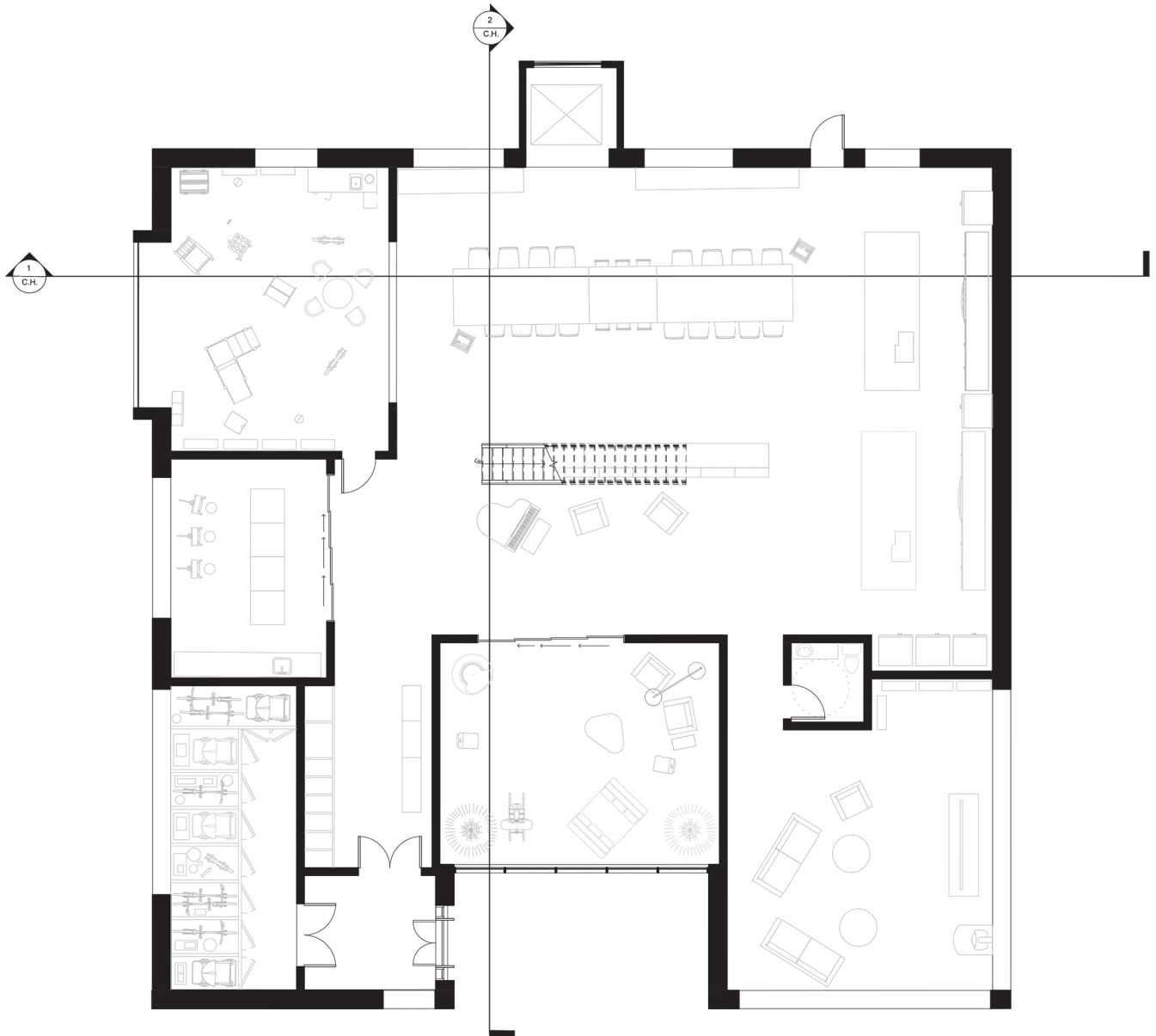


Figure 18: Author, *Proposed Women's Transitional Cohousing Ground Floor Plan 1:175*, 2019.



## SECOND FLOOR PLAN

1 : 175

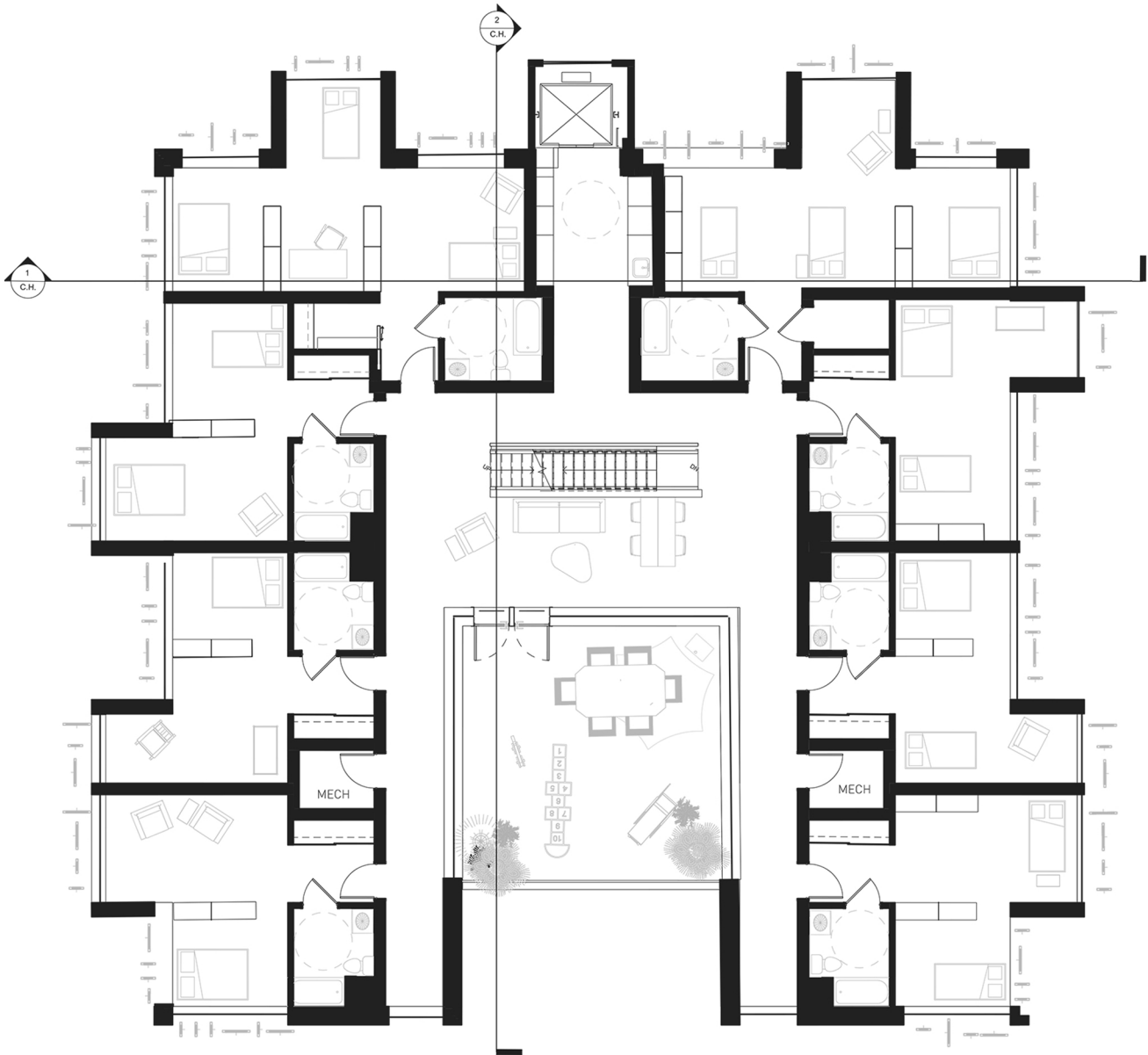


Figure 19: Author, *Proposed Women's Transitional Cohousing Second Floor Plan 1:175*, 2019.

