

**interior  
design  
portfolio.**

---

M E L I D A  
V A L E R A

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B I O +  
R E S U M E

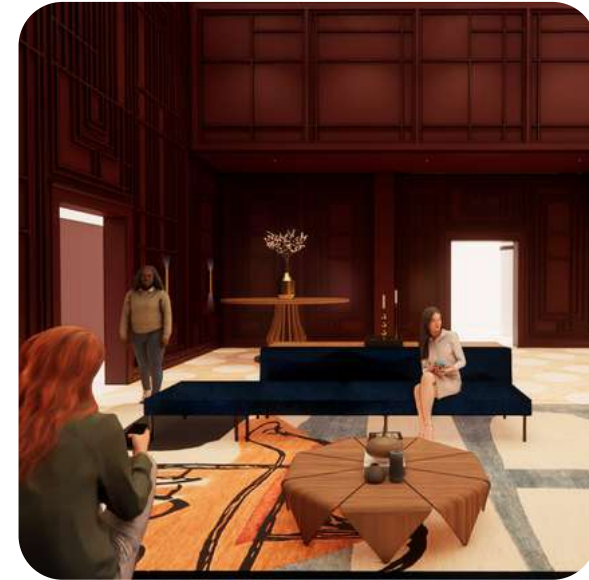
K A L E I D O S C O P E

E S S E N C E

A N D R E A  
I Y A M A H

T E C H N I C A L  
D R A W I N G S

A D D I T I O N A L  
W O R K



# bio.

Melida Valera recently obtained her graduate degree from the New York School of Interior Design. She is dedicated, driven, and an avid learner who enjoys delving into design with the user experience at the forefront. With an innate passion and appreciation for ornamentation and architecture, Melida aims to design spaces that are inspired by the user's life experiences to create designs that meet client needs. Melida looks forward to joining a renowned design firm recognized for its innovation and creativity and is currently working towards obtaining her NCIDQ certification.

# Melida Valera

📍 New York, NY

✉ [Melida.valera@nysid.edu](mailto:Melida.valera@nysid.edu)

🌐 [@melidav](#)

## AWARDS

<b>METROPOLIS Future 100</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>NEWH, New York</b>	<b>2023</b>
Chapter Scholarship	
<b>NEWH, INC.</b>	<b>2023</b>
Tarkett Hospitality Design Scholarship	
<b>HOLLAND AND SHERRY</b>	<b>2023</b>
Diversity Scholarship	
<b>VICTORIAN SOCIETY IN AMERICA</b>	<b>2023</b>
London Summer School	
<b>HOLLAND AND SHERRY</b>	<b>2022</b>
Diversity Scholarship	

## MEMBERSHIPS

<b>Black Design Collective</b>	<b>Present</b>
Founder, President, Consultant	
<b>ASID, Student Chapter</b>	<b>2022 - 2024</b>
President, Graphic Design Coordinator	
<b>Graduate Student Assoc.</b>	<b>2022 - 2024</b>
Vice President	
<b>ASID</b>	<b>2022 - Present</b>
Student, New York Chapter	
<b>NEWH</b>	<b>2021 - Present</b>
Student, New York Chapter	
<b>IIDA</b>	<b>2021 - Present</b>
Student, New York Chapter	

## SKILLS

Bilingual: Spanish & English, Project Management, FF&E Procurement, Organizational, AutoCAD, Revit, Rhino, SketchUp, Adobe Creative Cloud, Microsoft Office: PowerPoint, Word, Outlook, & Excel

## EDUCATION

<b>NEW YORK SCHOOL OF INTERIOR DESIGN</b> , New York, NY	<b>May 2024</b>
Master of Fine Arts, Interior Design	
G.P.A.: 3.91	
<b>LASELL UNIVERSITY</b> , Newton, MA	<b>May 2016</b>
Bachelors of Science, Fashion and Retail Merchandising	

## INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

<b>COREY DAMEN JENKINS &amp; ASSOCIATES</b> , New York, NY	<b>Aug. 2023 – Oct. 2023</b>
Design Coordinator	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Complied client presentations</li><li>Assisted in project and furniture drawings, sourcing, and client meetings</li><li>Attended site and client meetings</li><li>Updated furniture and fixture schedules</li></ul>	

<b>THAM KANNALIKHAM DESIGNS, LLC</b> , New York, NY	<b>Sept. 2022 – March 2023</b>
Design Coordinator	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>FF&amp;E procurement</li><li>Managed and tracked client orders and on-site deliveries</li><li>Prepared purchased proposals in Studio Designer for client approval</li><li>Handled vendor and on-site staff communication orders and on-site deliveries</li></ul>	

<b>DASH DESIGN</b> , Long Island City, NY	<b>May 2022 – Aug. 2022</b>
Interior Design Intern	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Assisted in all project phases and client presentations</li><li>Utilized AutoCAD to create and modify elevations and sections</li><li>Completed renderings in Photoshop</li><li>Sourced and researched FF&amp;E solutions</li><li>Contacted vendors, ordered samples, collected and documented pricing and lead times</li><li>Organized and maintained project samples and the sample room Prepared and packaged items and materials for client meetings</li></ul>	

## VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

<b>New York School of Interior Design</b> , New York, NY	<b>2022, 2023, 2024</b>
Gala Staff Volunteer	
<b>BADG of HONOR Awards Ceremony</b> , New York, NY	<b>Nov. 2022, Nov. 2023</b>
Staff Volunteer	
<b>New York School of Interior Design</b> , New York, NY	<b>Sept. 2022, Sept. 2023</b>
Student Orientation Volunteer	

# kaleidoscope.

Kaleidoscope is an adaptive reuse turned haven for individuals and families who have recently migrated to the United States. This luxury residential building features spacious apartments, an amenities center, rooftop, and public spaces for the surrounding community, and aims to bridge the gap between diverse cultural groups. Views across the street to Central Park North, not only easily connect residents and visitors to nature, but also allow access to ample natural daylight. Residents can reside here for up to 3 years.

**Location:** 31-33 West 110th Street, New York, NY 10026

**Size:** 72,000 sq. ft., 8 stories

**Demographic:** Immigrant families of up to 5 people.

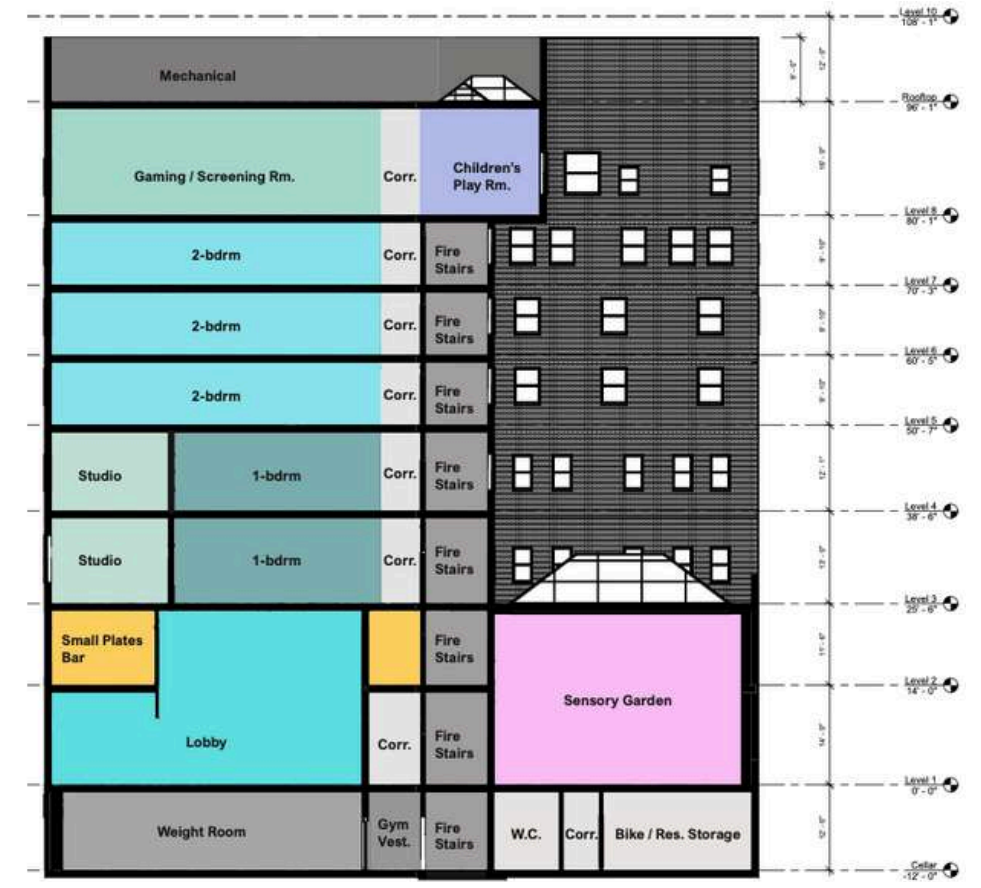
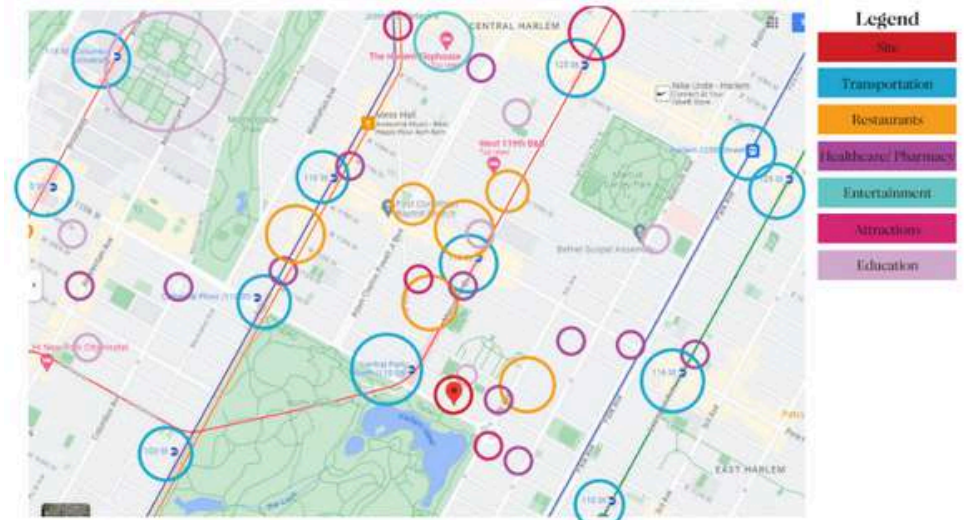
**Residences:** Studio (2), One Bedroom (7), Two Bedroom (3), Three Bedroom (10)

**Concept:** The mechanics of a Kaleidoscope and the ever-changing colors and shapes created within it.

The color palette for this project pulls influence from vintage American culture (1940s-1970s) and midcentury modern aesthetics. The furniture selection was curated to include pieces from, or inspired by, prominent midcentury modern furniture designers from around the world to reflect how this space brings diverse cultures and people together.

