

ABSTRACT

Title of Document: CONTEMPORARY CARE: PATTERN
TRANSLATIONS FOR AN
INTERGENERATIONAL EXCHANGE

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Directed By: Assistant Professor Michael A. Ambrose,
Chair

The success of intergenerational programming is often contingent upon a person or group to facilitate interaction among participants in an institutionalized setting; these places currently limit creative exuberance and promote surveillance as a vehicle for spatial organization. An architecture is assigned a pluralistic role that interrogates the value and scope of the human mediator, provokes activities between generations, and conversely recedes, allowing the inhabitants to act as agents in a space. Passive activities are omitted from an intergenerational program in favor of active experiences at both the formal and circumstantial level at multiple scales within the building. The design strategy breaks down preconceived stereotypes and establishes the architecture of intergenerational programming as a model for diversification and involvement through interaction and autonomy. The transitory nature of intergenerational programs is confronted with a formal partnership between a day care center for infants and toddlers, social adult day care, and a series of public pools.

CONTEMPORARY CARE: PATTERN TRANSLATIONS FOR AN
INTERGENERATIONAL EXCHANGE

By

Christine Marie Arnold

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Advisory Committee:

Assistant Professor Michael A. Ambrose, Chair

Professor Robert L. Vann, Ph.D.

Professor Emeritus Ralph D. Bennett, A.I.A.

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Introduction

According to the US Department of Education, there are currently more than eighty thousand center-based early education and care centers nationwide. These spaces where children spend several full days over the week are institutionalized settings, relying on constructed environments where constant surveillance is paramount. Established patterns for designing these centers lead to repetitive formal and spatial arrangements that neglect the experience of the user and impede cognitive development in children. Daycare centers currently are undergoing increased federal and state mandated regulations, in an attempt to rectify the difference between merely “custodial” and “developmental” care centers. The latter condition offers no programs of simulations and perhaps engenders the increased dissatisfaction with facilities today. A survey of 8,000 employees in Portland, Oregon confirms the axiomatic situation: half the women surveyed with children under twelve reported stress related to daycare in the previous month (Clarke-Stewart, 4). Moreover, many centers are in disrepair. According to a study by the National Council of Jewish Women, 30% of daycare centers visited were deemed “poor,” in small, poorly ventilated environments with no regard for the health or safety of the child. The lack of critical design development also correlates with a high staff turnover rate in a low-wage industry.

Adult day care centers, also known as adult day services, are an emergent phenomenon that provides daily programs and activities for the elderly in community-based settings. The National Adult Day Services Association (NADSA) predicts that as baby boomers age past 65, an additional five thousand centers are necessary to meet demand.

Social implications in this thesis are couched in defining the participants who attend adult day services, but there are currently no singular patterns for how to quantify those who attend a center. The venerable population usually resides somewhere in the second half of life, which can be statistically calculated down to the month via cohort life tables used by insurance companies and pensions funds to predict life history. More than a numerical age though, feeling “old” is relative. However, a pattern has developed in western tradition that a person is described as “old” when referring to someone ten years older than the speaker. Harry Schenk has a more esoteric method to qualifying the elderly. He says that “old age begins when employment end,” and thus begins a tripartite division of old age. The young old age are somewhere between 55 – 70 years, and generally are still active, mobile, and capable, placing a high value on social and cultural engagement. Those considered to be middle old age are 70 – 85 years and while are less physically active, they still value outward direct engagement with the community. Old old age tend to have

more reservations about remaining an outstanding citizen, as their priorities shift to dealing with everyday life and self-preservation.

Patterning is tested as a formal and aesthetic medium to weave between two programs. Spatial, temporal, and behavioral patterns are investigated to propose a hybrid program where activities are not subservient to but supported by a simultaneously flexible and structured center. Emergent spaces in the juxtaposition of an intergenerational care center adapt to users, increasing cognitive development in the young and enriching the quality of life for the aging. An architecture proposes a de-institutionalization of spaces for learning and play.

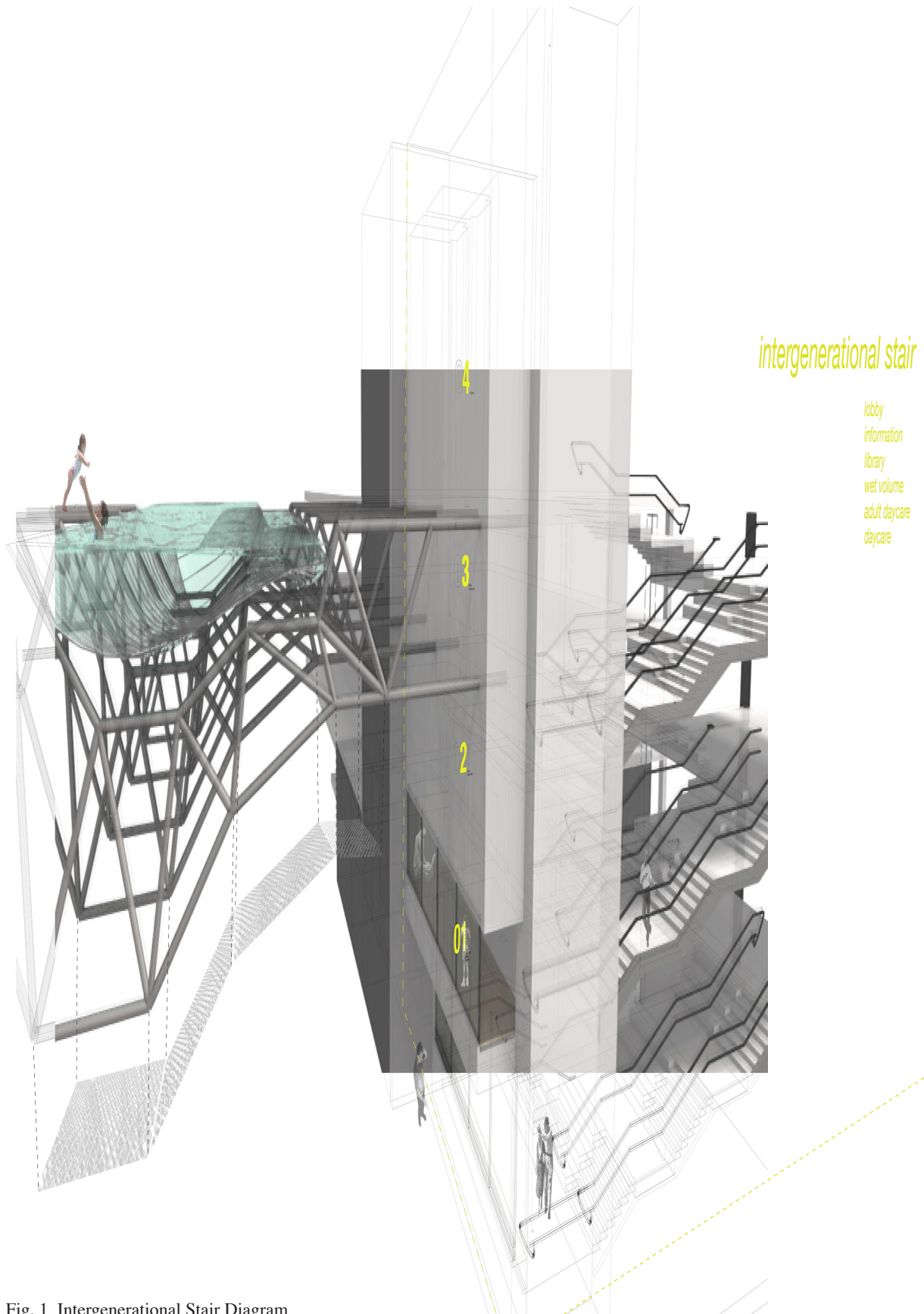


Fig. 1 Intergenerational Stair Diagram

Background

Intergenerational Programming in Context

According to a study by two economists, happiness does not decrease after passing the threshold to the second half of life. Both statisticians conducted a representative survey of approximately half a million people from different nations in Europe, eliminating extraneous variables to find a causal relationship between age and happiness. Interestingly, unhappiness peaked at middle age for men and women and tended to increase in the form of a bell curve toward either side. It appears the correlation develops later in life because of the presence of grandchildren in a person's life.

Schnk categorizes the second half of life as a separate phase, one that is increasingly getting longer in contemporary society as the lifespan increases. It now lasts longer than youth. More programming in the built environment is necessary to support this overwhelming need and how this population will live is becoming a concern for both architects and economists as nearly a third of our lifetime will be spent between middle and old age.

Though most prefer to live in his or her existing residence, innovative forms of housing are offering the elderly more possibilities. Many communal and intergenerational housing proposals have already been realized abroad.

Interaction between multiple generations is a regular occurrence and has the potential to occur in any space, of any dimension or program. Sociologists and psychologists have thoroughly documented the relevance intergenerational activities, however, designers of the built environment have yet to capitalize on the spatial and transformative effects of programming outside the realm of intergenerational housing. As a population moves forward and transitions beyond the second half of life, there is a growing tendency to find the relationship between age and happiness. This thesis will investigate why it is beneficial for an intergenerational care center specifically, one where people who have passed the zenith of their lives have daily interactions with the young.

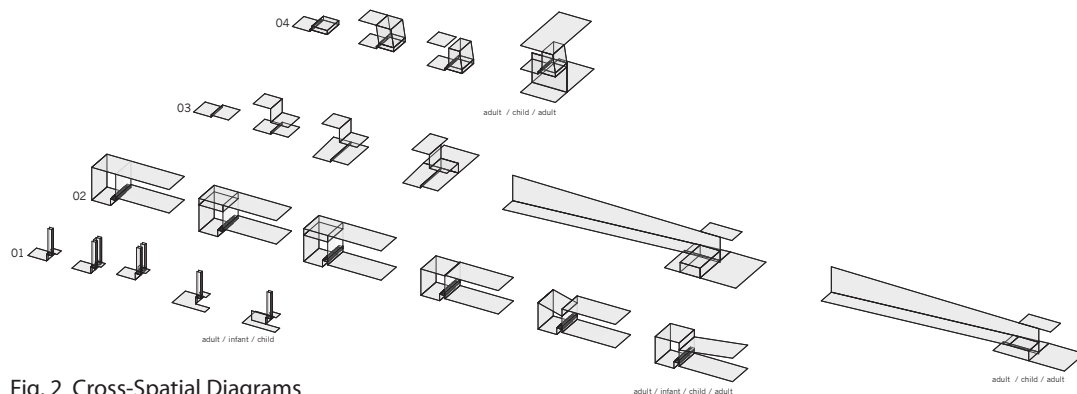


Fig. 2 Cross-Spatial Diagrams
Sectional relationships tested early in the process to investigate proportions, view, and user.

Background

Transformation of Role, Place & Participant

A primary objective of this thesis is to collapse misconceptions about disparate age groups, spaces for intergenerational programming, and beneficiaries of this typology in a coherent architectural language. As the population moves to the outlet limit of an increasingly long life, the elderly are becoming omnipresent in the media. Unfortunately, the palette has produced a number of crude distortions that are contrary to empirical studies about an aging society. One misconception concerns helplessness: there is an overwhelming association between old age and incapacitation that is not valid. In Germany, only 9 percent of those over 95 live in separate homes for the elderly. Another misconception concerns general well being of those over middle age, most of which are portrayed as growing increasingly dissatisfied about life as they age. Recent studies have shown that people of an advanced age are not generally less happy. Rather, anxiety about death tends to decrease over time.

Media depiction of the “young old age” is prevalent today. In commercials and advertisements, this population appears as egoistic hedonists. But the elderly are no more egoistically inclined than previous generations.

Since most are still mobile and active, they travel a good deal, exhibit a vested interest in culture, and are more visible in public than the elderly of earlier times. They do more volunteer work and have made early retirement a positive experience.

Barrier-free design and the seven principles of universal design are guidelines established to ensure that designers are sensitive to the needs of those who have handicaps. According to Nader Teragni, principle of Office dA Architects, designers today too often treat these guidelines as a “technocratic punch list.” The wide variety of barrier-free centers for either cultural or residential use has increased over the last twenty years, which alludes to the rising demographic of those over mid-life and the sensitivity of designers. Historically, the elderly lived a regular pattern, driven by biological needs and self-preservation. Currently the focus has shifted tremendously and the patterns are asynchronous. Social, cultural, and educational factors have led to an emergent plurality of lifestyles; the individual paths of aging only briefly approach each other with biological factors become determinant at a very old age.

