



THE ALBERT AND TINA

SMALL
CENTER

FOR COLLABORATIVE DESIGN

2019-2021

INDEX

05 Director's Letter

07 Staff

09 Small Center Values

Design Build

15 – Hotel Hope

23 – Apothecarts

31 – Sugar Roots Outdoor Kitchen

Design Visioning

39 – Ressurrection After Exonoration

49 – Friends of New Orleans Public Library Used Book Store

51 – Terrytown Design Guidelines

53 – Covenant House New Orleans

59 – Municipal Planning

Exhibits

61 – Looters

63 – Water Isn't A Game

69 – The Atmosp(HERE) of Space

Student Engagement

73 – Public Interest Design Summer Fellowship

77 – Public Interest Design Seminar

**EACH OF US
SHOULD BE
EMPOWERED
TO SHAPE THE
PLACES WE
LIVE, WORK
AND PLAY...**





ANN YOACHIM
DIRECTOR, PROFESSOR OF PRACTICE
PUBLIC HEALTH // ENVIRONMENT

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

It is difficult to know where to begin. First, a thank you to the faculty, staff, students, supporters and community partners that have and continue to navigate the complex challenges of this moment. The last three years have shifted our world in countless small and big ways. All underscoring again the need for structural change to address racism, inequity and injustice.

This “annual report” represents the work of the dedicated, ever adapting faculty, staff, students and community partners of the Albert and Tina Small Center for Collaborative Design from 2019-2021. Throughout the report, you will see how the Center evolved programming, research and teaching to meet the ever-shifting COVID-19 pandemic and to continue our commitment to building capacity and coalitions to address structural inequity through engaged design. Anchored at the School of Architecture, our responsibility to train the next generation of designers to understand that each of us should be empowered to shape the places we live, work and play underpinned all these efforts. I am deeply honored to serve as the Director of the Small Center and remain in awe of what we were able to accomplish over the past few years. There is much to do ahead and time for reflection and respite is essential to shaping our work moving forward.

The Small Center’s work is only possible with the generosity of supporters, talent of our collaborators, and committed students. Let this be an invitation to get more involved with the Small Center in the coming year. Make a financial investment. Join our mailing list. Stay connected by following us on Instagram, LinkedIn and Facebook. Visit one of our projects. Attend a public program. Share your ideas with us and spread the word about our work to others. Volunteer your expertise. And finally, please feel free to reach out with your thoughts or ideas for the Center; we would love to hear from you.



THE TEAM



EMILIE TAYLOR WELTY

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, DESIGN + BUILD

ARCHITECTURE // CONSTRUCTION



Emilie is a maker and a teacher of design, which combine well in the design/build studios she leads at Small Center. She is a national leader in design/build and her wordy titles include Professor of Practice at Tulane School of Architecture, Director of the school's Architecture program, and Design/Build Manager at Small Center. A native of southern Louisiana, Emilie is adapted to our humid swampland and has a practice in town called Colectivo where they make stuff and do things.



NICK JENISCH

PROJECT MANAGER

ARCHITECTURE // URBAN PLANNING



With experience in teaching, project management, and planning, Nick brings a deep understanding of urban scale and the regional context of Small Center's projects. Nick stewards relationships in both the public and private sector, keeping our collaborative projects on track from start to finish. His planning work assists mayors and cities in engaging residents, rethinking the design of public spaces, and understanding the impact of policy on urbanization.



JOSE COTTO

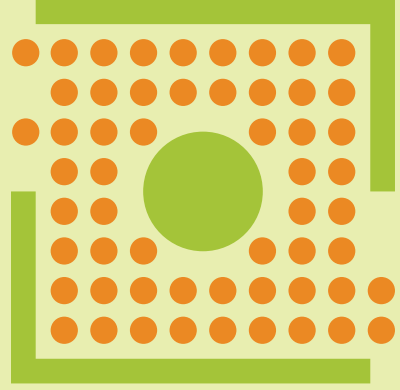
PROJECT MANAGER

ARCHITECTURE // VISUAL ARTS



Jose has worked at the intersections of design + build, arts + culture, and education + community for the last 10 years. As part of our team, he helps lead DEPART-MENT, an interdisciplinary exhibition and programming initiative that serves as a nexus for new ideas, coalitions, and civic action on issues related to the built environment locally and beyond. He also leads Small Center's Intro to Public Interest Design seminar, assists with design/build studios, and utilizes his design and photography skills to document and amplify our work.

**OUR DESIGN PRACTICE STEMS FROM THESE
INFORMS OUR WORK. COLLECTIVELY, THEY**



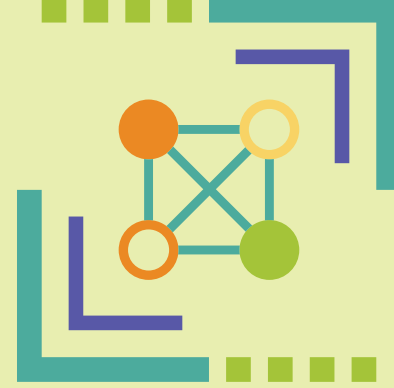
WELCOME COMMUNITY



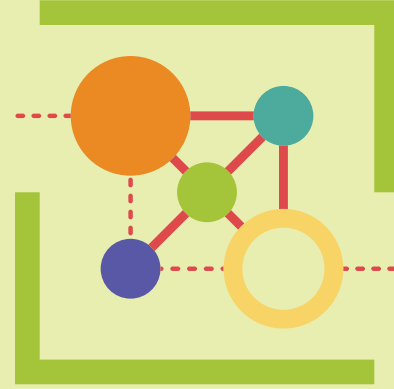
MAKE SPACE



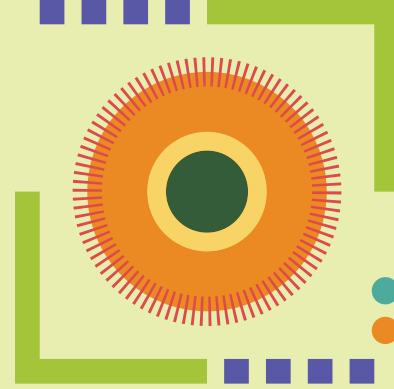
EXPLORE LINKS



CULTIVATE KNOWLEDGE

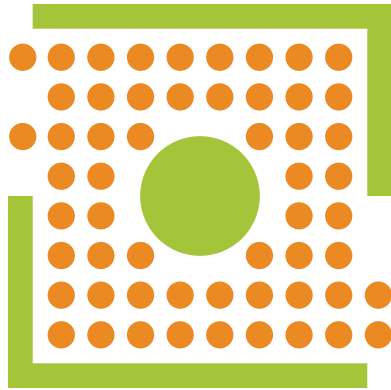


BUILD NETWORKS



VISION FUTURES

**CORE VALUES. INDIVIDUALLY, EACH VALUE
PROVIDE A ROADMAP THAT GUIDES IT.**



WELCOME COMMUNITY

The Small Center is a space for community to gather around a shared belief that **design should be leveraged as a tool in the fight for justice and equity.**

We believe that **every resident of New Orleans has the right** to be part of the conversations that shape our built environments.

What are the borders and openings that define our community?



MAKE SPACE

Public Interest Design is about **making space together.**

Including multiple perspectives while creating a vision is not just a benefit, **it is a requirement for our work to move forward.**

What perspectives are and should be informing the design of space?



EXPLORE LINKS

We believe it's important to honor and celebrate the work of those **that came before us and to identify and support those who want to carry it forward.**

Past projects, experience, and research should serve as **anchors and bridges that provide perspective and inspire** new ways of knowing and doing.

Where do ideas and solutions that move us beyond what we see and know emerge?

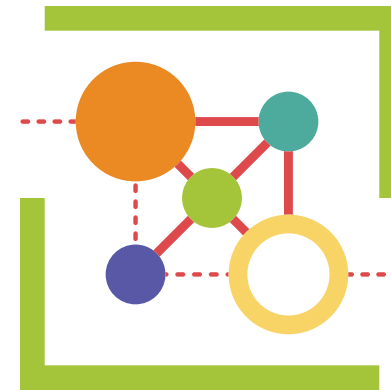


CULTIVATE KNOWLEDGE

Cultivating and sharing knowledge is at the core of our work. **We recognize knowledge can be expressed in many ways and exists beyond our scope of view.**

We aim to create space where **moments of exchange offer opportunities** to find common ground and produce new knowledge.

How can we amplify our collective knowledge within and beyond the spaces we occupy?

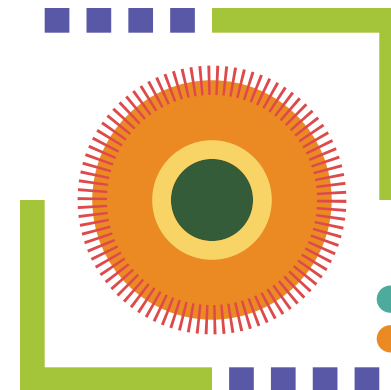


BUILD NETWORKS

Part of our role is to serve as a conduit between **partners, resources, and possibilities.** We do this by zooming out and leaning on the skill sets of our interdisciplinary team and partners.

Building networks that center intentional collaboration means **all entities contribute and benefit.**

How might we leverage these networks to expand and grow ourselves and our work?



VISION FUTURES

We work collaboratively to **ensure broad participation in the development of a collective vision.**

Working together to envision a project **allows for big ideas to be tested against real needs and obstacles.**

Let's imagine a world where our vision has been actualized; **what's our next step?**



WHAT CONVERSATIONS ARE TAKING PLACE IN THE COMMUNITY THAT YOU BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE A PART OF?

WHAT IS NEEDED TO ENSURE MORE PEOPLE ARE INCLUDED AT THE TABLES WHERE DESIGN DECISIONS THAT AFFECT US ALL ARE BEING MADE?

WHAT TOPICS OR QUESTIONS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE US EXPLORE THROUGH OUR WORK?

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND HOW CAN WE BEST SHARE THAT KNOWLEDGE WITH YOU?

IF YOU BELIEVE WE CAN WORK TOGETHER, DROP US A LINE OR COME BY OUR OFFICE FOR COFFEE OR TEA!

DO YOU HAVE A VISION FOR A BETTER NEW ORLEANS? A BETTER WORLD? HOW CAN WE BE HELPFUL IN DEVELOPING IT FURTHER?

An aerial photograph of the Hotel Hope courtyard. The courtyard is a rectangular area between two buildings. One building has a large, colorful mural on its wall, composed of various hexagonal shapes in shades of green, yellow, orange, and blue. The courtyard contains several tables and chairs, a small tree, and some play equipment. A sign on the left side of the building reads "HOTEL HOPE".

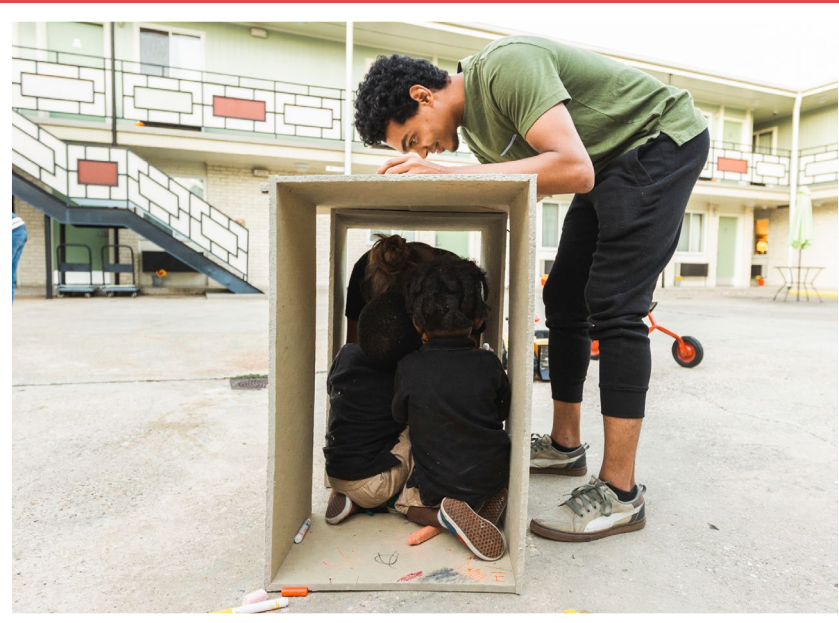
HOTEL HOPE

CHILD-CENTERED DESIGN
MATERIAL TECHNOLOGY

FALL 2019

The Small Center team collaborated with the staff and residents of Hotel Hope on a series of art activities and conversations to understand uses and needs of the courtyard — which serves as a safe space for kids of all ages to play and learn. Material and aesthetic goals that emerged included a desire for a lush oasis-like feel, warm yet durable materials, and spaces where mothers and kids could spend active time together. Staff, board members, residents and design critics informed a series of design proposals and reconfigurations that resulted in the final built scheme.