# THIRD FLOOR PLAN

1 : 175

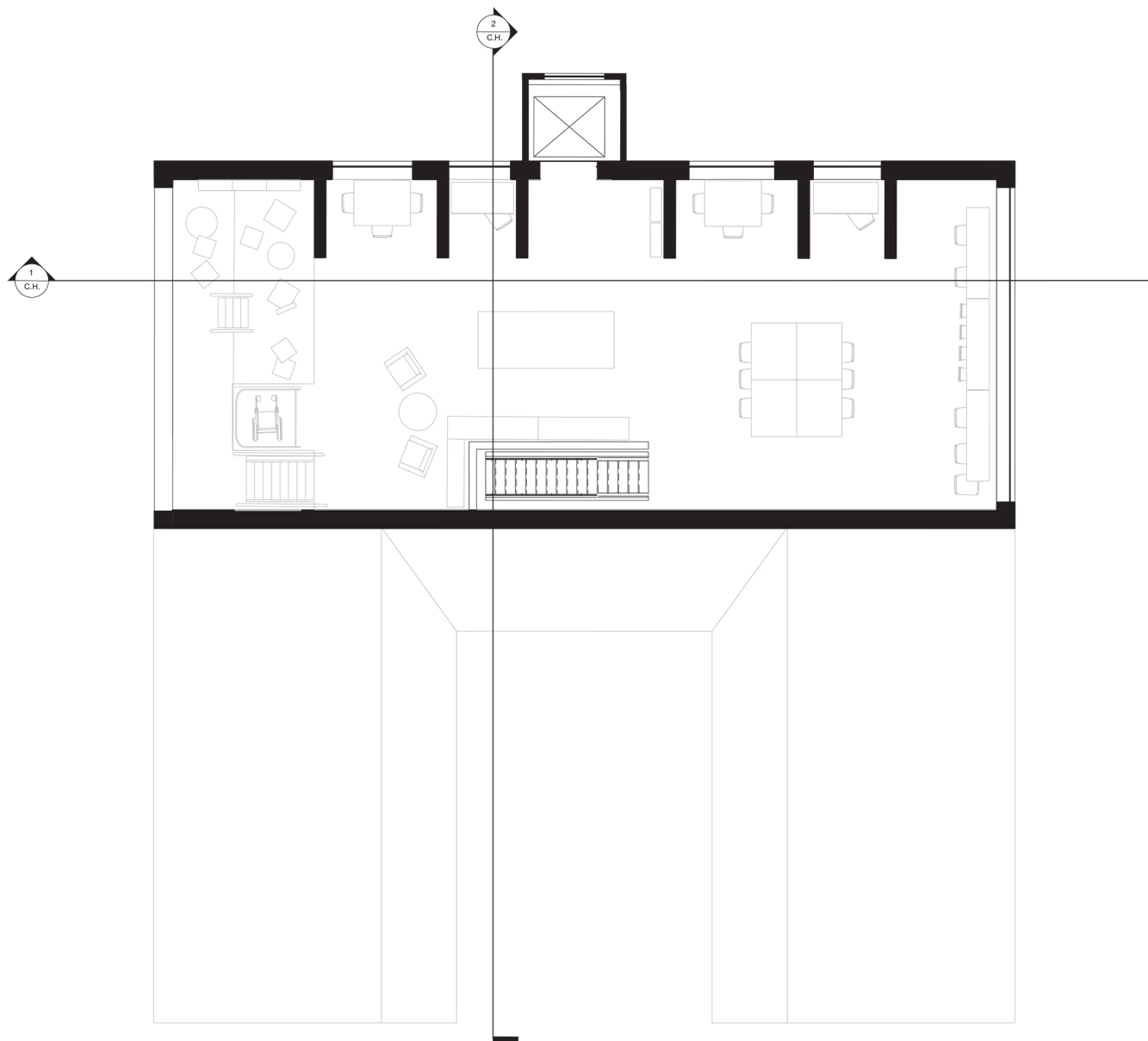


Figure 20: Author, *Proposed Women's Transitional Cohousing Third Floor Plan 1:175*, 2019.

## PRIVATE AND COMMON

In the proposed design of the transitional cohousing, balancing the needs for community and privacy were carefully considered. Many women who have fled domestic violence have been isolated and controlled.<sup>86</sup> Their abuser has often stripped previous community supports as well as their independence. Reintroducing community while simultaneously providing individual private spaces is important. Creating spaces for community connections within the housing complex, as well as to the wider neighbourhood is a complex design consideration. In *Making Places for People: 12 Questions Every Designer Should Ask*, Christie Johnson Coffin and Jenny Young outline that “uncovering the appropriate balance between community and privacy is a critical part of any design”.<sup>87</sup>

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<sup>86</sup> Melbin, Sullivan, and Cain. "Transitional Supportive Housing Programs," 446.

<sup>87</sup> Christie Johnson Coffin and Jenny Young, *Making Places for People: 12 Questions Every Designer Should Ask* (New York, NY: Routledge, 2017), 99.

The proposed design of transitional cohousing intentionally created generous common spaces with good visibility to promote community. Each one of the three floors of the proposed house have their own designated common spaces. The ground floor and the third floor are completely dedicated to common space. The variety of common spaces aims to respond to different needs and atmospheres that exist in homes and seek to and disperse acoustics avoid the feeling of congestion.





# WOMEN'S TRANSITIONAL COHOUSING SECTION 1

1 : 75



Figure 21: Author, *Proposed Women's Transitional Cohousing Section 1 - 1:75*, 2019.



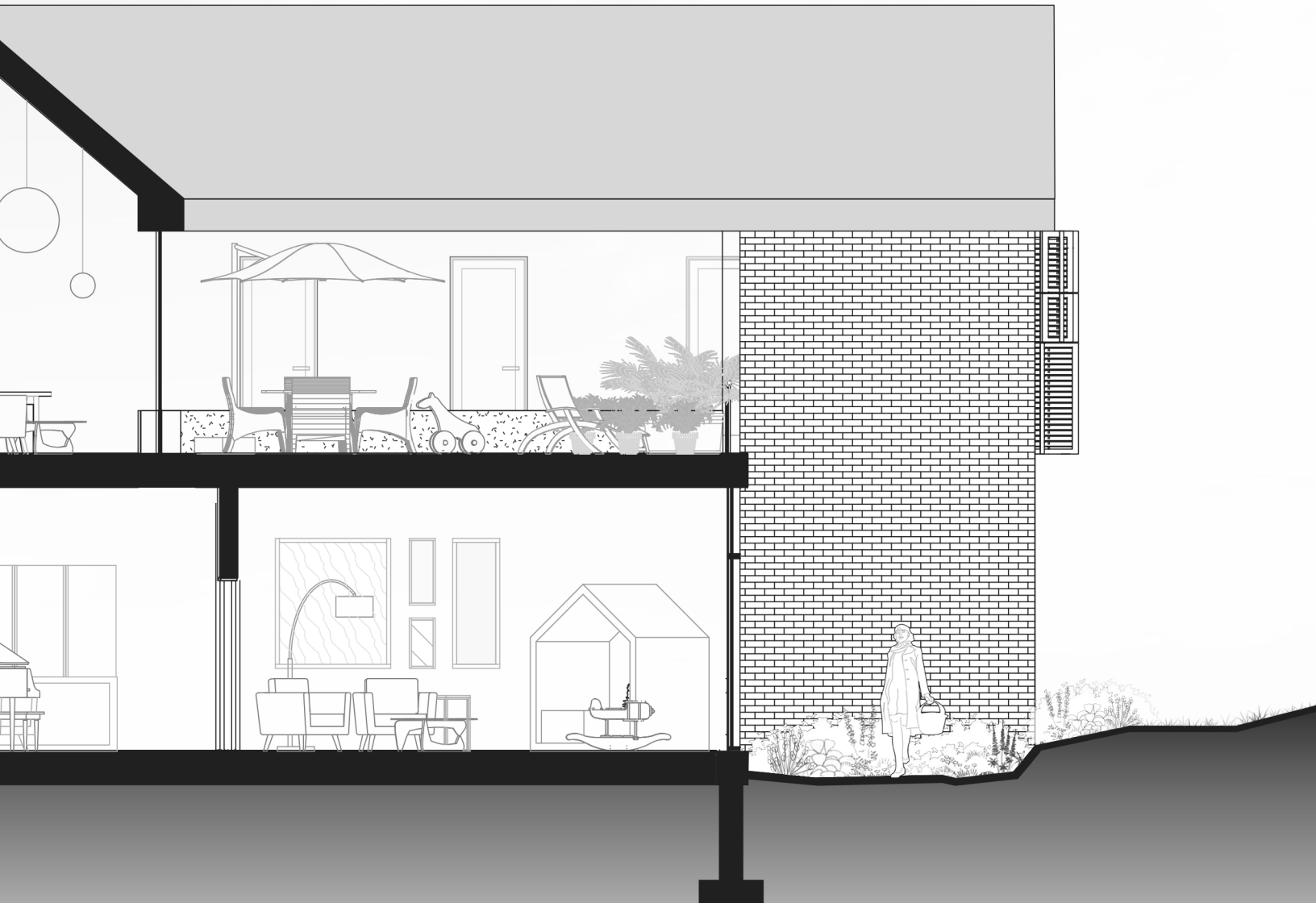
# WOMEN'S TRANSITIONAL COHOUSING SECTION 2

1 : 75



Figure 22: Author, Proposed Women's Transitional Cohousing Section 2- 1:75, 2019.





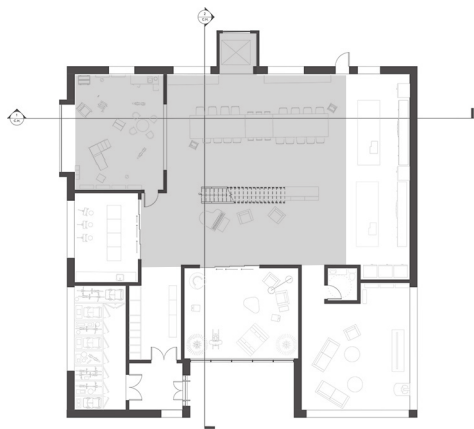


Figure 23: Author, Proposed Ground Floor Common Dining Render with Key Plan, 2019.

Render location shown in grey

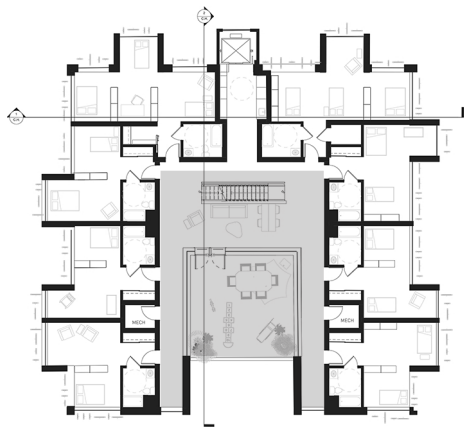
The following is a breakdown of spaces included in the design of each of the proposed housing:

Ground Floor (all communal):

The ground floor acts as a central hub and has the largest area dedicated to common use. The plan is designed to promote resident interaction and communication regardless of the activities they are enjoying. This floor includes kitchen, dining, art room, storage lockers, tv entertainment area, play room, sunroom, and piano corridor space. These types of communal rooms are typical in cohousing.<sup>88</sup>

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<sup>88</sup> Lubik and Kosatsky, "Public health should promote cooperative housing and cohousing," 122.

