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Breaking the Stigma: Challenging the mental health crisis through a new way of designing a recovery facility in Salt Lake City, Utah

Lindsey Denig

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BREAKING THE STIGMA



BREAKING THE STIGMA

Challenging the mental health crisis through a new way of designing a recovery facility in Salt Lake
City, Utah

Approval of Thesis Research Project Book is Presented to:

Tim Frank

and to the
Faculty of the Department of Architecture
College of Architecture and Construction Management

by

Lindsey Denig

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree

Bachelor of Architecture

Kennesaw State University Marietta, Georgia

May 9, 2023

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the following people for their continuous love and support throughout my architecture journey:

My Family

Thank you for sacrificing so much for me to pursue my dreams. You all have always stood by my side, no matter what, and I truly appreciate everything you do for me.

My Friends

From elementary school to college, you all have made such an impact on me. Thank you to those who have stuck by my side and loved me for who I am. Your support means the world.

The Polyidus Chapter

This chapter has impacted much of my college experience in so many ways. I met my best friends and have a found family, that will last a lifetime. Thank you for all of the laughs and cries brothers.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to acknowledge all of my friends and family for their love and support throughout my architectural journey.

I would like to give special thanks to my advisor, Tim Frank. You have guided me through this program since first year. This thesis would not have been possible wihout your support and knowledge this past year.

I would also like to give thanks to all of the faculty for their guidance and assistance throughout these 5 years.

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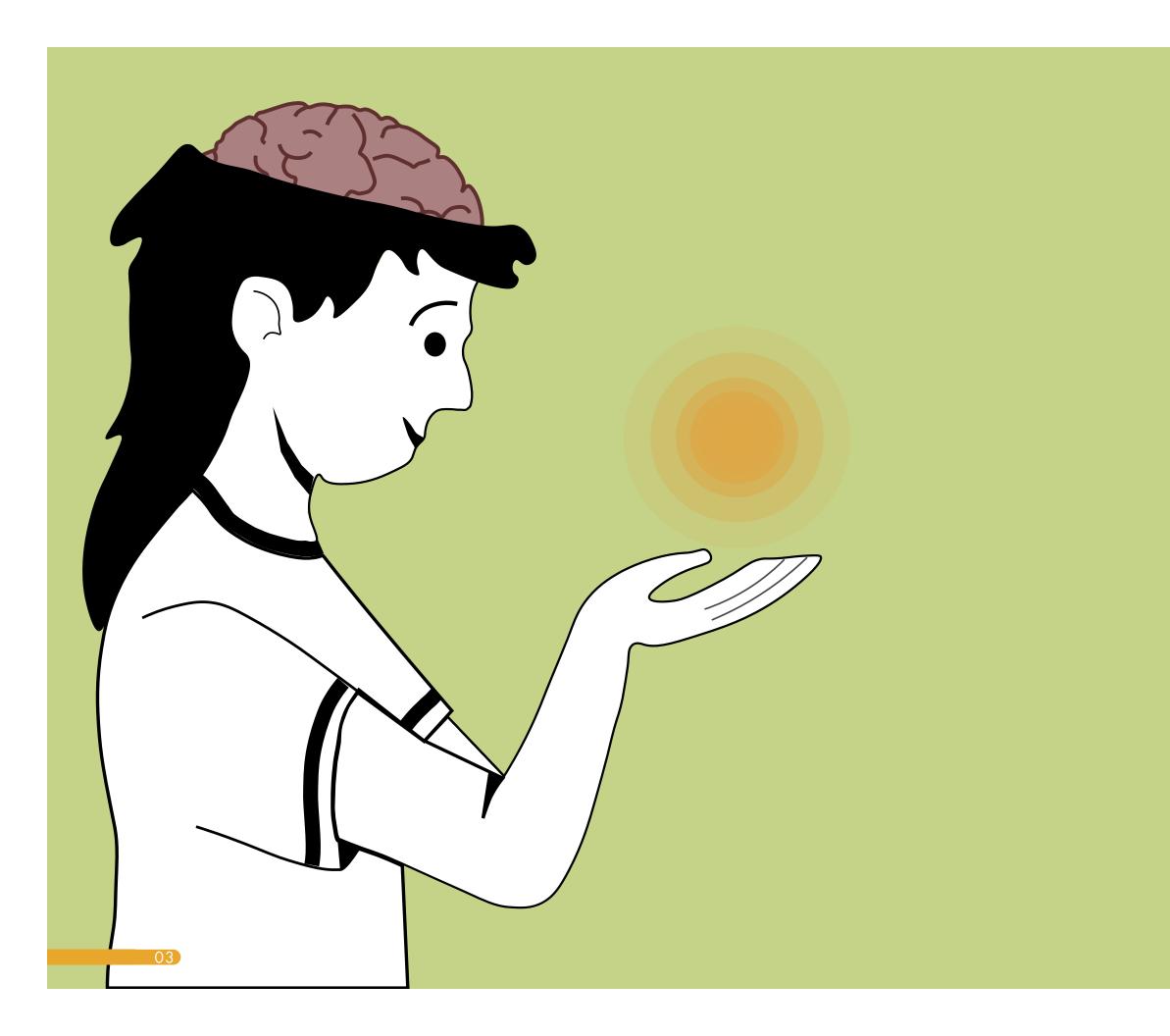
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RESEARCH CONTEXT - PROBLEMS - DISORDERS



RESEARCH CONTEXT

Mental health is a highly stigmatized topic within today's society. The mental health system in the United States has failed to consistently create safe and successful spaces for recovering patients with psychological disorders.

Facilities are often described as "inhumane" by patients in how they are designed. Patients have expressed that there is lack of safe, private spaces. The spaces that are considered "private" are solitary confinement wards with no windows or furniture. It is said that interior design is not a priority as well, with no colors or art on walls. Spaces are cold and dead feeling, which does not help patients in their healing process.

People need a safe and encouraging place to go in order to start their road to recovery. Breaking the Stigma aims to challenge the mental health crisis and create a calming and uplifting space for recovering patients in Millcreek, Utah.

Creating a space that is positive for a patients mental health would include access to outdoor gathering spaces, both public and private, natural and artificial lighting as well as colors within spaces to lift moods, and carefully designed rooms for patients to gather with others and recover on their own time.

PROBLEMS

Research has shown approximately 50% of all lifetime cases of mental illness will develop before the age of seventeen [1]. Teens struggle with social media and comparing themselves, pressure to succeed, and much more. They aren't given the proper facilties to begin the long or neverending healing process. The rise in mental health disorders among teens has shown a direct correlation to the increase in teen suicide. Recent data shows suicide as the second leading cause of death among teens ages fifteen to nineteen [2].

The mentally ill are sometimes even put in prisons just as a result of the lack of safe recovery facilities. Patients/inmates are treated horribly. They are held in solitary confinement for 23 hours per day, that is guarded by corrections officers. Group therapy sessions are held in 4- by 10-foot metal cages [3]. This fact is valid for all age groups.

Many psychiatric hospitals to this day are designed like prisons. Rules are extremely strict and patients are treated like inmates. Hospitals have white walls, harsh materials, cage-like rooms that are shared between patients, and little to no lighting. Lack of safe facilities is a huge issue in the mental health crisis. Patients never recover and just lie with their own demons for the rest of their lives, rather than learning healthy coping mechanisms.



Figure 1





Figure 3

05)

DISORDERS

The categories of behavioral health disorders each have their own unique characteristics and triggers. A patient's environment can either help or harm the characteristics. There are seven main categories of behavioral health disorders [4], but I am focusing on the less severe ones:

Mood Disorders
Anxiety Disorders
Eating Disorder
Personality Disorders



Figure 4

MOOD DISORDERS

disorders in which
your mood is
distorted/inconsisten



ANXIETY
DISORDERS
disorders with



EATING DISORDERS

disorders that show a disturbance in eating behaviors



PERSONALITY DISORDERS

> disorders in which you have an unhealthy pattern of thinking

> > 06



MOOD DISORDERS

"Your general emotional state or mood is distorted or inconsistent with your circumstances and interferes with your ability to function.

You may be extremely sad, empty or irritable (depressed), or you may have periods of depression alternating with being excessively happy (mania)." [5]

EXAMPLES

Major Depressive Disorder

Bipolar Disorder

Seasonal Affective Disorder

ANXIETY DISORDERS

"People with anxiety disorders frequently have intense, excessive and persistent worry and fear about everyday situations.

Often, anxiety disorders involve repeated episodes of sudden feelings of intense anxiety and fear or terror that reach a peak within minutes (panic attacks)." [6]

EXAMPLES

Generalized Anxiety Disorder

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

Phobias

Social Anxiety Disorder
Panic Disorder
Separation Anxiety Disorder





EATING DISORDERS

"Eating disorders are actually serious and often fatal illnesses that are associated with severe disturbances in people's eating behaviors and related thoughts and emotions.

Preoccupation with food, body weight, and shape may also signal an eating disorder." [7]

EXAMPLES

Anorexia Nervosa

Bulimia Nervosa

Binge Eating Disorder

Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID)

PERSONALITY DISORDERS

"A personality disorder is a type of mental disorder in which you have a rigid and unhealthy pattern of thinking, functioning and behaving.

A person with a personality disorder has trouble perceiving and relating to situations and people." [8]

EXAMPLES

Paranoid Personality Disorder
Schizoid Personality Disorder
Schizotypal Personality Disorder
Antisocial Personality Disorder
Borderline Personality Disorder

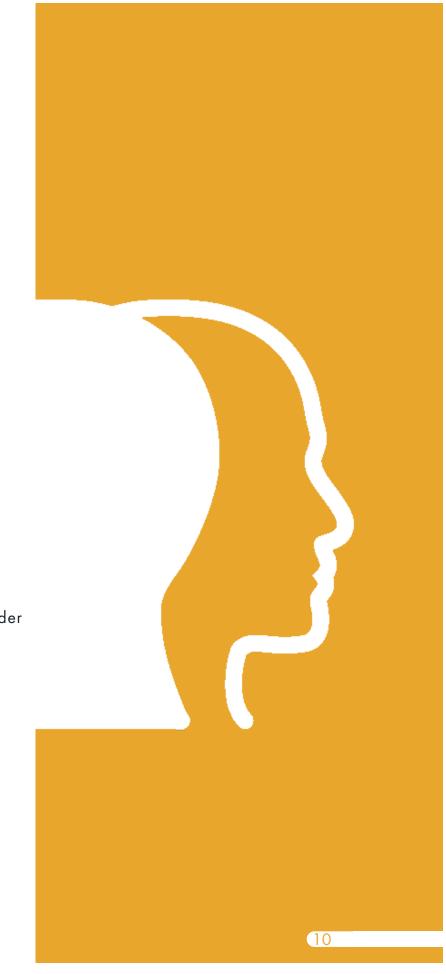
Histrionic Personality Disorder

Narcissistic Personality Disorder

Avoidant Personality Disorder

Dependent Personality Disorder

Obsessive Compulsive Personality Disorder



DESIGN ANALYSIS

DESIGN PRINCIPLES - CASE STUDIES - SITE ANALYSIS - PROGRAM

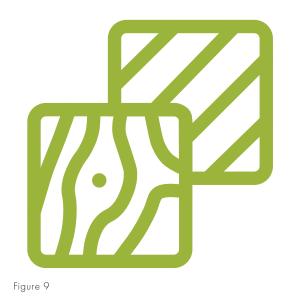
PRINCIPLES



LIGHTING

Lighting is an important factor in any design. It can include natural lighting as well as artificial lighting within a space.

