



# domestic **a**buse

QUESTO È CONSACRATO  
AI MIEI GENITORI. NON  
CI È PAROLE PER LA  
MIA GRATITUDINE. I  
RINGRAZIAMENTI PER TUTTO  
LEI SOSTIENE E LA CREDENZA  
IN ME. QUESTO NON  
AVREBBE POTUTO ESSERE  
FATTO A MENO DEL LORO  
AMORE E DEL SOSTEGNO.  
RINGRAZIARLA.

DEDICATED TO MY  
PARENTS. THERE ARE  
NO WORDS FOR MY  
GRATITUDE. THANKS  
FOR ALL YOU SUPPORT  
AND BELIEF IN ME. THIS  
COULD HAVE NOT BEEN  
DONE WITHOUT THEIR  
LOVE AND SUPPORT.  
THANK YOU.

# lore@architecture

## TABLE OF CONTENTS:

### CHAPTER 1:

THESIS STATMENT.....	10
ABSTRACT.....	11
THESIS PAPER.....	12

### CHAPTER 2:

#### ARCHITECTURAL PRECEDENTS

HOMEBOY INDUSTRIES.....	32
HOLE-IN-THE-WALL-SCHOOLS.....	36
A BRIDGE TOO FAR.....	40
SOS COMMUNITY CENTER.....	44

### CHAPTER 3:

#### ORGANIZATIONAL PRECEDENTS

LISC DETROIT.....	52
BRIGHTMOOR COMMUNITY CENTER.....	54
FOCUS: HOPE.....	56

### CHAPTER 4:

#### POTENTIAL SITES

HAMTRAMCK.....	68
DETROIT.....	76

CHAPTER 5:	
COMMUNITY NEEDS	
DOMESTIC-ABUSE IN DETROIT.....	84
CHAPTER 6:	
SCHEMATIC DESIGN.....	94
CHAPTER 7:	
FINAL DESIGN.....	100
CONCLUSION.....	124
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	126

SERVING BASIC NEEDS  
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EMPOWER SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

IDENTIFY . RECOGNIZE . ENG

One domestic-abuse shelter in Detroit

Seven perecent increase in cases this year

Time to rally. Getting the

BRUISES FADE  
BUT THE PAIN  
LASTS FOREVER....

AGE. TRANSFORM. SUSTAIN

community involved

Break the cycle of abuse

Community outreach. Increase awareness.







Transformation of a Neighborhood into a Self-sustaining Community through Revelation, Recognition, and Engagement.

Good design has the potential to benefit more people than it currently does. Design can play a direct role in addressing critical issues that we face. The process of creating the built environment can allow communities and individuals to improve and celebrate their lives. It can help solve their struggles by reshaping their existence. But currently the opportunity to create a built environment is reversed only for the very few, the elite, the highest income bracket served to excess by market force. Designers have let these market forces alone determine whom we serve, what issues we address, and the shape of all our design professions. How can we expand the practice of design to provide for the rest, the great number currently underserved, and to play an active role in responding to the social challenges we face in the world? By expanding the population we serve and the services we offer, designers can play a significant role in addressing the most critical issues we face in the world today, such as the youth and domestic-abuse dilemma. We need a career path, and possibly even a profession, of public-interest architecture, parallel to public health and public defense, that has its own education requirements, financial support, and client base.

Throughout the world today architecture and all of the design professions are undergoing a major transformation that is proactive and reactive; proactive as a search for roles with greater relevance, and reactive as a response to the humanitarian crises facing the world. There are many questions that are in the minds of architects, such as how can designers and planners become active agents in making positive changes in the world? How can design and planning be part of a movement for social and environmental justice? How can activism reinvigorate the social practice of architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, and planning?

The practice of architecture is similar to the practices of physicians and lawyers, in that professionals work mainly with clients, wealthy individuals, corporations, institutions, and government; who can afford to pay professional fees and who receive, in exchange, highly customized responses to their specific needs. In architecture, this form of practice has led to the design and construction of many visually powerful and functionally successful buildings, but it also greatly limits the number and types of people served by the profession. (Barnett 24-25)

With global population anticipated to increase to about nine billion by 2050, the United Nation expects the number of people living in slums to reach two billion by the same date. (Whyte 47) We have already seen how the sense of hopelessness and anger that young people feel in such situations can lead them to embrace various kinds of violence. (Glazer 52) As such calamities come to our attention; there is an urgent need to address these issues, which places community design and public-interest architecture at the very center of public concern.

Changes in education and practice have begun to follow these changes in demand and expectations. Traditionally, in most schools of architecture the curriculum prepares students to meet the building needs of relatively wealthy individuals and organizations, even though most of the growth in population and most of the need for architectural services exists among billions of impoverished people across the planet. So I ask the question, what might a whole new profession that focuses on public-interest architecture look like? Although the traditional practice of architecture parallels those of other professions such as medicine and law, architects do not have the benefit of an insurance system that protects patients from paying the high fees of doctors, or the contingency based fee agreements of lawyers who get paid if they win the case. Nor do most architects have the ongoing relationships and repeat business that many doctors have with their patients or lawyers with their clients.

Public health and social justice has, provided an opportunity for designers to connect with the funding sources and government and nonprofit organization that have traditionally supported public health. Because of that connection, the practice of public-interest architecture might end up having a much stronger body of research behind it, as well as a more diverse set of disciplines working with it. While the traditional design and engineer fields will continue to be a part of public-interest practice, professionals who do not normally work with architects, such as public-health physicians, social workers, sociologists, child care, and anthropologists might be doing so. This could then allow design to connect to the community and the user. When other professions collaborate with architects in the design process, it allows that design to be more thought out.

Architects can easily increase the number of clients that we serve. Right now there is a large contingent of potential clients that we are not reaching, and there is no competition for their projects. These clients have needs that represent the most exciting design challenges in existence such as the domestic-abuse dilemma and the problems with the youth in Detroit. Yet the great majority of this public does not know what design is, or why they might want it, or how it could influence them. It is our job to explain this, to define and communicate the value of architecture. We can use our training and talent to make broader contributions to the world, but it will require that many of us change the way we practice architecture. In "Good Deeds, Good Design: Community Service through Architecture" by Robert M. Feldman, he defines activist practice as the act of architects leaving the office, engaging a community, and seeking a need for design in that community, rather than passively waiting for clients to come to them. (Bell 34-36) He also defines operative practice as "any intentional, creative action-formal, programmatic, fiscal, functional, physical, social, political, or aesthetic," that achieves lasting positive changes. (Bell 53) These two notions are examples of ways we can redefine practice so as to free ourselves from our traditional, limited role and to empower ourselves to make the contributions that we believe designers can and should make. A lot of people are optimistic about the future of design within this desperate city of Detroit. Detroit is at a time where a new chapter is ready to begin, and it is our generation that could shape this city. Architects can play key roles as we give new forms to the diverse needs of the future.

Architecture can both do good by societal standards and be good by professional standards, and design does not have to be compromised in the process of serving the needs of others. The voice of change collectively call for the activation of a politicized and specialized project that will work to counteract the forces that typically control production of and access to space. We claim that the political work of architecture is not limited to the work of building. We assert that the political can

be beautiful and that architecture can be socially engaged in ways that sidestep the conflicts of ethics versus aesthetics and finance versus virtue. The forces that influence the ideas, knowledge bases, and practices of our discipline are in constant flux. If our political engagement is to move beyond tiny empowerments and towards systemic changes, we must find a way to move out of the cacophony of a million voices and towards the harmony of a choir that obtains its power from collectivity. What is needed is an architecture that moves the field beyond the design of buildings and towards the design of new processes of engagement with the political forces that shape theories, practices, academies, policies, and communities.

Experiments in architectural education have the potential to expand the field of engagement and to initiate students and faculty into the political aspects of architecture. We need to create a framework for an architecture of change that returns the political to design, not selectively but completely. The return of the political to architecture does not involve designing a building but designing a process of political engagement, one by which architectural ideas, strategies, practice, and values are developed and disseminated in collaboration and contestation with greater society. This is a vision in which the only avenue through the architecture academy involves engagement with real issues affecting citizens and communities.

To support an architecture of change, a foundation theory that is based on action and provides a counterpoint to the current post critical turn is necessary. We need a theory that is practicable and ask citizens to participate and to be engaged in the process, architects to reinvent, academic administration to rethink, and politicians to again become accountable. Such a theory would examine the fragmentation in the current system of architectural education and practice, where the political has been separated from the profession's aesthetic, culture, and economic dimension and it would attempt to reconnect these domains. To achieve this goal such a theory would collapse the layers of politics, culture, and

economics presently strewn about the landscape of architecture education in an attempt to build a unifying framework within which to capture the trajectories of change. In collapsing these layers it is imperative that we examine their impacts both independently and jointly on architectural curriculums.

Nathan Glazer in "The Public Face of Architecture" explains that in order for reconstruction to happen it would require three points of action. First, an understanding of the role of the market in realizing design should be integral to the education of an architect. We must know how to calculate and evaluate the effects of our proposals, both in terms of dollars and relative to their contributions to the spaces of our cities. By understanding this you are able to identify if your project will be buildable, profitable and sustainable. Architecture should not be manifested at the expense of our communities. At the same time we also must question the tendency to blindly accept the market as a guide principle. This uncritical acceptance is disempowering and undermines our capacity to conceive of alternatives or to define architecture differently. Instead of trying to move entirely outside of the influence of capitalism, we need to challenge capitalism from within. We can refuse to pay unquestioningly by market rules that insist on the profitability of design; we can investigate the market spatial impact and look for ways to circumvent its negative influences. This can be accomplished through actively and continually engaging citizens and communities in democratic design strategies and participatory architecture. This practice refuses to conceive of architecture as a product that is designed and then turned over to the market, instead architecture should empower architects, designers, and most important the citizens to build their own future. Of cores this will require us to ground ourselves in our diverse community and be prepared to collaborate. The goal is to transform design from a reactive process to a proactive one, working through collaborative relationships with citizens to imagine new possibilities, processes, and implementation strategies that challenge traditional methods and market norms.

Nathan's second point is that- we must reconsider the power of utopian thinking as a way to form a unified front. Utopian thinking can help consolidate a movement behind a set of ideals, goals, and principles that redefine design as a mode of political and social action. This is not a nostalgic act but instead an attempt to redefine utopianism as a process and to view social and political organization as tools to help us articulate new emancipated spaces not universal spaces. We have to understand utopianism not so much as a practice but as a process, one that has the potential to transform both the production of space and the distribution of social and political power. This could move architecture beyond a solely physical practice and redefines academic and professional architecture as fields that envision alternative futures and have the means to help realize them.

The third point that Nathan makes is that- architecture should illustrate the value of alternative spatial practices with a plurality of aesthetic and spatial modes of civic expression that facilitate a diverse set of public realms. This will however require discourse and action. Discourse is called for to address the production of place as tied to specific positions within a social matrix of power, culture, identity, and politics. Such a discourse asks that architecture become a participatory practice, one that engages diversity of thought, action, and collectivity from the entire process from both within and without. This suggests that projects should not be removed from the influences that shape their realization, but should instead be grounded in the processes and practice that mold our built environment and our forms of social and political organizations.

Important examples of this are the projects presented in the book "Design Like You Give a Damn". This book is compendium of innovative projects from around the world that demonstrate the power of design to improve lives. The first book to bring the best of humanitarian architecture and design to the printed page, "Design Like You Give a Damn" offers a history of the movement toward socially conscious design and showcases more than 80 contemporary solutions to such urgent needs as

basic shelter, health care, education, and access to clean water, energy, and sanitation. "Design Like You Give a Damn" is a resource for designers and humanitarian organizations charged with rebuilding after disaster and engaged in the search for sustainable development and design that engages the user. It is also a call to action to anyone committed to building a better world. Three projects that were picked out from this book were Homeboy Industries located in Los Angeles California, Hole-In-The-Wall-School located in New Delhi India, and A Bridge Too Far located in China on Po River. The reason these three projects were picked was because they identified a specific need, designed for that need, and sustained that need. From the beginning the designer engaged the user in the entire process. It has been shown that if you engage the user early on in the process, the end result is usually successful and the user will use it. Involving the user in the design process allows decisions of layout, placement, scale, material, composition and so on be made in a more sensitive way.

Homeboy Industries started in 1992 by Father Gregory Boyle designing a center to provide job training for gang members in Los Angeles, from rival groups, and help them find a job. Los Angeles has one of the highest levels of gang members within their city and many of them end up in jail. So Father Boyle wanted to address this need and establish a center that focused on the gang members. By the late 1990's the center needed a larger space, so Father Boyle contacted the Detroit Collaborative Design Center at University of Detroit Mercy. The DCDC is a non-profit architecture firm that is located within the School of Architecture at UDM. From the beginning the architect engaged the user in the design phase by allowing former gang members on the design team. The program consisted of a bakery, a silk-screening workshop, and other small businesses and job-training services. Upon seeing the site, the architects knew that the way the center engaged the street would be a critical component of its design. Rather than creating barriers between the building and street front, they removed all the security elements

and replaced them with large bulletproof-glass windows. Architecturally one of the major challenges was connecting the offices and printing facilities, which were built on different levels. Due to the fact that most gang members were disabled due to gang related violence, the team decided to celebrate the wheelchair ramp and locate it in the center. What started as a small company is now a three million dollar organization that runs five businesses of its own; silk-screening operation, landscaping services, bakery, café, free tattoos removal. One of the most important elements that I got out of this project is how the architect involved and engaged the user the entire process of the design which allowed this project to become successful.

Mitra, who is a professor and chief scientist in India, asked a simple question “what will happen if we stuck a computer in a wall in a poor neighborhood and let children have free access of it with no supervision?” This question resulted in Hole-in-the-Wall-Schools, which has been working to provide high-speed internet access to children in rural areas of India since 1990. They are installed on school playground and other playgrounds around India, and so far forty-eight have been installed. Children From the age of six to twelve mostly use them. They were designed to encourage kids to become independent and learn free from adults, exams, and other formal education. Children learned basic computer skills such as surfing the internet, download music, copy, save, and drag, all without instructions. The computers are loaded with educational software, word applications, and internet. The one concept that was taken away was the reaction in how fast the community responded, interacted and engaged themselves into a program that was truly needed.

Before 2005, 2,000 villagers in China would see their simple bridge of planks, stone, and mud washed away from heavy rain fall on a daily basis on Po River. This was the only crossing for village children to go between school and home. Wading across the river was their daily ritual and bruises, cuts, and broken bones were not uncommon. July 17, 2005 designers in China got together to build a bridge with 60 volunteers with

their bare hands in 6 days; the project was called "A Bridge Too Far". The intent was to build the bridge using all local materials. The piers were made from gabions-steel-mesh containers loaded with rubble, so water could flow through them. The twenty piers which supported the bridge were tapered at the edges and oriented in the direction of the water flow, making them more streamlined and less subject to wear and tear from river currents. They were designed to be forgiving to the force of the river in bad storms. The bridge flooring was designed in section creating a staggering appearance; each section spanning 16 feet. The staggered planks of the decking mimic the old patterns of the boards on mud that the villagers once used.

Upon reading "Design Like you Give A Damn", there was a need to research and interview local organizations within the city of Detroit that provide solutions to specific needs. The first organization that was looked at was Brightmoor Community Center located in the north-west side of Detroit in Brightmoor, In 1922 B.E. Taylor realized that the Brightmoor area was in server need of a medical clinic. This was because during the 20's there was a large amount of immigrants moving into Brightmoor due to the auto factories. Because of this there was a sanitation problem due to the lack of sewers and water system. So in response to this Taylor brought in the Red Cross to set up a health clinic within Brightmoor. In 1924 Taylor realized more service was needed, and started a community center based in two homes which provided health clinic, language and cooking classes. Then in 1958 Taylor moved to Burt Rd. where the community funded to build their first community center. Brightmoor Community Center, addresses critical issues facing children, youth, adults, and seniors including literacy, hunger, unemployment, education and abuse. With Brightmoor I analyzed the programs and the size of them to see if they were successful in address the needs in Brightmoor.

The second organization that was researched was LISC Detroit located in the Detroit by Campus Marshes. LISC Detroit started Through research in 1990, with funding from the ford foundation, they founded a need to prevent foreclosures,

acquire and rehab vacant properties, and help homebuyers finance the purchase of foreclosed homes; this result started LISC Detroit. LISC provides technical and financial support to partner organizations in Detroit that are helping residence rehab and weatherize their homes. They provide loans, lines of credit, grants and recoverable grants, and equity investments which combines corporate, government and philanthropic resources to help community-based groups to help revitalize neighborhoods. The one thing that I really learned from LISC Detroit was in how they made their site selection and the process and research that went into play with that. The factors they considered in their site selection were demographic data, economic strength, housing conditions, neighborhood assets and potential partners, and real estate development opportunities. In looking how they choose certain areas within Detroit to focus on, I am able to use the same process when choosing my site.

The third organization that was analyzed was Focus: Hope located in the south-east Detroit on Oakman Blvd. Focus: Hope was founded by Father Cunningham and Eleanor Josaitis in 1968, following the Detroit riots of 1967. They were both followers of Martin Luther King and wanted to do something to bring the black and white communities together. The Co-founders realized that racism and poverty were real and wanted to develop programs to address that. Their campus is located adjacent to Catholic Church of Madonna, which was Father Cunningham's parish on Oakman Blvd. in Detroit. The rest of the Boulevard was an industrial corridor. As businesses moved out, Focus: Hope began acquiring the buildings. The Focus: HOPE campus is currently about 40 acres. One of the first things the founders did was hire two researchers who provided volumes of data regarding poverty in Detroit. They discovered that babies were losing brain power, never to be regained, because of lack of nutrition and that people in the city were paying twice as much for the produce. Thus, the Food Program was started to address that need. When the Food Program started in 1971, it served 300 families, today it serves more than 42,000 people every month.

Following the food program, they realized that minorities were not being hired, and could not find business that would hire African American people. So Eleanor went to companies and asked how they would like these people trained. They said work ethic, work skill, and drug free. So in addition to the Food Program, they opened the center for advanced technology and machinist training center where hundreds of people receive job training and education each year. Focus: Hope employees 300 people a year and about 2,000 volunteers a month also assist.