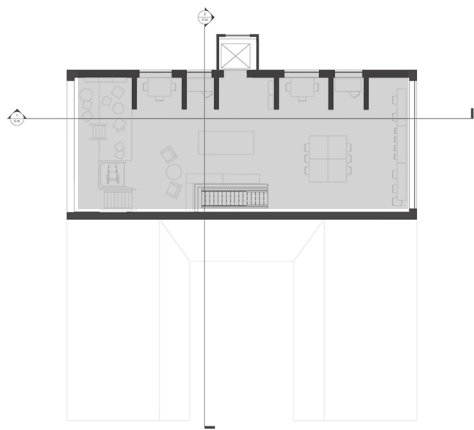


Render location shown in grey

Figure 24: Author, *Proposed Second Floor Common Corridor Render with Key Plan, 2019.*

### Second Floor:

The second floor consists primarily of the residents' private units. The wide hallway wraps around the common central courtyard outdoor patio, providing residents with a view outside. A smaller common lounge space overlooks the courtyard patio and is in close proximity to the laundry facilities. The smaller units are located in such a way that gives more opportunity for social interaction, as they are located the furthest from the stairs and elevator.



Render location shown in grey

Figure 25: Author, *Proposed Third Floor Common Lounge Render with Key Plan*, 2019.

Third Floor (all communal): The third floor common area is intended to be used as a quieter space for reading, studying and completing homework. This area could also accommodate various workshops or activities for the residents. Additional storage is provided in the cavity of this floor for seasonal recreational equipment or decorations.

All Floors: A central open staircase connects all the floors to encourage interaction between the residents. The elevator is also located centrally at the back of the housing to encourage able-bodied residents to use stairs and promote social interaction of those using the elevator.

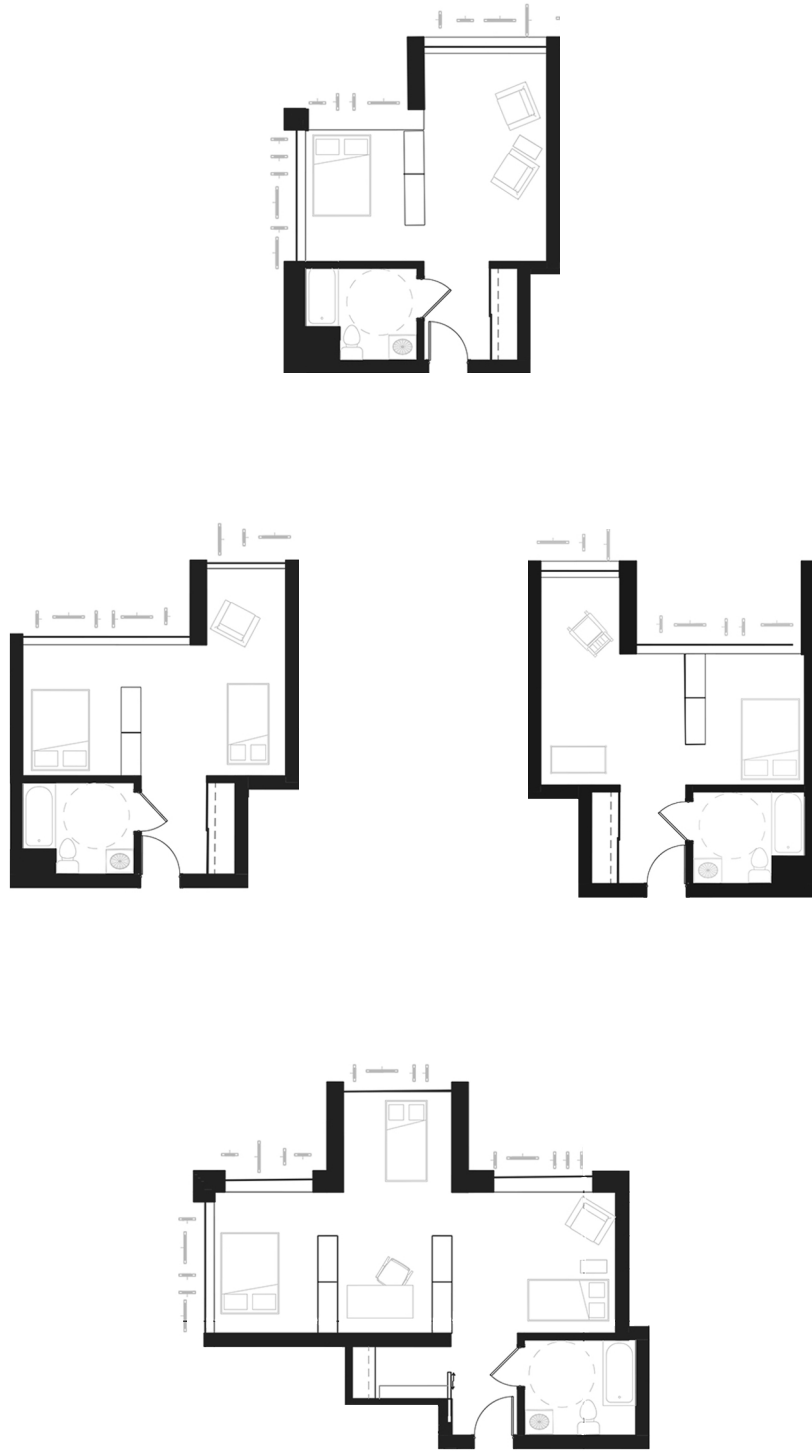


Figure 26: Author, *Proposed Unit Plans*, 2019



## PROPOSED UNIT DESIGN

There are three different unit sizes to allow for different household compositions. Each unit prioritizes natural light with glazing the length of the room. Each unit is equipped with its own bathroom. Bath tubs were chosen over showers as they allow greater ease for mothers bathing one or multiple young children. The size of the bathroom was sized to accommodate multiple family members getting ready. All the units are accessible, and the sizes intertwined to reinforce community and provide dignity. There are many positive examples of non-prescriptive “living/bedroom spaces, [which allow]... the resident the choice of two bedrooms or one bedroom and one study/living room.”<sup>89</sup> This type of flexible design was explored in the integration of “Mon Mur,” a series of wall partitions, which allow

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<sup>89</sup> Sprague, *More than housing*, 51.

for the women to choose and change the proportion of their living/bedroom space. The resident units are intentional in providing many opportunities for resident-personalization and control over their space, as housing reflects the resident's personal identity and value to themselves and others.<sup>90</sup> Additionally having control over their environments and opportunities to rebuild control "can reinforce a mother's and a child's ability to take control over other aspects of their lives."<sup>91 92</sup>

#### QUALITY OF INTERIOR FINISHES

As Transitional Housing is often not allocated a large budget, the quality of materials is often compromised, and the economic sustainability and related building maintenance costs of the building is a concern. Quality materials need to be

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<sup>90</sup> Ibid., 40.

<sup>91</sup> Ibid., 58.

<sup>92</sup> Andrea Hetling, et al., "Long-Term Housing and Intimate Partner Violence: Journeys to Healing," 538.

advocated for, as it communicates the program values to both residents and visitors and “experience with maintenance in group homes and transitional housing,... shows that residents take better care of a physical environment that they like, one that is homelike.”<sup>93</sup> Durability is essential, but not at the expense of compromising user-experience, as an institutional, industrial-grade material that looks like it was designed to be indestructible can challenge residents to destroy it.<sup>94</sup> Attention to human proportions and scale can add to quality without adding to costs.<sup>95</sup> The maintenance and long-term durability should also be considered to maintain a beautiful space.<sup>96</sup> Although premium finishes cannot always be achieved, the use of colour or artwork can be effective in creating a homelike atmosphere.<sup>97</sup>

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<sup>93</sup> Sprague, *More than housing*, 58.

<sup>94</sup> Hilditch, “Housing and Community Engagement.”

<sup>95</sup> Sprague, *More than housing*, 58.

<sup>96</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>97</sup> *Ibid.*, 59.

In the transitional co-housing Baltic Birch plywood ceiling panels are proposed to provide a feeling of warmth to the areas. Colourful carpet tiles are used in play, entertainment and lounge areas to absorb sound and allow for ease of maintenance. Ceramic tiles are used in high traffic areas located near access points to the outside for maintenance reasons. The walls are off-white with colourful artwork and photographs that can be updated to create a resident-personalized homelike atmosphere.

## WOMEN-INSPIRED FURNITURE AND FEATURES

In response to my drawing study of women's bodies<sup>98</sup> along with my intentional observation of women and mothers, features and furniture were created in the transitional cohousing. The following were informed and inspired by many women's frustrations when designers have neglected to consider their place and their children's place in space. It was therefore intentional to prioritize and celebrate their experience. These proposed design elements include: shutters, sharing table, and a moveable wall partition I designed and built at full scale, "Mon Mur."

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<sup>98</sup> See "Drawing Study" in Appendix.

