

MEGAN RAMIREZ

Portfolio
Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design
Expected Graduation in May 2025

Hello!

Nice to meet you! My name is Megan Ramirez and I am a student in my final semester of the Interior Architecture & Design program at Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design.

My interest in architecture and design has always been present in my life, even as a small child. Family members could attest that I spent more time creating homes for my toys than I did playing with them, and I loved seeing the inside of acquaintances' houses when I would run errands with my mom. I remember walking the streets of Milwaukee after my 7th grade Design and Construction class and feeling such excitement that I could finally start to identify the different architectural styles all around me.

Though my passion for design was clear, my path to get there was not quite as straightforward. I initially began my education in the sciences, pursuing an interest in conservation biology and environmental sciences. However, I realized soon enough that I was longing to exercise a certain type of creativity that I couldn't find in Biology. I spent the year after graduation working with dogs (one of my other passions) and then jumped into my Interior Design career, never looking back.

As a designer, I believe that our spaces can reflect more about a person than words can ever say. My passion lies in collaborating directly with clients to create spaces that bring them joy and a sense of pride in knowing that their space feels uniquely like them. In my work, I am driven by a strong interest in sustainability, an appreciation for historical elements, and a scientific curiosity to discover how we can make spaces the most functional and inviting for the people who use them. Though I am especially drawn to residential and hospitality spaces, I consider every design opportunity a welcome and exciting challenge.

The following pages showcase selected portions of residential and commercial projects from my educational career. My school and work experiences have taught me many valuable skills and lessons, and I am excited to continue to learn, grow and contribute to a design team.

Thank you!

Megan Ramirez

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The Sentinel Apartments

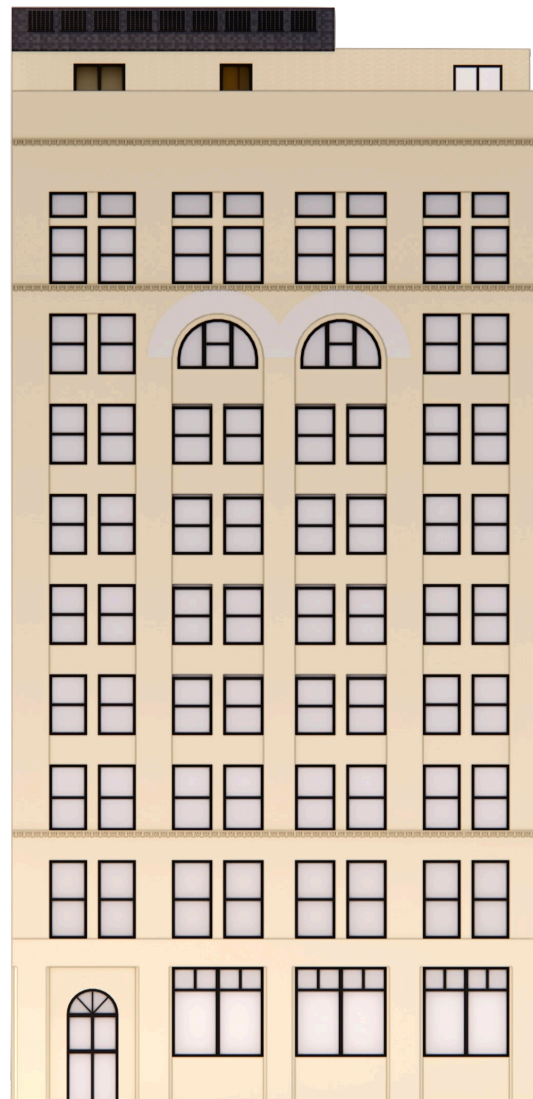
RESIDENTIAL DESIGN | SENIOR THESIS PROJECT | FALL 2024 - PRESENT

Project Summary

As young adults and professionals become more settled in their careers and communities, many start exploring the idea of purchasing a home. However, in today's current housing climate, home ownership has steadily become more challenging to attain. Though young adults may have to rent for longer periods of time, they are still interested in the potential benefits of owning a home: more space and privacy, easy access to outdoor living and green space, higher-end features and finishes, connection to a neighborhood community, and the ability to enjoy the history and unique character of the house itself.

To address this challenge, I have chosen to revive a currently-vacant historic Milwaukee office building and convert it into a 16-unit apartment community. In addition to spacious one- and two-bedroom apartments, the design will provide community spaces, an outdoor rooftop area, and a ground floor coffee shop that will connect the building to the surrounding Milwaukee neighborhood.

The goal of this project is to create a rental residence that feels like a true home and prioritizes residents' well-being and personal needs. Each apartment will include a dedicated office space as well as in-unit laundry and an extra half bathroom. The building will also prioritize sustainability and healthy living, utilizing materials and features that consider both the environment and the people who live there. Throughout the process, care will be taken to pay respect to the 1892 building's history.



BUILDING FACADE RENDER

225 E. MASON ST.



This project is still in progress, and the final iteration will be showcased this spring at the 2025 MIAD Senior Exhibition.



MILWAUKEE, WI

Located in the heart of Downtown Milwaukee, the building is surrounded by restaurants, entertainment venues, shopping and more, all within walking distance. On the left, an early render of the updated facade.



SITE DIAGRAM

- HOTEL
- RESTAURANT
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GREEN SPACE
- 225 E. MASON ST.

Space Planning

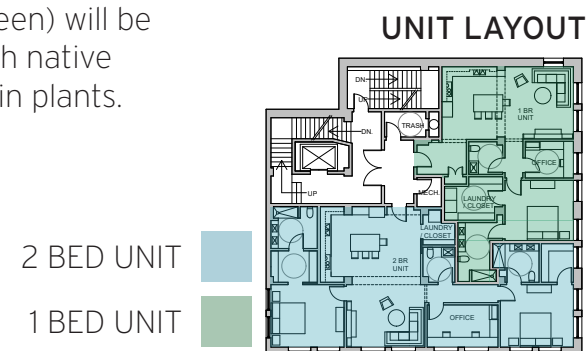
Floor plans counter-clockwise from top left:

One of the challenges for the coffee shop on **LEVEL 1** was overcoming an almost five-foot height difference from the entry level (white) to the main level (light gray). A wrap-around ramp provides all patrons with an equal entry experience, in keeping with universal design standards.

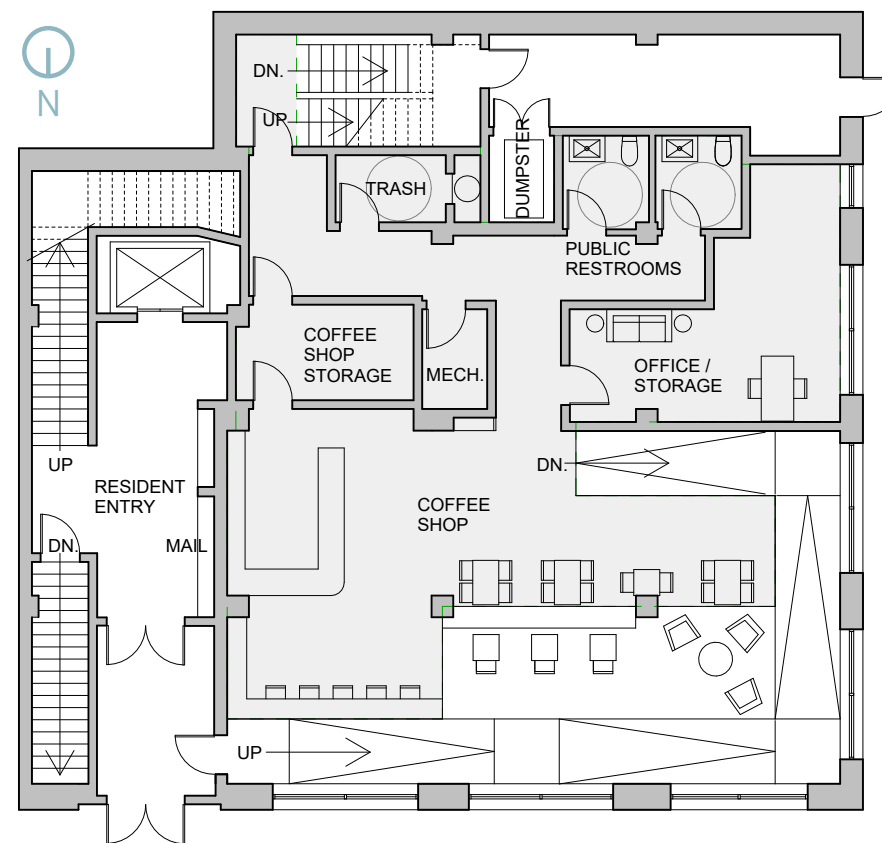
Each residential floor (**LEVELS 2-9**) includes a one-bedroom and a two-bedroom unit (see also diagram below). An additional half-bathroom and office space make hosting and working more comfortable, and laundry is located in-unit. Care was taken to ensure each main living space (bedroom, living, kitchen and office) has access to natural light, and ADA accessibility was considered for all bathrooms and living spaces.