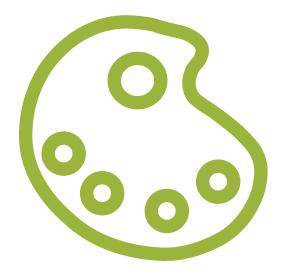
I plan to analyze both aspects of lighting in my design.



MATERIALS

Materials can make or break a space. They need to be placed in areas where they make sense.

I aim to include materials that have a low thermal conductivity such as fabrics and wood.



COLOR

Colors are all around us. Some make us feel calm, while some overstimulate our senses.

I plan to analyze my case studies in regards to color, to determine the best color pallets to include in my design.

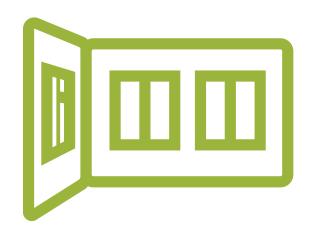


Figure 11

DEGREE OF ENCLOSURE

The degree of enclosure refers to the openness of a space. Private spaces are more enclosed, while public spaces are opened up.

I aim to implement these techniques into my design of public and private spaces and their enclosure.

Figure 10

INSTITUTIONAL



described as "cold" and "sad". The rooms have little to no decoration as it is a safety hazard but as a whole that, "they don't seem to make interior design a priority" [9]

Institutional mental hospitals are often

Figure 12

MAGGIE'S CENTER



Maggie's Center features natural lighting that enters through triangular roof light and is supported by timber beams [10]. This healing space focuses on communal areas and warmer color pallets [11].

Figure 13

EL CAMINO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



El Camino Behavioral Health has a connection to nature with the 4 courtyards accessible to patients at all times [12]. The health center focus on rich materials and soothing colors [13].

CASE STUDIES

My case studies are analyzed thoroughly in reference to my four design principles: lighting, color, materials, and degree of enclosure.

I looked at examples of a "bad" mental health hospital as described as "institutional" as well as two examples of a "good" mental health hospital. By analyzing these buildings thoroughly based on my principles, I was able to draw conclusions about the best strategies are when designing my building.

These strategies include:

- Warm colors rather than grays and blacks
- Natural light rather than artificial
- Natural materials like wood
- Open spaces with partitions

Figure 14

INSTITUTIONAL

LIGHTING CMYK67% 73% 100% Figure 15 69% 80% 100% Figure 16 31% 69% 100% Figure 17 100% 0%

MATERIALS





VCT-Aqua



Glass



VCT-Tan



Aluminum





VCT-Tan



Glass



Sheetrock



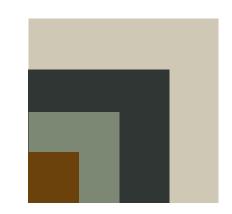
Laminate Wood

NUMERIC VALUE OF THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY

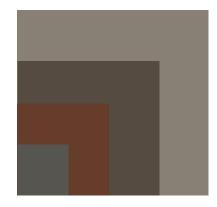
Material	Thermal Conductivity
Aluminum	204 k
Glass	0.76 k
VCT	0.48 k
Sheetrock	0.17 k
Wood	0.13 k
Human Skin	0.4-0.9 k

COLORS







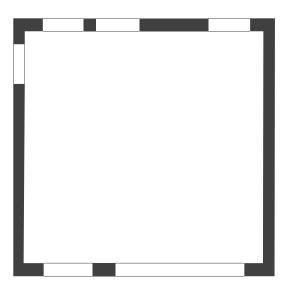






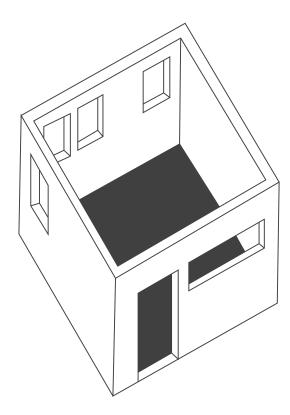
DEGREE OF ENCLOSURE

Openings lying wholly within the enclosing planes of space, which makes said space feel tight. There are openings, but they are small within wall [14]



Plan View

Figure 19



Axonometric View

MAGGIE'S CENTER

LIGHTING CMYK0% 15% 86% Figure 20 0% 23% 90% 0% 7% 90% Figure 22

100%

MATERIALS











Sheetrock



Ribbed Tile





Timber



Fabric- Green



Glass



Carpet- Grey

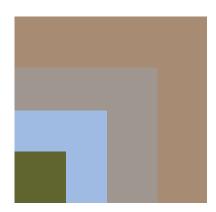
NUMERIC VALUE OF THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY

Material	Thermal Conductivity
Porcelain Brick	0.70 k
Ribbed Tile	0.31 k
Sheetrock	0.17 k
Wood	0.13 k
Fabric	0.127
Human Skin	0.4-0.9 k

0%

COLORS







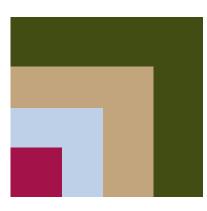
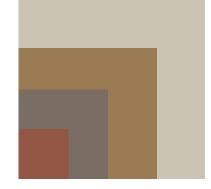


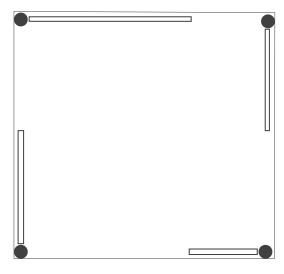
Figure 24



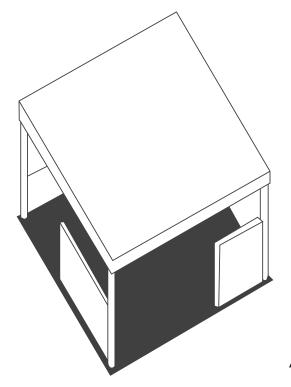


DEGREE OF ENCLOSURE

Openings between the enclosing planes of space visually isolate planes. Space loses the sense of enclosure and merges with adjacent spaces. There are few walls to separate space as needed [15]



Plan View



EL CAMINO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

CMYK

0%

26%

81%

1%

40%

80%

2%

21%

65%



LIGHTING





Figure 26



Figure 27



MATERIALS











Safety Glass

Safety Glass

Lemon Grass



LVP



Concrete Pavers



Alumninum Panel



Carpet



Sheetrock

NUMERIC VALUE OF THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY

Material	Thermal Conductivity
Aluminum Panel	204 k
Concrete Pavers	1.4 k
Glass	0.76 k
Sheetrock	0.17 k
Wood	0.13 k
Human Skin	0.4-0.9 k
Carpet	0.08 k