Bill Hartman, the Architect that designed the center for advanced technology and machinist training center became the architect by Phil Meath the director of the firm that he was working at was involved in the community a lot and Phil got to know Father Cunningham. Father Cunningham asked Phil if he could send him someone that would help design the training centers, so Phil sent Bill to Father Cunningham and Eleanor Josaitis as the architect that would donate some design services for the buildings.

Bill thought that this would be a one week design process, but turned out to be quite a project. The first thing they discussed was the vision and mission of focus: hope. The initial discussions were not technical at all, they talked about the feel that they wanted to achieve for someone to work, visit and study there. They challenged all three of these things and wanted to design a facility that experienced these in different levels. They needed a technology center, education center, and visitor's center. Father described it like star track meets Disney Land. They had 2,200 sq. ft. of single floor space to work with. Father and Eleanor wanted a clean look and wanted to challenge the transitional factory look, so Bill had to hide the things you would normally see in a factory.

Lighting was very important in the design. If a ray of light struck a surface plate of the high tech machines that were in the building it could destroy the machine. The original building was designed with a saw tooth roof, and south facing windows. They covered them up, and built power towers and pocked them up through the roof and brought day lighting in from there so they could contain natural lighting where they wanted it. They made

a “super tooth” facing the entrance, where the offices would be. So natural lighting could come in and light up the entrance, offices, and learning center; but would not directly hit where the technology was. Any north facing window was covered due to the tech plant. The plans were called “manufacturing cell neighborhoods”; they viewed it as a city within a city. They studied the relationships of streets, allies, and lots that Detroit is made up of and designed out the floor plan the same way.

The power tower that punctured through the roof served as a community center for that particular area that it was serving. Each area was considered as a neighborhood. Down each neighborhood was an alley; which was underground. There was stored all the electrical and mechanical equipment for the machines. This gave the plant the clean look the Father Cunningham and Eleanor Josaitis wanted. The main stairs in the front of the building off Oakman Blvd., was pushed out to fit the proper rise and run. They placed a large window on the stairs landing facing the street. This was meant for a metaphor that as you walk up the stairs you would see the neighborhood outside, then as you turn to go up you see the neighborhood inside the Tech. plant. A lot was done with the relationship between the tech plant and education and the community outside. Father's mission was what we “desire” we will make “feasible”. Engaging the community was also very important. There were meeting rooms that could be used by the community with a full bar that wedding and conferences were held. The buildings were designed with the community and user in mind at all times. This allowed the building to be both successful in the layout and composition and the overall look of the design. The building addresses the street front well and draws people into the center. He engaged the community in the architecture as much as he could and that is something that I would strive for in my design. Metaphors were used in the design that spoke about community, neighborhoods, and alleys that read very well within the floor plan. Overall, all three of these organizations are serving critical needs that Detroit faces. They have been successful and sustainable in engaging the users within this city.

Research was begun in Hamtramck observing the youth. The process began by looking at a blog on line of Hamtramck that citizens from that area would post. Through that blog allowed areas to be pin pointed of Hamtramck that needed attention. The two areas that had the most hits were on where Caniff and Jos. Campau which had three public schools, library, and Art Theater all within a block and a park called Veterans Park along Jos. Campau. Veterans Park had hits on the blog of drug and littering problems. When arriving to the site on the weekend, during the day, the park was used by the local kids who were playing tennis. Even though there was a lot of trash on the ground, the park was still being used. I approached a boy who was playing with his friends, and was asking him some questions about the park and the area. The question was if he feels safe at the park and he said "right now with the sun out yes, but when the sun goes down us little kids leave and the big kids come", which bring the trash and drugs. Veterans Park has great potential to become a park that gathers and engages the youth of Hamtramck, it just needs to be designed with the user in mind and be designed for the full twenty-four hour day. The area of Caniff which was surrounded by public schools had problems with after school fighting. Hamtramck is very ethnically diverse and has many problems of fighting between the different groups. There are very few programs for the youth to be engaged in after school. Through investigation it was concluded that students don't really want to be in these after school programs because they are just another structured program for two hours, after being in school for six hours. Those kids that are in the programs are there because both parents are working. Those who are not in after school programs are roaming the streets looking for something to do, which mostly leads to trouble. Hamtramck does not have a place for kids to be kids and teens to be teens. Also there are no businesses that are geared towards the youth. Most of the businesses are for the adults twenty-one and up. The few places that have something for the youth to do like the library are not opened during hours

that the youth are out. After talking to locals on the street and the youth and observing on my own it was concluded that the youth in Hamtramck were being underserved. Hamtramck does not have anything for the youth to do that recognizes, engages, and transforms the youth in being productive citizens.

At the same time I became aware of the domestic-abuse dilemma that Detroit has. Twenty-five percent of women in Detroit are abused, and there is only one shelter that is available for them to go to which only has sixty-seven beds. (Dybis) With the economy heading down hill, domestic abuse has increased seven percent this year. There is a strong need for another shelter within this city. A recent article talks about Kalyn Risker who is the founder and executive director of SAFE, Sisters Acquiring Financial Empowerment. Kalyn is a single mother of two daughters and is a survivor of domestic abuse. In 1998 on Labor Day weekend, she was beaten by her husband until her eye sockets required reconstructive surgery. (Dybis) She called the American Hot line and they told her to go to Taylor, when she lived in Cork Town. She didn't want to move all the way to Taylor so she ended up moving in with her mother. During that period she kept asking herself, "What happens when mothers who are abused have no family or means of transportation to get help". (Dybis) She kept all her emotions to herself and covered up her bruises and started working again at a small HMO in south-west Detroit. While working at the small HMO Company which she got a great position in the administration department, she came across many employees who suffered from domestic-abuse, as she was in charge of the firing and hiring. She noticed those women wearing sun glasses inside, worker being stalked, and the janitor that needed the job to maintain financial independence from an abuser. She also noticed productivity and attendance being affected by certain women working in her department. She received a phone call from a woman saying "I sent you my resume; I am just trying to get a job to keep food on the table for my kids and to keep my house. I know my resume has gaps but I will do whatever it takes to learn the job. I don't have many skills, but I have been abused

by my husband and now have three kids to take care of, could you please help me out." Kalyn ended up hiring that woman but was laid off from her job shortly after because the company was going out of business. It was around that time that Kalyn knew something must be done for those who are abused and came up with the idea for SAFE. SAFE mission is to equip survivors of domestic violence with the appropriate financial tools and resources needed to enable women to leave or recover from the financial issues associated with domestic violence. The services that SAFE provides are career mapping, resume writing, interviewing skills, employment rights, and financial literacy.

From here Kalyn, introduced me to many leaders within Detroit that deal with domestic abuse. I met Paula Callen, who is the Project Director of Michigan Coalition against Domestic and Sexual Violence. When meeting with Paula we talked about the political and economic barriers that are involved with shelters. Some of the barriers are cultural issues, land use, zoning, surrounding area, and funding. I also met with Emma I. Peterson who is the president and CEO of the YWCA Interim House and Curtis Steen Frances who is the shelter Administrator. Both Emma and Curtis were excited when I came to talk to them about the potential of this thesis research to be of assistance in the development of a program for a new shelter for battered mothers and children.

We began talking about the mission that they would want, viewed as a learning environment not a shelter, for women to become productive citizens. They currently do not own the shelter which is why they are eager to move do to most of their funding goes to rent, which then is a challenge in providing three meals a day and clothing. They currently have unmet social need, now serving an increasing number of clients with mental challenges. The shelter has currently sixty-seven beds and with twenty-five percent of women being abused there are not enough beds or space to meet the growing needs. They currently provide shelter for sixty to ninety days maximum. (Peterson) One of their biggest problems today is that the Interim House has the training and administration department which is housed

within the residential part. This leads to the battered women not having a separate place to call home and a separate place for training. Women often come to training sessions or interview sessions improperly dressed and can become too dependent on the administration because of the close proximity.

The YWCA of Metropolitan Detroit is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. With domestic abuse, also comes along youth problems that need to be addressed and served. In 2009, 350 women and 1750 children were served at the Interim House. The average age of the client at the Interim House is twenty-two to twenty-five with three to four children ranging in the age from zero to eight years old. (Peterson) Do to the fact that children are the largest population in the shelter, they are direct or indirect victims of domestic violence with special needs and the most critical need is an education children's advocate. There needs to be a lot of attention in training and protecting the mother, but also in training the kids in a way to be productive and responsible citizens in society. Domestic violence is real and happening on a daily basis; some facts on domestic-abuse, twenty-five to forty-five percent of all women who are battered are battered are beaten during pregnancy, seventy-five percent of battered women try to commit suicide, fifty-five percent of women perceive violence as normal, with this said there are only 1,500 shelters for battered women in the United States and 3,800 animal shelters.(Johnson) It is time that this critical dilemma is taken serious and served.

In order to continue working with the YWCA and Emma Peterson the thesis site had to be within Detroit city boundaries in order to obtain funding. The search began for a new site location in Detroit while still incorporating the research for Hamtramck. The YWCA is interested in locating the new shelter on the east side of Detroit, near transportation, medical, police, court house, schools and be easily accessible. They are also interested in challenging the layout of the rooms, and making it feel more like a home and not a shelter. With talking to Emma we are looking at using

an existing building on Anglin St. off of Conant St; St. Michael Nursing Center. This former 180 bed nursing care facility is in great condition to be renovated into a domestic-abuse shelter. St. Michael Nursing Center is 56,458 square feet on three floors, with 18,820 square feet basement. The center is sitting on 1.64 acres of land, which is an appropriate size for a new shelter. St. Michael Nursing Center is also located near transportation, medical, police, court house, schools, library and is easy accessible.

This thesis explores a collaborative process for a holistic approach to the design of a shelter for battered women, an educational training center, a youth center, and transitional housing; which is inclusive of input from survivors of domestic abuse, social workers, mental health professionals, community organizations, and members of the community. The goal is to address the youth problems and the domestic-abuse problems and combine them into one program, in allowing reciprocal learning.



## CHAPTER 2






## HOMEBOY INDUSTRIES. LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

FINDING JOBS FOR FORMER GANG MEMBERS  
AND CONVICTS IN BUSINESSES WILLING TO  
TAKE A CHANCE ON YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK.

### ARCHITECTURAL PRECEDENTS

A decorative graphic consisting of a horizontal row of ten dots, followed by a vertical column of five dots, and then another horizontal row of ten dots, forming an L-shape.

In 1992 Father Gregory Boyle designed a center to provide job training for gang members in Los Angeles, from rival groups, and help them find a job. By the late 1990's the center need a larger space, so Father Boyle contacted the DCDC at UDM for a new design. Former gang members were on the design team, which would contain a bakery, a silk-screening workshop, and other small businesses and job-training services. Upon seeing the site, the architects knew that the way the center engaged the street would be a critical component of its design. Most buildings in the neighborhood were boarded up or covered in security bars. Drive by shootings were not uncommon. Rather than creating barriers between the building and street front, they removed all the security elements and replaced them with large bulletproof-glass windows. To show resilience, meetings took place right in front of the windows for the entire neighborhood to see. Architecturally one of the major challenges was connecting the offices and printing facilities, which were built on different levels. Due to the fact that most gang members were disabled due to gang-related violence, the team decided to celebrate the wheelchair ramp and locate it in the center. What started as a small company is now a three million dollar organization that runs five business of its own; silk-screening operation, landscaping services, bakery, café, and tattoo removal.



33



[www.you-are-here.com/mural/homeboy.html](http://www.you-are-here.com/mural/homeboy.html)





## HOLE-IN-THE-WALL-SCHOOLS. NEW DELHI, INDIA

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF WE STUCK A COMPUTER IN A  
WALL IN A POOR NEIGHBORHOOD AND LET CHILDREN  
HAVE FREE ACCESS OF IT WITH NO SUPERVISION?

### ARCHITECTURAL PRECEDENTS



Dr Sugata Mitra's Hole-in-the-Wall schools program has become a portal to the future and a connection to the outside world for many Indian children. Mitra, a professor and chief scientist has been working to provide high-speed Internet access to children in rural areas of India since 1990. They are installed on school playground and other playgrounds around India; so far 48 have been installed. It was designed for children use only. The fold up canopies are there to provide a height limitation, to discourage adults from using them. Also, the opening to the keyboard and mouse are sized for children's use. To cut down on maintenance, the computers have very few moving parts and only the most basic functional keys. Children From the age of six to twelve mostly use them. They were designed to encourage learning free from adults, exams, and other formal education. Through this program children learned basic computer skills such as surfing the Internet, download music, copy, save, drag, all without instructions. The computers are loaded with educational software, word applications, and Internet. In addition, parents say that their child has learned to work together and share in other aspects. "The Hole-in-the-Wall experiments have given us a new, inexpensive, and reliable method for bringing computer literacy and primary education to areas where conventional schools are not functional. Such facilities are not meant to replace schools and teachers; they are meant to supplement, complement, and stand-in for them-to help in areas of the earth where good schools and good teachers are, for whatever reason, absent."



<http://www.worldchanging.com/archives/011393.html>



37

Design Like You Give a Damn



Design Like You Give a Damn




Design Like You Give a Damn



[www.socialter.fr/the-hole-in-the-wall/](http://www.socialter.fr/the-hole-in-the-wall/)



ARCHITECTURAL PRECEDENTS



Every Year 2,000 villagers would see their simple bridge of planks, stone, and mud washed away from heavy rain fall. This was the only crossing for village children to go between school and home. Wading across the river was their daily ritual. Slipping, falling, bruises and cuts were not uncommon. Students had to find a way across the river to get to school regardless if the bridge was there. July 17, 2005 the bridge was built by 60 volunteers with their bare hands in 6 days. The bridge was built using all local materials. The piers were made from gabions-steel-mesh containers loaded with rubble, so water could flow through them. The twenty piers are tapered at the edges and oriented in the direction of the water flow, making them more streamlined and less subject to wear and tear from river currents. They were designed to be forgiving to the force of the river in bad storms. If one of these sections would come off, a team of six villagers can lift it back up on the pier. Each section spans sixteen feet. The staggered planks of decking mimic the old patterns of the boards on the mud that the villagers once used.



<http://www.architecture.com/Awards/RIBAInternationalAwards/2006.com>

41



Design Like You Give a Damn



Design Like You Give a Damn






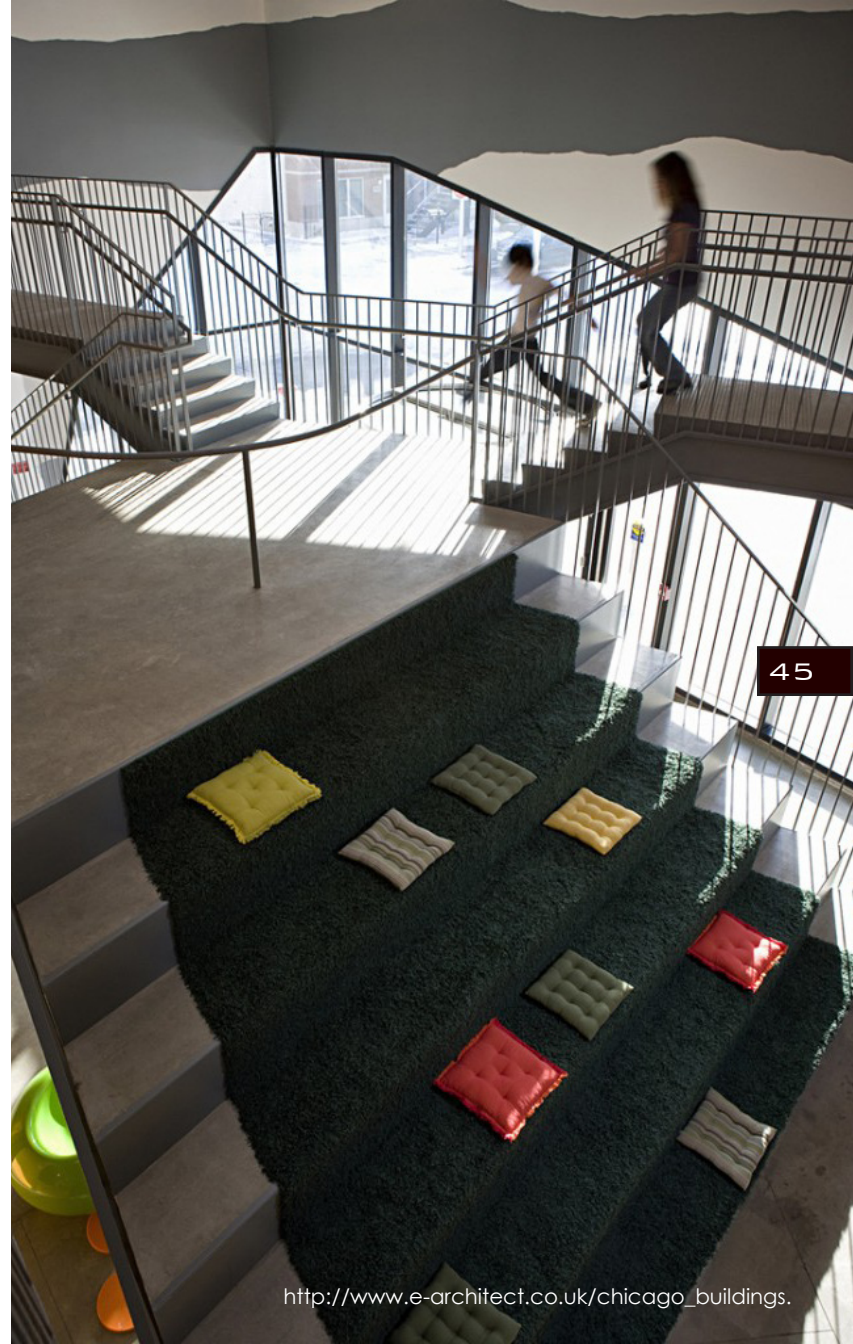
SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE COMMUNITY CENTER, CHICAGO,  
STUDIO GANG ARCHITECTS

IN AMERICA MORE THAN 518,000 CHILDREN ARE IN FOSTER  
CARE AND MOST LIVE IN 6 OR MORE FOSTER HOMES. 46% NEVER  
FINISH HIGH SCHOOL AND 84% HAVE A CHILD WITHIN 18 MONTHS

ARCHITECTURAL PRECEDENTS



SOS provides a viable alternative to traditional foster care. Children who come to live at SOS stay with their biological brother/sister in a private home. SOS is the largest non-denominational children care provider. Open in 1993, today it has 18 individual homes and a recreational community center on its campus. They help children whose world has been turned upside down by parental abuse, neglect, or abandonment due to separation or mothers being abused. They offer a place to call home and a space to heal, rebuild a loving family life. They provide resources, knowledge, and experience they need to become healthy, thriving adults. Provide better health, social skills, education, and career options. Multi-faced public spaces in the building encourage a range of learning opportunities and social interaction. An extra-wide stairs in the lobby doubles as classroom seating and an impromptu stage for performance. A large community room on the second floor serves as classroom; exercise room, and meeting space. Daycare classrooms on the ground floor are orientated around and have direct access to a sunlit outdoor play area. Working with budget constraints led to a design that expresses its materiality in a direct way. Concrete is layered in bands with color variation to reveal its liquid nature.