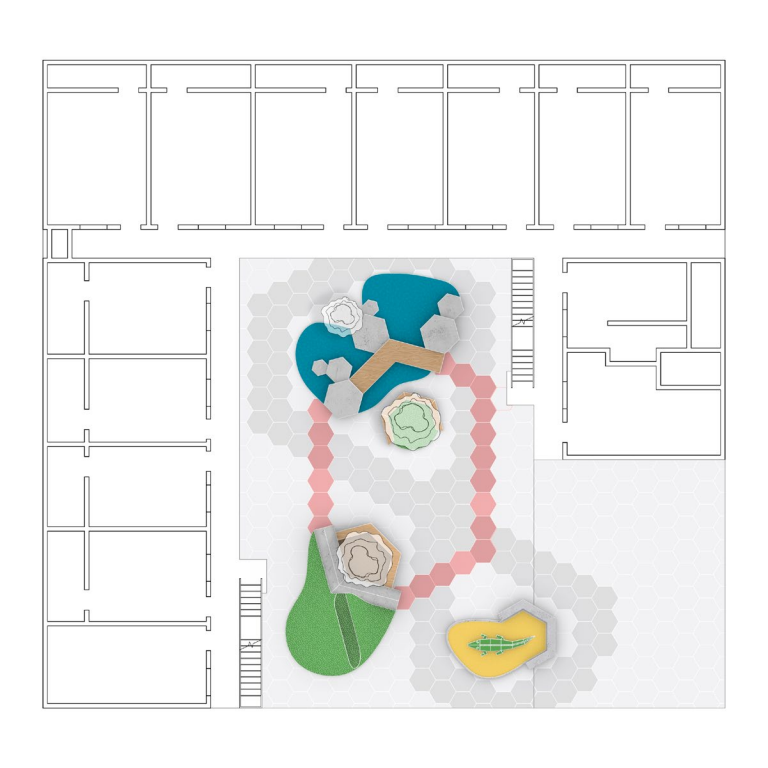
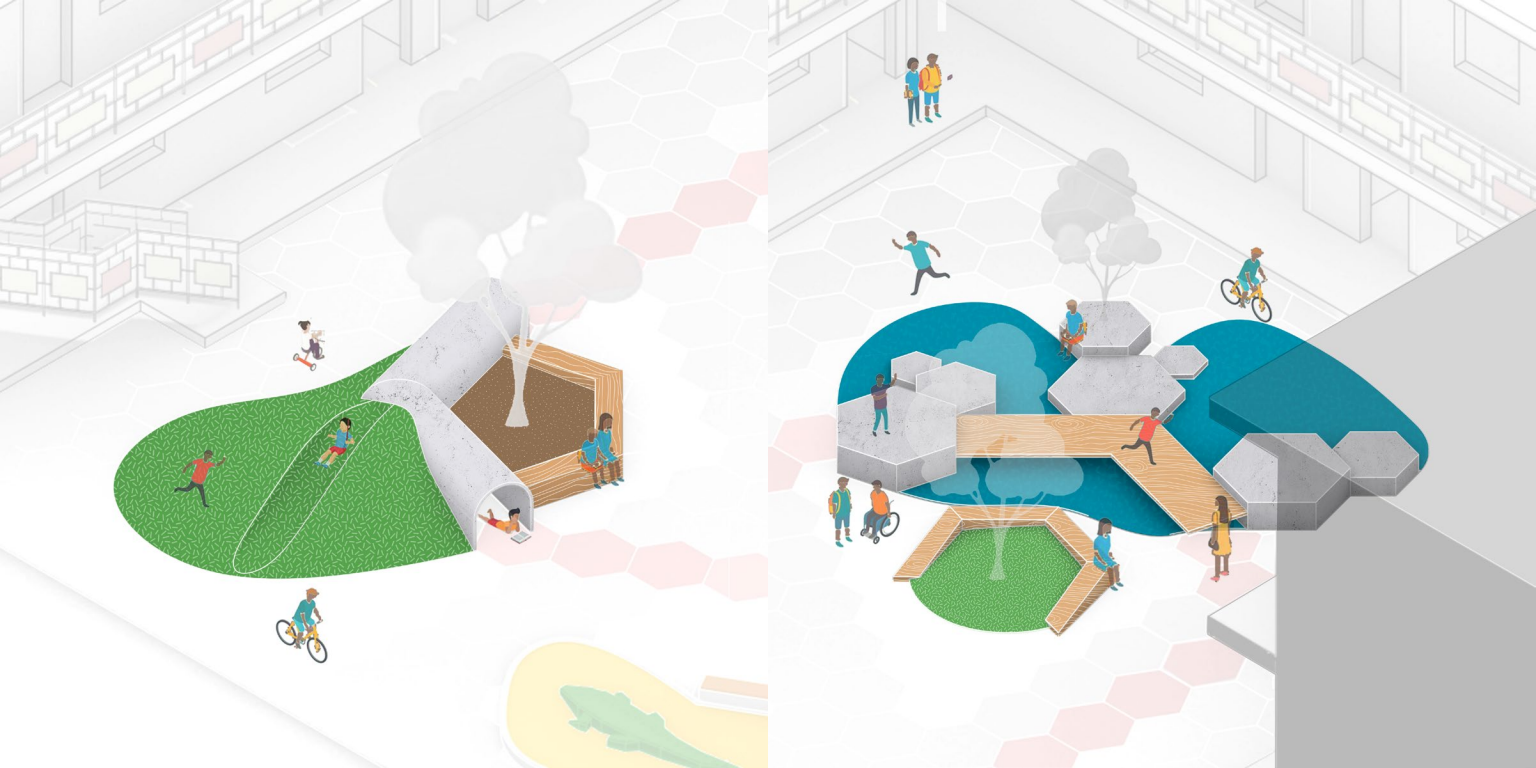
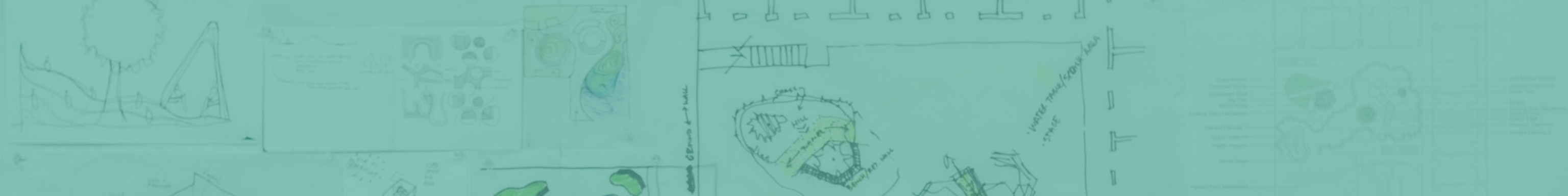
The resulting playspace design, Hexscape, is a series of interventions that transformed the barren parking lot into a welcoming sanctuary for guests and their children. The overall strategy consists of three targeted interventions— an alligator mulch pit, a tunnel, and a shaky bridge and music wall — all of which encourage children to play, learn, and grow. Additional design work included native plantings throughout the site, custom hex-shaped bricks that face seating areas, and a large mural. Beyond creating a landscape for play the project also accommodates the gathering, meals, and outdoor celebrations that often happen at Hotel Hope.



In roughly 13 weeks, the studio team held several engagement sessions with staff and residents of Hotel Hope, came up with a series of design schemes, and came together to construct the final vision and execute a large scale mural.



top: early site visit and engagement
bottom: initial tunnel explorations
opposite: 13 weeks of activity!





PARTNER

Hotel Hope is a nonprofit, interfaith organization that provides housing to women and their children while guiding them to self-sufficiency and self-empowerment through intensive case management in a safe and loving atmosphere. Hotel Hope envisions the preservation of the family unit and the elimination of homelessness through systemic change. Their core values are Love, Compassion, and Empowerment. Residents live at Hotel Hope and work on an individual development plan for up to 45 days after which Hotel Hope and their partners ensure that the families have permanent housing.



OUTCOME

This new playscape provides children (often 10 years old or younger) and mothers a nurturing environment that encourages play, interaction, creates learning opportunities, and establishes pathways towards healing.

*above: studio team after final review & celebration
opposite: cleaning up concrete tunnel after removing formwork*

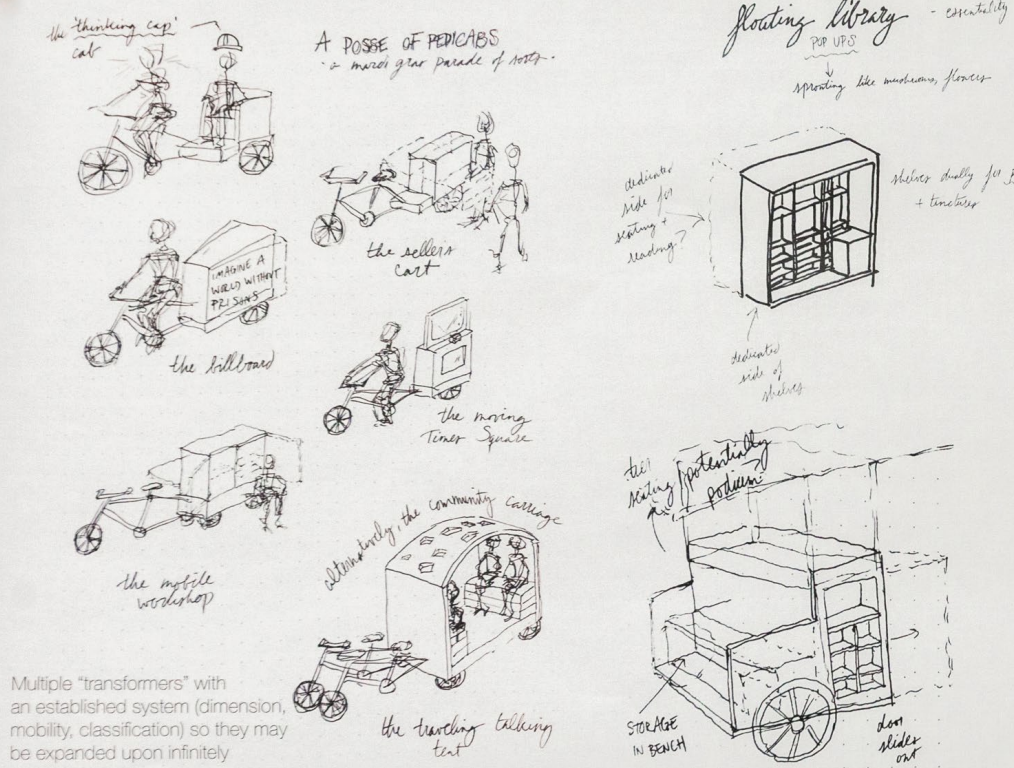
APOTHECARTS

MOBILE HEALTH AND WELLNESS
EDUCATIONAL HUBS

FALL 2020

Small Center's design/build team worked with the Prisoner's Apothecary to design and fabricate "Apothecarts," a series of mobile herbal medicine carts that make healing justice visible and accessible across the City of New Orleans. The carts are filled with plant medicine from the Prisoner's Apothecary, and are used to catalyze public conversations at the intersection of healthcare, social justice, public art, and prison abolition.

Of the 2.2 million incarcerated people in the United States, 80,000 to 100,000 are subjected to indefinite solitary confinement everyday. Prisoners are isolated for a minimum of twenty-three hours per day in a six-by-nine-foot (or smaller) concrete and steel cell. No judge or jury places an individual in solitary confinement; the decision is made solely by prison officials. The devastating, and often irreparable, effects of solitary confinement include, but are not limited to, alienation, dehumanization, despair, disorientation, paranoia, and suicidal ideation. Solitary confinement is torture and has been defined as such by the United Nations, the American Civil Liberties Union, and human rights watchdogs around the world.

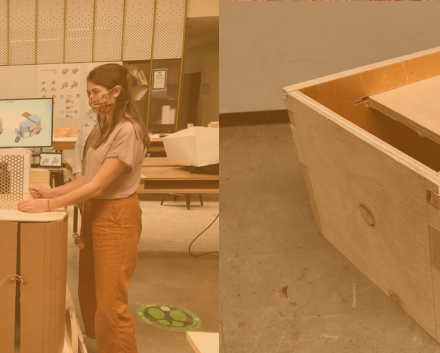
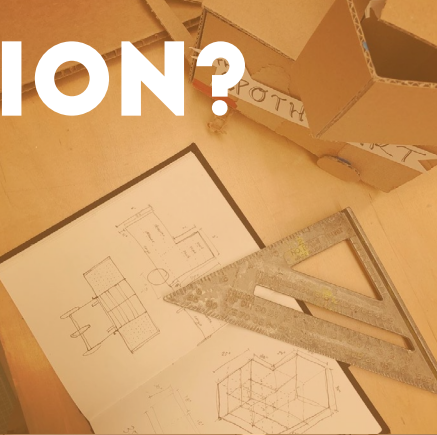


Multiple "transformers" with an established system (dimension, mobility, classification) so they may be expanded upon infinitely





HOW CAN DESIGN START A CONVERSATION AND SERVE AS TOOL FOR ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION?