The National Council on aging defines intergenerational programs as “activities or programs that increase cooperation, interaction, or exchange between any two generations. They involve sharing of skills, knowledge, and experience between young and old.”

A number of these programs are public initiatives, marketed to a target age range to benefit both the child and grandchild of a parent. These programs are viable and supported by studies about the psychological and social influence of intergenerational programming; however, most are not supported by a physical infrastructure. Rather, most programs appear to be parasitic insertions upon an institutionalized existing fabric. State- and nation-wide mandates have led to regulations in care settings that do offer no promise of a pluralistic model where both adult and child care centers can coexist to optimize formal and informal interaction.

The College of Education and Agricultural Studies at Penn State have developed a curriculum for intergenerational programming within the context of the Penn State Intergenerational Program (PSIP). This primary source alludes to but does not include specific ideas about a physical infrastructure to support this concept. Implementation of these programs is condensed into the following three areas: training participation for participants, implementation of activities, and closure/recognition. This care center will propose spatial ramifications by providing for and testing the limits of each area through patterning to provoke areas of overlap and autonomy.

Background

Typological Paradigm

According to the National Adult Day Care Services Association (NADSA), there are three models that fall into adult day services: adult day care, adult day health care, and day services specific to disabilities. Adults are good candidates if they can benefit from the daily assistance and social interaction a facility provides. NADSA also states that participants may be physically or cognitively impaired, but do not require 24-hour assistance. It is essential that adults are mobile, but may use an extension of self (cane, walker, wheelchair, etc.). Users also must be continent. Adult Day Health Services differ in services offered. These centers require assessment by a physician prior to entry in the program and offer physical, occupational, and speech therapy sessions in addition to those included in a social adult day center. Typically, both nurses and health professionals staff these facilities. A final type of adult day services offers care specifically for those who suffer from Alzheimer's Disease or dementia. This thesis acknowledges the range of adult day services, but will investigate the potential of programming within the social adult day services paradigm.

There are several areas accommodated for those in a social adult day services center.

Activities occur to increase physical dexterity at both a macro and micro scale as well as promote cognitive functioning. Arts and crafts, musical entertainment, games for mental stimulation, kinesthetic exercises, discussion groups, and local outings are typical situations. Many adult day centers have become institutionalized settings because the activities included within a center have not been designed to optimize the conditions of variability for each activity. Indeed, each activity could simultaneously occur within the same rectangular volume. Adults would however benefit from degrees of autonomy and interaction.

Adult day services offer a rotational program of activities that changes according to resources on either a daily, weekly, or monthly basis. All of the participants experience a day simultaneously through a shared perspective. There is often little or no space for plural routines to occur within the same facility at different rates. A schedule and direct rate of change is preferred for seamless transitions between activities. This thesis will investigate mutable conditions and variable patterns for adults to simultaneously occupy the same space while engaging in different activities.

Case Studies

Easter Seals Intergenerational Center Silver Spring, MD

The Easter Seals Intergenerational Center in Silver Spring, MD offers participants access to both day care and adult day health care services. It is a three-story building with approximately 15,600 SF/floor that accommodates both shared interior and exterior spaces between such programs in a single envelope, with offices for the Easter Seals Organization above. The scope of the center reaches the Greater Washington-Baltimore region, drawing both local employees and regional participants and volunteers.



Fig. 3 Easter Seals Dropoff
The drop off area is highlighted within the photo to show the transition between street and building.



Fig. 4 Easter Seals Outdoor Space
Outdoor space is highlighted in the photograph. This was the only shared outdoor area for both programs.

The center is open daily from 07:00AM – 06:00PM. Most participants are driven to the center and encounter the same entry sequence though a shared portico that mediates the shift in grade, allows for extended vehicular drop-off, and offers a threshold between street and site. Access from the parking garage under grade is through a central core of two elevators.

Shared interior and exterior volumes exist to promote intergenerational activities or encounters. A central shared atrium space collects all visitors or participants upon arrival and serves as a filter, though simultaneously dividing the separate programs. This double-height volume has varying levels of security; adult day services and child care services adjacent to the lobby require key-access for entry, a receptionist desk frontally presents itself in the space, and an additional waiting area off axis offers interested families a place to rest. There are no clear views to either program while inside this shared place, but the eye is drawn up to a glass galley for the office space.

The two exterior shared spaces are adjacent to each of the two programs. The “Intergenerational Playground” is located adjacent to child-care services on the northeast side of the building. Six means of egress allow entry; five of them are through rooms in child-care services. There is no access for those who enter the building off the lobby. The space is approximately 10’ wide x 110’ long and has a rubberized topcoat. Its’ narrowness offers space for a wheelchair to

pass through on the left and larger toys on the right. An additional outdoor terrace has three means of egress through adult day services. It is 6' wide x 130' long and abuts three offices and an activity room.

It is the first intergenerational center in the region and markets itself on “connecting the wisdom of the past with the knowledge of the future.” To that end, it succeeds in the sense of bringing thousands of workers and participants daily to the center to activate the shared site. The architecture of the center, however, does not support informal intergenerational activity to occur past the arrival sequence in the lobby, since the programs are physically delineated and operate as separate spaces. Children take the same daily route to cross the threshold between programs. Within this transitional route, there are no opportunities to enhance the experience of the child besides the change in scale between programs and the views out toward the front portico.

Moreover, the formal activities are biased: participants in the child care services always move to the great hall in the adult day services side for daily intergenerational activity. There are no spaces that could allow for this flow of activity to reverse so that the adults are leading the movement to gather. Thus, while the mission of the Easter Seals intergenerational center explicitly designed a model where the cross-pollination of programs occur, the architecture is implicitly

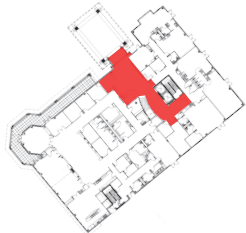
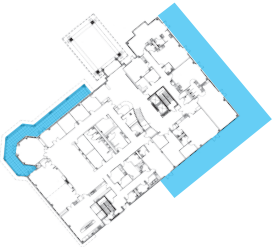
promoting clear roles of mobility in the children and immobility in the adults.

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SHARED INTERIOR SPACE

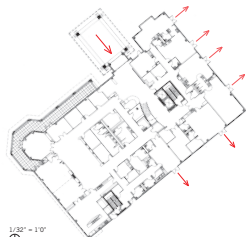
double height lobby welcomes all guests

varying degrees of surveillance and security

- key access to both child and adult care
- receptionist
- waiting area and small information desk

direct access to administration offices upstairs

no clear views to either program



ENTRY

access under portico allows for:

- shift in grade
- reticular drop-off
- protection from elements for extended drop-off/pick-up

multiple thresholds from street edge

shared spaces for both programs

1/32" = 1'0"

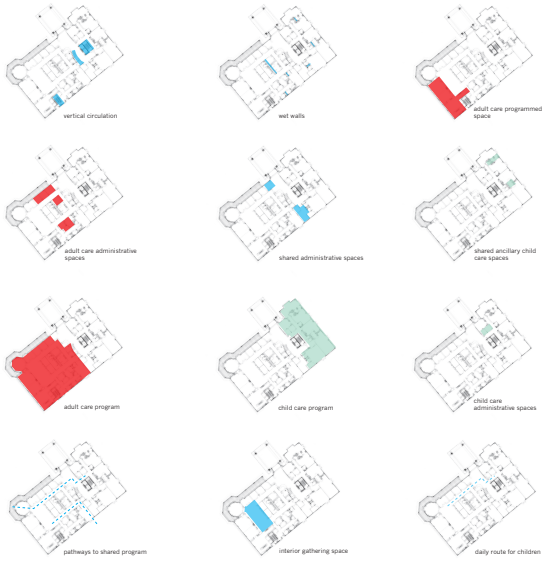


Fig. 5 Diagrams
 Many of the discouraging conditions of this center are highlighted in the diagrams.

The Intergenerational Learning Center by Office dA Architects uses barrier-free design as an opportunity to weave together two generations in downtown Chicago. The proposal incorporates a senior center and a head start program, coupled with housing that encourages [in]formal activity for residents and participants alike. The conceptual framework of weaving allows for transitional spaces and moments of overlap to amplify intergenerational activity. Unlike the Easter Seals Intergenerational Center, there is no planimetric separation of programs. Rather, the tectonic expression of the project embraces the ramp and spiral to provide for a sectional investigation of programming two generations.

Weaving occurs at the formal and contextual level of tectonic expression and site situation. The architects chose to treat the two boundaries of the site differently; the public, explicitly intergenerational functions are located on Michigan Avenue and more private housing are woven back within the block of 104th. Unlike the Easter Seals Center, the design privileges private lateral movement across housing residences and vertical integration of public functions within a specific boundary condition. Further, the program succeeds at providing varying spaces of both autonomy and interaction. The shared circulation along a circuitous route provides spaces adjacent to and

emergent from the assemblage of such programs.

Day care centers and adult day care centers are constructed, provisional environments that engage users for a finite amount of time. A typical center accepts children between the ages of 06 weeks to 05 years. Depending on cognitive and physical functioning, an adult day care center accepts occupants from 55 onward. This transitory condition will be amplified by the presence of a static, non-locally dependent program that accepts all private and public participants.

A typical daycare center holds hours anywhere from 5:00am – 8:00pm, depending on the type of the center and the location (Fig. 5). Geographic proximity is the primary factor in the regular hours, as the commute for the parents becomes a critical component to determine when to pick up and drop off a child. The curriculum model is the basis for a temporal pattern. Within the Creative Curriculum, “a developmentally appropriate curriculum where play is at the heart of learning,” activities are blocked off by the hour, but there is room for these boundaries to become mutable. While there are periodically field trips off-site or changes in the schedule, the inclusive model does allow for different temporal patterns – the curriculum is not lock-step. There are monthly themes and weekly lesson plans that engender flexibility while keeping a ritualistic pace of activities. Of course, changes do occur across age groups.

The H Street Corridor, about two miles bridging both the NE and the NW quadrant of Washington DC will be the focus for investigation of site. This corridor is one of the three that still feels the collateral effects of race riots forty years ago in 1968. Unlike 14th street and 7th street NW, the influence of gentrification is relatively slow because of the proximity to more-established neighborhoods along the former areas. In the areas of the H Street Corridor east of 2nd street, the fabric is a conglomeration of residential, commercial, arts and entertainment. Development plans between 2nd and 7th street have called for an “urban living” condition, and the Senate Square condominiums are evidence of this objective. The asking price - \$475,000 + – suggests that the developers are targeting young professionals, but there are also houses adjacent to H Street with young families eager to capitalize on an emergent market.

Criteria to select the lot along the H street corridor involves a number of factors. In an attempt to give this institution a more civic presence, street frontage along H Street is paramount. A corner is preferred over a slot site (unless additional access is obtained through the block) to mediate between the different levels of security needed for access to public and private programs.