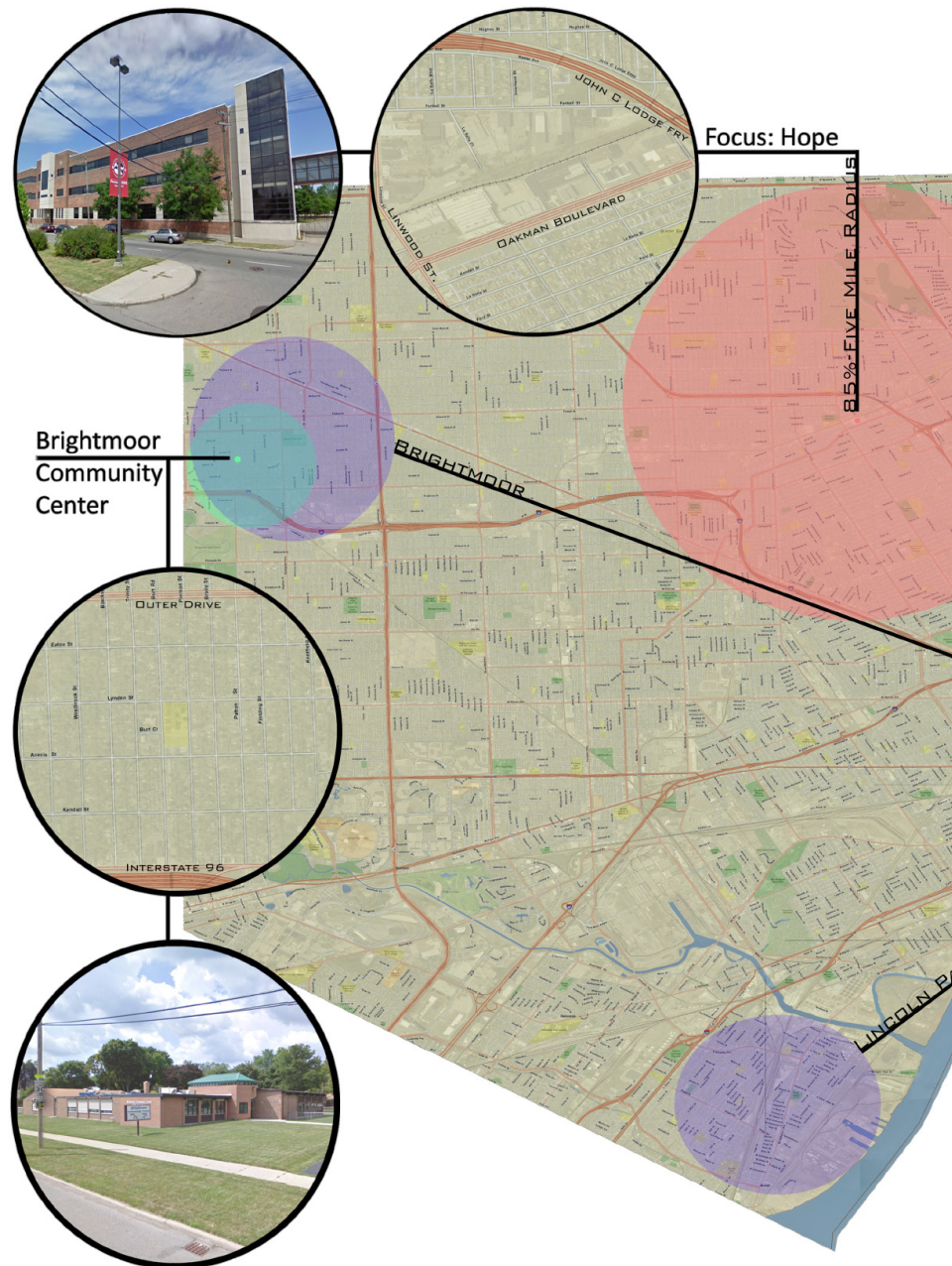
<http://homemoderns.com/lavezzorio-community-center-by-studio-gang-architects>

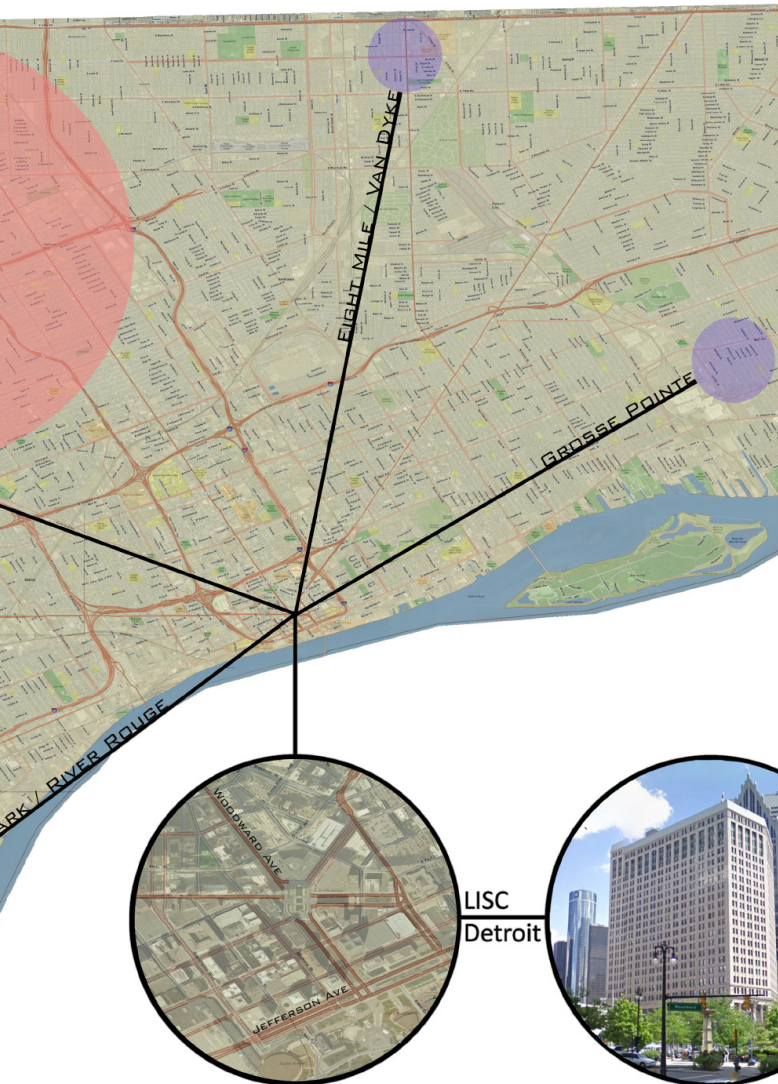
## CHAPTER 3





ORGANIZATIONAL PRECEDENTS





ORGANIZATIONS THAT  
SERVE A NEED.....

ORGANIZATIONAL PRECEDENTS

52

LISC Detroit started in 1990 with funding from the Ford Foundation. LISC offices are typically located in the City's Downtown business district. Through research LISC founded a need to prevent foreclosures, acquire and rehab vacant properties, and help homebuyers finance the purchase of foreclosed homes in Detroit. There was a need of affordable housing and a lack of financial support. The factors considered in their site selection are demographic data, economic strength, housing conditions, neighborhood assets and potential partners and real estate development opportunities. LISC provides technical and financial support to partner organizations that are helping residence rehab and weatherize their homes. They provide loans, lines of credit, grants, and equity investments to help revitalize neighborhoods. LISC combines corporate, government and philanthropic resources to help community-based groups revitalize their neighborhoods. LISC is the largest national community development program and invested over thirty million dollars in 2008 on residential and commercial property.



Archives of LISC Detroit



53

Archives of LISC Detroit

ORGANIZATIONAL PRECEDENTS

54

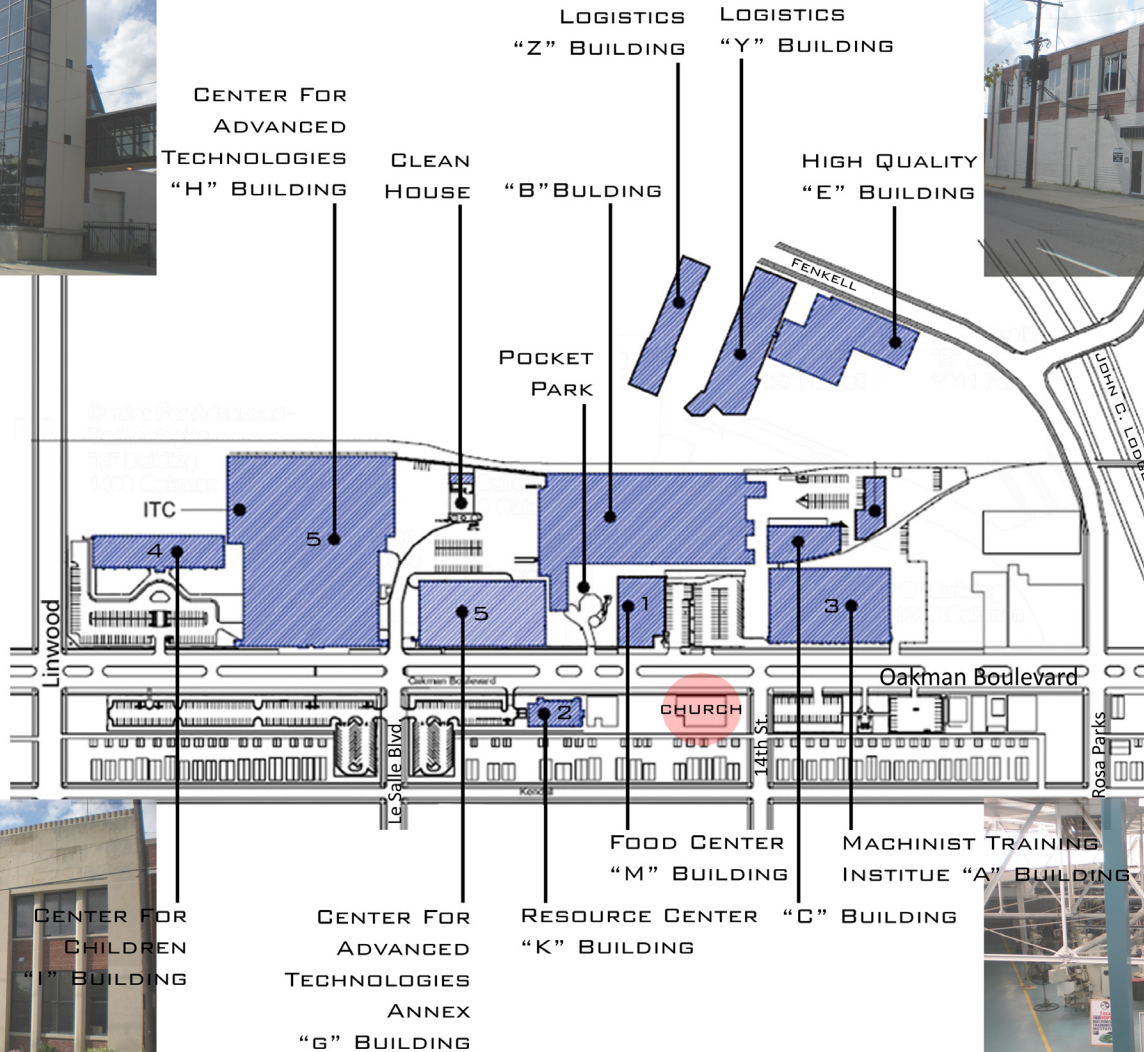
B. E. Taylor started Brightmoor Community Center in 1922. During the 1920's there was a large amount of immigrants moving into Brightmoor due to the auto factories. Due to the large amount of people moving in there was a sanitation problem due to the lack of sewers and water system. B. E. Taylor contacted the Red Cross and set up a health clinic in the Brightmoor Community. In 1924 Taylor realized more service was needed, and started a community center based in two homes which provided, a health clinic, language and cooking classes and many other programs. In 1942 more space was needed so they moved to a store front on Fenkell St. Then in 1958 the community got together and funded the first Brightmoor Community Center on Burt Rd. The people in the community funded the entire construction. In 1972 three additions were added, the child care center, meeting rooms, and offices. Brightmoor addresses critical issues facing children, youth, adults, and seniors including literacy, hunger, unemployment, education and substance abuse. The programs that they offer at the community center are after school programs, cub scouts, Brightmoor youth adventure, leadership training program, Detroit young citizens, and new St. Paul head start. Brightmoor also partners with local schools in the area and hold several events such as mobile learning center, B.A.B.E.S., and "Stepping" mentoring program.



ORGANIZATIONAL PRECEDENTS

56

Focus: Hope was founded by Father Cunningham and Eleanor Josaitis in 1968, following the Detroit riots of 1967. They were both followers of Martin Luther King and wanted to do something to bring the black and white communities together. The Co-founders realized that racism and poverty were real and wanted to develop programs to address that. There campus is located adjacent to Catholic Church of Madonna, which was Father Cunningham's parish on Oakman Blvd. in Detroit. The rest of the Boulevard was an industrial corridor. As businesses moved out, Focus: Hope began acquiring the buildings. The Focus: HOPE campus is currently about 40 acres.



ORGANIZATIONAL PRECEDENTS

58

One of the first things the founders did was hired two researchers who provided volumes of data regarding poverty in Detroit. They discovered that babies were losing brain power, never to be regained, because of lack of nutrition and that people in the city were paying twice as much for the produce. Thus, the Food Program was started to address that need. When the Food Program started in 1971, it served 300 families, today it serves more than 42,000 people every month. Following the food program, they realized that minorities were not being hired, and could not find business that would hire African American people. So Eleanor went to companies and asked how you would like these people trained. They said work ethic, work skill, and drug free. So in addition to the Food Program, they opened the center for advanced technology and machinist training center where hundreds of people receive job training and education each year. Focus: Hope employees 300 people a year and about 2,000 volunteers a month also assist.




COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER

MACHINIST TRAINING CENTER

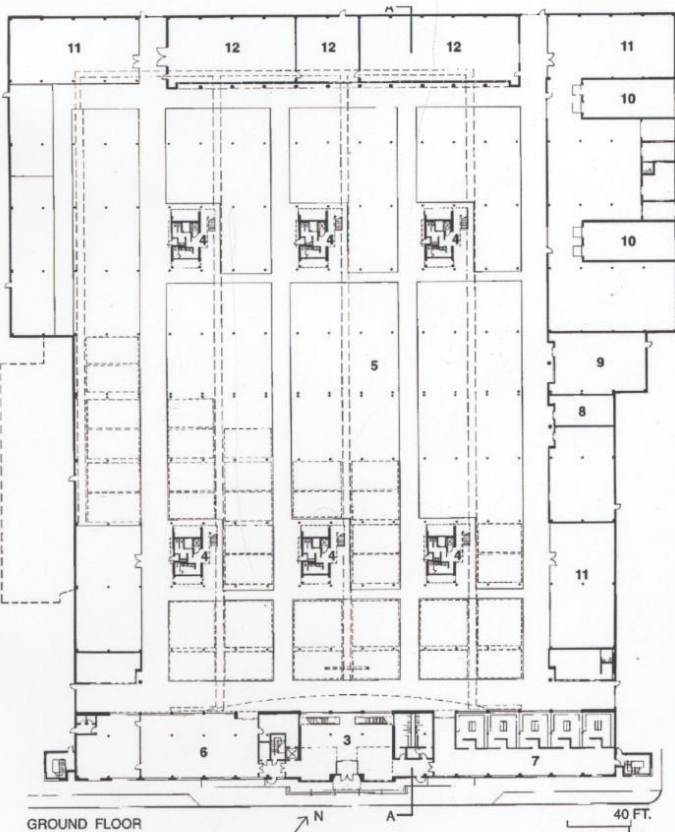
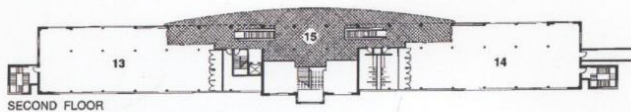


Bill Hartman was the architect that designed the center for advanced technology and machinist training center. The first thing they discussed was the vision and mission of focus: hope. The initial discussions were not technical at all, they talked about the feel that they wanted to achieve for someone to work there, visit and study there. They challenged all three of these things and wanted to design a facility that experienced these in different levels. They needed a technology center, education center, and visitor's center. Father described it like star track meets Disney Land. They had 2,200 sq. ft. of single floor space to work with. Father and Eleanor wanted a clean look and wanted to challenge the transitional factory look, so Bill had to hide the things you would normally see in a factory. Lighting was very important in the design. If a ray of light struck a surface plate of the high tech machines that were in the building it could destroy the machine. The original building was designed with saw tooth roof, with south facing windows. They covered them up, and built power towers and pocked them up through the roof and brought day lighting in from there so they could contain natural lighting where they wanted it. They made a "super tooth" facing the entrance, where the offices would be. So natural lighting could come in and light up the entrance, offices, and learning center; but would not directly hit where the technology was. Any north facing window was covered due to the tech plant. The plans were called "manufacturing cell neighborhoods"; they looked at it as a city inside a city. They studied the relationships of streets, allies, and lots that Detroit is made up of and planed out the floor plan the same way.