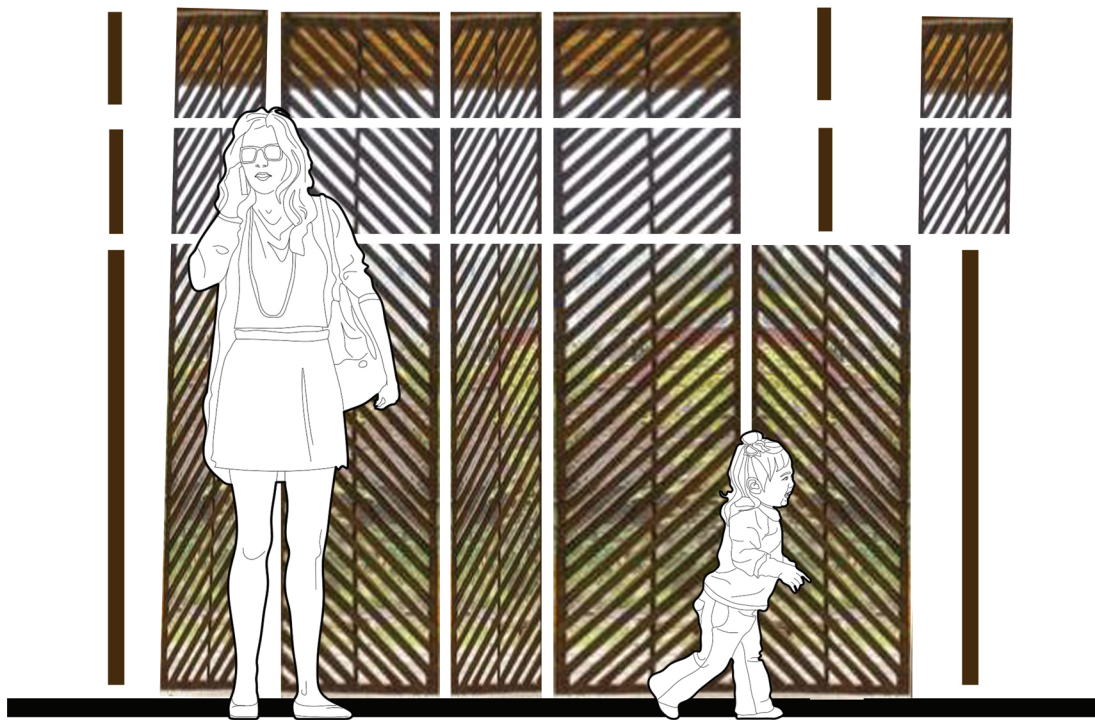


Figure 27: Author, *Proposed 3-Tier Privacy Shutters Render*, 2019.

### 3-TIER PRIVACY SHUTTERS

The 3-Tier Privacy Shutters were designed in response to the privacy needs of women. The shutters populate the second floor of the transitional housing and are located on all the private units' glazing. These privacy shutters allow for full-length windows and user-customized comfort and privacy. These shutters are divided into three segments and vary in two widths, to allow for more façade variation. The shutters are placed at following: feet to shoulder height, head height, and overhead height. This allows for the women to customize the space and maintain privacy, while also allowing natural light in the space. For example, the lower tier shutter could be closed while someone is changing their clothes and the upper two left open to allow light in and see views out. Or alternatively, the overhead shutter could be closed to prevent glare as the sun sets. The shutters like other feature items would be made to match the walnut wood colouring.

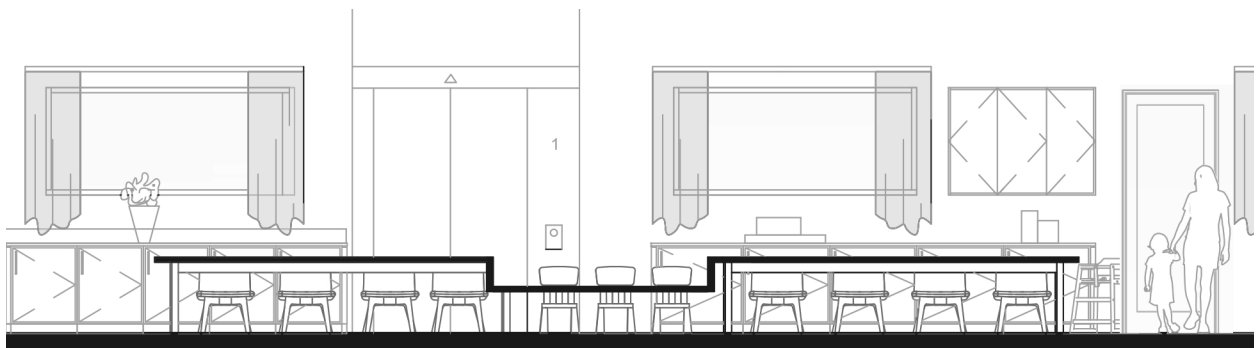


Figure 28: Author, *Proposed Sharing Table Section*, 2019.



## SHARING TABLE

Many people can agree that children are important, yet unfortunately in architecture they are often forced to adapt to adult-scale environments or pushed to the side with impromptu adaptations. Despite each adult having once been a child, generation after generation seem to dismiss this failure in the design fields.

This table design places value and respect on children their mother's role in their lives. It allows for women and their younger children to sit together at the same table, without the hassle of strapping them in a booster seat. The center of the table notches down to child-appropriate height and is complemented with child-sized chairs. The table would be made of walnut.

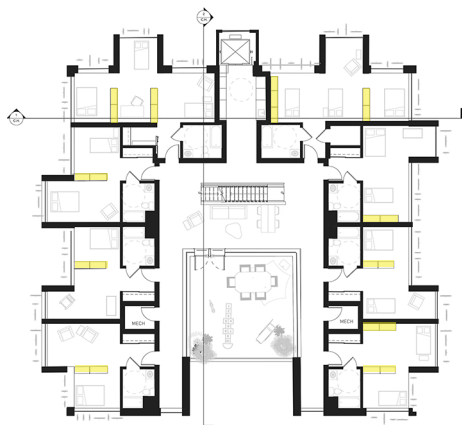
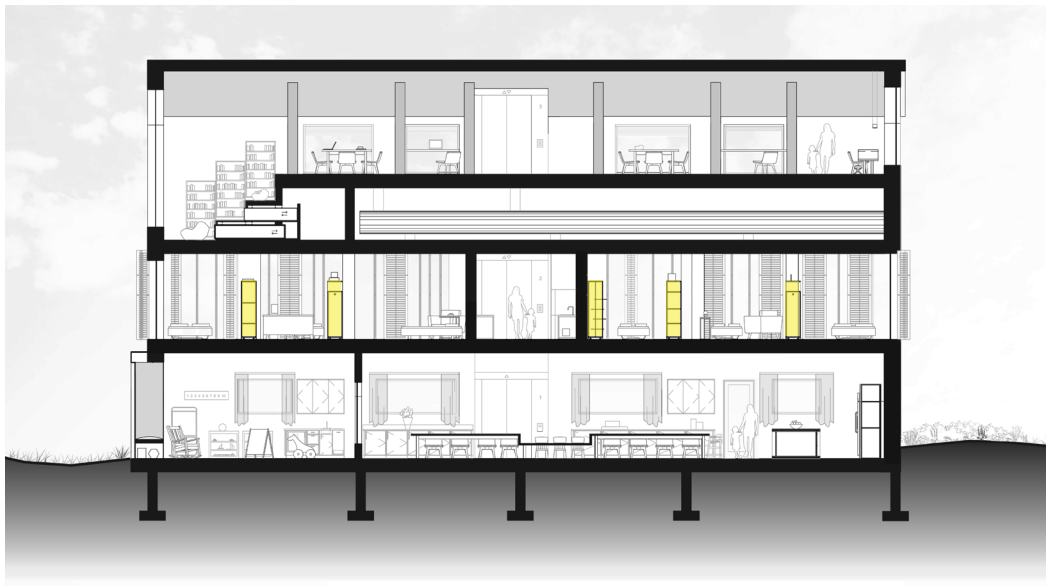
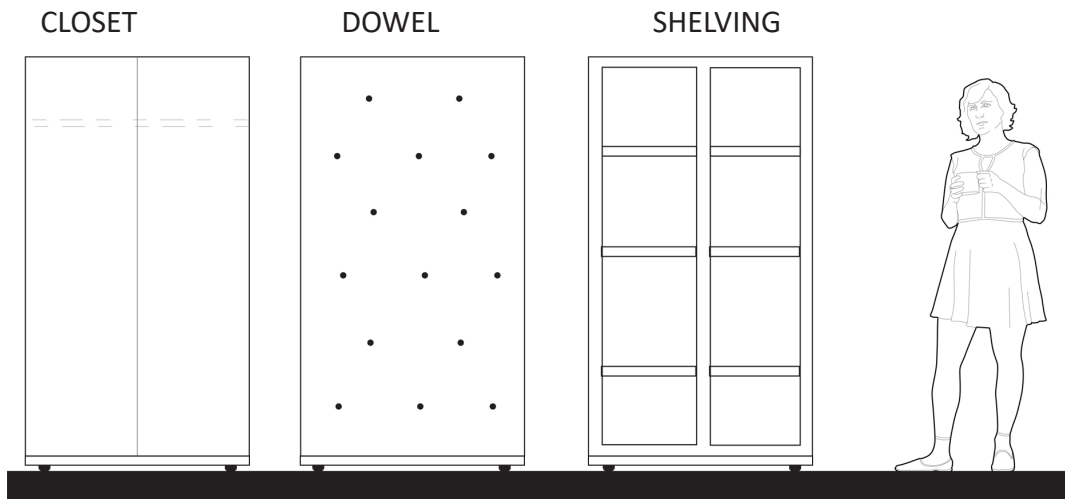


Figure 29: Author, *Types of “Mon Mur” Diagram*, 2019.

Figure 30: Author, *Key Section showing “Mon Mur” in yellow*, 2019.

Figure 31: Author, *Key Plan showing “Mon Mur” in yellow*, 2019.

## MON MUR

Mon Mur (My Wall) is a response to the need for personalization in a home and addresses the challenges of designing a home for a diversity of household structures and personalities that exist in transitional housing.

A woman who has survived domestic violence has often been heavily controlled. Often the perpetrator controls her activities, her ability to leave the house, her clothing, her phone calls and her privacy. Anyone can experience domestic violence. Mon Mur is an architectural response that celebrates women regaining control over their surroundings.

Mon Mur is a customizable wall partition on casters that can be moved around the room and be locked in place. Mon Mur celebrates the tenant's independence by allowing her to customize and divide her space over time.



Figure 32: Melissa Snodgrass, *Mon Mur*, March 29, 2011, photograph.

The overall height of 70" was designed to allow for women to reach the top, allowing for added storage or display. The size and weight of the moveable partitions were designed to be easily moved and locked by one woman.

Three Mon-Mur types were designed, including: Shelving, Dowel and Closet.