COLORS

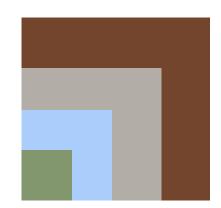


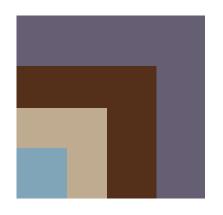
Figure 29

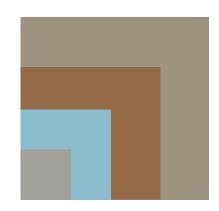


Figure 30



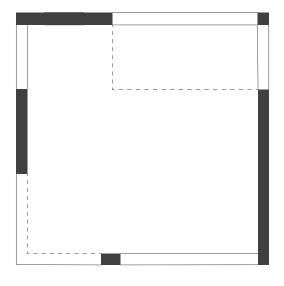




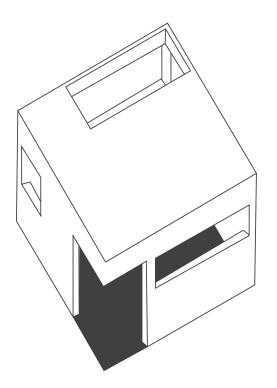


DEGREE OF ENCLOSURE

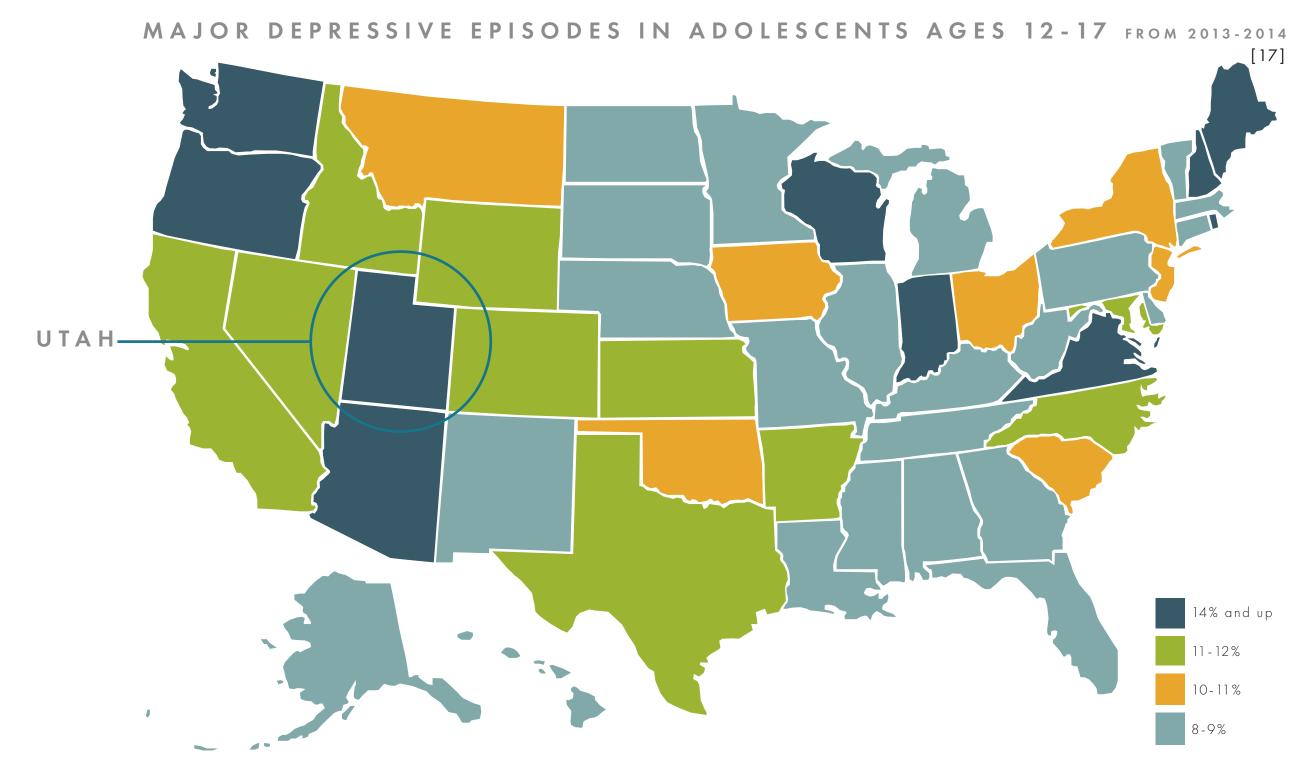
Openings located along the edges of the enclosing planes of space. This strategy promotes visual continuity and interaction with adjacent spaces [16]



Plan View



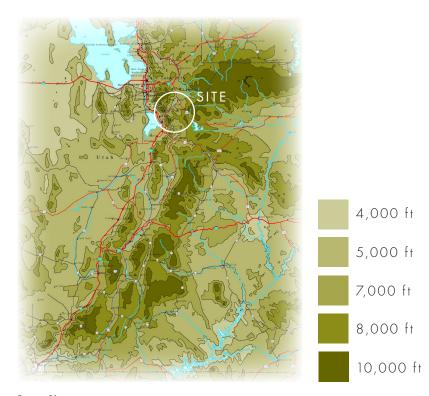
SITE SELECTION



STATE OF UTAH MENTAL HEALTH STATISTICS

- 33% of the 70,000 Utah youth surveyed said that they have felt sad or hopeless
- 18.1% of teens seriously considered suicide
- Teen suicide rate in Utah is DOUBLE the national rate and has increased more than 5 times faster than ^[18] the national average

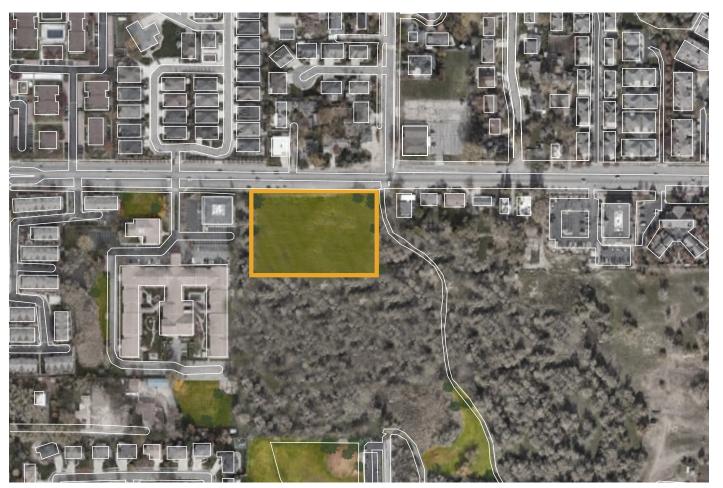
UTAH ELEVATION MAP



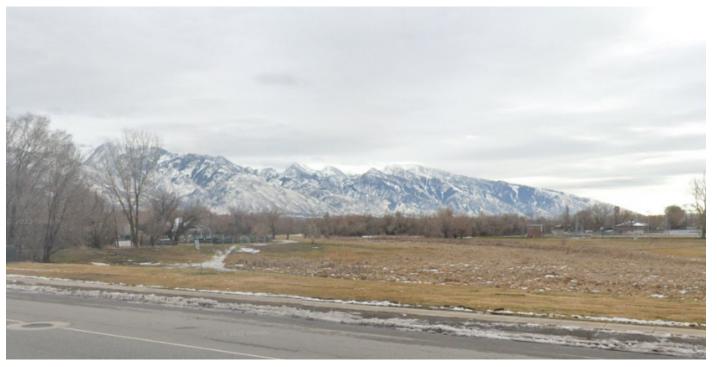
High altitudes can alter the number of neurotransmitters, which Renshaw suspected might leading to enjoyment for some and depression for others. [19]







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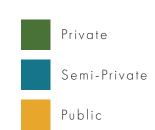


PROGRAM

Privacy	Room	Quantity	Square Footage	Total (SF)
	Lobby	1	1,600	1,600
	Courtyard	2	2,800	5,600
	Restroom	2	200	400
	Care Suites	8	232	1,856
	Patient Room	32	315	10,080
	Patient Room *SEVERE*	13	355	4,615
	Common Space	6	500	3,000
	Group Therapy *LARGE*	4	340	1,150
	Group Therapy *SMALL*	6	215	1,050
	Private Therapy	7	154	1,500
	Dining Hall	1	1,500	1,500
	Visitor Area	3	220	660
	Office Support	5	150	750

Privacy	Room	Quantity	Square Footage	Total (SF)
	Green Roof	2	300	300
	Staff Lounge	1	300	300
	Kitchen	1	600	1,200