PARTNER

Prisoner's Apothecary is a project of artist and activist Jackie Sumell. She has spent the last 17-years working with folks serving their sentences in long-term isolation, including a collaboration with Herman Wallace that positioned her at the forefront of the campaign to end solitary confinement in the United States. She is based in New Orleans where she maintains her commitment to those directly impacted by mass incarceration through both art and advocacy.



OUTCOME

In addition to the two prototype carts that will allow Prisoner's Apothecary to seed health and wellness across New Orleans, the design team worked on a schematic design proposal for the future expansion of the Prisoner's Apothecary into a cafe, building on Small Center's previous collaboration and design visioning work with Resurrection After Exoneration (RAE). Additional design work included illustrations and informational guides to be distributed from the apothecarts.

*above: studio team after final review & celebration
opposite: cleaning up concrete tunnel after removing formwork*

SUGAR ROOTS FARM EDUCATION PAVILION

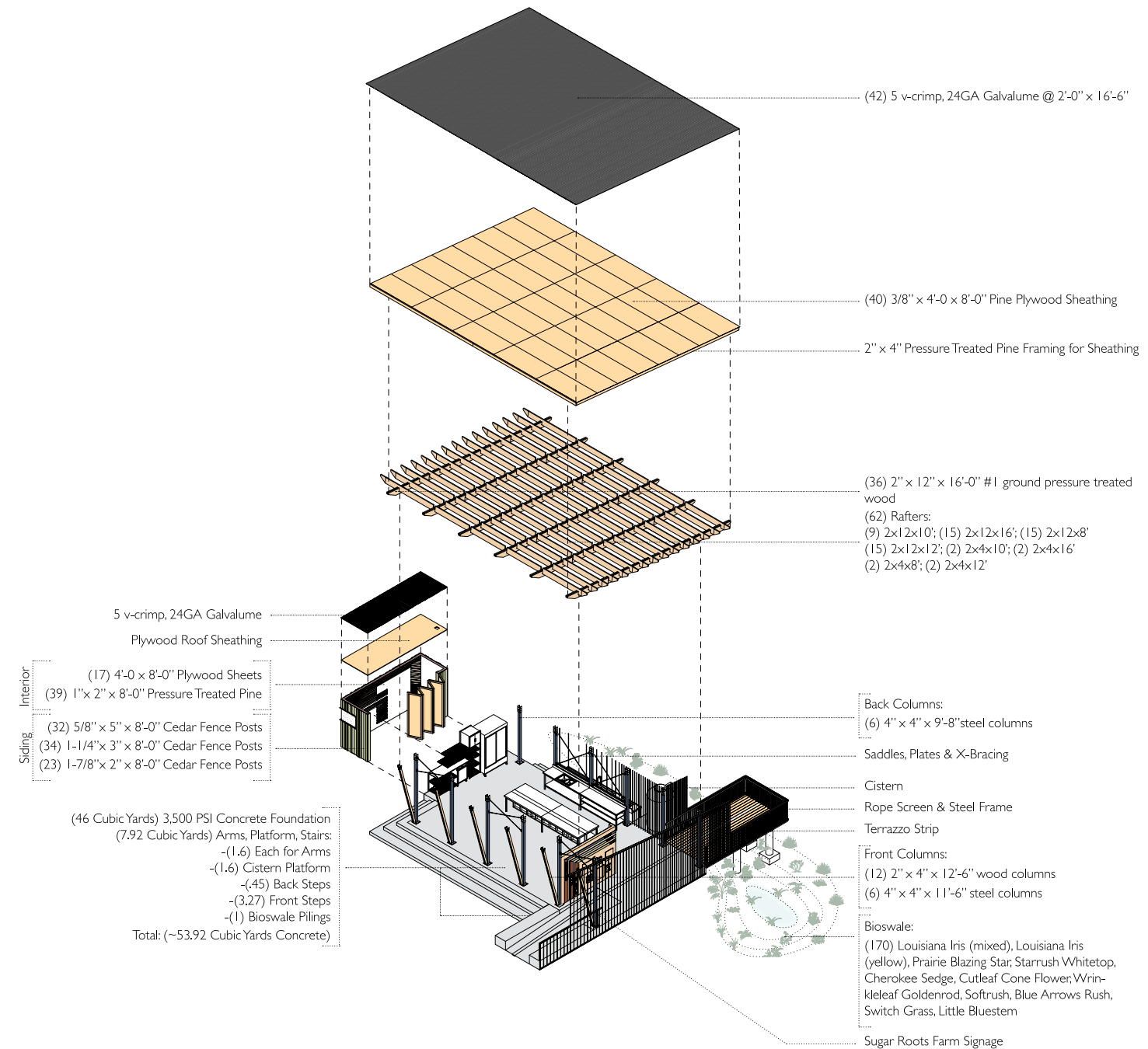
STORM WATER MANAGEMENT
EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE

FALL 2021

Located in Lower Algiers (8 miles down river from the French Quarter), the Sugar Roots Farm is a place where people of all ages in the New Orleans area can interact with farm animals, learn about natural cycles, and understand where food comes from. As the farm looks to grow its capacity, the staff reached out to the Small Center team to design and build an outdoor teaching space that allows for expanded educational events, reflected the mission and vision of the organization, and addressed the stormwater challenges on site.

The final scheme is an outdoor classroom that sits on a raised concrete slab with integrated drainage that anchors a large steel and wooden roof structure. The roof provides a large shaded area for classes and directs water to a cistern and bioswale that alleviate the localized flooding. The structure includes wash stations for the farm's produce and large counters for teaching canning and cooking classes. The space is bracketed by a storage area for kitchen equipment and supplies and an educational wall with fixed signage and a chalkboard for class activities. A rope screen provides along the street edge provides a surface for vines to grow on over time and leads visitors to an observation deck over the bioswale.







PARTNER

Sugar Roots Farm's mission is to build food sovereignty and community resilience in the gulf south with sustainable farming as the foundation. They aim to teach and practice intentional land stewardship to ensure that future generations will have the skills and resources to grow and eat nourishing, fresh foods. Their vision helped provide inspiration for the design and served as a filter for making decisions about materials, placement, and overall strategies that made ideas and values of full cycle farming visible throughout the site.



OUTCOME

The outdoor classroom at Sugar Roots Farm allows for flexible programming and highlights the various components and approaches of the farm. Rain water is collected and used to wash produce while the bioswale creates a year-round ecosystem of native plants and wildlife. Signage throughout the site encourages visitors to learn about the different animals, gardens, and farming practices. The strategy to site the pavilion near the entrance allowed the team to transform 2,500 sq. ft. of previously unusable land that flooded regularly into a defined welcome area for visitors and educational programs.

*above: studio team after final review & celebration
opposite: view of classroom space from existing barn*

RESURRECTION AFTER EXONERATION

DESIGN VISIONING
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FALL 2019

Building upon the legacy of founder John Thompson, RAE now seeks a renewal of its building and programming in order to continue important work in providing both services and education to exonerees. The following pages outline design and renovation ideas that will allow for continued success, expanded programming, and sustainable operations into the future.

In New Orleans, prosecutorial misconduct is systemic. The voices of the exonerated men and women who have been mistreated by the system is crucial in building education about the reform needed within the system.

Resurrection After Exoneration (RAE) serves exonerees, helping with reentry after the traumatic experience of wrongful incarceration, with services including medical, financial, legal, and educational help to break the cycle of dependence and poverty. RAE also provides education and outreach about how people become wrongfully convicted.





>> above: sectional axonometric
>> bottom: photos from site visits and engagement sessions



Engagement

Small Center and RAE convened a wide range of stakeholders including people and organizations who have held events in the building, allied organizations, existing tenants, RAE leadership, and formerly incarcerated and impacted people. The project team worked collaboratively to envision RAE's reopening, clarify its purpose and possible programming, cultivate a support network of allies and possible funders, and consider design possibilities that would both build upon the legacy of RAE and expand the range of services provided and events held in the building.

Through a series of meetings over 10 weeks, the team settled on design and renovation priorities that would best serve RAE and its constituents. Planned improvements make efficient use of funding, focusing on improvements that will make the building's operation sustainable and welcoming to an even bigger audience of exonerees, allied organizations, and others.

SITE

Resurrection After Exoneration is located at 1212 St. Bernard Avenue in New Orleans' 7th Ward. It has become known for its criminal justice reform events, provision of services to exonerees and their families, and its storefront presence. RAE's commercial storefront is occupied by Real Gentlemen Barbershop, which is itself owned and operated by an exoneree who also mentors neighborhood youth.

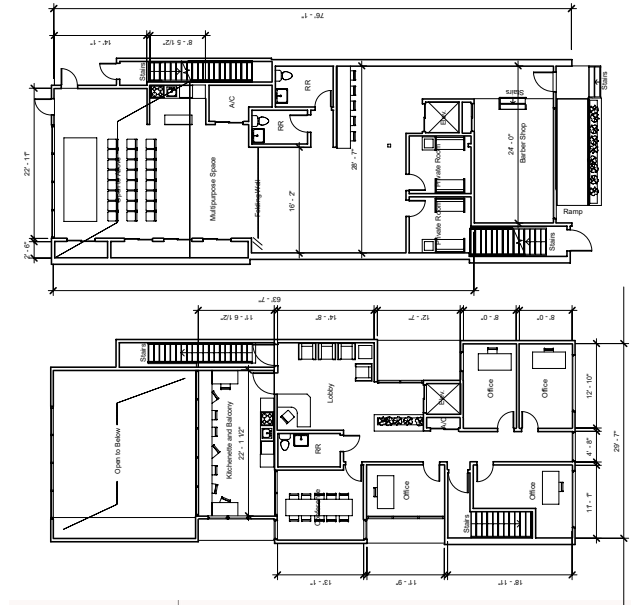
The RAE house is centrally located in New Orleans historic core, with significant foot traffic and good access to public transit. It is well-positioned to serve a constituency from across the city and metro area. Nearby partners include The Promise of Justice Initiative, Free-Dem Foundations, and Voice of the Experienced.



DESIGN CONCEPT

RAE will offer the neighborhood an active and open space where community can come together and be a part of healing and important reform work. This comprehensive renovation scheme opens up the event space with an expanded double-height area including balcony viewing for performances and a warming kitchen for catered events and food/bar service.

The first floor alters both the front and rear entrances for improved accessibility, and includes a warming kitchen and bar for events, along with new finishes throughout. A double-height space is opened above the stage to provide a spacious performance area and to accommodate sound and light equipment.



The second floor is reconfigured for offices, counseling, and service consultations while a new rear stair leading to parking and an elevator make the second floor accessible to all. Additional square footage is added to accommodate a lobby, conference room, and kitchenette, all shared by the associated office spaces. A new balcony overlooks the performance space below.

WHO WILL USE THE IMPROVED RAE SPACE?

Exonerees, formerly incarcerated and impacted people, social workers, social justice organizations, business trainers and incubated businesses, medical professionals, community organizers, and many more.

