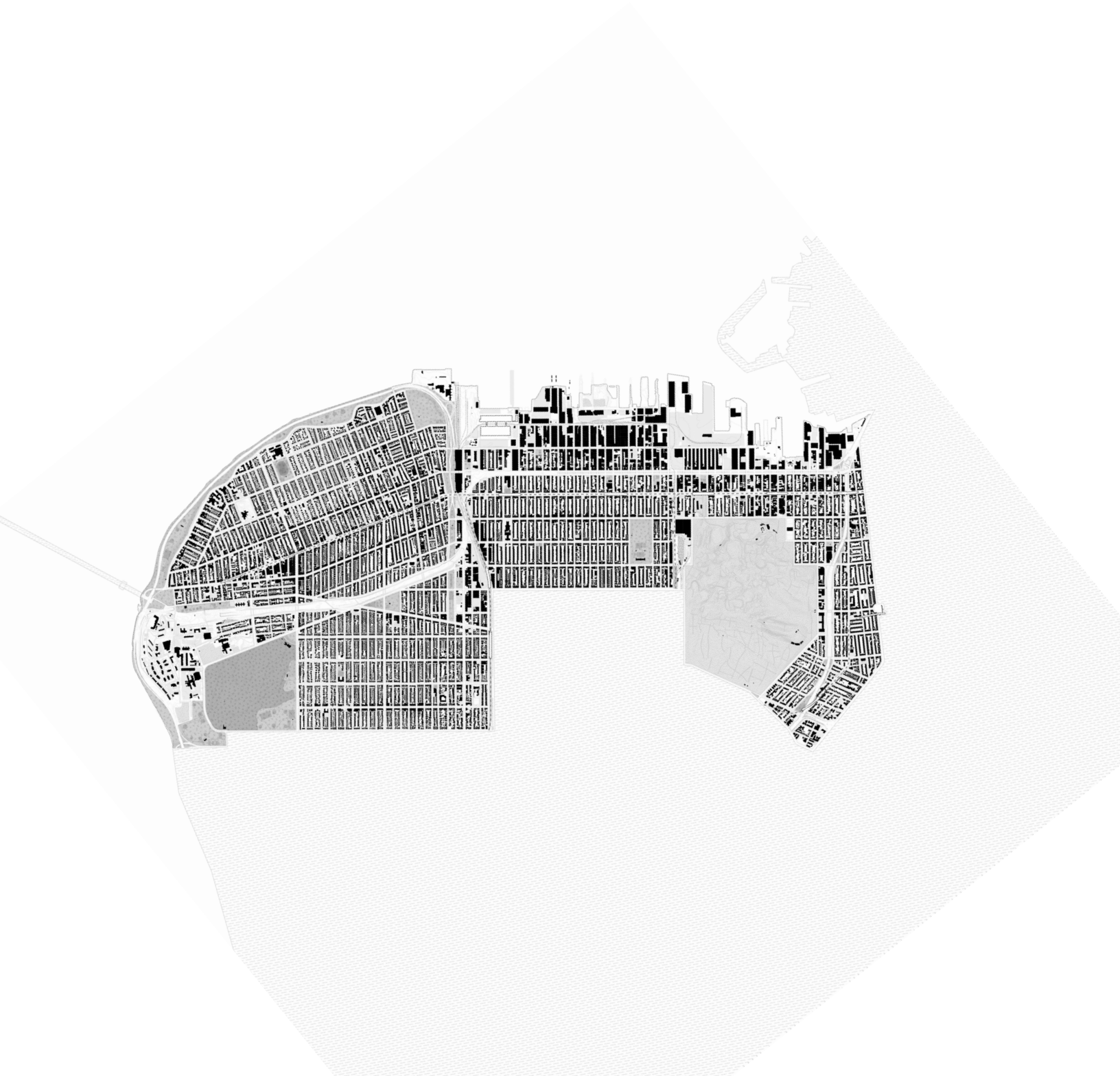




DESIGN VI	TRIBES HILL BIRD SANCTUARY	4
		-
Architectures of Tourism: the Erie Canal	42.941176, -74.288310	15
DESIGN V	SERIOUSLY PLAYFUL	16
		-
Engaged Practices Studio: Housing for Trumansburg	42.545471, -76.672015	21
STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS	A HOUSE FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR	22
		-
Structural Systems Model	35.7257, 139.5383	27
DESIGN III	A HOUSE IN ITHACA	28
		-
A Name, A Chair, A House	42.452193, -76.493437	35
DESIGN IV	WAREHOUSE FOR BOOKS	36
		-
Integrated Design Studio: A Library for Ithaca	42.439599, -76.512892	45
EDWIN A. SEIPP MEMORIAL PRIZE	THE GIANT'S FOOTSTEPS	46
		-
Community Engagement Design Proposal	42.542414, -76.665928	47

A render of three “birdhouse” accomodations for birdwatchers.



TRIBES HILL BIRD SANCTUARY

A Birdwatcher's Lodge and Sanctuary Grounds in Fort Hunter, NY.
Completed with Professor Val K. Warke in Spring 2025 for Design VI, ARCH 3102.



Semipalmated Sandpiper (plate 81), print by John James Audobon.

Named in honor of the nearby Lower Castle Canajoharie site, the hamlet of Tribes Hill, NY is a quintessential Mohawk River Valley town. Located on the triangular plot of land on the opposing bank of the Schoharie River is the village of Fort Hunter, NY. The original Erie Canal, the enlarged 1862 Canal, and the current New York State Barge Canal weave through this small area.

The Mohawk River Valley, stretching across central New York (miles upriver from John James Audobon’s Hudson River Estate), is a haven for bird enthusiasts and ornithologists alike. This rich and diverse ecosystem—comprising wetlands, riparian forests, and open fields—supports a wide variety of bird species throughout the year.

In spring and summer, migratory songbirds such as the American Redstart, Cerulean Warbler, and Warbling Vireo arrive to breed, filling the air with vibrant color and sound. The river itself attracts waterfowl including loons, egrets, and kingfishers, while nearby fields host grassland species like Eastern Meadowlarks and Bobolinks.

Raptors are a common sight, with Peregrine Falcons, Osprey, and Bald Eagles frequently seen soaring above the valley. During fall migration, the region becomes a vital stopover for flocks of geese and shorebirds heading south. Even winter brings activity, as hardy species like the Black-capped Chickadee and Downy Woodpecker remain, joined by occasional visitors such as Snowy Owls.

The Mohawk River Valley’s diverse habitats and seasonal changes create a dynamic birding landscape, offering year-round opportunities for observation and study. Its avian diversity reflects both its ecological richness and its role as a vital corridor within the greater Atlantic Flyway.

There are 12 accomodation units that come in 3 variants: 4 shoreline units, 4 canal units, and 4 birdhouse units. Each unit is design to gift a unique and intense birdwatching experience for visitors. Additionally, there are 3 learning centers, a full-service bistro, and multiple bike rental stations.

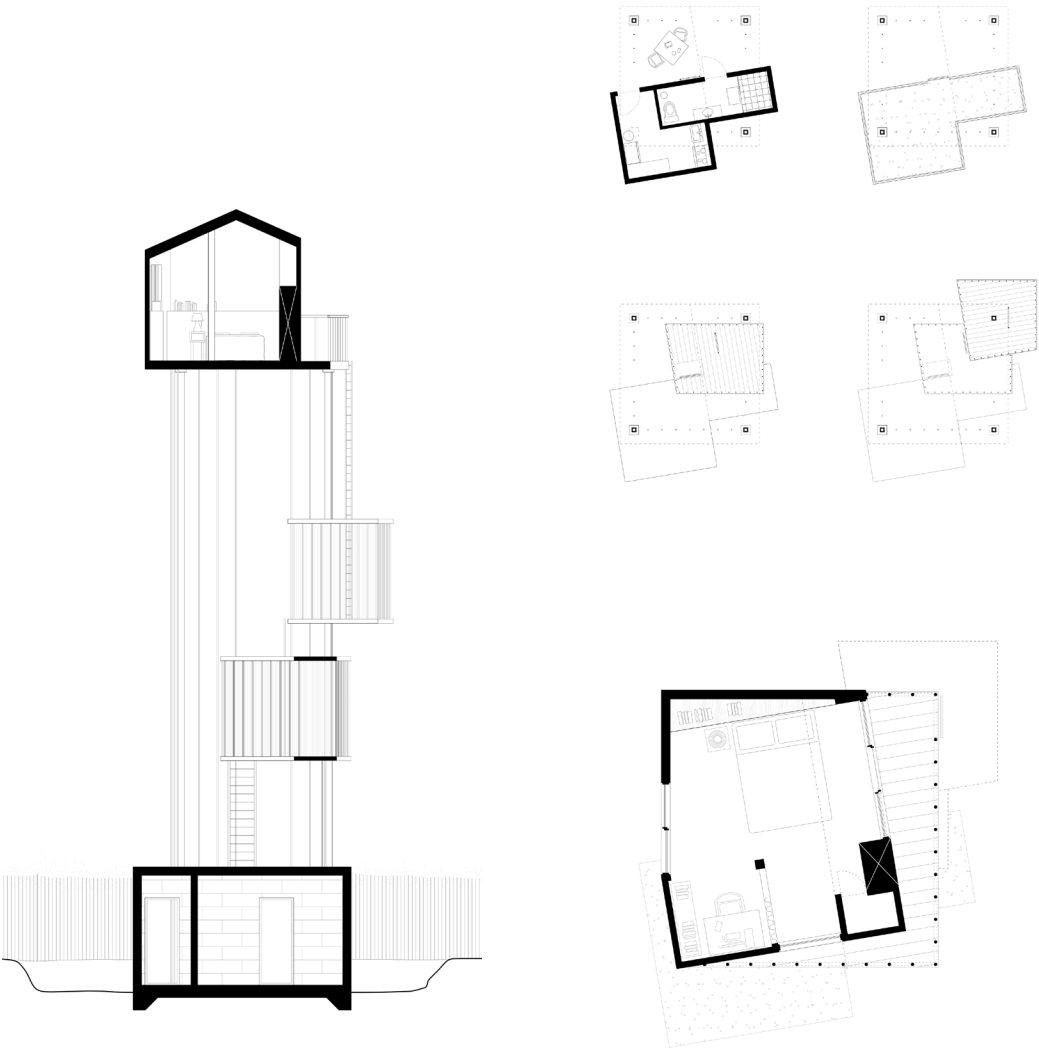
There are over 5 miles of maintaned trailhead on premise, which meanders through forests, marshes, fields, and the shorelines.