The community spaces on **LEVEL 10** include a large exercise room as well as communal gathering and relaxing spaces, featuring games, a full kitchen, and plenty of storage.

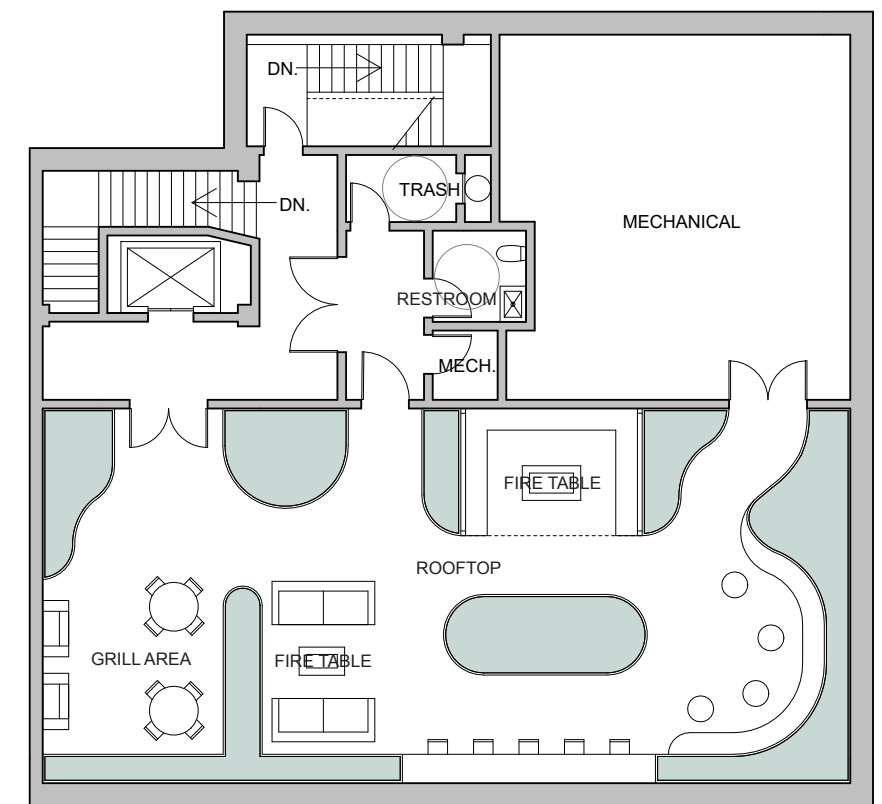
The outdoor **ROOFTOP** living area features grill equipment, fire tables, and a variety of seating options. Planter boxes (light green) will be filled with native Wisconsin plants.



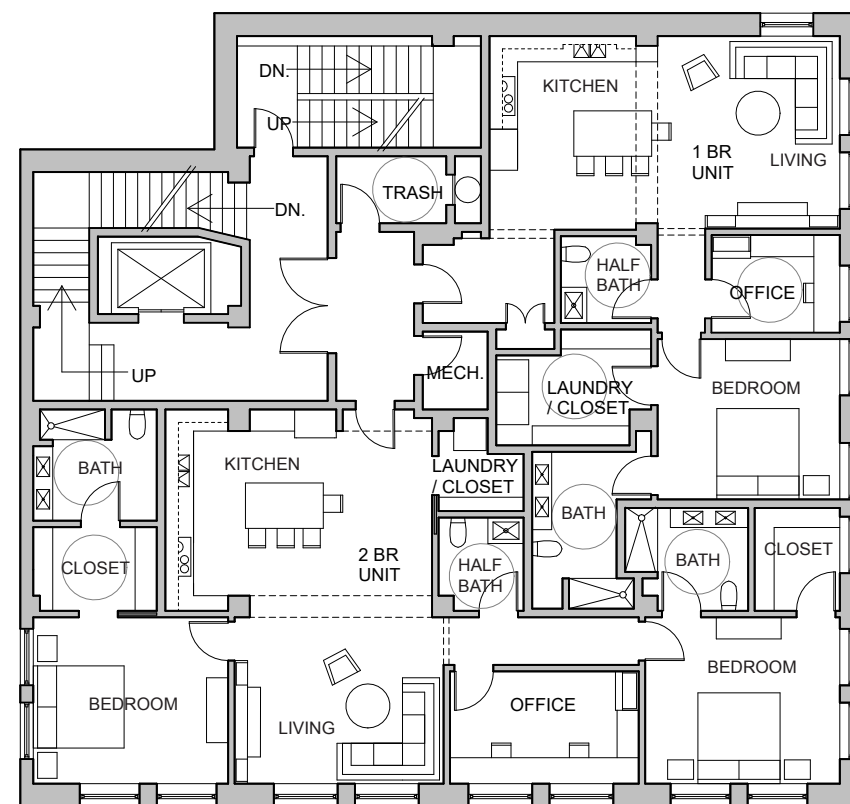
LEVEL 1: ENTRY & COFFEE SHOP



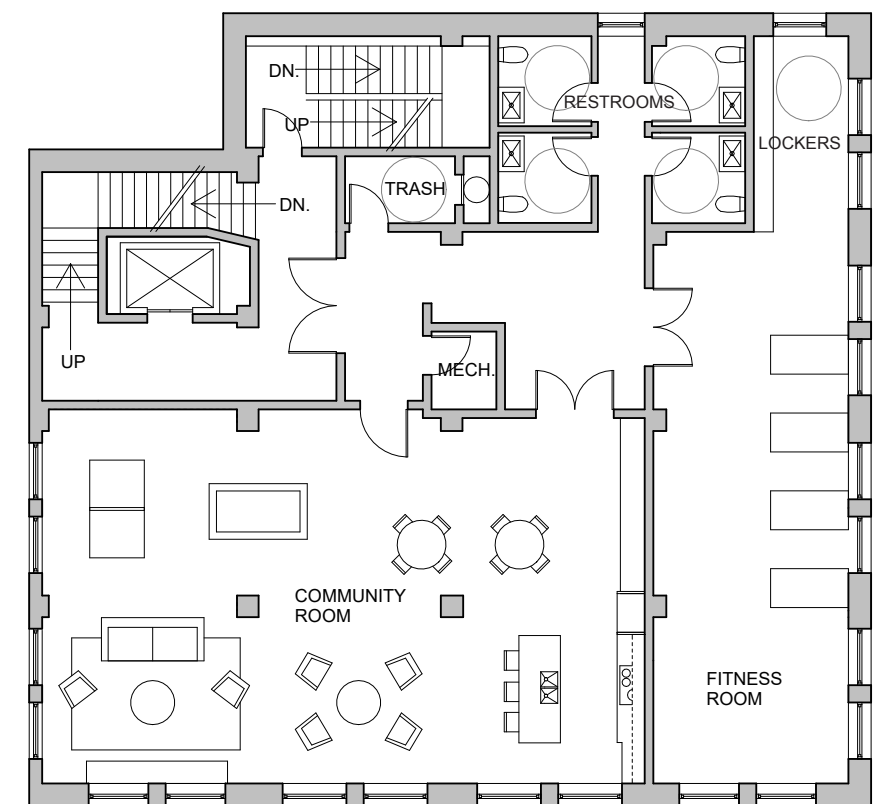
ROOF: OUTDOOR LIVING SPACE



LEVELS 2-9: RESIDENTIAL UNITS



LEVEL 10: COMMUNITY SPACES



Renderings

These renders showcase the details and materials that will be utilized in the final design. Crown moulding, baseboards and arches pay homage to the original 1892 plans, while a soft color scheme provides comfort and flexibility for all residents.