**Programs:** AutoCAD, Revit, Rhino, Enscape, Photoshop

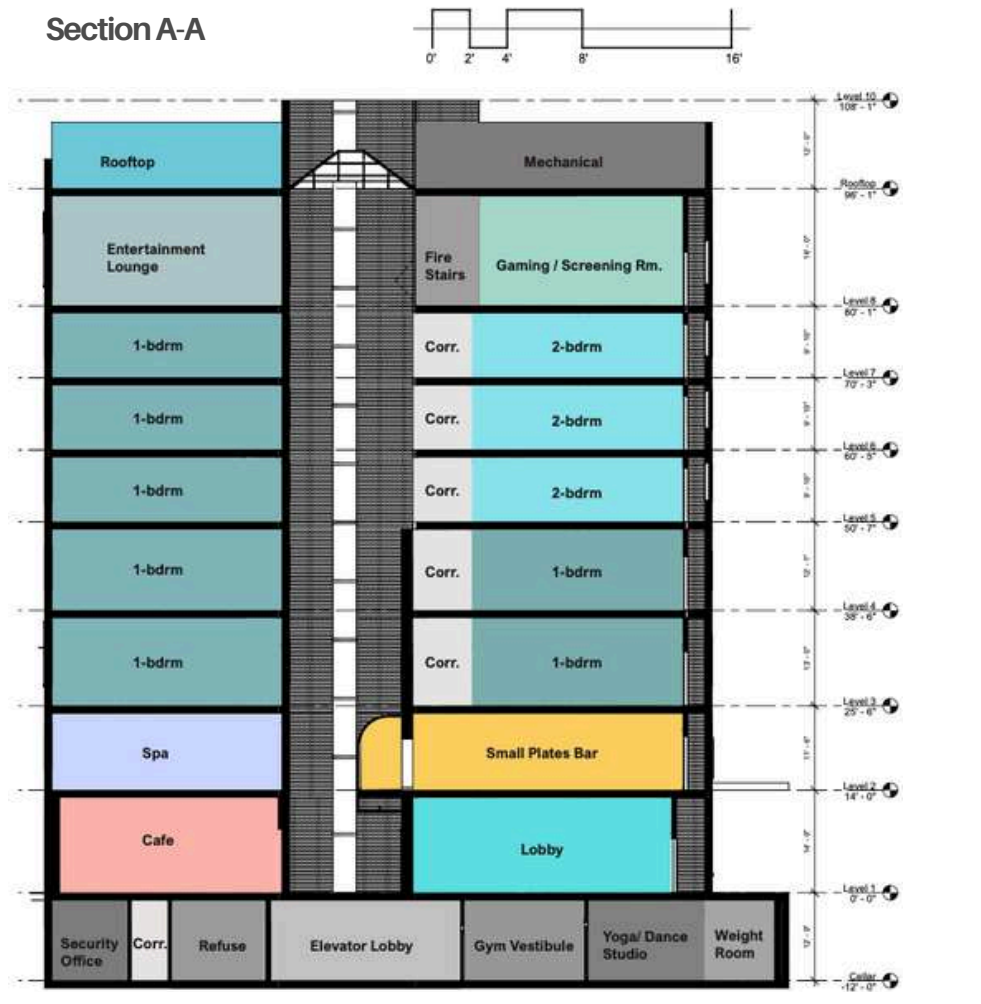
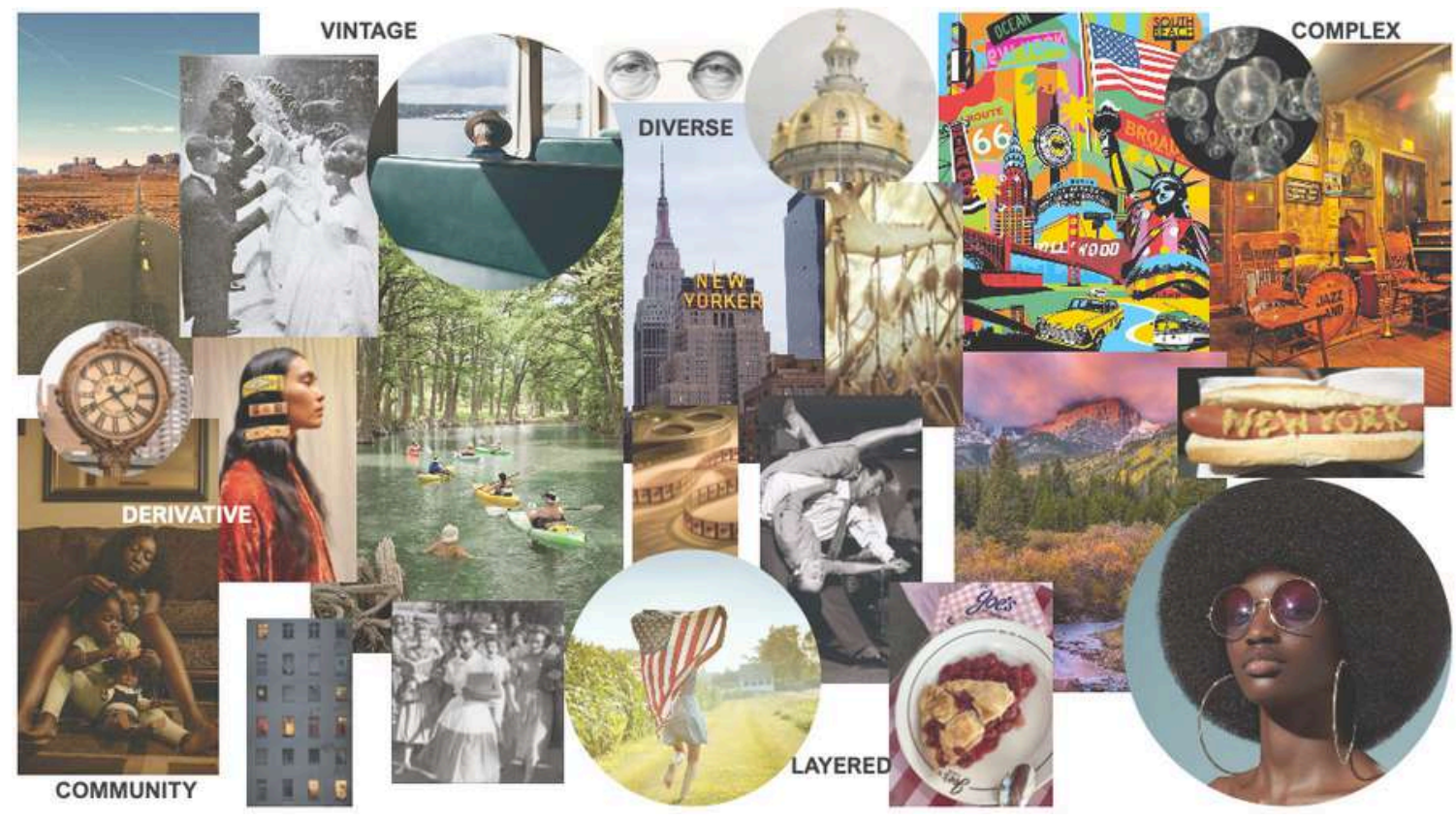
Lobby

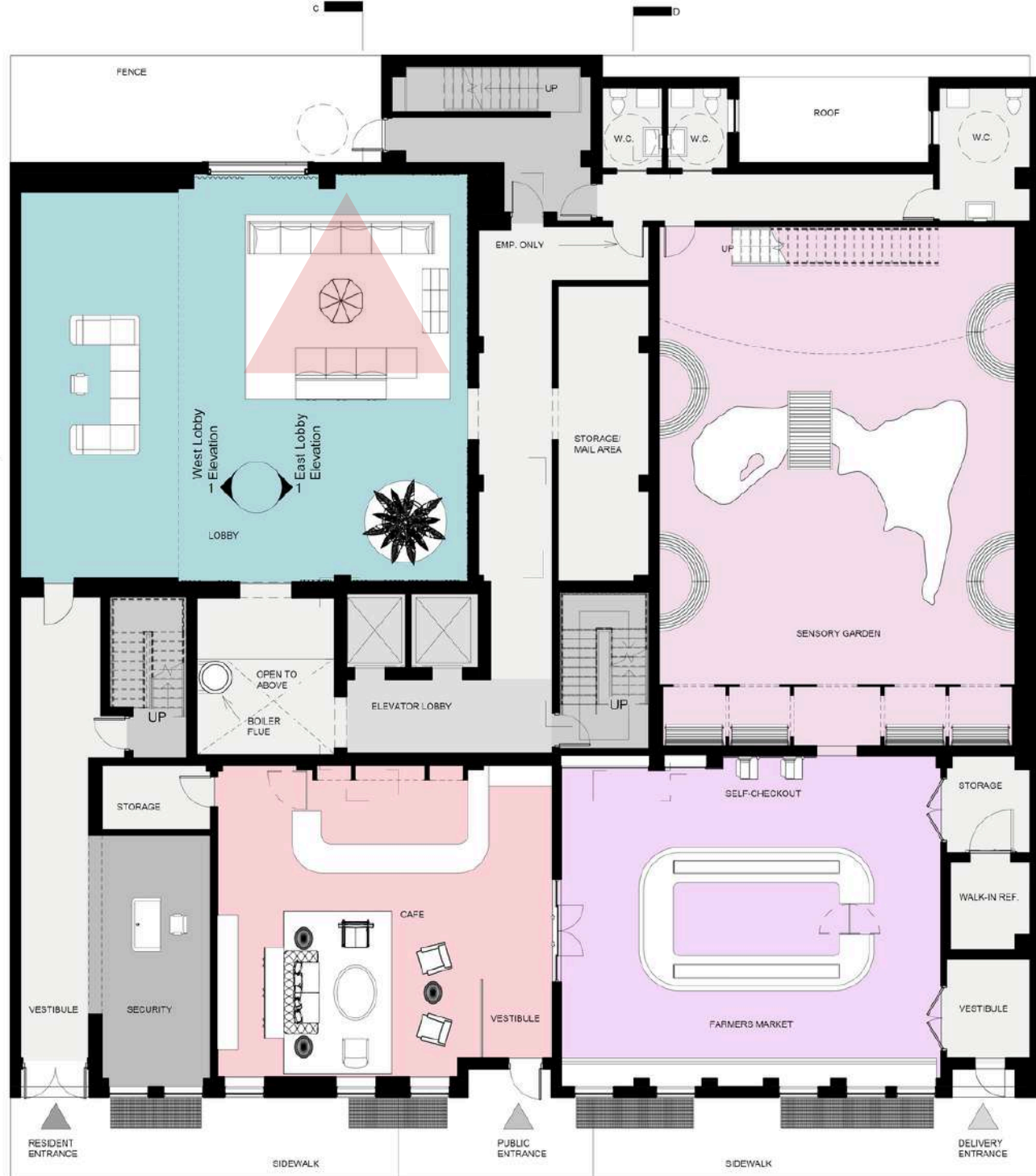


What is American Culture?

“American culture is a diverse and dynamic blend of customs, traditions, beliefs, values, arts, cuisine, music, literature, and lifestyles that have evolved over centuries as a result of the country’s unique history, multicultural population, and geographic diversity. Some key elements of American culture include a strong emphasis on individualism, freedom, democracy, equality, innovation, entrepreneurship, diversity, and a spirit of optimism and resilience. American culture also encompasses a wide range of regional and ethnic influences, contributing to a rich tapestry of traditions and practices that shape the way of life in the United States.”

What can that look like?