The multiple types of the Mon-Mur allow for a variety of storage and personalization needs to be accommodated.

The Dowel partition, being the least conventional, was chosen to be designed and built as a part of my exploration. This allowed for the size, height and weight to be refined and understood first-hand.

The Dowel partition is 36" wide by 70" high and 18" in depth cabinet with wheels. The dowels slide in and out of cabinet to accommodate display and storage uses.



Figure 33: Author, *Mon Mur Dowel Partition Detail*, 2019, photograph.

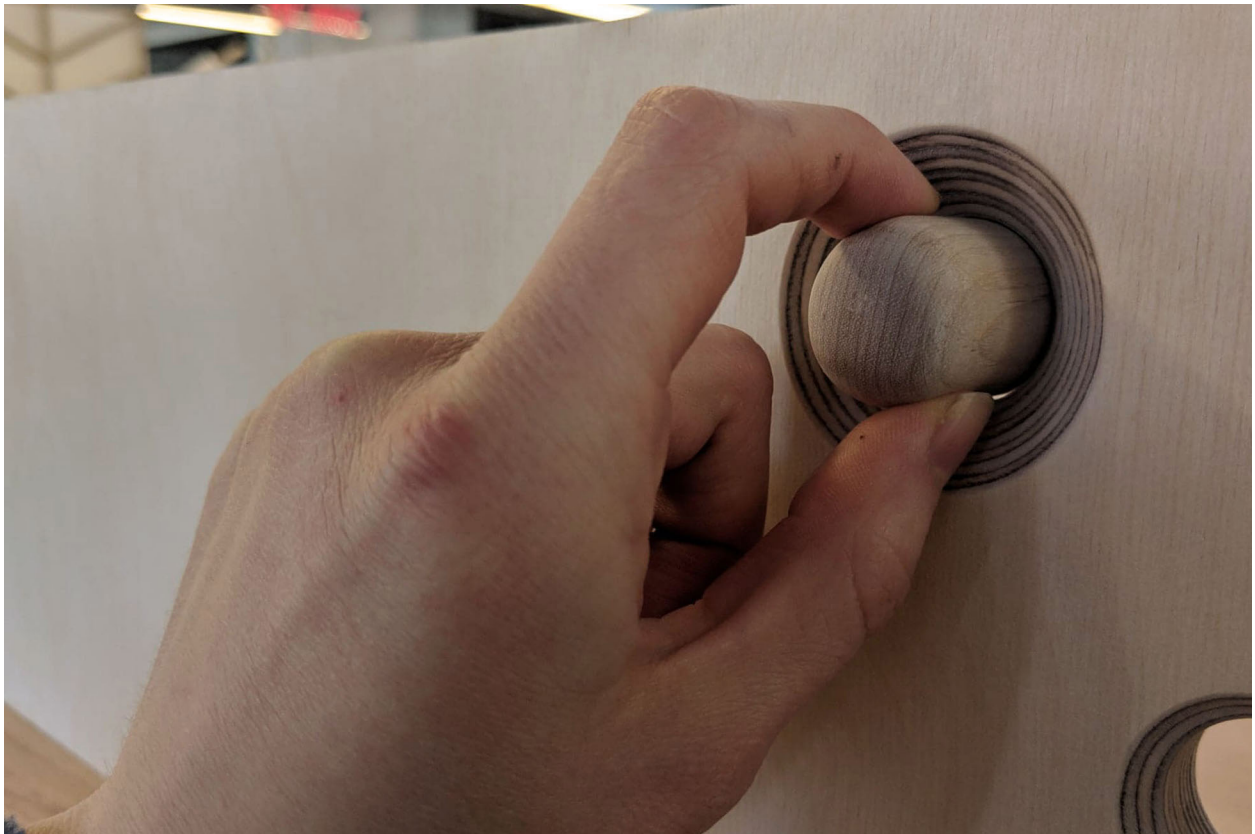
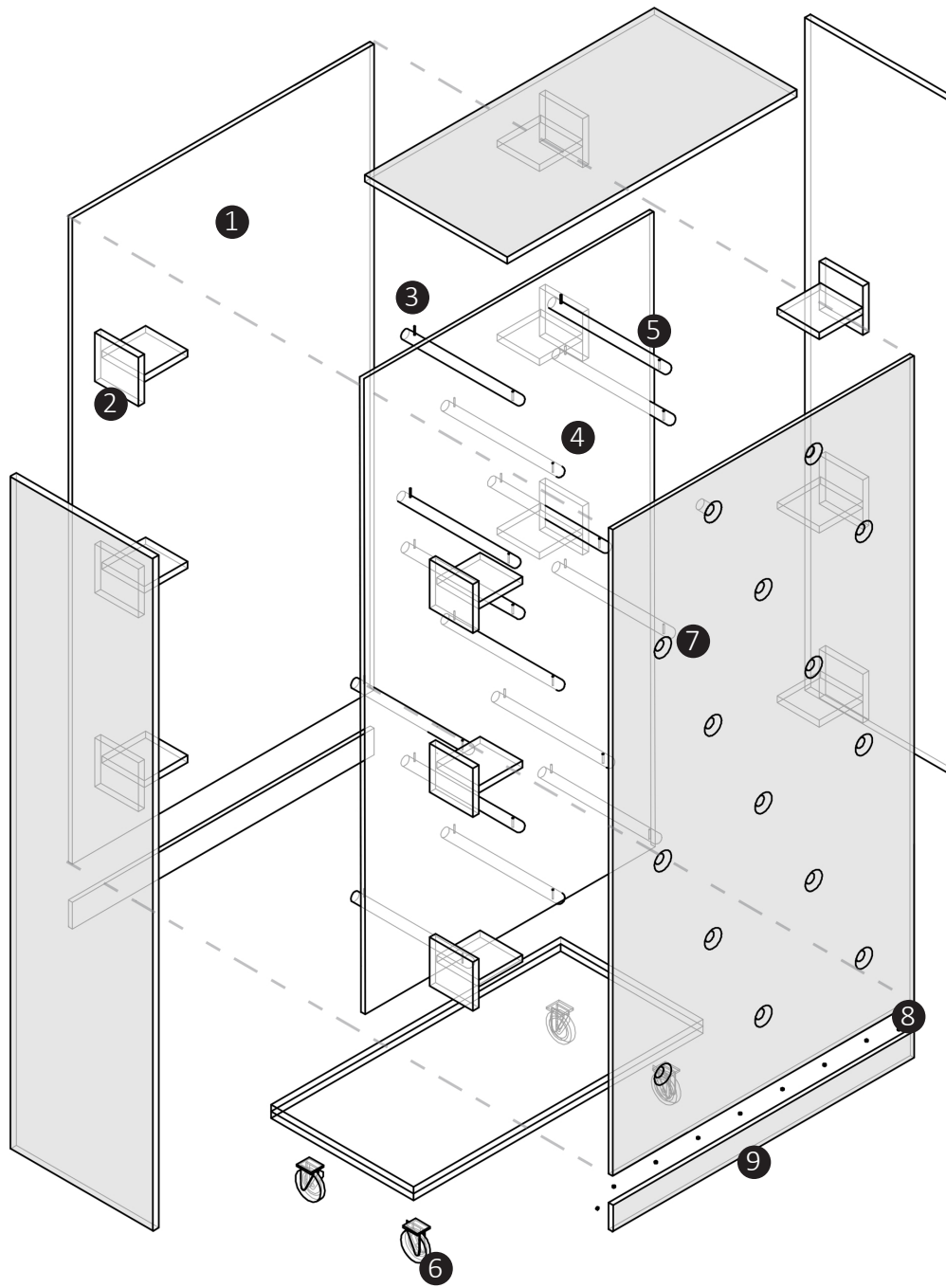


Figure 34: Jenna Lamb, *Mon Mur Dowel Partition Ergonomics and Material Testing*, 2019, photograph.

Walnut dowel designed to allow a women's fingers to fit in Baltic Birch plywood chamfer.



- |                             |                               |                      |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 3/4" Baltic Birch Plywood | 4 1/2" Baltic Birch Plywood   | 7 Chamfered Hole     |
| 2 Plywood Blocking          | 5 1" Custom Walnut Dowels     | 8 Rare Earth Magnets |
| 3 3/8" Dowel Stopper        | 6 Lockable Industrial Casters | 9 Access Panel       |

Figure 35: Author, *Mon Mur Dowel Partition Exploded Axonometric Diagram*, 2019.



The main construction material is 3/4" Baltic Birch plywood. The material was chosen for its warm qualities, connection to Sudbury's birch tree landscape, durability and as a statement that the modest materials can be beautiful and dignified. Birch is significant as these trees are among the first trees to grow after disaster has occurred and can grow in even the harsh rocky landscape of Sudbury. Birch was selected as a symbol of resilience to reflect the courageous women who are carving a new future.

All the pieces of the partition walls that the women and their children directly interact with, are fabricated out of solid walnut. All the edges of the plywood have been beveled sanded for material durability and user-experience. The plywood has been lightly sanded and finished with a non-toxic tre-wax finish to preserve the material and make it amiable to the touch. The finish also provides some water resistance. All of the walnut dowels



Figure 36: Author, *Mon Mur Dowel Partition Dowel Stopper Interior Mechanics*, 2019, photo-



Figure 37: Author, *Walnut dowels after and before surface wax*, 2019, photograph.

are finished with a non-toxic oil wax to enhance the walnut colour and provide durability.

The adjustable 1" dowels allow for a variety of display and storage uses. The dowels slide from being nearly flush with the plywood to extending 6". An internal perpendicular stopper dowel prevents the dowel from being pushed too far in or pulled out by the user. When multiple 6" dowels are extended a shelf can be supported. The end of the dowel has been beveled and the plywood tapered to allow for ease of use. A hole is also drilled on the end of each dowel to allow for nails to secure shelving, or alternatively to allow for the tying of string for display purposes.