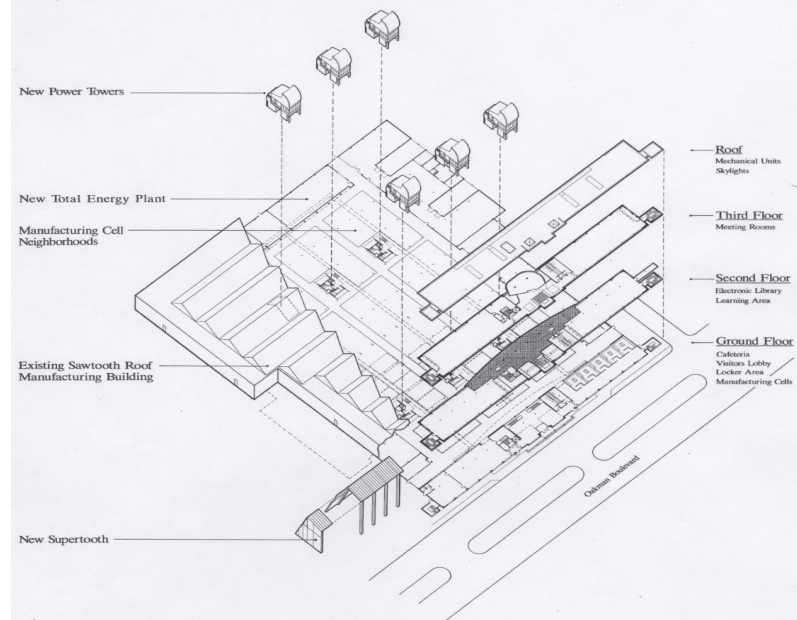




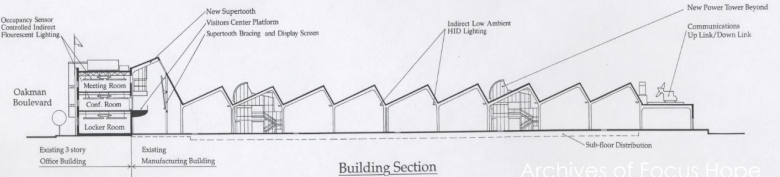
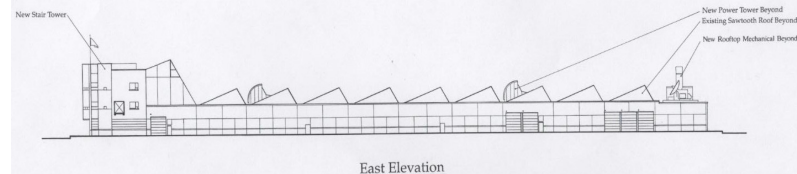
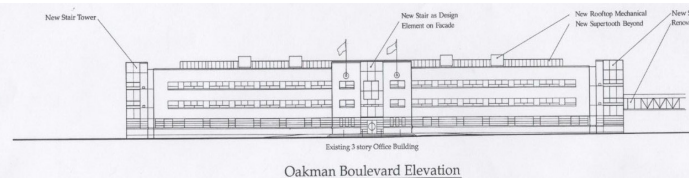
The power tower that punctured through the roof served as a community center for that particular area that is was serving. Each area was considered as a neighborhood. Down each neighborhood was an alley; which was underground. There was stored all the electrical and mechanical equipment for the machines. This gave the plant the clean look the Father Cunningham and Eleanor Josaitis wanted. The main stairs in the front of the building off Oakman Blvd., was pushed out due to fit the proper rise and run. They placed a large window on the stairs landing facing the street. This was meant for a metaphor that as you walk up the stairs you would see the neighborhood outside, then as you turn to go up you see the neighborhood inside the Tech plant. A lot was done with the relationship between the tech plant and education and the community outside. Father's mission was what we "desire" we will make "feasible". Engaging the community was also very important. There were meeting rooms that could be used by the community with a full bar where wedding and conferences were held at.



1. Supertooth atrium
2. Plant
3. Lobby
4. Power tower
5. Plant
6. Cafeteria
7. Locker rooms
8. Material testing
9. Tool room
10. Dock
11. Long-term storage
12. Total energy plant
13. Electronic library
14. Learning area
15. Viewing platform
16. Meeting room



63







Archives of Focus Hope





## HAMTRAMCK, MICHIGAN

The first area that I began researching and observing is Hamtramck, with focus on the Youth. I began by looking at a blog on line of Hamtramck that citizens from that area would post. Through that blog I pin pointed areas of Hamtramck that needed attention. The two areas that I focused on where Caniff and Jos. Campau which had three public schools, library, and art theater all within a block, and a park called Veterans Park along Jos. Campau.

### JOSEPH CAMPAU AND CANIFF:

AFTER SCHOOL FIGHTING  
ETHNIC PROBLEMS  
YOUTH WOUNDERING THE STREETS  
ROBBERY

### VETERANS PARK, OFF JOSEPH CAMPAU:

LITTERING PROBLEM  
DRUGS  
POOR LIGHTING  
KIDNAPPING



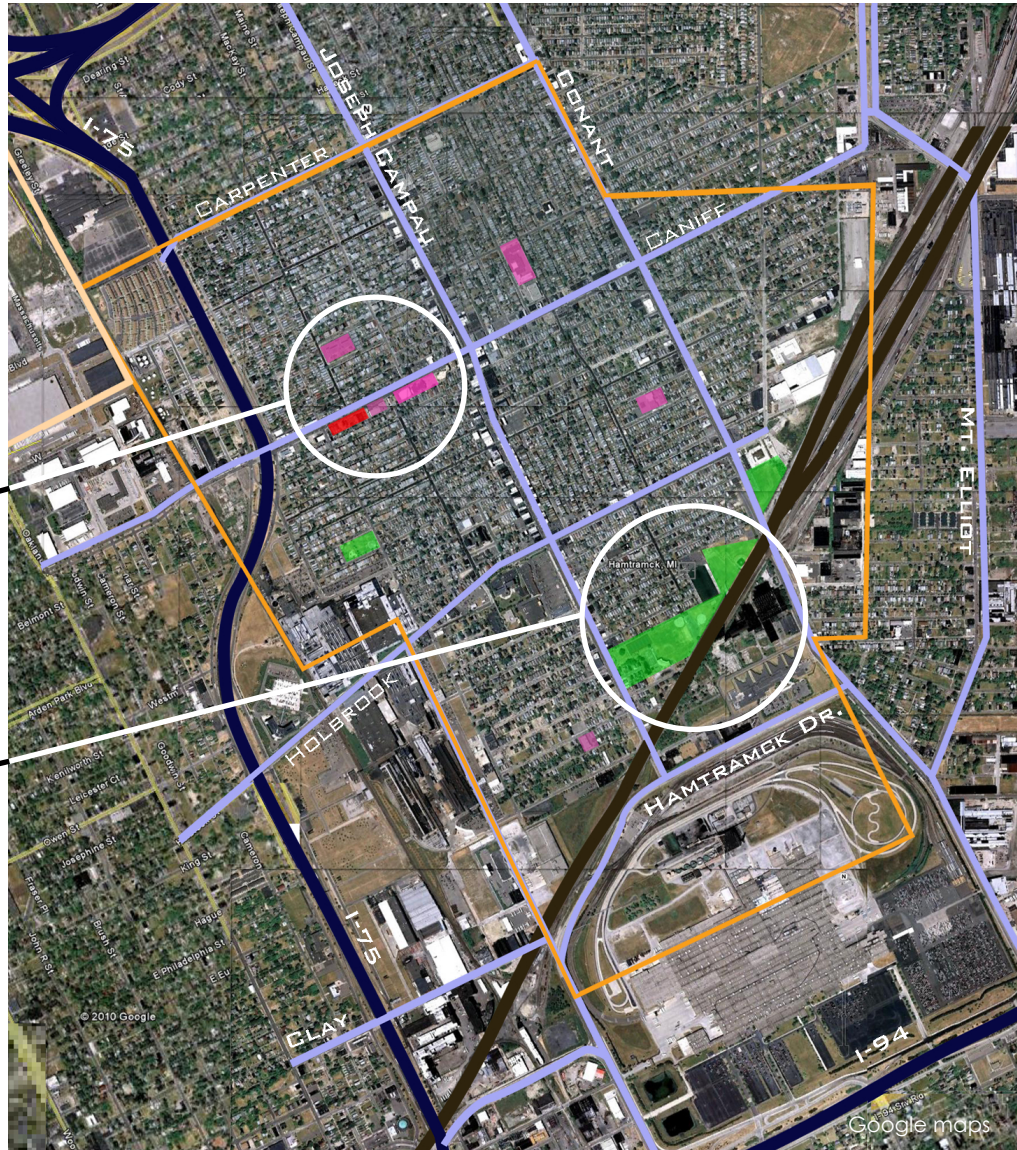
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



PARKS



VACANT LAND



The area of Caniff which was sounded with public schools had problems of after school fighting, this was because Hamtramck is very diverse had has many problems of ethnic groups fighting each other and also there is nothing for the youth to be engaged in after school. There are after school programs that are offered, so I went to go observe a few of them. I went to the elementary, middle, and high school to get a wide range of observation from one grade to the next. I found out that students don't really want to be in these after school programs because they are just another structured program for two hours, after being in school for six hours. Those kids that are in the programs are there because their parents mostly put them in their due to the fact that both parents are working. Those who are not in after school programs are roaming the streets looking for something to do, which mostly leads to trouble.



## POTENTIAL SITES

70

### HOPE PROGRAM; AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS; RESPONSE FROM THE YOUTH:

#### DICKENSON WEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL....

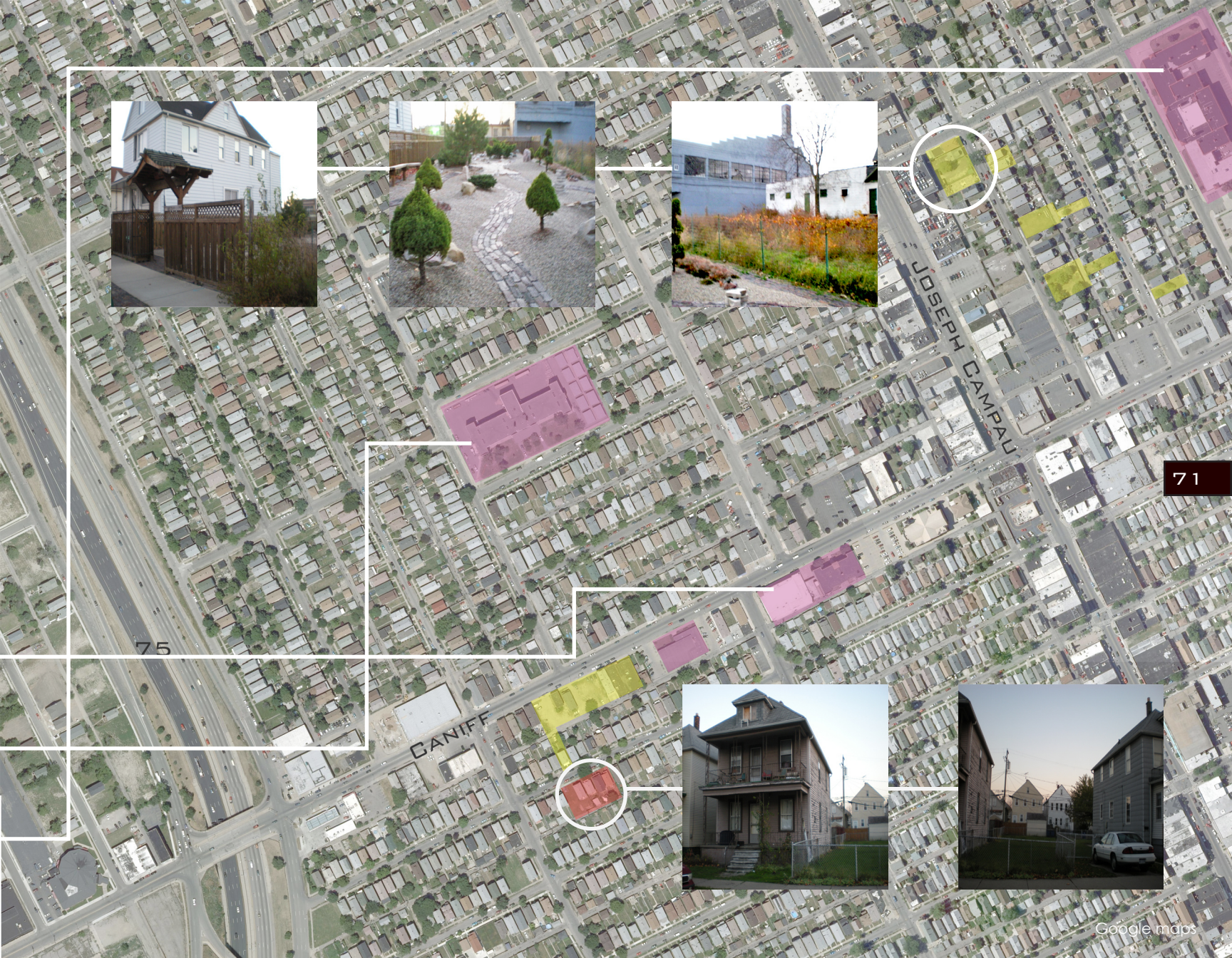
ART STUDIO, FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL FIELD,  
SCHOOL PLAY GROUND, DANCE AND MUSIC STUDIO,  
RECORD STUDIO, HISTORY AND ART MUSEUM, YEAR ROUND USE PARK

#### KOSCIUSZKO MIDDLE SCHOOL....

SKATE PARK, SWIMMING POOL, OUTDOOR ART AND MUSIC STUDIO,  
ROCK CLIMBING, CLEANING UP THE COMMUNITY, COMPUTER CENTER,  
WATER PARK

#### HAMTRAMCK HIGH SCHOOL....

OPEN GYM, BOXING, REC. CENTER, SKATE PARK, BIKE PATHS,  
PUBLIC ART, RETAIL FOR YOUTH, PLACE TO HANG OUT WITH FRIENDS



71

75

## HAMTRAMCK, MICHIGAN; VETERANS PARK, OFF JOSEPH CAMPAU

### KIDS IN VETERANS PARK....

"WE HAVE NOTHING TO DO IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD, EVERYTHING IS CLOSED"

"ONCE THE SUN GOES DOWN THE PARK CHANGES AND IT IS NOT SAFE, NO LIGHTING"

"ONCE WE LEAVE, THE BIG KIDS COME, WHICH BRING TRASH AND DRUGS"

Veterans Park had hits on the blog of drug and littering problems. When I went to go visit it on the weekend, which was during the day, the park was indeed used by the local kids. There was indeed a lot of trash on the ground, but the park was still being used. I was talking to a boy who was playing with his friends, and was asking him some questions about the park and the area. I asked him if he feels safe here and he said "right now with the sun out yes, but when the sun goes down us little kids leave and the big kids come", which bring the trash and drugs. Veterans Park has great potential to become a park that gathers and engages the youth of Hamtramck, it just needs to be designed with the user in mind and be designed for the full twenty-four hour day.





73



COMMITTS FROM THE  
COMMUNITY:

□ OLDER MAN OUTSIDE HIS HOME....

"Get these stupid kids off the street, we the elder are the targets"

They have nothing to do so they find trouble

The school does not spend enough money in after school programs or sports

They closed 4 schools; 1 high school, 3 grade schools- enrolment down

Lot's of Muslim people moved in; don't believe in birth control so there increasing fast

□ LIBERIAN, TAMARA SOCHACKA....

There are not enough quality programs that engage the youth

No supervision or involvement from family

Most of the youth that comes to the library are girls..boys?

All of the businesses open are geared towards 21 years old and up

The after school programs should collaborate with each other so they are not the same

Hamtramck needs new ideas that get the youth engaged, excited, and involved

□ OLDER LADY TAKING CARE OF A COMMUNITY GARDEN....

There needs to be a place where the youth can go to after school hours and on weekends.