MATERIAL COLLAGE

Material explorations featuring Elmwood Reclaimed Timber flooring, sustainability-focused Fireclay Tile, carbon-capturing Dekton countertops, and plant-based Organoid wallcoverings. Fabric choices from JF Fabrics, Schumacher and Pindler, and paint colors from Benjamin Moore.

TYPICAL RESIDENTIAL KITCHEN: 1 BR UNIT



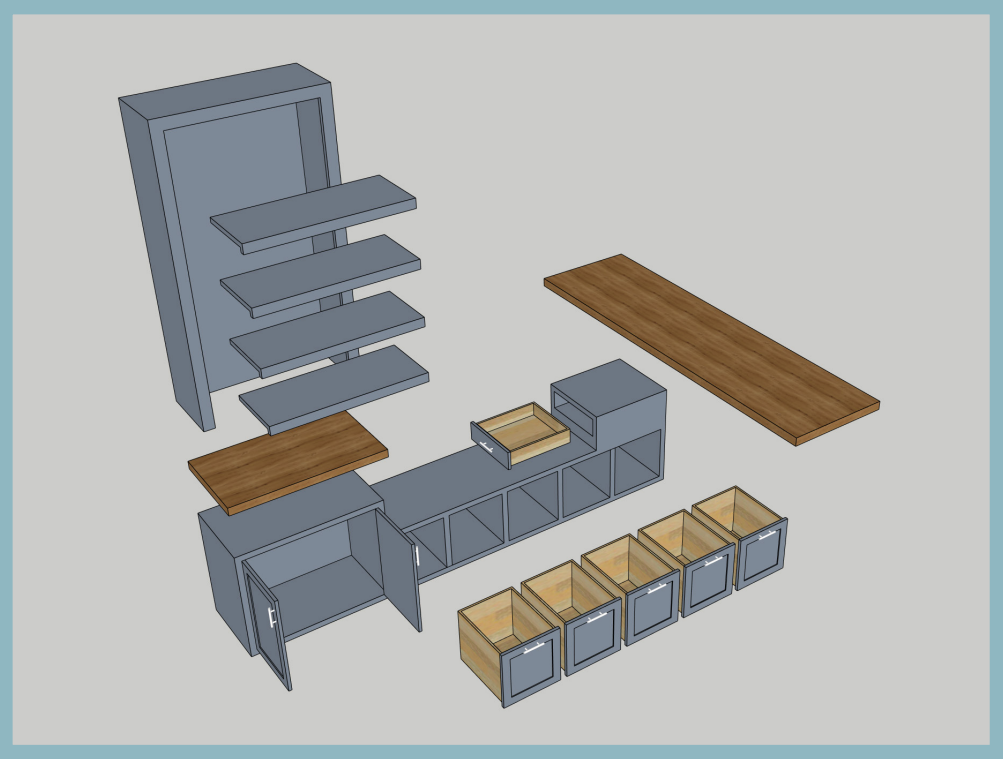
ROOFTOP OUTDOOR SPACE



TYPICAL RESIDENTIAL LIVING: 1 BR UNIT

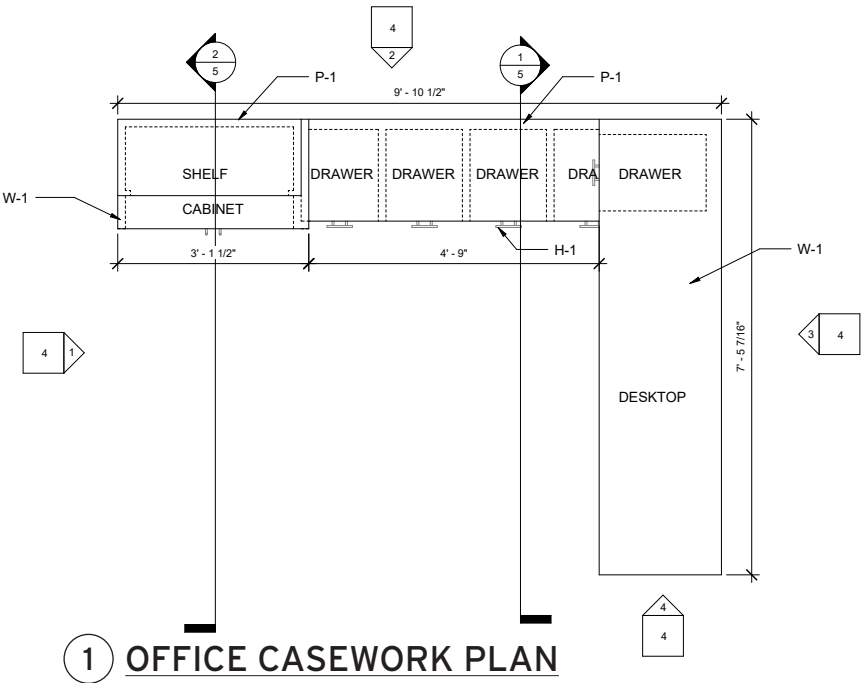
Detail Drawings

EXPLODED AXON VIEW - INITIAL DESIGN

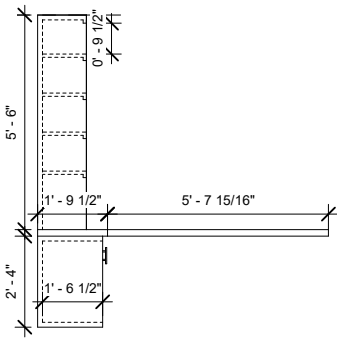


UPDATED ONE-BEDROOM OFFICE RENDER

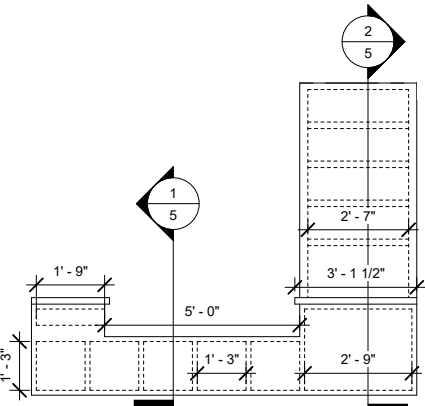
In each apartment, there will be a custom built-in office space, featuring storage, a bench, and a desk with a window view. These selected drawings, taken from an early office construction drawing set, showcase the initial design of the office casework in a one bedroom unit. The office design has evolved in response to client feedback, incorporating cabinet doors in the bookshelf to hide electronics such as a printer.