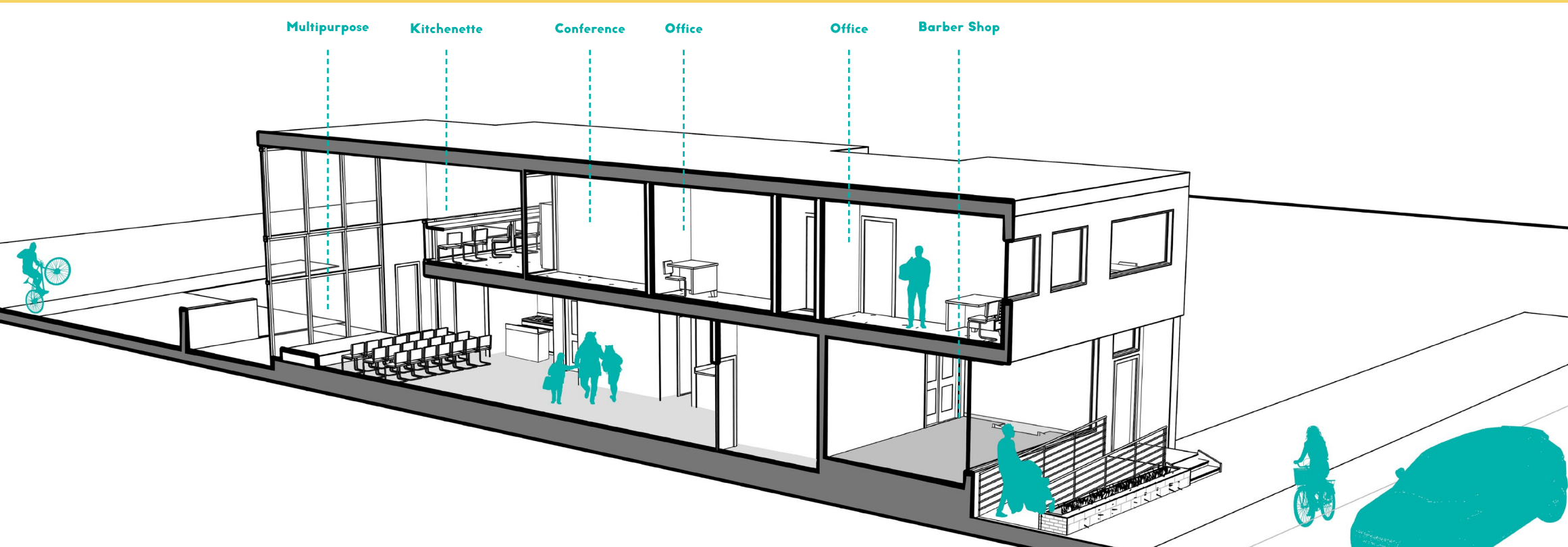
WHAT WILL HAPPEN HERE?

Night programming for youth, yoga, meditation, theater, art, dance, spoken word, expungement clinics, legal services, business training, resumé workshops, physical and mental health consultations, trauma-informed therapy, and more.



The landscaped exterior patio provides a dynamic backdrop for the interior gathering space, and will allow crowds to overflow outside. Green infrastructure elements will improve the site's drainage and reduce localized flooding. Finally, three dedicated parking spots and a handicap accessible space will be provided to ensure office workers enjoy dedicated parking and evening events can accommodate caterers, performers, and others.

- >> opposite: learning common rendering
- >> below: sectional axonometric
- >> bottom: photos from site visits and engagement sessions

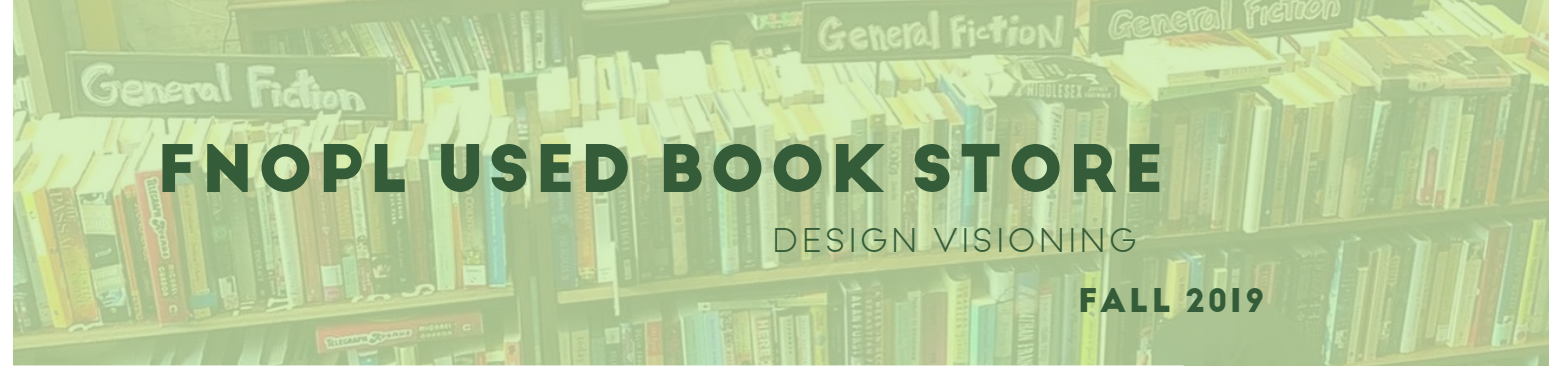
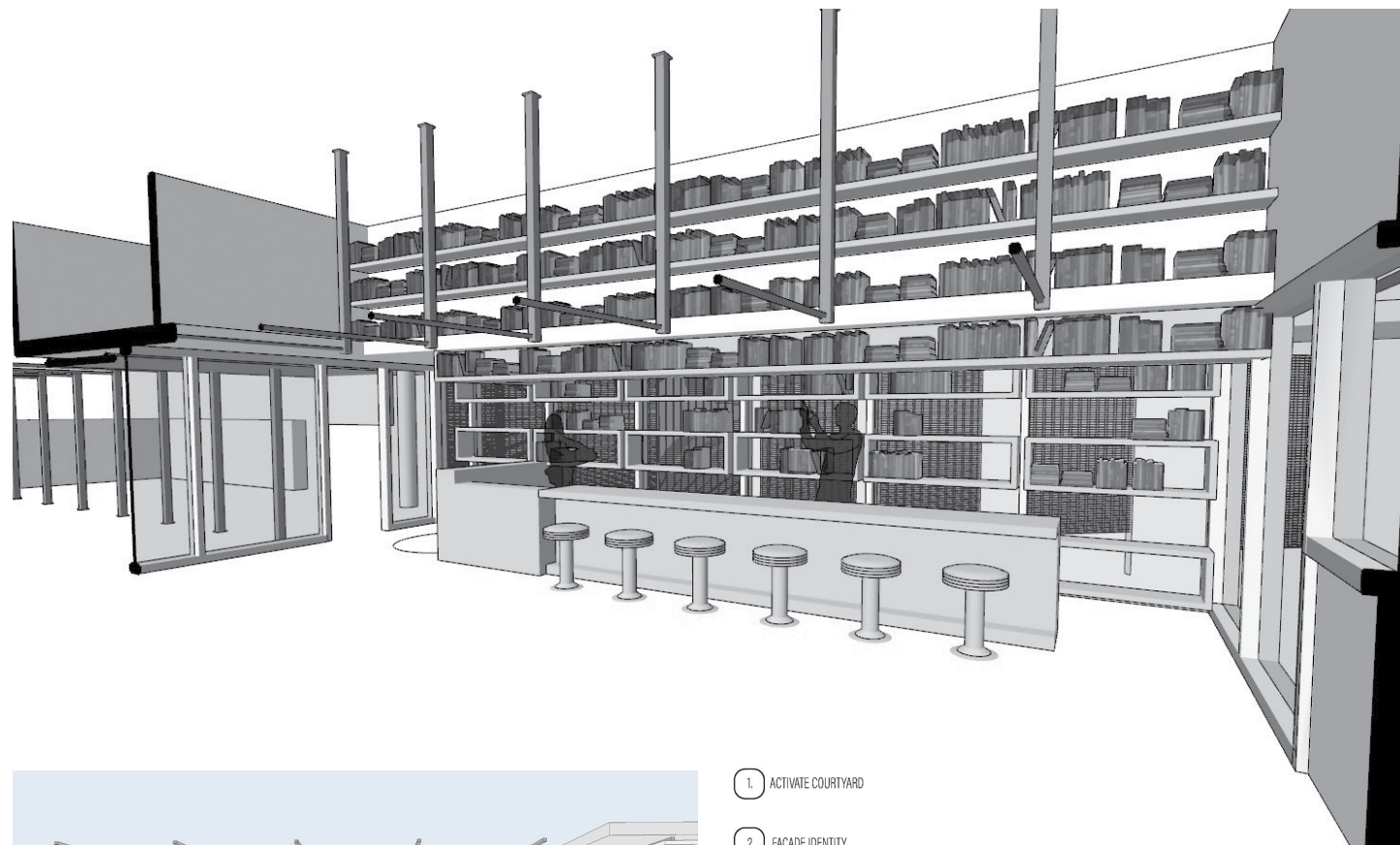




RESURRECTION
After
EXONERATION

The RAE house lot spans from St. Bernard Avenue to Columbus Street, providing an opportunity to improve parking and accessibility. While visitors can enter the property from St. Bernard, they will find dedicated off-street and handicapped parking on Columbus Street. The planned addition of green infrastructure and landscaping enhance this “rear” entryway, provide space for an outdoor garden memorial to RAE founder John Thompson, and create a backdrop for the main interior event space that will now look out onto a lush landscaped environment.





FNOPL USED BOOK STORE

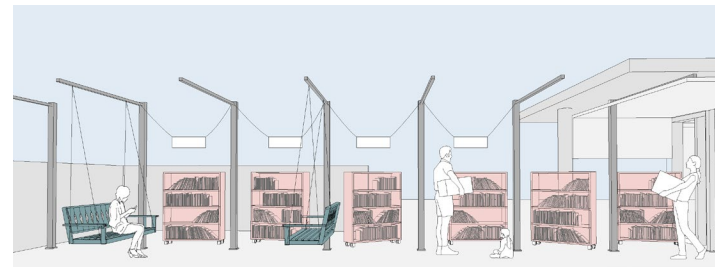
DESIGN VISIONING

FALL 2019

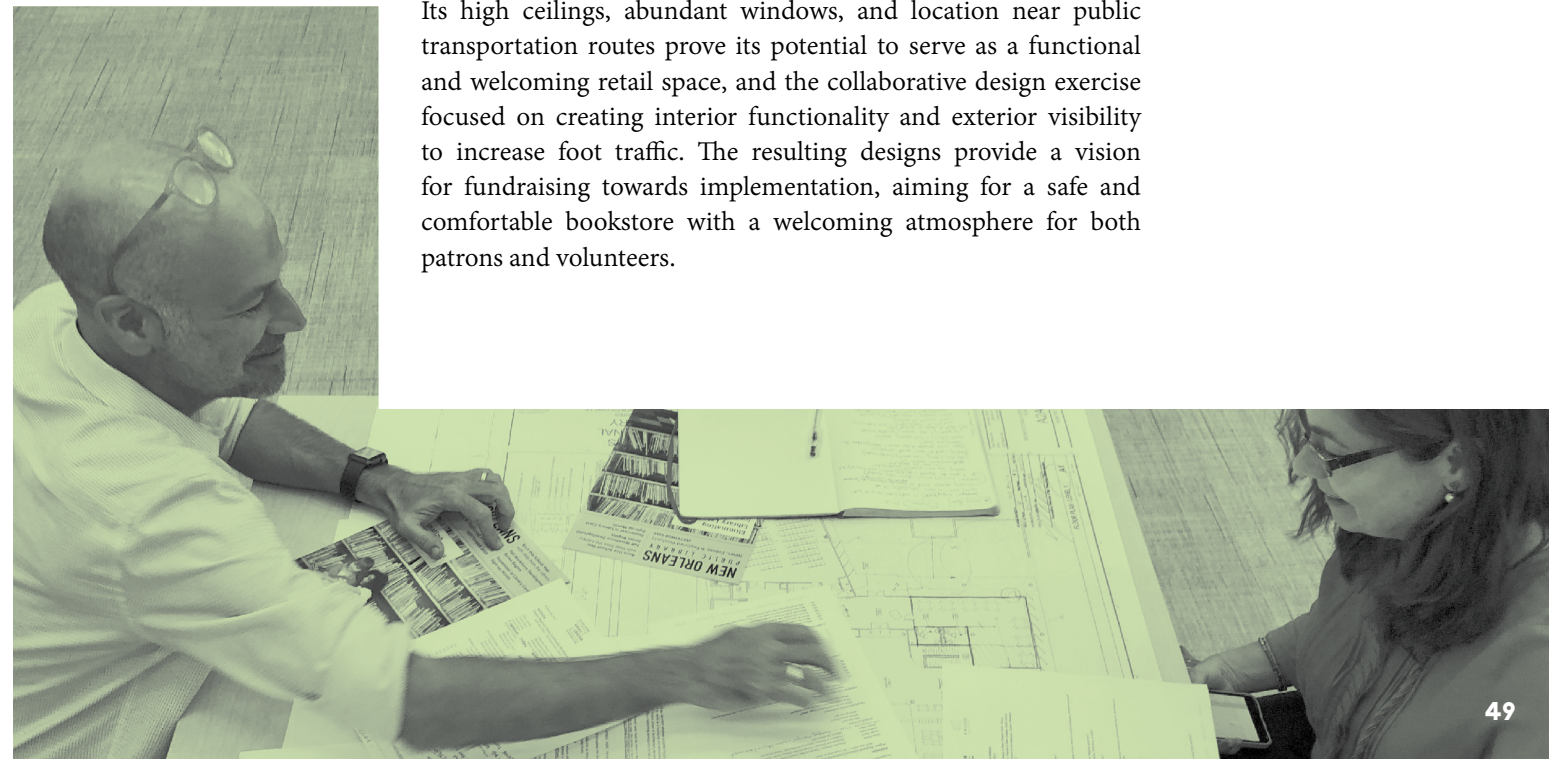
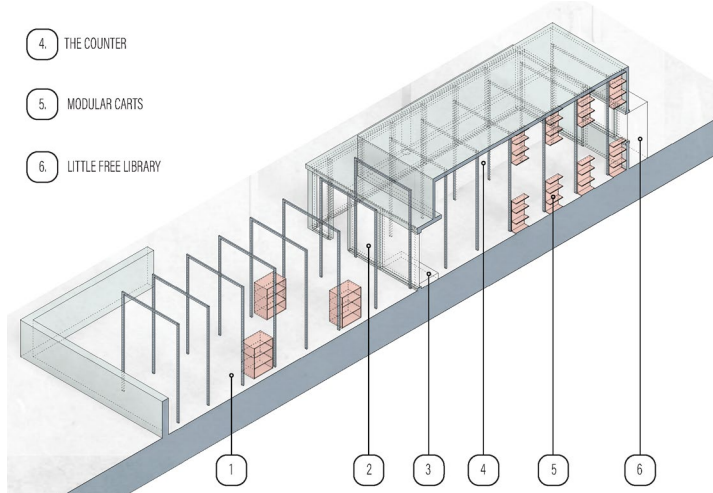
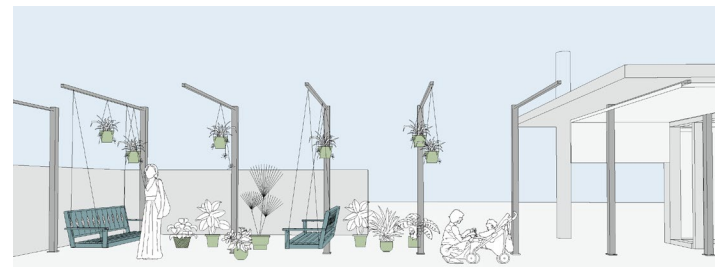
In the fall of 2019, Small Center worked with the Friends of New Orleans Public Library (FNOPL) to re-envision the thriving Book Sale at Algiers Regional Branch Library. The FNOPL working group, alongside Adjunct Professor Andrew Liles and students from the Tulane School of Architecture, created a design vision for the existing unfinished space.