36,743 +9,000 CIRCULATION 45,743 SF

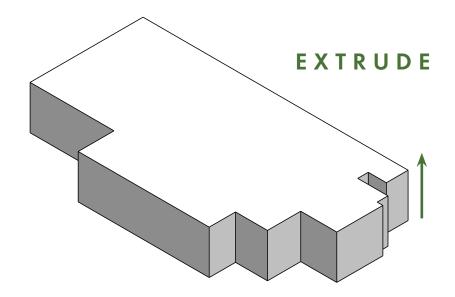


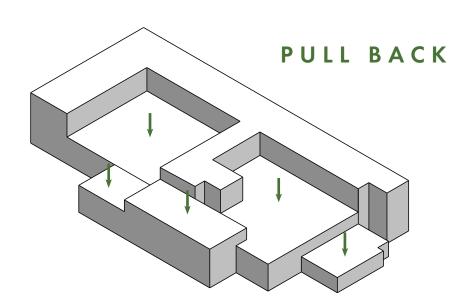


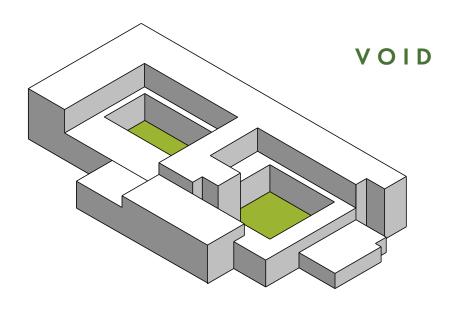
DESIGN SYNTHESIS

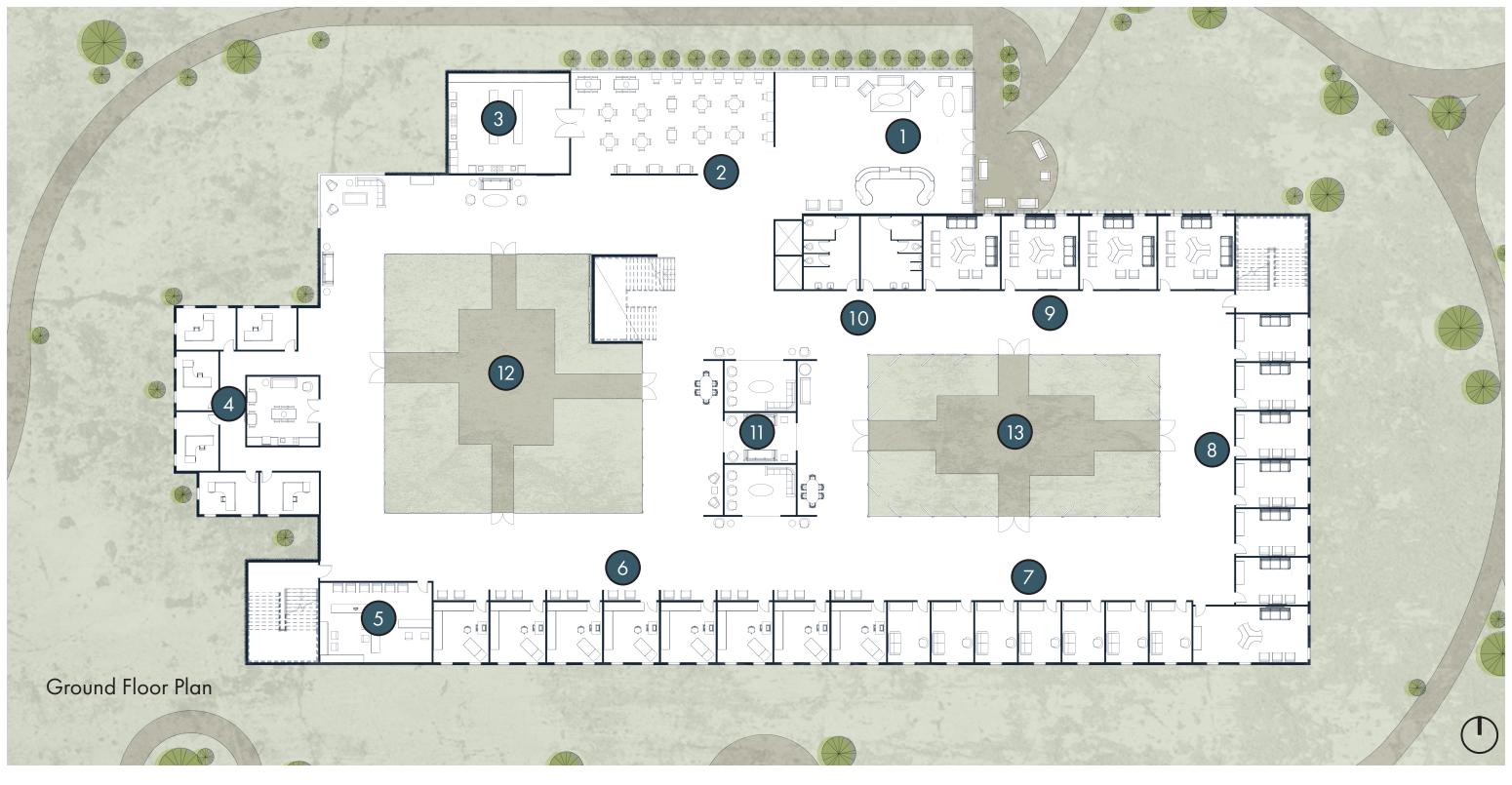
FORM FINDING - FLOOR PLANS - SECTIONS - ELEVATIONS

FORM FINDING









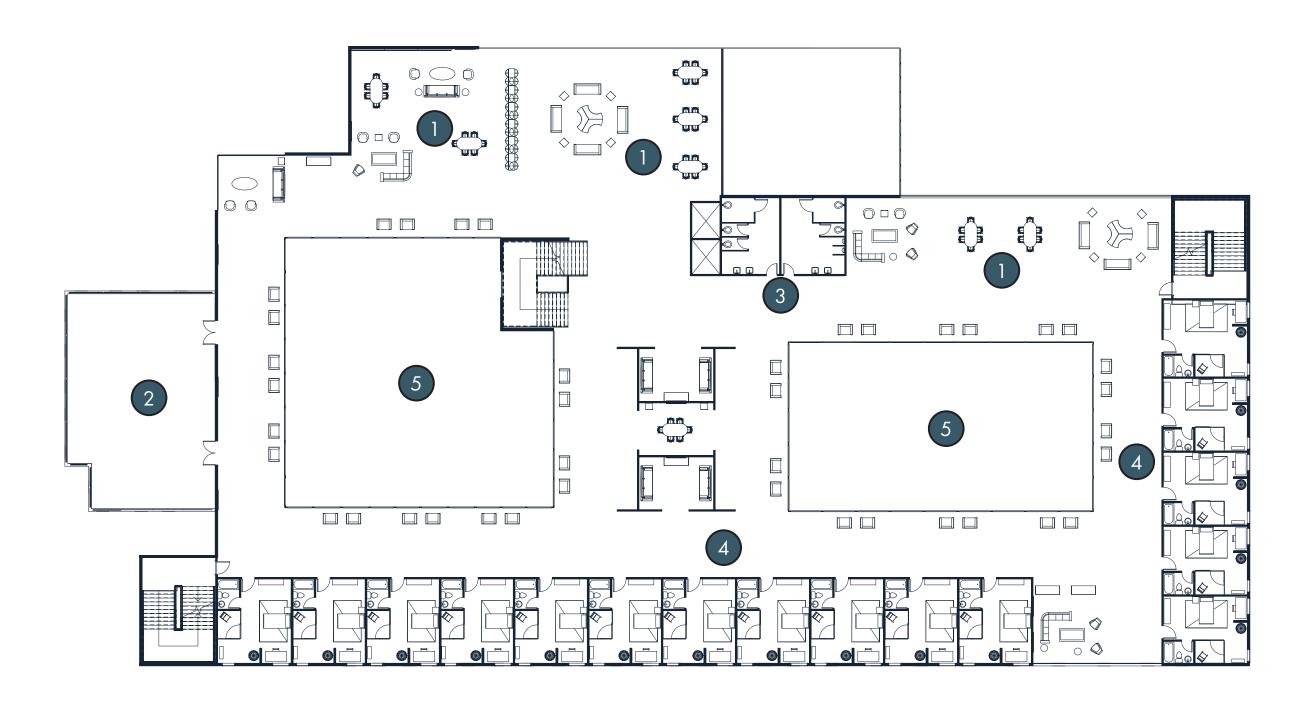
- 1 Lobby/Reception
- 2 Dining
- 3 Kitchen