Two "peek-a-boo" holes were added to the sides of the partition to allow residents and their children a view into the interior mechanics.

## CONCLUSION

Transitional housing meets the need between shelter and permanent housing and is a place where residents can establish a community of personal support. Typical transitional housing has its advantages, but often only provides time limited accommodations for an eight month to one-year period. It is said that “[f]or life improvement, the transitional period is over when a single mother has achieved her goal: a foundation for long-term family stabilization and self-sufficiency.”<sup>99</sup> Yet the current model does not support women who, after fleeing, require more than a year to be equipped to be independent. This highlights the lack of longer-term post-intervention transitional housing<sup>100</sup> that allows for women to regain the psychological and financial independence

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<sup>99</sup> Sprague, “Transitional Housing Planning and Design: Practice and Education,” 52.

<sup>100</sup> Post-intervention housing and housing for those who are in vulnerable situations<sup>1</sup> requires security but less than the high-risk immediate housing<sup>28</sup>

required to support themselves and their family.

The proposed Women's Transitional Cohousing allows residents and their children to live in a secure community for a period up to two years after emergency housing. The design of the transitional cohousing and the proposed support services is a synthesized application of my research, case studies and expert presentation learnings. It is imagined that the process used could be a model for transitional housing design in Northern Ontario. The proposed cohousing approach, site design, on-site services, human-scaled buildings and the design of several elements of furniture encapsulates the ideas researched and focuses attention on this important, yet neglected, need of quality design for transitional housing that is healing and women-centred.



“Here’s to strong women. May we know them.

May we be them. May we raise them.”

- *Unknown*

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## APPENDIX

### WOMEN AND ARCHITECTURE

Women have had impact in architecture as users, advocates, architects and clients. Women have been the main occupant of many spaces, including convents, women's bathing houses, women's prayer space and other sacred spaces. In many cultures a woman's reproductive abilities are praised and celebrated for being magical and miraculous. Sacred architecture has also been dedicated to women religious figures and goddesses. Women have both been viewed as a distraction but also as something to be worshiped. The view of women and children affects how space is programmed, designed and used.

Conventional western architectural theory has been grounded in Renaissance texts, since Vitruvius. Despite the Renaissance being commonly viewed as a great achievement for mankind, the disparity between the value of women

and men is great. In renaissance texts, women are suppressed, repressed and substituted.<sup>101</sup> Given the context of society at the time, such ideas could likely be reasoned. The critique is that these texts today in architecture education cannot be upheld as glorious truths to guide architects entering the profession when they dehumanize and exclude women.

The Renaissance concepts, including “the perfect man” have emphasized a need to consider design at human scale and for humans, but have limited the view of human to exclude everyone who is not the able-bodied man, including women and women with children. Diana I. Agrest, in her essay, *Architecture from without: Body, Logic, and Sex*, from her book *Architecture from without: Body, Logic, and Sex* provides many more explicit examples of male anthropomorphism in

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<sup>101</sup> Diane I Agrest, “Architecture from without: Body, Logic, and Sex,” in *Architecture from Without: Theoretical*

*Framings for a Critical Practice* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1991).

architecture through quotes from Renaissance texts and drawings which emphasize the direct correlations to the proportions of the body of man to the composition and beauty of the building.<sup>102</sup> She critiques that when theory includes it simultaneously excludes, therefore by including the “perfect man” it excludes those who are not, i.e.: women, children, disabled people etc. She asks the questions: “what body?” and “what gender” to break down the ideological fabrications of the renaissance texts that only value and address the male body. Agrest makes specific reference to architectural metaphors and statements of Filarete and Vitruvius. One metaphor replaces the woman with the male architect as the mother in the birth, nurturing and caring of the living building that is also a man. Another metaphor provided attributes the man’s navel in the plan of a city, as the place that provides nutrients to the whole city. These

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<sup>102</sup> Diane I Agrest, “Architecture from without: Body, Logic, and Sex,” in

*Architecture from Without: Theoretical Framings for a Critical Practice* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1991).



Figure 38: Charlotte Perriand on Chair, N.d., photograph, accessed May 1, 2019, [https://smhttp-ssl60188.nexcesscdn.net/images/uploads/corbusier\\_lc4\\_chaise\\_lounge\\_perriand\\_posing.png](https://smhttp-ssl60188.nexcesscdn.net/images/uploads/corbusier_lc4_chaise_lounge_perriand_posing.png).



metaphors illustrate that even when biologically contradictory the texts insist on excluding the female body. The chapter continues explaining the social implications that come with dehumanizing and repressing women in architectural theory and how it can corrupt design.

Violence against women continues into the twentieth century architecture profession where, designs co-created by a woman and a man are wrongfully credited to just the man, as with the incident of the Pritzker prize wrongfully awarded to only Robert Venturi, when Denise Scott Brown and him were equally responsible for the designs.<sup>103</sup> Or in the incident of Le Corbusier humiliating Charlotte Perriand, an architect he worked in collaboration. He did this by reducing the architect to a female model for a chair, her

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<sup>103</sup> Despina Stratigakos, *Where are the Women Architects?* (New Jersey: Princeton Architectural Press, 2016), 3.



Figure 39:  
Vandalism of Eileen Gray's Modernist Villa by Le Corbusier,  
N.d., photograph accessed May 1, 2019, [https://d2w9rnfcy7mm78.cloudfront.net/376134/original\\_b98938205d6a1e33f2f49e5b4e6761b0.jpeg?1430644928](https://d2w9rnfcy7mm78.cloudfront.net/376134/original_b98938205d6a1e33f2f49e5b4e6761b0.jpeg?1430644928).

face directed to look at a blank wall.<sup>104</sup> The examples continue with stories including the vandalism of Eileen Gray's Modernist Villa, again by Le Corbusier, directly fueled by his contempt that a woman could not possibly create beautiful architecture.

Beatriz Colomina in her essay "Window" in *Privacy and Publicity: Modern Architecture as Mass Media* (1994) further elaborates how privacy and publicity in modern architecture reinforced society's view of and role of women in through architecture mass media.<sup>105</sup> Included in the text, is her critique of photographs of the interiors of architecture designed by Loos and Le Corbusier, key figures of modern architecture. The photographs, as well as architectural advertisements, are deconstructed to draw conclusions on the view of women in

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<sup>104</sup> Beatriz Colomina, "Window," in *Privacy and Publicity: Modern Architecture as Mass Media* (Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 1994).

<sup>105</sup> Beatriz Colomina, "Window," in *Privacy and Publicity: Modern Architecture as Mass Media* (Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 1994).

architecture. Common threads amongst such media emphasize that a woman is: to be kept inside a house, her beauty framed in the house, to be keeping the house clean, to be childminding and being a beautiful accessory to the house whilst wearing high heels. Colomina presents the similarities and differences of Le Corbusier's and Loos' interiors. Loos' interiors are described as looking as if someone just unexpectedly left, whereas Le Corbusier's interiors are documented with modern people inhabiting them. It is remarked that Loos' interiors are only animated with personal objects of a man, emphasizing that modern architecture is only a man's domain. Le Corbusier's interiors also emphasize men occupying the space and women as decoration or in the distant child-minding. It is therefore argued that women are not valued as occupants of the

space. When the view of women is such, how can architecture meet their needs?

The fact that Le Corbusier remains held at a high regard in the profession, despite his multiple accounts of violent misogyny, speaks volumes.

In 2018, unfortunately, it persists, with women often receiving less salary and less project opportunity than their male counterparts. Its persistence is evident in the facts that significantly fewer female architects are practicing than male architects, when equal parts complete architecture education.<sup>106</sup>

When all of this is taken into consideration, it is not a surprise that the women's experience is neglected or ignored in much of the architecture that is built. And as a result, it is not surprising that spaces for women have not been held at the same

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<sup>106</sup> Despina Stratigakos, *Where are the Women Architects?* (New Jersey: Princeton Architectural Press, 2016), 15, 21.

standard for design and have been robbed of adequate funding.

## WOMEN DRAWING STUDY

To heighten my understanding of the female body, I completed a series of sketches of the female body. The sketches are a combination of fieldwork, capturing the body in motion naturally, as well as, some from photos. This exercise is significant as the body of women, when drawn commonly reduces her to an object of sex, instead of a human that can accomplish much more. From this continual exercise, I aim to have a refined understanding of how women use and dwell in space as well as be intentional in designing and thinking about women at all scales of the design.

## « LE POÈME DE L'ANGLE DROIT » CRITIQUE

I created two collages and a poem as a method to analyze and critique Le Corbusier's poem for "Le Poème de L'Angle Droit". I wanted to expose the differences in his representation of men vs. women. The analysis was focused on the painting, but the English translation of the poem, by Kenneth Hylton, (June 1989) was also referenced for clarifications.

The collages are a critique of Le Corbusier's representation of women in "Le Poème de L'Angle Droit". Women are featured a lot in Le Corbusier's painting. But in contrast to the dignified man, women are fetishized and mocked. The paintings regularly displays women's bodies with animal heads. The poems elaborate on the sensual qualities of the women and makes literary references to intercourse. It appears that Le Corbusier only values women for their sexual appeal and his personal pleasure.