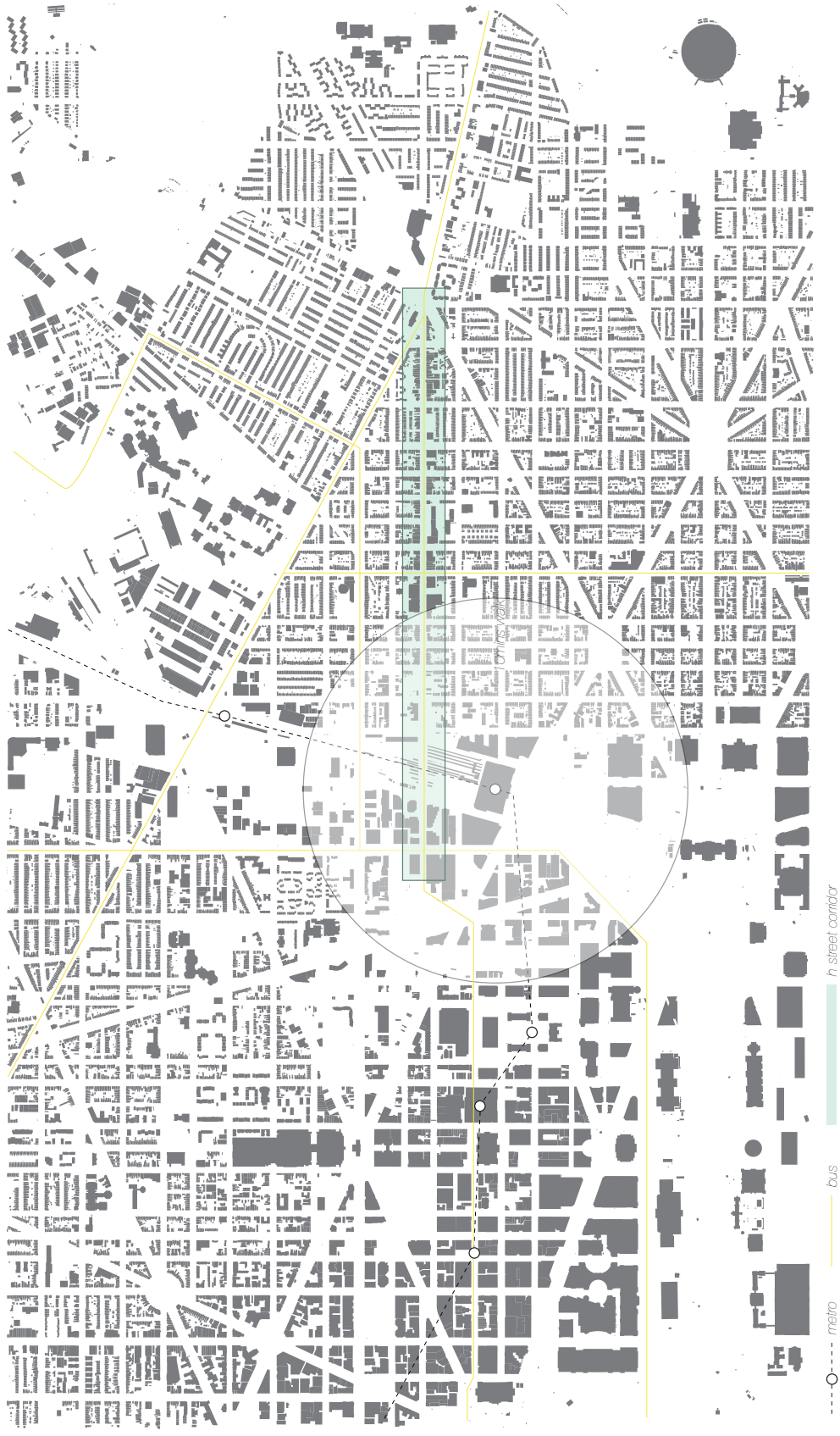


Fig. 7 Site within Global Context

This diagram highlights the major route to get to the sites via public transportation. It was essential that the center remain within walking distance of a major metro stop.



Fig. 5 H Street Corridor Revitalization Plan
This diagram highlights the major route to get to the sites via public transportation. It was essential that the center remain within walking distance of a major metro stop.

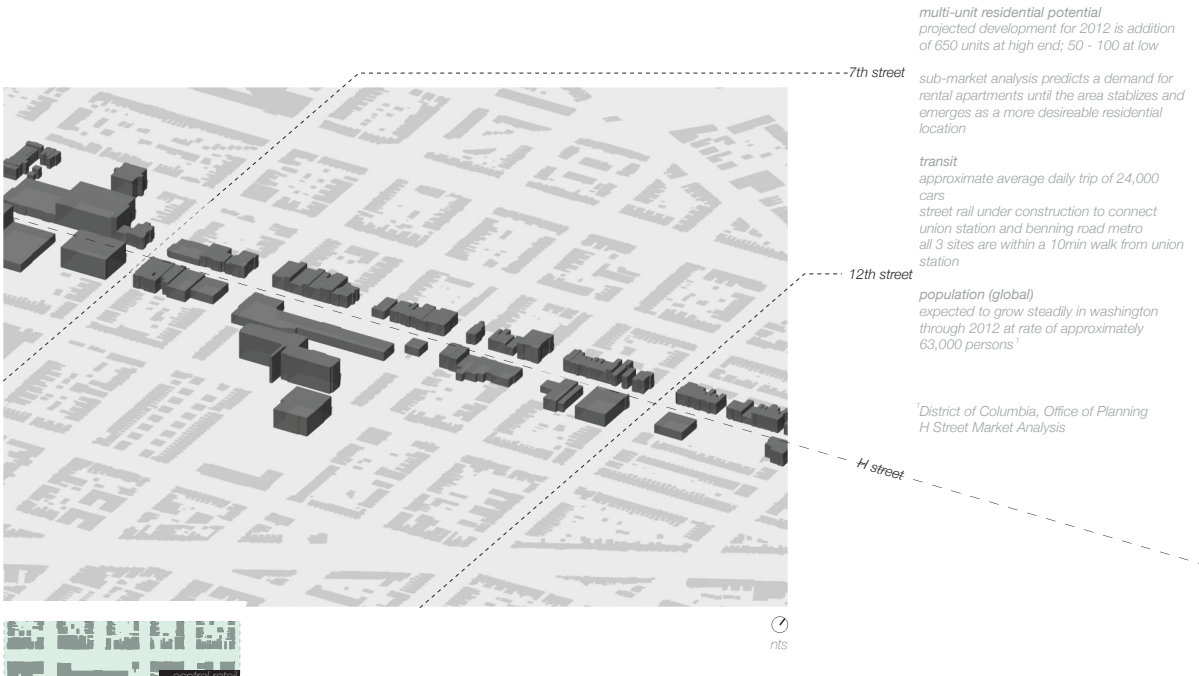


Fig. 9 Central Retail Axon

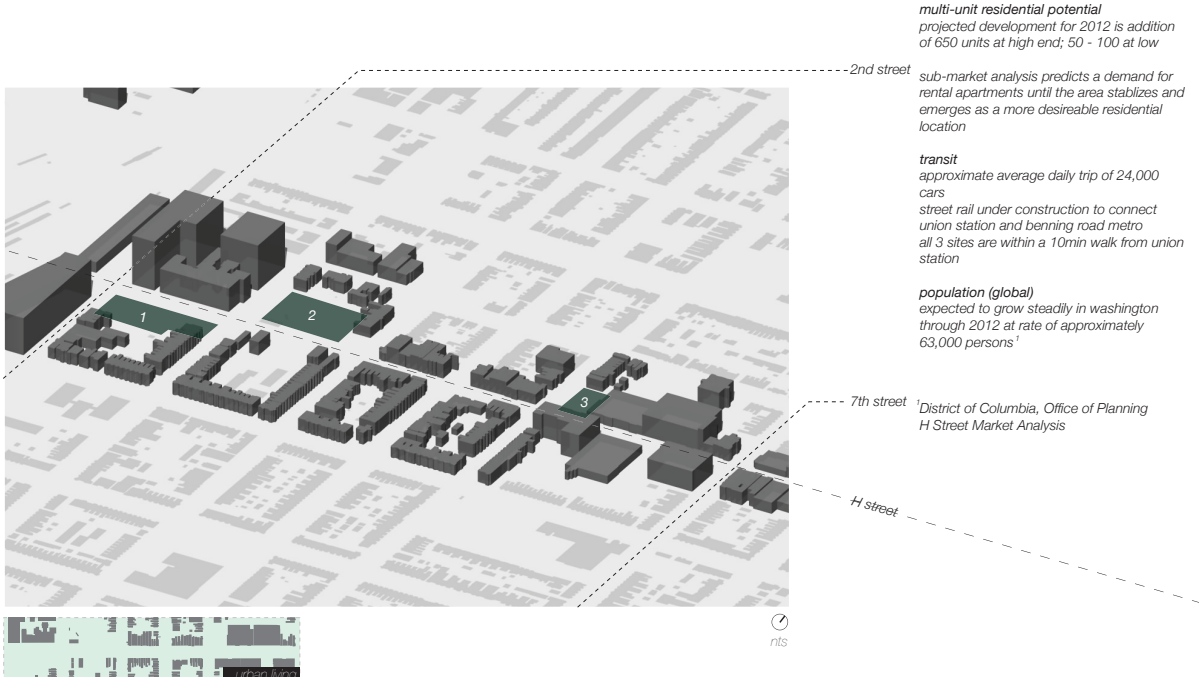


Fig. 10 Urban Living Axon



Fig. 11 Scholastic Ammenities Near Site



Fig. 12 Slope



Fig. 13 Major Axes on Site



Fig. 14 Proximity to Metro Station

Proximity to the Union Station metro station and subsequent street-car stations is fundamental to the success of this proposal, since a limited amount of parking will be available for participants. Along a conceptual framework, this thesis is predicated on mobilization; passive driving to the center will be discouraged and not an emergent condition of programming as most occupants will be those within the corridor and ancillary residential neighborhoods. The infrastructure this center is dependent on a population with children and adults to sustain the facility, and having accessibility to the metro allows for the building to be used in addition to workday hours.

The primary axis along H Street runs East-West through the city, thus street frontage will either preference North or South. In an attempt to integrate more passive strategies in the design proposal, this design proposal will privilege sites that are south facing.

Three sites were investigated as places for this center to reside. Site 1 is located at the intersection of 2nd and H Street, 2 is located at 3rd and H Street, and 3 is located at 6th and H Street. Sites 2 and 3 are south facing, but the viability of site 1 resided in the existing dynamic condition.



Fig. 15 Site Parameters

An interesting surficial condition is emergent at the intersection of 2nd street and the corridor. The clear edge of former, initiated by the McMillan plan, is increasingly delaminated as it moves toward Florida Avenue and the railroad tracks pass over the rational grid. There is a vertical displacement at 2nd and H where the “original” ground-plane is confronted by both the railways and constructed bridges that maintain the historic corridor edge while sloping upward to accommodate the size of the cars. Thus, there is already a three-dimensional integration of plural ground planes at the site, which parallels the intention of the program.

Sound control will be mediated at the site by placing program accordingly along either noisy- or soft- scapes. At 2nd and H street, noise control is required at the lower west edge, closest to Union Station. The existing fabric is a hybrid of office/commercial and residential edges. The residential edge is composed of small-scale (< 03 stories) walk-ups. The new office building on the other side of the street is 07 stories and borders the train tracks. It is a dark, austere structure with no presence or accommodations for the surrounding community

After investigated each of the three proposals through diagramming and modeling, it was determined that the best location for the center was at the intersection of 3rd and H Street, for a variety of reasons. Firstly, at a metaphorical level, the site is an abandoned lot and the

hinge point between two urban fabrics: the residential scale and the urban, more vertical density west of the train tracks and adjacent to the site. It is a transitional point between two separate scales. As such, this location for the center metaphorically weaves together these two densities and proposes a more vertical density at this edge.

Adjacent to the site along 3rd street stands one of the most recent additions to the H Street Corridor: Senate Square. It is a residential facility with lofts and apartments that challenges the scale of the residential neighborhood it surrounds, mirroring the more vertical density of the urban condition a few blocks west. The street condition changes dramatically at this pivotal juncture after the bridge.