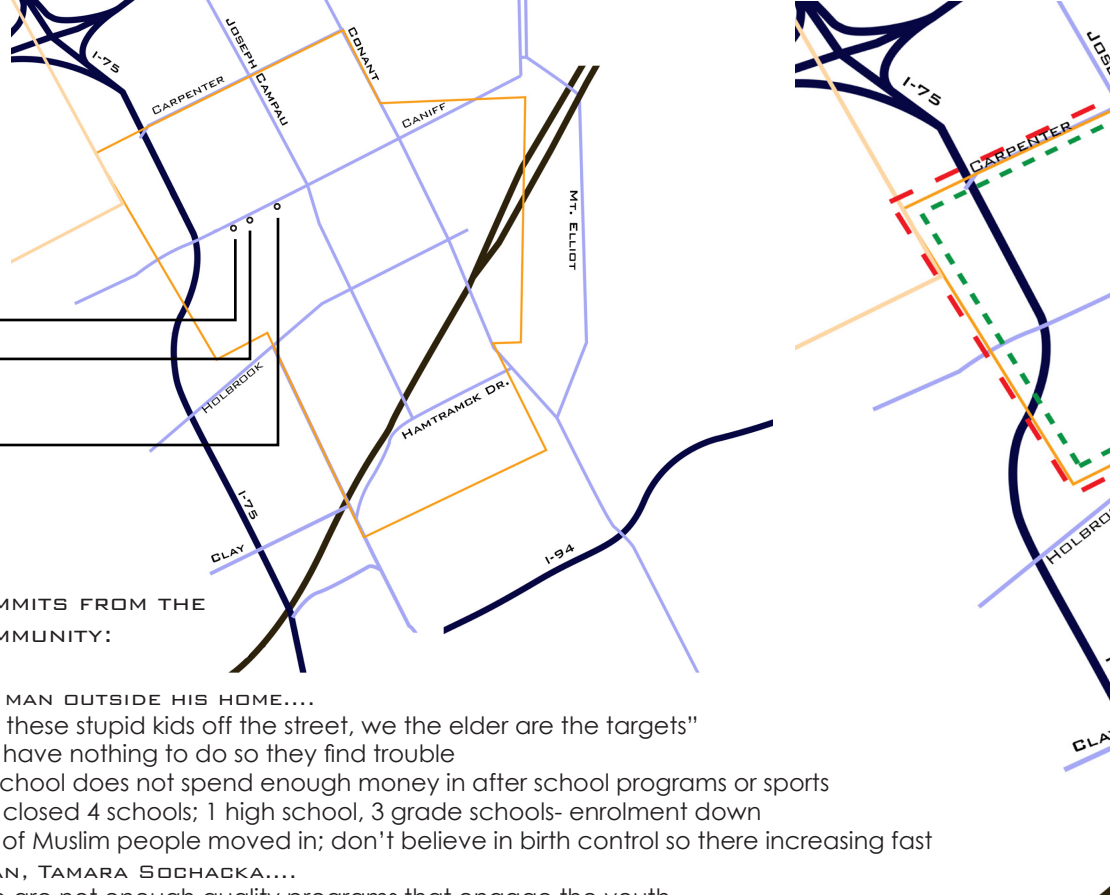
Library needs to be open seven days a week

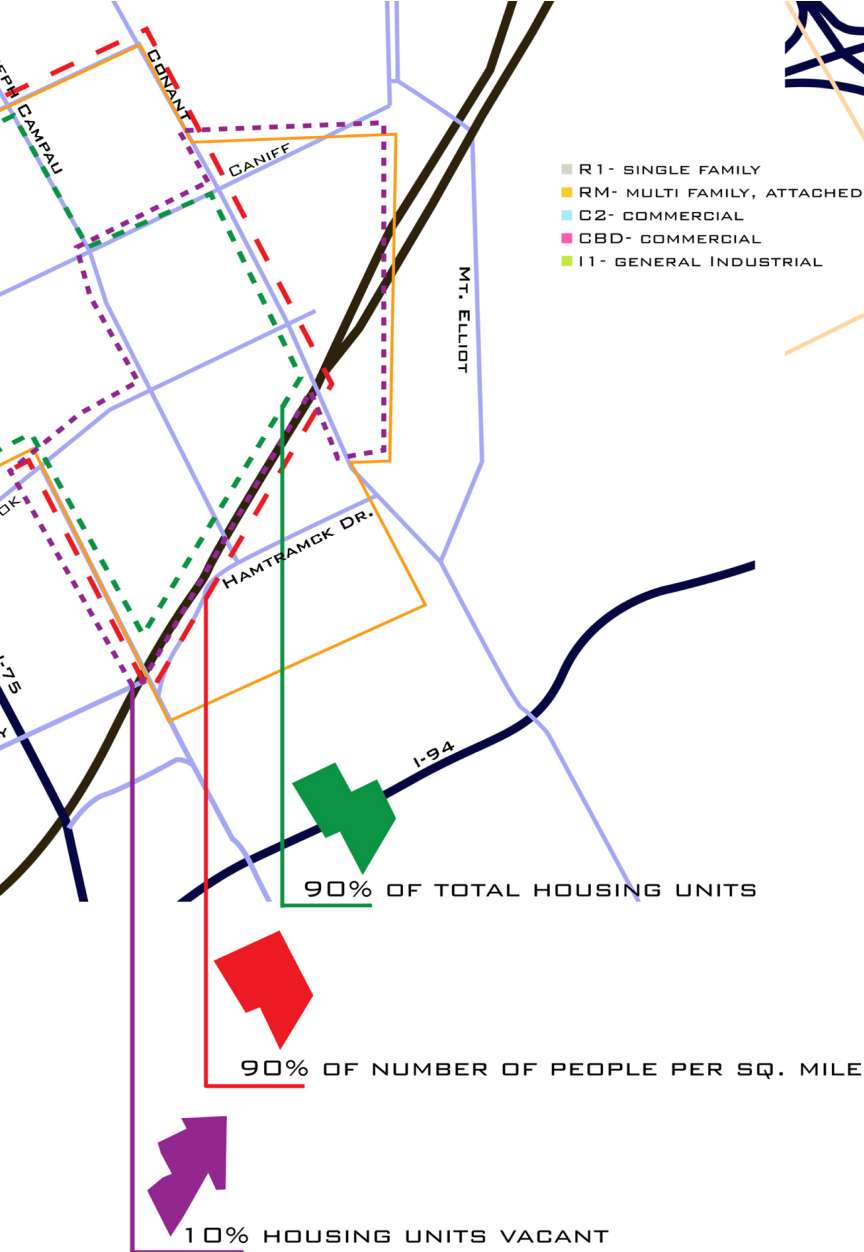
They don't have nearly enough computers

No activates for kinds to do to keep them off the street

Move theater, technology center, skating rink, and bowling alley

Fighting after school can be a problem; cultural and ethnic problems





- • • • • • The site chosen was using a existing building on Anglin St. off of Conant St; St. Michael Nursing Center. This former 180 bed nursing care facility is in great condition to be renovated into a domestic-abuse shelter. St. Michael Nursing Center is 56,458 square feet on three floors, with 18,820 square feet basement. The center is sitting on 1.64 acres of land, which is an appropriate size for a new shelter. St. Michael Nursing Center is also located near transportation, medical, police, court house, schools, library and is easy accessible. Similar to the Hamtramck site the youth in this site are also under served and there is also a drug and littering problem. There is nothing in this area that engages or interacts with the youth. St. Michaels Nursing Home is next to an active convalescent center called Americare Convalescent Center; which make this area a good location for a new shelter. The area is sounded with a high populated neighborhood which has plenty of youth. Along seven mile there are plenty of retail, restraints, and clothing store; allowing any new program to work well with the existing businesses. Also along seven mile and conant st. there are local bus stops every block; which makes easy for transportation, and accessibility.



EMERY ST.

CONANT ST.

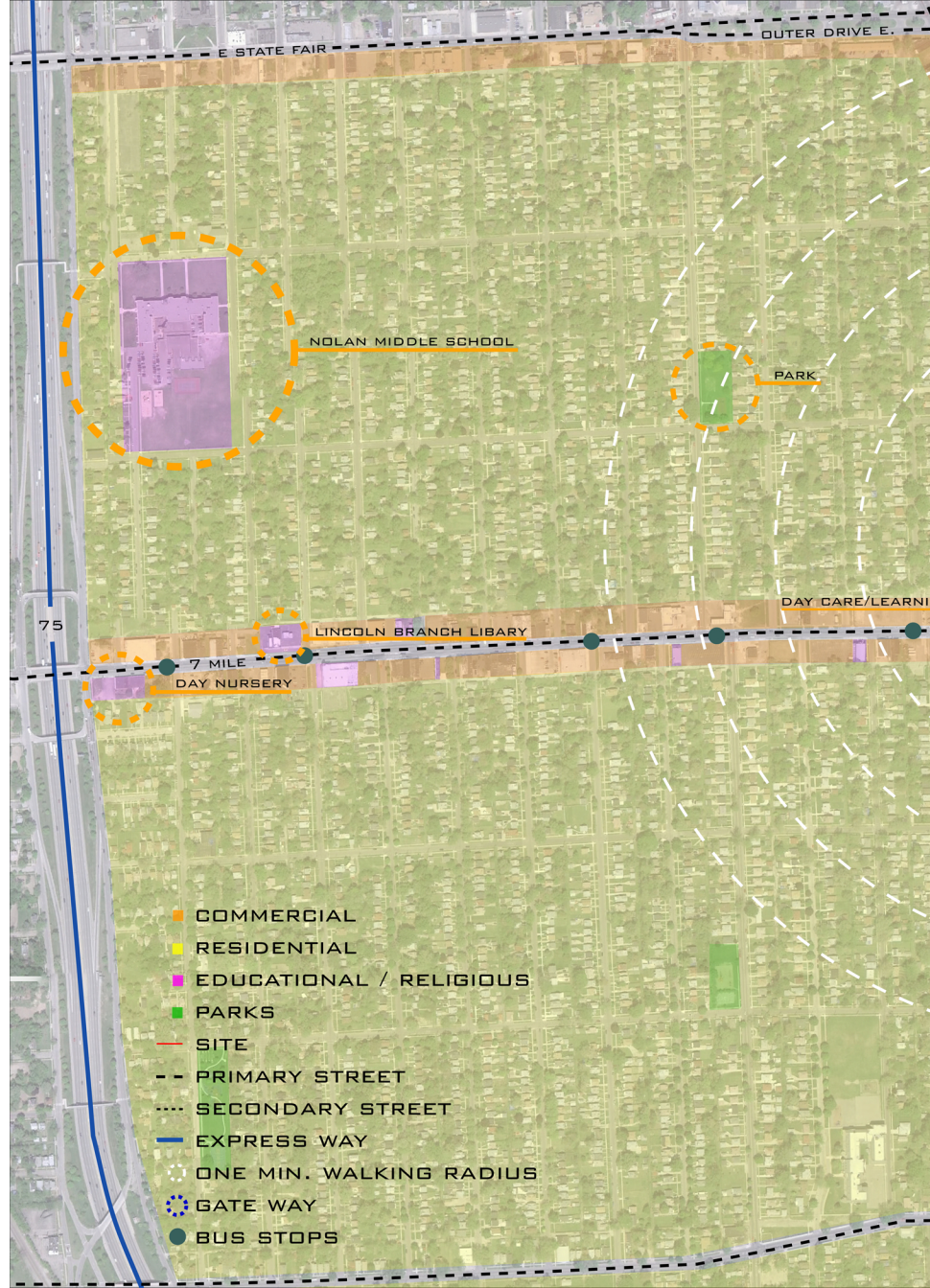
ANGLIN ST.

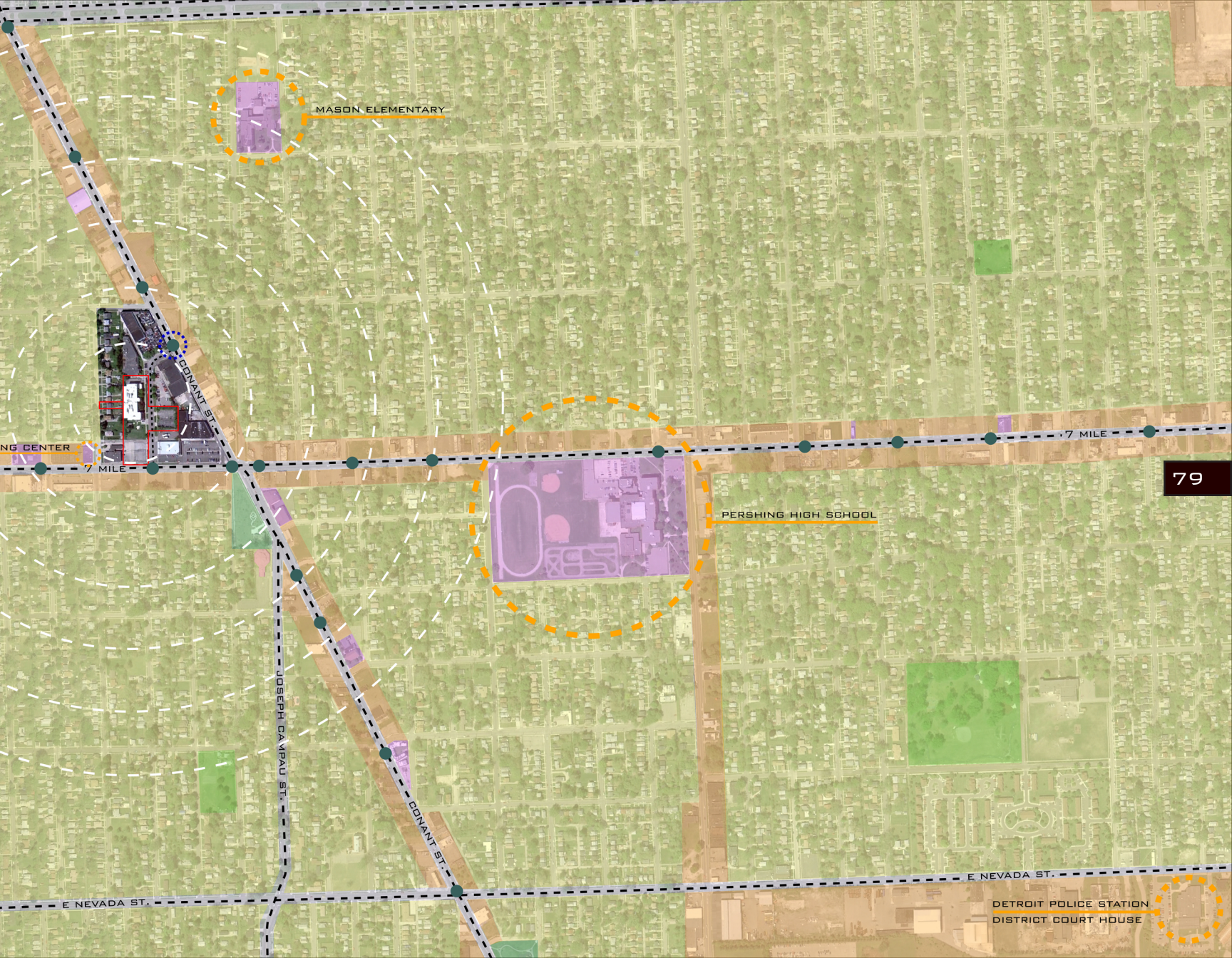
SEVEN MILE

77

Google maps

0 50 100 150







## ST. MICHAEL NURSING CENTER

19175 ANGLIN ST. DETROIT, MI. 48234

DATE BUILT: 1989

FORMER 180 BED NURSING FACILITY

56,458 SF. ON THREE FLOORS

18,820 SF. BASEMENT

FENCED PARKING LOT (50+ SPACES)

1.64 ACRES

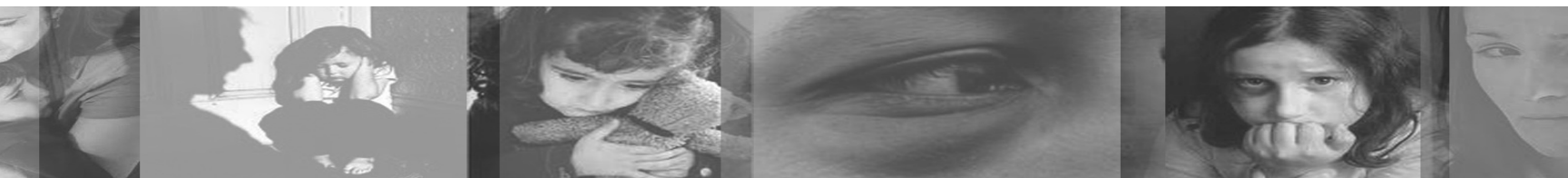


81



## CHAPTER 5

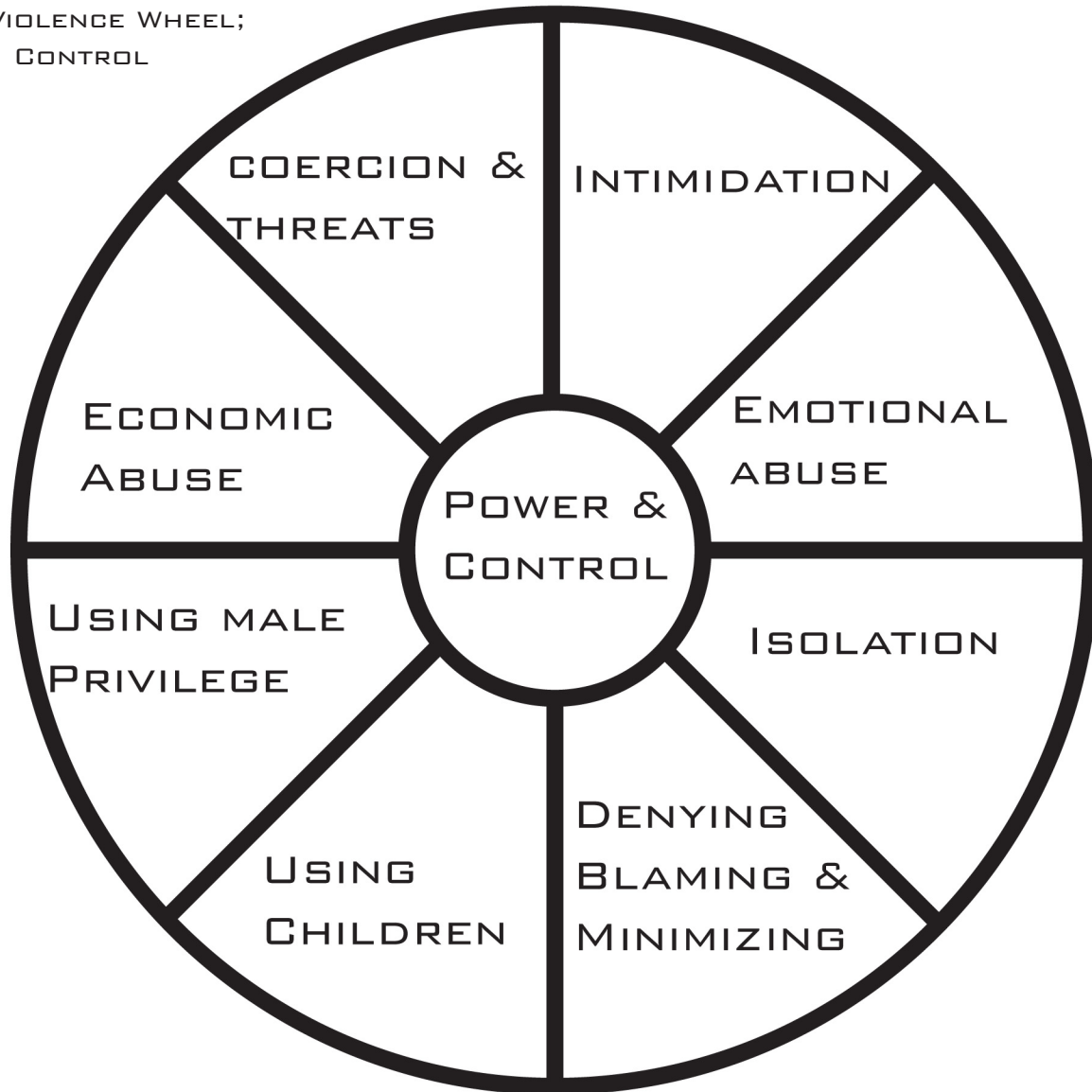




IDENTIFYING THE NEED

..... While researching and observing the youth in Hamtramck, I came across an article that addresses the domestic-abuse dilemma that Detroit has. Twenty-five percent of women in Detroit are abused, and there is only one shelter that is available for them to go to which only has sixty-seven beds. With the economy heading down hill, this year domestic abuse has increased seven percent this year. There is a strong need for another shelter within this city. Domestic violence is caused by one partner's need for ultimate power and control in the relationship. They are caused by Stress Situations, Intense Jealousy, Frustration, Alcohol or Drug abuse, Childhood experience of abuse, and Mental Disorder.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WHEEL;  
POWER AND CONTROL





- ..... The article talks about Kalyn Risker who is the founder and executive director of SAFE, Sisters Acquiring Financial Empowerment. Kalyn is a single mother of two daughters and is a survivor of domestic abuse. In 1998 on Labor Day weekend, she was beaten by her husband until her eye sockets required reconstructive surgery. She called the American Hot line and they told her to go to Taylor, when she lived in Cork Town. She didn't want to move all the way to Taylor so she ended up moving in with her mother; she kept asking herself, "what happens when mothers who are abused have no family or means of transportation to get help". Her doctor would not give her a return to work note due to her vision and with two daughters and bills to pay Kalyn needed to start earning money again. So she quit her job and started to work at a payroll company a small HMO in southwest Detroit. She kept all her emotions and burses to herself and started working again. While working at the small HMO Company in the administration department, she came across many employees who suffered domestic-abuse.