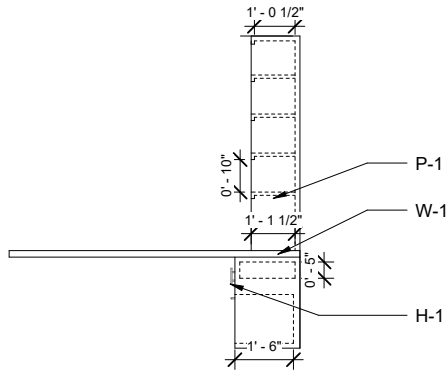
1 OFFICE CASEWORK PLAN



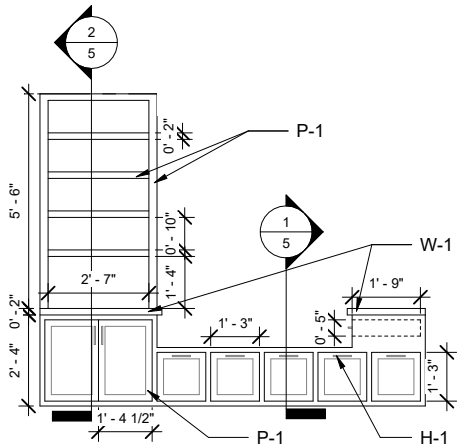
1 NORTH ELEVATION



2 EAST ELEVATION



3 SOUTH ELEVATION



4 WEST ELEVATION

The Marine Terminal Lofts

RESIDENTIAL DESIGN | FALL 2022

Project Summary

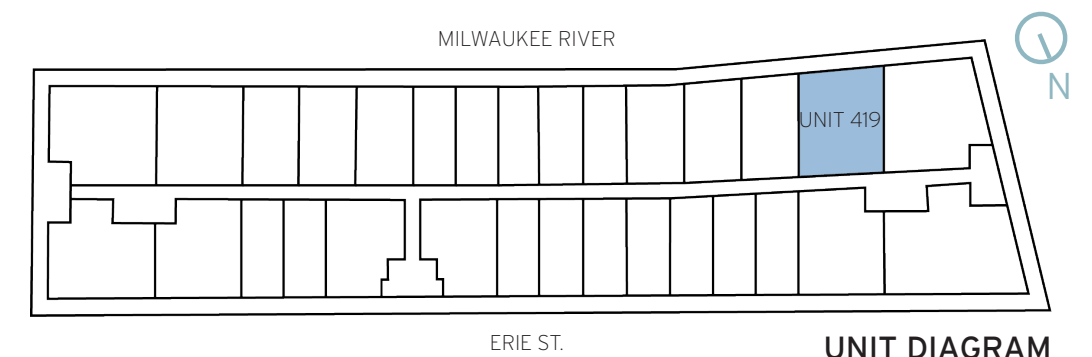
Every residential project offers a unique opportunity to listen and learn about the client's interests, lifestyle and design preferences. Do they spend a lot of time working from home, or hosting gatherings of friends? How much closet and pantry space do they need? What kinds of design styles and elements are they drawn to?

For the renovation of Unit 419 of the Marine Terminal Lofts, I worked directly with my client, Mariah, to determine the answers to these questions. Mariah wanted a space that would feel peaceful and relaxing, taking into account her clean and neutral design preferences, while also functioning seamlessly with her social lifestyle and love of cooking. The space is therefore designed for gatherings, giving Mariah the ability to easily welcome groups and host family members overnight. However, despite the apartment's functionality for visitors, the materials and furnishings of the space create a warm and cozy feeling that is maintained even in more intimate settings. Mariah can feel comfortable at home either way, and therefore the space is perfectly suited to her needs.

This project was awarded the 2022 Student Residential Gold Design Excellence Award from the American Society of Interior Designers - Wisconsin Chapter.



RIVER FACING BALCONY



Located in the Milwaukee's bustling Third Ward, the building is close to local shopping, restaurants, museums and entertainment. Unit 419 features a balcony that overlooks the Milwaukee River.

Space Planning

In designing this layout, it was important that Mariah’s hosting goals could be achieved, while ensuring that the space functioned seamlessly for her everyday life. The division of public and private spaces was considered, as well as maximizing the natural light coming in from the south-facing window wall.

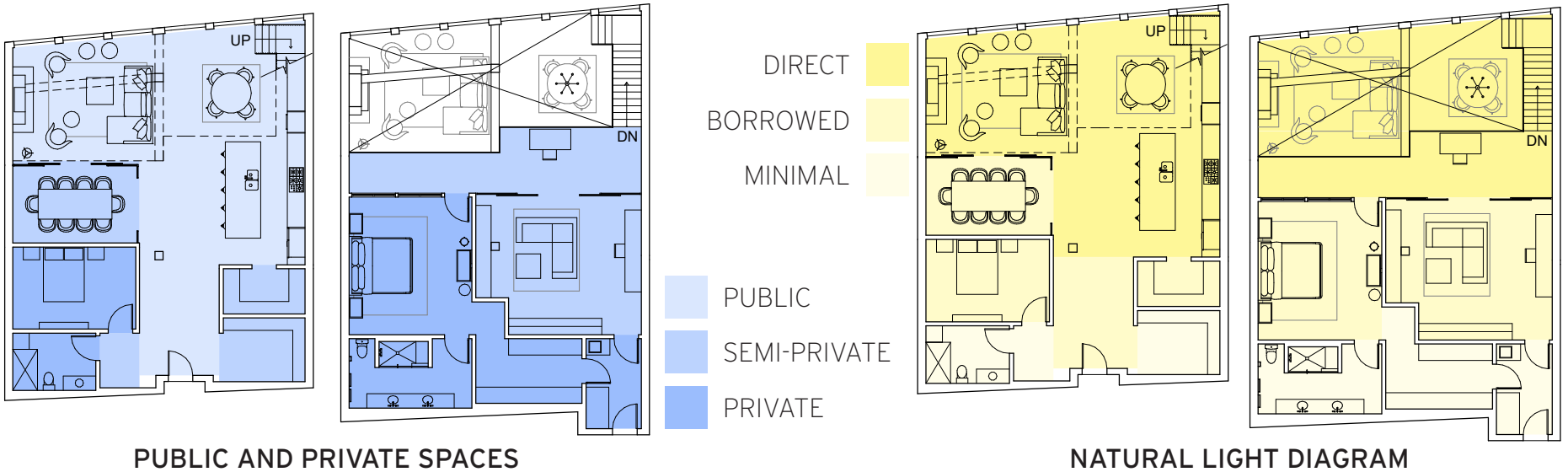
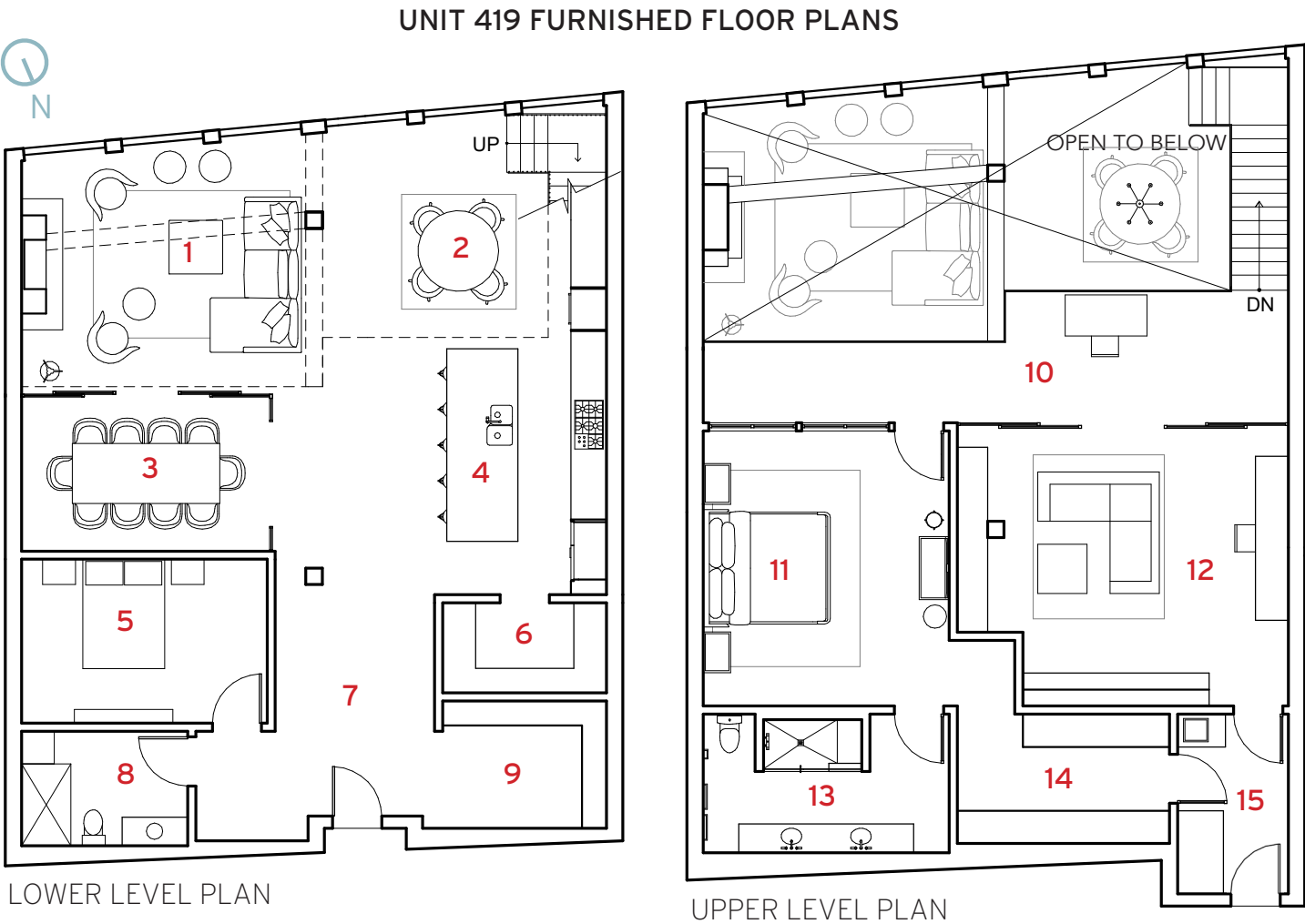
On the lower level, a dedicated guest bedroom and a variety of seating options in the main living area make the space feel welcoming and comfortable for visitors. The kitchen is at the center of the home, helping Mariah feel connected with any guests even when she is cooking and preparing meals.

