Rape Crisis Care + Wellness Center

serving Memphis and the surrounding region, the rape crisis care + wellness center seeks to provide healing for survivors of rape and sexual assault through a variety of therapies, advocacy services, and empowerment programs.

Through an understanding of the thesis topic and a responsibility to the user, the design is intended to inspire the creation of place and encourage those visiting the center to be an active participant in their environment and their process of healing. Each space is to be designed in such a way that it suggests a particular use, but does not control the user; instead the user is driving the focus, function, and meaning in the place. This allows the user to be in control, something that is valuable to them as they were not in control in their particular situation. Spaces will be open and incorporate an abundance of natural light and a connection to nature. There will be complexity of space, as well as a complex juxtaposition of a variety of spaces. Not only does this represent many of the feelings and emotions felt by the user, but it also presents a sense of wonder and creativity in what those spaces can become and how they can interact. This allows the place to be interpreted by the various users in a multitude of ways.

Large public gathering stair and primary entry for wellness care
1. crisis care waiting room  
2. storage  
3. nurse’s office  
4. assessment room  
5. exam room  
6. nurse’s station  
7. restroom  
8. relaxation rooms  
9. mechanical room  
10. counseling room  
11. advocate’s space  
12. electrical closet  
13. shop  
14. dance/movement therapy studio  
15. open art studio  
16. group therapy room  
17. data closet  
18. kiln space  
19. director’s office  
20. storage  
21. administrative + support service space  
22. conference room  
23. copy room + storage  
24. break room  
25. roof garden
Structural Axon
NTS

Mechanical Diagram
scale: 1/16"=1'-0"

Structural Framing Plan
scale: 1/16"=1'-0"
You may tread me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise
Entry approach from the east

East Elevation
scale: 1/16"=1'-0"
1. solar panels (tilted 45° south)
2. skylights opening to the north
3. green roof
4. solar heating wall
5. bamboo garden light well
6. roof garden
7. administrative office space
8. group therapy room
9. art studio space
10. advocates' office space
11. therapy room
12. gathering stair
13. entry garden area

Section Perspective 1
each space opens to an interior courtyard

interior spaces are scaled for smaller interactions, while community spaces are tall and open for larger groups of people

wood defines the spaces to be inhabited

windows are designed to be inhabited and create an unprogrammed space

stairs are incorporated into the public gathering space

a mixture of wood, concrete, and softer materials both define space and serve to create a soft stability

exterior mural serves as billboard for the building and for the positive impacts of the organizations inside

Livsrum Cancer Counseling Center
EFFEKT
Copenhagen, Denmark
2013

Cisco Meraki Offices
O+A
San Francisco, California
2013

San Francisco Women's Building
San Francisco, California
Central Station
Built around 1912, the Central Station was the first of two major train stations built in Downtown Memphis in the early 1900s. It was the last building designed by Daniel Burnham. The construction and success of these stations changed the scale of South Main from a primarily residential neighborhood to booming commercial district.

Earnestine and Hazel’s
Earnestine and Hazel’s began as a sundries store in the 1930s owned by two sisters, Earnestine and Hazel. In the 1950’s the sisters turned the downstairs into a restaurant and the upstairs became a brothel. Today the restaurant is still in operation and is a well-visited landmark in the area.

The Arcade Restaurant
Founded in 1919, the Arcade Restaurant is the oldest restaurant in Memphis. The original structure was built of wood; in 1925 the owner tore down the wooden structure and built the current Greek Revival Style building seen today. In 1950, the restaurant was updated to reflect the 50s diner era. This “50s diner” feel is what is still seen today.

United Warehouse
Although a seemingly ordinary warehouse, the United Warehouse has been a part of the South Main district since the beginning of the commercial and industrial boom of the area.