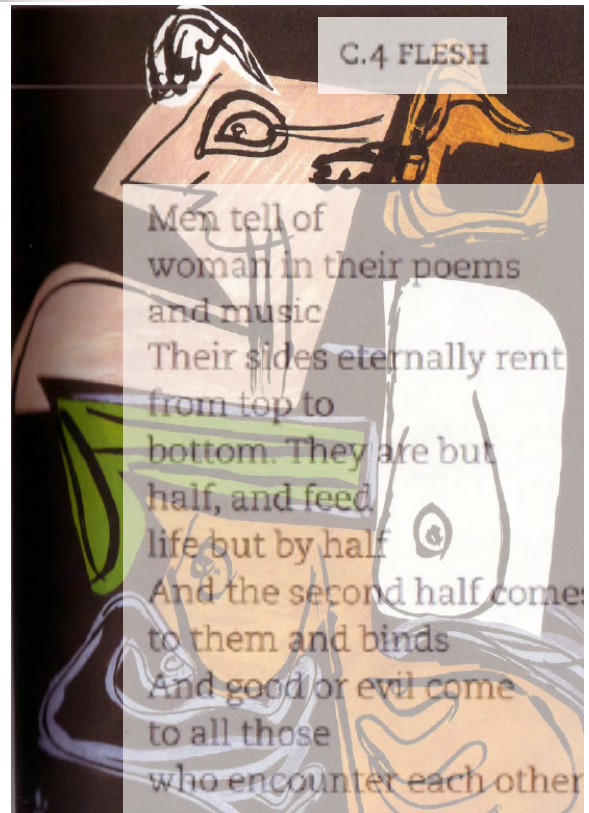
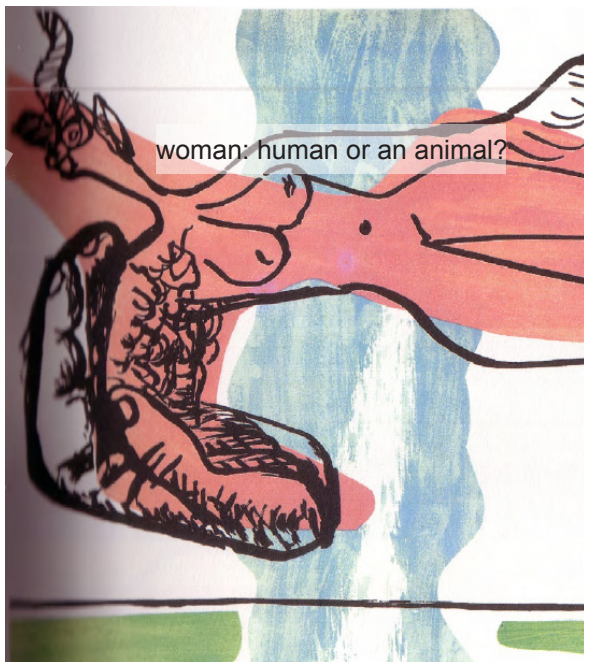
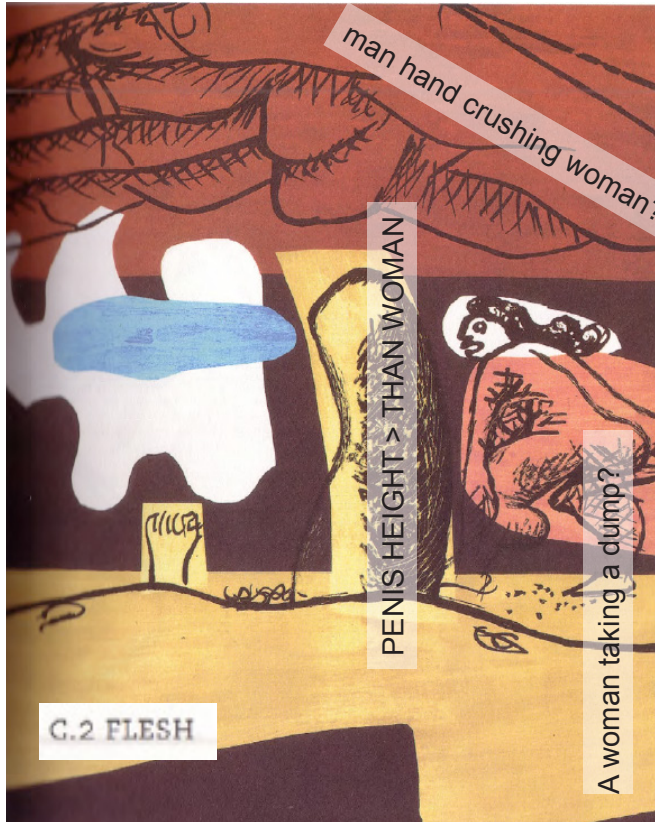
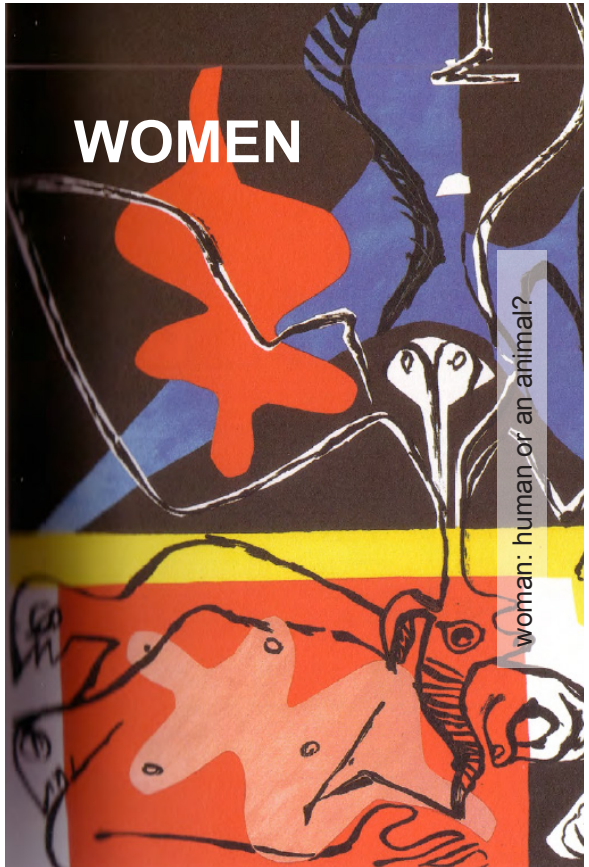


Figure 40: Author, "Women or animals?" - collage critique of Le Corbusier's *Le Poème L'Angle Droit*. 2018.





c|chain FLESH



Figure 41: Author, "The Gift of the Human Man" - collage critique of Le Corbusier's *Le Poème L'Angle Droit*. 2018.

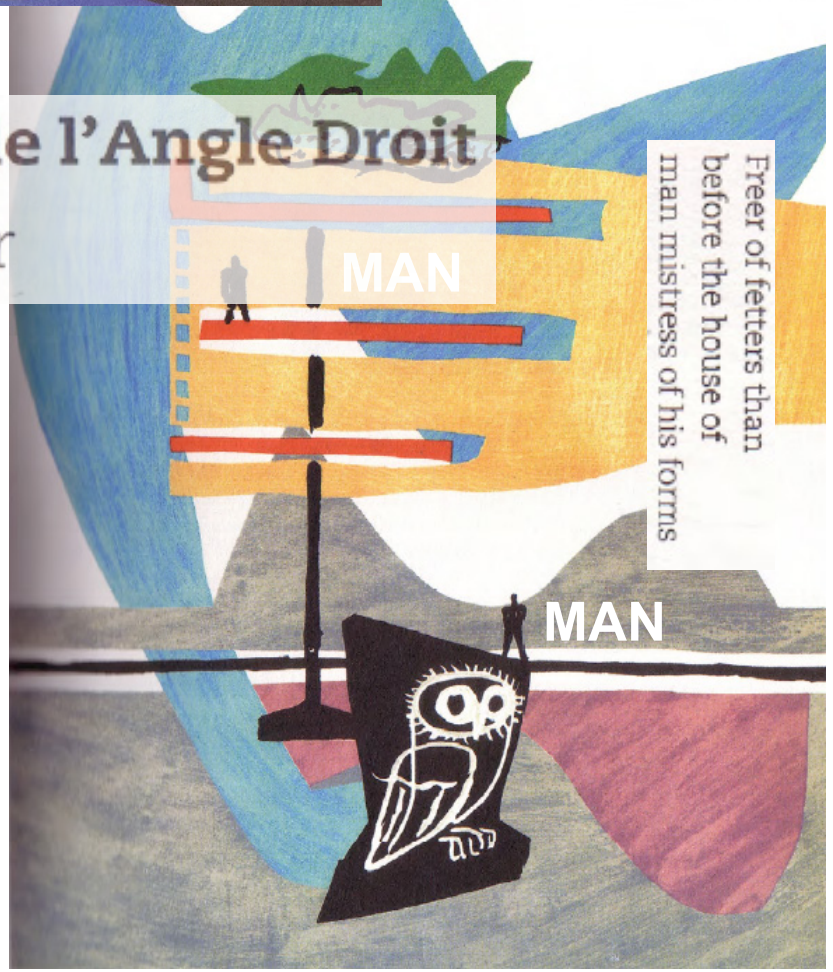
A.5 ENVIRONMENT



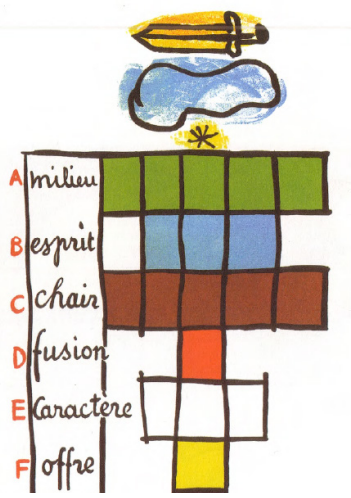
I am a builder  
of houses and of palaces  
I live among men  
amid their tangled web  
of being.

# Le Poème de l'Angle Droit

Le Corbusier



Freer of fetters than  
before the house of  
man mistress of his forms



“The Gift of the Human Man” – collage by author

Refer to Figure 8, 9 show a collage critique of Le Corbusier’s representation of men in “Le Poème de L’Angle Droit”. Le Corbusier’s representation of men is much more dignifying. One can infer that Le Corbusier holds a lot of pride for his gender. In his paintings: the man is used for scale. He is the inhabitant of the building. He is dominant. He is skilled. He is composed. He has perfect proportions. He is valuable. He is capable of problem solving. He is a builder. He is celebrated. He is right.