- 4 Staff Area
- 5 Pharmacy
- 6 Care Suites

- 7 Private Therapy
- 8 Small Group Therapy
- 9 Large Group Therapy

- 10 Public Restrooms
- 11 Visitor Area
- 12 Public Court

13 Therapy Court



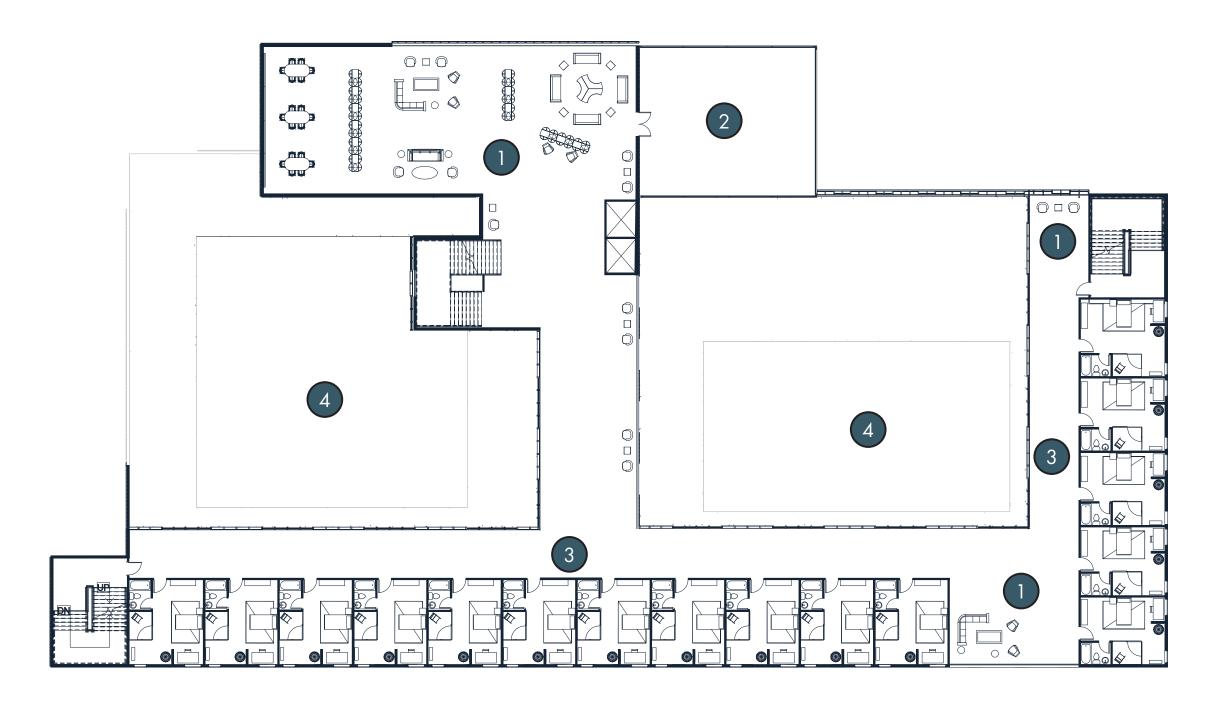
Second Floor Plan

- 1 Common Space
- 4 Standard Patient Room

2 Green Roof

5 Courtyard Overlook

3 Public Restroom

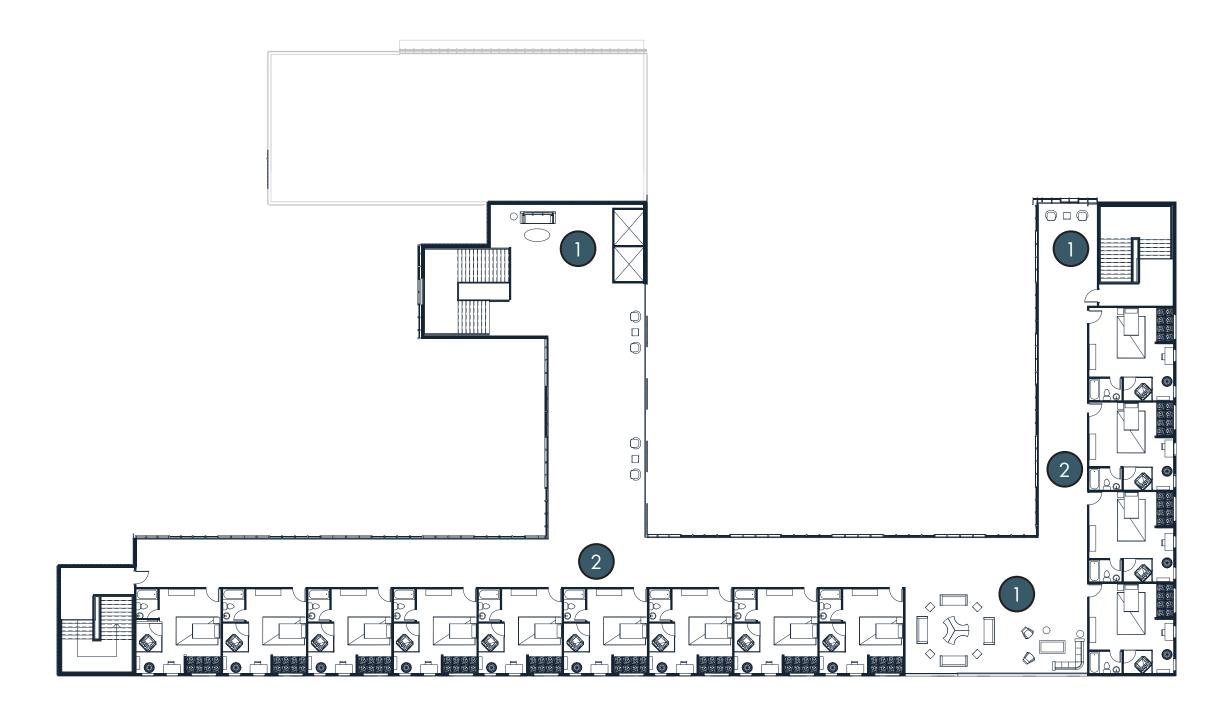


Third Floor Plan

1 Common Space

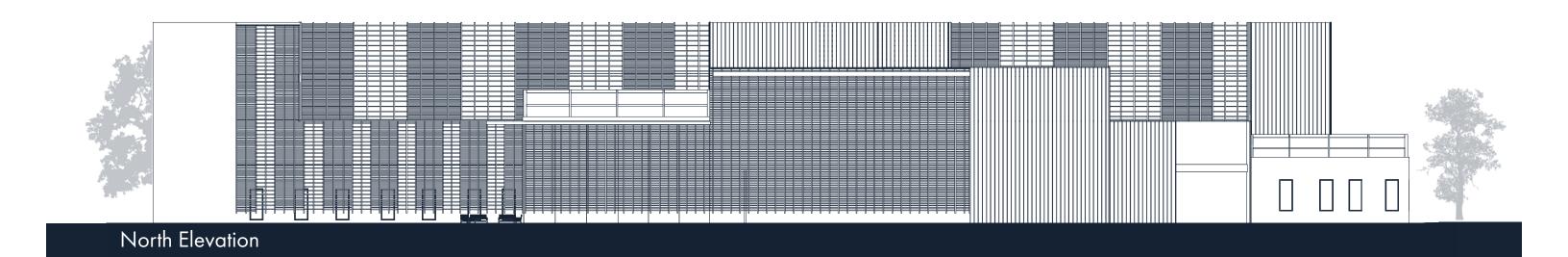
4 Courtyard Overlook

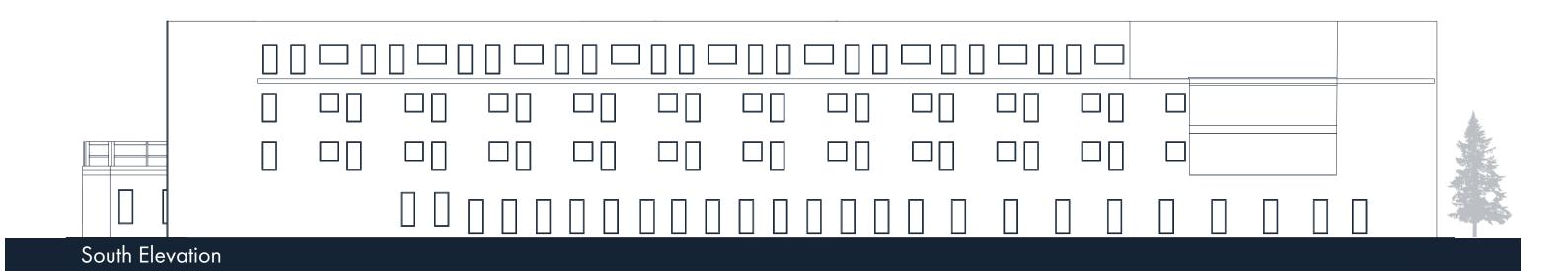
- 2 Green Roof
- 3 Standard Patient Room

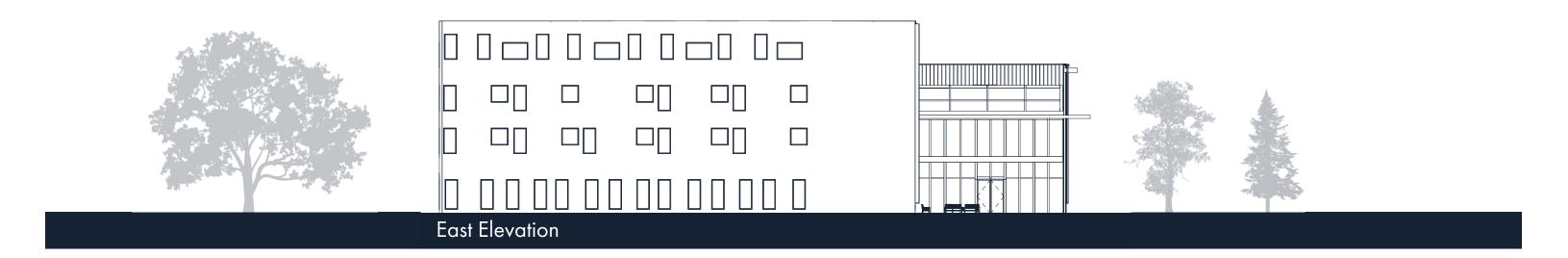


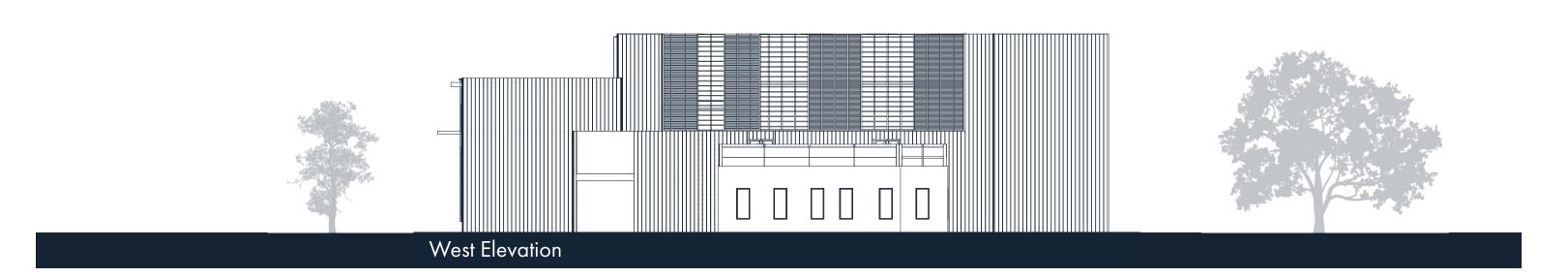
Fourth Floor Plan

- 1 Common Space
- 2 Severe Patient Room

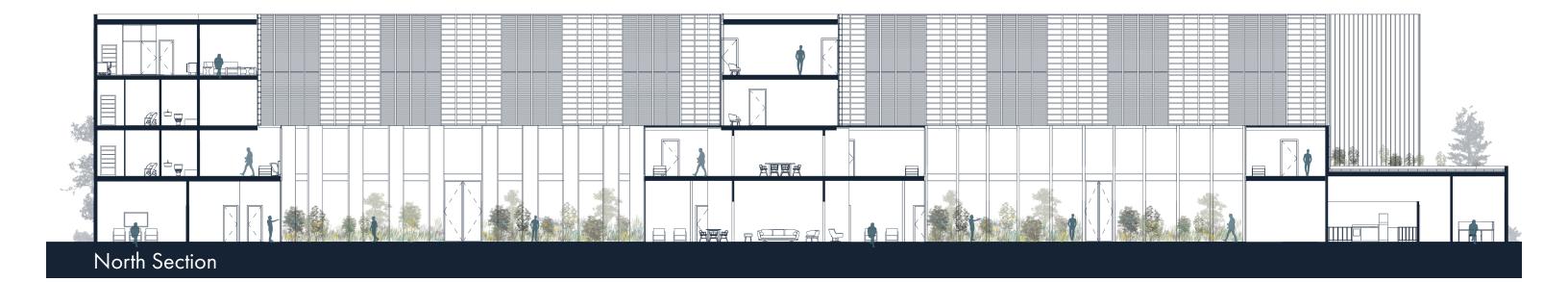












DESIGN RESPONSE
PRINCIPLE ANALYSIS - ROOM AXONS - RENDERINGS









DESIGN CONCLUSION

PRINCIPLE ANALYSIS

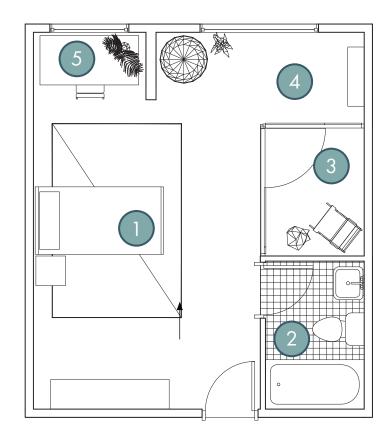
The design of 3 specific spaces in the mental health facility was very important to creating a successful care facility for the patients.

The spaces that are further analyzed based on the 4 design principles of lighting, color, materials and degree of enclosure are the lobby, patient rooms, and courtyards. These spaces are a mixture of public, semi-private, and private spaces that patients and visitors will frequent.

PATIENT ROOMS

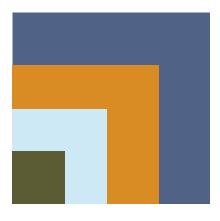
STANDARD ROOM

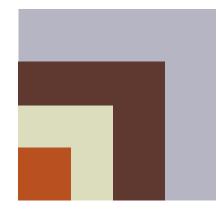
315 SF



- 1 Bedroom
- 2 Private Bathroom
- 3 Private Courtyard
- 4 Reading Nook
- 5 Desk Nook

COLORS





LIGHTING







85%

MATERIALS



Timber



Fabric- Green



Glass



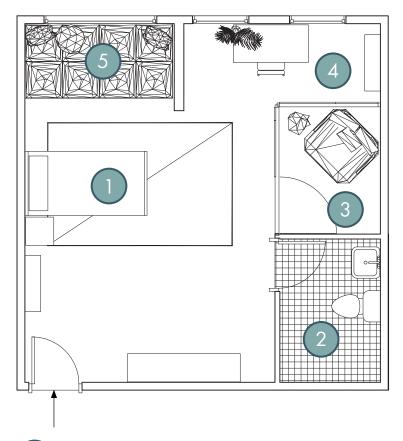
NUMERIC VALUE OF THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY

Material	Thermal Conductivity
Glass	1.0 k
Sheetrock	0.17 k
Wood	0.159 k
Fabric	0.127 k
Human Skin	0.4-0.9 k



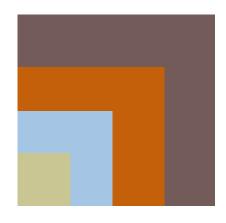
SEVERE ROOM

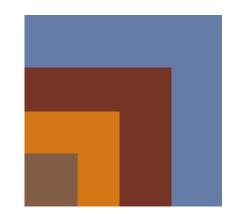
355 SF



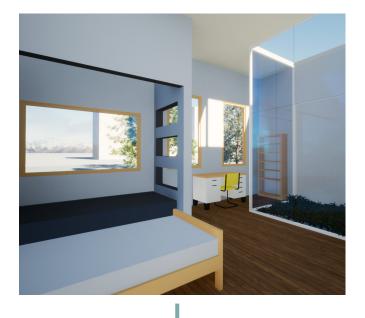
- 1 Bedroom
- 2 Private Bathroom
- 3 Private Courtyard
- 4 Desk Nook
- 5 Window Nook

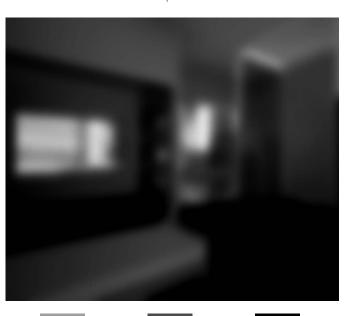
COLORS





LIGHTING



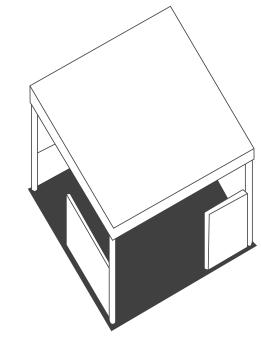








ENCLOSURE



Planes that visually isolate spaces

PATIENT ROOM LIGHTING ANALYSIS PHYSICAL MODEL

The final standard patient room was analyzed further through a physical model. This process helped me finalize the room's lighting.