National Civil Rights Museum
The Lorraine Motel, the current home of the National Civil Rights Museum, was opened in 1920 as a motel for white railroad passengers. It was purchased in 1945 by Walter Bailey, a local African American, when it then became an African American establishment during the time of segregation. In 1968 Martin Luther King Jr. was shot on the balcony of the motel while giving a speech during the sanitation workers strike in Memphis. This was a turning point for the neighborhood, city, and nation, and was the primary cause for the decline of the district and the surrounding Downtown neighborhoods.

Future Site of Rape Crisis Center (former Dry Cleaner)
Previously a Dry Cleaner was located on the site. It appears that brownfield remediation and venting of the harmful chemicals is taking place on site.

History of South Main
What is now considered South Main, was a separate city, South Memphis, until the early 1900s when it became a part of the city of Memphis as a residential suburb. During this time, railroad travel became popular, and two rail stations were built in the Downtown area. One of those stations, Central Station, which exists on site today, contributed to the economic success and growth of the area. This economic growth changed the area from predominantly residential to commercial and industrial. Many of the commercial buildings constructed during this time of growth can still be seen along South Main.

As rail travel became less popular, the area began to fall and once bustling businesses crumbled. The area’s buildings were vacated and industrial parks moved to larger space out East. The 1968 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and riots that followed pushed the neighborhood over the edge into disrepair.

During the 1980s many artists flocked to the area because of the historic and abandoned character of the neighborhood causing a resurgence of life and activity in the area. The neighborhood has been working on a comeback for since.

History of Site and Surrounding Properties
Looking South next to Central Station
Looking South, Streetscape North of the Site
Looking North next to Central Station
Looking North, North of the Site by the Arcade
Looking East, North of the Site by the Arcade

Examples of building types, styles, materials
Example of paving materials
Example of building materials

Future Site of Rape Crisis Center (former Dry Cleaner)
Previously a Dry Cleaner was located on the site. It appears that brownfield remediation and venting of the harmful chemicals is taking place on site.

SOUTH MAIN STREET | SITE ANALYSIS

United Warehouse
Although a seemingly ordinary warehouse, the United Warehouse has been a part of the South Main district since the beginning of the commercial and industrial boom of the area.

National Civil Rights Museum
The Lorraine Motel, the current home of the National Civil Rights Museum, was opened in 1920 as a motel for white railroad passengers. It was purchased in 1945 by Walter Bailey, a local African American, when it then became an African American establishment during the time of segregation. In 1968 Martin Luther King Jr. was shot on the balcony of the motel while giving a speech during the sanitation workers strike in Memphis. This was a turning point for the neighborhood, city, and nation, and was the primary cause for the decline of the district and the surrounding Downtown neighborhoods.

Future Site of Rape Crisis Center (former Dry Cleaner)
Previously a Dry Cleaner was located on the site. It appears that brownfield remediation and venting of the harmful chemicals is taking place on site.

History of Site and Surrounding Properties
Looking South next to Central Station
Looking South, Streetscape North of the Site
Looking North next to Central Station
Looking North, North of the Site by the Arcade
Looking East, North of the Site by the Arcade

Examples of building types, styles, materials
Example of paving materials
Example of building materials

Future Site of Rape Crisis Center (former Dry Cleaner)
Previously a Dry Cleaner was located on the site. It appears that brownfield remediation and venting of the harmful chemicals is taking place on site.
Traffic Patterns

- More traffic
- Less traffic
- On-street parking

Brownfield Remediation

Because the site was formerly a dry cleaner, it has been declared a brownfield site due to the possibility of hazardous chemicals remaining on site. Vent pipes are located around the site to vent the hazardous chemicals that remain underground.

On-Site Landscape

Large trees occupy the North and East border of the site. Not only do they provide natural shading on the Eastern side as well as a natural barrier against the parking lot, but they also appear to be large and healthy.

Service Access

To the back of the site is an alley paved with bricks. This serves as the primary service access for the adjacent sites. Although it is a service alley, it is very visible and less common than most alleys.

Mapping of Site and Connections

South Main Street | SITE ANALYSIS