Nearby attractions include kayak rentals and tours, historical landmarks such as the original Fort Hunter archaeological site, and the Cushing Stone Company and Cranesville Quarry, where all the limestone for the architecture (and canal constructed) is sourced.

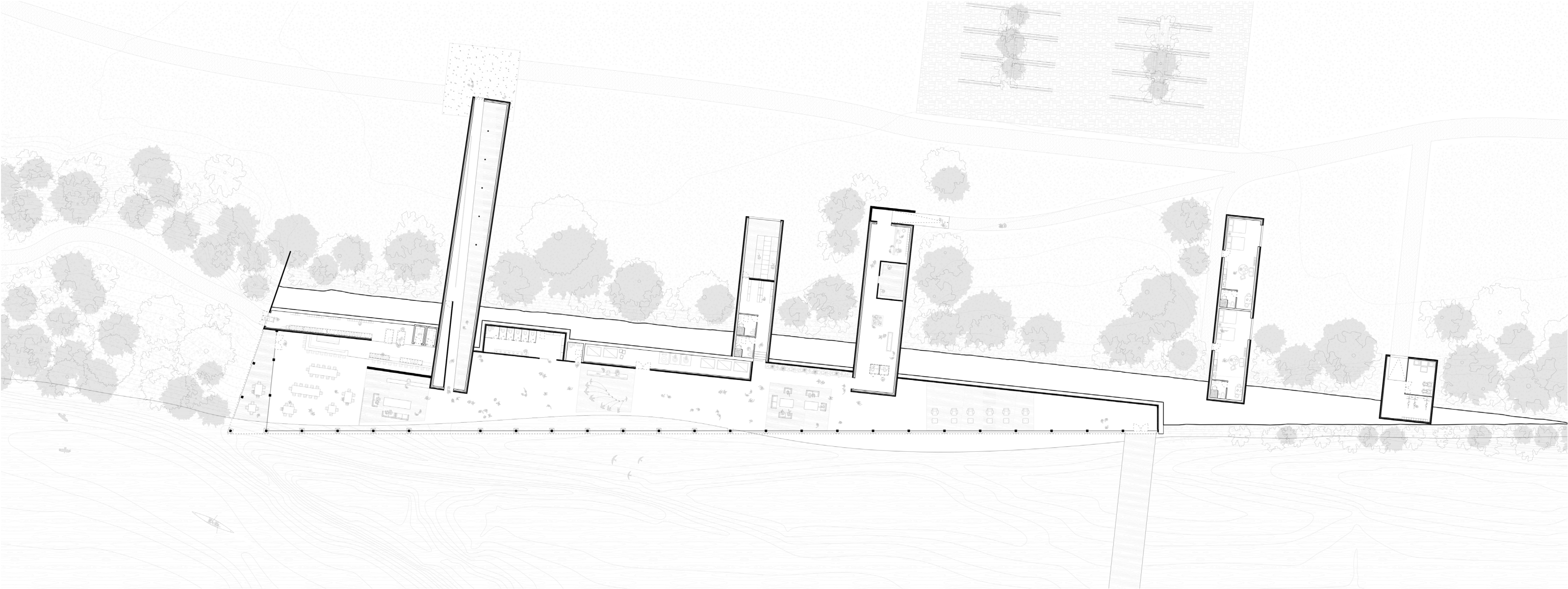
A site plan of Tribes Hill, NY at 1:2000 scale. The town sits at the confluence of the Mohawk and Schoharie Rivers.



Plans and section of the “birdhouse” units.



A plan of the Riparian Learning Center at 1/16" : 1'-0" scale.



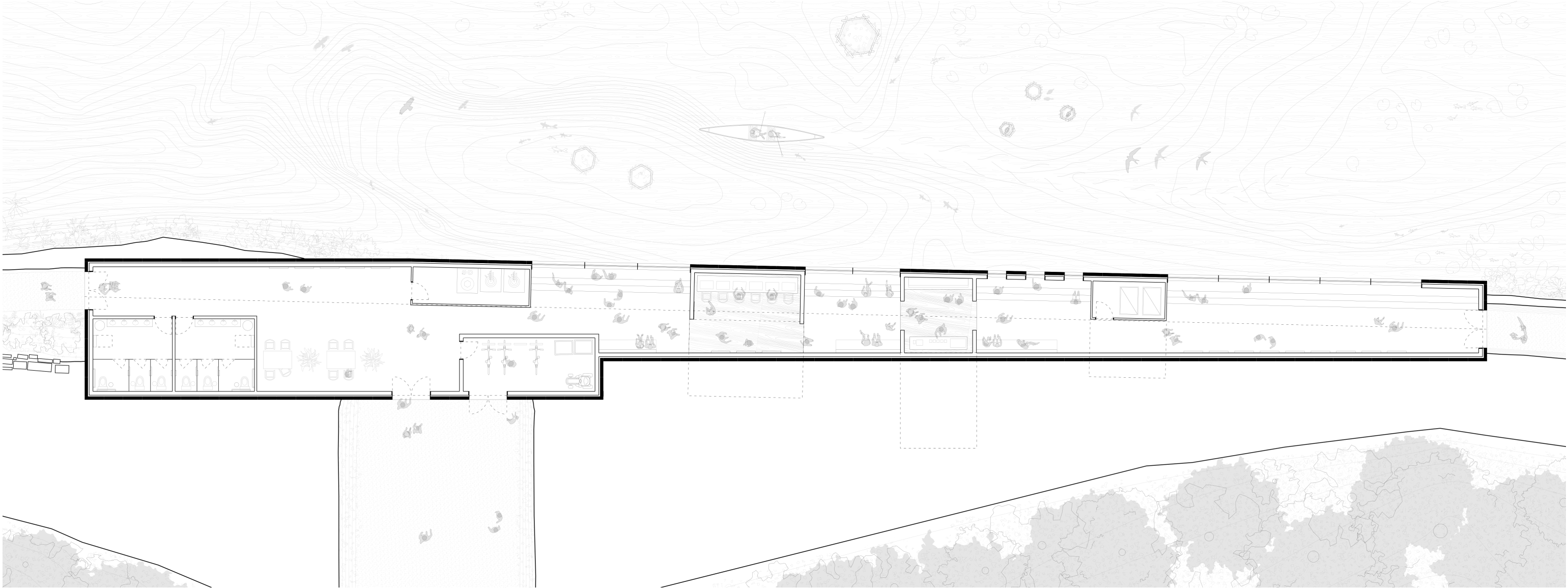
An interior render of the Riparian Learning Center's principal space.



A plan of the Woodland Learning Center at 1/8" : 1'-0" scale.



A plan of the Canal Learning Center at 1/8" : 1'-0" scale.



Two unrolled site elevations at 1/16" : 1'-0" scale.



An isometric drawing of the housing community. Moments of potential future development are highlighted in color.



SERIOUSLY PLAYFUL

An Affordable Housing Framework for Trumansburg, NY.
Completed with Amina Lahham and Visiting Critic Mustafa Faruki in the Fall of 2024 for ARCH 3101.



An exterior render of the housing development, with communal polycarbonate “sheds”.

The site is bordered by Compass Manufactured Home Community (another INHS development) and a nature preserve. Most of the land parcel is covered in wildflower meadows and abandoned cornfields.

Trumansburg is a small town of around 1700 residents, but people are steadily leaving. Furthermore, a longstanding desire to maintain the “town image” has lead to zoning models that stunt development. These issues combine to present Trumansburg as unappealing to a young professional class.

‘Seriously Playful’ leverages these various social and user contexts to its advantage. We found the best way to satisfy our target demographic’s desire for a community-oriented blend of work and play is through a co-living housing model; the project seeks to emulate the experiential dynamics of a city, albeit within the physical, social, and economic landscape of a small Finger Lakes town.

To us, working is not limited to professional (capital-generating) activity. Rather, all aspects of life that relate to stewardship and responsibility (domestic chores, self-care and development, social service) are ‘work’. In contrast, we believe play to be a fallow ritual. ‘Play’ inherently does not strictly adhere to guidelines or structure the way that ‘work’ does; play happens in the ‘in-betweens’. Play does not have a final destination or result in mind, and is rather focused on the journey.

Play and recreation (from the Latin verb ‘recreate’, meaning “to renew or create again”) are facilitated through the pursuit of honest passions and interests. Within our housing model, play becomes an important mode of community building by becoming the means of utilizing shared spaces. In contrast, work promotes the continued development and care of these spaces.

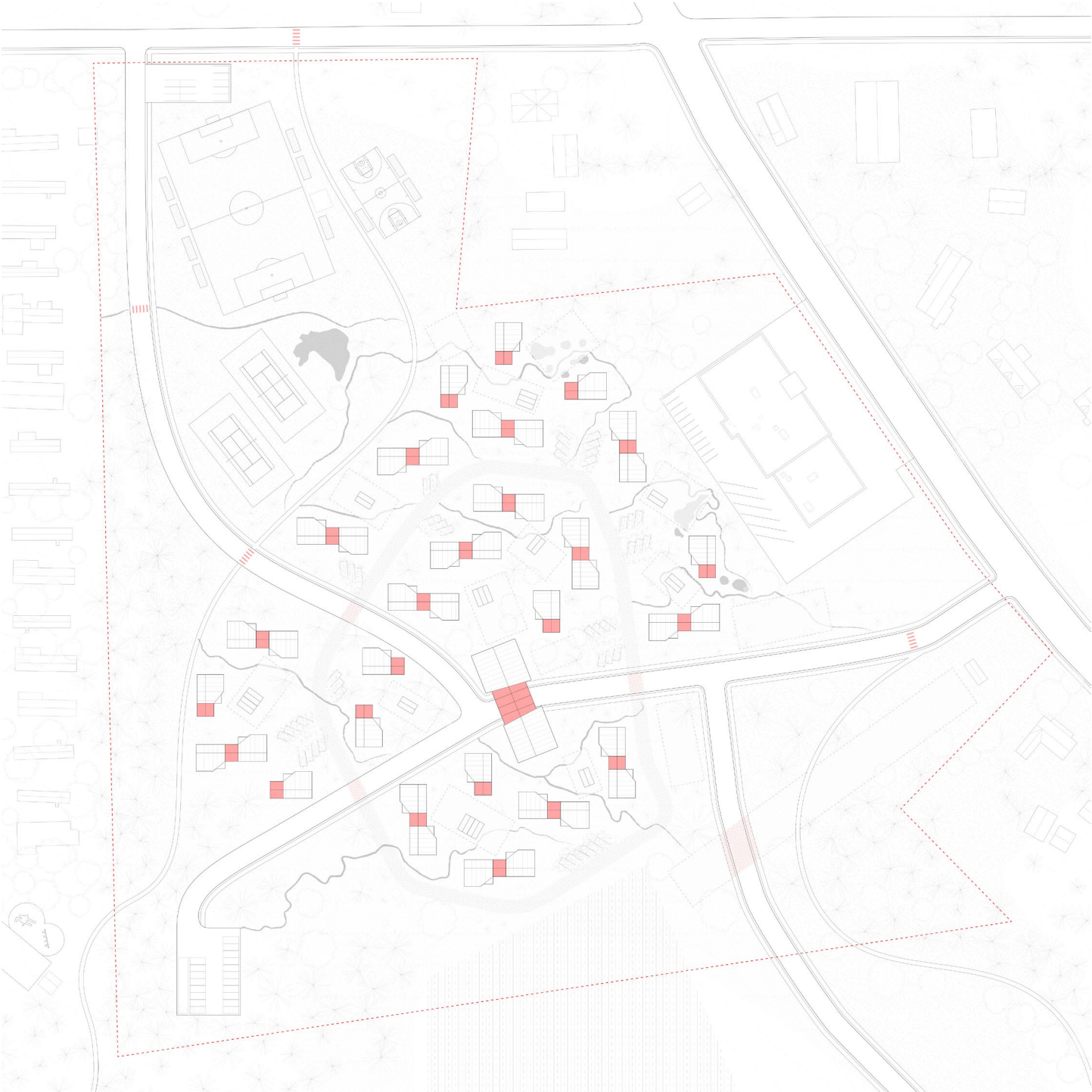
This bridging between work and play is physically manifested in the site arrangements through a constrasting set of orientation logics. The orthogonal relations between the housing units ensures effeciency in terms of quality of life (daylighting and fenestration, road access, undisturbed views). The ‘play’ areas find themselves nestled in the empty spaces between the built structures.