Diffused lighting through various skylight designs:

BASE ROOM WITH NO SKYLIGHTS





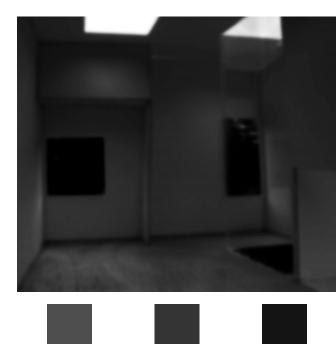
64%

81%

29%

2 SQUARE SKYLIGHTS





57%

81%

36%

5 CIRCULAR SKYLIGHTS





44%

72%

12%

9 CIRCULAR SKYLIGHTS

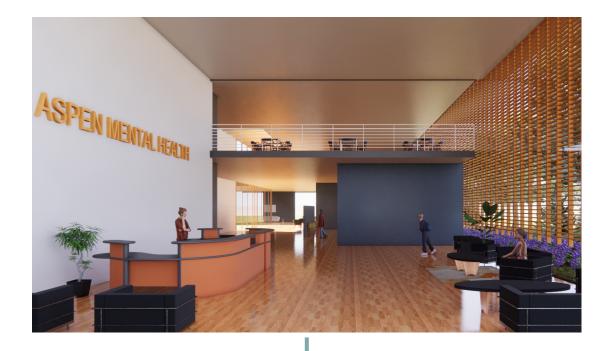






LOBBY

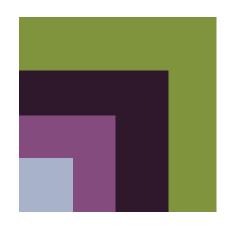
LIGHTING

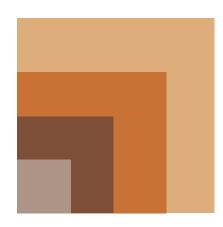




COLORS







MATERIALS



Albedo Wood



Fabric- Green



Glass

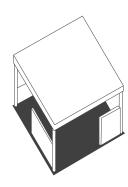


Sheetrock

NUMERIC VALUE OF THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY

Material	Thermal Conductivity
Glass	1.0 k
Sheetrock	0.17 k
Wood	0.159 k
Fabric	0.127 k
Human Skin	0.4-0.9 k