Fig. 16 Physical Site Model and Base

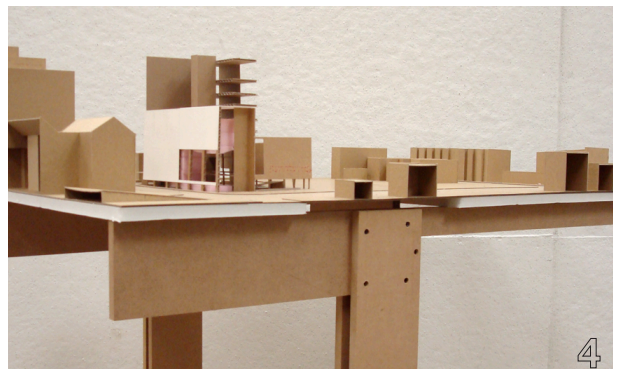
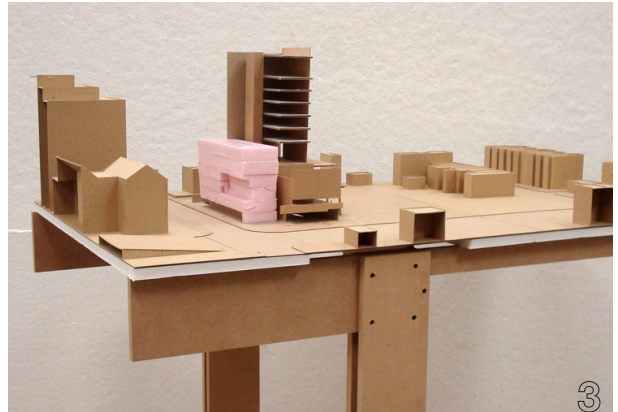
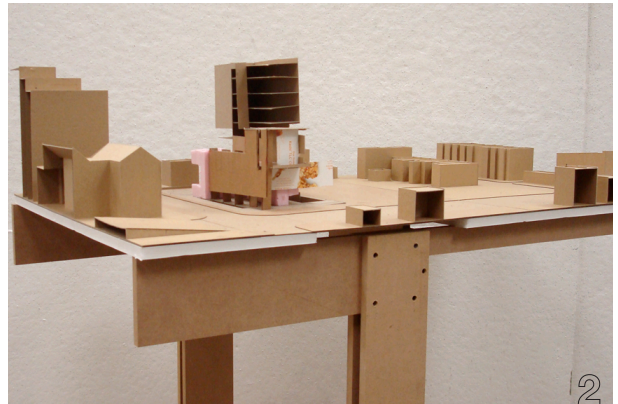
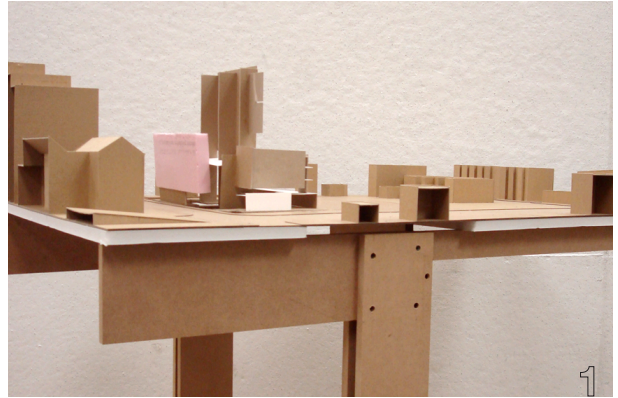


Fig. 17 Manual Explorations

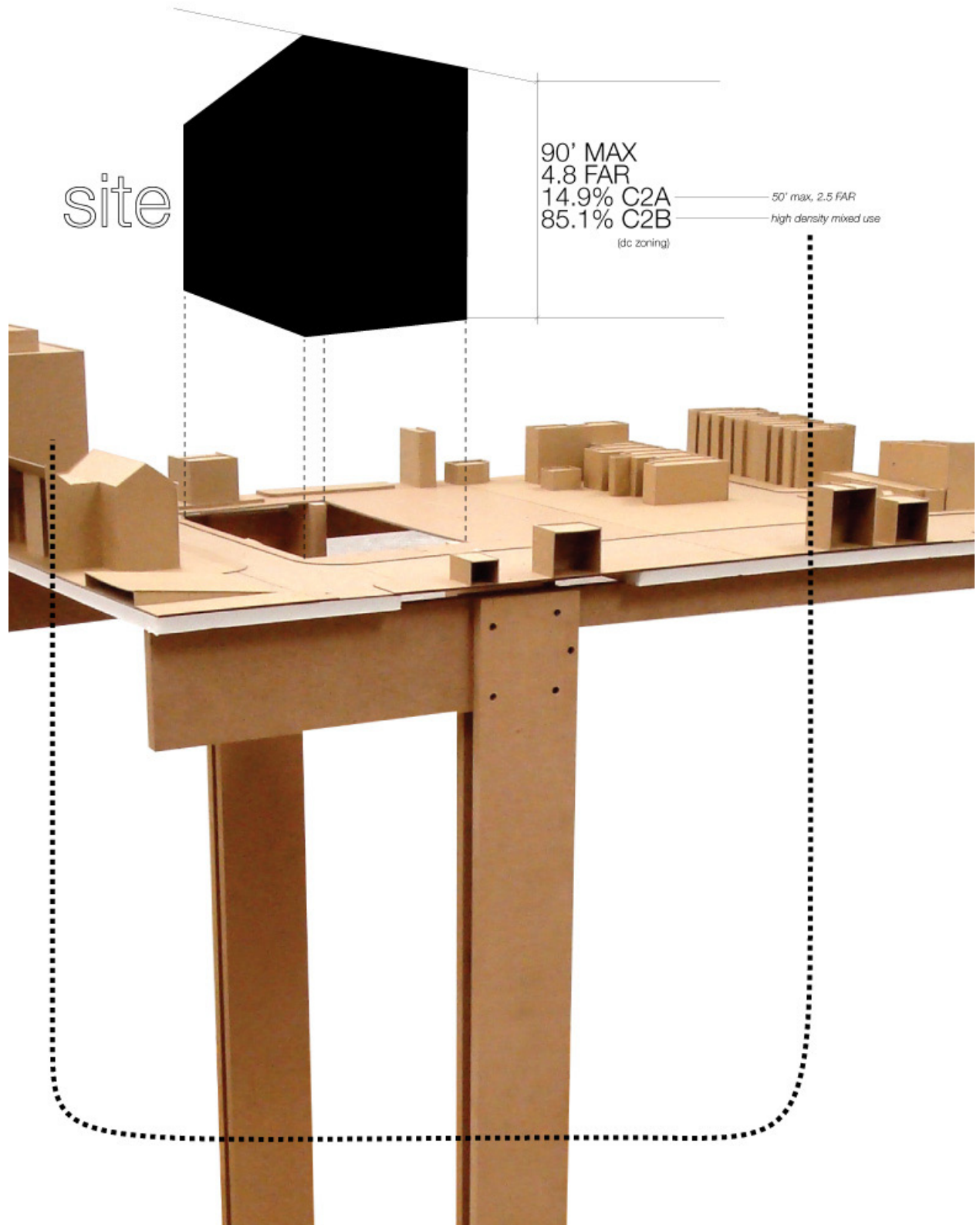


Fig. 18 Site Area and Zoning Ordinances

Proposed is an architectural framework that establishes a network between daycare, adult daycare, and the public realm. A series of pools serves as the connective tissue to mediate between daycare and the community. Metaphorically, pools are a neutral environment capable of supporting all bodies, regardless of age or ability. In this thesis they function conceptually to link and engender an alternative perception: in a zero gravity environment, physical [in]ability dematerializes. Adults can also benefit largely from exercise in the water, a place without the additional pressure on muscles or joints.

The accompaniment of a pool also parallels a fundamental idea in the thesis, that children are currently immobilized at play and the necessity to activate and promote a culture of health and wellness is now more pressing than ever. These pools will be used regularly by the public and those within daycare.

The addition of a public pool component will re-activate the participants in the greater urban context and activities will be programmed to strengthen the perception of the users within a greater community. It is critical for this center to mediate between the participants and the residents along the H street corridor. Current intergenerational programs need to promote action outside of a centralized locus to

engage the community outside the immediate needs of the facility. Only then can this structure sustain itself past workday hours. This hybridized program will test the viability of the architecture to function simultaneously as both temporary and permanent.

The center has two pools of different dimensions to be used by the public or daycare participants. These are stacked vertically along 3rd street, allowing the architecture and the people to act as signage for the physical facility. This mobilization volume constitutes perhaps one of the most important spaces in the center. It is visually hierarchical and conceptually open along the edge of 3rd street, allowing passers-by to spatially and visually interact with those inside the deep water pool. It is on the ground floor, and wide enough to hold small swim meets of regulation length, teach swimming lessons to the community, and wade at the edge. There is an additional pool above the bottommost one, solely for the use of those in daycare. It is much shallower and not intended for diving or other activities that would require an appropriate depth. Instead, this pool is meant for independent classes and rehabilitation for those in daycare. The presence of the pool is articulated within the volume of space of the deep pool, allowing the underside to reveal itself to those swimming.

Another critical part of the program is the library, a space intended to bring the public into the center. This is located in the lowermost floors of the building, allowing a clear spatial procession from the street to the library while simultaneously activating the vertical volumes that carry daycare participants from the fourth and fifth floors.

Fig. 19 Spatial Iterations and Translation

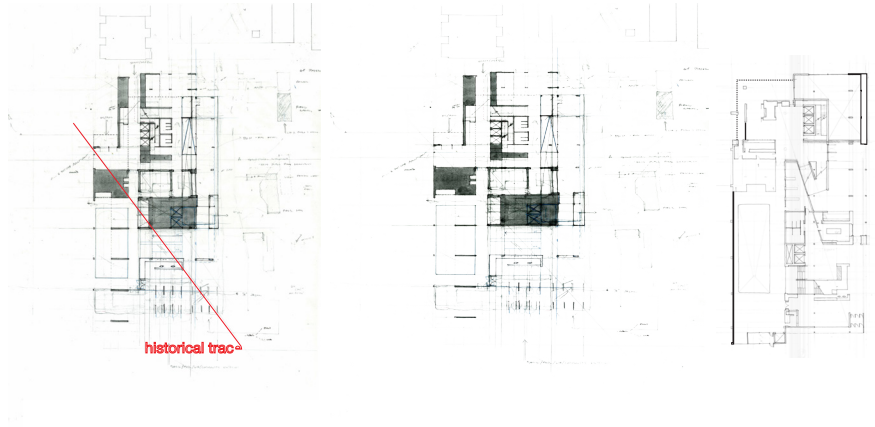
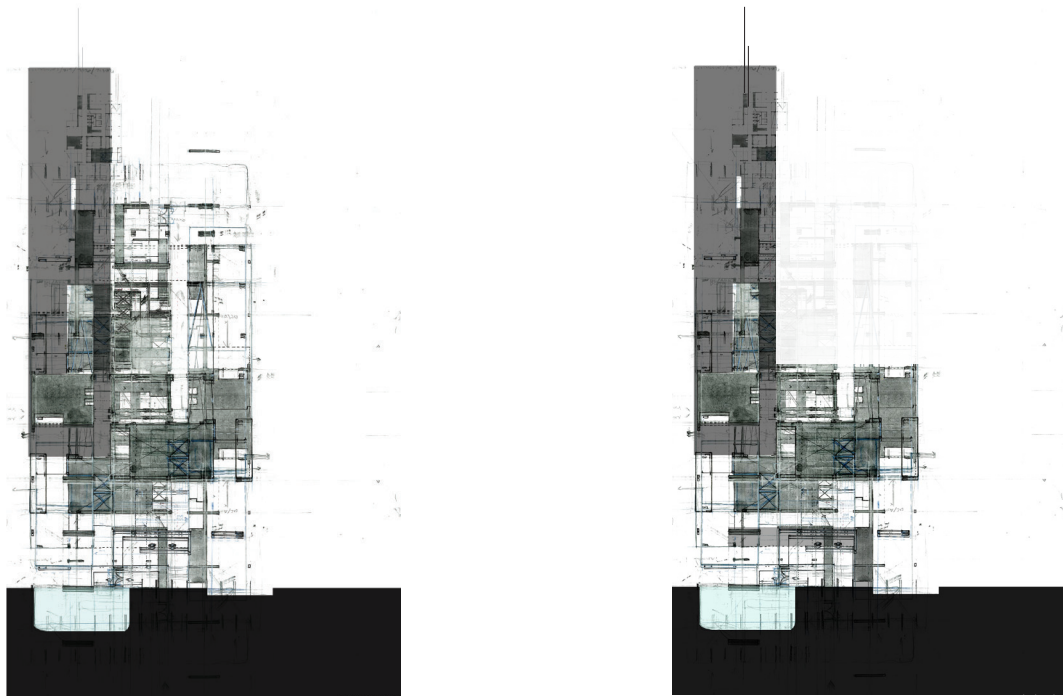