>> opposite top: interior perspective
 >> opposite below: flexible courtyard
 >> below: partner feedback session

Located in the Algiers Regional Library, the retail space plays an important role in providing affordable books to the community. Its high ceilings, abundant windows, and location near public transportation routes prove its potential to serve as a functional and welcoming retail space, and the collaborative design exercise focused on creating interior functionality and exterior visibility to increase foot traffic. The resulting designs provide a vision for fundraising towards implementation, aiming for a safe and comfortable bookstore with a welcoming atmosphere for both patrons and volunteers.



- 1. ACTIVATE COURTYARD
- 2. FACADE IDENTITY
- 3. KIDS NOOK
- 4. THE COUNTER
- 5. MODULAR CARTS
- 6. LITTLE FREE LIBRARY



TERRYTOWN DESIGN GUIDELINES

URBAN PLANNING

2020-2021

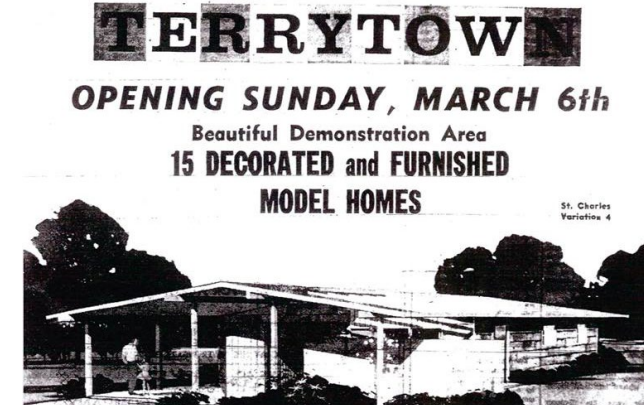
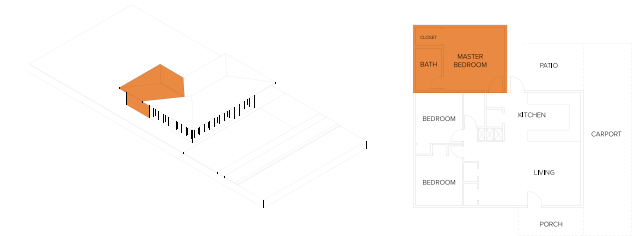
The Small Center project team collaborated with Jefferson Parish planning department, Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission, parish leaders and the Terrytown Civic Association to envision residential renovation design possibilities which enhance the architectural character of Terrytown and respond to current economic and environmental challenges.

We worked with partners to understand challenges facing homeowners, assessed the urban and architectural conditions of the neighborhood and create suggestions for home improvements paired with financial incentives. Surveys, public meetings and ongoing collaboration with realtors, residents and homebuilders allowed us to develop design guidelines that respond to the desires of homeowners, market forces and building logistics.

"WORKING WITH THE SMALL CENTER ALLOWED ME TO BECOME IMMERSSED IN THE PROJECTS AND PEOPLE THE DESIGNS WOULD BENEFIT. IT'S REWARDING TO BE A PART OF A REAL PROJECT. AS WELL AS WORK WITH ORGANIZATIONS WHO BELIEVE IN THE IDEA OF ARCHITECTURE AS A COLLABORATIVE PROCESS AND TRULY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE POPULATIONS IT IMPACTS."

- KATELIN MORGAN, GRADUATE STUDENT

>> right: historic Terrytown ad and massing strategy diagram
>> opposite: groundbreaking ceremony for prototype 1
>> bottom: ribbon ceremony for prototype 1



COVENANT HOUSE

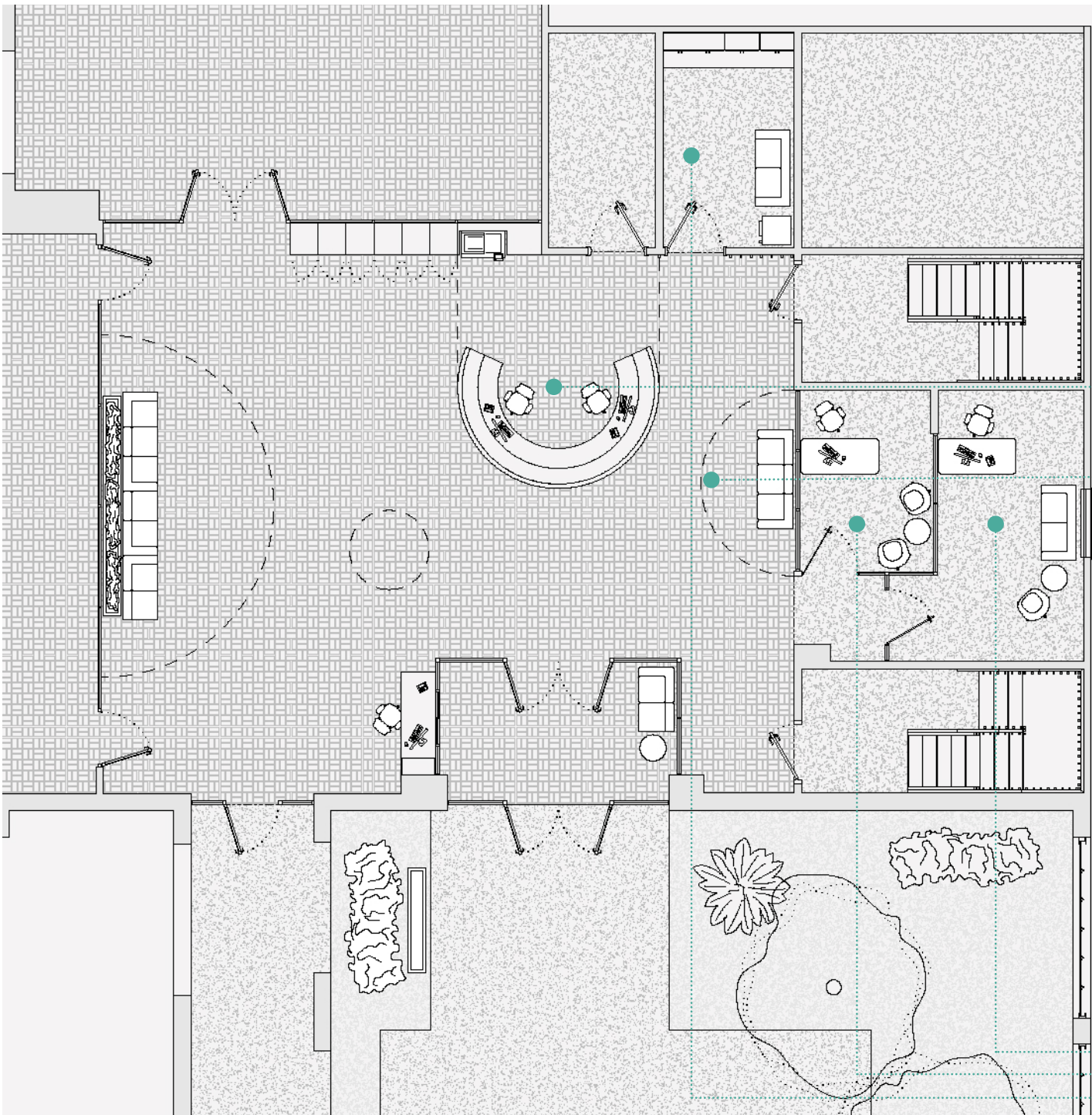
DESIGN VISIONING
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FALL 2021

Covenant House occupies a site on North Rampart street adjacent to the French Quarter in New Orleans. Despite its significance as a 'historic' avenue bordering the oldest part of the city, the area surrounding Covenant House has experienced some challenges regarding safety and security. The re-envisioning of the outer lobby and courtyard space forms an important component in positioning Covenant House within its context as a destination for young people in need. Creating a welcoming, supportive environment for new and existing residents in accordance with standards of trauma-informed care would allow Covenant House to offer stronger connections with its constituents and to remain a reliable anchor within the surrounding community.

In collaboration with leadership, staff, and residents, the design team identified existing challenges and established goals for the renovation of the Care Center lobby focused on community, safety and logistics.





OUTCOME

The 24/7 Care Center welcomes young people to meet their immediate needs. A generous ground floor lobby connects visitors to resident apartments on upper levels, a cafeteria, and Intake and Case Manager offices. Visitors enter the Care Center via a central courtyard on N Rampart Street. Newly envisioned, highly visible signage will direct them towards the Care Center Lobby entrance, ensuring an atmosphere of organized, protective care.



Design Criteria

- Public Engagement**
- Signage – direct visitors within courtyard
- Entrance – balance safety protocols with welcoming feel
- Front Desk – serve as first point of contact w/ residents & visitors
- Lounge Space – accommodate visitors & one-on-one casual meetings
- In-House Programming**
- Intake Office – provide space for arriving residents to meet w/ staff
- Case Manager Office – provide space for current residents to meet w/ staff
- Staff Room – provide space for staff to rest



MUNICIPAL PLANNING

DESIGN VISIONING
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2020-2021

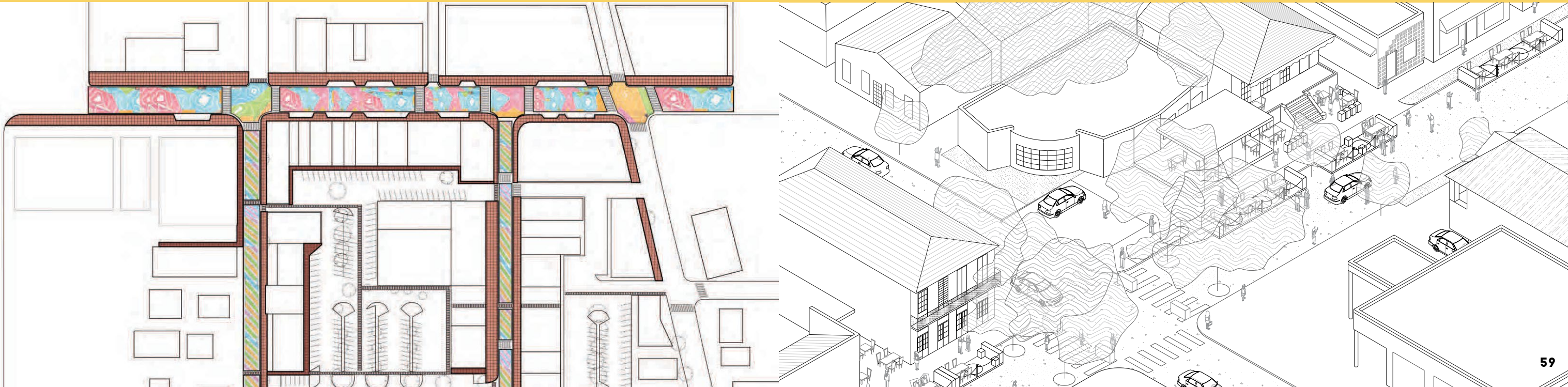
Small Center staff have long provided design assistance to towns and cities throughout the Gulf South and US, in partnership with the Mayors' Institute for City Design, American Planning Association, and others. In focusing on increased municipal planning and design needs prompted by an economic downturn and pandemic, staff led and participated in several recent projects focused on rethinking how the use of public space can increase quality of life while meeting emerging public health needs.