A site plan of the housing community as well as a “Catalogue of Bridges” that exist on the site. The “bridges” are highlighted in red.

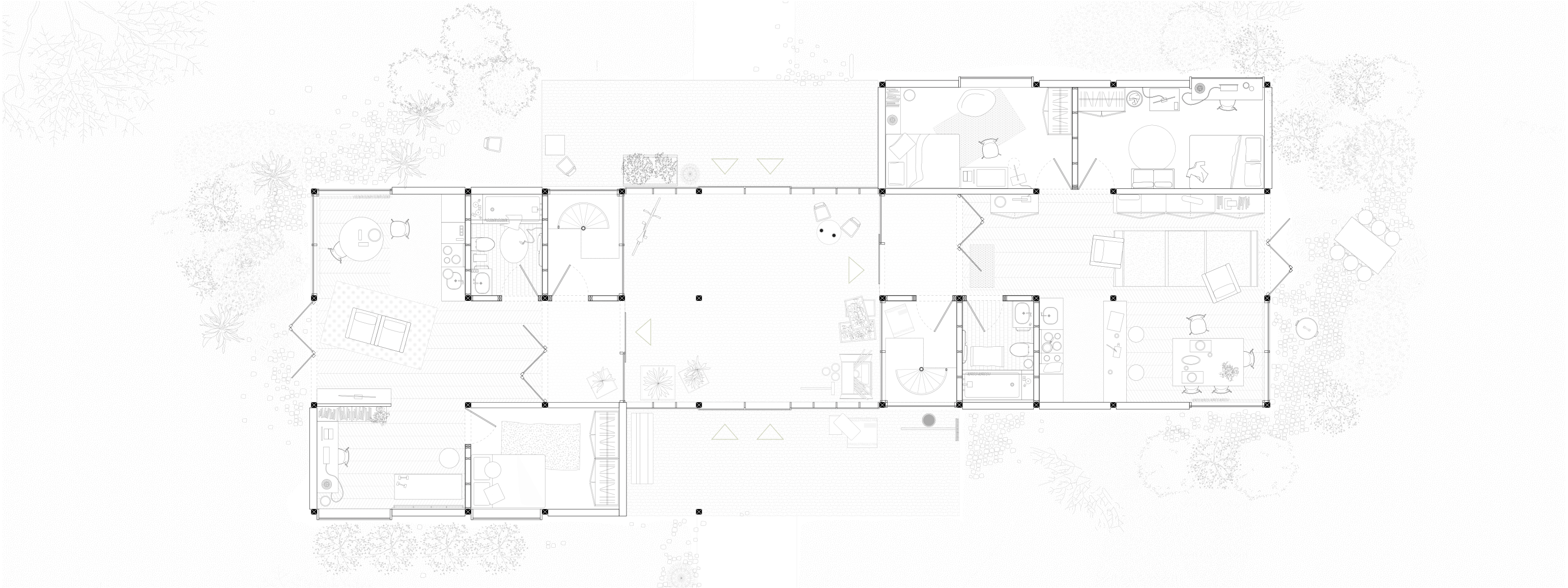


- Crosswalk**
Ulysses and Trumansburg
42.547335, -76.674607
- Crosswalk**
Compass MHC and 'Seriously Playful'
42.546466, -76.675314
- Crosswalk**
Habitat Nature Preseve Trail and Park
42.545698, -76.675130
- Crosswalk**
Trumansburg Country Estates Assisted Living
Community and 'Seriously Playful'
42.545471, -76.672015
- Landscaped Lawn and Garden**
Trumansburg Country Estates Assisted Living
Community and 'Seriously Playful'
42.544933, -76.672624
- Glass Skybridge**
Across Meadowview Dr.
42.545297, -76.673537
- Polycarbonate 'Outer Skin' Shared Porch**
Between neighboring duplex units
42.546237, -76.673806
42.546086, -76.674138
42.546185, -76.673162
42.546006, -76.673570
42.545828, -76.673755
42.545837, -76.674355
42.545616, -76.673902
42.545800, -76.673245
42.545579, -76.672875

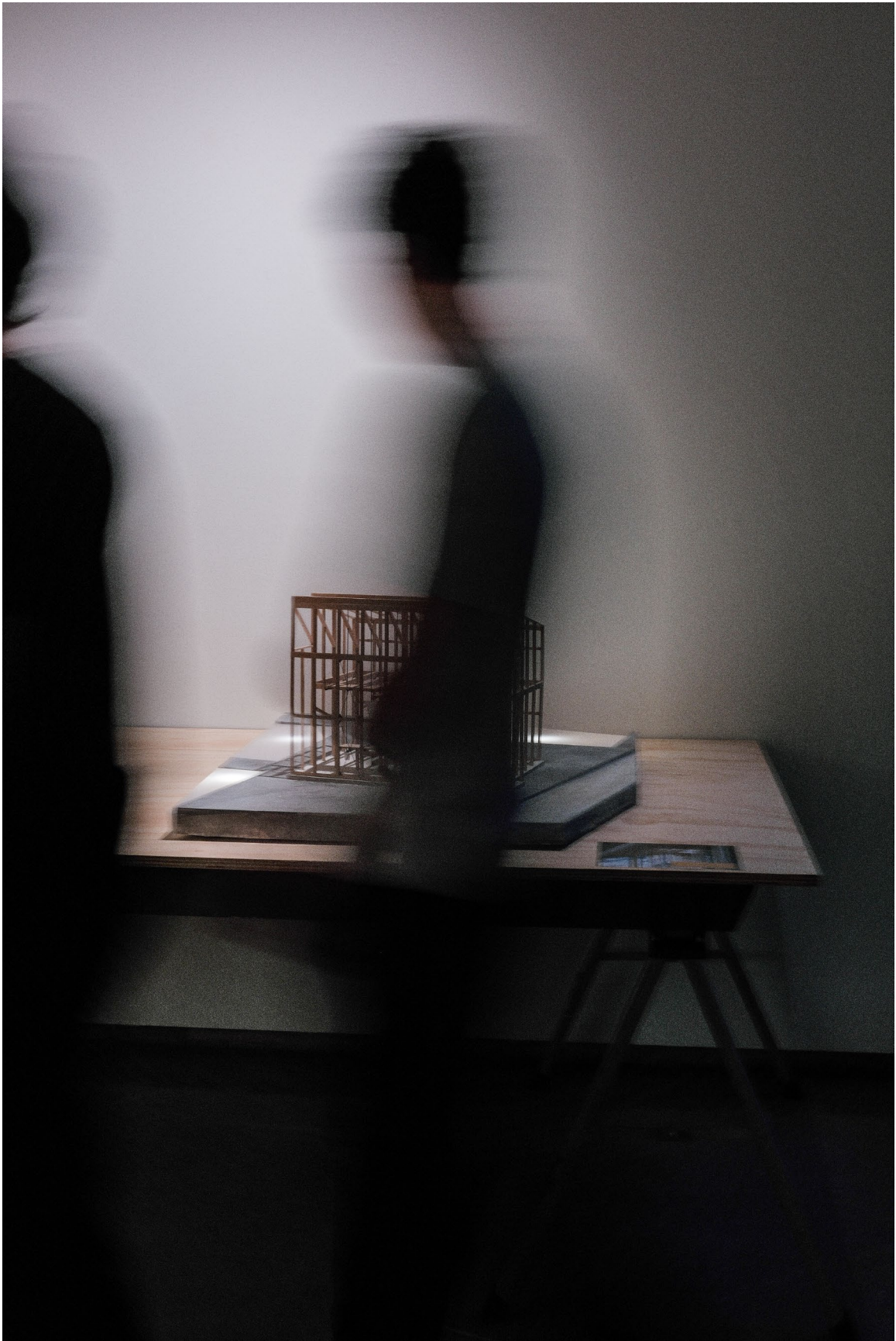
A site plan of the housing community in its second phase of development (2040) at 1:500 scale.



A first-floor plan of a typical housing unit at 1/4" : 1' - 0" scale.



The model displayed in Bibliowicz Family Gallery at Milstein Hall, Cornell University.



STRUCTURAL MODEL

A Structural Systems Model of “A House for a Family of Four (Light-Filled Stair Hall)” by KIRI Architects. Completed with Torben Karl, Robert Gateno, and Professor Mark R. Cruvellier in the Fall of 2023 for ARCH 2613.



A House for a Family of Four / Light-Filled Stair Hall, photo by Anna Nagai

“A House for a Family of Four” is a modest residential project located in the quiet Tokyo suburb of Nishitokyo. In order to maximize sunlight amid the densely packed built landscape, KIRI Architects employs a unique structural system of columns and trusses that create dynamic lighting conditions throughout the day.