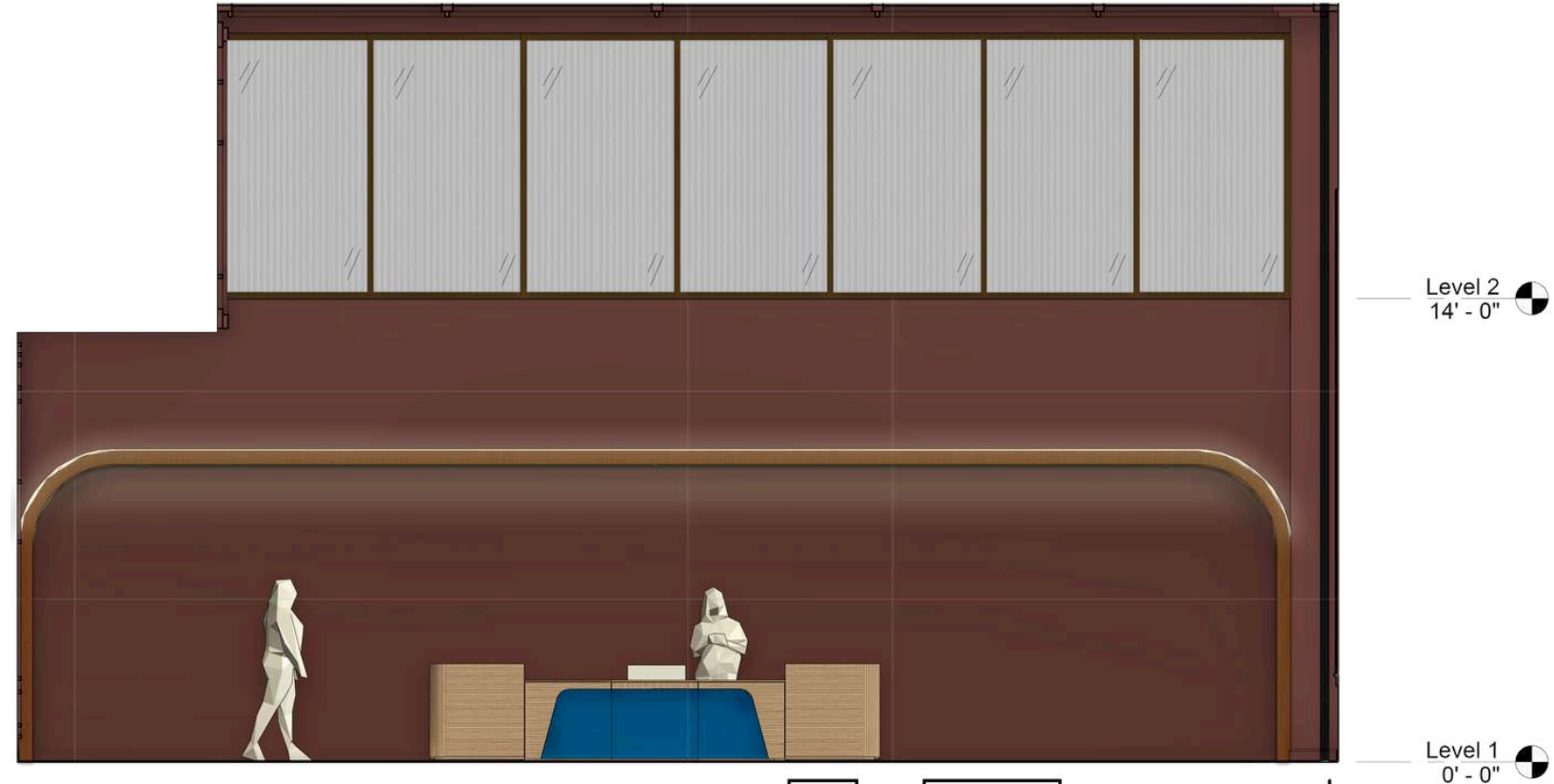




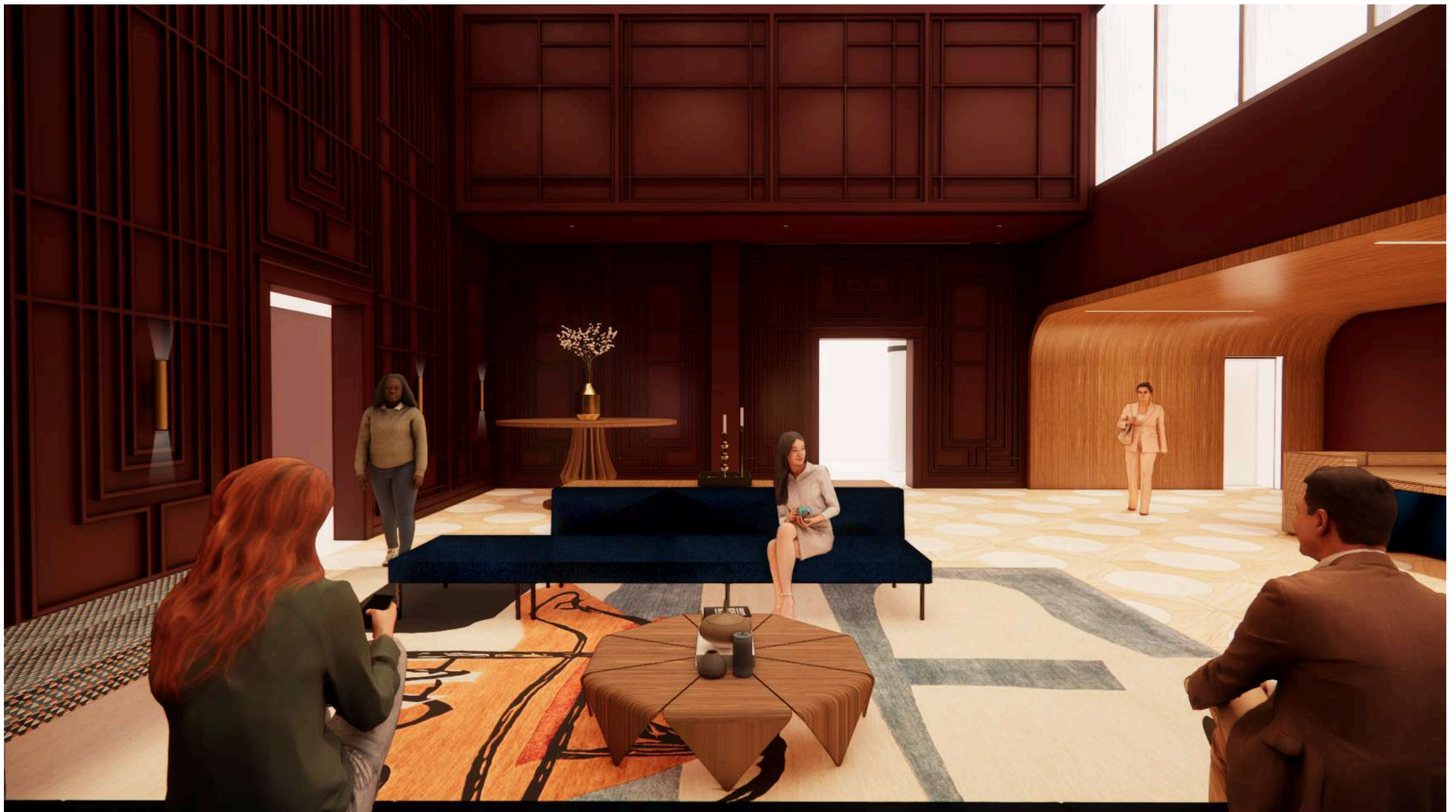
Level 1 Floor Plan



East Elevation



West Elevation



Lobby

FF&E



Wall & Ceiling Paint



Sofa & Upholstery



Coffee Table



Area Rug



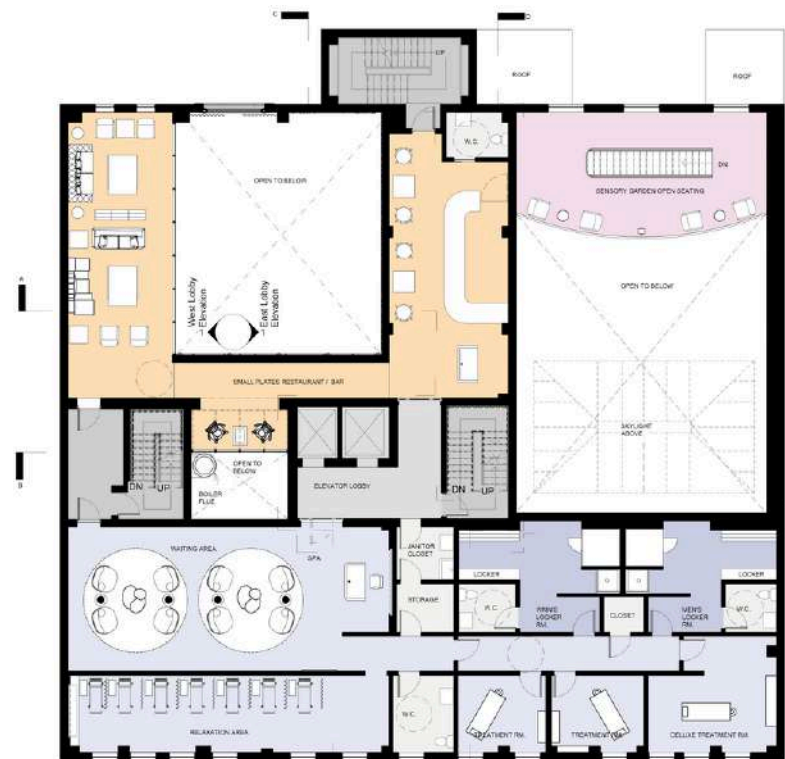
Wood & Travertine  
Inlay Flooring



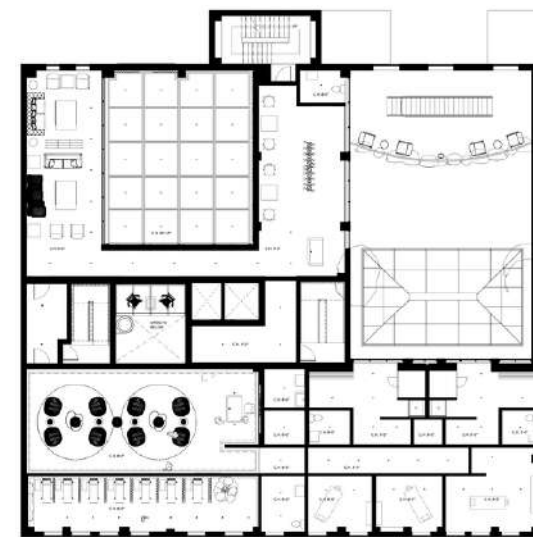
Levels 3-4 Floor Plans



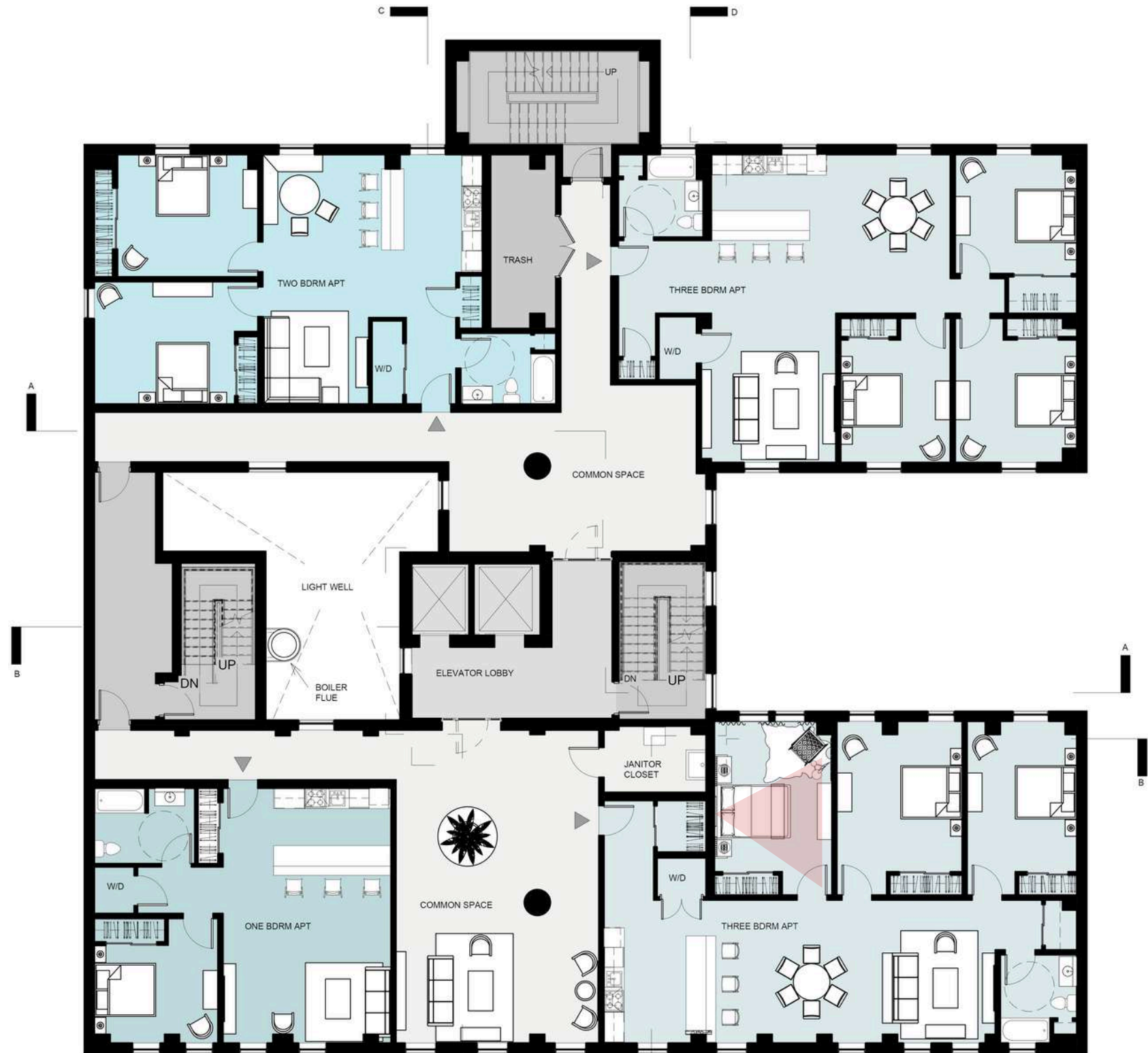
Levels 3-4 Ceiling Plans NTS



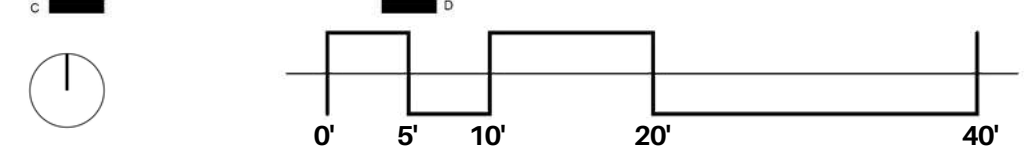
Level 2 Floor Plan



Level 2 Ceiling Plan NTS



Levels 5-7 Floor Plans







Sample Bedroom for a Brazilian Couple

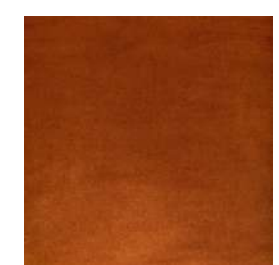
FF&E



Ceiling Paint



Wallpaper



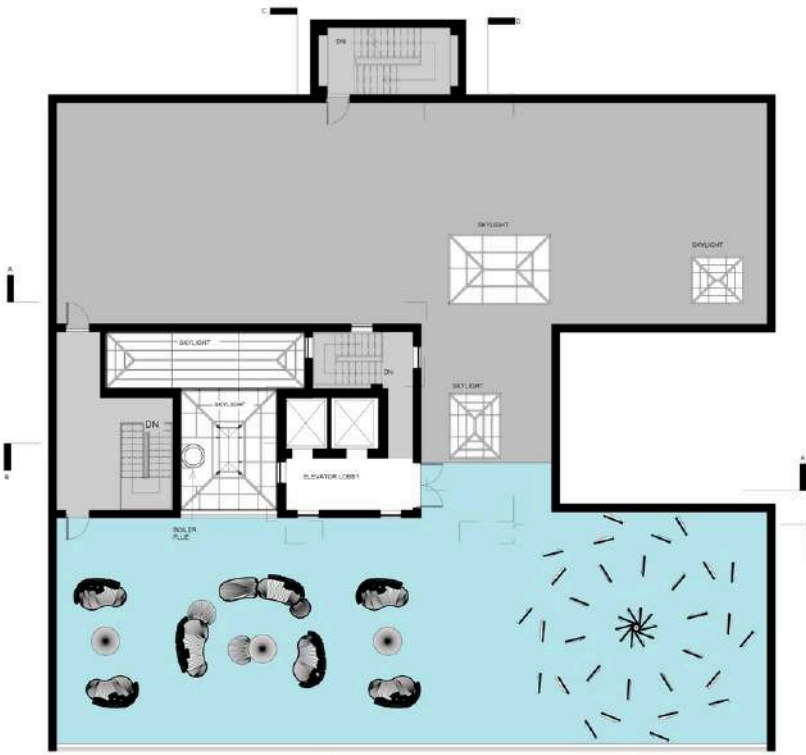
Headboard Upholstery



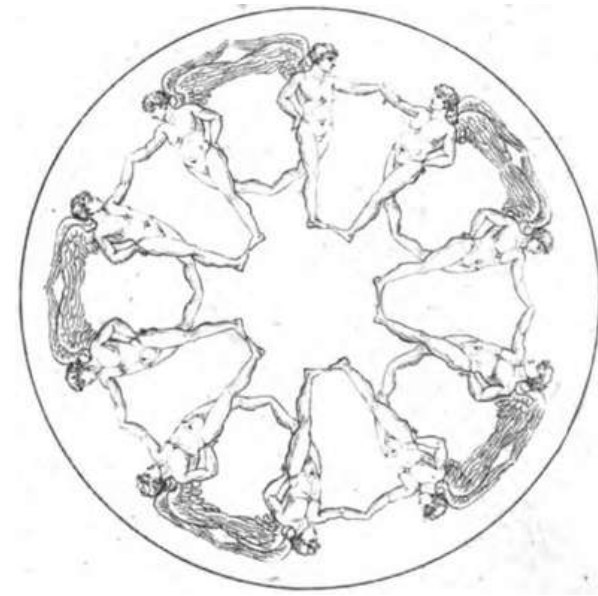
Minotti Brasilia Bed



Wood Floor

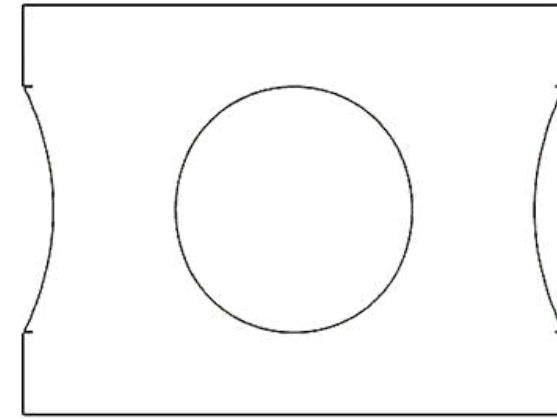


Rooftop Floor Plan