When she is ready to go upstairs at the end of the night, a balcony overlooking the two-story living space below provides a layer of separation between her private bedroom suite and the lower level. A more private and casual work-from-home and lounging space sits adjacent to Mariah’s bedroom.

Mariah is a collector of objects and books, so plenty of storage is provided throughout the space with built-in shelves and cabinetry, as well as the lower level mudroom, large kitchen pantry, and sizable walk-in closet off of the main bedroom.

PROGRAM KEY

- 1 LIVING
- 2 INFORMAL DINING
- 3 FORMAL DINING
- 4 KITCHEN
- 5 GUEST BEDROOM
- 6 PANTRY
- 7 ENTRY
- 8 GUEST BATHROOM
- 9 MUDROOM
- 10 BALCONY AND INFORMAL SITTING
- 11 MASTER BEDROOM
- 12 INFORMAL LIVING AND STUDY
- 13 MASTER BATHROOM
- 14 MASTER CLOSET
- 15 LAUNDRY



Interiors



DINING COLLAGE

LIVING RENDER AND COLLAGE



Natural stone, wood and green tones create a relaxing and sophisticated space where Mariah can host friends and family. Glass doors on the dining room can be opened or closed.



KITCHEN RENDER, ELEVATION AND COLLAGE



The kitchen combines a classic black and white color scheme with wood, metal and wave-like quartz to create a serene and inviting space that is also extremely functional for cooking. A large island, separate pantry and added coffee bar nook provide plenty of space for all Mariah's workspace and storage needs.



Interiors

Every element used in this project was specified, from furniture pieces to wall finishes to kitchen equipment. Full FF&E schedules were created to document these selections. A small sample of the overall schedule is included here.

The main bedroom and bathroom suite features calming blue and cream tones to evoke the spa-like atmosphere that Mariah desired.

TAG	LOCATION	VENDOR	ITEM #	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS
PT-1	Kitchen North and West Wall, Stove Hood, Wall Under Stairs along West Wall; All Living Room Walls: Dining Room East Wall; Upper South and West Sections; Master Bedroom North, South and West	Sherwin Williams	SW 7004	Snowbound, Satin finish for walls, Semi-Gloss finish for hood	Kitchen west wall painted from 8' 2" to ceiling. Kitchen wall under stairs along west wall is like "ceiling" to the coffee bar. Kitchen north wall painted floor to
PT-2	Kitchen West/South Wall Below Stairs				
PT-3	All Lower and Upper Level Ceilings				
PT-4	Dining Room North Wall				
PT-5	Master Bedroom East Wall				
PT-6	All Master Bathroom Walls				
CT-1	Kitchen Countertops				

TAG	LOCATION	VENDOR	ITEM #	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS
WO-2	Fireplace Mantel	URBANDIstore on Etsy	N/A	Custom Pine Wood Mantel, Aged Oak Finish	Custom 5'x10"x10" dimensions, installed at 4' 6"
WO-3	All Lower Level Floors (Except Fireplace Surround and Guest Bath), Stair Treads, All Upper Level Floors (Except Master Bath and Laundry)	CRAFT Artisan Wood Floors	N/A	Valencia, comes in 8" width, random varying lengths from 1' to 8'	Flooring on lower and upper level and stair landing runs north to south, on stairs runs parallel to longest edge. One panel width of flooring surrounds fireplace stone floor surround with mitered corners. Stair nose, prestige construction on stairs.
TL-1	Kitchen Backsplash on West Wall, Master Bathroom Shower Floor, Base of Shower Bench, Back and Sides of Built-In Recessed Shower Shelf	Tilebar	N/A	Santa Monica White 4"x12" Ceramic Wall Tile	All tile installed horizontally with 50% offset. Above all kitchen countertops to cabinets at 4' 4 1/2" or ceiling at 8' 2". Base of shower bench from floor to start of quartz at 1' 5". Shower shelf installed horizontally in back and on inner walls of shelf. On shower floor, installed parallel to longest edge. Laticrete 44 Bright White grout, width .063"
TL-2	Living Fireplace Floor Surround	Richards & Sterling	N/A	Epika, Shell, 12"x24", 9mm thick	Fireplace surround extends 12" from each edge of the fireplace. 4 tiles installed horizontally in front of fireplace, cut tile to 18" for sides of fireplace. 2mm grout width, Laticrete 90 Light Pewter
TL-3	Master Bathroom Floor	Tilebar	N/A	Eveningstar, Mosaic	Laticrete Bright White 44, grout width .063". Installed everywhere but shower floor
ST-1	Fireplace on Living East Wall	Eldorado Stone	N/A	Roughcut, Casa Blanca	Entire fireplace to ceiling of second floor. Grout: Ardex Polar White 01, overgrout joint

FINISH SCHEDULES

BATHROOM RENDER



BATHROOM COLLAGE



BEDROOM COLLAGE

Garfield Community Creatives

COMMERCIAL DESIGN | FALL 2023

Project Summary

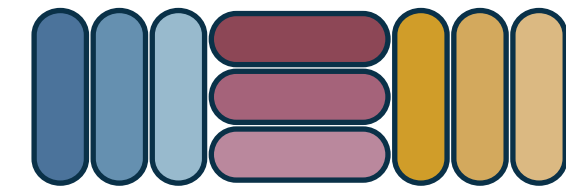
For this project, the goal was to create a commercial space that would not only be a viable business, but also provide opportunities to support and reinvest in the local Bronzeville community. Historically, members of this neighborhood have been disproportionately affected by gentrification, and it was imperative to create a space that would support its community members rather than pricing them out. After consulting with local community stakeholders, I decided to create a multi-purpose space that could host events, foster creativity, and celebrate local artists.

Garfield Community Creatives takes shape from a set of interconnected parts: a cafe with seating where people can gather, relax and work, a gallery where events can be held and local artists can showcase their work, and an art studio where people of all ages can come to create. This space will welcome and support community members young and old, and the flexible event space offers increased opportunity for people in the larger Milwaukee area to invest in the Bronzeville community. The interior of the space is warm, welcoming and unpretentious, featuring colorful curated second-hand furniture, cream city brick, and exposed ceilings.

This project was awarded the 2023 Student Commercial Bronze Design Excellence Award from the American Society of Interior Designers - Wisconsin Chapter.

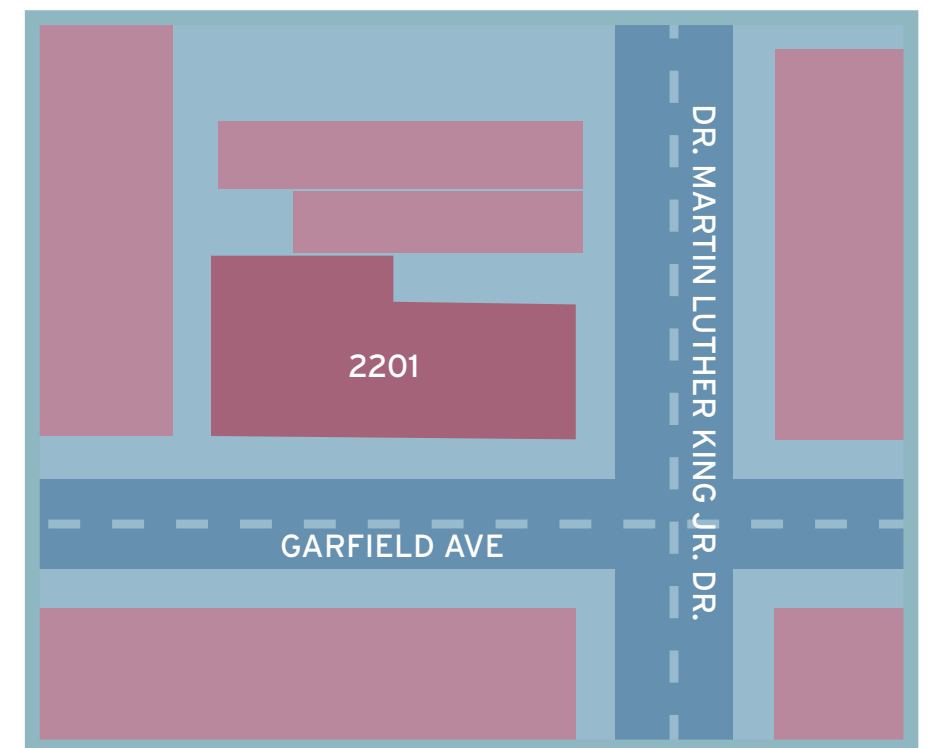


MATERIAL INSPIRATIONS



BRANDING DESIGN

Located at 2201 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., the building sits in the heart of the Bronzeville neighborhood. It is home to several other tenants, including a salon, artist studios, and a church. To the left, a material board shows the mood and color palette that the space will convey.