The primary space in the house is a brightly lit stair hall, which can house a multitude of programs from storage to entertainment. The structural members present in this stair hall primarily consist of white maple beams supported by steel bracing and hangers.

In order to create the model, the entire structural system was modeled, and the scaled parts were cut, jointed, and prepared. Each component is faithful to the original in terms of materiality, including the in-situ casting of concrete and rebar reinforcements. In order to showcase the urban context (and better illuminate the model), the concrete site features recessed lights that further exemplify the interplay of light, wood, and concrete in the project.

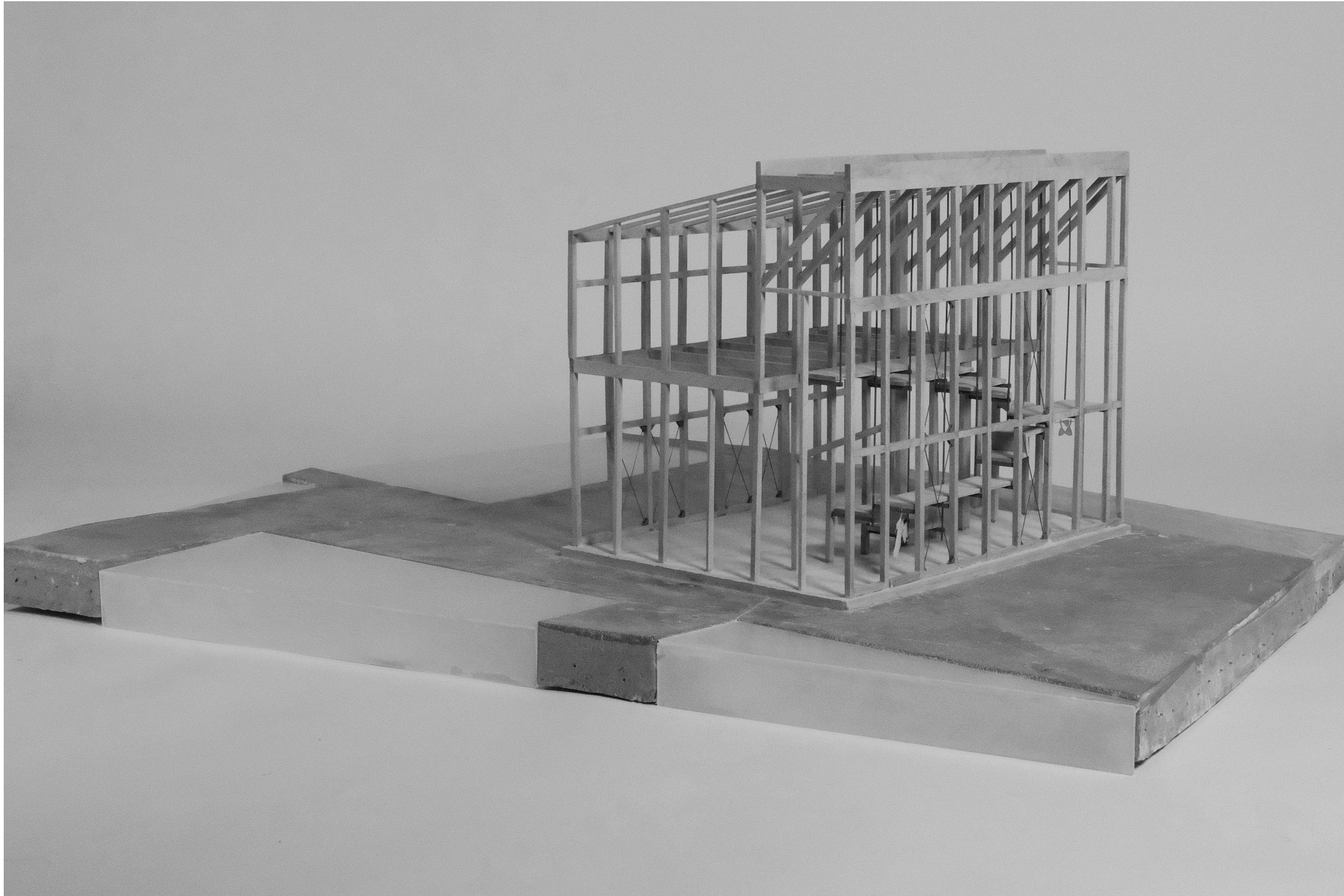
Process photos documenting the fabrication of the poured reinforced concrete base.



A close-up shot of the "stair hall" composed of wooden columns, beams, and girders with steel cable cross-bracing.



The final model. The footprints of the surrounding buildings are represented through glowing "light boxes".

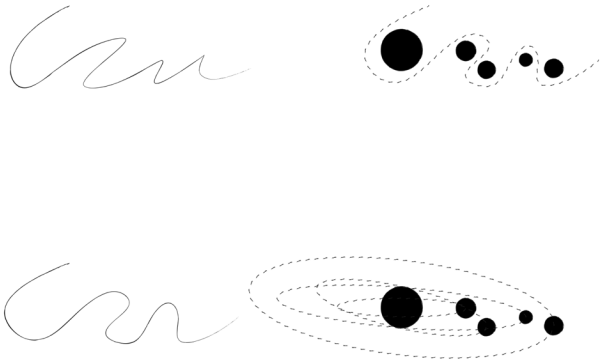


An exterior nighttime render of the house overlooking the Fall Creek Gorge.



A HOUSE IN ITHACA

A Single Family House in Ithaca, NY.
Completed with Assistant Professor Martin Miller in the Fall of 2023 for Design III, ARCH 2101.



Initial sketches highlighting the transformation of signature into concept.

The framework of this design studio started with an investigation of a personal signature. In addition to the literal written name, a signature communicates identity and meaning through form. Aesthetic elements such as proportion, stroke, and composition all contribute to the overall impression that a signature leaves.

The meandering curves within the signature “orbit” a set of implied masses. This notion of gravitation was further explored through the chair, which warps and orbits around the critical mass points of the body. Parametric operations through Grasshopper and Kangaroo deform the “fabric” of the seat surface. The seat surface was superimposed with a grid of circles, and the deformation of the surface would disturb the circles as well.

The studio finally culminated in the design of a house.

The house is designed for an astronomer and his family. Located in Ithaca, New York’s “Gun Hill” site on the Fall Creek Gorge, it seemed natural to let the tale of Ithaca, Greece’s foremost warrior, sailor, and astronomer, Odysseus guide the narrative of the house.

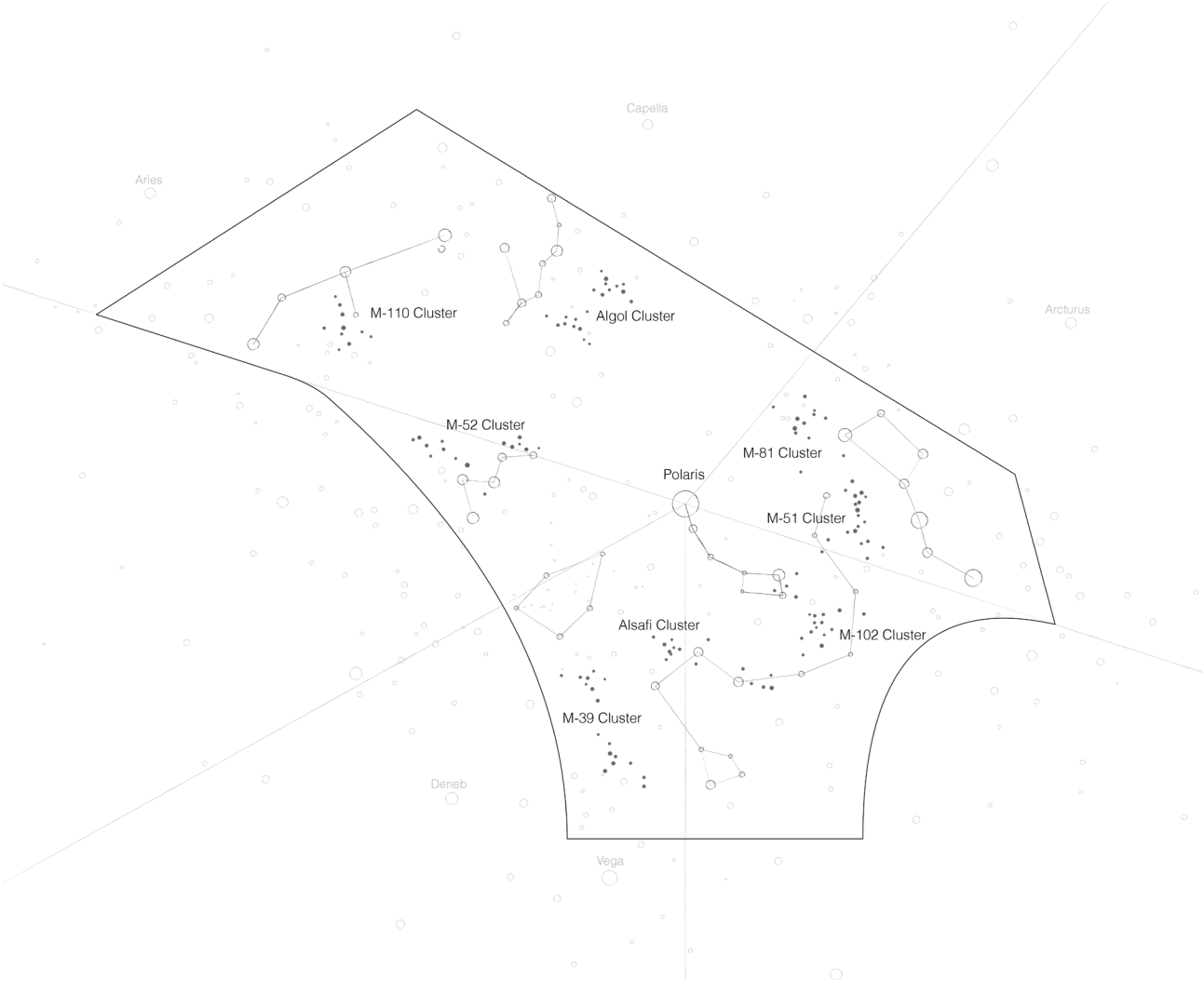
“There was a house at the foot of the tower, close to the thunder of the waves breaking against the cliffs, where love was more intense because it seemed like a shipwreck.”
- Gabriel Garcia-Marquez, *Love in the Time of Cholera*

Just like Odysseus, the primary programs are guided by the stars; the constellations of Ithaca’s night sky offer their mythos as inspiration. The most notable program is a Stellarium pointed towards the unchanging North Star; a perfect space for an astronomer’s family to ground themselves among the swirling galaxies, stars, and cosmic dust.