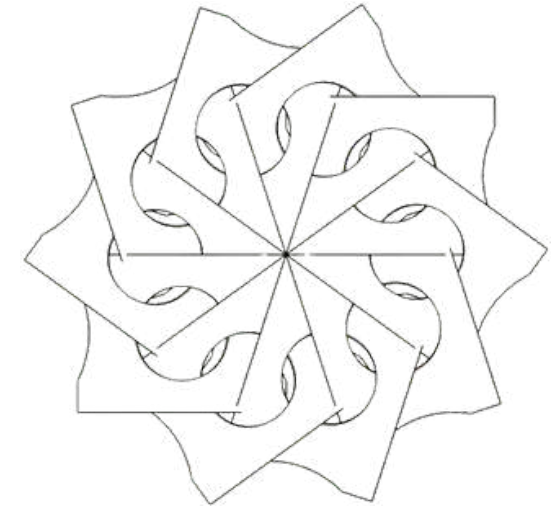


Pergola Inspiration

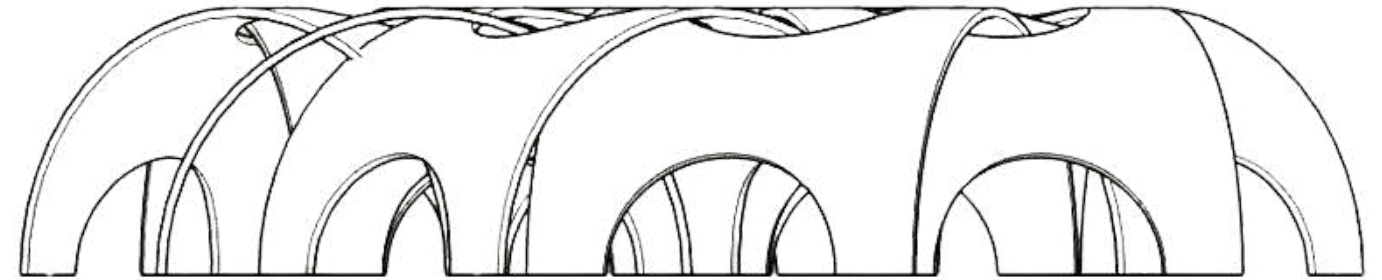
Pergola Drawings



Panel



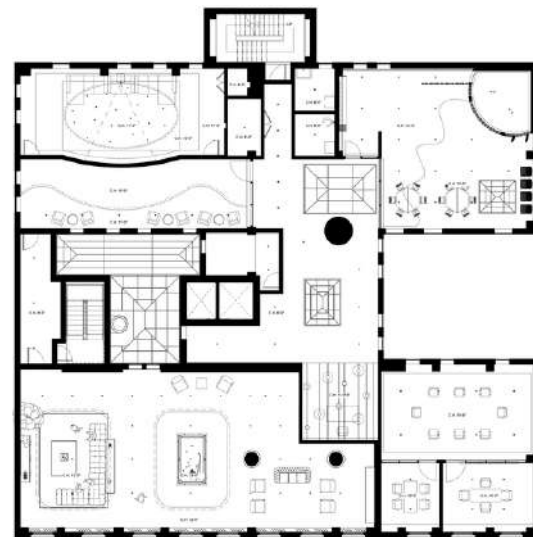
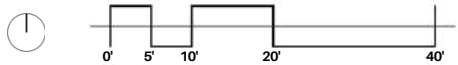
Top View



Front View

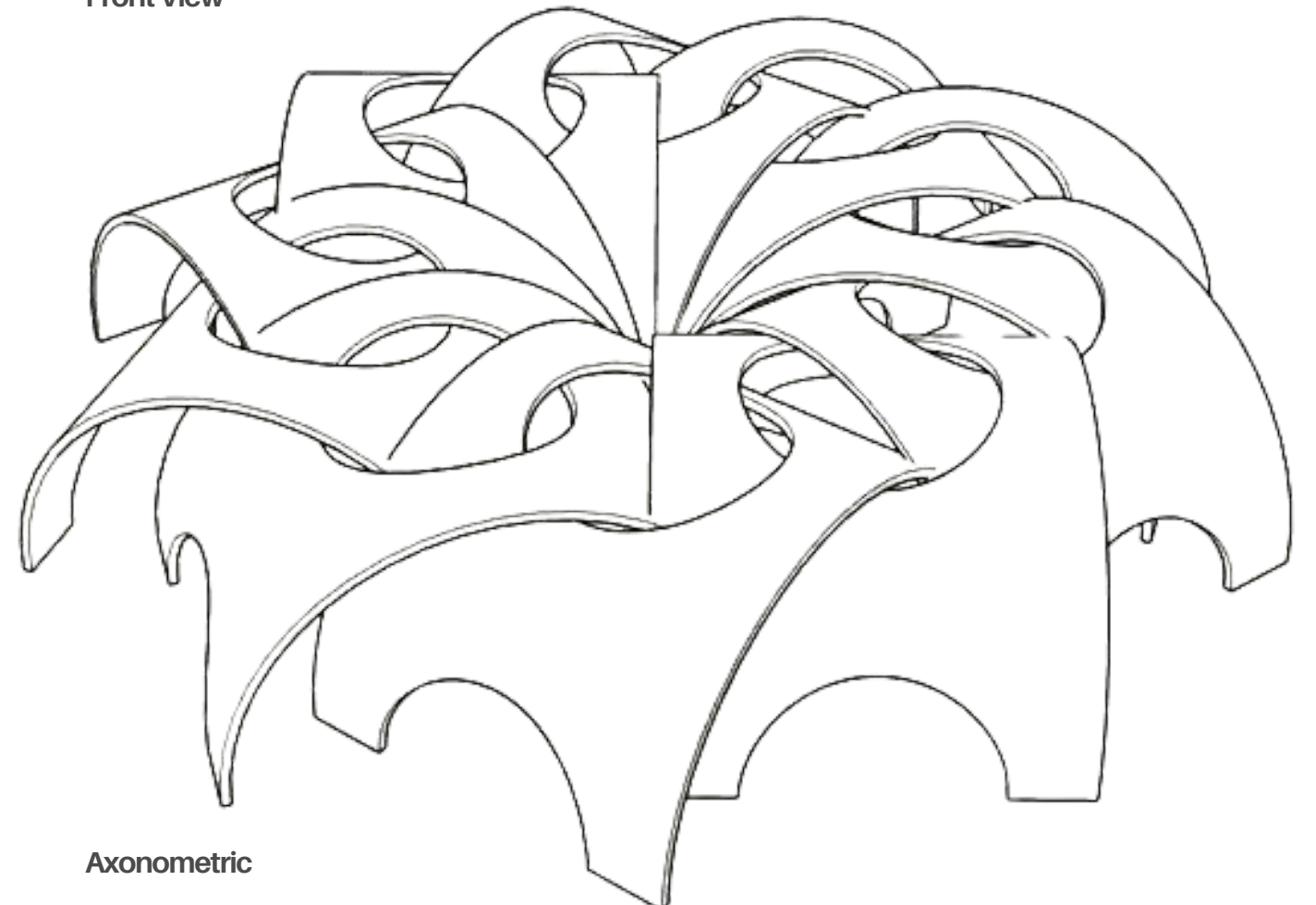


Level 8 Floor Plan



Level 8 Ceiling Plan

NTS



Axonometric



Entertainment Lounge

FF&E



Wood Tambour at Walls & Ceiling



Armchair



Sofa



Area Rug



Walnut & Verde Guatemala Marble Inlay Flooring



Multi-purpose Space

# essence.

An outpatient facility that focuses on the mental, physical, and emotional wellbeing of Black men.

**Location:** Lenox Square Mall, Buckhead, Atlanta, Georgia

**Size:** 10,000 sq. ft., 5,900 sq. ft. outdoor area

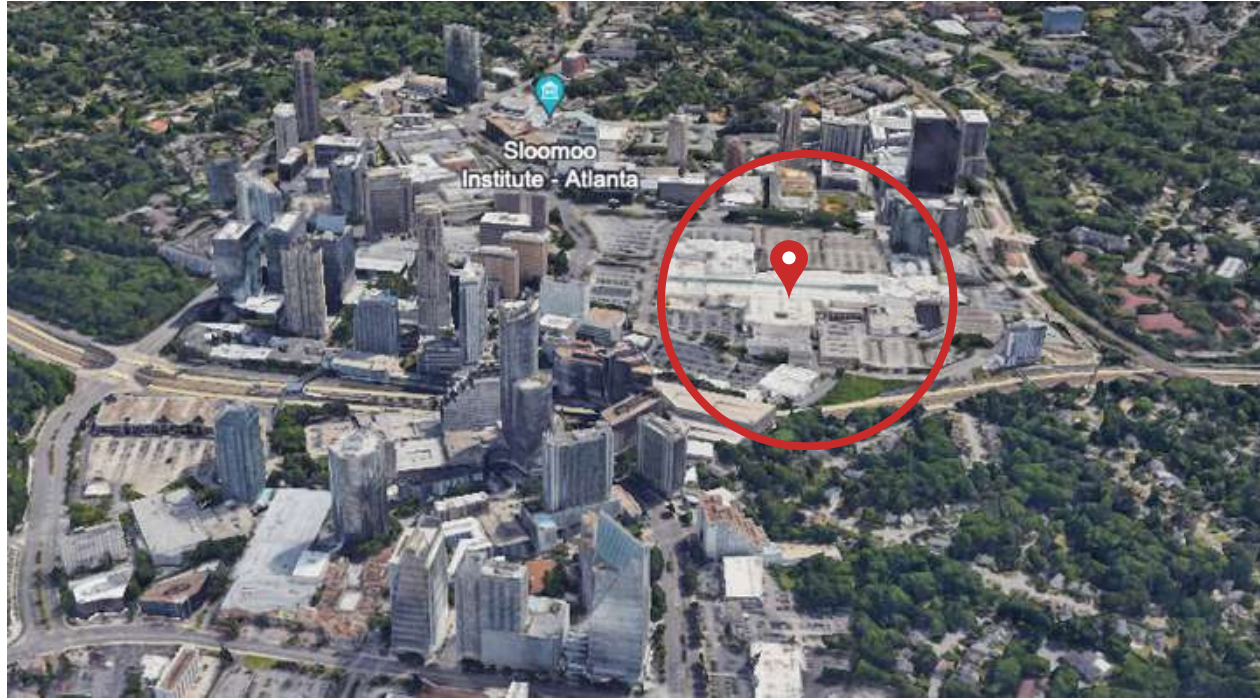
**Demographic:** Black men, middle to upper class, ages 26 to 50+, in high-stress positions.