HE SAYS  
HE'S  
SORRY

She noticed those women wearing sun glasses inside, worker being stalked, and the janitorial that needed the job to maintain financial independence from an abuser. She also noticed productivity and attendance being affected by certain women working in her department. She received a phone call from a women saying "I sent you my resume, I am just trying to get a job to keep food on the table for my kids and to keep my house. I know my resume has gaps but I will do whatever it takes to learn the job. I don't have many skills, but I have been abused by my husband and now have three kids to take care of, could you please help me out." Kalyn was shortly laid off from her job due to the company going out of business. It was around that time that Kalyn knew something must be done for those who are abused and came up with the idea for SAFE. SAFE mission is to equip survivors of domestic violence with the appropriate financial tools and resources needed to enable women to leave or recover from the economic portion of domestic violence. The services that SAFE provides are career mapping, resume writing, interviewing skills, employments rights, safe ceo's, and financial literacy.

45%

WOMEN ARE SLAPPED,  
KICKED, AND BEATEN

75%

BATTERED WOMEN TRY  
TO COMMIT SUICIDE

77%

MEN FELT THEIR  
MASCULINITY

THREATENED IF THEIR  
WIVES DID NOT LISTEN  
TO THEM

55%

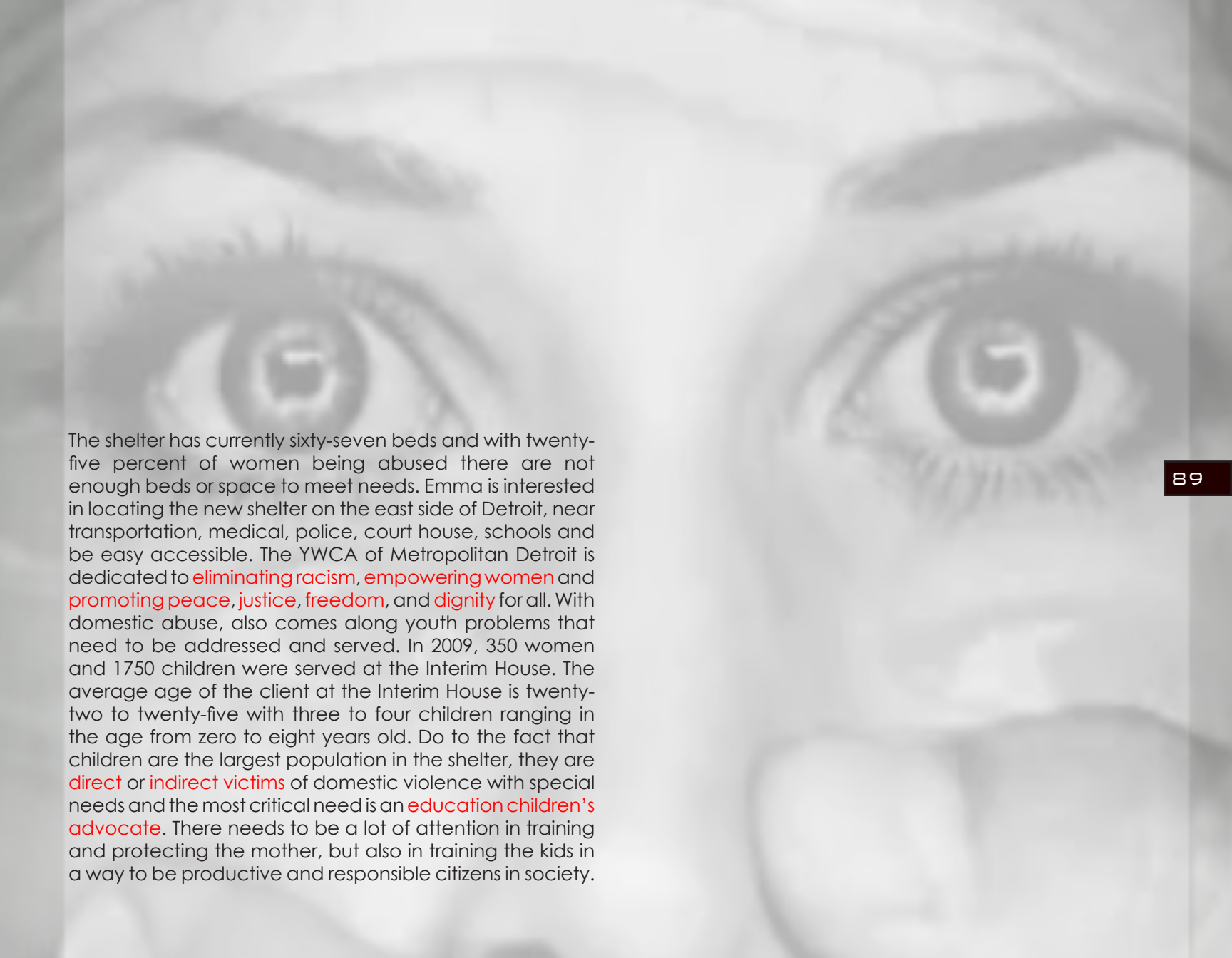
WOMEN PERCEIVE  
VIOLENCE AS NORMAL

YWCA OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT  
YONG WOMEN CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

88

IDENTIFYING THE NEED

- • • • • • After talking to Kalyn, she introduced me to many leaders within Detroit that deal with domestic abuse. I meet Paula Callen, who is the Project Director of Michigan Coalition against Domestic and Sexual Violence. When I meet with Paula we talked about the political and economic barriers that are involved with shelters. Some of the barriers are cultural issues, land use, zoning, surrounding area, and funding. I also meet with Emma I. Peterson who is the president and CEO of the YWCA Interim House and Curtis Steen Frances who is the shelter Administrator. When I went to talk to Emma she was working on getting a proposal together to send to Lansing to get funding for a new shelter within Detroit. Both Emma and Curtis were excited when I came to talk to them about the potentially of this thesis research to be of assistance in the development of a program for battered mothers and children. The final product of this Thesis could be a new marketing package for the new YWCA Interim House. We began talking about the mission that they would want, viewed as a learning environment not a shelter, for women to become productive citizens. They currently have unmet social need, with now serving clients with mental challenges.



The shelter has currently sixty-seven beds and with twenty-five percent of women being abused there are not enough beds or space to meet needs. Emma is interested in locating the new shelter on the east side of Detroit, near transportation, medical, police, court house, schools and be easy accessible. The YWCA of Metropolitan Detroit is dedicated to **eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity** for all. With domestic abuse, also comes along youth problems that need to be addressed and served. In 2009, 350 women and 1750 children were served at the Interim House. The average age of the client at the Interim House is twenty-two to twenty-five with three to four children ranging in the age from zero to eight years old. Do to the fact that children are the largest population in the shelter, they are **direct or indirect victims** of domestic violence with special needs and the most critical need is an **education children's advocate**. There needs to be a lot of attention in training and protecting the mother, but also in training the kids in a way to be productive and responsible citizens in society.

## YWCA INTERIM HOUSE, 1997

24-HOUR SHELTER / 7 DAYS A WEEK

67- BED SHELTER

PROVIDE FOOD AND CLOTHING

INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP COUNSELING

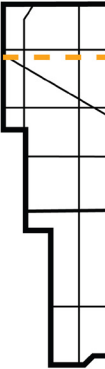
LEGAL ADVOCACY

SEXUAL ASSAULT ADVOCACY

CHILDCARE SERVICES

TRANSPORTATION

EDUCATION AND LIFE-SKILLS TRAINING

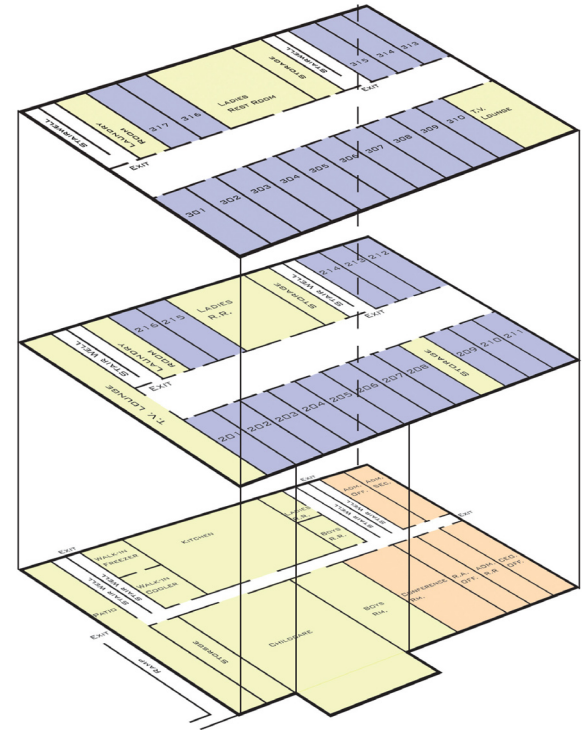




DAY CARE CENTER



PROPOSED SITE



EXISTING FLOOR PLANS OF INTERIM HOUSE

## CHAPTER 6





## PROGRAM: SHELTER FOR BATTERED MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

### SHELTER:

For abused mothers and children  
100 beds facility  
About 30,000 sq. ft.  
Located off secondary street  
Works together with sounding context  
Not an industrial look

### TRAINING CENTER:

Nutritional programs  
Job training  
Educational programs  
Life skills  
Resume writing  
Interview skills  
Employments rights  
Financial literacy  
Partnership with local Universities

### TRANSITIONAL HOUSING:

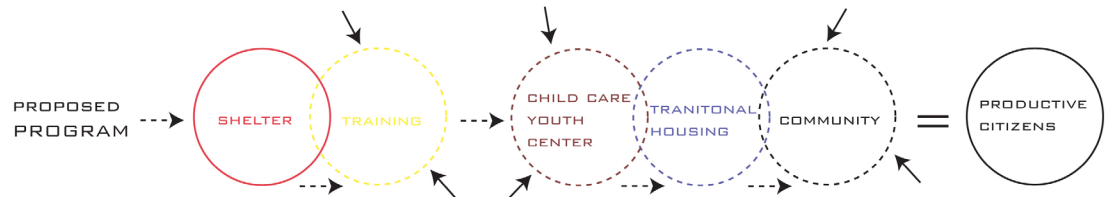
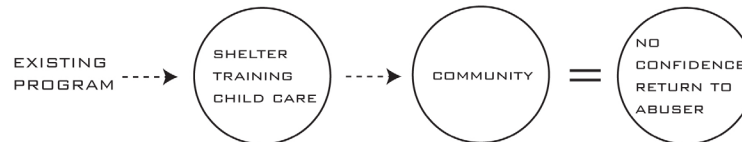
For abused mothers and children  
Dispersed throughout Neighborhood

### YOUTH CENTER:

Childcare 0-10 years old  
Computer tech center  
Art, music, recording studio  
In-door / out-door play area  
Multipurpose gymnasium  
Kitchen – Education

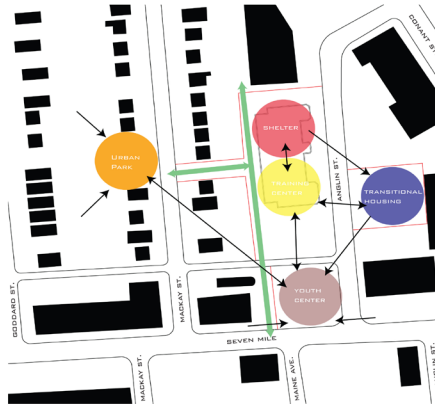
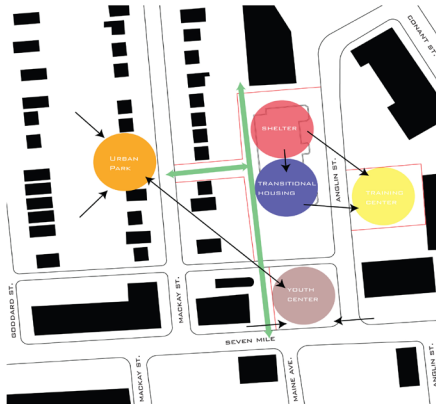
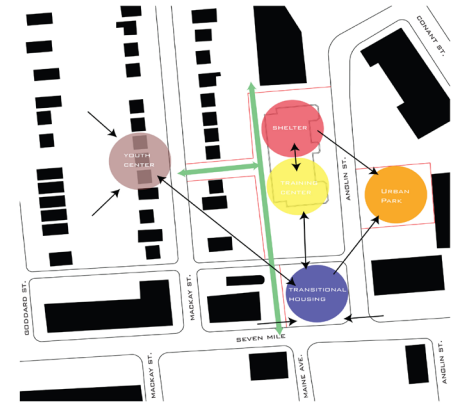
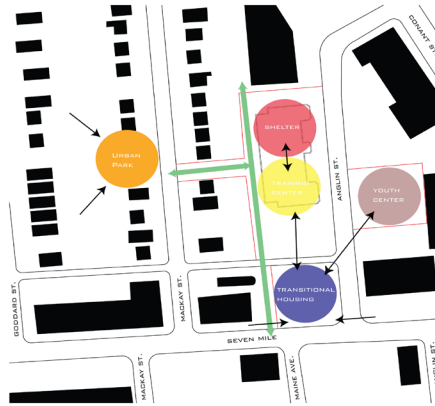
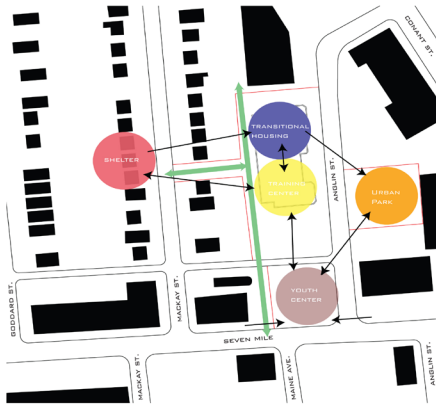
### GREEN SPACES:

Urban park  
Basketball court  
Recreation area  
Garden  
Outdoor seating  
Skate park



SCHEMATIC DESIGN

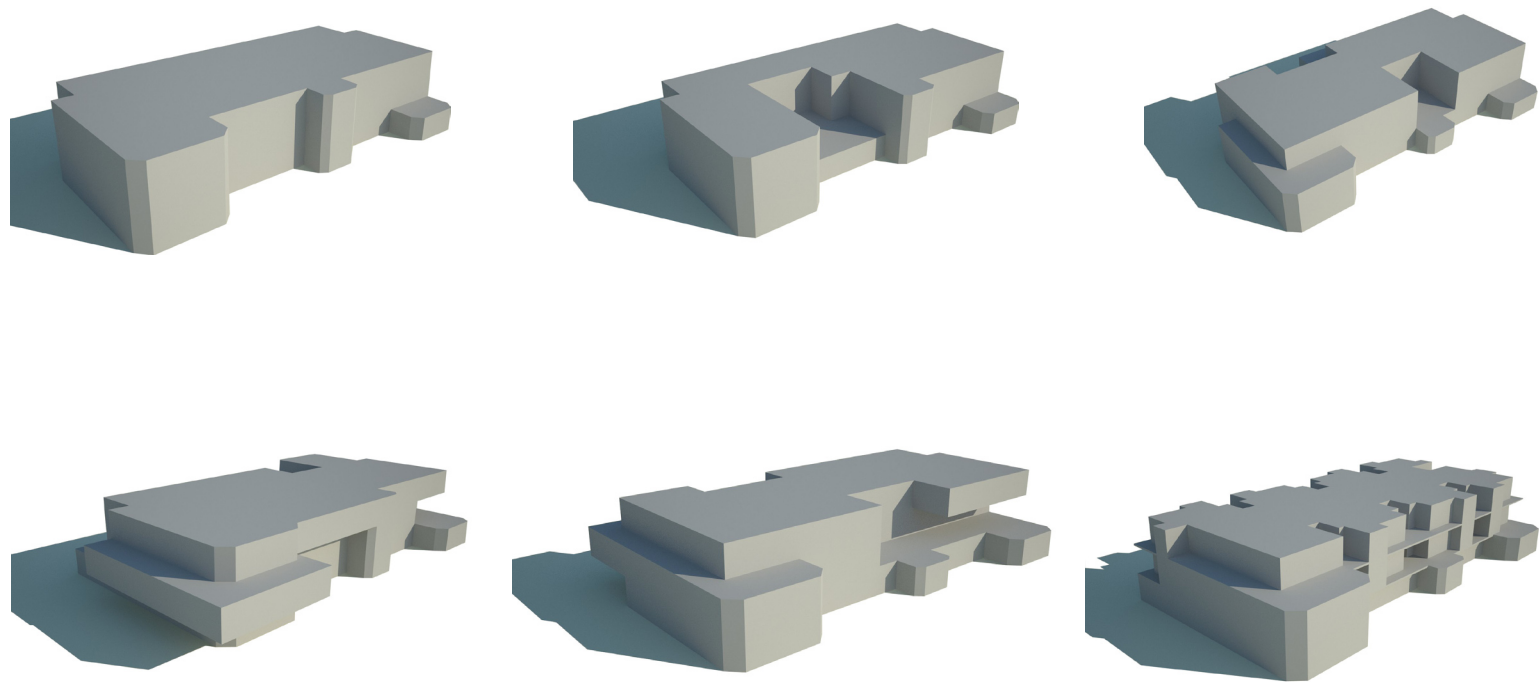
## PROGRAM LAYOUTS:



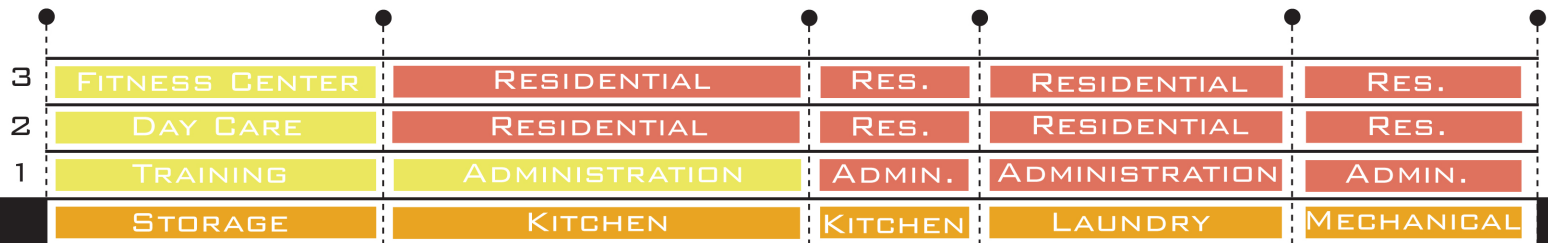
When placing the programs throughout the site, decisions were made based on surrounding context, land use, zoning requirements, and security. It was decided that the shelter and training center must be located within the same building due to the fact that some abusers follow the abused. The transitional housing will be located directly behind the shelter, utilizing the foreclosed or vacant homes within that neighborhood. Through research it was founded that transitional housing is successful when placing a mother and her children in her own home, where she must take full responsibility of the property and pay ten percent of her income for rent. The youth center and skate park will be combined on one site where the two programs will work together as one.