ENCLOSURE



Planes that visually isolate spaces

COURTYARD

PIET OUDOLF INSPIRED COURTYARD GARDEN





Figure 32

PLANTS & FLOWERS



Pennisetum spathiolatum



Small birch trees



Scilla flowers



Muhlenbergia rigens



Babina flowers



White allium nigrum



Spartina bakeri



Pink allium christophii



Blue camassia flowers



Carex remota



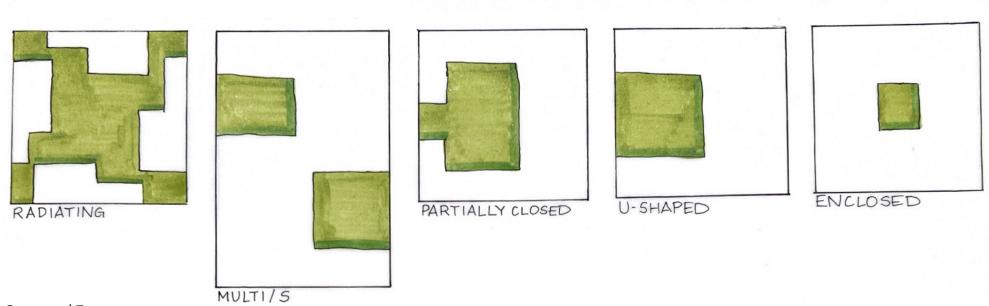
Veroniscastrum virginicum



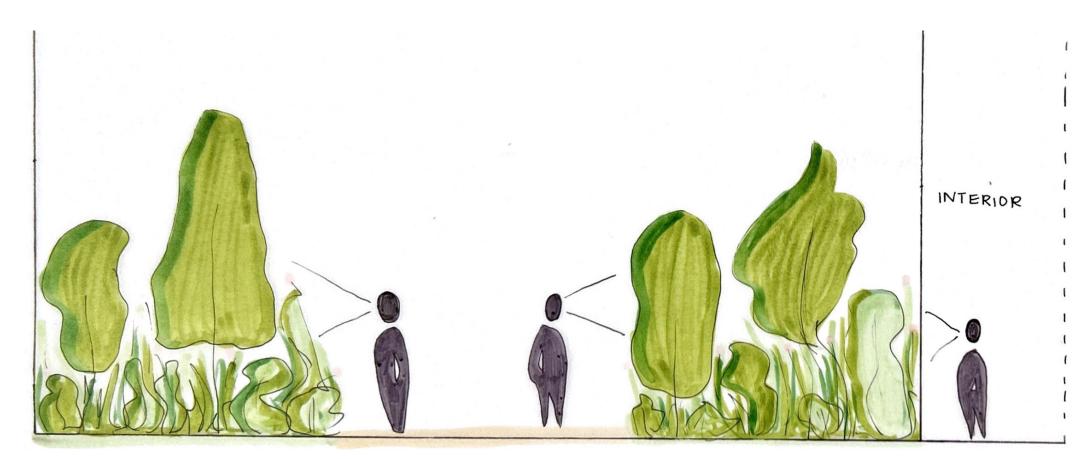
Ixia flowers

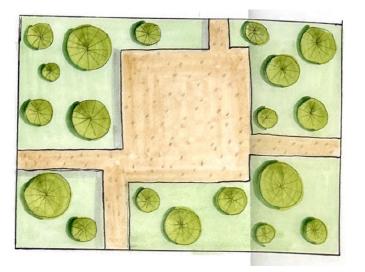


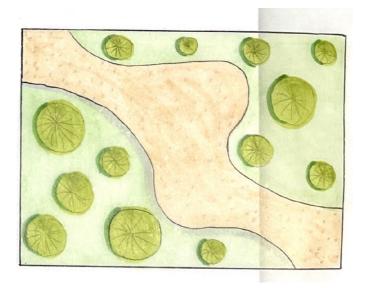
FIRST DESIGN SKETCHES



Courtyard Types









Layout Ideas

Goal

THERAPY COURTYARD



MATERIALS



Albedo Wood



Multicolored **Pebbles**



Glass



Birch tree



Pennisetum spathiolatum



Muhlenbergia rigens



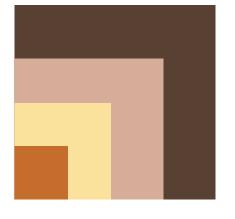
Spartina bakeri

Blue camassia flowers

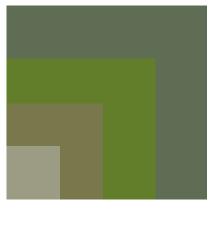


Babina flowers

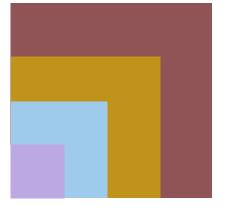
COLORS



Woods



Grasses

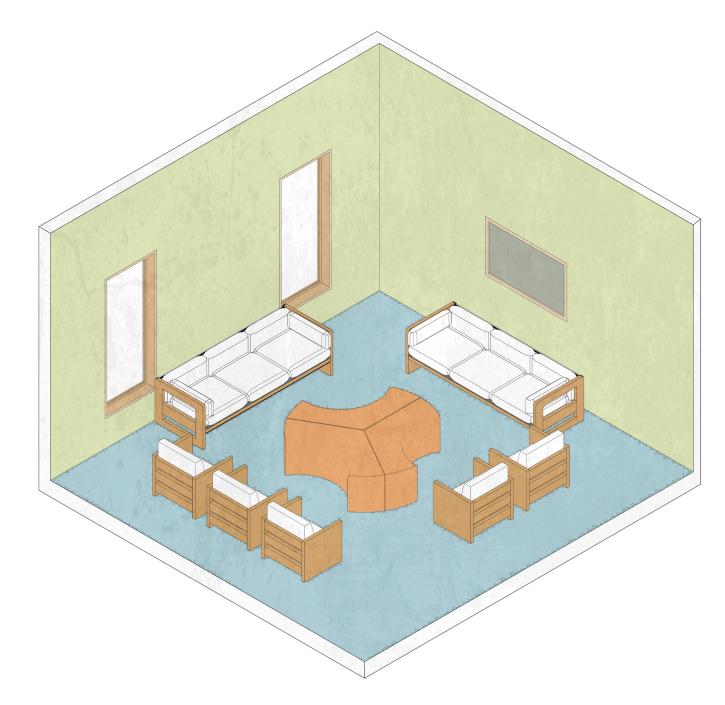


Flowers

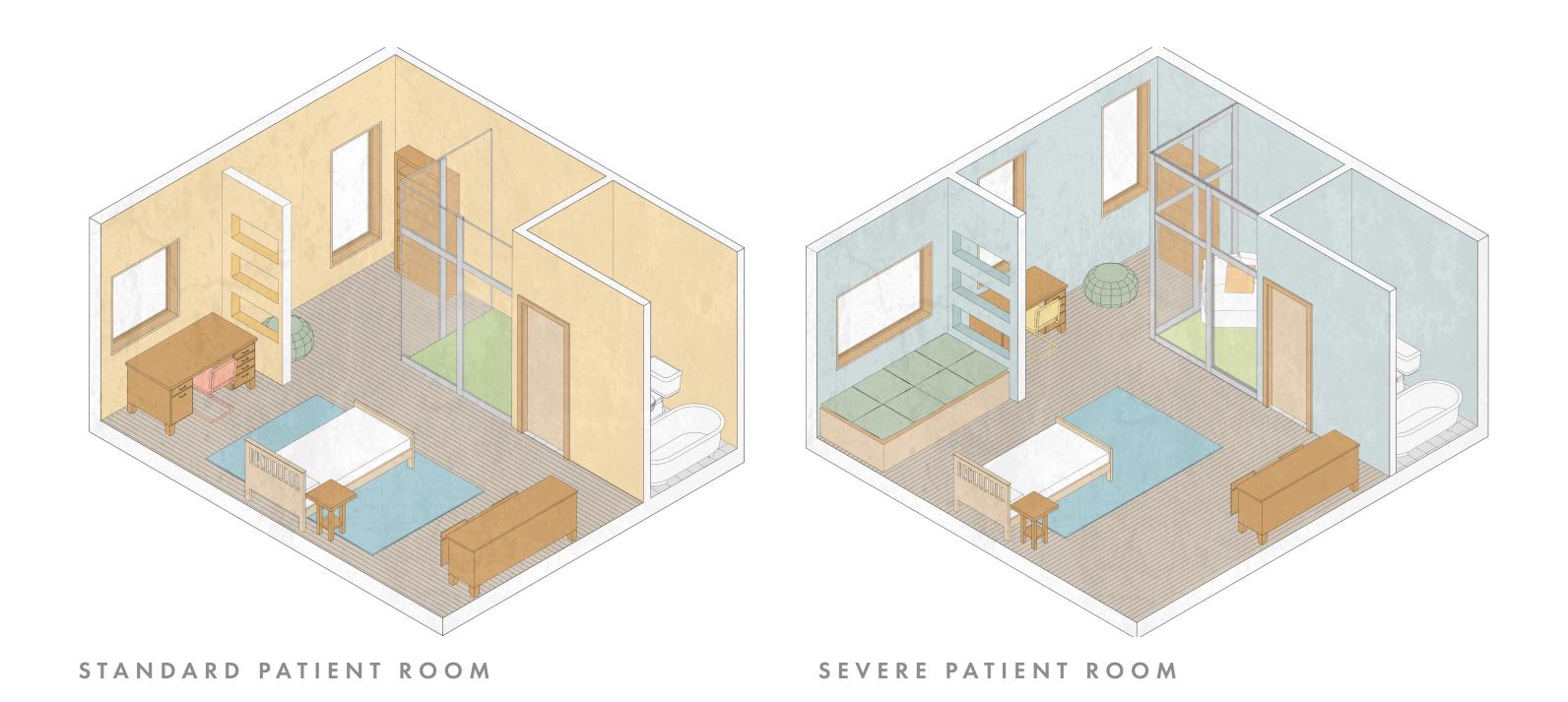
ROOM AXONS



CARE SUITE



THERAPY ROOM

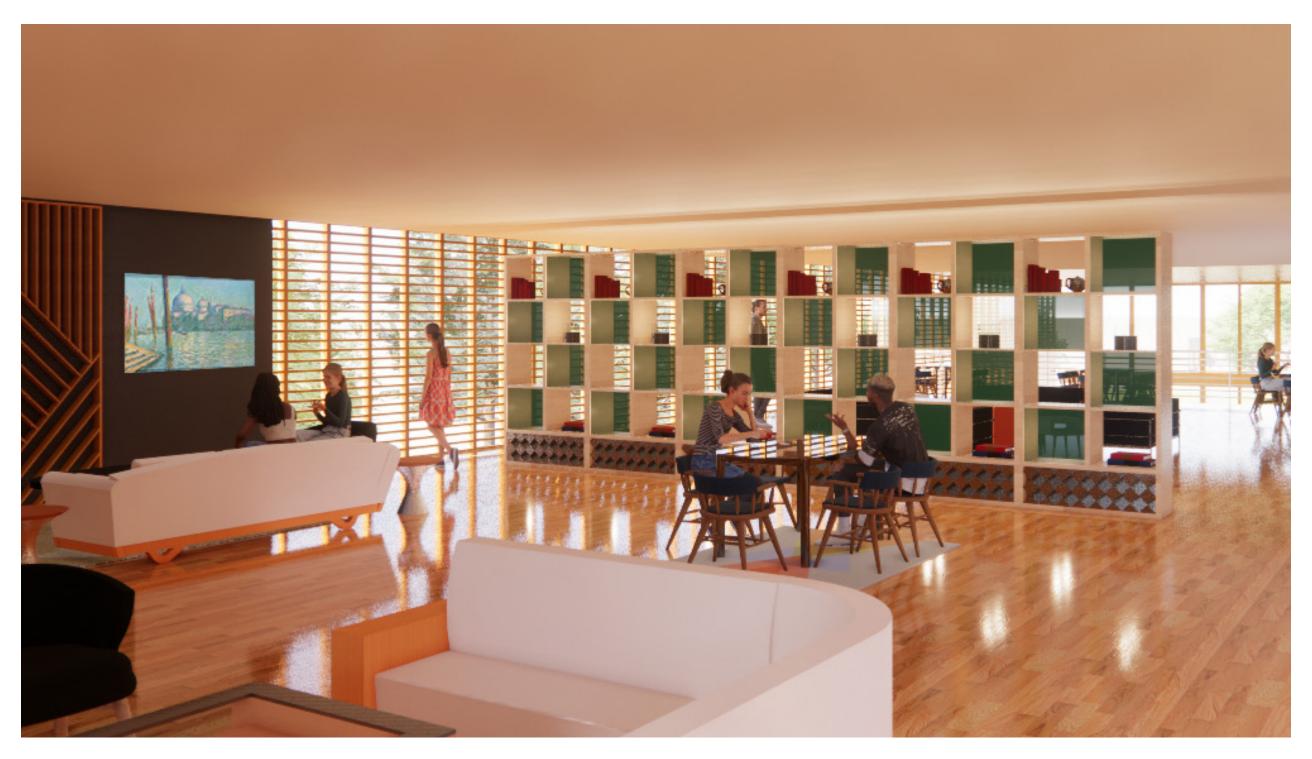


RENDERINGS

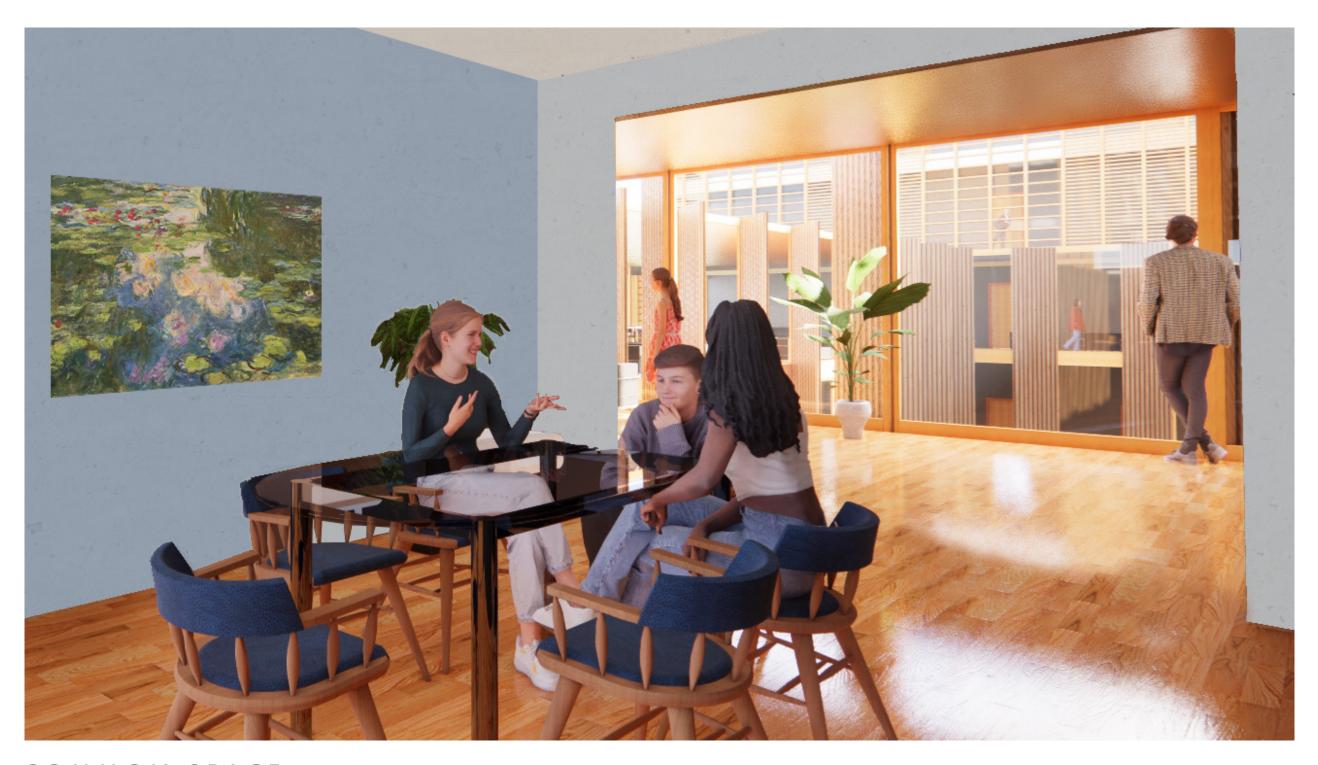


FRONT ENTRY

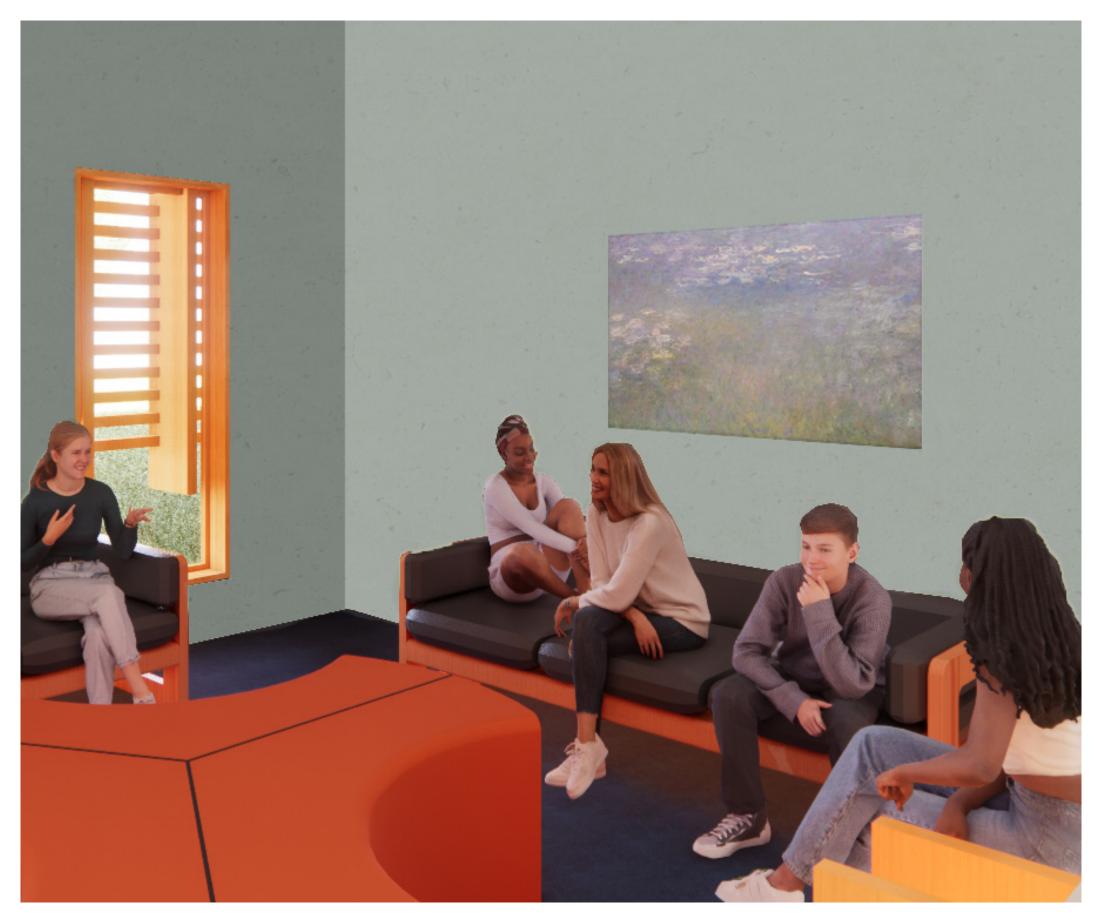




COMMON SPACE



COMMON SPACE



LARGE-GROUP THERAPY ROOM

5 DESIGN CONCLUSION
CONCLUSION/REFLECTION

DESIGN CONCLUSION

REFLECTION

What I learned?

This has been a long journey that has lasted over a year now. Me a year ago and me now are very different people. Going through this process, I learned a lot about what elements makes a space enjoyable to a user. This includes elements of nature, color, and materials. These are my principles that I developed in Fall 2022.

What surprised me?

I was surprised how much research was needed for my courtyards. I did heavy research into landscape architects in order to choose the style I wanted to incorporate into my design. I didn't realize how much went into landscape architecture, and I tried my best to emulate Piet Oudolf's style.

I was also surprised by the relationship between my design principles to make a successful design. I suspected that they would work well together, but they look better than expected. The materials and lighting have a special connection. Great lighting with natural materials make for a successful space.



THESIS COMPETITION BOARDS

BREAKING THE STIGMA

CHALLENGING THE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS THROUGH A NEW WAY OF DESIGNING A RECOVERY FACILITY FOR TEENS



RESEARCH CONTEXT

Mental health is a highly stigmatized topic within today's society. The mental health system in the United States has failed to consistently create safe and successful spaces for recovering patients with psychological disorders.

Facilities are often described as "inhumane" by patients in how they are designed. Patients have expressed that there is lack of safe, private spaces. The spaces that are considered "private" are solitary confinement wards with no windows or furniture. It is said that interior design is not a priority as well, with no colors or art on walls. Spaces are cold and dead feeling, which does not help the patients in their healing process.

People need a safe and encouraging place to go in order to start their road to recovery. Breaking the Stigma aims to challenge the mental health crisis and create a calming and uplifting space for recovering patients in Millcreek, Utah.

Creating a space that is positive for a patients' mental health would include access to outdoor gathering spaces, both public and private, natural and artificial lighting as well as colors within spaces to lift moods, and carefully designed rooms for patients to gather with others and recover on their own time.

PROBLEMS

DISORDERS

EATING DISORDERS