Fig. 20 Media Explorations in Elevation



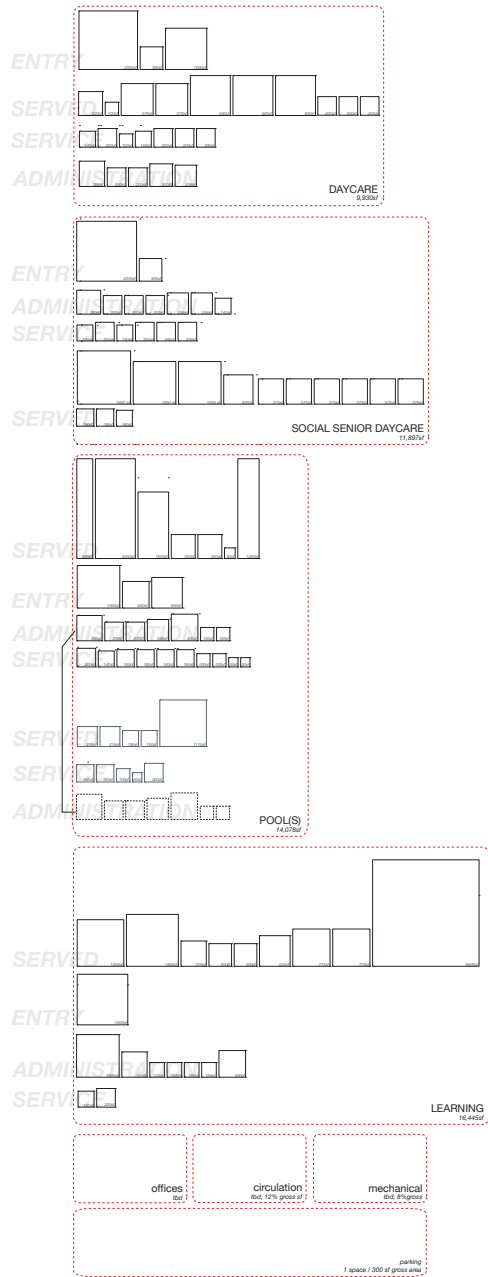


Fig. 21 Program Breakdown and Relative Size

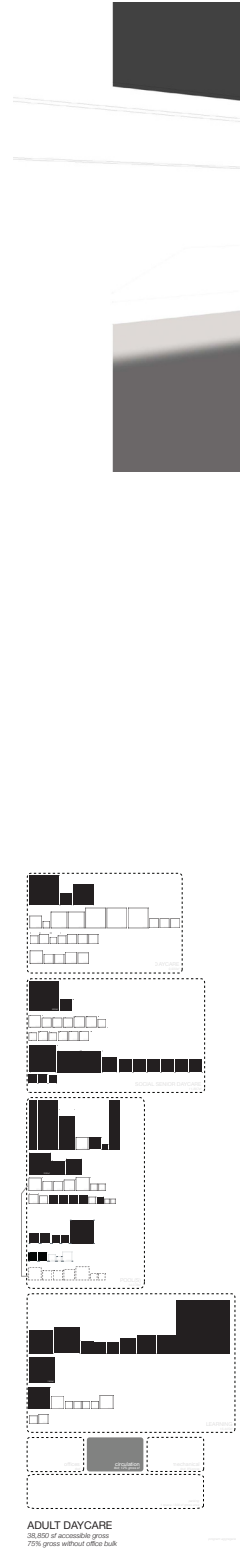


Fig. 21 Public and Private Breakdown of Spaces

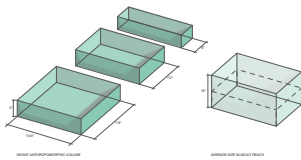


Fig. 23 Crib Dimensions

According to the International Ergonomics Association, Ergonomics is the scientific discipline concerned with the understanding of interactions among humans and other elements of a system, and the profession that applies theory, principles, data and methods to design in order to optimize human well being and overall system performance. Established guidelines, based on human perception and physical mobility, are used as a vehicle to guide spatial implications in the proposal.

Contrast is especially relevant in designing spaces for both children and adults. To perceive an object clearly, a sixty-year-old eye typically needs 20 times the amount of light that a young adult needs. For that reason, spaces cannot be flooded with light, but rather have salient areas of contrast to aid perception.

Spaces on the inside will also be evaluated based on relative proximity between eye and object, wall, threshold, etc., for both generations. Mass-production and standardization of design have neglected this aspect and connectivity between the participant and surrounding architecture has suffered. For example, the “reception desk in most modern buildings is a forbidding monolith, protecting the receptionist” for anyone in a wheelchair or a child under counter-top height. The architecture language of the center will be one that is responsive

to these design considerations.

Additionally, the perception of space and how it affects children in daycare is different from a measurable dimension. Researchers tabulate space according to the volume of a room, but also the space per child. When the space is < 25 square feet per child, children become more physical and aggressive agents in the space and spend less time interacting socially (Rohe, 86).

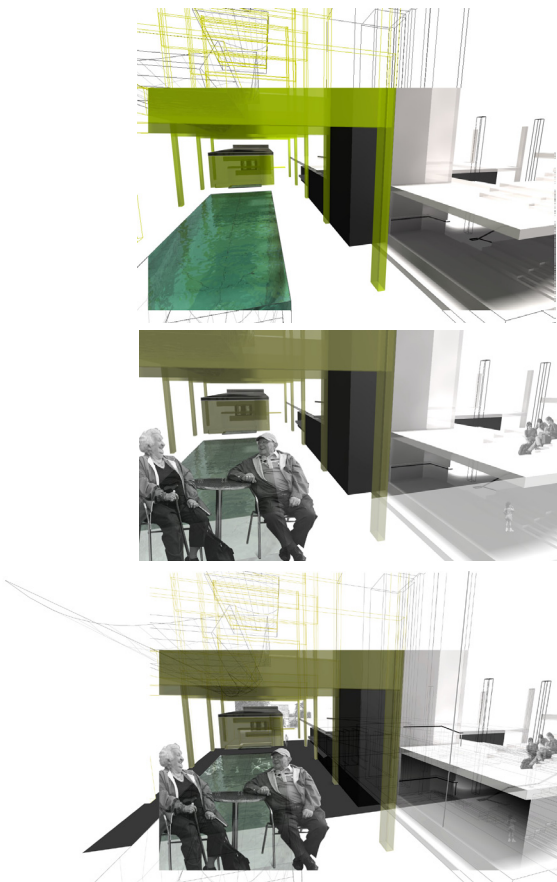


Fig. 24 Interior Perspective of Wet Volume

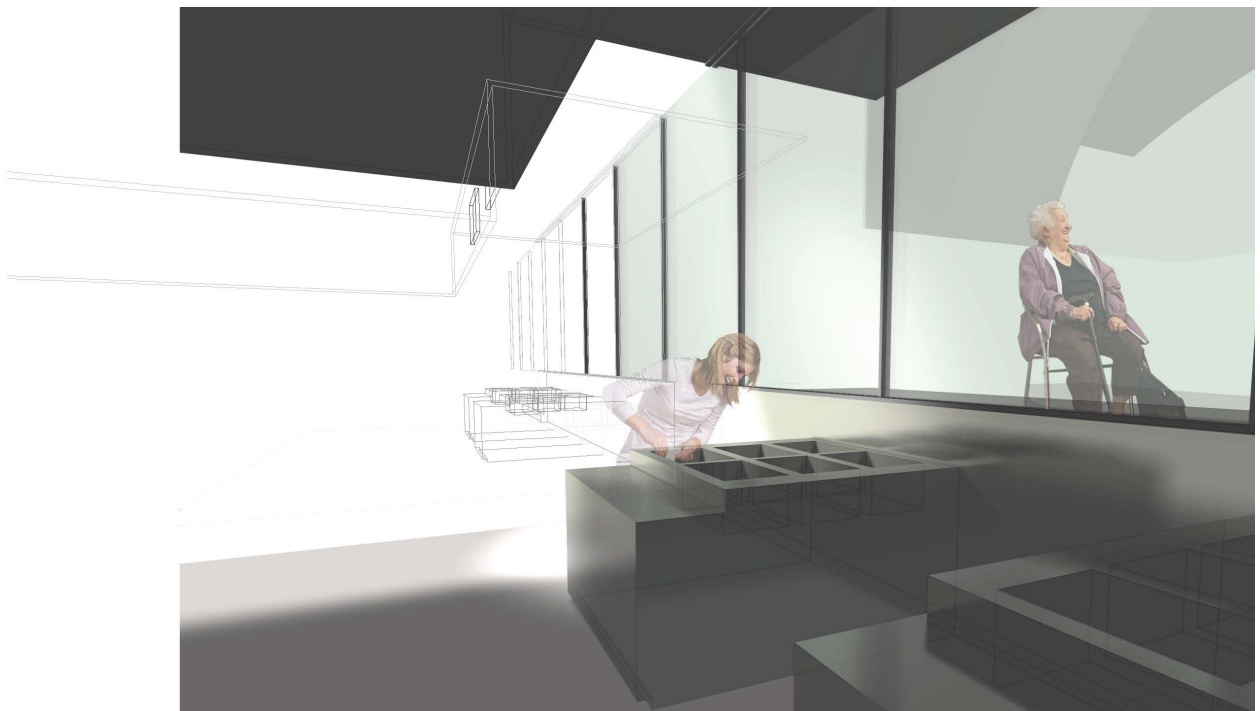
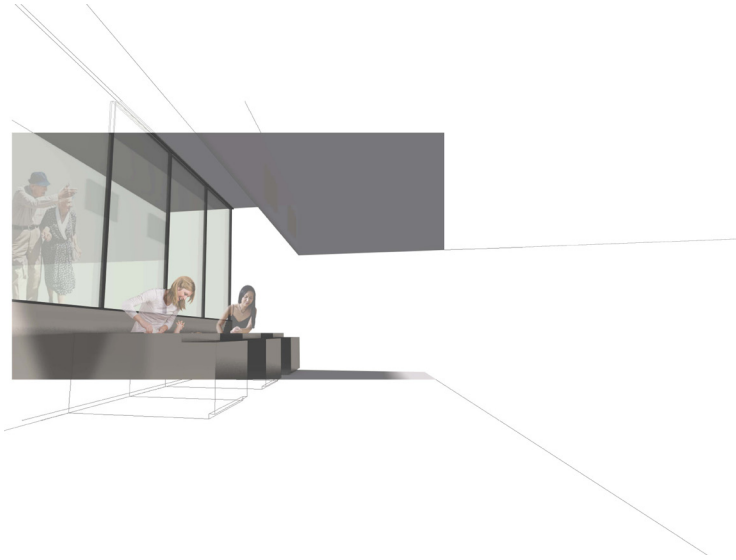