Once the placement of the programs was decided, the process of modifying the existing nursing home into a shelter for battered women was started. The intent was to break up the mass of the existing building, allowing natural day light to enter the core of the building. Also designing outdoor spaces were the mothers could go outside and be safe. The section model shows the placement of the programs in response to the ground level. The basement will have all the support services that are needed with a shelter and training center. On the main floor there will be the training center and the administration for both the training center and shelter. On the second and third floor will be the residential rooms, day care and fitness center. They are located off the ground floor for security purposes, so in the case of an abuser stalking one of the abused mothers they don't have direct access to them.

MASSING MODELS OF SHELTER :



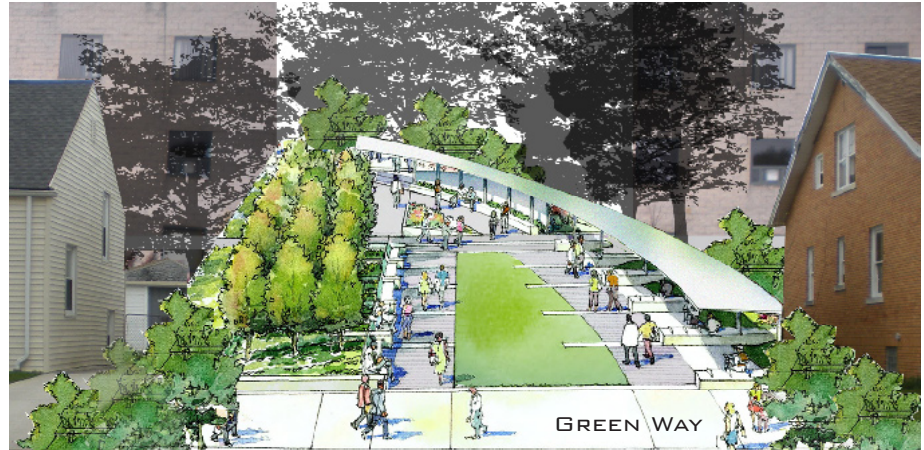
DIAGRAMMATIC SECTION OF SHELTER :



## CHAPTER 7





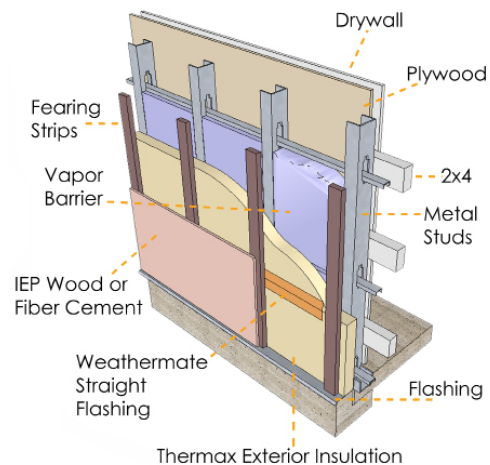
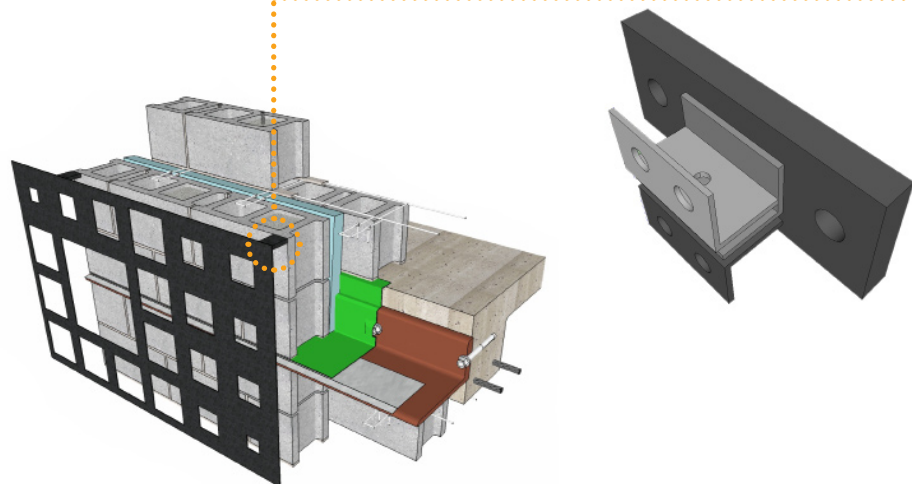


The Shelter and Training Center are located within the existing building off Anglin St. The shelter which takes up most of the building is shaded pink and the training center is shaded yellow. The youth center and skate park which is located on the corner of Seven Mile and Anglin St. is open to the community and the battered women which is shaded mauve. Between the training center and the skate park is an urban garden with a basketball court, which allows for interaction between the community and the abused. Behind the shelter is a Green Way which was designed to allow there to be a connection between the shelter and the neighborhood. Both the Green way and the Urban Park were designed for the intent for the abused to learn from the youth and the youth to learn for the abused. This will not only allow for the battered mothers to heal faster, but allow the youth to be aware of domestic violence so it will not happen to them. The transitional housing is located in the neighborhood behind the shelter. The homes that are shaded purple identify which homes are foreclosed or for sale which would be purchased by COTS for transitional housing. COTS is a company that only deals with transitional housing, which works with the YWCA in providing transitional housing for those mothers in need after their stay in the shelter.



## BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

CONNECTION OF METAL SCREEN TO EXISTING WALL



NEW CONSTRUCTION

EXISTING WALL WITH METAL SCREEN

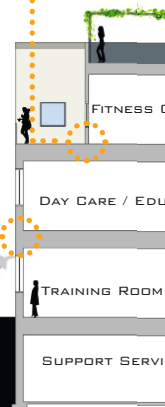
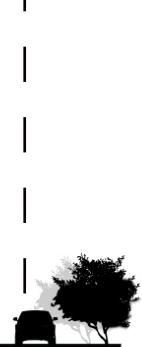
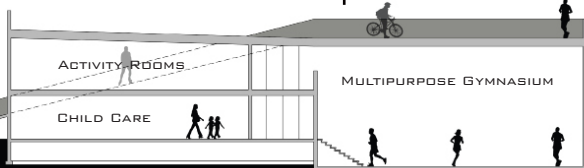
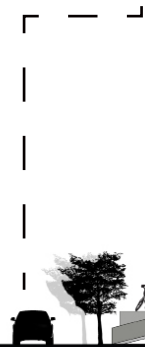
SEVEN MILE