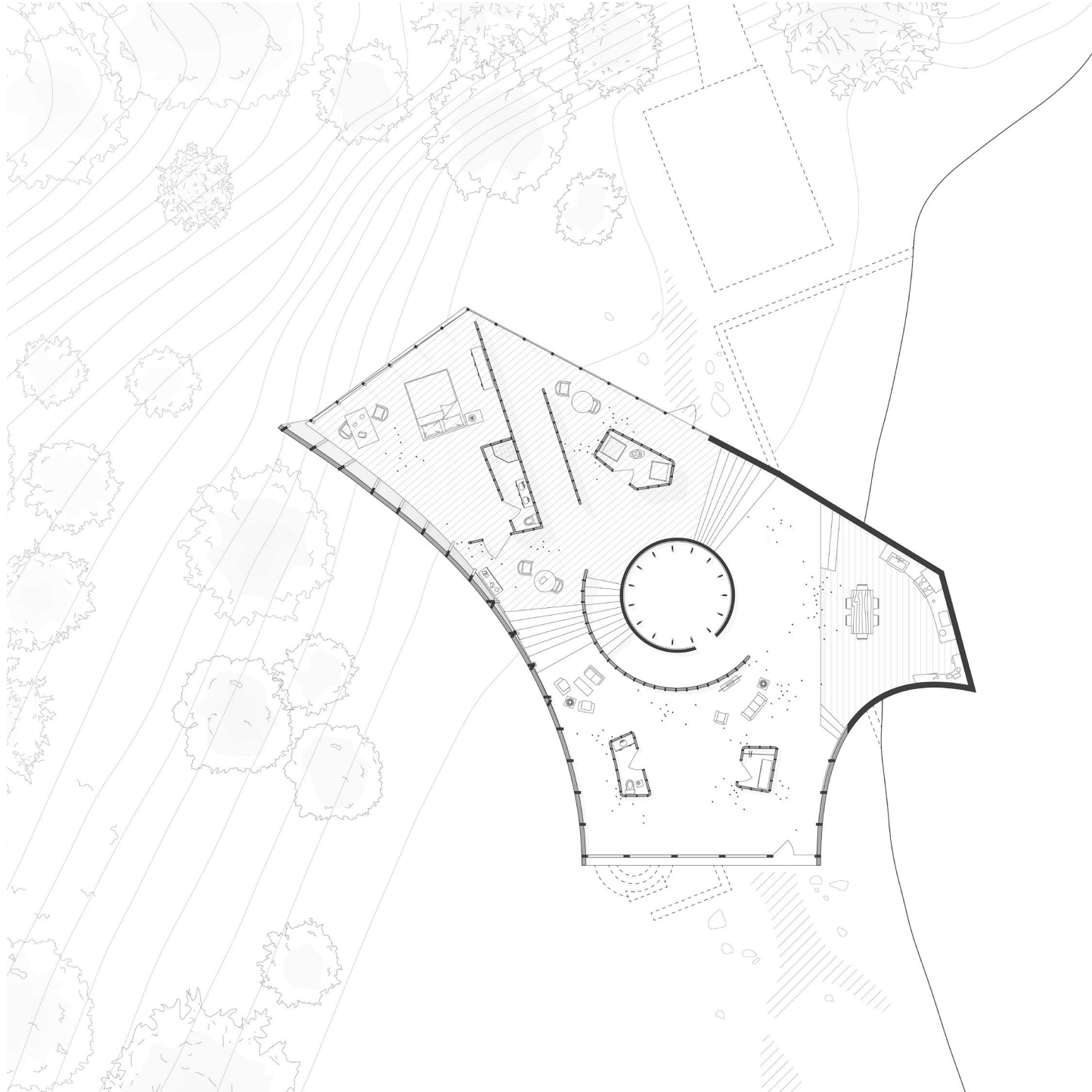
The overall form of the house borrows from classical shipbuilding. Inspired by both Odysseus’ nautical journey as well as the maritime connotation of space, the overall massing registers as a “hull” jutting over the gorge. Shiplap cladding and suspended lofts further emphasize the nautical-themed construction.

Scattered steel columns inside reflect the locations of notable star clusters. Their undulating densities naturally guide circulation; as movement is wholly influenced by the restricting star-columns and the constellation-programs weaving between them, the family walks a path laid out in the stars.

“He kept his eye on the Pleiades and late-setting Boötes, and the Bear... she alone is never plunged in the wash of the Ocean.”
- Homer, *The Odyssey*



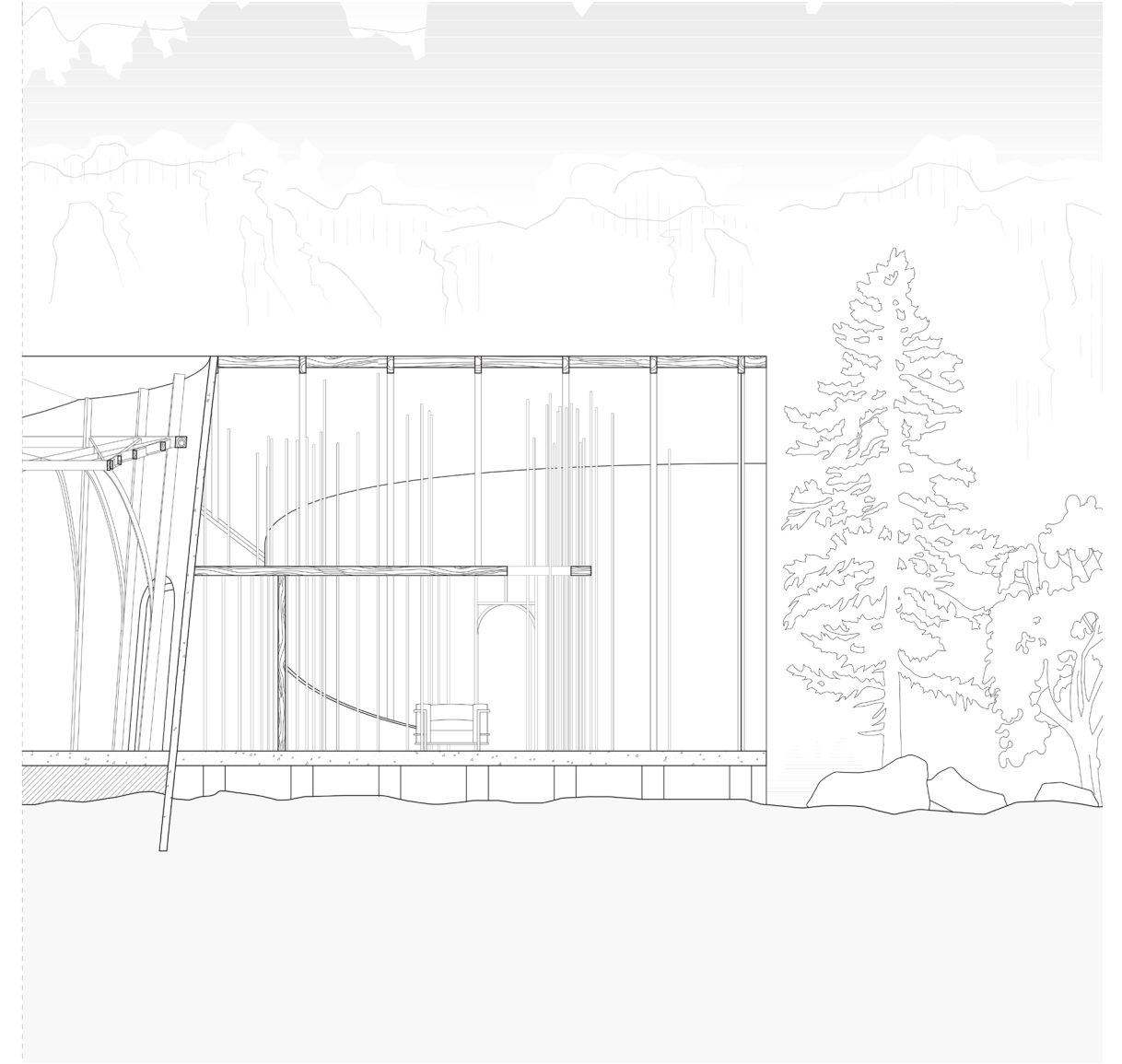
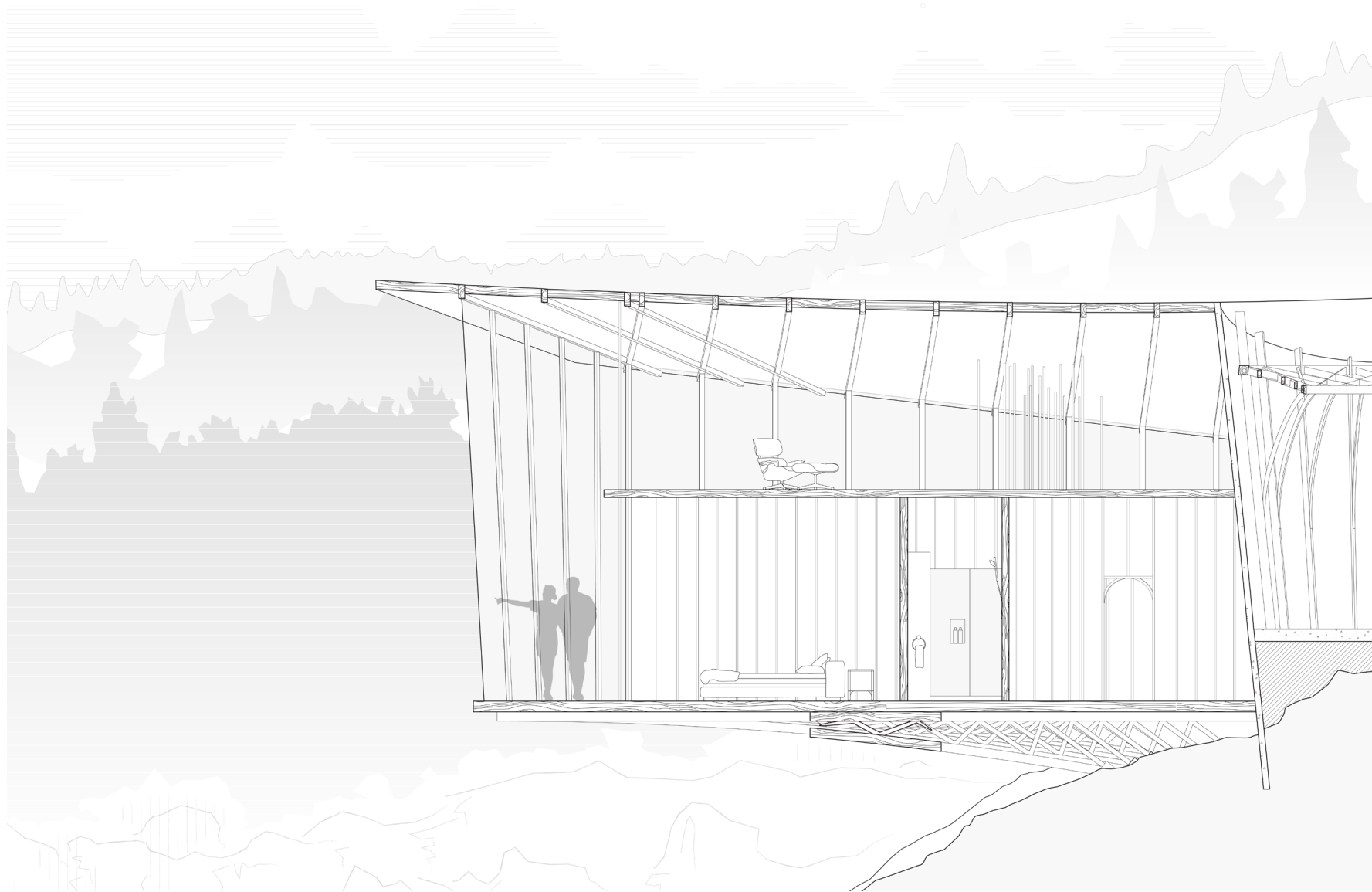
A first-floor plan at 1/8" : 1' - 0"