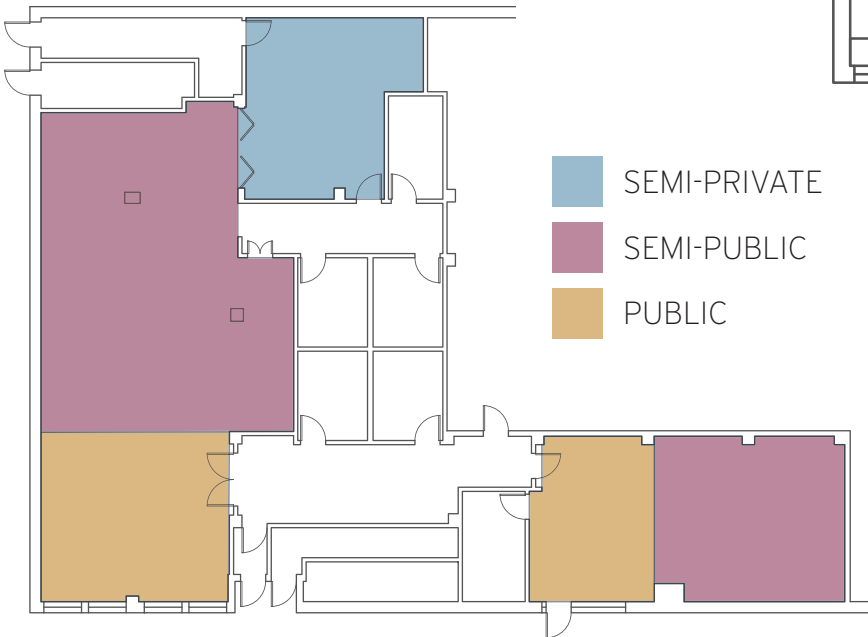


SITE DIAGRAM

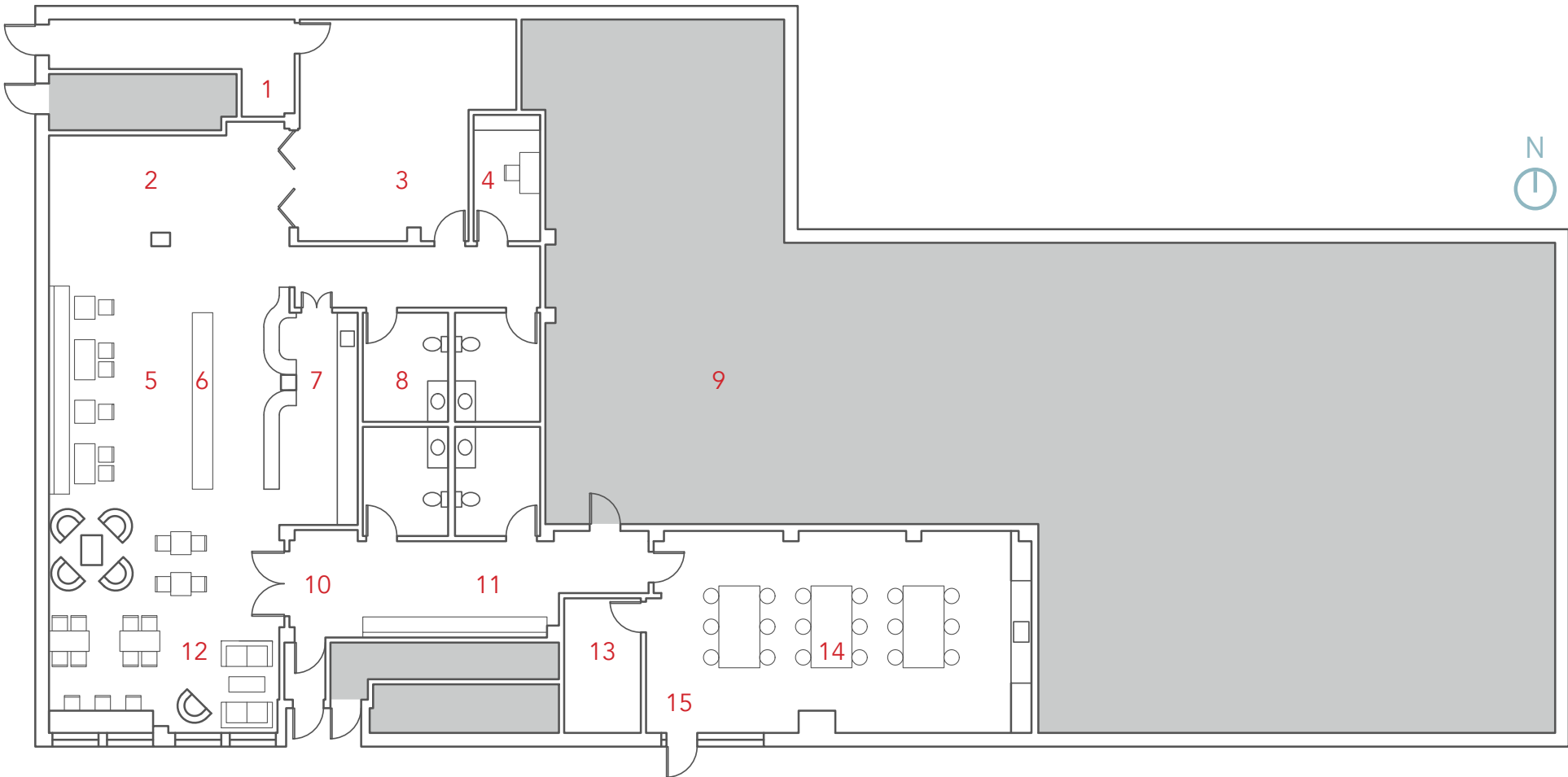
Space Planning

One of the challenges in this space was finding a way to accommodate neighboring tenants who share the unit's main entry door. Therefore, the space is separated into two sections, with the art studio on one side and the gallery and coffee shop on the other. Restrooms can be accessed from both inside and outside the main space. Because of this layout, the art studio can be used even when the gallery is reserved for events. The gallery space does not have any permanent furniture, making it possible to display various forms of artwork.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPACES



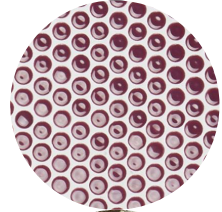
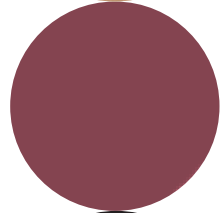
FLOOR PLAN



PROGRAM KEY

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| 1 | STORAGE | 8 | BATHROOMS |
| 2 | GALLERY SPACE | 9 | SEPARATE TENANT SPACE |
| 3 | GALLERY / MULTIPURPOSE
EVENT SPACE | 10 | CAFE MAIN ENTRY |
| 4 | OFFICE | 11 | SHARED PUBLIC HALLWAY |
| 5 | CAFE SEATING | 12 | CAFE SEATING |
| 6 | RETAIL | 13 | STORAGE |
| 7 | CAFE | 14 | ART WORKSPACE |
| | | 15 | ART WORKSPACE MAIN ENTRY |

Interiors



MATERIAL
SELECTIONS

Burgundy, blue, and creamy yellow materials evoke the branding of the company, while neutral gallery walls allow for any artwork to be hung or displayed thoughtfully. Second-hand furniture contributes to an eclectic and artistic vibe and provides a variety of comfortable seating. A central shelving island provides retail space for local artists.