**Concept:** Umoja, one of the seven principles of Kwanza, meaning “to strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race,” inspired the circulation and space planning of Essence.

Essence celebrates Black men, prioritizing the creation of a safe space where stigmas around seeking assistance for mental health are dismantled, and healing can begin. To achieve this, Essence provides a multipurpose space where activities including seminars, group therapy, indoor yoga, and group meditation can take place.

Community. Healing. Wellbeing. This is Essence.

**Programs:** AutoCAD, Revit, Rhino, Enscape, Photoshop



Site Map

**Demographic & User Groups**

**Primary users:**

- Black men – single, married, divorced, LGBTQIA+, etc.
- Patient age: 26 – 50+

**Secondary users:**

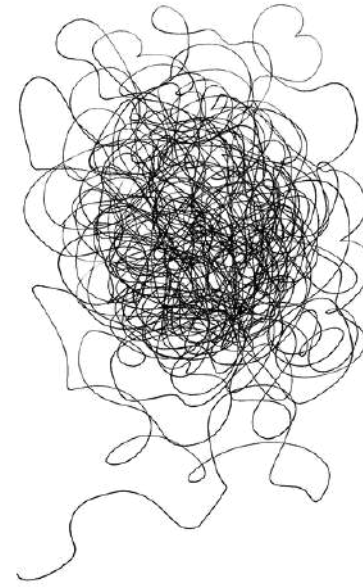
- Doctors
- Therapists/ Life Coach • Psychologists
- Administration
- Barbers
- Climbing Instructors
- Tailors
- Swim Instructors

**Tertiary users:**

- Young men/ mentees
- Age: 18 – 25
- Cleaning services
- Onsite deliveries
- Visitors



**Design Process**



Lost & Confused

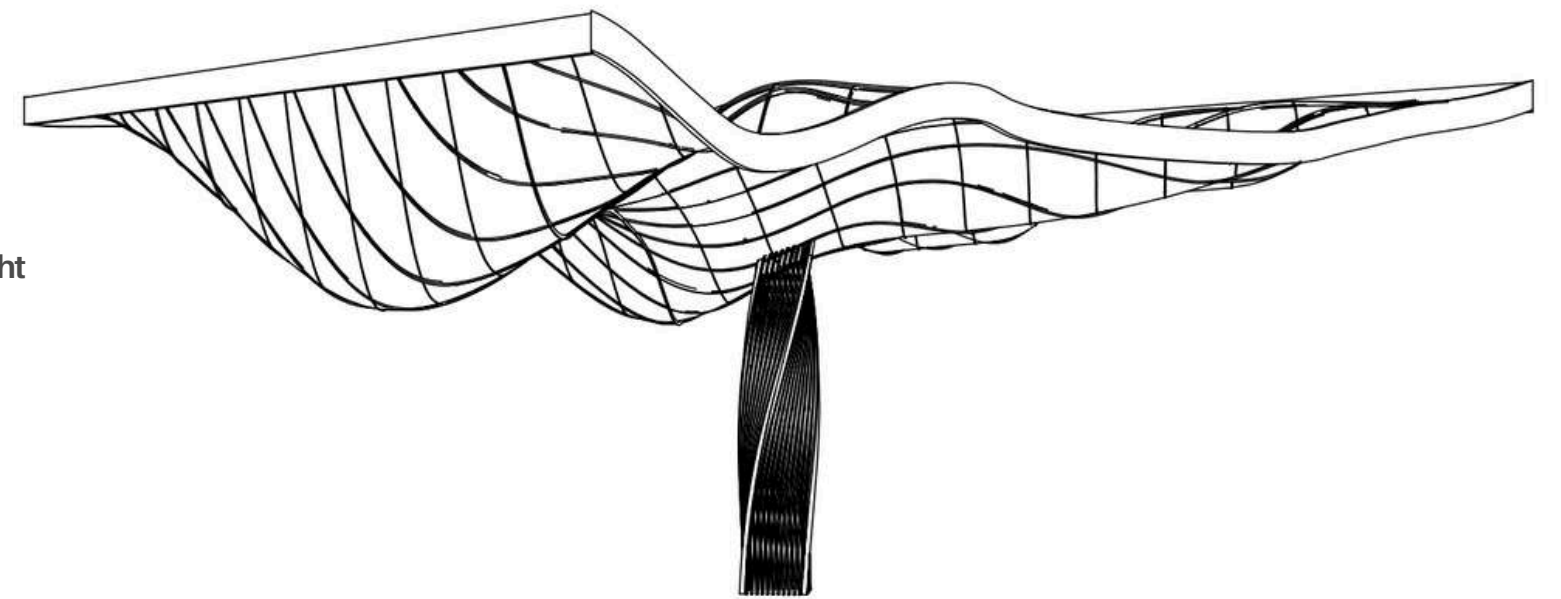


Transition



Umoja

**Custom Skylight**





Floor Plan

Scale: NTS

- |                        |                      |                          |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Reception           | 6. Conference Room   | 12. Psychologist Office  |
| 2. Restroom            | 7. Barber Shop       | 13. Doctor Office        |
| 3. Multi-purpose Space | 8. Exam Room         | 14. Copy & Print Room    |
| 4. Cafe                | 9. Waiting Area      | 15. Locker Room          |
| 5. Phone Booths        | 10. Laboratory       | 16. Rock & Rope Climbing |
|                        | 11. Therapist Office | 17. Meditation Room      |
|                        |                      | 18. Outdoor Area         |





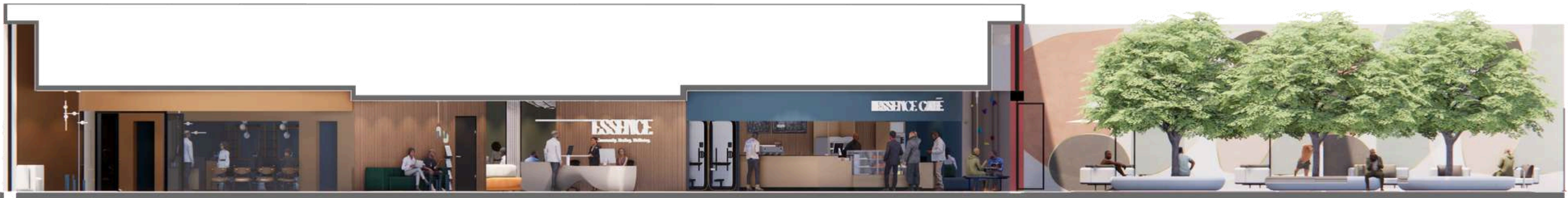
Axonometric



A. Pool Area



B. Outdoor Seating Area



Section A-A



Reception

FF&E



Rubber Flooring



Wood Tambour at Walls



Ceiling Paint



Pendants



Sofa & Upholstery



# andrea iyamah.

Andrea Iyamah is a women's fashion brand owned by Nigerian fashion designer, Andrea Dumebi Iyamah (1993-present). The brand was founded in 2011, pulling inspiration from ethnic cultures and elements of nature, travel, and modern femininity.

**Location:** 546 Broadway, New York, NY 10012

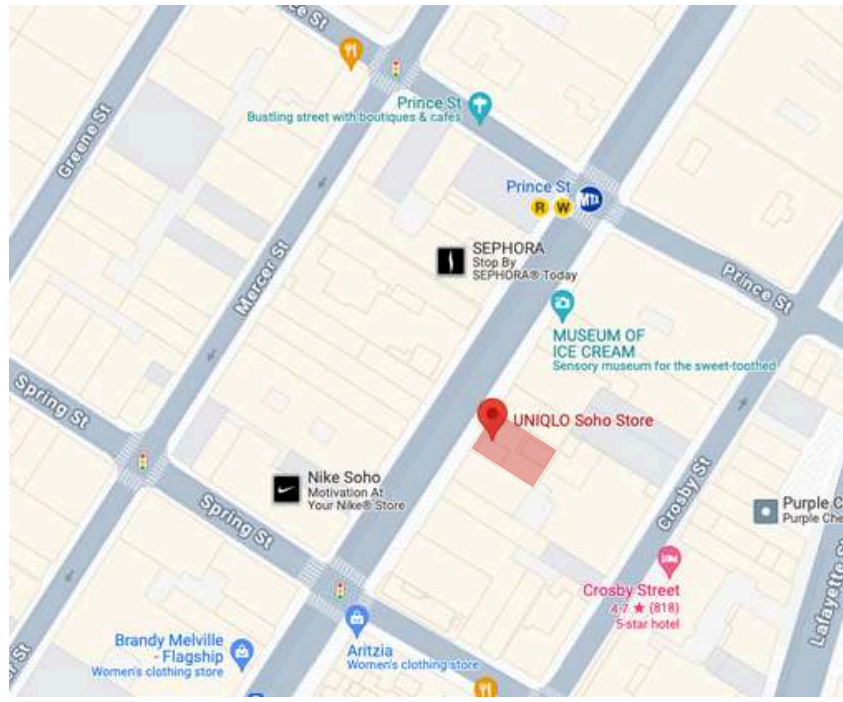
**Size:** 5,000 sq. ft.

**Demographic:** Women who enjoy bold colors, patterns, and silhouettes that accentuate the figure

**Concept:** The concept for this store design is called "A Sculptured Mirage." The concept ties in Iyamah's own influences, pulling from nature, femininity, and one's experience when in the desert.

**Programs:** AutoCAD, SketchUp, Enscape, Photoshop

Multi-purpose Space



Site Map

The A.I. Woman



- Inspired by ethnic cultures and elements of nature, travel, bold colors, modern femininity, and retro classic silhouettes with a contemporary edge
- An adventurer in spirit, mind and style, confident, and unafraid of clothing designed with a statement
- Focused on celebrating ethnicity with a modern twist, while maintaining its attention to quality, detail and figure flattering silhouettes

Product Offering

- Clothing — dresses, tops, bottoms (skirts, wrappers, shorts, pants), jumpsuits, robes, sets
  - Bridal — tops, bottoms (skirts, pants), jumpsuits, robes, dresses
  - Resort wear — robes, sets, sarongs, wrappers
  - Swimwear — bikinis, one pieces, bikini tops, bikini bottoms
  - Accessories — bags and jewelry

Inspiration



Palette Inspiration



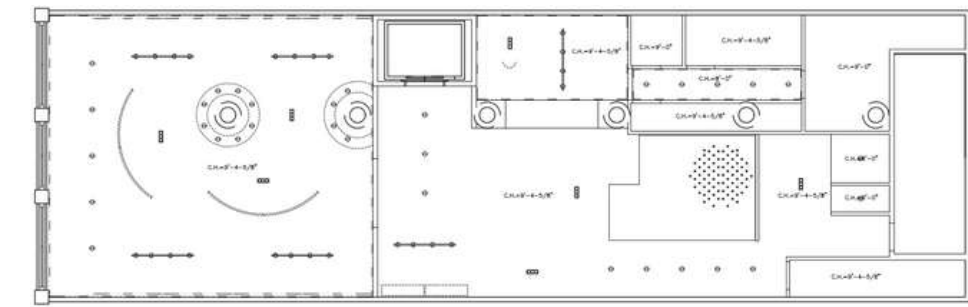
Facade Design



Upper Level Floor Plan

Scale: NTS

- 1. Clothing
- 2. Cafe A.I.
- 3. Seating Area
- 4. Restroom
- 5. Fitting Room
- 6. Visual Merchandising Storage
- 7. Merchandising Storage
- 8. Fire Stairwell



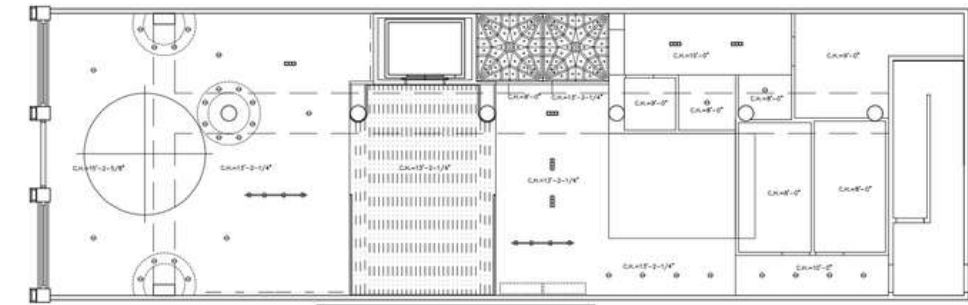
LIGHTING LEGEND	
	TRACK LIGHTING
	MULTIPLE
	6" DOWNLIGHT
	INTEGRATED LED
	1-LIGHT PENDANTS