An interior render of the view overlooking Ithaca's forested valleys and the Finger Lakes.



An unrolled section of the house at 1/4" : 1'-0" scale.



A render of the library study area at dusk.



WAREHOUSE FOR BOOKS

A Tompkins County Public Library in Ithaca, NY.
Completed with Lecturer Marta H. Wisniewska in the Spring of 2024 for Design IV, ARCH 2102.



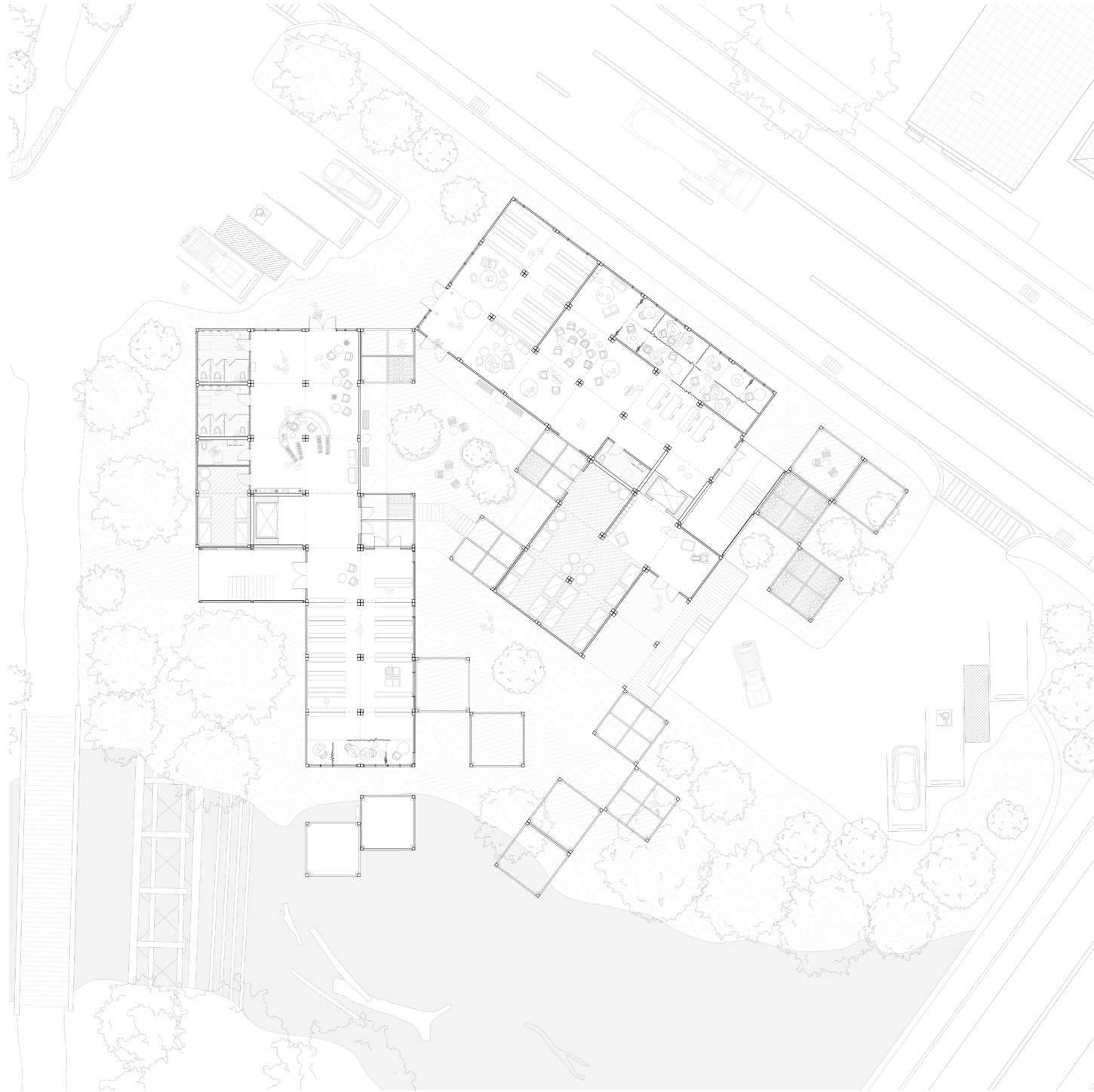
Pen sketches of two adjacent buildings: the Just Be Cause community center and the Ithaca Signworks Building, respectively.

In the current culture of public building, a library's own constituent community is often solely responsible for construction funds. New constructions voted on by a small board are often expensive and not in tune with the community's needs. Their designs often feel out of place aesthetically, leaving a "scar" on both the built and natural environment.

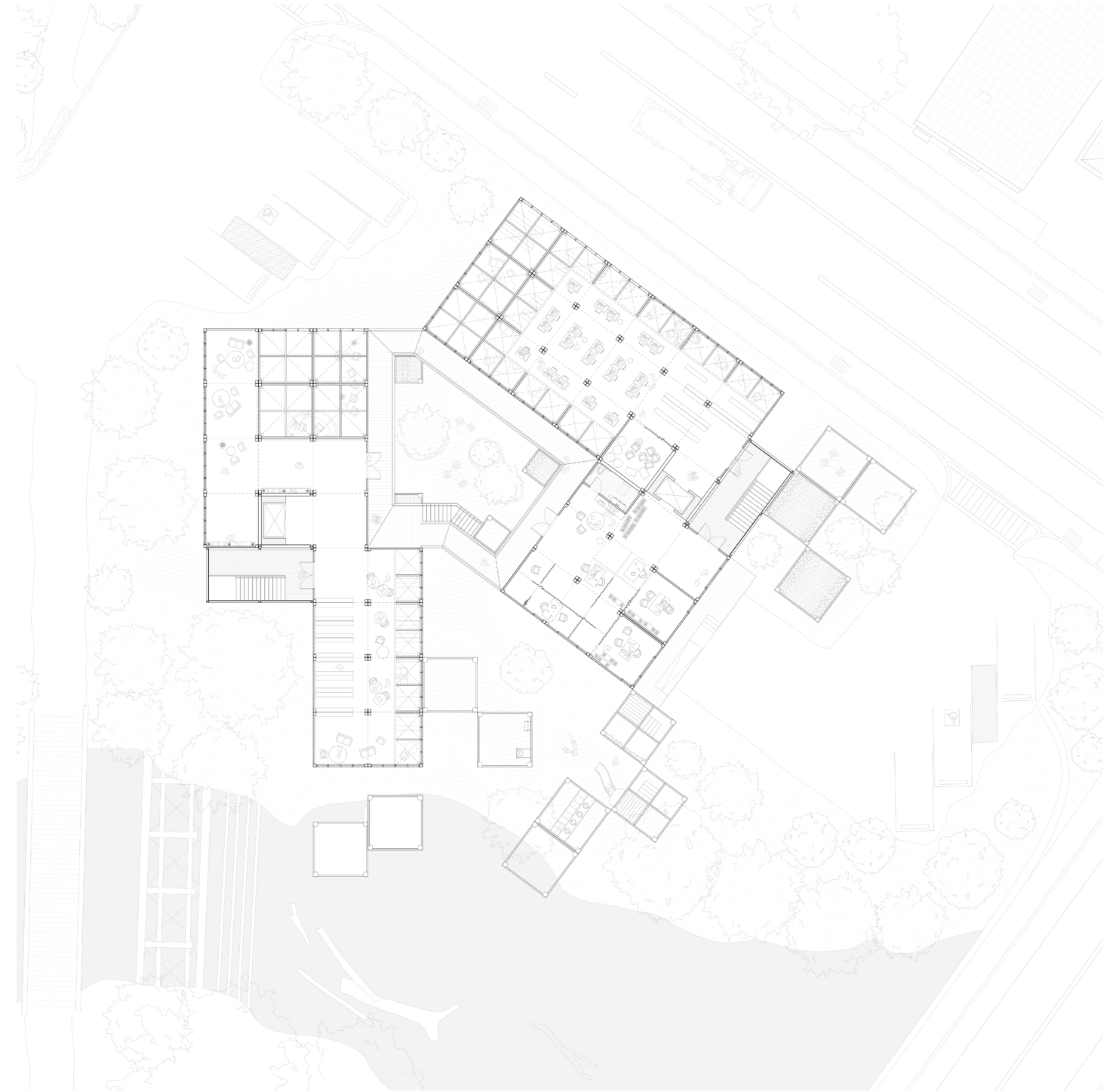
The goal of the project was to create a quickly and cheaply erected library that is in tune with the community's natural rhythm. In order to create a palimpsest-esque sense of familiarity within the surrounding buildings, the sectional profiles and programmatic arrangement of the library are based off of four adjacent landmarks. (UA Local 81 Ithaca, 701 W State St.; Lehigh Valley Railroad Ithaca Station, 806 W Buffalo St.; Signworks Building, 1001 W Seneca St.; Just Be Cause Not-For-Profit Development Center, 1013 W State St.)