Fig. 25 Interior Perspective of Infant Room

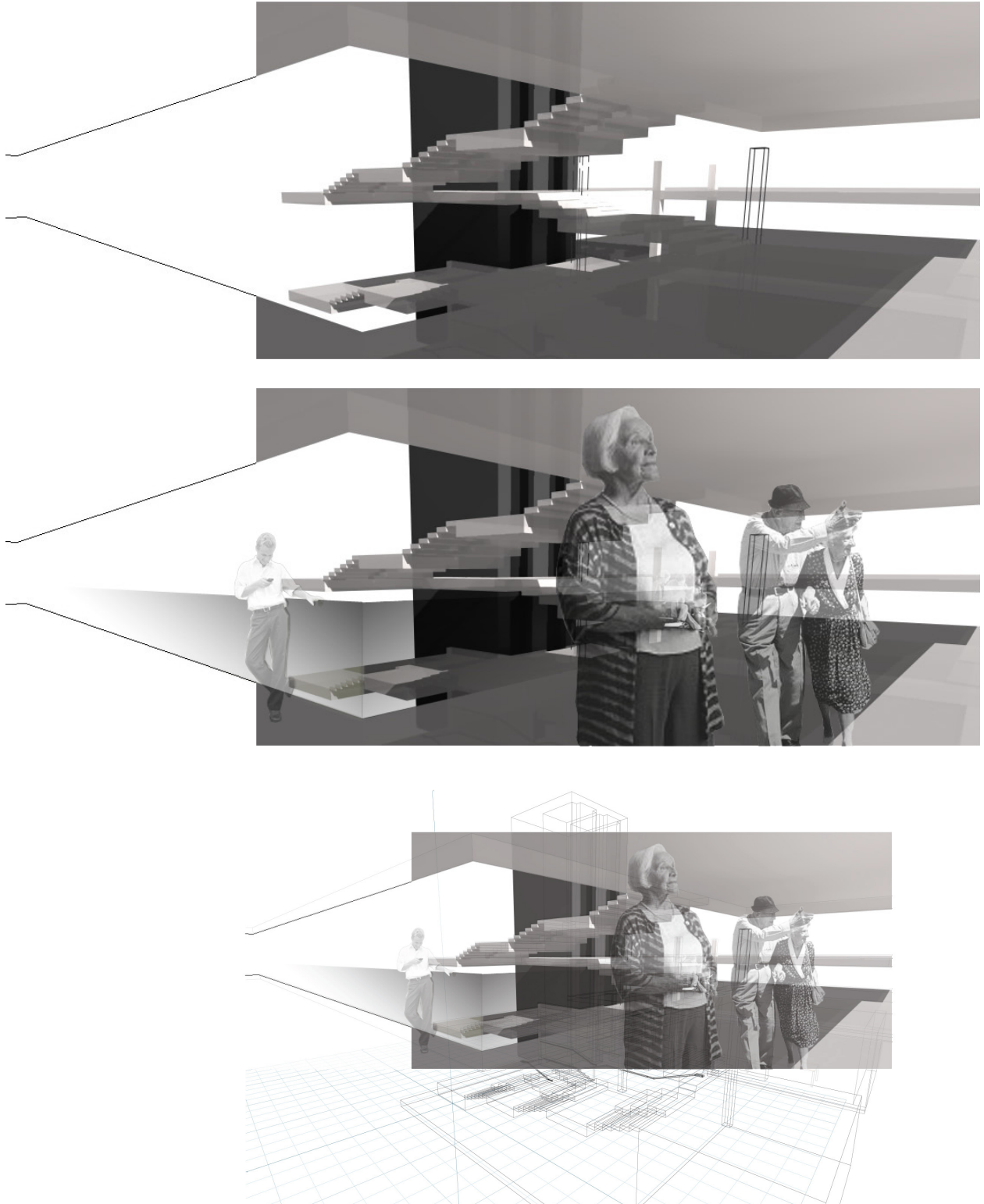


Fig. 26 Versions of Space Above Lobby

The ecology of the daycare center within the urban fabric is essential to establish both the social agenda of the facility and the overall quality of the place. Centers can be qualified as franchised or independent, cooperative or commercial, and profit or nonprofit. In western societies, daycare emerged and proliferated as nonprofit institutions however currently, this trend has decreased as the number of for-profit facilities replace and phase out the former. At present the presence of daycare chains, i.e. Kinder-Care Learning Centers, accounts for over 40% of the centers nationwide and take in over \$200 million annually. The potential that these chains lower student to faculty ratios and accept less students to keep group sizes to a minimum is unlikely, as most prioritize profit. Many treat children as “units” and operate daycare as a business model: if successful, then replicate and franchise.

On average, if a center is run by a nonprofit, the quality of the care is better, the staff has a higher degree of training, and more participation from volunteers is present (Clarke-Stewart, 53). Nonprofit centers can be grouped into the following: community and church centers, company centers, cooperative centers, and research centers.

This thesis posits a research center model, with a clear relationship to one of the major universities in the district. Gallaudet University, to

the North of H Street corridor, is imagined as the affiliation. In most research daycare centers, both the physical spaces and educational models are intensely researched and often bring about the most stimulating environments for children.

Program

DAYCARE (8,000SF)

60 children +

This is the national average; some facilities have fewer than 15 and others have more than 300. As this proposal is implemented in an urban setting, the number leans on the larger side to accommodate more children and allow more square footage.

This program is split into no more than six groups per cluster. There will be multiple “clusters” on the site, allowing for a higher degree of either variability or autonomy between and within each unit.

In child care staffing studies, group sizes varied between 2 – 37. Group sizes will be kept to no more than 12.

Time within each cluster is spent accordingly, based on a conglomeration of curricular models:

- 25% free-choice activities
- 16% adult-directed activities
- 26% physical exercise
- 15% instruction

ADULT DAYCARE

(approx. 6,000SF)

POOL(S)

LIBRARY

SUPPORT

ADMINISTRATION

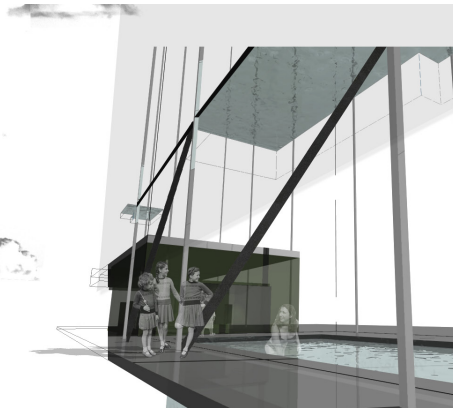
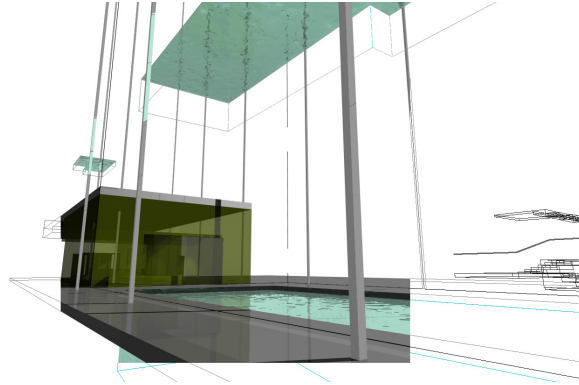


Fig. 27 Seam along 3rd Street

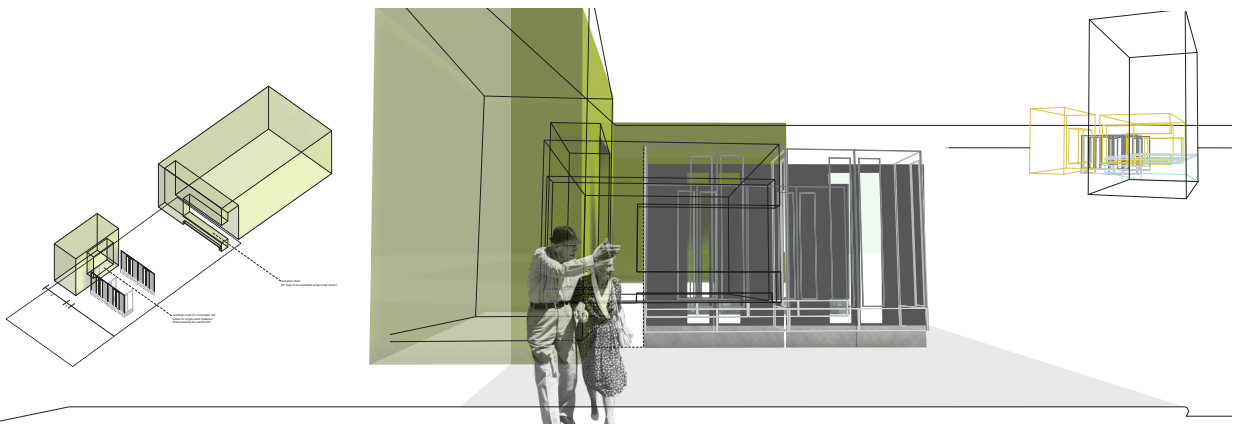


Fig. 28 Threshold to Daycare Lobby

Fig. 29 Explorations of Back Entrance

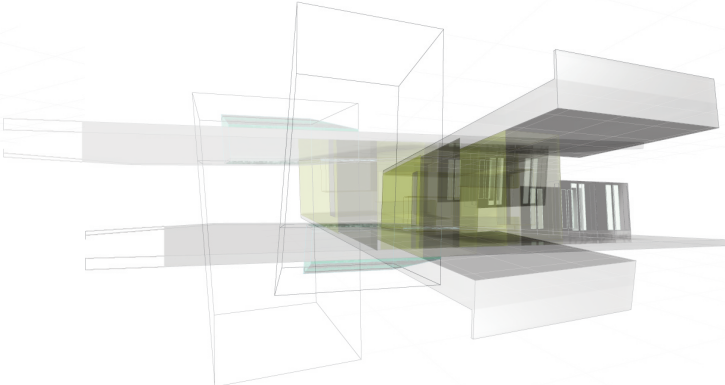
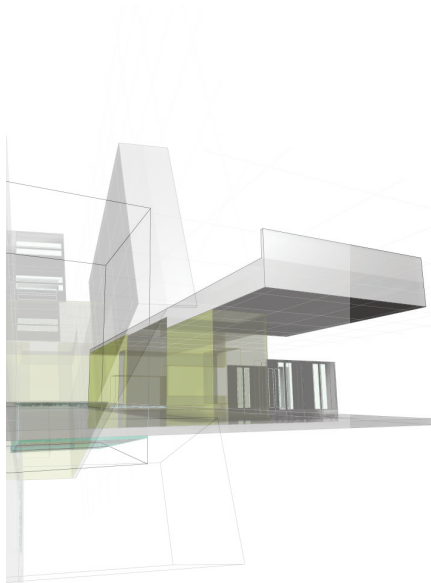
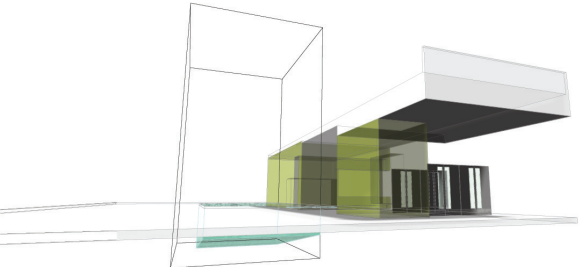
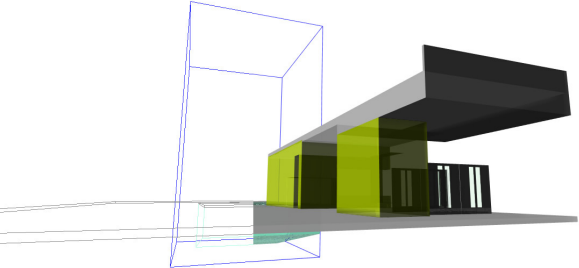
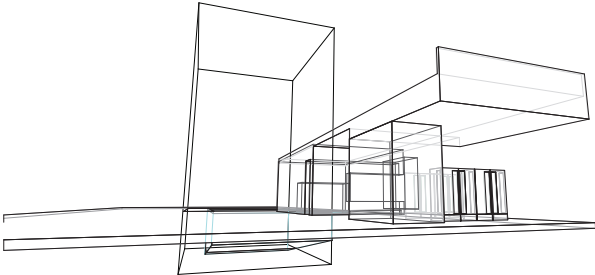


Fig. 30 Ultimate Constructs for Daycare Drop-Off



Fig. 31 Spaces Within Wet Volume

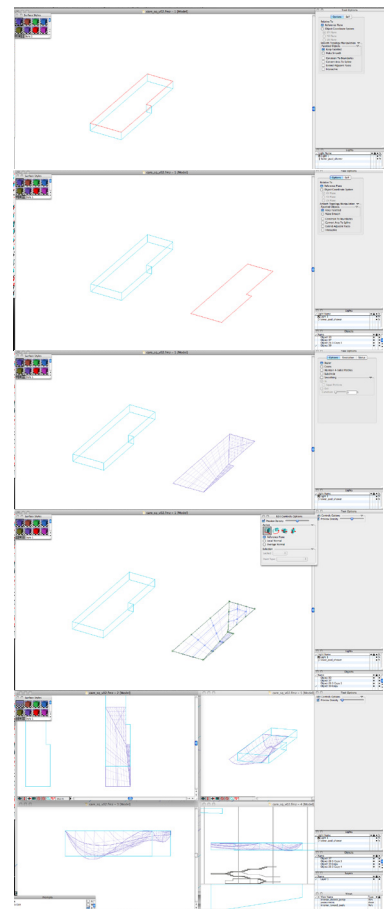
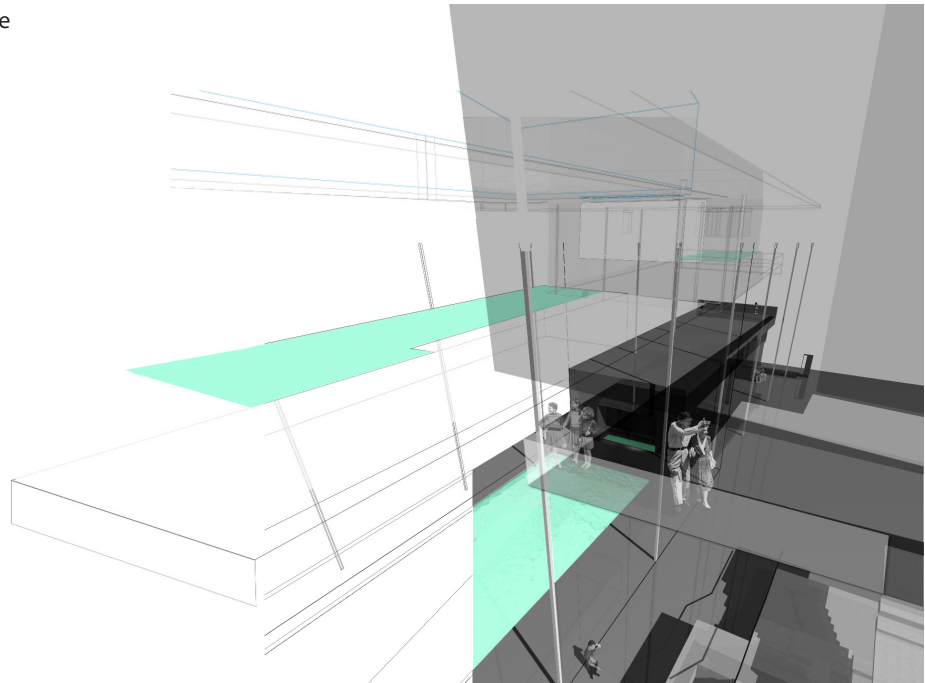