Lower Level Floor Plan

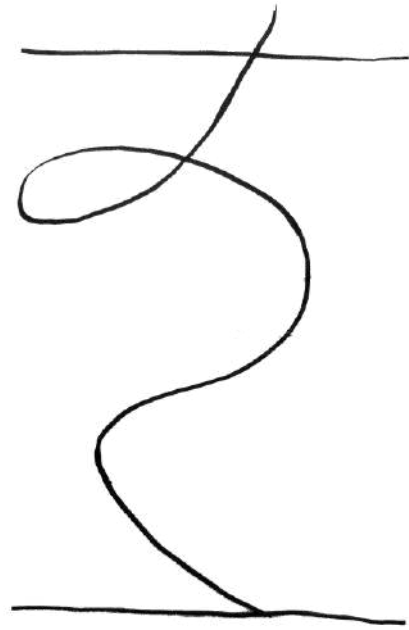
Scale: NTS

- 1. Arrival
- 2. Clothing
- 3. Cashwrap
- 4. Seating Area
- 5. Restroom
- 6. Fitting Room
- 7. Employee Lounge
- 8. Merchandising Storage
- 9. Manager's Office
- 10. Fire Stairwell

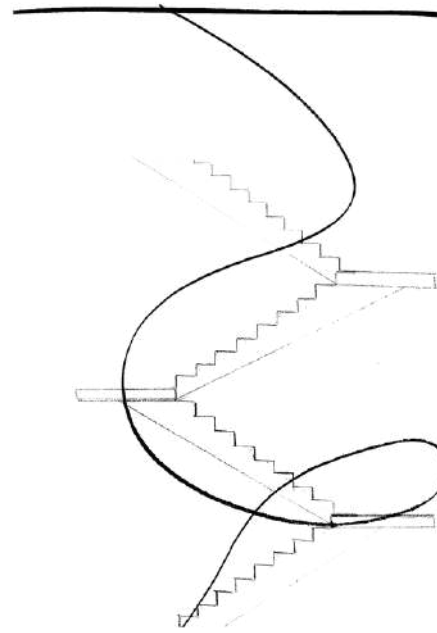


LIGHTING LEGEND	
	PENDANT
	TRACK LIGHTING
	MULTIPLE
	6" DOWNLIGHT
	INTEGRATED LED/ NEW MAT STRETCH CLG
	2" TRINKLE LIGHT

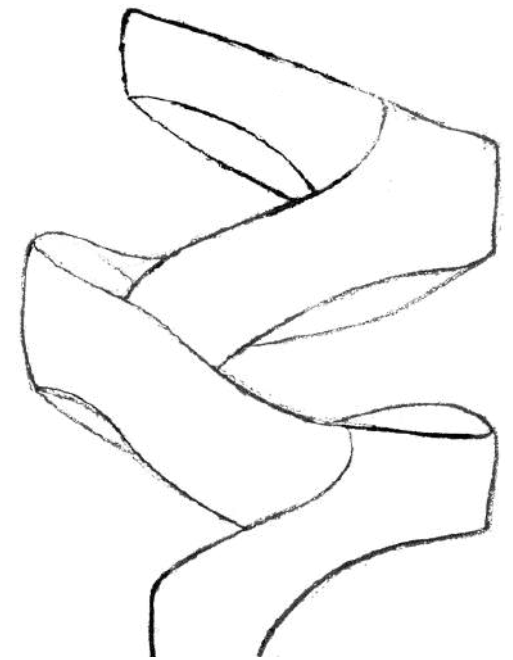
Staircase Design Process



Concept Sketch



Addition of Stairs



Final Sketch



West Section



Reception

FF&E



Custom Partitions in Boheme Design Polished Brass and Chrome River Pebbles



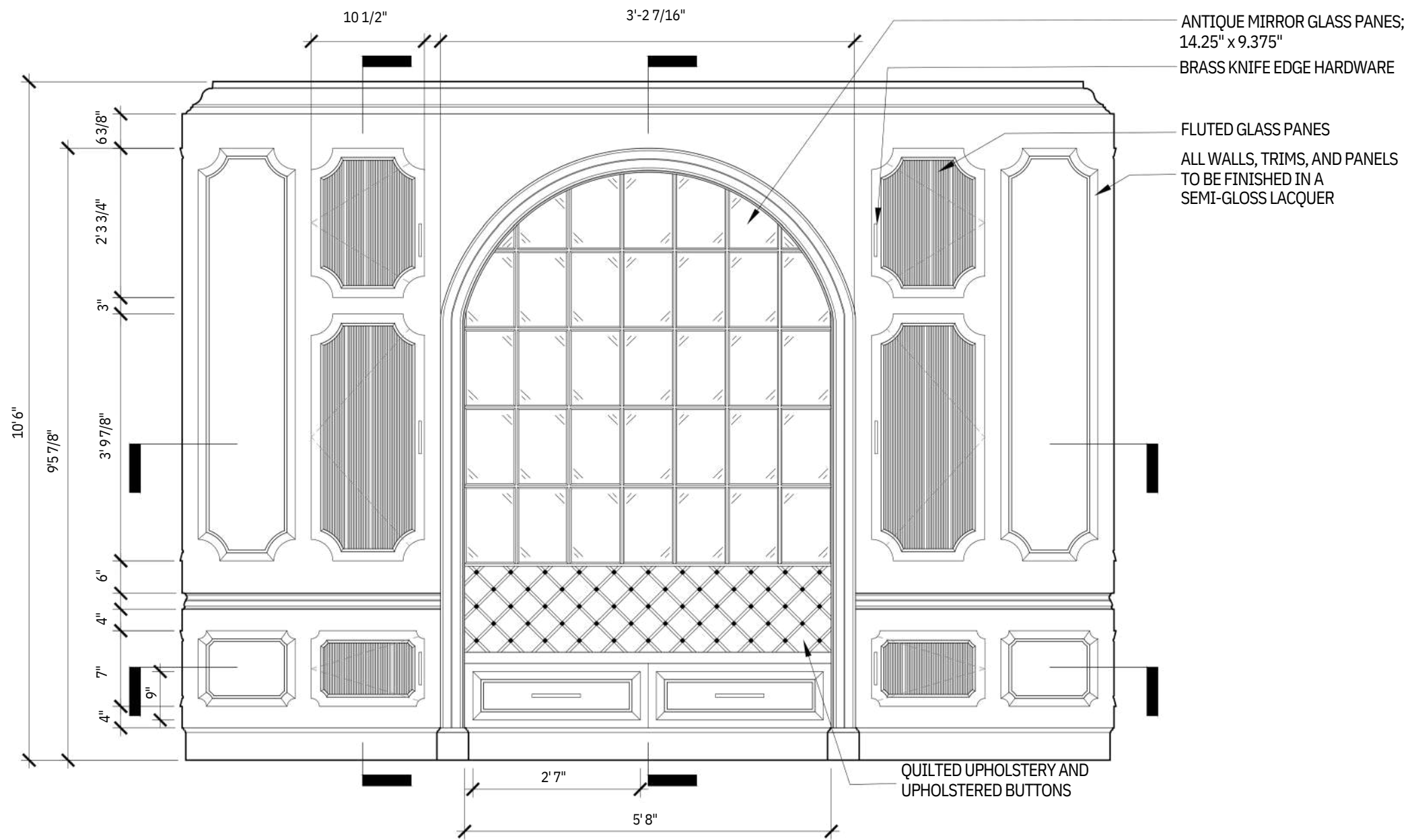
Cashwrap Storage



Pink Smoked Glass at Custom Desks



Tile Bar Alayah Blanco Black & White Polished Marble Mosaic Tile



East Elevation

# millwork.

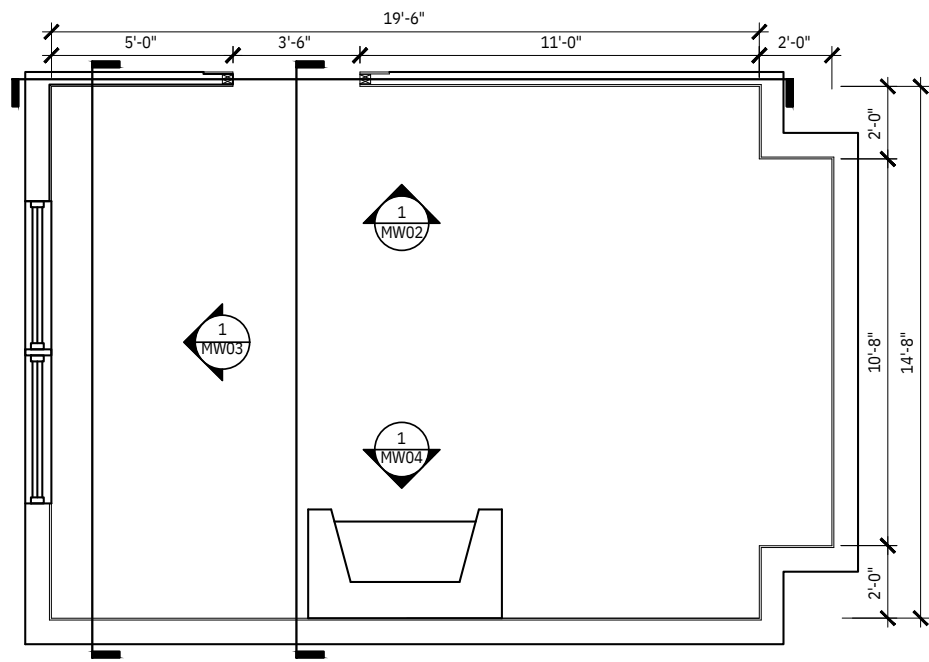
This paneled room was inspired by the classical orders, proportion, and scale. This space features a fireplace, banquette seating, and storage to accommodate any and all activities taking place. This project focuses on paneling and its construction.

**Location:** New York, NY

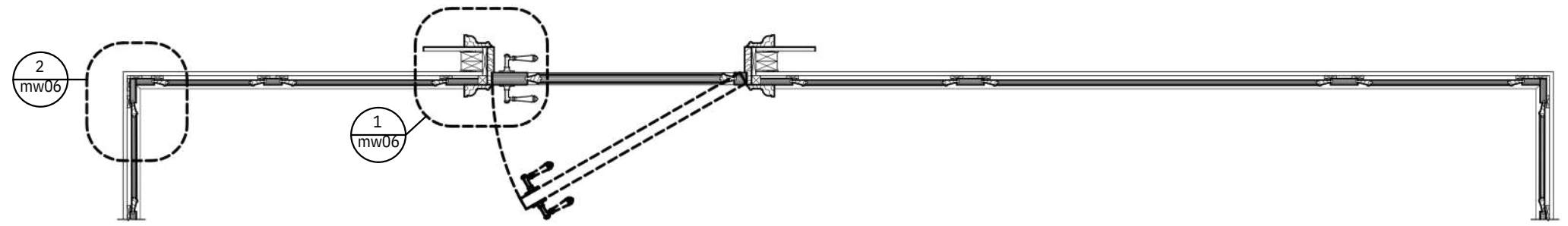
**Size:** Approx. 700 sq. ft.