YOUTH CENTER / SKATE PARK

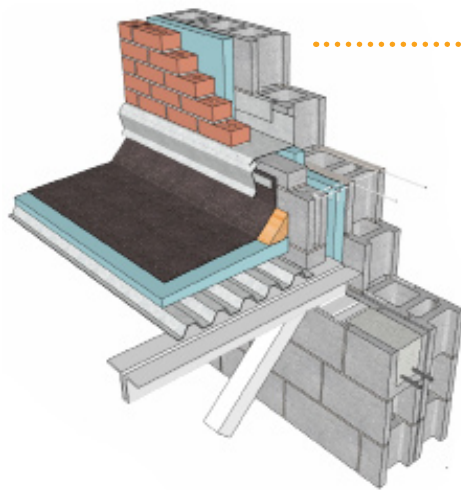
ALLEY

BASKETBALL COURT

URBAN GARDEN



SECTION: A3



NEW BUILT UP ROOF

2" paver  
Pedestals

Filter Fabric

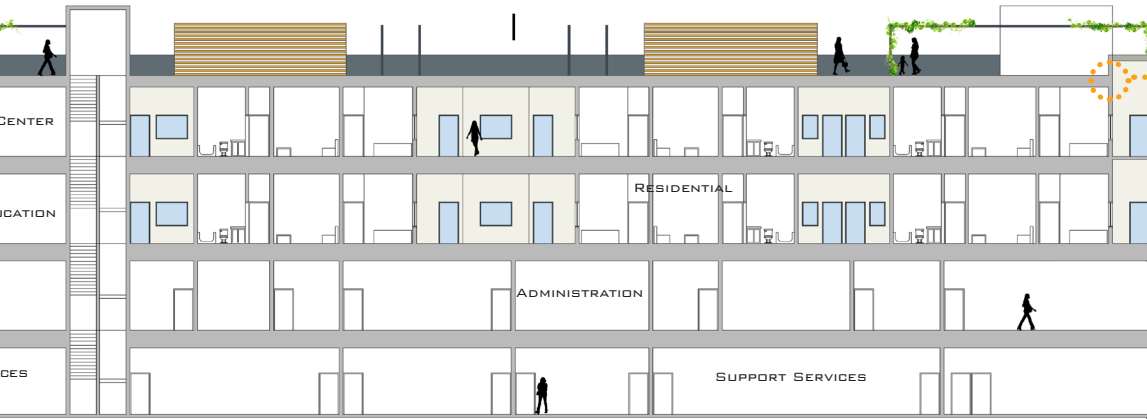
2-2" Extruded  
Polystyrene

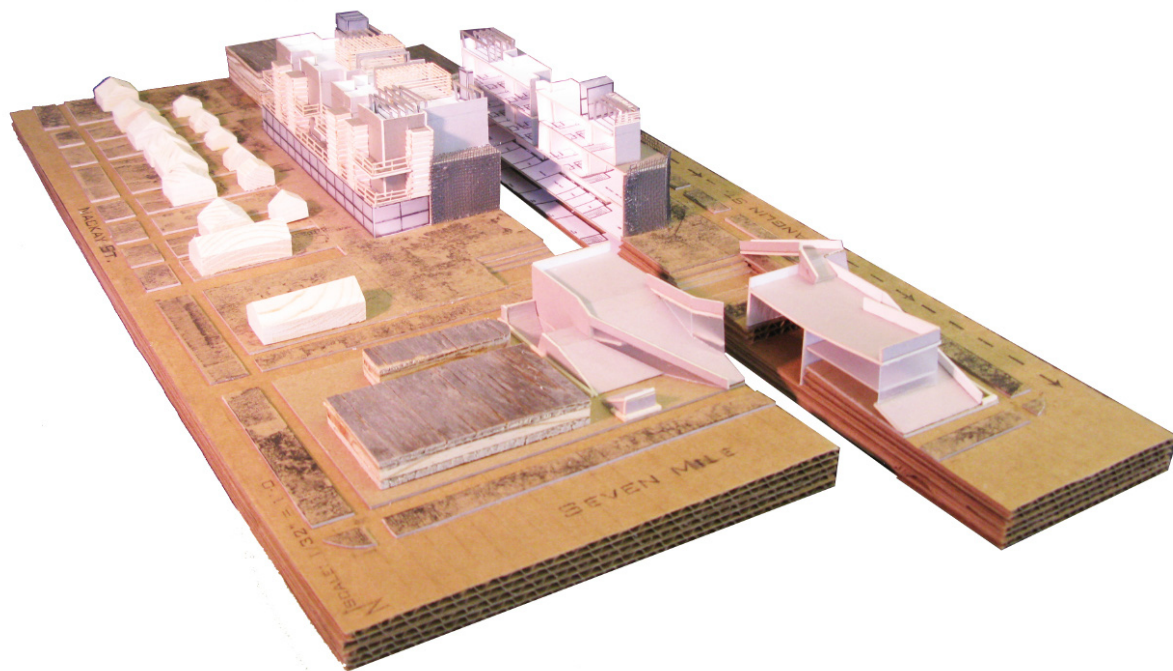
1/2" substrate board

3/8 "Drain Board

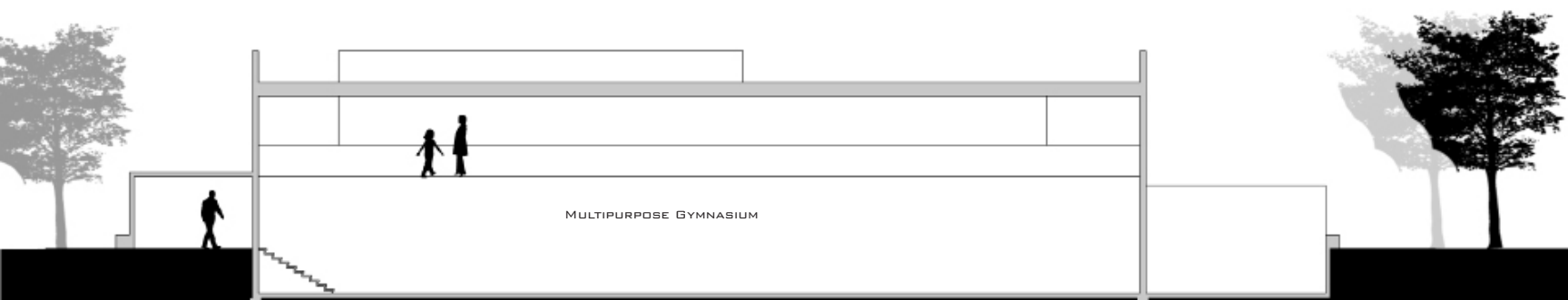
EXISTING ROOF TOP

# TRAINING CENTER AND SHELTER FOR BATTERED MOTHERS AND CHILDREN





104



SECTION: A1

EXISTING CMU WALL

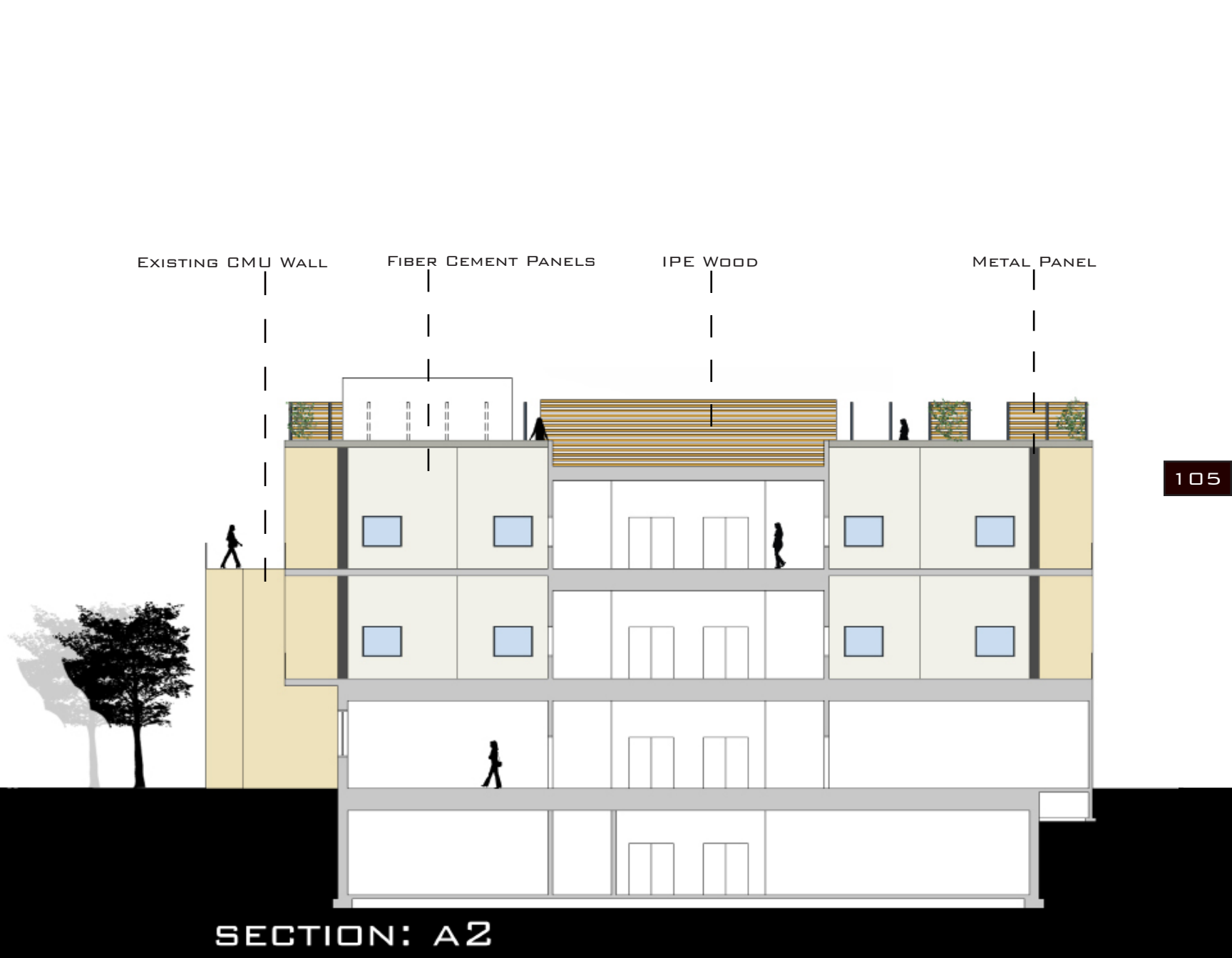
FIBER CEMENT PANELS

IPE WOOD

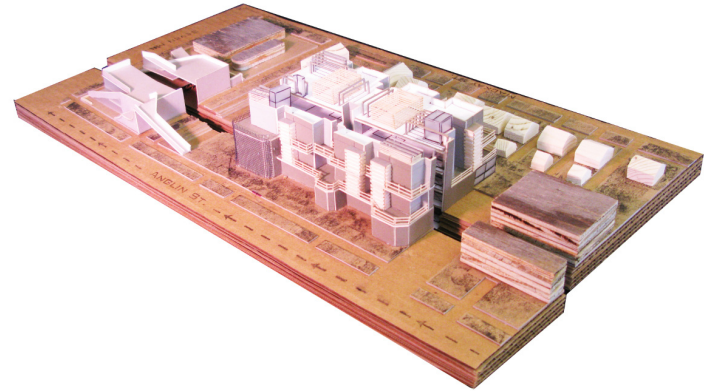
METAL PANEL

105

SECTION: A2



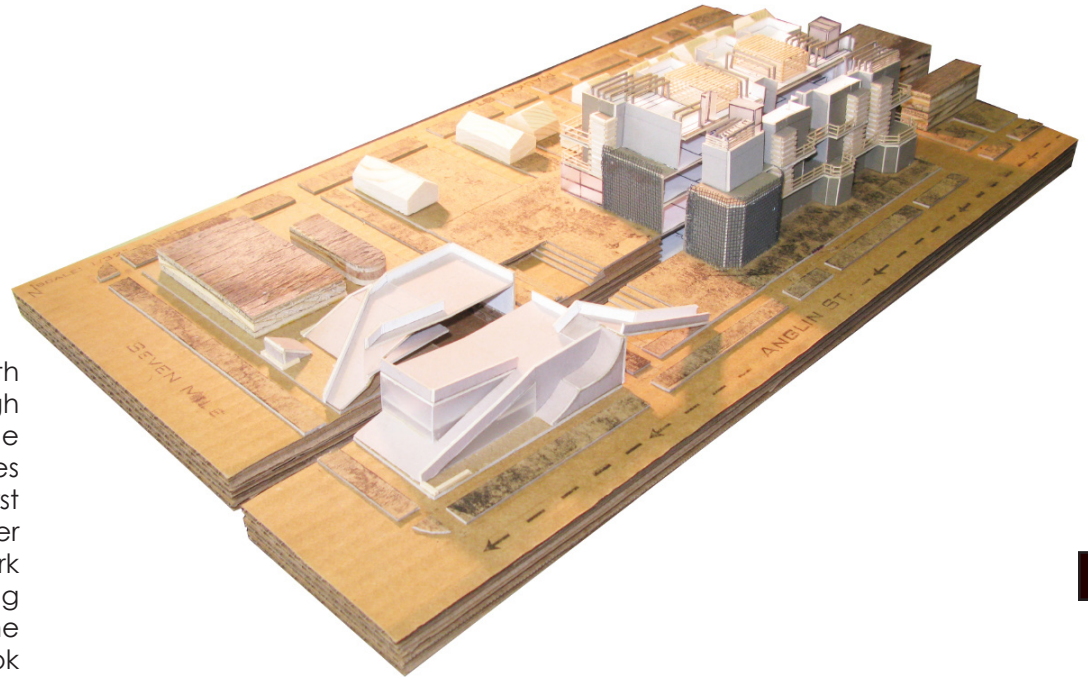
## BUILDING FORM



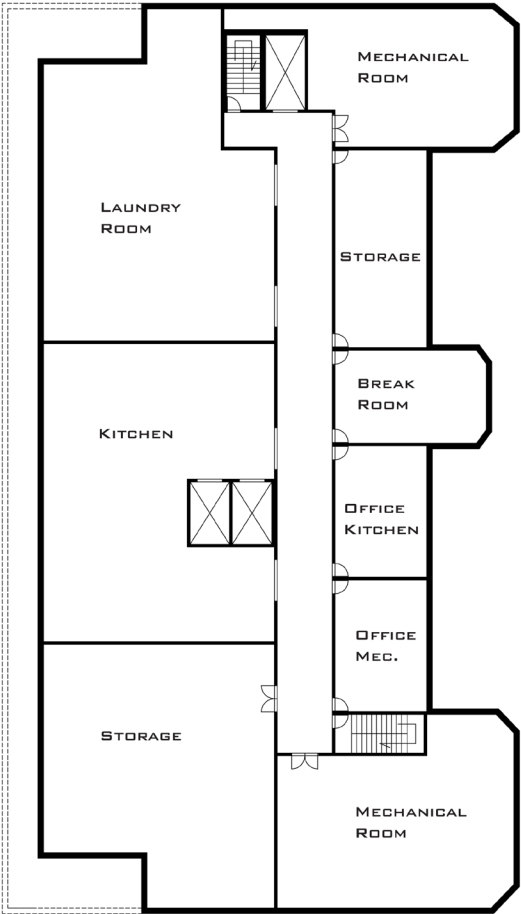
106

- • • • • The form of the Shelter was developed through a series of sections and plans. The decisions of cutting into the building or extruding out was due to allow day lighting into the core or the building and also to allow the maximum of day lighting into the residential rooms. The current Interim House is set up that all the rooms are along a long corridor and each room has one window at the end of the room with bunk beds on either side. Upon visiting the Interim House and talking to the Battered women, it was concluded that having more than one window in each room will allow the rooms to feel more open and not so jail like feeling. Also access to the outside was an important element that was missing in the current shelter. The new design allows access to the outside from each bedroom. Also the battered women have no place where they can interact with each other and allow for faster healing. The Interim House has individual rooms that does not allow for families to interact. This design was set up for each unit has four bedrooms with individual bathrooms. In the middle of the bedrooms is a shared community living room and kitchen. This allows each mother to have their own private space and a community space. In addressing the material chosen with the shelter, a metal screen was added to the existing front facades for ascetic and security reasons. When carving into the building, a light color fiber cement panel was chosen, this was because due to the fact that the building was cut into the existing building, a look that represented drywall would be appropriate. When extruding out from the existing building, IPE wood would be the exterior material. IPE wood is very dense and has the same fire rating as steel and concrete which can be used in residential design. This will give that warm feeling that the battered women wanted.

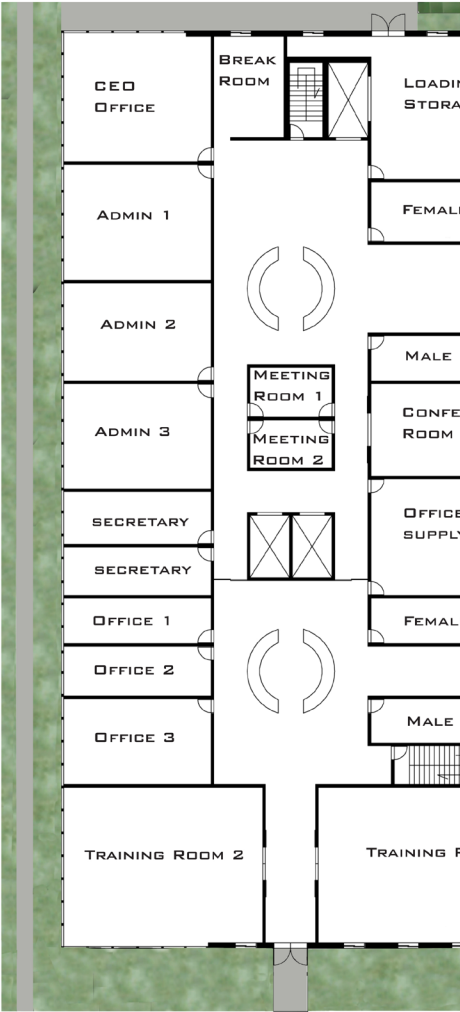
The form of the Skate Park and Youth Center was developed also through a series of section and plans. Due to the fact that there are two uses in one building, the plans were first developed for the youth center and then the plan for the skate park was overlaid on top. The building took form based on the use of the programs. The skate park ramps took form by developing the youth center program within the building. The material of the skate park will be pre-cast cement panels with IPE wood benches that wrap around the skate park. The skate park and youth center is located at the corner of Seven Mile and Anglin St. The intent was to build off Seven mile and allow there to be a transition from Seven Mile to The Shelter for battered women. Also building on Seven Mile develops the street front of Seven Mile and allows there to be a program that is open to the community at all times of the day.



FLOOR PLANS FOR SHELTER AND TRAINING CENTER



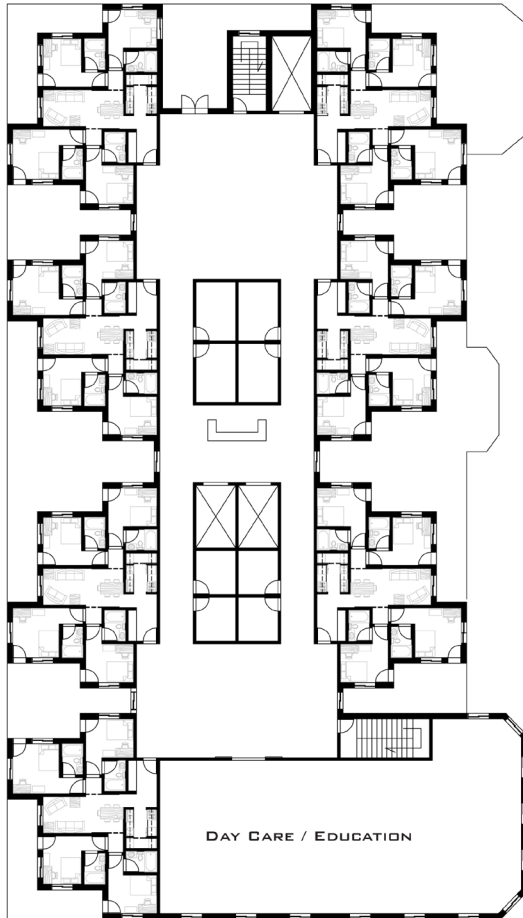
BASEMENT PLAN



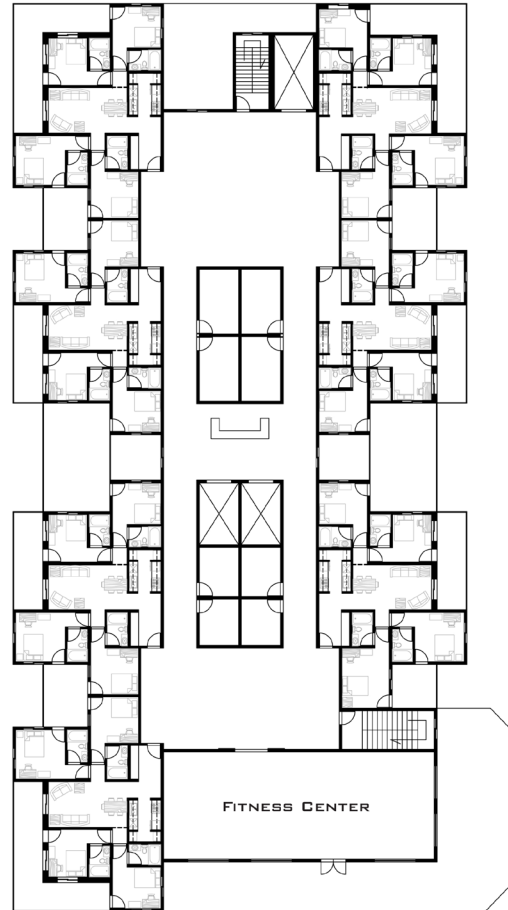
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



ANGLIN ST.



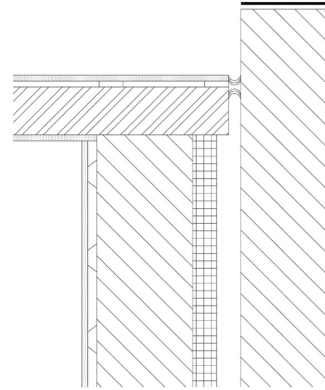
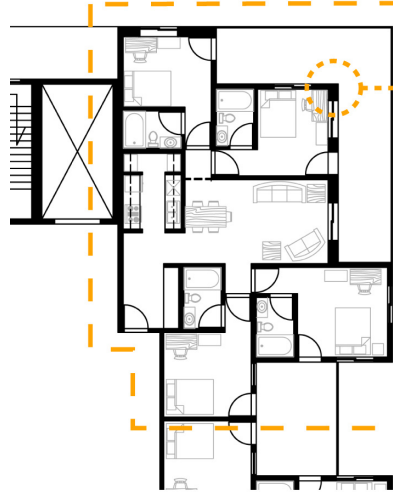
SECOND FLOOR PLAN



THIRD FLOOR PLAN

## DETAIL OF RESIDENTIAL UNITS

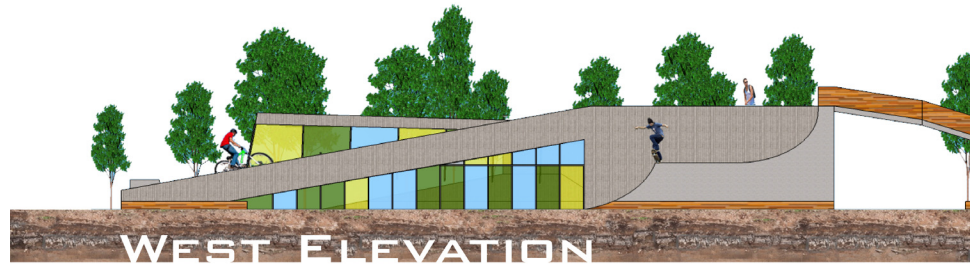
EXISTING WALL MEETING NEW CONSTRUCTION



COMMUNITY LIVING ROOM AND KITCHEN



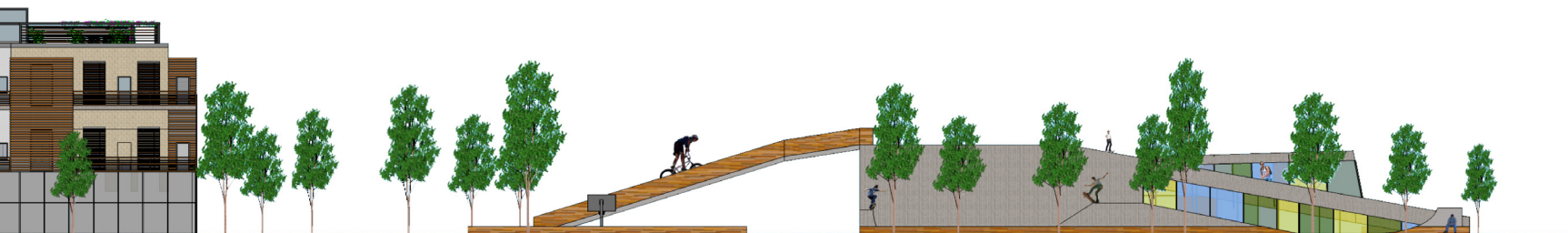
BUILDING'S FAÇADE





113

NORTH ELEVATION



RENDER FROM ANGLIN ST. NEXT TO NURSING HOME

114

FINAL DESIGN





RENDER FROM CORNER OF SEVEN MILE AND ANGLIN ST.

116





NIGHT RENDER FROM ANGLIN ST. NEXT

118

FINAL DESIGN





## ROOFTOP GARDEN: SOUTH - EAST SIDE

120

FINAL DESIGN

A roof top garden was designed for a safe place where battered women and their children can go to and play and interact with one another. The roof would be the safest place for battered woman to go to and experience the outdoor environment. In addressing to human scale and exposure to the outside, metal trellises were placed at the entrances of the roof garden every five feet. Between the trellises is IPE wood for vegetation to grow on. This will allow the women not to feel as exposed and provide a more cozy feeling in an urban setting. This was one element that the current Interim House does not have. Through talking to the women in the shelter it was founded that containing the women in an institution and not providing access to the outside led to depression. Outdoor spaces were an important element in this design and in the heeling process for a battered woman.



ROOFTOP GARDEN: SOUTH - WEST SIDE

122

FINAL DESIGN





## CONCLUSION

Unfortunately, family violence happens everywhere, and in all communities. The physical, emotional, and sexual abuse of a child, spouse, partner, or older person constitutes family violence. Abuse may include just one episode, or repeated intimidation or attacks. The pain reverberates throughout the home and the entire community. Family violence is scary, but you can make a choice to help yourself and your family. Remember, you are not alone. More than half of all American couples experience one episode of violence between partners. Not one organization or shelter could address the need of domestic abuse that Detroit has. If this project would be carried out, there needs to be an extremely collaborative effort, pulled together by organizations, citizens, religious, civic, and social groups. Because this was an architectural thesis, the primary focus was on the physical implications of such a program and assessment of place needs could change the way people evaluate and create communities.



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