MAYORS' INSTITUTE / DESIGN TANK

The Mayors' Institute on City Design commissioned the University of Hawai'i Community Design Center to help Mayors and their cities respond to the pandemic. A team from Small Center was invited as one of only two nationally respected design centers to assess the needs of several Hawaiian communities, design changes to public spaces, and implement novel solutions to meet the challenges of COVID-19. (below left)

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS - REOPENING COMMITTEE

Focused on supporting businesses during the COVID-19 crisis, the Cantrell Administration created several reopening committees to address various challenges presented by the pandemic. With Dean Iñaki Alday, Small Center led a design team to explore safe means of allowing businesses to use public space along commercial corridors. Resulting design recommendations address both the immediate use of public space while under Covid-related municipally-mandated protocols, and the potential for longer-term changes that could improve public space and use over time. Designs focus on pedestrian and bike-friendly experiences, supporting and providing increased visibility for local businesses, and new opportunities for gathering and events. (below right)



LOOTERS

EXHIBIT + PUBLIC PROGRAMS

FALL 2019

In fall 2019, Small Center hosted Looters: Itinerant Images of West African Architecture. Organized by art historian Adrian Anagnost and artist Manol Gueorguiev, in collaboration with artist Abdi Farah, the exhibition explores European imagery of West African architecture and terrain during the Atlantic period (17th-19th centuries), a time of violent encounter. The exhibition includes projections of historical engravings and photographs forming an immersive installation, and sculptures and prints by contemporary artists responding to archival images. Looters is particularly relevant for audiences in Louisiana and the Gulf Coast, with its latent legacies of West African architecture.

As part of the exhibition, children and adults were invited to attend an embossing workshop inspired by wood carvings from Benin. The detail above is from a set of carved doors originally on the palace of the kings of Abomey, Benin and now on display at the Quai Branly Museum in Paris, France.



>> right: Adrian Anagnost (Assistant Professor, Newcomb Art Department) talks with a guest during the opening reception

>> below: detail of projections on sculptural elements



OPPORTUNITIES FOR FACULTY COLLABORATIONS

We're always interested in learning about what our peers across the city and region are up to! If you would like to talk about possibilities to collaborate with us on an exhibit or programming that builds on your research interests, you can reach our team at baronne@tulane.edu.

Exhibits that relate to the built environment are of interest to us as a design center, but we welcome opportunities to stretch our own thinking and find links across disciplines and topics!

WATER ISN'T A GAME

EXHIBIT + PUBLIC PROGRAMS

SPRING 2020

To kickoff the Spring 2020 semester, the Albert and Tina Small Center for Collaborative Design kickstarted a new programmatic initiative called DEPART-MENT aimed at blurring the lines between academia, community, and art & design. Building on existing partnerships to reach audiences previously out of our orbit, DEPART-MENT will create a nexus for new ideas, coalitions, and civic action on issues related to the built environment locally and beyond. This is another step towards a New Orleans where every resident feels empowered to shape the places they live, work and play.

Our first community partners in this new effort were the New Orleans Water Collaborative and Plan Dat, who worked together to curate “Water Isn’t A Game,” a technology and art laboratory that explored how people learn and engage with stormwater management using games, technology, design thinking, and art. Specific elements included a VR game set in Central City that taught users about native plants and let them digitally “plant” them to reduce storm flooding, informative maps that shed light on how the city’s existing water infrastructure functions and current projects underway, and opportunities for visitors to share their thoughts on what water infrastructure projects they would like to see in their communities.

>> opposite: opening night ; students in a design seminar created wayfinding and posed questions to guests (seen in the background)

>> below: Shanelle Reese (MArch '20) works on a map of Bayou St. John ; students, faculty, and community members enjoy the opening reception





In collaboration with the work of the Water Collaborative and PlantDat, Small Center hosted 2 seminar courses that engaged with the topic of water at various scales. Students



Living With Hurricanes

“We’re tackling some big questions that have to do with how we represent events like Hurricane Katrina and the aftermath of the storm and levee failures, how we process loss and trauma as a city and a region, and how museums can play a role in shaping environmental stewardship and community resilience. By sharing space within DEPART-MENT with people and organizations — ranging from artists to environmental nonprofits to urban planners — who are engaging these same questions every day, we’re able to collapse the distance between the academic environment where we research and design and the worlds that we seek to engage.”
— Aron Chang, Adjunct Faculty at Tulane School of Architecture.



Design in the Public’s Interest

Students in this seminar curated *Waterlogged: Portraits of a Past and Future New Orleans*, a mixed media component that featured portraits by faculty lead Jose Cotto and a series of sensory based installations produced by students. Visitors were encouraged to feel the textures of Bayou St. John, share personal stories about living with water, and collectively imagine a future where water was an asset to the city’s residents.

>> opposite above: an individual interacts with the Plan Dat virtual reality exhibit.

>> opposite below: Water Collaborative Executive Director, Jessica Dandridge (center), engages with guests.

>> opposite: portraits from a series titled "waterlogged" that asked guests to reflect on their experiences with water.
>> below: visitors interact with student installations of Bayou St. John and a map of desired green/blue infrastructure



THE ATMOSP(HERE) OF SPACE

EXHIBIT + PUBLIC PROGRAMS

FALL 2021

The Atmosp(HERE) of Space is a mixed media exploration of the built environment that centers and emerges from the lived experiences of Central City residents. Over the course of exhibition, visitors were able to engage with photographs of the present-day landscape and traditions, portraits and stories of neighborhood residents + leaders, archival imagery from personal and public collections, poetry and visuals from neighborhood artists, tours of historic landmarks and events, and more. All of which will serve as departure points for conversations about the built environment and illuminate a vocabulary of space through which new stories and visions can emerge to allow for deeper dialogue about how our environments impact our perceptions and perspectives, asking us to reconsider what architecture is, how we engage it, and how our representation of it impacts our view of the worlds outside and within.

Additional programming and events surrounding the exhibit included workshops, panel discussions, making events, and more!

>> opposite: installations highlighting the presence of spiritual institutions in Central City.

>> below: detail of an alter build by featured poet Sharita A. Sims.





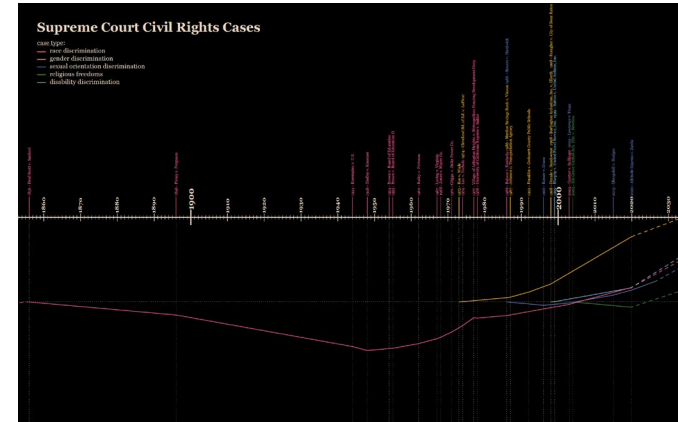
PUBLIC INTEREST DESIGN SUMMER FELLOWSHIP

For nearly 10 years, the Small Center has hosted a group of Public Interest Design Fellows during the summer months. Each year is unique and students work on a variety of projects, from design visioning work, to smaller builds, to graphic advocacy and research work with community partners. We use moments throughout the summer to engage in collective learning and discussions about public interest design work, the role of designers in the creation of a more just and equitable world, and what it'll mean for our students to continue this work beyond their years at Tulane's School of Architecture. Fellows also learn about Small Center's past work and the city of New Orleans through a number of trips to past projects — learning about materials, detailing, and more along the way.



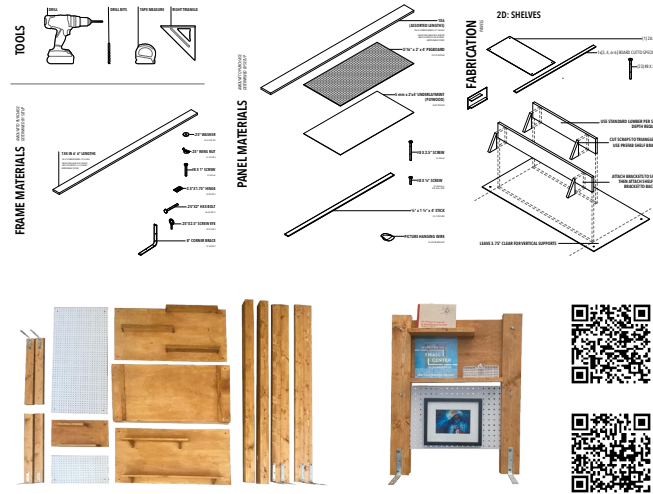
>> above: sketches of proposed Grow Dat Youth Farm campus expansion
 >> right: concept for a timeline installation at the site of Homer Plessy's arrest

“ We interrogated paradigms about who has decision-making power in the design process, and concepts of ‘bottom lines’.



ARTIST DISPLAY KIT

Working with Arts New Orleans, summer fellows developed a prototype for an artist display kit that would help new market vendors display their work in a professional and accessible way. The kit uses common materials found at big box stores, requires minimal tools, and costs about \$225 to make.



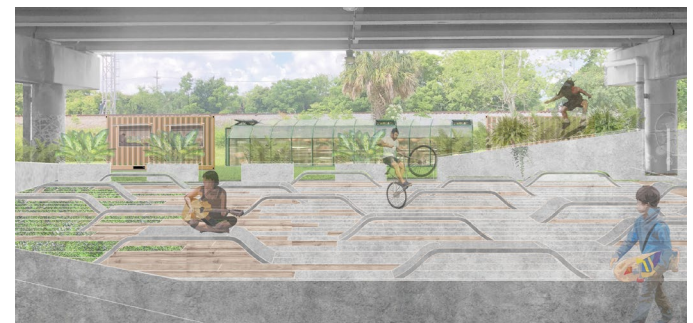
MOBILE TEACHING LAB

Fellows worked with Operation Restoration to research and develop schematic designs for three vehicle types that would adequately support classes of up to 10 students. The mobile lab would allow OR to bring their training program to communities that lack the necessary infrastructure for training.



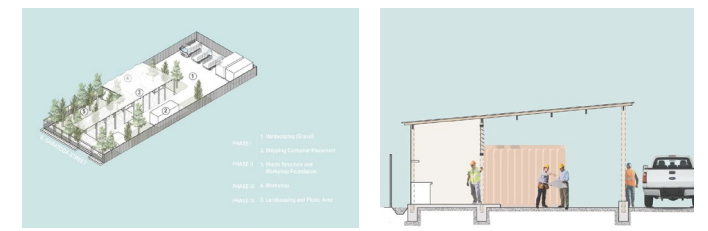
PARISITE DIY SKATE PARK

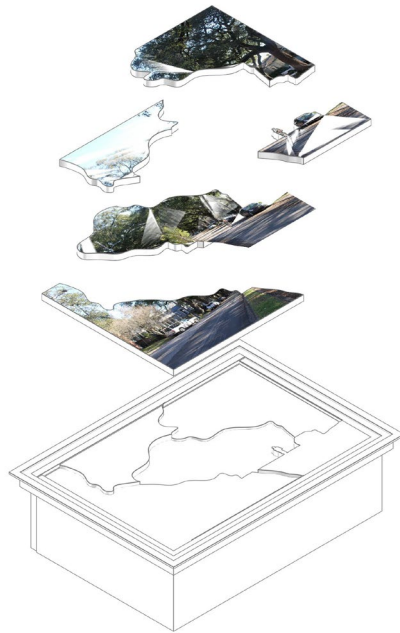
Fellows worked with the Parisite DIY team to think through the phase of expansion which prioritizes spaces for non-skaters via music, event, and culinary spaces. Building off of previous phases of design, the new space will consider stormwater management and site/skate accessibility as well.



JERICHO ROAD HOME BASE

The Jericho Project lot at 2717 S. Saratoga St. was once a community apple orchard, but has become overgrown and uninhabited due to external factors like COVID-19. Fellows developed a scheme for the site that consists of a staging area, storage, and reintroduction of a communal gathering space.