**Concept:** Classic paneling that can be easily modernized

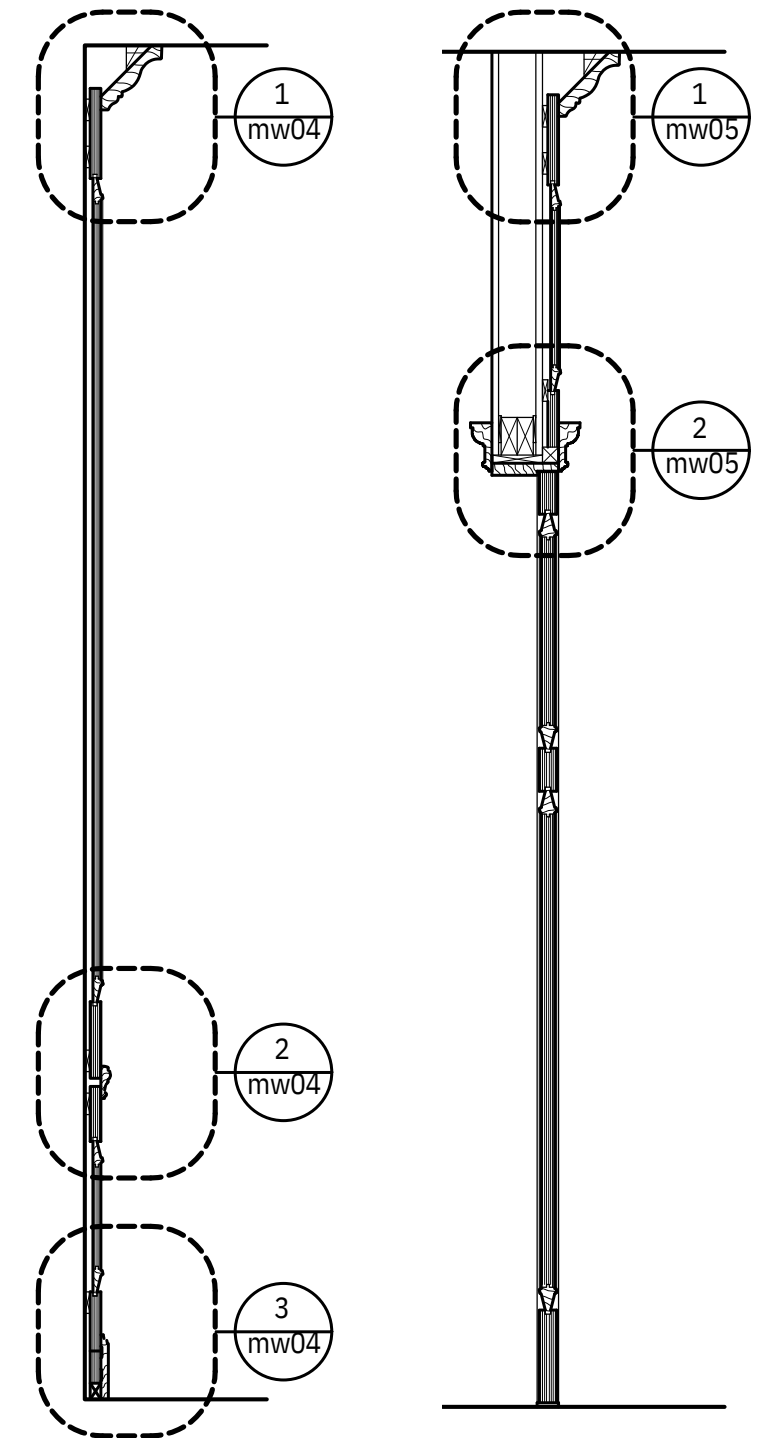
**Programs:** AutoCAD



Floor Plan



North Horizontal Section

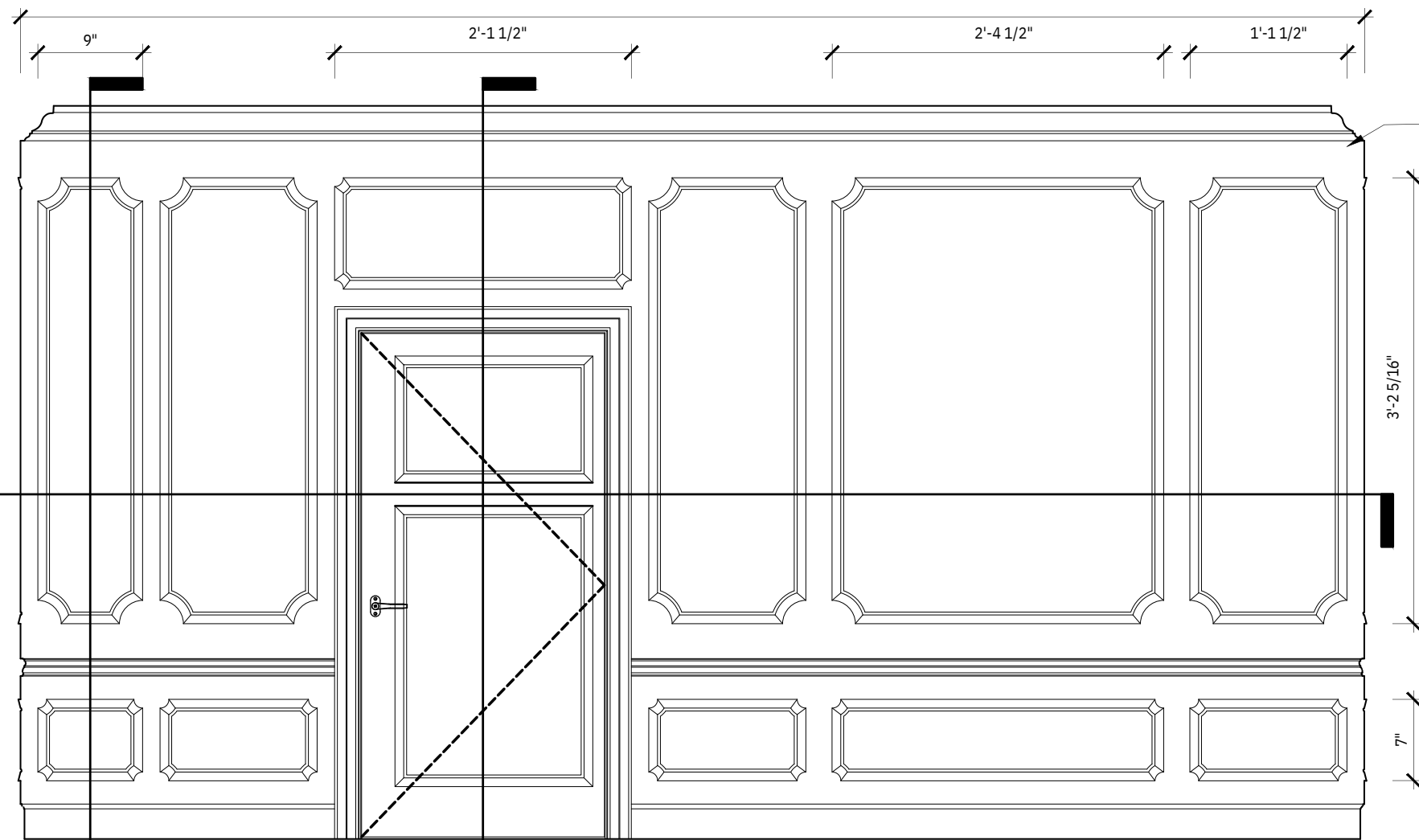


Vertical Panel Section

Vertical Door Section

NTS

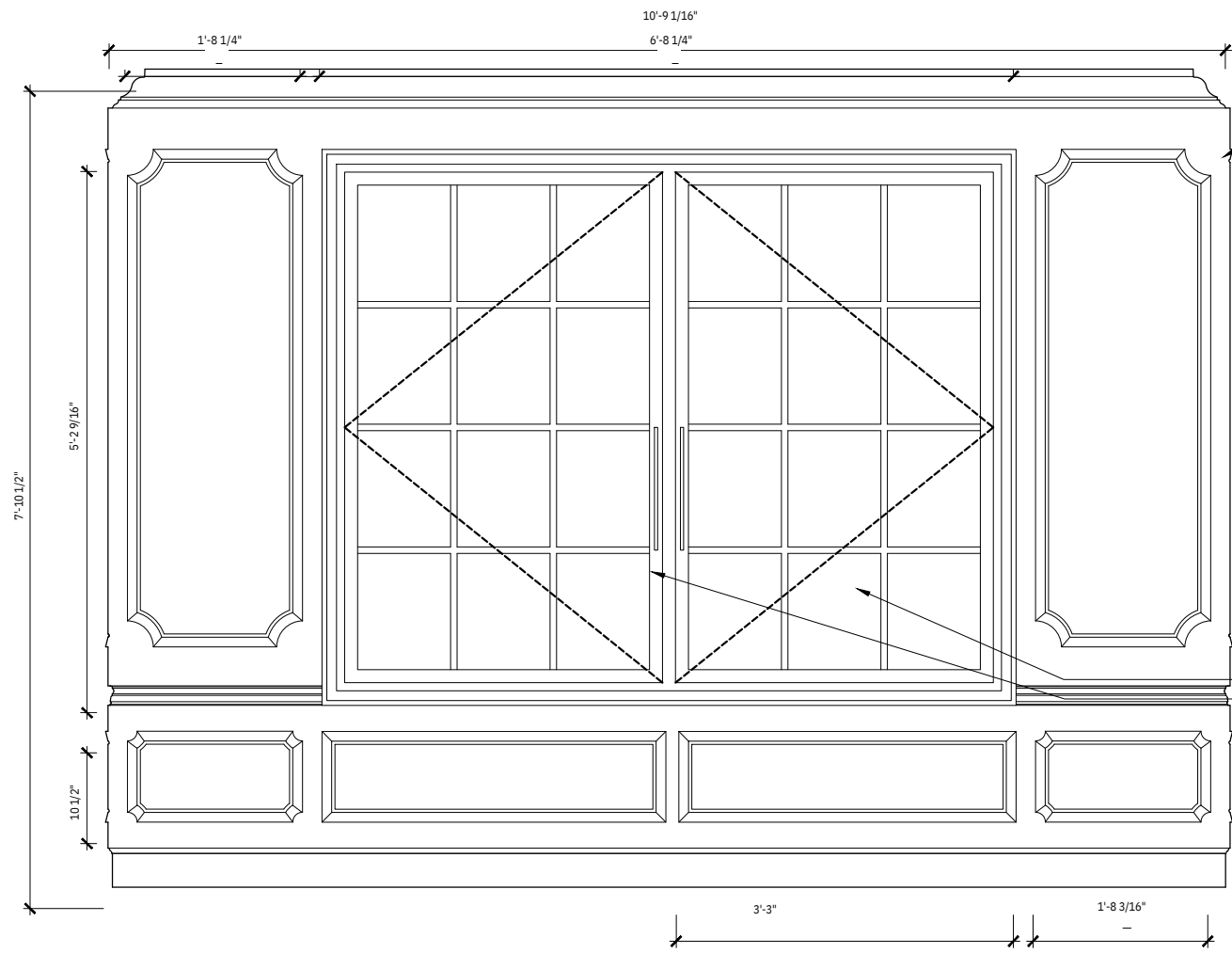
9'-7 1/2"



North Elevation

ALL WALLS, TRIMS, AND PANELS TO BE FINISHED IN A SEMI-GLOSS LACQUER

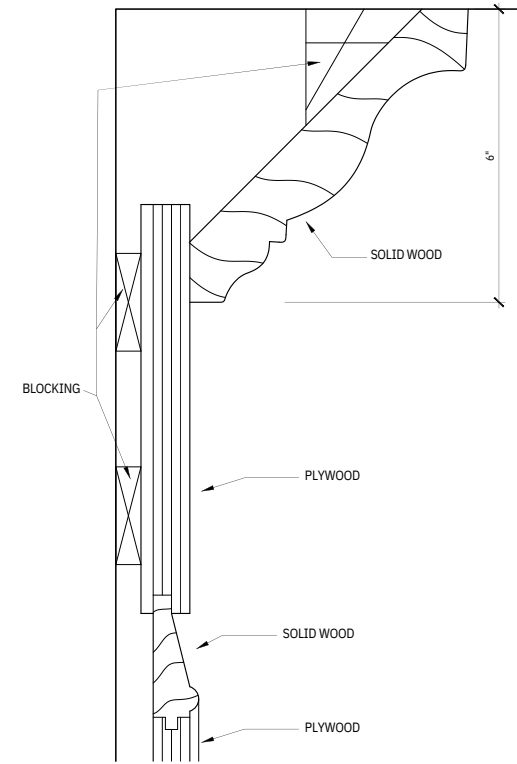
2'-1 9/16" 1'-1 1/2" 2'-4 1/2"