CAFE SEATING

ART WORKSPACE



Pediatric Doctor's Office

HEALTHCARE DESIGN | SPRING 2024

Project Summary

Though the goal of healthcare is to help people feel their best, many find traditional healthcare environments to be cold, uninviting and stressful. It's easy to understand how sterility in healthcare has become commonplace in both functionality and design; providers need sanitary spaces to conduct exams and procedures, which require materials that limit the spread of germs and can be easily disinfected. However, the plain walls, harsh lighting and muted colors of purely functional healthcare design create spaces that are not welcoming to patients, especially children. This pediatric doctor's office is specifically designed with that in mind.

The facility is inspired by the peaceful and grounded feelings that can be found when spending time in nature. My goal in this project was to offer a medical experience for children that feels more engaging than traditional healthcare establishments, inspiring curiosity and a greater sense of comfort and safety.

Greens, blues and wood tones evoke natural themes, while astronomical wallcoverings and curved shapes encourage kids to use their imaginations. Exam rooms include clerestory windows to allow for comforting natural light while maintaining patient privacy. All materials were chosen for their suitability for the healthcare environment, especially considering durability and cleanability.

MOOD BOARD

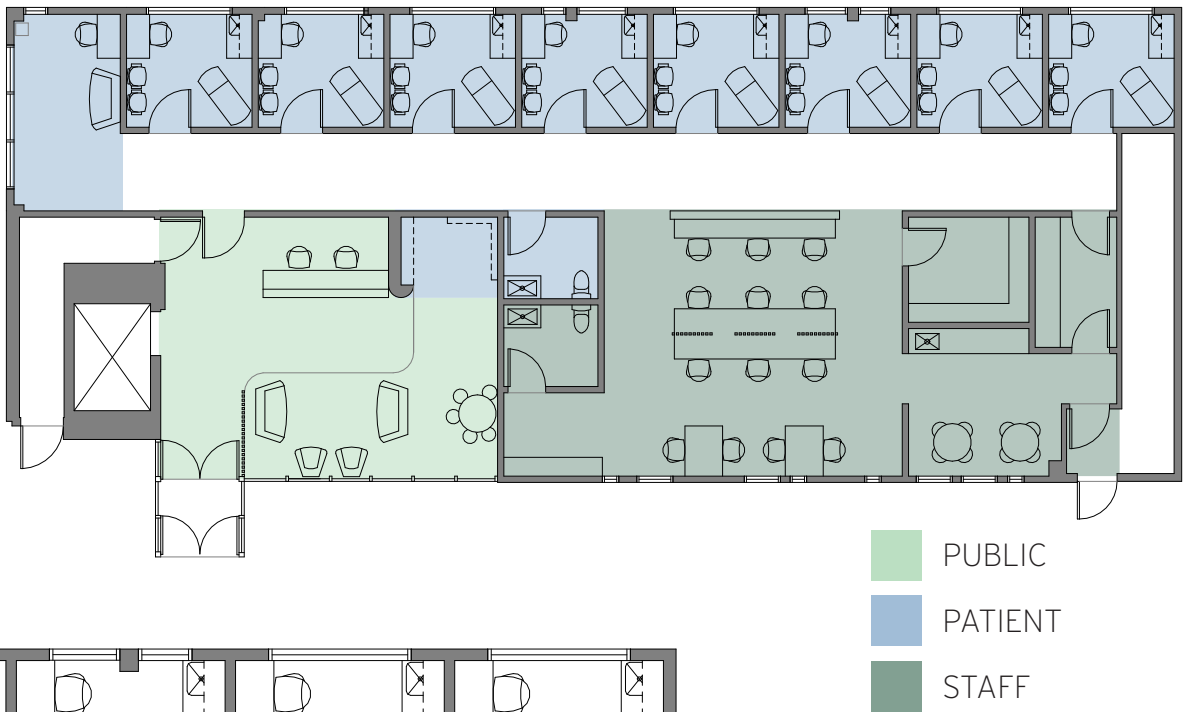
This mood board served as the inspiration for the project, helping to guide design decisions and material selections.



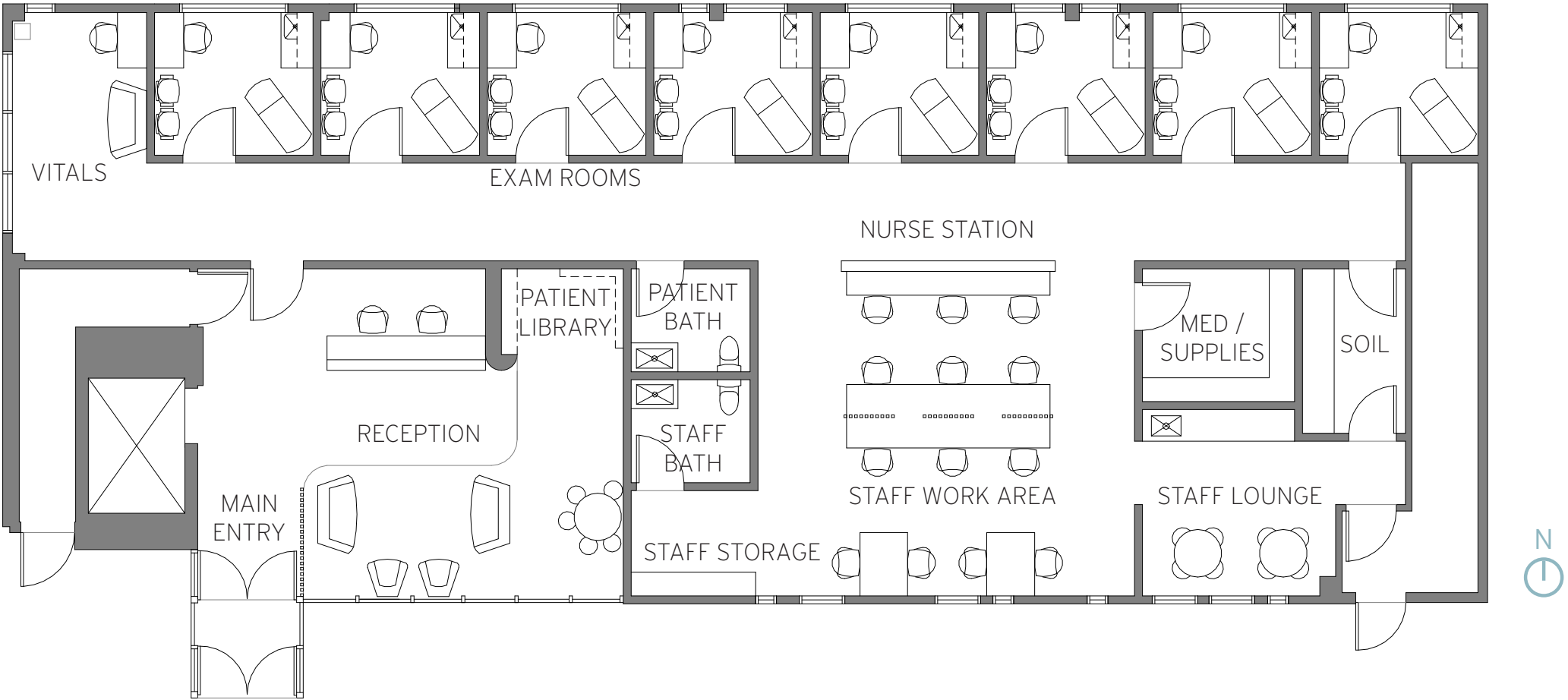
Space Planning

Ensuring easy wayfinding for patients and reducing travel distance for healthcare staff were two priorities when developing this floor plan. To make patient navigation easy, all patient spaces are located along the main hallway, whereas the provider space is centralized between the exam rooms. Staff have a private restroom and break area, as well as a more modern shared office space to foster collaboration and community.