A PANDEMIC REFLECTION OF SPACE DURING COVID-19

Katlyn Falter | Design in Public Interest Seminar | Spring 2020

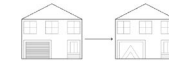
The global pandemic that Covid-19 is, has affected the way in which people operate in their spaces. These collage and drawing proposals are reflections of space in 2020 during coronavirus isolation. The process of this project begins with a quote about space, or design during this pandemic and responds with an adaptation or new solution. The world in which we knew it before has changed the way people will operate in their spaces for years to come, and designers will need to adapt accordingly.

GARAGE LIVING:

How can you adapt your garage in a world of pandemic isolation?

"The doctor I am a pulmonary and critical care specialist treating COVID-19. 3/14/2020 was a big day. 3/14/2020 is the day I voluntarily became homeless to protect my family should I become infected and bring the virus home. I spent 1 night in my car then 4 nights in the hospital call room. On day 3 my wife @coronavirus19 came up with the idea for me to live in a tent in our garage. So here is, the home for the week... 10 weeks or months. We can help me and other healthcare workers become un-bored by STAYING HOME JUST DO IT. Nobody is too cool to stop home. Nobody is too healthy to get sick. STAY HOME and help stop the spread of the virus. Cleanliness, doctor's masks, and other health care workers are working hard to save YOUR LIFE. The least you could do is stop home so that we, you, can go home to our loved ones one day!"

-Dr. Timmy Chang, Los Angeles, California



Garage Collage

CONTAMINATION THRESHOLD:

What will become of entryway thresholds in a world of infectious threats?

New builds will see more distinguishable boundaries between exterior and interior settings, for example, Melissa Turner, director of residential design for Plus Living Architecture, the residential studio of Perkins and Will.

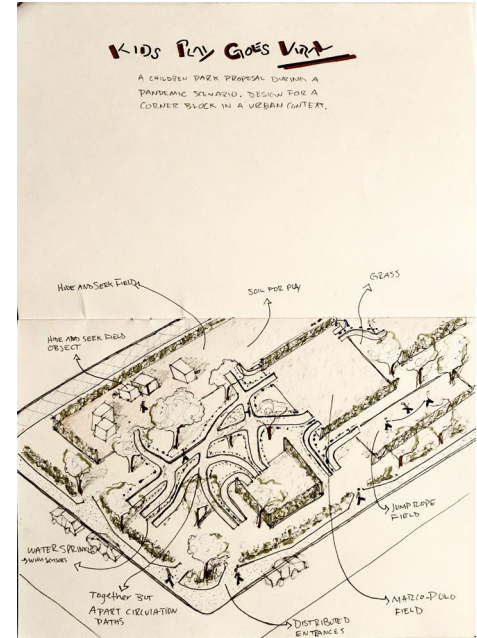
"The design will dictate how we see the space to deposit our outside lives both psychologically and physically to prevent 'contamination' of our inner spaces," says Turner, who is based in San Francisco.

Not only will places like classrooms and entryways become designated spaces to see down doors or decontaminate, but on a psychological level, they'll be areas where we know better stress before settling into our long spaces, she explains.



Entrance Threshold Collage

Katlyn Falter | Design in Public Interest Seminar | Spring 2020 | Final Project: A Pandemic Reflection on Space during Covid-19



- >> opposite: sensory map of Lafitte Greenway
- >> above: design proposals exploring ideas for public space in a COVID climate
- >> below: reimagining existing infrastructure for public use

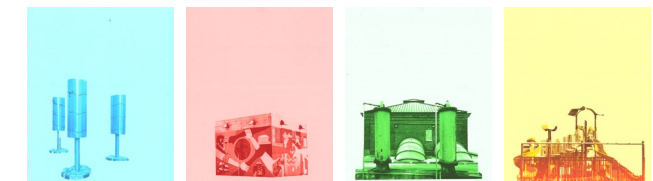
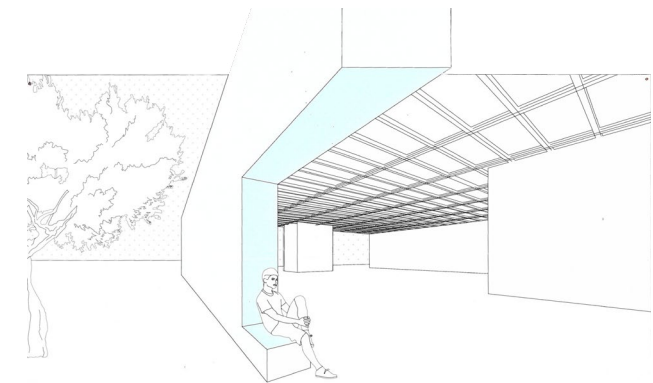
DESIGN IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

PUBLIC SPACE IN NEW ORLEANS // SEMINAR

SPRING SEMESTERS

"I AM THE TRANSLATOR BETWEEN PEOPLE AND BUILT FORM. AND THROUGH THIS SEMINAR I LEARNED TO ALLOW MYSELF TO FALL INTO COMMUNITIES AND LIVE THEIR EXPERIENCES IN ORDER TO BEST ADDRESS THEIR NEEDS."

- KYRA NASSER, STUDENT



This seminar explores the topics of space and place, our relationships to both, how they inform our lives, and how we can better think about and act on them as individuals interested in pathways that will affect the built environment. We look at how public space in New Orleans has evolved throughout the city's history, digging into the strata of policies, events, and cultural practices that have aided or stunted the development and use of public space. We examine the role of public space in New Orleans today and how it's being leveraged as an asset for cultural production and resistance for some, and as a tool that perpetuates systems of inequity and oppression. And lastly, we envision what public space in New Orleans can look like moving forward given the findings and learnings that emerge from our research, discussions, and community engagement opportunities. This is a moment for us to consider the physical characteristics of our future public spaces and to sit with larger questions about where it exists, who owns it, who develops it, and what policy and cultural changes are needed to get us there.

"As PID continues to establish itself as a distinct and important discipline in the public realm and the wider design community, the "Design in the Public Interest" seminar is a critical exploration of various aspects of the relationship of design and the public that prompts students to position themselves within the realm of conscious design. The seminar provides an opportunity for students to fundamentally understand why and how we participate in design with social benefit. The class facilitates valuable open discourse and situates that discourse in the context of both the classroom and the public spaces of New Orleans balancing the theories and realities of socio-spatial design." — Ming Lin, Student

COVID-19 MEMORIAL

Michael Heitz
Spring 2020

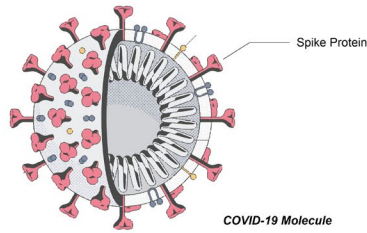
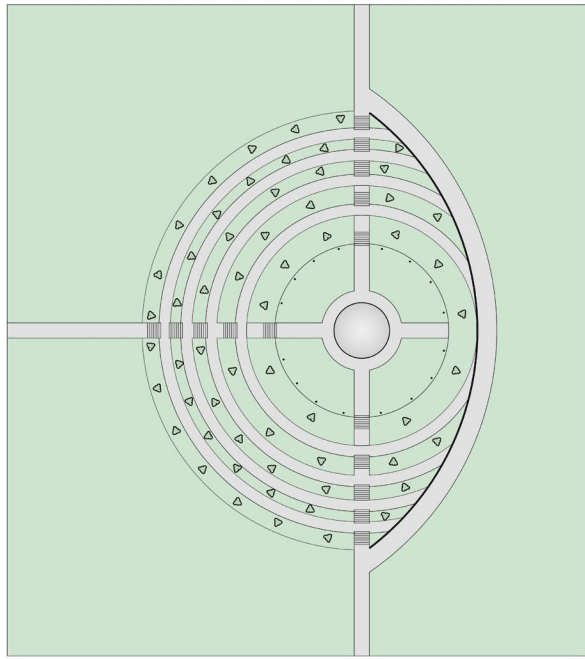
This Intervention proposal serves as a memorial to the COVID-19 outbreak. We all are affected by this time whether it be financially, mentally, or physically. This memorial is meant to encourage people to express their experiences and emotions through public art. It can be used as a public park, an opportunity for art installation and a hierarchical landmark in any given park.

I intend this interactive memorial to be installed in Audobon Park, the location I spent a lot of time in during this lock down in order to get away from my house and to see other people enjoying nature from a distance.

The form is inspired by the COVID-19 molecule and its several proteins that protrude out of the center sphere. Those proteins were translated into a series of flower planters scattered around the site. The overall form resembles the top of a sphere or the top of the COVID molecule as if it were coming out of the ground. The sphere is then cut off on the right side of the plan drawing by a curved wall that spans 10 feet high in the middle. Stairs on either side and down the middle of the memorial allow access to the top, where there is another half sphere that represents the world and how we have all been affected by this.

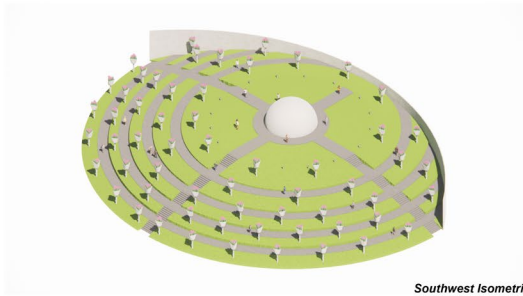
The site is designed to be interactive for people passing by to express their experiences in words, an illustration, or any way they see fit. The medium to illustrate could also be whichever the user decides (spray paint, chalk, paint, etc.). These illustrations are primarily meant for the back wall of the site. It will be built essentially as a blank concrete canvas for anyone to express. The center of the pedestal where the half sphere is, is also open for manipulation. This sphere as stated before represents the world and how this pandemic has affected us all. This sphere will also be open for manipulation. The end collaborative result may not be aesthetically coherent, but it perhaps will be representative of the ugliness that this disease has caused in the world.

This design intends to be bold and memorable, just as this time period will be on all of us for the years to come.

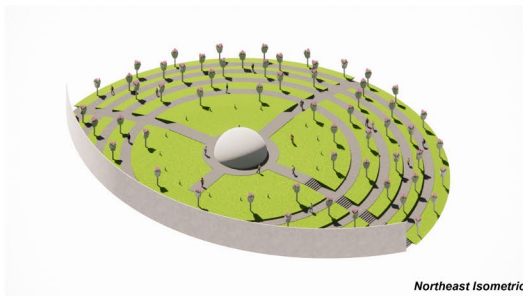


COVID-19 Molecule

Half-sphere design



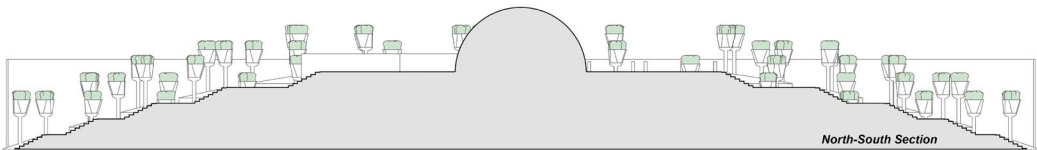
Southwest Isometric



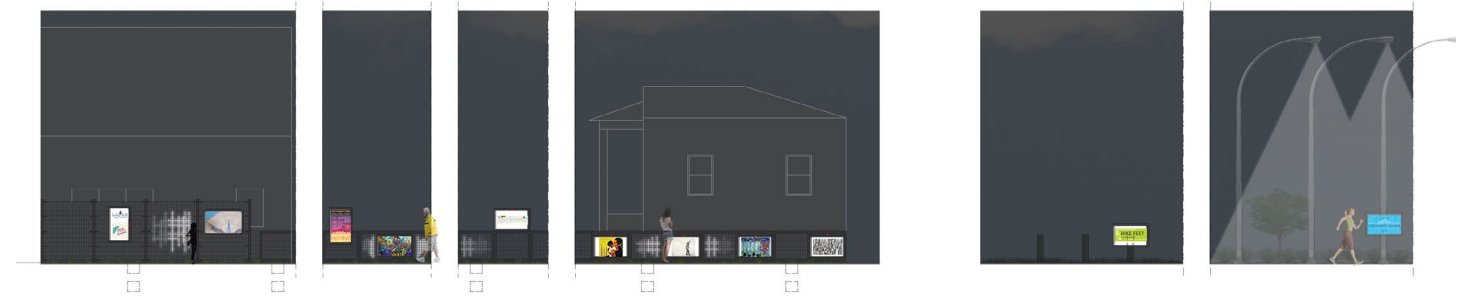
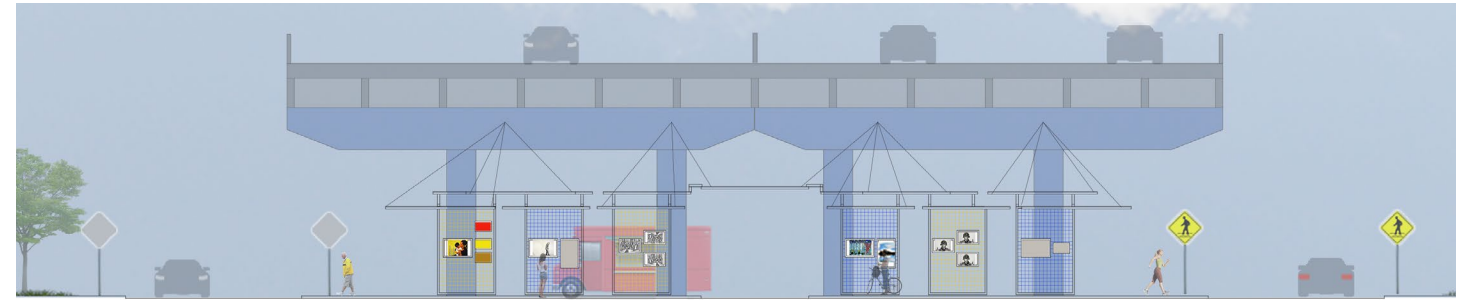
Northeast Isometric



Spike Protein Planters



North-South Section



>> opposite: COVID-19 Memorial Proposal

>> above: proposals for placemaking and public art along the Mississippi River levee



In 2019, Parosite Skatepark was selected as a Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence Silver Medalist!