The schematic design of the building emphasizes circularity and rapid assembly/disassembly through the use of pre-fabricated structural modules. The modules come in 3 variations (main structural module, roof module 1, roof module 2), which allow for the building's 4 distinct sectional profiles.

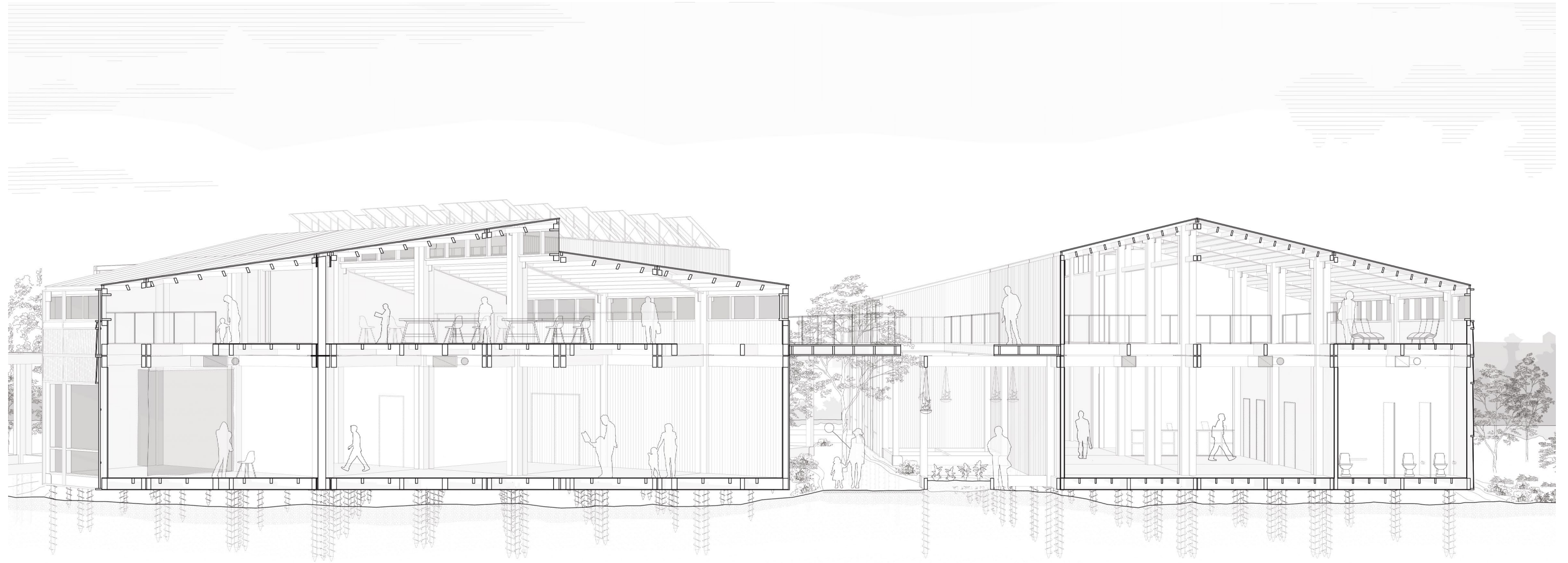
A first-floor plan of the library at 1/8" : 1'-0" scale.



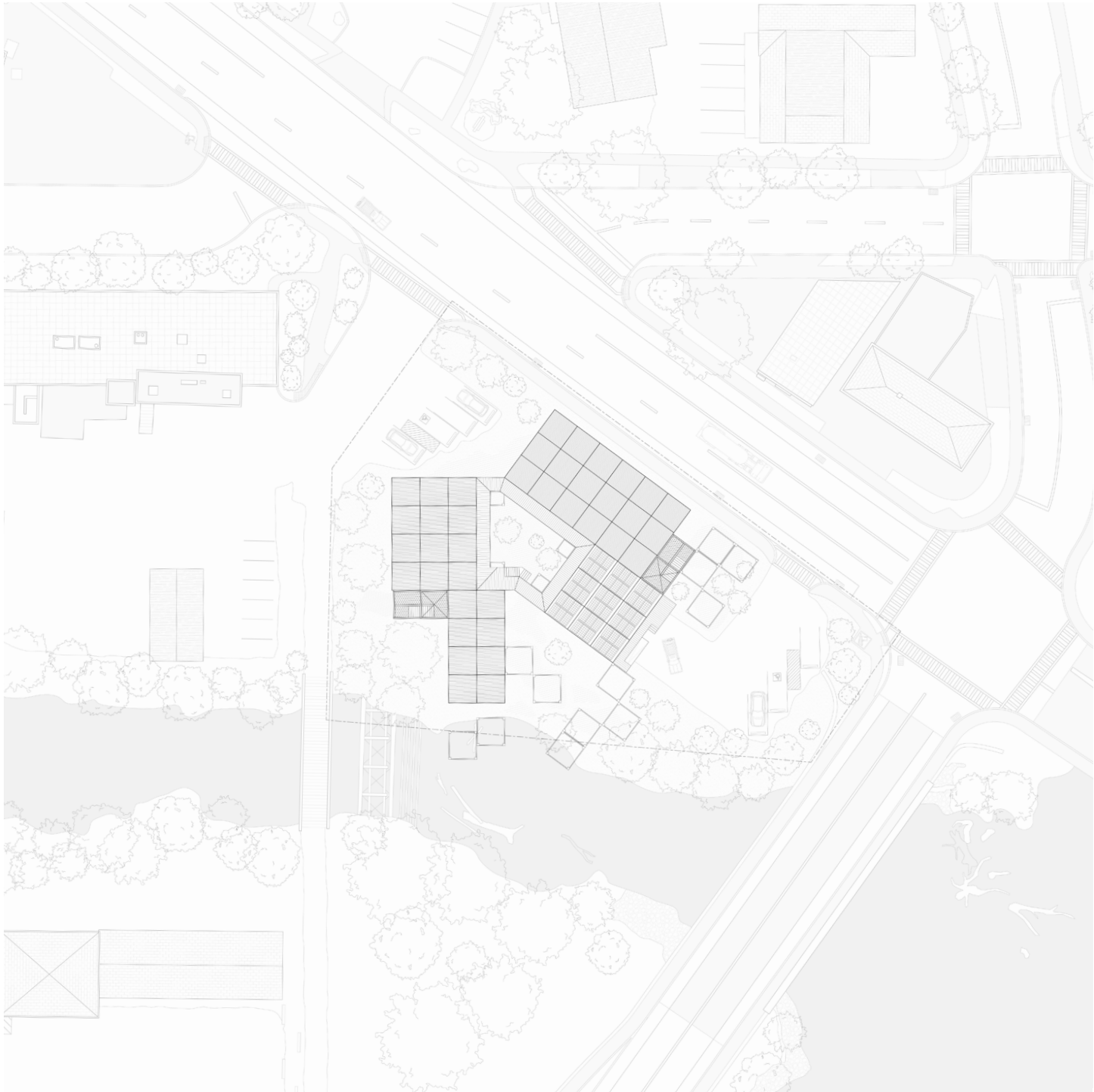
A second-floor plan of the library at 1/8" : 1'-0" scale.



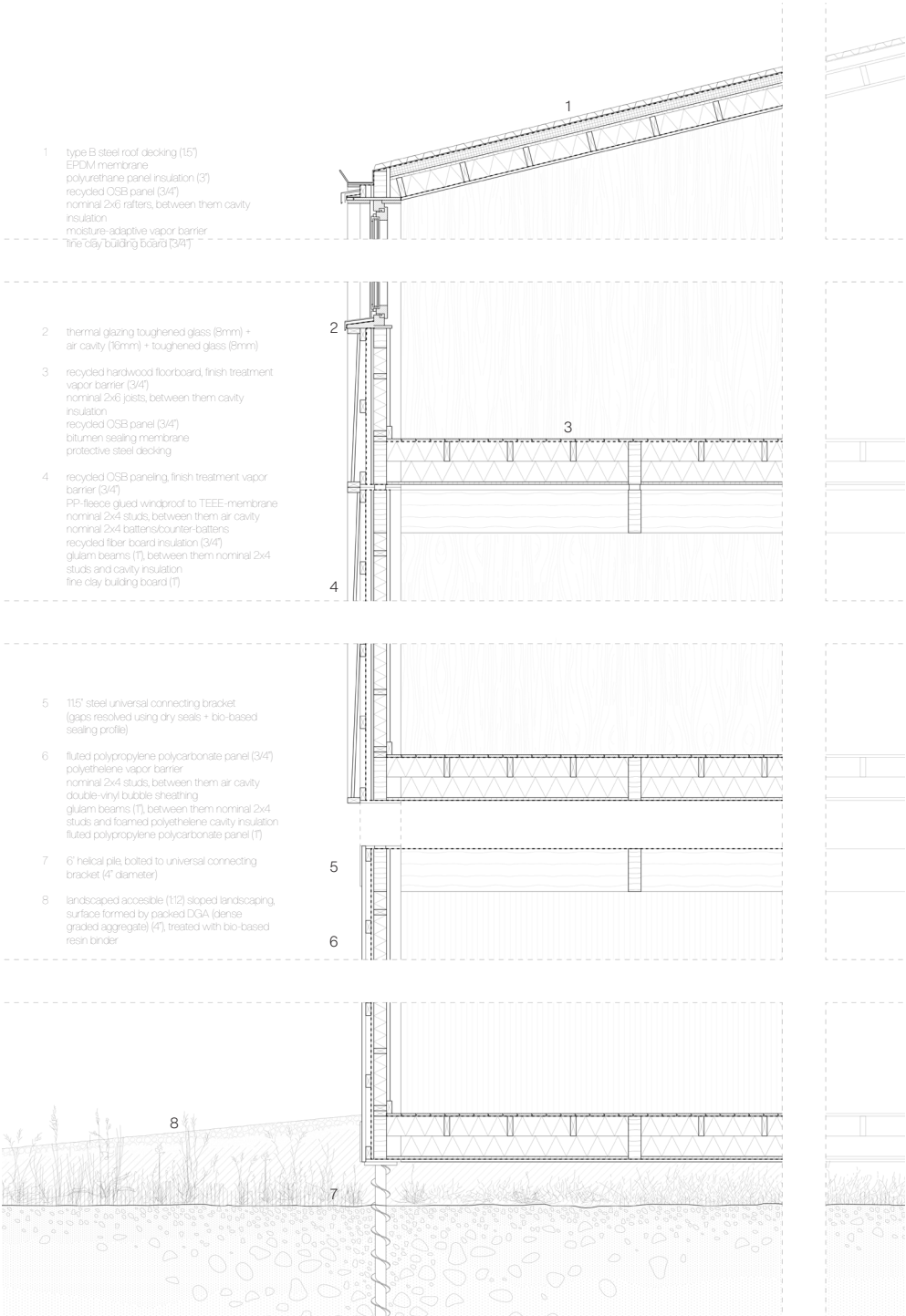
A perspectival section of the library at 3/16" : 1'-0" scale.