“L’Angle Femme - A Home. A Transition” – poem  
and painting by author

I created a poem and a painting in the style of Le Corbusier as a manifesto to designing the transitional residences. The poem was completed as a method to immerse myself in the feeling of arriving and adjusting to the transitional housing and looking for hope in the future. The content was inspired by domestic violence documentaries and documents I have studied.

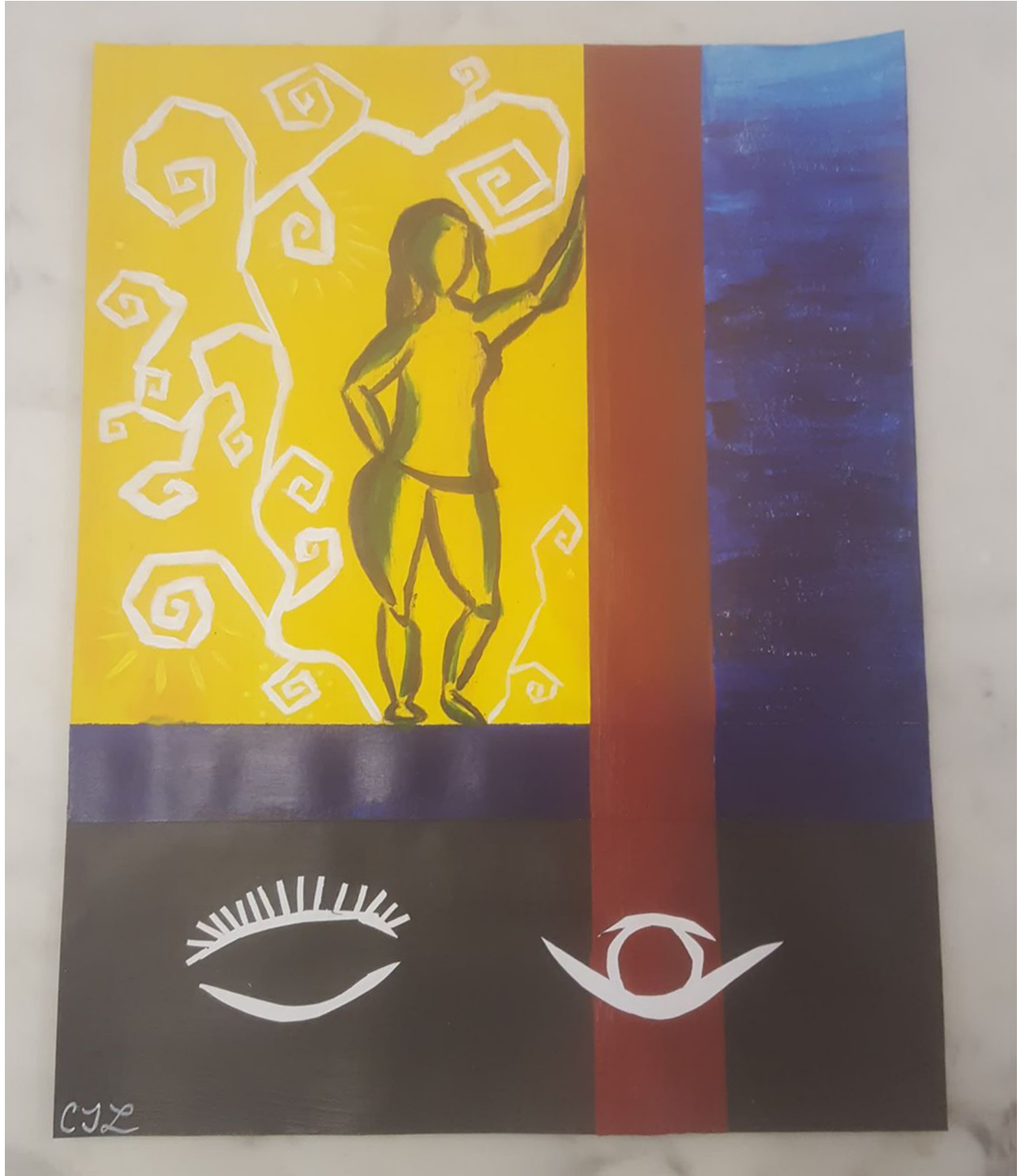


Figure 42: Author, *L'Angle Femme - Response Painting*, 2019, acrylic on paper mounted on cardboard.

“L’Angle Femme - A Home.  
A Transition”  
Poem by Author

New Home.  
Women surround.  
Understanding. Caring. Cheerful  
sounds. Smells of cinnamon.  
Something our own.  
Breathe.  
I’m in control.  
Peace at last.  
My eyes close.  
Nightmares persist.  
Why can’t healing be quick.  
Mommy, why did you scream in your sleep?  
Learning.  
Who I am. How to cope. How to grow. How to  
trust. What I want.  
Setting goals  
I can be Independent.  
I am resilient.  
I am strong.  
I am free  
Nothing can stop me



Figure 43: Author, *Collage Design Exploration of Proposed Transitional Cohousing 2nd Floor Corridor*, 2018, magazine on plywood.

## COLLAGE

### DESIGN EXERCISE

The following images are of collages used as a method of exploration for the design of cohousing and childcare centre materiality and atmosphere.





Figure 44: Author, *Collage Design Exploration of Proposed Transitional Cohousing 3rd Floor Lounge*, 2018, magazine on plywood.

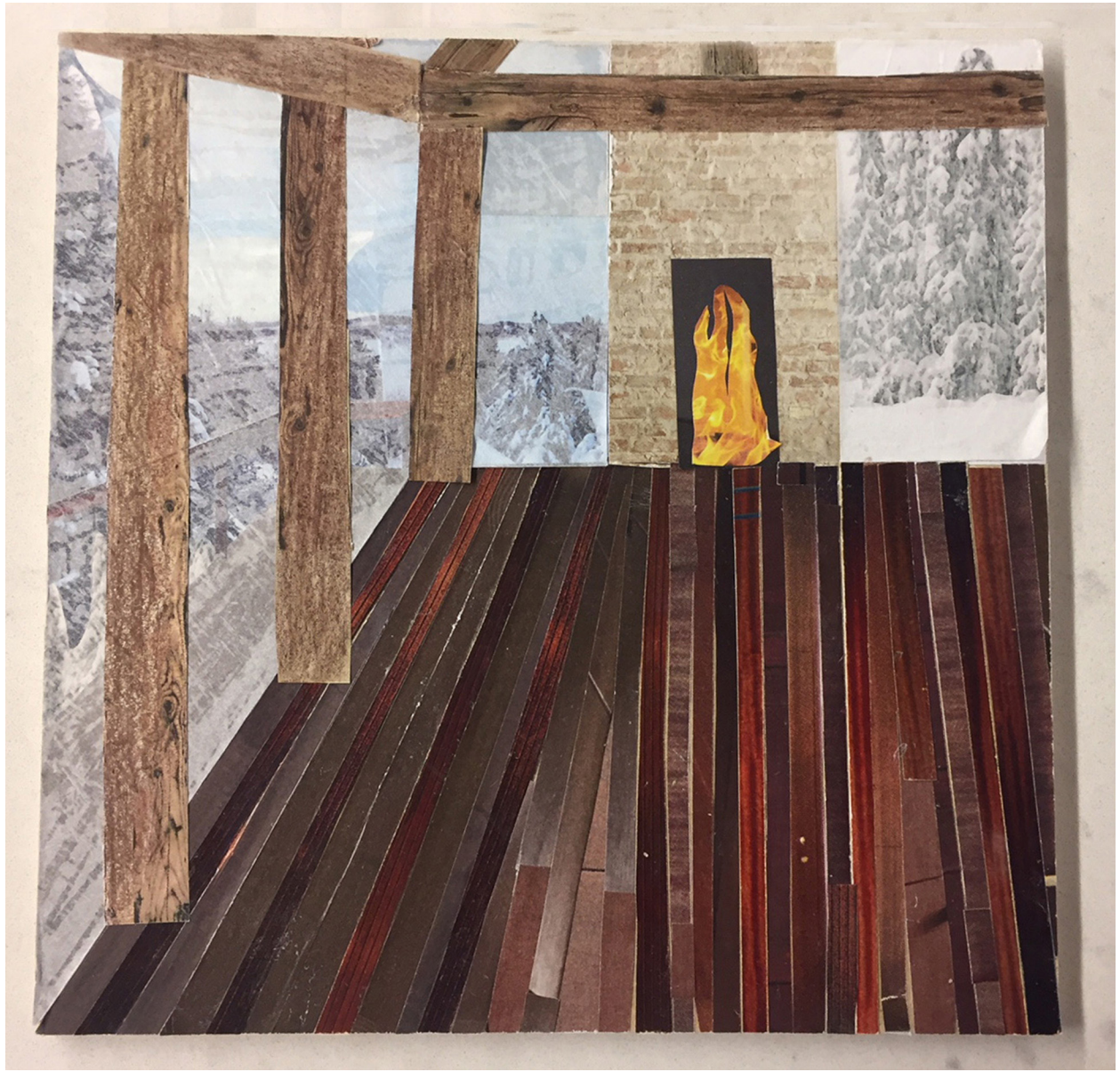


Figure 45: Author, *Collage Design Exploration of Proposed Support Services Rentable Lounge for related training*, 2018, magazine on plywood.



Figure 46: Author, *Collage Design Exploration of Proposed Childcare Centre Corridor with fabric wall and ramp weaving through the site's natural rocky topography*, 2018, magazine on plywood.



Figure 47: Author, *Collage Design Exploration of Proposed Childcare Centre and Support Services Building, Night View from Road*, 2018, magazine on plywood.