Potients all over the country are debilitated by their mental health. They aren't given the proper facilities to begin the long or never-ending healing process. The mentally ill are sometimes even put in prisons just as a result of the lack of safe recovery facilities. Patients/immates are treated horribly. They are held in solitory confinement for 23 hours per day, that is guarded by corrections officers. Group therapy sessions are held in 50 Ho foot mental cages. This fact it valid for all age groups. Lack of safe facilities is a huge issue in the mental health crisis. Patients never recover and just lie with their own demons for the x-rest of heir lives. Therefore that he control mental the control the control that the con



MOOD DISORDERS



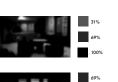


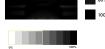
ANXIETY DISORDERS

CASE STUDIES

INSTITUTIONAL

LIGHTING





MATERIALS





Thermal Conductivity













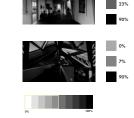


MAGGIE'S CENTER









CMYK MATERIALS





CONDUCTIVITY			
Material	Thermal Conductivity		
Porcelain Brick	0.70 k		
Ribbed Tile	0.31 k		
Sheetrock	0.17 k		
Wood	0.13 k		
Fabric	0.127 k		
Human Skin	0.4-0.9 k		

COLORS





DEGREE OF ENCLOSURE







DESIGN PRINCIPLES







PERSONALITY DISORDERS



TAUBE PAVILION





MATERIALS





Material	Thermal Conduc
Aluminum Panel	204 k
Concrete Pavers	1.4 k
Glass	0.76 k
Sheetrock	0.17 k
Wood	0.13 k
Human Skin	0.4-0.9 k
C1	0.00 L

COLORS







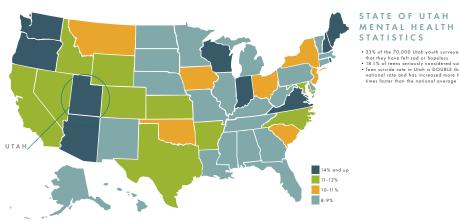






SITE SELECTION

MAJOR DEPRESSIVE EPISODES IN ADOLESCENTS AGES 12-17



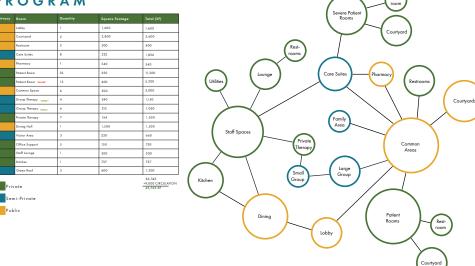
UTAH ELEVATION MAP



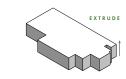
SITE MAP



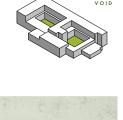
PROGRAM

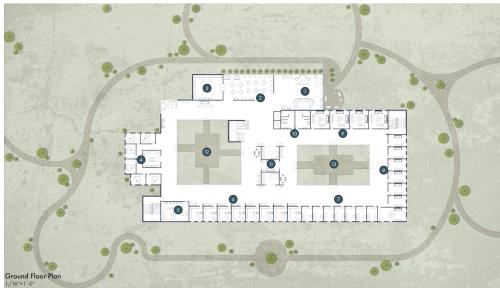


F O R M

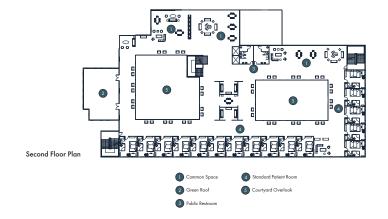


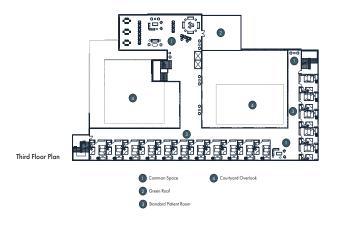


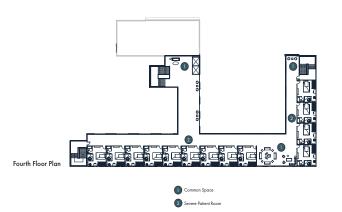


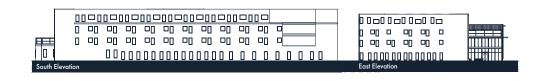














PRINCIPLE ANALYSIS

DESIGNING OF 3 SPECIFIC SPACES BASED ON PRINCIPLES

The design of 3 specific spaces in the mental health facility was very important to creating a successful care facility for the patients. The spaces that arefurther analyzed based on the 4 design principles of lighting, color, materials and degree of enclosure are the lobby, patient rooms, and courtyards. These spaces are a mixture of public, semi-private, and private spaces that patients and visitors will frequent.

COLORS

PATIENT ROOMS

STANDARD ROOM

SEVERE ROOM







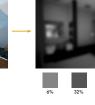
COLORS

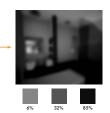




LIGHTING

LIGHTING









ENCLOSURE





FIRST DESIGN SKETCHES

LOBBY

LIGHTING

COURTYARD



PIET OUDOLF INSPIRED COURTYARD GARDEN









COLORS



MATERIALS

Material Thermal Co
Glass 1.0 k
Sheetrock 0.17 k
Wood 0.159 k
Fabric 0.127 k
Human Skin 0.4-0.9 k







THERAPY ROOM





STANDARD PATIENT ROOM

SEVERE PATIENT ROOM

PATIENT ROOM LIGHTING ANALYSIS PHYSICAL MODEL

The final standard patient room was analyzed further through a physical model. This process helped me finalize the room's lighting. Diffused lighting through various skylight designs:

BASE ROOM WITH NO SKYLIGHTS















REFLECTION

ROOM AXONS

CARE SUITE

VISITOR AREA

What I learned?

This has been a long journey that has lasted over a year now. Me a year ago and me now are very differnet people. Going through this process, I learned a lot about what elements makes a space enjoyable to a user. This includes elements of nature, color, and materials. These are my principles that I developed in Fall 2022.

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COMMON SPACE



FRONT ENTRY



COMMON SPACE



LARGE-GROUP THERAPY ROOM



GREEN ROOF

"Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light" -Albus Dumbledore





PHYSICAL MODEL PHOTOS





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FIGURE INDEX AND SOURCES

[26] Taube Pavilion- Waiting Room

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"Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light"

-Albus Dumbledore

Lindsey Denig

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