SPACE DIAGRAM



FLOOR PLAN



Interiors

Layered lighting and nature-inspired colors and materials make the space feel calm and relaxing, while still offering full functionality and cleanability for healthcare providers. Children will have a more comfortable medical experience, which can help reduce anxiety and build trust with medical staff.

EXAM ROOM ENTRY



MATERIAL BOARD



EXAM ROOM



RECEPTION

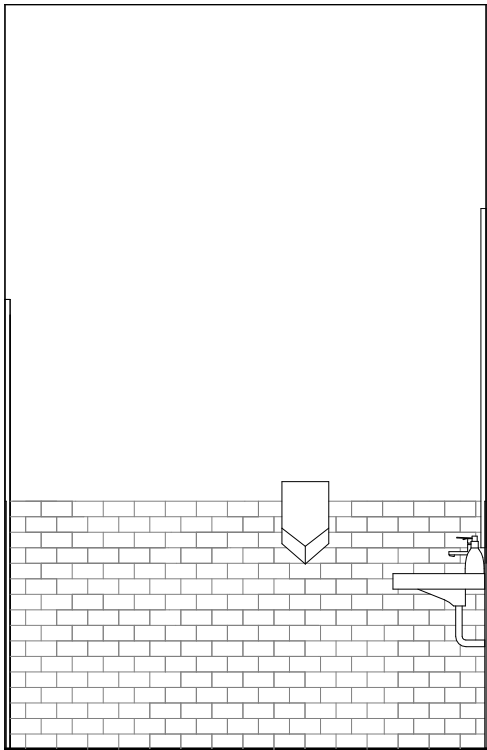


Detail Drawings

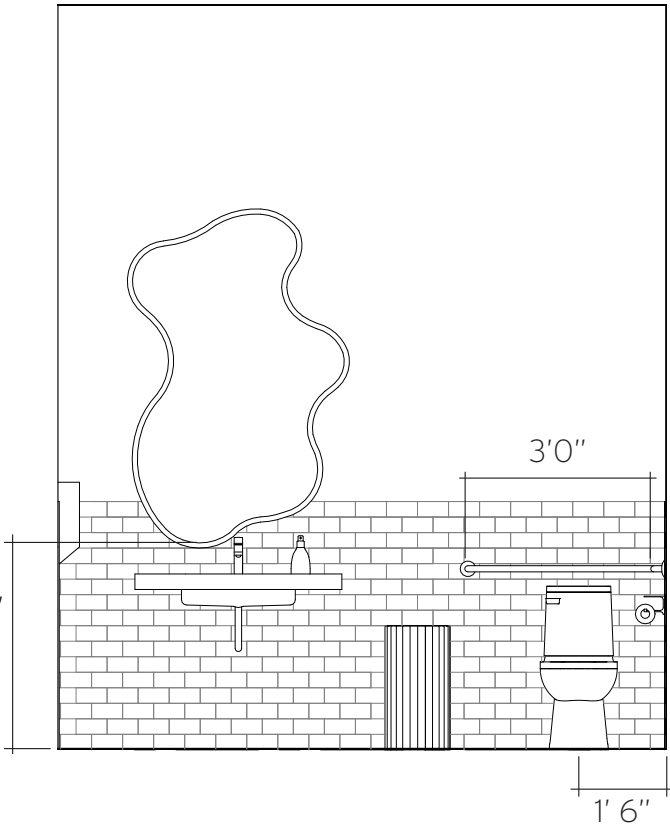
The section drawing below shows a portion of the nurse station and shared work area for medical staff, including construction details and material callouts.

Additionally, in relation to this project, I explored requirements for designing ADA-compliant restrooms. Drawings to the right feature proper dimensions, clearances and accessibility features like grab bars.

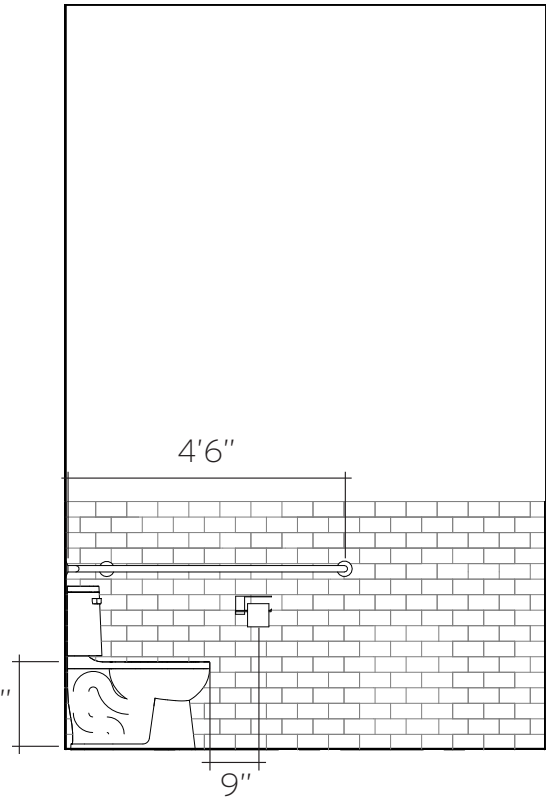
RESTROOM EAST ELEVATION



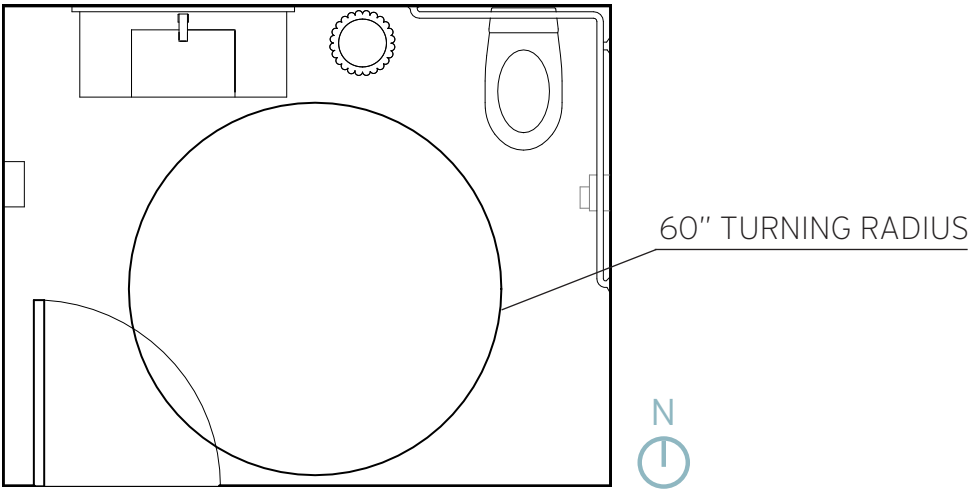
RESTROOM NORTH ELEVATION

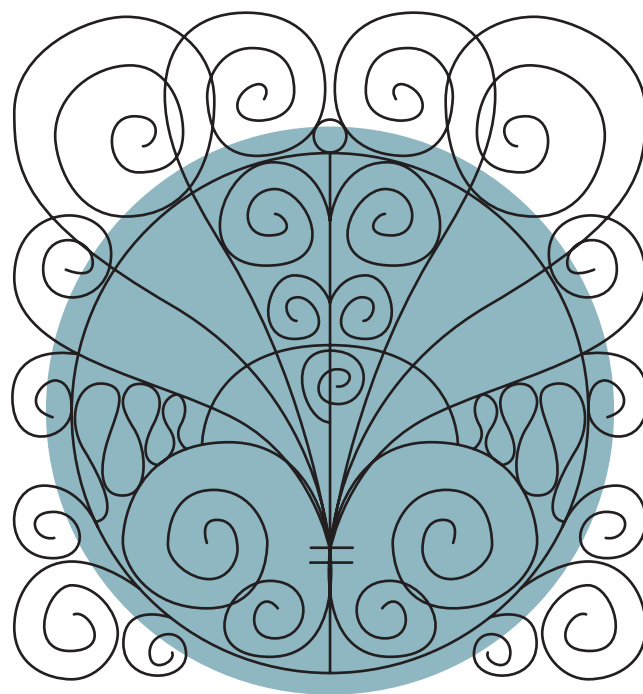


RESTROOM WEST ELEVATION



RESTROOM FLOOR PLAN





THANK YOU!

Megan Ramirez
Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design
Expected Graduation in May 2025