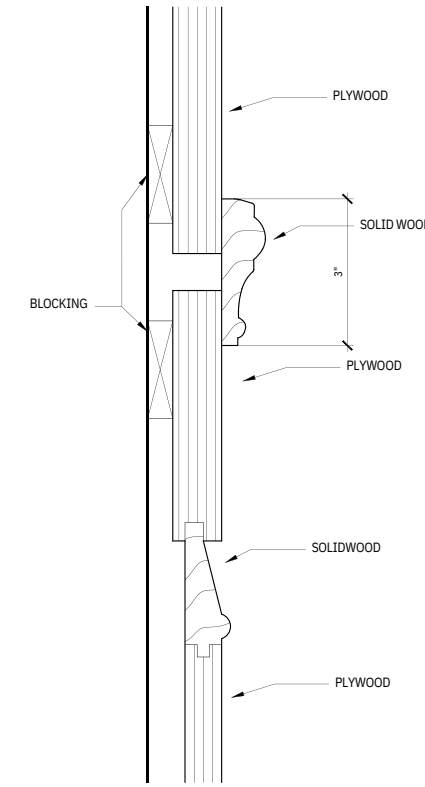
ALL WALLS, TRIMS, AND PANELS TO BE FINISHED IN A SEMI-GLOSS LACQUER

SEEDED, GLAZED GLASS PANES  
BRASS, KNIFE EDGE HARDWARE

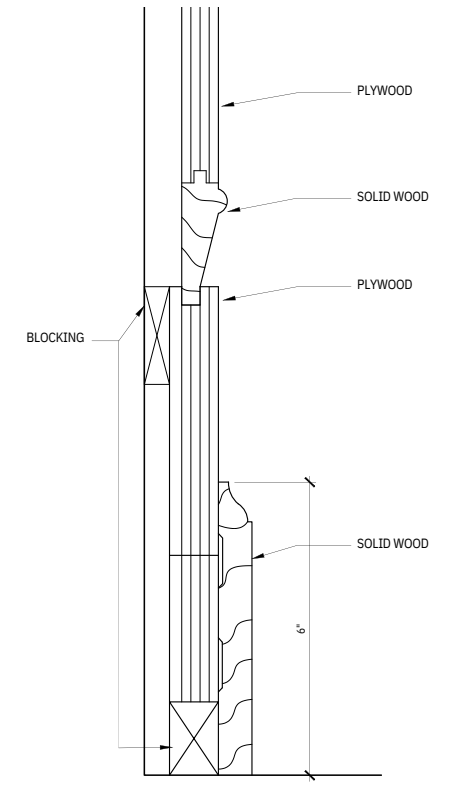
West Elevation



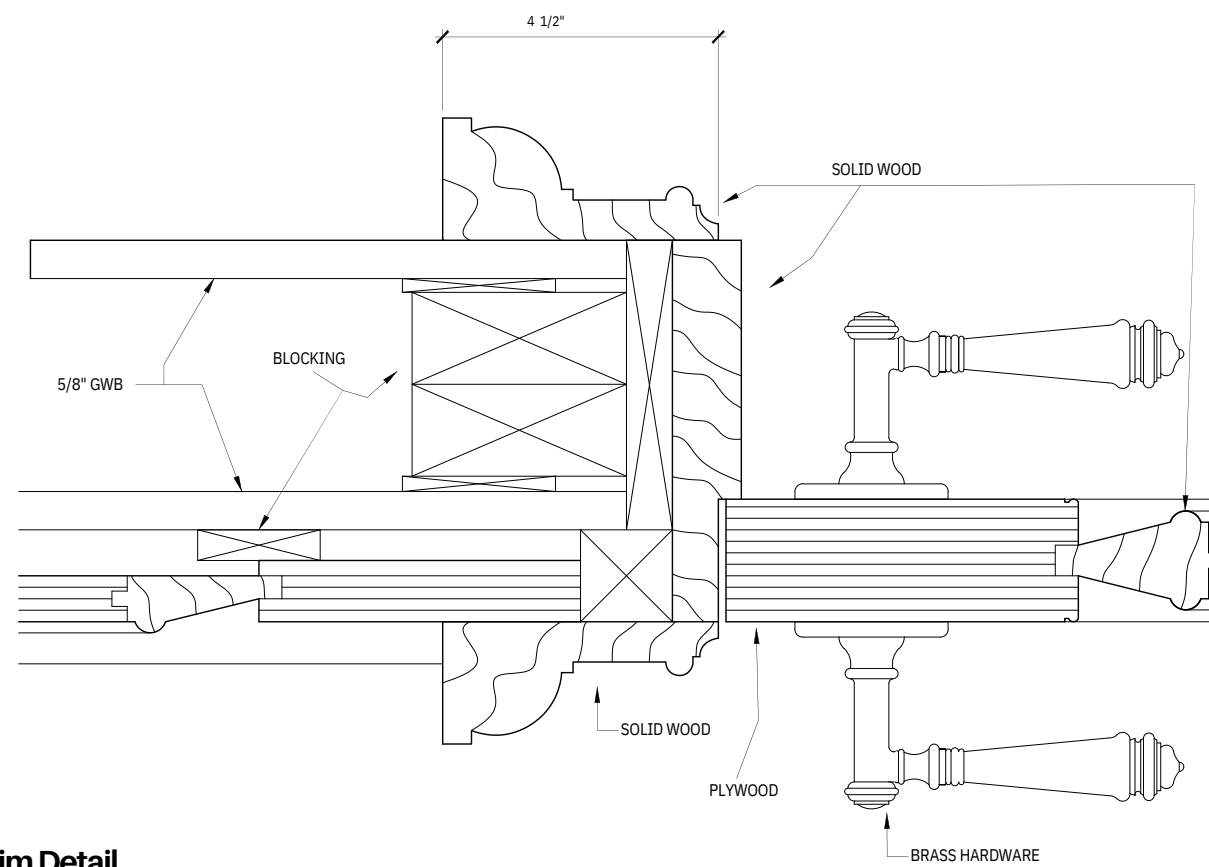
Crown Detail



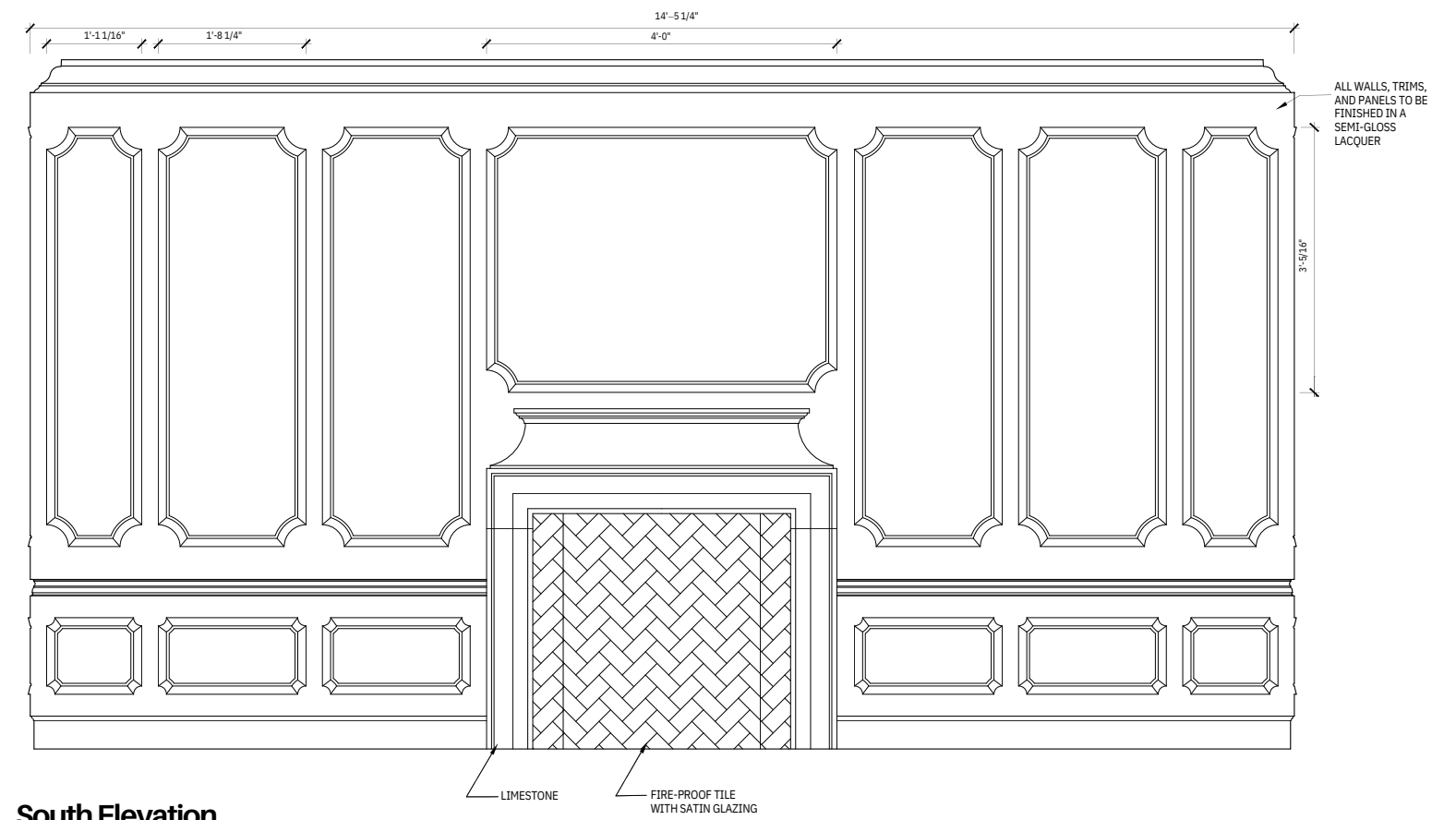
Chair Rail Detail



Baseboard Detail



Door Trim Detail



ALL WALLS, TRIMS, AND PANELS TO BE FINISHED IN A SEMI-GLOSS LACQUER

LIMESTONE  
FIRE-PROOF TILE WITH SATIN GLAZING

South Elevation





Installation Photo

# DOAD.

In April 2023, I had the opportunity to be a part of the Housing Works Design on a Dime show house. I worked on a team of six and was mentored by NYSID alumna and faculty member, Claudia Tejada. The vignette we created paid tribute to women designers of color throughout history. The mural's colors were pulled from a Peruvian Amarra textile, which allowed for us to "weave" our diverse styles together.

Proceeds benefit Housing Works' healthcare and housing efforts and initiatives serving New Yorkers living with HIV and other chronic illnesses.

**Location:** Metropolitan Pavilion, New York, NY

**Size:** Approx. 100 sq. ft.

**Concept:** Paying tribute to women designers of color throughout history and weaving together their diverse styles.

Designed in collaboration with Ashley Abaunza, Paulina Castillon Gomez, Isabella Hamilton, Kayla Lowry, and Nour Saedeldine.

**Programs:** AutoCAD, SketchUp



Inspiration

Wari Tunic, Peru, 750 - 900 CE

Benjamin Moore Paint Selections



Franklin Lakes 1643



Orange Parrot 2169-20



Golden Vista 308



Fairmont Green HC-127



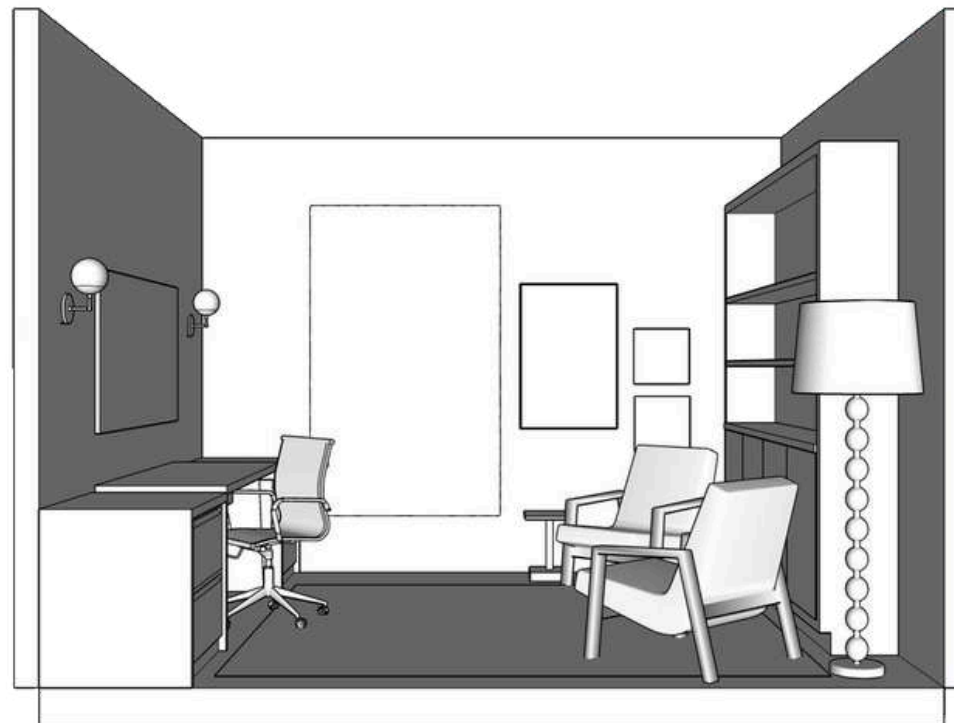
Swiss Coffee OC-45



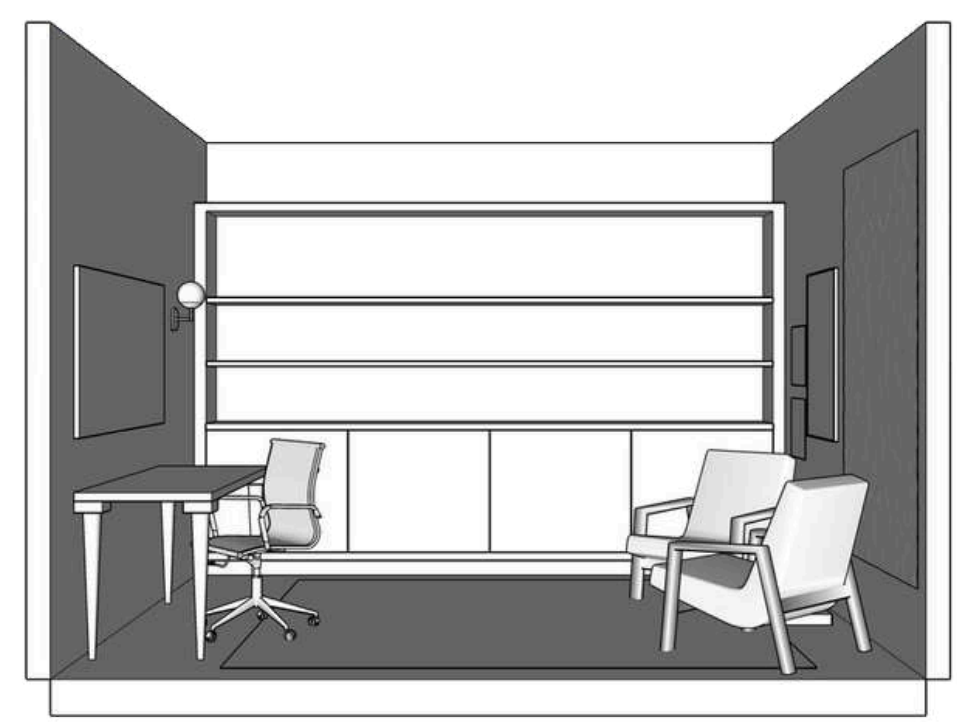
Champion Cobalt 2061-20



Layout Option One



Layout Option Two



Layout Option Three



East Elevation



North Elevation



West Elevation

**thank  
you.**

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M E L I D A  
V A L E R A