A site plan of 917 W. State Street in Ithaca, NY at 1/16" : 1'-0" scale.



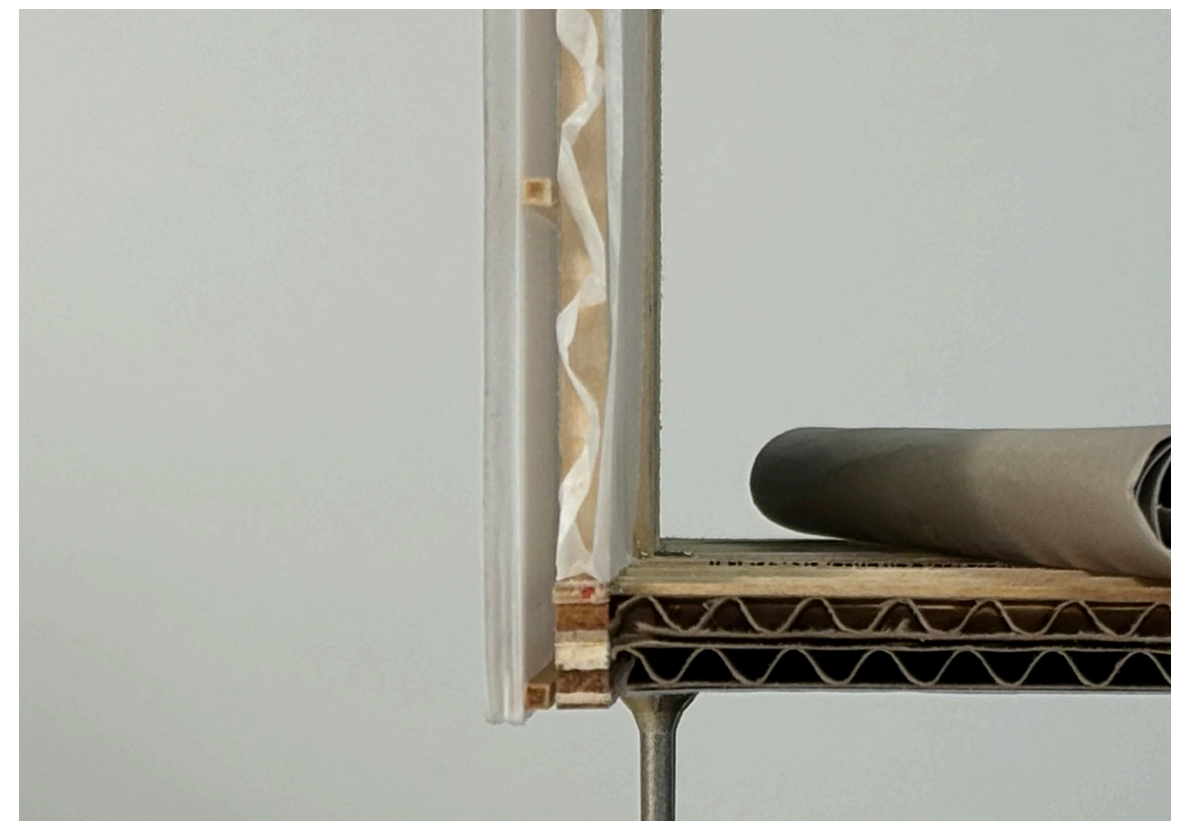
A detailed wall section of a typical polycarbonate and OSB paneling assembly at 1/4" : 1'-0" scale.



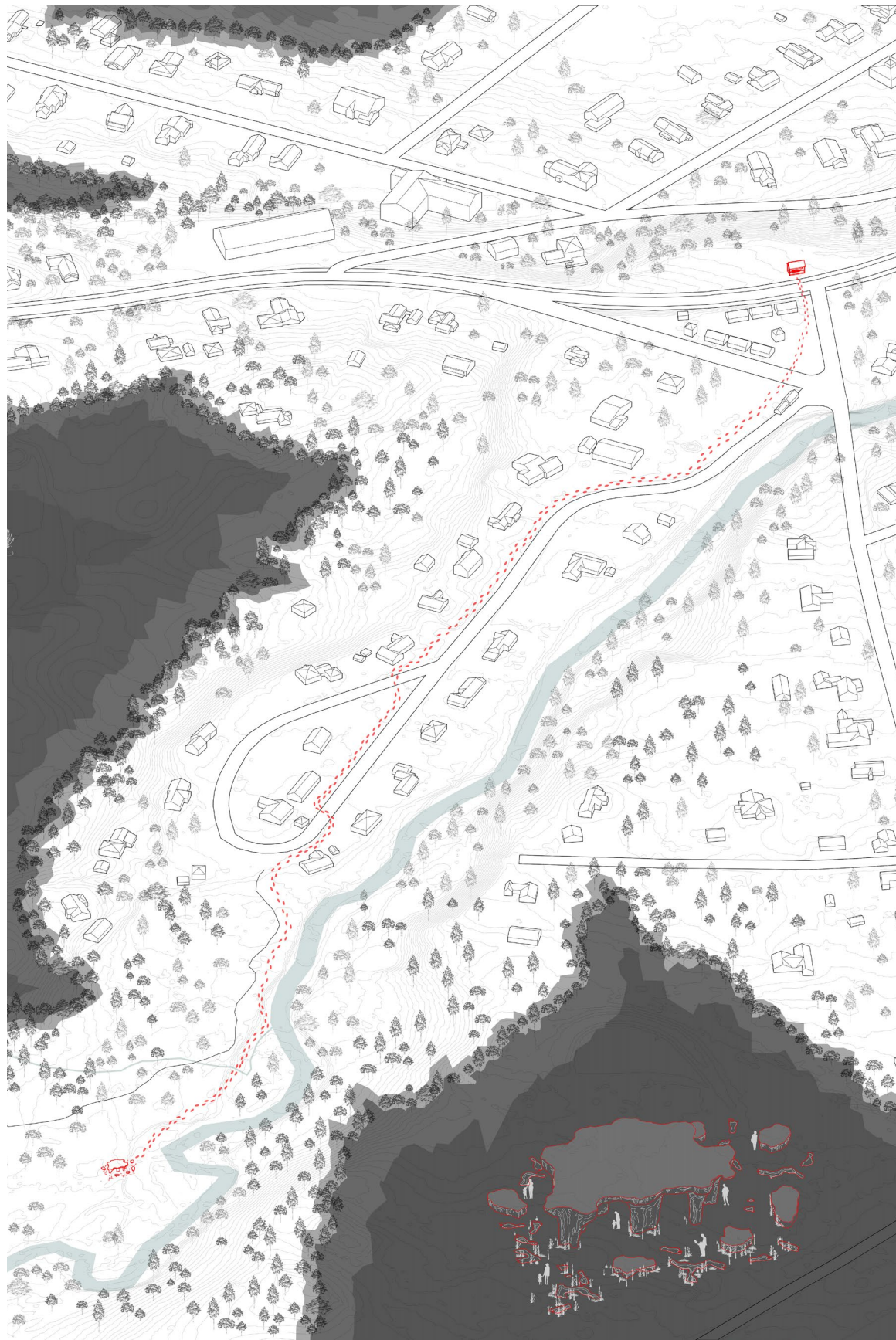
A sectional "chunk" model at 1/4" : 1'-0" scale.



Close-up shots of the "chunk" model highlighting OSB and polycarbonate cladding connections, respectively.



An isometric drawing showing the “giant’s footsteps” tracing the path from the Trumansburg Giant statue to the “giant’s table”.



THE GIANT’S FOOTSTEPS

A Framework for a Community Engagement Intervention in Trumansburg, NY.
Completed in the Fall of 2024 for Design V, ARCH 3101.
Honorable Mention Entry for the Edwin A. Seipp Memorial Prize.



Moments, in section, of people interacting with the footsteps at various scales.

Recreation is a term that finds its etymological origin in Latin. The verb recreare was used to describe actions that were transformational in nature; activities that triggered reinvention and change were all considered recreation. Some thinkers understood these “recreational activities” as catalysts for transition.

While the idealism behind bettering oneself through actions is certainly valuable, radical self-change is not that simple for humans. Recreation is less like the metamorphosis of a caterpillar; it is closer to the molting of a lobster. Every year, the lobster emerges from its old, weathered shells fresher than before (but the same lobster nonetheless). Recreation is remembering oneself before the dents and barnacles.

The body of the giant is on NY State Route 96, right across the Trumansburg Farmer’s Market. In 1879, local hotel owner John Thompson was at a loss. The “Long Depression” of 1873 and 1879 certainly wasn’t good for his business, or for the rest of the town either. But John had a plan. Inspired by the “Cardiff Giant” discovered in Syracuse 10 years ago, Thompson convinced the mechanic Ira Dean to create an artifact that resembled a large petrified man.

The man’s hands were crossed over his right thigh, while the left leg lay over the right, which was bent up toward the body. He was nearly seven feet long, of muscular build, and much of his flesh looked atrophied and petrified. He was concocted from a mixture of eggs, beef blood, iron filings, and cement to mimic the chemical makeup of a human.

While a series of unfortunate events eventually uncovered the giant as a hoax, many people came to visit the artifact in the weeks prior. Thompson’s hotel saw more business than usual, as did other local business owners.

While the Taughannock Giant was just a silly little historical episode in hindsight, it did represent the fierce desire of Trumansburg to help their own. The giant was a folk hero in that sense. A folk hero representing the collective will of the community: past present and future. In the current socio-economic landscape, Trumansburg just has to wait until the giant wakes up again. And when he starts walking, we confidently follow his footprints towards another one of his whimsies.