Fig. 32 Emergent Pool Topology

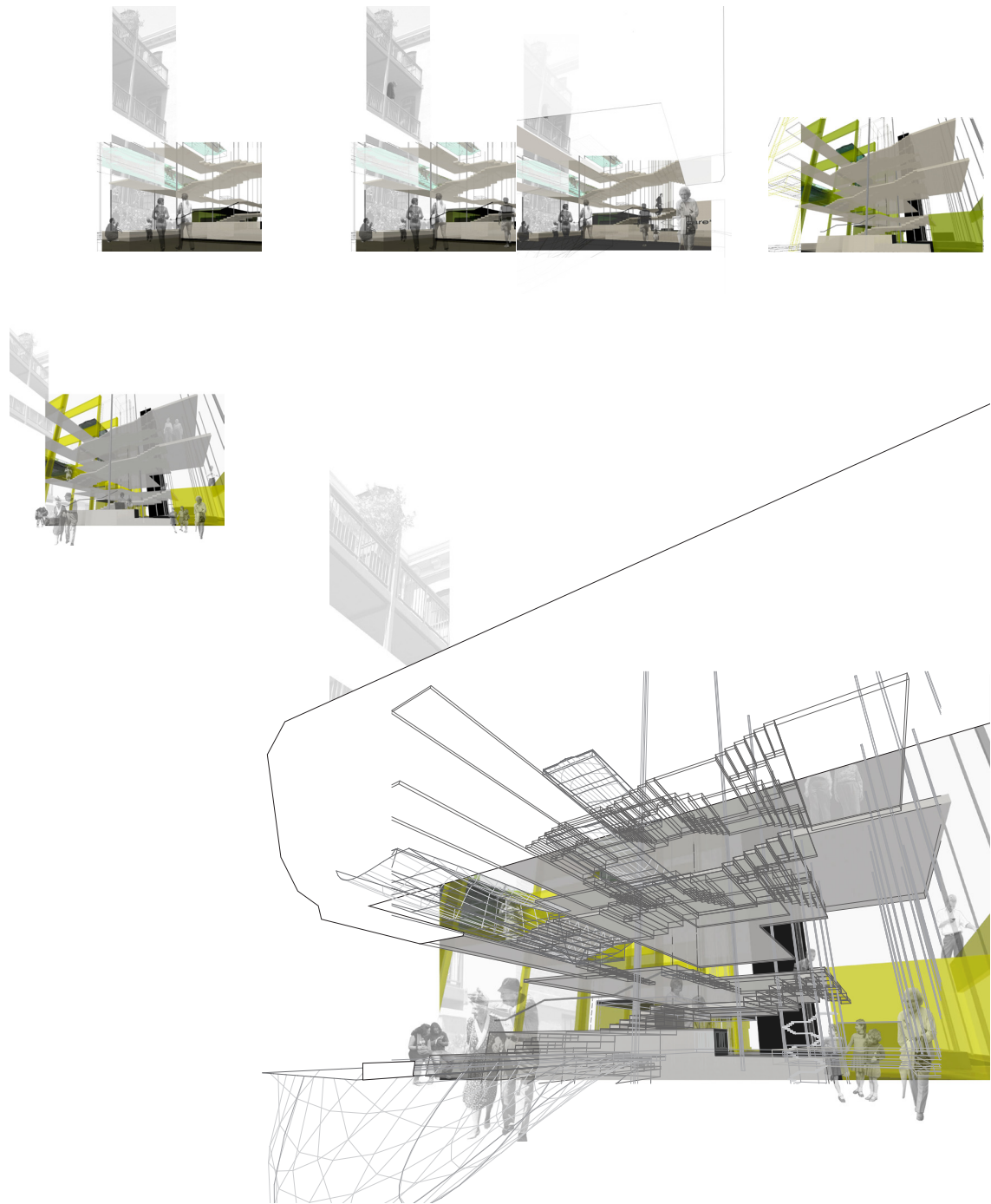


Fig. 33 Interior Stair Perspective Sequence

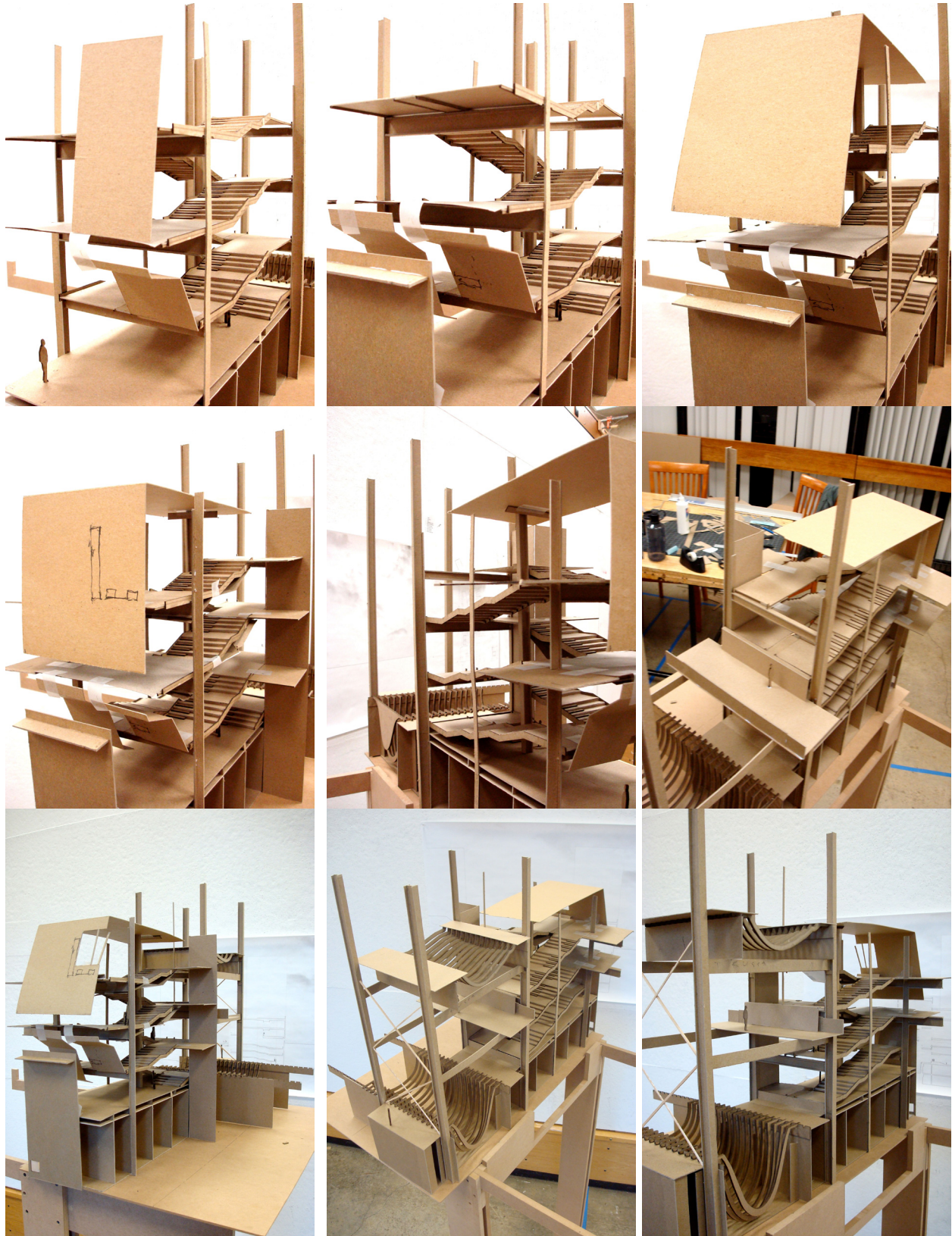


Fig. 34 Quarter-Scale Model Process

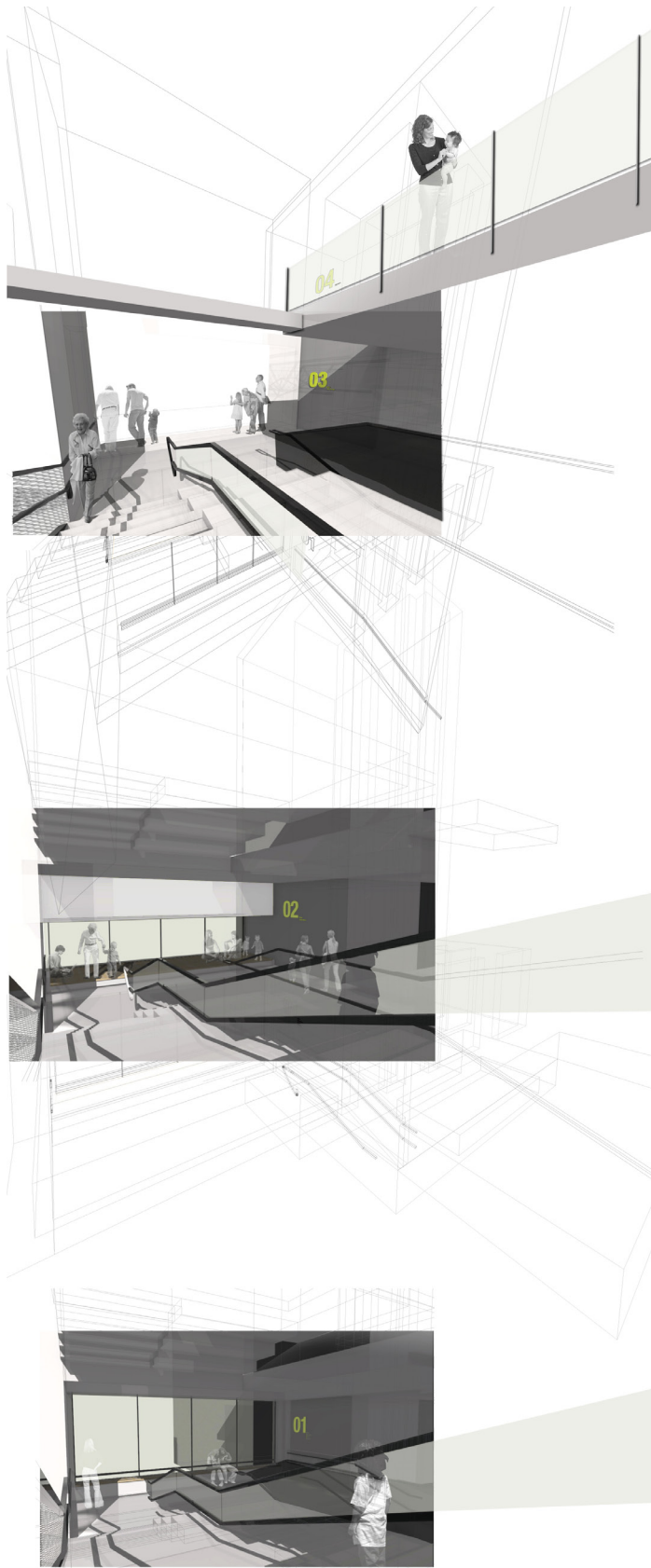


Fig. 35. Intergenerational Stair Landings

Fig. 36 Plans of the Facility



Fig. 37 Longitudinal Section N/S

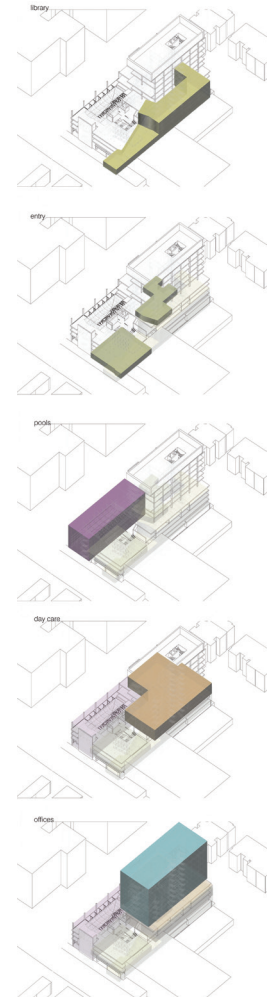
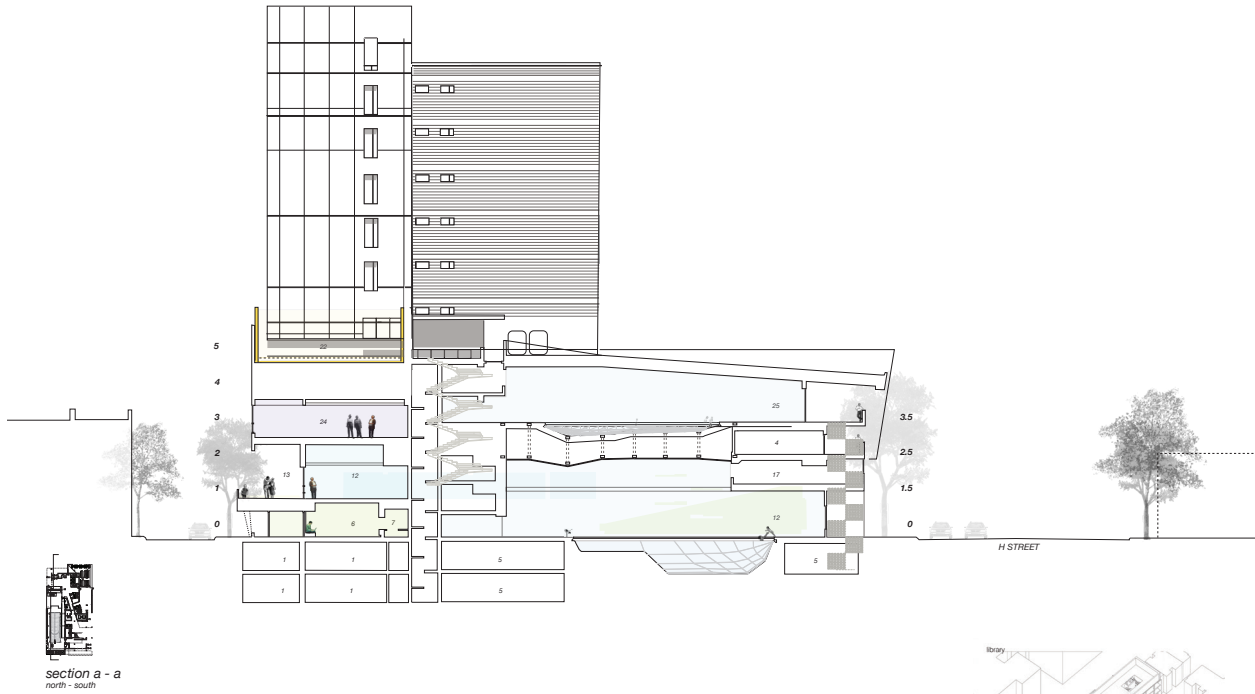


Fig. 38 Program Aggregate

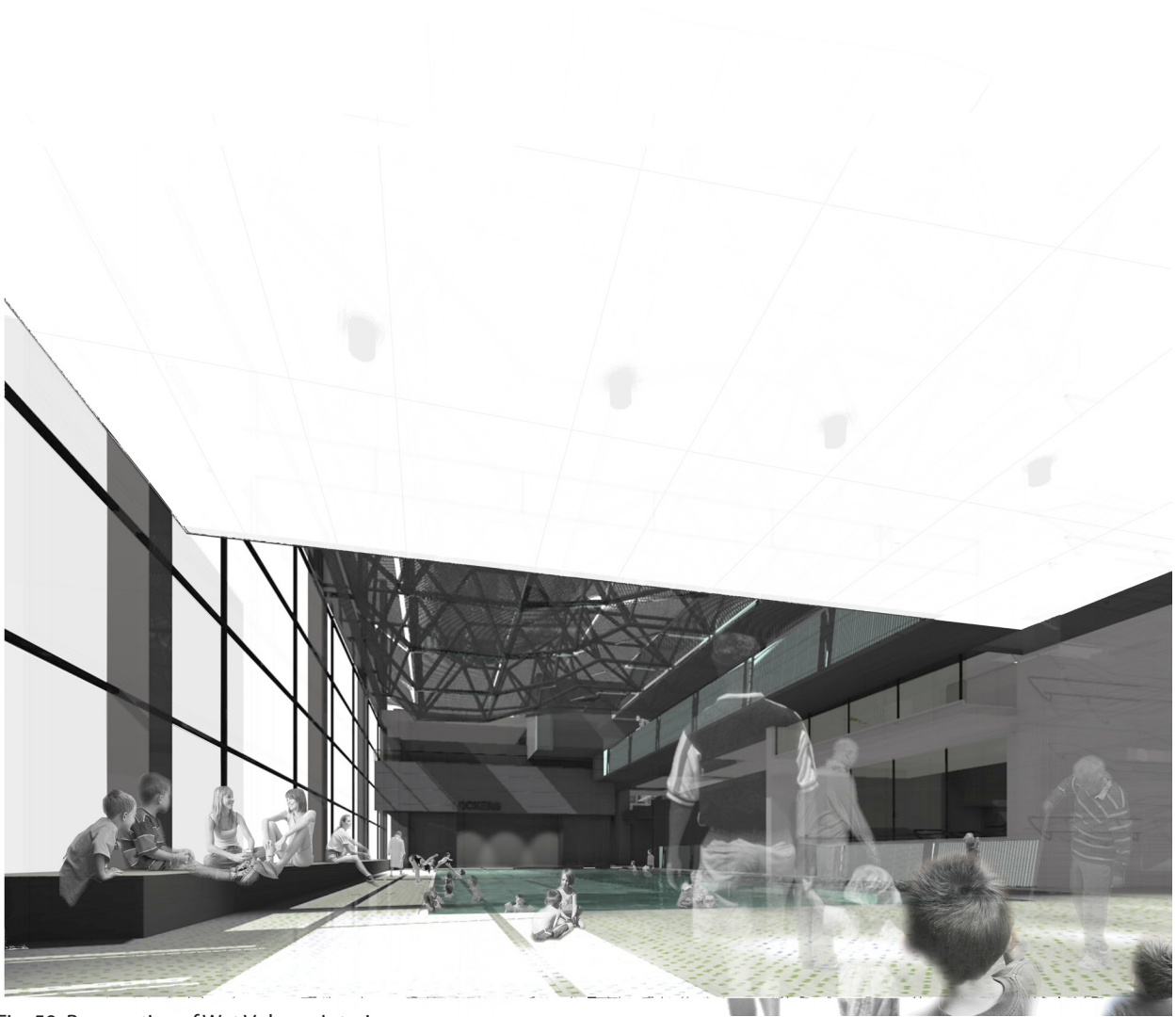


Fig. 59 Perspective of Wet Volume Interior

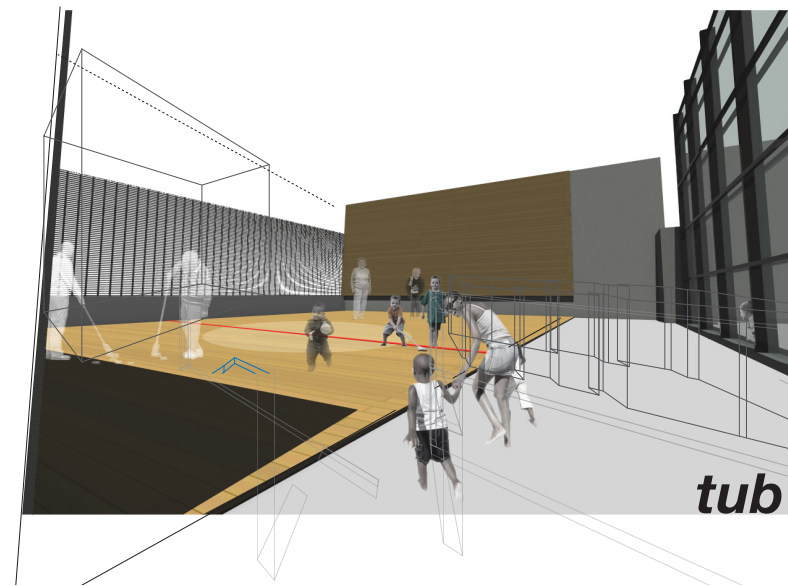
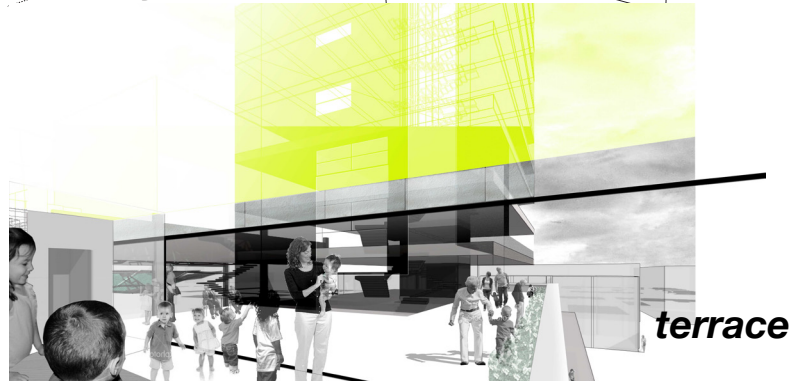
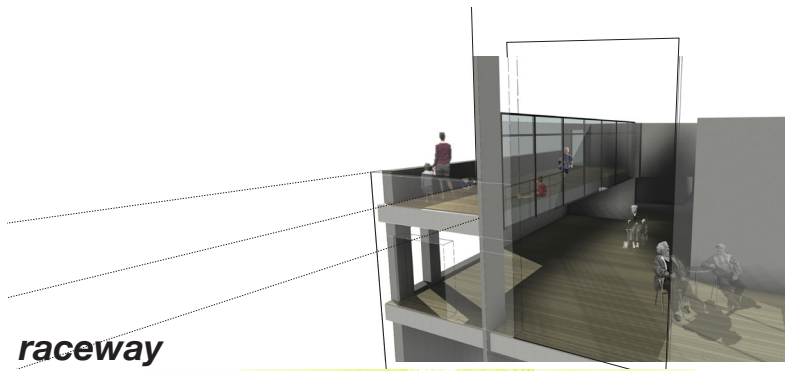


Fig. 40 Exterior Spaces

This thesis interrogates the conceptualization of day care in a contemporary society. At what point can architecture serve as a catalyst to dissolve stereotypes and make public an institution regarded as wholly autonomous within the urban fabric? The research has demonstrated that this daycare aggregate (traditional daycare and adult daycare) can exist both autonomously and as a larger part of the fabric for this new institution.

Perhaps the most valuable part of thesis initiated with the study of a vertical volume designed to accommodate both the primary users and the public. The stair and the conception for the design was a pivotal moment in the thesis, challenging the necessity of programming at the level of the building scale and the artifact from the thesis at all. The architecture and tectonics of the stair actualize most questions raised about intergenerational relationships and within the scope of this thesis. The process was greatly affected by simultaneously palpable and digitally driven media; the investigation allowed for a robust, non-linear study of the stair and the seam.

The stair seeks to blur the boundary between architecture, metaphor and sign. Proposing an un-conditioned vertical volume that serves most of the program within the institution can leverage a variety of scales. This allowed the research to move laterally along a number

of trajectories at any given time period. The close study of the users for this stair drove most of the design decisions. Anthropomorphic dimensions of the bodies for each user were investigated to design railings and treads that would best accommodate a young and elderly population without sacrificing public needs. It became an intergenerational stair, one that challenges and accommodates. Leverages and specializes.

The research brought to fruition a number of sectional conditions proposed in the earliest stages of the thesis. All of the intermediate landings were studied as areas along a seam between the vertical volume and the pool that could adapt to optimize any number of sectional configurations that had figural ramifications within the pool volume. Thus, the seam between the stair and the wet volume ultimately collapses when the users mediate between foreground, middle ground, and background as they ascend, descend, or rest.

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