2019 - 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

200+ STUDENTS ENGAGED

Courses led by our Small Center team include:

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Design Build Studio | Intersections of Design and Health |
| 3rd Year Core Studio | Design in the Public Interest |
| 2nd Year Core Studio | Design & Society |
| Design and Social Change | Public Spaces & Scrutiny |

AWARDS

Provost's Award for Excellence in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion 2021
Design Educates Award 2021, Bronze Award in Responsive Design, Awarded in Germany
AIA Louisiana 2021 Design Awards, Honor Award Small Projects: Groundwork Earth Lab
AIA New Orleans 2021, Honor Award in Small Projects, Gander Point
AIA New Orleans 2020 Design Awards, Honorable Mention Architecture: Groundwork Earth Lab
AIA New Orleans 2020 Design Awards, USGBC Award for Excellence in Sustainability: Groundwork Earth Lab (arch of record, not project lead)
AIA Gulf States Design Awards 2019, Award of Merit Big Class Writers' Room
AIA Gulf States Design Awards 2019, Award of Merit Ozanam Inn Day Space
Rudy Bruner Award, Silver Medalist, Parisite Skatepark, 2019
ACSA Collaborative Practice Award, 2019, Small Center for Collaborative Design
ACSA/AIA Practice and Leadership Award, Emilie Taylor Welty
Malcolm Heard Award for Excellence and Teaching
Studio In The Woods-Faculty Retreat- Ann Yoachim
Studio In The Woods-Relief Residency- Jose Cotto

RESEARCH + PRESENTATIONS

// ACSA Intersections Conference, Fall 2021. Public Space and Scrutiny presentation, E. Taylor
// A. Yoachim, E. Taylor, N. Jenisch Beyond Abstraction: An Architectural Pedagogy of Pragmatism and Potentials in a Postdiluvian City, Journal of Architectural Education: Water, Vol 74 2020 Issue 1
// A Yoachim, E Taylor, A. Hogans .Design-Build studio outcomes; researching potential vs practice.
ACSA/EEAE Teaching For Practice: Practice for Teaching Proceedings
// E Taylor, N Jenisch, A Yoachim Collaborative Design: Supporting Lasting Social Change. (Forthcoming)
ACSA/AIA Intersections: Bottom Up Social Change Proceedings
// UIA World Congress of Architects, July 18-22 2021
Run, Crawl, Fight: Urban Abandonment or Ramparts in the Face of Climate Change, Nick Jenisch
// ACSA Administrators Conference, New Orleans
Considering Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Prospects for Future Administrators
// AIA Arkansas State Convention, Speaker
// WIA Design Practice Exchange 2019/2020/2021 - NOLA/NYC, NOLA/Austin, NOLA/Miami
// Design Pedagogy in Times of Change
Webinar Panelist: Rethinking Education For A More Equitable World
// AIA/ACSA Intersections Symposium, Design For Climate Action
Speaker: Scaffold: Engaged Design As Climate Action
// TechLearn Conference, New Orleans, LA
Speaker: Collaborative Design Practice: Building Coalitions and Capacity Through Partnership
// Building Better Futures: Innovations in Equitable Development
A Focus on Curriculum
// ACSA Fall Meeting, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA
Speaker: Collaborative Design Practice as Pedagogy
// AIA Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV
Panelist: Conversations Between Cities: From Recovery to Resilience
// AIA Miami: On Climate: Advocacy, Equity and Adaptation
Speaker: Scaffold: Design research and collaboration in a shifting landscape-
// Environmental Design and Research Association, Just Environments, 2021
Panel: A Collaborative Rethinking of the Affordable Housing Model in a Rapidly Gentrifying City
Poster Presentation: Apothecarts; Mobilizing Prison Abolition
Abstract + Paper Session: Cultural Memory, The Atmosp(HERE) of Space
// ACSA National Conference, Expanding the View, 2021
Conference Session: Federal and State Advocacy
Conference Session: Agency in Practice; Engage-Design-Build

SMALL CENTER ENDOWMENT

Thanks to the generous support of Albert H. Small, Jr. and his wife, Tina, in 2017 we changed our name from Tulane City Center to the Albert and Tina Small Center for Collaborative Design at Tulane School of Architecture. This ongoing support ensures the sustainability of the center.

ESKEW+DUMEZ+RIPPLE ENDOWMENT

Eskew+Dumez+Ripple has been a long standing supporter of the Small Center. The firm recently increased its financial commitment, providing an endowment that will assist in funding programming.

PUBLIC INTEREST DESIGN FELLOWS

Our Public Interest Design Summer Fellowship program would not be possible without funding from architecture firms. From 2019-2021, Morris Adjmi & Associates, Eskew+Dumez+Ripple, William and Jane Siezler supported fellows.

TRAPOLIN-PEER ARCHITECTS

A directed gift from Trapolin-Peer Architects ensures DEPART-MENT and connected public programming can continue.

WAVESTARTER

In Spring 2021 and 2022 we held WaveStarter campaigns to raise funds for our design + build projects. From 100+ donors, we've been able to raise more than \$35,000.



ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Pledged unconditional gifts allow the Center the flexibility to address unmet financial needs and plan for the future. We thank Brad Hastings and JP Hymel for their ongoing support.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTERS

A special thanks to those that have offered their insights on the Small Center Advisory Committee: David Demsey, Reb Haizlip, JP Hymel, Melissa Lee, Doug Meffert, Jenny Renn Key, Me'Osha Solsberry, Albert Small, Jr., John Williams, and Marcel Wisznia.

The Small Center also thanks the Tulane School of Architecture's Advisory Board's Empowering Communities Through Architecture Committee and the Young Alumni Council for their ongoing support.

HOW CAN YOU JOIN OUR COMMUNITY OF SUPPORTERS?

Each year, Small Center depends on generous friends and supporters like you to realize our mission: to bring together creative makers and doers to advance community-driven ideas through collaboration, design education, and scrappy problem-solving.

Your gift supports our various programs — design + build studios that help our community partners grow into their greatness, our Public Interest Design Fellowship which pushes our students to become more thoughtful and engaged designers, and the exhibitions and public programs that allow us to ask and explore pressing questions our communities face. To make a fully tax-deductible donation today, kindly donate online at small.tulane.edu. You'll find a "donate" button on the top right corner of our site!

Thank you for your generosity!

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA! @SMALLCENTER.TULANE

PROJECT CREDITS

Hotel Hope

Project Partner

Hotel Hope (The mothers and children who reside at Hotel Hope, Sr. Mary Lou Specha, Sr. Julie Marsh, Maggie Connick, Janice Landry May, Dondra Hills, Catherine Kinabrew)

Students

Luna Eaton, Kalyn Faller, Caroline Garfield, Yara Hantash, Anabelle Kleinberg, Mengning (Xiaolan) Lan, Jason Malat, Chewys Parra Paulino, Shanelle Reese, Ryan Shaaban, Jakob Surber, Brandon Surtain

Project Lead // Project Manager

Emilie Taylor Welty // Jose Cotto

Support

Butterfield concrete color
CTS Cement Manufacturing Corporation
Travis Boost, Grow Dat Youth Farm

Apothecarts

Project Partner

Solitary Gardens (jackie summell), Resurrection after Exoneration (Laverne Thompson), Samara School of Community Herbalism (Jen Stovall)

Students

Elizabeth Bateman, Jeremy Baudy, Anna Deeg, Claire Divito, Rebecca Dunn, Adrian Evans, Danelle Martin, Danielle Scheeringa, Bhumika Shirole, Zach Speroni, James Rennert, Dana Ridenour

Project Lead // Project Manager

Emilie Taylor Welty // Nick Jenisch

Support

Johnson Controls, Inc.
Tulane's CELT Program
Skatelite
Dash Lumber
Joly's Metalworks
Kirkfield's Powdercoating
Ultropolis Trailers

Sugar Roots Farm

Project Partner

Sugar Roots Farm (Brooke Bullock, Kendall Winingder, Ashley Locklear, Anika Wasserman, Emily Hiatt, Cloud Henderson, Valeria Emmett)

Students

Merrie Afseth, Brianna Baldwin, Le'Bryant Bell, Zach Braaten, Kelsie Donovan, Kareem Elsandouby, Ellen Feringa, Nick George, Ella Jacobs, Sam Lindley, Connor Little, Mandii Malhotra, Valentina Mancera, Johnathan Michka, Sofia Perrotta Mensi, Malina Pickard, James Poche, Natalie Rendleman, Katie Schultz, Karan Sharma, Bruno Soria, Giuliana Vaccarino Gearty, Yao Zhang

Project Lead // Project Manager

Emilie Taylor Welty // Jose Cotto

Support

Wavestarter Contributors!
Kostmayer Construction, LLC
AJ Guillot
Tulane's CELT program
Pam Broom (Farmacia)
Aron Chang
Gardener's Outpost
Eric Lynn (Workhaus)
Johann Palacios, PE (Pace Group, LLC)
Jenny Snape, PE (Batture, LLC)

Resurrection After Exoneration

Project Partner

Resurrection After Exoneration & Friends Of Rae (Laverne Thompson, Andrea Armstrong, Jerome Morgan, Jackie Summell, Jane Murdock, Denise Strong, Emily Maw), Promise Of Justice Initiative (Mercedes Montagnes, Calvin Duncan, Nishi Kumar), Reentry Mediation Institute Of Louisiana (Sister Allison Mccrary), Voice Of The Experienced (Norris Henderson, Anna Sacks), The First 72+ (Kelly Orians)

Student Team

Hannah Bannister

Project Lead // Project Manager

Nick Jenisch // Rashidah Williams

Support

Johnson Controls, Inc.
Palmisano Construction
Pierre Stouse

PROJECT CREDITS

Friends of New Orleans Public Library

Project Partner

Rheneisha Robertson (Executive Director), Brian Gorman, Wyatt Hines, Haley Khoury, Greg Fortenberry, Jane Helire, Sheri Combs, Vantrelle Payton, Cynthia Foots, David Crumpton, Rilyn Price, Deneen Jackson, Kahlise Ward, Covenant House Residents

Project Lead // Project Manager

Andrew Liles, AIA, AMLlc

Terrytown Design Guidelines

Project Partner

Terrytown Civic Association, Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission, New Orleans Metropolitan Association Of Realtors, Home Builders Association Of Greater New Orleans

Student Team

Katelin Morgan, Collin Moosbrugger, Dana Elliot

Project Lead // Project Manager

Nick Jenisch

Support

Councilwoman Cynthia Lee-Sheng
Councilman Ricky Templet
Lynda Nugent-Smith
Sergio Padilla

Covenant House

Project Partner

Rheneisha Robertson (Executive Director), Brian Gorman, Wyatt Hines, Haley Khoury, Greg Fortenberry, Jane Helire, Sheri Combs, Vantrelle Payton, Cynthia Foots, David Crumpton, Rilyn Price, Deneen Jackson, Kahlise Ward, Covenant House Residents

Student Team

Nicholas George, Karan Sharma

Project Lead // Project Manager

Cordula Roser Gray, AIA/crgarchitecture // Nick Jenisch



S M A L L
P R O J E C T S
L A R G E
I M P A C T S
G R A N D
A M B I T I O N S

